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FRIDAY



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Texas farmers wait to assault

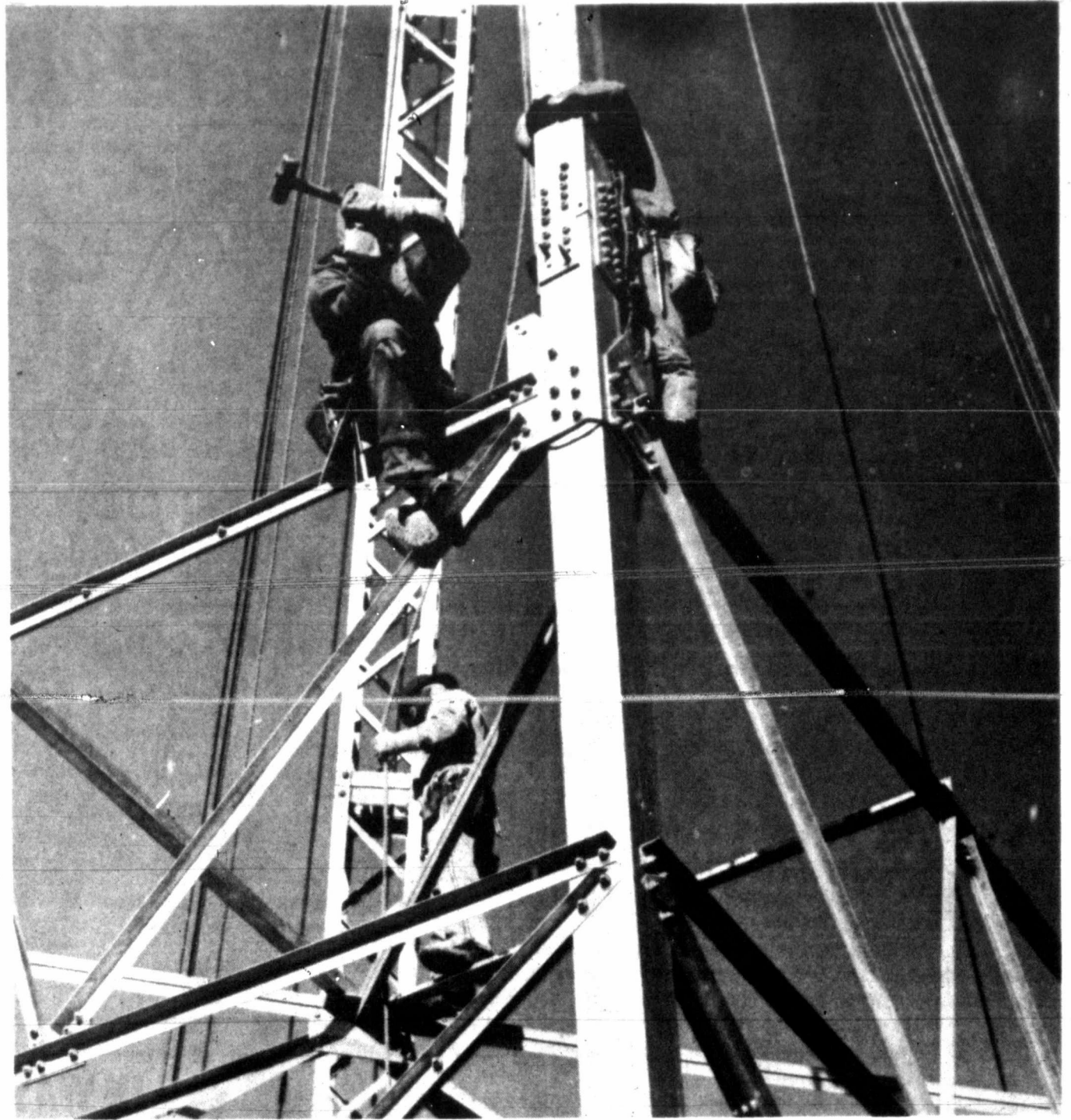
By MILLER BONNER
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — Texas farmers were camped around the nation's capital this morning, preparing for a diesel-powered assault on Congress and the Carter Administration.

With more than 500 monstrous tractors spread over three Virginia campuses, the American Agriculture movement members said they will wait until Monday morning before wrecking havoc with the commuter-congested Washing-

ton thoroughfares. "Unless somebody gets itchy feet and decides he wants to be the first one in, we'll all go on Monday," said Gerald McCathern, a Hereford farmer and the AAM's national tractor-ade wagonmaster. Today, McCathern and other AAM leaders will be visiting congressmen on Capitol Hill trying to raise support for full implementation of the current farm bill. Such a move would raise government-set price and loan levels for practically every crop.

