

# Local oilmen see improvement despite decline in oil production

by David Marchand

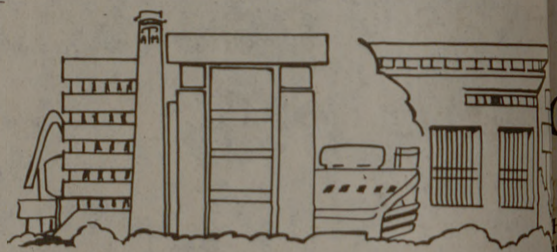
**Battalion Reporter**  
The local oil industry is in a slump following one of the greatest booms in Texas history, but it should begin to see better times by 1984, local oil executives say.  
Despite a drastic decline in oil production here, some oil wells have been erected recently — one on the Briarcrest Country Club golf course and one in Hensel Park.  
Clyde Freeman, executive vice chancellor for administration at Texas A&M, said Texas A&M officials are continuing to evaluate the opportunities of leasing land for new rigs, but no decision has been reached. He

said they will give a briefing on their evaluation to the Board of Regents at its next meeting.  
Randall Rychlik, a field engineer for Nowsco Services, expressed optimism for 1984.  
“(Business) is going to start turning around in 1984,” he said.  
Tony Arias of Atco Drilling Inc. said although it's hard to determine exactly when, oil activity should start picking up by late 1984 or early 1985.  
In 1978 and 1979, several oil well service and drilling companies — anticipating foreign oil prices to increase and seeing a market with good potential — moved into the Bryan-College Station area. Local oil produc-

tion increased as investors continued to speculate on the market.  
Then in 1980, as Arias said, “all hell broke loose.” New drilling companies came to the area almost every week, he said.  
Business was so good in 1981, Arias said, that Atco didn't have enough oil drilling rigs to meet the demand and had to bring in four from Canada.  
Les Clifton, supervisor for the Western Company of North America, said the company's Bryan-College Station facility, which serves a district of about six counties, did three \$100,000 jobs each day throughout 1981. The local branch set many company records including a one-

month revenue record of \$6.7 million.  
But, Arias said, the market became saturated as business peaked in December of 1981. At that time, he said, there were about 4,000 rigs throughout the country. Now there are only about 1,500.  
The saturation forced extensive layoffs in the area. A local branch of Atlas Bradford, a pipe supplier, laid off virtually all of its 145 employees. The number of employees at Babcock and Wilcox's Bryan plant dropped from about 300 to 63 employees.  
Arias said his company is down to a four-man crew here.

Clifton said that when the decline in business started in January 1982, 123 rigs were operating in this district. Now there are 30.  
The downturn affected drilling costs considerably. When business was booming, drillers often would pay for fuel costs that commonly run \$2,000 per day, Arias said. Now it's up to the investor to pick up the expenses. He said a well that cost about \$15 per foot during the boom now can cost as little as \$9 per foot.  
Clifton said there is now good potential in the local industry but business probably won't turn around until 1984.



## Around town

### Santa Teresa Church holds festival

Santa Teresa Church of Bryan is having its 42nd Parish Festival-Jamaica on Sunday, May 15 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. A variety of Mexican and American foods will be available. Games and events will include an auction, bingo, a jalapeno-eating contest and a talent show. Music will be provided throughout the day by local groups. The King and Queen of the Church will be named in a coronation ceremony beginning at 8 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

If you have an announcement or item to submit for a column, come by The Battalion office in 216 Reed or contact Cheryl Burke at 845-2611.

