

THE BATTALION

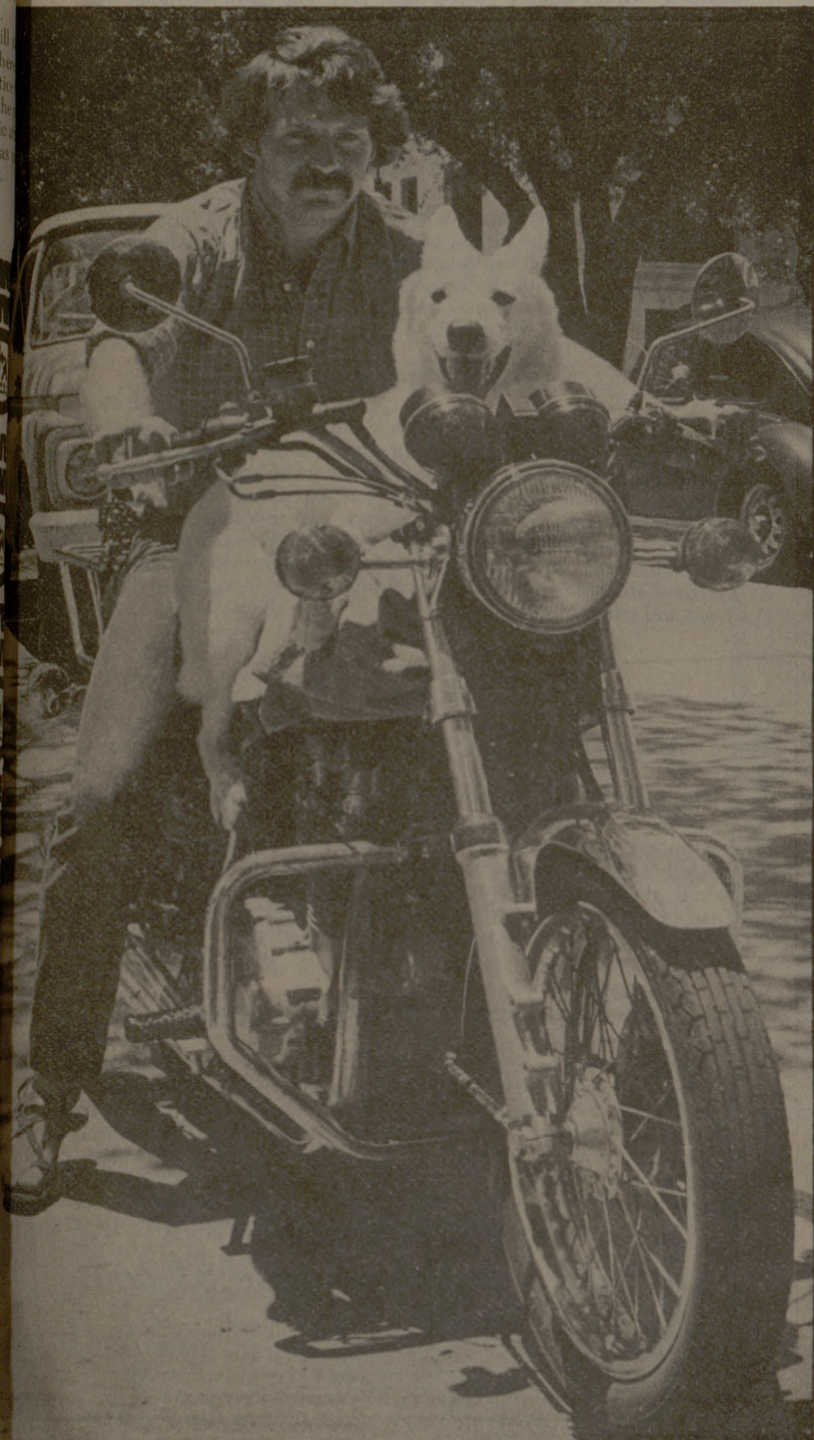
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Man's best friend goes cruisin'

Steve Mossbarger, 24, a junior history major at Texas A&M University hops atop his motorcycle and so does his dog, Madchen. The white German Shepherd's name means "little girl" in German. She and her Aggie master anticipate a ride. But who's gonna drive?

Battalion photo by Scott Pendleton

Armed police ride with garbage men

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — Sixty policemen rode shotgun on city garbage trucks Wednesday to protect crews from groups of angry strikers who were fired for participating in a wildcat walkout of the city's garbage collectors.

The strike has been accented with numerous acts of violence and several arrests since it began four days ago.

