

State

Nukewaste firm faces contempt

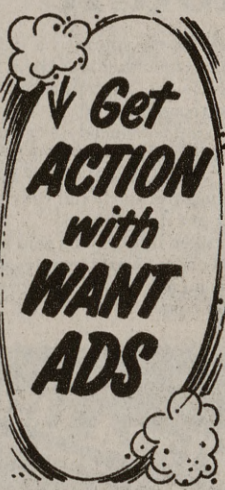
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United Press International
ANGLETON — A judge has ordered a waste storage firm to remove drums of nuclear waste material from its inventory until it complies with state storage limits.

State District Judge Paul Ferguson Tuesday issued the order to Iso-Tex Inc. and warned company officials they will be cited for contempt of court if they fail to comply.

The Texas Attorney General's Office filed suit in Brazoria County demanding that Iso-Tex reduce its inventory of low-level nuclear waste from 5,000 to 3,000 barrels, the maximum level permitted by the firm by the Texas Department of Health.

Iso-Tex attorney Alvin Askew denied allegations the firm's nuclear waste storage facilities were deteriorating or contaminating the area, but he said the firm will have "no difficulty" complying with Ferguson's order.

Under Ferguson's order, Iso-Tex must begin reducing its inventory within three weeks and ship more out each month until it complies with the state restriction. Each shipment must contain at least 186 of the 55-gallon drums.

Iso-Tex, like every other nuclear waste storage facility in Texas, is licensed for temporary storage only.

Waste companies are encountering increasing difficulty disposing of waste because the nation's permanent waste storage sites in South Carolina, Nevada and Washington have begun restricting shipments from out of state.

Animal owners up in arms

15 horses stolen in Garland

United Press International
DALLAS — Just as in the days of the Old West, horse owners around Dallas are arming themselves to protect their animals from horse thieves.

Nine horses have been stolen in the past two weeks at one Garland stable, causing owners to become very emotional, said Bill Taylor of Lazy J stables.

Four horses valued at \$18,000 were stolen Monday from another Garland Stable, the Diamond Eight, said Garland police.

And at Circle L in Garland, a mare and a Shetland pony were stolen two weeks ago.

"There's no way to put a monetary value on a Shetland pony that belongs to a 5-year-old," said Circle L owner Lemuel Langley. "Stealing a horse is not like kidnapping a person, but it's the next thing to it. The kid

said he wished 'Apple,' that was the Shetland's name, had been ugly so nobody would have taken him. He and Apple were inseparable."

Both Taylor and Langley fear horse owners may shoot each other in their attempts to protect their horses.

"We liked to have two women shot out here," Langley said. "One was in the pasture about 12:30 a.m. checking her horses and another up at the barn and they mistook each other for thieves. Each one had a gun. It scared me to death."

He said a Mesquite stable owner is trying to organize patrols.

"It's getting to the point we've got to get calm, cool and collected and let the police do their job," Taylor said.

The police agree. "It would certainly be better if

they just gave us a call and let us handle it," said Garland officer Rollins. "All they have to do is give us a call. We are tuned in and can be there in minutes."

Rollins said the people are themselves are not thinking about the legal ramifications of what happens if they shoot an innocent person.

Stolen horses are usually taken to packing plants or auctions where they are sold to unsuspecting legitimate buyers.

"Any horse that's walking is worth from \$550 to \$1,000 because they're getting 60 cents a pound at the market," Taylor said.

He suspects a group of professional horse thieves is working the area and may be hiring youths to steal horses from the stables.

Further delay could end Grimes prison land deal

United Press International
AUSTIN — Any further delays could cause the collapse of a \$7 million deal for the purchase of almost 6,000 acres in Grimes County for a new prison site, an assistant attorney general told the 3rd Court of Civil Appeals Wednesday.

Assistant Attorney General Jerry Cain contended the state should be allowed to proceed with the purchase of the land near Navasota, and a suit by Grimes County residents to block the prison construction could be settled later.

The Grimes County residents are asking the appeals court to enjoin the state from purchasing the prison site.

Karl Hoppess, the attorney representing the residents opposing the

prison, told the court the state has no contract to buy the land, but his comment was angrily disputed after the hearing ended by one of the land owners.

"I signed an agreement with them," Robert A. Harris, owner of 420 of the acres the state has negotiated to buy, told Hoppess in the hall outside the courtroom. "I've got a contract. If this thing doesn't go through, you all are going to have a case on you."

Harris conceded that the Department of Corrections had not signed a contract to buy the land.

"(We) are not going to back out," he said. "My word is my bond."

"Ten people who just moved to Grimes County tell me I can't sell my

land and I've worked since 1964 to pay for it," he said. "My wife is and I need the money."

The 10 who want to stop the plan have argued that it will hurt the nearby property and argued that the Legislature improperly delegated the prison site selection board's power to spend money for the land.

A district court denied the injunction Friday and the residents appealed.

Hoppess argued that an injunction is necessary before the merits of the case are argued because the state might buy the land and make the case moot.

Oil tanker, chem ship collide

United Press International
HOUSTON — An oil tanker and chemical ship collided in the Houston Ship Channel Wednesday, spilling an estimated 2,000 barrels of crude oil. There was no fire and injuries were reported, a Coast Guard spokesman said.

Ensign Richard Schindewolf said the 809-foot tanker Olympic Glory and the 365-foot chemical carrier Lucor Wilcliffe were inbound, with the Wilcliffe overtaking the Olympic Glory from the rear about 9:40 a.m. CST.

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