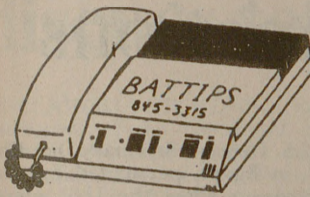


Wednesday, August 8, 1990

BATTIPS



Anyone with story suggestions can call BATTIPS. The Battalion's phone line designed to improve communication between the newspaper and its readers. BATTIPS' number is 845-3315. Ideas can include news stories, feature ideas and personality profiles of interesting people.

U.S. Customs seize Iraqi oil in Port Arthur

PORT ARTHUR (AP) — U.S. Customs officials on Tuesday seized 20 million gallons of Iraqi crude oil aboard a Norwegian vessel at a refinery dock here. Customs spokeswoman Sharon Goodson of Houston said the oil was seized from the Thoraas, a vessel that had loaded the oil from an offshore tanker, the Cartho Genova, a Spanish-registered supertanker sitting in the Gulf of Mexico. "Presently the oil has been seized and the boat is being detained," Goodson said Tuesday. "All of this happened because the final payment (for the crude) was made Monday by Bay Oil Co."

Kuwait may be delivered. Two vessels with Iraqi oil were detained in Corpus Christi last weekend, but customs agents released the cargo once it was determined the oil had been paid for before the embargo took effect. Goodson said the Thoraas was docked at Sun Oil Nederland holding area in Port Arthur Tuesday while officials decided what would be done with the oil. "It is being detained until such time as a determination can be made about whether a penalty will be assessed or whether we are going to store the oil here," Goodson said. She added there probably would not be a penalty imposed against the Thoraas or Bay Oil Co., but the cargo would be held in storage tanks on shore. "The cargo was seized, not the ship," said Erik Leikvang, consul general of Norway in Houston.

"The reason the Thoraas was seized was because the oil wasn't unloaded yet. The ship itself will not be held back once the oil is removed." Customs officials said they would be watching for more crude oil taken off the Cartho Genova and bound for Texas ports. Goodson said the Cartho Genova, carrying 1.6 million barrels, or 67.2 million gallons, is anchored in international waters of the Gulf of Mexico and thus is not subject to Customs regulations. "We're not looking for it, but if its cargo comes into port, we're going to seize it," Goodson said. The supertankers generally have too deep a draft to come into Texas ports. The oil from the larger tankers are transferred to smaller vessels in a process called lightering. The Norwegian supertanker, Mega Borg, was transferring oil to lightering vessels in

June when it was rocked by a series of explosions that killed four crewmen and dumped 3.9 million gallons of Angolan crude into the Gulf of Mexico some 57 miles offshore of Galveston. The Customs Service, along with the U.S. Coast Guard, seized a load of oil at the Port of Corpus Christi on Thursday afternoon, just a few hours after the government implemented the embargo. The oil was being unloaded from the Hellsport Dignity, sailing under a Swedish flag, at a Coastal Corp. refinery facility, said Patricia McCauley, district Customs director in Houston. The cargo had been unloaded at sea from a Norwegian mother ship, the Berge Banker, which remained in the Gulf of Mexico outside U.S. territorial waters.

Kuwaiti lawyer stranded in United States

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A lawyer from Kuwait says he's been stranded in the United States since Iraq's invasion of his home country, and says he fears for the safety of his family back in the Middle East. Meanwhile, the parents of a San Antonio man telephoned their son to say they made it safely out of Kuwait and into Saudi Arabia. Hasan Abdula, 36, an attorney from Dhia, Kuwait, arrived Saturday in San Antonio on vacation, but said Monday he now is stranded and feels like a man without a country. "My wife and two children, my mother and father and many brothers and sisters are still in Kuwait," Abdula said. "The borders are closed and I cannot go home."

