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The worm turns

Why are these somewhat disgusting inch worms all over the area? No one is quite sure, but they'll probably be here another two to three weeks. See details on page 5.



Station assists victims

By KEITH TAYLOR
Battalion Staff

W5AC, the amateur radio station of Texas A&M University, is still hard at work broadcasting to tornado-stricken north Texas.

David McCarty, chairman of the MSC Radio Committee, said Wednesday night the club is now broadcasting personal information into Wichita Falls.

People can call the committee and leave phone numbers and addresses of friends and relatives in Wichita Falls. The club will relay the numbers to Wichita Falls and the people will be sought.

He also said the club has a map of the area marked with the path of the tornado and callers can find out where the tornado

The Radio Committee's phone number is 845-7245.

On Wednesday night, the committee received more than 200 calls since

McCarty said that the names of injured people may not be broadcast according to Federal Communications Commission regulations. He also said committee members would not say if a street was directly in the path of the tornado, but they will give the idea of the severity of damage in the area of the street.

"We can't be definite about damage or if it's OK," he said.

The club was handling first priority messages Tuesday night, he said. These messages were used to coordinate relief efforts between Dallas and Wichita Falls

to find out what supplies were needed for the area.

Now four amateur radios are operating in Wichita Falls through generator power, he said. The radios are working in cooper-



Roger Cooper, an electrical engineering sophomore from Midland, lies asleep on the floor of W5AC's radio room in the MSC after an all-night vigil Tuesday. Cooper and other ham operators helped to coordinate civil defense, the Red Cross

and the National Guard when normal communications to the Wichita Falls area failed as a result of tornadoes. W5AC is also relaying "health and welfare messages" to family and friends. Their phone number is 845-7245.

Battalion photo by Colin Crombie

ation with the Red Cross, Civil Defense, the Texas Department of Public Safety and the city government.

He said as far as he knew power had not been restored as of 6:30 p.m. Tuesday.

The club will continue to broadcast to Wichita Falls until normal communica-

tions are restored — at least another two days, McCarty said.

"Most of the telephone exchanges are open," he said. "Only a couple were knocked out, but long distance lines are packed. We will be here as long as we have work."

About 20 people have been helping the radio committee in their 24-hour-a-day effort.

He said two students from Wichita Falls came in to find about their families, then stayed and worked.

H.B. Zachry says Kyle Field expansion will finish on time — with new schedule

By SCOTT D. HARING
Battalion Reporter

The Kyle Field renovation project is drafted five weeks behind, not behind at all, Phil Zachry said.

The project, which calls for a third deck on both sides of Kyle Field, a new press box and two four-story buildings connected to Kyle Field to G. Rollie White Coliseum, is being built by the H.B. Zachry Construction Co. of San Antonio. The

company bid \$22,858,600 to do the work. The Texas Aggie football team was supposed to open its 1979 home season Sept. 1 against Brigham Young University. The game was moved to Houston, however, when the contractors said they would have trouble getting the stadium ready in time.

The new target date for the completion of the project is Oct. 13, the date of the

University of Houston game.

Kevin Patterson, vice president for student services in student government, told the student senate last week that the project was five weeks behind schedule. He also said the construction company was starting 20-hour work days six weeks ahead of schedule to catch up.

H.B. Zachry, chairman of the board of Zachry Construction Co., said that the project was not behind schedule at all. Zachry was in town Tuesday to give a speech to the Business Student Council, and he took time out to personally supervise some of the work.

Zachry did say, however, that the 20-hour work days were beginning six weeks early.

"We've had a lot of bad weather and want to be ready for any more," Zachry said there would be no problem getting the project finished by Oct. 13.

Robert Evans, assistant manager of the construction division of the Texas A&M University System, said the Kyle Field project was three to four weeks behind.

"They have been delayed by the bad weather, even since the first of the year," he said. In response to Zachry's claim that the job wasn't behind schedule, Evans said, "Well, a contractor'll tell you that."

Evans said that in addition to the weather, some steel forms for pouring concrete had not come in until last week. Since they're in, he said, "they should be rolling now."

The engineering firm in charge of the project, Lockwood, Andrews and Newnam Inc., met Monday with John Merchant, manager of the construction division. Evans said that at the meeting some

changes were made in the plans and the schedule was rewritten.

For example, Evans said, the construction of the elevator to the press box was simplified. He said the engineers decided to scrap a more ornamental, time-consuming method in order to finish the job more quickly.

Patterson said that even though the project was five weeks behind, the new schedule is written so that construction is not behind at all.

Athletic Director Marvin Tate said that he wasn't afraid of any delays. "I have an awful lot of confidence in Mr. Zachry and the Zachry people."

Tate said that if the Oct. 13 game could not be played in Kyle Field, they would try to reschedule the game for December.

Time to register, get back in line

About 16,000 Texas A&M University students are expected to preregister next week for the fall 1979 semester.

Preregistration will begin at 8 a.m. Monday and close at 5 p.m. Friday.

The procedure goes like this:

After choosing their courses and time schedules, students should report to their major departments and pick up their card packets.

