

A death in the family - and a lesson in the importance of the role of fatherhood

My Viewpoint by David Klement

(EDITOR'S NOTE: David Klement, Editorial Page Editor of The Bradenton (Florida) Herald, is a native of Muenster, and son of Johnny and Ollie Klement. Klement wrote the following article the week after his father's death.)

We're hearing a lot about fatherhood and families these days. They are subjects I feel I have some expertise in as I had good ones - father and family.

I learned just how good this past weekend when I buried my father. His death and the family gathering together to mourn his passing brought fresh insights regarding the role of dedicated parents and loving families in the shaping of healthy, well-adjusted children. I had not thought too much of the importance my father played in shaping my life. To be honest, I had probably taken him for granted - as too many of us do about too many of those who love us the most.

But as I sat disconsolately during his wake service in my hometown funeral parlor July 3 and 4, listening to family members and friends eulogize him, I experienced moments of insight: My father epitomized what Vice President Quayle was talking about in the Murphy Brown speech and all the weeks since. My dad was the role model for me and my siblings as we grew up. Without him would I be where I am today? Of course, I can't say for sure, but the chances are I would not.

Now this may not seem like a forehead-clapping revelation, but it became so to me as I listened to the tributes and heard stories from his life told and retold. For they showed me a side of my dad I had not known - a side of compassion and concern for others that his stern German demeanor belied, but which has surely rubbed off on me.

There must have been two dozen who mentioned how he made them feel special as children by always having a lemon drop, stick of Juicy Fruit or a quarter-plus a warm greeting - for them when he'd bump into them around town with their parents.

There was the palsied old woman who hobbled forward to say she also considered him her best friend - because he had befriended her and didn't make fun of her like so many others had done over the years.

And there was a cousin, one year younger than me, who said he always thought my dad was "a notch above the others" because he was responsible for his being able to play football as a freshman. Too young to drive, he had no transportation to twice-a-day practice that year because his parents couldn't spare the time from their dairy operation to drive the 14-mile round trip to school. Recalled this cousin, "Uncle Johnny came over and said David (me) had his license and he would come pick me up and take me home if my folks could spare me from milking. And I got to go because of Johnny."

I had long since forgotten that incident, as well as others that were recounted by many among the hundreds who came to pay their respects that weekend. That's when the realization of my pride of sonship really hit me. I was extraordinarily proud to be Johnny Klement's son, and I always had been. Many is the time as I was growing up that an adult asked me, "And who are you, boy?" I always answered without apology or hesitation, "I'm Johnny Klement's son," assured that was the only credential I needed for validation as a person, as a member of the community.

And it was! I never encountered a negative response to that announcement, never a sicker or under-the-breath disparagement. Johnny Klement, respected not because he was a man of means or power, was simply a man of integrity whose character and reputation were without question in the local community.

I thought about that in relation to the "character" issue bedeviling so many presidential candidates. It's one controversy Dad would have avoided had he run for office, for he had no hidden past for which to apologize or explain.

And I thought about all of the fatherless boys and young men in south Los Angeles who couldn't relate to a father like mine - indeed, who have no father figure at all, good or bad, in their lives. No wonder they turn to gangs and drugs for their validation as they reach puberty. I have no doubt that, in the same situation, I would turn out much differently than I have.

And it dawned on me, as I pondered all this, how much like him I had wound up, and how without thinking about it I am trying to model the same qualities for my children that Dad had modeled for me. How I have sought to be a father who would never bring shame upon his son, about whom he could proudly say, "I'm David Klement's son."

And I silently, tearfully, prayed, "Thank you, Dad, for being such a wonderful father to me. Now I understand. You gave me everything I needed."

Finnell endorses newly-organized Natural Resources Board

Welcoming the attention of the Texas Water Commission to our region, State Rep. Charles Finnell, D-Holliday, recently expressed confidence in the ability of the newly-organized Legislative Natural Resources Board to oversee the activities of the Texas Water Commission and other natural resource regulators.

The increasingly powerful regulatory agencies of the state require increasingly vigilant oversight by elected representatives according to Finnell. The Texas Water Commission's July 21 meeting in Wichita Falls gave people in our area an opportunity to assess the leaders of one of the most powerful of the regulatory

agencies. "The Texas Water Commission personally coming to the center of our trade area is a sure sign of the significance of our region to the state," stated Finnell. "The legislature's policies must be carried out without the unnecessary and unyielding bureaucracy that we are used to

from Washington," according to Finnell. "I am proud to have supported the creation of the Legislative Natural Resources Board and I know that the Board will help to balance rural and urban interests," continued Finnell. Sen. Bill Sims, D-San Angelo, was elected chairman of the Board and Rep. Robert Saunders, D-

LaGrange, will serve as Vice-Chairman. Sen. Sims has stressed the need for legislative review of agency problems which may result from the merger of environmental regulation ordered by the last legislative session.

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FINAL WEEKEND



Heritage Quiz Questions

1. When and where was the first settlement made in Cooke County?
2. How did the Flusches hear about land being for sale in Texas?
3. When and where did the Pulles settle in Cooke County?
4. Why did August Pulte send the letter to the newspaper "Amerika"?
5. When was the railroad extended through Cooke County to Henrietta, Texas?

Services for Theo Miller set for Friday morning

Theo Miller died Wednesday morning at Muenster Memorial Hospital. Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday, Aug. 14, at 10 a.m. Funeral arrangements were incomplete at press time.

Rebate stats indicate slight improvement

State Comptroller John Sharp sent a total of \$157.3 million in August sales tax payments to 1,069 Texas cities and 106 counties, a 4.2 percent increase over the rebates of one year ago.

Texas cities received \$142.5 million, up 4.4 percent over the \$136.5 million in payments made by the Comptroller's Office last August. Counties received a total of \$14.8 million in August rebates, a 3.1 percent increase over August 1991 payments totaling \$14.3 million.

In Cooke County, the rebate checks sent to local cities were down or increased insignificantly for August. Muenster's check for \$12,925.20 was down 23.56 percent from 1991's check for \$16,909.73. Valley View also noted a decrease of 30.69 percent with its August 1992 check of \$2,117.05



THIS IS THE SECOND in a series of pictures submitted by the Muenster Historical Commission as it seeks to tempt the curiosity of current generations for persons, places and events of preceding generations. The above photo is a street scene looking north in the winter of 1899. It was given to Bertha Hamric for the Muenster Museum by Ivan Koelzer. Starting on the east side of the street, lower right, progressing north are a movable photographer's boxcar, the Hoenig General Merchandise Store owned by brothers Franz and Alois; the Pete Stoffels Sr. Saloon on the corner of the present Mid-Park; a cross street; the John Meurer building (now Hess Furniture); the Jacob Pazel Sr. Store; the first Gehrie building; a cross street; the Charlie Pazel Sr. Store; the John Bayer Sr. home; and Sacred Heart Church. On the west side of the street, looking north, starting at lower left, bottom, the Park Hotel (with ornamental railing); an unidentified building (with porches); City Hotel (with balcony), owned by Charlie Stelzer Sr. Note the telegraph wires and poles; children playing undisturbed in the street; horse and buggy teams; wagons and teams; and horseback riders. Assisting with identifications were Bertha Hamric, Herbert Meurer, George Bayer and Joe Hoenig.

Lindsay's check for \$4,076.62 was up 7.06 percent over last August. Gainesville received \$134,904.91 which was up 0.59 percent. Oak Ridge received 5.09 percent more with its check of \$3,336.79. Total amount of the August rebate checks sent to Cooke County was \$157,360.57. This was a decrease of 2.30 percent from August 1991's \$161,062.28 total.

Cooke County's rebate check for August was \$71,289.53. This was down 6.53 percent from August 1991.

"More significant than monthly allocations are the year-to-date figures which continue to show slow, but steady growth across the state," Sharp said. "The \$887.8 million in sales tax payments delivered to cities thus far this year are up 5.4 percent over the \$841.6

million rebated in the first eight months of 1991.

To date in 1992, city and county taxes and how they compare to this time in 1991 are as follows: Muenster \$77,165.51, down 3.21 percent; Gainesville \$819,207.76, up 1.33 percent; Lindsay \$30,478.06, up 5.47 percent; Oak Ridge \$23,612.68, up 5.48 percent; and Valley View \$18,040.33, up 12.83 percent.

The total to date received by Cooke County cities is \$968,504.34, up 1.36 percent. Cooke County received \$472,728.16, up 1.19 percent.

"Monthly sales tax payments to Texas counties in the first eight months this year total \$97.7 million, a 5.6 percent boost over the \$92.5 million in rebates to counties for the same period in 1991," Sharp said.

If you, or someone you know are having problems with alcohol, please give us a call (817) 759-2804

PROCLAMATION

The implementation and use of the 9-1-1 emergency number allows citizens to summon help quickly in emergency situations.

The three-digit number has replaced thousands of seven-digit emergency numbers across our state and nation. The growing use of the 9-1-1 emergency number has simplified the task of reporting emergencies.

Approximately 50 to 60 percent of the American people have access to the 9-1-1 service. The national Emergency Number Association's goal of "One Nation - One Number" will make requesting emergency services identical anywhere in the nation.

The 9-1-1 emergency telephone system increases public confidence in the accessibility of prompt and efficient emergency services.

The people of Texas should be encouraged to recognize the positive impact 9-1-1 service has had on so many of their lives. We are all grateful for the efforts of everyone involved in establishing and maintaining this vital service.

Therefore, I, Ray Russell, Cooke County Judge, do hereby proclaim Friday, September 11, 1992, as **9-1-1 EMERGENCY NUMBER DAY** in Cooke County, Texas and urge the appropriate recognition thereof.

/s/ Ray Russell,
Cooke County Judge
August 6, 1992

Public meeting set to discuss transportation projects

An informal public meeting concerning future projects of the Texas Department of Transportation will be held in Wichita Falls on Friday, Aug. 14.

The purpose of the meeting is to allow public input into the Project Development Plan (PDP) and the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) preparation process. A list of projects selected for Phase One, projects proposed to be selected and projects proposed to remain pending will be available. Maps and drawings will be on display and department representatives will be on hand to discuss the projects.

Projects discussed will include the nine-county area of the Wichita Falls District.

Interested citizens are invited to attend the come-and-go meeting from 4 to 6:30 p.m., Aug. 14, in the assembly room of the Texas Department of Transportation, 1601 Southwest Parkway. District Design Engineer Dale Cantrell will be in charge of the meeting. Written comments will be welcomed following the meeting but must be received within 10 days.

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It's back to school for MISD

by Steve Cooper, MISD Superintendent

Muenster Public School begins classes on Monday, Aug. 17. This promises to be an exciting year as we begin to implement state-mandated reform. We will begin a multi-year technology plan that will encompass all grade levels and almost all subject areas. Site Based Management Committees are already at work helping us adjust to another area the state wants implemented in schools this year.

The TAAS Test and New NAPT Test will continue as increased accountability becomes the password of educational reform.

Accountability is really not a bad word to have around and we support it wholeheartedly at MISD. Certainly, we expect to do the best job possible each year, insuring that our youngsters get a quality education.

Changing the pace just a bit - a short note concerning the town bus route we've talked about for over a year - it appears we've finally found a bus driver (that has been the problem all along) and, if we can get everything together, we will be contacting parents and setting up the route. This will take a few weeks to finalize as we need to verify our driver's certification. If

you are interested in the town route and you've not contacted the office last year, please call the superintendent's office so we can put your name on the list. Everyone will not qualify as there are certain state guidelines that must be met, one being if your child has to cross a major highway to get to school.

We're still getting solid information concerning next year's tax. The CED will have already met by the time this article is in print, but it looks like the rate will be around 82 cents - a 9-cent local tax gives us a total of approximately 91 cents. This would be a 7-cent decrease over last year's rate.

MISD offers insurance to students

Submitted by Steve Cooper MISD Superintendent

Muenster ISD again this year provides accident insurance for all students who are involved in UIL activities, from football to persuasive speaking - the specifics of the coverage reads as follows: a student is covered while practicing for, competing in, or traveling to and from as a representative of a member school under the direct supervision of a full-time school employee, all athletic and activity events (UIL) under the regulation and jurisdiction of the school. Coverage extends up to \$25,000 if reported within 30 days after the accident by a licensed physician or hospital confinement - benefits paid only after any and all existing insurance has paid its maximum if no insurance exists then company would pay first dollar up to the limits of the policy.

Catastrophic coverage has been included for all football participan-

ts in grades seven through twelve. This coverage increases the insurance liability up to \$1,000,000. The same limitations apply that were stated above.

Finally, students who are not covered above will have an opportunity to purchase individual coverage through the same company (All American Life Insurance Company). Application packets

will be available for each youngster as they go through the registration line or in the case of elementary students they will be passed out the first week of school. Parents wanting to purchase this coverage are encouraged to carefully read the application packet and make a decision from that information and carefully follow the instructions for securing coverage and submitting payment.

Comptroller representative to offer local tax assistance

"One of the things that state government can do is provide local business owners and operators with personal tax assistance," State Comptroller John Sharp said, announcing that his office will conduct a courthouse visit in the Gainesville area on Wednesday, Aug. 26.

Marvin L. Smith, from the

Comptroller's Sherman field office, will be on hand to meet and discuss tax questions at the Chamber of Commerce, 101 South Culberson from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information about the free courthouse visit, call the nearest Comptroller field office. In the Sherman area, the number is 903-893-0692.

2 WEEK EVENTS CALENDAR

To list your event, call 759-4311 BEFORE NOON WEDNESDAY!

Sunday - August 16	Monday - August 17 MISD First Day of School VFW Auxiliary Meeting, 8 p.m.	Tuesday - August 18	Wednesday - August 19 CCD Parent Meeting	Thursday - August 20 MHS vs. Gunter, Scrim., H 6 p.m. Jaycee Meeting	Friday - August 21 SH vs. Alvord, Scrim., H, 5 p.m.	Saturday - August 22
Sunday - August 23	Monday - August 24 SHS First Day of School	Tuesday - August 25	Wednesday - August 26	Thursday - August 27 Hospital Aux. Meeting, 7:30 p.m. SH v. Notre Dame, Scrim., T, 5 p.m.	Friday - August 28 MHS vs. Alvord, Scrim., T, 6 p.m.	Saturday - August 29

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Lifestyle



MR. and MRS. LEONARD (SPIKE) YOSTEN
... on their wedding day, July 27, 1942 ...

50th wedding anniversary celebrated

The 50th wedding anniversary of Leonard (Spike) and Frances Yosten was celebrated over the weekend of July 24 through July 26, 1992. The three-day event was hosted by the couple's children and their spouses: David and Susie Yosten of Plano, Susie and David Bullion of Austin, Debbie and Stuart Bradford of Grapevine, and John and Pat Yosten and Diane and Jim Grewing of Muenster.

The celebration began on July 24 with a gathering of approximately 75 guests at the Trail Dust Steakhouse in Denton for dinner and dancing. Special guests at the event included the families of Stan and Belle Yosten and Paul and Bernice Yosten of Fort Worth; Ray

and Mattie Swirczynski of Nazareth; Evelyn and Tony Koesler, Melvin and Henrietta Fisch and Al and Dorothy Yosten of Muenster; along with many nieces, nephews, grandchildren, friends, and the hosts and their spouses.

The gala continued the following day with a "progressive dinner party" attended by the couple, their children and spouses, and Mildred and Henry Yosten. Hosts for the event were Melvin and Henrietta Fisch, Chuck and Doris Koesler, Rick and Darlene Stewart, and Tony and Evelyn Koesler. Gifts for the couple were presented throughout the evening, and a

special video made by the couple's daughter Debbie concerning the history and lives of the couple and their family was viewed by everyone.

The final day of the three-day event began with the couple's family attending 8:00 a.m. Mass and later gathering at Moss Lake with Don and Sue Parsons acting as hosts for an afternoon of outdoor cooking, boat riding, swimming and horseshoe pitching. Additional gifts and awards were given to the couple and their family. Also celebrated was the eighth birthday of a grandson, Sam Bradford; and a special birthday

roast for John Yosten was enjoyed by all.

Leonard Joseph Yosten, the son of the late Robert and Agnes Yosten, and Frances and Marie Wiesman, daughter of the late Henry and Louise Wiesman, were married in Sacred Heart Church on July 27, 1942. Their wedding attendants were Larry Yosten and Evelyn Wiesman. Spike and Frances are the parents of five children and have 17 grandchildren. Muenster has been their home almost all of their lives.

Brittany celebrates

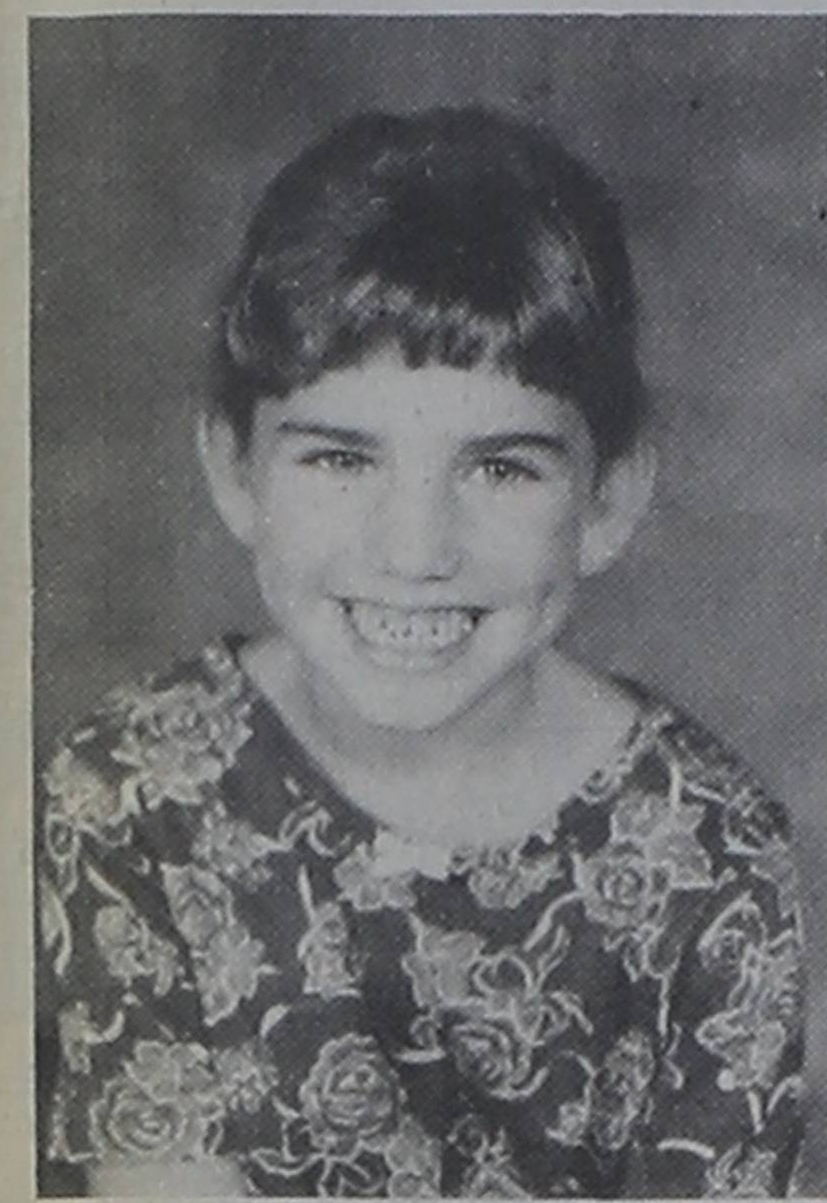
Brittany Haverkamp celebrated being 8 years old at a party on Saturday, July 11, 1992, hosted by her parents, Billy and D'Ann Haverkamp. The party was held in their home, in advance of her actual birthday, July 13.

A hamburger supper was served, followed by a Rainbow Brite birthday cake.

Earlier in the afternoon, the group went swimming, then came to Brittany's home for supper and to stay overnight.

They enjoyed a pinata, games, picture taking, singing and opening of gifts and party favors. The next morning they all attended church together.

Attending were Ashley Klement, Andrea Bauer, Krystal Hale, Kimberly Klement, Lacy Endres and Mattie Sicking.



BRITTANY HAVERKAMP

New Arrival

Flusche

Susan and Neal Flusche announce the birth of their third son, Aaron Richard Flusche, on Aug. 4, 1992 at 10:50 a.m., weighing 11 lb. 1 oz. and measuring 22-3/4 inches in length, at Women's Pavilion of Denton Regional Medical Center. Aaron Richard joins two brothers, Micah and Matthew. Their grandparents are Norbert and Mary Ann Walterscheid and David and Wanda Flusche. Great-grandparents are Hazel and J.P. Flusche, all of Muenster, and Mr. and Mrs. R.H. Whitman of Garland.



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Yugoslav students seeking host families immediately

International high school students are scheduled to arrive soon into the Muenster area for academic homestay programs, and the sponsoring organization urgently needs a few more host families. With just over one month until the beginning of school, the organization has placed a high priority on the placement of these students by Pacific Intercultural Exchange.

John Doty, Executive Director of Pacific Intercultural Exchange (P.I.E.), says that there is currently an urgency to place the Yugoslavian students accepted for the program because of the civil unrest in the country. "The student visa applications have

already been sent out, but the final immigration documents cannot be issued until the students are matched with host families," he says. "With the rapidly changing political climate, we are anxious to bring the students into the United States as soon as possible."

In addition to the Yugoslavians, for 1992, P.I.E. has students from Spain, Germany, Argentina, Brazil, the Soviet Union, Colombia, France, New Zealand and many other countries.

Muenster area families interested in learning more about student exchange or viewing P.I.E. student applications may call John Doty at P.I.E.'s International Headquarters (toll-free) at 1-800-245-6232.

Columbus featured in Morton Museum exhibit

Christopher Columbus will make his first landing in the Indias on Aug. 18 at 10 a.m. when the Morton Museum of Cooke County unveils a photographic exhibition, "New Spain: The Frontiers of Faith."

