

Police car fire cause determined by Ford

NEW ORLEANS — It took Ford Motor Co. engineers almost a month, but they have finally concluded that overflowing transmission fluid and improperly fitting brake shields caused the series of mysterious fires in 1980 LTD patrol cars.

Police Chief James Parsons immediately began putting the 103 new vehicles back into service Monday, ending a 20-day ban on their use.

Police planned to inspect the entire fleet of vehicles for their fluid levels and brake shields before placing them back into service, and that may take 10 days.

The fires, which began May 28, caused only one minor injury to a patrolman who fell to the ground as he was fleeing a burning car. The blazes continued through June 9, when police officials ordered all 110 of the vehicles out of service for tests.

A dozen Ford engineers worked with police mechanics to investigate the fires.

Robert H. Transou, a Ford spokesman, and Deputy Police Chief Henry M. Morris Monday issued a statement that 15 of the cars were back on the streets and the rest would return to service after inspections.

Transou and Morris said no one knew how the cars got too much transmission fluid in them.

"Ford concluded an excess of fluid in the auto transmission, possibly in combination with an incompletely seated transmission oil filter dipstick cap, allowed fluid to escape from the transmission onto the hot exhaust and then ignite," they said. "Possible presence of water in the transmission could have been a contributing factor."

Ford's conclusions were reached after an extensive check ... The purpose of the examinations is to be sure the cause has been eliminated. The vehicles can certainly be returned to service after the inspections and required adjustments can be completed.

Turncoats:

United Press International
Twenty-one stayed. But only two stuck it out, and they are still in China today. What is a "turncoat"? That was the label in America nearly three decades ago for the 21 U.S. Army youths, Korean War prisoners, who chose not to come home — to stay in "Red China."

Death took one. Three disappeared into Europe. Fifteen came back to America over the years. Call it homesickness. Call it turning of the stomach against the Communist life. Call it the way of the misfit in any country.

Call it the disillusionment of the young who have followed a gleam and found it dulling. Those who returned to America,

Adams vividly remembers the day he took a crudely fashioned knife and cut his toes off because of spreading gangrene caused by frostbite in prison.

dishonorably discharged from the Army, called collaborators, were disillusioned again. Turncoats. The term stung. With the 30th anniversary of the Korean War outbreak on June 25, they have mostly concealed their whereabouts.

The two in China — and the fact of their being there will surprise many — are available and vocal. One is exuberant: "I was decades ahead of Nixon. History has vindicated my decision."

The other seems rather wistful: "My decision caused so much heartache and hardship to my family — because of that,

Korean War prisoners who stayed in China express mixed emotions about their decisions

maybe I wouldn't do it again." But politically he has no regrets. He misses American football.

Both have Chinese wives and families.

Among the more vocal of those who can be traced in this country is Clarence Adams of Memphis, Tenn., whose Chinese wife taught him to cook. He now runs "The Chop Suey House," a Mandarin Chinese take-out shop.

Adams says he was never a communist. Communists captured him. The privations of their prison cost him three toes. He vividly remembers the day he took a crudely fashioned knife and cut them off because of spreading gangrene caused by frostbite in prison.

"I counted to 10 about a hundred times before I finally did it."

He has no regrets. He did his "growing up" in a prisoner-of-war camp in North Korea and at Peking University in China, he says.

"I think about it as a very unique experience. I think life in the POW camp and in China settled me down. I was a poor, uneducated black. If I had come home, that's all I could have hoped to remain. The only good jobs blacks were getting then were as teachers and mailmen, and I knew those were far and few between."

Adams said he was "wild and running with the wrong crowd" when he decided to enlist in 1947. He was 21 when he was reported missing in action in December 1950. In China, he spent seven years in the university and won the equivalent of a master's degree, studying the Chinese language and literature.

When he came home to Memphis after three years in the army, three years in the prison camp, and 13 years in China, he had a Chinese wife and two children and was called a turncoat.

"I think it was out of fear that people treated me the way they did. I never became a communist. Our status in China was that of a foreign student visiting indefinitely."

He said that with each passing holiday his years in America grew stronger: "It never bothered me until the

Those who had refused repatriation came out of China almost to a man condemning the communist way of life.

days. Then I tried to picture what it was like. Finally I'm going home."

