

Town evacuated after train collision

ROSSVILLE, Kan. (AP)—A freight train carrying hazardous materials couldn't stop at a crossing and smashed into another train early Wednesday, killing one crew member and injuring the conductor. Twenty cars from both trains derailed, and more than 1,000 people were forced from their homes for more than 6 hours.

“We didn't know what we were dealing with. It was very dark. There was a lot of black smoke.”

**Wilbur F. Stum Jr.
Fire Chief**

The Union Pacific train was like a "ball of fire" when firefighters arrived just after 3 a.m., igniting grass fires

along the tracks, Fire Chief Wilbur F. Stum Jr. said.

"We didn't know what we were dealing with," Stum said. "It was very dark. There was a lot of black smoke."

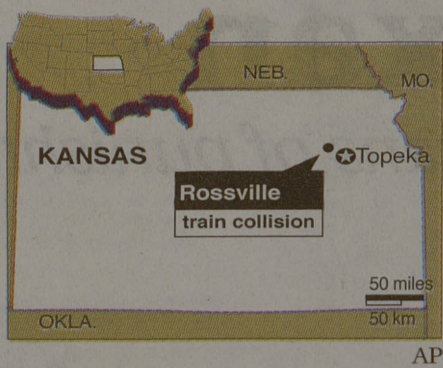
Mike E. Brown, 46, was killed, while conductor Everett L. Starling, 48, suffered minor injuries. Both were aboard a train traveling from Kansas City to North Platte, Neb.

The train, traveling about 10 mph, was unable to stop at a crossing and ran into the side of a second United Pacific train, traveling from Seattle to Memphis at about 70 mph, company spokesman Mark Davis said.

Davis said small amounts of hazardous materials, including corrosive material, air conditioning freon, bromine chloride and household cleaning products in aerosol cans were on both trains.

Some of the aerosol cans exploded, sparking a fire that was eventually doused with 1,500 gallons of water poured from two National Guard helicopters.

Fearing the chemicals could endanger residents, officials evacuated all of the suburban Topeka town's 1,050 citizens—including 76 residents of Rossville's only



nursing home — to a high school after the 2:30 a.m. accident.

They were allowed to return about 9 a.m., but officials continued to cordon off a one-mile area around the accident site Wednesday evening.

Workers were expected to have one of the tracks operating by Thursday morning, and the second track, used by more than 60 trains a day, by Thursday night, company spokesman Mark Davis said.

The National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Railroad Administration were investigating.

Tanker

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"It's pretty well-known what parts of the bay are shallow and what parts are deep, so it's very hard to imagine why something like this would happen," said Anguri Kamoshita, captain of a fishing boat in the bay.

The bay was crowded with fishing boats and other vessels. Kamoshita speculated the Diamond Grace might have run aground as it was moving out of the way of another ship.

Fifteen people living near the bay were sickened by the fumes and taken to nearby hospitals, Tokyo Fire Department spokesman Kimiya Ishida said. Their conditions were not serious.

The supertanker was carrying 75.5 million gallons of crude to Kawasaki from the United Arab Emirates. There were no reported injuries among its 25-member Filipino and Japanese crew, line 200 miles west of Tokyo.

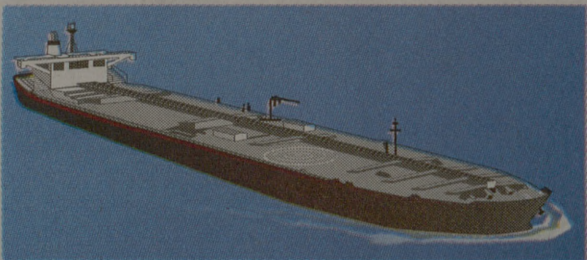
The tanker's primary owner is Dignity Shipholding S.A., a wholly-owned Panamanian subsidiary of Nippon Yusen K.K., Japan's top shipping company.

Yokohama port is heavily industrialized and oil storage facilities dot the coastline. Towns that depend on the bay's fish stocks are nearby.

In January, a Russian tanker broke apart in stormy seas, spilling at least 1.2 million gallons of fuel oil into the Sea of Japan and contaminating the coast

Oil spill in Tokyo Bay

The supertanker Diamond Grace ran aground in the Bay of Tokyo spilling 3.9 million gallons of crude oil. The oil leak has stopped and the ship has docked in Kawasaki.



Diamond Grace (Panama)
● 147,012-ton supertanker
● Carrying 75.5 million gallons of crude oil
● 25-member Filipino and Japanese crew



Study

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He said that the spread of Africanized bees, which are more aggressive but less venomous than their European cousins, is "stagnant" in Texas. No honey bee sting-related deaths in the state have been linked positively to Africanized bees, he said.

