

Households Increase Firewood Use

About 25 percent of Texas' 4.9 million households burn wood. The average Texas family burns just over one cord each year, totaling almost one and one-third million cords per year for the entire state.

A U.S. Forest Service survey confirms that stoves, fireplaces and furnaces in American homes now burn more wood than at any other time since World War II, according to Chuck Stayton, wood products specialist for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

In 1981, residential wood-burning used 42 million standard cords, which is almost five times the amount burned 10 years ago. This wood burned in our homes is about one-fourth of the total wood used for all other wood products in the U.S. and would make a wall 8 feet wide by 44 feet high stretching from Washington, D.C., to San Francisco, Stayton points out.

Some 5,500 U.S. households were surveyed to

determine increases in residential woodburning and sources of fuelwood. Results show that one-fourth of all U.S. households burned wood in 1981 and that three-fourths of all fuelwood used was cut by homeowners within short distances of their homes, Stayton continues. One-half of all rural households burn wood while less than one-fourth of urban area households use fuelwood.

People in the Pacific Northwest, Northern Rocky Mountains and New England burned the most wood per household. Southern households burned as much, on the average, as those in the Midwest states from Ohio to North Dakota, notes Stayton.

Half of all household fuelwood consumers used relatively inefficient fireplaces, burning one-fourth of the 42 million cord total, Stayton continues. Eight percent of all U.S. households, representing one-third of the woodburning

households, use wood as their main heating fuel. They burned an average three and one-third standard cords per year.

Stayton says a standard cord is a stack of fuelwood 4 feet high, 4 feet wide and 8 feet long. Households using wood as a supplemental heat source burned about one and one-half cords each, and those burning wood in a fireplace, mainly for enjoyment, used about one-half cord each per year.

Stayton, headquartered at the Texas A&M University Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Overton, points out that if fuelwood sales were a single business, it would be one of the 500 largest companies in the U.S., with a nationwide sales value of \$620 million in 1981. Fuelwood is bought in amounts ranging from an armload up to a 17-cord truck load. Prices per cord range from about \$400 when purchased in small amounts to \$50 for loads of more than

three cords, Stayton says. The average cost of one delivered cord is \$71.

Fuelwood displaced only 2 to 3 percent of other home heating fuels, Stayton points out. Although the energy contained in the 42 million cords used in 1981 equalled 9 percent of the energy level in other heating fuels used, only 30 percent of the wood energy was converted to useful heat.

This conversion rate is low because much of the wood was burned in inefficient fireplaces, says the specialist. High oil and electricity prices have encouraged woodburning in rural households but did not influence urban households nearly as much because it is more inconvenient and expensive, says Stayton. Thus, the largest reduction in fossil fuel use due to replacement by fuelwood is in the forest products industries.

The survey suggests that home woodburning will not increase as natural gas

prices increase. Rural natural gas users will probably burn more wood, says Stayton, but most natural gas users live in urban areas and burning wood will remain inconvenient and costly. Also, it is unlikely that fuelwood will be competitive with pulpwood. Only one-fourth of the fuelwood is purchased. The other three-fourths is cut by consumers, half of whom found it within 6 miles of their home, Stayton points out. In addition, more than three-fourths of the fuelwood comes from trees that are seldom used for pulpwood, and prices paid for large quantities of delivered fuelwood were not much higher than for pulpwood.

Removing waste wood to use as fuelwood allows more space for growing tree species needed for plywood, lumber and other important uses. The increased income to landowners is also an incentive for more effective forest management, notes Stayton.

Dec. 15 Is Deadline For State Hay Show

Texas farmers and ranchers who would like to see how their 1983 hay crop stacks up have until Dec. 15 to submit entries for the Texas State Hay Show.

The show will be held Jan. 24 at the Sheraton Crown Hotel in Houston.

