

'Chicano' Spokesman Dead in L.A. Violence

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 30 — A 10-block area was sealed off today after Saturday's violence in East Los Angeles. The riot cost the life of a leading spokesman for Mexican-American rights, left more than 60 persons injured, resulted in 185 arrests and caused property damage estimated at \$1 million.

Heavily armed police patrolled East Los Angeles, which was relatively peaceful today.

Most of the violence, which erupted after an anti-war parade, occurred along Whittier Boulevard.

Police estimated that 178 businesses were damaged. Seven shops were extensively damaged by fire.

Charges against those arrested included assault on a police officer, arson, burglary and failure to disperse.

Killed during the rioting was Ruben Salazar, 42, a columnist for The Los Angeles Times and news director for Los Angeles television station KMEX.

Homicide detectives said Salazar, who was found dead on the floor of the Silver Dollar Cafe on Whittier Boulevard, was killed by a tear gas canister fired into the cafe in an attempt to clear it out.

Two other persons were in critical condition. Ernest H. Lara, address unknown, was shot when he reportedly made an attempt to run a sheriff's barricade on Whittier Boulevard. Lynn Ward, 15, of El Monte, Calif., suffered chest, head and internal injuries. It is believed Ward was injured when a tear gas cannister exploded near him.

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CHICANO, From A1

Meanwhile, the chairman of the National Chicano Moratorium Committee, which organized the parade that preceded the rioting, charged that sheriff's deputies moved into the crowd without warning.

The violence erupted about 3 p.m. Saturday at the close of the parade which attracted between 15,000 and 20,000 people. The parade was held to demonstrate Mexican-American—or "Chicano"—opposition to the war in Southeast Asia.

Marchers moved to Laguna Park at Whittier Boulevard where there was to be a post-parade rally.

A sheriff's department spokesman said the trouble began when officers moved into the area to prevent looting of a nearby liquor store.

After deputies arrived in force, a crowd gathered near the fringe of Laguna Park and began throwing rocks and bottles, police said.

Skirmishing erupted and then tear gas was fired into the crowd.

Before peace was restored some five hours later, about 500 police and sheriff's deputies had been sent into the area.

Looting was widespread and the seven shops heavily damaged had been fire-bombed.

Rosalio Munoz, chairman of the committee that organized the parade, said deputies could have prevented much of the violence by not firing tear gas into the gathering at Laguna Park.

He said he and other parade organizers had been working closely with the sheriff's department for two months before the parade and that a plan had been worked out to prevent trouble.

Munoz said deputies fired tear gas into the crowd without warning and that none of the parade organizers was asked for assistance.

[In Washington, Nick Reyes, executive director of the National Mexican-American Anti-Defamation Committee, said his group would call for "a detailed and full investigation by the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department.

Accounts Conflict On L.A. Riot Death

Los Angeles Times
LOS ANGELES Aug. 30— Mexican-American newsman Ruben Salazar was apparently killed by a bullet-like tear gas projectile that was used to evacuate a bar during rioting Saturday in East Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County sheriff's department said today.

That view awaited confirmation by County Coroner Thomas T. Noguchi, who began an autopsy and investigation.

Confusion and tension surrounded the incident as authorities and people claiming to be eyewitnesses gave conflicting accounts and community militants sought to develop a cause celebre.

Two deputies in the sheriff's information bureau and a sheriff's homicide detective gave differing versions of what took place when Salazar was struck in the head at the Silver Dollar Cafe.

Two self-described eyewitnesses told stories not only at variance with authorities but with each other.

The body of Salazar, 42, award-winning Los Angeles Times columnist and news director for Los Angeles television station KMEX, was found by deputies on the floor of the bar at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

According to Sgt. John Hooge of the sheriff's information bureau, an unidentified man came out of the bar at about 5 p.m. and told patrolling deputies there was a man inside with a gun.

Hooge said deputies shouted for everyone to leave the bar and when no one came out, two canisters of tear gas were fired through a window. Several persons ran out, none with a gun, he said.

But, Hooge said, a man claiming to be the bar owner asked deputies if he could retrieve a shotgun from the bar.

