

LOCAL AND STATE

# Rangers rescue kidnap victim

United Press International

ALVARADO — A 13-year-old girl, kidnapped on her way to school and held two days, was rescued Sunday by Texas Rangers who captured five suspects in a 100-mph running gunfight across three counties.

"It was a little more exciting than Bonnie and Clyde," Texas Ranger Lloyd Johnson said of the air-and-ground chase, which ended about 4:30 a.m. when the suspects' car ran out of gas on a rural road.

After a brief shootout, in which two suspects were wounded, the Rangers rescued Amy McNeil, daughter of Alvarado State Bank Director Don McNeil.

"She's physically in good condi-

tion considering what she's gone through," said Larry Todd, spokesman for the Department of Public Safety.

Authorities said Michael Lynn Mills, 27, of Pleasant Grove and John Wesley Foote, 34, of Alvarado were in fair condition to Parkland Hospital in Dallas after being arraigned on aggravated kidnapping charges at a Franklin County hospital Sunday morning. Bond was set at \$150,000 each.

The other suspects, charged with aggravated kidnapping and attempted capital murder in Hopkins County, were identified as Liza Ann Bouvier, 18, of Balch Springs, George Thomas Barnes, 21, of Dal-

las and Daniel Walter Necker Jr., 21, of Mesquite. No bond was set. They were scheduled to be transferred back to Johnson County Sunday.

Todd said Amy was abducted Friday morning while walking to school with a brother and cousin in the small town of Alvarado, 40 miles southwest of Dallas.

Later that morning, McNeil received a phone call at home demanding a \$100,000 ransom. The caller called several more times to relay instructions on delivering the ransom, Todd said.

"At 5 p.m. Saturday evening, the kidnappers told McNeil to go to a location in east Dallas where he would be called from a pay phone," Todd

said. The caller then told him to go to another pay phone near Tyler, about 150 miles southeast of Dallas, and later was directed through the towns of Longview, Dangerfield and Mount Pleasant to a closed gas station on Interstate 30, about 120 miles northeast of Dallas, where his car gave out.

As he waited for more instructions, a car came through the station and the Rangers and FBI agents who had been following McNeil pursued it.

The 20-minute chase headed back toward Dallas through Titus, Franklin and Hopkins counties at speeds of up to 100 mph until the suspects' car ran out of gas at a farmhouse.

# Book collections part of library's holdings

By LAUREN FOURNOY  
Reporter

Books, dolls, coins, stamps and antique furniture all have one thing in common. They are all collectables.

Dr. Don Dyal loves to collect books. In fact, he is in charge of more than 60,000 volumes of collectable books in the Sterling C. Evans Library.

He has been the head of special collections at Texas A&M for 11 years.

"Books on just about any subject can be found in this special collection," Dyal said. The collectable books are housed on the second floor of the library.

There are about 300 books on the subject of the Ku Klux Klan. Not only are there books on the KKK, but also phonographic records and tapes.

Two smaller collections consist of the small children's books and the rare bird collections which include books from Australia and Africa.

"The largest collection we have is the science fiction research collection," Dyal said.

"Not only is it the University's largest, but it is also the largest in the southwest."

Students have a choice of over 20,000 books in the science fiction category. These books are used most

often by those who wish to read for enjoyment, Dyal said.

Four rare book collections are also in this area of the library. The books are rare because the number of copies are few. The oldest book dates back to 2,000 B.C. Some of these books are quite expensive, Dyal said. A handmade book of Chaucer can be found here that is worth over \$3,000.

"The books that are bought (for the collection) are done so for a purpose," Dyal said. "We do not buy the book unless it will be of use to the students or professors. In other words, the books are bought according to the demand."

Many people that sell or donate their books to the library, do so under certain conditions, Dyal said. Many will only sell them if they are under supervision. Other people may restrict the photocopying of the books because it can cause considerable damage. Books are sensitive to their surroundings, Dyal said, so preservation is important.

"Although I love books," he said, "the job at the library is not an easy one for me. It is a one-man-show."

Two assistants help Dyal and various students work part-time, but he is the only one that can answer many of the questions asked by researchers.

# Students' understanding vital to prof

By LORIE WOODWARD  
Reporter

Wearing toeless jogging shoes and a squashed blue baseball cap, Dr. Harry Cralle, 34, looks more like a mischievous street urchin than an assistant professor of agronomy.

Glancing at the towers of cardboard boxes that fill his tiny office, he laughingly blames the streets of his hometown, Chicago, for his teaching style.

"It was developed talking on the streets," Cralle says. "The first thing I try to do is get people interested in what I'm saying. I force myself to overcome shyness and reserve in the classroom."

