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by Kevin Thomas

Pink church
Building a memorial to community strength

Associated Press

VATTMAN — As you take the S-shaped curve on Farm to Market Road 628, Our Lady of Consolation Church can be seen at the far end of a mile of grain and cotton fields.

Its pink bricks stand out against the horizon, the tallest thing for miles around. The pink paint helps hide the true color of interior bricks of beach sand from Baffin Bay, three miles down the road.

Things are quiet in the little community, just the way the Rev. William P. Disney likes it. Disney took over the parish 12 years ago. He also takes care of the church in nearby Riviera.

The two small communities are all that remain of entrepreneur and land developer Theodore F. Koch's plan for a "Texas Riviera." In the early 1900s, Koch bought 18,881 acres from the King Ranch and planned three communities: Riviera, Riviera Beach and a third town.

To help populate his third community, Koch approached the Rev. Edward J. Vattmann, secretary of the Catholic Colonization Society of America. Koch wanted Vattmann to encourage Catholic families to settle in the new town to be called Vattmannville.

A new church was planned and families began moving into the area. In 1914, the wood frame church was opened with a new bell and a new priest, the Rev. J.J. Hoellmann.

That same year a 40-acre townsite was laid out. To celebrate their new town, the residents held a Thanksgiving Day picnic and dance. But on August 18, 1916, all the ambitious planning was swept away in hurricane winds that struck the town at 4:34 that Friday afternoon.

Hilda Yaklin remembers the hurricane. She and her family huddled in a cellar while the winds blew their house halfway off its foundation.

The rest of the town was not as lucky. The church blew down and the general store collapsed. Many

homes were swept into the countryside.

The town of Riviera Beach was completely destroyed. Little was left of Vattmannville but a determination to rebuild.

Hoellmann had built schools and

"They had some hard years after that (hurricane)..."

— The Rev. William P. Disney of Our Lady of Consolation Church.

churches before, and felt well-equipped to help the community start over.

To make sure the new church wouldn't be destroyed by another hurricane, Hoellmann decided to build it out of brick.

Each parishioner was assigned to make a share of the bricks. The 18 families made them from the handiest material they had: beach sand.

Yaklin's father, Henry Forsthoff, was a brickmaker.

"We had this little brick-making machine," she said. "It would make three bricks at a time. Everybody kept coming by the house to make bricks. We soon had bricks drying all over the yard."

The church was designed by Ignatius Loyola Underbrink in the colonial romantic style. It is 100 feet long, 40 feet wide and has a 25-foot arched ceiling.

Bricks made by the parishioners were used on the inner walls, with the outer walls constructed of commercially produced brick. The church was finished in 1920 and the bell from the first church installed in its steeple. Hoellmann had more plans. A rectory, parochial school and convent soon followed. Nuns from the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament taught the

school's 50 students.

In 1930 the church received a Crucifixion scene carved by Aloys Lang of Germany. Lang, famous for his portrayal of Christ in the Passion Play at Oberammergau, is believed to have carved only two crucifixion scenes.

Monsignor Frank J. Pater took over the parish in 1937. Through his efforts, 10 stained glass windows from Germany were contributed by parishioners. The interior of the church was redone.

"They had to put up plaster," Disney said. "The sand they made the bricks from was full of salt. Whenever it rained, they leaked water."

Disney said the town never really recovered from the hurricane.

"They had some hard years after that and people started selling out and moving back up north," he said.

The school and convent closed 20 years ago. The town's name was soon shortened to just Vattmann. Between the two signs that mark the town there are only three homes today. One of them belongs to Cornelius and Hilda Yaklin.

Every morning at 7:15 she joins 20 other parishioners at the church for Mass. Most of them have lived in the area for more than 60 years.

"I guess 25 percent of my parish are in their late 70s to early 80s," Disney said.

Although most of the young people have moved away, they return once a year for the Thanksgiving picnic. More than 1,500 people show up for the picnic every year and devour more than 50 turkeys.

The picnic is open to the public and food is served family style. All of the parishioners help out. You can find Mrs. Yaklin deboning turkeys.

"I've only missed one of these since they started," she said.

"These are good people around here," Disney said. "I don't tell them that — but they're good people."

Renovation of Capitol gets started

(continued from page 1)

The Goddess will be re-assembled and displayed on the Capitol grounds for several days, according to Graham.

Also Wednesday, Graham announced a plan to replace the diseased and dying elms along the Capitol's main south walk.

For years, the elms provided a natural archway leading to the Capitol.

The planting project, scheduled to begin in February, will be supervised by the State Preservation Board in conjunction with Project Greenscape, an Austin Chamber of Commerce project.

Faculty Senate may examine curriculum plan

(continued from page 1)

for the A&M curriculum, the committee also recommends that the entering student complete at least one computer science course in high school or demonstrate proficiency through an exam. Otherwise, the student will be required to complete a computer science course at A&M.

