

Two Texans convicted on charges of slavery

United Press International
TYLER — An federal jury Wednesday convicted two men on involuntary servitude charges for the enslavement of illegal aliens hauled from south Texas in an enclosed trailer to work on a tree farm.

The jury deliberated two hours before convicting Steven Crawford, 20, of Center and Randall Waggoner, 22, of Nacogdoches on 19 counts involving conspiracy, transportation of aliens and involuntary servitude.

U.S. District Judge William Steger set sentencing for Feb. 6.

The men face maximum penalties of five years in jail and a \$10,000 fine for a charge of conspiracy to transport illegal aliens, five years and a \$2,000 fine for each charge of transporting aliens and five years and \$5,000 fine for each charge of involuntary servitude.

The two were accused of paying \$50 each for 19 illegal aliens and taking them 400 miles from Rock Springs on the border to Crawford's east Texas tree farm.

Prosecutors said the men promised the aliens \$25 a day for their work, but then gave them little food and kept them working at no wages, sometimes under gunpoint.

In closing arguments Wednesday, Defense attorney Jeff Baynham asked the jury to consider the ages of the defendants.

"They have learned their les-

son if there is a lesson to be learned here," Baynham said. "They were two young men not making smart decisions."

But Susan King, one of two attorneys from the civil rights division of the Justice Department in Washington, said Crawford and Waggoner knew exactly what they were doing.

"Both (of the defendants) intimidated the workers. They wanted to make money off the Mexicans," Ms. King said.

Prosecutor Criselda Ortiz said, "Crawford knew what he was doing and you do not rent a U-Haul for humans."

Waggoner testified in his own behalf Tuesday and said he worked for Crawford about 45 days last winter supervising Mexicans. He admitted driving to Rock Springs to pick up 19 Mexicans at a prearranged meeting place.

"I was only doing what I was told to do," he said.

A Mexican testified Tuesday he and 13 other illegal aliens fled last February from the back of a pickup truck driven by a rifle-toting Waggoner.

Julio Martinez Rios said they jumped from the back of Waggoner's pickup in Center but

were forced back in at riflepoint by Waggoner. Moments later when the truck stopped at a red light, the aliens again leaped out and ran to nearby stores where they got help.

Jose Armando Gonzalez, 29, testified Monday that he hid the aliens in a chicken coop near the Texas-Mexico border for two or three days until Waggoner and Crawford picked them up.



Polish that dome

Kevin P. Dworczyk, Battalion photo

Perched precariously atop the dome of the Academic Building, a restoration worker known only as

Raul quietly polishes under the surprisingly warm Tuesday afternoon sunshine

Oil discovered on Indian land

United Press International
WOODVILLE — Union Oil Co. of California has made a significant natural gas discovery in an exploratory well on the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation, which could mean up to \$6 million in royalty payments to the reservation over the next 20 years, officials said Wednesday.

The initial tests indicated 13.5 million cubic feet of natural gas and 12 barrels of 42.6-degree gravity condensate a day.

The reservation, which is home to about 600 Indians, is located 75 miles north of Houston.

Indian tribe leaders said they are looking to the energy revenues to help make up for the loss of federal aid in recent years. Union Oil has leased 1,500 acres on the 4,000 acres reservation for oil and gas exploration.

Ray Apodaca, superintendent of the Texas Indian Commission, said Indian leaders will meet Thursday to work out a plan to spend the expected royalty revenues.

"We want to be ensure what

has happened in the past does not happen again. Too many times when a reservation comes into money suddenly it is spent and then they wind up with nothing left," Apodaca said. "The money will be used to start helping out the health and human needs on the reservation," he said.

It could be another three to six months before the Union Oil well begins producing.

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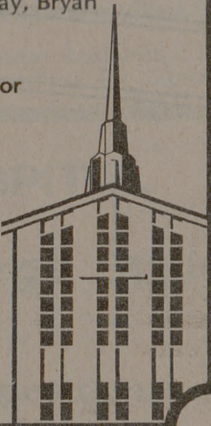
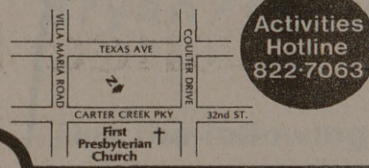
Dr. Robert Leslie, Pastor
 Rev. John McGarey, Associate Pastor

SUNDAY:

Worship at 8:30AM & 11:00AM
 Church School at 9:30AM
 College Class at 9:30AM
 (Bus from TAMU Krueger/Dunn 9:10AM
 Northgate 9:15AM)

Youth Meeting at 5:00PM
 Nursery: All Events

Activities
 Hotline
 822-7063

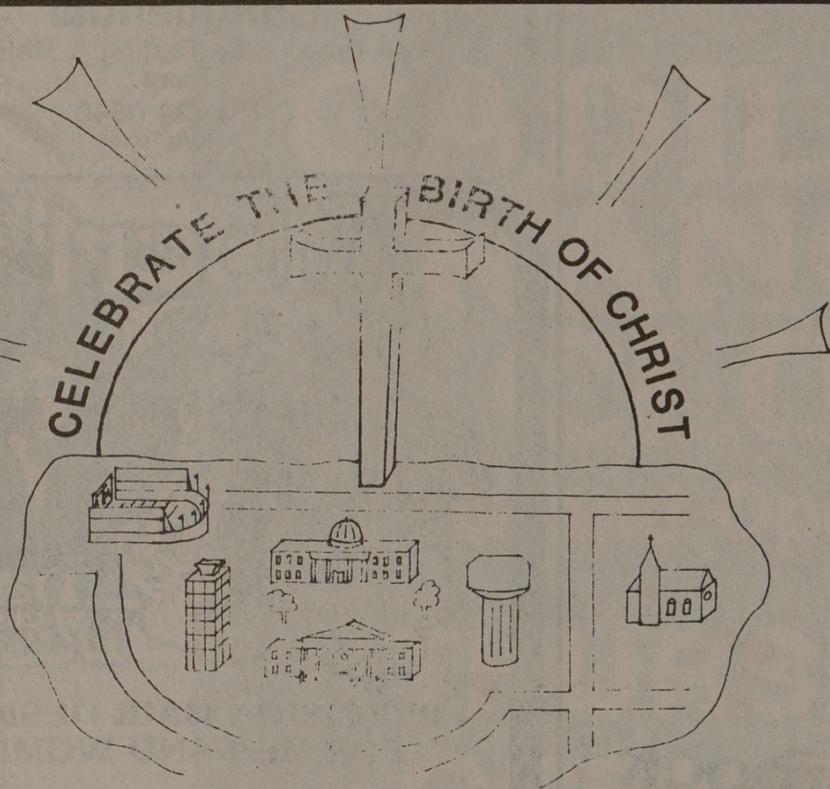


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