Imported aquatic plants proved harmful

lly dangerous aquatic plants hydrilla and water hyacinth will urbed, if not halted outright, folving action taken by Texas Parks dWildlife Commissioners regard-

the importation, sale, transport elease of noxious aquatic plants. This law (H.B. 1278 of the 64th as Legislature) will prevent the lesale introduction of potentially erous plants into Texas waters,

d Lou Guerra, P&WD noxious etation control program director. he proclamation, approved by Commission at its May meeting Austin as presented by Guerra,

and also sets up a permit system to potentially deadly diseases. regulate research projects into any of the 12 floating, rooted or submerged plant species listed in the noxious aquatic plant category.

Guerra cited detrimental effects of the vegation on humans; impediment to navigation; and diminished quality of water-oriented recreational uses.

The vegetation control chief pointed out that noxious plants like hyacinth are dangerous to humans because they provide almost ideal breeding ground for mosquitos that carry Venezuelan equine en-

WSTIN — Introduction of po- established rules and regulations cephalitis (VEE), malaria and other

"The major damage to any Texas lake from these plants is their rapid productive potential. Under good conditions, some of these plants can entirely cover a lake, making it to-tally unnavigable, in three years,"

Guerra said. "There are areas in South Texas where the climate is such that these plants would be in a state of growth almost on a year-round basis,' Guerra noted. In contrast, Guerra indicated

North Texas' climate could limit the growth of these plants during colder hyacinth (Eichhornia azurea).

winter months

Guerra said the Texas law was similar to legislation adopted by southeastern states that will make it illegal to import, transport, sell or release certain plant species. Of the 12 species listed, seven are native to the U.S., Mexico, or Central and South America. They include Salvinia (Salvinia rotunditolia), water fern (Azolla caroliniana), water hyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes), Florida Elodea (Hydrilla verticellata), Brazilian Elodea (Egeria densa), Alligator weed (Alternanthera philoxeriodes) and rooted water

Some of these plants were originally used as aquarium plants and cattle feed," Guerra noted. "After the person got tired of the aquarium, he would dump the water and plants into a stream or river. That was the beginning of a very big problem to Texas

That is how hydrilla was introduced into Texas five years ago, Guerra pointed out. As the plants grew and reproduced, biologists dis-covered that certain species of water vegetation were resistant to every known herbicide approved as safe for use in the state.

Some plants, like hydrilla, have

the potential to spread across the country, with no effective means of halting it," Guerra said.

these plants into recreational-area waters around the state, Guerra noted, adding that some of these plant seeds are so hardy that they can

search permits will be issued, "but strict guidelines in disposing of these plants after research has been conducted are spelled out," Guerra

Thus the need arose for methods and means to control the spread of

survive out of water for up to 17 The proclamation notes that re-

said.

Page 11 THE BATTALION



A&M to hold estate planning seminar

inheritance taxes payable upon our

deaths, each of us needs to be acutely aware of the importance of

proper estate planning,"Rutledge said. "It is unlikely that a person will

achieve his desires for the disposi-

uston June 28 under the direction tor Texas A&M University's De-

pment Office. he meeting will be held at the ectric Living Center, 2121 West p South, beginning at 7 p.m. While primarily intended for was A&M alumni, the seminar will open to the general public, said tion materially distorting the value of

Rutledge said the session will include detailed information about proper estate planning and management, as well as discussions of various aspects of Texas probate law and federal estate tax law. "During a time when we see infla-

tion of his estate without careful planning and management

He said the latest statistics re-

Estate planning advice will be of-red at a seminar to be held in sity's assistant development direc-sity's assistant development direcamount of federal estate and state vice show a 31-percent increase over a three-year period in the number of deaths that required filing of federal estate tax returns, and a 38-percent increase in the estate taxes levied. Rutledge said the seminar will include presentations by four a trust officer

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Houston-area Texas A&M graduates well versed in estate planning. Appearing on the program will be Joel B. Coolidge, an attorney; R. H. Stevens Jr., certified public accountant, Eugene F. Howard Jr., certified life underwriter, and George L. Risien,

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TTI assists rail operations

es of track owned by many sepate railroad companies. This gives em a sizeable headache in that yhave extensive knowledge conning locomotive and rolling ck, scheduled arrivals, depares and train services; however, it s little knowledge of the rail sysmover which it operates. Texas A&M University's

nomists at the Texas Transportam Institute are going to provide aspirin in the form of excerpts n the National Rail-Highway ade Crossing Inventory file they veloped. "In computer storage are 60" "In computer storage are 60"

formation, operating data, grade A separate complete crossing file sing warning device and high- is being developed by TTI researy system data. Also location and nistration data is available for 0,000 other railroad-highway loca-

Initial wonder at the need for this ind of information is quickly dispel-id when it is realized that the rail em which Amtrak uses can be ponsible for the reliability or un-

iability of Amtrak's schedule. Since Amtrak is operating trains er this rail system, it is also remsible for accidents which may cur as a result of its operating ssenger trains," Sammon ex-

"Foremost in rail operating safety re grade crossing accidents result-ig from auto collisions," he added. lso local speed ordinances restrict l speeds over grade crossings hich further restricts Amtrak's abilto maintain adequate schedule

"Even in this area, however, Amk possesses little data concerning

MTRAK operates over 24,000 the operations of the carriers, from chers for Amtrak by piecing together which it leases track rights, and segments of crossings from carriers grade crossings along its operating system," Sammon said. over which Amtrak operates, using software that has been developed for "This operating and grade cros-sing information will assist Amtrak

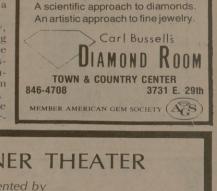
management to locate specific problems that occur on high density traffic lines, timetable restrictions and potentially dangerous crossing loca-

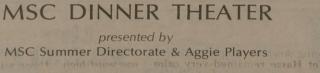
tions," he said. 'The operating and grade crossing information which we will provide Amtrak gives nearly a mile-by-mile profile of the railroad system on a

dard data items on over 225,000 carriers, warning devices at grade ns of the U. S.," according to crossings and crossing highway sysject research economist John tem data would allow Amtrak execummon. "Each record contains lo-tional information, administrative over which they operate," he said.

the National Crossing Inventory file. "This file will be oriented on a sys-

temwide basis for Amtrak and also on a route-by-route basis," Sammon said. "Both formats would provide Amtrak with the detailed operating and grade crossing information in a manual which would help meet their data requirements.



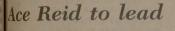




screen is startling. JAY COCKS, Time Magazine REX REED, New York Daily News:



Starts FRIDAY!



Tech trail drive

Nationally-known cowboy carmist Ace Reid will be putting on is act (and it's a great one) daily as e helps ramrod the Texas Tech entennial Trail Drive and its herd 70 Texas Longhorns from San Anio to Lubbock.

Six hard days on the trail, the herd wes San Antonio on June 27, with ps in Kerrville, San Angelo, Stamand Midland, arriving at the anching Heritage Center, Texas ach University, July 2, just in time

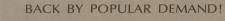
Reid is no newcomer to trail ives, having played a big part in edrive from San Antonio to Dodge ity, Kansas, in 1966.

Want to help drive that herd to ubbock? Contact Texas Tech icentennial Trail Drive, YO Ranch, ountain Home, Texas 78058 or call em at 512-640-3222.



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