

Divers Assess Damage To Fuel Tanker

Coast Guard Cmdr. Fred Folger disclosed today that the crippled Norwegian tanker Evje, damaged early Tuesday when it struck a reef off Fire Island as it approached the Port of Anchorage, has suffered "penetration damage" from its bow to midships.

Hard-hat divers went down Wednesday to begin checks to determine the extent of damage to the vessel.

Folger said the tanker apparently struck the reef hard enough that its bow was bounced up out of the water momentarily. The Coast Guard officer, who serves as Captain of the port, said the jolt was largely responsible for forcing sea water into some of the Evje's ruptured cargo cells.

The ship carried a load of jet fuel, a refined kerosene which is lighter than water. The vessel lay at the port dock this morning while Standard Oil Co.

officials supervised pumping operations to unload the ship. Hydrometer checks on the fuel were being made every few minutes during the pumping to determine which storage cells on the ship were damaged and polluted by water.

All was quiet at the port as the pumping continued, and all concerned hoped things would stay that way.

City Manager Ben Marsh, pacing up and down the dock told newsmen, "All we're asking is when they'll be able to leave."

Marsh has ordered city fire fighting equipment to remain at the dock throughout the pumping operation.

The safety watch was also joined this morning by the Coast Guard cutter Sorrell, commanded by Cmdr. Frank Sperry. The cutter's crew was assisting in dock watches.

Folger went aboard this morning for a meeting with Capt.

K. Henriksen, the Evje's master, to determine how seriously the ship is damaged, if it can be moved under its own power, how much of its cargo is contaminated by water, and where responsibility lies in the accident.

Henriksen ordered his officer of the deck to inform newsmen they could not attend the meeting. He also directed a ban on ship-board photographs.

Hard-hat divers were to continue underwater checks on the ship today to determine the exact extent of damage. Reportedly seven of the vessel's 27 cargo cells were penetrated when the ship hit the reef.

A Standard Oil official, who declined to give his name, told newsmen at the dock he had "no idea" how much of the jet fuel is contaminated. The Evje may be sent to Nikiski from here, where the polluted fuel could be re-refined.

Special pumps to empty the damaged portions of the ship were to be flown in from Seattle today.



Lee Davies of Standard Oil Checks Jet Fuel For Contamination

THE CITY BEAT

We See By Reading The Old Minutes...

By ED ISENSON

Innovations in government are relatively rare. However, the Anchorage Port Commission has apparently hit upon an innovation which, if imitated, could vitally affect city government.

According to city records, the Port Commission held an unannounced, unpublished election in executive session which put its present chairman in office for another two years.

Some persons might complain that public bodies ought not conduct secret meetings. But that is rather shortsighted. Just imagine how much fun it would be to pick up your morning paper and read these stories:

Anchorage area telephones fell dead yesterday as the Herman Haulem Salvage Co., Inc., began moving equipment out of the main telephone exchanges.

A spokesman for the company said that it had purchased the telephone utility's copper wire for scrap.

A quick check of Telephone Commission minutes revealed that three months ago in executive session it approved the sale of the wire to the HHS Co. because of the high volume of complaints about service...

The Anchorage City Hall will be converted into a combination garage and women's lingerie shop, it was learned yesterday.

City officials declined to comment on the conversion, but a check of past City Council minutes revealed that the switch was approved in an executive session Feb. 13.

According to the minutes, a combination garage and lingerie shop was "the highest and best use" of the City Hall. Announcement was withheld to prevent real-estate speculation...

Turnagain area residents received notice yesterday that they must evacuate their homes within the next 14 days or face prosecution for zoning violations.

A new zoning ordinance, which went into effect yesterday, 30 days after it was formally adopted in executive session, limits the Turnagain area to truck farming.

The joint action of the Planning Commission, City Council and Borough Assembly came as a complete surprise.

"We didn't want to announce our decision prematurely and upset taxpayers," a spokesman for the three bodies said...

Former Anchorage mayor and long-time city councilman George Byer was elected mayor again in a secret election, the Daily News learned yesterday.

Byer's election came as a complete surprise to nearly everyone, including Byer, whose candidacy was such a well-kept secret that he denied knowledge of it.

"I must have been elected by the same people who fired me as postmaster," Byer said when notified of his election win by the Daily News...

On the same night the Anchorage Port Commission elected a chairman in closed session, the City Council voted 9-0 in executive session to abolish the Port Commission, the Daily News learned while reading the minutes last night...



