

High Interest In New Waste Disposal Project

By W. H. GRAHAM

A four-hour meeting on the proposed Triassic Park hazardous waste site west of Tatum was attended by a number of Lea County people in Roswell Friday night.

Gandy Marley Inc., owned by Dale Gandy of Lovington and Bob Marley of Roswell, proposes to build the waste disposal facility just off the Cap, south of the roadside park on U.S. 380, in Chaves County. It is 30 miles west of Tatum.

The New Mexico Environment Department conducted the meeting, which was held in the Roswell Chamber of Commerce building and was heavily attended. About 70 visitors attended, filling the meeting room and many were standing in the back and hallway, unable to get seats.

Jim Bonner, Albuquerque geologist, and Pat Corser, Steamboat Springs, CO, engineer, led the presentation of the project for GMI, explaining, with the aid of a projector and handouts, what the plant was and how it would be built and would work.

Gandy, who is president of GMI, said the group had been working on the project 10 years to find a proper place for its location. "We are happy with our project and we feel good about it. I feel confident about the safety of this project," he said.

Bonner called the site, which is located in the Triassic or "red bed" formation exposed by erosion from the Pecos River long ago, "very, very favorable." Although it is near the Plains, he said it is 350 feet below the Ogallala (fresh water aquifer) formation and cannot contaminate it.

He also said the site sits on 600 feet of very low permeability rock which would stop the flow of any spill or leakage and called the site "a protective landfill."

In their surveys, the team drilled and logged 40 holes in the 480 site and encountered "no groundwater whatsoever." As an added precaution, the plant, if built, would have monitor wells to "make sure nothing is coming in and nothing going out," Bonner said.

Corser explained the plant could take a "wide variety" of more than 400 wastes, but no explosives, no radioactive or nuclear, medical, or infectious wastes.

The plant is designed to be built in three phases. The first would have a storage capacity of 550,000 cubic yards which would take an estimated one to six years to fill. It would take 30 to 35 employees to operate.

Corser went into detail about the construction of the facility and how it would be monitored and protected against leaks.

Gandy says the project will cost about \$15 million to build for its first phase, and about \$30 million should the second and third phases be added.

There are numerous such sites in operation around the country, but none in New Mexico, and GMI considers this state its prime market. The ED says there are more than 8,000 "generators" of hazardous wastes in New Mexico, running from car washes to Los Alamos labs.

Gandy, in comments made during a break in the meeting, characterized the potential as "unbelievable," and cited as one instance the former location of Walker Air Force Base in Roswell, where the military contaminated large areas with pollutants during the war years.

Commercial hazardous waste now being disposed of from New Mexico is being taken to Utah and Oklahoma, Gandy said. The near

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Citizens Speak Out At Meeting

Above, Bill Kolb of Caprock asks questions about the proposed hazardous waste disposal site near his place.

At left are Dale Gandy and Bob Marley, owners of Gandy Marley Inc. Marley, right, is a Roswell rancher and businessman. Gandy is president of Gandy Corporation, an oilfield service company with yards in Tatum and Lovington.



