



**Senior citizen festival**

Lucile Newcomb, left, shows some handiwork on sale during Saturday's Brazos Valley Senior Citizens Olympics and Festival. Newcomb, a member of the Brazos Valley Senior Citizen

Festival Association, was one of some 400 area elderly people participating in the day-long event.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

**Small town recalls 'witches' killing**

**United Press International**  
DIMMITT, Texas — For those who recall the shooting death two years ago of a pretty Mexican-American girl and the arrest of two professed witches, the return of Halloween brings nothing but ravened tension.

The traditional symbols — a sal-low moon, a straw-littered, harvested cornfield, batches of confections — are easy to spot. It's the haunting memory of a dead girl and the invisible threat of violence and retaliation that stir anxiety in this otherwise peaceful Panhandle town.

"We're sitting on a powderkeg up here," says Castro County Sheriff Granville Martin, a reference to tension that has existed between the town's 4,327 white and Mexican-American residents since Roxanne Casas was shot to death Oct. 31, 1977.

Like some of her Dimmitt High School classmates, the sophomore had heard of Loy and Louise Stone, self-described flamen and flamenca (keepers of the flame) of the Church of Arianhu, one of five chartered branches of Wicca. Some even knew how to get to the Stones' small frame house on Easter Road, 7 1/2 miles northwest of town.

Two weeks before, the Stones were in an Amarillo television studio to announce an upcoming lecture on their beliefs.

The couple's brief television appearance was enough, however, to touch the curiosity of high school students in Hereford, north of Dimmitt. They soon appeared in their cars outside the Stones' small house, laughing and jeering.

The disturbance prompted a complaint from the Stones to Sheriff Martin. Ultimately, several students were taken into custody, given a stiff lecture and at least one was fined \$100 for fleeing from an officer.

But as Halloween approached, some of the 425 students at Dimmitt High School discussed taking the short ride north along U.S. 385 to the Stones' house.

Like their Hereford counterparts, an officer said later, "they thought they'd see a 'witches' ceremony or devil worship."

About dusk, cars and trucks loaded with students began plying the two-lane dirt road in front of the Stones' house. Some of the drivers pulled into the curved gravel driveway that led to a door marked by a script "S" — for Stone.

Some of the kids laughed and ventured guesses that the "S" stood for "spook" or "Satan."

Loy Stone telephoned authorities again to complain.

Although the call was given to a deputy and Martin was headed east toward Nazareth, the sheriff decided to take the call himself and turned around, recalling earlier trouble with the teen-agers.

Near the Stones' house, Martin encountered a carload of Hereford youths.

"I stopped them. They had heard there were witches. I told 'em, 'Don't come back down here, and I turned 'em loose and they went home."

Martin, meanwhile, drove the short distance to the Stones' house and shined his car lights into the driveway.

"I couldn't see nobody there or nothing going on," he said. "I backed out and went west."

Arthur Herrera, driving a brand new red Ford pickup, was on Easter Road that night, squashed against the driver's door by the four passengers in the front seat with him.

With the 18-year-old driver were Andriana Rangel and Maria Trevino, both 15; Carlos Garza, 18, and Roxanne Casas, three months short of her sixteenth birthday.

Herrera, who has since left Dimmitt, to the dismay of prosecutor Jimmy F. Davis, drove his pickup into the Stones' driveway, past a concrete block well house. He was turning around, spraying gravel, when two blasts echoed from a shotgun.

One of them struck the bed of the truck. A second shattered the passenger window and sent buckshot into Roxanne Casas' right temple. It also hit Carlos and Maria, inflicting minor wounds.

About an hour later at 8:45 p.m. Roxanne was pronounced dead on arrival at Plains Memorial Hospital 7 1/2 miles from the Stones' house.

A nurse phoned Police Chief Joe Ben Mitchell and told him, "We have a dead child here."

The report was relayed to Martin, still in the vicinity of the Stones' house, and he requested a backup from the highway patrol before continuing alone.

"I generally back myself up with my pistol and my shotgun," a hatless Martin quipped recently, his tan cowboy boots propped on the desk of his office.

Martin pulled in at the Stones' house for the second time.

"I seen a man and a woman and some car had pulled in. 'That was the one,' I heard a man down the road say. I told 'em I'd had a call, (about a shooting)," Martin said. He said a man told him he had fired a single shot to "scare them kids off."

**Used cars serve as first vehicles**

**United Press International**  
NEW YORK — About three out of four buyers of secondhand cars purchase them as the household's first or primary vehicle, according to a new nationwide survey by a car rental company. William Welty, the company's vice president of used car operations, says almost one used car buyer in four has never owned a

new model. Cost is their main reason for buying used vehicles, Welty says. The poll found the typical used car bought in the United States is a recent-model, one-owner, standard-sized sedan, loaded with options and driven less than 30,000 miles.

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**Airlines allowed to raise prices again**

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — The Civil Aeronautics Board agreed Friday to allow the nation's airlines to raise their fares by up to 3.7 percent on Thursday because of the skyrocketing price of fuel.

The increase was the fourth this year authorized by the board. The total of the four increases is 25.9 percent. A board spokesman said the latest increase authorized was "mostly due to fuel, no doubt about it."

The cost of airline fuel has risen from about 37 cents a gallon at the beginning of the year to an average of 67 cents in September. Fuel costs now account for about 24 percent of the airline's total cost of service.

The increase comes as some of the nation's largest air carriers are reporting third-quarter losses, or drastically reduced earnings, compared with the third quarter of 1978.

The board also said it will not condone chaotic conditions in the industry caused by airlines raising

their fares to the new level without properly informing the public.

When fares were increased Sept. 1, the board said, it was deluged by complaints.

The CAB has been making adjustments in airline fare ceiling twice a year since 1977. However, because of the fast-rising airline fuel prices, the board changed its policy over the summer and began readjusting the fare levels every two months instead of every six.

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