

STANBROOK



County Treasurer Gurley reflects on 32 years in job

By JACK Z. SMITH

Star-Telegram Courthouse Writer

Eighty-two-year-old Bill Gurley stretched back in his chair, slowly pulling a Tareyton from his pocket.

A pensive look came over his face.

He had just been asked to recount the various jobs he has held throughout his career, and he wasn't sure he was equal to the task.

But, more than a half hour later, Gurley had recounted them all, or at least all he could remember — traveling salesman for an oil company, grocer, cotton farmer, drive-in restaurant operator, store bookkeeper, driving instructor, road construction worker, oil field roughneck, sheriff's deputy, auto garage manager, car parts salesman and hog raiser.

Probably few who know Gurley realize he has had such a varied career, because they have known him for more than 30 years by only one position—Tarrant County treasurer.

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WHEN GURLEY retires from the treasurer's position at the end of the year, he will have completed 32 years in the job. And he will have rung up 42 years' employment with the county. Gurley's been treasurer so long, he at first couldn't remember how many terms he's served. But after considerable calculation, he figured that he's now completing his 10th term, a record that only a handful of elected officials in county history can claim.

In all those years, Gurley was in runoffs only twice.

When asked what he's proudest about in his years of service, he inevitably points to one thing: "Of all the money I've handled as treasurer," he said, "there's not been one dime that's been unaccounted for in any way. And I've handled millions of dollars."

He's almost equally proud of two other



—Star-Telegram Photo

BILL GURLEY

accomplishments — his role in helping form a county credit union and in helping to get state law changed so that elected officials serve four-year terms instead of having to run for office every two years.

He said the credit union has given county employees a reliable, low-cost means of obtaining loans — something they didn't always have in past decades, particularly during the Depression.

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"THAT CREDIT UNION is one of the finest things ever done for the county," Gurley said. "When we were getting that thing organized, the loan sharks around here had about half the county employees under their thumbs."

After Gurley first took office in 1947, he began taking steps to eliminate another problem. Because county officials were elected every two years, they were faced with repeated campaigning, which took away time from their duties as officeholders.

Gurley helped organize elected officials from across the state into a group that eventually was to successfully prod the legislature into changing the lengths of terms to four years. This group was the forerunner of the Texas Association of Counties.

Gurley also organized the Texas Association of County Treasurers and became its first president.

Although his mind still is generally sharp, Gurley admittedly has slowed his pace in recent years and is ready for retirement.

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"THERE JUST COMES a time when I think a man ought to step down," he said. "When you reach 80, you can't be sure how much time you've got left."

A widower for many years (his wife, Ilean, died in 1929), he seems uncertain about what he will do in retirement. He still plays dominoes and cards, but has given up the more active pursuits of hunting and fishing.

"I guess I'll just do whatever comes naturally," he shrugs, adding that he has "many friends" to help him while away his time.

He says he has one remaining mission to accomplish in his treasurer's job — to see that the transition to a new treasurer is as wrinkle-free as possible.

"I'll be glad for the new man to come in in November (following the general election) and I'll tell him everything I know about this office," Gurley said. "I want to make the transition as smooth as I can — so smooth you won't even be able to tell there's been a change of hands."

Prosecutor may be ace but he has a heart, too

By JOHN MAKEIG

Star-Telegram Courthouse Writer

Some wag in the district attorney's office taped five drawings of airplanes to prosecutor Jack Strickland's office door Friday as a joke.

They were arranged there in a neat row, just like they might appear beside the cockpit of a fighter pilot's plane in recognition of five "kills" of enemy aircraft.

Five kills make the pilot an "ace," and that is what Strickland is, in a sense.

Strickland has tried five capital murder cases. And all five defendants — Billy Joe Battie, Kenneth Granviel, Woodie Loudres, Charlie Brooks Jr. and Henry Martinez Porter — are awaiting execution on death row in Huntsville.

The fifth case, involving Loudres, ended in a death sentence Thursday, which prompted the array of airplanes on Strickland's door.

* * *

PROBABLY no other prosecutor in Texas can make that claim. At least, none who has been prosecuting defendants under the capital murder provisions of the 1974 Texas Penal Code. And definitely none with only four years experience as a prosecutor.

And — stranger still — there may be no other prosecutor with an equivalent record who would claim to be so fundamentally opposed to the death penalty. You couldn't describe Strickland as an outright pacifist, but the word comes to mind in discussing the death penalty with him.

"I'm not convinced it's the best solution," Strickland said. "What we're faced with now is death or life in the penitentiary, which can be served in as little as 10 years.

"It seems to me that if we consider, for certain categories of crimes, a maximum-security life imprisonment without any possibility of parole, that might be a more humane alternative."

* * *

SUCH SENTIMENTS might fail to impress Battie,

Granviel, Loudres, Brooks and Porter, but they add depth to the aggressive young assistant DA who dislikes guns, hopes some alternative to the death penalty arises and who spent his time as a Navy pilot fearful he might have to drop napalm on someone.

For additional perspective, consider what other lawyers say about him.

"He's just like a cute, little wire-haired terrier — who bites," another assistant DA said.

"Jack is the meanest prosecutor in the state," defense attorney Hulen Brown of Jacksonville chided during a recent trial in which Brown's client pleaded self defense in a fatal shooting and was acquitted. "He's the only prosecutor in the state who would try this case."

* * *

"NOT EVERY prosecutor likes to try capital murder cases just for the fun and intrigue of trying them, like Strickland does," said another member of District Attorney Tim Curry's staff.

Strickland, 34, expresses great reluctance about using fun-and-games terminology in describing anything so sobering as trying someone for murder, but the "intrigue" concept seems more than apt.

In the Loudres trial, for example, he ended seven weeks of jury selection by picking a man who "looked us right in the eye and said, 'I don't believe I could give the death penalty . . .'"

"When we told people we had a man on the jury who didn't believe in the death penalty, they looked at us like we were mad. But in the end I think he turned out to be a strong state's juror."

Strickland evidently made an ideal choice in that man — the jury deliberated only 20 minutes during the trial's punishment phase before returning a unanimous verdict to send Loudres to death row.

* * *

AND STRICKLAND seems to like it when defense



—Star-Telegram Photo

JACK STRICKLAND... DA's ace prosecutor.

attorneys try to object to his contentions, entangle him in nebulous legal arguments or draw him into controversies with a judge.

On his feet in the courtroom, Strickland is clever, and his quick, sarcastic wit makes strong points with juries.

But when the trial is over, Strickland accepts victory with humility.

"I'm not doing this to build a record or to have a good time," Strickland said. "It's exhausting and it's something that I take absolutely no satisfaction in doing. I only take pride in doing good legal work and doing the job I think the district attorney's office should do."

MAY 05 1978

Adult Probation Office Plans Major Changes in September

By MARVIN GARRETT

Sweeping changes beginning in September will update the Tarrant County Adult Probation Office, with better salaries and smaller case loads in sight for the officers.

Money that will come to the county from a \$19 million federal-state appropriation will make the updating possible. To get a share of the money local probation offices must adopt new standards.

T.S. Walls, former Fort Worth police chief who now is the county adult probation officer in charge, told The News-Tribune not all the changes can begin at once but the ball will begin rolling in September.

The State Adult Probation Commission was authorized to spearhead the changes by the 65th Legislature and is receiving \$19 million to distribute to local departments meeting the higher standards.

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THE STANDARDS are not mandatory. The commission is encouraging their adoption through financial incentive.

"We really have no choice in adopting the standards," Walls said. "If we are going to get the money, we must meet the standards."

One of the requirements to be met, Walls points out, is that case loads for each probation officer must be reduced from 200 to 100 cases. That means that the Tarrant office will have to hire more workers.

The local probation office has 37 workers including clerical help and 26 probation officers including Walls.

The office will be given time to reduce its case load. The load must not exceed 200 by Jan. 1, 1979, not more than 150 cases as of June 1, 1979, and must be down to a 100 case load by Jan. 1, 1980.

Under the new regulations, probation officers must have 20 hours of professional training each year. They will be encouraged to join professional organizations.

* * *

"WHEN WE HAVE the case load down to 100 for each officer," Walls said, "we can do a better job. It's difficult for an officer to know 200 people and keep up with them, but you get to know the bad ones that give trouble!"

The new guidelines set the beginning salary for a probation officer at \$13,500. Use of a personal automobile on official business, paid from judicial district funds, should not be less than the state allowance per mile, the guidelines state.



T.S. Walls

In a cooperative effort, the local probation department will be expected to help provide programs for probationers not available from other sources, including employment, education, physical and mental health treatment and counseling.

The department will be expected to take a part in local planning and consider changes in cultural and socioeconomic conditions. Under the new rules, even the victims of crime will be considered. Probation officers are asked to recognize the rights of crime victims and try to collect

restitution "where applicable."

There are many rules and regulations to be put into effect, Walls said, indicating that it may be a long time before all standards are met so that all funds due the office can be received.

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BUT AS STANDARDS are gradually met, Walls says, changes will bring improvements.

Local offices, Walls said, were contacted before the guidelines were set.

Probation officers will need more know-how, as rules call for "professional competence," but there will be benefits any probation officer should enjoy.

Take the rule of "minimum facilities," for example. It states that each officer should have a private office available for interviewing and counseling. "It should have the necessary lighting, air conditioning, telephone, furniture, equipment, privacy and decor to provide and promote professional conduct and the establishment of good rapport with a probationer," according to the guidelines.

Genelle Maddox Runs Office For Association

Genelle Maddox has been executive secretary for the Fort Worth Association of Life Underwriters for six years.

As the association's only fulltime employee, she coordinates activities that include various civic projects, keeping an eye on legislation important to the life insurance industry and responding to communications concerning the association.

The association has a continuing business practices committee to answer questions about life insurance and to maintain high standards for agents.



Genelle Maddox

Boorman Serves Lawyers Here

— And Helps Train Rookies, Too

By MADELINE WILLIAMS

In the world of service industries here, Tarrant County Clerk Jim Boorman operates one of the biggest, one of the financially soundest and one of the most important to the legal profession.

Not only does Boorman keep the records of the county's 18 district courts—he and his clerks do a pretty good job of teaching young lawyers how to practice law in this county.

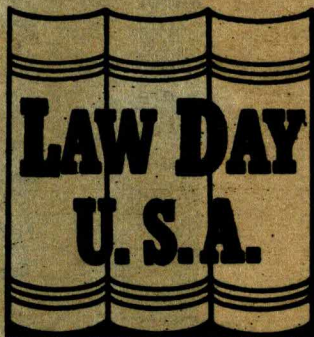
"They learn the fundamentals in law school," Boorman said of the crop of new lawyers that come to his office for the first time each year, "but they have to learn to practice law where they live.

"Most of these court clerks are kind of like mother hens to these young lawyers when they come up here real scared with their first cases. These court clerks are pretty good lawyers themselves, and they help these beginners a lot, showing them how to do things and helping them with the routine."

As the registrar of the courts, Boorman also is custodian of \$8 million to \$10 million paid into the registry.

Included is \$1,682,000 paid to Boorman pending the outcome of the Priscilla and Cullen Davis divorce.

"I just had to go down and borrow \$375,000 against that \$1,682,000



and paid it to them so they could pay their income tax," Boorman said. "That's the first time I ever borrowed \$375,000. In fact, I've never borrowed \$75,000 before in my life."

RECOGNIZED FOR his integrity and honesty, Boorman keeps strict records that reflect his healthy regard for money—especially the taxpayer's.

The money posted with him for bonds, as well as the money received in forfeits, fines and fees, is put to work immediately earning interest.

"It's all in C.D.'s or interest-bearing accounts unless it is a



J.W. Boorman

straight pay out in a few days," he said. "When I get \$200,000 or more I get a Treasury Bill."

He invests the money on deposit pending outcome of civil suits and turns the interest over to the winner.

"We used to be able to keep it for the county until the Supreme Court ruled it goes to the winner of the suit," he said. "That was a case where the interest had accumulated to about a million dollars. But since we have the authority to invest the money, we do it and let it earn some interest for the recipient."

BOORMAN'S STANDING is so high with the legal profession as well as all the other taxpayers that he never draws an opponent at re-election time.

He was chosen by the Tarrant County Executive Committee from a field of about 15 applicants to represent the party on the November, 1970, ballot after the death of District Clerk George Johnson.

At that time he said to the precinct chairmen: "I'm not going to tell you that I'm the best qualified person in the county to be district clerk. I think I'm the best qualified of those who are seeking the office. But if you think another person is more qualified than I am, I am a student of good government just as you are and I suggest you appoint that person."

The executive committee put his name on the ballot. He was elected and sworn in Jan. 1, 1971. He ran unopposed for re-election in 1974 and again this year.

Before that—from 1957—he had served as justice of the peace for Precinct 1, Place 2, an office to which he was appointed April 8, 1957, to

succeed R.S. (Dick) Calloway. He ran unopposed then for JP, just as he has run unopposed for district clerk.

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WHEN HE TOOK OVER as district clerk, he put the office on a cash basis, to the distress of some of his supporters.

"The lawyers will never stand for this," he was told. Attorneys had been "charging" their filing fees for some time, and there was a stack of unpaid and uncollectible invoices.

"Why not?" was Boorman's simple reply. "We're just following the law. The law says the fees are due and payable when the suit is filed."

The lawyers accepted his policy, and many serve on his steering committee.

Recently a woman filing a "pro se" divorce asked him to take her personal check for the fees, and he refused. When she complained, he told her that accepting personal checks was a privilege he did not have to extend. She protested that she had seen him accept a lawyer's personal check.

"That's right," he told her, "but I can get his license if his check bounces."

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DESPITE BEING hard-nosed about money, Boorman is amiable and friendly—one of the best-liked officials in the county. He oversees a staff of 57 with a fatherly efficiency. And always he stresses service.

"Service is all we have to sell," he told The News-Tribune in an interview this week. "That's what we have to give in return for our pay, and if we don't give service, there's no reason for us being here."

Frequently he gets a letter of appreciation from an attorney, and that pleases him. Just recently a Dallas

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District Clerk Says Public Comes First

Continued from Page 12

attorney told him: "You run the most courteous and efficient office I have ever seen," the lawyer said, "and that includes my own district clerk's office in Dallas."

Comments like that make you feel good," Boorman said.

Starting off on his 21st year as a public official, the big, affable district clerk said that one thought guides him in his work: "This isn't a lifetime appointment. If I don't do my job well, the voters can get rid of me. And that's what I tell my clerks. They don't own their jobs. We're here to serve and if we don't do it, then the public will get rid of us."

Boorman grew up on the North Side, and the North Side is still home to him and his wife, Flaxie. They have two married daughters and eight grandchildren.

Piano guild auditions keyed to students

By **CLAIRE EYRICH**

Star-Telegram Writer

It happens every spring. All over America, thousands of youngsters are caught up in a sudden frenzy of practice. It is National Guild of Piano Teachers auditions time.

It is not a competition. It is merely a chance to be "adjudicated" by a musician of top repute who listens, judges and annotates, making a written report and commentary to be seen by the pupil and his parents. Awards for the best performers are included in the guild's system.

Fifty music teachers in Fort Worth participate in the annual springtime guild auditions, with pupils playing in a six-weeks' session that will end June 8.

London-born pianist Rodney Hoare of San Antonio is adjudicator in Fort Worth. Mrs. Helen Joyce West is chairman for Fort Worth division and Miss Maureen Rutherford is cochairman. The public is invited to drop in on any part of the all-day music program in Broadway Baptist Church, Peter Smith St. entrance.

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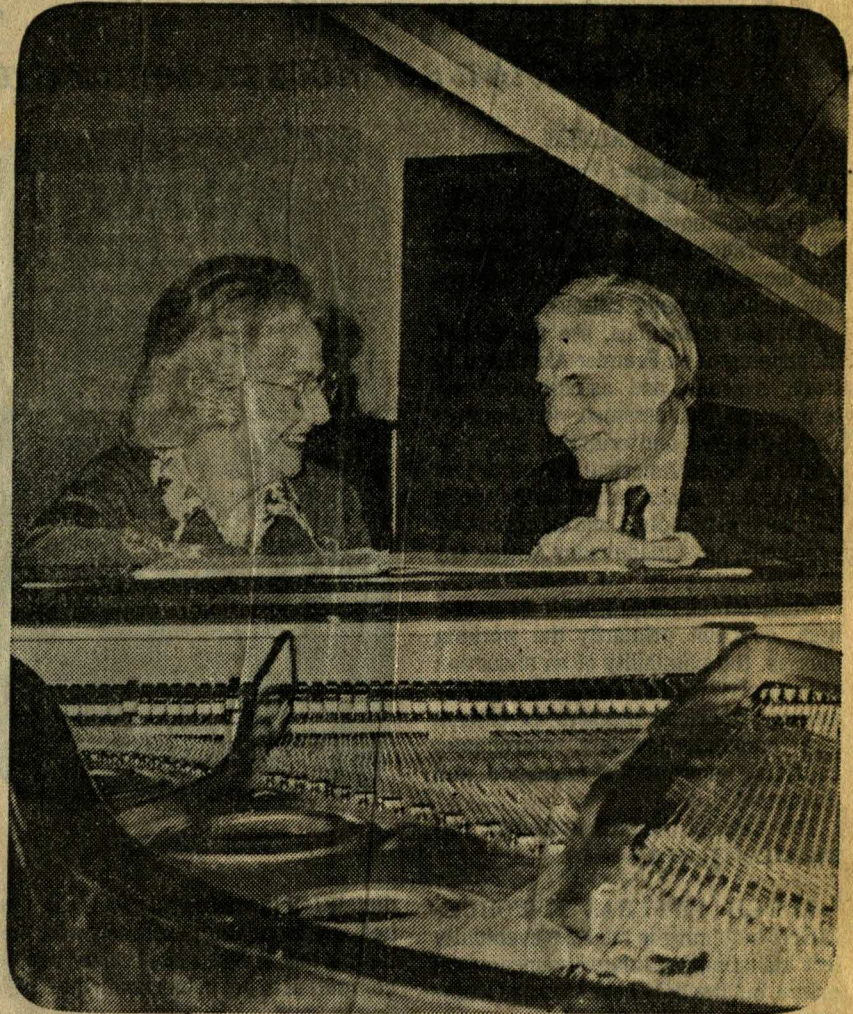
DR. IRL ALLISON of Austin and the late Mrs. Grace Ward Lankford of the Van Cliburn International Piano Festival co-founded the National Guild of Piano Teachers Auditions in 1929 as part of a program to upgrade the standard of excellence of the private piano teacher.

Now, almost 50 years later, the guild auditions take place in every state of the union, with more than 90,000 young people performing each spring, a unique success story in the teaching world.

The National Guild of Piano Teachers, sponsors of the auditions, incidentally, were original sponsors of the Van Cliburn competition with Fort Worth Piano Teachers Forum, and continue to serve on the list of sponsors of the Cliburn competition.

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HOARE, WHO HAS been active in the music world in the United States for the past 25 years and has lived in San Antonio for 23 years, is a former pupil of Sir Osborne Peasgood, who was organist at London's Westminster Abbey. He studied with his uncle, Edric Cundell of London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and attended piano classes taught by Alfred Cortot at the Ecole Normale in Paris. He studied with a number



Star-Telegram Photo

Mrs. Helen Joyce West and Rodney Hoare . . . all over America, pianos are busy.

of British teachers of piano, theory and composition and was the last pupil of Tobias Matthay.

He taught piano at the Charterhouse School, was director of music at Abbotsholme School in Derbyshire and at Malvern College. With his mother, Mrs. Leonard Wells, in conjunction with Dame Myra Hess, he organized the Guildford Lunch Hour Concerts, similar to the National Gallery lunch hour concerts.

An RAF pilot in World War II, he studied at the Royal Academy of Art—Stage prior to coming to this country. For 10 years he was presented in his own musical talk show on radio in San Antonio. His program was named by RCA as one of

the three top broadcasts of classical music and commentary in the United States.

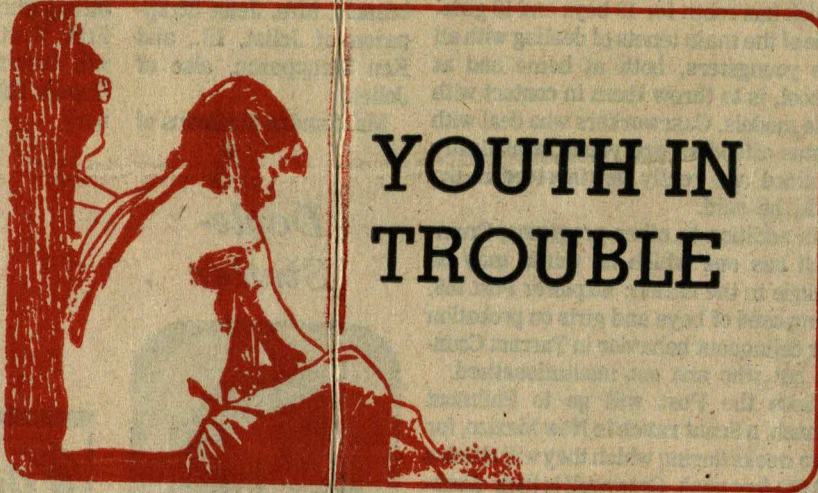
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HE HAS BEEN featured in classical music programs and teaching demonstrations on Educational TV (NET), and lectures for workshops in this country and in England on techniques of mental and physical relaxation to improve awareness and development of visual, aural and rhythmic senses.

A few years ago he was chosen to give a program on Chopin's own Pleyel piano at the chateau of George Sand at Nohant near Chateaufort, France. One of his best-known programs in England was an all-Chopin piano recital, with readings from the letters of Chopin and Aurora Dupin (George Sand).

Empathy aids worker

By **KAY HOLMQUIST**
Star-Telegram Writer
(Third in a series)



YOUTH IN TROUBLE

Paul Cromwell Jr., director of juvenile services at the Lynn W. Ross Juvenile Center, has a lot of empathy for kids in trouble. . . when he was a kid he ran away from home.

Later he joined the service and, after he saw the world sufficiently, he entered college in his 20's and became the first graduate to receive a master's degree in criminal justice from Sam Houston State University.

He came to Fort Worth 10 months ago from the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles to head up the juvenile center which constitutes the third largest department in the city.

HE THINKS THAT people in Fort Worth are dead serious about supporting services for juveniles.

"There are activist groups and that's important.

"Because of community interest, the juvenile board and commissioners court have a commitment. We can all work together, and there's very little they won't try as long as we're responsible. This is a great place to grow in, and

we've done some new things and will do some more and we feel like we will be supported."

One of the problems, which exists in several areas across the city, including the Trinity Valley Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority, is that the center is understaffed. There are 148 personnel

and Cromwell says they easily could use 10 or 15 more persons on the staff, mainly because the community has added three new family courts.

"OUR FAMILY COURT services have been swamped," said Cromwell. "The rate of referrals from the police depart-

ment to the courts have leveled off in the delinquency area and climbed tremendously in the family courts. Also there have been 1,000 referrals out to status offenders. We've improved the quality and amount of services."

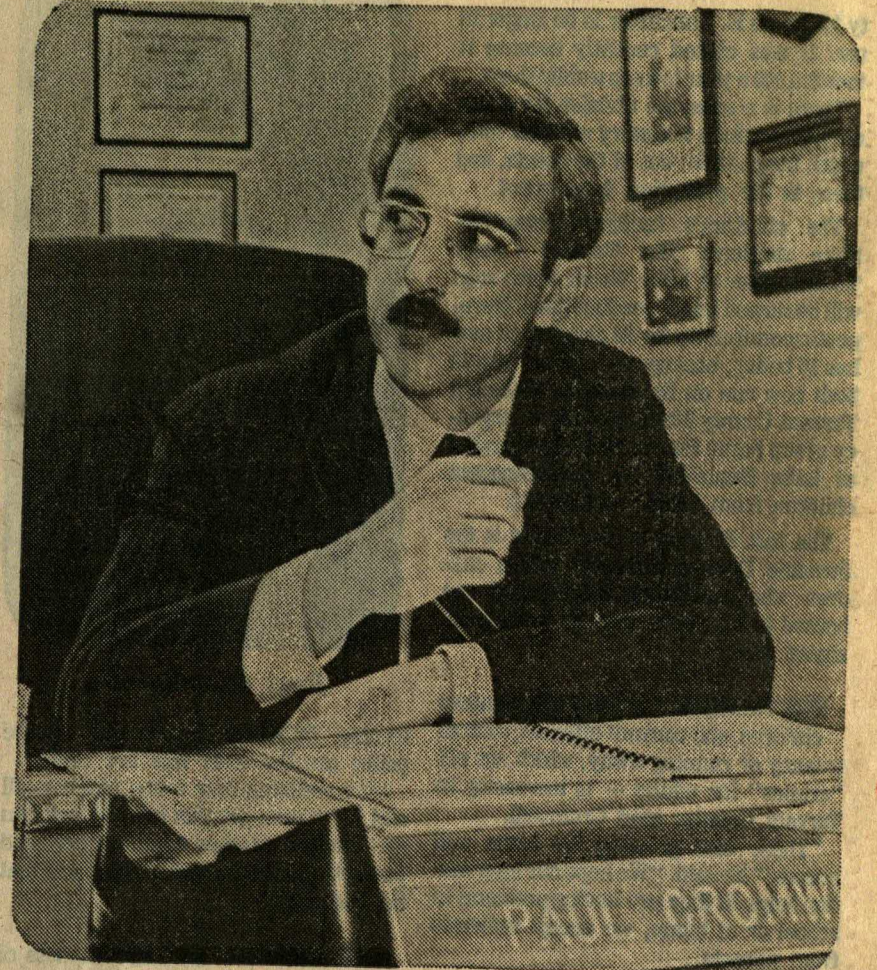
"We only had 14 foster homes when I got here and there was a tremendous need for child placement. Now we have 55 active foster homes, having added 41 during the last 10 months."

Juvenile services has several divisions:

The child support division disperses \$13 million dollars each year in child support checks. Family court, which has overlapping staff with the Department of Human Resources, investigates custody cases. Also caseworkers are involved at this level in a child's life, hoping that preventive work will keep the child from entering the criminal justice system later on.

THE FAMILY COURT division works closely with the next one, the child placement division, to work out foster care, either temporary or longer, and to try to keep the family's children together, perhaps by placing them in All Church or St. Theresa's home. The old Tarrant County

Turn to Empathy on Page 2



Paul Cromwell, director of juvenile services in Tarrant County, feels a lot of rapport with youth and feels that status offenders should be kept out of the court system.

movements for health deductible

Empathy aids juvenile worker

Continued from Page 1

ty Home on E. Lancaster is no longer in use. It was closed recently because it took \$15,000 a year to keep a child there.

There is a separate division for status offenders, which this story will deal with, which keeps them out of the courts, and there is the probation department.

The children's facilities comprises three shelters: The Tarrant County Youth Center at Lake Worth which soon will be turned into a coeducational therapeutic community for 26 children (it now has 16 beds); emergency shelter with 14 beds now run on the campus of the old Tarrant County Home and the emergency group home for six children operated at Lake Benbrook for non-delinquent children from infancy to age 12.

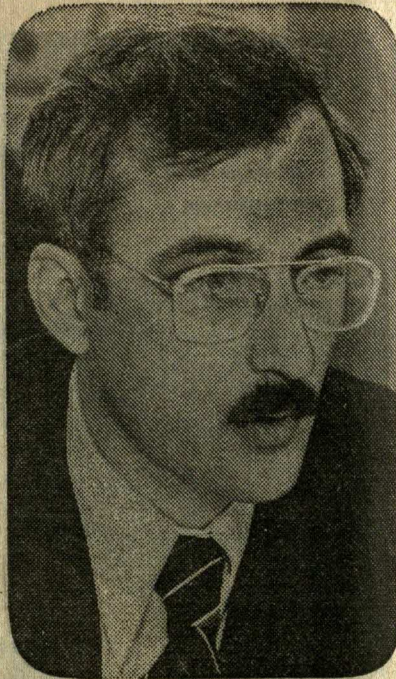
The last division of the center is the Juvenile Detention Center where children who are being adjudicated are housed briefly until they go to their assigned place.

THE NUMBER OF STATUS offenders — children who commit offenses, such as truancy or running away, which are not "crimes" for adults — is increasing in Tarrant County, said Cromwell.

"These are growing by leaps and bounds," he said. "We hope our intervention helps. If they are having problems in school or at home, we accept referrals from parents.

"We get some criticism here. Under the law, this is a volunteer program. The parents and child must agree to our services and most of them do.

"If a child is running away from home or staying out of school, we don't feel these are fit matters for the courts. We deal with them outside the structure of the court. The police frequently criticize, saying 'This kid is always getting into



Paul Cromwell Jr.

trouble.' Of course he runs away and the police are the ones who are called.

"It's amazing how many parents call and say 'Come get this kid and lock him up.' We had a father come out here and padlock a kid to the fence with a note that he was ours.

"WE ARE NOT IN THE business of raising other people's kids, but we had to get the bolt-cutters and cut a 12-year old child off the fence. He was hostile and traumatized and the father wasn't emotionally equipped to cope with him, but we feel the parents have some responsibility, too. There is an attitude on the part of some parents that 'If we can't cope, the government can' and some status offenders can be as difficult as delinquents.

"We are mandated by federal law to de-institutionalize status offenders and take them out of the courts by 1980 and any state which doesn't do it will lose federal money according to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974."

"Under state law we can file against a child as a 'child in need of supervision.' The federal law doesn't say not to handle them through the courts. This is a local philosophy that they don't belong in court. So we deal with a formal request for help and services, and we do have extensive services.

"They get family counseling, individual counseling, the caseworkers visit the kids once a week. Twenty public school teachers work with us two nights a week tutoring in small groups or individually to get their skills up. We have groups called 'R&R,' or rap and recreation where we have a combination of organized activity and group counseling once a week for those kids.

"We offer extensive placement for status offenders if it's really apparent they are ready to blow their home situation. That's where spend our LEAA money. We buy clothes for kids who are ashamed to go to school because of their clothes.

"LAST YEAR WE realized that when school was out we would lose contact with the status offender, so we started a summer recreation program. We had about 150 kids and the program operated five days a week with sports and arts and crafts. It was totally recreational to keep them off the streets.

"This year we will add some things. We will continue the tutoring throughout the summer and in cooperation with the National Motorcycle Safety Foundation and the City of Euless provide a 24-hour

motorcycle safety program over a six-week period," he said. There will be some civilians and three Euless policemen, Rick Griffin, Joe Scott and Jay Heilman, who will be instructors in the program.

ALL OF THE PROGRAMS through the juvenile center are coed, said Cromwell, including the Juvenile Detention Center, which has room for 13 boys and 13 girls. One of the main tenets of dealing with all the youngsters, both at home and at school, is to throw them in contact with role models. Caseworkers who deal with status offenders are young, athletically inclined and really get involved in the kids, he said.

In addition to other programs, Cromwell has one which he thinks may be unique in the nation: Explorer Post 555, composed of boys and girls on probation for delinquent behavior in Tarrant County but who are not institutionalized.

Soon the Post will go to Philmont Ranch, a Scout ranch in New Mexico, for two weeks during which they will climb a 13,000-foot peak. Cromwell is their climbing instructor.

"I'm an old rock hound and white water canoeist," he said. The wilderness program is labeled the "High Adventure" program.

"Some of these kids haven't been off the streets and we've taken them and dangled them 200 feet off a cliff, taken canoe trips in the dead of winter on the Brazos River and white water canoeing on the Guadalupe River. We picked the kids who were having the most problems and started the Post last September. Once they've dangled off a mountain, it's kind of hard to match that feeling by going out and getting drunk."

Wednesday: Crisis plans on the drawing board.

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Some lose their shirts, but a lost skirt?

By DONNA DAROVICH
Star-Telegram Writer

The excitement of the fans about the Texas Rangers may be more feverish than anyone imagines.

For instance, Arlington Stadium manager Wayne Wade's lost and found department got a call one recent morning from a woman who said she had been at a game there the night before and had lost her blouse.

The week before, stadium attendants found a crutch in the stands.

"Someone even left a big, folding up baby's bed here one night," Wade said. "We found it out by the concession stand."

The crew that cleans up the stands also have found dentures, diamond rings and watches that jubilant fans have dropped.

"Once this season we heard from a man who said he remembered being so excited on a play that he jumped up and threw his hands in the air, sending his expensive watch soaring into the crowd," Wade said. "But we couldn't find that one."

...
ARLINGTON STADIUM, HOWEVER isn't the only place visitors absent-mindedly leave things.

The Tarrant County Convention Center for some time had an unclaimed tuba someone had left in the arena, and the downtown library once turned up some golf balls someone had left there.

Shoes and socks are often left behind too, library personnel said.

Fred Hagen of the Federal Protection Service, which handles lost and found items in the federal



—Star-Telegram Photo

MARY WOODFIN . . . at Convention Center

building, said most of the articles that come through are "very ordinary," although an \$8,000 lady's ring once was found in a washroom, as was a man's billfold with \$500 cash in it.

Hagen said he also has a green skirt someone left there (maybe the woman who lost her blouse in Arlington).

The county courthouse lost and found, however, indicated that few visitors leave much. Several gloves and a Whataburger bag (empty) are the only items currently on hand.

...
BUT CITRAN BUS COMPANY PBX operator Dorothy Lampkin, who helps within the lost and found department, said bus riders leave a variety of items when they disembark.

The Citran lost and found currently has a sackful of ladies' underpants, Bibles, flutes, false teeth and a can of tropical punch.

The recent Colonial Golf Tournament also netted Citran a number of small, folding chairs which tourney observers left on buses.

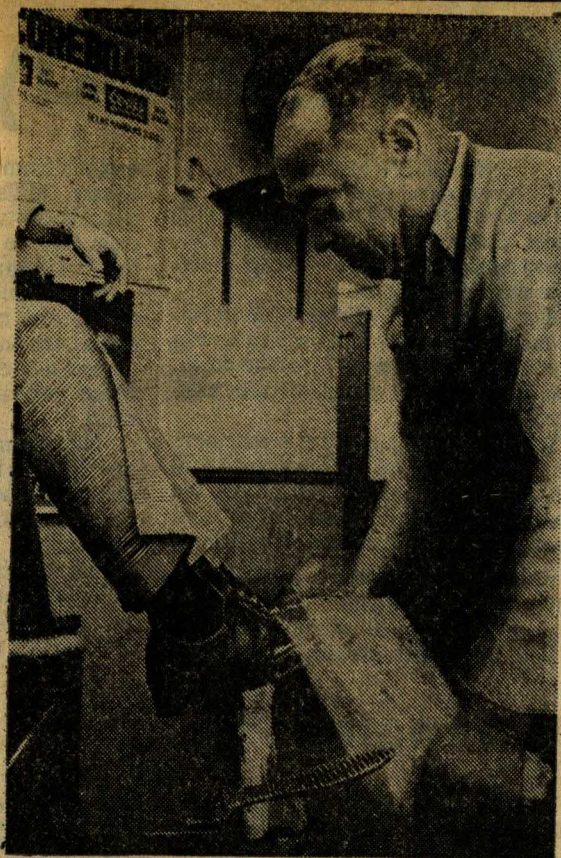
Wayne Fry of the Yellow Cab Co. said taxi riders usually just leave articles of clothing, such as sweaters and coats, but he said he also has found dentures and crutches left in back seats.

Someone recently left a wig in one of the yellow cabs, and among the several canes on hand, there is a blind person's white cane.

Personnel in most lost and found departments said items are kept for about 30 days and then, if unclaimed, turned in to Goodwill or the Salvation Army.

But personnel at Arlington Stadium probably are hoping the lady who lost her blouse will claim it so they keep an eye out for her as long as Ranger excitement continues.

Star-Telegram JUNE 6 1978



—Star-Telegram Photo

SHINING EXAMPLE... Cornelius Mills

He brushes 'em up on what others think

By JACK Z. SMITH
Star-Telegram Writer

To Tarrant County commissioners, Cornelius Mills is a one-man Gallup Poll.

To sports nuts, Mills is a walking, talking baseball encyclopedia who can tell you that Mel Ott hit 511 home runs in his career, or that Johnny Podres was the winning pitcher in the seventh game of the 1955 World Series.

To county courthouse employees, Mills, 71, is the man to see when they want a toponotch, 50-cent shoe shine.

Mills gets an average tip of a quarter per shine, and shines only 10 to 20 pairs per day, so he obviously is not doing it for the money.

"This is more or less just a hobby," he said. "I just like to come down here and talk baseball, football, the Bible and politics."

From his vantage point in the basement of the courthouse, Mills catches large volumes of gossip. When county commissioners want an idea of what courthouse employees think of their decisions, they can get a clear picture from Mills.

* * *

COMMISSIONER Lyn Gregory said Mills "can pretty well give you an idea what the whole courthouse is thinking. He can tell you whether the people who work there like what we're doing or not."

"If they don't like something we did, Cornelius generally won't be as eager to talk about it."

Mills is one of the first to hear of humorous courthouse happenings. In fact, he knows some good stories on the commissioners, including Gregory, a prime customer.

"I don't know if you oughta put this in the paper," Mills said, "but Mr. Gregory came down here one day with a brown shoe on one foot and a black shoe on the other.

"I said, 'Look here, Mr. Gregory, you got a little mixed up this morning.'"

Mills will discuss just about any subject with anybody, but he draws the line in one area.

* * *

"I DON'T talk politics with the judges," said the longtime Democratic Party worker, "because they know a little more than me about it."