"It's been kinda like a Boy Scout camping trip," said E.G. Reed, a Quitaque cotton-peanut farmer upon completing the 1,900-mile trek from West Texas to a Virginia state park about 20 miles south of Washington. "We didn't have any trouble at all... oh, I got my (AAM) flag stolen off my tractor and that made me mad as hell but generally the closer we got to Washington, the nicer the people treated us." Recently enacted regulations by the Capitol Hill Police involving the use of tractors and

the release of farm animals on the capitol grounds brought standard reactions from the farmers. "We didn't come here to obey all the laws anyway," said Hershel Wilson, another West Texas farmer. "Unless somebody wants to drive a tractor into the Senate chambers, the rules won't bother us at all," said McCathern who jokingly added, "We went over to the national zoo today to see if they would rent us a few exotic animals."



SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE CO. is constructing a 250-foot steel microwave tower and adjoining 12-by-20-foot equipment building at the intersection of Houston Street and Francis Avenue in

Pampa. The tower is designed to improve and increase long distance telephone service from the city. (Pampa News photo by John Price)

Clements greets Teng in Houston China's head visits

By ROB WOOD
Associated Press Writer
HOUSTON (AP) — Chinese Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping was greeted in Houston today by cold, blustery weather and a somewhat warmer welcome from Gov. Bill Clements and a brass band playing "Hey, Look Me Over."

"You are most welcomed to Texas," Clements told Teng, who arrived on a flight from Atlanta. "We have a great curiosity about China and we are glad you are here. We in Texas have a reputation for hospitality and after you visit us you will know this."

Clements presented the vice premier with a large basket filled with toys for the children of China.

The governor said, "These toys are from the frontier days of early Texas. Our children welcome you to Texas."

Teng, standing on a platform in a brisk wind, said he hoped to learn in Houston about oil production and "other of your industries."

About 100 peaceful demonstrators waited at the main gate of Ellington Field, the former air force base, and waved Republic of China flags.

After the airport ceremony, where he also was greeted by Houston Mayor Jim McConn, Teng went to view American

space technology at the Johnson Space Center. Later he was to tour one of the world's largest drilling tool manufacturers.

He will attend a rodeo and barbecue in Simonton tonight and speak to editors and publishers Saturday.

No top city or state officials will accompany Teng's party on its Southeast Texas tour.

McConn has said he was "personally concerned" that Houston was designated as one of two Chinese consulate offices allotted for the United States.

The mayor said, "We have been the sister city of Taipei (capital of Taiwan) and we have a Chinese community of some numbers here, most of whom are related to Taiwan."

Houston Taiwanese said they would demonstrate peacefully in downtown Houston this afternoon. The Taiwanese will march from a convention center to a hotel where Teng will stay.

Members of the Revolutionary Communist Party also promised a demonstration to insure "that Teng will be met in a fitting manner when he sticks his snout into Houston." The group supports the philosophy of former China ruler Mao Tse-tung.

Police Chief Harry Caldwell said

security "will be heavy."

He said there would be full mobilization of the police department, at a cost estimated as high as \$25,000.

The chief received no reply from federal officials he asked to help pay for extra security costs.

Caldwell customarily refused to release the exact number of extra officers scheduled, but one policeman said, "We have been ordered to be on duty all day Friday and most of Saturday and if we want to eat, then bring along a sandwich."

Neither Republican Sen. John Tower nor Democrat Sen. Lloyd Bentsen will be in Texas to greet the Chinese leader.

Both cited previous engagements when declining a White House request to accompany Teng.

Teng leaves Houston Saturday afternoon for Seattle with no official departing ceremonies planned.

Chinese delegations and Houston oilmen have been shuttling back and forth between Peking and Houston since the Shanghai Communiqué that followed President Nixon's 1972 visit to China.

There is every indication the shuttling will increase sharply with the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and the United States.

Groundhog sees more snow, cold

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. (AP) — Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow today, and according to the legend that means the nation is in for six more weeks of snow and cold.

The Groundhog Day forecast came as no surprise to several hundred onlookers who waited to hear the groundhog's verdict in several inches of snow and toe-numbing sub-zero temperatures.

Phil's official guardians, the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club, insisted that although skies were cloudy here, Phil had seen "a pale shadow" and predicted "six more weeks of mild winter weather."

Phil himself did not emerge voluntarily from his burrow on Goble's Knob,

but was trundled out on a special sliding drawer and hung limply in the hands of a club member while the club president delivered the official word.

According to German legend in these parts, Punxsutawney Phil emerges from hibernation each year on Groundhog Day, Feb. 2, and points his nose to the winter breeze.

If he sees his shadow, the squat, furry beast scampers back into his hole, and the nation is in for six more weeks of snow and ice. If he doesn't, spring is just around the corner.

Elsewhere, sayings from around the world link Candlemas Day — Feb. 2 — animals, and weather predictions.



Good afternoon News in brief



SNOW

The forecast for Pampa calls for partly cloudy skies today with snow flurries late

tonight continuing into the morning. Temperatures will range from the teens to upper-40s. Winds should be 10-15 mph, blowing from the west this afternoon and from the northwest tonight. Saturday's high should be near 40.

