

# Features

## Man, dead kangaroo get laughs, disbelief

United Press International  
TULSA, Okla. — No one believed the man who said he'd run over a kangaroo on North Peoria Avenue until he produced the corpse.

The blond, bearded man swaggered into a restaurant late Monday and announced he had just hit a kangaroo, waitress Marilyn Hollenback said Wednesday.

"I brought this guy some coffee and he looked me straight in the eye and said, 'I hit a kangaroo on North Peoria,'" she said. "I laughed for 20 minutes."

Through giggles and guffaws the employees trudged out to investigate.

In the back of the unidentified man's truck was a 3½-foot dead kangaroo, Hollenback said.

Apparently the man, accompanied by his kangaroo corpse, was making the rounds.

"Another customer came in later and said this guy had just walked into a bar down the street with a dead kangaroo and tried to get served," Hollenback said.

Officials at the Tulsa Zoo said they don't know where the kangaroo came from. The zoo doesn't have any kangaroos, and all its kangaroo-like animals were accounted for.

## Pipe looks like leaky garden hose

# Ground tires used for irrigation

United Press International  
NEW YORK — A leaky hose made of ground-up old auto tires conceivably could revolutionize the irrigation of lawns, vineyards, orchards and even field crops.

Allan Clark, of Dallas, calls it Leaky Pipe but it looks more like a hose and uses ordinary garden hose fittings.

It was invented by Jim Turner, also of Dallas, nearly ten years ago and Clark, who made a fortune in real estate while still very young, has put up a plant to manufacture it. He will be turning out 60,000

feet a day by yearend. He has distributors and dealers in Texas, California, Colorado and Florida.

Leaky Pipe already is being buried under several thousand lawns in these states and it has been tested successfully in vineyards and fruit and nut orchards in California and Texas.

Clark said growth rates were about twice as fast as by above-ground irrigation methods because Leaky Pipe irrigates the plant at the roots, and liquid fertilizer can be circulated through it.

He said irrigating at the roots instead of from above ground also has the advantage of not fostering weed growth because so many weeds feed primarily through their foliage and have very shallow roots.

The pipe is based on an old concept but one nobody had much luck with until Turner hit on using ground-up auto tires mixed with a polymer to make a long-lasting, porous, flexible pipe that would distribute water underground at very low pressure by capillary attraction.

All other soil soakers or drip irrigation systems operate above ground. Clark says they use more than twice as much water as Leaky Pipe, don't last as long and are expensive to maintain. Clark said Leaky Pipe will last underground at least eight or ten years, won't freeze, rust or collect dirt.

While Clark conceded that Leaky Pipe cannot compete in overall cost and efficiency with natural ditch water irrigation, he said natural ditch water is becoming scarcer, and he said his product will outperform other types of surface irrigation, particularly the "dragging rain" overhead spray systems that are so laborious to operate and lose enormous amounts of water through evaporation.

Leaky Pipe is not cheap; it retails at 49 cents a foot and there is the expense of burying it. The total cost can run to from \$1,500 to \$3,000 an acre depending on the nature of the soil and how close together the pipes must be. In some soils, one pipe will irrigate a strip 10 feet wide, in others only four feet.

Clark is going after the lawn watering market first for two reasons.

He doesn't yet have cases to make Leaky Pipe in the quantities that would be needed to irrigate field crops and he has having tests run at Texas University to determine the way to use the pipe for crops on differing soils.

Leaky Pipe could find use in watering golf courses, stadiums with natural grass and municipal parks. Clark said it can be used around the perimeter of a house with insect spray and in arid regions to make ground and thus stabilize earth and prevent cracking shifting of a foundation.

The business of grinding auto tires got its start when he discovered the rubber and waste material was an ideal additive to give elasticity to asphalt. Since then it has other industrial markets.

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## No residents on welfare boasts Texas county of 9

United Press International  
MENTONE — Judge Donald Creager says he does not have anything against welfare — "it's necessary for people who really need it" — but he says he is proud Loving County is the only county in Texas without a single resident on the welfare rolls.

The 647-square-mile county, with an official population of 98, is mostly oil and gas country in far west Texas, bordering New Mexico to the north. It is sometimes referred to as "Little Kuwait."

(The judge insists the population is really 110; he says some residents were on vacation during census taking.)

But whatever the population, not a single resident takes a penny of welfare money.

"I vaguely recall on family who participated in the commodity food program a number of years

ago," Creager said. "As soon as they got a job and were back on their feet financially, they quit the program."

"I don't have anything against welfare. It's necessary for people who need it. But no one here needs it."

