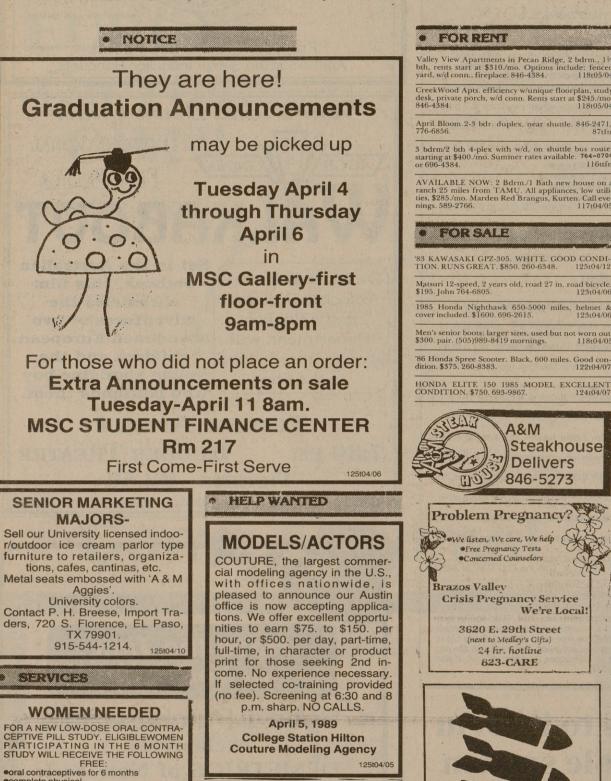
The Battalion Page 8

Tuesday, April 4, 1989

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South Texas landowner wants back oil revenues

Land Commissioner tries to protect school fund

AUSTIN (AP) — Land Commissioner Garry Mauro Monday branded as "outrageous" a bid by South Texas rancher-oilman Clinton Manges to reopen a long-closed legal case over oil revenues from Permanent School Fund lands.

Likening Manges to a rattlesnake, Mauro urged the Legislature not to grant Manges the opportunity to sue the state over a settlement the rancher agreed to in 1984.

"I'm angry. I'm furious. I'm outraged," Mauro said. "I am outraged that a man who got a fair settlement, a settlement he wanted and agreed to, would go back on his word. And I am appalled that anyone would stoop so low as to attempt to steal money from the Permanent School Fund.

Mauro said that Manges, his wife and his children all signed the 1984 pact dividing the land in Duval County. But Sen. Hector Uribe, D-Brownsville, recently introduced a resolution to give Manges permission to sue the state over that agreement.

"You know, some people say that Clinton Manges never signed a contract he wouldn't break," Mauro said. "And I'll tell you something. From where I stand, those

people are right." Manges was not available to comment, said his Duval County Ranch Co. office in Freer. He did not immediately return a phone call from the Associated Press.

At issue is an agreement Manges and his family signed in 1984 that settled a 1982 lawsuit the rancher

brought against Mobil Oil Co. The state had joined in that action.

Under the agreement, Manges received nearly 50,000 acres of private land and, Mauro said, "agreed to waive all rights to receive any proceeds" over the sixteenth royalty he had retained with regard to 14,720 acres of Permanent School Fund land.

Income from oil production on those school fund

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lands goes to finance public education in Texas. According to Uribe's resolution to allow Manges to sue the state, Manges now seeks half the \$3 million earned from those 14,720 acres and half of any future earnings

Voicing confidence that the state would win if the case were reopened, Mauro said he was reminded of a story about a rattlesnake taken in by an elderly woman The snake later bites the woman and explains, "Butyou knew I was a snake before you took me in." 'I urge the Legislature to kill this," Mauro said. "It

should never have seen the light of day. Uribe, a lawyer who said he has done unrelated legal

work for Manges in the past, said he introduced the lawsuit proposal because it is a citizen's right to sue the state over such disputes.

"It's been a time-honored tradition that when someone feels that they have a cause of action against the state, that a resolution is presented to the Legislature. This is really nothing out of the ordinary," Uribe said.

Corsicana man builds radar to detect tornado formations

CORSICANA (AP) - When towering thunderstorms threaten, Lloyd Huffman fires up the Doppler radar he built from military surplus parts

Unlike conventional radar, Doppler can detect the speed and direc-tion of raindrops within a storm, allowing Huffman to spot rotation that could indicate the formation of a tornado and warn the weather service and local authorities.

"It just kind of grew over the years," Huffman said of the radar he's been tuning up in anticipation of the April-through-June tornado

With a few differences - cost being a big one — Huffman's S-band Doppler is like the NEXRAD system being tested at the National Severe Storms Laboratory in Norman, Okla., and planned for nationwide installation in the coming decade. Huffman asked the laboratory for

the plans to build his Doppler. "After they believed us, they gave us the information we needed," he said.

