



J. M. Daniel of Bryan (left), chairman of the approaching Boy Scout finance drive in Brazos county, is shown discussing the Sam Houston Area Council 1951 drive goal with other members of the finance committee. The group met with leaders from all other districts at the Houston

Club in Houston this past week. Left to right are Daniel, Jack Linn, district field executive; P. P. Butler, council finance committeeman, who presided at the meeting; and Kenneth Clark, Caldwell, drive chairman for Burleson county.

# Scout Finance Campaign Mapped At Houston Meeting

Initial plans for the 1951 Boy Scout Finance Campaign were made by members of the Sam Houston Area Council Finance Committee and representatives of participating communities. They met recently in Houston. Presided over by P. P. Butler, Council Finance Committeeman, the group discussed and mapped its final program for reaching the

over-all Council goal of \$246,302, a figure necessary to meet the approved budget for the coming year. The simultaneous drives are scheduled to get underway in all communities on October 9. Heading the campaign in Bryan District will be J. M. Daniel of Bryan, who attended the Friday evening meeting in Houston. "No specific quotas have been

assigned to any one particular district, or community," Butler pointed out in his opening remarks. "This policy, which is customary, has always been followed, since it is felt that no community would want anyone to evaluate the service of Scouting in dollars and cents. Scouting asks only that those contacted give as they feel the program benefits their respective communities."

Of the \$246,302 total, the major portion has already been pledged by the Harris County Chest. Only \$64,256 is to be raised by the Community Campaigns in the 14 surrounding counties.

The budget items to be cared for by the campaign, include professional leadership salaries and transportation, office service, field service, camp facilities and program, council office operation, volunteer training, public relations, and activities, (a division covering all extra items needed to complete a well-rounded Scouting Program.) It was pointed out that the budget items would be greatly increased, were it not for the consolidation of the services through a central office, operating in Houston.

Plans for community finance programs will be announced within a week or so, it was stated, including names of special gifts chairmen, division chairmen and team captains.

## DeMolays to Leave For State Conclave

Four members of the Brazos Chapter, Order of DeMolay, will leave tomorrow morning to attend the Texas State Conclave held in Houston, Aug. 24-27.

Frank S. Vaden III, Donald Burdard, John B. Wolton, Jr., and Jimmy D. Boswell plan to make the trip. The group will be accompanied by Ran Boswell, advisor.

Headquarters for the conclave will be in the Rice Hotel. One wing has been reserved for 400 DeMolays expected to attend from all parts of Texas.

# Duval Ranchers Tried Cannon In Drouth of 60 Years Ago

Corpus Christi, Tex., Aug. 23—(AP)—There's nothing new about attempts to make rain fall on dry farmland.

Had you been passing through Duval County on a quiet April day 60 years ago, you might have been knocked off your feet by an explosion.

Jonas Weil of Corpus Christi was there, a youngster just out of school. He was secretary for the group, mostly army personnel, who tried to make rain fall. Weil says rain fell.

Duval County in 1891 was in the throes of the severest drouth in its history. Cattle were dying by the thousands. Their carcasses lined the banks of the Nueces River, where they garnered in hopes of water.

Ranchers had heard of experiments carried on by the army at El Paso and Midland in which explosives were fired into the atmosphere in the hope they would cause rainfall. The theory resulted from records showing above average rainfall where battles had been fought.

Duval County ranchers had to pay all the expenses of the experiment there. The army, with all its paraphernalia, weather experts, and newspapermen, arrived in Duval County and pitched camp a few miles out of San Diego on the Collins ranch.

For weeks the weather experts watched the skies, waiting for the right clouds. In April the clouds came. Small cloth bags were then filled with powder and soaked in nitroglycerine. A cumbersome cannon that guarded the King ranch headquarters was hauled to the site. A huge cypress cistern, filled with water, was loaded with iron shavings picked up from blacksmith shops. A meteorologist made frequent trips aloft in a captive balloon to look things over. Finally the big day arrived. The powder-filled bags were made ready, the old cannon was put in place; and a large quantity of sulphuric acid was poured into the cistern water and iron shavings to create a gas with which to fill huge balloons that were to be sent aloft and exploded.

At a signal, pandemonium broke loose. The bags of powder were

exploded; the high-flying balloons began to burst. Weil had been put in charge of the cannon, and he fired away like a defender of the Bastille.

One of the balloons floated off horizontally instead of rising. When it exploded, every tent in the camp was knocked over.

Shortly the bombardment was over and the weary, powder-smoked rainmakers waited results. Onion-smoked clouds gathered. And, says Weil, it began to rain.

How much it rained, Weil didn't say. But he remembers that water

rushing down a ravine forced soldiers and other members of the group to move their tents to higher ground.

This year another group of rainmakers is in Texas, seeding clouds with silver iodide. Ranchers in Jim Hogg and Brooks counties have formed an organization. Weil's nephew, Alex Weil, who operates a large ranch in Jim Hogg county, is secretary. Weil also has a grandson, Edwin Kessler III—majoring in meteorology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston.

## Iranians Stand Pat

# Final Disagreement Reached in Oil Talks

Tehran, Iran, Aug. 23—(AP)—British-Iranian oil talks, fostered by American envoy Averell Harriman and carefully nursed through 18 days of ups and downs, collapsed in a final disagreement Wednesday.

Iran-willed Premier Mohammed Mossadeq announced after a 90-minute meeting with British Cabinet Minister Richard Stokes that "we reached no agreement with respect to British management" of the nationalized oil industry.

Stokes, fully expecting the breakdown, already had announced he is flying back to London early today, leaving this neighbor of Russia to its own chaotic oil affairs. Harriman, showing the strain of his work since mid-July in bringing the British and Iranians together, said he would fly back to Washington soon and report to President Truman.

Harriman had no comment on the break-down after Mossadeq remained unmoved in their final talk.

The presidential envoy, who came here five weeks ago on orders from Mr. Truman, had tried to convince Mossadeq that Iran should agree on a workable plan to cooperate with the British in production and sale of Iranian oil.

Just before Stokes left the last talk with Mossadeq, the Premier handed Stokes what Mossadeq called new proposals. They were broadcast a few minutes later over the government radio but were deemed to be no retreat from the previous drastic oil nationalization measures that the British found unacceptable.

The broadcast Mossadeq proposals said Iran would agree to formation of a "trustworthy organization" for oil administration if Britain accepted Iran's proposals for compensation for nationalized property and sale of oil.

## Gordon Gay Enjoys Trip to Colorado

J. Gordon Gay, associate secretary of the local Y. M. C. A., has returned to his duties after spending a three weeks vacation in Colorado. Gay was accompanied by his wife and two youngest sons, Michael, nine, and David, six.

Their vacation was spent at the Y. M. C. A. encampment at Estes Park, Colorado. Gay said there were about 1000 people vacationing at the encampment when they were there. The vacation was fine, he said.

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6-Oz. Cans Madonna  
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