

Beer getting unusual competition

Wine industry growing in Texas

United Press International

Texas, a state known for beer-drinking rednecks, is the home of a fledgling wine industry that takes itself seriously even if wine drinkers do not.

There are currently 14 bonded wineries scattered across the state, and the number is growing rapidly.

"By the year 2000, it will be the No. 2 wine producer in the country, surpassing New York," said novice wine-maker Ron Wetherington, an anthropologist with less than a year's experience at winemaking.

"The amount of vineyard acres has been doubling each year for the past three years to a current level of slightly more than 2,000 acres," said Dr. Charles McKinney, a grape expert at the University of Texas experimental vineyard in Pecos County.

Before Prohibition, there were 30 wineries in Texas. The wine industry began a resurgence in the 1970s, and it has been growing at a remarkable rate since.

"Of the 14 wineries that are in Texas, only a handful have been around for awhile," said Parker County vintner Steve Smith.

Seven of the 14 were started in the last 18 months, he said. He

and his father founded La Buena Vida Wineries, one of the oldest of the modern Texas wineries.

The Smiths' operation in Springtown, about 25 miles northwest of Fort Worth, includes 12 acres of grapes and an on-site winery. Last year they made 60,000 bottles of red and white wines, and Smith estimated that would increase to 100,000 bottles this season.

They planted their first vines in 1974 and it takes four years to produce a mature, harvestable crop. Smith said La Buena Vida has not made a profit in its five years of wine making.

He predicted that would change with the 1983 crop.

The state's oldest bonded winery is the Val Verde Winery in Del Rio, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. It survived Prohibition by making sacramental wines.

UT's McKinney said the oldest bonded modern Texas winery is Llano Estacado in Lubbock, which is also the state's largest. It has the state's only college-trained wine maker, Kim McPherson, 30, who studied at the University of California-Davis.

McPherson worked in California's famed Napa Valley before moving to Llano Estacado.

He said he is not producing California-quality wines yet, but "we are getting better every year."

"We're still trying to get a handle on things out here," he said. "You don't know what will work and won't work. Basically what we're doing is experimental research, not that we're making experimental wines, but he haven't been in the business 35, 40 years like some out there."

McKinney said it was unfair to make a direct comparison between Texas and California wines.

"A lot of Texas is not like California and produces a different style of wine," he said. "West Texas grows grapes like California. Central and north central Texas grows grapes like the eastern U.S., so a direct comparison of Texas and California, I think, is not a valid comparison."

But the Smiths' wines already have won awards. In the Eastern U.S. Wine Competition, a port produced by La Buena Vida in 1980 won a gold medal.

Smith said Texas wineries make good wines, not great wines. He predicted the quality would improve as vines age and wine makers gain experience.

"We'll never make a better quality (Cabernet) Sauvignon," said Wetherington, comparing the wines he produces at his San-

chez Creek Winery in Parker County to those produced in California. "I think we have the potential in our vineyard to make a dry table wine as good as anything California can make."

Wetherington bought his eight-acre vineyard last winter although he did not have any agricultural experience, and only a crash course in grape growing and wine making.

Earlier this summer he bottled his first batch of rose. He pasted labels on the bottles, blended his red and white wines and filled the bottles.

Unfortunately instead of a mellow, light colored wine, he came up with a purplish, dry wine that is definitely not a rose.

"We're all new to this business," he said with a shrug.

Wetherington's vineyard is about 30 miles from the Smiths', and, rather than compete, they help each other. They sell each other grapes — varieties they grow, but decide they do not want, and they trade information.

"We have a long way to go to sell Texans on Texas wines," Wetherington said.

Wine makers in the state are largely on their own. No Texas

college offers a degree in wine-making.

Texas A&M, tries to provide assistance, but Wetherington described it as the blind leading the blind.

The University of Texas has begun building a 1,000-acre vineyard and winery in Pecos County in far West Texas. A three-member consortium, which includes two French wine-makers, has a lease agreement with the school to run the winery.

"This new firm will build and operate a winery, and operate the vineyards, which should reach about 1,000 acres by 1984," UT spokesman Joe Roddy said. "It also should produce grapes sufficient to produce 1.5 million gallons of wine by 1988."

Now you know

United Press International
The condition that gave W.C. Fields his swollen red nose is known as rhinophyma and usually is caused by heavy drinking.

