



**JUST STRUCK BY CAR**

Police and passersby comfort Agnes Paez and her 4-year-old daughter, JoAnn, after the pair was struck by a car near the United Nations Building this morning. A photographer caught the scene while on

assignment to cover the arrival of Henry Kissinger, due for a UN meeting minutes after the accident. Extent of injuries to the pair was not immediately determined. (AP Wirephoto)

## 12 killed when explosion rips through oil refinery

CHALMETTE, La. (AP) — An explosion ripped through a 30-story tower at the Tenneco Oil Co. refinery late Thursday, mashing the men and metal inside. Twelve persons were killed and 10 others injured.

The 12th body was pulled from the wrecked interior of the refining tower today.

Sheriff's officers said earlier that another person might be missing but company officials said they had accounted for all the workers in the area of the blast.

A spokesman for Tenneco said the cause of the blast was not known. One worker said welding was being done and there might have been a gas leak.

It was the second explosion in the tower within a week, the St. Bernard Parish sheriff's office said. However, a Tenneco spokesman said today there had been no explosion last week and the men were doing routine maintenance work. At least two dozen men were working in and around the tower Thursday night, the sheriff's office said.

"There's no way of telling if it blew the top and everything just came down inside it."

"The shock of the explosion was felt as far as two miles away. There was no fire."

"Some of the victims were just blown apart," said Dr. Hewitt Thian, chief of surgery at Chalmette General Hospital. "It was impossible to identify some of them."

The victims were employed by Tenneco and Delta Field Erection Co., a subcontractor at the plant.

The silo-like tower, or "vessel," is used in the refining process to separate petroleum into heavy lubricating oil and lighter fuels. The refinery is about 10 miles down the Mississippi River from the center of New Orleans.

The tower in which the men died is one of a field of similar structures joined together and linked by catwalks and pipes in a complex that stretches a half mile along the river.

The tower was partitioned by 200 metal plates 18 inches apart like the floors of a hotel. Men were working from the top to the bottom of the tower repairing and replacing the plates when the blast occurred.

Paul Montelepre, administrator of the Chalmette hospital, said the names of the dead would not be released until positive identification could be made of all of them. He described that task as "almost impossible."

"Their clothes were blown off. Many of them were barely recognizable as human," he said.

Dr. Thian said three of those brought to Chalmette General were in critical condition with burns of the lungs.

"Apparently something in the tower ignited," he said. "An explosion doesn't have to last long to cause burns of the lungs. The job now is to get them through the first 24 hours. They'll have a chance if they can hang on that long."

## good evening

### Yuma

A WATER SHORTAGE looms in Somerton, and residents are being asked to take special precautions. Page 14

LAETRILE SUCCESS is reported by Yuma relative of liver cancer victim. Page 5

FOR THE FIRST time, the severely handicapped in Yuma are getting an opportunity to be gainfully employed. At the Yuma WORC center, the Yumans are assembling ballpoint pens under a contract from the state. Page 3

### Arizona

U.S. SENATE candidates Sam Steiger, John Conlan, Carolyn Warner and Dennis DeConcini appear at four different meetings with four different things to say. Page 6

THE TRIAL OF JOHN ADAMSON has been set back to Oct. 1 in response to lawyers' arguments that an adequate defense could not be prepared by the earlier date. Page 2

### nation

REPUBLICAN PLATFORM writers today endorsed the immediate lifting of price controls from oil and newly discovered natural gas. Page 3

HEALTH OFFICIALS in Toronto, Canada, are hunting for hundreds of people who may have been exposed to the deadly African Lassa fever. Page 2

PRESIDENT FORD'S campaign managers contend it would be poor politics for him to tip his vice presidential hand in advance, despite signals of Republican unrest about some of the names in his catalog of prospects. Page 15

### sports

SAN DIEGO PADRE rookie Rick Sawyer fired an eight-hit shutout to beat the New York Mets and Tom Seaver 3-0 yesterday. Page 10

KANSAS CITY ROYAL players plot to hitting coach Charlie Lau as one of the key reasons for their success this year. Page 11

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### HE DOESN'T BARK

## 'Sweet Lips' wants justice too

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP) — Drewry Little, 55, wants justice. He says his 150-pound pet pig, "Sweet Lips," is cleaner than some of his customers. But the city is standing by its eviction order.

Little was fined \$25 in June for violating a city ordinance. He keeps "Sweet Lips" at his combination home, restaurant and marina, which is zoned for commercial use to attract tourists.

