

FIFTEEN CENTS

Friday,
December 10, 1976
Twelve Pages

WEST TEXAS TIMES

Dedicated to Informing the Citizens of West Texas

Unattended House Fire Sparks Controversy

Effort Needs Shot in Arm

by Mary Alice Robbins

The \$135 million national swine flu immunization effort could use a shot in the arm itself if Lubbock's response to the inoculation program is any indication to its success across the country.

Public health officials had hoped to immunize around 90 per cent of the Lubbock County population—but so far, only about 15 per cent of the county's residents have received the shots, observed Lubbock Health Department administrator Tom Grimshaw.

The same seems to be true all across the state. According to Public Health Region 2 director Dr. John Board, only about 20 per cent of the state's population has been inoculated. "The major groups who are not availing themselves of the service seem to be the lower socio-economic groups," Board pointed out.

The Region 2 office has received approximately 279,200 swine flu immunization doses for the entire region, but not all of the doses have been distributed. About 92,000 doses have been designated so far for Lubbock County.

But response to the public immunization clinics conducted by the health department have been disappointing. As of earlier this week (and not counting 485 shots given in the Slaton clinic held Wednesday), the health department has administered 12,194 flu shots.

Texas Tech University has been somewhat more successful with its public immunization clinics. In the four clinics held at Tech, about 14,500 persons have received the flu shots—some of these are the second vaccines

Continued On Page Eight

'Grass Gobbling' Goat Must Go, Rules Municipal Court Judge

The City of Lubbock has gotten Dr. Dennis Sims' goat, and he went to court to do something about it.

The goat in this case is a shy female named "Caprice," who doubles as a four-legged lawn mower at the Sims home.

Sims, who described himself as a transactional analyst and author, appeared Tuesday morning before Municipal Court Judge Robert E. Baber to defend himself against the city's charge that he has violated a zoning ordinance by unlawfully keeping a goat at his South Lubbock residence.

This goat tale began Oct. 18, when city planning and zoning inspector David Michael O'Neill visited the Sims home at 3412 75th St. According to O'Neill, he had gone to the residence after receiving a complaint about the goat.

On that date, O'Neill told the court, he found the goat tied to a tree in Sims' front yard and had given the Lubbock man 10 days to get rid of the animal. It seems



DOGGONE SANTA—The Santa Claus at South Plains Mall may have been dog tired, but this persistent pooch wanted to let the jolly elf know what she wanted for Christmas. Santa must have known he was barking up the wrong tree if he expected to escape "Pepper." The pert poodle is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wischkaemper of Lubbock. (Times Photo)

Pistol Packing Santa Claus Finds Police Training Helps

by Cliff Avery

Say you run into J.R. Howard at a party or something. You wouldn't be surprised to find out he's a policeman. Which he is. There's something about him.

Very calm. Very professional. Very policemanish. You might drop your teeth if you found out he's a Santa Claus at South Plains Mall. But he is.

For instance, Howard can sit there and reel off these stories—which we'll get into later—about this college kid with a beard that sat on his lap; or about a kid kicking him in the shins; or about this little kid screaming bloody murder the first time she saw him; or about having to carry a pistol in his boot, since policemen are required to be armed at all times; or about having three kids wet on him in one day.

Wet on him! But there he sits—very casual, very offhand—discussing with his wife how they'd better find a One-Hour Martinizing, because tomorrow's Saturday and some other cleaner's will be closed.

It's kind of like being tuned in to "Adam-12" and "Miracle on 34th Street" at the same time. Howard comes in from his shift as Santa . . . oops, one thing we better do right now, just so we don't blow any myths.

Of course, right before Christmas, Santa is very, very busy at the North Pole making toys and everything and sometimes he doesn't have enough time to be everywhere, so he gets helpers like Patrolman Howard to talk to the children and each night

Continued On Page Eight

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Continued On Page Nine

by Janice Jarvis

Mary and Martha Mathis had a house fire Sunday, and no one came. And those that did show up got there too late to save the blazing structure.

The unattended fire at the Mathis residence—located about a quarter of mile outside the Lubbock city limits—has prompted Southern Rural Property Owners Association president Harry Hamilton to call for a joint meeting with members of the city council, commissioners court and county voters.

"We are demanding that county officials act," noted Violet Horn, secretary of the organization which consists of city and rural residents. When lives and property are threatened, there is more to consider than dollars, Mrs. Horn told reporters at a Tuesday morning press conference.

If the problem of fire protection cannot be solved, then a request for a metro type of government that considers all citizens in the area will be made, Hamilton said.

The organization—which earlier this year opposed annexation of rural land by the city—now believes the problem involves more than the area just south of Lubbock, Hamilton explained, noting that all areas of the county should be concerned.

He said the proposed meeting hopefully will settle disagreements between the city and county.

"There's no reason why we can't have fire protection," commented Barney Chapman, a rural resident. "It's childish to argue about how much it's going to cost to run a fire truck."

On hand for Tuesday's news conference were both Mathis sisters, whose reddened eyes told the story of their loss. The fire occurred Sunday while the two women were attending church. When they returned from worship services, they found their residence, located near the Tahoka Highway just south of 82nd Street, had burned to the ground.

Members of the Lubbock Fire Department stopped at the city limits and watched the structure burn, Mrs. Horn said. Since city and county officials ended the rural fire call contract, the city fire department cannot fight fires outside Lubbock.

Slaton and Wolfforth fire trucks answered the call but arrived at the scene after the blaze was out of control.

Lubbock Mayor Roy Bass said the city council had offered county officials a rural fire contract at a cost of "a little

Continued On Page Eight

Christmas Season Is Lonely Time For Alcoholics in Midway House

Midway Houses are for the alcoholic halfway on the road toward resuming a role in society—but halfway there is a hard place to be, especially during Christmas.

"Holidays are suppose to be happy times but alcoholics face rejection from both family and society," explained Nina Greene, halfway house director.

While everyone else is out having a good time, the recovering alcoholic is trying to avoid situations conducive to drinking. For most, the rewards of sobriety are worth the loneliness of Christmas. "This is the first Christmas in years that I won't spend in jail," one said.

Halfway houses are designed to provide supervised living and a stable environment while a person recovers from alcoholism. In such an atmosphere, the alcoholic is better able to cope with problems that would otherwise prompt him to drink.

The Midway House is not a free facility but is nonprofit and state funded. If a resident is working, he pays a portion of his wages to the house. He's under no obligation to stay at the facility, but while there, he must follow all rules.

That means complying with a 10:30 p.m. curfew on weeknights and signing out whenever leaving the house for a weekend. Before anyone is accepted at the house, they must be at least three days sober, and they must sign a sheet stating they will follow all rules, Mrs. Green explained.

Everyone does their share of chores at the house, she said. For the first three to ten days at the house, the alcoholic must not leave, and if days fall during a

holiday, he can expect to spend it at the house.

However, to make holidays more enjoyable, refreshments are served and visitors are invited to visit. "We've even had children spend the night with their parents," Mrs. Greene said.

Since most residents are divorced, it's rare that parents are united with their children.

The house rules are designed to help the recovering alcoholic establish routines and self discipline.

"I don't live by the rules—I live with them," one resident explained. "Alcoholism was a symptom of other problems, that I'm learning to cope with."

The house provides an opportunity for residents to replace irregularity with balance, according to one woman.

"I'm more relaxed at the house and I don't have to worry about outside pressures as much," explained a 23-year-old resident. "That's as long as I don't start drinking again," he added.

Although the atmosphere is conducive toward sobriety residents cannot escape the pressures of society—but they can learn to cope with them.

"Sometimes parents and relatives are happy that you're getting help, but other times they reject you and don't trust what you're doing," a resident noted.

There comes a time when the alcoholic realizes that he's recovering for himself and not others. "If others don't accept me, that's their problem," one said.

Regaining self respect and coping with problems does not come overnight, and Mrs. Greene advises residents to stay at least

Continued On Page Eight

EDITORIALS

Old Argument Heating Up

The Sunday night fire that destroyed the home of two Lubbock County sisters has heated up an old argument here.

In a Tuesday morning news conference, members of the Southern Rural Property Owners Association demanded action on the rural fire protection situation—and soon. Their premise is that when lives and property are threatened, public officials should consider more than dollars in their study of the problem.

For a number of years, county commissioners have contracted with the city to provide fire service for county residents living outside the Lubbock city limits. Two years ago, the county paid a little more than \$500 per call, and last year, commissioners paid a \$400 fee per call.

During city and county budget sessions this past summer, the city council decided to hike the fire service fee to more than \$1,200 per call—and commissioners turned down the offer. The result was a termination of the contract with the city, and commissioners began increasing slightly the fees they pay volunteer fire departments in outlying communities.

Looking at it from a practical dollars and sense standpoint, we don't see how the county could afford to pay the city over \$1,200 per fire call. When the fire service cost only \$400 per call, the county overextended its fire protection budget within the first six months of 1976.

City officials say the \$1,200 per call is necessary—which may well be true—for them to continue the rural fire protection service. It costs to run a fire department, and they see no reason to give out-of-town residents a "free ride" for a service for which city residents are footing the bill.

