

Silkwood lawyers say firm didn't tell cancer risk

United Press International
OKLAHOMA CITY — Although Kerr-McGee Corp. contends it devoted considerable effort to designing, building and staffing its nuclear plant, attorneys for the Karen Silkwood estate say the bottom line is that the company failed to tell workers of cancer risks in handling radioactive plutonium.

Both present and former top officials from the company, which currently is defendant in an \$11.5 mil-

lion negligence suit filed by Silkwood's survivors, have testified in federal court the firm built a well-equipped facility.

Testimony has been detailed on the planning that went into the uranium and plutonium fuel processing facilities, which opened in the late 1960s and shut down in 1975.

But attorneys for the Silkwood family have insisted throughout the past week of the trial that the bottom line in the case is that Kerr-McGee

failed to communicate to workers the cancer risks involved in handling radioactive substances.

Former production line workers testified earlier in the 6-week-old trial they never were told radiation exposure could induce cancer.

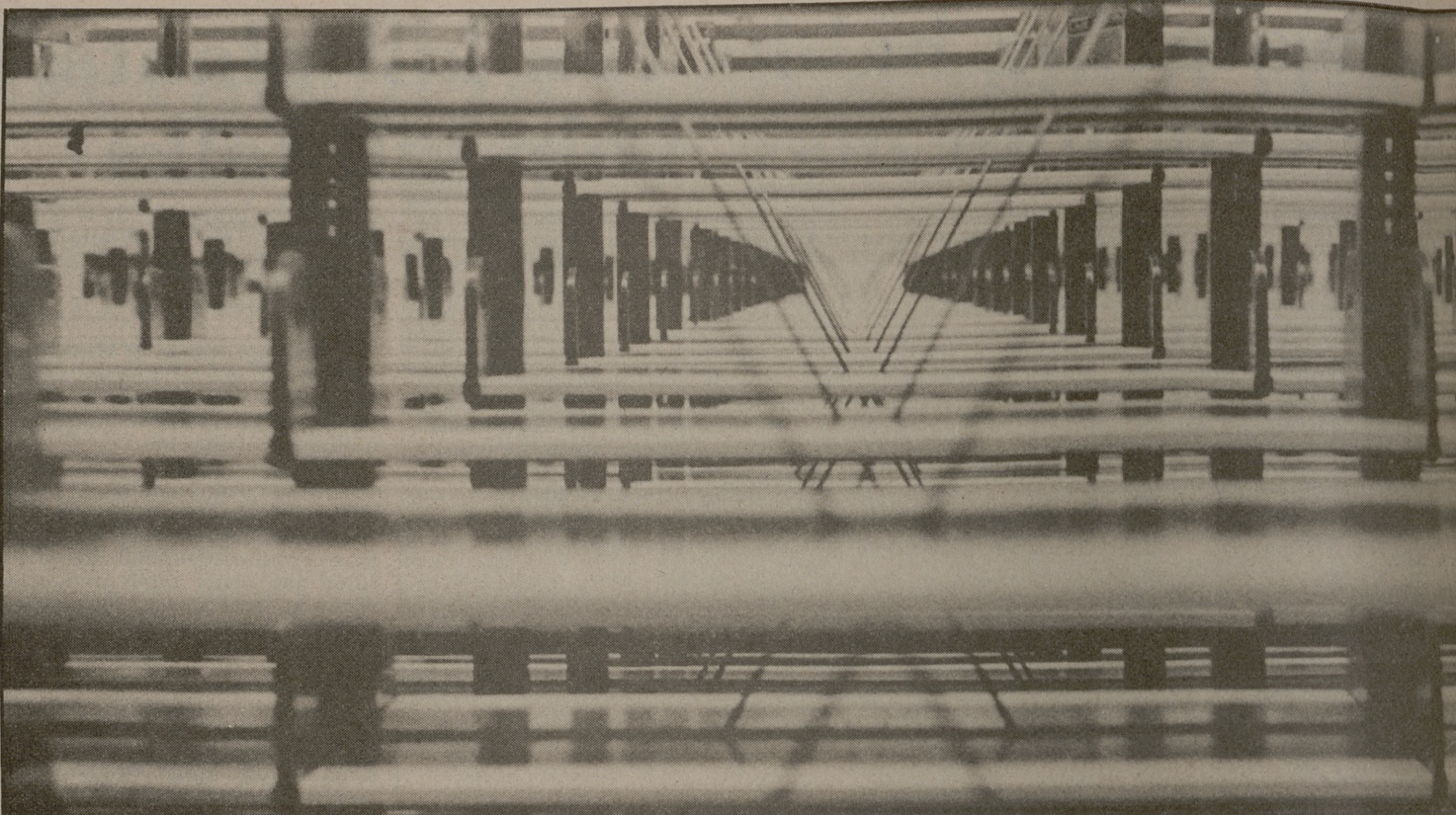
Silkwood herself, who worked at the Kerr-McGee plant from 1972 until she died in 1974, was concerned that employees were put to work without adequate training and warnings.

