INSIDE

Special Section
The section commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, and the open house of Snyder Brick & Tile

WT-Int. Crude - $34.88
WTIC Posted - $32.00
Natural Gas - $6.016

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY

Nov. 15, 2000
Vol. 52 No. 170
32 Pages 50¢

Home of Brittany Scott



CORN IS GREEN — Snyder High School's Drama Department will present "The Corn Is Green" Thursday through Sunday in Worsham Auditorium. Curtain time Thursday through Saturday is 7:30 p.m. A 2 p.m. matinee is planned Sunday. In this scene, local coal miner boys gather at the new school in the village. From left are Tim Gutierrez as Idwal; Brandon McCraw as Morgan Evans; Emily Vinson, Ralph Ramon as Robbart; Jesse Haines as Glyn. Admission is $4 for students and $5 for adults. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

HEPA files lawsuit to stop Air Force's area training plan

Members of HEPA, a group opposed to the U.S. Air Force conducting low-level flying operations over an eight-county area, said earlier this year that the only way to make the Air Force comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and to block the training is to file suit.

On Tuesday, the group did just that.

The Heritage Environmental Preservation Association was joined by 19 other plaintiffs to seek an injunction against the Air Force to prevent the USAF from establishing the Realistic Bomber Training Initiative (RBTI) over the area that includes Scurry County.

The suit contends that the training would not only affect the immediate eight-county area, but 20 other West Texas counties and two in New Mexico.

The lead attorney for the group, Frank Bond of Albuquerque, said the lawsuit contends that the Air Force prepared an inadequate environmental impact statement, didn't take into account military aircraft already flying in the area, failed to take into consideration the noise the B1 and B-52 bombers would generate, and failed to consider the impact on the city of Lubbock's air space.

As approved, the RBTI covers about 10 million acres of private land in Texas and New Mexico.

"This land would become a low-level training ground for the bombers to practice war games night and day, year-round," said one of the plaintiffs, John Oudt, a Scurry County rancher.

The suit was filed in Federal District Court in Lubbock. Other plaintiffs are Buster Welch, Lesa Oudt, John Dirik Oudt, Cindy Ann Spires, Susan Spires Ruch, Judge Bobby McGough, John Richard Anderson, John M. Ward, Nonnie Ward and Jimmy Sterling.

Others are J.M. Sterling, Mark W. Kirkpatrick, Leola Wallace, Susan Wallace, Bert Wallace, Dr. Ted Pridmore, Randy Murphree and John Boswell.

HEPA was founded in 1998 when the Air Force made its plans known that a flight-training area was being considered for this area.

The founder of HEPA, Buster Welch of Rotan, has been outspoken in his opposition to the Air Force's plans.

"It is outrageous that a government entity could circumvent our environmental laws and threaten our livelihoods," said Welch. "If the Air Force is allowed to go ahead with this low-level training, it will endanger the lives and way of life of thousands of Texas citizens."

"The only thing that can save us now is federal court," emphasized Welch.

Welch and his group have always said that they are in favor of a well-trained Air Force, but the training should occur over government-owned land.

"They already have low-level training grounds and they should just continue to use what they have now. You wouldn't think this kind of thing could happen in America. It's my worst nightmare come to life," said Welch.

While anticipating the lawsuit, the Air Force has contracted with Scurry County to lease land at Winston Field for the construction of a building, which would serve as the receiving station for all the flight data over the training site.

In addition to constructing the Winston Field building, the Air Force has said as many as 33 jobs would be created with the training site.

The bombers would fly over this area from Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, and Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana.

"It's just a crime what they're wanting to do to our ranches, livestock operations and peaceful way of life," said Welch.

"They wouldn't do this over Abilene, and Abilene is the only community that stands to benefit from this program," said Welch.

THE SDN COLUMN

By Roy McQueen

The feller on Deep Creek says, "The rear-view mirror always appears more clear than the windshield."

Inside today's edition is a special progress section relating to Snyder and Scurry County.

The focus of the issue is the 50th anniversary of the Colorado River Municipal Water District and the grand re-opening of Snyder Brick and Tile.

The special section contains a lot more positive news. It may be surprising to some, but in spite of a prolonged drought and uncertainties of the oil patch and the announced closing of Walls, economic conditions in Snyder are amazingly strong.

Oil prices hovering around $30 per barrel have not caused the traditional oil patch boom, but it has kept people working. And improved technology has changed the face of some of the traditional oilfield jobs.

An impressive economic force in Scurry County is Patterson Petroleum, headquartered in a modern and well-maintained headquarters facility on the Lamesa highway.

The Patterson Energy payroll has 2,800 employees, 250 of which are our neighbors right here in Snyder. In addition, Patterson pays local taxes and purchases goods and services from other businesses in the county.

While the oil patch is still a bread and butter industry in Scurry County, we are also blessed with increased diversification.

Lorber Industry continues to employ some 50 people in a state-of-the art textile plant. And don't forget about another nifty manufacturing facility, YZ Industries, which last year was purchased by Milton Roy, a United Technologies Company. Don't be surprised to see YZ's role in manufacturing expand, right here in Snyder. And developments at Farmer's Design can also be a boost to the local economy.

And since 1984, the old brick plant has been an eyesore. Given new life by a group of investors, visitors will be impressed with the looks and the product of Snyder Brick and Tile. It's truly been an amazing transformation of the facility, resulting in the creation of 65 new jobs.

And Snyder's association with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice continues to be a win-win situation. In addition to the 1,335-bed Price Daniel unit, Snyder is home of the regional warehouse and distribution center and for the regional office of the TDCJ's Windham school. The prison payroll exceeds $12 million annually.

A new post office is under construction, 37th Street is being rebuilt, city water lines are being replaced, school plants are getting needed maintenance, bank deposits remain strong, workforce education continues to grow at WTC and the county's unemployment rate is only 4.2 percent. And we have a reliable supply of another precious commodity – water.

Things may have been better, but for a West Texas community, Snyder is in pretty darn good shape!

FFA members rack up honors

With little rest from national competition, Snyder FFA students began their quest to qualify for next year's nationals by competing in the Lone Wolf District contest in Borden County.

Competing against 11 schools from around the district, Snyder had to place first or second to advance to the area competition which will be held Saturday at Howard College in Big Spring.

The results from the district contest are as follows

The senior quiz team placed first. Members are Cassie Guerrero, first high point individual; Jacinda Judah, second high point individual; andCindy Nachlinger, third high point individual.

The junior quiz team also finished first and team members are Amanda Greenwood, first high individual; David Rodriguez, second high point individual; and Kamie Drain, sixth high point individual.

The public relations team, made up of Cassie Callaway, Dana Stribling, Shannon Chambers and Pace Millhollon, also took top honors.

The junior chapter conducting team placed first also. Team members are Shana Blackard, Ashlye Amox, Chance Tatum, Isidro Gutierrez, J.J. Mandrell, Corey Longorio, Zach Cain and Ty Collier.

The senior chapter conducting team earned first place as well. Those members are Dana Stribling, Kasey Wemken, Morgan Miller, Riley Tatum, Jennifer Williamson, Zach Billingsley, Cliff Beights and Bradley Bynum.

Two students also earned first place individual honors. T'Leah Eicke won first in job interview and Riley Tatum garnered first place in senior creed speaking. Others placing in that category were Shannon Chambers, fourth; and Heather Crawford, sixth.

The ag issues forum team earned second. Members include Cliff Beights, T'Leah Eicke, Kristin York, Brodie Pierce, Kasey Wemken, Brandy Shafer, Jenna Neff and Allison Canon.

The radio team placed third and members are Malorye Miller, Casey Blackard and Megan Anderson.

The senior skills team came in third and that squad was made up of Will Henderson, Shawn Pesina, John Ryan Rasmus and Laci Hackfeld.

The junior skills team finished third. Members include Holly Cagle, Marci Krueger and Victor Zanatta.

Placing in the junior creed event were Gerrico Greenlee, fourth place; Amanda Whisenhunt, sixth place; and J.J. Mandrell, eighth place.

Snyder FFA chapter advisers are David Frazier and Mike Williams.

Area wardens to meet here

The corrections division of the continuing education department at Western Texas College will be hosting the Region V wardens meeting Thursday.

Some 60 people are expected to attend the event, which is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

John Gilbert, Region V director from Huntsville, will also attend the meeting.

Cogdell OB to host open house today

Cogdell Memorial Hospital will host an open house of its obstetrical department from 4 until 6 p.m. today.

Activities will include a tour of the hospital's obstetric department and the hospital's Stork Club booth, plus information will be available on epidurals and childbirth classes.

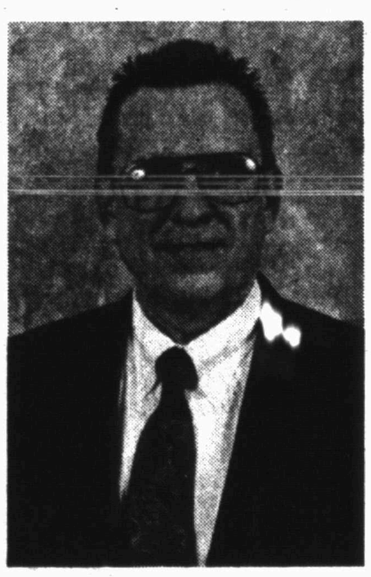
Other information will be available on the WIC Program, breast feeding, women's health and the metabolic/PKU testing of infants.

There will be refreshments and door prizes given.

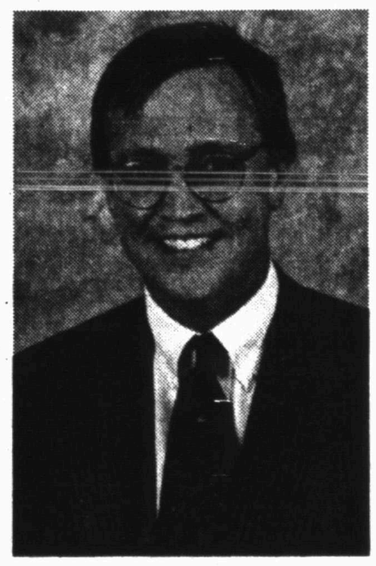
The hospital staff invites the community to meet its obstetrical department staff, including physicians Dr. James Burleson, Dr. Bid Cooper, Dr. Paul Thompson and Dr. Robert Rakov.



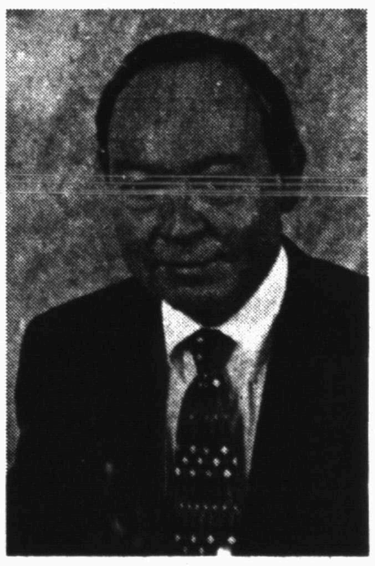
Dr. Robert Rakov



Dr. Bid Cooper



Dr. James Burleson



Dr. Paul Thompson

ASK US

Q—How much does it cost to rent Tiger Stadium for playoff games?

A—For the stadium, workers'fees and trophies, just over $1,000.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Tuesday, 54 degrees; low, 26; 7 a.m. Wednesday, 40; no precipitation; total for 2000, 20.15 inches.

Area Forecast: Tonight, partly cloudy, low, lower 30s, SW wind 10-20 mph. Thursday, partly cloudy, high mid 50s, NE wind 10-20 mph.



T.J. Wright
Partly Cloudy

Sunset:
5:46 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:13 a.m.
Of 319 days in 2000, the sun has shone 313 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

Everything is funny as long as it is happening to somebody else.
—Will Rogers

MP3.com settles with Universal

NEW YORK (AP) — In agreeing to pay $53.4 million to Universal Music Group, MP3.com ended its legal dispute with the last of five major music makers and secured a licensing agreement that permits the online music service to use songs owned by the world's largest record company.

The deal with Universal Music Group was announced Tuesday as testimony began in the damages phase of a federal trial that had already determined MP3.com willfully violated Universal's copyrights.

Under the settlement, Universal will also get the right to buy a stake in MP3.com, MP3.com chief executive Michael Robertson said.

"Our shareholders should be excited about today's development," Robertson said. "It gets us out of the courtroom and into the business of delivering digital music."

The company had earlier reached settlements with the four other major companies — Warner Music Group, BMG, EMI and Sony Music Entertainment — and had arranged licensing deals with each of them.

The overall amount of the settlements has not been disclosed, but Robertson said it falls within the $170 million the company set aside for legal costs.

Hadrian Katz, Universal's lawyer, declined to comment outside court.

In a joint statement issued by the companies, Universal President Zach Horowitz said his company had "pursued this case to send a strong message that copyrights will be protected and that copyright owners and artists need to be properly compensated for their work."

"It was never our intent to put MP3.com out of business with a judgment so large that it would threaten their viability as a company," he said. "We support the development of legitimate music businesses on the Internet."

MP3.com was sued by the record labels over its My.MP3.com service, which allows computer users to listen to CDs over the Internet. Members must first prove they paid for the recording by briefly inserting the CD into a computer's CD-ROM drive.

U.S. District Judge Jed S. Rakoff ruled in September that MP3.com had intentionally violated the copyrights of the music companies. He awarded Universal $25,000 per CD — or up to $250 million by Universal's count.

Under Tuesday's settlement, Robertson said, Universal will buy warrants for the rights to buy MP3.com stock. MP3.com stock rose 63 cents, or 18 percent, to $4 on the Nasdaq Stock Market.

Hilary Rosen, president of the Recording Industry Association of America, said the deal between Universal and MP3.com will "drive home the point that the marketplace for legitimate music on the Internet really works."

Some lawsuits with smaller labels remain to be resolved but were not expected to be a threat to MP3.com's ability to stay in business.

My.MP3.com differs from the wildly popular file-swapping method employed by Napster, in which users share their music over the Internet while Napster serves as the clearinghouse.

Last month, media giant Bertelsmann said it would join with Napster in developing a membership-based music distribution system that will guarantee royalties to artists.

Other music industry giants have sued Napster in federal court for copyright infringement and sought to have the service shut down.

Scooter firm gets restraining order against its competitors

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A company that distributes some of the hottest-selling scooters has won a restraining order against rival companies that are accused of a patent violation.

A federal judge issued the temporary restraining order Tuesday against 12 companies that make or sell aluminum scooters similar to ones distributed by Razor USA.

The judge issued the order at the request of Razor, which sued 16 makers and distributors of rival scooters, claiming the companies violated a recently issued patent on a key design component. Razor also said they copied distinctive features of its scooters in an attempt to confuse consumers.

The order prohibits the companies from making or selling the scooters through Dec. 4, when a hearing is scheduled on a preliminary injunction that would extend the ban until a trial could be held.

Razor reached out-of-court agreements with several companies Tuesday, leaving 12 defendants.

Razor, based in Cerritos, Calif., sells scooters made by Taiwan-based JD Corp. It was assigned a U.S. patent on Oct. 31 for the rear fender of its scooter, which acts as a brake when stepped on. The next day, the company filed its patent infringement lawsuit.

In September, the Razor was the top-selling toy in the nation based on total sales, according to the NPD Group, which tracks toy sales.

On the Net:
Razor USA:
http://www.razorusa.com
NPD Group:
http://www.npd.com

events

RESULTS

Cash Five

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Tuesday by the Texas Lottery:
13-17-23-26-32

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday by the Texas Lottery, in order:
8-7-1

Writers guild seeks poems, limmericks

The Mesquite Country Writers Guild is seeking original poems and limmericks (3) to be published in the Jan.-March issue of "Bards of a Feather." The deadline is today. All submissions should be mailed to MCWG, 9221 S. Hwy 208, Hermleigh, Tex. 79526 or e-mailed to dade@bigcountry.net.

Dr. Jones attends meeting

HOUSTON — Dr. Milissa Jones of Snyder ISD, joined more than 2,000 counseling and human development professionals from across the state earlier this month at the 2000 Conference of the Texas Counseling Association.

Dr. Jones, assistant superintendent for Snyder Independent School District, participated in skill-building workshops and learning programs focusing on the most-up-to-date issues and techniques in the field of counseling and human development.

The theme of this year's conference was "Lift Off 2000: One Vision, One Mission, One Voice." Helping TCA to celebrate that theme as featured speakers were Rosa Guerrero and Toody Byrd.

Ira Awards

Ira School students who earned perfect attendance for the second six weeks are as follows.

Kindergarten: Holly Juarez.

First grade: Michael Bennett, Jacob Elam, Cristian Ornelas, Brandee Pinkerton, Conner Smith.

Second grade: Amber Baker, Jacob Cox, Kylor Fine, Steven Juarez, Isaac Martin, Paul Martinez, Lupe Ornelas.

Third grade: Colby Barrera, B.J. Botts, Reyez Juarez, John Martini.

Fourth grade: Austin Calley, Leeja Mauldin, Shandy McMullen, Andy Rivera, Seth Sanchez, Ismael Tavarez, Brittany Taylor.

Fifth grade: Tony Martini.

Seventh grade: Brittany Dickerhoff, Travis Frey, Amanda Green, Kerry Jamison, Adam Rivera.

Eighth grade: Shea Allen, Wesley Kellner, Cody Lomax, Amber Sanchez, Justin Taylor.

Ninth grade: Amanda Calley, Vanessa Espinoza, Stephan Kirk, Suzie Pendergrass, Vicki Rivera, Bubba Walker.

Tenth grade: Bea Aguinaga, Colter Brown, Kali Clements, Tyler Frey, Timothy Huddleston, Casey Kellner, Amy Strong.

Eleventh grade: Kendra Krop.

Twelfth grade: Morgan Clements, Mikanna Herring.

Stanfield Awards

The following students at Stanfield earned perfect attendance for the second six weeks.

They include Amber Diaz, Kaitlin Bernal, Jakiya Davis, Jeannie Dean, Victoria Jaramillo, Blake Redman, Timothy Sifuentes, Priscilla DeLuna, Bethany Iglehart, Kristopher Wright, Christopher Brasher, Bresharre Davis, Allison Downing, Caleb Green, Georgette Gunderson, Joel Torres, Breanna Benitez, Sabrina Castillo, Darren Escobedo, Danny Gunderson, Ethan Head, Krista Nussy, Megan Murdock, Stephen Smith, Chevy Wagner, Ramsey Alarcon, Miranda Benitez, Kyler Billingsley, Nathan Burney, Bridget Davis, Nolan Duzan, Taylor Duzan, Kristal Gomez, Timothy Igelhart, Jasmine Jackson, Jordan Olvera, Kaitlin Bass, Dylan Early.

Others are Deidre Foree, Demetri Gunderson, Amanda Gutierrez, Louisa Guzman, Darlene Kaska, Kaylee Lord, Shade Roemisch, Lieren Tindol, Kimberlin Willson, Michael Brasher, Angel Guerrero, Maranda Guynes, Meagen Robbins, Juan Ruiz, Chelsea Russell, Nelson Sears, Logan Tabor, Brayden Culwell, Rosanan Arellano, Ana Cabrera, Frida Corona, Jose Estrada, Geovanny Facio, Elsa Gallegos, Liliana Hernandez, Myrka Infante, Juan Medina, Lizeth Olivarez, Tania Rodriguez, Aeric Batchelor, Kevin Bowers, Jonathan Craig, Taylor Freeman, Justin Gonzales, Kaitlin Horton, Anthony Lopez, Shanerica McGaha, Priscilla Molinar, Nick Morin, Tri Nguyen.

Also, Jessica Pineda, Melinda Worley, Sarah Cearley, Kelissa Craig, Cassie Gunset, Eddy Herrera, Jordan McGuire, Laura Reigh, Jordan Tippens, Dillon West, Eboni Jackson, Lauren Sullivan, Alex Alcala, Jacob Breedlove, Shawn Burns, Ally Cooper, Brandi Espinoza, Lupe Garza, Carrie Harlan, Troy Henry, Jessica Ibarra, Emma Nunley, Brianne Perry, Ozzy Rains, Lindsey Reston, Leslie Rosas, Kanesha Anderson, Taylor Carroll, Colten Clark, Crystal Hernandez, Alex Hook, Michaela Jaramillo, Baily Jones, Skylar Jones, Jesse Rivera, Caedra Robbins, Jonathan Castaneda, Taran Clemmens, Heather Crawford, Michael Garza.

Also, Brittany Miller, Sabrina Moss, Macy Rodriguez, Briana Rose, Chris Ward, Amanda Daves, Ricky Deluna, Paden Kinney, Baylee Lewis, Nicole Molter, Ethan Nakamura, Xalee Northcutt, Collin Parsons, Taylar Presley, Samantha Rogers, Scott Smith, Michelle Vasquez, Kelton Garcia, Melisa Chhuor, Jdee Early, Ayeshia Greathouse, Jason Mendoza, Skye Moffett, Roy Mojica, Skylar Morris, Tyler Sawyer, Anthony Taylor, Will Toombs, Kelsi Williams, Edward Yruegas, Chris Aguilar, Luceio Espizaza, Chad Greene, Angie Hendandez, Freddy Lopez, Jordan Rodriguez, Tara Stafford.

Clinton signs to come down

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — Visitors to Arkansas next year will no longer be greeted by signs welcoming them to the "Home of President Bill Clinton."

Dozens of signs along the state border will be removed or painted over with a new message after Clinton leaves office in January, the Arkansas Highway Commission said Tuesday.

Longtime Clinton foe Jim Parsons, who has lobbied to remove the signs, said his nagging finally paid off.

"The people maybe do have an influence. If we speak out, perhaps we can turn Arkansas around," he said.

Highway official Dan Flowers said the decision was a purely practical one.

"The president's term is up and we believe it is an appropriate time to make that change," he said. Other states have removed presidential welcome signs after a transfer of power.

Clinton this summer moved a step closer to his post-White House life, changing his voter registration from Arkansas to New York, where he and the first lady have bought a house.

Hillary Rodham Clinton last week became New York's senator-elect and is expected to live in Washington, D.C., and in the Clintons' new home in Chappaqua.

Arkansas has 80 state border signs welcoming visitors to Clinton country, with another 18 marking the four towns where he once lived.

Some of the signs may go to museums, including Clinton's presidential library planned for Little Rock.

Berry's World



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"THEY'VE GOT ETHNIC PROFILING. THEY'VE GOT RACIAL PROFILING. THE NEXT THING YA KNOW, THEY'LL HAVE GOOD-OL'-BOY PROFILING."

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

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Wade Warren, Managing Editor
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to use for republication all news dispatches in this newspaper and also local news published for republication of special dispatches.

Share the warmth in Snyder this holiday season, with the Snyder Oaks & Snyder Health Care Nursing Homes.

Suggested Donations
Twin Size Blankets (new)
Socks (6pks)
and/or Lotion (24oz.)
(Equivalent to a $15.00 value or more)

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SJHS to present two plays for the price of one Friday

Two for the price of one; that's what theatre-goers will get Friday night at Snyder Junior School when the drama department presents two plays.

The first will be a new entry, "Nightmare At The Junior High," which begins at 7 p.m. It lasts approximately 50 minutes, and will be followed with a repeat staging of "Cinderella."

Tickets are $3 each and may be purchased in advance or at the door.

"Nightmare" is a series of short stories, tales of terror inspired by junior high students. Students have various nightmares including the mashed potato blob and a girl being chased by Mad Dog Mulligan. Other nightmares concern teachers dissecting students and a girl who dreams she is dead.

"Cinderella" is based on an earlier version of the popular fairy tale, not the Walt Disney's movie.



NIGHTMARE — Snyder Junior High School's Drama Department will present "Nightmare at the Junior High" Friday at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium. Tickets are $3. "Cinderella" will follow. In this scene from "Nightmare," students have been attacked by zombies. In front are, Lacey Kincaid, Lesli Jackson, Kelly Moore and Casey Pierce. In back are, Candace McClintock, Jessica Davis, Walter Ezell, Adam Sauceda, Phillip Rice, Sarah Crawford, Christy Essery, Natasha Evans. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)



WTC PLAY — Western Texas College will present two Christmas plays Thursday through Sunday. "Rudolf: The Day After" will be first on the stage, followed by "Christmas Crisis At Mistletoe Mesa." In this scene from "Mistletoe," Mamma, left, played by Damon Early, convinces Happy Holiday, played by Chris Jones, to sign over the deed to his land. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Proposed rule would increase speed of rear crash tests

WASHINGTON (AP) — Automobiles would have to pass two higher-speed crash tests to be sold in the United States under rules proposed by Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater that are designed to reduce post-crash vehicle fires.

Although vehicle fires only occur in about 1 percent of crashes, 4 percent of the people killed inside a vehicle in 1998 were in a crash involving fire, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Joan Claybrook, president of consumer advocacy group Public Citizen, said her group has been pushing for the higher-speed test for years. She said at today's higher speed limits rear-end collisions can puncture the back of the gas tank and easily start a fire.

"This is long overdue and I'm pleased they are moving on it," she said.

Instead of the current rear crash using a flat, rigid barrier at 30 mph, the proposed test would use a barrier more representative of a typical vehicle's front end at a speed of 50 mph.

The side impact fuel system integrity test would be upgraded from 20 mph using the rigid barrier to 33.5 mph using the new less rigid barrier.

NHTSA estimates up to 7 million new vehicles would be affected by the proposal at a cost of $5 or less per vehicle. The estimate of benefits ranges from 8 to 21 lives saved annually.

WTC sets 2 Christmas plays

Western Texas College will present two Christmas plays this week. The student director is Angel Ociel Castelan. "Rudolf the Day After" will take to the stage first, followed by "Christmas Crisis at Mistletoe Mesa." A 10-minute intermission between plays is also planned.

The action begins at 8 p.m. Thursday in the Fine Arts Theatre. Additional performances are set for 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The final show will be a 2:30 matinee on Sunday.

Ticket prices include $5 for adults and $3 for students and senior citizens.

Castelan said "Rudolf The Day After" is a sketch comedy, and delves into what happens to Rudolf after the Great Ride on Christmas Eve. It examines in a funny way how Rudolf changes and the repercussions those changes have on his friends.

Castelan describes "Christmas Crisis at Mistletoe Mesa" as a "melodrama and over-the-top, western comedy/Christmas play."

A mother and her son want to take over the town, so they decide to ban Christmas. The heros have to "save the day."

The resignation of Dr. Helen Cogan, who had been the drama instructor for two years, put the drama department on hold.

In "Rudolf: The Day After," written by Marcel Nunis, Trey Shirley plays Rudolf and Cody Slatton is Santa. Other characters are Vern, played by Thomas Lowery; Sheila, Amber Atkinson; Morty, Justin Guy; Guido, Wes Hardin; Donner, Jeff Ellis; Blitzen, Chris Jones.

In "Christmas Crisis at Mistletoe Mesa," written by R. Eugene Jackson, Cody Slatton plays a bully. Diedra West is Tiny Kim; Chris Jones, Happy Holiday; Damon Early, Mama Grunch; Kris Hollis and Thomas Lowery, Ebenezer Grunch; Amber Atkinson, Holly Bush; Cody Slatton, Chief Dashing Through Snow; Justin Guy, prospector; Kara Babcock, SHS senior, plays Mary Christmas.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO OUR
OPEN HOUSE
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2000
OPENING REMARKS - 10:00 A.M.
TOURS: BEGINNING 10:30 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

"THANKS TO THE CITIZENS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS OF SNYDER FOR HELPING US MAKE OUR DREAM A REALITY. WE'RE GLAD TO BE HERE."

SNYDER BRICK & TILE
3097 BRICK PLANT ROAD

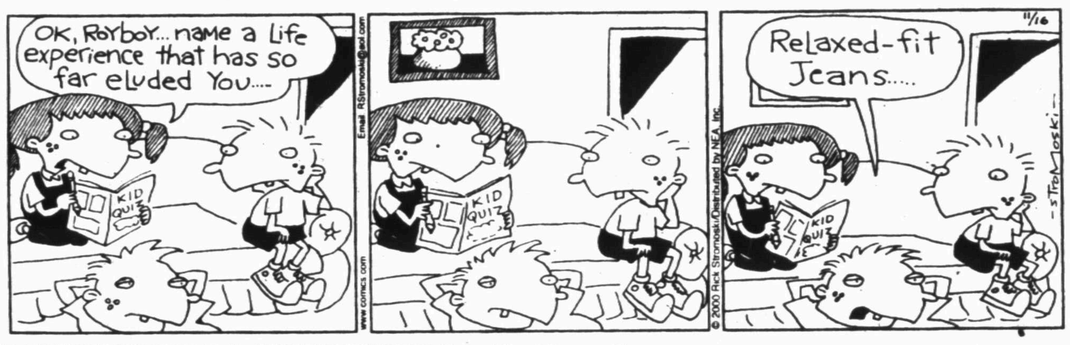
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THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom



SOUP TO NUTZ ® by Rick Stromoski



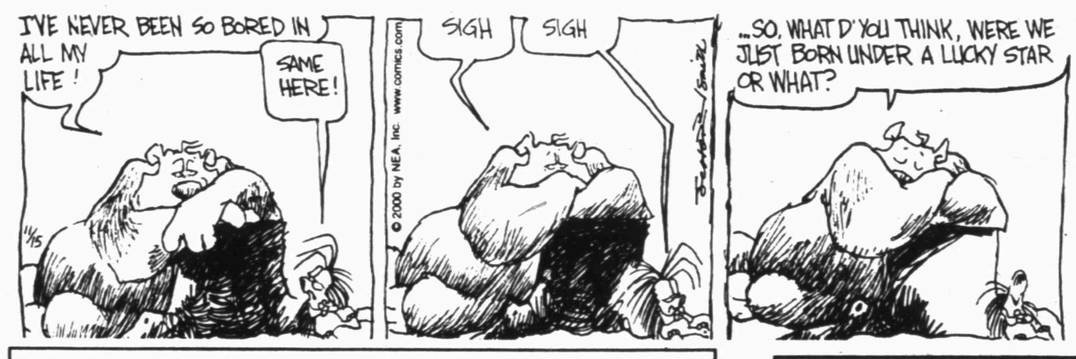
BARNEY GOOGLE & SNUFFY SMITH © by Fred Laswell



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THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Redford's frequent co-star
7 Office worker
13 Take a breath
14 Restaurant worker
15 Pasta piece
16 Realm
17 Red — — beet
18 Female antelope
20 Collector's goal
21 Greeted an officer
25 Shoulder ornament
28 Not at all
32 Savage
33 Skillful deceit
34 Social group
35 Tropical basket fiber
36 Like a goose?
37 Winter apple
39 Gets away
41 Those with power
44 Get older
45 Sun, e.g.
48 Closer
51 Four-leaf —
54 New-teacher's goal
55 Make fizzy
56 Give these to 14 Across
57 Used a fan

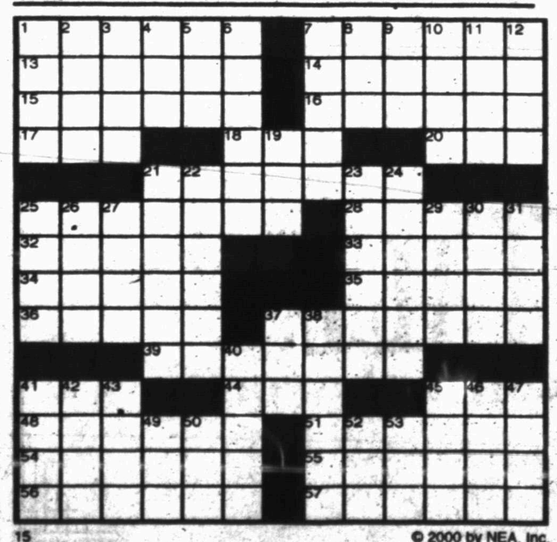
DOWN

1 1492 ship
2 Biblical name
3 "Stop, Silver!"
4 Insane
5 Everything
6 Pine leaf
7 Bird call
8 Sweet potato
9 Fruit seed
10 "How sweet — —"
11 Dried up
12 Allowance for waste
19 Word on a maze
21 Liable to litigation
22 Service streets
23 Motor
24 Drenches
25 Salamanders
26 Persian elf
27 Seed covering
29 Top 40 items
30 Cook's pot
31 Cry
37 Funny person
38 Medicinal root
40 Is concerned
41 Division word
42 — -do-well
43 Hourglass fill
45 Racetrack shape
46 Nerve network
47 Raised
49 Wish undone
50 Sin
52 Zodiac sign
53 Spanish gold

Answer to Previous Puzzle

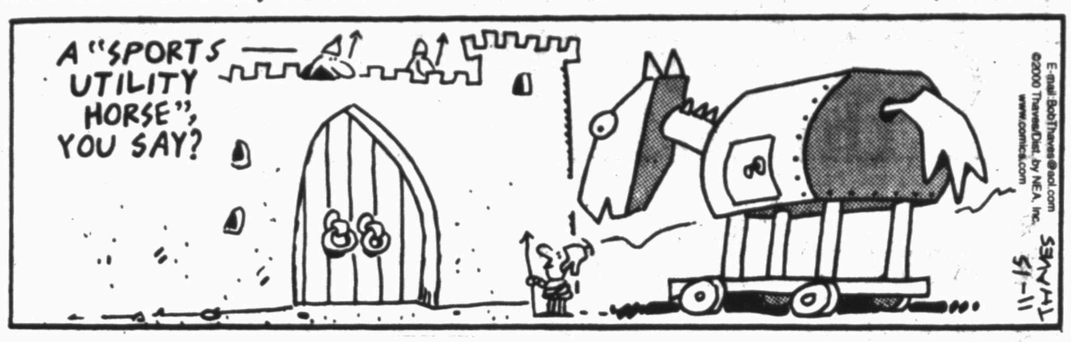
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	E	Y	R	E				E	L	S	I	E

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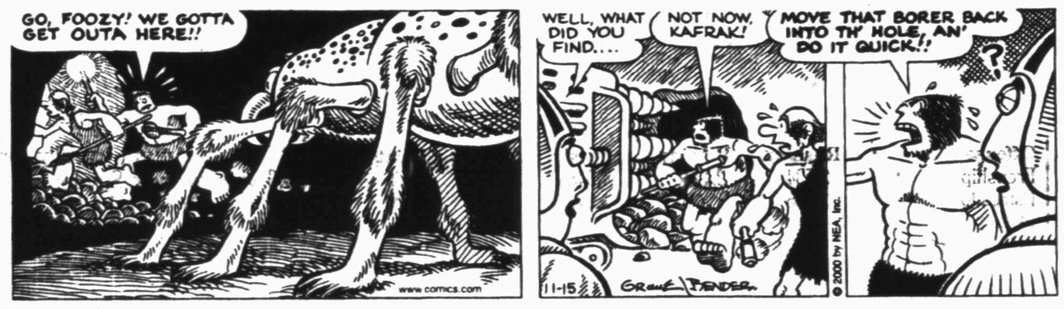
BIG NATE ® by Lincoln Peirce



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BETTY ™ by Delainey & Rasmussen

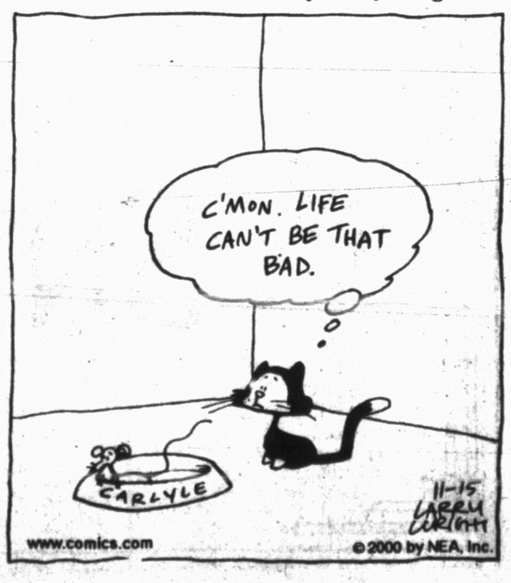


HERMAN ® by Jim Unger



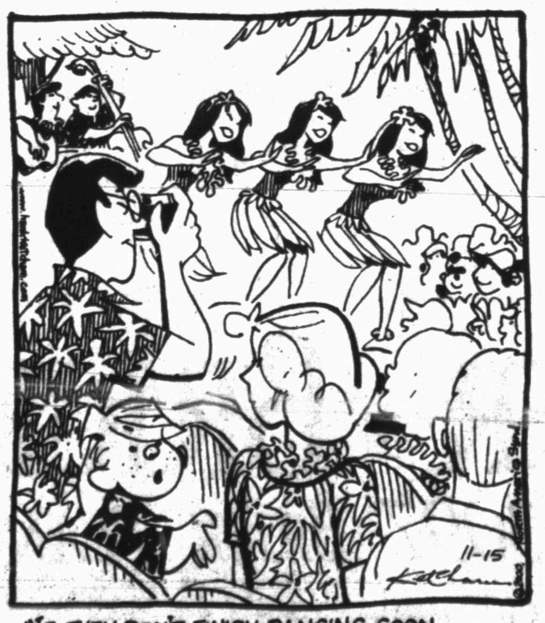
"Anyone know where I can find the gift shop?"

KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright



Snyder Daily News Comics

DENNIS THE MENACE ® by Hank Ketcham



SPORTS

Lady Tigers dismantle Midland Lee, 67-37

By Eric Drennan
Sports Editor

Since their last meeting a year ago, it was obvious early on that these were teams headed in the opposite direction.

The Snyder Lady Tigers avenged last year's loss to Midland Lee with a 67-37 thumping of the Lady Rebels in Tuesday night's basketball season opener at the SHS gym.

The victory was proof of how far the Lady Tigers have come under the direction of second-year Snyder coach Sam Tipton. Snyder trailed for only one minute of the game, and dominated the action on both ends of the floor.

"I think the first half was possibly the best two quarters of basketball ever played by a girls' team at Snyder," said Tipton. "Our girls put on a clinic. We did things naturally that we couldn't have done at this time last year, or even at the end of last year.

"I believe we're already a better ballclub than we were when last season ended. I knew we had matured and we've showed signs of being a good team, but this surpassed any expectations I had coming in."

Snyder dissected Lee in the opening two quarters with pinpoint passing and pressure defense.

After the Lady Rebels took an early 2-0 lead, the Lady Tigers answered with a 19-6 run that stretched the deficit to double digits early in the second quarter.

Senior Ashley Delce had the hot hand for Snyder most of the night. Delce, the benefactor of some nifty passes from her teammates, poured in 15 points and pulled down 11 rebounds in the first half.

"Ashley is the best overall athlete that I've had the pleasure of coaching," remarked Tipton. "And the other girls got her the ball when they needed to. This was an unselfish, team victory."

Lee still trailed by 12 points late in the second quarter, before T'Leah Eicke beat the halftime buzzer with a three-pointer to stretch Snyder's advantage to 15 points at the break.

"We only have eight players, and all eight contributed in their own way," the SHS coach stated. "The girls have figured out what each of them does best and what each of their limitations are. Now they can help each other out when they need it, and push each other on the floor."

The Lady Tigers continued to light it up in the second half. Snyder was 59 percent from the floor on the night, compared to only 23 percent for Lee.

Kristin Murray dropped in six points in the third period to stretch the Lady Tigers' lead to 20 entering the final frame.

The Lady Rebels were held to single digits in all but one quarter, including a nine-point effort over the final eight minutes.

Snyder held a 42-20 advantage on the boards, thanks in part to Delce who finished with 15 rebounds to go along with 21 points.

Kameron Kallemeyn drained a pair of free throws with one second left in the game for the final 30-point margin of victory.

"This is one of the high points of my career," said Tipton. "To look back at where this team was last year, and to see how hard they've worked to get to this point is something else.

"This was a huge win for this program, because the girls see how good they already are. Now they know if they keep on working, they have a chance to accomplish a lot of goals that they've set out for themselves."

Snyder will be in action again at 6:30 Friday at Clyde.

Lee	07	15	06	09	— 37
Snyder	15	22	12	18	— 67

Lee
Bryson 3 6-11 12, Neatherlin 3 2-5 8, Hinsley 2 2-2 7, Wallace 1 4-4 6, Strambler 1 0-0 2, McKee 1 0-0 2. **Totals 11 14-22 37.**
Snyder
Delce 9 3-8 21, Murray 3 7-10 13, Kallemeyn 3 7-10 13, Mackey 3 2-2 8, Eicke 1 0-0 3, Voss 1 2-4 4, Geiger 2 0-0 4, Robinson 0 1-2 1. **Totals 22 22-36 67.**
Three-point goals: Lee 1 (Hinsley), Snyder 1 (Eicke). Rebounds: Lee 20 (Wallace 4, Bryson 4), Snyder 42 (Delce 15). Total fouls: Lee 25, Snyder 18. Fouled out — Voss.

Final District 4-4A Statistics

Offense	Rushing	Passing	Total	Average	Points
Frenship	2,534	2,114	4,648	464.8	375
Estacado	2,265	976	3,241	324.1	220
Plainview	1,915	1,246	3,161	316.1	244
Lake View	1,640	1,404	3,044	304.4	230
Snyder	2,079	911	2,990	299.0	260
Andrews	2,460	373	2,833	283.3	251
Levelland	1,872	933	2,805	280.5	170
Big Spring	1,953	703	2,656	265.6	247

Defense	Rushing	Passing	Total	Average	Points
Snyder	1,329	1,173	2,502	250.2	185
Andrews	1,478	1,026	2,504	250.4	171
Big Spring	1,765	863	2,628	262.8	192
Levelland	2,434	645	3,079	307.9	244
Plainview	1,722	1,478	3,200	320.0	302
Frenship	2,422	814	3,236	323.6	244
Estacado	2,615	852	3,467	346.7	281
Lake View	2,435	1,322	3,757	375.7	324

Rushing	Carries	Yards	Average	TDs
Jaime Bueno, Andrews	260	1,767	6.8	19
Jorge Rodriguez, Frenship	172	1,329	7.7	15
Jason Tezeno, Levelland	210	1,228	5.8	11
Brylon Bradic, Plainview	126	982	7.8	13
Tovares Brandon, Snyder	156	932	6.0	7
Jason Woodruff, Big Spring	154	912	5.9	13
Kendal Briles, Frenship	91	765	8.4	11
Jumar Hall, Lake View	146	758	5.2	3
Antoine Sheppard, Estacado	127	740	5.8	7
Jaroe Parnell, Big Spring	136	646	4.8	8

Passing	Comp.	Att.	Yards	Int.	TDs
Kendal Briles, Frenship	93	161	2,054	3	21
David Lankford, Lake View	82	178	1,302	6	14
Corey Morrison, Estacado	61	146	976	7	10
Kevin Romero, Levelland	74	160	886	13	6
Jesse Haines, Snyder	57	123	864	9	6
Kyle Miller, Plainview	46	108	769	4	5
Jason Choate, Big Spring	53	116	703	9	6
Ryan Newbrough, Andrews	24	77	373	6	5

Receiving	Catches	Yards	Average	TDs
Demetrick Hallman, Lake View	42	818	19.5	8
David Thomas, Frenship	33	731	22.2	8
Matthew Grimmett, Snyder	32	590	18.4	5
Patrick Shelby, Frenship	16	572	35.8	6
Bryan Moore, Frenship	34	545	16.0	5
Adam Naron, Plainview	24	506	21.1	2
Willie Powell, Estacado	9	295	32.8	3
Lee Morrison, Lake View	25	276	11.0	3
Bryson Davis, Plainview	23	275	12.0	1
Lawrence Johnson, Levelland	15	256	17.1	2

Scoring	TDs	Points
Jaime Bueno, Andrews	19	116
Jason Woodruff, Big Spring	13	109
Jorge Rodriguez, Frenship	15	90
Brylon Bradic, Plainview	13	80
Jason Tezeno, Levelland	12	72
Kendal Briles, Frenship	11	68
Bryson Davis, Plainview	9	60
Tovares Brandon, Snyder	9	54
Jarod Parnell, Big Spring	9	54
Demetrick Hallman, Lake View	9	54

Defense	Tackles	Avg./Game
Bowe Butler, Big Spring	143	14.3
Heath Fries, Frenship	139	13.9
Mark Medley, Snyder	130	13.0
David Thomas, Frenship	107	10.7
Brad Burns, Frenship	95	9.5
Justin Rushing, Plainview	93	9.3
Ocie Clark, Estacado	92	9.2
Billy Stiggers, Estacado	92	9.2
Kirk Noles, Levelland	90	9.0
Eric Edwards, Andrews	89	8.9

JV girls fall to Lady Rebels

Midland Lee picked up its defensive pressure in the second half Tuesday night to rally for a 27-26 victory over Snyder in junior varsity girls' basketball action at the SHS gym.

The Lady Tigers led, 15-10, at halftime, and continued to hold a 23-20 advantage heading into the final quarter.

The Lady Rebels put together a 7-3 run down the stretch to pull out the win.

Zipporah Peoples poured in eight points to lead Snyder, while Amber Russell tallied seven.

Afton Schwertner dropped in five points. Hailey Putnam notched four, and Dara Chambers chipped in two.

Snyder will be in action again Thursday at the Seminole tournament.

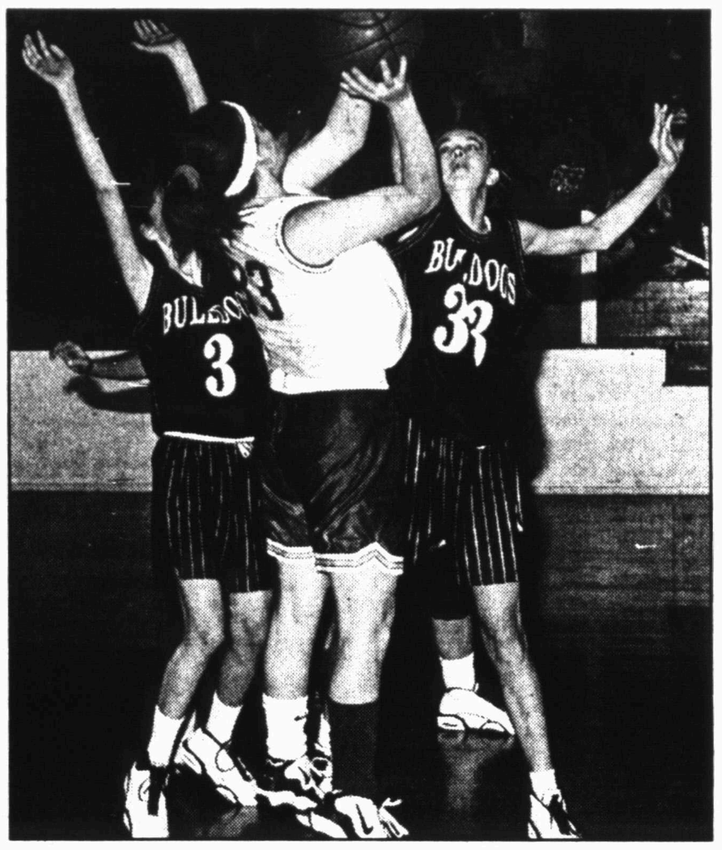
Local all-stars drop contest

ANDREWS — Snyder was knocked out of the winner's bracket Tuesday with a 24-6 setback to Kermit in a third and fourth grade all-star football tilt in Andrews.

Gage West posted Snyder's only points on a 14-yard scamper. West finished the night with 51 yards on seven carries.

Defensively, Joseph Garza paced the squad with eight tackles. David Guzman registered seven tackles, while Rance Dunn and Chase Arendale added six apiece.

Snyder will be in action again at 3 p.m. Saturday in Kermit.



DOUBLE TEAM — Ira's Mikana Herring (3) and Lindsey Wilson (33) contests the shot of Hermleigh's Sheena Callaway during the Lady Bulldogs' 70-23 victory Tuesday night in the season opener at Cardinal gym. (SDN Staff Photo)

Lady Bulldogs roll over Lady Cardinals, 70-23

HERMLEIGH — The Ira Lady Bulldogs got rolling early Tuesday night, and they never slowed down.

Ira posted 20 points in the first quarter en route to a 70-23 victory over the Hermleigh Lady Cardinals in the basketball opener for both teams.

The Lady Bulldogs built a 38-12 lead by halftime, which grew to a 50-18 advantage by the end of the third quarter. Ira capped the win with a 20-5 run in the final stanza.

Morgan Clements paced Ira with 15 points, while Kristen Harless added 14 more and Celeigh Sterling poured in 10.

Tara Allen tallied eight points. Lindsey Wilson and Amy Lollar posted five apiece, with Michelle Nettles dropping in four. Tosha Walker finished with three points, and Davi Barnes and Amanda Calley chipped in two apiece.

Sheena Callaway rattled home eight points to lead the Lady Cardinals, while Sabrina Terry drained five.

Samantha Smith and Lisa Sanchez notched four points each, and Toni Martinez chipped in two.

Central tops Snyder JV

SAN ANGELO — Snyder and San Angelo Central battled back-and-forth most of the night, before the Bobcats held on for a 60-56 victory in Tuesday night's junior varsity boys' basketball opener.

The Tigers jumped out to a four-point lead in the first quarter, which Central erased with a 14-8 run in the second period.

Snyder leveled the tally at 40-40 to start the final frame, before the Bobcats posted 20 points down the stretch to pull out the win.

Josh Mendoza poured in 22 points to fuel the Tigers' effort, while Colby Driggers added 10 more.

T.J. Jones dropped in eight points. Brady Reed recorded five, and Brad Spells scored four. Jay Scott finished with three points, and Josh McGaha and Josh Montoya chipped in two apiece.

Mavs owner fined by NBA

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban doesn't begrudge the league for fining him $5,000 for critical comments about officials.

He just hopes they take his comments seriously.

"I agree with the league in fining me," Cuban said of the punishment announced Tuesday. "The policy is to fine anyone who criticizes the officiating."

All-star grid team wins, 8-0

ANDREWS — Snyder's offense found the endzone late in the first half, then turned the game over to the defense.

Snyder thwarted a late rally by Andrews to hang on for an 8-0 victory Tuesday night in a fifth and sixth grade all-star football tilt at Mustang Stadium.

Ricky Sanchez scored the lone touchdown of the game when he sprinted 40 yards to paydirt with 11 seconds left in the first half.

Snyder's James Simmons recovered a fumble to end Andrews' final threat of the night.

Adam Smith also recovered a fumble for Snyder, and Ryan Mitchell intercepted a pass.

Tigers bow to Bobcats in opener

SAN ANGELO — Foul trouble took its toll on the Snyder Tigers Tuesday night.

San Angelo Central took advantage of 30 trips to the free-throw line to pull out a 65-55 victory over Snyder in Tuesday's basketball season opener.

The Tigers held a seven-point advantage at halftime, but were whistled for 17 fouls in the second half. The Bobcats were 20 of 30 from the line on the night, compared to a 5-of-9 effort for the Tigers.

"We were really getting after them in the first half," said Snyder coach Bud Birks. "Then we got in some foul trouble, and they kept making their free throws. But I was pleased with our effort, overall, because Central is loaded with talent this year."

After Snyder jumped out to a 33-26 advantage at the break, Central switched to a zone defense in the third quarter and limited the Tigers to only seven points over the eight-minute span.

"They had to go to a zone to stop us, and we made some bad passes against it," Birks stated. "They are so athletic, if you make a marginal pass, they are going to get it."

Central's Brian Wilcox led all scorers with 24 points.

Jamaal Wofford paced the Tigers with 12 points, including a pair of three-pointers. Tate Thompson also drained a pair of buckets from behind the arc, while Jared Thornhill dropped in 11 points, before fouling out in the second half.

The Tigers were without the services of 6-6 senior post Shante Taylor who is ineligible for the first two games of the season, due to transfer rules.

Snyder will be back on the court at 8 p.m. Friday at Clyde.

Snyder	11	22	07	15	— 55
Central	15	11	18	21	— 65

Snyder
Wofford 4 2-2 12, Thornhill 5 1-5 11, Pruitt 5 0-0 10, McLeod 2 2-2 7, Thompson 2 0-0 6, Landes 2 0-0 5, Pinkerton 2 0-0 4. **Totals 22 5-9 55.**
Central
Wilcox 6 11-13 24, Young 6 1-1 13, Terrazas 3 4-6 10, Randle 3 2-6 8, Figaro 2 0-0 4, Weatherman 1 1-2 3, Brawley 1 0-0 2, Crooks 0 1-2 1. **Totals 22 20-30 65.**
Three-point goals: Snyder 6 (Wofford 2, Thompson 2, McLeod, Landes), Central 1 (Wilcox). Total fouls: Snyder 25, Central 12. Fouled out — Thornhill.

Local Schedule

THURSDAY
Basketball
Snyder 7th grade boys at Wilson, 4:30 and 6 p.m.
Snyder 8th grade boys at Wilson, 6 and 7:30
Snyder freshman boys at Wilson, 4:30 and 7:30
Wilson at Snyder 7th & 8th grade A girls, SJHS gym, 5 and 6:30
Wilson at Snyder 7th & 8th grade B girls, Travis gym, 6:30 and 8 p.m.
Wilson at Snyder freshman girls, 5 and 8 p.m.

FRIDAY
Football
Ira vs. Wellman-Union, at Borden County, 7:30
Coahoma vs. New Deal, Tiger Stadium, 7:30
Basketball
Snyder JV and varsity boys at Clyde, 6:30 and 8 p.m.
Snyder varsity girls at Clyde, 6:30

National Basketball Association

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	7	0	1.000	—
New York	5	3	.625	2½
Miami	4	3	.571	3
Orlando	4	5	.444	4
New Jersey	3	4	.429	4
Boston	2	4	.333	4½
Washington	2	6	.250	5½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	6	1	.857	—
Indiana	4	2	.667	1½
Toronto	4	3	.571	2
Charlotte	4	4	.500	2½
Detroit	3	5	.375	3½
Milwaukee	1	5	.167	4½
Chicago	1	6	.143	5
Atlanta	1	7	.125	5½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	6	2	.750	—
Utah	5	2	.714	½
Dallas	5	3	.625	1
Vancouver	4	3	.571	1½
Houston	4	5	.444	2½
Minnesota	3	4	.429	2½
Denver	3	5	.375	3

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	6	1	.857	—
Sacramento	7	2	.778	—
L.A. Lakers	5	3	.625	1½
Portland	5	4	.556	2
Seattle	3	6	.333	4
L.A. Clippers	2	6	.250	4½
Golden State	1	6	.143	5

Tuesday's Games
Atlanta 99, Portland 97
Miami 89, Charlotte 86, OT
Cleveland 96, Golden State 86
Sacramento 96, Orlando 82
San Antonio 86, Utah 79
Houston 110, Chicago 83
Seattle 96, New York 75
L.A. Lakers 119, Denver 103
Wednesday's Games
Washington at Boston, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Miami at New Jersey, 8 p.m.
Golden State at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
New York at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.
Thursday's Games
San Antonio at Washington, 7 p.m.
Portland at Toronto, 7 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Sacramento, 8 p.m.
Charlotte at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Vancouver, 10 p.m.



Bridge

By Phillip Alder

North 11-15-00
♠ Q 8 7 5 3
♥ A K J
♦ 8 4 3
♣ K 2

West
♠ K J 9
♥ 8 3
♦ J 5
♣ Q J 9 7 6 3

East
♠ 10 6 4
♥ Q 10 5 2
♦ Q 10 9 6
♣ 10 8

South
♠ A 2
♥ 9 7 6 4
♦ A K 7 2
♣ A 5 4

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: North

South	West	North	East
		1 ♠	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	All pass

Opening lead: ♣ Q

Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2000

One trick or another

By Phillip Alder

There is a metro stop in Paris named after Cardinal Richelieu. However, I am told that this isn't his greatest claim to fame. Still, he wrote something apposite for today's deal: "To know how to dissimulate is the knowledge of kings."

Given that train-sized hint, how did West persuade declarer to go down in this three-no-trump contract?

With strong hands uncertain of direction, both in terms of strain and level, it pays to keep the bidding low early in the auction. So, sitting South, I would have responded two diamonds. Perhaps coincidentally, that would have worked well. North would have rebid two no-trump, and South would have raised to three. East would surely have led the heart two, giving declarer any easy ride.

Still, at first glance, South is well placed. He ducked trick one, won West's club continuation with dummy's king, and played a spade to his ace. No problem — until West smoothly threw the king under the ace!

Thinking this had to be a singleton, South abandoned spades. Instead, he finessed the heart jack, but East produced the queen and returned a heart. A third heart didn't establish South's nine as a trick. He tried ducking a diamond to West's jack, but a club back left declarer with only eight tricks, two in each suit.

Note that West's gambit with the spade king was a no-cost maneuver. He was due to win only one spade trick, and he was still going to get that if South persevered with the suit. And if West hadn't sacrificed his k[illegible] would have led his [illegible] collected at least

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Hastert, Gephardt top House party leaders

WASHINGTON (AP) — Amid uncertainty at the White House and in the Senate, the House proved itself an island of stability for the incoming 107th Congress.

Republicans returned Speaker Dennis Hastert, Democrats Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, and both parties re-elected virtually every other party officer in caucuses Tuesday.

"I just want to declare victory," said Rep. Tom DeLay, R-Texas, who returns as majority whip, the No. 3 job. "The House held its ground."

Joining Hastert and DeLay on the GOP side will be holdover Majority Leader Dick Armey of Texas and Rep. J.C. Watts of Oklahoma, Congress' lone black Republican, in the fourth-ranking position of Republican conference chairman.

On the Democratic side, Gephardt, of Missouri, will again be joined by Minority Whip David Bonior of Michigan and Caucus Chairman Martin Frost of Texas.

With the presidency unsettled and the Senate facing a potential 50-50 tie, House Republicans portrayed their ability to maintain a narrow majority in last week's election as a huge victory over a determined, well-financed Democratic effort to regain the control they lost in 1994.

"One year ago, people were predicting the demise of the Republican majority," Watts said. "One year later, we've proven those people wrong."

Pending the outcome of unsettled races in Florida and New Jersey, Republicans now have an effective 221-212 edge over Democrats in the new House, counting two independents who reliably split between the two camps. In the 106th Congress, the GOP margin was 223-210 counting the independents, with two vacancies.

Last week's elections left the incoming Senate with 50 Republicans and 49 Democrats, pending the outcome of the Washington race between GOP Sen. Slade Gorton and Democratic challenger Maria Cantwell.

Hastert, a former wrestling coach who succeeded fiery conservative Newt Gingrich during the throes of President Clinton's impeachment crisis, said the results would repudiate critics who considered him merely a caretaker speaker facing oblivion.

"This proves we could run this House. We ran it on a very slim majority," said Hastert, R-Ill. "We look forward to doing the people's business."

Top priorities for the next two years, Hastert said, will include tax cuts, managed care reforms and improving education — and working with either Republican George W. Bush or Democrat Al Gore in the White House.

"We owe it to the American people, whoever that president is, to close ranks, to work together and do the things that the American people want to see us get done," Hastert said.

Gephardt, for his part, said he was gratified that Democrats appear likely to have gained one or two seats in the election, and the party has not given up its goal of winning back the majority. He portrayed the battle as less of personalities than of ideas.

"Our disappointment is not disappointment about winning some political majority or getting some new titles," Gephardt said. "Our disappointment is in not being able to assert ... the issues that need to be asserted on behalf of the American people."

Among those issues, Gephardt said, are a prescription drug benefit for Medicare, an increase in the minimum wage, campaign finance reform, gun safety and a patient's bill of rights. He said Democrats will "reach out on a daily basis" to the GOP majority to accomplish these goals.

On the GOP side, Rep. Tom Davis of Virginia will remain as chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, the GOP's House political arm. Rep. Deborah Pryce of Ohio will be the GOP Conference vice chairwoman, and Rep. Barbara Cubin of Wyoming will be the conference secretary. Rep. Christopher Cox, R-Calif., returns to chair the House Republican Policy Committee.

Democrats also kept Rep. Robert Menendez of New Jersey as caucus vice chairman and Rep. Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut as assistant minority leader. Rep. Patrick Kennedy, D-R.I., asked to step down as chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, but his replacement won't be determined until next month.

On the Net: House members, leaders: http://thomas.loc.gov

Woman 'alert' after surgery

HOUSTON (AP) — One day after her heart was removed, repaired and then reimplanted during a nearly seven-hour operation, Joanne Minnich was recovering satisfactorily.

The 57-year-old Mahopac, N.Y., woman was in good condition Wednesday morning in the intensive care unit of Methodist DeBakey Heart Center.

"She is in good spirits, drinking fluids, alert and awake," hospital spokeswoman Emma Chambers said.

Her heart rested in a bowl Tuesday while a team of cardiac surgeons cut out three rapidly growing tumors. Doctors used tissue from a cow's heart to repair the damaged organ.

Only one other patient has survived the rare procedure called an autotransplant.

"The prognosis is good but guarded," lead surgeon Michael Reardon said during a news conference following the operation. "She's doing well but it's very early. I feel very good we got (the tumors) all out."

The malignant growths were on the wall of her heart's left atrium, restricting blood flow. Doctors said they could have killed Minnich in as little as two weeks if left unchecked.

Minnich's diseased heart was out of her body for about 4 minutes, during which time a heart-lung machine took over.

"They have saved my wife," said her husband, William Minnich. "I'm grateful. All the after effects (of a heart transplant) just didn't make sense. This procedure made sense."

Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren



If you can quit for one day, you can quit smoking forever

DEAR ABBY: Aug. 4 would have been my sister's 45th birthday. Sadly, she died in October of last year from lung cancer. She had been a smoker since she was 13.

During her illness, I promised her I would try to stop as many kids as I could from making the same deadly mistake she did in starting to smoke. I'll keep that promise, and continue to fight the tobacco industry's targeting of children with every last bit of energy I have. I will also do everything in my power to educate young people about the dangers of tobacco.

Teen-agers and pre-teens: Smoking isn't "cool"; it's deadly! If you don't smoke now, PLEASE don't ever start. If you do smoke, quit NOW — if you can. Tobacco products of all kinds are silent killers. By the time you find out you have a tobacco-related illness, it's usually too late.

Approximately 465,000 people in the United States die of tobacco-related diseases each year. I'm sure each and every one of them thought, "It won't happen to ME." That's exactly what my sister thought. Sadly, she was wrong — dead wrong. Thanks to her addiction, she'll miss her sons' graduations, she'll never attend their weddings or see the faces of her grandchildren. She won't grow old with the husband she loved, and who adored her.

Abby, our family is devastated. We miss my sister with all our hearts. Please help me spread the word. — **HEARTBROKEN SISTER, CONCORD, CALIF.**

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: I'm pleased to do it, but first permit me to offer my condolences for the loss of your beloved sister.

Your letter is a timely one because tomorrow is the 24th Great American Smokeout. For anyone who may not know, the Smokeout is an upbeat, good-humored one-day campaign to encourage smokers to quit smoking for 24 hours — just to prove to themselves they can do it.

In 1999, 21 percent of smokers (approximately 10.8 million) participated in the Great American Smokeout. Of those participating, 11 percent (1,188,000) reported they were smoking less or not at all one to five days later. That's more than a million people who are on their way to healthier, smoke-free lives — thanks to the American Cancer Society.

This year, because more than half of all smokers begin smoking before age 14, the focus of the Great American Smokeout is on teen-age smokers. It's necessary because the tobacco industry spends more than $6 billion a year — that's $200 a second — promoting a product to young people that's lethal when used as intended.

A majority of teen-agers who smoke have tried to quit, but find themselves "hooked." According to the experts, more than 70 percent of daily teen-age smokers who "think" they won't be smoking in five years are still smoking seven years later. Tragically, of the more than 3,000 young people a day who begin to smoke, ONE-THIRD will eventually die from a smoking-related disease.

While I'm on this morbid subject, I should mention that flavored cigarettes ("bidis") have recently become popular among young people. This may be due to their candylike taste, or their relatively inexpensive price ($1.25 a pack), or the fact that they are rumored to be less harmful than tobacco. Not true! What teens don't realize is that the sweet flavor of bidis masks the harsh, cancer-causing chemicals inside. Bidis have THREE times more carbon monoxide and nicotine, and FIVE times the amount of tar as American cigarettes have.

And so, dear readers of all ages, if you're hooked on tobacco and have been saying, "One of these days I've got to quit," why not join the Great American Smokeout and quit tomorrow? It won't be easy, but it'll be the best holiday present you can give yourself and the people who love you.

Those who need more help or more information about the effects of tobacco may call their local office of the American Cancer Society or (800) 227-2345. Teen-agers are invited to visit www.Y2Kidz.org to learn what they can do, such as signing a pledge not to start — or to stop if they are smokers now — and to send virtual postcards to people they love who are addicted to tobacco.

**

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 ($4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Date Book

Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2000

Today is the 320th day of 2000 and the 55th day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1806, Western explorer Zebulon Pike sighted the Colorado Mountains. Pike's Peak was named for him.

On this day in 1939, in Washington, D.C., President Franklin D. Roosevelt laid the cornerstone of the Jefferson Memorial.

