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by Jeff MacNeil

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Abducted

Americans not found after 4½ months in Mexico

Associated Press
GUADALAJARA, Mexico — On a quiet Sunday morning, two American couples went into an affluent neighborhood selling Bibles and were never seen again. Nearly 2½ months later, there still is no clue to their whereabouts or fate.

The two couples, Dennis and Rose Carlson, of Redding, Calif., and Benjamin and Patricia Mascarenas, of Ely, Nev., were in the neighborhood on Dec. 2 when they were taken captive and put into two separate cars.

U.S. Consulate officials say there has been an exhaustive investigation by Mexican officials, but so far there has been no clue as to what happened to the Americans.

ping-for-money as a motive, officials said.

According to police and Foreign Ministry accounts, the two couples had been selling Bibles in the Chapalita neighborhood when several cars drove up. Witnesses said six or seven men forcibly escorted the four into the cars. They said there was no violence and no indication anyone was armed.

The embassy also said the abductors "conversed in English" with the Americans before putting them in two cars.

The two couples are among seven missing Americans in this city, including Enrique Camarena Salazar, 37, a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent abducted Feb. 7 by four gunmen within sight of the consulate.

The missing Americans joined the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City that the Department is considering Americans traveling in the Chapalita area to exercise caution because of recent crimes against tourists.

Mexican officials, however, maintain the incidents have involved a small number of the hundreds of thousands of Americans who border to visit Mexico and the country remains a safe place to visit.

The embassy said a travel advisory informs travelers to use caution when visiting particular areas. It often results in Americans deciding to avoid the area by cutting into the tourist trade.

Rise in income, spending seen during January

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Personal income and consumer spending both climbed a notch last month. A gain that analysts said followed an emerging pattern of steady economic growth and low inflation.

The January statistics released Tuesday did little to excite private economists either toward new optimism or pessimism, partly because they were anticipated.

On the income side, it was primarily a federal pay raise that accounted for a 0.5 percent gain. On the spending side, it was January's unusually cold weather, which showed up in higher spending for utility bills and gave impetus to a 0.6 percent rise.

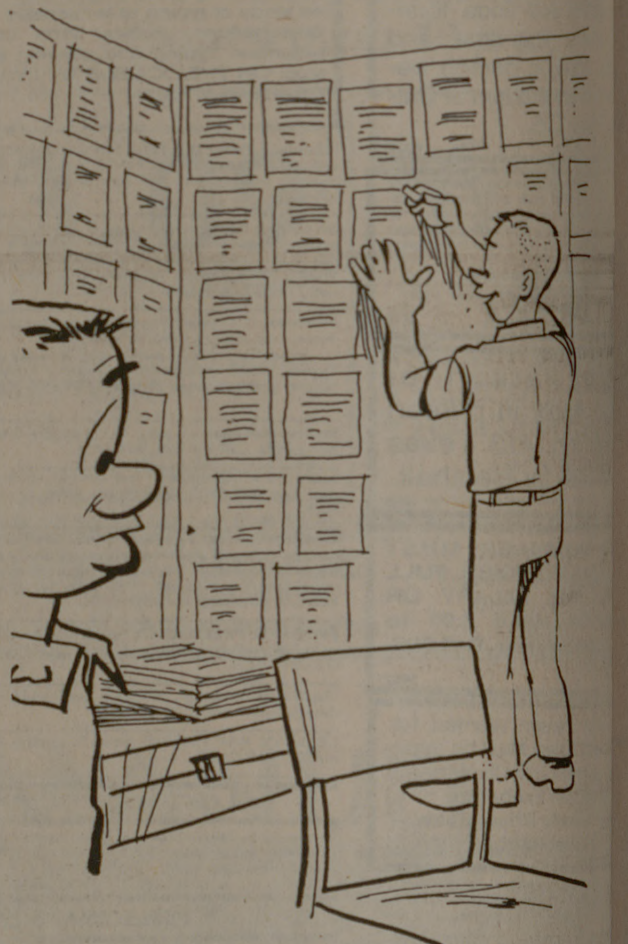
"If Wall Street is looking for moderate growth with low inflation, these numbers support that expectation," said Sandra Shaber, senior economist at Chase Econometrics in Bala Cynwyd, Pa. "On the other hand, if they are looking for the kind of rapid economic growth that some say is going to let us grow out of the deficit, we're not seeing that."

While the 0.5 percent December-to-January rise in personal income bettered the 0.4 percent increase recorded a month ago, it was mostly due to a 3.5 percent pay increase for federal civilian employees and a 4 percent raise for military personnel.

Moreover, the Commerce Department said both the December and January figures also were affected by a variety of bookkeeping factors, such as shifts in the timing of Social Security and military retirement benefits.

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"This is a new study method called the 'Absorption System' where I line the walls with my notes so they can be absorbed into my memory."

Police

(continued from page 1)

of any recent burglaries involving a safe except the burglary of the Bryan Mr. Gatti's where \$8,000 was stolen from the safe.

"In that particular case the safe wasn't stolen though," Ricketson said. "Just the money inside it was taken."

The two officers were waiting when we got to the safe. Ricketson told them to carefully pick it up, put it in the back of their patrol car and take it to the station.

"You can never tell what might be inside that safe," Ricketson said. "There could be a bomb in there, you never know."

Having received no other instructions from the dispatcher, we went back on patrol through the Christopher Village housing project near Beck Street.

"A good police officer doesn't patrol the same areas night after night," Ricketson said. "Even when patrolling on the same night, he doesn't follow a particular pattern. After passing up one location he might go around the block and come right back to the same spot."

Ricketson said it's also a good idea for officers to stop at local night clubs and just be seen. So we headed toward some of Bryan's night spots.

People in Bryan go to clubs in no set pattern Ricketson said. One night they will all gather at one spot and

then the next night that place will be dead and everyone will be somewhere else.

After passing a couple of clubs, The Harlem Club on Logan Avenue appeared to be a good choice. The parking lot was full, but Ricketson said it wasn't really crowded.

"Let's go in now and I'll show you what one of these clubs is like," Ricketson said. "We usually send two officers into a place like this, but you can be my partner tonight and we'll go in. This is a public place, so no one should say anything about you and me going in there."

As Ricketson reached for his night stick, he gave me plain instructions about what to do:

"On the way in, I want you to follow me. Once we get inside the door, I want you to put your back up against the wall and don't let anyone get behind you. I'm going to go talk to the owner for a minute and just make myself seen. On the way out just follow me the same way as when we go in."

The club was about like I imagined it. The air was smoky and several people were playing billiards. One man asked me what I was doing in there and I had begun to wonder the same thing.

After the night club experience, we went down Texas Avenue toward College Station.

As Ricketson stopped his car beside the bridge near the Manor East Mall and shined his light into the

drainage ditch, he explained during night hours in Bryan. "whole different set of creatures be found."

We got out of the car and under the bridge.

Ricketson cautiously looked at a cardboard box nestled against concrete. He said although empty, it was evidently some sleeping quarters. We also saw the ashes from a recent fire and several empty tin foil containers.

"People can be found under the weather is really," Ricketson said. "When you find someone down here, tell them if they want to go to the City Mission."

At about 9:15 p.m., a traffic accident, near the Fame was reported by the patcher.

On our way back to the station at about 9:30 p.m., explained that he was trying fair to the man.

As the police were searching man before putting him in cell, they found two bottles — one in each of his boots.

The clock said 10 p.m. time for Sgt. Ricketson to set as the Bryan police force new shift on night patrol.

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