Next, students should fill out all the cards except the course request card,

which must be filled out and signed by a department adviser.

Students should then turn in their card packets at the exhibit hall in Rudder Tower, where ID photographs will be taken.

Fee statements will be mailed to students at their permanent home addresses around July 10. Students must mail in their fee payments by Aug. 1 or their preregistration may be canceled.

Fall semester classes are scheduled to begin Sept. 3.

House barely loses chance to outlaw state income tax

AUSTIN — A San Antonio legislator, close to seeing passage of his constitutional amendment prohibiting the state from adopting a tax on personal or corporate income, watched an opportunity slip away and now the measure faces a dim future.

The constitutional amendment by Rep. Al Brown, D-San Antonio, was tentatively approved Wednesday by the House 86-45, but he needs 100 votes for final passage. Constitutional amendments require two-thirds approval from the House's 150 members.

On Tuesday Brown's proposal drew 99 votes on tentative approval. But instead of trying to secure a final vote Wednesday, he chose to have Tuesday's vote reconsidered, and he lost 13 votes. He now has one more attempt — if he chooses — to try and pass the measure.

Brown, insisting the constitutional amendment is needed to protect future Texas citizens from overburdening taxes, argued Rep. John Bryant, alas, and other opponents had weakened his proposal with an amendment stating that if the state ever adopted an income tax, the revenue would be used only for reduction of state

and local property taxes.

"This is about the best shug job I've seen here," Brown said.

Bryant said he opposed any kind of state income tax but insisted Brown's proposal could jeopardize the state's financial future.

"We're narrowing our tax base ... in the future if we need revenue, we'll have nothing left but property tax. It doesn't make any sense," he said. "I don't think homeowners and farmland owners ought to pay all the taxes."

Earlier during the almost day-long debate, Rep. Craig Washington, D-Houston, submitted an amendment to impose taxes on gross receipts from the sale of goods, services and insurance policies.

But Washington's amendment drew harsh criticism from members who said it was contrary to the proposal's intent and it was tabled 70-61.

Washington insisted the bill would abolish taxes that already exist.

"This is just like cheap insurance," Wilson said. "It gives it to you in big print, and takes it away in little print. It's still a tax. What difference does it make if it is gross or income (tax)?"

Tornado sites yield more dead

WICHITA FALLS — Storm-stunned residents of "tornado alley" Wednesday found more bodies amid the tons of shattered and twisted debris left by the most devastating and deadly tornado to strike the state in the past quarter century.

A Texas National Guard spokesman reported at least 61 people, 45 of them in Wichita Falls, died during a frightful afternoon and evening of weather violence and said the death toll was likely to rise throughout the day.

Twelve bodies were found in Vernon, 50 miles to the west, one in Harrold, 20 miles east of Vernon, and three in Lawton, Okla., 60 miles north of Wichita Falls.

At least 600 persons were hospitalized, two dozen of them mangled and in critical condition.

Power, water and telephone services were knocked out to the devastated communities. A 4-year-old girl died on an operating table at Wichita Falls' Bethania Hospital during emergency surgery when the storm cut off the power.

While rescue workers hunted for victims, guarded against looters and attempted to restore services and communications in the hard hit towns Wednesday, more tornadoes struck the East Texas communities of Sulphur Springs and Mahoney. But no one was killed or injured and damage was reported light in the new twisters.

The National Weather Service said the storm system that formed Tuesday's tornadoes likely would generate other twisters as it moved to the northeast out of the state.

Tornadoes are a familiar sight to residents of the Wichita Falls-Vernon area during the spring. The first 10 days of April are considered prime time for twisters in a state that leads the nation annually in total number of tornadoes.

But the funnel that dipped from a storm blackened sky at dusk Tuesday was more than anyone in "tornado alley" had ever seen before.

"My God it was huge," said Ellen Gahagan, who escaped injury by hiding in her bathtub. "When you're laying on your stomach with stuff falling all over you, you don't feel like you're going to make it."

According to NWS storm forecasters, the gigantic storm was a half mile at its base and stretched three miles upwards into the clouds. For six miles it wantonly skipped about the city, engulfing whole neighborhoods and lifting them skyward and while leaving others totally untouched.

The wind-driven debris became deadly shrapnel. A Lawton woman was taken to a hospital in critical condition with a three-foot 2-by-4 plank driven through her abdomen. Cattle grazing in nearby pastures were impaled with fragments of splintered trees.