On this day in 1980, Pope John Paul II arrived in Germany for a five-day visit.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: William Pitt, the Elder (1708-1778), English statesman; Erwin Rommel (1891-1944), German field marshal; Felix Frankfurter (1882-1965), U.S. jurist; Marianne Moore (1887-1972), poet; Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986), painter; Joseph Wapner (1920-), retired judge-television personality, is 80; Howard Baker (1925-), politician, is 75; Ed Asner (1929-), actor, is 71; Sam Waterston (1940-), actor, is 60.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1964, at the Tall City Open golfing event in Midland, Texas, Mickey Wright shot 62. It was the lowest score ever shot by a woman pro golfer.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "It is human nature to stand in the middle of a thing." — Marianne Moore

TODAY'S MOON: Between full moon (Nov. 11) and last quarter (Nov. 18).

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.



Symptoms point to nerve damage

DEAR DR. GOTT: On two occasions, I have required special surgery because of an L5-S1 disc; the last procedure was a spinal fusion at that level. However, I continue to suffer pain and numbness in the right leg, despite pain medication, physical therapy, acupuncture, steroid injections and the use of a TENS unit. What could be the cause of my continuing pain? Is this typical of my condition?

DEAR READER: Your symptoms are certainly NOT typical; in fact, they indicate continuing nerve damage. There are several possibilities for this.

The operations may not have succeeded. Spinal surgery is complicated, as you are undoubtedly aware, and sometimes fails. Therefore, your pain and numbness could be due to a persisting misplaced disc that the surgeon missed or was unable to correct.

You could have developed an infection at the surgical site. Although unusual after spinal fusion, post-operative infection must always be considered if symptoms are not relieved. A small abscess, under pressure, may be pressing on a nerve, without causing the customary signs of inflammation, such as fever and malaise.

During the operation, the surgeon had to chip away and remove part of your vertebral bones. Although the specialist was undoubtedly meticulous in removing bony fragments, a chip or two may have inadvertently been missed, causing continuing pressure on a nerve. In my experience, bone fragments are a relatively common post-operative complication of spinal fusion. If this is true in your case, you'll require another operation to remove them.

You may be suffering from another herniated disc above or below the operative site. Although specialists do not agree on the exact cause of slipped or herniated discs, they know that patients with this condition often experience pain from other discs.

For example, you needed surgery for a misplaced disc between the last lumbar vertebra (L5) and the first sacral vertebra (S1), a common location for such an affliction to appear. Following the operation, you could have slipped a disc between L4 and L5, the area just above L5-S1. This may cause leg pain and numbness that are virtually indistinguishable from the symptoms you experienced before surgery. In essence, your "disease" may have affected another portion of your spine.

I believe that you need further testing to diagnose the problem. An MRI would enable a doctor to determine the cause of your symptoms and the location of the problem.

Return to your surgeon and describe your symptoms. He or she might choose to test you further, or refer you to another specialist, such as a neurologist or a neurosurgeon, for a second opinion.

Remember that pain and numbness should not be disregarded because they can herald the later development of further nerve damage that could cause permanent weakness and disability.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Managing Chronic Pain." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

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Yosemite restoration plan strikes an uneasy balance

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. (AP) — Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt's announcement of a blueprint for Yosemite National Park was upstaged by a familiar presence: the grandeur of the park itself.

With Half Dome soaring in the distance, fresh snow on the ground and an ice slide crashing down Yosemite Falls, it was clear that nature — not man — rules supreme here.

It was a fitting sight given that Babbitt's $441 million plan called for preserving Yosemite's natural beauty by tipping the delicate scales a little more in favor of nature instead of people.

The Yosemite Valley Plan aims to get rid of parking spaces in the heart of the park, eliminate motel rooms, and close part of a popular road that lets traffic circle the valley beneath El Capitan and other granite peaks that rise 3,000 feet.

"I believe at the heart of this restoration is a recognition that it's our obligation to invite visitors away from their automobiles," Babbitt said. "And in the process of doing that to restore the peace and quiet of this valley."

The long-awaited plan, whose price tag ballooned nearly $100 million since the draft proposal was released in March, is the result of three decades of battles over the future of one of the jewels of the National Park system.

While developers and others who saw the draft plan criticized it for restricting access to a public preserve, environmentalists said it doesn't go far enough to protect Yosemite.

One of about 30 demonstrators standing in the snow held a sign that said "John Muir Would Be Crying," referring to the 19th-century naturalist and Sierra Club founder who wrote and spoke eloquently about the need to preserve Yosemite.

"He considered this sacred ground," protester Chris Kantarjiev said. "The plan we've seen is about more development, more hotel rooms and more diesel buses."

Win or lose, friends and foes gathered on the edge of a meadow, united in a common love for the park but divided over the best way to manifest their affection.

The Sierra Club was concerned that closing a three-mile stretch of a road would end up killing trees along another road that will have to be widened to handle more traffic.

"By closing it they say it's restoration," said George Whitmore of the Sierra Club. "But restoration at what price? There'll be destruction on the south side."

Yosemite Concession Services, which runs restaurants, hotels and other facilities, will see its stables, administrative offices and garage moved out of the valley in addition to losing profitable accommodations.

"This plan, as some groups have suggested, is not a gift for the concessioner," said Karen Hales, concession spokeswoman. "As a company we gained some and lost some."

Among the losers are concession employees — about 500 of the 1,200 will be sent packing from one of the most desirable ZIP codes in the nation.

"The employees are going to have to take a back seat," said Ken Wood, an auditor who moved to the park to live for a summer seven years ago and never left. "They really missed the boat on this."

Overall accommodations, including rooms and campsites, will drop by 274, from 1,735 to 1,461. Campsites will be boosted from the current 475 to 500.

Babbitt acknowledged the often contentious journey over the past 30 years to arrive at the final plan that will take another 10 to 15 years to carry out. He thanked environmentalists for their contributions and conviction that ultimately led to a better plan.

"I've come to understand you're a cantankerous, eccentric, passionate, irrational, idealistic, quarrelsome, impossible crowd of people," Babbitt said. "Yosemite I think, more than any other unit of the National Park Service, has attracted a following of committed lovers in the tradition of John Muir."

On the Net:
Yosemite National Park: http://www.nps.gov/yose
Sierra Club: http://www.sierraclub.org

Lott: Election fight makes it 'tough' for new president

WASHINGTON (AP) — Revamping Medicare, providing prescription drug benefits, expanding patients' rights and cutting taxes head the list of proposals that a narrowly elected president and a closely divided Congress may be able to push into law, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott says.

In an interview Tuesday with The Associated Press, the Mississippi Republican said the bare-knuckles legal battle over the presidential election means "It will be tough" for either Republican George W. Bush or Democrat Al Gore to govern.

Will congressional Democrats "set out from day one to undermine his presidency?" Lott asked. "Or, conversely, will the Republicans be able to accept Gore as a legitimate president? All of that we don't know. And it could go either way."

But he added, "My attitude is once the decision's made, the decision's made, even if it's one of questionable circumstances. We've got to move on, and I think we have to find a way to work together."

All the issues Lott mentioned as possible areas of progress were items on which the two parties shared some broad ideas. But they also waged an election-year battle over specifics.

"In a strange way, I think people may strive harder to make it work, to get a few good things done," he said. "Why not? The country is at stake, Why wouldn't we want to try to do a few big issues, just to show — if nothing else — that it can be done, or maybe because they are worried that chaos is not good for anybody."

Arguing that a president elected by a slim margin can be effective, Lott noted that his office on the Capitol's second floor is where the House met in 1801 when the government first moved to Washington. In February of that year, the House took 36 ballots to finally elect Thomas Jefferson president over Aaron Burr.

"Was he a decent president?" Lott asked rhetorically.

House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., also underlined the need for reconciliation in a later conversation with reporters.

"We owe it to the American people, whoever that president is, to close ranks, to work together and do the things that the American people want to see us get done. It's time that we move forward and make that happen," he said.

Lott's comments reflected his instincts as one of Congress' premier dealmakers and the reality that, at best, Republicans will have a 51-49 Senate edge next year — hardly enough to dominate the agenda. In the final undecided Senate race, Republican Sen. Slade Gorton of Washington state had a narrow lead over Democratic challenger Maria Cantwell with more than 300,000 votes to be counted.

Lott seemed likely to hold onto the majority leader's post in the 107th Congress that convenes in January. But there are rumblings of discontent among his GOP colleagues.

Since Lott became leader in 1996, Republicans have gone from dreaming of reaching a filibuster-proof 60-seat Senate majority to clinging to control of the chamber. And though he is a conservative at heart, some other conservatives are suspicious of Lott's penchant for cutting deals on bills large and small, while some moderates feel the Senate has not been productive enough under his tenure.

School breakfast program participation up

WASHINGTON (AP) — About 6.4 million poor schoolchildren are getting free or reduced-price breakfasts, nearly double the number a decade ago, but millions of other needy kids aren't receiving the meals because too few schools offer them, an advocacy group says.

About 42 percent of low-income children who participate in the federal school lunch program also got the government-subsidized breakfasts during the 1999-2000 school year, according to a report released Wednesday by the Food Research and Action Center.

West Virginia has the highest participation in the breakfast program, with 56 percent of kids getting free or reduced-priced lunches also receiving the breakfasts, the report said.

If children in other states participated in the breakfast program as much as they do in West Virginia, an additional 2 million kids would be getting the meals, at a cost to taxpayers of $321 million, the report said.

In 1990, about 3.4 million participated in the breakfast program.

"Children eating school breakfasts come to school on time, are less likely to be absent, learn more and behave better," said Jim Weill, president of the Food Research and Action Center. "States and schools that lag in breakfast are tying one hand behind their teachers backs."

Wisconsin has the lowest level of participation in the breakfast program at 22 percent of children in the lunch program, the report found.

The report was funded by a variety of foundations and food companies.

Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol



Your Birthday

Thursday, Nov. 16, 2000

There are hopeful indications that you could have some major accomplishments in the year ahead. Your solid preparations before taking on the challenges will be a big factor in your success.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Those who are fearful of making mistakes are destined to make them because they focus on the fear, not the act. Take the bull by the horns today whenever bold measures are called for. Scorpio, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing $2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper. P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your Zodiac sign.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Withholding valuable information from another today in order to feather your own nest would be a serious mistake, no matter how your rationalize it. The piper will have to be paid.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You could be far too vulnerable for your own good today. A shrewd salesperson who perceives this may take advantage of that fact and dump a lemon on you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) A partnership in which you are presently involved could collapse today if each of you thinks the other one is holding down the fort. Check with each other and make sure someone is on duty.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) This could have been a productive day for you, but, unfortunately, chances are you'll go off on tangents instead of focusing on specific objectives that need your attention.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Although your pal may be well-intentioned with information he imparts to you today, his sources could be faulty. Check out the facts before acting on them.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Better check all the fine print carefully today before signing any type of agreement that locks you in on a deal. There could be something in the details that would work against you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Another's version of an issue might differ considerably from yours, but it may not be due to the facts. It could be that both of you might have heard or seen only what you wanted to.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) If your intuitive perceptions support your logic, don't let yourself be drawn into a financial endeavor today about which you have some serious doubts.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Should you accept a leadership role today, remember — you will sink or swim on your decision-making processes. Don't come to any conclusions out of emotion — only from facts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) That which you sweep under the rug today may not see the light of day again for a long time to come. Something valuable could be buried needlessly because of your apathy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) You'll have to make it so if you want something to happen today. All the wishes and hopes in the world won't make things transpire as you'd like them to.

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Chrichton has dinosaur named for him

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Michael Crichton, who brought dinosaurs to life in his best-selling novels, now has a species of the real thing named after him.

Dinosaur specialist Dong Zhiming, lead researcher at Beijing's Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, said he chose to honor the author of "Jurassic Park" and "The Lost World" because of the popularity of Crichton's works in China.

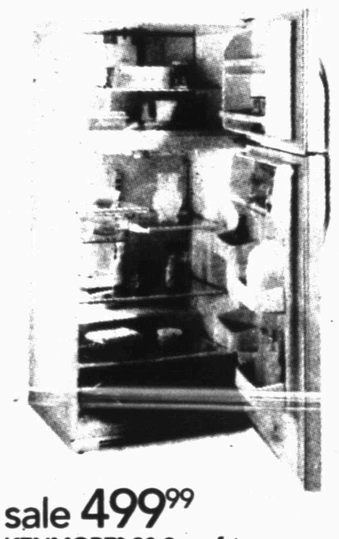
Dong presented casts of skull bones from the newly identified dinosaur to Crichton during a ceremony Tuesday at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences.

"Crichton's ankylosaur" is a small, armored plant-eating dinosaur that dates to the early Jurassic Period, about 180 million years ago.

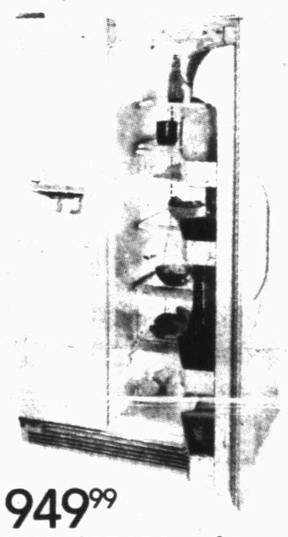
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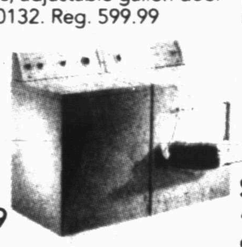


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POSITION: COLLEGE RECRUITER SALARY: College Scale **DUTIES**: Design, implement and coordinate a plan for recruitment of all prospective WTC students, including visits to schools and/or homes, telephone campaigns, mail-outs, etc. Job requires extensive travel. **EMPLOYMENT**: Full-time, 12-month position. **QUALIFICATIONS**: Bachelors degree desired, other consideration given to recruiting experience. Excellent communication skills. **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS**: November 17, 2000. **SEND APPLICATIONS TO**: Human Resources, Western Texas College, 6200 College Avenue, Snyder, TX 79549. **DATE OF EMPLOYMENT**: ASAP.

WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION AND IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED AND CONSIDERED WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, CREED, SEX, AGE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, VETERANS STATUS, OR DISABILITY.

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PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANTS needed in Snyder to assist aged and disabled individuals in their homes. Tasks may include assistance with personal care, light housekeeping, and other tasks as assigned. Hours vary according to client served. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older and free of any criminal history charges. Contact Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital Home Health, P.O. Box 690, Sweetwater, TX or call 915-235-2030. EOE

Social Worker needed to work with at risk youth & families in Snyder & surrounding counties. Must have a BA in social work or related field. Must be flexible w/work hours. Experience preferred. Send resumes to:
Harmony Family Service
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Accused man obsessed with Beatles

OXFORD, England (AP) — The man accused of trying to kill George Harrison believed his entire life was heading toward a confrontation with the former Beatle, a psychiatrist testified Wednesday.

Michael Abram thought all four members of The Beatles were practitioners of black magic, Dr. Nigel Eastman told jurors.

Abram, 34, has pleaded innocent by reason of insanity to two counts of attempted murder in connection with a Dec. 30 attack at Harrison's home in Henley-on-Thames, west of London.

He is accused of breaking into the former Beatle's home and stabbing him repeatedly, puncturing a lung. He also is accused of attacking Harrison's wife, Olivia.

Three psychiatrists told the jury in Oxford Crown Court that Abram has suffered from severe paranoid schizophrenia since 1990.

"He is not somebody who wanted to kill, but he was driven to it," Eastman said.

Jurors heard that Abram believed he was Archangel Michael and had been sent by God on a mission to kill Harrison, whom Abram described as the "phantom menace," a figure from the writings of Nostradamus.

Initially, Abram believed Paul McCartney was the phantom menace but, after listening to some McCartney songs, decided it was Harrison, said Dr. Philip Joseph, another psychiatrist.

Abram "believed Paul McCartney was in his head, tormenting him. He realized that it was George Harrison behind this, telling Paul McCartney what to do," Joseph said.

"He said that he remembered that John Lennon said The Beatles were more famous than Jesus," the psychiatrist added. "That upset him. He thought The Beatles had gone too far."

Prosecutors said Abram went on a reconnaissance mission to Harrison's village and later returned with a knife and broke into the house.

Harrison, 57, had described the frenzied attack in a written statement read to jurors Tuesday. He said he tried to disorient Abram by chanting "Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna!"

Joseph testified that Abram had told him he would have stopped the attack "if George Harrison had talked normally to him," but that the defendant said the former Beatle had cursed him in a devil's tongue and spoken backward to him.

Abram, wearing glasses and a pinstriped suit, watched intently as the psychiatrists gave evidence. All three doctors said he has responded well to anti-psychotic drugs, but would be a risk to society if released immediately from a psychiatric hospital.

Olivia Harrison and the couple's adult son, Dhani, were in court Wednesday.

Public records on Internet considered

MARINA DEL REY, Calif. (AP) — As more individuals build their own Web sites, some privacy advocates now question requirements that the site owners disclose their personal contact information.

Names, e-mail addresses, postal addresses and telephone numbers for more than 24 million domain names are stored in databases called Whois. The information is available to anyone with an Internet connection.

It's like a global phone directory — without the option for an unlisted number.

"Sacrificing your privacy should not be a condition of access to the domain space," said Alan Davidson, staff counsel with the Center for Democracy and Technology.

Most people may not care and would list their contact information anyway, just like most telephone customers now list their numbers.

But Davidson said Internet users ought to have a choice — for instance, they may want to stay anonymous if they are human rights advocates and other dissidents fearful of repercussion from oppressive governments.

Ellen Rory, author of the Domain Name Handbook, said she knew of someone stalked based on information from the databases.

On the other hand, she said, the tool proves helpful for researchers to gauge the origins and veracity of Web sites, and the stalking incident appears an aberration.

"I can see both sides," she said. "Historically, Whois is always public."

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, which oversees the master record keeper of Web addresses and the domain registration companies, currently requires disclosure of contact information for holders of .com, .net and .org names.

Andrew McLaughlin, ICANN's chief policy officer, said the organization may have to revisit Whois policies next year, but it is not on the agenda for its annual meeting this week.

Part of the drive comes from the European Union, which passed a law prohibiting the transfer of data to the United States and other non-EU countries that don't meet EU standards for protecting personal information.

Back in the 1980s, when the Whois database was developed, Internet privacy wasn't a big deal. The Internet was mostly a research tool for government and universities.

"We all knew each other," said Karl Auerbach, a longtime Internet user who was recently elected to ICANN.

But these days, Auerbach said, that same Whois database creates unwanted e-mail and unsolicited phone calls.

Davidson said times have changed, and the Internet must change as well.

"Now, you have regular people using it and there's a much greater need to protect privacy," he said.

Registration companies offer access to the databases in order to let users determine whether the domain names they want are available. But when a name is taken, the registrar often links to the records for that name as well.

The idea is to help users contact the name's owner for possible purchase, even though the databases originally helped computer administrators contact one another when networks go awry.

Lawyers also use the databases to check on names that may tread on their clients' trademark rights. Steven J. Metalitz, vice president for the International Intellectual Property Alliance, said such open access is important to deter abusers.

At VeriSign Global Registry Services, which runs the databases for .com, .net and .org, Vice President Chuck Gomes said technology may settle the issue in the next year or two.

New tools, he said, could help meet the needs of law enforcement officials and trademark owners while protecting privacy for individuals in other circumstances.

In the meantime, the records remain open, and many of the proposals for new domain suffixes call for open Whois databases as well.

Last body is removed from cable car

KAPRUN, Austria (AP) — Austrian authorities on Wednesday put the final death toll from last weekend's fire in an Alpine mountain tunnel at 155, by far the worst disaster ever suffered by the country's multimillion dollar skiing industry.

Criminal police investigator Franz Lang said 152 of the victims were discovered in the tunnel, where the cable car carrying skiers and snowboarders was traveling when it caught fire. The other three were found at a station stop at the very top of the tunnel.

By midafternoon, all of the bodies had been recovered from the tunnel and sent to a forensic institute in Salzburg for identification, said Franz Schwab, the coordinator of the rescue effort.

Clouds shrouding part of the mountainside had delayed shuttle flights by Austrian army helicopters earlier Wednesday, but they resumed later in the day.

Forensic experts in Salzburg plan to use DNA testing and dental records to try to identify the badly burned remains of those killed in Saturday's accident. Identification could take weeks, experts said.

None of the bodies have been identified yet, but the nationalities of those missing and presumed dead were: 92 Austrians, 37 Germans, 10 Japanese, eight Americans, four Slovenes, two Dutch, one person from Great Britain and one person from the Czech Republic.

The cause of Austria's worst mountain accident ever remained unclear, four days after the car burst into flames while taking skiers to the slopes on Kitzsteinhorn mountain.

New details emerged Tuesday: Investigators spoke of a possible defect having occurred before the train entered the steep tunnel inside the mountain Saturday morning, and survivors told of explosions shortly after flames enveloped the car.

Christian Tisch, a police forensic technician, said police had found an oily substance that appeared to have dripped from the car on the ramp leading into the tunnel. The car stopped some 600 yards inside.

Tisch said the material was being chemically analyzed and it appeared to be similar in consistency to lubricants.

Skiing club members from the southern German town of Vilseck said in a statement they heard two "loud explosions, one immediately after the other," shortly after they clambered out through a broken window and began running toward the tunnel entrance. Almost immediately afterward, one of the two steel cables used to pull the car upward broke and shot by them "throwing off sparks."

"Each one in the group was in panic, fearing that the burning train could get loose and crash down the flight path," the statement said.

In separate comments, Austrian Regina Rammer told state television that the cable car she took — apparently the one before the car that caught fire — stopped briefly and without explanation once inside the tunnel. She then heard knocking "like that of a hammer on a pipe."

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Markets

Colorado City

The Colorado City Livestock Auction had a run of 710 head of cattle for the Saturday, Nov. 11, sale. Compared to last week: Feeder steers and heifers were $2 to $5 higher. Slaughter cows were steady to $1 higher, bulls were steady. Bred cows were $25/hd higher, and pairs too few to stest. Trading was active and demand good.

Feeder steers:
200-300: 124-130
300-400: 111-119
400-500: 102-112
500-600: 94.50-99.50
600-700. 85-90.50
Feeder heifers:
300-400: 101-109
400-500: 91-99
500-600: 84-86
600-700: 80-50-82.50
700-800: 76.50-80
Replacement cows:
Young bred cows: 610-720
Aged cows: 460-560
Pairs: 570-645
Slaughter cows: Breakers: 1000-1250 Lbs. 38-40
Boners: 1000-1200 Lbs. 37.50-42.50
Bone High Yielding: 1100-1350 Lbs. 42-43.50
Lean: 900-1200Lbs. 35-39
Slaughter bulls: Yield Grade 1-2 1300-2100 Lbs. 44.50-47.50

Lubbock

The Lubbock Stockyards, Inc. had a run of 200 head of cattle for the Thursday, Nov. 9, sale. Cows were steady. Yearlings and calves were steady. Trading and demand were good.

Slaughter cows
(High dressing — cutters — utilities: 35-42
Canner and low cutters: 28-36
Slaughter bulls: 45-52
Feeder steers — choice:
300-400: 95-113
400-500: 90-105
500-600: 85-95
600-700: 83-86
700-800: 78-85
Feeder heifers:
300-400: 90-110
400-500: 85-100
500-600: 82-90
600-700: 77-85
700-800: 70-80
Feeder Bulls — good and choice:
500-600: 80-90
700-800: 70-80
Cow and calf pairs:
Good: 650-750
Grade: None
Springers: 400-675
Baby calves: 100-200
Doodlers: 175-240

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEW YORK (AP) -

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp s	34.94	34.44	34.63	+ .06
AT&T Corp	20.88	20.56	20.75	—.13
Albertsons	25.25	24.88	25.06	+ .06
Alltel	61.75	60.19	60.31	—1.44
AmerOnline	50.75	49.34	49.70	—.20
AmEl Pw	41.63	40.81	41.63	+ .81
AndarkPtr	63.45	61.50	63.45	+ 2.34
ATMOS Egy	24.38	24.13	24.25	
Aviall	6.00	5.88	6.00	+ .06
BP Amoco	51.81	51.44	51.63	+ .75
BakerHughes	38.38	37.50	38.31	+ 1.25
Bank of Amer	44.00	41.56	41.63	—4.25
BellSouth	49.38	48.56	48.75	—.81
Beth Steel	3.06	2.94	3.06	+ .13
BurlNoSFe	26.50	26.25	26.44	+ .31
Caterpillar	36.88	36.06	36.75	+ .75
Chevron	84.94	84.06	84.50	+ .97
Citigroup s	50.69	49.75	50.56	—.19
Coastal	74.88	73.38	74.88	+ 2.00
CocaCola	61.50	60.25	61.31	+ .75
ColgatePal	59.55	58.95	59.36	+ .52
CorncMetals	25.00	24.75	25.00	+ .31
CooperIn	40.75	40.00	40.69	+ .56
DaimlrChry	45.24	44.36	44.51	—1.89
DallSemicn s	40.00	37.44	39.56	+ 1.94
DeltaAirl	50.25	49.44	49.94	+ .19
Dillards Inc	11.13	10.81	11.13	+ .25
DowChem s	32.06	31.19	31.94	+ .56
DuPont	43.88	42.50	43.75	+ 1.06
EastmanChem	45.50	44.00	45.06	+ 1.06
EstKodak	47.94	47.00	47.88	+ .81
EDS Corp	50.94	50.00	50.25	—.63
Entergy	40.00	39.06	39.94	+ .88
ExxonMobil	91.38	90.69	91.25	+ 1.38
Flowers	15.94	15.75	15.94	+ .19
GenDynam	72.81	71.88	72.81	+ .94
GenElec s	52.50	52.06	52.44	—.31
GenMills	40.56	40.25	40.50	+ .25
GenMotors	57.88	57.31	57.75	+ .19
GaPacGP	27.99	26.88	27.75	+ .88
GlobalMar	28.25	27.94	28.19	+ 1.00
Goodrich	37.88	37.38	37.56	+ .25
Goodyear	18.10	17.88	18.07	+ .20
GtAtlPac	8.88	8.69	8.81	+ .13
Halliburtn	39.06	38.06	38.63	+ 1.00
Hanson ADS	26.88	26.50	26.88	+ .50
HarteHanks	22.56	22.38	22.50	—.19
HomeDepot s	40.38	39.63	39.63	+ .44
HoneywellIntl	51.50	51.00	51.31	—.56
IBM	100.06	97.63	99.06	—.44
IntlPaper	37.00	35.31	36.81	+ 1.38
JohnsonJn	94.88	93.75	94.81	+ .19
K mart	6.50	6.25	6.44	+ .19
Kroger Co	25.25	24.88	25.25	—.50
Litton	60.25	58.38	59.88	+ 1.38
LockheedM	32.71	32.11	32.65	+ .15
Lowes Cos	41.75	41.19	41.25	—.56
Lubys	5.56	5.44	5.44	—.19
LucentTech	23.50	22.63	22.81	—.69
MayDeptStr	29.00	28.38	28.75	+ .13
Medtronic	55.13	54.50	54.75	—.44
MorganJP	155.06	151.50	152.63	—2.94
Motorola s	24.63	23.69	23.94	—.06
NCR Corp	48.00	47.50	47.94	+ .31
Navistar	33.63	33.31	33.38	+ .44
Penney JC	11.19	11.00	11.19	+ .06
PepBoys	4.44	4.31	4.31	—.13
PepsiCo	47.44	46.13	46.56	—1.25
Pharmacia	59.00	58.31	58.63	—.13
PhelpDodge	49.75	49.00	49.50	+ .75
PhilipPet	62.88	62.25	62.56	+ .69
PilgrimPrd B	8.06	7.94	8.00	—.06
Polaroid	8.94	8.69	8.88	
Praxair	36.69	35.81	36.56	+ .75
ProctGamb	73.88	72.63	73.88	+ 1.50
PubS NwMx	25.00	24.69	24.94	+ .44
RadioShack	51.38	50.13	50.56	—.75
ReliantEngy	40.06	38.88	40.00	+ .88
RoyalDut	61.38	60.81	61.19	+ .94
SBC Comm	57.45	56.88	57.31	
SaraLee	22.25	21.75	22.19	+ .44
Scripps EW	59.06	58.50	59.06	—.25
SearsRoeb	30.49	30.15	30.42	—.04
SherwinW	22.69	22.38	22.50	—.06
SmithkBchm	66.25	65.75	65.94	—1.00
SouthernCo	29.13	28.25	29.06	+ .88
SwstAirl	30.00	29.69	29.94	+ .06
SprintFON	26.25	25.56	26.00	
SprintPCS s	26.50	25.56	25.94	+ .06
Sunoco Inc	30.19	29.81	30.06	+ .38
TXU Corp	38.00	37.19	37.88	+ .75
TempleInland	47.94	46.50	47.50	+ 1.25
Texaco	61.00	60.63	60.75	+ .19
TexInd	21.44	21.13	21.44	+ .25
TexasInst s	48.06	46.75	47.56	+ 1.88
Textron	53.94	53.38	53.69	—.06
TriconGlbR	32.13	31.13	32.00	+ 1.25
TrinityInds	23.44	22.94	23.44	+ .44
TritonEngy	27.88	27.00	27.63	+ .56
TylerTech	2.25	2.13	2.13	+ .13
USX-Marathn	28.00	27.31	27.88	+ .56
USX-USS	14.44	14.06	14.06	—.19
UnCarbde	47.56	46.00	47.31	+ .63
UnionPacif	49.38	48.88	49.38	+ .31
UnitedTech	67.38	66.81	67.06	
Unocal	35.75	34.88	35.50	+ .88
Venator Grp	14.25	14.00	14.25	+ .25
VerizonComm	55.75	54.94	55.00	—.75
WalMart	48.25	46.38	48.06	+ 1.19
WellsFargo	46.00	45.06	45.25	—1.38
WstnGasRs	25.19	23.88	25.19	+ 1.95
WinnDixie	20.69	20.38	20.44	—.25
Xerox Cp	9.13	8.94	9.06	+ .19

After 29 years, WTC still vital part of Snyder

Western Texas College began its 29th year this fall.

Following the 1995-96 observance of WTC's Silver Anniversary, a concerted effort was begun to expand the instructional base of the college, its overall mission, and to update its campus technology.

The present status of technology discloses 166 computers with Internet access available to students located at 11 different campus sites, equal a ratio of approximately one Internet computer for every 13 students.

Campus-wide, there are 362 computers with Internet access.

This equipment was essentially funded through a state-provided technology grant — the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund (TIF) — totaling more than $151,000.

Technology also means distance learning — the new interactive classroom experience where instructors based on the central campus can reach students miles away with "real-time" instruction.

In the fall of 1998, the campus established one "state-of-the-art" distance learning classroom and has increased it to three labs.

The first WTC distance learning classes began in the spring of 1998 and Midwestern University in Wichita Falls sent its first class to the campus in November. Later, agreements were made with Abilene Christian University and Angelo State University to send similar distance learning courses.

Funding for this technology was provided in part by the TIF grant and from some $35,000 pledged to the college by Scurry County's Board of County Development.

WTC's distance learning technology is based in the campus' newest physical plant addition — the 15,000-square-foot Workforce Training Center, (see related story on page 10B).

This facility also marks a new direction for overall mission of the college — creating a liaison between the institution and the area business community to include a key partnership role for industrial recruitment.

Construction was completed in September and the center was unveiled May 8, 1997 and two state grants totaling some $700,000 were announced.

The grants funded such expenses as curriculum development, equipment to include 20 computers, and furniture. The facility itself, a renovation of an area earlier used as a diesel mechanics lab and shop area, was completed using college funds.

In mid-July of 1997, trustees agreed to issue general fee revenue bonds totaling $500,000 to finance the project. Total cost was estimated at $520,000.

Emphasis for the training center is "workforce education" to include both the re-training of employees of existing industry and, when needed, the creation of new training curriculums.

Regarding the latter, the facility is seen as a primary recruiting tool for new industry here.

WTC also has expanded its overall instructional base with the addition of concurrent enrollment classes in the fall of 1996. Concurrent enrollment allows a high school student to take a college-level class as part of his or her regular class schedule for both high school and college credit.

By the fall of 2000, this program had grown to include 12 area school districts in eight counties, including both Snyder and Ira ISD locally.

With some 61 students enrolled from Snyder High alone, this program added more than 304 students overall to the 2000 fall count.

The instructional base was expanded also in 1989 as prison instruction was added here.

In the fall of 1997, WTC offered academic instruction at the Daniel Unit in Scurry County, the Wallace Unit in Colorado City and the Smith Unit near Lamesa. Vocational training is offered at Daniel and Wallace as well.

Enrollment for the fall of 1998 was the second highest recorded of the 1990s as the total count reached 1,186. This included 510 full-time students.

On-campus numbers totaled 727 and off-campus enrollment comprised of prison instruction and concurrent enrollment at area high schools totaled 459.

The college's Silver Anniversary in 1995-96 commemorated the groundbreaking date for construction of the college.

That anniversary fell between two other important startup dates for the institution.

The legislative process to create the college began with approval to hold a local election creating a college district. The coordinating board of the Texas College and University System granted that approval on Oct. 20, 1969.

