

HELOTES ECHO

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 23

HELOTES, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS December 5, 1980

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Fire Dept. Seeks Funds And Volunteers Two-Thirds Have Not Responded

An annual drive to raise funds for equipment and to obtain more volunteers to aid in firefighting in the local area is gaining momentum but still has about two-thirds of the way to go according to reports from the Helotes Area Volunteer Fire Department.

Fire Chief Tom Schoolcraft and Assistant Chief Dennis George told the Echo this week that they are optimistic that everyone who can will join in giving time or money to this vital and worthy cause.

In the 25 years that this unit of Bexar County volunteer fire departments has been operating, many lives and thousands of dollars of property

have been saved by this outstanding organization.

The Helotes area is in a state of growth and the demands on equipment and personnel are growing as well. For persons who were not contacted, he said, checks may be mailed to Helotes Area Volunteer Fire Dept., Inc., P.O. Box 186, Helotes, Texas 78023.

Volunteers are in even more urgent demand. There are jobs for firefighters and for an auxiliary spot as well. The latter make up the hardworking volunteers who provide food, drinks, and assistance to those who battle to save lives and property.

This is how the message was

put by those who know:

GOOD NEWS-BAD NEWS
"In September, a letter requesting donations was mailed to each of the 1,433 Helotes area residents and property owners on our mailing list," said Chief Schoolcraft.

"The good news is that these 390 people have answered our plea with donations totaling nearly \$11,000 for an average of nearly \$28 per donation—new records on both counts."

"The bad news is that as of this date, only 390 people have responded and sent in donations. Not a very good percentage, is it?" he said.

Individual donations have ranged from a low of \$5 to a high

of \$300. Business donations—only seven received—have ranged from a low of \$10 to a high of \$100," he said.

What does all this mean? Basically it means that this fire department is being supported by less than one third of the individuals and less than one fifth of the businesses in the community.

"These proportions have held true in years past but we're out to change that this year," he added.

"Just think of what we could do if each of those 1,433 people would send in a minimum of \$25

[Continued On Page 3]

Person-to-Person

Joan Howard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Howard of Helotes Park Estates, who is expected to return from London, England, about Dec. 20, called her parents this week to report that she had received word that she had passed the Texas State Bar Exams and is now a full-fledged attorney. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Texas cum laude, and a doctor of laws degree from the University of Houston, completing both in six years. She was a National Honor Society student at Marshall.

Her sister Julie, who is a graduate of Southwest Texas University, is teaching kindergarten and pre-school children in Bastrop elementary schools. Her other sister, Anne, is a computer operator at Data Point in San Antonio. Congratulations to Joan on this happy occasion.

Manuel Balero is home from the hospital following back surgery and is making a rapid recovery.

Word has been received here that Mrs. Sally Barrera is in the Arlington Hospital after having suffered a fall at her home at Port Isabel. Her friends here wish her a fast recovery.

Rainfall Now Near Normal

Rainfall in November—which totalled 5.6 inches according to Henry Brauchle, local weather observer—has guaranteed Helotes an above average record for 1980.

The total stood at 31.6 inches on Dec. 1, some four inches above normal and also above this year's San Antonio record. In November, last year, the rainfall totalled 2.5 inches.

This year, however, added a snowfall of a few flakes one dawnish morning, recently, seen by a few residents.

December's opening days have had fog and rainfall, and the pastures are making a good recovery from the summer's drought.

It Takes Plenty Of Practice

To know-how to respond to a fire alarm with the right results comes after long hours of practice and preparation. Local

volunteers undergo weekly sessions of training and learn to respond as a team to a crisis situation.



Here Assistant Chief and Training Officer Dennis George, with firefighters Joi Harris, Maggie Grabhorn, Judy Reichardt, and others, are suiting up in turn-out gear for a practice session with actual fire.



Firefighters Maggie Grabhorn, Judy Reichardt, and Billie Villmain work at extinguishing fire at a practice session. They learn to cope with heat and smoke in accomplishing the goal of total extinction of dangerous flames.



Here, Dennis George, Maggie Grabhorn, and Judy Reichardt attend a training session on search-and-rescue with breathing apparatus. In real life situations, and actual conditions, they will be able to deal with life-threatening problems, and perhaps save lives.



During actual prolonged firefighting, the Ladies' Auxiliary helps out with food for the weary firefighters. Here they are assisted further by a junior volunteer in passing out sandwiches and cold drinks.

17 Students In Magazine

Half of the poems and prose stories that will appear in the Young Pegasus Literary Magazine published by the San Antonio Public Library are authored by Holmes High School students, according to Virginia Schelper, English

teacher.

More than 3,000 entries were submitted by high school and middle school students from the San Antonio area. Of the 34 pieces selected for publication, 15 were submitted by Holmes High School students, one from Pease Middle School, and one from Thunderbird Hills Elementary School.

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Jo Hammer, Director

UTSA Library Showing Ancient Manuscripts

On display through Dec. 19 at UTSA's John Peace Library will be an exhibition illustrating the similarities of artistic thought on both sides of the Atlantic more than 1000 years ago.

