

Battalion Classifieds

Former rebel contemplates Cuban rebellion

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — Three decades after Rafael Pardo and 34 other Cuban revolutionaries were captured off the coast of Port Isabel with a boat full of arms and ammunition for Fidel Castro, the Brownsville shoe salesman is still a rebel at heart.

His years as a teen-ager fighting in Santiago for the overthrow of former Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista and the three years' probation he served for smuggling guns to facilitate the coup have left a bitter taste in Pardo's mouth. It is the bitter taste of the Castro regime — a Communist chokehold the revolutionaries violently oppose but failed to foresee 30 years ago.

Pardo has come a long way since his arrest March 27, 1958 by the U.S. Coast Guard aboard the Panamanian ship "Orion," which was laden with thousands of dollars worth of contraband to fuel Castro's revolution.

The dapper, bubbly 49-year-old is obviously more comfortable on the golf course or in his downtown Brownsville shoe store than struggling in the Cuban Sierra Maestra with an automatic rifle and combat boots.

But he said he wouldn't hesitate to return if the need arose.

"If there was a good, well-organized movement against Castro, I'd be the first to fight," he said.

"But it would have to be with open eyes, not with closed eyes like I did before," Pardo said.

"The conditions over there are so bad."

Pardo was born and raised in this mountain city of Santiago, where anti-Batista sentiment originated and blossomed throughout the early 1950s.

At the age of 14, Pardo was leading troops deep into the mountains to prepare for Castro's invasion before he was jailed in 1956 by government police until his politically powerful father could negotiate his release.

Several years later, the elder Pardo died of stomach cancer while imprisoned at the hands of Castro.

Pardo's sister, too, died before the revolution ended, as she left the country on a boat sunk by the Cuban Coast Guard.

Officer shoots ex-convict in self-defense

BROOKSHIRE (AP) — Brookshire police officer who shot an ex-convict who had threatened him with a knife has been signed to administrative duties pending an investigation, the police chief said.

Tommy Morino Davila, 26, Wednesday shortly after he was once in the chest, officials said.

The shooting occurred at his brother's home in Brookshire, a 10,000-member County community just west of Dallas.

Officer Oscar Garcia, 31, chief's brother and a member of Brookshire force for three years, was taken off patrol pending investigations by the Texas Rangen and district attorney's office.

Store owner's job has more stress to help fight crime

WACO, (AP) — Ed Traywick owns a convenience store. There's nothing easy about his job.

He works seven days a week, 12 hours a day — helped out by his wife, Marie, and two sons, Patrick and Michael — at Traywick's Qwik Trip, situated on a sliver of concrete in a north Waco neighborhood infested with crime.

"They talk about a police officer's job being stressful," he said. "At least they've got two days a week off. When you get a store like this, you have to marry it. You have to be with it all the time."

Traywick accepts his store for better or worse — but not people who steal from it.

He said he recently was visited by a 15-year-old boy who pumped \$15 worth of gasoline into a car, then jumped in the back seat as the driver fled.

Later, the boy wanted to make restitution. There was just one catch. To get the money owed him, Traywick had to agree to drop criminal charges. Traywick refused.

The boy was charged with theft under \$20. The city of Waco stands to gain \$151 in fines. Traywick will get nothing. He can live with the arrangement.

"There's still a lot of people who believe stealing is wrong," he said. "I hope I'm not the only one."

Some might think Traywick is hard-hearted. He doesn't. He'll agree his heart isn't what it used to be. To understand why he feels like he does about crime and why he works so hard, you have to go back to Sept. 1, 1980.

Even then, Traywick rarely took time off. His father, Edward Anderson Traywick, 65, a retired General Tire employee, relieved him on Friday and Saturday mornings.

The Labor Day weekend of 1980, the older Traywick couldn't work his regular shift. His Texas National Guard unit had a get-together in Dallas. When he returned Sept. 1, he called his son and offered to work the evening shift, joking that he needed the money.

Tired from working nonstop, a grateful younger Traywick accepted his father's offer.

At about 11 p.m., a man entered the store, pointed a gun at the older Traywick, rifled the cash drawer of \$100, forced him to lie on the floor and shot him once in the chest. The robber then shot the older Traywick's wife, Lillian, in the right forearm and daughter, Evelyn, in the shoulder.

Traywick died in the store.

Thomas Graves, 19, was convicted of killing Traywick and two other people on the same night, and given three stacked life sentences.

"Since my dad was killed, I kinda feel

Board wants to let teachers retire earlier

AUSTIN (AP) — The State Board of Education recommended state lawmakers enact legislation that would allow public school teachers and employees to retire earlier.

The proposal would lower the retirement age and years of service required to earn full retirement benefits from 95 to 85.

The panel made the recommendation during a working session Thursday afternoon. The proposal will be considered Saturday. If approved, the board would send its recommendation to the Legislature.

If enacted into law, teachers and public school employees would have about two-tenths of 1 percent more contributions to the Teacher Retirement System. Lynn Moak, deputy commissioner of the Texas Education Agency said the change would not cost any additional funds.

Some board members questioned whether the lowered provision would prompt an increase in retirement pension Commissioner W.N. Kirby believed most teachers qualified for the lower number would continue to teach to earn their full salary.

PERSONALS

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You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me.
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I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory.
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EMY. 5511/11

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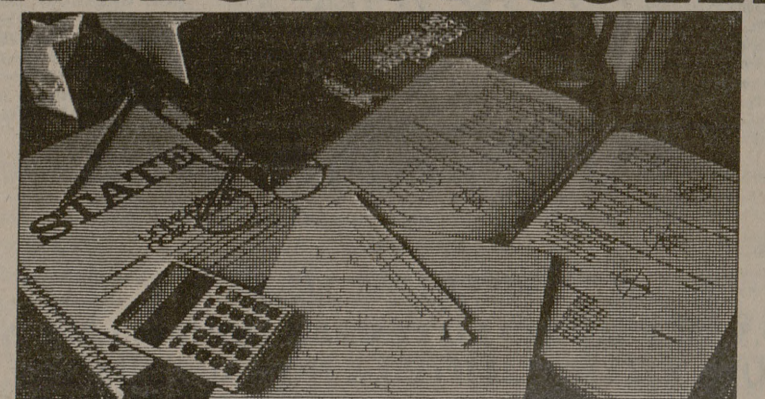
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