ALL TANKS AND THE SQUARES

RVMARK'S

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BLUESANT
PRODUCTION

SEPT 9
8PM Tickets 2.50

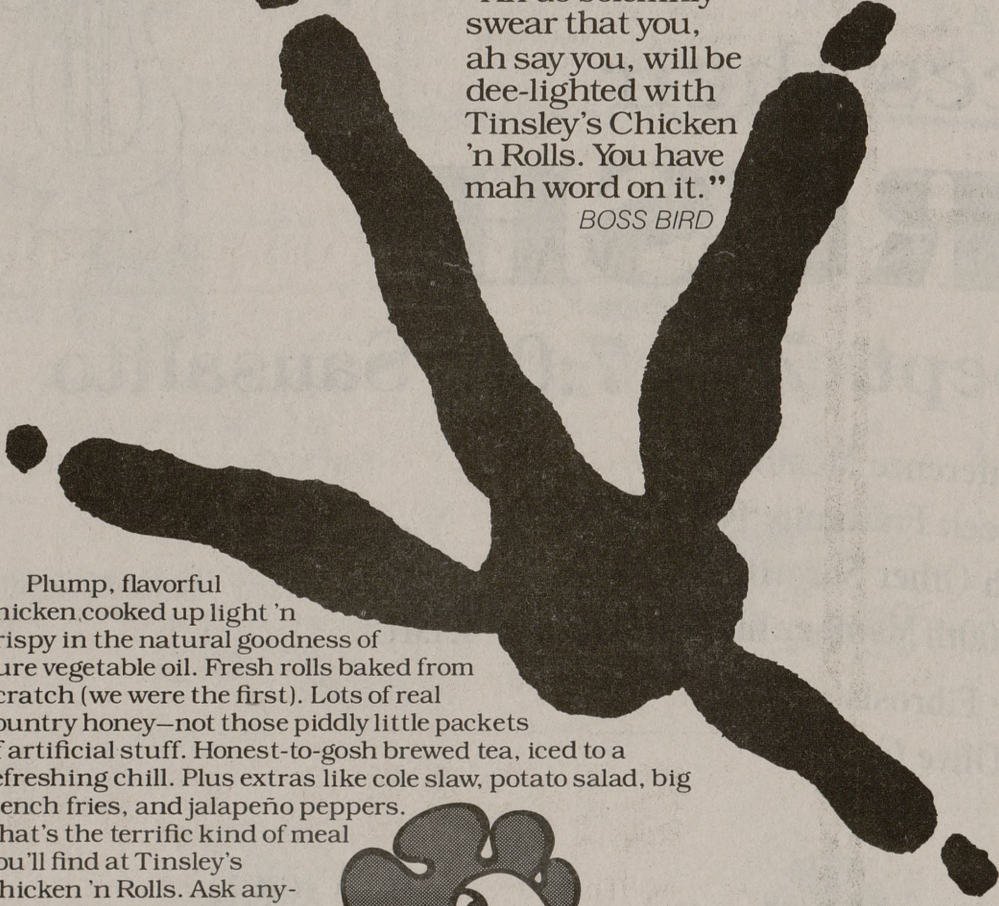
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Plump, flavorful chicken cooked up light 'n crispy in the natural goodness of pure vegetable oil. Fresh rolls baked from scratch (we were the first). Lots of real country honey—not those piddly little packets of artificial stuff. Honest-to-gosh brewed tea, iced to a refreshing chill. Plus extras like cole slaw, potato salad, big french fries, and jalapeño peppers. That's the terrific kind of meal you'll find at Tinsley's Chicken 'n Rolls. Ask anybody if it isn't so. Ask Boss Bird.

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Attention All Recognized Student Organizations

Check your boxes for a copy of the 1984 Aggieland yearbook contract. If your organization has not received a contract, contact our office at 845-2681 or 845-2682 or come by Room 0012 in the basement of the Reed McDonald Building and pick up a contract.



Jordache and MSC Town Hall present

AIR SUPPLY

in concert
September 23 8:00 p.m.
G. Rollie White Coliseum
Tickets: \$9.50, \$9.00, \$8.00

On sale to the general public, beginning September 5.

