

**ONE THING
And
THEN ANOTHER**
By Fred Gipson

CORPUS CHRISTI — Every now and then a man gets to wishing for some quiet retreat, some spot where he can be alone and figure himself out of his troubles and dream his dreams and not be bothered by anything or anybody.

I'm wishing that now. I have no especial trouble, no big dream to dream. I'm just tired of people and things and wish I were off by myself.

I had a secret haunt like that when I was a kid. Nearly every kid has one. Sometimes it's in the attic. Sometimes it's in the barn. Maybe it's out in the smokehouse or woodshed. But if you'll watch the kid awhile, you can find it.

Mine wasn't near the house. I had too many sisters and brothers to have any privacy or secrecy close around. Mine was in a thicket of wild chinaberry trees in old man Sam McCollum's pasture around the point of the catclaw and mesquite ridge back of the cowpen.

There I could be completely alone. For the trail to the thicket was so overgrown with prickly pear and catclaw and thorny mesquite that nobody ever went there without some special purpose in mind.

Some diastrophic upheaval a million or so years ago had left two elongated black granite boulders lying side by side. The chinaberry thicket had grown up around them. One boulder was on top. It made a good place for a kid to lie down on.

And many a time have I crept into this thicket, my rear tingling with a recent switching, my soul weary of this world and its injustices to lie down and hug my sorrows to myself and weep them out of my system.

Or more often, there was no trouble at all. Like now, I only wanted to be by myself.

Anyhow, there in the dense dark thicket, into which the sunlight penetrated only in a few places, forming little bright yellow splashes on the leafbed underneath, which moved when the treetops swayed, I could lie, undisturbed, and dream of the things I would accomplish in that far-off future when I was a man among men and the world a simple thing to conquer.

Some skunks had their den in a hole dug out underneath one of the boulders. And one time when I fell asleep, I woke up after sundown to find one old skunk and five sharp-eyed little ones standing upon the rock and contemplating my presence. I already knew skunks, though, and kept still and they finally wandered off.

Sometimes the great horned owls roosted in the relative darkness of the chinaberry thicket, waiting for night to come when they could see once more. And there was always a nest of squirrels in the mistletoe clump that hung in the top of the tallest tree.

But these creatures belonged in the thicket and so were not disturbing to my thoughts. I never bothered them, for some reason or other I could never have explained. I looked at them and thought my thoughts. And they looked at men and thought their thoughts. And we all got along mighty fine together.

And there in that thicket, I made some promises to a little boy that will likely never be fulfilled. But there in that thicket I got rid of my troubles, and finally emerged, serene of mind, calm of spirit.

Today, I'd like to go crawl into that thicket again and lie atop that boulder and renew those promises. I'd like to be able to walk out a few hours later, my troubled mind soothed as only nature can soothe it.

**BIG ATTENDANCE IS
PLANNED FOR STATE
FAIR LIVESTOCK SHOW**

Dallas, Texas—The Texas Breeder-Feeder Association has taken over the task of assuring a widespread attendance at the biggest livestock show ever held in the South at the State Fair of Texas, Oct. 7 to 22, it has been announced here by Harry L. Seay, president of the State Fair.

The huge livestock show was cinched for the State Fair when the American Hereford Association switched from the American Royal at Kansas City to the Texas fair. The 1939 Hereford show at the State Fair of Texas will be one of the largest shows of this breed ever held in America.

Interest in other breeds and classification of livestock has shown a marked increase with the big Hereford Show. Premiums in almost all breeds have been substantially increased for this year.

The Breeder-Feeder Association of which Frank P. Holland is president will make plans immediately to insure a big attendance at the judging of the livestock, which will be highly educational. Judges will explain why one animal is better than another.

One of the plans is to issue a special ticket to the fair good only on judging days. These tickets will carry an arena program on the back. Also planned are ways and means to bring as many 4-H clubbers and Future Farmers in for the judging as possible.

Co-operating with the Texas Breeder-Feeder Association will be the Texas Press Association, the Texas Bankers Association, the Hardware and Implement Dealers Association, and others.

Mr. and Mrs. S. P. McDonald returned last Friday from Big Lake where they attended a barbecue for Shell employees. Anna Bell Maxwell of McCamey, sister of Mrs. McDonald, returned home with them for a visit.

**Large Prize List Awaits
Sheep Breeders At West Texas
Ram Sale & Sheep Show At Eden**

Eden, Texas—The largest list of cash prizes ever to be offered in the nation for yearling Rambouillet rams and ewes will be passed out by H. H. Dameron, Superintendent of the Ranch Experiment Station, Sonora, who will judge entries in the show section of the third annual West Texas Ram Sale & Sheep Show, here August 8, 9 and 10th. All judging will be completed on August 8, and the sale will be reserved for the next two days. A prize list of \$190.00 topped by a \$100 bill for the first place yearling ram, and \$92.50 for ewes, a \$50 bill being the capital prize for ewes. All show stock will be entered in the sale.

Fred W. Hall, secretary of the event states, "515 registered rams and ewes have been entered in the sale, bringing to sheepmen of West Texas the largest offering of top quality bucks and ewes of any sale of the year. The phenomenal success of the previous two sales, in which national records were set each year, have caused the leading breeders of the nation to reserve their top animals for this sale. Buyers at the sale have the assurance of being able to select from the best collection of breeding stock that will be offered anywhere in the nation."

Auction sessions will be held August 9 and 10, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. each day.

with Col. Nelson Johnson wielding the hammer. The auction ring, in the high sale barn has ample seating capacity for bidders and spectators. Recent improvements to the building and grounds add to the convenience and attractiveness. A big tent has been secured to care for the greatly in-

creased entry list, which would overtax capacity of the barn.

Provisions have been made by the Sales Committee for entertainment of visitors to the sale and accommodations are available in Eden for their care.

"To the ranchman, large or small, who is seeking to improve quality of his flock, the West Texas Ram Sale offers unequalled possibilities," Mr. Hall stated. "This year, more than ever before, this will be the place to buy the type of animals they need for this purpose," he added.

Ebba Ann Finley, small daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Finley spent a few days this week on the Finley ranch with Eddie Mae and Fae Finley.

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**West Texas Ram
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