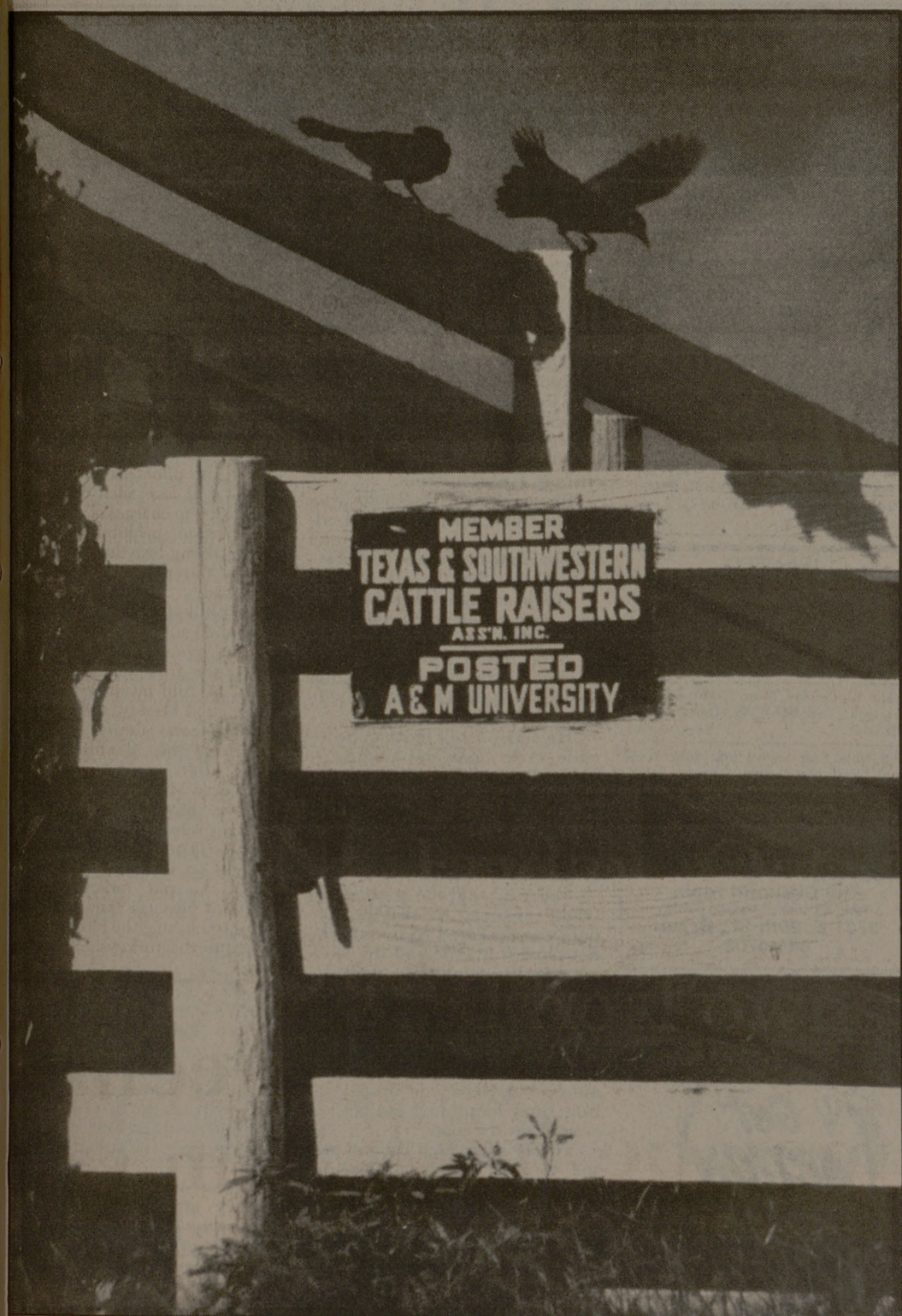


State



Above the law

Staff Photo by Brian Tate

These grackles seem to think that posted signs do not apply to them. They found the loading chute at the cattle barns on

Highway 50, where a portion of the Texas A&M farm is located, to be a perfect place to rest their wings.

Prosecutor shocked by theft

Slick oil thieves indicted

United Press International
ARCHER CITY — Special prosecutor, Michael Payne, hired by an oil and gas association to investigate oil field thefts, says three men have already been indicted and as many as 30-40 additional indictments could be returned within weeks.

Subpoenas were served last week on 15 people suspected of stealing oil and oil field equipment.

"I've had dozens of calls from people in the field who think I have their names and who are ready to cut some deals," said Payne. "What's more, I'm just looking at the very fine tip of the iceberg."

"We're dealing with a problem so pervasive that it's shocking even by this industry's standards," he said. "I have one guy here whom we could serve a possible 27 indictments against. You figure at \$3,000 a pop he was making some pretty good money."

To obtain indictments against

the Archer City men, law enforcement officials wore camouflaged suits and hid behind bushes to observe the theft of oil. Chemicals were placed in the oil to aid identification, and photographs were taken with long-range lenses.

