

Battalion photo by Jim Hoppenrath

Legett residents get new sign for old dorm

Legett Hall has been here nearly seven decades, but it has a new sign this week. The sign, painted on the west side of Legett, was the project of three of the dorm's residents.

Richard Wolf (kneeling) designed the sign and Leonard Pickel, left, and Kelly Hooper assisted with the painting.

Treatment supported by surgeon

United Press International
HOUSTON—The surgeon who pioneered the coronary bypass 14 years ago says, contrary to recent reports, the operation has proven more effective than other treatments in restoring many heart patients to vibrant life.

Dr. Michael E. DeBakey, the president of Baylor College of Medicine, called a news conference Tuesday to respond to a Veterans Administration study published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The VA study of 596 patients during a three-year period suggested patients with blocked coronary arteries might be treated as effectively with medicines as with the surgeon's knife.

DeBakey—who has performed thousands of bypasses, transplanting arteries from the leg to bypass sclerotic heart artery blockage—offered a five-year study of 1,108 of his patients and said it showed just the opposite.

The surgical treatment does have an influence upon survival in addition to restoring patients, rehabilitating patients, to a reasonably normal life and life expectancy, DeBakey said. "Excellent results can be attained."

He and colleagues Dr. Gerald Lawrie and Dr. George Morris said the five-year survival rate of patients who suffered heart attacks before surgery was 90 percent. Heart attack victims treated nonsurgically fared less well.

Patients who suffered no serious attack before surgery enjoyed a five-year survival rate of 93.2 percent, greater than the 92.7 percent rate among similar persons not known to be sick, he said.

DeBakey said improved survival statistics were not the only goal, that "quality of life" was important.

Results show that the great majority of patients, more than 80 percent of them, will survive for more than five years and be restored to relatively normal activity, most of them working," he said.

VA cardiologist Dr. Marvin Murphy of Little Rock, Ark., said earlier that "preliminary review" of his 596 patients showed "no significant difference" between surgical and non-surgical results.

But Murphy described the three-year study "preliminary, continuing," and Lawrie said Baylor specialists believe the VA study eventually will support Baylor findings.

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Treasurer James dead at 72

United Press International
AUSTIN—Texas Treasurer Jesse James, who held state office longer than any other person, died today of heart attack. He was 72.

James, who was appointed to the treasurer's job Oct. 25, 1941, by Gov. Coke Stevenson, died at 12:05 p.m. at Seton Medical Center. Funeral arrangements were pending at Cook-Walden Funeral Home.

The veteran state treasurer was re-elected to the statewide office 18 times during his political career and was seldom seriously challenged despite limited campaigning on his part.

He was forced into a runoff in the

Democratic primary election in 1942 by four challengers, but has won handily in every other campaign.

Most political observers credited his name, the same as the infamous early west bandit, for much of his success. Even Robert Ripley's "Believe It or Not" spotlighted James several times, noting Texas' treasurer shared the name of an outlaw.

But it was James' real name, and he was happy with it.

James had one leg amputated in January due to circulation problems, and had been in poor health for more than a year.

As treasurer, James also served on the State Banking Board, which approves or denies requests for charters of new state banks in Texas.

Born Oct. 10, 1904, in Milan County, James was elected to the House of Representatives in 1932 and twice was re-elected to that office, but resigned on Sept. 1, 1937, to accept appointment as first assistant chief clerk to Treasurer Charley Lockhart.

Lockhart resigned in October of 1941 because of poor health, and James was appointed treasurer.

During recent years, however, the treasurer was frequently criticized for failing to achieve maximum interest returns on state funds deposited in banks. One challenger this year said the state had lost about \$91 million in potential interest earnings in the last five years because James allowed state funds to be deposited in checking accounts that earned no interest.

James seldom responded to such allegations, and when he did his comments usually were accompanied by a statement detailing how much interest had been earned on state funds.

Gov. Dolph Briscoe will appoint a successor to serve the remainder of James' term, which ends Dec. 31, 1978.