Creager says he is particularly glad Loving County is free of welfare recipients because of the bureaucracy involved with public assistance programs. And he says he especially has a distaste for the government red tape which flows from Washington, D.C.

A few years ago, the county received revenue sharing funds and placed the money in the bank. Creager says if the money was spent, "Washington might get the notion it could come and tell the people how to run the county."

The money is still in the bank earning interest and Creager says

he is ready if Washington bureaucrats come knocking on his door. "The county would give them their money back," he says.

But the federal government found a way to "bureaucratize" the county. He said he received a computerized questionnaire from a federal agency, none of the questions applied to Loving County.

"It must have been 25 years ago — literally," he said. "I came to mail it back to them. That thing must have weighed a ton. I can't tell you how much postage it took to send that back. What a waste of tax money."

Mentone, the only town in the county, boasts 35 residents who work and live at the post office, courthouse, service station and handful of houses.

Besides not having any welfare recipients, Mentone and Loving County have no grocery store, bank, hospital, doctor or day care center, which must be hauled from Pecos, 23 miles to the south from Kermit, 32 miles to the west. The county clerk, who is the sheriff's wife and a history buff, puts it this way: "Only those things — animal, vegetable — that can withstand dry weather, blazing sun and blustering wind, survive and thrive in Loving County. That goes for people too."

**STAGE HANDS FOR SHOWS**

Meeting to sign up to work backstage for the Theatre Complex during shows will be held Wednesday September 9, 1981 at 7:00 PM in the Auditorium.

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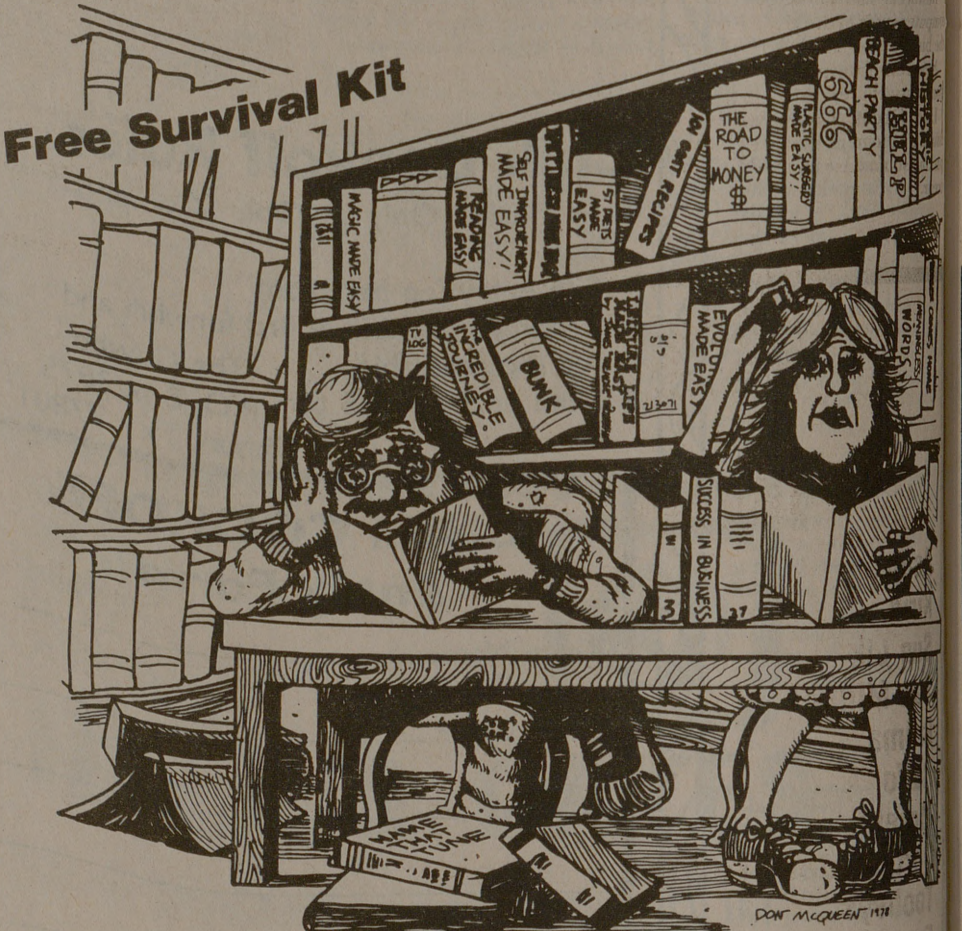
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