

Journal

Texas Youth Commission 97-362

News and information from throughout the agency.

June 1997, Summer Issue

4900 N. Lamar, Austin TX 78765

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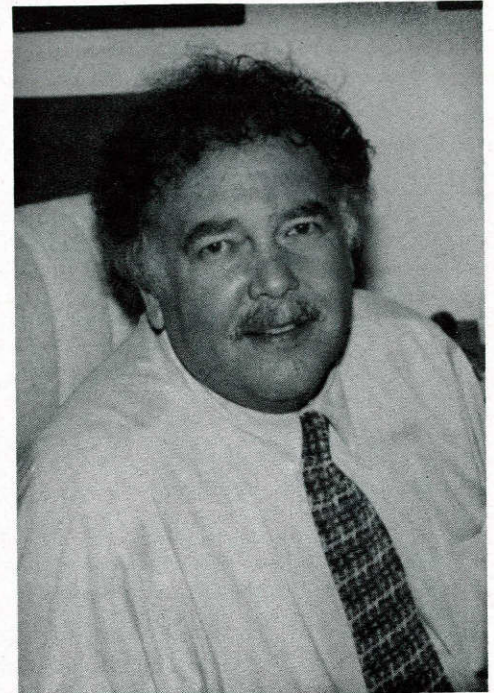
Nichols receives statewide award

Neil Nichols, TYC general counsel since 1973, has been named this year's recipient of the Texas Corrections Association's Clarence Stevenson Award. He was honored at the opening session of the annual TCA conference June 1 in El Paso.

The award, which has been given annually for the past three years, is presented to the correctional professional who most exemplifies the traits of fairness, integrity and honor.

It is named for a district judge from Victoria noted for his work ethic, integrity, progressive thinking, negotiating skills and commitment to doing the right thing for the right reason. The highly respected judge passed away several years ago

"Neil is an ideal recipient of this award," said Executive Director Steve Robinson, "because he has always served as the Texas Youth Commission's 'conscience' regarding such activities as



NEIL NICHOLS

the use of isolation, and strict control in using mace and tear gas for behavior control."

(Continued on Page 2)

Legislature approves \$390.6 million

The Texas Legislature has approved TYC's 1998-99 biennium budget at \$390.6 million, including nearly \$20 million for a new 330 bed facility.

TYC originally requested \$409.6 million for the next biennium, to include two new 500-bed institutions; the Legislative Budget Board recommended that TYC receive \$347.5 million.

The additional items adopted by the conference committee included \$15.6 million for additional operating expenses

based on higher capacity projections; and \$27.5 million for the new facility and for construction repairs and renovations totaling an additional \$43.1 million above the LBB's recommendation.

In addition to the new 330-bed facility, funds were included for a 30-bed detention unit to serve the two Brownwood units; a mezzanine in the Giddings warehouse; and other utilities and site work at Brownwood, Crockett, Gainesville, Giddings, and West Texas.

Repairs of the statewide warehouse, installation of metal soffits and new warehouse roofing at Corsicana were also included.

Repairs at Crockett include replacement of boilers in 12 buildings, foundation, roofing and general repair on the academic building and the chapel.

\$46,000 was appropriated for 16 additional beds, office space and to

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Population levels off at Hamilton — until August

Two hundred forty youth had been placed at Hamilton State School, TYC's new institution in Bryan, by May 9, according to Superintendent Bob Woods.

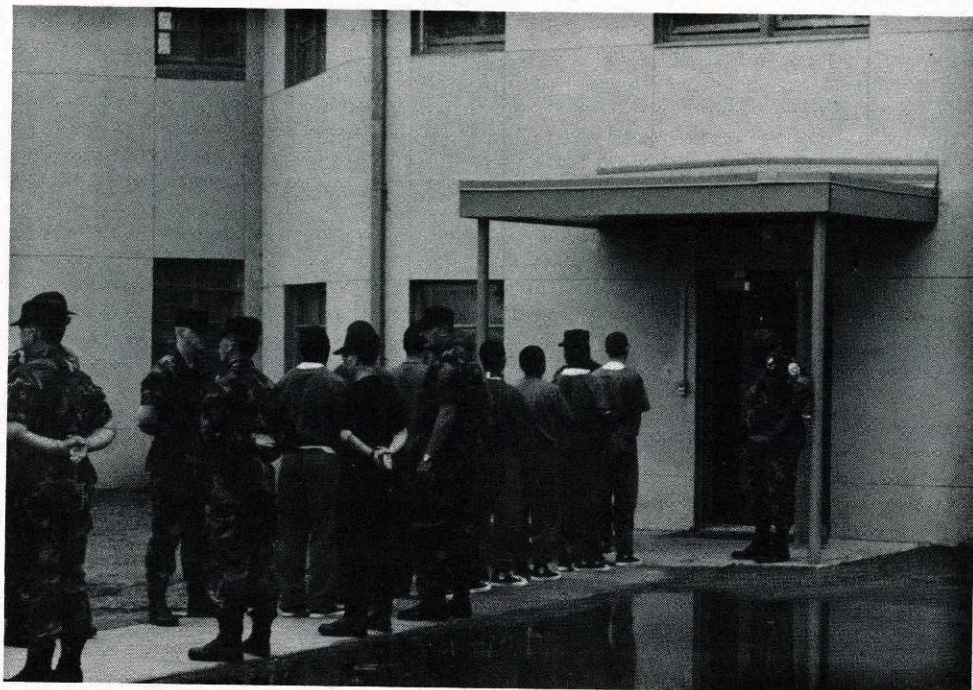
"Our first ten weeks have been busy," said Woods. "We were responsible for opening quickly to help with TYC's overcrowding problems."

He added that by June 1 there will be 221 staff members.

While the population has leveled off for the time being to allow extra time for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to complete construction, the next big increase in number is expected in August.

Capacity for the largest institution in the agency will be nearly 700.

"Staff has done a great job in such a short time," said Woods. "This break gives us an opportunity to 'fine tune' our program. We look forward to the challenges."



FIRST TEN FUTURE CADETS arrived at TYC's Victory Field Correctional Academy, Vernon, May 19. The new academy continues to receive ten additional youth each week. The facility will reach its capacity of 336 by the end of FY 1998.

Neil Nichols receives statewide TCA honor...

(Continued from Page 1)

"During the past three years with changes in society which have required TYC to run more structured programs, he has stood out as the agency's voice for continued humane treatment of youth," Robinson added.

"Neil is what I would call a *good* man...his every action — both personally and professionally — is predicated on what's right...what's moral," he said.

Nichols began his career in juvenile corrections at TYC directly out of law school (The University of Texas at Austin). He had also served two years in the Peace Corps. His undergraduate degree from the University of Oklahoma is in political science and economics. His first position was to develop due process policies for committed youth and a student grievance system.

Shortly afterwards he was appointed as ombudsman for youth in TYC reform schools — a position which the federal courts demanded in light of the class action lawsuit, *Morales v. Turman*, filed in 1971.

In this role, he was NOT welcomed by Youth Council staff at the Gatesville Reform School, TYC's primary institution back then. He spent his days talking to kids and advocating for humane

treatment for them.

He also represented students who were being considered for parole revocation and placement in the violent offender unit at Gatesville — much to the dismay of TYC parole officers, who, until then, could simply put a parole violator in their car and drive the youth to Gatesville — without any consideration for his due process rights.

Despite the many waves he made among suspicious staff members, Nichols grew in stature with those who wanted to see children treated humanely while incarcerated—especially the new administrator and new board members of the agency.

He was promoted to the position of General Counsel in 1982. During the early years one of his primary jobs was to assist the Attorney General's office in leading the agency through the class action lawsuit — a 13-year ordeal in the federal courts.

When the *Morales* case was finally settled in 1984 with the appointment of a three-man consultant team overseeing agency activities for the following four years, Nichols was their primary contact person — and had the agency's primary responsibility to see that their

recommendations were implemented.

Some of the changes Nichols helped bring about were: a greatly expanded education department; increased emphasis on health care; and extensive staff training.

He has also been one of the most influential drafters of new Texas laws effecting juvenile justice.

During the past six legislative sessions, Nichols has provided countless hours of testimony at legislative committee hearings concerning programs in juvenile justice agencies and proposed laws which would impact treatment of juvenile delinquents.

"Most importantly, he has personally drafted hundreds of pages of important bills to be proposed and considered by legislators' staffs," said Robinson. "During the sessions he works 10-12 hours a day and nearly every weekend."

Nichols also held the position of assistant executive director for professional services for ten years, overseeing the activities of the departments of legal services, health services, youth rights, volunteer services, education, chaplaincy and policy development.

Nearly 70 percent of TYC youth pass GED tests

761 TYC youth took GED tests between August, 1996, and March 31, 1997, according to Donroy Hafner, director of federal programs, in the department of education.

Of that number, 67.8 percent passed the GED and received their certificates.

"It is evident that all TYC institutions are working very hard on their GED programs," said Hafner.

