

State

Texaco answers surcharge issue

United Press International
HOUSTON — Texaco Corp. officials said a large part of the company's credit card business would be lost if they had passed along overhead expenses to card holders rather than to dealers.

But the dealers said because of the new 3 percent charge, they will be forced to raise gasoline prices about four cents a gallon and it will be the cash customers who will be unfairly punished.

J.C. Kiersted, Texaco spokesman, said Monday the processing fee is a move by the company to recover a portion of the high cost of maintaining the credit card system. In 1981, he said, the cost was over \$100 million.

Kiersted said the company had several options available to cover those costs, including assessing a charge directly to card holders, but a number of card holders would turn in their cards.

"The effect would be to do away with a portion of the system," Kiersted said. "The only fair option which would hold the best long term promise is the processing charge be put on the dealers to share in the cost of the benefit," he said.

The service station dealers, along with the Lone Star Service Station Association, bought large advertisements in Houston newspapers Monday, calling the company proposal "a rip off" and a "credit card con." The ad read: "It seems that Texaco does not have the integrity or courage to pass their \$100 million plus credit card costs directly to their millions of credit card holders who enjoy the convenience of using the card. Instead, Texaco has decided to disguise its surcharge as an added cost of the dealer who sells your gasoline."

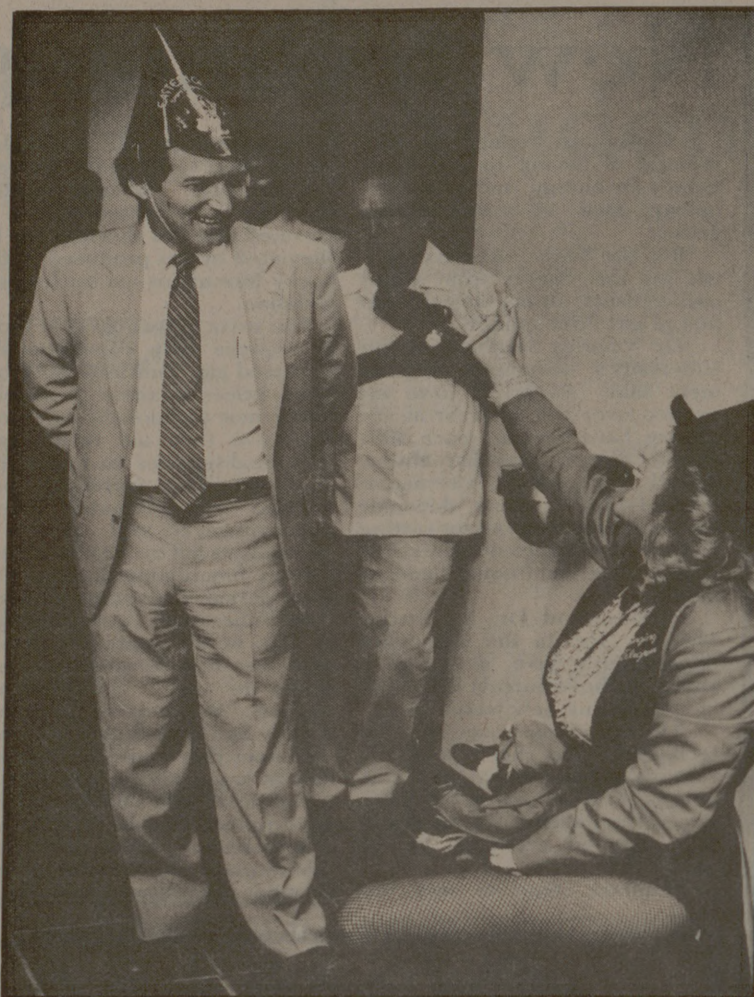
Oklahoma 'Kangaroo' is actually exotic cavy

United Press International
TULSA, Okla. — The "kangaroo" that puzzled early risers with its scampers through a north Tulsa neighborhood has been captured, and it turns out not to be a kangaroo after all.

