

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
HITT & LOWRY ST.
COLUMBIA, MO. 65201
ST. 3-14-74

Columbia Missourian

71st Year — No. 11

Good Morning! It's Tuesday, September 26, 1978

16 Pages — 15 Cents

Air disaster worst in U.S. history

SAN DIEGO (UPI) — A commercial jetliner and a light plane on an instrument training run — both advised by radio they were dangerously near one another — collided Monday 3,000 feet (914 meters) over a residential neighborhood, raining death and destruction.

Police confirmed at least 150 persons died, making the crash America's worst air disaster. The victims included 135 persons aboard the Pacific Southwest Airlines commuter flight, the light plane's pilot, his instructor and at least 13 persons on the ground.

Police said five persons were arrested on charges of looting, some trying to remove valuables from the bodies of victims. Eight persons were taken into custody on charges of failing to disperse.

Flaming chunks of wreckage and bodies

crashed through the roofs of buildings in the North Park section of San Diego, touching off fires. Ten homes were leveled and five others badly damaged. A two-story, eight-unit apartment building was left in ruins.

The light plane, a single-engine Cessna 172, struck the jetliner's right wing. Witnesses said they saw a man in the Cessna struggle with a parachute and then fall.

The PSA plane, meanwhile, rolled over slowly and plunged to earth.

"I don't know why, but God, it seemed like it took forever to fall," said Andy Russell, a witness of the disaster.

"I looked up and heard what sounded like a bomb," said Mrs. Joseph Alessio, a landlady who lives in the area. "Then I saw the tail end of the plane come off, and two objects fell from the

plane. I guess the first was part of the tail and the second a person."

The victims aboard the Boeing 727 included a three-man cockpit crew and three flight attendants as well as 18 other PSA crew members returning home from other flights.

Bodies were strewn on rooftops, front lawns, backyards, the sidewalks and streets. Parts of

bodies were seen dangling from trees in the neighborhood 5 miles (8 kilometers) from the airport.

Marine Gunnery Sgt. David L. Boswell, 35, Oceanside, Calif., was at the controls of the Cessna. He was accompanied by an instructor

who remains unidentified.

A Marine spokesman said Boswell had several pilot's licenses, including one for commercial multi-engine aircraft. Boswell and the instructor were "very experienced" fliers, according to Bill Gibbs, owner of the Cessna.

As for the casualties on the ground, an army of law enforcement officers and military personnel was at the scene trying to determine which victims were passengers and which had been killed in their homes or on the street.

Police Chief Bill Kolender said of the ground victims: "There have been several. There was a child, some adults. We don't know how many for sure. The intense heat of the fires didn't leave much of anything."

One ground victim was identified as Darlene Watkins. Her brother, Sam Rush, said a piece of

the flaming debris fell onto her home.

"My sister's lying there burned to death," Rush said. "She's all busted up and everything."

The death toll exceeded the fatalities in the worst previous U.S. aviation accident, a collision of two commercial planes over New York City in December 1960 when 134 persons died. The worst air disaster ever was the collision of two jumbo jets in Tenerife, Canary Islands, on March 22, 1977, when 582 died.

Lindbergh Field has been under criticism by pilots who say the eastern approach — a 1,000-foot (305-meter) corridor — to the airport requires a sharp drop after clearing downtown San Diego.

There has been a battle for years over the building of a new airport in a safer area.

Insight Flat Branch: Will it hurt downtown? City to consider possible impact

It will be no easy task to link the Columbia downtown business district with the Flat Branch redevelopment project, according to former Mayor Bob Pugh, chairman of the Land Clearance for Redevelopment Authority.

But the authority will do its best to have the two areas complement rather than compete with each other.

"It's conceivable that whatever is done will be detrimental to downtown," says Mark Landrum, a member of the authority. "But I can assure you the effect on downtown proper will be a major consideration in deciding what to do with the Flat Branch area."

According to Pugh, the downtown

This report on the prospects for development of the Flat Branch area of downtown Columbia was written by Nan Seelman, Jeff Jasper and Anne Dettner of the Columbia Missourian's special reporting team on business.

area will not be incorporated in the planning process of the Flat Branch area, but downtown as a central business district will be involved in economic analysis and study.