Dressed in the elegant clothes of a European courtier, wonderfully well-pressed despite 10 long weeks at sea, the seafarer stands firmly on the land he has just reached. Behind him, men are lifting a large wooden cross, symbol of European Christianity and culture. Before him stand a company of natives, bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

As we all know, the scene is entirely imaginary, for Columbus was nowhere near India or Japan, as he believed, and Native Americans did not play the role of the Magi following a bright star to a manger. But in another sense, the scene is entirely accurate as a reflection of the European impression that their landing would bring truth and light to a people lost in darkness.

Both points of view are vividly present in this traveling exhibition, which features photographic reproductions of rare documents, engravings, paintings and artifacts concerning the conquest and

colonization of Mexico and its northern territories. The exhibition has been organized by the Texas Humanities Resource Center, in collaboration with the Gilcrease Museum of Tulsa, Oklahoma, with financial support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The exhibition will be on display through the remainder of August. In conjunction with the exhibit a video, "A Land Untamed," will be shown during the week of Aug. 24. For more information, please call the Morton Museum of Cooke County at 668-8900.

NOTICE!

The regular monthly meeting of the VFW Auxiliary will be held on Monday, Aug. 17, at 8 p.m. in the Post Home. Members are reminded that dues are now payable.

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About your pictures...

The Muenster Enterprise makes a sincere effort to protect pictures brought in for use in the newspaper, and expects the owners to return later to pick up their pictures. It sometimes happens that the owners forget for a long time. It also sometimes happens that well-meaning or accommodating relatives and friends volunteer to "take along an extra picture," fully intending to get that picture back to its original owner. Sadly, sometimes they mislay, forget or actually lose the item. And sometimes memory fails all of us, resulting in hurt feelings or angry accusations. It will therefore be the future policy here at **The Muenster Enterprise** to release pictures to immediate family members only. Exceptions may be made in rare instances only if the person claiming the picture will sign for it.

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7-31-92

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Schedule of Events:

Friday Night, August 14

Bull Riding Competition at Rodeo Arena

Saturday, August 15 - All Day

- 9:00 am Bike Race (12 and under)
- 9:30 am Munchkin Run (12 and under)
- 10:30 am Parade
- After
- Parade Old West Gunfighters
- 11:30 am BBQ Lunch - Benefitting Forestburg Volunteer Fire/EMS Department
- 1:15 pm Old Fiddler's Contest - Cash Prizes!
- 1:30 pm Egg Toss (Kids and Adults)
- 2:00 pm American - North Texas Cutting Horse Association Sanctioned Competition - Benefitting the Forestburg Baseball Association
- 2:30 pm Melon Toss (Kids and Adults)
- 5:00 pm Fashion Show - At the Community Center - Door Prize Drawing will be held!
- After
- Cutting Dance sponsored by the Forestburg Baseball Association

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8-14-92

Heritage Quiz

Answers

1. On the banks of Elm Creek in Gainesville in 1849.
2. From letters written by August Pulte to the St. Louis newspaper, "Amerika."
3. In 1877 (12 years before Muenster was started) southwest of Gainesville.
4. Because he wanted other German Catholics to settle in the area in hopes of eventually getting a church built nearby.
5. In 1887.

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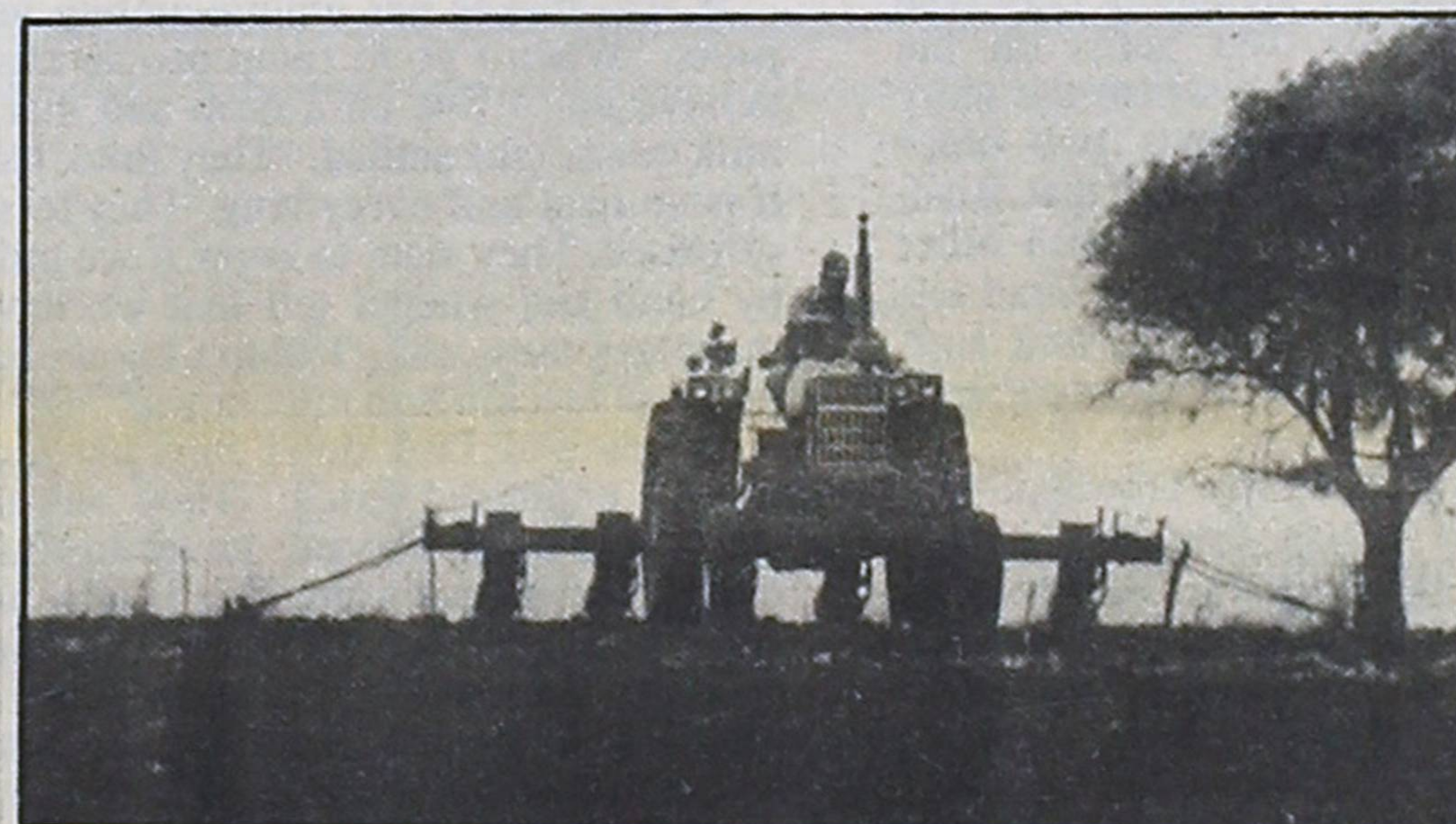
ENTERPRISE

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AUGUST 14, 1992

2nd Annual Tribute to Farm and Ranch Life



Farming and ranching have played a big part in the shaping of Muenster. Shops and stores stand side by side with feed stores and elevators. Approaching Muenster from any direction, it is obvious that rural business is woven into the fabric of Muenster.

Country folk depend on the town for many services including hospital, schools, churches and fire protection.

Janie Hartman Photo

Responsibility is lesson of work on Schilling's dairy

by Janet Felderhoff

"Home owned and operated - no hired help," said Duwayne Schilling of his dairy farm. Instead of hiring outside help Duwayne and Sharlene pay their children wages for the time they spend in the dairy barn. "Why hire help and let the kids sit in the house? We pay them and if Sharlene and I want to go somewhere the kids can milk. They know what to do."

The Schilling dairy is located northwest of Muenster. On average they milk 60 head. Most of the cows produce around 60 to 70 pounds of milk per day with some giving 50 or less especially if they are going out.

Milking time is 4:30 morning and evening. When Duwayne built his barn in 1987, he chose a straight 10 barn. The barn accommodates 10 cows at a time with 5 milkers. "A flat barn costs about \$12 to \$15 thousand less than a parlor barn; that's why I built a straight 10 - I wanted to save the price," commented Duwayne.

Besides milking Holsteins Duwayne farms. There are 165 acres on the Schillings' home place where the dairy barn stands and he rents two other places. This is the first year that Brad, the oldest son, has helped with other farm chores besides milking. Brad has helped bale hay, brush cut and sow grain and, according to his dad, he's doing a pretty good job.

In the dairy barn only Duwayne and Erica Rosé (Rosie) do the actual changing of the milkers. "Rosie doing the milking or me doing it, there's no difference," remarked the dairyman. "We don't have problems with mastitis."

Morning milkings are done by Duwayne and either Erica, Brad, or Charlie. In the evenings Erica is in charge and one of the boys helps her with washing the cow's udders before the milkers are applied and spraying them with a disinfectant after the milkers are removed, etc. Usually only those who would normally milk are allowed in the barn with the cows. Strangers make the cows nervous sometimes. Duwayne noted that if somebody who smokes comes in the barn the cows can tell right away that something is different and they get nervous.

This can cause problems for the Schilling children at times. Erica said that it can make having overnight company difficult. Sometimes they offer to help milk, but Dad won't let them because the cows don't know them. Others worry that if they come, they will have to help milk.

None of the young milk hands seem to really like to milk. "I hate milking but it's my only source of income," commented Erica. "That and I know that my Dad needs someone to help." Brad felt that he might like to have cattle, but not to milk.

Milking doesn't make school any easier. "We have to milk before we can do our homework," said Brad. Erica brought up the point that they were only allowed to participate in one sport at school. For her it is basketball. "I just don't milk as much during basketball," she said.

As far as interfering with social life Erica thinks that it (milking) doesn't make too much difference. "Since I milk every night if I want to go somewhere I have to milk first and I can't stay out too late because I have to get up to milk at 4:30," Erica revealed.

Erica thinks that she really doesn't want to live on a farm. Plans for her future include college and career possibilities such as accountant or engineer.

Still she definitely feels that a dairy farm is a good place to grow up. "It's made me able to accept more things," said Erica. "I've had to work harder than a lot of other people. Some of my friends will complain about the littlest things and it's not a big deal to me."

Duwayne feels that kids helping on the dairy keeps them off the streets. "I think they learn more responsibility by having a job," he said. "Of course they don't get to go through all of the sports at school like other kids because they have to stay out here."

It also makes her unique among her peers. "When I go to camp people can't believe that I live on a farm and that I milk cows," she smiled. "They think that it is so neat and everything. They're so surprised. They want to know if we milk by hand and when I tell that we have machines they say, 'I didn't know that they had machines to milk cows.'"

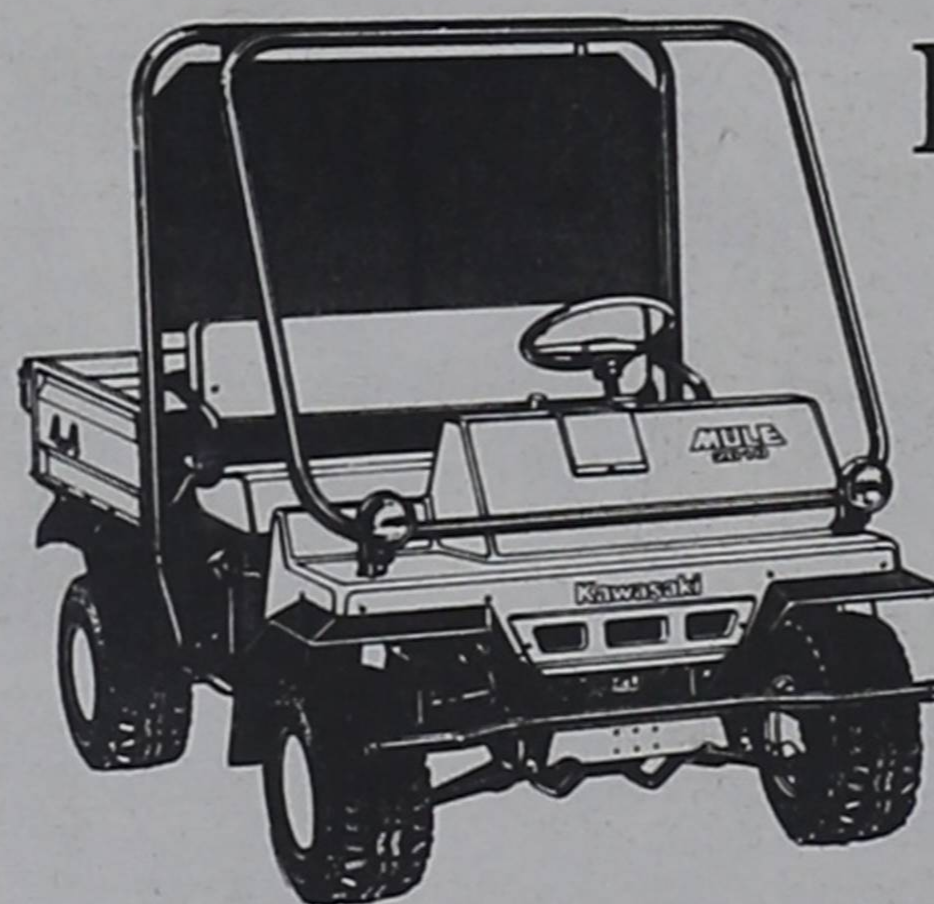
"Mom and Dad don't buy us very much," explained Erica. "They buy us what we need so we have to buy ourselves what we want. This is how we make it. We can pay for it so it's not that bad. You learn to plan your days better. I know I work hard out here and you can't say that for some people."

Erica has three older sisters, Kelly, Tina, and Cindy. All had to help with milking to some degree. Duwayne said Kelly didn't get as involved because she

Continued on next page...



ERICA SCHILLING puts the milkers on one of the Holstein cows at her dad, Duwayne Schilling's, dairy during the evening milking. Janie Hartman Photo



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had many allergies. Cindy helped until recently when she graduated high school and found a job in town. Tina has been out of school and employed locally for several years. Kelly now lives in Houston.

Kelly has given Erica more good news. She told her that putting your work experience on job applications helps because they know that you've had to work and accept responsibility.

Milking goes on twice a day every day, seven days a week. Country music and news set the background music in the Schilling barn. It is accompanied by a clicking rhythm from the five milkers. "Morning and night gets pretty old," said Duwayne of milking. It takes the Schillings about an hour and a half to do one milking not counting getting ready and cleaning up time. The new barn has an automatic feed system that makes it much easier to milk, according to Duwayne.

Milking has been a part of Duwayne's life since childhood. He can remember milking in an old hay barn with wooden stanchions and a 10 gallon can outside with a strainer on top. He milked with his dad and brother, Junior, for about 20 years and for about another 10 years with his dad. In 1987, Duwayne bought the farm he lives on and built the straight 10 barn.

There was a time when Duwayne thought of getting out of the milking business. He was employed at National Supply and had already cut his herd to a minimum in anticipation of being on at National for two years and selling out because people told him if you were there two years it was a sure thing that you wouldn't get laid off. "I was there 22 months and they kicked everybody out the door," he remembered. "That's what you call having to pick the slack up again."



BRAD SCHILLING washes a cow in preparation for milking.

Janie Hartman Photo

"The best part of owning a dairy is being your own boss," said Duwayne.



STRAIGHT ROWS make easier pick up for hay crews and Charlie Schilling's job is to pull over the bales that aren't in place.

Janie Hartman Photo

"There isn't much profit in it now with milk selling at \$13 per hundred pounds. A couple of years ago, it was \$10 a hundred," he said. "The milk price went down but the price of milk in the stores stayed the same and the price of hay and

feed didn't go down.

"I'm raising some white face calves so that I can have some stocker cows out in the pasture. If milk prices go to pot again I'll have something to take up the slack."

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Fredrick Brothers add unusual ranch animal to their operation

by Janet Felderhoff

Viewed from the road the Fredrick Land and Cattle's most recent addition to their operation appears to be just another large, but very impressive, white barn trimmed in green, but inside some odd things are hatching. They have branched into a new endeavor - Fredrick Ostrich Ranch.

Two brothers, John and Stan Fredrick, are the owners of this outfit that is situated in the beautiful countryside along FM 2382 north of Saint Jo. John Fredrick, Jr. is the general manager of the ranch. An article in the **Fort Worth Star Telegram** on ostrich farming caught John, Sr.'s eye and inspired him to pursue more information.

The business was started about two and a half years ago with the purchase of six pairs of chicks that were six months old. Those chicks are now about three years old and in their first breeding season. The white and green barn was built about a year ago to house the incubator, hatchery, nursery and an office.

The Fredricks are pioneers in this new branch of agriculture in the United States. The little that is known about feeding, raising, and caring for these large, flightless birds has been discovered by trial and error. Ostriches are native to South Africa and the ranchers there keep all of their knowledge of caring for the birds a closely guarded secret.

Some people feed their ostriches vegetables such as cabbage along with their choice of ratite feed. Fredricks' adult ostriches are on a ration manufactured by Bluebonnet Feeds. The chicks are on a ration made and sold by Muenster Milling Co. The adults will also be fed this when this year's breeding season is complete. Fredrick doesn't want to chance reducing their egg production.

The United States gets only about 20 percent of the leather produced in Africa. Ostriches are quite expensive presently and are sold only for breeding purposes. A fertile egg is valued at about \$1000 dollars; a three months old pair of ostriches at \$5,500 to \$6,000; and a grown pair of breeding age at \$40,000 and up.

Besides breeding ostriches are valued for their leather, meat, and feathers. The meat is low in cholesterol, fat and calories and is high in protein. It is a red meat that tastes much like beef. "It's considered a health food," John said. "A three ounce serving of ostrich meat is lower in cholesterol than any other meat group. It is also high in protein. Ostrich meat has one eighth less fat and 30 percent less cholesterol than beef."

Between 90,000 and 100,000 ostrich hides are used each year by companies in the United States for items such as gloves, boots, etc. according to estimates by the clothing industry. Were more hides available then more would be used according to information from the industry.

To John Fredrick the ostrich business is not a fad. "Its been going on for hundreds of years in Africa," he said. "At first \$5500 for a pair of birds seems high until you look at the overall return

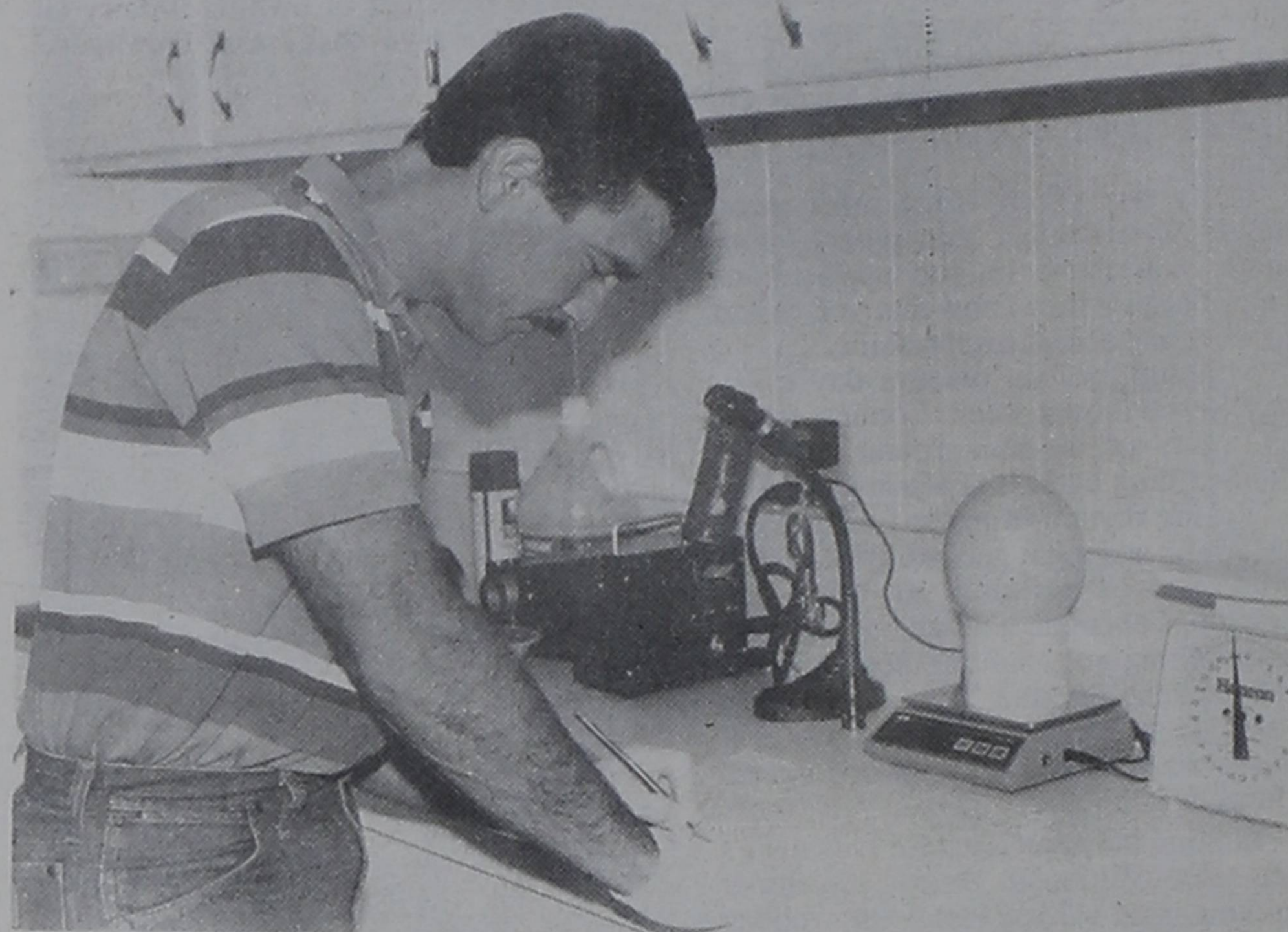
from your investment. One hen could lay 30 to 60 eggs, and sometimes 100 eggs, per season for as many as 40 years. Prices could continue to rise. Eventually when supply meets demand the prices will begin to fall. That's when the ostrich business will be similar to the cattle business in all aspects."