"The main purpose of the annual hay show is to give producers over the state an opportunity to put up their hay against the competition and to have it evaluated for its nutritional content," points out Don J. Dorsett, forage specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas A&M University System. He expects about 400 hay samples to be entered in the show. Hay quality varies widely over the state in any given

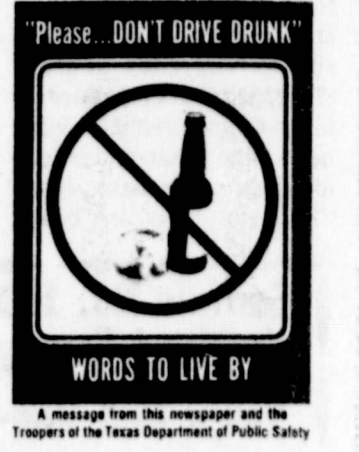
year due to growing conditions, the weather and other factors, notes Dorsett. 1983 has been a particularly interesting year in hay production, he points out, due to the adverse spring weather, lack of summer rains in some sections, and some late-season heavy rains in various parts of Texas.

Hay producers may submit one sample in each of seven classes in the show, says the forage specialist. Classes include coastal bermudagrass, other bermudagrasses, other perennials, mixed grasses, summer annuals, winter annuals and legumes.

Entries should be sent to Dorsett, 355 Soil and Crop Sciences Bldg., Texas A&M University, College Station

77843. County Extension agents can provide additional information on submitting hay samples.

In addition to the judging of hay samples, the annual show will include hay judging contests and special programs concerning forage by members of the Texas and American Forage and Grassland Councils. The hay show will be held in conjunction with meetings of the Councils, Jan. 23-25.



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County Government Is Doing The Job

COLLEGE STATION--County government is alive and well in Texas and is doing a good job just the way it is, a professor of political science said here recently.

Addressing the first annual Tax Assessor-Collectors Seminar at Texas A&M University No. 15-17, Dr. Willard Stouffer of Southwest Texas State University pointed out some of the things that he viewed as being "right" about county government.

"First of all, county government in Texas is run by some mighty patient, hard-working people, and secondly, it works," Stouffer said. "For over 100 years, in both good times and bad, the men and women elected by the people of Texas have made county government work."

One reason that county government works as well in the 20th century as it did in the 19th century is that it adapts to changing conditions, Stouffer told the more than 125 county officials in attendance. "This is the third thing that is right about county government; it can change and does," he noted. "County government has changed through Constitutional amendments, statutes, court rulings, attorney general opinions and by the actions of county officials. In every case it has been the county officials that have brought about effective change."

"Another thing that is

right about county government is that the folks who run it are professionals," Stouffer said. "They take their jobs seriously, and they are constantly looking for new ways to improve the way they do things."

County government also is flexible, he noted. There is a lot of structural variety in county governments across Texas, enabling them to address specific needs.

In addition, county government offers a wide range of services, depending on wheels, roads, hospitals, libraries, water and sewer service, and solid waste management.

"A final thing that is right about county government is that it is only beginning to realize its vast potential," Stouffer emphasized. "In the years to come the counties of Texas will play an increasingly important role in meeting the problems of statewide growth and metropolitan sprawl."

"While all these are 'right' things about county government, there is one thing that is 'wrong,'" the political science professor added. "It

has to do with overcoming your inherent modesty. You have not been doing a good job in telling the people of Texas the good news about county government."

"Let your local news media know about the accomplishments of county government," he told the seminar participants. "You are performing a valuable service with such actions because many people don't believe that our system of county government works. You can help the young people of today become the leaders of tomorrow by telling all the good things about county government. Newspaper like success stories, but you've got to help them get the information."

"Let's not keep the good news of county government a secret," Stouffer challenged the officials.

The seminar was sponsored by the V.G. Young Institute of County Government, an educational program of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service of the Texas A&M University System.

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Eastland Oil Co. Of Midland Began In Eastland County

The Eastland Oil Co. of Midland had its beginnings in -- you guessed it -- Eastland County.

One of the principals of the company writes to the Archives of Eastland Centennial Memorial Library as follows:

The Eastland Oil Company was organized in March, 1922 as a Delaware Corporation by A.M. Donnelly, Garrett J. Donnelly and George A. Donnelly.

A.M. Donnelly, the father of the other two, was a drilling contractor in Phoenix, New York and operated a natural gas company. Some time around 1916 the A.M. Donnelly Drilling Company moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma. At this time Garrett and George were old enough to work on the rigs. George worked around Muskogee and Okmulgee, Oklahoma. I do not know what Garrett was doing in this period.