Chinese delegation visits Texas

HARLINGEN, Texas (AP) — A delegation of Chinese agriculture officials, already impressed with American technology and Mexican food, headed for a South Texas farm today.

The eight-member delegation is halfway through a two-month U.S. tour to get a look at agricultural mechanization in this country. The group is led

by Sung Shu Yu, head of the Chinese Bureau of Agricultural Mechanization.

"We are deeply impressed by the agricultural know how you have here," Sung said through an interpreter after arriving here late Thursday. "In order to bring to reality our mechanized farming we must learn from advanced countries."

'Death to Carter' chanted in Iran

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Shouts of "Death to Carter!" rang out today as tens of thousands of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's followers surrounded the headquarters of the leader of Iran's revolution while he prayed and mapped political strategy.

The mob also chanted "Death to Huyser!" U.S. Gen. Robert Huyser, deputy

commander of American forces in Europe, has been in Tehran for several weeks. U.S. sources say he is President Carter's liaison officer with the Iranian army.

Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiar, meanwhile, told state radio he wants to meet with Khomeini for an "exchange of views" that could lead to a political solution of the Iranian crisis.

What's inside today's News

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Alamo under attack again

By GREG THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer
SAN ANTONIO, Texas (AP) — Those in command at the Alamo are taking steps to close up a breach in the walls — a breach that had enabled winos, vagrants and lovers to slip past the guards and invade the historic mission-fortress by night.

A low, deteriorating stone wall, which allowed the nocturnal invaders easy access to the secluded grounds of the downtown mission, has been torn down and is being replaced by a 10-foot stockade fence.

The new fence is meant to be a historically accurate copy of the one in that particular area when the Alamo was a Spanish mission in the early 1700s, said Business Manager Fleta Johnson.

"It's also meant, she added, to shore up the defenses against such after-hours visitors to the "cradle of Texas liberty," site of a famous 1836 battle in the Texas Revolution.

"It was such a low wall, it was easy for anyone to come over the fence," said Mrs. Johnson. "If they find they can come in, they will. You find that anywhere in San Antonio, anywhere in the country."

The Alamo's 24-hour security

guards regularly flush out curious tourists, winos looking for a quiet place to drink, vagrants seeking a free spot to sleep and young lovers in search of a secluded area.

Some invaders have been caught trying to steal the few lucky coins tossed into the "acequia," a small stream that runs through the tree-shaded grounds.

"There can't be any more than a few dollars in there, but they'd try to steal it if there was only 25 cents," said Mrs. Johnson.

The famous chapel area of the Alamo, which houses histor-

ic items from the battle, and the other buildings on the grounds are securely locked and haven't been bothered by vandals, she continued.

The old five-foot wall on the north side of the grounds wasn't standing during the 13-day siege of the Alamo in 1836, when Mexican Gen. Santa Anna's army wiped out a small band of Texans.

The Depression-era Works Progress Administration built the wall in the 1930s. It was cracked, rickety and structurally unsound by the time it was torn down, said Mrs. Johnson.

The proposal includes a \$700,000 lease-purchase arrangement over four years, the assumption of the hospitals' \$483,000 Hill-Burton loan, and the purchase of the hospitals' assets, listed between \$900,000 and \$1.1 million. The medical corporation, a subsidiary of Insurance Company of America, has already made a preliminary engineering study of the hospitals.

HAI representatives made their presentation in regular session of the Court.

The proposal also includes a commitment to build a new hospital within four years. HAI officials said a commitment to maintain McLean Hospital for four years would be made. Negotiations would remain open to establish the "minimum level of need"



AN EARLY MORNING explosion and fire destroyed this commercial complex in North Glendale, Calif. Friday morning forcing the evacuation of a nearby apartment house. Several people were

injured, one critically, according to a fire official. Five businesses in this building were destroyed and windows of nearby buildings were blown out. (AP Laserphoto)

Hospital plan heard

By DAN LACKEY
Pampa News Staff

The Gray County Commissioners Court heard a third corporate proposal for the leasing of Highland and McLean General Hospitals Thursday.

Representatives of Hospital Affiliates International (HAI) presented a tentative proposal which will probably be revised within two weeks.

Three corporations have so far expressed interest in the two county hospitals. American Medical International, a Beverly Hills, Calif. based firm, submitted a lease agreement outline October 1978. The outline proposed a lease arrangement for five years, with an option to renew every fourth year, and up to \$1.1 million for the first five years including basic rent of \$375,000 and improvements to Highland General of up to \$750,000.

Hospital Corporation of America, based in Nashville, Tenn., with ten hospitals in Texas, has submitted a contract draft, according to County Judge Carl Kennedy. Kennedy declined comment on the details of the proposal, but said it included a commitment to build a new hospital within 30 months.

