

Big Spring Herald Monday

'The crossroads of West Texas'

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PRICE 20c

Reagan endorses U.S. role in Vietnam

CHICAGO (AP) — Defending America's role in the Vietnam War as "a noble cause," Republican presidential nominee Ronald Reagan today called for a massive rebuilding of U.S. military forces and denounced President Carter for "betrayal" of the nation's veterans.

Reagan's remarks were enthusiastically received by 4,500 delegates and guests at the Veterans of Foreign Wars convention, where he formally received the presidential endorsement voted last month by the VFW's political action committee. The speech was interrupted by ap-

plause 26 times in 30 minutes as Reagan attacked Carter's foreign policy as "one of weakness, inconsistency, vacillation and bluff."

It was one of Reagan's strongest pro-military speeches, and it marked the first time in the 1980 campaign that Reagan gave his unqualified endorsement to the United States' involvement in the Vietnam War.

America's mistake in Vietnam was not in entering the war, but in failing to win it, Reagan said.

"For too long, we have lived with the Vietnam syndrome," Reagan said. "As the years dragged on, we

were told that peace would come if we would simply stop interfering and go home.

"It is time we recognized that ours was, in truth, a noble cause. A small country, newly free from colonial rule, sought our help in establishing self-rule and the means of self-defense against a totalitarian neighbor bent on conquest," he said.

"There is a lesson for all of us in Vietnam. If we are forced to fight, we must have the means and determination to prevail," Reagan said, adding that "We dishonor the memory of 50,000 young Americans who died in that cause if we give way to feelings of guilt as if we were doing something shameful."

Reagan also recited a string of alleged Carter injustices to veterans, describing the president's treatment of veterans as "unconscionable," "regrettable and insensitive," "hypocrisy" and a "betrayal."

"This present anti-veteran ad-

ministration has stacked the deck against you through the vast power of the White House," Reagan told the VFW convention.

"It has not escaped me that the Carter administration has cut the Veterans Administration budget each and every year of its incumbency with respect to the federal budget... Where has the money denied our deserving veterans gone? Surely not to our national defense, which is in shambles," Reagan said.

Speaking of Vietnam veterans, Reagan said the Carter administration has been "shabby" in the benefits it has given them.

"It is the height of hypocrisy for the administration in high-sounding words to repeatedly tell us how much we owe our Vietnam veterans and then, only in this election year, recommend a stingy 10 percent increase in the GI Bill when these veterans have not had an increase since 1977," Reagan said.

"It is a breach of faith that compensation for those with service-connected disabilities has not kept abreast of inflation," he added.

Reagan said he believes the best hope of maintaining peace with the Soviet Union "is to convince them they cannot win at war," repeating his willingness as president to spend "whatever it takes to be strong enough that no other nation will dare violate the peace."

"We're already in an arms race, but only the Soviets are racing" while the United States is falling dangerously behind, Reagan said, describing what he saw as a pattern of direct and indirect Russian-backed aggression in Afghanistan, Africa, Central America, the Middle East and elsewhere.

"All over the world, we can see that in the face of declining American power the Soviets and their friends are advancing. Yet the Carter administration seems totally oblivious" to that threat, he said.

"World peace must be our No. 1 priority," Reagan said. "But it must not be peace at any price. It must not be a peace of humiliation and gradual surrender."

Reagan also repeated a familiar campaign assertion that America must work to regain the trust and confidence of its allies, and he voiced concern at what he described as the Soviet attempt "to encircle and neutralize the Peoples Republic of China."

But at the same time, Reagan repeated his willingness to negotiate an arms reduction treaty with Russia, but not along the pattern of the SALT II agreement.

"I would be willing to negotiate an honest, verifiable reduction in nuclear weapons by both our countries to the point that neither of us represented a threat to the other," Reagan said.

"I cannot, however, agree to any treaty, including the SALT II treaty, which, in effect, legitimizes the continuation of a one-sided nuclear arms buildup" favoring the Soviet Union, Reagan said.



RONALD REAGAN

Several newspapers didn't run column claiming invasion plans

WASHINGTON (AP) — A column by Jack Anderson claiming that the United States plans a military invasion of Iran — a charge denied by the administration — prompted fresh controversy today. Several newspapers which normally carry the column did not run it.

See Anderson, page 4A

Defense Secretary Harold Brown, asked about the report, said Sunday: "No, that's not true."

An Associated Press spot check showed that the New York Daily News, The Washington Post, the Arkansas Democrat and the Atlanta Constitution did not carry the column.

An editor's note in the Daily News said, in part: "The Jack Anderson column does not appear today because we could not independently verify his sensational claim that the Carter administration is planning an invasion of Iran."

