

Houston cop killed in traffic check

United Press International
HOUSTON — One of two men in a car stopped for a routine traffic violation shot and killed a police officer, then critically wounded a passerby who happened upon the scene, police said Wednesday.

An hour later Tuesday night, police were seeking two suspects who fled the scene of the slaying. One of the two men was then shot and killed by the police, who were investigating the first shooting.

Several eyewitnesses said they watched the gun battle and lost count of how many bullets had been fired.

Officer L.J. Trepagnier was wounded in the stomach, chest, arm and side during the second shooting incident. He underwent surgery Wednesday and was listed in critical condition at Hermann Hospital.

The man killed in the exchange of gunfire with police has not been identified, but his companion was taken into custody.

The slain police officer was identified as J.D. Harris, 29. He was patrolling the neighborhood with his dog when he stop-

ped the car and was shot. He died at the scene from a bullet in his head.

The passerby was identified as Joe Arrijo. He was listed in critical condition at Ben Taub Hospital with a chest wound.

Police said Harris stopped a car with the two men in southeast Houston about 10 p.m. Tuesday. As Harris attempted to search the two, one ran and the other pulled out a gun and shot the officer.

Police said then one of the two men fired a shot through the windshield of Arrijo's car. Arrijo's 10-year-old son Jose witnessed the shooting.

"They shot my father," the boy said. "These two guys shot through the window and shot my father. They started running and one dropped his hat. They just took off."

Within an hour, when police were called in to search a house for the two suspects in the Harris shooting, one of them began shooting at police, who returned fire, killing one of them.

Harris' gun and ammunition were found on the killed suspect, police said.

Houston solves one in ten crimes

United Press International
HOUSTON — Only one in ten major crimes in Houston are solved by the city police, which is about half the clearance rate for the rest of the state.

The national clearance rate, or cases closed, is about 20 percent, according to the FBI. But Houston's 10.8 percent last year is a five-year low for the city.

"Detective work is primarily talking to the people, but if you don't have time to talk to them, you don't have a case," said detective K.D. Porter.

Many Houston police say they fear their clearance rate will drop further because of U.S. District Judge Carl Bue's recent

ruling that police must release suspects within 24 hours if no charges are filed.

By comparison, large cities in Texas have a clearance rate of 16 to 28 percent.

Dallas police reported clearing 28 percent of its cases in 1981. In San Antonio, the clearance rate dropped from 24.4 percent in 1980 to 16.9 percent in 1981.

Burglary and theft cases are the most difficult cases to solve because there generally are few, if any, witnesses. Capt. J.W. Fulbright said property taken generally cannot be recovered because few citizens properly identify their merchandise.

Nuke to be finished, project manager says

United Press International
BAY CITY — The South Texas Nuclear Project — which was supposed to have been finished a year ago — can be successfully erected despite continued construction delays, increasing costs, and design problems in changing contractors, the project manager said.

"I'm very confident the project can be built successfully," said project manager David B. Barker of Houston Lighting & Power Co.

"I am convinced ... that problems will be minimized in the future," Barker said.

Barker, who is managing the over-budget project for a consortium of utilities in San Antonio, Austin, Corpus Christi and Houston, made his comments Tuesday after revealing that engineers had found significant design problems in changing from one contractor to another.

"I'd say we're looking at half a dozen problems that we really have to deal with," Barker said.

"We're looking at a gradual resumption (of work) and we'll have a fairly large work force by the end of 1983."

Houston. At its peak, the project employed 4700.

Brown & Root originally targeted completion of the plant for 1982 at a cost of \$1.1 billion. Its latest estimate pushed the completion back to 1988 for an estimated cost of \$4.6 billion.

Barker refused to discuss the final cost and impact of the change from Brown and Root to Bechtel and Ebasco. He said up-to-date estimates on the project would be released in Houston Aug. 4.

However, Barker said the twin-reactor, 2500 mega-watt plant would increase in price and be further delayed because of design problems Bechtel found in the heating and air conditioning system, the emergency power building and in some electrical work. Bechtel and Ebasco confronted previously discovered problems with Brown & Root's work, including sub-standard beam and column connections in the 250-foot high pair of partially complete reactor containment domes.

Bechtel Power Co. and Ebasco Services Inc. recently replaced Brown & Root Inc. as project architect and constructor respectively.

Last month, after a year of virtually no work, the firms resumed non-safety related work. Barker hopes to begin safety related work, which is defined as anything crucial to nuclear safety, in September.

Some 2300 personnel were at work on the project Tuesday — 1800 of them on site, the rest in

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 1979 fined HL&P \$100,000 for quality control and construction violations. It later fired Brown & Root as the builder.

In spite of millions of dollars of costs and years of work, the 10,000-acre site 10 miles southwest of Bay City looks about the same as it did three years ago. The 7,000-acre cooling water reservoir is finished but unfilled. One containment dome is formed but its reinforcing steel is not fully concreted. The other dome still lacks its top.

