

National

Chemicals in plant not reason for cancer deaths

United Press International
DALLAS — A Union Carbide report says the company's

petrochemical plant workers succumb to brain cancer at a faster rate than the general population

but the deaths are not job related.

The report said if the workers died from brain cancer at the same rate as the general population, about 7 workers would have been expected to die between 1941 and 1977.

The study found 12 white male workers, about five more than the statistics would have indicated, died. Because the study was limited by race and time, the cases of four blacks and four deaths after 1977 were not used, the report said.

"The four or five additional cases of brain cancer may represent a chance occurrence," plant physician Dr. David H. Glenn said Wednesday.

Although the report studied deaths between 1941 and the end of 1977, Glenn said 60 percent of the brain cancer cases were recorded in the 1970s.

Glenn said the deaths were not due to exposure to various chemicals produced at the plant. The plant produces ethylene, butadiene, naphtha, plastics and resins, including vinyl chloride.



Staff Photo by Bob Schreier

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Craig S. Matzke, a junior chemical engineering major, picks up his '81 Aggieland yearbook at Room 216 Reed McDonald Building from secretaries Nancy Vanderburg (left) and Jennifer Harris.

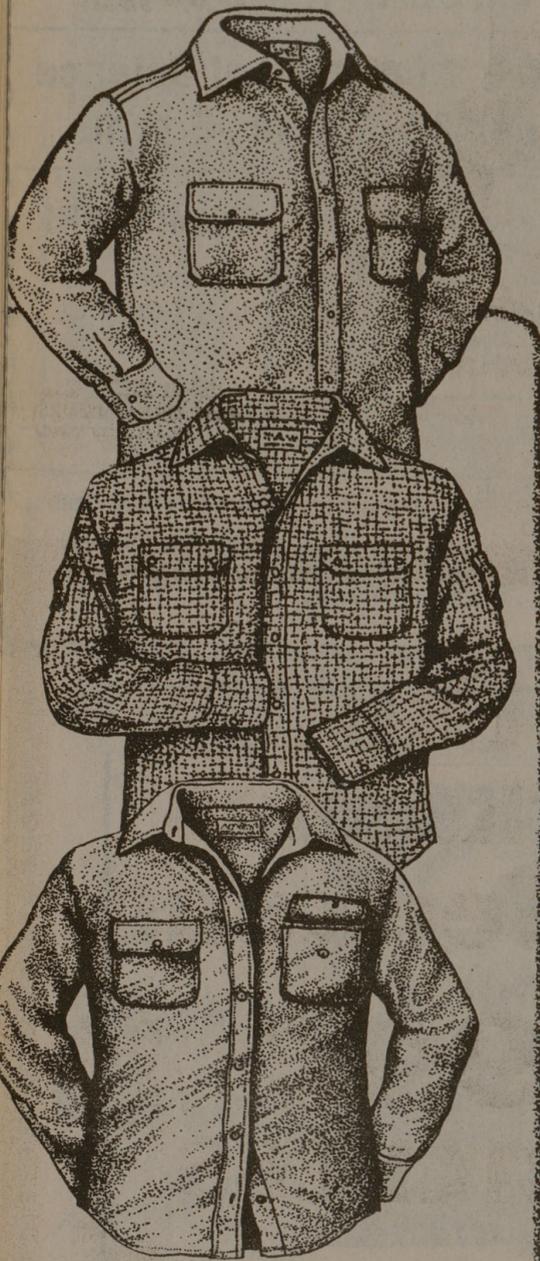
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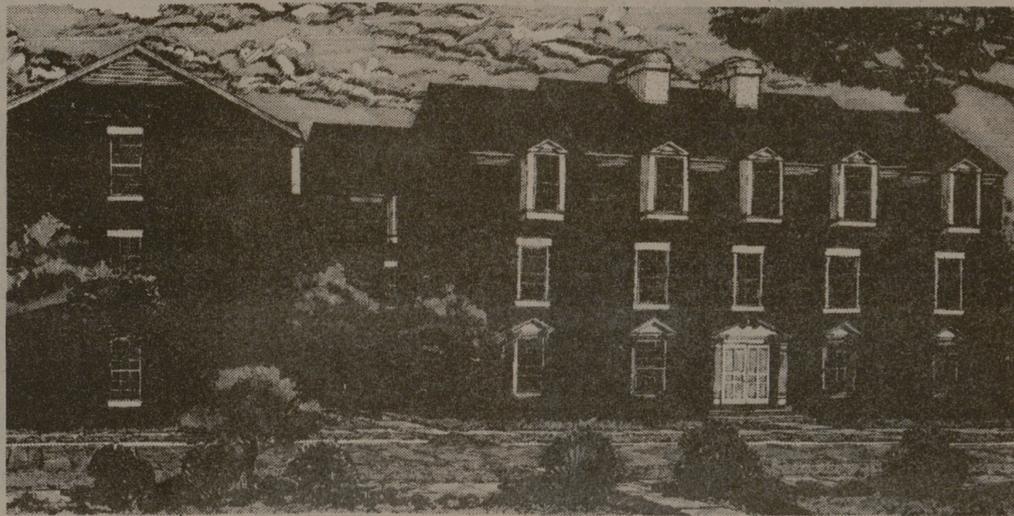
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Texas ranch to be visited by Reagan

United Press International
PEARSALL — President Reagan is planning to take the weekend off on a ranch frequented by native Texan James Baker, the president's chief of staff.

"He's going to this ranch just for some free time," said White House spokesman Dan W. Morris.

"The event is so low key that we (White House staff) haven't even been out there. Nothing's scheduled. He'll just be with his chief of staff and spend some time out there. I imagine he will do the same things he does on his own ranch in California — ride a horse and relax."

A turkey hunt also is scheduled. Baker will be joining Reagan at the Winston Ranch, which is about 60 miles southwest of San Antonio in Frio County.

Morris also said Wednesday the president would make no public appearances in the San Antonio area.

Reagan planned to spend Friday night in Houston, where he will attend a "Salute to a Stronger America" dinner in honor of various Texas members of his administration.

The president is scheduled to arrive on Air Force One at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio at 10:30 a.m. Saturday then take his helicopter, "Marine One," to the ranch. He is scheduled to leave Kelly on Sunday to return to Washington.

The stars at night...

United Press International
The star Betelgeuse, part of the constellation Orion, has a diameter of more than 250 million miles.

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