CETA chief quits job

Nabar Martinez, director of the local Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) program, submitted a letter of resignation from the post Friday.

Martinez is pursuing a masters degree in public administration at Texas Tech University, and cannot find time for both his job and studies, he said, today.

In his resignation letter, Martinez states: "The CETA program has contributed to my professional development, and I have contributed to CETA's growth. But there comes a point when a mutual disengagement is necessary. Therefore, I wish to leave, to pursue other endeavors in the public sector."

The resignation will become effective Sept. 26

Many of the newspapers which ran the column added an editor's note referring to its contents and to the administration denials.

David Hendin, vice president and editorial director of United Feature Syndicate, which distributes the Anderson column, said about 900 newspapers subscribe to the daily and Sunday column. He said he had no information on how many papers were using today's column on Iran.

Brown, appearing Sunday on ABC's "Issues and Answers," refused to say if there would be another attempt to rescue the 52 U.S. hostages held in Iran. A previous try failed last spring and eight American servicemen were killed.

"I will not either confirm that or deny it. That is the kind of thing I just would not want to talk about," Brown said.

Anderson's column, scheduled for release today but made public over the weekend, says the invasion is planned for mid-October.

The White House has denied that an invasion is planned.

Plane missing since February spotted in Taos Mountains

TAOS, N.M. (AP) — Rescue crews were making a four-hour journey on foot into sacred land of the Taos Pueblo today to recover the bodies of a Texas family who went down in a single-engine aircraft in February, rescue officials said.

Col. Lloyd Sallee, wing commander of the New Mexico Civil Air Patrol, confirmed that the BE-36 Beechcraft Bonanza was spotted by airmen during a regular CAP training exercise late Saturday.

About 25-30 searchers from northern New Mexico rescue groups were making the trek today into the mountains to recover the airplane that went down Feb. 21 with a Mesquite, Texas, couple and three of their children aboard, Ray Piper, of the Taos County Search and Rescue Unit, said.

"It's real rugged country," Piper

said. "There's nothing up there. It's Indian sacred ground, and the Indians have to lead us in because they won't let us off the trails."

Piper said the wreckage could not be reached by helicopter.

State police confirmed Sunday that the plane was the single-engine aircraft piloted by Dr. Richard Russell. Also aboard were his wife, Bertha, and children Brian, 13, Chris, 7, and Gina, a student at Southern Methodist University.

Another daughter, Lisa, did not make the trip from Dallas to Durango, Colo., for a planned ski vacation.

Russell was president of the Mesquite school board.

Sallee said the aircraft was found two miles from its last radar contact before it disappeared. The plane was spotted about five miles east-southeast of Pueblo Peak, at an elevation of 10,000 feet, Sallee said.

Bonnie lies over ocean

MIAMI (AP) — With its highest sustained winds reaching 75 mph, Hurricane Bonnie moved northward at about 15 mph today and was expected to turn toward north-northeast, forecasters said.

They predicted no major changes in Bonnie's strength for the next 24 hours as the hurricane churns through the open Atlantic. Forecasters said it appeared the storm would pass to the west of the Azores and no other land masses lay in its predicted course.

At 6 a.m. EDT, Bonnie's center was estimated near latitude 33.3 north, longitude 40.0 west, about 645 miles southwest of the westernmost Azores.

"I think it's about peaked out," forecaster John Hope of the National Hurricane Center here said, adding that it might start "dying off" during the day.

If Bonnie's highest sustained winds drop below 74 mph, it would no longer be classified as a hurricane.

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Focalpoint

Action/reaction: State holidays

Q. How many holidays do state employees in Texas get each year?
A. State employees will receive 15 holidays from Sept. 3, 1979, to Aug. 31, 1980, said Joe Wallace assistant office manager of the local Texas Employment Commission office. Employees will receive 17 holidays from Sept. 3, 1980 to Aug. 31, 1981.

Calendar: 'Band Roundup'

MONDAY
Big Spring High School freshman orientation, 7:30 p.m., high school auditorium. Parents welcome.
Chapter 47 of the D.A.V. and Auxiliary will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the V.F.W. Hall on Drivers Road.

TUESDAY
Howard County Producers Cotton insect and disease clinic, Farm Bureau Building, 9 a.m.
Big Spring Band Boosters will stage a "Band Roundup" at 7:30 p.m. at high school. Boosters will serve refreshments to band students.

WEDNESDAY
The Howard County Consolidated Tax Appraisal Board meeting will be at 1 p.m. in the county courtroom.

THURSDAY
The annual ice cream supper will be held at 7:30 p.m. on the Forsan High School tennis courts. Elbow PTA and Forsan Booster Club will sponsor the event.
Ice cream social on Forsan tennis courts, 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by Forsan Booster Club and PTA. All friends of school welcome.