Fredrick revealed that when he got in the business people were paying \$3,000 for six months old birds. Now they are paying five to six thousand dollars for three months old birds. He estimates that it will be at least another five to seven years before ostriches are used in the slaughter business rather than just for breeding purposes.

With the industry having only a breeder's market there are some drawbacks. For instance if you buy a bird for \$40,000 and it gets wounded you will only get a \$1,000 to go to slaughter with it. Also there is no guarantee that the young birds will be breeders. The only guarantees on the young birds are a health check, the sex, and that the birds are microchip implanted.

Microchips are implanted in the back of a bird's neck in the pipping muscle. The microchip has a serial number that can be read with a scanner. This allows the bird to be identified if stolen. It also gives it a number for life that many breeders use to keep information on computer concerning the bird's parentage, birth weight, weight gain, etc.

Much of the challenge in this new



JOHN FREDRICK JR. in the lab of Fredrick Ostrich Ranch takes routine statistics on an ostrich egg that is almost ready to hatch. Janie Hartman Photo

endeavor is in hatching out the ostrich eggs and raising healthy chicks. Fredrick doesn't find that he has many problems with his chicks but admits that he has heard horror stories about raising and hatching out chicks.

He heard of a gentleman who lost all of his chicks at 11 days old to yolk sac

infection and has heard of viruses going around killing birds.

"I haven't had any problems," said Fredrick. "I spend a lot of time with the chicks, give them lots of tender loving care - I'd even say that I baby them."

The chicks are kept in a dark room

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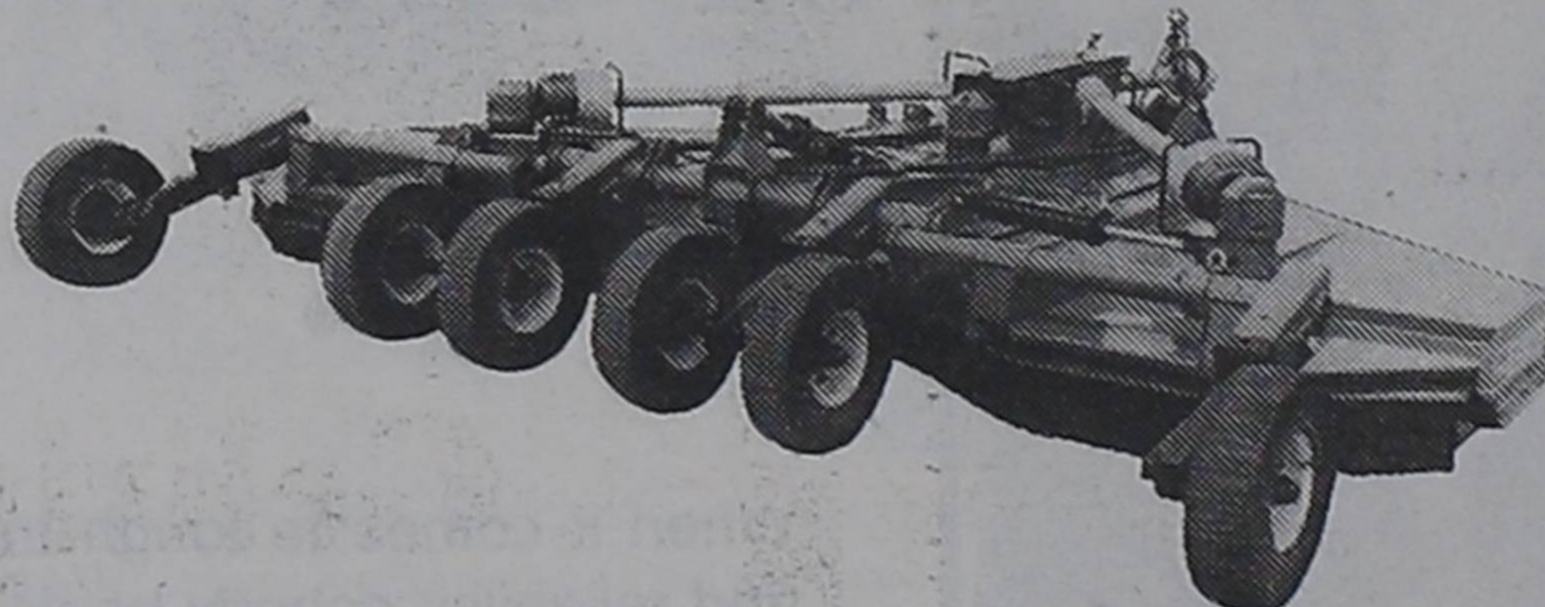


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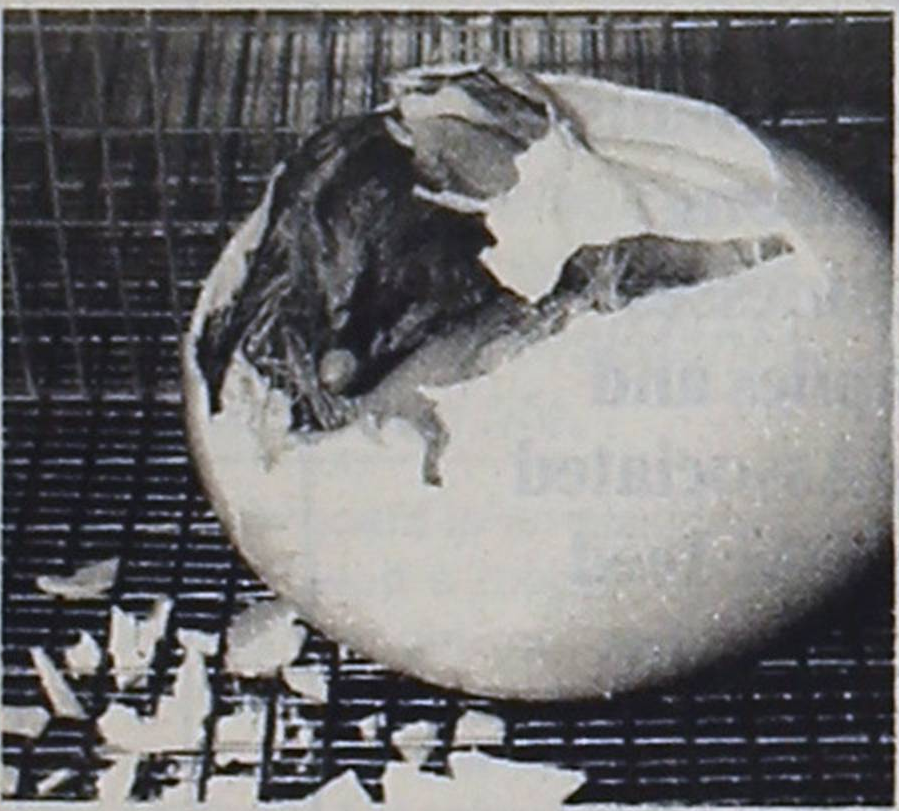
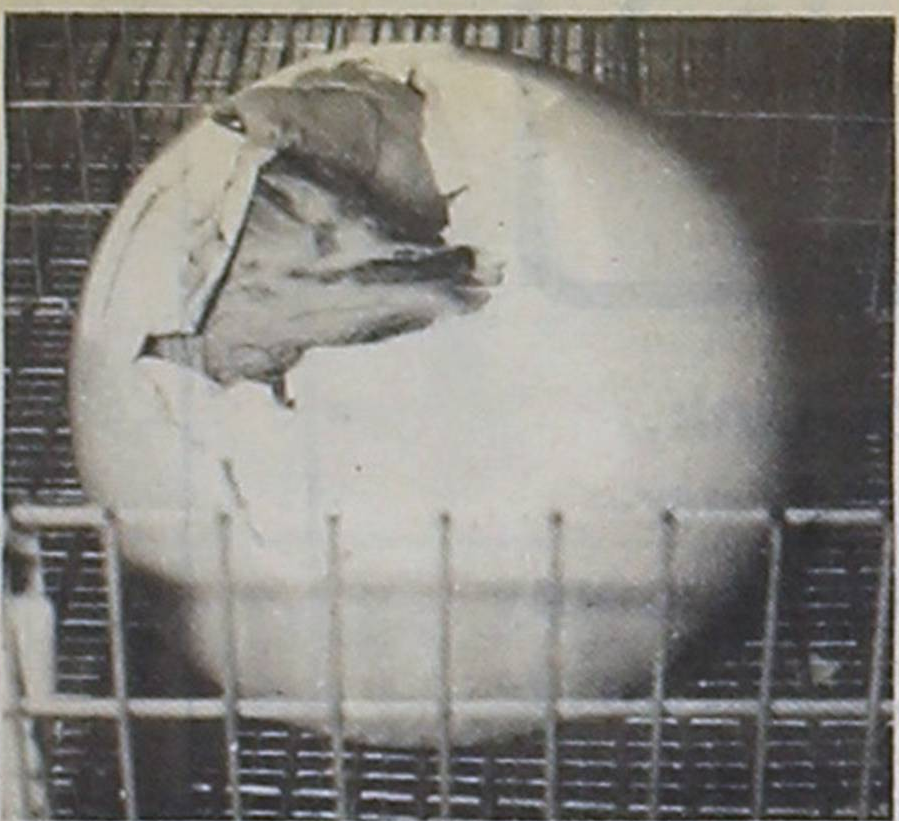
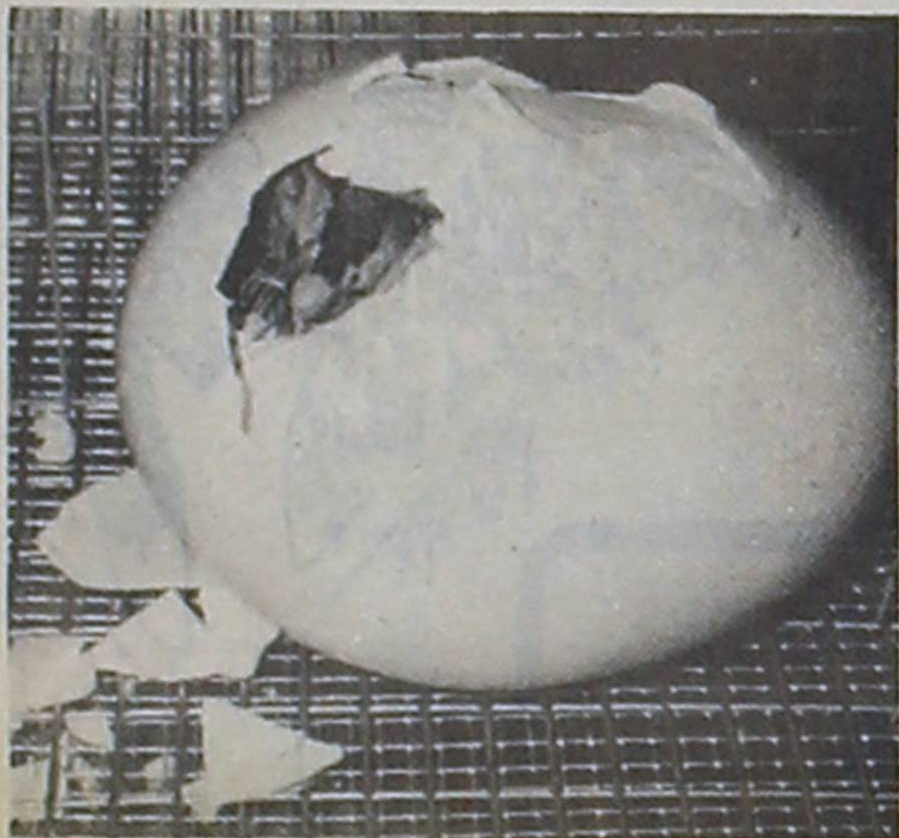
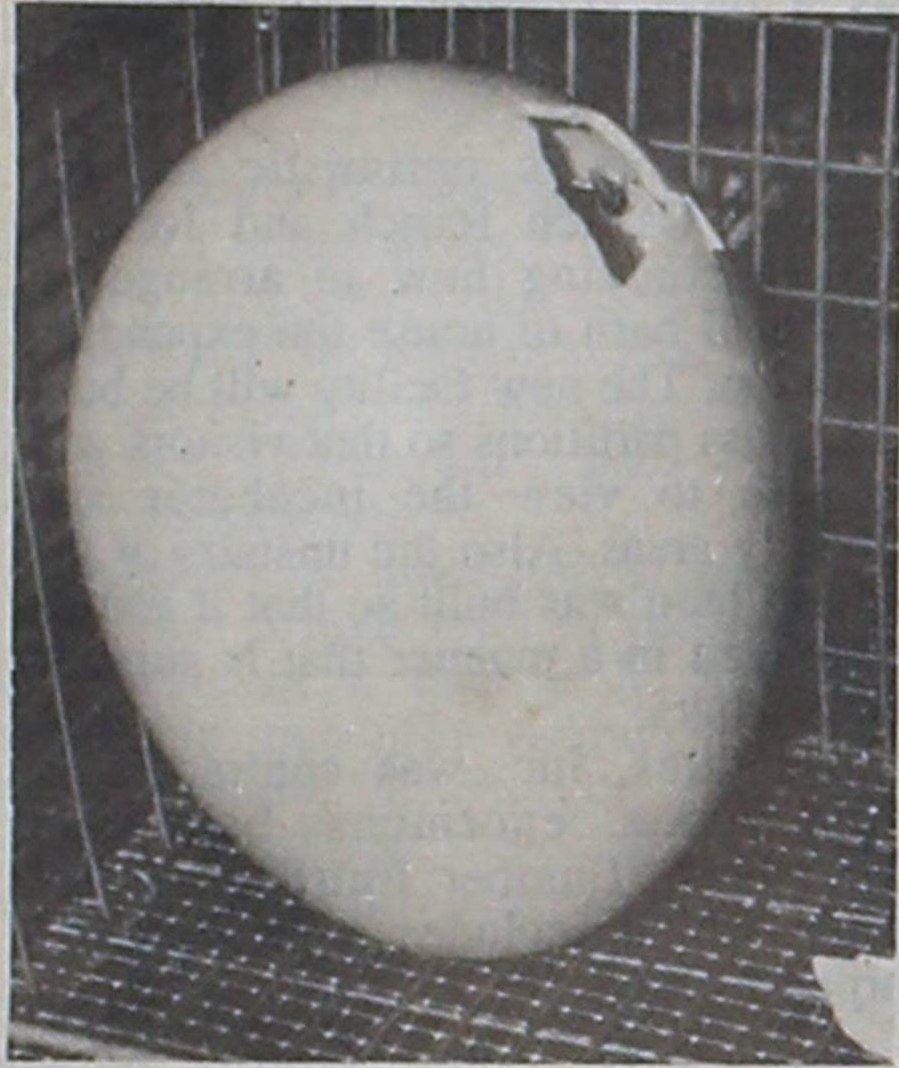
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The hatching of an ostrich

Photos courtesy of John Fredrick



overnight since the curious young creatures will peck at anything that they can see on the floor, including their own droppings. When the weather permits they are taken to a pen outdoors for sun and exercise. The chick pens are cleaned daily.

Every third day Fredrick weighs the chicks to check for weight loss or gains. He keeps a good visual on them, keeps

their surroundings clean and obstacle free. "It's really kept up and I think that's the key to it," Fredrick said. "On the other hand, you have people that are just raising chicks and who have real problems. I believe that goes back to the incubator and the hatching room. We incubate in good clean facilities. Nobody is allowed to go into it."

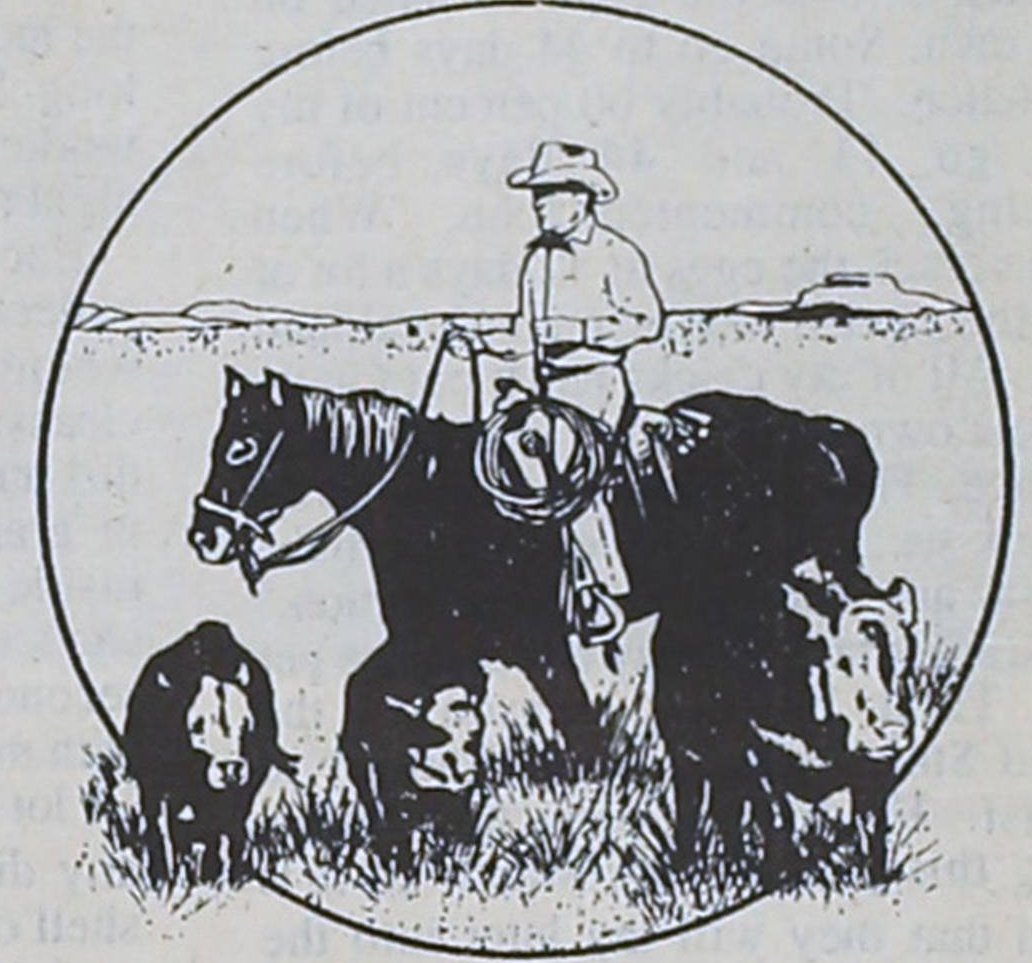
Letting the eggs hatch out on their own is something that most producers are not doing. All but one of the chicks now roaming the Fredrick Ostrich Ranch hatched out on their own. The one that required assistance was incorrectly positioned in the egg and could not get out on its own.

Continued on next page...



MRS. JOHN FREDRICK JR. with a day-old bird.

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According to research done by Fredrick, most people assume that if an egg has not hatched by the 42nd day there is something wrong and they crack the egg open to assist the chick's entry into the world. This philosophy is the opposite of that of Dr. Kyle Jones of Bridgeport who is one of the few area veterinarians who specializes in treating ratites.

Following the advice of Dr. Jones, Fredrick allows the eggs to hatch on their own. Some go to 44 days before they hatch. "Probably 60 percent of my eggs go 43 and 44 days before hatching," commented John. "When people crack the eggs at 42 days a lot of time they get a wet or underdeveloped chick. All of my chicks hatch out totally on their own. I think one of the keys is patience. That way they totally absorb the yolk sac. Chicks that don't absorb the yolk sac are prone to yolk sac infection."

Ostriches lay as many as 100 eggs per year. Their breeding season in the United States ranges from February to August. Fredrick's ostriches began laying this year in late March so it is hoped that they will lay later into the year - perhaps until October.

Even though this is the first time for the local ranch to have a breeding season, their success rate has been very good so far. When this interview was done on June 22 the last set of eggs was being taken from the incubator and put into the hatchery. All but two of the 25 eggs collected were fertile and all of the chicks survived.

There weren't any more eggs to put into the incubator at that time because the hens had quit laying due to the unusual spell of rainy, cloudy weather. Any change in routine can disturb the breeding cycle.

Breeding season definitely was not over. There were several hens beginning to flutter during our visit to the ranch. Fluttering is the females mating signal. The male makes a loud noise called booming which is his mating call.

Ostriches lay their large, white eggs in a hollowed area on the ground that has been prepared by the male. Collecting the eggs must be done cautiously since the male takes his turn setting on the eggs and he will chase anyone entering his territory.

One bird nicknamed "The Terminator" by Fredrick requires a bit of ingenuity to harvest eggs from since he is more aggressive than most of the Fredrick birds. Terminator must be tricked into chasing someone down the fence while another person sneaks in to get the egg. When John is alone and must retrieve an egg from that pen, he

lures the big male into an alleyway and hopes to get the egg and be out of the pen before the bird figures out how to get back into the main part of his pen. "Being kicked is something I don't want," said Fredrick.

For the most part Fredrick disturbs his birds as little as possible. "I don't manhandle them," he said. Once a year the big birds are wormed and a blood and stool sample is collected.

During the times that there are eggs in the incubator Fredrick puts in some very long hours. He revealed that he had worked until 10:00 p.m. the previous night and that this was not unusual.

Each evening after the eggs are collected John brings them in to the lab where he washes them off with a cleansing disinfectant solution to remove dirt and germs. Next they are weighed in grams and candled to see what the inside of the egg looks like. Fredrick can't tell if an egg is fertile until the second week. "I haven't touched an egg with my bare hands yet," noted Fredrick. "A lot of people say that it doesn't make any difference but I wear gloves. The shell of an egg is porous and can absorb moisture, bacteria, etc. this way. No smoking is allowed in this building."

