



Nearly 50 percent of wells fail RRC tests

By LARRY HOLLIS
Staff Writer

Following testing results from last week, the number of Panhandle Field wells failing to meet proper gas to oil ratios for oil well classification edged nearer the 50 percent mark.

Railroad Commission District 10 Director Bob Blakeney today released the latest statistics from the RRC - mandated retesting, indicating that 45.6 percent of the wells tested through Friday had a higher gas to oil ratio than permitted under RRC regulations.

On statistics issued last Monday, the district had reported 42.6 percent of the wells had failed to meet the proper ratio standards.

Under the RRC rules, a well must produce no more than 100,000 cubic feet (Mcf) of gas per barrel of crude oil to be classified as an oil well. Wells failing to meet that standard are subject to reclassification as gas wells.

Since the commission ordered the retesting procedures in June, 454 Panhandle Field wells have been tested by District 10 personnel, with 208 failing to show the proper ratio needed to maintain their oil well status.

The district completed 74 tests last week, with 46 wells or 62 percent having the higher gas-oil ratios,

Blakeney reported.

The retesting procedures began in late June, though the tests didn't have to begin officially until July 1. But a number of independent oil operators vounteered early testing, allowing the office to get a head start in aiming for completion of the testing by Sept. 1.

The figures for the number of wells to be tested have undergone some revision. The district office originally estimated 1100 wells were scheduled, but that has been revised to 1135.

Of that number, nearly half have been dropped from the testing procedure either because no gas connections exist or because the low-temperature or high-pressure separation units (LTX units) are not in use at the wells.

According to the figures compiled Friday, 225 wells had been removed from the schedule because no connections were being used for gas production, up from 183 in the previous week. Three hundred and thirty-nine had been removed because no LTX unit was being used, up from 292 reported last week.

Thus, 564 wells, or 49.7 percent of the estimated 1135 wells, have been dropped from the testing requirement, leaving only 117 wells yet to be tested under the RRC order.

Sixty-two wells are scheduled for testing procedures this week, district personnel reported this morning.

The retesting had been ordered by the RRC after a long series of hearings and studies by agency examiners resulting from a Phillips Petroleum Co. complaint filed in September, 1981.

Phillips had contended a number of independent oil operators in the field had been using the LTX units to produce liquefied gases, the so-called "white oil" or "albino oil." Phillips claimed a number of the independents were using the white oil to count as crude oil to maintain their oil well status in violation of RRC regulations.

The RRC upheld that claim and ordered wells using the LTX units to be retested for the gas-oil ratio determination.

Whether a well is classified as an oil well or a gas well has significant impact on production. Oil wells can be drilled every 10 acres while only one gas well is permitted for every 640 acres in a lease field.

The classification has even greater impact in the Panhandle Field, where unique contracts have separated oil and gas rights. Many independents having their wells subject to reclassification as gas wells stand to have their wells shut down or at least face the loss of gas production.

Independents contend the shutting down of their wells will create economic difficulties for taxing entities and many royalty owners in addition to their own economic straits and loss of jobs in the area.

Thirty-five independents also face economic losses from a federal ruling against them. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) last month upheld a federal administrative judge's ruling that the independents had been wrongfully producing and selling gas in violation of federal interstate commerce and pricing regulations.

The federal agency has ordered a hearing to determine fines and penalties against the independents in the *Dorchester vs. Stowers* case. Representatives from both sides met in Washington, D.C., last week to schedule a time for the hearing.

Judge Brenda Murray, who had issued the federal order, had urged the two sides to work out a settlement outside of court. But after no agreement was reached, the judge said she would issue a schedule for the hearing.

FERC officials have indicated the parties may reach a settlement out of court anytime before the penalty phase hearing begins or after the hearing starts before the federal agency makes a final determination.



PANTEX PROTEST - Prentiss Riddle of Austin looks over literature available at this year's Pantex Pilgrimage. The sign in the background is encouraging volunteers to spot and follow semi-trailer truckers that carry nuclear warheads and bombs. Pantex, 17 miles east of

Amarillo, is the final assembly point for all U.S. weapons. The annual protest, held in conjunction with the anniversary of the Hiroshima nuclear bombing, attracted Ed Asner and Daniel Ellsberg among others. (AP Laserphoto)

For Labor Day celebration

Chautauqua adds more to kid's corner

With just less than a month remaining until Chautauqua '85, groups and organizations are readying more activities and events for the children's Carousel and Funtier section.

Children will find a number of booths, games, demonstrations and other activities for them during the Labor Day community celebration in Central Park.

The Carousel and Funtier areas will be located in the north section of Central Park and the area west of the Cuyler Street bridge.

Nearly 30 organizations, clubs, church groups, businesses and associations have scheduled activities for children in the area, ranging from pillow fights, pony rides and face painting to story telling and puppet shows, with many of the events free to participants.

Others provide educational and informational opportunities.

