

Key to problem is in Mexico

Surveys say illegals still coming

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — Two lengthy surveys into the illegal alien situation released Tuesday concluded the primary solution to the problem lies in improving the impoverished conditions in Mexico that causes its citizens to come to the United States for work.

The surveys were commissioned by the Texas Advisory Council to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and were released at a news conference by El Paso Catholic Bishop Patrick Flores at the opening of a

three-day conference on immigration and naturalization.

"It appears that depressed economic conditions in the United States do not deter undocumented aliens from entering this country," concluded one of the studies prepared by Drs. Roy Flores and Gilbert Cardenas.

"McAllen has consistently experienced unemployment rates in excess of 10 percent, yet many unskilled aliens find their way to McAllen. The 'push' from Mexico appears to be a stronger determinant than the 'pull'

from the United States.

"The solution to the undocumented alien question, if indeed a solution is possible, rests with improving the economy of Mexico. As long as the wretched economic conditions exist in Mexico, many Mexican citizens will immigrate to the United States, legally or otherwise."

The two researchers based their conclusions on responses to questionnaires filled out on 3,400 aliens detained by the Border Patrol and Immigration and Naturalization Service along the Texas border.

Another survey, by Avante Systems, Inc. and Cultural Research Associates, was based on a previous survey by the Mexican government and others and anonymous interviews with Mexican aliens at El Paso and the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

The study said 90 percent of aliens interviewed by Professor Julian Zamora were solely under-educated, having completed less

than the six primary grades of Mexico.

It found that 98 percent of those entered from Mexico, while 1 percent each came from Guatemala and Belize and Nicaragua, that most worked as menial laborers in agriculture or unskilled city jobs and earned a mean \$2.75 an hour.

The second study concluded U.S. citizens' concern that the job marketplace would be flooded with aliens was unjustified.

"Our findings show little basis for this fear," the report said. "Undocumented persons hold jobs which require only a Mexican sixth grade education and no U.S. education, generally require neither speaking nor understanding English, pay less than the minimum wage, offer no fringe benefits and are valued more for security than for potential for advancement."

According to responses from the aliens, the report said, reports are unfounded that the aliens constitute a drain on U.S. social services.



Battalion photo by Paige Beasley

'This won't hurt a bit'

Melissa Stewart, a third year veterinary medicine student, gives this poodle a physical examination at the Texas A&M University

Small Animal Clinic. Third year students work in the clinic for preliminary training in various areas on both large and small animals.

Clock still ticks, but old man died

United Press International
WICHITA, Kan. — Time continues to tick slowly into history on a three-foot diameter clock on Amos McDade's front porch, and his widow said she will keep it going.

"You just wind it every 30 days and it goes," she said. McDade, a former watch and clock repairman, kept the giant clock wound tight and a few minutes ahead so that people driving by would not be late to work. He died Monday, just 11 days after his 107th birthday.

Mrs. McDade, holding her dog on a porch chair under the clock, said her husband had talked her into having a party to celebrate his birthday even though her arthritis is "bothersome." Thirty-six neighborhood guests appeared to eat cake and wish McDade well. Mrs. McDade said the memory of that happy time lessens the blow of his death.

"It helps take the tears away that I did it," she said. McDade was born in a log cabin in Washington County, Texas, and traveled to Wichita in 1937. At age 74 he married a woman 33 years younger.

"It's best to wait until you find someone you have confidence in," McDade had said, before he died.

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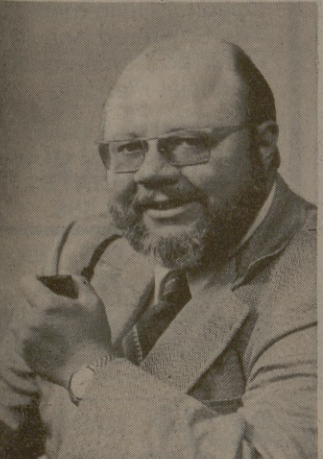
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