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J *Texas Youth Commission* **Journal**

December 1997, Winter Issue
4900 N. Lamar, Austin TX 78765

News and information from throughout the agency.

New TYC institution to be located in Mart

In this issue:

Dr. Reyes on NBC's Today Show

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Hamilton Open House

(see page 9)

TYC Employees contribute through SECC

(story on page 10)

TYC's fifteenth corrections facility will be built on the northern edge of Mart, east of Waco in McLennan County.

The Nov. 20 decision by the TYC board ended a months-long process in which 43 communities across Texas competed for the \$19.5 million facility. It is estimated that the facility will employ 300 staff when opened in 1999 and will generate an annual payroll of \$10 million. The facility can be expanded to 660 beds if needed.

Board member John Odam of Houston, who led the site selection process, recommended Mart based on a number of criteria.

Mart was rated excellent in terms of its accessibility to large numbers of commitments. Mart lies within a triangle between Houston, San Antonio and Dallas/Ft. Worth, and is about an hours drive from Austin. It is about 20 miles north of the Marlin Orientation & Assessment Unit.

Several communities attended the Nov. 20 board meeting to urge the board to select their location, rather than the Mart site.

At the close of the presentations, vice-chair Edna Tamayo of Harlingen made a motion to put the facility in Cotulla in South

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Governor reappoints Dr. Lawrence; Pampa man replaces Mr. Harrell

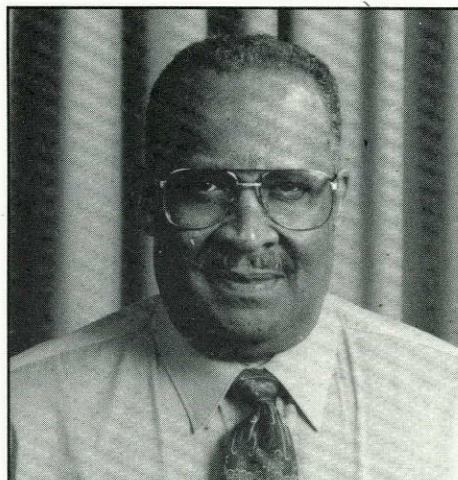
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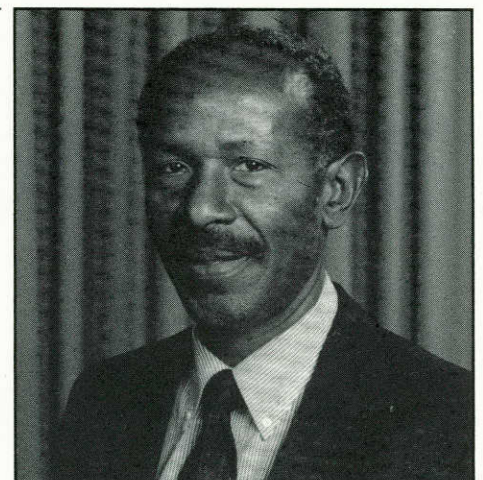
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DR. LEONARD LAWRENCE
Board chair reappointed



CHARLES HENRY
New board member from Pampa

Mart selected for new TYC institution...

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Texas (the community which merited a second place rating), and was joined by Pete Alfaro of Baytown in voting for that site. However, the motion failed. When the vote was taken on the Mart proposal, board members voted unanimously for the McLennan County site.

Mart, (pop. 2,000) earned high marks for its regional population of 577,145, civilian labor force of 259,271, medical care, communications support (including fiber optics) and for academic support. Baylor University in Waco, McLennan County Community College, Texas State Technical College and Sam Houston State University in Huntsville offered to cooperate with TYC.

TYC Executive Director Steve Robinson said the site review team was impressed with all the communities visited.

"Even more than that, I was impressed with the number of outstanding individuals who care about kids – even delinquent kids. That has recharged our batteries," he added.

Community support was impressive. The County Judge told the site review team that one-in-four Mart citizens turned out for a public hearing to show support for the proposal.

City officials told TYC the unemployment rate is 5.8 percent. Seventy-four percent of the workforce is Anglo, 13 percent African-American, 11 percent Hispanic and 2 percent other minorities.

There is access to eight hospitals in the region and three clinic networks.

Mart is just 20 miles east of Waco, which will afford employees urban as well as rural lifestyle opportunities.

Competition was spirited and intense. Odam called the quality of proposals "outstanding." He said, "It was very difficult to make comparisons when the offers were so close."

An eight-member team visited sites in 13 communities: Mart, Cotulla, Littlefield, Marshall, Mexia, Hamlin, Texas City, Falfurrias, Bonham, Plainview, Rockdale, Amarillo, and Jefferson County.

Odam said, "I hope the synergy that came out of the competition can be harnessed, and these communities can find ways to work for the children of Texas.

Maybe then we wouldn't have to build corrections facilities all over the state."

The list of competing communities was narrowed from a field of forty-three proposals from communities across the state. TYC administrators independently reviewed writ-

Procedures given for state to reimburse victim presenters

The Texas Youth Commission has developed a new policy to provide for the state to reimburse travel expenses for victim impact panel presenters, including meals, lodging, transportation and mileage.

Reimbursement is subject to State of Texas travel regulations; consequently lodging may not exceed \$70 per day per location, and meals will only be reimbursed at \$25 per day and mileage at 28 cents per mile.

Funds fall under professional services – educational/training, rather than travel expense.

New officers elected by Austin council

Carolyn Ates has been elected president of the Austin Area Community Advisory Council. Nicholas Medina Jr. retains his office of secretary and Bob Stewart has been elected the new treasurer. Joan Gibbs was selected as the representative to the State Council.

The group will be distributing food baskets to parole families in Austin, and to some St. John's Neighborhood residents prior to Christmas. They are assisted in the project by Turman House youth.

In September the council hosted an open house for their neighbors in the Coronado Heights and St. Johns neighborhoods, with 24 persons attending.

ten proposals and scored them. The scores were compiled and ranked, and the rankings were used as a yardstick to determine which communities to visit.

Finalists were determined using a system that identified factors necessary to run a successful institution. Extra weight was given to communities' abilities to provide an adequate, culturally diverse labor force; access and cost of utilities; community support; proximity to communities from which most TYC youth are committed; construction ease; communications support, access to medical facilities, medical consultants and fire and police protection.

The Legislature gave TYC the privilege of picking the facility location, which allows TYC to maximize the return on the state's investment.

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Governor Bush reappoints Dr. Lawrence to TYC board; appoints Charles Henry to replace Pete Harrell

Gov. George Bush has reappointed Dr. Leonard E. Lawrence of San Antonio as chair of the Texas Youth Commission, and has appointed Charles Henry of Pampa to replace Pete Harrell.

TYC Executive Director Steve Robinson said Dr. Lawrence's reappoint-

ment is an asset to TYC. "His perspective as a child psychiatrist and his long involvement with the agency make him an invaluable leader and advocate for TYC," Robinson said. "Dr. Lawrence's continued leadership will be a huge benefit to the young offenders at our institutions," he said.

Robinson said everyone is eager to begin working with Henry. "He brings to this agency a tremendous amount of experience in government work as a criminal investigator. His concern for youth is apparent through his work with community groups in several cities."

Henry, who attended his first TYC board meeting on Nov. 20 in Austin, is a retired Drug Enforcement Administration criminal investigator. Before his federal career, Henry taught school and coached basketball and track in Pampa. Henry served on the board of directors of Pampa Community Youth Service, Inc., which works to provide positive alternatives for at-risk youth and to promote community involvement.

Henry holds a B.S. in education from Prairie View A&M University, is married and has three adult children.

Dr. Lawrence was appointed to the TYC board in 1992 by then-Gov. Ann Richards. Dr. Lawrence is Professor of Psychiatry, Pediatrics and Family Practice at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, where he also serves as Associate Dean for Student Affairs in both the medical and dental schools.

