

Trailways profits up due to bus strike

United Press International
DALLAS — Trailways Bus System officials said Tuesday they sold 73 percent more tickets this month than last November and had called back all furloughed employees to meet increased demand from the 26-day Greyhound strike.

However, they said there were no long-range plans to assume a larger market share when the strike ends.

Spokeswoman Trisha Barnett at the Dallas headquarters of the nation's second-largest

bus company said ridership on the line had "about doubled" nationwide since the Greyhound strike began, although exact figures would not be available until Dec. 10.

She said about 500 employees had been furloughed for the slack fall season when 12,700 Amalgamated Transit Union workers struck Greyhound. The ensuing Greyhound cutback handed Trailways an unseasonable windfall.

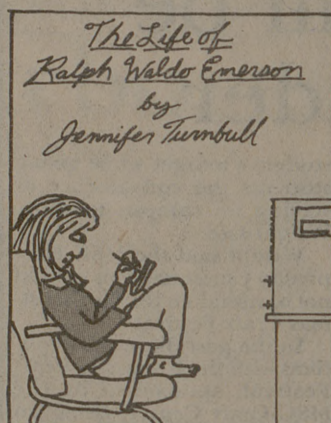
"We've brought back all furloughed workers," Barnett said.

"We have added a handful of new routes, but they're ones we'd been planning for some time and they're not a response to the Greyhound strike."

Barnett said ticket sales for November 1983 ran about 73 percent ahead of sales for the same period last year. She said the privately held company would not release any figures regarding income.

Reports during the Thanksgiving weekend said the ATU had approached Trailways officials about hiring striking Greyhound drivers, but Barnett said there were no plans to do so.

R.I.



by Paul Dirmev

Winds

A quiet hurricane season ends with a breeze

United Press International
MIAMI — The Atlantic and Caribbean hurricane season ends today with only three of the deadly storms taking form — the quietest season in over half a century.

Forecasters say an average of six hurricanes are spawned each year. There also are an average of 10 tropical storms, but only four formed in 1983, including the three that later became hurricanes, making it the quietest year since 1930 — which had only two hurricanes.

Conditions were poor for hurricane formation, forecasters say, but the next couple of years are more likely to produce the potentially deadly storms

which pack winds of 75 mph or greater.

"There's been a significant amount of westerly winds over the Caribbean and in that area where the seedling storms move from Africa and westward across the Atlantic," Hal Gerrish of the National Hurricane Center said Tuesday.

"These systems simply have not spawned storms where they normally do and instead the eastern Pacific has had hurricanes."

The westerly "shear" blew the tropical depressions across the Atlantic before they had time to develop into storms, Gerrish said.

The hurricanes that were

spawned this year were Alicia, Barry and Chantal.

Alicia stormed ashore at Galveston Island Aug. 18 packing 100 mph winds. Before it petered out in Oklahoma, 21 people were dead and damage estimates climbed as high as \$2 billion.

The other two hurricanes and one tropical storm failed to cause significant damage or injuries.

Barry meandered across Florida Aug. 25, losing much of its punch, then picked up strength over the Gulf of Mexico. It went ashore again in northern Mexico with 80 mph winds.

Chantal fizzled out Sept. 13 in

the north Atlantic without hitting land.

Gerrish said one possible explanation for the quiet season is the weather phenomenon known as El Nino, which involves changes in atmospheric pressure that in turn abnormal heat up ocean waters and wind flows.

The phenomenon is a better understood global climatic variation that, according to theories, squelches Atlantic hurricanes by strengthening eastern-bound jet stream, which normally diminishes in the summer. The jet stream shears top off developing storms.

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Mineral leasing dispute leading to court case

United Press International
VICTORIA (UPI) — A South Texas river authority is taking the Department of Interior to court over the granting of mineral leases around the Lake Texana project northeast of Victoria, a lawyer said Tuesday.

The Lavaca-Navidad River Authority filed suit in Victoria federal court asking that leases granted on 8,000 acres of land at \$1 an acre and one-eighth royalty interest be set aside in favor of competitive bidding.

LNRA is a state-chartered agency, but Interior's Bureau of Reclamation obtained the land for LNRA's 16,000-acre Palmetto Bend project, which includes

initial bonus and as much as one-quarter royalty interest.

Crowder said former Interior Secretary James Watt's mineral leasing policy on federal lands could cost LNRA hundreds of thousands of dollars earmarked for retiring the \$23 million debt on the Lake Texana project.

Crowder said 42.6 percent of the income by contract goes toward the debt.

LNRA is a state-chartered agency, but Interior's Bureau of Reclamation obtained the land for LNRA's 16,000-acre Palmetto Bend project, which includes

an 11,000-acre Lake Texana through purchase and condemnation proceedings.

"Take the difference between \$1 an acre and \$100 an acre. That's the difference between \$8,000 and \$800,000," Crowder said. "And that's the initial bonus."

"I'd hate to say that Watt's self did it. I don't know that had personal knowledge of it, but there was a great push to do it," Crowder said. "It's in line with what's happened in Wyoming and up in western Arkansas."

The case has been assigned U.S. District Judge George Kazen of Laredo.

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Police beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department through Tuesday:

THEFTS:
A blue 10-speed bicycle from the Commons bike rack.
A yellow 10-speed bicycle from the Commons bike rack.
A red 3-speed bicycle from the front of the Memorial Student Center.
A wallet from the women's locker room in G. Rollie White Coliseum. The wallet contained a Texas driver's license, a Texas A&M I.D. card and several dit cards.

BURGLARY:
A cassette player from a pickup parked in the student lot west of Wofford Cain Pool.

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