

Waste facility slated for Andrews

Landfill project would cost \$12 million, employ 130 people

BY DON INGRAM
News Editor

An application for a permit for a multi-million dollar hazardous waste facility in Andrews County will be filed Monday in Austin.

This was the word yesterday from Ken Bigham, president of KNB Investments, Inc. of Pasadena, Texas.

The state-of-the-art facility will be located in far west Andrews county adjacent to the Texas-New Mexico line.

The announcement follows on the heels of two weeks of action by local entities endorsing and supporting the project.

Detailed briefings to local groups by Kent Hance, former congressman and railroad commissioner, and an associate in the Pasadena firm, prompted resolutions from the Andrews Industrial Foundation, the board of the directors of the Andrews County Chamber of Commerce, the commissioners court of Andrews County, and a pledge from City Mayor Greg Sweeney.

The briefings came after a 11-month study of drilling and coring samples from the site.

"You could look all over the State of Texas and not find a better site, geologically, than the one we've found," Bigham said.

"The famous red bed of West Texas and its inherent clays, is normally found at 90 to 220 feet," Bigham said.

"But we have found a spot where it comes to within eight feet of the surface and the bed is 200-feet thick."

"And that's the first requirement of any landfill—good geology that means a safe, environmentally sound operation."

Hance told members of the industrial foundation last week that the facility, when permitted, would cost \$12 to \$15 million and would employ 130 employees at the beginning and the level could rise to over 300 employees after a few years of operation.

"The facility, when completed, will not take radioactive materials, nuclear waste, medical wastes, explosives, or any liquids," Hance said.

The application, accompanied by the pledges of support and cooperation from the local groups, will be filed with the Texas Water Commission in Austin Monday.

The facility, when permitted, will be monitored constantly by the Environmental Protection Agency and the state water commission.

"It normally takes 3 to 4 years to secure a permit," Bigham said, "but with the show of support and cooperation we've had from the people in Andrews, we expect to secure the permit from the regulatory agencies in less than a year."

"It's about time that this community received some good news for a change," said James Roberts, president of the Andrews Industrial Foundation.

According to Roberts, the Foundation has been working with members of the Pasadena firm for over a year on the selection of a site.

"This site turns past liabilities into definite assets," Roberts said. "It has low population density, no surface water, a definite scarcity of underground water, an isolation factor, and self-sealing clays."

The only drawback to the site, according to Roberts, is the fact that the site is 30 miles from Andrews.

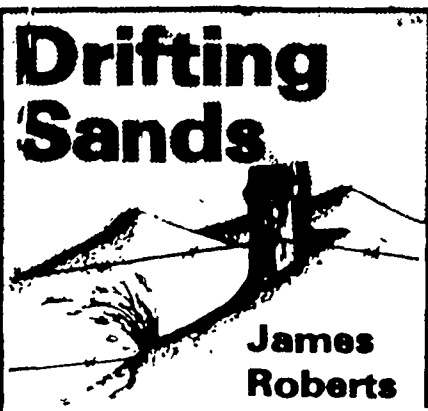
"But we've extracted pledges from the company that they will headquarter in Andrews," Roberts said.

The company has taken an option on the Ed Tinsley ranch of 15,000 acres. "We'll only use 100 acres for the facility at first," Hance explained, "with development to follow in 100 acre increments up to the maximum of 1,000 acres."

Roberts pointed out that an economic development study completed three years ago, suggested two areas in which Andrews might diversify its oil-based economy: prisons and waste management.

"We lost out on the prison bidding because our site was too far out of town," Roberts said. "Hopefully, the regulatory agencies will view this site as ideal."

Additional briefing sessions by Hance and Bigham are planned in Andrews in the next few days. Hance is to speak to a joint meeting of the Lions and Rotarians here Tuesday with further talks set with the Oestilla Garden Club and the



Andrews County

A community of quality ... and home of Tom Mitchell

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Doc says the legislative process is kinda like a house full of termites. You don't think much is going on until things starting falling in on you.

We're glad the news is finally out in the open about the possibility of securing a waste facility in Andrews county.