He is active in many professional organizations and volunteers his leadership to numerous organizations, including San Antonio Fighting Back (a substance abuse intervention project), the United Way of San Antonio and the San Antonio Area Foundation.

Dr. Lawrence is married and has three adult children.



ALL FOUR FORMER GIDDINGS State School superintendents, and current superintendent Stan DeGerolami (front, left) gathered for the institution's 25th anniversary open house and celebration in August. Others pictured are (left to right) Calvin Crenshaw, Sandy Burnam, Jimmy Freeman, and John Dodson.

250 attend TYC's first treatment conference

More than 250 participants and presenters attended TYC's first treatment conference in October. At least 50 attenders were contract care providers and probation officers.

Chief of Staff Judy Briscoe, keynote speaker, spoke on "Breaking the Cycle of Violence: You Hold the Key."

Dr. Linda Reyes, assistant deputy executive director of rehabilitation services, spoke at the general session, and Elizabeth Lee, director of treatment and case management, provided the closing session.

Twenty-five breakout workshops focused on TYC's resocialization treatment and case management issues.

No annual workshop for 1998

Due to Legislative constraints which severely restrict our administrative travel budget, we will be unable to hold the annual agencywide workshop in 1998, said Executive Director Steve Robinson.

"This is an unfortunate development, and I hope the workshop can be resumed in the future when budgetary constraints are not so limiting," he added.

Ten women nominated for statewide awards

Ten TYC female employees were nominated for the 1997 Outstanding Women in Texas Government Awards, and attended an awards luncheon and reception in Austin last July.

Nominees included:

Outstanding Professional Development: Rebecca Thomas, program administrator, Giddings; and Carolyn Rogers, staff development analyst, central office;

Contributions in a Management Role: Lydia Barnard, superintendent, San Saba State School; Linda Reyes, assistant deputy executive director of rehabilitation services, central office;

Contributions in a Leadership Role: Judy Briscoe, chief of staff/director of prevention services, central office; Sharon Hambrick, quality assurance specialist, Tyler;

Outstanding Community Involvement: Rose Chaisson, volunteer coordinator, Jefferson County State School; Gail Penney-Chapmond, Quality assurance supervisor, Austin, southern service area;

Outstanding Customer Service: Joni Gross, administrative secretary, Marlin; Annette Lovett, E-Mail administrator, central Office;

There were no nominations from TYC in two categories - Contributions To Other Women in State Government; and State Pioneer Spirit.

AROUND TYC

TYC administrator interviewed on NBC's Today Show

Dr. Linda Reyes, Assistant Deputy Executive Director for Rehabilitative Services, appeared on The Today Show at NBC studios in New York on Oct. 2. Co-anchor Matt Lauer interviewed Reyes about the causes of teenage violence, warning signals and prevention.

It doesn't happen by accident that youth are socialized into violence, said Reyes. She said violent youth generally come from poor, crime-ridden neighborhoods and are alienated from friends, family and society. Violent youth often act out their aggression or have repressed it. Violence, she said, is used to gain control of their environment.

Reyes said we can't always detect

which children will become violent, but in many cases, children as young as 7 or 8 start to exhibit symptoms such as uncontrollable rage, hurting animals or disregarding other people's feelings.

How to prevent youth violence?

Reyes encouraged viewers to be sensitive to it and assume responsibility for all children, not just their own.

She said children need discipline and structure; they need to be taught empathy and to see their role models exhibit empathy toward others; they need to be given responsibilities that increase over time.

She said parents must not ignore problems. "Don't assume it's just a phase they're going through," she said. Try to solve the problem within the family first, she said, "but don't be afraid to intervene when the aggression continues."

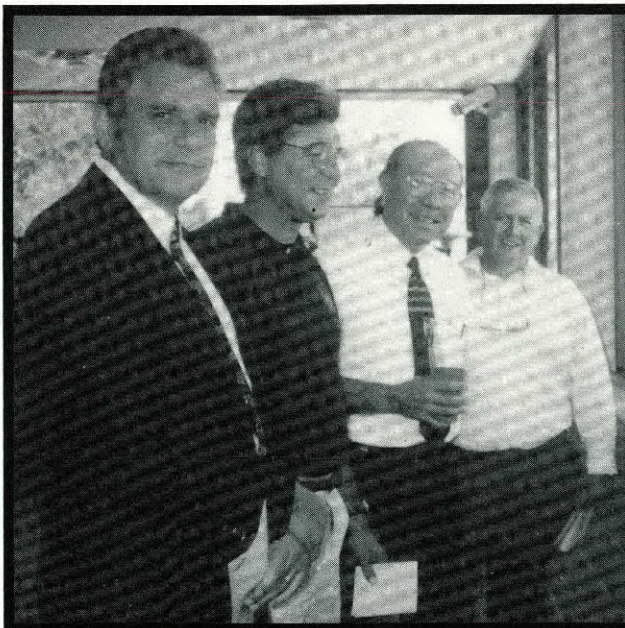
For Reyes, the New York trip was a whirlwind.

The Today Show called the afternoon before the show, and a few hours later, Reyes was airborne. "I sat across the aisle (first-class) from Tommy Lee Jones," Reyes said.

"I arrived in New York at 2 a.m. and was taken to a wonderful hotel overlooking Central Park that unfortunately I couldn't see because it was dark. I woke at 5 a.m. and was squired off to the studio in a limo. I sat in the green room and had no opportunity to speak with Matt or Katie (Couric) ahead of time.

It was 'You're on. Nice to meet you. See you.'

"It was a very rapid adventure," she said.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE. JUAN HINOJOSA, second from right, spoke at the Evins Regional Juvenile Center Hispanic heritage celebration in October and served as a judge for a poster contest. The event featured traditional foods and educational presentations. Also pictured (left to right) are Dr. Ignacio Guerra, Evins principal; superintendent John Held; and Steve Spilman, assistant superintendent.

Hamilton planning to offer course in heavy equipment

Training in the operation of heavy equipment will soon become a reality for TYC youth - making it possible for them to obtain employment in a job that is in high demand and which can pay up to \$15 per hour.

Hamilton State School, TYC's institution in Bryan, will sign an agreement with A&M's Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) for a pilot program, with training being done on 300 acres belonging to Hamilton.

Texas A&M's Environmental Design department has agreed to provide a master plan for development of the area, and students in the training program will implement the plan, said Hamilton superintendent Bob Woods.

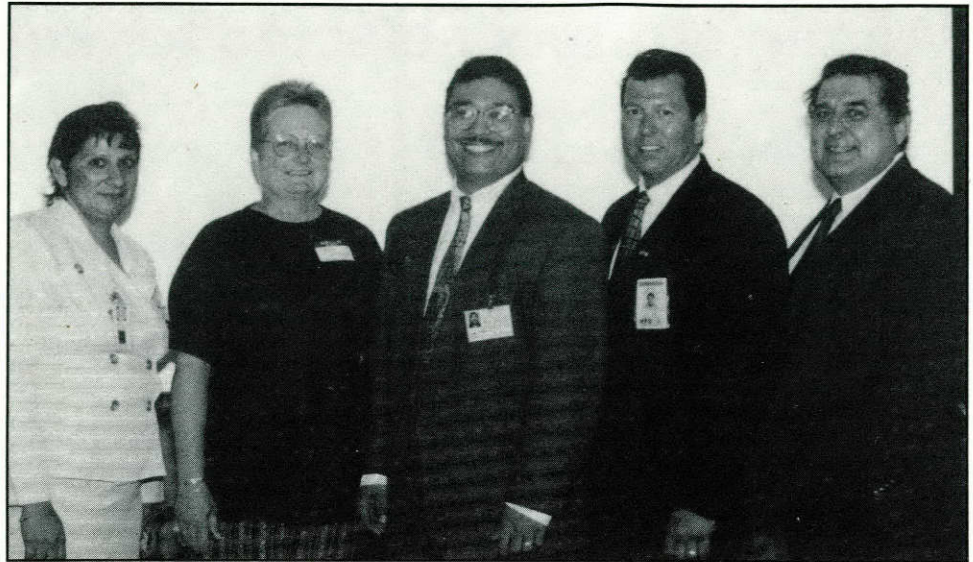
"Instructions are given in all types of construction equipment," said Hamilton principal Gradyne Sennette, and successful graduates will receive "Wheels of Learning" certification, which is recognized throughout the United States.