## Police beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department on May 3.  
**THEFT:**  
•A thermodynamics textbook from an office at the Zachry Engineering Center. A key was used to enter the office.  
**CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:**

•A sharp object was used to scratch an obscene message on the paint on the door of a pick-up in parking lot between May 2 and 3.  
•A vehicle with a license plate was found at the Commons Dining

# Local groups pledge to back entire village

by Angel Stokes

**Battalion Staff**  
Texas A&M could become a national model for the Christian Children's Fund, if the planned sponsorship of an entire village by local organizations is successful.  
The Interfraternity Council and the Catholic Students Association at Texas A&M have pledged to raise \$25,000 to sponsor a village of children in South America.  
Dr. Robert Scott Kellner, a Texas A&M English professor and local CCF sponsor, is working with student presidents of the Interfraternity

Council, the Catholic Students Association and other Texas A&M organizations on the plans to raise the money.  
“In the fall, I plan to have a report from each president on ways to raise the money,” Kellner said.  
He said he is happy that dormitories and fraternities will be working together.  
Kellner said he hopes the International Program at Texas A&M also will become involved with the sponsorship of the village, although it hasn't been approved yet.  
The sponsorship, if suc-

cessful, will feed starving children in the village, improve economic conditions and help the village become self-sufficient, Kellner said.  
TPS — Total Project Sponsorship — is the sponsorship of an entire village, an idea generated at Texas A&M.  
Don Murray, publicity agent for Sally Struthers and CCF, said the sponsorship seems like a good idea.  
“This is a field we will explore and if it seems like a feasible way to raise funds, then we will try to use it elsewhere,” he said.

# New law limits young licenses

United Press International

AUSTIN — Gov. Mark White has signed into law legislation that lawmakers hope will cut down on the number of hard-core driver's licenses issued to 15-year-olds in Texas.  
The governor also signed bills Tuesday that will protect for the first time the view of the state Capitol, and make an emergency supplemental appropriation of \$1.8 million to the attorney general's office.  
Under the new hard-core driver's license law, teenagers who apply for a license must take driver education courses, except in cases where the license is issued on a temporary basis due to a family illness or emergency.  
With the old law, 15-year-olds could cite a need for the license under the “general welfare of the family,” and the state Department of Safety was virtually powerless to deny the request.  
Of the 72,000 applications filed last year, DPS said only about 100 successfully were denied.  
The new Capitol view law will protect the view of the historic statehouse by restricting the

construction of high-rise state office buildings near the Capitol.  
Two specific views — from the steps of the University of Texas Main Building and the LBJ Library — will be secured.  
“For a number of years, the city and the state of Texas have waited for the other government to act to protect the remaining views of the Capitol building,” said the bill's sponsor, Sen. Lloyd Doggett, D—Austin.  
The law will not prevent buildings on privately owned land from blocking the view, but most of the land in the view corridors protected by the new law is owned by the state or the university.  
A bill pending in the Texas Senate would regulate the height of private office buildings near the Capitol.  
Attorney General Jim Mattox said he will use the additional appropriation to hire 48 new people to upgrade the attorney general's office.  
He said the money will allow the state to take over work previously performed by private lawyers at a cost to the state of \$3 million last year.

# Math clinic to be here

by Karen Schrimsher

**Battalion Staff**  
Texas A&M will offer a summer clinic for elementary and junior high school students who have trouble with mathematics.  
The clinic, which will begin in June, is sponsored by the Department of Educational Curriculum and Instruction and will be taught by graduate students.  
Applicants are evaluated on the basis of IQ, learning achievement and teacher recommenda-

tions. Parents and teachers of the applicants are consulted about the child's skills and difficulties. A release form also must be signed by the parents so a child's school records may be examined.  
Applicants are accepted on the basis of their potential for learning, says Dr. Clarence Dockweiler, clinic director.  
The program is structured in two parts. Beginning June 20,

students will undergo extensive diagnostic testing to evaluate math achievement and locate problem areas. After the testing period, the students will spend three weeks working with a teacher on a one-to-one basis.  
Dockweiler says 15 children enrolled in the clinic last year.  
“We have been able to show dramatic achievement within a short time,” Dockweiler says, “and the parents have been pretty pleased with that.”