Tops on TV: 'Twain's America'

Music fans won't want to miss "Heroes Of Rock 'N' Roll" on ABC at 8 o'clock tonight. The show really gets down to basics, covering the history of rock 'n' roll from before Elvis until just after the Beatles. Others may want to wait until 9 o'clock to catch "Mark Twain's America" on NBC. This episode features a recreation of a documented incident from the early life of Will Rogers.

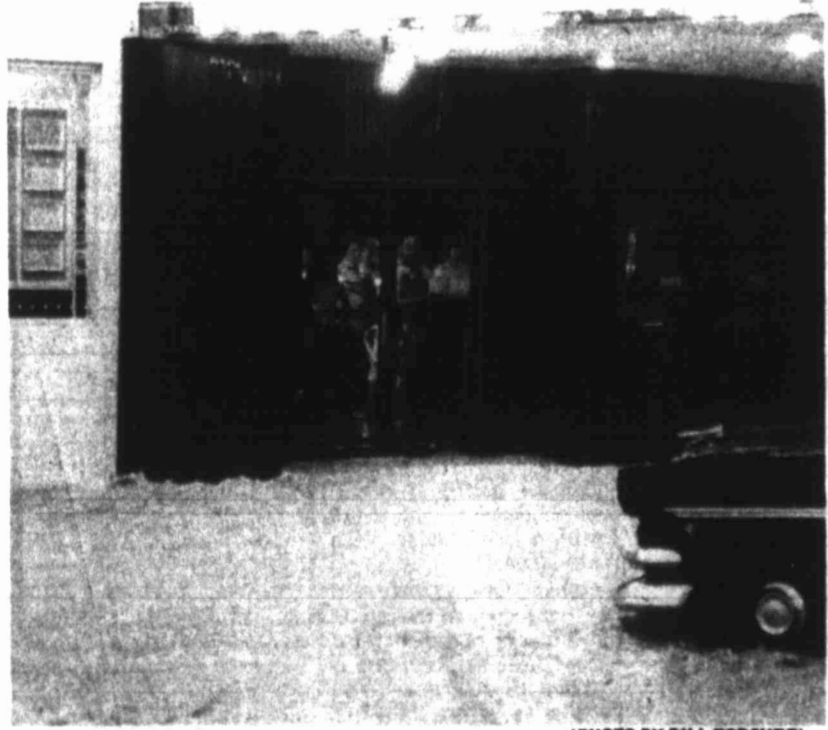
Inside: Prayer and politics

RONALD REAGAN, seeking votes, and religious fundamentalists, seeking more influence in politics, will share the stage this week at a gathering intended to mobilize a ballot-box army against liberalism. See page 9-A.

THE HEAD OF TEXAS' Disaster Emergency Services says there's nothing "lucky" about Texas escaping a big death toll from Hurricane Allen. Frank Cox credits public and official awareness of the danger for a successful mass evacuation from the Texas coast. See page 2-A.

Outside: Rain odds

Partly cloudy through Tuesday with a chance of rain through tonight. Warmer Tuesday. Winds will be from the south at 15 to 20 mph through Tuesday and 10 to 15 mph tonight. Chance of rain is 40 percent today and 30 percent tonight.



LAPPING AT THE DOORS — Concerned customers at the Ritz Theater watch as flood waters lap at the doors of the Ritz Theater in downtown Big Spring Saturday night. Upwards to 3.5 inches of rain fell in the area, creating massive problems for those who had ventured out. The showers continued until after 11 p.m. Buildings and some mobile homes in west Big Spring suffered from savage winds which accompanied the storm.



TIDAL WATERS? — The Jones Valley addition of Big Spring was probably the hardest hit of any in the city during Big Spring's concentrated rain storm Saturday. The water, rolling down from the hills to the south, looked like the ocean at high tide for a while. This picture was snapped in the 1000 block of West Third.



A BUG LOOKING FOR HELP FROM A TUG — For a while Saturday evening, at the height of a furious rain that fell in the Big Spring area, it looks like the only thing that could have salvaged this Volkswagen was a harbor tug. The driver found passage through Third Street at the 1100 block interception was impossible for a while and he had to ride it out until the water receded.

18 AUG 18 80

Shrimpers find sunken ship loaded with gold, silver

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Gulf shrimpers Curtis Blume and Steve Smith stumbled onto a dream — a sunken treasure ship loaded with gold and silver.

With salvage far from complete, about \$350,000 worth of gold, 30 pounds of silver, five tons of copper and many artifacts have been plucked from the wreck of what is believed to be an 18th century Spanish cargo ship.

