

French Judge Napa Wines Best

By STEVE HART
Register Staff Writer

Napa Valley's finest vintages have again bested leading French wines in a "blind tasting" — but this time, French wine connoisseurs were the judges.

Wines from Stag's Leap Wine Cellars north of Napa and Chateau Montelena winery near Calistoga were chosen over vintage Chateau Mouton-Rothschild and Meursault-Charmes by the French wine experts.

The Gallic tasters — winemasters at the best French restaurants, European gourmet writers and Continental wine industry officials — were reportedly startled that "ingenue" California vintages would outscore the time-honored French products. "There was general consternation among the judges," reported one local entrant.

The Bicentennial tasting was sponsored by a Paris wine institute, L'Academie du Vin. A half dozen California Chardonnays were pitted against the

famous white Burgundies of France, while Cabernet Sauvignon samples from Napa Valley were judged against the classic Chateau red wines from Bordeaux.

Other local products entered were from Freemark Abbey winery, Veedercrest vineyards, Spring Mountain Vineyards, Clos Du Val winery, Mayacamas vineyards and Heitz Cellar.

When a dozen rounds of careful tasting and note-taking were over, a 1973 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon from Stag's Leap Wine Cellars had won the jury's acclaim, beating the French chateau wines from Mouton-Rothschild, Haut-Brion and Montrose.

In the white wine category, the Paris tasters chose the 1973 Chardonnay from Chateau Montelena winery, followed by Meursault-Charmes '73, a distinguished French wine. Chardonnay from Spring Mountain Vineyards in St. Helena finished fourth. Warren Winiarski, owner-winemaker at Stag's

Leap, said the judging "is a landmark for us, and it's good for the valley."

He credited both winning wines to the influence of Andre Tchelistcheff, retired winemaker at Beaulieu Vineyard, considered by many to be California's greatest living vintner.

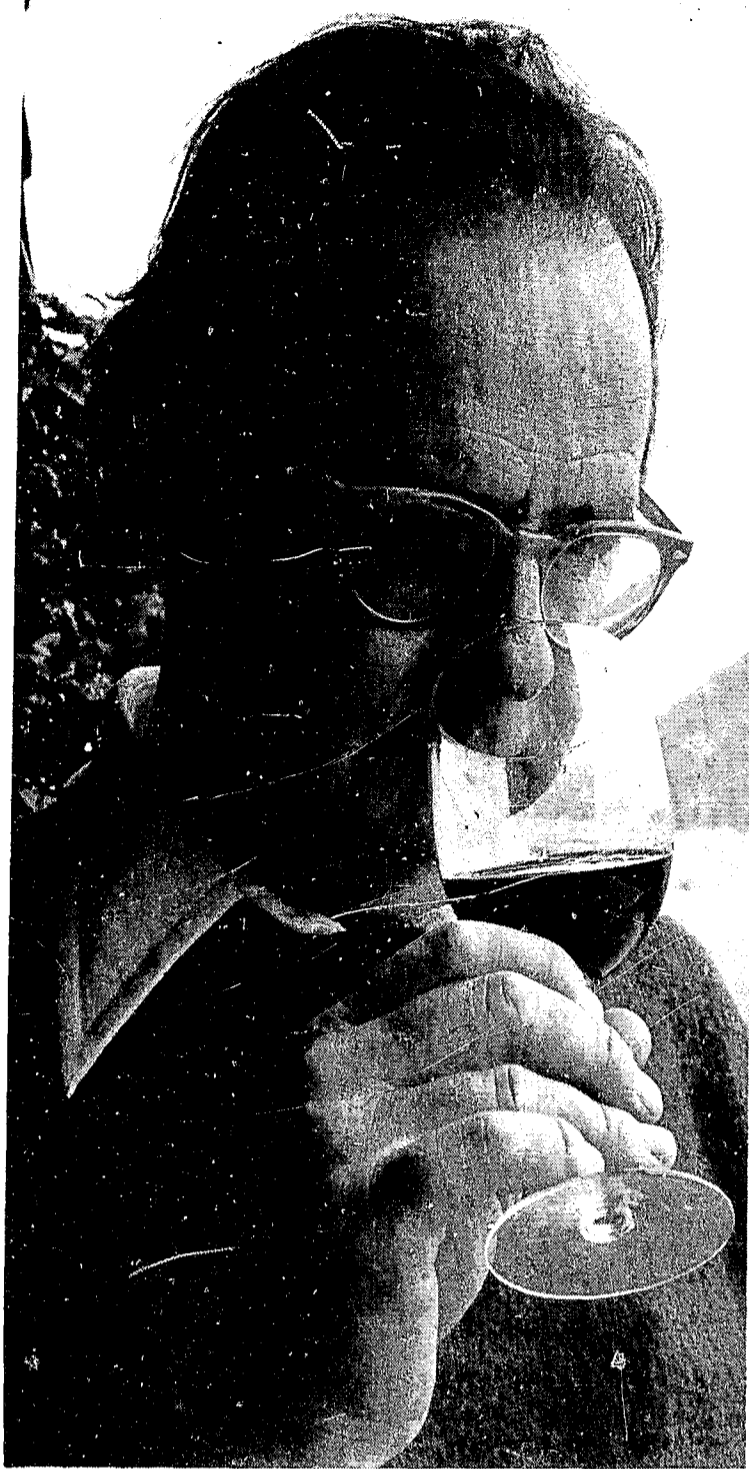
"I've always admired Andre's wines," said Winiarski. He said that Miljenko "Mike" Grigich, Yugoslavian-born winemaker at Chateau Montelena, was also taught by Tchelistcheff.

