

# Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle

FORTY-FOURTH YEAR

OFFICIAL COUNTY PAPER

MANHATTAN, KANSAS, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1952

12 PAGES

NUMBER 261

## Fires Back 'Answers'

## 'Chat' Convinces Reporter On Horse

EDITOR'S NOTE: The nation's largest police force, the Manhattan Police, has been credited with providing the "tip" that led to the discovery of the body of Danny Matson, a four-year-old child missing from his home in Manhattan, Mo., for nearly two years.

But about the interview: Lady flabbergasted me when she correctly answered most of the 15 questions I fired at her. She does her answering by poking her chin at levers extending out from my slates containing numbers and letters. When she touches the levers, the numbers and letters shoot up, spelling out her answers.

Lady started out perfectly by pecking out my name. When asked her name, she was born, she spelled out Bethlehem, Pa.—the right answer. When I asked her how much money I

make weekly, she came back with the exact dollar and cents figure. She flubbed it when I asked her where I went to school. But two questions later, she named the school in a delayed action reply.

Lady has been playing this question and answer game for more than 20 years. The folks who visit her at the small frame house of her mistress, Mrs. Claudia Fonda, get three questions for a dollar. Occasionally, a psychologist or someone prominent in the medical field comes along to try Lady. In 1928, Duke University psychology professors tested her and concluded:

"There appear to be no loopholes, no responsible possibility for signalling, either of a conscious or unconscious character."

And in 1946, Dr. Thomas L. Garrett, New York psychologist, said he could find "no trickery involved."

I thought about a tipoff system between Lady and her mistress. But she has answered questions when Mrs. Fonda was not nearby.

How does Lady do it? I asked Lady very few questions. She hesitated, then slowly spelled out "m-i-n-d."

Mrs. Fonda said she first noticed a strangeness about the animal when Lady would romp into the barn just as Mrs. Fonda was on the verge of calling her.

Occasionally, smiled Mrs. Fonda. "Lady, like the man who wanted to know if his wife were true to him? Lady snorted and twitched, then replied: "Are you?"



**WRITE FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH**—An inquiring reporter today searched what is hoped to be the smartest horse in Manhattan, asking the question whether the local horse brought Lady Wonder is as smart as the news stories indicate. Although the local horse could neither talk nor typewrite, it promptly took brush in teeth to write the word "NO" on the board as any wise human can see from the photo above.

## 'Lady' Might Help Solve City Problems

A search today for expert opinion among Kansas State college personnel on whether Lady Wonder's knowledge is a fact resulted in the consensus that the answer should be: "Neigh."

There were many technical explanations about horses' intelligence—and some about the lack thereof.

Most of it from the K-State veterinary department pointed down to the statement "It looks improbable."

But on the official front there was a different, although not highly scientific, reaction to the story of Lady Wonder.

In one quarter of officialdom there was regret that Lady Wonder couldn't be imported to Manhattan to settle some city problems.

One highly placed board member sighed when told of the \$2,000 horse and said:

"Too bad we didn't have Lady Wonder around when the arguments were so hot and heavy where we would locate the high school. Might have saved a lot of hurt feelings if she'd have pecked out on her typewriter the correct location for a school."

And another—faced with the problems of finding enough funds for stretching city auditorium funds lamented that Lady Wonder couldn't make an appearance here to type out the extra money could be dug up.

In the Blue Valley, it was a great idea that Lady Wonder should be brought here to solve a solution on Tuttle creek dam.

"Mighty handy horse, if we had her around here," mused one official bowed low with crucial tasks.

And there was a report—although not straight from the horse's mouth—that the Kansas Bureau of Investigation has put in a bid for Lady Wonder's services. Cheaper than sending out agents, if Lady Wonder could stay in the statehouse and type out solutions or at least, could be a help.

And maybe, said the report, Lady Wonder could even pick an architect for the state office building.

## Lawyer Charges Negroes Denied School Equality

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—The Supreme Court opened arguments today on whether denying Negro and white children to separate schools violates the Constitution.

The first lawyer to speak, Robert L. Carter, told the court that Negro children in Topeka, are denied equality in educational opportunity because they must attend separate schools.

The arguments, which will continue for two more days, got underway when Chief Justice Vinson called:

"Case Number 8, Oliver Brown and others versus the Board of Education of Topeka, Kas."

Cases involving segregation in schools in South Carolina, Virginia, the District of Columbia and Delaware will be argued after the Kansas case.

Carter, representing the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, began with a brief outline of the Kansas law which permits—but does not prescribe—separate grade schools in the larger cities of the state for Negro and white pupils, as well as separate high schools in Kansas City, Kas.

Carter told the court he was limiting his attack on the Kansas law to a single contention—that segregation itself is unconstitutional.

In so doing, he made no argument there was any substantial difference in the school facilities for white and Negro pupils, the qualifications of teachers, or the courses of study.

**Plan To Shift Kaw Near Bridge**  
LEAVENWORTH, Dec. 9.—County engineers from Leavenworth and Douglas Counties have agreed to employ a firm of consulting engineers to draw up plans for shifting the Kaw River near the Eudora bridge.

