

Old church makes home for plastered face masks

DALLAS (AP) — Inside an old, disused church on Edinburg's Royal Mile, a strange, even macabre spectacle draws a steady line throughout the day.

Upon a narrow wooden platform around three of the walls, the faces of 45 famous and infamous men are displayed in a dozen glass cases.

The plaster casts were made either in their lifetime or after death, and not seen in public since 1886.

They start with a cheerful-looking Sir Isaac Newton, greatest of scientists, who died in 1717, and end with expressionless George Bryce.

Bryce murdered a nursemaid in 1864 and was the last man to be publicly hanged in Edinburg, the Scottish capital.

In between are such historic figures as Prime Minister William Pitt the Younger, composer Felix Mendelssohn and the poets Friedrich Schiller and John Keats.

Novelist Sir Walter Scott, who died of a stroke, has a mask with a line across the forehead, showing it was made after the top of the skull was removed at the autopsy into the stroke.

There is baby-faced John Any Bird Bell, hanged in Kent in 1831 before a crowd of 10,000 for cutting the throat of another youth.

"Lord have mercy upon us, all people before me take warning from me," he cried before the gallows trap was sprung beneath his feet.

Visitors pay 50 pence (85 cents) to enter.

"We found the masks covered in grime in the cellars and an attic of the university anatomy department. It seems ludicrous that they were hidden away for so long."

Matthew Kaufman
professor

They tend to lapse into a strange silence, indicative of funeral-goers, as they gaze at the masks.

"I think visitors find it so fascinating because we aren't exposed to this sort of material any more," said Dr. Matthew Kaufman, professor of anatomy at Edinburg University, who organized the exhibition.

"To see the real features of the famous in three dimensions when they are long dead is fairly startling. If you are looking at a painted portrait you can never be absolutely sure that the image is lifelike, but about these there can be no doubt," Kaufman, 45, said in an interview.

Of the 45 masks on display, nine were made in life and 24 in death. The others could be either.

Those of the poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge and playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan are far from peaceful and clearly show the final spasm of death.

Kaufman said life masks were common before photography was invented.

They were made of plaster with quills through which to breathe, and moulds were then made from the hollow plaster casts.

"We found the masks covered in grime in the cellars and an attic of the university anatomy department," Kaufman said. "It seems ludicrous that they were hidden away for so long."

The collection of 300 masks is one of the world's largest and was once double that number.

Damaged masks and duplicates were disposed of years ago and many were smashed in the late 1950s when their shelves collapsed.

The masks include that of John James Audubon, the American artist and naturalist who died in 1851.

French artist Jacques-Louis David is there, and so is Jean-Paul Marat, the French revolutionary agitator murdered in his bath by Charlotte Corday in 1793.

David's painting of Marat dead in the bath was a high point of European painting of that time.



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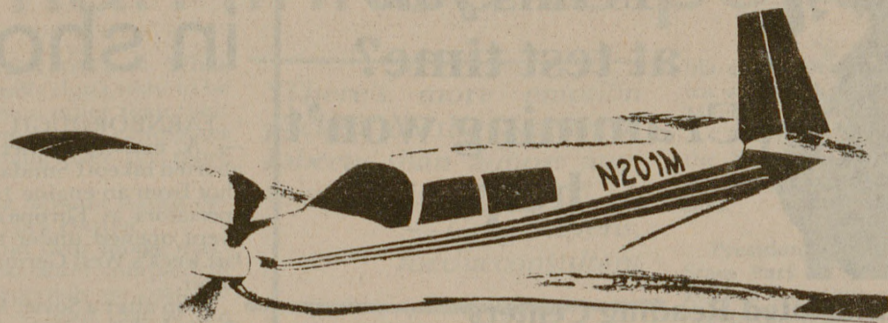
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Candidates use \$750,000 for advertising

HOUSTON (AP) — The U.S. Senate race in Texas thus far has been a battle of television titans as Democratic incumbent Lloyd Bentsen and Republican Beau Boulter spent more than \$750,000 in advertising during August.

