

### Small Businesses Given Contract

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—A federal official says a group of small firms incorporated under the Small Business Administration has won the first federal contract of a type which a large firm usually gets.

Applied Research Associates Inc., Boulder Films Inc., Machine Engineering Corp. and Ward Anderson Printing Co. They have a \$1,250,000 Air Force contract to write and print secret Air Force manuals on operation of aircraft and special weapons systems.

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### "DENNIS THE MENACE"



"I'LL SHAKE HANDS IF YOU WILL."

### Disputed Da Vinci Picture May Receive Home In Texas

NEW YORK (UPI)—The "other" Mona Lisa, a disputed version of the Da Vinci masterpiece valued at \$1,500,000, may get a home in a Texas museum.

The Vernon family, owners of the painting, and the prospective purchasers in Houston, Tex., confirmed today that negotiations "are going on and have been for some little time." But neither party would say how near to a sale the negotiations have gotten.

Purchase of the painting would rank as one of the biggest art transactions in American history. A reliable report indicates the Vernon family already has turned down an offer of \$900,000 for the work, but this could not be confirmed.

"The price under discussion is \$1,500,000," said Christian W. Slagle, a Vernon in-law and family spokesman. "This painting is the hottest thing in the art world even though it is an eighth of an inch away from complete authentication. But one must remember that the Louvre Mona Lisa has a mystery of its own."

The beautifully preserved Vernon Mona Lisa is believed by many experts to have been painted by Leonardo da Vinci in 1502, five years before he painted the nearly identical but more famous canvas which hangs in Paris Louvre. The Vernons keep it in a bank vault in Summit, N.J.

Slagle said negotiations are being handled in Houston by Mary Frances Feltz, an agent retained by the Vernons. The Houston group negotiating for the Mona Lisa is headed by Dr. Edwin C. Connor, a wealthy retired physician, and includes several bankers, doctors, an insurance firm president and a prominent attorney.

William Henry Vernon of Newport, R.I., an ancestor of the Ver-

### Concert By Maria Callas Interrupted By Bomb Hoax

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—A bomb hoax interrupted a Maria Callas concert for 40 minutes Wednesday night but the tempestuous soprano brushed it off as "ridiculous."

Former President and Mrs. Harry S. Truman were among the 3,373 persons in Midland Theater when Missouri's Gov. James T. Blair stepped on stage after Miss Callas' first number and announced: "Ladies and gentlemen, the management has received a call which indicates danger for this audience, so we are asking you to leave this building for a half hour."

The audience calmly walked out, taking 10 minutes to clear the building, while police swarmed through the downtown theater. Miss Callas remained in her dressing room during the search and joked about the scare. The concert was finished without incident after the audience returned.

At a reception afterward, a reporter asked Miss Callas what she thought about the incident.

"Please," she said, smiling radiantly and crossing her hands under her chin. "Let's not discuss it."

"It's ridiculous that things like that can happen, but they do. Please, let's not talk about it."

The orchestra was playing an overture when a man called the theater box office and police headquarters. He told the police dispatcher: "There's a bomb planted in the orchestra pit at the Midland Theater that's set to go off at 9:30."

Larry Kelly of Dallas, concert producer, hurried backstage and told Miss Callas a few minutes before 9 o'clock.

"What time is it supposed to go off?" she asked. "Told that it was 9:30," she replied. "Then I will go out and sing and let the people know I am here. If I don't they will say, 'Well, that Maria Callas, I'll take the risk!'"

She sang one aria, then Gov. Blair made his announcement at 9:13.

Miss Callas, who had ignored a reception in her honor Tuesday night and a Wednesday afternoon rehearsal, went to the River Club for a party after the concert.

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### Experts Say Dogs Bite Sans Malice

WASHINGTON (UPI)—A research team has decided that in two-thirds of all dog bite cases, the biter bites without malicious intent.

The owners of the painting are Slagle's wife, Mrs. Agnes Vernon Slagle of 289 Fairmont Chatham, N.J.; her sister, Mrs. Dorothy Vernon Landis of Pound Ridge, N.Y., and their mother, Mrs. Alice C. E. Vernon.

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When dogs bite people, the team found, the people usually are to blame, one way or another.

These and other conclusions were reported in the October issue of Public Health Reports, a monthly magazine published by the Public Health Service, in an article entitled "Epidemiology of Dog Bites."

The article was written by Drs. Henry M. Parrish of the University of Vermont, Frank B. Clark and James F. Mock of the Allegheny County (Pa.) Health Department, and Duane Probst of the University of Wisconsin.

The authors reported or cited the following findings:

Dogs bite more children than adults and more boys than girls. There is no evidence that they are "more partial to biting non-white than white persons."

One-third of bites result "from dogs biting maliciously without human provocation." Another one-third occur while the victims are playing with or petting dogs. The remaining one-third are the result of "human activities which lead dogs to bite."

"High-risk groups" among possible dog bite victims are "school children, pre-school children, persons coming to the dog owner's house in line of work (delivery men etc.), newspaper boys, mailmen, and veterinarians." The authors said "probably tens of thousands of newspaper boys and postmen are bitten by dogs in this country annually."

Young dogs are worse biters than old dogs, females bite often-er than males, and so-called working and sporting dogs are more likely to nip than hounds. Working dogs, "the worst offenders," include boxers, collies, Eskimo dogs, German shepherds, great Danes, Saint Bernards, and Doberman pinschers. Sporting dogs include pointers, setters, retrievers, and spaniels.

Dogs bite least in winter, more often in spring, and oftenest in July and August. This supports "popular notions of dog days."

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