City Manager Tom Huebner, backed by eight of the 11 city council members including Mayor Lila Cockrell, assigned the policemen to accompany the garbage crews, many of them manned by the 100 new workers hired to replace the fired strikers.

Huebner has fired about 150 strikers out of the city's total 313 garbage workers, plus 37 other workers who struck in two other departments in sympathy.

Meanwhile, veteran police inspector

Edward Foresman said the city was "sitting on a powder keg" and that he feared some incident could spark a major confrontation between the strikers and those who refused to support the strike.

The most recent act of violence was reported about dawn Wednesday by Benny Brooks, a 13-year veteran of the Public Works Department, who said he was attacked by six men in an automobile as he drove to work on the city's north side about 6:15 a.m. Wednesday.

Brooks said the car circled his vehicle on the freeway, sometimes going in the wrong direction, while he was chased at high speed for several miles and the men pelted his pickup truck with bottles and stones and plastered his black vehicle with white paint.

On Tuesday, police arrested one non-striker who allegedly brandished a pistol when approached by a group of strikers.



No fountain swimming allowed

Chris Tuleen of Bryan and Kevin Rahmert of San Antonio, both 11 come up for air after a swim in Rudder Fountain to be greeted by a campus police officer. The fountain is off-limits for swimmers.

Battalion photo by Ray Daniels

First test-tube baby born; girl in excellent condition

OLDHAM, England — The world's first "test-tube baby," delivered by Caesarean section a week early because of a threat of blood poisoning, is in excellent condition, her doctors said Wednesday.

Gynecologist Patrick Steptoe assured a news conference that the 5-pound, 12-ounce daughter of Mrs. Lesley Brown, 30, was in excellent condition despite the mild emergency that led to the decision to operate. She was born at 11:47 p.m. Tuesday night at Oldham General Hospital.

"It came out crying its head off and breathing very well," he said. "It was a beautiful, normal baby."

"Baby Brown" still has not been named by her parents, although observers guessed she would be called Patricia, after the gynecologist.

Steptoe and Dr. Robert Edwards, who spent 10 years developing the technique that led to the successful birth, said they would reveal their methods only in a medical publication. But they insisted it was not a one-time success or an accident.

Mrs. Brown, who will be 31 Monday, was reported in excellent health after the delivery.

"I realize that this is a scientific miracle," she had said two weeks ago in a copyright interview with the Daily Mail newspaper.

"But in a way science has made us turn to God. We are not religious people. But when we discovered that all was working well and I was pregnant we just had to pray to God to give our thanks," she said.

Officials said her husband, John, 35, a railroad truck driver, nervously paced outside the delivery room dur-

ing the birth, smoking cigarette after cigarette like many other prospective fathers.

The experiment has been both hailed as an important learning tool in coping with genetic abnormalities and condemned as another ominous step by man to control and manipulate human life.

But Steptoe insisted all along he only wanted to help Mrs. Brown have a child. She had been trying to conceive for nine years, but blocked Fallopian tubes prevented her from conceiving normally.

The one-paragraph hospital statement announcing the birth said: "Mrs. Brown has been safely delivered by Caesarean section of a female child. The child's condition at birth was excellent. All examinations showed it to be quite normal. The weight at birth 2,600 grams or 5 pounds, 12 ounces. The mother's condition after delivery was excellent."

The success of the experiment crowned 12 years of effort and dozens of futile attempts.

The breakthrough gave new hope to women desperate to have children but frustrated by nature that did not give them equipment in perfect working order.

The advance in human reproductive techniques shown in Steptoe's work was generally hailed in Britain. The medical profession welcomed them as a major development, but sounded cautions notes.

Sir John Stallworthy, president of the British Medical Association Board of Science and professor emeritus of gynecology at Oxford University, said it was likely to be many years before the technique is widely available.

But before the birth, some voices were raised to point to possible moral and other dangers.

Leo Abse, a Labor party member of Parliament and crusader for minority rights, wished the yet unborn infant well, but said its birth could be the first step toward the deliberate production of a "master race" to dominate the rest, unless proper precautions were taken.

Anglican and Roman Catholic spokesmen differed on the issue.

Roman Catholic Bishop Gerard McClean told church members in Middlesbrough, northern England, Steptoe's work was "unlawful" in the eyes of the church.

"It is not the conception of a child as nature intended and I am opposed to it."

The Anglican church's spokesman on the issue, Prof. Robert Berry, said he saw "nothing theologically wrong with this method."

Doctors knew the child's sex before the birth, but the Browns did not want to spoil the surprise and asked them to keep a secret.

"I have begged them not to tell me," Mrs. Brown had said. "After waiting for years for this wonderful thing to happen, I do not want to be cheated of the final thrill."

