

# Outboard Racer Badly Hurt In Lake Havasu Record Try

By NELL KULP  
The Yuma Daily Sun

**PARKER** — The driver of an Evinrude outboard boat was critically injured this morning while attempting to set a world outboard speed record.

Gerry Walin, 34, of Edmonds, Wash., was making his first run on the measured kilometer (five-eighths of one mile) straight-a-way in front of the Metropolitan Water District intake pumping plant on Lake Havasu.

According to Jack Leek, director of racing for Outboard Marine Corp., Walin was traveling at an estimated speed of over 150 mph when the boat began to walk on the sponsors. Walin attempted to decelerate, which automatically dropped the boat's tail and lifted the nose. The wind picked

ed up the boat lifting it 35-40 feet into the air.

Walin was thrown from the craft and picked up within seconds by the Coast Guard and patrol boats. He was taken by Parker Ambulance Service to Parker Community Hospital.

He reportedly suffered ankle fractures, internal bleeding and undetermined back injuries. He is to be flown to St. Joseph's Hospital at Phoenix. Evinrude had been attempting to set the new record since

early Monday morning, but choppy water and wind had forced several delays.

Leeks said conditions this morning at sunrise were perfect for the attempt, and the water was glassy smooth. Walin had set a previous

world record in 1966 on Lake Havasu when he piloted an Evinrude-equipped hull to a 131,050 mph average.

His record held until 1973 when Jim Mertens of Oshkosh, Wis., traveled 136,401 mph in an outboard.

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## TRIAL RUN AT HAVASU

Driver Gerry Walin hits full throttle during a test run on Lake Havasu in preparation to attempt to break the world outboard speed record. Walin was critically injured

this morning in the attempt, which had been delayed for three days due to choppy water.

(Evinrude Photo)

## Security Man Shot In Leg by Flare Gun

Leonard Thomas, Coastal K-9 owner, was shot in the leg by a flare gun early this morning during a scuffle at Highlander C Ranch, County 23rd St. and Avenue E. He was treated at the ranch.

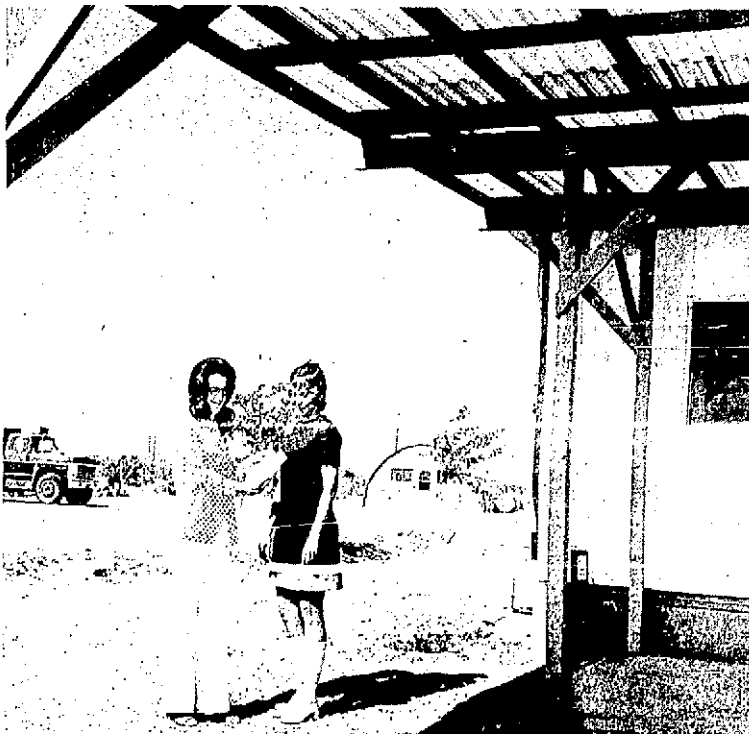
Yuma County sheriff's deputies said Thomas became involved in an argument with a man who was harassing United

Farm Workers strikers.

Thomas asked the man to leave the ranch. But the man refused and pulled out a .357 caliber pistol, deputies said. Thomas then disarmed the man.

Later the man pulled out a flare gun and fired, deputies said. The flare hit Thomas in the left leg.

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CLEAN PREMISES

Judy Gallo (left), secretary-coordinator for B & H Farm, accepts the Parker Champberettes' outstanding commercial premises improvement award for August. The firm is owned by Bill VanderPol of Corona, Calif., and managed by Robert Talley of Parker Valley. (Sunfoto)

## Arsonist Destroys Transient's Auto

A fire that Yuma Police said was started by an arsonist destroyed a car owned by Don Simon, a transient, last night.

