Rainmakers at work in Texas Mideast conflict despite experts' harsh criticism

In drought-scorched fields across the High Plains and Midwestern prairie, men aim machines at the barren sky and

They call themselves weather modification specialists. Farmers call them rain-makers.

They come with the droughts. "In west Texas, they came in droves when the bad, hot weather hit," said Bill Braden, agricul-

ture spokesman with Texas
A&M University.

Experts say the century-old
art of weather modification thrives across the region.

In south central Oklahoma, farmers and ranchers help distribute small electric generators atmosphere in hopes of induc-ing high-domed thunderheads" to produce rain.

In the Diablo Plateau of west Texas, water officials lobby state officials to accelerate the licensing process for cloudseeding

The hitch in rain-making, some experts say, is that there is

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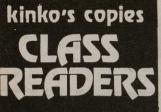
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no proof it works.
"I hate to dispel all the hopes

because of all the believers," said Wayne Decker, atmospheric science professor at the University of Missouri. "But there have never been demonstrated any positive results from such things as cloud seeding.

"I mean never, never." Decker said the university conducted experiments in cloud-seeding for four years in southern Missouri.

"Sometimes it rained. Sometimes it didn't. We could never demonstrate that we caused the

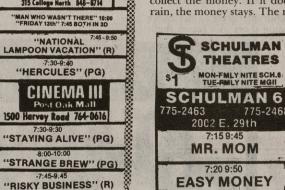
"We tried a lot of weather modification. All we ever got was hail and storms, hardly any rain," said Tom Cook, 46, a dryland wheat farmer from Levant,

Because of the hail and storm threat, the Texas Farm Bureau network was forced to issue guidelines on when and where modification techniques should

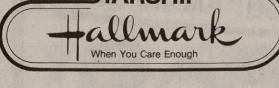
Weather modification began as a science during the Civil War when observers noted it rained after heavy artillery barrages. Initially they thought the sound of thunder induced rain. Ex-











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perimenters, including C.W. Post, the cereal maker, set off dynamite from hot-air balloons

or mountaintops.
After World War II, silver iodide particles were injected into super-cooled cloud formations created in laboratories and rain resulted.

The region's most successful weather modification project using silver iodide is underway in west Texas on 3,700 square miles of farmland from Abilene

"We've been involved for 13 years and we wouldn't be spending the money and time if we didn't think it worked," said Owen Ivie, director of the Upper Colorado River Authority. "Our reason for getting involved was to increase rainfall and runoff into the lakes."

The UCRA owns two small planes that seed clouds selected by an agency meteorologist tracking wind movement and conditions. When the planes find promising updrafts, they release the miniscule particles—

It costs the agency \$80,000 annually to maintain the program, but Ivie said critics are

"We have some who complain that we make it rain too much, and others who complain on religious grounds. They say if God

wanted it to rain, it would rain."
Bob Riggio, licensing agent with the Texas Water Resources Department, said it is against the law to practice rain-making in Texas without a license. But the flim-flam artists still exist.

"In the latest scam somebody approached the Dallas area and asked farmers to put \$10,000 or said. "They said if it rains in the next month or so, they get to collect the money. If it doesn't rain, the money stays. The rain-

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Riggio said applications for weather modification programs are on the upswing.

"We just got a call from the Red Bluff water district (near El Paso) to start up a program, using a California contractor. The water district used seeding in the late '70s, then discontinued it,' Riggio said.

"Now the district wants us to speed up the permitting process so the program can be started

Jim Kinder, a farmer from Cookietown, Okla., near the Texas border, heads a group that has been investing in ground-based particle generators since 1972.

"Everybody was taking our efforts for granted until 1981 when we stopped the program and we had our first below average crop in years," he said. "With the program we've had three bumper crops and five av-

"We have some 25 to 30 generators in Texas and Oklaoma. We think it works,he

Now you know

The traditional greeting of Jews, sholem aleichem, which means "And unto you, peace' also is used by Muslims, except it begins with an s instead of an sh and uses a k instead of a ch, thus: salaam aleikum.

continues in Syria United Press International Israeli forces pulled out of Lebanon's Shouf Mountains

Sunday, fighting off a Syrian tank advance with an air strike and leaving behind a region engulfed in sectarian warfare A U.S. Marine was slightly wounded in the new clashes. Artillery battles between Christian and Druze Moslem factions raged across the re-gion and spilled again into the

> targets near the U.S. Marines who surround Beirut airport. Barrages of shells and rockets sprayed across the Christian half of the city and one stray rocket fell in west

capital, slamming into the suburbs and Lebanese army

Radio reports listed two people dead. Among the casualties was a Marine who was lightly wounded by shrapnel in the arm. He requested his name not be released. An Italian peacekeeper suffered light wounds in the arm and

The battle for the Shouf overshadowed a car-bomb attack in the south of Beirut, the stronghold of the Shiite Moslems who rebelled against the government of President Amin Gemayel last week.

State-run Beirut radio re ported nine charred and torn bodies, including that of a and another 14 wounded.

Syria, which immediately began to advance in one area vacated by the Israelis, said the Israeli withdrawal to the long-term positions south of the dangerous Shouf meant 'Lebanon becomes parti-

U.S. Middle East envoy Richard Fairbanks met President Amin Gemayel at the presidential palace. In Washington, senior Middle

East envoy Robert McFarlane met at the White House with President Reagan and congressional leaders.