Eighty-nine percent of the youth passed three of the five sub-tests. Other statistics include the following:

87.7 percent passed the writing test;

88.1 percent passed the social studies

test;

89.5 percent passed the science test;

90.3 percent passed the literature test; and

74.8 per cent passed the math test.

Data collected is from Jefferson County, Brownwood, Sanctions Unit, Corsicana, Crockett, Gainesville, Giddings, San Saba and West Texas.

The only institution not listed is Evins, which is not yet a testing center, Hafner explained. Their students have been tested through the Region I Education Service Center, although Evins will become a testing center this spring.

Giddings slates 25th anniversary Sept. 19

During the past 25 years literally thousands of young people and hundreds of staff members have spent at least a part of their lives "inside the fence" at the Giddings State Home and School.

Superintendent Stan DeGerolami has announced that the school will be celebrating 25 years of services to the State of Texas with an open house and homecoming on September 19, 1997.

"We want to especially recognize former staff members, and we are anxious to notify them so that they may return that day for the festivities," DeGerolami said.

All TYC staff and volunteers are invited, he added. More information will be forthcoming soon.

AROUND TYC

TIPC honors director with Chairman's Award

Steve Robinson, TYC executive director, was honored with the Chairman's Award, which recognizes significant contributions of the Texas Incentive & Productivity Commission's programs by that agency, as well as the Award for Excellence in the Administration of the Productivity Bonus Program.

The agency was also inducted into the Million Dollar Club because of accumulated savings in the PBP and the State Employee Incentive Program (SEIP).

John Franks PBP contact, and Laura Johannsen (SEIP coordinator) were also recognized for their support.

"TYC is the only agency I know of that has successful participation not only

at the central office, but out in the field as well," said Vickers Meadows, TIPC Chair, director of administration for Governor Bush, in making the presentation in May.

TYC was inducted into the Million Dollar Club because employees who have made suggestions have saved \$480,774, and teams have saved \$522,165 for a total of \$1,002,939. (Savings in FY 1997 increase that number over \$100,000.) Those honored were Robinson, John Franks, assistant deputy executive director, and Laura Johannsen, SEIP coordinator.

Also honored at the event were accountant Dwayne Gava, Service & Achievement Award, for processing

(Continued on Page 11)



TYC HONOREES AND OFFICIALS proudly display awards from the Texas Incentive & Productivity Commission. Pictured are, left to right, Greg Rogers, business manager, WTSS; Dennis Payne, media services manager; John Franks, assistant executive deputy director for financial support; Dwayne Gava, accountant; and Johnny Williams, superintendent, WTSS.

TYC teacher conference slated June 16-18

For the first time since anyone can remember, all TYC teachers and educational staff will come together for training and networking at a summer conference. Sponsored by Region XIII Educational Service Center, the event will be held in Austin at the Hilton Hotel June 16-18.

"The conference has grown significantly since our first planning meeting," said Donroy Hafner, TYC director of federal programs, conference director.

"Austin Community College is providing additional meeting rooms in their building next to the hotel," he added.

A needs assessment was sent out to staff requesting areas they wanted addressed through professional development activities.

Among the presenters will be many staff from TYC schools, said Dr. Judy Huffty, TYC superintendent of education. "Our teachers have a lot of expertise in working with juvenile delinquents in correctional programs,"

she added.

"One of the exciting things about this conference is that teachers and staff will be able to share information regarding strategies, programs, and activities that they feel are successful at their campus," she said.

One of the most requested topics was 'stress in the workplace.'

Lawrence and Dr. Ellen Riojas Clark from the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio.

Jim Walsh, local attorney who specializes in school law, will also present a session.

Workshops will be presented in different formats. Dr. Bill Blokker, a consultant who has worked with public

First EVER training session for all TYC teachers will feature workshops, awards, networking, group decision-making...

Dr. Barbara DeShong, local psycho-therapist will be conducting a workshop designed to provide participants with shortcut techniques for reducing the energy wasted, satisfaction lost, and health destructive effects of stress.

The need to become more aware of cultural diversity will be met in a workshop presented by Dr. Barbara

schools all over the nation, will group teams of people — including a superintendent, principal, and teacher, from each facility — in planning and shared leadership. Dr. Blokker will teach skills in effective group decision-making, including:

- 1) a six step group process;
- 2) creating and establishing the best atmosphere;
- 3) establishing ground rules on how the group is to operate;
- 4) adjusting your leadership style to match the development level of the group;
- 5) 13 characteristics of an effective group; and
- 6) 11 commandments to be an effective group member.

Another all day session on training teachers to use the Internet will be presented by UT professor Dr. Judi Harris.

An awards banquet is slated Tuesday night, June 17. Teachers, a principal, a superintendent, and a central office member will be recognized.

Dr. Karl Davidson, a consultant in correctional education, will be the guest speaker.

Dr. Davidson will also present a workshop entitled "Motivating the Unmotivated: Seven Success C's of Teaching."

TYC students join "Walk for Families"

TYC students around the state -- in institutions, halfway houses, contract programs, and on parole — are participating in this year's "Walk For Families '97" sponsored by the statewide Parents Anonymous of Texas, Inc. (PA) organization.

The nonprofit agency has sponsored the walk in the prison system for several years to call attention for the need to strengthen Texas families and end child abuse and neglect. Staff members and community residents are invited to participate either as volunteer walkers with the youth, or to help collect monetary pledges for the youth involved in the walks.

Most "walks" are being held within the fenced areas of institutions. In the community-based programs, parks and city streets are being utilized.

The Brownwood Sanction Unit participated in the event last year, serving as a pilot program for other

TYC facilities to be involved this year.

"This is one way youth can make a positive statement to the community about the critical need for child abuse prevention," said Rebecca Christie, PA executive director.

Many TYC facilities have scheduled their "walks" and some have already been held. Victory Field Leadership Academy cadet leaders participated in a Vernon "walk" before any TYC youth had been received at the new institution. Corsicana State Home held their event June 7 with sponsorship shared by the Corsicana Kiwanis Club and the Community Advisory Council.

"I am really pleased that so many TYC programs are participating in this event — a great opportunity to do required community service," said Steve Robinson, executive director. "In addition, I think it's important for our youth and for the community to learn about the problems of child abuse."

(Continued on Page 12)

1997 administrators workshop will 'Maintain the Balance'

More than 400 agency personnel are expected to attend the 1997 annual TYC administrators workshop June 30 through July 2 at the Renaissance Austin Hotel in Austin.

Theme for this year's workshop is "Maintaining The Balance."

The general session begins Monday, June 30 at 1 p.m. with the Sheffield Boot Camp color guard and welcome by executive director Steve Robinson.

Keynote speaker will be Rep. Sylvester Turner.

The Monday session will feature presentations of awards, including tenure plaques, safety awards, the Executive Director's Awards, the Administrator of the Year; intercultural awareness award and individual awards to outstanding

staff members from each program.

Staff awards will be presented by TYC board members.

A barbecue at the SPJST Hall in Round Rock will conclude the day's activities.

A legislative overview will be given Tuesday morning by Robinson, Judy Briscoe, chief of staff, and Neil Nichols, legal counsel.

Consultant Dottie Gandy will make a presentation on "Sharpening Your Saw," introduced by deputy executive director Sandy Burnam.

Tuesday afternoon three breakout sessions will run concurrently, with participants choosing which workshop to attend.

They include "Developing Victim

Impact Panels," presented by a panel of TYC employees; and "Changing Youth Demographics and TYC," presented by research specialist Jay Svinicki and Linda Reyes, director of rehabilitation services.

Nancy Baird, of Solutions 2000 will present a workshop entitled "All Stressed Out With No Place To Go."

The afternoon sessions will conclude with a presentation to all participants on "Sexual Harassment —It's Everywhere!" by Curtis Polk Jr., ombudsman with the Texas Department of Insurance.

Fifteen outstanding TYC youth will be recognized during the breakfast buffet Wednesday morning, July 2.

1,200 tour Evins during past six months

Over 1,200 students, teachers, parents and community representatives have toured the Evins Regional Juvenile Center, Edinburg, between the months of November and April, according to Raul Arredondo, volunteer coordinator.

"A big majority of the schools bring 'at risk' and alternative education youth to the center," he said, "although mainstream classes are also coming."

While most schools request the tours, a new program started with the McAllen ISD is different. In conjunction with the school attendance officers and local judges, students who are being taken to court on truancy charges are also mandated by court order to tour the center with their parents.

"The message, of course, is that truancy increases the risk factors for involvement in delinquent activity," Arredondo said.

A neighboring school district, Pharr-San Juan-Alamo is also working toward involving at-risk youth in tours.

Long-time agency 'money-man' John Franks enters retirement

The man who has been recognized for nearly four decades as the official "keeper of the till" for the Texas Youth Commission has officially retired from the agency.

