

TWO KILLED IN SWEDISH SHIP FIRE

TACOMA, Wash., Nov. 14 (AP)—An explosion and flash fire in the engine room killed two men and injured at least six others Sunday as the fast Swedish Motorship Los Angeles prepared to sail for Europe.

Fire Chief Charles J. Eisenbacher said a shortcircuit in a generator caused the explosion.

The body of one man, identified as a Mr. Olson, guaranty engineer for the builders, was taken from the engine room after the fire. A refrigeration engineer, Ralph De Florer, died at Tacoma General Hospital. Their home addresses were not available.

Ambulances and every available piece of Tacoma fire equipment rushed to Port Tacoma Pier No. 2 when the alarm came in at 10:32 a. m. Bluish smoke poured from the diesel-driven luxury ship, a motor craft of the Swedish Johnson line and ferried by her owners the fastest cargo vessel in the world with a speed of 23.6 knots.

DUAL PLANE CRASH KILLS SIX MEN

FAIRBANKS, Alaska, Nov. 14 (AP)—Six men were killed and 18 injured Saturday night in the flaming pileup of two planes at nearby Eielson Field. One was a B-50 bomber from Tucson, Ariz.

The Ladd Field information office said a C-47 transport plane careened off the runway on an attempted takeoff and crashed into the bomber, injured and dead included men from both planes. The report said, but names and addresses were withheld.

The injured were taken to hospitals at Eielson and Ladd fields. The transport was based at Elmendorf Field, Anchorage.

The B-50 was one of five which flew to Alaska Wednesday from Arizona on a training mission.

ENDURANCE FLIERS PLAN TO REPEAT

DALLAS, Nov. 13 (AP)—Tired and disappointed, the two Dallas fliers whose attempt at a new world record endurance flight ended in a night crash landing Thursday said today they had no plans at present to try again.

Fred Vinmont and Bert Simons and their single-engine Luscombe Silvaire had been in the air 529 hours when they were forced down by motor trouble, making a crash landing in a potato patch near Lovrensvik, Tex., in pitch dark. The record is 726 hours.

Vinmont suffered a broken nose in the crash, and both fliers were hurried from the plane which had been their home for 22 consecutive days and nights, since the start of the flight at Grand Prairie.

"We had a warning a few hours earlier that something was wrong with the engine, when it began making loud noises," Simons said Friday.

"We thought at first that the exhaust had burnt out. That would have been noisy, but wouldn't have affected the engine performance.

"We were flying at about 900 feet, under a heavy overcast, about 9 p. m., when all at once the motor cut out, without warning. There was nothing to do but to go down, quick," Simons said.

COMMUNISTS STILL ADVANCING IN CHINA

PEIPING, Nov. 14 (AP)—Insistent reports said today the government has abandoned Paoing and Chengteh, two provincial capitals standing guard north and south of this populous north China area.

Paoing, 90 miles southwest of Peiping, is the capital of Hopen province in which Peiping and Tientsin are located.

Chengteh, 100 miles to the northeast, is the capital of Jehol, the buffer province between Manchuria and North China proper.

Headquarters of Gen. Fu Tso-yi, commander in North China who is preparing feverishly for the battle of North China, professed not to have heard these reports. But they come from well-placed circles.

Pilots who flew over Paoing reported convoys were streaming northward toward Peiping. The Commander at Paoing was said to have left the city.

Gen. Sun Tu, governor of Jehol, and Gen. Shih Chueh, commander of the 13th army defending the province, were reported to have left Chengteh.

If the government has abandoned Chengteh and Paoing, the Communists are moving into position for a pincer attack on Peiping and Tientsin.

The new developments came as an atmosphere of gloom settled over Peiping. There's not much heart for the Civil War any more.

ROYAL HEIR

LONDON, Nov. 15 (AP)—Buckingham Palace flashed word to a jubilant Britain today that the condition of Princess Elizabeth and her new son "is satisfactory."

The baby weighed seven pounds, six ounces, at birth, an announcement said. Members of the court described him as "a lovely boy, a really splendid baby," and "a bonny lad."

Court circles said the wording of the doctors' bulletin, referring to "some" sleep, indicated the princess did not have an entirely restful night.

Last night's momentous news of the birth came in a terse announcement from the doctors attending the princess. Joyous thousands, who had waited for hours in the mild November evening, heard of the safe delivery nearly an hour after the birth.



MISS BETTY FULLBRIGHT, on the right above, was selected as Sweetheart of the ABC Ball last Friday night. She represented the Composite Regiment. GLORIA FEITLER, left, was chosen Air Force Sweetheart, while BETTY BALLERSTEDT, center, was selected as Sweetheart of the Band.

Just Like the Movies . . .

Cugat Furnishes Baptism Of Music for New Guion Stage

By WICK VAN KOWENHOVEN

Guion Hall's new stage had a baptism of music and laughter Saturday night, as Xavier Cugat and his rumba orchestra presented a one-hour concert before the All-College dance.