With the filing of the application for a permit slated for Monday in Austin, the door is finally opened for members of the Andrews Industrial Foundation to start explaining the project to all local citizens.

And our first obligation is to make sure that every person in Andrews understands and is knowledgeable about the \$12 million project.

We've worked with Ken Bigham, Kent Hance, and Allen Messenger, environmental engineer, for the past year and we can testify that these people know what they are doing. They have the expertise, the experience, and the desire to dot all the i's and cross all the t's necessary to satisfy the minute details of the regulatory agencies. And they have the financial muscle to back up their promises.

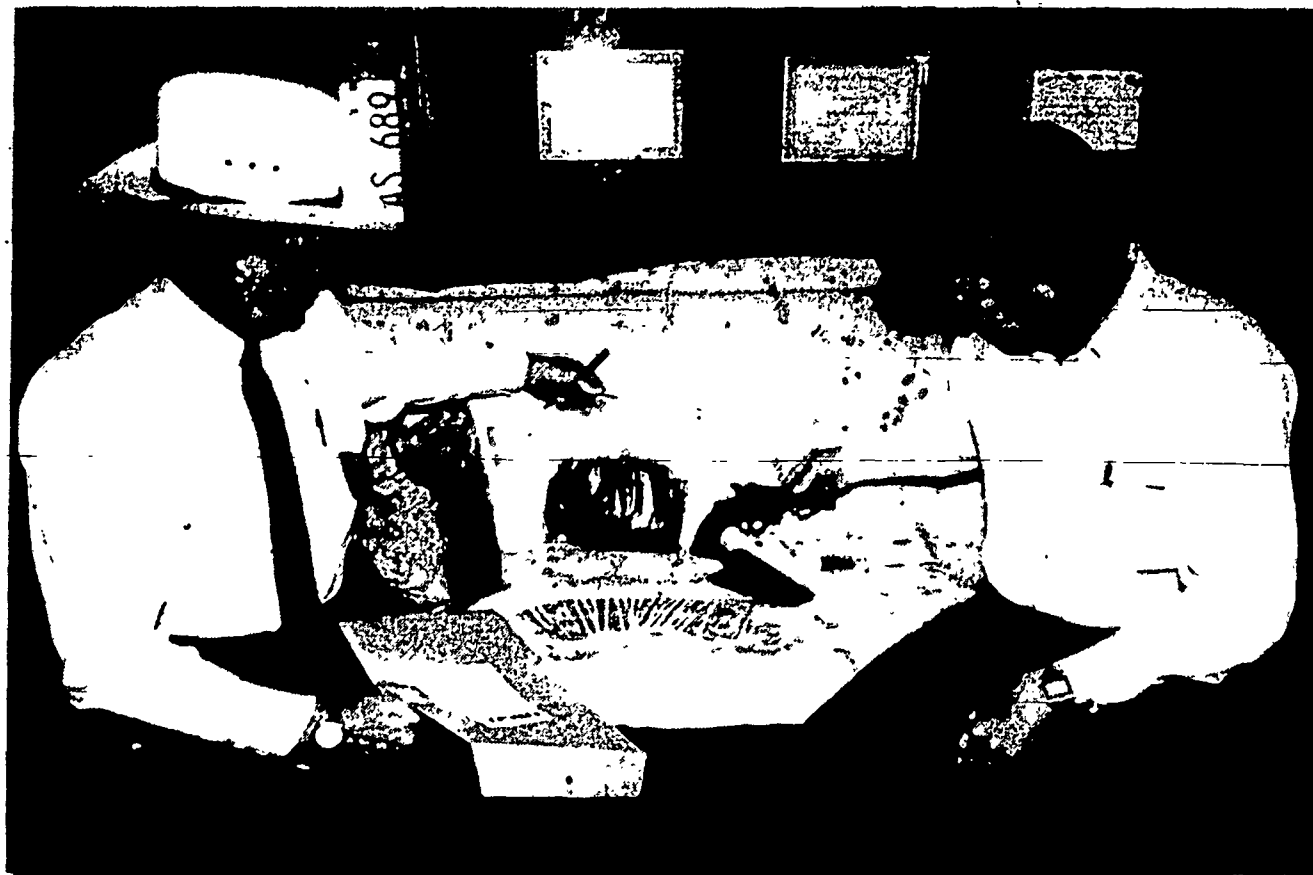
They have spent a lot of time and money, used experts in the field to assess the proposed site on the far side of west Andrews county and have come to the conclusion that the site is perfect, geologically.

