

# Columbia Missourian 75

1908-83

76th Year — No. 98

Good Morning! It's Saturday, January 7, 1984

2 Sections — 12 Pages — 25 Cents

## It wasn't stylish, but it sure was a Blast for the cast in drag

By John Davis  
Missourian staff writer

It wasn't Atlantic City and Burt Parks wasn't the emcee — but it was a beauty pageant all the same.

At least that's what the Older Americans Klub, which sponsored the event, called the first Mr America Pageant.

Putting their best sheer pantyhose forward during Friday night's extravaganza at OAK Towers were 13 stout-hearted men — aged between 50 and 90.

"With my physique and my looks," said 66-year-old Harry Harper, "I figure I can't lose."

He figured wrong. The retired insurance agent admitted to feeling a bit foolish about dressing in women's clothes but accepted the challenge philosophically.

"With the Equal Rights Amendment," he said, "we should feel free to do so if we so desire."

After entering the OAK Tower pool room, which was transformed into a makeshift dressing area, Harry studied the competition.

"I've changed my tune," he said as he admired the carnival of spike heels and flashy, flower-print evening gowns. "She's kind'a cute."

His eye caught Earl Clemens who looked radiant in a pale red evening dress and auburn wig.

Harper, meanwhile, was sporting a multi-colored, striped skirt and matching white blouse supplied by the sponsor.

"I feel like a winner," he said after garnishing his outfit with a white sun bonnet, shawl and earrings set with simulated pearls that were nearly as convincing as the femininity of the hopefuls.

All were dressed and ready for the promenade long before they were asked to come out. Harper whiled away the time talking baseball with Loren Reynolds, who wore an understated blue dress for the occasion.

Then they proceeded on stage with their fellows in the near-mess pageant. Harper was the ninth contestant to make his appearance — but he made the most of it.

"Meet Henrietta," said Leota Palmer, event organizer and emcee. "Miss Ballerina of 1984."

Harper waltzed down the aisle, waving his skirt with his right hand and displaying three carnations in the left. He curtsied to the judges stand, then to the audience, before taking his seat.

When at last the contestants were gathered, they answered impromptu questions from a distinguished panel of judges, including a beautician



Harry "Harriet" Johnson mugs for the camera (above) after being named winner of the Oak Towers Mr. America contest.

and the wife of a mortician. Then the judges got down to business.

"I evidently lost some of my poise," Harper said after judge Don Mosby, city councilman from the Second Ward announced the list of winners that included Harry (Harriet) Johnson, 69, first; Earl (Earlina) Clemens, 80, second, and Orville (Orvilla) Watt, third.

"I knew Earl would create a stir with his legs," Harry said.

But he said he enjoyed the contest, held to raise money for the Klub, which took in about \$75 for the event. Harper said he also benefited from the experience.

"It has prepared me to go to better heights," he smirked.

## House expects federal probe to clear the air

Missourian wire services

JEFFERSON CITY — House Speaker Bob Griffin said Friday he hopes a federal investigation will clear the 163-member Missouri House of suspicion of possible illegal activity.

The Cameron Democrat said that Robert Ulrich, U.S. attorney for the western district of Missouri, had authorized him to say only that a federal investigation was under way concerning allegations of wrongdoing in the House.

"I certainly hope it will be resolved quickly and result in complete vindication of the House of Representatives and all of its members," said Griffin. "It would be my intent to expedite it and I'll cooperate 100 percent with the U.S. attorney's office."

It's my understanding that this is a broad scope investigation concerning wrongdoing by anybody in the House, and I don't know the full scope of the investigation or the subject matter.

Rep. Alex Fazzino, D-Kansas City, said he had asked his lawyer to talk to Ulrich about reports that Fazzino's activities were being investigated.

"I haven't been subpoenaed or anything, that's the gospel truth," said Fazzino.

Earlier this week, several elected officials said Fazzino had told them he was being investigated by federal authorities.

Rep. W.T. Dawson, D-Independence, said his secretary, Carol Wilson, had been subpoenaed. Ms. Wilson has declined to comment on whether she had been called to testify, but she did confirm she formerly worked as secretary to James Meyers, the former president of the Missouri State Labor Council.

A story published by The Kansas City Times said Fazzino acknowledged he received a campaign contribution of several hundred dollars from Meyers, who now owns a St. Louis fireworks stand.

A Kansas City legislator, who asked not to be named, told the Times earlier this week that the fed-

eral investigation centered on a fireworks regulation bill considered by the committee. The bill died in the Local Government Committee during the 1983 session.

Fazzino told the Times he had not been bribed to help defeat the bill.

Fazzino said he has been subjected to embarrassment and harassment on several occasions by federal investigators because he personally knows some individuals in Kansas City who have been associated with organized crime.

