

Houston Deaf Senior Citizens

Volume 4

March, 2003

Issue 3




*May God Forever
Bless Them*



Columbia Heroes Memorial

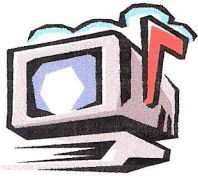
Left to right: Pilot William McCool, Ilan Ramon, Laurel Clark, Kalpana Chawla, Commander Rick Husband, David Brown, and Payload Commander Michael Anderson.

May we never forget their bravery.



*Share Thoughts
& Prayers*

columbiaheroesmemorial.funeralnet.com/columbia/guestbook.cgi?clientid=6000



From the Editor:

Houston
Deaf
Senior
Citizens
Newsletter

Editor

Frank Shaw

The Staff

Karen Clifton

*Zelma
Curbello*

Pedro Solis

Roger Spivey

*Mary Jo
Stevens*

*Audrey
Leger-Wright*

It is sad to lose our good friend, Jack Autry who passed away last week. Houston Deaf Senior Citizens are going to miss him and send their sympathy to Evelyn, his wife and her family.

On February 12, 2003 Houston Deaf Senior Citizens had a guest speaker, Mary Southwick, from Better Business Bureau at their monthly meeting. She talked about Medicare fraud. She explained that Medicare fraud is purposely billing Medicare for services that were never provided or received. Everyone needs to be more careful with his or her Medicare bills. Here are the tips how to protect yourself from fraud:

- Never give your Medicare number to a stranger
- Always review your Medicare statement carefully
- Guard your Medicare card like you do your credit cards
- Don't fall victim to sales tactics pressuring you or scaring you into taking medical supplies or equipment you don't need.
- Never give your Medicare number to anyone offering a free service. If it is "free" they do not need your number.
- Keep records of all healthcare appointments.
- Never sign a blank form and request copies of everything you sign.
- When you are in doubt, ask for clarification of any charges you don't understand.

If you suspect fraud, call the Better Business Bureau Medicare Fraud Hotline at 1-800-275-3626 or 713-341-6184.

Karen Clifton



***Flash News for next field trip
Pasadena, March 14, 2003***

Houston Deaf Senior Citizens will meet at Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray at 8:30 AM. The bus will depart no later than 9:00AM. The group will visit Pasadena Historical Museum, San Jacinto Battleship and San Jacinto Monument.

Fee is \$4.00 per person at San Jacinto Battleship
\$2.00 per person at San Jacinto Monument plus lunch.

If you are interested in going on the field trip, please contact Audrey Leger-Wright at 281-437-6224 before the 12th. Come and let's have fun together. See you on 14th.

NEWS

News: Submitting by Roger Spivey, E-mail from his friend in Beaumont

Margaret (Jackson) Jones (TSD '67) was in the hospital in Beaumont, TX January 27th. Doctor found she had fluid in her heart and she had to stay there for a few days to drain out the fluid in her heart. She is now at home with her mother to take care of her.

News: Submitting by Roger Spivey, received e-mail from Minnie Collins of Fort Worth

Joe Strachan died in his sleep some time in morning, January 29th at the nursing home. He had been sick for a short while. He was buried at his hometown in Corinth, Mississippi in the family plot. He was about 78 years old. He finally didn't have to go to dialysis or ride in the wheelchair anymore, and so many things he didn't have to anymore. He is happy being with his wife, Mary Anna, now and at peace.

News from Cynthia J Stevens

Robert and I went on 7-days cruise on Royal Caribbean in Galveston in January. Our cruise was wonderful and heavenly. We had a great time. We were good troopers who did not get seasick during the rough sea with 8-14 ft waves. It was awesome sight! We visited beautiful Key West, experienced Belize filled with poverty and fabulous Cozumel.

We are planning on family cruise in 2004 to celebrate my mother's 80th birthday. We are looking forward to our next cruise.

Mission at St. Dominic Center for the Deaf:

Father Tom Coughlin, a first deaf person to become a priest, from San Francisco, California will be in Houston from March 13th to 15th for the mission at St. Dominic Center for the Deaf. On March 13th and 14th the mission starts from 7 to 9 PM and on Saturday, the 15th from 1 PM to late afternoon. There will a luncheon around 1 PM. Any of you are very welcome to join and chat or questions with him, it's on 2401 Holcombe Blvd., Houston, TX 77021.

