

Electrical Rate Study Okayed; City Faces Hike In Power Cost

Environmental Sanitation Management (ESM), which has been serving the City of Houston since June 1978, is selling the routes operating out of Waynesville to the M and M Sanitation Co., Inc., of Dixon, Mo.

The M and M company is operated by a father and son, the Mehls. The contract runs to September, 1983.

Since part of Houston's contract states there can be no transfer of the Houston route by ESM without the written consent of the city, the board's approval of the sale was requested by ESM.

If the aldermen approve, M and M will begin its service Nov. 1 with the same routes and personnel presently employed by ESM. City Administrator Pat McDonald stated the M and M company planned to

install new equipment and intends to maintain or improve existing service.

M and M is currently operating in the Dixon area, St. James and Westphalia.

The Houston Chamber of Commerce has asked the city to install no parking signs along the shoulders of Highway 63 within the city limits. A letter of request written by Chamber President Floyd Fenix pointed out the danger of vehicles entering and leaving the highway when cars are parked along U.S. 63.

McDonald has been instructed by the council to draft an ordinance to allow the installation of these signs. The ordinance will be considered by the board at its Oct. 19 meeting.

Thayer, W.P. Duel Takes SCA Spotlight

After sustaining a third loss in five outings by falling to West Plains here last week, Houston's football Tigers are moving into what should be the "softer" part of their South Central Association schedule.

The Big Red now is in a position to get well. Four games remain with a trip to Ava on tap Friday night. The Bears, tri-champions of the loop in 1980 along with West Plains and Thayer, have fallen on hard times.

Following the appearance in Douglas County, opponents in order are Cabool, Salem and Willow Springs. Of those three, Cabool is the only team to date to show an inclination for winning. However, Salem did manage to pin a 7-6 loss on Mountain View-Liberty last week. Willow Springs continues to struggle, losing last week to Mountain Grove, 34-6.

Thayer weathered another storm last week, but finally prevailed over a stubborn Cabool team. The undefeated Bobcats lead the conference, setting up a showdown at West Plains Friday night with once-beaten Zizzers.

Thayer has five wins to its credit but was fortunate to prevail in two of those games. Mountain Grove earlier gave the Bobcats all they wanted and two weeks ago Houston played the SCA leaders to a 6-0 scare. Many observers, Tiger head coach Ron Hall included, rate West Plains a favorite to derail Thayer, whose only loss last season was to the Zizzers.

Ava, 26-6 winners over the Big Red in their last meeting, was a 3A playoff team in 1980, advancing to the second round of competition before losing. The Bears (2-3) squeaked by Willow Springs, 28-25, in Week No. 2 and won last week. But it was a hollow victory. While putting 34 points on the board, the Bears allowed winless Gainesville to score 22 points.

Ava, behind runner Doug Chamberlin, is principally a ground team. The Bears have capable athletes in offensive tackle-nose guard Randy Johnson and Norman Domenico, a center.

Other pairings this week include Mountain Grove at Liberty, Willow Springs at Cabool and Gainesville at Salem.

TIGER TALES: Houston just can't seem to get (Turn to page 8, this section)

Judy Wilson Queen of Homecoming

Houston High School Junior Judy Wilson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Wilson, was crowned 1981 Homecoming Queen at the half-time of last Friday's football game between the Tigers and the West Plains Zizzers. LouAnn Runez, daughter of Ms. Evelyn Runez and Dr. Manuel Runez, was first runner up. Second runner up was Kay Castleman, daughter of Ms. Betty Castleman and Troy Castleman. Dana Chipps was third runner-up. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bub Chipps.

Winners in the school class float contest were: first, the Junior Class; second place, the Senior Class and third, the Freshman Class float.

Non-school class float winners: Quarterback Club, first place; Secretaries, second; FBLA, third.

The Sophomore Class was the winner in the Spirit Chain contest.

Teacher's Meeting

Classes at Houston and other schools in Texas County will be dismissed today (Thursday) and Friday for a district teacher's meeting in Springfield.



Homecoming Queen Judy Wilson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Wilson.



PETITION DRIVE -- Houston Schools faculty members are soliciting residents for signatures on a petition calling for a state-wide referendum proposing a one-cent sales tax increase for education. Instructor Paul Cheek explains the proposal to Margaret Calkins.