Judge Constantine A. Spanoulis, who usually hears traffic cases, told Little, "The law is the law." The regular presiding judge had disqualified himself. He knows "Sweet Lips."

Defense attorneys argued that the purpose of the law "is to protect citizens, too. Mr. Little is keeping a household pet, not raising livestock."

Little is appealing the eviction order for Sweet Lips to a higher court. His attorneys, who are working without pay, had considered seeking a change of venue, possibly to Smithfield, but said later they had abandoned those plans.

The attorneys said they have appealed to Virginia Beach Circuit Court and a trial date has been set for Sept. 20. Little will ask for a jury trial, lawyers said.

"I'm hell-bent for justice," said Little. "The whole thing boils down to a matter of principle. It's not a joke."

The principle he intends to fight for — "to the Supreme Court, if I have to" — is that while other residents of the area can have pet dogs, cats or even snakes, the city feels his pig, well ... stinks.

"I give him three baths a week and put after-shave lotion on him," he said. "He's cleaner than a lot of people I know and he doesn't bother anyone. He doesn't bark, he doesn't run loose."

## Valley annex petitions called in

Those passing petitions for the valley annexation drive are asked to call one of three places to arrange turning them in by noon Monday.

Don Riley, an annexation organizer, is asking persons with petitions to call him at 782-6096, Rita Cleary at 783-1720 or Barbara Padgett, annexation clerk at the Dept. of Community Improvement, at 782-1491. Arrangements will be made to pick them up.

Or the petitions can be dropped off to Mrs. Padgett at the Dept. of Community Improvement, 302 3rd St. Riley said those directing the drive will then meet with Mrs. Padgett Monday to evaluate the petition in terms of the valley as a whole. Boundaries will be redrawn to shrink the original annexation map.

The annexation drive for the rest of the valley will not be stopped, Riley said. The current petitions are being gathered to begin annexing El Pueblocito, Meadowbrook, Villa Hermosa I and possibly Hextema Estates and Villa Hermosa II. This is so an improvement district can get started in those areas where needed.

Riley said he hopes for first reading of an ordinance annexing those areas at the first city council meeting in September. At that time, the city can begin implementing the improvement district, he said.

### Krey reported to have resigned

Wes Krey, director of Social and Leisure Services for the city of Yuma, has reportedly resigned.

His resignation will reportedly take effect Oct. 1.

Krey was unavailable for comment.

### The weather

High yesterday 110  
Low 86  
Temperature at 11 a.m. today 96  
High today near 107  
Low today near 78  
High Saturday near 102  
Low Saturday near 82  
Average high this date 87  
Average low this date 82  
Forecast for Yuma and vicinity Sunny and not quite so warm this afternoon and Saturday. Clear and mild tonight.  
Sunset 7:36  
Sunrise 6:01

## STREET BEAT

The question is: "With the GOP convention starting next week, do you feel there should be more or less coverage on television. Will you be watching?"



MARTIN ELDRIDGE

"I'm interested in the Republican convention—I want to watch it. I'm a conservative. I don't like Ford, but I think he'll get the nomination," said this Wellton railroad employee. "They shouldn't have the convention on all the time, though. They should cover it, but leave an hour for sports."



FRANCES BUTLER

"I plan to watch it—this is the convention that's going to be interesting. I want to see what the outcome will be," said this YMC nurse. "The Democratic convention was so boring it was ridiculous. The Republicans are going to have a battle between two men—there's bound to be some excitement."



JOE DEVESCONI

"I'm a Republican—I'll be watching the convention. It may be overcovered, though. One station would be enough," said this pest control employee who has lived in Yuma seven months. "I hope it is more interesting than the Democrats were—I think it's going to be a real knock-down, drag-out fight."



IDA GARCIA

"I won't watch the Republican convention. It's just a big bore. I would get nothing out of it," said this Yuma native, a housewife and mother of seven.



JOHN BRUNSTEIN

"The Republican convention is a big event—the coverage it gets won't be too much," said this Arizona Western College student. "I watched the Democratic convention, but I won't be watching the Republican one. I don't care about it—I'm for Jimmy Carter all the way."



PAMELA PENSKY

"The convention can't be overcovered. It's like the Olympics—it's something that only happens every four years," said this hair salon receptionist. "Everybody who is politically minded will be interested in it. If it wasn't covered extensively, I would wonder why."