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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "LASTING AGENT ORANGE EFFECTS DETECTED, STUDY SAYS"
NCBC GULFPORT MS
9/18/1986
THE SUN HERALD

newspaper An-N... said, "We shall meet soon in your states. We shall get acquainted with great states, your cities, your skyscrapers, your Statue of Liberty. We shall not wait for you to come here. Your streets will soon know us."

The group has claimed responsibility for four bombings in Paris in the last 10 days.



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Two bombing victims wait for medical aid on the pavement in front of the Tati clothing store in Paris We

Private utilities left unappraised on Harrison county tax

By PHILLIP E. CANUTO
SUN HERALD WRITER

The property values of several privately owned water and sewer utilities in Harrison county — including one owned by a county supervisor — were deleted from the county's new tax lists, and state and county officials agree on whose duty it was to assess the property.

If left unassessed, the Harrison County utilities would pay no property tax.

But state and county officials said Wednesday they would make sure the confusion is cleared up and the utilities are assessed by one of the two agencies before county supervisors give final approval to the tax lists in November.

Although the utility companies' names were included on new property lists that were approved by county supervisors and released this week, no values were shown for land and improvements, such as wells, lift stations and

storage tanks.

County officials said they thought the state Tax Commission was going to estimate the value of the property. A state official said it's the county's job.

The disagreement resembles a debate on the treatment of private utilities in Jackson County. In that case, the state and the county thought each other was assessing the utilities and, as a result, no one taxed some companies for years.

In contrast, the private utilities in Harrison County have been assessed and taxed by the county. It was only with the new tax reprepared as part of countywide reappraisal that the utility assessments were deleted.

Companies whose property was not assessed on the new tax list include Coast Water Works, Orange Grove Utilities, Johnson Utility Co. and Dedeaux Utility Co.

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Lasting Agent Orange effects detected, study says

By MATTHEW PURDY
KNIGHT-RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON — A team of doctors Wednesday announced what is termed a breakthrough in the detection of long-term dioxin contamination of Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange, the controversial defoliant used by the military in Southeast Asia. The study, a three-year pilot study by doctors in the United States and Sweden, found that veterans who had been exposed to heavy doses of Agent Orange had dioxin levels on average of 10 times the levels

found in veterans who were not exposed to the defoliant or who did not serve in Vietnam.

Dioxin has been linked to a range of possible health effects including skin disorders, liver and kidney diseases, cancer and birth defects. Veterans groups have estimated that 2 million veterans were exposed to the chemical between January 1962 and February 1971 when 18.85 million gallons of the herbicide were sprayed in South Vietnam.

The study is considered significant

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Dioxin-purging machine arrives in Gulfport

By GEORGE LAMMONS
SUN HERALD WRITER

Thirteen tractor-trailer trucks were needed to carry the equipment that will purge the dioxin from the contaminated soil at the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport.

The caravan arrived at the Seabee base Wednesday afternoon, and initial unloading was to start immediately.

Air Force Capt. Terry Stoddart, project spokesman, said assembly and testing of the portable incinerator will require about 60 days. The soil-cleansing process is expected to start in mid- to late December and will take about 90 days with around-the-clock burning.

The Air Force Engineering and Services Center Laboratory at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., is responsible for the \$5.4 million cleanup of the contaminated 12-acre site. An estimated 9,000 tons of soil have to be baked to rid of the dioxin.

The soil was contaminated during and after the Vietnam War when the defoliant, Agent Orange, leaked from some of the 17,000 barrels stored at the base.

Dioxin is a by-product of Agent Orange.

The Seabee base incineration project, like other dioxin-neutralizing projects, is still experimental,

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Effects

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because it offers proof that dioxin can be detected in both the blood and fatty tissue of veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange. That information, the study's sponsors said, can be used to establish a correlation between the contamination and diseases now suspected to be caused by dioxin contamination.

The accurate detection of dioxin and its relationship to diseases has been a missing link in both medical research and legal claims filed against the government by veterans who believe they were exposed to Agent Orange. In addition, this test can also be used in the study of other cases of dioxin exposure, such as in Times Beach, Mo., where residents were

believed contaminated with dioxin contained in road oil used in that town.

Allen Falk, chairman of the New Jersey Agent Orange Commission, which sponsored the study, said "the Agent Orange issue is not dead and should not be dead. We now have the means to find the answer to the Agent Orange question."