Today's Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

45 Printer's measure (pl.)
 47 Actress Farrow
 48 Believer (suffix)
 51 Curvy letter
 53 Stout
 57 Least warm
 60 Same (prefix)
 61 Corn plant parts
 62 Ezekiel's nickname
 63 Zero
 64 Cabin
 65 Arabian prince
 66 Mao tung

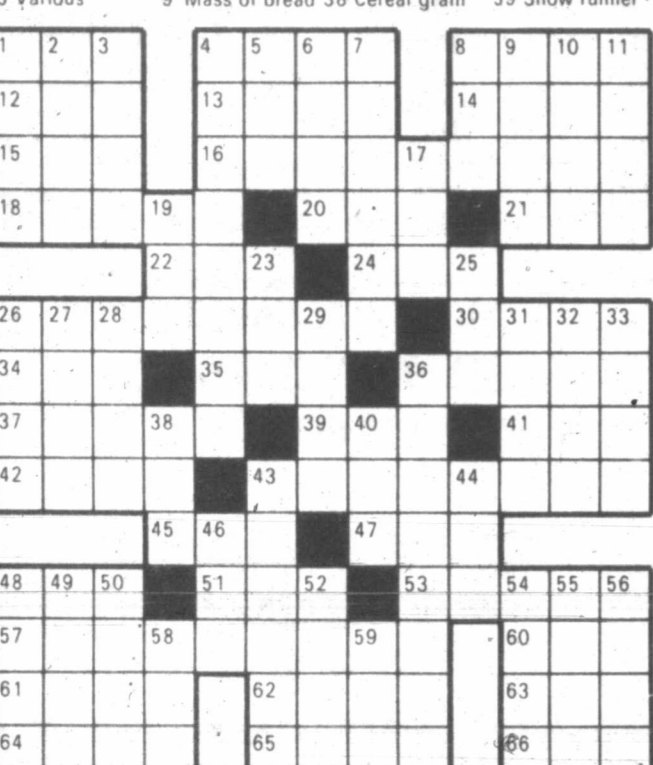
DOWN

1 Small amount
 2 Arabian ship
 3 Author Fleming
 5 Sheltered side
 6 Unrefined
 7 Money
 39 Mae West role
 41 Brit
 42 Remain
 43 Various

Answer to Previous Puzzle

RED	IRIS	ASS
CURD	CURT	EAT
ONUS	EDGY	RNA
NED	ESE	GOEY
ILL RAID		
PAID	IRAN	ALI
TISO	TIVES	ILLS
CANINE	ENCASE	
CURELACT		
ALL	IRMA	PALO
SON	LIED	ONES
ETA	ENDS	ISEE

10 Tree trunk
 11 Over again
 17 Mineral
 19 Actress Novak
 23 Broke bread
 25 Fish
 26 Is not well
 27 Of the sea (abbr.)
 28 South
 4 Dog
 5 Hawaiian volcano
 29 Skinny fish
 31 Bunch of grass
 32 Ideas (Fr.)
 33 Hand
 36 Nunery
 9 Mass of bread
 40 Doctrine
 43 Court session
 44 Traitor (sl.)
 46 Singer Torame
 48 Applies frosting
 49 Sovereign of Iran
 50 Wheel covering
 52 Appear
 54 Isn't (sl.)
 55 Osiris' wife
 56 Gave out sparingly
 58 Lysergic acid diethylamide
 59 Snow runner



Astro-Graph

February 3, 1979

Your leadership qualities will be greatly enhanced this coming year. In situations where you were previously content to be a follower, you will now move to the fore.

AQUARIUS (Jan. Jan. 20-Feb. 19) The consequences of your acts could affect others adversely today, so be sure your motives are pure and noble. Learn more about yourself by sending for your 1979 copy of Astro-Graph Letter. Mail \$1 for each and a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to Astro-Graph, P.O. Box 489, Radio City Station, N.Y. 10019. Be sure to specify birth sign.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Normally you are one who lets bygones be bygones, and are not given to holding grudges. Today, however, secret resentments may govern your acts.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Manage your resources with extreme prudence today. Neither spend unwisely nor make risky loans.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Today you may be tempted to strive for something beyond your talents and capabilities, and it could cause severe frustrations. Set realistic objectives.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Do nothing today that you know from personal experience could cause problems. If you ignore your better judgment, you'll regret it.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) A domineering associate could try to involve you in something today you may not wish to be part of. Unless you stand up for your rights, he'll succeed.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Don't make the mistake today of underestimating your competition. Give them credit for being at least as strong as you are—or perhaps a bit stronger.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You may be better off temporarily shelving distasteful tasks today rather than to attempt to do them halfheartedly. Poor work will have to be repeated.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Bad feelings will result if you expect too much from another in a joint venture, or if he expects too much from you. Each must compromise.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Small domestic issues can be blown completely out of proportion today. Keep this in mind so you don't start finding fault with your mate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Lead by example today rather than by trying to be dictatorial. Positive action on your part is more effective than harsh commands.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Your impulsive urges could be a bit overwhelming today. You might do something rather foolish financially. Sleep on it before spending large sums.