Just as a point of interest, the area where Sunday's fire occurred recently was considered for annexation by the city. But residents of that area protested the annexation move at that time—they didn't want to be a part of the City of Lubbock. If they don't want to live in the city, why do they expect the same amount of services that city residents enjoy?

At Tuesday's meeting, the property owners blamed county officials for the problem. One rural resident called it "childish to argue about how much it's going to cost to run a fire truck."

The West Texas Times believes there have been too many personality conflicts involved in the fire call problem. However, we also believe it's too simple to lay all the blame on the public officials.

The simple fact is Lubbock County cannot at this time afford to pay the city \$1,200 for each rural fire call, and it cannot afford to establish a countywide fire department unless all Lubbock County residents—both city and rural—are willing to increase their taxes to cover the costs. And tax increases are bad words for most people!

There's been a lot of talk about the "millions" the county keeps in reserves. Whenever a problem arises about jail needs, fire protection or whatever, people began eyeing those reserves to cover the costs. Let's face it—the reserves do have a limit. In fact, the county has been forced to dip into its reserves heavily for the past two years just to keep the county's business going. Remember



IN CONCERT

that the county does have to pay the tabs on all operations at the courthouse, local funding for county and child welfare departments, county law enforcement, rural road maintenance, etc.

There is a possibility that—like most governments—the county doesn't always run its business as economically as possible. But there is no question that it costs the county a

lot just to keep everything running. With improvements at Lubbock County Jail a certainty in the near future, we believe the reserves will be depleted even more.

Folks, it costs a lot of money to run government these days, and we might as well face it. The question we as citizens must ask ourselves is: "Are we willing to pay more taxes to provide the services everyone is demanding?"

JACK ANDERSON'S WEEKLY SPECIAL

Reforms on Capitol Hill
by Jack Anderson
with Joe Spear

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WASHINGTON—The clamor for reforms on Capitol Hill will be louder next year. It begins this week inside the House Democratic Caucus. By next month, it will spread to the Senate.

The younger members hope to reduce the power of their seniors and to streamline the cumbersome committee system. In the past, the committees of Congress have been controlled by the elders, regardless of their ability, their honesty or their possible senility.

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The seniority system has produced chairmen who are not representative of the country's geography, its politics or its people. They are often out of step with the times and with the majority of their own members. Yet these chairmen are able to control the flow of legislation through their committees.

Two years ago, the young turks in the House overthrew three powerful committee chairmen. The casualties were Ways and Means Chairman Wilbur Mills, Banking Chairman Wright Patman and Armed Services Chairman F. Edward Hebert.

But the Senate committee chairmen escaped the reform movement. They may not be so lucky this time. A task force, headed by Sen. Adlai Stevenson, D-Ill., has been conducting a study of the Senate's committee system. It has recommended cutting in half the number of standing committees and limiting senators to one chairmanship apiece.

This will reduce the power of the old curmudgeons who have dominated the Senate in the past. The seniority system has often held back the bright young men whose leadership is needed in these swift-moving times. This may now change in the Senate.

The House Democratic Caucus is taking up a number of reforms this week. The creaking law-making machinery is in desperate need of an overhaul. It would be too much to expect that the overhaul will be complete.

But some of the old men, who march in slow cadence behind the nation, may be pushed aside.

Unknown Oil Organization: There is ominous evidence that the Western world is on the edge of an economic slump. The key to it is oil. On December 15, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries will meet in Qatar to consider a price increase.

Another big boost in world oil prices would send other prices soaring. Consumers would be compelled to cut down on their purchases. This would cause production to drop. Many economists believe an oil price rise would create serious commercial and political strains throughout the non-Communist world.

So all the world will be watching OPEC on December 15. But few people are paying attention to another oil organization. It's called the International Energy Agency. Its participants are the giant international oil companies.

Ostensibly, the IEA was established to combat the economic effects of another oil embargo. For two years, more than 30 oil companies have been holding secret

meetings. The U.S. companies have been granted antitrust exemptions to participate.

The secret meetings usually are held at the headquarters of some international oil consortium such as Exxon or Shell. Sensitive information about supply and demand is exchanged. The purpose, supposedly, is to prepare contingency plans for dealing with another world oil crisis.

The meetings are monitored by federal antitrust lawyers, and written records are kept of the discussions. But the gatherings are altogether too secretive for comfort. The government's antitrust watchdogs have admitted to us that they can't monitor what the oil executives say to one another outside the conference halls.

The oilmen have been put on the honor system. But they have always considered it honorable to squeeze the highest possible profits out of the paying public. As for written records, they aren't available to the public.

Sources familiar with the setup warn that it is dangerous. The international oil giants are able to gauge one another's oil reserves and transportation capabilities. This could give them total control over the Western world's oil supplies.

The IEA hasn't violated any anti-monopoly laws. But like OPEC, its manipulations bear close watching.

Boycotters Benefit: President Ford has publicly criticized Arab boycott of firms which deal with Israel, but we have learned that his administration has subsidized the boycott with millions of dollars.

We have learned that the federal government is financially supporting the boycott-complying companies. For example, the Export-Import Bank and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation have provided millions of dollars in aid to many of the U.S. firms which have participated in the boycott.

The Export-Import Bank also gave loans, investment guarantees and insurance to 19 of the 38 firms recently named by the Commerce Department as boycott participants.

OPIC, meanwhile, insured \$50 million worth of overseas investments for several of the companies including, Bank of America, Gulf and Western and the First National City Bank of New York.

Spokesman for both federal agencies told us that they will deny future requests for assistance if the transaction involves firms which have complied with the boycott.

Local High School Students 'Tuned In' to Band Experience

by Wanda Walser

What do you like best about a football game? If you're a really fierce sports fan, okay. But, there are those who attend games because, deep down, they really love a parade and the band makes their day.

It's true that sports are the big scene on almost any campus these days, but think for just a minute about what makes any sports event more exciting. What really gets the adrenaline working and keeps the atmosphere crackling? What's the spirit of the thing?

"The band is the spirit of most pep rallies and games," according to Arbie Taylor, a junior member of the Coronado High School Band. Taylor, 16, plays the bass trombone and has been a band member the past five years.

Warren Mize, a sophomore at Monterey, plays the trumpet in the Plainsmen Band. He said, "It (the band) is the school spirit needed for football games; the nucleus of the whole thing."

Other students in the Coronado and Monterey bands agree with him. Overall, the students feel that membership in the band offers more "challenge," more of a spirit of being "close" and more opportunity for careers later in life than any other school activity. Many of the young men declined football uniforms in favor of band regalia and the young ladies prefer the band to activities such as cheerleading.



MUSICIANS THREE—Coronado High School band members Cheryl Gregory, Paul Schmidt and Arbie Taylor look over an arrangement the band will play. Their director is Phil Anthony.

Why? What holds these students? "The secret of the Monterey band," said director Keith Bearden, "is self-discipline on the part of band students. A dictatorship won't work in high school anymore. The kids have to know 'why'—they want responsibility."

That's what Bearden gives his Plainsmen, who, incidentally, took three 'ones' at recent regional band competition at Texas Tech. The Plainsmen also have the distinction of having one of their own as the first Lubbock

bandsman ever to make the McDonald's All American High School Band.

Bearden said that each Plainsman has a job. Some might be in charge of uniforms, others in charge of programs for concerts and still others in charge of instruments. Everybody has a responsibility and "they love it," according to Bearden.

Directors at both schools rank parental support high in the way band members perform and participate, and the effect the band has on its members

individually and the school as a whole. Both bands enjoy full parental support, according to their directors.

Coronado director Phil Anthony said, "It takes perseverance. It takes a basic high intelligence, a lot of support from parents during the learning period—which never stops."

"The band is, perhaps, the last stronghold for discipline," said Rusty Sherman, co-director at Monterey. Students and directors concur.

Paul Schmidt, a senior trombone player at Coronado, said, "It requires a lot of work and perseverance." Cheryl Gregory, another Coronado senior whose instrument is alto saxophone, said, "you just have to want to do it—be willing to put in all the practice and work."

It is definitely hard work and requires great concentration, but it's worth it to these young people, most of whom have studied their particular instruments for as many as six years. Debbie Tyler, a senior and a twirler with the Monterey Plainsmen, said being in the band is like being part of "a family."

"I was a cheerleader my sophomore year," she said. "But, band's more fun."

"We're like . . . all brothers and sisters," observed Monterey senior trumpet player Steve Hinman.

Both Coronado and Monterey students consider initiative, drive and attitude important in building the kinds of bands that are, for them, the centers of school spirit. The directors are proud of the way their bands perform and of the conduct of the young people at home and away. Anthony enjoys his association with young people and feels he contributes "more

positively to society" through his role than if he had become a professional musician.

The directors at Monterey agree that there is more a feeling of accomplishment in working with young people and music than in any other field they can imagine. To see the progress from beginner to competent musician is a "thrill" said one director. The second part of that thrill is to know that a young person did something and did it well because he or she wanted to do it.

