

# The News-Review

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## Seven Survive Moab Blast

### 18 Victims Counted Dead Deep In Mine

MOAB, Utah (UPI) — The grim task of identifying bodies of victims of a potash mine explosion began today in a truck repair shop converted into a temporary morgue.

At the same time, federal and state agencies began a full-scale investigation of the blast, which killed 18 of 25 construction workers nearly 3,000 feet below the earth's surface.

The makeshift morgue was set up when word reached officials that the remaining 18 men still in the mine were dead. Seven men survived the blast. Five were rescued Thursday night; two were rescued Tuesday, the day of the explosion.

Sheriff John Stocks, who knew most of the victims personally, said it appeared that visual identification would be impossible in most cases. He said there was a possibility he would ask the FBI to aid in the identification.

The federal investigation into the blast was ordered by the Interior Department in Washington Thursday following a statement by the director of the Bureau of Mines that "all but one" of four fatal accidents involving workers at the mine property during the past 20 months "were preventable."

Bureau Director Marling J. Ankeny said corrective measures had been recommended to the shaft-drilling contracting firm, Harrison International, Inc., of Miami, Fla., a Canadian concern. Ankeny said the mine still was in custody of the Harrison organization at the time of Tuesday's explosion, but that Texas Gulf Sulphur Co. "was exercising some surveillance over the contractors."

Wednesday's survivors, Don Blake Hanna, 27, and Paul McKinney, 22, were at the mine Thursday to aid in the rescue of their five companions. The five included Charles Byrge, Helper, Utah; Robert June, Moab; Charles Clark, Moab; Tom Trueman, Toronto, and Grant H. Eslick, Moab.

Eslick was the only employe of the Texas company, the 24 other men worked for Harrison International.

Trueman and Hanna were hospitalized for treatment of injuries and burns.

Eslick said the smoke after the blast gave him his "worst moments."

"If a guy is going to panic, he will do it in smoke," he said.

June was asked how he spent the 51 hours awaiting a rescue party.

"I just laid there and sweat," he said.

Shortly after the five men were brought to the surface, the crowd of newsmen and relatives which had kept a long vigil at the mine was told that the 18 other men were dead.

June Crawford, chief engineer for the Texas company, said over a loud speaker:

"For all of you on the firing line, it's all over. There are no further survivors."

The members of the miners' families took the news stoically on the whole, although one woman shouted:

"That's a hell of a brutal way to learn it."

The President carried his unique news conference further by submitting to questions, the first of which was about what strategy the administration would try to use to get back the reduced sums.

"It is not a question of strategy," Kennedy said. "We are trying to point up very clearly how important this is to America."

He said that not only would aid to Latin America be imperiled, but there would be drastic effects on America's military aid to countries on "the firing line." He specifically mentioned Greece, Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, South Viet Nam, Thailand and South Korea.

The Chief Executive, in response to another question about the public's mood, said he is aware that Americans "don't enjoy carrying this burden."

But he added: "The American people realize that freedom does not come cheaply or easily."



A CONTESTANT in a beauty contest needs change of clothes. And D'Ann Fullerton, Miss Oregon, who hails from Roseburg, has a fair wardrobe, indicated by the luggage which surrounded her while she waited for departure at Portland International airport for Atlantic City, N.J., and the Miss America contest. (UPI Telephoto)

## Turncoat Arrives In Hong Kong For Return To 'Outside World'

HONG KONG (UPI) — Albert C. Belhomme, Belgian-born former U.S. Army sergeant who defected to Communist China 10 years ago, arrived here today

with his Chinese wife and the three sons he hopes will have "a better future in the outside world."

He was the second of 21 U.S. Korean War turncoats to leave China this month. He said another, former Sgt. Scott Rush of Marietta, Ohio, planned to return home soon.

Lowell D. Skinner of Akron, Ohio, left China Aug. 1 and returned to the United States.

Belhomme, 34, planned to return to Belgium with his wife, Hsiu Ying, 28, and their sons, aged 6, 4 and 1. He and his wife both have Belgian passports.

"We should all consider the best things for our children," Belhomme said soon after being met at the Chinese border by a British Red Cross officer and a Belgian consulate official.

