

# Company in Texas sells dressing for success, salad-hungry clients

GAINESVILLE (AP) — Ever since the first batch of blue cheese emerged from the mixing bowl in 1965, Chef Maurice's has been dressing up an increasingly health-conscious and salad-hungry South-west.

Just looking at a chilled, tantalizing pint jar of the gourmet salad dressing still thrills Sue Goodwin, who has been managing Crystal Dairy Products — the company that manufacturer of Chef Maurice's — since her father died several years ago.

"It's just the best in the world," she claims.

She says she's received a flood of compliments on the company's Gainesville-produced product, including a plea from a Tyler gourmet to enter the dressing in a world food competition that will be held in Brussels.

Goodwin markets most of the dressing through a food broker to hospitals, hotels, restaurants and

colleges in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

But she says the dressing also is sold in stores in the Gainesville area.

The company has built a diverse clientele that includes the Marriott Hotel chain and the University of Texas at Austin, but has kept a low profile for most of its 23 years.

"I don't think anyone even knows we're here," Goodwin says, telling a story of a family friend who recently caught up with her and asked, "What do you do?"

Although the business hasn't made the family millions, it has grown steadily since the early days when Goodwin's parents, Roy and Rita Stamps, grew restless in retirement and decided to start Crystal Dairy Products.

Now, Chef Maurice's is more than a name. The "Cadillac of Salad Dressings" was conceived by a Dallas resident — Chef Maurice, of course.

When the product's namesake came to Gainesville and told the Stampses about his idea for a dressing, Roy became interested and mixed up a couple of batches of blue cheese.

Although Chef Maurice didn't last in the business, his name and his dream lived on. Blue cheese dressing sold well, and Chef Maurice's later added two new flavors to its repertoire — Rita's Thousand Island and Sue's Buttermilk.

Today the product is made in an unpretentious building by four workers who blend and beat between 65 and 70 cases of dressing each day. It's a simple process, involving hand-mixing mayonnaise, buttermilk from a dairy in Burk Burnett and special seasonings in a huge vat.

The dressing is then refrigerated — it has few preservatives and little food coloring or salt — until it is

shipped out on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Goodwin says that despite the rising cost of producing the dressing, Chef Maurice's has maintained its quality and it is thicker, richer and more tasty than most supermarket dressings.

She constantly is promoting the product by traveling to food shows throughout Texas and giving free samples to anyone who visits Crystal Dairy. The product recently was under consideration by the Texoma Regional Planning Commission for inclusion in its Taste of Texoma food marketing program modeled after Texas Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower's Taste of Texas.

Although Mrs. Stamps, now 80, has basically handed over the reins of the business to her daughter, she still comes into the office everyday, and does what she can to tell people about Chef Maurice's.

## Truck dumps cantaloupes on highway

BOERNE (AP) — Labor Day eastbound traffic got a little sticky on Interstate 10 after an 18-wheeler jackknifed and dumped over 21 tons of cantaloupe on the road.

Texas Department of Public Safety dispatcher Charlie Devine in Kerrville said the cantaloupe was free-loaded.

The accident happened around 8 a.m. Monday as the vehicle tried to exit the interstate, Devine said. The truck driver and a passenger were injured in the accident.

## Boy, 12, held in juvenile center for attempted murder of sister

EL PASO (AP) — A 12-year-old boy was being held in a juvenile detention center on an attempted murder charge in connection with the shooting of his 16-year-old sister.

The girl was in serious and guarded condition at Beaumont Army Medical Center after undergoing several hours of surgery late Sunday for the gunshot wound to her head, an Army spokesman told the *El Paso Times*.

Officials did not release the name of the wounded girl's brother because he is a juvenile.

The boy told police he and his sister were home alone and got into an argument at about 4 p.m. Sunday, Lt. J.R. Grijalva said.

"The argument became physical and the 12-year-old pulled out a small-caliber revolver from a desk," Grijalva said.

"He shot her once in the head, the left temple," he said.

"There was no exit wound," he said.

Police removed several rifles from the home during their investigation.

Grijalva said the boy called them and gave police details.

The boy told officers his mother was on a fishing trip, Grijalva said.

But he said he didn't know where his mother was fishing, Grijalva said.

