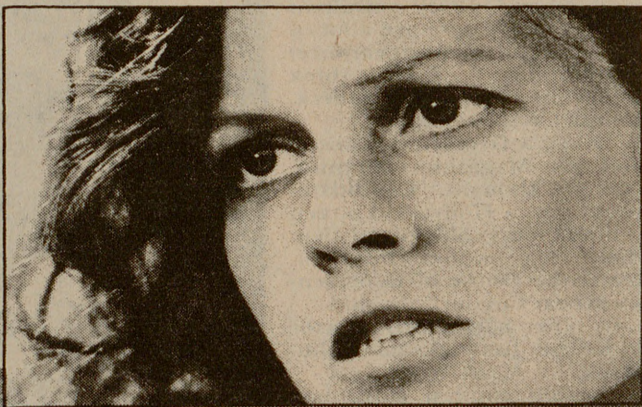


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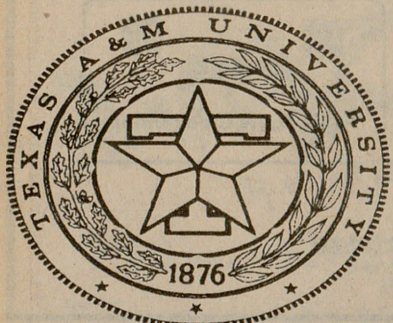
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Cool breeze

The weather may have cooled off but the residents of Puryear Hall leave their doors open.

Photo by Sam B. Myers

Health officials declare no danger in Love Canal

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. (AP) — State health officials declared Tuesday that it is safe for hundreds of former residents to return to Love Canal, the neighborhood that became world famous for chemical contamination.

State Health Commissioner Dr. David Axelrod said most areas of Love Canal contain no more chemicals than other neighborhoods in the industrial city.

The long-awaited finding was hailed by Love Canal residents who feared that the neighborhood would not be resettled but would be left vacant as a symbol of environmental disaster.

"We've been waiting for this for 10 years," Nunzio LoVerdi, who lived in a housing project in Love Canal said. "I'll be the first to move back."

As part of the state ruling, a task force of local officials will create a plan to resettle the community and assist homeowners in renovating their homes, many of which have fallen into disrepair.

Hundreds of families had been awaiting the decision to determine whether they can return to the homes they left 10 years ago when President Jimmy Carter declared the area a national disaster. As many as 80 other families were hoping the study would confirm their decision to stay in their homes near the former chemical dumpsite.

Niagara Falls Mayor Michael O'Laughlin said the decision will be good for the city.

"It won't mean a landslide of people moving back," O'Laughlin said. "But it will mean the city will begin to put the nightmare behind it."

Axelrod met with some 200 residents of the area Tuesday night to announce his findings.

Phillips' plan to relocate affects 125

BARTLESVILLE, Okla. (AP) — Phillips Petroleum Co. is relocating part of its operations from its Denver office to Texas in a consolidation that will affect about 125 employees, spokesman Dan Harrison said Tuesday.

Harrison said the regional exploration and production office and the partnership operations now based in Denver will be merged with company offices in Houston and Borger, Texas.

He described the consolidation as part of the ongoing effort to improve profitability during this period of low (crude oil) prices.

The Denver office, headquarters for Phillips' operations in the northwestern United States, has about 240 employees, Harrison said.

Approximately 210 of those employees are in exploration and production, he said.

Of the 125 Phillips employees in Denver affected by the streamlining move, Harrison said a large portion of those people are going to be offered jobs in the other areas where Phillips operates.

About 80 of the Phillips employees affected are professionals, he said.

"We think the bulk of those professional people will be offered positions," Harrison said.

He said jobs would be available in Houston, Borger and elsewhere as a result of the consolidation.

Those employees not offered positions will be given enhanced severance packages, Harrison said.

Regional exploration employees and support staff will remain in Denver, he said.

"We think that these reductions are going to be completed by the end of the year," Harrison said.

