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Candy, Inez & Elbert



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Lyndell Williams
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Demo Leaders Leaning Toward Presidential Preference Primary

AUSTIN—While President Jimmy Carter is shaking up his administration, Texas Democrats are busy selecting a method of picking delegates to the 1980 presidential nominating convention.

Some party leaders favor a presidential preference primary like the Texas Republicans are going to have. Others favor picking national convention delegates through the state convention route.

The State Democratic Executive Committee is scheduled to approve an official plan on July 28, and many Capitol insiders feel the decision is more important than is generally believed.

Mrs. Carrin Patman of Granada, chairman of the SDEC rules committee, says she is convinced SDEC will vote for a convention plan but leave room to add a non-binding presidential referendum to the primary ballot to be used as a guide at the state convention. The plan is a reasonable compromise between those who want a binding primary and those who don't want any kind of presidential contest on the primary ballot.

"Smoke-Filled Rooms"

State Sen. Oscar Maury, D-Dallas, is among the Democrats who favor a binding primary in which delegates would be apportioned according to popular vote.

During a Dallas County hearing last week, Maury argued that failure to hold a primary would signal the voters that the Texas Democratic Party was heading back to the days when decisions were made in "smoke-

filled rooms" and by manipulating the precinct-to-state convention process.

State Rep. John Bryant said "it would be a very bad mistake" to not hold a primary. He said Democrats would be hard-pressed to explain to voters why the party is not holding a primary when the Republicans are gearing full steam for theirs.

One reason the Republicans are so eager to hold a primary which they feel will attract a significant number of conservative Democrats to cross party lines is they are proud of three Texas Republican announced presidential candidates John Connally and George Bush and dark-horse Gov. Bill Clements, often mentioned as a vice-presidential choice should Connally and Bush both fail.

Clements has refused to take sides in the primary matter, at least publicly.

A possible Clements opponent in 1982, Speaker of the House Bill Clayton also refuses to take a public position other than neutral in the issue of the Democratic primary, Clayton, by the way, attended the Southern Legislators Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, last week with Reps. Dan Kubiak, Bill Prentiss, and Bob Davis.



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Taxing Agencies Plan To Implement S.B. 621

(Continued from page one)

appraisal firm. He cited possible costs for this service at around \$25 per parcel and this county has from 35,000 to 40,000 parcels or a cost of around \$750,000 to \$800,000. This he said would place a great financial burden on all agencies participating. Also it was noted the appraisals will have to be updated every five years, adding more to the cost of the program.

"Therefore it is urgent that members of the board have some expertise in taxation," said the judge.

Voting System Explained

Under the provisions of S.B. 621, the participating agencies have the right to name directors by a pre-determined method of voting; or by appointments approved by the respective entities. The directors will serve without pay, getting only travel expenses. The board will name a 3-member board of equalization which will hear all taxpayers requesting an audience after the reapportionment is completed. The board of equalization members would get a per diem fee and could conceivably be in session from 45 to 90 days, depending on the judge.

Votes assigned to each entity will be based on a formula set out in S.B. 621 and places that entity's total of property taxes in that entity during the previous year over the total property taxes in all participating agencies times 1000 times 5 (or whatever number of directors is decided on).

The total taxes imposed by the City of Columbus last year was \$151,703, Columbus School District \$788,000, City of Eagle Lake \$127,136, Rice School District \$1,462,790, City of Weimar \$77,048, Weimar School District \$339,455, and Colorado County \$443,011 or total taxes of \$4,442,582.

It was also noted that the State Practices Board will review each appraisal district periodically and discrepancies will result in the school districts losing state aid.

"The real test," said Judge Crane, "will come however when the respective agencies apply a conservative tax rate to the valuations determined by the appraisal district."

Deadlines Set

The commissioners' court must resolve to join the appraisal district and notify each participating agency by Sept. 15th. Multi-county taxing units (such as Columbus and Weimar school districts with some properties in other counties) must notify the county clerk by Sept. 15 that they have designated one appraisal district. If there is to be a vote on the board of directors (instead of appointment) the county clerk must notify each unit of its total vote by Oct. 1, nominees (the number to be determined by the taxing units) must be submitted to the county clerk by Oct. 15; ballots prepared and delivered by Oct. 30; votes cast by each governing body by Nov. 15; ballots counted by Dec. 1; and the directors will begin 2-year terms of office on January 1, 1980.