Where do students go from the high school bands? Many plan continuations of high school music careers. Some want to become professional musicians; still others expressed a desire to teach. Some said they probably wouldn't continue with the band at the college or university level, but would continue music simply as a part of the enjoyment of life.

All students interviewed had plans for the future. There was no listless uncertainty—no hint of an uncaring attitude. Each had learned something in addition to music. Each had recognized the importance of working with others toward a common goal, and most important: the art of getting along with self.

Local Church Schedules Party for Elderly

by Myra Booth

The happiness of the holiday season depends so much on our sharing gifts and good times with family and friends. No wonder the Christmas season can be all the more lonely for those shut-in or separated from loved ones.

Many elderly citizens, in addition to being alone at what is such a joyful season for others, have health and transportation problems which prohibit them from association in holiday festivities.

Tonight some 50 such persons will be guests at a Christmas party at the Quaker Avenue Church of Christ. The activity is being coordinated by the church through the State Welfare Department Volunteer Services.

According to Nova Purdy, regional director for Volunteer Services, this is the first time an activity has been planned specifically for the elderly or disabled of Lubbock who maintain their own residences. "There are often groups that take refreshments and entertainment to nursing homes, but this is the first time an effort has been made to reach persons living at home who would otherwise be spending their holidays home-bound and alone."

State Welfare case workers Nelda Brooks, Kay Rogers, Juana Gahl and Claudia Bourland proposed the project and requested Mrs. Purdy to secure a volunteer group to supply the place, transportation and party provisions. Church leaders from the Quaker Avenue Church of Christ offered their facilities and volunteers from the church membership to plan the party.

Some 80 gift packages are

being prepared by the church members for the 50 or so expected to attend and some 30 others who will not be able to get out for the party. Herbert Griffith, one of the church elders, explains the church's desire to participate in this type program saying, "We want to show the spirit of Christ to people who may be lonely or separated from their loved ones at this time of year. We felt we had pointed most of our efforts toward people within the church and we felt a need to reach out—to supply warmth and love in a spiritual atmosphere for persons who may only have rare opportunity to attend church services or any other activities to associate with persons outside their homes."

Preparations for the anticipated event have already become a rewarding experience for the host group, Mrs. Purdy noted. Mrs. Purdy, who also serves on the

church's welfare committee, expressed the purpose of the activity saying, "We hope to increase our enjoyment of Christmas through this kind of activity." She observed that in the planning stages many of the church group had already become aware of the needs of the aged.

The need for the participation of young children in the hosting duties has also been stressed, Mrs. Purdy said. "The activity has become a learning experience," she said, "particularly for the children and young adults who have discovered that all people need association with others of all ages."

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	ITALIAN ROMAINE SALAD — .32
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Lubbock Musician Cuts Christmas Album

by Mary Alice Robbins

Nell Oldham has a musical "Christmas greeting" for the people of West Texas.

The well-known Lubbock musician has recorded a special album of holiday songs and favorite Christmas carols. Aptly titled "Christmas Greetings," the recording features Mrs. Oldham playing her own organ and piano arrangements of old favorites such as "White Christmas," "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," "Silver Bells" and others.

"For five years, a couple has been nagging me to do a recording," Mrs. Oldham noted. Her friends even offered her the money to pay for cutting the album, but Mrs. Oldham wanted to do it on her own—not wanting to risk anyone else's money on the venture.

Mrs. Oldham began to prepare for the recording last June, taping herself as she played on the organ and the piano. "You can't really hear yourself objectively when you're playing," she explained in her easy Southern drawl.

The recording sessions began in July at Don Caldwell Studios here. She recorded a large number of songs before narrowing it down to 20 selections. It was difficult to decide which songs to include, but she made her selections on the basis of the music most often requested during her many years of playing at local women's and civic club functions.

"The thing I hope will get across," Mrs. Oldham said, "is to give people joy, happiness and a sense of peacefulness which we so sorely need in the world today."

Sure to be a favorite on the album is Mrs. Oldham's recitation of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas (in Texas). Her Southern accent adds a perfect touch to the delightful tale of the Texas-style cowboy Santa Claus.

A native of Macon, Ga., Mrs. Oldham has been studying music longer than she can remember. She has been teaching music and performing for local and area functions for many years. Included in her long list of achievements is the establish-

ment of Community Concerts, for which she served 10 years as president.

Mrs. Oldham's "Christmas Greetings" is available in record albums and eight-track tapes at Hemphill-Wells stores, Lubbock Music Center, Helen's Professional Beauty Salon and from her personally. Cost of either the album or the tape is \$6.95 plus tax.

Hemphill-Wells will sponsor a party for Mrs. Oldham to present her album from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday in the stationery department at the downtown store. She also will be in the South Plains Mall store from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday.



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS—Nell Oldham, well known in the Lubbock area as an organist and pianist, has recorded an album of Christmas songs. Entitled "Christmas Greetings," the recording features Mrs. Oldham on the piano and organ, playing some of her own arrangements of old holiday favorites. (Times Photo)

Kin Searching

by Marleta Childs

Marriage records are another important source of information for the genealogical researcher.

These documents are held by the county clerk, except in New England, where they are held by town clerks. In some states, they can also be obtained from the State Bureau of Vital Statistics.

Marriage records often (but not always) date from the founding of the county or town. Like many documents at the local level, especially in the South, many early marriage records have been destroyed through neglect or disasters such as fire.

Two of the most common forms of marriage records are licenses and bonds. A license contains the names of the engaged couple, the date and place of issue, the date of the marriage ceremony and by whom it was performed. A bond includes the names of the bride and groom, the date and place issued and the name of the security bondsman. The bondsman undertook to guarantee that the marriage would take place.

Pay close attention to the identity of the surety (bondsman), as he may have been a parent, a brother or some relative of one of the contracting parties. Since intermarriage between families was a common practice, sureties can be valuable clues to further research. These bonds sometimes contained the consent of a parent for his minor child to marry; the exact age of the bride or groom, or both, may be included as well. Unfortunately, between 1778 and 1911, South Carolina did not require marriage bonds or licenses to be registered, so few were kept.

Marriage bonds and licenses (unless they were returned completed to the county or two town clerk) are not actually proof that the marriage ever took place, but marriage undoubtedly followed in the majority of cases.

Information on marriages may also be located in court, land and military records. For example, among land records might be found antenuptial agreements, arrangements between a couple regarding the disposal of their property (especially if both had

been previously married and already had children) before they married. Land deeds are important because the grantor sometimes indicates his relation to the grantee. Proof of marriage was also included in applications for military pensions.

Naturally, churches are another good source of marriage records. Some churches published banns (proclamations of impending marriage) for two or three consecutive Sundays; if no protest occurred, the marriage could then be performed without a license or bond.

A similar, but civil rather than ecclesiastical, document used in New England was the "intention," recorded in the town records.

Evangelical churches, such as the Baptist and Methodist, did not keep very complete records. Quakers, however, kept good records which often give the record of the bride or groom. Catholic records, including baptismal records, were also well kept, especially in early Louisiana where Spanish and French records sometimes give the parents (including the mother's maiden name) and their place of residence. Ministers themselves sometimes kept diaries and journals in which such data was recorded.

You should be aware that "common law" marriages existed, too, especially in the "back country." Don't be hasty in condemning this practice, for a couple often had no choice, as there was little (if any) civil or ecclesiastical authority on the frontier. In the colonial South, a couple married by a minister of any church other than the established Episcopalian was still not legally husband and wife. When an Episcopal circuit rider did enter the "back country," he often legalized the marriage of the couple and baptized several of their children at the same time.

Watch for any change in marriage partners. This can easily be seen if the wife's name changes in baptismal or land records. A gap of several years in the children's ages may also indicate a remarriage. It was not unusual, however, to remarry as soon as possible after the death of the spouse. A husband or wife was an economic necessity, for the crops had to be planted and the children needed tending.

Please send your queries to Marleta Childs, 2308 21st St., Lubbock, Tex. 79411.

B&PW Club Sets Christmas Party

Members of the Business and Professional Women's Club of Lubbock, Inc., will meet for the organization's annual Christmas party at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Lubbock Women's Club.

Mary McBride, chairman of the hospitality committee, and members of her committee will be in charge of the program. Club president Linda Lawson will open the meeting.

Lions Governor Schedules Visit

District 2-T-2 Gov. Bill Hogge of Plainview will present several special Key and Membership Awards from Lions International at Redbud Lions Club's annual Christmas party scheduled Dec. 16 at the Mission Inn, 5301 Slide Road.

The club normally meets Thursdays at the Mission Inn, but will not have a regular meeting Dec. 23.

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SPORTS

by Joe Kelly

There was just too much excitement to write fully about Texas Tech basketball until now. But TT basketball is worth writing about, because the Red Raiders have the makings of a good club.

The chances of Tech winning the title and/or repeating as tournament champions is remote. It isn't that strong a squad. It lacks consistent outside shooting. And it is too mistake-prone right now. And teams like Arkansas, Baylor and Houston are probably stronger.