The medical experts responsible for the breakthrough in reproductive biology — the infant is the first conceived outside its mother's womb — said they believed they had solved a problem that could mean families for thousands of childless women.

Postal union says second strike could begin with walkout

United Press International

Eight years ago the nation's first postal strike began with a New York City walkout. Some union leaders say they believe the nation's second mail strike will start the same way next week.

Since the proposed national postal contract was agreed upon in Washington last week, there have been wildcat strikes at bulk mail centers in California and New Jersey.

The U.S. Postal Service seems to have weakened those walkouts by firing almost 100 strikers and promised more dismissals as soon as other wildcat strikers can be identified from pictures and videotapes.

In Jersey City, N.J., where 40 workers were fired, a spokesman for the New York Bulk and Foreign Mail Center said about 60 percent of its workers showed up Tuesday — up 30 per cent from Monday.

Attendance at the San Francisco Bulk Mail Center in suburban Richmond, where 42 workers were fired, was reported at about 80 percent Tuesday.

But the most serious threat to mail service so far will come Monday when some 23,000 New York City postal workers will vote to decide whether to strike. A union spokesman said if the vote is yes, the walkout probably will start at dawn Tuesday.

Moe Biller, leader of the New York City local, predicted a New York City strike would mean a national mail strike.

Leaders of a number of postal union locals around the country, who said their members were against the proposed contract, said they would be watching the New York strike vote.

In Washington, Emmet Andrews, president of the American Postal Workers Union, said Tuesday he did not think a New York City strike would mean a national walkout.

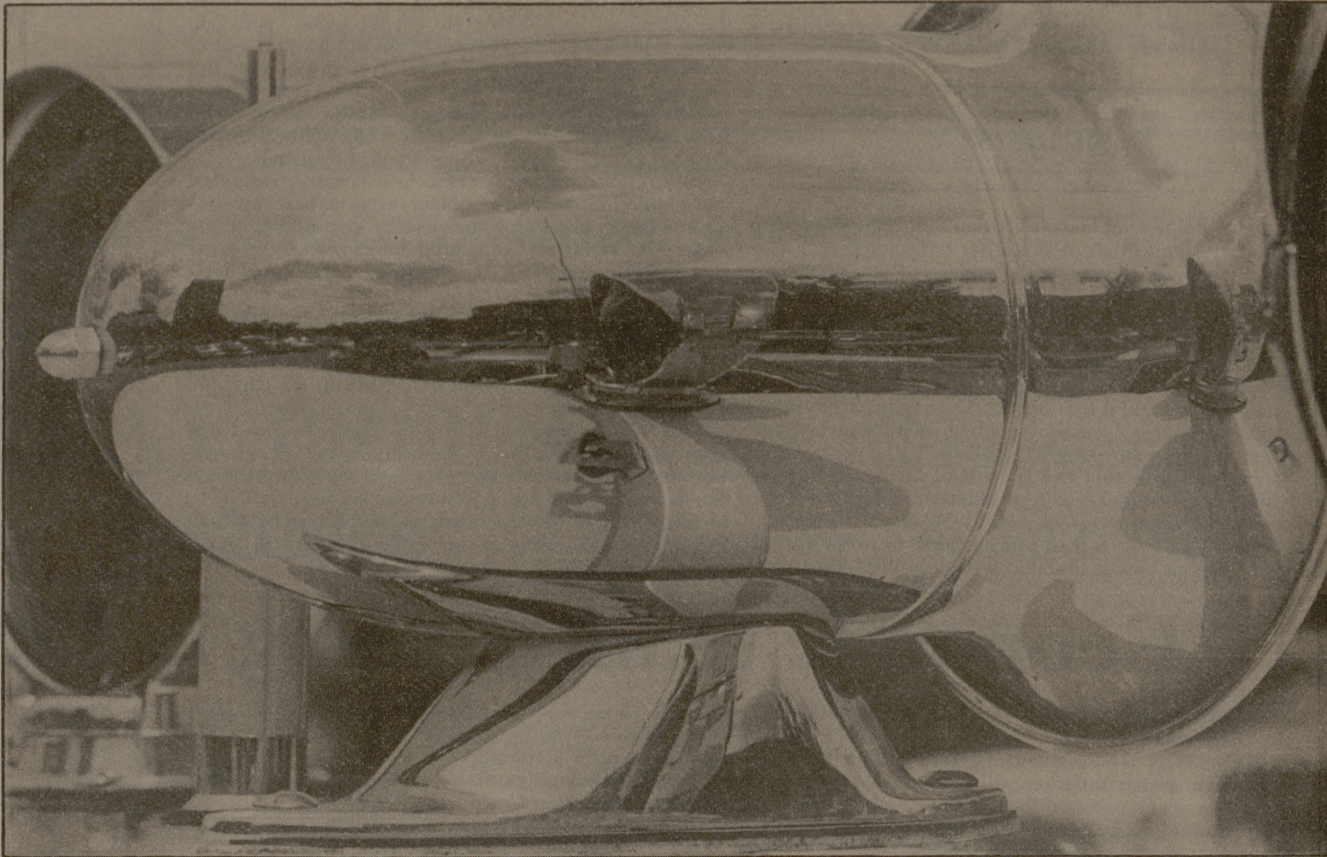
"I don't think everybody's going to follow the situation in New York," he said. "In fact, it is questionable in some people's mind whether members in New York will vote to hold a strike."