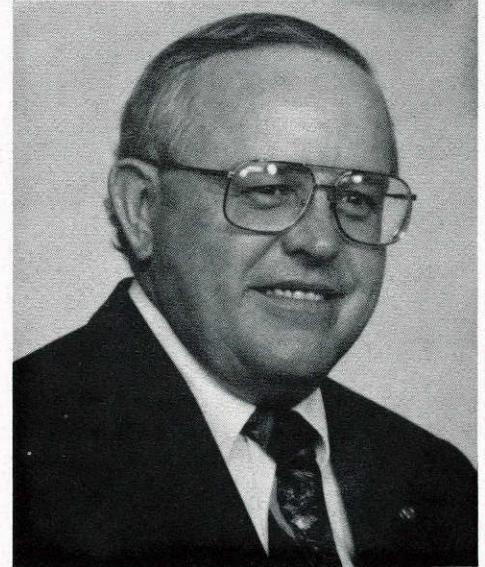
John Franks, who was honored at a going-away party May 23, began his tenure with TYC as chief accountant at the Mountain View School for Boys, a unit of the old Gatesville Reformatory, in April of 1964. (The Gatesville facilities were transferred to the adult prison system in 1978.)

Franks then helped open a new TYC institution at Pyote, becoming the first business manager for West Texas Children's Home, now West Texas State School, where he worked with former executive director Ron Jackson.

He worked at West Texas from 1965 to 1969, when he helped TYC open another new facility, the Brownwood State Home and School For Girls, remaining at Brownwood until 1974.

He moved to Austin and Central Office in June of 1974 as the agency's staff services officer.

Franks became Director of Fiscal



John Franks

Affairs in 1977 and served in that or related capacities for the next 19 years. In April of 1996 he was named Assistant Deputy Executive Director for Financial Support.

"It's been fun, and it's been challenging through various "growth" periods," Franks said.

Interstate Compact a mystery to most TYC staff

What do you know about the Texas Interstate Compact?

This little-known department within the Texas Youth Commission's central office deals with more than 3,000 juvenile delinquents each year — some of whom are on county juvenile probation, others are on TYC parole, and others are non-delinquent runaways.

The largest area of responsibility for the Interstate Compact Office is to ensure that cooperative supervision is provided to Texas youth who are on probation or parole when their families live in another state, and youth from any of the other 49 states, the Virgin Islands, the District of Columbia, and Guam whose family resides in the State of Texas.

The second largest area of responsibility for Interstate Compact is to return non-delinquent youth, probation/parole absconders, and escapees who cross state lines.

The first states enacted the Uniform Interstate Compact on Juveniles into law in 1955. Texas followed suit in 1965.

Steve Robinson, TYC's executive director, was appointed by the Governor in 1992 as the administrator of the Interstate Compact on Juveniles.

The deputy administrator is responsible for the daily operations of the Interstate Compact. Donna Bonner has held this position since January 1990. Bonner's office has steadily served more and more youth.

In 1990, 1,189 youth were served; compared to 3,006 in 1996.

"In addition to the increased numbers, the number of complex cases which require individual attention in this office has also risen," said Bonner.

"For instance, when supervision cases involve sex offenders, this office must be sure the youth is not being returned to the home where the victim also lives. We ensure that the required treatment is in place prior to the youth leaving the state. We have to follow-up to ensure that the youth has registered in the states where it's required by law," she explained.

"Then, on a quarterly basis, we follow-up to ensure that the supervision, services, and treatment are being

provided to the youth...taking care of these issues is far more time-consuming than merely purchasing a plane ticket," she added.

The office has five staff positions to deal with the increase in numbers of youth referred, and the Legislature recently approved adding three more.

Kevin Bach, runaway coordinator, is the primary contact person for non-delinquent runaways, probation/parole absconders, escapees and juveniles being charged as delinquent who cross state lines.

Sylvia Perez, intake/parole

coordinator, is responsible for conducting intake on probation and parole cases and for the ICJ parole caseload.

Beki Peterson, probation coordinator, is responsible for the ICJ probation caseload, and Liza Valdez, administrative technician, provides support to the department.

The scope of responsibility for the Interstate Compact staff is much wider than for other TYC employees. All staff spend many hours on telephone calls with parole officers and probation officers in Texas and in all other states.

FAA concerned about juveniles transported on airlines unescorted

Don Cotton, special agent of security for the Federal Aviation Administration, addressed the January meeting of the national Association of Juvenile Compact Administrators concerning the issue of transporting unescorted juvenile delinquents.

Current FAA policy, in effect since 1981, requires the escorts of prisoners to be armed law enforcement officers, said TYC's Donna Bonner, who administers the statewide Interstate Compact on Juveniles from central office.

"While Mr. Cotton said he understood that juveniles are not considered 'prisoners,' when you bring a person into an airport in restraints, particularly delinquents being charged as absconders and escapees, it is not acceptable to FAA for that youth to be returned unescorted," Bonner explained.

Cotton added that FAA would prefer for the Compact to make the necessary changes to their rules and regulations, rather than require FAA to write policy to govern the states' unescorted movement of youth.

The Compact's rules and regulation committee will submit proposed changes to Cotton prior to the annual meeting in

August.

"New regulations may necessitate dramatic changes in the way juveniles are transported by air," added Bonner.

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Legislature deletes free staff housing, utilities

Effective March 1, 1998, the Legislature has determined that only agency superintendents, assistant superintendents and directors of security will be authorized to live in state-owned housing at a rate below 100% of the fair market value of the housing. That rate will be determined by the agency.

Other TYC employees may live in state-owned housing, but will be required to pay 100% fair market value, as determined by the General Land Office.

Housing fees will be reappropriated to the agency and used to maintain employee housing.

In addition, beginning September 1, 1997, all agencies will be required to recover the full cost of utilities from any employee living in agency housing. Where units are not metered separately, the agency will determine the portion of the cost for each unit or determine if it is feasible to separately meter the units.

The Legislature also required that no additional employee housing will be constructed, and that agencies must raze housing when it's no longer suitable for employee housing, rather than making repairs and updates.

It also ruled that employees may not receive additional compensation in lieu

of state housing.

Free housing may continue until March 1, 1998. Those who choose to move from agency housing may use state-owned equipment and personnel to move household goods, or the agency may pay for commercial moving companies in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 per move.

The Legislature also ordered all agencies to reduce their travel expenditures by ten percent, and it capped salary increases at 1.7 percent, although exemptions can be obtained for

career ladder and some in-house promotions.

TYC may continue to provide meals to employees working in institutional settings and may charge a fee at costs established by the agencies which does not exceed the direct and indirect costs of preparation. TYC facilities may provide free meals for food service personnel and volunteer workers, and may furnish housing facilities, meals and laundry services for interns, chaplains in training, and student nurses.

Key legislation impacting TYC

House Bill 1550, passed by the 75th Legislature, requires TYC to accept youth with mental illness. It also requires TYC to discharge youth with mental illness or mental retardation who cannot progress in agency programs due to their illness or retardation if they are not determinate sentenced offenders and if they have completed the minimum length of stay applicable to their committing offense.

Several other bills which will impact the Texas Youth Commission were passed during the session which ended June 2 and have been signed into law by Governor George Bush.

Among those are:

1. TYC's Sunset reauthorization bill (HB 2074). The Governor will now be appointing TYC's board chair.

2. HB 2075, which authorizes TYC to obtain background checks on employees, applicants, volunteers, as well as employees and volunteers of contract programs.

3. HB 2082, which authorizes TYC to sell or lease its Resocialization Program and other programs.

4. HB 1556, requires TYC and all other state agencies, to establish Internet E-mail addresses, allows TYC to publish the E-mail address, and use E-mail to communicate with the public.

5. SB 625 allows the Department of Public Safety to release information from the juvenile justice information system about youth who have escaped from TYC's custody when it is necessary to protect the welfare of the community.

6. SB 145 will require TYC and other state agencies to accept gifts over \$500 in value only if the TYC board approves accepting the gift.

7. SB 170 provides more rights to victims of TYC youth, and will require more comprehensive involvement in the victim notification process within TYC.

Bills which were passed during the final days of the session, but had not yet been signed by the Governor at press time, include the following:

1. SB 1232, which would set certain conditions for juvenile probation, TYC parole and determinate sentence parole for individuals who have been adjudicated for certain delinquent sexual misconduct.

2. The conference committee's report of HB 1150, which will require even closer coordination with school personnel regarding the arrest or detention of a student, was adopted, but had not yet been sent to the Governor.

3. HB 1756, providing immunity from liability for TYC volunteers, was sent to the Governor for signature May 29.

4. HB 2153, which would apportion a percentage of a youth's salary who is involved in the TYC industries program to the Crime Victims' fund, did not meet the committee deadline in the Senate, but was later attached as an amendment to HB 2324.

1998-99 budget...

(Continued from Page 1)

install a dishwasher at the Sheffield boot camp.

New staff included in the budget will be 62 new parole officers, 90 youth activity supervisors, one apprehension specialist (Bexar County); a psychologist and two new caseworkers at Crockett; youth advisors for 67 parolees, and eight new central office positions.

New administrators begin duties

JOHN 'BUTCH' HELD has been named superintendent of the Evins Regional Juvenile Center, after serving as acting superintendent for the past six months.

Held has over 21 years experience with TYC, starting as a caseworker at the Crockett Wilderness program; later he was named assistant camp director of the Fairfield program.

