

## NATION

# Hot dog fight

## Dogs battle as N.Y. franks invade Chicago

CHICAGO (AP) — On the baseball diamond, it's Mets versus Cubs. For architects, it's Sears Tower vs. World Trade Center.

Now, Nathan's Famous of New York has thrown some fat and other byproducts on the fire of the Chicago-New York rivalry.

They're calling it the war of the dogs. Relish the thought: New York-style frankfurters girded against Chi Dogs.

It's still too early to tell which wiener can cut the mustard.

Nathan's of Westbury, N.Y. — dating back to 1916 and famous for its hot dog stands on Coney Island's boardwalk and 42nd Street in the Big Apple — decided last year to open a place in the Windy City, home to 3,000 hot dogs.

It looked like a tough market to crack for the New Yorkers, who say frank when they mean hot dog.

But Nathan's marketing research showed that many Chicagoans were familiar with the company's name and would pay extra for a gourmet frank that cost \$1.59.

"We figured if we could make it there (Chicago), we could make it anywhere," said Larry Feisterstein, a vice-president of Nathan's in

New York, New York.

Frankly, not everyone was throwing out the welcome mat.

"Does Newcastle need coal? Does Alaska need salmon? Does Idaho need potatoes? More than 3,000 hot dog stands in greater, grander metropolitan Chicagoland — and these people come bearing frankfurters?" said a tongue-in-cheek editorial from the Chicago Tribune last week.

Nevertheless, around Thanksgiving Day, Nathan's Famous opened up shop where Rush Street meets State Street in the heart of this city's glitzy entertainment district.

"I like this place. It's clean, it's bright and it's different," said Patrick A. Connolly, 67, a Chicago resident who was wearing a hot dog long cigar but carrying a couple of Nathan's regular-sized franks on Wednesday night. "The taste is out of this world."

Connolly said he can afford the posh eateries in the neighborhood, but prefers the dogs at Nathan's.

Barry Potekin, co-owner of downtown's Hot Coast Dog, has challenged Nathan's to a hot dog taste test.

"They called themselves the Gucci of hot

dogs. That ticked us off. What is this, perfume?" he asked.

Bob Hardison is caught between the dog soldiers of each side. He's a Chicagoan, but manages the city's first Nathan's.

"I like both styles," he insisted diplomatically.

The New York style, he explained, is with mustard and sauerkraut, while Chicago style is with mustard, relish, onions, tomatoes, peppers and just about anything else that will fit on the bun.

Not wanting to choose sides, Nathan's has a condiment bar for customers to choose their own fixings.

There's also a difference in the way the two dogs are cooked.

Nathan's frank is prepared on a griddle, while Chicago's dogs are usually boiled in water.

Nathan's dogs are "more intense and spicier, but not altogether more pleasant" than Chicago's dogs, said Tribune food critic Phil Vettel.

But Wednesday night, a 50-year-old man remembered bygone dogs and said that neither city's product was, frankly, worth sniffing at.



Galen Banasnak of Chicago chomps on a hot dog at Nathan's Famous, a New York eatery that opened a branch in the Windy City. (AAP photo)

# For families of missing children 'ache is always'

The Associated Press

They live with a double agony: loss and uncertainty.

Parents of abducted children share the painful anxiety that comes with not knowing if or when they'll ever see their sons and daughters again.

Here are three families who have endured the worst, but hope for the best:

Mike and Maddie Misheloff recently marked the saddest milestone of their lives: the first anniversary of their daughter's disappearance.

Ilene Misheloff, 13, vanished in mid-afternoon on Jan. 30, 1989, walking home from school in Dublin, Calif.

"We try to keep on going, keep the publicity going, to not get too up or down about anything," Misheloff said. "We have not given up hope. We refuse to give in to despair."

On the anniversary of Ilene's disappearance, the Misheloffs led more than 500 people in a candlelight vigil, walking along the route their daughter is believed to have taken that day in the community 45 miles southeast of San Francisco.

The Misheloffs and their two sons, one of whom is Ilene's twin, have struggled with a jumble of emotions this past year.

"Frustrated, yes, that we haven't found her," Misheloff said. "Very scared what she has gone through and what she is undergoing. Angry? No. I don't know who to be angry at. I can't get angry at the world. I can't be cynical at the world because of

the actions of one crazy person or maybe a few crazy people."

Though the family is "coping as best as possible," Misheloff said Ilene's twin didn't want to celebrate his 14th birthday and he and his wife can't bear to visit the ice rink where their daughter practiced competitive skating.

When a TV program showed a tape of her skating, he said, "I could hardly keep control of myself."