Esther Brownalenoir writes Senior Citizens' memoirs

Frank Shaw says, "I Remember."

When at a Fourth of July Picnic, as a little boy...some of my friends would throw small fireworks at me, but then I saw firecrackers in the boys' back pockets. I lighted those and quickly ran away like hell! Maybe some of you remember that incident? People around laughed and laughed at the sight of the boys dancing like Indians! And folks felt that perhaps the boys had learned their lesson not to throw fireworks at little kids.

Elnora Morgan says, "I Remember."

How funny my four cats behaved. My son gave me a massager for Christmas. All my four cats were on my bed relaxing when I turned on the massager. OH, the cats all jumped up off the bed at the same time! How funny they looked!

Lillian Beard wrote a note: Submitting by Frank Shaw

I received a nice note from Lillian that I want to share with you, *Frank Shaw*

Dear Frank Shaw:

This is to let you know that I have moved to a new address. I would like to continue receiving the newsletter. I do appreciate getting the news concerning the Deaf.

I have served as an interpreter for the Deaf for many, many years. I am now 94 years old and not able to do the things I used to do, but I do love the Deaf and appreciate news about them. Appreciate receiving the news and hope to continue to be on the mailing list.

I helped to start the Bible class at First Baptist Church February 3, 1924. Today the church for the Deaf is now located 9920 Long Point Road, and Bro. Arthur Craig is the pastor. He is a very fine man and a good pastor and leader. I was there in that church Sunday, February 2, 2003; they celebrated their 79th anniversary. What a blessing and joy was mine to see and to be there with the Deaf on that Sunday. God is blessing the ministry at Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church. Bro. Arthur Craig is doing a good work in that church. Not only is he a blessing to the Deaf in the Houston area, but all over the U.S. and also around the world in the ministry to the Deaf. What a blessing he truly is to all the Deaf. He has a good staff working there with him. I am so very proud to feel a part of their ministry. I pray for them daily.

Thank you for the joy that is mine to continue receiving the newsletter.

I now live in a place called Independent Living. It is a nice place for me to live since I am not able to do very much. I have no car, no transportation of any kind. Here they do see that I go to the doctor and minister to my needs. I am so grateful to find such a place that can take care of people like me at my age.

Again thank you for taking care of this information that I have sent to you.

God blesses you and keeps you in His love and care. Always, Lillian Beard

Exciting News from Communication Access Ability Group!!

E-mail from DHHC - Communication Access Updates

We celebrated our one-year anniversary on November 2, 2002! And what a wonderful year it has been! We have many of you in the Deaf and Interpreting community to thank for that! We appreciate all of your support and interest in seeing us prosper. We're looking forward to another great year!! We also opened the doors of our new office on Monday, January 6, 2003. We are located at **2017 S. Shepherd, between Westheimer and W. Gray**. Please note that our current telephone **(713 807-1176)** and fax **(713 807-1238)** numbers will remain the same. Our office hours are **8:30-4:00**, so please feel free to come by and say hello!

Video Relay Call Center Update:

The Video Relay Call Center, previously planned to open December 1, 2002, is now scheduled to open the beginning of May, 2003. We are subcontracting with CSD (Communication Services for the Deaf) to provide these services and the opening of other call centers in other cities around the US has delayed the opening of the one here in Houston. We still have many openings for Full and Part time VI (Video Interpreter) positions for day and evening shifts. We will also have supervisory positions available. For information on these positions and the excellent opportunities and benefits that go along with them, please contact *Dave Hancock* or *Rita Lee* at 713 807-1176 V/TTY or email at dave.hancock@axsability.com or rita.lee@axsability.com

FOURTH-MOST-USED-LANGUAGE: From a book written by Lou Fant, submitting by Roger Spivey

The claim that American Sign Language (AMESLAN OR A.S.L.) is the "fourth-most-used" language in the United States is based on the September, 1974, issue of "ASHA" (Journal of the American Speech and Hearing Association). According to that publication Sign Language ranks third as a foreign language in the United States, with just under 500,000 deaf persons using Sign Language to communicate. Spanish is number one with 4.5 million users and Italian is second with 631,000. The findings were revealed in research conducted in connection with proposed federal legislation to include deaf persons in the Bilingual Courts Act. Following Sign Language are French, 414,000; German, 251,000; and Yiddish, 126,000.