Andrews, head of the largest of four

major postal unions, sent mailgrams to major postal worker locals urging them to abide by the results of mail balloting on the proposed contract. Those results are expected to be completed in about two weeks.

On March 18, 1970, postal workers in New York City walked off their jobs and were soon followed by the rest of the nation in the first strike in the federal postal system's history. The walkout lasted eight days.

During the strike, President Nixon ordered National Guardsmen to help restore mail service in New York City — the first time in U.S. history that soldiers were called in to replace federal workers.



The firemen are in town

Cars with multiple sets of lights and shiny sirens are parked all over campus, and it is obvious that the Firemen's Training School is in session. This siren

sits atop the Canyon, Texas fire chief's car parked in lot 40 on campus.

Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

New York Times to appeal decision Court rules against reporter withholding notes

United Press International

TRENTON, N.J. — The New York Times intends to appeal a New Jersey Supreme Court decision upholding a lower court order sending a reporter to prison for refusing to hand over his notes in the case of a doctor charged with murder.

The state's high court ruled, 5-1, Tuesday against reporter Myron Farber and the Times. Justice Morris Pashman dissented from the majority.

Farber was allowed to remain free pending an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. The state Supreme Court gave Farber and the Times until noon Friday to file the appeal.

Farber's notes are wanted by the defense in the trial of 51-year-old Dr. Marc Jascalevich of Englewood Cliffs, charged with killing five patients at Riverdell Hospital in Oradell, N.J., between 1965 and 1966 with lethal injections of curare, a muscle relaxant.

Farber's investigative notes on the mysterious deaths of 13 patients at the hospital led to Jascalevich's indictment.

New York Times Managing Editor

Seymour Topping said the paper would appeal the ruling by Friday.

"We are now making efforts to reach one of the (U.S. Supreme Court) justices," he said.

"We are disappointed by the decision. We feel the sentences (against Farber) should be stayed until we have an opportunity to argue the merits of the case in

New Jersey and U.S. Supreme Court," he added.

Soon after Tuesday's ruling, chief defense attorney Raymond Brown asked the trial judge, William Arnold, to suspend the trial until the U.S. Supreme Court decides whether to act on the case.

dered Brown to begin his cross-examination of Dr. Michael Baden, the New York City medical examiner.

Farber had spent seven hours in jail Monday before he was allowed out by Pashman, pending Tuesday's ruling.

Earlier Monday, Bergen County Court Judge Theodore Trautwein ordered Farber held in jail until he turned over his notes. He also was sentenced to six months in jail to be served after he complied with the court order.

Six Flags closes cable car ride

United Press International

ARLINGTON — Six Flags Over Texas at Arlington and Astroworld at Houston have closed cable lift rides until officials investigate the deaths of three persons and injuring of a fourth on a similar gondola ride at the Six Flags amusement park in St. Louis.

Bruce Neal, public relations manager at the Arlington park, said Wednesday there was nothing to indicate the rides were unsafe, but they were closed pending a com-

plete investigation of the accident in St. Louis.

"We have absolutely no reason whatever to suspect there could be a problem of any sort with our version of the ride," Neal said. "However, we have closed the Astrolift until we know exactly what happened to the similar ride in Missouri."

"Because of our very rigid safety standards, we feel it is only prudent to suspend operation of the ride until we know what happened up there."

Neal said the Six Flags Over Texas gon-

dola ride had been inspected as recently as Wednesday morning as a matter of routine.

"During the winter months, that ride is subject to metal testing to make sure that all components are totally reliable," he said. "Extensive safety examinations continue on a daily basis through the year."

Neal said the Six Flags Over Texas ride had been in operation since 1961 and had never had a problem.

"It has carried some 2.4 million people without incident," he said.