

THE BATTALION

Vol. 71 No. 167
8 Pages

Tuesday, June 27, 1978
College Station, Texas

News Dept. 845-2611
Business Dept. 845-2611

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Engineers working to repair tanker

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — A team of engineers is working today to repair damage done to a 784-foot tanker by a smoky engine room fire that forced 35 crewmen overboard into life boats for several hours.

The Liberian-registered tanker M.T. Amoco Texas City was in the Gulf of Mexico 210 miles southwest of New Orleans when the fire broke out Monday. No injuries were reported and damage was limited to the engine room.

"We sent two cutters, but they never got to the destination because they weren't needed," a Coast Guard spokesman said. "Apparently the fire burned itself out."

The ship's captain originally said he

would not need help in fighting the blaze, but requested Coast Guard aid about an hour later and ordered his men to abandon ship.

The crew of the Amoco Texas City spent several hours in life boats while the fire burned, but boarded the tanker again late Monday when the smoke and heat cleared.

Weather in the area was good, with partly cloudy skies and temperatures near 90 as the men bobbed in the water.

The Amoco Texas City is a "middleweight tanker" about half the size of "super-tankers," which have a capacity of 150,000 deadweight tons. The tanker had unloaded a shipment of cargo fuel at Lake Charles, La., Sunday and was en

route to Aruba in the Caribbean Sea when the fire broke out.

Two Coast Guard airplanes and two helicopters flew over the ship as it sat in the water. An Italian bulk carrier, Nai Mey, and the Navy Supply Ship Sealift Pacific were also in the area.

Carl Meyerdirk, an Amoco spokesman in Chicago, said the 8-year-old ship never had been involved in a serious accident before.

Both Meyerdirk and Coast Guard officials said cause of the fire was unknown, but apparently the ship's automatic foam fire fighting equipment failed to function.

"They didn't have any foam," said Bob Baeten, a Coast Guard spokesman. "Their system (was inoperative)."

City council expected to approve new budget

The College Station City Council will complete and vote on adoption of the city's budget for the 1978-79 fiscal year in a special meeting, tonight at 7 o'clock.

The budget calls for a 4 cent tax increase and an 11 percent increase in expenditures. City officials expect it to be approved with only minor changes, City Manager North Bardell said.

One major consideration the council will deal with tonight is funding for special

services. The council will decide which services will receive city funds in the coming year.

Representatives of the city service organizations made their budget requests at Thursday's public hearing. These requests include: the Retired Senior Citizens Volunteer Program (RSVP), for \$2000; the Arts Council of Brazos Valley, for \$8200; the Brazos Valley Mental Health-Mental Retardation Center, for \$9000; the

Museum of Natural History, for \$3500, and the Brazos Valley Senior Citizens Association, for \$10,000.

The budget, which was presented to the council June 20, has been revised slightly.

"The changes were made, for the most part, to correct errors and were mainly cosmetic," Bardell said.

Barring any unexpected occurrences, the city of College Station will have an approved 1978-79 budget tonight.

Hispanic director attacks West Texas law officers

United Press International
PLAINVIEW — The weekend shooting death of an unarmed Mexican-American man by a reserve deputy emphasizes the problems with West Texas law officials, says the director of Texas' largest Hispanic organization.

Ruben Bonilla, director of the League of United Latin American Citizens, Monday urged the state attorney general's office to investigate the death of Tim Rosales, 25, of Hale Center, Texas. Rosales was shot in the head Sunday while allegedly scuffling with Deputy Charles Cypert, 45, of Plainview, who was investigating a drunken disturbance call.

"With this one, there have been six killings (of Mexican-Americans in the custody of authorities) that are documented in West Texas alone, which is most frightening," Bonilla said.

"This man being shot in the head to me already is reason to suspect — whether it's accidental or not — and is further evi-

dence that the standards set for law enforcement officials in West Texas is low and shoddy," he said.

Hale County Sheriff Charles Tue said Cypert, a volunteer officer, was hospitalized for observation of a heart condition, but was released Monday. He has been relieved of duties pending an investigation by Texas Rangers.

An autopsy would help determine the point of entry of the head wound, said Bonilla, because "a struggle over a gun usually results in a wound in the abdominal region or the leg."