The Association of General Contractors (AGC) of Texas will provide course orientation, guest instructors and job placement. AGC has received a grant of \$32,280 for initial funding. The first two eight-week courses will be funded by TEEX.

TEEX will also provide instructors, administrative support and equipment. AGC sponsors will provide job placement in each youth's home area.

Among the criteria for youth to be enrolled in the program, they must be 17 years of age and be within six months of completing their minimum length of stay. They also must be on phase 3 or 4 with no security admissions within the past 60 days and eligible for, or have passed the GED or 18 hours of high school credits.

When the agreement is finalized, Hamilton State School staff hope to begin implementation of this course in January 1998.



PARTICIPANTS in the 'Gangs In The Valley' conference in Harlingen were, left to right, parole officer Sylvia Martinez; Christi Mallette, TYC parole administrator; Harlingen parole supervisor Luis Lopez; Sgt. Rico Garcia; Houston Police Department; and Steve Alvarez, U.S. probation officer.

Harlingen parole office sponsors gang conference

A "Gangs In the Valley" conference held in August for Rio Grande Valley officials, was sponsored by the Harlingen parole office and Cameron County Juvenile Probation.

More than 200 people attended, included representatives of local, county, state and federal law enforcement officials and district attorneys and district court judges.

Speakers included US probation officer Steven Alvarez, Sgt. Rico Garcia of the Houston Police Department, and county probation officer Gustavo Cantu.

TYC conference coordinators included parole officers Sylvia Martinez and Ricardo Leal, and parole supervisor Luis Lopez.

Several task forces have formed as a result of the conference.

TYC parent meeting held in Houston

Houston's third annual all day parent conference was held Saturday, October 11, 1997, at Mt. Horeb Baptist Church.

Dwight Harris, TYC assistant deputy executive director for juvenile corrections, was the keynote speaker for the event - focusing on providing parents with information on being more involved with their children.

Parole officer Carolyn Rogers started the parent conference for parents of TYC youth three years ago, and coordinated this event.

Workshops included such topics as self-esteem building, communicating with teenagers, setting boundaries and advocating for

your child.

In addition to parents of TYC youth, some youth in TYC contract programs in the Houston area also attended.

Highlight of the day was a panel made up of TYC students on parole and youth from the community at large, with Aaron Williams, quality assurance specialist, facilitating questions for the youth to answer for parents.

Other guest speakers included Dr. Samuel H. Smith Sr. pastor of Mt. Horeb church; Dr. Robert Blackshear; Hal Kelley, chemical dependency specialist; and parole officer Melba Scruggs.

Administrators selected for key positions

CURTIS SIMMONS assumed his duties as the second assistant superintendent at Hamilton State School December 1. Simmons has been serving as a program administrator at Brownwood Sanctions Unit.

Prior to joining the Youth Commission, Simmons worked for 25 years in juvenile corrections in California, Louisiana and California.

KAY DOEBBELING, formerly assistant superintendent at West Texas State School, began her duties November 1 as assistant superintendent at the Brownwood Sanctions Unit.

Doebbeling began work with TYC in 1983 at West Texas, first as a medical psychiatric caseworker and later as a program administrator and then as assistant superintendent. She has also taught evening school at Odessa College Extension classes at Pyote.

She holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Wichita State University, a master of science degree in social work from Florida State University, and is certified in several areas of specialized counseling.

LYNN STANLEY has been named business manager for Giddings State School, replacing Don McCullough who transferred to central office.

Stanley was employed with the Texas Workers Compensation Commission for the past seven years, and previously worked with the Texas Department of Commerce, Board of Nurse Examiners, Board of Pardons and Paroles and TXMHMR, Vernon.

MELODY VIDAURRI, formerly a supervisor/trainer for Travis County Juvenile Court, has been selected as director of security at Giddings State School, replacing Dalton Sherrill, who has resigned to accept a position in the private sector.

Vidaurri also served as a contract trainer with the Juvenile Probation Commission and the criminal justice center at Sam Houston State University. She was also previously employed at the Gardner-Betts Juve-

nile Detention Center in Austin and at Austin State Hospital.

MIKE STUDAMIRE has been named director of security at San Saba State School. Studamire has worked with 'at risk' youth in several programs in Louisiana, and was supervisor and on-call administrator for Methodist Children's home.

He holds a BA in criminal justice and psychology from Grambling State University in Grambling, LA.

KIRBY RASCO has been selected as director of operations for Beto House, TYC's halfway house in McAllen. He formerly worked at West Texas State School as recreation director and as the facility's trainer, and served as a trainer at Corsicana.

MARIA SALINAS, formerly superintendent of Valley House in Harlingen, has transferred as superintendent of Beto House in McAllen. She has served three years with TYC, and previously worked three years with Southwest Key in Houston and two years with MHMR in Harris County.

DON McCULLOUGH has been named division director of budget in the fiscal department, following a short stay at Giddings State School during the past year. McCullough has been with TYC 19 years, beginning in 1978 as an accountant. He has also served as a budget analyst and budget supervisor in central office, and as business manager at West Texas State School.

He received his BBA in finance and MBA from the University of Texas at Austin.

CYNTHIA ELLIS, formerly payroll manager in the finance department, has been selected as TYC's controller in finance. She has been with TYC 16 years in various accounting positions.

Other new central office employees include PAMELA CUSHNER-McNEIL, new

human resources specialist who has replaced David Hansford. She supervises PAR processing, benefits, timekeeping and employee personnel records.

She attended the University of California at Berkeley, majoring in anthropology, and the LBJ School of Public Affairs, with an emphasis in human and civil rights and health care.

SHERMA CRAGG has moved to central office in the position of parole program coordinator, reporting to parole administrator Christi Mallette. She began her work with TYC as a parole officer in Corpus Christi, and later transferred to the Austin office. She will be coordinating statewide orientation, training and implementation of the parole program design, and will provide support to field staff.

Cragg received her bachelors degree in social work from Hardin Simmons University. She formerly served as a caseworker for Big Brother/Big Sisters and as a juvenile probation officer in Abilene.

A former five-year volunteer, PAMELA WIEBE, was selected as volunteer coordinator for Gainesville State School.

Wiebe has been employed in the chapel program at Gainesville for two years, assisting with the religious programs. A graduate of the University of North Texas, she holds a bachelor's degree in counseling. She is currently working on her master's degree in Biblical counseling at Trinity Seminary. She was the 1997 employee of the year at Gainesville.

Three institutions selected as pilot sites to integrate education, resocialization

Gainesville, San Saba and Jefferson County state schools have been selected to pilot a project which is intended to integrate resocialization and education programs within TYC.

"Project TEAMS (Treatment, Education, and Assessment Management System) offers a holistic approach to youth by integrating what they do in correctional therapy, daily life, and the academic program," said Billie Flippen, director of curriculum and instruction, in announcing the pilot sites.

Project TEAMS will help youth make connections between what is learned in these various settings, she explained.

"It also gives youth the opportunity to accumulate evidence of completion of specific educational assignments to demonstrate their understanding and application of resocialization principles," she added.

For phase promotion, youth will be required to complete assignments in school which link to resocialization components they are working on in groups sessions and in the dorm.

