## rotes Non-profit group provides services to needy in B-CS

By JENS B. KOEPKE

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An old man is nearly blind and cannot afford to buy a pair of

Who can he turn to for help in this community? The answer is HOULD-ON, a non-profit organiza-

This group is the local chapter of the Texas State Association of Handicapped, Old, Unfortunate, Lonely, Disadvantaged and Older-Needy people. The local chapter began operation in January 1985

Suzanne Braden, HOULD-ON's treasurer, says, "The group is here to help people who are down on their luck and who need a little help getting back on their feet.

HOULD-ON provides a variety of services for the community's needy, destitute or disabled residents, Bra-

The group entertains at nursing homes, supplies clothing and food for families in distress, helps poor families pay for medical care and provides transportation for the el-

In April, the group organized an Easter-egg hunt for the children at the Sheltering Arms in Bryan, she says. Sheltering Arms is a home for battered wives.

Other services have included getting medicine for a girl with a kidney disease and helping a poor mother buy medicine for one of her chil-

The group is the brain child of founder and executive director, Wink Lewis.

to an organization that can. "A lot of people need help, but nine out of 10 won't ask for help because they have so much pride," he

The organization finds needy people in the community through the help of local churches and hospitals. Braden says. For example, if a person comes into the hospital suffering from dehydration and tells the hospital staff that he was just too poor to buy groceries, Braden says, the hospital will contact HOULD-ON and the organization will try to help the person.

"Every time we help someone, they tell us about someone else who

needs help," Lewis says.
"Since we organized in January it seems like it's been a never-ending circle," he added.

Funds come from membership dues, fund-raisers and donations, Braden says. To alleviate the finan-

cial burden, the group often works together with local churches. "We would like to provide more services to the community, but we need more financial support," she

The organization is planning a benefit concert by country-and-west-ern star Freddy Fender on Sunday to raise money, she says. A key to the city of Bryan will be presented to Fender by a representative of the mayor's office and a beauty contest

"We would like to see the organization continue to grow and become more accepted by the community, Braden says.

The group has already provided more than 1,500 hours of volunteer "We strive to make a positive effort to help needy people in the community," Lewis says, "And if we Brenham area soon, Lewis says. work and hopes to expand into the

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## Gas companies announce merger

HOUSTON — InterNorth Inc. and Houston Natural Gas Corp. announced Thursday the formation of what could be the first border-toborder, coast-to-coast pipeline system in the United States.

The new system would be the nation's second-largest gas pipeline op-eration, next to Houston-based Tenneco Inc.

The two companies said a subsidiary of Omaha, Neb.-based Inter-North would begin a cash tender offer of \$70 per share for all outstanding common shares of Houston Natural Gas, to be followed by a merger at the same price.

The total price for the merger was stimated at about \$2.3 billion.

The merger also gives InterNorth an option to buy 5.9 million shares of Houston Natural Gas at \$70 a share and an option to buy twothirds of the stock of certain Houston Natural Gas' Texas intrastate pipeline subsidiares, including Houston Pipe Line Co., for \$867

The merger, approved by directors of both companies, was announced by Sam F. Segnar, 57, chairman and chief executive officer of InterNorth, and Kenneth L. Lay, 42, chairman and chief executive officer of Houston Natural Gas Co.

The combined company will oper-te under the name HNG Inter-North upon completion of the

"We believe that in the economic environment we envision for our industry's future, the strengths to be derived by combining these two

companies will produce a company uniquely positioned to serve the shareholders, employees, customers and communities of which we are a part," Segnar said.

Jay Olson, an analyst with Drexel Burnham Lambert in Houston, said InterNorth's primary motive in acquiring HNG was a defensive move to prevent a hostile takeover at-

Lay doubled the size of the company's pipeline system six months after joining Houston gas company.
InterNorth has 11,000 employees.

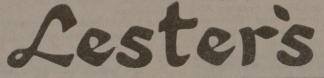
with 3,100 in Texas. The company has a pipeline system extending from the Texas Panhandle to the Texas Panhandle to the Canadian border.

The two companies have few du-

plicating facilities, but there are overlapping facilities in Texas. InterNorth acquired a 50 percent interest in a Valero Energy Corp. of San Antonio pipeline system in West Texas. The two companies formed a natural gas marketing company that competes directly with HNG's Texas intrastate subsidiary, Houston Pipe

Curt Launer of L.F. Rothschild, Unterber, Towbin in New York, said he estimates the combined company's operations would generate earnings of \$9 a share and cash flow of \$25 a share in 1985.

First-quarter earnings for 1985 reported by HNG showed the company had net income of \$39.4 million and total revenue of \$938.7 million. During the first quarter of 1984, the company earned \$579.3 million and had net income of \$29.6





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