The creature finally captured last weekend is a cavy, an animal from South America, animal control officer Arthur Dunn said Monday.

The first report came weeks ago from an intoxicated man who went into a restaurant and said he had just run over a kangaroo. Police confirmed the man had a large, dead animal resembling a kangaroo in his truck.

A 2½-foot cavy that animal control officers cornered in a residential area Sunday offers an explanation for kangaroo sightings by paper carriers and other early risers in the neighborhood, Dunn said.



Staff photo by Bill [unclear]

Birthday boy
Dan Parker, senior academic business administrator in the College of Liberal Arts, is entertained on his 40th birthday by belly dancer Sherri Symank, above.

At left, Parker listens to a singing program by Janus Retterer of Eastern. The merriment took place at Tuesday in Harrington Tower.

COLORADO SKI TRIPS

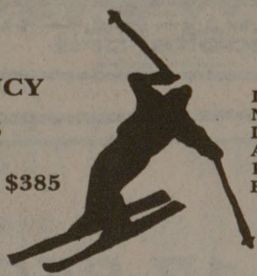
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HEALTH NEWS

Recurring Headaches?

By Dr. Stephenson

Suffering from throbbing pain, stiffness in the neck, nausea, dizziness, eye and ear problems (spots in front of eyes, occasional ringing in ears), nervousness, insomnia or chronic tiredness? The above problems could lead to more serious complications or even a nervous breakdown if not corrected promptly.

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If not corrected, these can lead to more serious complications. © LMS

Dr. Stewart D. Stephenson, D.C.
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Brown & Root consider leaving nuclear project

United Press International
HOUSTON — Brown & Root Inc., replaced as designer and manager of the South Texas Nuclear Project, may leave the project completely, a representative for Brown & Root said.

"We're looking at all aspects of this, but it is a question of our future role in the project and it's under study," Representative Clark Council said Monday.

The possibility of a legal dispute between Brown & Root and the consortium of utilities, headed by Houston Lighting & Power Co., that hired Brown & Root as designer and builder was not denied by Council.

HL&P last week in effect modified its contract with Brown & Root last week announcing that Bechtel Power Corp. will replace Brown & Root as designer and construction manager.

Officials blamed Brown & Root's inability to hire enough engineers to do speedy design work, manage construction and build the project, all at the same time.

HL&P asked Brown & Root to remain as the prime constructor of the plant under supervision of Bechtel, its competitor.

"We do not want them to leave, Beeth said. We feel that they are good constructors."

The legal ramifications will be discussed with the parties, Beeth said.

Council said it could be weeks or months before a decision is made whether to accept the invitation to stay on in a reduced capacity.

"You just don't walk in to a project this big and walk out the next day," Council said.

Asked if removal from the project hurt Brown & Root's reputation for competence it had built over more than three decades, Council said: "I think you can read into it. I'm not going to comment on that."

Brown & Root, a construction giant, was one of six companies that created an association which did a lot of American construction work during the Vietnam War.

However, Brown & Root has had relatively little experience building nuclear power plants.

The firm was builder, but not designer, on Carolina Power & Light Co.'s Brunswick Station in the mid-1970s and is builder only on Texas Utilities Co.'s Comanche

Peak plant in north Texas.

South Texas was Brown & Root's only attempt at signing and building a power plant.

Brown & Root was criticized by groups opposing the project, but HL&P's Regulatory Commission was fined \$100,000 for not enforcing NRC's safety and quality control rules.

The 2,500-megawatt reactor plant is being built about 10 miles southwest of Houston, HL&P, Central Power Co. of Corpus Christi and municipal utilities of San Antonio and Austin.

Brown & Root started in late 1975 with a cost of about \$1 billion. The reactor startup date is expected to be in 1986.

HL&P and Brown & Root have both blamed changes in construction standards for cost increases and delays. San Antonio official said legal work had reduced the construction work force from 2,700.

"We needed more progress and reactivity," he said. "We needed more progress and reactivity," he said. "We needed more progress and reactivity," he said.

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