Mills has another conversational rule — if asked his opinion on something, he gives a frank answer, even if he knows the customer won't like it.

"If a guy asks me a question, I'm going to give him an answer on it," he said. "Like when the Fort Worth schools were being integrated, some white man would ask me what I thought about that.

"I would just say what I thought. I told them I thought it was good, because the black kids would be studying from the same books and taking the same subjects as the white kids."

While Mills has attracted limited notoriety as a shoe shine man, he is best known for his wide-ranging knowledge of sports.

* * *

HE HAS BEEN a near-fanatical baseball fan since the age of 13, growing up in Wichita Falls. Unable to afford game tickets, he watched through the peepholes in a fence as the hometown Spudders of the Texas League played.

He became known to Fort Worth and Dallas sports fans in 1971, making football predictions on the air for KXAS-TV.

The format was unusual. Sportscaster Boyd Matson would be shown getting a shoe shine from Mills, and the two would be talking football. Mills would make his predictions. The pair once reversed roles, with Matson shining Mills' shoes.

Mills had a record that would make Jimmy the Greek envious.

"I was reading up on it all and doing some good guesswork," he said. "I picked 12 out of 13 bowl games right and picked the Cowboys to go all the way." (He was right, the Cowboys winning their first Super Bowl.)

* * *

THE SHOW eventually was canceled because of protests by blacks who did not like a black man shining a white man's shoes on television.

Mills, the son of a sharecropper, as a boy never envisioned he would receive such attention.

He was born on a small farm near Cawthorn in Southeast Texas, delivered by a midwife. His family eventually moved to North Texas. Even in his early teens he was working after school to help his family, but he still managed to graduate from I.M. Terrell High School in Fort Worth in 1925.

He has held numerous jobs in his life. His most pleasurable work was "bird-dogging" for the Pittsburgh Pirates, he said. Bird-dogging is the baseball equivalent of working as a talent scout in the movie industry. Mills, a good amateur baseball player, would keep his eyes out for young players in this area who might be major league material.

* * *

ASKED WHICH of his jobs he liked the least, the father of 12 quickly recalls the four years he spent working at the Swift and Co. meat packing plant as a young man. He worked in a cooler at the slaughtering house, and he blames the frigid conditions for the arthritis that plagues him today.

"It was killing cattle and men, too," he said. In addition to his shoe shine job, Mills has another interest now. He's a deacon in the Mount Gilead Baptist Church. That responsibility has forced him to give up other interests, he said.

"I used to be a pretty good dominoes player," he said. "But when I became a deacon, I had to give up all those worldly things."

Griffin Says County-Wide Ambulance System Coming

By BOB SONDEREGGER

It is a generally recognized fact that a Fort Worth resident who pays for a top-grade ambulance system could be in grave peril if emergency aid is needed in some areas of Tarrant County.

"If a Fort Worth resident goes to some other area and has an accident, he may be in trouble," says Assistant City Manager John Thompson, who oversees ambulance operations.

It is for that reason that Thompson says Fort Worth is interested in a county-wide ambulance system. But without outside help, Fort Worth "can't afford to provide service to the entire county," Thompson says.

Thompson says Ray Crowder Ambulance Co., the carrier that has a contract with the city, is prohibited by the agreement from making runs outside the city.

"That's not to say they won't make a call close to the city limits or where there is some question as to the boundary," Thompson said. "But we won't make a call in deep Tarrant County."

COMMISSIONER B.D. Griffin says a county-wide system is the only way to go. "I think logic will win out and at some point we will have a county-wide system."

He says Fort Worth has problems with its present system. "They have boundaries that stretch almost to the county line in all directions," Griffin said.

"The commissioner also said more money is being spent on ambulance service now than would be spent on a coordinated system. "At present there are 50 ambulances of some form or another," Griffin said. "This cost could be reduced if we had say 21 ambulances in a coordinated system."

Griffin said although the county had set a tax rate this year enough surplus funds would be available to implement a system. He said he thought a county-wide system could best be operated through the hospital district as an extension of its medical and emergency services.

THE COUNTY is unique in the fact that Fort Worth contains about half the county's population and Arlington accounts for an additional 18 percent.

That leaves 35 municipalities and unincorporated areas with about one third of the county's population.

The 35 remaining cities, some completely surrounded by Fort Worth, vary greatly in population, land area, city services provided, tax base and ambulance service which ranges from that on a par with Fort Worth's to none at all.

Fort Worth's policy of not allowing runs outside the city limits is generally regarded as an economic fact of life. In some cases it is a matter of life and death.



B.D. Griffin

THE MUCH-DISCUSSED problem has offered a host of solutions to cover the overall situation, but so far each city has acted or not acted independently.

"Ambulance service is a city responsibility and should be handled by the cities," says County Commissioner Dick Andersen, an outspoken opponent of a county ambulance system.

"Because there are 37 cities in Tarrant County, the county creates the only logical arena for complete coverage," says Marvin Moore of Trinity Emergency Medical Services, Inc., a federally-financed organization which has provided \$377,355 for emergency medical care in Tarrant

County in some three years of existence.

"I'm not saying that one system is better than another but there are more things that can be done than are being done," says Rommie Terrell, managing director of the Safety Council of Fort Worth and Tarrant County.

"That (ambulance service) is one place where Tarrant County is really weak compared with Dallas, Harris and Bexar Counties," Terrell said.

"It seems that saving lives would be worth the expense of it and I think we can save more lives."

FORT WORTH accounted for 93 of the county's 157 traffic deaths last year. Nine of the traffic deaths were in areas served by the sheriff's department (unincorporated areas and areas without fulltime police departments).

While Fort Worth had 34 times as many accidents as investigated by sheriff's deputies, it had 23 times as many injuries and about 10 times as many deaths.

The ratio of deaths to traffic accidents and deaths to injuries is much higher in accidents investigated by sheriff's deputies than by Fort Worth police.

"If you could find an accurate count of the number of DOAs (dead on arrival at hospitals) and response times all these figures added together might mean something," Moore said.

TRINITY EMS contends that emergency medical care has been upgraded greatly since it was placed in existence to serve Tarrant and seven other counties.

It points to the fact that most ambulances in the county can contact hospitals by radio, that the number of emergency medical technicians and paramedics has increased greatly and that there has been a reduction percentage-wise in deaths due to heart attacks and strokes and traffic accidents.

"Our records prove there are people living who would have been dead without that equipment," said Dr. James W. Finney, Trinity Systems director.

Andersen says the cost of a county-wide system is about \$3 million annually and the county could not legally raise its tax rate enough to bring in that kind of revenue.

He calls county-wide ambulance service a "\$3 million plum" and adds, "I can't blame some people from going to a lot of effort to try to get it."

He charged that some ambulance companies are refusing to run in areas without subsidies "just to make us put out \$3 million."

"It's simply not a county responsibility," Andersen continued. "County government does not have ordinance-making authority. A county system would be a hell of a good deal for someone."

He said he doesn't see why Fort Worth doesn't answer calls near the city limits. "When they have a call two blocks from the city limits these people might live in Fort Worth or they might be going to Fort Worth to spend some money."

MOORE SAID he would like to see an accurate figure on what is being spent for ambulance service in the county to determine how much more, if any, full ambulance coverage would cost.

County planner Jim Moore (no relation) said a survey of cities indicates \$3.8 million was spent on ser-

vice in the county last year but admitted that figure is somewhat misleading because in some cases in-

come and expenses were added together to determine what was spent on ambulance service.

Ted Stafford's City Beat

The grocery supermarket is one of the great levelers of our society. It takes more of our earnings than the government, and it is more exciting than paying taxes. It's a great democratic institution where we all pay the same high prices, stand interminably in the lines at the check-out stands and often have to push our own baskets to our cars on the parking lot. There is another amenity many of us enjoy and that is the social element connected with a trip to the grocery store. It is the only chance we have to visit with old friends from the neighborhood. Were it not for the supermarket, our paths would never cross.

Last week on one of the hottest days of the July heat wave, I arrived on the store parking lot when the temperature must have been at the day's peak. A couple with a basket loaded with the fruits of a shopping expedition passed down the aisle between the parked cars. I recognized them as Judge and Mrs. Charles W. Lindsey. I yelled at Mrs. Lindsey, "Hey, Opal . . . where did you find that good-looking delivery boy?" "I brought him with me," she answered.

"He's about the classiest delivery boy I've seen in a while," I replied. Judge Lindsey chuckled as he started piling the loaded sacks into the car.

Looking tanned and rested from a long vacation in New England and Canada, Judge Lindsey, who presides over the Criminal District Court No. 3, looked much too young to be considering retirement in December, but that is his plan.

It's hard to believe that he is approaching the mandatory age of retirement. We knew Charles and Opal Lindsey when he was a practicing attorney and long before he became a judge. And a more genuine pair of people we have never known. Asked what he planned to do after retirement, he said he expected to serve as a visiting judge wherever he would be needed.

On their trip, the Lindseys spent a great part of their time visiting with their son Dr. Charles W. Lindsey Jr., a professor of economics at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn. Dr. Lindsey is a specialist in the economics of developing countries in Asia and Africa, and has spent much time in working with governments in those two areas. Knowing Charles and Opal as we do, it is no surprise that their son has found a niche of service. Charles has always preached that anyone who uses his God-given abilities unselfishly will help make the world a better place. The word preach in this case is not used lightly because the judge has spent close to 20 years as a teacher in the church school classes at Meadowbrook United Methodist Church. He gave up regular teaching several years ago, but is still called on often as a substitute.

* * *



Judge Charles W. Lindsey



GETS PIN—A 30-year service pin was presented this week to Mary Frances Lopp, clerk of the Tarrant County Court at Law. County Clerk Madrin Huffman made the presentation.

Lou Owen saluted for service



Louis C. Owen

Louis C. Owen, executive director of the Tarrant County Convention Center, recently completed his term as 1977 - 78 president of the International Association of Auditorium Managers with special membership recognition of his outstanding service to the association during its 53rd year. In a ceremony during the IAAM Annual Conference in Louisville, Owen was presented a special award and diamond-studded pin in tribute to his service and accomplishments over the past year.

As president, Owen headed - up IAAM's board of directors who

are responsible for administering the various programs for the 800 - member professional association.

A member of the IAAM since 1962, Owen has served the association as a district vice - president, a director - at - large, second vice - president, first - vice president and as a member of several committees.

Stewart plans to seek re-election

Reed Stewart, 76, a veteran of 54 years in Tarrant County government, said Monday he plans to seek re-election as county tax assessor-collector in 1980.

Stewart, who will be 77 on Aug. 29, said he has not had an opponent since 1956. He has been tax assessor-collector nearly three decades since taking the office in 1949.

Stewart said that despite his age, his health is good, a condition he attributes to "clean living."

"I go home at night and I watch television," he said. "I don't carouse around and I go to bed early. And I go to church on Sunday."

His 54 years of service to the county includes 16 years in the district clerk's office and 38 years in the tax office. He worked as an assessor in the district clerk's office before the assessing duties were put under the jurisdiction of the tax collector.

His only other job was during the 1930s

when he was a federal employee doing work for the Census Bureau.

He is now in his sixth four-year term as assessor and earlier was elected to four two-year terms.

He said after winning re-election in 1976 that there has been only one tax assessor with a longer period of service. While Stewart will have served 32 years as assessor at the end of his current term, he said another served 36.

Stewart's office has the responsibility under state law of assessing and collecting property taxes, as well as conducting voter registration. The office was given the responsibility of voter registration at a time when a poll tax was levied on voters.

Stewart said he has 167 regular county employees working at the tax offices at the courthouse and subcourthouses. He said he also has about 40 federal job training program employees under his jurisdiction.



REED STEWART

Ft Worth Star Telegram Aug 15 1978

Matronly mien belies energetic career of Eva Barnes

Tarrant's first woman judge to retire Dec. 31 after lifetime in law

By JACK Z. SMITH
Star-Telegram Courthouse Writer

If a movie company were auditioning for a trail-blazing career woman, Eva Barnes would not stand a chance.

With her old-fashioned hairdo and matronly appearance, she quickly would be typecast into grandmotherly roles.

However, she has been not only a successful career woman, but a history-making one at that.

Now 68, she is in the twilight of a legal career in which she became Tarrant County's first woman prosecutor and first woman district judge.

She will retire Dec. 31 after 16 years as judge of the 322nd District Court, which hears family law matters including divorce, child support and child custody cases.

Her humble childhood gave little indication she later would reach the lofty rank of judge.

She was born in Birmingham, England, in 1909, one of six children of a struggling pharmacist whose desire to be an Episcopal priest was hampered by a severe stutter. Eventually, the family moved to America, the father getting a pastorate in Bangor, Maine.

DETERMINED TO get a better theological education, the father moved his family to Fort Worth in 1923, so he could attend the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Eva Barnes, then Eva Bloore, was a wide-eyed 14. She remembers the seminary as a setting for "half-starving preachers and their children."

She quit high school at age 16 to work.

Her first job was unusual. Famed Baptist preacher J. Frank Norris of Fort Worth was charged with the murder of D.E. Chipps, a crime that attracted nationwide attention. Letters poured in to Norris' church from all over the country, and Eva was hired at \$10 a week to answer them. Norris was acquitted in a spectacular trial.

Attorneys representing Norris had become impressed by Eva's quick mind and capacity for hard work, and hired her as a secretary. Her pay was "car fare and lunch money," she recalled.

It was then that she fell in love with the law.

"**ALMOST FROM** the minute I walked into the law office, I decided this is what I would like," she said.

"It was fascinating, interesting, exciting, all of those things. It was intriguing, the appeal of finding solutions to problems."

On week nights after work, she attended the now-defunct Jefferson University School of Law in Dallas, where her 5-foot, 113-pound frame earned her the nickname "Little Eva." In 1931, at age 22, she passed the state bar exam.

Her hopes for a legal career were hampered, however, by twin factors: the fact that she was a woman, combined with the crunch of the Great

Depression. Even with the bar exam passed, she continued to work as a legal secretary.

This was a dark time, a period that included a brief, disastrous marriage to a young lawyer whose strongest emotional attachment was to the bottle. But she continued to work for law firms, and became increasingly involved in legal research of cases.

In the early 1940s, she married Marvin Barnes, beginning a happy marriage that would last 30 years, until his death in 1972. Barnes was a railroad switchman and later operated a resort on Eagle Mountain Lake.

SHE GOT HER big break in 1945, when newly elected District Attorney Al Clyde asked her to join his staff. She was the first woman prosecutor Tarrant County ever had, and Clyde said he thought she was the first in the state.

But Will Parker, Clyde's first assistant, told him he was making a big mistake by hiring a "blankety-blank woman," Mrs. Barnes recalled.

After working three months with Mrs. Barnes, however, Parker acknowledged a change of heart, saying that Clyde's hiring of her was "the best move he ever made."

Her career soared. She gained valuable experience in domestic relations cases, giving her the foundation that would qualify her for a judgeship.

She joined Clyde in private practice in 1949, and was the chief attorney in a spectacular case in which she defended a young man charged with the murder of a TCU professor. The man was convicted, but was released from prison on parole.

MRS. BARNES achieved fame in the case, her closing argument to the jury even being broadcast on radio.

In 1962, she ran for judge. She whipped Clyde Ashworth (now 67th District Court judge) in the Democratic primary. The court to which she was elected, Domestic Relations Court No. 1, later became known as the 322nd District Court.

As magistrate of this "pots and pans court," she has heard literally hundreds of reasons why marriages were not working out.

There was the woman who said she wanted a divorce because her husband "snores at night, and throws his arms around, and knocks me out."

There was the husband who said his young wife was a hypochondriac, continually complaining of a new illness. He told the judge his 25-year-old spouse "thinks she's going through the menopause right now."

And there was the wife who griped that her husband insisted on their dog sleeping with them. "I'm not about to sleep with any dog," she told the judge.

AND THERE HAVE been times when tempers flared. Fort Worth attorney Cue Lipscomb recalled the time a female client erupted after

Judge Barnes awarded custody of her children to the husband.

To show her discontent, the woman jumped to her feet, yelled an obscenity, threw Lipscomb's legal pad across the courtroom, ran through the courtroom's swinging gate so hard she splintered it and proceeded through another door screaming, as the bailiff chased her. Judge Barnes threw the woman in jail and fined her \$100.

Three years later, the woman walked back into Mrs. Barnes' court to tell her she was sorry for her outburst.

Mrs. Barnes became known for her individual brand of justice in juvenile cases, such as the time she ordered two boys to copy 15 chapters of Proverbs, in hopes they would absorb some of the wisdom of Solomon's words.

Although elected to office four times, Mrs. Barnes apparently does not rate well with some lawyers. She admitted that she was hurt by the 1977 Star-Telegram bar poll results that showed her with one of the lower rankings among the district judges.

A NUMBER OF lawyers questioned whether she gave equal consideration to the opposite sides in a case. Some said she tended to favor the wife in a divorce case; others said she favored the husband.

One lawyer who practiced in her court a number of years said, "I used to think Eva was pro-woman. Now, I've come to think in the last few years that she is pro-man."

"I've heard her say, 'If a woman wants equal rights, she should have equal responsibilities.'"

However, this same lawyer said he thinks she has been fair in the cases he has handled in her court. "I don't ever feel like she's done me any favors, or dumped on me either," he said.

Most lawyers contacted by the Star-Telegram who have practiced regularly in her court had much more praise than censure for her.

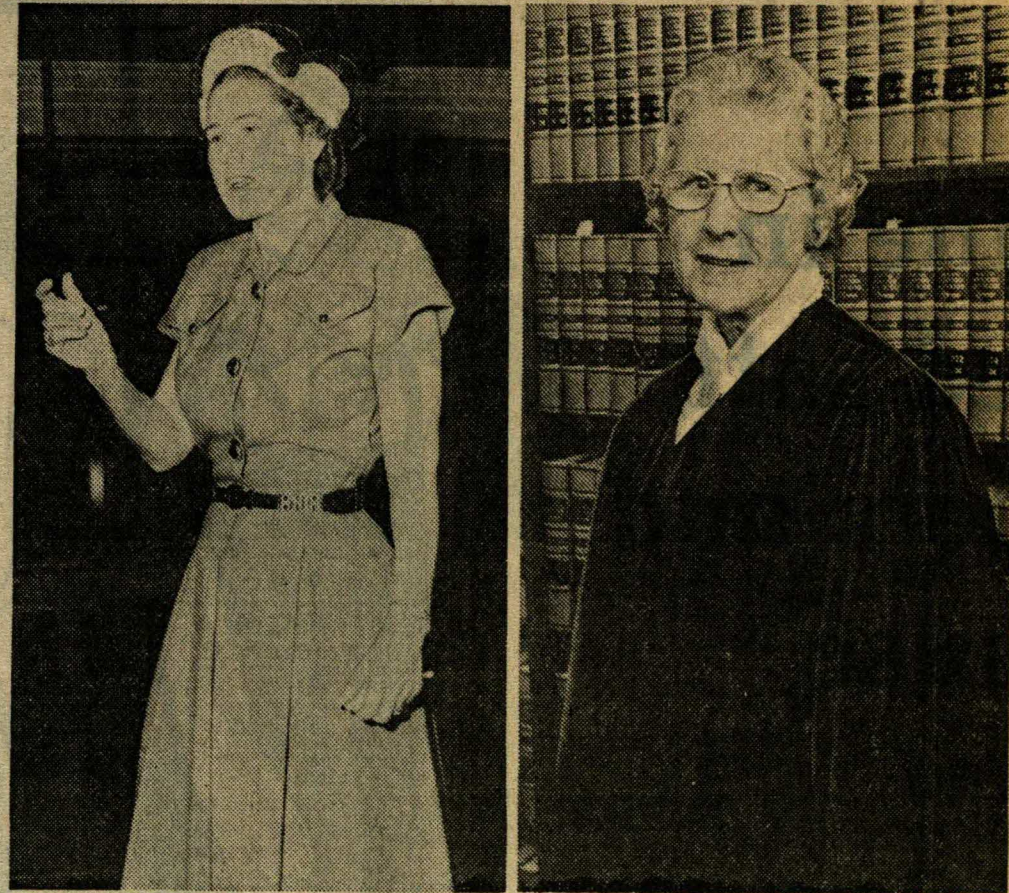
"**I THINK SHE'S** been a real good judge, veteran attorney Brantley Pringle said. "I have never appealed a case from her court. I've lost cases over there, but I never left there feeling shafted."

One criticism was that she is often led too much by persuasive, silver-tongued lawyers, rather than guided by the reading of the law. Another said he had heard complaints that she postponed decisions in cases for too long.

But Jerry Loftin, one of the county's busiest divorce lawyers, said he gives little weight to the bar poll criticisms. Many of the complaining lawyers probably have practiced little in her courtroom, he said. He termed Mrs. Barnes excellent and labeled ridiculous the low rating she received in the poll for "legal ability."

"It's real easy to be picky in those little anonymous bar polls," he said.

Mrs. Barnes not only was disillusioned with the



EVA BARNES . . . still as conservative in recent picture at right as in 1950s, left.

bar poll, but also admitted to being disenchanted with some new trends in family law. A complaint is the ease with which Texas' relatively new no-fault divorce laws allows a couple to end a marriage.

"If it was a little harder to get a divorce," she said, "they might work a little harder at reconciliation, at saving their marriage."

The most heartbreaking victims of broken mar-

riages are the children, she said, citing the example of the boy who, by age 7, had had three different fathers.

"The children hardly know who they are and who they belong to, with all the stepfathers and stepmothers," she said. "Naturally, they become emotionally upset. The children are the ones who pay the price."



—Star-Telegram Photos

JACK STRICKLAND

JERRY BUCKNER

STEVE CHANEY

Three top Curry aides seek rung up the ladder

By JOHN MAKEIG

Star-Telegram Courthouse Writer

It's a key job but not an overwhelmingly impressive job, and it's one that would not totally awe an outsider unfamiliar with the workings of the Tarrant County district attorney's office.

Still, the competition among District Attorney Tim Curry's assistants to get the job has become somewhat intense.

The position is that of "chief of trial section," a job Tolly Wilson held until about two months ago when Curry promoted him to become head of the criminal division.

Leading contenders to replace Wilson are three of Curry's five "court chiefs" — Assistant District Attorneys Jack Strickland, Jerry Buckner and Steve Chaney. They are all in their 30s, all with proven effectiveness in court and all very ambitious.

They seem to want the position for a variety of reasons, but mainly because it would earn them a pay hike of up to \$7,000 a year.

When Curry announced Wilson's promotion, he said he would decide on a replacement for him within a week.

That was two months ago, and still Curry hasn't committed himself to naming a successor.

And as the weeks have passed, and the seeming anxieties of the three aspirants have mounted, Curry has said more than once that the longer he waits, the harder

his trio of up-and-coming prosecutors probably will work.

He was definitely right there.

Chaney, for example, is now head of the prosecuting team working with the grand jury, and they appear to be en route to setting a Tarrant County record for getting new defendants indicted.

During the previous grand jury's three-month tenure, prosecutors shattered records by indicting 1,115 defendants.

Buckner accomplished a major feat in recent weeks in beating Richard "Racehorse" Haynes and getting Mrs. Sylvia Meek convicted of murder. It was a hard-fought battle in Criminal District Court No. 4, and Mrs. Meek only got a 10-year probated sentence, but still Buckner is Tarrant County's only prosecutor who has beaten Haynes.

Perhaps because of that victory, Curry picked Buckner to serve on the team of prosecutors now working to convince a visiting judge to hold millionaire Cullen Davis without bond until his trial on solicitation of capital murder charges.

Strickland, who said Friday his interest in the job has waned somewhat, has been laboring away in 213th District Court and is resting on his laurels.

He may be the only prosecutor in Texas who can claim to have prosecuted five defendants who now are on Death Row in Huntsville awaiting execution by lethal injection.



—Star-Telegram Photo

CALADIUM EXPERT — Mrs. Minnie Locker of 3316 Ave. J has collected every caladium variety she can find and made a splashy display at her home. She saves her bulbs from year to year by digging them up in the fall.

Caladium bulbs well worth saving

By PAT CASTILLON

Star-Telegram Garden Writer

Caladiums kept alive through the torrid summer are an investment in bulbs, water and time worth saving. If left in the ground, the bulbs will freeze, or, at best, come up next spring in only a halfhearted way.

However, a gardener who digs and stores the bulbs properly will have bulbs ready to plant next year.

Mrs. Minnie Locker, who has been growing caladiums at her home at 3316 Ave. J for more than 15 years, has become an expert on growing and saving caladiums.

Her 250 or so caladiums are still making a spectacular show at her home. But in October, when they begin to deteriorate but are still green, she will dig them up, shake off the soil, and spread them on newspapers in the sun to dry. If it rains, she will take them inside.

After a week or two, she will pack the bulbs away. For each bulb, she will remove the dried foliage, sprinkle it with rose dust or sulfur, wrap it in newspaper, and place it in a box.

She then will put the box in storage

room in her garage where the temperature usually stays above 60 degrees. She will cover them with several thicknesses of paper and an old mat. In extremely cold weather, she will take the boxes into the house just to be sure they don't freeze.

The bulbs will stay packed until spring. After the soil warms, no earlier than May 15, she will plant them again with about four dozen new bulbs she adds each year.

"You always lose a few of the bulbs you save," she explained.

Mrs. Locker gets every variety she can find in local nurseries and creates an impressive display of greens, pinks, reds and whites. She plants them, with a booster of bone meal, in flower beds as well as in pots arranged in a pyramid fashion up the porch columns.

Caladiums need generous amounts of water. Mrs. Locker watered every day during most of the summer. "They take a lot of care," she said, "but I just love them. They stay pretty longer than anything else I've tried. I never need to spray or dust for bugs. I didn't even have any snipers."

Star-Telegram Aug 27, 1978



Carroll and Dessie Morrow

Morrows Retire Dec. 31 —Together, As Usual

By MADELINE WILLIAMS

For nine years Carroll and Dessie Morrow have been going to work together at Tarrant County Court House.

On Dec. 31 they will leave together—each taking retirement earlier than necessary but trading, according to Morrow, "a few paychecks for more time to enjoy being together."

Morrow, at the court house since June 1, 1962, is a bookkeeper for County Clerk Madrin Huffman. Mrs. Morrow, in her ninth year at the court house, works for County Tax Assessor-Collector Reed Stewart in the Tax Office, handling over-65 exemptions.

The popular couple plan to divide retirement years between their home at 3220 Meadowbrook Dr. and their second home on an acre in Louisiana, 60 miles south of Shreveport, between Mansfield and Many.

There they will continue to enjoy fishing—he has a great recipe for frying fish just right—and put in a garden.

"We will enjoy life," Mrs. Morrow said. "No rocking chairs for us."

THE MORROWS, who were married Feb. 24, 1933, while living in Bridgeport, moved to Fort Worth in 1947. After working for Convair

(General Dynamics) as an engine mechanic on the line for 15 years, Morrow returned to bookkeeping, the work he had done at a Bridgeport bank earlier. He joined the civil section of Sheriff Lon Evans' staff as bookkeeper, and later transferred to the County Clerk's office.

Mrs. Morrow worked at Leonard's downtown for five years and before that as a grocery checker for 15 years.

They have one daughter, Judy Boggs of Arlington, secretary at Moore Business Forms there. Her husband, John, is with the Millers Group. The Morrow's granddaughters are Deanna, 16, and Melanie, 12.

And his recipe for frying fish? "Outdoors, on a Coleman stove, get the grease so hot that when you drop a match in it it ignites. Put the fish fillets in for a few minutes. They come out crusty on the outside, tender on the inside."

Mrs. Morrow agrees.



Star-Telegram Photo

Oktoberfest chairman Lu Bolen, left, and Bette Ryall appear in Commissioners Court to boost the ninth Oktoberfest in Tarrant County Convention Center sponsored by the Symphony League of Fort Worth with more than 90 participating organizations. County Clerk Madrin Huffman donned ledenhosen for the occasion.

He's not short on knowledge

5-foot-4 prosecutor is well-versed in Davis case

By JOHN MAKEIG

Star-Telegram Courthouse Writer

When the Cullen Davis trial cranks up in Houston next month, a number of well-known attorneys will be present to represent the defense — Richard "Racehorse" Haynes, Phil Bureson — and the prosecution — Assistant District Attorneys Jack Strickland, Tolly Wilson and Paul Gartner.

Paul who?

It is a question many justifiably may ask.

Gartner, 26, is a 5-foot-4 prosecutor who, for a half-hour period last Monday, was the only one of District Attorney Tim Curry's 50 attorneys formally assigned to the case.

County Legal Adviser Marvin Collins actually returned to his normal duties Sept. 1 (although he still appears at Dav-

is proceedings sometimes). Wilson was away on vacation. And Assistant District Attorney Jerry Buckner had just resigned.

DURING THE BRIEF interval before Strickland was assigned by Curry to join the Davis prosecution, Gartner was the main man for the prosecution.

This was a source of amusement to most of Curry's prosecutors, many of whom are senior to Gartner in experience in felony courts, and his nicknames were echoing throughout the hallways of the district attorney's office.

They call him "Buzzsaw," "Tiger," "Small Paul" and other affectionate labels.

But laugh though they may, few of Curry's assistants question Gartner's competence.

He may have been an assistant district attorney for only 2½ years, and he may have been lead prosecutor in only one felony trial (which ended in an acquittal), but Gartner is well-versed in the Cullen Davis cases, past and present.

PRECEDING DAVIS' CAPITAL murder trial in Amarillo, it was Gartner who was researching matters concerning Davis' being jailed without bond and whether the millionaire could be charged with capital murder or just simple murder.

He came to the district attorney's office to work in the appellate section, and that is how he will mostly be used at the upcoming Houston trial.

While he seldom will be seen leaping to his feet to raise objections or make devi-



—Star-Telegram Photo

PAUL GARTNER

... unknown but not unable

ous motions, and while he may spend more time outside 184th District Court than inside it, Gartner will be there to provide "quick legal research."

When matters get complex, and when attorneys move into wholly new areas of law — as has happened often during the Davis prosecutions — it will be Gartner who will dash off to a law library to find correct answers fast.

"WHEN IT COMES to research, I'm not new to Cullen Davis," Gartner said Friday. "Outside of Marvin (Collins) I've done more research on Davis than anyone else."

And, to hear other prosecutors talk, Gartner did it so well that they regretted it when he left Curry's appellate section last year to begin trial work.

He did become a trial prosecutor, though, and he's won a few and lost a few since he made the transition.

During his six months as a misdemeanor prosecutor, he recalls, his greatest victory came in July when he succeeded in swaying a County Criminal Court No. 2 jury to hand a man a 130-day jail sentence for possessing one marijuana cigarette.

That verdict may seem unrealistic by 1978 standards, but it was a case that contained elements of unreality. For one thing, the youthful defendant had tried to "rip off" undercover narcotics officers by selling them phoney LSD. The marijuana cigarette was found after the man had been arrested on an LSD-sale charge.

A month ago Gartner was made junior prosecutor in Judge Byron Matthews' Criminal District Court No. 1.

Mrs. Guyton Retires After 33 Years

Woman Constable Recalls Heartbreaks, Happiness

By MADELINE WILLIAMS

What would you do if you had to take away a bicycle from a little boy who thinks Santa Claus gave it to him but whose mother didn't pay for it?

If you were Deputy Constable Frances Guyton you followed the law and then collected enough money from the rest of the staff of Constable Precinct 1 to pay for the bike and have it returned to the youngster.

Taking toys away from youngsters is not the ordinary kind of chore Mrs. Guyton remembers as she winds up 33 years at the Tarrant County Court House today (Friday), 29 of them as deputy constable for Precinct 1.

But it was almost a heart-breaking one until she and her fellow workers played Santa themselves. The mother had asked her errant husband to return for Christmas, and in a display of generosity gave him a watch and their son a bicycle, paid for neither and then ran off with another man.

"We paid for the bicycle for the boy but we let the merchant have his watch back," Mrs. Guyton said.

NOT MUCH of the work has been as touching as hearing a youngster plead: "You're not going to take away the bicycle Santa brought me, are you?" Mostly it's been office work, keeping books and records for the constable. When papers had to be served, though, she served them.

Probably because she was reared in the Pythian Home, Mrs. Guyton recalls most vividly cases involving children. Once when she had to take a baby from a young mother arrested for writing a \$5 hot check, she learned that the money was used to buy food for the baby. The mother was penniless. "We called the grocer and told him, and he said to drop the

charges and tell her to come by his store and he'd give her all the food she needed for her baby. So it had a happy ending."

A widow since her husband was shot down on his first air force mission over Berlin in World War II, Mrs. Guyton says her job "has been my life."

"I've enjoyed it and particularly the people I've worked with, but now I am happy to leave so that I will be able to do other things that I haven't been able to do and work."

MRS. GUYTON first came to the Court House as a deputy clerk for County Clerk Mel Faulk. After four

years there she was deputized by Precinct 1 Constable Peck Wilson.

She continued to work for Precinct 1 constables—Jim Owens for 19 years, W.H. (Bill) Wolfe, who died of a heart attack after three months in the office, W.D. Hastings and, since Jan. 1, 1977, Chico Perez. Constable Perez praised Mrs. Guyton's long service and with his staff honored her at a luncheon this week.

In retirement Mrs. Guyton plans to be more active in the Eleanor chapter of the Pythian sisters and Richland Hills Methodist Church.

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Deputy Frances Guyton

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RETIREES—Frances Stallard has left the County Court House after 32 years in the Purchasing Department, where she was a bookkeeper.

Constable uses human compassion

By BILL DEENER

Star-Telegram Staff-Cities Bureau

NORTH RICHLAND HILLS — Bill Brown often sees life at its worst.

He has seen children taken from their mothers, families evicted from their homes and apartments. For the past 14 years, the 58-year-old Brown has been a Tarrant County constable. It's a job similar to that of a police officer with many of the same responsibilities and dangers. But there is the added duty of having to serve myriad of court orders and warrants.

Brown, along with four full-time deputy constables and three reserve deputies, serves Precinct 3, the northeast portion of Tarrant County.

But unlike the detachment a police officer may be able to keep between himself and the public, Brown up he packs a hardy dose of old-fashioned human compassion.

ALTHOUGH HE IS duty-bound to carry out the orders of the court, which range from taking a child from a mother's custody or repossessing a car from a father, he said he does it "in the most humane way possible."

"One thing you have to remember is there are often logical reasons why these people are in trouble," he said. "They are not necessarily bad people."

He said divorce cases, in which children are often taken from one parent and into the custody of the other, are the "most heart rending."

If a child is ordered taken from the mother, for example, he will first talk with the mother alone.

"I tell her to please hide her sorrow in front of a child. I explain this may be only a temporary order," Brown said. "But I tell her I am bound to carry out the order of the court."

After talking with the mother, he then asks the child he would like to visit the father.

"I CAN SAY in all my years as constable I have never had to drag a child from a house screaming and crying," he said.

No one has ever struck him or shot at him. Brown does most of the other seven Tarrant County constables carries a small-caliber pistol.

Brown's penchant for trying to help people under the most trying conditions, has earned him a reputation in the precinct.

Assistant District Attorney Burney Walker, who works closely with Brown at the sub-courthouse in North Richland Hills, said Brown "is the most public-minded, helpful person" he has ever known.

The voters of Precinct 3 apparently agree with Walker, since they overwhelmingly elected Brown to a second term as constable in 1976. He will run for re-election when this term expires in 1980, because, he said, being a constable "is his life."

BROWN, WHO IS married and lives in Hurst, said he "loves people and loves to help people."

If he has to evict a family for failing to pay a mortgage payment or apartment rent, he will often try to find them another place to live.

One of the saddest cases he worked, he said, was two years ago when an apartment owner tried to evict a family for non-payment.

"It was just about Christmas time and the apartment owner wanted this family thrown out," he said. "I visited the family and found out the father was sick and couldn't work. The only food in the refrigerator was a piece of bacon and some sour cream."

A court order had not been issued, so Brown stalled the owner until he got the family some help. Through an agency known as Helping Hand, which Brown helped start, groceries were bought for the family and a decorated Christmas tree put up. Shortly afterward, the father went back to work.

"One thing you have to remember is there are often logical reasons why these people are in trouble," he said. "They are not necessarily bad people."

BESIDES SERVING civil and criminal papers, Brown's office often helps various law enforcement agencies with drug investigations. Information obtained from one of Brown's informants last year resulted in Haltom City police recovering more than 500 pounds of marijuana.

"A lot of times investigations we conduct result in drug busts, but we usually don't get the credit," he said. "But that doesn't matter. What matters is that the violators are arrested."

The duties and authority of a constable and his deputies are virtually the same as those of sheriff's deputies. The sheriff's department also serves civil and criminal papers, he said. Both agencies focus on areas of the county outside city limits, leaving city law enforcement to the police departments.

The only complaint Brown has about his job is what he calls the "inadequate salaries" paid to him and his deputies. Brown earns \$16,000 yearly and the deputies start at about \$9,000 yearly. He said his salary is lower than some other constables, even though his Precinct 3 is second only to Precinct 1 in work load. Precinct 1 includes Fort Worth.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS set the salaries. Brown's office is budgeted at \$60,000 a year.

Brown, a native of Kentucky, said he has always been intrigued by law enforcement.

"It really gives you a chance to help people and that's what I want to do."

Brown is a member of virtually every civic club going — the Lions Club, Rotary, two chambers of commerce and the YMCA, to name only a few.

Dozens of plaques and awards line the walls of his office. He also has a cabinet full of weapons confiscated from prisoners over the years.

