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11-year-old Texan attempting to fly from coast to coast

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An 11-year-old boy settled onto two pillows so he could see out the window and took to the sky Wednesday in a bid to become the youngest person to pi-

lot a plane across the United States. "It's not a big deal to me," said John Kevin Hill, who has had 150 hours of flying experience and hopes to fly around the world two years from now. "I'm used to flying long distances.

"It's something to do for the summer.

He was confident, he said, be-

cause "I'm better than most pilots." Morning fog burned off in time for the Arlington, Texas, boy's takeoff in a single-engine Cessna 210 from Whiteman Air Park in suburban Pacoima en route to his first stop at Cedar City, Utah.

Dressed in jeans, a "Texas" T-shirt, tennis shoes and a ball cap with his name on it, Hill was accompanied by flight instructor Mike Fields and a

newspaper reporter. Because Hill's not old enough to obtain a solo pilot's license, Fields is a required companion on the week-long, 3,500-mile trip. Fields, who will take the controls only in an emergency, has been Hill's instructor since the boy started flying at age 9

Hill's longest previous flight was a 7,000-mile trek with Fields across the northwest United States and Canada last year.

The journey could get Hill's name etched in the Guinness Book of World Records, which lists a 9-yearold for setting a record in 1983 with a solo flight over Mexico. But there is no entry for the youngest pilot to fly across the United States.

Hill found the sky over Los Angeles crowded.

"It's very hard to take off from here because there's a lot of traffic." he said, remarking that he would have to rely on instruments rather than control-tower radar because Whiteman has no tower.

"I'm a little nervous," he had said Tuesday. "Well, I guess I'm excited and nervous."

Hill has a stopover Friday in Love-land, Colo., north of Denver. Then, it's on to Kansas City, Mo., and St. Louis for a stop Sunday. On July 1, Hill is scheduled to reach Washington, D.C.

In Loveland, he will get the keys to the city from Mayor Don Riedell, who will proclaim Friday as John Kevin Hill Day. A reception also is planned in Washington, where Rep. Dick Armey, R-Texas, has invited President Reagan, Vice President George Bush and Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole to witness the landing

His father, Johnny Hill, said, "In two years, he's going to fly around the world. It's already set. And he wants NASA to let him ride on the next shuttle. Heck, he has more flying time than those senators they sent up

Hill bought his son a \$20 intro-ductory flight when the boy was 9.

Soon, the boy began asking for more lessons.

His mother, Patsy Hill, didn't want him to fly but acquiesced after seeing his dedication. She thought her son would lose interest, but now predicts he'll probably stick with it into adulthood

At a sendoff Monday in Arlington, about 200 well-wishers gathered to see Hill off. The Texas Rangers gave him an autographed baseball and the Dallas Cowboys gave him an autographed football.

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A pa-trolman acquitted of murder could get his job back unless officials find he broke departmental rules in shooting a fellow officer, the city's personnel director said.

Farrell Tucker, 36, was acquitted in the Aug. 18 shooting death of his best friend, Stephen R. Smith, 31. search for Gibson "We are plotting a lot of ground," Garza sad. "That's Tucker claims self-defense in the taking so long. Wedon't have precedent to deal vith."

shooting of Smith, a suspected vigi-State law gives city offic days to decide whether Tud lante cop who Tucker said planned to kill three top law enforcement officials.

Joe Constantino, city personnel director, said Tuesday that Tucker's "We don't want o wait the but we still want to direct su case doesn't come under a provision calling for his entire disciplinary retime to it so we're all o with the outcome," Garzas cord to be reviewed before allowing not yet been identied a reason why Officer Tuck not be put back to wok." If Gibson doesn't nake him back on the job.

Constantino said under those guidelines, it would seem Chief William O. Gibson probably has little choice but to allow Tucker back on the force.

reinstated automaical "There has to be something stemstantino said.

Wife confirms testimony of husband as McFadden murder trial continues

BELTON (AP) — A woman confirmed her husband's testimony Wednesday that a teenager was in a car similar to one driven by Jerry Animal" McFadden the day the youth and two others were seen alive for the last time.

Lavita Pace Boykin of Lake Hawkins told jurors in McFadden's murder trial that she saw Bryan Boone of Hawkins, who went with Suzanne Harrison and Gena Turner on a weekend outing in May 1986.

Her husband, Gregory, gave similar testimony Tuesday.

McFadden is accused in the beating-strangulation death of Harrison, 18, whose partially clothed body was found the day after she disappeared from Lake Hawkins.

