

West Texas town survives jolt

United Press International
MINERAL WELLS — When the Army suddenly decided to close the world's largest primary helicopter training facility, this town was jolted by losses of \$1 million from its annual economy and one-third of its population.

But Fort Wolters is bustling with activity again — as an industrial park — in a testimonial to this town's ability to survive.

"We've gone from a resort town to a military town to an industrial town," said Paul Schneider, president of Mineral Wells Savings and Loan, and in charge of the town's industrial foundation.

The servicemen's bowling alley is now a meat company. The base library is home to a tool firm and a building that was unmistakably once a military barracks now contains modern executive suites.

The sprawling former military base, which was home to as many as 40,000 men at a time during the Vietnam War, today also houses a school for disturbed children and an agency that finds day jobs for the handicapped.

But most of the scores of military-abandoned buildings contain businesses.

There are 38 industries ranging from electronic components to clay product manufacturing, 69 oil and gas-related firms and dozens of businesses housed at the facility on the east edge of Mineral Wells — which fell from a population of more than 20,000 in 1970 to 14,300 after the fort was closed.

Today the population is 16,700.

The shutdown announced in 1973 would have been devastating to any town and some feared it would be the deathknell for Mineral Wells.

"At the end of the Vietnam War, they moved the helicopter training to Fort Rucker in Alabama," said Frances Marquess, a longtime Mineral Wells resident who worked with the fort's public information office. "They said it was more economical, but I think it was political."

The folks who live among the mesas on the edge of West Texas had survived the end of the resort business that grew up around the mineral waters once thought to cure everything.

And they fought back from the closure of 7,500-acre Fort Wolters, which the Army once said would become a permanent military institution, by turning to industry.

The town's Industrial Foundation commissioned a \$6,000 appraisal and learned the main area of the fort was worth an estimated \$2.5 million. But the U.S. Corps of Engineers, which

was given jurisdiction of the property, wanted \$6 million.

"As it turned out, they leased it to the city, which turned the lease over to the Industrial Foundation and we'd lease it to industry," Schneider said.

This went on for about two years until the U.S. government began selling building sites to the industries and selling off surplus buildings. The government also gave parcels of land to several entities, including the city.

"The buildings were so cheap when the government started selling off the buildings, industry found you could move into Mineral Wells at a very reasonable price," Schneider said. "All the main industrial property now has been taken at the main fort."

However, the Industrial Foundation owns a nearby industrial park with several acres of undeveloped land and the

town actively is seeking more industry.

"Mineral Wells desperately needs to broaden its tax base," said Tom E. Roy, head of the Chamber of Commerce.

Roy, Schneider and utility executive Jim Hutto, who also is active in trying to attract new industry, say Mineral Wells offers a labor pool with a good attitude about work, a good geographic location 42 miles west of the Dallas-Fort Worth area and sufficient water and sewage capacities.

"We are seeking whatever industries would be compatible to the community," Hutto said.

Meanwhile, Fort Wolters is flourishing in its latest capacity. The facility was closed and reopened several times by both the Army and Air Force in several capacities since it first began in 1921 as a Texas National Guard camp. During World War II, the camp became the site for the nation's largest Infantry Replacement Center.

Today the population is 16,700.

The shutdown announced in 1973 would have been devastating to any town and some feared it would be the deathknell for Mineral Wells.

The sprawling former military base, which was home to as many as 40,000 men at a time during the Vietnam War, today also houses a school for disturbed children and an agency that finds day jobs for the handicapped.

But most of the scores of military-abandoned buildings contain businesses.

Soviet dogs killed to make fur hats

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Mistreatment of dogs is widespread in the Soviet Union with the need for warm clothing making canine hats a hot item on the black market, a research group says.

The Advanced International Studies Institute, a Washington-based think tank associated with the University of Miami, said there has been a spate of anti-dog mail appearing in Soviet journals. One reader called for a "decree to destroy all dogs," the institute said.

Citing articles in government-controlled Soviet newspapers and journals, the institute reported increasing mistreatment of man's best friend. It cited one case where stray dogs were used for "target practice."

Dogskins can be sold for 3.75 rubles to the government as raw material, the institute said. But a hat made from a canine hide can fetch 200 rubles, about \$260, the institute quoted a Sovietkaia Rossia report as saying.

The illegal sale of dog pelts, often by retirees trying to stretch their incomes and youngsters trying to make "easy money," is a "booming business," the institute quoted the newspaper as saying.