For example, a student working on his 'Success Plan' in Phase Three will be asked in math class to take a specific earnings statement and construct a monthly budget to include housing, transportation, food and other household needs.

A student working on 'Empathy' in Phase Two might be asked in language arts class to write a story or poem using unpleasant feeling words, and another using pleasant feeling words.

Project TEAMS is expected to promote more teamwork and collaboration between staff members.

"The project will empower both treatment staff and educators by allowing assessment of actual evidence of the youth's progress in treatment," Flippen said.

Staff training was provided at Gainesville, Jefferson and San Saba in October by members of the design team who worked with a consultant to create Project TEAMS. Implementation began in November.

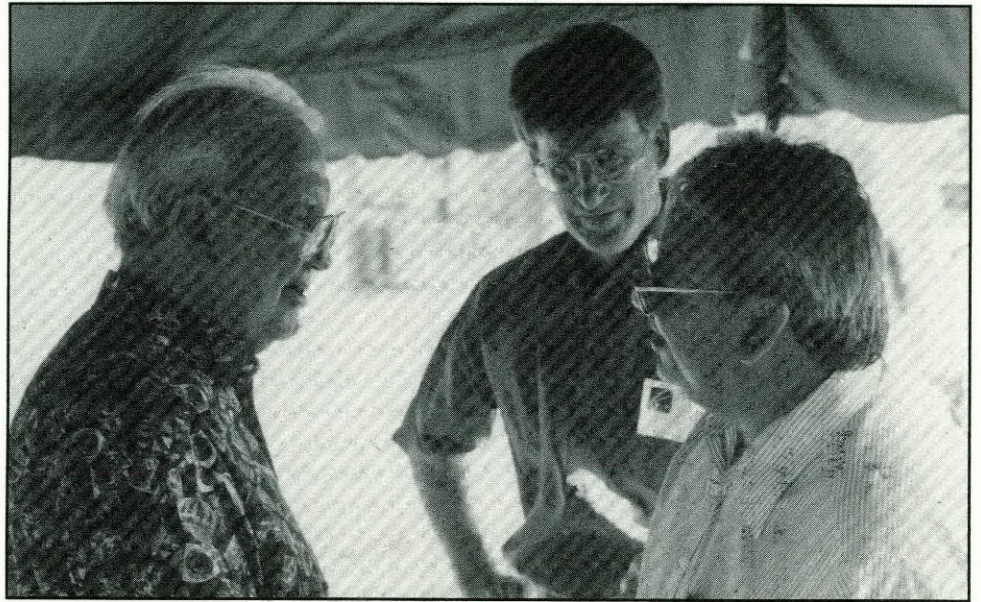
A short training video has been prepared for non-pilot institutions to provide an awareness of the project prior to agency wide

implementation in January of 1999.

Student guides and teacher guides have been produced for Project TEAMS.

Members of the design team represent various disciplines and locations in TYC. They include: Mike Acuna, YAS IV, and Donald Brooks, assistant superintendent,

San Saba; Deanna Cheshewalla, Gainesville teacher; JoAnn Ponder, psychologist, Giddings; Barbara Humphrey, teacher, Jefferson County; Consultant Pat Jacoby, Austin; and treatment specialists Tom Little and Pat Logterman, instructional supervisor Dave Troxell, and Flippen, central office.



LONGTIME TYC SUPPORTER Groner Pitts of Brownwood and TYC's Brownwood superintendent Dan Humeniuk welcome Alex Escarcega of Austin, TYC director of juvenile corrections and aftercare, to the annual Central Texas law enforcement appreciation fish fry held at Pitts' Lake Brownwood 'boxcar.'

Congressman speaks at Brownwood law enforcement appreciation event

Congressman Charles Stenholm commended more than 200 federal, state and local law enforcement personnel who attended at Brownwood facilities' annual law enforcement appreciation fish fry.

Stenholm emphasized the importance of positive role models and mentors in the lives of young people. He also praised the efforts of the Brownwood "Mafia" and TYC, co-sponsors of the annual recognition event.

Participating in the event were Brownwood mayor Bert Massey, Putter Jarvis, "Mafia Father," who served as master

of ceremonies and Howard Payne University chancellor Dr. Don Newberry.

Special recognition was given to the longest serving and newest peace officers: Early Police Chief Chuck Thomas, who started his career in 1955; and Cyndi Fey of Georgetown, who started to work with the DPS last June.

Also attending were long-time TYC supporter Groner Pitts, who hosted the event at his Lake Brownwood 'boxcar,' Col. Dudley Thomas, DPS director; and Brig. Gen. Daniel James III, adjutant general of the Texas National Guard.

TYC news from around the state...

BROWNWOOD volunteer council members set a new record during their annual fund raiser, selling hamburgers and hotdogs, at the Pecan Valley Arts Festival. Thanks to a matching donation from WalMart, the grand total was \$3,140.

Longtime TYC administrator **JESUS BONILLA** of El Paso died Sept. 14, 1997. Bonilla went to work as one of TYC's first four parole officers in 1961. He retired in 1992 after serving as west region director for many years.

The **SHEFFIELD ALTERNATE SCHOOL** located at the TYC Boot Camp received the highest rating given to an alternate campus from the Texas Education Agency. The school is a separate campus of the Iraan-Sheffield ISD with four teachers on campus.

A campus assembly at Corsicana featured contest winners in the 'Red Ribbon' drug awareness week, coordinated by teacher **MARY STANDLY**. Students competed in creative writing, informative writing, poetry and art related to drug abuse. Guest speaker was Kathy Smith-Fennell, an LCD counselor.

The **JEFFERSON COUNTY** State School intercultural awareness committee sponsored a fall festival poster contest, with Dorm 5A coming in first and being treated to a pizza party. Second place Dorm 5B had an ice cream party.

Various contests were held to celebrate Halloween at **SAN SABA STATE SCHOOL**, including staff members in costumes, decoration of doors and poster contests. Each department sponsored games and booths for youth, including a cakewalk, basketball throw and a tricycle grand prix.

Sheffield Boot Camp physician **DR. EDWIN FRANKS** made a presentation on poisonous snakes in Texas to youth - outlining their characteristics, snake bite management and snakeskin crafts. He also showed off his rattlesnake attire, including a vest, belt, bow tie, boots and matching hat band.

TYC students at Brownwood are presenting panels on their personal struggles to public school students at the Brownwood ISD alternative school. First 'crime prevention' panelists include **DENNIS ESCOBAR, BENJI DIAZ and JOEL RANGEL**. The youth are accompanied by administrators who can help answer questions on TYC treatment programs.

Thanks to the encouragement of staff at **CORSICANA**, a majority of the youth in Cottage 14 completed the Straighttalk Bible studies provided by the Don Dennis Ministry. Six volunteers provided pizza and recognition for the studies. Staff member **KENNETH YOUNG** helped coordinate the activity. The ministry will be expanded to Cottage 15 in February.

New officers of the **SAN ANTONIO** volunteer council are: Cheryl McDonald, president; M/Sgt. Christopher Hester, vice president; Roger Martinez, treasurer; and Anita Gonzalez, secretary. Rosie Abreu is the representative to the State Council.

JOHN HOPKINS, Corsicana business manager and a volunteer on campus, recently began a Bible study for youth in the Corsicana Stabilization Unit. The study is based on Josh McDowell's "Right Choices." Worship services on the campus are conducted by staff volunteers Kelvin Powers and Linda Havis, and Westhill Church of Christ members Paul Fulbright and Lynn Berry.

Forty-six students and staff from the chemical dependent dorms at **JEFFERSON COUNTY STATE SCHOOL**, Beaumont, marched in the drug awareness parade, under the direction of Kelvin Smith. They enjoyed pizza after the parade.

