

State / National

Alligator claws needed for jewelry

United Press International
AUSTIN — If a Lubbock jeweler does not get legislative relief to import alligator claws to make his product, then Burt Reynolds may have to look elsewhere for his elegant necklaces and hat bands.

The problems for Jake Jegelwiz began when he moved to Texas from Louisiana several years ago and was no longer allowed to use alligator claws and other remains to make jewelry. In Louisiana, he was able to use the remains because alligators are not on the endangered species list in that state as they are in Texas.

"Several years ago I lived in Louisiana and I was invited to an alligator camp, something that's legal and done every year to get rid of the alligators," the jewelry maker said.

"I noticed they threw away the claws and some other parts. I started collecting all the things they were throwing away, including the alligator claws."

Jegelwiz was required to obtain a federal permit to use alligator claws to make jewelry. And although he still has a valid federal permit, the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife will not permit him to import the remains of Louisiana alligators into Texas because the creature is protected in this state.

"Here I am with a legal permit, but Texas is saying we are illegal for possessing (the alligator remains)," he said. "They just won't let me sell in Texas. I have the federal permit but each state interprets the federal law differently."

But Rep. Froy Salinas, D-Lubbock, and Jegelwiz's representative, is trying to help his constituent. Salinas has "a free enterprise bill" pending before the House Environmental Affairs Committee to allow Jegelwiz to import the alligator claws and continue to make the jewelry.

Salinas' legislation would allow wildlife goods taken legally in another state to be imported into Texas as long as the importer can prove to the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife he has a valid permit.

"Jake lives in my district and he came to me with his problem," Salinas said. "He's just caught between federal and state law and his legislation should clear up the problem."

Jegelwiz said he is the only person in Texas making jewelry out of alligator claws. He said the claws, which resemble ivory, can be used to make bolo ties, necklaces and ornaments for hat bands.

In addition to Reynolds, Jegelwiz said many country singers order jewelry from him.

"Alligator claws are really beautiful," Jegelwiz said. "I sure need them to satisfy my good customers."

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Oil drilling up 33 percent

United Press International
HOUSTON — The number of oil drilling rigs operating in the United States increased a dramatic 33.7 percent during the first quarter of the year, compared to first quarter 1979, and analysts credited federal price decontrol.

Other experts said the boom already under way in the United States was accelerated by the new Canadian energy policy, announced last October, increasing that government's share of Canadian petroleum profits.

"We were forecasting a healthy increase (in U.S. drilling), but not 33.7 percent," said Vice President I.C. Kerridge of Hughes Tool Co. "Drilling was up 33 percent last year and we were sort of doubtful it could happen again."

"We're headed off at about the same rate of increase as last year. The strong drilling is basically the result of incentives," said Kerridge, whose company is a major maker of drilling supplies and keeps statistics.

Hughes' first quarter count released Monday showed a daily average of 3,495 rigs operating in the United States during

the first quarter. A daily average of 2,614 rigs were operating during the first quarter of 1980.

The increase in U.S. drilling since President Carter began price decontrol in April 1979 — President Reagan finished the process upon taking office — is more apparent when one considers the daily 1979 average of 2,177 rigs.

Kerridge said much of the new drilling is shallow wells in established fields that were uneconomical until decontrol raised prices substantially. Old oil that was bringing \$6 a barrel now brings as much as \$38.

"When those fields are drilled up, then I expect a shift of more exploratory drilling and more deeper drilling," Kerridge said. "Many of the new discoveries have been pretty deep."

Even so, Kerridge said most experts think the industry is unlikely to sustain a 30 percent rate of increase because, once activity is high, new additions to the total have less impact.

"One thing that would help fuel would be higher gas prices," Kerridge said.

The 1979 Natural Gas Policy Act in-

cluded new gas incentives, but under present law all gas prices will not be decontrolled until Jan. 1, 1985. Kerridge said there is little expectation gas decontrol will be accelerated this year.

