

THE BORDEN STAR

VOLUME XXVIII

June 17, 1998

Serving the Counties of Borden, Dawson, Garza, Howard, Lynn & Scurry

"Three Sisters and a Cousin Tour '98"

Growing up, sharing a room with not one but two other sisters was not that pleasant. No privacy, dolls everywhere, and certainly no chance to have the phone line all to yourself. But, now that they are adults, these three sisters and one cousin--who is a sister of the heart--are finding out that sharing a room on vacation is much more fun than when they were kids.

Sue Jane Mayes, English and Spanish teacher at Borden Co. ISD, along with her sisters Sara Dodd of Lubbock and Sabrina Blankenship of Brownfield, and cousin Diana Beth Gore of Austin are making travel their family tradition. Every other summer this group embarks on a "no kids" journey while making odd-numbered years the summer of family reunions for all. This past week the four reunited for their "Three Sisters and a Cousin Tour '98" which took them to the Old South: Natchez, Mississippi, to be specific.

Natchez, on the eastern border of the Mississippi River and just across from Louisiana, was one town spared devastation during the Civil War. Many of the Antebellum (pre-Civil

War construction) homes remain in excellent condition and are open for touring throughout the year.

The sisters and cousin visited five such homes: Rosalie, D'Evereux, Stanton Hall, House on Ellicot Hill, and Longwood. Each had its own particular story with tour guides to take visitors back to the time of the house's construction to its role in the Civil War. Even though no fighting

took place in Natchez, the area was involved in the War Between the States and troops were stationed there.

One day the group traveled north about 65 miles to visit the Vicksburg National Cemetery. In 1967 Sue Jane, Sara, and Sabrina had traveled through the park with their parents and two brothers and were anxious to really tour the cemetery now that they had read and studied more in the thirty years since they had

cont. to pg. 3



Antebellum home, D'Evereux in Natchez, Mississippi

FCE Meeting Canceled

The FCE meeting scheduled for Monday, June 22, has been canceled due to everyone's busy schedule. Next meeting will be Monday, July 27, 1998. See you then!

Meet Your Borden Co. EMS



Nelda Burnett

Editor's Note:

This is the second article in a series that will focus on members of the Borden County EMS.

Nelda Burnett is an EMT-Intermediate for the Borden County EMS. As she and her husband, Billy, live at Lake Thomas, she is a First Responder for that area.

She is always interested in taking courses that will enhance her skill and keep her sharp for a very difficult job. Through these courses she is now a CPR instructor as well as being ACLS taught and she has taken the EMT-Defibrillae class. Nelda has also recently completed a Skills Examiner class.

She has been in this area a long time as she

started school in the fifth grade at Borden County ISD. Her parents Joe and Sibyl Gilmore lived and worked around this county for years, so Nelda is familiar with many people in this area. She has always been concerned about the well-being of her friends and neighbors and this un-selfish attitude led her to join our valued EMS group.

Attention: Prom Attendees!

Prom pictures are here!!

They can be picked up at Tammy Cooley's house in Gail between the hours of 10:00 am to 7:00 pm.

WEAVER AND BUCHANAN PLAN JULY WEDDING



Carissa Weaver and Richard Buchanan

Mr. and Mrs. Kent Weaver of Boerne announce the engagement of their daughter Carissa Aileen Weaver to Richard Lee Buchanan, son of Bob and Terri Buchanan of Gail.

The bride-elect is a 1996 graduate of Boerne High School and is currently attending Angelo State University in San Angelo where she is an elementary education major.

Richard, a 1994 graduate of Borden County High School, is a senior kinesiology major at Angelo State University. He is a candidate for graduation in May 1999.

The couple plan to marry July 25 in a ceremony at First Baptist Church of Boerne.



