

# Turner buys news channels

**United Press International**  
**ATLANTA** — Ted Turner announced Wednesday he has purchased Satellite News Channels for \$25 million, eliminating all competition for his Cable News Network headline service.

The Atlanta cable pioneer said in a statement that officials of ABC video Enterprises and Westinghouse Broadcasting and Cable Inc. have agreed to sell their interest in Satellite News for \$12.5 million each in cash. CNN and Satellite News also agreed to drop lawsuits filed against each other.

It had been rumored for the past couple of weeks that an agreement on the purchase of Satellite News was near. The rumors spurred a \$90 million increase in the value of Turner's stock in late September.

Both Satellite News and CNN have been losing money. Turner's headline news lost \$10.5 million in 1982 and is expected to lose about \$10 million this year. Satellite News, based in Stamford, Conn., was expected to lose

about \$50 million.

Officials said the purchase leaves "several hundred" Satellite News employees out of work, but said efforts would be made to find the workers jobs in ABC or Westinghouse's broadcast operations.

The agreement means Turner will pick up 7.5 million subscribers to his CNN headline service, which was a spinoff from his Cable News Network. Turner's headline service currently serves 4.7 million households.

The agreement calls for Satellite News to shut down operations, leaving Turner alone in the cable industry with his headline news service and his Cable News Network. CNN officials said the purchase does not mean the agency plans to expand its headline service.

Both CNN headlines and Satellite News Channels offer fast-paced formats that give only a brief summary of the top news stories. Turner's Cable News Network is a full-service news presentation that also includes weather, sports and interviews.

# Eastern attendants avert strike

**United Press International**  
**MIAMI** — Eastern Airlines and its unionized flight attendants agreed on a new contract Wednesday 18 hours before a threatened strike that could have forced the financially troubled carrier into bankruptcy.

Terms of the pact were not formally announced, but Mark Hunziker, 29, coordinator of the union's information center, said the flight attendants won a 16.5 percent raise for 1983 retroactive to Jan. 1, 1983 — plus a 6 percent raise for 1984.

The flight attendants, who had worked without a contract for 19 months, had wanted a retroactive raise for 1982 but did not get it, he said.

"We also won on the Latin American routes and to us, that's job security," he said.

When Eastern took over Braniff's Latin routes last year, it agreed to hire Latin American attendants on those flights, but the new pact reportedly calls for union members to take one-third of those slots.

Eastern has also agreed to pay

\$3,000 to each of 200 union members who had bid on the Latin American routes but were prevented from getting the assignments by the Braniff-Eastern agreement, Hunziker said.

Patricia Fink, head of the Eastern branch of the Transport Workers Union, said she was "optimistic" the union's 5,800 flight attendants would accept the pact and formally end the 19-month contract dispute.

"It isn't everything that we wanted but under the circumst-

ances, it is a battle best left for another day," she said. "The contract is colored by our blood, sweat and tears, but by God, we've got a settlement."

Eastern Chairman Frank Borman said he was "thrilled" a pact had been reached to avert a strike that could have grounded the carrier's jets.

"We are extremely happy that the company and the flight attendants have reached a tentative agreement," Borman said. "I think the settlement made here, coupled with what we have

going forward, will insure the stability of Eastern Airlines."

Both union and airline officials said the agreement puts at least a temporary end to the crisis at Eastern that began 2½ weeks ago and threatened the survival of the 55-year-old carrier.

Eastern's financial troubles are not new, but Borman said it had reached a crisis point. Since 1979, when it made a net profit of \$57.6 million, the largest airline in America has lost more than \$300 million.

# House collapses, kills 1, injures 3

**United Press International**  
**AUSTIN** — A house under construction collapsed Wednesday, killing one worker and injuring three others.

An Austin Fire Department spokesman said high winds were reported in the area and may have contributed to the collapse.

"With this wind, it could have just blown it right over," the spokesman said.

The unidentified dead man was pronounced dead on arrival

at Brackenridge Hospital, department spokeswoman Debbie Brown said.

"Framing material and the floor is what fell on him," she said. "We don't know where he was in the house because when the floor collapsed, the house slid a little bit down the hill."

The names of the three injured workers were not released.

# Searchers get lead on lost Texas pilot

**United Press International**  
**CHEYENNE** — The Wyoming Civil Air Patrol said Wednesday it had a new lead in its search for an Odessa pilot missing since Saturday on a flight from Buffalo to Midland.

Wyoming CAP Lt. Brian Olsen said friends of Richard Kruse, 57, contacted the patrol and said Kruse had mentioned before he left Buffalo Saturday that he wanted to view a scenic canyon near Powder River Pass from the air.

Olsen said several planes were dispatched to search the area Wednesday. Searchers have

found no sign of Kruse in the four-day search.

Kruse, who worked for a drilling company, was last seen Saturday, departing from Buffalo in his single-engine Piper Dakota. He was the only person aboard.

Olsen said the lack of an emergency locator transmission from the plane is baffling considering the state of the technology used in the transmitters.

Bad weather had hampered the search Tuesday, but skies cleared Wednesday, allowing

the CAP to search southeastern Wyoming and northeastern Colorado.

Colorado CAP spokesman Steve Blucher said searchers did spot wreckage south of Pueblo, but it determined that plane "had been there a long time."

The search for Kruse has also been expanded to New Mexico and Texas and into Nebraska and Oklahoma on the theory Kruse, a "relatively experienced" pilot, may have flown east of his supposed flight route to avoid bad weather Saturday, Olsen said.

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