THE HONEY-BAKED SALMON WAS THE BEST

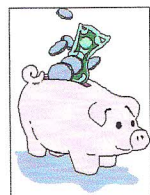
Some months back Ismael Portillo, a deaf Hawaiian, and a future 5-star restaurant chef, entered the Taste of Honolulu contest.

His entry, a Honey-Baked Salmon, won the top prize, in a contest waged by future restaurant chefs. It would be wise to look up his restaurant if any of us visit Hawaii

DEAFHISTORY - LOOKING BACK:



Year 1882 - the Martha's Vineyard, that deaf colony, had a Deaf Pariah who suddenly inherited fortune upon death of his father. The deaf neighbors and family members successfully petitioned the court to have that Deaf Pariah committed to a mental institution.



From Zelma Curbello of LOVE FUND:

We wish to thank you for your generous donations to **LOVE FUND:** Karen Clifton, Zelma Curbello, Margie & Troy Graham, Thelma Jo Hays, Audrey Leger-Wright, Elnora Morgan, Pernella Smith, Roger Spivey, Paula Szablowski, I. D. & Floyd Wicker, and Damon Wright.

Nellie Bishop, thank you for your donation to **LOVE FUND** of the fish vase to be sold.

Jean & Gene Harkness, thank you for your generous donations to **LOVE FUND: IN MEMORY OF JACK AUTRY JR.**

Anyone who wishes to donate **\$\$\$** to **LOVE FUND** should please make a check or money order payable to Houston Deaf Senior Citizens-Love Fund. Please mail to:

**Mrs. Zelma Curbello
9623 Tiltree
Houston, TX 77075-4042**

RENEWALS:

Thank you for your renewal: Carole Allen, Larry & Ollie Flanagan, Bobby Griggs, M/M Nelson Hays, M/M G L Hegwood, Earl Johnson, Ruth Jones, L. Fern Mears, Thomas & Martha Pruitt, Harry Richard, Nell Shanefield, Don J Sowell, M/M Franklin Tippett, and Thomas E Withrow Sr.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 4, 2003 (Tuesday)



Positive Interaction Program (PIP) will be held on Tuesday, March 4th at Woodhaven Deaf Baptist Church at 9920 Long Point at 7 PM. The presentation will be: HPD Bomb Squad to share with us what all they have to deal with in their job. This should prove to be very interesting! Refreshments will be served. Interpreter & captioning will be provided. Come and join to celebrate

March 7, 2003 (Friday)



FRAT will have a meeting and luncheon Friday, March 7th from 11 AM to 2 PM at Golden Corral Restaurant (get off Hollister exit from North 290, and make a U-turn. Restaurant is on your right. Come, and you can find out how you can become a FRAT, and have many more savings, as well as a discount toward your birthday or wedding anniversary. Besides getting all you want from the buffet, you can also find out who is getting the discount!

March 7, 2003 (Friday)



ASL Social at Memorial City Mall at Food Court, I-10 Freeway at Gessner Rd, Houston, TX 77024 from 5 PM to 9 PM. Come and join us to meet old & new friends! Please e-mail to contact Roger Spivey at spivey39@ev1.net before 1st of March.

March 11, 2003 (Tuesday)



Chief's Citywide "PIP" meeting at 1200 Travis – 22nd Floor will be held Tuesday, March 11th at 7 PM. Captioning and an interpreter will be provided. Come and join us

March 12, 2003 (Wednesday)



Houston Senior Citizens will have a general meeting at **Metropolitan Multi-Service Center** at 1475 West Gray, Houston from 9 AM to 1 PM. Closed Captioning will be provided. Come and enjoy chatting with friends!

March 14, 2003 (Friday)



Houston Deaf Senior Citizens will have a field trip in Pasadena, TX to tour some historic museums. Please be at **Metropolitan Multi-Service Center** at 1475 West Gray, Houston at 7:30 a.m. Let's join us and enjoy ourselves. (See editor page 2, for more information).

