

Big Spring Herald

Monday

Area weather: Fair tonight with increasing clouds Tuesday. Warm to hot afternoons and mild at night. High through Tuesday in the 90s. Low tonight in the mid 70s. The high yesterday was 94, the low was 71.

At the crossroads of West Texas

12 Pages 2 Sections

Vol. 62 No. 8

June 11, 1990

35¢ Newsstand — 25¢ Home Delivered

On the side

Weather boosts water demands

A string of 100-degree days boosted water demands for the Colorado River Municipal Water District last week, according to official reports.

From Monday through Friday there were 293,274 gallons delivered to the four largest municipal customers — Big Spring, Midland, Odessa and Snyder. That figure includes several 60-million-gallon days, the report states.

Demands on the district had been lagging behind last year's figures by about 5 percent until the sudden increase. Were the increased usage to continue, it would add up to a 15 percent gain in overall use, officials reported.

More may be eligible for SSI

BIG SPRING — Local Social Security administrators say people should be aware that they do not have to be completely destitute to receive financial help through supplemental security income, or SSI.

May low income people are eligible, they say, and person can receive a pension or Social Security check and own a home and a car and still receive SSI payments. Supplemental security income provides regular monthly payments to people in need who are 65 or older, blind or disabled.

Persons who already receive SSI may also be eligible for food stamps and Medicaid, and many states provide an additional cash supplement.

Anyone needing more information can call the local Social Security office or call 1-800-234-5772.

Three honored by Salvation Army

Clyde McMahon Sr., Ima Gene Puckett, and Myra Robinson all received certification with membership emeritus awards from the Salvation Army at Friday's monthly advisory board meeting, said to Lt. Bill Owen.

"They received the awards because of the many years they have been on the advisory board and other things they have done in the community," Lt. Owen said.

All three recipients have been on the advisory board for at least 10 years, he said.

Seventeen members of the board were at the presentation.

Black facing up to being sex symbol

DALLAS (AP) — Singer Clint Black said he is facing up to the fact that he has become a sex symbol in the country music world.

"If you asked me about the sex symbol thing six months ago, I would have strayed away from the conversation," he said. "I would have said, 'That's not me.' Now, it's getting kind of hard. I know I have to accept it."

But he did turn down one women's recent request for fingernail clippings.

Black, who is scheduled to make an appearance in Dallas Saturday at a fund-raiser for the American Cancer Society, was gracious when asked, "Are you the marrying kind?" in a phone interview by *The Dallas Morning News*.

"I could be," he said. "I'm going to try and see how much I can find out about what my life may be about. There's no way to think about a family now. I'm so gone all the time. I've always been very attached. I never have just dated around. We'll see. Maybe I'll just get a black book."

Black, who has scored a hit with his song "Killing Time," said he expects his next album to be finished in August and shipped in September.



GALVESTON — Oil burns on the water around the Norwegian supertanker Mega Borg Sunday as the ship continues to burn out of control in the aftermath. Small explosions were throwing oil into the Gulf of Mexico. The tanker was rocked with explosions Saturday 57 miles off the coast of Galveston.

Tanker in danger of sinking

By **MICHAEL GRACZYK**
Associated Press Writer

GALVESTON — Firefighters today tried to keep a burning supertanker with 38 million gallons of oil from sinking in the Gulf of Mexico. The ship's aft deck was just 5 feet above the surface, and blazing crude was spilling into the water.

Coast Guard officials said firefighters today would use foam to try to smother the blaze aboard the 853-foot Mega Borg, crippled 57 miles southeast of Galveston. Some 30,000 gallons of foam was brought in during the night.

The Norwegian ship was hit by an explosion and fire Saturday while some of its cargo was being transferred to a smaller tanker. Two of the 41 crewmen died, two were missing and presumed dead

and 17 were injured, none seriously.

Little if any of the African light crude spilled initially or during small explosions later Saturday and early Sunday. But on Sunday afternoon, five powerful blasts within 20 minutes ripped through the ship, sending flaming crude into the air and water.

The blaze collapsed the ship's superstructure, which remained engulfed in flames. Columns of thick smoke could be seen nearly 40 miles away.

The stern dropped 58 feet since the first explosion Saturday, indicating either the cargo had shifted or the ship was taking on water, Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Frank Whipple said late Sunday. The aft deck was 5 feet above the

water early today, authorities said.