The appraisal district's board will be financed for two years by the state, but some funds will come from each entity in the second year also, based on a percentage of valuations. State funding will end Jan. 1, 1982 and the taxing agencies will share in the costs on a pre-determined basis.

The appraisal district's board will be charged with finding a chief appraiser and setting a budget by Oct. 1, 1980.

Single Collecting District?

Judge Crane said the second most important decision facing the participating tax agencies is to determine whether or not assessing and collecting of taxes will be consolidated through a single office. Costs of such office would be assessed on a pro-rata basis to be determined by the taxing agencies.

The people of the county have the right, under the provisions of S.B. 621, to petition for a referendum election to force a single assessing and collecting unit," noted the judge.

He added that it is the intent of the bill "to save

SHERIDAN NEWS

By Velma Kutner
(234-3086)

Tuesday, July 17th was a big day for Shane and Rodney Laake, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Laake. They spent the day in San Antonio as guests of their aunt, Mrs. Mary Walls of Hallettsville. They enjoyed visiting such places as the Alamo, Brackenridge Park and Zoo, Buckhorn Hall of Horne, and also the Sunken Gardens. They rode the train that tours the park and enjoyed a picnic lunch there.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Zhranek and son Dennis, Jr. at the Herman Sont Youth Camp in Comfort where he will spend a week. They reported enjoying fine weather and seeing many, many large deer with large racks of horns.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Matthews of Houston visited with Mrs. Betty Layton and children Monday. Their daughter Jenny had spent the week here with the Laytons and returned home with her parents.

Mrs. Jackie Bass of Houston and Mrs. Sharon Brisco of Victoria visited their grandmother Mrs. Sarah Brisco over the weekend.

Leatrice Heindol, Helene Brisco, and Annie Kossa all enjoyed participating in a weekend softball tournament in Schulenburg, Friday, Sat.

S.B. 621.

Attending the discussion Monday afternoon representing the City of Eagle Lake was City Secretary Lucille Perry and representing the Rice School District were Acting Supt. Charles DeShazo and Business Manager Roy Marshall.

El Campo KC Picnic Sunday

The annual picnic sponsored by the El Campo Knights of Columbus will be held this Sunday, July 29 at K.C. Hall on Arroyo Road.

Dinner consisting of barbecued beef with all trimmings will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. A curb service line will be set up at the nearby American Legion Hall for \$3.00 each.

A variety of entertainment including music by the Happy Home Boys and a county auction at 2:00 p.m. are highlights of the afternoon.

Citizens from throughout the entire area are invited.

Hospital in Houston awaiting open heart surgery, possibly this week.

VBS Ends

Vacation Bible School ended with Commencement Services Friday night. There were 77 enrolled for the week-long school, with an average daily attendance of 62.

Weekend Visitors

Mr. and Mrs. Joel Tiggett and Elizabeth of Houston and Gary Tiggett and son, Ryan, of Dallas were weekend guests of their grandmother, Mrs. Tom Kollman.

Education Shake Up

Dramatic changes have already taken place in the state's public education system and more changes may be ahead.

Texas Education Agency commissioner Martin Brockette announced he will retire later this year, and two deputies will leave with him.

Gov. Bill Clements has appointed a special advisory committee on education to study the public education system. He campaigned last year with a promise to return to basic education in Texas. Recently he has stated it may be necessary to change the make-up of the State Board of Education from an elected one to one appointed by the governor with Senate confirmation.

Legislation to phase out the elected officials will have to be introduced in the next legislative session if Clements decides to go ahead with the plan.

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Love Boat Cruise

(Continued from page 9)

"Take It Easy Town"

Mazatlan, the next stop on our cruise, is known as "take it easy" town. Mazatlan (place of the deer) was first mentioned as a Mexican settlement in 1602 and got its first municipal government in 1857. It became a tourist town with the building of a modern first class hotel and a port of call for cruise ships, cargo vessels, a ferry to La Paz, and port of over 400 commercial and sports fishing boats. Sports fishing at Mazatlan ranks as some of the world's greatest, particularly for marlin and sailfish.

We toured Mazatlan by taxi and although our guide did not speak the best of English, he did steer us to some of the outstanding

tourist attractions in the city. We returned to the Princess for the noon luncheon and dining on an assortment of foods that would befit any king. That night we were entertained with a shipboard version of "The Fiddler on the Roof" with the cruise director and staff comprising the cast for this difficult, but very entertaining undertaking.