Gas Prices in High



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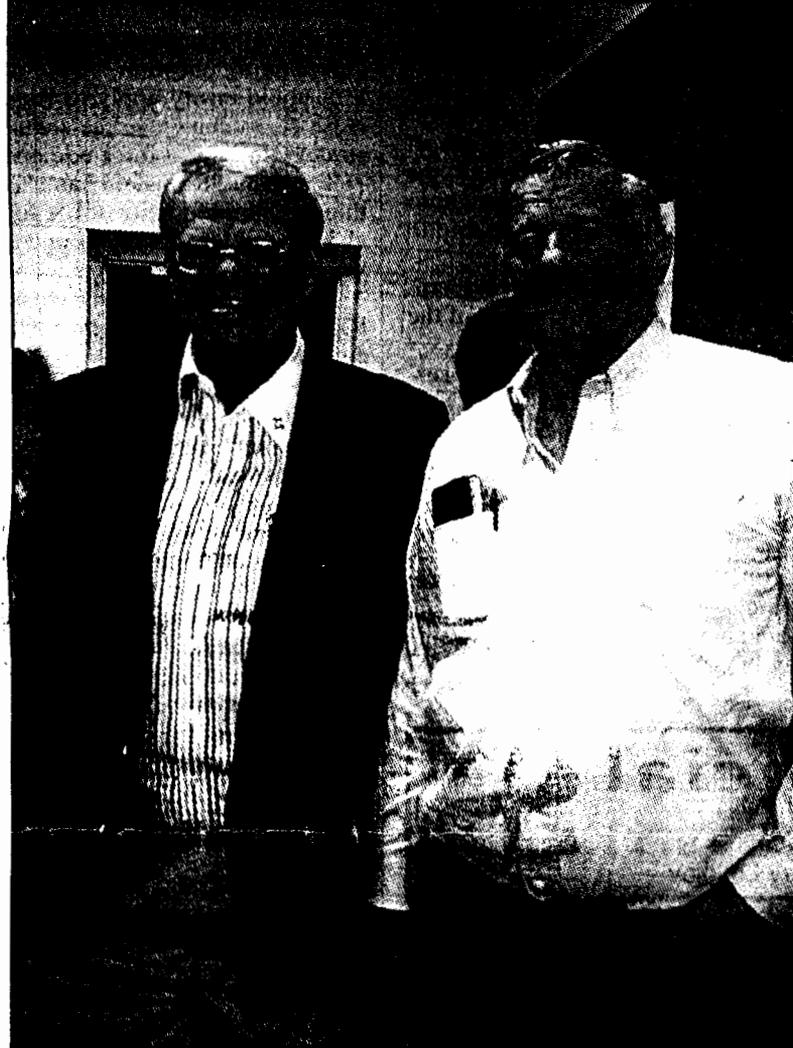
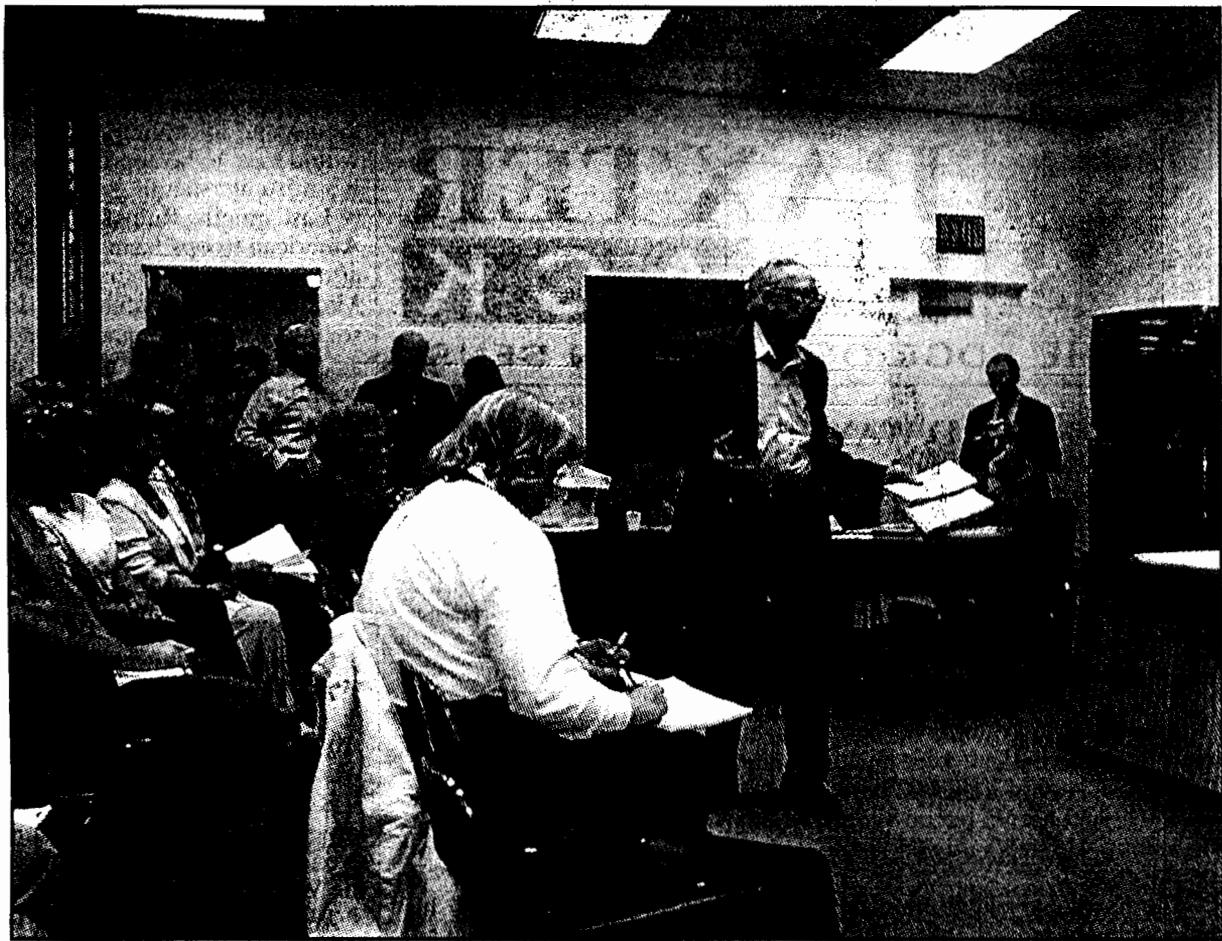
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PNM Says Gas Prices Will Remain High

