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### Three hurt as anti-tank weapon fires

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) — A 30mm anti-tank weapon discharged at a gasoline service station Tuesday, apparently as a man was trying to sell it, setting off a fire and explosion and injuring three people, authorities said.

Lt. Steve Hinson of the Arlington County fire department said a man parked at the gas station in suburban Washington was selling the weapon to another man when it went off, launching a round into a nearby gas pump. Both men were arrested.

The blast, which was heard for 10 blocks, sent metal fragments flying through the air from a pickup truck parked at the gas station, according to police and witnesses.

The two men were charged with transportation and manufacture of an explosive device, which is a felony, said Arlington police spokesman Tom Bell.

Bell identified the pair as Robert George Delgir, 54, and Joseph Raymond Donahue, 40. He said Delgir was arrested about three miles from the scene after he drove away in the charred truck. Donahue, who fled on foot, was caught nearby.

Delgir told police he is an electronics store owner in Xenia, Ohio. Donahue said he is a former army helicopter pilot now working in northern Virginia.

"Delgir was showing him (Donahue) this homemade cannon, six feet long, and he inserted a shell into it and then dropped it into the truck when it went off," said Bell. "It went through the truck into the gas pump and set the whole thing on fire."

Waldo



by Kevin Thomas

### Creators of 'Santa Barbara' have to give up home there

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Try this for irony: The success of NBC soap opera "Santa Barbara" has forced creator-producers Jerome and Bridget Dobson to give up their home in Santa Barbara.

The couple launched the soap opera two years ago against incredible odds, but it has survived and is slowly gaining in the ratings.

"We opened the show the week of the Los Angeles Summer Olympics," Dobson said, noting that ABC's serials were shortened or pre-empted during the games.

His wife added, "We had 250 people who had never worked together. Plus it was a new studio and you couldn't find the light switches."

The Dobsons, who had previously written for "General Hospital," "The Guiding Light" and "As the World Turns," were living in Santa Barbara when they were asked by NBC to create a new serial.

"We thought we would retire,"

Dobson said. "We didn't want to work for a while. When NBC first asked us to do the show we said they didn't have enough to offer. Bridget was working on an idea for a novel, and she wanted to write several plays. Then they offered us ownership of the show and an on-the-air commitment."

Mrs. Dobson said, "We were living in Santa Barbara, which is a very exotic place with exotic people. We'd had this idea for a long time. Putting the show in Santa Barbara gives it a nice flavor, a good California feeling."

To keep the show on the air required 16-hour days. They soon realized they could no longer commute 90 miles from Santa Barbara to Los Angeles, so they sold their home and moved here.

Soap operas are tough to get off the ground. Viewers have to be lured away from established serials. Once a soap is established, its audi-

ence is very loyal, and its profits can be sizable.

The time slot for "Santa Barbara" was particularly tough.

Two game shows and another soap, "Texas," had failed there, and the competition is fierce — ABC's "General Hospital" and CBS' "The Guiding Light."

In the beginning "Santa Barbara" had a rating of 2.7 (percent of the nation's 85.9 million homes with TV.) It was at rock bottom in the daytime.

Now, the show has a rating of 5.0 and is ninth out of 13 soap operas.

Mrs. Dobson learned the soap opera business from her parents, Frank and Doris Hursley, who created "General Hospital." At one time Mrs. Dobson wrote all the shows.

But Dobson had no connection with soap operas until he married. "I learned soap opera writing looking over my wife's shoulder," he said.

### Doctor-pilots help Mexico with medical care

MESA, Ariz. (AP) — On the first weekend of each month from October through June, Dr. Charles Gardner, an orthopedic surgeon at Mesa General Hospital, loads medical supplies and equipment on his single-engine airplane and flies to a small town in Mexico.

In the town of El Fuerte, a village of about 10,000 in the Mexican state of Sinaloa, 150 people from a hundred miles around line up early in the morning outside a small Red Cross-owned clinic to be treated by Gardner and other physicians from the Mesa area.

