



To people of 2075

Gov. Cliff Finch drops a letter to Americans of 2075 into a time capsule that was sealed in Jackson Wednesday and is to be opened as the nation begins its Tricentennial celebration. Sealing of the capsule was the last act of

Mississippi's bicentennial observance. Watching Finch are Lt. Gov. Evelyn Gandy (left) and Ann Parkman, director of the state Bicentennial commission. (AP Wirephoto)

Religious leader found guilty of kidnapping a Texas woman

WALTON, Miss. (AP) — The leader of a Webster County religious cult has been sentenced to 10 years in prison after being convicted of kidnapping a Texas woman in 1973 and holding her captive on a farm commune near Bogalusa.

John Henson, director of the 8-acre commune called the Church of Sapa, was found guilty by a Webster County jury of directing the abduction of Charlene Hill, 31, of Miami, Fla., in Jan. 1973 and holding her captive at the commune. She testified she was tied to chairs and beds and beaten.

Henson was freed on \$1,000 bond pending appeal.

Circuit Court Judge Clarence E. Morgan Jr. handed down the sentence, telling Henson that although he did not feel the case called for the maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, "what you are charged with and convicted of — the restraint of an American citizen without any right whatsoever — is a very serious crime."

Morgan said Henson's profession of "good intentions" did not justify his restraining Mrs. Hill with authority.

"There is an easy and attainable way provided by law, by petitioning in chancery court, for restraining one who would harm himself and someone

else," the judge said. "You can do authority to do that."

Mrs. Hill testified that she was taken against her will from Miami, where she was living with her three children and fiance, to the commune where her husband, William Hill, had lived for three months.

She said she was frequently tied and beaten at her husband and other church members attempted to perform a type of exorcism on her.

Henson testified that Mrs. Hill went to the commune of her own free will and "did not go to court because of fear."

He denied practicing any form of exorcism or beating Mrs. Hill.

However, Henson admitted she was restrained at times because she was "mentally disturbed" and might have hurt herself.

William Hill testified that his wife went voluntarily to the commune and denied she ever beaten or prevented from leaving. Hill still is affiliated with the Body of Christ Movement, of which the Church of Sapa was a part.

Hill and his wife was bound to beds and chairs occasionally because "she was rebelling."

Sherry Smith, a former member of the movement who spent six months at the farm in 1973, also testified she was

Gas tank explodes

GLENDORA, Miss. (AP) — A hot air balloon on a farm and repair shop in Tallahatchie County exploded Wednesday night, blasting into flames and destroying a shed but causing no injuries.

The blast occurred about 9:30 p.m. at Northman Plantation, located on Highway 49 near here. Officials said the fire was controlled within two hours by local firefighters.

The Highway Patrol sent officers to assist with traffic problems at the scene and described the fire as intense.

13 cars derailed

WEBB, Miss. (AP) — Automobiles on 13 railroad cars, all reportedly loaded with beer, derailed Wednesday afternoon about five miles south of here in Tallahatchie County.

The Highway Patrol said no one was injured in the derailment of the Illinois Central freight train. Officers said the cause of the accident was not determined.

A spokesman said the Highway Patrol was told the derailed cars were loaded with bottles and cans of beer. Officers said they did not know how many cars were on the train.

American get benefit

The American public received an estimated \$2.8 billion in private health insurance benefits last year, the Health Insurance Institute reports.

This was an increase of more than \$1 billion over 1975, a 13 per cent gain and a record for health benefits paid during a single year.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN HATTIESBURG...

LISTED HERE, FOR YOUR REVIEW, ARE SOME OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT IN THE PAST 4 YEARS UNDER BUD GERRARD

1. The Handi-Bus, serving our handicapped and senior citizens.
2. The Multi-Center for our senior citizens.
3. The Seeger Center, acquired of no cost to the city, improved and now a showplace for cultural activities.
4. Improvement to our municipal airport.
5. This administration has not voted a tax increase.
6. No increase in the number of city employees.
7. 24% pay raises for city employees with no tax increase.
8. Better trained and equipped Police department... HATTIESBURG CRIME DOWN 15% over 1 AVERAGE UP 37% HATTIESBURG CRIME CLEARANCE 49% NAT'L AVERAGE 21%
9. More efficient and economical mass transit system.
10. 8 new tennis courts - Pineview Park improved - more planned.
11. \$22,000 worth of street signs erected \$10,000 more ordered.
12. New sanitary land fill.
13. Combined Tax Assessor - Collector office for more efficient operation.
14. Improvements and renovation of city buildings.
15. 4,000 new jobs due to new industry and industrial expansion.
16. 18 new fireman - 4 new pieces of rolling stock.
17. 35 miles of additional sewer lines.
18. Over 100 miles of city streets resurfaced. 12 miles paved that heretofore were gravel.
19. Gordon's Creek drainage project for flood control and soil conservation.
20. Water Dept. 6 more miles of water line. Contract let for 2,500,000 gallon capacity increase.
21. City earned \$157,000.00 on investments. BETTER FINANCIALLY THAN WE'VE BEEN IN 25 YEARS

CONSIDER THESE FACTS...AND LET'S VOTE FOR CONTINUED SOUND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT IN OUR CITY GOVERNMENT...

RE-ELECT BUD GERRARD
MAYOR OF HATTIESBURG

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Rose's Stores, Inc., Announces

Region Winners in Company Recognition Program.

Mrs. J. A. Roberts, Jr., Vice President of Store Operations and Personnel of Rose's Stores, Inc., has announced that Ann Stafford was selected as the outstanding Division Manager in Region 3. The selection of Mrs. Stafford was part of the Rose Company's Recognition and Awards Program.

Mrs. Stafford was selected because of her knowledge merchandise, skill in buying merchandise, knowledge of personnel and operation policies and procedures and her leadership and community involvement.

Mrs. Stafford is Division Manager in the Rose's Store located in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, University Mall Shopping Center. She is married to Mr. David Stafford of Rt. 4 Hattiesburg. Mr. Stafford is Mgr. of Bellevue Building Supply. They have three daughters, Mrs. Grace Brown, Mrs. Susan Soucier, and Mrs. Al Soucier. Mrs. Stafford has one granddaughter, Tami Ann Brown. The Staffords are members of the Calvary Baptist Church in Oak Grove.

Roses University Mall 583-9477