

going down the drain

# Brewer forecasts demise of Billy Beer

United Press International  
SAN ANTONIO — Although Billy Beer might make him "the lone Sanders of beer," few Texans have found it finger-lickin' good. Even the general marketing manager of a firm that has brewed Billy Beer since February and distributed it in 19 states predicts the brew will come by the end of the year, despite its carrying the name and endorsement of the President's other.

"I think it'll be gone by the end of the year," Spinoza said. "With a beer like Coors off like 18.5 percent for the first quarter of 1978, what kind of chance does Billy Beer have?"

Some Texans have taken to make the new brew the butt of their jokes. Yeller Dog Marsh's Chili Parlor recently had a dance contest and offered a sixpack of Billy Beer as first prize. Second prize was two six-packs of Billy Beer.

"We threw it all away," Mrs. Yeller Dog Marsh said. "Nobody would drink it. I'm serious. The winners wouldn't drink it."

Mrs. Marsh laughs about Billy Beer, saying she could not finish her first can and that the men who de-

liver it won't even drink it. Envangelo's Cafe, located on Broadway, offered the beer, "brewed especially for and with the personal approval of one of America's all-time great beer drinkers, Billy Carter," to its customers. This week, the cafe reported it was trying to sell its last five cans and did not plan to order any more.

Floore's Country Store, a favorite gathering place for the country-western set, said it never stocked Billy Beer.

"I've been here about three months now and maybe a handful of people have asked me for Billy Beer," a barmaid said.

Spokesmen for Don's and Ben's and Texas Stories, both liquor

chains, said they handled Billy Beer awhile but discontinued it because it didn't sell.

"It's not making us any money," Bob Walker of Texas Stores said. "Initially it sells very well," Spinoza said, "then it just tails off. It really hasn't been advertised here and that's probably the main reason."

"And the other reason is it's very, very difficult to establish a product like that without just constant heavy media. And that type of item also lends itself to becoming a fad item."

Spinoza said that Pearl, the nation's 14th largest brewer, was not committed by contract to continue brewing Billy Beer if demand continues to drop. However, he said that as long as there are sales for it, Pearl will brew it and ship it.

He said Billy Beer, although it had lost its initial attraction in Texas, was still selling other places. He said people in Mississippi claimed it tasted like beer used to taste and some thought it was the best beer they had ever drunk.

"It takes its spells. Up in the Northwest area, like Washington, it's doing fairly well and it's done well a little longer than it's done in Texas. And in California it's doing all right, but I expect the same thing to happen there, too. It may take a little longer, but it'll happen."

Spinoza said with firms like Budweiser, Miller and Schlitz spending "megamillions" for advertising, Billy Beer could not survive, "even if it was the best damn beer in the world — even if you put Miller, Bud or Schlitz in it."

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# California property tax vote may encourage limit in Texas

United Press International  
AUSTIN — Approval of a California proposal limiting property taxes could encourage efforts to similar tax ceiling in Texas, Atty General John Hill said yesterday.

Hill said if the California initiative is approved by voters today, he will on Wednesday meet with Lt. Gov. William P. Hobby and Speaker Bill Hamilton to discuss implications of the vote on Texas.

"I expect the vote in California to have an impact on property tax systems everywhere in the nation, including Texas, if the Jarvis initiative passes," Hill said.

Even though property taxes in

Texas have not been abused to the extent they have in California, the dramatic increases in school property taxes in the last several years have begun to pinch our farmers and ranchers and persons living on fixed incomes in many areas of the state.

"If the California initiative is adopted by the voters, I foresee efforts to impose a limit on property tax increases similar to the limit of 2 percent annually in the Jarvis initiative."

Hill said in order to be prepared to address the issue during the 1979 legislative session, city and county governments, as well as school districts and other taxing authorities,

will need to advise state leaders of the potential impact of any type of property tax limitations.

"I will meet with Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby and House Speaker Bill Clayton, if the initiative passes today, to coordinate our evaluation of the California proposal in preparation for the 1979 legislative session," Hill, the Democratic nominee for governor, said.

Efforts in past legislative sessions to impose such tax ceilings have failed. Texas Republicans in the May 6 primary overwhelmingly approved the idea of tax limits, but the issue was not on the Democratic primary ballot.

