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# THE LINCOLN STAR

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## Murdered boys' parents dissatisfied with courts

**By Nancy Hicks  
Staff Writer**

The parents of two boys killed six years ago during the State Fair are not satisfied with the way the courts have handled the man accused of the two murders.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Larry Surber and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Surber are worried that William Gutsy, a transient charged with the two killings, will eventually be back on the streets.

Gutsy will likely never be tried on the two counts of first-degree murder. Early this month Lancaster County District Judge Dale Fabrebach expressed from the pending trial most of the defendant's statements to law enforcement officials because he said the statements were not "reliable and trustworthy." Those statements were the bulk of the prosecution's evidence against Gutsy, charged with the 1975 stabbing death of Jacob Surber and John Simpson.

Last week the 39-year-old Gutsy was committed to the Lincoln Regional Center by the

Lancaster Mental Health Board, based on a county attorney's petition that Gutsy's mental condition makes him unable to care for his basic needs, such as food, clothing and medical attention. County Attorney Ron Lahmers will likely drop the murder charges against Gutsy this week.

"It's pretty sad when everything seemingly works for the perpetrator rather than for the victims," said Larry Surber in a telephone interview from his North Platte home.

The Surbers, who moved to North Platte four years ago, are worried that Gutsy will be released from the regional center. And they fear that Gutsy will be transferred to a Kansas Veterans Administration hospital where he will have less supervision and may be able to get out on the street.

The Surbers, whose son was 12 when he and 13-year-old Simpson were killed, believe the police have arrested the right man, but are not convinced Gutsy should be tried. They do think he should be institutionalized.

"Because of our judicial system, people are found innocent by reason of insanity. Those people are sent to the hospital and then released. For this reason I do not care if he came to trial and then was treated and released," said Mrs. Surber.

"I prayed that perhaps he would not be tried but committed and confined," she said. "He should get all the spiritual and mental help he needs," but he shouldn't be back in society, she said.

The Simpsons agreed that Gutsy should "never be turned out."

"You always worry that this could happen to some other child or the other children you still have at home," said Simpson.

But the Simpsons would like to see Gutsy tried on the two murder charges. Though they believe that Gutsy is the man who killed their son, they are not absolutely certain.

"There's no way we'll ever know if it doesn't go to trial," said Simpson.

Short of a trial the Simpsons would like assurances that Gutsy will never be released from the institution. "It would be a lot of satisfaction if we knew they were going to keep him in there," Simpson said.

Both the Simpsons and Surbers think the current law that allows individuals to bypass a prison term or the potential death penalty with an insanity plea should be changed.

Simpson said that these individuals should either be treated and then tried for the crime, or tried and then hospitalized until their mental condition improves. After that they would serve their time, he said.

"It's just too bad that somebody does something like this and we can't take care of them one way or another," he said.

The lengthy court proceedings are also difficult for the two families. The bodies of the two boys, who did not return from the State Fair August 30, 1975, were found the next month. Gutsy was arrested in August 1978. Since then the court maneuvers have included a Nebraska Supreme Court decision that Gutsy was capable of standing trial, temporary commitment to the Lincoln Regional Center, pre-trial motions and Fabrebach's suppression ruling.

And each event — recorded by the news media — is another reminder to the parents and their surviving children of the loss. "It's particularly hard on the children," said Mrs. Surber.

The parents' concerns about the judicial system does not extend to the Lincoln police, who, they say, deserve nothing but praise for the four-year investigation.

"The police did a superb job. The kind of man-hours put in on this were just unbelievable," said Mrs. Simpson. The parents gave specific praise to detectives Ken Ideon and Noah Van Buren.

But as far as the judicial system — "Well, it stinks," said Simpson.

### News Digest

Get a grip  
on some  
good humor  
with...

It's Just  
A Game

New in sports, Page 13

### Nancy adds garment

**NEW YORK (UPI)** — First lady Nancy Reagan, whose fashion sense has drawn the applause of the garment industry, has added a new undergarment to her wardrobe, a bullet-proof vest. It was reported Sunday.

### Texas firm fined

**OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)** — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has fined a Texas-based company \$16,000 for allegedly "losing" radioactive materials on a roadway between Houston and Oklahoma City.

Mustang Services Co. was cited on three separate alleged regulation violations, NRC officials said.