The students in his classes are as important to Cralle as the book work.

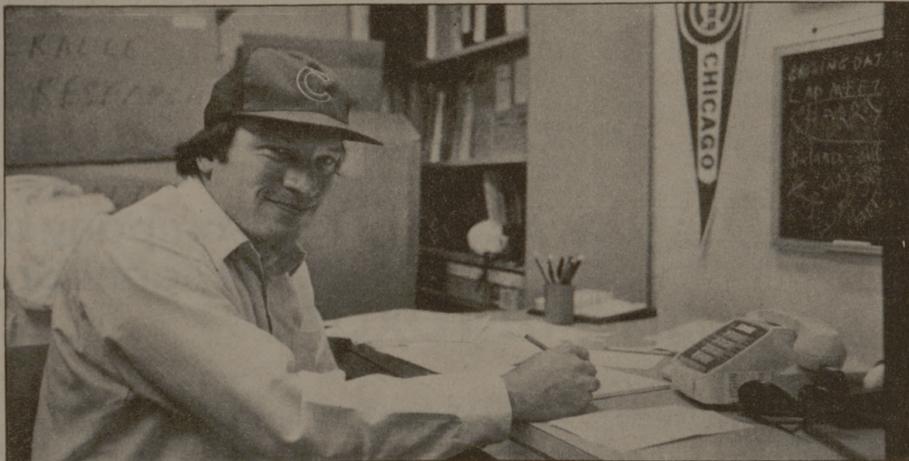
"There has to be some concrete understanding of things, but the ultimate goal (of education) is wisdom that involves emotions and ideas and ethical judgements as well as information," said Cralle.

Cralle, a Loyola University honor graduate, cares about people and this caring has gotten him into some deadly situations.

As an emergency child abuse worker, he was greeted by guns and knives.

"You have to do something," Cralle said. "Humor is usually pretty good if you're careful."

"I used to go into homes and all I would carry would be diapers and



Dr. Harry Cralle

Photo by PETER ROCHA

some crayons, I'd open up the sack and say, 'You've got a gun and look what I've got.'"

Cralle and his best friend conducted anthropological research in tough Chicago neighborhoods.

Cralle wandered through alleys alone, interviewed street people, worked as a day laborer and slept in Skid Row hotels.

His northern accent softens and his clipped speech slows as he remembers one close call in particular.

"I thought I was going to be beat up by seven people," he said.

"It was the first time that it looked like I was not going to be able to talk my way out of it, because I had already been hit once very hard."

"Individually, some of the stu-

dents that I taught stood between me and the group of seven other people," Cralle says. "These were just teenagers, and that they were willing to risk themselves for me was absolutely stunning."

Rubbing his hands together and thoughtfully staring outside of his office, Cralle affirms that he still believes in mankind.

# State panel probes death

United Press International

EL PASO — A state regulatory panel is investigating the death of a man, 28, who lapsed into a coma in an El Paso dentist's office and died six days later.

Frederick James Crouch, a former El Paso resident, was at the office of Dr. Jan Louis Silagi when he lost consciousness Jan. 3, his parents said Friday.

"I took my son to the dentist, and two hours later he is in the emergency room, critically ill," said his mother, Lillian Crouch, principal of Canyon Hills Intermediate School.

Crouch was unconscious when he was taken to Vista Hills Medical Center and never regained consciousness, his parents said. Crouch died Wednesday and hospital officials re-

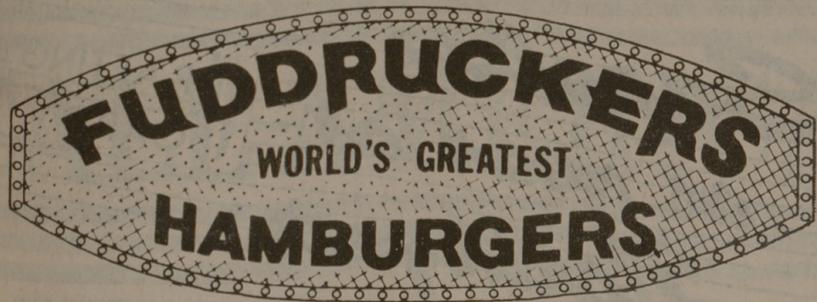
fused comment on the cause of death.

William Nail, executive director of the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners, said the investigation was in the preliminary stage and no findings were available.

Crouch, an Eagle Scout who graduated from Cornell University, had gone to the dentist because he was being bothered by his wisdom teeth and had a least one cavity that needed filling, said his father, James A. Crouch.

He had been living in New York and was visiting his parents when he died.

Silagi, who declined comment on the death, received his Texas dental license in 1968, according to state records.



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