Now that the negatives have been taken care of, how about the positive? At the start, there is Mike Russell. Russell probably is more versatile than Rick Bullock, if not as tall. He's definitely going to be a factor in the success of the Raiders.

There's experience in the guards with Keith Kitchens as quarterback, along with Steve Dunn and Geoff Huston. And Danny Ivey has come along rapidly to give help at forward to Grant Dukes and Ronnie Phenix.

Phenix and Ivey have been the big surprises. Phenix is the big Estacado ex who has stepped into a starting berth. He has looked pretty good, especially good for a freshman. But Ivey just might beat him out and this road trip might tell the story.

Mike Edwards is the type of player who can step in and play without hurting the team. Behind those eight are players with potential, but who might not be far enough along yet to help much.

Gerald Myers has altered the offense somewhat and it showed in the South Carolina game. The Raiders were working the ball in for more A zone shots. That's the type that pays off.

It did against the Gamecocks, with Tech hitting a torrid 60% the second half and ending with a game mean of 58.2%. That will win a lot of games.

The Raiders also held a rebounding edge on the Carolinians, and rebounding is a big plus for any team.

The Raiders played a weak team in their opener and one only a little stronger in the second. But they faced a fine club, if not a championship one, in South Carolina.

Gerald was distressed after the first game because the players, after 10 minutes (and a 16-0 lead), lost their intensity. He was unhappy after the second game because they had gotten out of their offense and stood around too much, shot unwisely too much.

Against South Carolina he felt somewhat better, because there had been intensity and, despite 21 turnovers, they had played hard and well. He wasn't really smiling, but he felt better.

South Carolina showed him that the team had improved and that it showed signs of playing together. It showed him a fast break, control of the ball and refusal to fold under pressure. It was a heartening victory and gave the Raiders some momentum and confidence.

Tech now faces the acid test, two rough games on the road against Air Force and Wyoming. Win or lose, those two games will tell the Tech coach even more about the type of team that he has. The road was kind to the Raiders in the 1975-1976 season.

This is, of course, a rebuilding year. You don't lose a player of Bullock's stature, to say nothing of Grady Newton and Rudy Liggins, without feeling it. Still, the Raiders have shown signs of being a representative team. It looks promising.

Jim Parmer, the former Tech assistant and a longtime pro scout, said that he was concerned about a proposal that will come up for discussion in January. It would, he said, create problems.

There is, Jim said, a proposal to rule ineligible any football team if a pro scout attended a game, either by sitting in the pressbox, or buying a ticket and sitting in the stands, with the intent purpose of rating players as pro prospects.

"If the colleges did that," Jim declared, "the pros would announce immediately that they would have a scout attending every college football game in the land. They couldn't rule everyone ineligible."

Jim said that relations between pros and colleges now was good, but he is concerned about the pro draft.

"If a scout or team tried to sign a college player before he had completed his eligibility, the colleges would bar a scout from seeing their games, and I wouldn't blame them," Parmer declared.

We also talked about the possibility of there not being a draft of college players and we agreed that this would hurt both the players and the pros.

"But it might get salaries down," Jim said, "and get the unions out of football."

I remarked that, in many ways, I was surprised that at least one owner hadn't said to heck with it, I don't need this, and fold his franchise.

"Believe me," Jim injected, "if (George) Halas had still been around, he would have done just that."

Just a few more Steve Sloan quotes: I thought that the Baylor game would be decided by no more than three points, or maybe a two-point conversion . . . Give our players credit. I didn't expect to be 10-1. There's probably been more improvement on this team than any I've seen . . . The best game this year was Arkansas because of all the psychological problems after the loss to Houston.

Open Heart Club Sets Luncheon

The Open Heart Club of the Southwest will meet for its fourth annual Christmas Luncheon Sunday and pay tribute to five Lubbock cardiac surgeons.

The 1 p.m. luncheon will be served at Vann's Catering in KoKo Palace, 50th Street and Avenue Q, according to club president R.C. Taylor.

The surgeons and their wives who will receive special recognition by their placement at the head table are Drs. Donald L. Bricker, Martin L. Dalton, Jacques Mistrot, Thomas M. Parker and Ernesto Ching.

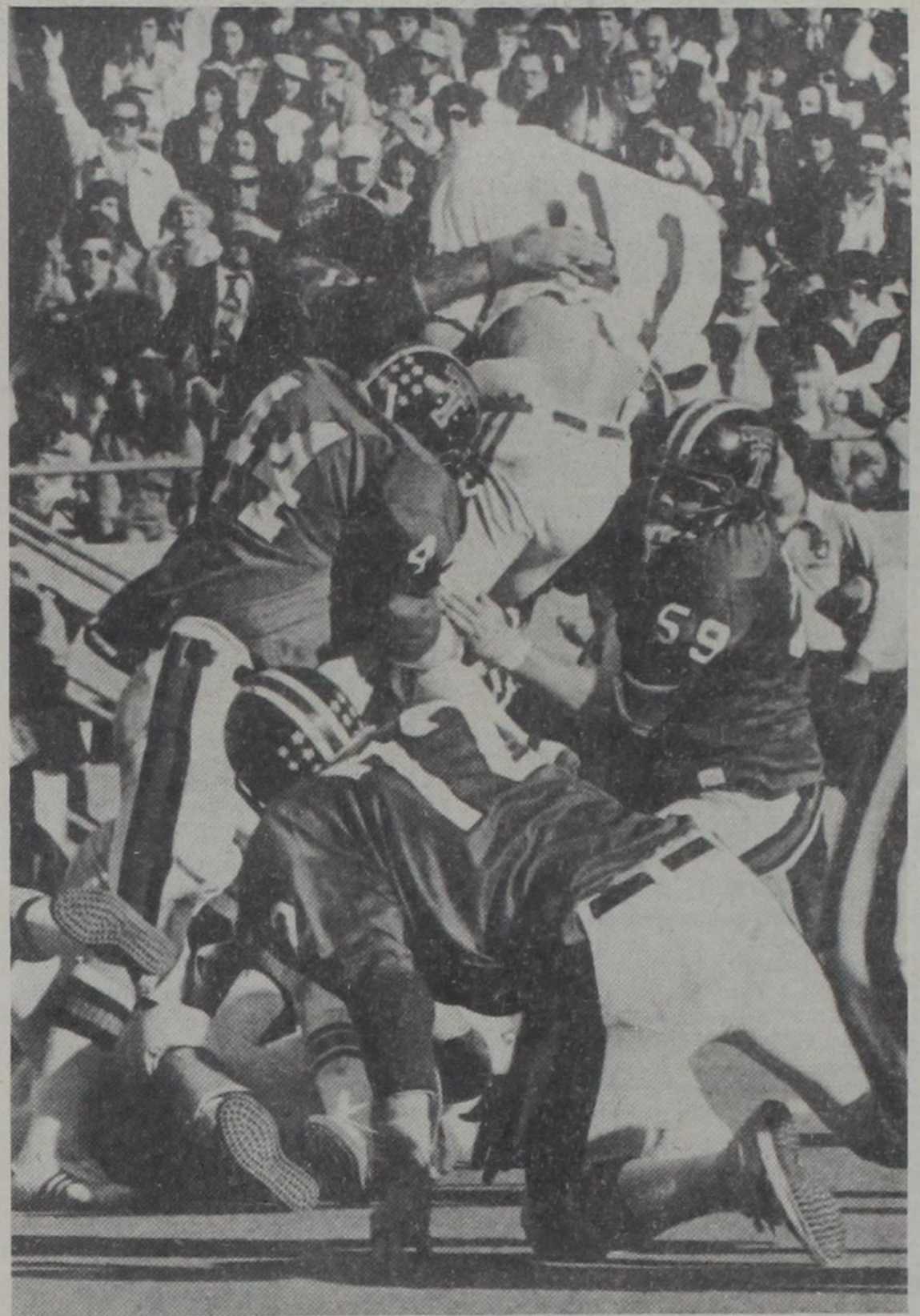
The program speaker will be Dr. Dalton. Dr. Mistrot, the newest of the surgeons in Lubbock, will speak briefly.

Taylor said a full Christmas menu will be served, possibly with a little emphasis on low-fat and low cholesterol, for the men and women who received added years of work, pleasure, leisure and life from the open heart surgery they have undergone at the hands of the surgeons in Methodist Hospital's cardiac operative and recuperative facilities.

More than 1,400 men, women and children have undergone open heart surgery at the hospital, and approximately 680 of them are members of the Open Heart Club of the Southwest. However, Taylor emphasized that invitations have been mailed to all who have undergone the surgery.

All persons who have had the surgery, whether it was performed in Lubbock or elsewhere, are invited to the luncheon and into membership. A Christmas program will be presented, including a visit from a special Santa Claus, who has had open heart surgery.

Luncheon tickets are \$3 each and annual membership dues in the club are \$5.



