

# News/Features

Classified/page 4C

The Houston Post  
Mon., Jan. 4, 1982

## Father says children's survival of airplane crash a miracle

Houstonian James E. Sadler, whose two children narrowly escaped death in a New Year's Eve plane crash near Durango, Colo., said Sunday their being alive is a miracle.

Jimmy Sadler, 5, and his sister, Stacy, 3, were the only survivors from a Sun West Airlines seven-passenger plane that crashed and burned in a snowstorm about 8 p.m. Thursday at St. Francis Episcopal Day School, where in serious condition with bruises and burns at Mercy Medical Center in Durango.

Sadler, a Flint Point Village resident and president of South Central Hill Co.,

said in a telephone interview Jimmy will require some plastic surgery to repair his burns and plans were being made to transfer him to Hermann Hospital burn center in Houston.

The mother, Joyce Dranham, 39, a Houston businesswoman who lived in Tanglewilde, was not on the plane. She crashed along with the pilot, Kelly Gendinning, 33, of Mesa, Ariz., and passengers Paul Bryant, 41, of Phoenix, and Mary Potery of Albuquerque, N.M.

Sadler, who was not with his children when the plane crashed, said he viewed the crash scene Sunday near the La Plata County Airport. He said the

wreckage of the plane was "nothing but a pile of rubbish. You can't even identify it as an airplane. How they ever lived through it is strictly a miracle! There is absolutely nothing left of the airplane."

"Medically, they (the children) will be expected to die very traumatic for them when they learn she died in the crash."

He credited the swift action of rescue and medical teams and a woman and her four children living nearby with saving the lives of his children.

Pat Seibert and her four children

were home watching television when her husband Robert, a Frontier Airlines agent, called from the airport to say he feared a plane had crashed near their home.

Seibert and all four children set out on foot through the snow and went about a quarter mile when they spotted flames from the burning wreckage.

"The plane was on fire," Seibert said later. "It was almost completely burned and there were two small children that we found."

"They were in pretty bad shape," she said. "We took off our coats and covered them up. They were whimpering but didn't seem to be aware of anything."

Sadler said he spent an hour Sunday with the Seibert family expressing his gratitude for their efforts on behalf of his children.

The plane was en route from Albuquerque to Durango and was attempting an instruments-only landing at the airport during the snowstorm, but missed its approach to the runway, officials said.

They said the plane then began to climb to circle back for another landing attempt when it disappeared over a ridge and crashed in flames.

Lon Graham, assistant manager of the airport and one of the first officials on the scene, speculated the children survived because they were sitting in the rear of the aircraft and were thrown from the plane at impact.

"The front of the plane took the impact," said Graham. "I assume the children were seated in the rear with their mother, and the tail section broke and threw them clear."

Mrs. Dranham also was thrown from the plane, but her body was found near her children. The bodies of the other victims were found inside the wreckage, officials said.

## What ever happened to . . .

### . . . house where O. Henry lived?

By ROSALIND JACKLER  
Post Reporter

It has been a site for artists for almost 90 years. It started with a boarding house, where William Sidney Porter — who would become O. Henry — had a room while he was Houston reporter.

Later, a house would be built on the site at 1310 Truxillo that would be home for naturalist and author Royal Dixon and artist Chester Snowden.

Their home, once known as the Batic, was a haven for writers, artists and musicians.

That gave way, though, to calling it the 1310 Studio as it is today, home and gallery for the now 83-year-old Snowden, who continues to paint and reminisce about Dixon, his foster father.

Porter lived at 1310 Truxillo in 1895 and 1896 while working for nine months as a Houston Post reporter and columnist. He suddenly died in South America, though, after he was indicted for embezzling \$1,153.08 from an Austin bank where he had worked as a teller.

After learning his wife was dying from tuberculosis, Porter returned, stood trial and was convicted of the charge. He spent four years in an Ohio federal prison until pardoned.

Friends and associates maintained his innocence, however, because other bank officers had access to the teller's cage during lunch and would sometimes forget to put in a charge slip after withdrawing funds for their wives.

The boarding house where Porter had roomed eventually was replaced by a two-story frame house that was abandoned before completed.

It remained idle until 1931 when Dixon and Snowden found it and spent \$80 to finish the second floor, windows, doors and floors.

Dixon lectured and wrote about nature, including a column called "The Human Side of Life" for the Houston Chronicle. Snowden illustrated the books and many of Dixon's articles.

Their friends would gather at the Parlor for monthly entertainment called "ropes."

"This place used to be packed and they'd stand outside. That was once a month," recalled Snowden.

Snowden has tried to preserve sacred memories of the house in case a foundation wanted to take it over. When Dixon died in 1962 at the age of 82, Snowden carefully outlined where Dixon had left his slippers on

the floor.