But Blume and Smith aren't counting their money yet — they won't see it until lawyers, state bureaucrats and scientists finish work intended to protect the shrimpers and the state.

The wreck lies under 18

feet of muddy Gulf of Mexico water and a layer of silt about 1½ miles off southwest Louisiana's Cameron Parish.

A round-the-clock guard is stationed at the site — an area of the seabottom 120 feet by 200 feet — and one diver often on duty is Smith, a shrimper whose sea adventures have always been business.

"I always had to work for a living and I don't have much time to think about looking for treasure," said the 32-year-old father of two, who describes the find as a "once-in-a-lifetime thing."

He added: "If it works out well, that's good, and if it doesn't, well that's it."

Objects recovered include cured turtle shells once used in Europe for hair combs, rouge sealed in casks for the cheeks of 18th century ladies, ceramic figures made by Aztec Indian, leather hides, olive jars, several nine-foot cannon and a 10-foot anchor.

"Man, they haven't even touched it yet," said Steve Perry, assistant secretary of the state Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

Scientists believe the wreck is Spanish and from the mid-1700s. Academic researchers trying to figure out where the ship came from and where it was going.

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The state owns the seabottom where Blume's shrimp nets snagged the wreck in the winter of 1979, and the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism will dictate how the salvage is done.

"That was only the second time in my life that I'd been over there," said 45-year-old Blume of his find. "It was just pure accident that I found it because there were lots of boats that hung up on it. There were a lot of nets on it."

Blume, who is married and

has three children, said he never spent much time thinking about finding treasure, adding: "I was always too busy trying to make a living." He is still shrimping.

Gov. Dave Treen has described the wreck as the most important archaeological find in Louisiana waters and perhaps one of the most significant in the Gulf Coast region.

He acknowledges many people would have looted the vessel, destroying its archaeological value and never reported the discovery.

But Smith and Blume decided they had no choice. They knew the state would complicate salvage efforts.

Smith found the wreck in water where visibility is about six inches. "There's no looking at it," he said. "You dive down and feel it."

The two brought in others to help with the financing and the work.

Blume called in Smith, who usually dives to repair shrimp boats, to determine what had snagged his nets.

Blume had already pulled up several ballast rocks and some copper ingots.

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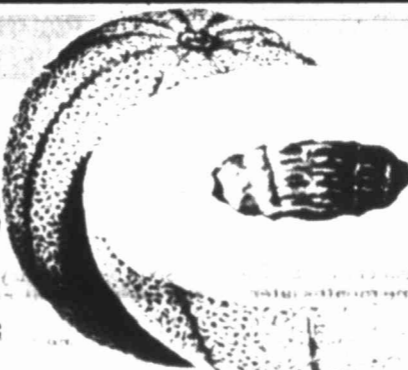
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Scotch Buy White, Soft! 4-Roll Pkg. *Everyday Low Price!*
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Regular Quarters Scotch Buy 16-oz. Ctn.
- Orange Juice 39¢**
Frozen Concentrate Scotch Buy 6-oz. Can
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- Potted Meat 47¢**
Armour, Makes A Great Sandwich Filling! 5.5-oz. Can
- Cut Asparagus 68¢**
All Green Town House 8-oz. Can *Safeway Special!*
- Cracker Jack 94¢**
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- Sandwich Spread \$1.09**
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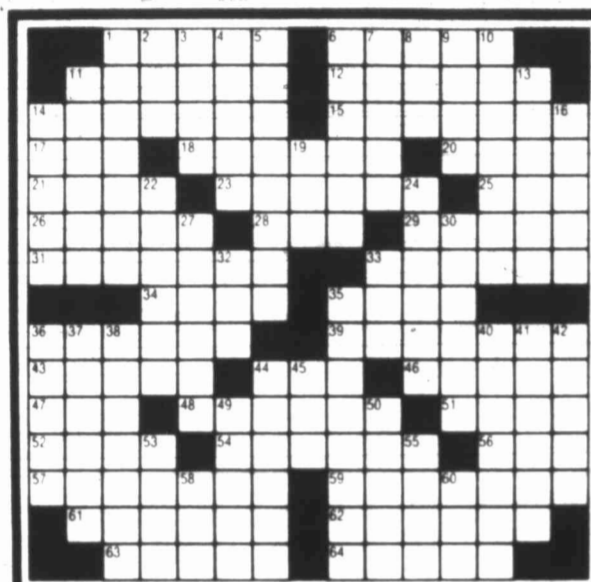
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| ACROSS | 28 American humorist | 52 Bound of the Red Cross | 11 Hotel room |
| 1 — metabolism | 29 Shakespearean forest | 56 Jolt | 13 Bible |
| 6 Necktie | 31 Landward | 57 Nunn or Dole | 14 Dance club |
| 11 Whirl | 33 New England governor | 59 Wading birds | 16 Cum — salts |
| 12 Plumber's instrument | 34 Kazan | 61 French painter | 19 "How — I Am!" |
| 14 Perplexing situation | 35 Louis XIV et al. | 62 Cylindrical and tapered | 22 Stick |
| 15 — around (kidding) | 36 Protects | 63 Struthers | 24 asso |
| 17 Amin | 39 Modifying device | 64 Shuts with noise | 27 Mend a pipe |
| 18 Rain-soaked | 43 Vote "aye" | | 30 Croaked |
| 20 Spree | 44 Fast plane | | 32 Sweet bread: Fr. |
| 21 Town in Mozambique | 46 Pomme de — | | 33 Deity |
| 23 Horse color | 47 Not well | | 35 Repeated tapping |
| 25 New Deal | 48 Cane stuff | | 36 Paces |
| 26 Students | 51 Merril of the movies | | 37 More unattractive |

