

# National

## Early forecasts will continue

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** — California voters had better get used to TV networks calling presidential elections before they even get a chance to go to the polls, state lawmakers say.

A California House of Representatives subcommittee hearing looking into the impact of NBC's early forecast of President Reagan's victory over Jimmy Carter last November, said Monday a ban on forecasts would violate the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment.

State officials claim hundreds of thousands of Californians skipped voting after hearing the network forecasts of a Reagan win around 5:15 PST on the 1980 election day. California polls did not close until 8 p.m. PST.

Foreign countries like Canada, Australia and France bar election day forecasts by broadcasters until the polls close.

The House panel heard several suggestions for dealing with the problem, including a uniform nation-wide closing time for voting booths in presidential elections and pleas to networks to refrain from election forecasts until polls have closed in all states.

In the end, most agreed with California Secretary of State March Fong Eu, who said, "We may have to learn to live with media projections, just as we do with the common cold."

## Youth rescued from storm sewer

**IOWA CITY, Iowa** — While authorities were preparing to drag the Iowa River for his body, 11-year-old Steve Schmitz was holding on to ladder rungs in a storm sewer awaiting his rescue.

The Cedar Rapids youngster escaped death after he fell into a drainage ditch and was swept several hundred feet through a rain-choked storm sewer late Monday.

"I thought I was a goner," the boy said.

Steve, who lives with his mother, Connie Schmitz, was walking along the side of Rocky Shore Drive with his 13-year-old cousin, Brad Sedlacek of Hills, Iowa, when he stumbled into the flooded ditch and was pulled into the storm sewer.

"There's no way he could have survived that current," Iowa City Fire Lt. Ronald G. Whittaker said — just minutes before the boy was discovered alive.

Steve said he dog-paddled to keep his head in an air pocket on top of the storm sewer while he was sucked through the swirling current.

He saw a shaft of light through a manhole cover and grabbed onto ladder rungs at a sewer intersection near Highway 6 and Rocky Shore Drive. He hung on for nearly a half an hour while authorities prepared to drag the Iowa River — about a quarter mile away — in search of his body.

A heavy thunderstorm that dumped 1.6 inches of rain in parts of Iowa City early Monday afternoon caused the storm sewer to back up and fill the ditch and part of a gravel parking lot.

Schmitz said he fell into the ditch because it was under the flooded parking lot.

"I thought it was flat and didn't see it," he said.

Harry Boren, Iowa City superintendent of control, was summoned to trace the storm sewer.

"We heard him calling when we started to open the manhole," Boren said. "As soon as we got the manhole started climbing out and the two policemen grabbed him."

Schmitz was treated at Mercy Hospital in Iowa City for a bump on his head and several cuts and bruises before being released.

## Idea could save lives of fire victims

**GUNTER** — Though there are few tall buildings in this small north Texas community, local resident W.B. Reed has come up with an idea he thinks could save people trapped in burning high-rises.

"If this had been invented sooner, every one of the lives lost in the MGM Grand Hotel fire in Las Vegas could have been saved," Reed said.

His contraption consists of a large truck, a rescue basket and either a permanent or a movable section placed on a building roof from which cables are run to the basket.

The system would be centered in an 18-wheel tractor rig. Three motors would provide power. The rig would include a storage facility and a first aid station. It also would have a fire-resistant covered basket that looks like a large elevator and could hold up to 50 people at a time.

There's also a 10-foot-long lookout section that could be permanently attached to the roof of a building or lifted into place by a helicopter within minutes.

"The beauty of the system is, when the truck arrives at a fire, the first people can be rescued within three minutes," Reed said.

Any high-rise building could be protected easily with his system, he added.

"The idea is that a city could purchase one of the truck rigs and the portable lookout and any high-rise building in

the city can be protected by adding only the rings to secure the lookout to the top of the building," he said.

He said developers also could purchase the system for an individual building and use the basket to carry workers and equipment up and down during construction and, later, as a rescue system.

In permanent installations, zinc-coated steel cables would be secured in a locked box on the building roof. When necessary, the rescue truck would be driven into place beside the building, the box unlocked and the cables lowered to the box on the truck.

The basket would then be lifted by cable to the desired level, a side extension opened to a window or other opening in the building and people would board it.

If people had to be rescued from the top of a building, he said, a covered ladder would be extended from the roof into the basket.

"If someone fell going down the ladder, they'd just end up in the rescue basket," he said. "It's a great help for someone who is afraid of heights."

The basket would be controlled by an operator on the ground with a second operator inside the basket in an enclosed space away from possibly panic-stricken people.

An emergency brake and chute is a feature that Reed says has interested firefighters who have seen a model of

his invention. Oxygen would be pumped into the basket to use by people overcome by smoke.