Celebrate Jesus Revival

July 19, 20, 21, & 22

Steve McMeans, Evangelist
Randy Hardman, Music
First Baptist Church, Gail

Come and Join us
Each Night
Great Fellowship

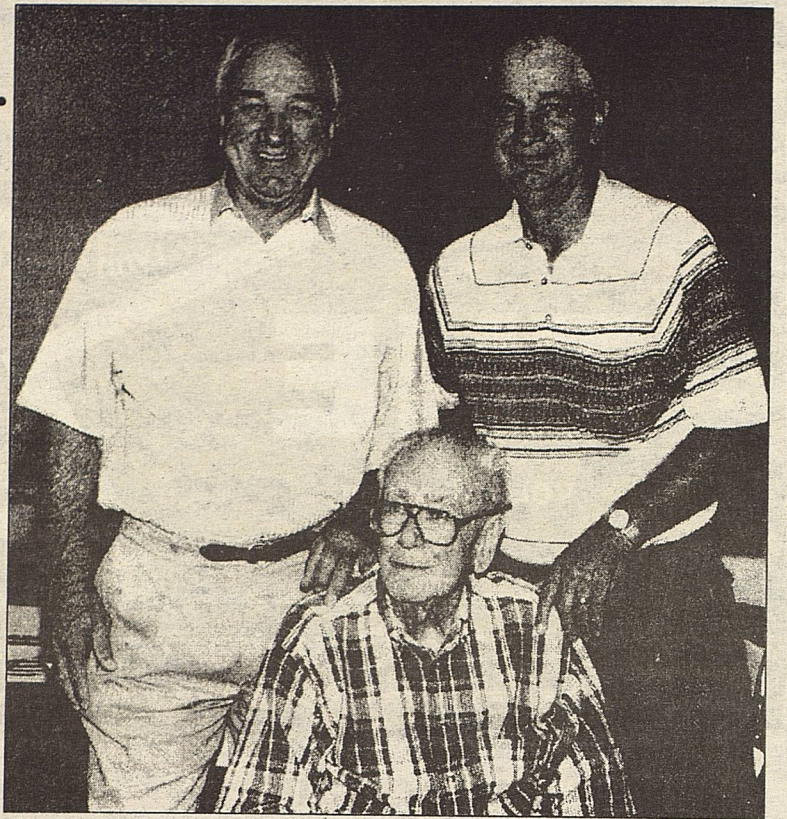
If It doesn't Have a Tag...

Somewhere, in a faraway land, there are undoubtedly a few people who have never heard of Beanie Babies, the phenomenally successful, pocket-sized plush toys created by H. Ty Warner back in 1993. These people have never know the "joys" of waiting two hours on line to buy a tie-dyed bear.....they've never been trampled by other collectors at a Beanie show...and they've surely never had to worry about bent, torn or creased heart tags!

But Beanie dealers and serious collectors know that the condition of the heart tag often dictates the price a Beanie Baby will bring on the secondary market.

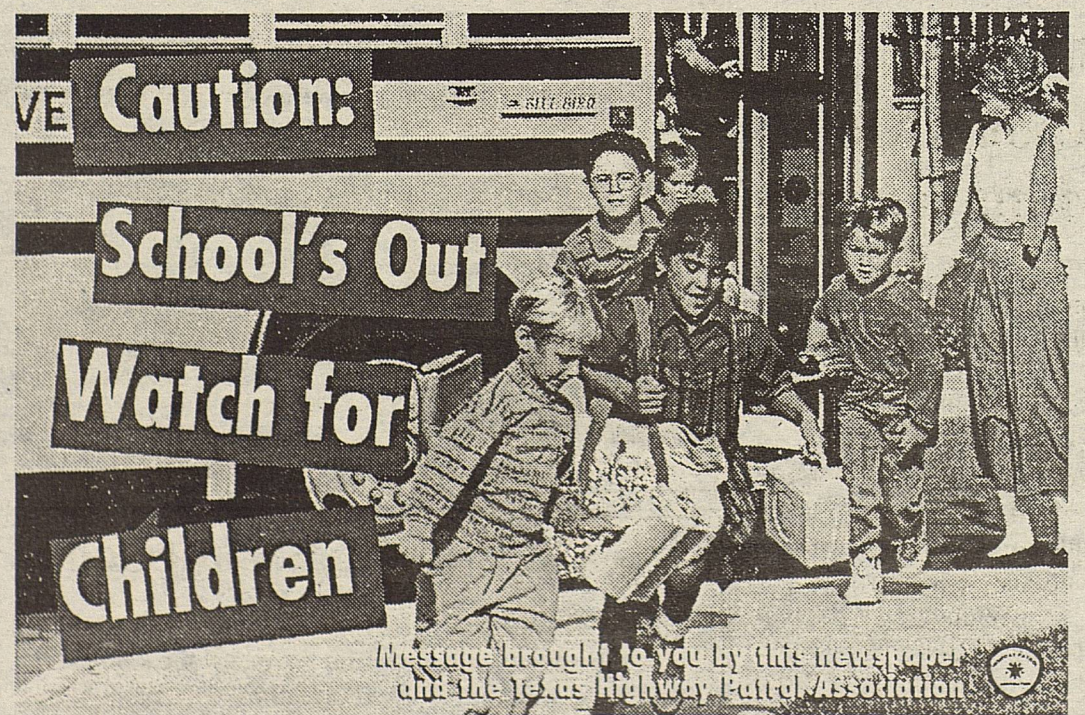
A tag that's creased, frayed or even just a little bit bent can knock up to 50% off the price! In the past few years, entrepreneurs like Howard Greenspan of SCS Collectibles, Inc. have gotten into the business of preserving those tags, so that the collectors can get the most "bang for the buck" when they eventually decided to sell.