UP-WE GO—Baylor tailback Gary Blair (11) found himself up in the air over where to go during gridiron action last Saturday when the Bears met the Red Raiders at Jones Stadium. Making the tackle for Texas Tech were Mike Mock (44), Gary McCright (59) and Jim Krahl (72). The Raiders defeated Baylor by a narrow 24-21 to capture half the Southwest Conference crown. Tech will meet Nebraska in the Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl Dec. 31, and tickets for that game currently are on sale at the Tech Athletic Office for \$10 each. (Photo by David Cagle)

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Delicate Glass Christmas Ornaments Created by Lubbock Resident

by Mary Alice Robbins

When Victor Johnson decides he wants a new ornament for his Christmas tree, he doesn't go to the store and buy one. Instead, he utilizes his skills as a professional glass blower and creates his own ornament.

"Most of the ornaments on our trees are ones I made," he said.

Johnson, who has spent the past 38 years in the scientific glass blowing field, currently serves as glass working shop supervisor in the chemistry department at Texas Tech University. He spent three years in apprenticeship under a professional glass blower in Dayton, Ohio, to learn the skills of the craft.

Several years ago, Johnson decided to channel his skill into a

more creative vein, and creating glass miniatures and Christmas decorations became a hobby. "I wanted to see if I could do it," he explained.

His first attempt at making a Christmas tree ornament was a small mushroom made in two parts, with the cap stuck on the stem. Today, the glass blower still amuses himself by making mushroom ornaments—but the newer ones are made all in one piece.

A variety of other tree decorations also are created by the hobbyist. "You just let your mind wander, get an idea and see if you can make that shape," Johnson said.

The result of his "mind wanderings" has been a wide range of beautiful and unusual decorations in all shapes and sizes. Tree top ornaments are the fun ones to make, Johnson noted, because they can be fashioned in any shape.

Although most glass ornaments are made from lead soda glass, Johnson uses the borosilicate

glass utilized for scientific purposes because that's what he has "handy." Borosilicate glass is a little sturdier than art glasses, he said, and can withstand heating and cooling with less

chance of breakage.

Sometimes, Johnson uses cobalt blue glass in making his ornaments. In the heating process, the glass loses some of its blue coloring. After blowing

the ornament to the desired shape, Johnson pours a silvering solution inside the decoration to give it a metallic luster. The silver shining through the blue glass creates a strikingly beautiful effect.



CREATING AN ORNAMENT—Victor Johnson, glass working shop supervisor in the chemistry department at Texas Tech University, often uses his glass blowing skills to create unusual Christmas ornaments. After heating the glass, Johnson blows it into whatever shape he wants. A silvering solution is poured inside the ornament before Johnson paints its exterior. (Times Photo)

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COFFEE TIME—Mary McBride, left, District 10 chairman of the Federated Texas A&M Mothers' Club, serves coffee to members and special guests during the district coffee held last Saturday in the Flame Room of the First National-Pioneer Building. With her are, from left, Sue Hollingsworth, president of the Hereford club; Jean Kaspar of Shiner, state president; and Dorothy Glover of Lubbock, state historian. (Times Photo)

Bridal Parties Fete Pam Porter

A bridal parfait party honoring Pam Porter, bride-elect of John Hammit, is scheduled Saturday in the home of Mrs. Howard Hoffman at Slaton.

Co-hostess will be Mrs. Claude Porter, grandmother of the honoree. Miss Porter's mother, Mrs. James R. Porter, will be a special guest.

Miss Porter was honored at a shower Thursday night in the home of Mrs. Ed Burkhardt. Co-hostesses were Mrs. Lee Steverson, Mrs. Howard Garlington, Mrs. Herman Holman and Mrs. Tom Gill.

Special guests at the shower were her mother, Mrs. James R. Porter; her grandmother, Mrs. C.C. Swope; and her sister, Marinda Porter.

Another bridal shower honoring Miss Porter was given Nov. 7 in the home of Mrs. Duane Brown and Darla Brown. Co-hostesses were Mrs. Gene Gilliam, Mrs. Dean Hall, Mrs. Earl Andrews and Mrs. Terry Miller.

Special guests were the honoree's mother, grandmothers and sister.

Miss Porter and Hammit plan to marry at 3 p.m. Dec. 31 in St. Luke's United Methodist Church.

Christmas Program Planned by Club

"Christmas in Song and Story" will be presented during Lubbock Garden Club's special guest day Christmas tea at 1:30 p.m. Dec. 17 at Municipal Garden and Arts Center.


Narrating the program will be Frances Mingus. Gloria Galey will be vocalist, and Inez Ferrell will present musical selections on the piano.

A flower display of seasonal arrangements will be featured at the tea. Club officers and members of the social committee will serve as hostesses.

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Mrs. Nerinne Stage To Be Honored at Sunday Tea

Mrs. Nerinne Stage of 4317 43rd St., retired Lubbock Independent School District cafeterias director, will be honored at a tea from 2-4 p.m. Sunday in the cafeteria at Maedgen Elementary School. Mrs. Stage will be moving to Georgia in the near future.

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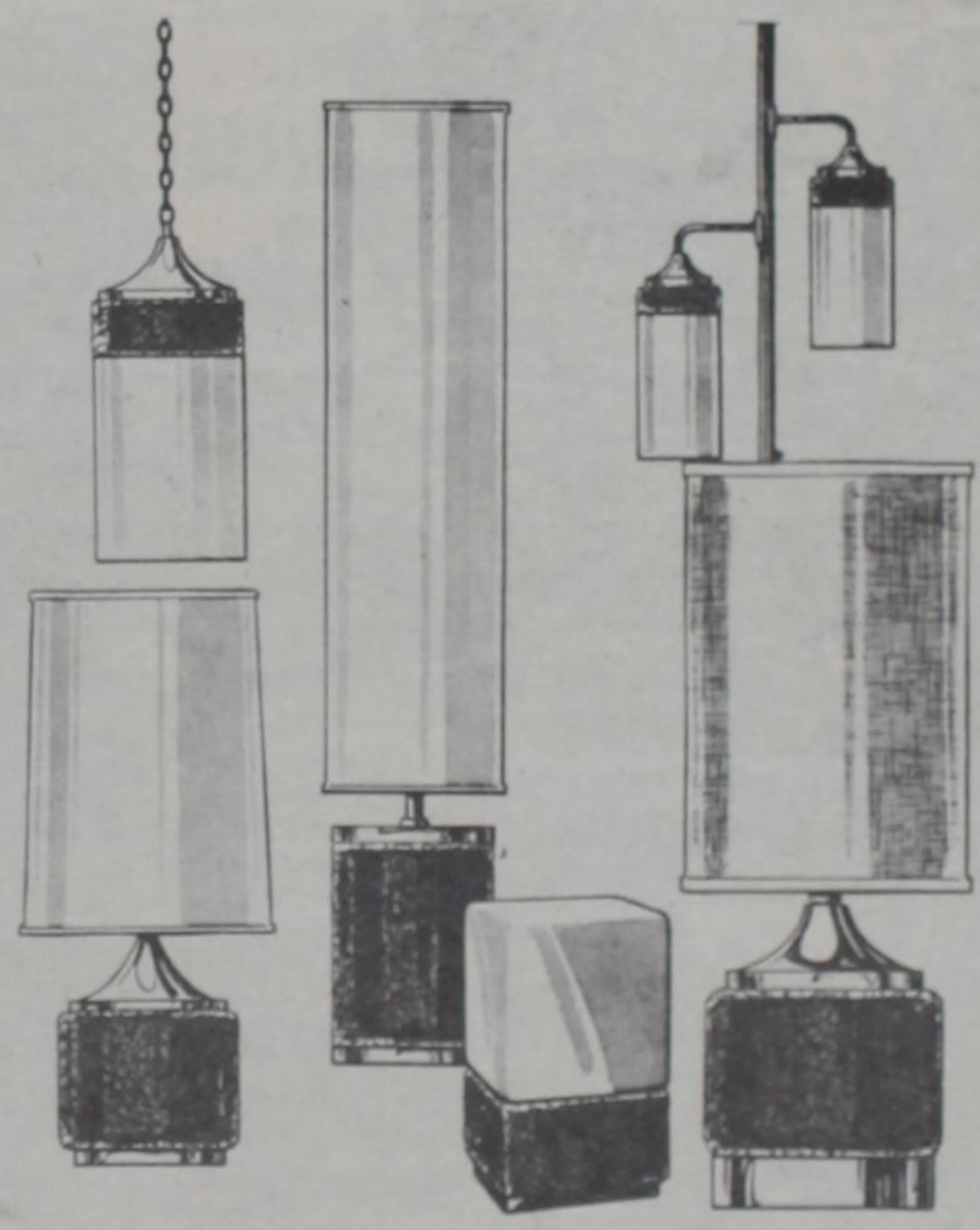


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Shot in Arm . . .

Continued From Page One

required for individuals in the under 24 age group.

Board said the Texas Department of Health Resources in Austin has termed the Tech clinics "one of the exemplary programs in the state."

Why has the immunization program been unsuccessful for the most part in Lubbock?

Negative publicity surrounding the deaths of three elderly persons who received the shots in Pennsylvania has had a bad effect, Grimshaw said. Despite public health officials' statements that the flu shots were not responsible for the deaths, many people have been afraid to be immunized.

