

Girl, 16, impaled on fence; spikes removed surgically

NEW YORK — A teenage girl who fell five floors down an airshaft was impaled Wednesday on a spiked iron fence for several hours before rescuers cut her loose with portions of the fence still in her, police said. A Bellevue Hospital spokesman said Lori Morgan, 16, of Old Bridge, N.J., was in critical condition following surgery to remove the iron fence spikes in her body and to repair

broken bones. Rescuers freed Miss Morgan from the 12-foot-high fence in the alley next to the building only by sawing through the spikes. "Miraculously there were no vital organs hit," the hospital spokesman said. "That's what saved her." Police said they did not know if anyone was on the roof with the girl when she fell about 5 a.m. Wednesday.

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War life revealed from WWI letters

A packet of letters found in the Texas A&M University Archives, written by a soldier during World War I reveals how life was for the men who fought with the Allies in France and Germany.

"I got a great long gun with a sharp thing on the end of it," he wrote his folks. "I am sure I could kill a squirrel with it. I wouldn't trade it for nothing, unless some dogs."

With his great long gun, the late Felix J. Stalls of Deport shot a perfect score on the Camp Travis rifle range, a feat that astounded his superiors. The best shot in the regiment learned on the creeks and river bottoms of the Red River Valley.

The 70 letters of the stoical Northeast Texas farmer were obtained by history professor Dr. Henry DeThloff through Texas A&M senior Dean Murray, great-nephew of Stalls and a member of the Corps of Cadets from Houston.

"His letters show him to have been a man of simple values and simple tastes," said Murray, who will be commissioned in the Army upon graduation. "It's refreshing to read them."

Rarely using periods and often misspelling words, Stalls often asked about the crops back home and more than once in letters from overseas mentioned his desire to get home, "maybe in time to thin the corn."

Though he grew up near Paris he never saw the sights of the same-named city in France during a year in Europe with Company E of the 359th Infantry, a regiment of "Texas' Own" 90th Infantry Division. Company E was formed of men from Lamar, Fannin and Delta counties.

Stoicism of the soldier, first in his company to make corporal at Camp Travis, is revealed in an Oct. 17, 1918, letter to his parents. "It's looking like winter but why should I worry. I have a good bed for tonight and I let each day look out for itself," Stalls wrote less than a month before the war-ending Armistice was signed. The Armistice was accepted by the Allies 61 years ago.

Sergeant Stalls wrote little of the action he and two other Lamar County soldiers, Clarence Nobles and Edgar Hood, experienced. He explained, "You get as much news about the war as I do and quicker (in the newspaper), so I will not try to write it."

His letters, censored to prevent disclosing Allied troop locations, indicated he was given command responsibility.

"My lieutenant is not with us right now and I am in charge of the platoon. I am hardly capable of taking charge, but I guess I am or they would not give me the place. I sure will be glad when the lieutenant comes back."

Unscathed by enemy weapons fire, Stalls was hospitalized once. "We went over the top yesterday morning. I never got wounded but I got some gas. Not very much, just enough to send me off for three to four days," he wrote, trying to keep his mother from worrying. "A few got killed in the drive but we went on after the Huns. The worst of all they shot my lieutenant and killed him right by my side. It is the lieutenant I thought so much of. So when they killed him I tookened the men and went right on with the fighting."

A Jan. 19, 1919, letter, after fighting ended, revealed, "I saw lots of things that I do not want to see any more. You cannot imagine what happens in war. Anybody that has saw what I have does not want to see any more war."

Stalls never complained about food, but dietary variety crept into his thinking as time neared to ship home in mid-1919. "Be sure to save me some eggs, for I am egg hungry," he wrote.


About Christmas time, 1918, when he sent home a coupon for a three-pound Christmas box each soldier was allowed (he asked for coconut and peppermint stick candy and a fountain pen), Stalls commented on his condition, "I'm not sick, just sore and I sure do need the rest."

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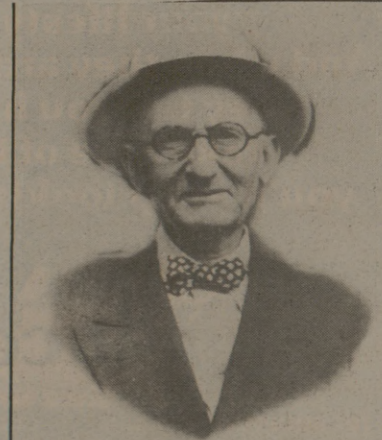
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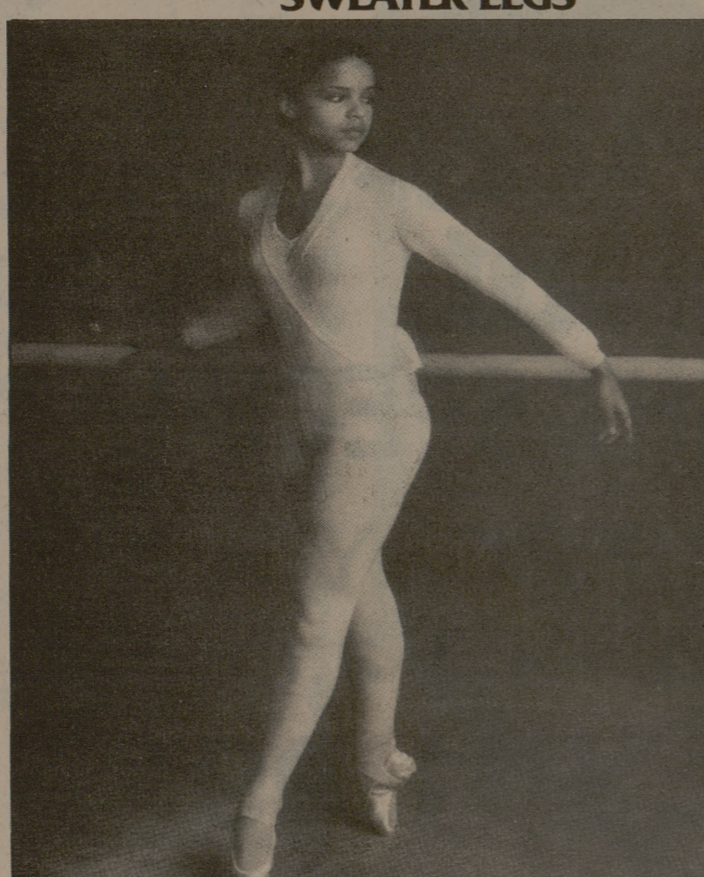
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What's up at Texas A&M