Adams works seven days a week to keep his business. When he returned in 1966, hoping to work as a translator, he begged unsuccessfully for a year for any job. He finally became a truck driver, and saved his money to open a cooking house.

Those who had refused repatriation came out of China in 1955, or in two's and three's — the first three came out after a year — and almost to a man they condemned the communist way of life. One said, "It was hell. We ate like dogs. I had a barn. We burned up in summer and froze in winter at month. I just

All were accused by the army and by fellow prisoners of cozying up to their captors in communist prison camps. The Encyclopaedia Britannica notes that it was learned that perhaps 15 percent of all American prisoners collaborated with the enemy, and only a few — about 1 percent — steadfastly resisted all Communist efforts to indoctrinate them or to use them for propaganda purposes.

It also says that nearly 60 percent of the prisoners died of torture or neglect.

Old friends turn out to be brothers

United Press International
FORT SMITH, Ark. — Elmer Vincent always wondered what happened to the baby brother adopted 40 years ago when their mother died in childbirth. Last week he learned the brother is a man he has done business with for the past 15 years, Arthur Vincent Scamardo.

The brothers were reunited by Jenny Kolp, who is working on a reunion of orphans who lived at the Rosalie Tilles home at Fort Smith between 1912 and the early 1960s.

"Elmer has been one of my good friends," Scamardo said. "I can't believe he's my brother."

Vincent is a mechanic at Wortz Biscuit Co. at Fort Smith and for years has done business with Scamardo, an employee of a local sheetmetal firm.

Vincent was 9, one of five children, when his mother died giving birth to a baby named Fred Robert Vincent. The baby was adopted before the other children saw him, and they never knew his adopted parents changed his name to Arthur Vincent Scamardo.

"I never laid my head on my pillow at night but what I didn't think about my little brother and wonder where he was."

"I never laid my head on my pillow at night but what I didn't think about my little brother and wonder where he was," Vincent said. "Now that I have found out it is someone I've talked to and done business with for all these years, I can't believe it. It is still a shock to me."

The men's two sisters live in the Fort Smith area, and last week the four had a reunion, the first in 40 years. But they are still looking for another brother, Mayo Vincent, who was

adopted at age 2 when Fred Robert was born.

The family knows the brother's name is now Larry Allen and he may be living in Los Angeles. He got in with one of the sisters about 3 years ago, they said.

When the Vincents' mother died and the two babies adopted, Elmer Vincent and the two sisters, now Ann and Lucy Wilhite, were placed in the Rosalie Tilles orphanage. Jenny Kolp was there at the same time. When she announced plans this year for a reunion, Vincent asked her to help him find his baby brother.

Kolp said she received the first information about the brothers in an anonymous telephone call that she thought long distance.

"The caller asked me if I was looking for the Vincents," she said. "I would find the Vincent baby living in Fort Smith with a family by the name of Lamard," Kolp said.

She could not find that name but learned later the Scamardos had an adopted child by the name of Vincent.

'Mr. Wonderful' needs new home

United Press International
NEW YORK — A handicapped dog hobbled to the aid of a Brooklyn schoolteacher being attacked by a mugger, and now the woman says she wants to return the favor.

Since "Mr. Wonderful" — a 2-year-old mongrel — rescued Florence Shapiro two weeks ago, she's been trying to help the crippled pooch by providing acupuncture and a makeshift wheelchair.

Shapiro, 39, encountered her canine hero on a Manhattan street, where she saw the shepherd mixed-breed "walking and falling" as he crossed the street. The dog's hind legs were badly crippled.

"I felt so sorry for the dog, I wanted to take him home," she said. When the little dog disappeared around the corner, Shapiro went to phone to find someone to help her take the pooch home.

"It was then when the mugger came over," she said. "He attacked me, but Mr. Wonderful came back around the corner, snarled and growled and scared the mugger away."

Since then, the schoolteacher has been trying to help the dog walk again. She bought Mr. Wonderful a little cart so he could move around more easily.

But the cart wasn't enough, so she turned to acupuncture. Mr. Wonderful's had three sessions so far, but further acupuncture may cost up to \$300 and she said, "I just can't afford them anymore."

That's one reason she's looking for another home for him. Also, she said, her own apartment is too small.

"I'll really hate to give him up," she said near tears. "He's a super animal. He's very special."

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