The fourth annual Chautauqua is sponsored by the Pampa Fine Arts Association to promote the arts and folklore, but a number of the events and activities also provide fun and entertainment for family members.

And while most of the Carousel

and Funtier activities are designed mainly for children, some are designed for kids of all ages.

The Pampa Board of Realtors and the Pampa Police Department are jointly sponsoring the Ident-A-Kid program, in which parents can have their children's fingerprints made for identification purposes, with the parents keeping the copy in their records.

The joint booth also will have "Thumbin' Silly," in which the child makes a fingerprint on paper with colored ink and then makes a picture out of it.

The Junior Service League will have a Go Fishing booth, with prizes for the young fishers. Girl Scout Troop 413 will offer pillow fight opportunities, with children attempting to safely knock each other off a pipe.

Children will have a chance to change their appearances through the face painting provided by Pampa Gifted and Talented Association, Pampa Girl Scouts will have a Wheel of Fortune and macaroni jewelry, and the Presbyterian Youth Group will have confetti eggs - eggshells painted, decorated and filled with

confetti and bird and grass seed.

Three organizations will entertain children with stories and puppet shows. The Child Evangelism Fellowship of Gray County will have a children's Chapel on Wheels with tellings of Biblical stories. The Friends of the Library will have a story telling tent, with free balloons for the children. And the Lamar Full Gospel Assembly will have its puppet show presentation.

The Pampa Chamber of Commerce will offer children a pony ride and a covered wagon ride.

Children also will have a chance to use some of their energy in physical activities.

The Latch Key Project will have a bean bag toss. A putting green will be sponsored by the Pampa Sunrise Rotary Club. The Kiowa District of Boy Scouts of America will have a radar softball throw, with the speed of the toss measured by radar.

A football throw will be sponsored by the Pampa Optimist Club, with the Pampa Classroom Teachers Association offering a horseshoe throw. Children can run through an obstacle course set up

South African gold mines face shutdown by strikers

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Ignoring a boycott threat by the nation's 230,000 black miners, white authorities said today they had arrested another 14 people under state of emergency powers.

The black miners' union said earlier it will boycott white businesses this week if the white-minority government's state of emergency is not lifted.

The union also announced plans Sunday for an Aug. 25 strike over pay and other issues that it says could halt gold mining in South Africa, the world's biggest gold producer.

The latest detentions, announced by security police headquarters in Pretoria, brought to 1,426 the number of people picked up under the government's 16-day-old state of emergency.

The measure was imposed in 36 towns and cities in a bid to quell nearly a year of black unrest. Police say 114 have been released.

Cyril Ramaphosa, general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, also threatened to call an immediate strike if President P.W. Botha follows through with his July 29 threat to deport foreign workers.

Botha has said his white minority government will deport the foreigners if Western nations make

good on their threat of economic sanctions, designed as a protest against South Africa's policy of racial segregation, called apartheid.

South Africa's Chamber of Mines, the employers' body, maintained the strike set to begin Aug. 25 would fail. Citing a small rise of about \$3 per ounce of gold to \$323.50 when international gold markets opened today, Chamber of

See SOUTH AFRICA, Page two



KEEPING THINGS TOGETHER - Children attending the Labor Day Chautauqua '85 activities will be able to keep their prizes, purchases and other possessions together this year thanks to bags that will be given out at the Central Park event. The bags are being presented compliments of National Bank of Commerce, Pampa Board of Realtors, A Cut Above, Insurance Unlimited, Hi-Land Fashions and Clean Pampa, Inc. Getting an early look at the bag are Emily, 4, and Evan Connor, children of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Connor. (Staff photo by Deborah Hendrick)

See CHAUTAUQUA, Page two

Local construction remains below last year

By LARRY HOLLIS
Staff Writer

Based on recent figures from the city's Department of Building Inspection, valuation of construction in Pampa has dropped more than 50 percent in the fiscal year and more than 60 percent in the calendar year from last year.

According to reports issued last week by Steve Vaughn, director of the Emergency and Environmental Management Department, the valuations for buildings issued permits for the current fiscal year to date total \$5,496,820.66, running about 53 percent under the \$11,673,601.20 recorded in the same 1983-1984 fiscal period.

The fiscal year runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 31. For the current calendar year, beginning Jan. 1, the valuations stand at \$3,125,464.66, only about 64 percent of the \$8,599,101 recorded in the first seven months of 1984.

The city issued 28 building permits in July with a valuation of \$460,352.60, collecting fees of \$1,213.50. In July, 1984, the city had issued 35 permits with a valuation of \$1,837,358.20 and collected \$3,956.50 in fees. Vaughn reported.

For the fiscal year to date, personnel have issued 242 permits for fees of \$14,002.50. That's down only slightly in the number of permits for the previous fiscal period: 242; but the greater valuation in that period had created fees of \$24,485.93.

For the current calendar year period, the department has issued 146 building permits for \$8,389.75 in fees.