The report also recommends that the entering student complete two years of a foreign language in high school or demonstrate proficiency through an exam. The student not fulfilling that requirement would take two semesters of a foreign language.

Black said the committee began working on the core curriculum in February 1984 after Vandiver requested that the Faculty Senate make recommendations on the general educational requirements of the University.

Vandiver told the Senate that A&M is one of the few major universities in the nation that fails to require a broad background in the arts and sciences, which he said was "the heart of a university education."

Black said one problem facing the core curriculum is the number of hours students will be required to take if the proposal passes without amendment.

For example, electrical engineering students will be required to add as many as five more hours to their current 139-hour degree plan because the electrical engineering degree plan includes 13 elective hours that may be used for speech and writing, cultural heritage or social science courses.

Black said such highly-specialized departments may need to drop some of their required engineering courses to avoid building a five-year degree program.

"If approved, this report challenges the engineers to look at whether there may be some unnecessary duplication of courses," he said.

To compile the report, the 20-member core curriculum committee studied several journals on core curriculums, the degree programs of different universities across the nation and the recommendations of university accrediting boards.

Stress of raising family can depress workers

(continued from page 1)

what they do at work. It manifests itself in conflict."

The Boston University study also found that:

- Forty-three percent of the employees interviewed, both male and female, said the strain of managing family responsibilities was the main reason they got depressed at work. Goggin said one-third of the re-

spondents said they worried a significant amount about their kids during the day, "which has got to be a large part of this stress-strain depression."

- Eighty-eight percent of the employees rated their job performance as "very high," while only 56 percent rated their performance as a parent in the same way.
- Few employees used formal after-school day care for their children. In fact, according to the study,

25 percent of the parents with children aged 6 to 12 said their kids cared for themselves at home.

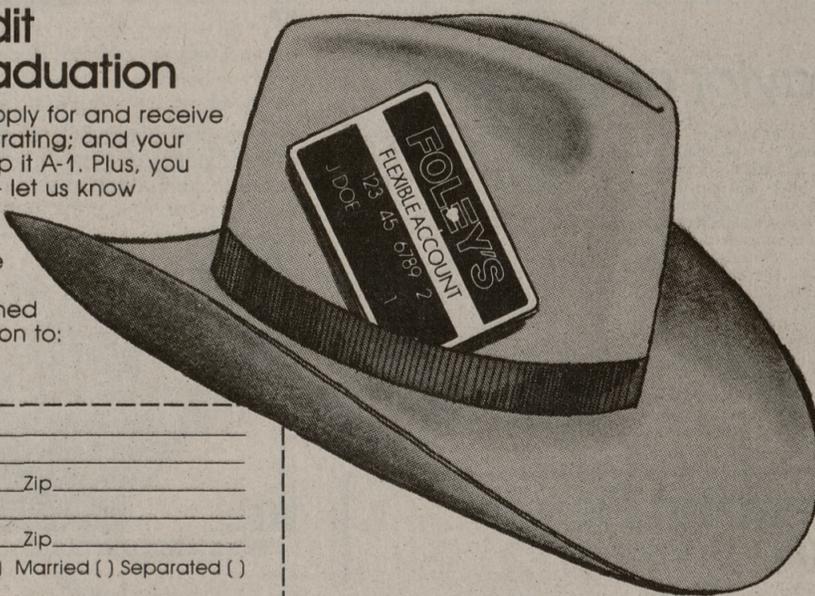
The study recommended that companies should provide day care or a center where employees can learn about day care in their neighborhoods. It also said employers should consider offering flexible schedules and benefits to help workers pay for day care.

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Friday, Nov 20,

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOGOTA, Colo. — A snowstorm that had months erupting, melting its snow down torrents of four sleeping mountain valleys the dead reach.

Blazing volcanic valleys Wednesday crashed through had a combi 70,000. Lava be cone Thursday

Presi OKs debt

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Reagan narrowly approved the federal borrowing national debt limit.

The White House statement short EST, saying signed the meas

Earlier in the and only about present, the H approved the pones a credit b by raising the trillion line of The Senate pa Wednesday nig

The action up the govern mess and clear president's mee neva with Soviet bachev.

Without acti would have be president had o cies to stop issur ing Friday if C creased the deb

Attached to extension until cent-a-pack fed Congress has n on pending le 16-cent tax pe the extension, dropped to 8 midnight Thur

The tempor tend until De program of aic panies hurt by ports, a limit Medicare reim and hospitals, a culating bene railroad work also were expir

In Septembe istration asked the debt limit to \$2.078 trillion legislation has congressional plans passed b ate to force a b end of the deca

Bull to h

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN ANTONIO — A Comptroller predicts su Texas by 1990.

Bullock's Club meetin said he woul tuel wagerin enues and h creasing o services.

But Bullock lottery, sayi "lots of mo