

Two aliens killed in mishap

United Press International
FALFURRIAS — Two Mexican nationals killed in the trunk of a smuggler's car that was struck from behind by a Border Patrol vehicle on a dark, dusty road brought to six the number of illegal aliens who have died in mishaps while trying to enter the country the past five days.

Larry Teveraugh, chief of the Laredo Border Patrol Sector, said the latest deaths happened Wednesday night 18 miles west of Falfurrias while Border Patrolmen were trying to stop a car and a pickup truck jammed with aliens that were traveling with their lights off along a farm-to-market road.

Four Salvadoran aliens were killed and several others were injured last weekend near Kingsville, only a few miles east of Wednesday night's accident, when a freight train came upon a group of about 40 aliens crossing a railroad trestle. Many in the group — also suspected of being abandoned by "coyotes" — jumped or fell to the rocky creekbank below to escape being struck.

The Falfurrias-Kingsville area is a prime route north of illegal aliens from Mexico, El Salvador and other Central American countries who have been coming in record numbers this spring, Border Patrol officials said.

A Border Patrol aircraft Thursday was flying over the Falfurrias area trying to find the drivers of the two vehicles who abandoned 37 aliens and fled into the brush Wednesday.

Teveraugh said that Falfurrias Border Patrol agent Robert Handy was chasing the car with at least 16 people — two of them suspected of being Hondurans and the others from Mexico — who had crossed the border illegally, when Handy's car plowed into the back of the car which suddenly stopped.

Julio Bustos Piedras, 16, and Alejandro Hernandez Diaz, 21, two of four aliens packed into the trunk, were killed instantly in the collision.

A third man in the trunk, identified as Grabiell Urquiza, was in critical condition at Corpus Christi's Memorial Hospital.

Five other people were treated for their injuries at Brooks County Hospital in Falfurrias, including Handy who was in stable condition Thursday with head and facial injuries and a possible broken wrist.

Teveraugh said the car and pickup truck both refused to

stop when the Border Patrol car, waiting for suspected alien smugglers, flashed its lights.

"After three or four miles the pickup swerved off the road, through a fence and out into the brush. The driver bailed out and ran and did get away," Teveraugh said. He said 22 aliens were taken into custody from the pickup truck.

"One of the officers got back in his car and pursued the 1976 Chevy sedan four-door. It went two or three miles, turned up a dirt road that was very dusty.

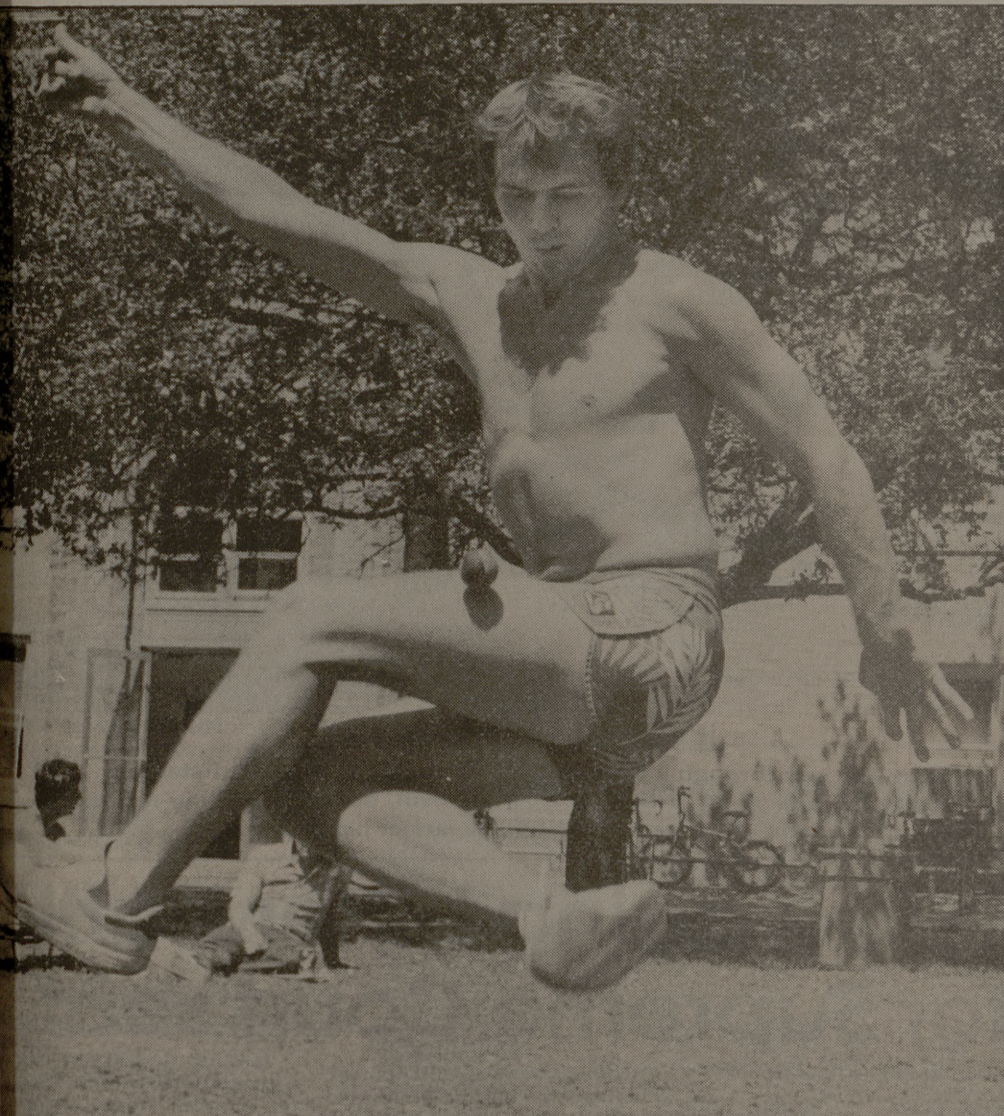
"Approximately a half mile, the driver slammed on his brakes and jumped out of the car. The Pursuing car, obscured by sand and dust, ran into it." He said the driver of the car also got away, but 15 aliens were left behind.