Sounding and looking exactly as he does on the technicolor movie screen, Cugat proved that he can do very nicely, even without Esther Williams—that is, when he has Norma with him. Norma being a dark-eyed dancer and singer who slightly resembles Carmen Miranda and took A&M by storm.

Cugat's bidding style was evident from the moment the curtains slid aside. "Brand new joint, eh?" he said, looking at the not-quite-finished proscenium arch. "Well, as Stiller says, we're building."

Norma was outstanding in vocalizations of "Hasta Luego" and "Cya Negra," as well as for dancing with a volunteer from the audience who rumbled successfully in cowboy boots and levis, somewhat to Cugat's amazement.

Jose Monero, Cuban singer, stopped the show with a brilliant performance of "Babalu." Other particularly effective numbers were "Mardi Gras," "Tomorrow (Manana)," "Jungle Rumba" which is to be played by Cugat and orchestra in a new moving picture; "Begin the Beguine," originally written by Cole Porter for Cugat during his engagement at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York; "Tico Tico," and "Linda Mujer."

But the biggest hit of all was the new dance step, which Cugat is promoting to replace the rumba and samba. "La Rapa," otherwise known as the Mexican shuffle is this new dance. In the version used Saturday night, Cugat interpolated the Aggie War Hymn to good effect.

Three couples were summoned from the audience to rumba in competition for four albums of Cugat's records. Winners were to have been selected by audience applause, but two couples wound up in a tie, and all were awarded prizes.

Guy Daniel, Town Hall manager, appeared before the performance to explain the changes that have been made in Guion Hall since last year. By way of example, he had the curtains half closed to show how much of a stage opening had been available before; then fully opened to show the new wide stage.

Reconstruction is not yet complete, and a formal opening will be held later in the year, he announced.

Selections on the new Wuritzer electronic organ were played by Leonard Perkins both before and after the Cugat performance.



REECE SHANNON has been cast as Ben Hubbard in the Aggie Player's first production, "The Little Foxes" which opens in the Assembly Hall Thursday night.

A&M's Dog of Distinction

Classy Colored Canine Cast As Chief Colleg Character

By DAVE COSLETT

Probably the laziest Aggie on record (and that is a distinction) is Spot, the long-eared Dalmatian who seems to consider himself the official commander of the A&M K-9 Corps.

His sudden rise to campus prominence through the "Letters to the Editor" column led to an investigation on the part of the Battalion's Bureau of Internal Relations. Tracing the record since his first appearance on the Campus last year, the bureau came up with several interesting revelations.

His origin, either genealogical or geographic, is one of the unknown factors in his life. One of the investigators, however, offered the hint that there was rather inconclusive evidence that he might be a descendant of Ninety Proof I, the canine who gained fame on the pages of Esquire a few years back through a series of Calvert ads concerning Dogs of Distinction.

Another member of the Bureau contradicted his partner by suggesting that Spot had undoubtedly come from south of the border.

He based his argument on the fact that the canine is such a constant visitor to Spanish classes on the Campus. Incidentally, he added, the dog even barks with a Spanish accent.

Spanish is not Spot's only interest, though. In fact there are very few chases worth sleeping in that he doesn't attend at one time or another.

In addition to attending classes, he takes a deep interest in the military activities of the college. A frequent visitor of the Guard Room, he is at home with even the highest brass. Few reviews are held in which he does not officiate as a self-appointed inspecting officer.

An expert in identifying bugle calls, the black and white canine invariably comes at a gallop at "Soupie." His fame as A-1 meal-hound is legendary and surpasses even that of the troops.

And Spot definitely "has the spirit." He makes every yell practice, and during the LSU-A&M pre game send-off, put several freshmen to shame with his vocal contributions to the occasion.

Rural Electric Conference Here On Friday

The second annual safety and training conference for Texas Rural Electric Cooperatives will be held on the campus November 19 and 20.

This was announced today by E. L. Williams, director of the Industrial Extension Service, who heads the continuing training program which the college makes available for Rural Electrification Authority and Lower Colorado River Authority line crews.

More than 200 managers, superintendents and foremen are expected to attend.

The IES now conducts a program which covers 72 groups in widely scattered areas with more than 1500 linemen enrolled in classes conducted by four field instructors. Increasing demands for training in this field will necessitate the employment of two additional instructors, Williams says. He explained that the field instructors each travel a regular itinerary calling on assigned groups, meeting with each one day a month, A&M runs the program through the cooperation of the State Board for Vocational Education, he added.

Featured on the conference program will be Dr. Howard W. Barlow, dean of engineering; Ralph A. C. Hill, labor relations and safety specialist, management division, REA, Washington; T. D. Hughes, field safety engineer, Texas Power and Light Co.; D. E. Lancaster, manager, Bowie-Cass Electric Cooperative; Momford F. Nozter, Southwest Bell Telephone Co.