"On the planning side, we'll obviously be looking for a link between Flat Branch and downtown. But it will be a difficult thing to do," Pugh says.

The 44 acres (17.6 hectares) of the Flat Branch area, named for the creek that runs through it, includes all property east of Providence Road, west of Sixth Street, south of Broadway and north of Stewart Road, except for a parcel of land owned by the University.

Zuchelli Hunter & Associates is the consulting firm preferred by the authority to plan renovation of the area. The Baltimore, Md., firm will work with Sasaki Associates Inc. of Watertown, Mass. Contract negotiations will take place with Zuchelli Hunter & Associates and, when the contract is approved by the authority, the firm will conduct a market analysis of the area.

Don Zuchelli, lead partner of Zuchelli Hunter & Associates, declines to comment on the Flat Branch project (See DOWNTOWN, Page 16)



Bill McClaskey, right, confers with his attorney, Terry Evans, during testimony at the Senate hearing

Doctor calls Fischel 'haphazard'

JEFFERSON CITY — Procedures for handling radioactive particles at Ellis Fischel State Cancer Hospital in Columbia have been "haphazard," a doctor told the Senate Public Health Committee Monday.

Dr. Clifford Richter, chief of medical physics at the hospital, also told the committee that radioactive particles were misplaced at the hospital in 1976.

Richter was one of eight Ellis Fischel staff members to testify before the

committee, which is investigating the July 18 death of Kirksville teacher Martha McClaskey. In March, doctors at Ellis Fischel discovered they accidentally left four iridium "seeds" in her pelvis after surgically implanting them last December to treat her cancer.

Richter also told the committee, chaired by Sen. Harry Wiggins, D-Jackson County, that new procedures for handling radioactive materials, announced Friday by hospital administrator Robert Lee, have not worked so far.

"The new policies are valid, but need to be revised," Richter said. "There needs to be a clearer definition of 'a qualified user' and delegation of authority."

Richter also said he still is unclear about why he was reprimanded after the McClaskey incident by Dr. Herbert Domke, director of the Missouri Division of Health. Domke suspended Richter for three days.

Two members of the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission also testified before the committee.

William McClaskey, husband of the

dead woman, was slated to testify voluntarily, but later refused. Sen. Warren Welliver, D-Boone County, said he was "offended" that McClaskey chose not to appear before the committee.

In other testimony, Dr. Nestor Canoy, director of radiation therapy at Ellis Fischel, said excessive scar tissue, which accumulated in Mrs. McClaskey's pelvis because of numerous operations and radiation treatments,

Begin urges surrender of Sinai by Israelis

JERUSALEM (UPI) — Prime Minister Menachem Begin Monday appealed to the people of Israel "with an aching and grieving heart" to surrender Jewish settlements in the Sinai because "this is the road leading to peace."

But Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said President Carter's peace efforts may end in failure if Jordan and Palestinians stay out of the negotiations.

"It could be that from this whole thing nothing will result," Dayan told a caucus of the coalition partner National Religious Party.

"Because Jordan won't go and representatives of the Palestinian Arabs won't want to come ... and Egypt won't want to make a separate agreement only on Sinai — they've said they don't want a separate agreement — it could be that we agree on all this and begin negotiations and never see a conclusion."

But in Cairo, government officials said that while Egypt was seeking an overall Middle East peace settlement, it would pursue its negotiations with Israel even if Jordan refused to participate.

Begin told the caucus he would resign if parliament does not endorse the framework for peace reached at Camp David, but it appeared a massive "yes" vote would come by mid-week.

"The thing that hurts most is leaving the Sinai settlements," he said in his speech.

Begin opened the most crucial legislative debate in Israel's 30-year history by urging the 120-member Knesset "in the supreme national interest" to approve the Camp David accords, which call for Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai.

Israeli political sources said the Knesset was expected to approve the Camp David agreements in a vote Wednesday. The cabinet endorsed the accords by an 11-2 vote with four abstentions Sunday.