The 28-year-old woman suffered a severe case of radioactive contamination a week before she died in a traffic accident Nov. 13, 1974. Expert witnesses have testified in the trial that Silkwood had enough radioactivity in her body to have "cancer on the spot."

Her survivors contend in the lawsuit that Kerr-McGee's negligence caused her contamination. The corporation alleges she contaminated herself either purposely or through her own negligence.

Kerr-McGee put three of its management personnel on the stand during the week, all of whom participated in the planning and design of the plant.

Allen Valentine, who set up Kerr-McGee's health safety program, said the safety manual he wrote adequately described plutonium's dangers.



Attack of killer bookworms?

These shelves on the fourth floor of the library addition are waiting to be filled with books from the old Sterling C. Evans building. The library move won't be finished, though, until more shelving equipment arrives. Library hours until the end

of the semester are Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to midnight; Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. to midnight.

Battalion photo by Mary Beau

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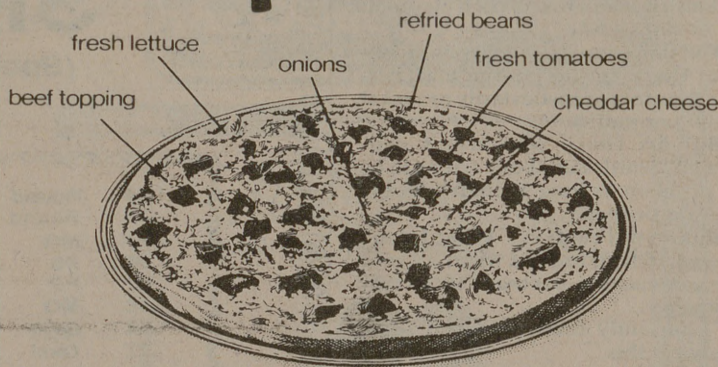
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67th anniversary Sunday

Titanic buffs mark traged

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — Some 175 ocean-liner buffs, survivors and one "reincarnated victim" commemorated the 67th anniversary of the Titanic's sinking and paid homage to her glory at a \$29.50 dinner and disco dance.

Last week's "Titanic Tonight" was billed as a "remembrance" of the April 15, 1912, disaster in which 1,517 people died.

For under \$30, you could eat a meal "similar" to the one served first-class passengers the final night of the Titanic's maiden voyage, meet three survivors and one "reincarnated victim" of the disaster and boogie to "Disco Translantic."

"It was a beautiful ship and its sinking marked the close of an era when those splendid queens of the ocean graced the Atlantic," said Charles Sachs, a self-proclaimed "Titanic fanatic" and president of the Los Angeles-based Oceanic Navigation Research Society.

Guests ranged from a 10-year-old girl who knew more about the Titanic than she did about dolls, to 94-year-old Edwina "Winnie" MacKenzie, the oldest living survivor of

the disaster. "There was so much sadness," she said, recalling the cold night she spent 67 years ago waiting to be rescued from a lifeboat. "I was among a group of newlyweds, and it was very sad to hear them say, 'Oh, you go, and I'll be with you later.' It was a very, very sad experience."

