

Visit To The Knox County Jail Reveals Reality Behind Bars



"WHAT ARE YOU IN HERE FOR?" " I DON'T KNOW!" Knox County Deputies Lou Speer and Johnny Andrade demonstrate a typical conversation during visiting hours at the jail. The visitor, who sits in the waiting room, is separated from the inmate by a glass window. Visiting hours are two to three p.m. on weekends.

By Kirsten Bowden

At first glance, one might not think the building is anything but a home. There is always at least one car under the carport—someone is always there. Peering through the window, it looks like a comfortable living room.

But with a closer glance there are peculiarities. The barbed wire fence doesn't look like an inviting backyard and the sign on the front door says no one under the age of 12 is allowed inside.

This is the Knox County Jail in Benjamin.

Although smaller than most county jails holding only 14 adult inmates at maximum, this jail has never been overcrowded, said Deputy Lou Speer.

Speer, Jan Carver, Vonnice Ivie, Mike Carlson and Johnny Andrade are the certified deputies/dispatchers/jailers, a job that has long shifts and requires organization and a lot of paperwork.

"So far this year we've had plenty," Andrade said with a laugh, thumbing through the pages of the jail record book, one of many files.

Every possession from underwear to alcohol is catalogued and recorded from beginning to end of the arrest. The process begins when the jail doorbell rings, notifying the deputies someone has been brought in by an officer.

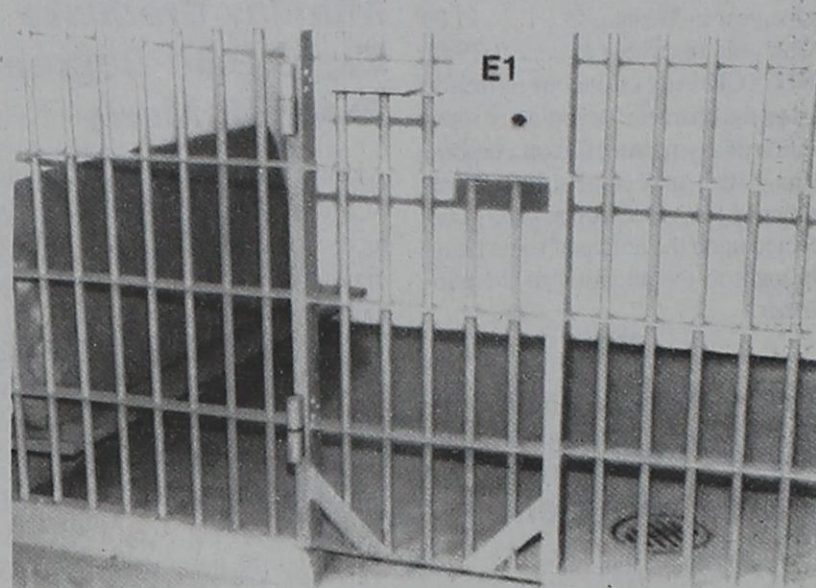
Andrade said the person is brought into the booking room. The deputy fills out an arrest report, medical record form, rules and regulations, takes a mug shot on a light green background and fingerprints, he said.

Andrade said often people that are brought in are drunk, since DWIs are the most common crimes, especially during weekends of dances and holidays.

"When we bring them in, sometimes they're erratic and unresponsive. We wait a couple of hours til they calm down," he said. They are detained in the "drunk tank," a large cell with a bunk.

After being booked, inmates are placed in cells, called "houses" by the inmates, based on whether or not they have been in prison before, Speer said. Each cell consists of built-in bunks, shelf, desk, toilet and sink. They are given white pants and shirt and a package of toiletries.

"They have everything they need



THE DRUNK TANK is the place where criminals are detained until they sober up enough to cooperate. The cell has only a large cot and a drain. Inmates are placed in a regular cell after all the necessary forms have been filled out.

and we don't treat them like animals. They love this facility!" said Speer, who has worked in the jail for five years.