Commissioners from both counties in a joint meeting Monday night, authorized engineers H.V. Parr of Leavenworth and J. Ryan of Douglas County to employ an engineering firm in Topeka if the cost of drawing plans is under \$5,000.

Shifting currents since the disastrous 1950 floods, have threatened to cut a new channel away from the 750 foot bridge.

**PINAY WINS VOTE**  
PARIS, Dec. 9.—Premier Antoine Pinay's government won a vote of confidence by the narrow margin of nine tonight. The premier had staked the life of his coalition cabinet on approval of the 1953 budget. The vote in the National Assembly was 301 to 291.

Camera gift lists. Everything needed for gifts indoors or out. \$15.00. Call 311-A. Manhattan. Call 311-A. Manhattan. Call 311-A. Manhattan.

## Last Straw

The woes of a television reformer are many. But the crowning blow came today for one in a Manhattan store.

He received an urgent and demanding call from the purchaser of a new set to come out with his bag of tools at once.

Crowding the call into a busy schedule, the repairman made hasty tracks to the disgruntled new owner who greeted him with all manner of accusations against the set.

The check up began—ending abruptly when it was discovered the owner had pulled the plug on the set and had forgotten to pull it back into the socket before turning it on again.

**Mrs. L. C. Colt Dies At Topeka**  
Mrs. Lillie Crans Colt, 81, died at 6 a. m. today. In ill health for the past eight months, she had been in a convalescing home in Topeka, Mo., since October. Mrs. Colt was born July 1, 1871, the eldest daughter of Dr. J. Crans, pioneer physician of Riley county and Edith Lammell Crans, both of whom were pioneer settlers of the county. A resident of Manhattan for 51 years, she had been active in the school facilities for white and Negro pupils, the qualifications of teachers, or the courses of study.

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## Bribe Charge On Building

## Lawmaker Charges Attempt Made For Topeka Architectural Firm

TOPEKA, Dec. 9.—The boiling controversy over architect's fees in the proposed construction of a new state office building has churned up a charge of attempted bribery of a state legislator.

The charge was denied promptly by a Topeka architectural firm's agent who was accused of offering the bribe. The architectural firm also joined in the denial.

Rep. Howard Bentley, Kinley Republican, personally delivered to a meeting of the State Office Building Commission Monday afternoon a letter which he signed and in which he related that an attempt had been made to bribe him.

Bentley said he was offered 10 percent of the anticipated \$100,000 fee for roughly \$10,000 if he would see that one particular firm got the architectural job.

The legislator's letter said the offer was made by John Harvey who was identified as an employee of Williamson and Loebach, Topeka architectural firm.

Harvey termed the bribery charge "ridiculous" and "without foundation in fact."

Thomas W. Williamson, partner in the architectural firm, likewise denied the allegation.

Bentley's charge was considered by the commission behind closed doors.

At the conclusion of the executive session, Sen. Riley MacGregor of Medicine Lodge, legislative chairman, said his group decided to refer the matter to Atty. Gen. Harold R. Fatter for any action he may see fit to take.

Fatter who is attending a meeting of state attorneys general at Sea Island, Ga., could not be reached immediately for comment.

Copies of Bentley's letter were released by the commission following Monday's meeting.

At the same time, MacGregor denied that Charles Marshall, former state architect, had been "hired" by the commission in any architectural capacity other than his \$25 a month role as commission secretary.

## 500 Records On Way Soon By 'Troubador'

More than 500 phonograph records will be on their way by air to radio station Troubador on the Korean front lines Wednesday with arrival timed for as near Christmas day as possible.

The shipment of tunes for lonely front line soldiers is the final deed of "Operation Troubador," a joint effort of station KMAN and The Mercury-Chronicle to provide a record fund to brighten the lives of United States fighting men.

The request came last month from the hilltop station in Korea whose job it is to furnish 21 hours of music a day for the enemy who are so close to the soldiers who are so close to the enemy that USO or armed service entertainment units never get to them.

Generous persons in Manhattan and the area provided the funds to buy more than 500 records, Mrs. Houta of KMAN will place them aboard a plane at Fort Riley's Marshall field Wednesday. From there they will go to Fort Bliss, where bases in Topeka, Lt. Floyd Sager, a former K-State student, will escort them to March field, Calif. After that they will go by air to Korea—in time to brighten the lives of fighting men on Christmas with their favorite tunes.

**Forester Warns On Tree Scraping**  
A warning against scraping bark on Manhattan trees to apply sticky substances as possible cancer-worm combats was issued today by Dr. W. F. Pickett, city forester.

Dr. Pickett said he has been informed some such work is being done by a contractor who is putting the sticky substance on the bark of trees in the city next spring, the forester said, and if there is the city will be sprayed from the air to the very last.

Dr. Pickett explained that about 100 test trees throughout the city are banded, not to combat cancer worms, but to take readings at the proper time on whether cancer worms are a serious menace. Should the onset be late, spraying will be deemed necessary, he said.