Asked if the Israeli pullout would spoil U.S.-led peace efforts, Reagan said, "No, Israel had already delayed (the pullback) twice at our re-

Lebanese army plans to fill the void left by Israel appeared to collapse in the face of the abrupt pullback and the bitter fighting between the Christian Lebanese militiamen and their Druze enemies, backed by Syrian

Some of the heaviest fighting erupted around the town of Bhamdoun, 12 miles east of Beirut, where Syrian troops were apparently intent on retaking positions lost to Israeli troops during the invasion 15

months ago.
"Two Israeli air force
planes flying missions to cover he movement of the Israeli Defense Forces conducted three strafing dives against four tanks that crossed over from Syrian-held territory in the Bhamdoun area," the Israeli military command said in Tel Aviv.

Christian Phalange radio said its Lebanese Forces also destroyed two Soviet-made T-55 tanks in the Syrian advance on the town - a Christian enclave surrounded by Druze

villages.
Israeli forces, moving under air cover, roared from the mountains in mile-long convoys of tanks, armored personnel carriers and troop trucks. The nighttime evacuation took only a matter of

The only serious threat came when the forces were near the Christian village of Deir El Kamar, but "Ist the source of the fire was lenced," an Israeli spokesm

The chaos in the wake the withdrawal plunged Lebanese government dee

into crisis. It had vowed to deploy army in the vacant lso positions to head off mo Christian-Druze fighting. the Druze, accusing the a of backing the Christia warned it would fight army attempt to enter

The only Lebanese at base in the Shouf came un attack by Sunday morn with the army reporting "gr. IT WAS, AS Joe K men" had killed one soldraving a coach's ass men" had killed one sold aving a coach's ass and wounded six at their po. The player in the tions in Kfar Matta.

Heavy fighting raged also heart-stopping end the coastal highway south Hawkins — a tackl Beirut after the last Isra afety and a 19-17 convoys had passed, with the This was a wild Heavy fighting raged along Lebanese army trying to de hing. It shouldn't the Druze gunmen who is dinch the outcome. mediately took up position The Israelis officia

announced their long-await and Pratt kicks a 2 pullback in the middle of bead. Simple enoug night, hours after to But wait. Call ro Lebanese government ha first and goal at the protested the redeployme Bear offense. Kap was under way without pro Respect," he says lised coordination with again before the en was under way without pro

Syria, seeking to bloom tack to Texas," Kaj Lebanon's withdrawal age ays Rivera. ment with Israel, has back the revolt against Gemayed both the Druze and Sharman the revolt against Gemayel both the Druze and Shi populations. Damascus h refused to withdraw its 40,1 troops from Lebanon.

Israel has refused to stage complete withdrawal of estimated 30,000 troops in less Syria and the Palestiniz

Computer newspaper for laymen then things fell the last play of the McCown, the Chronicle's edi-

United Press International AUSTIN — The First Com-

puter Chronicle, a twice-monthly newspaper aimed at educating the layman about high technology, is attempting to convince technical neophytes that computers are money-makers as well as money-savers.

Bill McCown, a management consultant, and partner Doug Powell, whose background is in direct mailing, began the publication in June and describe its

The Chronicle, distributed free of charge, features articles and columns by a variety of computer specialists. It is aimed at businesses with \$25 million or less in annual sales that either already have computer systems or are interested in getting

how to do their accounting func-tions and the financial sides of their businesses, but what I call the power of customer contact who their customers are, the type of things they buy, when they buy them," said Powell, 33, the paper's advertising man-

"The main reason people should be interested in computers is because they can make you money and not just count your money.

The Austin area is a prime spot for a publication like the Chronicle because of the city's growing computer industry. The new, multi-million-dollar Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corp., a research pool backed by a consortium of major U.S. firms — will be oper-"One of the major things peo-ating in Austin late next year.

White House orders NASA

to tone down Glenn image

In its current edition News-

week said the White House also

United Press International
NEW YORK — In a bit of space politics, the White House 25th anniversary.

tor and publisher, said too many computer publications are filled with "computerese" that might tend to confuse the layman. The Chronicle's articles are geared away from the more technical aspects of computers. "It has always been my feeling that it is not necessary to understand what makes pistons

go up and down in order to know how to drive a car," said McCown, 45. "The purpose of the paper is to present information about computers and formats so that

people can hopefully figure out what questions they need to ask so that when they go in to talk to a computer salesman they won't be at his mercy."

He said 60 percent of the

paper's 15,000 subscribers, who receive the publication through nomenal.

tly, Newsweek said.

The magazine quoted an un-

puter systems and want to a quarter started, the more about them. The remains "It wasn't a defeing clients are interested informall. I had reco ing out how computers m where I was aimin help their businesses. Kapp straighten Advertisers are "really 2 to be a man," Gilb

body that wants to reach d sion-makers and people in upper-middle income ran lost it. Look at the McCown says.

Powell and McCown put team messed up its \$40,000 to begin the newspa required ten yard in June with a 12-page first started the game a tion. The Chronicle's paying ter.

in June with a 12-page use tion. The Chronicle's next is later.
will be an expanded 20 page of the Aggies we and the co-owners say they begone that could pect the publication to control buard spent murdelense. His first

of the space shuttle Challe

"On June 15, we rente out, however. The facility and moved, just deed tased it down) at to do it and jumped right sm Aggies need a Tw in the middle of it," McC • A fourth quan said. "The success has been if first and ten at the

IN THE AGG prominently in several of terested in not allowing his NASA's commemorative publi- age as an astronaut to over

cations - but not too prominen- dow his political credentials magazine said. As for Begg, an unidentification senior Reagan administra official told Newsweek said White House was angered photographs of California tical activists Jane Fonda Tom Hayden at the laund

identified Reagan aide as saying, "We've told (NASA) to give the guy his due but not to make him was unhappy with NASA Administrator James Begg, claiming he had a "lack of political sensi-THE UNDERGROUND As the first American to orbit Earth, Glenn is mentioned Glenn, a Democratic candidate for president and U.S. of the spatial forms of t NOW OPEN

ordered NASA not to portray Democratic presidential candi-

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