

J.R. arranged his own shooting—BBC winner

United Press International
LONDON — Who shot J.R. Ewing, the hero of the Dallas TV show? He hired his detective to do it, says the housewife winner of a BBC contest.

Like thousands of other Britons, Leonora Gallantry, a housewife from Crewe, England, sat down the past two weeks to author scenarios in answer to the question driving the nation crazy. Her winning entry — that J.R. was shot by his own hired hand — earned her a four-day trip to Texas courtesy of the BBC, which started the contest after nearly half

the British population of 25 million people watched this year's final episode of "Dallas."

The way Leonora saw it, J.R. paid his favorite Dallas detective to shoot him before his enemies got around to doing the job themselves. That way, J.R. casts suspicion on his wife, Sue Ellen, and regains the affections of his mother, Miss Ellie; his brother, Bobby, and his mistress, Kristin.

The twist is that J.R. was wearing a bulletproof vest at the time and will be good as new when the series resumes next fall.

"The fantastic part about this entry

is that she takes J.R.'s personality into account," said Lord Ted Willis, creator of a British television detective series and judge for the contest, which drew nearly 10,000 entries.

BBC officials flew in J.R. himself, actor Larry Hagman, and taped an interview with him that was shown on the news program "Nationwide" minutes before the contest results were announced.

"Mrs. Gallantry, you have a great imagination," said Hagman, who wore a cowboy hat and silk scarf as he held the winning script. "I mean it is fantastic and outrageous. Mrs. Gal-

lanty, you are crazy."

During the interview, a BBC reporter prodded Hagman repeatedly to reveal who really shot J.R. — a secret the creators of "Dallas" have vowed to keep until the series resumes next fall.

"I honestly don't know," he said. "I've stayed away from that as much as I possibly can. I've been offered bribes at a substantial amount of money which I would take just like that if I knew."

Mrs. Gallantry's entry won her a round-trip ticket for two to Dallas

and a visit to Southfork, the Ewing ranch, but her script was not the only bizarre one.

A London man claimed it was the cook at Southfork who shot J.R. because she was upset about J.R. leaving his meals half eaten. Another script blamed the janitor in the Ewing Oil Co.'s office building, while still another had President Carter pulling the trigger.

"I think we've covered every possible solution," said Lord Willis. "I can't see that the script writers can come up with anything that hasn't been covered."

Recruiters hiring up to 10% more

United Press International
NEW YORK — Job prospects for the college class of 1980 — particularly engineering graduates — are good despite the recession, with hiring by campus recruiters up as much as 10 percent from last year.

Combined reports from the College Placement Council and the Frank Endicott Survey said Monday that about 670 private firms who recruit senior students signed up 8 to 10 percent more graduates than in 1979.

The hiring increase, however, had been expected to be higher. The same firms last fall projected a 13 percent rise in the number of jobs. The projections were off 3-5 percent.

But jobs for engineers, as predicted, were up 21 percent over last year, due mainly to stepped up activity in fields of transportation, defense and energy.

Other shoo-ins on the hiring front include computer whizzes, science and business graduates, the two reports said. Starting salaries in these high-demand fields are around \$20,000 a year.

By contrast, first paychecks for liberal arts graduates, who may have to "hustle and show flexibility," are pegged at around \$13,000 a year.

"The more conservative hiring attitude probably reflects concern about current economic uncertainties," said the College Placement Council based in Bethlehem, Pa., and checker of 550 of the employers who recruit on college campuses.

In Evanston, Ill., Dr. Frank Endicott, architect of the Endicott Report, put out by Northwestern University for 34 years, said he has "faith in our country, business and, most of all, our young people."

"They are smart and they are going to make it — even the liberal arts graduates," he said. "They may not find a job with a blue ribbon tied around it the way engineers, business and computer graduates do."

"But for those who hustle and keep flexible, there are jobs — in banking, insurance, sales, to name a few fields."

In the public sector, President Carter's hiring freeze, imposed in March, has resulted in a 10 percent decrease in government hiring at the bachelor's level and an 8 percent dip at the master's. Local and state governments reported a 5 percent increase in jobs.

Evicted mayor works from City Hall lawn

United Press International
BLACKWOOD, N.J. — Gloucester Township Mayor Ann Mullen, evicted from her office in a cost-cutting move, says she'll conduct city business from the front lawn of City Hall for "as long as it takes" to get back inside.

The 44-year-old mayor sat outside City Hall Monday, working at a card table with a beach umbrella protecting her from the rain.

"I figured I could tie myself to my desk, go away whimpering or turn this thing around," she said. "I am determined to stay out as long as it takes."

The township council voted last week to evict Mrs. Mullen from City Hall to save money. She has been working on the front lawn ever since.

Mullen said the vote to oust her from one of three private offices in City Hall for elected officials was a "political move" initiated by council members who ran against her in 1978.

"I have this sign on my desk here that about sums up the situation," she said, pointing at the placard and grinning. The sign reads, "It's difficult to soar with eagles when you work with turkeys."

Mrs. Mullen said hundreds of people had come to cheer her in her outdoor office, and others are writing letters to local officials to urge them to reconsider their motion, which may come up again at a council meeting June 23.

"I never cried about this thing once," she said, "until Saturday, when a motorecade of folks drove to my house and brought me roses. I'll never forget that."

"I'm not about to stop listening to the people of this city," she added.

Mullen said her job as mayor is primarily to act as a sounding board to citizen complaints; the city's operation is conducted by its city manager, Barry Hoffman. Some council members have argued that Mullen has been conducting public business in secret, and has reneged on a promise to rotate the office.

"The original motion was to throw me out to save taxpayers money," she said. "Then it was amended to deprive everybody of an office. The mayor always had an office. And as for doing business in secret, I could show you the reams of material I've copied for the council members to see."

After the vote, Mrs. Mullen set up her lawn office — it's open from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. — "because people elected us to listen to them."

She said town residents have become used to the sight, and city workers "are supportive, although some of my associates ignore me."

She said, however, she may run into trouble this Thursday when a young couple is scheduled to be married in City Hall.

"Well, we'll see what they want to do," she said. "If it's raining and they object, we'll move the services inside."

Dog's fate in court's hands

United Press International
SAN FRANCISCO — The life of Sido, a dog sentenced to death in the will of her master, will be decided in court arguments between an estate executor and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Arguments were scheduled for Tuesday before a San Francisco Superior Court judge in the first California case of its kind.

Mary Murphy, worried that her pet would be lonely, ordered Sido's death in her last will and testament. But the humane society says the dog's only crime was "devotingly loving her master."

Murphy, a widow who lived alone with the 10-year-old female dog for eight years, died of an overdose of sleeping pills just before Christmas.

The SPCA took custody of the dog. Until the will was opened, no one knew about Murphy's instructions to kill Sido.

The will's executor, Rebecca Wells Smith, filed suit asking the court to turn the dog over to Pets Unlimited, the animal agency where Murphy originally obtained Sido — and the main beneficiary of her estate.

While the fight over her life has continued, Sido has been living with SPCA Director Richard Avanzino, who said he would go to jail before allowing the dog to be put to death.

"Sido has been sentenced to death for her only crime of devotingly loving her master," he said. "We will present to the court every legal argument we can muster that justifies the legality of keeping Sido alive."

If Avanzino wins in court, he said, Sido will be given to the best home from among the people who have asked for the dog.

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