

Tradition—

[Continued From Page 4]

Christmastime sweets, such as mincemeat pie and plum pudding, were brought to Texas by English immigrants. As you prepare your Christmas dinner this year, you might share this tale written by an English surveyor in 1672 after his holiday meal.

"No prince, potentate or magnate ever sat down to such a feast. I think we had 14 varieties of meat.

We could have had 16, as one of our hunters offered to furnish us with a mess of rattlesnakes and polecats, which he assured us were a most excellent delicacy, but our cook drew the line at these," the surveyor wrote.

"We had buffalo, antelope, deer, bear, rabbit, prairie-dog, possum, and possibly other animals that I do not recall; turkey, goose, brant (wild geese), ducks, prairie chickens, curlew (long-legged shore

birds), quail and other birds. The most expensive meat which we had on the table was bacon, which we had to haul 500 miles," he added.

The oldest permanent Polish settlement in the state is Panna Maria in South Texas, established in 1854 by 150 Polish citizens from Silesia who arrived at the site on Christmas Eve. Led by Father Leopold Moczygemba, the group celebrated mass under a giant oak tree and honored their holy traditions.

For Poles, Christmas Eve, or Wigilia, is the most important day of the season. As the first star appears in the sky, family members gather for a simple meal that breaks their day-long fast. The head of the

household divides a small, flat oblong wafer, called an opiatek, that has been blessed by a priest. Each family member shares the opiatek and exchanges good wishes with all the other members.



Kodi Cage, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Cage, won first prize in the contest at Helotes School for making a Christmas decoration. Her small decorated tree is at left. She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Moon Mullins.

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Newest Arrival



Carol Hasse of Helotes Park Estates proudly presents her new granddaughter, Carolyn Noelle, who arrived at 13407 Flying W Trail at 6:22 p.m., Dec. 11, weighing 6 pounds 14 ounces. The proud parents are Brad and Karen Hasse.

Helotes School Choir Sings At Mall



Toy Trains Recall Old Christmases

Toy train enthusiasts nostalgic for Christmases past will delight in the newly-opened exhibit at the San Antonio Museum of Transportation, "The Iron Horse." A collection of cast iron and metal toy trains dating from the turn of the century to the early 1940s are on display at the museum through Sunday, Jan. 6.

This special Christmas exhibit, drawn from the collection of a local long-time private collector, includes steam and electric locomotives,

Completing the display, a landscaped model railroad has been set up by the San Antonio Model Railroad Association and authentic scale trains and locomotives are running all day on weekends and at selected times weekdays. For further information, call the Museum of Transportation at 226-5544.

The Museum of Transportation is located in HemisFair Plaza in downtown San Antonio. Hours of

operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, with a late night opening on Thursdays

until 9 p.m. Sunday hours are 12 noon until 5 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for senior citizens,

military and students, \$1 for children ages 6 to 12 and free for children 5 and under.

**The Helotes Hills Chapter of AARP
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Next Meeting: Monday, Jan. 7 • 7:30 p.m. • Our Lady of Guadalupe Center

Corral Classified Ads

Corral classified ads minimum \$2 for 10 words, 10 cents for each additional word. All display ads on this page at regular rate of \$3 per column inch. Mail copy with check to: Helotes Echo, P.O. Box 228, Helotes, Texas 78023 or bring to ECHO office at 15350 Scenic Loop Rd. or call 695-3613 for assistance.

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So Why Not Let Our Money Work For Us? By Michael Scheft

Q: Dear Mr. Scheft,

Thanks for all the insight you have given us in your past articles. There is one area that perhaps you can clarify for me — bonds and how do you know which to choose?

Mrs. W.O., Helotes

A: Bonds are for people who want high income with relative security over the long term. If it's capital gains you are after, there are better places to look — like stocks. If you want total security or close to it, stick with a money market fund. However, if you are nearing retirement age and want high income with only a moderate amount of risk, bonds may be a good choice for you. With interest rates edging downward recently bonds have provided an attractive appeal.

If you are going to buy a bond, stick with one of the highest grades — AAA or AA. (These are Standard & Poor's highest bond ratings.) In my opinion, it is poor judgement to try to hike your return by buying a bond from a riskier company.

If you decide to buy a bond, your basic choice is between a corporate bond and a municipal bond. Let your tax bracket make this choice for you. If you are in a high bracket, municipal bonds are typically your best bet, if you are in a medium to low bracket, the higher yield on a corporate bond may be worth the extra tax you have to pay. Picking a corporate bond is not like picking a stock. It is not crucial what company's bond you buy, as long as the company is not in any danger of bankruptcy.

Another consideration when you do your bond shopping is the option of buying a municipal bond singly or buying into a pool of municipal bonds assembled by a municipal bond fund. This gives the smaller investor a tremendous diversification from the outset. These municipal bond funds are like individual bonds tax-exempt.

Q: Dear Mr. Scheft,

In looking at stock pages in the paper there is a column on the tables that show P-E. I know that means price earnings ratio but what does it show? Thank you.

G.M., San Antonio

A: PE Ratio is also known as price-earnings multiple. The term is complicated only at first glance. Actually it's simple. The price is the selling price of the stock, right now. The earnings are the company's reported profits per share for the latest 12-month period. The ratio of the price to the earnings is the price earning multiple or PE ratio. For instance, if a stock sells at \$10 per share and it earns \$2 per share then it has a PE ratio of 5. (10.00 / 2.00)

At this time I would like to wish everyone a joyous and healthy holiday season.

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Persons interested in taking the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), necessary for admission to most masters-level business programs, can review for the examination in a seminar offered through the Executive and Professional Programs of The University of Texas at San Antonio College of Business. The fee is \$75.

