Battalion/Part features

Battalion/Page 13 October 27, 1982

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

"We've gone from a resort wh to a military town to an idustrial town," said Paul chneider, president of Mineral Vells Savings and Loan, and in harge of the town's industrial oundation.

The servicemen's bowling ey is now a meat company. he base library is home to a tool rm and a building that was unstakably once a military baracks now contains modern extive suites.

The sprawling former milit- Mineral Wells.

United Press International MINERAL WELLS — When the Army suddenly decided to ose the world's largest primary also houses a school for dis-war, they moved the helicopter training to Fort Rucker in Ala-bama," said Frances Marquess, a turbed children and an agency that finds day jobs for the handicapped.

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

ing from electronic components sort business that grew up to clay product manufacturing, 69 oil and gas-related firms and thought to cure everything. 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.

bama," said Frances Marquess, a longtime Mineral Wells resident who worked with the fort's pub-lic information office. "They said it was more economical, but

The folks who live among the There are 38 industries rang-had survived the end of the rearound the mineral waters once

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 Found-The shutdown announced in 1973 would have been devastat-ing to any town and some feared it would be the deathknell for U.S. Corps of Engineers, which

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 govern-ment also gave parcels of land to coveral activities including the 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 reason-able price," Schneider said. "All the main industrial property now has been taken at the main fort.

However, the Industrial Foundation owns a nearby in-dustrial park with several acres of undeveloped land and the Replacement Center.

4421 S. Texas Ave.

ALL BALL

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 in-dustry, 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 in-

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

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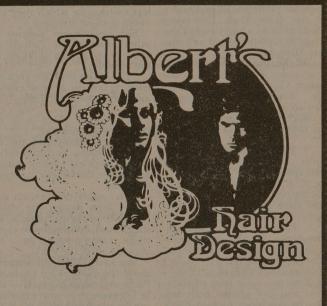
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Soviet dogs killed to make fur hats affordable prices and insuffi-United Press International WASHINGTON — Mistreat-

ment of dogs is widespread in the Soviet Union with the need or warm clothing making anine hats a hot item on the lack market, a research group

The Advanced International tudies Institute, a Washingtonased think tank associated with he University of Miami, said here has been a spate of anti-log mail appearing in Soviet ournals. One reader called for a decree to destroy all dogs," the stitute said.

Citing articles in government-controlled Soviet news-papers and journals, the insti-ute reported increasing misreatment of man's best friend. aly guarantees 36m It cited one case where stray logs were used for "target prac-

> Dogskins can be sold for 3.75 ubles to the government as raw naterial, the institute said. But a at made from a canine hide can etch 200 rubles, about \$260, the stitute quoted a Sovietskaia

ossiia report as saying. The illegal sale of dog pelts, ften by retirees trying to stretch heir incomes and youngsters rying to make "easy money," is a booming business," the instiute quoted the newspaper as

The popularity of hats and ow you ing because of the "unavailabil-ity of real or synthetic for a synthet

ported.

and collies, simulating red fox fur; German shepherds, simu-lating wolf fur and Pomera-nians, simulating polar fox fur," target practice, shooting them nians, simulating polar fox fur, are particularly popular, the article said. It said skins from larger dogs like St. Bernards are number used for coats. target primer is apartment's balcony in from his apartment's balcony in population, 'including chil-different laws in Soviet sometimes used for coats. The article cited by the insti-

SHORT NECKS

Soviet law dictates only muni-"dogskin hats are a real hit among young people of both sexes," Sovietskaia Rossiia retute said, but the law is little-Hats made from "Irish setters known and rarely enforced.

tute said even pets are shot by ambitious hunters, "sometimes animals are either nonexistent shooting them in full view of their helpless owners," the insti-tute said. or lax, treating cruelty as a crime only in instances of "disturbing the public peace."

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