

State

Two men questioned in connection

# Fake bomb found at bank door

United Press International  
DEKALB — Two men were questioned in Idabel, Okla., concerning a fake bomb that was found at the door of DeKalb State Bank in an apparent robbery attempt, but authorities would not confirm if they were suspects in the case.

"A van they were driving fit the description of one seen in the neighborhood of the bank early Tuesday," Bowie County Deputy Sheriff Dwayne Cannon said. Officers from the Texas Department of Public Safety, the FBI and the Bowie County Sheriff's department questioned the two

Tuesday, Cannon said. Officials would not say whether they were released or kept in custody. A device initially believed to be a bomb and two men were spotted by a bank employee at 7 a.m. Tuesday. The sack on the bank's back door contained only a portable radio, officials said.

The employee, who was not identified, saw a note on the rear door of the bank attached to an "Army back pack" with a walkie-talkie protruding from it, said DeKalb police Sgt. Herman McCullough.

Moore said the bank employee came running in. "I figured it had to be the same van and gave the police the license number," he said. Authorities said they traced the license to Idabel.

The note said a rifle was pointed at the employee's back and that the employee should put on the back pack, McCullough said. "At that point, the employee dropped the note and ran."

During the period the "bomb" was being examined, authorities evacuated an entire downtown block.

Don Moore, who lives a half-block from the bank, said he was going out to get a newspaper and saw a white van backing out of his drive.

Army explosives experts from Pine Bluff Arsenal in Arkansas examined the device at the bank for 40 minutes before dismantling it and pronouncing it a "hoax" constructed from a portable radio.

"I noticed it had Oklahoma plates and just wrote the license number down," he said. A few moments later at the cafe,

DeKalb, with a population of 2,000, is located in the northeast part of Texas near the Arkansas-Oklahoma border.

# Daring rescue at sea saves lives of 2 men

United Press International  
GALVESTON — Two employees of Houston oil well fire-fighter Red Adair owe their lives to a quick-thinking coast guard en-

gineer who saw their speedboat circling wildly out of control and made a daring leap onto the vessel, authorities said.

Bill Jennings, was credited Monday with saving Bill Dryer, 39, and James Walker, 43, who were knocked unconscious when their 26-foot boat collided with a buoy in the Houston Ship Channel.

Dryer, who suffered cuts on his throat when he crashed into the windshield, was reported in fair condition Monday at John Sealy Hospital in Galveston. Walker had a collapsed lung and three broken ribs and was in serious condition, a hospital spokesman said.

Jennings said, "When our crew got there, that was the only way to get on the boat and stop it. We tried to throw lines aboard but they kept getting tangled up. So jumping was the next thing."

Dryer and Walker were pleasure boating Sunday when their craft, the "Hot Stuff," crashed into the buoy.

He said when the out of control vessel got close to the Coast Guard utility boat, "I got hold of the railings of both boats. Then the small boat started moving away and I let go of ours and somehow ended up on the small boat. The men were unconscious so I just shut the engines down to neutral and took control of it."

"They were not paying attention to what they were doing and drove into the buoy," Petty Officer Matthew Walter said.

Jennings agreeing that his maneuver was somewhat dangerous, said: "I don't know how I ended up going (aboard). I didn't really have time to think about it — I guess I was the closest one."

Friends in another boat were unable to get close and summoned the Coast Guard, which dispatched a 41-foot utility boat.

# Controllers turned down by airport

United Press International  
AMARILLO — Amarillo airport officials said eight striking controllers who have offered to return to their jobs unconditionally cannot work until President Reagan changes his stance on their terminations.

In a telegram mailed to control tower chief J.V. Vinyard, striking controllers at the Amarillo International Airport announced Monday they were giving up the strike and were prepared to return to work, but the FAA refused to give them their jobs back.

Local union president Eugene Shuler said he and seven striking PATCO members of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization sent the telegram to Vinyard, stating the group was willing to report back to work "unconditionally."

Shuler said Vinyard allowed returning workers into the tower complex only to state FAA rules still applied — the striking controllers would not be allowed back on the job.

The Amarillo controllers are among PATCO members who went on strike in July protesting a shorter work week and better benefits and who were subsequently fired by President Reagan. Federal employees are prohibited by law from striking.

The Amarillo controllers' effort to regain their jobs contrasted with rallies held by PATCO workers elsewhere in the country protesting Reagan's action and vowing to continue the strike.

In Dallas, PATCO members gathered for their first Labor Day picnic, saying they had been unable to hold them before because so many of controllers were working on the holiday.