"It's very possible with a good firefighting effort that a large-scale oil spill can be prevented and something as horrible as the tanker sinking can be prevented, but we don't know how much damage it's already received," Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Todd Nelson said. "We want to be prepared for a large oil spill if it could occur."

The Mega Borg carried more than three times as much oil as was spilled by the Exxon Valdez off Alaska in March 1989 in the nation's worst oil spill.

But authorities noted that the oil spilled in Alaska was heavy crude, which doesn't dissipate nearly as rapidly as the light crude aboard the Mega Borg, and that much of

Poll: Support strong for environmental protection

By **GARY LANGER**
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Seven in 10 Americans say they would ban disposable diapers to protect the environment, and even more would outlaw the plastic foam flotsam of fast-food restaurants, a survey found.

The Media General-Associated Press survey found that most Americans want to elect statewide supercops to take on polluters. And they favor prohibiting cancer-causing pesticides and excessive product packaging.

The poll found strong support for an array of other strict environmental laws. Of those who live in neighborhoods where recycling is not mandatory, nine in 10 supported such a requirement. Nearly 70 percent favored elec-

tion of a state environmental sheriff, a proposal that comes before California voters in a November referendum dubbed "Big Green." Other steps in that measure also won wide backing in the poll.

For example, the California act would ban 19 widely used pesticides that cause cancer in laboratory animals, such a move was favored by 70 percent in the survey, "even if the risk to humans is very slight."

"Big Green" calls for a fee on oil shipping to pay for spill prevention and cleanup; in the poll, 80 percent supported such an effort, even if it raised oil prices. A separate proposal in California would restrict logging in old forests; 61 percent of those polled backed a ban on such timber cutting.

Overall, the survey found a continuing high level of concern about the environment. Four out of five respondents said pollution threatens the quality of their lives, and 75 percent said current anti-pollution laws are too weak. Most faulted state, local and federal environmental efforts.

The level of concern was essentially unchanged from a poll that asked some of the same questions a year ago. The new poll, conducted by telephone May 11-20 among a random sample of 1,143 adults, had a three-point error margin.

Just one-third of respondents expected pollution to decrease in the next 10 years, while 44 percent said it would increase. The rest expected little change.

Toxic waste disposal remained the greatest priority, with 65 per-

Firms compete for contract to collect late taxes

By **PATRICK DRISCOLL**
Staff Writer

County Commissioners heard proposals from four firms this morning to collect delinquent taxes. It is the first time since taxing districts in the county consolidated their collection efforts four years ago that there has been competition for the contract.

Since it would probably be easier for all taxing districts in the county to use the same firm, a decision by commissioners to award a contract was tabled until a board composed of two representatives from each district can consider the proposals, said County Judge John Coffee. Only Coahoma Independent School District has not joined the consolidation effort.

The board will meet either June 19 or June 20, said County Judge John Coffee. Representatives from the county include Commissioner Paul Allen and Tax Collector Kathy Sales.

"That board and Kathy ultimately have to make the decision," Coffee said.

Commissioners Court will then convene on June 25 to vote on the contract, he said. The current two-year contract expires at the end of the month.

Firms giving presentations include the current contract holder, Bancroft & Mouton of Big Spring. Newcomers: are Robert D. Miller of Big Spring; Perdue, Brandon & Fielder of Lubbock and McCree, Veselka, Beck & Allen, of Austin.

The firm which is awarded the contract could earn up to \$120,000 from the 15 percent fee from collections, according to figures from the tax office. About \$58,000 was paid in delinquent tax collection fees from July 1988 to July 1989, Sales said.

Of \$18.767 million in taxes due to districts in 1989, \$803,508.21 has not been collected so far, figures show. Those taxes, about 2 percent of the total, will become delinquent if not paid by July 1.

Issues brought up by representatives of the firms include the advantages of where they are located and their computer capabilities.

Drew Mouton, of Bancroft & Mouton assured commissioners that they are fully computerized and disagreed with suggestions by other representatives that there are advantages to having out-of-town customers. He collects taxes for all county taxing districts except Coahoma ISD. None of his customers are out of the county.

"Having collected the taxes for four years. I'm sure the county is very well aware of our services," he said.

Shelburne J. Veselka, of McCree, Veselka, Beck & Allen, told commissioners that they have offices in Lubbock, San Angelo and Abilene and that they would have a representative come to Howard County to check property titles. They collect taxes for Borden ISD and were one of

• TAXES page 4-A

Local agencies can offer emergency aid

This is the second of two reports about emergency help with utility bills.

