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The News-Sentinel

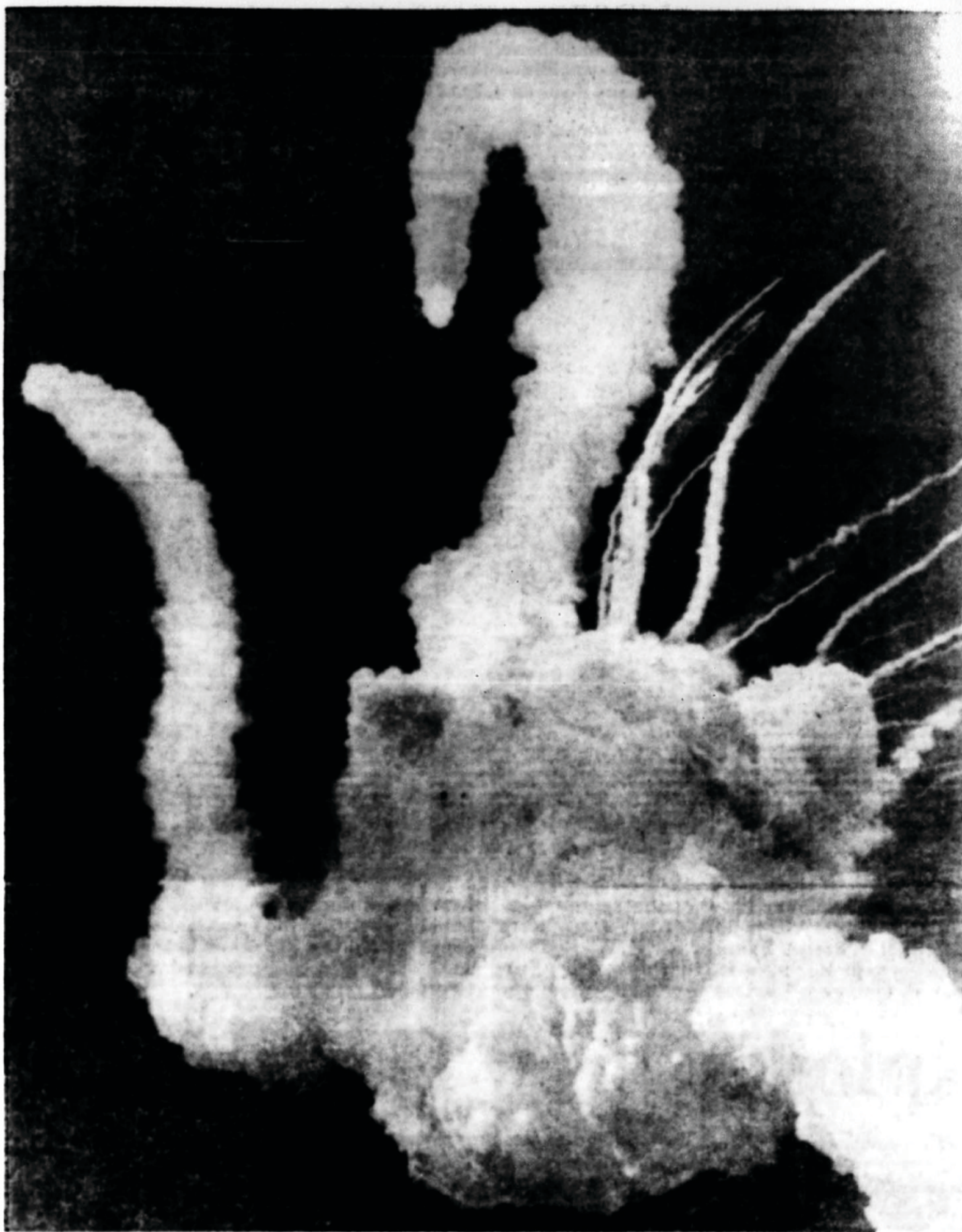
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Tuesday, January 28, 1986

25 Cents

Challenger explodes; crew of 7 feared dead

Shuttle disaster struck 10.4 miles above launch



The space shuttle Challenger explodes as it tries to reach orbit today about one minute after lifting off from the Kennedy Space Center. All seven crew members were apparently killed, including schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe.

From Wire Reports

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Space shuttle Challenger exploded into a gigantic fireball moments after liftoff today, apparently killing all seven crew members, including schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe.

There was no announcement of the fate of the crew, but it appeared there was no way they could survive. Paramedics parachuted into the area of the crash, but had found nothing as of 1 p.m. Fort Wayne time.

The \$1.2 billion spacecraft appeared to be destroyed.

It was the first in-the-air disaster in 56 U.S. man-in-space missions, although three astronauts were killed in a 1967 launch pad explosion during the Apollo program.

After a series of weather and technical delays, the shuttle rose spectacularly off the launch pad at 11:38 a.m. and was climbing smoothly, trailing a 700-geyser of fire, when suddenly it erupted into a huge fireball and shot out of control.

A voice at Mission Control said, "We are checking with recovery forces to see what can be done at this point. . . . Contingency procedures are in effect."

The voice said, "Vehicle has exploded. . . . We are awaiting word from any recovery forces downrange."

The explosion was a devastating setback for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration after successfully carrying out 24 space shuttle missions in slightly less than five years.

The seven crew members aboard included McAuliffe, a 37-year-old New Hampshire teacher selected as America's first citizen in space.