Winiarski, a former winemaker at Robert Mondavi Winery and Sovereign Cellars, said less than 2000 cases of the prize-winning Cabernet were made. A fifth sells for \$7.

One expert taster called the local product a "supple, complex" wine, with "deep garnet color, a fruity aroma, great depth, and a vanilla finish."

The Chateau Montelena '73 Chardonnay is hard to find on retail shelves. "It's sold out," said a winery

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WARREN WINIARSKI, owner-winemaker at Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, sniffs the bouquet of his award-winning 1973 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, which bested the classic red wines of Bordeaux in a Paris wine tasting recently. Expert Continental wine buffs chose

a Chardonnay from Calistoga's Chateau Montelena winery as the best wine in the whites category, outscoring the premier white Burgundies of France in the "blind tasting." (Register photo by Bob McKenzie)

Lebanon Artillery Battle

BEIRUT, LEBANON (UPI)

— A wild artillery battle around Beirut's International Airport shattered a lull in the Lebanese civil war today and leftists charged Syria was sending more infantry, tanks and planes against their men in a bid to impose a Syrian peace on this war-torn nation.

Leftist reports also said Syrian forces in north and south Lebanon heavily shelled their positions in the northern and southern ports of Tripoli and Sidon. Palestinian sources charged Syria was preparing a new offensive.

(A Cairo-based Voice of Palestine radio station reported large-scale fighting throughout Lebanon and said, "The situation has exploded on all fronts.")

A two-day lull in the fighting between Palestinian guerrillas and Syrian controlled Saika forces in Beirut was shattered early today when a clash along the airport road erupted into fierce exchanges of artillery and mortar fire.

A Palestine Liberation Organization spokesman charged the pro-Syrian forces had provoked the attack by shelling the nearby refugee camps of Borj Brajmen and Chatilla, causing "heavy casualties and damages."

Amid reports that Syria was moving fresh troops and additional equipment into the eastern Bekaa Valley, Palestinian sources charged the Syrians were preparing a new offensive against the leftist-Palestinian alliance.

"All of their actions indicate they are planning a new assault," one source said. "They have stopped their advance, but they are bringing in reinforcements all over." A Christian radio station said 1,000 troops of a joint Algerian-Syrian force had already crossed into Lebanon from Syria, but the reports could not be confirmed.

Western newsmen traveling across the border said the Syrians were bringing "dozens" of heavy field guns into the Bekaa but saw no troop movements.

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Hays Recovering, But Pill Mystery Remains

BARNESVILLE, Ohio (UPI) — Rep. Wayne Hays came out of a 20-hour coma caused by an overdose of sleeping pills today and smiled at his wife from a hospital bed. The veteran congressman, target of a Washington sex scandal investigation, was upgraded to satisfactory condition.

Hays, 65, is "saying a few words and making a few short sentences that make sense," said Dr. Richard Phillips, the lawmaker's personal physician. He said Hays asked for his wife, Pat, and "smiled when she came into the room."

Hays, who won the Democratic nomination for his 23rd term in Congress from Ohio Tuesday, was admitted to the Barnesville Medical Center Thursday morning suffering from an overdose of Dalmane sleeping pills. But Phillips said there was no evidence of any suicide attempt.

Hays is the target of two Washington investigations into charges he put Elizabeth Ray on the congressional payroll to serve as his mistress at \$14,000 a year.

Phillips said he had removed Hays from the "guarded" list and placed him in satisfactory condition. He said Hays regained partial consciousness at 5:45 a.m. EDT and asked for his wife.

"His body simply has to detoxify the drug," said Phillips earlier. He added at the midmorning briefing that Hays will have to spend "at least 10 more days in the hospital" and "a week to 15 more days at home" for complete recovery.

"The fact that he is waking up indicates that he did not take a horrid dose" of sleeping pills, said Dr. David Schuster, one of four physicians attending Hays.