March 20, 2003 (Thursday)




















Houston Deaf Senior Citizens will meet at **Woodhaven Deaf Baptist Church** at 9920 Long Point from 9 AM to 1 PM. There will be potluck lunch. If you wish to bring a covered dish, please contact **Evelyn Autry** at (713) 984-8186 TTY or **Gertrude Sessions** at (281) 447-7575 TTY and let them know what you will bring.

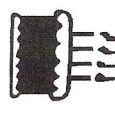
March 26, 2003 (Wednesday)



Houston Senior Citizens will have a meeting at Metropolitan Multi-Service Center at 1475 West Gray, Houston from 9 AM to 1 PM. Come and enjoy chatting with friends!

March 2003

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Glynn & Alma Whittemore-1947 
2	3	4 PPP Meeting 	5	6	7 ASL Social Memorial City Mall 	8
9	10	11 Annie Mc Fadden 	12 S.C.M.M.S.C.  Betty Telfer Gertude Sessions 	13	14 Field Trip "Pasadena Area" 	15 Zelma Curbello 
16	17 St Patrick's Day  Albert Hammon 	18	19	20 S.C. Social Woodhaven 	21	22
23 I. D. Wicker 	24	25 Frank & Margaret Shaw-1954 	26 S.C.M.M.S.C. 	27	28	29 Tom Holloway 
30 Raymond Wilson 	31 Rufus Chappel 					

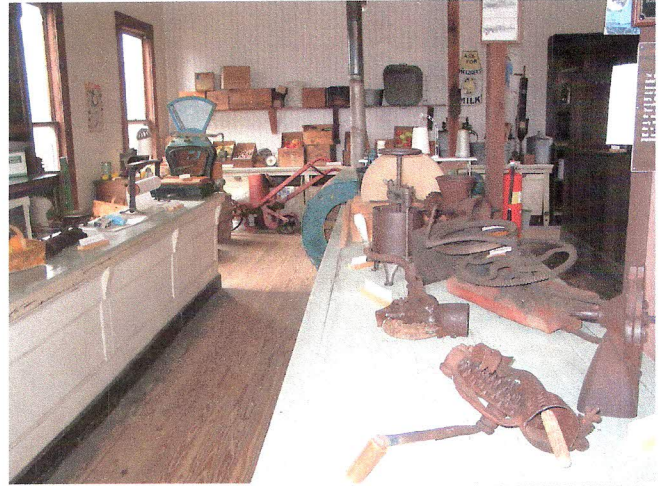


Field Trip

On Valentine Day the Senior Citizens group toured three interesting museums in Beaumont, TX: *Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum*; *McFaddin-Ward House*, the beautiful & huge mansion, where W.P. H. and Ida Caldwell McFaddin family lived for 75 years. They were a very wealthy family that ran cattle business, rice farming & milling, commercial real estate and oil. The third museum visited is the *John F. French Museum*, the oldest house in Beaumont. The group had a wonderful time.



Gladys City Boomtown Museum gives visitors an opportunity to "step back in time" and experience life as it must have been at the turn of the century when oil was discovered at Spindletop: Barber Shop, Grocery store, Drug store, blacksmith shop, saloon, etc.



At the museum the grocery store displays what it looks like in old times. The displays brought back fond childhood memories to some of the Senior Citizens in the group.



McFaddin-Ward Museum: The art glass windows in the conservatory provide ample light for the many house plants kept in this room. What beautiful windows!



This house was built in 1845 by John J. French, Merchant & Tanner who came from Connecticut & New York to Texas in the 1830's. Home remained in French Family for 95 years until 1940.

Deaf History



Heidi Zimmer: The Mountaineer

Part II

For years, Heidi spent weekends climbing the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California. She discovered that there are over 270 peaks in this range. The "climbing bug" bit Heidi, and she wanted to climb all of them, as well as mountains all over the world. She knew this would be an impossible dream because of time and money. Heidi smiles when she says, "I wish I could be a bum for a year or so... I could climb all over the world!"

