

# Executive Hopes Son Made It To Vietnam

HOUSTON (AP) — An oil company executive is clinging to hope raised by nine SOS signals that his 23-year-old son is alive and a captive in Vietnam.

Mark McCurry, 23, is one of 80 crew members of the Glomar Java Sea, an American drilling ship which sank during a typhoon Oct. 25. The ship had been drilling 60 miles south of China and 200 miles east of Vietnam.

His father, Robert McCurry, says officials of Global Marine Inc. of Houston told him and relatives of other survivors that a British Petroleum helicopter monitored nine SOS signals about 50 miles off the Vietnamese coast early in November.

"We feel their odds are maybe one-out-of-two of being alive," said the elder McCurry, a vice president of L&B Oil Co. of Houston. "If they made it that far, there is no reason to assume they couldn't make it 50 miles on to the Vietnamese coast. Until the debris or our men are located, I'll never rest."

Vietnam has refused to let foreign ships and planes search within 23 miles of its coastline, but has told U.S. officials no trace of the crew has been found.

McCurry said he got his son the job at the Houston-based Global Marine Inc., owner of the ship, and hoped bad weather would prompt Mark to return to Midland Junior College. But a \$37,000-a-year salary kept him on the job.

McCurry fears, however, that as memories of the ship fade from the public, the

urgency of finding any survivors also will pass.

Divers have found the ship but no bodies were inside. Two lifeboats with provisions to 30 days were gone from the wreck.

Both Global Marine and families of those aboard the ship have been keeping a low profile. The company has refused to release a list of those aboard the oil drilling ship.

McCurry says he's talking "to generate interest in the American people to put pressure on Washington to determine the fate of our men, and if they are alive, to get them back."

"Financially, I cannot sit here and conduct an Asian search for my son," he says.

Global Marine, at its own expense, brought relatives of the crew to Houston last month for a meeting to discuss the search efforts, McCurry says. At that meeting, company officials said workers' paychecks would continue to be sent to families until an insurance settlement is made, according to McCurry.

"One of the real fears I have is that he (Mark) could be one of the MIA's," he says. "From time to time you hear reports of Americans being made to work in the rice paddies."

He says the company is placing ads in Vietnamese-American newspapers, asking readers to provide information about crew members landing in Vietnam.

Global Marine officials also are slated to meet next week with State Department officials in Washington to discuss ways to break an impasse with the government of Vietnam.

# PUC's First Target

# HL&P Officials Say Audit Welcome

AUSTIN (AP) — Houston Lighting & Power officials say they'll welcome auditors hired by the Public Utility Commission to look into the company's operations.

Mike Williams, director of the PUC's new Utility Evaluation Division, announced Friday that HL&P will be the first target. The company was selected for two reasons, Williams said: It serves a rapidly growing area and it's had management problems.

In November 1982 the commission hit HL&P with a penalty that could cost the company up to \$15 million. George Cowden, then a commissioner, said at the time that HL&P management decisions might have driven a non-monopoly company out of business.

In Houston, HL&P spokesman Graham Painter said the company has no objection to the audit.

"If there are any ways we can make our operation more efficient, nobody wants to

know about them more than we do," said Painter. "We feel like we have a good management team and having someone come in and audit us would perhaps document that."

The review of HL&P, the first authorized under the PUC's new management audit power, will cost about \$1 million, Williams said. Outside experts will be hired to do the job.

"The decision to be made is whether the ratepayers or the stockholders will pick up the expense," said Williams. "The commissioners will determine what is the appropriate handling of the expense of this audit."

PUC Chairman Al Erwin said he had not decided who should pay.

"We have to see what the auditors say," he said.

If the auditors come up with a suggestion that could save ratepayer money, Erwin said

he would be inclined to make HL&P customers pay for the audit.

Williams said the audit report should be ready by next autumn.

Bob Waldrop, HL&P director of regulatory services, was on hand when Williams announced HL&P as the first company to be reviewed.

"Why not?" Waldrop said good-naturedly. Williams said he had told company officials, "Why not?"

He told reporters it's time to take "a more detailed examination of the company." Among the criticisms of HL&P has been its handling of the South Texas Nuclear Project. Williams said the outside consultants hired to look at HL&P will "specifically be looking at (HL&P's) handling of the South Texas Project."

The penalty could be lifted if improvements are found, according to Williams.

