

Cattlemen, tortoise fight over control of Utah land

United Press International

SALT LAKE CITY — It's the cattlemen vs. the tortoise in the latest version of the old fashioned range war of the West.

The cattle ranchers are lined up against preservationists in the battle for sparse vegetation in southwest Utah, fighting over the question of which is more threatened — the Desert Tortoise or the cattle industry.

The land where the battle began is a 35-square-mile desert known as the Beaver Dam Slope where, since 1980, the tortoise as a federally designated threatened species, has been guaranteed its share of shrubs.

Preservationists say the foot-long tortoise, with its high-dome brown shell, gray scales and yellow limb sockets, has become an unfamiliar sight amid the sagebrush where it has lived for more than 12,000 years.

Because the tortoise is threatened, cattlemen each year must pull their herds off the federally owned range in March to leave behind spring vegetation that is critical nourishment for tortoises emerging weak from hibernation and preparing to breed. The

cattle cannot graze the land again until October.

Ranchers say they grudgingly have accepted the Bureau of Land Management dictum so far, but they fear any further push to revive the tortoise population could force them off the land altogether and threaten them with financial extinction.

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"It's mostly a lot of misunderstanding and a lot of hype," — Wildlife Resources spokesman.

cattlemen could be knocked out of business who have carried on fine operations for generations," said Rep. James Hansen, R-Utah, whose district encompasses the rangeland.

"The Desert Tortoise and the cattlemen have lived compatibly since the 1880s," he said, "and I doubt the cattlemen are any threat to them now. My guess is that a bigger threat is that every kid in the country has a string tied around one's neck."

Wildlife Service Director Robert Jantzen has agreed to review the process by which the Desert Tortoise joined a growing list of animals considered threatened.

Wildlife Service spokeswoman Megan Durham said Jantzen agreed to the review at the request of Hansen.

Hansen is concerned about the influence of the Desert Tortoise Council, a preservationist group dedicated to the tortoise's survival.

"The thing that ticked me off is that the Fish and Wildlife Service gave the Desert Tortoise Council the contract to study whether the Desert Tortoise should be placed on the threatened species list," Hansen said. "It raises suspicion about the impartiality of the decision."

Durham confirmed that the Desert Tortoise Council studied the tortoise population, but she said the Fish and Wildlife Service also solicited and received information from cattlemen, university biologists, zoologists and others.

"We want to be responsive to the congressman and see if there is a conflict of interests," she said. "The listing of the species has been contro-

versial all the way along. Many people feel that economics is more important than the survival of the species."

Mike Coffeen of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources said listing the tortoise as a threatened species has not interfered with cattle grazing.

"The cattlemen protest, but they pull their cattle off the range early," he said. "It's

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mostly a lot of misunderstanding and a lot of hype."

Robert Benton, a biologist for the Fish and Wildlife Service, said the proposed plan to revive the tortoise population would not forbid or further limit cattle grazing. The draft has yet to be sent to Washington for approval.

Louisiana wants to bring Lucas to trial for killings

United Press International

BENTON, La. — Confessed mass killer Henry Lee Lucas was indicted Tuesday in the strangulation of a northwest Louisiana woman and the stabbing death of an unidentified female hitchhiker.

A Bossier Parish grand jury indicted Lucas, 48, after hearing evidence from interviews with the condemned killer last week. Lucas reportedly confessed to the slayings and confirmed information investigators had gathered in the crimes, said Bossier-Webster District Attorney Henry Brown.

Lucas claims to have killed 360 people while drifting around the country. He has been sentenced to death and prison terms of 75 years and life for slayings in Texas, and has been charged with slayings in several states.

Lucas, 48, was indicted for first-degree murder in the 1978 death of Dolly Dement, 48, of Coshatta. He was accused of picking her up in a Bossier City bar and later stabbing her 11 times, strangling and sexually assaulting her, then dumping her body near railroad tracks.

He also was indicted for first-degree murder in the 1981 death of a hitchhiker, whose decomposed body was found by a hunter along a highway near Bellevue. She had been stabbed,

and a kitchen knife was found embedded in the ground near her body.

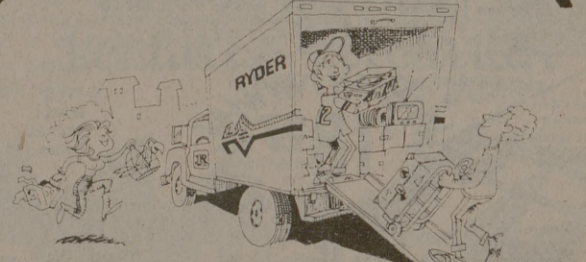
Lucas could not identify the woman, but told authorities she had a southern accent and he believed he picked her up while she was hitchhiking near Dallas, Brown said.