Summersville Pair Charged With Rape

Two young men were arrested this week by Sheriff's Deputy Loyd Mitchell and charged with the rape of a 14-year-old girl in Summersville. Johnny Ard, 19, Eminence, and Michael Cross, 19, Hartshorn, were arraigned on the charge following an incident Sept. 24 in which the girl was allegedly raped, said a Sheriff's Department spokesman. Ard

and Cross were released from custody on a bond of \$10,000 each. A hearing date of Oct. 21 has been set.

Loren Edward Barnes, 52, Licking was found dead in his cell at the Texas County Jail early on the morning of Oct. 2. Coroner James Gentry ruled Barnes died of natural causes. Barnes had (Turn to page 7, this section)

Black Walnut Harvest Begins

There's "black gold" in them thar trees -- sometimes.

The annual black walnut harvest is underway, and reports coming in to the two local buyers -- Farmers Co-op Exchange and Houston Mills - indicate the harvest will be better than last year, but still not up to normal.

"I've heard people talking and the crop looks spotty. Some trees have quite a few nuts and others none at all," said Bud Pounds, manager of the Farmer's Co-op Exchange. "It can't be much worse than last year and will probably be a little better."

Houston Mills owner Rowland Amelon said that from what he'd heard, trees on ridges and hilltops would yield a good crop of walnuts. Those in low lying areas would not. "We probably won't get a good crop until

we have good sub-soil moisture," added Amelon. "I expect we could get about (Turn to page 5, this section)

First Class Stamp Costs 20c Nov. 1

The Postal Service has increased the price of a first-class stamp from 18 cents to 20 cents, effective Nov. 1.

The Postal Service said it has lost almost \$126 million in the five months since the rate went up from 15 cents.

Without the increase, "the Postal Service would have incurred continuing and dangerously high operating losses for at least another year," Robert L. Hardesty, chairman of the Postal Service Board, said.

Marijuana Raid Blooms Into King-Sized Case

In the wake of one of Missouri's largest marijuana operations discovery, uncovered last week by Texas County authorities, an interesting question looms unanswered? Will Eric T. Cremer, 30, Sandra A. Wood, 23, or John D. Tamberella, 33, ever be seen in these parts again?

Charges with felony possession of marijuana, all three posted bond and were released from custody Friday, three days after Sheriff Ray Dow Clayton and highway patrolmen raided a 80-acre farm near Tyrone owned by Ms. Wood.

Initially discovering some 500 green marijuana plants on the property, officers later found more than 900 pounds of the processed weed in bales hidden beneath the false bottoms of two ton trucks confiscated at the scene.

With street value of the weed first estimated at about \$1 million, that figure quickly was revised to approximately \$1.9 million when the baled stuff was found.

Now comes the question again. In an operation of that magnitude, what would \$75,000 in forfeited bond money mean? Very little, likely, and for that reason some observers speculate the Cremer-Wood-Tamberella connection has said, "adios" forever to Texas County.

what they uncovered was a small part of a big operation. Sheriff Clayton has contacted federal agents, but they have not yet indicated the extent, if any, to which they are interested in the case.

Tamberella lists Kinner, La., as his home. Wood told officers she is from Vancouver, British Columbia in Canada and Cremer hails from California.

Plastic bags in which the baled marijuana was packaged were lettered with Spanish wording. It was during a routine inventory of the trucks last Wednesday that the hidden, baled marijuana was found. As soon as the information went out over the highway patrol's wire service, the sheriff's office telephone rang off the wall with inquiries from news gatherers.

The property where the operation thrived, located about a mile north of Tyrone just off Highway 137, was acquired April 1 by Ms. Wood. She and Cremer were arrested at the scene and Tamberella was booked for investigation. He drove up to the house while the raid was in progress behind the wheel of one of the false-bottomed trucks. The fake beds were operated by hydraulic jacks.

At their arraignment before Associate Texas County Circuit Judge R.M. Becker, the trio was scheduled for a preliminary hearing here Oct. 21.

In the meantime, the sheriff's department faces a bulky evidence problem -- how to store 50 bales and 500 green plants of marijuana.



OFFICERS WEIGH processed marijuana found with the discovery of false bottoms on two trucks confiscated in a raid on a Texas County farm last week. Sheriff Ray Dow Clayton, kneeling, passes plastic bags containing the illegal crop to, from left, Jim McNiell, Loyd Mitchell, Larry Southern and Mike Pace.

Information leading to the arrests came from an informant's tip, according to Sheriff's Deputy Chris Adey, who says local authorities now are convinced