

### The weather

● COOL, sunny through Monday. Highs today will be in the 50s, lows tonight in the 30s, high Monday in the 50s. A complete look at the weather, Page 18-A.

### Long look forward

Advances in computer electronics 'blows the minds' of scientists

See Page 1-B



# the Future

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Dixie  
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## DISTINCT PATHS, GOALS

# Coal industry probe rolls on three fronts

BY TOM SCARRITT  
News staff writer

State and federal officials are convinced there is crime in the Alabama coalfields, and at least three distinct probes of the problem have been going on for many months now.

Though there is some overlap, each of the probes has its own peculiar path and goals.

Most of the investigation is being conducted in secret, but a good deal of information about the probes has surfaced, much of it in the past several weeks.

The probes include:

● A special federal grand jury in Birmingham, authorized last year by U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell to look at the coal industry. At the time it was formed, a source close to the investigation said its thrust would be to study the relationships between top public officials and the coal industry.

The investigation, that source said at its outset, "could shake up Alabama politics like nothing has in a quarter of a century."

So far, the grand jury is known to have subpoenaed records of Alabama

Power Co.; its parent firm, the Southern Co.; the Drummond Co., Alabama's largest independent coal producer, and other coal miners, and the Alabama Surface Mining Reclamation Council, a Birmingham-based organization of miners.

IN ADDITION, the State Ethics Commission has given the grand jury the records of an investigation it made of former state Sen. Joe Fine of Russellville.

Norman Reid, a Birmingham road contractor who was associated at one

time with Fine in Real Coal Co., has been called to testify before the grand jury. Reid was a major contributor to former highway director Ray Bass's unsuccessful campaign last summer for lieutenant governor.

Another witness known to have been called before the grand jury is Bill Kelce, executive director of the Alabama Surface Mining Reclamation Commission.

The grand jury apparently still is concentrating on state officials and their relations with coal miners, but the investigation took an unusual twist

with the appearance last week of James H. Dennis, a coal supply salesman.

Dennis said on a nationally broadcast television program that he gave cash to two officials on behalf of Alabama miners. Dennis' allegations seem to be outside the mainstream of the grand jury investigation, but federal prosecutors reacted to them by questioning Dennis and two other Birmingham residents who appeared on the television program.

These people were questioned about former Interior Secretary Thomas S.

Kleppe and former U.S. Rep. Sam Steiger of Arizona.

Montgomery assistant U.S. Attorney Broward Segrest and Birmingham assistant U.S. Attorney Dayle Powell are conducting the grand jury investigation under the direction of U.S. Attorney J.R. Brooks in Birmingham.

● The Michael Project is a cooperative effort of state and federal officials described in a memo more than a year ago by Alabama Securities Commissioner Tom Krebs.

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## INSIDE

### Goat Hill scene

● Lobbyists and legislators are converging on Goat Hill as the first skirmishes of the state budget fight get underway. Unless Gov. Fob James improves his footing with the lawmakers,

## Syria reacts angrily Happy Sadat ready to sign historic pact



...side a month or so for an under-the-table fee to advertising officers taking kickbacks on awarding brochure contracts and such.

"You name a scheme and its been done or is being done," he said.

CHAIN convenience stores, self-service gasoline stations and other businesses where a single employee is frequently left alone are finding polygraph testing particularly effective, said Gelb. Often when money or merchandise disappears mysteriously, employees are given polygraph tests, he said.

"Fake robberies" is another area in which the polygraph has taken its toll on employee theft, he added. Numerous cases have been recorded in which an employee working alone rips off the store's money and claims he was robbed. Birmingham police have handled a number of such suspected cases in recent years, records show.

And, said Gelb, the machines are useful in screening potential employees for business and industry.

"Companies are finding that one way of thwarting employee theft is to not bring thieves on board in the first place," he said. "That's where pre-employment screening with truth verifica-

tion equipment comes in."

The polygraph, he said, is 92 to 100 percent correct, depending on the examiner. It can determine if and exactly how much money a potential employee has stolen.

THE POLYGRAPH ALSO has become "an invaluable weapon" among law enforcement agencies, said the experts. And its potential in psychotherapy treatment of mental illness could be virtually limitless, said Joseph G. Law Jr., a Ph D candidate in psychology at Auburn University.

Owner of a polygraph business that serves the Auburn and Opelika area, Law said psychologists discovered in the late 1800s how to use early polygraph equipment in psychotherapy.

"It was done with simply word association," he said. "A person with subconscious conflicts can be put on a polygraph and if a word is mentioned that is connected with his conflict, the sensor needle will go wild. Some psychologists today are using the polygraph in training psychotherapists. If an individual seems to be tightening up or having problems, the polygraph can be used to help weed out the problem."

RON DECKER, DIRECTOR, U.S. Army Military Police, Polygraph School, at Ft. McClellan, said the Army uses polygraph testing extensively in crime-related matters.

"We train all U.S. government people in the polygraph, including the CIA, FBI, all branches of the service, and so forth," he said. "Foreign governments also are using it, and we are training some of their people at Ft. McClellan."

FRENCH OFFICIALS have criticized the reports in private. French Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet, while praising Carter's initiative, has said the Mideast treaty will be successful only if it forms the basis for a permanent settlement between Israel and all Arab countries.

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...mat's representing the pharaoh Ramses II of Egypt and King Hattusilis of Hatti, an empire centered in what is now Turkey.

# In Idaho, petition backs escaped killer; in Alabama, tears, anger

Continued from Page 1

since remarried. "Every time I take my kids to the cemetery, and I watch my son stand there looking at his father's grave, it'll tear me all to pieces."

