

State / National

Field worker, 129, dies; age 'a question for God'

United Press International
ROSWELL, N.M. — A field worker believed to have been born on Christmas nine years before the start of the Civil War has died of kidney failure at the age of 129.

Jesus Coronado, born somewhere between Corpus Christi and Robstown, was believed to have been the oldest New Mexican at the time of his death early Friday, in St. Mary's Hospital.

A search of church records in the Diocese of Corpus Christi in the late 1960s failed to turn up a birth or christening certificate for Coronado, but family members said he was born on Dec. 25, 1851.

He outlived three wives and fathered at least 19 children, the last born when he was 85. He said in an interview in 1979 he worked until he was 97, picking cotton as a field hand.

Asked once through an interpreter how he had managed to live so long, Coronado smiled and said: "That is a question for God." But, he added: "I always ate frijoles (beans) and potatoes every day."

Although his memory failed him in later years, he still recalled the violence of "contrabandistas," the bandits along the Rio Grande, and remembered the excitement the first automobiles generated.

He said the little advice he could offer others was: "It is good to get up early to work in the morning light and air, to be clean and to work hard."

The important things to him, he said, were "to have a job, a family, to be able to work for the family — to earn enough for the food and the clothes."

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What's up at Texas A&M

Monday

LUTHERAN STUDENT MOVEMENT: Bible study at 7:30 p.m. (Room T.B.A.)

OFF CAMPUS CENTER: Roommate session from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in 137 MSC. Come and find a roommate for the spring semester.

DELTA "Y": Hay ride at 7 p.m. All freshmen are welcome. Meet by Rudder Fountain.

SAN ANTONIO HOMETOWN CLUB: Meeting to discuss party preparations at 7:45 p.m. in 109 Heldenfelds.

SOLLEGIATE 4-H CLUB: 4-H and Food Science Christmas party at the Q-huts from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Lots of fun with food and square dancing.

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHAPEL: Bible study at 8 p.m. in the University Lutheran Chapel, 315 n College Main.

ATASCOSA COUNTY HOMETOWN CLUB: Meeting at 7 p.m. in 604 Rudder. McMullen County welcome.

TAMU GAMERS (GROMETS): Pearl Harbor Day presentation by Professors Beaumont, Bradford and Melosi at 7:30 p.m. in 301 Rudder.

A&M CYCLING TEAM: General meeting at 8 p.m. in 140 MSC.

CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION: Bible study at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Center and night prayer at 10 p.m. in St. Mary's.

FORENSIC SOCIETY: Discuss spring competition at 7 p.m. in 109 Military Science Building.

DEBATE SOCIETY: Finalize entries and travel arrangements for California swing at 7 p.m. in 109 Military Science Building.

PARKER COUNTY HOMETOWN CLUB: Discuss Christmas party at 7:30 p.m. in 507 Rudder.

VOCAL MUSIC: The Vocal Music Christmas Concert will be held at 8 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium. Admission is \$1.00. The Texas A&M Women's Chorus, Century Singers, and Reveliers will sing a variety of Christmas selections from classics to jazz and swing.

Tuesday

YOUNG CONSERVATIVES OF TEXAS: George Shake, former Secretary of State of Texas, will be speaking at 7 p.m. in Rudder.

HORSEMAN'S ASSOCIATION: General business meeting 7 p.m. in 115 Kleberg.

STUDENT DIETETICS ASSOCIATION: Christmas party 7:30 p.m. at Kim's house. Sign up to bring food in 310 Kleberg. Please bring a small gag gift.

INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL: Entries close at 5 p.m. set up in 159 East Kyle.

TEXAS STUDENT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION: Day mixer with professors over lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in 104 Harrington.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS: Speaker from Dow Chemical Co. will speak at 7:30 p.m. in Zachry.

CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION: Christmas party will be held outside of St. Mary's Church at 7:30 p.m.

