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To THE EDITOR & YOU

Work all your life... then you're 'retarded'

After a vacation break, the teacher asked her small pupils to write how they spent the holidays. One small boy's efforts sounded like this:

"We always used to spend Christmas with Grandpa and a big Grandma. They used to live here in a brick home, but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Florida.

"Now they live in a place with a lot of other retarded people. They all live in little tin boxes.

"They ride on big three-wheeled tricycles, and they all wear name tags because they don't know who they are. They go to a big building called a wrecked hall, but if it was wrecked they got it fixed because it is all right now. They play games and do exercises there, but they don't do them very good.

"There is a swimming pool there. They go into it and just stand there with their hats on. I guess they don't know how to swim.

"As you go into their park, there is a doll house with a little man sitting in it. He watches all day so they can't get out without him seeing them. When

they can sneak out, they go to the beach and pickup shells that they think are dollars.

"My Grandma used to bake cookies and stuff, but I guess she forgot how. Nobody cooks; they just eat out in fast-food restaurants. Some of the people are so retarded that they don't know how to cook at all, so Grandma and Grandpa bring food into the wrecked hall and they call it "pot luck".

My Grandma says Grandpa worked all his life and earned his retirement. I wish they would move back up here, but I guess the little man in the doll house won't let them out.

"It was sure great for me to get back home again!"

Submitted by a reader
for your enjoyment

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

Feb. 1, 1973

Sheriff Doc Mueller announced the new night patrolman for Colorado County Sheriff's office...

Three members of the Garwood Jr. High Band were recently named to the Regional Jr. High Band: Clayton Smith, Michael Lanier and Frankie Rodriguez...

Navy Petty Officer Second Class Gene A. Austin, son of Clifford Austin of Altair, has left his homeport of Mayport, Fla., for extended operations in the Middle East area aboard the destroyer USS Noa...

Miss Connie Louise Hoffman, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Leo Hoffman of Nada, became the bride of James Louis Cranek, son of Mr. & Mrs. Louis Cranek Jr. of Garwood, in a pretty ceremony at two o'clock in the afternoon Saturday, Jan. 20th, in St. Mary's Church in Nada...

Rice High School basketball coach Jack Grammer reports that three Raiders shared in the honor of being "Cager of the Week": Lonnie Flowers, Roger Stienke and Lawrence Dancy...

A party was given honoring Bryon Johnson on the occasion of his third birthday in the home of his grandmother, Mrs. Betty Jean Swanner, on Sunday evening from three to five o'clock...

Mr. & Mrs. Lawton C. Walsh of Baton Rouge, La., announced the engagement of their daughter, Anna Louise, to Kenneth Lee Mermis, son of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Mermis Jr. of Great Bend, Kansas. The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Mrs. William Waddell and the late Mr. Waddell of this city...

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Anderson are the proud parents of a baby boy born Jan. 20 at 1:54 p.m. in the Gulf Coast Medical Center in Wharton. The little man weighed six pounds, one ounce, and measured 19-1/2 inches long. He has been named Darryl Wade...

Mrs. Anna B. Weir, a native of this county and a long-time resident of

Gov. Bush wants second term

From an elementary school podium in Midland, Gov. George W. Bush last week announced his re-election bid for a second term.

This 51-year-old Republican, who has reported a campaign war chest of \$13 million, is expected to face Democratic Land Commissioner Garry Mauro in the Nov. 1998 election.

"I propose that we begin the new century by putting and end to social promotion in Texas school," Bush said. "We must recognize that self-esteem is not taught but learned by teaching our children to read and write

State Capitol Highlights
By Lyndell Williams
and Ed Sterling
Texas Press Association

and add and subtract."

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and concrete tile roofs that have been certified as impact-resistant by Underwriters Laboratories, the *Austin American-Statesman* reported.

Use of Force Rules Proposed

Following Texas sheriffs' opposition, proposed state guidelines on use of force against jail inmates are doomed, according to *The Brazosport Facts*, a daily newspaper in Brazoria County.