And there have been other problems with the program, according to Grimshaw. Early in the program, the federal

government refused to insure the vaccine and pharmaceutical companies were leery of manufacturing it. Also, the vaccine serum has been delayed in getting to health units. The local health department had expected its vaccine shipment by September—but it didn't begin coming until Oct. 13.

The flu season can start as early as mid-October, Grimshaw said, and it wouldn't have done any good to immunize if an epidemic had already started.

Health department officials are planning to continue the immunization program in spite of the poor response so far. A clinic is scheduled from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday in the Idalou High School cafeteria. In addition, a clinic also may be held in Shallowater sometime in January.

"We have not administered any shots at the health department,"

Grimshaw said. Second doses for persons in the under 24 age group may be given during the health departments regular Monday and Friday immunization clinics.

No provisions were made to administer swine flu shots to children during the public clinics, but Board noted that the children's vaccine has been received by his office. The serum will be made available through the routine immunization channels such as private physicians and immunization shots, he said.

Grass Gobbling Goat . . .

Continued From Page One

weeds, allowing Sims to breathe easier and still keep his yard.

Sims introduced as evidence the code of ordinances that says wild animals can be kept inside the city. But when Baber read the code, he discovered that it covers animals such as elephants, lions and monkeys—but not goats.

The goat has to go, Baber ruled, after finding Sims guilty of violating the zoning ordinance. Fine was set at \$12.50. Sims has 10 days to either pay his fine or appeal the verdict—which he says he will do.

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According to Sims, the goat currently is housed at a Lubbock school within a mile of the Municipal Courtroom where he was found guilty of illegally keeping the animal. The school also keeps a sheep, he said, noting that the zoning law is not uniformly enforced.

And what does the goat have to say about losing its yard maintenance job? "Baa-aa-aa!"

Mary Alice Robbins

Christmas Season Lonely . . .

Continued From Page One

90 days. However, there is no time limit.

During those 90 days, residents must attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings as well as all meetings at the house. "We are trying to help them recover, but they have to want to help themselves," Mrs. Greene said. AA is the only known organization that really helps alcoholics stop drinking.

By the time an alcoholic comes to a halfway house, he has usually lost his family. Many have been in jails and mental institutions. Friends, doctors and relatives often advise residents to move into the house, while others come without prompting from others.

"It was the place I needed to be," one resident explained. "If something went wrong, like my boss didn't pick me up for work, then I'd drink all day—but here I can't."

Being with others who have a common goal also makes recovery easier. "We may not have the same problems, but the symptoms are the same," one man observed.

Religion plays a major role in recovery for many alcoholics. "My God is an alcoholic because he's the only one that can understand the pain I've been through," one resident said. "My God is always close by making sure I don't fall down again," he added. But at Christmas, He may have to stay extra close. Janice Jarvis

Sparks Controversy . . .

Continued From Page One

better than \$1,200 per call." Last year, the county had paid the city \$400 per rural fire call.

According to Bass, the requested fire call figure had been arrived at by the city based on the past year's experience. To compute the figure, the city took the cost of operating the fire department, subtracted certain expenses considered strictly for the city and then averaged the number of fire calls for the previous year.

Bass acknowledged the need for an additional fire station just to adequately protect the city. At the present time, projections show the greatest need for another station would be south of Loop 289 an east of University Avenue, he said. This station probably could meet the five-minute response time for fire calls south of the city—if city and county officials reach an agreement.

A fire truck for rural residents could have prevented such a costly loss, according to Hamilton. Chapman added, "The county doesn't expect free protection, but some protection is needed."

The cost of operating fire trucks in the county should not be thought of in terms of profit—but saving lives and property should be considered, commented New Deal Mayor Ray West. He said there is plenty of money to have a fire truck in his community.

Reporters questioned whether a 500-gallon truck could put out a fire. West explained that at least fires could be slowed down until further aid could be provided. This method has proved successful in Abernathy, he added.

One city resident who owns a business in the rural area said that the county's rural residents may not pay city taxes—but they're not getting much for their county dollar.

It was noted that only a few members of the citizen's organization had attended the last meeting concerning rural fire protection, but Hamilton explained that they were not notified. "If I'd known about it, I would have been there," he said.

No date has been set for the proposed city-county meeting. For the meeting to be successful, there must be citizen involvement, Hamilton stressed.

County Judge Rod Shaw noted that he hasn't received any communication from the property owners association. "Whatever communication I received will be presented to the full commissioners court to see what they want to do," he said.

County commissioners meet Monday, and it's likely rural fire protection will come up during that session.

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Sheridan's Ride

by Jack Sheridan

One day during the past week my good friend and notable humorist Ted W. Tipps, the seed mogul, and some others were sitting around bantering the breeze when the subject of old time cowboy movies came up.

Now, you would think that with the passage of time people would tend to forget names and one time personalities would be erased into oblivion.

Not at all. Surprisingly enough a good many names emerged from that talk session, names like Buck Jones, Roy Rogers and Trigger, Tom Mix and Tony, Tex Ritter, Col. Tim McCoy, Jack Hoxie, Hoot Gibson (my favorite), Bob Steele (who was in Lubbock not so long ago), John Wayne and the list goes on and on.

Of course, Lubbock's Les Adams, so active with the Lubbock Theatre Centre and Coca-Cola route man, has contained all these memories of Saturday afternoons in the movies in those golden, hazy days of the past in his collection of oldtime movie posters. Les is THE authority in this field and his gatherings have been prodigious. His reproductions in four little booklets have become collectors' items and are fascinating.

Another conversation came about this week with good friend Joe Pugh. Pugh, who has been having a rough time with cataracts and treatments, suddenly revealed that he, too, had an intimate knowledge of the cowboy world. Seems that Joe was a projectionist back in those days in a small town in Texas. Among his chores was the changing of the movie posters in front of the theater and so Les Adams' books with their poster recalls was more than a joy for Joe to thumb through.

Big stars may come and go but to the hoardes of us who were grubby little kids headed for that once-a-week afternoon treat at the movies the heroes and their horses live on in vivid recall. A lot of the Texas Tech University students have never heard of these "supermen" of the sage but don't think that us oldsters have forgotten. Not on your life.

I mentioned Ted W. Tipps at the start of this column. Ted put his time in the service and sustained some pretty serious and lasting injuries that he will bear the rest of his life. But, this genial, happy-go-lucky man has a store of jokes and laughable trivia in his mental warehouse and he is always good for a laugh or two. He doesn't dwell on his wartime years and rarely, if ever, mentions those lasting infirmities which are apparent to the observer.

He is, of course, the son of the former mayor of Lubbock and actively engaged in the conduct of the family's seed business.

He's a nice man, Ted is, and his wife, a nurse at Methodist Hospital, is a nice lady. They're just good people, the Tipps family.

During this past week, too, I had a bright and revealing conversation with young Don Bollinger who is heading up the newly re-opened theater on Broadway between Avenues R and S. It's called the Bijou and it has inaugurated a series of films, classic, off-beat, old and new with a running time limit of only two to three days.

There's a whole raft of famous films booked into the small house for the next month, among them such juicy items as W.C. Fields and Mae West in "My Little Chickadee," "Midnight Cowboy," "Last Tango in Paris," not one but FOUR Marx Brothers oldies on one bill, Peter O'Toole's marvelously funny comedy, "The Ruling Class" and more and more.

Don Bollinger is only 18. But he is intense and vital and he loves what he is doing. He's been around the movie business for some time (in spite of his tender years) and he wants to see the Bijou go. I hope he does. We can use a repertory movie theater in this town.

Don hails from Dallas, where his parents live, and he has associations in Albuquerque and Houston and Dallas.

What he is doing is pretty much a one man chore, but if energy and enthusiasm count for anything, Don will rack up a success. Remember Don Bollinger and drop by his little Bijou Theater now and then. You won't regret it.

Those of you who have in the past attended plays at Texas Tech's University Theater, the Lubbock Theatre Centre and the Hayloft Dinner Theater will be aware of the recent passing of that gifted actress, stage manager, attractive lady, Renee Meeks. Treated for a minor ailment, complications set in and this wonderful woman died at the very threshold of a promising future.

It was a tragic, irrevocable mishap that shocked and stunned her many friends and her parents and small daughter, Michelle. What's done is done and there is no recall. But her memory is treasured and loved and is as warm and vital, as lasting and unquenchable as Renee Meeks was. It was a senseless, inexplicable happening. But—it happened and now is done. It has resolved itself into "Hail and farewell" to a lovely lady, Renee Meeks. May she rest in peace.

Do not overlook the annual Children's Christmas Concert set for 3 p.m. this Sunday in the new University Center Theater on the Texas Tech campus. The full Tech Symphony, under the direction of Paul Ellsworth, will be on hand and a galaxy of entertainment treats will color the memorable afternoon of fun, good music and seasonal cheer.



Pistol Packing Santa . . . Continued From Page One

he calls them long distance to see what every good little boy and girl wants for Christmas. We clear on that? Okay, where were we . . . ?