STEVE CANYON



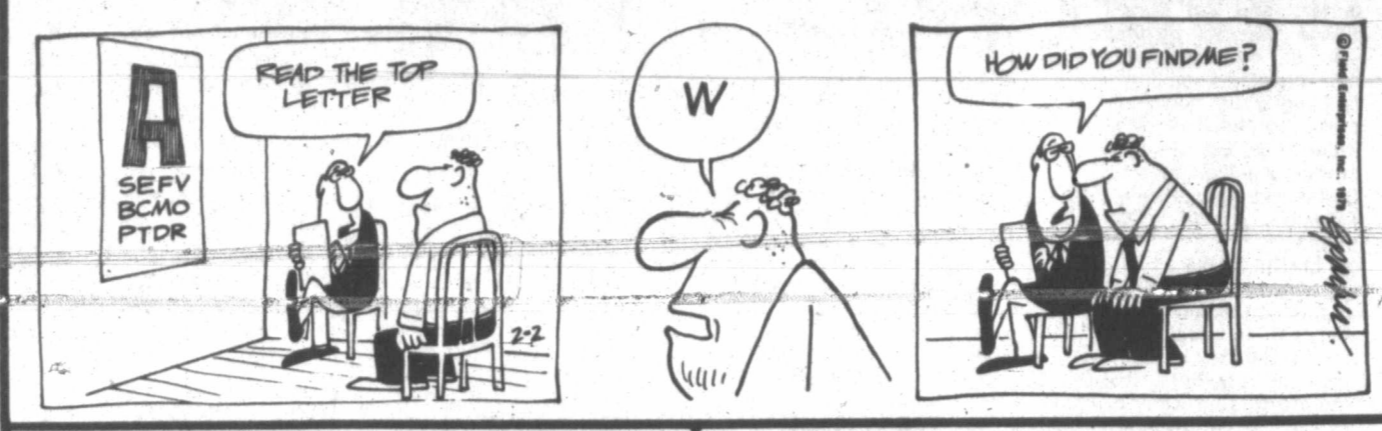
By Milton Caniff

SIDE GLANCES



By Gill Fox

THE WIZARD OF ID



By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

FUNNY BUSINESS



By Roger Bollen

EEK & MEEK



By Howie Schneider



MARMADUKE



By Brad Anderson

ZOONIES



by Craig Leggett



PRISCILLA'S POP



By Al Vermeer



WINTHROP



By Dick Cavalli

ALLEY OOP



By Dave Graue



TUMBLEWEEDS (R)



by T.K. Ryan



THE BORN LOSER



By Art Sansom



FRANK AND ERNEST



By Bob Thaves

PEANUTS



By Charles M. Schulz

SHORT RIBS



By Frank Mill

Girls' rally five points short

By EUGENE LAYCOCK
Pampa News Staff

After a brief struggle to close a three-point margin in the final minutes, the Pampa Harvester girls were trumped by the Tascosa Rebels 51-46 at Harvester Field House Thursday night to end their first round of District 3-AAAA play without a victory.

Tascosa dominated the first quarter and scored 21 points to the Lady Harvesters' 11. Pampa's Kelly Richardson, who took high point honors with 22, got Pampa on the scoreboard with two free throws that tied the game at two.

Becky Davis added two close-range field goals and a free-throw to the first scoring

efforts of Pampa, while Richardson continued her efforts with a layup and a three-footer.

Paula Schniederjan, Tascosa's high scorer with 15 points, popped a 12-footer and later added three more points to the Rebels total in the first minutes.

But it was Kelly Huenergardt who did the most damage in the opening period. She tossed in four field goals and upped her point total to 11 for the game to give her second place scoring honors.

Janet Brogdon and Sharon Mack added to the Tascosa outburst, with two field goals apiece.

The Harvesters kept the

scoring more balanced the next period with three free throws and two field goals from Richardson and a short jumper by Tammy Minyard. The Rebels, however, spread their points out among four players to outscore Pampa 10-9 and take a 31-20 lead at halftime.

Richardson began the second half of play by receiving her fourth foul, but still found the hoop for seven points in the third quarter.

Susan Mitchell sank a three-foot jumper while Tammy Minyard added one free throw to give Pampa 10 points the third quarter.

Tascosa tallied a matching 10 points to keep their 11-point lead at 41-30.

The Rebels' Lisa Dawson racked up eight of those points, while Huenergardt accounted for the other two.

The Lady Harvesters dominated the scoring with 16 points in the last quarter. Numerous turnovers, however, kept the ball interchanged between teams too often for the Harvesters, who provided the hometown crowd with a stirring rally in the closing minutes.