Clyde E. Winer, a spokesman for the NRC office in Arlington, Texas, said the lost radioactive material "was a very small quantity — about the size of a large coin."

### Try Australia

**SYDNEY, Australia (AP)** — Out-of-work U.S. air traffic controllers willing to wait about two years and take a hefty pay cut may be eligible for work in Australia.

Transport Australia is seeking 110 air controllers to add to its staff of 1,000, and a Transport Ministry official says Americans are welcome to apply.

### Forces withdrawing

**WINDHOEK, South West Africa (UPI)** — South African forces Sunday began withdrawing from the Angolan town of Xangongo, 60 miles across the South West African border, after a six-day search and destroy mission that left 450 Angolan soldiers and black guerrillas dead.

### Youths, police clash

**BRIGHTON, England (AP)** — About 300 youths attacked cars, set a railway station afire and fought with police in this coastal resort Sunday night, authorities said.

### Warm and humid

**LINCOLN** Partly cloudy, warm and humid Monday with 30 percent chance of scattered thunderstorms developing by afternoon. High upper 80s to lower 90s. Cloudy with showers Monday night. Low around 60. Winds Monday southerly 10-20 mph. Cloudy and cooler Tuesday. High mid to upper 70s. (Weather digest, Page 9)

### Today's Chuckle

A girl doesn't need to be beautiful to win the love of a man. She can be rich.

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## Explosion kills Iranian president

**BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP)** — A powerful bomb explosion ripped through the prime ministry in Tehran Sunday, killing Iran's president and prime minister, Tehran Radio announced Monday.

Five other people were killed in the explosion, and 12 others were wounded, the official Iranian news agency Fars reported.

A spokesman for Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the leader of the Iranian revolutionary regime, reported by telephone from Tehran that President Mohammad Ali Rajai and the prime minister, Hajj Ali Akbar Mohtashami Razi, died in a hospital of burns and smoke inhalation.

Tehran Radio said the bodies of the two leaders would be taken to the Majlis, the Iranian Parliament, for funeral services later Monday. Today was declared a national day of mourning throughout the country.

For the second time in less than three months, the Presidency Council assumed the presidential powers, just as it did after the ouster of President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr in June. But Bani-Sadr's death left it with only two members — Hajj Ali Akbar Mohtashami Razi, the speaker of the Majlis, and Ayatollah Abolhasan Mohtashami Razi, the justice minister.

The Iranian government radio's Farsi-language broadcast said "the president of the martyred people of Iran and ... the popular prime minister of our Islamic country joined the great ranks of martyrs."

The Times of London correspondent in Tehran, Tony Alloway, said he was told "Mr. Rajai had lost his leg."

Fars said three of the bodies were "burned beyond recognition" in the explosion and fire that followed.

In a broadcast interview, Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani confirmed the explosion as a "last ditch effort by American imperialism," a term used by the clergy-led regime to describe its opponents. He also said the two leaders were together in the room where the explosion took place.

"Just as our evening session was due to start ... we heard the sound of an explosion, followed by a thick column of smoke rising from the prime minister's office building,"

the Parliament speaker said on the broadcast monitored in Beirut and London. "The session began, and it was only later that we learned that the explosion had occurred in a room in which President Rajai and Premier Dr. Bani-Sadr were gathered with several others."

Executive Affairs Minister Behnam Vahedi told Tehran Radio some of the "14 or 15" people walked out of the room after the explosion. "But the rest suffered severe injuries and were taken to the hospital."

The explosion at 2 p.m. — 6:30 a.m. CDT — in the stone-and-glass building crunched off a fire, but Fars said the blast was "fully under control" within 15 hours after the explosion.

Although no group claimed responsibility for the blast, the explosion highlighted an urban guerrilla campaign that secular leftist foes of the Islamic fundamentalist regime have been waging for the past two months.

Iran has been rocked by political violence since the June ouster of moderate President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr.

On June 28, an explosion at the ruling Islamic Revolutionary Party headquarters in Tehran killed more than 70 political leaders, including Ayatollah Mohammad Behabadi, considered the second most powerful figure in Iran after revolutionary patriarch Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Rajai, who had been prime minister of the revolutionary regime, was elected without serious opposition to succeed Bani-Sadr in July. Bani-Sadr then was appointed to fill the vacant post of prime minister.

Tehran Radio said the Iranian Cabinet was called into an extraordinary session at midnight by Rafsanjani to discuss "important matters of state, including the explosion at the prime minister's office."