The local election, which created the college district, establishing a tax base, which partially funds its operation, was held Nov. 22, 1969. That election was carried by the overwhelming margin of approximately 10 to 1 in favor of the creation of WTC.

The first classes here were held in the fall of 1971, although the campus buildings were not yet complete. For that first fall term 649 students were registered.

The two years prior to this saw the employment of administrators and staff and the beginning of construction of the physical plant, then valued at $4 million.

The groundbreaking ceremony for construction was held in November of 1970.

Elected to serve were M.L. Broman, then the head of SACROC operations here and the man named the first board president; Dr. Robert H. Hargrove, a local dentist; L.A. (George) Patterson, then city manager; William A. (Bill) Jones, a county rancher and stockman; and local businessmen R.C. Patton and William H. (Bill) Wilson Jr.

Current board president is Lee Presswood and other members are Carolyn Barbee, Drew Bullard, Dr. Jay Kidd, Eddie Peterson, Jackie Greene and Scott Richburg.

Mavis Brumbelow was hired as the first employee by the district, secretary to the president and was employed in early December of 1969. She retired in the spring of 1996.

WTC has had three college presidents. Dr. Don Newbury replaced Clinton in 1981 and current president Dr. Harry Krenek assumed the post in 1986.

There are now 64 instructors, 36 full time and 28 part time instructors.

Of the original faculty and staff members employed during the school year 1971-72, six remain at WTC today. They are:

—Dr. Ed Barkowsky, professor, English division chairperson.

—Gerald Corkran, division chair, communications/fine arts.

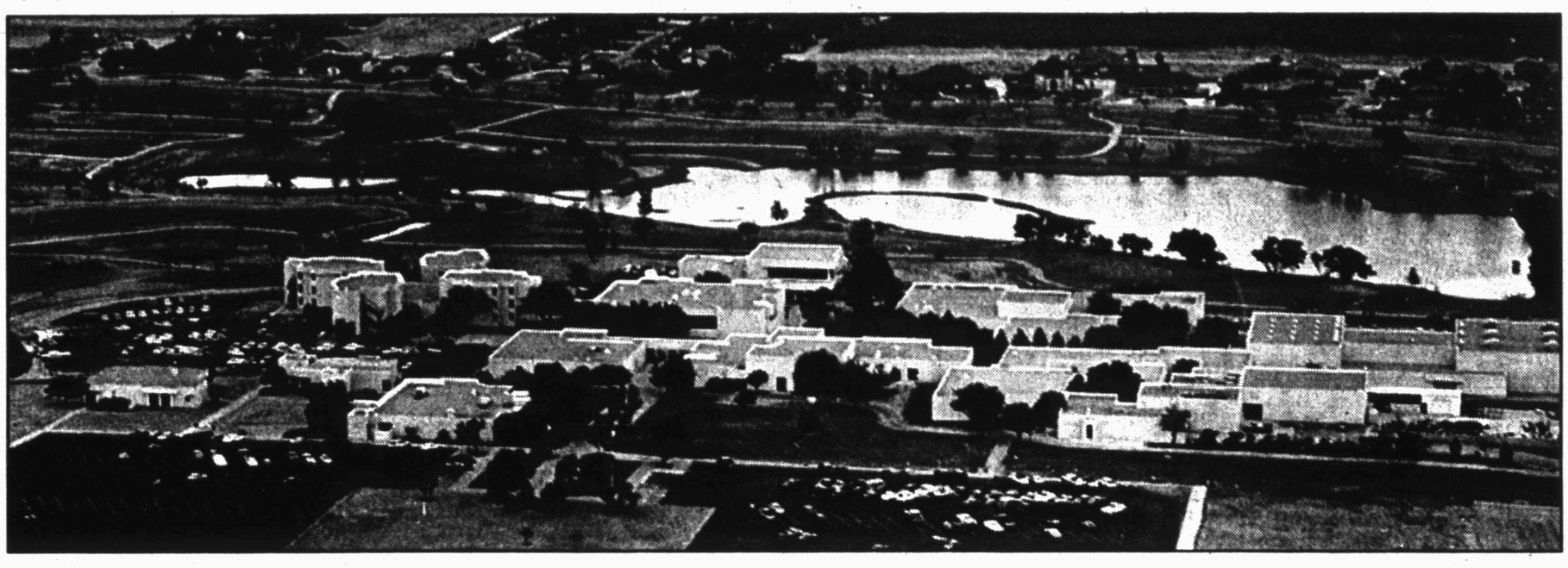
—Bill Halbert, professor business administration; division chair science/math.

—Janet Halbert, associate professor of English.

—Dr. Jim Palmer, dean of academic instruction

—Sam Walker, associate professor, welding.

Larry Anderson, associate professor and director of library and media services, retired last year.



Aerial view of Western Texas College

NTSB proposes safety changes

WASHINGTON (AP)— A government safety panel recommended on Tuesday that school bus emergency doors with protruding metal latches be redesigned and bus seat cushions be secured with fail-safe latches to protect passengers in an accident.

The recommendations from the National Transportation Safety Board were prompted by an investigation into a school bus accident in upstate New York that injured 51 students and their chaperones on Oct. 21, 1999.

Most of the students on the bus were wearing seat belts when the bus collided with a dump truck, but investigators could not determine from the accident data whether the children would have suffered more harm if they were not wearing seat belts, NTSB engineer Kristin Bolte said.

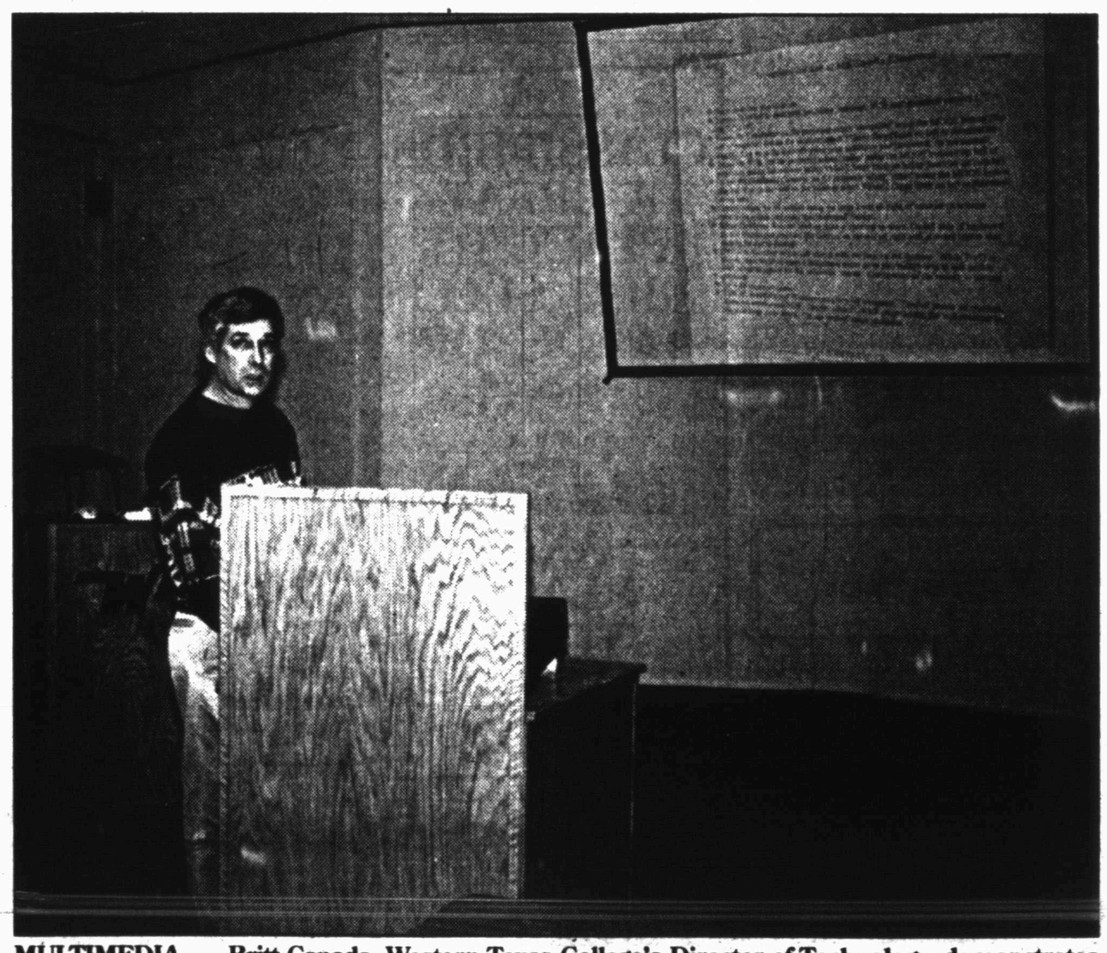
The federal government has required seat belts in passenger cars since 1968, but has never required them in any kind of bus. The thinking has been that with their size, height, padded seats and high seat backs, buses offer passengers a protective cocoon if there is a crash. The NTSB concluded a three-year study in 1999 on bus crashes and decided not to recommend seat belts.

No one was injured in the New York accident on the bus emergency side door, but crash investigators said if the chaperone sitting in the emergency exit seat had been thrust against the door's metal latches the impact could have been lethal. Instead, the chaperone was pushed against the seat in front of her.

The panel recommended either padding the levers on the emergency door or making them recessed to prevent injury.

The board, which makes safety recommendations but lacks the power to implement them, also said the latches for seat bottoms should be installed with fail-safe locking mechanisms to keep them in place during accidents. Two students in the New York crash were believed to have suffered more serious injuries.

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MULTIMEDIA — Britt Canada, Western Texas College's Director of Technology, demonstrates how the Multimedia facility in the Fine Arts Department works. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

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***The U.S. Air Force Announces** the publication of the Electronic Scoring Sites and Emitters Sites Draft Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Realistic Bomber Training Initiative (RBTI).*

The United States Air Force has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) to analyze the potential impacts of re-siting, establishing, and constructing two Electronic Scoring Sites and two MOA emitter sites that are part of the RBTI Electronic Scoring Site system. When integrated with the sites previously selected in the RBTI Record of Decision (ROD), these four re-sited assets would support realistic, integrated training for bomber aircrews from Dyess and Barksdale AFBs. This proposal fulfills the management actions authorized in the RBTI Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) ROD (March 2000) and responds to changes in site availability.

The proposed action would re-site an Electronic Scoring Site in Reeves County (southwest of Pecos), establish a new Electronic Scoring Site in Scurry County (Snyder Airport), and re-site two emitter site locations in Borden County. All sites, with the exception of Snyder Airport, are within a mile of the original locations proposed in the RBTI EIS.

For more information, the draft EA and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) are available for review at the following locations: Stonewall County Library, Kent County Library, Dawson County Public Library, Reeves County Library, Post Public Library, Rotan Public Library, Scurry County Public Library, and Tahoka City-County Public Library.

***If you have any questions**, please contact the 7th Bomb Wing Public Affairs at (915) 696-2861. Please provide comments by December 14, 2000 to: Mr. Don Pitts, RBTI EA, 7th CES/CEV, 710 3rd Street, Dyess AFB, TX, 79607.*

Cogdell OB department professionally staffed

Nurse manager **Linda Briseno, RN** and her staff take pride in the OB department at Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

"My staff and myself hold a positive view of our department in reference to growth and potential," said Briseno. "The staff, CRNAs and doctors all foster a team spirit to be the most efficient, competent staff in our region."

Briseno heads a 10-person staff comprised of RNs and LVNs.

Briseno worked in the OB department intermittently from 1976 to 1985 as an LVN, then returned to the department after graduating from RN school in 1990.

She was promoted to nurse manager four years ago and is certified in fetal monitoring, neonatal resuscitation and ACLS and PALS. Briseno also manages and teaches childbirth classes, along with RN **Bonnie Carroll**.

Carroll is the night shift charge nurse in Cogdell's maternity center. Carroll began her career as a nurse's aid while in LVN training at Western Texas College. She graduated from the ADN program at Howard College in 1991.

Carroll is certified in neonatal resuscitation, EKG, fetal monitoring, ACLS and PALS. She also works as charge nurse on Medical/Surgical when her unit is closed.

Jill Proffitt, has been an RN for seven years, three of which has been spent in obstetrics. She is day shift charge nurseand is certified neonatal resustation and fetal monitoring.

Kadee Wikse and **Stacy Haley** also work in the OB department.

Wikse is the newest RN in the OB department. Haley, a registered nurse for almost five years, has worked in several different areas, including surgery and the emergency room and now OB. She is also a certified paramedic with Snyder EMS.

Five LVNs serve on the OB staff, including **Diane Braziel** who has worked at Cogdell for 22 years. She has spent 15 years in the obstetrics department and has certification in BLS, neonatal resuscitation and advanced EKG.

LVNs **Becky Clark**, **Jo Schooler**, **LaVerne Kitchens**, and **Valerie Crisp**, also work in the department.

Clark, who started at Cogdell as a candy striper while in junior high school, graduated from WTC in 1985. She began working at Cogdell in '86 on the medical/surgical floor, before moving to obstetrics. She is certified in neonatal monitoring and basic EKG.

Schooler has been a LVN for 23 years, with six years of experience in labor and delivery, and 12 years experience as a nursery nurse. She is certified in fetal monitoring, PALS and assists with childbirth classes.

Kitchens has been a LVN for 11 years. She spent 10 years on the TDCJ, medical/surgical wing, before transferring to the OB department.

Crisp graduated as an LVN in 1990 and has two years of OB experience. She has also worked in orthopedics and surgery.

The obstetrics department has two certified registered nurse anesthetists on staff.

Steven Fitzgerald has been a CRNA for 15 years, while **Bill Harris** has 27 years of experience. Both are members of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists and the Texas Association of Nurse Anesthetists.



Linda Briseno, RN
Nurse Manager



Jo Schooler,LVN



Jill Proffitt, RN



Diane Braziel, LVN



Becky Clark, LVN



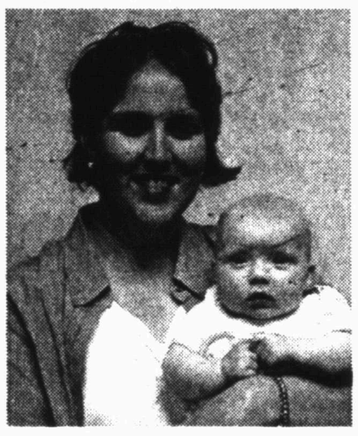
Bonnie Carroll, RN



Stacy Haley, RN



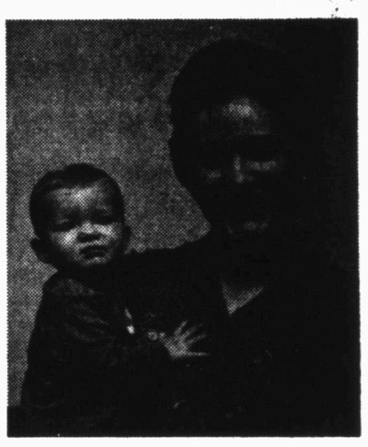
LaVerne Kitfchens, LVN



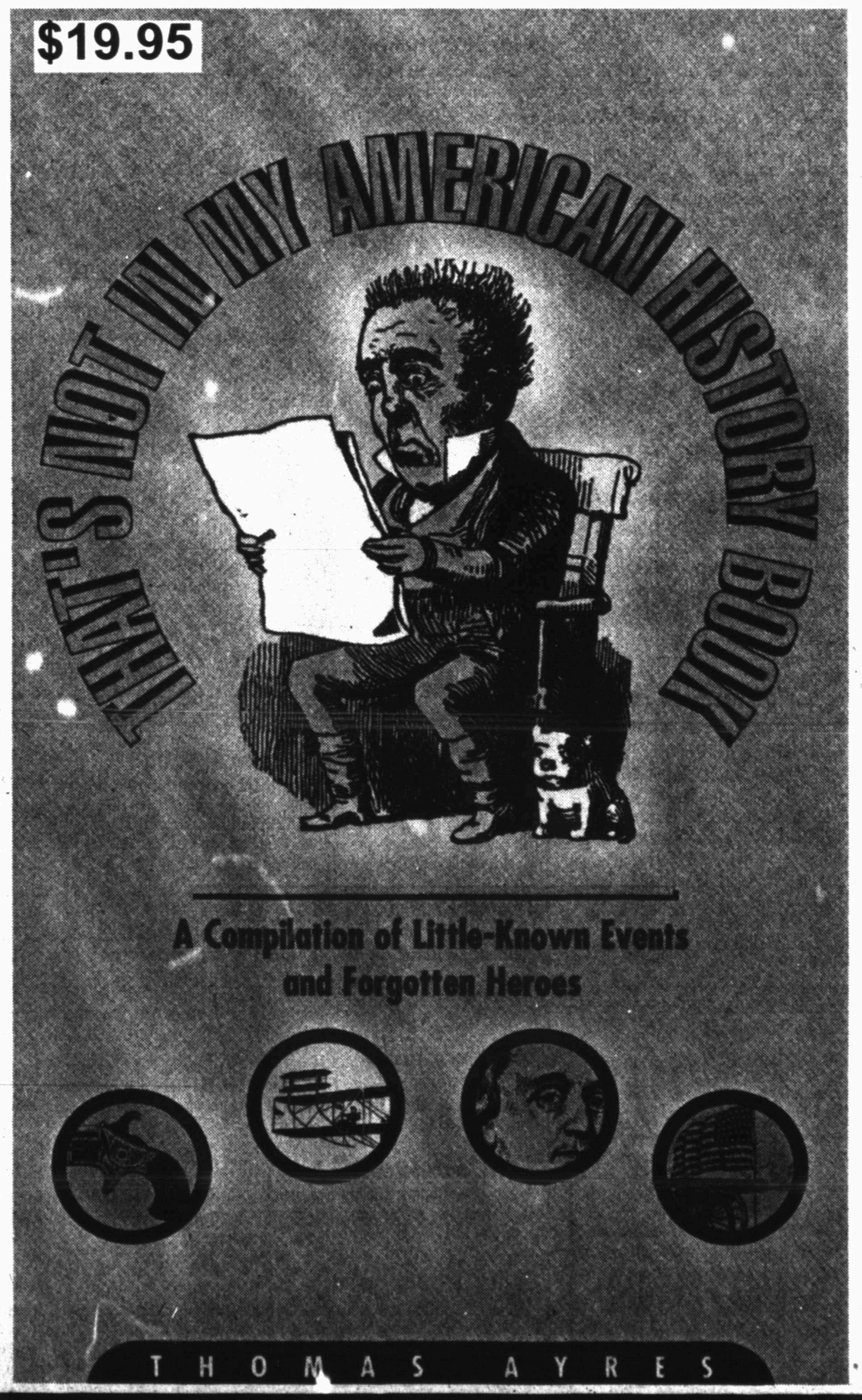
Sherry Carroll and daughter, delivered at CMH



Robin Downing and three daughters, the baby was delivered at CMH



Cherrie Tate and daughter, delivered at CMH



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Snyder Daily News
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2nd Front Page

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Bush leads Gore by 300 votes

By The Associated Press

After a week of suspense, a fistful of lawsuits and thousands of ballots counted, recounted, then counted again by hand in some places, George W. Bush clings to a 300-vote lead over Al Gore in Florida's decisive presidential election. But the outcome remains uncertain in a struggle that Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris took to her state's Supreme Court on Wednesday.

Legal actions have been proliferating, each side blaming the other for attempting to thwart the will of voters by introducing delaying tactics.

"We're seeing increasing desperation and it's not pretty," GOP lawyer Theodore Olson said Wednesday of the Democratic team. On ABC's "Good Morning America," he said Democrats should stop challenging every deadline and let the results unfold.

David Boies, a prominent litigator and the newest addition to Gore's legal team, said on CBS' "The Early Show" that if Republicans had allowed recounts to go forward, "there would not be any lawyers down here."

It was left to Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, the Republican candidate's brother, to sum up the high-stakes twists. "This is a pretty intense process," he said Tuesday. "I hope this will be resolved."

On that there was no dispute.

In Harris' Supreme Court petition, filed after Tuesday's 5 p.m. deadline for Florida's 67 counties to file certified election results with her, she said local canvassing boards should stop any effort to hand count ballots "pending resolution as to whether any basis exists to modify the certified results" after the deadline.

She also asked that various legal actions around the state be transferred to a court in Tallahassee.

"Without question, this court must make it clear that the election of the president and vice president is not a matter of local pleasure," the petition said.

Of the counties where the Gore campaign has sought complete hand recounts, officials in Volusia County had completed them as of Tuesday night.

Western Texas College schedules events

From morning 'til night, the Western Texas College campus will be bustling with activity Thursday as the Psi Zeta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa will host a "water day", the college will hold its annual Christmas Happenings and the continuing education department will host the Region V wardens meeting.

Phi Theta Kappa's daylong event is entitled "Water: The Power Behind Its Presence." Guest speakers from WTC and the surrounding area will be speaking on topics that either deal with or incorporate water.

The event will begin with an opening by WTC President, Dr. Harry Krenek at 8 a.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre and will conclude with a balloon release around 4:30 p.m.

The Region V wardens meeting will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Scheduled events for the Christmas Happenings include a holiday quilts exhibit at the Scurry County Museum from 5:30 to 7 p.m., a planetarium presentation of ***A Christmas Story*** at 6 p.m. and the singing of Christmas carols at 6:45 p.m.

The traditional Christmas tree lighting ceremony will be at 7:05 p.m. followed by a talent show at 7:15 p.m. Both events will be held in the central courtyard.

At 8 p.m., the drama production ***Rudolph the Day After*** will take the stage in the Fine Arts Theatre, followed by ***Christmas Crisis at Mistletoe Mesa***.

Ticket prices are $5 for adults and $3 for students and senior citizens.

Also as part of the event, a science fair will be taking place on campus Thursday and Friday involving local elementary schools.

Among the featured speakers for the Water Day event will be State Rep. David Counts discussing legislative actions concerning an adequate water supply in Texas.

Robert Adams will speak on the history of water rights while Steve Divine, weatherman and noon anchor for Lubbock's Channel 11, will talk about the water cycle and weather patterns .

Dr. Jim Durham will discuss the topic: "possibility of a future world war due to water."

Sam Fare will explain xerioscaping, which involves landscaping according to water availability.

Windi Fuller, Interim Director of the Lone Wolf Groundwater Conservation District, will speak on conservation and the importance of groundwater while Greg Gruben, Scurry County Extension Agent, will discuss water use in agriculture.

Other speakers include Dr. Andrew Jackson, Texas Tech professor, discussing water resources in West Texas and Dr. David Kattes discussing the chemistry of water.

On the English panel, Dr. Ed Barkowsky and Janet Halbert will speak on the importance of water in literature.

Britt Canada, Joe Carter, and Sue Freemyer will make up the science panel and they will discuss environmental issues with water.

Jack Price will discuss past legislative actions pertaining to water.

In addition, Paula Tonenah with "Keepers of the Earth" will present the topic "Importance and Spirituality of Water in the Native American Culture."

Chris Wingert, assistant manager of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, will also speak.

Obituaries

Jerry Dennis

1937-2000

Graveside service for Jerry Dennis is set for 2 p.m. Thursday in Hillside Memorial Gardens. The Rev. Raymond Bugg, Community Care Hospice chaplain, will officiate. Arrangements are under the direction of Wright Colonial Funeral Home.



Jerry Dennis

Mr. Dennis, 63, died Tuesday, Nov. 14, at his home following a lengthy illness.

Born Feb. 25, 1937 in Newcastle, Tex., he married Gloria Ashley on Sept. 28, 1957 in Snyder. He served in the U.S. Marines and retired from Western Texas College in 1996 where he was instructor of diesel mechanics and served as director of occupational-technical education.

Survivors include his wife, Gloria Dennis of Snyder; a daughter and son-in-law, Glenna and Phillip Kite of Lubbock; a son, Mac Dennis of Rosharon; three sisters, Mary June Cessna of Tooele, Utah, Helen Bolin of Colorado City and Sarah McCormick of San Jose, Calif.; three brothers, Bruce Dennis of Lubbock, A.E. Dennis of Midland and J.C. Dennis of Snyder; a grandson, Aaron Kite of Lubbock; four granddaughters, Anna Kite of Lubbock, April Dennis, Ashley Dennis and Brandi Dennis, all of Madisonville; and several nieces and nephews.

Family visitation will be held from 6 to 7 this evening at Wright Colonial Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to Community Care Hospice, 1510 S. Gregg, Big Spring, 79720 or WTC Scholarship Fund, 6200 S. College Ave.

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Charles Bowers

1927-2000

Charles "Chock" Bowers, a native of Scurry County, died Monday, Nov. 13, in Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock after a lengthy illness.

Graveside service for Mr. Bowers, 73, is set for 11 a.m. Friday in the Dunn Cemetery. The Rev. James Merrell, pastor of the Ira Methodist Church, will officiate. Arrangements are under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born April 18, 1927 in Dunn, he married Nelva Allen on Dec. 27, 1952 in Center, Tex. Mr. Bowers was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War, and a Methodist.

Mr. Bowers moved to Lubbock about seven years ago from Pasadena where he had lived for 43 years and had worked for Champion Paper.

Survivors include his wife, Nelva Bowers of Lubbock; a daughter, Norma Hereford of Lubbock; a son, Charles Ross Bowers of Spearman; and four grandchildren.

Tinney Rainwater

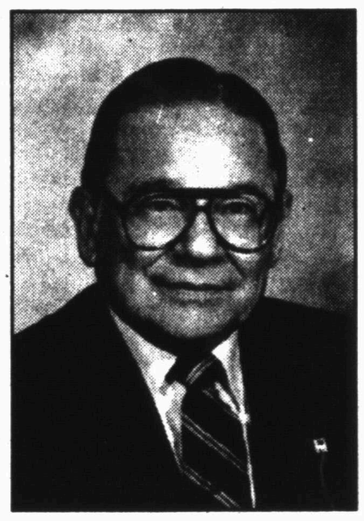
1965-2000

Tinney Rainwater of Montgomery, Tex., daughter of Sally Palmer Summerville of Snyder, died Tuesday, Nov. 14, after a sudden illness.

Services for Miss Rainwater, 35, are pending at Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born on July 29, 1965 in Snyder, she was member of the Primitive Baptist Church.

Other survivors include her father, Albert Rainwater of Conroe; a brother, Malcolm Rainwater of Midland; her paternal grandmother, Edna Gordon of Conroe; and a nephew, Randy Rainwater of Midland.



Dr. W.E. Thorn

Thanksgiving service set here Sunday

The Scurry County Ministerial Alliance is sponsoring a Thanksgiving service at 6 p.m. Sunday at First Baptist Church.

Speaker will be Dr. W.E. Thorn. Dr. Thorn speaks over 300 times a year to civic, religious, educational and business groups. He is the author of 17 books, served as chaplain of Lions International and appeared in an NBC television documentary.

Three mishaps within an hour; four people are sent to hospital

• ***Accidents***

A major three-vehicle accident at 8:43 a.m. Tuesday in the 500 block of Coliseum Drive sent four people to Cogdell Memorial Hospital, including a two-month-old boy.

Maria Luera, 40, of 2709 Avenue F was admitted for observation while Rita Carl, 51, of Sweetwater, Cindy Marie Valdez, 26, of 1003 Avenue E, and two-month old Gabriel Luera of 2709 Avenue F were all treated and released.

The accident involved a 1997 Pontiac Firebird driven by Carl, a 1978 Pontiac Trans-Am driven by Valdez and a 1996 Ford Taurus driven by Luera.

A two-vehicle mishap occurred at 7:54 a.m. Tuesday in the 400 block of 16th Street. Involved were a 1979 Chevrolet pickup driven by Oscar Flores, 31, of Ligonier, Ind., and a 1997 Dodge pickup driven by Rachel Rivera, 44, of 1078 Ennis Creek Road.

At 8:10 a.m. Tuesday, officers worked a minor accident in the 3600 block of Houston involving a 1999 Ford Mustang driven by Whitney Graham, 17, of 2442 Round Top Road. The vehicle struck a mailbox belonging to Mrs. R.M. Hedges.

• ***ATM card stolen***

Carlene Webster contacted police at 4:46 p.m. Tuesday to report that someone had stolen her ATM card and made withdrawals from her account.

• ***Dog stolen***

Vernest Tippens reported her dog stolen from 810 33rd Street at 8:10 a.m. Tuesday.

• ***Arrests***

At 10:55 a.m. Tuesday, a 30-year-old man was taken into custody at the driver's license office on a misdemeanor warrant for theft by check.

David L. James, 43, of 3108 Avenue L was arrested at 3:57 p.m. Tuesday on a warrant for parole violation.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Nov. 13-Kenneth Armstrong, Elbert Hill, Clifford Voss, Elizabeth Duncan, Alma Gladson, Otis Martin, Devin Molinar, Virginia Riegel, Anice Wallace; Nov. 14-Petra Delao, Gaylon Cummings and Mary Luera.

DISMISSALS: Nov. 13-Ydalia Alcala, William Floyd; Nov. 14-Elbert Hill, Dana Robertson and baby girl, Dorothy Rodriguez, Elizabeth Duncan, Otis Martin, Devin Molinar and Lillian Williamson.

CENSUS: 39 (Med./Surg.-13, Long-term Care-24, OB-1 and ICU-1)

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events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Church of God revival

The Church of God, 21st and Ave. O, is concluding its revival at 7 p.m. today. The Rev. Vernon Groce is the evangelist.

Great American Smokeout

It's time for the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout. The ACS and Cogdell Memorial Hospital are here for people who would like to quit smoking. There will be a four-session Fresh Start smoking cessation class beginning at 6 p.m. Thursday in the hospital boardroom. The cost is $10. For more information, call PRIME Rehab at 574-7259.

Senior citizen swimnastics

Snyder Senior Citizen Center swimnastics is held from 10-11 a.m. on Monday, and 1-2 p.m. on Thursdays. For additional information, call 573-4035.

FBC worship service

The First Baptist Church worship service airs at 3 p.m. every Thursday on TV Channel 2.

West Family Reading Night

West Elementary's Family Reading Night is held every Thursday from 6-7:30 p.m. Refreshment, prizes and childcare are provided.

Discovery School open house

Discovery School will have an open house at 7 p.m. Thursday at the First United Methodist Church. The community is invited to meet the staff and tour the facility. The school provides daycare for children between the ages of six weeks and four years old. For more information, call Barbara at 573-4770.

Thanksgiving dinner

The family council of Snyder Healthcare Center will hosts its annual Thanksgiving Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Thursday. Turkey, dressing and rolls will be furnished. Familes bring vegetables, salads and desserts.

PTK talent show

Phi Theta Kappa honor society will host a talent show Thursday at the courtyard at Western Texas College. First prize will be $100 and second prize will be $50. Entry fee is $5, and all entries must be related to water. Deadline for entries is 5 p.m. today. For more information, contact Jennifer Beard at 573-8511, ext. 266.

Enchilada dinner

An enchilada dinner to benefit the Lady Drillers traveling basketball team will be held Friday from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center. Adult tickets are $5 and children tickets 10 and under are $3. Tickets are available at Permian Communications and The Cuttery.

Garage and bake sale

Historic Scurry County will have a garage sale and a bake sale beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday at the Dermott School. Donations of items may be brought to the school on Friday. Call Billy Haynes at 573-7874 to have donated items picked up.

Thanksgiving Service

The Scurry County Ministerial Alliance is sponsoring a Thanksgiving Service at 6 p.m. Sunday at the First Baptist Church. Guest speaker is Dr. W. E. Thorn, former president of Dallas Baptist University.

"Left Behind" movie

Church of Nazarene, across from Big Country Autoland, will show the movie "Left Behind" at 6 p.m. Sunday. Everyone is invited and refreshments will be served.

AARP chapter meeting

AARP Chapter 2063 will meet at noon Monday at the Senior Center. Nancy Schraer with Community Care Hospice, will be the speaker. All new members are invited.

Ira 2001 annuals

The 2001 Bulldog annuals are on sale. The cost is $26 with your name on the cover or $22 without. They will be offered for sale until Tuesday. The supply is limited. To order, contact Ira ISD's principal's office at 573-2628.

Tiger Times yearbook

The 2000-01 Tiger Times yearbook are on sale at the junior high until Tuesday in room 110 or the office. The full $14 may be paid now, or a deposit of $7 may be paid with the balance due in the spring. Checks must be made out to Snyder Junior High School. No extra copies will be available.

Vocational nurse program testing

Testing for the next class of the vocational nursing program at WTC is set for 1:30 p.m. on Nov. 29. Testing will also be at 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 6 and 9 a.m. on Jan. 5. An extended application process will allow students to take the exam at 1:30 p.m. on Jan. 31, or 9 a.m. on Feb. 9. Classes begin March 1. To schedule an appointment, call the counseling center at 573-8511, ext. 313.