Davis made two jumpers around the baseline, and Melissa Poison repeated the four-point scoring production with 12-footers from opposite sides of the floor. Richardson, Pat Coats and Paula Balwin brought in two additional points each.

The Rebels countered the comeback by sinking three field goals and four free throws in the final period and maintained their five-point lead when the final buzzer went off.

Harvester Coach Mary Thomas said, "There were too many little mistakes."

She also said that the added experience from past games is beginning to show on her players and that she is pleased with their improved performance and continual fighting spirit.

The junior varsity lost a hard-fought game to Tascosa's JV, 28-26.

The scoring for Pampa's junior varsity was spread out among its players whose high scorer, Nicky Poison, had only five points. Karen Ladd and Terri Tyrrell held second place scoring honors with four each.

Assistant Coach Bedkey said that her players hit a low percentage of their shots the first two quarters and played better the third period.

The Pampa girl's varsity and junior varsity teams will be playing at Harvester Field House Feb. 6 against the Palo Duro Dons. Play will begin with the junior varsity game at 6 p.m., and varsity action is scheduled at 7:30 p.m.

This game marks the beginning of second round District 3-AAAA play. The Harvesters lost at their first meeting, 46-35.



BECKY DAVIS (14) puts up a shot over Tascosa's Paula Schniederjan during Pampa's 51-46 setback to the Rebel girls at Harvester Field House Thursday night. The loss dropped the Lady Harvesters to 10-14 on the year and 0-4 in district play. (Pampa News photo by John Price)

Pampa in do or die tilt

Harvester Coach Gary Abercrombie isn't mincing words about the importance of tonight's basketball game against Tascosa.

"It's do or die," Abercrombie said Thursday. "It's not one of those deals where we can lose and say, 'If somebody beats somebody, and if somebody beats somebody we might get in.' We're not going to be in it if we don't beat them."

"If we don't beat them, I don't think anybody else is going to."

The game, scheduled for 7:45 at Harvester Field House,

features the champion and runner-up from District 3-AAAA's first half of play. The Rebels went 4-0, including a 70-53 triumph over the Harvesters Jan. 16, to claim the first-half crown.

Pampa finished 3-1, upped its record to 13-12 with Tuesday night's victory over Caprock and has won three straight since falling at the Rebel gym.

The Harvesters led the Rebs 38-35 at halftime in the first encounter, but fell apart defensively in the second half. Tascosa got a lot of easy shots and outbounced the Harvesters, something Abercrombie hopes his team can shut off tonight.

"The key to beating Tascosa is rebounding," Abercrombie noted. "They've got a lot of people who go to the boards well. We'll have to play good

defense, because all of their players can score pretty well and it's difficult to match up with them."

Both teams enter the game with 1-0 records in the second half of district play. The Rebels dropped Palo Duro Tuesday night to up their overall mark to 20-5 and give themselves a 5-0 mark in district play.

"I think we've got better depth than they do, but that may not

make a whole lot of difference this time of the year," Abercrombie said. "Unless there's foul trouble, most players are in shape to go a whole game by now."

Tonight's contest is the final home game of the year for the Harvesters. They'll complete their regular season schedule at Palo Duro and Amarillo High next week.

Push comes to shove as Razorbacks whip Texas

By The Associated Press

Arkansas stormed back into the Southwest Conference basketball race Thursday night as the 19-ranked Razorbacks thumbed 11th-ranked Texas 68-58 in a bout accented by a rhu-barb between the two opposing coaches.

The loss forced the Longhorns to relinquish their grasp on sole possession of the conference leadership and snapped a 25-game home winning streak. It also dropped Texas to an 8-2 conference mark, identical to Texas A&M. Arkansas is now 6-3 in the league.

Tempers snapped in the spirited rivalry following a collision between an Arkansas player and Texas guard John Moore that prompted a shoving match between Arkansas Coach Eddie Sutton and Longhorn mentor Abe Lemons.

Sutton said after the collision he went up to Moore and said, "John, you're too good to take a cheap shot like that."

And the Arkansas Coach said Lemons then grabbed him by the coat.

"I probably shouldn't have said it and I apologize," said Sutton.

"He (Sutton) has no call to do that to one of my players. He called Moore a dirty player and shoved him. That's not his place. No coach has the right to do something like that," said Lemons.

In the end it was the pinpoint shooting of the Razorbacks that parlayed a slow-down offense into an upset victory.

Sidney Moncrief hit 23 points to lead an Arkansas squad that hit a blazing 62.2 percent of its field goals, compared to a pal-

try 37.5 percent for the Longhorns.

Sutton said his team went into a slow-down offense to wear down Texas physically.

But it wasn't the slow-down offense that drew Lemons' ire, it was the officiating.

"We can't play with people hanging all over us," said Lemons. "They play too rough for us...it really baffles me. I get out of my chair and the official tells me to shut up and sit down. The other guy (Sutton) is running all up and down the sideline. Maybe they think I look meaner and will go out there and choke them."

