

World and Nation

Kennedy murder files missing 2,400 photos

SACRAMENTO (AP) — More than 2,400 photographs from the assassination of Robert Kennedy were unaccountably destroyed nearly 20 years ago, officials said Tuesday as they opened to the public for the first time the long-secret police files.

There was no explanation in the 50,000 pages of documents why the pictures were burned or why such items as ceiling tiles and door jams from the scene of Kennedy's death were destroyed in the months following the assassination.

California Secretary of State March Fong Eu released the documents, including interviews with 4,000 witnesses and 2,500 photographs from the Los Angeles Police Department files.

The state's chief archivist said the documents were unlikely to answer the numerous questions surround-

ing the 1968 assassination because of the destroyed material.

"I've never seen a file quite this large," archivist John Burns said. "This is a very unusual murder file (but) I'm not absolutely satisfied that any questions are answered."

He said the biggest surprise was the amount of evidence destroyed, including the photographs, which were burned three months after the assassination. Their subjects are unknown.

"What I didn't know, and I'm told others didn't know, was that so much evidence was destroyed," he said.

He also said he could not explain why evidence was destroyed, noting police were careful at the outset because they didn't want "another Dallas," where Kennedy's brother, President John F. Kennedy, was killed.

Burns predicted the evidence will occupy researchers for years.

The gaps in the material drew immediate criticism.

"Someone should ask the police why they destroyed 2,400 photographs in the most important case they've ever examined," Gregory Stone, a political scientist at the University of Wisconsin and a longtime student of the case, said.

The documents released include an admission by police that they destroyed key evidence, including ceiling tiles, a door jamb and thousands of photographs taken in the Ambassador Hotel kitchen where Kennedy was shot on June 5, 1968.

An official record in the evidence showed that 2,410 photographs were burned on Aug. 21, 1968. It gives no reason.

Hippies boil cane toads for drug trip

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Hippies in Australia's outback are boiling cane toads, which are kicked from cane toads, to produce a slimy, acridly lethal cocktail, police said Tuesday.

"People taking it experience a high similar to that resulting from marijuana," said Inspector Syd Churchill of Cairns Police in northern Queensland.

Churchill told the *Sydney Herald* that cane toads are reviled across Australia for their ugly appearance, are being used by drug users because they are beautiful while narcotics like heroin and heroin are in short supply.

"The preparation involves boiling toads in a boiler for a few minutes. The toads are then removed, and the slimy, treacherous substance behind them," Churchill said.

World Briefs

Tornado in northern Florida kills four

MADISON, Fla. (AP) — A pre-dawn tornado exploded through this rural North Florida community Tuesday, killing four people, destroying homes, throwing people from their beds and leaving much of a college campus in ruins.

Only rubble was left in some neighborhoods after the tornado cut a swath 12 miles long, at least a half-mile wide about 4 a.m. 15 people were injured, mobile home of two of those were killed, vanishing from leaving only foundation holes.

Families were thrown from bed while windows exploded, their homes collapsed on them.

3 top Justice Department aides quit

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three top Justice Department aides to Deputy Attorney General Arnold Burns are quitting or transferring to new jobs, marking a new round of departures and creating additional problems for Attorney General Edwin Meese III.

All three deputies rejected overtures by aides to Meese to remain at the Justice Department after the abrupt March 29 resignations of Burns and criminal division chief William Weld, department sources said Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Meese expects to hear shortly from Louis attorney John Sherris whether the former American Bar Association president will withdraw from consideration as Burns' successor.

"Probably tomorrow," department spokesman Eastland said Tuesday when asked whether there was any word on Sherris' status.

Shepherd, 62, told Meese Friday that he was giving consideration to withdrawing.

Israel deports 8 more Palestinians

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel deported eight more Palestinians from the occupied lands to Lebanon on Tuesday, including six involved in a stoning attack on teen-age Israeli hikers in a West Bank village, the army said.

In other developments, Ezer Weizman, a Cabinet minister without portfolio, said the assassination of PLO military commander Khalil al-Wazir last week may lead to more terrorism. The army censored a newspaper editorial criticizing Israel's reported role in the killing.

Army officials said for the first time that the April 6 attack on the hikers was planned. A teen-aged Jewish settler and two Palestinians were killed.

The officials said the planning was done by some of those in the group of deportees, who described them as members of an outlawed Palestine Liberation Organization youth group.

An army spokesman said the deportees set up roadblocks for Arab residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip entering Israel for two days beginning Tuesday night.

He said the measure was at preventing terrorism on Memorial Day, which began Tuesday night, and Independence Day, which begins Wednesday night and marks the anniversary of the nation's founding.

A Palestinian died in wounds suffered the day in a clash with soldiers at koah, a West Bank army spokesman said.

OSHA workers admit to sham

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal safety inspectors told a Senate committee Tuesday they were instructed in September to "generate numbers" through sham inspections emphasizing quantity over improving the quality of the nation's workplaces.

"Because the office was short on numbers for the year, they wanted compliance officers to generate double the number of OSHA 1 (inspection) reports," Dr. John Barry, an industrial hygienist in the agency's Philadelphia regional office, testified Tuesday.

Barry and other field inspectors stationed in Texas described in the second day of hearings by the Senate Labor Committee how the Occupational Safety and Health Adminis-

tration boosted its inspection totals last year by more than 2,000.

The committee, chaired by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., has been preparing the hearings for more than a year. None of the seven Republicans on the panel have attended the first two days.

Before the first witness was called Monday, Kennedy vowed to "show that the decision to let workers die . . . has been supervised." Experts before the panel Monday estimated that 50,000 to 70,000 Americans die annually from occupational-related diseases that could be prevented.

Kennedy repeated his charges Tuesday, saying that career OSHA employees generate misleading data that give the appearance of zeal as a cover for neglect.

Group threatens harm for U.S. actions in Gulf

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — A pro-Iranian group claiming to hold two American hostages said Wednesday there would be "retaliations and retaliations" for the U.S. military action in the Persian Gulf.

The Revolutionary Justice Organization made the threat in a handwritten statement in Arabic delivered after midnight to the independent daily newspaper *Al-Nahar* in Beirut.

Included with the statement was a photograph of Joseph James Cicippio, whom it claims to hold.

The group said it would punish "American aggressions in the gulf." The statement also cautioned Algeria against any violation or deception in its dealings with the Moslem

hijackers of a Kuwaiti plane seized on April 5.

The plane is in Algiers. Cicippio, 57, of Valley Forge, Pa., was acting comptroller of the American University of Beirut. He was kidnapped in the Lebanese capital on Sept. 12, 1986.

The Revolutionary Justice Organization also holds Edward Austin Tracy of Burlington, Vt., a writer who was abducted in west Beirut Oct. 21, 1986.

On Monday, U.S. Naval vessels attacked two Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf and sank or damaged six Iranian ships in retaliation for a mine explosion last week that damaged the USS Samuel B. Roberts and wounded 10 crewmen.

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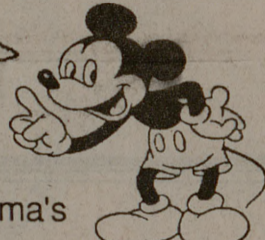
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ABC 2	*	--	#
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Video Aggieland-BETA	26	(\$45 plus tax)
Picture in Aggieland (the book)	17	
Student Directory	18	(\$2.50 plus tax)

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