Mission Control said debris from the shuttle fell several miles out in the Atlantic Ocean and that recovery forces were speed-



The crew members of Space Shuttle 51L walk from their quarters en route to the space shuttle Challenger early today for a second attempt at launch. From left are mission specialist Ellison Onizuka, payload specialist Gregory Jarvis, teacher Christa McAuliffe and pilot Mike Smith.

Photo: Associated Press

ing in that direction.

The other crew members were commander Francis R. Scobee, 46, pilot Michael J. Smith, 40; Judith Resnik, 36; Ronald E. McNair, 35; Ellison S. Onizuka, 39; and Gregory B. Jarvis, 41.

Mission Control said parts of the spacecraft fell at 28.64 north latitude and 80.28 degrees west longitude, just a few miles east of Cape Canaveral.

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- Reagan's reaction.
- McAuliffe's students watch in stunned silence.
- Indiana finalist says we must move on.

All on Page 2A

Weather

■ **Flurries.** Light snow tonight; low 18. Flurries Wednesday; high 23.
Full report on Page 2A

Business

■ **On Wall Street.** Stocks moved higher in moderate trading early today. The Dow Jones industrial average, which rose 7.68 to 1,537.61 Monday, was up 1.15 to 1,538.76 shortly after the market opened.
Other Business news, Pages 5-8C

State of the Union

■ **Reagan speaks tonight.** President Reagan will ask Congress this year to expand Medicare to cover the expense of catastrophic illness among America's elderly, with the first call for congressional action possible tonight. Reagan delivers his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress beginning at 9 p.m. Fort Wayne time, and a senior official of the Health and Human Services Department says "hopefully" the catastrophic care program — covering long-term hospital stays — will be part of his message. Under present Medicare law, patients are on their own financially after 150 days in the hospital.

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Rules are cruel in legislative gruel

INDIANAPOLIS — Sometimes things happen in the General Assembly for no apparent reason. Bills die. Bills are resurrected. And nowhere are there any rules to explain why. But life in the General Assembly, like life in general, is governed by both written and unwritten rules. The former are carefully codified in confusing language in large, intimidating books. The latter are learned only through experience and are often the most important. A few examples:

Bills sponsored by Democrats

go nowhere — This is usually the case in the Republican-controlled Legislature. Democratic measures rarely receive a committee hearing and even more rarely pass a vote on the floor of the House or Senate. Joked one Republican representative: "The minority never has ideas as good as the majority. It's whose idea it is that determines whether or not it's a good idea." Added a Democratic senator: "On any major issue, you're not going to have a Democrat as first author. If it's of major consequence, it's going to be a

Republican. The majority wants to take credit for major bills."

So pity the likes of Sen. Wayne Townsend, a Hartford City Democrat who annually introduces a slew of often-significant legislation, only to see the bills die in committee. Of course, not all Democratic ideas die.

A corollary to the rule, according to a Democratic senator, is that "A Democrat-authored bill today is a Republican-authored great idea next year." Prime example: license branch reform.

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■ Legislature gears up for grueling two days. Page 3A

Goodrich to join with Uniroyal

From Staff, Wire Reports

NEW YORK — B.F. Goodrich Co., the nation's third-largest tire maker, and No. 5 Uniroyal Inc. announced today they have agreed to combine their tire businesses into a joint venture that they will own equally.

The agreement is expected to have little, if any, effect on Goodrich's 1,650-employee tire plant in Woodburn.

The combined companies will have \$2 billion in sales and will be the second-largest producer of automobile and light truck tires in North America, replacing Firestone Tire & Rubber Co. in the No. 2 spot, the companies said in a statement.

Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. is the biggest tire maker.

The joint venture will manufacture and sell tires for both the original equipment and replacement markets, Goodrich and Uniroyal said.

The venture, which will not affect any of the remaining businesses of either company, will be called Uniroyal-Goodrich Tire Co. It will be based in Akron, Ohio, with original equipment headquarters and technical facilities remaining in Troy, Mich., they said.

"The way it sounds, I really like the (merger) idea," said Joseph Harner, manager of the Woodburn plant, which produces 25,000 automobile and truck tires daily. "It sounds like the new company will be more competitive."

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Join in song

Entertainers Michael Jackson and Elizabeth Taylor prepare to join others in singing "We Are The World" at the close of the American Music Awards in Los Angeles Monday. Details, Page 5F.

Photo: Associated Press

Train hits car near Auburn, killing four

By THONNIA LEE
Of The News-Sentinel

Four Garrett residents, three of them children, were killed when their car slid on a snow-packed road into the path of a train engine and caboose at DeKalb County Road 29 about a half mile south of Auburn.

Linda L. Stephens, 38, was driving north on County Road 29 when her car slid into the path of the westbound Baltimore & Ohio train. The accident happened about 3:23 p.m. Monday.

Stephens had just picked up her son, Mark, 7, and Jacob E. Mitchell, 11, and Michael Paul Krauss, 7, from Faith Christian Academy, 5555 County Road 29, about two miles south of Auburn.

Linda Stephens and Mitchell were taken to Parkview Memorial Hospital, where they died of massive head injuries. Mark Stephens and Krauss died at the scene, also of head injuries. State Police Cpl. Tom Kaiser said.

Kaiser said Stephens tried to stop at a flashing railroad crossing when her

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