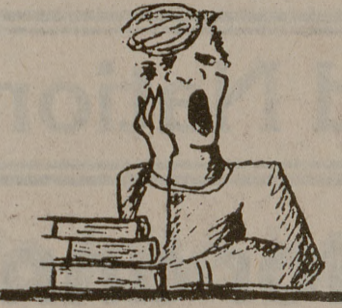


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**Cargo plane falls
short of runway,
injures 2 on board**

DALLAS (AP) — A cargo plane spun out of control and crashed Monday short of the runway at Red Bird Airport, injuring two people aboard the craft, authorities said.

"A large plane crashed," airport spokesman Richard Janousek said. "I don't exactly know what kind it is."

He said the plane crashed shortly before 6 p.m.

Electricity in operations offices at the airport was cut, but power was later restored, he said.

According to unofficial, initial reports, only two people were aboard the aircraft, described as a Lockheed Lodestar cargo plane, and both survived the crash.

Officials said the crash site was near U.S. Highway 67 on Dallas' southwest side, inside the city limits.

Duncanville Fire Department spokesman Steve Hall said the plane's occupants were hurt but he did not know the extent of their injuries.

"One of the men was really torn up," said Jenarold Triplett, manager of a McDonald's restaurant who watched the crash a short distance from the business.

"And another barely walked away, but he did walk," she said. "But they got out of the flames in time."

The plane "came out of the sky and was spinning around," Triplett said.

"It was spinning but barely under control," she said. "Then they must have lost it, and it went straight down."

"It blew up. It blew up twice. When it hit, it blew and then it blew again. And all the lights went out."

"I was watching out the window when it happened. Parts are scattered everywhere."

The craft was believed to be a 12-passenger plane but there were no further details, said a civilian working in the Dallas Police Department dispatch office who identified herself only as Rodriguez.

**Railroad official says
campaign will focus
on presidential race**

AUSTIN (AP) — Railroad Commissioner Jim Nugent on Monday said his re-election campaign will include a close watch on the presidential contenders.

"The Super Tuesday primary gives us all a priceless opportunity to insist that the candidates in both parties speak to the energy issue with concrete and specific programs that will help get Texas back to work," Nugent said.

Nugent has served for nine years on the three-member panel that regulates the energy and transportation industries in Texas.

"The job is tougher now than ever before," Nugent said. "This is not the time to be training a commissioner with no experience in state

government. It requires experience and tough outspoken leadership if our commissioners are to make the kind of difference in the creation of a national policy that they have in the past," he said.

Nugent again urged his "energy recovery program" that includes tax breaks as an incentive for exploration and drilling. He said he would be shopping his plan with the presidential candidates.

"I do not intend to endorse any one (candidate) but I am prepared to take any candidate to the oil patch and to educate any candidate who feels the need to learn about the economic consequences of unstable energy prices," he said.

**Commissioner seeks
to encourage search
for new gas supplies**

AUSTIN (AP) — Railroad Commissioner John Sharp said Monday he will propose a change of commission rules to encourage exploration for new gas supplies in Texas.

Under Sharp's proposal, gas wells in new fields would be allowed to produce at maximum deliverability for two years from the date the first gas from the field is sold, or until the sixth well is completed, whichever comes first.

Then, the wells would come under the commission's normal gas proration system.

Pipelines would be required to take such new gas supplies before gas from most other wells. After two years, or completion of the sixth

well, the wells would join other wells under the regular priority system.

"I've been told by independent producers that their bankers will not approve loans for new discovery wells because they fear they can't sell it if they find it," Sharp said. "This rule does away with that argument by insuring this gas a place in the market."

He said studies show that unless something is done to stem falling gas production in Texas, the state could have critical gas supply problems within two or three years.

"In fact, we could have some spot deliverability problems this winter if we get a cold snap," he said.

**Motorcycle riders collect
toys for children in need**

AMARILLO (AP) — It may have looked like a scene from the movie "Easy Rider," but it was all for a good cause when hundreds of bikers rolled into town with toys strapped to their Harley Davidsons.

Motorcycle riders from throughout the Texas Panhandle and nearby states shed their tough-guy image this weekend to help gather toys for needy children.

The moving mass of chrome, leather and denim was part of the

8th Annual Bikers Toy Run, held Sunday to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots campaign.

"This is one of the biggest toy runs in the country, as far as we know," said Linda Stanley of S&S Cycles, which sponsors the event each December.

Riders and others who came along for the party were treated to free beer and dance music at the end of the parade route.

**Toxic chemical evidence
leaks in deputy clerk's office**

BAY CITY (AP) — Matagorda County officials say workers in the district clerk's office are in no danger from a spill of highly toxic pesticide that was being stored as evidence.

The chemical — dapona — was being stored as evidence in the retrieval of a lawsuit that claims the chemical killed "Superman 1024," a prized Santa Gertrudis bull.

Deputy Clerk Becky Denn said she was moving an evidence box when she discovered the leak Friday afternoon.

Denn said she called the sheriff's office and a fire department crew was dispatched to contain the spill.

The one gallon container of the chemical was being stored in the clerk's office as evidence for the retrial even though the lawsuit was settled out of court two weeks ago for \$3.3 million.

Bay City Fire Chief Garland Hinman said the chemical was in its concentrated form and was highly toxic.

Hinman said the remainder of the poison was taken to a county precinct barn for safe keeping.

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