"I grew up with the Civellas. I've known them since I was a kid, but does that make me a criminal?" he said. "I also know (Sens.) Jack Danforth and Tom Eagleton, but does that make me a diplomat?"

Carl Civella, the reputed head of organized crime in Kansas City, is serving a prison sentence for his conviction last year on charges of skimming \$280,000 from a Las Vegas casino.

A spokesman for Attorney General John Ashcroft said Friday that Ashcroft had not been contacted by federal officials regarding the probe.

The Missouri Campaign Finance Review Board earlier this week denied a request by FBI agents for campaign records filed by Fazzino.

Marton Sennett, administrator of the review board, said Friday that anyone wanting to view the board's confidential files would have to subpoena the records through the courts.

FBI agents have copied non-confidential campaign finance statements filed by Fazzino with the Missouri secretary of state's office, state officials said.

The federal inquiry follows two recent scandals involving members of the Missouri Legislature.

Last year, former Rep. Gary Smith of Dexter was sentenced to three years in prison after pleading guilty to felony forgery. Sen. Lee Swinton of Kansas City resigned his seat in October before pleading guilty to felony theft charges. Swinton was placed on probation.

Several years ago, former House Speaker Richard Rabbitt received a federal prison sentence for extortion and mail fraud.

## Gluck withdraws offer amid cries of sabotage

From staff and wire reports

Columbia publisher Jeffrey Gluck, furious at a last minute snag that collapsed his deal to buy the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, accused the paper's owners of trying to sabotage his efforts to keep the paper alive.

The union employees of the Globe apparently sealed the 131-year-old newspaper's demise Friday by rejecting a contract Gluck needed to complete his purchase of the paper from The Herald Co., which is owned by the family of S.I. Newhouse Jr.

But the vote may just be another chapter in what has become a melodrama.

Late Friday the city filed a complaint against the Herald Co. and Pulitzer Publishing Co., which owns the Post-Dispatch charging violations of two sections of the Sherman Antitrust Act. The complaint sought an injunction to keep the Globe running and a total of \$200 million in punitive damages.

"It is apparent the companies involved did everything in their power to kill this newspaper," said St. Louis Mayor Vincent Schoemehl. "It's obviously worth more to them dead than alive."

U.S. District Judge John F. Nangle deferred action on the request for an injunction until Monday after hearing promises from both parties that the newspaper will not cease publication before then.

Meanwhile, in Washington, D.C., Justice Department spokesman Mark Sheehan said the department, which initially forced the Globe owners to take bids rather than just close the paper, would again get involved in the case, but declined to elaborate on the nature of the inquiry. However, he did say the counsel for Newhouse will meet Monday with Assistant Atty. Gen. J. Paul McGrath, who heads the antitrust division.

Friday's rejection came in an emergency meeting of the St. Louis Newspaper Guild only minutes before a 4 p.m. deadline. Gluck said he needed approval of the guild by that time or the sale of the newspaper

could fall through.

Guild members refused to approve a section of the purchase agreement under which the Herald Co. would provide selective payment of severance pay to only 120 of the newspaper's 200 employees.

"The Herald Company snuck in a provision in the release that the union was supposed to sign," Gluck said, "saying that employees who had gone out and gotten jobs at the Herald Company's request and had to leave before Feb. 25 would not get their severance pay."

"The problem was that the Herald Company wanted to cheat those people out of their severance pay. They wanted to force people to stay until Feb. 25 and they insisted — even though our contract said otherwise — that they would not pay anyone's severance pay if they weren't there on Feb. 25."

A day earlier, about 150 employees had voted overwhelmingly to reject the agreement releasing the Herald Co. from financial liability for libel suits and the severance pay from Jan. 1 until Gluck took over Feb. 25. The employees did, however, accept a contract calling for a temporary 6 percent pay cut and deferral of wage increases totaling 9 percent.

William Wilks, an attorney for the Herald Co., said that Gluck had suggested the waiver of responsibility when the Globe owners wanted some kind of guarantee that Gluck had the financial backing to close the deal.

"They didn't like anything we ever said," Gluck said. "The reason our first negotiating meeting in New York lasted only an hour was that they told us to go to hell. They've tried to do everything but shoot us. They never intended for this purchase to go through. We don't blame the union for voting it down. The Herald Company did not live up to its agreement."

"We've done all we can. As far as I'm concerned, it's over," said Guild Executive Secretary Robert Stemke. "We made all the sacrifices needed to keep the Globe-Democrat alive."

## Union takes pay cut in hope of work

By Lydia Locklin  
Missourian staff writer

Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Local 317, the only local plumbing union, signed an agreement Thursday covering wage freezes and reductions in an effort to put more of its members to work.

