

Coal strikes' end expected today

WASHINGTON — Four months of strikes against the nation's soft coal industry appeared to be at an end today.

United Mine Workers Vice President Sam Church said balloting Tuesday by the union's 14,000 mine construction workers was running substantially in favor of ratifying a new three-year agreement.

"It appears as if this contract will be ratified," Church said. Church held back, however, from making a formal statement of ratification, waiting instead until it was a mathematical certainty before officially notifying the Association of Bituminous Contractors of the result.

Latest UMW tabulation, with 28 of 51 locals reporting, showed the vote 2,106-1,174 in favor of ratification.

A UMW spokesman said the delay in the final vote tabulation was tied to a requirement that workers return to work within 24 hours of ratification in order to obtain a back-to-work bonus.

The vote meant that by later this week bituminous mines throughout the country should be gearing up toward full production for the first time since last Dec. 6.

Throughout the coal fields, the balloting brought only a light turnout.

That was expected after UMW leaders openly predicted ratification in the aftermath of the March 24 approval by 160,000 rank-and-file

miners of their separate contract that ended a record 1-day strike.

The construction contract has the same basic \$2.40-an-hour wage increase over three years that was included in the miners' pact.

As in the earlier voting, sentiment was divided.

Nature workshop planned

The outdoor recreation committee is sponsoring "Right in Your Own Backyard," a two day program which emphasizes the natural history and folklore of Texas. A weekend full of nature walks and lectures will begin Saturday morning.

The workshop will be about "ecology," the study of the home. Each of the eight sessions will cover a different aspect of the home and will result in a better understanding of the life and its close connection between plants, animals, environment and man.

Saturday's events will start with a field trip to view the mammal component of the Brazos Valley, led by Dr. David Schmidly, an associate professor of the wildlife department.

Workshop participants will also learn about ecology on the Texas A&M University campus, aquatic

ecology in a Texas stream and the environment of birds.

Evening lectures include a lecture on ecology and the free market system given by Dr. Philip Gramm, an A&M economics professor currently on leave to campaign for senator, and a lecture about the Indians of Texas.

A sack lunch outing will be held for the session about Texas wildflowers.

"Right in Your Own Backyard" is a program with a goal aimed at developing awareness of the uniqueness of the Brazos Valley. The workshops, Saturday and Sunday, are open to all who are interested. No admission fee or registration is required. Each session will meet at the scheduled time in room 510 of Rudder Tower. Contact Lynn Paxson for more information at 845-4619 or 846-2661.

Surcharge considered by Postal Rate Commission

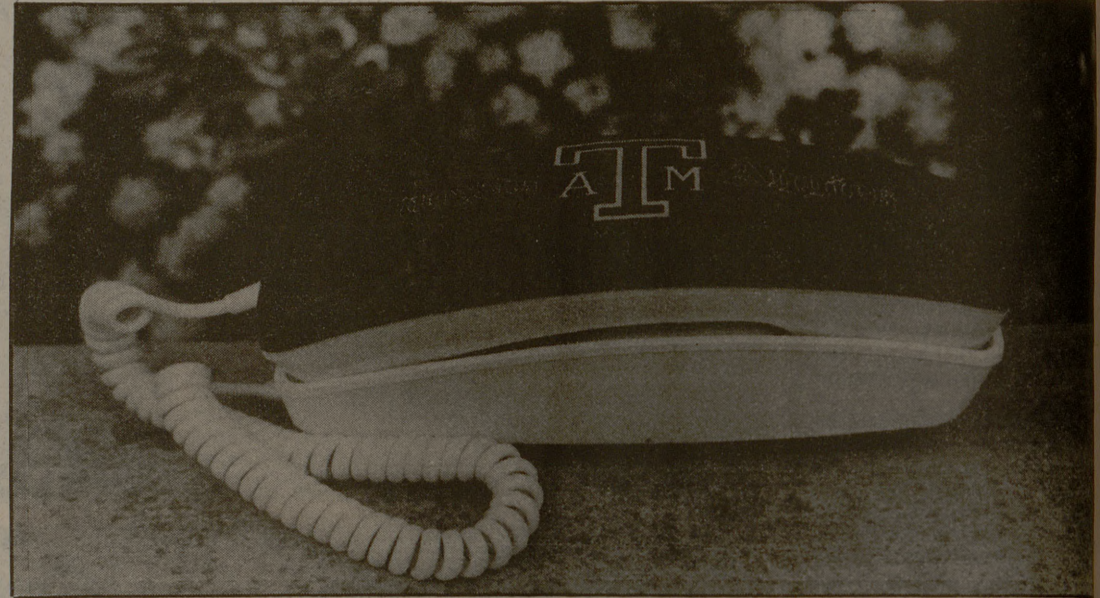
PHILADELPHIA — The U.S. Postal Service is seeking a 13-cent surcharge on non-standard size and first- and third-class mail.

The service's board of governors Tuesday voted to file the surcharge request with the Postal Rate Commission within the next few weeks.

Edward McCaffrey, assistant postmaster general for rates and classification, said the surcharge —

which would apply to non-standard single pieces of first-class mail weighing one ounce or less and single pieces of third-class mail weighing 2 ounces or less — would generate an extra \$114 million.

The service said the proposed surcharge is justified because mail larger than standard size cannot be processed through automated mail sorters.



A new item has appeared on the ever-growing list of "Aggie" items. It is the Texas A&M Aggie telephone, currently being sold by the GTE Phone Mart in College Station.