A gentle rain was falling on the slanted wood roof and the brushes of two students could be heard gliding across their canvases as Snowden remembered how Dixon would stand in front of a Steinway grand piano on a raised studio platform to lecture.

"If he were telling you this, he could hold you spell-bound just talking about this place," Snowden said.

Although the two men had been living in Houston, they met in New York in 1926. It was Snowden's first trip to New York, where he would study at the Arts Students' League. He took a steamship from Galveston — a six-day trip — leaving on his birthday Oct. 8, he recalled.

When he arrived, New York was embroiled with snow.

"To me, a little country boy from Texas, it was paradise — to see New York covered in snow. That's the way I always remember New York," he said.

Dixon knew so many famous people, Snowden said, adding he once was a neighbor of Joyce Kilmer, who showed Dixon the poem "Trees" which was published.

Dixon also had written speeches for Teddy Roosevelt, another friend, and once was engaged to Jessie Rittenhouse, founder of the Poetry Society of America.

These friends gave Dixon and Snowden autographed books and more than 1,000 of them had lined the walls in the library in the Truxillo house.

"I had to give them away because the moths were getting at them and I couldn't take care of them," Snowden said.

Snowden had briefly taught at University of Houston, but gave it up to stay in a house with Dixon and to have more freedom in teaching.

"I love to teach. Even if I didn't get a penny, I love it," Snowden said, exciting himself to share his knowledge.

"He's older and more willing to share his knowledge," said Critch Moore-Walsh, one of the students.

Snowden also had become a mentor for artist Alfred Zeller, who acts as a caretaker for Snowden.

"Zeller took over (after Dixon's death) and takes care of all my business. He sees to it that I go places. I'm very much a recluse. It's not that I'm helpless. There's just a lot of things I don't do. It's made me lazy in a way."



## Names

### Rehnquist released

Supreme Court Justice William Rehnquist was released from a Washington hospital Sunday after his recovery from a withdrawal reaction when his physician reduced the dosage of a drug Rehnquist was taking for back pain. A spokesman for George Washington University Hospital said Rehnquist suffered temporary "disturbances in mental clarity" from the withdrawal symptoms but is "in a clear mental state now." Rehnquist, 57, entered the hospital Dec. 27, after his physician ordered a major reduction in the drug.

### Young to be sworn in

Andrew Young, outspoken former United Nations ambassador, will be sworn in as Atlanta's 5th mayor Monday with a promise to use his diplomatic experience to polish the city's image at home and abroad. Young, 43, who resigned his post as ambassador under pressure, was elected Oct. 28 in a tough runoff election against liberal, white state Rep. Sidney Marcus. Also in Georgia on Monday, Edward Markey will be sworn in as Augusta's first black mayor.

### Carmichael rites today

Hoagy Carmichael, the man who painted musical pictures of Indiana for the rest of the nation, will be returned to his birthplace in Bloomington, for a final tribute and burial Monday. Services for Carmichael, who died Dec. 27 in California at age 82, are scheduled in the grand foyer of the Indiana University Medical Center, a room he donated.

### Restaurateur Perino dies

Nationally known restaurateur Alex Perino, who managed the Los Angeles restaurant that bears his name, died Friday at Good Samaritan Hospital at the age of 86. Perino, born in Italy and apprenticed to a Turin pastry cook at the age of 12, came to this country three years later with \$30. He worked in a number of restaurants in New York and Chicago before moving west in 1925. He opened his own restaurant with \$2,000 he borrowed from a friend in 1928.

### Archbishop in Hong Kong

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Robert Runcie, arrived in Hong Kong Sunday on the second leg of an Asian tour that includes a visit to China. Runcie was met at his arrival from Burma by Gov. Sir Murray Macleod and the Anglican bishop of Hong Kong, the Rt. Rev. Peter Kwong.

### Rodeo champ satisfactory

National rodeo champion Jimmie B. Cooper of Monument, N.M., was in satisfactory condition at Southeast Baptist Hospital in San Antonio Sunday after a weekend traffic accident, officials said. Cooper, 26, the 1981 Rodeo Cowboys Assn. all-around champion, and his wife, Sheryl, 26, were injured late Friday east of San Antonio in a two-vehicle accident that police blamed on dense fog and wet roads.