Over 12 million tag
cont. to pg. 4



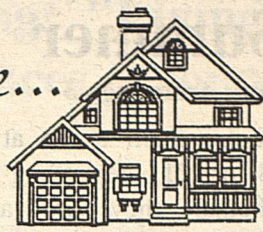
D.J. Dyess, seated, celebrated his 95th birthday with family and friends. The family party also celebrated D.J.'s sons Bill Dyess, left, being named Shriner of the Year and Bob Dyess, right, retiring from coaching for the second time.

Don't mess with Texas.



Heart and home...

By Julie D. Mumme
Borden County Extension Agent -
Family and Consumer Sciences



Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. the Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Tips on Driving Safety

*Slow down if driving too fast for the road conditions or the posted speed.

*Don't drive too slow, poking along aggravates others and is dangerous.

*Don't tailgate, following too close to the vehicle ahead is a dangerous habit.

*Pass only on the left. Passing on the right is against the law.

*Use turn signals and once you have used them, don't forget to turn them off.

*Remember to stay in your lane. Don't ride the center line, drift from side to side, or zig-zag through traffic.

*Allow a merge. When it is the other driver's turn to merge, let him or her in.

*Yield! That triangular sign means what it says. Yield to the car on your right.

*Always pull over for an emergency vehicle when its lights are flashing or siren is on.

*Mortorists should always yield to pedestrians, even if there is no crosswalk.

*Do not ignore red lights and stop signs. This is like forgetting to breathe. Stopping for red lights and stop signs is the most basic rule of driving.

A little more courtesy and consideration by all of us could make driving safer and more pleasurable. If you have a thorough knowledge of traffic laws, signs and markings coupled with good driving manners, you have done your part to reduce aggressive driving in your community.

Have a safe summer!

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Have a safe summer!

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Have a safe summer!

Have a safe summer!

Three Sisters and A Cousin Go On Traditional Summer Trip

cont. from pg. 1

been there. Sabrina, the history teacher in the group, particularly enjoyed seeing some places and reading about people that she refers to every year in her middle school classes in Brownfield.

The other highlights of the trip included a stop on the way home in Nachitoches, Louisiana, and taking a short trolley tour of the city where "Steel Magnolias" was filmed. This town is also well known in "Southern Living" magazines for its great southern cuisine--mainly the meat pies at Lasyone's Restaurant in downtown Nachitoches. Beans and rice, greens, cole slaw, and hot peach cobbler made for the perfect meal.

Two summers ago the girls made a trip to Virginia in an '84 Ford pickup with no air conditioner. In the year 2000, they plan to travel to Colorado. Family reunions, those for the entire family, will take place next summer in Charlottesville, Virginia.

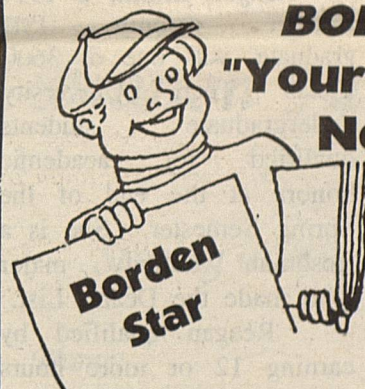
Besides laughing and eating way too much on this trip, the moms have all decided that this family tradition will continue--especially as long as the dads back home consent.



Sabrina Blankenship, Sara Dodd, Diana Beth Gore and Sue Jane Mayes at Lasyone's Restaurant in Nachitoches, Louisiana.

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Summer Jobs About Money Management

Children can benefit from summer jobs in countless ways depending on their individual development and the opportunities around them, according to Dr. Lynn White, a Texas Agricultural Extension Service family economist specialist.