In July the city issued permits for four single family dwellings with a valuation of \$353,750; one relocation or demolishing, \$4,500; four mobile homes, \$22,800; four alterations or additions to dwellings, \$36,565; two alterations or additions to

commercial buildings, \$13,237.60; six garages, \$29,500; and seven miscellaneous, no valuation listed.

Last month the department issued 21 electrical permits, collecting fees of \$371.59. In the previous July the city issued 18 permits for fees of \$177.56.

The city has issued 184 electrical permits in the first nine months of the current fiscal year with fees of \$3,372.91. Compared to the previous fiscal year period, that's down slightly in the number of permits - 197 - but the city collected nearly three times as much in fees: \$9,764.45.

Personnel have issued 118 electrical permits for fees of \$1,812.67 in the calendar year to date.

Plumbing permits totaled 38 last month, with fees of \$530.33. In July of last year, 53 permits were issued for \$1,328.71 in fees.

The city has issued 322 plumbing permits for the

first three quarters of the fiscal year, collecting \$4,721.29 in fees. This compares with 376 permits and \$12,256.35 in fees for the previous comparable fiscal period. In the current calendar year, personnel have issued 210 permits for fees of \$2,915.47.

Total of all fees and fines for the current fiscal period is \$35,391.59, more than \$13,000 under the \$48,916.76 collected in the previous fiscal period. Total for the current calendar year is \$24,588.78.

Department personnel conducted 39 building inspections in July, down from the 96 made in the previous July. The city has made 428 inspections for the fiscal year period and 344 for the calendar year.

Twenty-eight electrical inspections were made in July. Total for the current fiscal period is 369 with 230 for the calendar year. Personnel made 38 plumbing inspections last month, making 578 for the fiscal year and 357 for the calendar year.

Today's Crossword Puzzle

Release in Papers of Monday, August 5

ACROSS

- 1 Sailing maneuver
- 5 Pine products
- 11-Wilson's thrush
- 13 Andes country
- 14 Small intestine
- 15 Remnant
- 16 Proclamations
- 18 Biblical prophet
- 19 Bangkok native
- 20 Long time
- 22 Air Force for women (abbr.)
- 24 Respiratory organ (abbr.)
- 26 Exclamation of surprise
- 29 Roman deity
- 31 Non-uniform
- 33 Eyespot
- 35 Dismiss forcibly
- 36 Superlative suffix
- 37 Odd (Scot.)
- 39 Wave (Sp.)
- 40 Chinese river
- 41 Battle
- 43 Variety of moth
- 46 Charge with gas
- 49 Pogo, for one
- 52 Dark wood
- 54 Annuity plan
- 55 Skid
- 56 Shows scorn
- 57 Lioness in "Born Free"

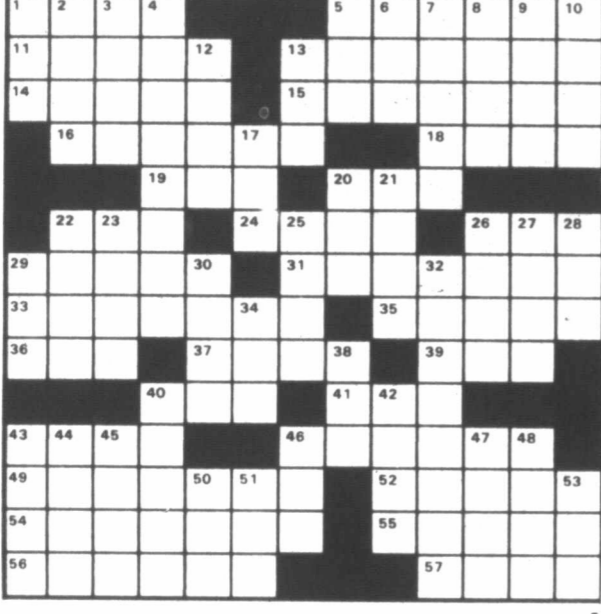
DOWN

- 1 56, Roman
- 2 River in the Congo
- 3 Nurture
- 4 Fertile
- 5 Actor Taylor
- 6 Elderly
- 7 Playwright
- 8 Singer

Answer to Previous Puzzle



- 34 Swiss canton
- 38 Amaze
- 40 Extravagance
- 42 Here's son
- 43 Scads
- 44 Above
- 45 Not any
- 46 Soul (Fr.)
- 47 Work
- 48 Companion of odds
- 50 Man's title
- 51 Ones (Fr.)
- 53 Cry of affirmation



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Astro-Graph

by bernice bede osol
Aug. 6, 1985

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) An enterprise in which you're interested can be promoted successfully today because of what you know as well as who you know. Major changes are ahead for Leos in the coming year. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions today. Mail \$1 to Astro-Graph, Box 489, Radio City Station, New York, NY 10019. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Chance will play a major role today in determining the outcome of an important event. Fortunately, Lady Luck will be rooting for you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) People who meet you for the first time today will be favorably impressed. This is good news because someone to whom you'll be introduced can help you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Unusual tides are stirring in your favor today where money is concerned. You could end up profiting from something, while those with whom you're involved may not.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Doing fun and different things today will freshen your outlook and attitude and help put you in a more positive frame of mind for the days ahead.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Gains will come much easier today if you first think of what you can do that will benefit others. You'll profit from what spills over.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) You have greater influence over your peer group today than you may realize. Be sure that everything you say or do is constructive and encouraging.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) You are now in a cycle where secret ambitions can be fulfilled. Put forth your best effort so your dreams can become reality.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Challenging situations will serve as a catalyst to awaken your ingenuity and resourcefulness today. You won't be caught napping.

