

Eruption Of Fuel Line Ruled Cause Of Fire In Officer's Death

By MARK R. MOSS
Chronicle Staff Writer

The car in which Winston-Salem Police Officer Michael R. Jennings was killed erupted into flames because the fuel lines ruptured after impact and the leaking gas was ignited by something hot or burning beneath the car, authorities said.

The Winston-Salem Police Department this week issued its final report on the crash in which

Jennings, a seven-year veteran, was fatally burned after he lost control of his patrol car, a 1992 Ford Taurus, on Winston Lake Road on Jan. 29.

Besides the city police department, the Ford Motor Company, the State Bureau of Investigation and the Winston-Salem Fire Department were involved in investigating the reasons for the crash and why it erupted into flames.

Jennings, 30, and Officer Tim-

othy Rayvon Wilson, 27, were traveling south on Winston Lake Road in their patrol car around 6:30 p.m. that Friday evening when Jennings lost control of his patrol car at the crest of a hill where the road curves. Tread marks on the road, a sign of brakes being applied, indicate that Jennings lost control of the car about 82 feet before the car hit a tree on the east side of the road. Wilson, who suffered a broken hip and facial lacerations, managed to escape from

the wreckage before the car erupted into flames.

Capt. Franklin Holman, of the Winston-Salem Police Department has said that excessive speed was the cause of the accident, but the department hasn't been able to determine the car's exact speed.

According to the police department's statement, the fire apparently started on the underside of the car, beneath the back seat and on the right side -- the same side that was

demolished by the tree. "The fuel lines in this area had been appreciably bent and twisted by the crash and apparently sprayed fuel from the opening from the residual pressure of the electric fuel pump system," the statement said.

The part of the fuel line that was ruptured was made of plastic, which connected the steel fuel line to the fuel filter.

Once the fire started, the statement said, the rubber hoses from the

metal fuel filler lines to the fuel tanks were burned away, releasing vapors and possibly raw gas. That increased the intensity of the fire and ignited the car's interior.

According to the statement, the inertia safety switch, which disconnects power to the electric fuel pump in a serious accident, had been too badly damaged by the fire to tell if it had done its job.

(See related story on B6.)

This Generation Needs To Manage Money

Use it up, wear it out, make it do, fix it up or do without. This motto is just as appropriate today during serious economics problems as it was 40 years ago. This generation needs to learn how to save and economize and conserve energy. Now and in the future we will be affected by higher taxes, higher energy cost, and higher cost of goods and services in general. The higher cost of living will require more skills, energy conservation techniques, and man power rather than more costly conveniences.

Today we do not realize what is contributing to our high cost of living. But if we stop to look at our habits and buymanish techniques we would realize what has attributed to the high cost of living. Presently we throw huge amounts of packaging materials away daily. Then cities or communities must use additional energy to dispose of our garbage. Demands for "conveniences" continue to increase because we ask for and get easy care floor coverings, and disposables of all kinds such as: paper cups, tow-

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just want to go back home with my momma." The judge promptly sentenced him to jail.

Throughout the trial, the business owner kept thinking of how glad he was that he had not been there on the evening the two boys had broken into his place. Had he been there, somebody would have been killed. And that would have been tragic. He, too, had a son who was about the same age as one of the two boys. "Thank God, thank God I wasn't there," he kept saying to himself.

And now that the trial was over, it was time for him to hustle on back to work. The entire ordeal had already cost him a lot of money. When you're a small business owner, if you aren't working you aren't getting paid.

As he stepped into the elevator, he noticed that the woman inside was the mother of the boy who had just been sentenced for burglarizing his place. It would have been just the two of them in this tiny, quiet space. He nodded at the woman.

He thought perhaps that the woman might say something like, "Sir, I'm sorry that my son broke into your place of business" or "I wish that I could pay you back for all the trouble we have cause." Or maybe she would say, "Sir, I'm sorry that you had to take off so much time from your work in order to come here for this trial."

But instead, the woman never said a mumbling word. Nothing. She just looked over at him, cigarette hanging from her mouth, and just rolled her eyes -- as if he was wrong for having pressed charges in the first place; as if he was at fault for having tried to provide a service to this community, jobs for young black males; as if he was the one who should be going to jail and not her son.

As the elevator slid down the short corridor, the ride must have seemed like a hundred years for both of them. Him on one side, reminding himself of how glad he was that he didn't have to kill her son, and she on the other side, rolling her eyes in disgust.

Riding back to work, he could only think to himself, "Is it any wonder, is it any wonder?"

els, diapers, pop bottles, razors, fountain pens and gadgets to entertain and make our jobs easier.

last 20 years two-income families have created a need for revolution in the kitchen equipment. Advances

the amount of energy required to produce the garments the amount of water needed to clean them and the frequency of cleaning. Darker clothing worn will cut the cost.

The current consumer wants home furnishings with large patterns in sofas and chairs fabrics. Matching these designs require more fabric which increases the cost. The cost of housing, house furnishings, clothing and conveniences can be controlled by careful shopping and giving up some conveniences, and learning how to prepare and do more things by using substitutes and more normal labor. It means changing attitudes as to personals and family needs and adjusting schedules.



HOME ECONOMICS

By JoANNE J. FALLS
Home Economics Extension Agent

"Indirect" energy consumption is basically what's used to produce goods and services. All products available at the market place in some way required energy manufacture, package or deliver them. It is this hidden energy use that has been so long and easily ignored. In the

have been made in "labor-savers" which are more costly to produce and buy. Often direct and indirect energy uses are linked to clothing and home furnishings. For example: The choice of light-colored garments, along with standards of cleanliness, are directly related to

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trophy case and banner to be testimony of the contributions Gaines made to the university. "When this brother (Gaines) leaves," he said, "I want to make sure that people will be able to see his legacy."

Monroe said the banner will hold the name of the center and the trophy case will display the trophies, mementos and rewards that Gaines has collected during his 46 years with the school.

Monroe said whether Gaines stays with the school is not as much of an issue as is the public forum the subject has been given.

"He deserves to have things done in a first-class way," Monroe said. "He was at the school long before I got there, and there's a good chance that those who want to see him go weren't even born when he first came to the school."

Monroe is an entertainment producer in New York City and operates a painting and contracting.

He also will participate in a drug/health fair Saturday at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum from 6-8 p.m.



Frank N. Mickens, Principal/Asst. Superintendent and students at Boys and Girls High School, Brooklyn, New York

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