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AUSTIN (AP) — Homer Berry, gram that I didn't believe in at the says he can bring five inches first," said Charles Abernathy, who says he can bring five inches of rain to Stonewall County, failed to convince the Texas Water Development Board Wednesday of his capabilities.

"Apparent lack of qualifications . . . unethical claims . . . incomplete and apparently false documentation" were some of the comments of the board's staff on the request for a license filed by the retired U.S. Air Force major from North Little Rock, Ark.

The board rejected Berry's application unanimously.

About 40 ranchers and farmers in Stonewall County put up \$10,-000 for Berry to bring them five inches of rain to the drought ridden area within 30 days.

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one of the ranchers, in Austin Wednesday. "He would have to produce five inches of rain before he receives a penny."

Berry did not attend the proceeding before the water development board on Berry's request for a permit and license.

"I'm just trying to give that old man a chance that I promised him," Abernathy said.

The need for a license came to light when Berry's efforts near Asperment were carried by the news media. State law requires a weather modification permit.

To expedite matters, meteorologist John Carr of the water development board went to Aspermont to confer with Berry and the parties concerned.

"Because of Berry's apparent lack of qualifications, his unethical claims for his rainmaking technique, incomplete and apparent false documentation of his application . . . it is the staff recommendation that he be denied a weather modification permit," Carr told the board.

Berry's application states that he intended to "create a low pressure area aloft with a trough. For one inch to five inches of rain—one inch for a row crop, five inches to break a drought. The five inches fall over a sevenhour period."

His equipment consisted of a "brick lined barrel with an air blower operating off a pickup battery," and several cloud seeding chemicals.

"I asked him if he planned to make clouds in a cloudless sky," Carr said. "And he said 'yes'. This is against scientific knowledge and belief."

The name of the game is cloud treatment," Carr said. "He cannot make clouds. He can't make a low aloft."

Carr said the method and equipment used by Berry was an "old fashioned system" and would not deny that it might work. However, he said, cloud seeding from the ground normally is done in mountainous area where there is sufficient upward air flow to get the seeding vapors to the

"You all know how flat it is out there," Carr told the board.

The staff had difficulty in checking Berry's background,

"He states that he has an M.E. degree, presumably mechanical engineering, from Rockwell College in Coronado, Calif.," Carr said. "A check of the National Education Directory and a telephone check with the chamber of commerce in Coronado disclose no record of any such institu-

Carr also said that several claims of rainmaking could not be substantiated, although he was not saying they didn't happen. Abernathy gave the board a book of press clippings relating Berry's rainmaking ability.

"Mr. Berry is not known to any of the reputable scientists and technicians in the field of weather modification with whom we have checked," Carr said, "nor could we locate any publication by Mr. Berry or any reference to him in the scientific field."

The weather modification advisory committee to the board also advised against granting Berry a permit.

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TROPHIES WON by the Fish Drill Team in Laredo are presented to A&M President Dr. Jack K. Williams for the university. Team commander William L. Peppard of Houston, right guide Michael Nielsen of Dallas and junior advisor Louis Ullrich of San Antonio made the presentation. The trophies will be inscribed with 'In Memory of Richard A. Hanes," senior advisor killed in a Feb. 14 car crash, and given to his parents.

Vietnam veterans receiving financial reward from states

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS Returning veterans of the Vietnam war are being rewarded in

several states with bonuses ranging upward from \$10 for every month of service in Southeast Asia. Millions have been appropriated and are being spent on the projects.

An Associated Press survey showed that among the states that have passed bonus legislation since the conflict began are Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and Vermont.

The American Legion reported bonus proposals were pending in 15 other states, including Indiana, Kentucky, California, Tennessee, Georgia, Arizona, West Virginia, Washington and Alaska.

The measures vary from state to state, but generally all require residence in the state at the time of entry into the military and are dependent on some standard of service, either the Vietnam Service Medal or an honorable discharge. Some states provide extra bonuses for disabled veterans or for families of men killed in Viet-

In Pennsylvania, the state's Vietnam Conflict Compensation Bureau pays veterans \$25 for each month of service in the Vietnam theater of operations. Time spent in a military hospital for is counted in determining compen-

The state has appropriated \$56

paid out \$35 million so far, with an average payment of \$300.

To apply for the money, a veteran must file a certificate of duty from his commanding officer has paid out \$35 million since the or a discharge document.

Here's how the program works in some other states:

- Connecticut: Under legislation passed in 1967, the state has distributed \$16 million in bonuses to veterans and their survivors. A veteran is paid \$10 for each month of military service, anywhere in the world, since Jan. 1, 1964, with a maximum bonus of \$300.

- Vermont: Legislation passed last year provides veterans with \$10 for each month of active duty in the armed forces from Aug. 5, 1964 — the date of the Gulf of Tonkin resolution - through June 30, 1971. There is a maximum of \$120 per veteran. The legislature has appropriated \$1.28 million to provide bonuses for an estimated 10,000 eligible veterans.

- Illinois: The 1965 Bonus Act provides \$100 to any state resident qualified for the Vietnam Service Medal. Beneficiaries of servicemen who died as a result of service in Vietnam receive \$1,000. The state has given out 113,000 veterans' bonuses and 2,500 survivors' grants for a total a disability incurred in Vietnam of almost \$14 million and has appropriated \$3 million to fund the program this year.

- Massachusetts: A Vietnam

million for the program and has veteran receives a \$300 bonus and a veteran of service elsewhere \$200 under a measure sponsored by State Rep. William F. Hogan, a Democrat. Hogan said the state program started several years

> - New Mexico: A 1967 proposal extended a state law giving property tax exemptions to resident veterans of World War II and the Korean conflict to include men who served in Vietnam. A qualified veteran receives a \$2,000 property tax exemption, applied on the assessed valuation of his property. The veteran receives a one-third reduction on the cost of his annual motor vehicle registration. Under the law's provisions, a Vietnam veteran must have served after Aug. 5, 1964, and must have been awarded a Vietnam Service Medal.

- South Dakota: A bonus bill passed in 1969 provides payments of \$10 for every month of service to veterans discharged after Aug. 4, 1964, and \$20 for every month of service to veterans discharged after July 1, 1958. Money for the measure, however, was not appropriated until 1970 when \$750,000 was allotted for the program and bonus director Lou Davis said the sum ran out after 2,787 veterans were paid an average of \$251 each. Davis said 7,845 applications were unpaid as of Feb. 1. There are three bills pending in the legislation to provide further

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uilding for details.

The English Proficiency Examination to be taken before the end of the Junior year by students majoring in History will be given March 2 and 3, 1971, from 4:00-5:00 p. m., in Room 204, Nagle Hall. Students are to register for this examination at the Office of the Department of History willow to 5:000 p. m. Monday March 1.

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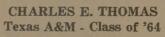
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