"I decided to leave China mainly because I think the children will have a better future in the outside world after the conditions I have seen in China in the past 10 years."

He also said he had become homesick for the West and was "always thinking of the outside world."

Belhomme, a native of Antwerp, Belgium, formerly lived in Ashland, Pa., where his mother was said to reside. His father is dead.

He had worked as an electrician in a metal factory in the industrial city of Tsinan, capital of Shantung Province in northern China.

Belhomme was serving as a sergeant in the U.S. Army when

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Senators said today President Kennedy had offered to let key members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee read his correspondence with Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev on the nuclear test ban treaty.

But the committee, in approving the pact by a 16-1 vote Thursday, defeated a motion calling for the President to furnish copies of the correspondence to the group.

The treaty comes up in the Senate on Sept. 9.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk, who testified at a closed session Wednesday, told the lawmakers the President would be willing to let several committee members see the exchange.

Thus, he said, they could satisfy themselves that there were "no deals" or "side arrangements" with the Russians not shown in the pact barring all but underground nuclear tests.

Sen. George D. Aiken, R-Vt., who made the motion for approval of the treaty, commented that "when the chips were down, nobody wanted to take the responsibility."

The motion by Sen. Bourke B. Hickenlooper, R-Iowa, to seek the correspondence was rejected, 10-7.

Aiken said he did not believe there were any "side deals" with Khrushchev and agreed: "If there were any secret agreements, I'll guarantee they were not in writing."

Aiken, who earlier had "guessed" the treaty would be approved with no more than 20 votes against it, said he "would not be surprised if there were not over half that number now."

MOBILE, Ala. (UPI) — Lightning not only struck three times in the same place Thursday but the target was the local U.S. Weather Bureau station.

"It kind of shook everyone up," said a veteran weatherman, who reported no injuries and minor damage.

## Lunatic Sought In Knife Slaying Of Career Girls

NEW YORK (UPI)—A "lunatic" who made obscene and threatening phone calls was sought today in the carving knife slayings of two career girls in their fashionable East Side Manhattan apartment.

One of the victims, pretty Janice Wylie, 21, a niece of writer Philip Wylie, recently had received several crank calls from an unidentified man, according to her father and one of her friends.

"They were from some lunatic who used obscene language," the friend said Miss Wylie told him.

"She was plagued and terrified by the calls. Two weeks ago she told the man, 'Don't ever call me again,'" the friend related to police.

The friend reported that the caller answered: "Then you'll have to take the consequences." Miss Wylie, an aspiring actress who worked for Newsweek magazine, and one of her two roommates, Emily Hoffert, 23, a school teacher and daughter of a Minneapolis surgeon, were found Wednesday night tied together with sheets in a bedroom of their apartment.

The bodies were discovered by Janice's father, Max Wylie, a writer and advertising executive, who was into the fourth room flat by the third roommate, Patricia Tolles, 23.

Miss Tolles last saw the two girls alive when she left at around 9:30 a.m. EDT on Wednesday for her job at the book division of Time, Inc. Police said the girls were slain later that morning by a quiet killer who ransacked the apartment but apparently did not steal anything.

Dr. Milton Helsen, the city's chief medical examiner, said preliminary autopsies on the bodies showed the girls had not been raped. Helsen said they had been stabbed repeatedly about the neck and abdomen.

Detective chief Lawrence McKearney said, "Anyone able to kill these girls as they were killed is certainly not normal."

He said he occasionally saw fellow turncoats Howard G. Adams of Corsicana, Tex., and James G. Vemeris of Hawthorne, Calif., who were working in a paper mill in Tsinan. He said he also wrote to John R. Dunn of Baltimore, Md., who went to Czechoslovakia with his Czech wife, and to Harold H. Webb of Ft. Pierce, Fla., who went to Poland with his Polish wife.

MIAMI (UPI)—Searchers looking for two missing Air Force Stratotankers and 11 crewmen found a 10-mile square "floating junkyard" of debris today in the Atlantic 200 miles southwest of Bermuda, the Air Force said.

There was no sign of survivors.

An Air Force spokesman said plane panels, life jackets, radio kits, engine covers, water coolers, helmets and other debris were bobbing in the water "like a floating junkyard."