# Bullock Says White Could Pay Lawyer's Bill

AUSTIN (AP) — Comptroller Bob Bullock says Gov. Mark White could pay the \$184,000 claim that Sen. Craig Washington, D-Houston, has against the state for defending a prison inmate, if White wanted to.

White replied Friday that he was "appalled" Bullock would say that.

"Mr. Bullock served on the Criminal Justice Council and he was one of the people who voted to commit that money. He knows that money is not available. He shouldn't mislead

people like that," White told a news conference.

John Moore, press aide for Bullock, said the fund showed a balance of \$12,362,344 Friday.

"Revenues flow into that fund at the rate of \$2 million per month. If the governor doesn't think he can use the \$12 million on hand today he can wait about a day and a half and at that time he will certainly have enough to settle the Washington claim," Moore said.

U.S. District Judge James Nowlin of Austin on Thursday

turned down Washington's request to cut off funds for a second trial of Eroy Brown, a prison inmate, on charges of killing a prison official, until Washington is paid \$184,000 for defending Brown in the first trial that ended in a hung jury.

Brown, 32, was serving a 12-year sentence for a Tarrant County robbery when he was accused of killing two prison officials in April 1981.

After Thursday's decision, Washington said he would ask a state district judge to hold

Bullock in contempt.

"Senator Washington has forgotten who he is suing," said Bullock who says he may run for governor in 1986. "Governor White has been criticizing some federal officials lately for not solving problems they could be taken care of with the 'stroke of a pen.' Well, this is certainly one White could solve with his No. 2 lead pencil. He wouldn't even have to write his name. I would honor his 'x' on a voucher to pay this claim if it were properly witnessed," Bullock said.

# Pigmy Killer Whale Dies

PORT ARANSAS (AP) — Scientists were saddened to lose one of three pygmy killer whales that beached themselves on Mustang Island, but say the whales' predicament gave them a rare opportunity to study the rare marine mammals in captivity.

"R2D2," as it was nicknamed, was believed by researchers to be a juvenile. It died Friday when scientists attempted to transfer it out of a holding tank at the Texas Marine Science Institute.

A spokesman for the institute said the other two whales were believed to be an adult male and an adult female, but said researchers could only speculate

whether the three constituted a family.

All three were 6 to 7 feet long.

Anthony Amos, a research associate and physical oceanographer who led a University of Texas team that rescued the beached whales Thursday, said researchers were able to record what are could be the first recordings of pygmy killer whales communicating with each other.

Chris Kitting, a marine biologist at the institute, said hydrophones were placed near the blow holes and near the "mellon" (forehead) of the three whales.

# Deaths & Funerals

**MONEYHON**  
Services for Clarence Dreyer Moneyhon, 77, of Baytown will be at 3 p.m. Monday at Earthman Chapel with the Rev. A. L. Jordan officiating.

A 41-year resident of Baytown, Moneyhon was retired from the Exxon utilities department. He was a charter member of the Eastside

Baptist Church. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Jonnie Mae Moneyhon of Baytown; his daughter, Betty L. Fisher of Baytown; brothers L.H. Hanson of Baytown and Andrew F. Hanson of Tyler; and sister Maude Goetch of Kingsville.

Three grandchildren and eight great-

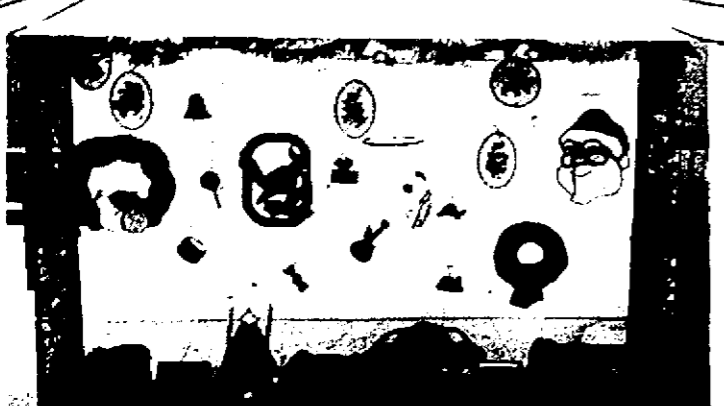
grandchildren also survive.

Pallbearers will be Gerald Hanson, Barry Hanson, Everett Lane, Monty Young, Laddy Fisher, Bob Bradshaw, Edward Coe and Harold Barclay.

Burial will be in Cedarcrest Cemetery.

Services are under the direction of Earthman Funeral Home.

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