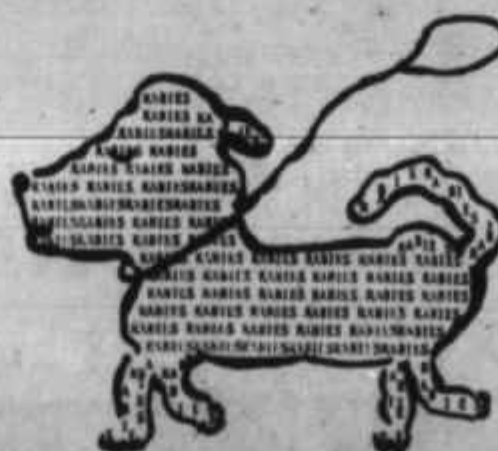
Our final stop on Mexico's "gold coast" was at Cabo San Lucas, nestled on the southern tip of Baja California. It offers an escape from the outside world today just as it has since the 16th century. Pirates first escaped there, seeking refuge from the sea. Fishermen came later and today natives proudly claim that no fewer than 857 varieties of fish await to do battle with the anxious angler. The peaceful, unspoiled atmosphere make it a favorite spot. Our stop there was short and regretfully we were unable to try our luck at some of the good fishing, but

The Island Princess



Our "Home" For a Week

PUT A LEASH ON RABIES VACCINATE ALL CATS AND DOGS

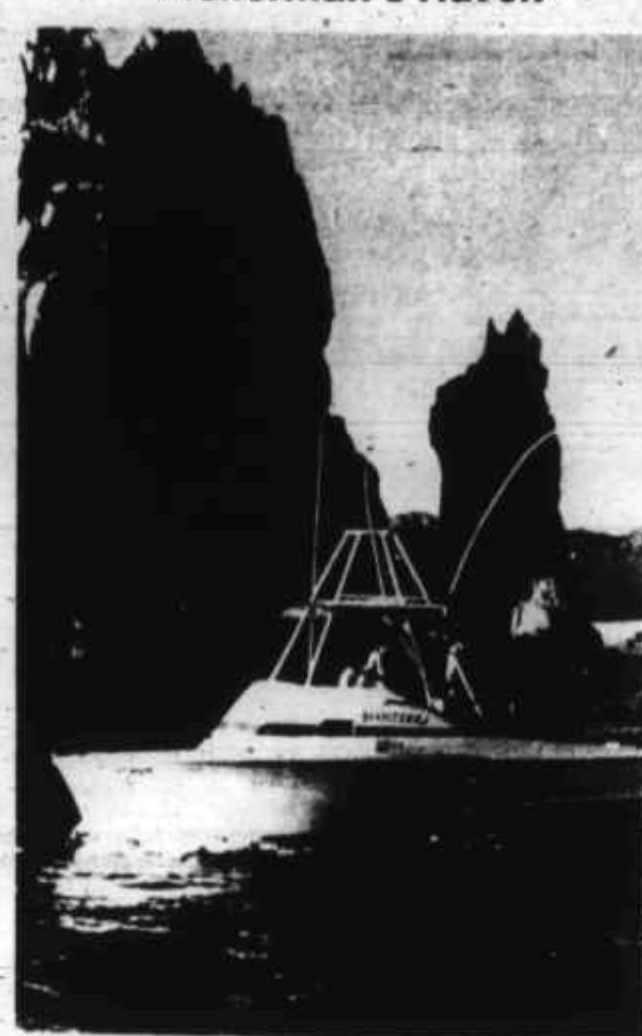


Texas is faced with a new outbreak of Rabies this year. Texas has an abundance of beautiful wildlife — but this wildlife is spreading Rabies to our pets at an alarming rate. Protect your pet, yourself, and your neighbor. Be sure your cat and dog has its yearly vaccination.

Rabies is up 100% in Texas in 1979. Stop the spread of rabies to humans and pets by having your pet vaccinated. Do it today — tomorrow could be too late. Consult your veterinarian about any illness or death of your pet. Protect your pet from contact with wildlife, if possible. Consult your physician or local health department in case of an animal bite to you or your family.

(A message from the Texas Veterinary Medical Association and the Texas Department of Health)

Fisherman's Haven



Cabo San Lucas offers haven for escape!

did pick up a lot of wonderful souvenirs and gifts from the sidewalk merchants lining the landing area to Cabo San Lucas. Growth in that area was evident also, since we could see outlined against the mountainside the development of properties and future residential and commercial construction.

That night Captain Chester entertained with a cocktail party and after a sumptuous meal concluded with the traditional end of cruise fare and baked Alaska for dessert, entertainment in the Carousal Lounge was "Broadway Melody" and was outstanding.