Heidi's goal in 1990 was to climb Mt. McKinley in Alaska. At 20,320 feet, it is the highest mountain peak on the North American continent. Mt. McKinley is also known as Denali or "The High One." For this climb, Heidi had to train very hard with a team of climbers. She joined a group called Genet Expeditions. In June, she began the climb and was only 820 feet from the summit of the mountain when she had to turn back. She was not used to climbing above 14,000 feet and got altitude sickness. The high altitude caused her to become dizzy, short of breath and sick to her stomach. She could not finish the climb and she was very disappointed.



Heidi's family motto is: "Never give up; always try again!" Having failed to climb Mt. McKinley the first time, she tried again in 1991. She joined another climbing expedition. This time it took her 18 days to reach the summit, with temperatures 15 degrees below zero, but she did it! She became the first deaf woman in history to reach the summit. At the top, she proudly displayed these words on a banner: "Deaf Women, A Parade Through the Decades."

Was she scared during the climb? Heidi explains, "Yes, sometimes I feel fear. But because I love the mountains so much, their beauty and color, I forget about the danger. I don't care if I die on a mountain. I would prefer to die there than at home."



*First Deaf Woman, Denali (Mt. McKinley) Alaska June 13, 1991
20,320 feet*

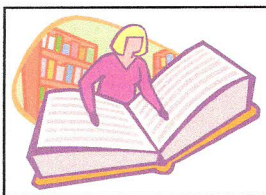
Since climbing Mt. McKinley, Heidi has also climbed two other mountain peaks on her list of "Seven Summits." She climbed Mt. Elbrus (18,481 feet) in southern Russia in 1992. It is the highest peak in Europe. Then, she went to Tanzania where she scaled Kilimanjaro (19,321 feet) in 1994. It is the highest mountain in Africa.

In 1999, Heidi tried to climb Aconcagua (19,304 feet) in South America for the second time, but due to bad weather her team had to turn back. They did not reach the summit. Heidi says, "I was very sad to leave the mountain, because I love it and never got to finish my goal. I hope to return to Aconcagua again."

Being a skilled mountaineer takes training, experience and courage. It also takes money. Mountain climbing expeditions to the "Seven Summits" cost between \$3,000 (Aconcagua) to \$60,000 (Mt. Everest). How does Heidi raise money for her trips? She works hard at her job and saves money. Also, friends, family and businesses give her money. When Heidi fails to climb a mountain, she loses lots of money that she works so hard to earn. It is very frustrating for her to "turn back" and not finish a climb to the summit. At the same time, when she does succeed and reaches the top of the world, she says, "When I'm on a mountain for 25 days, that means no TV, no TTY, no sign language, no other deaf climbers, no heat, no fresh food, no flushing toilets and no hot baths. I write in my journal, view the beautiful mountains, smell the fresh air, think and relax! When I finally reach the top, I want to celebrate and shout, 'PAH!' which means, 'FINALLY!'

Heidi Zimmer has come a long way since climbing on the rooftop. She has become a legend. She is the most famous deaf woman mountain climber in the world. When Heidi is not climbing mountains, she enjoys cross country skiing, running, swimming, mountain biking and hiking. She now lives in a house that is over 100 years old in Gunnison, Colorado. In September 2000, she will take on another adventure. She will ride her bicycle across the United States with 35 other women for three months. They will be celebrating, "Girls on the Move," sponsored by Outward Bound. They will ride from Oregon to New York, stopping at different cities along the way. Heidi will tell young girls about her experiences as a mountaineer. She says proudly, " I realize that I am very rare; a deaf woman who climbs mountains. But if I really want something, I do it. And I feel it's my responsibility to share my experiences with deaf children."

Toole, Darlene Living Legends III...Six Stories about Amazing Deaf People, pg. 13-20
©2000 Butte Publications, Inc.



DeafSportsHistory -

Q. Who was the first deaf bowler to roll at 300 game?

A. Andy McGrath, Detroit, MI rolled a sanctioned 300 game



REST IN PEACE

OBITUARIES



Our beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, **Annie Kasper Bartholic, age 89, (Gertie Sessions' mother)** passed away Monday, January 20, 2003, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Annie was born April 9, 1913, in Giddings, TX, to Richard and Selma Wobus. Her entire life was dedicated to her church and her children. She was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church for 65 years.

She was preceded in death by two sisters, Louise Schools and Aline Pampell.