Lemons added, "There was one official, if they were paying \$100 for every toot on his whistle, he wouldn't have enough for a sucker."

In the only other conference game Thursday, Texas Tech thrashed Rice 78-56.

Lefors Jr. High splits with McLean

MCLEAN — Mike Jackson scored 12 points and Cody Allison added 10 as the Lefors Junior High boys basketball team topped McLean 31-19 Thursday night.

Richard Kidwell added seven points and Billy West two for the Pirates, who will close their season Monday night at Skellytown.

The girls had an improved overall performance but still absorbed a 26-12 setback. Cindy Stubbs led Lefors' scorers with five points, while Angela Stanley and Pam Reames had three apiece and Amy West one.

A pee-wee game scheduled for 5 will kick off Monday night's action at Skellytown.

Semifinals tonight in Optimist cage event

Regular-season champion Pampa No. 1 will tangle with powerful Panhandle tonight in the semifinal round of the Pampa Optimist Girls Invitational Basketball Tournament.

The Pampa team topped St. John's of Borger 35-6 Wednesday night to advance to tonight's game, scheduled for 8, while Panhandle got a pair of wins in the tournament's first two rounds Monday and Tuesday.

In tonight's other semifinal matchup, Pampa No. 2 will take on Pampa No.

3 at 6:30. In the opener at 5, Pampa No. 4 will play St. John's for the right to vie for the consolation championship, scheduled for 5 Saturday night.

In Thursday night's games, Pampa No. 6 fell to Pampa No. 4 29-16 and Skellytown beat Pampa No. 5 23-17.

White Deer and Skellytown will play at 10 Saturday morning to decide the other consolation finalist. The third place game is set for 6:30 Saturday night, with the championship tilt scheduled at 8.

Brown resigns post

DENVER (AP) — Larry Brown, choking back tears at an emotional press conference, announced his resignation as coach of the Denver Nuggets because of health problems.

Assistant coach Donnie Walsh was appointed interim head coach for the remainder of the season, and will direct the team for the first time in San Diego tonight.

"I've been trying to stick with the coaching duties in spite of my physical condition," said Brown at the Thursday night press conference. "But I

really feel it's best for the team and myself that I step down and work to get back on my feet."

Brown, 38, declined to be specific about the nature of his physical ailment. But he said he had been experiencing some chest pains and numbness in his left side for several months.

"I had a checkup today and the doctor said I've got some tension problems — which is an NBA coaches' disease," he said. "Otherwise, I'm in good health."

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Farm prices hit high

By BRIAN B. KING
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — As the tractorcades of the American Agriculture group drove toward Washington last month to protest low farm prices, the prices themselves were setting a new record high and recording the biggest jump in 53 months.

The Agriculture Department reported Wednesday, with some of the caravans within 20 miles of the capital, that the prices farmers received for their raw products as a whole rose 5 percent between the end of December and the end of January.

The price report, regularly issued on the last day of each month, came a week after Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland disclosed that net farm income rose 40 percent in 1978 and farmers' net

equity increased 11 percent.

Bergland noted that while statistics do not reflect the hard times of many individuals, they do show trends and averages.

The Crop Reporting Board said price increases of 26 percent for vegetables and 9 percent for meat animals led the way. Soybeans prices also rose, while cotton, eggs and orange prices fell slightly.

Damage to lettuce crops, for example, sent prices up by \$10 to \$22.60 per 100 pounds and nationwide average prices for all beef cattle went up 37 cents a pound on the hoof to a new record of \$59.80 per 100 pounds.

Milk stayed at the record level of \$11.80 per hundredweight that was set in December.

Even though production costs, taxes, interest and

regular consumer items increased 3 percent from December, the report showed the theoretical balance between prices and costs to be even for the first time since mid-1976, using an index based on 1967 prices.

The board said that farm prices were up 25 percent from January 1978, while over-all costs for farm families were up 11 percent.

Revised figures in the new report showed farm prices in December, up 22.7 percent from a year earlier, broke the all-time record set in August 1973, instead of matching it as reported at the time.

The commodity price index was 232 percent of a 1967 base used as a standard, compared to 222 percent the month before and the previous peak of 221 percent.

The parity ratio for farm commodities was 75 percent,

compared to 74 in December and 67 a year ago, the board said. At 100 percent, the parity indicator would mean that farmers theoretically had the buying power farmers had in 1910-14.

Farm prices dropped in July 1978 after a nine-month climb, rose again in September and October and then slipped before starting the present escalation, which is expected to help produce a 1979 retail food price rise of 6 percent to 10 percent.

Food prices rose about 10 percent last year. A 6.3 percent hike in 1977 was largely due to imported coffee prices and increased costs for manufacturers and retailers.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Improving the sales of U.S. farm products to Japan will require extraordinary efforts and fundamental

changes in the Japanese government's attitude, a congressional task force concludes.