Entitled "Ancient Artistic Writing from Two Worlds," the exhibition draws from the Rare Books and Special Collections Department of the UTSA library. Both original manuscripts and facsimile editions will be shown.

Sub-titled "Codices, Illuminations, and Rubrics," the exhibit will include ancient Mexican manuscripts, the Book of Kells from eighth-century Ireland, and Books of Hours, illuminated prayer books commissioned by noblemen during the Middle Ages.

"The examples we will display prove that illumination (manuscripts which were elaborately decorated with designs, pictures, brilliant colors) were happening at the same time in both hemispheres," says Dora Guerra, Special Collections Librarian, who organized the display.

The Book of Kells, according to Ms. Guerra, towers above all surviving Western European manuscripts of the eighth century from the standpoint of its illuminations. The original is preserved in the Trinity College library in Dublin.

Codices were books that opened in a screen fold or accordion fold format. On display will be a reproduction of Codex Vaticanus 3773, the original of which is in the Vatican Library. Codices from Mexico were taken by the Spanish conquerors to their king and eventually to the Pope.

Rubrics are embellishments surrounding a signature that were developed by noblemen and scribes to prevent forgeries. On display will be five manuscripts of Francisco de Urriola covering the years from 1729 to 1802 and illustrating the consistency of his signature with its elaborate rubric.

Another original manuscript

to be shown is a bureaucratic document from Salamanca, Spain, granting royal privileges. It is hand-lettered on vellum and covers the period from 1514 to 1562.

Serving as consultant in mounting the exhibition is Laurence Miller, visiting professor of photography from New York City, who has designed photographic exhibitions for New York galleries. Set up near the display will be a stand with drawing pad and implements so that viewers can try their hand at designing an illumination, rubric, or glyph (pictograph).

The exhibition will be in the foyer of the library on the second level of the JPL Building. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. until 10:15 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.-4:45 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-4:45 p.m., and Sunday, 1-9:15 p.m.

For additional information, call the library at 691-4570.

Pearl Harbor Service Set

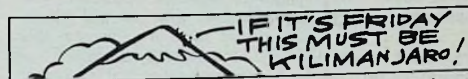
Pearl Harbor Day's 39th anniversary will be observed in San Antonio Sunday, Dec. 7, with a memorial service sponsored by the local Veterans of Foreign Wars at the Arneson River Theater, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Wreaths in memory of those who gave their lives during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, will be floated in the river by representatives from the four branches of the military service and Bexar County and San Antonio.

The keynote speaker will be Judge Mike M. Machado of Bexar County's 227th District Court. The Anson Jones Junior High School Band will play.

If the weather is bad, the memorial service will be conducted at VFW Post 9186, 650 East White Ave., across the street from Mission County Park.

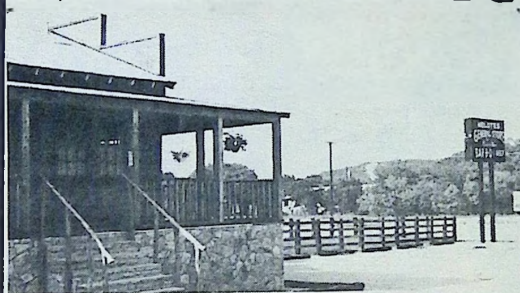
The public is invited.



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[Continued From Page One]

each year in response to our letter. That would mean we would have a minimum of almost \$36,000 to work with for the year. We could actually start planning for the future as far as equipment needs and requirements go instead of just worrying how we are going to pay for the present."

"Now don't get us wrong—if you truly can't afford to donate more than \$5 or \$10 each year, then we can honestly say that that donation means as much to us as any \$100 or \$200 donation because you have given all you can afford. But if you can afford to give at least \$25 and don't, you are only cheating yourself," he concluded.

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING

"Thanks to the generosity of those of you who have responded to our first fund-raising letter, we now have a new roof. New over-head doors have been ordered and will be installed before the end of the year. And we are finally getting all of our trucks into good working condition," Assistant Chief George said.

"Our Ladies' Auxiliary is responsible for all of the other improvements being made to the station. These include sand-blasting and repainting the outside, refinishing the meeting room with fresh paint, and carpeting the floors. They have also purchased a large blackboard for us to use during the training meetings."

"The Auxiliary has raised all of the necessary funds for these improvements through their festival booth, garage sales, book sales, and dance and we would like to thank all of you who have helped by attending these functions and making them successful," Schoolcraft said.

"The Auxiliary is also handling all of the day-to-day cleaning of the station and purchasing all of the materials necessary to accomplish the cleaning. So, from all the firefighters, thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary—we couldn't do it without you!

STRICTLY VOLUNTEER

"Everyone connected with the fire department from the Board of Directors to the of-

ficers to the firefighters to the Ladies' Auxiliary are volunteers with no compensation other than the satisfaction of knowing they are being of service to their community. In fact, by the time everything is said and done, everyone concerned has usually spent money as well as time and effort, not only on uniforms but on occasional miscellaneous items," on of them added.

"Why does anyone donate so much time and agree to be on call 24 hours a day?