Huffman built his first radar station in 1976, using World War II surplus Army and Navy equipment and putting the antenna on the local hospital. He began working in 1979 on the present station, which became Dampler ampth is in 1025 Doppler-capable in 1985.

"I'm very interested in thunder-storm structure," he said.

Tornado facts and figures

Here are some tornado facts from the National Weather Service and news accounts:

• Tornadoes can occur in any month, but are more frequent from April through June and between 3 and 6 p.m.

• Most tornadoes track southwest to northeast, but their paths can spiral erratically.

• The portion of a thunderstorm adjacent to large hail is where tornadoes are most likely to occur.

• Most injuries and deaths in tornadoes result from flying debris. • Less than 2 percent of all tornadoes are classified as violent,

with wind speeds of more than 200 mph and a path averaging 26 miles. The longest tornado on record went 219 miles across Missouri, Illinois and Indiana in March 1925. • Tornadoes travel at an average 30 mph, but can stand still or go

70 mph • The largest single outbreak of twisters on record was in April

1974, when 148 storms killed 300 people in 13 states over two days

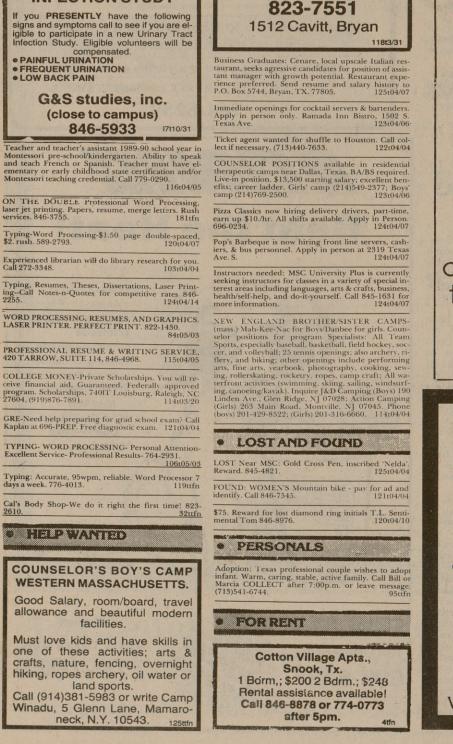
possible. He's in microwave link with WFAA-TV in Dallas and talks by ra-dio with National Weather Service meteorologists in Fort Worth.

The radar can detect rain intensity for several hundred miles, but can only process Doppler informa-tion for about 150 miles. The radar pulses about 1,000 times a second, sending a beam about 1 and a half

degrees wide. The reflected data is Huffman, 42, has a degree in sorted into "range bins" each 150 physics from North Texas State Uni-

The computer assigns a color to each velocity — red indicates movement toward the station, green is away — painting a picture of the storm.

The right combination of colors on the southwest corner of a thunderstorm provides a "meso-cyclone vortex signature," indicating rotation.



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versity. After working as a communications systems designer for Motorola in Dallas, he returned to his hometown in 1974 and started his own communications business.

Huffman and his crew staff the station whenever severe weather is plained.

A computer remembers and com-pares the location of raindrops, allowing it to determine the speed and direction. "The speed of rotation is the rate of change of phase angle — that's the velocity," Huffman ex-

After several minutes of observation and tilting the radar beam up and down, Huffman might spot elongation into a cylinder that could mean a tornado.

He then makes sure the National Weather Service knows and uses police-band radios to notify authorities in surrounding counties.

Lawmaker hopes to restrict bumper stickers

AUSTIN (AP) — Bumper stickers containing profanity and suggestive messages are obscene and should be severely restricted, a state lawmaker sponsoring such legislation told a House committee Monday.

Holding up numerous stickers that drew cackles and gasps from the audience, Rep. Senfronia Thompson told the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, "I don't think this is the kind of language, the kind of display that you want your 4-year-old to learn.

"I don't think this is the kind of display we want to see up and down our roadways," said Thompson, whose bill would require stickers with certain language or messages to be printed in type no larger than oneeighth inch.

Violation would be a class C misdemeanor. The bill was sent to subcommittee. Jack Lewis, mayor of Haltom City, a Fort Worth sub-

urb, testified in favor of the bill and told the committee, "I do not believe the framers of our Constitution had this in mind when they talked about freedom of expression.

He said the bumper stickers are offensive and that

"I'd hate to pull up behind a car with this on the bumper with a grandchild — which just happened to me recently," Lewis said.

Richard Avena, executive director of the Texas Civil Liberties Union, testified against the bill, as did John Boston, representing the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

Avena said that while he also finds some of the bumper stickers offensive, he opposes Thompson's bill because it calls into question First Amendment rights and freedom of speech.



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