"I could tell you a story about every weapon in that cabinet," he said proudly.

And he probably could. A constable's chair, Bill Brown will tell you, is a ringside seat to the greatest show on earth.



CONSTABLE BILL BROWN . . . a hardy dose of old-fashioned compassion

—Star-Telegram Photo

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Sammye of the Court House Gets Her 35-Year Pin

Sammye Franklin Reynolds, who describes herself as "a woman who has talked to more people in Tarrant County than any other female in the county," received her 35-year service pin from County Judge Mike Moncrief this week.

Mrs. Reynolds is chief switchboard operator for the county—a job she has held for almost all of those 35 years. Her loyalty to her work has brought her only a 55 cent "progressive step increase" in pay in the 10 years since the county's job classification system was put into effect, but she is philosophical about not having her work upgraded for pay.

"Sammye," as she is known to everyone at the Court

House and hundreds of taxpayers throughout the county, is the wife of Al Reynolds in the civil section of Sheriff Lon Evans' department. They have been married since February 1975. She is the sister of Wayne Boggus, who also works in the sheriff's civil section, and Bert Boggus, bailiff in District Judge Joe H. Eidson's court.

Thirty-five years at the Court House have been filled with "happy days and sad days," she said. "I am going to retire before too long, but I don't want to say when."

Charles Lindsey retires as judge after 13 years

By JOHN MAKEIG

Star-Telegram Courthouse Writer

Judge Charles Lindsey steps down from his Criminal District Court No. 3 bench this month, ending a 13-year career during which he presided over 600 trials and administered the handling of 7,500 defendants' cases.

Wednesday was Lindsey's 69th birthday, and dozens of bailiffs, defense attorneys, court reporters, judges, prosecutors, spectators and clerks filled his courtroom for a party to mark the end of the judge's years on the bench.

At 11 a.m. Jan. 1, Lindsey's replacement, Randell Riley, will be sworn in as Criminal District Court No. 3 judge.

The end of the year will not, however, mark the end of Lindsey's time as a judge.

He said he plans to fill in as a substitute judge to assist other district judges in Fort Worth, and has rented office space with the civil law firm of Loe, Warren, Rosenfield & Catterton.

* * *

"I'M NOT GOING away altogether," Lindsey said in chambers Wednesday. "You'll be seeing me around here."

Nonetheless, Lindsey's retirement as an active state district judge does close a chapter on a colorful era in Criminal District Court No. 3.

In fact, Lindsey opened the history of his court, being appointed by Gov. John Connally — through the efforts of attorney Garrett Morris and Star-Telegram Editor Jack Butler — as the first judge over the new court.

Since then, he was re-elected three times, facing a challenge only once, in 1966, when lawyer John Brady sought the judgeship in vain.

During the span from 1965 to 1978, Lindsey became known as a judge who ran a court where young felony prosecutors became educated in the ways of district court. They may not have liked the way they learned things — with Lindsey yelling at them from the bench and publicly telling them of errors — but they learned.

* * *

LINDSEY'S temperament was such, at times, that young prosecutors sweated so much during major trials that stains literally developed up and down the backs and under the sleeves of their suits.

Meanwhile, Lindsey presided over the trials of many a murderer, burglar, and gambler, and even some innocent people who walked out of court after acquittals.

Five men got death penalties in Lindsey's court — sentences commuted to life by a U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

Alton Witherspoon got a death sentence for the 1970 murder of a man during a residential robbery; Melvin Pittman got one for testing his new rifle by killing some people at Lake Arlington in 1965; F.L. McKenzie got death for setting fire to a South Side nightspot in 1968, killing seven people; Theo Ray Thames got death for killing a bar manager in 1967; and Joseph Martinez Garcia got death for the 1970 killings of two men.

Other notable trials included the one in which Tommy Ray Kneeland got two life sentences for the 1974 killings of two teen-agers from Oklahoma; former Fort Worth policeman Dace Smith got 25 years for the murder of one of two men he shot to death last year.

* * *

A SERIOUS review of the cases that have passed through Criminal District Court No. 3 over the years finally becomes staggering.

Society has extracted considerable legal revenge in Lindsey's court from a considerable number of defendants.

It seems unlikely that a youth who went to work for Continental Oil Co. as an office boy in Wichita Falls in 1930 would come to have such an immense impact over so many thousands of lives.

But that is where Lindsey began, after two years as a student at the University of Oklahoma during what he calls the "deep, dark days of the Depression."

When Continental Oil moved its offices to Fort Worth in 1931, Lindsey moved, too, attending class at night at North Texas School of Law under such professors as Leo Brewster (later U.S. District Court judge), civil lawyer Ernest Sanders and the late Allen Crowley.

* * *

LINDSEY'S TIME with Continental Oil ended in 1937 when he was a \$135-per-month accounting department employee.

He left Continental Oil and practiced law in Sherman for a year, then moved to Amarillo for more private practice.

Lindsey was back in Fort Worth, working as an insurance adjuster when World War II erupted, and he went into the Army as a private.

Depending on one's viewpoint, it was either Lindsey's



—Star-Telegram Photo

YEARS RELIVED... Judge and Mrs. Lindsey.

privilege or misfortune to be assigned to a 15,000-man infantry division that sustained 35,000 casualties of various kinds during its years in Italy, France and Austria.

The judge came out of that with a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star and a handful of other decorations, and then returned to Fort Worth to work for the Veterans Administration, for an insurance firm and then as an assistant district attorney for four years.

He spent one year as an assistant U.S. attorney before returning to private practice.

And that is where Lindsey was — in private practice — when Criminal District Court No. 3 was created and he decided to nominate himself for the vacant bench.

He won a bar poll, got the support of influential residents to sway Connally to appoint him to the judgeship, and the rest — come the end of 1978 — is history.

Corthay Climbs At Court House

By BOB SONDEREGGER

Joe Corthay is a jack of all trades who has become a master in his field.

The 43-year-old Crowley native has moved steadily up the ranks in County Tax Assessor-Collector Reed Stewart's department and is now chief deputy for the entire department at the Court House and sub-court houses, making him No. 2 man under Stewart.

Corthay knows just about all phases of the department's operation because he's worked in just about every department. He's not only versatile around the office but is one of the most versatile public safety officers in Tarrant County.

A member of the Crowley Volunteer Fire Department 25 years, he has held virtually every office in the department. He has been president of the firefighter association in his hometown 10 years, and he's a certified fire instructor.

He's also a sergeant in the Fort Worth Police Reserve and a member of the Fort Worth Mounted Horseback Patrol.

CORTHAY HAS SEEN a lot of growth in Tarrant County since he joined the department as a clerk in 1958. "The county is growing in just about every direction," Corthay said.

He knows firsthand about suburban growth. The site where his boyhood home stood is now a drugstore and doctor's office in the commercial center of Crowley.

Not far from his boyhood home is the Santa Fe railroad track and Corthay admits he is a railroad buff. "My granddad helped lay the line from Fort Worth to Cleburne," Corthay said.

Also not far from the site of his boyhood home is the location of the first fire station in Crowley. "We parked the truck in Teeter's Garage until we got two trucks," Corthay said. "Then we got our own building."

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT has moved a couple of times since then and now has six vehicles. Teeter's Garage was operated by Harry Teeter, who was mayor of the city from the early 1960s until his death in 1975.

A modern dress shop operated by the Teeter family stands at the location that was the first fire hall Corthay knew.

"I was too young to go out in a truck when I first became interested in the fire department so they let me stay at the station and work the radio," Corthay said.

The Crowley he knew as a child was a small town of about 300. Now it is one of 30 bustling Tarrant County suburbs and has a population of about 6,000.

That's big enough for Corthay, who is building a house on a couple of acres about two miles west of Crowley in southwestern Tarrant County.

He's a member of several state associations of tax collectors and assessors and one of his recent distinctions was being in the first group to complete requirements for a Registered Professional Assessor's certificate.

Also among some 80 persons in the state to receive such certification were Stewart and Estelle Faris, who works in the tax assessor's office.

WITH THE EXCEPTION of a two-year absence when he served as postmaster in Crowley, Corthay has been with the department since 1958.

He joined the department as a clerk in 1958 and became head of bookkeeping in 1962. He returned to the county in 1968 as an outside appraiser, first handling residential subdivisions and then commercial centers.

In 1969 he became supervisor of personal property and in 1971 chief deputy collector.

The Tarrant assessor-collector's department collects state, county, right-of-way, water district, junior college and hospital district taxes as well as collecting taxes for three smaller cities and two suburban school districts.

It handles the massive voter and auto registrations. Corthay says there are about 600,000 registered vehicles in the county and about 318,000 registered voters.

Changes in auto registration deadlines have removed much of the crunch the department incurred in April but Corthay says there are now lines a couple of days at the end of each month as motorists wait until near the deadline for staggered registration of vehicles.

ONE OF THE BIGGEST tasks of Stewart's department is keeping up with growth, not only new construction and improvements but also in parcels of property.

"There are about 600,000 parcels of land in the county now and each time a new subdivision is dedicated it creates several hundred more parcels," Corthay said.



Joe Corthay

Switchboard operator wins press club award

Sammye Reynolds, a Tarrant County employee 35 years, will receive the Fort Worth Press Club's "Newshelper Award" at the 18th Annual Newsmakers Ball March 17 at Ridglea Country Club.

An 11-member committee of reporters and news executives voted to give Mrs. Reynolds the award in appreciation of her efforts in assisting news gatherers. The committee said Mrs. Reynolds, a switchboard operator at the courthouse, goes out of her way to help reporters, to the point of tracking people down to deliver messages.

The Newshelper Award recognizes the behind-the-scenes people who expedite the gathering of news.

Proceeds from the Newsmakers Ball go to the Oscar Nace Memorial Scholarship Award and help support the press club. The scholarship is awarded annually to a Tarrant County journalism student.

Tickets to the ball are \$18 each and can be purchased from Lorna Roquemore at 274-7704 or Eva Goodwin at 332-3030.

Headliner tables for 10 are available for \$500.



SAMMYE REYNOLDS
... newshelper



COMANCHE CHIEF—Quanah Parker, ancestor of Capt. Ben Tahmahkera of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office, is shown above in photos taken

before his death in 1911. He wore white men's clothes after making peace in 1874, reserving his war bonnet for festivals and celebrations.

her life.

Says Capt. Tahmahkera: "My grandfather, Ben, always said he was proud of being a Tahmahkera, not a Parker. He was Quanah's favorite. As a boy Quanah gave him a rope and told him he could keep all the calves on the ranch he could lasso. Quanah showed him the ways of peace. He and my father always kept the law. I'm the same way."

Capt. Tahmahkera's father, Franklin, a heavy equipment operator, died in November at 54. "I'd give anything if he could know I made captain," said Tahmahkera, who is assigned to the confinement division under Warden David Greenway.

* * *

MANY ARTIFACTS, including Quanah Parker's gold

pocket watch presented to him by the Santa Fe Railroad, are still in the captain's possession. Comanches, the most feared tribe on the Staked Plains of North Texas, made bows from bois d'arc and arrows from dogwood whittled down to deadly precision.

Tahmahkera attended a branch of Oklahoma State University before coming to Fort Worth in 1967. His uncle, Vance Tahmahkera, and cousin, Monroe Tahmahkera, lived here. Vance is now retired from the post office and lives in Cache, where he is prominent in Comanche tribal councils. Monroe, a civil service worker at Carswell Air Force Base, lives in Richland Hills with his wife, Pat.

Capt. Tahmahkera and his wife, Deborah, live in Edgecliff with their two sons, Dan, 8, and Michael, 2. Dan loves Indian dances.

* * *
TAHMAHKERA attended TCJC, where he obtained his associate degree in criminal justice. He is now working on a bachelor's degree in the same field at TCU.

The only law enforcement officer among the Comanches of his old home area is a dedicated officer.

"I had friends who went wrong, but I never did. Here in the county jail I try to talk sense to the prisoners. It's hard because if they had any sense they wouldn't be in jail. But we try," Ben says.



Her family was massacred at the outpost near today's Groesbeck.

Cynthia Ann lived the rest of her life as an Indian, even after she was rescued by Texas Ranger Col. Sul Ross and returned to her relatives in Fort Worth and Parker County. Plays, books and an opera have been written about

NEW CAPTAIN—Sheriff Lon Evans and newly-promoted Capt. Ben Tahmahkera.

Quanah Parker's Descendant Now Sheriff's Captain

By MACK WILLIAMS

The great-great-great-grandson of Quanah Parker, last fighting chief of the Comanches, has been promoted to captain in the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department.

Ben Tahmahkera, 30, has wanted to be a police officer since he was a boy in Cache, near Lawton, Okla. After three years at General Dynamics he asked Sheriff Lon Evans for a job in 1971.

"I told him I didn't want the job as a minority but only if I could handle it," Capt. Tahmahkera recalled yesterday. "Sheriff Evans gave me a chance. I never saw a better man. He has the respect and affection of his men. As long as he's around I'll be around."

* * *
WHAT WOULD his ancestor, Chief Quanah, who led the Comanches against federal troops and Texas

Rangers from 1860 to 1875, say if he knew Ben was working for the white man's law?

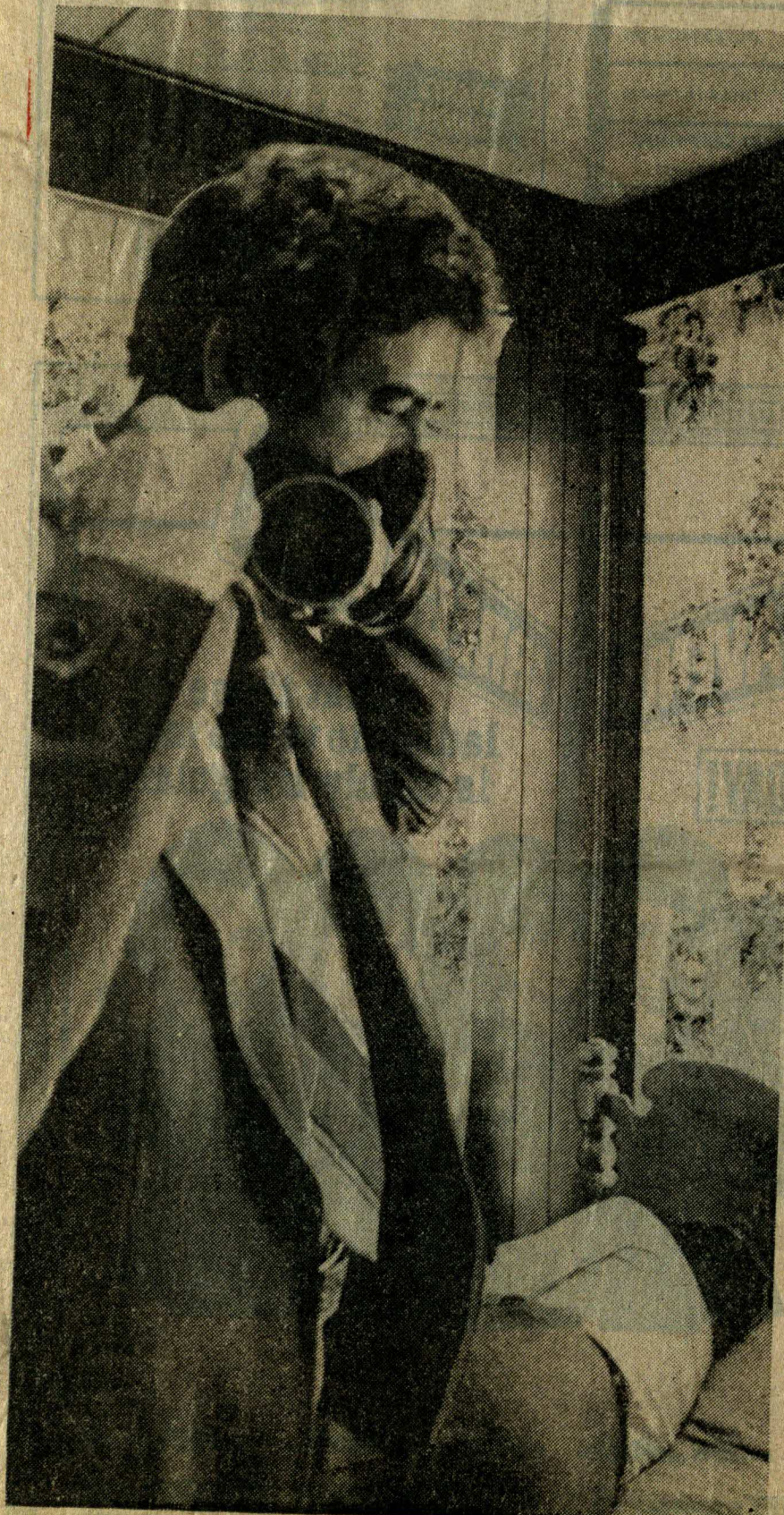
"He would approve," Ben said. "Quanah was a great leader in peace as well as war."

After his defeat at the Battle of Adobe Walls on June 26, 1874, Quanah persuaded his Comanches to sign a peace treaty. He never broke it. Before he died in 1911, at the age of 60, Quanah had become an Indian judge and a wealthy rancher who taught his people how to raise cattle. Widely respected, he was a friend of Theodore Roosevelt and Capt. Burk Burnett of Fort Worth, grandfather of Anne Burnett Tandy.

* * *

QUANAH PARKER was the son of Comanche Chief Pete Nocona and Cynthia Ann Parker, the blue-eyed 9-year-old kidnapped by Comanches in 1834 from Parker's Fort.

LIFE AND DEATH



CHEMICAL MASK . . . used when working with decomposed bodies

By BINNIE FISHER
Star-Telegram Police Reporter

When Tarrant County medical investigator B.R. Young became acquainted with death, he came to appreciate life.

"You really appreciate life more," he said. "You don't have that feeling of immortality that you did when you were younger."

Young is one of seven investigators — all of them former law enforcement officers — who work for Dr. Feliks Gwozdz, county medical examiner.

Television's Dr. Quincy may have time to do his own investigating, but Gwozdz does not.

His legwork is done by the investigators, who, he said, were hired because of their backgrounds.

"I could have gotten as investigators guys with B.A. degrees in sociology, but I took them from the ranks of detectives," Gwozdz said. "They have that nose that tells them when something doesn't smell right."

IT IS THAT NOSE that tells an investigator whether or not to order an autopsy in a particular case. When someone has died obviously of natural causes, and their doctor agrees to sign the death certificate, nothing more is done.

In the case of a violent or accidental death, or one in which the circumstances are unknown, the investigator has the authority to take charge of the body until an autopsy can be performed.

In some counties, that could take days, but Gwozdz prides himself on the fact that in Tarrant County it is usually done in less than 24 hours.

When an autopsy is ordered, the investigators must gather as many facts as possible about the deceased's last hours. That information will be used by Gwozdz when he issues a ruling in the death.

Six of the investigators are former Fort Worth police officers. Young and David Carpenter are ex-homicide detectives.

R.O. Parkey and Dail McMillan worked vice and narcotics before joining Gwozdz's staff. Tommy Harris and R.O. Medford were crime scene search officers.

INVESTIGATOR James Seaberry came to the office from the sheriff's office, where he was an investigator.

Whatever the past assignment, each of the investigators has seen more death in his first few weeks as a medical investigator than in his years as an officer.

Young is not the only one whose view of death has been altered by the job.

Seaberry, after becoming a medical investigator, began to get a physical examination every year.

"It makes a person just a little closer to his maker," Seaberry said.

Carpenter said he has found "a lot of love and caring" in the world through his work, but he has also seen a side of life not so pretty.

"You see how terrible one human being can treat another," he said.

Although dealing with death several times during a working day is a strain at times, Parkey said he does not believe it has had a hardening effect on him and his co-workers.

"I don't think it's made any of us calloused," he said.

Tommy Harris said he has found the best way to deal with each death is sympathetically, yet quickly.

"If anybody gets to the point it doesn't bother him anymore, he is in trouble," Harris said. "We have more or less had to train ourselves to deal with it as quickly as possible and forget it."

Medical investigators find their work brings them 'a little closer to the maker'

WHEN FAMILIES have not been informed that a loved one is dead, an investigator may find himself with the dreaded task of breaking the news. McMillan said it is something none of them has grown accustomed to.

"There is no easy way to do it," he said. "I've tried every way in the world."

Aside from the general unpleasantness of informing a family that a relative has died, R.O. Medford said there are other problems to be considered.

"On notifying the next of kin, one thing that bothers me is that you don't know what the medical condition of the mother or father might be," Medford said.

When the bad news is broken, a medical investigator sometimes finds himself bracing for the reaction of relatives. That could be a punch in the nose.

Parkey said, "I've had people to thank me for the way I handled telling them, and I've had members of the family attack me."

When they lash out in grief, Parkey said, "They don't know what they are doing."

There are unexpected reactions, like the one Seaberry said he encountered from a woman whose husband had shot himself in the head.

Her words were, "He didn't have a bit of insurance, and look at the mess he left."

MCMILLAN SAID he and other investigators often have families demand to see the body of their relative, regardless of how the person died. He advises against that.

"If a medical investigator tells a family member it is best not to see the body, they should take his advice," he said. "The idea is that they may be mutilated, without a head, arms or legs. The medical investigator is trying to save them this horror."

Once the family has been notified, an investigator must set about gathering the information needed by Gwozdz. That is where the nose the doctor spoke of begins its work.

Parkey said he and the others usually know when something is amiss in a case they are working on.

"I can walk into a room and immediately recognize something is definitely wrong," he said.

Once, he said, he entered a house where a man sat slumped in a chair with a hole in his head and a gun on a nearby table. The police assumed it was a suicide — until Parkey pointed out some inconsistencies in that theory.

"As soon as I saw it, I knew it was a homicide," Parkey said.

Gwozdz said sometimes "an educated guess" is required to determine whether an autopsy should be ordered or the victim's doctor should be allowed to sign the death certificate.

"We have about 3,000 deaths a year, approximately," he said. "To autopsy every one would be impossible."

So, he said, his office performs autopsies on about 700 to 750 bodies a year.

"That leaves roughly 2,200 cases that cannot be done," Gwozdz said. "That is the point where an educated guess needs to be taken."

IT IS THE INVESTIGATOR — who goes to the home, the hospital, or the middle of the street, wherever death occurs — who makes most of those guesses.

Another case Parkey recalled involved a man found dead on the floor between two beds. Aside from having a small bump on his head, he appeared to have died of a heart attack.

The man's doctor offered to sign the

death certificate, telling Parkey his patient suffered from severe heart ailments.

Then the wife insisted, "How do you know he didn't die from that bump on his head?" She would have collected double insurance had that been the case.

At her insistence, Parkey ordered an autopsy. Gwozdz found that the man indeed died of a head injury. Further investigation revealed he apparently tripped on a cord as he got out of bed.

Some cases are extremely perplexing. There may be no medical history, and the victim may have had no symptoms before death.

"With the information you get, you've got to tell Dr. Gwozdz that something is wrong. This person shouldn't have died," Medford said.

McMillan said he once worked a case in which a man died in a hospital of what seemed to be an extreme case of stomach virus. His doctor had treated him with few results.

Finally, through checking his medical history, McMillan found he could have been slowly poisoned. Gwozdz' autopsy proved the theory out. The man's wife was later arrested and confined to a mental institution.

Medford said the murder could have gone undetected.

"If Dail hadn't checked his history, it would have gone through as just a natural death," Medford said. "People could be killed every day and you would never know it if somebody wasn't checking on these things."

THE INVESTIGATORS have other problems to deal with, such as dealing with a victim who has been dead for several days. They carry chemical masks for that.

Each investigator has found a certain type case difficult to deal with. All find child abuse about the worst.

Seaberry said he finds the John Does — those people unidentified — hard to deal with. In some cases, it might take months to locate a family member.

"We've had people we have found through fingerprints in Washington, D.C., who haven't been seen or heard from by their families in 30 years," he

said. "The families thought they died long ago."

SOMEHOW, THROUGH IT all, Young said he and the other investigators have managed to maintain their senses of humor. They constantly joke with one another and with reporters who call them daily.

"I think that's probably the best release we have," Young said. "It's kind of a distraction."

There is the daily barrage of telephone calls that must be answered from police, funeral homes, survivors, insurance companies, reporters and curiosity seekers.

Secretaries Mary Pare and Becky Boyd help with some of that.

Mrs. Pare, who also has a nursing background and a knowledge of medical terms, testifies in Gwozdz' place at trials when he is out of town.

"She can testify as to the records," Gwozdz said.

The doctor said he looks at the medical examiner's office as if it were a symphony orchestra, of which he is the conductor.

The various instruments are played by members of his office staff, lab technicians who run tests for him and others involved in the process of classifying deaths.

Everything had to work from the very beginning, when the office was established in 1965. At the time, it was one of two in the state. It was sort of like a symphony orchestra performing the same concert for three nights.

"You have to be absolutely as ready Friday night as you are Sunday night," he said. "In 1965, I was sufficiently prepared in the knowledge of medicine and law."

For the office to continue, he said his credibility and that of his investigators must be impeccable.

To Gwozdz, the seven investigators and the information they provide is a vital element to the success of the office.

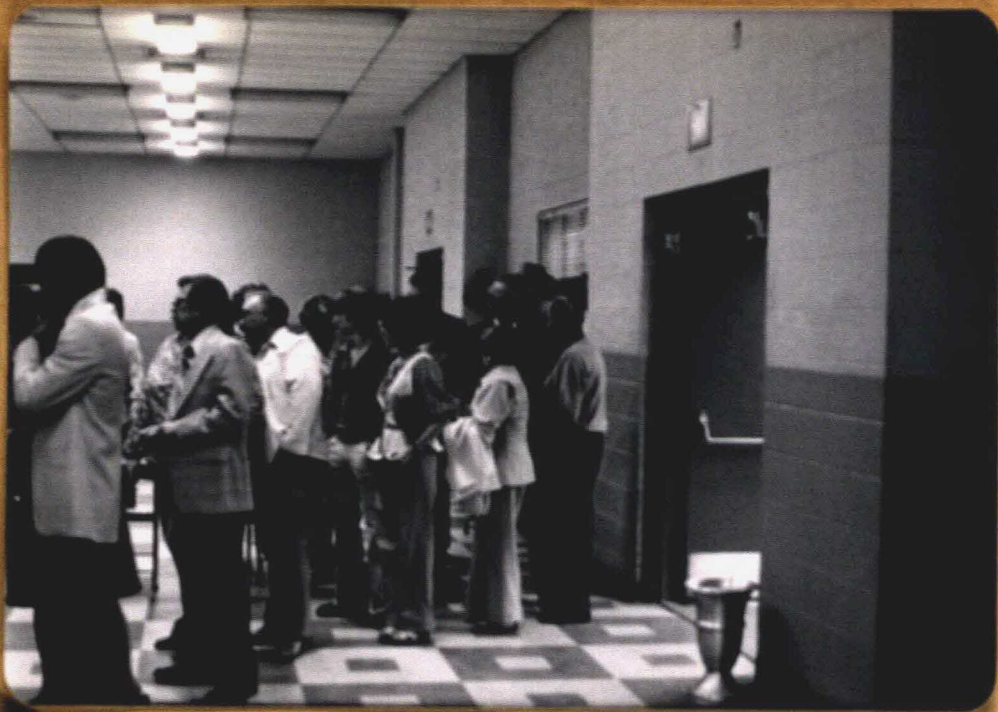
Harris said he and his fellow investigators have been at it so long, they know what the doctor needs.

"That's our job, furnish him with the facts," Harris said. "We've done it so long we know what is pertinent."



WORKING WITH POLICE . . . R.O. Medford, right, and Officer Charles Ogle

—Star-Telegram Photos



DON NEWBURY - SPEAKER



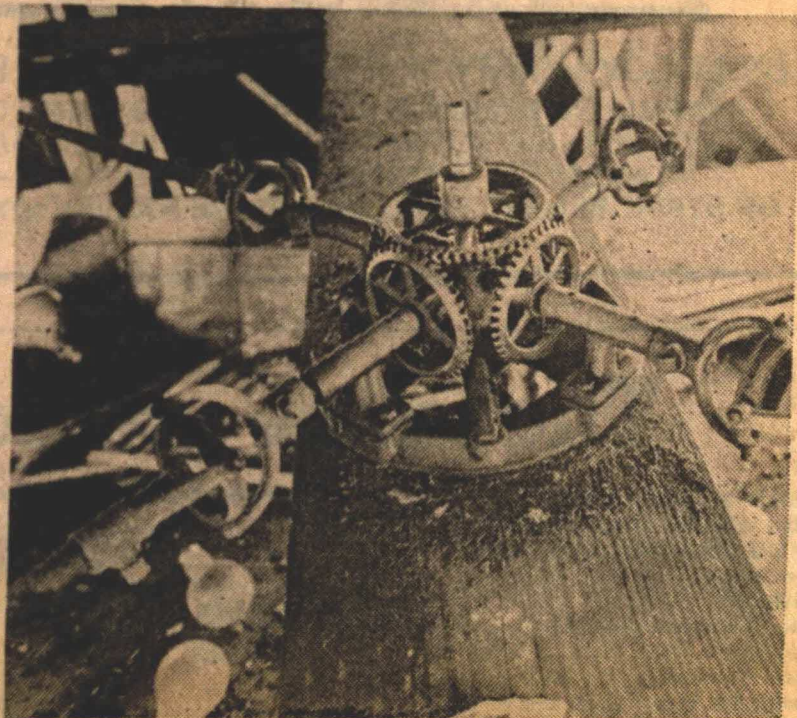
ANNUAL MEETING - March 22, 1979

View from atop the Courthouse



Building superintendent Kenneth Henderson on the stairs, top; the Courthouse roof, right; a clockwork old, below, and Henderson's view from the top of the Courthouse dome, left.

Star-Telegram Photos
by Gene Gordon



Mrs. DeHay's Contribution Called Unique

Retiring Law Librarian Cited for Achievements

Dell DeHay, who will retire as librarian of the Tarrant County Law Library Oct. 31, was cited for her "unique contribution to the citizens of Tarrant County and especially to the lawyers of the entire North Texas area" in a resolution read by Jack C. Wessler at the Law Day luncheon here last week.

The resolution was adopted by the Tarrant County Law Library committee, headed by Wessler as chairman, after Mrs. DeHay requested early retirement due to her health.

At the same time a personnel search committee was appointed to recommend a successor to Mrs. DeHay. The search committee includes District Judge Walter Jordan, J. David Tracy and Killough Smith, chairman.



Dell DeHay

Members of the law library committee who signed the resolution are Harold Hammett, Jerry Hoodenpyle, Milton J. Mehl, Bennet L. Smith, Judge Jordan, Killough Smith, Tracy and Wessler.

In 1975 Mrs. DeHay received the Young Lawyers Association's coveted Mentor Award for her outstanding service as librarian.

MRS. DEHAY who holds a master's degree in library science from North Texas State University, brought a law background to her job. She is the sister of Forrest Markward, attorney here, and a niece of the late State

Supreme Court Chief Justice J.E. Hickman. She also is the boon companion of her husband, Larry, a retired jeweler, and mother of their two grown children—a daughter, Anna Holley, and a son, Mark.

Handling the work of the library during Mrs. DeHay's absence is Assistant Librarian Frances Perry, who has been at the Court House Library three years. She holds a master's in library science from North Texas also and a master's in government. Blanche Lee is a part-time librarian on the staff.

The Law Day luncheon was held at the Tarrant County Convention Center with William L. Bondurant, president of the Fort Worth-Tarrant County Bar Association, one of the sponsors, presiding. U.S. District Judge Eldon B. Mahon, who spoke on conflicts of rights was introduced by Tom L. Larimore.

Representatives of other sponsors were Terry B. Arnn, Arlington Bar Association; Gabriel Perales, Jr., Federal Bar Association; Don Stegall, Downtown Optimist Club; Charles V. Ferguson, Fort Worth Founders Lions Club; Marjorie B. Williamson, Fort Worth Legal Secretaries; James R. Green, Fort Worth-Tarrant County Young Lawyers; Mrs. Charles Leeper, Lawyers Wives Club; R.C. Guthrie, Tarrant County Trial Lawyers; J.C. Groce, Tarrant County Court Reporters, and Capt. Charles R. Myers, Carswell Air Force Base Judge Advocate General.

THE TARRANT COUNTY Law Library is "outstanding among county law libraries" because of the work of Mrs. DeHay since she became librarian in 1962, the resolution states. Quoting a library consultant who surveyed the Tarrant County library in 1977, the resolution states "Inasmuch as the library has been Dell's responsibility for the last 15 years, its high quality is a tribute to her industriousness and ingenuity. Without wishing to making any invidious comparisons, I feel confident in saying the Tarrant County Law Library could well stand as a model for other county law libraries in Texas. Not only is it outstanding in the traditional areas usually noted, but there are innovations and refinements which quite surprise me . . . There are no established 'standards' for county law libraries in the United States, but if there were, Tarrant County Law Library would measure up in all respects."

The resolution added: "It has been a particular pleasure and privilege for all of the lawyers who have served on the Tarrant County Law Library committee during her tenure. All of us have learned to recognize her great abilities as a librarian but more than that have treasured her as a great person and real friend. The disappointment from Dell's early resignation is moderated by the knowledge that we will long have the benefits of her outstanding work in the future operations of the library."

Miniature roses hardier, easier

Related Stories, Photo on Page 2

By PAT CASTILLON

Star-Telegram Garden Writer

A courtyard filled with miniature roses is a prelude to the large rose garden at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Noel William Yardley at 4221 Hildring Drive West.

Bill and Wanda Yardley are members of the Fort Worth Rose Society. She is immediate past president and he has been treasurer for four years. They grow their miniatures in a dozen redwood tubs which they can move around for "the spring lineup or the summer lineup," as Mrs. Yardley said, according to the sun's intensity or the display they want to create.

"At first Bill couldn't get interested in a bloom that small," Mrs. Yardley said. But now he shares her enthusiasm about the prolific little plants that produce tiny roses just like his large hybrid teas, grandifloras and floribundas — like them in every way except size.

One tiny bush, Cinderella, has pink blooms less than a half inch wide, with foliage of the same small scale. Another, Magic Carrousel, is a larger plant with roses up to an inch and a half across.

"I think Magic Carrousel is the best miniature because it started to bloom April 6 and will still be blooming in mid December," Mrs. Yardley said.

Some miniature rose bushes never get over eight inches high while others may grow to 18 inches or two feet.

Miniatures look delicate and tender, but actually they are hardier than some full-sized roses. The Yardleys leave

theirs outdoors all the time but keep watering them through the winter.

"Miniatures may live longer than regular roses because they grow on their own roots," Yardley said, comparing them to the hybrid roses, which are grafted to root stock.

"They're really easier to grow than big ones," he added. The work involved in caring for miniatures is as scaled down

as their size. They take less feeding — about one-sixth the dosage he gives the roses in the ground, less spray, less water and less pruning. The pruning is done at the same time as the ones in the ground garden.

"Miniature roses must have good drainage and, to keep them miniature, they should be repotted every three years. We let ours get bigger than most," Yardley said.

The smaller roses must have sun to grow well and to bloom all summer, but they also must be shielded from the hot afternoon sun during the hottest months.

During his years of service with the Air Force, the Yardleys have grown roses all over the world and are enjoying the challenge of producing trophy-winning

blooms under Texas conditions. The heat is the hardest problem, they've found. Texas rose gardening is not as easy as in California and Spain but no worse than in Charleston, S.C., they reported.

The Yardleys bought their miniature roses from a fellow Fort Worth Rose Society member, Ernest Williams of Dallas, a nationally recognized authority on miniature roses.

Some members in the society grow their miniatures in the ground, where "the sturdy little creatures" perform just as well as in pots.



Star-Telegram Photo by WILLIS KNIGHT
Mr. and Mrs. Noel W. Yardley grow miniature roses in containers in their courtyard. A large Peace rose bloom contrasts dramatically with the tiny flowers of Sassy Lassie, in the foreground.

Artistic arrangements indoors

Mrs. David McGee, whose arrangements of both large and small roses have for years won top awards at flower shows, made an exhibit of miniature artistic arrangements to show how cut blooms from miniature roses can be used indoors as a centerpiece or a coffee table decoration or a whatnot on a shelf.

Mrs. McGee made creations that followed the principles of design and specific lines, such as hogarth curve, vertical, triangle and formal mass.

From her own yard, where she grows both large and small roses, and from fellow members in the Fort Worth Rose Society she collected red, pink, yellow, white, orange, apricot and rose-colored roses to make the display.

Her containers were an incense burner, tiny pitchers, a skell, a miniature stein, a china pin boa and unique little vases including a pair of George and Martha figurines.

She put a bit of floral foam in each container and made holes with an ice pick for the stems. Dainty white ligustrum blooms, tiny fern fronds and some of the delicate rose foliage added interest to the arrangements.

When she finished Mrs. McGee counted the roses and discovered she had used 100 teeny-tiny blooms. "It was fun," she said of her project which took nearly all day, "sort of like playing dolls."

The cut blooms of miniature roses can also be worn in lapel vases or made into corsages or casual little bouquets.

As plants, miniature roses can be used in many delightful ways too. Outside they are hardy plants for containers, for rock gardens, planter boxes and little spaces such as around a birdbath or lamppost or as an edging for a bed of dwarf shrubs.

Miniature roses can be grown as hanging plants and as bonsai. Ernest Williams, a miniature rose expert, prefers to hang mini roses in pots rather than grow them in mossy baskets. And they should have contact with the ground in winter for protection, he said.