Their ailments range from ear in-

fections to cancer tumors, and all of them look to the American doctors for relief and comfort.

"You can see in their eyes they appreciate whatever you can do for them," he said.

Gardner is a member of Liga International Inc., a group of California-based doctor-pilots who volunteer their time to fly regularly to remote areas of Mexico where medical services are in short supply.

The organization, which has been going to Mexico for 50 years, was looking for a group of doctors to take over a clinic in El Fuerte, Gardner said.

So several physicians at Mesa General who own their own airplanes formed a Mesa chapter of Liga International to be responsible for the clinic, he said.

The Mesa doctors are committed to be in El Fuerte on the first weekend of each month for nine months out of the year, he said. Sometimes they are joined by Liga International volunteer doctors and dentists from other states.

They do not go during the summer months because of rainy weather, and because the airport at El Fuerte is not equipped with navigation aids, Gardner said.

The doctors fly down on Friday, see patients on Saturday and return to Mesa on Sunday. The group sees about 150 patients in that one day.

So far Gardner has seen a wide variety of cases, including some general illnesses that an orthopedic surgeon doesn't normally treat.

The local doctors don't seem to resent the presence of Americans in the village; some seem to feel it's an opportunity to learn from specialists, he said.

Despite the frustration he feels at the limitations on the program, Gardner said it's worth it.

### Ruling party PRI dominates life in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP) — On many rural roads in Mexico, the signs that caution against speeding are not posted by the government but by the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party.

No town is too small to be without a headquarters for the official party, known as the PRI, and its ever-present national colors of red, green and white.

The PRI and the government work hand in hand, in control of Mexico without a break for the past 57 years, and despite their separate structures, to most they are the same.

In Chihuahua, Mexico's largest state on the border with Texas and New Mexico, protesters from the conservative National Action Party charge that vote fraud deprived them of an election win this summer.

Pockets of support for opposition parties of the left or right are scattered about Mexico but the PRI is everywhere.

The party is a chameleon scampering across the political landscape to endure and control since its founding in 1929, a response to the violence of the Mexican Revolution from 1910 to 1921 that claimed the lives of one of every seven Mexicans.

Now, in a Mexico that is rapidly changing from a rural, agriculturally based nation to an urban, industrialized one, it is searching once again for the shifts that can absorb, co-opt or simply overwhelm the opposition.

And it must do so in a climate of recession, without the promise of ever-improving standards of living that carried the PRI from the mid-1950s through the 1970s when the "Mexican Miracle" of 6 percent to 7 percent annual growth was the norm.

The longstanding promise of social peace through one-party rule may not be enough.

"For many non-Mexican observers, the party's name was simply incomprehensible; 'revolutionary' and on top of that 'institutional,' an authentic contradiction in terms," wrote political analyst Arnaldo Cordova. "For Mexicans, it did not mean anything but that the heroic era of the revolution had passed on to a new life."

Through a combination of money, political patronage, a strong grassroots organization and domination of the news media, the PRI has managed to fend off challenges before.

Most important, according to its political foes, the PRI simply steals unwinnable elections.

The PRI never has lost the presidency or a governorship since it was founded.

A presidential election is scheduled every six years, with the next in 1988, and no serious challenge to the ruling party is expected at the national level.

Electoral reform laws adopted in 1977 in response to growing voter apathy led to some control of town and city halls by minority parties. By 1983, National Action defeated the PRI in important municipal elections in Chihuahua and Durango states, including Ciudad Juarez, the country's fifth biggest city.

Since then, in vote after vote, the PRI has won the vast majority of state and local elections.

There have been charges — backed up by evidence, in some cases filmed — that old-fashioned voter fraud was once again in style. The party's critics charge that the nation's leaders were unwilling to take the threat that opposition control of a city could lead to PRI loss of a statehouse.

