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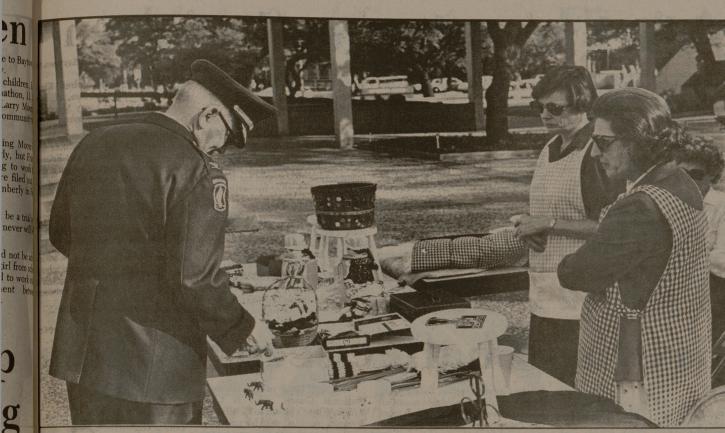
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#### Staff photo by Brian Tate

### Crafty set-up

Col. James Woodall, commandant of the Corps of Cadets, looks over art and craft items being sold by the Houston Area Mothers Club. The Houston club, along with several other

mothers clubs, sold items during Parents' Weekend that club members had made. The profits will go back into the clubs to finance various events they sponsor.

# **Texas** millionaire to begin oil drilling in Michigan

DALLAS — The Hunt Energy Corp. announced Friday it has begun a \$75 million drilling program in Michigan aimed at developing the state's deep oil and gas re-

In making the announcement, Herbert Hunt, the company's chief executive officer, said ener gy development may provide Michigan some relief from the recession produced by the down-turn in the auto industry.

"We have brought two deep rigs to Michigan to work round-the-clock for the rest of the year and three seismic crews to speed up property evaluation," Hunt said. "We have allocated \$75 mil-Hunt lion to Michigan exploration and we expect the drilling of at least 70 wells with this commitment of funds.

Hunt Energy Corp., a private company owned by the Hunt family of Texas, began operations in Michigan in 1976 when it opened an exploration office in Lansing. Hunt said the lease acquisition program begun then is now far enough along to begin an increased drilling schedule

Hunt Energy already has ac-quired leaseholds totaling 1 million acres in Michigan, and plans to continue lease acquisitions, said Tom Whitaker, the company's

vice president. "We sometimes get 100 offers of leases a day in our Lansing office," Whitaker said. "We evaluate every offer, usually within a few days, but when a major block of property is offered, we can move the same day."

Hunt Energy first became in-terested in the development of Michigan's deep oil and natural gas reserves in the mid-1970s when it learned there had been few tests of hydrocarbon potential below 5,000 feet in 50 years, Whitaker said.

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## Rare snakes stolen, U.S. and Some freed from cage

United Press International SAN ANTONIO — The thieves rubbed salt on the wound by not only taking her money but also her prized collection

to Amen Ilastforve of \$225 as much as the loss of 44 to America have the non-poisonous, but rare snakes ter, Saun from her serpentarium, a popular their st tourist attraction on Interstate 35 between San Antonio and New

She has reason to be upset be-cause the snakes, stolen Friday morning, reportedly were of a rare variety placed on the endangered d step for und the achie pecies list.

John Cherry, manager of the Snake Farm, estimated the value of the missing snakes at \$10,000. To make matters worse, the hieves let out a number of the poisonous reptiles from their

ages before escaping. Cherry said he and Teska were making a security check of the farm when they saw four men loading the snakes on their truck.

He said he and Teska fired their shotguns, but missed. "Oh, they knew what they were doing," Cherry said. "They broke in and went right to the most valuable snakes, bypassing the cheap-

er, less rare ones." Cherry said, "Among those taken were albino corn snakes and Mexican milk snakes. They took two Davis Mountain King snakes and those are worth \$800 apiece." He said snake collectors would pay handsomely for the stolen reptiles.

"There's snake collectors, just like there's stamp collectors. There's a bunch across the nation that would like to have the snakes we have," he said.

A sheriff's office spokesman said it appeared the thieves broke in through a window on the farm and freed several poisonous snakes to roam free about the place before escaping with their loot.

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