Inside miniature roses can be grown as houseplants on a sunny window sill. Some varieties do better than others inside, such as Cinderella, Bo-Peep, White Angel and Little Chief.

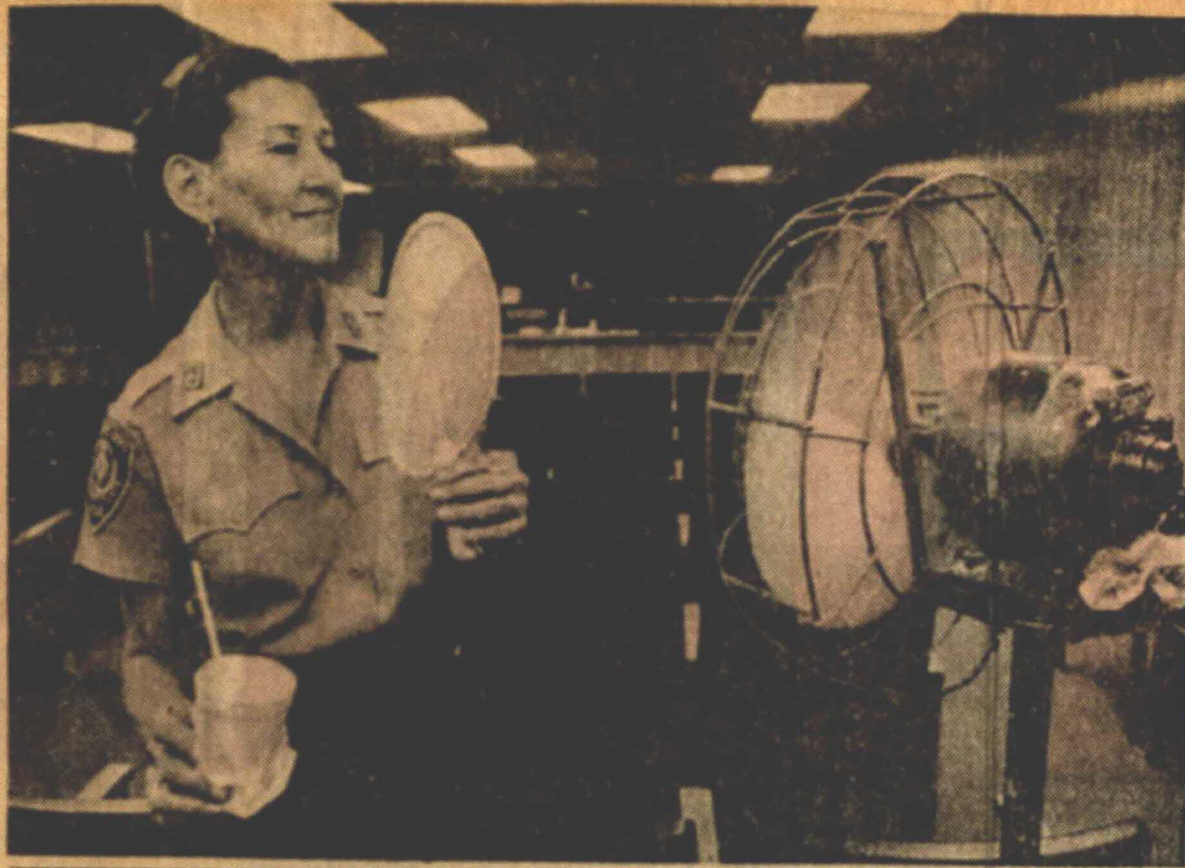


Star-Telegram Photo by RON ENNIS
Arrangement of miniature roses by Mrs. David McGee

JOSEPHINE LOWMAN,

Excessive oil plays role in acne

THURSDAY EVENING, JULY 2



— Star-Telegram Photo
by RODGER MALLISON

COOLING PROCESS —
Electric and hand-operated fans and cold drinks may help a little in keeping Tarrant County bailiff Sallye Rosenblum cool, but they aren't really lowering the 80- and 90-degree temperatures in courtrooms in the Criminal Courts Building. Air conditioning in the building has been out since Tuesday and probably won't be in operation again until next week. Several trials have been postponed or moved to other buildings because of the heat.



—Star-Telegram Photo

Neighbors

Boots, Ruby Finley

It was almost five years ago that Boots and Ruby Nelle Finley bought the farm — the one near Lipan.

He had retired from the county as a building engineer at the Tarrant County Convention Center and with the help of his wife and son and daughter-in-law began farming.

He and his wife bring the results of their efforts to the Tandy Produce Market beneath the Henderson Street bridge. Big red juicy tomatoes — vine ripened — lure many shoppers to their stand where okra, cucumbers and watermelons also can be found.

The farm wasn't anything new to Finley; he had lived on one as a boy. To his wife, however, it was a new experience. She likes it.

They'll probably be bringing another product of their farm to market in a couple of years. Finley, who is 69, and his wife, 68, just finished planting 500 peach trees. And they should bear fruit in about two years.

—GEORGE SMITH

Proposed Lakes Would Double Tarrant Supply

Demand for Water Still Growing Here

By MACK WILLIAMS

Fast-growing Tarrant County could be thirsty by 1988.

The demand for water will equal the supply. If a prolonged dry spell occurs, we won't have enough water.

This forecast, based on years of experience, is why the Tarrant County Water Board will ask the Fort Worth, Arlington and Mansfield city councils and the Trinity River Authority and other customers to sign contracts making possible a \$335 million revenue bond issue to double the water supply by building Richland and Tehuacana Lakes east of Corsicana.

The cities will guarantee debt service and operating and maintenance costs, making it unnecessary for them or the water district to call a bond issue election.

THE CONTRACTS will also have built-in adjustments to meet rising costs of energy and materials. Revenue bonds—to be paid off by sale of water—eliminate the potential for an overlapping debt on the taxpayers, a situation that could cloud the credit rating of the communities involved.

Ben F. Hickey, general manager since 1950 of the Tarrant County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1, as the Water Board is officially known, is seeking to have the contracts signed by September.

At present the county gets 75 million gallons a day from Bridgeport and Eagle Moun-



Ben F. Hickey

tain Lake and 138.4 million gallons daily from the Cedar Creek Reservoir in Henderson County.

"This is not enough for the demand in the next ten years," says Hickey. "The Richland-Tehuacana project in Navarro and Freestone Counties was chosen because of the quantity of water impounded compared to the size of the dams necessary and the cost. The runoff or drainage area is over 2,000 square miles. The two lakes will provide a water storage of more than 1 1/2 million acre-feet."

BUT HICKEY warns the picture isn't entirely rosy. The problem, he says, is

time—time to acquire land, get the government permits, let bids for construction, build dams, lay the pipeline and allow the lakes to fill.

"How much time? Nearly ten years, possibly longer," Hickey says. "Ten years before one drop of this new water can be pumped into Tarrant County. If we started today we could still be in trouble before the dams are completed, the lakes filled and the water is on its way to Fort Worth."

Hickey says some people have asked if it wouldn't be faster to build several smaller lakes closer to Tarrant County. The answer is no because "other efficient feasible alternatives don't exist," the water board manager says.

HICKEY ADMITS that the heavy rains early this year have lulled people, but he recalls the water shortage of 1978 when lakes dropped 20 feet below normal in some cases.

"Water is more important to us than ever before simply because there are more of us and the demand is greater now than at any time in the earth's history," Hickey said. "In Tarrant County we are using at an increasing rate more water than ever before."

"The hard facts are that with projected area growth, based on current information and current water supply containment for Tarrant County we could be in serious trouble by the end of the next decade, possibly even as soon as 1988. By the end of the next decade we will have increased our demand over supply."

Hickey says "we cannot depend on torrential spring rains to bring us a reprieve year after year and refill our lakes. We must plan for the time when those rains don't come,

like last summer."

STRESSING THE NEED for quick action, Hickey says that even if the bond issue passed today land acquisition wouldn't begin until 1980. Geotechnical investigation, final design, plans, specifications could take until 1983. Then bids would be advertised for and awarded. Construction would not actually begin until 1985, with the spillway gates not slamming shut until late 1987 at the earliest. Allowing reasonable time for the lakes

to fill, water wouldn't start on its way to Tarrant County until sometime in 1989 or 1990.

"Thousands of man hours involved, millions of dollars invested and ten years before we can turn the tap," Hickey says. "The Richland-Tehuacana project is not just an answer to the Tarrant County water problem—engineering and financial studies show it is the best answer to provide the water we need when we need it. In a normal season we have enough water for today's needs but we have to think and plan for the future."

PLANNING FOR the future has been the job of the Water Board since Oct. 7, 1924 when the board was created as a political subdivision of the state governed by a five-man

elected board of directors. The whole idea of water control improvement districts started in Fort Worth. The late Sidney Samuels, who headed the law firm now known as Brown Herman Scott Dean and Miles, was the "father of the water board," writing the original statutes which were adopted by the Legislature and permitted for the first time creation of water districts in Texas.



Welcome home, brother

—Star-Telegram photo by GENE GORDON

James Shaw Jr., 28 months old and proud of it, showed his dad, attorney Jim Shaw, how he planned to greet his brand new brother, Benjamin Nash Shaw, when their

mom, Helene, brought him home from the hospital. Tom Hill, a law firm associate of Shaw's, erected the sign at the Shaw home, 3701 W. Biddison.

08-22-79

Who are the top 10 defense attorneys in Tarrant County?

Jake Cook

Cook's services are not for sale. As public defender in Judge Gordon Gray's court since 1970, Cook, 49, works only for poor defendants who can't afford to hire their own lawyers.



Because he works out of only one court, and because he usually is to be seen standing beside a burglar or forger who is pleading guilty in return for probation, Cook's worth as a lawyer eludes passersby but not the people who work with him.

Eleven judges, prosecutors and defense lawyers rated Cook as one of Tarrant County's 10 best attorneys, with four ranking him second. Most of those who failed to list him said they were unfamiliar with his work.

He has been a lawyer for 24 years, but never worked as a prosecutor. He's represented a dozen capital murder defendants, and all of them have escaped death penalties through Cook's plea-bargaining talents.

He says about half the murder defendants he's represented who have been brought to trial were acquitted, but his success rate for armed robbers is lower.

Cook seldom is without a smile, even in situations that would reduce others to tears or violence, and he prides himself in the outcome of some cases. He helped a three-time ex-convict and

heroin addict, Alfred Ray, escape the full brunt of the law on a burglary charge, and now the rehabilitated Ray is a successful businessman and bondsman here.

"That's what it's all about," Cook said.

Don Gandy

The youngest lawyer to receive high marks from his fellow attorneys, Gandy, 31, may also be the most flamboyant attorney to be so regarded.



If Tom Hill is known for his conservative attire and Japanese-made pickup, Gandy is his opposite. Gandy drives a new Cadillac with wire wheels, wears three-piece suits and a ring containing a \$5 gold piece.

No judge put Gandy's name on their top-10 list, but he was ranked well by prosecutors and defense attorneys.

A lawyer for six years, Gandy spent the first three working as a prosecutor for Tim Curry. After leaving the DA's office, Gandy's first case resulted in acquittal for accused robber Norris Joe Carrington (who since has gotten an eight-year sentence for a Westwind I offense).

Gandy often works as co-counsel to other well-regarded attorneys, and in this capacity has gone to court on well-publicized cases.

He differs also from other highly rated lawyers here in that he is not married.

John Brady

Some judges, without hesitation, rank Brady on a par with Aultman and Roland Hill Jr. as Tarrant County's best. And prosecutors, in closing arguments, sometimes point at Brady, their opponent of the moment, and tell jurors he is "the best defense attorney in town."



Brady, 53, has worn both prosecution and defense hats during his 22 years as a lawyer. As an assistant district attorney, he took six murder defendants to court and convinced juries to return death penalties (although all those cases were commuted to life imprisonment when Texas' former death-penalty law was ruled unconstitutional).

As a defense attorney for eight years, Brady made the transition successfully from putting people in prison to keeping them out. In 1973, Brady and Richard "Racehorse" Haynes represented Arlington attorney John Foster — acquitted in federal court on charges of trying to bribe then-County Commissioner Skeet Richardson.

The next year, another of Brady's clients was acquitted in federal court on charges of trying to kill the president.

Brady's highest rankings came from older judges and prosecutors. His highest mark among prosecutors was sixth.



Mr., Mrs. Sessom

Mr., Mrs. W. M. Sessom

Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Sessom, 3317 Wesley, will observe their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception Sept. 30 from 2 to 4 p.m. in Christian Center Church, 4301 N.E. 28th St. Hosts will be their daughters: Wilma Shipp of Azle and Norma Harvey of Fort Worth. There are six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The Sessoms were married Oct. 3, 1929, in Oklahoma. She is the former Bennie Webb of Fort Worth and he is a native of Llano. He is a former restaurant owner and retired county employee. They are members of Christian Center Church.

Neighbors

Mary Davis

If you need to talk to someone at Tarrant County Courthouse and don't know how to reach them, chances are your first conversation will be with Mary Davis.

She is the head PBX operator for the county, the information bureau and the receptionist along with many other chores not normally considered a part of her operation.

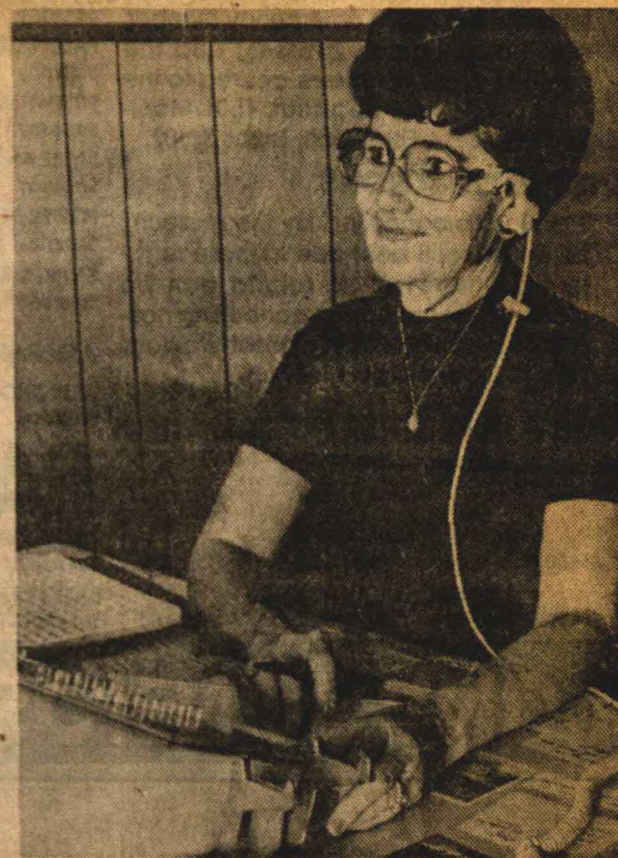
If some office is seeking an attorney who is somewhere in the building complex, it's Mrs. Davis and her operators that manage to track them down with a message. Reporters also are not known for telling where they'll be, so again, it's Mrs. Davis.

And, it matters not if the county agricultural agent's lines are busy, the caller will ask the operators for help with their plants.

Mrs. Davis says she sometimes thinks some people call the county for information rather than the phone company "because it's free here." She deduces that after several calls that no way could the calls be connected with county offices — but the callers get their information anyway.

Mrs. Davis says there haven't been too many questions they couldn't answer. When that happens, she says, we know who does know the answer.

—GEORGE SMITH



Department Praised As One of Best

Sheriff Evans Files for Sixth Term

Sheriff Lon Evans, whose administration has been praised as one of the best in Texas, announced yesterday he will seek re-election in the Democratic primary.

Evans has been sheriff since 1961, a period in which the Sheriff's Department here has won the praise of criminal justice experts for efficiency and economy. The term would be Evans' sixth in office.

These highlights have marked his administration, Evans said:

—The modern county jail, which is rated by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards as one of the most efficiently-operated county jails in Texas.

—Micro-filming of all

criminal and jail department records on equipment installed by the Sheriff's Department.

—A complete color photography and development department.

—Computerizing of jail operations procedures.

"IT IS MY DESIRE to keep intact the organization that has done an outstanding job in keeping crime under control in the Sheriff's Department jurisdiction," Evans said.

"It is my ambition to see the completion and operation of the joint city-county jail complex now planned for the Fort Worth-Tarrant County area. The contract has been signed by the city and county, and the drawings are nearing completion with bidding on construction scheduled by mid-

summer of this year."

Law enforcement groups throughout the nation have honored Evans often for his achievements in office. He is a past president of the Sheriff's Association of Texas and has been a director of the National Sheriff's Association for many years. The NSA has more than 25,000 members, all professional law enforcement officers in North America.

Evans also is a member of the Governor's Committee on jail standards for Texas.

ONE OF THE most popular public officials in Tarrant County, Evans has been returned to office by Tarrant County voters more times than any other sheriff in Tarrant history, according to county records.



Sheriff Lon Evans

Retires Jan. 24 After 35 Years

Court House Her Family, Says Euola Jasper

By MADELINE WILLIAMS

When she wraps up 35 years at the Tarrant County Court House Jan. 24, Euola Jasper wants no farewell party.

"I just want to walk out and go home," she said in her soft and soothing voice. "This has been my life so long . . ."

Mrs. Jasper, who thinks her father found her name in a romantic novel, went to the Court House to work in the County Clerk's office Dec. 26, 1944, when Mel Faulk was county clerk. She continued there when he was succeeded by his widow, Edith, and stayed on with County Clerks W.C. (Red) Cowen, Ed Loftin and Madrin Huffman.

"She's a wonderful person," said Huffman. "There's not enough good things you can say about her."

"Just say that I am grateful to the elected officials I worked for and then particularly to the title companies and the attorneys for this privilege," she said. "It has been a real privilege to me. I have been most fortunate."

MRS. JASPER grew up in Limestone County and came to Tarrant County in 1931 when she married Jimmy Jasper. They lived on a farm near Haslet until World War II.

"With the war it was time



Mrs. Euola Jasper

for everyone to go to work," she said. So she gave up her

role as housewife and went to Globe Laboratories, where she worked in the receiving department for returned chemicals. With a medical permit—you had to have a good reason to leave a 'war' industry job—she went to work for Dudley Hodgkins Printing Co. Then late in 1944 she went to work for Faulk.

She first worked in the marriage license bureau. In 1951 she transferred to the cashiers' area as cashier and file clerk. As a marriage license deputy she took a personal interest in the young couples who came through her office and in a few cases saw their children come to the clerk's office for licenses.

"In those days they didn't have to have proof that they were 18 or 21," she said, "We just took their word for it."

Now, of course no one takes anyone's word for anything,

she said regretfully. The government demands proof, and the voters display a great loss of confidence in government, she said.

MRS. JASPER worked continuously at the Court House except for the time she took off during her husband's illness before he died July 14, 1974. They had no children.

"That's why I adopted the title people and the attorneys and the people up here as my family," she said.

Mrs. Jasper is a member of the Birdville Baptist Church and lives in Haltom City.



ELECTED—Judge Albert White Jr., of 236th District Court is new chairman of the Tarrant County Juvenile Board, succeeding Judge Hal M. Lattimore of 96th District Court, named chairman of the Board of District Judges.

Recalls Tax Rolls Typed by Hand

31 Years at Court House To End for Dottie Dickson

After 31 years and four months, Dottie Dickson is leaving the Tarrant County Court House to enjoy retirement and more time with her husband, her family, her friends and her recipes.

Executive secretary to Reed Stewart, Tarrant County's veteran assessor-collector, Mrs. Dickson said the only sadness about quitting after more than three decades is "leaving the best boss in the world." She also regrets leaving her fellow employees, whom she describes "as the Court House family."

Mrs. Dickson's husband, Henry, whom she married in 1939, first introduced her to the Court House family. His father was county surveyor, and the young Dicksons worked in the surveyor's office.

"Henry worked for his father since he was big enough to carry a chain," she recalled this week. When Mr. Dickson



Dottie Dickson died in 1956, Henry filled out his term of office."

She met Stewart when he was working in the District

Clerk's office and she filed papers there for Albert J. Baskin, the attorney she worked for as secretary. "Mr. Stewart likes to say he knew me when I was 'skinny and shy,'" she said.

She went to work in the Tax Office in September 1948 when John Bourland was assessor-collector. When Stewart defeated him and took over the office Jan. 1, 1949, he asked Mrs. Dickson to remain.

* * *

WHEN SHE started, the tax roll was literally a roll and was prepared with the help of "callers" who called out the owners, locations, and valuations and taxes assessed. "The roll was so long I memorized the tabs that were set on the large carriage manual typewriter so that I wouldn't have to keep rolling it back to see where I was," she said.

The tax valuation in 1948 was \$203,364,102. Thirty years later it was \$1,955,447,752.

Mrs. Dickson worked in every department of the tax office except land titles and voter registration, and has been Stewart's executive secretary since 1971.

She will be honored at a retirement party next Thursday, and friends and fellow-workers plan to add to her collection of recipes and her collection of turtle figurines.

In retirement she plans to catalog the recipe collection, devote more time to her sorority, Zeta Tau, and its work with the Fort Worth Girls Club, and travel with her husband. Still active as a surveyor, he spends considerable time now in East Texas developments. She also plans to enjoy more time with her mother, Eula Lowrey, 90, and a sister, Pat Wood, with whom Mrs. Lowrey lives here, a brother, Bill Lowrey, of Dallas, and nieces and nephews.

Oleta Jennings, secretary in the Tax Office, will succeed Mrs. Dickson as executive secretary.

Aged face retirement despite 'pep'

By ALICIA MEDINA

Star-Telegram Courthouse Writer

The last time Leonard Pringle retired, it lasted about six months. This time, it could be permanent.

Pringle, a 75-year-old clerk in the Tarrant County Treasurer's Office who rides a moped to work, is facing mandatory retirement for the second time in his life. In the spring of 1970, he retired as an auditing clerk at Foremost Dairies in Fort Worth, only to join the county six months later.

His work is rated highly by County Treasurer Howard Green, but county policy that all workers 72 and older must retire this year is forcing Pringle to face the prospects of giving up his 40-hour work week.

The Commissioners Court decided Tuesday to enforce the retirement policy for the first time and denied a 90-day job extension for O.L. Kurtner, a 74-year-old worker scheduled to retire this month. Auditor Jack Benson sought the delay so Kurtner, a county employee since 1956, could complete a project he is working on.

"I realize that you have to retire sometime. But as long as I can do my work physically and mentally, I don't think I should retire," Kurtner said. "I'm bitterly opposed to it."

Enforcement of the county policy had been postponed partially because of federal law that changed the mandatory retirement age from 65 to 70, Personnel Director Bob Popplewell said.

When county officials set the policy in 1978, they also allowed each employee over 70 two one-year extensions if he was in good health and his supervisor approved. Those extensions expire this year, Popplewell said, and the employees are expected to leave their jobs at the end of the month of their birthday.

Pringle, one of 27 workers affected by the policy, turned 75 on Feb. 8. His attorney, Joe Shannon, will ask commissioners next week to consider delaying his retirement for one year or at least until this fall so he can complete his 10th year with the county.

Pringle's chances of winning the extension appeared slim Tuesday.

Commissioner B.D. Griffin said there should be a consistent policy. His earlier request for an employee who wanted to complete a decade with the county had been denied.

"I thought it was very important to him," Griffin said.

Commissioner A. Lyn Gregory agreed. He said he recently lost to forced retirement an 82-year-old night watchman who was "still in good health and spry as a chicken."



—Star-Telegram Photo by RON ENNIS

PRINGLE . . . retirement may be permanent

Commissioner Jerry Mebus added, "If we're ever going to take a stand, this is it."

He acknowledged that older employees are "most capable people" because of their experience, but added, "the future of the county is still in hiring young people."

Reed Stewart, the 78-year-old tax assessor-collector, said it is hard to give up an employee with 20 years' experience and "not hurt our operations."

Stewart, who as an elected official is not affected by the retirement policy, listed several employees of retirement age who are "plenty able to work."

"I know he would go, if he felt he couldn't do a good job," Stewart said, pointing to one worker.

Pringle, who said too much free

time after his first retirement made him nervous, added, "It's pretty hard lying around the house when you've been energetic all your life."

Two months ago he bought a moped that gets 150 miles to the gallon. Until recently he played on his church softball team.

"Mr. Pringle is capable of doing his job. He doesn't miss any work because of his health. He's alert. He does an excellent job," Green said. He still hopes the appeals court will overturn a lower court ruling and allow the abolition of his office and added it is "not good policy to change (workers) while the state of the office is in limbo."

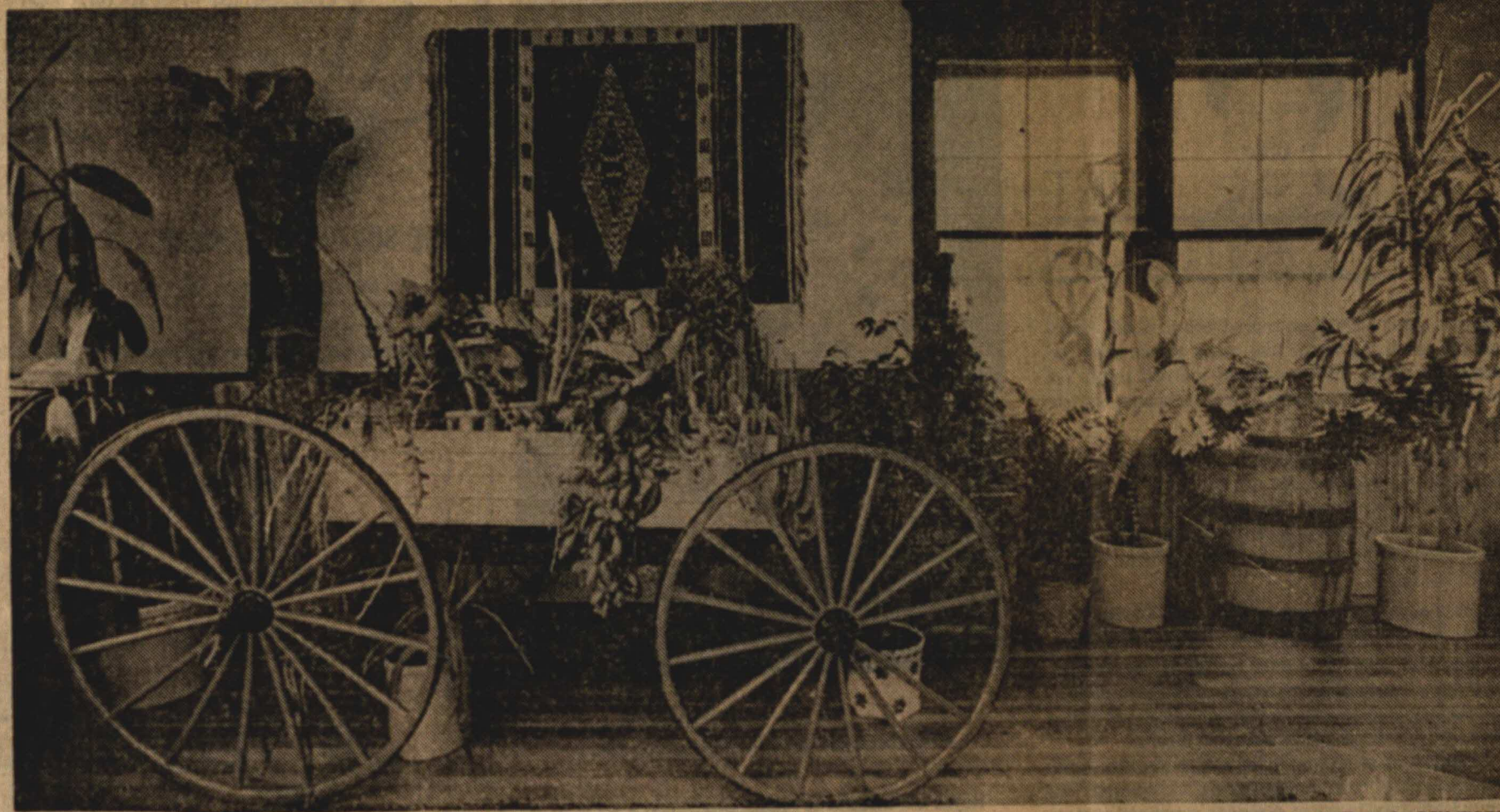
Green said he favors giving Pringle the extension.

"I think the most cruel type of discrimination is against age," he said.

HABITAT



Anthony Jones (standing) and Jim Lane



Star-Telegram Photos by RON ENNIS

This buckboard was rescued from the roof of a North Side building

Slice of Fort Worth captured in law office

By CLAIRE EYRICH
Star-Telegram Writer

Attorney Jim Lane is pleased when touring groups of school children come traipsing through his law office on the North Side.

"They're the ones we count on to take care of all this in the future," he says with a sweeping gesture. "We almost lost it once."

"All this," in Lane's frame of reference, includes a broad slice of historic North Fort Worth over the red-tiled arched colonade of the old Fort Worth Livestock Exchange, where he has taken over a former livestock commission office on the second floor.

From his front window, the distant skyline of Fort Worth gleams chalk-white in an afternoon haze.

His clients seem to like it, too: "I don't think I've lost a single one by moving over here," he said. "In fact, I have one client who bought his first cowboy boots and Stetson just because he likes this office, and that's a true story."



Carved figure by Crowder

ANOTHER PERSON WHO bought black boots and a

pearl-gray Western hat because of Jim Lane's office is Welsh-born Anthony Jones, head of the art division at TCU.

Jones "took a hodgepodge of family antiques, West Texas relics and things I bought on trips to Mexico" and turned them into a showplace suite of offices.

Jones, who leaves Fort Worth in June to become director of the Glasgow School of Arts, "worked hard to make it real," said Lane.

His own office has a huge polished rolltop desk that once served the late A. G. Donovan, for 30 years manager of the Fort Worth Stockyards.

Donovan, who died in 1949, came to the North Side in 1916, became president of the Fort Worth Stockyards Co. and "played a major part in Fort Worth's advancement as one of the nation's top livestock and packing centers," according to one of the tributes at an appreciation dinner in 1946.

Lane's conference table is a deal table once owned by Donovan, and the chairs, now polished and recaned, once accommodated the cattle barons, traders and wheel-dealers in livestock futures who met with the mighty Donovan.

"It took me three years to get them all together, and I had some help from people interested in historic restoration of the North Side," Lane said.

ANOTHER MEMBER OF the firm is Lane's brother Bill, also an attorney, and they share the law books, furniture and personal effects of a great-grandfather

who was a West Texas judge and lawyer—Judge Jacob Lawhorn Alford of Rising Star.

In another room of the suite is a smaller polished desk and chair used by Judge Alford.

His books, carefully preserved, are ranked in three tall glass-front bookcases that Jim Lane discovered in a downtown office building.

The brothers share a heritage of both law and history. "Our dad, Wes Lane, a retired engineer, could be called a real history buff. He should have been a gun-fighter. Our love of the West came from him."

Jim was born on the Mexican border and Bill was born in Fort Worth, but they share "a West Texas background from ancestors who came here from Tennessee. Our father's great-grandmother was a Cherokee, so we have both Indian and Irish blood in our heritage."

When not collecting "favorite things" for his offices, Jim Lane lives a Western life style: "I ride with the Sheriff's Posse and I spend a lot of my free time riding and going to rodeos."

Blended with his grandmother's antiques are some pieces made by his grandfather, a hobby woodworker—a Victorian-style halltree usually holding several Western hats belonging to friends and clients, a table with a top cut from a slab of marble given to an uncle, a recently retired Marine Corps officer who was stationed in Turkey.

THE TWO YOUNG LAWYERS take a lively interest
Turn to History on Page 5



Bill Lane relaxes in his North Side office

History captured in law office

Continued from Page 1

in their forbears, including their grandfather on their father's side, the senior Wes Lane, who died in 1969 and loved all things Western.

Side by side with his belongings and pieces from Rising Star are sculptures, paintings and drawings by young Texas artists — Renne Hughes (some interesting horse bronzes), Dan Brown and Jean Cole, among others.

Sally Vowell wove the natural-fiber rug under the Donovan conference table, and Navajo rugs blend with others hand-woven in Northern Mexico which Jim Lane, a pilot and flying instructor, acquired in Oaxaca and Chihuahua on trips with his students.

Over a row of pictures on his office wall — Quanah, Sitting Bull and a Texas Ranger — hangs a thrivle hitch, discovered by Jim Lane in his uncle's barn. "His father, my grand-uncle, was the only man in Rising Star who could drive a three-mule team," said Lane. "He had the thrivle hitch made in 1896 in Rising Star for three mules he had that would pull together."

Steer hides on the walls were acquired with the help of Whistle Ryon of Ryon's Saddle Shop. A rare brindle hide, acquired six years ago, is a rug under a round conference table in his office.

A Mexican silver set, his grandfather's soda siphon and other antiques are on a side table. Since there is no water on the second floor of the old Livestock Exchange, the brothers installed a refrigerator and "wet bar" with five-gallon jugs of bottled water, using wood to match the woodwork, stripped of three-quarters of a century of accumulated paint and the wainscoting. All are solid heart pine in good condition.

"Some of our best acquisitions are the gifts of friends who got interested in what we were doing here," says Lane. "For instance, Joey Taylor, a lawyer in Denison and a fine artist, brought us a series of great Indian drawings he had done. About 750 people came through here on the day of our open house — some of them judges who said they had not been in this building 30 or 40 years. A client wove another rug for us, and others came up with useful and ornamental things.

"But it took an artist like Tony Jones to put it all together — track lights and brass spittoons in the same office without a jarring note," Lane says.

* * *

ALL THE PAINTINGS IN Bill's and Jim's offices are by Fort Worth artists. An authentic Texas Ranger saddle was used on the Rio Grande border about 1915. The striped cotton and horsehair blanket in the hall was being worn by an elderly Indian when Lane spotted it during a trip with a group of doctors to a central Mexican province. "I was commercial pilot and a sort of 'gofer' on that trip, so I had time to look around for things," he said.

"The historical tours are the best thing that could happen to the North Side, and we welcome them because we feel that they are seeing something real in here — not just created. What we have is authentic.

"This was a cooperative effort — we could never have been able to do it alone, without the help of friends. Terry Haney and Ray Krohbinger, two kids I went to high school with, did the construction work, and there were many others.

"Frank Crowder did our wood carvings, which are an important part of the whole thing. He found a fallen tree on a little piece of land we own near here, and now he's carving an 11-foot Indian figure. His carvings are authentic in design — and heavy. It took about eight helpers to get things in place up here."

Bob Jones is a private investigator who has his own business offices in the suite. This office, too, was furnished by the Lanes: "We've been working with Bob for seven years now, and we've even put Judge Alford's desk and chair in here.

"All the windows can be opened, and we can enjoy the morning bawling of the cattle being auctioned and the rich stockyards aroma — things dear to the hearts of us North Siders. Every one of my clients seems to love it."

Harry Camp, who has been gold-lettering names on Fort Worth office doors for 40 years or so, has added his finishing touches to the glass doors at the top of the stairs with their spiral balusters and turn-of-the-century sturdy grace.

"We hope our venture out here will inspire some others to consider the great possibilities of office space in these old buildings," Lane said.



B.D. Griffin

GI Forum To Honor Griffin

The American GI Forum here will present its public service award to Commissioner B.D. Griffin at a dinner in Colonial Country Club March 15.

Jose M. Alvarado, regional organizer for the group, said the Precinct 4 commissioner helped organize a Mexican American chamber of commerce here and has appointed several Mexican Americans to Tarrant County boards and commissions.

Alvarado said Griffin is concerned about the problems of illegal aliens and has done work to solve housing, health and school problems involving illegal aliens here. He also has helped aliens obtain legal working permits, Alvarado said.

"B.D. GRIFFIN was the lone commissioner who saw through an ambulance helicopter proposal before Commissioners Court," Alvarado said. "Through his efforts the entire court finally voted unanimously not to support the proposal, thereby saving Tarrant County millions of tax dollars and embarrassment."

"Commissioner Griffin also stood alone in his stand against abolishment of the Treasurer's Office and said from the beginning that he believed abolishing the office would be unconstitutional, and that it was the privilege of the people of Tarrant Coun-

ty to elect the people to represent them. His lone stand was upheld in District Court, which ruled that the action

taken to abolish the Treasurer's Office was in fact unconstitutional," Alvarado said.

Social workers' group names Judge Moore Citizen of Year

WEDNES

District Judge Scott Moore has been named Citizen of the Year and Dr. Arthur K. Berliner Social Worker of the Year by the local unit of the state chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

The awards will be presented during the group's monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Lynn Ross Juvenile Center, 2701 Kimbo Road.

Freda Wise, co-chairman of the local unit, said the honor is given to a person who has made an impact on the community, especially in the area of social work.

"In the estimation of our group, Judge Moore's efforts have been outstanding," she said.

Moore, a juvenile judge of Tarrant County since 1965, has won numerous other awards, including the 1979 Hercules Award, presented by the United Way to a professional in the human service field whose work has improved the quality of individual life in the county.

He also has worked to develop a child emergency shelter for short-term care of abused, neglected and runaway children.

Berliner, director of the undergraduate Social Work Program at TCU, serves as a consultant to the Protective Services Division of the Texas Department of Human Resources and for a National Institute of Mental



SCOTT MOORE

Health study, "The Life Careers of San Antonio Addicts."

Ms. Wise said persons other than members are welcome to attend Thursday's meeting.