# Rummage sale to help youth

by Christine Mallon

**Battalion Reporter**  
Brazos County's Stepping Stone, a charitable organization for runaway and “throw-away” youths, will have a rummage sale May 5-7 to raise funds to build needed facilities.  
The sale will be at the corner of Texas Avenue and Meadow Lane — one block south of Villa Maria Road.  
John Hopkin, chairman of the board, said the Stepping Stone rummage sale needs support from Texas A&M students, particularly graduating seniors looking for something to do while awaiting commencement.  
Hopkin said students can help by donating furniture, appliances, utensils, tools, clothing, storable food or any other items of value.  
Stepping Stone provides residential care for boys and girls, ages 10 to 17, in family crisis situations. It also cares for delinquents in need of supervision and children with mild learning disorders.

The children live in a type environment in eight. The main duties group are choosing the week, preparing the and learning housekeeping money management skills.  
The children at the Stone receive individualized selling designed to aid education. They attend schools, learn vocational and some go on to college.  
All donations can be turned in anytime before the sale at 3219A Texas. Students can call 689- they need the items for the sale, which began this morning, to look for bargains.  
He said anyone can donate goods or volunteer time but who would like Stepping Stone's youth contact Stepping Stone Bryan.

# Girl tells about lead poisoning

United Press International

AUSTIN — Attorney General Jim Mattox and a state representative were joined by an 11-year-old school girl who told reporters about health problems allegedly caused by harmful emissions from a west Dallas lead smelter.  
Mattox and Rep. Steve Wolens, D-Dallas, were joined Tuesday by Francine “Cookie” Wells, one of 14 west Dallas children who was treated for lead contamination apparently caused by emissions from Murph Metals Inc.  
With no prodding from the politicians, the girl told reporters how she was hospitalized twice last year after a doctor diagnosed her stomach cramps, blackouts and other maladies as being caused by excessive lead in her blood and body tissues.  
Wells, who lived a short distance from the lead smelting plant, said her ailments forced her to move away from the neighborhood and also to drop out of a private school she attended on scholarship.  
“If it (the plant) wasn't there, I never would have had these problems,” the girl said.  
Mattox and the City of Dallas filed suit last week against RSR Corp., the owner of Murph Metals. The suit asks that RSR take steps to bring emissions within accepted standards or shut down.  
Monitoring by the Texas Air Control Board showed that the RSR plant exceeded emissions standards for six months in 1982. Mattox's suit seeks a \$1,000-a-day civil penalty for the months when the emissions exceeded federal standards.  
Wolens said local authorities knew of the excessive emissions and subsequent contamination of surrounding land and homes as much as 15 years ago and took no action.

# Volunteers to aid Foreign students

by Michelle Powe

**Battalion Reporter**  
The International Coordination office and International Student Activities office are looking for volunteers to be “big brothers” and “big sisters” to incoming international students this fall.  
Nathana Watkins, international student services adviser, says American students can help international students learn about American lifestyles and campus life at Texas A&M.  
It's difficult, she says, to come to a foreign country and try to adapt to a strange society. Americans can help international stu-

dents, she says, by helping to adapt.  
Violetta Burke Cook, national coordinator of American volunteers, said adjustment easier for international students by helping with procedures such as registration and with their school exchange status. She encourages former school volunteer for the program, she says they would an opportunity to share experiences.  
Anyone interested in being a big brother or big sister international student should contact Violetta Burke Cook in 252 Bizzell Hall.

# Van possibly used in killing found

United Press International

DALLAS — A van that may have been used by the killers of a Dallas policeman was found abandoned near Palestine, homicide investigators said early Wednesday.  
Patrolman Ronald Baker, 24, was killed by rifle fire as he got out of his car Monday in an apartment complex parking lot. Police said a number of syringes on the ground at the scene indicated Baker had broken up a drug deal.  
The suspects left the scene in

the van, running over the body twice as they fled, said.  
Capt. Grant Lappin, Dallas police department, said the van was found on a rural road near Palestine.  
He said here were pants in the van, but had identified the van, whom the vehicle was used. Lappin said there was enough evidence to charge against her.

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