Eggs collected Wednesday through Tuesday are put in a cold pack and kept at temperatures between 55 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The operation works with a Tuesday hatch which means that on Tuesday all of the eggs that have been incubating 41 days come out of the incubator and are placed in the hatchery after being weighed one last time.

The eggs are weighed on a weekly basis. This occurs each Tuesday. The goal is to lose 2.2 percent of the body weight of the egg every seven days. Fredrick's goal is to reach 13 to 15 percent weight loss on the egg over 42 days.

A large incubator that will hold 125 egg sets inside its own special room. The ranch has 16 birds that could start laying to fill the machine. Part of the machine's function is to control temperature and humidity. Fredrick sets his humidity for 19 percent to attain the desired 2.2 percent weight loss per week. This will vary with the different ostrich operations depending on their conditions.

After the final weigh the egg is candled to check for pipping. During the weekly exams Fredrick keeps track of the increasing size of the air cell in each egg by drawing a pencil mark around the area. By day 41 or 42 a place in the dark area of the egg will come up. What comes up is the chick's

head and feet poking through the air cell. At that point it will crack through the egg.

Once the egg is in the hatchery it will be checked often for pipping. It is important to keep a close watch in case there is a problem such as the chick who was in an incorrect position and would not have made it out of the egg on its own.

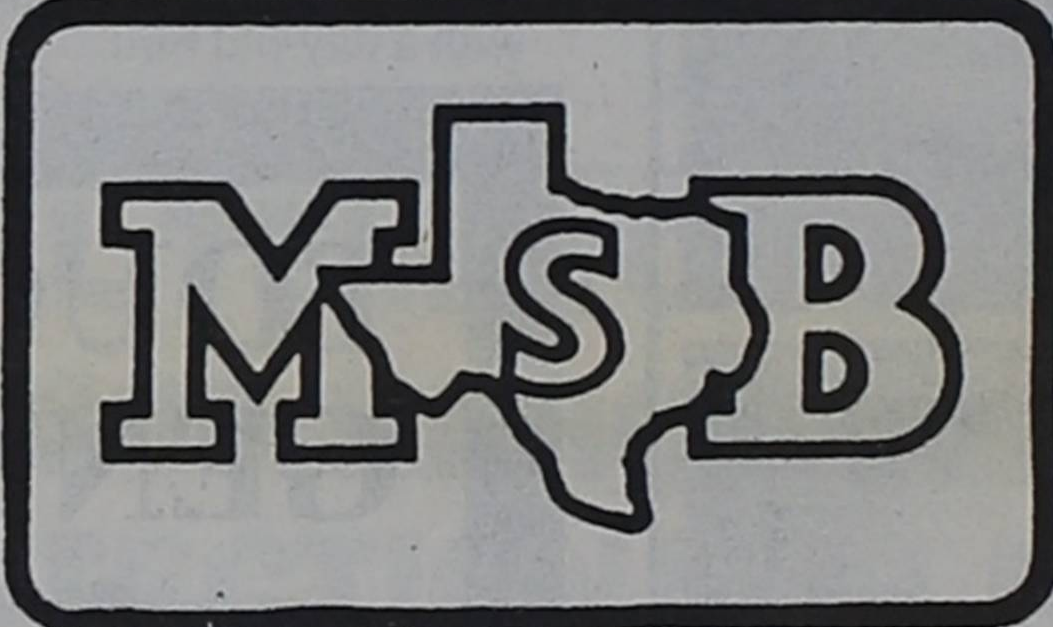
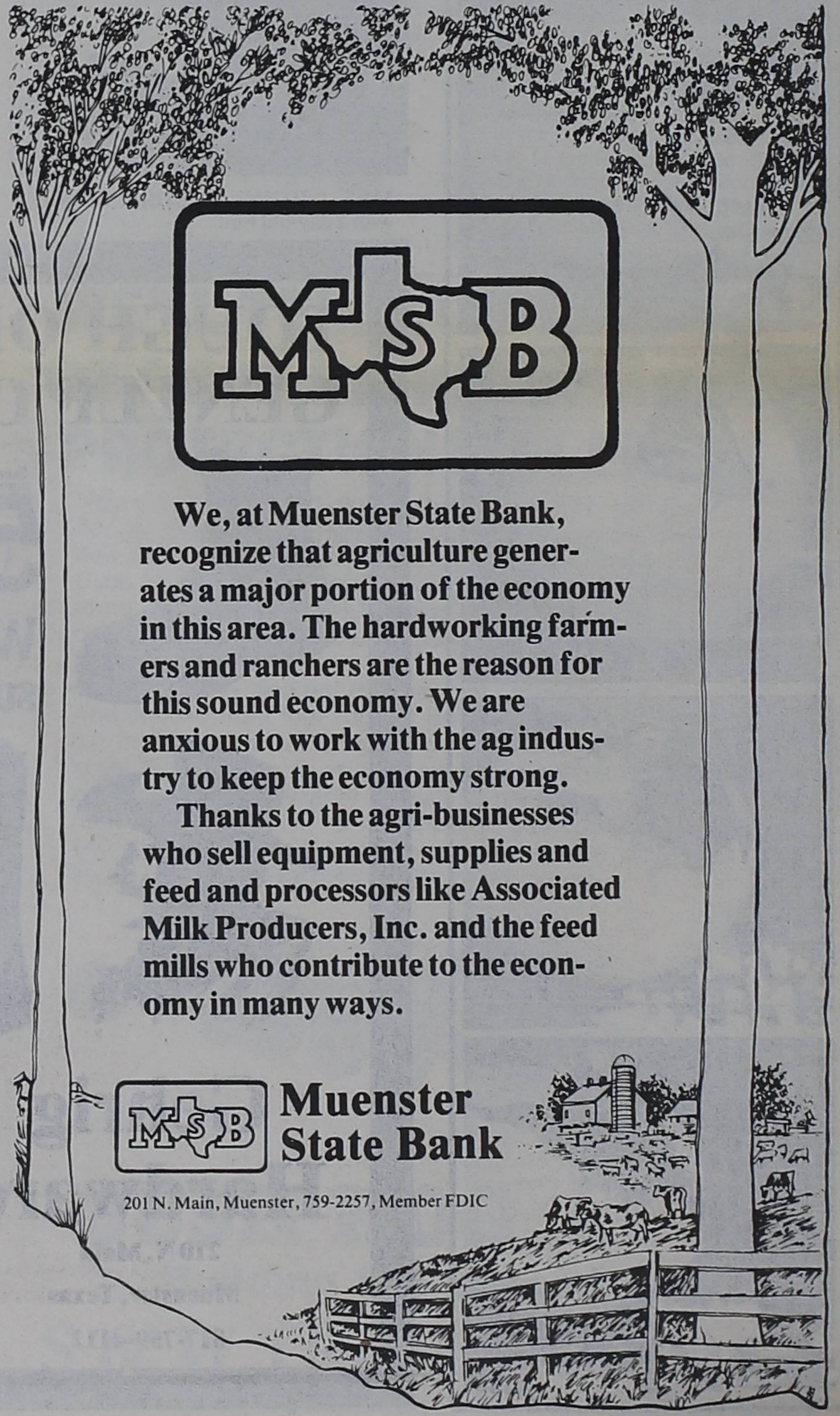
John Fredrick is determined to succeed with his ostrich operation and has been happy with the success they have experienced so far. Besides guidance from Dr. Jones, John gained insight into the ins and outs of raising ostriches by visiting other ranches, attending American Ostrich Association (AOA) seminars, talking with other owners, and subscribing to a magazine, **Ostrich Report**.

Groups have already toured the Fredrick Ostrich Ranch and John indicated that he was willing to welcome more visitors to the parts of the operation that are open. The incubator

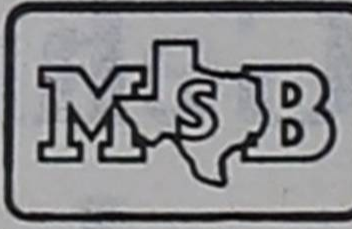
room is off limits when there are eggs in it because of the ranch's strict rules made in an effort to keep out diseases. John is more than willing to share his information with others interested in ostriches. He prefers that people make arrangements ahead of time because he has a busy schedule with ostriches, cattle, and horses under his management.

The future is optimistic for the Fredrick Ostrich Ranch and John is already studying how to arrange an additional barn to house the expanding operation. The new facility will be built with glass partitions so that visitors will be able to view the incubator and hatchery areas. Also the upstairs of the present barn was built so that it can be completed in a manner that is suitable for seminars.

Structures, Inc. was contracted to build the enormous barn and Community Lumber finished out the inside which includes a paneled and carpeted office.



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Inbreeding - *sure way to pure*

by Donald Stotts

Inbreeding of cattle is a practice that requires knowledge and caution. Yet, when used correctly, inbreeding is a tool that can aid the purebred livestock breeder.

By definition, inbreeding is the mating of individuals more closely related than the average of the population from which they came, explains Sally Northcutt, Oklahoma State University Extension beef cattle breeding specialist.

"Perhaps the most important concept is that a high level of inbreeding may result in a decline in average phenotypic merit for various traits," says Northcutt. "Phenotype is the expression of genetic material, such as weight, height or any observable trait."

Northcutt explains all inbreeding does not result in disaster when its use is centered around genetically superior animals. Generally, the use of inbreeding principles is limited to herds of relatively high genetic merit that are involved in the production of breeding stock.

A useful practice of inbreeding is to

evaluate a specific animal before forming a breeding program around that individual. Critical evaluation of the animal involves testing for the presence of undesirable recessive genes.

"Inbreeding brings to light undesirable recessive genes," says Northcutt. "It does not create undesirable recessives. Thus, a planned system of mating may be undesirable recessive gene."

Linebreeding, a milder form of inbreeding, may be used to concentrate the use of a genetically superior animal. A mating system involving linebreeding generally is designed to maintain a high degree of relationship between individual animals in the pedigree, while maintaining a low level of inbreeding.

Finally, lines of genetically different individuals may be developed using inbreeding. Later, the genetically different lines can be used in crosses. Crossing lines within a breed would take advantage of the heterosis concept, the superiority of linecross progeny over the straightline progeny for a specific trait.

Half-sibling, full-sibling and parent-offspring mating systems are the most severe types of inbreeding that can be practiced with livestock. The extent, if any, to which average observable phenotypic merit declines depends strictly on the genetic strengths of the livestock in question.

Breeders seeking additional information about the potential benefits and pitfalls of inbreeding cattle should contact Northcutt at 405-744-9287.



CATTLE GRAZE on Wilbert Vogel's farm south of Muenster. Red cattle and a red and white barn create a nostalgic farm scene.
Janet Felderhoff Photo



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There's no substitute for experience...

Freeman trains horses to be winners in cutting competitions

by Janet Felderhoff

Watching Bill Freeman work the horses that he trains for cutting horse competitors is a unique experience. The trainer borrows from his many years of experience in the sport to build a horse's skills.

Bill Freeman, Inc. is located on wooded acreage near Rosston. The family home overlooks the office, working pens, horse walkers, and stables that are a part of the business. Besides training horses and instructing riders for cutting horse competitions, Freeman has a cow/calf operation, pre-conditioning lot, brood mares, and breaks horses to ride.

Family is important to Bill. His wife, Karen, works with him and at the time the business was started in 1974 she was the only person there to help with training, feeding and caring for the animals. Bill credits Karen with much of his success since she gave him the desire to be the best that he could be. The business now employs 10 people. The couple's three daughters, Tina, Erika, and Kimmie, help with the various chores during the summer. "You have an opportunity in this business to keep your family together to compete not only against each other if you wish, but against other people or as a family unit," commented Freeman. "It's probably the most exciting family sport. We have different divisions of competition from the youth all the way to the open rider."

Shorty Freeman, Bill's father, rode and trained cutting horses. He entered Bill in his first cutting competition at the tender age of four. Experience is very important in knowing how to train each horse and to adapt the horse to the needs of its rider.

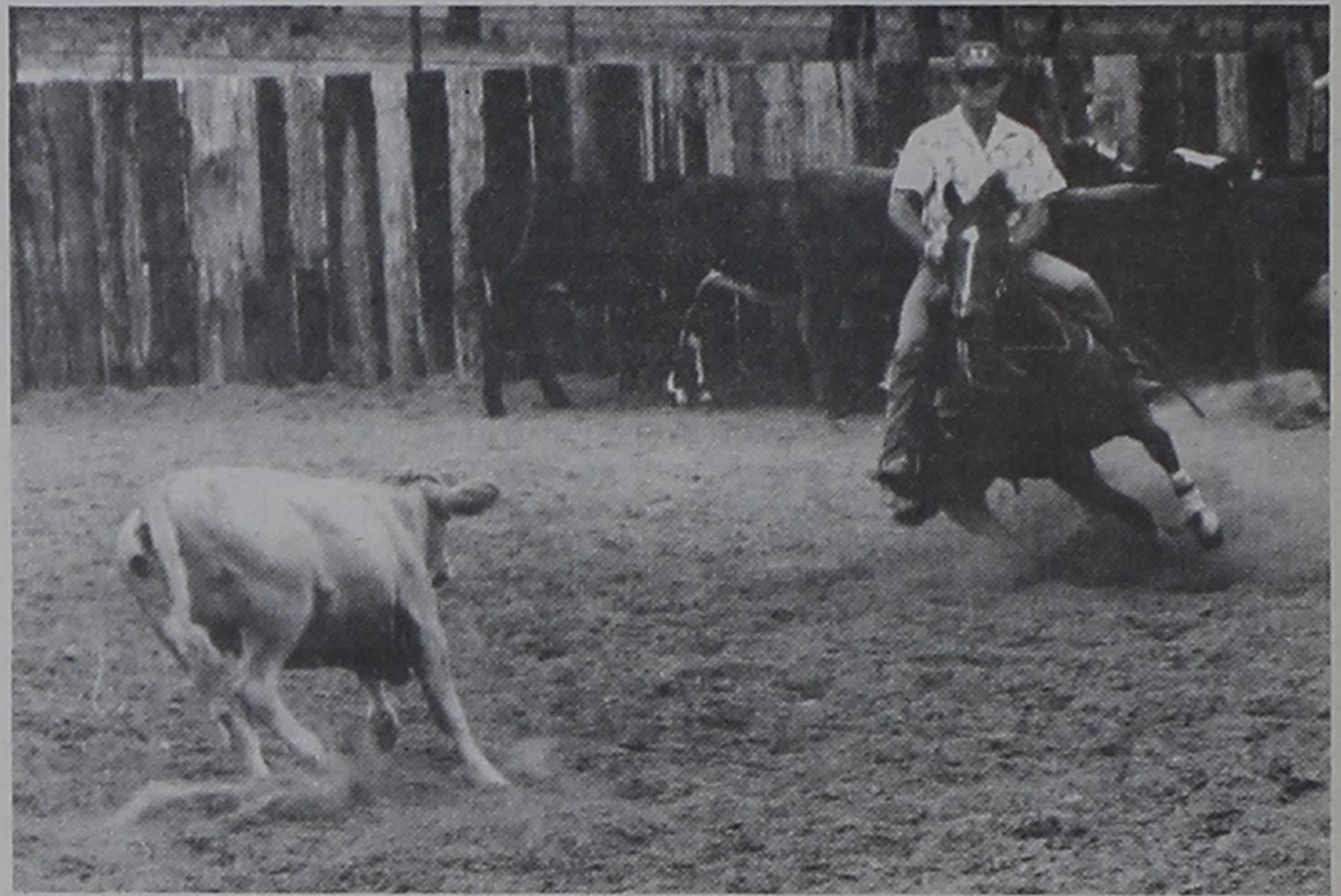
A year and a half to two years are spent in training an animal. "It's an every day type situation," Freeman said. "You have to ride these horses every day. You have keep repeating over and over and over. Repetition is really the name of the game. You have to know quite a bit

about what you want a horse to do, what his abilities are, and you learn that from day in and day out use of the horse. Then you work towards what he can do best and not on what he can't do."

Once a horse is trained to be competitive if a non pro is going to ride the horse then you have to train the non pro to ride that particular horse. "The process starts all over again," remarked Freeman. "Normally the non pros won't get on the horse until midway through their three year old year and that will be maybe once or twice a month to just to start getting a feel for the horse." Sometimes the most difficult part of a trainer's job is trying to get the horse to adjust to the individual, said Freeman. When the rider is a non pro who doesn't compete regularly then adjustments must be made on the horse to fit the rider.

The operation trains 50 to 60 head of horses a year for customers. After a horse is broke to ride it is time to start teaching the horse about a cow and building the interest that is necessary for the sport of cutting. This is normally done by putting one cow out in the arena with the horse to start teaching it to trail a cow, to step out in front of the cow, how to handle a cow, and how to turn with a cow. "A lot of this will be natural, yes, but it has to be cultivated," Bill commented. "The proper positioning, the proper way to turn around - and there again experience is very, very important because you can make mistakes in the training process that will really be detrimental to your program on down the road. You don't want scare a horse. You don't want to overexpose him. What I mean by overexpose is extending a horse to the point where he is doing more than he is capable of doing."

Freeman then went on to explain that this could create mental problems with a horse because you are demanding so much of him that he can't mentally retain it all and can't handle the pressure of it. The horse will just quit working. A



BILL FREEMAN trains another potentially big winner in cutting events.

Janie Hartman Photo

trainer must rely on his experience to know how far he can push a horse. Some of the qualities that Bill feels

are required of a good cutting horse are some athletic ability, a good nature, Continued on next page...



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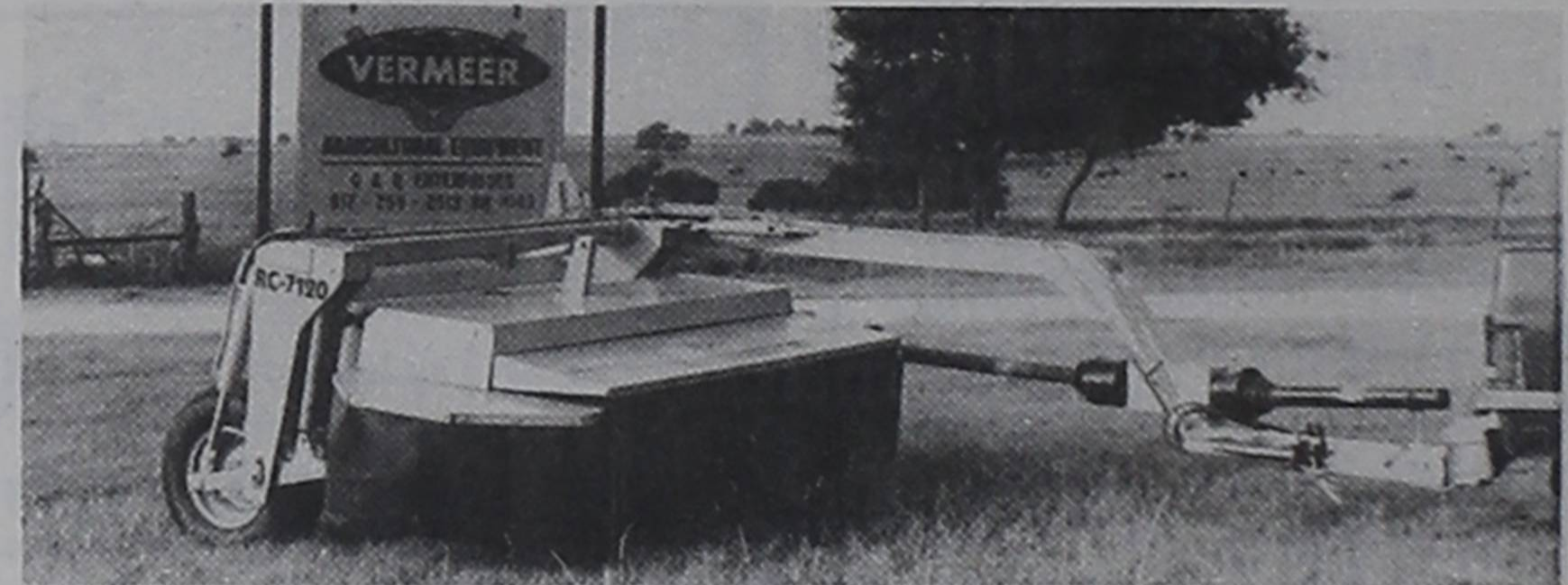
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RC 7120

Hay Cutter



G & B Enterprises has been testing a new disk cutter for Vermeer Mfg. Co. this year. Vermeer Mfg. Co. has five of these cutters out for testing. There are two in Iowa, one in Michigan, New York State and Texas.

We have been letting customers try the disk cutter for a day or so thereby getting different opinions about the cutter or what changes they would make. The engineer is then informed.

It has cut almost every kind of hay in this area with good to excellent results.

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This cutter should be ready for production and sale next season.

Gerald and Betty Rose Walterscheid, owners of G & B will be attending the District Representatives meeting for all the U.S. in Pella and Des Moines, Iowa to get the latest information on whats new for 1993.

For more information about the new cutter or any other Vermeer products give Jerry or Betty Rose of G & B Enterprises a call at (817) 759-2513.

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being a "people" horse, great intelligence, and being a quick study. To better the odds of acquiring a good cutting horse one selects the product of a cross between a mare and stud that have already proven their abilities at "cowiness." Also the higher the dollar amount paid should correlate with an animal's potential.



KIMMIE FREEMAN grooms a cutting horse after its workout.