Police said a man wearing light-colored clothing was seen running from the car with a flaming stick in his hand shortly after 8 p.m. when the fire was reported. The man reportedly fanned the flames just before he fled.

As he ran he threw the stick into some brush and started a small fire, police said.

Yuma Fire Dept. fire fighters pumped 100 gallons of water within 10 minutes to extinguish flames.

Shortly after 5 p.m. yesterday, city fire fighters extinguished a blaze in a city of Yuma trash bin near Catalina Dr. and 4th Ave. Only damage was to the paint on the bin. Possible cause was listed as a burning cigarette.

City fire fighters responded to a pickup fire near the home of Ray Castro, 805 7th Ave., at about 12:30 p.m. yesterday. However, flames were out before they arrived.

Fire fighters said flames damaged wiring and the carburetor in the pickup, owned

by Castro. Fire fighters said the blaze was caused by a carburetor backfire.

## Park Chief Resigns

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ronald H. Walker, the director of the National Park Service, has resigned effective next Jan. 1, the Interior Department said Wednesday. A spokesman said Walker, in a letter of resignation, said he had "reached a personal decision that the time has come for me to return to private life."

## Yuma Symphony Orchestra Has Been Given New Name

The Yuma Symphony Assn. Inc. has changed the name of the orchestra from Yuma Symphony to Southwest Symphony — Yuma-Imperial Valleys. The new name will simply be the designation for the orchestra as a division of the Yuma Symphony Assn Inc.

Many musicians from the Imperial Valley travel to Yuma each week for rehearsals and also the Symphony will be doing a series of three concerts in that valley this year. Because of the expanded coverage of the concerts, the name change seemed advisable.

Brochures for the 1974-75 season are being mailed this week and tickets will be on sale next week. Anyone desiring in-

formation concerning the season or tickets may call 782-1128.



**KINGS' KOURT**  
By  
BUNNY FEILER  
Kofa High

**DANCE** — Friday night after the Kofa-Yuma game there will be a Freshman Handshake Dance in the Kofa gym. Buses will return students from the game to Kofa and they will be able to buy tickets at the price of 50 cents, for fresh, and 75 cents for all other classes. A group called Simon will be playing from 9:30 until midnight. The dance is being sponsored by the sophomores and don't forget to go.

**ACTIVITY** — Activity cards are now on sale in Mr. Phelps' office for \$4 for students and \$12 for adults. These cards will admit you to all school sports activities throughout the 1974-75 school year. This is really a good deal if you plan on attending most of the games.

**BUS** — Friday evening buses will be leaving the school parking lot at 6 p.m. The first two buses will contain Pep Club members who must wear their white blouse and gloves. Buses will continue the run as long as people need the ride. All students, parents and fans are encouraged to leave their cars in the Kofa parking lot, which will be patrolled, during the football game. Buses will return fans directly after the game is over. Remember that the parking lot will be patrolled.

**X-COUNTRY** — It was previously reported that the cross-country meet between Kofa and Yuma is to be run at 4 p.m. at Yuma High

School. The time and the location have both been changed. The majority of the race will be run in the vicinity of Prison Hill. This is where the majority of the viewing will take place. The time of the race has been changed to 5:30 p.m. Come out and support the cross-country team Friday at 5:30 p.m. They've only lost the City Championship once in the history of Kofa. Last year. See them regain the title and trophy tomorrow.

**RALLY** — Due to many mix-ups that are still going on, the time for the pep rally has been changed to Friday afternoon. But don't count on it. As of this yesterday the rally was to be held at 1:15 in the gym. Hopefully the bulletin will be able to fill you in on this subject more than I.

**FOOD** — Friday evening from 5:30 to 7 the Yuma High Song and Cheerleaders Assn. will be having a Taco Dinner in the YHS Cafeteria. The famed Chorales will be providing the entertainment during the dinner. If you plan on driving to the football game you can go early, get a good parking space and also eat dinner there. For \$1.75 you will receive the main course along with a beverage and drink. So if you want some good tacos go to the YHS cafeteria at 5:30 p.m. Friday.

**EXPLORER** — Anyone interested in joining an Explorer Post is urged to contact Gilbert Lago at 783-6668 or Hugh Tate at 783-6483.

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