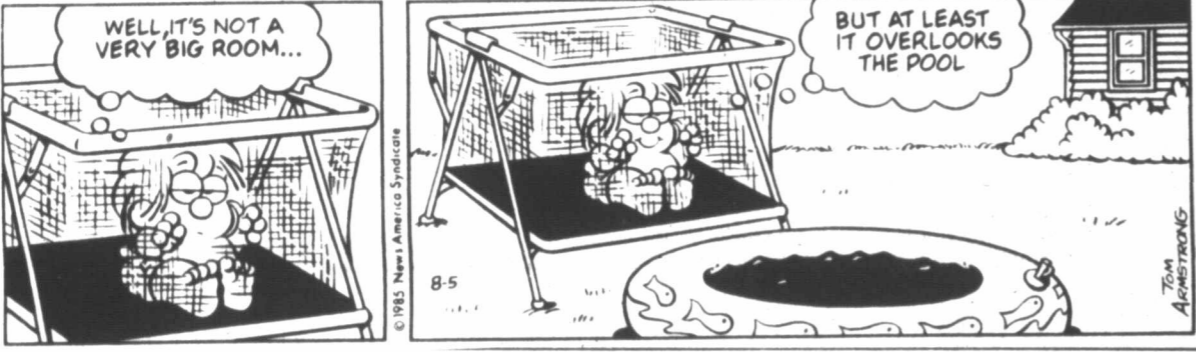
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Today you may be exposed to two moneymaking developments. Each will require prompt action on your behalf if they're to materialize.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Associates may require time to ponder over proposals today, but you should be able to know in a flash whether they're good or bad. Trust your judgment.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Do not discount any moneymaking ideas you get today, even if they sound a trifle outlandish to others. Those who evaluate them may lack your foresight.

MARVIN

By Tom Armstrong



ALLEY OOP

By Dave Graue



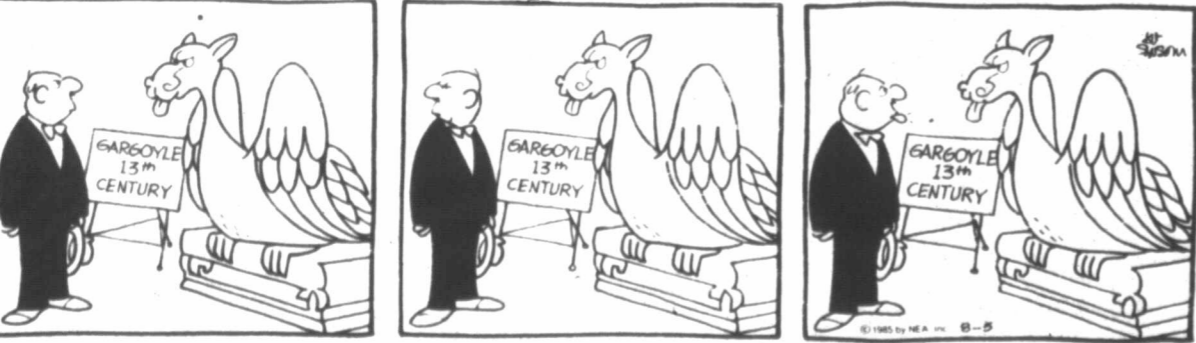
MR. MEN™ AND LITTLE MISS™ by Hargreaves & Sellers