Brownwood sanction unit students participated in a cultural awareness program to bridge the generational gap during a recent session. They heard 75-year-old **FREE-MAN MATHER's** experiences 56 years ago in the Civilian Conservation Corps - a program which had more than 3 million boys involved during the 1930's.

KENNEDY MCKINNEY, a professional boxer who received a 1988 Olympic Gold Medal, presented a demonstration for San Saba State School students in October. He is currently training for a title fight to be held in December.

Thirty-six West Texas State School staff donated blood during a Permian Basin Blood Institute drive in October. The event was coordinated by nursing director **MICHELLE PROVENCE**.

Thanksgiving food baskets were delivered to eight needy families in San Saba by **San Saba State School** students and staff. The effort was a community service project which could be performed on campus. Canned goods were collected from employees and student families, and turkeys were purchased with funds from staff and on-campus fund raising activities.

TENILLE BOYENS, TYC student in Harmony Family Services contract program, received her high school diploma from Abilene High School. She is currently applying for college assistance and hopes to become a pediatric nurse.

The Corsicana community advisory council is planning an open house/dedication ceremony for the building enclosure for the state school's swimming pool during February. The project was funded by the council with **COL. BOB FRISBY** as chair of the fund raising committee.

Chaplaincy activities include two unique groups

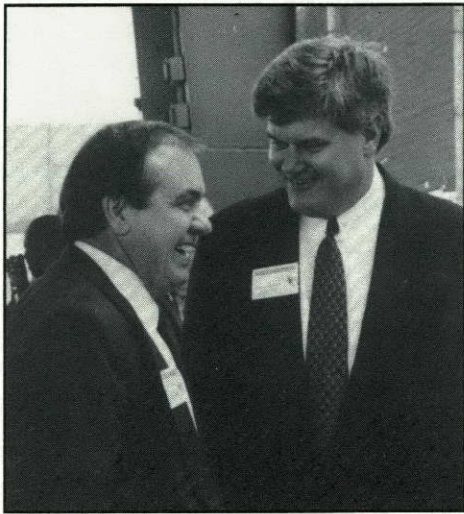
The Brownwood chaplaincy program welcomed two unique evangelism groups this fall - Christian Motorcycle Association and Bunny Martin's Just 4U Weekend.

The motorcyclists displayed their vehicles on the floor of the gym, speaking individually with students concerning religious issues as they admired the cycles and leather jackets.

Martin brought world champions and entertainers for a three-day crusade.

Chaplain Mike Miles coordinated the events.

Hamilton State School holds open house



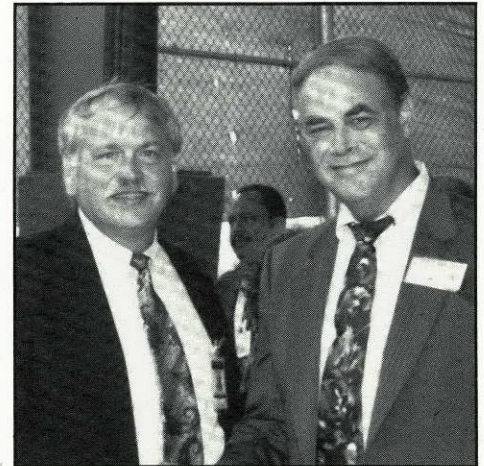
STATE REPRESENTATIVE Dan Kubiak chats with Executive Director Steve Robinson.



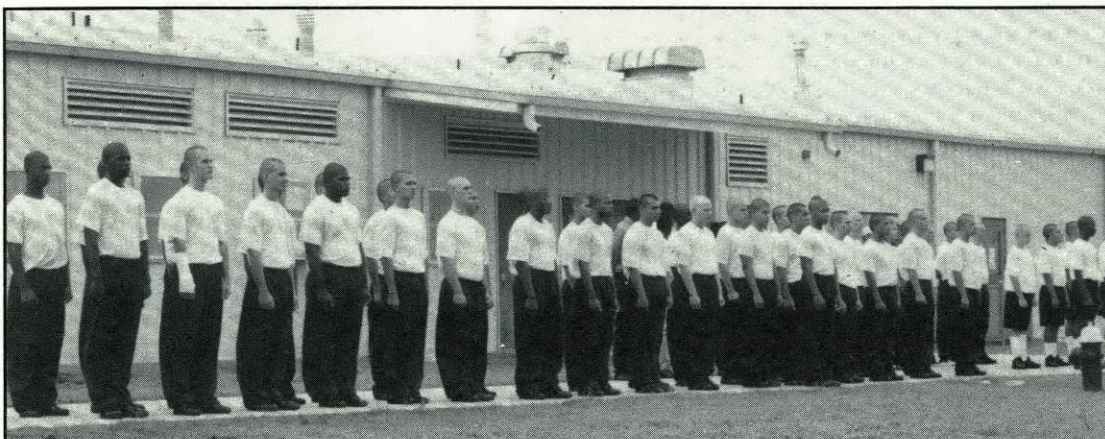
TAKING PART ON THE open house program and dedication of the new TYC institution at Bryan were, left to right, Tom Tye, director of juvenile corrections; Bob Woods, superintendent; Steve Robinson, TYC Executive Director; Dr. Dan Beto, director of the criminal justice institute at Sam Houston State University, Huntsville; Dell Price, assistant superintendent; and Dwight Harris, TYC assistant deputy executive director for juvenile corrections.



MEMBERS OF THE HAMILTON family attended the open house which retains the name of their relative, Brazos County Sheriff J.W. Hamilton Jr. The newest TYC facility will eventually house 700 students, and will be the largest institution in the TYC system.



SUPERINTENDENT BOB WOODS visits with George Hamilton, son of Brazos County Sheriff J.W. Hamilton Jr., for whom the facility is named. More than 400 community residents attended the open house



HAMILTON students performed some physical training skills and demonstrated precision marching during the open house activities. They were coached by the corps drill team at Texas A&M.

TYC employees contribute \$34,448 to 1997 state charitable campaign

Texas Youth Commission employees contributed a total of \$34,448 to this year's State Employees Charitable Campaign.

Although central office and several institutions had participated in the SECC on a local basis in past years, this was the first year for the agency to extend the charitable campaign to all TYC facilities statewide.

Central office employees contributed a total of \$9,356; Institutional staff donated \$20,669. The total contributions from district office staff members was \$2,077; and from halfway houses, \$2,346.

Three central office departments had 100 per cent participation this year: juvenile corrections, general counsel, and education. The audit department had the highest per capita giving of \$96.33 per person; and Information Resources Division had 47 percent participation —the greatest percent increase over last year's 8.7 percent.

The central office VOICE committee was in charge of the event, with Crystal Rose coordinating the campaign.

Institution totals included:

Gainesville, \$4,314 with 132 participants, Robyn Byars, coordinator;

Hamilton, \$3,800.50 with 94 participants, Nancy Jo Kuder, coordinator;

Brownwood, \$3,734 with 64 participants, Tammy Vega, coordinator;

Giddings, \$2,206 with 45 participants; Bill Bradbury, coordinator;

Corsicana, \$2,015 with 54 participants; Floyd Hall, coordinator;

Evins, \$1,236 with 15 participants, Raul Arredondo, coordinator;

Marlin, \$1,128 with 13 participants; Shannon Rosas, coordinator;

Crockett, \$814 with 9 participants; Virginia Lewis, coordinator;

West Texas, \$504 with 6 participants; Elizabeth Alamo, coordinator;

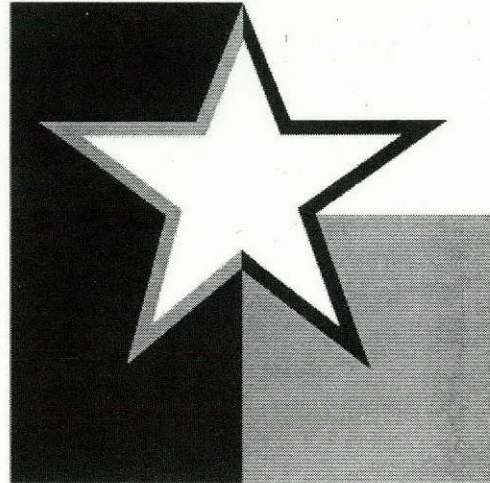
Sheffield, \$404 with 16 participants; Mary Coots, coordinator;

San Saba, \$312 with 4 participants; Buck Martin, coordinator;

Vernon, \$202 with 6 participants, Jean Bice, coordinator.

