

Autopsies indicate pesticides cause of five rail car deaths in Victoria

Officials try to determine if men were locked in by smuggler

VICTORIA (AP) — Autopsies show four illegal aliens found in a truck trailer aboard a rail car and a fifth found along rail tracks 60 miles away were killed by pesticide inside the trailer, officials said Wednesday.

The U.S. Border Patrol was trying to determine whether the men had been locked in the trailer by smugglers in Harlingen, where the train left Monday night for Houston.

"At this point, that appears to be the case, although we're not ready to issue a complete report on that," Border Patrol Chief Silvestre Reyes of McAllen said.

"We do believe that there was a smuggler involved. We believe we have a lead on a smuggler," he said. The suspected smuggler may have made an arrangement with someone to open the doors once the train stopped in Victoria, where at least one of the men was destined, Reyes said.

Four victims were found in the truck trailer on a rail siding in Victoria Tuesday morning.

The fifth was spotted later near Sinton, a small town about 60 miles away.

The train stopped in Sinton for nearly two hours overnight.

Preliminary autopsy reports from Travis County Medical Examiner Robert Bayardo and Nueces County Medical Examiner Joseph Rupp showed all five died of asphyxiation from hydrogen phosphate gas.

The gas was emitted from Phostoxin pesticide packets tossed into the truck to kill boll weevils and other vermin in the corn flour, or masa, it was carrying.

"One of the guys had some coins in his pocket and those coins were black, indicating there was poison in there," Victoria Justice of the Peace Sylvia White said of one autopsy report.

Complete toxicology reports could be issued later in the week, she said.

Authorities have identified only one of the dead men: Carlos Lugardo, 32, from the state of Guerrero, Mexico.

Williams said Lugardo apparently had planned to visit a cousin in Victoria, who identified the dead man.

One of the victims had documents from Honduras, and a third had papers that had been stamped in El Salvador but indicated he was from Venezuela, officials said.

Authorities have found no identification for the other two victims.

Four other illegal aliens noticed the five were sluggish during the stop in Sinton, police said.

Victoria Police Lt. Jack Williams said the other four, who traveled on the same train, found one man off the train at Sinton.

"But they thought he was intoxicated," Williams said. "They tried to wake him, but were unable to. So, they moved him off the tracks. Then they went back to the truck where the man had been and found the others passed out."

"We don't know if he got off by himself or if he had help," San Patricio County Sheriff's investigator Johnny Segovia said of the victim at Sinton.

"I guess he got out and was overcome by the fumes and fell over," Segovia said.

One of the four surviving aliens

was treated at a Victoria hospital after complaining of nausea, diarrhea and lightheadedness believed to be related to inhaling the gas, police said.

Phostoxin is one of three commonly used fumigants for grain products, Max Woodfin, agricultural resources protection officer for the Texas Department of Agriculture, said.

"You close it (the fumigant) in the building or the structure, then you release the chemical," he said.

Taped talking is played back in sheriff's trial

SHERMAN (AP) — An Oklahoma sheriff, in taped conversations played in his federal trial here Wednesday, discussed with police the kidnapping and torturing of a suspected drug dealer to aid in a narcotics case.

"Sometimes you have to break the law to help the law," said Love County Sheriff Moses Wesley Lidell in the recording played for jurors over headphones.

The evidence came in a trial charging Lidell, 47, and his son-in-law, Marietta, Okla., police Officer Roger Ray Hilton, 27, of conspiracy to kidnap and interstate travel to commit violence. No kidnapping took place.

Parts of the three-hour tape presented by federal prosecutors were unintelligible. But Assistant U.S. Attorney H.S. "Bert" Garcia and FBI Agent Tom Knowles blamed the courtroom's acoustics for the problems.

The accuracy of a nine-hour conversation secretly recorded by a Marietta police officer will be a key issue during the trial, both sides said Monday in opening arguments.

Garcia said Tuesday that the tapes were made by Lt. Tom Hankins of the Marietta Police Department. The tapes reveal a plot by Lidell and Hilton to kidnap and torture suspected drug dealer Pearl "Sonny" Cornett, Garcia claimed.

Hankins said Lidell approached him about the kidnapping plot and the two men discussed it several times.



On top of the world

A&M students pass by the fountain on Ross Street as they head to and from class at noon

Wednesday. The photograph was taken from the top of the Chemistry Building.

Photo by Frederick D. Joe

What's Up

Thursday

AGGIELAND: Today and tomorrow are the last days for the Class of '92 to take yearbook pictures. They may be taken from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. at Suite 120B Texas Avenue.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION: will hold a discussion on the political situation in Panama at 6 p.m. in 230 MSC. For more information, contact Vikram S. Torpunuri at 845-5982.

DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES: Social Chair Carnival is 6 to 7 p.m. in 212 MSC. Open to all recognized student organizations. For more information call Jan Paterson at 845-1133.

CIRCLE K INTERNATIONAL: will have a meeting and magazine collection at 7 p.m. in 228 MSC.

MSC POLITICAL FORUM: will have an international subcommittee meeting at 7 p.m. in 407 A&B Rudder. For more information call Rob Fowler at 847-3106.

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN AND CLASSICAL LANGUAGES: will show a film, "La Nuit de Varennes," with English subtitles at 7 p.m. in 302 Rudder.

AMERICAN MEDICAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION: Dr. Elvin E. Smith will speak on exercise and longevity from noon until 12:50 p.m. in lecture hall 1 of the Medical Sciences Building. For more information call Patricia Joyce at 845-2887.

ST. MARY'S STUDENT ORGANIZATION: will visit Boy's Club at 7 p.m. For more information call St. Mary's Student Center at 846-5718.