White said many children begin earning money as early as 9 and 12 years old. However, she said, most occupations require a child to be at

Teach Kids and Time

least 14 due to health and safety codes. Other jobs
cont. to pg. 4

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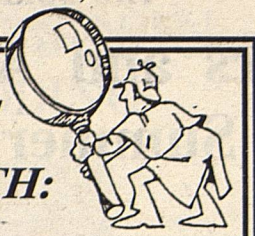


TOM LANDRY
spokesman for Child Find

... call your local school district or the CHILD FIND coordinator 806.792- 4000."

public service announcement

OUT 'N ABOUT
with the NEWS SLEUTH:



Glen and Judy Kingston drove to Frisco so "Granny" could attend a baby shower that was given in honor of their soon-to-be-born grandson, Cade. Jody helped Elisia arrange the many gifts of clothing, bedding and other necessities that all new babies must have to make them cute and comfortable.

While there they also had a visit with Elisia's parents, Bob and Dianna Hazelwood of Artesia.

The Borden Star sends a Plains Community and Borden County welcome to Kelly and Lesa Pepper and their two sons; Lane a high school graduate and Trent who will be a sophomore at Borden County ISD. The Peppers from Sabinal, have moved into Waldine Martin's home. Kelly's two brothers, Carl and Terry are already members of the community.

Boy Hart of Post is at home following a stay in the hospital. He is Nancy Kemp's father. We send him our wishes for ease and comfort. He and his wife Elizabeth have been familiar faces at school athletic events as they supported their granddaughters Kembra Kemp Jones and Katie Kemp.

Lela Porter had a big smile on her face as she looked out her window and recognized her visitors last Friday. Piling out of the car was her granddaughter Suzanne Kitten and greats Erin and Spencer Kitten of Lubbock and Lela's daughter Cookie Dyess. They spent the afternoon visiting and enjoying cooling refreshments on that very hot day.

Kyler Williams of O'Donnell has been playing ball this summer. He is a member of the Cricket

team and they play "coaches pitch". I'm not sure what that really means, but his grandmother Mary Lynn Williams tells us Kyler knows and that is what is important.

Maxie, Becky, Austin Garland and Meghan Doyle of Big Piney, Wyoming were visitors last week of Eva Doyle who is Maxie's grandmother. After spending a few days at her home, they resumed their travels and visited cousins Jody and Elisia Kingston.

The kids wanted to spend some of their vacation at Six Flags going on the rides that involved much water splashing their faces and clothes.

Reagan Smith, a 1997 Borden County ISD graduate, was one of 3600 Texas Tech University undergraduate students qualified for academic honors at the end of the Spring Semester. She is a freshman biology major who made the Dean's List.

Reagan qualified by earning 12 or more hours with a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.9. Congratulations, Reagan!

Sunday after services at the Gail Baptist church was the scene of the start of a pilgrimage of sorts. Nine members of the Youth Department and seven adults left on a week-long trip to Arizona. They will stay at churches along the way where they will be involved in teaching at bible schools and fellowshiping with other youth as they participate in YOM--Youth On Mission.

It has been said that Glen Kingston has the ability to predict rain. He says if it hasn't rained for three months it will then rain for three days and he was just about right! Or

it could be word spread that E.L. Farmer was leaving the county for a few days. Whatever the cause, the rainfall was nice. But as we all know West Texas weather, farmers had to bring their sand fighter equipment into the fields to try to stop the blowing sand next to places of standing water.

Bob and Cookie Dyess are now part of the growing group of travel trailer owners. They slowed down traffic for a couple of miles behind them as they traveled along highway 377 from Grandbury, but they didn't mind as they were being very, very safe. They really enjoyed the short trip even though hail came close to pounding their new "Wanderer" that they had used for only five hours. Beginner's luck was with the greenhorns and only a gentle rain fell on them.

It's Not Worth Beans!

cont. from pg. 2

preserves have been sold. Dealers have come to expect them, and will often refuse to do business with someone who doesn't provide them. And with the escalating prices of Beans these days, collectors are afraid NOT to use them...especially on their old retired, and hard-to-find currents like the Princess bear and Peace.

But some preservers are hard to put on. Customers can accidentally crease the tag with their fingernails while trying to put the preserver on. Dealers are telling their customers to be very careful because just a little damage to the tag can bring down the price. Their motto is "If it doesn't have a tag, it's not worth beans!" So collectors, preserve those tags!

Housework can kill you if done right.

—Erma Bombeck

Summer Jobs

cont. from pg. 3

require them to be at least 18 or 21, depending upon whether they are around hazardous equipment, serving alcohol or driving while on the job.