(Persian) Gulf because it is mixed with the blood of innocent people," Abdula said. "What Hitler did to Europe, Saddam will do to the (Persian) Gulf." He said thousands of others from his home country also are stranded in the United States and elsewhere. Also in San Antonio, college student Kelly Calvin said Tuesday he received a phone call from his parents, Jim and Phyllis Calvin, who said they made it safely across the Kuwaiti border to Saudi Arabia. Jim Calvin, head coach of the Kuwaiti Olympic basketball team, told his son the couple spent three days living in the basement of their apartment building with no food after the Iraqi invasion. They were able to find a telephone Monday morning and called the American Embassy in Saudi Arabia, which told the couple that the Kuwaiti border would be closed within a couple of hours. The couple and three other Americans

jumped into Jim Calvin's car and sped to the border as Iraqi troops and tanks tried to block them, the younger Calvin said. No shots were fired at the car, which made it across the border, he said. U.S. officials said Texans accounted for were Charles Amos, 59, a Santa Fe Drilling Co. employee whose family resides in Gilmer; Rainard L. Walterscheid of Dallas; Gary Carr of North Richland Hills; Edward Hale, 52, an oil rig supervisor from Spring, and Bobby Gene Parker of Vidor, near Beaumont. Walterscheid had been reported as safe, but his family still has not heard from him, and his stepson, Tommy Ogle, said he was afraid his stepfather was being held hostage. The wife of another American, John Henry Cole, 50, who like Hale and Carr works for OGE Drilling Inc. of Houston, said Monday she still hadn't spoken with her husband. The State Department said it had not been able to contact Steve Betts, 35, of Houston. He coaches the Kuwaiti national swimming team.

Hispanics urge bill for civil rights

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A Hispanic rights organization Tuesday urged citizens to back a civil rights bill before Congress and chided President Bush for opposing it. "We're asking the public to write to Bush and urge him to sign a strong, strong civil rights bill," said Guadalupe Luna, an attorney for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. The Civil Rights Act of 1990 restores anti-discrimination laws that existed for years before the U.S. Supreme Court chipped away at them, Luna said in a news conference. "This bill restores fairness to our employment laws and restores congressional intent," she said. "It also sends a message to this (Supreme) Court that they should leave well-established civil rights laws alone."

Driver files 'illegal search' lawsuit accusing Louisiana officials of scam

JENNINGS, La. — A Georgia man's class-action lawsuit accuses southwest Louisiana authorities of indiscriminately stopping Interstate 10 traffic — especially cars from Georgia, Texas and Florida — to illegally search and seize vehicles and cash. Former Jefferson Davis Parish District Attorney Greg Arnette, who is representing the man, said the practice amounts to a shakedown. However, current District Attorney Wendell Miller, one of the defendants, said Monday the lawsuit is "a nuisance suit, totally without merit." The suit, filed July 17 in U.S. District Court in Lake Charles, also named as defendants Sheriff Dallas Cormier of Jefferson Davis Parish and Miller's administrative assistant, Rod Steed. It was filed on behalf of Donnie Adams, who lives near Douglas, Ga. Although it is a class action suit, Adams is named as plaintiff because, the suit said, "it is suspected that the number of persons who have had their civil rights violated are such that the class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impractical." Arnette, one of Adams' two attorneys, said the Georgian is seeking the return of his money, any cash and property illegally taken from others and an injunction forbidding future unwarranted stop-and-search activities. It said Adams was stopped on or around Dec. 30, 1989, by Steed and an unnamed Jefferson Davis deputy. The suit said it was among at least 50 weekly "profile" traffic stops made over a year by Jefferson Davis Parish authorities. The vehicle cited in the lawsuit belonged to Adams, who was a passenger when the car was stopped for a minor traffic violation, the suit said. After the stop was made, the suit said, Adams' vehicle was searched "without warrant and without any authorization (from Adams)." It said about \$70,000 in cash was found. Though no illegal substances or contraband were found in it, the vehicle was seized along with the money. Adams and his companion were given a receipt for \$67,170 and \$120 cash to let them buy bus tickets back to Georgia. The suit maintains there was never any probable cause to search the vehicle, nor was there probable cause to seize the \$70,000. Now, months later, Adams "has not been formally charged with any criminal activity and still is being deprived of his personal property," the suit stated. Arnette said what happened to Adams and his unidentified companion amounted to a "shakedown."