Speer said there have been some inflationary changes since he got involved in law enforcement in 1950. He explained that each day served in prison results in a decrease in the fine set by the justice of the peace.

"When I started in 1950 they credited prisoners with five dollars a day, now it's fifty dollars a day," he said, even when the prisoner is booked five minutes before midnight.

Speer said the jail is more humane compared to other county jails with smoking privileges, free drinks, phone privileges all day and Banquet microwave dinners such as fried chicken, enchiladas or turkey with dressing.

"Our trustee said some inmates get only a bologna sandwich and a four ounce cup of water at other

places," Speer said.

"He said you better eat it, or someone will grab it too," Andrade added.

The "trustee" is the inmate in charge of the cooking, cleaning, laundry and yardwork, determined by attitude and records, the deputies said.

"He's the only one with a TV," Andrade said, one of the special privileges.

Andrade, who has worked in the Benjamin jail for one year and

(Continued on Page 2)

Area Scientist Calls For Creative Farming

By Kirsten Bowden

Dr. Jerry Cox, resident director of research at Texas A&M in Vernon, implored the Lion's Club June 15 to search for creative solutions to the farming problems of Munday.

Dr. Cox, whose breadth of research has reached from Arizona to southern Africa, said interaction is the key to agriculture in the future.

"The environmental movement is not going to go away," Dr. Cox said. "We need to educate ourselves to deal with these people. We have to change the way we present our message."

As an example, Dr. Cox said he joined the Sierra Club while living in Arizona "just to listen." He said he heard insinuations that ranchers were responsible for the spread of mesquite through the cattle.

So Dr. Cox decided to do some research of his own. After three years of following 70 cowpies with mesquite seedlings, he said not one seedling grew into a mesquite.

"If you can't measure it, don't believe it," Dr. Cox said.

Dr. Cox tried a different approach. He watched the behavior of kangaroo rats with mesquite seedlings and obtained dramatic results.

"They [the rats] planted most of the seeds at exactly the right depth for germination," he said.

Gordon Moore, owner of Moore Agricultural Products, said a possible creative solution would be to plant safflower crops.

"It's an all-seed crop, deep-rooted and highly profitable," said G. Moore, visiting from Hanford, California.

Sonny Moore, general manager of Farmers Grain Co-op, agreed that farmers and ranchers need to be creative, especially with today's wheat prices.

"Every four or five years, you've got to find something new," S. Moore said.

However S. Moore said that Knox County has an advantage that most places don't.

"We can grow nearly anything here," he said.

Dr. Cox said the vegetable re-

search center in Munday needs creative tactics.

"It is not a good thing to have a vegetable research center and no vegetables grown in the area," he said.

But Dr. Cox added that he knew of no change in the status of the center.

Pee Wee All-Star Game To Be Played This Friday Night

The Pee Wee All-Star team and coaches were announced Friday night, June 18. Each player received a nice trophy for their showcase at home.

Coaching the All-Stars will be Bobby Sosolik, Trent Driggers and Henry Ramirez. Members selected were Erik Sosolik, Jeffery Toliver, Wes Crawford, Jessie Carlson, Oscar Nunez, Keramie Brown, Lois Reneau, Chad Tibbets, Heather Stovall, Teddy Graciano, Dustin Flye, Brandon Urbanczyk and Jeffery Urbanczyk.

The All-Stars will take on the 9 and 10 year old Little League players at 7 p.m. Friday night, June 25.

Hamburgers will be sold at the concession stand, so plan on eating at the game while watching the kiddoes play.

All parents are asked to bring homemade ice cream for the players and spectators following the game. There will be no charge for this special treat.

WEATHER REPORT

Following is the weather report for seven days ending Monday, June 21, 1993, as compiled and recorded by Glynn Weaver, local U.S. weather observer.