In his speech, Begin promised Israel would never surrender East Jerusalem to the Arabs, but provoked opposition anger by saying he would permit representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization to be members of a council governing the occupied West

Council finally agrees to eliminate troublesome vehicle sticker tax

By Mark Shepherd
Missourian staff writer

The city vehicle sticker tax, called by many the most troublesome tax to administer and most difficult to enforce, was killed by the City Council Monday night.

Ed Vaughan, in his first appearance as Fifth Ward councilman, introduced a successful motion to eliminate city stickers — something Mayor Les Proctor and Third Ward councilwoman Diane Farish could not do on two other occasions.

Proctor last week suggested transferring sales tax money from the capital improvements budget to the general fund to make up for the estimated \$120,000 in revenue that would have been lost by eliminating the vehicle tax. His motion was defeated.

Mrs. Farish tried to eliminate the tax two weeks ago by offering a plan to lower the property tax by 11 cents — instead of 20 cents — to cover the lost revenue. Her motion also failed.

Vaughan moved simply to eliminate

the tax and cut capital improvements to offset the lost revenue. His motion passed 4-3.

City stickers are required until August 1979, although an ordinance probably will be introduced making the stickers required only until Jan. 1, 1979.

In opposition, Sixth Ward Councilman Clyde Wilson said, "Eliminating the tax in this way is pretty foolish. Over a 10-year period, we're talking about deleting more than a million dollars from capital improvements."

Wilson said he thought it was possible to eliminate the tax with a package deal like the one Mrs. Farish had proposed, but added, "To come here at the 11th hour of the budget process and cut the tax seems to me not to be a very responsible way to approach the budget."

In another council action, overtime parking fines will be raised from \$1 to \$2 starting Dec. 1. This strategy, based on a Municipal Court recommendation, is designed to increase turnover in short-term parking areas in the central

business core, making downtown shops more accessible.

The council also passed an ordinance allowing college students to buy \$1 weekly passes to ride city buses. The passes will be sold by bus drivers on Mondays and Tuesdays, and could mean a savings of \$2.50 a week for regular riders.

In addition, the council approved city employees' fringe benefits as negotiated between labor and city management, but not before a last-ditch attempt by the firefighters for increased injury benefits.

The firefighters, supported by First Ward Councilman Pat Barnes, said the city had promised on four occasions during the negotiations that they would receive any benefits the police received. Police now can get time off, separate from regular sick-days, for injuries occurring on the job.

Chief negotiator for the city, Nick Smeed, said no such promise was made. He said the firefighters had approved an agreement twice without an injury-days benefit.

Council approves bonds for air filter plant here

By Cathy Reiman
Missourian staff writer

The City Council Monday night approved a \$3 million revenue bond issue for the construction of an American Air Filter Co. plant. But just how the bonds will be issued has yet to be decided by the council.

Under one plan, the city could establish an Industrial Development Authority to issue industrial revenue bonds without voter approval, according to Rhonda Thomas, city counselor.

"It is a separate political authority from the council," said Mrs. Thomas. The council's control would be through appointment of a board of directors to serve up to six years.

However, Fifth Ward Councilman Ed Vaughan said he is reluctant to establish an authority without more council control. Whether an authority constitutionally could be set up under stricter council review

will be researched by Mrs. Thomas and presented at Monday's council meeting.

Mrs. Thomas said an authority would have jurisdiction over projects that include new or expanding industries. Facilities for distribution of electricity, gas and water and telephone connections would not be included.

The advantages of an authority system, rather than voter approval of each bond issue, are the elimination of costly bond elections, time lag in beginning development and an "anachronistic" system of voter approval where no financial liability exists, Mrs. Thomas said.

But both Diane Farish, Third Ward councilwoman, and Clyde Wilson, Sixth Ward councilman, said approval of the bond issue is premature. Wilson said it is a "policy resolution" and should be held over until the next meeting, pending further research by the city.



All about flirts

Is he flirting when he touches his wedding ring? Is she flirting if she raises her chin when she smiles? Find out in People, Page 5, what flirting really conveys to the opposite sex.

In town today

9 a.m. Boone County Court meets, County-City Building, fifth floor.

Noon "Update: The Bakke Decision," Women's Center seminar, Gentry Hall, University.

8:15 p.m. Concert, Opera excerpts, solo arias and duets, First Presbyterian Church.

Movie Ratings on Page 15