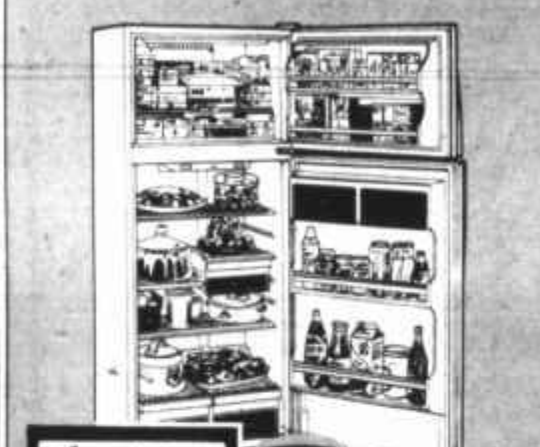


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Talking clocks, oversized cards and domino sets, and infra-red telescopes are literally expanding horizons for blind Texans.

These and dozens of other special devices are making it possible for those with even severe eyesight loss to get around town on their own, watch television, or see their minister's face during church services, said Ralph Stanifer, M.D., chief of ophthalmology at the Houston Veterans Administration Medical Center and assistant professor of ophthalmology at Baylor College of Medicine.

Stanifer also chairs the Houston VA's Visual Impairment Services Program (VIS), part of a statewide network. Other VIS clinics are located at VA hospitals in Amarillo, Big Spring, Bonham, Dallas, Kerville, Marlin, San Antonio, Temple, Waco and an outpatient clinic in El Paso.

At the clinics, prescriptions are devised for spectacles, telescopes, and electronic devices that can help many legally blind persons see well enough to maintain an independent life-style.

Other devices help the totally blind lead active lives. Randolph Greene, a VIS staff coordinator, knows from first-hand experience what a big difference these small devices can make in a blind person's quality of life.

"I was an avid reader before I lost my sight. Now I use a talking book machine with a cassette for reading. I suppose the other devices that I depend on most are my

Braille watch and my talking calculator that helps me do the statistical reports I have to turn in every month."

Blinded when he stepped on a land mine during World War II, Greene is among the 15 percent of legally blind persons who truly have no vision. For these people, special aides such as Braille writing devices open the door to learning and communication to schools and jobs.

However, the majority of visual impairment aids now on the market benefit the 85 percent of people who, although legally blind, have some remaining vision.

This group of people can often maintain good mobility with the help of rehabilitation programs such as those at VA medical centers.

E. M. (Al) Moody has been a patient in the Houston program for many years. A World War I veteran, 57-year-old Moody said he had seen other doctors before coming to the VA who never told him about low-vision devices.

Moody knew his sight was deteriorating when his wife had to read street signs for him and tell him to stop at traffic lights. Then a day came when he had a hemorrhage in one eye and doctors informed him he had a condition called macula degeneration that affects the most sensitive area of the retina used for discrimination of color vision and for reading.

Since developing this disorder which is most common in elderly persons, Moody has



Telescopic glasses

Dr. Frank Porter, ophthalmologist, at the Houston Veterans Administration Medical Center, fits a pair of telescopic glasses for patient A. L. Moody. The special

glasses allow Moody to resume a variety of activities that his failing eyesight had prevented him from doing.

used a variety of devices to lead as normal a life as possible. Holding a small telescope in the palm of his hand and raising it to his eye, he demonstrated how he's learned to keep the instru-

ment from shaking by steadying his hand against his forehead. "I can do a lot with this watch television, look for a bus."

Whipping a square-shaped object out of his pocket, Moody said, "I use this to read menus in restaurants and sign checks."

Moody is one of more than 1,700 visually impaired Texas veterans participating in the VIS program. Established by the VA in 1967, VIS is funded by the Veterans Administration and supported through voluntary activities by the Lighthouse for the Blind.

Disabled American Veterans, and the Blind Veterans Association. Visually impaired veterans who don't qualify for VA rehabilitation services are referred to local agencies and the Texas State Commission for the Blind.

Land Bank rates increase

Interest rates on all Land Bank variable rate loans have been increased to 11 1/2 percent on farm loans and 12 percent on rural residence and farm-related business loans, said Clifton Mahon, president of the Federal Land

Bank Association of Bellville. These rates became effective June 1, 1982.

According to Land Bank president Thomas H. Benson, "Marking conditions have prompted the bank, with full cognizance of the problems

facing agriculture, to recommend the increase."