Neighbors said the mother returned home at about 7:30 p.m., was told of the shooting and went to Beaumont.

Lt. Col. James Lawson, Fort Bliss public affairs officer, said the father of the two children is a senior enlisted serviceman stationed in Germany.

## Animal shelter in Angleton lacks occupants

ANGLETON (AP) — The \$12,000 Brazoria County animal shelter has the cages to handle 10 dogs and 10 cats, but it's often missing the animals.

Since the shelter opened three months ago with an annual budget of \$30,000, it has housed a total of 24 dogs and five cats. Five cat cages never have been used.

From the outside, the shelter looks more like a typical middle-class home than a dog pound. The red

brick building with green trim and arched, shiny metal roof has an air-conditioned office, coffee room and cat area.

The canines even have access to a roomy recreation yard and sleep on rubber-coated metal bunks.

On Wednesday, a mutt picked up two days earlier after it ventured into a neighborhood yard was the lone occupant.

At a time when county funds are tight and some county employees


may face layoffs, many are beginning to see a 3-month-old white elephant.

Commissioners admit they may have made a costly mistake.

"It's a heck of a nice facility — much nicer than what we need right now," Brazoria County Sheriff Joe King said. King, whose department runs the shelter, said the low and sometimes nonexistent occupancy rate can be blamed on the lack of a county program to pick up strays.

Plans to construct the shelter, paid for with federal revenue sharing funds, began in 1985 when the county was in relatively good financial shape and adopted its own animal control regulations.

The federal funds could have been used for other projects, said County Commissioner Joe Plaster, who now thinks that a more modest metal building would have served the county's needs.



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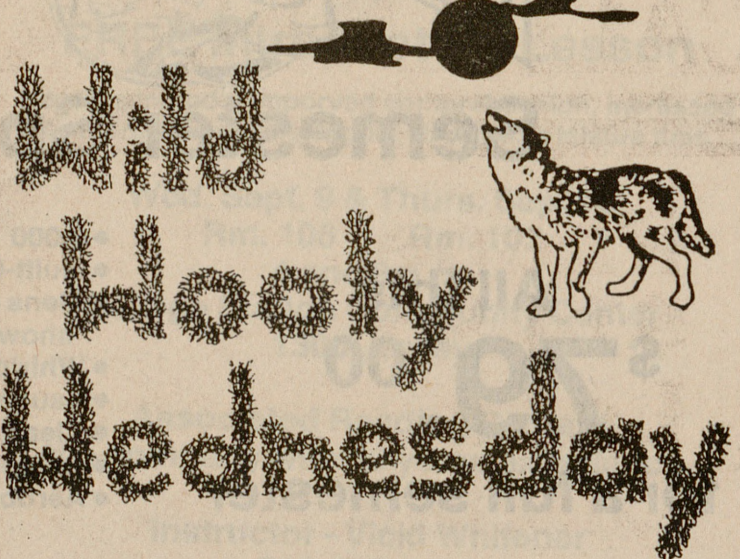
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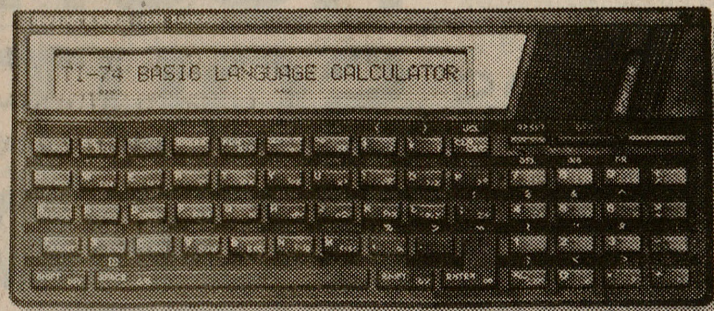
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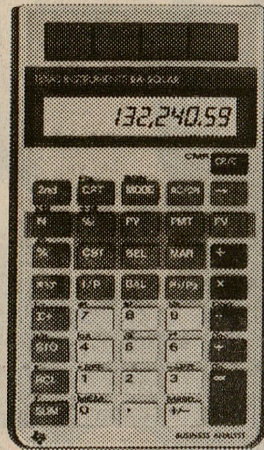


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