- ### What's up WEDNESDAY
- CANTERBURY ASSOCIATION:** Join us for supper at 6 p.m. at the Episcopal Student Center, 902 Jersey.
 - STUDENT ENGINEERS' COUNCIL:** There will be an organizational meeting for elected members only Wed. at 7 a.m. 342 Zachry. Contact Ray Corcoran at 260-4278 for more information.
 - FINANCE ASSOCIATION:** The first meeting of the year is at 7 p.m. in 102 Blocker (A&A). Resume book and schedule of events will be discussed.
 - TAMU MUSICIANS' CLUB:** The first meeting of the semester is at 7 tonight in 504 Rudder and is open to all musicians those interested in music.
 - UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY:** There will be a devotion and a \$1 dinner from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the A&M Presbyterian Church at Northgate.
 - TAMU SKATEBOARD CLUB:** All those interested are welcome to come to the meeting at 6 p.m. in 216T MSC.
 - ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING SOCIETY:** Find out about IEEE activities at the informational meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 102 Zachry. Refreshments will be served.
 - ACCOUNTING SOCIETY:** The freshman and sophomore meeting begins tonight at 7:30 in 165 Blocker (A&A). Freshman officers will be elected.
 - OFF CAMPUS AGGIES:** Involvement opportunities will be discussed at the first general meeting in 601 Rudder at 6:30 p.m.
 - MSC MADRIGALS:** Auditions are now being held for madrigal singers, minstrels, instrumentalists and any other special talents. Come by the Vocal Music Office or call Annette Richardson at 764-1076.
 - SCUBA CLUB:** All divers interested in joining the club are welcome to the meeting in 604 AB Rudder at 7 p.m.
 - MSC ENDOWED LECTURE SERIES:** We are now accepting applications for leadership positions. They are available until Friday at the secretary's island in 216 MSC.
 - MESQUITE HOMETOWN CLUB:** Activities will be planned at 7 p.m. in 407 AB Rudder.
 - SOCIETY OF AGGIE SCHOLARS:** The ice cream party scheduled for 7:30 tonight in 201 MSC.
 - MSC BLACK AWARENESS COMMITTEE:** A discussion of the calendar of events for the school year will be held at 7 p.m. in 301 Rudder.
 - MSC AGGIE CINEMA:** The movie tonight is "Being There" 7:30 in the Rudder Theater. Admission is \$1.50 with a TAMU I.D.
 - TEXAS A&M PISTOL TEAM:** Tryouts will be held in the Trigon basement at 7 p.m. until Friday. For more information call Peter Schaller at 846-0112.
 - STUDENT GOVERNMENT:** Pick up applications for census and research chairman, communications chairman and memberships on these committees through Friday in 219 Pavilion. Applications for Parents Day and Muster committees are also available in the Student Government office.
 - TAMU MENS LACROSSE CLUB:** Meet on the Drill Field at 7 p.m. if interested in playing lacrosse for Texas A&M. Beginning and experienced players welcome.
 - PRE-LAW SOCIETY:** W.W. Vance, a criminal lawyer, will speak at 7 p.m. in 501 Rudder. New members are welcome.

Home-made plane crashes, two hurt

United Press International
PELL CITY, Ala. — A home-built airplane crashed at the St.

The pilot of the Long Egg experimental aircraft was identified as J. Carlin Johnston of Austin. The woman was identified as Judy Johnston.

Johnston was listed in fair condition Tuesday at the University of Alabama-Birmingham Medical Center. The woman was treated for minor injuries and released. Both appeared to be in their early 30s, officials said.

An airport spokesman said the single-engine plane, which was built from a kit, was headed from New Bern, N.C. to Austin and was coming into the airport in Pell City to refuel.

The Pell City Fire Department received the crash call at 5:26 p.m. during an intense thunderstorm. A fire department spokesman said it appeared wind and rain caused the crash.

These first they dry

Pon

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — 4,600 fun-lovers buffed braved rain and say goodbye to a party at the Pontchartrain Amusement Park. The park closed for the last time Monday more than four hours of laughter, screams and passage. The cleared, will be dominions. "Parks such as better days," said Harry Batt. "We" — lot of thrill ride

Police

The following reported to the U Department Fr Sunday.

THEFTS:
• A gold Sears speed bicycle from Hall bike rack.
• A blue Fuji 1 from the Sterling rary bike rack.
• A blue Huffy cle from the west Hall.
• A wallet from of G. Rollie White. The student was ball at the time are a Texas driv in cash and seven

RECOVERY:
• A red Mont 10-speed bicycle the Commons. It stolen last week parking lot west Hall and north

OTHER:
• Mud and