

GM Lacks Gas No More; Answer Was Right Under Its Feet

LORDSTOWN, Ohio (AP) — General Motors had to go no further than its own back yard to solve a natural gas shortage which at one point forced a shutdown at its huge Lordstown automotive plant.

Some other industrial giants in northern Ohio may get a similar respite from a gas shortage so acute that suppliers are forced to turn down new business.

GM's good fortune traced to Bernard A. Floto, a geologist for a Pittsburgh, Pa., firm. He told GM a decade of research convinced him the deep sediment in northeast Ohio contained sizable reserves of natural gas.

Baiting 1,000

When he first contacted the Lordstown office, Floto wanted to put a well in the firm's parking lot. GM sent him off to a

nearby field and Floto's drillers found gas in all seven wells they put down.

Floto came at an opportune time. East Ohio Gas Co., which supplies the plant, last year asked its biggest customers to cut gas usage by 10 per cent. Since then, all major suppliers in Ohio have utility commission approval to deny service to all new business.

Floto found GM desperate for gas to tide it over the winter periods of peak consumption.

Charles T. Koval, president of the drilling firm, said Thursday GM has contracted to buy 900 million cubic feet of gas a year from the wells at the prevailing rate.

The gas will be used during periods when GM cannot get its normal supply from East Ohio Gas. It will permit the com-

pany to operate Lordstown and five other auto plants in northeast Ohio without interruption.

Koval said four of the wells tested at about 3.5 million cubic feet a day. The other wells have not been tested for their production potential.

Plans 30 Wells

He said the drilling firm plans about 30 wells in the field, but that none will be on

GM property. The company does the exploration and drilling and an affiliate handles the leasing and the contracting for the gas, he said.

Koval said his company explores for gas only for industrial use and that negotiations were under way to sign contracts with other large plants in northeast Ohio. He would not name the companies because of

the effect it might have on obtaining leases.

Delayed by Weather

He said engineering work has been completed for laying pipe from the wells to the Lordstown plant, but that actual construction has been delayed by weather. GM's fuel problem at its Lordstown plant started two years ago when it was forced to suspend operations for several

days because of a natural gas shortage in the area.

Switched to Oil

The company switched to oil in some of its burners here to deal with the shortage and to get it through voluntary cutbacks in gas consumption since.

GM's five other plants in northeast Ohio faced similar curtailments.

The Hutchinson News

100th Year No. 272 22 Pages Friday Morning, March 31, 1972, Hutchinson, Kansas MO 2-3311 B Price 10c



IT SMARTS — An ambulance attendant gives first aid to Joe R. Miller, 21, 527 1/2 West B, after he and Max. D. Miller, 20, 1519 East 4th, both in a van, collided with a car at 4th and Main Thursday afternoon. Leurtes Bonham, 68, Stafford, the car driver, was charged with failure to yield.

Employers Hit with Emergency Tax

Jobless Fund in Trouble

By WAYNE LEE
News Associate Editor

TOPEKA — Recession shockwaves hit the pocket-books of employers all across Kansas Thursday. An "emergency tax" liability was added to the State Employment Security quarterly tax forms. It was added to safeguard the state's sinking unemployment insurance fund from bankruptcy.

"Quite obviously, we had to do something to beef up the fund. We're already hearing the howls, but we are trying to explain that this is simply the lesser of two evils," said Leo Phalen, head of the state's Unemployment Security Division of the State Department of Labor.

The "temporary emergency tax" act was passed quietly at the 1972 session of the Legislature, which just ended. It was retroactive to the first of the year.

The tax is, in effect, a surcharge that increases each employer's tax liability for the fund by one-third, except those few who have "zero" ratings in employment security.

The surcharge will be in effect for two years unless some other method of rebuilding the fund is found. It will collect about \$18 million a year from the estimated 40,000 employers covered by the law across the state.

