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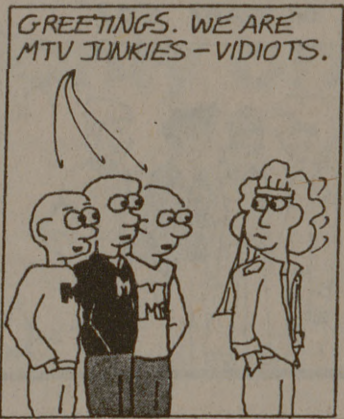
**Officials say fire planned**

**United Press International**  
 AUSTIN — A four-alarm blaze that destroyed the Anderson High School building, the city's oldest high school building, was set deliberately, fire officials said Thursday.  
 The wood and brick structure, built in 1913, had been used as a warehouse by the Austin Independent School District since it was vacated last May. Firefighters took nearly 12 hours to douse the blaze.

"We found multiple points of origin inside the building," assistant fire Marshal Pat McNicholas said. "We believe either juveniles or transients set the fire, and we are leaning toward juveniles."

He said investigators found evidence that a flammable liquid was used to start the fire.

R.I.



Paul Dirmeyer  
 "Video Party"  
 R.I.  
 4-20-84

**Reagan**

*President pledges to have better ties with Peking*

**United Press International**  
 TACOMA — President Reagan began an 11,000-mile trip to China Thursday — his first visit to a communist nation — by proclaiming "a real American comeback" and pledging to pursue better economic ties with Peking.

The first stop in Reagan's journey was in the Pacific Northwest where he toured a log-shipping facility to see fir-

thand the financial benefits being reaped from the normalization of relations with the Peoples Republic, a move he had opposed.

The president hailed the explosion in trade over the past dozen years that has made China and its 1 billion-plus citizens a major market for American goods, ranging from wheat and wood to computers and biotechnology.

During a tour of a Weyer-

haeuser Co. log export dock at Tacoma, Wash., Reagan watched liner board, pulp and lumber being loaded on a ship bound for China.

In remarks prepared for a group of business leaders involved in export trade, Reagan said his administration is working to overcome "growing pains" in economic relations with China.

"Occasionally the interests of diplomacy and the interests of American industry sometimes seem to collide," he said. "I see it as our job to reconcile the two, and to make it easier for American businessmen to open up new markets on a fair footing."

Reagan claimed "major progress" in eliminating impediments to trade with Japan, the biggest overseas market for U.S. goods, and predicted further progress in the near future.

"I want you to understand that this administration is on your side and sensitive to your concerns," he said.

Reagan contended the leading factor in fostering greater foreign trade has not been diplomatic efforts abroad, but "economic revival here in the States."

"That's the backdrop — a real American comeback story," he said. "And I think it's just begun."

Weyerhaeuser is the former corporate home of William Ruckelshaus, head of the Envi-

ronmental Protection Agency who accompanied Reagan on the visit. The company is one of several West Coast firms that together export \$300 million a year in forest products to China.

The visit to Tacoma was an opening event in a two-day journey, the president's first overseas trip of the election year, seven days of which will be devoted to getting to Peking.

Reagan will spend the next two days relaxing at his California ranch. His next rest stop is Hawaii, where he will arrive in time to attend Easter Sunday church services. After two days in Hawaii, the president and Mrs. Reagan will stop overnight in Guam before arriving in Peking next Thursday.

They plan to leave China May 1, and will stop in Fairbanks, Alaska, to meet with Pope John Paul II before returning to Washington. Secretary of State George Shultz is leading the delegation accompanying the president to China.

While officials have said they expect no breakthroughs on the journey, Reagan's visit to China will underline trade, which has fueled the development of relations since President Nixon attended a hand of friendship with Chairman Mao in 1972.








Since coming to office, Reagan has loosened controls on the export of computers and other high technology to China and made the first moves toward selling arms to Peking.

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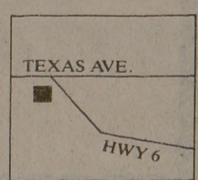
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