

B;METROPOLITAN;NATION;AMERICAN SCENE;MIDWEST

Woman's arm severed by washing machine

FROM WIRE DISPATCHES AND STAFF REPORTS

486 words

4 July 1991

The Washington Times

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English

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Woman's arm severed by washing machine

BOONVILLE, Ind. - A woman's arm was severed when she tried to push clothes back into a coin-operated washing machine during its spin cycle, authorities said.

Norma Lee Bass, 26, was in critical but stable condition at Louisville (Ky.) Jewish Hospital yesterday, after nine hours of surgery to reattach her lower arm, hospital spokeswoman Diane Comer said.

Mrs. Bass and her two pre-school children were the only ones at the 3rd Street Laundromat in Boonville when the accident occurred Tuesday morning.

"Her younger daughter had opened the door. The washer was in a spin cycle and clothes started to fall out of it. Norma ran back and apparently . . . tried to push the clothes back into the washer," Police Chief Wendell Ingram said yesterday.

Her arm got entangled with the clothes and apparently was twisted off at the elbow, he said.

One of her children dialed 911.

Gulf war prompts Fourth of July parade

NEWTON, Iowa - It took a desert war and encouragement from President Bush, but folks in Newton are preparing their first Fourth of July parade in at least 25 years.

There will be a band, 50 to 60 floats, balloons and color guards. A real estate company has enlisted the Boy Scouts to help plant 2,000 miniature American flags along the one-mile parade route. The Chamber of Commerce offered about 2,000 free posters reading "Welcome home troops" along with an American flag. Those are all gone.

Much of the hoopla is for the 90 or so Jasper County troops who served in the Persian Gulf war. But it's also to honor other veterans - primarily those who were in Korea and Vietnam - who never got a parade when they came home.

Vietnam veterans are hurrying to get their float ready. It's a helicopter, made to one-quarter scale from napkins, chicken wire and wood, in front of a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall in Washington. The front and rear rotor blades will whirl. Music from the 1960s and '70s will blare from a tape player.

Train collision injures 14 passengers

CLEVELAND - A commuter train carrying 27 persons plowed into an empty train stopped near a station, injuring 14 passengers, including a woman seven months pregnant, authorities said.

"We started picking up speed and the next thing you know . . . we hit the other train," said a passenger, Maurice Lee.

The pregnant woman and a half-dozen others were carried from the scene of the Tuesday night accident on stretchers, witness said. Most of the injured, including the woman, were doing well, hospital officials said.

The cause of the accident was not immediately known. Ronald J. Tober, executive director of the Regional Transit Authority, said investigators would look at a signal system.

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