Saturday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS	1. METABOLISM	2. NECKTIE	3. WHIRL	4. PLUMBER'S INSTRUMENT	5. PERPLEXING SITUATION	6. AMIN	7. RAIN-SOAKED	8. SPREE	9. TOWN IN MOZAMBIQUE	10. HORSE COLOR	11. NEW DEAL	12. STUDENTS	13. BIBLE	14. DANCE CLUB	15. CUM — SALTS	16. HOW — I AM!	17. STICK	18. ASSO	19. MEND A PIPE	20. CROAKED	21. SWEET BREAD: FR.	22. DEITY	23. REPEATED TAPPING	24. PACES	25. MORE UNATTRACTIVE	26. DAHLIA	27. CERTAIN PLANES	28. FANCY	29. STANDS ON HIND LEGS	30. SPARKLING CHASE (GIVE THE RUN-AROUND)	31. GLOBE	32. DOUBLE OF A KIND	33. MAKE	34. CHEMICAL PREFIX	35. REMAINDER	36. ROMANS	37. CONCRETE	38. COUNTRYMAN
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DENNIS THE MENACE



"AREN'T WE LUCKY THAT CORN DON'T POP AFTER WE EAT IT?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I've gotta go to the bathroom. I'm putting you on hold."

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RIGNER INSTITUTE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, AUG. 19, 1980

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good day for thinking in terms of how you can best express yourself to others and advance in career matters. Be articulate with those who are able to help you in some way.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Add new activities to present ones and you can expand very quickly. The evening is fine for social meanderings.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Your business ideas are good, so put them in operation without delay for best results. Make your life happier.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You understand now what others expect of you and can please them easily. Show that you have a fine sense of humor.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) A good time for accomplishing a great deal of work and for employing a more efficient system.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Your ideas need intelligent handling in order to make them more creative and constructive. Relax at home tonight.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You have good ideas about handling home matters, so waste no time in putting them across. Sidestep a troublemaker.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You have to exert more effort into your work to get ahead in career activities. Handle correspondence wisely.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Elevate your thoughts so that you can command a greater income in the days ahead. Take no risks with your savings.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You have a good opportunity to advance today, so be quick in seizing it. Don't lose your temper with anyone.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Talk over your plans for the future with a trusted adviser before making an important decision. Express happiness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) A good day for being your gregarious self and seeking the company of as many persons as you can. Be wise.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Put more effort into improving your standing in the community. An unexpected opportunity could come your way now.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be one who early in life will hit on the right philosophy of life to follow and this will bring much success later in life. Give a good academic education that is worthwhile and practical. Teach good manners.

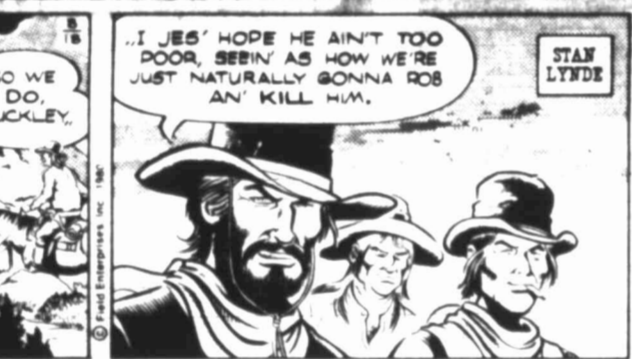
"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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NANCY



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Two deadlines close at hand

TRS members who have been employed in the past by a state agency and contributed to the Employees Retirement System have until Aug. 31 to transfer that service credit to TRS. Transfer can be made even though the contributions may have been withdrawn.

