



By VERN SANFORD

Texas Press Association
AUSTIN, Texas.—During the next few weeks young Texans by the thousands will troop back to their classrooms.

Many will be entering a brand new world. There'll be some 250,000 first-graders, some 28,000 college freshmen. In cities and towns across the state, children will take their last swim in the city pools. Parents will re-set their alarm clocks and re-figure their budgets.

Parents of the incoming college freshmen—most of whom got their own schooling at rock-bottom depression prices—face what most will regard as an appalling expensive future. Average cost for a Texas college student is \$1,100 a year—not including a car, clothes, dates, etc. In the larger cities it may run \$1,500 a year.

For four years the average is about \$5,000. But hardly any other investment can be expected to return such handsome dividends. Statistically, the college graduate can expect to earn \$100,000 more in his lifetime than the non-graduate.

Aside from the students and the parents and teachers who are affected, "back to school" has a wider impact on the economy. Employment will jump as many of the jobless are absorbed into the operations of the dormitories, boarding houses, lunchrooms. Retail stores look to the brisk sales since Easter in the annual re-outfitting that ranges from blue jeans to book satchels, calicoes to crayons.

Real estate, customarily, also has a flurry as families try to "get located before school starts."

WHY GO BACK?—Why go back to school when you can stay out and earn some money?

Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles has some sobering answers. Its annual report shows that of 1,186 prison inmates released during the past year, only 119 had completed high school. Only six were college graduates.

Percentage is about the same for those persons still in prison. Overall, the Board feels that people who complete their educations and are therefore able to get useful, better-paying jobs are much less likely to run afoul of the law.

ALL BUT THREE—Gov. Price Daniel signed the huge new state appropriations bill, but he exercised his constitutional prerogative to scratch out some items.

Daniel vetoed appropriations for (1) a \$216,000 home for old folks; (2) a \$200,000 tourist advertising program by the State Highway Department; and (3) \$1,033,500 for interim legislative expenses.

He vetoed the old folks home, said the governor, because "the hospital board does not have responsibility for seniles and . . . state policy should be to get these unfortunate people into private rest homes near their families rather than make them permanent patients of the state hospital system."

As to tourist advertising, the governor said that the Highway Department already is spending twice this much from other funds, and the appropriation would reduce activities.

Daniel said he saw no need for the interim legislative expense money inasmuch as \$330,000 had been appropriated in a separate bill for future legislative expenses.

Legislative leaders replied that perhaps the state isn't supposed to be responsible for housing the aged, but the fact is it has some in its hands. They're now housed in the 50-year-old Confederate Home in Austin. It has been labeled a fire trap.

Legislative expense money was to be used to put a new carpet in the House, refinish desks and provide offices for House members. Rep. Bill Healy of Paducah said he felt it was "unprecedented for the executive branch to tell the legislative branch how to finance itself."

Texas Ag Experiment Station Develops Lettuce Variety

Texas lettuce growers and shippers stand to reap million dollar gains from a new lettuce variety developed by scientists of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, and USDA, in cooperation with growers and the packing industry.

The new lettuce, "Valverde," is immune to the biological races of downy mildew which have, in past years, wiped out lettuce crops in the Rio Grande Valley and done tremendous damage to other South Texas plantings.

Paul Leeper, associate horticulturist of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station's Weslaco sub-station, says the variety was developed for the Valley, where conditions are particularly hazardous for development of downy mildew of lettuce.

"For the past three seasons," he says, "Valverde and the parent stocks from which it was selected, have shown complete immunity to the prevailing biological races of downy mildew, while adjacent commercial varieties were completely destroyed."

Texas' lettuce production has bounced from an annual value of \$2,800,000 in 1949 to as high as \$9,000,000 in 1956, with the Rio Grande Valley and South Texas area producing about two-thirds of the annual crop. In the Valley, particularly, downy mildew has in past years destroyed from half to virtually entire crops, and has placed Texas lettuce growers in an adverse competitive position with growers of other parts of the United States.

Seed of the new lettuce variety will be available to Texas' commercial lettuce growers this fall, Leeper says. He calls the new variety " . . . a lettuce which is far superior to any lettuce ever grown

in the Rio Grande Valley, but . . . not perfect."

"Valverde is immune to five races (of downy mildew), but since it was released last March, it has been tested in Australia and found to be completely susceptible to a 6th race found there."

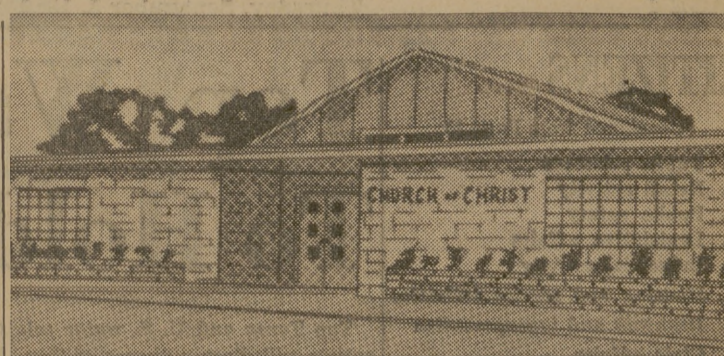
"Sooner or later . . . one of those billions of tiny fungi that are forever present will mutate and form a 7th race to which Valverde may or may not be immune," Leeper says.

The new Valverde lettuce was perfected in three years of research, but it by no means represents all or a major part of lettuce breeding work at Weslaco and throughout the state. During the past two years alone, more than 1,500 individual plant selections have been produced from screenings of 2,000 lettuce lines.

Plant selections have been made, seed grown, cleaned and planted; and seed has been increased on 26 advanced breeding lines for testing in yield plots. And, adds Leeper, it takes from eight to nine months from seed to seed on lettuce in the Valley area.

Leeper is to discuss the work done in the present lettuce breeding program, which was started five years ago, before growers, packers and shippers, at a meeting in Dallas, tomorrow. At that time he will detail many of the accomplishments of plant scientists made in lettuce breeding in Texas.

New Zealand is encouraging farmers to grow more wheat. The idea is to grow more wheat domestically and thereby conserve foreign exchange reserves by importing less.



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Table with columns: Day, Book, Chapter, Verses. Lists Bible readings for each day of the week.



TOP ROW: Cora and Jim Eggers, who take the altar flowers to the sick . . . Mrs. Godshall and the kindly doctor . . . Myra Adams who heads the Primary Department . . . MIDDLE ROW: Elder Rod Stuart with Mrs. Stuart . . . And the newly-weds, Alec and Gwen . . . Orval Merriek and Mrs. Wellington; Orval you know, is Sunday School Superintendent . . . BOTTOM ROW: Peg Rosser with Vic and his sister, Louise . . . Connie Edwards, the soprano soloist . . . And young Todd Breckenridge who is studying law at the University . . . Below Todd, Head Usher Foster Comland and his wife Rose . . . The twinkling eye of Ward Conley . . . And Young Adult President Jack Burgess . . . These are just some of the people behind a church. Their worship, faith, time and talents are devoted generously to Christ. They are helping their church to grow, and to serve the community. And you'll find their welcome warm and friendly—for they believe, YOU BELONG IN THE PICTURE.

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