DIANNA HEINER

Municipal Court administrator named

A Tarrant County criminal court coordinator will become administrator for Fort Worth's troubled Municipal Court.

Dianna Heiner's appointment to the position, left vacant since the ousting of John Southard last March, was revealed Friday by City Manager Robert Herchert.

She will begin her duties March 10, freeing acting administrator Ruth Ann McKinney for full-time work as assistant to the city manager and coordinator for the city's cable-TV franchise planning.

Ms. Heiner is resigning as coordinator of Judge Billy Mills' County Criminal Court No. 3 for the city position and a \$20,500 salary.

She began her court career with five years as clerk in Judge Ardell Young's 153rd District Court. She also was court coordinator for Bexar County Courts at Law.

Southard was removed from the court administration, suspended for 30 days and reasigned after an investigation into sexual harassment and discrimination.

Herchert placed Ms. McKinney on temporary assignment as acting court administrator, and she has presided over repeated investigations.

A complete revamping of court procedures came after parking ticket fixing was revealed. This month two cashiers were charged with stealing money that had been paid for traffic fines.

Ms. Heiner is a certified court administrator by the National College of State Judiciary, University of Nevada, and is former president of the Fort Worth Legal Secretaries.

Cowboy closing last chute

Wild horses couldn't keep him away from rodeo

By DOMINGO RAMIREZ

Star-Telegram Writer

His hands are cracked and weathered, and when he smiles you'll immediately notice the gap left by two missing front teeth.

His solid body has handled and pushed enough horse flesh and bull meanness to earn him mountains of respect.

Dallas Pope, 60, is the cowboy nobody ever sees at a rodeo, but whose presence is crucial. He's the man who works the stock at every Cowtown Rodeo event, and he has been doing it for 47 years.

"People come to rodeos and figure the show begins at 6," Steve Murrin, president of Cowtown Rodeo, said. "Behind the scenes, one guy has to be in complete charge of everything that happens in the back end. He must make sure the stock is in place, the chutes are loaded at the right time and keep watch over the cowboys' gear.

"Above all, that guy has to know the animals. He needs to know what to do with an animal in many different situations. An animal has to be calmed down after his performance and it's the job of the guy in charge of the stock to do it," he said.

"That's why Dallas has meant so much, to rodeos in this area."

But Murrin is going to have to look elsewhere this year for a good stockman, because Pope has screamed at his last bull.

"I've fooled with stock all of my life and I've never had a serious accident

until last fall," Pope said. "A bull knocked a gate over, which sent me flying across the arena. My legs got so stiff that I could hardly move and I couldn't turn my head.

"Well, I went to a doctor and after he stuck four huge needles in me and I got back to normal, I thought then and there I was going to quit."

POPE MAY BE leaving rodeo, but the spirit still burns in the man who has seen some of the greatest cowboys around. Names like Kid Fletcher and Bill Griffith in bull riding; Toots Mansfield in calf roping; and Pete Knight and Louis Brooks in saddle bronc riding.

If those names don't sound familiar to the everyday cowboy, it's probably because they belong to rodeo stars from the '30s and '40s.

And Pope remembers the stock as well. Horses like Midnight, Turkey Foot, Crow Hop, Aces of Spade and Five-Minutes To Midnight were animals many cowboys learned to respect, Pope said.

When Pope does talk about his work, it's strictly no brag, just facts.

"I haven't seen anyone who could handle animals the way I could," Pope said with a stern look on his face. "I could holler at a horse or bull by name and that animal would do whatever I was asking of it. Of course, if they didn't, within a few seconds I'd have them doing it.

"In all of those years of working in the back end, I only saw three complete rodeos. Once those horses or bulls were out

of the chutes I had other things to do than watch how the ride went," he said.

Since rodeos were a part of his life, it isn't strange that Pope met his wife there.

"She only went to this particular rodeo because her friend had invited her," he said. "Otherwise, I'd probably never have met her. But honestly, she hasn't been to maybe half a dozen rodeos."

As for his name, Pope said it has nothing to do with show business.

"MY DAD JUST wanted a son named 'Dallas,' so when I was born, I got stuck with it," he said. "That's my whole name."

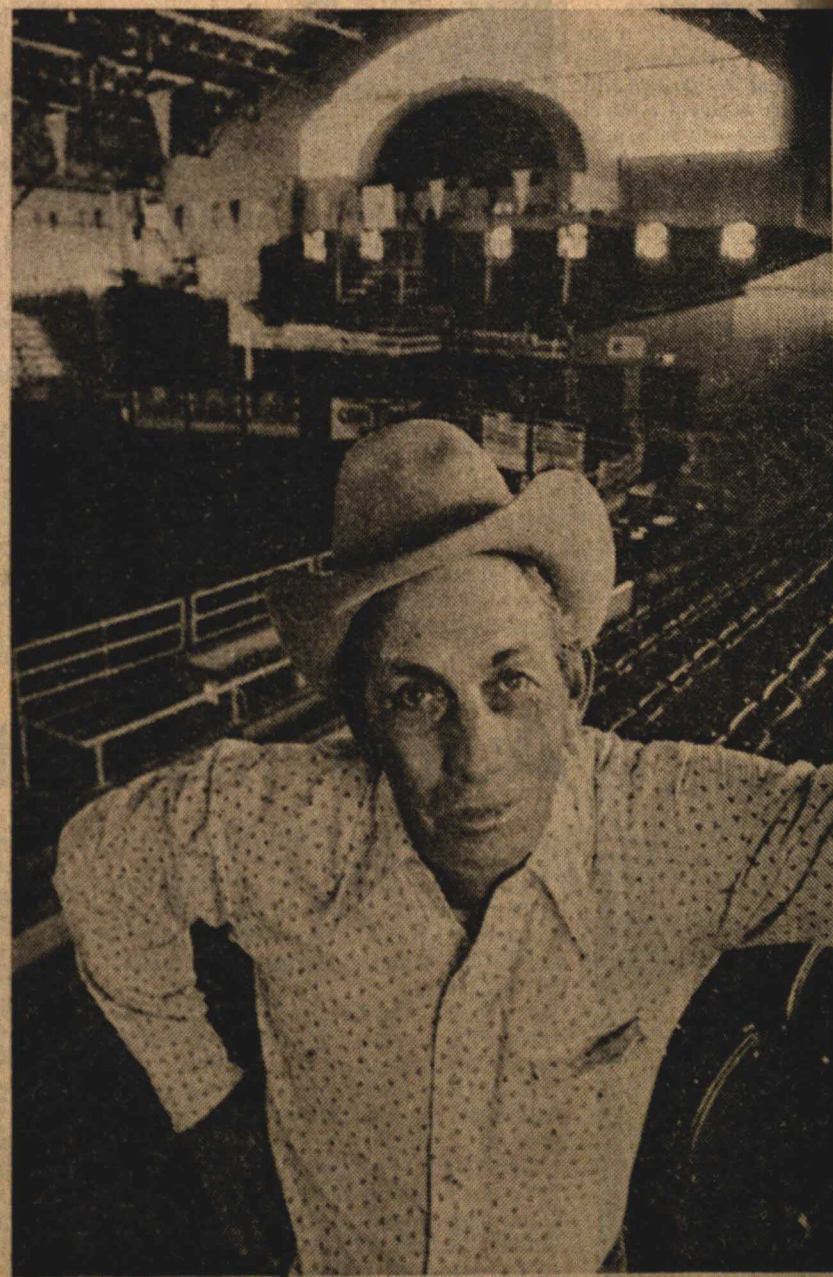
Pope said his retirement from the rodeo will not mean unemployment.

"This working in the rodeo has always been my second job," he said. "I'd work for the county most of the day, change my clothes and then come over to the arena to help out. On Saturdays, I'd get to the rodeo about 2 in the afternoon and not leave until early the next morning."

"It's all very physical and tough," Murrin said. "Not only has Dallas managed for so long, but he's been there every time. The pay isn't that great and you sure don't get to tip your hat to the crowd."

Pope will get a chance to see the crowd and tip his hat Saturday when Cowtown Rodeo sponsors "Dallas Pope Night" to honor him.

"All I want to do now is sit in the stands and watch a rodeo," Pope said with a smile.



Star-Telegram Photo by LARRY C. PRICE

COWBOY NOBODY SEES . . . Dallas Pope

'Most Powerful Law On Books'

JP Here Fines Parents Of Truants

By MILT HOPWOOD

Parents who can't seem to make their children attend school as required by law have a strong ally here.

He is Justice of the Peace R.E. (Bob) Ashmore, whose Precinct 1, Place 2 covers a large area of Fort Worth. Public school officials have learned that Ashmore is highly effective in dealing with youngsters who refuse to go to school and parents who are brought before him for violating the state's Thwarting Compulsory Attendance Law.

"This is the most powerful law we have in the State of Texas," says Judge Ashmore. "It says the parent, unless he has an excuse, must send his child to school and he must see that the child stays in school."

If the child continues to skip school, the Fort Worth Independent School District notifies the parent in writing and, in most cases, the truancy stops.

But too many times, the parent ignores the warning letter and the child just drops out. This is when the FWISD gets tough. Charges are filed in justice of the peace court against the parent and he or she goes in to see Judge Ashmore.

Criminal Defense Bar Elects Officers

Art Brender has been elected president of the Tarrant County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

Elected with him were Jack Beech and Tim Evans, vice presidents; Bill Wardlaw Brown, secretary and Gene De Bullet Jr., treasurer.

Directors are Don Carter, Frank Coffey, Lee Ann Dauphinot, Charles Dickens, Don Gandy, Tom Hill, Jim Mallory, Marvin Snodgrass, George Trimmer and John Van Meter.

The News-Tribune is Fort Worth's metropolitan weekly



Peace Justice Bob Ashmore

This is when Bob Ashmore is at his benevolent best. Courteously he greets the accused parent who stands before him, usually accompanied by the youngster who thinks school is for the birds. The judge asks what seems to be the trouble and the standard reply is, "Judge, I just can't control him (or her)."

This surprises Judge Ashmore and he says, earnestly, to the child, "Son, nobody but you can use your brain. You can be anything you want to be if you go to school to learn. You have to do it yourself. I can't do it for you. Your mother or father can't do it. You've been absent 86 days and that could cost your Dad a lot of money. Now the school district has only filed on you for one day. (Turns to parent) Are you guilty or not guilty?"

The parent pleads guilty and Judge Ashmore says "The fine is \$25 and \$4.50 costs—\$29.50." The parent pays his fine and parent and child leave. If the FWISD had filed on the 86 missed school days, the parent would be liable to \$8,475 in fines, plus costs.

The cases come in quick succession. And the stories all have that same familiar ring to them: "I just can't handle the boy, your honor;" "She just won't mind me, sir;" "I

send her off to school and go to work, but she won't stay in school."

* * *

THE YOUNGSTERS on one particular morning ranged in age from 11 to 15. The parents are washed and scrubbed and in their best clothes. They answer with, "Yes, sir," and "No, sir, your honor." And they are exceedingly uncomfortable, shifting their weight from one foot to the other. They keep their eyes lowered. They are embarrassed to be in court but they are participating in a procedure that dates back to the Magna Carta and 1225 A.D. Indeed it is a people's court.

Their offspring, on the other hand, are not awed. They impatiently wait for Judge Ashmore to finish telling them, even pleading with them to stay in school and make something of themselves.

For example, a 15-year-old, after his mother had been fined \$29.50, looked the judge in the eye and almost plaintively asked, "Do I have to go back to school for the last two weeks?" He was a 56-day truant. There were others who had missed 72, 90 and 66 days.

One 12-year-old girl who had skipped 68 days and after her mother had paid \$29.50 merely nodded and said, "I guess so," when Judge Ashmore asked her if that wasn't a lot of money which could buy clothes, food and necessities.

Eventually 23 cases are heard. All plead guilty and all leave the courtroom glaring at their children and probably thinking of the \$29.50 that went down the drain. It is obvious many couldn't afford it.

BACK IN HIS chambers, the peace justice leans back in his chair and shakes his head. "I just don't understand how a 240-pound man can't control a 100-pound boy. My father had a razor strop and when I misbehaved, he used it. I got the message quickly. He didn't have to use it much."

Ashmore loves his work. It has variety and he deals with people every day.

"Don't forget," he grins, "a justice of the peace is on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

Ashmore's staff consists of Susie Smith, chief clerk, Jo Carpenter, criminal desk and Cindy Kyle, civil desk.

Neighbors

Martha Thresher

Martha Thresher is the one in the PBX room at the county tax office who keeps everyone in good humor, it's said. "Just spreading a little good cheer," Mrs. Thresher responds.

She's a Fort Worth native and has been at the county office about 13 years. She has two daughters, was widowed and remarried and added three stepdaughters and four stepgrandchildren. "Just like my own," she adds.

She and her husband like to travel—one hobby of her's is courthouses and pictures are mailed back to the office from around the world with Mrs. Thresher standing in front of a building which may or may not be a courthouse. "Hawaii, that's pretty," she says, "but Italy, that's close to the heart. My grandparents came from Sicily and a lot of relatives. We've been to Rome and Capri but never Sicily. Maybe this year . . ."

Hobbies — "well I like needlepoint, crewel and I'm learning to crochet. My husband tried to teach me to play golf, I wasn't a very good student, but I like to watch. Cooking is Italian meatballs and spaghetti — naturally."

— GEORGE SMITH



Star-Telegram Photo



Mary Ellen Schattman

Office Opened Here For Channel 13 Auction

Mary Ellen Schattman, who became a veteran campaigner when her husband, Mike, ran successfully for judge of County Court at Law No. 2, is back on the campaign trail—this time for the Channel 13 Auction May 20-June 7.

Mrs. Schattman has opened Fort Worth headquarters at 247 Bailey for the 9th annual auction that benefits this area's public television station, KERA. She has two goals: to recruit several hundred volunteers and to get donation of merchandise worth at least \$75,000 for the auction.

Volunteers are needed to work in the office, to collect gifts and finally to receive bids during the televised auction.

"I'm looking for donations of merchandise with a value of at least \$50 and a total of \$45,000," she said. "And for the our Big Board of items worth more than \$500 I am looking for \$30,000 in total donations."

Goal for the televised auction is \$450,000.



RETIRING—Tarrant County's first black deputy sheriff, Lt. J.D. Sanders, and the man who hired him, Sheriff Lon Evans, got together with Chief Deputy Earl Brown at Sanders' retirement party.

First Black Officers Retire at Court House

By MADELINE WILLIAMS

Two black pioneers at the Tarrant County Court House retired this week, leaving to history their memories of the way things were and enjoying the warmth of friendships as the way things are.

Retiring were Lt. J.D. Sanders, first black deputy sheriff in Tarrant County and first black patrolman to be promoted to lieutenant, and Harold Butler, first black grand jury bailiff.

Recalling the problems after he hired Sanders 20 years ago, Sheriff Lon Evans said the black patrolman's service was invaluable, especially during the rioting days of the 1960's. Sanders, active in the Texas Peace Officers Association, organized the Tarrant County Special Officers Association. It was the group that went into rock concert crowds and kept order, Sheriff Evans said. "The Convention Center is still here because of their work," Evans said. "Rock groups tore 'em down in other cities.

Another time Sanders was sent to a sleazy night spot to arrest a suspect. When the orchestra spotted him, it struck up the melody of "Bye, Bye Blackbird." Sanders waited till the music ended, tipped his hat in acknowledgement, then hand-cuffed and led the suspect away.

Another night a large group of rock enthusiasts were gathered at Silver Creek Park at Lake Grapevine. "We must have had 1,500 calls about the disturbance," Sanders said. "So I went out and drove into that crowd and asked them what they were doing. 'Just having a little fun,' they said. So I told them that was great but they were disturbing folks back in Grapevine. I told them to follow me and I'd show them where they could make all the noise they wanted to. I led a caravan of about 75 or 100 cars to a remote spot where Meadowmere Park is now and told them to have fun."

Butler, hired by District Judge Byron Matthews, 16 years ago, had his own set of problems when he appeared in court. "One of the bailiffs told me that when he was at the desk, I wasn't to come near it," he recalled.

Those days were long forgotten as Sanders and Butler were honored guests at each other's retirement parties this week. Enjoying the party at the sheriff's office were Sanders' wife, Q.T., and his five children. He is taking early retirement because he injured his back when he slipped on oil at the jail Sept. 26, 1977. He has had two sessions in the hospital since then with back injuries. In retirement he plans to operate a store at 801 Missouri.

Butler is returning to Hot Springs to help care for his mother, Dinah Owens, and an aunt.



DIRECTOR—Constable Bill Brown of Precinct 3 has been elected to a new term as director of the Justice of the Peace and Constables Association of Texas.

Ferchill Named Probate Court Judge

Hard Worker Plans to Stay That Way

Appointed judge of Tarrant County's new Probate Court No. 2, Judge Pat Ferchill pledged this week to work diligently to erase the public's apprehension toward probate.

"I don't know whether it is because probate matters by law have certain time restrictions," he said, "but it seems to me people are generally apprehensive because probate matters take so long. They want to avoid probate. Now with two probate courts in Tarrant County, I intend to work so that the only delay is the delay required by statute and law."

Ferchill, who is judge of County Court at Law No. 1, was appointed to the new bench by Commissioners Court Monday. The appointment is effective Sept. 1. County Judge Mike Moncrief failed to get enough votes for the appointment of his administrative assistant, Andy Vogel, one of three announced contenders.

Bill Brigham, also a candidate for the probate post, was appointed judge of County Court at Law No. 1 to succeed Ferchill. Brigham has been in the civil division



Judge Pat Ferchill

of District Attorney Tim Curry's office since 1976.

The law that created the new probate court also took probate jurisdiction away from Judge Mike Schattman's County Court at Law No. 2. When Schattman was given probate duties, he asked Commissioners Court for, was denied and then sued for the same \$59,358 annual pay as Judge Bob Burnett of Probate Court No. 1 receives. Schattman recently lost in the Court of Appeals.

A proponent of speedy trial, Ferchill instituted the city night court and added 5 p.m. dockets for the convenience of wage earners when he was Fort Worth's chief municipal judge. He resigned in 1978 to run for the county court to succeed Judge John Hill, who made a successful race for judge of the 322nd District Court.

Ferchill is a graduate of the University of Texas Law School. He and his wife, the former Martha Cantey Hendricks, are parents of a son.

Brigham, a Navy veteran who served in the Marshall Islands in World War II, is a graduate of Baylor Law School. He served with the FBI four years and practiced in Waco with the firm of Conway, Brigham, Bice and Cowden. George Cowden of the firm is now chairman of the Public Utilities Commission of Texas.

Brigham returned to Fort Worth and joined Curry's staff in 1976. He is a third vice president of the Fort Worth Founders' Lions Club. He and his wife, Anne-Lynn, have seven children.

Location of the new court room is not known now. The old Court House is being evacuated so that restoration can be completed. "Wherever they put me is fine with me," Ferchill said.

Sleek New Building Opened by County For Departments

By FRANK PERKINS

The county's newest edifice, the sleek, modern \$6,200,000 administration building, is officially open but it will be August before its new tenants are moved in.

The office of Tax Assessor-Collector Reed Stewart and other tax offices will occupy the first and second floors of the five-story, red brick and glass structure. The Purchasing Department headed by Ed Smith will be divided between the second and third floors. County Treasurer Howard Green, personnel and CETA Director Bob Popplewell, the Tarrant County Employees Credit Union and the housing office also will be on the third floor.

Data processing, headed by Bill Roberts; planning, headed by Ed Jackson, and public works, headed by Jim Stewart, will be on the fourth floor.

The court room for Commissioners Court and private offices for the four commissioners and County Judge Mike Moncrief will be on the top floor. Also on the fifth floor will be the offices of County Auditor Jack Benson, offices of Deputy County Clerks Bettye Hurley and Freddie Wood, who are clerks for Commissioners Court, conference rooms and a press room. Mechanical equipment will be located in a half-basement.

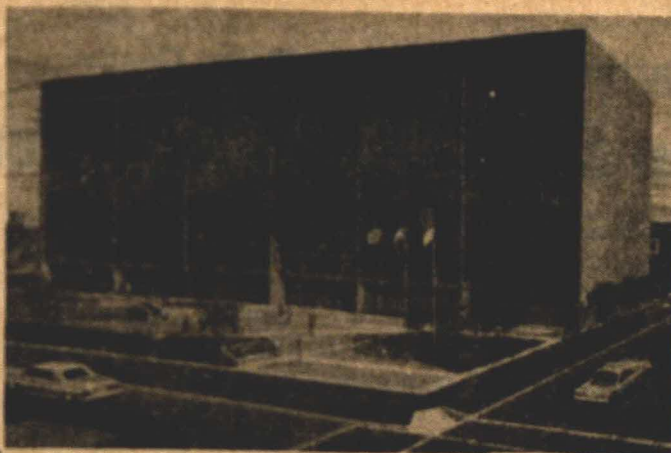
County Judge Mike Moncrief led the list of dignitaries at yesterday's ribbon cutting to open the new building across Weatherford Street south of the Tarrant County Court House. He complimented construction manager Johnny Pittman of Walker Construction Co. on the high quality work done on the 120,000-square-foot administration building.

Walker Construction was paid a \$437,000 fee to supervise the scores of subcontractors who actually built the structure, which was designed by John Firestone of Al Komatsu and Associates in Fort Worth.

Construction Manager Pittman told The News-Tribune the building is ready for occupancy at this time, but county officials have elected not to begin transferring to their new quarters until the phone company has completely installed the new telephone equipment in the administration center.

Once the county departments earmarked to occupy quarters in the new building have moved in, restoration and renovation of their space as court rooms will get under way.

The total restoration of the old Court House will cost \$6 million and plans now call for financing half that amount from bond money voted for that purpose in



READY—County officials cut the ribbon yesterday for the handsome new administration building across Weatherford from the court house.

1980 and transferring the rest of the money from the county's right-of-way fund as construction takes place.

Original plans called for seeking a federal restoration grant to pay for the restoration now covered by bond funds, but such a federal restoration grant is not

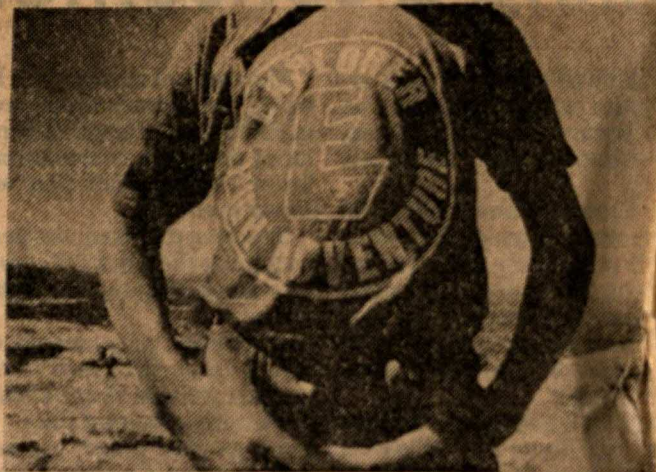
July 3, 1981

THE NEWS-TRIBUNE

Page 5

available.

The old Court House was built in 1894 at a cost of \$500,000, a sum the taxpayers found so exorbitant that they organized one of the earliest "taxpayers revolt" in the county and at the next election, voted out every one of the commissioners.



High Adventure is affiliated with Exploring

Overcoming the obstacles

Award-winning county program
offers new challenges
to troubled kids

The pink granite hill sloping gently toward a 10-foot drop seemed benign enough to everyone except Felicia. Her opinion, though, was the only one that mattered at the moment. She was the one strapped into the rappelling harness. She alone faced the backward descent over the edge of the hill. And she was terrified.

Assurances that a safety rope would support her if she fell, assurances that the hill wasn't all that steep, even cajoling to "do it for the girls" couldn't budge her. The soles of her sneakers were affixed as firmly to the rock as were the lichens growing there. She just wasn't going down.

A few of the boys in the crowd — later silent when it came their turn to rappel — were snickering from their vantage point on the hill above. "Hah, hah, Felicia, I thought you were pretty tough."

She was oblivious to their taunts, her normally smiling face twisted into a grimace of terror. For five minutes she teetered between climbing back up the hill and staying where she was. Then, almost as if an inner barrier melted, she began to back down the mountain. In less

than 30 seconds the ordeal was over and everyone was cheering.

Felicia was no coward. She was the first of the group to try rappelling and her apprehension was understandable.

She and seven other youngsters, ages 13 to 16, were sweltering in the sun late last month atop Enchanted Rock State Park near Fredericksburg, participants in a nature survival outing. The program, dubbed High Adventure and described as a somewhat tamer version of Outward Bound wilderness survival schools, is sponsored by Tarrant County Juvenile Services. It has just received a National County Achievement Award as one of the most outstanding and innovative county-run programs in the country.

But while juvenile service personnel were quietly pleased with the award (their third in three years), Felicia, Gary, Myron, Christine, "Go-go," Orlando, Roland and Mike couldn't have cared less.

They were engrossed in the challenges of their first camping trip — the first trip

Please see Private on Page 3



13-year-old rappeller takes first big step off cliff



Group watches as James Smith of juvenile services demonstrates rappelling



Probation officers Charlotte White, right, and Tom Marsh with hikers

Story by Debbie Mitchell
Photos by Larry C. Price

Private groups are funding most of program

Continued from Page 1

out of Fort Worth ever for 13-year-old Gary.

Neither blistering sun nor blistering feet could dull their enthusiasm and complaints about empty canteens or squashed peanut butter sandwiches were absolutely out of the question, beneath their dignity.

The youngsters, in the program as either status offenders — truants, runaways, paint sniffers — or as juvenile delinquents on probation, had scarcely known each other before the trip began. They spent the first day and a half hiking around Pedernales Falls, bettering their campsite skills and getting acquainted.

Still a little shy with each other the morning of the climb, by 10 p.m. that night, they were holding hands, guiding one another down from the rocks.

James Smith, deputy assistant director of juvenile services and leader of the camping expedition, later looked back on the dark and sometimes scary descent from Enchanted Rock as one of the high points of the trip.

"We stayed up too long and the consequence was that we came down in the dark. We did it as safely as possible and the good part was that we did it as a group," Smith said. "Just

to see the kids supporting one another, helping one another and utilizing the teamwork — that's the essence of the wilderness program. The kids feel like they've really done something, earned some self-confidence."

And that, said Paul Cromwell, director of juvenile services, is just what the program is all about.

"The majority of the kids in the program are delinquents and, in a lot of cases, some are pretty hard core," Cromwell said. "We use the wilderness trips to teach them responsibility. And it's an attempt to channel all that youthful exuberance into a worthwhile activity, something they can be proud to say they did."

Rappelling is just the kind of activity the youngsters are proud to "say they did." As Charlotte White, one probation officer on the trip noted, "it takes a lot of nerve to step off a mountain backwards, but the feeling you get is worth it. You feel so good to know that you could do that."

For participants in the High Adventure program (its leaders have been trained through Outward Bound), all possible safety precautions are taken. The belay rope, a second safety line, is used and the rappeller wears a helmet. Harnesses

and knots are checked and rechecked.

Even so, for a beginner the first step backward is a big one.

Smith, reminding the youngsters that "you control your descent," and probation officer Tom Marsh, steadying the belay rope, spent hours going over the procedure on the "baby slope" before the group moved on to Turkey Peak and more challenging terrain late in the afternoon.

Turkey Peak, at the southeast corner of Enchanted Rock State Park, may not be Mount Everest, but to a 13-year-old dangling over the side of a 70-foot cliff, it's, as Roland said, "pretty scary, man."

By the time the group topped the 400-foot peak, the sun was dipping low into the western sky, and by the time the first rappeller had gone over the side of the cliff, shadows from adjacent hills had stretched across the sandy river bed, the road and, finally, the plateau.

Scary as the rope descent looked, those waiting on the rocks for their turn to rappel were hoping that darkness wouldn't come before they had a chance to test their mettle.

While they waited, they joked about going straight once and for all — "I'm never gonna skip school again

if I get down from here alive." And watching the buzzards circle lazily overhead, a few noted whom they wanted to remember in their wills if they didn't have the best of luck.

"If I die, I want to be buried with all my money," or "Be sure to say goodbye to Delia."

While some were joking with accomplished bravado and a nervous laugh or two, others were agonizing with the decision of whether to rappel.

Christine, who perhaps had had the most difficulty with some of the steeper slopes that afternoon, originally planned to forego the quick descent off Turkey Peak. The sponsors of High Adventure encourage everyone to participate in all the activities, but no one is forced to do something he or she just doesn't want to do. Besides, someone had to walk down the mountain to help carry the gear, and Christine said she would be glad to do that.

As she sat perched on a rock above the rappelling ledge, watching a few members of the group descend, though, Christine began changing her mind.

When darkness came before her turn, she was genuinely disappointed.

"I know I was scared," she confided, "but I really wanted to do it so I could go home and tell my mom. She'd be proud of me."

Cromwell lauds the High Adventure program for providing its participants with just that kind of self-confidence and pride. He said that less than 10 percent of those youngsters who make the wilderness treks wind up in trouble again — a far lower percentage than among youths who aren't involved in the program.

The effectiveness of the program was only part of the reason it was selected to receive the National County Achievement Award, making Tarrant County one of only four Texas counties recognized. Creative financing also was an important criterion for the award, and here the High Adventure program got superior marks.

Only a fraction of the money, Cromwell said, comes from county coffers. Most of the \$10,000 budget is supplied by two private foundations — the Texas Boys Development Corp., organized by a handful of Fort Worth businessmen, and Gill Children's Services Inc., a private foundation at the University of Texas school of social work.

"It's not that the county refused to fund the program," Cromwell said. "We just felt it would be better to operate as independently as possible. That's one of the main reasons we got the award."

Since the program was born in October 1977, the brainchild of Juvenile Judge Scott Moore, groups have traveled to Big Bend, the Guadalupe River and Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico and have spent countless weekends at the Sid Richardson camp near Bridgeport. (The High Adventure program is affiliated with the Explorer program of the Boy Scouts of America.)

Moore occasionally "sentences" adjudged delinquents to the program as a condition of their probation. Often, though, probation officers recommend that youngsters volunteer to join the groups, which are limited to 12 members.

Some youths like the program so much that they refuse to fall out after their scheduled trips, Cromwell said.

"Our plan is to take kids on three trips and then pick another group," Cromwell said. "But sometimes we get kids that refuse to quit. And, you know, I can't really blame them."

Griffin exits judge race, says precinct wants him

B.D. Griffin, the colorful fiddle-playing Tarrant County commissioner, said Tuesday his constituents in Precinct 4 have convinced him to abandon a planned race to unseat County Judge Mike Moncrief next year.

Griffin said he decided six weeks ago, after talking to many of his supporters, to seek a third term as county commissioner and drop a county-wide challenge of the wealthy incumbent county judge.

"Well, it's just that most of the people in Precinct 4 want me to run for re-election," Griffin said. "The majority thought I'd been doing a good job as county commissioner and hoped I'd continue to run for it, and that's what I'll do."

Although Griffin, 48, never officially announced his candidacy against Moncrief, for months he has campaigned privately to line up support for a county judge race in 1982.

Griffin conceded that Moncrief's financial assets as head of an oil company in Fort Worth figured in Griffin's decision to avoid a race projected to require \$300,000 in campaign funds.

"It would have been difficult to raise enough money to combat the money Moncrief has avail-

able to him," Griffin said.

Griffin would not speculate on who would have won in a Griffin-Moncrief campaign. "I don't guess anybody will ever know."

Does he expect Moncrief to be re-elected? "I expect that's his problem," Griffin replied.

Griffin became involved in county government as an investigator for the Tarrant County district attorney's office. In 1974 he won election to the seat vacated by then-Commissioner George "Skeet" Richardson of Keller.

Griffin is still bitter at what he calls "Mike Moncrief's investigation," referring to an inquiry the county judge requested last year involving Griffin's running of his precinct garage. Moncrief asked District Attorney Tim Curry to investigate allegations that Griffin used county workers and materials in his precinct garage for his personal gain.

Griffin's former road supervisor, Wendell Hill, went first to Moncrief with the allegations, but a county grand jury brought no complaint against Griffin and indicted Hill on theft charges.

Griffin said he will continue to work on consolidating the county's road system, but his immediate concern is the city-county jail complex.

"My primary target, after the decision by the City of Fort Worth whether to go with the city-county jail complex, is to get ample solution to our jail problems that would meet with approval by our (state) jail standard commission," he said.

Griffin has organized several bands that specialize in Western swing music and is known for his ability to play a fiddle while it rests on his head.



B.D. GRIFFIN

New judges go right to work in Tarrant County offices

Two Tarrant County judges took the oath of office Tuesday and will begin presiding in their respective courts immediately.

County commissioners appointed Pat Ferchill, formerly judge of County Court-at-Law No. 1, judge of the new Probate Court No. 2.

Bill Brigham, an assistant district attorney for the past six years, was named to replace Ferchill.

Both were sworn in by District Judge Charles Murray Tuesday morning in a ceremony in Commissioners' Court chambers.

A 1971 graduate of the University of Texas Law School, the 35-year-old Ferchill served as prosecutor and later chief judge of the Fort Worth municipal court system.

As probate judge, he will preside in contested will cases and commit mentally ill people to institutions.



PAT FERCHILL



BILL BRIGHAM

Brigham is a former FBI special agent. As court-at-law judge, the 52-year-old will hear a variety of civil cases.

Judge opines on 'human family'

Duvall is anything but a detached observer

By JIM MORRIS
Star-Telegram Writer

It was docket call in Judge J.C. Duvall's court. The usual stream of hot-check writers, drunken drivers and other menaces to society was there. Duvall was in rare form.

At 82, the judge of Tarrant County Criminal Court No. 1 is cranky but compassionate, didactic but understanding. There is no other like him.

Duvall doesn't ask a few routine legal questions and dispense with a case as quickly as possible. He lectures, scolds and compliments the sorry lot before him. He tells them what they've done wrong and why their behavior is unacceptable.

Then he tells them to think about the paths their lives are following. Do they want to be moral, law-abiding citizens, or do they want to be drunks, thieves and prostitutes? It's their

choice.

On this day, a long-haired young man accused of passing bad checks stood nervously before Duvall. The young man was clinging tightly to his girlfriend.

Duvall told him how to pay off the checks — "in cash." Then, for good measure, the judge added, "When you get through with this, you'll feel like a man again. It will probably be the first time in your life you've felt like a man."

Duvall peered through his thick glasses at the docket and called out another name.

"My attorney ain't showed up yet," the man said. Clearly perturbed at the absent lawyer, Duvall told the man he would wait a little longer.

The judge read the name of the next defendant and was told by a clerk that the case already had been

disposed of.

"Well, what's it doing on my docket?" Duvall bellowed, his voice carrying into the hallway. "It's got no business on my docket."

Next was another hot-check writer, this time a young woman.

She said she had been paying off the checks according to schedule, but her bondsman had asked to be relieved of his responsibility.

Duvall asked a few questions about the woman's personal life. Apparently satisfied, he said, "Well, I'm not going to let him go off her bond. He took her money. This girl seems to be honest, and her bondsman is going to be honest, too."

Duvall looked directly at the woman and said, "Keep up the good work, young lady."

Several weeks later, Duvall was on
Please see Duvall's on Page 46



Star-Telegram

J.C. DUVALL

... cranky, compassionate

Duvall's loves are life and law

Continued from Page 33

the telephone chewing out a man who had been convicted of promoting prostitution.

The man was trying to find his wife and thought the judge might have seen her. After a few minutes, the conversation got around to the man's previous crime.

"What were you — a procurer?" Duvall asked.

The answer must have been "yes," because Duvall asked what the sentence was.

"Ten years probation?" Duvall hooted with mock horror. "They should have hanged you."

More conversation. Duvall: "Three hundred dollars an hour? What woman in the world is worth three hundred dollars an hour?"

Duvall admits he's a cynic. Having spent more than 20 years as judge and having been a war crimes prosecutor in Germany, he'd have to be.

"I don't expect too much of the human race, so I don't get too disappointed," he is fond of saying.

At the same time, he is not without hope.

"When judges get to the point where they forget about the human side of law," he says, "it's too bad."

He says he will stay on the bench as long as his health is good and his mental faculties are about him.

Law Duvall-style is markedly different from the law his colleagues practice. He is not satisfied being a detached observer. He has bought bus tickets home for wayward youngsters. He regularly orders inmates to write essays on "What I have been doing — was it right or wrong? — and what I propose to do about it."

Duvall says he can tell when an inmate's trying to put one over on him. "A lot of people have tried to snow-job me," he says. "I don't snow-job easily."

He is especially leery of sudden conversions to Christianity. "When a preacher comes down and says, 'So-and-so gave his soul to Jesus last Sunday,' I look at the kid's record. If he's a tramp, he'd give his soul to anybody who'd get him out of jail. In that case, I tell the preacher, 'You and Jesus may have his soul, but I've got his hide for six more months.'"

No doubt some of Duvall's charges resent his methods. But others are grateful. It's the first time in their lives someone has cared enough to give them a tongue-lashing.

In June, Duvall received an invitation to attend graduation exercises at the University of Texas School of Nursing. A woman had been in Duvall's court years earlier for prostitution. Duvall had told her she had too much potential to end up a "broken-down old whore." He bought her a ticket home. Now she was graduating from nursing school.

Duvall has a theory about parenting: treat an aberrant youth with fairness and dignity, and there's a chance he'll respond. Humiliate him and give him no responsibility, and you've helped raise a delinquent.

"Everyone demands that you uphold their rights these days," Duvall says, "but who's talking about responsibility? With every right comes a responsibility, but we've forgotten that."