Commission officials said that it would take several years before widespread testing of veterans could be started because of the expense of the tests and the small number of laboratories in the world that could perform the tests.

The study was conducted by doctors and scientists at the Rutgers University, the New Jersey College of Medicine and Denistry and the University of Umea in Sweden, where the tests were performed. The results were announced

Wednesday in Washington and at a medical conference in Japan.

The study tested 27 veterans who were chosen out of a pool of more than 3,000 veterans. Of the 27 veterans, 10 had received heavy exposure to dioxin, 10 were Vietnam veterans but were not exposed to dioxin and seven were Vietnam era veterans but were never stationed in Southeast Asia.

Blood and fatty tissue samples from the 10 who had received heavy exposure contained 46 to 49 parts per trillion of dioxin, while the contaminant was found in samples of the other veterans at levels of between four and nine parts per trillion, according to Michael Gochfeld, a doctor involved in the study.

Gochfeld said the "background" level of dioxin, or the amount of dioxin found in the general population, is five parts per trillion.

Dioxin

Continued from A-1

though incineration has proven effective in decontaminating dioxin-laden soil in other instances.

The gas-fired incinerator used at the Seabee Center has been tested in Eldorado, Ark., and similar systems have been used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in cleanups of civilian sites.

However, Capt. Terry Stoddart, an Air Force spokesman, said the Gulfport cleanup will be the first large-scale use of the furnaces. The incinerators used in the EPA projects had only a fourth of the capacity of the one that will be used at the Seabee base.

Stoddart said the experiment is necessary to see if the system is reliable, cost effective and efficient in the removal of hazardous materials from the soil.

The Air Force will also experiment with a chemical dioxin-removal method. The chemical will be applied to a contaminated concrete slab, contaminated soil and contaminated soil placed in a tank. Stoddart said that after the chemically-decontaminated soil and concrete have been tested they also will be burned.

Utilities

cided who should assess private utilities' property. But Koons's boss, Richard Brown, director of the Tax Commission's Property Tax Division, said Koons had not discussed the issue with him.

"They should be locally assessed," Brown said of the private utilities.

Koons was on vacation and not be reached for

the holdings to black South African investors. Coke products still will be sold in South Africa.

"We saw this move as one of the many weapons that can be effective against apartheid," Coca-Cola spokesman Randy Donaldson said. "We have chosen this route as a way that will allow the formation of a multi-racial canning system."

Donaldson said the Atlanta-based company made the final decision to pull out because it was dissatisfied with progress toward abolishing apartheid.

Final plans for the pullout will not be completed for another six to nine months, but Donaldson said the overall plan involves selling off all interests in bottling and canning plants in the racially torn country.

"Once completed, the Coca-Cola Co. will not own any holdings in South Africa," Donaldson said.

The decision to divest came after a long period of discussion, Donaldson said. Donald R. Keough, Coca-Cola's president and chief operating officer, said in a statement Wednesday that the company had been reducing its investments in South Africa since 1976.

Donaldson said he could not estimate how much money is involved.

Coca-Cola owns 55 percent of the canning company, which it will sell, said Coca-Cola spokesman Carlton

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Teacher strikes end in

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Teachers strikes ended Wednesday in six districts across the country, but classrooms remained dark for more than 70,000 pupils elsewhere as 4,200 instructors continued walkouts in four states.

In Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., 110 teachers staged a one-day strike but planned to return to work today.

Elsewhere, school strikes continued Wednesday in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois and Ohio. Pennsylvania was hardest hit with strikes in seven districts.

Teachers in two districts each in Michigan and one each in Pennsylvania, Washington and Illinois were back at work Wednesday, and strikers voted Wednesday to end a walkout in Ohio and return to work today.

Teachers in Michigan's Cass City and Van Dyke districts returned to classrooms Wednesday, but without contracts. The Van Dyke teachers had taught without a contract since the school year opened, but walked out Monday. The Cass City teachers returned to work under a court order.

Two other Michigan districts remained on strike. Washington's sole strike ended Wednesday when teachers voted 42-22 to ratify the Steilacoom's latest contract proposal.

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KELLY HARDING/SUN HERALD PHOTOGRAPHER

Hauling a giant oven

It took 13 tractor-trailer trucks to transport the portable dioxin-burning incinerator to the Seabee base in Gulfport. Story on A-1.