

Unsweet settlement

The "subconscious" plagiarism of a 1962 tune that became former Beatle George Harrison's 1970 hit, "My



George Harrison

Sweet Lord," will cost him \$587,000, according to a Federal Court ruling announced Thursday in New York.

Judge Richard Owen said ABKCO Music could have recovered up to \$1.5 million in damages from Harrison if it had not interfered in settlement talks with Bright Tunes Music Corp., the original plaintiff in the plagiarism suit. Owen ruled in 1976 that "My Sweet Lord" was so similar to the 1962 John Mack tune "He's So Fine" that it constituted copyright infringement, "even if so subconsciously accomplished."

Soon after the 1976 ruling, Bright Tunes sold its rights to ABKCO, Harrison's agent in 1970.

vehicles, mostly snowmobiles, were later recovered.

But Tormal's truck looked like a goner, so he turned ownership over to his insurance company, which gave Ray LaBounty, 25, permission to try to save the vehicle from the melting floe. He and two friends broke through 200 yards of ice in a boat Saturday, attached three empty 375-gallon oil tanks to the truck and waited for it to float free. They then towed the soggy but otherwise undamaged truck to a canal leading to Toledo.

LaBounty now is negotiating with the insurance company, claiming he should get possession since he removed a potential peril to ship navigation.

He has his standards

Nandor Hettig, 44, a former Hungarian freedom fighter, spent three days in a rural Missouri jail this month rather than pay a \$34 traffic fine, because, he said, "there is no such thing as a dollar in this country."

Hettig, a toolmaker in Fenton, Mo., said he was upholding the Constitution by not paying the fine, because Federal Reserve notes no longer are payable in gold or silver, as guaranteed in the Constitution. His traffic court appearance gave him a chance to take a stand on the monetary situation, he said.

John Gavin

Reported choice of actor hit

Mexico City, Mexico —UPI— Reports that President Reagan would name actor John Gavin as the new US ambassador to Mexico drew snickers Thursday from some Mexican officials and serious criticism of Reagan's "frivolity."

"If you're going to send us an actor I would have preferred Wonder Woman," said Ovaclones newspaper director Jorge Lopez, referring to Linda Carter, the star of the television serial.

Gavin, fluent in Spanish, Portuguese and Italian, served as an adviser to the Organization of American States in Washington from 1961 to 1965 and has a degree in Latin American economic history from Stanford University.

The Dallas Times Herald reported Thursday that Reagan would soon name Gavin, 48, whose mother was born in the northern state of Sonora, to replace Ambassador Julian Nava, a Jimmy Carter appointee.

"Relations with Mexico cannot be handled with such frivolity because they are so important," said Carlos Loret De Mola, a ranking member of the ruling Revolutionary Institutional Party.

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