Oil field theft is now estimated to cost the industry between \$100 million and \$200 million annually, with up to half of it occurring in Texas.

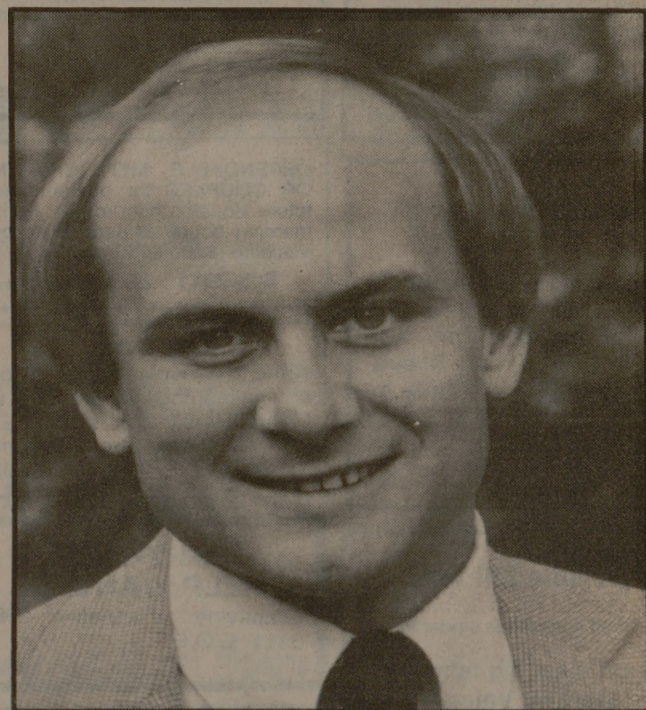
Payne said 90 percent of the thefts involve oil — not equipment — and occur during the day. There is no problem with selling stolen oil, he said, since it goes for \$4 to \$6 a barrel, compared to \$35 a barrel for legitimately sold oil.

The big problem, Payne said, is that the men who turn in the daily production records — field superintendents, for instance — are the ones who are stealing the oil.

"The industry thinks it has a checking system, but, in reality, it's terrible," he said. "The lease-

holders, most of whom have never even seen their properties, just think their wells are producing three barrels a day when actually these guys are stealing them blind. It's a perfect setting."

AMERICA'S DESTINY what is YOUR role?



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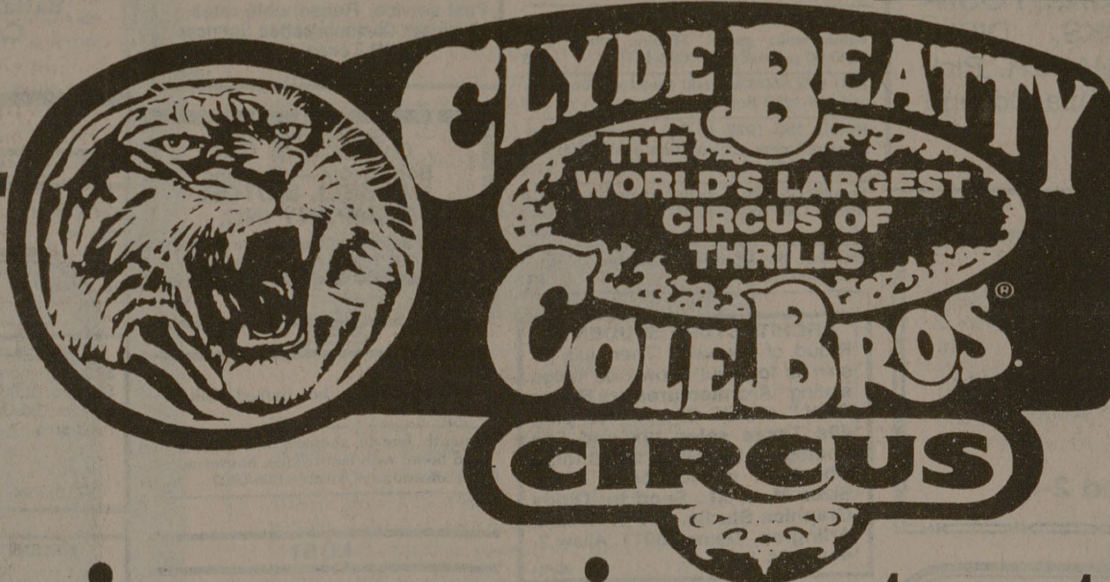
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WHEN: Friday, Oct. 16th — Sunday Oct. 18th

WHERE: The Townshire Shopping Center

SHOWTIMES: Friday, Oct. 16 4:30 p.m. & 8 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 17 1 p.m., 4:30 p.m. & 8 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 18 2 p.m.

TICKETS: Texas A&M Students Discount with I.D. \$3.00
(present I.D. when purchasing ticket & entering the big top)

Adults (13 & up) Advance thru Oct. 15

\$4.50

Adults (13 & up) Showdays

\$5.50

Children (12 & under) & Seniors (65 & up)

\$3.00

Reserve seats \$1.00 additional

1/2 price coupons available for children 12 & under at Townshire Shopping Center stores.

Advance tickets available at Sears until Oct. 15th