Teveraugh said alien smugglers often abandon their loads of aliens in South Texas.

"It's been going on all along. It's not unusual for them to run, break through a fence and abandon the load and try to escape in the brush. It's a com-

mon occurrence," the Border Patrol chief said.

Officials in the Falfurrias-Kingsville area say the region is a prime route north for illegal aliens from Mexico, El Salvador and other Central American countries.



Watch that step Photo by DAVID KENNEDY

Taking to the air, Mat Newman enjoys some serious hackysac.

Police appeal for help in solving triple slaying

United Press International
LONGVIEW — Police asked the public for help Thursday in solving the slayings of a couple and their young son, killed by someone who apparently took their car to Tyler but left no visible fingerprints or other evidence.

Funeral services were held Thursday for Jerry Morgan, 30, his wife, Brenda, 26; and their son, Devin Glenn Morgan, 11 months, whose bodies were found Tuesday morning in a police spokesman Gene Noble called the East Texas area's worst multiple slaying in at least 10 years.

The Morgans, who had been married about 10 years, had lost their older son Shane, 8, to cerebral palsy in September, relatives said.

Noble said officers Thursday would begin retracing every step of their investigation and reinterviewing several people about the slayings.

He appealed for anyone with information on the killings to call the Longview Crimestoppers telephone number. Information given to that number is kept in confidence and can result in a reward if it leads to an arrest and indictment, he said.

The victims' bodies were discovered Tuesday morning by relatives. The three were lying on their backs on the floor of a bedroom in their trailer home, located about a quarter mile from the nearest neighbors. They had apparently been dead since Monday afternoon.

Their car was found Wednesday about 50 miles away in

Tyler, parked at a hospital. Noble said officers watched the car for several hours in hopes the killer or killers would return to it, then impounded and searched it.

"They took something like three hours to go over that car," Noble said. "We got some smudges as far as fingerprints. As far as any other physical evidence there was almost nothing there."

"We're going back over our steps so to speak," Noble said Thursday. "We're going to reinterview just about everyone. We're getting a number of phone calls, various and sundry pieces of information."

"We're checking out every lead possible. We have ruled out nothing," he said.

Two killed in crash of vintage airplane

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — A veteran Eastern Airlines pilot and his son were killed in the crash of a rare British WWII trainer plane owned by the Confederate Air Force, officials said Thursday.

The Department of Public Safety identified the victims as Warren Erhardt, 51, and his son, Timothy Erhardt, 26, of San Antonio. Officials said both men were burned beyond recognition.

The elder Erhardt, who piloted the plane, had been employed by Eastern Airlines for the last eight years.

The 43 De Havilland Tiger, both apparently developed engine trouble shortly after it took off from the Rio Medina airstrip in south Bexar County at about 7 p.m. Wednesday, said a sheriff's department spokesman.

The plane, a rare biplane used by the British in WWII,

nose-dived into a field near the airstrip and burst into flames on impact, said sheriff's investigator Bob Hernandez.

The \$40,000 plane belonged to the Alamo Wing of the Confederate Air Force, which restores and flies vintage aircraft.

Col. Bob Griffin, spokesman at the CAF headquarters in Harlingen, said the crash was only the third of a CAF-owned aircraft during the organization's 26-year history, although other planes privately owned by CAF members have been involved in accidents.

"We get blamed for almost every crash that occurs, but our safety record over the years is excellent, evidenced by our very low insurance rate from Lloyds of London," Griffin said.

Ed Martinez, a local official of the Federal Aviation Administration, said a federal inspector was dispatched to the scene Thursday to determine the cause of the crash.

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* Source: Future Computing, Inc.

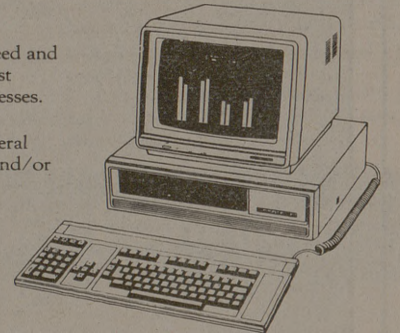
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