Texas Commission on Jail Standards executive director Jack Crump, who proposed the new regulations after viewing a Brazoria County videotape allegedly depicting abuse, told the newspaper he has changed his mind.

The proposal - which would require operators of county jails and for-profit prisons to submit for commission review policies on use of force against inmates - was expected to die at the panel's meeting last week.

Crump and the nine governor-appointed members of the jail commission say they have been overwhelmed with negative feedback from Texas sheriffs in the months after publishing the proposal in the state register.

A videotape of a Sept. 1996 jail shakedown showed Capital Correctional Resources Inc. guards and Brazoria County deputies using what some state officials contend was excessive force against Missouri inmates.

Other Capital Highlights

Gov. Bush appointed his lawyer, Alberto R. Gonzales, to replace Tony Garza as secretary of state. Garza resigned last month to seek the GOP nomination for land commissioner. Gonzales' appointment requires state Senate approval.

Three nationally established lottery contractors submitted cost proposals and letters of intent to run Texas Lottery instant-ticket games and on-line games. GTECH, the current operator, did not submit a proposal. It has filed a lawsuit challenging the rebidding of its multimillion dollar contract to operate the Texas Lottery.

State Comptroller John Sharp, a Democrat, and Agriculture Commissioner Rick Perry, a Republican, are candidates for lieutenant governor. Both are Texas A&M graduates and friends of agriculture. And both have good pitches for the endorsement of the influential Texas Farm Bureau. Vernie Glasson, executive director of the Bureau - whose son works for the comptroller's office - said he "told John and Rick this is the race from hell."

Restoring UP's name

By Richard K. Davidson,

As you're reading this, it is likely that a Union Pacific freight train is rolling through the spectacular Feather River Canyon in California. Freight containers are being loaded on a train

at UP's Global One yard near Chicago. And a trainload of goods for Mexico is crossing the flat, mesquite-studded S. Texas prairie.

They are among the approximately 2,000 trains that UP operates every day - just about equal to the number of news stories in the past month that have implied that we barely are running any.

To set the record straight, UP has encountered serious service problems at various points on its 36,000-mile rail system. We are taking total responsibility for these problems and all 53,000 of us truly are sorry to have let down our customers.

To counter these service interruptions, we have put into place a most aggressive and far-reaching service recovery plan.

Already, results are evident. Congestion is being eliminated as operations in key yards such as Fort Worth are returning to normal. Sidings are clearing up and the backlog of traffic is being worked off. Overall, we expect to restore normal levels of service across our entire system in Dec.

UP has been hiring throughout 1997 and will add 3,300 employees this year with 1,000 of them headed for Texas where we have 8,000 employees. We plan to hire another 4,000 next year, with a large number of them slated for Texas.

These new hires, along with our current employees, are committed to making our merger the solution to our service setbacks. The merger is right on track and, as part of our recovery plan, implementation is even being accelerated by several months. With the merger and our investment in the aging SP system, problems would have been worse with no long-term

(See UP, Page 8)

Purchase a 1998 Grizzly, Kodiak, Wolverine or Big Bear 4WD and get a Warn 2000# Winch



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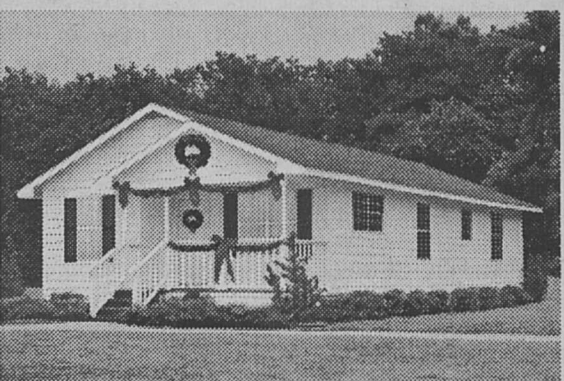
2000 lb. Warn Winch. * Winch & PLOW offers include any 1998 (or new prior year) Grizzly, Kodiak, Big Bear 4WD, Wolverine. Installation not included.

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