The floaters apparently came from the KC135 Strategic Air Command jets which flew out on a refueling mission Wednesday and vanished.

"There were some pretty sizable hunks of debris out there," said a spokesman at the air rescue headquarters in Orlando.

Before dawn, searchers spotted three helmets and several empty life jackets floating in the ocean, prompting an Air Force spokesman to say:

"It isn't the best sign we could have, but we have not given up hope."

The Coast Guard was transferring the debris to Bermuda for positive identification.

About 12 hours after the explosion, Hanna and McKinney left. Then we had another worry: Did they make it?

About 30 hours after the explosion somebody up there repaired the high pressure air line and we began to get a little new air. Not much. But it was enough. But we still had to sit, sweat and drink water.

We heard the rescue coming about 10 minutes before they arrived. We heard the clank of metal on metal and knew they were on the way.

When I saw them it was the greatest thing I have ever seen in my life.

NEW YORK (UPI) — It cost Fidel Castro at least \$150,000 from a dollar-short national treasury to pay the expenses of 59 American students for seven weeks in Cuba as government guests, it was estimated here today.

Travel sources said airline economy fares alone — assuming the group traveled tourist class — from New York to Havana and return, via Amsterdam, Paris, Prague and Madrid, exceeded \$80,000. In addition, their lodging at the Havana Riviera Hotel cost Castro more than \$22,000, and their meals for the period in excess of \$25,000.



MINER CHUCK BYRGE, one of the five who were rescued alive from potash mine at Moab, Utah, is about to receive a kiss from one of his children. L-R, front: Linda, 9; Byrge; Terry, 4; and Mrs. Byrge. L-R, rear: Stewart, 7; Brenda, 5; Rodney, 2, and Charles Jr., 10. (UPI Telephoto)

## Four Survivors Give Accounts Of Experiences In Mine Blast

EDITORS NOTE: Thomas Trueman, Robert June, Charles Byrge, Grant Eslick and Charles Clark know what it is like to be trapped for two days a half mile underground in an explosion shattered mine. Here are their stories as told to United Press International

By CHARLES CLARK  
It was hot down there and we started to drink water. We must have finished five gallons in 30 minutes. Then we started drinking water out of water lines. It was river water but it was pretty good.

The smoke after the blast gave me my worst moments. If a guy is going to panic he'll do it in the smoke.

"This fresh air sure tastes good. I never thought fresh air could taste so good."

We were sure glad to see the other two fellows (Hanna and McKinney) had made it out.

By THOMAS TRUEMAN  
It was hot. We drank water and we sweated. And we worried!

We never gave up hope but we kept watching and wondering what was holding them up. They should have come sooner.

By CHARLES BYRGE  
I don't think we could have made it if it hadn't been for Blake (Don Blake Hanna) and the other guy (Paul McKinney). They left us to go down the drift to see if they could find anyone else. When they found three dead they decided that if the carbon monoxide got those guys, it would eventually get us. I'm thankful they fixed the air line. I don't think there was ever enough air down there, but at least there was enough to keep us alive.

Seven of us June, Byrge, Eslick, Clark and Paul McKinney and Donald Blake Hanna, (who were rescued Wednesday night) were working in the east drift when the explosion occurred.

The first I actually realized they (the rescuers) were coming was when I happened to glance up and saw one of their lights about 50 yards away.

When the explosion came another workman and I were discussing how to drill a hole. The blast knocked all of us down in our shaft. It was hot and smoky and pitch black. The temperature a couple of hours after the blast was 98 degrees.

It happened about 20 minutes after a dynamite blast that must have been deep in the west drift. Then gas began moving. It was heavy gas, creeping along the floor.

By ROBERT JUNE  
I could hear people yelling after the explosion hit. I heard a man screaming but I couldn't get to him. I think he was in the west drift.

When the explosion came another workman and I were discussing how to drill a hole. The blast knocked all of us down in our shaft. It was hot and smoky and pitch black. The temperature a couple of hours after the blast was 98 degrees.

For four or five hours we built a barricade to try to stop the gas. We knew it was deadly. We built the barricade out of pieces of metal vent lines and wood then packed the bottom with salt.