"Two or three persons can operate the entire system while bringing the victims down, the unit also can be used to carry firemen and their equipment to the top of a fire," he said. "If you have to climb 14 floors, you're too tired to fight the fire and you're too tired to climb."

Reed said he has shown the model of his invention to the department and building code officials and "so far, the engineer has been able to give me a single word — 'We've never seen anything like this before.'"

He said a number of developers and investors have expressed interest in his idea. He hopes to have it into production soon.

"Even if I never get the backing, I'll continue to invest in that it will be successful."

The rescue system is the first invention for fire departments of Reed Decorators and Reecom and a commercial industrial paint and coating contractor.

"I don't see how people could not be interested in this system," he said. "One of them could offer to buy every high-rise building in a city. There's no one else out there to die."

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## Military to retire .45-caliber pistol

**WASHINGTON** — The mainstay sidearms used by the armed forces for more than 50 years are about to be retired.

The Pentagon said Monday the military wants to replace its standard .38- and .45-caliber sidearms — preferably with a 9mm handgun offering "numerous operational benefits."

The Army, which procures small arms for all four services and the Coast Guard, released a request for bids for 220,000 of the new XM-9 handguns. The cost will not be known until a contract is awarded.

The Army hopes to award a contract in January and have the first guns holstered on the hips of officers, military policemen and Air Force crewmen by 1983. The Coast Guard will get the new guns first because it requires only 7,000 of them, an Army spokesman said.

The 9mm weapon was chosen after seven years of testing to bring the U.S. military in line with the standard NATO sidearm pistol.

cy and because of its "numerous operational benefits," the Army said.

The advantages, the Army said, include "higher hit probability, reduced weight, improved safety, double action firing, improved human factors, reduced recoil, improved reliability and reduced training."

Additionally, a 9mm pistol carries between 14 and 15 rounds per

clip, compared with seven in a .45. There are 10 in a revolver.

There are about 554,000 .45-caliber guns now in use, most of them .45s, the Army spokesman said.

The .45-caliber pistol is a standard issue, went into service in 1911 and a variety of .45s have been carried by service units since 1890, an Army spokesman said.

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## IN SEARCH OF NOAH'S ARK

What a strange old man he seemed to be — working hard, year after year, as if he really thought there was going to be a flood. How absurd! It had never flooded before. Besides, why would God send a deluge? They weren't doing anything wrong, were they?

How odd Noah must have seemed to his contemporaries. There he was, building that strange boat for years, and all the time preaching righteousness and protesting the evil of his generation. They mocked him, being too occupied with the immediate pleasures of their temporary lives. Had they done anything wrong? One thing — they had forgotten God. Yet Noah kept building and calling for others to turn their lives and heed God's call. The door to the ark stayed open — until that day. Then it began to rain, and Noah was transformed from a fool to the wisest man on the earth.

The ark he was building had two important characteristics. The first was that the ark, though ever so large, had only one door. How strange! Wasn't that a narrowminded plan? Yet God had ordained that this ark, which was to carry the willing creation to safety, should have only one door, one entrance. Jesus said, "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved." (John 10:9a) There have been many who have claimed to have had a way to God, but only Jesus ever said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6) Just as in Noah's ark, so also today God has ordained that there be only one door to enter into salvation — Jesus Christ.

The second main characteristic of this ark was that it was covered within and without with pitch. The Hebrew word for pitch has the same root as the Hebrew word for atonement. When the flood attacked the ark, the inhabitants within might have been afraid except for the sight of the covering pitch. What kept the ark from sinking was this covering pitch. In like manner although many teachers have had philosophical things to say, Christ sealed His words with His own blood. By allowing His blood to be shed He has made atonement for our sins. When a person receives the salvation that is in Jesus Christ, like the inhabitants of the ark, he no longer need fear any condemnation or death. This ark will never sink, being covered with the redemption of Christ.

Does the time we live in parallel that of Noah? Jesus said, "For as the days of Noah were, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be. For as they were in those days before the flood, eating and drinking, marrying and being given in marriage, until the day in which Noah entered into the ark, and they did not know until the flood came and took all away; so also shall the coming of the Son of Man be. (Matthew 24:37-39) As in Noah's day, so many today are befuddled and drugged with the enjoyment of fleeting pleasures, refusing to hold God in their consciousness. Yet, as in Noah's time, so today there are some who are using their time to build an ark. And, as in Noah's day, there are some who are mocking. The door is still open. It's starting to rain now, but God still holds the door open to all who would choose to enter in. While we are still in this age, anyone may freely come to Christ and enjoy the peace, even the protection of His cleansing blood. To enter in, simply open to Him with an honest heart and ask Him to cleanse you and to fill your life with God Himself.

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