



## Man Critically Injured In Trailer Explosion

### Willie C. Tatum In Very Critical Condition

An unexplained explosion Tuesday afternoon at the L. J. Nobles loading dock sent 27 year old Willie C. Tatum to Naples Community Hospital in extremely critical condition, completely demolished one "Piggy Back" trailer and smashed in the side of a second trailer.

The accident occurred at 5:35 p. m. as the trailer was being gassed up with Ethylene gas, which is used as a preservative by some packers to insure good quality tomatoes arriving at their destination in the north. The gas is highly inflammable, but there was no

apparent reason for the gas to explode. Deisel motors were running, but were at least 30 feet away and no one nearby was smoking. There were four trailers side by side at the dock.

Tatum was on a motor driven fork lift at the rear of the truck when the explosion occurred. The rear doors of the trailer were cracked to permit the hose conveying the gas into the trailer. Suddenly the two rear doors blew backward knocking Tatum off the fork lift and burning him severely with the bolt of flame. The roof of the trailer peeled off forward and landed in the parking area 50 feet from the trailer. The sides of the trailer blew out so violently that the side of

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### ANNIVERSARY

Mr. & Mrs. Jorge L. Sanchez

### TOMATO TRUCK EX- PLODES

one trailer was caved in. Tomatoes were scattered all over the ground in their carton boxes, some of which were broken.

Two witnesses who saw the accident told Sheriff's Deputy Don McCarty that they saw the accident happen. "Suddenly it happened" they said, "and the trailer blew apart and flames were spouting from the nozzle of a tank of Ethylene."

Another employee on the dock ran over and turned off the tank of Ethylene.

The Immokalee Volunteer Fire Department was called to the scene, but there was no fire to put out.

Tatum was rushed to Naples Community Hospital by Zippo Ambulance Service.