Troop 27 to turn 50

Boy Scout Troop 27 will celebrate its 50th anniversary at First United Methodist Church on Dec. 3, from 2:30-5 p.m. The troop is seeking past information and memorabilia to share at this celebration. If anyone has anything to share or would like to attend, please contact Joe or Terry Hefner at 863-2446 after 7 p.m. Max Snider at 574-2784 or Chris Smauley at 573-5183.

Holiday dinner

Church of the Nazarene will host a holiday Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinner following the 10:45 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Dec. 3. Everyone is invited.

VFW arts, crafts show

Vendors are needed for the VFW Arts and Crafts show set for Sunday, Dec. 10, at the Scurry County VFW Post. Contact Jim Bailey after 3 p.m. at 573-5338.

Glory Room open

The Glory Room, a Christian library located at Trinity United Methodist Church, is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Everyone is asked to return materials so that others may check them out. If other hours are needed, contact the church at 573-3988.

Special Section

The Snyder Daily News

Wednesday, November 15, 2000

Commerating the

50th Anniversary

of the

Colorado River Municipal Water District

Wednesday, November 15, 2000

and the

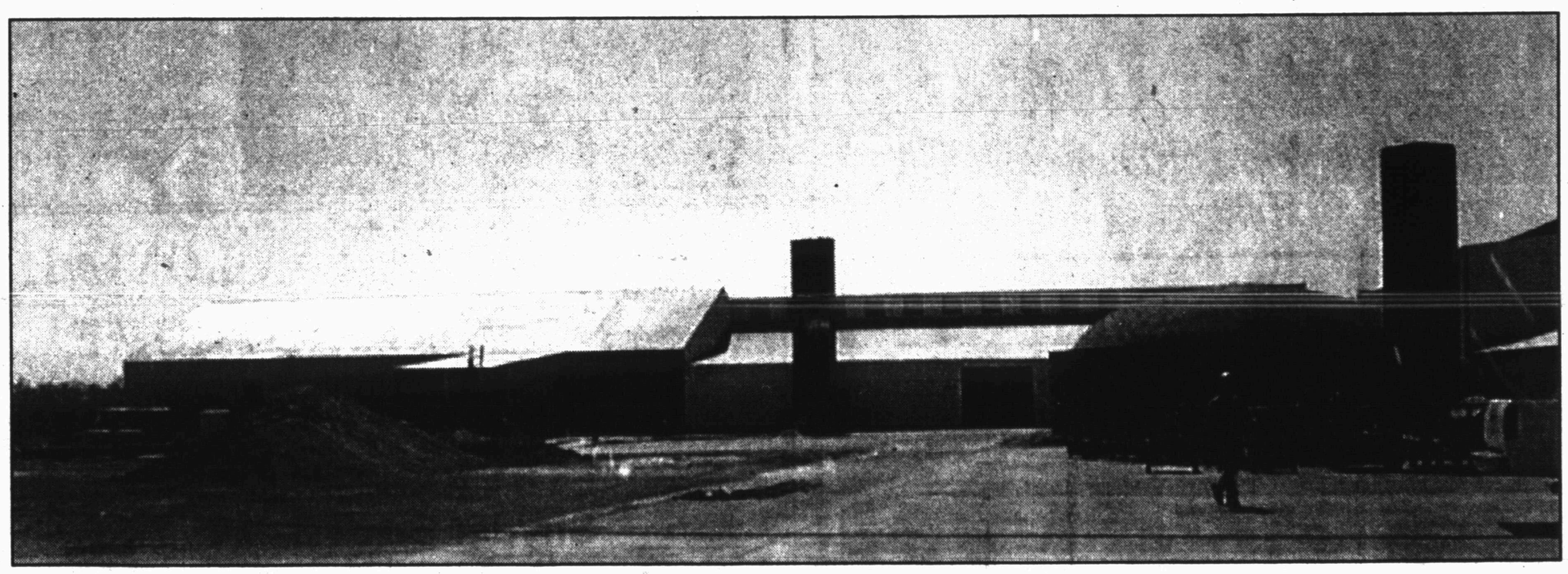
Open House of Snyder Brick & Tile

10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Friday, November 17, 2000

WELCOME

SNYDER BRICK & TILE



DCOS

Development Corporation of Snyder

3610 College Avenue **573-1544**

DCOS' DeLille recalls effort to reopen plant

By John DeLille,
Executive Director
Development Corporation
of Snyder

The industrial site location process used to have a rhythm to it. You could feel the flow of the decision-making process, which allowed you to anticipate the needs of the industrial prospect.

Knowing the next step and the people involved meant that you had time to consider the solutions to the prospect's problems and present those solutions in a way, which strengthened your position.

Feeling the rhythm allowed you to become a part of the team. You were an insider, as opposed to just another state or community being considered. Feeling the rhythm of the deal turned a cold business-like process into an art.

An enjoyment of the art in life makes it a pleasure to get up in the morning. It makes you anxious to get to your desk.

Problems which sidetrack and confuse others become small and easy to deal with. You stay focused on the rhythms of the deal because it provides pleasure and satisfaction.

Helping Snyder Brick & Tile refurbish and restart the brick plant here in Snyder was outside my realm of experience. I had no feel for the process. I didn't understand the people involved. I was reluctant to use my imagination and it was not a project that the community had immediately embraced as a good idea.

My previous experience centered around a request for capital to a board of directors in the fall.

Approval around Jan. 1, leads the prospect to contact industrial developers (people like me) for information which fits their criteria for a location they would consider. You submit your base data. Next, there would be a visit by a technician who cares absolutely nothing about your wonderful quality of life, or the history of your community, or your dreams for the future. They want to talk about your water supply, your ability to handle sewer effluent, the available labor and their skills and work ethic. Can you build buildings and lease back? Do you offer tax abatement? What other incentives do you offer to locate their facility in your state or community?

It dawns on you that this person is looking for ways to exclude you, not include you in their search for an industrial site. You're tempted to talk about what a great place Snyder is, but you better not. Everyone thinks where they live is great if they've become part of the community.

He wants the facts, just the facts.

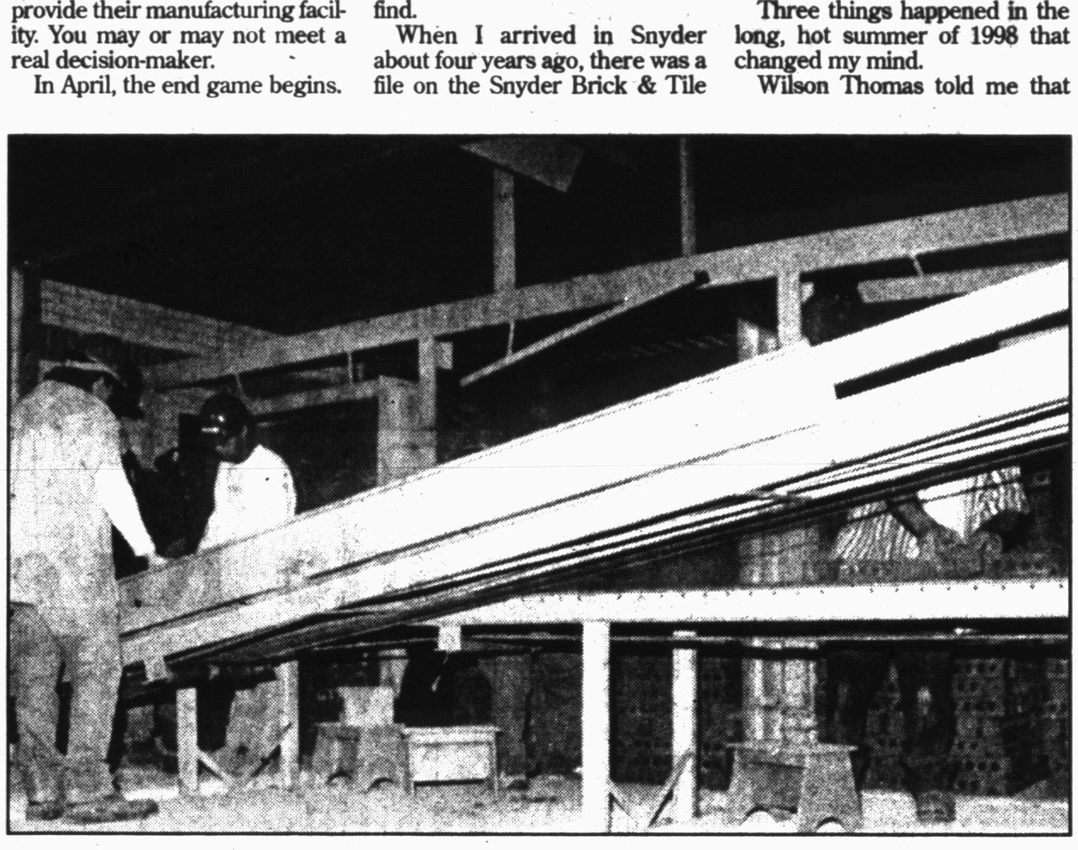
In March, because you are ready for industry, you make the cut to be considered in-depth.

The celebration is brief.

The real negotiations begin.

They want more details and commitments on what you can provide their manufacturing facility. You may or may not meet a real decision-maker.

In April, the end game begins.



PRODUCTION LINE — Brick plant workers stack brick as it comes off the production line. (SDN Staff Photo)

You meet the decision-makers and the final decisions are made.

You win. Construction begins.

The service or liaison to the industry by the community and the state begins, and it is very time consuming.

You must keep your commitments.

By Thanksgiving, you think about some time off and a celebration. You feel worthwhile.

The industry and the personalities involved become your friends and your responsibility.

They have expectations and the community has expectations and you enjoy each other.

The facility and the people involved become a part of the community.

Snyder Brick & Tile didn't follow this process.

They had no rhythm I could find.

When I arrived in Snyder about four years ago, there was a file on the Snyder Brick & Tile facility.

I read the file and walked through the building. It looked like it should be bulldozed to eliminate an eyesore. I listened to all the stories about why and how it was shut down, and the stories only reinforced my opinion. I previously had been in some profitable brick plants, but I remembered the industry contraction experience in the 1980s.

There was no value that I could see.

A man named Wilson Thomas with Snyder Brick & Tile began to call me and talk about refurbishing the brick plant.

Frankly, he seemed to have very little substance to back his plans for what he wanted to do.

I kept looking for some rhythm and it just wasn't there.

There were problems with back taxes, and capitalization, and a lack of leadership.

Nothing he said about the proposed process ever impressed me much.

The calls continued, but I listened more out of courtesy than conviction that anything would ever happen.

Three things happened in the long, hot summer of 1998 that changed my mind.

Wilson Thomas told me that the TNRCC (Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission) permits for the facility would be grandfathered to restart the facility.

The value of that fact wasn't lost on me.

I've been through several permitting processes that were both expensive and arcane.

New permits would have cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. He told me that he had completed the drawings to refurbish the facility on his own.

No outside engineering firm was used.

He finally told me he was going through the process for a USDA loan guarantee to package his financing. He wanted a local bank to go through the process with him.

I finally found the rhythm of the deal.

You had to be thoughtful.

It wasn't Thomas' timing that was important, it was his tenacity.

The rhythm was slow and jerky, but it was unyielding.

I had been too impatient to pick up on it. I needed to be as tenacious and committed to the project as he was.

Bill Parker and his staff at West Texas State Bank made the most important local contribution to the effort to help Snyder Brick & Tile rebuild, in my opinion.

Faxes and telephone calls fill several of my files.

I can imagine the paperwork that was stacked at the bank.

Parker organized the financial information and worked with the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) in order for Snyder Brick & Tile to obtain a loan guarantee.

This process is not for the faint at heart.

Last minute negotiations with the USDA prevented the placement of the loan with West Texas State Bank, but the bank had certainly done its lion's share of the work to prepare the necessary documents.

Wilson Thomas and I remain very appreciative of Bill Parker's talent and the quality of his work.

About 15 years ago, it became popular to talk about economic development as opposed to industrial development.

The South had lost the advantage of less expensive labor, cheap power and aggressive industrial developers.

The country had become more homogenous as it related to plant location factors. The easy relocations from the North were over. There had to be further development of the infrastructure and the education system if the South was to remain competitive against other regions and ultimately the world.

There were a rash of state and national organizations changing their names to emphasize the new strategies that must be employed to develop a state and community economically.

Rural development became a new discipline to be studied by the well-rounded developer.

Developers continue to talk about the best ways to achieve rural development.

Snyder Brick & Tile is an excellent example of rural economic development.

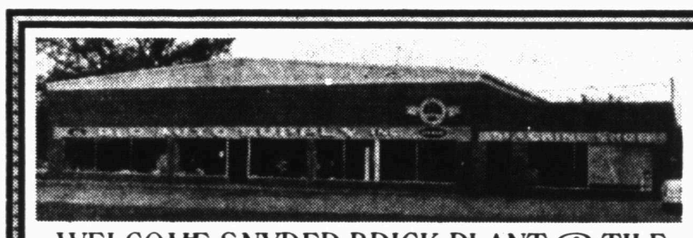
There was an understanding of the assets in our community.

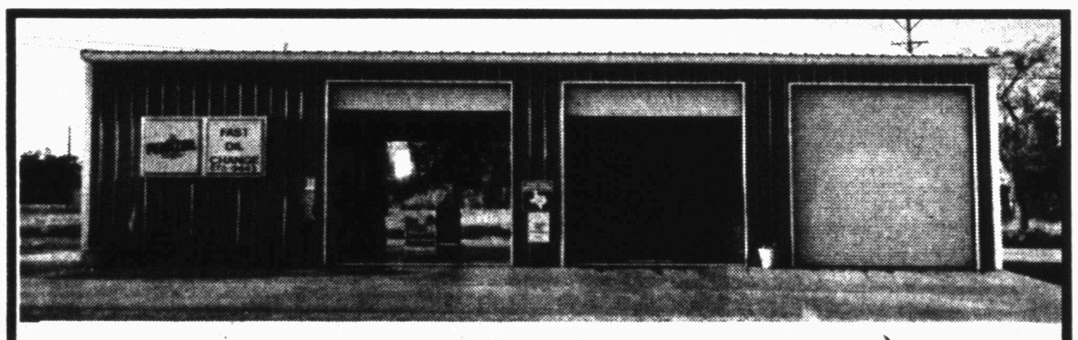
They re-invested in our capital equipment and the education of our labor force and provided a new way to create wealth in our rural community.

At the risk of not sounding factual and business-like, Snyder is a nice community in which to live.

Our people are our asset – combined with capital investment and education, they can look forward to productive and happy lives.

We should welcome Snyder Brick & Tile into our community and enjoy them as a member of our community for years to come.


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CONGRATULATIONS CRMWD ON 50 YEARS!
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Kent Wright - Funeral Director
David M. Brown - Family Services Counselor
200 E. 37th Street Snyder, Texas 915-573-6200

Midwest and Stamford consolidated in 1999

In August of 1998, the members of Midwest Electric Cooperative and Stamford Electric Cooperative voted to consolidate the two companies and form Big Country Electric Cooperative.

Ballots were mailed out on July 31 and the count was tallied on Aug. 15.

Midwest Electric members gave 95 percent approval out of 1,046 votes cast. A total of 993 voted for the consolidation and 53 negative votes were cast.

Stamford Electric ballots totaled 925 and earned a 93 percent approval rating. There were 860 votes for the consolidation and 63 against.

The new co-op went on-line Jan. 1, 1999. Big Country has three full service offices in Roby, Stamford and Snyder and all are linked with a common billing and communication system.

The company provides service to 12 counties in West Texas including Borden, Fisher, Garza, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry, Shackelford, Stonewall and Throckmorton.

Jerry Stapp is the general manager of Big Country.

In August of 1999, a restructuring of the cooperative took place as a result of the acceptance of retirement packages by nine employees.

Edwin Jackson, a 39-year employee of the cooperative, assumed the duties of Snyder district manager after 22 years in the member services department.

Dalvin Alexander, who had been the interim manager of the Snyder office until that time, became the electric system manager and supervises all outside operations. He is based in Roby.

This past April, the company held its first annual meeting in Stamford, electing officers for three board positions.

District 9 incumbent Sue Herring defeated Jimmy Stribling, retaining her place on the board.

Members elected incumbent Carl Williams to the District 8 spot. He was running against incumbent John Ward. Both were on the former Midwest board, Williams having served 21½ years and Ward 5½ years.

In District 2, members chose J.F. Dozier for the board over Billy Middlebrook.

The elections reduced the number of directors on the Big Country board from 16 to 14, and is the first step in reducing the total number of board members to nine, as planned following the consolidation.

The plan is to reduce the board over a three-year period from 16 directors to nine directors.

Big Country Electric is divided into nine districts. Elections will be held in three districts in 2001 and three more in 2002 to eventually narrow to one the number of representatives each district has. Currently, some districts have two board representatives.

In 2001, elections will be held in districts 3, 4 and 7 and in 2002, elections will be held in districts 1, 5 and 6.

Stapp said districts and their election years where selected at random.

Other directors include Jimlee Baucum, Lewis Corzine, Jerry Upshaw, Walter Buerger, Bobby Gruben, Carl Thompson, John Ben Glover, Mickey Sterling, Vance Lakey, Wilbert Klose and James Seidenberger.

Midwest Electric Cooperative's history with Scurry County goes back to the 1950s when a branch office was located on the square in Snyder.

The electric cooperative was formed in 1938 and organized in Fisher County with the first general office located in Roby.

Midwest continued to grow with the goal of providing the best possible electric service to its customers.

A new Snyder office was constructed in 1979 at 2100 College Avenue.

The company attributed the oil boom as a major factor in its growth, as oilfield work carried a large electricity load.

In the early 1970s and 1980s, 75 percent of Midwest's revenue came from the oil patch.

Many people work on Snyder's DCOS

Since its inception in 1991, the Development Corporation of Snyder's board of directors has changed faces numerous times.

The first DCOS board was appointed by Mayor Troy Williamson and included John Jarrell, agribusinessman; Bill Seale, owner of funeral homes and an insurance company; Dan Cotton, attorney; Miller Robinson, a minister; and Paul Zeck, president of YZ Industries.

John Jarrell, president of Ezell-Key Grain Co., served as the first president. He died in 1993 and Mayor Williamson appointed John Fagin, retired oil company executive and a former mayor, to the unexpired term.

In March 1993, Paul Zeck, who had become president of the DCOS, resigned to run for mayor. Mayor Williamson appointed Roy Baze, a retired Exxon executive, to fill that unexpired term.

In October 1994, Miller Robinson and Dan Cotton declined reappointment to the board. Mayor Zeck then named David Holt, owner of Fluid Transports, and Jack Gorman, Snyder National Bank senior executive vice president, to three-year terms.

David Holt resigned from the board in April, 1995 to run for mayor. Mayor Zeck then appointed Roy McQueen, publisher of the Snyder Daily News, to fill that unexpired term.

In May, 1995, Bill Seale resigned. The following month, Mayor Holt appointed Bill Wilson III, owner of Big Country Autoland, to fill the term ending in October, 1998.

In September, 1996, John Fagin resigned and Mayor Holt then appointed Gary, Landes, owner of Landes Home Furnishings, to fill the unexpired term ending in October, 1998.

In September, 1997, Mayor Holt reappointed McQueen and Gorman to new three-year terms ending in 2000. The same month, Roy Baze resigned and Mayor Holt appointed attorney David Cotton to fill the term expiring in October, 1999.

Bill Wilson declined reappointment and Larry Anderson, a certified public accountant, was named to fill his position. At the same time, Gary Landes was reappointed and both Anderson's and Landes' terms expire in 2001.

David Cotton was reappointed to a three-year term ending in 2002. The terms of McQueen and Gorman expired in 2000, and Mayor Dayton Robertson appointed Mark Cypert and Mike McWilliams to three-year terms expiring in 2003. Cypert is associated with Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home and McWilliams is a pharmacist with McWilliams Pharmacy.

Those who have served as board chairman include John Jarrell, Paul Zeck, Bill Seale, John Fagin, Roy Baze, Roy McQueen and Jack Gorman.

Gary Landes is the current president and David Cotton is vice president. Larry Anderson is the board secretary.

There have been two executive directors. The first was Doug Hutchinson who was hired in January, 1994. He resigned in August, 1996 to become director of economic development for Sommerville County in Glen Rose.

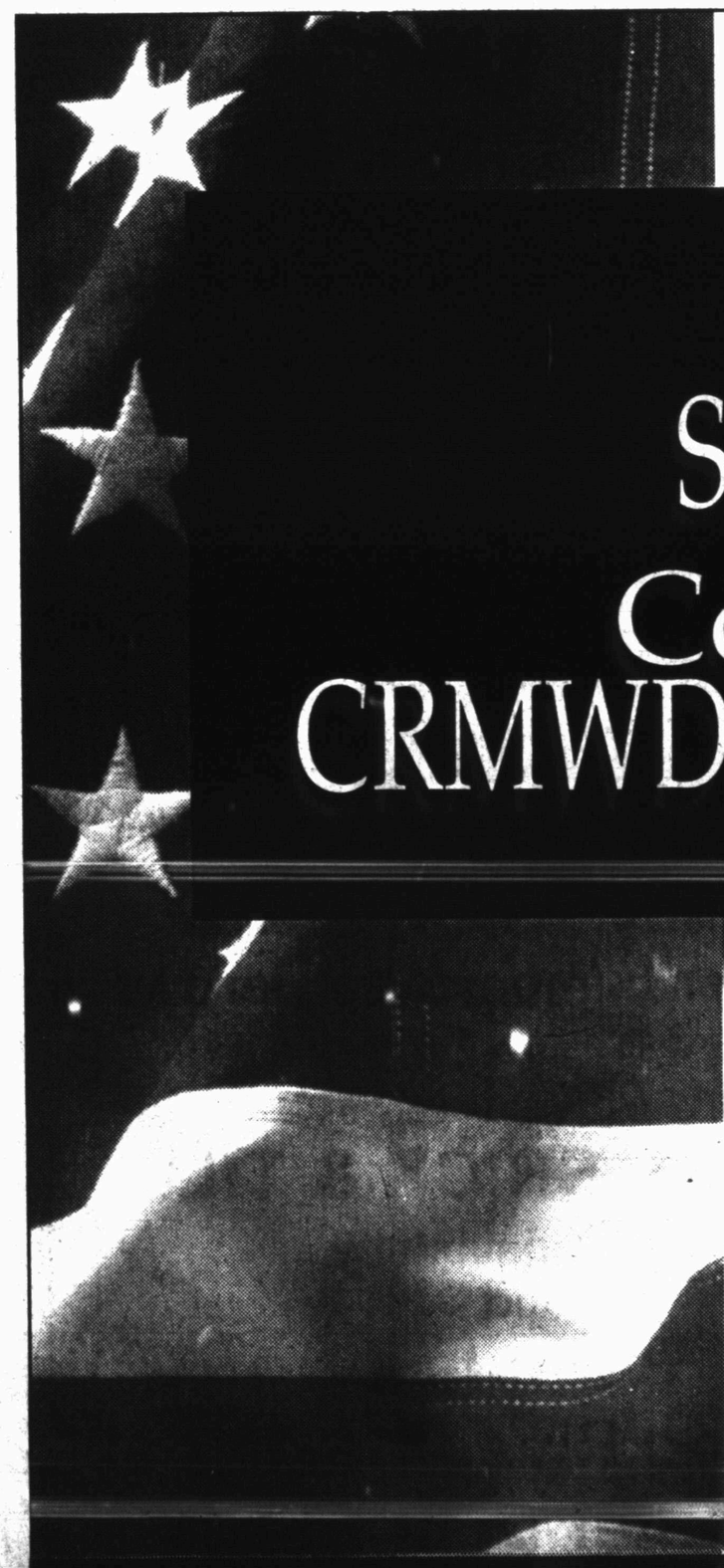
After his resignation, the DCOS began the search for a new director of economic development and named John Delille. Formerly with the state of Arkansas in economic development, DeLille began his work in Snyder in January, 1997.

—

The British unconditionally surrendered Singapore to the Japanese Feb. 15, 1942, during World War II. It was a major blow to the Allies because the island controlled an important sea route. The Japanese had landed to the north and marched through the jungle to take Singapore

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Snyder Brick & Tile sets open house Friday

It was no small undertaking, and skeptics were abundant. After all, the old girl had sat dying for some 15 years, closed in 1984 when the former owner went bankrupt.

So in 1999 when talk surfaced of putting life back into the old brick plant, hope for a boost to Snyder's economy was mixed with an equal dose of skepticism.

Finally, after months of work and some delays, Snyder Brick & Tile Co. will showcase its completely modernized facility with an open house celebration Friday, Nov. 17.

The plant is currently up to 46 employees with hiring continuing. The plant is expected to employ a total of 62 workers including office and sales personnel and truck drivers.

General manager Mitchell Goodger said the facility is not yet in full production, but is expected to be within a month's time. He said workers are still in the training process.

Behind the scenes work to get the plant back online actually began in 1996, when Wilson Thomas, chief executive officer and marketing director, began seeking the proper permits to open the business.

It wasn't until Dec. 3, 1999 that Snyder Brick & Tile received verbal notification that its loan guarantee application from the USDA Rural Business Cooperative Service had been approved.

That set in motion the final steps for the $3.5 million project at the facility, which was once Southwestern Brick Plant.

Thomas was quick to thank the Development Corporation of Snyder and its executive director, John DeLille, Congressman Charles Stenholm, Western Texas College and the West Central Texas Council of Governments for their work on the project.

A minor setback came when the loan guarantee was not approved through West Texas State Bank. However, on April 7, 2000, it was announced that the $3.5 million loan had been closed with financing being provided by OMNIBANK of Houston in conjunction with the USDA/Rural Development Loan Guarantee.

General Manager Mitchell Goodger also announced in April that 15 people would be hired immediately to begin construction work at the facility.

April was full of good news for the plant as Western Texas College was awarded an $84,343 grant for training brick plant employees.

The grant was from the Skills Development Fund of the Texas Workforce Commission.

Revamping and new construction began in June 2000 and was fully underway in July with 90 percent of the masonry work complete and work on the roof and machine room near completion.

The masonry work includes the kiln and three dryers.

The air handling system, which goes into the firing and drying operation was set in place in July with all of the firing components being state of the art technology.

The new plant is the same square footage as the original, but the layout differs greatly. "The big building replaces five or six little buildings," Goodger said.

The plant is broken down into areas including clay storage, the grinding system, manufacturing, drying, firing and packaging.

There is also 3,000 square feet dedicated to the employee lunchroom, restrooms, sampling room and quality control lab.

The anticipated annual production rate is 25,300,000 brick.

Once in full production, the plant will be manned 24 hours a day to monitor the firing operation.

The business office is located at 1601 Coliseum Drive.

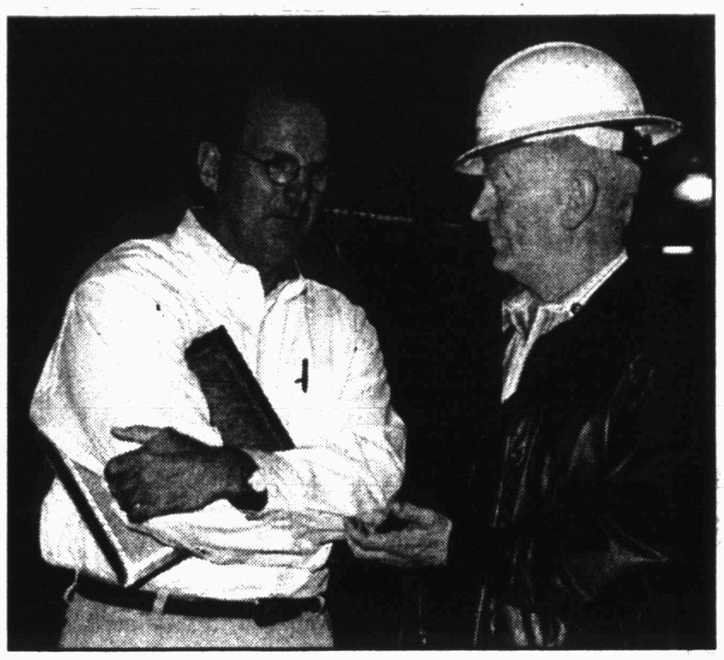
At one time, the local plant and five other brick plants utilized clay that runs in a formation from north of Snyder to south of Coleman.

All six eventually closed due to economic factors, new environmental laws, and some could not be upgraded to modern manufacturing systems. An analysis by investors with the local plant determined that only the Snyder plant should be restarted.

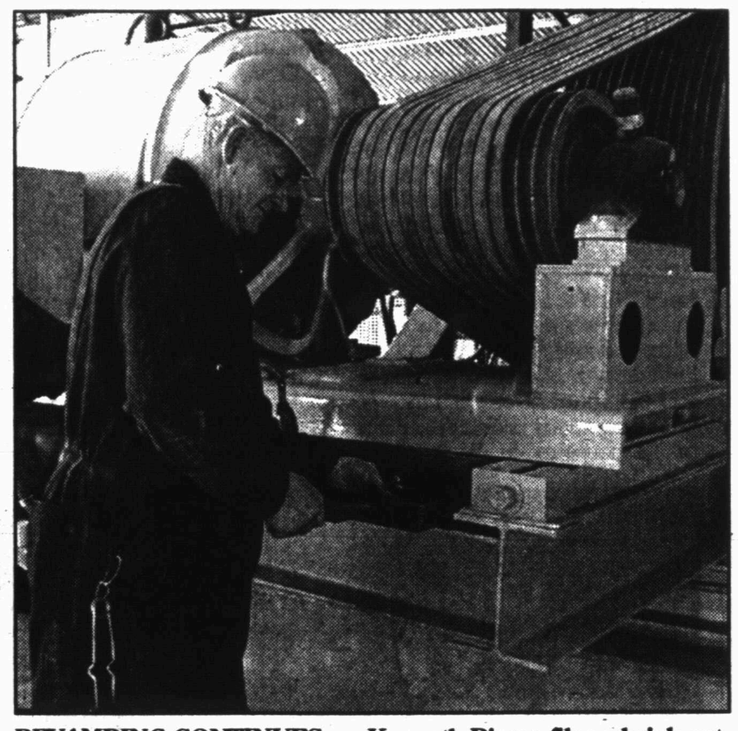
Charles T. Terrell Sr. is the chairman of the board of the plant, while Wilson Thomas serves as the chief executive officer and marketing director.

Terrell was the chairman of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice when the decision was made to locate the Price Daniel Unit in Snyder.

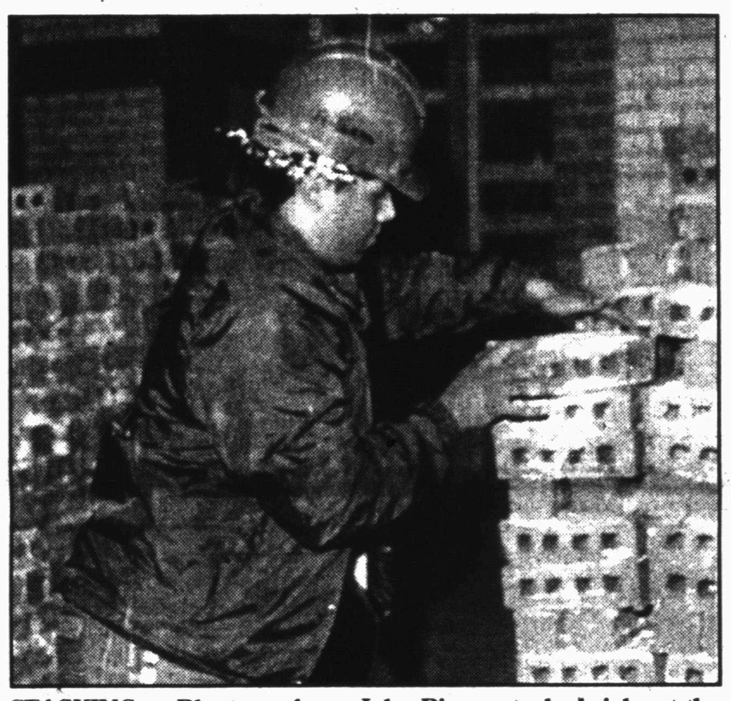
The original brick plant at the site was Southwestern Brick Co., founded in 1952 by Albert L. Martin, his sons, Billy Don and Ray, and his daughter, Janelda Davis.