Annie is survived by one brother, Richard Wobus and wife, Paula; daughters, Frieda and husband, Don Bahr, Gertrude and husband, Travis Sessions, Lorine and husband, Tom Perkins, Ann walker, Delores and husband, Jerry Duval; 15 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were her grandsons, Don, Richard, and Mike Bahr, Ron, Dennis, and Alan Sessions, Chris and Jeff Perkins, Mark Knight, Stephen and Richard Duval, and Ed Croson. Honorary pallbearers were Steve Killebrew and Kim Lewis.

The family was received friends from 6 to 8 PM, Wednesday, January 22nd, at Cook-Walden Funeral Home. Funeral services were held at 11 AM, Thursday, January 23rd, at St. Paul Lutheran Church at 35001 Red River. Interment was followed at Cook-Walden/Capital Parks Cemetery in Pflugerville.

For those desiring, memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul Lutheran Music Fund.

The family would like to extend special thanks to Edith Swartz and others of Lone Star Hospice.

Jewell Katherine Frazier, 87, passed away Thursday, January 23, 2003. She was preceded in death by her husband of 61 years, Roy William Frazier. She is survived by her son, Monty Lee Frazier of Austin, daughter, Patricia Lyne Conner of Austin, granddaughters, Carrie Giacona, Diana McNair, and Lori Tidwell, all of Austin, grandsons, Brian Crow of Austin, and Ricky Crow of Fort Worth; 11 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Born Jewell Katherine Maddox on October 5, 1915, in Italy, TX. She spent her early life growing up in the Baptist Children's Home in Waxachachie, TX. After leaving the home on her 18th birthday, she relocated to the Midland/Odessa area where she met, fell in love, and married William Frazier in 1936. In 1944, they permanently relocated to Austin, TX to raise their family. She was a devout member of the Church of Christ, as well as a devoted mother and grandmother to her family.

Beatrice Lindgren (Lavern Fair's sister), 81, of Anaheim, California passed away February 11, 2003. Funeral service was held at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier Friday, February 14th at 2 PM.



Jack Autry Jr, 74, passed away Wednesday, February 12, 2003. Survived by wife of 51 years, Evelyn, daughters; Valerie Bandy, Donna Autry, Melissa Autry and Jackie Autry. Son-in-law, Henry Bergeron, Sister & Brother-in-law; Marlene & Bill Daulton, Brother & sister-in-law; Dwight & Maria Gastineau, 6 grandchildren and one great-grandson. Family received friends 6:00 to 8:00 PM Friday, February 14, 2003 at Memorial Oaks Funeral Home. Funeral service was held at 3:30 PM Saturday, February 15, 2003 in Memorial Oaks Funeral Home Chapel. Pastor Arthur Craig officiating. Interment was followed at Memorial Oaks Cemetery. In lieu of usual remembrances donations may be made to Woodhaven Baptist Deaf Church, 9920 Long Point, Houston, TX 77055.

A NOTE to correct of an error on the obituary page of February Issues: from Don Sowell
Mary (Sowell) Cunningham (passed away January 8th) was a graduate of Texas School for the Deaf at Austin in 1936, not 1940, as previously reported in error. Don, thanks for informing us and we appreciate that.

HELPFUL HINTS OF SALT

Received e-mail from a friend

- If you drop a whole egg on the floor, pour salt all over the egg let it sit for a while, then use dustpan, the egg will come right up, without all that mess.
- Sprinkle salt on your shelves to keep ants away.
- Rub any wicker furniture you may have with salt water to prevent yellowing.
- If a pie bubbles over in your oven, put a handful of salt on top of the spilled juice. The mess won't smell and will bake into a dry, light crust, which will wipe off easily when the oven has cooled.
- Salt and lemon juice removes mildew.
- Add raw potatoes to stews and soups that are too salty. The potatoes will absorb salt.
- Test the freshness of eggs in a cup of salt water; fresh eggs sink; bad ones float.



5802 Holly
Houston, TX 77074

Mary Redman
(713) 981-1543 Voice/TTY

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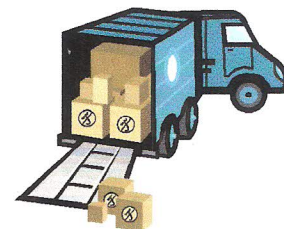
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