He has served as superintendent of three halfway houses: El Paso House, Beto House in McAllen, and Valley House, Harlingen. He also was youth program supervisor at West Texas Children's Home (now West Texas State School) for a two-year period.

Held received his degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State University, and served two years in the Peace Corps in Columbia, South America.

BARTLEY CALDWELL has been named superintendent of York House, in Corpus Christi, after serving a short time

Evins officials receive awards for work with nutrition project

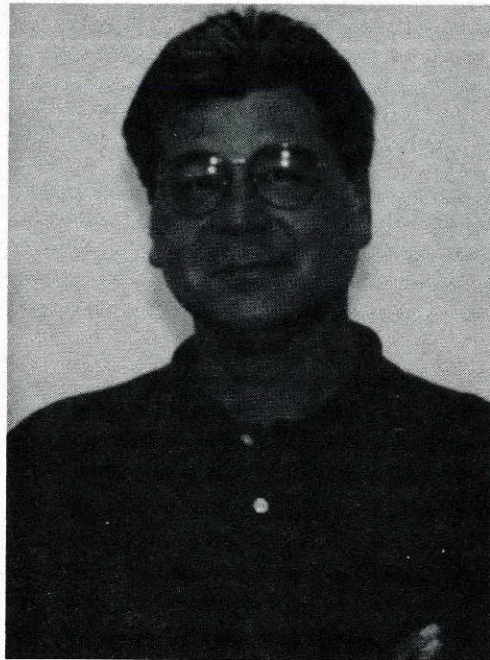
Evins Regional Juvenile Center superintendent, John Held and volunteer coordinator Raul Arredondo, were presented certificates of appreciation by Texas General Land Office Commissioner Gary Mauro and by Rep. Richard Raymond for their work with the Evins Community Nutrition Project.

The project is one of three pilot programs with Texas Community Nutrition Task Force. Supt. Held accepted the awards at a reception in Austin.

The Task Force reported to the 75th Legislature on the program which was created by HB 2198 by Rep. Raymond of Benavides and Sen. Rodney Ellis of Houston.

The project sought under-utilized state land to establish garden programs to teach youth horticulture and nutrition, and help those who may not have enough to eat.

The Task Force encouraged all state agencies to expand and continue the gardens and to establish similar projects at all TYC facilities.



John (Butch) Held

as director of operations there.

Caldwell previously worked nine years at the Corpus Christi State School, and has taught adult basic education classes.

He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's in education administration, both from Texas A&M, Corpus Christi.

Two new education department employees have begun their duties in central office. They are **BILLY JOE GALBRAITH**, director of technology training, and **TERRY WHALEY**, English as a Second Language (ESL) supervisor.

Gailbraith is working with TYC teachers in integrating technology in the classroom. He most recently was a computer teacher and network administrator for A.I.S.D. and has 19 years teaching experience in Texas and West Germany.

Whaley is a Ford Foundation scholar who has taught in countries around the world.

PATRICK WYSOCKI, formerly network manager with I.R.D. in Central Office, has assumed the duties of the human resources information services administrator.

New program administrator for the department of juvenile corrections and aftercare is **TOMMY BAYES**, who replaces Christi Mallette, who was recently named parole administrator. He reports to Alex Escarcega. Bayes comes to central office after serving as youth rights specialist at Corsicana. He holds a bachelor of science degree in psychology with a minor in biology from SWTSU. He is pursuing his master's degree in public administration at SWTSU.

DR. BARBARA HALL has been named correctional psychologist at Crockett State School. She has eleven years of clinical supervision experience as an adolescent psychologist for emotionally disturbed and chemically dependent adolescents in both inpatient and outpatient settings. One of her most recent experiences was crisis management with families of the Oklahoma bombing victims. Her most recent position was clinical director of Greenwood Psychological Services.

Dr. Hall holds a master's degree from Texas A&I, Kingsville, and a Ph.D. in psychology at Texas A&M, College Station.

GNOSSOS HEBERT has been named Project RIO-Y workforce development resource technician, reporting to Lane Roos, Project RIO-Y director. Hebert has a broad range of vocational rehabilitation and workforce development experience.

Sheffield Boot Camp increasing capacity

TYC's Sheffield Boot Camp is increasing its capacity from the present 48 cadets to 64 in September 1, 1997.

Construction began May 15 for a 3,240 square foot building including four classrooms, two offices and two bathrooms, according to Al Elizondo, commandant.

Briscoe is guest lecturer at institute in Japan

Judy Briscoe, TYC chief of staff and director of prevention, served as a guest lecturer in Japan June 4-17 at the international training course for the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

She was invited as a visiting professor by the Ministry of Justice in Japan.

The training course was entitled "The Quest for Effective Juvenile Justice Administration."

Briscoe submitted a paper entitled "Breaking the Cycle of Violence: A Rational Approach," which was published for the course. Her first lecture focused on that paper. She also lectured on TYC's Resocialization program.

The lectures were set up similar to United Nations meetings, through interpreters.

The United Nations Asia and Far East Institute (UNAFEI) was established in 1962 by an agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Japan. Dr. George Beto, who served on TYC's board for many years, served as a visiting professor several years ago.

Visiting professors for the June meet included lecturers from India, Australia, England, Thailand, Germany, and Austria, in addition to Briscoe from the United States.

Participants were high level correctional/judicial/law enforcement professionals from the following countries: Bangladesh, Belize, China, El Salvador, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Pakistan, New Guinea, Phillipines, Korea, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda and Japan.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Challenge yourself with this quiz...

Challenge yourself with this quiz that covers several of the most important legal areas you deal with every day.

1. The Age Discrimination in Employment Act prohibits discrimination in any term or condition against those age _____ and above.

2. How long must you retain test papers of employer-administered aptitude or other employment tests?

3. You shouldn't use the fact that an applicant has been arrested as a reason for not hiring him. TRUE or FALSE

4. Generally employees do NOT have the right to (check one):

a) inspect their personnel files more than two times a year

b) make copies of information in their files

c) remove their files from the Human Resources area

d) none of the above

5. According to the ADA, which of the following is not considered to be a disability?

a) HIV infection

b) current drug use

c) mental disorder

d) all of the above are considered to be disabilities

6. You need to complete a new I-9 form whenever an employee is promoted or transferred. TRUE or FALSE

(ANSWERS ON PAGE 12)

Corsicana ex-students hold annual homecoming

Around 250 ex-students attended homecoming on June 14 at the Corsicana State Home, an annual event.

Since the state home has existed for more than 100 years, many students who return for homecoming resided there during its days as a state orphanage, or as a program for dependent and neglected children.

Exes assembled on campus and in the

ex-students' center to visit and reminisce about their earlier years. The ex-students center houses memorabilia from early years, including books, pictures, trophies and souvenirs from the early to mid 1900's.

This year the group held a memorial service for exes. An annual event is the softball game between the ex-students

and current residents.

Homecoming culminated with a banquet in Calvert Hall, the campus dining hall, with recognition of the representatives from the various classes that were present.

The Exes make annual donations to the campus Boy Scout troop and to the community advisory council's Christmas fund-raising appeal.

Youth reenact *Passion Play* at Evins

Under the direction of volunteer Pam Whitworth, 30 Evins Regional Juvenile Center students and 12 volunteers joined forces to present a Passion Play, reenacting the story of Jesus and the Resurrection.

Youth also did all the background displays and props, reconstructing the city of Jerusalem complete with a papier-mâché tomb and walled city.

Realistic costumes sewn by volunteers added a special touch to the drama. Live music was provided by "The Hearts."

Prior to the event, a special guest, the Most Reverend Thomas Pena, Bishop of the Diocese of Brownsville (which covers the Lower Rio Grande Valley), attended youth who wished to participate in Catholic confession.



REENACTMENT OF JESUS with his apostles was one of the scenes in the Passion Play presented by students and volunteers at Evins Regional Juvenile Center during the Easter holidays. The 32-member cast wore authentic costumes sewn by area volunteers.

Art programs flourish on Corsicana campus

The Corsicana High School drama class recently presented scenes on the campus at Corsicana State Home from the play "Blithe Spirit."

Another on-campus performance was given by Don Harms Marionettes, scheduled by Navarro Council of The Arts and funded by TYC Wende Funds.

Troupe d' Jour brought Shakespeare during structured activity time on three evenings.

CSH students have been the guests of the local Warehouse Living Arts Center for productions of "The Amorous Flea" and "Blithe Spirit."

Also, a group of churches brought the Power Team to Corsicana; this is a Nationally recognized organization of weightlifters who provide anti-drug rallies and programs on self esteem and motivation.

Giddings team wins state championship

The Giddings State School Indians won the Division 5A Track and Field State Championship during competition in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (T.A.P.P.S.) held in May at Baylor University.

The Indians, coached by Sandy Brown and Lester Ward, won the state championship last year in 2A.

The Indians won their district meet the previous week in the Houston area district 3-5A by compiling 316 points and qualifying 15 athletes for the state meet.

