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Couple opens hearts to needy

United Press International
ANAHEIM, Calif. — A New Jersey couple who have opened their home to hundreds of troubled youngsters — taking on those "that no one else wants" — enjoyed the sound of laughter Wednesday from three dying children.

Carl and Marion Banghart accompanied their adopted children Billy, 3, John, 6 and Christopher, 6, on a complimentary excursion through Disneyland arranged by the Houston-based A Child's Wish Comes True Foundation.

The Bangharts were forced to leave another adopted and dying child at home because the 5-year-old, named Melissa, "does not adapt to strange places."

Also accompanying them on the Southern California trip were Heather, 11, their only adopted child who is not physically ill, and two mentally retarded adopted adults, ages 55 and 25.

While raising five natural children, the Bangharts also gave temporary care as foster parents to about 225 troubled teenagers sent them by the juvenile court system.

"We considered at one point — when we moved to Massachusetts because of my husband's work — just relaxing for a while," said Marion, 58. "But every night when Carl came home, he said, 'Gee, it's so quiet around here.'"

A short time later, the first call came from the New England Medical Floating Hospital in Boston.

"They had a state child who had to be pushed out. There was nothing left to do for him medically," Marion said. "He was four months old and had four holes in his heart. We went

ABC reporter mad

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — ABC News White House correspondent Sam Donaldson Wednesday blasted President Reagan for being unavailable to the media and charged that presidential aides have effectively "kidnapped our cameras and microphones."

Donaldson, assigned to the White House since 1977, said relations between the Reagan administration and the press are bad and getting worse.

He accused deputy press secretary Larry Speakes of using the "don't bother me, boy" technique to fend off reporters' questions to the president, and said Reagan was more concerned with staged photo opportunities than addressing the issues.

"We're kept so far away from him (Reagan), I hardly think I know him anymore," Donaldson told the 39th Annual Radio and Television News Directors Association Conference. "They've effectively kidnapped our cameras and microphones. It's come to a point where clearly we will have to do something about it."

"We've got to do something to put pressure on Ronald Reagan to answer questions from the press."

Consultant fees cost Texas millions

United Press International
AUSTIN — The state of Texas paid nearly \$60 million in fiscal 1984 for advice from private consultants in areas such as engineering, medicine and management, according to a report released Wednesday.

Texans may think all their tax dollars go to pay a bunch of bureaucrats in Austin, said state Comptroller Bob Bullock. "But slices of the state's budget pie went to almost 16,000 private consultants last year for their expert advice in specialized fields."

The report compiled by Bullock's office said more than 60 percent of the state's outside consultant fees went for engineering, medical and architectural services.

The single largest payment, \$1.3 million, went to the Kansas City, Mo., engineering firm of Howard Needles Tammen & Bergendoff for work done for the state Department of Highways and Public Transportation.

The highway agency also paid fees of more than \$1 million to engineering firms in Nebraska, Florida and Texas.

The report said engineering advice cost the state \$15.4 million last year, while medical services cost \$13.2 million and architectural fees were \$8.4 million.

Ten state agencies, led by the highway department, accounted for about 60 percent of all fees paid in 1984.

The highway agency spent \$14.7 million; Texas Department of Corrections, \$4.3 million; the Attorney General's Office, \$4.1 million.

Attorney General Jim Mattox's office paid the Austin law firm of Gray, Allison & Becker \$147,714 for legal advice. The same law firm also collected fees of \$781,905 from the Department of Corrections, \$21,197 from the state Department of Public Safety, and \$1,850 from the Board of Private Investigators-Security Agencies.

The report said payments for professional services amounted to less than 1 percent of the state's total expenditures in fiscal 1984, with the average consultant contract costing the state \$3,679.

Aggie Christmas Mass
St. Mary's Catholic Church
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