We have preached in this space for years that the professionals in the waste management industry should look at Andrews county. First, because of its geology and secondly, because of its people. There's no place on earth where the people know more about, and understand, what's beneath them than here in Andrews. Where else in this country, would you find elementary schools named after the geologic formations underlying the county?

The securing of a permit to operate a hazardous landfill is a long, drawn-out procedure before the Texas Water Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency. Only a state-of-the-art facility, complying with every detailed regulation and installing sophisticated instruments to continually monitor every phase of the operation, can pass muster.

Local citizens must be educated and informed about all phases and angles of the operation. Wide support and cooperation from Andrews people will speed up the permitting process significantly.

It's an accepted fact that the waste management company must satisfy completely the Texas Water Commission, the EPA, and Andrews citizens as to



TAKING INVENTORY MONDAY of items confiscated during a drug bust Saturday were, l-r, sheriff's deputy Bill Craig and officer Billy Duseler. Two men were arrested in a parking lot on North Main and a half-pound of marijuana recovered, along with cash and a weapon.

Two suspects arrested Saturday

Two men were arrested Saturday afternoon by members of the Andrews Drug Interdiction team. The incident occurred about 3:15 p.m. in the parking area at Alco on North Main.

Arrested were Roy Don Bohannon, 18, and Abel M. Martinez, 34. Bohannon was arrested on charges of alleged possession of

marijuana and also carrying a concealed weapon. Martinez was arrested on alleged possession of marijuana.

Authorities said the arrests resulted from a tip about the possible sale of narcotics in the parking lot.

Officers said they recovered about one-half pound of marijuana,

cash, and a .38 caliber gun.

Bonds for Bohannon were set at \$25,000 for possession and \$10,000 for carrying a weapon. Martinez was transferred to Midland on other charges.

Bohannon also faces federal charges for possession of a firearm during an illegal drug transaction.

Stephens announces for council

A new city council candidate was added Monday to the slate of hopefuls vying for election to the council.

City officials said B.B. Stephens announced his intentions for Place Two on the city council. Also seeking election to the Place

Four guilty pleas heard

Four guilty pleas were heard Monday during action in county court.

Jason Peter Decandia received two 15-day jail sentences following conviction of two charges of evading arrest.

Authorities reported the two incidents Feb. 9 and Feb. 24 and the defendant will serve the sentences concurrently. He also received \$150 in court costs on

Two position is local businessman Bob Holden.

Place Two is currently held by Duane Ratliff who is not seeking re-election to the post.

One new candidate was added last week to the slate of contenders vying for school board positions.

School officials said Rick Elmore signed up seeking the Position 6 on the AISD board.

Three of the five seats on the city council are up for grabs, after the council called an election for May 1st.

Besides Place Two candidates Holden and Stephens, Patsy Hoermann filed for the Place Five seat currently occupied by Steve O'Brate.

O'Brate submitted his resignation at the regular council meeting last Thursday.

Also scheduled for the May 1 election is Place Four, held by Lloyd Eisenrich. Eisenrich has

also filed seeking re-election to his post.

The deadline for filing for all seats is 5 p.m. March 17, 1993.

Absentee voting will be held from April 12 through April 27, with the general election taking place May 1.

School Board Election

Elmore filed for one (Position 6) of two seats on the School Board due for election May 1.

The three year terms of office for trustee Position 6, Joe Dan Barnes, and Position 7, Robert E. Sears, expire in May. Both of the incumbents have filed for re-election.

Filing for the school board positions also began on last Monday, and will continue until 5 p.m. on Wednesday March 17th.

Anyone wishing to file may do so at the office of school tax-assessor-collector at the school administration building.

County approves resolution for waste facility

By DON INGRAM
News Editor

County commissioners Monday approved a resolution calling for construction of a solid waste landfill in far west Andrews County.