After we built the barrier, I just laid there and sweat. We drank water. It was muddy but it was sure good.

It was hot. We used only one miner's lamp at a time so we would have light as long as possible. We still had one light when we were rescued.

The Lockwood Motors American Legion Junior baseball squad was scheduled to arrive home in Roseburg about 3 o'clock this afternoon.

We took turns sleeping. We would sleep for about 10 minutes at a time. The rest of the time we would talk and just wait, I guess. We also wondered if the three others (found dead by McKinney and Blake) made it to safety.

By GRANT ESICK  
We knew it was just a matter of time and we never gave up hope.

The Lockwoods, Northwest regional champions, dropped a 4-3 decision to Somerville, Mass., Tuesday to be eliminated from the Little World Series at Keene, N.H.

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## Gas Truck Blaze Cause For Alarm At Myrtle Creek

Myrtle Creek firemen averted a possible tragedy Thursday afternoon when they were able to arrive on the scene in time to keep a flaming gasoline delivery truck from exploding in a residential section of the city.

The driver of the truck, Bob Linder, of Myrtle Creek, also played a big factor in cutting down the danger to residents of the area when he cautioned people to get out of the area until the fire department could get the blazing truck under control.

Linder, driving for Clark & Linder, Union Oil Co. distributors from Riddle, had pulled to a stop at the stop sign at Madrone St. and Myrtle Road when he looked out his rear view mirror and saw the flames coming from the underside of the truck. He jumped from the truck and rushed to one of the houses, asking the people there to call the fire department and get everyone out of the area near the truck, Myrtle Creek police chief Jim Pringle said.

Assistant fire chief Russ Steinhauer said the fire department arrived on the scene about 2 p.m. and by using two trucks and a fire hydrant 50 feet away were able to keep the tanks from overheating and possibly exploding.

One of the three compartments on the gasoline and fuel oil delivery truck had ruptured and was leaking. The firemen kept this gasoline washed down with water to keep the blaze from spreading. Cause of the fire was unknown.

There were no injuries, but the truck was figured as a total loss.

SALEM (UPI) — Travis Cross, press secretary to Gov. Mark Hatfield, was in Salem Memorial Hospital today recovering from an appendectomy.

Cross first complained of not feeling well Wednesday afternoon. He was hospitalized and underwent surgery Thursday. His condition was reported good.

SAIGON, South Viet Nam (UPI) — The United States stood firm today on its refusal to give up two Buddhist refugees despite an apparent easing of tension in South Viet Nam's religious-political crisis.

Diplomatic sources said U.S. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge

again turned down Thursday night a government request to hand over two Buddhist priests who took refuge in the U.S. aid mission during the raids on pagodas last week.

The request was made by Acting Foreign Minister Truong Cong Cui in a 25-minute telephone conversation with Lodge, the sources said.

Cui reportedly told Lodge the government released a large number of Buddhist priests and students Thursday in an effort to reduce the tension that built up in the lightning repression of the country's Buddhists.

The releases followed a relaxation of the original 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew and other restrictions imposed under martial law decreed 10 days ago.

The United States has voiced strong disapproval of the government's strongarm tactics in the crackdown on Buddhist opposition, and the Washington and Saigon governments have differed publicly over who initiated the raids and wholesale arrests.

MOBILE, Ala. (UPI) — Lightning not only struck three times in the same place Thursday but the target was the local U.S. Weather Bureau station.

"It kind of shook everyone up," said a veteran weatherman, who reported no injuries and minor damage.

## The Weather

AIRPORT RECORDS  
Cloudy night and morning hours, partly sunny afternoons with occasional thunder showers today through Saturday. Cooler today and Saturday.  
Highest temp. last 24 hours 84  
Lowest temp. last 24 hours 55  
Highest temp. any Aug. (56) 103  
Lowest temp. any Aug. (56) 41  
Precip. last 24 hours 0  
Precip. from Aug. 1 0  
Normal Aug. Precip. .031  
Normal Precip. 9-1 to 8-1 32.72  
Precip. from Sept. 1 35.05  
Sunset tonight, 7:52 p.m. PDT  
Sunrise tomorrow, 6:36 a.m. PDT  
Sunset tonight, 7:52 p.m. PDT.