FOURTH DAY: will have a discussion for everyone who has made an awakening at 6:15 p.m. at St. Mary's Student Center.

LATIN GROUP OF ST. MARY'S: will have a Bible study at 8 p.m. in St. Mary's Student Center.

A&M HILLEL: will have succot decorating at 5 p.m. at Hillel Jewish Student Center.

PHI BETA LAMBDA: will have a social for actives and pledges at 5 p.m. at Sneaker's. For more information call Kip Helm at 847-1560.

STUDENTS AGAINST APARTHEID: will have a concert with reggae bands Wazobia and Spy vs. Spy at 9 p.m. at The Parthenon. All proceeds go to the Africa Fund to help abolish apartheid. For more information call Irwin Tang at 696-3349.

TAMU HORTICULTURE SOCIETY: will have a work party at 5 p.m. at the Horticulture Farm. For more information call Charlie Moomaw at 845-9170.

AGGIES FOR LIFE: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in Rudder. Check the screens for room number.

VENEZUELAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will meet at 6 p.m. at the Flying Tomato. For more information call Victor Pinto at 696-4356 or 845-9654.

PANAMANIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 507 A&B Rudder.

SNOWSKI CLUB: will meet from 5 until 7 p.m. at Mt. Aggie. For more information call Laynee Jones at 696-8759.

TAMU CYCLING TEAM: will have morning yell hour from midnight until 1 a.m. at the KTSR station. For more information call Chris Michaels at 846-0011.

FREE THOUGHT SOCIETY: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in the L.R.D.

ROSENBERG-RICHMOND HOMETOWN CLUB: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 225 MSC. For more information call Philip Anders at 693-7129.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY HOMETOWN A&M CLUB: will meet at 7 p.m. in 225 MSC. For more information call Eunice Escobar at 693-1094.

RECREATIONAL SPORTS: will have a captain's meeting for co-rec 2-pitch softball at 6 p.m. in 167 Read.

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS: will have a general discussion at 6 p.m. For more information call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will have a general discussion at noon. For more information call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS: will have a general discussion at 8:30 p.m. For more information call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280.

Friday

AGGIELAND: Today is the last day for the Class of '92 to take yearbook pictures. Pictures may be taken from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. at Suite 120 B Texas Avenue.

CLASS OF '91 STUDENT COUNCIL: Today is the deadline for submitting entries for the elephant walk T-shirt design contest. Entries should be turned in to the class of '91 cube in the Student Programs Office.

OFF CAMPUS AGGIES: will meet for yell practice at 11:30 p.m. at Mt. Aggie.

OFF CAMPUS AGGIES: will meet for dinner at 7 p.m. at Imperial Gardens. For more information call Larry Lopez at 696-2586.

MSC JORDAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS: will have tours of the Jordan Collection of International Artifacts from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the MSC browsing library.

MSC OPAS: will have the Moscow Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra at 8 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium. For more information call the Rudder Ticket Office at 845-1234.

MANAGEMENT 481 DISTINGUISHED VISITING EXECUTIVE: will host Brandon C. Coleman, President and CEO of Coleman & Coleman, at 10 a.m. in 114 Blocker.

DATA PROCESSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION: scholarship applications are due at 5 p.m. in 401 Blocker.

COLLEGIATE F.F.A.: will have a plant sale all day at Rudder Fountain.

PHILIPPINE STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will meet at 7 p.m. in 502 Rudder.

HELPING HANDS: will stuff envelopes for the fall mailout from 4 until 7 p.m. at St. Mary's Student Center.

INTERVARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: will have Friday night fellowship with faculty member Sue Gellar at 7 p.m. in 301 Rudder. For more information call Jennifer Van Nice at 764-9035.

CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST: will have a Friday Night Alive meeting at 7 p.m. in 108 Harrington.

A&M HILLEL: will have a succot hot dog festival and services at 6 p.m. at Hillel Jewish Student Center.

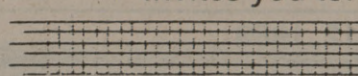
AGGIES WITH KIDS: will have a brown bag lunch and discussion on student health insurance at noon in the Health Center conference room, second floor. For more information call Nancy at 845-1741.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will have a general discussion at noon. For more information call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only publish the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.

THE ECUADORIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION

invites you to:



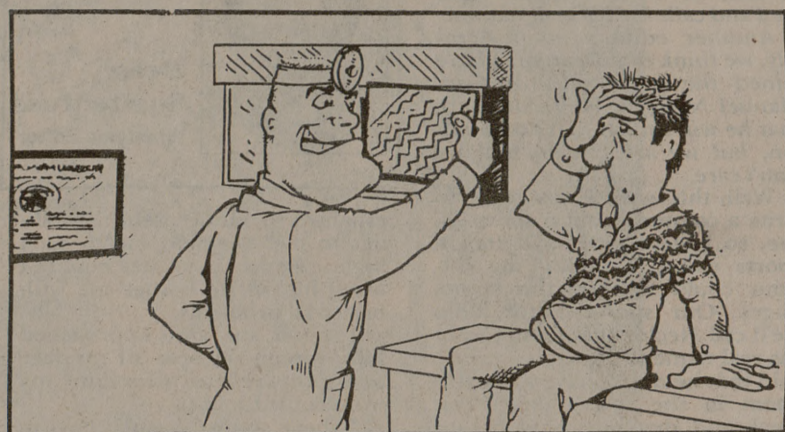
3-MEN VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

at Sneaker's Sports Club on: October 14th

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inscriptions \$8.00 per team at: MSC (October 12th and 13th) for more info. call 696-7864

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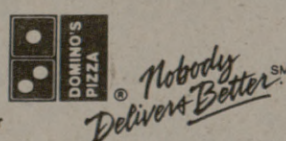
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