

# FBI issues warrant in Tylenol extortion cases

CHICAGO (AP) — Federal authorities issued an arrest warrant Wednesday and were looking in Texas for a man accused of trying to extort \$1 million following seven cyanide killings, Illinois Attorney General Tyrone Fahner said.

But Fahner also said the arrest of another man, a self-described "closet chemist" who

worked for the Jewel grocery store chain, was "another one of those (incidents) that are unrelated" to the deaths of the seven people, who took cyanide-laden capsules of Extra-Strength Tylenol.

Robert Richardson, described as being in his mid 30s, allegedly wrote a letter to McNeil Consumer Products Co.,

manufacturer of Extra-Strength Tylenol, threatening to use the best-selling pain reliever for more poisoning unless he was paid the money.

The letter instructed the firm to deposit the money in an account at a Chicago bank. The account, which officials said had been closed, was traced to a suburban resident questioned by the FBI last week. Fahner said the man, who owned a

travel agency that has since been closed, "has never been a suspect" in the extortion or the killings.

Fahner said Richardson's wife, Nancy, who was not named in the warrant, formerly worked for the travel agency.

The couple is believed to be in the vicinity of Amarillo, Texas, and is being sought by the FBI, Fahner said. He said the extortion letter was traced to Ri-

chardson through handwriting analysis.

The Jewel employee, Roger Arnold, 48, was arrested late Monday night after police received a tip that Arnold was "known to have cyanide in his house," said police detective James C. Gildea.

Arnold has been charged with five counts of failure to register guns and one count of aggravated assault.



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## Couple claims condom in Coke; lawyer litigates, asks damages

SEATTLE (AP) — A Seattle man and woman who claim they found a condom in a bottle of Coca Cola have sued the bottler and the store where they bought the soft drink.

Christine Van Volssem and her husband, Charles Ramsell,

asked the King County Superior Court to award unspecified damages and other relief for their suffering. The suit was filed Oct. 1.

Volssem said she drank some of the beverage before noticing the male contraceptive during

lunch on July 10, 1981.

The condom was inflated, knotted and "not fresh from the box," the couple's lawyer, Jill A. Salmi, said Tuesday.

Kete Okazaki, manager of the First Hill Food Center Thriftway, said he was unfamiliar with the case and had no comment.

Joe Wilkinson, spokeswoman for Coca Cola USA in Atlanta, said the company would not comment on any case in litigation.

However, he said there is a round plastic "filler ring" used in the bottling process that resembles the object found.

"It is possible a filler ring could be mistaken," he said.

There are 3.5 million Coke soft drinks served a day all over the world, he said.

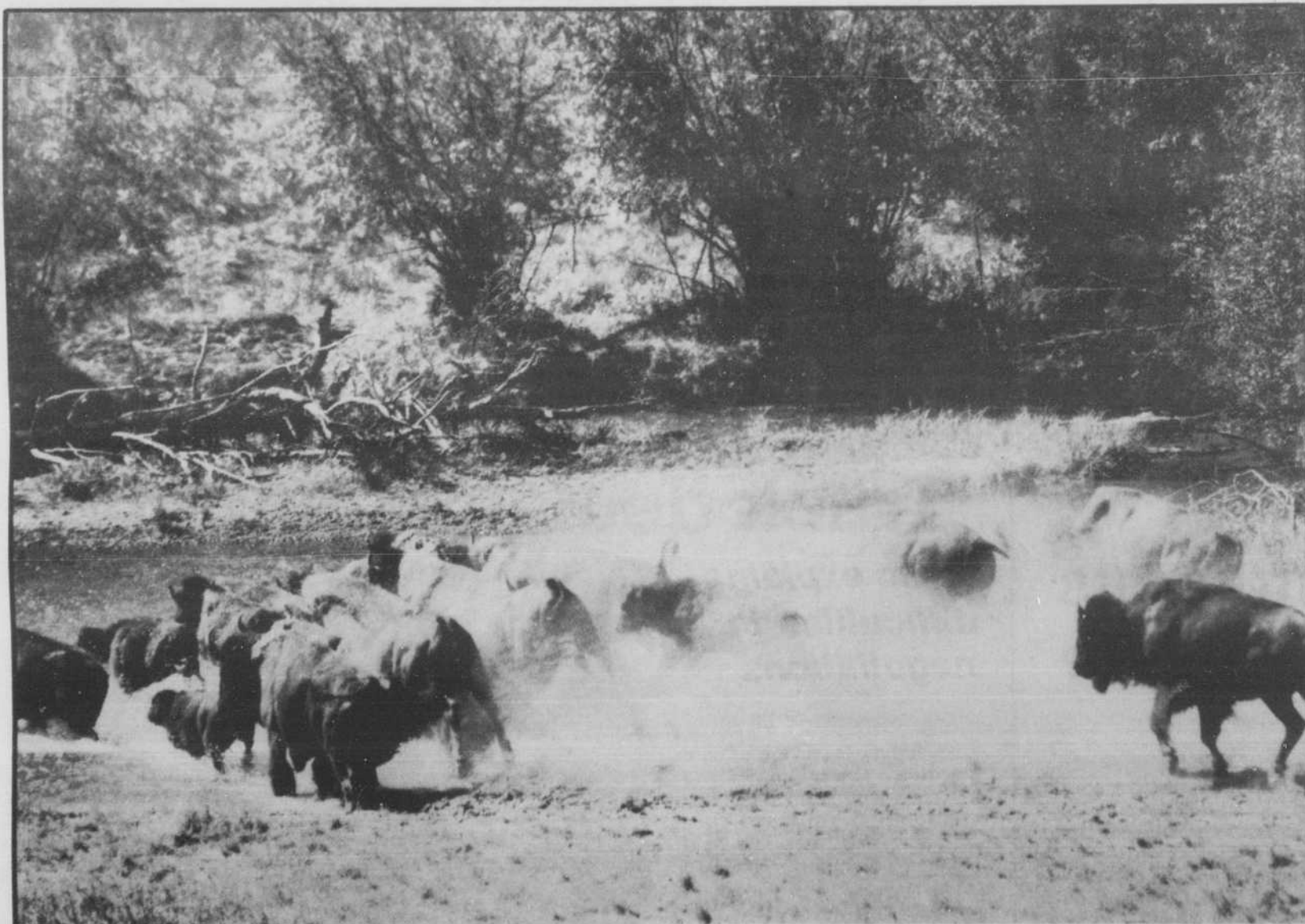
"Every bottle used for our soft drink products is examined visually or by an electronic device after rinsing and cleaning and prior to filling to assure that foreign objects are not present in the bottle," Wilkinson said.

## SF's gun ban banned in court

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — San Francisco's handgun ban was declared unconstitutional Wednesday by a state Court of Appeal, which said it was up to the Legislature to make laws about handgun possession or ownership.

While the three-judge panel said they were "sensitive to the political and social overtones of a case such as this, we are here concerned only with the narrow legal question of whether the state Constitution and state statutes permit San Francisco to enact such an ordinance. We conclude that they do not."

The judges told San Francisco officials not to enforce the handgun ordinance and to alert residents that it won't be enforced.



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