

# Federal aid possible for Kickapoo Tribe

**United Press International**  
EAGLE PASS — A tribe of Kickapoo Indians who fled to the Texas-Mexico border more than a century ago to preserve their religious freedom now are eligible for federal aid to ease their impoverished conditions.

The 600 Kickapoos have lived for years under the International Bridge that links Eagle Pass with Piedras Negras, Mexico, building "wickiups" out of cardboard and sharing just one water faucet.

They have no electricity and their only sanitary facilities are portable toilets installed by the city, said City Manager Isidro Garza. Health conditions are abysmal, he said.

Under legislation signed Monday by President Reagan, the tribe now may receive federal aid, apply for citizenship and

establish a reservation. Twice a year the Kickapoos travel to Nacimiento, Mexico, to pray to their god at holy grounds set aside by Mexican President Benito Juarez earlier in this century.

It is this freedom of religion that brought the band of Kickapoos to Eagle Pass.

The U.S. Army forcibly removed the entire Kickapoo tribe from virgin forestland along the Great Lakes in 1823 and left them at a reservation in Kansas. But in 1840, a small band of Kickapoos fled to Mexico because they believed Christian missionaries were interfering with their native religion.

The descendants of that band now live under the bridge in Eagle Pass.

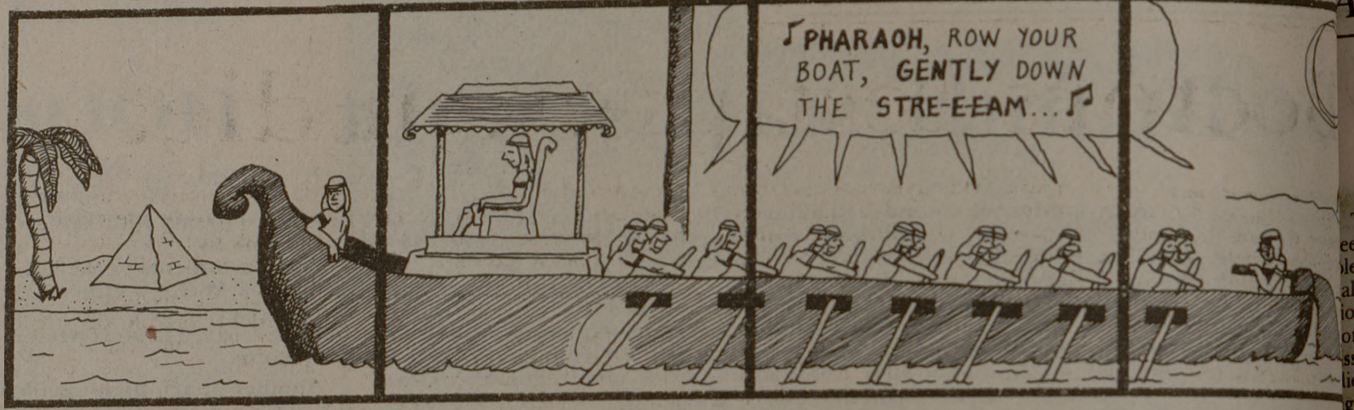
Since they are now a recognized tribe, the Eagle Pass Kick-

apoos will be eligible for programs and federal money already available to other tribes, said Ray Apodaca, executive director of the Texas Indian Commission in El Paso.

Once a list of tribe members has been submitted to the secretary of the interior, the Kickapoos will have five years to apply for American citizenship. That will ease their semi-annual passage to Mexico, which until now has been based on military papers issued in the 1800s.

They also will have a reservation someday, although the land was not included in the bill signed by Reagan. Instead, a national fundraising drive is under way to collect \$200,000 to \$300,000 to buy 100 acres of land for a reservation, Garza said.

Warped



by Scott McCu

# Man guilty of stealing surgery

**United Press International**  
HOUSTON — An unemployed, uninsured man who posed as another person to undergo surgery on a bleeding ulcer was sentenced to five years in prison for stealing a medical operation.

pleaded guilty Monday to the charge of theft and was sentenced to prison as part of a plea arrangement with prosecutors. The operation and bill from Hermann Hospital was \$3,023.

On Jan. 2, Rudolph checked into the hospital under the name of his friend Robert Prater and

claimed Prater's medical insurance policy as his own, prosecutor Jack Millin said.

Surgery was performed on Rudolph, who was on probation for a 1981 property theft.

But a chaplain intern at the hospital visited the room expecting to find Prater. He discovered the switch and

to officials.

Rudolph's lawyer Moore said her client was removed from the operation.

Rudolph was sent to Texas Department of Criminal Justice, where he can receive medical attention.

## Texas Briefs

### 4 suspects arrested

**United Press International**  
AMARILLO — Police captured four of the five men who allegedly burst into a restaurant, robbed seven people at gunpoint then locked their victims in a walk-in freezer, authorities said.

Capt. Jimmy Davis said Monday police were still searching for a fifth suspect in the robbery, which occurred at 12:35 a.m. Sunday at the Tumbleweeds Restaurant.

The five suspects, wearing dark ski masks and armed with shotguns and pistols, took about \$1,000 and some credit cards from the victims, then locked them in the freezer.

### Deputy's trial starts

HOUSTON — Jury selection has begun in the trial of a former deputy constable charged with civil rights violations in the beating death of a burglary suspect.

Billy Hampton McCreight, 44, is charged in the death of Steven G. Barnette, 17, who was taken into custody March 19 and died March 20 in a hospital of a ruptured spleen.

Two sheriff's deputies, William Gordon and William Whigham, also were charged. Gordon was prosecuted in state court and sentenced to five years probation. Whigham pleaded bargained and is awaiting sentencing.

U.S. District Judge Ross Sterling scheduled jury selection to begin Monday, but recessed after he read the indictment and passed out questionnaires to potential jurors.

### Plane lands safely

HOUSTON — A Western Airlines plane that took off for Albuquerque, N.M., turned around and made an emergency landing, unloading 57 passengers on a taxiway without injury.

Western official Phil Kempton said Flight 375 for Albuquerque, Salt Lake City and Portland, Ore., was airborne about four minutes Monday when the pilot got a warning light,

shut down one engine and turned around to land.

He said a duct that warms the fuel and the oil had broken. Taxiing on one engine after the return landing caused the Boeing 727's air-conditioning system to overheat, filling the cabin with smoke even though there was no fire.

### Chronicle files suit

HOUSTON — The Houston Chronicle has filed suit in state court demanding that Police Chief Lee Brown release certain records of people placed in the city jail.

The lawsuit filed Monday, which also names Mayor Kathy Whitmire as a defendant, arose from a Chronicle request Jan. 5 to look at the list of people placed in the jail since last June.

Brown has said he was not releasing the records because he feared some of them might not be public record under recent court decisions limiting disclosure of criminal histories of individuals.

### System offers info

AUSTIN — A sophisticated computer system and a toll-free telephone line will give Texans access to instant information on the status of bills introduced in the 1983 Legislature.

The Legislative Reference Library in the Capitol building has installed video terminals that allows people to call up copies of bills at the touch of a key.

Those living outside of Austin can call 1-800-252-9693 to get reports on legislation. More than 70,000 phone calls were processed during the 1981 session.

Reports also are available on committee schedules and House and Senate floor agendas.

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