

State

Utility permits scrutinized

United Press International
GALVESTON — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is investigating whether permits were issued to Houston Power & Lighting Co. for utility lines involved in a weekend boating accident that killed three people and injured another.

One of the victims, Richard Miller, 28, of Galveston, in late August filed a complaint with the federal agency about the low clearance level of the lines, Corps officials in Galveston said Wednesday.

Miller's 20-foot sailboat drifted into a set of HP&L lines that carry 7,200 volts of electricity across a channel at the mouth of Lake Madeline. The accident occurred about 3:45 p.m. Sunday.

Also killed was Miller's wife, Brenda, 28. She died Tuesday of injuries she sustained in the accident, and Ethan Ducat, 22, of Galveston, was missing for more than 24 hours following the accident. His body was found near the site late Monday.

The Galveston County Medical

Examiner's office has ruled that he would seek the Democratic nomination for land commissioner.


Also injured was Richard Hillman, 24, of Galveston, who was listed in fair condition late Wednesday at John Sealy Hospital.

Corps officials Wednesday said they had been unable to locate a federal permit allowing HL&P to maintain the power cables over the waterway. It is possible no permit would have been required due to a "grandfather clause" pertaining to line installation before Dec. 18, 1968.

However, Randy Pitre, a physical scientist with the Corps, told the Galveston News authorities have viewed aerial photographs indicating the lines were not installed as late as 1970. He said other photographs showed the lines in use in 1971.

HL&P officials said they did not have the installation date of the lines.

Company spokesman Graham Painter said officials were searching for the information and conducting their own investigation of the accident.



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Clayton still quiet on plans

United Press International
AUSTIN — Although Speaker Clayton plans to make a statewide race in 1982 and already is looking at what it would cost, he has put off an announcement of what office he intends to seek.

"There's no hurry," he said in an interview. "It'll be probably in January, or sometime between November and January. We're still before the public as speaker. There are interim committees we have to get started and other things to take care of."

"In the meantime, we're telling people that we're looking to make a statewide race."

Clayton, who is completing an unprecedented fourth term as the

House's presiding officer, first said he would make his statewide election plans official by Labor Day. Then, he put off an official announcement until mid-November. The January date revealed Wednesday marked the third delay in his announcement.

There is speculation Clayton will seek the land commissioner post which Bob Armstrong is relinquishing after 12 years. Although Clayton said he had not yet ruled out other races, he indicated he probably would run for the land commissioner's job.

Garry Mauro, an Austin attorney and former executive director of the State Democratic Party, announced several months ago

that he would seek the Democratic nomination for land commissioner.

But Clayton said Mauro's announced candidacy did not concern him.

"I think the polls we have run show that there is no problem with name identification with me," she said. "I don't think too many people know who Mauro is."

The speaker said he expected to raise between \$750,000 and \$1 million for his statewide race.

There have been recent rumors Clayton might accept the \$90,000-a-year executive director's job at the Lower Colorado River Authority because a Clayton poll indicated the speaker's reputation

was tainted by his federal indictment last year of accepting a \$5,000 bribe, although he was acquitted by a Houston federal jury.

Clayton and LCRA officials both denied the speaker wanted the job.

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15 San Antonio residents sick in typhoid outbreak

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — At least 15 people have contracted typhoid fever in what city officials say is the most serious outbreak of the infectious disease in 10 years.

Dr. Courand Rothe, city health director, said the cases have been reported since August and there are at least three more potential cases which have not been confirmed. He said three of the reported patients have been hospitalized.

This is the highest number of cases I've seen in my 10 years with

the district," Rothe said. "It's a serious outbreak but it is definitely not an epidemic."

Those affected by the disease are from 3 to 58 years old and, except for three cases in one household and two in another, the cases appeared to be unrelated, Rothe said.

He said he has asked state health officials and federal experts from the Center for Disease Control for help in determining the source of the disease. He said only four typhoid cases were reported

last year in the city.

