

# Unleaded gas shortage Mexican city mystery

Ciudad Juarez, Mexico (AP) — A severe shortage of unleaded gasoline has hit this city of 1.2 million, causing some gasoline stations to close and sending some motorists across the border to refuel their vehicles, officials said.

The reason for the shortage remains a mystery.

Some officials said the problem is caused by a damaged pipeline in the Gulf Coast state of Veracruz, disrupting truck deliveries to the north.

But Raul Mena Burguete, director of the Juarez office of the national Chamber of Commerce, said Monday that the nationalized petroleum company, Pemex, has declined to provide an explanation.

Pemex has promised to truck in gasoline from Mexico's west coast.

About one in 10 Pemex stations had run out of gasoline and shut off

their pumps by Monday, the daily *El Fronterizo* reported.

Though leaded "Nova" gasoline was available, unleaded "Extra" was virtually impossible to find in the city, the newspaper reported.

Most new cars sold in Mexico burn leaded gasoline, but many Juarez residents buy used American cars that use unleaded fuel.

Unleaded gasoline is relatively uncommon in Mexico.

Stations in many small towns sell only leaded fuel, and dependable supplies of unleaded are found in only larger cities.

Mena said many Juarez motorists are buying enough leaded gasoline to get them across the international bridge and to U.S. gas stations to buy unleaded fuel.

The economic effect on owners of Pemex stations is undetermined, said Mena, who also said that the Juarez motorists are crossing the bridges in increasing numbers to buy gasoline.

Pemex has no local gasoline reserves in the Juarez area, Mena said, who criticized Pemex for the oversight.

Last spring, a spectacular fire heavily damaged a gasoline tank farm in Chihuahua City, 220 miles south of Juarez.

In July, a gasoline shortage in Chihuahua City became so severe that only one station remained open.

Lines grew blocks long, and some of those waiting up to six hours in line got in fistfights when motorists tried to cut in. No such incidents have been reported in Juarez.

## Reagan authorizes release of funds to pay debt to UN

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan has authorized the release of \$188 million in U.S. dues payments to the United Nations and has directed the State Department to work on a plan for settling all past debts, the White House announced Tuesday.

Presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told reporters in a late afternoon briefing that Reagan told the State Department to work out a multi-year plan for paying a grand total of \$520 million in current and

late U.S. dues payments to the world body.

The U.S. also has \$111.8 million in past due payments separately to the U.N. peacekeeping fund.

Fitzwater said the United Nations has reformed its operations to the point where Reagan felt he could act.

"The president will release \$44 million, which was withheld in fiscal 1988, and \$144 million which was

withheld in fiscal 1989. He will request full funding of the United Nations' in Fiscal 1990, which amounts to approximately \$476 million," he said.

The \$44 million will be released immediately, Fitzwater said, while the \$144 million that had been earmarked in Fiscal 1989, beginning Oct. 1, will be set free as funds become available.

Officials in the U.N. press office said they were aware of Reagan's action but that they could not comment until it is communicated officially to the United Nations.

Fitzwater noted that Congress required the president to determine that the United Nations had made reforms, including cutbacks in the (U.N.) secretariat, the hiring of temporary employees and improved budgeting procedures.

Fitzwater said Reagan was convinced that the United Nations had made progress in instituting reforms and that the president noted the increasing peacekeeping role of the world body in such hot spots as Afghanistan, Namibia and the Persian Gulf.

The United Nations, he said, is serving important long-term interests of the United States in these troubled regions.

## Investigators wait for pilot to recover

DALLAS (AP) — National Transportation Safety Board members investigating the crash of Delta Air Lines Flight 1141 were waiting Tuesday to begin interviewing the injured pilot, whose jaw is wired shut.

Capt. Larry Davis' physician approved the interview on Monday, a spokesman for Parkland Memorial Hospital said.

Parkland spokesman Paula Jones said the interviews could begin Tuesday afternoon, following the approval by Dr. William Thompson.

Davis, hospitalized since the Aug. 31 crash that killed 14 people, is walking but is wearing a back brace, a spokesman said. He has had surgery for traumatic injuries.

NTSB officials in Washington did not immediately return phone calls from the Associated Press on Tuesday. The Greenville pilot has said he was ready to be interviewed by the agency on the crash.

Davis, his co-pilot and flight engineer were among 94 people who survived the crash of the Boeing 727-200 shortly after takeoff at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

Whatever the reasons, Phillips now has 35 churches with a combined asking price of \$52 million on the market. Prices range from a \$250,000 church accommodating 100 to \$1 million or more, like the 1,000-seat Grace Community Church in nearby League City.

Members there outgrew the 30,000-square-foot complex and Phillips helped them find 14 acres in neighboring Friendswood for a new 80,000-square-foot complex.

A devout Christian who once aspired to be a missionary in foreign countries, Phillips said the mission field is right here — every national

ity, every culture you can think of is here in Houston."

That rich religious mix hasn't always made the church real estate business easy for Phillips.

Because of her strong religious beliefs, she said she first hesitated helping a Moslem representative find a site for an Islamic educational center.

"Then I decided, 'Well, we have freedom of worship in this country,'" she said. "I remembered that in this great country of ours we all have a right to worship the way we see fit. The freedom to worship as we see fit is a great freedom we have been given."

Now she not only helps Moslems, but Buddhist monks, Baptists, Catholics, Methodists, Greek Orthodox and any of the many other religious groups found in Houston.

To deal with the different religions, Phillips says she has had to learn about the different beliefs and often refers to her other book — a book titled "Religions in America."

She bought the book after showing an Egyptian Orthodox Church group a site. She didn't know to remove her shoes before reaching the altar, as is the Egyptian Orthodox custom. The faith also requires worshipping east to west.

"I have to only show them things that face east and west," she said. "I showed them First Baptist Church of Alief and we couldn't manage turning it around." That church faces north and south.

The 40,000-square-foot "wrong-way" church sits on a six-acre site and is listed for \$1.5 million.

"Our needs have just changed and we have a lot we don't need," said the Rev. Jay C. Riley. The First Baptist congregation is planning to build new facilities on adjacent land.

"I know if anyone can get a buyer, she will," Riley said. "We've given her a big problem to solve. She's very positive, conscientious and just stays right with it."

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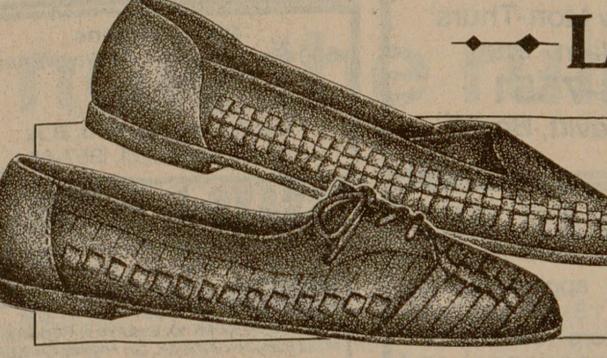
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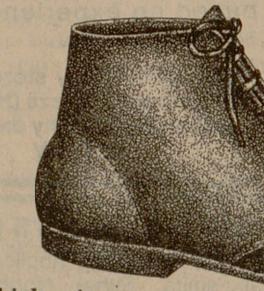
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