# Farmworkers are 'slaves' says Raza Unida spokesman

United Press International  
LUBBOCK — The state should pass legislation and create new agencies to end the "slave" and "second-rate citizen" status of migrant farmworkers, a Raza Unida Party spokesman testified yesterday.

Appearing in front of a House committee looking into migrant farmworker rights, Raza Unida Party spokesman testified yesterday that the rights guaranteed to U.S. citizens are being denied to farmworkers.

These rights have been denied the farmworker throughout the country, he said, and his family have been slaves and second-rate citizens.

Congressman responsible for cutting land funds

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — A Texas congressman believes adding 15,000 acres to the Big Thicket National Preserve is "absolutely preposterous" and a violation of an agreement established the park four years ago.

in the United States and especially Texas," Agüero, who represents the party's local office, said.

Agüero said farmworkers are denied the ability to organize through right-to-work laws. He said they receive less than the minimum wage, are denied safe working and housing conditions and health care, and their children are denied education by the lack of special programs.

Agüero submitted to the panel a list of recommendations by Raza Unida for consideration in drafting potential legislation to help Texas farmworkers.

Among those recommendations are abolition of the right-to-work law and establishment of a labor re-

lations board for farmworkers; elevation of the state minimum wage; establishment of scholarships by the state so that migrant workers would be allowed to attend state universities tuition-free and enforcement of existing state laws on housing, labor, safety and health regulations by the attorney general.

Other recommendations included establishing agencies or commissions to regulate and patrol working and housing conditions of farmworkers, enforcing the minimum wage and investigating allegations of denial of health services.

"There is an enormous problem in the cost of living," Arturo Garcia, a Muleshoe, Tex., farmworker said. "These people are not getting a fair wage. Nobody is enforcing the wage laws. I think if the wage and hour laws are enforced, that would help solve the problem."

Juan Chavez, a farmworkers' organizer, said many laborers are being paid far less than the minimum wage and urged removal of the right-to-work law "so they can organize themselves and work for a decent wage."

Wilson also disagreed with an apparent move by the state to create a state park out of some Thicket acreage. He indicated he was responsible for cutting from a federal appropriation \$6.38 million to buy the last unpurchased land.

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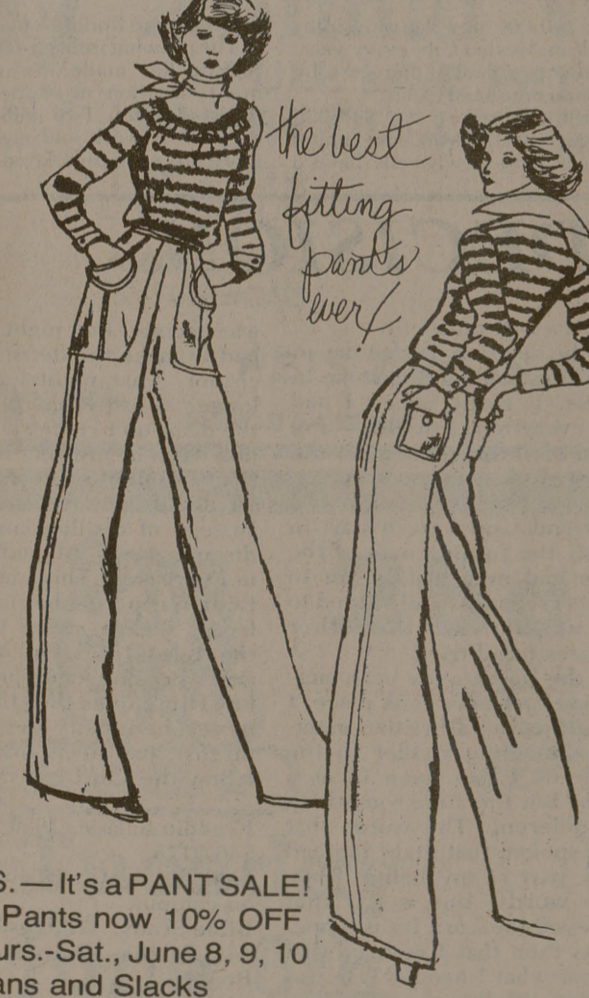


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