Additional recollections from down Texas way

by Clyde Kerns

I've been slow in responding to the welcome and very interesting letter from Mr. William Talley of Toronto with regard to his relative, the late Hickerson Bell "Hick" Talley. I want to publicly thank Mr. Talley for the answers he gave to questions that have been in my mind as long as I can remember — and for understanding that my stories of Hick Talley, while in some respects not exactly complimentary, were not at all meant to be embarrassing, harmful, or disrespectful to anyone, living or dead.

The name Crow Shea (or Shay) which he mentioned seems to arouse some very remote recollection in my mind but I can remember nothing whatsoever about such a person. Sorry. Maybe some other reader will remember him and write — if Crow Shea actually existed. If he did, it will not surprise me. I know that there is — or was — a Crow family in Nicholas or nearby counties, and the name Shea occurs nearly everywhere, so a son of a Shea and Crow marriage might well be named Crow Shea. And, too, the oldtime people were especially fond of interesting names, as can be seen in census records of the first century or so of the United States. Somewhere I have a list of interesting names that I've run across, among which I recall the names of Universal Rainwater and Ima Mouse. The daughters of Governor Jim Hogg of Texas were named Ima and Ura. On the record of sale of personal property of one of my ancestors I found the name Colord Mann — or was it intended to be a description? A good, solid name I like was that of a brouner-in-law of my Grandfather Dorton's oldest brother. This man from Green County in the mountains of East Tennessee was called Poss McCarry.

I've always been interested in names, perhaps because my own is so ordinary, and I sometimes notice things to which most people would give no attention. For instance, in the old days I had relatives in Russell County, Virginia, and in searching records of that area I came across the names of Sally Goodin, born about 1800, and her daughter, Mary, born about 1825. They were living alone there in 1850, and I found no other Goodins in the county.

Well, of course, nearly everyone has heard the old fiddle tune called "Sally Goodin'".

Had a piece o' pie, had a piece o' puddin',

Give it all away to hug Sally Goodin.

Looked up on the hillside, saw Sally comin',

Thought to my soul I'd kill myself a-runnin'.

Dark and a-rainin' and the road's mighty muddy,

And I'm so drunk that I can't stand steady.

There are several other verses, but I think that these three, with just a little imagination, suffice to associate the Sally of the song with what we may call the sewing of wild oats by young men of her community. (Please forgive me if, in this case, I sound like John Lomax, whose determination to find something dirty in each and every line of folk song give me no end of embarrassment.) Russell County is in Southwestern Virginia, one whose narrow lanes, load carrying capacity, clearance, or approach roadway alignment can no longer safely serve its current traffic load.)

Federal law requires that bridges are inspected at least every two years. If they are substandard because of an inability to carry design weight they must be inspected at least annually.

Kentucky policy with regard to substandard bridges goes even further. Bridges in a "critical condition" are inspected more frequently — perhaps monthly or weekly,, depending on judgment at the district level. Bridge inspections by state personnel are made not only on state system bridges, but the same inspection policy extends to city and county bridges.

Kentucky has some bridges that are similar in design to the Connecticut bridge that failed. However, modifications have been made to prevent a section from falling in the event a pin becomes dislodged, according to a state transportation spokesman.

Unlike news accounts of the Connecticut situation, Kentucky transportation officials say public inquiries are followed up immediately. Any public inquiry about the safety of a bridge or highway that goes to the transportation secretary's office is sent immediately to the district general manager to check out. He must respond in writing to the secretary's office within one week.

Aside from the always-present possibility of a tragedy involving a structurally deficient bridge, there are other serious economic costs to the community caused by deficient bridges, Fish noted. "A closed bridge or severely reduced weight limit can cut off essential services, add shipping costs to business and farmers, increase fuel costs to school districts and motorists, and play havoc with the daily routine of any community," he said.

Our Kentucky bridges - How safe are they really?

How safe are Kentucky's bridges? The tragic Connecticut bridge collapse that left three people dead and others injured has caused public concern about the safety of Kentucky's bridges.