That's a hard question to answer and each individual has his or her personal reasons, but generally we would guess, it's because of the chance to meet people and make new friends, learn new skills, and just basically enjoy doing something to help the communi-

ty," they told us. "So let them know you appreciate their efforts. After all, that's what it's all about—knowing that somebody appreciates what we're doing," they agreed.

"By the way, the department is always looking for new volunteers that would like to become active firefighters. If you're interested, stop by the station or contact one of the firefighters for information; that goes for both men and women."

EXTRA BONUS

An added bonus resulting from our fund raising efforts this year has been new turn-out gear (safety clothing including helmet, coat, boots, and gloves) for six of our firefighters and to supplement incomplete sets of gear for all of the officers. A complete set costs about \$200

per firefighter and our goal is to furnish all firefighters with gear soon as it's economically feasible. The funds for the purchase of this gear are coming from the donations being received from our fund raising letter and a lump sum gift of \$900 from our Ladies' Auxiliary, Schoolcraft explained.

OPEN HOUSES

Beginning in January, we are planning open houses at the station each month so that you can become more familiar with the department and equipment and meet the firefighters. The open houses will include programs, films, and handouts for both children and adults on fire safety in the home. Watch the ECHO for dates and times. And please make an effort to attend and let the firefighters know you appreciate their work.

Grange Will Have Party

The Leon Valley Grange and the Friends of the Northwest Community Library will host an "Old-Fashioned Christmas Party," Saturday, Dec. 13 at the Grange Hall on Eckhart Road, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Santa Claus will attend to hear youngsters' wishes, carols will be sung, and special refreshments will be available in addition to a white elephant sale and Christmas cookie exchange.

Admission will be a white elephant item, cookies for exchange, or a small donation. All proceeds will benefit the Northwest Community Library, 6500 Evers Road in Leon Valley.

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VOLUME 16, NUMBER 23
DECEMBER 5, 1980

PUBLISHED
FIRST AND THIRD
FRIDAY EACH MONTH
In Helotes
Bexar County, Texas

Publisher: Charles O. Brown;
Editor: Lucy Perkins Brown;
Associate Editor:
Virginia Van Steenberg
Editorial Assistants:
Marie Parrigin & Celeste McEntire.

MIN. SUBSCRIPTION:
\$3.50 one year
PER COPY: 15¢

Offices
15350 Scenic Loop Road
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Phone: 695-3613

Feast Day Set Dec. 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church will celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Friday, Dec. 12, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The traditional Mexican songs associated with the celebration will be sung during the mass. A procession of first and second grade boys and girls will bring flowers to the statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Following the mass, a social will be held in the Confraternity Building. A special Mexican dance group will perform, and refreshments of pan dulce, tamales and beer will be served.

Dec. 12 is the anniversary of the appearance of the Virgin Mary to a poor Mexican near Mexico City.

Las Posadas Again Herald Christmas



Las Posadas, the annual Christmas journey through neighborhoods in search of lodging for Mary and Joseph, is a South Texas tradition. The group re-enacting the journey above are representatives of the Mexican American Cultural Center, 3019 W. French Place. They will leave the Center at 7 p.m., carrying lighted candles and singing traditional Spanish songs, and go from one neighborhood home to another in the vicinity asking residents to give housing to Mary and Joseph. Following the procession the participants will return to the Center for refreshments and breaking of a pinata. The public is invited.

Episcopal Services To Be Held Here

With the Rev. Clifford S. Waller, of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit officiating, a Holy Eucharist communion will be held Wednesday mornings at 9 a.m. at the home of Boots Hadlock on Lakeshore Drive in Grey Forest. Any interested persons are invited to attend the

next communion on Wednesday, Dec. 10.

Rev. Waller is rector of the Church of the Holy Spirit which meets at Locke Hill Elementary School off De Zavala Road east of IH 10. Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. and Holy Eucharist is at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

New Mortgage Plan

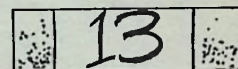
The following is a statement by Dr. Jack Carlson,

executive vice president and chief economist of the National Association of Realtors:

The Federal Home Loan Bank Board's approval of 10 percent down, 40-year mortgages is a move that is both welcomed by the real estate industry and long overdue. The 20 percent down, 30-year mortgage, the traditional home financing procedure, has been outmoded from the standpoint of affordability

for the last few years.

Such a long-term mortgage will make it easier for first time homebuyers to enter the market. This new mortgage development is a step that will contribute strongly to the achievement of the American dream of home ownership.



Tradition has it that it is bad luck to move on a Friday.

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There's no time quite like Christmas
for remembering all the friends we
cherish, and for wishing them all

a Happy Holiday

Come in to the office to select your GREETING to appear in the **HELOTES ECHO** December 19 Issue or call 695-3613 and tell us the Holiday Greeting you prefer. We have all types and sizes to choose from. Your Friends will enjoy hearing from you!