The popularity of hats and coats made from dogs is increasing because of the "unavailability of real or synthetic fur hats at

affordable prices and insufficient amounts" and because "dogskin hats are a real hit among young people of both sexes," Sovietkaia Rossia reported.

Hats made from "Irish setters and collies, simulating red fox fur; German shepherds, simulating wolf fur and Pomeranians, simulating polar fox fur," are particularly popular, the article said. It said skins from larger dogs like St. Bernards are sometimes used for coats.

The article cited by the institute said even pets are shot by ambitious hunters, "sometimes shooting them in full view of their helpless owners," the institute said.

Soviet law dictates only municipal dog catchers and "special brigades of communal and veterinary services" have the authority to hunt strays, the institute said, but the law is little-known and rarely enforced.

"The military paper Red Star of Sept. 9, 1982, reported that a certain major used dogs as target practice, shooting them from his apartment's balcony in front of the military town's population, including children," the institute said.

It said different laws in Soviet republics governing cruelty to animals are either nonexistent or lax, treating cruelty as a crime only in instances of "disturbing the public peace."

NOW SERVING SANDWICHES
11:30-2:30

Special	
Ham, Cheese & Salami	\$2.10
Ham	2.10
Turkey Breast	2.10
Salami	2.10
Canadian Bacon	2.10
Pastrami	2.10
Choice of any two meats	2.10

1 Hr. Free Pool with Lunch

YESTERDAYS

"A fine entertainment establishment"

**BILLIARDS, BACKGAMMON
DARTS & MIXED DRINKS**

4421 S. Texas Ave. 846-2625

House Dress Code after 7 p.m.

LORE STAR **SHORT NECKS** **LORE STAR**

TAMU
RUSSIAN CLUB
Invites you on a 14 Day

RUSSIAN WINTER HOLIDAY

DEC. 27, 1982 — JAN. 9, 1983

visiting
**MOSCOW, LENINGRAD, KIEV, RIGA,
PUSHKIN, ZAGORSK & HELSINKI**

\$1249 From New York ★

PRICE OF THE TOUR INCLUDES:

- Trans-Atlantic Airfare from New York (round trip)
- All transportation in the Soviet Union
- Accommodations in first-class INTOURIST hotels with bath
- 3 meals a day in the Soviet Union, breakfast in Helsinki
- Theater performances as specified in the itinerary
- All sightseeing and admission charges to museums

For more information contact:
Dr. MICHAL BARSZAP
(713) 693-3754

*Price Good Until Oct. 31

Give 'em Colorado For Christmas.
(from \$475 per person)



A&M Travel Service and Keystone Resort combine to bring you the best vacation value of the season. From January 11-16, 1983 you can be our guest for as low as \$475 per person.

Your destination will be the beautiful Keystone Resort in Colorado. Keystone has alpine and cross-country skiing on two mountains with 15 lifts for beginners, intermediates and experts. The resort also features ice skating, swimming, jacuzzi, sauna, indoor tennis, horseback riding, snowmobiling, sleighriding, shopping and excellent dining.

Your vacation includes: round trip transportation from College Station; accommodations for 5 nights; 4 days lift tickets; first night "get acquainted party"; hotel taxes and baggage handling; A&M Travel tote bag; and the services of an A&M Travel escort throughout the trip.

Keystone is the trip you've dreamed of. Send yourself to Colorado — or give someone Colorado for Christmas.

A&M Travel Service, Inc.
Owned by Keith Langford '39 (Houston) and Diane Stribling (President and Agency Manager)
111 University Drive (RepublicBank A&M Building) College Station

846-8881

DOUGLAS JEWELRY
15% STUDENT DISCOUNT

WITH CURRENT A&M ID
(REPAIRS NOT INCLUDED)

Keepsake
Registered Diamond Rings

PULSAR, SEIKO,
BULOVA & CROTON
WATCHES
AGGIE JEWELRY

USE YOUR STUDENT DISCOUNT TO PURCHASE A DIAMOND FOR YOUR CLASS RING (ANE LET US SET IT FOR YOU)

212 N. Main AND Culpepper Plaza
Downtown Bryan College Station
822-3119 693-0677
MC VISA DINNERS CLUB AM EXPRESS
LAYAWAYS INVITED

Albert's
Hair Design

Complete Hair & Nail Care

INTRODUCTORY SPECIAL

- Solar Nails \$35⁰⁰
- Manicures \$ 8⁰⁰

696-3003
909 C HARVEY ROAD
(Behind Monterrey House)
College Station