	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
June 15	91	69	
June 16	90	69	
June 17	89	61	
June 18	89	69	
June 19	89	68	
June 20	88	68	
June 21	89	60	
Rainfall year to date			13.44

City Manager Urges Citizens Not To Panic

The June submission of three water samples to the Texas Water Commission yielded one sample that tested positive for coliform bacteria.

Jim Slayton, city manager, stressed that people should not panic.

"We've eliminated the problem," he said.

Slayton said the problem, discovered Friday, was eliminated by flushing out the fire hydrants in the area of town that was contaminated Monday morning.

"We pulled the bad water out and put fresh water in. Now we're getting residual chlorine circulation," he said. More samples were tested Monday and those results being determined.

Slayton said the problem occurs when the chlorine evaporates out and the water sits and becomes stale.

"Most of the time it's circulating like blood," Slayton said. He said the problem will probably need to be addressed each month.

Thanks for reading the Munday Courier!



PEE WEE ALL-STARS will play the nine and ten year old Little League members this Friday night at 7. Henry Ramirez, Bobby Sosolik and Trent Driggers, standing in back row, will coach the All-Stars. Selected for this special team are, middle row, Oscar Nunez, Chad Tibbets, Keramie Brown, Jessie Carlson, Lois Reneau, Jeffrey Toliver and Heather Stovall; front row, Dustin Flye, Wes Crawford, Teddy Graciano, Brandon Urbanczyk, Eric Sosolik, and Jeffery Urbanczyk.

Munday To Host Little League All-Star Games

Little League All-Stars and coaches were announced Thursday night, June 17, following the last regular game of the season.

David Key and Ed Murphy will be the All-Star coaches.

Selected for the All-Star team from the Cardinals were Brandon Sosa, A.R. Hibdon, Jason Key and Lane Murphy; Braves - Justin Gray, Jai Fernandez, Lucas Castillo and Robert Dockins; Red Sox - Tony Shahan and B.J. Brown; and Yankees - Wesley Spells, Eric Beaty, Waylon Klutts and Laci Myers.

Area Playoffs will be held in Munday starting the week of July 5. Seymour and Knox City will play the first game Monday night, and Munday will play the winner on Tuesday. It will be a double-elimination tournament, with games starting at 7 p.m.

Munday will also host the district games which will be played the following week starting July 12.

The area and district games will bring in lots of out-of-town people to Munday. There is lots of work to be done before this time, and volunteers are urgently needed to help. Call Brenda Brown, Daniel Ramirez or Karla Key for more information, or if you want to volunteer.

The Search For The Strange And Unusual Is On!

Do you know anyone with a distinctive hobby, with a flair for the unusual or that you think is special for some reason? Are you someone that was a first in some endeavor?

The Munday Courier is looking for people to profile in feature stories for upcoming issues. If you have any ideas, please drop by or call Kirsten Bowden at 422-4314.

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Graveside Services Held June 18 For Goree Resident

Juan Diaz Menchaca, 78, died in his home in Goree on Thursday, June 17, 1993.

Graveside services were held at 4:30 p.m. Friday, June 18, in Johnson Memorial Cemetery under the direction of McCauley-Smith Funeral Home.

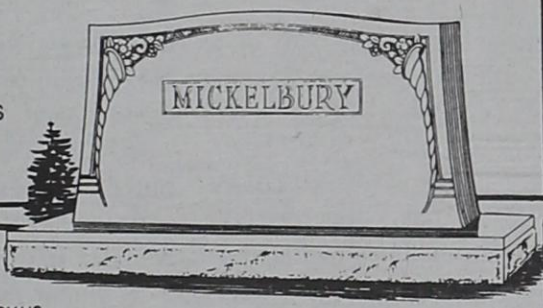
Mr. Menchaca was born January 16, 1915, in Uvalde. He moved to Goree in 1966 from San Antonio. He was a car maintenance worker and a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rhineland. He and Maria Josefa Flores were married May 13, 1962, in San Antonio. She preceded him in death.

Survivors include a daughter, Olivia Navarette of Ulysses, Kansas; 4 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and 1 great-great-grandchild.