They Have SUCCESS



Oscar Castro, 18-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Castro of Helotes bagged this 9 point mule deer on a hunting trip to New Mexico and it is shown here after he arrived home. The buck was shot on Nov. 14 in Otero County, government property, during the second season there. It weighed 205 pounds dressed. It was 8:30 a.m. and Oscar was accompanied by two other Helotes residents, Gary Langlinais and Robert Algueseva, Jr. They packed the deer in snow to transport it from the field.



At his son's ranch at Pipe Creek, Joe Algueseva, Sr., owner of Floore Country Store, bagged this 10 point white tail deer, a fine specimen to add to the larder along with the wild boar he got earlier this Fall. It was Thanksgiving Day and Joe, Sr. had a nice one to be thankful for.

Schools To Close Dec. 19

Northside schools will dismiss classes for the Christmas holidays at 3:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 19. Classes will resume Monday, Jan. 5, 1981.

Leon Springs Plans Bazaar

The Leon Springs Presbyterian Church will have a Christmas bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Robert E. Horne, Jr., pastor, said the bazaar will be made up of nine specialty shoppes — Hand Crafted Gifts, Christmas Decorations, Potpourri, Little Folks' Shopping, Santa Photo Land, Gift Wrapping, Sweet Shoppe, Ice cream Parlor, and Gourmet Shoppe. The latter will offer snacks of quiche, tamales, hot dogs, tea, coffee and hot chocolate.

In addition, a spaghetti dinner will be available during the bazaar, at \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

All proceeds of the bazaar will be given to "The Bridge" and to the Presbyterian Children's Home.

The Helotes Art Guild Invites You To Attend It's Annual CHRISTMAS Arts & Crafts SHOW

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On Saturday, December 6
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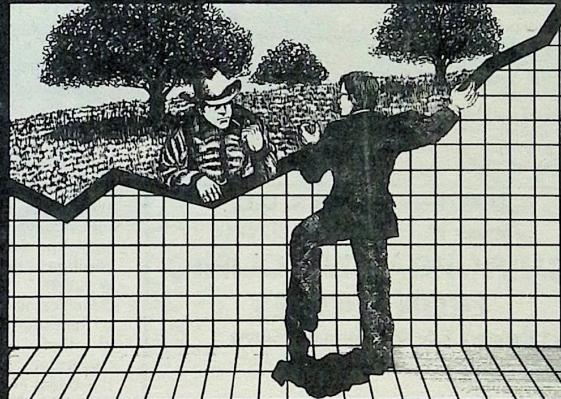
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Health Views



HUNTERS BEWARE

As each new hunting season approaches, safety authorities start preparing for the bad news: the new toll of victims who will fall prey to their own sport. While hunters prepare with enthusiasm for a sport that challenges their skills and invigorates their senses, families of hunters, farmers, safety authorities and health specialists wait with fear and anxiety.

In their brief encounter with nature, untrained hunters do more damage to property and health than they do to prey. As they stalk the elusive reward, little is safe. Everything and anything that walks, makes a noise, or merely exists is subject to being shot. That includes other hunters, domestic animals, the sides of barns, billboards... and even the hunter himself—self-inflicted.

There's nothing profound about these risks in that safety authorities have been bringing hunters' attention to them for years—without too much success.

But there are other risks not quite so obvious that should be noted strongly. And they have nothing to do with a gun. The weapon is the hunter himself. Many hunters wait all year for the opportunity to get out in the woods. Then in one weekend, they will walk, run, and strain themselves physically more than they have done all year. They will climb fences, camp out on the hard, cold ground, walk through cold water and the hot sun. They will lie in awkward positions for hours, stretch and strain as they load, reload and take the brunt of recoil from their guns. They'll return home dragging more than their rifles behind them and be "shot" physically for at least the rest of the season

with bad backs... or even worse!

The doctor of chiropractic, who is a health specialist in the treatment of back problems and related disorders of the spine and nervous system, offers some good advice. His experience can help you protect yourself from injuries and illness that account for more "lay-ups" of hunters than do shooting accidents.



1. Don't let yourself get out of shape physically. If you do, you are not only subject to sprains, strains and injury, but also prone to making a shooting mistake as a result of fatigue.

2. Hunt within your limitations. Don't try to shoot at anything you don't see clearly; don't try to maintain the vigorous pace you did at age twenty.

3. Remember that most accidents are the result of personal carelessness, and lack of physical stamina influences this. Likewise, there are probably more heart attacks suffered on hunting trips than at any other single sport activity.

4. The best safeguard is your own physical and visual ability. Have frequent health check-ups. A chiropractic spinal examination should be included periodically to make certain there are no musculo-skeletal or neurological problems.

Health and safety authorities want you to enjoy hunting and to come home safe and healthy.

Returns To Town



Movie star Dorothy Lamour has returned to the Fiesta Dinner Playhouse on Loop 1604 in the musical, "The Boyfriend." She appeared at the Playhouse two years ago in a run of the play, "Barefoot in the Park." She is best known for the "Road" movies in which she appeared with Bing Crosby and Bob Hope. A native of New Orleans, she began her career as a vocalist with the Herbie Kay and Rudy Vallee bands.