Thursday

THE SEVEN FACES OF DR. LAO: A story of an unusual circus which changes the lives of all who see it, starring Tony Randall as a mysterious Chinese ringmaster. Will be shown at 8 and 10:30 p.m. in Room 601 of Rudder Tower. Admission — 75 (G)

LIBRARY REFERENCE DIVISION: A representative from Prentice Hall Loose Leaf Services will discuss the effective use of their Tax Service materials in Room 204C of the Library from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., and from 2:30-4 p.m.

TEXAS A&M FENCING CLUB: Will meet at 7 p.m. in Room 261 of C. Rollie White.

DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED: Will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Brethren Church of Bryan-College Station to elect a vice president and have a business meeting.

CLASS OF '80 DANCE: Featuring Dale McBride's Magic Valley Band at Cell Block Five, from 8 p.m. to midnight. Admission — \$2 per person, with 50beer. Everyone is invited.

HUMAN FACTORS SOCIETY: Dr. Earl Lafeyers will discuss electrophysiological research in NASA manned space flights at 7 p.m. in Room 342, Zachry.

ART EXHIBIT: Trilogy Part I — THE EIGHT, from the collection of J.W. Runyon '35, will be on exhibit until Dec. 9 on the first floor of the Library. Docents are available 12:30-1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday for guided tours.

TAMU EMERGENCY CARE TEAM: Mary Arnold will discuss crisis intervention at 7:30 p.m. in Room 308, Rudder.

AGGIE CHRISTMAS CARD SALES: The Class of '80 will be selling Christmas cards in the MSC and at the MSC Box Office in Rudder Tower through Dec. 14. A package of ten is \$2.50, and there are two designs to choose from.

PHI ALPHA THETA: The History honor society will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 502, Rudder. Gordon Daniels, diplomat-in-residence at A&M, will discuss "Strategic Implications of the Middle East Peace."

MSC POLITICAL FORUM: Aggeland pictures will be taken at 8:30 p.m. in the MSC Main Lounge.

ORIENTEERING CLUB: Will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 315, Military Sciences Bldg. The Dec. 8 and spring meets will be discussed.

KANM RADIO: Group pictures will be taken for the Aggeland at 9 p.m. in Lounge B-1.

METHODIST STUDENT MOVEMENT: Will hold a marriage seminar discussing the spiritual aspects of marriage.

PENTECOSTAL UPPER ROOM: A Bible study will be held at 7:45 p.m. in the Meditation Room of All Faiths Chapel. Everyone is welcome.

Friday

AGGIE BONFIRE: Will be lighted at 7:30 p.m. on the Duncan Intramural Field.

PURE PRAIRIE LEAGUE: Will have a concert in G. Rollie White Coliseum at 9 p.m., after the Bonfire.

HILLEL FOUNDATION: Services will be held at 6 p.m. at the Hillel Foundation. Refreshments will be served after the bonfire.

ELEPHANT SHIRT SALES: Today is the last day to buy Class of '80 shirts in the MSC. The T-shirts are \$4, and the Jerseys are \$6.50.

SOCIOLOGY CLUB: Will meet at 7 p.m. in the library on the 10th floor of Rudder. Ron Winns from the Placement Office will speak. All Sociology and Liberal Arts students are welcome.

VICTORY CONCERT: With Terry Clark at 9 p.m. at the Middle School Auditorium (Jersey & Holick streets). Sponsored by Aldersgate United Methodist Church.

SAINT ANDREW'S DAY: Peanut Butter Fellowship and Junk Food Party from 11:30 p.m. to 12:45 a.m. at Rudder Tower Fountain, sponsored by UCM.

GROMETS: Gaming sessions at 7 p.m. in Room 140 of the MSC.

Saturday

MSC BASEMENT COMMITTEE: Woody Woodruff, Jim Dawkins, and Baylis and Schulte will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the Basement Coffeehouse.

THE FIFTH MUSKETEER: Beau Bridges, Sylvia Kristel and Ursula Andress star in this ongoing saga of the classic novel. Will be shown at 8 p.m. in Rudder Theater. (PG)

INDIA ASSOCIATION: Will show the Hindi movie "Priyatama" at 7 p.m. in Room 112, O&M.

ALL-GIRLS-FREE PARTY: Will be held at 8 p.m. in Brazos Center. Presented by Moses, Moore, Schumacher and Walton Halls.

FORCE 10 FROM NAVARONE: Robert Shaw and Barbara Bach are on a World War II mission to destroy a bridge linking the German forces with their Italian allies. Will be shown at midnight in Rudder Theater. (PG)

FOOTBALL: The Aggies will play the University of Texas at 1:30 p.m. in Kyle Field.

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