Quirks in the News

United Press International
MARFA — Lights that zoom about at dusk near the southwest Texas town of Marfa have raised a lot of questions but no one seems to be able to come up with any answers.

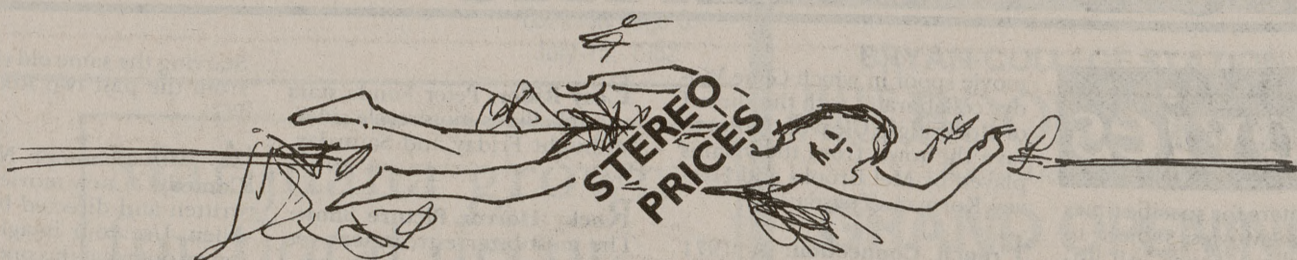
Some scientists say they might be car headlights that have traveled long distances through a phenomenon known as atmospheric tunneling. But the lights were seen by cowpunchers 100 years ago.

Observers report the lights are seen all year, whiz around at high speed and become brighter and dimmer.

Another theory is that the lights are reflections from mica deposits, but proponents of that theory have yet to explain why those reflections move about.

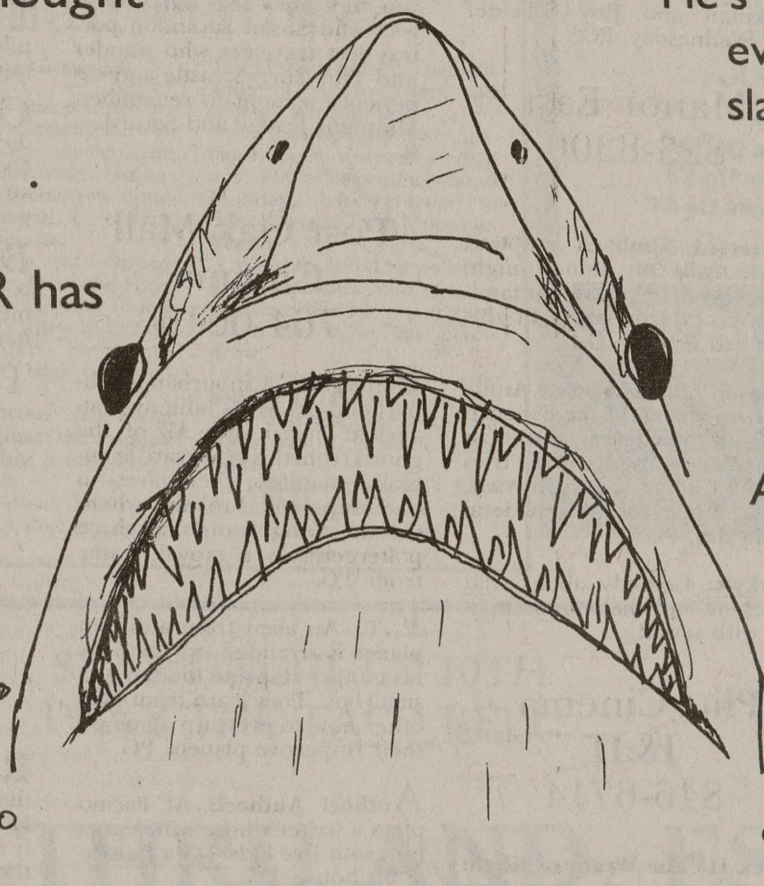
Yet another idea is that the lights are small discharges of static electricity but no one knows why that would occur near Marfa and not anywhere else.

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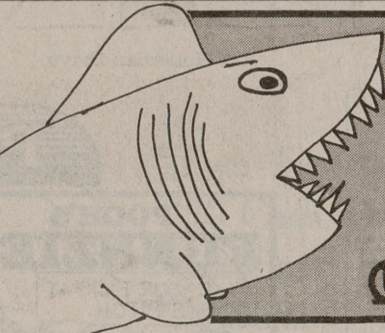
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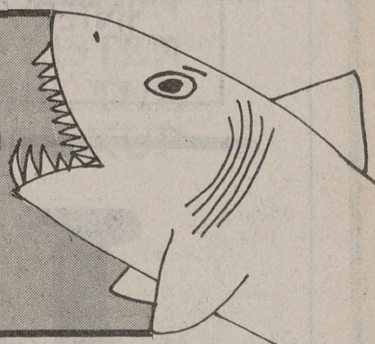
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