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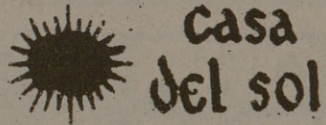
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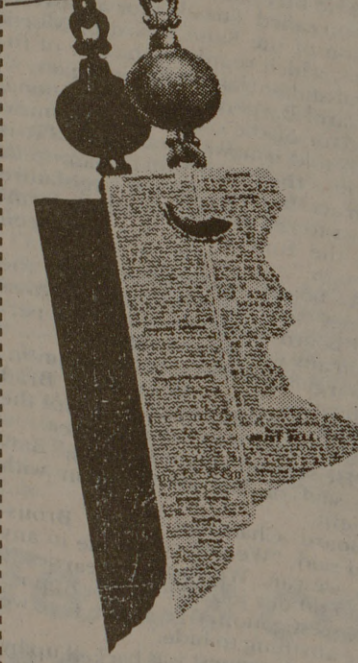
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# Oil bust hitting Odessa

## Workers losing hope, leaving town

ODESSA (AP) — Oil field workers have found jobs for almost a quarter of a century by posting their names on a tattered bulletin board at the Tradeway Grocery.

But David Perrin attaches little hope to the note with his name and phone number.

"Usually that board's full," Perrin, 35, of Odessa, said. "People aren't even putting their names up. They figure it won't do any good."

Lucille Grindle, 63, who owns the tiny grocery store, said the men who have found her business a help in getting oil field work are now having trouble finding any job at all.

"They're looking, but you know everything is so oil-related," she said.

According to Perrin, when someone in the oil field quits or is fired, the drilling company already has a replacement in mind.

A year ago the board and the door

on which it hangs were covered with names of job seekers, and the notes were being removed weekly. During the boom prior to 1982, few names were posted as out of work.

But now some roughnecks are looking for other kinds of employment, and some have already left town, Perrin said.

Grindle said 1986 oil price fluctuations have created a situation that is different from the early 1982 oil bust.

"There were just a lot of people here then, from Michigan and north and east," she said. "What's sad about this (slump) is, a lot of the people that are leaving and have left have been out here for years working in the oil fields."

And many of those working are making far less money than before, she said.

"They're not questioning what

they pay" when a job is offered, she said.

Oil field workers who make \$7 to \$9, Grindle said.

Perrin said he understands such a cut in pay affects a lot of people.

"It's kind of hard to make \$203 a week — if you can't find a job," Perrin said. "I haven't had a job in seven months."

Like many workers, he is considering leaving Odessa, going back to construction after five years in the oil fields, he said.

He recalled seeing a sticker that says, "Will the leaving Odessa please turn on the lights."

Grindle, he added, would stay until that time

# Unemployment up as prices drop

ODESSA (AP) — Dorenda Nuncio waited patiently in a packed Department of Human Services office in Odessa to find out if she, her husband and two daughters qualified for food stamps.

"If it weren't for my family helping me out, we probably would have starved to death by now," she said.

Her husband was laid off in March from his \$300-a-week job as a roustabout for an oil field supply company. In late April, she applied for food stamps, then waited another two weeks before getting an appointment for an interview, Nuncio, 25, said.

With two small children, she and her husband have discussed leaving the West Texas oil fields for greener pastures. But they sought work elsewhere when the oil patch economy took a downturn about three years ago.

"It didn't do us no good," Nuncio said. "It just got us farther in debt. We've got too much invested. We can't really pick up and leave."

Area officials say the lines for food stamp assistance began growing last winter, when the price of oil plummeted. As trading on spot markets pushed oil from about \$32 a barrel in December to less than \$10 this spring, the wait for a simple interview for government assistance stretched from about a week to more than a month, officials say.

Although local law enforcement agencies cannot definitely peg a rise in the crime rate to the poor economy, they do speculate that unemployment has fed some of the statistics, the *Odessa American* reported in a nine-part series of stories on the area's oil woes.

In Odessa, for example, reported robberies almost doubled and thefts

were up about 33 percent in early 1986 over the same period in 1985, officials said.

Joan Morris, director of income assistance at the Human Services office, said that until recently a person could expect an interview about a week after applying.

"Right at this point, we're running at something over 30 days," Morris said.

Morris of the Human Services office said that as early as last year she began seeing the "long-term em-

*"If it weren't for my family helping me out, we probably would have starved to death by now."*  
— Dorenda Nuncio, applying to the Department of Human Services for food stamps in Odessa.

ployed" coming through the doors.

In the wake of falling oil prices, she said, her department's 30 workers have been stretched to the limit. The state, meanwhile, has told her to expect autumn budget cuts, she said.

"I don't see how we could run with any fewer people that we have now," she said. "Everybody's work is just piled up."

While many have turned to the government for help, a spokesman for the Odessa Police Department speculated that sharp increases in robberies and thefts may signify that this year's drop in oil prices prompted others to turn to crime.