**Killed At Crossing**  
WICHITA, Dec. 9.—James W. Bosier, 32, of Kechi, Kas., was injured fatally today in a grade crossing accident northeast of Wichita.

Sheriff's Patrol Capt. Floyd Stover said Bosier, on route to work at an aircraft plant, apparently did not see the Missouri Pacific freight and drove on the tracks in front of it.

**Good Wheat Harvest Depends On Weather Break In Western Kansas**  
TOPEKA, Dec. 9.—Prospects for the 1953 wheat crop have improved in the eastern half of Kansas following recent rains and snows, the federal and state departments of Agriculture said today.

But the agencies said the major wheat producing areas in Western Kansas received little benefit from the precipitation and added:

"The overall wheat outlook for the state depends in great part on future weather developments."

## Secrets Veils Talks

## Helena Crosses World Dateline

ABOARD USS HELENA, Dec. 9.—President-elect Eisenhower and his party crossed the international dateline tonight and faced another day of full discussions on various aspects of problems in the Far East.

The Helena cut through the dateline at 8 p. m. today. That set the clock and calendar back to 8 p. m. Monday, giving Eisenhower another Tuesday.

The ship is due at Pearl Harbor at 9 a. m. (1 p. m. CST) Tuesday.

Top-level discussions continued Monday but there was no announcement or report to indicate their trend. Eisenhower and his advisers met first in a unit, then again broke up into smaller groups.

The President-elect and members of his "brain trust" took time out from weekly world problems to do some skeet-shooting on the Helena's fantail.

**Share Honors**  
Eisenhower, Gen. Lucius Clay and Secretary of the Treasury designate George M. Humphrey shared top honors. They shot for 30 minutes and did not miss once.

When the Helena reaches Pearl Harbor at the end of its 3,300 mile trip from Guam, the group will confer for possibly three more days with military leaders and advisers.

Then the general will fly back to his headquarters in New York City.

**Bainum Named Reserves Head**  
Lt. Col. George Bainum was named president of the Manhattan chapter of the Reserve Officers Association Monday. Bainum succeeds Lt. Col. Harold Stover to the post. Capt. Edwin Lindly was elected secretary.

Plans were made at the meeting for an organization party to be held on January 23. Maj. Elmer Blankenhagen and Capt. Victor Roper were appointed in charge of arrangements. Invitations for the event will be extended to all ROA members living in the vicinity of Manhattan.

Colonel Stover discussed work of the organization and proposed legislation in Congress regarding reserve components of the armed forces. Lt. Col. Frank Annenberger explained the new membership fee and purpose of ROA.

**Tip-Off Lunch**  
Second Tip-off club lunch meeting for the season will be held Wednesday noon at the Wagoner hotel, with pictures of the season's opener between Kansas State and Drake being shown. Running commentary will be done by Coach Jack Gardner assisted by Asst. Coach Dobbie Lambert who coached the team during the season. The last 40 years.

## 'Amazing,' But Psychologist Sees Signals

DURHAM, N. C., Dec. 9.—Dr. J. R. Rhine, Duke University para-psychologist today recalled examining "Lady Wonder," the Richmond, Va., "talking horse" in its younger days.

"In 1927 and 1928, my wife, the late Prof. William MacDougal, and I made a number of trips to investigate claims that the horse was a mind reading horse. At the time she was three or four years old."

"We spent some time working with her, coming to the conclusion that as far as we could determine, she showed some telepathic ability, but by the next year the additional training and public showing had built up a system of signaling which became evident and we published two reports."

Dr. Rhine concluded that she had ability; the second that there was clear evidence of signaling. "We did not retract the report, concluding only that the signaling system had been developed."

"As for today, we would like to see more evidence before we could conclude that the horse has telepathic ability. She is, however, an amazing animal."

## Charles Uhrich Is Dead At 87

(Mercury-Chronicle Special)  
WAMEGO, Dec. 9.—Charles Uhrich, 87, one of Wamego's most prominent citizens and the first white child to be born on the townsite, died in a hospital here today. He had been confined to the hospital since breaking his leg in a fall slightly more than a week ago.

He had been in ill health for about two years.

Uhrich's father, Antoine Uhrich, owned the townsite of Wamego and laid out the pan of the city.

Charles Uhrich was born in a log cabin near Wamego and during his life had been a farmer, stockman and landowner. He had made his home in town for about the last 40 years.

Survivors include two sons, George and Carl; three daughters, Mrs. Stella Fumell, Mrs. Marie Knoeber and Mrs. Ann Guilfoyle; a sister, Miss Louisa Uhrich; a brother, Edward Uhrich.

Mr. Uhrich was a member of the St. Bernard Catholic church and of the Knights of Columbus. The body is at the Stewart Funeral home from where funeral arrangements will be announced.

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**Named After Ike**  
BIG SPRING, Tex., Dec. 9.—The first Howey County baby to be named after President-elect Eisenhower is Dwight David Collins.

The father, Cabin Collidge Collins, who was named after a previous Republican president.

Justine's son, born at 11:15 a. m. and weighed 8 pounds, 10 ounces.