

Brazos County has 6 left

Use of midwife declines

By CRAIG ROGERS
Battalion Reporter

Midwives delivered 30 babies in Brazos County in 1977, a study released Monday by the Brazos Valley chapter of the March of Dimes showed.

The deliveries represented 2.5 percent of the 1,181 births in the

county that year. The study, conducted for the March of Dimes by a Texas A&M University Medical Sociology Class, examined the current status of midwifery in Brazos and five adjacent counties. The study also explored the history of the profession and its legal status across the nation.

A midwife can either be a registered nurse or a lay person who assists in childbirth. Students participating in the study identified 24 midwives, six of whom operate in Brazos County.

The study, which covered 1968-1973, discovered a sharp decrease in the number of actively practicing midwives. It attributed that fact to hospital policies on the acceptance of black patients in previously all white hospitals, the increased welfare payments for hospitalization, and an increase in the status value placed on hospital care.

Midwives are probably caring for a higher percentage of indigent patients than in the past, the report concluded.

All of the midwives identified by the study were black and all more than 50 years old. Fifty-seven percent were between 80 and 90 years old.

Midwives in Brazos County handled 8.2 percent of the births in 1968. That figure declined every year except two until it reached the 1977 level, the study showed.

Twenty-six of the midwife-assisted births during that year were in Bryan; one was in College Station and three in rural areas of the county.

Of five metropolitan areas for which data were available, Hearne had the highest percentage of midwife-assisted births with 20.4 percent.

While 15 states have written new laws on midwifery since 1977, Texas still has no all-encompassing law. Dr. Ruth C. Schaffer, whose class conducted the study, believes that there is a need for updated legislation in Texas.

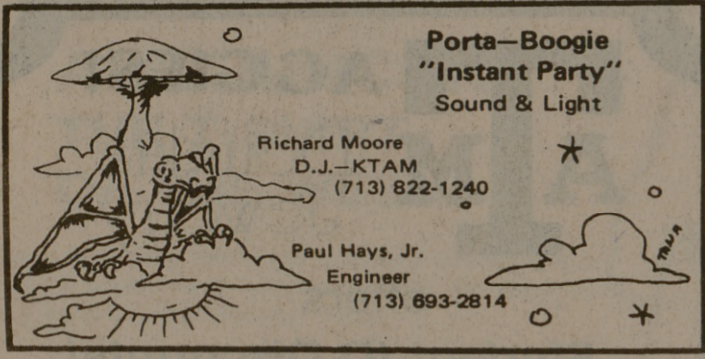
With an economic need for cheaper medical care, and a growing number of babies delivered by midwives, new legislation is required to maintain the quality of medical care, Dr. Schaffer said.

The trend in new legislation is to require new midwives to be registered nurses who have completed the requirements of the American College of Nurse-Midwives. Previously practicing lay midwives are allowed to continue, but no new lay midwives are allowed.

Dr. Schaffer said that the record of the midwives in the Brazos Valley area is pretty good. The report showed, however, that there has been no formal training in over 30 years.

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United Press International
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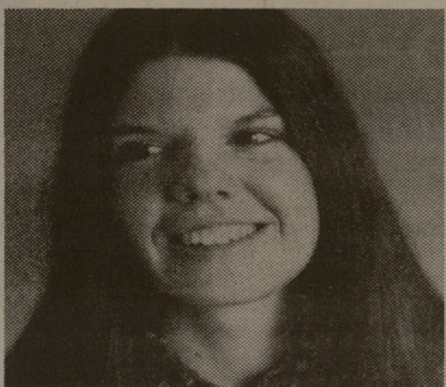
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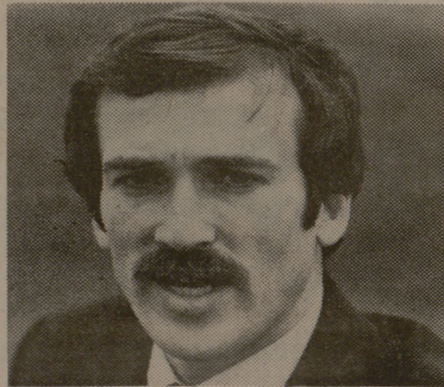
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Interviewers on campus February 1 and 2.

HEWLETT PACKARD

what's up

Tuesday

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY: Officer nomination and a discussion of a field trip to Brown and Root Co. on Feb. 2 will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Room 305, Fermier Building.

