

## Gift will benefit arthritis research

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — A millionaire who suffers from arthritis will donate \$7.5 million to establish a research center to investigate the disease.

Harold C. Simmons said Monday he would donate \$62,500 a month for 10 years to fund an arthritis research center bearing his name. It will be located at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas.

"I was talking to my personal physician, Dr. Stanley Cohen, about why arthritis can't be cured," Simmons said. "He explained that there was a great deal of research that more research was needed. Things developed from there."

Simmons suffers from ankylosing spondylitis, a type of arthritis that affects the spine and back.

He said the first monthly donation would be made within the next two weeks.

Dr. Charles Sprague, president of the health science center, said the gift was especially important because it would be used to finance basic research.

"The gift that Charles Simmons is making is even more generous because he may not directly benefit from the research that will be done here," Sprague said. "Basic research into arthritis is important because it will explore the underlying mechanisms of the disease, which may affect up to 20 million Americans."

## Border cities feel pinch

# Peso's problems a shopper's boon

**United Press International**  
"Poor Mexico," dictator Porfirio Diaz was quoted as saying, "so far from God and so close to the United States."

With the peso valued at a little more than half an American penny, that closeness is beginning to add to the economic problems of communities like Juarez, Tijuana, Reynosa, Laredo, Matamoros and others along the 1,933-mile U.S.-Mexico border.

Prices of food, for holders of American dollars, have taken on an almost distorted bargain value. And since the devaluation, Americans have been flocking south of the border to buy groceries.

Mexicans used to come to the U.S. to shop for certain goods, such as vegetable oil, canned milk, eggs and other items which were cheaper on the American side of the Rio Grande.

With the devaluation of the peso, however, shopping in El Paso, San Diego, McAllen, Lare-

do, Brownsville and other American border cities has become an impossible dream for Mexicans. It now takes too many pesos to buy American goods.

But Mexico's peso problem has become the American shopper's boon.

Americans have discovered that top quality Mexican steaks are selling for \$1 a pound, about one third of the value of meat in the United States.

Other prices are even more of a bargain. A quart of milk at 15 cents, a large tube of tooth paste for about 20 cents, a loaf of whole wheat bread for 35 cents and low-cost, top quality fruits and vegetables for a fraction of the cost of comparable American products have made the Mexican supermarket a prime stop for visitors.

Many of the basic food items on sale in Mexican markets are subsidized by the federal government to keep prices deliberately low. Corn tortillas and Pinto beans, the mainstay of the

Mexican diet, are both subsidized by the government.

The bargain-hunting American shopper, however, could care less why the prices are so low. The signs in the Mexican

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super markets which read "Aceptamos dolares," we accept dollars, is as much of an invitation as any thrifty bargain hunter needs.

The big supermarkets in the tourist areas of Juarez do a brisk trade with shoppers from El Paso, many of whom are Americans of Mexican descent who were born in Juarez or other Mexican communities and feel right at home shopping in Mexico.

Food items, however, are beginning to get scarce in Juarez.

Labor union leaders and others are placing the blame on American shoppers.

Juarez business leaders don't agree, however.

The scarcity of certain food items has nothing to do with the long-standing border custom of shopping for food in Mexico, business leaders say.

For generations, there has been an interaction of shoppers who take advantage of the best prices on both sides of the border. There have never been any shortages.

That is, not until the present economic crisis. The scarcity of food items in Juarez, one federal government spokesman said, comes from the geography of the border city and not from the greed of American shoppers.

While Mexico may or not be far from God, as the saying goes, Juarez and other border cities are far from the republic's own centers of production. The distance from Juarez to Mexico City is 1,100 miles. The distance from Tijuana to the capital is ever greater.

Enrique Cisneros Tevera, Juarez delegate to the Secretary of Commerce and Industrial Development, said one of the principal reasons for shortages of food in Juarez is the shortsightedness of producers in the center of the country to adequ-

ately supply Juarez with the

The supply and demand of Juarez grocery shoppers, including the usual number of regular El Paso shoppers, not been met by the producers he said. The food is available but the distribution system failed.

Regardless of who is at fault, the average Juarez family is hurting. Minimum wage is about 15 pesos a day, a little more than the price of a loaf of bread. Gasoline price increases, increasing utility costs and other factors have made it difficult for many to get by.

Bowing to pressure of the protesting groups, the Congress March 30 began a campaign inspecting every automobile trying to re-enter the United States.

The results of the inspection were effective. El Paso shoppers stopped going to Juarez, not only for any reason, but for any reason. The drop in trade was estimated at 50 percent.

The drop in trade has hurt the members of the Chamber of Commerce. They sent a delegation to Mexico City to urge the government to allow to take back amounts of groceries. Labor leaders feel the government is being wishy washy.