Medicare Sign-Up Set

People who failed to sign up for medical insurance under Medicare, or who once had this protection but dropped it, will have a chance to obtain medical insurance during the 1981 general enrollment period, January through March, William M. Archuleta, social Security district manager in San Antonio, said recently.

Medical insurance is that part of Medicare that helps pay for doctor bills, outpatient hospital services, and many other medical items and services not covered under hospital insurance.

Protection for people who sign up during the general enrollment period will start July 1, 1981.

Medical insurance is financed by premiums paid by those enrolled, and the Federal Government pays more than two-thirds of the cost.

People who sign up during a general enrollment period may pay a higher premium, Archuleta said. This is because the premium is increased by 10 percent for each full year a person could have had this protection but did not.

More information about the medical insurance general enrollment period can be obtained at the San Antonio Social Security office located at 727 E. Durango. The telephone number is 229-6400.

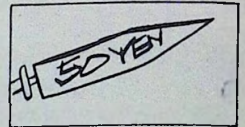
New Cadillac Dealer Opens

Ken Batchelor Cadillac, located at IH 10 and Huebner Road, is officially open to the public, making the second Cadillac dealership in the area.

Ken Batchelor, president, said "We conducted extensive marketing research in order to select the most convenient location for our dealership. San Antonio's rapid growth is in the North/Northwest quadrant of the county."

Batchelor has 11 years in the dealership business. He worked his way from the number one salesman to sales manager at Sewell Village Cadillac in Dallas. Active in the community, he served on the Board of Directors for the Sales and Marketing Executives of Dallas and as President of the Dallas Executives Association.

"It is always the impossible that happens," French Proverb



The earliest Chinese coins were made in the shapes of knives and spades, indicating, experts say, that such objects had previously been used in bartering.



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Happy Birthday Marked



Rev. Ed Jach was honored recently at a surprise birthday party given by the Altar Society of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church of which he is pastor. Mrs. Diana Stevenson, far right, was hostess for the celebration. Father Jach can be seen in the background.

Highway Work Crews Aided Flood Clean-Up

Although most people know that the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation designs, builds and maintains the Texas highway system, many are not aware that the department also works under another hat. When disaster strikes, it serves as part of the State's Disaster Relief Team.

The Hill Country flooding in 1978 brought Highway Department work forces from across the 12-county San Antonio district. They quickly responded to the devastated conditions in Bandera, Kendall and Kerr counties.

In addition to washed out highways and bridges, the department's Bandera maintenance office was destroyed by the swirling waters. Uprooted trees and debris covered homes, yards, buildings and roads. Many were made homeless by the rising streams. Telephone communications were cut off in the stricken counties.

Implementing the disaster plan, various state agencies swung into action. Before advance units of the National Guard could reach the area, the department had work crews busy. The less severely damaged roads were repaired and opened to emergency vehicles. Work began immediately on the more heavily damaged roads and bridges. A temporary office was taken to Bandera by truck and set up.

Within hours after the old office had been swept away, elec-

tricians and radio technicians had wired the new one with power and installed base radio communications. DPS officers set up traffic check points manned by department employees to monitor non-emergency traffic flow. DPS also relied upon the highway crew's mobile radio units to relay vital messages.

When the flood waters receded, the guard and units from the Corps of Engineers joined the highway work crews in the massive cleanup operation.

Edward Igo Dies at 80

An explosion believed to have been caused by an accumulation of propane gas destroyed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward T. Igo at Babcock and Prue Roads on Friday, Nov. 30, and caused the death of Mr. Igo. Mrs. Igo was hospitalized.

Services for Mr. Igo were held Thursday afternoon, Dec. 4, at Zion Lutheran Church, with burial in Locke Hill Cemetery. He was 80.

Survivors include his wife; a brother, John Igo of Woller Road; a sister, Mrs. Alice Bowman; and numerous nieces and nephews. A son, Kenneth, died some years before.

Mr. Igo was a member of Harmonia Lodge No. 1 of the Order of the Sons of Hermann, and of the Blue Bonnet Lodge, A.F. & A.M.

Summit Oaks To Install

1981 officers of the Summit Oaks Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons will be installed Thursday, Dec. 11, during a Christmas social at Wyatt Cafeteria on Babcock Road.

The officers are: Elvis O. Patton, president; Ruby Highsmith, first vice president; Lee Williams, second vice president; Fannie Lee Nichols, third vice president; Josephine Esparza, recording secretary; Betty Rickenbach, corresponding secretary; and Virginia Bates, treasurer.

The social will begin at 3 p.m.

Pallbearers were Raymond Steubing, Joe Stark, Kenneth Evers, Harris Bowman, Melvin

Burrer and Henry Howell. Sympathy is extended to the family and friends.

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Wilford Hall Increases Care With New Dental Clinic

Recent completion of the Air Force's largest, newest and most modern base dental clinic at Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center will enable the medical center to increase its general dentistry residency program sixfold while increasing the

amount of care offered military retirees.

That announcement was made by Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Paul W. Myers, Air Force surgeon general, at dedication for Lackland AFB's new Benjamin Dunn Dental Clinic. General

Myers said in a dedication address that the increased capability afforded by the 85-chair clinic will allow Wilford Hall to expand its program from four general dentistry residencies each year to 24.

