SEC. B P1

...of E.P. Truck Service in Highland was southbound Monday stopping.

BELLEVILLE NEWS DEMOCRAT 5/3/88

Monsanto works to settle claims of victims treated in chemical spill

By ANTHONY SMITH
News-Democrat

SAUGET — Monsanto Co. has set up a temporary office to handle claims from an April 17 chemical spill that sent 420 people to the hospital for emergency treatment.

A trailer was set up on the plant's parking lot Wednesday to issue claim forms and make appointments for people who want to make a claim against the company, said Max McCombs, general superintendent of government and environmental affairs.

About 150 people have been interviewed, and appointments have been made for 450 more, he said.

"What we're trying to do is settle claims in a fair and convenient manner. In return for the settlement, we are asking people to sign a release form," McCombs said.

About 300 gallons of phosphorous trichloride spilled when a tank car was overfilled at the company's W.G. Krummrich plant. Company officials said an operator had left the tank car unattended.

The spill sent 420 people to area emergency rooms seeking medical treatment for eye and respiratory tract problems.

"Anyone can get a claim form, but having a claim form doesn't mean that the person has a legitimate claim," McCombs said.

Each claim is discussed and decided on an individual basis between the person making the claim and the company's insurance carrier. A range of the settlement amounts was unavailable, he said.

"What we're offering is a fair amount and the people are taking it," McCombs said.

He said payments have been made to between 97 percent and 98 percent of those already interviewed.

The trailer will be parked on the lot for as long as needed, McCombs said. Anyone who thinks he has a legitimate claim can obtain a claim form.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has asked the Illinois attorney general's office to file suit against Monsanto because of the April 17 spill.

Monsanto officials have claimed that the chemical, which reacts with the normal moisture found in the atmosphere, doesn't cause any long-term side effects.

Monsanto agreed to pay all emergency room costs incurred and disciplinary measures have been taken against the employee responsible for the spill.

Landfills get citati... for EPA violations

By JEANNE AUBUCHON
News-Democrat

BELLEVILLE — The St. Clair County Health Department on Friday issued 18 citations totaling $9,000 in fines against three landfills south of Belleville for violations of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act.

The Health Department issued 10 citations against Bi-State Disposal Co. Inc., five against J&R Landfill and three against Laidlaw Waste Systems Inc., said Kevin Hutchison, administrator of the Health Department. Each violation carries a $500 fine.

All three landfills are near Illinois 158 and Mine Haul Road.

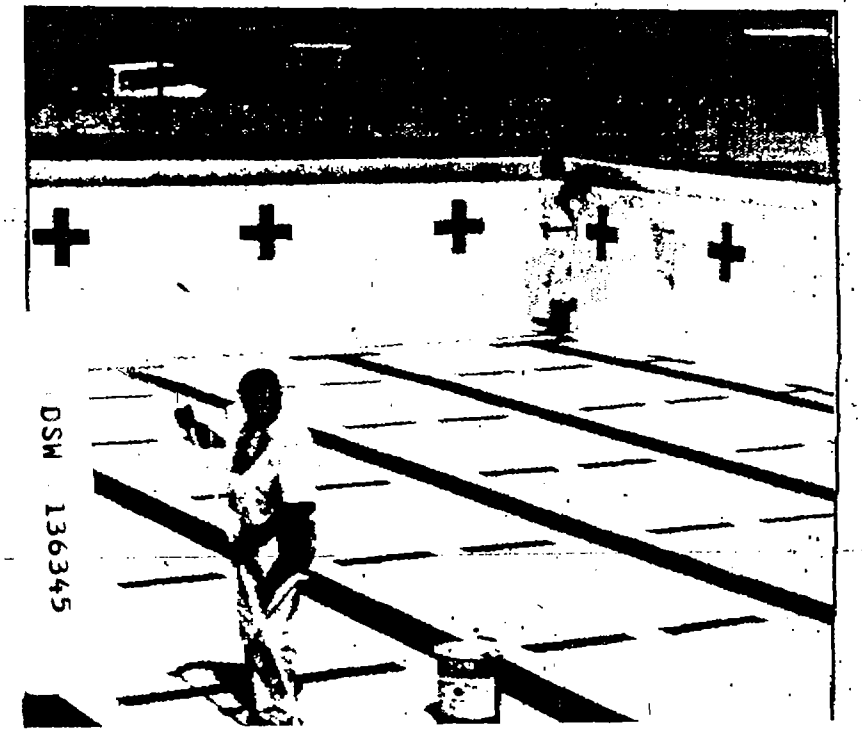
Bi-State Disposal faces $5,000 in fines and was issued the following citations:

- Six for allo... remain uncovere... previous operating... of an operating da... April 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7.
- Two for allo... standing or flow... March 28 and April...
- Two for failin... contain litter fro... March 28 and April...

J&R faces $2,50... following violations...

- Two for allo... remain uncovered... April 2.
- One for open b... on March 31.
- One for allowi...

See L...



Suspect pleads no... ilty in clerk's...

By BRAD WEISENSTEIN
News-Democrat

EDWARDSVILLE — Gene Henry Arnett on Monday pleaded innocent to first-degree murder charges for the bludgeoning death of a Pontoon Beach convenience store clerk.

Arnett, 29, formerly of Granite City, is charged with killing Huck's Convenient Store attendant Nancy J. Bennett and is charged with taking $100 from the store on Oct. 22. Bennett, 28, of Troy died the next day from the repeated blows to her head.

Arnett's appearance Monday was his first time back in Madison County since just after he was charged with murder for one of the fall highway shootings.

Arnett allegedly shot Todd Scrum, a 21-year-old student from Granite City, on Oct. 24 on Interstate 270 near the Interstate 255 interchange under construction.

Arnett was transferred back to Ma... Menard Correctional Center, where he... parole violation. Arnett will remai... County Jail until after his trial for ... which is scheduled to begin June 6.

He will be tried separately for each... Trone, assistant state's attorney.

Arnett began his alleged crime spree... being paroled from Menard Correction... served nine years for armed robbery.

In addition to Scrum's shooting, Arn... for shooting a Clark service station att... after robbing him Nov. 19 in Grani... recovered.

Arnett was being held by Grani... connection with that crime when an inf... Arnett allegedly committed the Scrum...

School board delays pre-annexatio...

By ANTHONY SMITH
News-Democrat

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS — The Pontiac-William Holliday School Board on Monday postponed a vote on a...

she said.

Board members were particularly... Elvira Drive might be extended to con... Old Collinsville Road, a move ther...

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