Bentsen, a Houstonian who also is campaigning nationally as Michael Dukakis' running mate, spent about \$575,000 on TV spots during August, according to Jack Martin, director of Bentsen's Senate race.

Boulter, a congressman from Amarillo, spent about \$220,000 on television ads in the same period, spokesman Joe Fleming told the *Houston Post*.

As much as three-fourths of the money was poured into the state's two largest markets, Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston.

Martin and Fleming said their candidates are sure to resume their advertising blitzes before long, but neither would offer specifics.

"I don't think we want to let them know of our strategy through the press," Martin said.

Medical therapy conquers stress from tension jobs

AUSTIN (AP) — If you're ever in a hospital, keep an eye out for the "night riders" because they've stopped watching out for themselves.

They're doctors who work long hours at unusual times of the night, often winning the admiration of their peers. But they are really out of control, overly dedicated, obsessed.

Dr. Charles Boren, medical director of The Institute of Living, a renowned psychiatric hospital, is lassoing night riders and other professionals who are running on empty, becoming inefficient and isolating themselves from their colleagues.

The institute, one of the nation's oldest and largest private psychiatric hospitals, has established a program called "The Retreat" to treat the doctors, lawyers, priests and others who are losing their ability to function because of the stress of their careers.

The program allows up to 28 professionals at a time to live together, talk to each other, share their com-

mon problems and put their lives back together.

A stay can be as short as one week or as long as six months, but the average stay is about 62 days, said Dr. Walter A. Kekich, the institute's director of the acute, specialty and ambulatory services unit.

During that period, the professionals receive individual counseling and group therapy. They also have free time for reflection, travel and other recreation.

One participant in the program who has spoken publicly about his experience is Archbishop John Quinn, who tenders to 375,000 Roman Catholic parishioners in the San Francisco area. Quinn, 59, spent four months at the retreat earlier this year, before returning to his job in April.

"I was finding I wasn't measuring up and wishing I could do better dealing with the problems of people around me," Quinn said when he returned to work.

Biologist fascinated with rare hawk

EL PASO (AP) — They're chocolate-brown winged hunters with yellow landing gear and weapons systems, trained in the latest search-and-destroy maneuvers — the flush and ambush, the surprise pounce and the relay tactic.

They scan the tan sand dunes, the rolling desert hills dotted with mesquite, shinnery oak and patches of creosote brush.

They look for their victims — perhaps a jackrabbit or a cottontail — at Los Medanos, the dunes, 30 miles east of Carlsbad in southeastern New Mexico.

Biologist Jim Bednarz, after years of research, is fascinated with these unusual birds, called Harris' hawks.

A full-size female hawk, with a wingspan of almost 4 feet, is 1 1/2 feet long from head to tail and weighs about 2 pounds, while an adult jackrabbit can weigh more than 4 1/2

pounds, Bednarz says. "It's very risky," he says. "There are not very many predators that will take prey three times their size."

But these birds of prey are not solitary hunters like other raptors, Bednarz says. They hunt in groups and, like humans, are very social animals.

Bednarz, now director of higher education and research at the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association north of Kempton, Pa., says, "Both behaviors are rare."

Predators such as wolves, lions and African wild dogs cooperate when they hunt, he says, "but with birds, it's debatable."

"As far as the Harris' hawk goes, what we've seen may be similar to an elementary step in the development of a complex human-like social system," he said in a telephone interview.

"What the research suggests, at

least with this one species, is that cooperation per se is the reason why these birds are social and that individuals do indeed get benefits by working with other individuals.

"Also, it shows the birds have levels of sophistication that a lot of men haven't attributed to them."

The Harris' hawk is generally uncommon in the United States, Bednarz says, but one area of concentration is Los Medanos, 162 square miles of desert proposed to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management as the Los Medanos Raptor Area.

While studying birds of prey for his doctorate at the University of New Mexico from 1981 through 1985, Bednarz was prodded by a professor to investigate Harris' hawks.

"The key question was, 'Are these birds social and why are they social,'" Bednarz says.

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