During the "Titanic Tonight" celebration, she and two other survivors cut an enormous cake decorated with 67 candles surrounding a model of the Titanic striking an edible iceberg.

Now a resident of Hermosa Beach, Calif., she refuses to watch movies depicting the disaster because "they don't show how sad it was," but admits to enjoying the dinners. "I enjoy everything," she said. "I'm so glad I'm living. Aren't you?"

Doris Williams, of Burbank, California, always wondered why she feared deep, cold water and felt sad when she heard the hymn "Nearer My God to Thee."

A friend suggested psychic regression through which the psychiatric nurse discovered the reason for her fears. She said that in 1912 she was

Steven W. Blackwell, who

down with the Titanic. "I felt like I was about 10 standing on the deck that night very unemotional," William Blackwell, said. "There were people crying and looking to I could help them. I guess because I was so calm."

Williams said she went to the Burbank library after the Titanic passenger list contained name Steven Blackwell.

UCLA Professor D.K. Williams who has been collecting songs the Titanic for 15 years, said a hymn "Aughton" was probably band's final selection.

But the chairman of UCLA folklore and mythology program survivors somehow got the band's last song confused.

"The point is that people believe that the tune was 'Nearer My God to Thee,' and indeed it should be," he continued. "People expected the band to play this in the face of calamity."

Disco Translantic, however, to Donna Summer.

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Court asks for care for Weismuller

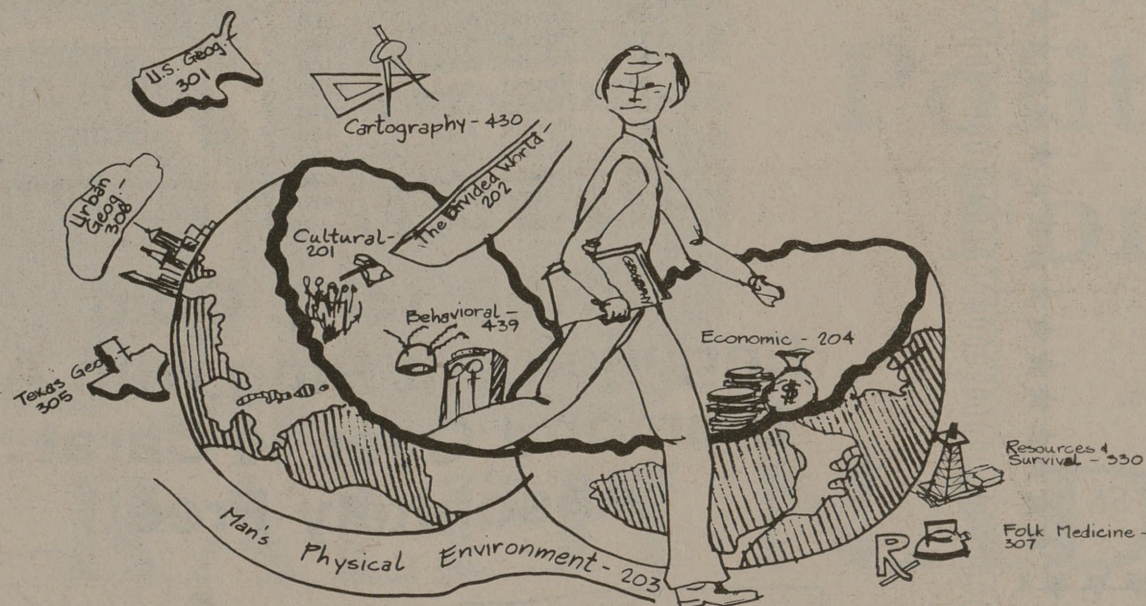
United Press International
LOS ANGELES — Jack Weismuller, the Olympic boxing champion who became of many "Tarzan" movies, is losing his mental abilities and a guardian, a court request today.

Weismuller, 75, is "gravely disabled and his mental condition deteriorating," said Jack Stagg, rector of the Motion Picture Home and Hospital.

Stagg applied to Superior Court to be appointed Weismuller's guardian.

Weismuller lives at the institution supported by the industry which provides a medical care for aged or injured movie veterans.

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