Tony Reyes, district director of LULAC, told a Lubbock news conference of LULAC's "shock and outrage" at the "repetitive nature of such atrocities in Texas" and said Rosales' was "the sixth killing in the last 13 months of a Mexican-American at the hands of so-called west Texas law enforcement officials."

LULAC officials said the deaths started

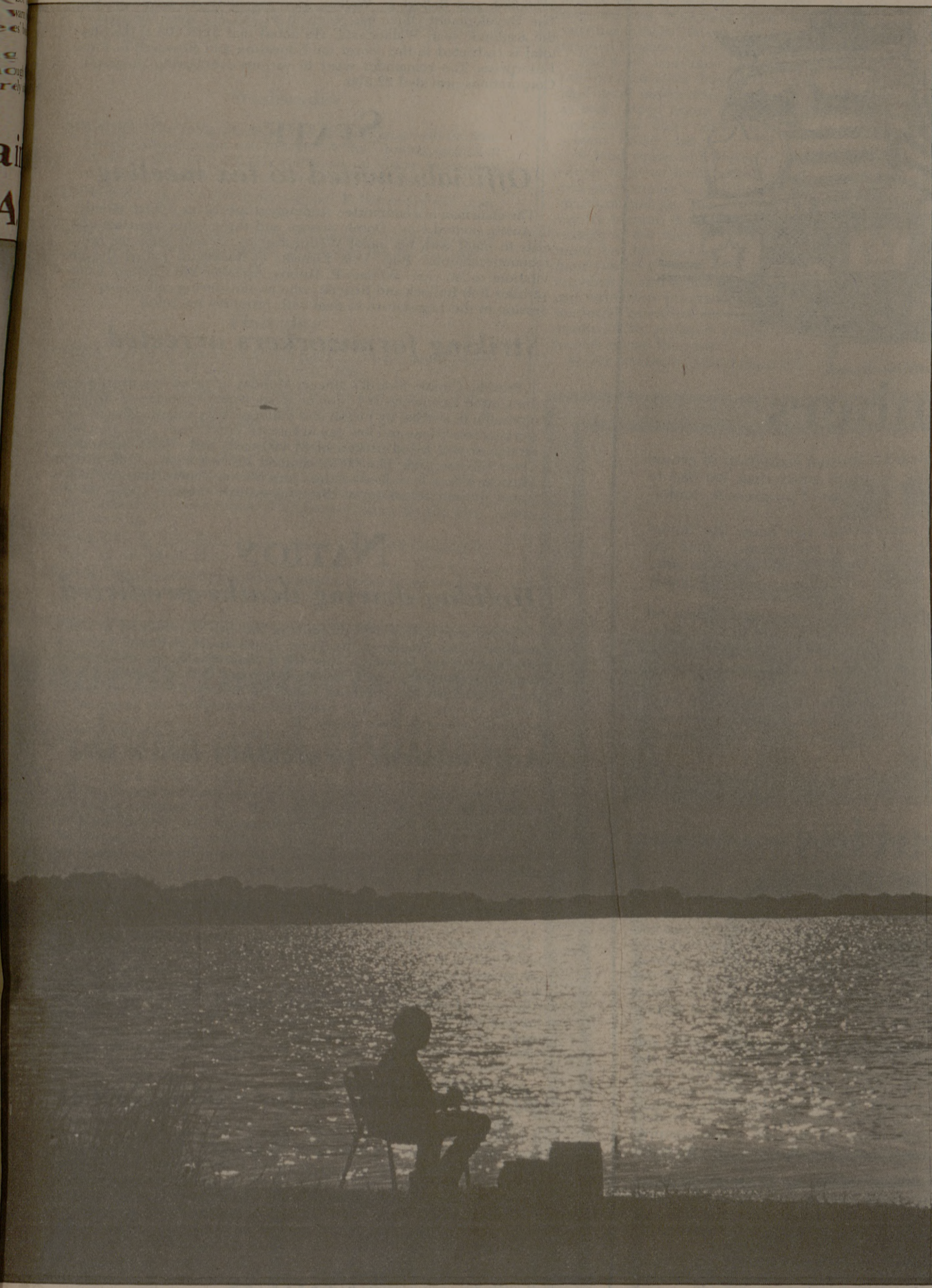
in May 1977 with the slaying in Sierra Blanca of Juan de los Zuniga and included the widely publicized case of Larry Ortega Lozana, who died Jan. 22 in the Ector County jail.