Kentucky has 12,533 bridges, one for every 3.6 miles of road. On average, every 13 miles there is a substandard bridge. In all, 42 percent of Kentucky's highway bridges are substandard, according to a 1982 report from the Secretary of Transportation to Congress.

The report shows that 5,339 of Kentucky's 12,533 bridges are substandard, based on a bridge inventory conducted by the state. Kentucky ranks 19th among the 50 states in the number of deficient bridges and 22nd among the states in terms of percentage of deficient bridges.

According to the report, Kentucky has 4,816 bridges eligible to receive federal aid, of which 443 are structurally deficient and 996 are functionally obsolete. Most of these bridges are on the state's major highways and interstates. The state's current construction plan provides for replacing 387 deficient bridges by 1988.

Of the state's 7,717 bridges off the federal-aid system, 2,700 are structurally deficient and 1,200 are functionally obsolete. This means, on the average, every other bridge on local roads and streets is considered substandard, according to Jack Fish, president of Kentuckians for Better Transportation (KBT).

In spite of the large number of substandard bridges in Kentucky, Kentucky transportation officials say that if posted weight limits are observed, people using Kentucky's bridges are quite safe.

When it is determined that a bridge is structurally deficient it is closed, restricted to lighter traffic, or must be rehabilitated immediately to stay open. (A functionally obsolete bridge is

KET cumputer series premiers on national TV

This September, PBS will broadcast nationally a KET series designed to give educators and parents practical guidance on buying and using microcomputers and computer products.

The series, "Educational Computing Profile," consists of nine, monthly half-hour reports updating parents, teachers, librarians, administrators and school officials on the latest developments in the microcomputer field and how hardware and software products compare.

Using a magazine format, each program includes four major areas: trends and news, software evaluation, hardware evaluation and interviews and commentary with manufacturers and educators.

"Educational Computing Profile" is produced by KET, Educational Projects Information Exchange (EPIE), which is currently working with Consumers Union on a Ford Foundation/ Carnegie Foundation funded project to evaluate microcomputing products, is responsible for the series content.

"The number of companies entering the computer marketplace is staggering," says Ken Komoski, executive director of EPIE. "Consumers are going to have to do their homework in order to make intelligent decisions about their purchases, and this series will help viewers with that homework.

"We'll be getting advice from some of the best experts in the country on such subjects as incompatibility of equipment, functional obsolescence, trading up, putting advertising in the proper perspective and other problems common to computer consumers."

"We're already seeing the beginning of the computer boom in Kentucky," says Sandra H. Welch, deputy executive director at KET. "We feel there has never been a greater need for unbiased information on microcomputing, and we're excited by this opportunity to provide educators and parents with the necessary information to make informed and economical decisions."

"Educational Computing Profile" is funded in part by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

New gasoline introduced

Chevron U.S.A. has announced a two-month program to introduce a new gasoline — Chevron Unleaded Gasoline with ethanol — throughout Kentucky.

Chevron unleaded gasoline with ethanol is currently available in the Owensboro area, and will be phased into the remainder of the state during July and August.

The new gasoline will be competitively priced with Chevron unleaded regular, and offers high-octane performance and high-quality Chevron gasoline components combined with ethanol from renewable resources, and Chevron's excellent deposit control additive, PRC.

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Eye injuries increase in raquet ball sports

In the past 10 years there has been more than a 100 percent increase in eye injuries from playing racquet sports, reports the National Society to Prevent Blindness-Kentucky.

"Each year, the number of racquet sports enthusiasts grows," says Elinor Zollinger, executive director of the Kentucky Society. "With each new player, the potential for eye injuries grows."

Medical authorities point out that racquet and squash balls fit neatly into the bony orbit of the human skull surrounding each eye, a fact which accounts for the mounting number of eye injuries. A racquet or squash ball, traveling often at ajeeds in excess of 90 miles per hour, can become a blinding missile upon impact, severely injuring the eye. Racquets used in the sports are equally hazardous.

"Wearing proper protective eyewear will greatly reduce the eye injury risk to players," the KSPB director comments. A good selection of eye protection for racquet sports is available through opticians, sporting goods and department stores and club pro shops. Eyewear with polycarbonate plastic lenses are most effective against possible injuries from balls or racquets, according to the Society.