Andrews Industrial Foundation President James Roberts asked the commissioners to approve the resolution, saying KNB Investments, Inc. of Pasadena seeks to construct a multi-million dollar landfill in the far northwest corner of Andrews County.

Regular landfills are quickly closing to many types of hazardous waste because of new state and federal regulations, requiring specially lined pits, monitoring and other extra precautions associated with accepting such wastes.

Such wastes include common by-products and waste used during oilfield operations, which may be soon classified as hazardous by environmental legislation currently supported by the Clinton administration.

"This would not be a low-level or a high-level radioactive depository," Roberts told the court.

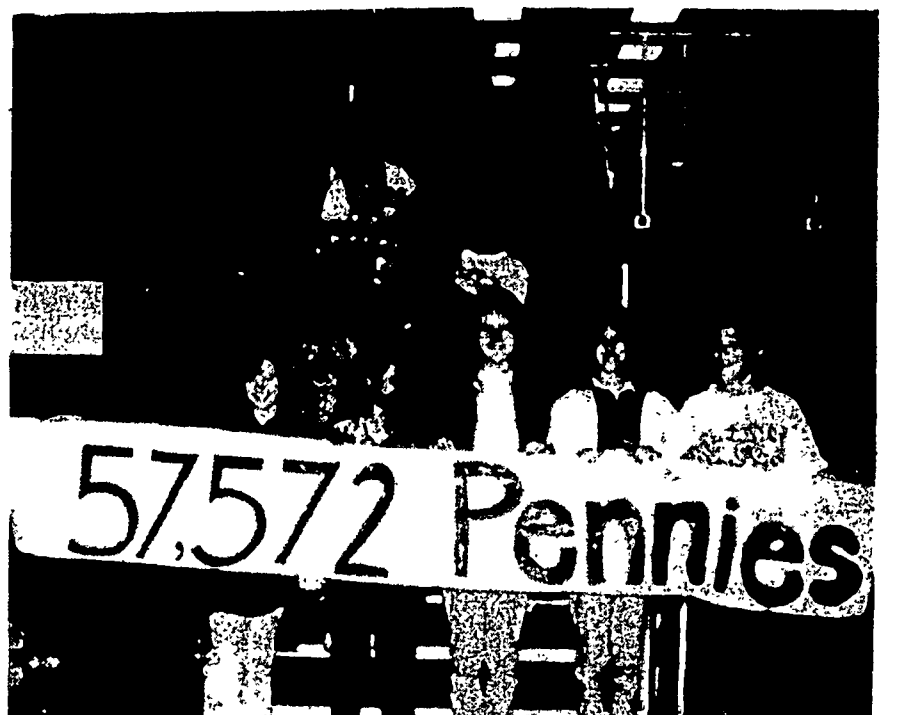
Roberts, editor and publisher of the Andrews County News, said landing such a landfill has been a long-term goal of the Industrial Foundation in its efforts to diversify the oil-based economy of Andrews County.

"The landfill project was launched after detailed studies showing that waste management could turn our liabilities into assets," Roberts said. The Industrial Foundation is also still investigating the feasibility of acquiring a prison in the county.

"Low population density, lack of surface water, isolation, little or no sub-surface water, ideal geology, low annual rainfall, and above all, an experienced and knowledgeable populace that knows and understands what's beneath the surface of Andrews County," Roberts said are the keys to this successful venture.

He said the Industrial Foundation "has cooperated fully with the applicants in their efforts to thoroughly test the geology of the

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A LITTLE FOR LITERACY was the motivating factor for Middle School students to bring in a total of 57,572 pennies in the homeroom penny contest held in conjunction with Public School Week. Students gave a little to go a long way for the Andrews Adult Literacy program. Bringing in \$108.37 in pennies gained first place for Jimmie Kemp's homeroom. Second place went to Kris Baskin's homeroom with \$89.00; third place winner was Sam Johnston's homeroom with \$58.00 and Holly Kidd's homeroom claimed fourth place bringing in \$51.00. The result of the contest was an overwhelming success and Kay Robins, literacy program director was pleased with the \$575.72 received all in pennies (but thoughtfully rolled).