HILL COUNTY CLUB: Party at 7:30 p.m. in Brownstown #61 on the Southwest Parkway.

TAMU MICROCOMPUTER CLUB: Cyclotron tour at 8 p.m. Meet at the Cyclotron.

MSC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Pictures taken with Santa Mrs. Claus from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the MSC main hall.

CARP: Film showing of "Revolution in El Salvador, Romance of Reality" at 3:30 p.m. in 140 MSC. Also at 8 p.m. Thursday p.m. in 140 MSC. Everyone invited.

MSC TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY: Dr. Vandiver speaker, joins Cindy Green, Miss TAMU, in lighting a 200 tree from noon to 1 p.m. in the MSC main lounge. Scott Zapp pianist, will entertain.

Wednesday

MID-EAST DIETETIC ASSOCIATION: Social meeting 7:30 p.m. at 1202 Caudill, College Station. Bring favorite recipe.

OMEGA PHI ALPHA NATIONAL SERVICE: Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in 302 Rudder. Pledge meeting follows at 7:30 p.m.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR DESIGN AND DRAWING: End of semester meeting at 7 p.m. at Rebels.

Unemployment still climbing

Yule rush no help to jobless

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Even the Christmas season did not stop the steady rise of unemployment in the United States, which hit a six-

year high of 8.4 percent in November.

"What we do not need, as we head into this holiday season, is an administration that plays Santa Claus for the wealthy and Scrooge for average families, the needy and the working men and women of America," said Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., one of the harshest critics of President Reagan's economic program.

"The president promised that his economic plan would bring jobs, jobs and more jobs. Instead, it has brought recession, recession and more recession," he said.

The Labor Department said more than 9 million Americans were unemployed in November, noting that Christmas shopping failed to curb the upward trend, with officials reporting that mer-

chants hired fewer workers than usual in the pre-holiday period.

Actually, more than 10 million Americans are out of work, but only 9 million are counted by the government as technically unemployed. Another 1 million, according to latest statistics for the third quarter of 1981, are too discouraged to look for a job and, therefore, not included as part of the workforce.

In October, the number of unemployed Americans seeking work was at 8.5 million, and the unemployment rate was 8 percent.

Reagan called the high number of Americans unemployed a very great tragedy, but White House officials remained optimistic his economic program will reverse

the trend.

"This is the price you pay for bringing down inflation," Deputy Press Secretary Spokes said. "We feel pressures are in place to put the economy back on track. We believe unemployment will begin to decline next year."

AFL-CIO President Lane said the administration's promise of eventual recovery hardly reassuring to the 9 million Americans now jobless.

Blue-collar workers and others bore the brunt of November's economic news. The 21.8 percent rate for them was a record high since the Department began its monthly statistics in the 1940s.

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Fewer unsafe toys found but fewer people looking

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Investigators for the Consumer Product Safety Commission say they haven't found any unsafe toys on store shelves this Christmas season, but that could be because budget cuts mean they have fewer people looking.

"At this point, we haven't had any problems, but one never

knows," Commission Chairman Nancy Steerts told a news conference Friday.

Agency toy expert Elaine Beson added: "Right now, I don't have a toy that I've seen that I'm concerned about."

Commissioner Stuart Statler said the agency, following a 26 percent budget cut, has fewer toy investigators and cannot conduct as many indepth investigations. It

also has had to scrap its "consumer deputy" program, which volunteers to hundreds of toys and has fewer engineering experts on hand, he said.

Last year, Americans spent \$1.5 billion on toys, much of it during the Christmas season. The industry has forecast an even higher number for 1981.

Statler said parents and grandparents who buy toys are the who, in the end, must bear the kind of oversight that is an erment agency or consumer group can accomplish."

The agency's toy safety program, conducted with the Manufacturers of America, stresses watchfulness on the part of toy buyers, and suggested continued monitoring of toys round to make sure they are safe.

In addition, Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., and his wife, are heading an effort to get members of Congress to provide toy safety information to consumers.

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