This increase in residency training, which will take place over the course of two years, will require an increase of some 11 staff dentists and 64 dental technicians. The two-year general dentistry residency is one of five residency programs in dental specialties at Wilford Hall, where over 50 percent of the Air Force's post-graduate medical/dental education is conducted.

The increased patient care facilities offered by the Dunn Clinic will also enable the medical center to provide more care for military retirees, General Myers noted. He pointed out that an increase of nearly 10 percent in the patient load has been experienced since the new clinic opened its doors this past summer.

The new Benjamin Dunn Dental Clinic was officially dedicated by Mrs. Ruth Dunn of Nevis, Minn., widow of the late General Dunn, who served as assistant surgeon general of the Air Force for dental services from July, 1964, until his death in February, 1966. General Dunn also served as chief of prosthodontics at Lackland during the 1950's.

Construction on the 46,500-square-foot clinic began in September, 1978. Built at a cost of \$3.5 million by Lyda, Inc., of San Antonio under the supervision of the Fort Worth District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the new building replaced a wooden structure erected in 1954.

Firefighters Offer Tips

The Holiday Season is upon us again and with it comes all the joy and fun in the sharing of gifts, the excitement of children, and the beauty of a brightly decorated tree. To help you have a safe and merry Holiday Season with good memories, the Helotes Fire Dept. would like to offer you the following safety tips:

1.) Purchase only good quality light strings (i.e.-UL approved) and for outdoor use, only weatherproof cords and lighting should be used.

2.) Selection of a tree, whether natural or artificial, should be made with care. Artificial trees should be labeled flame resistant. Light strings should never be put on a metal tree because of the possibility of a serious shock to a member of your

family—use spotlighting placed on the floor. Natural trees should be fresh with a deep green color, strong scent, no falling needles, and the trunk butt should not be sticky with sap. If you should purchase a natural tree, keep the trunk in water and check it daily.

3.) Inspect all wiring for insulation deterioration, frayed and bare wires, loose connections, and cracked or broken light sockets. All unsafe equipment should be discarded immediately.

4.) Do not overload circuits by placing more current on a wire than it was designed to carry as overheating and fire can occur. Look for the capacity and the manufacturer's recommendations on the label.

5.) Keep your tree and other flammable materials away from fireplace openings, wood stoves, heaters, and radiators and do not block possible exits from your home.

6.) Always disconnect all decorative lights on your home or tree before leaving or going to bed. A short circuit could cause a fire while you are away or asleep.

7.) Always keep a fully-charged, multi-purpose fire extingisher in your home, now would be a good time to purchase and install them.

Grey Forest EMS Busy

Virginia Stutes reports that the EMS of Grey Forest answered 10 calls in November, two of them for fires. Mrs. Stutes, who is an Emergency Medical Technician with much training and experience, said that the Grey Forest team includes two others, Billy Cornwell, a Grey Forest councilman, as well as her son, Columbus Stutes III.

Taking training at San Antonio College is Debbie Boudreau, daughter of Mrs. and Mrs. Richard (Dick) Russin Boudreau of Grey Forest. She is a member of the San Antonio Volunteer Rescue Squad, known as SAVERS, and is secretary of that organization. She is also a member of the Explorer Post committee sponsored by the SAVERS, based at St. John's Lutheran Church in San Antonio which Debbie represented at the recent Lutheran Charity Coronation.

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Edwards To Elect Five

The Jan. 17 election to choose a director for the Edwards Underground Water District board in each of the district's five counties will find contested races in Bexar and Comal Counties, the EUWD office here reported.

Unopposed incumbents filing for re-election for six-year

terms are Steve R. Gregg, San Marcos commission oil agent, Hays County; Bruce T. Foster, rancher, Medina County; and Leslie Pepper, irrigation systems dealer, Uvalde County.

In Bexar County, James J. Falbo, San Antonio contractor, filed for re-election. Also seeking the seat are Lauro A. Bustamante, attorney; Robert C. Hasslocher, secretary-vice president, Frontier Enterprises; Kay Doyle Jones, real estate broker; and Esteban Sosa, Civil Service employee.

Incumbent Carroll U. Hoffman, New Braunfels insurance broker, filed for re-election in Comal County. Opposing him for the seat will be Minnie Giesecke Wight, retired educator.

The EUWD board is composed of 15 directors, three from each county. One director from each county is elected every two years.

Deadline for filing was Nov. 17.



Some ancient Roman ladies were so determined that their portraits never go out of fashion that their busts were sculpted with removable sculpted hair that could be changed when desired.

Card Of Thanks A NOTE FROM THE CHIEF

I just want to take the opportunity to put in a word of thanks and appreciation to all of our active volunteer firefighters who are giving the department such a boost in both morale and efficiency by their unselfish efforts, for without them, we would not be making the improvements that are being made.