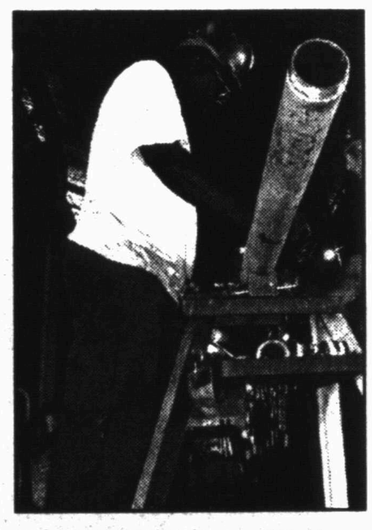
TOUR TALK — Snyder Brick & Tile Co. general manager Mitchell Goodger (right) chats with a visitor on Nov. 3 when a ribbon cutting celebration and brief tour was held at the facility. (SDN Staff Photo)



REVAMPING CONTINUES — Kenneth Pierce files a brick cutter as reconstruction was still progressing back in July. (SDN Staff Photo)



STACKING — Plant employee John Rivera stacks bricks at the facility. (SDN Staff Photo)

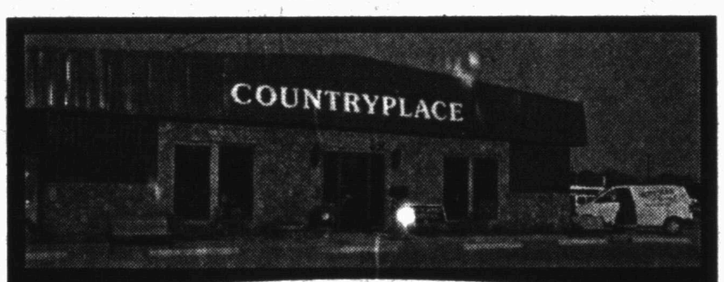


BRICK PLANT — Workers install gas pipe for the plant.

Open House set Friday at Brick Plant

Pizza Inn
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Congratulates
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2109 25th Street 573-3579

Lifetimes are filled with hopes, dreams and promises.

And for 50 years we've been helping them become a reality.

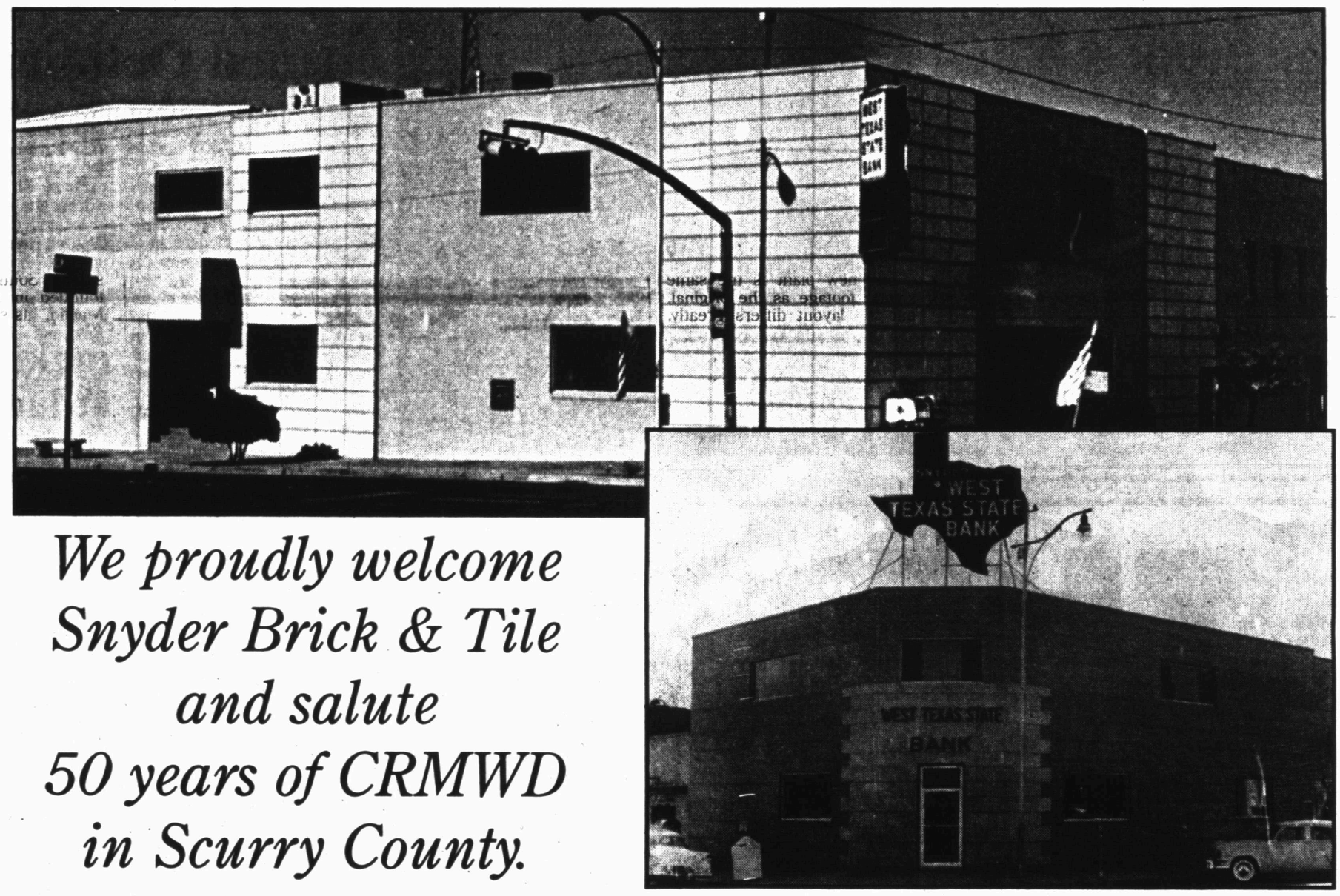
When West Texas State Bank was chartered in 1950, the goal of the founding directors was simple: to provide financial services to a growing community, and to provide those services in a friendly, neighborly way.

While many things have changed over the last 50 years, that proud tradition of "service to customers" has remained constant. It is, in fact, the very foundation from which West Texas State Bank has grown to become one of this community's strongest and most reliable financial institutions.

Over the years, we have forged a reputation which we cherish and will protect... a reputation based on honesty, integrity and friendliness in everything we do.

These principles, coupled with our commitment to remain responsible to our customer's needs and to provide the highest standards of service, will guide us as we chart the course in this century.

Celebrating 50 years of business is a tribute to our rural heritage and to YOU... the generation upon generation of Scurry County people who have been and will always be the heart of West Texas State Bank.



We proudly welcome
Snyder Brick & Tile
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West Texas State Bank

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When something sets in your own backyard, it's often easy to take it for granted.

For years, a Snyder-based drilling and petroleum company has been part of the Scurry County landscape, riding the roller coaster provided by the ups and downs of oil prices.

Price instability is a way of life in the petroleum business, but Snyder's Patterson Energy has emerged as a national force in the industry.

The good news, also, is that the growing company remains headquartered in Snyder, making it an important factor in the economy of Scurry County.

Patterson provides 250 jobs locally, about nine percent of the company's total work force of 2,800.

Patterson Energy also is the second-largest provider of domestic land-based drilling services. In 1999, Patterson drilled 842 wells, representing 7.6 million feet in drilling. The company currently owns 131 drilling rigs and 123 of those are in operation, thanks to stable oil prices in recent months.

While that is good for the company's bottom line, it is also good for Snyder and Scurry County.

Since Patterson is headquartered in Snyder, all drilling rigs located in the state of Texas are listed on the tax rolls of Scurry County public entities.

Last year, Patterson was one of the major taxpayers in the county, a tax bill of approximately $600,000 that was divided among the county, school district and junior college. In addition, Patterson makes capital expenditures of between $30 and $40 million annually, and the county collects sales taxes on these purchases.

Utilization of local contract labor also is a major component of the Patterson operation. This week for example, some 15 to 20 contract welders were on the job preparing a drilling rig bound for a 17,000-foot drilling venture in Mississippi.

Patterson operates its own diesel engine repair shop, and it also contracts with other diesel repair shops in Texas. The four mechanics and two helpers working in the Patterson shop rebuild between 60 and 100 engines each year.

Patterson has approximately 130 trucks and needs another 20 to move its rigs from location to location. Patterson operates its own truck shop to outfit the Patterson fleet to meet the specific needs for moving drilling rigs and associated equipment.

In addition, company personnel are active in various organizations in the county, and Patterson often is called on for financial support of local events and organizations.

Patterson, which operates from a 16,000-square foot headquarters building on the Lamesa Highway, is a publicly-traded company and is listed as PTEN on the Nasdaq board.

Earlier this year, Patterson completed a stock offering of 3 million in common shares, representing $99 million.

While the level of drilling activity is dependent upon such things as price and government regulations, the firm currently is experiencing good economic times. Stock is selling in the $30 range. And for the first nine months of 2000, Patterson generated revenues of $204.3 million and a net income of $11.4 million.

Last year at this time, when petroleum prices were sagging, the company experienced a net loss of $9.4 million at the end of the third quarter.

The turnaround, fueled by higher petroleum prices, is attributed to a rig-utilization rate of 72 percent for the first nine months of 2000, compared to a 39 percent utilization rate at the same time in 1999.

In addition to the Snyder operations, Patterson has other locations in Midland, San Angelo, Victoria, LaGrange, Kilgore, Houston, Austin and Corpus Christi. Out-of-state locations are in Vernal, Utah, Oklahoma City and Hobbs, N.M.

Part of this growth has come by acquisitions. Patterson went public in 1993 and made its first acquisition of Questor Drilling in July, 1994.

Iredco and Soujourner were acquired in 1995 followed by Tucker Drilling, Sledge, Hondo and Welch & Howell in 1996.

The following year was a big one for growth, including Wes-Tex Drilling in June, 1997, representing 21 rigs at a net cost of $34.4 million. Other 1997 acquisitions were Ziadril, McGee Drilling, VB Drilling and Reynolds Drilling.

Purchased in 1998 were Lone Star Mud, Robertson Onshore Drilling and Tejas Drilling Fluids. Padre Drilling was acquired in 1999.

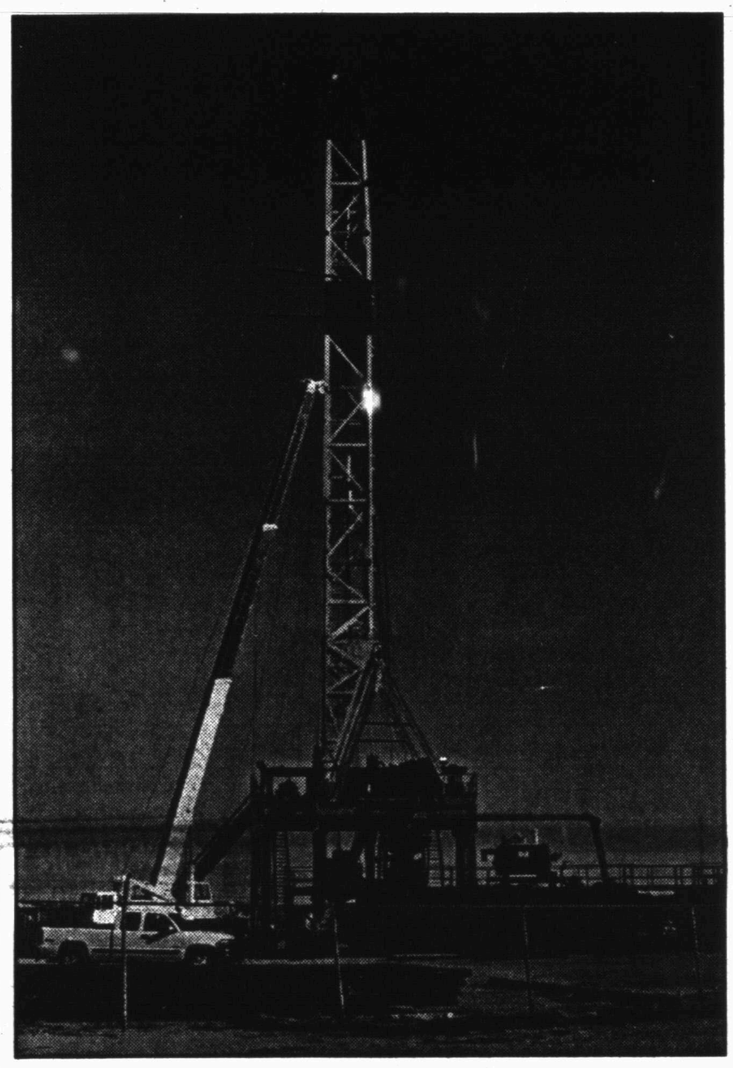
In 2000, additions to the company have been High Valley Drilling and WEK Drilling. Last month, Patterson announced the acquisition of the drilling and completion fluid operations of AMBAR Inc., with principal operations in the Louisiana and Texas Gulf coasts and the Gulf of Mexico.

The drilling and completion fluid operations are supported by 10 separate field facilities, including seven dock facilities and one barite grinding plant, variously located in southern Louisiana and Texas, a sales office in Houston and administrative office in Lafayette, La.

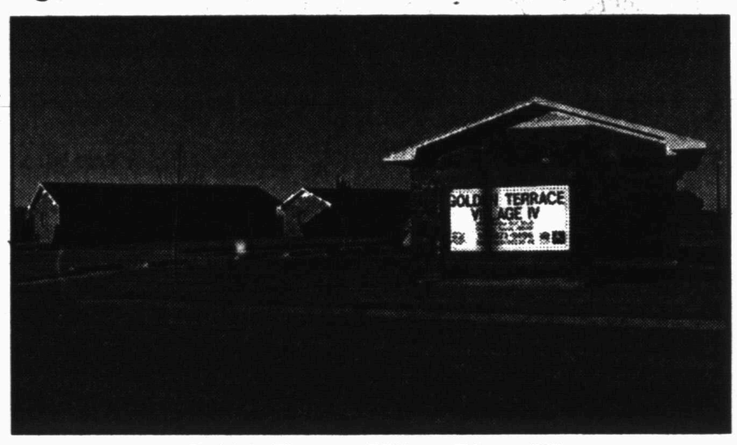
Last August, Patterson Petroleum entered into an agreement with Westfort Energy of Toronto to provide for drilling of a 17,000-foot vertical Norphlet well in the Pelahatchie Field in Rankin County, Miss.

This week, Patterson employees were readying the giant rig for the venture in Mississippi. The rig and associated equipment is valued near $10 million.

Cloyce Talbott, a resident of Snyder since 1960, is chairman and chief executive officer. Glenn Patterson, a Scurry County native, is president and chief operating officer. Vice president for finance is Jody Nelson.



Patterson Drilling Rig in Snyder Yard



Golden Terrace Village Phase IV

4th Golden Terrace opened October 1999

Golden Terrace Village Phase IV opened on Martha Ann Blvd. about a year ago. All 30 units are presently occupied.

The apartments are designed for senior citizens 62 and older, and all are one bedroom. They are carpeted and include central heating and air conditioning. A range and refrigerator are also furnished.

Other features include a ceiling fan in the living room, a roll-in shower and handicapped accessible toilet. The bathroom is also equipped with grab bars.

The repairs and lawns are maintained by the project, which is subsidized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Kathryn Tate is the manager for all four Golden Terrace Villages. Susan Klein is the assistant manager. Total units number 110.

Phases I and II are located on 37th St. and are designed for disabled and elderly citizens. The units have both one and two bedroom apartments.

Phase III is also designed for elderly and disabled citizens and is located on 52nd St, north of Cogdell Memorial Hospital. The unit also has both one and two bedroom apartments.

Lorber still making yarn at local plant

The first occupant of Snyder's industrial park – Lorber Industries – continues to produce yarn despite a depressed textile market.

The plant is under the operation of manager Jack Whitworth, who is also on the executive board of directors of Lorber Industries.

With the passing of founder Arnold Lorber, his wife, Anita, is now serving as board chairman of Lorber Industries.

Their son, Tom Lorber, is the vice president, and another son, Greg Lorber, is vice president of sales.

Whitworth said 50 people are now employed at the local facility and the plant is operating 24 hours per day, seven days a week.

The company has been exploring joint venture projects with foreign companies that could eventually call for expansion of the current facility.

The operation is now housed in one 70,000-square-foot building.

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NEW LOCATION — Chasteen Chiropractic is now located at 4203 College Avenue. Daniel Chasteen, D.C., is pictured with his wife, Dee, center and Jill Boren, registered massage therapist. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Chasteen Chiropractic opens new office on College Avenue

Daniel Chasteen, D.C. has moved his practice to 4203 College Ave., formerly Hanks Chiropractic. Chasteen Chiropractic opened on Aug. 1 of this year.

Previously, Chasteen's practice was located on the square under the name Bennett Chiropractic. It opened there on Valentine Day in 1994.

Chasteen recently bought the Snyder portion of Bennett Chiropractic and then combined it with Hanks' practice.

Chasteen's wife, Dee, also works in the office. Her father, Leslie Butler, D.C., also a chiropractor, previously owned the College Avenue building. Dr. Hanks purchased it from him several years ago.

Jill Boren, registered massage therapist, is also employed at Chasteen Chiropractic. She had worked for Dr. Hanks for 91/2 years.

Chasteen Chirporactic is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2:30-5:30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, office hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The main number is 573-2913 (Hanks' office number), and 573-5041 (Bennett's number) is the secondary line.

Kinder Morgan opened new office in Midland last month

"We see great potential for the Permian Basin as CO2 recovery becomes more widespread," said Tim Bradley, president of Kinder Morgan CO2, who announced the opening of a new office in Midland last month.

In an address to the Society of Petroleum Engineers in that community, Bradley, said "Kinder Morgan CO2 Co. L.P. a subsidiary of Kinder Morgan Energy Partners L.P., would open the office in Midland to provide technical support for its recently-acquired working interest in the SACROC Unit in Scurry County.

The new office will serve as our base of operations as we launch our development program at SACROC over the next two years," said Bradley, president of Kinder Morgan CO2 Co.

Kinder Morgan acquired 81 percent of the Canyon Reef Carriers Pipeline in June of this year, and a 71 percent working interest in the SACROC Unit from Devon Energy.

This action proved to be beneficial to SACROC employees and contract personnel, as most were hired by the company and in turn, received company benefits.

Pete Hagist remained the field superintendent, a position he had with Devon, and with its predecessor, PennzEnergy.

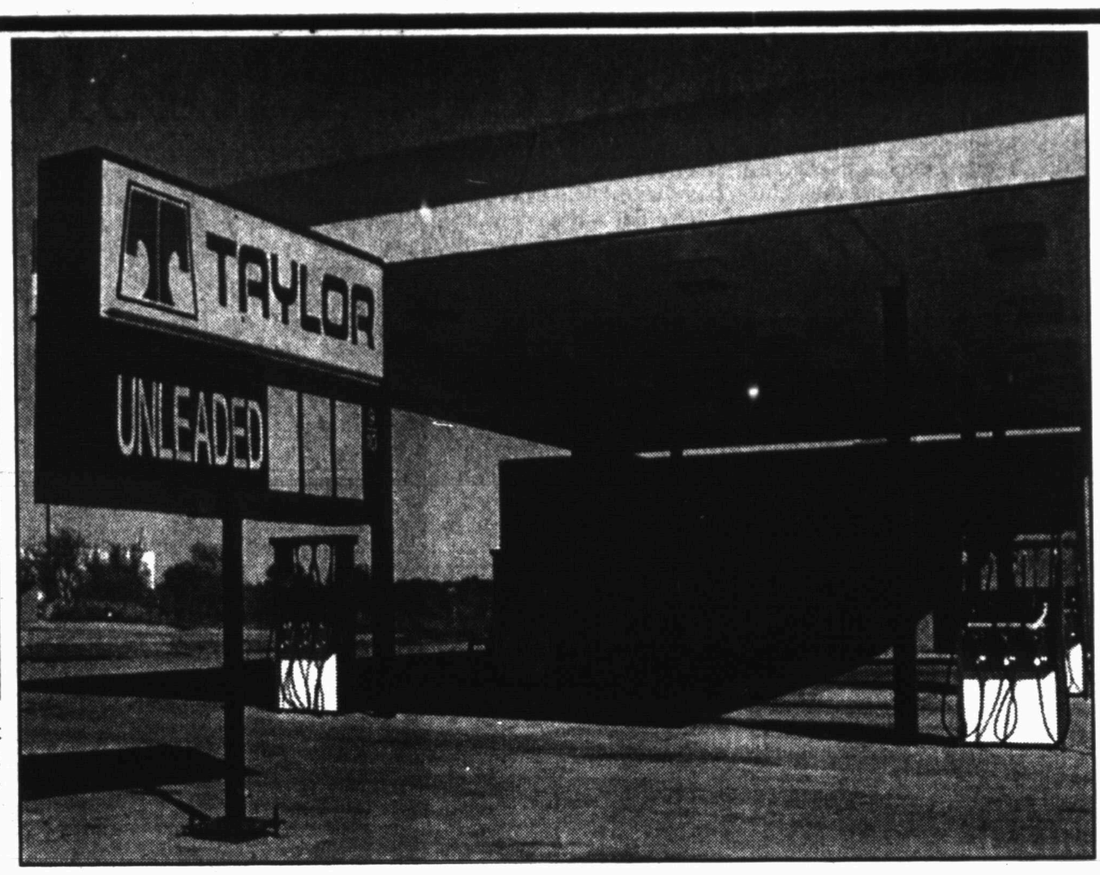
The planned development is expected to increase oil production from the SACROC Unit to more than 10,000 barrels per day, compared to current levels of about 8,500 barrels per day. Bradley said some engineers have suggested that SACROC, with intensive development, might eventually produce 30,000 barrels per day.

The 50,000-acre SACROC Unit is one of the largest oil fields and the oldest operating CO2 recovery projects in the Permian Basin. Since its discovery in 1948, it has produced 1.2 billion barrels of oil and has at least that much oil left in place.

"The Midland office and our development of SACROC is part of our commitment to the Permian Basin oil industry and the local economy," Bradley said.

"As we bring abundant CO2 supplies, proven technology and a cost-effective, extensive transportation system to the area, we are making CO2 enhanced oil recovery more affordable for everyone. One of our goals is to expand the use of CO2 flooding — a proven technology for increasing the production of oil reserves — by providing cost effective access to CO2, transportation and technology to all operators of prospective oil fields."

Bradley said ownership in Permian Basin assets may be changing but his company did not see that as a negative. "New ownership and CO2 recovery will bring greater focus to projects, and that will mean more oil recovered."



Taylor Petroleum undergoing renovation

Taylor plans to re-open Snyder store

In a time when the news seems dotted by the closing of local businesses, it was a bright spot when Taylor Petroleum announced in August that it would be reopening its convenience store at 3400 College Avenue.

Remodeling continues on the facility and Greg Hendricks, operations manager for the company, said the store will employ between three and six people, including the manager.

In addition to gasoline and assorted food and drink items, Lotto and lottery tickets will be sold.

It will offer hot foods, cappuccinos, fountain drinks, free money orders and cigarettes.

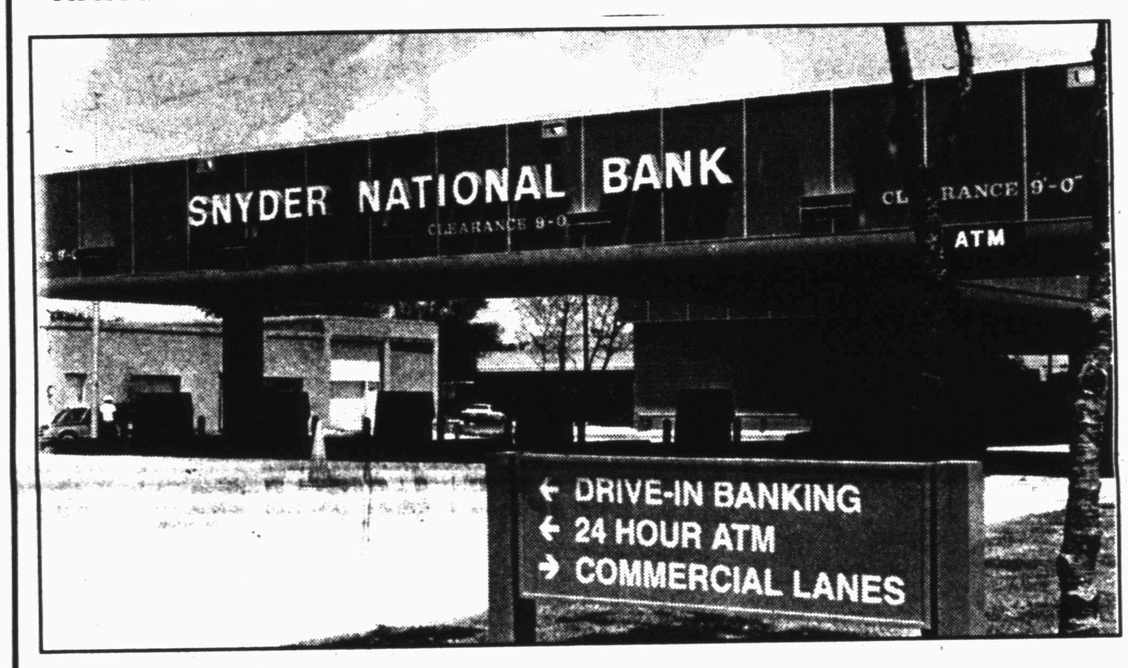
The store was a Diamond Shamrock station called Century Fuels when it closed its doors more than a year ago.

"We are looking forward to giving Snyder another try," Hendricks said.

Taylor Petroleum is headquartered in Amarillo.

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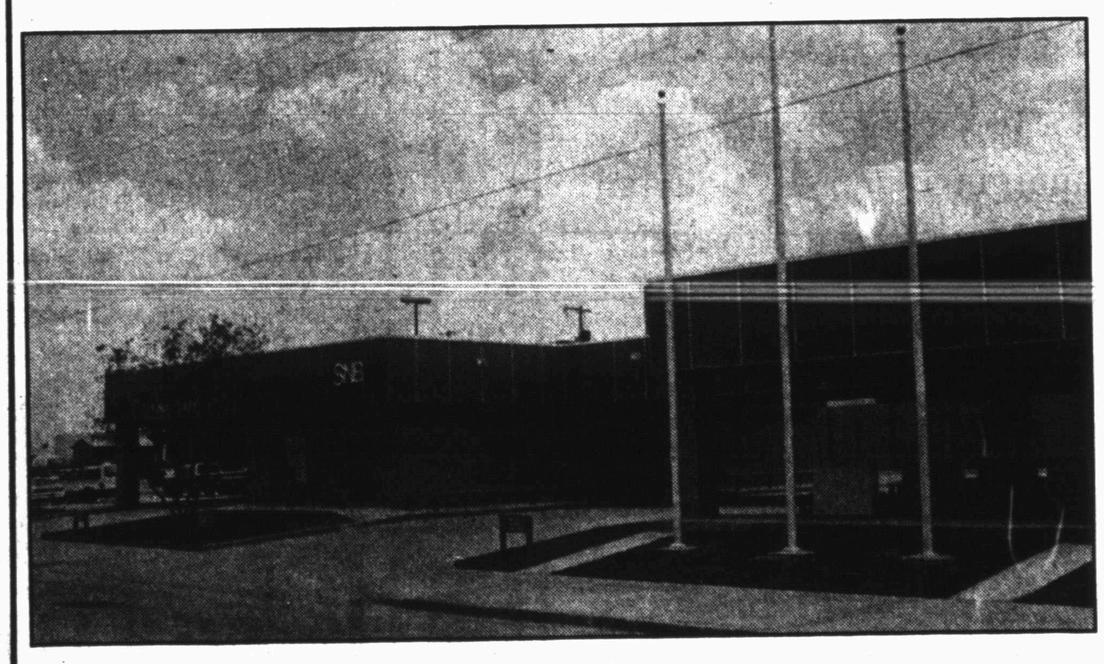
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WTC continues with technological advances

Western Texas College continues to make technological strides. Progress within the past year includes upgrading the ISDN Internet connection to a T1 in June of 1999. Two years ago, the college had 30 active network connections. Today it has 288. Student access has increased from 20 in 1998 to 145 this past June.

Dorm connections now total 194. The golf course/landscape technology building was the 13th building on the WTC campus to be added to the network.

The faculty/staff access has also increased from 5 to 110, in the past two years. The college also has added access to 27 other sites including the LRC card catalog and checkout, multimedia/ITV classroom, Web page development, and planetarium. Students also have Internet access through 12 labs. In September, the Central Computer Lab went online, adding 20 more systems.

Noting that sometimes it's "the little things we do that make a big difference," Britt Canada, WTC's director of technology, said e-mail became available campus-wide during the month of September. The cafeteria manager, bookstore manager and ABM custodial were added to the campus e-mail.

Canada said WTC's Web page also underwent a major overhaul, starting in May. He noted that several errors were corrected, and then the effectiveness of the current Web page setup was evaluated.

The consensus was that the old Web page was very difficult to navigate and update. The current Web page is much easier to work on, Canada said. It was moved to a campus-based computer in July.

Great strides have also been made regarding the college's Distance Learning Program. A third DL classroom has been installed and the oldest classroom, DL#1, was upgraded to H.323 protocol.

In addition, a seven-hour ITV training session was developed for instructors using the WTC ITV classrooms. This course was taught at the beginning of the fall 1999 and spring 2000 semesters.

SCATE training was provided for six instructors in August 2000. A "pilot" program between WTC and Wallace/Ware prison units allowed WTC instructors to teach classes on these units via ITV.

Canada and Terri Racher put together an Internet-based COSC 1301 course, first taught during the summer 2000 semester. Janet Halbert taught some Internet English classes.

A room in the fine arts building was converted to a multimedia classroom. Canada said this prototype classroom was used primarily by speech classes during the spring semester. Additional facilities (scanner, digital camera and software, are also available.)

The current multimedia facilities include: projector systems in COSC, CBT, WF, Fine Arts and the Multimedia Classroom. Large screen TV systems are used in GLT and Nursing.

With the retirement of Larry Anderson, Canada also manages the school's library. The re-carpeting, re-upholstery and painting projects were completed in the fall 1999 semester. GED/ESL was moved to the area near CBT. The COSC lab/classroom was moved upstairs.

Zelma Irons and Donna Billingsley attended Spectrum training sessions that were held in Arlington and TexShare training sessions in Abilene.

During the year, a library workshop was presented to all faculty members. This mandatory workshop showed faculty how to use some of the new features that have been added to the library in the past few years.

Canada said systems continue to be replaced campus-wide. At present, there are two 486/133 systems in use and everything else is a more powerful system. The math lab was equipped with systems from workforce and new systems were purchased for workforce.

The computers in the reading lab were replaced and five new systems for English were purchased.

A campus-wide computer "sweep" has been conducted. The goal was to perform preventative maintenance and review performance for each system on the campus. Information from this sweep is recorded in the database and used in planning. This database also helps to establish and reinforce software compliance.

Continuing education courses continue to be offered. Several faculty/staff workshops have been held also.

While "Year 2000 compliance is old hat now, Canada said it was a great concern a year ago. Everything is Y2K compliant.

While grant monies have helped WTC pay for the bulk of the technological improvements, Canada said they have had their requests turned down, including a TIF Community Network Grant and a TIF Discovery Grant. The college did receive five Dell computers from a grant associated with VCT (about $5,000), Canada said.

Technical support has also increased. In August 2000, the technology division consisted of the director, two technicians, and some student workers. Based on survey results, obtained from faculty and staff, Canada said it seems that the campus feels that the response time in good, that good follow-up exists, communication levels are good and technical support is at a highly acceptable level.

Several members of the division have also attended conferences or workshops.

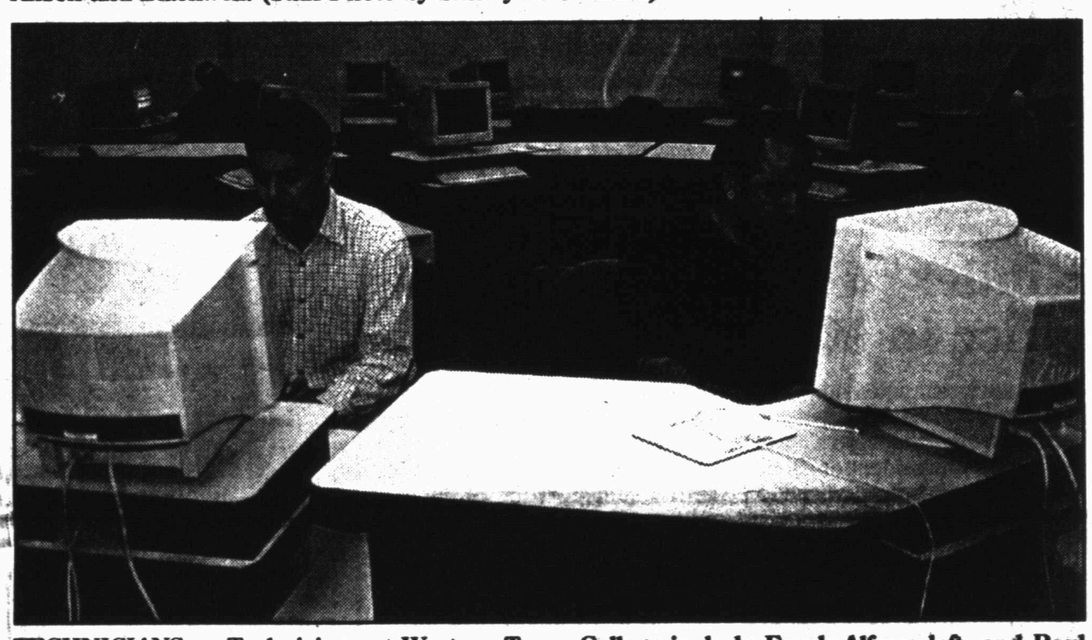
While the college has made great technological strides, there is still more to do. Canada, who describes himself as a "goal-setter type person," outlined several things that WTC's Technology Department would like to accomplish someday.

