Wiesenthal Center Acquires Anne Frank Letters For \$165,000

NEW YORK (JTA) - press. Kurlin was acan electrically charged bidding session at an auction recently, a "private contributor" to the Simon Wiesenthal Center paid \$165,000 to acquire the letters that Anne and Margot Frank wrote in English to two sisters in lowa. The sale was conducted at the Swann Galleries in Manhattan.

The rapid-fire bids on the only letters known to they became pen pals of have been written in the English by the Frank through their teacher's sisters were placed by arrangement. The Norman Kurlin, chairman of the Simon Wiesenthal Center New Leadership Society.

Kurlin, a young man dressed in a collegiate sweater, appeared as a somewhat mysterious bidder and smilingly refrained from identifying himself or the purchaser for several hours, to the consternation of most of the

companied by Rhonda Barad, director of the Eastern region of the Wiesenthal Center.

The bidding started at \$6,000. The Wiesenthal Center's final and winning bid was \$150,000. the sum which will be paid to the sellers, Betty and Ann Juanita Wagner, who were schoolgirls in Danville, lowa, in April 1940 when Frank sisters Galleries Swann

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receives 10 percent of the sale's income, or \$15,000.

interesting An revelation came from The New York Times, which learned that among the underbidders was comedic actress Whoopy Goldberg, who has spoken of Anne Frank in her one-woman stage performance.

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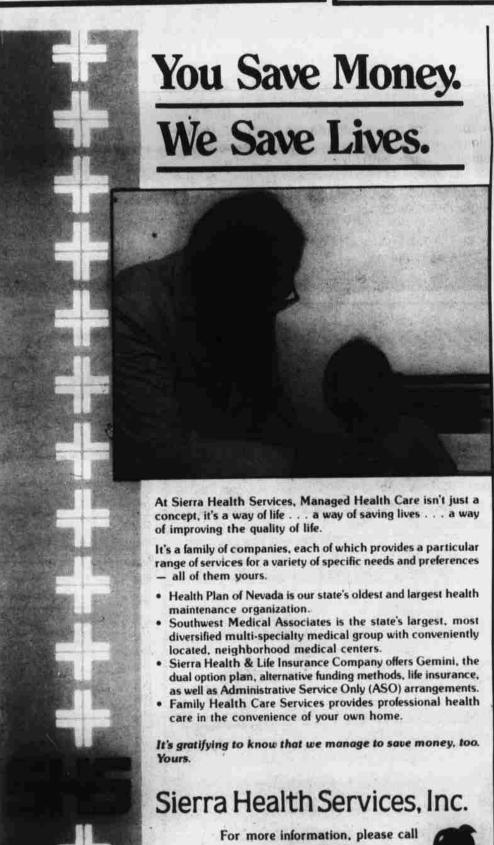
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