

Park has fourth fatal accident in four years

State fair ride inspected, officials say it's safe

United Press International
DALLAS — State Fair of Texas officials Tuesday said all prior inspections had been made of an amusement ride where a car tore loose from its frame and fell 40 feet to the ground killing one person and injuring 15 others.

Fair officials shut down the Enterprise ride Monday night for the remainder of the show while insurance adjusters and other officials investigated the cause of the accident.

The midway was open Tuesday. Officials said they could not assess the impact of the accident on attendance but noted Tuesday was normally a slow day at the fair. A steady rain also contributed to the lower attendance.

The gondola-type car landed

in a crowd of visitors at a concession stand. Witnesses said the gondola came loose, dangled from the spinning ride for several revolutions and flew off, landing near the snack stand about 30 yards away.

It was the second such fatal accident in four years.

William W. Phillips, 19, of Allen, died at Parkland Memorial Hospital. Marion T. Phillips, 22, who suffered fractures on his leg, arm and head, was in fair condition.

Two others, who were believed to be in the same gondola, were also admitted to Parkland. Michael Olivari, 16, of Allen, was in good condition with multiple head injuries, hospital officials said. Johnny Hamilton, who suffered multiple bruises, was in fair condition. The others

injured were treated at local hospitals or at the fair's first aid facility, officials said.

The fairgrounds had been insured for \$50 million by CNA Insurance Co., headquartered in Chicago, but a spokeswoman said her company was not liable for the Enterprise ride.

Nancy Wiley, spokeswoman for the fair, said she did not know who had insured the Enterprise

ride. Owners of the ride, Continental Park Attractions of East Farmingdale, N.Y. could not be reached for comment.

Wiley said officials at the park had no idea why the accident happened. The ride had been inspected by inspectors of the fair and the insurance company prior to the fair's opening, she

said, and as far as officials knew, the daily inspection of the ride as required by the fair had been made by the ride owner on Monday.

Wiley said the investigation will be an on-going process involving all parties. The Enterprise will be closed for the remainder of the fair.

Unidentified powder, captain down the drain

United Press International
EL PASO — Sheriff Mike Davis said Tuesday he suspended a captain for three days for destroying a powdery substance found in a county judge's Jeep.

Davis said deputies found the substance, which looked like brown sugar, in a condom. It was found on the floorboard of County Judge Pat O'Rourke's private Jeep last February.

The Jeep was being equipped

with a two-way radio when the substance was found, the sheriff said.

Davis said he did not learn of the incident until August and did not feel compelled to act on it until this week.

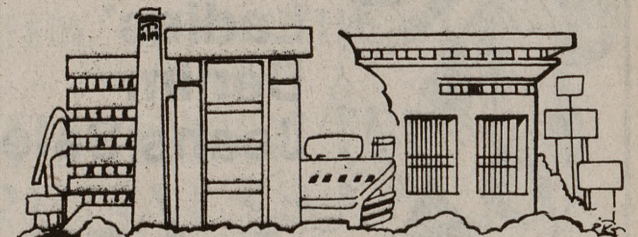
Davis ordered Capt. Willy Hill suspended for flushing the substance down the toilet instead of sending it to a laboratory for testing.

"I haven't the slightest idea who put it there," Davis said.

"The judge has his political enemies, like most of us do," O'Rourke said, "if it were a deliberate plant, it was pretty vicious."

Davis presented the case to the District Attorney Steve Simms Monday, but the case was not presented for grand jury investigation.

Simms said there's nothing that can be done about the case because there is no evidence and no suspect.



Around town

UT philosophy professor to speak

The Department of Philosophy will present Professor Aloysius Martinich, from the University of Texas, in a speech titled "A Theory of Metaphor." Martinich will speak Thursday at 4 p.m. in 502 Rudder. The program is free and the public is invited.

Horsemen give special riding lessons

The Texas A&M Horsemen's Association is hosting its sixth annual Special Students' Riding School for handicapped children from the area. The program runs for three Saturdays, and has two more to go — Oct. 22 and Oct. 29. About 45 children will participate each day.

The lessons are organized and run by volunteers from the Horsemen's Association. The participating children range in age from six to 18, and have a variety of disabilities. Three volunteers work with each participant, to handle the horse and act as spotters for the riders.

At the beginning of each lesson, both students and volunteers do warm-up exercises to loosen stiff muscles. The students then learn basic horsemanship, fun relay races and negotiate an obstacle course. On the final day of the school the students take a trail ride through the pastures, and then are treated to refreshments. All the riders receive awards for participating.

For more information about this program contact: Sherry McDonald, chairman, at 764-0455; or Dr. Doug Householder at 845-1562.

Aggieland photos taken at Pavilion

Individual pictures for the 1984 Aggieland are being taken at the Yearbook Associates office at 1700 S. Kyle behind Cuipepper Plaza, and at the Pavilion on campus.

Dates to have photographs made are:

- Juniors — Nov. 7-11, 14-18 at Yearbook Associates; and Nov. 28-Dec. 2, Dec. 5-9 at the Pavilion
- Seniors, graduate students, veterinary and medical school students — Oct. 19-21, 24-28 at Yearbook Associates; and Oct. 31-Nov. 4 at the Pavilion.

To submit an item for this column, come by The Battalion office in 216 Reed McDonald.

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