

Hay sales program helps drought-stricken ranchers

United Press International
AUSTIN — Standing before a fully loaded tractor-trailer rig, Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower Wednesday kicked off a farmer-to-rancher hay sales program he said would ease the plight of drought-stricken West Texas cattlemen.

Under the program, the Texas Department of Agriculture will serve as middleman between cattlemen who need feed

for their stock and East and Central Texas hay farmers, some of whom have no market for late cuttings of their hay.

According to Hightower, cattlemen buying hay to use as winter feed for breeding stock can save a minimum of 15 percent through the direct-marketing program, dubbed "Operation DIAL-HAY" by the Agriculture Department.

However, a final sale price

will be up to the respective buyer and seller, he said.

"The state's role in all of this is merely to serve as the telephone operator," Hightower said.

Hightower's 440-bale load backdrop was purchased by Edd Hughs, a McCamey rancher, from Hillsboro farmer Jerry Bailey.

Seven arrested for unlawful horse racing with "ringer"

United Press International
ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Seven people, including two Canandaigua residents, have been arrested for their alleged participation in illegal horse racing activity involving a "ringer horse."

"This means a horse of greater quality assumed the identification of a horse of lesser quality," said Jim Weller, assistant special agent of the Buffalo FBI

office, which covers 17 counties of western New York.

The ringer horse, whose real identity is Gallant Viking, was substituted for a horse called Data Up, Weller said. The real Data Up is believed to be dead, he added.

The FBI said Gallant Viking apparently assumed Data Up's identity in April 1980, when he was tattooed with an ID mark at

Finger Lakes Race Track in Farmington.

The horse raced three times in the United States.

The FBI said Lida O'Neill and Russell Mulligan of Canandaigua were arrested on six counts in the scheme.

Also named in the indictment were Robert Ellis of Fort Worth; Oacus Oakes of Indianapolis;

Donald Bowers of Anza, and Robert and Sue Heber of Cortaro, Ariz.

Gallant Viking is believed to be in the Fort Lauderdale area now, Weller said.

Weller said the investigation, which has been going on for nine months, is continuing.

He said more people or horses might be involved in the horse-racing, but he declined to elaborate.

Houston museum gets exhibit

Python death sentence stayed

United Press International
VICTORIA — Alan Haas' nine-foot-long pet python which escaped in March 1982 and turned up last week inside a bar has escaped a death sentence and will go to a Houston museum, officials said Wednesday.

Assistant City Attorney Mark Taylor, who had ruled Haas could not have the snake back after it terrorized patrons at the Copacabana bar last Friday, de-

ecided to give it to the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

Citing an ordinance forbidding wild animals inside the city limits, Taylor had said the snake would have to be "put to sleep" if no suitable home could be found.

"We have decided to go ahead and donate it to the Houston Museum of Natural Science," Taylor said. "We wanted to give it to a public institution

reaching a broad number of people.

"We also wanted to make sure whoever we gave it to would use it as a live exhibit and not stuffed."

Taylor said the snake was not returned to Haas, even to be kept outside the city limits, because the city attorney's office decided it had become a wild animal again subject to recapture by anyone.

Haas, who had a previous run-in with the city over an escaped snake but since has taken his other snakes outside the city limits was unhappy about Taylor's handling of the case.

Haas felt his recommendation of the San Antonio Herpetological Society or the Lufkin Zoo should have been followed.

"He said if I found a place, either a zoo or some kind of educational institution, he would go along with it," Haas said. "He was far too demanding of where the snake was going to go."

Taylor said he considered Haas' recommendations, which included a couple of other options, and rejected them because they did not reach as many people as the museum.

Haas said in March 1982, a Christmas present had nicknamed "Big Snake" escaped a 9-foot cage in his home, triggering a brief but tense snake hunt.

The snake would have to be "put to sleep" if no suitable home could be found.

When found, Haas said the snake appeared in good condition. He did not consider it dangerous to people. But city officials disagreed.

"All we're trying to do is get somebody from getting a bad guy," complained an animal control director before Williams.

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5¹⁹ 80° **10⁷⁵** 80°
Popov
80° 1.75 Ltr.
6⁹⁹

Bourbon



Jack Daniels
750 ml. 1.75 Ltr.
8⁷⁹ 90° **19⁶⁹** 90°
Seagram's 7
Crown Blend
1.75 Ltr.
11⁹⁹ 90°

Tequila

Jose Cuervo Gold

8¹⁹ 750 ml 80°
Juarez
1 Ltr. 80° **9⁴⁹** 1.75 Ltr. 80°
5²⁹

Gin



Fleischmann's
8⁶⁹
1.75 Ltr. 80°

Rum



Bacardi
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11⁸⁹ 1.75 Ltr. 80°

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