

## Small citrus company expanding

Associated Press

HOUSTON — TreeSweet Products Inc. seemed content to be a small regional marketer of citrus products for 52 years, but in the past nine months the company has made some major business moves.

TreeSweet was a "profitable, but floundering" company when it was owned by San Francisco-based Di Giorgio Corp., said TreeSweet chairman Clinton E. Owens, a former Coca-Cola Foods executive.

"The markets that took were the ones that stayed. They never took a long-term planning approach to the business," he said.

So Owens, hearing that TreeSweet was for sale, quickly made an offer. Within 45 days, the company was his.

Nine months ago, Owens moved TreeSweet's main offices from Los Angeles to Houston. He had spent all of his 43 years in Los Angeles, but taxes there were "stifling" and he was hesitant to build a nationwide company from one end of the country, he said.

Since Owens took over in January, TreeSweet has taken some actions usually associated with larger companies.

Last week, the company dropped wholesale prices on orange juice by 12 to 15 percent. Owens said he expects the rest of the industry to follow suit because, in the wake of several severe freezes, prices had been on the rise.

TreeSweet also bought General Foods' Birdseye Orange Plus and Awake juice brands just six months before Philip Morris launched a \$5.6 billion bid to buy General Foods. Philip Morris' bid is still pending.

TreeSweet nets about 2 percent of the orange juice sales, Owens said, but its market is a patchwork quilt that includes states in the Northeast, Southwest and West.

But Owens said he wants to establish a national market for TreeSweet, and he may look to the grapefruit to do it.

"Grapefruit, per se, is an excellent product," said Owens, an admitted fan of the fruit. "It's a product, in my mind, that's underdeveloped. It's associated with diet, yet the perception is that it doesn't taste very good."

He said TreeSweet is working on a grapefruit cocktail juice that he hopes consumers will buy as an "all-day drink" instead of a breakfast beverage.

## Slouch By Jim Earle



"It just must be cheap material. When I was a freshman they were baggy."

## UT scientists to be among first to use space telescope

Associated Press

University of Texas scientist will be among the first users of a \$1.2 billion space telescope that, among other things, will try to determine whether planets are orbiting neighboring stars.

The space telescope, said to be powerful enough to see the light of a firefly 10,000 miles away, will be carried aloft in August by the space shuttle and put into orbit 310 miles above the Earth.

The UT scientists are astronomers Bill Jefferys, Peter Shelus, Fritz Benedict, Paul Hemenway, Lawrence Trafton, David Lambert, and Edward Robinson. Paul Duncombe, an aerospace engineer, will join them.

"We are what are called 'guaranteed time' observers because we've been working on the telescope for almost eight years now," Jefferys said. Divided into teams according to projects or the instruments they will use, guaranteed observers will dominate the first 30 months of the planned 15-year mission of the telescope.

"I expect we'll . . . (get) enough data to keep us reasonably busy for quite a few years. . . . The only sure thing any scientist involved with the space telescope expects from it are things that no one can expect."

— Dr. David Lambert, University of Texas astronomer.

The telescope will be run by remote control from ground stations in Maryland. Some scientists have stored projects on computer for relay by radio to the telescope. Others will work directly from ground stations.

Jefferys heads the astronomy team, which will study the positions of stars and their motions. One of the projects of the team will be to search for planets beyond the solar system.

"That's certainly the most exciting project we have because of the implications of life elsewhere," Jefferys said. "We'll have several shots at it. We may discover something very

## Testimony begins in convalescent home murder trial

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — A nursing home patient was allowed to lie in her own waste for so long that her flesh began to rot, a prosecutor said Monday in the state's murder case against a convalescent center and five of its workers.

"Her death was unnatural, a homicide," said Texas Assistant Attorney General David Marks in opening statements to a state district court jury.

Marks' comments marked the beginning of testimony in the murder trial of Autumn Hills Convalescent Center Inc. and five of its current and former workers.

On trial are Robert Gay, 58, Autumn Hills president; Mattie Locke, 42, a nursing consultant; Ron Pohlmeier, 41, Autumn Hills vice president; Virginia Wilson, 62, former administrator of the nursing home; and Cassandra Canlas, 31, former director of nursing services.

The defendants are accused of murder in the Nov. 20, 1978, death

of Elnora Breed, 87. The elderly woman died 47 days after she was admitted to an Autumn Hills facility in Texas City.