"If they're unemployed now, they're going to do what they have to

do," said Cpl. John McAhon, robbery, you literally get your hand.

An increase in aggravated assault, also may stem from economic conditions, McAhon said, as "short."

From January through Odessa police recorded 40 more and 1,314 thefts of more than \$50 for the period in 1985.

Similarly, increases have been reported in sexual assaults, compared with seven; aggravated assaults, 143 compared with 182. Burglaries and auto thefts declined and homicides held steady.

Midland County Sheriff Painter said an increase in crimes from 470 to 604 in April compared to the same last year reflects problems in the area's economy.

"You can't attribute it to

else," Painter said. "People are desperate and they're getting onery now. The impact of it all at one time."

Lt. Hank Norton, spokesman for the Midland Police Department, said he started receiving calls a month ago inquiring about the area's higher suicide rate.

The number of suicides changed significantly, and said the national media must

that the societal effects of oil drops rival those of 1929, of the stockmarket.

"I think they figure that many rich people in Midland they're killing themselves," he said he tells callers, "We've got to get hard up in Midland, pack up and leave. They've got money stashed away."

# Clements campaign over \$34,000 in debt

AUSTIN (AP) — Former Gov. Bill Clements' campaign reports show him \$34,274 in the hole, but his Republican supporters are not worried and Democratic officials indicated they don't think it's a true indication of the gubernatorial candidate's campaign situation.

"These numbers are just going to motivate the Clements troops to work harder," said Reggie Bashur, Clements' press secretary.

Mark McKinnon, campaign press aide to Gov. Mark White, said, "Mr. Clements is known for his deep pockets and there is no doubt those pockets will be turned outside before November. We'll be outspent again. There's no doubt about it."

Campaign expense and contributions reports submitted this week

showed White has \$1.7 million in the bank, while Republican challenger Clements is \$34,000 in debt.

Clements reported contributions of \$636,709 and expenses of \$579,326 for the period April 24 through May 28. But his campaign is \$34,000 in the red because of a deficit from the previous report.

Meanwhile, San Antonio Appeals Judge Shirley Butts announced Tuesday additional endorsements in her runoff race with state Sen. Oscar Mauzy, D-Dallas, for the Texas Supreme Court.

Butts said the new endorsements include Bob Krueger, former special ambassador to Mexico, and state Rep. Frank Tejeda, D-San Antonio, head of a House committee investigation into activities of the Texas Supreme Court.

# Nazi insignia painted on candidate's porch

AUSTIN (AP) — A swastika was painted late Sunday or early Monday on the front porch of a candidate for Travis County commissioner, who also is president of the Jewish Community Council of Austin.

Alan Sager says the swastika is the latest in a series of anti-Semitic incidents during his candidacy. He said anti-Semitic letters were mailed in April to several of his supporters and a white cross and an obscenity were spray-painted on one of his campaign signs last month.

Sager, who is in Saturday's runoff election for the Republican nomination for county commissioner of Precinct 2, said, "The truth is I don't know what to say. I think that people ought to know that this kind of stuff goes on in Austin, Texas, in 1986, and we ought to work together to stop it."

Sager's runoff opponent, Austin businessman Zack Dawes, galled the acts "reprehensible."

"I certainly feel that anybody who would do something like that is obviously a nut," Dawes said.

He also said, however, "I would say that while it is regrettable that anyone would pull such an act of anti-Semitism, I feel that it's even worse that a candidate would try to use this in a campaign and actually exploit his religious beliefs. I think it is obvious to the people that he's using this (for) political purposes and not to expose anti-Semitic sentiment."

Sager finished second in the May 3 primary with 34.7 percent of the vote. Dawes had 46.6 percent. The winner of the runoff will face Democrat Bruce Todd in the November general election.

# Horse owner charged in cruelty case

GEORGETOWN (AP) — A man has been charged with cruelty to animals in connection with 26 horses officials say starved on a 27-acre ranch.

Larry Newsome, accused by his lawyer, turned himself in to the sheriff's office Monday. He was released on \$1,000 bail. Deputy Jim Stinnett.

The horses were seized Friday, when Stinnett executed search and seizure warrants on the ranch leased by Newsome, deputy said.

Justice of the Peace Don Gilliam issued the warrant hearing complaints about the animals from the Williamson Humane Society.

Kathy Buckler, a spokesman for the Humane Society, said several people had called her complaining about the conditions in which the animals were kept. "There was nothing in the but weeds. There was no water," Buckler said of the feeding.

She said she saw the skeletons of three horses. She also said officials found three bags of oats, but the horses were in no condition to eat them.

A hearing will be scheduled within 10 days to determine to do with the animals, Stinnett said.

Gilliam can order either the animals be returned to the owner or that they be placed in the custody of the county.

If the county gets them, they will be auctioned off, he said.

The horses are now at a mal hospital in Georgetown, Stinnett said.