The clergy-led regime has arrested thousands of leftists and executed more than 400 "counterrevolutionaries" since the end of June.

Bani-Sadr and top underground opposition leader Masoud Rajavi, who heads the underground Islamic-Mystic Mujahideen Khalq organization, escaped from Tehran about an Iranian air force plane to Paris on July 29.

## Crete ranks with 'big league' in industry

**By Glenn Kreuscher  
Special Affairs Editor**

**CRETE** — You don't have to be big in population to be a giant in industry and business.

Crete, for example, with a population of 4,871, is Saline County's largest community, but it has an annual labor payroll of more than \$90 million and production that spells big league among the major industries represented.

The eight industries that provide more than 1,500 jobs and a record of 30 years in business are the Crete Mills, Algo, Farmstead Industries plant, Feed Service Corp., Formitt, Douglas Manufacturing, Midland By-Products and Barber Manufacturing.

The daily production coming out of Crete is eye-boggling. Heading the list are Crete Mills' 50 cars of foods and building materials leaving by rail daily, the largest individual shipment made by one firm between Chicago and Denver on the Burlington Northern.

Some 80 trucks are on the nation's major highways delivering a million cases of Algo dog food a day, and to keep things rolling the 3,000 bags slaughtered every work day by Farmstead provide pork for consumers throughout the United States.

To add variety, most of the writing books used in the United States and some other countries are manufactured in Crete.

Why does the agricultural community 14 miles off the Interstate highway system attract so much industry?

First, industry has always been an important factor in the community. The first sawmill and grain mill was located near present Crete in 1878.

A big factor in Crete's progress came when the Burlington and Missouri Pacific railroads reached the area. Late that fall for \$1 million in 1878 and September 1879, to \$400 cash, according to records in the Crete Library's Heritage Room.

When the question is asked, "What's the key to the success of Crete industries?" you get one universal answer: "It's the people."

Crete merchant Bob Wenzel, who in 25 years has developed one of the Midwest's largest furniture retail outlets with 75 employees, explains his version of what attracted industry to Crete.

"You have to rate the quality of labor available as the best. The attitude was if someone needs Crete, Crete would take care of them. We had no utility problems and we had two railroads."

For 36 years Tom J. Aron, president of the Crete State Bank, has observed Crete's growth. "It was apparent to those who considered Crete and Saline County that this was an area with an excellent labor source, a place where employees would still deliver eight hours of work for eight hours of pay."

The \$20 million dollar payroll goes far beyond the Crete area, Aron said. "Other companies who have a part of this activity can be found for a good many miles." Most pro-

sent are Dorchester, Wilber, Friend, Hallam, Martell, Sprague, Denton, Pleasant Hill, Western, Swanton, Tolson, Clatskanie and Lincoln.

Aron also mentioned DeWitt, 17 miles south of Crete, where Peterson Manufacturing Co. has 300 employees supplying Vise-Grip wrenches world wide.

Algo plant manager Frank Lettberg, a Crete native, said a factor that works well for Crete industries and the surrounding communities is the smaller farms in eastern Nebraska where family members need extra income.

"We have employment for both men and women and still operate their smaller farming operations," said Lettberg.

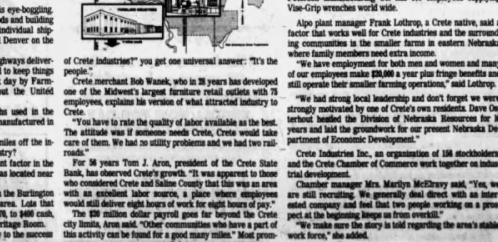
"We had strong local leadership and don't forget we were strongly motivated by one of Crete's own residents. Don Oetzel headed the Division of Nebraska Resources for 30 years and laid the groundwork for our present Nebraska Department of Economic Development."

Crete Industries Inc., an organization of 100 stockholders, and the Crete Chamber of Commerce work together on industrial development.

Chamber manager Mrs. Marilyn McElroy said, "Yes, we are still recruiting. We generally don't direct with an interest company. We just find that two people working on a project at the beginning began as from events."

"We make sure the story is told regarding the area's stable work force," she added.

Long history of industry  
The man who gets the credit  
Stories on Page 4



Fifth-grader Jeff Thomas is one former Bethany student who is starting classes in a new school. Story, Page 3.