(Jefferson County State School did not participate, since the United Way organization there did not coordinate the SECC in that area.

Crockett State School did participate despite the fact that the United Way organization there did not choose to coordinate the SECC in that area. Crockett employees gave to statewide and national charities through the Capital Area United Way.)



TOGETHER WE CARE *State Employee Charitable Campaign*

District office totals included:

Houston/Galveston, \$961 with 27 participants, Denise Kennedy, coordinator;

San Antonio, \$656 with 10 participants, Larry Griffin, coordinator;

Fort Worth, \$234 with 9 participants; Joyce Hines, coordinator;

El Paso/Amarillo; Lubbock/Midland, \$226 with 5 participants; Ed Edmister, coordinator;

(District offices which did not participate were Austin, Waco; Corpus Christi, Harlingen, Irving, Dallas and Tyler.)

Halfway House totals were:

Ayres House, San Antonio, \$927 with 15 participants, Lena Favella, coordinator;

Valley House, \$318 with 10 participants, Mary Lopez, coordinator;

York House, \$464 with 11 participants, Bart Caldwell, coordinator;

McFadden Ranch, \$409 with 6 participants, David Lenington, coordinator;

Cottrell House, \$228 with 7 participants, Travis Wortham, coordinator.

(Four halfway houses — Beto, Schaeffer, Turman and Willoughby - did not participate in the SECC campaign.)

Joan Timmons coordinated the statewide campaign.

YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

Art program enriches students' experiences

Arts ranging from native American dances to marionette shows and drama presentations featured various cultural, historical and academic experiences for Corsicana youth.

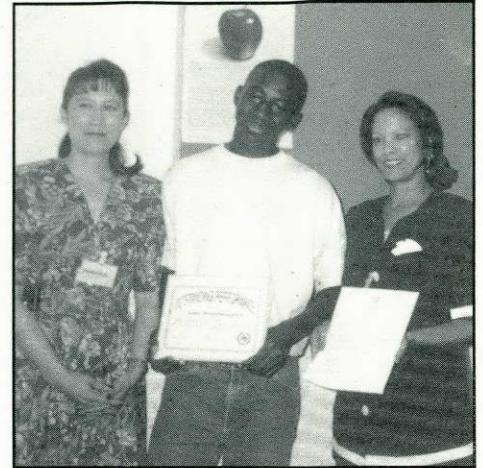
Guest artists sponsored by the Navarro Council of The Arts included Sara Falconer,

drama; Don Harms, marionettes; Wilborn Hill and Keith Longhorn, native American storytellers and dancers.

Written assignments were provided for Corsicana teachers to assist youth in following through with the work initiated in creative writing.



CORSICANA STUDENTS prepare for a puppet show, sponsored by Navarro Council of The Arts, and directed by artist Don Harris.



JEFFERSON COUNTY STATE SCHOOL student John Weatherspoon, pictured above, was recognized for his quick reaction to a medical emergency involving a fellow student. John literally took the shirt off his back to make a bandage and tourniquet to stop the bleeding of another student. A plaque for his unselfish actions was presented by superintendent Marie Murdoch, left, and Cheryl Warfield, CD dorm administrator.

Three receive high school diplomas from San Saba

Three San Saba State School students received their high school diplomas at graduation ceremonies in September - and 27 youth received their GED certificates.

Teacher Patricia Brooks served as emcee and two students and JCO Shande Jones sang the national anthem.

Dr. Linda Reyes, TYC assistant deputy executive director of rehabilitation services, spoke at the event. Dorm 6B presented a marching demonstration and the state school choir sang "Stand By Me."

Principal Lisa Pasholk and Dr. Judy Huffty, TYC education superintendent, presented diplomas. A reception was held following the ceremony.

Ayres House youth selected for environmental course

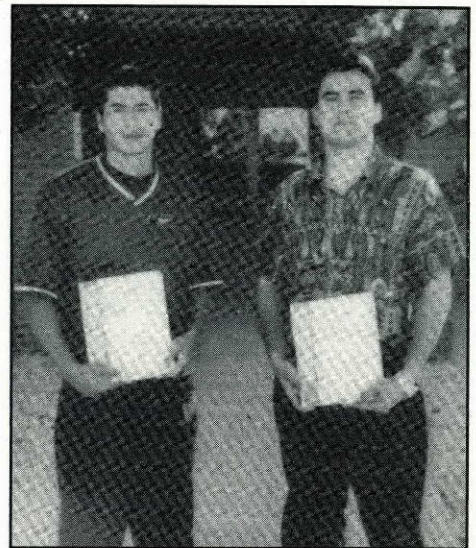
Two students at Ayres House participated in an eight-week program in environmental remediation and restoration sponsored by Public Sector Training Division, Texas Engineering Extension Service, and the Texas A&M University System.

Students Moises Briseno and Daniel Perez will receive a certificate of completion following the eight-week course and will be trained to enter the fast growing environmental job market.

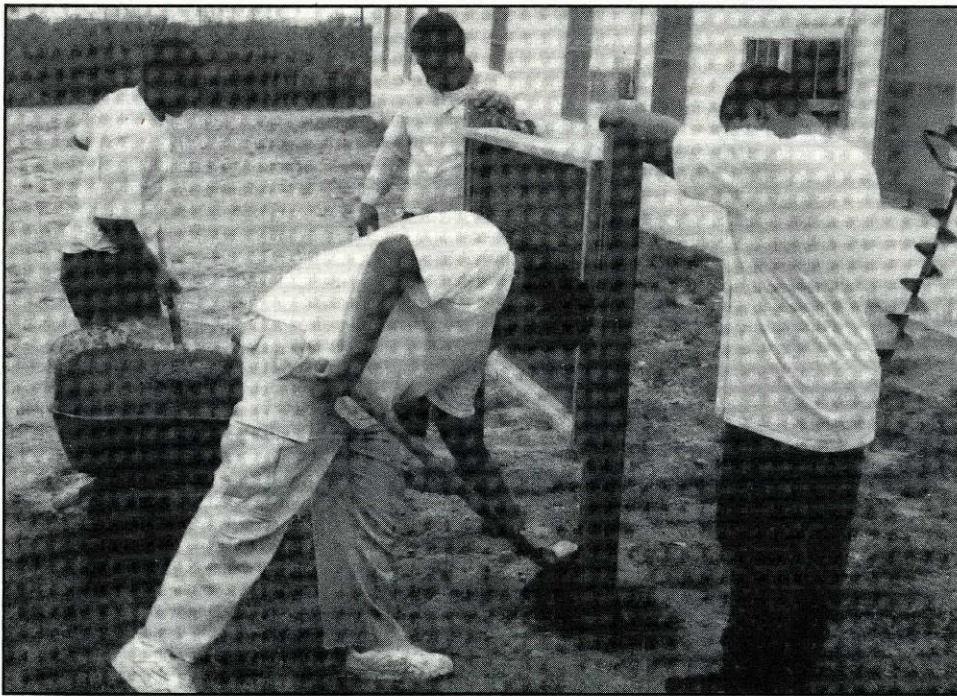
The program was developed in an ef-

fort to train displaced defense workers and disadvantaged young adults from age 16-24. Students chosen for the program do not pay tuition fees; scholarships are paid for by the U.S. Department of Defense.