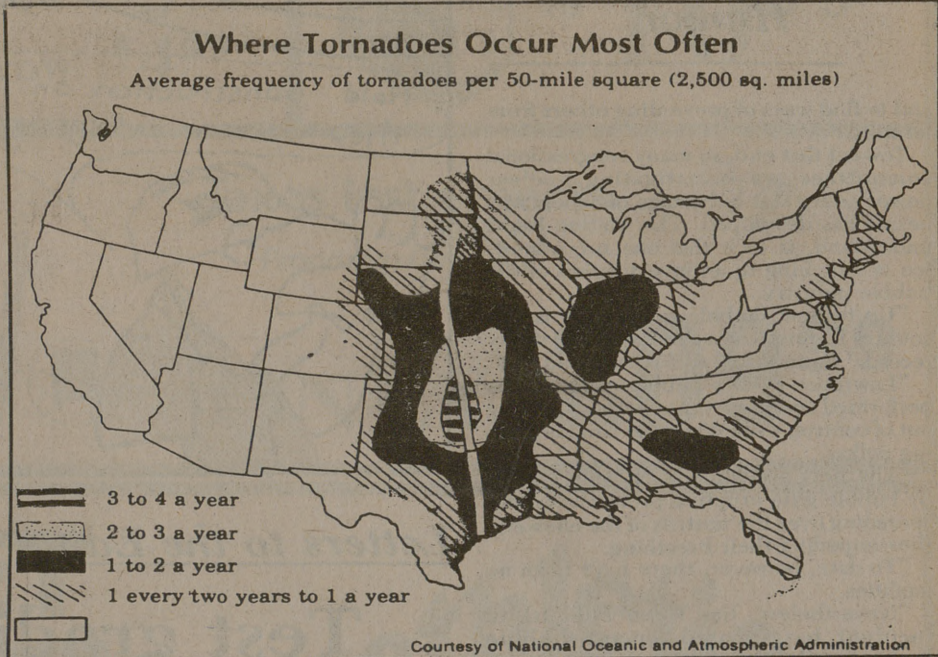
Gov. Bill Clements, who flew to Wichita Falls in a National Guard helicopter to survey the scene, said the storm may have inflicted as much as \$300 million in damage. He said he would ask President Carter to declare the city as a disaster area.

The American Red Cross sent food, water and personnel from dozens of neighboring communities and established two shelters for the thousands of homeless. Pleas were made for clothing and more supplies.

Heavily armed National Guardsmen and DPS patrolmen patrolled the streets for looters. A spokesman said there were "12 minor incidents" of looting early Wednesday morning, but no arrests had been made.

Jack Hales, a severe storm forecaster with the NWS in Kansas City, Mo., said the storm system produced the deadliest tornadoes since April 3, 1974, when 313 persons died in Ohio, Kentucky, Alabama and Tennessee.

The last major tornado to hit Wichita Falls killed seven people and injured 111 on April 3, 1964. The one Tuesday was the worst in the state since a mammoth storm roared through Waco in 1953, killing 114.



The verticle white line indicates the "tornado alley," where tornadoes are most likely to occur.

Twister season here Experts don't know cause

By KEITH TAYLOR
Battalion Staff

Every season spawns its own type of storm.

Summer in Texas brings the threat of hurricanes, winter brings snows, fall has cold, driving rain, and spring brings one of the most frightening and destructive — the tornado.

The tornado that hit Wichita Falls Tuesday killing at least 61 people has once again made the possibility of a tornado a frightening reality.

Dr. Kenneth C. Brundidge, head of the department of meteorology at Texas A&M University, said the cause of tornadoes is not known. He said it is theorized that the same conditions cause both severe thunderstorms and tornadoes.

The storms and tornadoes that struck North Texas and South Oklahoma were caused by a collision of warm, moist air sucked from the Gulf of Mexico and dry, cold air from the jet stream pushed south by a westerly front.

He said as the spring and summer progress, the jet stream will move northward as the number of cold fronts decreases, so the number of severe thunderstorms and tornadoes will decrease.

Brundidge said tornadoes are almost always associated with cold front storms. The thunder storms Texas experiences in the summertime rarely spawn tornadoes.

He said these thunderstorms are caused by warm air rising from the surface of the earth causing the formation of cumulonimbus clouds commonly known as thunderheads. These storms are isolated and

highly disorganized — usually unable to produce tornadoes like the highly organized cold front storms.

The destructiveness of a tornado is caused by two factors, the 100-300 mph swirling winds and the sudden drops in atmospheric pressure that the tornado causes.

"Texas Weather," a book written by meteorologists Harold Taft and Ron Godbey, says a 10 percent reduction in pressure caused by a tornado is sufficient to exert a force of 212 pounds per square foot on the walls of a house and a force of 106 tons on the ceiling. This is enough to cause a house to literally explode. The high winds then carry the debris away.

One of the main dangers of a tornado is that it cannot be predicted. Meteorologists can recognize conditions that will spawn a tornado, but they cannot tell where it will strike.

The safest thing to do is listen for tornado watches and if one is given, prepare for the worst.

A tornado watch means conditions are right for a tornado to be produced.

A tornado warning means one has been spotted in the vicinity.

In their book, Taft and Godbey say the basement of a house offers the greatest safety. If the house has no basement, go to the center of the house, on the lowest floor, in a small room, such as a closet or bathroom. They also advise opening windows, so inside and outside pressure can equalize, reducing the possibility of the house exploding.



Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

A worker atop the partly constructed addition on Kyle Field's west side is silhouetted by the evening sun. The bundles of structural steel will form the backbone of massive concrete pillars supporting the addition.