Here is what happened to the fund:

At the end of 1969, it stood at \$100 million. As the recession took hold, it dropped to \$85 million in 1970. As the recession intensified it dropped to \$65 million in 1971. At the projected payout rate this year—a year in which many unemployed persons have run out of benefits and are no longer eligible to collect the unemployment insurance—the fund would be down to \$55 million without the emergency action, Phalen said.

"Actuarially, a fund is unsound if it is below 1 1/2 times your biggest benefit payment year in a 10-year period. We paid out \$45 million in 1971," Phalen said.

This means the unemployment fund already is unsound, according to Phalen's figures. If it had been allowed to drop to \$55 million this year, the crisis would have been compounded. A wave of unemployment similar to that in 1971 would, in effect, wipe the fund out.

Three alternatives were dis-

Youth Faints From Smoke

HOISINGTON — A Hoisington youth was overcome by smoke early Thursday morning while attempting to report a fire in the bathroom of his home here.

James Carmin, 23, was taken to the Hoisington Lutheran Hospital where he was treated for smoke inhalation and immediately released.

The fire, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Carmin, who were in Wichita at the time, was confined to the bathroom and possibly started from clothing hanging above a heater, according to Stan Jantz, a Hoisington police officer.

After James passed out, his younger brother, Mark, 19, took the phone and dialed the operator — who reported the fire to the police and fire department.

Jantz said that when firemen arrived, smoke had filled the house. Damage was estimated to be slight and the boys were able to spend the rest of the night in the home.

The second method was to do nothing. Under the present formula, which works slowly to make up adjustments in the fund, this would have caused all the employers in the state to have had to cough up the mandatory 2.7 per cent rate of taxation in 1972—pumping \$50 million into the fund and out of businesses in one year's time. The bite was too staggering. Phalen said.

The decision was reached to push for a one-third increase on a "temporary surcharge" basis.

Glee Smith, R-Larned, president pro tem of the Senate, and House Speaker Cal Strowig, R-Abilene, have appointed a special joint committee to study the problem and try to come up with a new formula revision next year.

Some 30,000 Kansas employees have run out of unemployment benefits across the state, which has helped the fund, but has increased welfare costs.

Many of these employees have found new jobs, however, and are rebuilding eligibility rights to claim unemployment insurance. Officials are keeping their fingers crossed against another economic crisis, and Phalen, who was at a "Job Fair" in Wichita Thursday, is optimistic.

"Thing are looking up," he said.

There was admitted gloom in the ranks of employers, however. The federal unemployment tax rate take has increased from .003 to .005 in recent years, and last year the base was changed from the first \$3,000 of an employee's salary to the first \$4,200. The state followed suit.

Here's an example of how the unexpected emergency tax works, and what it means to employers this year:

A company's state rate was .6 per cent. The business manager expected a rate increase to .7 under the present formula due to recent changes. But when the quarterly statements were received, he discovered the emergency tax had been added, jumping the rate to .933 per cent.

In other words, the company's tax liability for unemployment insurance last year was \$18 per employee. He now finds it will be \$39.19 this year, or an increase of \$21.19. Adding in the federal liability due to the increased base, the company's total increase jumped to \$27.19 per employee this year.

Intercepted Letter

JAMES M. ROCHE
GM President
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Jim,

Sounds like the patient has recovered — no labor pains and now no gas pains.

Yours,
Hutch

Murderer Says Trial 'Fair'

Judge Does Nuptials For Man He Sentenced

CHICAGO (AP) — A convicted murderer was married Thursday in a courtroom ceremony performed by the judge who a week ago sentenced him to serve 50 to 164 years in prison.

Harvey Morrow, 33, asked Judge Saul A. Epton in a letter postmarked from the Cook County (Chicago) Jail to officiate at the marriage for the sake of his six children born to Emma Kiaupa with whom Morrow had been living. In the letter, he also told the judge he felt he had received a fair trial.

Morrow was convicted in Circuit Court of the August 1971 murder and attempted rape of Joyce Eng, 18, and was sentenced by Epton.

After the ceremony, his wife, who is 29, told newsmen, "I know he is innocent." Pointing to friends and relatives gathered in the courtroom, she added, "If we didn't all know that, we wouldn't be here. I hope an appeal of the case will result in acquittal."