Coca-Cola settles Company resolves last two lawsuits for wrongful deaths in bus accident

EDINBURG (AP) — Valley Coca-Cola Bottling Co. has settled the last of the wrongful death lawsuits from a school bus accident last year that killed 21 children. The latest settlements involved the deaths of Carmen Michelle Cruz, 18, and 13-year-old Alberto Vasquez. Officials said each of the suits settled Monday involved more than \$4 million. Twenty-one junior and senior high school students died when their bus slammed into a water-filled pit after it collided with a truck owned by Valley Coca-Cola Bottling Co. It was the state's worst school bus accident. Another 60 students were hurt in the accident in Alton. The beverage company previously settled 18 of the death cases for \$4.5 million each and another for \$1.5 million. Still to be settled are numerous lawsuits from families of the injured and from rescue workers who claimed they were physically or emotionally injured by the disaster. Negotiations continue in most of those cases, Coca-Cola attorney Mike Mills said. The National Transportation Safety Board last month blamed the accident on Ruben Perez, the 25-year-old driver of the soft drink truck that collided with the school bus last Sept. 21. The board said Perez failed to brake properly. Investigators said Perez told them that the truck's brakes were two-thirds of normal and that Perez should have been able to stop in time if he had begun applying them 300 feet before the intersection. Perez is scheduled to go on trial later this year for 21 counts of involuntary manslaughter. He has contended that the brakes on the truck failed. A pre-trial hearing in that case is set for September. He is suing the company, claiming he was "hung out to dry" by them. He said the company knew some of its trucks were unsafe but forced drivers to use them anyway. The company has reserved comment on his suit.

Act Now

Police offer advice for auto protection Do anti-theft devices really work? They're not infallible, but some are good enough to earn discounts on car theft insurance premiums. Here are some samples of anti-theft devices that should foil the amateur and hamper the professional: • Kill switch — This is like having a second ignition switch. The car won't start unless a hidden switch is activated. • Alarm system — A loud warning alarm sounds if the car is tampered with or jostled. • Fuel switch — This closes a valve that cuts off the fuel supply. • Armored collar — This is a metal shield that locks around the steering column and covers the ignition. • Crook lock — A bar locks the steering wheel to the brake pedal. Anti-theft devices are available for a variety of prices. Once one is purchased, let an expert install it. Do-it-yourself jobs usually are easier to defeat.

Police Beat

The following incidents were reported to the Texas A&M University Police Department between July 26 and July 31. RECOVERED STOLEN PROPERTY: • The Bryan Police Department notified UPD it had in custody five individuals who admitted to stealing bicycles from the A&M campus. The suspects were detained by several Bryan police officers investigating the theft of merchandise from a store on Dellwood Street in Bryan. The individuals then led police where they had stored the stolen bikes. The bicycles were turned over to University police until owners could identify their bicycles. FELONY THEFT: • A black 1974 BMW motorcycle was stolen from Parking Area 30. MISDEMEANOR THEFT: • A College Station man reported someone removed a case of paper towels and a blue 48-quart ice chest from the bed of his Chevrolet truck in Parking Area 29. • A Bryan woman reported someone stole her Human Sexuality textbook and spiral notebook from a newsstand by public telephones in the MSC. • Unknown person(s) removed a Panasonic single-line telephone from a room of the Biological Sciences Building. • Two bicycles were stolen from areas around campus. • A Bryan man reported he left his wallet unattended in a men's restroom in the Heep Center. He returned later in the day to find someone had taken his wallet which contained his driver's license, \$100 and several credit cards. • A female A&M student reported someone stole her purse from a room in the Halbouty Building. The handbag contained \$50 and other personal property. CRIMINAL MISCHIEF: • A College Station woman reported someone broke the right rear window of her Toyota Tercel while the car was parked on W. Main Drive.

What's Up

Wednesday TEXAS ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COALITION: will have a social get-together in lieu of regular meeting at 7 p.m. at Hensel Park. There will be volleyball and conversation. For more information, call Filo at 823-0960. ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will have a general meeting at noon. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more information. NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS: will have a general meeting at 8:30 p.m. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more information. Thursday ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will have a general meeting at noon. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more information. NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS: will have a general meeting at 8:30 p.m. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more information. ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS: will have a general meeting at 6:00 p.m. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more information. COMMUNITY OF SINGLE ADULTS: will have singles volleyball games at 7:00 p.m. Call 846-1850 or 779-2294 in the evenings for more information. BIRTH PARENT SUPPORT GROUP: will have a meeting at 5:30 p.m. at the Child Placement Center. Free to women facing unplanned pregnancy and parents who have placed a child for adoption. For information call 268-5577 or 776-2007. 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 publish the name and phone number of the contact only 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.

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