When the man returned with the weapon and handed it to deputies, he did not say whether he had seen Salazar, according to Hooge.

The man locked the front door of the bar, Hooge said.

Then 2½ hours later, he



RUBEN SALAZAR
... veteran newsman

said, an unidentified person called the sheriff's department and reported there was an injured man inside the bar.

Hooge said deputies went to the bar, kicked down the door and found Salazar's body.

Conflicting and additional details of the incident were given by Sgt. Dick Falls, who answered newsmen's questions after Hooge went off duty.

Walls said that five — not two—of the 10-inch-long, pointed tear gas projectiles were fired into the bar by two officers.

He said the clouds of gas forced two men, a woman and a child to flee through the back door. One man carried a rifle, he said, but while deputies took it from him they did not arrest him or get his name.

Walls said the tear gas shells are fired from a shotgun-like weapon and have "sufficient force to go through a door."

While Hooge said the shells were fired through a window, the bar had no broken windows today. A homicide detective said the shells were fired through an open front door.

A man who said he was an eyewitness, after asking to remain anonymous, said he was inside the Silver Dollar with a "guy in a khaki shirt" after the looting broke out and police arrived on the street.

"We stood at the door,

watching what was going on in the street when this cop with the gun came up. I ducked to the side, but could peek around and see him. He said, 'We're clearing the streets. You people don't come out, I got this gun, it's loaded and I'll use it.'

"This guy in the khaki shirt and the barmaid were at the door facing the cop. The girl

said, 'Oh, my God' in Spanish. I said, 'Close the door' in Spanish. She ran from the door toward the bar. The guy in the khaki shirt turned and started to walk toward the bar. He only took a few steps when the gun went off.

"The guy was shoved ahead a few feet and kind of flew through the air head first and landed near the bar and bounced.

"I was stunned. I knew they'd start shooting more. Before I could move there was a 'poof' sound and this thing whizzed past my leg and hit the pool table. If it was gas, we all split before it came out. We ran outside with our hands up, but no one was out there. I left."

A sheriff's detective said Salazar was wearing matching yellow-gold short-sleeve sport shirt and trousers.

Guillermo Restrepo, cameraman for KMEX, said he was with Salazar most of the day and that they were inside the bar after covering an antiwar march earlier in the day.

Restrepo said patrons were drinking quietly when the tear gas was fired and that he and Salazar dropped to their knees.

"Let's get out of here," he quoted Salazar as saying.

Restrepo said:

"I began crawling toward the back door, with a lot of people following me. I thought Ruben was there, too."

When Restrepo emerged from the back door, coughing, he said he found himself confronted by deputies with their guns leveled.

When he didn't see Salazar, he said, he told them Salazar was still inside.

"They told me I'd better move along," Restrepo said.

Deputies wouldn't let him return to look for Salazar, he said.

Salazar and his wife, Sally, had three children. They lived in Santa Ana.

A native of Juarez, Mexico, Salazar joined the Times in

1959 as a reporter on the city staff. He later worked for the Times in the Dominican Republic and in 1965 joined the Saigon bureau.

Salazar took charge of the Times' Mexico City bureau later that year and when he returned to Los Angeles in 1968 he was assigned to cover the Mexican-American community.

In April, Salazar accepted a job as news director for KMEX, a Spanish-language television station specializing in coverage of the Mexican-American—or chicano—community.

In Congress Today

Senate

Meets at 8:30 a.m. on military procurement.

Committees:
Appropriations—Markup Treasury-Post Office—2 p.m. Closed. S 128, Capitol.
Finance—Family assistance bill. Public Witnesses—10 a.m. Open. 2221 New Building.

Judiciary—Consumer Protection Act, Albert E. Jenner, Chicago—10 a.m. Open, 2228 New Building.

Public Welfare Subcommittee—National Digestive Diseases and Nutrition Act.—10 a.m. open, 4232 New Building.

Public Works—Clean air—2:30 p.m. Closed. 4200 New Building.

House

Not in session.
Committees:
None.