The approximately five or so bee swarms in the Bryan-College Station area this year were most likely commercial European bees, Holloway said. Fear of Africanized bees ravaging Texas has dwindled with their population in the wild, he said.

"There are probably no more wild honey bees," Holloway said. "One thing that has contributed to the demise of the Africanized bee is probably the parasitic mite."

The mite, which was first detected in the United States about the same time as the Africanized bee, preys on all honey bees.

Commercial bee colonies are protected from the parasite by pesticides, Holloway said, but vulnerable wild colonies have been destroyed by the mite.

However, Africanized honey bees often intermingle with the commercial European variety, he said, and beekeepers' swarms sometimes show some degree of Africanization.

Bradley inspects samples sent to her by keepers who think their bees may be Africanized. She also examines insects collected in bee traps maintained by the Apiary Inspection Service.

Using a technique called morphometrics, Bradley measures the bees and compares her findings to measurement data on European bees to determine the level of Africanization. A typical sample analysis takes about three hours.

"It's a tedious process," she said. But the testing is necessary to track migration in bee populations, Holloway said. Ninety Texas counties in which Africanized bees have been detected are quarantined to limit movement of commercial bee populations.

Kevorkian's lawyer announces deaths of two MS patients

OUTHFIELD, Mich. (AP) — Two women with multiple sclerosis were found dead in Detroit-area motels Wednesday and Dr. Jack Kevorkian's lawyer all but confirmed that the assisted-suicide advocate was involved in both deaths.

One woman said on a videotape that she had tried to commit suicide four times.

Lawyer Geoffrey Fieger refused to definitively link Kevorkian to the deaths of the women, who he said were his clients, but added: "There's no question about what happened here. Everyone understands that Dr. Kevorkian provides assistance to end suffering."

Kevorkian appeared at a news conference at Fieger's office but did not answer questions. Fieger identified the women as Dorinda Scheipsmeier, 51, of Ocean-side, Calif., and Lynne Dawn Lennox, 54, of Lakewood, N.J.

Police found one body at a motel in Roseville, on Detroit's northeast side, following an anonymous tip, said Police Chief William Lucas. A note identified her as Scheipsmeier and "everything points" to suicide, he said.

An hour later, a motel maid in Romulus,

southwest of Detroit, found a body that police identified only as a 55-year-old Lakewood, N.J., woman. A wheelchair and note to call Fieger were in the room, police said.

They also said autopsies would be conducted. Lennox had discussed her intention to commit suicide with her parents, her sister and her brother, and they all approved, said her mother, Shirley Colvin.

Lennox had suffered from multiple sclerosis for 17 years and was a bookkeeper until her illness forced her to quit working, her mother said.

"She couldn't do anything for herself," Colvin said tearfully in Lakewood.

Fieger showed reporters a videotape dated Oct. 18, 1993, in which a woman who identified herself as Lennox described how the disease left her unable to walk and forced her to wear diapers.

"I've been getting worse every day, and I've already tried to commit suicide four times myself, very unsuccessfully," she said.

She said she wrote to Kevorkian for help after seeing him on Phil Donahue's talk show. "I knew that maybe this was something that I could get him to do," she said.

Fieger said Scheipsmeier was a registered nurse. There was no telephone listing in Ocean-side, Calif., under the name Scheipsmeier.

Fieger announced the deaths after Kevorkian told reporters that a non-medical group led by Janet Good, an assisted suicide advocate and Kevorkian associate, will set up "reasonable and sensible" guidelines for the use of assisted suicide because the medical profession has failed to do so.

Kevorkian in 1995 established a similar group he called Physicians for Mercy that also set up guidelines. It was unclear why he felt a new group was necessary.

Kevorkian has acknowledged attending 45 deaths since 1990, but hasn't directly said he was involved in six other deaths reported since March. Authorities have said they also suspect he may have been involved in two deaths in February.

Last Friday, Fieger said he represents the family of a woman whose body was found the day before in a suburban motel, hours after the U.S. Supreme Court found there is no constitutional right to assisted suicide.

Celebration

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"It only cost \$500 from the Lions Club budget last year for the fireworks," Bohac said. Bohac said that in the past, fireworks were made by one of the Lions Club members, but because of licensing and other complications, a company outside of Houston will provide the fireworks this year.

Jon Mies, fire marshal of the College Station Fire Department, said the Lions Club has to have the approval of the city and state fire marshals to present the public fireworks display.

