



At Ease

around
monkeys

Photo by Robert W. Rizzo

Call A Plumber

Kelly Walraven, a volunteer firefighter from Heart of the Pines Fire Department, works on a connection of a hose running between two fire

trucks. By connecting two fire trucks together, firefighters are able to achieve the maximum water usage efficiency out of a single fire hydrant.

Alzheimer's victim loved serving God, helping Aggies, wife says

By Kirsten Dietz
Senior Staff Writer

While Mike Mistovich will be remembered for a long list of accomplishments in the 40 years he lived in Bryan, his wife says he was proudest of two.

"He loved the Aggies and broadcasting football and baseball games and serving the Lord," Mary Jane Mistovich said Wednesday. "The Lord came first with him."

Mistovich, 71, died Tuesday morning from heart failure caused by pneumonia.

A memorial service will be held today at 3:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Bryan.

His body will be donated to the Texas A&M medical school for research.

Mistovich had double-bypass heart surgery 15 years ago, his wife said. He could not have another heart operation, she said, because he also has been suffering from Alzheimer's disease for the last eight years.

However, she said, after a trip to a Houston doctor, Mistovich said the doctor told him he had had a stroke. Mrs. Mistovich said she doesn't know how her husband got that idea, but he used it to explain his behavior to others.

"That was the way he could cope with it," she said. Mistovich was involved in numerous A&M, community and religious activities.

For 30 years he did play-by-play broadcasts for the A&M football team and announced A&M baseball games for many years. He also endowed several scholarships for A&M students. He was honored for his contributions to the University with an honorary membership in the Association of Former Students and election to the Letterman's Association's Hall of Honor for Distinguished Service. Mistovich also belonged to the Aggie Club.

He was the former owner of QORA radio and Mistovich Business Machines. In 1970-71 he served as

president of the Bryan-College Station Rotary Club.

Mrs. Mistovich said God came first with her husband, as his involvement in religious programs attests. He conducted devotional services at a local nursing home and was

a member of the Gideon Society and of a Sunday school class at the First United Methodist Church of Bryan.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Mike Mistovich Memorial Fund at the Aggie Club or to Gideon Living Memorial Bibles.

Support groups can help families cope

Stages of Alzheimer's frustrate victims

By Janet Goode
Reporter

Gladys Couchman's mother, a former resident of the Four Seasons nursing home in San Antonio, died of Alzheimer's disease in February 1986.

Couchman watched her mother regress through all of the stages of the disease until her death.

From her experience, she learned that the stages an Alzheimer's patient goes through are the exact reverse of the developmental stages of a child.

And, if patients live long enough, they often end up dying in a fetal position, she says.

Mary Jane Mistovich, whose husband died Tuesday, is a member of the local Alzheimer's support group. Mistovich had taken Mike, 71, to the support group meetings to help them both deal with the hopelessness of his disease.

At the time, he was still in the early stages of the disease and still recognized everyone.

She says she doesn't know how much of the meetings he understood, but he listened intently and often nodded to the speaker.

Mistovich considered herself lucky because her husband never became violent, wasn't a "wanderer" and wasn't readily agitated. Part of the reason for this is the long periods between the progressive stages of his disease, she says.

Another reason for Mike's graceful acceptance of Alzheimer's may be because he didn't know he had it.

Mistovich decided it would be easiest for her husband to handle the disease if he thought he had suffered a stroke.

Also, he was suffering from heart disease and she felt this was enough for him to deal with.

Since Mike was in the early stages and progressing without violence, Mistovich kept him at home like most "care-givers."

Mistovich lists the rising costs of nursing homes as one reason for home care. The standards for receiving aid involve requiring a person to be dirt poor and poverty stricken, she says. And most programs won't give aid unless a patient has lost control of all bodily functions.

Sarah Jackson, who works with senior citizens at Humana Hospital, says this is very stressful to the Alzheimer caregiver, who must put in a "36-hour day."

"It just goes on and on forever with no end in sight," she says.

Clements declares victory in budget war

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Bill Clements, saying his signature on the largest tax increase in Texas history was written grudgingly, declared victory Wednesday in his battle against state government spending.

"We stopped the growth of state government," Clements said, repeatedly admonishing news reporters to get his message straight. "Now that's no small goal, and it's no small accomplishment."

"I think our Texas taxpayers will be happy to hear that if you will just, please, repeat it."

Clements last year campaigned on a "no-new-taxes" theme and this year pledged repeatedly this year to veto any tax increase larger than \$2.9 billion. But Tuesday night, he signed into law increases in the sales, motor fuel and other taxes that totaled nearly twice that — \$5.7 billion.

"I reluctantly signed the tax bill last night," Clements said. "The deed was done, so to speak."

The Republican governor said he had run out of options. Democrats control the Legislature, and the end of the state's fiscal year, Aug. 31, is approaching.

"We had to open the schools,

"We did what we had to do. I don't think we had any choice in the matter."

— Gov. Bill Clements

Clements said. "We had to continue state government on some reasonable basis. And we had to address the problem in the federal courts on mental health-mental retardation and the prison system."