Brown said he would try to

have Lucas brought to Louisiana for trial.

"I don't think we'll get him until they get through in Texas, and there are some other states who want him," Brown said. "We will eventually get him back here for trial, it just may be a little while."

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Texas bank moves North

United Press International

SIoux FALLS, S.D. — Gov. Bill Janklow announced Tuesday that a Texas bank plans to move its credit card operation to South Dakota, providing 300 new jobs in the first year.

Janklow said First City Bancorporation would open an office in Sioux Falls, the state's largest city. The governor estimated the new bank would employ 500 people by its second year of operation.

The bank corporation has 65 members and \$16.1 billion in assets. It is the 18th largest bank

corporation in the United States.

South Dakota has been recognized as a leader in a move to relax banking industry regulations. The out-of-state influx of national banking companies began in 1980, when Citibank moved its credit card operation to Sioux Falls after limits on interest rates were abolished.

The new bank will be called First City Bank of Sioux Falls. The Sioux Falls operation will handle the company's credit card operation, the 15th largest of its kind in the nation.

South Dakota operations will

be headed by President E. Michael Gatewood. Gatewood is currently a senior vice president for First City.

Gatewood said First City Bancorporation would file its national charter Thursday with federal banking authorities in Dallas. The South Dakota Banking Commission also must approve the charter.

The Federal Reserve has put on hold consideration of three requests for state charters by national banks that want to operate insurance companies in South Dakota.

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American to increase flights, plus

United Press International

CHICAGO — American Airlines began service to three new cities Tuesday to kick off an expansion that will nearly double the airline's flights out of Chicago by 1988.

In what will be American's largest expansion, the Dallas-based company will spend \$188 million to enlarge its terminal at O'Hare International Airport, from 16 to 30 gates, add 1,500 workers to its Chicago force, fly to 15 new locations and nearly double its departures from the city, said Robert L. Crandall, spokesman for the airlines.

In five years, American could become one of Chicago's largest employers, with a staff of 15,750, he said.

American's announcement follows by one week an announcement that the top domestic carrier, United Airlines, will add 67 flights and begin service to 10 additional cities June 1.

American, the No. 2 domestic airline, began flights to three new locations Tuesday — Providence, R.I.; Ontario, Calif.; and Bermuda. In the next two months, the airline will add 49 daily flights to its O'Hare operations and hire 650 employees.

By July 2, American will add service from Chicago to Des Moines, Iowa; Omaha, Neb.; Fort Wayne, Ind.; Grand Rapids, Mich.; Wichita, Kan.; Reno, Nev.; Pittsburgh; Burbank and Oakland, Calif.; Portland, Ore.; and Harrisburg, Pa.

Crandall said the expansion was made possible by a recent labor agreement and the decision to purchase 167 new aircraft over the next five years. The federal government also is loosening controls on landing slots at O'Hare.

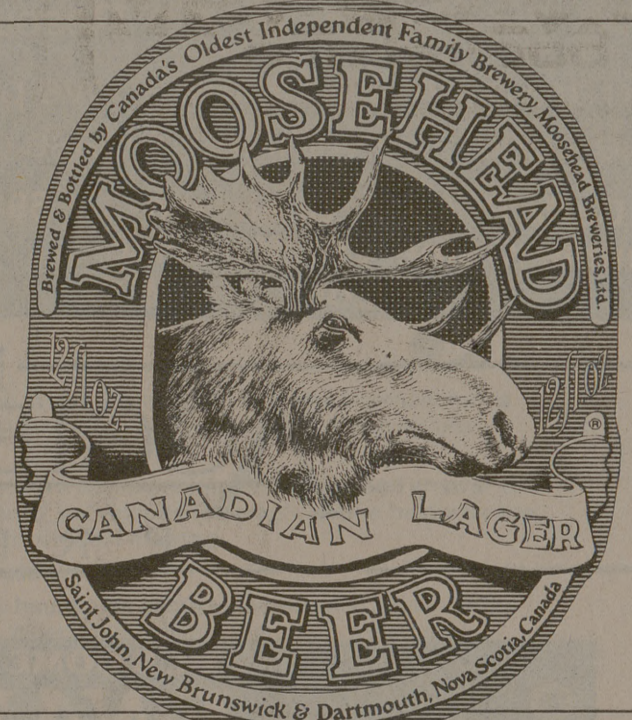
American annually pumps an estimated \$284 million into Chicago's economy in wages, taxes and other expenditures, Crandall said. That amount will increase to \$558 million in five years, he said.

American is planning a system-wide expansion over the next five years that will include development of a third hub in Denver by 1987 and additional transcontinental flights.

Delta also plans to expand service in Chicago and will open a new 10-gate terminal at O'Hare July 1.

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