The all-day seminar will meet Saturday, Jan. 19, in the Humanities — Business Building, Room 2.02.04, located on The University campus.

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Terry S. Vincent, M.D.

TEXAS LEADS AGAIN — IN TYPHUS!

By Terry Vincent, M.D.
Helotes Family Practice Clinic

Texas has more and bigger of everything. Just ask any Texan. But this includes flea-borne (murine) typhus. Four out of every five cases reported in the United States between 1985 and 1981 were found in Texas, and 90% of these were in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

This rickettsial infection is spread by the rat flea to man by feeding on the human host, or by leaving flea feces which can be inhaled or ingested. Direct contamination of the eyes by rubbing them is another way. When environmental conditions are favorable, as they are in the Valley, the organism can survive for years. Thus typhus can pop up long after all the rats have been killed off and the fleas exterminated.

Six to fourteen days after a flea bite or exposure to their droppings, the victim experiences fever, headache, muscle soreness, and begins to develop a characteristic rash most often on the trunk. Typhus can mimic a lot of other diseases, so the diagnosis must be confirmed by a special blood study call the microimmunofluorescence test. Antibodies to this disease can be detected a week after onset of the symptoms by this method.

Fortunately, flea-borne typhus is rarely fatal, even without treatment. Symptoms last ten or twelve days, gradually fading away to leave fatigue and "the blahs" for the next month or so. But the administration of tetracycline antibiotics promptly overcomes the disease and the fever is gone in about three days. One bout with this variety of typhus usually (but not always) confers lasting immunity.

If you've been to the Lower Rio Grande Valley or elsewhere where rats and fleas might be, and develop the above symptoms, get checked out and treated for flea-borne murine typhus. Keep in mind the test with the long name might not turn positive for a week after you fall ill.

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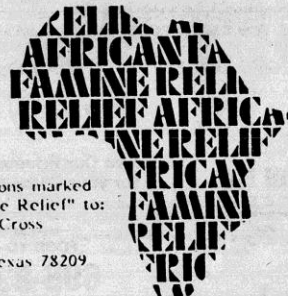
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African Famine Relief Campaign

Here is how American Red Cross  contributions will be used:

- To buy food, such as cereals, edible oils, milk powder, dried fish, sugar, baby food, and protein tablets.
- To buy medical supplies.
- To obtain trucks, four-wheel-drive vehicles, and airlift services to transport goods in Africa.
- To provide trained medical and relief personnel to coordinate on-site relief operations.
- To install long-range food production programs, such as tree planting and backyard gardening, as preparation for increased agricultural production.

HELP
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THE TAB



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Young Dancers To Perform

The Clive Thompson Dance Company, a young group of eleven dancers led by Clive Thompson, is

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UTSA, St. Mary's To Play Jan. 21

Last year's meeting between the St. Mary's University Rattlers and the University of Texas at San Antonio Roadrunners — with UTSA's victory—was a first.

This year, the rivalry returns as the two teams meet again on Jan. 21 at 7:30 p.m. in HemisFair Arena. The game promises electricity like only cross-town competitors can

generate.

UTSA, a Division I team, comes off a 20-8 season and begins its fourth year of intercollegiate action.

St. Mary's, ranked fourth in pre-season NAIA polls, has been to the national NAIA playoffs for the past four years.

Tickets, \$5 and \$3, are available

at UTSA's ticket office, St. Mary's athletics office, the Spurs box office and other Rainbow Ticketmaster locations. The game's proceeds will be split between the athletics funds of each school.

The contest, being called "The Mayor's Challenge Cup," will be aired on KMOL-TV and WOAI radio.

Tiger Tennis Team Going To California

The nationally-ranked men's and women's tennis teams of Trinity University will participate in four major tournaments in January, beginning with the prestigious Marriott National Collegiate Classic at Palm Springs, Calif., Jan. 4-6.

Following the Marriott competition, the Tiger women's team will take part in the Brigham Young Invitational at Provo, Utah, Jan. 24-26.

The men's team will compete in the Oklahoma City Invitational, along with SMU, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State, Jan. 25-27, and in the Intercollegiate Tennis Coaches Association (ITCA) National Team Championships at Louisville, Ky., Jan. 31-Feb. 3.

Trinity is ranked No. 6 nationally among the women, and No. 7 in the pre-season collegiate men's poll. The January tournaments against the

best collegiate teams in the nation will give the Tigers a chance to move up in the rankings.

In the Marriott, Gretchen Rush, a junior psychology major from Pittsburgh, Pa., will try to retain her No. 1 pre-season singles ranking. With her Trinity partner, Lisa Sassano, a senior from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., she also will attempt to maintain her hold on the top doubles rung.

Among the men, David Egdes, a senior political science major from Johannesburg, South Africa, will be

out to improve his No. 11 national singles ranking, while Chris Kennedy, a senior from Cary, N.C., will try to move up from a No. 19 place in the poll. Edges is ranked No. 9 and Kennedy is No. 10 among college doubles players in the nation.

Both Tiger teams will start dual match play against teams from other universities in mid-February.

Trinity's January tournament schedule is attached.

UTSA Games Now On Radio

For the first time in its history, The University of Texas at San Antonio is broadcasting all 28 of its basketball games live on WOAI and KSJL Radio during the 1984-85 season.

UTSA, which has been on WOAI

(1200 AM) since the basketball program began in 1982-83, has added KSJL Radio (760 AM) to the roadrunner Network this season. The addition of KSJL puts every UTSA basketball game on live for listeners in the San Antonio area.

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