By **DEBBIE LINCEUM**
Staff Writer

BIG SPRING — In a sudden emergency, a low-income family may find themselves unable to pay for basic energy bills, which often increase during the hot summer months, relief agency director Pat Lawlis said.

Two local agencies have aided hundreds of residents with utility bills so far this year. The programs, one funded by the state and the other dependent on local donations and grants, are set up to assist residents when a crisis makes energy bills hard to afford.

Organizations such as the Salvation Army and churches often provide help at such times. Big Spring residents are aided every day through two agencies, West Texas Opportunities and the Northside Community Center.

Lawlis, District Director for West Texas Opportunities said the need is evident in Howard County. "Those bills do start getting higher this time of year. Our programs are designed to help the client learn how to keep their payments

up to date in the future. It's a long-term support plan."

The Energy Crisis Intervention Program at West Texas Opportunities can assist with any energy bill. Money comes from the Texas Department of Community Affairs.

"Qualification for this program depends on income, family size and age factors," Lawlis said. "We try to cure an energy crisis by picking up the balance of a bill. Sometimes there is another agency offering aid as well, so together we can pay the entire amount."

Another aid program allows WTO to purchase small portable air conditioners for the elderly and handicapped. "For this program we will make a home visit. They must have no air conditioner at all, and they must qualify, of course."

So far this year, 13 air conditioning units were purchased for qualifying residents, she said.

The Temporary Emergency Relief Fund (TERP) is another project, funded through the Texas Department of Human Services, which aids the needy in meeting utility bills. Funds are available for food under this program as well, Lawlis said, but recipients of

• EMERGENCY page 4-A



Yard work

The lawn at Runnels Junior High should look a little greener when school starts next fall. Jessie Perez, left, Juan Munoz, center, and Richard

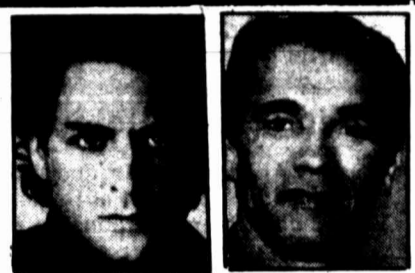
Monje are busy planting seeds and trimming the borders around the sidewalk.

Herald photo by George von Hasselt

Table with 22 columns representing different TV channels (KMID, ESPN, KERA, etc.) and rows for various time slots (5 PM, 6 PM, etc.) listing program names and details.

Names in the news

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Pop-rock supergroup Fleetwood Mac is back minus one of its creative cogs, singer-guitarist Lindsey Buckingham, and much of the tension.



BUCKINGHAM

The band recently released "Behind the Mask," its first album without Buckingham. He departed for a solo career in 1987, saying he didn't want to tour anymore. He did, however, contribute acoustic guitar on the title track to "Behind the Mask."

guest speaker at the Seaside High School graduation and emphasized the importance of education and physical fitness.

When the actor and former Mr. Universe appeared at the podium, "I think everybody just about swallowed their teeth," senior Brandy Bierly said. Bierly then gave the senior speech to the class of 90 teen-agers.

"Mr. Schwarzenegger was a very tough act to follow," he said. Afterwards Schwarzenegger shook hands with students and kissed some of the girls.

Schwarzenegger is filming his new movie, "Kindergarten Cop," in Clatsop County. His appearance was the handiwork of Jamie Burns, a junior whose mother is an extra in "Kindergarten Cop."

SEASIDE, Ore. (AP) — Arnold Schwarzenegger was the surprise

Jeanne Dixon's Horoscope

TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 1990

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DATE: President George Bush, jazz musician Chick Corea, singer Vic Damone, actor Jim Nabors.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): A conflict could arise between your work and social obligations. Any financial problems require careful handling. Consult experts. Develop new strategies for staying within your budget. Entertain simply.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "A penny saved is a penny earned" should be your credo today. Complete old projects before starting new ones. Resist an urge to go on a buying binge. Recycle favorite wardrobe items.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Tact and patience will help you deal with moody higher-ups. Do not be intimidated by someone who is aggressive. Their bark is worse than their bite. Be helpful to your siblings and parents.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make a special effort to be a better listener. A friend will let fall several clues to an old mystery. Protect loved one's secret as if it were your own. Try new things.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Slow down and relax! Familiar faces are the best company. Putter around your home or garden. A social engagement is postponed at the last minute. Get in touch with faraway loved ones.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Catch up on household chores. Check for fire hazards — and put fresh batteries in smoke alarms. A conversation with an old friend could provide you with a new sense of direction. Forge ahead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put your best foot forward. Someone who has not commanded much attention in the past is now a source of interest. Help the person who shoulders most of the household chores.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Set aside some quiet time for studying or reading. A friendship may develop when you least expect it. Pursue a romantic interest to a happy conclusion.

