

Police sting used to collect late ticket fines

MANSFIELD (AP) — Most who earned they were not receiving a free trip to Jamaica, but instead faced a free trip to jail, were good-natured and quickly paid outstanding traffic tickets, said Mansfield police of their successful undercover sting operation.

"Most of them found it kind of humorous," Mansfield police Lt. Jimmy Owen said. "Once the initial shock was over, some thought it was funny as all get out."

Mansfield police mailed 600 letters from a fake travel agency to people with outstanding traffic warrants, telling them they had won a Jamaican vacation, use of a Porsche for a year or \$3,000.

Recipients were instructed to make an appointment and to bring identification when they came to collect their prize last weekend. The ruse netted 54 arrests and \$8,000 in fines.

One man, who went out of his way to collect his prize, was not pleased about being swept up in the police trap.

The man called ahead to say he would be late, then drove in from the Houston area.

"He pulled up after we had closed down the business and everybody was gone," Owen told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. "When he pulled into the parking lot to ask directions, a patrolman asked his name and told him it was a sting operation and he was under arrest."

"I think he was a little perturbed at first. I don't know what his attitude was when he left."

Mansfield police said the sting operation, their first, was an overwhelming success.

Siblings drown in canal on El Paso golf course

EL PASO (AP) — A 9-year-old girl and her 11-year-old brother drowned in a canal on a golf course despite efforts by bystanders and emergency workers to rescue them.

Rachel and Juan Silva were pronounced dead at Thomason Hospital at about 9 p.m. Tuesday, two hours after golfers pulled them from the 5-foot-deep canal on the edge of Ascarate Municipal Golf Course, sheriff's deputies said.

Juan apparently was trying to save his sister, who had fallen into the 60-foot-wide canal, El Paso Sheriff's Sgt. Marvin Ryals said.

"They were probably just playing, but they probably went out too deep," he said. "The brother may have tried to save the girl."

Michael Hutcherson of Pampa was playing golf and had earlier seen

Rachel and Juan playing on the bank with their 7-year-old sister. Hutcherson said he later saw Juan jumping around in the water and no sign of Rachel. He asked the 7-year-old girl whether her brother was in trouble. She said she thought so.

"I knew he was in trouble then, and I hit the water," Hutcherson said.

A fellow golfer ran for help while Hutcherson pulled the boy out of the water and tried to revive him with cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The 7-year-old girl went for the children's mother, Patricia Silva.

When the girl and her mother arrived, a bystander asked the little girl where Rachel was.

"She said the other girl was the same place her brother had been,"

Hutcherson said. "I knew right then the boy I was trying to save had been trying to save his sister."

An unidentified bystander jumped in, found the girl and pulled her out. Attempts to revive the children at the scene, in ambulances and at Thomason Hospital were unsuccessful.

"We got a lot of help from bystanders," said Kevin Hobin, a supervisor for the city's Emergency Medical Services. "Everyone there was really pulling for those two."

Ryals said Ms. Silva had taken the children to the park Tuesday afternoon.

"They apparently were left unattended," Ryals said. "They didn't know how to swim at all."

D-FW crash brings bad memories

DALLAS (AP) — The crash of a Delta Airlines jet on takeoff from Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport Wednesday brought back grim reminders of another Delta fatal accident at the airport three years ago.

On Aug. 2, 1985, Delta Flight 191 crashed and burned during a severe thunderstorm, killing 137 people, including a man driving along a highway, and injuring 25 others. The L-1011 went down during a rapidly developing thunderstorm and smashed into two water tanks just short of the runway where the flight was arriving from Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

In that accident, 27 passengers and crew members survived.

In Wednesday's crash of Flight 1141 on takeoff for Salt Lake City, 13 were killed and 94 survived. Officials are not speculating what caused the accident, which oc-

curred as the plane attempted to take off in cloudless skies just after 9 a.m. CDT.

National Transportation Safety Board investigators ruled in mid-July 1986 that the Delta 191 crash occurred when the plane flew into a microburst containing several wind shears.

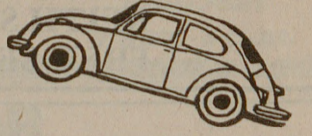
The strong, abrupt downward shifts in wind direction at the south end of the airport smashed the jet into the ground.

"The biggest lesson of that crash was a better understanding of what happens during a microburst," NTSB spokesman Bill Bush said shortly after the findings were released. "Because there was a lot of information on the digital flight recorder, we know a lot more about how airplanes perform during a microburst."

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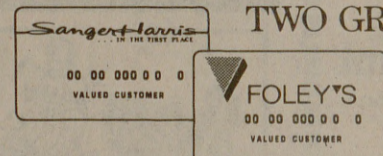
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