

Five killed Gas line explodes in Houston trailer court

United Press International
BROOKSIDE VILLAGE — Firefighters Tuesday said some of the five persons killed in an inferno caused by the explosion of a buried natural gas pipeline never escaped their beds and probably died instantly in their trailer homes.

Survivors said they thought the year which shattered their sleep around 3 a.m. was an earthquake, hurricane or airplane crash. One fire chief said the blazing scene fulfilled his image of hell.

Federal safety investigators were dispatched from nearby Houston to try to determine why the underground, 30-inch pipeline exploded, sending a giant fireball rolling through the Royal Mobile Trailer Court, leaving a crater 15 feet wide.

In addition to the five unidentified fatalities, more than 40 persons — many fleeing in burning sleepwear — suffered injuries which required hospital treatment.

"It looked like hell to me," said Pearland Fire Chief, Lee Reagan. "It would be my imagination of what hell would look like. I think I'm gonna be a little bit better Christian 'cause I sure don't want to go there."

The more seriously burned were airlifted to Houston hospitals by U.S. Coast Guard helicopters. Several were reported in critical condition.

"I thought it was a hurricane at first, the noise was so loud," said trailer resident Eugene Dolan, 29. "The doors on my trailer were beginning to melt as we ran out. I fear we lost everything."

Across a pasture from the trailer park, Mr. and Mrs. G.C. Atkins watched the flames reach into the night sky.

"The whole house was shaking and rumbling," she said. "When I

came in the kitchen, everything was red. Everything as was bright as sunlight. There were people coming from everywhere."

Atkins said he heard "a big hiss and then the explosion."

"The flames went up 200-300 feet in the air. I saw 15 or so people running right off," he said. "That heat was so hot I couldn't get in down there (at the trailer park). I started walking down the road. It lit up like daylight. It was so damn hot it was pitiful."

A man with two small children raced past him, he said, and he noticed all three had blistered backs.

"They were in shock. It was pretty rough. I've seen a lot of kids burned. The fire chief had an asbestos fire suit and he couldn't take it (the heat)."

Firefighters said the blast crater looked like a plowed field and a part of the trailer park had been reduced to white ashes. The blast destroyed more than 20 cars and leveled everything within 100 yards.

"We were the first ones in," said David Armelli, a volunteer firefighter from Brazoria County. "I have seen pipeline explosions before, but not where people get killed. It really is a tragedy to lose lives like this."

Armelli said the explosion was so intense, some victims died instantly.

The pilot of the plane bringing the Houston Oilers back from Monday night's game at Pittsburgh, said flames were visible 200 miles from Houston Intercontinental Airport.

Two valves on the pipeline were capped and the fires were extinguished at 5:45 a.m. An employee of United Texas Gas Pipeline Co., said

there was no way of determining the cause of the explosion.

"These things can happen any number of ways. It may have been a rock opened up the thing and friction may have set it off."

The Elegance of Lingerie For You

The Soft Touch
707 TEXAS
846-1972

If you have money to invest . . .

Optional Retirement Plan
Tax Sheltered Annuity
Deferred Compensation
Financial Planning

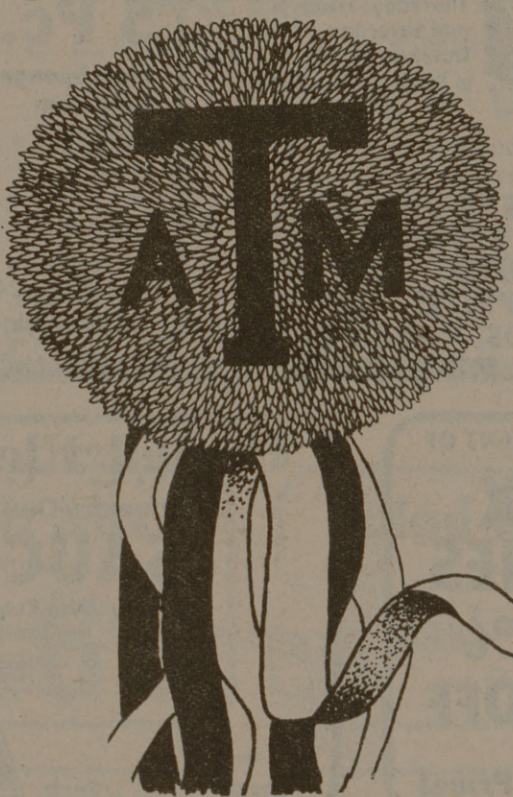
Call Hays Glover
GUGGENHEIM GLOVER, ASSOCIATES
779-5555

"Flowers for All Occasions"

Petal Patch
Texas 702 Phase II 713/846 071



Hallmark



APO MUMS

MADE BY PROFESSIONALS

Five styles to choose from.
Free campus delivery
Saturday morning.