Lover flees 'conned' guard

United Press International
SAN DIEGO — It was a new sort of love story.

Boy (crook) meets girl (prison guard).

Boy escapes from prison. Boy jilts girl. Girl gets arrested.

That was the unusual tale told by the FBI Tuesday in a federal court where Norma Jean Spearman, 30, was arraigned on charges of conspiracy and aiding and abetting the escape of a prisoner from the federal Metropolitan Correctional Center. Miss Spearman was a guard there.

She was arrested Monday for allegedly aiding the Saturday escape of Roy Madison Snipes, 40, a con man and disguise artist sentenced to 10 years for swindling travel agencies. Snipes was arrested in St. Louis last spring after eluding the FBI for six years, moving often and employing about 40 aliases.

They met in May when Snipes was brought here to stand trial.

"She was in love with him," said FBI agent Danny Stovall.

"There were love letters. Some of these were found in Snipes' effects left behind."

Miss Spearman stood silent and impassive as the charges were read and bail was set at \$10,000.

The escape, the FBI charged, was plotted with the help of Vaughn Morinville, a convicted counterfeiter recently released from the center, also sought as a suspect.

Morinville visited the center Saturday, wearing a jacket and jeans over an inner layer of clothing and carrying a concealed wig, the FBI said. Miss Spearman served as the guard overseeing their visit. After such contact with an outsider, the prisoner is supposed to be frisked by the guard for possible contraband that could have been passed.

But Morinville accompanied Miss Spearman and Snipes into the "pat-down room," the FBI said, a breach of regulations which was reported later and led to her arrest. In the room, Snipes took the outer layer of Morinville's clothing, put it on over his prison coveralls, donned the long-haired wig and walked out of the prison as a visitor.

Snipes had promised Miss Spearman he would call her as soon as he was free, and they would cross into Mexico and fly to southern France, where they could live together.

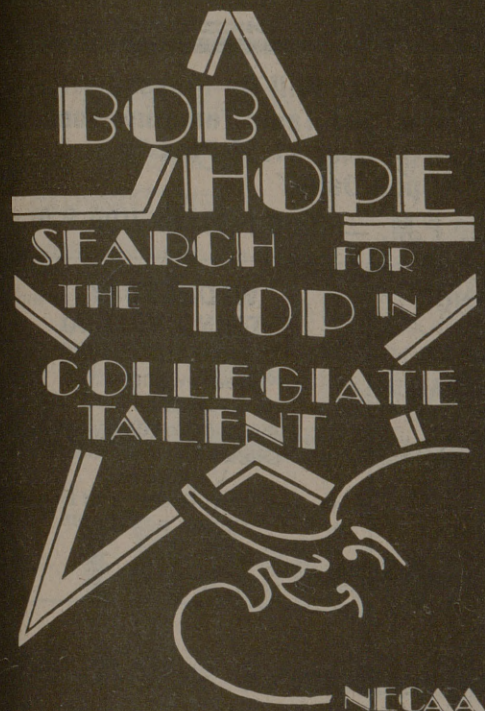
"He never called after getting out," the agent said. "She is heartbroken."

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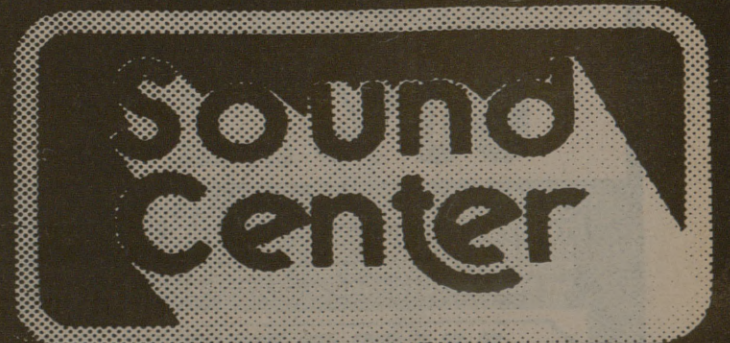
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