George brought a cable tool to Eastland County the first time about 1918, then returned to the Muskogee, Oklahoma area. About 1920 George returned to the Eastland area and drilled a well a few miles south of Eastland on the Martin farm. The well was productive and Garrett moved to Eastland. A.M. Donnelly Drilling Company headquarters was moved to Fort Worth about this time along with the A.M. Donnelly family.

In 1922 the A.M. Donnelly Drilling Company was recognized as The Eastland Oil Company. The Eastland Oil Company developed the Martin Field, and drilled wells throughout the Eastland, Ranger, and Cisco Area.

One of my early memories was a frantic visit in the early hours of the morning by Oscar Yates, one of the drillers, telling George that there was a fire out on well number so and so. We all wanted to go see the fire, but George would not let us. Another fire on the Martin lease happened when the

proper mixture of gas and air caused an explosion in the vacuum plant. This fire burned the plant, warehouse, garage and bunkhouse.

Some of the early employees of the Company were Oscar Yates, Ray Sindorff, Harve Bordner, Frand Halton, "Doc" McQueen, Delbert Behene, George Behene, and others, but time has erased their names.

Delbert Behene and his younger brother, George, came to Eastland County by way of Wyoming. Delbert was a cable tool driller and worked for Eastland until the middle 1930's when Eastland changed from a primary cable tool drilling company to a rotary drilling company. George Behene was a high school student when he first worked for the Company and continued to work as a tool dresser then as a Rotary driller until 1968.

Frank Halton was an Eastland County boy when he went to work for the Company as a roustabout and was another faithful employee who contributed so much to the Company. Frank became a tool dresser then a cable tool driller, tool pusher and was a tool pusher on a rotary rig when he passed away in 1967.

Harve Bordner was a cable tool driller in the early development of the Martin Field and came to Eastland from Roswell, New Mexico. He would quit working sometimes for a month or a year but would come back and say he was ready to go back to work. He would not say where he had been or when he was going again. It was always interesting speculation as to where he had been and what he had done. Harve continued to work as a cable tool driller until age took his ability to "dress bits". He then accepted a job as a pumper on a lease in Howard County, Texas.

Ray Sindorff was a cable tool driller and later

became a cable tool contractor in the Permian Basin. His son is still in the cable tool contracting business. I lost track of the other men that worked for the Company in Eastland County.

The Eastland Oil Company sold its Eastland County properties in 1924 or 1925. Some of the drilling equipment was loaded on a train and shipped to Moahans, where it was used to drill the Wink, McCamey Penwell and South Ward areas.

Some of the people of other companies who worked in Eastland were the Cox family of whom Ed T., Carolyn, and Robert, who became a district manager for Atlantic Richfield, were the children. Mr. Cox was an employee of the Prairie Oil & Gas Company as was Mr. Leary, whose son John Browns ran a laundry in town. "Armie" Armstrong was a geologist for Sinclair Oil Company, who later moved to Midland, "Armie" came to Eastland

from Tulsa, Oklahoma.

In 1923, there was no a Catholic school in Eastland so a Model "T" Ford Truck was converted to a school bus. The seats were a plank down each side and 2 planks down the center of the covered truck bed. This bus took the Catholic children to school in Ranger. When it rained the bus could not get up the hill east of Olden, since there was no pavement on the road at that time. The

passengers would unload and push the bus up the hill.

A.M. Donnelly died in 1926 and the presidency passed to Garrett J. Donnelly who resigned in either 1929 or 1930. George A. Donnelly assumed the presidency at this time. He held that position until his death in 1977.

The Company is still family owned and operated. George's son George, Jr., is now president and his other

son Richard is Vice President. Recently a fourth generation of Donnellys in the form of Robert R. Donnelly has joined the Com-

pany. I lived in Eastland until 1926 when the Company moved all of its offices to Fort Worth.

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Non-Traditional Families Build Strengths

COLLEGE STATION--This holiday season many non-traditional families -- mom and dad, children and step-children from previous marriages, and several sets of grandparents -- will gather for a "traditional" family celebration.

"Although the number of families created by divorce and re-marriage has increased dramatically in the past decade, this doesn't necessarily mean that the family as an institution is growing weaker," says Diane T. Welch, a Texas A&M University Agricultural Extension home economist.