White said good first jobs range from babysitting, mowing yards, running errands, having a paper route, and washing cars to utilizing personal computer skills.

"It depends on the child and the opportunities around them, but it needs to be something that is within their level of responsibility they can assume," White said.

White recommends parents talk with their children about the kinds of things they consider their talents and their interests and then look and see how to market them in the neighborhood.

She also encourages parents teach their children some basic money management skills. She said children often spend more money as they earn more money rather than learning to save it and set goals.

"Learning not to consume every penny the moment they get it is really as important as getting the job," White said. "Learning how to make money do what they want it to do for them is as critical a life skill as learning to make the money."

White said the main benefit a child can gain from working is an understanding about how the economy functions. They can appreciate what other businesses must do in order to provide the things that they are able to buy.

She said children also learn to manage time and set priorities so that they have time to work and play as well as balance their family responsibilities.

"It helps them to start

realizing that time has economic value and they begin to see that some jobs are given certain value while other jobs are given a greater or lesser value," White said.

She said children can look through the want ads for summer jobs. Children can also advertise their own talents by advertising their skills and phone numbers on the World Wide Web or in papers. White also suggests young people actually visit businesses where they are interested in working to inquire about possible jobs.

"The simplest way to market yourself is to really show that you are energetic, you're self-directed, and you really do want to give the people who are employing you value for their money," White said.

Classified Ads

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FOR SALE

Steel Buildings, never put up. 40x29 - \$6,212 will sell for \$3,960. 50x90 - \$17,940 will sell for \$9,770. Must sell. Dave 1-800-292-0111

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Heirloom Gardening: "Living Antiques" Find Places Around Homes

Antique enthusiasts have new haunts to scout beyond the rows of shops in quaint old towns where price furniture beckons checkbooks.

"Living antiques" are a new trend and can be found perhaps in old cemeteries, in the yards of elderly family members or even through the Internet. They are plants, time-tested and nurtured over the years as people settled in different regions of the country, and are fast gaining popularity in what horticulturists call "heirloom gardening."

"We want gardens that have a sense of place and are not a burden to take care of," said Dr. Bill Welch, Texas Agricultural Extension Service horticulturist and co-author of "The southern Heirloom Garden".

That may explain a couple of reasons why heirloom gardening is growing in Texas. The plants are tough and, and the state ages, Texans' respect for and interest in cultural heritage is increasing.

"If something's been doing well for 100 years, it's tough," said Welch. "People want plants to have a good fragrance and to be insect and disease resistant, be able to tolerate fluctuations in water availability and adapt to climate swings.

"That's what the old varieties offer. They've been tested through the years," he added.

Though there is not a specific criteria for

heirloom varieties, most plants used are from 75-100 years old. A lot of the heirloom plants are from native species that were cultivated by settlers.

If a person has an old, restored home, they may want to have period furniture for it. Now they can have period plants as well. Welch said, "to me, it is ridiculous to make gardening decisions without considering what was done in the past."

In the United States, Thomas Jefferson's famous property known as Monticello in Charlottesville, VA., is an excellent example of a historic restoration of the garden.

But Texas has several efforts to establish history plantings under way, such as philanthropist Ima Hogg's home, Bayou Bend, in Houston. This home, at 1 Westcott St., has 14 acres of formal and woodland gardens opened to the public along Buffalo Bayou. In recent years, caretakers of this Houston Museum facility have realized that the surrounding plants needed to be accurate historically.

A time may come when the plants are more important than the structures.

But having an old home or building isn't the only way one can enjoy heirloom gardening. People also are interested in duplicating gardens recalled from childhood--perhaps planting varieties that were grown by grandparents or aunts.

Often cuttings or seeds from plants are provided by family members.

Many have been lovingly handed down from generation to generation within and among the families that contribute cultural diversity and richness to our gardens.

To accurately plant a garden from a specific time period, plant varieties from that era can be researched in nursery catalogues and gardening periodicals. These often can be found in libraries in small towns across the South. Larger collections of these periodicals are at the Cherokee Garden Library in Atlanta, Southeastern Architectural Archives of Tulane University in New Orleans, or the Center for American History (Barker Library) at the University of Texas.

Three facts should be sought about varieties for heirloom gardens: the date of first introduction, time when the plant first became commonly available to gardeners of the region, and the time when the plant first appears on the specific site being studied.

