

Weather guide illustrates Texas' often-stormy past

by Amy Polk
Battalion Reporter

Texas has a saying: If you don't like the weather, just wait a few minutes and it'll change.

Some Texas A&M University researchers now have shown that if you wait long enough, you'll see almost everything.

Researchers at the State Climatologist's Office here have compiled a new publication,

Investigation hurts trade with Mexico, Houston firm says

United Press International

HOUSTON—A Washington grand jury's investigation of charges of illegal payments by U.S. oilfield equipment firms to Mexico's national oil company is hurting business between the two countries, a local firm under scrutiny contends.

Documents filed in a civil lawsuit in Houston disclosed Tuesday Crawford Enterprises Inc. of Houston is being investigated for payments to Petroleos Mexicanos in the late 1970s.

The investigation reportedly is the first major criminal inquiry under the 1977 Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, which provides criminal penalties for companies and executives who engage in bribery and kickbacks overseas.

Crawford, which charged the investigation is hurting American foreign trade, issued a statement saying its superior natural gas compressors and related service won its Pemex contracts. The statement denied any improper payments.

"As a result, Pemex has curtailed purchases from CEI and its American subcontractors and competitors, and has begun to shift its immense purchasing power away from the United States," a company statement said.

The company also said Pemex and the Mexican government had investigated similar charges and found no wrongdoing in Crawford's winning of Pemex contracts.

"Despite vigorous and repeated denials of any wrongdoing

in connection with these allegations, the (U.S.) investigation has continued for three and a half years," the statement said.

Crawford said Pemex decided in 1977 to capture the millions of dollars' worth of natural gas it was flaring from its oil fields and turned to Crawford for help. The firm said Pemex, relying on Crawford's expertise, was quickly able to begin successful capture of billions of cubic feet of natural gas.

The Washington Post quoted "knowledgeable sources" as saying the grand jury was looking at a period in the late 1970s when oil prices were rising and Mexico bought equipment in the United States to increase production.

The Post said the company experienced a sudden upsurge in business with its Mexican contracts in 1978, doing between \$250 million and \$600 million in business between that year and 1980.

The papers that confirmed the investigation were filed in a civil suit brought against Crawford by a Mexican company, Grupo Industrial Delta S.A.

Delta charges Crawford failed to pay \$25 million in brokerage fees. The company says Crawford refuses to participate in depositions because of the pending criminal investigation in Washington.

A spokesman for the Mexican federal attorney general said nothing is being investigated involving U.S. companies in Mexico.

events in Texas include a storm in February 1895 in which 10 to 20 inches of snow fell along the Gulf Coast while the rest of the state remained dry.

Another was in Thrall, where 38 inches of rain fell within 24 hours during a major storm Sept. 9 and 10, 1921.

And one day in 1899, the high temperature in the Panhandle was minus 2.

Griffiths and Ainsworth examined 1,200 months' worth of publications, including monthly weather reviews and weather reports from newspapers dating back to 1880.

Griffiths said the work was compiled because the state has no single-volume record of weather history.

He said the climatologist's office often has been besieged by inquiries about various records and his publication will serve as a good handbook for those interested in keeping track of extremes in the weather.

The College of Geosciences published the handbook, which is available from the Department of Meteorology or the State Climatologist's Office.

Garry Mauro hits Snelson for changing tax stand

United Press International

Land commissioner candidate Garry Mauro wasted no time before attacking Sen. Pete Snelson, D-Midland, in the wake of his narrow victory over third-place finisher, Rep. Dan Kubiak.

Mauro criticized Snelson Tuesday for changing his position on the need for a state property tax and called him an old-style politician.

"Old-style politicians believe that it's no big deal to change critical political positions for personal political gain," Mauro said. "But the people of Texas expect consistency, honesty and

the strength to stand behind your words and actions and to keep them the same."

Voters will decide June 5 which of the two will be the Democratic nominee for land commissioner.

During the last session, Snelson was the author of a constitutional amendment that would have authorized the use of a property tax to fund construction at colleges and universities.

However, Snelson now says he opposes any property tax and will work to abolish constitutional provisions for the tax during a May special session of the Legis-

lature.

Mauro said he hoped to pick up support in Snelson's home base of West Texas, but would concentrate his campaign in the urban areas of the state.

Mauro indicated he expects the support of Kubiak in his run-off campaign. He edged him out by less than 6,500 votes to earn a place in the runoff.

Kubiak, who had the lowest campaign budget of the candidates, said he may ask for a recount of the votes if he can raise the money to pay for the second tally.



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