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HOLLY JACKSON

Munday Graduate Earns BBA Degree From McMurry

Holly Jackson, a 1989 graduate of Munday High School, recently received a BBA Degree with a major in marketing from McMurry University in Abilene.

She was a member of Delta Beta Epsilon social club serving as an executive council officer for two years. She was also active in Chanters Choir, Theatre and Intramural Sports.

Holly is the daughter of Mickey and Linda Jackson of Munday.

Knox County Jail

(Continued from Page 1)

four months, described many of the inmates as "regular customers" who are cooperative. He said his work as a prison guard in Huntsville involved breaking up constant fighting between the 2500 "hardened criminals."

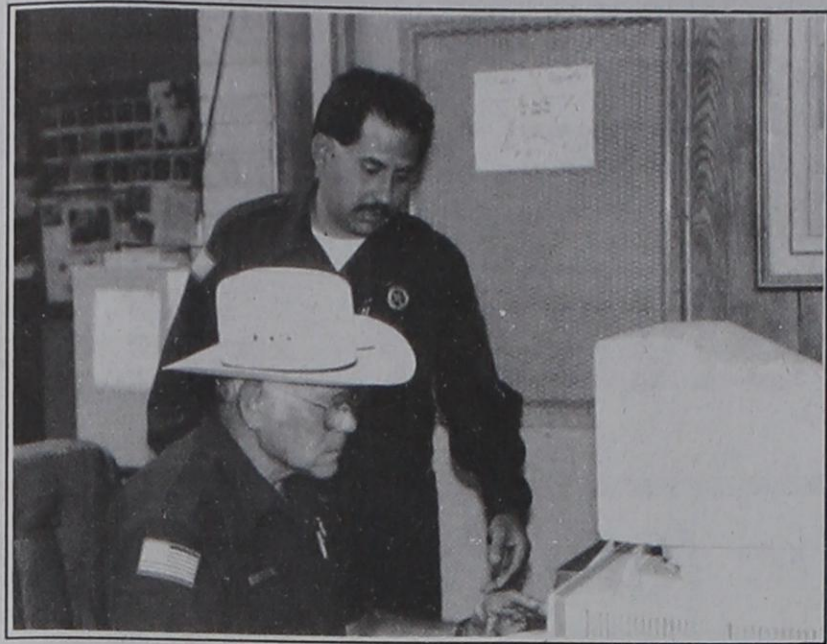
"They've got a lot more going for them than they think," Andrade said of the Benjamin inmates. "Most everybody we have are repeats."

Artwork covered the bars of the "day room" where inmates can relax, play games or read a book from the overflowing shelf. During rest and relaxation on the weekends, inmates go out to an open side field next to the old bank vault that features an ancient basketball court and horseshoes.

"The only time they are all together is with the deputy on Saturday afternoon for R&R," Speer said. Andrade said many inmates choose to simply sit under a large tree and talk. In bad weather, inmates lift weights and work out in the "rec room."

After R&R, relatives and friends visit through a glass window from 2 to 3 p.m. on the weekends.

Before going to another prison,



DEPUTIES JOHNNY ANDRADE AND LOUSPEER run a driver's license check for a patrolman calling from the radio. The radio is the heart of the system, deputies said. The computer verifies checks by codes in a matter of seconds.

inmates are granted one 20 minute "contact visit" before regular visiting hours.

When inmates are deported to another prison, the deputies must make "reservations" with the prison on a particular day once a month and fill out a pen(itentiary) pack.

"If you don't get [the prisoners] there before that date, you have to wait another month," he said. "Then they won't let us in without the paperwork."

The pen pack is only a fraction of the paperwork, codes and duties of the deputies.

"We check on [the inmates] every hour," Andrade said, adding that firearms are locked away before entering the cell area.

Every check, request and most actions are recorded on the radio log, including patrol calls about

driver's license checks.

"So when he comes in to relieve me, each one knows what the other did," Speer said.