### Buono rites Tuesday

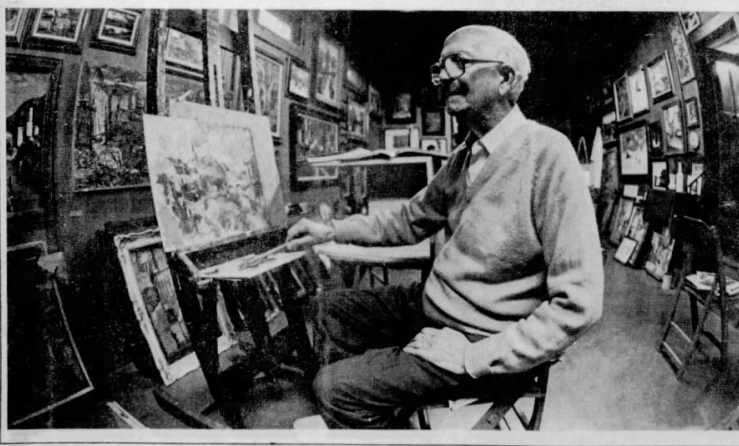
Funeral services for actor Victor Buono, who died Friday, will be held Tuesday evening at St. Cyril's Roman Catholic Church in Long Beach, Calif. The nearly 400-pound character actor died at the age of 43 at his Apple Valley ranch north of Los Angeles of natural causes. He will be buried Thursday in Greenwood Memorial Park in San Diego.

### Smith trial goes to jury

A federal court jury in Los Angeles Monday goes the case of former book promoter Harold Rosenthal Smith, accused of embezzling \$1.3 million from the Wells Fargo Bank. Smith, 38, and former bank employee Samuel Marshall were accused of embezzling the money over a 28-month period.

### Parr promoted

Jerry Parr, the Secret Service agent who showed President Reagan into his armoured limousine to dodge an assassination attempt March 30, served his last day Sunday as head of the White House Secret Service detail. He begins a new job Monday as assistant director of the Secret Service for protective research. The promotion came after 29 years as head of the White House detail, guarding presidents Jimmy Carter and Reagan.



The house, above, once known as the Batic, is now the 1310 Studio, where Snowden, left, continues to paint and reminisce.

—Post photos by Dan Hardy

## Hmong use military training to become guards

COSTA MESA, Calif. (AP) — Half a world away from the mountain jungles of Laos, members of a tribe with a reputation for bravery are putting their military training to use as security guards in urban jungles.

The Hmong fought under CIA auspices all through the Vietnamese War in the '60s and into the '70s, says Ed Harris, vice president for operations of the Lao-Hmong Security Agency, set up to provide employment for refugees of the close-knit Laotian tribe.

"The only skills they really had when they arrived here, the majority of them, were farming skills and their service in the military," said Harris. "There are something like 12,000 of them in Southern California."

The Hmong were recruited by the thousands by the CIA to fight the Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese armies, and fought the communists for 13 years. The

lost battle gained them a reputation for courage and resilience.

After the war, more than 60,000 of the sometimes polygamist tribesmen fled to Thailand, and from there some found their way to the United States. The Hmong have been the news in recent months following reports that 25 were among 38 Southeast Asian refugees to die of an unexplained affliction that strikes people as they sleep.

Harris said the guard agency, which completed four-week training for its first class and put graduates to work in September, was established because of the concern of relatives active in helping resettle Laotian and Vietnamese refugees.

The training, in English, covers the law regarding citizens arrests, job duties and use of tear gas. No guns are carried.

Harris said that since organizing for

the security agency began last March, the company has grown slowly, with about 15 to 20 employees so far. A dozen are on guard duty and the others work in a new branch doing maintenance in large buildings. Wages range from \$4.90 an hour for guards up to \$7 for experienced maintenance workers.

"It's growing," Harris said, adding the agency's name has sparked "a lot of conversation" and a mixed reaction.

"Some people (potential clients) say, 'We don't want any part of it,' but one client came because of the name. He's had experience with Lao-Hmong and he was impressed with their honesty," Harris said.

Some guards patrol in apartment complexes and shopping centers, while others work in transportation yards. Clients are in such middle class Orange County communities as Costa Mesa and

such high-crime areas as the Los Angeles County community of Compton.

Costa Mesa Police Chief Roger North said he wasn't familiar with the agency, adding, "Security companies come and go, so we don't get excited. Our concerns are that they meet the necessary requirements of the law."

The guards came in age from low 30s to early 30s, with about half having military experience, Harris said.

No women have applied for guard jobs, said the agency's president, Moansa Bhiaya, a Laotian refugee who graduated from the University of Montana, but "the door is always open. Most of the Hmong women are not that liberated."

He said some communications problems have arisen on the job, but that may be the result of clients' giving contradictory or vague orders. The prob-

lem was resolved by having them change orders through the agency, said Moansa. Hmong are known by their first name, rather than the last as in the U.S. custom.

Clients also must be helped to understand cultural differences, such as the Hmong's reluctance to say "no," an etiquette imported from Laos.

"Around here you learn to interpret when 'yes' means yes and when 'yes' means no, but a client hasn't been taught that," Harris said.

Guard Chong Yang, 30, who spent seven years in the Laotian army and has martial arts training, lives in Flamingo Beach with his mother, his wife and his five children. He said he worked as a machinist and a carpenter after arriving in the United States in 1976.

"I like it here," he said. "If we keep the company going, I will stay here."