

## Blowguns For Sale

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By CARMEN VIGLUCCI

"I recently purchased one of your 4 1/2 Ft. long blow-guns and I want to tell you what happened while on our pack-trip we just took. While hunting with the blow-gun I saw a cottontail rabbit right next to a tree stump. I took aim and fired the dart right at the rabbit. It hit him and went through him and into the tree stump. Since it was a very long dart it stuck well into the stump and the rabbit kept trying to get away but the dart point was so deep into the stump he couldn't go anywhere and his legs just kept running but he went no where."

That is a testimonial letter distributed by the House of Weapons of Provo, Utah, with one of its products — a "Safari Jungle Blowgun." The letter purportedly is signed by someone living in Provo.

The blowgun presumably is sold for hunting purposes but here is another letter of endorsement:

"I bought one of your medium-sized blowguns. I live on the 7th floor of the men's college dormitory and you'd be amazed at the things I've hit down there from up here! I can hit anything right on, within 100 yards of this window. Six other guys have order blow-guns from you who live on my floor after they saw mine and there's going to be war! There was a cat keeping me awake last night outside so I took a dart and inverted it so the dart head struck the cat headfirst — not the point, boy did it yell and ran off never to return! I love this fantastic blow-gun. Thanks for making it. Yours truly."

This letter was signed by someone from Idaho.

Both cases are far removed from this area. But a Rochester boy, 13, recently bought one of these blowguns through the mail for under \$7. Along with it, comes a kit for making darts.

The boy, an avid conservationist and a budding hunter, bought the blowgun for hunting. But he did so without his parents' knowledge (they returned the weapon) and without realizing the legalities concerned.

The company says it patterned the blowguns after those used by the natives of Java, Borneo, South America, New Guinea, and the East Indies.

"For five years we have painstakingly and scientifically studied and tested the authentic native blowguns of the tropical forests and developed a new, improved modern version of the original native weapons, at low cost," company literature says.

And although the company says the Safari blowgun "is not illegal in any state and no permit is required" there nonetheless are problems.

1. A boy under 14 cannot hunt legally in New York State; 2. such a blowgun is illegal for hunting in this state (despite the brochure claim

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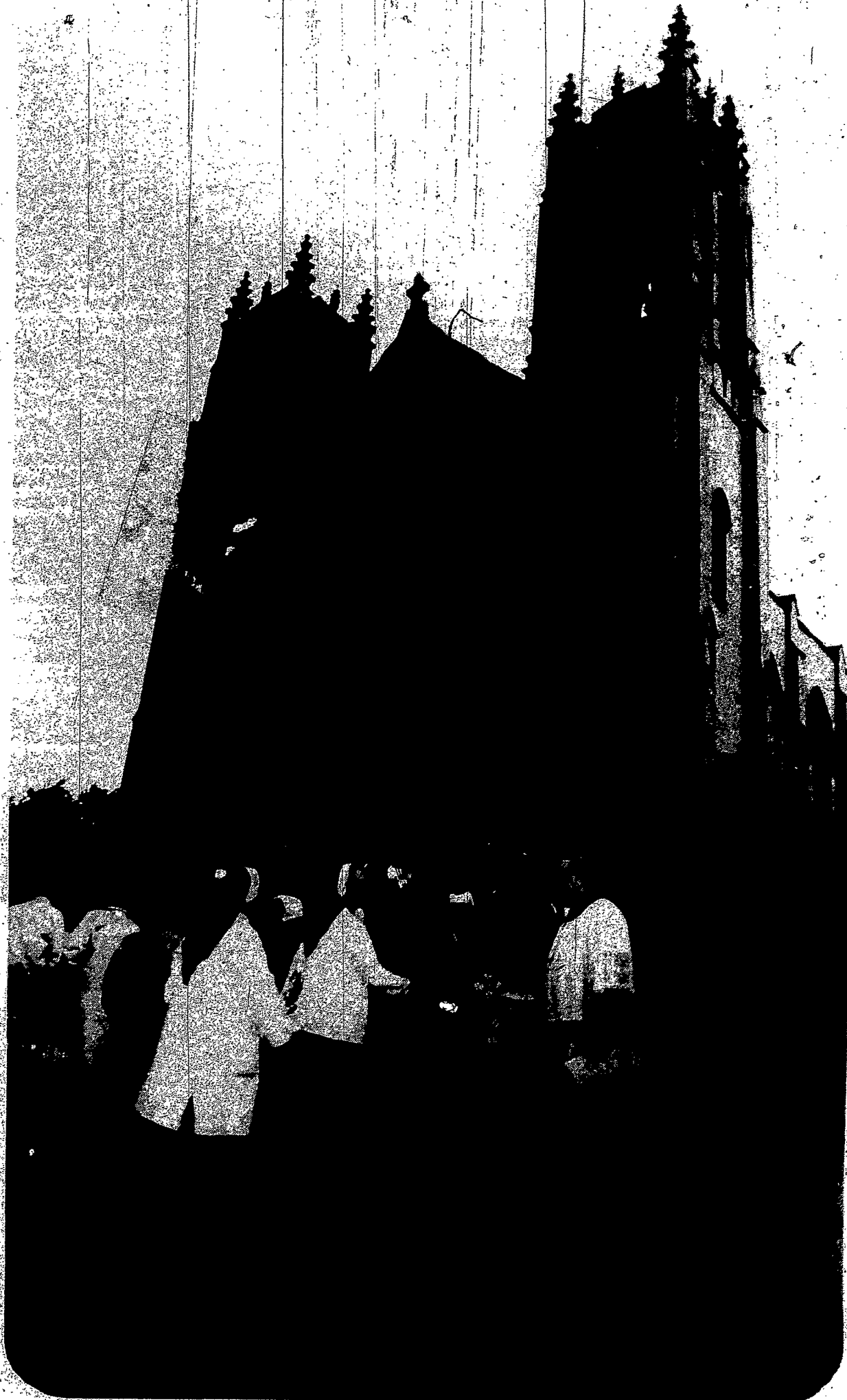


Photo by Dave Witbeck

## PILGRIMAGE!

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty, rector of the Cathedral, greet Sister Mary George Dash, SSJ, as pilgrims begin to arrive at Cathedral from St. Michael's last Friday. The pilgrimage, sponsored by the Northwest Region of the diocese, was the first in the preparatory year for Holy Year 1975. Intermittent downpours caused some minor changes in pilgrimage schedule but failed to dampen pilgrim spirit. Two more pages of photos of the historic event are in the centerfold.