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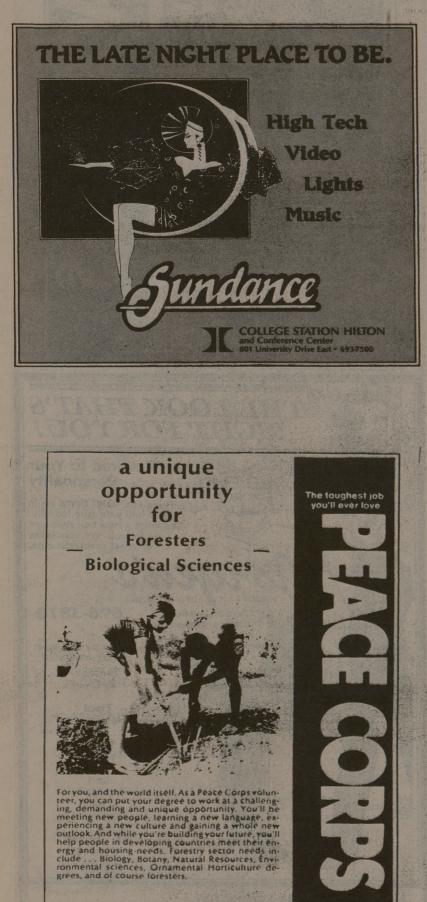
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Page 10/The Battalion/Monday, January 20, 1986

To dredge or not to dredge Fish Pass

CORPUS CHRISTI - Silt has filled the once-popular Fish Pass on Mustang Island while a report on whether to re-dredge the inlet lan-guishes in Austin, officials say.

Nueces County Commissioner J.P. Luby, whose precinct includes Mustang Island, says he doesn't believe the pass ever will be cleaned

out. "I don't see any hope of getting the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to dredge the pass," Luby says. "It will take cold, hard cash

money to do it now. I'm not sure you

The pass, on the northern end of Mustang Island State Park, was popular with fishermen until sand cut off the flow of water between the Gulf and Corpus Christi Bay.

The study, completed last year, set a cost of about \$10 million for dredging, a bridge to allow fishing boats into the Gulf and other improvements.

In May 1984 Luby proposed that the pass be dredged of silt at no cost

now. I don't think the state has the money to do it now. I'm not sure you will ever see it dredged." to the state. He says a private com-nany was willing to do the project in return for dredge spoil which could place and that jetties into the be used in island construction.

A \$50,000 feasibility study was commissioned in August 1984 by the Parks and Wildlife Department to determine if the pass should be opened and whether it should be opened to boats

Luby says although the study by Goldston Engineering Co. of Corpus Christi was finished last spring, he didn't receive a copy until about a month ago. The Fish Pass was dredged in lands.

weren't long enough to preven ing. "It probably will take \$750.0" dredge now," Luby says. "The monkey wrench int threw a monkey wrench into whole thing."

say the pass was built in the m place and that jetties into the

Luby says he was negotia have free dredging at the pa than two years ago, before the was announced. He says fill dir longer needed for construct ects on Mustang or North Padr

Spanish sailor

brought Texa

crusading spi

Associated Press

In 1528, the ill-fated Spa

expedition to "La Florida shipwrecked on the coast

Whittling East Texas woodcarvers find creative outlet

Associated Press

GLADEWATER — At the age of 12, Virgil Miller would sit under the trees where hobos gathered near his home in El Dorado, Ark., and at-tempt to copy their whittling talents. The hobos would whittle various

articles and then sell them for a nickel apiece to raise money for food. Miller got so intrigued in whit-tling he had little interest in any-

thing else. Today, Miller is a semi-retired owner of a roofing company — and still whittling and carving.

Miller is one of the members of the East Texas Woodcarvers Club in Gladewater. His pieces generally revolve around a theme involving frontiers people, Indians or animals.

Miller will sculpt his piece in clay, and then carve the sculpture into wood. He prefers catalpa, basswood or mahogany because of their tex-tures and grains. He said the clay model could be used to make a broare cating but

used to make a bronze casting, but he considers the wood carvings to be more valuable than bronze pieces. "Usually there are 25 or 30 pieces

made when they cast bronze, but there is only one wood carving, so I think it is worth more," he said.