Once the plant varieties have been determined, the next search is for suppliers. Local nurseries might be

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Buford Sanders Family
Gae & Lisa Ludecke
Homer & Francis Fannon

Phae Carothers
Bobby & Linda Furlow

able to provide the desired plants. Gardeners might also want to check the Internet for heirloom gardening sits.

As with other types of antique collecting, Welch added, "it just depends on how far you want to take it."

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MEXICAN MINT MARIGOLD

French tarragon is an essential herb for many gourmet dishes. It has a gentle anise flavor that lightly permeates food. Unfortunately French tarragon does not grow well in much of Texas. Whether it is our soil, our sun or perhaps our general atmosphere. French tarragon is too delicate for Texas.

What can be grown very successfully all over the state, though, is Mexican mint marigold (*Tagetes lucida*), which is an excellent substitute for French tarragon in recipes. This plant has a number of common names: sweet mace, true marigold, marigold mint, yerba anise. The plant has a strong anise bouquet that "out-tarragons" tarragon. Yet in vinegars, oils and cooked food,

the flavor is almost indistinguishable from French tarragon.

Mexican mint marigold seeds are very similar to French tarragon seeds. The plant can be grown from seeds but it is difficult. It is easier to purchase a small plant from local nurseries that sell herbs.

Mexican mint marigold thrives in most soils but does best in medium-rich soil. It does not need a great deal of care, but the soil needs to drain well. It will grow in direct sun or partial shade. It is a perennial and if the roots are protected from extreme heat or cold, Mexican mint marigold will return year after year. Fallen leaves used as a mulch will protect the roots and act as a fertilizer.

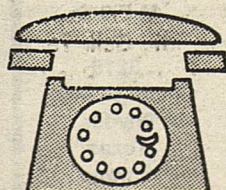
Mexican mint marigold usually grows into a bush and can reach heights of 3 to 4 feet. The dark green, slightly serrated leaves branch directly from a main stem.

In the fall, lovely golden flowers appear, indicating the end of the growing season. If the flowers are pinched back at that time, the plant continues to grow until frost or first freeze.

TEXAS GARDENER magazine

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"TEXAS" Celebrations Planned for Musical Drama's 33rd Season

The "Texas" Musical Drama began celebrating 33 seasons of entertaining world-wide audiences June 10 and will continue through August 22, 1998. Palo Duro Canyon, near Amarillo, is the setting for the Texas-sized musical drama that features 80 professional singers, actors and dancers. Performances begin at 8:30 p.m. each evening except Sundays.

The "Texas" script is a fictional account, based on historical facts about the cattlemen and farmers who settled in the Texas

Panhandle. As the West developed, so did the challenges facing the individuals who laid claim to the land. Through drama, song and dance, the characters' pride gives way to progress as a new Panhandle town in established.

Light and sound technology enhances the Palo Duro Canyon experience as thunder booms and echoes off the 600 foot canyon wall that serves as the backdrop for

cont. to pg. 7

Avoid Style Burn-Out Tips For Healthy Summer Hair

(NAPS)—Summer is the season when hair is most susceptible to damage from factors such as the sun, chlorine and salt water. The following tips will help keep hair healthy for the summer season.

Protect Hair From The Elements

Just like skin, hair needs to be protected from the sun's damaging rays. Hair can even become "sunburned" and look faded or dried out from overexposure to the sun. For outdoor enthusiasts, additional drying elements like chlorine and salt water only make matters worse.

Choosing the right combination of hair care products during the summer can help. Damien Miano, co-owner of Miano Viél Salon & Spa in New York, suggests Salon Selectives Level 3 Revitalizing Shampoo which contains UV Protectants and Anti-Oxidants to help guard against damage from sun and chlorine.

Humidity takes a toll on hair and to combat it you might need to alter the way you style your hair. Prepping hair with a lightweight, leave-in conditioner can help prevent frizzies and keeps hair looking silky and manageable.

One of the most important steps in summer hair care is to keep hair conditioned. If you feel like your hair is oilier in the summer, try a lighter conditioner and apply more to the ends of your hair as opposed to the roots. Without proper conditioning, all hair types are prone to damage and breakage.

Color-treated hair has special needs during the summer months as well. To keep color-treated hair looking its best or to keep natural hair color from fading, try shampoos and conditioners with UV Protectants and Anti-Oxidants. Make an appointment with your stylist to discuss adjusting color



treatments during the summer to keep a consistent look.

Style Power

And when it comes to styling, a change in routine can often help keep hair looking healthy during the summer. Consider getting your hair trimmed more frequently during the summer to prevent split ends.

