



staff photo by Barry Papke

Splash down!

Hot weather means fun in the water, and Danny Lewis and his little sister Tina found their fun at the water slide at Pooh's Park.

Atheist group objects to books

United Press International

AUSTIN — Atheist Leader Madalyn Murray O'Hair Monday blasted history textbooks being considered for use in Texas public schools, saying they contained "Biblical nonsense" offensive to atheists, humanists and agnostics.

O'Hair, who heads the Austin-based American Atheist Center, made her remarks Tuesday during the second day of hearings before the 27-

member State Textbook Committee.

She said her organization objected to all world history texts being considered because they contained "Christianization of world history and give religion a false and heroic role."

She also said the books inaccurately portrayed religious wars and violence associated with religious causes.

"These textbooks contain Biblical nonsense that is blatantly offensive to atheists, as well as

humanists and agnostics," she said.

O'Hair suggested that each of the texts should contain a forward that said religious fundamentalists were intruding in the nation's school system to make the public schools a forum for "religious dogma."

The yearly hearings are the first step in the adoption of \$36.3 million worth of new books for use in public school classrooms beginning in the

1984-1985 school year. The State Board of Education will make the final decision on new books in November.

This is the first year, thanks to passage of a new state law pushed by the anti-censorship group People for the American Way, that supporters of proposed texts are permitted to make positive comments. The Board of Education in earlier years allowed only criticism of books.

The annual hearings pre-

viously were dominated by religious fundamentalists, nationally-known Mel and Norma Gabler, who object to the claim is over-emphasizing books on non-traditional roles and the theory of evolution.

Local chapters of the National Organization for the Advancement of Science objected to what they called the use of sexist language in general books, including such as foreman supervisor.

Bay oyster beds to be protected

Corps agrees to dredge elsewhere

United Press International

HOUSTON — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has agreed to move its dredging operation in the Intracoastal Canal to help fishermen who are opposed to dumping the dredge waste onto Matagorda Bay shrimp and oyster beds.

James Blackburn, the lawyer

representing fisherman Roy Tipps of Sargent, Monday persuaded the Corps of Engineers to move later this week 10 miles west of its present location. Assistant U.S. Attorney Tom Beery of Houston participated in the agreement.

"We think we can pick up the dredge and move it and maybe

help the shrimpers to some degree," said Ed McGehee of Galveston, Corps of Engineers chief of construction. "Shrimping has been poor this year."

McGehee spent two hours on the telephone with Blackburn and Beery to reach an accommodation, Blackburn said.

Under the agreement, the

dredge will continue dumping waste silt lifted from the bottom of the Intracoastal Waterway onto shrimp and oyster areas of east Matagorda Bay until Wednesday, when it will move 10 miles west. It will skip an open water stretch through the bay.

"It's not settled yet all the

way," McGehee said. "It's a 10-mile reach dredged. It's shoaled to eight million tons of commerce annually use."

"I guarantee the industry will be just as good as the shrimpers if the program is not completed," he said.

Trustee accused of interest conflict

United Press International

DALLAS — Conflict-of-interest allegations have been lodged against a trustee of the Rowley United Pension plan and the vice president of a company that sponsors the plan who are accused of receiving loans from the pension fund.

The accusations were outlined Monday in a suit filed by the U.S. Department of Labor against the five trustees of the Rowley Plan.

The trustees, Harry C. Herrington, Robin Wightman, Wade Wallace, W.L. Baxter and Dale Chappell, were accused in the suit of failing to collect more than \$1 million in delinquent loans.

The suit additionally accuses Herrington and John H. Rowley, vice president of United Artists Theatre Circuit Inc., of "soliciting and accepting" loans from the pension plan's trustees. The Employee Retirement

Income Security Act prohibits trustees of a pension plan from making loans or extending credit to persons or firms related to the pension plan.

The suit accuses the trustees of failing to take "reasonable steps" to collect more than \$1 million in past due loans and interest and failing to require periodic loan payments, charge reasonable interest rates and follow pension plan rules regarding outstanding loans.

Chappell, who became a trustee after the loans were approved, is accused only of violating the plan's rules for outstanding loans.

Herrington, Wightman, Wallace and Baxter are accused in the suit of making prohibited loans to Herrington and John H. Rowley.

The suit asks that Rowley and Herrington be required to repay the outstanding amounts of their loans at prevailing interest rates.

Dad, son charged with jewel robbery

United Press International

DALLAS — Federal authorities Tuesday were holding a man, 19, charged with his father in the \$250,000 gunpoint jewel robbery of an elderly couple.

Bond was set at \$500,000 Monday for Richard Charles Skatell, who was arrested Friday near his mother's North Dallas home. Skatell's father, Frank Andrew Skatell, 44, was arrested

July 18 in Pennsylvania.

Denton police Sgt. Howard Kelly said the couple had known the Skatells since 1974, and admitted them to their home May 27.

The suspects took about \$250,000 in jewelry and at least \$2,000 in cash and left the Hawks bound with tape but otherwise unharmed.

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