"We did what we had to do," he said. "I don't think we had any choice in the matter. I would appreciate reading that in print somewhere, or hearing it on television."

Clements argued that the 1988-89 state budget — totaling \$38.3 billion — represents only a 2.4 percent increase over the \$37.4 billion spent for 1986-87. That represents a 1.2 percent annual increase, he said.

"And please," he urged, "write that down."

Clements has 20 days to review the budget before signing it. He has the power to veto individual items and indicated he probably would.

"When I see the bill and I consider it, I will consider vetoes at that time," he said. "I will consider each item on its own merits."

As the state's only 20th century Republican governor, Clements has been at odds with Democratic legislators since taking office for the second time on Jan. 20.

He said the 1988 legislative elections — in which half the Senate and all 150 House seats up are up for grabs — will be important to the GOP.

U.S. Navy tanker escort reported on 'high alert'

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Two Kuwaiti tankers sailed swiftly up the Persian Gulf on Wednesday, escorted by U.S. jet fighters and Navy warships on high alert for Iran's high-speed gunboats and helicopters.

Iran has vowed to strike the convoy, take American sailors prisoner and burn the Stars and Stripes flying on the fantails of the reflagged Kuwaiti tankers if any of its ships are attacked.

The supertanker Bridgeton and the smaller oil products carrier Gas Prince were surrounded by three and at times five U.S. warships as they passed within range of an Iranian missile battery in the Strait of Hormuz, considered the most perilous part of their three-day, 500-mile journey to Kuwait.

Overhead, aircraft from the carrier USS Constellation stationed outside the gulf flew a rotating air cover.

In Washington, the Pentagon said the Navy had not detected any move by Iran to ready any of its Chinese-made Silkworm anti-ship missiles and that the ships were out of range after the convoy cleared the strait. "So in reality, the ships are already safely through the passage and on their way to Kuwait," one official added.

By midafternoon, they had passed within 12 miles of Abu Musa, an Iranian island used by Revolutionary Guards, fanatical followers of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, to launch gunboat and helicopter attacks on commercial shipping.

As night fell on the gulf, the convoy cruised past the long shoreline of the United Arab Emirates and the port of Dubai.

"They are moving fast in close convoy," reported one shipping source as the cluster of ships traveled through the strait at about 16 knots, the approximate top speed of the 401,382-ton Bridgeton.

Capt. David P. Yonkers, who commands the Navy es-

cort dubbed "Operation Earnest Will," said the U.S. ships would come no closer than one or two miles to the "exclusion zone" declared by Iran along its side of the gulf.

"Remember, this is the real thing — this is not a drill," Capt. William W. Mathis told the 476-member crew aboard the Navy cruiser USS Fox before it entered the Strait of Hormuz.

Both the Bridgeton, formerly the Al-Rekkah, and the 46,723-ton Gas Prince, formerly the Al-Minagish, ran up the American flag Tuesday off the United Arab Emirates. The ships, with American captains, left the United Arab Emirates port of Khor Fakkan on Wednesday morning for Kuwait's Al-Ahmadi oil terminal.

The Fox led the convoy, while the frigate Crommelin and the destroyer Kidd steamed nearby. An Associated Press reporter who was part of a Pentagon media pool on the Kidd said the convoy maintained a condition just below General Quarters, the highest state of alert.

The United States says Iran, at war with Iraq for nearly seven years, is the major danger to shipping in the gulf, and it allowed Kuwait to register 11 of its state-owned tankers under the American flag to safeguard the flow of oil.

The Reagan administration sent a 15-vessel naval task force to the gulf after the Soviets leased Kuwait three tankers and promised military escorts for them. U.S.-supplied Saudi Arabian AWACS planes are handling reconnaissance.

Iranian President Ali Khamenei vowed Wednesday that his nation would "strike blows to the ominous alliance" of the United States and Kuwait. Iran accuses Kuwait of helping Iraq in the gulf war.

Shipping sources and gulf area diplomats, all of whom spoke on condition of anonymity, said they didn't expect the Iranians to take any action against the convoy.

feel he was accomplishing something — that he wasn't completely dependent on me."

At the center, Bette says the best remedy in dealing with these patients from day to day is humor. She demonstrates this when she walks through the television room of the center.

"They're all unloading in their pants right now," she says laughingly, holding her nose and waving a hand in front of her face.

But Mistovich says at times it was hard to keep a happy face, knowing what lay ahead.

For some peace of mind, Mistovich recently told her husband's doctor that she wants his brain given to science for research on Alzheimer's disease.

Bette agrees that it is extremely hard to deal with people she knows are going to die.

She takes classes on death and dying and tries to help patients deal with it. She sometimes sits in their rooms at lunch and talks those who know they are going to die soon.

"Most of the people in here know that they came here to die," she says. "They know that when they leave it will be from here."

"Sometimes there are tears, sometimes happiness and sometimes it's peaceful, but you never get used to it."

That one little thing meant so much to him," she says. "It let him