Such as provide information and direction for overall campus issues, including upgrading the phone system and mainframe, enhancing TV connections to the campus and community, possible expansion to include an extension site at the at the Senior Citizens Center and evaluating and upgrading the registration program.

Others include, continue to improve and expand the academic network, continue to improve and expand distance learning facilities, increase multimedia availability, continued improvement of LRC, continue to upgrade and replace essential equipment, provide course training for business, industry, staff, students, grant seeking, provide technical support and advice and participation in professional growth opportunities.



THIRD DISTANCE LEARNING LAB — Britt Canada, Western Texas College's Director of Technology, sits at the controls of the college's third Distance Learning Lab. Concurrent classes are now being electronically transmitted to several area schools including Hermleigh, Stamford, Anson and Blackwell. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)



TECHNICIANS — Technicians at Western Texas College include Frank Alfaro, left, and Raul Alcala. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Cogdell Hospital continues expansion plans

Cogdell Memorial Hospital is continuing to update its facilities as it just recently opened a new mammography unit, and the expansion of its radiology department is nearing completion.

The mammography unit was purchased through private donations from some 90 individuals, and the Abell-Hanger Foundation and the Meadows Foundation.

Total cost of the unit, including the processor, was $77,000 and it is a state-of-the art unit for a hospital the size of Cogdell.

With the addition of the mammography unit, the hospital can now provide bone densitometry, mobile MRI, ultrasound, CT scan, fluoroscopy and nuclear medicine.

The radiology unit is being built across the hall from the emergency room in a much larger area than it is presently, and it will have new equipment, as well.

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Workforce Center continues to fulfill mission

By Shirley A. Gorman
News Editor

Western Texas College isn't the same junior college it was when it was founded in 1971. Thanks to far-sighted leaders who helped establish its highly successful and adaptable Workforce Center, WTC has transformed itself into a viable partner for area businesses.

According to Mike Thornton, dean of continuing education, the Workforce Center is operating "full force" in meeting its mission to provide training for businesses and industries in the Snyder area. Classes can be taught on campus or at the business site. If the college cannot provide the training, Thornton said they will find out where to get it.

Grant monies play a pivotal role in the success of the Workforce Center. In September, the Continuing Education Division submitted a training proposal to the Texas Workforce Commission. Money was requested from the Skills Development Fund to provide training for 10 companies in WTC's service area.

The training will range from very general such as basic safety, to highly specific technical training. In October, the college was notified that the grant will be recommended for funding.

"We felt positive about our chances to receive funding for several reasons," Thornton said. "First, preference is given to areas of the state in which the unemployment rate is higher than the state average.

"Next, several of the companies requesting training, will be creating new jobs, which is one of the main objectives of the Skills Fund.

"Finally, priority is also given to requests covering multiple companies. As stated earlier, this consortium consists of 10 separate companies. The combination of three factors led us to believe that we were good candidates for at least partial funding."

Thornton said that many of the training classes WTC provides businesses fall into three categories - electrical, computer skills or safety. They can be adapted for short-term or long-term employees. Classes are convenient and cost-effective for the employer, Thornton said.

Grant monies often pay for the training or retraining of employees to enhance or retain their jobs. This includes tuition fees for the courses, instructors' fees, supplies and sometimes equipment.

Thornton said the college keeps track of the classes taught, which though somewhat complex, is good for the businesses because they don't have to do it. Many classes are also offered through the Continuing Education program as well, especially computer skills. Thornton noted that the computer labs "are booked a lot."

Lorber Industries was the first company to take advantage of WTC's Workforce Center. Some 18 months or so ago, knitting machines needed to train employees were installed in the Workforce Training Center.

Today, the knitting machines are gone, but Thornton said the college will provide some retraining for Lorber employees. Lorber is one of the companies included in a Skills Development Grant that WTC has been awarded.

Another grant involved Snyder Brick and Tile, for which the college is also setting up a training program.

Thornton said the college is also working closely with Farmers Design to provide training needed for employees to expand the plant. Classes will be taught at the site.

WTC also offers numerous short courses through its Distance Learning Labs. The most prominent are pesticide certification classes, which are taught through interactive TV.

Distance Learning Labs allows the college to transmit classes to another site or receive a class taught elsewhere.

Thornton noted that Dayton Robertson of YZ Industries recently utilized a Distance Learning Lab to arrange a session between six sites in the U.S.

Thorton added that WTC also provides in-service training for TDCJ employees.

Western Texas College's Emergency Medical Services Program offers individuals a lot of options, Thornton said. It is designed to prepare individuals for careers as qualified Emergency Medical Technicians. The multiple-entry/multiple exit program prepares students for all three levels of EMT certification, basic, intermediate, and advanced.

Classes can now be taken for credit or non-credit. An Associate degree or certificate is also offered. Tammy Shirley is the director.

"We have really enhanced this program," Thornton said. Classes range from basic to intermediate to full-fledged paramedic, and include such topics as neo-care and advanced life support. The college also teaches refresher courses for EMTs in the Snyder area.

Equipment wise, a new ambulance has also been added.

Also new at WTC is the Network Technology Program, a "very hot market," Thornton said. It is headed by Dave Hanes.

The Network Technician Program consists of several core modules to prepare students for immediate entry into the job market. Courses include computer repair and maintenance, introduction to networking, NT server and Workstation administration, Internetworking with TCP/IP, Copper and Fiber Optic cabling and computer applications.

The complete program is 28 semester credit hours in length and modules and may be taken independently for certification preparation in a given area.

WTC also plans to offer a one-year certificate program beginning with the fall 2001 semester.

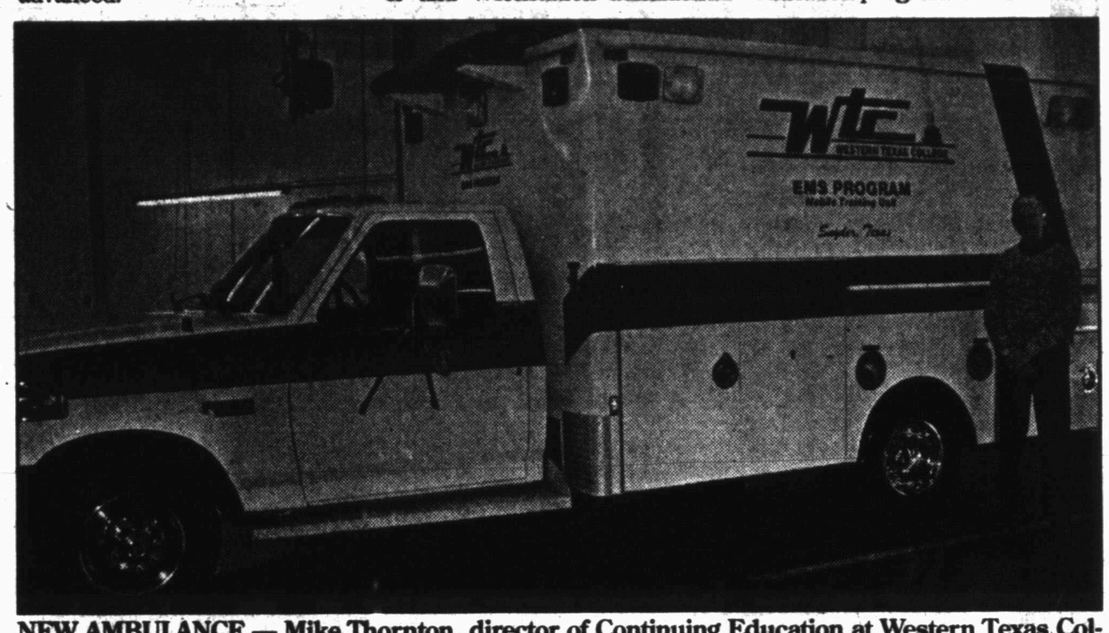
"Network Technology turned out to be more successful than we thought it would be so we added a second section," he added. A certificate can be earned in three semesters.

The classes are offered concurrently so high school students who complete the courses earn both high school and college credit. At the present, Snyder High School and Ira High School attend the classes on campus.

Thornton said the basic adult education program has also been enhanced. This pertains to persons who want to earn their GED or need help learning English as a Second Language (ESL).

Western Texas College also offers a welding program, which focuses on practical experience and applications from business and industry.

Classes are taught with a hands-on approach, giving students the opportunity for application of knowledge gained in the program and preparing students to successfully enter welding careers. Sam Walker is the instructor.



NEW AMBULANCE — Mike Thornton, director of Continuing Education at Western Texas College, is standing next to a new ambulance for the Emergency Medical Services Program. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES — Western Texas College's Emergency Medical Services Program offers several options, including an associate degree or certificate. Allied Health director, Tammy Shirley, far left, is shown conducting one of the classes. (Staff Photo by Shirley A. Gorman)

Wagon Wheel guest ranch plans to expand

The Wagon Wheel Guest Ranch has expansion plans in its future.

The ranch hosted its first-ever blue grass festival in September in its new amphitheater. The outdoor stage will be used for several different events, including country music performances, as well as western swing events.

The ranch will also expand its RV park, and create a large scenic lake.

A water ride, approximately a quarter of a mile long, will be built to accommodate inner-tubers and will empty into the lake.

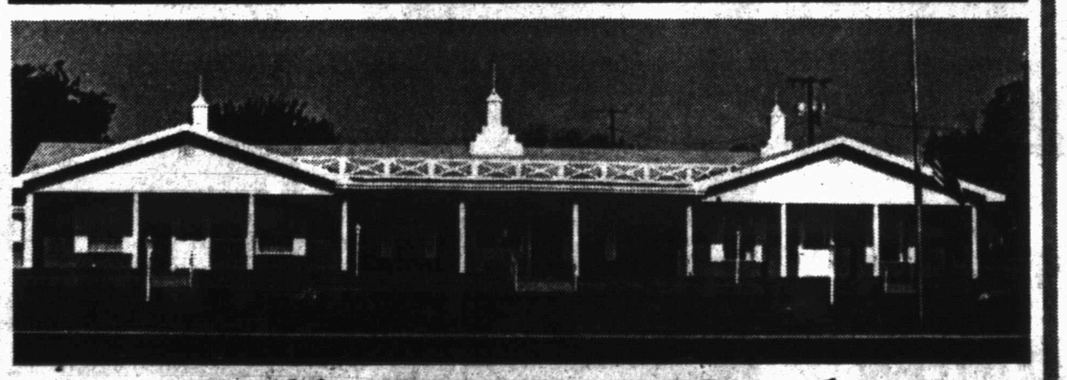
An arena is to be built west of the music park area, and will be used for rodeo and roping events.

An additional 20 rooms are planned at the ranch for overnight guests.

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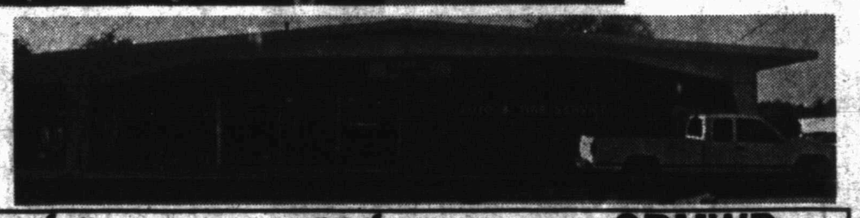


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Water district is the result of vision and need

Thomas, Spence are early players

December 1, 1945 — J.B. Thomas of Texas Electric Company (TESCO) initiates correspondence with Texas Board of Water Engineers member E.V. Spence regarding water supply for West Texas.

February 7, 1946 — Thomas sends Spence and engineer Simon W. Freese on a quest "to go crazy, looking," but find water in West Texas.

June 6, 1948— At Thomas', invitation, representatives of Odessa, Midland, Big Spring, Snyder and Colorado City meet at the Settles Hotel in Big Spring to hear Thomas and Freese lay out the water solution. They propose a reservoir on the Colorado River near Colorado City, and pipelines to the cities, with a staggering $11 million price tag. As a result the five-city Colorado River Municipal Water Association is formed that day.

October 14, 1948 — Freese presents his final recommendation for a new site 20 miles upstream that will produce better water. Snyder has already withdrawn, and now Colorado City, opposing the relocation and looking to the possibility of TESCO building a dam and lake on Morgan Creek, leaves the Association.

February 22, 1949 — The Association is further shaken when Midland withdraws, but Odessa and Big Spring remain committed to proceed with the project.

March 11, 1949 — Two bills (one to create the Colorado River Municipal Water District contingent upon voter approval in the cities, and another to authorize it to contract with member cities) are introduced at the deadline, on the final submission day for the 1949 Texas Legislative Session.

May 31, 1949 — In the final moments of the last day of the session, both bills pass the Texas Legislature. Similar acts, which would pass the Legislature in subsequent years would not be as strong, and lacked provisions vital to the development of the District.

June 8, 1949 — Governor Beauford Jester signs the bill into law, 39 days before his untimely death.

June 9, 1949 — the CRMWA reorganizes with only two cities, and asks the two city councils to petition the state for simultaneous confirmation elections in July.

July 12, 1949 — Big Spring voters approve the proposed water district 522-31, and Odessa voters approve by a margin of 365-16. Both city councils proceed with appointment of directors to represent them on the board.



1955 CRMWD BOARD & STAFF — Front row, S.W. Freese, Skeet Schooling, Charles Perry, E.V. Spence, H.W. Wright, O.H. Ivie. Back row, Billy Ely, P.C. Harbour, James Rosser, Bob Cook, Dusty Rhoades, R.T. Piner and Lyle Deffebach.

August 15, 1949 — Big Spring Mayor George W. Dabney serves as honorary chairman for the first board meeting of the Colorado River Municipal Water district. R.T. Piner is elected as the first CRMWD president.

October 27, 1950 — The board passes resolutions to contract with bond attorneys, the engineering firm of Freese and Nichols and other steps necessary to amend and execute its permit for a reserve on the Colorado River. They also authorize the purchase of water rights for a well field in Martin County, and call for elections in Big Spring and Odessa to ratify the city contracts, in effect, asking for voter ratification of the bond issues.

November 16, 1950 — Few, if any issues of this magnitude have ever been approved by such a margin. In Big Spring, the issue is ratified 941-1, and in Odessa, 1044-1. These votes, in effect, give the District authority and financial means to finance its massive mission.

December 8, 1950 — Eugene Vierling Spence is asked to serve as CRMWD General Manager.

January 27, 1951 — An election is held in Snyder after a group of businessmen and officials successfully petition the District for annexation. Snyder voters approved membership 432-25, and approve the water contract with the District 401-24.

February 7, 1951 — Bids are taken on the dam and pipelines.

March 3, 1951 — The Texas Board of Water Engineers issues an order creating the Martin County Underground Water Control District, an organization of individuals who wanted to stop or restrict CRMWD's development of the Martin County well field. This marks the beginning of a costly battle over rights to and regulation of the groundwater.

March 8, 1951 — E.V. Spence delivers the signed bonds to First National Bank of Fort Worth and receives the check for

See CRMWD, Page 12B

In 1945, J. B. Thomas sends E. V. Spence on a mission "to go crazy, looking" for water in West Texas.

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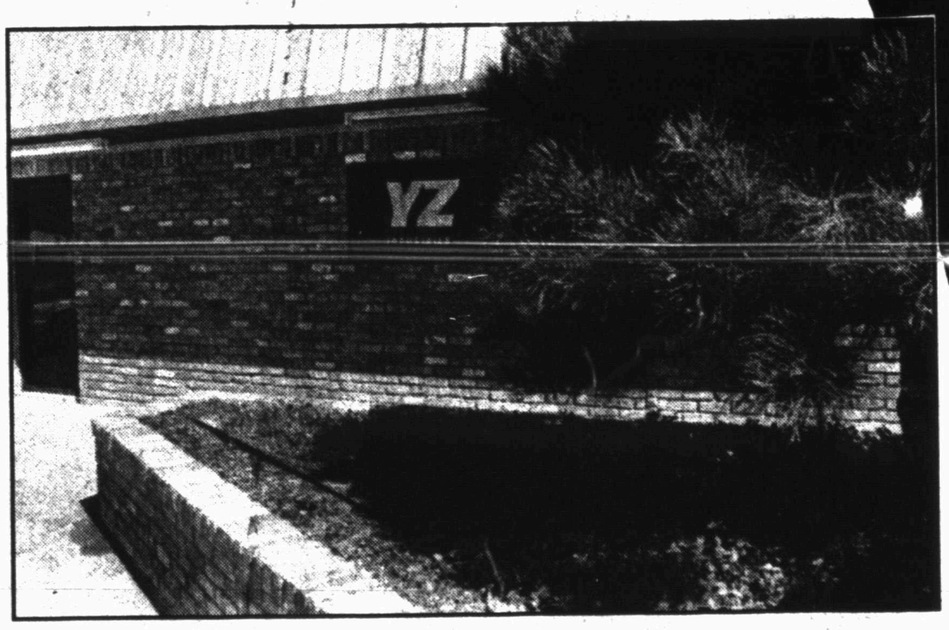
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Citizens battle drought as first dam is being built

(Continued from 11B)

$11,750,000. Within days, agreement is reached for purchase of the basin land. Heavy equipment is moved in and work begins.

April 29, 1951 — A large crowd of West Texans gather for groundbreaking ceremonies at the lake site. The crowd is amazed by details of the District's activities as it is simultaneously building a dam, lake, the Martin County well field, and pipelines to carry the water to member cities where rationing is imminent.

May 29, 1951 — Scurry Area Canyon Reef Operators Committee (SACROC) is the first of many oil producers to request a water contract with CRMWD. The first delivery of water under the resulting contract is January 1, 1954. For years, revenues from the sale of fresh and brine water to oil and industrial customers helped the District provide lower rates to its municipal customers.

March 19, 1952 — CRMWD signs its first contract to supply water to oil companies. Revenue from such sources make it possible for the District to keep municipal water prices down. Only twice in 50 years, in spite of numerous droughts and rationing in much of the state, will the District be forced to curtail water deliveries to the oil producers. In over 50 years, CRMWD has never ration municipal customers.

May 8, 1952 — the District's first dam on the Colorado River is closed, as Big Spring, Odessa and Snyder face critical water shortages.

May 11, 1952 — Over his humble objections, the board and friends convinced J.B. Thomas to allow CRMWD to name the new lake in his honor. At the May 11th meeting, directors vote to name the new reservoir, Lake J.B. Thomas, in honor of the man whose foresight and faith resulted in the conception and initiation of the entire District project.

June 6, 1952 — The first CRMWD water arrives from Martin County, trickling out of the pipeline at Odessa, with sustained flow the next day and a citywide celebration on June 10.

August 13, 1952 — Martin County water bubbled into Big Spring, where by city ordinance, water rationing had officially begun in early July.

September 5, 1952 — Even the disapproval and legal objections of some Martin County residents who fear depletion of the aquifer cannot dim the spirits of Big Spring residents as they celebrate the arrival of life-sustaining water in a ceremony at Steer Stadium.

January 21, 1952 — After its initial success in court and sustaining of the judgment on its first appeal, the CRMWD loses to the Martin County group before the Texas Supreme Court. The issue becomes moot, however, as opposition to CRMWD crumbles when Martin County residents become fearful of over-regulation and the issue subsides. CRMWD continues to pump the Martin County well field, ever careful to conserve the resource.

Late Spring, 1952 — Although the Lake J.B. Thomas dam has been closed, the lake is virtually dry. Snyder has completed its water treatment plant, but has no water to treat. A borrow area near the dam catches a few thousand acre-feet of water, and district employees, determined to get water to drought-parched Snyder, come up with an ingenious idea they call "pump-back." By raising a cofferdam around the intake and pumping water from the borrow area to the pool around the intake, they are able to submerge the pumps and begin moving water to Snyder. This means of wringing water from a virtually dry lake will be used again and again as West Texas faces returning drought cycles.

July 2, 1953 — The pumpback is successful, and the first lake water finally reaches Snyder.

July 9, 1953 — Snyder celebrates the arrival of water. After just more than two years of frantic work, all three District member cities are taking water, and, they have not had to ration water since that time.

August 8, 1956 — CRMWD files its first presentation to study the possibility of a second dam on the Colorado River, this one in southern Mitchell County.

June 11, 1959 — CRMWD files for a permit to impound its second lake, to be located in Mitchell County.

December 6, 1960 — Board members learn that gypsum deposits under the proposed reservoir site (which could cause the reservoir to fail) would necessitate moving the lake. Water quality is also questioned at the original site.

Fall, 1963 — The District begins to experiment with recharging the Martin County Well Field when surface water is plentiful, protecting it from evaporation and recovering the water from wells further down the gradient when it is needed.

July 17, 1964 — CRMWD submits an amended application to construct the reservoir near Robert Lee.

December, 1964 — The CRMWD permit is opposed by the Lower Colorado River Authority and Mitchell County residents in its hearing before the Texas Water Commission. General Manager Spence is subjected to hours of questioning and becomes ill.

April 4, 1965 —E.V. Spence, who had devoted 14 years to the District and most of his professional career to water development in the state of Texas, dies.

See CRMWD, Page 14B

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Aerial view of Lake J.B. Thomas in 1954

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The first delivery of water to SACROC was Jan. 1, 1954

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State Representative

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While the district has been around 50 years, these citizens of Snyder have contributed over 185 years of service to provide the community with a steady, dependable and safe water supply.

R.A. Schooling
1951-56

Lyle Deffebach
1951-59

W. James Rosser
1951-58

W.J. Ely
1951-59

Forrest G. Sears
1956-57

Malven K. Stevenson
1951-56

Dr. John Blum
1958-81

Gene L. Dulaney
1959-63

William H. Wilson, Jr
1959-76

W.A. McGlaun
1959-76

Rex D. Fields
1963-84

Russell S. Yorgesen
1975-99

Hubert W. Cargile
1976-84

David Holt
1984-95

Ted Crenwelge
1984-87, 1995-Present

John A. Fagin
1984-Present

Rod Waller
1987-Present

Mickey Nunley
1999-Present

The CRMWD negotiates with the LCRA for water

In 1976, the water district is forced to cut back deliveries to oil companies to protect municipal supplies.

Lake J.B. Thomas becomes dangerously low.

(Continued from Page 12B)

April 22, 1965 — Owen H. Ivie is chosen to succeed Spence as general manager.

September 1, 1965 — Long negotiations culminate with an agreement to release stored water dependent on the level of the Highland Lakes, and a $400,000 payment to the Lower Colorado River Authority to end the LCRA opposition to the Robert Lee permit. The Texas Water Commission issues the permit the same day.

September, 1966 — CRMWD issues $30 million in bonds intended to finance the dam, lake and extensive diversion works to control chloride problems in the drainage area of the lake. Another $4.3 million in bonds issued will prove necessary to complete the project.

April 10, 1969 — The board of directors votes to name the new reservoir in honor of its first general manager, E.V. Spence.

June 4, 1969 — The E.V. Spence Reservoir is dedicated.

January 27, 1976 — Pump-back is revisited for the second of many times as drought keeps the new reservoir from filling and Lake J.B. Thomas sinks dangerously low. The first stage of a three-stage pump-back begins at the E.V. Spence Reservoir, where water is far below the intake. A three-stage pump-back will also be implemented at Lake Thomas before rains and drought relief begins in the summer of 1971. For the first time, the District is forced to cut back deliveries to oil companies to protect municipal supplies.

April 10, 1970 — Midland comes on line as a CRMWD municipal customer.

June, 1970 — CRMWD announces it will accept bids to drill brine wells in the Santa Rosa Formation to supply brackish water (instead of lake water needed for municipal supplies) to be used for oil repressuring operations.

October, 1970 — The CRMWD board authorizes the general manager to begin a weather modification program in the spring of 1971. At the end of the 20th century, it would be the longest continuous operating weather modification program in the United States.

December 9, 1970 — $6.75 million in bonds is authorized for development of 17 wells and 45 miles of pipeline to bring much needed Ward County well field water on line. Dubbed the "Five Months' Miracle," the field and pipeline are completed May 24, 1971.

September 1, 1971 — Oil companies are restored to 100 percent of their needs, and pump-backs are halted when rain and welcome runoff replenishes both district lakes.

July 14, 1974 — Directors celebrate the retirement of the $11.75 million first bond issue with a bond burning.

Summer, 1976 — The long-range planning committee is reactivated to study the need for, and possible location of the District's third reservoir on the Colorado River.

July 1, 1977 — Drought ... again. The District begins the longest pump-back in its history, lasting more than three years at Lake Thomas. Working in mud-bogged lake bottoms, clearing brush and vegetation from lake basins and the Colorado River channel and breaking ice around the shallow intake pools, were a few of the weather-related problems faced by district employees. For the second time, district finances are squeezed by reduced water sales to oil companies, but the problem is compounded by additional operational costs from rising electric rates and increased usage of electricity for the pump-back. It is the last time in the century that CRMWD cannot meet oil and industrial water demands, but it will not be the last pump-back.

October 11, 1971 — The board votes to apply for a permit to build a dam near the community of Stacy, and representatives fly to Austin to file the application with the Texas Department of Water Resources. Simon Freese and the Freese and Nichols engineering firm will design the proposed dam, as with both earlier district dams, and their input will be vital to the permit process as well as the dam design.

February 1978 — the Stacy application is accepted for placement on the Texas Water Commission docket, but due to opposition and delays, hearings do not begin until July 11. Several downstream groups oppose the permit, led by the powerful Lower Colorado River Authority, holder of the permits for the Highland Lakes near Austin.

July 11, 1978 — General Manager Owen Ivie is the first witness in the TWC hearing that will break all records for longevity (50 days of testimony), number of exhibits (over 200) and cost.

April 10, 1979 — The TWC approves Permit 3866, for construction of a dam near Stacy. But, CRMWD has won only the first battle in what will be an eight-year struggle to obtain the state permit for the much-needed reservoir.

July 26, 1979 — After its request for a rehearing is denied by the TWC, the LCRA appeals to the 53rd District Court in Austin. Negotiation between the CRMWD and LCRA continue in an attempt to reach an out-of-court settlement.

January 31, 1980 — Judge Herman Jones hears argument on the appeal and upholds the TWC ruling on Feb. 5. LCRA appeals his decision, and out-of-court negotiations continue.

March 31, 1980 — While the state permit battle continues, the first U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hearing is conducted in Coleman for CRMWD's "404 Permit," a new federal requirement under legislation passed since construction of the E.V. Spence Reservoir. Numerous federal and state agencies are involved as land and wildlife mitigation, preservation of sites of cultural (Indian) and historical significance and a little-known water snake pose costly barriers to construction of the reservoir.

November 19, 1980 — The 3rd Court of Civil Appeals in Austin hears the state permit appeal, as CRMWD continues to attempt negotiations with LCRA.

June 30, 1982 — In a 3-2 decision, the 3rd Court of Appeals upholds the lower court, but on October 1, the LCRA appeals again, this time to the Texas Supreme Court. Negotiations fail, and CRMWD soon begins to consider involving itself in water permit adjudication hearings in hopes of furthering its position that unused water is being wasted into the Gulf of Mexico.

September 7, 1983 — The State Supreme Court agrees to hear the case on two of the alleged "points of error." It will be more than a year before the court rules on the arguments.

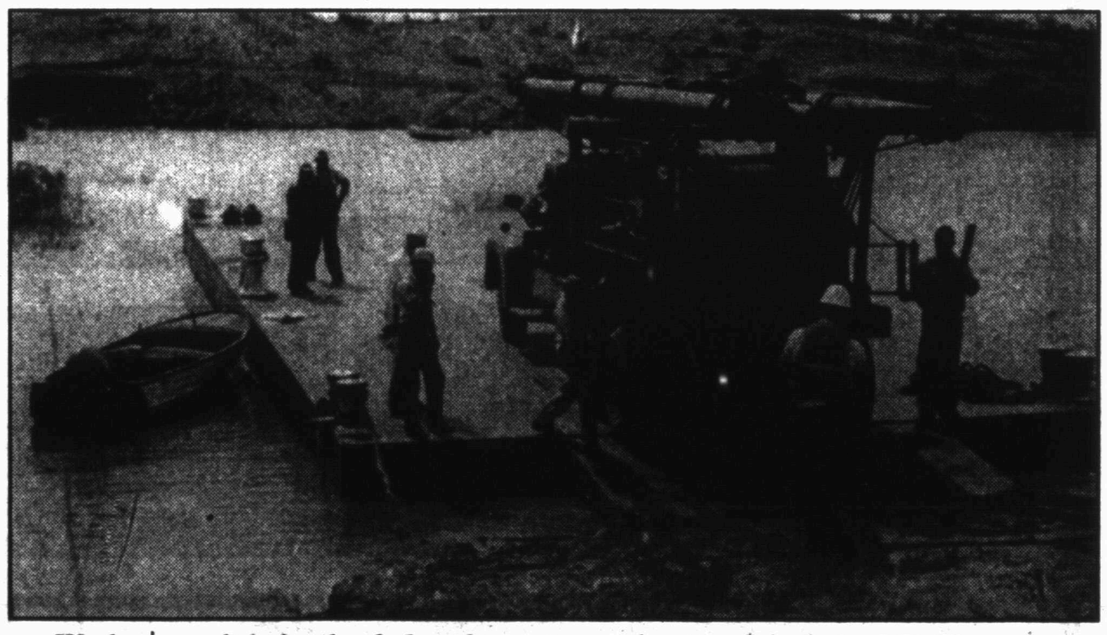
May 1984 — Negotiations with state and federal agencies concerning the 404 Permit continues, and estimates are growing as to the final cost. It is already more than $6 million.

Nov. 14, 1984 — Directors are in New York City to close the $8,275,000 bond issue to purchase additional groundwater reserves and fund construction of the Beals Creek water quality enhancement project when they receive word that the Texas Supreme Court has ruled against the District in the Stacy matter. As a result of post-opinion briefs, the Supreme Court decides, on January 9, 1985, to remand the matter to the Texas Water Commission for rehearing. Negotiations continue in what has become a highly visible battle, with state legislators and the governor applying pressure on LCRA and CRMWD to settle the matter. Unknown to the CRMWD, the Corps of Engineers pulls the 404 permit from consideration based on the November 14 Supreme Court ruling.

February 26, 1985 — Following final negotiations at 5 p.m. the day before, the CRMWD board approves a settlement with the LCRA, and officials fly to Austin for a joint announcement of the accord. With LCRA out of the picture, the remaining opposition is minimal.

April 23, 1985 — Although a few delays have occurred, the state permit for the dam and reservoir near Stacy is finally approved in the rehearing, and

See CRMWD, Page 16B



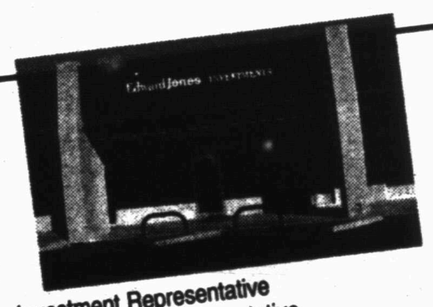
Workover unit being loaded on barge to service a well in Lake J.B. Thomas.

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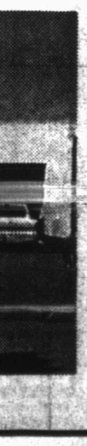
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District presents its case for building Ivie Reservoir



Intake work at Lake Thomas takes place near a mound used for drilling an oil well.

Oil operators were allowed to drill out their leases as the dam was being constructed.

(Photos of Lake Thomas are courtesy of the water district, and author Joe Pickle)

(Continued from 14B)

the permit is issued May 14, 1985. Once the period for appeals has passed. CRMWD General Manager Ivie has to fight to get the Corps of Engineers to reinstate the District's application for a 404 permit with its former priority, and even so, no one knows how much longer the process will take. Meanwhile, Midland, Abilene and San Angelo have each asked for 15,000 acre-feet of the reservoir, meaning the District will only have to finance 50.38 percent of the project.