Attorney General John Hill was urged by LULAC to send a team of investigators to Hale County to look into the shooting. Hill's "prompt response to the most recent erosion of police-community relations will have a positive effect in maintaining tranquility in the Mexican-American communities of Texas," said Bonilla.

Hill's office has not entered the case but there is a possibility it might, a spokesman for the attorney general said.

"It's going to cause a lot of problems," said Gilbert Herrera, West Texas prime minister of the Brown Berets.

Herrera said the Mexican-American organization had vowed it would not wait for a Justice Department investigation if there was another death.



Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

Sun, wind and water

Can there be a better way to spend a late afternoon than with fishing rod in hand beside a shining lake? Bruce Lyon of College Station was doing just that at Bryan's Utility Lake. The lake, 5½ miles north of

Hwy. 21 on Farm Road 1687, has been receiving more and more local visitors in recent months because of low water conditions which have hampered water sports on Lake Somerville.

Consumers protest preferential rates given to large volume electricity users

United Press International
AUSTIN — Consumers from five Texas cities converged on a Public Utility Commission hearing, chanting and demanding a change in the method used to determine utility rates.

"Two, four, six, eight, we want lifeline, we won't wait," the demonstrators

shouted Monday as they filed into the hearing room.

An estimated 200 members of the Texas chapter of Association for Community Reform Now — representing Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio and Marshall — jammed the hearing room to support the "lifeline" rates, which would provide a

small amount of electricity at low rates to each consumer.

"We're not here looking for welfare. We just want fair rates," said ACORN spokeswoman Lena Hodge of Dallas. "We want electric rate reform, so that everyone will pay their fair share. The present rates put the heaviest burden on us, the small resi-

dential users, and on small business users, who also have the deck stacked against them."

The media and representatives of utilities and industry have misrepresented the lifeline system, said Angela Moore of Houston.

The demonstrators urged Texas rate regulators to prohibit price discounts to large volume electricity users such as industries and commercial businesses.

"We are sick and tired of seeing preferential rates given to large electric users, while the people who can least afford it pay the highest per-unit rates," Ms. Moore said. "Not only is it unfair, but it is neither sound conservation nor sound economics."

"Although lifeline would help low and moderate income people economically, it is not a welfare proposal," she said.

The ACORN proposal calls for eliminating service charges and establishing inverted rates for electricity use, with lowest unit costs charged for least usage and higher rates charged for increasing volumes of power consumed.

"The customer charge is like a grocery store charging an entrance fee to all customers, and has little basis in economic theory," said Pearl Ford of Houston. "It is a convenient way for the utility companies to gouge a little extra money out of small users under the guise of cost of service."

Mrs. Ford said the current practice of allowing discounts for large volumes of electricity usage is designed to promote energy consumption rather than conservation.

"Offering discounts for large volume users is a poor policy when we consider the limits of our energy resources, and the increasing costs of generating electricity," Eletha Swift of Fort Worth said.

Customers flock to female-operated gas station for helpful service, tips

United Press International
LINCOLN, Neb. — Guys who know the gas station business say it's financial suicide to buy a station on a street with no traffic. But four Nebraska women thought they could pump life into a service station anywhere if they set their mind to it.

Kathy Allen, 25, knew how to make repairs on her MG. Deb Stephen, 22, figured she had mechanical ability. Candice Robacker, 25, and Susan Bartow, 28, were hired to help out.

On April 1, 1977, the Amazon Amoco gas station quietly opened for business in Lincoln.

Nobody drove by it much and nobody wanted to run it, Ms. Allen said. "A string of men lost money there for the last 20 years."

A year later, the station has cars backed up three deep, a phone ringing off the hook and customers as loyal as those women in TV ads are to their favorite detergent.

Men apparently like the station

because they can ask dumb questions and learn about cars without losing face.

Customer Brad Thiel, 27, said "most mechanics assume men know, so I like coming in here. They'll explain to me, like in the last two weeks I've learned a hell of a lot about that car. Like where the thermostat is. It's not leaking any more."

Women patronize the station because they aren't treated like dumb bunnies.

"The first day I drove in here I learned to check my oil, what brand to put in, and how to do it myself," a woman customer said.

The station charges top rates for gas but is generous with time and tips on car repair.