Indeed, the expectations of fraud are so high that few believe it even if the PRI wins honestly. The party's problem, observed one top-level supporter, may be that "it can conquer but can't convince."

### NFL Roundup

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turn specialist last year was cut by the New England Patriots.

It was a busy two days for the Bills, who are trying to regain respectability after losing 28 of their last 32 regular season games.

On Monday, they signed Jim Kelly, the USFL's record-breaking quarterback, to a contract estimated at \$8 million over five years. On Tuesday, they announced the retirement of Ben Williams, a nine-year starter at left defensive end and signed two more USFL refugees, center Kent Hull and tight end Sam Bowers, both of whom played three years with the New Jersey Generals.

Cribbs also had USFL experience, having jumped after the 1983 season to the Birmingham Stallions. That move prompted a lawsuit by the Bills that Cribbs eventually won.

He rejoined the Bills six games into last season, but had to split time with Bell and gained just 399 yards in 122 carries after three 1,000-yard seasons in his four previous Buffalo seasons.

In San Francisco, Cribbs is expected to be used as insurance for

Wendell Tyler, who was bothered last year by a knee injury.

In another deal Tuesday, the Washington Redskins traded veteran punter Jeff Hayes to Cincinnati and placed another veteran, Calvin Muhammad, on injured reserve. The Redskins also placed defensive tackle Bob Slater, their top draft pick three years ago, on injured reserve for the third straight season with a bad knee.

AFC champion New England, meanwhile, got a boost when center Pete Brock signed a new contract and checked into camp.

The Patriots placed Lin Dawson, their starting tight end on injured reserve with a knee he injured in last January's Super Bowl loss to the Chicago Bears. Also going on New England's injured list was Gerard Phelan, Doug Flutie's favorite receiver at Boston College two years ago.

The New York Jets put off-injured wide receiver Johnny "Lam" Jones back on injured reserve and the Pittsburgh Steelers did the same with Craig Wolfley, a starting guard. The Miami Dolphins put veteran tight end Joe Rose on the injured list and cut Bill Barnett, a six-year backup on the defensive line.

The Dallas Cowboys placed six

players on the injured reserve list, leaving the NFL club just one person over the required 60-player limit that had to be met by the day's end.

Those on the injured reserve list were Jeff Jones, neck injury; defensive lineman George McDuffy, neck injury; and running back Carl Miller, elbow injury.

Also listed were third-year full-back Norm Grainger, hamstring injury; seventh-year guard Kurt Petersen, knee injury; and linebacker Brian Salonen, groin injury.

In other team moves:

**San Diego**  
 The Chargers cut their fourth-round draft choice, linebacker Tommy Taylor of UCLA, leaving 13 linebackers still remaining on the roster.

The Chargers also said they had reached agreement with Andy Hawkins, a former linebacker with the USFL Houston Gamblers and were awaiting clearance to sign him.

**Pittsburgh**  
 The Steelers today placed 14 players on waivers, 14 players on injured reserve and three other players on two other reserve lists to reduce its roster to 59. Wolfley went on injured reserve and

among those cut was nose tackle Mark Catano, a three-year veteran who started six games last season.

**Atlanta**

The Falcons cut Virgil Seay, who had spent six years in the NFL, most of them with Washington. They also waived Steve Griffin, a 12th round draft choice from Purdue, and Ron Jenkins, a free agent from Colorado State.

**Miami**

In addition placing Rose on injured reserve and cutting Barnett, the Dolphins cut rookie quarterback Jeff Wickersham and free agent Liffort Hobbly, both of LSU.

**New Orleans**

The Saints cut wide receiver Jerry Wheeler and quarterback John Fourcade and put eight players on injured reserve, including veteran quarterback-wide receiver-defensive back Guido Merkens.

**New York Jets**

Along with Jones, the Jets put third-round draft pick Tim Crawford, a linebacker, on injured reserve. Among those cut were second-year running back Cedric Minter, who came to the club from the Canadian Football League.

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