

Buy-out pleases residents

NAACP upset;

police blasted

## Poisoned town purchased

United Press International TIMES BEACH, Mo. — Residents are happy the federal government is putting up \$33 million to move them out of dioxin-

contaminated Times Beach but some are saddened by the death of a "town where kids could play in the streets and mothers never had to worry.

"It's very sad. It's almost like someone died and you're visit-ing the grave," Evelyn Zufall said Tuesday after the buy-out plan was announced. "This was a nice place once, and now we have to bury it."

United Press International LOS ANGELES — A coron-er's report shows actor Raymond Vitte did not die from

a police beating in which he was carried screaming from his home, but the NAACP blasted

police for brutalizing a man it

tent with a struggle were found, but they were not responsible

physical stress.

said was under emotional and

"Superficial injuries consis-

at a packed news conference in a motel in nearby Eureka. The not being held in the unknown." \$33 million plan marks the first time the federal government

While regretting the demise was relieved.

"This is the answer to all our prayers. It's what everybody wanted, except for very few people who don't realize the dangers we're in," she said.

Residents broke into applause and cheers when Anne of the tiny St. Louis suburb's

for his death," coroner's spokes-man Bill Gold said Tuesday fol-

lowing a five-hour postmortem

on the body of the actor, 33. It may take weeks before toxicological and other laboratory

studies are complete, Gold said.

under way, celebrity friends, family and the local NAACP officials accused police of using "excessive force" in arresting

But even as the autopsy was

Gorsuch Burford, Environmen- board of aldermen, agreed. tal Protection Agency adminis-trator, announced the buy-out to be bought out. We've been "We're happy we have a chance

Burford said the \$33 million was an estimate by the Federal offered to buy an entire town threatened by toxic waste.

Emergency Management Agency. She said the money would come from the federal Superof her hometown, Zufall also fund program, with the state required to provide an additional \$3.3 million.

"I am as upset as all of you have been over the uncertainty you have had to live with," Burford told the more than 100 residents at the news conference. "I think we are fulfilling our com-

mitment to the people of Times

Officials said the first government offers will be made to residents in about three weeks.

Times Beach had about 2,000 residents before the problems with dioxin contamination and record flooding last fall.

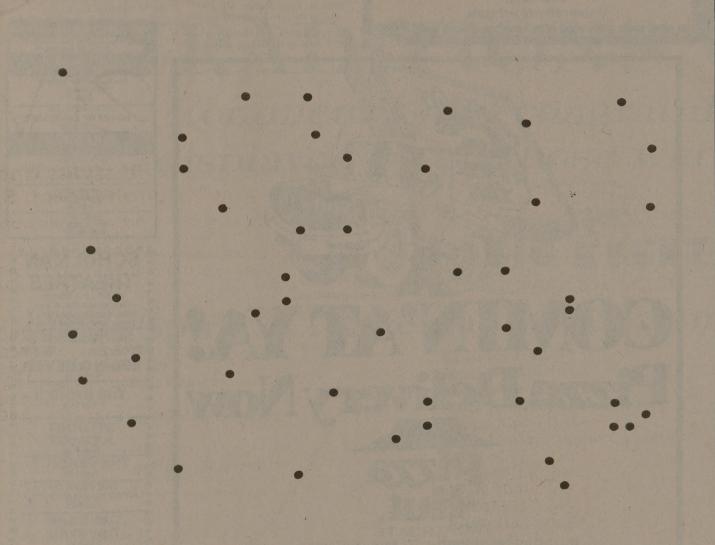
Officials confirmed the latest round of tests taken in January, one month after record flooding, showed contamination of as much as 300 parts dioxin per billion parts soil under the

One part dioxin per billion parts soil is considered a significant health risk.

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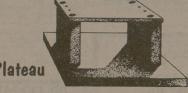
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