Monday, November 3, 1980

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THE BATTALION

Rio Grande river lost for time in small town

United Press International CANDELARIA — For a while there, the Rio Grande was lost in this small, antiquated ranching community in far west Texas

When several employees of the U.S. section of the International Boundary Commission arrived in the town, they had to use a 10-year-old aerial photograph to find the legendary river.

It seems the salt cedar-infested river was so full of silt its bottom was higher than the surrounding pastures where crops had once grown. As a result, the salty water that sometimes flows along the river bottom had seeped through the soil and formed ponds beyond the river channel on surrounding ranchland.

"I've seen it pond there for six to seven months," said Alfredo V. Brijalba of the Soil Conservation Service in Marfa

The river's poor condition also kept the land so wet that no crops have grown there since 1966.

It was high time for some improvements, and since the middle of the river is considered the international boundary under a 1970 treaty, both the U.S. and Mexico

sections of the boundary commission wanted to better

define 170 miles of the Rio Grande. The U.S. and Mexico sections agreed to divide the work in segments in a 200-mile stretch from six miles upstream of Presidio to Fort Quitman.

B

A Houston firm this summer cut a 6-foot-deep river channel, left a ring of salt cedar to hold the bank in place and cut a 56-foot swath through the salt cedar beyond the bank.

Although officials said the river improvements would not have an immediate effect on agriculture in the area, "a year of high rainfall" to flush some of the salt from the soil "might make some of that land suitable to use

soil might make some of that land suitable to use again, "according to area Soil Conservation Service en-gineer Claude Thompson. "Eventually they'll probably be able to get back to where they can grow vegetables and alfalfa," he said. One of the goals of the river project was to improve, not damage, the area as a habitat for birds and wildlife. The first job at Candelaria was what the IWBC statt called "preconstruction staking" and marking so the heavy equipment operators knew where to get buck

heavy equipment operators knew where to cut brush and where to leave the salt cedar

Photo by Dean Saite **But does it fly?** Carlton Schlomach, in aerospace engineering, spends time working on his hobby - radio-controlled airplane flying.

Center teaches basic economics

USCHI MICHEL-HOWELL

Battalion Staff ome students at a specially estab-ed center at Texas A&M Univerbelieve the free enterprise sysis close to extinction.

e Center for Research, Educaand Free Enterprise, estab-ed in 1977, is a local organization provides teachers with short es in basic economics. e teachers receive two to three rs of graduate credit for the 30-courses, said Dr. Gene Uselton, tor of CREFE.

Texas law requires that teachers ce economics at all levels dergarten through the 12th de) where it is appropriate. But ay teachers do not have adequate Gurry in pionship wledge of economics, Uselton The center's education courses them comply with the law. CREFE is supported by private nds. In addition to helping area

hers and students, it sponsors reaturday (No arch at other universities. "We evaluate the cost of governigh-ins are ent regulations, and it would not hile the con appropriate to be funded by any see and the "The center is similar to the Amert 11 a.m.

d to attend an Economics Institute in ashington D.C., the Heritage undation and the Hoover Instidgmen

onsored by CREFE advocates a free society

pleases as long as he doesn't hurt anybody else, Uselton said. "We really are not conservative, but libertarian," Uselton said. "Free

enterprise means conservative to many, but we are libertarian in the tures on request to businessmen.

"Our central message is that voluntary trade and private ownership coupled with the limited role of government provide the best means of

continued prosperity of a democratic society," said Debbie Walker, coordinator of student advocates.

sense that we want to maximize an individual's liberty."

Besides its research sponsorship and teacher education, the center has student advocates who promote the free enterprise system in and around the Texas A&M community. Seventeen students entered CREFE last spring.

"The advocates are only extremely capable students. It's a speaker's bureau," Uselton said.

ments for being a student advocate, but we would like to have high academic achievers and articulate people," Walker said. Student advocates present lecsaid

"They work on their own topics,

dealing with current economic prob-lems and free market solutions," Walker added.

"We are not against government, but pro-individual. There is a defi-nite role of government, but sometimes it does too much," Walker

The advocates don't support any one candidate, but believe that free-dom is being continually eroded.

"There are too many taxes and you can't choose," Walker said. "The problem is that people are trying to decide how your life is run." "If a businessman makes a profit,

that means that he is giving a service to his community and that's like a natural check (on the business)," Walker said.

"Inflation is due to too much gov-ernment spending," she added. But Walker and Uselton said that the advocates and the center are

trying to be objective on any issue when they give speeches. "We try to be objective with our

research, and some conclusions don't turn out the way we would like em to," Uselton said.

One study that was sponsored by CREFE concerned the impact of the Federal Drug Administration on the pharmaceutical industry, Uselton

The number of new drugs declined after government regulation started, and the companies had a strong incentive to go to Europe, where regulation standards are less stringent. But scandals with drugs like thalidomites, which caused thousands of deformities in new

being put to use in Bryan-College Station, where the center is cooper-

mic aspect to everything.

borns, showed that FDA protects many people, Uselton said. CREFE's research function is

ating with teachers at all levels. "We point out to teachers in va-rious subjects that there's an econo-

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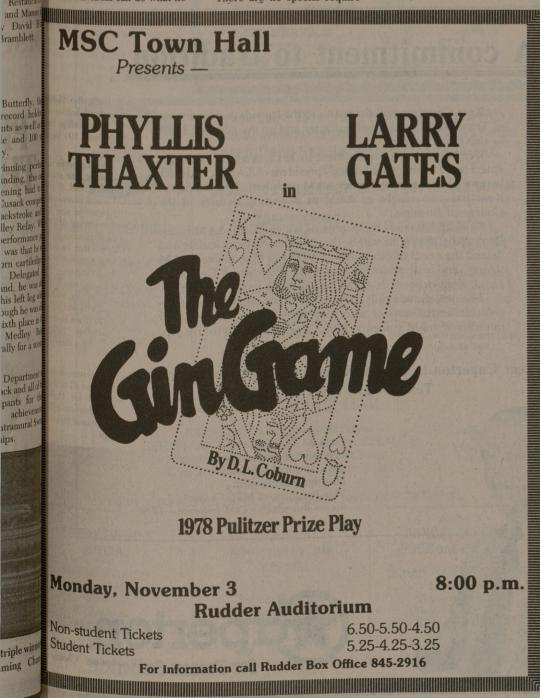
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