Mrs. Miller said she was divorced from Gwin at the time of the killing, but "there was no hatred between us." Gwin was planning to come by her house and take the kids to visit the zoo the day they heard he was killed.

"I got a phone call," she said. "They said they had found him dead. I didn't believe it. I called my mother. My dad got me, he told the kids. I couldn't tell them."

She says Gwin picked up Clark when he was hitchhiking. "Clark gave Donald a hard luck story, said he had no home and no place to go," Mrs. Miller said.

"Donald was living at his grandmother's house. He told Clark he would take him home and give him something to eat. That night he (Clark) unloaded six bullets into Donald's head, reloaded it, and put three more in at close range."

"IT HAS HURT my children, deep-

ers to justice. —AN AGREEMENT to defend each other if attacked by outsiders. A similar defense pact has been suggested for

# In Idaho, petition backs escaped killer; in Alabama, tears, anger

Continued from Page 1

ly," she said. Her son Ray — eight years old at the time — became "very withdrawn" after the killing. Her daughter, Bonnie, took it a little better. She was only six.

Mrs. Miller didn't allow herself to pull into a shell, she said. "My children needed me too much. I told them maybe it was God's way for him to go. Maybe if it hadn't been that he could have had cancer."

The family had been working at putting the pain behind them but, she said, Clark's escape and the events in Idaho have brought it back for them.

"When I told my daughter the other night about him getting out of jail, she went to bed and cried all night long. She can't understand how a person can get out when he's charged with first-degree murder and sentenced to life," Mrs. Miller said.

"How in the name of God did Clark escape?" said Mrs. Miller. All three of her family — Mrs. Miller, Ray and Bonnie — said they didn't want Clark to die, but that they feel he should come here to serve his time.

"THIS IS THE state where he killed

from \$40 to \$75, and for closing a grave, from \$10 to \$15.

# In Idaho, petition backs escaped killer; in Alabama, tears, anger

Continued from Page 1

my dad," said Ray. "I want them to bring him back and put him in maximum security where he can't get out."

Bonnie says news reports about how some people in Idaho have called Clark a "gentle man" have hurt her. "They say he's so gentle and kind," she said. "But my daddy was just being nice to him. Clark took his life."

Clark, in a phone interview from his Idaho jail cell, said he was not guilty of killing Gwin.

Sentenced to life in prison, Clark escaped from the Hamilton Work Release Center in North Alabama on July 24, 1977. About 20 months later he gave himself up to Idaho officials, but told them he didn't want to return to Alabama because he would be killed for being an informer on both prison officials and inmates.

A group of Idaho residents have started a petition to ask Idaho Gov. John Evans to grant Clark a hearing on whether he should be sent back to Alabama.

They cite as reasons Clark should stay in Idaho his good work record in that state and the possible danger to his life in Alabama.

## Members support Carter writes

NATO matters, said the fact that other members of the alliance had not been singled out in the reports did not indicate that they opposed the accord.

FRENCH OFFICIALS have criticized the reports in private. French Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet, while praising Carter's initiative, has said the Mideast treaty will be successful only if it forms the basis for a permanent settlement between Israel and all Arab countries.

Under long-standing NATO procedure, Luns could not have written such a letter to Carter if there had been an objection from any NATO member.

Ledogar said Luns had told Carter that he could count on the full support of the allies in achieving an overall settlement in the Middle East.

The letter called the Egyptian-Israeli accord a first and essential step toward lasting peace in the region, Ledogar said.

## Coal industry probe rolling on three fronts

Continued from Page 1

THIS PROJECT SEEMS to be concentrating on persons doing business in the coal industry and involved in criminal activities, particularly in the area of fraud.

For example, Krebs last year identified Robert E. Kizziah, head of a Birmingham-based coal brokerage firm, as one of the people he believed could be sent to jail. In January of this year, Kizziah was sentenced to a year and a day in federal prison after he pleaded guilty to charges he falsified

reports about the quality of coal he sold to a British company.

Many other targets of the Michael Project, as it is called in Alabama and five other states, are now in jail or awaiting sentencing.

Krebs's office has served as a clearinghouse for information in the investigations.

The federal Bureau of Land Management's probe of coal trespassing—the illegal mining of federally-owned coal.

The bureau has charged that an Atlanta mining firm, Invesco International Corp., willfully mined federal coal in Fayette County.

The penalty for intentional trespassing on federal coal reserves is a \$1,000 fine or a year in prison, or both.

Last November, the bureau sent Invesco a \$2.7 million bill for the coal it mined.

Other firms cited by the bureau for coal trespassing are Budweg Enterprises of Cullman, Stovall-Files Coal Co. of Carbon Hill, and Drummond Coal Co. and Taylor Coal Co. of Jasper. Drummond acquired Taylor in March, 1976, according to the bureau, resulting in the dual citation of the companies.

The bureau also is looking into 41 other suspected cases of illegal mining in Walker, Tuscaloosa, Jefferson and

Fayette counties.

On April 1, a delegation of congressmen will visit the Alabama coalfields on a fact-finding trip. The following day, they will hold a public hearing in Atlanta on the subject of coal trespassing.

One person who is involved in all three areas of the coal investigation is Birmingham U.S. Attorney J.R. Brooks. In addition to supervising the grand jury, his office prosecuted Kizziah and he has said he is investigating the Invesco trespass case.

All three strains of the investigation of crime in the Alabama coal industry are expected to go on for many months to come.