

Truck blowup suits moved to Laredo

United Press International
LAREDO — Thirty-two civil suits seeking millions of dollars in damages as the result of an April 29, 1975, butane truck explosion at Eagle Pass have been transferred to 111th District Court in Webb County.

The suits ask for damages in the deaths of 11 persons and injuries to several others when the butane truck exploded and its tank rocketed into a mobile home park on the outskirts of Eagle Pass.

Defendants include Surtigas, S.A., a Mexican company which owned the truck; Lubbock Manufacturing Co., Fontaine Truck Equipment Company and the estate of Jesus Verdugo, driver of the truck who was killed in the blast.

The court transferred the cases to Laredo on pleas of privilege, which allow the suits to be tried in a defendant's home county. It also se-

vered Laredo Diesel, Inc. and Modern Machine Shops, Inc., also of Laredo, as defendants.

Plaintiffs in the suit live in Eagle Pass, neighboring Piedras Negras, Mexico, Del Rio, Uvalde, San Antonio and various parts of Mexico.

The U.S. Government also has joined as a plaintiff, suing for damages to automobiles, mobile homes and other property belonging to the Department of Immigration and Naturalization.

Other cases connected with the explosion will be tried at Del Rio and Dallas on pleas of privilege from other defendants.

The plaintiffs contend the truck's fifth wheel was defective, touching off the explosion. They allege that Modern Machine Shop installed the fifth wheel for Laredo Diesel, Inc., which owned the truck before Surtigas, S.A., purchased it.

Miller to go to man/sea conference

The "Fourth Student Conference on Marine Affairs" will feature Dr. Jarvis Miller, president of Texas A&M University, and will be held in Corpus Christi, Sunday through Wednesday of next week.

Student delegates from 45 colleges and universities meet with speakers and panelists from government, industry and educational institutions during the three-day program on "Living With the Sea."

The conference is sponsored by Texas A&M's Center for Marine Resources with support from the Sea Grant College Program and the Link Foundation.

Panelists from government, industry and academia will give their views on a spectrum of marine-related subjects including fisheries, recreation, science and the future of man in the sea.

The panelists include Dr. Michael Heeb, National Sea Grant Advisory Board; Dr. T. Walker Lloyd, oceanographic consultant for Rolex Corp.; Dr. Richard Heimbach, chief of hyperbaric medicine at Brooks Air Force Base School of Aerospace Medicine; Morgan Well, NOAA; Dr. Sylvia Earle, California Academy of Science; and David Burney, attorney for the U.S. Tuna Foundation.

Baby spiders 'balloon'

United Press International
BERKELEY, Calif. — Millions of baby spiders went "ballooning" over the San Francisco Bay Area Tuesday, filling the sky with loose-knit cobwebs.

Blobs of silky filament drifted together and floated to earth from as high as 2,000 feet as a result of migrating spiders.

Law enforcement authorities said troublesome, sticky cobweb strands were reported clinging to windows, buildings and car windshields. Airline pilots also reported streamers.

"I don't mind flying through a spider web," quipped one pilot after landing. "Just keep me away from

the spider who made it." Deane P. Furman, a University of California entomologist, said spiders are born in great numbers and the migration is nature's way of keeping them from being destroyed by cannibalism.

"The spiders will climb to the topmost part of any vegetation, stick their back ends in the air and spin silk from their spinnerettes," he said. "The silk gets carried skyward by the wind. When buoyancy exceeds the weight of the spider, it is borne aloft."

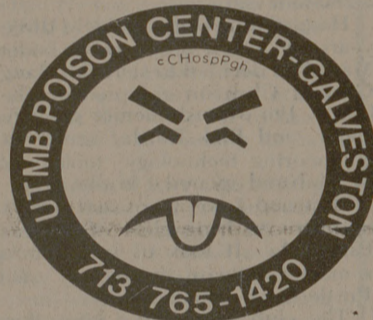
He said some migrating spiders have been found in ship riggings as far as 200 miles from land.

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Campus Names

Former director receives award

Dr. Richard E. Wainerdi, formerly of Texas A&M University, has been awarded the 1977 Hevsey Medal, which is given once a year in recognition of exceptional contributions in radioanalytical chemistry.

The award was formally presented to Wainerdi Wednesday at the International Conference on Nuclear Methods in Environmental and Energy Research at the University of Missouri.

Wainerdi resigned from the University Aug. 31 to accept a position as senior vice president for 3D/International in Houston. He had been a member of the faculty and staff since 1957 and most recently served as associate vice president for academic affairs and director of the Center for Energy and Mineral Resources.

Ross Volunteers induct 72 juniors

Texas A&M's Ross Volunteers induct 72 juniors Tuesday into the ranks of the honor military unit, which will bring the special company of the Corps of Cadets

to 144 members, including seniors.

Special guests at the RV initiation banquet are expected to be President and Mrs. Jarvis Miller, and Mrs. Margaret Rudder and Mrs. Elizabeth Cook.

Air Force Col. Glenn A. Jones, 1961 Texas A&M graduate and commanding officer of a flying unit at Davis-Monthan AFB, near Tucson, Ariz., will be the featured speaker. As a Texas A&M undergraduate, he commanded the Fish Drill Team and Ross Volunteers. Jones majored in geophysics and was day student liaison officer on the Corps staff.

Bill Rademacher, 1977-78 commander of the Ross Volunteers, will induct the new members and administer the oath. Also on the program are Robert Stone, company executive officer; David Pitzer, administrative officer; and Doug Fogle, first sergeant.

The company was founded in 1887 as the Scott Rifles, in honor of the late Col. M. T. Scott, Texas A&M business manager. The company later assumed the name of Gen. Lawrence Sullivan Ross, former governor, Indian fighter, Texas Ranger, commanding officer of the Texas Brigade of the Confederacy and Texas A&M president during 1891-98.

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TIME: Oct. 10-14 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

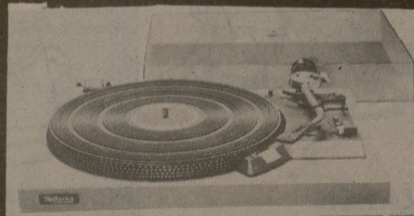
PLACE: Memorial Student Center Main Concourse

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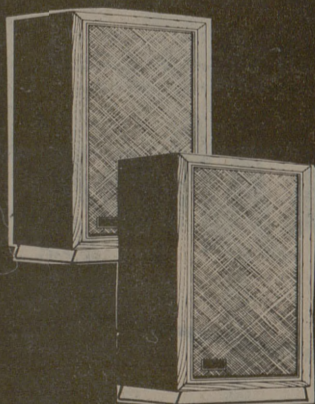
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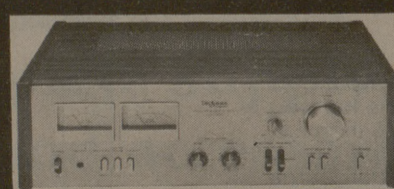
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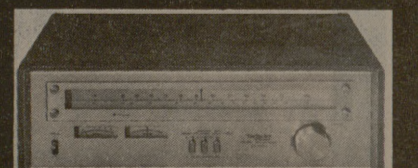
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