U.S. negotiators last year were finally able to secure agreements allowing more U.S. beef into Japan, where farmers and ranchers fiercely protect their markets from imports.

That indicated progress, the task force said, but stiff barriers are still in place for beef, citrus, tobacco products and leather goods.

The three members of the House Ways and Means Committee said in a report Wednesday that neither members of Congress who favor protectionist trade policies nor the Japanese, at whom such sentiments are aimed seem to understand that opportunities now exist for improving the trade balance.

The task force has been

monitoring U.S.-Japan trade since the spring and went to Japan for talks in November.

Rep. Bill Frenzel, R-Minn., said, "I don't believe they have really understood our message. And there is little evidence that either the U.S. or the Japanese government will implement policies to effectively deal with our trade problems."

"Our trade relations are at a tenuously improved but critical point," said Rep. James R. Jones, D-Okla., who chaired the task force.

WASHINGTON (AP) — As of Monday, the government had almost 2 million tons of sugar from the 1977 and 1978 crops stored under \$604.2 million worth of outstanding price-support loans.

Twenty-eight processors have sugar under loan, American Crystal, with \$93.1

million, and Great Western, at \$85.2 million, account for almost 30 percent of the amount outstanding.

That concentration and the general cost of the program to the government will be among the major issues when sugar legislation is debated this spring.

Since Congress restored a sugar program in late 1977, processors have forfeited on 170,890 tons, a report this week said. They have redeemed loans covering 884,711 tons.

Of the amount under loans that have not yet come due, about 57.5 percent is beet sugar, the report showed.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Egypt will be buying \$12.6 million worth of U.S. wheat flour under a new Food for Peace sales agreement, the Agriculture Department announced Wednesday.

Planes need 'smut' section

By HUGH A. MULLIGAN
AP Special Correspondent
OVER THE GULF OF MEXICO (AP) — Flying down to Mexico, the stu got on the horn to announce which in flight movies had been mandated for our compulsory viewing.

In the aft cabin it will be "Somebody Killed Her Husband" with Farrah Fawcett-Majors," she intoned, "and in the forward cabin it will be "Hooper" with Burt Reynolds. Except she renamed it "hooker," which raised some leering expectations among the macho oil workers in the smoking section.

"Both movies," she added, "are rated PG — parental guidance."

There were a number of urchins abroad. I looked around to see if any of the parents were stuffing them under the seats with the carry-on luggage.

Maybe declining to rent the carphones at \$2.50 a set might be a partial exercise in parental guidance, but even with the sound shut off there was no getting away from the picture. The seats didn't swivel in the direction of the tail, and leaving the reading light on or the window blind up was considered an anti-social act that brought a stern reproof from Big Sister on the microphone.

Sixteen priests heading down to a conference of Latin Ameri-

can bishops squirmed perceptibly behind their Roman collars and settled back for simulated naps as the title credits for "Hooper" flashed on the screen in that dark aluminum tunnel.

It was a moderately amusing and adventurous flick about Hollywood stunt men.

The characters for the most part were amiably violent people who munched a number of four-letter rudities which have become fashionable on the silver screen.

This is called an adult movie because adults are supposed to talk like that all the time. However, if anyone on board had started using the language heard on the sound track, the pilot would have been summoned from the flight deck to make a command decision about cutting off his or her boozie ration.

Over the Gulf of Mexico, the weather turned frightful. The pilot put the seatbelts and rafts-under-the-seat sign on. The screen started bouncing about in a most ominous way, as if by lightning and thunder God's scriptwriters had decided to expunge some of the racy dialogue.

All 16 priests had their reading lights on and their briefcases out on the serving tables. At 40,000 feet, up there on God's turf, a lot of white knuckle flyers get nervous about meeting their Maker fresh from a risqué show or its parentally guided Hollywood equivalent.

The plane bucked and bumped and shuddered with a terribly tinny sound, as Burt took the deity's name in vain. High altitude chop and clear air turbulence, the pilot called it. The priests shook their heads knowingly or at least two of them did.

Maybe what the airlines require at time like this, for the comfort of their passengers, is a "Smut" and a "No-Smut" section for content of mandatory in-flight movies.

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Papa Bear

It was way back in 1920 that a young player named George Halas organized a professional football team called the Decatur Staleys. In 1921 the Staleys moved to Chicago, and a year later Halas renamed them the Chicago Bears. Halas played end on the team through its first 10 seasons, at the same time working as head coach. He went on to lead the Bears to six National Football League titles, before retiring from coaching for the last time in 1968. Today "Papa Bear," who is still very much involved with the team he formed almost 60 years ago, turns 84. He remains the Bears' chairman of the board.

DO YOU KNOW — Which Bears player holds the NFL record for yards rushing in a single game?

THURSDAY'S ANSWER — Hibernation is the sleep-like state in which some animals spend the winter.
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