Some couples decide to set the date.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take the initiative when it comes to planning social activities. Be honest when talking with young people. A relative who is quick to accuse others of hypocrisy may be guilty of self-deception.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A big contract depends on how good a case you make for the people or products you represent. Be wary of promises made by a former lover; this person may have hidden motives.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Community service is rewarding now. A business deal shows new promise. Flirting could lead to trouble. Reacting too quickly to an offer could spoil things. Give it some thought. Romance blossoms.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Travel if you can for business or pleasure. Salespeople should make fine profits. Good organization is the secret to success. A friend proves to be a fabulous matchmaker. Show your appreciation.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"DON'T WORRY, MOM. IF I GET LOST I'LL COME RIGHT BACK HERE!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Mommy! Billy's writing with the mustard!"

CALVIN AND HOBBES



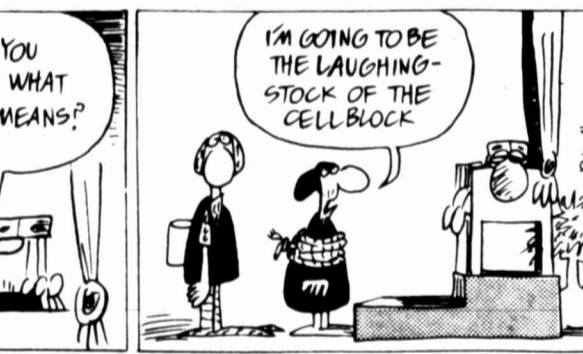
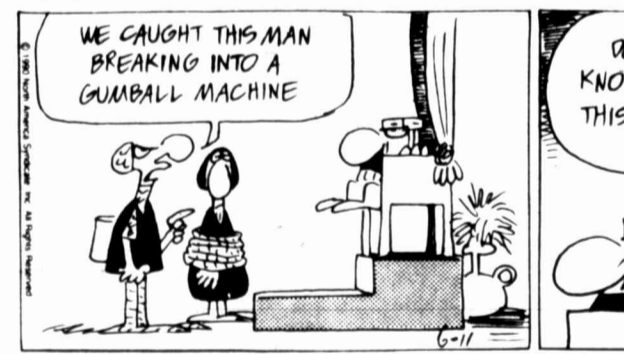
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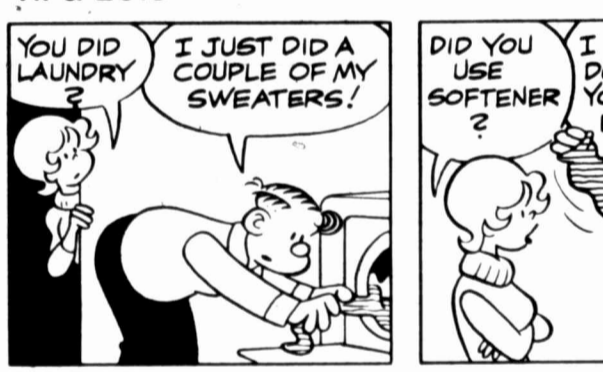
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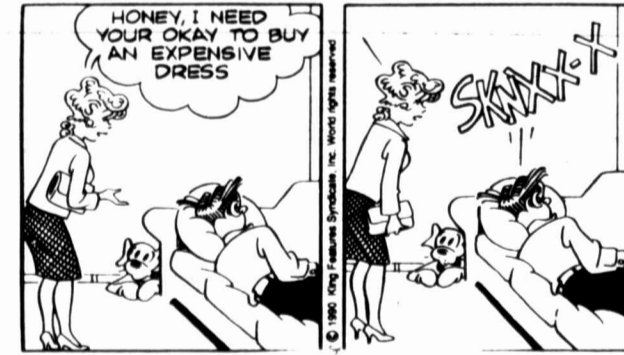
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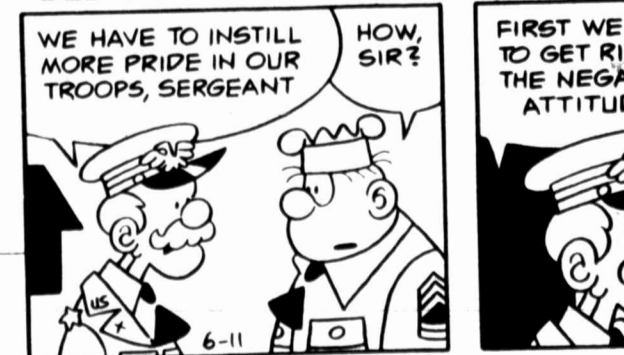
BLONDIE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



