



Flying high

staff photo by Peter Rocha

Ten year old Patrick Baca of College Station jumps a hill at Bee Creek Park on his motor cross bike Tuesday morning. Patrick and some 200 other school age children can enjoy the outdoor activities organized by the College Station Parks and Recreation Department at Bee Creek and other parks throughout the summer.

# Hinkley unable to attend high school reunion, sends message

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — The weekend reunion of the 1973 graduating class of Highland Park High School was haunted by the memory and message of John W. Hinckley Jr., whose assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan made him the best known of the 350 class members.

In preparation for the 10-year reunion, class member Kirk Dooley sent a questionnaire to all 1973 graduates, including Hinckley, asking for comments and information.

On March 30, 1981, Hinckley pushed his way through the crowd and shot and wounded

Reagan, press secretary James Brady and two law enforcement officers with a .22 pistol in front of a Washington hotel.

Hinckley, 28, was acquitted by reason of insanity June 21, 1982.

From behind the walls of St. Elizabeth's, a hospital for the mentally ill in Washington, D.C., Hinckley sent a short note and a request for a reunion book.

"I just want to say that I have fond memories of Highland and wish I could be at the reunion," he wrote. "I often think about my old high school classmates and wonder how they're doing. As for me, I'm doing well and looking forward to the day I can

see some of my old friends again. Please send a yearbook."

Hinckley's remarks were published in the booklet distributed to all members.

Reached in Denver, Hinckley's father, head of Vanderbilt Energy Co., said of his son, "We think he is making progress. We hope he is." He added "It's a long way from Highland Park High."

Defense psychiatrists said Hinckley's arrest ended months of wandering coast-to-coast in a weird obsession with actress Jodie Foster, who played a teenage prostitute in the movie "Taxi Driver," which portrayed an attempted assassination of a political candidate.

As the children of the slain president gathered, many remembered Hinckley as a quiet young man.

Craig Morris, one of Hinckley's closest friends, said he was in the room when Hinckley was shot. "It just came down," he said. "I was sitting at the table with Hinckley during the freshman year at Texas University in Lubbock. I don't touch their sophomore college, something like Morris said. "I still gured it out myself."

# Boy tells about bloodbath

**United Press International**  
CHINO, Calif. — A detective said Tuesday that Joshua Ryan, 8, has indicated to police that more than one person slaughtered his parents, sister and a playmate during a bloody weekend rampage on the family's horse ranch.

Capt. Philip Schuyler of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department said the number and type of wounds on the victims also showed more than one person participated in the slaughter.

"That's our gut feeling," he

said. "What he got from the boy would seem to confirm that."

But the heavily sedated boy has given detectives conflicting information, Schuyler added, and investigators were waiting to question him further when he was more lucid.

Sheriff Floyd Tidwell said Monday that the boy, who had not been told of his family's murder, survived because the killers "probably thought he was dead."

The youngster was rendered temporarily silent when

surgeons opened his windpipe — a tracheotomy — to help him breathe. He used notes and sign language to communicate with police Monday.

Tidwell said doctors would have to implant an electronic voice box in the youngster's slashed throat for him to speak, but Schuyler said Tuesday the instrument might not be necessary because the boy is able to nod his head and write.

The coroner disclosed late Monday that the killers last sharpened weapons — a hatchet and possibly a knife, screwdriver

or ice pick — more than once into each victim.

A force of 35 officers searched for six potential suspects, adding that leads were "weak" and no motive established.

Deputies were ordered to search for three men who were seen near the home of E. J. Stock and Peggy Ryan, a 19-year-old woman who escaped the nearby Chino state penitentiary last week and a teenager who lived near a youth home.

# Commander suggests stopping use of exploding anti-tank gun

**United Press International**  
EL PASO — The commander of Fort Bliss says the Army should suspend the use of an anti-tank weapon that exploded during a training exercise, injuring 26 soldiers, one of whom was in critical condition Tuesday with "total body wounds."

Six of the other injured men were in serious condition.

Officials at Fort Bliss said the shoulder-firing LAW (Light Anti-tank Weapon) exploded Monday, spewing fragments

and flames into a class of trainees.

A spokesman at William Beaumont Army Medical Center said 17 men required hospitalization.

The spokesman said extensive surgery was needed to save the life of a training sergeant, identified as Antonio Gonzales, whose hometown was not released. But he said surgeons were confident Gonzales would survive.

"He (Gonzales) has been in

surgery all day, but none of his injuries are now life-threatening," spokesman Jim Bryan said late Monday. "He had total body wounds."

Of the other 16 soldiers hospitalized with "glass-type" wounds and some burns, six were listed in serious condition and 11 were reported in satisfactory condition, hospital officials said. Nine soldiers were treated and released.

Those injured included 24 basic trainees, one West Point cadet and Gonzales, all from the Fort Bliss 1st Air Defense Artillery Training Brigade.

Fort Bliss commander Maj. Gen. James Maloney suspended all training on the LAW pending an investigation of the accident's cause.

"I would like to see the weapon (temporarily) suspended across the board," Maloney said. "We've had some accidents before, but they've been minor."

Maloney said Gonzales demonstrated the LAW to the side when the weapon exploded, sending the man to the hospital with fragments of the blast impact from the group of trainees.

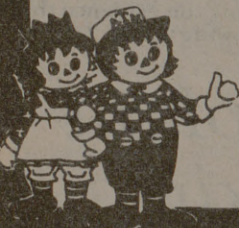
"We don't know the cause for this terrible accident," Maloney said. "The brand new soldiers have been in the Army only a few weeks."

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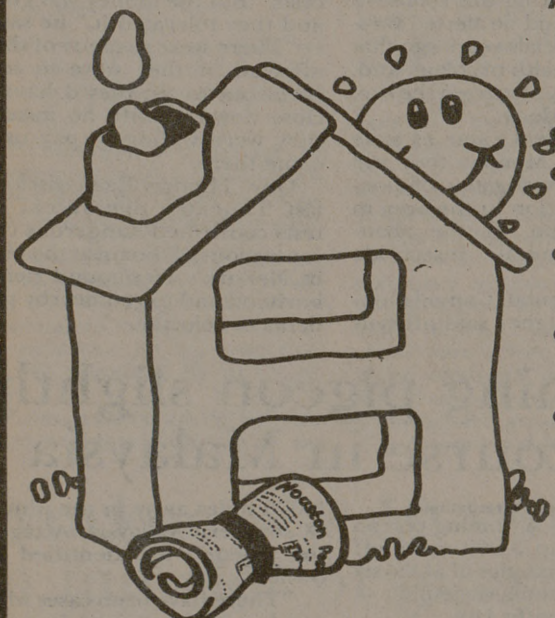
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