Speer, who retired from the Dallas police department in 1970 and moved back to the Munday area, described his deputy work as "sometimes nerve-racking," but said he had wanted to be in law enforcement since age seven.

"Once you get it in your blood,

you can't quit," he said, and Andrade nodded.

Local Resident's Brother Passes Away In Haskell

I. L. Smith, 90, of Haskell died Thursday, June 17, 1993, at Haskell Memorial Hospital.

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. Friday, June 18, at the First Baptist Church of Rule with Rev. J. R. Williams officiating. Burial was in Rule Cemetery under the direction of McCauley-Robison Funeral Directors of Rule.

Mr. Smith was born January 12, 1903, in Knox County. He married Gladys Day in Haskell in January of 1925. He was a farmer for 45 years before retiring, a Baptist, and a member of Masonic Lodge No. 954 in Rule.

Survivors include two sons, D.K. "Speedy" and Roy Dean, both of Rule; two sisters, Ruth Jones and Jenell Vandiver, both of Arlington; three brothers, Odis of Haskell, Chester of Wichita Falls and Charlie of Munday; five grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

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ATTIC TREASURES

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From A Carpenter's Son

First United Methodist Church - Munday and Goree
Don Whetsell, Pastor

I came into "the ministry" through working in youth ministry, and because of this background I have always felt that youth ministry is very important to the life of the church. I know most folks would agree with me on the surface of that statement, but I'm not very sure they understand exactly what I mean by "important". Perhaps "vital" would be a better word.

I have heard many people say, "Youth are our church's future!" I would have to disagree, at least partly, with that statement and go with what my youth director, Kent Josselet said once, "Youth are the church, TODAY."

Many of us in the church are perfectly willing and ready for our youth to go on trips, sing

songs, do skits, and other pleasant and generally harmless activities. The problem is, that doesn't teach them anything about how to run a church, organize a ministry, or how to plan and reach goals.

In the 1992 edition of the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, there are several sections that encourage and require youth to be members of various committees in the church. That's a good step in the right direction, but it doesn't mean much if the youth aren't told of when the meetings are or have them held during school hours when they cannot attend, which unfortunately I have seen happen on several occasions in many different churches.

If we are going to expect our youth to carry our church through the future, we're going to have to give them hands on experience carrying on the mission of the church in the present.

"Don't let anyone look down on you because of your youth, but set an example for all the believers in your speech, behavior, love, trust, and purity."

1 Timothy 4:12

Noah Project-North Schedules Meeting

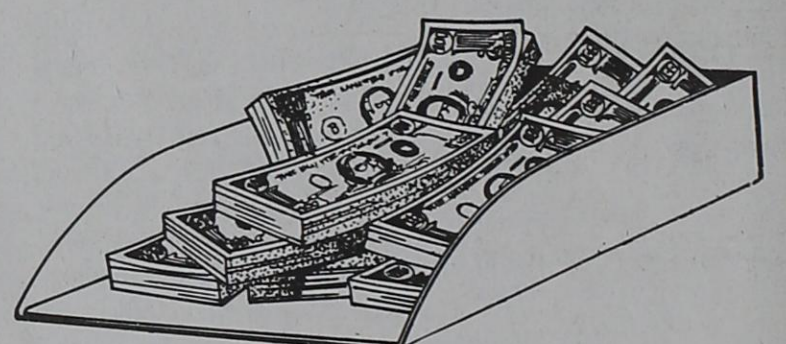
The Noah Project-North volunteer meeting will be held at noon Thursday, June 24, at the Haskell County Courthouse.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer should call 864-2551.

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Sunday, June 27

First United Methodist Church

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How To Stock Your Kitchen With High-Energy Snacks

Summer time means more play time for children and an increased need for high-energy snacks, says a nutritionist at the USDA's Children's Nutrition Research Center.