At one point in the state meet prior to the 400 meter dash they had trailed by 32 points, but stepped up and ran some of

their best times of the year, placing well in three of the last four events to beat their main competitor, Dallas Byshop Lynch, by a score of 143 to 141.

Coach Brown paid tribute to the team effort it took to win the championship.

Forty-two employees and community volunteers donated 1,440 hours of off-duty time to help supervise the team during the nine track meets held off campus this season.

"Without the one-to-one coverage, the vast majority of student participants would not have been permitted off campus to compete," he said. "We really appreciate the employee volunteers and members of the community advisory council."

43 receive GED diplomas at San Saba graduation

Forty-three students received GED diplomas at graduation ceremonies at San Saba State School in March.

Two honor students, the co-valedictorians and salutatorian, made speeches.

Executive Director Steve Robinson and Alex Escarcega, director of juvenile corrections, assisted Superintendent Lydia Barnard in the awarding of diplomas.

Also assisting were assistant

superintendent Donald Brooks and principal Nina Wiggins-Smith.

The school choir sang "I Can Fly" and the ceremony ended with a marching demonstration by the phase IV graduates.

Six days of activities at San Saba observed for crime victims' week

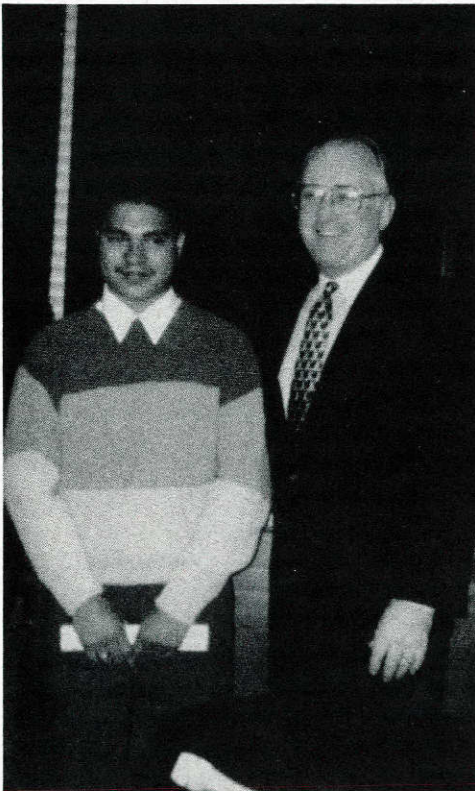
San Saba State School participated in the National Crime Victims' Week observance held April 14-19.

A poster and poetry contest was held, and students handed out ribbons and booklets in the community about crime victims.

Students spoke to the San Saba, Cherokee, and Richland Springs High Schools about crime victim awareness and victim empathy.

A tree was planted by the Student Council in memory of students' victims.

The week ended with a charity golf tournament sponsored by the San Saba volunteer council and the SSSS staff, with proceeds used to promote crime victims' awareness.



TYC student Adrian Garcia and Congressman Howard P. "Buck" McKeon.

YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

TYC student testifies before Congressional subcommittee

Adrian Garcia, a TYC student at Gulf Coast Trades Center, New Waverly, testified March 4 before a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee seeking insight into more effective and efficient job training for disadvantaged youth.

He was accompanied to Washington D. C. by Mike Buzbee, executive director of Gulf Coast Trades Center, a TYC contracted program, and Bill Harrison, community projects administrator.

Their appearance at the subcommittee hearing was requested by Congressman Howard P. "Buck" McKeon, chair of the Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education, Training and Life-long Learning -- a subcommittee of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Adrian, who has now been paroled to his home, testified that he was placed on probation for auto theft when he was 13.

His probation was revoked when he was 16 and he was sent to TYC.

After two months at the Marlin

Orientation and Assessment Center, he was selected for vocational training and sent to Gulf Coast.

"I was enrolled in the horticulture class, where we learned about landscaping, grounds maintenance, plant identification, plant propagation, tool identification usage and safety," he told the subcommittee members.

He also caught up on his academics at the learning resource center, and was enrolled in drivers ed at night.

After completing his course, he went to work at the City of Huntsville, in the parks and greenspace department, while he remained at Gulf Coast taking classes in the evening on substance abuse, GED classes, drivers education, and independent living skills.

Adrian graduated March 30 and has returned home to his family.

"With what I have learned, I know I can find and keep a job and I hope someday to go to community college and maybe help other kids in my hometown," he said.

TIPC inducts TYC into 'Million Dollar Club'...

(Continued from Page 3)

award payments and transfers for TYC; and Dennis Payne, director of media, who assisted TIPC with their first marketing video.

Also West Texas State School photo

team, Donna House & Greg Rogers, who devised a way to use the computer technology that allowed staff to download staff and student ID photos without the expense of using film.

Schaeffer House youth reconstructing gardens

Residents of Schaeffer House, El Paso, are doing community service work reconstructing garden islands along the Cordova Island Trail at the Chamizal National Park. Completion of the five islands was expected by the end of May.

Their work was recently recognized by park superintendent William Sontag during a dedication ceremony on Earth Day.

The youth will continue to work on projects in the park through the end of the summer, including assisting with office duties and painting the visitors' center and the museum.



COMMUNITY SERVICE AT SCHAEFFER HOUSE has included extensive reconstruction of garden islands in the Chamizal Park on the Cordova Island Trail. Residents pictured include Jorge Argueta, Maxie Deckard, Kevin Flint, Arron Jackel, Johnny Martinez and Juan Rangel.

Teachers' conference... (Continued from Page 4)

TYC central office personnel presenting workshops include: Billie Flippen, director of curriculum and instruction; Tony Knuepper, director of career/technology education; Donroy Hafner, director of federal programs; Dave Troxell, instructional supervisor; Dr. Terry Whaling, ESL supervisor; and Cris Burton, treatment specialist.

Field staff presenters include Graydene Sennette, Greg Travillion—*Hamilton*; Cathy Cummins, Dale Dykes, Jane Richmond, Judy Meyer—*Crockett*; Rondell Williams,

Annette Melcher, Shannon Hampu—*San Saba*;

Also Shirley Sprecher, Venita Calfy, Neva Banks, Janet Davis—*Gainesville*; Iris Bohr, Alice Lang, Ramon Campos—*Giddings*; Carol Smith, Kathy Smith, Nancy Bobs—*Jefferson County*;

Also Joy Davis, Ana Arredondo, Mary Ramirez, Naoemi Gonzales, Hope

McClung—*Brownwood*; Ann Edwards—*Corsicana*; and Niranjan Sharma—*West Texas*.

Steve Robinson, TYC executive director will give a "State of the Agency" report.

Other administrators on the program include Dr. Huffty, Dr. Linda Reyes and Sandy Burnam.

TCA recognizes Jane Parker

Jane Parker, volunteer coordinator for the southern service area, was one of five correctional employees from throughout the state recognized as TCA Stars during that group's annual conference June 1 in El Paso.

She was honored for outstanding fundraising and leadership in both the central region and south region during her seven years with the agency.



PROVIDING CINCO DE MAYO program entertainment at Corsicana State Home were students from the Corsicana ISD's Collins Middle School.

ANSWERS: (FROM QUIZ ON P.9)

- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| 1. 40 | 3. True |
| 2. 1 YEAR | 6. False |
| 4. c | 5. b |

Habitat includes TYC students in celebration

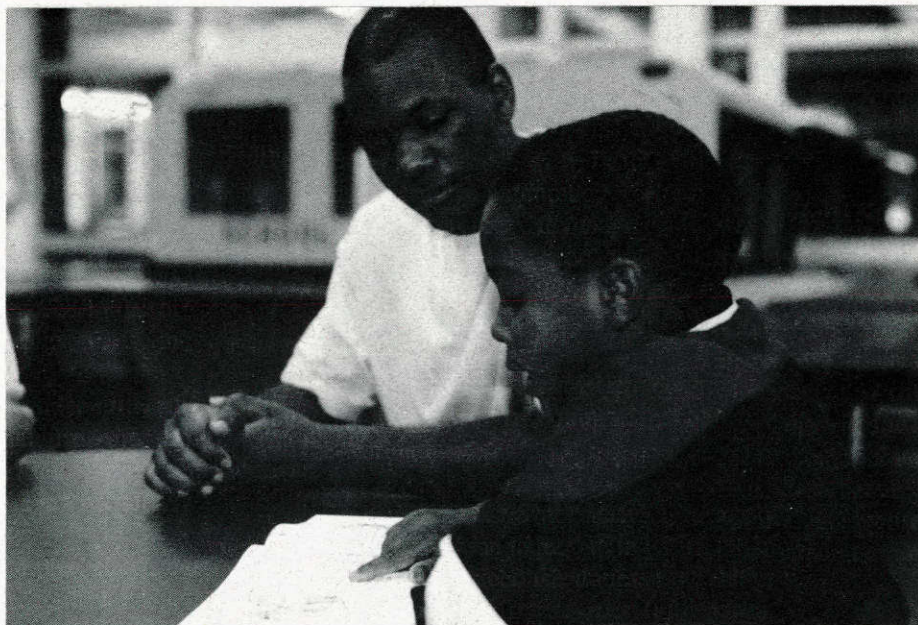
Habitat for Humanity included eight students and several staff members of the Brownwood State School in an open house celebration following months of work renovating a house for a needy family of Brownwood.