Authorities found the bodies of Turner, 20, and 19-year-old Boone 10 days later. McFadden

has not been charged in those deaths. Boykin, 20, told jurors that her husband said, " 'Hey, look; there's Bryan.' I slightly turned my head and said, 'Yes, it sure is.' "

But defense attorney Vernard Solomon, in cross-examination, asked Boykin if she remembered telling police in a June 1986 statement, "We did not wave at Bryan or anything." Boykin said in the third day of testimony she

now remembers that her husband waved at the teen-ager who was sitting in a blue-and-white Bronco similar to one McFadden was driving.

Two other witnesses testified they saw a blueand-white Bronco traveling on a road about three miles from Lake Hawkins.

Harrison's mother, Mary Ann H sobbed Tuesday as she recalled theday daughter's death.

Clutching a handkerchief, Harrism rors her daughter would have grada honors three weeks after she was killer

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She gave a list of student activities have ter participated in and said she had cepted at Texas A&M University. Harrison said her daughter spentth

Turner's house the day before she w and then spent most of May 4, 1986, w Later that evening, Turner and Boom Harrison up at about 6 p.m. and said the not be out past 7 p.m., Harrison said is said it was the last time she saw her dags

Convicted killer executed by lethal injection PENSA

Friday

ming out of the Smith-Tude dent, the shooting, that Give allege to be a violation," Cons

be reinstated.

Gibson said Tueslay

within the 30 days, Ticker

Meanwhile, Cty Attorney Garza said he wil continue

said

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three working days fore desired publication date.

Patrolman aquitted

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What's up

Thursday

TAMU NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN: M meet at 7 p.m. in 305 A-B Rudder.

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRIES: will hold a Bille study a 6:30 p.m. outdoors between Rudder Tower and the Me morial Student Center.

CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST: will hold a "Frida Night Alive" meeting at 6 p.m. in 510 Rudder.

FROG LEGS PLATE

Saturday

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\$495

\$695

49¢

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HUNTSVILLE (AP) — A con-victed killer whose drug use made it difficult for prison officials to administer a lethal injection was executed quietly early Wednesday for the 1982 robbery-slaying of a Beaumont jeweler.

Elliot Rod Johnson, 28, of Port Arthur, asked for forgiveness while family members of his victim waited across the street from the Texas Department of Corrections Walls Unit to assure themselves the execution had occurred.

"I'm very sorry for bringing all the hurt and pain to everyone who loved me so much," Johnson said in his final statement. "I hope all my friends find it in their hearts to forgive me.

the death chamber shortly after mid-night, it wasn't until 12:43 a.m. that the lethal drugs began flowing through his veins. Death came 12 minutes later, Attorney General Jim Mattox said.

Mattox said prison officials tried his right arm several times but could not find a suitable vein for the needle. Finally, it was decided both nee-dles would go in the left arm.

"He went to sleep in a peaceful fashion," Mattox said.

Johnson was killed for the shooting death of Joseph Granado, 67, and a fellow employee at his downtown Beaumont store, Arturo Melendez, 45. The two were gunned

Although Johnson was brought to e death chamber shortly after mid-April 8, 1982.

After waiting in a nearby prison office for word of Johnson's death, Granado's daughter, Rosie Moreno, said, "I felt I had to be here for this. I had to see justice is done.

Johnson, a 10th-grade dropout who also dropped out of the Army because he couldn't cope with military life, insisted he was not in the store at the time of the shooting. State and federal courts Tuesday rejected his final appeals.

Johnson and another man, Maurice Andrews, were sentenced to death for the Granado slaying. An execution date has not been set for Andrews. A third man received a life prison term and a fourth got 30 vears.

kitty Ha About four hours before the cution, Johnson made a phothe Gulf to his mother, Luanna, McCorpus C orpus C month began serving a si prison term for theft. he ag tribut

Johnson, whose record in cola-area two drug convictions, said stoward of a-area the three others convicted a omoda Granado slaying drove to Bescarrier. on April 8, 1982, to buy some but he was ill and waited outst A disp uld be

Testimony at his trial, 🗖 al gov the pla placed him inside the stor of the placed Granado and Melendez ve County of execution-style. A jury tools nexation utes to convict him. was hand

Johnson was the fourth 10 mate to be executed this ^g Gov. Bol the 24th — more than in an officials state — since the state resume 10 to brin cutions in 1982.

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