I also want to thank our Ladies' Auxiliary for the support they have given to us through their activities; for without their support, the funds for many of the improvements would not be available. They are a great bunch of girls who not only give the department monetary support, but actually come to the fire scenes and give support with sandwiches, cool water or other refreshments, and just plain, unselfish moral support. These fires would be a lot harder to fight without their help.

Thanks also needs to go to the 383 individuals and seven businesses who have donated money to the department as a result of our first fund raising letter. Without responsible people like them, the department couldn't exist. To those of you who have not donated, please reconsider, because without community support through donations, we cannot maintain or improve our equipment and without good, working equipment, there is no way to effectively fight a fire.

I certainly hope you realize this fact now and don't wait until it might be your house or your neighbor's house that has a fire emergency and expect us to fight that fire with improper equipment. If that's the case you certainly wouldn't have room to complain or say detrimental things about YOUR fire department, would you?

One other thing — if you have any questions or want to take an interest in what is going on, or if you want to see about joining the department, just stop in or contact one of the firefighters. We would like to see some new faces. After all, the department has to be a community effort to be successful.

If you're not interested in joining the department, at least try to let the people that are involved know you care and appreciate their efforts. Remember, they are your neighbors and are one hundred percent volunteer and don't have to be doing any of this work or risking their lives to keep you safe or possibly even save your life.

**Thanks again and Merry Christmas,
Tom Schoolcraft**

Chief — Helotes Area Volunteer Fire Department

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Stockings and tinsel, garlands and toys,
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From 1 P.M. to 5 P.M. Saturday, Dec. 20

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Good Luck!

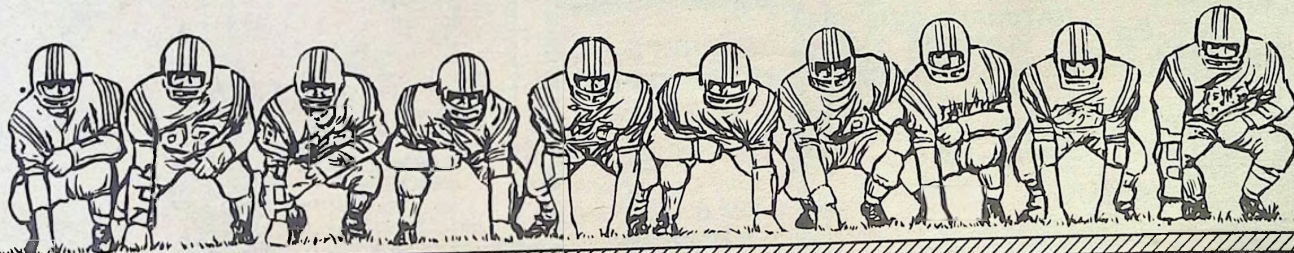


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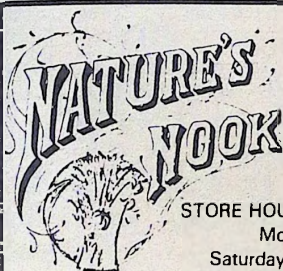
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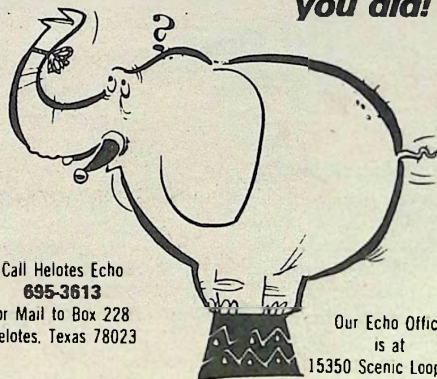
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ECHO-LOG

FRIDAY, DEC. 5

"The Night Before Christmas," a movie of the classic poem, continues at the Institute of Texas Cultures. Performances at 10:10 a.m., 2:30 and 4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and 2:30 and 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. Admission free. Last showing Dec. 31.

The Church Theater's production of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" opens, dinner at 7 p.m. and curtain at 8:15 p.m. Tickets \$10.50 to \$14.50 for dinner and the play, or \$6 and \$7 for the play only. Evening performances Thursday through Saturday, matinee Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Will continue through Jan. 4. Reservations, 224-1085.

Rustic metal art exhibition of the work of Allen Sharp continues, Radio Shack, Bandera. The exhibition will close Dec. 31.

Excerpts from the ballet, "The Nutcracker," opens at Incarnate Word Auditorium, 8 p.m. Tickets \$4 for adults, \$3 for students and senior citizens, \$2 for children under twelve. Will continue on Dec. 6 and 7 and Dec. 12-14. Matinees on both Sundays at 3 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 6

The San Antonio College Madrigal Singers and Early Music Ensemble will present "Christmas in 16th Century Austria," McAllister Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$2 and \$1.

SUNDAY, DEC. 7

Tri Delta alumnae chapter will present its annual luncheon benefit, "Santa for Santa Rosa," The Bright Shawl, 819 Augusta, 11:30 a.m. Box lunches \$5 with snacks also available.

The Trinity University-Community Concert Band will present its December concert, "An International Soiree," Ruth Taylor Concert Hall, 3:30 p.m. Admission free.