The defendants also are charged with the death of Edna Mae Witt, 78, but are being tried only in Breed's death. The trial was moved to San Antonio because of extensive publicity.

"What was happening at Autumn Hills when Elnora Breed was there was an epidemic of rotting flesh — an epidemic of neglect and gross abandonment of its patients," Marks said.

Breed's sister, Ruth Linscomb, 83, the first witness to testify for the prosecution, said she visited her sister at Autumn Hills every day she stayed there.

"Her bedclothes were dirty," she testified. "She hadn't had no bath, hadn't combed her hair."

Linscomb said she complained to the nursing home officials about the care her sister was receiving and they would "clean her up."

who will use the telescope to study outer planets of the solar system: Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.

One of Trafton's projects will be to seek images of Jupiter to determine whether it has an aurora — a luminous electrical discharge — around the polar regions, similar to the auroras of Earth.

Lambert is the only scientist at UT who is a guaranteed time observer not on a specific team. He was one of four scientists who advised the telescope manufacturer on overall design.

"I prefer to think of it as an observatory rather than a telescope because it's going to be a very versatile instrument," Lambert said.

"I've heard some astronomers liken it to the steps taken by Galileo when he started using a really primitive telescope to see the rings of Saturn for the first time," Lambert said.

quickly, within a few years or maybe never."

Even if other planets are found, they would still be too far away to be seen in photographs, except as tiny points of light, he said.

Robinson — a member of the high-speed photometer team, which will use the instrument to measure brightness — also will study distant stars and galaxies.

Trafton is on the high-resolution spectrograph team. The instrument breaks light into its component parts.

Trafton is the only team member

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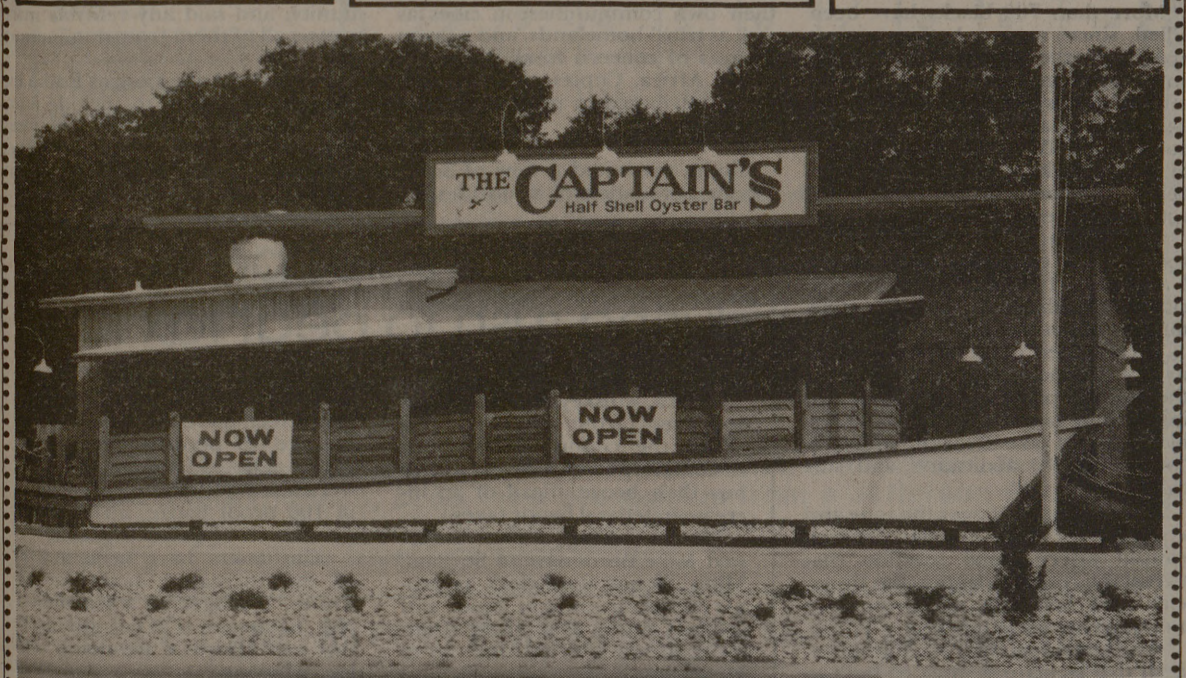
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