Morrow's best man at the ceremony was his attorney, George Samens. Rick T. Mackins, 22, a codefendant in the

murder trial who was sentenced to 30 to 75 years, also attended.

Morrow had lived with his new wife since 1963. They have three sons and three daughters, all living with Mrs. Morrow in a four-room apartment on the West Side. None of the children attended the wedding.

During the ceremony, the bride and bridegroom stood smiling hand in hand near the same spot where Morrow a week ago stood with Mackin for sentencing.

Mrs. Morrow wore a blue knit dress with a white orchid

corsage. Morrow wore a brown suit and a brown shirt with no necktie.

After the ceremony, Judge Epton granted the couple about five minutes "to say our goodbyes to each other."

The earliest Morrow will be eligible for parole is 11 years and three months.

After their short conversation, Morrow kissed the bride and was led back to jail.

When newsmen asked Mrs. Morrow what she was going to do with her husband in prison, she replied "Stay home and watch the kids."



"SHE" IS TROUBLED—Richard Mayes, 25, who has been arrested twice this year for wearing women's clothing, appeared in a Houston court in a pink mini-dress Wednesday to pay a \$1 fine, then chatted with newsmen. Mayes says he has been living for about five months as Toni Rachelle Mayes and plans to have a sex change operation.

Prostitute Fined

KANSAS CITY (AP) — Mrs. Doris F. McCoy, 34, was fined \$750 Thursday and placed on probation for three years on her conviction of not reporting nearly \$20,000 in personal income that she said she earned in 1968 as a prostitute.

Weather

KANSAS — Decreasing cloudiness Friday, highs mid-40s to mid-50s. Generally fair Friday night and Saturday. Lows Friday night generally 20s. Highs Saturday low 40s to lower 50s.

Hutchinson Weather Thursday's high 55 from 10:57 a.m. to 11:06 a.m.; low 33 from 3:56 a.m. to 4:16 a.m. Record high 90 in 1917; record low 20 in 1926. Barometer: 28.40, steady. Sunset Friday: 6:54 p.m. Sunrise Saturday: 6:18 a.m.

Nine S. Viet Bases Assaulted

Barrage Biggest in 4 Yrs.

SAIGON (AP) — North Vietnamese gunners poured 2,000 rounds of their heaviest artillery, rockets and mortars into South Vietnamese bases and towns along the demilitarized zone Thursday in the biggest attacks since the famed sieges of Con Thien and Khe Sanh more than four years ago.

The Saigon command reported that nine South Vietnamese bases were assaulted. Field reports said government troops were forced to retreat from one of them.

Heightened Alert Casualty figures still were not complete, but a communique from the Saigon command listed at least seven South Vietnamese soldiers and three civilians killed and 29 sol-

diers and eight civilians wounded.

The U.S. Command said two American advisers at one of the bases were wounded.

The hardest hit base was Charlie 2, four miles south of Con Thien and five miles below the DMZ. The Saigon command said casualties were light.

About 100 shells fell into Gio Linh district town along the eastern flank of the DMZ. Headquarters said three civilians and six soldiers were wounded and 17 homes destroyed or damaged. A school also was heavily damaged.

Three civilians were reported killed and four wounded in a 40-round rocket barrage that hit Dong Ha City, about 10 miles south of the DMZ.

Intensified fighting also was reported in the central highlands, and South Vietnamese troops were placed on heightened alert after intelligence reports that North Vietnamese forces in the region were preparing to launch a three-phased campaign next month.

Not Complete Spokesman said the defenders were well dug in and suffered no casualties. "The attack caused very light material damage," a communique said.

A ground assault against Base Camp Sarge, 20 miles west of Quang Tri City and just to the east of Khe Sanh, killed seven South Vietnamese marines and wounded 20 others.