Mrs. Carol Clawson, Hays' press secretary, said meanwhile Mrs. Hays had been by her husband's bedside or in an

adjoining hospital room since he was admitted. She said Mrs. Hays, who married the congressman in April, had visited her father in Tennessee Wednesday and returned to Ohio Wednesday night.

Phillips said Hays had taken an unknown amount of Dalmane, "a commonly prescribed sleeping pill," apparently late Wednesday night.

No suicide note was found, Phillips said, and Hays had "no suicidal tendencies." He said there is "no direct evidence" that Hays attempted suicide.

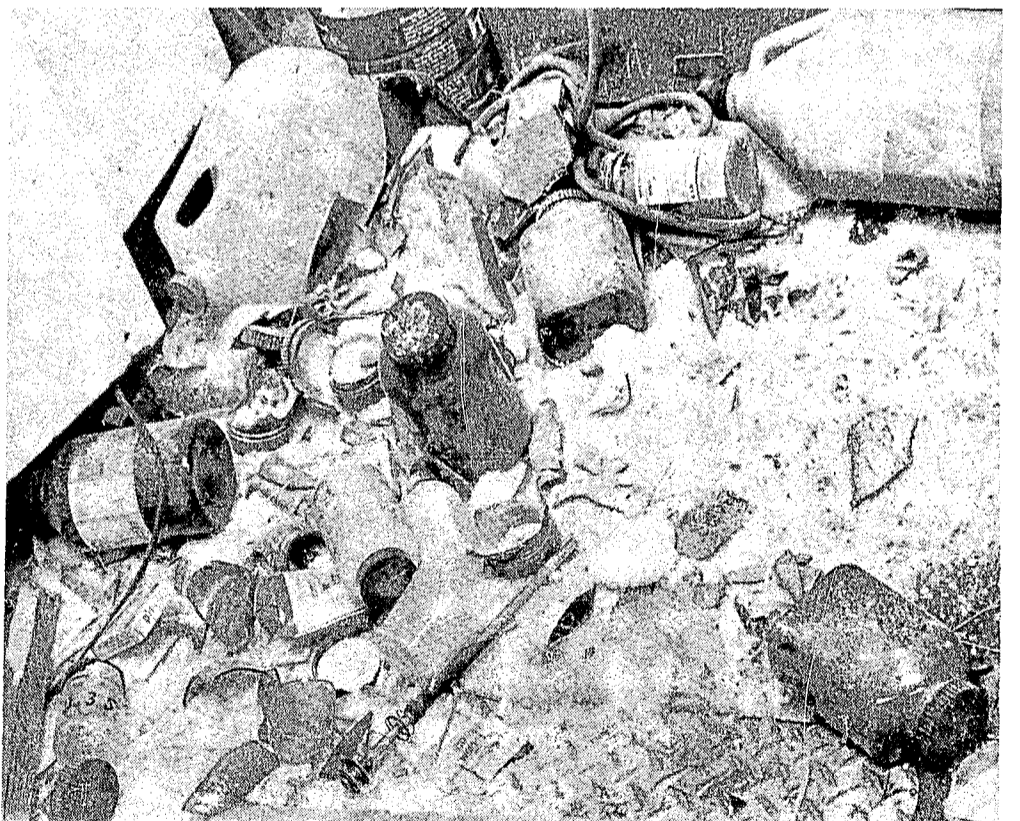
Columnist Jack Anderson said today Hays discussed possible suicide with him in Washington last week. He said Hays also telephoned from Ohio Wednesday afternoon to report that his new wife, Pat, had left him twice because of the sex scandal allegations by Elizabeth Ray, a former Capitol Hill office worker.

Anderson said on ABC's "Good Morning America" show that Hays was "deeply despondent" in an hour-long meeting in the columnist's office last week.

"He said in a low, husky whisper that if it would spare her more anguish, he'd put a bullet through his head. (and) he added 'I've got the guts to do it,'" said Anderson.

Mrs. Clawson arrived at Hays' bedside at the Barnesville Medical Center about midnight after Hays had been in a coma for more than 12 hours. Phillips and a pair of consulting physicians flown in from Pittsburgh earlier today were scheduled to examine Hays later this morning.

Hays, 65, was found unconscious at his farm home near Belmo Thursday morning by Pat Peak, his wife of two months, and rushed 20 miles by ambulance to the Barnesville Medica Center.



VANDALS caused an estimated \$2,000 damage to the American Canyon sewage pumping station Thursday night, smashing chemicals, above photo, and monitoring controls. Another \$10,000 loss was suffered by the construction company which is building a \$2 million replacement facility. For additional photos, see page 2. (Register Photo by Bob McKenzie)

\$7 Million Tentative Budget For College

By STEVE TAYLOR
Register Staff Writer

Napa College trustees voted 4-0 Thursday to accept a tentative budget for 1976-77 listing over \$7 million in expenditures, \$6.6 million in income and a nearly \$1 million "ending balance."