Typhoid fever is caused by a bacteria found in the human digestive tract and it is usually transmitted by a "person who has the germ (who) doesn't wash his hands after going to the restroom," Rothe said.

Rothe said he does not know whether the disease is being spread by a carrier — a person who carries the disease without showing symptoms — or through contact between the contaminated people.

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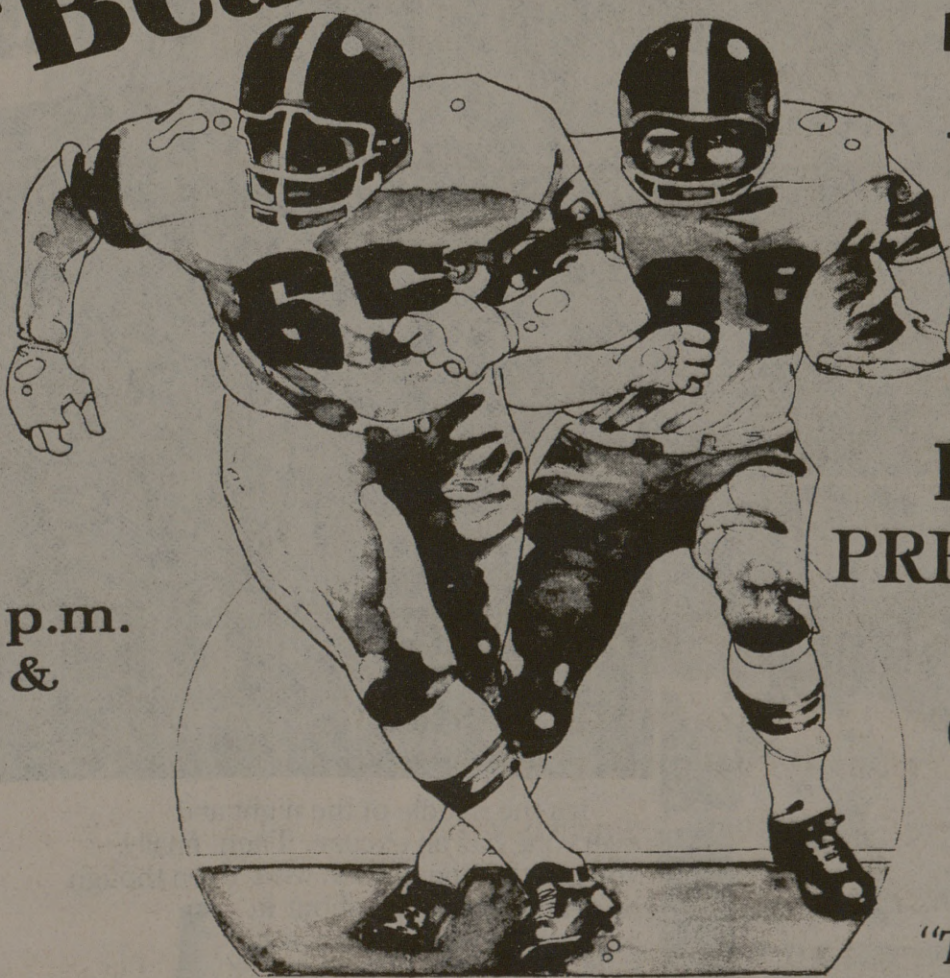
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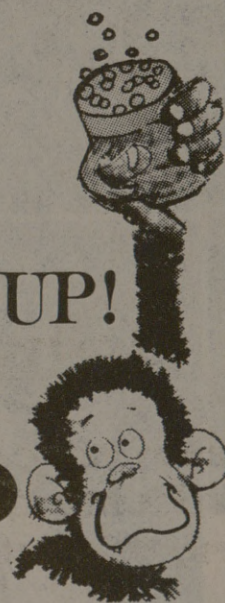
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