The youth had done everything from insulating the attic to painting the ceilings. TYC staff volunteers who assisted with the program included B.J. Phillips, Ronnie Burchett, Judy Williford, John Stephens, and Michelle Bock.

Gift of reading shared

Students from the Brownwood State School have been working in a volunteer reading program with second and third graders at a local Elementary School, Northwest Elementary. The program had previously been limited to adults from the community until the youth from the state school got involved.

Teams of two TYC students and two staff have gone each week to work individually with the elementary students. One hour is spent with as many as eight children. The program is expected to continue throughout the summer and into the next school year. These teams will increase to four TYC youth working each week in the community restitution program.



On a positive note...

Twenty-one West Texas State School seniors, accompanied by staff, celebrated Earth Day in April by cleaning up litter along the Interstate 20 service road which runs in front of the state school in Pyote -- plus the overpass intersection and the perimeter of the facility.

Turman House youth (Austin) and Ayres House youth (San Antonio) recently competed in a basketball game in San Antonio, following Turman's visit to the Dominguez Unit, a TDCJ prison. The event was the first "Friendship Competition" between TYC halfway houses. (Turman won 31-29.)

Dorm 4A at San Saba State School won the marching contest of military movement, with an error-free performance, during a contest in April. Judges were officials from Fort Hood.

Student CHRIS DUARTE, Schaeffer House, El Paso, attended the El Paso business hall of fame banquet in April. His attendance was sponsored by JOBE

RONALD LANE, a Brownwood State School student, tutors an elementary student from a local public school in his reading skills.

Concrete, through Junior Achievement. El Paso volunteer council member Sabrina Flores arranged for business attire to be provided to Chris for the dinner.

CHRIS is also volunteering at the El Paso Chamber of Commerce, helping with bulk mailings, picking up shipments, moving furniture and assisting with computer-related projects, thanks to a partnership developed by YAS III German Avila of Schaeffer House. Because of the desktop publishing skills he learned at the chamber, he was able to design an invitation for the organization's membership mixers and Amigos meetings.

Chamber officials are working with the Dallas chamber of commerce to locate Chris a paid job there when he leaves Schaeffer House.

HECTOR BENAVIDEZ is attending medical technician school at Texas Careers in San Antonio, with plans to complete the course in August. He successfully completed CD counseling after a difficult start. Hector is married with two children. His parole officer, JESSE HERNANDEZ, says his children made him realize he needed to change, for their sakes.

TYC parolee LONNIE CROSBY is attending his second semester at Cedar Valley Community College. He recently had his art work in a show in the campus gallery, according to his parole officer, NANCY DAVIDSON, Dallas.

San Antonio parole officer GRACIE SALAZAR-NERIOS reports that 15-year-old Nick Camarrillo, who attends ninth grade at Memorial High School in San Antonio, recently won first place in a speech tournament. He also won a city-wide art contest with a still life painting that now hangs at the office of the Texas Department of Health in San Antonio.

260 students, volunteers staff attend Corsicana recognition

Two hundred sixty students, staff and volunteers assembled for the Corsicana State Home recognition banquet May 1, sponsored by the institution and the volunteer council.

Theme for the banquet was depicted by a musical composition sheet titled "Corsicana State Home, A Spring Song." The song shows that 'students have rhythm, staff have melody, and volunteers bring harmony.'

Cottage awards were given to students for academic achievement and progress in treatment. Students also received awards for superior behavior, school citizenship, campus employment and for being an outstanding scout in Boy Scout Troop 201.

Kelvin Powers was announced as the outstanding child care worker. Richard Deupree of Athens, who contributed 200 hours of volunteer work last year, was recognized as the outstanding volunteer. Doris Moore was awarded for contributing between 100 and 200 hours of volunteer time to the program.

Volunteer council chair Dr. Lynn Anderson was recognized for her

Austin volunteers honored at appreciation dinner

The second annual Austin volunteer appreciation dinner, hosted by Turman House staff, was held in May at Mt. Sinai Baptist Church.

Volunteer council member Burnell McQueen was keynote speaker.

Honored were active religious volunteers and churches, including Mt. Sinai and Agape.

Outstanding volunteers honored were Sherry Sampson, Streetwise Ministries, Larry Johnson, Ates Construction, Brake Check, and interns David Hagerla and Kim Coffman.

Volunteers received insulated travel mugs.

outstanding service by incoming chair Dr. Darrell Beauchamp.

Col. Bob Frisby of Corsicana was recognized as new chair of the TYC State Volunteer Resource Council.

Twenty-three Corsicana businesses, civic groups and church groups received awards from TYC Chief of Volunteer Services, Joan Timmons, for significant donations and for sponsoring ongoing events at the school.

Others nominated as outstanding staff members included Richard Boyer, Maya Sample, Dorcas Purdy, Linda James, Pat Gardner and Nannette Bray.

Council member LaVerne Miller chaired the banquet committee with members Sylvia Bonin, Charles Barnaby and Coy Thompson. Volunteer coordinator Lucy Humbert coordinated the annual event.



TWO SPECIAL GUESTS at a recent meeting of the Evins Regional Juvenile Center volunteer council were Judge Joe B. Evins, 206 District Court, for whom the facility is named, and Nick Molina, volunteer coordinator for Hidalgo County Juvenile Court. Judge Evins was instrumental in bringing the center to South Texas, beginning his efforts in 1976. After 14 years of a community effort, the Legislature finally funded the project. ERJC opened in 1990 named for Judge Evins and his late son, Joe B. Evins Jr. Molina is a charter member of the volunteer council. Pictured above, left to right, (front row) are Molina, Judge Evins, and Leo Rodriguez, former State Volunteer Council chairman and a member of the Evins Council for many years; (back row) council members Johnny Rodriguez, Irma Espinoza, Janie Reyes, Ana Saenz, Manuel Del Barrio, Luisa Saenz and Manuel Garcia.

Books, Bibles received at Jefferson County

The Full Gospel Christian Center of Nederland presented Jefferson County State School with 300 books valued at \$300 for the school library.

A member of the church, Mark Peterson, donated 1230 Bibles and religious material valued at \$250 for use

of students during church services.

Five members of Gideons International toured the Beaumont campus April 8 and handed out Bibles to students and staff members — a total of 233 at a value of \$350.

VOLUNTEERS

Giddings council donates \$10,000 to improve school's visitation area

The Giddings volunteer council has donated \$10,000 for improvements to the school's visitation area.

Last year a large part of the visitation area was converted into office space, curtailing the number of visitors who could be present and limiting the time they could spend with their children.

Expansion of the existing visitation

area will accommodate eight additional families and will use and beautify an area that has been underutilized. The plan was designed by TYC architect Art Hinojosa.

Local contractors and the school's vocational department will work together to complete the project by the end of July.

The council also approved \$5,000 for the creation of a low ropes course at the facility to be used by both students and staff.



STATE VOLUNTEER COUNCIL CHAIR Bob Frisby of Corsicana is traveling around the state to visit TYC facilities. He is shown here with Marie Murdoch, Jefferson County State School superintendent, right, and Rose Chaisson, volunteer coordinator, left, in front of newly-completed gymnasium. Frisby also recently toured at Brownwood and Crockett.

Gainesville volunteer wins White House award

Omar Jahwar, a former volunteer counselor at Gainesville State School, was honored in March at a White House Rose Garden ceremony as a recipient of the national Achievement Against the Odds award.

The award, sponsored by State Farm Insurance Co., honors everyday people who are significantly improving their communities.

Jahwar, 23, was the youngest recipient ever to receive the award. Although he was a volunteer in the state school's gang intervention program at that time, he currently is a contract counselor. He plans to apply for a grant to fund a gang-intervention program of his own in Dallas.

He was nominated by two of the youth he helped at Gainesville-- Eric Reavis and Alex Martinez, both of whom renounced their gangs and are now working, attending college and helping other gang members find new lives.

Two Brownwood volunteers honored by community

Two long-time Brownwood Community Advisory Council members, Gene Deason and Judy Ehrke, were recently named man and woman of the year by the Brownwood Area Chamber of Commerce.

Ehrke, a business owner, has been actively involved in many community activities. She has served as chairperson and is currently the treasurer of the Brownwood volunteer council. She also serves as the new president of the Chamber of Commerce.

Deason, managing editor of the Brownwood BULLETIN, has also served as chair of the Brownwood volunteer council, and is active in numerous civic activities.

Brownwood volunteers honored at appreciation banquet

More than 130 volunteers and community supporters of the Brownwood State School and the Brownwood Sanction Unit were honored during the First Annual Brownwood TYC Volunteer Appreciation Banquet in April.

Keynote speaker was Joan Timmons, TYC's Chief of Volunteer Services. Timmons highlighted several interesting historical facts of the TYC facilities in Brownwood.