RUPTURED TANKER TRIGGERS TENSE TIME AT PORT

Workmen at the Port of Anchorage worked cautiously through the latter part of the week emptying the crippled Norwegian tanker Evje of its cargo of refined jet fuel. As the pumping operations got underway, the vessel's skipper, Capt. K. Henriksen, center, looked on from his bridge with Coast Guard Cmdr. Fred Folger, left, and Cmdr. Frank Sperry. The tanker ruptured seven of its cargo compartments early Tuesday when it went aground on Knik

Arm Shoal between Fire Island and Pt. Woronzof. Folger, captain of the port, said the Evje was expected to depart over the weekend for Pudget Sound, where it will be drydocked for repairs. Sperry, master of the Coast Guard cutter Sorrell, brought his ship and crew here from Seward to help with fire watches and dock patrol during the touchy pumping operations.

Anchorage Daily Times 27
Wednesday, May 10, 1967

Port Board To Consider Fuel Switch

Members of the Port Commission planned to meet informally today to consider converting from oil to natural gas for heating the port's offices and warehouse.

Russ Painter, port director, said the staff has completed an extensive study that has revealed the switch would result in "considerable" savings each year.

The commissioners were to consider several proposals, one of which shows the port could realize a savings of \$5,000 a year if it installed a natural gas system with an initial cost of \$15,000. Another proposal according to Painter, shows a savings of about \$1,800 each year.

At present, the offices and warehouse are heated by oil furnaces. If the proposal receives final approval, new furnaces might be installed in the warehouse but the old furnaces probably would remain for backup heat, Painter said. Only a modification would be necessary for the office furnaces, he said.

Commissioners will also discuss port insurance and other matters, possibly including a discussion of the latest development in the ice-damaged dock talks.

Wallace E. Martens, chairman of the commission, today criticized the Anchorage Times for the Tuesday story concerning the secret vote in which he was renamed chairman until 1969. He charged it had been "slanted" against him.

Martens emphasized that even though he first became chairman in 1964 when a series of resignations left him as the only member of the commission, he was later elected chairman when four new members were named to the board.

The 1964 appointees — Larry Landry, Bill Besser, Bob Baum and Virgil Deane — named him chairman, he said, when the commission was at full strength.

Deane and Baum were still members of the commission last month when Martens was re-elected chairman in a vote held after the press had been told an executive session was to be held.

Deane and Baum combined with Martens to elect him chairman and the same three re-named Baum to the vice chairman's spot. Commissioner William O'Neill abstained from voting because he felt the action should come at an open meeting.

O'Neill said, however, his abstention did not indicate a lack of support for Martens.

Anchorage Daily Times Wednesday, May 10, 1967



HUGE CRANE STANDS IDLE

The damaged north extension of the city dock is responsible for making this huge crane sit idle even though Swalling-General, contractor for the dock construction, has indicated it is ready to put it to work. The city has said no work can be done until it decides what to do about the severe damage to the partially-completed extension. Meanwhile, the crane stands ready to swing into action and Swalling-General estimates the cost for its standing by is about \$2,000 a day, an amount that has been piling up since April 12. The city, however, has indicated it has no intention of paying anything.

Anchorage Daily News, Tuesday, May 16, 1967

Damaged Oil Tanker Will Go To Seattle

Arrangements have reportedly been completed for dry-docking the damaged oil tanker Evje IV in Seattle later this week.

Meanwhile, the vessel at last report was still anchored in Chinitina Bay of lower Cook Inlet awaiting a decision as to what would be done with 30,000 barrels of salvage jet fuel still aboard.

Original plans were to return here and complete the unloading but Port Director Russell Painter refused docking permission when none of the parties involved could provide the necessary assurance of financial protection to the port in case of an accident.

A decision is expected soon, however, as the vessel is reportedly scheduled for dry-docking on Thursday.

Anchorage Daily News, Tuesday, May 16, 1967

More Dock Talks Set

Representatives of two consulting engineering firms are due to arrive here early today along with a consulting attorney, all of whom are expected to participate in a city council meeting at 7:30 p.m. tonight on the problem of the port's damaged wharf.

FROM THE Portland, Ore., engineering firm of Swan-Wooster will be Thane Brown and Orville Kofoid. The two engineers plan to make an inspection of the underside of the dock in a small boat if tide conditions permit.

An attorney from Paul Cressman and Associates will come up to confer with the city attorney and to be available to answer questions at the council meeting tonight.

TWO AND possibly three representatives of the New York engineering firm of Tip-petts, Abbott, McCarthy and Stratton, will be here, city officials said. They are to render a professional opinion on the advisability of continuing with construction of the ice damaged north extension of the city dock along the general lines it was started.

The engineers are expected to meet with the council members and some port commissioners at an informal luncheon conference today.