But in Amarillo, Shuler condemned the FAA and the president.

"We have done all we can," he said. "Management has won this thing and we are at their mercy."

Controller John Lake, local Union vice president, said, "We are controllers and we want to go back to work."

Dave Tidwell, who stated last month he was glad to be out of the tower and on strike, was one of the workers who asked to be reinstated Monday.

Amarillo airport officials said although the tower is understaffed by 13 people, the eight striking workers will not be allowed to return to work until the president changes his policy on the firings.

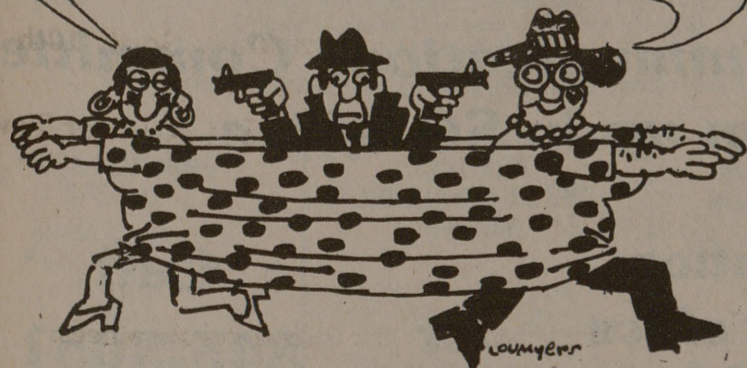
Local union president Eugene Shuler said he and seven striking PATCO members of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization sent the telegram to Vinyard, stating the group was willing to report back to work "unconditionally."

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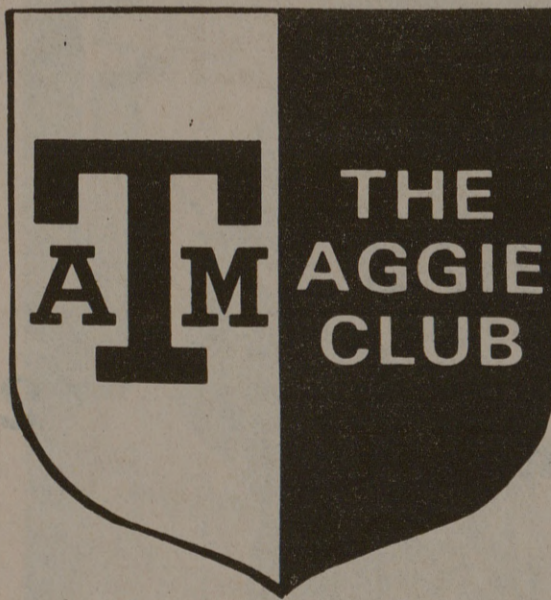
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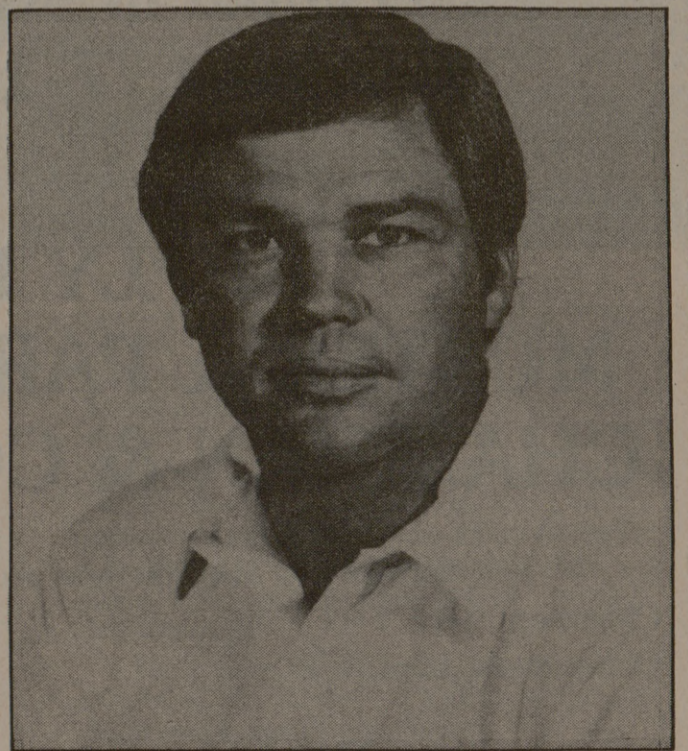
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