Don Covey, president of the oil and gas division of Mitchell Energy & Development Corp., said the new activity cannot make the U.S. self-sufficient in oil, barring an unexpected phenomenal discovery.

"As you go down your list of (drilling) prospects, your average quality deteriorates, so your average recovery per well is probably going to continue to drop, but we are dropping for years," Covey said.

Covey said the new Canadian energy policy announced by Prime Minister Trudeau in October 1980 has made the United States more attractive.

"There are more rigs available down here now and more money available, too, because people that operated in both countries have cut back on their budget in Canada and increased their budget in the U.S.," Covey said.

Mexican firm penalized in oil spill damages suit

United Press International
HOUSTON — The judge hearing \$400 million worth of damage suits arising from the 1979 Mexican oil spill has penalized a Mexican drilling firm for bad faith failure to cooperate with the court, records showed Tuesday.

U.S. District Judge Robert O'Connor on Friday granted a motion from plaintiffs for sanctions against Perferaciones Marinas del Golfo for failure to give plaintiffs business records they need to pursue damages from the spill.

O'Connor originally ordered Permargo to turn over the requested records last June.

For failure to comply, O'Connor ordered Permargo to pay plaintiffs' legal costs in fighting for the documents and restricted Permargo's use of the withheld records to defend themselves against the plaintiffs' claims.

Permargo was drilling contractor on the Ixtoc well that blew out in July 1979 and spewed oil that

spattered Texas beaches for months.

During a three-day hearing in February, Permargo lawyers contended they wanted to cooperate with the court and turn over the records but were inhibited by Mexican law that subjected them to civil and criminal penalties if they did.

The judge found Mexican law allows companies voluntarily to surrender business records in other nations' courts.

UT to limit business enrollment

United Press International
AUSTIN — The University of Texas will limit undergraduate enrollment in its College of Business Administration beginning this summer, UT president Peter Flawn announced Tuesday.

Currently, more than 25 percent of the university's enrollment is in the College of Business Administration.

Flawn approved an interim plan that would give preference in class scheduling to graduating

seniors. Under the plan, freshmen admitted for fall 1981 and wanting to major in business administration will be admitted to UT as pre-business students.

The enrollment limitation plan limits immediately the number of new Texas residents transferring to the College of Business Administration from other colleges and universities for the summer 1981 or the 1981-1982 academic year.

Foreign and out-of-state residents applying for transfer from

other colleges and universities into the college of Business Administration for summer 1981 or for the academic year 1981-82 will be denied admission under the plan, Flawn said.

Reproducing robots could be engineered

United Press International
HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — A space agency scientist says the United States could produce the first robot able to reproduce itself from raw materials within 20 years of starting such a project.

Dr. Georg Von Teisenhausen, assigned to development of advanced project ideas at the Marshall Space Flight Center, says self-reproducing robots could mine the oceans' floor for metals, build irrigation systems for the Arizona desert, or build and maintain solar power collection systems in the Sun Belt.

Von Teisenhausen told a chapter of the Society of Logistics Engineers NASA foresees an ever-expanding fleet of robots that would use raw materials found on the distant worlds to reproduce themselves.

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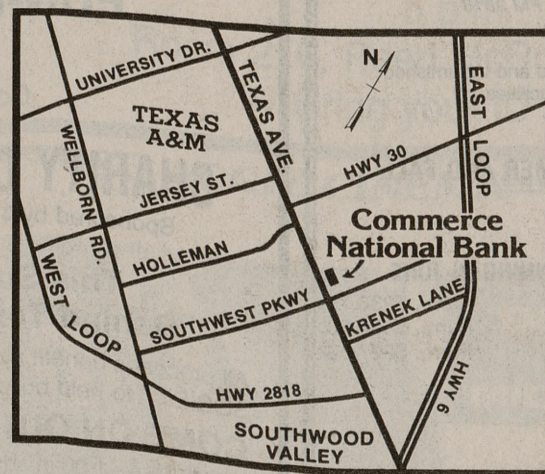
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