Arthur Ephros, instructor in flute at UTSA, will be presented in a faculty recital, Arts Building Recital Hall, 3 p.m. Admission free.

MONDAY, DEC. 8

San Antonio Public Library book trailer will be at Helotes School. Library materials are available for both children and adults.

TUESDAY, DEC. 9

First Pre-Legislative Conference of the South Texas Chamber of Commerce will open, Woodcreek Resort, Wimberley. The conference will continue on Dec. 10 with discussions of major issues facing the 1981 session of the Texas Legislature. For details, phone 732-8185.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10

Trinity University's three-day SolarFest will open, Cobb-Racey Lecture Hall, 7:30 p.m. Featured will be a documentary, "The Solar Film," produced and directed by Robert Redford and lectures by two California architects on passive solar design. Admission free.

Alamo Area Council of the Governments will present its semi-annual meeting, El Tropicano Hotel, 11 a.m. Admission free. Luncheon to follow in the HemisFair Room, tickets \$8.

THURSDAY, DEC. 11

Summit Oaks Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons will have a Christmas party and installation of officers, Wyatt Cafeteria, Babcock Road at Loop 410, 3 p.m. All retirees invited.

A social anthropologist with a strong interest in the archaeology of northern Mexico, William Breen Murray will discuss his research on ancient Indian rock art north and west of Monterrey, Humanities-Business Building, 3 p.m. Admission free.

SUNDAY, DEC. 14

Association of Former Military Spouses will host their Christmas social, Scout Room, St. Matthew Catholic Church, 10703 Wurzbach Road, 2 p.m. All members invited.

Citizens Concerned About Nuclear Power will hold a benefit concert and dance, Cooter Brown's, 7022 Seco Creek (across Loop 1604 from UTSA), 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. Six bands will play. Tickets \$3.

Grey Forest Does It Again

Gary Prejean took the bull by the horns and in September became sponsor of the Grey Forest Youth Club. Thinking he would get 10 to 12 youths aged 6 to 16 years old, 37 young persons turned out.

When Prejean called an election by secret ballot, those elected were Line Martin, president; Gavin North, vice president; Molly Haberman, secretary; Eric Stutes, treasurer; and Tommy Wilson, sergeant-at-arms. Editors are Eric Stutes and Jill Haberman.

The children and teenagers immediately went to work and held a Halloween party for the entire community. About 65 children and parents attended the dance, with refreshments and spook house all conducted by the Youth Club.

Prejean sounds like he has his hands full, but with the help of parents he says it's nothing but fun.

The members of the Club are now in the process of decorating the Playground Clubhouse for a big Christmas party where the young people will present a pageant for the people of Grey Forest and surrounding areas.

So if you hear beautiful Christmas carols, around the time Christ was born, they will be sung by none other than the Grey Forest Youth Club.

School Board Moves Date

The meeting of the Northside District board of trustees scheduled for Dec. 8 has been changed to Monday, Dec. 15, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the district's central office, 5900 Evers Rd.

The change was made to consolidate both December meetings of the board due to the upcoming Christmas holidays.

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Christmas Shopping Calls For Caution

With Christmas approaching, the Shields of Bexar County remind area residents to take special precautions against thieves.

During this time of year, theft rates increase, especially for shop-lifting, pickpocketing and break-ins. Christmas shopping provides thieves with opportunities to make their own holidays happier and, consequently, can make yours sadder.

To help you avoid being a victim of crime this Christmas season, the Shields offer the following tips:

- Plan your shopping trips so that you will be aware of how much cash you might need. Never carry large sums of money.

- If you are going to be away from home any length of time,

make the house look and sound as if someone was inside. Ask your neighbors to keep an eye on your house, and do the same for them when they are away.

- Park only in well-lighted areas. Stay off dark streets and walk with a companion when possible. Consider purchasing and carrying a chemical spray for self-defense. Several non-toxic and perfectly legal sprays are on the market.

- If you need to leave packages in your car, lock them in your trunk. If potential thieves can't see anything worth stealing, chances are they won't risk getting caught by breaking in.

- Don't purchase more items than you can properly and safely handle.

- Be wary of anyone that approaches you outside a store

with a special "deal." He should have proper credentials.

- In the event you do become a victim of theft, contact the police as soon as possible.

A few precautions such as these can insure you will end the year right.

Art Guild Sets Show

Helotes Art Guild's Christmas show will be held Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 6 and 7, at the Hard Times Party House on Bandera Road just south of Loop 1604.

Theme of the show will be "Most for Under \$35."

The show will run from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. both days.

Visit

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Be Pleased To Have**

Art by

Armando Hinojosa

featuring

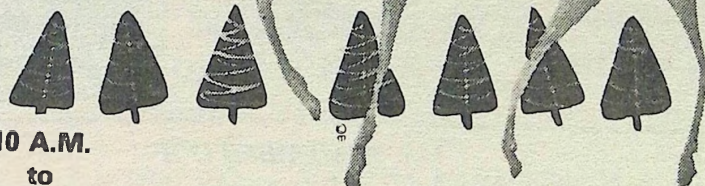
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