Also, consider giving you and your hair a break from blow drying and set damp hair in rollers or let hair air dry. To help maintain this natural look all-day long, try Salon Selectives Finishing Spray Level 10 Flexible Hold which provides a lasting hold without stiffness or a trace of sticky residue.

"The looks we're seeing for the

summer are fuller and softer, but more flexible than the 'big hair' of the '80s," said Miano. "These new looks leave room for personal

interpretation and can be achieved in a variety of ways. So you can spend a lot of time styling your hair one day and let it be more natural the next."

For more on the latest styling information and expert styling advice from Damien Miano, visit Salon Selectives website, <http://www.yoursalon.com>.

Borden Star Wants Your Summer Vacation Dream or Nightmare Stories

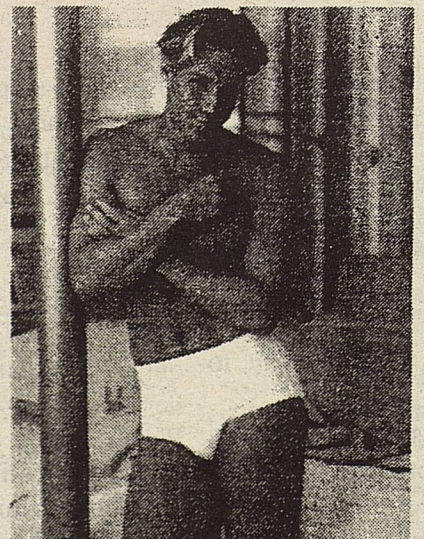
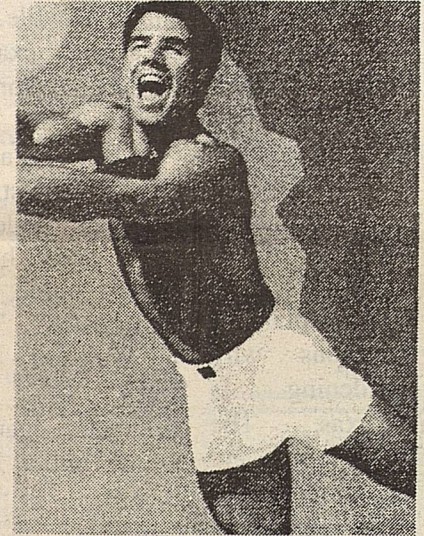
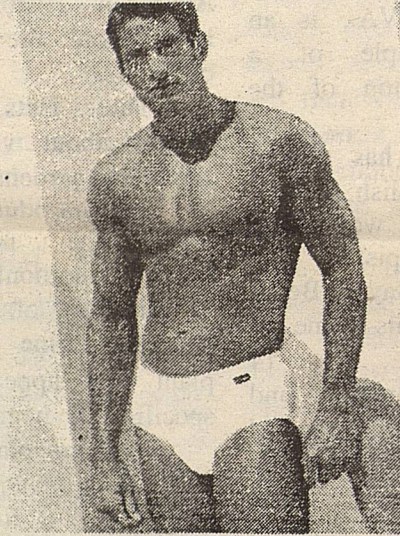
Family traditions the best ways to see just vary. Some consist of how close your family can holiday get-togethers; others be is to travel with them-- make birthdays the big and summer time is prime occasion. And, some still time for vacations. So, have the good, old- this summer, when you fashioned Sunday dinner and your family take THE after church. All of these TRIP, whether near or far, enable family bonds to bring pictures and an remain strong. But, one of article to the *Borden Star*

about how you survived several days in the car or bus or train or plane or RV, and the tale will be printed for our interested readers.

Your vacation may inspire (or discourage) a family to take that bold step into the world of travel. Good or bad, travel provides lots of memories that just can't be replaced. Have fun--and report back!!!

JOCKEY®

For Father's Day

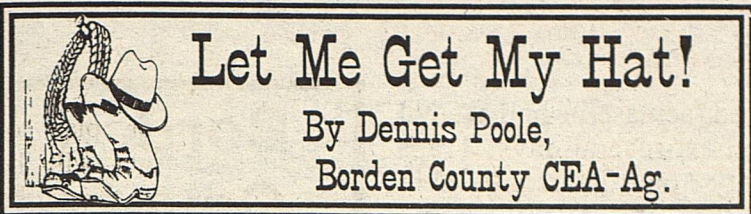


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Cotton Farmers Urged to Band Together

Rapid changes are taking place in production agriculture. A leading cotton marketing economist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service urges farmers and others involved with cotton to band together to be more efficient. Extension marketing economist Dr. Carl Anderson says they'll find it hard to survive into the 21st century if they don't.

