

# Accident traps man in car for 63 hours in ice storm

FRIENDSWOOD (AP) — A man trapped in his overturned car in freezing weather for some 63 hours was in serious but stable condition Wednesday, hospital officials said.

Ronald Schroeder, 44, of Friendswood, whose car had plunged into a ravine, finally was rescued Tuesday morning when three men driving by spotted the vehicle. He remained at John Sealy Hospital in Galveston with circulation problems and a puncture wound in his left arm and hand.

Authorities had been searching for Schroeder since Saturday night, when his wife reported him missing,

Friendswood Sgt. Ross Eliason said. Schroeder's ordeal began Saturday at 6 p.m. when he left his Houston suburb home to go to the store. He later called his wife, saying he could not find what he wanted and was going to a different store in nearby Webster.

Police said Schroeder witnessed a two-car accident involving two young drivers on a bridge about 8:35 p.m. Saturday. In swerving to avoid the accident on Farm Road 528, Schroeder's car plunged off the bridge and flipped over.

The passenger door flew open, Schroeder's wrist was pinned under

the car's roof, and he blacked out. His car was surrounded by foliage.

Schroeder told police he regained consciousness to see the lights of emergency vehicles, but his cries for help were not heard.

For more than 60 hours, he remained pinned in the car during a period of record-breaking lows for the area and was not rescued until 11:50 a.m. Tuesday. He used a cup to catch rainwater to drink.

Eliason said he had checked the area where Schroeder's car was located Sunday night, searching for ice, but saw no trace of the car or the man.

# Conservationists try to breed red wolves to prevent extinction

GLEN ROSE (AP) — Almost 10 years after red wolves lost their last wild foothold in Southeast Texas, their howls echoed among tree-studded hills here as conservationists tried to breed the species from the brink of extinction.

Eight of the 84 red wolves left in the world were moved Tuesday from carrying cages into mating pens, 45 miles southwest of Fort Worth. The native Texas species is being rejuvenated at the Fossil Rim Wildlife Center.

"The only hope of saving them has been to put them in captivity," said Ronald Smith, who accompanied the animals by plane from their previous breeding home in Tacoma, Wash.

Government-sponsored bounty hunting of the sleek animals, destruction of their habitat and diseases such as heartworms decimated their population after the turn of the century.

"This is a big deal for Fossil Rim," said Smith after the animals were released into their 100- by 150-foot pens. "It will be a tremendous help in the recovery of the red wolf."

Officials at Fossil Rim have set up one of the largest red wolf breeding programs in the U.S., second only to the program run by the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium in Tacoma.

Fossil Rim is an exotic game center dedicated to saving endangered species. It has programs for cheetahs, Grevy's zebras, white rhinoceroses and numerous herd animals, but all are native to other nations.

"There are fewer red wolves than whooping cranes or even giant pandas," Bruce Williams, director of the non-profit center, said. "The red wolf is the most endangered mammal in the United States."

The four male and four female wolves were placed in large pens, and will live in dog houses and eat dog food. Foundation officials hope

the wolves will have offspring this spring and that the pups can be released into the wild.

After passage of the Endangered Species Act in 1973, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service developed a program to capture the few remaining wolves. The 40 wolves were put in a captive breeding program at the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium.

The last remaining group was found along the Sabine River in Texas and Louisiana, near Beaumont. A trapping program began in the 1970s and the last of the wolves were captured by 1980.

From a pool of 40 animals, the numbers have risen to 84 in the Tacoma program and at several zoos across the nation that have taken a pair or two.

Smith said he expected the number of wolves to almost double by next year because of expansion of facilities for breeding.

## Wiatt

(Continued from page 1)

The protests in Huntsville spread throughout the state, and were networked with other protests in the South, eventually leading to the end of "separate-but-equal" facilities for blacks.

Wiatt said these protests and demonstrations drew the Ku Klux Klan into this area to appeal to those who resisted integration.

"The Klan would come up in their robes . . . from Houston, Beaumont, Orange, Alabama," he said. "The Grand Dragon even showed up. They had numerous rallies."

One of Wiatt's major duties was to prevent the Ku Klux Klan from organizing in his territory, which included Brazos and 12 other counties.

"They tried to set up shop in Trinity County and in Madison County — which is right next to Brazos County — and a couple of others," he says. "They had cross burnings and so forth."

"I dogged the Ku Klux Klan. Everywhere they would come to have a big rally, I was there. I was taking down license plate numbers of participants for further investigation."

The FBI's efforts actually prevented some local counties from forming Ku Klux Klan organizations, Wiatt said.

"We just wiped them out before they got started," he said.

Wiatt said that like in "Mississippi Burning," local law officers often were the ones inflicting much of the racial violence.

"They were reflecting the views of the people who put them in their

position," he said. "I had to conduct investigations on numerous sheriff's departments and police agencies for alleged violations of civil rights."

Wiatt encountered much resentment from local police officers because they knew he was investigating them for allegations of civil rights violations.

Another incident that brought attention to Wiatt was the assault on notorious drug-runner Fred Gomez Carrasco during his attempted escape from the Huntsville prison.

Gomez had been involved in several shootouts with police before going to prison, and claimed to have killed 40 to 100 people in South Texas and Mexico.

Gomez and two other prisoners took 16 hostages, and held out in the prison library for 11 days — the longest prison seige in the country's history at the time.

Wiatt was the first federal agent at the scene, and was responsible for the negotiations with the prisoners.

The prisoners tried to walk out of the prison using the hostages as a barricade. The ensuing 22-minute shootout left two of the hostages dead and another seriously wounded.

Wiatt almost was one of those counted among the dead. He was knocked unconscious when the bullets hit his bulletproof vest.

"I got back up after a few minutes and ended up shooting one of the convicts," he says. "Carrasco ended up blowing his brains out."

The third convict still is on death row, Wiatt added.

Wiatt once placed himself in the position of being a hostage when he

traded himself for another hostage in Caldwell County.

He also solved the murder of federal Judge John Wood, who was shot in 1979.

Wiatt was forced to leave the FBI at the end of 1980 because of a mandatory retirement age of 55.

After working two years for the district attorney, Wiatt was offered a job as head of A&M's police department.

He said he thought this would be a nice little retirement job. But it has been anything but that, he said.

In his six years at A&M, Wiatt has received plenty of attention.

For five years, he was the person in charge of enforcing parking regulations on a campus with almost twice as many parkers as parking spaces. He's even had the University presidents' cars towed more than once.

Wiatt conducted a controversial investigation into the 1984 hazing death of Corps member Bruce Goodrich.

He's responsible for 48 certified officers and other support personnel at A&M and is in charge of security for visiting officials and foreign dignitaries — not an easy job.

Wiatt said he doesn't know how long he'll stay at A&M, but added that he enjoys his job and wants to stay awhile.

He takes a great interest in young people and students, he said, because of the death of his 18-year-old son from Hodgkin's disease in 1976.

He enjoys helping students with anything he can.

"It invigorates me and keeps me young," he said.

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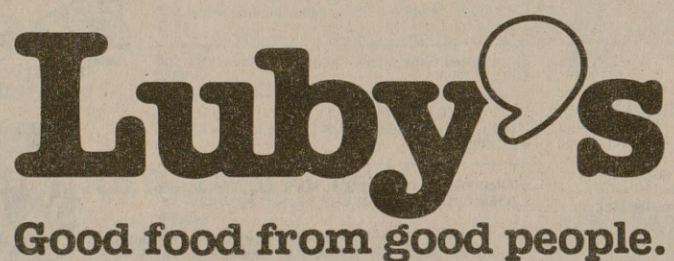
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