Unfortunately for Juarez, tourist feels that way, too, continuing to stay home to the detriment of Mexico.

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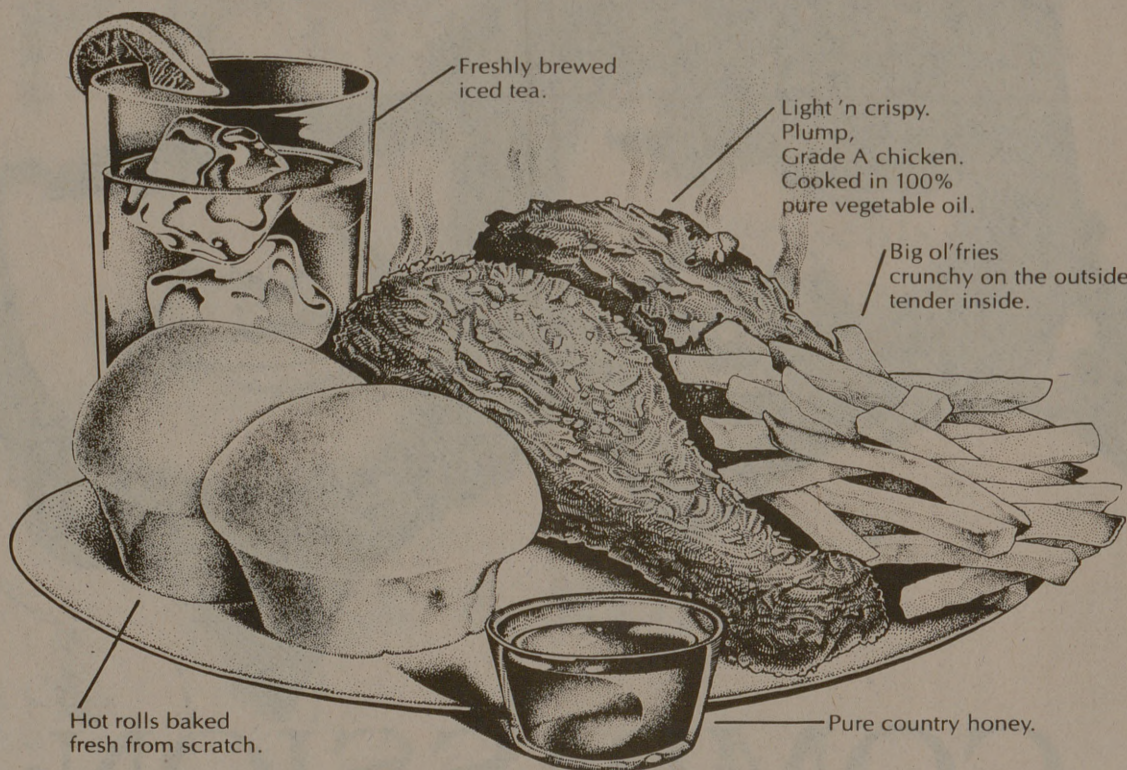
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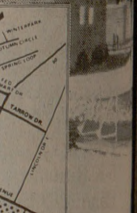
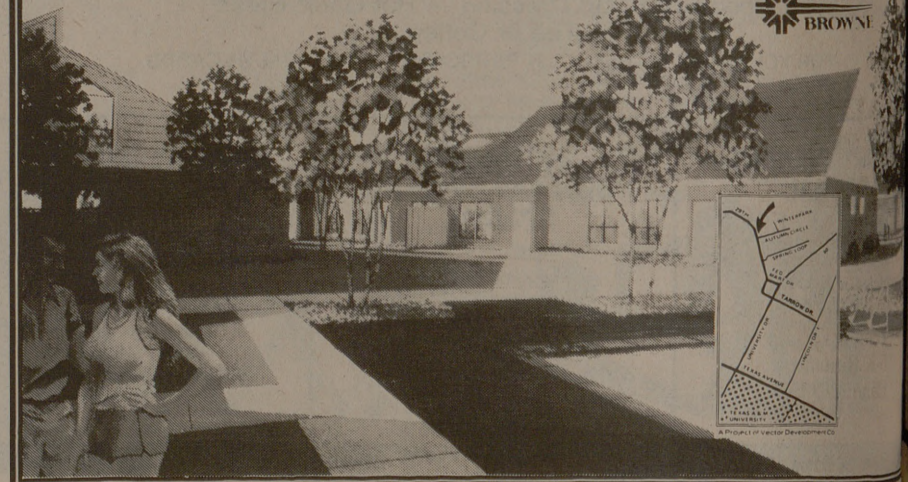
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