BEETLE BAILEY



B.C.



SNUFFY SMITH



GASOLINE ALLEY



Final scores at the \$1 million National Golf... 70-66 70-69-275, 68-67 72-72-279, 72-70-70-68-280, 65-75-69-71-280, 71-69-71-70-281, 71-65-73-72-281, 69-71-69-73-282, 73-71-69-70-283, 71-68-72-72-283, 70-71-73-70-284, 71-68-73-72-284, 72-70-70-73-285, 74-73-72-67-286, 75-69-71-71-286, 72-69-69-76-286, 72-71-74-70-287, 77-68-72-70-287, 72-71-73-71-287, 75-71-71-72-287, 72-72-74-73-288, 73-71-73-71-288

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Serving Crossroads Country — West

12 Pages 2 Sections

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On the side



No fun

BEIJING — Xiatian, 7, cringes as an Asian Games volunteer cuts his hair here Sunday. Sidewalk celebrations were held throughout the city to raise money for the Asian Games.

City council meets tonight

Stanton City Council will meet in regular session at 7 p.m. today in council chambers at City Hall.

Proposals to be considered will be reports, bills and minutes for the month of May. Other business on the agenda will be an appeal on junked cars, pay requests, a possible flood control project and a grant from the Texas Community Development Project. The TCDP grant would be used for paving streets around the government housing on the south side of town.

SA dedicates homeless center

FORT WORTH (AP) — Salvation Army officials have built a new 60,000-square-foot facility to aid the homeless in Fort Worth.

The \$5 million facility, which was dedicated on Sunday, was built with donations taken in over a 2-year period. "With this facility, our dreams have come true," said Maj. William Jansson, area commander for the Salvation Army.

The facility can house more than 300 people in dormitories and special suites reserved for families. Salvation Army officials also intend to build new facilities in the Fort Worth suburb of Arlington.

Plane crash kills pilot

MINERAL WELLS, Texas (AP) — The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating the fatal crash of a single-passenger airplane that went down in western Parker County.

The pilot, Martin L. Decker, 42, of Yuba City, Calif., was killed in the crash Sunday.

Investigators said Decker was on a confidential experimental flight when his plane went down just after 8 a.m. Sunday.

Study: Americans not up on vitamins

DALLAS (AP) — Although more than one-third of American adults use vitamin and mineral supplements daily, they lack general knowledge about the materials' benefits, according to an association's survey released today.

Almost two-thirds of the U.S. public knows "little" or "nothing at all" about the nutrient value of most common vitamins and minerals, said the survey conducted by Louis Harris and Associates for Nature Made Vitamins and Prevention magazine.

"While many adults understand the benefits of particular vitamins and minerals, substantial numbers have little knowledge of the health effects of such nutrients as Vitamins A, B and E," the report concluded.

Burning tanker in danger of sinking

By MICHAEL GRACZYK
Associated Press Writer

GALVESTON (AP) — Firefighters today tried to keep a burning supertanker with 38 million gallons of oil from sinking in the Gulf of Mexico. The ship's aft deck was just 5 feet above the surface, and blazing crude was spilling into the water.

