

Battalion Classifieds

state

Hijacked crew rescued in Gulf

United Press International
FREEPORT — The hijacked shrimp Easy Rider led Coast Guardsmen and FBI agents on an all-night, 200-mile chase through the Gulf of Mexico, before returning to port Sunday with a suspect in custody and two hostages unharmed.

FBI agents on the cutter Point Newell boarded the Easy Rider at 8:15 a.m. Sunday.

The lone gunman who had commandeered the boat surrendered peacefully. The ship's captain, Jack Waller Jr. and crewman Ronald Bush, both of Brownsville, brought the boat to Freeport.

Waller said he was tired after his ordeal, but had not felt afraid during the incident.

Agents arrested Robin Standsbury of Brownsville. The FBI had no immediate statement about charges in the incident, which began Saturday morning as the Easy Rider was anchored about 25 miles southeast of Morgan City, Louisiana.

"I was down in the engine room changing filters on the diesel engine," Waller said. "I came upstairs and Robin had a pistol and a rifle."

"He said he wanted to go to Brownsville. He said he had an emergency, which didn't make any sense since we had a radio."

Waller said he was surprised by the actions of Standsbury, who had worked for Waller 13 days as a header, preparing shrimp for storage.

"He was real quiet. I never expected anything like this out of him," Waller said. "He just wanted to go home. One minute he was quiet and next he was real talkative, saying he

wanted to go home right now. Waller said he weighed in and headed toward Brownsville, but he was held at gunpoint, and Coast Guard began tracking the Easy Rider on radar, according to Coast Guard records.

A Coast Guard plane located the boat early Saturday evening and followed it as it moved toward Galveston in the 82-foot Coast Guard cutter to intercept the shrimp.

Meanwhile, Waller and Standsbury were shut up in the ice locker. Standsbury remained on deck.

"It sure was cold down there," Waller said. "At around 9 p.m. Standsbury let us out and said there was no surprise to what it was. I tried to make him think it was an oil boat."

The boat was the Point Newell. Standsbury ordered the Easy Rider's running lights killed and began to drive away.

The Coast Guard tracked the boat on radar until daybreak, when contact was reestablished. At 11 a.m. the cutter pulled alongside the shrimp and all hands came on deck. The FBI agents boarded the shrimp about five minutes later and took Standsbury aboard the cutter.

Waller, Bush and two Coast Guardsmen brought the Easy Rider back to Freeport, accompanied by the agents and Standsbury aboard the utility boat. The Point Newell resumed its routine patrol, a Coast Guard spokesman said.

Pilots and attendants cross picket lines

United Press International
DALLAS — Pilots and flight attendants Sunday crossed picket lines set up by striking union mechanics at Southwest Airline, enabling the regional air carrier to continue two-thirds of its operations.

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers struck the airline shortly after midnight Sunday when last-minute talks broke off that could have averted a walkout. The machinists had been working without a contract since August 1979.

"All our shifts are showing up, all except the mechanics," said Southwest spokeswoman Camille Keith. "We're going to move the ticket counter away from the picket lines. The passenger loads are picking up now that people are getting work."

She said the airline was able to keep 12 Boeing 737s in service of the 18 it normally flies. Before expanding in December 1978, Southwest flew 12-planes.

Keith said the airline was continuing to serve all 11 Texas cities on its routes, plus New Orleans. She said, however, flight times had been changed to adjust for the cutback.

The union rejected the company's final offer Sunday and walked out, saying its airline mechanics were the lowest paid in the nation. Their current rate is \$9.10 per hour but nationwide some salaries are in excess of \$11 per hour.

Union officials aid 125 persons were off the job, leaving mainte-

nance to supervisory personnel. Leaders said pickets were set up at Dallas Love Field at 12:30 a.m. Sunday as well as at maintenance facilities and fuel depots in the city. Monday pickets were scheduled to go up at Southwest counters in Houston and New Orleans and possibly at other cities served by the carrier.

"The people are in good spirits," said Ray Phillips, a union negotiator. "Everybody is pitching in and giving 110 percent."

Phillips said the union was disappointed that pilots and flight attendants did not honor the picket line but held out some hope they would eventually.

"We've been in touch with them all along and coordinating with them fairly closely. We were very disappointed that they decided to work. Apparently the majority of them elected not to honor the pickets."

"We're still talking to them. They've had to let about 70 percent of the flight attendants go because of the cutback in service."

Keith denied the 70 percent figure, saying all workers who showed up would be paid, at least until Feb. 1. She said as of Feb. 1 the airline would have to re-evaluate its situation and that layoffs might be necessary.

She said all flight attendants were being paid their basic rate. Because of the cutback in service, however, she said some per-flight pay was being lost.

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