Employees of higher education who are participants in Optional Retirement Program have until Sept. 1 to exercise a one-time election to return to TRS membership.

Persons with questions concerning these deadlines should contact TRS, 1001 Trinity, Austin 78701.

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New look at missing heiress

CHICAGO (AP) — Expensive racehorses that never earned their keep and some poorly forged checks are among the clues perplexing investigators assigned to solve the \$21 million puzzle of why heiress Helen Vorhees Brach vanished.

Mrs. Brach's attorney, John Menk, says the three-year-old trail is "as cold as yesterday's pancakes," but her brother believes there's still hope of finding out what happened and wants a judge to hire a private investigator to look for her.

Unless the mystery is solved, her estate, estimated at \$21 million, will remain in limbo for four more years. Under state law, missing people are not declared legally dead until seven years after their dis-

appearances and their estates cannot be distributed until then.

Mrs. Brach, who is 62 if she is still alive, was a Miami Beach club hostess when she married Frank Brach of the Brach Candy Co. He died in 1970 at the age of 80, and she lived quietly afterward on a seven-acre estate in Glenview, north of Chicago.

On Feb. 17, 1977, Mrs. Brach left the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., where she had a routine check-up and bought a few trifles at a specialty shop. A clerk at the store is the last person who remembers seeing her, other than her long-time houseman, John Matlick.

Matlick said she caught a flight back to Chicago that day and he picked her up at the airport. He said she stayed at home for the next

four days and then he drove her to the airport for a trip to Florida. He said that was the last time he saw her.

Police said Mrs. Brach had no reservation on a Florida-bound plane that day and never boarded one.

Matlick cashed seven checks worth \$15,000 written on Mrs. Brach's account on Feb. 17 and 18. He said they were compensation for household expenses. Police said the checks were forged and the signature didn't even resemble Mrs. Brach's. No charges were filed.

Matlick later cited his Fifth Amendment right not to incriminate himself in refusing to answer questions about the incident.

Police investigators said they also examined ties between Mrs. Brach and two horsemen, Richard Bailey

and his brother, Paul Bailey. Mrs. Brach dated Richard, and Paul sold her \$300,000 worth of racehorses that lost about \$120,000 in their first year of running.

Investigators found that a strange investment for Mrs. Brach, who, they said, lived conservatively except for a penchant for riding in a lavender Rolls-Royce or a pink Cadillac.

Richard Bailey also invoked the Fifth Amendment in questioning and Paul Bailey dropped out of sight and has never been questioned although efforts to find him have continued, police said last week.

Mrs. Brach's brother, Charles Vorhees, of Hopedale, Ohio, petitioned Circuit Court last week to renew efforts to find his sister. He wants the court to

take money from the estate to hire a private investigator and to offer a \$250,000 reward for information.

Police remain perplexed. To one detective assigned to the case, it is as if Mrs. Brach "disappeared off the face of the earth."

Lawhon new officer

COLORADO CITY — Steve Lawhon, Sweetwater, has been named Mitchell County Juvenile Probation Officer. He will report here no later than the end of September.

At the present time, Mitchell County is one of 36 counties within the state without a juvenile probation officer.

Armed 'sky marshals' foil homesick Cubans

MIAMI (AP) — Passengers are joking about a day of duty-free shopping in Havana, but after a record six hijackings last week, officials are fighting back with tough airport security measures — and have foiled two attempts by homesick refugees to divert more U.S. flights to Cuba.

William Nettles of the FBI's Miami office said Sunday that the measures — including use of a psychological profile of potential hijackers and the placement of armed "sky marshals" on some flights — appeared to be working.

"But we will never have foolproof security because of the free democratic society we have. There are only so many things you can do,"

Nettles said. Six planes were hijacked last week, including three on Saturday — the worst week and the worst day for hijackings in U.S. history.

Two other attempts on the weekend resulted in the arrests of six men. Officials identified all six as Cubans who had been among the 118,000 refugees to arrive in the U.S. aboard "Freedom Flotilla" boats. The State Department on Sunday again urged the Cuban government to allow unhappy refugees to return to the island.

"Thus far, we have had nothing from the Cubans but rebuffs on this issue," said department spokeswoman Sue Pittman.

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		Stridex Cream Benzoyl Peroxide Cream \$2.14

Church leaders mobilize to influence elections

DALLAS (AP) — Ronald Reagan, seeking votes, and religious fundamentalists, seeking more influence in politics, will share the stage this week at a gathering intended to mobilize a ballot-box army against liberalism.

Issues like the Equal Rights Amendment, homosexuality, abortion and separation of church and state will be reviewed when ministers and laymen from several denominations gather Thursday and Friday for a "national affairs briefing."