Eye injuries on the court are not limited to new racquet sports players, according to Ms. Zollinger. "Accidents are as common among veteran players as they are among rookies.

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Senators to present statement on acid rain

Kentucky Energy Secretary William Sturgill on July 25 presented Sens. Wendell Ford and Walter Dee Huddleston (D-Ky.) with the results of a just-completed state report that concludes acid rain legislation now pending before Congress represents a quick-fix solution to a complex problem and will not achieve the desired result.

Ford said that he and Huddleston will make the study available to Environmental Protection Agency Administrator William Ruckelshaus and to members of the appropriate House and Senate committees that are considering acid rain legislation.

Following are excerpts from statements made by Sturgill, Ford and Huddleston concerning the report:

Secretary Sturgill: "First, let me say the acid rain issue does need to be addressed. As the largest producer of coal in the nation, Kentucky obviously has a vested interest...What this paper documents is the need for study of the issue before any action is taken. I would remind you, simply labeling a piece of legislation as "an acid rain control" measure does not necessarily mean it will accomplish that end. We feel, and have documented, that however well-intended, the proposed legislation is miss-aimed. The legislation may or may not control acid rain. But what it will do is sharply increase utility rates, increase the importing of foreign oil, and eliminate coal-fired boilers to produce electricity which in turn will cause an increase in atomic-powered power plants."

Senator Ford: "The report reinforces the points made in the recent National Academy of Sciences study that show we still cannot distinguish between the effects of distant acid rain sources on acid deposition and that it is very possible that local sources are playing a much larger role in the problem than some would either believe or admit. This report underscores the fact that current acid rain legislative proposals now under consideration are not likely to achieve the desired goals because they ignore the lingering uncertainty over the role of local sources and attempt a simple, quick fix solution to a complex, long-term and poorly-understood phenomenon."

Senator Huddleston: "The report should serve to remind everyone that acid rain probably is as much a political issue at this point in time as it is a scientific. The findings of this report strongly suggest the position that there is no hard scientific evidence to justify the mega-dollar solutions currently under consideration. The report also makes it clear that we are not standing still on the acid rain issue. There is a tremendous research effort underway, both on the sources and solutions of the acid rain problem, and into new and efficient pollution control and combustion technologies. A reasoned approach now could save us billions of dollars and thousands of jobs that could be lost unnecessarily if we act prematurely."

USDA ADJUSTS FOOD STAMP LIMITS FOR CHANGE IN COST OF LIVING

On July 1, the income eligibility limits for people who use food stamps increased reflecting changes in the cost of living since last year, according to Mary C. Jarratt, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

Under the new guidelines, a family of four can have a gross income of $1,073 a month and still be eligible for assistance. Previously, the monthly income limit was $1,008.

The food stamp program currently provides food help to 22.5 million Americans.

Congress requires USDA to update the eligibility guidelines each July 1 according to changes in the Consumer Price Index.

Following are the income limits for households of various sizes.

Household Size	Maximum Gross Monthly Income
1	$527
2	709
3	891
4	1,073
5	1,255
6	1,437
7	1,619
8	1,801
Each add'l member	+$182

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New control for sawfly

A biological insecticide as effective as its chemical counterparts has been registered by the Environmental Protection Agency for use against the European pine sawfly. Neochek-S, made from a nucleopolyhedrosis virus sawfly, is the first such product registered in the U.S. to be effective against a hymenopterous pest, a member of a group of insects that includes bees and wasps.

The research, testing and development required for registration was a joint effort between scientists at the USDA Forest Service's Center for Biological Control of Northeastern Forest Insects and Diseases in Hamden, Conn., and members of the Service's Northeastern Area Forest Pest Management staff in Broomall, Pa. This is the third nucleopolyhedrosis virus (NPV) product registered by the USDA Forest Service. Others are the tussock moth NPV and Gypchek, which attacks the gypsy moth.