Misheloff, a microchip engineer, says he has put his career on hold because "Ilene is our No. 1 priority." The couple won't go anywhere they can't be reached by phone or leave town for a vacation.

"I can't conceive of this lasting for another year," he said.

David Collins devotes his days to helping parents of missing children. It's a gut-wrenching ordeal he knows about firsthand.

His son, Kevin, disappeared Feb. 10, 1984, in San Francisco. The coach who was supposed to give the 10-year-old a ride home with other children didn't notice he was missing. He was last seen at a bus stop.

His father formed the Kevin Collins Foundation for Missing Children, which has worked with more than 100 families of abducted children. He travels to their homes, helps get fliers distributed and, he said, "I listen a lot."

Collins said he has gone through different stages since 1984.

"The first six months, you're looking at every bus, every car, you're really paranoid about the whole thing," he said. "Your nerves are shot. ... I was working 16, 17 hours a day (searching)."

"After the second year, things die down, the public becomes a little less interested ... the leads stopped coming," he said.

Collins said he no longer thinks of Kevin every day, but vividly remembers his last week at home and how his son, who suffered from dyslexia and was taunted at school, was "just coming into his own."

"He had gotten his first 'A' on a test," Collins recalled. "He came running in, he showed it to me, he gave me a kiss. He'd been through a lot ... and he was at his peak."

A picture of Kevin, the sixth youngest of nine Collins siblings, was once on Newsweek's cover for a story on missing children.

The family attends church on Kevin's birthday and, every Christmas, puts his stocking out.

"The ache is always there," Collins said quietly. "It never goes away."

Noreen Gosch last saw her son, Johnny, as a freckle-faced boy of 12 heading off on his paper route. If he's still alive, he's a man.

"I have a real difficult time even comprehending what this boy of 20 might be like," she said. "To me, he's still 12. All those years have been robbed from us. The clock stopped."

Since Johnny disappeared from West Des

Moines, Iowa, on Sept. 5, 1982, his family has raised tens of thousands of dollars to hire investigators, made hundreds of speeches and pushed for laws to require immediate police searches when children are reported missing.

They've been victimized, too: One man tried to swindle them and phone solicitors falsely claimed they were collecting money on Johnny's behalf.

Mrs. Gosch said it took almost five years before family life got back to normal. Her heart and stomach pains have subsided. But her memories of Johnny haven't dimmed.

"You might hear a song on the radio that might be your child's favorite or pick up something your child gave you or you gave them," she said. "The minute you see it, touch it, feel it or hear it, it just floods back like the child is here."

When she recently posed for a photograph for a story on Johnny, she was asked to hold one of his belongings. "The minute I touched his jacket, I could picture the night we bought it at the store. I could hear him say, 'Oh, mom, I really love it.' It was like reliving the experience."

The Gosches, who have two other grown children, remain hopeful.

"We know that some day this case is going to be solved," she said. "I want to know if he's alive, of course. If his life has been taken, we can deal with it, but we want to know. ... I really thought we would have some answer by now."

# Fear becomes frustration for missing boy's parents

Continued from Page A 1

weeks ago. The 70-member investigative team has shrunk to about a dozen.

Wetterling, 41, a chiropractor, is back at work. The three children are back in school. But skating, fishing and football outings have been replaced by efforts to keep the story alive, fund-raisers and plans to mark Jacob's 12th birthday this Saturday.

"We're not ready to pull together as a family of five and go on," says Mrs. Wetterling, 40. "That's not right yet for us." She pauses, then adds: "I don't ever want that to happen."

For the Wetterlings, it's not if Jacob will return, but when. Hope is their theme. Tens of thousands of "Jacob's Hope" hats, white ribbons, signs, buttons and T-shirts have been distributed nationwide. The words adorn a candle atop City Hall and a sign in front of the family home in this quiet central Minnesota town of 3,200.

"We choose to remain hopeful because we believe we're going to get Jacob back," Mrs. Wetterling says. "Kids do come home after a very long time."

Of nearly 24,000 missing children reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in a 5½-year period ending in December, abductions by strangers accounted for less than 4 percent. Most other disappearances involved family members or were runaways.

Despite the "public sense these cases are doom and gloom," about 60 percent of children in long-term stranger abductions are found alive, said Ernie Allen, the center's president.

One of the most publicized, Steven Stayner, disappeared in California at age 7 in 1972 and surfaced in 1980 at a police station about 200 miles away with a 5-year-old boy his abductor had snatched. Stayner was killed in a motorcycle-car accident last year.

But others remain haunting mysteries: Johnny Gosch, the 12-year-old Iowa paperboy, gone since 1982; Etan Patz, the 6-year-old New Yorker last seen walking to a school bus stop almost 11 years ago.

