

Quirks in the News

Train items

WEBSTER, N.Y. — Collectors and connoisseurs of vintage railroad artifacts were in seventh heaven when thousands of items from the bankrupt Adirondack Railway Corp. were put on the auction block.

It took just six hours Saturday for about 350 railroad owners and enthusiasts from more than a dozen states to snap up the items, ranging from railroad cars to coffee urns and firehoses. The auction earned more than \$179,000.

The most expensive catch of the day was a 70-year-old Pullman parlor and buffet car, called "The Enterprise," which was purchased for \$23,500 by the Cape Cod and Hyannis Railroad.

The items belonged to the Adirondack Railway, a 118-mile scenic stretch between Remsen and Lake Placid.

The line had been abandoned by the Penn Central Railroad in 1972, but was revived by the Adirondack for the 1980 Winter Olympics.

It wasn't able to generate much business after the Olympics, however, and declared bankruptcy last April.

No pickers, they

IRVINE, Calif. — Most of the two dozen "gringos" attracted to the reported \$12-an-hour pay for picking strawberries found unemployment easier to endure than back-breaking labor.

Only two of 25 novice pickers who applied for work at the SF Farms Saturday lasted past lunchtime. The survivors, Carl and Iris Edwards, found the work similar to their old life on an Israeli kibbutz.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service created the job opportunities last week when more than 1,000 illegal aliens who worked in Orange County's strawberry fields were rounded up.

Growers were surprised by the number of people who decided to give farm labor a try, but few could stick it out.

"The Mexicans are more motivated," said Don Wall, general manager of SF Farms. "They have kids starving back home. The gringos don't have that kind of motivation."

The dropouts are spoiled, Edwards said.

Many of the would-be pickers were attracted by reports they could make up to \$12 an hour, but that figure applies only to the fastest pickers who can harvest 2,800 berries in an hour, Wall said.

The work was slower for the Edwards, who were picking at a pace that did not exceed minimum wage.

"It's going OK," Edwards said. "You can't think about how your back hurts. You just have to totally abstract yourself from what you're doing."

Ragtop Revival

DETROIT — The Big Three U.S. automakers say they don't expect sales windfalls but their latest car offering will literally raise the roof, bringing with it the Ragtop Revival.

For the first time in six years, domestic automakers are selling convertibles. When the model year ends in September, Ford Motor Co., General Motors Corp. and Chrysler will be participating in the so-called Ragtop Revival.

Auto executives said the convertible will not save the ailing industry. It is estimated in the coming year the car will be purchased by only 75,000 customers — barely more than 1 percent of the U.S. industry's annual volume.

However, the cars serve other purposes.

"They draw showroom traffic and generate publicity," said Robert Marcks, manager of the special vehicle projects for Chrysler Corp.

Chrysler's LeBaron and Dodge 400 are the first of Detroit's new convertibles.

Ford is expected to offer a Mustang convertible.

GM officials said the convertibles — which will be aimed at young, higher-income buyers — could catch the eye of car owners who otherwise might buy an import.

At their peak in 1963, convertibles captured 7 percent of the U.S. car market. The demand for air conditioning and sun roofs, combined with safety concerns, led to a downturn in their sales.

Chrysler discontinued convertibles in 1971, Ford followed suit in 1973 and GM in 1976.

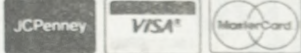
80TH anniversary savings!

At JCPenney, good tailoring goes right down to the price.



Sale
79.99

Orig. \$120. This three-piece vested suit was a great buy at the regular price. At our sale price, it's sensational. Classically tailored in comfortable, durable texturized polyester, with strict attention to detail. Regular, short and long sizes.



JCPenney

Manor East Mall, Bryan 779-4710

Shop 10 to 9 Monday through Saturday