"I spent six hours helping this woman, 'til 1 a.m. the other night," said Ms. Allen, station manager. "If it takes her three hours to adjust her valves, I will stand there and help for three hours."

Women may be known for their patience, but not for fixing cars. Ms. Robacker, the station's only mechanic, said some customers never give a woman mechanic a chance.

"You have a mechanic here? When will he be in?" they ask.

"Well, she'll be in in an hour."

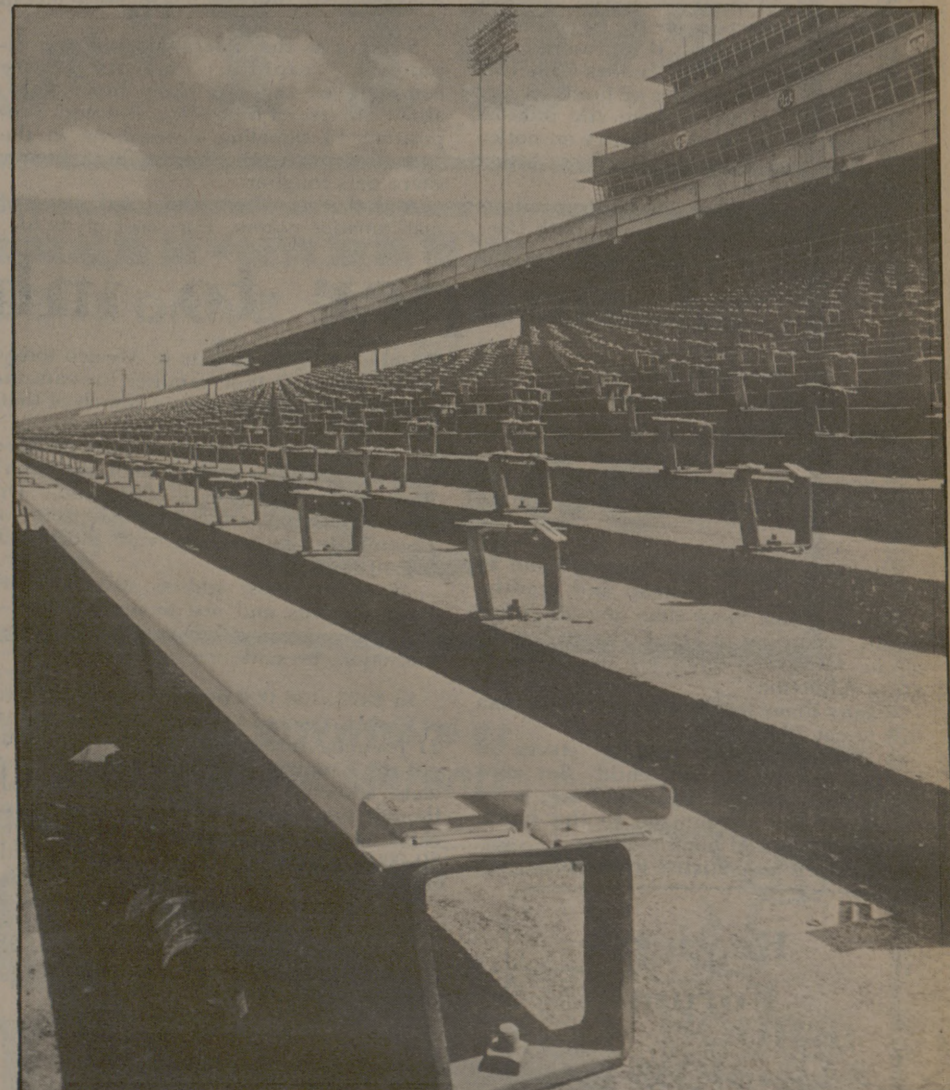
"Oh, she will."

And then they don't come back, she said.

The owner of Nebraska's only female-run station, Dick Salem, said the women make mistakes, but he is pleased they are turning a profit.

One woman customer who declined to give her name said the girls have shock value going for them.

"Men find it exciting to see a woman scramble under their car, see she knows how to adjust the valves or put it on a jack and accurately diagnose it," she said. "Plus it's neat to see she doesn't give a damn her hands are all greasy and black."



Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley.

Kyle Field seating refurbished

One of the first new aluminum benches was installed Monday at Kyle Field. The installation of the remainder of the benches will be completed in plenty of time before the fall football season begins.