

# 2nd boy's disappearance fuels Gosch hunt

DES MOINES, Iowa (UPI) — Twelve-year-old Johnny Gosch set out with his dog and his red wagon on an Indian summer morning in 1982 to deliver the Sunday newspaper near his suburban West Des Moines neighborhood.

The dog arrived home a short time later, the wagon was found nearby, but Johnny is still missing.

Police appear no closer to finding him than they were Sept. 5, 1982, the day he disappeared.

Des Moines police now have another carrier to find. Eugene Martin, nearly 14, didn't return from his Sunday paper route Aug. 11.

For Gosch's parents, John and Noreen Gosch, Eugene Martin's disappearance brought back nightmares of the Sunday they were awakened at 7:45 a.m. by a customer complaining he hadn't received his Des Moines Register.

JOHN GOSCH found his son's room empty, the dog in the yard and the wagon on a nearby sidewalk, filled with newspapers.

Another carrier said he met Johnny as usual that morning on the corner where they picked up their papers. As they parted, the boy said he saw a motorist — a man — pull up in a car next to Gosch, apparently looking for directions.

The boy said he heard no commotion from the dog and continued on his way.

There have been hundreds of leads since, and the emotions of John and Noreen Gosch rose and fell as, one by



THE TWO-YEAR anniversary of the disappearance of Johnny Gosch is Wednesday. Since that time, Noreen Gosch believes her son has changed in appearance. The following sketches show Gosch with varying hair lengths, and how he looked in 1982, far left.

one, the leads fell flat.

The family received two calls about a month after the disappearance — one from a woman who said a religious cult was holding the boy, the other for a ransom. Police said they were both hoaxes.

A newspaper carrier disappeared a year later in Bellevue, Neb., and was found dead. Last December, in the same town, another teenager was found dead. Their killer confessed and police said he was not implicated in the Des Moines disappearances.

In January, a woman reported see-

ing two men chasing Gosch down a street in an undisclosed city — 10 months earlier.

"THE BOY ran up to the woman and said, 'Please, lady, help me. My name is John David Gosch,'" the investigators said. "At that point, one of the men grabbed him, twisted his arm behind his back and dragged him away."

Police shrugged it off as a family situation.

On Feb. 22, Noreen Gosch said she received three short, late-night telephone calls from her son within a few

minutes. She told authorities each call lasted about 40 seconds and the boy sounded "mixed up, like he was on drugs."

Authorities said the calls were too short to trace. Telephone company officials refused comment.

In March, a Texas lawman said investigators were checking out at least a dozen reported sightings of Gosch in the southwest.

"We did have some pretty good leads at that time — we thought," said Detective Guy Genovese in Corpus Christi.

In May, Noreen Gosch announced "one of the best leads we've had," but said the next day it was a "total washout."

The Des Moines Register's reward fund has grown to more than \$100,000 for information about either case. Posters and photos have been plastered in shop windows and at bus stops in Des Moines and to every daily newspaper in the United States and Mexico.

IN TEXAS, Guy Genovese has the same gut reaction as other people — the same suspect is involved.

"It was two years, almost to the day (between disappearances). It happened on the same day of the week, the same time of morning, the same type of circumstances," he said.

"I have nothing to base it on, but maybe I think the guy who took this last one may be the same one who took Johnny Gosch. He may like little boys. But again, I have nothing to base it on. It's just speculation."

Des Moines police Sgt. Bill Mullins concedes the similarities, "but so far no proof or factual information has been found to link the two."

Authorities initially considered Johnny Gosch a runaway and didn't react very fast. The Gosch family, upset at the pace of the investigation, persuaded the Legislature to require all reports of missing children to be filed immediately with the national crime computer.

The Martin disappearance was taken seriously from the start.

Police remain stymied for lack of solid clues, although there is no shortage of tips.

Mullins said the Martin case was still a major investigation, with 13 of the original 16 FBI agents still on the case, and more than 20 full-time police investigators and searchers.

The Gosches and their private investigator are doing what they can to keep the case alive.

"If and when we find him, we can look him square in the eye and say we did everything possible to find him," Noreen Gosch said.

## Help a prof brush up on English — call REWRITE

United Press International

Do you suffer from dangling participles? Are you baffled by whether to use "that" or "which"? Do you misspell words so badly that you don't even know where to start to look for them in the dictionary?