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — Natural gas prices have remained high this spring, and some say they will stay aloft through summer and into next winter.

Public Service Company of New Mexico is charging 53.96 cents



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est similar site is west of Eunice in Andrews County, Texas.

"I wouldn't be doing this if I wasn't convinced it's needed, it's safe, and it will work," he said.

Steve Pullen of the ED told the crowd, "We believe that because of the stringency of New Mexico's permit, this should be a very protective operation."

But he added that the state agency is "neutral on the subject," and open to information and opinion.

* * * *

In the comment period, several area residents asked questions and made statements. Gerry Glenn of Tatum asked what planning had been done in the event of a fire.

James Odle, Tatum area rancher who is 16 miles from the site, raised health concerns. He cited cancer mortality rates which are higher in Lea County for both men and women than the state average. Odle, who is a trustee for Nor-Lea Hospital District, said he was concerned about potential "atmospheric pollution."

Bill Kolb, who lives near the KBIM tower on the Plains and is 2 1/2 miles from the proposed site, expressed concerns about pollution from evaporation ponds which could get into winds and be carried over his home. He also wanted to know where the water for the plant's operations would come from, and was told that has not been determined and GMI expects to purchase water from other parties.

Pursuing the water question, Dirk Jones asked how much would be required and was told about 50,000 gallons a day, most of which would be used for dust control on the roads

which trucks would travel.

Water well driller Corky Glenn of Tatum contradicted data offered by the presenters that there is no groundwater at the site. "I'm here to tell you there is some water out there," he commented, referring to wells on ranches.

Several Roswell residents also had questions or comments, and the general tone of everyone who took the floor was one of anxiety about the project.

Standing in marked contrast to the general tone, however, was a strong endorsement by Rep. Dan Foley of Roswell, whose district extends into the Caprock area (Precinct 2) of Lea County and includes the proposed disposal site.

Foley cited progress in waste disposal procedures now as compared to a generation or so ago, and said "we should be proud" to have a facility with safety features such as is proposed by GMI.

He characterized as "ludicrous" the suggestion by some in the audience that the state should guarantee them against any threat of contamination.

In addition to Foley, other officials who attended the meeting included Sen. Carroll Leavell of Jal, County Commissioner Ross Black of Lovington, and County Manager Dennis Holmberg of Humble City.

The Friday night meeting was for information only and not a formal hearing. After a period for public comment and if a hearing is requested, one will be held. The permit, if granted, will come after the hearing from the Environment Department. It is the second application by GMI for a permit.

Blast Off . . . continued from page 1

For now, the bulk of Space Adventures' effort is directed toward what it hopes can be a more affordable space adventure: suborbital space flight, the type pioneering astronaut Alan Shepard took for the first time exactly 40 years ago, on May 5, 1961.

Space Adventures' goal is to have the first tourists flying by 2005.

More than a dozen companies are working on a "space plane" that could make such a trip.

Anderson envisions a craft that would carry three to six tourists 100 kilometers up in the air, the accepted definition of a space flight. Passengers could experience three or four minutes of weightlessness and be able to look down on almost 3,000 miles of Earth's surface — enough to take in the outline of North America's East Coast.

Such a flight could require only four days of training, compared with the six months Tito underwent, Anderson said.

