

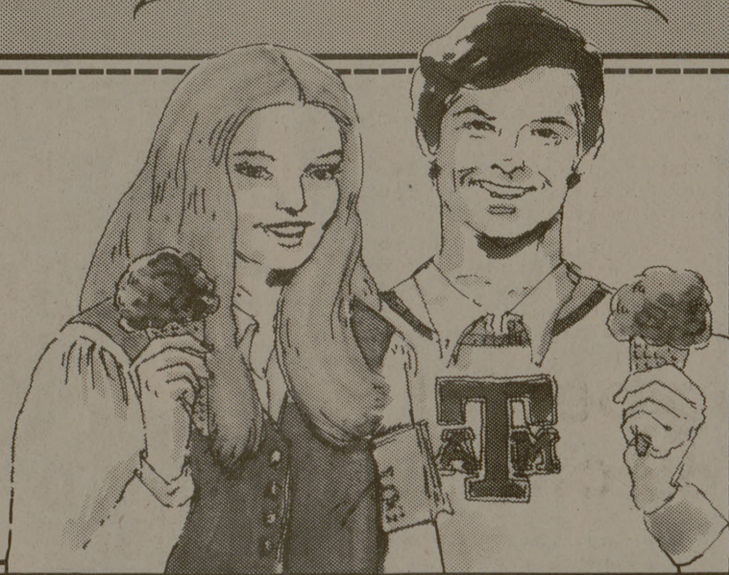
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## Derailment

### Officials hope rains will wash acid away

**Associated Press**  
SAN ANTONIO — Up to 10 miles of the Medina River have been affected by a train derailment that dropped at least 50,000 gallons of sulfuric acid into the waters, Texas Water Commission officials said Tuesday.

Henry Karnei, environmental specialist with the commission, said six monitoring stations had been set up along the river to check water quality.

Officials are hoping fall rains will wash out the river and that it will reclaim itself within at least six months. The derailment of the Southern Pacific train late Saturday sent 21 tankers loaded with the highly corrosive acid from a bridge onto the banks of the river below.

At least 300 residents in a 1-mile radius were evacuated until early

Monday. Eight workers on the cleanup crew were taken to local hospitals after sustaining burns. About 20 others who suffered superficial burns were treated and released at the scene Monday.

Cleanup workers dumped tons of lime into the river to neutralize the acid.

Tom Milligan, TWC spokesman, said too much lime had been deposited at a point about six miles downstream from the spill site and the pH level was up to 12 early Tuesday.

Normal pH level for the river is 7. The river had been down to a pH of 1 after the spill, officials said.

Milligan said the flow of the river would bring the pH down to normal and the river would suffer no more damage than it already has.

The toxic, highly corrosive acid

killed thousands of fish and destroyed river vegetation, officials said.

The acid, which was still bubbling on the ground in spots late Tuesday morning, will have "positively no effect" on the Edwards Aquifer, said Augustine De La Cruz of the TWC.

The spill was over the aquifer, but is not in the recharge zone of the water supply for San Antonio and the surrounding counties, he said.

The site also is above clay that is fairly impermeable, 60 feet of sand and layers of calcium carbonate, which would act as a neutralizer, De La Cruz said.

Southern Pacific spokesman Johnson said workers began repairing the damaged bridge Tuesday and hoped to be finished by noon Thursday.

## Senator says transferring inmates could help reduce gang killings

**Associated Press**  
AUSTIN — Voter approval of a constitutional amendment that would let authorities transfer troublesome inmates to other states would be a big help in curbing gang killings in Texas prisons, a state senator said Tuesday.

"Present law does not allow us to deal with prison violence by simply ridding ourselves of those causing it," Sen. Ray Farbee, D-Wichita Falls, said. "The adoption of Proposition Six on Nov. 5 will allow us to do so."

So far this year, 26 inmates have been killed behind the walls of Texas prisons and a total of 207 inmates have been stabbed.

The proposed constitutional amendment on prisoner transfers is one of 14 that voters will decide in this year's general election.

This would allow the Texas Department of Corrections to make use of the Interstate Corrections Compact, a longstanding federal law that permits states to agree between themselves to transfer inmates to

prisons in other states. Farabee, chairman of the State Affairs Committee, said he is to ending gang violence is to rid Texas prisons of gang leaders.

"Gang problems did not begin in Texas, nor are they unique to Texas," Farabee said. "Other states have used the compact with success as a tool in breaking up gangs and dispersing their leaders."

Farabee said the transfers to other states' prisons also could be used to protect inmates.

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