Miller, whose works show fine detail with the grain carefully inte-grated to accentuate details, prices his works between \$200 and \$18,000. The most he has ever been paid for a piece is \$2,200. The \$18,000 work is several

pieces and a three-dimensional reproduction of a painting called

"Captured" by the Western artist Frederick Remington.

The piece shows a captured U.S. Army soldier, stripped of clothing and obviously cold, sitting with his legs crossed some distance from a campfire. Meanwhile his Indian captors sit around the campfire, dressed in his clothing, waiting for him to freeze to death.

Jim Nelson, a Longview electri-cian, became interested in carving about six months ago, and has since practiced to the point where he has learned the skills of the art of work-

ing with wood. He said he approached Miller and said he wanted to learn carving, and Miller "said he would teach me half of what he knows. Then he carved half of a face into a piece of wood and told me to bring it back when I had finished the other half," Nelson said

He said wood carvers sometimes place high prices on their works be-cause they become attached to them after working on them for hours at a time

"I have got a \$700 Johnny Apple-seed that I don't want to sell. But if someone comes along and wants to pay me \$700, maybe it's worth more to him than it is to me," he said.

"If you have spent two days or 1,000 hours carving on it, you be-come attached, and you really don't care whether it sells or not. What makes you feel good is when you take it to one of the shows and one of the oldtimers comes up and tells you that the piece looks good," Nelson

Charlie Winstead of Midlothian says he got started in wood carving about $3\frac{1}{2}$ years ago as therapy after experiencing three heart attacks. "I was retired at age 40 and sat around feeling sorry for myself," Winstead said. "I sat around the home by myself and started putting on weight. I went from 170 pounds to 245 pounds.

"One day my wife brought home a knife and a book by Harold Enlow, a well-know caricature carver. She thought she was helping me, but she never realized she was creating a monster," laughed Winstead, who is now trim and whitting caricatures or well that he great to governl shows so well that he goes to several shows a year and last year spent two week teaching a course on caricature carv-ing in Eureka Springs, Ark. "It's the greatest therapy there is," he said. "If someone is disabled it is a fantastic pastime. It may not be a masterpiece, and you may only be

masterpiece, and you may only be whittling a point on a stick, but you enjoy it

Raymon North, a Dallas lawyer, said he had started carving as a youngster in the Boy Scouts, but had more or less dropped the habit until seven or eight years ago when he started again as a challenge. North said he finds the hobby re-

laxing and that it gives him some-thing to do when a client gets on the telephone and starts rambling on about his problems. North said he cradles the phone with his shoulder, and gets out his knife and his latest project.

Texas. This landing on the of Malhado," most likely Ga ton Island, marked the first Lawm corded European intrusio the present state of Texas. Of about 300 Spaniard survived, historian William Ec recounts, only four men tually lived through sickness SANT encounters with hostile coast of educa dians. These four, Alvar over Nev dalais, infection, and the source of the sou and the laws des schools. The 1

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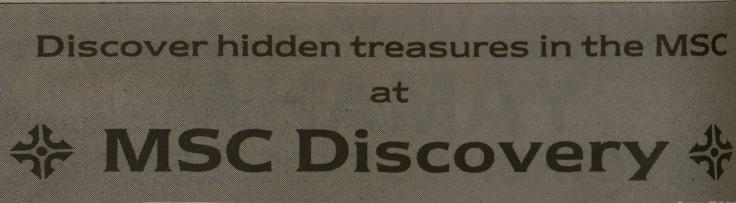
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among the Texas Indians nearly eight years. Traveling tribe to tribe, the four even made their way through back to Spanish settlements east coast of New Spain, or what now Mexico. It was Cabeza de Vaca who

petuated rumors of seven di gold on the frontier. Deepin New World, " the desire to quer, to gain wealth and por took root. And for more three hundred years, Spin French and American adve ers traversed the unmapped of Texas searching for en wealth and power. Evenue these quests fueled the we development of the North Am

can frontier and the perm settlements that resulted.



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