Then help is a telephone call away at 212-REWRITE, a grammar hotline manned by York College professors in New York City that offers advice on grammar, word usage and spelling.

Joan Baum, professor of English at the college, founded the program three years ago with Alan Cooper, English department chairman.

"We are all crazy people," Baum said of the educators who volunteer one to four hours a week during the school year. "What's in it for us is an education."

THE VOLUNTEERS receive two to three telephone questions a minute from a room equipped with more than 70 grammar books and style manuals.

Baum said the hotline has received calls from secretaries who disagree with their bosses, reporters, lawyers, screen writers — even people playing games. "It's amazing how many people play 'Scrabble' on the job," she said.

Because there are rarely absolute answers in grammar, Baum said they can sometimes only give preferred answers to questions. "Our service provides answers when it can. When it can't, it provides alternatives, reasoning

and information," she said.

No reference book is favored over another. The correctness of the answer may depend on the audience.

"It's a matter of tone and rhetorical context," she said. There are basically two types of people: prescriptive, those who adhere to more conservative rules and avoid jargon, and descriptive, those who tend to accept jargon that is technically wrong but widely used.

SOME QUESTIONS cannot be answered with the help of reference books.

On the question of what courtesy title to use for vice presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro — Miss, Mrs. or Ms. — Baum said she encourages the use of Ms.

"Ms. Ferraro's own pitch is strongly to a woman's constituency for whom the Ms. has become very important," she said.

The hotline has gotten calls from as far away as Great Britain and Nova Scotia. "People mostly call anonymously," she said. "That way they don't have to feel stupid."

Baum said her staff is sometimes wrong and sometimes callers disagree.

One physicist called to ask if there was a word, "redder," meaning, "more red."

The word "redder" is listed in Webster's Unabridged Dictionary as "a comparative of red," Baum said. But the physicist argued that it was impossible for a red to be more red, so the word should not exist.

ELEANOR HAKIM, a writer and part-time York teacher on the Rewrite staff, said the most popular question is almost always whether the period goes within a quote or not. It does — except in England.

"One woman won a \$100 bet with her husband on that one," she said.

Hakim also told of a widow who called, distraught because a friend had told her it was improper to use her dead husband's first name. "Forget him. He's dead," the friend had told the widow.

Hakim reassured her it is proper to continue using her husband's first name in most cases.

Baum recalled a young girl who called and asked "What is sex?" Hakim gave the Webster's unabridged definition but the girl kept calling back, asking increasingly shocking questions. She finally was told she could be arrested for making obscene calls.

The hotline is open Monday through Thursday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Collect calls are not accepted.

## He whittles his way to fame

CHICAGO (AP) — When William "Bill" Dawson began whittling with broken chair legs and pieces of wood he found in alleys — and even sculpting with ox tail bones — he never dreamed his hobby would some day be called art.

After all, it was just something he picked up to pass the time. He was retired. Bored.

Art? He knew nothing about it. Never had time to go to a museum. Never even finished high school.

The neighbors like his creations, though, so he gave them away. Then someone suggested he put his work on display at a branch of the Chicago Public Library.

When he went back a month later to pick up his works, they were all sold.

THUS BEGAN the artistic career of this 83-year-old retired produce market manager. Today, his works sell for hundreds of dollars.

But he still whittles with a simple, 89-cent knife. And his studio is the space between his bed and a

window in the senior citizens apartment he shares with Ceola, his wife of 62 years.

Leftovers — scraps of wood and broken furniture, fish bones, sea shells and neck bones from hogs and cows — are still his favorite media.

Some artists might set out to make an artistic statement with leftovers. Dawson sees it another way.

"People get a lot from my work," he said. "For me, it's enjoyment in making and doing. They can get enjoyment and see things in it I can't."

What art experts and others have been seeing is examples of fine black folk art.

DAWSON'S WORK has been on display at the Chicago Art Institute, the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art and was a part of the "Black Folk Art in America: 1930-1980" exhibit put together by the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C. He was one of 20 black folk

artists represented in the exhibit.

Ramon Price, assistant director of exhibits and collections of the DuSable Museum of African-American History, says that like Dawson, most folk artists work for pleasure. They have no artistic training, use materials near their homes and attach no philosophical meaning to their art.

Some of Dawson's most prized works are a 4-inch black elk and a 3-foot doll carved from a solid block of birchwood.