Janie Hartman Photo

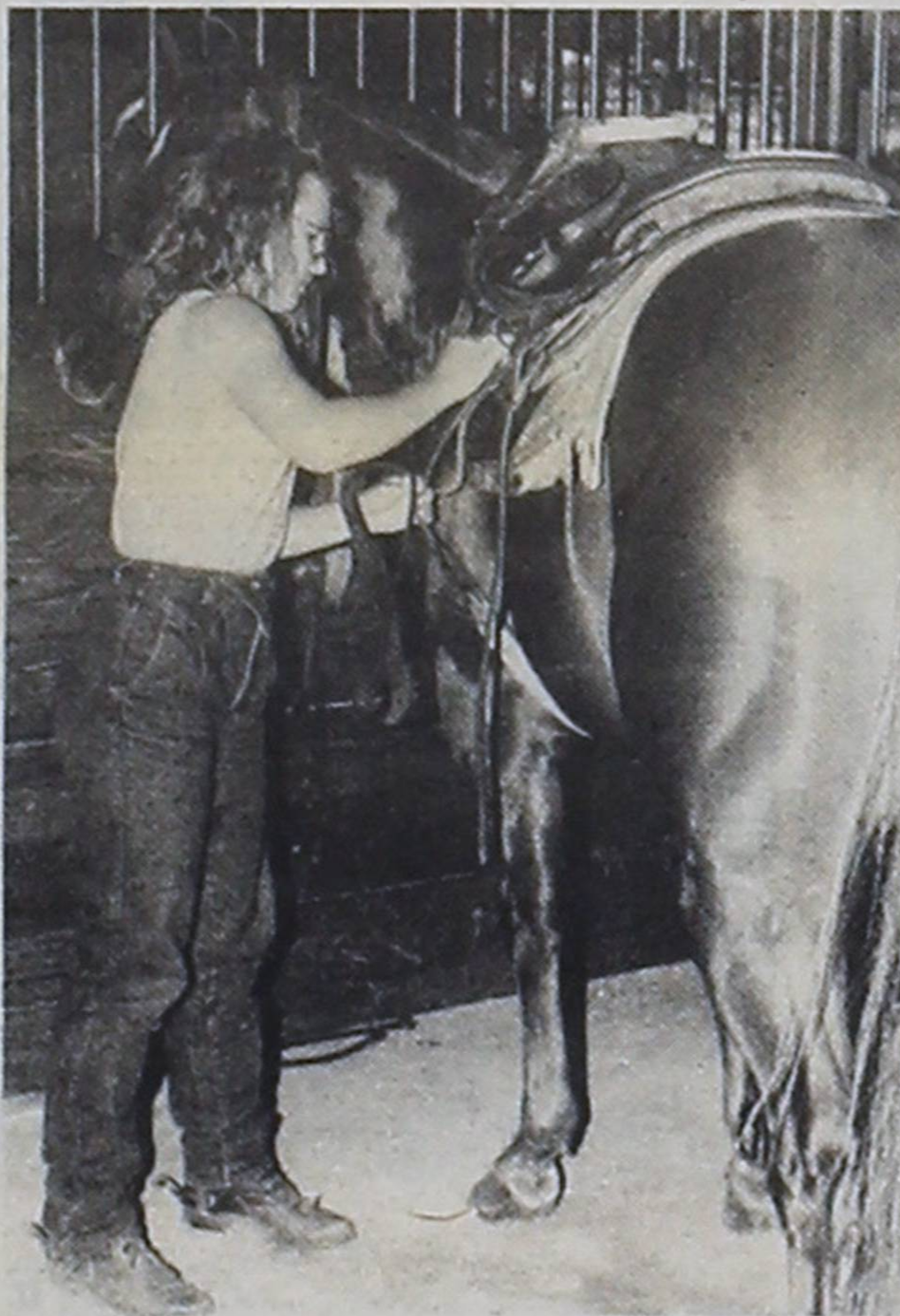
According to Freeman the going cost for an untrained, untested yearling can be anywhere from \$5,000 to \$100,000 depending on the horse's breeding. A horse that is finished and has won in competitions will be priced from \$7,500 on up to almost an unlimited amount depending on the animal's winnings in competitions. There are cutting horse stallions that have been syndicated for five to six million dollars.

Fort Worth is the home of the headquarters of the National Cutting Horse Association. There are affiliates all over the United States and abroad. Germany, Italy, Australia, and Brazil are developing their programs and are buying US. horses to work with. The Association was first formed in 1849, but the competitions had started in 1846 or '47

A horse's performance is judged by each individual judge on a scale from 60 to 80 points with an average run being 70 after the two and a half minutes. A winning type run would usually require a 73 or 74 from each judge. One of the rules that competitors are judged by is that they can't handle their horse, they can't move him around with the reins after they have selected the cow that they want to cut. The horse has to take over and the rider must keep his or her hand down. A rider's feet are used to encourage the horse to move harder or whatever.

You don't have to be a great rider to participate in the sport of cutting according to Freeman. The higher in the competition that you get the better you must become, he said. It is possible to be competitive and only get on a horse once a week if your horse is good enough.

Bill Freeman is the major stock holder and one of the managing partners in the now-famous syndicated stallion, Smart Little Lena. He was the first triple crown winner in the cutting horse business. The three major events are the Futurity, Superstakes, and Derby. Smart Little Lena was the first horse to win all three. Bill was his trainer and rider. That was in 1982 and '83. The stallion was shown in nine events and he won all but one. Freeman last showed in 1984.



ERIKA UNSADDLES after lessons.

Janie Hartman Photo

"It was a chain of events that is truly a Cinderella story," remarked Freeman of the story of his involvement with Smart Little Lena and winning the triple crown. "It was a comedy of errors. First off there is no way that the horse should have been left a stud because he was extremely small and extremely ugly as a baby colt. Even today an average horse will stand 14.2 or 14.3 hands and this horse stands fully grown 14 hands. He was 13.3 when I showed him at the Futurity and he weighed about 700 pounds. He was small enough that I could reach around his heart girth and touch my hands together."

Freeman got the opportunity to work with Smart Little Lena when the horse's first owner Haines Chatam brought the horse as a two year old to be sold. "The second time that I rode him he had some special qualities that I can't describe," explained Freeman. "I don't know what

they were, but there was something special about him. He has a charisma about him that most horses don't have. He has an electricity about him that's unlike any horse that I have been around."

Three other people had previously refused to buy him because he was too small and too ugly. I tried to buy the horse and could not get the money together so Haines offered to sell me half."

Financing the purchase was still a problem for Freeman since he had already borrowed money from the bank to buy two truck loads of cattle. Bill tried to borrow more money and was turned down. His next step was drastic - he sold one load of cattle without permission from the bank. When he told a bank officer what he had done, he was informed that he could go to jail. "I told them that if they put me in jail they would never get their money," Bill remembered.

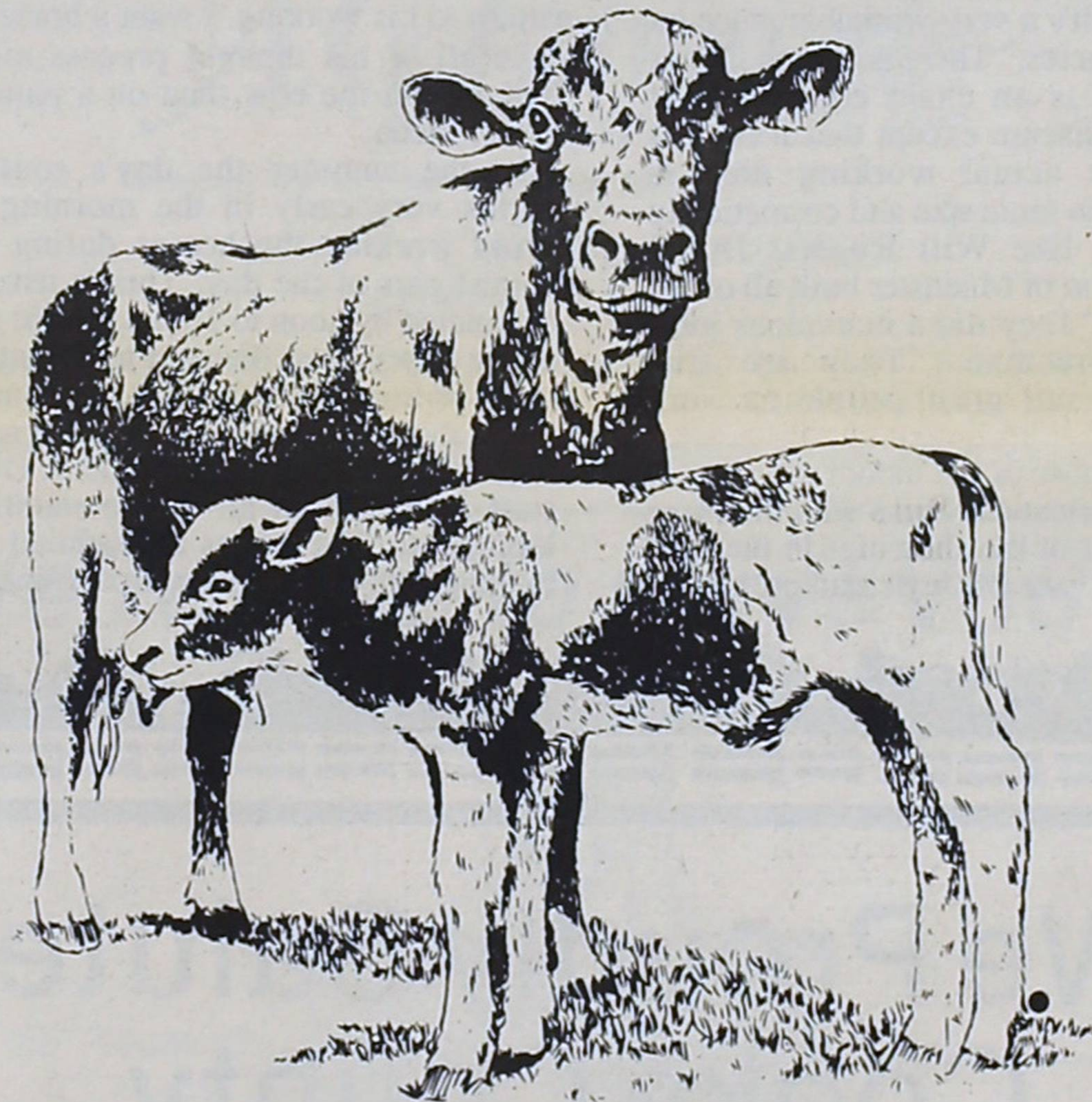
To get the money to pay for the cattle Haines and Bill decided to syndicate

Smart Little Lena. They tried to sell 20 shares at \$5,000 apiece for the horse. There would be a total of 80 shares of which Haines would retain half and Freeman the other half. There were 17 shares sold at the end of Little Lena's three year old year, just before the Futurity. "That recovered enough money to cover my loss on the cattle - the bank was happy, I was happy, I won the Futurity," said Bill.

During the Futurity 10 more shares were sold at \$10,000 apiece. In January 1983 the horse was shown in Augusta, GA and 10 more shares were sold at \$25,000 apiece. Ultimately shares were sold at \$75,000 apiece. To date Freeman owns 21 shares in the horse and Haines owns 10 with the remaining being owned by individuals across the country. Each share entitles its owner to one breeding a year. Smart Little Lena breeds 80 mares a year at \$7,500 each. Shares are available for sale and because of the economic crunch they are now selling for \$40,000 apiece.

Continued on next page...

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Smart Little Lena has had five colt crops compete and those five colt crops have won in excess of five and one half million dollars. There have been 156 champions and 118 reserves out of those colts. The million dollar horse now stands at Aubrey, TX.

In the Freemans' home, there is a special wall that holds copies of checks won by Little Lena that total \$712,000, as well as photos and other mementos of his splendid career. In the office of Bill Freeman, Inc. the visitors can also view paintings, photos, and trophies dedicated to the famous animal and his trainer. Freeman noted that Smart Little Lena was the kind of horse that drew people to him. After the pair would win an event some people would come down into the arena and pull hair from his mane and tail as keepsakes. Freeman credits the horse with helping the business and bringing it into the spotlight.

At Bill Freeman, Inc. there are 50 box stalls, several traps (small pastures), and several pens including four feedlot pens. Bill designed the place himself using ideas from all of the different places that he had ever been "It took me about 20 years of being dead broke and thinking about what I wanted to do to figure out how to build this place," revealed Freeman. "It's a very workable place on about 250 acres." There is a large indoor arena that is an exact copy of Will Rogers Coliseum except that it isn't as long. The actual working area is precisely the same size and cosmetically looks just like Will Rogers. JAWS Construction of Muenster built all of the buildings. "They did a marvelous job," praised Freeman. "They are true craftsmen and great people to work with."

The purpose of the indoor arena is of course to orient the horse with the place where most of the showings in the aged events will take place. It also provides a

protective cover that allows the training program to continue even when it's too cold or wet. There is also a round pen, square pen and big pen that are in different locations on the place. This allows the horse to work in different situations in different size pens to see how he is going to react and make him think a little bit differently, said Freeman. "I want him to not form a



MICHAEL BLUETT of Australia tries a method suggested by Freeman.

Janie Hartman Photo

pattern to his working. I want a horse to have all of his thought process more centered on the cow than on a pattern for the arena."

In the summer the day's routine begins very early in the morning to avoid working the horses during the hottest part of the day. This is usually completed by noon to 1:00 p.m. The rest of the day is then devoted to essentials such as repair work. Bill personally rides about 20 to 30 head of horses a day. He works in one of the pens. Other staff members do all of the saddling, loping, etc. The horses are saddled and put on the walker at a trot. When a

horse's turn comes one of the lope people rides the horse to exercise and warm it up before bringing it to Bill for its training workout.

Bill Freeman's reputation for expertise in the training of cutting horses and instruction of riders is nationwide and perhaps even worldwide. Michael Bluett of Australia was working with Freeman on the day of this interview. He had come to Texas to learn more about the training of cutting horses. After spending some time in Texas Michael got a good job in South Carolina. Bluett noted that he really liked Texas because cutting horses were "big" here and it was a good place to gain more experience with them.

After working with Freeman for only a few hours he had already learned some new things to try with the horse he was training. Bluett indicated that he was pleased with the difference it was making. "Part of the training process is for guys like me to come to guys like him (Freeman)," Bluett said. "And I did that when I was his age," added Bill.

Horses at the Freemans have a beauty routine. Besides being washed off after

each workout they are soap bathed and conditioned once a week. They are clipped and shaved on their muzzle and bridle path. Tail braids are taken out, washed out and re braided on Saturdays. The purpose of braiding the tail is to keep a horse from stepping on its tail when it stops and takes a step backwards or to the side. "My husband has a reputation for having really nice looking horses," commented Karen Freeman. "Bill likes horses with long tails and so I started braiding the tails to keep the horses from stepping on them and jerking the hair out."

Bill has come to the conclusion that cutting horse competition is a very intriguing sport. "It's very rewarding and very humbling at the same time," he said. "You can be a hero one day and a goat the next." When asked what it felt like to compete and win on an exceptional horse like Smart Little Lena Bill Freeman succinctly replied, "It doesn't last very long but its the greatest feeling in the world!"

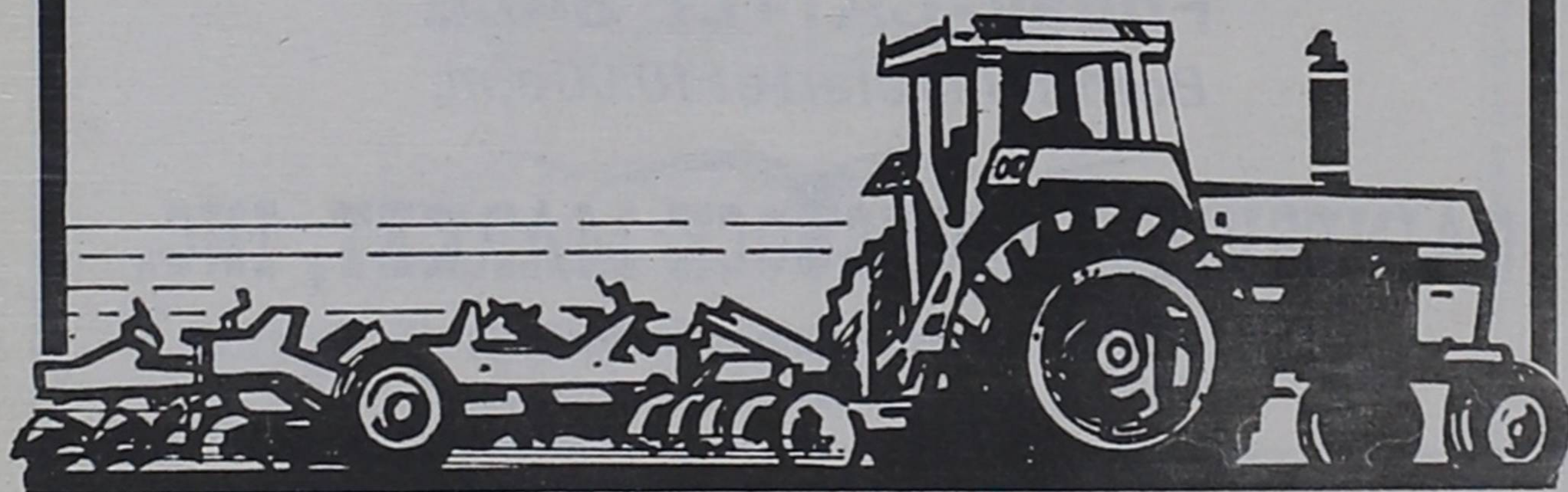


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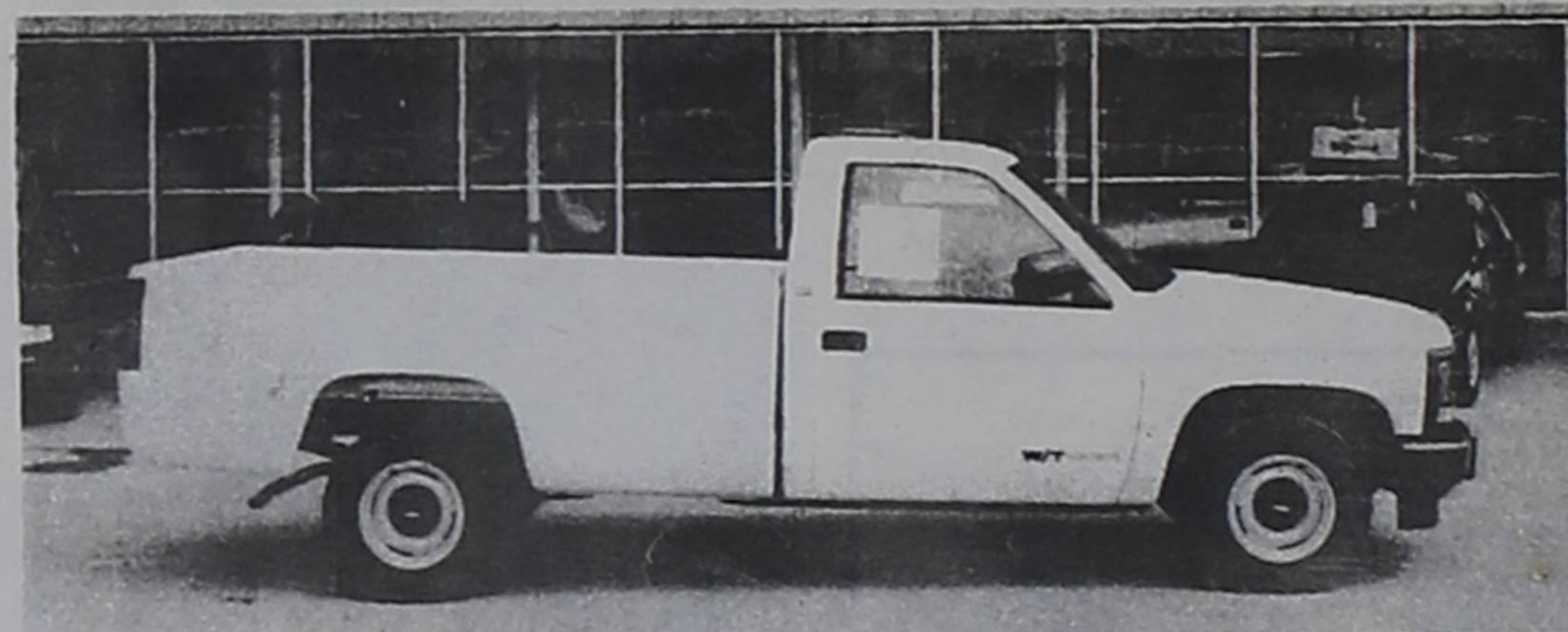
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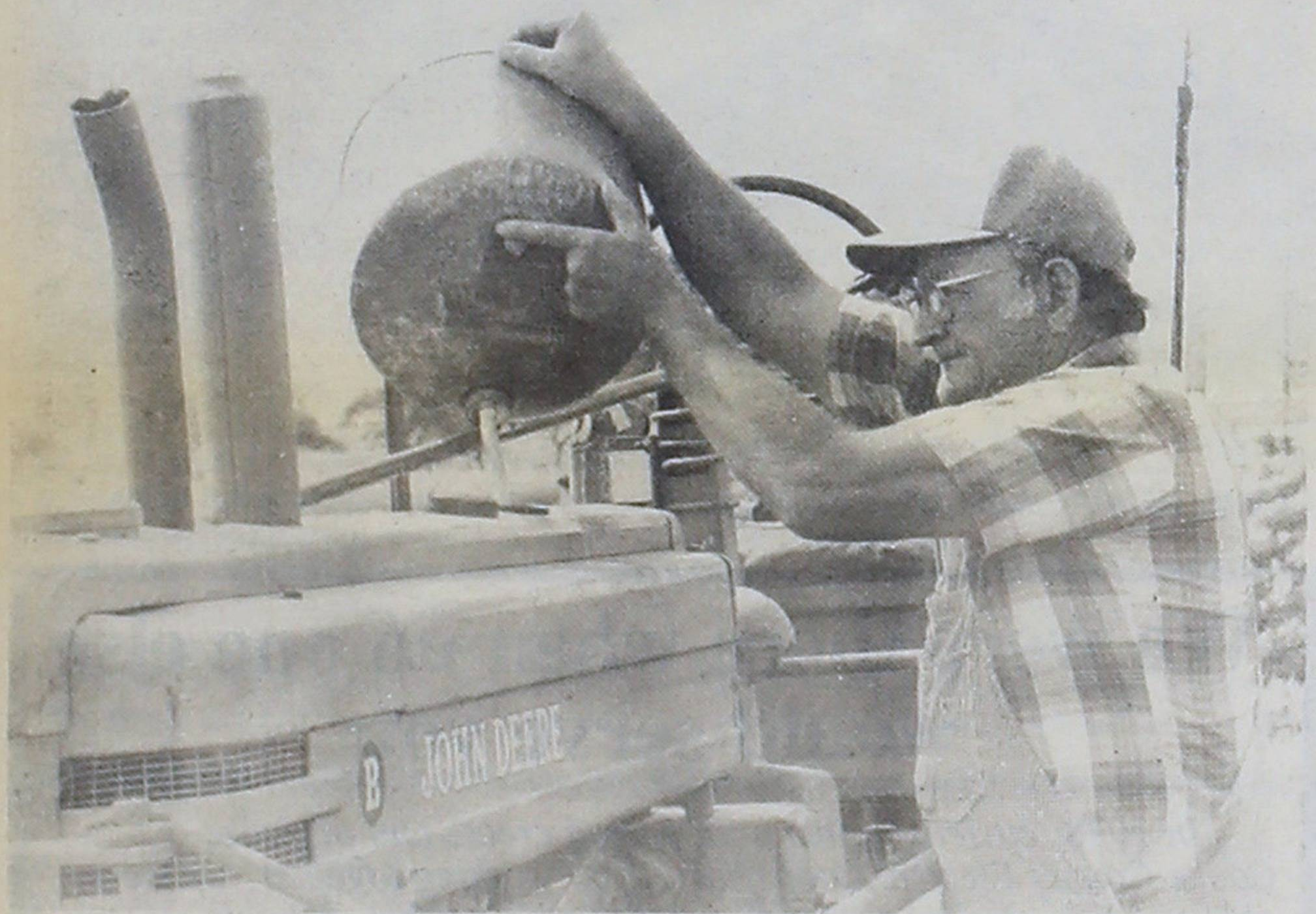
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HERBERT SCHMIDLKOFER of Lindsay cultivates his crops with a 1949 John Deere B tractor. Schmidlkofer has used this tractor, his first, for over 30 years. It is now mostly used for cultivating, with a front-mount cultivator, because "I can see what's going on." A 1957 Case 6001, 13' header combine, is also used on the farm yearly, harvesting 60-100 acres of grain. "It's kept under the roof when not in use and still has the original paint," Schmidlkofer added. Below, just enough gas is put in the tractor tank to finish the job. *Janie Hartman Photo*