Howard comes in from his shift as Santa and he's dripping wet. It's hot in the costume, and Howard palms his wet hair which gets a refreshing blast as the Santa hat comes off.

He pulls the pillow out of the scarlet costume and it's yellow with sweat. Because of the beard he usually can't take a sip of a cool drink, even through a straw. Sometimes, he'll have to listen to a whole busload of elementary students and that's just to start the day.

Howard started working as a substitute Santa several years ago. He had been working as a mall security guard on his days off. "The Santa didn't show up," Howard remembers, "They all but begged me to fill in."

But Howard has returned every year since that first year—despite the kids kicking his shins and wetting on him.

Not all of his "clients" are children. There was one college man who sat on Santa's lap to send his mother a picture. "He was quite embarrassed," Howard said.

"One nurse came out two different days and wanted to have her picture taken with Santa. She wanted to know if I would sit on her lap." What happened? "She sat in my lap," Howard said with the no-nonsense authority of a man giving a speeding ticket. Howard's wife, Wanda, takes the

pictures of Santa, by the way.

Still, Howard mostly poses for pictures with small children. "I get real amused watching the parents trying to get the kids to smile. The antics are unreal."

If a child isn't too busy pulling Howard's beard (he says he holds both of the tot's hands to prevent any poking around), Howard tries to prompt a cute pose to send back to Grandma or to friends.

"Some of the parents are so relieved when the kids act like little ladies or gentlemen, you can just see the relief on the parent's face," Howard says. Or if the child refuses to behave, waves of disappointment wash over parents' faces.

"They all but stand on their heads out there to get the kids to laugh."

During all the picture taking, Howard talks with the children to see what they'd like for Christmas, but doesn't promise anything that parents—or Santa—might not be able to deliver. He says that big items this year are television dolls, the Lone Ranger ("He's coming back"), and roller skates. One girl asked for S.W.A.T. (Strategic Weapons and Tactics is a police commando unit for you nonmediaphiles) gear.

In return, Howard tells the children to "do something for Santa."

"I want you to go to bed early on Christmas Eve and come back

and see Santa next year."

Even with all the gentleness, Howard knows that some children are not going to take to Santa right off. "I don't give out with the big ho-ho-hos. That'd just scare them even more."

And he remembers walking from the mall offices to the throne and encountering a little girl walking with her mother. Howard waved—just waved—and the little girl let out such a yelp that her mother had to take her into a store while Howard ducked to the other side of the hall.

With all that going on around you, maybe you need police training to be a Santa Claus. For J.R. Howard, it sure doesn't hurt.

Chapter Planning Christmas Party

Xi Xi Tau Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi has scheduled the chapter Christmas party for 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Lubbock Club.

The party will be formal, with dinner and dancing planned.

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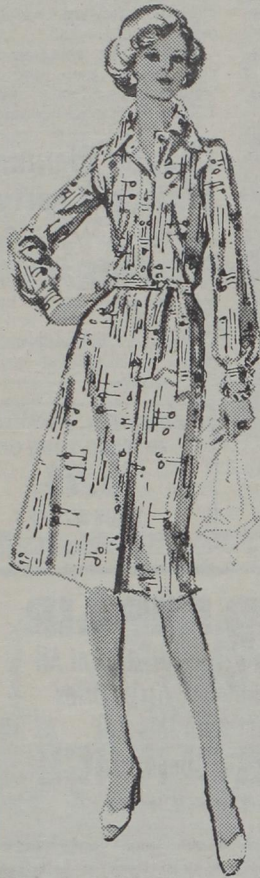
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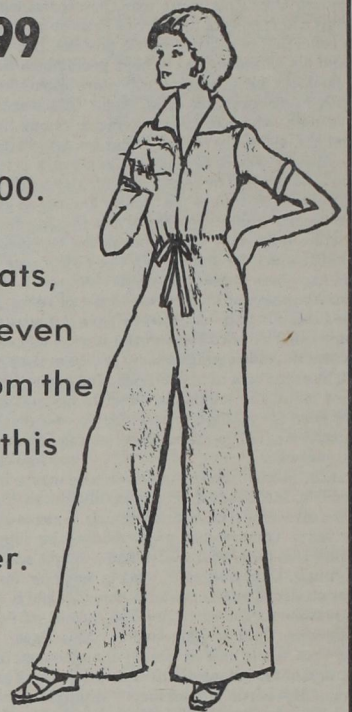


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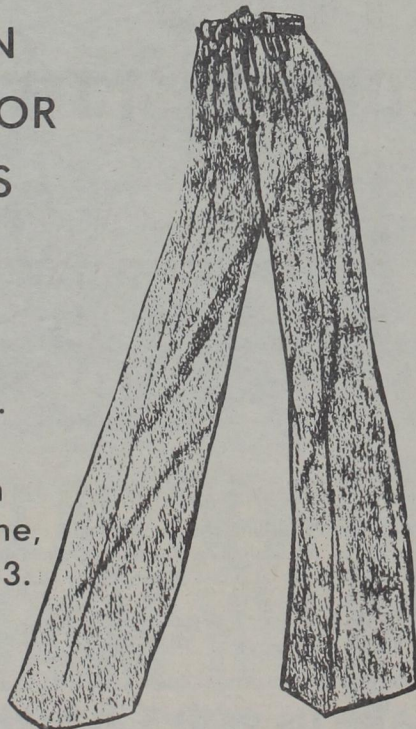


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Just One Day At A Time

by Pat Nickell

Possibly because I have always believed that someone was out to get me, I long ago earned the nickname of Paranoid Patty, and I have always done my best to live up to my image.

However, I have always wondered just where paranoia ends and real persecution begins. I am sure that there are persecuted people in the world.

For instance, if my car is struck from the rear twice within the span of a week, am I considered paranoid if I flinch every time I brake?

When I shoot 37 rolls of color film at a special dinner it all turns out black, and I wish I had another camera. Is that paranoia?

If I take a typing test for speed, and my typing speed, subtracting for errors, computes at minus-nine-words-per-minute; is it paranoia to blame it on a strange and unfamiliar typewriter?

Or, is it paranoia if I just happen to notice that:

The washing machine, dishwasher and roof all begin to leak as soon as my husband leaves town for several days?

Everyone in the supermarket decides to check out about 30 seconds before I get to the check-out counter?

It has been several days since either of my children spoke to me.

My husband, when he is out of town, never calls home to see if I am still alive?

In the paper someone died and wasn't found for several days, and I wonder if the same thing couldn't happen to me in my own den, which is a very heavy traffic area?

I am always the last one waited on in a store?

Everyone else's clothing looks better than mine?

Or, again, is it paranoia if: I run out of gasoline, and blame my husband because he drove my

car around the block and used up all the fuel?

I start yelling and trying to find out which kid put what in the toilet each time the plumbing becomes clogged?

When I read "Dear Abby", I am sure all the letters are about me?

I cannot decide whether Abby is calling me a gutless wonder or telling me to mind my own business, or both?

When I dine out, I believe everyone else's food is better than mine (just because it looks so)?

I hate to break in on a conversation because I am afraid they don't want me to hear what they are saying? (I really am just polite).

Or if I note that when I do break in, dead silence falls and the circle drifts away?

I spend a certain portion of each day wondering if my deodorant works?

When I get in a line, I always know it is the wrong one?

I never weigh because I know I have gained weight?

I try to avoid looking at my panty hose because I don't want to see how many new runs I have acquired since I donned them?

I refuse to take a swine flu injection because I know I will die from it?

I assume it doesn't matter what I say in my column because no one ever reads it anyway?