Mies also said a city ordinance prohibits private fireworks displays within the city limits of College Station.

"You cannot possess, sell or discharge fireworks within the College Station city limits or within 5,000 feet of the city limits," Mies said.

Penalties for violating the ordinance include confiscation of the fireworks and a possible fine.

Bryan has a similar ordinance and penalties.

Mies said College Station prohibits the use and sale of fireworks for safety reasons. "The [city] council and the fire department felt the use of them [fireworks] do not outweigh the danger," Mies said.

The College Station fire department ex-

tinguished grass fires caused by fireworks last year, Mies said.

James Rainer, safety coordinator in the Environmental Health and Safety Department at Texas A&M, said a representative from his office will be at the celebration to monitor the display and will carry a radio and phone to contact the fire department if needed.

Bohac said KKYS 104.7-FM radio and KBTX-TV will broadcast the celebration. Carl Orozco, general sales manager for KBTX-TV, said the station will play patriotic music on the radio and at the field during the display.

Orozco said KKYS's sister station, KTEJ 106.1-FM, also will do a live broadcast.

Wanda Pontz, promotions manager for KBTX-TV, said anchor and reporter Polly Bell and reporter Jenni Lee will serve as mistresses of ceremonies for the celebration. Mark Schnyder, weekend anchor and reporter for the station, will do live shots from Olsen Field during the 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. newscasts.

Pontz said KBTX-TV helps with the program as part of the station's commitment to the cities.

"We're the only local TV station, and we try to be involved in the community," Pontz said.

Housing

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The Department of Parking, Transit and Traffic Services has made changes to the A&M bus system to accommodate students living off campus.

Gary Jackson, PITTS manager of Bus Operations, said changes and improvements will begin in the fall.

"We are going back to the way it was before and cutting our bigger routes in half," Jackson said. "The Cotton Bowl Route is one that will be divided. It will go past 'fraternity row' and will be shortened by five minutes."

Three parking lots will be added next to off-campus bus stops in which students can park their cars.

The parking lots will be at The Texas Hall of Fame in Bryan, Blinn College and First Baptist Church on Welsh Road.

Students with bus passes will be able to park in these lots at no cost. Jackson said the parking lots will benefit students who do not live near bus stops. "Students can park in these lots instead of fighting for a parking space on campus," Jackson said.

University bus passes cost \$110 and are good through the fall and spring semesters. Summer bus passes are available for \$55.

College Station is preparing for increased traffic by planning several major road improvements.

The city currently is widening Texas Avenue, from University Drive to Dominick Road. The city expects the project to be completed by the summer of 1998.

In 2000, the city plans to begin expanding Texas from Dominick to 2818. Ed Hard, the city transportation planner for College Station, said the city plans to begin working on several other major streets.

"We will soon begin working on Southwest Parkway from the East Bypass (Highway 6) to George Bush (Avenue)," Hard said. "We will also expand University from the Hilton to the bypass, adding one lane in each direction."

The city also plans to expand Anderson Street.

Bees

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"We saw a man in a corner hitting himself. He had bees all over," Miss Trujillo said. "We went to check what was wrong with him. But it was buzz, buzz, buzz. They were big, huge." Daniel Esparza said he rushed outside

after hearing children yelling. He said 12-year-old Denise Talamantez ran to him crying for help. He immediately applied mud to the sting on her forehead.

At least twice, emergency crews tried to control the bees by spraying insecticide, but it didn't work. Swarms remained in the area an hour later, and officials warned residents to stay inside for at least another hour.

Blind Federation takes aim at Disney for reviving Mr. Magoo

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The National Federation of the Blind asked Disney on Wednesday to stop making a new Magoo movie, complaining that reviving the hapless, nearsighted cartoon character is an insult to the blind.

The resolution, which was passed unanimously by 3,000 delegates to the group's convention, urges Disney to abandon production of the live-action comedy, set for Christmas release with Leslie Nielsen in the title role.

It says the stereotype of Magoo is as offensive to the blind as Little Black Sambo and Amos 'n' Andy are to blacks.

"The Disney people have dragged Magoo back from richly deserved obscurity in the hope that Americans will think it's funny to watch an ill-tempered and incompetent blind man stumble into things and misunderstand his surroundings," said Marc Maurer, president of the organization.

While the measure stops short of boycotting Disney products, it called on the 50,000 members of the nation's largest blind group to take "whatever action appropriate" to protest the return of Magoo.

Disney officials did not return phone calls.

The federation is the second national organization to target Disney.

Inspirations
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