MSC DISCOVERY '79: Information about the MSC Committee Directorate (Aggie Cinema, Town Hall, etc.) and an opportunity for students to get involved with the program will be provided at a meeting in Room 201, MSC, at 7:30 p.m.

SADDLE AND SIRLOIN CLUB: Humorist Jerry Smith will speak at 7 p.m. in Room 115, Kleburg Center.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS: Clark Burklin from Brown and Root Co. will speak at 7:30 p.m. in Room 333B, Zachry.

AMERICAN HUMANICS SEMINAR: Lynn Copeland will speak at "Further Education in Youth Agency Leadership" at 6 p.m. in Room 607, Rudder Tower. Anyone interested in youth agencies is encouraged to attend.

SAN ANTONIO HOMETOWN CLUB: Will meet at 7 p.m. in Room 501, Rudder Tower.

PLANT SCIENCES SEMINAR: Stan Roux will speak on "Stimulus-Interaction of Phytochrome with Cellular and Artificial Light" at 4 p.m. in Room 112, Plant Sciences Building.

PRE-MED, PRE-DENT SOCIETY: Will have their first meeting of the year at 7:30 p.m. in Room 321, Physics Building. The Barbeque Bash will be discussed.

Wednesday

MSC BASEMENT COMMITTEE: There will be a general meeting and performer auditions at 7 p.m. in the Basement Coffeehouse.

TAMU STAMP CLUB: A discussion about interesting covers will be presented at 7:30 p.m. in Room 302, Rudder Tower.

BAKE SALE: EE Student Wives will hold a bake sale at Zachry Engineering Center beginning at 9 a.m. until they sell all cakes.

BRIDGE CLUB: Will meet at 7:15 p.m. in the MSC. Everyone is welcome.

ACT SPECIAL MEETING: The Spring Agriculturalist will be discussed at 5 p.m. in Room 003, Reed McDonald Building.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT SENATE VACANCIES: Senate vacancies are open in the College of Engineering-at-large, College of Science-at-large, College of Geosciences-at-large, College of Engineering-Junior, College of Education-Sophomore, Moody College-at-large. Those who are interested should apply by Feb. 1 in Room 216C, MSC, for an interview.

BASKETBALL: The women's team will play the University of Texas at 5:15 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

BASKETBALL: The men's team will play SMU at 7:30 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Thursday

MSC GREAT ISSUES: Dan Ayre will speak on "The Marijuana Legalization Debate" at 8 p.m. in Rudder Theater.

TAMU SNOW SKI CLUB: Will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 115, MSC. Everyone is invited to attend.

Delay expected for U.S. — Turkey treaty

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Rep. Les Aspin, D-Wis., said Monday that growing anti-Americanism and internal political problems may delay ratification by Turkey's parliament of the new U.S.-Turkish prisoner exchange agreement.

"The prospects are good for ratification, but not so good for exchange agreement," Aspin said.

"No politician (in Turkey) is going to win any brownie points for helping to speed the treaty through parliament in favor of the Americans," he said.

Aspin said this is because of anti-American feelings in Turkey resulting from the lack of American support for the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus.

Also, the Ankara government — which has a slim majority in the parliament — is under increasing pressure from the opposition because of the nation's serious economic problems and the imposition of martial law.

But he also pointed out that Turkey knows the United States considers the prisoner exchange treaty important and that the United States and European allies are considering a special \$2 billion aid package for Turkey.

"The Turkish leadership is quite sophisticated and aware that they don't stand a chance to gain any favorable votes in Congress by delaying over the treaty," Aspin said.

The U.S. military and economic aid program for Turkey is expected to reach about \$350 million in the 1980 budget — double the amount requested last year by President Carter.

Once the prisoner exchange treaty is ratified, five Americans in Turkish jails and seven Turks in American jails can return to their home countries to serve out their sentences.

Among the Americans in jail in Turkey on drug charges are mentioned Kathryn Zens of Lancaster, Wis., JoAnn McDaniel of Coos Bay, Oregon, and Robert Hubbard of Texas.

When arrested in Turkey in 1972, police found over 200 pounds of hashish in their minibus. Aspin said Hubbard told Turkish police neither woman — each sentenced to 24 years in prison — knew of the smuggling scheme.

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