"In the old days, if a kid stole, he was a thief. Now he's a deprived child. A victim of society. Everybody's guilty except the kid."

Duvall credits his father with forcing him to leave home and fend for himself. The night of his high school graduation in Owen County, Ky., in 1916, Duvall came home late and found his father waiting up for him.

"He said, 'You've been moving pretty loose on the axle lately. How much money do you have?' I told him I had \$11.47. He said that was enough. He told me to get out of the house, and if I could make an honest living for a year, he'd send me to any college I wanted."

Duvall left 12 hours later and became a "mud clerk" (a "glorified bellhop") on a steamboat. He got other jobs, worked his way through Drake University in Iowa and returned home four years later.

The first question his father asked was if he needed money. "I said, 'No. Do you want to borrow some?'"

He left Kentucky for Texas. He

"If people think they can do whatever they want, that's a misconception of liberty. We've thought too much about the rights of the individual and not enough about the rights of the community. People feel they're entitled to too much."

— Judge J.C. Duvall

taught high school in Austin and college in Seguin before coming to Fort Worth in 1920.

He taught at the Fort Worth Masonic Home and School for six years. In 1926, he passed the bar exam, joined a law firm and ran successfully for state representative, eventually serving five terms.

By the late 1930s, life was good. Then World War II came along. In spite of his age — 43 — Duvall felt the need to offer his services.

He went through the war in military intelligence. Afterward, he prosecuted war crimes with Leon Jaworski. They went after Nazis who had shot and gassed thousands of prisoners. It was a sobering experience and one not without irony.

"We prosecuted violations of civilized warfare — if there is such a thing," Duvall said. "There's no nice way to fight a war. Your job is to kill as many of the enemy as you can. The first thing you've got to learn to do is hate. It's not hard to do. But they lay down rules and regulations, and you've got to follow them."

In 1947, Duvall was named chief judge of the U.S. Court in the German states of Wurttemberg and Baden. The court heard conventional criminal and civil cases. Duvall was glad to be rid of the atrocities of Buchenwald and Auschwitz.

Duvall got a surprise when he returned to the States. His law clients had vanished, and one of his partners had died. It was time to try something new.

Turning to his well-honed prosecutorial skills, Duvall became an assistant district attorney. County Criminal Court No. 1 Judge W.H. Tolbert was struck by serious illness in 1957, and state law permitted lawyers working in the court to elect a temporary replacement. Duvall made it known he was a candidate.

"We passed around a Stetson hat, and Duvall got the nod," a former prosecutor in Duvall's court recalled. Tolbert later died, and Duvall kept the seat.

The old judge has slowed a bit, but he hasn't lost his zeal for observing the human condition and passing on his observations to fledgling prosecutors.

Duvall has gone through more than 80 of them and several — Gordon Gray, Pete Perez, George McManus, Billy Mills — have become Fort Worth judges themselves.

Above all, they say working in Duvall's court was a challenge. Says a former prosecutor:

"Judge Duvall, as opposed to other judges, has the ability to deal with human beings not only in the context of justice, but also in the context of their personal needs."

"He taught me an awful lot," said another. "The judge has his own thoughts about justice. For instance, he didn't always follow the rules as far as granting new trials. He might give a kid six months in jail and then bring him down after three weeks and give him a new trial when he really didn't have the jurisdiction to do it."

Duvall's latest tirade was on jury selection. The judge was telling one of his current prosecutors to forget what he had learned in law school.

"These law schools don't teach you how to empanel a jury," Duvall said, snarling. "When you're a prosecutor, you don't ask someone who their kin-folks are. You ask them if they would have any hesitancy to uphold the law. It doesn't make any difference what church a man belongs to or what race he belongs to — as long as he can uphold the law."

People haven't changed much since the early 1900s, Duvall con-

tends. Back then, if you were a kid and wanted to get into a little mischief, you found a still and drank corn whiskey. Today, you smoke marijuana.

"Law is custom," Duvall says. "Moral values swing like a pendulum." What once was unacceptable has become commonplace.

Duvall remembers Prohibition. It didn't work, he says, because "moral imposition of rules on someone else never works."

One aspect of modern society troubles Duvall — the rapid increase in violent crime. He doesn't fully understand it, but believes it has something to do with a lack of direction in government.

"If people think they can do whatever they want, that's a misconception of liberty," he says. "We've thought too much about the rights of the individual and not enough about the rights of the community. People feel they're entitled to too much."

What's the answer? Enforce the laws more strictly, Duvall suggests. Do away with "silly" reversals of convictions on obscure legal points. Make a criminal own up to what he has done.

Earlier this month, Duvall sentenced an ex-lieutenant colonel to a year in jail for driving while intoxicated. The man had been given a pro-

bated sentence on the same charge the week before.

"I said, 'Colonel, I'm not mad at you, but you're dangerous to society.' I think a fellow ought to take a drink once in a while if you want to. But you don't have to make a pig of yourself."

A history buff, Duvall often quotes ancient scholars to get his point across.

He likens himself to the Greek cynic Zeno, who had "observed human nature so long that he was neither disappointed nor surprised at anything anyone did."

One person who does have Duvall's untiring admiration is Abraham Lincoln. If Duvall is not a certifiable Lincoln authority, he is close to it. Lincoln busts and portraits fill the judge's chambers.

What Duvall likes about Lincoln was his honesty and tenacity, qualities Duvall finds lacking in most present-day politicians.

Duvall concurs with Richard Henry Lee, a founder of Virginia, who said, "Politics is the science of fraud, and politicians are the professors of that science."

In Duvall's mind, Lincoln should be a model for anyone in authority.

As for himself, Duvall says his purpose on the bench has been to "stand between the foolishness of law and the practicality of law."

The judge reasons there are "two kinds of people in this world — thinking people and feeling people. To thinking people, life is a comedy. To feeling people, life is a damned tragedy."

Duvall fancies himself a thinking person. "I'd like to see everybody get along," he says, "but I'm not going to drown myself if they don't."

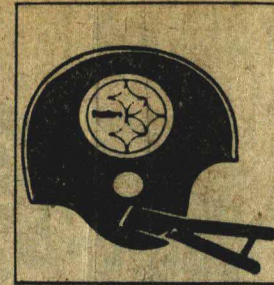
"The only pleasure I get out of this job is dealing with the human family. I like humans like I like my dogs and cats. Damn it, they're interesting."

good morning

Warmer . . . Fair skies and milder temperatures are expected Tuesday with skies turning partly cloudy Wednesday. Highs in the middle 70s are forecast Tuesday, reaching the middle 80s Wednesday. Weather data on Page 11B



Vickie Daniel takes the stand in murder trial 12A



Oilers can't stop Steelers, lose 26-13 1D

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

tuesday
OCTOBER 27, 1981

PRICE 25* ★ ★ ★ 1981 Pulitzer Prize Winner

Courtin' a dusty new look

By JAMES PINKERTON
Star-Telegram Writer

County Clerk Madrin Huffman says Tarrant County's \$5 million effort to restore its 85-year-old courthouse has given him a severe case of pneumonia.

Huffman is back on the job, still coughing and blowing his nose, after eight days in the hospital because of a mild cold, aggravated by dust, turned into pneumonia.

While other offices are operating in warmer, cleaner quarters in the county's new administration building across Weatherford Street, Huffman and his 50 employees continue to do business in what is now the shell of a cold, dark courthouse.

Huffman said his doctor believes the pneumonia came from breathing clouds of dust stirred up when construction workers punched through the floors with jackhammers to make way for new elevator shafts and fire stairs.

"When you go home and blow your nose, it's black," Huffman said of spending a day in the dust-laden office.

Several of Huffman's 50 employees have complained of respiratory problems, and it was not until the county clerk was hospitalized that a barrier was erected to keep the dust from rolling into the east side of the courthouse where Huffman's employees work.

Frances Cisneros, a pleasant wom-



Star-Telegram/NORM TINDELL

PROBATE EMPLOYEES . . . in soon-to-be new offices

an who runs the elevator in the old courthouse, usually greets her passengers with a wide smile.

On Monday afternoon, she was

hunched over in a heavy coat and racked with a hacking cough. A box of Kleenex was next to her purse.

Her face was pale and the smile

gone; as the sunlight outside faded, the temperature in the unheated ele-

Please see Courtin' on Page 2

Bentsen gets strong blitz for AWACS

By DAVE MONTGOMERY
Star-Telegram Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The "Dear Senator" letter to Lloyd Bentsen consumed an expensive quarter-page of a Dallas newspaper. "You're a fine senator," it began. Then came the "However."

The open letter to the Democratic Texas senator was signed by international businessman Harlan Crow and urged Bentsen to "re-evaluate" his opposition to the AWACS arms sale to Saudi Arabia.

The issue will come to a showdown in the Senate Wednesday and Crow's newspaper ad is characteristic of the intense public pressure befalling Bentsen, who opposes the deal.

Since September, his office has received an average of 41 calls a day, more than on any other issue this year, including the economy. Powerful forces in the White House and the Texas business community have lobbied him extensively in an attempt to change his mind. And Tuesday, he marches to the White House along with other opposition senators to hear a final appeal from Reagan in behalf of the embattled foreign policy issue.

"It's coming hot and heavy," an aide said amid the final blitz of constituent and lobby calls. By noon Monday, 2,341 cards, letters and phone calls had poured into

Reagan puts pressure on

Los Angeles Times News Service

WASHINGTON — With enough senators on record to hand him a defeat on his proposed AWACS deal with Saudi Arabia, President Reagan on Monday opened an 11th-hour drive to lure uncommitted and opposition members to his side in the battle.

In intensifying his efforts, the president met with a succession of senators in a quiet White House study.

He succeeded in getting Sen. William L. Armstrong, R-Colo., to line up in support of his \$8.5 billion arms sale.

Please see Reagan on Page 2

Bentsen's office, divided almost equally on opposite sides of the arms sale proposal.

Going into Tuesday's meeting with Reagan, Bentsen, according to an Associated Press count, stood on the dominant side as one of 55 senators

Please see Bentsen on Page 2

Judge Duvall relents to 'old Father Time'

By JIM MORRIS
Star-Telegram Writer

J.C. Duvall's name was conspicuously absent from Monday's final list of Tarrant County Democratic candidates for the upcoming primary election.

Surely this was a mistake. The 83-year-old judge has been administering his own, inimitable brand of justice in County Criminal Court No. 1 for 24 years. It is common knowledge that he has been in poor health, but Duvall was talking as recently as last month about seeking a seventh, four-year term.

Still, it became clear as the 6 p.m. filing deadline approached Monday that Duvall is getting out of the political arena for good. He will be replaced by one of three candidates — former District Attorney Frank Coffey, former Chief Municipal Judge Maryellen Hicks — both Democrats — or Assistant District Attorney Bob Marshall, a Republican.

In a telephone interview Tuesday afternoon from his Lake Granbury retreat, Duvall said he is

sure any of the three would do a credible job.

None of the candidates, however, will be able to replace Duvall.

Born and reared in Owen County, Ky., Duvall was commanded by his stern father to leave home after high school and seek his fortune. He came to Texas, served five terms on the Legislature and became a prosecutor of Nazi war criminals in post-World War II Germany.

After returning to Fort Worth, he spent several years as a Tarrant County assistant district attorney and was appointed to the county criminal court judgeship in 1957.

Since then, the irreverent, unpredictable Duvall has reigned like a king whose subjects either idolize or deplore him — but never have mixed feelings.

Duvall has lost a lot of his punch in recent months, however. He suffered a heart attack last Thanksgiving and shortly afterward had a bout with pneumonia. His doctors sentenced him to an indefinite term in bed, which in

Duvall's eyes is as bad as a month in the county jail.

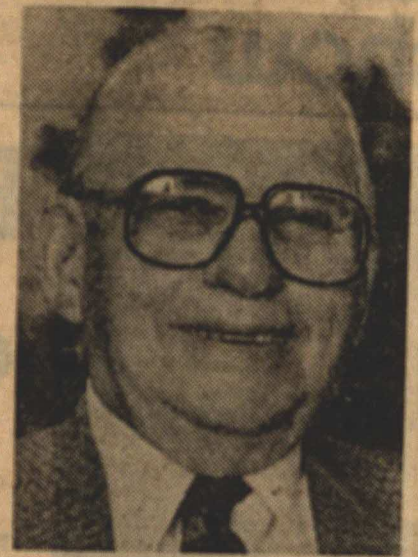
"I think old Father Time has caught up with me," Duvall said in an uncharacteristically weak voice Tuesday. "I'm out of breath just walking to the front door. It's dragging me down, you know. It's the dickens."

Duvall confirmed that he will not run for re-election in November. He swears he will return to the bench sometime this spring, however, to serve the remainder of his term, which expires Dec. 31.

Duvall was asked if he is going to miss being judge. "Of course I'll miss it," he said. "I'll miss it a great deal. But it's not fair for me to expect to be able to serve another term. My doctor thinks that, too."

That incapacitation afflicts a man who routinely used to address defendants as if they were his own wayward children.

"I think I'll make it all right," Duvall said. "But I'll have to take it awfully slow. I can't do a lot of things I'd like to, things that everyone else can do, like bringing



J.C. DUVALL
... "I'll miss it"

wood in for the fire."

But then the irrepressible spirit showed through. Duvall said his target for returning to the bench is March 31, the day the term of his temporary replacement, Jake Cook, expires.

Duvall said that when he finally does retire — and some still find that impossible to imagine — he may sit down and compile his memoirs. "I've given some thought to doing a little writing," he said, "but I'm supposed to take it easy — and writing comes under the head of hard work, don't you think?"

Cornea shortage slows transplants

By BRYAN HORI
Star-Telegram Writer

For several years, Dorothy Latham of Fort Worth used eyedrops to treat the blisters that would form on the surface of her eyeballs. When her condition worsened, she used a hair dryer, aiming the warm flow of air at her eyes to help dry and heal the pustules.

Mrs. Latham, 63, a secretary for the Tarrant County child affairs office, suffers from corneal dystrophy.

The hereditary disease causes her corneas to become three times their normal thickness and leads to the formation of the blisters. When the disease is at its worst, she said, "everything looks like you're rubbing salad dressing on your glasses."

But five times during the past six years, Mrs. Latham has undergone corneal transplants, operations that allowed her to see clearly again for about a year and a half after each transplant.

Because her eyes have rejected the new corneas, she has had the transplants about three times as often as the typical victim of corneal dystrophy.

She claims all the trouble is worth it.

"For the rest of my life, everything I make will go to my seeing," Mrs.

Latham said recently. "Every dollar is worth it, you bet every dollar is worth it. . . I would beg, borrow or steal to get (the corneas)."

But she will have difficulty obtaining the clear, thin "windows" at the front of the eye.

A 5-year-old state law permits coroners to remove corneas from a corpse where there are no known relatives who might object to the procedure. But officials in the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's office claim they lack the proper resources to extract all of the corneas permitted under the law.

"I'd like people who need cornea transplants to get them, but we don't have the facilities," said Marc A. Krouse, Tarrant county deputy medical examiner. "We don't have the nutrients, the solutions or the sterile instruments, and there is the case-load factor."

"There are two doctors doing a four-doctor caseload."

Mrs. Latham received her transplants from the Eye Bank in Fort Worth, which coordinates donors and recipients of corneas. The donors of the tissue remain anonymous.

J.T. Hinkle, executive director of the Eye Bank, blamed the lack of available corneas on warnings to the medical examiner's office that the



Star-Telegram/TONY RECORD

TRANSPLANT SUCCESS . . . Dorothy Latham sees value

state law was vague and susceptible to challenge.

But Krouse said that the warnings were not a strong factor affecting the corneal-removal rate.

"The legal advice was not a major factor," Krouse said. "We're not really afraid of being sued, we're just operating on a conservative note."

He said about six more corneas could be extracted each month if the medical examiner's office had the proper equipment and manpower. In the 10 counties supplied by the Eye Bank, an average of 20 people are on the waiting list for corneal transplants, which, Hinkle said, have a success rate of more than 90 percent.

State Sen. Betty Andujar, R-Fort Worth, who sponsored the 1977 law, said she was "terribly disappointed" by the failure of the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's office to remove the eyeballs of eligible corpses.

She said she had expected the law to result in about 80 more available corneas annually for this area. She did not investigate the local situation after passage of the law, however, and said the issue "got lost in the shuffle."

Early this year, Mrs. Latham will again undergo the one-hour operation, which costs about \$4,000 per eye. But the prospect of the delicate surgery has never frightened her.

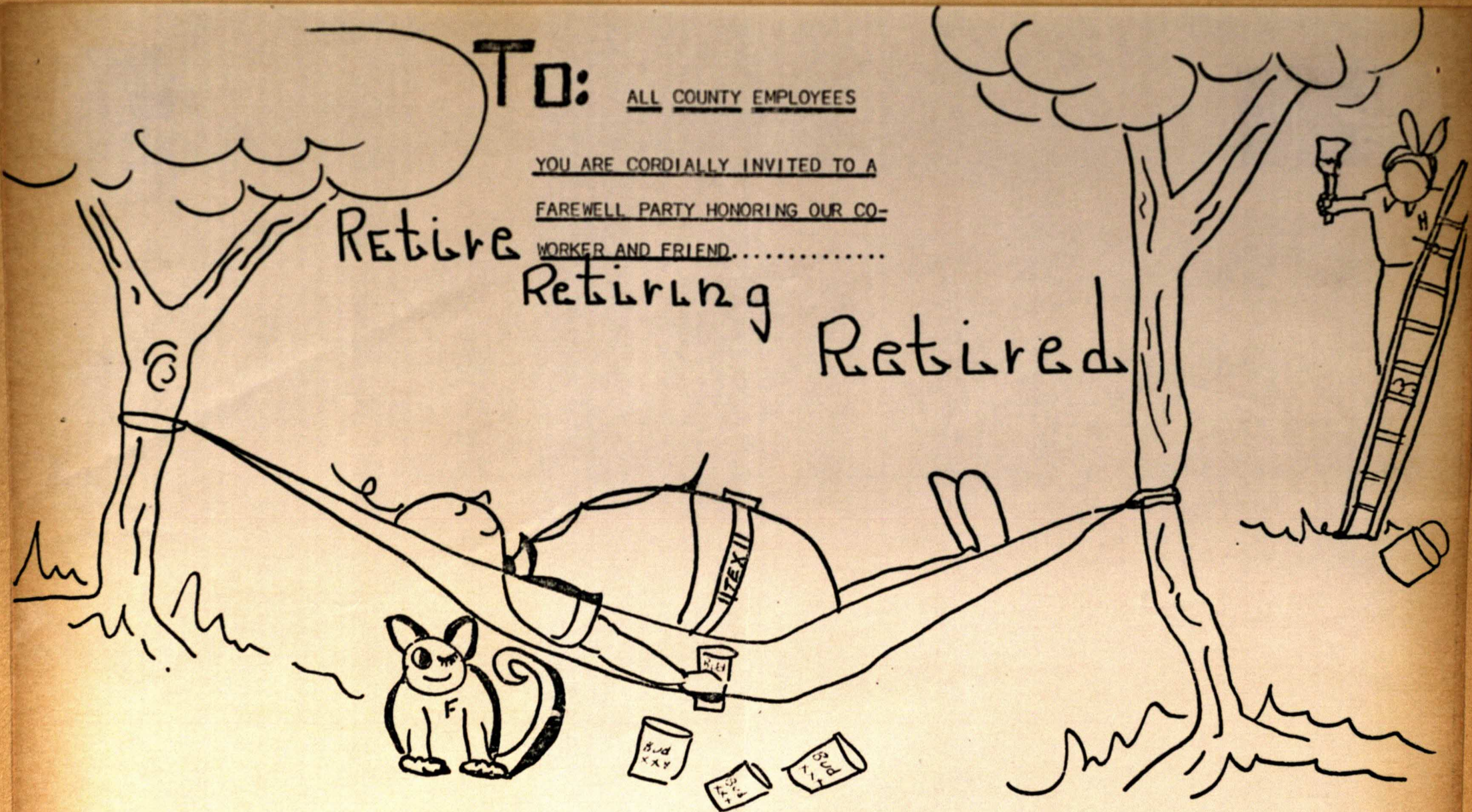
To: ALL COUNTY EMPLOYEES

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO A
FAREWELL PARTY HONORING OUR CO-
WORKER AND FRIEND.....

Retire

Retiring

Retired



STAN DARR

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1982

2:00 TO 4:00 P.M.

AUDITOR'S OFFICE - 5TH FLOOR
T. C. ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

From: AUDITOR OFFICE EMPLOYEES



**PUBLICLY
SPEAKING...**
Mary Ellen Schatt-
man on the line
with one of the
many items
donated
for Channel 13's
annual auction
starting today.

FW gets in auction action

By **CAROL NUCKOLS**
Star-Telegram Writer

They call it "The Best Little Warehouse in Texas." Maybe it is. Surely it boasts the most varied contents.

For 10 days beginning today, the 10th annual Channel 13 Auction will transform Dallas' public television station into a warehouse of sorts, jam-packed with goods (plus services and cash) worth more than \$850,000. The event will dominate the North Texas public television airwaves, to the good fortune of astute bidders and to the benefit (\$600,000 or so) of the station's operating budget.

Approximately \$100,000 worth of those goods, services and cash are donated by Fort Worth merchants — and quite a bit more comes from the remainder of Tarrant County, said Mary Ellen Schattman, Fort Worth coordinator for the

auction. Some 60 Fort Worth volunteers perform such duties as cajoling merchants into donating auctionable items, picking up merchandise and answering the phone.

"It's amazing what people will do for us because we ask them to," Schattman said. Jewelers make up special rings; large employers such as Continental National Bank, Fort Worth National Bank and Bell Helicopter send entire groups of employees to assist with on-air duties; store owners offer volunteers the run of the place in assembling outfits or packages of goods.

But what's probably more amazing is what people do *without* being asked. Neon sculptor Greg Garnett encountered Schattman by chance, and upon learning that she was involved with the auction, informed her that he wanted to donate a sculpture. And so it goes.

"Some people give because they love Channel
Please see Fort Worth on Page 4

Fort Worth merchants ante up for the benefit of 13's bidders

Continued from Page 1

and they love the publicity," Schattman noted. Once they've participated in the auction, they might not need to be asked to repeat the gesture in subsequent years. Among the most gung-ho of local enthusiasts are Miller Brewing Co. and Dietz Opticians, she added.

"We offer them something in exchange — air time. And it's tax deductible, of course. So some people we talk into it, especially if we see something that catches our fancy. And we send out letters."

The auction gets plenty of support from Fort Worth: Boswell Foy Associates has donated six Regency-style chairs, total value \$6,600; Saturn Stained Glass gave a large Victorian oval glass with a floral design; KJIM radio gives \$1,600 worth of air time; weaver Winston Herbert will custom design and make a weaving for the highest bidder.

Other choice items: five VIP memberships at Billy Bob's Texas; a block of 50 tickets to that famous North Side bar; an "indescribable" 2-foot-tall bust of Othello or Henry VIII or some other illustrious gentleman with a feather in his hat, from Minton-Corley; a large ceramic Chinese pagoda planter; prints by Scott and Stuart Gentling; a painting from Gallery One.

And there's more: 30 hamburger-and-french-fry meals at Kincaid's, lunch for 10 at the Kimbell Art Museum, sightseeing tours of Fort Worth, gift certificate to classes at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, green stamps measured out by the yard, nachos for an army from Jimenez.

"Everyone from the arts in Fort Worth donates," Schattman said. Season tickets are available to the Fort Worth Symphony, Fort Worth Opera, Fine Film Series, Youth Orchestra and local theaters. The Kimbell and Amon Carter museums have donated art books.

Hulen Mall is one of several area malls and

shopping centers being honored for their support with special nights. Hulen Mall night is Saturday, featuring a gift certificate from Clyde Campbell, sculptured nails from Mona's Sculptured Nails, four claret glasses from One Foot in the Sea, a print from Graphix, portable wine bar from Handcrafters, 10-gallon aquarium set from Jerry's Perfect Pets and many other items.

Saturday also is Western day; among the items to go on the block are two pairs of chaps, one in red leather with gold decoration, the other white and silver; a block of tickets to the Cowtown Rodeo, and ranch oak furniture from A. Brandt.

On the strange side: 1,300 pounds of exotic fertilizer from the Fort Worth Zoo (Schattman did not say that this item would be warehoused in the television studio), plus an opportunity to meet the donor — a rhino or hippo.

And those are just a few things to go on the block from Fort Worth alone.

Other items include trips to Mexico, Santa Fe, Washington, D.C., and numerous other locations; advertising space in the *Richardson Daily News*; a year of Muzak; an antique grocery scale; lifetime membership in a video club; real estate and income tax courses; faucets; countless dinners and gourmet gift baskets; haircuts and permanents; art restoration.

Figurines, baskets, carpet cleaning, dog boarding, a magnolia tree, stained glass, ceiling fans, corrugated packing boxes, facials, skates, a performance by the Richardson Community Band, clothing (including couture), a lot in Granbury, an inflatable raft, watches, fishing poles — the list goes on. And on and on and on.

"There are always bargains to be found, with such a volume," the coordinator commented. "Rarely do things go for 100 percent of retail."

Hours of the auction are 5 p.m. to midnight weekdays and 1 p.m. to midnight weekends through June 13.

Probation Official

More Criminals Freed, She's Ready for Rest

By MADELINE WILLIAMS

When Corrine Special made her first report for the Adult Probation Department for May, 1969, there were 1,504 criminals free on probation in Tarrant County.



Corrine Special

Her last report, at the end of April, showed 9,504.

"That's a tremendous increase in 13 years," Mrs. Special said yesterday as she tidied up her work and her desk before her retirement reception this afternoon in the Adult Probation offices.

Mrs. Special was hired by the late Karl Howard, who had become chief probation officer after retiring as police chief of Fort Worth. Her father, the late Herman Cobb, was lieutenant of detectives under Howard. After his retirement from the Police Department, Cobb had gone to work for Sheriff Lon Evans in 1961.

She started out as chief bookkeeper, but it was not long before she was promoted to office manager, in charge of the office staff and coordinating its work with that of the probation officers.

"This is stressful work," she said. "I'm ready for a rest."

Mrs. Special grew up in Fort Worth and was graduated from Riverside High School in 1937—the first year it was open.

"I had gone to Poly," she said, "and a lot of us from Riverside went to North Side or Central, but when we finally got our own high school, most of us went back to graduate there."

As for retirement plans, Mrs. Special and her husband, John, materiel manager with Petrochemicals Co., plan a cruise in October and other trips, especially to visit children and grandchildren.

Their daughter, Teresa, was graduated May 15 with a law degree from Texas Tech and will go to work Aug. 16 in the office of the county attorney of Parker County. A son, John, lives here, and another son, Kevin, works for Lone Star Co. in Wichita Falls.

Mrs. Special also was honored at a retirement dinner last week at Colonial Country Club, arranged by Mary Kendall, Shirley Jones, Ken Moore and Peter Hinojosa.

LOCAL BUSINESS

B

Star-Telegram

MONDAY MORNING, JUNE 7, 1982



Star-Telegram/WADE GATES

County team turns hoss race into runaway

By BRIAN HOWARD
Star-Telegram Writer

We won Sunday!

The Tarrant County Sheriff's Posse whipped the pants off of the Dallas County Sheriff's Posse!

Tarrant County Judge Mike Moncrief beat Dallas County Judge Garry Weber by virtually a country mile.

It was the First Annual County Line Challenge Race, pitting five members of each county's sheriff's posse — as well as the two county judges — against each other in a one-mile relay race on horseback under the glaring June sun.

With Moncrief and Weber riding the final leg of the race, Tarrant County won convincingly — as was expected.

Confirming suspicions that Dallasites might be sore losers, Weber immediately blamed his humiliat-

For information on the Chisholm Trail Round-up Friday through Sunday, dial 589-7433 and ask for Tape No. 100.

ing loss on his horse, a beautiful, strutting, dun Quarterhorse supplied at the last moment by Tarrant County.

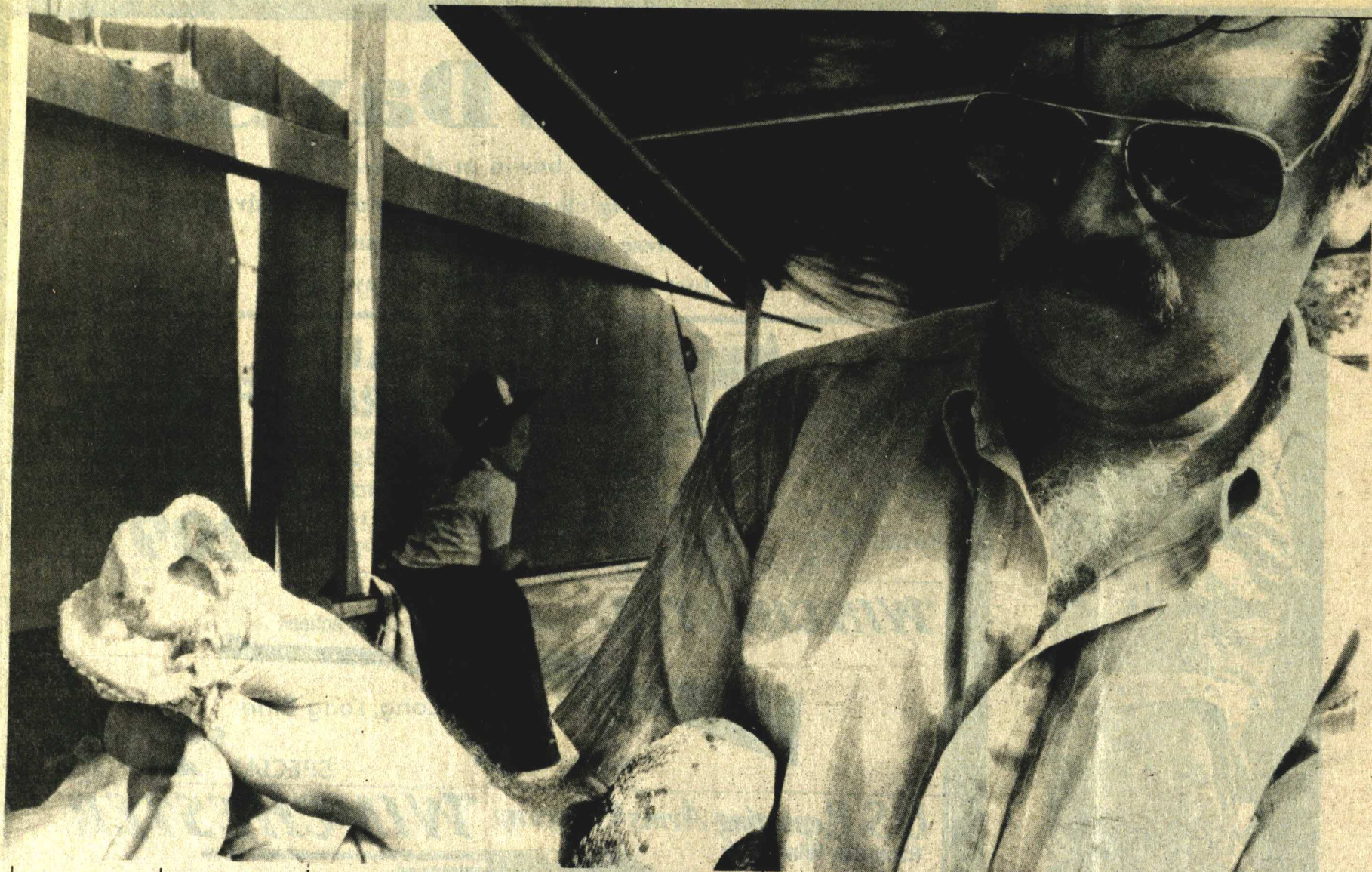
Tarrant County did not dignify that claim with a response, and was not asked to do so.

A trophy — a wood-and-metal covered wagon — was presented to the jubilant Moncrief and will reside in Tarrant County offices until the next race.

"Here it is, boys," Moncrief crowed as he raised it in triumph above his head.

Weber also presented Moncrief
Please see Tarrant on Page 2

MONCRIEF TRIUMPHANTLY LIFTS TROPHY . . . as a dejected Weber, left, stands by



Fangs for the memories -- Bob Popplewell gave visitors to his snake exhibit at the Chisholm Trail Round-

up on June 12 - 13 an incisive look at the business end of this rattlesnake. He gives lectures and exhibits rou-

tinely to eliminate what he calls "the myths and fallacies" of rattlesnake lore. [ANA Photo]



It's a messy business, but -- Popplewell lops off the snake heads prior to skinning and tanning the hides. Sometimes he enlists the help of his children, but says his son has a knack for disappearing at cleaning time. [ANA Photo]

Snakes loose on lake? - and at Liberty by Lex Jenkins

THERE'S A SCENE COMMON TO EVERY WESTERN, OR ANY movie with a desert setting, for that matter.

It's the one wherein the beautiful heroine nearly plants her petite boot right in the middle of a rattlesnake, which is coiled and coiled cinematically, and ready to strike.

"Oooh, help me, help me!" she implores.

"Stay calm, honey," draws her burly, he-man companion, as he draws his .45.

"Ka-blamm!!!" roars the gun.

One shot. Dead snake. Hugs and kisses for the hero.

That scene, and its accompanying gut-wrenching fear, is re-enacted many times whenever a hapless soul encounters a rattler in the wild, or even in the flower bed. And that's the scene, and the fear, that Bob Popplewell, Tarrant County personnel director and long-time snake fancier, says he is trying to combat.

Snake mythology has long been laced with tales of their fearful and fascinating powers. Popplewell admits he has been fascinated with them since his childhood.

Now his hobby has grown to include a snake "farm" at his Eagle Mountain Lake home, and frequent lectures and exhibits that combine herpetology fact, with side-show folly.

"I'm just trying to show people that snakes aren't the morbid, evil creatures everybody thinks they are," says Popplewell, "and that most of what they know about them are old wive's tales."

"People are taught to fear snakes from the time they are children and that fear carries over until they are adults," Popplewell says.

While his snake show audiences may appreciate his approach, some of his neighbors don't share that enthusiasm. They are complaining that many rattlesnake sightings in their neighborhood may be due to the reptiles escaping from the metal barn where Popplewell houses his snakes.

"We never did see one until last summer," says Mrs. L. E. Brooks, who says she and her husband have lived in their lakefront home, several miles from Popplewell, for nine years.

Mrs. Brooks says her neighbors, Dick and Ruth Schwartz, have had to kill at least two rattlesnakes in their garden.

Another neighbor, Linda McCreary, says she has heard that snakes have been killed on the Liberty Elementary School grounds, where her children attend school. A recent Fort Worth Star Telegram article reported that the school is across the street from Popplewell's house and snake barn. The article failed to note that the school is also 1/2 mile away from the Popplewells.

McCreary says, "I'm concerned because I've heard that rattlesnakes are not indigenous to this area," although she admits, "I'd venture to say that most people don't know what they've seen." She says she has not seen any snakes herself.

Despite the neighbors' fears that rattlesnakes were uncommon in this area, Wayne Clark, assistant naturalist at the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge, says those fears are unjustified.

"As far as the people being upset out there, that's totally unfounded," says Clark. "There are rattlesnakes around here, always have been."

What lakeside residents may view as a recent influx of snakes is a result of

the recent heavy spring rains, says Clark.

"There's a lot of snakes moving," says Clark. "Their homes have been flooded out," by higher than normal levels in the area lakes.

Clark also attributes the increased number of snake sightings to anticipation. "If you're concerned about something being around, you're going to notice it more," he says.

"There's going to be some snakes, even in places where you'd think there shouldn't be any," says Clark. "Just because you've got a nice manicured lawn doesn't mean you won't have snakes."

That was confirmed by Fort Worth Zoo herpetologist Gary Carl, who added that, "You're more likely to see them moving around during their spring mating season," particularly around lake areas.

Besides the water moccasins, copperheads, and a number of garden-variety non-poisonous snakes, Carl says that four different types of rattlesnakes can be found in Tarrant County and the surrounding areas, including western diamondback, massasauga, canebrake and western pygmy rattlers.

The presence, and prescience, of snakes in the Eagle Mountain Lake and Liberty School area has been fairly common knowledge for some time, according to Popplewell and other residents.

Azle school board president Roy Ralls says, "This is snake country and there's a few to be found here."

Ralls agrees that parents of the local school children may have a legitimate concern, but adds, "Probably, every rattlesnake found in this country will be blamed on his (Popplewell's) operation."

Although Ralls says he has discussed the situation with the district superintendent of schools, "I have not had a call from the public or any of the school board members." He says that snakes have been sighted periodically on school grounds for years, and the faculty had been apprised of the situation.

Rumors that disgruntled residents had filed complaints with the Tarrant County sheriff's department and the district attorney's office could not be confirmed.

Sheriff Lon Evans says, "I haven't heard any complaints from the citizens."

Fred Schatman, assistant district attorney, says, "If they want the commissioners court to tell Bob Popplewell how to run his business, they're

[Please See Sec. I, Page 11]

"Snakes alive" (Continued from Sec. I Page 10)

asking the wrong people. We would no more tell Mr. Popplewell how to run his business than we would tell the Azle News how to run theirs."

"There's got to be some kind of restriction or rule," before a governing body can take any action on the situation, says Schattman. There are no state or county laws pertaining to Popplewell's snake business, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife and county officials queried.