THE FAMILY CIRCUS by Bil Keane



THE BORN LOSER

By Art Sansom



PEANUTS

By Charles M. Schultz



MARMADUKE

By Brad Anderson



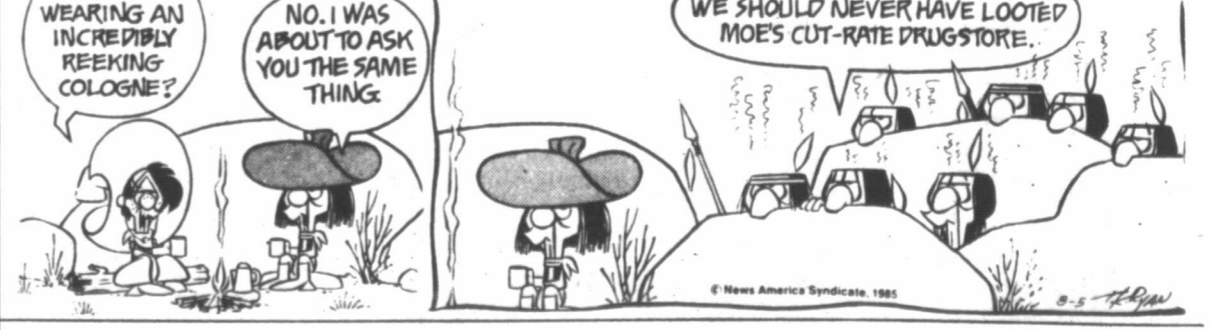
WINTHROP

By Dick Cavalli



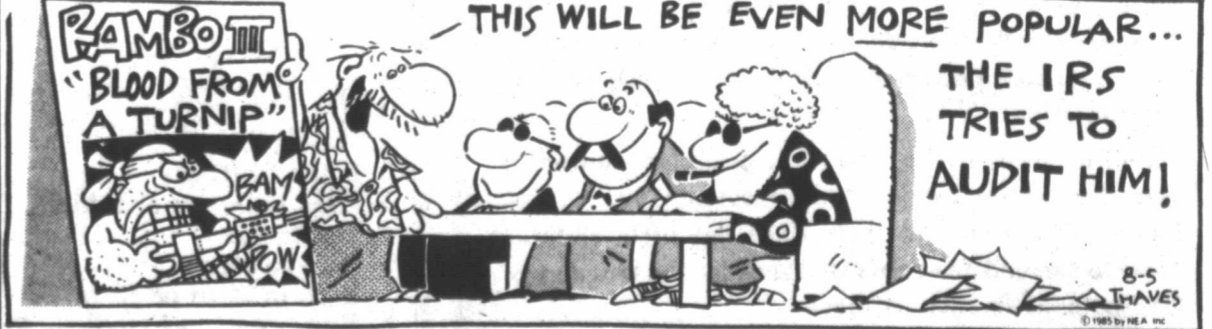
TUMBLEWEEDS

By T.K. Ryan



FRANK AND ERNEST

By Bob Thaves



GARFIELD

By Jim Davis



Farm policy left simmering as Congress takes vacation

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Congress left town last week for a month-long recess, it left behind only a rough outline of the legislation that will be the basis for U.S. agriculture policy for the next four years.

At a time when many farmers are suffering from their poorest income in years, the bills leave unanswered perhaps the most important questions: how many farmers to keep in business, which ones they will be and how much the taxpayer should spend to do it.

The incomplete legislation written by both the House and Senate agriculture committees does set a general direction for farm programs, one that envisions renewal of exports as agriculture's best hope for the future.

One side, primarily the Democrats, argues that now is the wrong time to throw American agriculture to the vagaries of world markets. Many farmers would be pushed over the brink by price-slashing moves designed to

make U.S. goods more attractive to foreign buyers, they say.

Farm exports, which contribute the largest positive impact on the U.S. trade balance of any industry, have slipped badly over the past four years because of the high value of the dollar and price support programs that far outpaced inflation. Recapturing those markets, trade experts say, will not be done overnight.

"The administration wants to build a farm bill around exports," Sen. David Pryor, D-Ark., said last week when an increasingly partisan debate in the Agriculture Committee spilled out onto the Senate floor. "But we first have to recognize the necessity of getting some price, or cash flow, for the farmers who produce for export."

A nervous compromise has evolved between farm-state lawmakers concerned about farm income and others, including the Reagan administration and the Senate's GOP leadership, who believe controlling the federal

deficit would have a greater positive impact on producers by reducing their interest rates.

The agreement provides for immediate and substantial reductions in the levels of price-support loans, the money a farmer borrows from the government using his crops as collateral.

The purpose of the loan is to enable a farmer to pay his bills while waiting for the best price. He then sells his crop, repays the loan and pockets the difference. If the market price remains below the loan level, the farmer can simply forfeit his crop to the government as payment.

Because the loans set an effective floor for world market prices, however, they have made it easy for foreign competitors to undercut the United States. The result is high levels of loan forfeitures leading to massive, price-depressing government-owned surpluses.

Southern Baptist committee working to save the faith

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A Southern Baptist committee created to help heal the rift between quarreling conservatives and moderates has a calling to preserve the faith, says the chairman of the panel.

"I believe God wants to preserve and use Southern Baptists," said the Rev. Charles Fuller of Roanoke, Va. "I think we ought to give him every chance to accomplish that."

The 22-member committee was to begin peace meetings today behind closed doors to iron out the 7-year-old disagreement between the 14.3-million-member denomination.

Moderates have complained that

the conservatives are trying to control the convention's influential posts, while the conservatives claim the moderates are allowing theological liberalism to thrive in Baptist seminaries and missionary agencies.

"In simplest terms, I believe the source of controversy is the diversity that always has been and always will be," Fuller said. "How much diversity can we have and still have conviction and community, a sense of togetherness?"

The dispute culminated at the annual Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Dallas last June when the Rev. Charles Stanley of Atlanta, a conservative,

was re-elected president. Both sides then agreed to establish the committee to make recommendations about how to resolve the disagreements.

