

# Bryan man transports old houses

BY FRANK VASOVSKI

People who have to move but hate to leave their houses behind sometimes find solutions in house movers like Richard Pena, the operator of West End Salvage in Bryan.

Pena began moving houses 12 years ago.

"I discovered that there was a steady demand for old houses in the area," Pena said last week. "At first, I was moving them around with the help of an independent mover. Recently, I decided to try my own hand at it."

"The job of moving houses requires a lot of tools, patience and planning," Pena is assisted in his work by two part-time employees who are available on a standby basis. There are three other companies that perform services similar to Pena's.

"There is merely a trace of competition among them because there is enough business here for everyone," Pena said.

Pena credited the current economic situation and high cost of building new homes for the increased demand of small, used houses.

"The people with modest incomes and ranchers living in towns are my best customers," Pena said.

While the first group is motivated solely by the financial considerations, the ranchers like to use the old houses as "a second house on the ranch."

No special license is needed to move a house but some administrative requirements must be met to insure the legality and safety of the operation.

"I am bonded with the Texas State Highway Department and with Bryan authorities," Pena said, "and I carry an adequate liability coverage to protect my work."

Not all roads are open to the movement of houses. Secondary roads are used for that purpose. Pena must submit a detailed schedule of the proposed route to the Bryan branch of the Texas State Highway Department. Local authorizations cover moves within a 5-, 10- or 15-mile radius, depending upon the size of the house.

The larger the house, the smaller the radius of the authorization. Major highways can be used only for access to a secondary road and on a distance less than one mile.



Battalion photo by Frank K. Vasovski

For Richard Pena of Bryan, helping a family move means bringing them their house.

A five-dollar special permit, valid for three days, is required for each movement. Additionally, an advance clearance is necessary when the move expects to cross under low power or communication lines.

"Houses larger than standard size must be cut in at least two sections without affecting the structural stability of the house," Pena said.

The moving operation begins as soon as all utility and service lines are disconnected. Pena and his helpers separate the structure from its base and place it on the transportation rig with the help of power winches and heavy-duty jacks.

One truck with warning devices precedes the rig and another similarly equipped truck follows approximately 100 feet behind. The movement must be completed between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. of the same day.

Upon delivery, Pena is responsible for leveling the house without causing any damage to the trees and crops in the area. Then his respon-

sibility toward the client ends. The cost of moving a house depends upon many factors involved in the operation.

"In the beginning of my operations 50 cents per square foot of the house was considered to be a fair price," said Pena. The current price, however, is much higher "because of the increased labor costs and inflation," he added.

Pena, a native of Bryan and a graduate of Bryan High School, plans to stay in this area.

"I believe that I am helping many of my clients with modest financial resources to own a decent home at less than half the price of the current market value of a comparable new construction," Pena said.

Kenneth Olexey of 906 Bryant St., Bryan, owns a frame house delivered by Pena. Olexey agreed with Pena's estimate of savings. An experienced carpenter, Olexey expects additional savings in rebuilding the house to suit his specifications.

# Fashion show set

"Fashion Fantasia," a women's clothing show by an award-winning designer will be featured Saturday, Oct. 1, at Texas A&M University.

Creations by Les Wilk of Dallas will be shown, with professional models from Wilk Inc.

Presented by the Memorial Student Center Hospitality Committee, "Fashion Fantasia" will open at 1:30 p.m. in the Rudder Theater. Tickets go on sale Monday at the Rudder Center ticket office at \$1 per student and \$2 per non-student.

Wilk, who is donating his time, will emcee the show. Committee Chairman Vernene Parker said.

"Fashion Fantasia" is the MSC committee's first major activity of the 1977-78 school year. The 82-member organization will also present "Merchant Fair," a showing of gift ideas by local merchants, in December. "Texas A&M students will

be able to do their Christmas shopping in one stop at this event," Parker said.

# Career day

Federal Career Day, with information on government employment and the Civil Service Commission is planned for next Tuesday in room 302 of the Rudder Tower from 7 to 9 p.m.

The program has been arranged by the Career Planning and Placement Center in cooperation with the Federal Job Information Center in Houston.

Any student at the junior or senior level should find the information of interest and assistance, says Malon Southerland, associate director.

The program will deal specifically with the process of applying for federal jobs.

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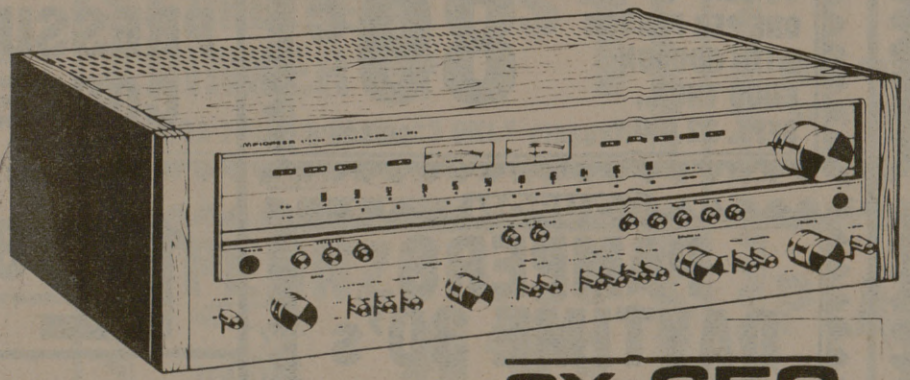
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