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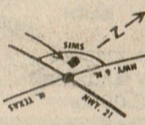
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Jazz radio station puts up rent for bandleader to stay at home

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A jazz radio station rescued ailing bandleader Woody Herman from eviction Tuesday, putting up \$4,600 for back rent owed a man who bought Herman's home of 41 years at a tax auction.

The back rent will be paid by Los Angeles radio station KKGQ within 48 hours, Herman's lawyer, Kirk Pasich, said about the agreement. "It sounds very good to me," Ingrid Herman Reese, daughter of the 74-year-old bandleader, said. "I'm very happy." Owner William Little said, "I'm just glad that it all got worked out for everyone."

Herman, bedridden and requiring oxygen and 24-hour nursing care, still owes at least \$10,000 in medical bills, she said. He was not in court Tuesday. However, Alicia Ellington, widow of jazz great Duke Ellington, and her

children, April and Edward, were in the courtroom. "I'm here to offer support for Ingrid," Ellington said. "I can't understand why a gentleman of this dis-

"I'm here to offer support for Ingrid. I can't understand why a gentleman of this distinction is being treated in this manner."

Alicia Ellington, widow of Duke Ellington

inction is being treated in this manner." Herman's daughter said many of music's biggest names had offered money since word of her father's plight became public over the weekend.

Among those calling were representatives of singers Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett and Rosemary

Clooney, and bandleader Stan Getz, she said. Pasich, who is representing Herman free of charge and sits on the Board of Directors of the National

Academy of Jazz, said earlier that the bandleader had suffered a series of heart attacks in the past six months. The settlement was reached before a scheduled afternoon court hearing in which Pasich said he would argue the eviction should be blocked because of Herman's poor health. Little had given Herman a Tues-

day deadline to pay up on the rent, Pasich said. "It could have been a lot easier to get him to evict him." Herman fell ill in March from a heart ailment and took medication for high blood pressure and a tour through radio and Utah, said his daughter, Tom Cassidy. His medical bills have made it impossible for her to pay them, she said.

The IRS auctioned the room home in 1985 for \$1.6 million in unpaid taxes and penalties from 20 years ago. Reese, 46, said a former manager gambled away the money and was intended to be used to pay taxes for three years in 1960s.

Firefighters make progress in controlling blazes in West

Firefighters made slow but steady progress Tuesday against huge forest fires still burning out of control in the West, but a "gray murk" of smoke sickened some of them, kept trucks from hauling their gear and grounded aircraft.

About 1,000 people were still unable to return to their homes in California because of fire danger. Army infantrymen traded rifles for hoes and shovels to mop up fires in Oregon.

More than 1,000 square miles of brush and timber have burned in eight Western states since lightning began setting hundreds of fires on Aug. 28. "We've always been thankful we don't have hurricanes, tornadoes or stuff like that," Jim Baxter, a timber sales administrator for national forests at Weaverville, Calif., said. "But now we got our own homegrown natural disaster."

More than 1,000 fires had burned over 519,000 acres in northern California, and nearly 111,000 acres were blackened in southern Oregon. Combined with 30,000 acres charred in Idaho, and smaller fires in Arizona, Montana, South Dakota, Washington and Wyoming, fires had

blazed across 670,700 acres, or 1,048 square miles. In addition to the Western fires, 10,000 acres of grass and trees had burned on the island of Hawaii in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Some firefighters from California were sent to help halt that fire.

All but 186 of about 1,250 lightning-sparked fires in California had been contained but huge groups of fires were still out of control in the Klamath, Shasta, Trinity, Stanislaus and Mendocino national forests. Fourteen major fires were still out of control in Oregon, said Barbara Kennedy, a spokesman for firefighting agencies.

Despite fires that nearly surrounded the northern California town of Hayfork and were as close as a mile away, children went to school as usual Tuesday and played outside in the smoky air while crews finished constructing fire lines to protect the town.