On sale before each home football game in the MSC, dorms, Commons & Sbis. Tues. thru Thurs. and Friday in the MSC ONLY.

A Project of Alpha Phi Omega - Jim Connor '76

LIMITED SUPPLY OF MUMS WILL BE SOLD ON SATURDAY MORNING IN MSC.

Blasts not new to Houston area

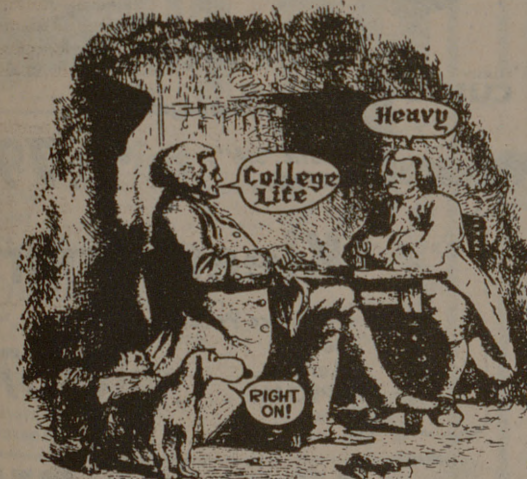
United Press International
A natural gas pipeline explosion Tuesday that killed at least five and injured more than 40 others at suburban Brookside Village was the second residential pipeline accident locally in the last nine years.

A similar pipeline explosion in September 1969 destroyed 15 homes and injured 10 people in the Greenridge North subdivision six miles north of Houston.

In other incidents involving lines that underlace Houston, 2,000 persons were evacuated from Greenridge North in 1977 after a liquid in a ditch caught fire and seven persons were hurt in a pipe blast at Shell's Deer Park refinery.

There have been other, smaller incidents, such as a blast that destroyed a cafe last November. Rupture of a gas line near the cafe was blamed on road crews working nearby.

campus crusade for christ presents



COLLEGE LIFE
You'll never REALLY know till you've been there.

WITH PAUL CARTER
TOPIC: THE GOOD AG
WHEN? OCT 26 THURS 7:00
145 MSC

Aggieland Flower & Gift Shop

Give her the Keepsake Mum

If she's special — be individual and let Aggieland Flowers design your mum just for her. Select a special mum of velvet, colligate or satin trim — add roses, carnations or button poms.

Individual designing creates a better mum for you.

CALL
846-5825
Plants — Hallmark Cards
Posters — Candles — Roses & Other Fresh Flowers

Open 8-5:30 **846-5825**
209 University Dr. (Next to Campus Theatre) 846-5825

We Wire Flowers Worldwide

A SPECIAL OFFER

You'll receive everything you need to build a sturdy, good-looking Peach Crate. This high quality, natural white pine crate is easy to assemble, ready in minutes.

SAVING YOUR ALBUMS SAVES YOU MONEY

They've been in use for years - light-weight, compact wooden crates. Now your record collection can be protected from warping, chipping, and scratching.



THE ORIGINAL Peaches CRATE KIT

It's Peaches
RECORDS & TAPES

You Get It Fresher

VARIETY OF USES

Handy and versatile, the Peach Crate fits anywhere and can be used as a bookshelf, a plant holder, a coffee table, or a TV stand. The natural wood fits any interior.

OVER 300,000 SOLD

For the first time, this great crate is offered all over the United States. Only \$5.95 for a complete kit or a super value of 3 for \$15.50 (you save \$2.35).



MAIL TODAY!!!

Mail To:
PEACHES CATALOG SALES
P.O. Box 78670 Dept. 140
Los Angeles, CA 90016

Includes postage and handling.

Rush my order of:

one Peaches Crate for \$5.95/
including postage and handling

three Peaches Crates for \$15.50/
including postage and handling
(I save \$2.35)

Mail To:
PEACHES CATALOG SALES
P.O. Box 78670 Dept. 140
Los Angeles, CA 90016

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check or Money Order payable to Peaches Catalog Sales only. No credit cards.