The sawfly larva eats the foliage of red pine and Scotch pine throughout the Northeast, Lake States and Midwest. It causes considerable damage to Christmas trees and to plantings on municipal watersheds. Neochek-S works by attacking the insect's mid-gut cells. The insect dies 10-14 days after eating the virus particles, which have been sprayed on the needles. Mortality from Neochek-S is as high or higher than that from chemical insecticides currently in use.

Canada has expressed an interest in the new virus product, and information has been exchanged with scientists in Great Britain. The sawfly is also a pest in Scandinavia, northern Europe and parts of Asia.

Since registration is so recent, no commercial preparations of Neochek-S are available. However, the Forest Service has a small supply of Neochek-S that can be provided to cooperating state agencies as part of a technology transfer program. Neochek-S will be available for operational use by individual landowners when a commercial producer is found. For more information, contact Frank Lewis, Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, Center for Biological Control of Northeastern Forest Insects and Diseases, 51 Mill Pond Road, Hamden, Conn., telephone 203-773-2028.

IRS sets test dates

Individuals who wish to take the 1983 Internal Revenue Service Special Enrollment Examination must have their applications postmarked no later than Aug. 15, 1983. No extensions of time to take the examination will be granted.

The examination is scheduled to take two days: Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 3 and 4, and will be given in Louisville. Applicants will be notified of the particular building and room assignment prior to the examination date.

This examination is given annually in each district to individuals other than attorneys or certified public accountants. Individuals who pass the examination may apply for enrollment to practice before the IRS. Enrolled agents may represent their clients in all matters relating to the clients' rights, privileges and liabilities under the laws administered by the IRS.

The application fee is $50 for those taking all four parts of the examination, and $40 for prior year examinees taking fewer than four parts. All checks or money orders must be made payable to the "Internal Revenue Service."

Those interested in taking the examination should obtain the Special Enrollment Examination Application Packet. The packet includes materials on the requirements for enrollment and on the requirement for taking the examination. The examination will include true or false, multiple choice, and problem-type questions.

The packet includes Form 2587, "Application for Special Enrollment Examination," Publication 498, "Requirements for IRS Enrollment and Special Enrollment Examination," Publication 603, "Special Enrollment Examination Questions and Answers — Sample Booklet," Treasury Department Circular No. 230, "Regulations Governing the Practice of Enrolled Agents," Publication 1140, "Special Enrollment Examination Background Material for Applicants," Publication 1173, "Rules for Tax Return Preparers," and Form 4190A, a special order form for requesting Special Enrollment Examination Study Materials.

The Special Enrollment Examination Application Packet can be ordered by writing the Chief, Review Staff, Internal Revenue Service, P.O. Box 1700, Louisville, KY 40201. You may also call this office at 582-5261 in Louisville or toll free at 1-800-424-1040 elsewhere in Kentucky.

USDA announces guidelines for '84 wheat program

Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block has announced general guidelines concerning the provisions of the 1984 wheat program. The program provisions are tentative but will likely fall within these guidelines:

— An acreage reduction requirement of between 20 and 30 percent.

— An additional land diversion of between 20 and 25 percent with a payment-in-kind compensation for farmers who divert additional land.

— An in-kind compensation of between 70 and 80 percent of program yield.

"These points should provide wheat farmers general guidance for planning purposes," Block said. "We had hoped to announce the 1984 wheat program in more detail, but it is impossible to finalize the provisions until Congress completes its consideration of target price freeze legislation that has been requested by the Administration since January. Without a target price freeze, the tentative program provisions I announced would be subject to change."

The Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry approved the target price freeze legislation on June 21. The House Committee on Agriculture met on May 25 to consider the legislation, but postponed further consideration.

"Many farmers have already begun to prepare seedbeds and apply fertilizer for the upcoming crop," Block said. "With these financial commitments being made, it is only reasonable that the Congress act judiciously so that we can announce all of the specific program provisions as soon as possible."

Notice

If you have something to say, write a letter to the Editor.

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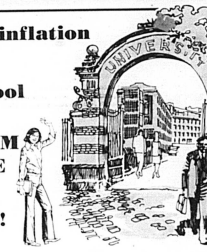

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