The program began with a review of science and math and continued with introduction to asbestos abatement and underground petroleum storage tank management. The final portion of the program dealt with job searching and interviewing skills.



TWO AYRES HOUSE students, Moises Briseno, left, and Daniel Perez, were selected to participate in an eight-week program in environmental remediation and restoration, sponsored by the A&M Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEXS).



ALBERT MENDOZA, teacher for the industrial and building trades class at West Texas, is pictured behind one of several new signs made by his class as a community service for a Pyote church and an area cemetery. Also shown are several TYC youth who erected the signs after a request from community leader Mrs. Lenora Price. Funds were provided by Pyote residents. The signs were made of cedar and feature old English lettering and appropriate symbols.

25 San Saba youth complete 'challenge'

A recognition ceremony was held September 18 for 25 San Saba State School students who participated in a wilderness challenge course.

Certificates were presented to staff and

students who took part by Art Ortiz and Luke Stollings, Experimental Challenge Programs, who served as facilitators.

The course was also sponsored by San Saba County.

Crime victims make presentation to selected San Saba students

San Saba State School held its fourth victim impact panel/presentation in October, with 20 selected youth participating.

Presenters included Herbert and Emma Jo Snyder from Van Vleck; Deborah Harlan from Temple; and Thoms Ann Hines from Plano.

They spoke with groups of six to eight students about their victimization. Prior to the meetings with victims, youth held three 90-minute pre-treatment groups facilitated by staff with the focus being on empathy exercises, using newspaper articles, videotapes, written homework and group processing.

Following the meetings with victims, three post-treatment groups helped youth process what was heard and how to apply it.

Casework supervisor Marian Michel coordinated the all-day event with assistance from caseworkers Lynette Garcia, Barbara Hardeman, and Rosemary Yeager; and JCO IV's William Gilstrap and Daniel Hulme.

Dallas Council working on parenting programs

The Dallas Community Advisory Council is heavily involved in initiating parenting programs.

Together with Cottrell House staff, they have selected a professional parent educator to teach the residents a six week course, three times per year, dealing with teen fathering and about the responsibilities of being a man. Cost per year is \$1600 and a grant is being written to fund this project.

Council member Ron Rothmeyer has underwritten the first session for Cottrell House.

Volunteers host cookouts, games for students at Brownwood facilities

Volunteers on the Brownwood Community Advisory Council have hosted cookouts for each dorm over the summer and fall months - cooking hamburgers and playing dominoes.

Longtime council member Keith Clark organized this year's cookouts.

Sponsors included First United Methodist Church, Holley Autogroup, Coggin Avenue Baptist Church, Julia Taylor, Brownwood Regional Medical Center, and Mid-Tex Federal Credit Union.

The council also sponsored a reception for students who obtained high school diplomas and GED certificates during the fall commencement exercises.

VOLUNTEERS

Heatly elected president of Vernon council

Vernon attorney Gene Heatly was elected president of the newly-organized volunteer council in Vernon.

Other new officers of the council are Rev. Jack Gilliland, vice president; Kathy Hite, secretary; and Brenda Eaton, treasurer.

Thirty-five community residents turned out for the organizational meeting September 16 at the Vernon Victory Field Correctional Academy.

Assisting with the first meeting were Joan Timmons of Austin, TYC chief of vol-

unteer services; Jean Bice, Victory Field volunteer coordinator; and superintendent Lemuel Harrison.

A fund raising committee and a Christmas committee were appointed at the October meeting.

The group received funds from each of the three Vernon banks - Waggoner National Bank, Herring National Bank and Bank of Vernon - to open the council's bank account. Representatives from all three banks serve on the council.



THIRTY-FIVE COMMUNITY residents turned out for the organizational meeting of the Vernon volunteer council in October. Attorney Gene Heatly was elected president of the newest TYC volunteer coun-

cil; Rev. Jack Gilliland was elected vice president; Kathy Hite, secretary; and Brenda Eaton, treasurer.

Vernon churches adopt platoons for Bible study

Vernon churches have agreed to provide spiritual support for cadets at Victory Field Correctional Academy by adopting a platoon in the Adopt-a-Group Bible Study program.

In fact the program is off to such a good start there are several churches on a waiting list to adopt a group as the population increases, said volunteer coordinator Jean Bice, who is in charge of the chaplaincy volunteers at Vernon. (There is no paid staff chaplain at the institution.)

Each adopting church is responsible for furnishing Bibles for their group, for holding weekly Bible study sessions, for recognizing birthdays of cadets in the platoon monthly, and for sponsoring a Christmas event. Ministers are also encouraged to provide spiritual counseling for youth who request it.

While not all the cadets participate in the Bible study weekly, the churches can count on one hundred per cent participation on "birthday night."

The pastors and members of local churches are excited about the opportunity

to help make a difference in the lives of Victory Field cadets, Bice added.

The program's aim is to promote the spiritual well being of cadets through religious studies and activities, while providing continuity and positive role modeling. The minister of each church signs a job description which lists responsibilities, qualifications, training and time required. Persons participating as leaders or co-leaders of the groups (including the pastors) are also required to sign a job description contract.

Churches interested in adopting a group at Victory Field are encouraged to recruit at least six members who are willing to participate on a rotating basis.

One pastor said he feels that "there is a focused cooperative love that has energized our church and our community" through this program for delinquent youth.

Bice commented that local ministers and churches have expressed gratitude to the agency for opening up the institution to them and allowing them to participate in TYC's efforts to rehabilitate youth.

Dallas volunteers receive \$3,000 from fund raiser

The Dallas Community Advisory Council raised \$3,000 to support parenting programs for Cottrell House residents and Dallas parole youth by hosting a happy hour at the Pomodoro-Arcodoro restaurant in Dallas in October.

The Italian restaurant provided a free buffet and door prizes.

Underwriters included: Pro-Line Corporation, The Associates Financial Services,

Peg Johnson, Asset Management, Government Records Services and Jay Torres.

Door prizes were provided by the Texas Rangers, Dallas Mavericks, Dallas Stars, Lone Star Park, Randy Harrill and Pomodoro-Arcodoro. Organizers/coordinators of the event were Lisa Saemann-Teschner, Dr. Janet Coplin, Theresa Pallesi and volunteer coordinator Kaycee Pollock.

McFadden Council benefits from Halloween event

Thanks to the effort of new McFadden council member Jim Bogers, the group helped sponsor a family night Halloween event for Roanoke residents entitled "A Safe Kids Night Out."

The child-friendly haunted house, magic show, game booths, contests, concession stands, free candy and elephant rides took place on Halloween night at a 50-acre wooded park called Hawkwood Medieval

Fantasy Faire, with donations from numerous major sponsors.

Proceeds from the \$1 admittance fee were shared by the McFadden council and the Denton County Friends of the Family.

Bogers, a Roanoke deputy chief constable and 14 area police and fire departments worked for weeks to coordinate the event.

Fort Worth council increases membership

The Fort Worth Resource Council for Youth held an intensive fall recruitment campaign and increased its membership from 7 to 25.

Patrick McGee, director of operations for Willoughby House, Carl Fretwell, Fort Worth parole supervisor and Kaycee Pollock, volunteer coordinator, appeared on a local cable station to recruit new members.

Houston volunteers present awards at annual fund raiser

TYC's Houston volunteer council held its annual fund raiser/dinner in October and presented their Outstanding Contributions to Youth Awards to six honorees.

Award winners were George I. Sanchez High School, education; Al Powell, vice president of Academy Sports Inc., corporate service; Dr. Zanowick (Dr. Z) of the Smile Store, community service; Metropolitan One Church One Child of Texas Inc., religion; Larry Jones and Val Wilson, MAJIC 102, media; and Houston City Councilman Joe Roach, public official.