One panel member, the Rev. Albert McClellan of Nashville, said the committee's purpose is to "effect reconciliation."

"I've received six letters about this committee, and most are supportive of its purposes," McClellan said. "Naturally on a committee of this kind, there will be pressure. But I've not felt any overwhelming pressure from any side."

The objective of the first gathering is to open lines of communication, Fuller said.

Teamsters president says he has no fears

DETROIT (AP) — Teamsters President Jackie Presser says he has no reason to fear for his safety because of reports that he had worked as an FBI informant.

"The media has really and truly exaggerated most of this stuff," Presser said in an interview published Sunday in The Detroit

News. "I have no dealings with people who would want to kill me, and I think I have more of a political problem than I have any other problem."

The government confirmed two weeks ago that it was dropping an investigation of whether Presser

was involved in a payroll-padding scheme in which salaries were paid to non-existent employees of a Teamsters local in Cleveland.

Presser said he plans to seek re-election during the Teamsters' international convention in Las Vegas, Nev., in May.

Hope for deficit breakthrough fades

By JOHN CUNIFF
AP Business Analyst

NEW YORK (AP) — We want the government to provide the charity — not ourselves, said the economist. "We want to live the good life but we want to avoid the financial responsibility for it," he said.

"Well, it isn't working," he continued. "One look at our budget deficit and our social problems tells the story."

Bill Dunkelberg, Purdue University economist and frequent adviser to businesses and legislative groups, generally is more upbeat about America's future. But now he wonders if we really want to deal with the realities.

He observes that just four items — interest on the debt, defense, health and Social Security — make up more than 80 percent of government spending. But to many people they are also the

untouchables.

Consider the interest-on-debt factor.

Soon federal debt will amount to \$2 trillion, up from less than \$1 trillion in 1979. At an average interest of 10 percent, he observes, this debt will cost about \$200 billion a year in interest payments, up from \$120 billion this year.

Unable to cut spending more than \$50 billion or so, he wonders where Congress "will find an extra \$50 billion to \$80 billion to pay interest to the holders of government bonds."

Well, some people say, we could tax the rich and cut defense. "Neither will work," says Dunkelberg.

"If we taxed every dollar made by those earning \$100,000 or more a year we'd collect only \$60 billion to \$70 billion in revenue, hardly enough to balance the budget much less finance government largesse."

And that amount, he adds, assumes that the rich would still be willing to work. "People who earn big salaries often create jobs for the rest of us," he comments. "Why give them disincentives to work?"

There is good reason for the difficulty in cutting Social Security, he observes. "It isn't a retirement program — it's a transfer program, taking money from workers and transferring it to retirees," he says.

As most people know, there is an increasing number of Americans in or heading toward those retirement years, and for them the numbers look good.

"If you retire today," Dunkelberg points out, "in about three years you will have received all of your — and your employer's — contributions during your work period, with about 5 percent interest."

After that, he says, "you're on



BOMB CRATER — Law enforcement and public officials examine a large crater on Interstate 40 near Checotah, Okla., Sunday. At least seven one-ton bombs exploded at the site

following a traffic accident early Sunday morning involving a tractor trailer rig and an automobile. (AP Laserphoto)

Blast blows huge hole in highway; 6,000 evacuated

CHECOTAH, Okla. (AP) — Interstate 40 was closed to eastbound traffic today after one-ton military bombs on a 1,300-mile highway trip to North Carolina blew up in a traffic accident, leaving a hole 35 feet deep and injuring at least 48 people, state police said.

This eastern Oklahoma town of 6,000 people was evacuated for about eight hours after the blasts Sunday. Most of the injured suffered effects of shockwaves from the explosions or from breathing smoke.

The flatbed truck carrying 10 bombs collided with a car pulling onto the roadway from the shoulder near the U.S. 69 interchange, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol said.

The car caught fire and the blaze spread to the truck and the bombs, triggering the explosions, a state police report said.

The blasts rattled homes, scattered debris over a wide area and touched off grass fires that sent smoke billowing for miles. Plate glass windows were shattered and ceiling fans fell in some homes.

"I decided I know now how it must feel to be in a war," said Thelma Blackburn, one of those evacuated early Sunday.

She said of the three blasts, "The big one lit up the sky. We just thought it was a holocaust. The whole house shook."

The blast left a crater 35 feet deep and 27 feet across in the highway.

Eastbound lanes of the highway

were closed, and traffic was being diverted onto a nearby state highway, said Highway Patrol dispatcher Nathan Taughman in Muskogee. Traffic was normal in westbound lanes.

The clock at Checotah Middle School, about 200 yards away, stopped at 4:20 a.m. Sunday. The explosions broke glass and shook ceiling tiles loose throughout the building.

The truck was hauling 2,000-pound bombs from the U.S. Army Ammunition Plant at McAlester to Sunny Point Terminal, N.C. From there the ordnance is shipped to military points overseas, said Cmdr. Ray Feller, a spokesman for the plant.

