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Hiring line cooks and prep cooks. Apply in person. 3-C Barbeque, 1727 South Texas.

Officials issue evacuation order to threatened valley residents

DAYTON (AP) — Liberty County officials Tuesday issued a voluntary evacuation order for several hundred residents in low-lying areas along the Trinity River as rising waters threatened to flood homes for the third consecutive year.

Several days of heavy downpours that dumped as much as three inches of rain in some areas near Dayton Monday night alone combined with increasingly large discharges from the Lake Livingston Dam to deluge some low-lying areas.

"We certainly don't anticipate anything as devastating as the Flood of 1990 or even as devastating as the Flood of 1989," said Jim Mitchum, director of the Liberty County Emergency Management system.

"This only affects a small portion of Liberty County," Mitchum said. "The homes in low-lying areas. I'd say a couple hundred people."

Dayton, which is about 60 miles northeast of Houston, has been swamped with rising waters in May, June and July of 1989 and record-setting floods in May 1990.

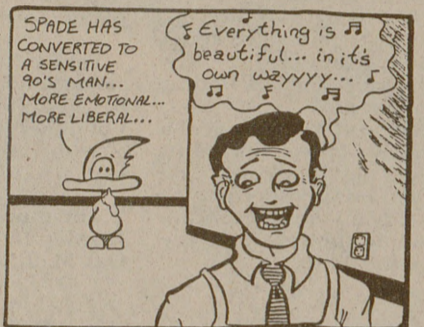
Mitchum said county officials still were rebuilding from the devastating effects to roads and homes from 1989 when the Trinity again began to surge this week.

"We have several things working on in the county from the 1989 flood," Mitchum said. "On Wednesday, we have a bid opening to repair a home that was damaged in 1989. It takes several years for the residents to get over it."

WRPD by Scott McCullar ©1991



Spade Phillips, P.I.



by Matt Kowalski

Attorneys finish jury selection

SAN ANGELO (AP) — A jury has been selected to hear the murder trial of the 76-year-old heir to a ranching empire accused of killing his nephew on a remote Hill Country road 15 months ago.

Doyle Parker, a Kimble County rancher, is charged in the slaying of Bruce Parker, 41, over an alleged land-use dispute. Bruce Parker was the second of three Parker men killed by gunfire in 1989. All were members of a pioneer ranching family that traces its ancestry back to the Alamo.

Conviction carries a maximum penalty of life in prison.

A six-man, six-woman jury was

chosen Monday in state district court. Testimony was scheduled to begin Wednesday.

The case was transferred to Tom Green County from Kimble County by now-retired 198th District Judge V. Murray Jordan of Brady. Senior District Judge Curt Steib of San Angelo will hear the case.

Jordan ruled in April that extensive news coverage made seating an unbiased jury in Junction impossible.

The murder case against the elder Parker has been a mix of mystery and intrigue from the outset, largely

because of a judicial gag order that silenced principals in the case.

On June 10, 1989, four months before the slaying, Bruce's cousin Jesse "Jett" Parker was shot to death. Investigators said robbery was the motive and charged a fugitive Mexican alien with murder.

On Dec. 3, 1989, five weeks after Bruce's death, his uncle Raymond Parker died of a gunshot wound to the head. Raymond, 66, Doyle brother, apparently took his own life. But investigators said the suicide was linked emotionally to Bruce's death and the murder charges filed against Doyle.

Ex-official's trial ends in bargain

DALLAS (AP) — Former Texas Insurance Commissioner Joseph D. Hawkins has reached a settlement in an \$11 million civil lawsuit in which state officials accused him of conspiring to loot an insurance company, The Dallas Morning News reported.

Hawkins' attorney, Mark A. Weitz, and Texas insurance regulators involved in the federal lawsuit, confirmed the settlement but refused to reveal details.

Hawkins, of Dallas, was accused of racketeering and theft in connection with the 1986 collapse of Continental Bankers Life Insurance Company of the South.

Hawkins, who resigned as state insurance commissioner in 1977, headed a group that bought the company in 1980 and sold it two years later.

But state investigators said that during his ownership and for years afterward, Hawkins was part of a conspiracy to defraud Continental Bankers policyholders and, indirectly, state taxpayers.

State officials and Hawkins asked U.S. District Judge James Nowlin to order both parties to keep terms of the settlement confidential, Weitz

said. The settlement also was withheld from public court records.

The demise of Dallas-based Continental Bankers, chartered in Tennessee, has cost taxpayers in Texas and other states at least \$17 million.

In the civil lawsuit, filed by Texas and Tennessee insurance regulators in 1988, Hawkins was accused along with eight others of racketeering, conspiracy and fraud in the alleged looting of Continental Bankers.

Two other defendants, Dallas lawyers Stanley S. Crooks and Gary R. Terbert, also have reached settlements which are sealed by court order, said Lee Jones, a spokesman for the insurance board.

State officials said the remaining defendants include former Dallas insurance executive Billy G. Armstrong, Joseph Stephen Meziere, Robert F. Wolf, Michael E. Holloway, Bette Newman and Charles L. Pritchard.

Armstrong acquired all Continental Bankers stock in 1982 from a group headed by Hawkins. Newman was Armstrong's secretary.

Court records show Continental Bankers' officers included Holloway, Wolf and Meziere.

Pritchard was sued as the executrix of the estate of her deceased husband, William P. Pritchard, who was president of the company when he died in December 1985.

All six of the remaining defendants are fighting the lawsuit.

Hawkins, who resigned as insurance commissioner in 1977 while under a perjury indictment, has a history of problems in the insurance industry.

Since Continental Bankers' failure, three other insurance companies formerly associated with Hawkins have collapsed at an estimated cost to Texas taxpayers of \$10 million.

Hawkins was indicted in 1977 on felony charges of lying to conceal his acceptance of two airplane trips from an insurance company.

The perjury charges later were dropped in return for his plea of no contest to the misdemeanor offense of accepting a free airplane ride from a company under his regulation.

He was fined \$2,000 and sentenced to a year's probation.

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Pilots accept cost-control plans of Continental

HOUSTON (AP) — About 3,900 Continental Airlines pilots have agreed to a temporary pay freeze and other cost-saving measures, the company said Tuesday as it tries to control costs in reorganizing under federal bankruptcy laws.

The Pilot Operations Group also agreed to defer "gainssharing" payments based on fuel savings, a slight reduction in flying hours and a 30 percent cut in the company's cost for crew meals, Continental said.

Continental Airlines Holdings Inc., the Houston-based airline's parent, filed for bankruptcy protection in early December, saying it was overwhelmed by its debts and surging fuel prices. It is the carrier's second filing in seven years.

"This accord will make a tremendous positive difference for our company," said Hollis Harris, Continental's chairman and chief executive officer.

"While we maintain a pledge to serve our customers with business as usual, we simply must take the position of not increasing costs," he said. "Through this agreement our pilots have shown that they recognize this."

"We felt that this was an opportunity for us to get behind him (Harris) because we do have the goal of getting the company through the fuel crisis and Chapter 11," Bob Rinehart, chairman of the Pilot Operations Group, said in a message to the pilots.

Continental also said it altered its benefit programs to include a retroactive extension of the retirement program's service credit period, giving long-time employees better retirement benefits.

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