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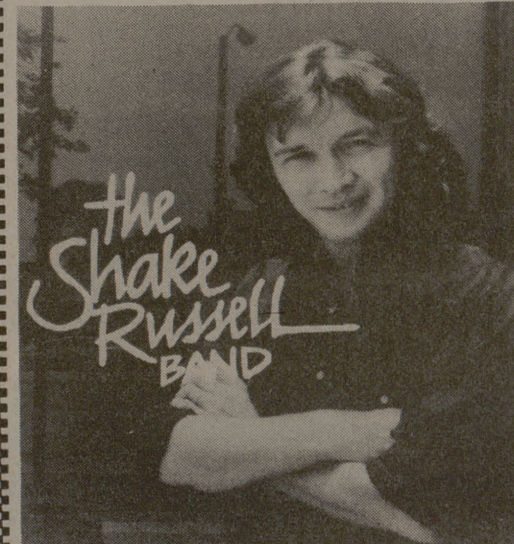


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Testtube triplets delivered

United Press International

HOUSTON — A boy and two girls born to an Austin couple Monday night became only the third set of testtube triplets born, officials at the University of Texas Health Science Center said Wednesday.

"Both babies and mother are doing well," said spokeswoman Kenna Giffin. "They're the third set of triplets in the world, but the first set from our program."

The parents of the babies are Guy Herman, 35, a Travis County attorney and justice of the peace, and Sara Simpson, 33, a staff attorney in the legal services division at the state controllers office.

The babies were delivered by Caesarian section Monday night at Seton Medical Center in Austin.

The boy, Russell Guy weighed 5 pounds-9½ ounces; the first girl, Margaret Eleanor, also weighed 5 pounds-9½ ounces; and a second girl, Julia Ruth, weighed 3 pounds-9½ ounces.

"The two bigger babies will probably go home in a week," Giffin said. "The smaller baby may have to stay in the hospital a little longer."

The births brought to 18 the number of babies delivered through the UTHSC-Houston in vitro fertilization program, Giffin said.

The only other multiple birth from the Houston program was a set of twins.

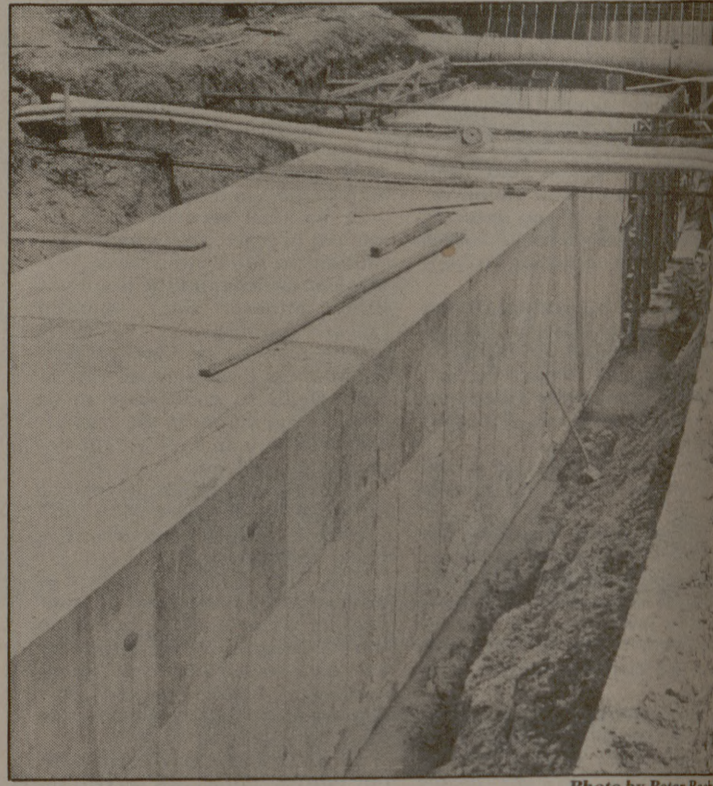
Underground walkway is nearing completion

Anyone who has driven through the narrow lanes created to make room for construction in front of the Veterinary Medicine Complex should be relieved to learn that in August, when the pedestrian passageway connecting the Small Animal Clinic and the Medical Sciences Library is completed, the gaping hole in the road will be filled.