The budget itself is expected to see a "deficit" of over \$550,700. But Business Manager Andrew Peterson keeps a separate carryover fund which includes money left from previous budget years.

Nearly \$1.5 million is expected to be left over from the current fiscal year's financial operations. This, plus expected income, leaves school officials with a fund totalling nearly \$8.3 million for the 1976-77 fiscal year.

Peterson expects \$941,468 to be left over when the next fiscal year comes to an end. He said the tentative budget is a "status

quo" document and expects the budgeted expenditures to increase prior to final budget adoption.

A public hearing will be held Aug. 5. If last year's budget process is any indication, the tentative budget will increase considerably. The tentative budget for 1975-76 was about \$6.3 million. When the spending plan was finally adopted in August, expenditures were projected to total nearly \$7.8 million.

Actually, expenditures for 1975-76 will probably come in closer to \$7 million, according to Peterson's "reestimate."

This is the second year the budget will operate at a "deficit," meaning that "income" (not counting the funds carried over from previous years) will exceed expenditures, Peterson noted.

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Vandals Hit AmCan Sewage Plant; \$10,000 Damaged Or Stolen Goods

AMERICAN CANYON — Vandals struck the construction site of a \$2 million sewage pumping station Thursday night, causing \$5,000 worth of damage and carrying off another \$5,000 worth of tools, officials reported this morning.

Construction will be shut down for two to three days while workers re-equip themselves and restore order

to the office trailers which were made a shambles, said Larry Jenkins, supervising engineer for Peter Kiewit Sons Co., of Concord.

An estimated \$2,000 damage was also caused to the sewage pumping station scheduled to be replaced next year by the new facility. All the controls were smashed, so that the flow of sewage to the American Canyon treatment ponds cannot be measured, reported plant supt. Sam Mutchek.

Without gauges to guide them, operators will have to chemically treat the sewage by guessing the flow, said Mutchek. It will be several weeks before all the equipment is restored to working order, he estimated.

Investigating Napa County sheriff's deputies believe entrance to the site was gained during the night by persons who cut the lock on a chainlink gate. There was no night watchman on duty.

"They just stole from us all our power equipment," said

Jenkins, who noted that a similar break-in Memorial Day weekend resulted in a \$500 equipment loss. "This time they came in and took everything."

Because of the extensive vandalism throughout the site, Jenkins said the thieves were probably kids. Stealing keys to a pickup, the vandals crashed

the vehicle into a pile of cement block and then ran it through surrounding fields until a tire fell off.

When completed, the pumping station will carry sewage from American Canyon to the new \$11 million treatment plant near the Napa County Airport which will serve both Napa and American Canyon.

Napa County Earthquake Drill Planned

If an earthquake similar to the 1906 tremor struck the Bay Area tomorrow, how would local emergency agencies respond? That's the question the state Office of Emergency Services hopes to find an answer to June 25 in a drill involving emergency services in Napa, Yountville, St. Helena and Calistoga.

The operation will be entirely "in-house," according to Ronald Gunderson, county purchasing agent and local coordinator of the drill. "You won't even know it's happening."

Dubbed "BASE - '76," objectives of the exercise are to:

- Test response of county and city emergency staffs.
- Test emergency operations plans and procedures.
- Test adequacy of back-up communications systems.

The exercise scenario simulates a high-magnitude quake with widespread damage and many casualties. The nine Bay

Area counties will be "affected," with the San Mateo area "hardest hit."

Gunderson says the scenario predicts little damage in Calistoga and St. Helena, just "shakes and broken windows."

Yountville and the west side of Napa would be hardest hit, with possible collapsed buildings, fires and traffic jams.

"BASE" is part of a continuing effort to ensure prompt response to an earthquake in the San Francisco Bay Area," said William Ward, regional manager for the California Office of Emergency Services.

It began in 1972, with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's "Study of Earthquake Losses in the San Francisco Bay Area."

This was followed by planning efforts — coordinated by the state, federal government, and Golden Gate University — in-

volving the nine Bay Area counties, 92 cities and 500 special interest districts, as well as the federal government.

"Problems to be faced include utility disruption, fires, sanitation, medical, transportation, rescue, building inspection and relocation of survivors," Ward said.

Expected to play a major role is the state's Mutual Aid System, in which one jurisdiction calls for help from others, including the state and federal governments.

The scenario postulates about 10,000 dead and 40,000 injured in the Bay Area, according to Cecil Byrd, senior planner for the Office of Emergency Services.

How hard would Napa County be hit? "We can't forecast this in our scenario because we'd give our secret away," Byrd demurred.

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