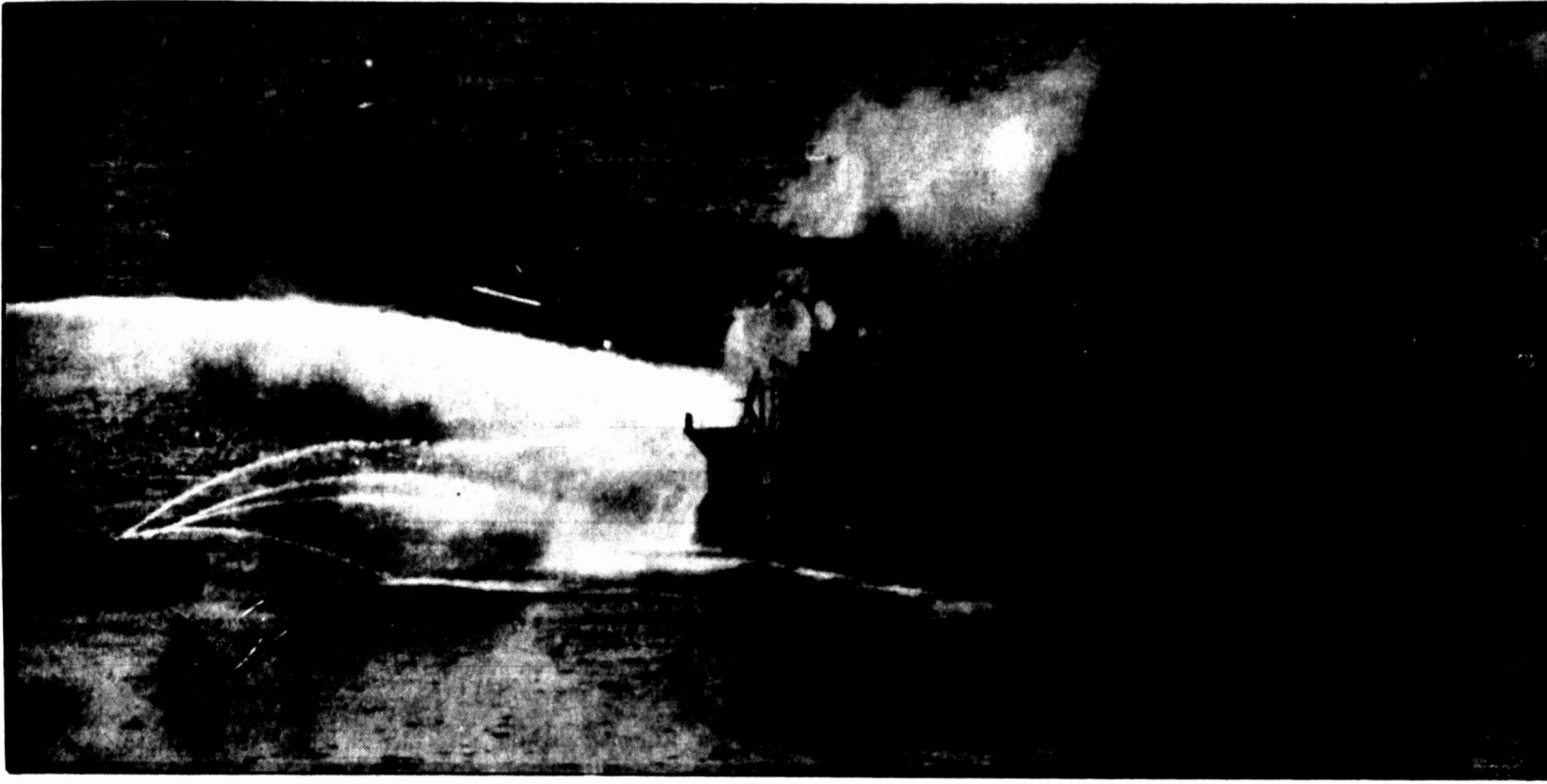
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The blaze collapsed the ship's superstructure, which remained engulfed in flames. Columns of thick smoke could be seen nearly 40 miles away.

The stern dropped 58 feet since the first explosion Saturday, indicating either the cargo had shifted or the ship was taking on water, Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Frank Whipple said late Sunday.



GALVESTON — Fire boats pour water on the burning supertanker Mega Borg Sunday after explosions rocked the ship Saturday afternoon. The accident occurred 57 miles from the Texas coast near here.

The aft deck was 5 feet above the water early today, authorities said.

"It's very possible with a good firefighting effort that a large-scale oil spill can be prevented and something as horrible as the tanker sinking can be prevented, but we don't know how much damage it's

already received," Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Todd Nelson said. "We want to be prepared for a large oil spill if it could occur."