At first, residents were angry and frustrated at not being able understand Axelrod's technical presentation. But the mood lightened as it became clear that most residents were getting good news. Axelrod recommended, however, that some blocks were still unsafe, affecting about 10 families.

The go-ahead for resettlement will add to a revitalization under way in the area.

Love Canal, an abandoned waterway project, was used by the Hooker Chemical Co. to dispose of thousands of pounds of chemical wastes in the 1940s. The company made

herbicides and pesticides. In the 1950s, the canal and its contents were covered over and homes and an elementary school built. It wasn't until the early 1970s that people began to notice foul smells in their basements and oil puddles in their yards.

They also began to notice higher than-usual incidences of miscarriages, birth defects, cancer, leukemia, neurological disease, allergies, epilepsy and suicide.

In all, 728 homes in a 50-block area were evacuated and the elementary school and 228 houses torn down.

Radiation device sounds 'too late'

CHICAGO (AP) — A Nevada company selling a home radiation detector like a smoke detector admits it won't go off until five times the standard set by the government, and safety officials question other company claims.

"Over a hundred nuclear power plants are a prime source of peril for some 30 million households situated nearby," Jack Little, president of Unique Products Inc. of Reno, said. In a mishap, he said, people should get out as soon as possible.

"We're not merchants of fear," Little said. "On the contrary, we want people to understand that a nuclear mishap is not like exploding a nuclear bomb. People can protect themselves," he said.

The EarlyWarning Radiation Detector sounds an alarm at about five times the minimum government standard for exposure of nuclear plant workers. Little said such standards are a matter of scientific controversy.

A six-page manual advises that when an alarm sounds, people should stay calm, gather essentials, lock their homes and head away from the radiation source without speeding. Every few miles, they should check the detector. "When it no longer sounds, then you know you have reached safety," the manual says.

If the alarm sounds at a higher

setting than the minimum, you need to change directions, it says.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokesman Jan Strasma said more than a sound-and-light alarm would be needed to decide how to handle a radiation emergency.

Strasma said evacuation is not always the answer, because a building may provide protection. "The answer to dealing with a nuclear accident is to follow the emergency plan and the advice of state and local officials," he said.

The consumer could use a radiation detector because the NRC acknowledges nearly 3,000 accidents occur every year at U.S. power plants, Little said.

Strasma said that number refers to situations that include minor procedural infractions, and called Little's wording a vast overstatement.

Nonetheless, NRC spokesman Russ Marabito said he could foresee no agency action to counteract statements used in selling the device. "If he feels it's correct, that's between him and the buyer," Marabito said.

Little had no sales information on the device, which he said was marketed in California. He said U.S. and European distribution began after the National Hardware Show here in August.

Official: Terrorism may hit record level

WASHINGTON (AP) — Abu Nidal, after lying low in 1987, appears to be resuming his terrorist campaign with support from Libya, the top U.S. counterterrorism official said Tuesday.

L. Paul Bremer, ambassador-at-large for counterterrorism, also told reporters that the number of terrorist incidents appears to be headed for a record level of 1,000 this year, although the number of Americans killed in such attacks has fallen.

"Any effort to make an assessment of where we are in terrorism leads you to the inevitable good news and bad news," he said.

"The bad news is that terrorism is certainly continuing. According to the figures that we keep, . . . 1987 was the worst year in history. We had 832 recorded incidents in inter-

national terrorism" up from 774 in 1986, he said.

For the first six months of 1988, "terrorism is up substantially over last year, perhaps by as much as a third. So it is possible that we will end this year with as many as 1,000 incidents, maybe more, which would make 1988 the worst year," he said.

The number of Americans killed in terrorist incidents has fallen from 38 in 1986 to 12 in 1987 and three in the first half of 1988, he said.

Most of the increase in terrorism consists of attacks in Pakistan by agents of the Kremlin-backed regime in Afghanistan, he said. He said he had no evidence that the Afghan government was responsible for an airplane disaster that claimed the life of Pakistani president Mohammad Zia ul-Haq and the U.S. ambassador to Pakistan on Aug. 17.