"Parents can reinforce good eating habits this summer by providing their children with plenty of healthy treats," says Dr. Corinne Montandon, an assistant professor of nutrition at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

By giving some thought to snack selection, Montandon believes parents can meet their children's dietary needs while sending a positive nutritional message.

Instead of stocking the kitchen with chips, cakes, sodas and other high-fat convenience foods, she recommends the following summer snacks:

- frozen low-fat yogurt
- fresh fruits and fruit juices
- frozen orange wedges, banana slices or grapes. (Grapes and other small snack foods should not be offered to children younger than 5 because they could choke.)
- milkshakes made with low-fat milk or fruit juice
- finger-size servings of crisp, raw vegetables
- peanut butter-stuffed celery pieces
- low-fat string cheese
- miniature pizzas

Judge David Hajek Gives Anchondo 50 Year Sentence

Carl Lopez Anchondo, 30, of Munday was sentenced to a 50 year term in the state penitentiary Thursday, June 17, 1993, by District Judge David Hajek after pleading guilty to Aggravated Sexual Assault in the Knox County Court in Benjamin.

A Knox County Grand Jury had indicted Anchondo for making a sexual assault on his 5-year-old step-daughter on or about June 1, 1992 at the home in which he was living with the little girl, and her mother. The assault was made on the girl while her mother was at work.

The case was prosecuted by Bill Neal, District Attorney. Carl Quisenberry, Seymour attorney, was the court appointed attorney representing the defendant.

"Melissa Bearden of the Child Protective Services agency and Sheriff Henry Dancer handled most of the investigation in this case," District Attorney Bill Neal stated, "and I can't commend them enough for the thorough and professional manner in which they did their job. These are really difficult cases to successfully prosecute, and it cannot be done unless you have trained professional investigators who know their job and do it."

Junior Rodeo To Be Held Friday And Saturday

The annual Knox County Junior Rodeo, sponsored by the Brazos Valley Recreation Association, will be held at the Knox City Arenabeginning at 8 p.m. on Friday and 6:30 p.m. on Saturday.

A free stick horse race is scheduled for ages 4 and under and 5-6 with prizes to be awarded.

Age divisions include: children 6 and under, 7-9 and 10-12; girls 13-15 and 16-19; and boys 13-15 and 16-19.

Some of the events planned are barrels, flags, poles, goat ribbon pull, calf riding, goat tying, steer daubing, breakaway roping, steer riding, team roping, bareback, ribbon roping, tie down and bull riding.

Admission is \$4 for adults and \$2 for children 12 and under. For further information you may call 658-3834 or 658-3486.

- slices of low-fat sandwich meat rolled around pieces of fruit or low-fat cheese

- natural frozen fruit pops
- whole-grain crackers, graham or animal crackers
- unsweetened or lightly sweetened cereal.

Montandon suggests posting a list of snack choices on the refrigerator door or designating a special area in the refrigerator or counter where snacks may be found.

For easy access, he recommends placing snacks on easy-to-reach shelves, providing drinks in single-serving cartons and storing food-stuffs in easy-to-open, plastic containers.

Montandon also encourages parents to discuss appropriate snack times.

"To keep from interfering with regularly-planned meals, snacks should be served one to two hours before or after a meal," she said.

Most children need three meals and possibly two snacks to meet their daily nutritional requirements, she said.



Congressman Bill Sarpalius A View From the Hill

IT'S NOT JUST FOR BLIMPS ANYMORE

There are many misconceptions about the Federal Helium Program, and the biggest one is how helium is put to use. When the federal government first became interested in helium, it was because of its military value as an inert lifting gas. The Bureau of Mines became involved in the Helium Program when the Helium Act of 1925 was passed and the Bureau received authorization to build and operate a large-scale helium extraction and purification plant. That plant, near Amarillo, went into operation in 1929. Until 1960, the federal government was the only domestic helium producer.