"Changes in families mean educational, community and church programs dealing with families have had to change too," says Welch. "Perhaps the most significant change is a greater concern with building family strengths in all types of families."

Family strengths are thought of as a set of factors -- relationship patterns, interpersonal skills, social and psychological characteristics, she explains. These factors create a sense of positive family identity, promote satisfying and fulfilling family interaction, encourage the development of family members' potential and help the family deal effectively with stress and crisis.

Families can actively work to develop these strengths especially at holidays, says Welch.

Because traditional family life is often idealized during the holidays, members of non-traditional families may feel badly about being "different," she says.

But non-traditional families should recognize that they are not alone, says the specialist. An increasing proportion of all marriages

Texas & The Legislature

Senator Bob Glasgow

State Senator Bob Glasgow has been advised of an extension to March 31, 1985, of benefits under the Federal Supplemental Compensation (FSC) program. This extension will provide additional benefits for claimants under the following guidelines:

1. Claimants who received FSC benefits prior to April 1, 1983, are not entitled to these additional benefits.
 2. Those individuals who have previously qualified for FSC claims subsequent to 4-1-83 and have exhausted their benefits prior to 10-23-83 will be entitled to an additional 5 weeks of benefits up to a maximum of 13 weeks total payment under the FSC program.
 3. FSC claims established prior to 10-16-83 with benefits remaining after 10-23-83 will be entitled to 2 additional weeks with total entitlement not to exceed 10 weeks.
 4. Claimants who establish FSC entitlement between October 16 and 23, 1983, will be entitled to one additional week for a total of 9 weeks.
 5. Claimants who qualify for FSC on or after October 23, 1983, will be entitled to the lesser of 8 weeks or 55% of their maximum benefit amount.
- Senator Glasgow stated that notices would be mailed to Texas claimants who have exhausted FSC benefits as soon as possible. Additional questions may be referred to the local Texas Employment Commission office.
- Some varieties of Chrysanthemums will bloom in the spring and again in the fall. The bloom for the Chrysanthemum is controlled by the amount of light. It takes twelve and one-half hours to initiate the bud and eleven and one-half hours of light to set the bud. I speak of these two time in reference to the maximum amount of light to accomplish both functions. There are many Chrysanthemums shown in the fall of the year and you must remember that all the Chrysanthemums shown in the shows were grown outside and not in the greenhouses.
- Throughout the South and Southwest we have many Chrysanthemum Chapters that are associated with the National Chrysanthemum Society, which welcomes visitors to their monthly meetings and shows. If your area does not have a Chrysanthemum Society Chapter and there is a minimum of ten interested people I will be most happy to help you set up a chapter and obtain your national charter. If you are interested you may contact me by writing this newspaper.
- So long for now and good gardening till next time from you "Garden Editor" Ted Brice.

- Family members should avoid over-extending their energies by trying to be "all things to all people."
- When finances are limited, discuss the situation honestly with the children and consider alternative gifts, home-made gifts and gifts of services to other family members.
- Plan together for entertainment that can involve all members of the family, rather than just the adults or just the children. Include those friends who are enjoyed by all members of the family.
- Focus on someone or something outside the family to extend the spirit of the holidays. Many community organizations and church groups provide ample opportunities to do things for others, which will also help families develop their own identity.

Texas Campers May Choose From 357 Public Camp Sites For Back To Nature Excursions

AUSTIN--From sandy beach sites fronting the Gulf of Mexico to craggy heights of the Chisos Mountains, Texas campers may choose from among 357 sites to chart back-to-nature excursions. Their options are detailed in a revised, free folder, "Texas Public Campgrounds," just released by the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation.

The folder is strictly informational (no pictures), but is replete with details about where to pitch a tent by a dinosaur trail, park an RV by an 18th Century Spanish mission, or bed down in an Indian campground.

Listed information includes precise directions from the nearest town, facilities available, and recreational activities that may range from hiking and biking to fishing, swimming, boating, golf or nature study.

The folder's 357 campgrounds are those administered by federal, state, or local governmental authorities. The state's "public" campgrounds directory is designed to supplement other available

guides that list commercial campgrounds. A free copy of the new Texas Public Campgrounds folder is available at any Texas Bureau, or by mail from P.O. Box 5064, Austin 78763.

The Garden Editor
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