Aggie phones for sale

By CHRIS CAIN

For the person who has every Aggie gag, gift, gimmick or general-use item, from an Aggie bowling ball (a brick with three holes in it) to an Aggie toilet lid, there's a new item on the market. It's the Aggie telephone.

No, it's not two tin cans connected by a string, it's a real telephone distributed by General Telephone Electronics (GTE).

Actually, the decorative receiver is only a shell that can be installed on any color phone said Marta Martinez, manager of the College Station Phone Mart. However, the Aggie shell can only be installed on

a styleline phone, she said. "That is one of the models that is most popular with students because it's got everything on the receiver," Martinez said.

The shells cost \$6.30 with tax and there is a \$5.00 installation fee. The customer actually buys the Aggie phone shell, but the styleline phone is leased from GTE.

If the customer wants to leave this area, GTE will take off the shell, and return it to the customer for no charge, Martinez added.

The Aggie phone was developed by GTE's marketing department in San Angelo, she said. "It's a test here in Bryan-College Station to see

if the phones would actually be used," said Martinez.

Because it is a test, only Bryan College Station residents may purchase the Aggie shells, she said.

There are only 500 Aggie shells, Martinez said. "Depending on how well they sell — whether the really is a market for the shells — GTE may try it in different areas with different schools."

Texas A&M is the major university that is serviced by GTE in Southwest. "The reason they chose A&M was because they felt the spirit and everything that goes with A&M isn't found anywhere else," Martinez said.



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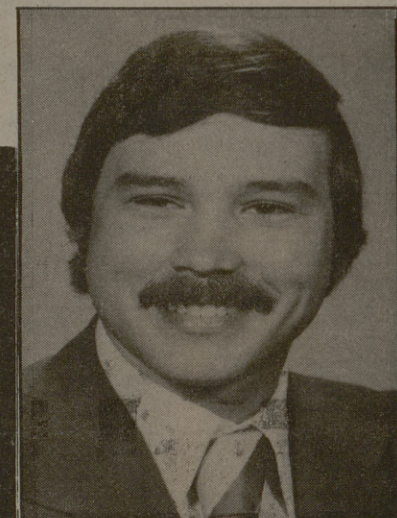
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Paul Vaculin

Paul Vaculin named King Cotton

Paul Vaculin of Cameron, a senior agronomy major at Texas A&M University, has been named King Cotton for the 44th annual Cotton Pageant and Ball on Saturday.

More than 100 young women from throughout Texas will compete for the Queen Cotton crown. The pageant, sponsored by the Student Agronomy Society at Texas A&M, began in 1930 with a cotton apparel fashion show. Proceeds were used for a fellowship in agronomy. The fashion show was eliminated in the

late 1950s and the beauty pageant evolved.

An annual social highlight at Texas A&M, the pageant begins at 9 p.m. and the ball follows at 9 p.m. both in the University Center.

Queen Cotton will be selected from nine finalists. Runners-up will serve on the queen's court as court attendants.

Members of the king's court are Paul Swetlick of Robstown, Ludeke Sinton, Tom Koran, Jerry Bilcock of El Paso, Lynn Johnson of Lyford, Bryan roughs of Canton, Randy Engle, Luling and Doug Walterstetter of Hereford.

Judges this year are Ron W. of Hurst, Barbara Kindworth of Dawson Modeling Agency in Dallas, and Cathryn Muirhead, Women's University coordinator cooperative education.

Cotton Ball music will be provided by the Aggieland Orchestra.

Tickets for the pageant and ball are available at the J. Earl Center ticket office, in Agri Building room 102 or from Student Agronomy Society members.

The pageant and ball originated during the 1930-31 school year when E. J. Kyle, agriculture developed the event to promote interest in cotton production and marketing.

The plan established a travel fellowship. The fellowship was to study the cotton industry while traveling in the United States and foreign countries.

J. S. "Cotton Joe" Mogford, tired agronomy professor still here, helped plan and organize original pageant.

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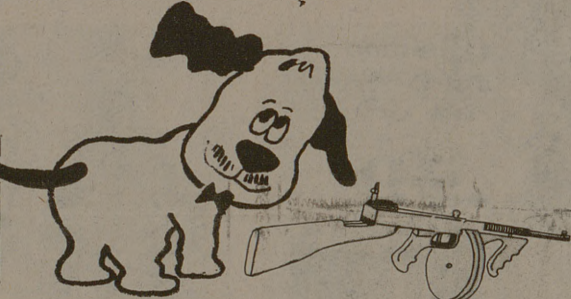
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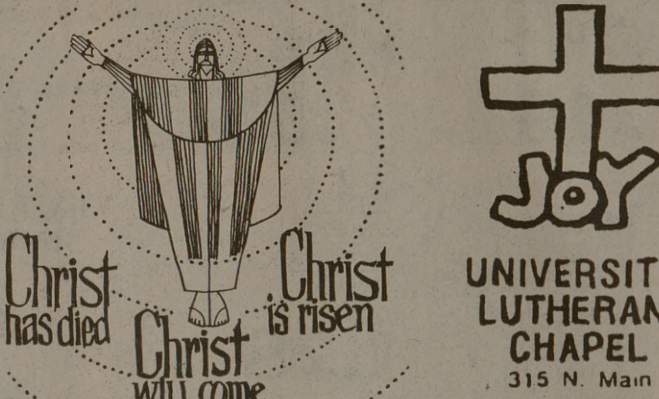
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