Unfortunately, construction of the portion of the tunnel beneath the west side lanes on University Drive must first be completed. The hole in front of the Medical Sciences Library construction site will be filled and another hole will be dug on the opposite side of the road by the Small Animal Clinic.

"It's a safety feature," said Gen. Wesley Peel, vice-chancellor of facilities and planning for Texas A&M University. The passageway is being constructed for the sake of students and employees who would otherwise have to brave a stretch of University Drive with a heavy flow of traffic and no signals when crossing between the Medical Sciences Library and the Veterinary Medicine Complex.

"We had to choose between building an overhead or underground passageway," Peel said. An underground passageway is less expensive and requires less maintenance than an overhead walkway, he said.



Construction for an underground passageway has closed off two lanes of University Drive. The walkway will connect the Medical Sciences Library and the Veterinary Medicine Complex.

New Herpes pill may prove effective

Researchers find treatment for rash

United Press International

BOSTON — A new pill appears to be an effective treatment for herpes, suppressing the recurrent rashes that characterize the venereal disease suffered by millions of Americans, researchers reported Wednesday.

Two studies reported in the New England Journal of Medicine showed pills containing the drug acyclovir, given two to five times a day for a number of months, dramatically reduced recurrences of the painful rash.

"We found that with this treatment we could suppress most of the expected outbreaks and the drug was tolerated extremely well," said Dr. Stephen E. Straus, head of the Medical Virology Section at the National Institute of Health.

The pill or capsule form of the drug has been approved for experimental use, but is not yet available to the general public. In ointment form, it relieves some symptoms of herpes and slightly shortens the duration of the rash.

Genital herpes is an incurable viral infection afflicting 50 million to 150 million Americans or more. Among many victims, herpes rashes appear five to eight times a year, lasting about a week. The disease is generally only transmitted by sexual contact during outbreaks of the rash.

The drug was tested on patients with more severe cases of the disease which resulted in as many as 15 outbreaks a year.

In one of the studies, reported in

the New England Journal of Medicine, 35 patients were tested at the NIH. Sixteen were given the drug and an equal number were given a fake pill. Of the 16 given acyclovir, only four had outbreaks during the 125 days of the experiment. All 16 of those on the fake drug came down with a rash during that period.

At the University of Washington in Seattle, 92 patients were tested. That study found it usually took 120 days for the rash to reoccur while patients were on the drug and 18 days for patients on the fake drug.

But the doctors still urge caution. Because herpes generally has few severe symptoms, researchers were reluctant to recommend that large

daily doses of a drug, the side effects of which are not fully known.

"Although this drug has been remarkably safe, it could potentially be used by large numbers of healthy individuals and if there are going to be serious side effects it may be a problem if people happen to contract while on the drug or have other medical conditions," said Straus.

In a third study, reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association, University of Vermont researchers found acyclovir in capsules taken five times a day for 14 days shortened the duration of rash.

The study showed, however, the drug does not eliminate the virus from the patient's system.

May retail sales increase only 0.2 percent

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Retail sales increased only 0.2 percent in May, a crawl compared to April's 3.1 percent pace, suggesting the entire economy is slowing down, the Commerce Department said Wednesday. Numbers of sufferers begin taking Retail sales, seasonally adjusted, totaled \$107.3 billion in May — 10.3

percent above the same period last year, the report said.

Automobile sales, reaching a record \$22.2 billion, accounted for what little increase in sales occurred in April, the department said. Without a 0.8 percent increase in auto sales dollars, everything else would have been virtually unchanged.

Yet the May increase in auto sales

was hardly comparable to the 20.9 percent increase dealers reported the month before.

The figures were closely watched by analysts because investors and business planners are anxious for clues to the economy's future as interest rates climb.

But it turned out the figures did little to clear up the confusion about

whether the economy is growing enough to force interest rates higher.

Some analysts pointed out that April Easter may have stolen some of May's sales strength. And the best employment figures showed added hundreds of thousands of paychecks, arguing against an abrupt cooling off-period.

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-Father's Day is June 17th

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