Other speakers will include C. B. B'ide, instructor, Illinois REA job training and safety program; Sgt. J. B. Carlisle, safety division, Texas Department of Public Safety; and Russell Fitzpatrick, in charge of motor transport fleet supervisors' training, Industrial Extension Service.

Osie Cauble, manager of the Navarro County Electric Cooperative and chairman of the training and safety committee for Texas REA groups, will act as chairman of the meeting.



Above is maestro PHIL SPITALNY who will appear with his All-Girl Orchestra tonight in Guion Hall. Spitalny's appearance will be the first Town Hall performance of the 1948-49 season.

Beauties, Beckner, Bird Dogs Reign At ABC Ball Friday Night

By DAVE COSLETT

Emphasis was on the second letter of the alphabet last Friday night at the ABC Ball with beauties, Beckner, and bird-dogs lending their bit to the night's gaiety in that order.

Far ahead in the beauty department was Betty Fullbright, who kept up Dallas's reputation for producing beauties.

The musical department for the night was well handled by Denny Beckner and his Orchestra. Beckner, whose musical contributions to the occasion drew no complaint, added a little color to a few faces as well as to the Ball with his frequent routines and constant patter.

The San Antonio boy employed impersonations, insinuations, and even a few gymnastics to draw himself from beneath the looming shadow of Xavier Cugat, his Saturday night successor in Sbsa and, in most opinion, succeeded.

The bird-dogs arrived early for the occasion and stayed late. Working from their sideline base of operations, they gave their usual sterling performance in providing variety for the visiting females.

Decorations for the night consisted of two jeeps, a 30 caliber machine gun, a mortar or two and other military paraphernalia which were combined with a few "local-color" paintings and streamers.

High point of the night was the Beckner aggregation impersonation of nationally famous bands coupled with Denny's lament that just one song had sent all of those boys to the top. "We play all of those songs," he wistfully added.

Although it got off to a rather slow start, the dance held most of the crowd until the closing theme right before yell practice.

Geology Club Will Hear W. O. George

William O. George, geologist for the State Board of Water Engineers and the United States Geological Survey will be the guest speaker at a meeting of the Geology Club at 7:30 p. m. Tuesday in the Petroleum Engineering Lecture Room.

George has gained wide experience in oil geology in Venezuela and the United States, according to Herb Davis, vice-president of the club. He said that George has been associated with the USGS for several years, and has done extensive research on ground waters in Tunisia and the U. S.

The Geology Club picture for the Loughon will be taken at the meeting.

Show Will Feature Violinist Evelyn Kaye, Singer Joanne

By JOHN SINGLETARY

Phil Spitalny and his All-Girl Orchestra will officially begin Aggieiland's 1948-49 Town Hall season tonight at 8 when they perform in Guion Hall.

The 35 women who make up this unusual orchestra should provide Town Hall ticket-holders with an evening of good entertainment if they lived up to their advance billing.

One of the featured stars of the group is Evelyn Kaye who is known as "radio's first lady of the violin." Evelyn was one of the first members of the orchestra and in concert with the group. She practices some 4 to 6 hours daily on her Beane violin which was presented to her by the National Arts Society.

Another of the main attractions that Town Hall goes will discover tonight is Joanne Jennings, featured vocalist of the orchestra. Joanne first success came when she won a national high school vocal contest. Later she studied music at the Paul University and was discovered by Spitalny when singing over a small radio station in her native Wisconsin.

The alleged orchestra was assembled about ten years ago when the fiery Russian maestro Spitalny got the idea that women make music as good as any bunch of men.

Time has proven him to be right and now those who said he was losing his mind when he first announced his scheme concede that it is an excellent orchestra.

Spitalny, an outstanding pianist and clarinetist, came to this country in his early twenties. He first played with the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra, but after a time he became so enthusiastic about the folk songs of his adopted country that he began an exhaustive study of them.

The result is that Spitalny has taken many forgotten American folk songs, rearranged them and raised them to the level of great music.

He was discovered in Europe by Enrico Caruso, Metropolitan Opera star of 25 years ago. Caruso heard Cugat play the violin and brought him back to the United States for a series of concerts.

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The Intramural Softball Champions have gone on record as the first campus organization to endorse "SPOT" as the college mascot. Pictured left to right in the back row are P. L. GEISTMAN, BRUCE PLACE, MIKE PENNELL, DAVID BOWERS, CHARLES HENDRICKS, and DICK WORNAT. In the front row are TEX FIELDS, JIM SULLIVAN, "ROCKY" STONE, DAVE COLEBER, HARRY L. GARRETSON, and G. C. MOLTEN. Posing in front of the team is "SPOT", who at present is leading contender for the mascot title.