DENNIS HOFBAUER, left, assists Ross Felderhoff with working A & R Farms calves. Hofbauer is injecting growth implants. The calves were also branded and given Blackleg vaccinations. *Janie Hartman Photo*



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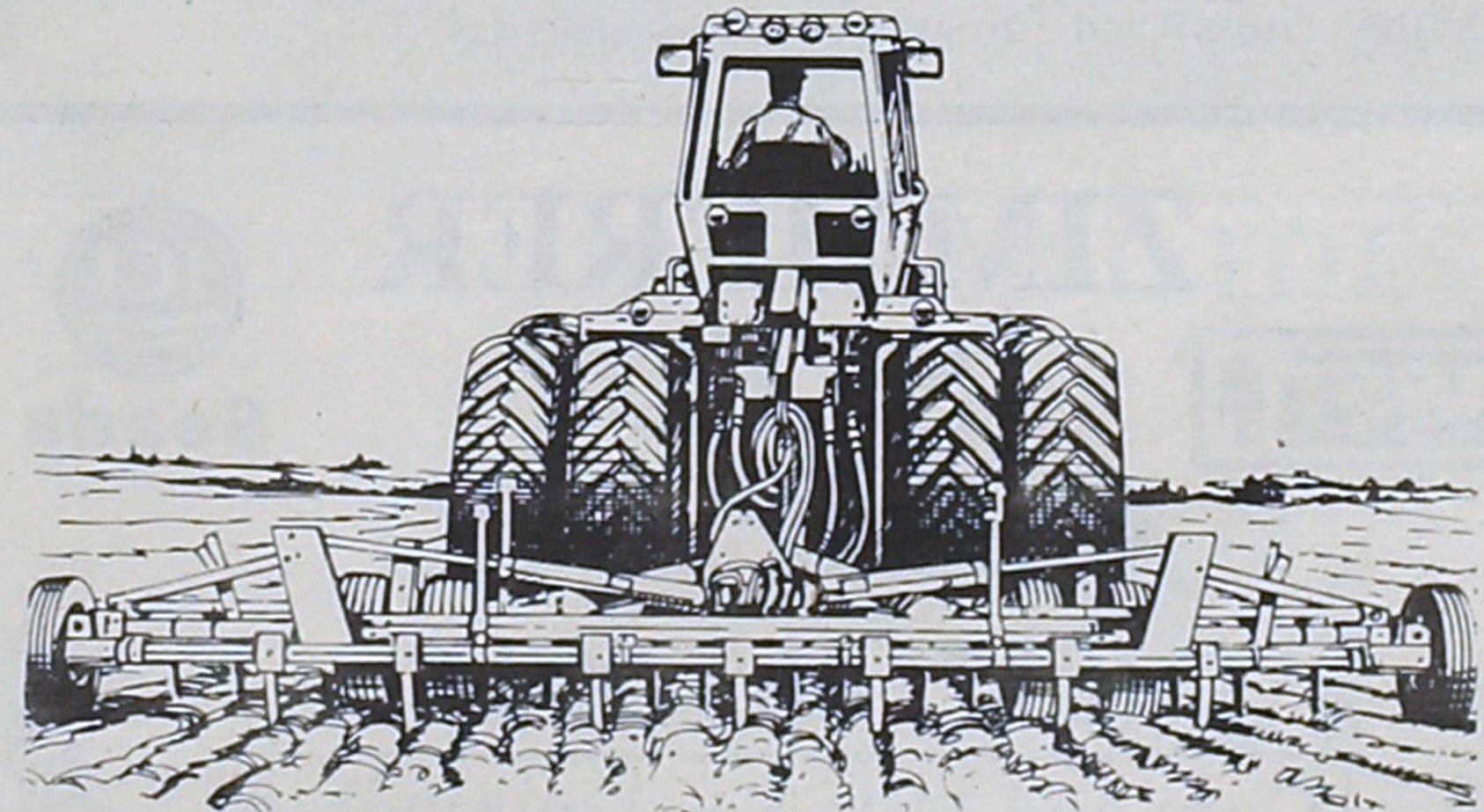
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Corn makes a comeback after a 20-year absence in county

by Janet Felderhoff

Row after row of tall leafy green stalks waving in the hot summer breeze was once a common sight around Cooke County. Then in the early 1970's after several years of bad luck with corn crops, farmers gave up on it.

Last year Chris Hundt and Rudy Zimmerer were looking for something else to plant besides wheat because there isn't much money to be made with wheat crops. They decided to give corn another try. Corn would also be a good crop to rotate with wheat.

The only extra piece of equipment that Hundt had to purchase to harvest the corn was a corn header. He already had a planter and cultivator for milo.

"In a good year you can make quite a bit more money from corn than wheat," explained Hundt. "We've had two good years so I don't know what it will do in a bad year."

In late July corn was selling for \$2.65 a bushel. Hundt expects the price to drop as crops are harvested. With Texas harvesting before the crops up North Hundt expects the price drop won't effect area farmers as much as those to the north.

Hundt, Zimmerer and several other Cooke County farmers are participating in test plots in an effort to determine which corn varieties do best in this area's conditions. There are 19 varieties being tested. They hope to find about five good ones to choose from, said Hundt.

"Craig Rosenbaum was saying that since 1978 they've changed the corn so much that it is much better - they've changed the stress and drought

tolerance," Hundt commented.

Chris is 30 years old and has been farming part time since he was 16 and full time since he was 22. He grows wheat, milo, and alfalfa. Some of the grain he raises is fed to his stocker calves. He sold about half last year's corn crop and fed the remainder.

Cooke County seems to have a good market for the corn. There are three elevators in the county and several businesses that would buy it to feed.

"Corn seems to be a good option for the producers in Cooke County," remarked Chris. "There's alot of good ground and a lot of good farm land in Cooke County that could be put into corn. It's just another option to planting wheat year after year."

This year, there were 3,000-4,000 acres of corn planted in Cooke County. Last year, there were only about 500 acres. Hundt credits Cooke County Extension Agent Craig Rosenbaum with helping with the varieties and other needed information.

Hundt is optimistic that in an average year a farmer could make 75 to 80 bushels of corn. This year he expects to make 100 to 110 bushels to the acre. "Corn is really easy to grow," Hundt said. "Wheat is really a break-even proposition. If you are grazing it you can come out ahead, but if you're using it strictly for grain I don't think you're making any money because the price is so low and the disease problems have gotten so bad the last few years."

There will be a detailed report of how corn did this year in Cooke County in Mr. Rosenbaum's Muenster Enterprise column later this fall. Harvest is just now underway.



CHRIS HUNDT shows off an ear of corn at one of his county experimental fields.

Janie Hartman Photo

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County corn plantings yielding favorable results

by Craig Rosenbaum, County Extension Agent

One of the newer crops being seen in area fields in the county is corn. For the past two years, corn variety demonstrations have been planted with yield results being very good. The spring and summer of '91 and '92 were ideal for corn production. Several factors are key elements in successful corn production for the Blacklands and Cooke County.

Planting and Rate

Corn should be planted as early as possible in the spring. A good time to shoot for would be 10 days prior to the last killing frost in the spring. Our killing frost date is around March 15, so most producers are trying to plant from the March 1 to March 10 range. The soil temperature for good germination should be around 55 degrees for three to four days prior to planting. Producers should take the temperature at a 2-inch depth at 7 a.m. each morning before planting. A minimum soil temperature of 50 degrees is recommended. One thing to consider is the importance of this early planting date. Using these early dates, producers take advantage of climatic and moisture conditions to grow and develop the corn plants. Should weather conditions inhibit early planting, producers should consider not planting corn and go to a crop like grain sorghum.

One of the problems experienced in North Texas is Aflatoxin. With this danger, producers should look for crop stress prevention.

Both early planting and seeding rate are methods of preventing this problem. Producers should shoot for 18 to 20 thousand plants per acre. When planting, plant approximately 5 to 10 percent more seed to allow for germination and seedling loss.

Many varieties are available from the reputable seed companies and dealers that work the Cooke County area. In

North Texas, it is recommended that we strive for a variety in the medium maturity range of 115 to 118 day corn.

Fertility

Nitrogen is one of the key elements in corn production. We like to see nitrogen applied one to two weeks before planting when using anhydrous ammonia. Anhydrous ammonia can kill germination of seed if applied too close to planting. In wet years, we can have loss of anhydrous when applied too long before planting. A good rule of thumb is to apply one pound of actual nitrogen per bushel yield expectation.

Phosphorus is also needed in seedling development. However, high phosphorus levels can cause problems with zinc absorption by the plant and, zinc is an important nutrient in early corn growth. With this in mind, it is a good idea to take your fall soil samples to determine nutrient needs for corn. Samples should be taken in the 2- to 8-inch zone of the soil.

In most instances in the Blacklands of Cooke County, **potassium** is not a critical element. Potassium can be lost in soils where a crop was used for hay or silage. Potassium is removed and deposited in plant tissue and therefore, soil samples are certainly needed when following hay or silage crops.

Zinc is one of the newer elements that we are using in corn production in the county. With high phosphorus levels in the soil and low zinc levels, the zinc is tied up and we see zinc deficiency. This deficiency is usually noticed by a white whirl or white striping along the leaf veins. Zinc is a key element and can be applied to corn either granularly or with foliar treatments.

Weed Control

We are fortunate in corn production to have a lot of chemicals available for both weed and grass control. Several products are even available for the

control of rhizome Johnsongrass in corn. One benefit of early planting of corn is shading to prevent much of the weed and grass competition. A list of herbicides is available from the County Extension agent or your local seed dealer.

Corn offers an alternative to conventional cropping systems in Cooke County. Before planting, producers need to be aware of various cultural differences associated with corn and of the Aflatoxin problem that can be found in harvested grain. With the excellent '91 and '92 moisture, corn has produced very well. However, dry years are going to make a significant difference in the yield and Aflatoxin problem. All of these decisions should be weighed in crop planting.

CORN CROP STRESS PREVENTION TO REDUCE AFLATOXIN

Reducing plant stress is believed to be the most viable means of preventing Aflatoxin in feed and food corn. Typical summer weather conditions can produce heat and/or drought stresses in corn plants that predisposes them to infection

by Aflatoxin producing fungi.

Producers who have irrigation facilities should apply sufficient water on a timely basis throughout the season to prevent drought stress. Without irrigation, means other than applying supplemental water must be employed to avoid or minimize drought stress in the corn crop. These means will also be beneficial to those producers who have irrigation capabilities. Such means include the following:

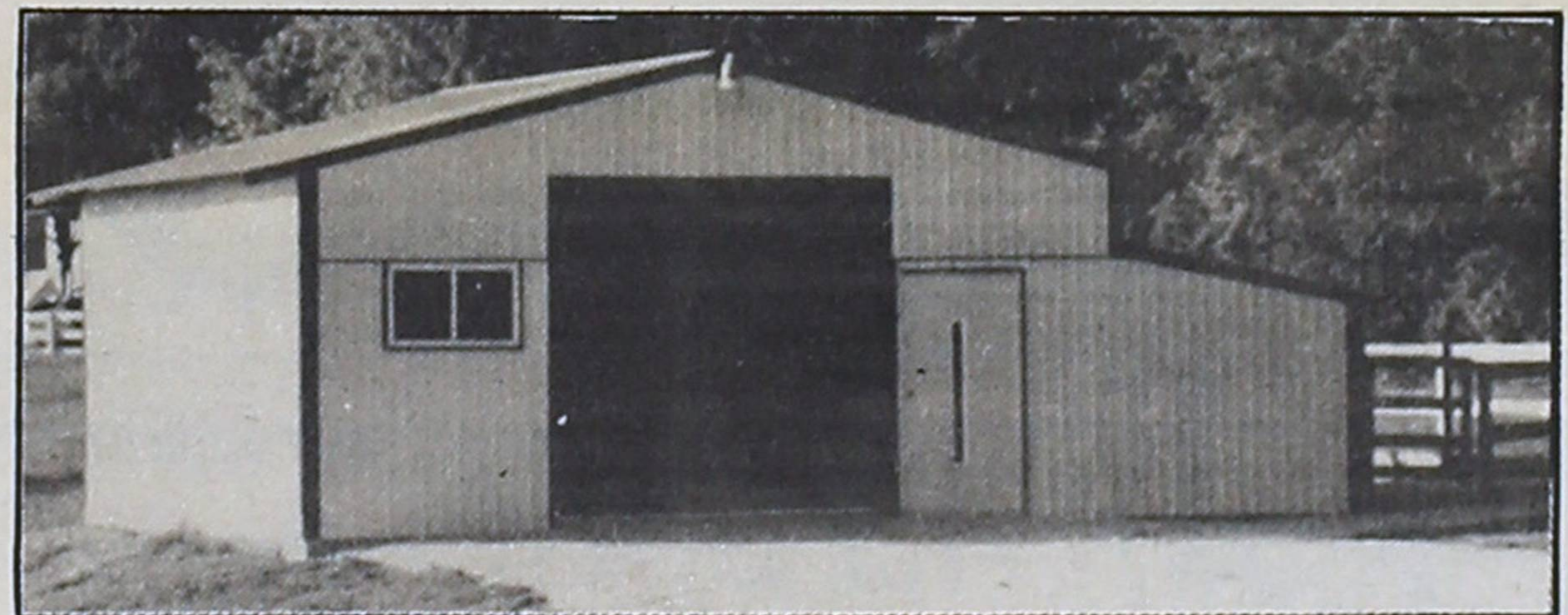
Soil moisture conservation - Prepare the seedbed as early as possible prior to planting of the corn crop, preferably immediately after the previous crop is harvested. If winter and early spring weeds need to be controlled, chemical control methods should be considered. Avoid unnecessary tillage operations prior to and during the crop season.

Hybrid selection - Choose a corn hybrid that is most adapted to high temperatures and moisture stress. Consider those hybrids with the best disease and insect resistance.

Planting early - Corn should be planted as early as the soil temperature

Please see CORN, Page 16

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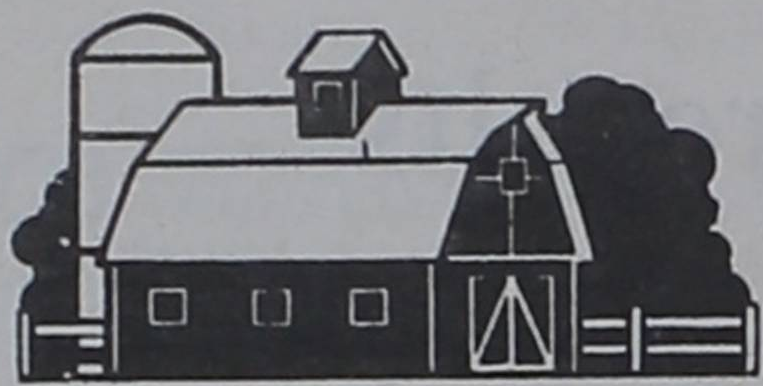
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My Views from the Farm

by Ed Cler

I can well remember one of the steam-powered threshing rigs owned by Joe Walterscheid, who later owned the 40-80 Avery gas tractor that my dad once owned. The Fette Brothers had a big "Reeves" tractor, Bob Yosten owned a Rumley "Oil Pull" tractor and thresher, the Becker Brothers, an Aultman Taylor. Other familiar names are "Case" and "Minneapolis." Some of the brands mentioned above first came out as steamers, and later switched to internal combustion engines.

In the '20s, the factories began

power takeoff shafts and power lifts, could operate most any machine farmers had a use for.

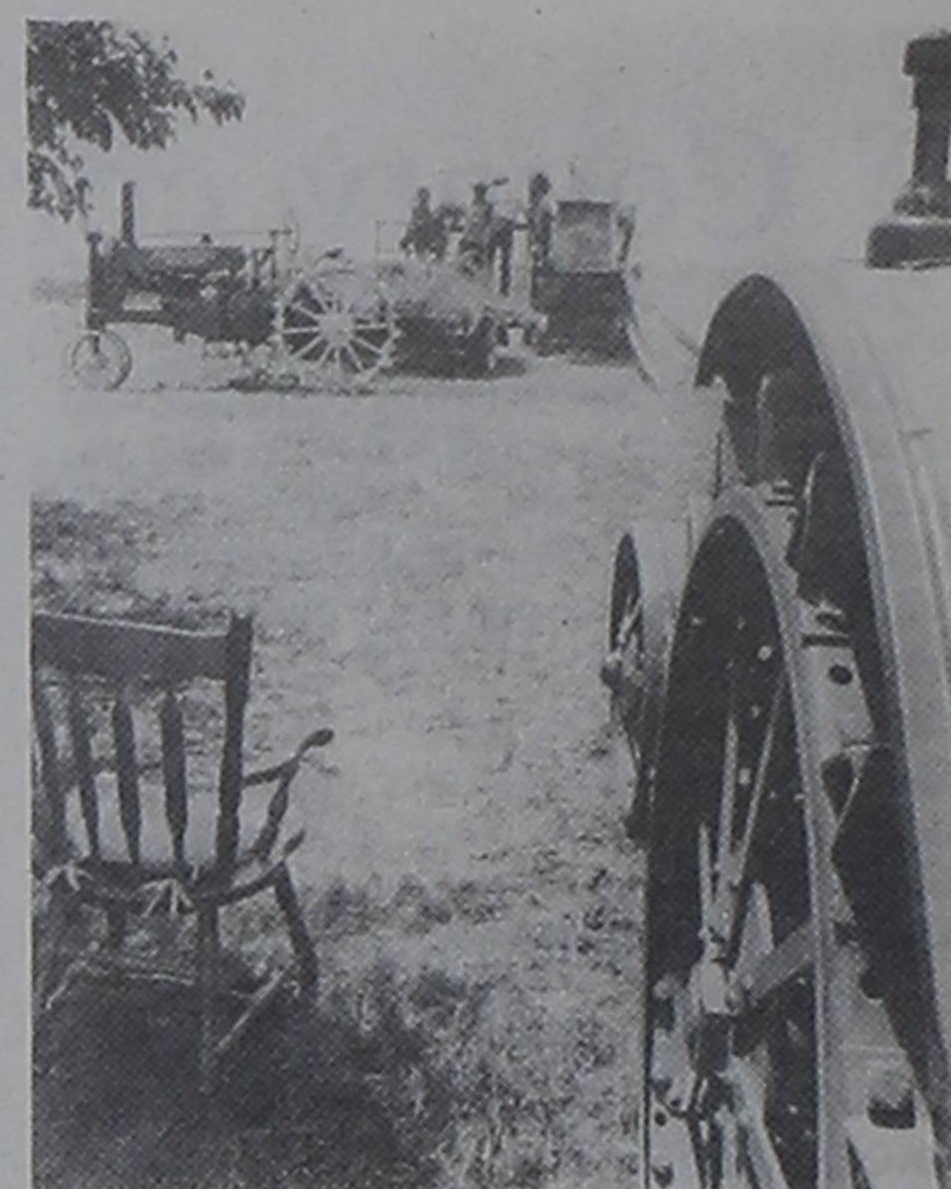
Most people today are so used to seeing and using farm tractors that they pretty well take them for granted. Many don't remember not having at least one or two, but it wasn't always so. Tractors were first used in the late 1800s, on the big wheat farms of the northwest United States. They were called "traction engines," commonly referred to as "steamers" or "steam engines." They were first used to power the threshers that separated grain from the straw, and as larger plows were built, their

tremendous power was put to use to break the land.