So far, 100 people and corporations have paid roughly \$2 million in deposits, most it refundable, to get a spot on the first flights. The company

plans to hold an auction among reservation holders to determine the order.

"We're engineers, so we never say 100 percent. But it would be highly unlikely that this won't come about," company Vice President Larry Ortega said.

Bob Haltermann, executive director of the Arlington-based Space Transportation Association's tourism division, a nonprofit group that lobbies on behalf of space tourism, suggested that one of the seven seats on a space shuttle could be opened to the public through a lottery that could help NASA raise millions of needed dollars.

"NASA is a very exclusive group of people, and they have a problem with wanting to keep it that way," Haltermann said.

Tito, 60, said that when he returns to Earth, one of his first jobs will be trying to get NASA to embrace his idea that space is for everyone.

"I am enjoying this so much," Tito said Friday. "If I were allowed, I would spend several months up here in space."

Bush Sees Com

By TOM RAUM
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush pledged to "putting old fears and quarrels behind us," and courted Hispanic Americans by honoring a popular Mexican holiday.

"The history of Mexican-American relations has moments, but today our peoples enrich each other in the family ties," Bush said in his weekly radio address Saturday.

He recorded the address in both English and Spanish, the White House said would be a new weekly practice of radio addresses.

Democrats responded with their own Cinco de Mayo (May 5) address. House Democratic Leader Dick Gephardt of Missouri would produce one each week, featuring various lawmakers.

Cinco de Mayo commemorates an 1862 Mexican victory over a U.S. army at the Battle of Puebla. Bush opened his radio address with a special greeting to everyone celebrating Cinco de Mayo. "It's a proud moment when Mexican soldiers threw back an invasion," he said.

It comes a day after Bush celebrated the holiday a day earlier on the South Lawn, with mariachi music and folk dancing. "It was just like being in Texas again," the president said.

He said he would work to steadily improve ties with Mexico. The Mexican leader he met with was Mexican President Vicente Fox. Fox will be honored at his first state dinner, in early September.

"I consider him a good friend," Bush said in the radio address. "We are committed to working together in common purpose, for the benefit of our two countries. Whether the issues are free trade or energy production, or the protection of the control of illegal drugs, our interests are aligned."

As to overall relations with Mexico, Bush said, "In the end, we're happy to say, we're putting old fears and quarrels behind us."

Legal Notice

If You Purchased or Obtained from any Retail Drug Store February 23, 1995

Please Read This Notice

1. WHY SHOULD I READ THIS NOTICE?

Your rights may be affected in a lawsuit known as *Generic Laboratories, et al., Civil Action No. 9951-CV*, Fourth District Court of San Miguel, State of New Mexico, pending before Judge William P. Lynch ("the Court"). The purpose of this Notice is to inform persons who purchased or obtained brand-name prescription drugs from drug stores or pharmacies in New Mexico that a partial settlement of the above-referenced action has been preliminarily approved by the Court. Brand-name prescription drugs are drugs that are sold or distributed under a brand name rather than under the drug's generic chemical name. Some brand-name drugs require a physician's prescription for purchase or use. For more information, see the terms of the proposed settlement, which may affect you.

2. WHAT IS THE LAWSUIT ABOUT?

Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and all other persons similarly situated, allege that Defendants (manufacturers of brand-name prescription drugs) agreed with each other to deny discounts to retail drug stores and that such an agreement violates the antitrust and competition laws of New Mexico. Plaintiffs allege that, as a result of this conduct, retail drug stores and pharmacies in New Mexico charge higher prices for brand-name prescription drugs, injuring Plaintiff's interests. Defendants deny that they had any such agreement, that they acted in the best interests of their customers, or that consumers have been harmed by Defendants' individual sales policies or practices.

On October 16, 2000, Plaintiffs entered into a proposed class action settlement with all but one of the Defendants. On April 16, 2001, the Court granted preliminary approval and certified the Settlement Class for the proposed settlement.

3. WHO IS IN THE SETTLEMENT CLASS?

The Settlement Class consists of all persons who, during the period commencing February 23, 1995 through and including October 16, 2000, purchased or obtained from retail drug stores or pharmacies brand-name prescription drugs manufactured by Defendants. Purchases paid for or reimbursed by Medicaid are not included. If the settlement is finally approved by the Court, the judgment will bind all persons in the Settlement Class who do not timely opt out in the manner described in Paragraph 9 below.

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