February 1986 — After frustrating delays, CRMWD petitions for a public hearing on the Concho water snake, one of the 404 permit obstacles. The hearing is held in Ballinger on April 3. The snake has become a national issue. Senators and Congressmen have begun pressuring the Corps to grant the permit, as environmental groups gather in opposition. (Later studies will show the snake population to be significantly larger than early estimates on which most of the opposition was based.)

May 1986 — Too much rain? Natural Dam Lake, filled to never-seen heights by heavy isolated rainfall, threatens to break the dam and inundate Big Spring with water from one of the saltiest lakes in the world. As boils appear on the back of the dam, CRMWD steps in to reinforce the dam and build a temporary spillway to release enough water to preserve the dam. The releases prevent a major breach, but floods Jones Valley, a small area on the northwest side of Big Spring. A year is spent attempting cooperation between the city and county to fully resolve the problem. Resumption of unseasonable rain in May 1987 will later damage the spillway and again flood Jones Valley. Without the promised assistance from the city or county, CRMWD directors vote to step in and spend $2.2 million reinforcing Natural Dam and building a more adequate spillway. The salty water, which had to be released to prevent catastrophic failure of the Dam, flows downstream to the E.V. Spence Reservoir, causing serious water quality problems there for the rest of the century, as droughts in the 1990s will slow the reservoir's recovery.

March 1987 — After years of opposition, red tape, and at a final cost of over $10 million, the CRMWD learns that, following a 30-day waiting period, it is finally about to receive the elusive 404 permit to construct the reservoir at Stacy. The permit is dated April 8, 1987.

March 6, 1987 — In anticipation of receipt of the 404 permit, CRMWD opens bids for construction of the dam. Low-bidder Brown & Root receives the contract for the dam and basin construction based on a bid of just under $32 million, as well as the contract to build the intake station at a cost of almost $3.2 million.

May 16, 1987 — Torrential rains around Ballinger forces the scheduled Stacy groundbreaking ceremonies from the actual site to the Ballinger High School campus.

December 7, 1989 — The board of directors votes to name the new reservoir in honor of General Manager Owen H. Ivie, whose dogged persistence played a key role in the project. They vote to name the dam for Simon W. Freese, the man whose engineering skills and personal dedication were integral to the permit acquisition and design of all three district dams.

March 15, 1990 — All phases of the massive construction project are finally complete, the culmination of over 12 years of work.

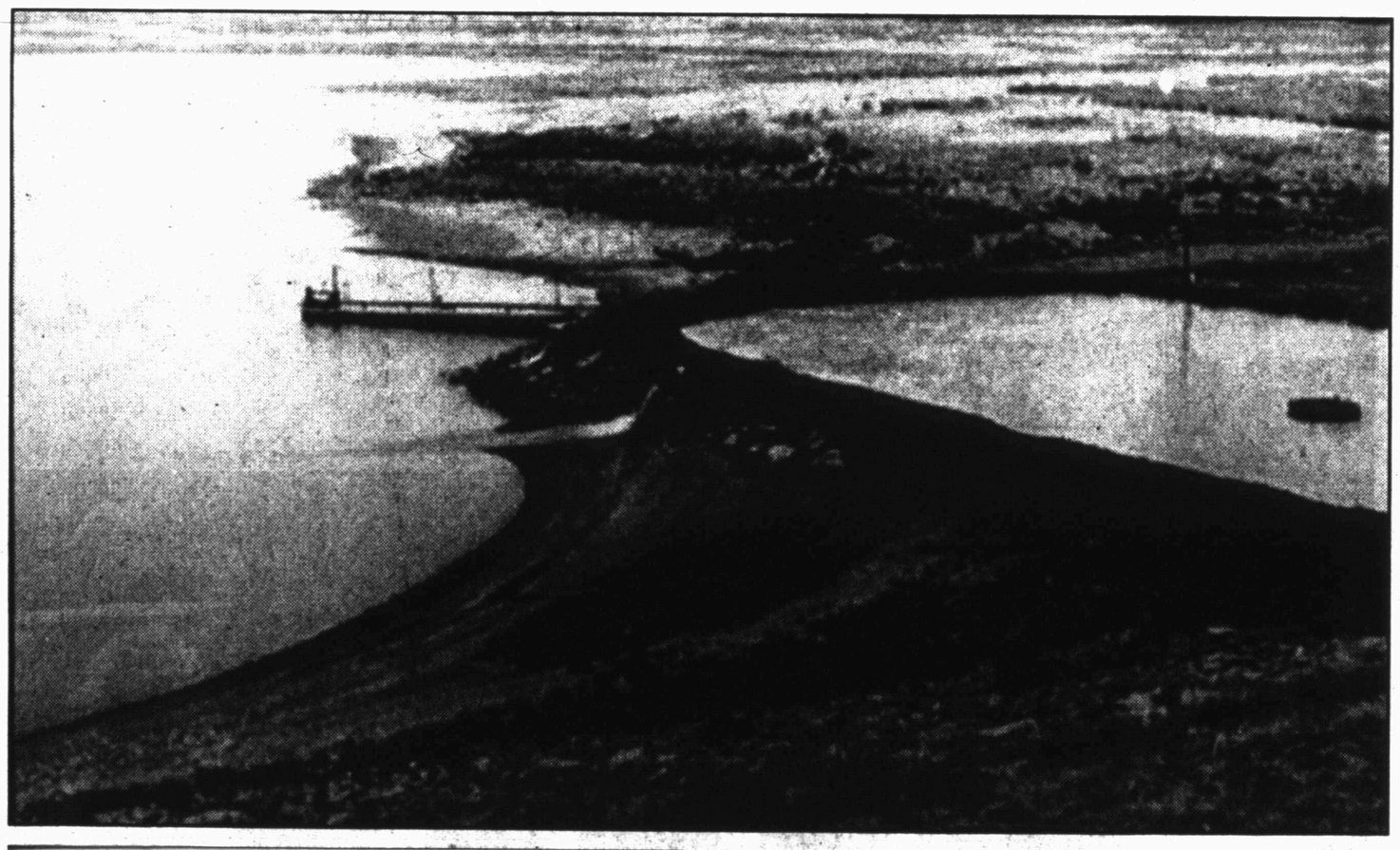
May 19, 1990 — formal dedication ceremonies are held for the S.W. Freese Dam and O.H. Ivie Reservoir. It fills much sooner than expected, in early June, 1992.

August 6, 1991 — Although the intake station had been built "in the dry" before the dam was closed, a massive pipeline construction project of unprecedented scale will have to be built to move the water west to Midland, San Angelo and the district, where it will be needed. The District sells $115 million in revenue bonds and begins right-of-way purchases.

April 16, 1992 — the bid for actual pipeline construction is awarded to John D. Stephens. A central control station is added to the plans, and the District will issue $9 million more in bonds, bringing the total to $12 million for construction of the pipeline, pump stations, storage facilities, electric substations and transmission lines as well as right-of-way, engineering and interest.

August 20, 1992 — With final preparations complete, the first joint of pipe is laid. Stephens had designed and contracted for construction of two massive trenchers that, barring solid rock, could chew out a trench eight feet wide and almost twelve feet deep in a single pass. The pipeline will be 60 inches in diameter for the 47.9 miles from the reservoir to San Angelo, and 53 inches in diameter for the remaining 109 miles. Solid rock does slow progress temporarily, but Stephens leap-frogs the trenches and lays as much as 4,300 feet (about 8.10 of a mile) of pipe in a single day.

See CRMWD, Page 17B



A newly completed cofferdam surrounds the Snyder intake at Lake J.B. Thomas in 1999. This procedure was also used in the early 1950s during low water levels.

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State recognizes there are lots of Concho water snakes

(Continued from 16B)

September 27, 1994 — Spectators watch as the final joint, number 29,543, is set in place during completion ceremonies at the construction site of the terminal storage facility between Midland and Odessa. Stephens has made good on his promise of both time and finances, even though his bid was $6 million less than his nearest competitor. Amazingly, the largest single pipeline contract (for both cost and distance) ever signed in the state has been completed with a project overrun of only 0.14 of 1 percent.

March 10, 1995 — Water security into the 21 century is celebrated at a ceremony dedicating the completed Ivie Transmission System. The pipeline has the daily capacity to move 90 million gallons to San Angelo, of that, 65 million gallons on to Midland-Odessa, a distance of 157 miles with a 1400-foot vertical lift

September 30, 1995 — Owen H. Ivie, employee of the district since 1953 and general manager since 1965, retires.

October 1, 1995 — John W. Grant becomes the district's third general manager in the midst of a drought, which began in 1992 and will last beyond the end of the decade. As for the last 45 years, the District perseveres through pump-back and searches for every potential source of water to serve a region whose population continues to grow.

February 14, 1996 — The John L. Taylor Central Control Center is dedicated in honor of the former board member who served as director for 31 years and president from 1983-1995.

April 22, 1996 — With little rainfall or runoff since the fall of 1992, water levels sink as Lake J.B. Tomas, and district employees begin the first in a series of pump-backs that will be necessary through the decade. Limited rainfall replenishes the lake sufficient to stop this round of pump-backs on June 11, 1997.

April 1, 1998 — An agreement is signed with the Lower Colorado River Authority terminal water releases spelled out in the 1965 permit for the Spence Reservoir, and the 1985 permit that paved the way for construction of the O.H. Ivie Reservoir.

April 24, 1998 — The old coffer dam in Lake J.B. Thomas is rebuilt around the Snyder intake as lake levels drop due to continued drought. Pump-back will continue until June 14, 1999.

June 15, 1998 — CRMWD petitions the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USDFWS) and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) to remove the Concho water snake from their lists of "threatened species." Most experts agree the original population viability model, when analyzed using the more complete data from over 10 years of study, would provide ample reason for de-listing the snake.

November 13, 1998 — In past decades, with the high chloride in the E.V. Spence Reservoir, Lake J.B. Thomas was the only real source for blending water to bring municipal water quality to acceptable levels. Now thanks to the addition of the Ivie transmission system, CRMWD has new ways to meet water challenges. Pump-back takes on a whole new meaning for he District as water can now be pumped between the system reservoir. The District begins pumping water from the O.H. Ivie Reservoir to Lake Thomas to keep the eastern end of the District supplied. This arrangement will continue until March 5, 1999.

November 13, 1998 — Based on the April agreement with the LCRA, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission passes unopposed revisions to the 1965 permit for the E.V. Spence and the 12985 permit for the O.H. Ivie Reservoirs. Water releases, triggered by levels in the Highland Lakes, were required as part of the original reservoir permits. Those releases were terminated in the 1998 revised permits, so vital surface water that originates in West Texas can now be retained, instead of being released down the river channel.

March 6, 1999 — As part of the plan to boost Lake Thomas levels above the intake with blended water for consistent quality throughout the system, CRMWD operators begin pumping water from the E.V. Spence Reservoir to Lake Thomas. This continues until May 2, 1999.

June 14, 1999 — Early June rains bring much needed relief on several fronts. Lake Thomas gains 17 feet in elevation, and once more, the Snyder intake is submerged without pumping water over the cofferdam from low areas of the lake.

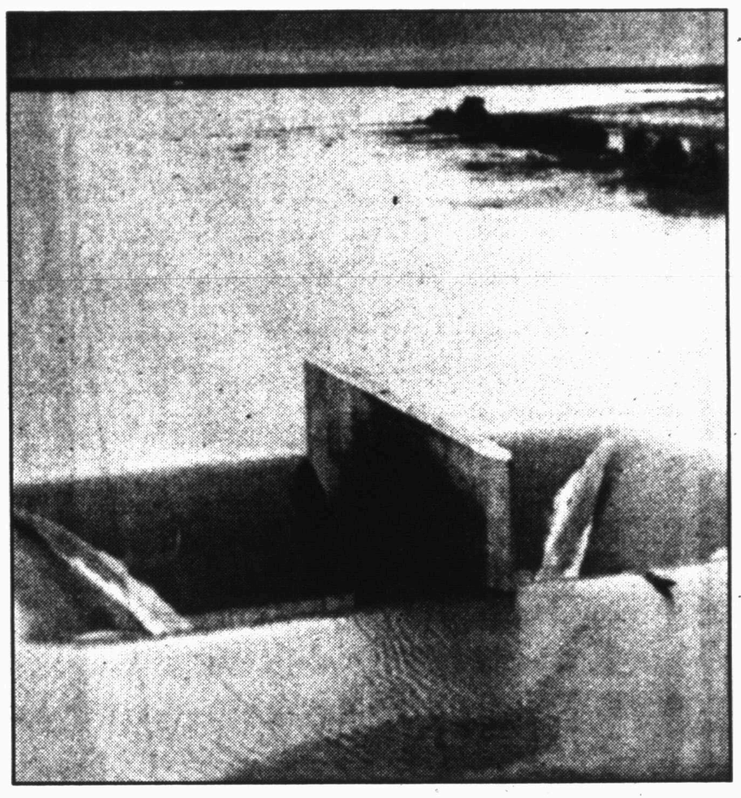
August 2, 1999 — In spite of the support of most field experts and herpetologists, the USFWS denies the CRMWD petition stating "insufficient date." They later request and receive from Congress an appropriation of $300,000 to develop a new population viability model.

January 1, 2000 — As the District enters the 21st century, it has more than 600 miles of pipeline, 23 pump stations and four well fields in operation across 15 counties of West Texas. The District's service area includes all or part of 34 counties, and efforts continue to maintain and expand the massive system that provides necessary water to a dry region.

March 2, 2000 — With levels at the E.V. Spence Reservoir dropping, the District has prepared for another pump-back operation there, the first since 1970. As the intake pumps begin to draw air, pump-back begins.

March 24, 2000 — Only 3 weeks after the Spence pump-back begins it is no longer necessary. The reservoir catches over 50,000 acre feet of water and rises about 12 feet from rainfall received over a 7-day period.

August 31, 2000 — TPWD, in an uncontested ruling, removes the Concho water snake from the state threatened species list. The action becomes final in September upon publication in the Texas Register.



An overflowing Lake Thomas in September, 1962

Flexibility helps in drought conditions

One of the driving forces that led to the formation of the Colorado River Municipal Water District was the drought of the 1950s, and we are, today, in a drought of similar proportions, according to General Manager John Grant.

"This drought started in the fall of 1992, and the difference today versus where district founders were 50 years ago, is the flexibility of our system," Grant said. "With our three reservoirs, four well fields and 450 miles of raw water transmission lines, we have better options for dealing with a drought.

"In mid-November, Lake Thomas is about 12.5 percent full, Spence is just under 17 percent, and Ivie is about 51 percent full. It would be frightening if we depended on a single reservoir. But, because they are spread across a large region, we take advantage of rainfall over a much larger area," Grant said, "and, we have the transmission system to move that water where it is needed.

"We have revisited some things the district did in early years like using pump-back to get water to the pump station intakes at Lake Thomas and the E.V. Spence reservoir, but we have also done some unusual things no one would have imagined," Grant said. "We took pump-back a step further, and pumped water between reservoirs. We took water from the Ivie Reservoir to Midland-Odessa, then sent it backward through the district's first pipeline system to Lake Thomas to keep the Snyder intake under water.

"That is how we have been able to get through this drought without rationing water to our municipalities," Grant asserted, "Certainly a lot of thought has been put into each facility the district has built to ensure it is as flexible as possible in moving and storing water. Then, you don't know what you can really do until your back is against the wall and you put it to the test."

"It is evident that the reason we are getting through the drought today is because the district planned for it," said Grant. "The last thing the district can afford to do now is to sit back and think we have it made."

"We are continuing to look for new supplies, to improve delivery capabilities and to consider supplement elements like weather modification and technology advancement in desalinization/demineralization that could economically render good water from sources considered un-potable today." Grant added.

In addition, he says factors such as the rising cost of power and deregulation of the electric industry pose obstacles to the district's mission of providing affordable water. "With power already almost 60 percent or more of our operating budget, it is by far the largest single item, excluding debt service, that determines the cost of water.

"Another impact of the drought has been on water quality," Grand noted. "The District has put in over 150 miles of pipeline and storage reservoirs in our diverted water system, but the continued drought has reduced its impact. When we do finally get rain to fill our municipal reservoirs, we are ready for it with better controls for surface contaminates."

"As far as the future is concerned, we have one undeveloped well field, and we will continue to look for additional groundwater," Grant said. "There is no one silver bullet that is the answer to all our challenges."

How bad will this drought be, and when will it end?

"We won't know until it is over, but I believe we will weather it."

United Supermarkets opens in June of 1999

United Supermarkets moved into its 40,000-sq. ft. building on June 15, 1999. Currently the store employs 120 people. Rusty Carter serves as the store director and Chris Dunson is assistant store director. Will Fewin is the grocery manager.

Rob Myatt is service manager for the store.

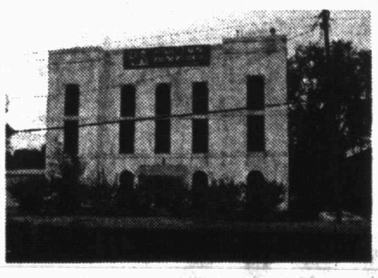
Mike O'Quinn serves as the produce manager and Kathy Jerome is the deli manager. Tom Boley is the bakery manager and Dan Smith serves as the meat market manager. Clifton Hodges is the frozen food and dairy manager, and Pauline Alvarado is the non-foods manager.

Tricia Brown is the floral manager and Robert and Maria Patterson manage the pharmacy.

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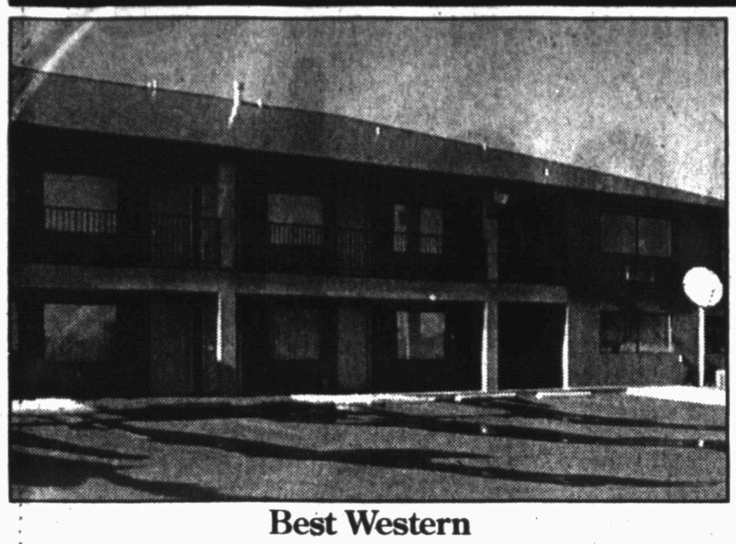


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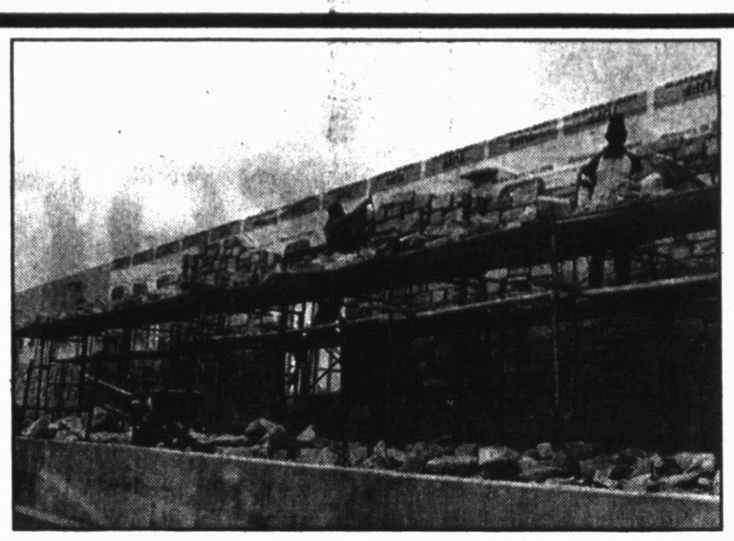
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Best Western



New U.S. Post Office under construction



WHITE BUFFALO — Yosef and Sara Shlezinger opened the White Buffalo Restaurant on Jan. 20, at 3703 College Ave. With a seating capacity of approximately 70, they have 18 employees. Breakfast is served Saturday and Sunday mornings and they are open from 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday. (SDN Staff Photo)

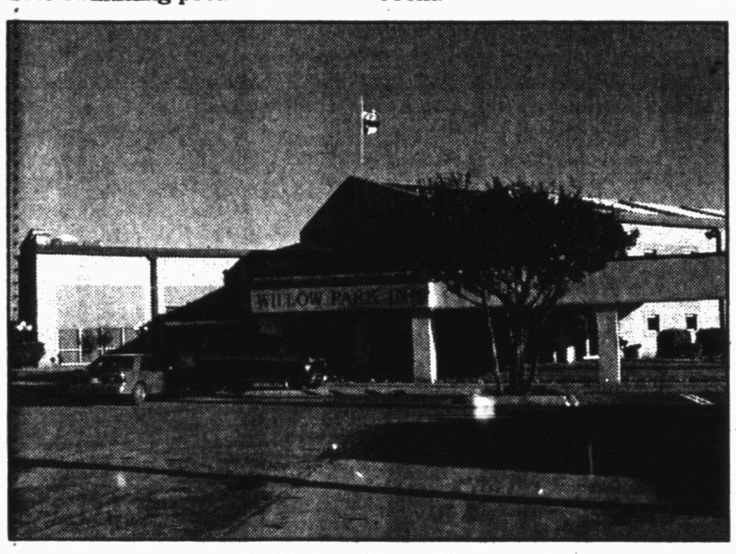
Best Western opens here

Best Western's Snyder Inn, located at 810 Coliseum Drive, opened June 22.

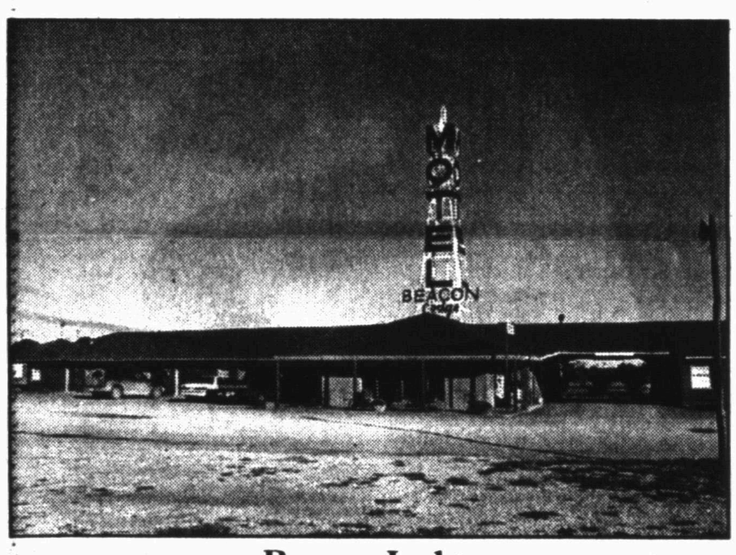
The 22,000 square-foot, two-story facility boasts 39 rooms, including 10 suites, and an outdoor swimming pool.

Bobby Bhakta of Abilene is the owner while Ray Patel is the manager.

The motel employs eight and offers a continental breakfast, an exercise room and a meeting room.



Willow Park Inn



Beacon Lodge

Willow Park reopened under new ownership on Aug. 29

The Willow Park Inn reopened on Aug. 29, under new ownership, after abruptly being closed in June.

Renovation and lots of cleaning took place during the interim, according to manager Billy Crain. The conference rooms have been totally redone and the pool and spa area has been updated.

The lounge has been redone and will reopen once the liquor license is received. The restaurant will reopen in the near future.

The beds and bedding of the 43 room have also been replaced, as well as several televisions.

Besides the manager, Willow Park employs 12 people.

New owners are Gene and Donna Thompson of Fort Worth. They are also part owners of the Beacon Lodge, also with Bob and Carolyn Merrithew, also of Fort Worth.

A landmark familiar to motorists passing through Snyder returned to its original splendor about a year ago.

Each of the Beacon Lodge's 36 rooms has a 1950s theme, such as Hershey Kisses or chocolate syrup, Marilyn Monroe, Lionel Trains, James Dean, John Deere tractors, Popeye, Happy Days and many more.

The rooms have king, queen or double beds, and some have refrigerators and microwaves.

The lobby gives the feel of an old-fashion soda fountain with its Coca-Cola furnishings and decorations. The conference room furnishings include 1950s cook stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, TV, clock radio and upright piano. Other decorations include all types of 1950s memorabilia.

Guests of the motel and eight-space RV park are invited to use the conference room, barbecue grills, picnic tables, or just pitch horseshoes.

The RV spaces include cable TV hookups.

Price Daniel Unit was first area prison

When the Price Daniel Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice was completed in Snyder in 1989, there were no other prisons in West Texas, and the only units located west of I-35 were at Gatesville.

In order to attract a prison to Snyder, a public information program was begun in 1987 to seek a prison here, and the group worked to educate the community on the benefits of such.

In 1987, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice requested proposals on a 1,000-bed unit and for a 2,000-bed unit.

In November 1987, Snyder was selected for a 1,000-bed medium security facility. It opened in August, 1989.

Snyder citizens raised more than $1 million to purchase the land to give to the state on which the Price Daniel Unit was built.

Currently, the prison's payroll in Snyder is in excess of $12 million — second only to the Snyder public schools in terms of total payroll.

There are 300 security positions at the Price Daniel Unit, representing an annual payroll of almost $9 million. The Windham school has 19 positions with a payroll of $816,377. There are five accounting positions with an annual payroll of $120,000.

The Windham Western Regional staff totals 12 and its annual payroll is $410,000.

The Snyder Distribution Center was later built to serve prison units in West Texas.

There are 33 employees in transportation, representing an annual payroll of $779,400. The distribution staff has 13 employees with an annual payroll of $263,751.

Also located in Snyder is the Texas Department of Criminal Justice parole office with 13 employees with an annual payroll of $300,000.

Cogdell Hospital operates the Daniel unit infirmary and Western Texas College provides both academic and vocational instruction for inmates. This sends the prison-related payroll to well over $12 million.

Senior Warden at the Daniel Unit is Wilhelmenia Howard and she is the unit's fourth warden.

Les Woods was warden when the unit opened and Robert White was the unit's second warden, followed by T.J. Medart.

Vernon Pittman is the assistant warden, and the major is Dennis Herron. Unit captains are Edwin Mendez and Randy Lewis.

YZ was sold to Milton Roy in January

YZ Industries, a Snyder oil boom small-engine repair business that emerged into an international manufacturer of high-tech products, was sold to Milton Roy in January.

Dayton Robertson continues as the plant manager, while Gary Roberts is the production supervisor, and Troy Hall is the machine shop foreman.

Currently, 60 people are employed at the plant located on the Old Lubbock Highway. Including the Conroe facility, there are 110 employees of YZ.

Milton Roy, based in Philadelphia, is a subsidiary of Chicago-based Hamilton Sunstrand, a United Technologies Company.

United Technology, headquartered in Hartford, Conn., is the nation's 43rd largest U.S. publicly-held corporation with annual revenues in excess of $25 billion.

Milton Roy produces chemical injection pumps while YZ's Linc line manufactures hydraulic pumps.

YZ, a family-owned business, was a product of the Snyder oil boom when I.V. "Jack" Zeck arrived in Snyder in 1949 from Iowa Park to set up a shop to perform small engine repair.

Jack's son, Ted, joined Y-Z Carburetor Service a few months later, specializing in oilfield and industrial engine service and magneto sales and repair.

The firm then evolved into an open machine shop, and in the 1960s, Ted Zeck developed a crude oil sampler that became the springboard of YZ products used all over the world.

That led to the development of a gas sampler, a device that became the cash register for trades between different production and gas transmission companies.

A company milestone occurred in 1989 when YZ, at the request of a customer, developed a device to inject the chemical that gives natural gas its odor. In 1998, YZ completed a massive installation of gas-odorization equipment for the entire United Kingdom.

Corporate headquarters for YZ were moved to Conroe, and the company has sales offices in Snyder, Conroe, Lafayette, La., Tulsa and manufacturing reps in the U.S., Canada, South America, Europe, Asia and Africa.

YZ purchased LINC manufacturing in Porter, and last year that manufacturing facility was moved and combined with the Snyder facilities.

SISD now planning maintenance work

Snyder ISD's board of trustees and administration has begun a program to do much-needed maintenance on the district's facilities by issuing $520,000 in maintenance tax notes.

The program, adopted by the state legislature in 1999, allows a school district to issue the notes to be used for any normal expenditure, or maintenance-type work in the school district.

The funds cannot be used for any new construction.

It is expected that the first campus to benefit from the tax notes will be East Elementary as that school has the most problems with its heating and cooling system.

Bids will be taken for work on the East campus, as well as the West and Northeast campuses.

Estimates for the work at East ranges from $378,216 to $453,859, and for West the estimates of work range from $442,735 to $533,952. The cost of the work at Northeast Elementary will range from $292,005 to $350,406.

The district also has some $700,000 in its capital improvement fund available for improvements.

Farmer's Design Group sets expansion

Fran Farmer, owner of Farmer's Design Group, has developed a real homegrown business that has become well known outside the boundaries of Scurry County.

The firm, which makes display fixtures for a number of popular manufacturers such as Relic and Folio watches, and has their products in stores such as Sears, J.C. Penney, Macy's, Bloomingdale's and Dillards, currently has 32 employees.

Farmer is expanding by building a 7,000-square foot building to go with its present 5,000-square foot manufacturing area.

The firm recently won three prestigious awards at a New York point-of-purchase convention.

CSCD moved into new home Oct. 24

The Community Supervision and Corrections Department moved into its new home at 2511 College Avenue on Oct. 24.

The approximately 4,500 square foot facility is a vast improvement over the departments prior quarters which was a little over 1,000 square feet.

"It is a much more efficient and effective way to do business," Sy Tabor, director, said.

The office houses Tabor and three community supervision officers including Doug Price, Shelly Duggan and Marshall Finley.

Abelia Espinosa is the secretary and receptionist while Mary Courtney is an administrative assistant.

David Tate, who supervises the work program commonly known as the orange crew, has his office there as well.

Tabor said some regional programs are also operated out of the office.

Jana Dickey, regional coordinator with the Treatment Alternatives to Incarceration Program (TAIP) and John Newton, a registered sex offender therapist, also are officed in the building.

In addition, there is space for part-time employees Ray Cearley, a community service work supervisor, and Bobby Jones, case technician.

Jones keeps track of persons who are on probation from Scurry County but live elsewhere.

TxDot lists major highway projects for Snyder community

Work underway on 37th Street; Traffic Circle also under reconstruction

The Texas Department of Transportation currently has two major projects in the works with a third major one expected to be let in November of 2001.

As residents who frequently use the eastern portion of 37th Street know, TxDOT is in the process of reconstructing the roadway into a four-lane highway complete with a center turning lane.

The traffic circle is also under reconstruction. Work on it began Sept. 18 and was originally projected to take ten months to complete.

Rainy and snowy weather over the past few weeks has delayed both the projects to the frustration of some citizens. The stretch of 37th Street from the bridge to about Avenue E has been closed completely the last few weeks.

In November of 2001, the highway department will be letting a project to revamp College Avenue from the northwest corner of the square extending all the way to the southern city limits.

"Construction usually starts 45 days after that, so we are looking at beginning in January of 2002," Joe Dan Jones, Snyder area design engineer said. "We are currently working on the plans for that project."

Jones said the College Avenue project is going to be a reconstruction of the existing roadway.

"It will be pretty much the same configuration with what is there now. The road bed is fatigued enough that we need to go in and replace it."

The department will also reconstruct the curb and gutters along College, install sidewalks on both sides and make them handicapped accessible.

"We will also be rebuilding the bridge at Deep Creek and 28th Street," Jones said.

As for the traffic circle, it will have a completely new look once finished.

Jones said the traffic circle is a safety improvement project.

"With the present configurations, you have to look quite a bit over one shoulder or the other to observe oncoming traffic," he said. "With the new design, the furthest you will have to turn you head will be 90 degrees to the right or left to observe oncoming traffic."

Jones said the plans are to transform U.S. 180 into an uninterrupted thoroughfare through the traffic circle.

"U.S. Hwy. 180 will consist of two eastbound travel lanes and two westbound travel lines and a center turning lane, much like College Avenue consists today," he said. "It will be curbed and guttered just like College."

In addition, Jones said the new State Highway 208 alignment will come up to a stop condition at U.S. 180, and Business 84, which presently goes out towards Pleasant Hill road, will terminate into State Highway 208, otherwise known as the Colorado City Highway.

"There will also be a new frontage road constructed in front of the car dealerships to allow access to those local businesses," Jones added.

Once 37th Street is completed, it will have four lanes of traffic and a center turning lane. In addition, it will also be completely curbed and guttered with sidewalks on both sides.

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