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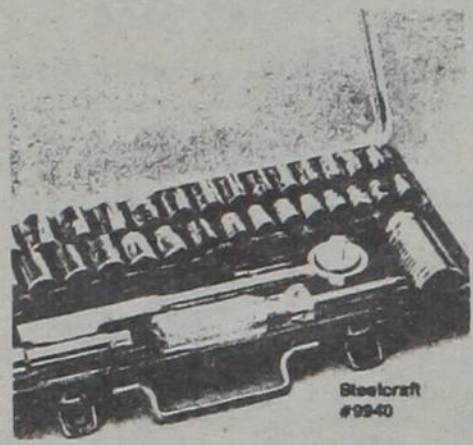
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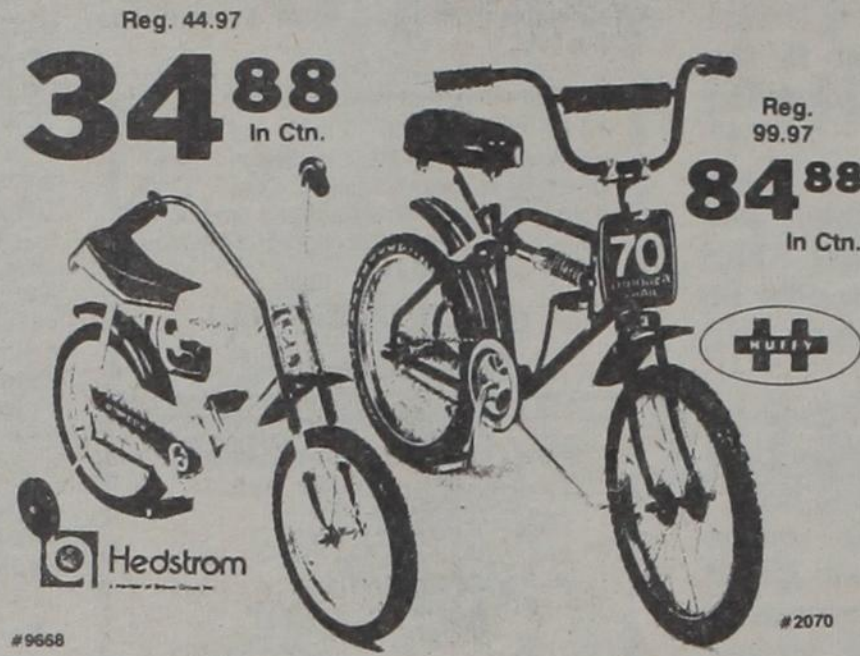
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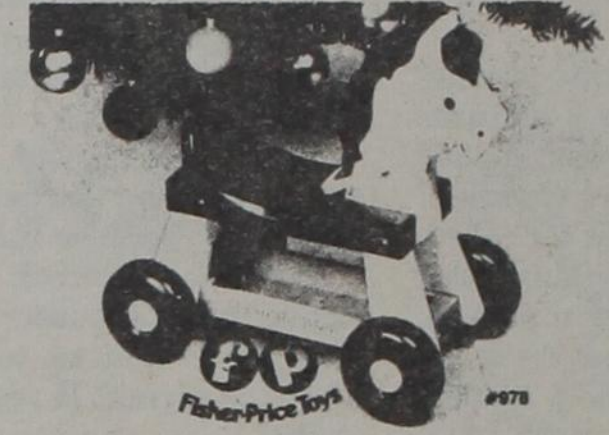
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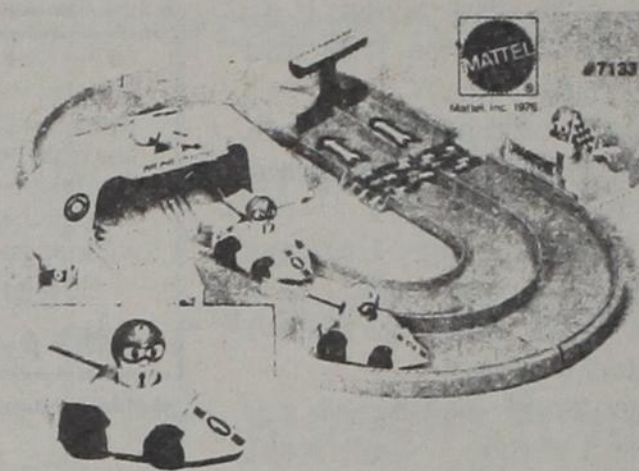


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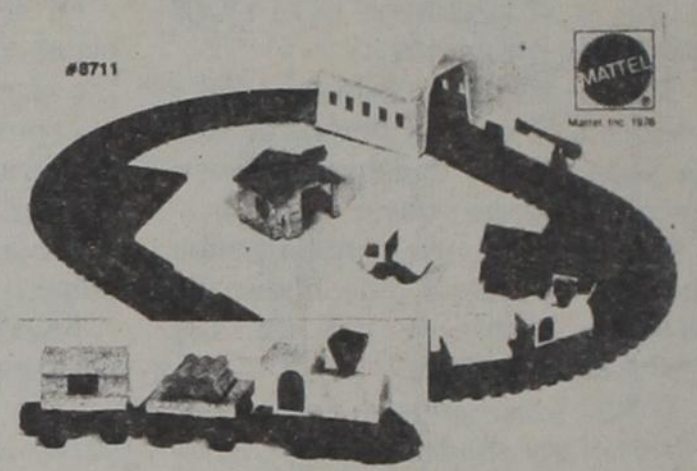
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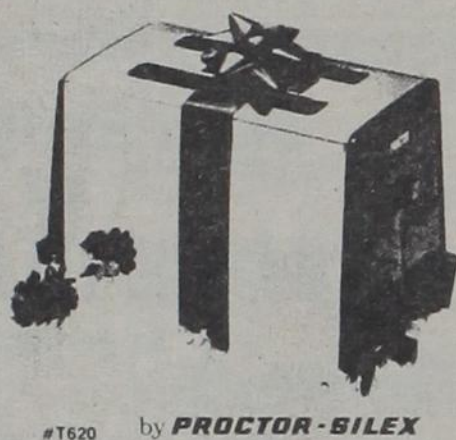


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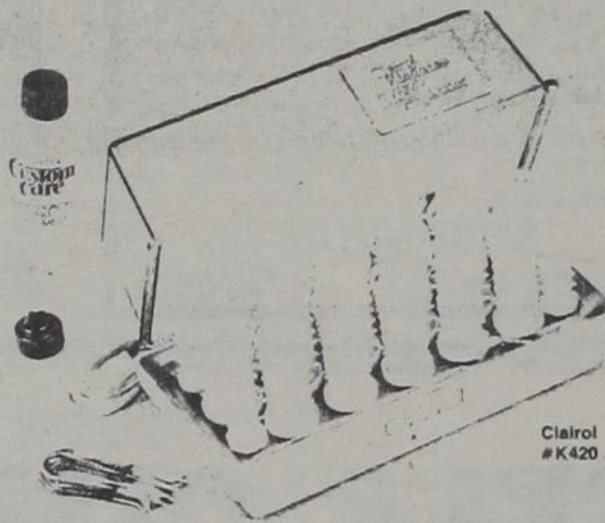


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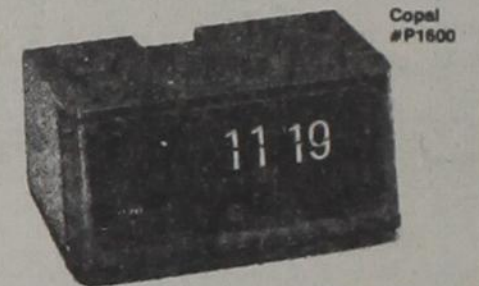


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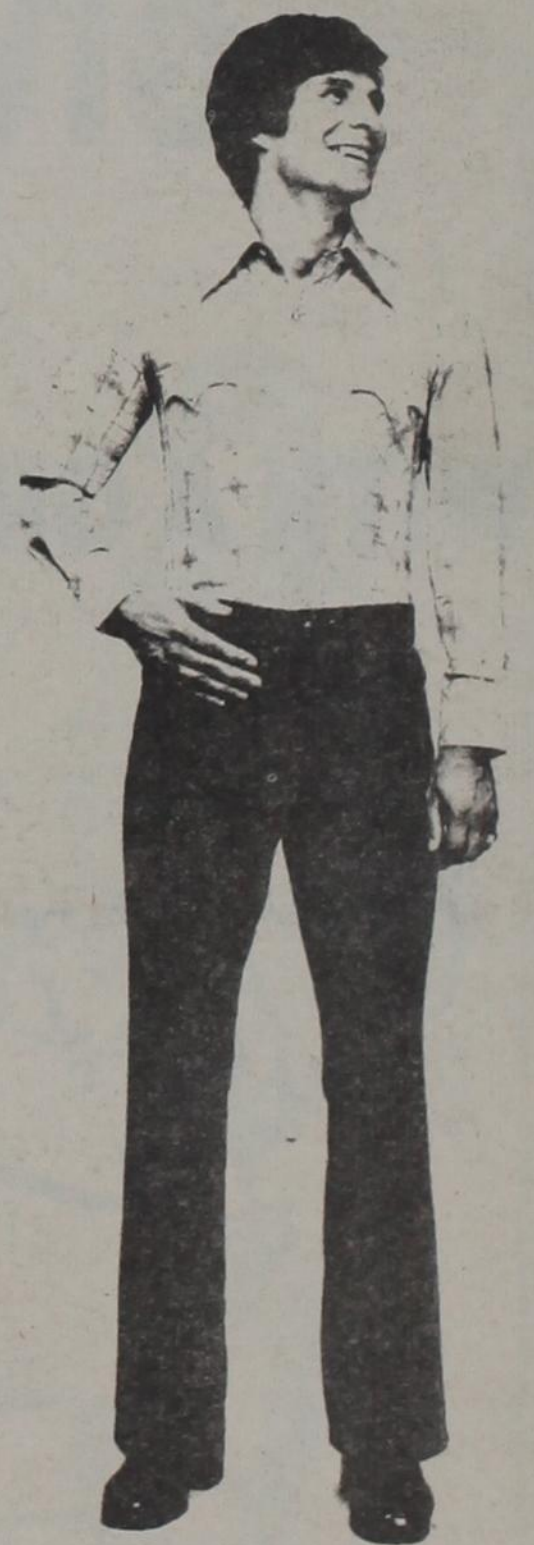


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