

# Two craftsmen design vessels for communion

KERRVILLE (AP) — The craftsmen have designed a silver star for actor Gregory Peck and a world map for singer John Denver, but neither compares to their latest endeavor — communion vessels for Pope John Paul II.

"No project is of this importance or prestige," said Norman Taylor, a designer of vessels the pope will use at his mass in San Antonio Sept. 13.

If the chalice and other communion implements created by his company, James Avery said, "I think he (the pope) is a very down-to-earth individual who will appreciate the simplicity of these vessels."

The vessels "are very simple, but strong," Avery said, adding those qualities are the same ones conveyed by the pontiff.

The chalice, the ciborium, which holds the communion wafers; the flagon, which holds the wine; and the paten, a plate from which the bread is offered during Mass, were commissioned by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio.

Shaped from silver and gold, the vessels also include Hill Country limestone from the Guadalupe River near Kerrville.

The Rev. Greg Nevuld, in July when announcing the project, said, "We wanted to use native craftsmen and native elements to create these

special pieces. Each place he (the pope) visits in America will give him a different flavor of our country. We wanted the things he used here to reflect Texas and the Southwest."

Avery, known for Christian-oriented jewelry designs, was approached by Nevuld on behalf of the archdiocese. Two of Avery's senior

designers, Dennis Barecky and Taylor, shepherded the project. Barecky, who did the major design work, said use of four interwoven cords carved into the limestone represents the four corners of the Earth and Christianity being carried to them.

The limestone rings the upper part of the stem of the chalice and is repeated in other parts of the ciborium and flagon.

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— The Rev. Greg Nevuld

Avery said of the pattern, "It's continuous. There is no beginning, no end. It is a symbol of God's oneness."

"We wanted them to be significant in scale, but not to the point they're cumbersome."

The chalice stands 9½ inches tall; the flagon, 9¼ inches; and the ciborium, 6½ inches.

The paten is 8 inches in diameter to hold the 5-inch diameter host the pope will use during the Mass, which is expected to draw 500,000 people.

Cost to the archdiocese will be about \$7,000, Avery said. With the 200 to 300 hours put into the project, Avery valued the vessels at \$20,000 to \$25,000.

"After they're consecrated, they would be priceless," Avery said. He said his company probably will create a duplicate set from less precious metals for display, but not for sale.

The original vessels will remain with the San Antonio Archdiocese after the Mass and will be placed on exhibit and possibly used for special occasions, Nevuld said.

Barecky said he will suffer a degree of anxiety about his creation until the Mass adjourns. "My biggest worry is that the pope would pick it up and the bottom would fall out," he said.

# Controlled burning of forest to continue through week

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — The U.S. Forest Service plans to continue the controlled burning of forest areas damaged by insect-infestations through the week, a spokesman said Monday.

Forest officials on Sunday began burning about 100 acres of thick underbrush in the Four Notch area of Sam Houston National Forest. The operation resumed Monday with plans to burn up to 1,000 more acres, weather permitting, spokesman Hal Glassman said.

A total of about 2,500 acres will be burned and the operation could last three to five more days, Glassman said.

The burning is part of a reforestation program and is intended to rid the area of underbrush and dead and dying vegetation.

Following the burn, the area would be replanted, mostly likely in January or later, Glassman said.

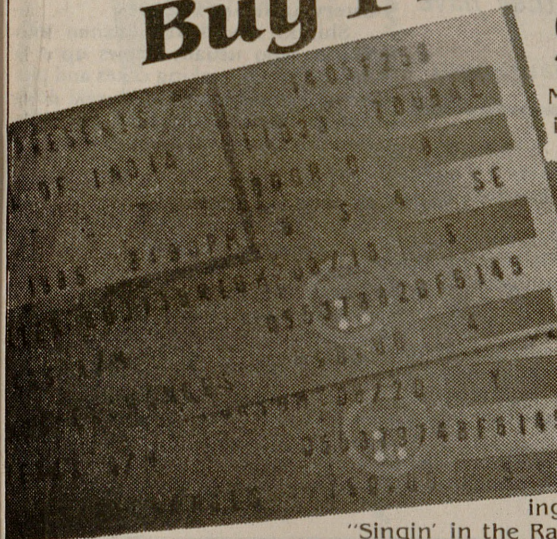
The first step, chopping damaged trees, began in April 1986 amid protests by environmentalists. Some protesters chained themselves to trees in a futile effort to stop a 52-ton machine from ripping down timber damaged in the early 1980s by Southern pine beetles.

Only two activists turned out Sunday at a new conference in New Waverly, south of Huntsville, to protest the burning. Glassman said he knew of no protests staged Monday morning.

The length of the operation will depend on the amount of rain in the area, he said. Too much or too little moisture could hamper their efforts.

"Conditions for prescribed burning are very scientific — we need the rain, we need the ground moisture," he said. "If you burn and it's too dry, it could get out of hand."

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