Another hard-hit base was Camp Mai Loc, which was blasted with 600 rounds of 152mm and 130mm artillery and 122mm rockets. The Saigon

Copter Down, Five Killed

SAIGON (AP) — The U.S. Command announced Friday the loss of a big rescue helicopter, shot down by enemy ground fire in southern Laos during a training mission. The five crewmen aboard were killed.

Worker Falls Sixty Feet

RUSSELL — Julius Berens, 44, was reported in serious condition by an official of the Russell City Hospital Thursday evening after a 60 foot fall from an oil derrick early Thursday morning.

Berens, who was employed by the Sheld's Drilling Co., Inc., had climbed to the top of the derrick (O'Leary No. A-2), located seven miles south and one mile west of Natoma, to rig up a cat line when he apparently lost his balance and fell.

Crew members used a mobile phone to summon aid, according to Dick Sheld, vice president of the drilling company.

Topeka Lawyer Sues

Says Doctors 'Kidnaped' Him

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — A Topeka attorney filed suit for \$610,000 against the Menninger Foundation and four doctors Thursday, alleging he had been kidnaped and held for 22 days.

The suit was brought by Mortimer A. Berlin, who is represented in the action by another Topeka attorney, Fred Phelps.

It was filed in Shawnee County District Court here.

Named defendants besides the Menninger Foundation are Drs. Harold Voth, Topeka; Allan Foodman, Topeka; Roger Berlin, Kansas City, Mo.; and Jerry Berlin, Chicago. The doctors named Berlin are no relation to the plaintiff, court sources said.

A spokesman for the Menninger Foundation said the foundation would have no comment until it received a copy of the petition and could study it.

In his suit, Berlin alleges that the doctors named in the petition conspired on Jan. 8, 1972, to "deprive him of his liberties without due process."

It further alleges that on Jan. 9, Berlin was "kidnaped" and transported "with force and violence and by threat of the same," and "falsely imprisoned . . . for 22 days" until Jan. 31.

Doesn't Say

The suit does not say specifically where Mortimer Berlin was held during the alleged "imprisonment," but it presumably was at the Menninger Foundation, since the foundation is named a defendant.

The suit also does not say where Berlin allegedly was "kidnaped."

Berlin said in the suit that no court of competent jurisdiction has declared him not to be competent.

Bragged No Jail Could Hold Him

Escape Artist Shot As 6th Flight Ends

ARDMORE, Okla. (AP) — An accused bank robber who bragged no state penitentiary could hold him lay near death in a guarded hospital room Thursday, his latest bid for freedom cut down by bullets as officers from two states surrounded him in a floodlit field.

Surgeons worked over James Kenneth Johnson, 34, at the general hospital in this southern Oklahoma city, removing buckshot and attempting to patch damage to vital organs.

He was handcuffed to his bed in the intensive care unit, and physicians listed his condition as critical.

One Last Shot

Johnson was felled by a shotgun blast as he attempted to climb a barbed wire fence. He made it over, dived for cover and, as the light from a dozen spotlights glared over him, raised his pistol to snap off one last shot. Then he collapsed, his sixth escape at an end.

Officers advanced cautiously, then grabbed Johnson, blood staining his windbreaker, jeans and tennis shoes, and carried him from heavy underbrush to a highway patrol car for the ride to the hospital.

"What's taking you all so long?" Johnson was quoted as saying by Ardmore Police Chief Frank Lindsay.

Hit Vital Organs

A hospital spokesman said Johnson was hit by at least 14 pellets from the blast fired by Jim Sigler, an Oklahoma state trooper from Purcell. He said the pellets hit such vital organs as his liver, spleen and a lung, and at least four still were in his body.

As Johnson lay in critical condition in the hospital here, doctors worked in Dallas, Tex., to save the life of a policeman Johnson allegedly shot there Wednesday before he abducted a businessman for his flight north.

Survives Surgery

Dallas Police Sgt. Claude W. Standridge, 48, survived eight hours of surgery at Parkland Hospital and was receiving con-

today

- Deaths 7, 10
- Sports 8, 9
- Women's News 6
- Entertainments 5
- Markets 2
- Editorials 4