Another truck carrying 20 bombs was also on the road, but was not affected by the accident and returned to the plant, officials said.

A passenger in the car, Ruth Ross, 75, of Peggs, was in fair condition at Muskogee Regional Hospital with second-degree burns and chest injuries Sunday night.

Agencies launch raids on marijuana growers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies are launching a nationwide series of raids on marijuana fields in what they say is the largest such eradication program ever undertaken.

Attorney General Edwin Meese III and Drug Enforcement Administration Administrator John C. Lawn were leading some 2,200 law enforcement authorities

in the 50-state sweep beginning today with plans to "manually eradicate" up to a quarter million marijuana plants over a three-day period.

There were no plans to spray the plants with paraquat or herbicides. That question is under review by the DEA. But Lawn said that, where possible, seized marijuana plants will be burned.

Some of the raids were to target

private, hydroponic or "greenhouse" operations as well as those in open fields and on federal lands, authorities said.

Meese was tentatively scheduled to join the operation in the Arkansas countryside.

In a statement released in

advance of the operation, he said "this massive coordinated effort signals the resolve of the Reagan administration to deal effectively with widespread cultivation and sale of marijuana grown within our borders."

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Scott Verplank blasts out of a sand trap enroute to becoming the first amateur in 29 years to win a professional golf tournament.

Verplank wins Western Open

OAK BROOK, Ill. (AP) — Jim Thorpe won the \$90,000 first prize in the Western Open golf tournament, but he wanted more. Thorpe won the money as the top pro in the tournament, but lost the title in a playoff to amateur Scott Verplank.

Verplank became the first amateur in 29 years to win a professional tournament when he holed a 6-foot par-saving putt on the second extra hole at the Butler National Golf Club, and, in the process, denied Thorpe a spot in this week's PGA national championship.

"He may have an 'A' (the designation for amateur) in front of his name, but he plays like

there's a 'P' behind it," Thorpe said Sunday.

There was some consolation for Thorpe, 36, not yet a winner in eight years on the PGA Tour. Since the amateur Verplank was ineligible for the prize money, Thorpe collected the \$90,000.

"I'd rather have the title," Thorpe said. "The money, I'll lose it at the track or it goes to Uncle Sam."

But only the title would have put him in the PGA. One spot in the pairings was being saved for the Western Open winner, but only if the winner was a pro.

A pro has won every tournament since Doug Sanders, then an amateur, took the 1956

Canadian Open. The last non-pro to win a PGA Tour event was Gene Littler in the 1954 San Diego Open.

"I guess in time the historical part of it will mean something to me, but I haven't had time to think about that yet," said Verplank, 21, a student at Oklahoma State and the current national amateur champion.

"I just wanted to get into a pro tournament and play up to my abilities, my capabilities, and see what happened," said Verplank, who failed to qualify for the final 36 holes at the Masters and Colonial National Invitation and was low amateur in the U.S. Open.

Parents on top of the world

DALLAS (AP) — Scott Verplank may have had an enthusiastic gallery of thousands following him as he won the Western Open, but the happiest fans — his parents — were back at home in north Dallas.

"How do you get any better?" Verplank's father, Bob, exclaimed after seeing his son roll in a par-saving, six-foot putt on the second hole of sudden death to defeat veteran touring pro Jim Thorpe. "My wife and I are on top of the world."

Verplank, 21, an Oklahoma State University student and the current national amateur champion, became the first amateur winner in professional golf since Doug Sanders won the 1956 Canadian Open. The last amateur to win a PGA Tour event was Gene Littler in the 1954 San Diego Open.

Despite winning a two-year exemption on the tour, Verplank

plans to "stick to his guns," and return to Oklahoma State for his senior year and complete his degree in business administration, the elder Verplank said. He now carries a 3.4 grade point average.

"All his life, he's been a goal-setter... He'll get his degree first" before turning pro," Bob Verplank said.

After his win, Scott Verplank confirmed his intention to return to school, but said that because of a light class load, "I think I'll play every week next spring."

The elder Verplank said the tour exemption was "wonderful."

"He won't have to worry about qualifying school right off," he said.

Verplank said his son's goal for the Western Open was the same as he had for any other tournament — winning.

"I don't think Scott's ever

entered a golf tournament since he was 10 years old that his goal was not to play his best and wind up on the last day in the winner's circle," he said.

Thorpe, who was seeking his first tour win, took home the \$90,000 top prize. Scott Verplank said not receiving the money didn't bother him.

"Hopefully, it'll mean a lot more in the future," he said.

Despite his intention to return to school, Verplank has a busy schedule ahead. He will play in the LaJet amateur tournament — an event he has won for the last three years — in Abilene, Texas, this week before playing on the Walker Cup team at Pine Valley, N.J. and defending his U.S. Amateur title at Montclair, N.J.

"Being a member of the Walker Cup team has been one of his lifetime goals," Bob Verplank said.