One of these behemoths could pull as many as twelve 14" bottom plows at once. Soon, the steamers were replaced by newer tractors powered by internal combustion engines, but these, too, were like the steamer - too big and cumbersome for general farming, so their use was pretty well restricted to plowing and threshing. There were many different brands, and there were a surprising number of them in the Muenster area. Chas. Cler owned a 40-80 Avery tractor and a thresher. The tractor was also used to pull two 6-disc Saunders plows.

By this time, rubber tires were coming into general use on tractors as well as on most equipment used on the farm, making it easy to move from one farm to another, even on paved roads.

After WWII, some of the returning GIs went into farming, but many found work in the oil fields, started their own production companies, or started other small businesses. All this left fewer and fewer young men to work on the farms. Soon, some families formed partnerships, incorporated and farmed more and more land, leasing much of it. With fewer people to do the work, bigger and faster equipment was needed.

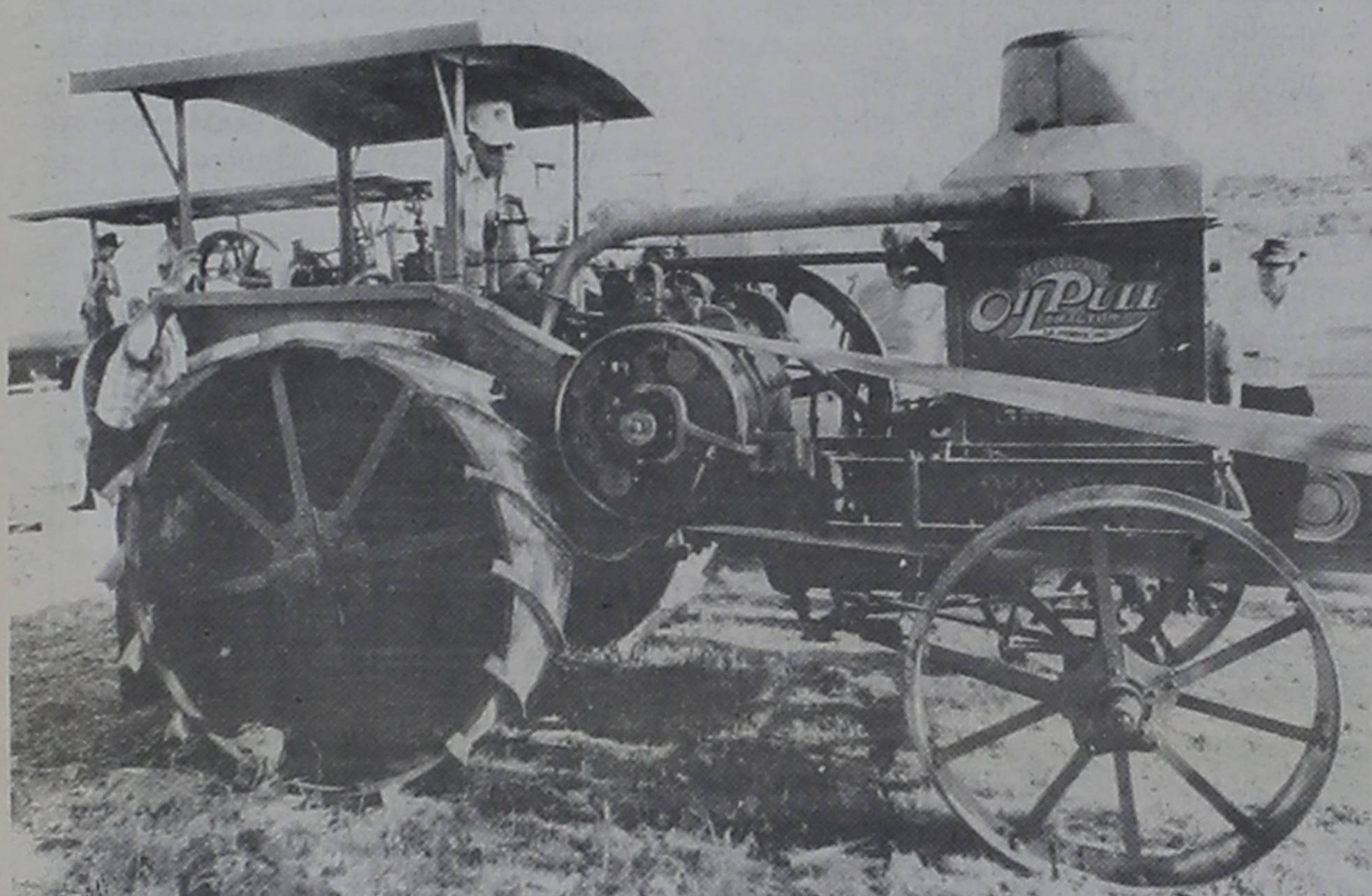


STEAM TRACTORS ran threshing machines in the area before combines were introduced. Janie Hartman Photo

It is not uncommon to see a 4 WD tractor pulling offset discs that cover 15' or more and field cultivators 26' and over.

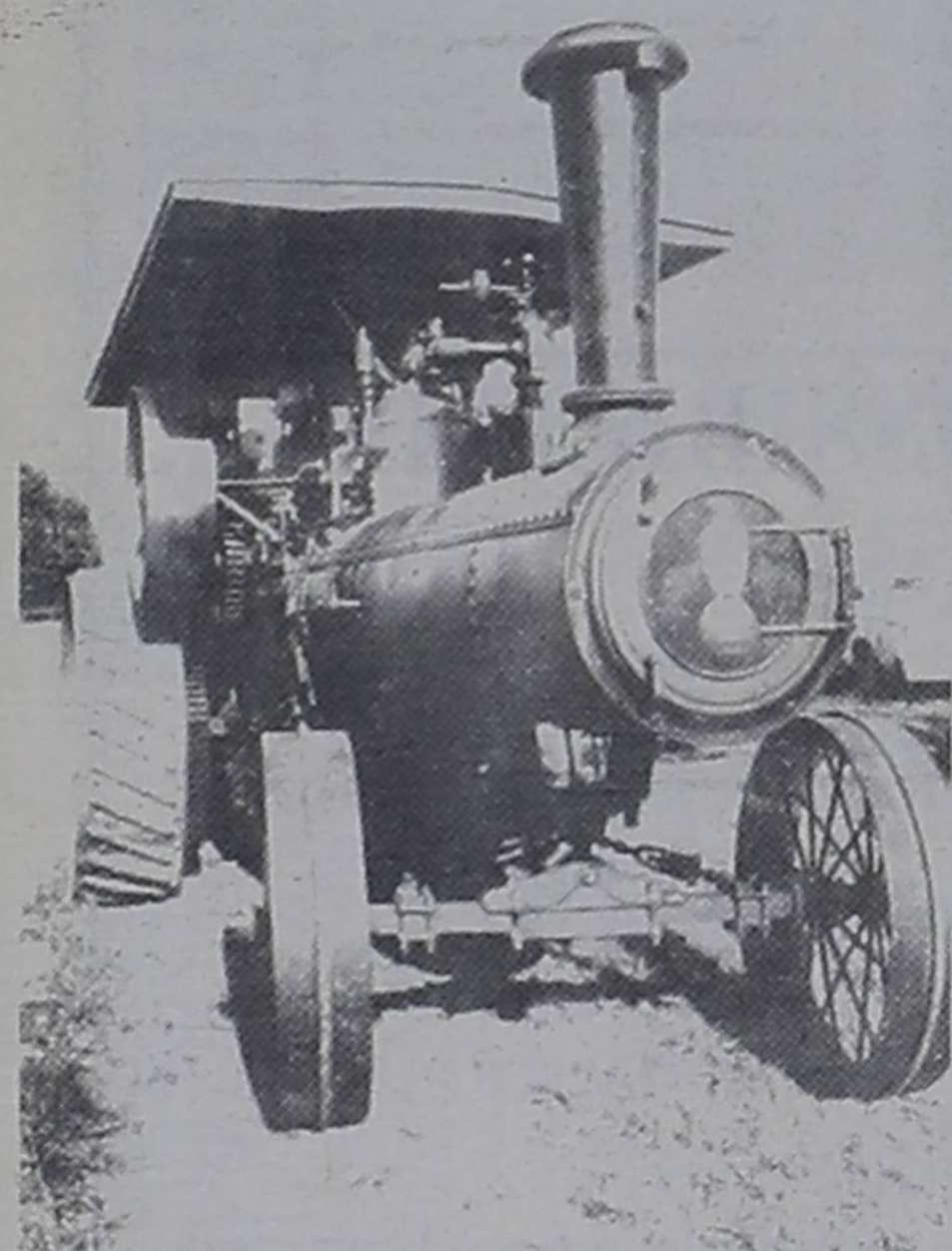
These new tractors are equipped with multiple hydraulic controls so that equipment can be raised and lowered, and adjustments can be made, from the tractor seat. At the same time, the operator can sit in air-conditioned comfort in his cab and, if he likes, turn on the radio.

By the time a farmer has just the most essential equipment to operate a number of farms, he has a tremendous investment.



ABOVE, a oil pull tractor and, at left, a Case steamer tractor.

Janie Hartman Photo



building tractors that were much smaller, lighter and were equipped with enclosed transmissions so the gears ran in oil. They also had several different speeds and could be moved much faster. More and more farmers began buying them to replace their horses and mules.

In the late '20s, tractors were available for most any purpose. They were used for gardening, row crops and general farming. By the late '40s, most farmers, little and big, had disposed of most of their draft animals in favor of the convenience of tractors, which by then were equipped with electric starters, lights, and, with the addition of

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Custom-made brands create new job for retired oil man

by Janet Felderhoff

John Skelton of Russellville, Arkansas has traveled through nine states including Texas, California, Arkansas, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri in pursuit of customers for his new business. For the past two years Skelton has pulled a trailer stocked with all of the equipment needed to design custom-made electric branding irons. He stops at sale barns on the days that they are conducting sales to make the most contacts.

Skelton is retired from a successful job in Odessa, Texas, where he ran a large oil field manufacturing plant. He happened on the business he now owns quite by chance when a friend asked Skelton to fashion a branding element for him. "There is no school to go to to learn how to do this," John said. He had the instrument that he uses to hold elements while they are being shaped into a brand made at a machine shop.

The traveling craftsman noted that he had a factory in Arkansas where people could order their custom brands. He prefers to go out and look for business rather than waiting for it to come to him. "All of my competitors get their deals by getting the vet or their feed store to sell it for them," noted John.



JOHN SKELTON fashions an electric branding iron for Jimmy Jack Biffle Ranch.

Janet Felderhoff Photo

"Then, they wait for the phone to ring or the mail to come in. I tried that, but it moved too slow for me. I had to get out and do something about it."

John is on the road for about two months at a time before returning to his plant in Arkansas. His wife answers the phone and runs the Arkansas office. There are six employees who build brands that are ordered by mail or phone. The Skeltons' son and grandson also work in the business.

"Ranchers and farmers are the best people left in this world," declared Skelton. "I don't care what anybody says. I'd stand flat footed in a courthouse square and say that. I've been at it over two years and I've never gotten a hot check. Name any business downtown that can make that claim."

Electric branding irons are much faster and more efficient than the old style iron that is heated in an open fire. "They are usually too hot or too cold" remarked Skelton. "An electric

branding iron heats to the proper temperature in 90 seconds and maintains constant heat for producing a good brand."

Research indicates that the practice of branding is known to have been used at least 2,000 years before Christ. Ancient brands have been found in Egyptian tombs as have illustrations of the actual branding procedure. Romans, Greeks, and Chinese also practiced branding in ancient times. The first branding of cattle in America was done by Hernando Cortes. After he conquered Mexico, he settled down and became a rancher.

Since the purpose of a brand is not only to mark an animal, but to mark it so that the brand can't be easily changed by rustlers. An ideal brand is designed simply, but in a way that cannot be easily altered. The more complex a brand, the harder it is to recognize.

Texas has 230,000 brands registered. Many indicate the name of the ranch while other people opt to use their initials in creative ways. Numbers and symbols are also sometimes chosen.

It takes Skelton about 45 minutes to build an iron with one letter and around an hour to complete one with two letters. "It's not really something that

Continued on next page...

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you can rush very much," remarked Skelton. "You're building something that's going to last eight to ten years so you can't just fly through it."

There are nine different lengths of elements from which to select. Skelton remembered that it took many months to learn how to count length that he needs for each brand. A brand is first drawn on a graph sheet so that it will be formed to the proper length and size.

Some brands are impossible to make because they are too close together, too much of a maize, and they will burn out. "You've got to be an inch away from everything," said John. "In California and Arizona they have stopped letting them make hearts or anything but just simple letters - no writing or anything. It is changing. There are so many brands out there."

Pulleys are used to form the stainless steel element into the desired size and shape. Inside is a coiled wire that is a resistor that sets the amount of temperature that it will work at. A combination of tools is used by the branding iron craftsman. They include the elements, pliers, tape measure, wire and a welding machine. When Skelton completes his work the buyer will have a new branding iron complete with his own brand, electric cord and everything needed.



BILL HAMER, left, observes John Skelton on his visit to Muenster Livestock Auction on Thursday, July 23.
Janet Felderhoff Photo

It will be about six months before Skeleton passes through this part of Texas again. He planned to make stops at Gainesville and Bowie before moving to another area.

Reading brands can be a challenge if you don't know the rules. Brands are read from top to bottom and from left to right. If a letter or number is placed in the horizontal position it is called lazy. If it is in an oblique position it is called tumbling. Little wings added make it flying. With a rocker placed beneath it is called rocking, and if suspended it is called swinging.

A long horizontal line is called a rail. Two horizontal lines are called two rails, while three horizontal lines are known as stripes. A short horizontal line is called a bar. A diagonal line / or \ is known as a slash. A large O is known as a circle, but a wide O is known as a mashed O or a goose egg. A square or a rectangle is called a box.



GARY KNABE unloads haylage into the Knabe dairy's 80-foot harvester.

Janie Hartman Photo

CORN Continued from Page 13 reaches 50 degrees at 2-inch depth at 7 a.m. and late freeze risks are low. A good guide for beginning corn planting is based upon the last average freeze date for the local area. Subtract 9 to 13 days off the last average freeze date for the beginning of planting.

Seeding rate - When soil moisture at planting time is in short supply, use 2,000 to 4,000 less seeds per acre than would otherwise be used.

Fertilization - Nitrogen fertilizer rates should be based on realistic yield goals. Follow soil test recommendations for applications of phosphorus,

potassium and the micronutrients. Avoid a buildup of one or two nutrients thus producing an imbalance of nutrients in the soil (for example, phosphorus buildup can result in a zinc deficiency). All fertilizer materials should be applied prior to planting or before the crop is 30 days old.

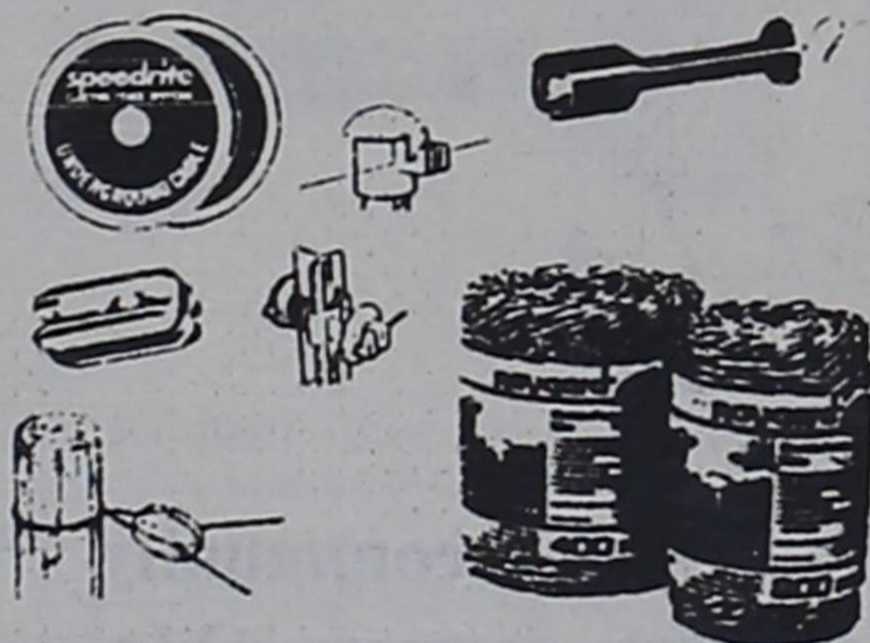
Harvest early - Harvest corn as soon as possible after the grain has reached physiological maturity (especially when the crop has been subjected to stress during the growing season). Use artificial drying to remove moisture in excess of 13 percent as quickly as possible after harvest.



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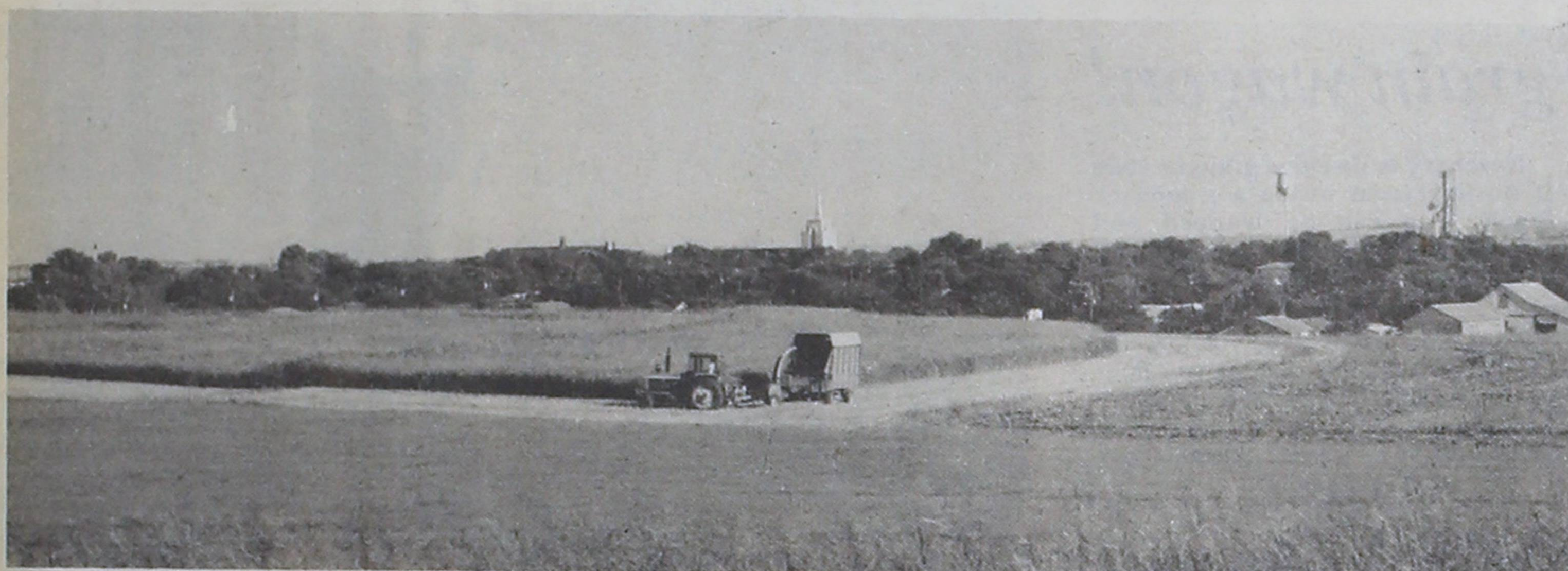
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A FARMER'S PRAYER

As farmers and ranchers, Dear God, please give us the wisdom and patience to understand why a pound of T-bone steak at \$7.50 is considered high but a 3-ounce cocktail at \$1.75 is not. And nobody complains about paying \$1 for a soft drink at the ballpark but a 15-cent glass of milk for breakfast is inflationary. And, Lord, help me to understand why \$5 for a ticket to a movie is a bargain, but \$3.35 for a 60-pound bushel of wheat is unthinkable. Cotton is too high at 60 cents a pound, but a \$20 cotton shirt is on sale for \$18.50. And corn is too steep at 2 cents worth in a box of flakes, but folks don't bat an eye when they're charged 50 cents for a bowl of cornflakes in a restaurant.

And also, Lord, help me to comprehend why I have to give an easement to the gas company so they can cross my property with their gas lines and then double my price for their gas. And, dear God, please help me to understand the consumer who drives by my field and scoffs at me for spending \$7,000 on a piece of equipment that he built, so he could make money and drive down that right-of-way they took from me to construct a road so he could go hunting and skiing. Thank you, God, for your past guidance and help. And now will you please help me to make sense out of it all?

(Reprinted from the Arkansas State Plant Board News.)