Dick Schwartz was quoted by the Star Telegram as saying the reason residents have no legal recourse is because, "Anybody that's political isn't going to say anything about it because of Popplewell and Moncrief." He referred to Popplewell's personal and business associations with County Judge Mike Moncrief.

"MIKE IS ONE OF THE MOST STRAIGHTFORWARD PEOPLE I KNOW," counters Popplewell. He says his association with Moncrief has in no way influenced other county officials in Popplewell's behalf. Although Moncrief is a business partner in the snake farm, Popplewell says he has never visited the barn.

"I am satisfied that Mr. Popplewell has done everything within his power to insure that none of the snakes can escape," says Moncrief. "It's purely and simply a matter of high water. Any time you get this much rain, snakes will be moving because their dens have been flooded."

A trace of anger tinges Moncrief's voice: "It's my understanding that because of this situation Mr. Popplewell has had to put up with a number of threats to his family."

Popplewell confirmed this, but adds that his job as county personnel director doesn't add to his popularity. "It's the most negative job I know of. All day long I have to tell people, 'No, you can't have this raise, no, you can't have any extra workers in your section'," he says with a shrug.

WAYNE CLARK SYMPATHIZES WITH POPPEWELL. "PERSONALLY, I think he got a raw deal," he says about the harrassment Popplewell has recently received.

However, Clark decries the "snake business" and its potential danger to the ecology, including some endangered reptiles that may be flushed out by the gasoline used in "rattlesnake roundups."

Moncrief and Popplewell also say they dislike the methods used by the roundups. Popplewell says he prefers to catch the snakes manually because the gasoline gives the snakes a kind of pneumonia that kills them within a few weeks.

Linda McCreary says she would be reassured if an impartial party could arrange to inspect Popplewell's barn to determine if it was secure and escape-proof.

Popplewell invited this reporter to inspect the barn, and to go snake hunting in the creek behind his house, which he says are full of snakes. He says a similar offer made to Dick Schwartz was refused twice. The offer was also made to a Star Telegram reporter, but could not be arranged at that time.

Although the snake hunting expedition could not be arranged on short notice, this reporter did examine the barn. It appears to be a fairly new, insulated and air-conditioned metal structure set into a concrete foundation. The approximately 100-200 snakes inside were enclosed in pens or cages that appeared to be secure. No obvious holes could be seen inside or outside the barn.

"I'm a statistician, and I've got a master's degree, and I've taught sociology in college," says Popplewell with a sheepish grin. "But this is where I like to spend my spare time and unwind, with these snakes," he says, gesturing around the barn.



Today, a snake; tomorrow, a paperweight -- These small rattlers are clear-cast in a plastic resin to make paperweights and desk sets for the urban cow-businessman. Larger rat-

tlers' hides are used to make hatbands, and belts for the well dressed Texan who likes to get close to his reptile. [ANA Photo]



Ben Hickey

Water Board To Start Dam Oct. 29

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new \$80 million dam and spillway at the Richland-Chambers Reservoir near Corsicana will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 29 by the Tarrant County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1.

The district is charged with the responsibility for providing water supplies for Fort Worth and Tarrant County, plus municipalities in surrounding counties. The district has constructed Lakes Bridgeport and Eagle Mountain on the West Fork of the Trinity River above Fort Worth and the Cedar Creek Reservoir in Henderson and Kaufman Counties.

The Richland-Chambers Reservoir in Navarro and Freestone Counties, along with Cedar Creek Reservoir, will comprise the district's East Texas water supply system and will provide Fort Worth with an adequate supply of high quality water well into the next century, according to Ben F. Hickey, district general manager.

Members of the board of directors of the water district are Wayne E. Newton, president; C. Victor Thornton, vice president; Robert D. Alexander, secretary; and Preston M. Geren Jr. and Burford I. King.

Probation officer wins plaudits of associates

By TERRY WILSON
Star-Telegram Writer

Peter L. Hinojosa is obsessed with being productive and doing constructive things with his time. Instead of spending his free hours socializing, the 29-year-old Fort Worth man devotes one day a week to being a Big Brother for an 11-year-old boy, and he plays flag football for charity.

His efforts have paid off in many ways, but most recently he was honored as Outstanding Field Officer of the Year by his peers in the Tarrant County Department of Adult Probation.

Hinojosa has worked with the probation department for seven years, the last 3½ years as a field officer. He supervises adults on felony probation and sometimes those on misdemeanor probation by paying them monthly or quarterly visits, depending on the terms of probation.

He and his peers work with many agencies in Tarrant County, such as the Texas Rehabilitation Commission, to help those on probation learn skills and find jobs.

"It's under the concept of community corrections," he said, adding that by getting offenders back into the community, they can be helped to contribute to its tax base and live relatively normal lives.

His associates make going to work an uplifting experience, he said. "My co-workers are just fantastic people to work with and the cooperative nature of the unit is just unbelievable."

Earlier this year, he submitted an idea to a committee within the department. To boost employee morale, he suggested awards be given out for outstanding performance on the job.

The idea became a reality, but Hinojosa did not expect to become a recipient of one of the plaques, he said. He was nominated for the Outstanding Field Officer of the Year award,

however, and an outside committee made the final selection.

"I'm just at a loss for words," he said. "I feel it's a very distinguishing honor to be selected as the outstanding field officer of the year..." he said.

Two years ago, Hinojosa saw commercials urging people to become Big Brothers or Big Sisters for children from single-parent homes. He became interested and since then has been a Big Brother to 11-year-old Ari Neimand of Fort Worth.

He said he became a Big Brother because when he grew up, his family was always financially secure, but the children eligible for Big Brothers and Big Sisters are not.

Hinojosa and Ari go to movies and to video game arcades. He also has Ari help him with household duties and everyday tasks, he said.

"You don't need to spend a lot of money on them (little brothers). It's just being there to talk to when they need you," he said.

Soon, Hinojosa plans to get involved with the Big Brothers Association. There he will help plan activities for unmatched children, or children without Big Brothers or Big Sisters.

In addition to his work and dedication of time and love to a child, Hinojosa and two other probation officers started a flag-football team early this year. The team is called Force Five and it competes with police departments and others to generate money for charity, he said.

The idea came about when he and some other probation officers were playing football one day. Hinojosa suggested their hobby be generated into something positive, he said.

In January, Force Five played the Fort Worth Police Department and raised \$2,800 for the Ronald McDonald house, which provides low cost housing for families from out-of-town that are in Fort Worth because they have children in the hospital.

Force Five is planning another flag-football game for January 1983 to benefit some other charity.



HINOJOSA



MUSIC MAKERS—Smokey Montgomery, left, and his Melody Ranch Hands—Bernie Annett, Desiree Elliott and Jerry Elliott—will entertain at the First National Bank of Fort Worth's 31st an-

nual Junior Exhibitors' Stock Show Breakfast Sunday. Jerry Clower, entertainment star at the rodeo, will speak. Clower has been honored for his country music and Christian service.



SPEAKER—Bill Hilliard Jr., assistant general manager of Tarrant County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1, will speak at the Society of American Military Engineers luncheon at the Petroleum Club Feb. 16.

Lawyer Drank the Evidence, Won the Case In Famed Lake Worth Pollution Trial

By DELBERT WILLIS

Five dirty, Mason fruit jars had been introduced into evidence.

Two deputy sheriffs had brought the jars into the courtroom in an effort to prove that the contents were polluted and unfit for human consumption.



Delbert Willis

The trial was over except for the summation by attorneys, including Joe Spurlock, Sr. for the washateria.

Spurlock picked up one jar and eyed the slimy green substance near the top and the murky brown sludge at the bottom of the jar.

"This looks like plain water to me," he mused, as if talking to himself.

He unscrewed the lid of the first jar and took a noticeable sip.

"We object to such theatrics," screamed a lawyer for the state.

"Your honor, these jars are in evidence and I have a right to examine them," answered Spurlock coolly. He pursed his lips slowly like a connoisseur of vintage wine. "Tastes all right to me," he said softly, just audible enough for the jurors to hear.

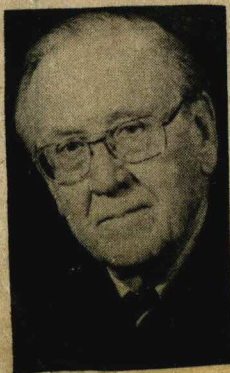
Disbelief flickered in the eyes of the attorneys opposing Spurlock. The judge shook his head and tried to suppress a smile. A few jurors stifled a snicker.

One by one Spurlock uncapped all jars and sipped from each one. He bowed to the jury and the judge and sat down. "Gentlemen, I have no further arguments in behalf of my client."

Five drinks won the case. The washateria stayed in business.

* * *

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE Joe Spurlock, Sr. retired in January after 14 years in the district and appellate courts. In judicial robes with gavel near at hand, he was the epitome of decorum, judicial dedication. He was held in high esteem by fellow lawyers on opposite sides of the courtroom table. Lawyers recommended his advancement to the higher court.



Judge Joe Spurlock, Sr.

Seated on the bench, he could not display his dash of showmanship, or let go with that strident belly laugh that could be heard throughout the courthouse corridors. When other lawyers, reporters and courtroom followers heard that roaring laugh, they often would beat a path to Joe's trial where they knew things would happen — often hilariously.

Joe Spurlock learned his courtroom in-fighting and in-sniping from an old master, the late Otis Rogers.

Only two weeks out of law school, Spurlock was dispatched to Rosebud, Texas to gather evidence about a man accused of statutory rape on his cousin. Later, at the trial, the father of the victim lunged at Spurlock with a Bowie knife and chased him down Main St.

Rogers and Spurlock ultimately won the case on high court reversal, but . . .

"That was the hell of a way to start law practice," Spurlock said to Rogers.

Rogers smiled that wry grin. "In a situation like this, barrister, you have to do one of two things: Run like hell or talk hard and fast. It's better to talk hard and fast."

* * *

ANOTHER EARLY LESSON learned by Joe from Rogers was to make somebody on the other side of the case look completely out of touch with whimsies of the home town folks.

Rogers and Spurlock filed a damage suit in behalf of a man who claimed he had been overcome by carbon monoxide from an old-fashioned open gas heater. The defendant brought an expert from Boston and Rogers took him on for cross examination.

"Where are you from?"

"Bus-t'n," clipped the witness.

"How far is that from BOSS-TON?" Rogers dragged out the name.

The expert said he had spent one entire day examining the house where the fire occurred.

Rogers: "Was it a one or two story house?"

"I don't know."

"You spent all day out there and you don't know? I'm going to give you a 50-50 chance to be right. Is it one or two stories?"

The witness wouldn't answer.

Rogers: "I'll give you another 50-50 chance to be right or wrong. Does the house face east or west?"

The witness wouldn't answer, but the jury answered in favor of Rogers-Spurlock.

* * *

WITH SUPERIOR MEMORY, Judge Spurlock can remember and discuss details of most of his big trials, little trials, and even out of court hearings.

But there is one piece of evidence that he has never revealed. And never will.

After the Kennedy assassination, he was closeted with Marguerite Oswald, the mother of Lee Harvey Oswald.

"She gave me the names of people who sent her son to New Orleans to hand out leaflets supporting and praising Cuba's Castro," he said. "We had a confidential lawyer-client relationship. I begged her to let me give the names to authorities. She refused."

Would those names have made a difference in the controversial investigation into the assassination?

"Who knows?" mused Judge Spurlock. "It might have been a big difference. It may not have mattered at all. I only wish those names had surfaced."

* * *

COURTROOM CAPERS — incidents or accidents or planned upheavels — did not always bring victory to Joe Spurlock.

Consider the legal dual he had in Judge Walter Morris' 67th District Court in the old courthouse. His legal adversary was Al Clyde, ex-district attorney and disabled veteran of World War II.

A pigeon soared through a high open window and dropped a load on Clyde's forehead as he was making his spiel to the jury.

Clyde calmly pulled out a handkerchief and wiped his forehead.

"This is what the opposing lawyer has been doing to me all day long," Clyde said.

Joe Spurlock laughed the hardest. Even when he lost the case, he could laugh and admire Clyde's quick thinking.

As a retired judge, Joe Spurlock is "of counsel" with one of his sons, Dean Spurlock. Another son, Joe Spurlock II, has succeeded his father in the appellate court.



NUMBER ONE—David Jackson, executive director of the Fort Worth Boys Club, with Emilio Marquez, eighth grader at J.P. Elder Junior High, who is the club's "boy of the year."

First Boys Club Member Returns Here Wednesday

Bill Burklow, who was the first boy to become a member of the Fort Worth Boys Club in 1935, will recall the organization's beginnings in a talk at the annual luncheon at noon Wednesday.

The luncheon will be held at the club, 2000 Ellis Ave. Burklow now is with the Texas Citrus Exchange in McAllen.

About 25 members will be chosen this month to work at the Colonial National Invitational Tournament May 9-15, cleaning grounds, greens and bleacher areas.

David A. Jackson, executive director of the club, said this will be the fourth year for the assignment, which is eagerly sought by the club members aged 10 to 17.

"If they get an OK from their parents and school, the boys learn to fill out forms, ask for employment and dress for an interview," Jackson said.

In addition, they meet world-famous golfers and other notables, and are paid for their time. Jackson says the experience gives them valuable training in seeking jobs elsewhere after the tournament.

A "one on one" program has been started by the club to pair boys with businessmen who help the youngsters prepare for careers in business and the professions, Jackson added.

Criminal District Judge Gordon Gray is one of the adults participating in the program, Jackson said.

Gas leak empties building

County employee treated for fumes

By DOUG CLARKE
and SUSAN ASCHOFF
Star-Telegram Writers

A gas leak in the Tarrant County Civil Courts Building sent one man to the hospital Friday morning and left several others, including a state district judge, complaining that the building is not safe.

Freon escaped from an air conditioning system in the subbasement of the building at 100 Houston St., after a water pump was inadvertently left on overnight. Pressure blew a safety valve, releasing the gas.

County building engineer Don Bowen was nearly overcome by the fumes while conducting a routine check at about 8 a.m. He stumbled out of the boiler room struggling to breathe, witnesses said, and was later taken to Harris Hospital.

Bowen, 37, of Haltom City, was treated and released.

The courthouse reopened at 10 a.m., allowing workers and visitors to return after standing in a cold wind for about an hour and a half. More than 150 people were evacuated.

Although the building was evacuated without incident, several complained that it is not safe because there are too few exits from the basement and access to some is impaired.

In case of fire or a natural gas leak, the basement could become a death trap, District Judge Robert L. Wright said.

"There are often 250 to 300 people down there," Wright said. "Something is going to happen that is going to be worse than that Las Vegas hotel fire."

Wright said it is fortunate that the leak was detected early in the morning.

"Thirty or 40 minutes later there would have been a lot of people down there and somebody would have panicked and got seriously hurt," Wright said.

Jim Stewart, county public works director, said there are three stairwell exits from the basement and one elevator. He said he has never heard of the exits being blocked.

"It was a very freakish thing," Stewart said. "It could have happened in any building in town."

Still, Wright said he and other attorneys plan to go before the county Commissioners Court and complain about the facility.

Attorney Jerry Loftin said he complained to fire officials about the basement in November. He said the fire exits are not properly marked and access to some is obstructed by supplies stored in the basement.

"Not only is it a firetrap, it wouldn't comply with dungeon regulations," Loftin said. "If this were a nightclub, they'd red-tag it and close it."

Attorney Alfred Jackson said he also complained.

"I've written letters, others have written letters and judges have complained. We call it the pit, because it reminds every lawyer and the participants of the arena they had in Rome," he said.

Fort Worth and Tarrant County fire officials said Friday afternoon that they didn't know if they had received complaints about the building.

Please see Gas on Page 19



Star-Telegram/DALE BLACKWELL

EVACUATION SCENE . . . Friday morning outside Civil Courts Building

Gas leak forces 150 out of courts building

Continued from Page 17

But a fire department official said that the building is routinely inspected. He could find no record of safety violations.

County Judge Mike Moncrief could not be reached for comment Friday. But Assistant District Attorney Gerald Summerford, who oversees legal aspects of construction for county facilities, said he was unaware of any complaints about the safety of the building.

"I don't think the area would be any more of a firetrap than any other basement construction," Summerford said.

Joyce Bills, director of Family Court Services, which is in the basement, said she and other workers smelled a chemical odor when they arrived shortly before 8 a.m.

"He (Bowen) came in trying to say something, but couldn't talk," Bills said. "He was trying to warn us and get us out, but we had to help him up the stairs."

She and about 24 other people in the basement complained of faintness and throat and chest pain. None except Bowen received medical treatment.

"I didn't panic," said Ernest Lopez, a county worker who went with Bowen to the basement. "(I) went ahead and turned off the fans so the stuff wouldn't get all through the building."

The fire department sent four trucks and about 15 firefighters to the scene after receiving an 8:17 a.m. phone call saying "people were dropping like flies" and that there was a gas leak.

Firefighters quickly determined that the leak was not from natural gas lines but the air conditioning unit. Freon is not toxic but can cause suffocation when it displaces the air.

Firefighters wore oxygen masks and later brought in fans to clear the gas.

Although placed in the subbasement of the

"He (Bowen) was trying to warn us and get us out, but we had to help him up the stairs."

— Joyce Bills, director of Family Court Services

Civil Courts Building, the air-conditioning unit will be used to cool the old county courthouse when its renovation is completed.

Johnny Pittman of Walker Construction Co., the construction manager for the renovation, said the unit is in the building because there is no space in the old courthouse. Chilled water will be pumped from the courts building to the old courthouse.

"Apparently what happened was there were some pumps left running last night," said Richard Skipper, president of SkiHi Mechanical Contractors. "We're trying to find out right now why the pumps were left on."

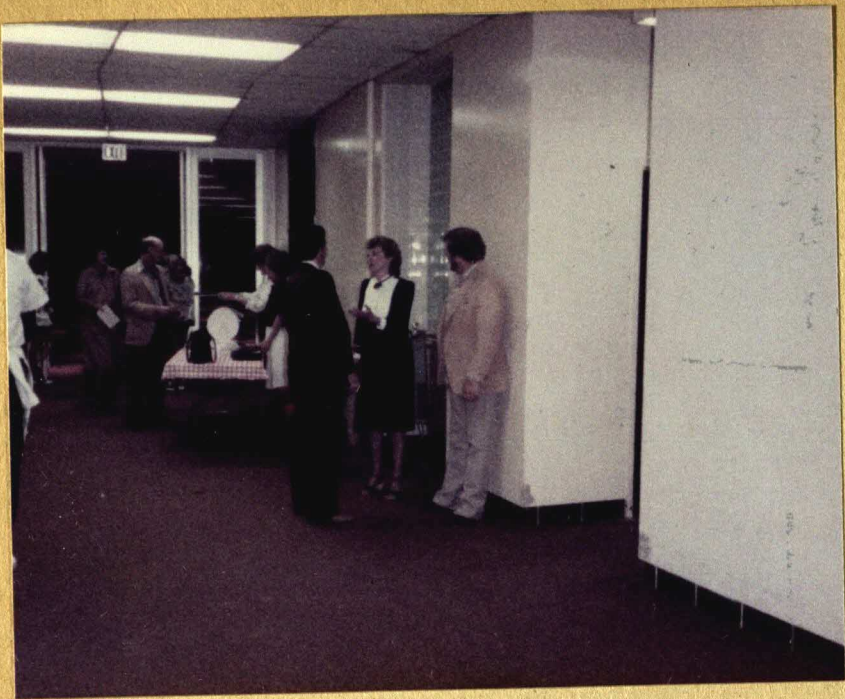
Skipper said the water in the pumps heated up over the night and blew a safety valve.

Skipper said the chiller unit was manufactured by York Air Conditioning. York sales representative Arthur Geisler said the type of Freon in the chiller is "relatively safe." But if a fire broke out, extreme heat could convert the Freon into acid, he said. The unit contained 900 pounds of Freon, he said.

Geisler said the incident was probably the result of human error.

"Somebody probably just forgot to turn them (the pumps) off," he said.

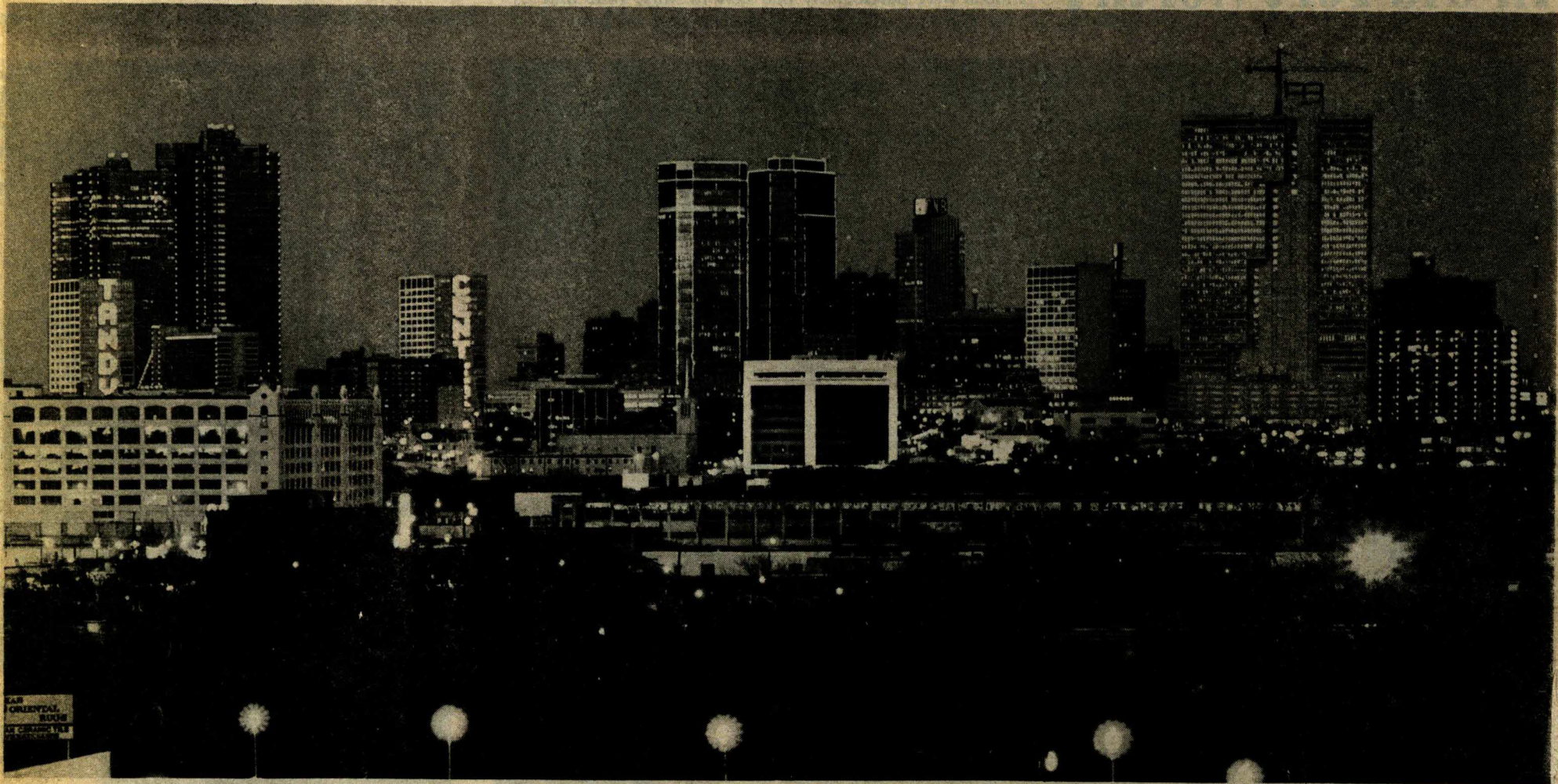
Contributing to this story were staff writers Jim Morris and Dan Malone.





ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 24, 1983

The Changing Face of Fort Worth's Skyline



GLOWING CITY—Fort Worth's skyline at sunset is captured in this new laser-highlighted photo by Lee Angle. Commissioned by the Fort Worth Jaycees, the photo will

be used to raise funds by the Jaycees, who sponsor the annual community Christmas Tree in Burnett Park, the "Outstanding Fort Worth Young Men of the Year," and other civic and

charitable projects. Three hundred of the strikingly beautiful prints were framed in solid oak to launch the benefit sale. The Lee Angle studios are at 1900 Montgomery.

County's Own Shopper Fills Last Order

By MADELINE WILLIAMS

One thing her friends at the Court House are sure of: When Effie Mae Traugh retires May 31, she is not going to spend her new time off shopping.

She has been shopping for all of Tarrant County's dependent children for more than 20 years. She started out in the Purchasing Department Jan. 14, 1961, buying at retail from the former Leonard's the clothing necessary for the county's foster children.

"From newborn to grown-up," she said.

As the number of her charges grew, so did her

hours. Leonard's then began opening for her about 8 a.m. and she would buy all day long.

"I was there so much the other employees thought I was a clerk too," she recalled this week.

* * *

IN 1968 she started the program now in use, buying direct from the manufacturer and keeping the clothing inventory at the Court House. A mezzanine was added to the purchasing office to make room for the suits and dresses.

She has also been buying food products for the County Jail, Youth Center and Detention Center for the past 10 years and also buying janitorial supplies, cleaning equipment and paper products for county buildings and Tarrant County Convention Center.

Mrs. Traugh was the first woman to take the county inventory of furniture, starting

back in 1972. As the county grew, the work was divided among four persons, and this year Phyllis Rangel was hired as a full-time inventory clerk.

* * *

MRS. TRAUGH worked her first day at the Court House in 1958 for Jim Boorman when the district clerk was justice of the peace. She also worked for the late Peace Justice Whit Boyd and then transferred to the purchasing department when B.O. Lange was in charge.

"She is a tremendously efficient worker," said Purchasing Agent Ed Smith.

In retirement she plans to work in her garden and do handwork.

She grew up on the North Side. She and her husband, Blake, also retired, live between Everman and Rendon. Their two grown daughters

are Nina Lucille Allcorn and Barbara Tatum, both of Mansfield.



STORM DAMAGE . . . Julie Taylor cleaned up some of the mess at the probate clerk's office at 103 Commerce in down-

town Fort Worth today after an awning collapsed this morning, shattering some large plate-glass windows.

*Star-Telegram/*RON T. ENNIS

Austin Notebook: House Passes 'Ferchill Bill'

Continued From Page 20

Also passed without opposition was Rep. Mike Millsap's HB 2058, which would permit courts to commit "drug dependent persons" to state hospitals rather than just narcotics addicts. This will permit treatment of abusers of uppers, downers and glue. The bill was promulgated by Judge Pat Ferchill of Probate Court No. 2.



Judge Pat Ferchill
Criminal Jurisprudence Committee removed a section which would have denied parole for lifers, however. The bill was approved by the House on a non-record vote Friday, but Rep. Debra Danburg asked the clerk to put her on record as opposed. Final passage was on Tuesday.

Rep. Jan McKenna received final passage for HB 1760, which would allow a jury to consider a suspect's prior deferred adjudication during the punishment phase of a trial. It will be sponsored in the Senate by Hugh Parmer.

* * *

STATE HOUSE REFORMING COURT HOUSE?: The Senate approved SB 41 by Sen. Oscar Mauzy, D-Grand Prairie, which makes county elected officials subject to the same financial scrutiny as state elected officials.

If Mauzy's bill wins House passage before adjournment, county officials will be required to file a financial statement with the county clerk by the last Friday in April each year.

Candidates for county offices would have to file a

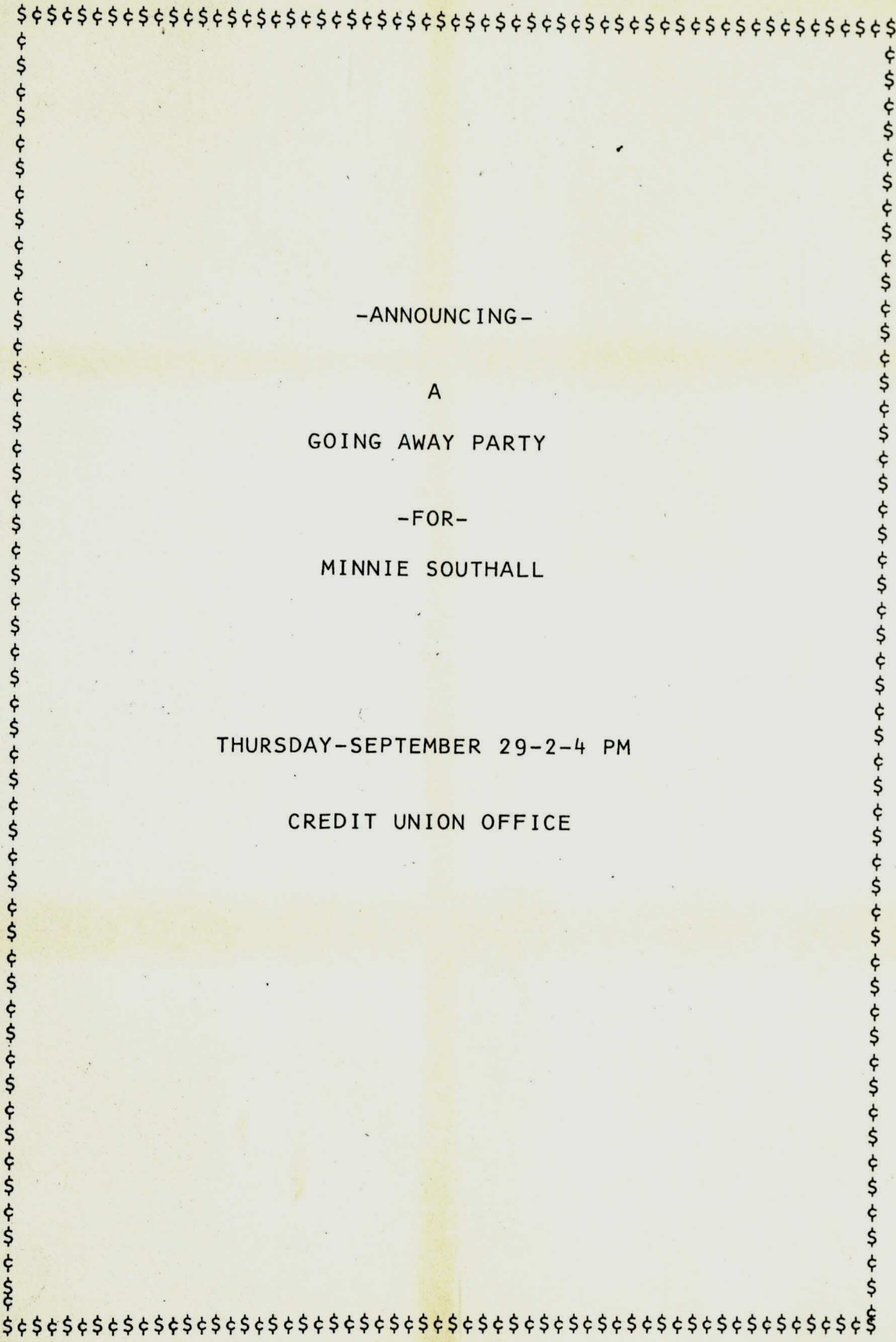
statement within 30 days after the candidacy filing deadline, and persons appointed to fill vacancies would have to file one within 15 days after qualifying for office.

Failure to comply would be a class B misdemeanor.

Moreover, the bill states that an elected county official "may not accept or solicit any gift, favor or service that might reasonably tend to influence him in the discharge of his official duties." Nor may he make an investment which might create a conflict of interest.

If passed, the law would take effect next Jan. 1.





-ANNOUNCING-

A

GOING AWAY PARTY

-FOR-

MINNIE SOUTHALL

THURSDAY-SEPTEMBER 29-2-4 PM

CREDIT UNION OFFICE

8/15/93



Southall

Mr. and Mrs. Berle Southall of Fort Worth will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary today with a reception at Haltom Road Baptist Church, Haltom City, where they are charter members.

Hosts will be their children, retired Air Force Lt. Col. Hugh L. Southall of Chelmsford, Mass., Maj. Pamela Hornbeck of Killeen and Marilyn Hooper and Carol Rickman, both of Fort Worth. They have seven grandchildren.

The Southalls were married Aug. 21, 1943, in Couer D'Alene, Idaho. She is the former Minnie Frances Slimp of Decatur and he is a native of O'Brien. He is retired from TESCO, now TU Electric, and is a World War II Navy veteran. She is retired from Tarrant County Employees Credit Union.

They have lived in Fort Worth 39 years.

For the young set, Mayfest a thriller

By BRUCE MILLAR
Star-Telegram Writer

They were moonwalking in Trinity Park.

At a Mayfest breakdancing exhibit, children aged 3 and up wiggled their arms and legs while moving backward. To the pulsing strains of Michael Jackson's *Beat It*, they fashioned their versions of the reverse dance step, popularized by the pop singer. Adults cheered from the sidelines.

In Saturday's crowd of more than 32,000, there were other conspicuous reminders of Jackson's cultural imprint. Young people wore sleeveless T-shirts bearing the name of popular songs. Small children cavorted through the festival grounds with *Thriller*, the name of his top-selling album, painted on their cheeks.

Saturday's primary elections and 90-degree temperatures did nothing to discourage attendance at the festival, which ends Sunday, organizers said. Last year's festival drew more than 200,000, and this year's totals are keeping pace, publicity chairman Susan Layne said.

At midafternoon, festival-goers were lining up for cold drinks, watermelon slices and smoked turkey legs. Face-painting required a 20-minute wait.

Children chose from a gallery of faces including Kermit the Frog, Garfield, Darth Vader, a strawberry and a watermelon. The preferred faces were Spiderman and Care Bear, volunteer Carol Walsh said.

At the nearby Thumb Thing Silly, children dabbled with ink and fingerprints. Another exhibit offered parents the chance to obtain a permanent fingerprint or handprint for their records.

Volunteer Patsy Dwight said interest in child fingerprint records was heightened by the rerun of the movie *Adam*, which dealt with the disappearance of a child in Florida.

Moonwalking wasn't the only dancing on tap. The Jazz Campaign of Fort Worth put on an energetic demonstration that included a crowd-pleasing version of *Bugle Boy*.

Other activities were bathtub races, hot air balloon rides and a four-mile race that drew 475 runners.



Star-Telegram/STUART WONG
AFTER A TELLTALE VISIT to the face-painting station, 4-year-old Jennifer Shields sits on mother Susan Shields' shoulders Saturday and takes in a show at the Mayfest pavilion.

Stewart celebrates last birthday in office

By KIM BREWER
Star-Telegram Writer

Tarrant County Tax Assessor-Collector Reed Stewart celebrated his 83rd birthday Wednesday — the last birthday he will observe in the office he has held for 34 years.

Tax office employees surprised Stewart with a luncheon, balloons and streamers. Employees said a donkey pinata centerpiece symbolized Stewart's lifelong allegiance to the Democratic Party. He is not seeking re-election.

The celebration came less than a year after Stewart's administration was scarred by a county grand jury's

indictment of several employees for theft of cash and official misconduct.

"The most disappointment I've ever had was the trouble I had in the office with the stealout," Stewart said as he sifted through a heap of bright envelopes and gifts piled on his desk by well-wishers. "It hurt me as much as it hurt anybody to think any of my employees would do that. The attitude County Judge (Mike) Moncrief took toward me at the end was the worst, but I don't want to say anything more about that because I guess he got his this year."

Please see Birthday on Page 22



Star-Telegram/NURI VALLBONA

REED STEWART, with wife Letha Stewart, is congratulated on his 83rd birthday Wednesday by granddaughter Kelle Suarez.



Judge W.A. Hughes

Judge Hughes, Retiring Dec. 31, Will Be Honored

Associate Justice W.A. Hughes, who did not run for re-election to the Second Court of Appeals and is retiring Dec. 31, will be honored by attorneys here at a reception Thursday, Nov. 8, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Tandy Center Cafeteria.

After serving as Wise County Attorney and judges of the 43rd and 235th District Courts in Wise and Jack Counties, Hughes was appointed to the appellate bench by Gov. Dolph Briscoe in 1976.

He was elected to a six year term in 1978.

MORNING, AUGUST 30, 1984

Birthday celebrated

Continued from Page 15

Moncrief, who publicly criticized Stewart's management, was investigated by another grand jury looking into courthouse corruption several months ago. Moncrief was cleared.

"I feel about like I did when I was 82," Stewart said with a chuckle as he toyed with a birthday gift from one of his employees, a gold key chain inscribed "The Boss."

"I've lived a good life. If you live as long as I do, you're living on borrowed time, according to the Bible. Nowadays, if the doctors get a hold of you and tell you what to do and what to take, it can work. Of course, it doesn't always work because people's bodies aren't all the same."

Stewart survived a heart attack in the 1960s and underwent a hernia operation last summer. He attributes his longevity to heredity (his mother lived to be 87) and simple living.

He's never lived anywhere but his native Crowley, and for 80 years he lived in the same house where he was born. He's been married to the same woman, Letha Stewart, for 61 years. He has worked at the Tarrant County Courthouse all his life. He was elected tax assessor-collector in 1949.

Stewart goes to bed early, to church on Sundays and to baseball games as often as possible. For fun and excitement, he said, he plays

dominoes and checkers on Friday nights. He's outlived most of his domino partners.

"I didn't smoke," he said. "I would take a drink socially, but I never did go to a tavern and get so drunk I had to be dragged out. I never will, either. I don't go all over the country on vacations like some of these people do."

The courthouse stalwart will retire at the end of 1984.