Speaker for the evening was Dr. Bennie Lambert, director of admissions, North Harris College.

More than 175 attended the event, including TYC assistant deputy executive director for juvenile corrections Dwight Harris and chief of volunteer services Joan Timmons, both of Austin.

Sheffield Boot Camp holds graduation

More than 100 people attended TYC's Sheffield Boot Camp graduation ceremony in September.

Dr. Judy Huffty, TYC superintendent of education, spoke about the importance of receiving a GED certificate; and Alex Escarcega, director of juvenile corrections and aftercare, spoke on the expansion of the boot camp's capacity to 64.

GED graduates marched under the direction of Captain Rodriguez. A reception followed the ceremony.

JCSS students give layouts to leadership members

Fifty members of Leadership Southeast Texas - Port Arthur held their annual luncheon and meeting at Jefferson County State School.

Three JCSS students gave their layouts before the group, and answered questions concerning the state school program.

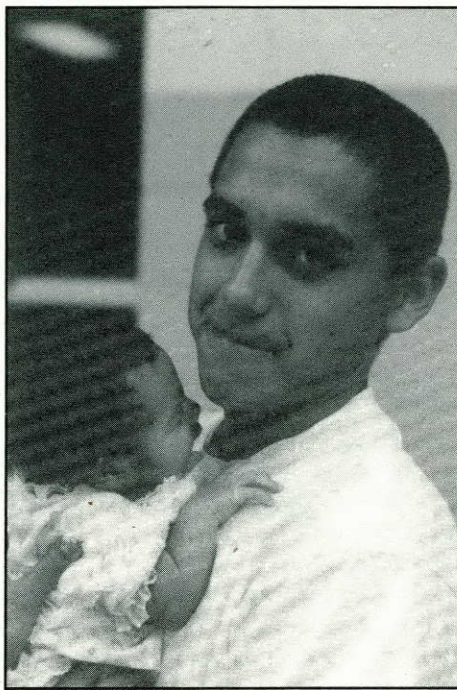
The group also took a tour of the campus and donated Halloween candy to be distributed to the students.

Sewing project opens up new world for TYC females

TYC female residents of the Victoria Regional Facility a TYC contract program, have been learning how to sew, quilt, applique, crochet and do simple vest construction, design decorative pillows and weave fabric.

Their instructor compares the sewing classes to an old-time "sewing circle," which often includes heart-to-heart discussions on various issues.

"The young ladies are very proud of their work and have received overwhelming support from the community," said QA specialist Marvell Cox.



RUBEN GARCIA, Brownwood State School student, received his high school diploma and met his month-old daughter for the first time - all in the same evening. Garcia was among three students who received high school diplomas during recent commencement exercises at Brownwood.

Brownwood holds graduation ceremony

High school diplomas were awarded to Brownwood youth Ruben Garcia, Roy Glover and Marcus Southall during fall commencement exercises.

Thirty-six students received GED certificates.

Dr. Don Newberry, chancellor of Howard Payne University, gave the keynote address and the state school choir, directed by volunteer Reginald Richard, provided entertainment. Each graduate was provided a complimentary portrait from Williamson Photography.

The Brownwood community advisory council hosted a reception.

Superintendent Dan Humeniuk and principal Tony Sanchez presented diplomas and certificates.

Mobil donates musical equipment To JCSS

Mobil oil refinery of Beaumont recently presented Jefferson County State School with a Roland Rd-600 keyboard, stand, wireless microphone and speaker to be used for various programs on campus.

Mt. Gilead Baptist Church also donated two microphones and a stand to be used during programs.

'Water Day' brings relief for West Texas students

The long days of late summer in West Texas can be broiling - and bring a certain monotony to the routine.

West Texas State School gets little relief, so Superintendent Johnny Williams and the management team cooked up a "water day" - describing it as a unique opportunity to help youth practice their resocialization skills.

Sprinklers, water hoses, a few water guns, and a dunking tank were assembled on a blazing afternoon - and each dorm group was invited to parade through the 'water areas and mud zones.'

Few were successful in keeping dry, staying clean - or keeping a straight face.

The day was termed a 'great success' and everyone maintained cool heads, said Williams.



WEST TEXAS STATE SCHOOL staff and students took part in a relief 'water day'

during the long hot summer days-putting into practice their resocialization skills.

State Volunteer Council members change reimbursement policy

The State Volunteer Resource Council met in Austin October 17, 1997, with chairman Col. Bob Frisby of Corsicana conducting the all-day meeting.

Nineteen representatives of local volunteer councils attended the meeting.

TYC Board member John Odam made an impromptu presentation to the group concerning the site selection process being used to determine where a new TYC institution would be located. The committee was also meeting at Central Office that day.

He told the group that the board would make the final decision on November 20. (See story, Page 1)

Corsicana students provide varied community service

Students at Corsicana Residential Treatment Center provided work for several community service activities during the fall - assisting with the annual countywide art project sponsored by Navarro County Council of The Arts, and picking up and delivering pumpkins to the Navarro County Food Pantry.

Students also participated with college students on a community project in late November as a belated "Make A Difference Day" activity.

Neil Nichols also made a presentation on various subjects relating to staff solicitations; a new law requiring the reporting of gifts of more than \$500 to the TYC board; liability immunity for TYC volunteers; and the new law which prohibits selling articles made by TYC youth.

TYC assistant deputy executive director Judy Briscoe spoke to the members about recent changes in agency programs.

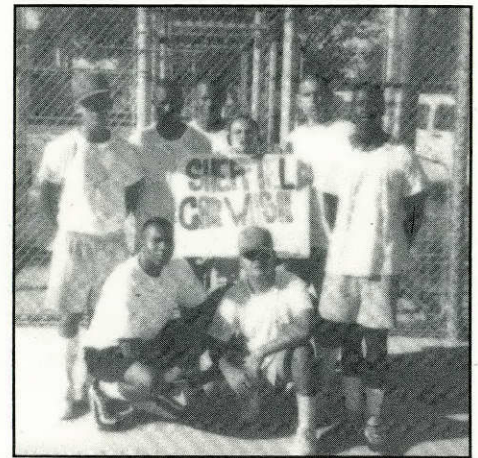
Col. Frisby requested a change in travel reimbursement policy for the executive committee members.

The new policy voted on and passed allows for the four officers of the State Council to spend up to \$1,250 each annually for travel to TYC programs and facilities. State guidelines for the amount of reimbursement to be allowed must also be followed. The policy was made retroactive to last April.

The previous policy allowed officers to expend up to \$250 per year.

Frisby announced that he had visited several TYC facilities, including Brownwood, Jefferson County, Crockett and Vernon - and had plans to travel to other facilities in the coming months.

Treasurer Viva Marie Miller of Crockett gave the financial report, indicating that the State Council has \$12,436.64 in its regular account, and has a Treasury Note of \$10,000.



TWO CAR WASHES in September netted the TYC's Sheffield Boot Camp volunteers more than \$800 with cadets and cadet leaders doing the work. Funds will be used to purchase Christmas gifts for youth. Iraan's volunteer fire department furnished the building, parking lot and water, and volunteers and businesses in Iraan and Sheffield provided refreshments.

100 bowlers compete in San Antonio fund raiser

The San Antonio volunteer council held its third annual bowl-a-thon and raised more than \$4,000 in sponsorships and pledge donations, according to chairman Lisa Bauerlein.

Among the generous donors were HEB, SW Bell Pioneers, Columbia Inc., Track Inc. American Express, Riverwalk Marriott Hotel, Guenther House and Hard Rock Café.

The top pledge amount was turned in by Jackie Mitchell. Bowlers won many prizes for strikes and high scores.

TYC JOURNAL

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