Investigators in the Wetterling case have logged about 20,000 calls, tips and potential suspects since the Oct. 22 abduction. They've released sketches of a 40- to 50-year-old man who last seen walking to a school bus stop, then released a boy 10 miles away, and another of a man with a menacing stare spotted in the



Patty and Jerry Wetterling pose in their home with a picture of their son Jacob, 11, who was abducted by a masked gunman four months ago. The room is decorated with a "hope quilt" of cards done by elementary school children. (AP photo)

store the same day Jacob was there.

Investigators believe there's a good possibility they're the same man and consider him one of their stronger suspects.

Corporations, famous athletes and hundreds of everyday people also have joined the search. A local pharmacist called dozens of folks in different area codes with the Wetterlings' phone number in case Jacob got free and didn't know about long distance or wasn't sure where he was.

A volunteer outfit, including people who don't even know the family, directs the publicity effort.

## Perrier recalls mineral water

GREENWICH, Conn. (AP) — The Perrier Group of America Inc. began removing its bottled mineral water from U.S. stores on Saturday and shut down its France-based bottling operation after finding benzene in some samples.

Benzene is considered a poison, but a Food and Drug Admin-

istration spokesman said Saturday the levels detected in FDA tests of Perrier water pose "no immediate health risk."

"If I had a bottle in the refrigerator, I would drink it," said acting FDA Commissioner James Benson.

Benzene is a clear, flammable, poisonous liquid used as a sol-

vent for fats and in making lacquers, varnishes and dyes. At high enough doses, it has been linked to cancer in animals.

The chemical's presence was caused by a problem in the production of the glass bottles, the bottling of the water, or its transportation.

years," she says. "It's not comforting to know somebody else is going through hell."

The Wetterling house is filled with signs of Jacob, a sixth-grader with a budding interest in the trombone, a passion for sports and, his family says, a keen sense of fairness.

His orange parka hangs in his closet, his hand-drawn picture of a Teen-age Mutant Ninja Turtle and posters of the Detroit Pistons' Isiah Thomas and the Chicago Bears' Neal Anderson line his walls. His dog, named after football player Marcus Allen, pads around waiting for his pal.

As weeks turn to months, the house has been decorated with balloons, inspirational poems, letters and cards from strangers, paper birds from schoolchildren, a hand-scrubbed message "We Won't Give Up," and a note from his 8-year-old sister, Carmen: "We are so sorry. ... Evrybuty cry'd very hard. I love you. ..."

Carmen was "really upset that Santa Claus didn't bring Jacob any toys," Mrs. Wetterling says. "I told her he didn't bring them here. 'Maybe he found Jacob, or maybe he's waiting until we find Jacob.'"

Trevor, 10, who was with Jacob that night, thinks of his brother, too. When he recently got a baseball player's autograph, he collected an extra one. He often sleeps in his parents' room and didn't want to return to school.

"I said there's a law that says kids have to go to school and he said, 'Even when your brother's missing?'" his mother recalls. "I didn't know what to say to that."

The Wetterlings say attending Trevor's hockey games is a sad reminder of Jacob's love of the sport and skill as a goalie.

But some tasks are grimmer.

Jerry had to check to see if Jacob was in pornographic pictures police recovered in an impounded car in Minneapolis.

Both Wetterlings are involved in the community: Patty once was PTA president, Jerry led the Chamber of Commerce and a local NAACP chapter. Now, finding Jacob is their work.

"At one point, I started getting more numb," Mrs. Wetterling says. "I actually felt kind of good because ... maybe he's gotten to feel more numb and then he wouldn't feel so lost or alone or afraid or pained."

"Whatever's going on, he's just not feeling much of it," her husband says. "I feel that's what he's had to do to survive."

The Wetterlings say they don't think of the "what ifs."

"I'm not unrealistic, but I can't function if I think about all the bad stuff," Jacob's mother says. "If I get down, lots of times I'll go find a group of kids because kids symbolize hope."

Dan Carle, a friend who counsels the Wetterlings, says the family displays no vindictiveness. "They seem to have a quality of being able to forgive ... to hope," he says. "There's a spiritual dimension to this family deeper than I understand."

Jerry is an idealist, Patty an optimist. That hasn't changed.

"I have always been the type of person that if there's a 5 percent chance of doing something, I want to be in that 5 percent," she says. "If there's one chance in a million that Jacob can still come home, I want Jacob to be the one."

People with information can call the Friends of Jacob Wetterling office at 612-363-0470 or the Jacob Wetterling task force at 800-255-1301.

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