The Brownwood volunteer council, with nearly 60 members, is chaired by Julia Taylor. There are currently 120 active volunteers who work at the two

Brownwood facilities.

Tammy Vega, Brownwood volunteer coordinator, bestowed outstanding volunteer awards to Alice Morris, Paul Coghlan, Vicki Smith, Angela Schum, Mickey Harr, Trinity Chapel and Welcome Christian Center of Bandera. Service pins were also awarded for 500 and 1000 hours of service to fourteen of the Brownwood volunteers.

Aaron Blake, Vincent Ornelas and Jack Smith were recognized for more than 20 years of volunteer service to the facilities.

Several businesses and individuals were honored for their long-time support of the students, staff and volunteers. The businesses include the sponsors of the

Banquet, Trans Texas Southwest Credit Union and Citizens National Bank. Other businesses recognized for their significant contributions were J.R. Beadel Foundation, Williamson Photography, Brown County Chamber of Commerce, Coleman Distributing, Brownwood Bulletin, Dr. Stephen Kelly, Dr. Pepper Bottling Co., Golden Corral Restaurant, Howard Payne University, K-99 Radio, Mills County State Bank, and NationsBank.

Individual community supporters honored were Groner Pitts, Putter Jarvis, Brownwood Mayor Bert Massey and Stuart Coleman. Entertainment was provided by the HPU Faculty Jazz Combo.

WTSS chili cook-off raises \$2,225

Aunt Jackie's Place, a unique cafe of considerable renown along 1-20 in Pyote, hosted their annual chili and barbecue cookoff to benefit West Texas State School's volunteer council and the chapel fund, raising \$2,225.

The cookoff is sanctioned as one of the preliminary cookoffs along the way to the annual, internationally known Terlingua Chili cookoff at Terlingua, TX.

Connie Zocher, cafe operator, with her husband Mark and partners Carmen Brantly and Kenneth Donaldson, hosted the event for entrants from far and wide.

Judging was overseen by official monitors who follow CASI and WTBA rules. A charity auction followed the judging, with a dance in the evening.

Numerous businesses and individuals from area towns donated items and the WTSS youth and their teacher made winner trophies, designed by Mark Zocher, a partner and also a WTSS staff member.

Staff and volunteers provided added support.

Connie Zocher is a member of the WTSS volunteer council.



A TYC STAFF TEAM from Austin participated for the fifth year in the Tenth Annual Walk for Safe Families in April. The "walkers" raised nearly \$1,500 this year, to put TYC well over the \$7,000 mark during the past years. Pictured are those who took part this year, including Karen Roe, Melissa Headrick, Michelle Stewart and daughter Randa, Judy Briscoe, Kimberly Whitley, Angela Rogers, Lane and Linda Roos, Sharon Baker, Michelle Pundt, Jo Kautz, Carolyn Jackson and daughter Stephanie, Elaine Smith, Suzi Rowan, Jeffifer Williams, Paula Castilleja, Elizabeth Vilar, Jovita (Avila) Salinas and Christi Mallette. Mallette has coordinated the event annually for TYC "walkers".

San Saba students celebrate African-American history

A program sponsored by the Intercultural Awareness Committee was presented to San Saba State School students to celebrate African-American/Black History month.

Profiles of famous Afro-Americans were presented by students.

The recently organized state school choir, led by soloist Dean Coleman, sang the song "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

School administrators presented poems, soliloquy's and speeches.

Cultural mural brings students together

Students from the Brownwood State School are displaying their artistic talents on a wall in the Administration building. Students who formerly may have used graffiti to express themselves are now depicting cultural scenes from the past, present and future.

The student council and the intercultural awareness committee are co-sponsoring the activity for the students who achieve high behavior levels. Local artist and TYC volunteer, Coley Rushing, is overseeing the project by assisting with the artwork.

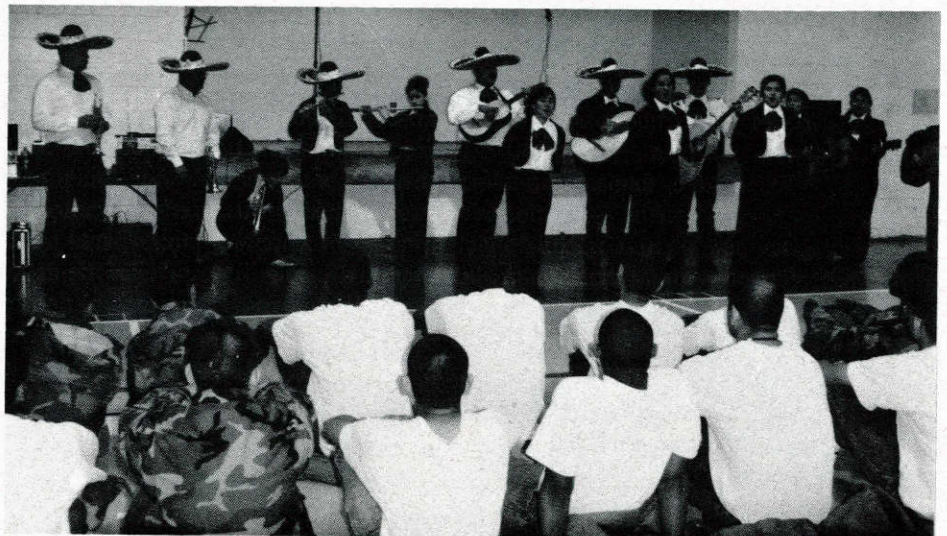
Monahans church hosts Black history month event

The Holy Light Church of Monahans hosted an annual community-wide celebration of Black History Month, coordinated by Lillian McCoo, retired teacher, member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church and a STEP worker at WTSS.

The program focused on unity and brotherhood among all ethnic groups and featured presentations by Alex Escarcega of central office, Austin, TYC director of juvenile corrections, Jeppie Wilson, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, Monahans, and Elder R. E. Stuart of Faith Temple, Monahans.

An offering taken at the service was designated for WTSS's special fund to furnish a chapel area on the state school

CULTURAL EVENTS



CULTURAL FAIR AT WTSS included many heritages. Among those was the Mexican-American heritage of mariachi music performed by members of the Pecos High School band.

Cultural fair shares West Texas heritage

Youth at West Texas State School learned firsthand about the cultural heritage of the people who live and work in the West Texas area at an intercultural fair held there in March.

Residents from the surrounding area shared examples of their ethnic heritage through visual displays and musical performances. WTSS staff brought in their specialty cultural dishes for a luncheon.

The entire afternoon was set aside for youth to view an array of cultural objects, including those representing the

native American, Mexican American, Anglo, Black, middle East and Polynesian cultures.

Music and performances included a Polynesian dance ensemble from Midland, the Pecos High School mariachi band, a country western duo from Monahans, a native American ceremonial dance group from Odessa, and a rap group of WTSS youth.

The event was sponsored by the WTSS intercultural awareness committee.

—News briefs from throughout the agency—

TYC is sponsoring a **TREATMENT CONFERENCE** Oct. 16-17 at the Holiday Inn South in Austin, according to Linda Reyes, associate director of rehabilitation services. Two hundred participants are expected. Topics include advanced group leader skills, cultural competency, continuum of care, victims services, and counseling techniques.

Two new 96-bed dorms are nearing completion and the cafeteria is being expanded at **EVINS REGIONAL JUVENILE CENTER**, Edinburg. Food service there is currently being provided by the Segovia TDCJ unit. The perimeter fence has been installed and the gatehouse is nearing completion.

152 new staff will have been hired and trained by August to supervise the greatly-expanded campus.

A dorm for 16 female offenders has been opened at the **BROWNWOOD SANCTION UNIT**, due to the increased number of girls committed to TYC. The initial group of female students were transferred from Coke County Juvenile Justice Center, Bronte.

An additional dorm for girls has been opened at the **MARLIN** Orientation and Assessment Center for

incoming females.

Staff, students and residents took part in holding a car wash to benefit students at the **SHEFFIELD BOOT CAMP**. The event netted \$670, thanks to the donations of those from Sheffield and Iraan. Kay Lawhon, manager of Iraan's Town & Country, furnished the parking lot and water for the project.

TRAVIS WORTHAM, superintendent of Cottrell House, Dallas, has received the 1997 "Bridging the Gap Award" by the Greater Dallas Business Community.

The award is made annually to persons who have made a significant contribution to promoting unity and understanding between different cultures.

COKE COUNTY Juvenile Justice Center, Bronte, the contracted institution for females operated by the Wackenhut Corporation, held a graduation ceremony for five youth May 22.

Graduates are Connie Flores, Xiomara Hernandez, Wonder Hamilton, April Walker and Anita Angton.

The Rev. Claude Comeaux Jr.,

pastor of New St. John Baptist Church, on behalf of the Progressive Women's organization of the church in Port Arthur, presented a \$500 donation to the **JEFFERSON COUNTY** State School Community Advisory Council in April.

The **SAN SABA** State School staff men's and women's basketball teams went undefeated to win first place in the city basketball league. Women's record was 6-0 and men's, 10-0.

