Photo by THOMAS OWNBEY

Yes, Carol Fetters is painting the flag pole. Texas A&M contracted Fetters to paint the flag poles at Kyle Field and at A&M's main entrance. It takes about three hours to paint one pole — if the wind isn't blowing, he said. Fetters' company, Stepple Jack Service, operates out of Des Moines, Iowa.

Radio pioneer is hospitalized after being shot

Associated Press

DALLAS — Gordon B. McLendon, a millionaire businessman who pioneered in Top 40 radio and the all-news format, was hospitalized Thursday night with a gunshot wound, authorities said.

McLendon, 64, was admitted to Methodist Hospital and was in critical but stable condition Thursday night, said night administrator Keith Guier.

The former broadcaster, who dabbled in movie production and other enterprises, was in critical condition when he was airlifted to Methodist, said Otis Mantooth of the Denton County sheriff's department.

The shooting occurred about 2:30 p.m., but authorities weren't notified until 3:28 p.m., Mantooth said.

He suffered a wound in the face that appeared to be self-inflicted, Mantooth said.

McLendon was shot at his ranch, Cielo, on Lake Lewisville, said Lake Dallas police department dispatcher R. McFadden.

Between 1947 and 1952, he created and owned, with his father, the nationwide 458-station Liberty Broadcasting System.

Calling himself "The Old Scotchman," McLendon did play-by-play sportscasting of baseball and football games.

His nationwide baseball "Game of the Day" and football "Game of the Week" were carried by the network, and he teamed with such greats as Dizzy Dean.

His family sold the last of their broadcasting properties in 1978 and invested the proceeds.

The family owned a string of drive-in motion picture theaters, and McLendon, a friend of the late actor John Wayne, produced several movies. He was executive producer of the 1981 release, "Victory," directed by John Huston and starring Sylvester Stallone, Michael Caine and soccer star Pele.

McLendon wrote numerous educational books, including "How to Succeed in Broadcasting."

His last book, in 1981, "Get Really Rich in the Coming Super Metals Boom" established McLendon's reputation as an expert in the field of financing in stragegic metals.

He also advocated investments in precious metals, and was a popular speaker at financial seminars.

His one foray into politics was an unsuccessful Democratic primary campaign against U.S. Sen. Ralph Yarborough in 1964.

A native of Paris, Texas, McLendon graduated from Yale University with a major in Oriental languages.

He served in U.S. Naval Intelligence as a Japanese language officer during World War II.

Following his discharge from the Navy, he attended Harvard Law School.

In 1943 he married Gay Noe McLendon, daughter of former Louisiana Governor James A. Noe.

After an initial start in the radio industry as owner-manager of KNET, Palestine, he obtained a construction permit for KLIF — Dallas in 1947.

McLendon's 200-acre ranch north of Dallas was his home and production facility for his early movies, "The Killer Shrews," "The Giant Gila Monster" and "My Dog Buddy."

Major retailers' sales disappointing to some

Associated Press

Sales by the major retailers were disappointing in November, but the chains said Thursday that they were cheered by a strong rebound in the days following Thanksgiving as the crucial Christmas selling season got rolling.

Analysts said the November performance was below expectations and voiced concern over continuing sluggish consumer buying, which has been the main force fueling economic growth in recent years.

Sears, Roebuck & Co., the nation's largest retailer, said its sales for the four weeks ending Nov. 30 fell 4.4 percent from the same period a year ago.

K mart Corp., ranked second, said its sales edged down 0.9 percent, although sales at stores open more than a year fell 7 percent.

J.C. Penney Co., the No. 3 retailer, said its sales increased 3 percent.

The news was better at the fourth and fifth largest retailers, which cater to higher-income customers. Federated Department Stores Inc. reported an 8.9 percent gain while Dayton Hudson Corp.'s sales climbed 23.1 percent.

The sales comparison with a year ago was hurt by Thanksgiving falling later this year, which meant fewer days of Christmas shopping were included in the sales reports.

Testimony to begin

(continued from page 1)

almost $12 billion, a sum Texaco officials have said is beyond the company's ability to pay. The White Plains, N.Y.-based company has a stock market value of $8.6 billion.

Another Texaco attorney, Jim Sayles, said the interest alone on the bond would cost $800 million a year and mean the "total destruction and obliteration of Texaco."

If the company had to post a $12 billion bond, Texaco officials said they would seek all available legal remedies, including reorganization proceedings under federal bankruptcy laws.

Jamail told the judge it was a "matter of urgency" that the judgment be entered for Pennzoil.

"Their assets are worth $23 billion after debts," Jamail said. "The pleading, 'we're so big, don't hurt us is not a legal argument. We have to have protection. If they do what they're saying, we'll be reduced to a unsecured creditor. It's not fair, it's not just, and it's not legal."

Texaco bought Getty Oil in January 1984 in the second largest merger in U.S. corporate history behind Chevron Corp.'s $13.3 billion purchase of Gulf Corp.

Two days earlier, Pennzoil announced it "had reached an agreement embodying all essential terms and conditions of a transaction" under which Pennzoil and Getty's major stockholders would form a partnership to take over Getty Oil.

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