The sessions, highlighted by a Reagan appearance Friday, are aimed at awakening a "sleeping giant" by rallying Christians to endorse conservative tenets with votes.

"This one meeting could easily turn out an extra 5 million or perhaps 10 million voters. That should quiet those who ridicule us," says the Rev. James Robison, television evangelist and an organizer of the two-day conference.

The issue, conference organizers say, is the survival of America.

"Christians have been led to believe the lie that they are not supposed to affect policy making," said Robison, who has a ministry near Fort Worth and helped organize this week's gathering.

"Which means that if the poor people, family people, religious people stay out of politics, that leaves policy making to the radicals, to the wicked, the anti-God and the anti-moral."

Robison and other ministers have vowed to unite behind candidates

opposing liberal causes such as homosexual rights, the Equal Rights Amendment, abortion and government interference in church matters.

"A Gallup poll showed that 70 percent of those who profess to know Christ did not vote in the last presidential election. That's criminal. There's got to be a get-tough attitude among Christians... or this nation is through," says Robison.

Among those who have agreed to address the gathering, expected to attract 10,000 people, are anti-ERA activist Phyllis Schlafly, former Texas Gov. and Treasury Secretary John Connally, Brig. Gen. Albion Knight, U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., U.S. Rep. Phillip Crane, R-Ill., and television evangelists the Rev. Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson.

"We want to influence all viable candidates on issues important to the Church. And we want answers," says the Rev. Jim Baker, host of the syndicated television program, "PTL Club."

Recently, some religious leaders said they were disillusioned by the failure of the lawmakers to actively oppose "amoral" issues and have expressed almost apocalyptic concern about the decline in the U.S. economy and military prestige abroad.

"The United States has used its tax dollars and technology to build up the military might of the Soviet Union," says Robison. "The Bible teaches us that if we use our resources to strengthen the enemy of God, not only

will He destroy the enemy, He will destroy us."

Political activism represents an about-face in attitudes held for many years by many fundamentalists. Thirteen years ago, Falwell, founder of the Virginia-based "Old Time Gospel Hour," argued against such involvement.

"I believe that if we spend enough effort trying to clean up our churches, rather than trying to clean up state and national government, we would do well," he said then.

A change of attitude among religious leaders was prompted partly because of "increasing pressure from

the Federal Communications Commission and the Internal Revenue Service," said Robison, who claims the agencies have interfered with his religious work.

The FCC investigated allegations that PTL raised money for overseas missions and spent it for other purposes. Robison's weekly program, which is broadcast in 90 U.S. cities, was temporarily yanked from the air by a Dallas television station after he made disparaging remarks about homosexuals.

"We have made a god out of our government, and it has placed us in bondage. We must bind our govern-

ment or it will make slaves of us," Robison said. "The average politician doesn't reflect the views of the Christian community, and it's time to awaken the sleeping giant."

That job, Robison insists, lies on the shoulders of church leaders and laymen.

"The Church has a distorted view of the world. It sits on its cushioned pews and looks out the stained glass window. It's time to realize there's a dying world out there," he says.

Robison said the conference will not become involved in partisan politics.

The Religious Roundtable, a non-demonstrational organization that is sponsoring the conference, invited an equal number of Democrats and Republicans to speak to the gathering, he said.

"So many people sit around and wait for Barbara, Walter or Dan to tell them the truth," says Robison. "But we plan to saturate the airways with the real truth, to tell people they have a responsibility to vote, and to vote intelligently."

But the Rev. Buckner Fanning, pastor of San Antonio's Trinity Baptist Church, echoed the sentiments of many Christian leaders, saying:

"That's great if that's what happens, but there's always the chance for partisan politics to surface. And if the Church becomes entangled, it loses its credibility," said Fanning, a member of the National Affairs Briefing host committee.

"Telling people to get out and vote is one thing. But telling them who to vote for, or to vote a certain way because the Lord says to is another. And I wouldn't buy that from anybody."

Corruption witness slain

LONGVIEW, Texas (AP) — Authorities discounted revenge as a possible motive in the weekend slaying of a witness in last year's murder conspiracy and corruption trial of three former Gregg County officials.

Police planned today to see if witnesses could identify a man arrested Sunday in connection with the shotgun slaying of Dan Hayden Aldridge.

Aldridge, a government witness who testified about an unsuccessful ambush plot involving sheriff's deputies, was shot to death late Saturday inside the front door of his duplex, police said.

Aldridge was blasted in the upper left chest with a shotgun after a man

came to his front door, said investigators.

"The deceased's wife and seven-year-old daughter saw two people — a man who did the shooting and one standing by the car," said Lt. Clifford Felts.