Things have changed drastically since the Helium Program first began, and there are many more uses for the colorless, odorless, lighter-than-air gas called helium. It carries oxygen to the lungs of asthmatics, it plays a role in cancer research, it controls the flow of fuel in our space shuttles, and it is used to cool nuclear reactors. Helium also makes possible mass-production welding of thousands of everyday items, and it helps monitor the quality of products ranging from refrigerators to candy.

Having a helium reserve is something that is still a valid national interest. The fundamental and enduring relevance of the helium program is established by space shuttle support and cryogenic uses of helium by government laboratories. In the past fiscal year alone, NASA space shuttle missions have required the delivery of more than 48 million cubic feet of helium to purge and recharge fuel tanks so delays in mission flights can be avoided. During this same period, more than 170 railroad tank cars and six highway trailer units filled with helium left the helium facilities near Amarillo for the Kennedy Space Center.

Certainly, there are many wasteful government programs, but the Helium Program is not one of them. The Federal Helium Program does not receive appropriations, and it pays its operating expenses with money made from selling helium and related services, such as storage fees for private industry. Every year, the Helium Program funds all of its operations and still returns from \$7 to \$10 million to the Treasury.

Recently, I introduced legislation that would forgive the interest that has accrued on the \$252 million borrowed for purchase of helium under the Helium Act. The money was borrowed from the U.S. Treasury, a departure from the normal government policy of appropriating money that is needed for a program. Over the years, compound interest on the original debt has been charged, making the amount now owed \$1.24 billion. Interest is accruing at about \$66 million annually.

My legislation would cancel only the interest portion of the debt, leaving the \$252 million principal to be paid back with the money the program is already paying to the Treasury each year. The General Accounting Office has recommended that the debt be canceled, stating that cancellation of the debt would not adversely affect the federal budget because the debt consists of outlays that have already been appropriated and interest that is a paper transaction, not an outlay.

Meanwhile, other lawmakers are attempting to repeal the Helium Act and sell the government helium reserves. If that happens, the price of helium to government agencies could increase drastically. The Helium Program was created to provide a steady source of economically-produced helium to government agencies, while at the same time conserving this finite resource for our future consumption.

The Helium Program employs 220 people in the Amarillo area, and I will do all I can to protect those jobs. It doesn't make sense to me that someone would want to get rid of a program that is working just fine, and in the process put several people out of work. We don't need to fix something that obviously isn't broken.

Church of Christ To Host Vacation Bible School

The Church of Christ in Munday is hosting a Vacation Bible School next week. Theme of the school is *The Bible - God's Guide for my life*. All children who are four years old through graduation from the 6th grade are invited regardless to religious affiliation.

"Each lesson is an undenominational presentation about the importance of the Bible in each child's life," according to Dr. Larry Fitzgerald, minister.

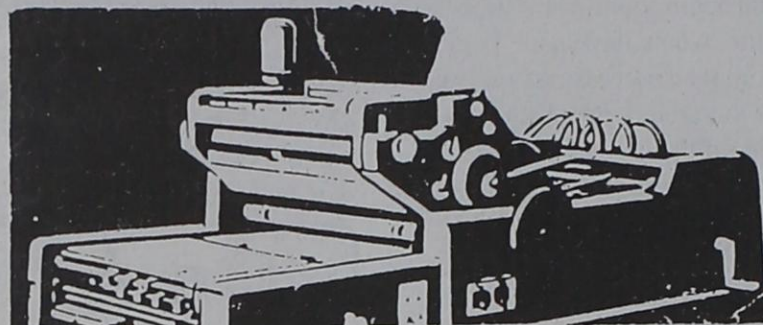
The V.B.S. will include puppet shows and refreshments for each child attending.

A ladies' class on this same topic will be taught by Mrs. Sara Offutt each evening. Any woman, teenage and older, is invited to attend.

The school runs from Sunday, June 27, through Wednesday, June 30, from 7:30 p.m. through 8:30 p.m.

Any person needing transportation by the church van for their children can contact 422-4731 and leave a message on the answering machine. (Be sure and give the children's names and street address.)

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