A battalion of 650 soldiers from Fort Ord, Calif., took over mop-up work on a 10,000-acre fire near Takilma, Ore. Capt. Andy Buchanan said,

"What we are doing here is protecting the American people and the American homeland without M-16s and bayonets. This time we are doing it with hoes and shovels."

The Army effort allowed some of the 9,300 professional firefighters on the job in Oregon to shift their attention to two other fires in the Siskiyou National Forest, said Ron DeHart, a spokesman for the Oregon Unified Coordinating Group in Salem, which oversees the state's firefighting effort. The two fires have blackened 32,600 acres.

Kennedy said, "We're making some big headway, finally." Some of the 13,000 firefighters at work in California, many of them from other states across the nation, had been allowed to go home but others were forced to the sidelines by fatigue and smoke.

"People are starting to show the effects in health-related ways, with dizziness and disorientation," John Garland of the Forest Service said. Few air tankers or other firefighting aircraft joined the fire battle because of the dense smoke, said Mike Milosch of the U.S. Forest Service.

Doctors say little advancement made toward reduction of premature births

NEW YORK (AP) — With recent advances in treatment, more than half of the babies born weighing less than 2 pounds will survive and lead normal lives, pediatricians say, but little progress has been made at reducing the incidence of premature births.

In 1984, 6.7 percent of all babies born in the United States were low birthweight babies, weighing less than 5 pounds, 8 ounces, according to the Children's Defense Fund in Washington. Twelve out of 1,000 were very low birthweight babies, born at less than 3 pounds.

While survival rates for such infants have climbed dramatically during the last few decades, the incidence of prematurity has scarcely changed.

In 1950, 7.5 percent of all babies were low birthweight. And the incidence of low and very low birthweight children among blacks is more than double the rate among whites in the United States.

"Being born early is a relatively common problem in the United States," says Dr. George Little, a neonatologist, a specialist in the care of newborn infants, at Dartmouth University.

Blindness is one of the serious consequences of prematurity. Other

long-term complications of extreme prematurity include cerebral palsy, mental retardation and chronic lung disease.

The likelihood of serious problems climbs sharply the more prema-

ture an infant is. "If you're born a month early, your problems are usually not too great," Little says. "If you're born two months early, your problems are greater. If you're born three months early, you're getting to the area where survival is not that great."

"The way I like to explain this to parents and medical students is if you're born a month early, you're premature. But when you get to two or three months early, you're not only premature, you're immature."

At that age, many of the body's systems are not suitably developed for life outside the womb.

Such children face a variety of short-term problems, including infections and the inability to regulate their own temperatures. They must be administered oxygen to compensate for the immaturity of the lungs. It is the oxygen that, for unknown reasons, can cause the retrolental fibroplasia that results in blindness in some children. With careful control of the oxygen supply, the incidence of blindness has dropped, says Dr. Ronald Poland, chairman of the Committee on Fetus and Newborn of the American Academy of Pediatrics. "In the mid-1950s, retrolental fibroplasia was the cause of most of the blindness in schools for the blind," Poland says. "Now it's a relatively rare event. Still, not rare enough."

Children with chronic lung disease may need oxygen for as long as a year. In rare cases, the lung disease can last for a lifetime or can be fatal.

Cerebral palsy is a movement disorder that can range from mild to severe, causing spastic paralysis and inability to walk. Mental retardation is less common, Poland says.

Premature babies often live weeks or months of intense care. As a rule of thumb, doctors say a baby born three months premature will require about three months in the hospital, a baby born two months premature will be in the hospital for two months.

The cost of such care can be as high as \$40,000 in 1985.

Dr. Ernest Kravbill of the city of North Carolina estimates the average cost closer to \$100,000 or even more, he says. "They're highly productive members of society."

"You've got a whole life ahead of you," Little says. "Let's hope that most kids who come out of that intensive care do well."

They're highly productive members of society.

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