BECKER DAIRY cuts a load of green chops to feed their cows.
Janet Felderhoff Photo

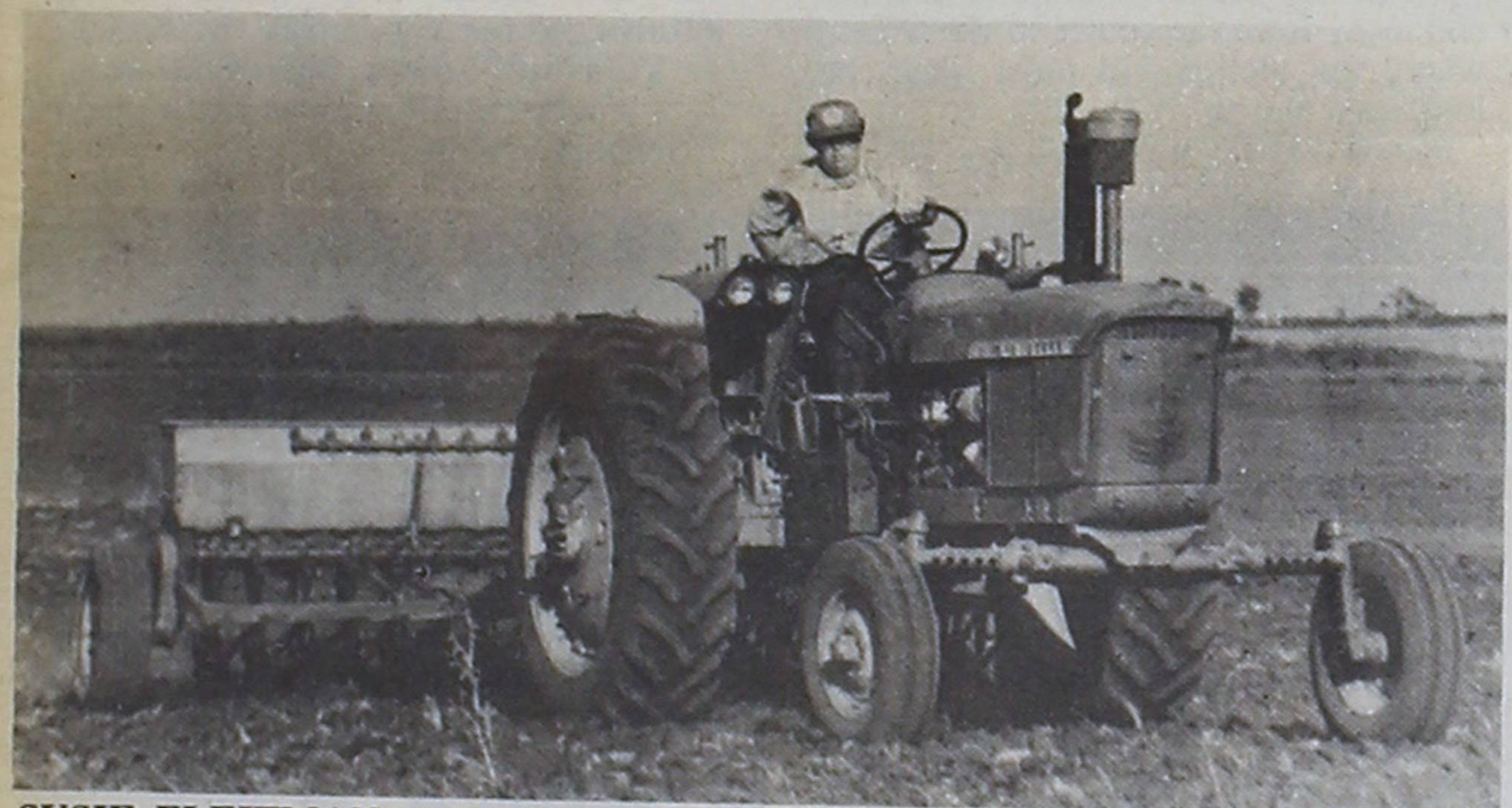


A CATTLE EGRET makes this calf's snooze more restful as he eats the bothersome bugs.



JULIUS SANDMANN works his land west of Lindsay.

Janie Hartman Photo



SUSIE FLEITMAN puts in a second crop.

Janie Hartman Photo



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Don't drown in grain wagon!

Harvest is an exciting time!

Each year farmers harvest and transport millions of bushels of grain. Increased activity around the farmstead attracts younger family members anxious to help. But harvest time can be dangerous, too. Many people don't know - or ignore - the danger of death from suffocation by flowing grain.

You don't immediately think of flowing grain as dangerous. You usually think of unloading grain from a wagon or a bin as just a routine chore. But, just because you've done this job safely in the past, doesn't mean that nothing can happen to you!

Flowing grain is a hidden killer.

Like quicksand, it grabs and pulls at body surfaces. A cone forms on the surface of the grain that is being unloaded. It only takes two to three seconds before you can be trapped up to your knees in such a cone. Once you are trapped in grain up to your knees, no amount of struggling will free you unless you can get help from another person or hold onto something, like the sides of the wagon.

A person can be trapped in a cone of grain up to their knees in only two to three seconds. Once you are trapped in grain up to your knees, no amount of struggling will free you without assistance from another person. Smaller bodies can be trapped even more quickly. You can be totally submerged in less than 10 seconds.

Never get onto grain when it is flowing!

Accidents often occur inside bins as grain is unloaded. Grain flow should never be started without making sure that the area is clear of people.

The same kind of accident that can suffocate a person inside a grain bin can also happen with grain flowing from a transport vehicle.

Never try to dislodge grain or start it flowing from inside a wagon or truck. You can be trapped and submerged in only a few seconds.

If you are ever trapped in flowing grain...

- Cup your hands over your mouth and take short breaths. This can help you to survive longer before you are rescued.

If you have to rescue someone from flowing grain...

- Remove the grain from around the victim as soon as possible.

- Send someone to contact the local emergency rescue squad or emergency medical service (EMS).

If you are alone, you will have to make some quick decisions.

Assess the situation carefully!

If the victim is partially above the grain surface and able to breathe (or you can reach or feel the head)

- Grain should be carefully removed from around the victim through the top of the wagon.

- Shoring or grain dams are usually needed to stop grain from flowing back around the victim.

- Sheets of plywood or metal, or perhaps a 55-gallon drum, can be used as dams.

- As grain is removed, continue to force the dams into the grain.

If the victim is completely submerged...

- Rescuers must decide on the best way to quickly remove grain from around the victim.

- Open the grain door completely to unload the grain as fast as possible. Pull the wagon ahead slowly so the grain continues to flow.

- Bottom-unloading from a gravity-flow vehicle runs the risk of the victim's body blocking the opening. The victim



ARNOLD and TED FUHRMANN tie down a tarp on a grain truck.

Janie Hartman Photo

will almost certainly be pulled deeper under the surface.

- Try to tip the wagon on its side so that it comes to rest on the side away from the victim. This poses a certain risk to the victim, but may be justified because time is valuable when a person is suffocating.

- Remove grain from a gravity wagon by cutting a half-circle of U-shaped cuts approximately 30 inches long in the bottom lower left and right sides of the wagon. This will allow grain to flow out and away from the center of the wagon where the victim will most likely be located.

- Remove the grain bin by cutting

large holes in the bin sidewall about five to eight evenly-spaced locations around the bin. The cuts can be made with an abrasive rescue saw, air chisel, or cutting torch. There is little chance of starting a fire because the cut is made below grain level. Any fire that develops will be slow-burning and easily extinguished.

Always assume that survival is possible.

People have been successfully rescued from bins after being submerged for as much as two hours.

Your best defense is prevention.

Never climb on or inside a grain transport vehicle.

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Fire ants: a growing problem for agriculture

by Janie Hartman

Over the years, agriculture has always been hindered by nature's pests, the newest to the area is the red imported fire ant. Mounds continue to pop up all over the county, with some pastures containing 100 mounds and too many ants to even attempt to count.

These insects reached the eastern parts of Texas in the 1950s, annoying farmers and most everyone with their intense sting. But no one imagined that 40 years later more than half of the state's counties would be infested and the problems the ants are causing are becoming more complex.

PROBLEMS

According to Dr. Brad Vinson, an entomologist at Texas A&M University, there are three principal areas of concern at the present. First, the ant is having an effect on both the domesticated and wild animals. There are reports of the insects attacking newly-born calves and chickens. Secondary, the effect to the plant community, both domesticated crops and the larger native plants. The third problem is the damage to electrical equipment, including fence chargers. For some reason, the ants seem attracted to electricity.

East Texas cattlemen have reported numerous ant attacks on newborn calves. The ants sting the newborn's eyes, causing temporary blindness; also, the soft tissues around the nostrils, udder and genitals. There have also been problems in animal feedlots, barns and at feeding stations in pastures.

In other agriculture fields, the fire ants have invaded beehives, blemished poultry meat, attacked chickens and forged on broken eggs. The ants have also been charged with destroying sorghum, cucumbers, sunflower, watermelon, peas, beans, corn and okra crops.

The pesty insects are also having a marked effect on birds. Not only those that build their nests on the ground, such as the quail, but also nests in trees. Ants are commonly found up in larger trees. A few ground-nesting birds have not been affected because they nest in the very early spring. The ants are not as active when the soil temperatures are still cool. That fact has helped cattlemen's young calves escape ant attacks, by scheduling their breeding program during the colder weather when ants are less active. Another hint, this one to hay producers, is to shallow disk or drag the hay pasture before baling to temporarily flatten tall mounds. Also, hay bales should be removed from the field soon after harvest to prevent an ant invasion.

Of little concern to many is the ants' impact on the field mice population. But, mice and other small animals are important parts of the food chain for larger predators, a change that could cause unknown effects on the rest of the wild animal community.

As a small consolation, the ants are considered beneficial insects in the cotton and sugar cane fields. They help control damaging bugs. They also feed on pecan weevils and hickory shuckworms, but are also feeding on kernels, particularly when the shells have been cracked.

A big problem with these pests is their stinging and biting behavior. They can sting repeatedly and will defensively attack any thing that disturbs their mounds. Symptoms of a fire ant sting includes burning and itching. Venom injected by the insect may cause white pustules to form in a day or two after their attack. These may leave permanent scars. Multiple stings may lead to infections and some people are hypersensitive to the bites and could suffer chest pains, nausea, or lapse into a coma. Few deaths from fire ant stings have been documented.

Entomologists now believe that attempts to eradicate the ant in the 1960-70s through the use of chemicals probably aided, rather than slowed down, the spread because the chemicals destroyed native ants instead. The native ants compete with the red imports and prey on newly-mated queens.

In spite of the fact that more than 200 products are now registered for ant and fire ant control, experts have all but given up on any hope of eradicating the pest. Though the products available for ant control have increased in the past years, the ants have also made their own progress, mainly through the



ONE of the thousands of fire ant mounds around Cooke County. Janie Hartman Photo

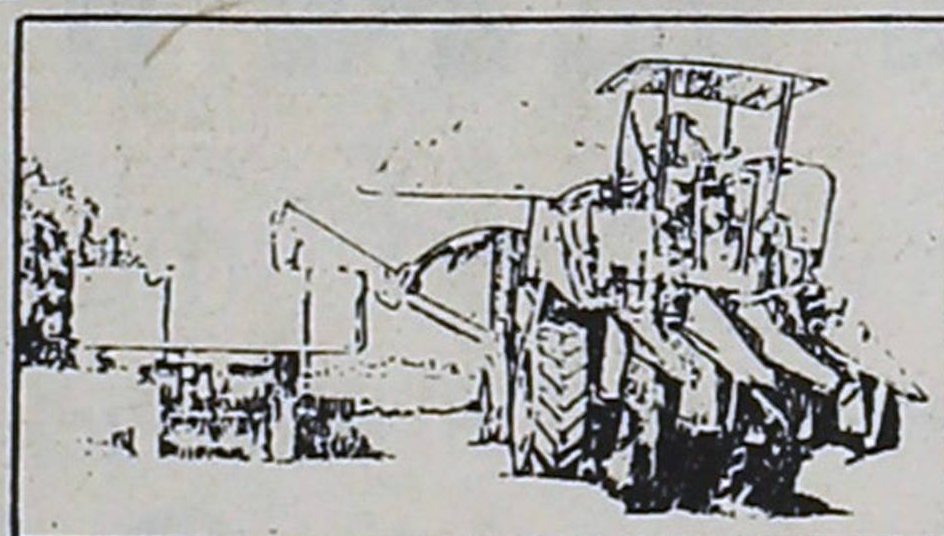
development of multiple queens. It was earlier believed that each mound contained only one mated queen and that the ants were territorial, competing with other colonies nearby. But, multiple colonies were found containing more than one egg-laying queen; this allows worker ants to move freely from mound to mound, increasing the number of mounds per acre.

Chemical applications can be aimed at the fire ants and/or at the entire colony. Techniques include surface application, using sprays or dusts; individual mound treatment, using drenches, granular products, dusts,

liquid fumigants, aerosols or baits; and broadcast application of insecticide liquids, granules or baits. For a complete list and information on chemical control, contact your local Extension Service.

Where does it go from here? No one knows. Dr. Vinson said that while pesticides may offer temporary control in small areas, they offer very little help to the long-term problem.

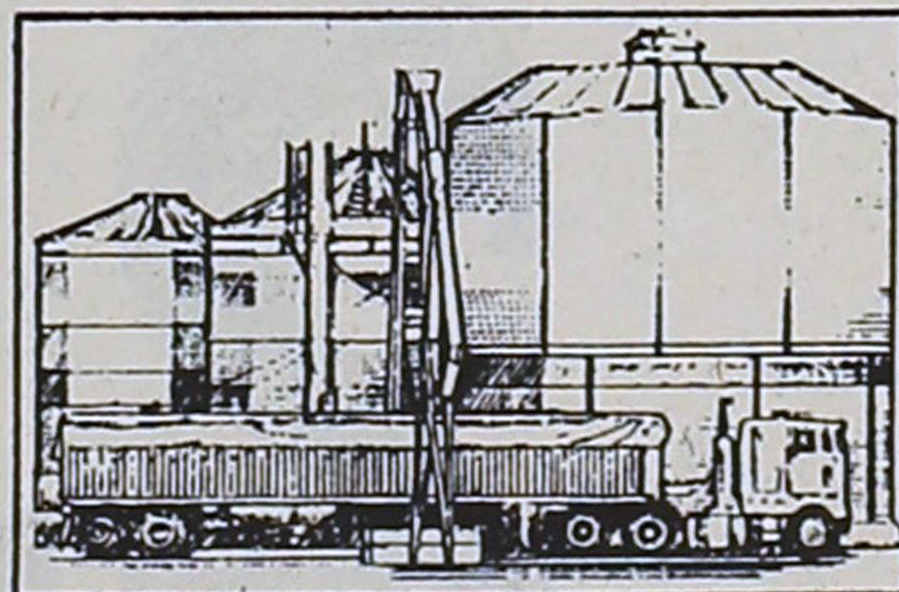
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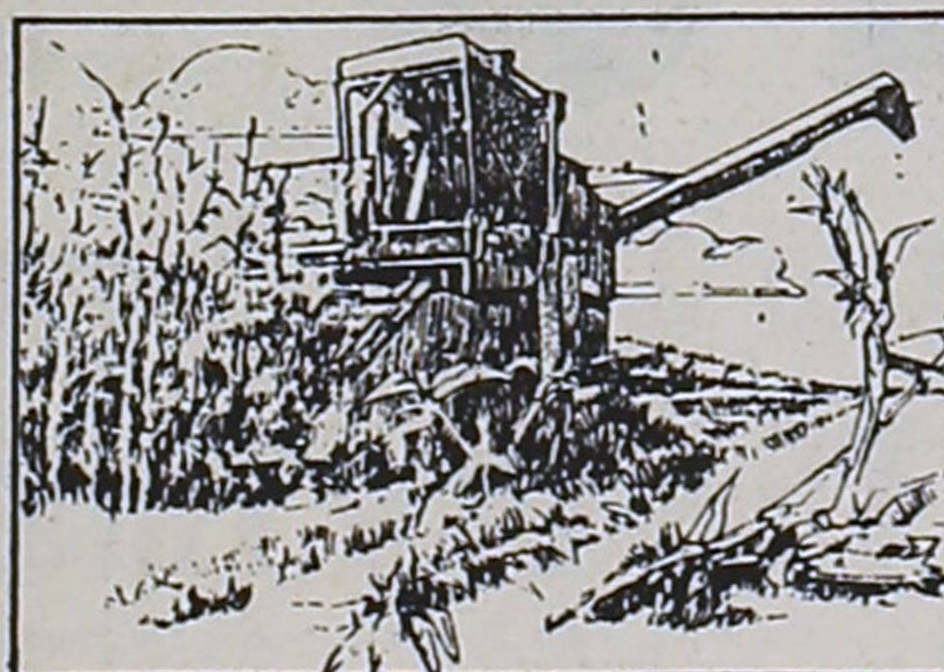
Successful farmers and ranchers know accidents and work-related illnesses cost time, money and sometimes life, and that there's no substitute for making safety and health a top management goal!

Develop a safety and health plan tailored to your operation and those who live and work on your place. Keep informed about safety and health. Encourage children to take part in 4-H, FFA and other safety and health projects.

Train your help: then see that they work safely. Take needed precautions before starting a job. Have the right tools. Check out equipment. Be prepared for medical, accident, fire and weather emergencies.



A farmer or rancher must keep informed about safety and health and how to prevent or at least avoid injury and illness. And, as important as anything, everyone should simply try to do things right - to work, drive, and play in ways that minimize the risk of injury.



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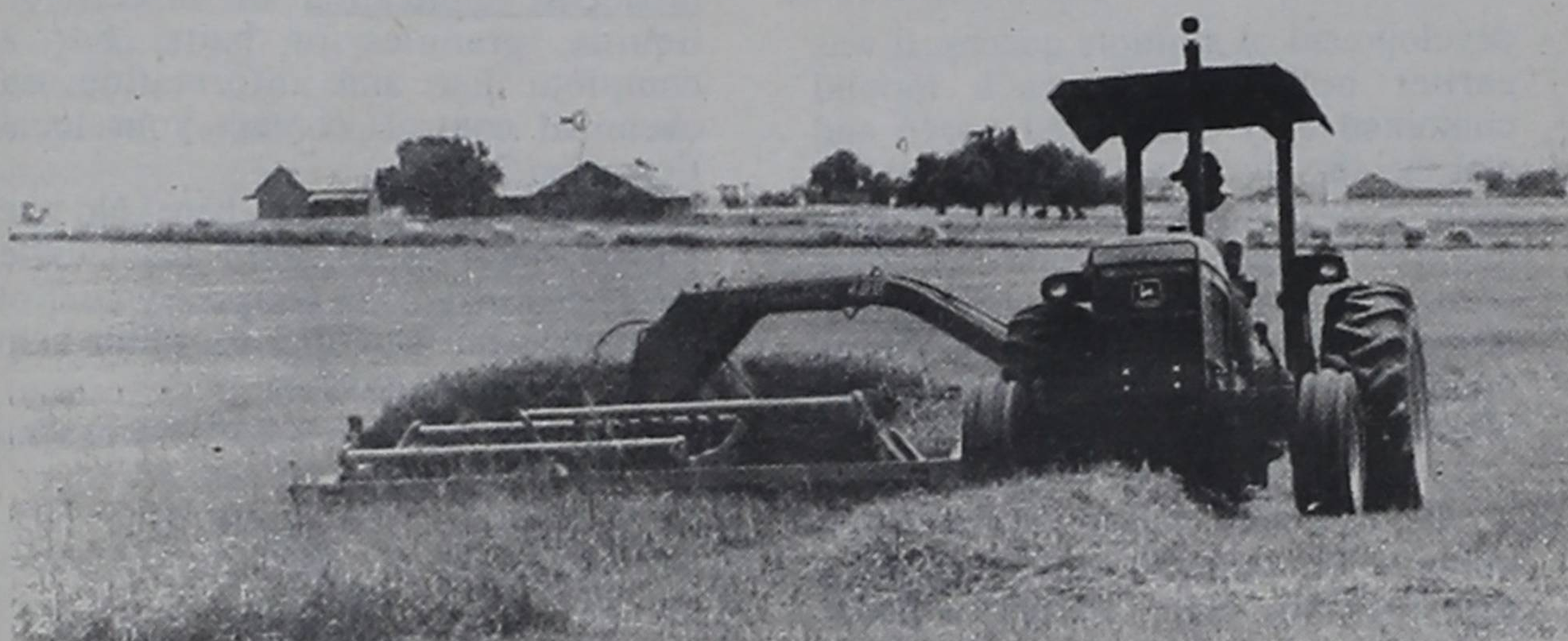
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Danger of hair entanglement in old hay baler drive shafts

Four women in New York have been scalped and/or suffered severe facial disfigurement due to their hair becoming entangled in hay balers. All four incidents involved a secondary driveline which powers bale throwers on hay balers manufactured by New Holland in the early 1970s. The bale throwers that pose this hazard are Models 54-A, 54B, 58 and 62, which were placed on a variety of New Holland hay balers. Although these models are no longer manufactured, an unknown number remain in use. It is essential that all farmers, farm family

result in amputations, other severe injuries, and death. During the 9-year period from 1980-1988, an average of 16 workers, 16-years of age or older were killed by entanglements in power take-off (PTO) or similar rotating drivelines on agricultural machinery each year, according to NIOSH. In addition, between 1982 and 1986, there were an estimated 148 work-related hospital emergency room admissions annually for nonfatal injuries involving PTOs nationwide. Entanglements involve recognized hazards and can be prevented.



members, and farm workers be alerted to the hazards of working with this and other farm machinery.

The secondary drivelines in these incidents were shielded; however, because of the inverted U-shape design, sometimes referred to as a tunnel guard, the shield did not completely enclose the secondary driveline. Furthermore, the driveline is located only 4 feet above the ground. It is difficult to see that the bottom of the shaft is not enclosed, which may give the operator an unintended false sense of security and contribute to these injuries. Bale throwers currently manufactured by Ford-New Holland (formerly New Holland) are equipped with a shield which fully encloses the driveline.

In all four cases, the victims did not shut down the machine before dismounting their tractors. Shutting down the machinery is a vital safety practice recommended in the operator's manual for these balers and recommended whenever adjusting any machinery. As these four cases illustrate, the presence of shields alone does not remove all possible hazards. The following injuries resulted from hair becoming entangled in the rotating secondary driveline that powered the bale thrower.

In July 1991, a 47-year-old female had her entire scalp from the back of the neck to the facial browline removed. The injuries required extensive skin grafting and left her permanently disfigured.

In July 1990, a 42-year-old female had all of her hair removed.

In July 1981, a 42-year-old female had her right ear and the right side of her scalp removed.

In July 1976, a 42-year-old suffered complete removal of her scalp and serious facial injuries, which necessitated extensive reconstructive surgery.

The scalping injuries described above represent only one form of entanglement. Entanglement may also



ABOVE, sandy soil north of Muenster near the Red River produces many bales of hay for Jimmy Jack Biffle. At left, Kevin Haralton of Nocona cuts hay in the Medders prairie hay meadow west of Muenster. The meadow has never been cultivated. Janie Hartman Photo

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