The Mega Borg carried more than three times as much oil as was spilled by the Exxon Valdez off Alaska in March 1989 in the na-

tion's worst oil spill. But authorities noted that the oil spilled in Alaska was heavy crude, which doesn't dissipate nearly as rapidly as the light crude aboard the Mega Borg, and that much of the oil spilling off Texas was being consumed by fire.

Thousands of feet of oil-spill containment booms were brought in. Four Coast Guard cutters were in place around the tanker while two salvage-team ships sprayed water on its deck in an attempt to keep

• TANKER page 6-A

Governors' races pivotal for women

By JILL LAWRENCE
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The 1990 elections may not greatly increase the number of women in governor's mansions and Congress, but female candidates hope to smash a symbolic barrier by winning the top jobs in Texas and California.

Democratic governor nominees Ann Richards in Texas and Dianne Feinstein in California are the bright spots in a year that, at best, may bring incremental progress in electing more women to top-level offices.

Three women already are governors of smaller states, but claiming control in major states like Texas and California would "break a big thick glass ceiling," said Sharon Rodine, president of the bipartisan National Women's Political Caucus.

While numerical gains at the top are likely to be slim, more women than ever are running for state legislatures, statewide offices and Congress, according to the caucus. These candidates are receiving tens of thousands of dollars from a growing number of groups promoting women's candidacies.



FORT WORTH — Texas Democratic nominee for Texas Democratic Convention meeting here governor Ann Richards signs autographs at the Friday.

But all eyes and a good deal of money are on California and Texas, where the new governors will have a strong hand in the

redistricting expected to add up to

• WOMEN page 6-A

Newborn found outside clinic

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A newborn boy was found wrapped in a towel outside a minor emergency clinic in 90-degree weather after a woman telephoned the clinic and said the baby was there.

The apparently healthy infant was taken to Medical Center Hospital and was in good condition, hospital officials said.

A large white towel bearing the initial "S" was wrapped around the baby, who was believed to be about 2 hours old when found Sunday afternoon outside the clinic's back door.

X-ray technician Shawn Elliott, 21, said he answered the telephone at the Texas Medical Clinic about 2 p.m. when the unidentified woman called.

"There was a young woman on the line and all she said was, 'There is a baby outside your door,'" Elliott told the San Antonio Express-News. "I thought she was kidding, that it was a joke, but when I checked by the back door there he was."

The building's awning shaded the baby from the sun on an afternoon when the outdoor temperature was 90 degrees. Elliott said the baby had a temperature of only about 96 degrees, but it should have been about 99 degrees.

"He looked like he had been born not in a hospital, but in another environment, like a house," Elliott said.

Clinic workers notified police and called for an ambulance. A clinic physician shortened the infant's umbilical cord.

The baby, apparently healthy and Hispanic, may have been born one or two weeks premature, officials said.

State District Judge Tom Rickhoff, who handles juvenile cases in Bexar County, said the baby will be placed in a temporary foster home after his hospital stay.

"We will make a diligent search for the mother or father. If we are unable to find them, we have about 500 couples waiting for a baby. The last time I checked there were about 50 of them who would be immediately ready for this baby," Rickhoff said.



Mickey Mouse opera

HAMBURG, West Germany — West German singer Martin Kraenzle leads the Hamburg State Opera Choir, dressed in Mickey Mouse

costumes, during a rehearsal here Friday for a unique version of the Bertold Brecht and Kurt Weill opera, "Mahogany."

A true 50-50 proposition

MARION, Iowa (AP) — Jerry Sheeley ran 40 miles on his 40th birthday and celebrated his 50th by running 50 miles.

"I know now that I won't be running 60," Sheeley said Monday.

Sheeley was recovering from having covered a distance of almost twice that of a marathon during nearly 13 hours of running on Sunday.

"I guess I just wanted to make one of my last challenges — to run 50 miles," Sheeley said. "It really is a challenge to run those miles."

He spent the first part of the day running from Marion in south-central Iowa to Troy Mills, where 60 mph winds nearly forced him to stop.

But Sheeley decided to finish the run in town where the winds would be less troublesome.

He said he began running at age 33 primarily for the exercise. Since then he has participated in marathons at New York, Chicago and San Francisco.

Sheeley, who said he usually trains between 50 and 60 miles per week, also decided to give himself a belated birthday present following the run.

"I'm taking this week off (from training) for sure," he said.