Elder bags seniors crown

CONCORD, Mass. (AP) — Lee Elder says he'd rather be lucky than skillful as he defeated Jerry Barber and Don January with a 12-foot birdie putt on the first sudden-death hole after an eagle on the 18th injected him into a tie for the \$30,000 first prize in the Senior PGA Digital Classic.

"I made a few more putts today. But Jerry and Don are tough to play head to head. They played well enough to win but I was fortunate. I'd rather be lucky than skillful. I can't get overconfident here, there are too many great names, great players," the 51-year-old Elder said.

"I was a little angry with myself after bogeying the 17th," Elder said. "I was so pumped up going

into 18 I knew I needed eagle," he said of the 25-foot putt that lifted him into a tie with the 69-year-old Barber and defending champion January.

The win Sunday in the \$200,000 Digital Classic at the par-72 course was Elder's second straight on the senior tour.

"I think the holes might have gotten a little longer for Jerry on the second nine. The senior tour keeps me sharp, I'll play a couple of more years, maybe seven or eight," Elder said.

Elder, who shot 73-67-68-208, had started the final round on the 6,518-yard Nashawtuc Country Club course two strokes off the Barber pace and shot even par over the first nine holes.

He sank a 10-foot birdie putt on the tenth, added birdie putts of eight and four feet on the 14th and 15th, and more than offset his bogey with the final hole eagle. He had earned the \$27,000 first prize in the Newport Senior tour event a week earlier with an eagle on the first playoff hole.

"I'm sure Jerry was thinking birdie and both Jerry and Don played well enough to win," Elder said after pushing his earnings for the year to a career high \$207,760, a good deal better than his best year on the regular PGA tour, 1978, when he earned \$152,198.

"I sold my club in Washington last year and I knew I would not be playing the regular tour fulltime," Elder said.

Becker wins Davis Cup title

HAMBURG, West Germany (AP) — Boris Becker, West Germany's newest hero, powered his country to its first Davis Cup victory over the United States and into a semifinal matchup against Czechoslovakia.

The 17-year-old Wimbledon champion trounced 18-year-old Aaron Krickstein in the fifth and decisive match 6-2, 6-2, 6-1 Sunday to give West Germany a 3-2 victory in the quarterfinal battle.

Czechoslovakia, led by Ivan Lendl, crushed Ecuador 5-0; Australia won both singles Sunday to nip Paraguay 3-2 and Sweden, the defending champion, romped past India 4-1 in other World Group matches.

In the semifinals, which will be held Oct. 4-6, Czechoslovakia will be at West Germany and Australia at Sweden.

On Friday, Becker downed American Eliot Teltscher in the opening singles match before returning to rout Krickstein in the final.

The victory at the Rothenbaum Tennis Club was greeted by wild cheers from the crowd of 11,000 and a Dixieland band played "When the Saints Go Marching In."

After Becker beat Teltscher, West Germany's Hansjörg Schwaijer, ranked 39th in the world, defeated Krickstein in the biggest

surprise of the weekend.

Americans Robert Seguso and Ken Flach pulled the U.S. back into the competition with a thrilling victory over Becker and Andreas Maurer in the doubles on Saturday.

And when Teltscher stopped Schwaijer 6-4, 2-6, 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 on Sunday in a singles match

interrupted three times by rain, the Americans had knotted the best-of-five-matches competition 2-2.

That left it to Krickstein, who never posed any threat to Becker and seemed outclassed from the first serve.

Hammel surprises veteran Lopez

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — The stage was set for Penny Hammel's collapse.

There was Hammel, a 23-year-old rookie on the Ladies Professional Golf Association tour, tied for the lead during Sunday's final round of the \$175,000 Jamie Farr Toledo Classic.

No only had Hammel never won a pro tournament, her best finish had been a tie for eighth. And, to make matters worse, there was the foreboding presence of Nancy Lopez, the tour's second-leading money-winner, sharing the lead.

Yet it was Hammel, and not the veteran Lopez, who took command down the stretch, completing a final-round 65 that gave her a one-stroke victory and the winner's purse of \$26,250.

"It's sort of like what Nancy

said," Hammel explained. "If you go into the last day and shoot a 65, it's kind of hard not to win the tournament."

Hammel won the tournament over the final in the final nine holes, which she played in 5-under-par 31.

Lopez, a three-time winner in 1985, admitted that she "didn't really look at the leader board until I bogeyed 15. Then I found out I was two shots behind when I thought I was, at the worst, even."

Third-place Lori Garbacz, who was paired with Lopez in the group

immediately behind Hammel, added, "I never would have thought that Penny Hammel would have come from behind to win it

like that. But she was in a good spot. Had she been playing in the same group as Nancy and I, it might have been different."

Hall of Famer Kathy Whitworth was alone in fourth place at 4-under-par 284, while a group at 285 included Laura Baugh,

defending champion Lauri Peterson, Colleen Walker and Howe.

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