MARLIN Superintendent Alan Steen and Assistant Superintendent Melvin Haisler both participated in the facility's

(Continued on Page 20)

Austin council holds sausage wrap sale

The Austin volunteer council held a sausage wrap sale at WalMart in February which earned them over \$500, according to Tom Bobb, council president.

Volunteers Ray and Carolyn Ates manned the barbecue cooker. Council members and six Turman House youth and staff worked throughout the day.

Another similar sale is scheduled in August.

Gulf Coast gets contract to provide parole services

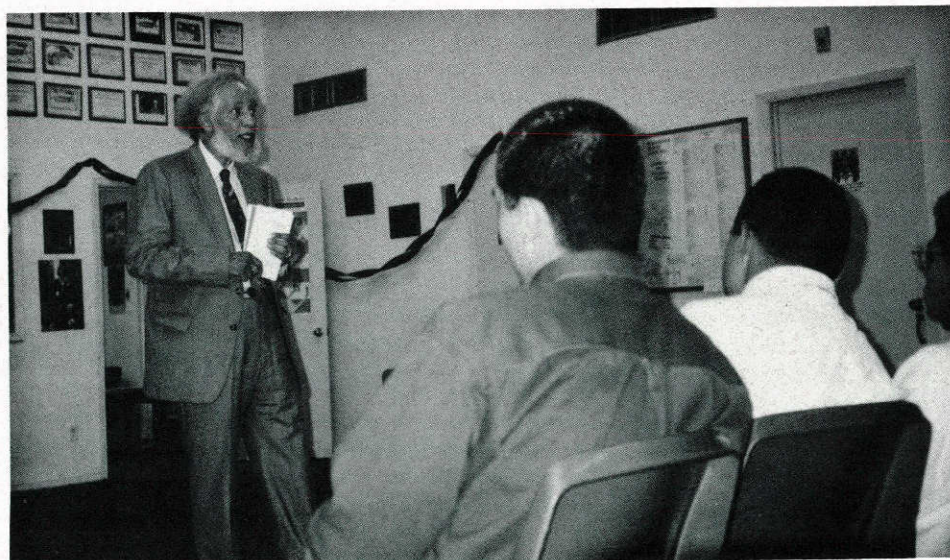
Gulf Coast Trades Center in New Waverly, a long-time TYC contract program, was recently awarded a contract to provide parole services to TYC youth in 49 counties statewide.

Gulf Coast parole administrators are Nick Briggs and Marcia Headrick.

Currently the Texas Youth Commission is contracting for parole services in 143 counties — more than half of the total number of counties.

Forty-eight contracts are with county juvenile probation departments, covering 93 counties.

TYC conducts training for contractors, and programs are monitored by quality assurance administrators.



DR. MACEO DAILEY, DIRECTOR of African American studies program at UT-El Paso spoke during a Black history month program at Schaeffer Halfway House to residents, staff and volunteer council members.

Hemphill Boot Camp celebrates second year

The Hemphill County Juvenile Boot Camp in Canadian recently celebrated its second year of operation.

Among the changes was the hiring last January of Jack Patton, recently retired 30-year veteran of TYC, as facility director in January.

The TYC contract boot camp recently implemented TYC's resocialization program. The 31st judicial board also visited the program this year and issued a recertification.

The Trails Alternative School, housed at the boot camp, was recently approved to receive a \$154,000 grant from the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund to create a state-of-the-art computer lab.

Eighteen students passed the GED test during the first three months this year. The facility also held their first graduation ceremony for a student from Lubbock, who stayed there past his required time in order to obtain his high school diploma.

The greenhouse project is a source of pride, having been constructed by students and teacher Shayne Sanders. Cadets are currently participating in planting and caring for plants, and looking forward to the harvest.

Community support from the Canadian community continues to be strong, said Patton. The Mentor Program provides the opportunity for cadets to have one-on-one attention from community volunteers.

Additionally, the community in-reach program provides a spiritual program and a "home cooked" meal on the last Saturday of each month. Local churches come together to provide a special time for the youth.

Cadets have also been busy painting murals on the walls of the facility, reiterating the motto: "It's Not Time, It's Behavior."

TYC 'life skills' program helps kids make choices for success

"Look, Joe is being 'green.'"

"No he's not. He's acting 'orange.'"

This is the language of TYC's Cognitive Life Skills (CLS) program — a simplified version of the Meyers-Briggs personality test — which helps youth learn about themselves, others, and the choices they make for the future.

Colors help them learn to identify the various learning styles.

GOLD people are highly organized, task oriented and take life seriously.

ORANGE people are risk takers who thrive on excitement, independence and freedom to explore.

GREEN personalities are non-conformists and prefer to work alone.

BLUE personalities are generally nurturing, and worry how others are feeling before considering themselves.

"The identification of these personality types is critical for the CLS program," said Cris Burton, treatment specialist for rehabilitation services department.

The curriculum is designed around learning, not teaching.

Life Skills modules include Overcoming Jealousy; Successful Parenting; Dealing with Superiors; The Power of an Apology; Boot Strapping; Good Sportsmanship; Making Friends; Learning to say Thanks...

"Most juvenile offenders fall into the orange category, followed by blue, green and gold," explained Burton. "It's our task to help kids learn to think in green/gold styles without sacrificing the way they learn in the orange/blue methods."

The goal is to teach kids alternatives to solving problems in more appropriate ways.

The program also teaches the teachers how to adapt their teaching skills to individual students — rather than expecting youth to adapt to the teacher's style, he explained.

The Cognitive Life Skills Program began in TYC February 1, following extensive training provided by Positive Solutions, the private company which developed the program, for Burton and 25 other TYC staff members from throughout the state.

Those staff, in turn, trained all other current staff members who lead these groups.

However, TYC halfway houses and the Brownwood Sanctions Unit have been using the program with great success for the past year, said Burton. "We determine this success by reports from staff who teach groups, and their reports on student reaction," he said.

"This is a time in the structured schedule when you can see students having fun," he explained. CLS groups are required four hours per week — or two modules per week.

Cognitive Life Skills teaches a series of lessons on values, anger management, self image, interviewing, decision-making, offense cycles, victim empathy, parenting, chemical dependence issues, and cultural differences. The modules have been correlated to fit TYC's resocialization program.

"The program is easy to implement and gives the instructors (teachers and YAS staff) step-by-step directions for almost no-fault delivery," said Burton. "It is even designed for students who are illiterate, and there is a Spanish version."

News from around the agency...(Continued from page 18)

staff crisis and benefit committee recently. Steen's contest was "Superintendent for a Day" and Haisler promoted "Minutes for Melvin."

Staff purchased tickets for the drawing to determine who would actually switch jobs with Steen, and who would buy "minutes" to keep Haisler in security.

More than \$260 was raised to add to the fund established to respond to crises with employees and their families.

The volunteer council at **CORSICANA** provided Easter gift bags of hygiene items and candy for the 140 youth on campus. On an ongoing basis the council provides gift bags for newly admitted students.

The **SAN ANTONIO** volunteer council recently earned \$400 from ticket sales for the Foley's charity day at North Star Mall. Similar events are to be held in other cities which have the Texas-based department store, according to Cheryl Martinez, council vice-president.

The **McFADDEN RANCH** volunteer council took part in Cinco de Mayo events at the Denton Civic Center to recruit new council members. McFadden residents joined with Liza

Hinojosa, Doug Douglas, Barbara Miller, Eddie Touraine and Rev. Richard New to attend the event.

ABEL GONZALES serves as TYC's representative on the Gang Rehabilitation Assessment and Services Project (GRAASP) in San Antonio. GRAASP is a collaborative effort designed to work with juvenile gang members who reside in a high crime location.

Gonzales attended special training in Chicago sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Beginning this month, GRAASP will provide numerous services

Sounds of Mexico featured in Corsicana

The Corsicana State Home celebrated Cinco de Mayo with a flag ceremony, dances and presentations from community and campus youth. Assistant Superintendent Pedro Cohen was guest speaker.

Folkloric dances and a flag ceremony were performed by students from Corsicana Collins Middle School. Coro Hispano de Inmaculada Concepcion played Mexican songs.

Students entertained with the macarena and a song in tribute to Selena.

and referrals for family members of gang members.

LARRY GRIFFIN, TYC expert on juvenile street gangs, was a presenter at a national conference sponsored by the Youth Institute of San Antonio in March. He is also a member of the Bexar County District Attorney Gang Task Force.

The **FORT WORTH** Parole office hosted the "Working Connection" in April to qualify parole youth for summer employment. A job placement counselor came daily to talk to youth and their parent/guardian to qualify them for the program, which provides jobs for youth from low-income families.

Parole officer Carl Williams, former community job placement coordinator, initiated the project.

The Boys and Girls Club of Tarrant County has been recruited as the first organized community service placement opportunity for TYC parolees in **FORT WORTH**. The club will place appropriate youth with young children as mentors in arts and crafts, music and reading groups.

The site was developed through the efforts of parole officer Carl Williams and volunteer coordinator Kaycee Pollock.

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