He's also done wooden representations of former Ugandan military ruler Idi Amin Dada with a pig and "Roots" character "Chicken George," made ships from neck bones, plaques with fish bones and totem-pole-like figures.

Leslee Stradford, consultant to Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History, said his work is "deliberately rustic and unpolished" and shows African and Native American influences.

## Would-be astronauts line up for space-shuttle simulator

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (UPI) — A week after announcing a program to give adults a three-day simulated space shuttle experience, the world's largest space museum has inquiries from 600 would-be astronauts with no end in sight.

Alabama Space and Rocket Center officials said Sunday they suspect many of the applicants — ranging from grandparents to housewives — see the program as a way of eventually being chosen for the real thing — and they may be right.

The rocket center last month announced an adult version of the popular U.S. Space Camp, a five-day program that in three years has attracted 4,000 children from across the United States.

The first adult version of the camp is scheduled for Oct. 19-21 and is a trial run. Twenty adults — for \$200 each — will train at the space camp's simulated mission control and take

part in a three-hour simulated space shuttle flight.

MANY OF the inquiries have come from pilots, but rocket center spokesman Lee Sentell says there are requests from people in all walks of life who have the money and time to participate in the program.

The center had planned to host the adult series in the fall of 1985, but now anticipates beginning the space camp as early as January and conducting it for nine months because of the response.

Center Director Ed Buckbee said the children who participated in the popular U.S. Space Camp probably sparked the interest of adults. That program is for children 12-16 who spend five days at the camp and are housed in dormitories in the basement of the 25,000-square-foot building at the center.

The children are taught the history and mechanics of rocketry, work

with robot arms and run through four shuttle mission simulations.

"I think we found out that all that enthusiasm has fired up an interest in adults," Buckbee says.

"SIX HUNDRED people in the last week have contacted us. They've ranged from housewives to (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) personnel," says Sentell.

The center has sent out questionnaires and will select a "cross-section" of the population in the next week or so, he said.

Sentell said there's little doubt that people asking about the space camp hope to one day get on the real shuttle, and he admits the experience could help their chances.

"Anyone wanting to go on the shuttle will explore this possibility. It would not hurt their chances of being selected," he says. "Our program involves the basics of how the shuttle operates" in what he called a "serious environment."



## Honey of a prize

Dozens of Navajo children claim their prizes in the melon race in Fort Defiance, Ariz., during halftime of the Henry Chee Dodge Football Classic held over the weekend. More than 50 children raced from the goal

line to mid-field to the pile of honeydew melons. Northern Arizona University defeated New Mexico Highlands University 64-0 in the first major collegiate athletic event held on the Navajo Indian reservation.

## Elephant gores, kills her handler after harassment

MIAMI (UPI) — A 1,500-pound baby elephant gores to death an animal handler who harassed the creature by prodding it with an ax handle, police said Sunday.

The 3½-year-old African elephant, a female named Charlie, pinned William David Sharp, 27, of Grand Prairie, Texas, against the side of its reinforced plywood pen Saturday.

The elephant gores Sharp at least twice in the abdomen with its four-inch tusks, puncturing his aorta, said Metro-Dade County homicide detective Woody Geisler. Sharp was pronounced dead at Baptist Hospital.

"The animal was being harassed and she was just protecting herself," Geisler said. "The elephant was just trying to butt him away."

Sharp worked for Animal Trackers, a Dallas-based company that had purchased two elephants from Bernard Levine, a Miami veterinarian who owns the animal compound where the goring occurred.

"THEY HAD loaded this animal into a crate once. The crate fell over, so they released the animal and it went back into its pen," Geisler said. "They came back later, but this ani-

mal at that point in time was not going to go back into that crate."

"The victim tried to change the animal's mind with an ax handle," Geisler said. "He just got backed up against there. The elephant put its head down and rammed him — gores him — two or three times."

Levine keeps numerous exotic animals for sale to pet shops and zoos. He said that up to six elephants have been housed in the compound in separate pens measuring about 12 feet by 25 feet.

Sharp and three other people came from Texas to pick up two elephants. One was successfully loaded, but Charlie was still in her pen at the animal compound Sunday.

The baby elephant is about 5 feet tall and weighs about 1,500 pounds, Geisler said.

Levine said Saturday it was the first time he had ever heard of a baby elephant killing anyone. He could not be reached for comment Sunday.

"As far as we're concerned it was an accident. This is not a rogue animal or anything like that," Geisler said.