

Castro's sister becomes U.S. citizen in Miami

United Press International
MIAMI — Juanita Castro, younger sister of Cuban President Fidel Castro, became a U.S. citizen Thursday, more than 17 years after fleeing her homeland.

A fervent anti-communist who denounced her brother as a traitor to the Cuban people, Castro took the oath of allegiance at the Dade County Auditorium along with 414 others.

Castro, 48, renounced her Cuban citizenship with a simple "I do" after the oath of allegiance was read by a federal court judge.

A Miami resident since 1964, Castro could have become a citizen much earlier, but said she wanted to be sure she was making the right decision. Five years of U.S. residence are required for eligibility for citizenship.

"I wanted to participate fully in the American way of living," she said. "I waited a long time for this. It's hard to tell you how I feel inside right now. I wanted to be sure this is what I want for myself, and I know this is what I want."

Castro said her heart will remain in Cuba despite her decision to become an American.

"Every Cuban living has a desire to go back home," she said. "We have the faith and want to return to our country. If everything changes there and we find freedom, I will go back. My heart is there. My life is here."

Castro said she is still bitter about her brother, with whom she has not spoken in 15 years.

"I don't care what he says or what he thinks. It's not his business," she said.



Surveying the situation

Teaching Assistant Mike Bluff, left, a civil engineering graduate student from Sedona, Ariz., and Mark Rush, a junior engineering-geology major from Corpus Christi, watch on as Mark's lab partner checks some calculations.

His lab partner, Tom Kallina, is a sophomore agriculture engineering major from Garwood. The pair were practicing their surveying across the street from the Sterling C. Evans Library.

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Two killed in Alabama when coal train derails

United Press International
BROOKWOOD, Ala. — A 10-car coal train derailed on a stretch of weak track early Thursday, smashing the two engines into a sea of mud and killing two crewmen. The engineer was trapped for seven hours before rescuers freed him with an acetylene torch.

The only survivor of the derailment of the Louisville and Nashville freight train, Edward Wallace, 55, of Northport, Ala., was flown by police helicopter to Druid City Hospital in Tuscaloosa, where his condition was reported as guarded.

A surgeon had stood by to amputate his legs if rescuers had not been able to free them from the smashed door of the lead engine, which was about three-fourths buried in the quagmire.

Dr. Philip Bobo, a specialist in emergency medicine who had flown by helicopter, said Wallace's worst injury was a fractured small bone in one leg.

"His primary problem is hypothermia (a lowering of body temperature)," he said.

Two other engineers on the train, which was carrying coal from Birmingham to Holt, died in the wreckage. They were not immediately identified.

Bobo said one man was killed instantly when he was crushed under tons of metal and mud. The other man lived for about a half-hour and talked with paramedics as they tried to free him and Wallace from the debris. However, he died before rescuers could reach him.

The train — two engines, seven cars of coal and a caboose

— derailed after it went down an incline in the wooded foothills of west central Alabama and hit a level stretch of track that had been weakened by recent heavy rains and flooding. It was going about 25 mph, officials said.

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