But Assistant Police Chief Ronald Young discounted the possibility of a revenge slaying stemming from Aldridge's testimony.

"The only thing I can tell you is that it did not involve his testimony at the trial or anything like this," Young said. "It was completely isolated."

Felts said investigators had not established a motive, but believe the slaying may have resulted from a domestic dispute.

Aldridge and two other men were targets for what was termed a "shotgun squad" — a group of deputies witnesses testified were operating under instructions from former Sheriff Tom Welch.

The men narrowly escaped an ambush at a county equipment barn in 1974, Aldridge testified last year.

Welch, former County Commissioner William Satterwhite and former Chief Deputy James Cochran were convicted of murder conspiracy.

A former peace justice and an ex-deputy also were convicted along with the trio on federal racketeering charges stemming from an investigation into illegal gambling in the Longview area.

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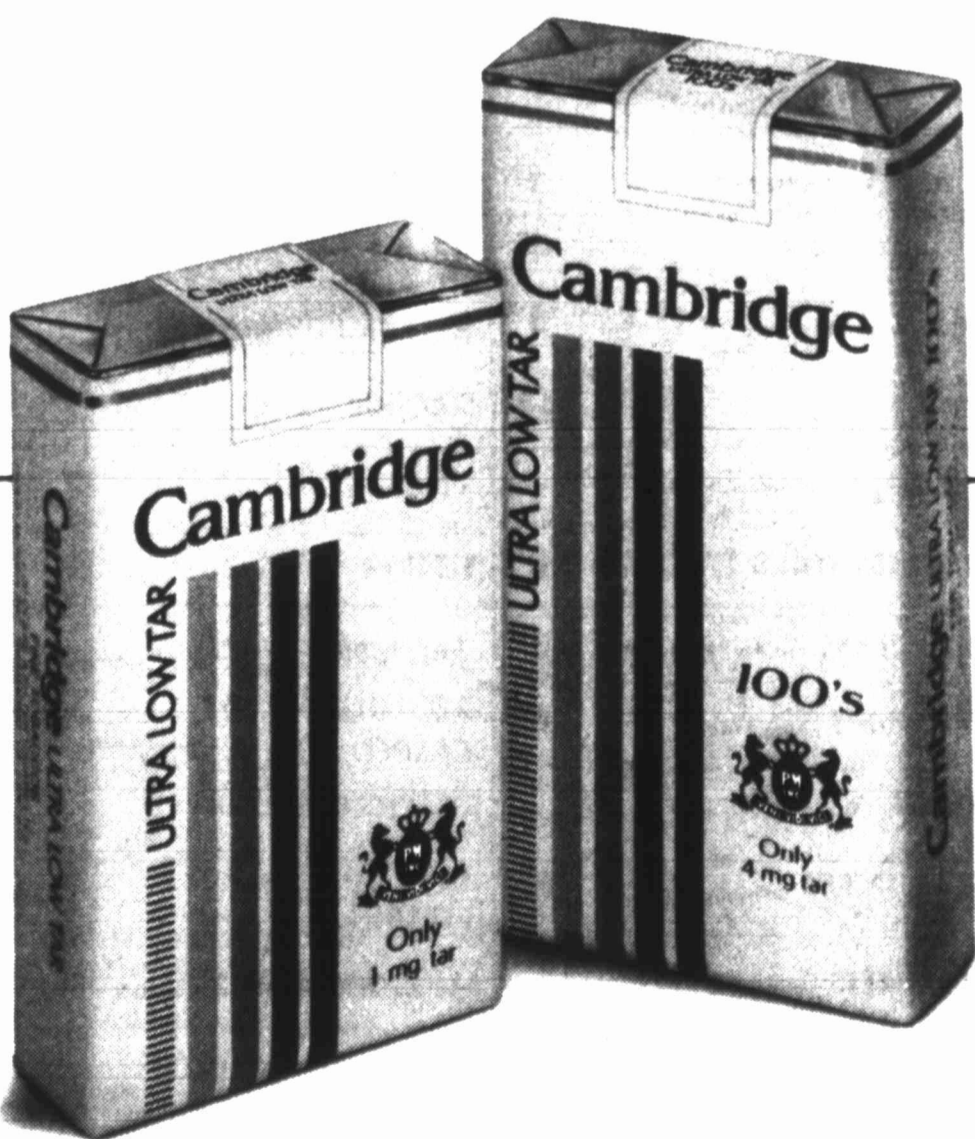
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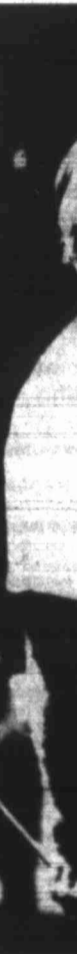
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