

**CLASS OF '81 BALL**  
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*A very special kind of love*

# Woman helps foster-kids

United Press International  
URBANA, Ill. — Over the years, the children have come and gone. They were teen-agers and babies, retarded and handicapped, sexually abused and abandoned. In all, Winifred Micks cared for more than 300 foster children in her home. Micks, 82, often thinks about them and the 100 other children she helped raise in a children's home in Pontiac.

"We had a lot of fun together. We had a lot of sadness," said Micks, who has retired from her duties as mother to the homeless and unwanted. She now lives quietly with one of two adopted daughters — a sharp contrast to the many years of shouts of laughter, tears, and skinned knees.

Micks's foster-mother story began in Indianapolis 41 years ago when her husband and 3½-year-old son died within a few months of each other. She remembers those years at the end of the Depression as very tough times.

"I didn't have much time to feel sorry for myself, though. I had to get down to the nitty gritty and get to work," she said.

She opened a nursery school for children and also took in money for doing laundry, sewing, babysitting and other odd jobs. "I did a little bit of everything, anything I could find to do," she said.

With the beginning of World War II, she started taking in foster chil-

dren — offspring of some of the mothers who were called to work for the war effort. She received no reimbursement from the state, but some small compensation from the parents.

In 1944, her sister who lived in Urbana became ill and Micks and her daughter moved into care for her.

"And I got right back in business again. There was one little German girl. Her mother came in with some soldier and left her with me. She (the mother) went off and we couldn't find her. I went to the probation officer to see if they could find the mother and he persuaded me to work for them," Micks said.

"These children were children who were abandoned. They were taken away from the parents because they were mistreated."

"I've taken 'em right out of the hospital. Some were teenagers, but not too many because my own daughter was a teen-ager and I

didn't want some of the things they do to reflect on her," she said.

"That was an experience I had all ways wanted."

Foster parenting, Micks said, is a rewarding experience for adults who have love and a home to share.

"It takes a special kind of love. It's a love that encourages, but doesn't take over," she said.

## Deepwater port impact under review

United Press International  
GALVESTON — The Corps of Engineers will take about nine months to review an environmental impact statement the Port of Galveston has submitted in support of a planned deepwater oil terminal, an official said Wednesday.

District Engineer Col. John Vandenberg said it would take that long to respond fully to the 3,000-page report submitted Tuesday for the \$349 million project, one of three terminals currently promoted by various Texas interests.

The Texas Deepwater Port Authority plans an offshore "superport" off Freeport. Corpus Christi has plans for an onshore facility called Deepport. Each is subject to federal approval.

Vandenberg said his office would conduct a public hearing to gather comments from other agencies and then issue its own report.

Port of Galveston Director C.S. Devoy said the project is crucial to the prosperity of a port that lost tonnage and income last year due to a grain elevator explosion and an accidental crane wreck.

"It's a big project and it's very, very meaningful to Galveston," Devoy said. The plans call for a 55-foot-deep channel and a Pelican Island oil terminal capable of unloading two supertankers at one time.

The channel would make Galveston the only deepwater port in Texas if completed before Deepport.

## Industrial gas use may be

HOUSTON — Relaxation of government efforts to phase out commercial use of natural gas in the short-term, even if it means alternate fuels, a private economist said Wednesday.

John H. Lichtblau, executive director of the Petroleum Research Foundation, the Natural Gas Supply Commission, said government policy and action on a miscalculation.

Lichtblau said a government attempt to revive the now-abandoned policy of reducing gas sales to industrial and electric utility users can be expected soon.

"The National Energy Administration requires the phasing out of these customers," he said.

Lichtblau said the recent commercial gas sales decline might come despite the fact that substitute fuels caused by the gas disruption of Iranian oil production.

He said government action of a temporary gas supply long-range policy demand be additional factors causing controls.

"Right now, the Iranian gas could make it (the surplus) short duration if Iranian gas remains totally unavailable another few months and a high shortage can be expected to develop," Lichtblau said.

"In that case, any fuel displacing oil would have to be mobilized to reduce our dependence on imports," he said.

Lichtblau said supply exceeds demand, but Energy Secretary James Schlesinger's estimation of the situation as a miscalculation.

Lichtblau said the state's estimate of the gas drive trillions cubic feet — about 19 of annual demand — was in error.

"The figure has been in both directions but there's no doubt that many gas producers are currently operating well below capacity," he said.

Lichtblau said industrial gas users would have to switch to oil in a relatively short time if the gas shortage is again reversed.

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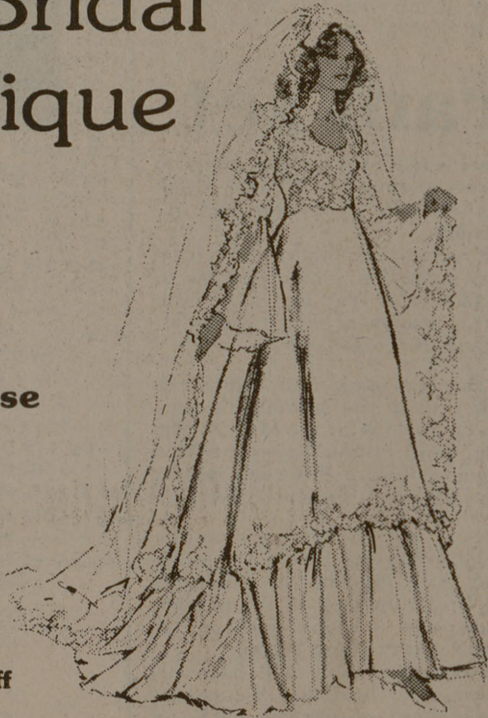
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