Friday was set aside for traveling, closing on the coast and rounding Punta Eugenia and through the Cedro Isles. On a northwesterly course, our cruise continued toward Los Angeles and for the first time some passengers became aware of the motion of the ship because of some unusually rough seas.

Friday night brought some of the most outstanding entertainment of the cruise when the cruise staff presented a stirring musical tribute to America in "Hello America." Even though the performers were mostly English, their presentation of this tribute stirred the hearts of everyone of the 645 passengers and brought to a fitting

A Close Call

Our return to Los Angeles (we docked at San Pedro) got a bit hectic, what with the gasoline shortage that was a major topic of conversation throughout California at that time, plus the fact that our arrival was an hour or so later than planned, and plus the fact that a power shortage in San Pedro delayed unloading of the tons of luggage. (We have always found that at this point that we took too much luggage and clothing since there are so many opportunities to buy beautiful clothes on and off the ship). We were due to catch a plane out of Los Angeles airport (an hour from our docking site) at 1:00 and we were not released from the ship until after 11:30 a.m. Luckily we were the first to hit the gangplank, to seek out our luggage from the maze of bags covering more than a city block, board a bus and arrive at the L.A. airport with ten minutes to spare. We found an arrival there that the flight was 15 minutes late, so our anxiety was really unrelieved.

A Few Recollections

There are so many wonderful recollections about a trip like this, that it's difficult to single out a few. We sincerely recommend a cruise as a wonderful way to spend a relaxing, fun-filled week. The food is superb, the service beyond all expectations, and the accommodations excellent. As in most cases, you can go the inexpensive route or first class, and it would be our recommendation that you stick to the "middle of the road" or above for best accommodations. After all, it may be your first and only cruise, so why not enjoy it to the fullest.

Regardless of the cabin you choose, all of the benefits are the same. Also, if you're a late rider, you might want to request the late sitting for your meals. It means the difference of something like an hour and a half and if you enjoy the nightlife, including the midnight buffet (or some even later in the casual) you might want to sleep a little later in the morning.

Dress depends a lot on the ship. On the Mardi Gras and Southward, we wear the dress, a lot less formal than

News From Wintermann Library

[By June Pirtle, Librarian]

Movie At EL Library At 2:30 Thursday

July 18th we had 61 children to attend the Summer Program.

Mike Duarte talked to the older group on stamps and how to collect them. Many of the stamps have themes and are works of art. The younger group was read to by Sonja. She is a niece of the James Crabb and offered to fill in when our regular volunteer could not be here. We were very pleased to have her participate in our Summer Program.

Thursday, July 26th we will have a movie at 2:30 p.m. The film will be Dragon Stew and will last about 15 minutes. This is in addition to our regular program.

Pet Show Registration

The registration forms for the pet show which will be held August 6th are at the library. Any child who wishes to participate should come to the library and fill one out.

On the Love Boat. On the Princess it was cost and tie for most of the evening meals, but informal for the breakfast and noon meals.

But whatever you do plan to have fun. Join in the participation offered, see the sights, meet the crew and passengers, savor in the luxury of this long-to-be-remembered vacation and I'm sure you'll join in saying that a cruise is a good way to make things happen and dreams come true.

All plans and accommodations for the trip were easily and perfectly handled by Neelima Pandit of Sakowitz

(THE END)

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Phase II

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6th Anniversary Sale

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VFW Makes Payment To Comm. Center

Rice Area Memorial Post 6783 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars met on Tuesday night of last week in the clubhouse of the Eagle Lake Recreation Center.

During the meeting the members decided not to purchase a building which had been offered for sale to them for a future VFW home; and approved \$1,000 payment on the Post's pledge of \$5,000 toward the Com-

munity Center Renovations Fund. This makes a total of \$8,000 which the Post has contributed to date on its \$5000 pledge, noted Commander Jack Listowski.

Tommy Pilkington, president of the Community Center, commented that this leaves only \$6,000 remaining unpaid on the renovations program.

Joint Supper

After the business meeting, members of the Post met with ladies of the Ladies Auxiliary at Jack's Restaurant for a dinner. During the

gathering, Tommy Pilkington, who has led the Post as Commander for the past three years, was presented a plaque and a past president's pin for his outstanding service to the Post and to the community.

Visiting Uncle

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Old of Tabb, Virginia are here this week visiting with their uncle, Postmaster Robert S. Martin.

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