"I'm ready," Stewart said. "This is worse than waiting to take office. I was elated the first time I got elected, and I was busy making plans. Now I can't do any planning; I just have to do what I can to get 100 percent checked out of office."

"I've had a good administration, and people would have re-elected me if I had run. My wife doesn't think so and my son doesn't think so, but I know my deputies would have got out and worked hard for me."

He said he doesn't plan to endorse either of the candidates vying for his office.

"I'm going to let the people elect their own tax assessor-collector."

Stewart said he is contemplating "two or three" post-retirement job offers.

"I haven't considered any of them seriously so far. One wants to hire me as a tax consultant. I sometimes wonder if my advice would be worth anything. Things have changed so much."

You Are Invited
to a
Retirement Reception
Honoring
Mr. Reed Stewart
December 16, 1984 - 2 to 5 p.m.
Tandy Center Mall
Colonial Cafeteria
Free Parking will be provided
at West Entrance off Lamar Street



REED STEWART

Long time Mason to be honored

Lifelong Crowley resident, and charter member of the local Crowley Masonic Lodge, Reed Stewart will be honored with that organization's highest individual award—the Golden Trowel Award—on Saturday, June 12, at 3 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. The church is located at 209 N. Beverly in Crowley. Stewart has been a Mason for more than 50 years.

On hand to celebrate the occasion will be members of the Crowley lodge including David Gumfory, P.M., Odis Brimer, W.M. and Jack Davidson, Chaplain. Also joining the celebration will be Kenneth J. Hodges, D.D. G.M. Masonic District 64-B, and Miss Crowley 1993 Holly Graves, along with a number of public officials associated with Stewart during his long tenure as Tarrant County Tax Assessor/Collector.

The "Golden Trowel" is the Masonic Lodge's official recognition of a member for devoted service to the lodge and the community at large. It is given sparingly, and is reserved for those members who have quietly and over an extended period of time supported the Masonic principles.

The public is invited to attend the ceremony.

Integrity is clerk's hallmark

Huffman known as a stickler

By KIM BREWER
Star-Telegram Writer

Tarrant County Clerk Madrin Huffman's penchant for sticking to the rules sometimes annoys courthouse politicians fond of good ol' boy games, but his reputation for fairness also has earned him respect.

"He's a public servant and not a politician," said Anna Mowery, a Republican Party leader who has worked with the Democrat during county elections. "He knows the law and just does his job."

As clerk, Huffman's most visible role is that of administrator of county elections. He also keeps track of public records — registering marriages, deaths, property transactions, Commissioners Court meeting minutes, campaign expense reports, business incorporations and even cattle brands.

Normally, Huffman is one of the most low-key elected officials at the courthouse. But try to sidestep a regulation, associates say, and Huffman may blow the whistle.

"I do my best to keep my nose clean and stay out of other people's problems," said Huffman, 51. "But when it has to do with something that's going to affect this office, and it's illegal, then yes, I stick my neck out."

He often foils ill-advised plans of county commissioners. Last year, for instance, commissioners ordered Huffman to distribute paper ballots along with the usual lever-pull voting machines for use in the general election. Huffman said it was illegal to use two voting systems in one precinct and warned that such a move would open the election process to voter fraud. When commissioners insisted, Huffman asked the secretary of state for a legal opinion, and his contention prevailed.

"When he knows he's right, you better get out of his way because he's going to put it out right in front of you," said Robert Parten, Huffman's chief deputy. "He wants to make sure everything in his office is aboveboard."



Star-Telegram

MADRIN HUFFMAN ... no "good ol' boy"

cause of his position as the county's chief administrator of elections.

"I'm the people's clerk," said Huffman, "not the Republicans' clerk or the Democrats' clerk. I never get involved in anyone's campaign except my own."

His objectivity is praised by leaders of both parties. Nevertheless, those leaders predict that Huffman will have a GOP challenger in 1986 because Republicans are buoyed by recent wins in other courthouse offices.

Huffman, 51, was born the youngest of five children in a three-room oilfield shack on the wrong side of the tracks in Ranger. He spent his spare time hawking popcorn at a movie theater and watching Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers dance across the silver screen. He learned to play the piano by ear and embarked on a short-lived but locally renowned dancing career in Ranger. His rendition of the jitterbug at a Rotary Club once earned him a scholarship to Ranger Junior College, where he studied business administration.

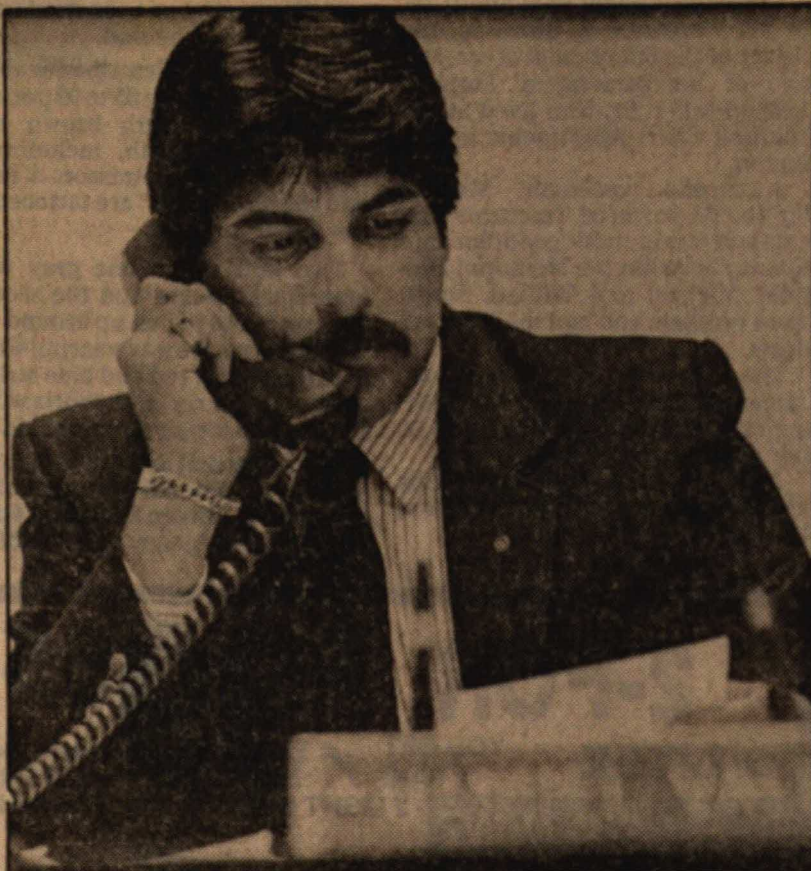
"I've always been a bit of a ham," he said.

Now he suffers from phlebitis and reserves his footwork for once-a-year polkas at the Tarrant County Oktoberfest. He plays the piano and organ for relaxation and sings tenor in his church choir.

"He's not that tough on rules at home," said his wife, Peggy Huffman, a lawyer for the U.S. Corps of Engineers and a former county employee. "Mostly he's a practical joker, and you never know what to expect. He shows up in closets and scares me quite a bit, just for the fun of it."

Huffman said he spends all day at

Judge directs a people's court



Star-Telegram/NORM TINDELL

Manuel Valdez says walk-in wedding load is fairly heavy.

By LINDA STEWART
Star-Telegram Writer

Sharon Lang, 29, and Juan Avila, 43, spent the last hour of their four-year engagement outside a courtroom on the first floor of the new Fort Worth Police Administration Facility.

As they waited among a dozen other couples on a recent afternoon for their turn before Justice of the Peace Manuel Valdez, they were beginning to get impatient.

They needed to make it to Dallas/Fort Worth Airport in time for their honeymoon flight to Hawaii.

"We thought it would be fast and easy," Lang said.

Others weren't in such a hurry.

Melanie Enochs, 25, of Fort Worth, said she and her fiance didn't mind the wait. "I'm not pregnant," she said. "We're in love."

Valdez, one of eight peace justices in Tarrant County, said his walk-in wedding load is fairly heavy.

Some brides walk into the courtroom in white satin and carrying bouquets. Others wear blue jeans and have children in tow.

"They filter in and out," said Valdez. "May and June are typi-

cally the wedding months. It's spring and people get excited. It seems to be the time of year that folks tend to make the marriage ties."

Although judges at a higher level also have the authority to marry people, "a lot of folks, through tradition, call JPs 'the marrying judge,'" Valdez said.

Performing marriage ceremonies is one of the more pleasant aspects of his job as a magistrate, but it's not the only role a justice of the peace fulfills, Valdez said.

"The marriage ceremony is a service we provide, not an obligation."

Nonetheless, the ceremonies are squeezed in. Between arraignments, telephone calls and hearings, justices find the time to hear "I do."

One minute a woman accused of selling her baby was brought before Valdez to be informed of her rights. The next minute he pronounced two people husband and wife.

"It's like this all day," Valdez said. But the 38-year-old JP seems to enjoy his hectic schedule — especially since March, when his Precinct 5 courtroom was moved. Please see Judge on Page 11

Continued from Page 9
from the Tarrant County Criminal Courts Building to the new police headquarters.

When Valdez took office in January 1983, "we had the smallest courtroom in the county, and we're dealing with a tremendous amount of traffic," he said. "It wasn't fair to the public. With as much contact as they had with the court, they didn't deserve that facility."

Valdez grimaced as he recalled the dilapidated court facility. Believing that the county would find "an appropriate court" as soon as the funds were available was the only thing that made it bearable, he said.

The Tarrant County Jail is located above the courtrooms in the Criminal Courts Building. When the prisoners get upset they stop up the toilets, Valdez said. The overflow

trickles down the walls into the courtrooms below.

Although the new Tarrant County Jail will be on the fourth floor of the police administration building, Valdez has faith that his new courtroom will somehow be protected.

In the meantime, Valdez believes that traffic into the new JP courtroom will increase as a result of the recent move. "We're more accessible to the public, Fort Worth police and juvenile division," he said.

Between walk-ins and scheduled appointments, he might see anywhere between 30 to 40 people a day, Valdez said.

And each morning, he signs 40 to 50 felony arrest warrants for the county. The warrants enable law officers to arrest suspects in murder cases, armed robberies, narcotics possession and other criminal acts.

Confronted daily with depressing

situations, Valdez said he still believes that "the majority of the people out there are honest and respectful."

"In general, what I feel what this office does that is valuable to our community is resolve problems between two parties that to them are major. We can resolve them informally, by acting as a mediator, or formally in a hearing.

Valdez said that many of the disputes he encounters are similar to those he handled while directing multipurpose centers for the Fort Worth Human Resources Department for 10 years.

"The difference is here I can make a decision and help solve those problems directly.

"This office is essentially dealing with the day-to-day problems. It's meant to be a people's court."

Game is a dream come true

One year ago Monica Mann Harris had a dream — literally — and now it's a dream come true.

"It came to me in a dream one night," the Fort Worth woman said. "It told me to make up the game."

Harris, a former licensed vocational nurse, invented the game Medical Trivia Power.

She didn't do anything about it for awhile, but the dream became a recurring one.



Elston
BROOKS

After 10 years of working in nursing homes, doctors' offices and hospitals, Harris was attending a court reporting school and raising three children. But she found all her time was being occupied with thoughts of the game.

She quit school last March and began devoting full time to her idea.

"First I had to design the game board," she said. "It took four different designs to get the one I wanted."

Then came making up the questions. She got input here from her husband, Tommy, an investigator with the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office.

Medical Trivia Power is for 2 to 6 players, each trying to get their "patient" tokens out of the hospital by rolling a die and answering questions as they move around the board.

Naturally, there are such pitfalls as landing on a square that says, "Due to illness, miss one turn."

The game is divided into six categories: OB-Gyn, Pediatrics, Anatomy, Geriatrics, Emergen-



Star-Telegram/RON T. ENNIS

Monica Harris with board game she designed

cy Room and Doctor's Office.

There are 250 question and answer cards, and laymen are not apt to know all the answers. "It's a teaching game," Harris says. "You learn something if you don't know the answer."

She took her plans to Paramount Marketing of Dallas, which manufactured the game

for her. It will retail for \$30.

Then Harris began making the rounds of trade shows in Dallas and Atlanta, selling to buyers who are stocking stores for the Christmas season.

That means, as fall approaches, it won't be too long before Monica Harris' dream will be on shelves and ready to go under Christmas trees.



Serenade — Bob Fisher, in green, and Michael Pellecchia serenade strollers through Fort Worth's Sundance Square on Thurs-

day. The duo performs classics by Bach, Beethoven and Mozart on the flute and clarinet.

Star-Telegram/PAUL MOSELEY

'Mr. Horticulture' leaving the field after 26 years

After years of helping Tarrant County grow, farm agent M.E. "Gene" Graves is retiring.

BY WORTH WREN JR.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

It's not really part of a county agricultural agent's job to become a TV personality.

But M.E. "Gene" Graves Jr., Tarrant County farm agent for the past 26 years, did just that.

Graves, who will be 66 Wednesday, retires today as county agent for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, the statewide educational arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Texas A&M University System.

Regularly from mid-1961 until last month, he held a slot in KTVT-Channel 11's local lineup.

At first, he was only a part of a five-minute news segment on Sunday evenings; then he hosted his own show. His 7 a.m. Saturday audience became a devout and diverse lot of gardeners, farmers, cowpunchers and homeowners.

"Little old ladies in elevators would say, 'I watch you every day on TV,'" said Nita Graves of her husband of almost 41 years.

Last year, the show was changed from weekly to once every four weeks. Graves' last show aired about three weeks ago.

Graves said last week that the College Station-based extension service had not picked his successor.

After Graves came to Tarrant County in May 1961, he appeared on all the major TV and radio farm programs. He was known as "Mr. Horticulture" throughout North Central and West Texas.

He wrote "The Gardener's Guide" column for the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram's* Friday and Sunday editions from early 1962 well into the 1970s and continued to write an agricultural column into the 1980s.

"There were no horticulture specialists in extension then," Graves said.

Graves wrote about the basics of raising garden, lawn and flowering plants — about the watering, fertilizing and spraying needs.

His office and home phones rang
(More on GRAVES on Page 14)



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / JERRY W. HOEFER

M.E. "Gene" Graves checks maize recently in a field near Haslet

Graves / From Page 9

constantly, with up to 80 calls a day about ill plants or other topics.

Area garden clubs soon demanded more of Graves' time than he wanted to share. After all, he still had a job to provide information on crops, seed, pests, pesticides and other farm science needs to the county's farmers and ranchers. That was and is the main task of county agricultural extension agents.

But increasing city sprawl in Tarrant County swallowed more farms weekly throughout his 26 years here. And more city dwellers planted gardens, trees, flowers and shrubs and bought horses for pets or put a few cattle on small weekend getaway places in the country.

"I should have written a book," he said. "But I said, 'It's foolish to write a book. All they've got to do is go to the county agent's office and pick up the information' for free."

In addition to all of his duties, Graves found time to finish his master's degree in agricultural education at Texas A&M in 1970.

He saw his salary rise from about \$5,000 when he first joined the extension in 1955 in North Texas' Grayson County, to about \$50,000 last year. Just under 50 percent of that comes from Tarrant County; the rest from federal and state coffers.

Graves now is considering a new job with the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce's convention bureau or one with Tarrant County Junior College.

In 1961, when he arrived, Tarrant County boasted 184 dairy farms producing 112.5 million pounds of milk, and was the No. 2 milk producing county in Texas. Last year, 13 farms produced 37.1 million pounds of milk.

Cotton farmers faced similar problems. In 1961, with three cotton gins in

the county to process the crop, farmers raised 10,000 acres of cotton. Last year, Tarrant farmers raised no cotton. The last of the gins closed five years ago.

During Graves' tenure, Tarrant farms and ranches grew from an average size of 406.72 acres valued at \$78,621 to an average of 2,273 acres valued at \$382,286.

But the number of full-time commercial farmers and ranchers dropped from 1,700 in the county to about 250.

That doesn't mean that Graves failed the farmers. Nothing could stop the urbanization. Even tax breaks on farm land haven't stemmed the city sprawl, he said.

Graves helped surviving farmers, such as Claudie Seeton of the Webb-Britton area, with their production decisions, new technology and fights with pests.

"Whenever you called him, he was ready to help," says Seeton, 60, a Webb-Britton area grain farmer in southeast Tarrant County. "If he didn't know the answer, he'd get it."

While commercial farmers needed Graves' help less, the city bred more part-time farmers and ranchers who needed him more. Today, some 1,200 residents fall into that part-time category.

Graves and his eight fellow agents in Tarrant County answer about 100 calls for help daily.

"He always cooperated with anything that came up," said Alfred Croix, the Denton County agent who has known Graves since 1959.

"We're going to miss him," said Betty Knox, wife of Haslet-area farmer Wayne Knox. Graves had phoned or visited the farm every Friday morning for years to get a crop report.

Business Journ

A federal jury convicted a lawyer on all 38 counts yesterday in the first insider-trading trial since a wave of scandals ro

FORT WORTH TRIO BUILD ANOTHER FIRST FOR CITY

No model of success yet, but agency is surviving

BY TOM STEINERT-THRELKELD
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Small businesses often start on shoestrings.

For Wendy Bransom, S. Lee Truett and Vicki Parker, shoestrings likely would seem like a luxurious wardrobe.

The trio are principals in The Agency, which is trying to establish itself as the first modeling agency based in Fort Worth.

After one year, The Agency claims 50 actors and actresses in its stable — yet no roof over its head. It pulled in a grand total of \$2,000 in first-year revenues — but even so socked some of it away.

“We started with \$35 of business cards and haven’t folded,” says founder Bransom. “We have actually gotten ahead.”

Big business, they’re not. But they hope to be.

“We don’t have a lot of stars, but we’re going to make it,” says Truett.

Their stable, although relatively small, is a bit more lustrous than the trio might admit.

A former Miss Dallas, Leigh Ann Gumfory, is a client. So is Bill Brown, who has appeared in such TV shows and films as *Dallas*, *Dallas: The Early Years* and *RoboCop*. So is Paulette Hartmann, who brushed fame ever so slightly when she and husband Bill penned the music and vocals for a modestly popular song called *Heaven Needed A Champion*, which memorialized wrestler David Von Erich. And there’s Wendy’s cousin, Greg, known hereabouts for hosting such highbrow fare as *Nightmare Theater* on Channel



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / PAUL MOSELEY

Wendy Bransom, front, S. Lee Truett, left, and Vicki Parker of The Agency.

(More on MODELING on Page 5)

Modeling / From Page 1

11 and *Film Vault* on Channel 27.

But that's still a long way from a year ago and Bransom's set of business cards. It's three model calls, 600 aspirants and four-dozen applicants chosen, to be relatively precise.

So few survived the cut because Tarrant County demands so few models. In effect, the trio have before them the task not just of building up a modeling agency, but a modeling industry here.

As such, The Agency looks not for experience, but things like "natural models, looks and poise, desire and potential." Then they give the few survivors what they lack: experience.

The center of much of their work has been Hulen Mall, where their models have been seen giving fashion shows, often on runways — the architectural centerpiece of fashion display. They have been used as so-called freeze models — live mannikins — in store windows and around the mall.

Their models also have appeared at trade shows and conventions.

Next on the drawing board: Work for Fort Worth ad agencies in areas like full-body modeling or modeling just parts such as hands or feet.

Innovations like freeze modeling is what the trio intends to use to draw attention. Another is how they treat the models themselves.

Where modeling agencies across the Metroplex add their commission to the charge made for a model's services, The Agency doesn't. The commission is built in. While that reduces the model's pay, it helps get more work, particularly in a market that isn't comfortable with local talent.

The Agency also does not require models to produce high-cost portfolios before it represents them. Such portfolios can cost upwards of \$2,000, a stiff price for novice models. Instead, The Agency arranges for a photographer, makeup artist and hairdresser to be present at work sessions. That way, the model gets needed photos in a real setting — at much less cost.

"We're not out to save the world," says Bransom, "but we're not out to take anyone's money that we don't earn."

Bransom, 40, has been a model since her early teens. Much of her work has been in California, where at one point she was used largely, she says, as "an American Twiggy."

Her cohorts are long-time friends from Fort Worth. All three have maintained other jobs in the first year of The Agency's existence to get the business off the ground.

Bransom has taught exercise and

dance classes. Truett has been secretary for Fort Worth attorney Dee Kelly. Parker has been manager of a Rings and Things outlet in Hulen Mall.

Bransom and Truett are phasing out their other vocations as The Agency moves into its second year and begins going after significant billings and such basics as a roof over its head. Parker is keeping her job.

If they make it, it will be a first for Fort Worth. Other would-be talent agents, such as Paschal High graduate Mary Collins, have sought their success in Dallas. Collins now runs a growing broadcast talent agency there.

But this trio, encouraged by their reception in retail and advertising circles in Tarrant County, is banking on Fort Worth. They see activity downtown, in the Stockyards and elsewhere generating increasing interest here — even though there's not much interest among prospective clients right now.

Says Bransom: "We're on the bottom floor of Fort Worth, building up."

A new public defender is a bargain for the poor but a problem for a former colleague.



Judge Earl E. Bates Jr., left, talks with former Judge Tom Cave, who is trying to obtain more court appointments as an attorney for the indigent

Fort Worth Star-Telegram / RON T. ENNIS

Lawyer Tom Cave gets down to cases

BY CLARA TUMA
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

The circle is complete for Tom Cave — a lawyer turned senior felony judge turned defendant turned lawyer once again.

Though still called "judge," Cave isn't dispensing justice in the Tarrant County courthouse any more. He's walking the halls looking for work and hammering out plea bargains for clients.

Cave's quiet return to private practice after his sensational sex-for-leniency trial this summer has drawn a mixed reaction from former colleagues. One refuses to appoint Cave to cases because of his well-publicized affair with a convicted prostitute.

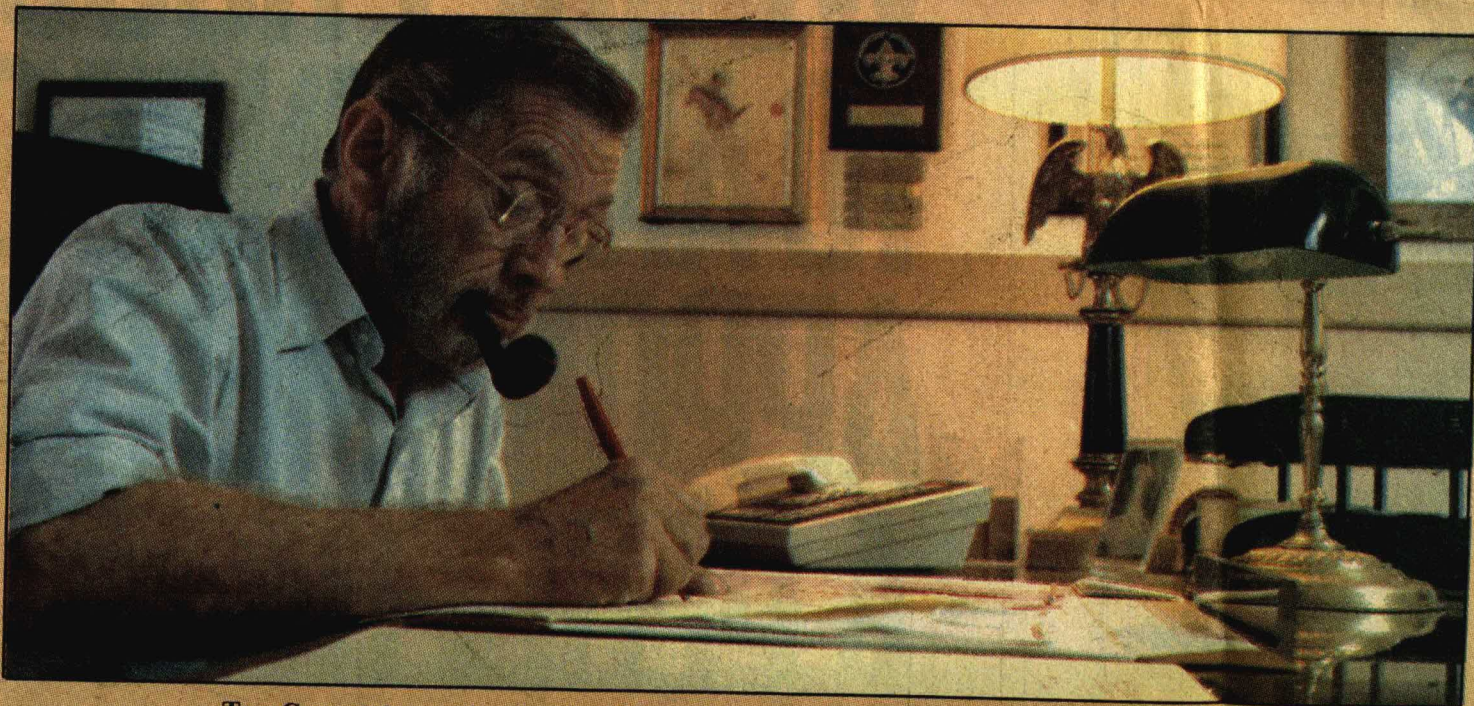
"I'm not going to appoint anybody who I think has engaged in unethical or improper conduct," said Judge Joe Drago, who testified against Cave in the trial.

But the county's five other felony judges described Cave, 57, as the biggest bargain in years for defendants who need court-appointed attorneys.

"Every joker that's indigent couldn't afford to hire a lawyer that competent," State District Judge Clifford Davis said. "You look at the competency of a lawyer to represent clients, that's my standard. Ten or 12 years as a district judge ought to give him a wealth of expertise."

Cave was acquitted June 5 on federal charges of trading judicial leniency for sex with female probationers. The jury convicted Cave of mail fraud, but that conviction later was overturned when the U.S. Supreme Court narrowed the interpretation of the mail fraud statute.

Jurors convicted Cave of sending money to



Tom Cave works on his schedule of his private practice in his North Side law office

Rachel Perez Tallent, a probationer and convicted prostitute, to pay her probation fees. While supervising her probation, Cave was involved romantically with Tallent and at one point was engaged to her.

Cave resigned June 12, a month before the mail fraud conviction was thrown out.

Cave said he is pleased to be receiving appointments again, though his first trips to the courtroom as a lawyer were a little awkward. He said he went to every judge except Drago

and asked that he be considered for court-appointed cases.

"That's a very good way to get started when you don't have any clients at all," Cave said, adding that he has been hired in three or four cases and appointed in about 50 cases involving more than 20 defendants.

Payment for court appointments varies from judge to judge, but lawyers get about \$150 for taking a case and about \$100 for every court appearance. A simple case that ends in a

guilty plea pays about \$250, while capital murder cases that go to trial often pay more than \$20,000.

In at least one instance so far, Cave the attorney has taken up a case that had come before Cave the judge.

Two years ago, Judge Cave appointed a lawyer for a man accused of burglary of a vehicle. The case still was unresolved until recently, when another judge appointed Cave

(More on CAVE on Page 27)

Cave

From Page 25

denied his guilt even before being indicted.

Cave frequently stops in his former courtroom to visit with staffers or pick up mail, which still trickles in, just as he did before and during his trial. He said he isn't shy about returning to the 213th State District Court because he hasn't done anything wrong.

Although his mere presence in court still draws attention, Cave hopes that will wane as he becomes less of a celebrity. He said he still can't walk into a cell to talk with a defendant without other jail inmates greeting him and congratulating him on his acquittal.

Cave's second jury trial as a returning lawyer is scheduled for the middle of this month, and he said he expects to question potential jurors extensively about their knowledge of his past. Cave said he wants to ensure that jurors who dislike him won't hold it against his client.

Although he wishes things had turned out differently, Cave said he is pleased with his new career.

"I could not ask for a better reception," he said. "I'm one of these impatient people. I'd like to make a million dollars a month and I'd like to make it today, but I know that's unrealistic."

District judges say they feel no special allegiance to Cave, even though he once sat alongside them.

"He is a bargain to the criminal justice system right at this moment," said Judge Don Leonard of Criminal District Court No. 3, who has appointed Cave to more than 20 cases, more than any other judge. "How often do you get a lawyer of his quality that will take appointments?"

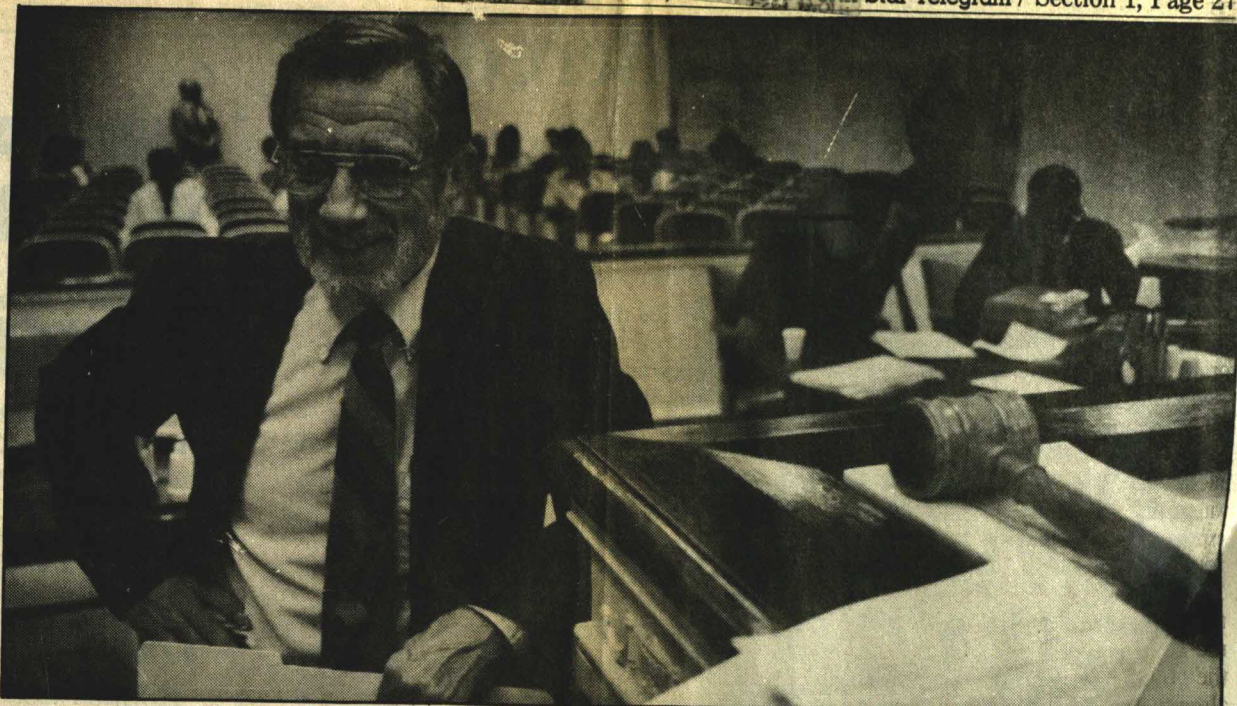
Leonard said the number of cases he has given Cave is in line with the number he gave another former judge, Toby Goldsmith, after Goldsmith was defeated for re-election last year.

"I'm not the keeper of the public morals," Leonard said. "He (Cave) is a good lawyer available for appointments, and I'm giving him some. I certainly don't condone what he did or didn't do with Rachel Tallent, but it's over."

But Drago, judge of Criminal District Court No. 4, said he can't overlook Cave's relationship with Tallent. During Cave's trial, Drago testified that Cave's affair with the probationer was "highly unethical."

"My position is based on unethical conduct, not illegal conduct," Drago said. "I'm not commenting on charges of which he was acquitted. I might have a different perspective if Rachel Tallent wasn't involved."

Tarrant County judges decide which lawyers are appointed for defendants who can't afford to hire their own attorneys. Most judges make appointments



Tom Cave has a light conversation in Judge Earl E. Bates Jr.'s courtroom before docket call

Fort Worth Star-Telegram / RON T. ENNIS

from lists of lawyers who are willing to take such cases.

Cave said he is not angry at Drago's decision.

"Judge Drago and I understand each other entirely and completely," Cave said. "I would not expect him to appoint me. Judge Drago and I are good

friends, and we have a great deal of respect for each other. It would put him in an untenable situation if he appointed me."

Judge George Kredell, who was appointed to fill the vacancy created by Cave's resignation, said he felt a little awkward the first time he appointed

Cave. But he, like Judges Louis Sturns and Earl E. Bates Jr., said he is pleased to be able to appoint Cave.

"My position is he's a qualified criminal practitioner who indicated an interest in accepting appointed cases," Kredell said. "I didn't want to do anything special either for or against him."

to represent the man. The case ended in a plea bargain the same day.

Judges say there are no legal restrictions on Cave's representing defendants over whose cases he presided, though several said they are trying to avoid that.

Cave said he likes to get complicated cases, which he calls "the heavy stuff," because he is a legal scholar and is not afraid to go to trial.

"The theft cases I'm getting appointed to are not the 18-year-old who goes out and steals a car," Cave said. "We're talking about a 32-year-old with a list of priors (previous offenses) who's facing a life sentence.

"You take a kid six months out of law school and they don't know what they're doing on that type of thing."

Since returning to private practice, Cave has married a former Tarrant County probation department worker, taken a long vacation and changed his wardrobe from a black robe to jeans and western shirts.

He has approached private practice with the same fearless attitude he took to the bench as a judge and to federal court as a defendant, when he publicly

County gives judge go-ahead for night court

BY MICHAEL WHITELEY
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Tarrant County commissioners, under the gun to reduce jail overcrowding, yesterday honored one judge for his speedy disposal of cases and gave another judge permission to work nights.

The commissioners unanimously honored Criminal District Judge Louis Sturns for disposing of 167 felony cases in August. Sturns, a Republican, is the first to be recognized under a controversial program launched by Republican Commissioner O.L. Watson to identify the most productive judge of the month.

Sturns, of Criminal District Court No. 1, outpaced his nearest competitor, Judge Joe Drago III, by 25 cases last month.

The commissioners also agreed to pay \$478 a week for a prosecutor and court staff to work with Drago for four hours one night each week to clear a backlog of routine matters pending in the district court. Judges are paid a flat salary regardless of the number of hours they work.

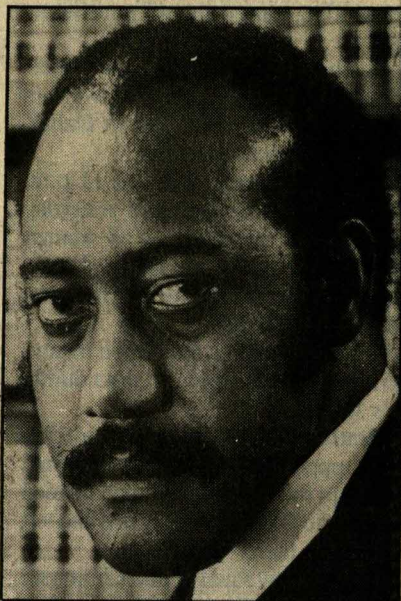
Drago said he will hold night court on a temporary basis to hear pleas and to conduct jail runs — brief hearings to appoint attorneys for new defendants and to give them a chance to strike deals with the state.

Tarrant County has six criminal district judges. Drago said he probably will be the only one holding the temporary night court sessions.

County commissioners had requested other volunteers, but received no takers. Drago said he wants to run the court alone and work out the problems before asking other judges to join in.

Drago's decision also prompted some defense lawyers to say that they would be too tired to argue complex issues after a full day's work.

But Drago said the \$150 offered court-appointed lawyers to make initial appearances in cases should provide enough incentive to keep his night court stocked with potential defense counsels.



Louis Sturns: Honored for speedy disposal of cases

Drago said he plans to begin holding night court during the first week of October.

But he said the jail crowding will not be solved until the county builds a \$59.5 million jail scheduled to open in three years.

Night court and other suggestions are part of a package of solutions County Judge Roy English said he hopes will win favor with the Texas Commission on Jail Standards.

That panel is scheduled to decide tomorrow whether to lift its stay on an order that county officials cap the population of the jail at 1,408 inmates. Yesterday, the jail count stood at 1,643. Nearly 1,190 of those inmates were awaiting trial or sentencing in district court.

English said he is optimistic that the jail commission will follow the recommendations of its staff and grant another two-month delay in imposing its order. He said proposed court changes and the addition of 192 minimum-security beds scheduled to become available sometime this week should con-

(More on JUDGES on next page)

Judges / From previous page

vince the commission that county officials are acting in good faith.

"They have been like our family doctor," English said. "They said, 'You're sick' a year ago. We came back. We've quit smoking. We've started jogging. We've lost 50 pounds, and we've said, 'What else can we do?'"

Although judges and commissioners say they are working to solve jail problems in a new spirit of cooperation, some judges were rankled by Watson's proposal to measure judicial quality by counting cases.

Criminal District Judge Don Leonard, a Democrat, said last week that he feared that Watson's plan would damage judges' efforts to work as a team. Watson said Leonard disposed of 95 cases in August — the least amount of the six judges.

Sturns did not attend yesterday's commission meeting and could not be reached for comment.

In other action, commissioners accepted \$50,000 yesterday from the Sid W. Richardson Foundation to pay for study costs and architectural work stemming from a proposed facelift of the Tarrant County Civil Courts Building.

The grant accompanies a \$1.5 million construction project approved and financed by the foundation to replace the facade of the 1956 structure with an exterior similar to that of the adjacent county courthouse.

Workers erected plywood covers over building sidewalks yesterday and predicted they would begin removing portions of the existing facade within two weeks.

Acc# 006-67
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1987?
Sept. October