"We got everything we wanted," said union Business Manager Tom Logwood, despite a \$2.63-an-hour cut in light commercial wages, a freeze in heavy commercial wages and a reduction in overtime pay from doubletime to time-and-a-half.

"As tough as things are right now and with the high unemployment,

ment, we tried to get new work for our employees by cutting these wages."

About 40 members of the 180-member union are out of work, said Logwood.

Don Fritz, president of the Central Missouri Mechanical Contractors Association, said the agreement to take wage freezes and cuts is "quite a big step to take. It's the first time it's been done in the area."

An example of the union's great desire for work, Fritz said, is the Candlelight Terrace on Business Loop 70. This addition to Candlelight Lodge is being built with Lo-

cal 317 labor, but at light commercial wages instead of higher heavy commercial wages, which normally would be charged for such a job.

Heavy commercial work, at \$16.38 an hour, would be work at the University, a hospital or other large building, Logwood said. Light commercial work, now at \$13.75 an hour, involves work on a hotel, restaurant, residence or other one-story building.

"The overall trend is to take cuts," Logwood said.

Fritz says there have been cuts throughout the nation, though pipefitters in St. Louis won what he terms a healthy raise.

"You wouldn't call it an overwhelming trend," he said.

The new three-year contract approved by area pipefitters calls for doubletime pay on Sundays and holidays. Heavy commercial wages, frozen this year, will increase 25 percent in 1985 and union members will receive a 50-cent raise in 1986. Light commercial wages, cut by \$2.63, will be frozen for three years.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers local is preparing for upcoming contract negotiations, but carpenters, city laborers, painters, cement finishers and operating engineers negotiated new contracts last spring and summer.

## Some farmers profit from PIK

By Chris Fennwald  
Missourian staff writer

Missouri is one of 20 major grain-producing states where farmers reaped undeserved profits from the payment-in-kind program designed to help eliminate federal grain surpluses and to inflate commodity prices.

According to a recent USDA report, Missouri did not fully comply with the rules.

But, according to John Stookey, program specialist for the state Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, less than 4 percent of the state's farms were in violation.

Based on surveys in the 20 key states — including Arizona, Arkansas, California, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin, as well as Missouri — the USDA's Office of Inspector General estimated that 11 percent of 699,717 farms enrolled in PIK weren't in full compliance.

Though aerial surveys of 72,066 Missouri farms indicated a non-compliance rate of about 1 percent, Stoo-

### INSIGHT

key said, that percentage was inflated slightly following on-site inspections.

"Of the 23,177 farms spot-checked in Missouri, 800 — just 3.4 percent — were not in compliance," Stookey said.

The federal PIK program, introduced last spring, was designed to combat dwindling grain prices that resulted from growing surpluses and declining overseas markets. Nationally, farmers agreed to remove about 83 million acres from production of wheat, corn, sorghum, rice and cotton last year; USDA officials say about 77 million acres were actually idled.

According to farm subsidy regulations — including those adopted by PIK — farmers who agree to leave land fallow during a growing season are allowed a 5 percent margin for error because it is difficult to precisely measure acreage within large tracts. This means that a farmer who had contracted 100 acres to PIK

might have only left 95 acres fallow. It is up to ASCS to make sure farmers stay within such limits.

Farmers who violated the limits were penalized when it came time for payments.

"The payment reductions were severe this year," said Stookey. He said that 20 percent of target prices were withheld in 1982. For 1983, he added, that figure increased to 50 percent. Standard payment reduction rates for 1983 were: corn, \$1.43 per bushel; wheat, \$2.15/bushel; grain sorghum, \$1.36/bushel, and barley, \$1.30/bushel.

USDA spokesman Ray Waggoner told The Associated Press that it is standard operating procedure for the agency to seek repayment of benefits when farmers are found to be in noncompliance with regulations. In such cases, Waggoner said, the decision usually is made at the local level, but farmers are allowed to appeal to higher authorities within the system.

ASCS offers a measurement service to assist farmers in gauging the amount of land to be included in the program and allows farmers who

used the service but still exceeded the 5 percent limit to destroy crops from the excess land and still be eligible for full PIK benefits.

Stookey said he is confident that most violations were accidental rather than attempts to defraud the government. Some farmers have increased their acreage or put new land into production, he explained, and that creates confusion.

"One of the biggest causes of inaccurate reports was certain deadlines for reporting acreages," he said. "Farmers don't have much time."

Deadlines that fell during the busy planting season made it difficult for many of them to come up with accurate figures, he said.

Complicating the process, Stookey continued, is the fact that PIK is the first farm subsidy program in which the majority of Missouri farmers have participated. He said 65 percent of Missouri farms were enrolled in PIK, including 75 percent of all base acreages in the state under contract. This is compared to only 14.7 percent of farms and 29.5 percent of