"Refunding maturing loans having a face rate ranging from 6.65 percent to 8.70 percent, with new ones in the 14 percent range continuing to cause obvious pressure on the bank's earnings," Benson said.

Catholics Plan Fun For All At Picnic June 27

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church of Eagle Lake will host its Annual Church Picnic on Sunday, June 27 at the Eagle Lake Community Center. Members of the parish are planning to make this picnic

one of their best ever and another huge crowd is expected for the event.

Festivities will begin promptly at 11 a.m. with a barbequed beef and sausage dinner with all the trim-

mings. The meal will be served until 2:00 p.m. for \$3.50 per plate. A curb service line will be available for those who wish to pick up their lunch and take it home. Plates to go will be available on the pavilion.

There will be amusements and entertainment for all ages. Refreshments will also be available throughout the afternoon.

Horseshoe Pitching Contest

A horseshoe pitching tournament will be held.

An old-fashioned auction of antique as well as unique and new items will begin promptly at 1:30 p.m.

Another highlight of this year's picnic will be a dance with music by Gold Dust, which will play from four to eight p.m.

Participating farms enrolling in the program will not have their base reduced in 1983 for underplanting in 1982, he said. Farms that have a base but will not plant a program crop in 1982 need to report a zero planted acreage. This will protect their 1983 base.

ACP Deadline June 30

Streckfuss reminds all producers having approved Agricultural Conservation

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Receive Scholarships

David Shimek, second from left, won a \$6,000 scholarship recently from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Earlier in the year he won a \$1,500 scholarship. At left is Troy Krenek, ag teacher, presenting a certificate representing the scholarship. Second from right is Marilyn Mahalik who won the Area III Lone Star Farmer award and placed 3rd in the state. At right is Roger Rutledge who won the Star

Greenhand Award for Area III and placed 2nd in the state. Some of those awards were presented at the State Degree Check meeting in Austin last week. There are more than 60,000 members of Future Farmers of America participating. Also attending the meeting were chapter advisors Willie Fitzgerald and Ronel Roberts. Ricky Miller also won first place in crop production and proficiency in the state meet.

By George Krenek, Jr.

Egypt and Glen Flora News

Our area is drying after recent rains and farmers are preparing their land to plant soybeans. Some have already been planted.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Dittmar, Jr. and son Wesley and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Dittmar, Sr. spent the weekend in San Antonio.

Back at work
Friends of Mrs. Bobby

Kallas will be glad to hear that she is back at Security Bank and Trust after a short illness.

Mr. and Mrs. John Bernard and children from Louisiana visited with Mrs. A. J. Kallas.

Millie Pegues and son visited with Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Kallas this past week.

Kevin O'Dowd from New Orleans, Louisiana visited with the George Krenek, Jr. family Sunday and Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Krenek held a barbeque dinner honoring their twin sons, Phillip and Douglas, who graduated from East Bernard High School. Those in attendance were Rev. Magr. Barry, Frances and Kathy Chiles from Rosenberg; Mrs. L. H. Schaer and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Krenek and family from Hungerford; Michael Krenek from Kings-

ville, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Pavlick from Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Mr. and Mrs. Pat Matula and Gwen and Jeff Havins from East Bernard.

Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Rodriguez from Wharton visited with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rodriguez Sunday.

Phil Riley, Jr. and son Keith from Houston visited with Mr. and Mrs. Phil Riley last weekend.

Mrs. William Bunge and Doris Hansen from El Campo visited with Sidell Hansen and Edna Plaster. Deleisi Riley from Wharton also visited them on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. August Sulak and sons visited with Dan and Theresa Cory in Port O'Connor this weekend.

Attend barbeque supper
Tim, Phyllis, Jonathan, Gerard, Dennis, Carolyn and Phillip Krenek attended a barbeque supper honoring Cindy Bueck who graduated from Wharton High School this past week.

If you have any news, call 677-3596.

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2 from RHS attend Boys State

David Adkins and Stephen Mahalik from Rice Consolidated High are attending Boys State in Austin this week as delegates.

It is the 42nd annual Boys State sponsored by the State of Texas American Legion and held on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin.

Following registration,

each citizen was assigned to one of two political parties - the Nationalist or Federalist. Each citizen then functioned as a member of his party, he attended its precinct, county and state conventions and voted in its primary.

Boys State is one of the most successful youth programs in operation today.

Each year, Posts select thousands of students throughout the nation to attend these civic workshops where each boy participates in the practical functioning of local, county, and state government.