The farm bill mandates the phasing out of subsidies. GATT, NAFTA and other impending global trade agreements are creating new markets and new competition. Anderson says farmers have to adapt to stay in business. He says to expect more volatile cotton process and supply and there is already evidence of that. Prices in the last three years ranged from 56 cents per pound to 80 cents per pound. That 24-cent difference amounts to about 120 dollars a bale.

Cotton is the most variable commodity.

Anderson says that this year many farmers planted when the cost of production was higher than the selling price. He says that takes a great deal of faith on the part of the producers and the lenders that the crop will turn profitable.

Keep in mind that cotton also has the greatest impact in Texas because it contributes more than six billion dollars a year to the state's economy...the most of any crop. Anderson's message is for farmers to assess costs, reduce those costs and look to biotechnology to increase yields. He says, "they must stop thinking of themselves as individuals." He recommends integration of farming, handling, storage, marketing and processing. Consolidating all segments of the industry will offer better control.

Anderson encourages groups and cooperatives to form to make the industry more efficient and competitive.

Mesquite Turns Out to be More Than Trash Tree

Mesquite has found a new home in weight rooms at Texas A&M University--despite its reputation for being called the trash tree of Texas.

Mesquite wood is being used for weightlifting platforms as part of a new modular weight training system. The platforms must be able to withstand the hundreds of pounds of weight athletes drop on them daily.

Doug Florence, mesquite owner and president of La Paz Enterprises, said he worked with manufacturers in Kansas to provide the material for the platforms, and flooring has been his company's primary product for 10 years.

"We've done everything over the years from custom furniture to golf clubs to flooring--anything you can imagine made out of wood,

we've tried to make it with mesquite," he said. "And being an old Aggie, I hope that the mesquite platforms work well."

Florence added that even though mesquite has a thorny reputation with Texas landowners, the trees can be sold in a viable market.

"I've spent about 20 years ranching myself and I've cussed it a time or two," he said. "But now I'm trying to make a living off of it!"

Mike Clark, Texas A&M's head strength and conditioning coach, said he teaches his athletes to drop the weights on the mesquite platforms and to not treat them differently than any other platform.

"We teach our kids that workers lower it and athletes drop it--and they haven't put their kid gloves on at all," he said. "We've had the mesquite platform for about three months and we're really pleasantly surprised on how well it has held up."

Clark said the platform also gives the athletes a different feeling when they lift.

"This platform really does seem to have a launching pad effect to it," he said. "Many of our athletes really like training on this and many of them have set personal records on that platform."

Clark said potential recruits have been impressed with the mesquite modular platform and with Neetum Steed Laboratory's plans of adding 20 more to the facility.

Florence said one unique

aspect of mesquite flooring is that most of it is not made from a few tall trees, but many short and crooked trees.

"Since a long, straight mesquite log is somewhat rare, 50 percent of our sales come from the end grain product, which is from 3-by-3 to 3-by-5 inches in diameter," Florence said. "When we cut across the grain, length is not so important, and it makes the floor more durable because it is cut on end."

The original platform design plans called for a species of wood from outside Texas. Dr. Judd Michael approached the athletic department with a suggestion to mesquite instead.

"We though that

mesquite would be a better choice because it is much tougher than oak and has other characteristics that make it a better choice for a weightlifting program," he said.

More universities and the National Football League are also potential marketing outlets for the weightlifting platforms.

Michael said that since mesquite covers approximately 50 million acres of Texas land, ranchers should explore the possibility of marketing the pesky trees.

"We'd like to let land owners and ranchers know that there is a market for this product, and it's not just for cooking," he said. "There is potential for higher-value products such as flooring, cabinets and even furniture."

"Texas" 33rd Season

cont. from pg. 6

the stage. A spectacular fireworks display concludes each performance bringing audience members to their feet as horsemen run across the backstage waving the six flags of Texas.

From June 29 through July 4, Norwest Bank Texas will sponsor an expanded version of the fireworks display and holiday tribute at the show's conclusion. Local musicians will join in the choreographed patriotic program to be presented.

Also new for the 1998 season are renovated

versions of the Second Act Overture and Dream Scene which includes the Prairie Fire Ballet. New music and choreography will enhance the already dramatic scenes.

"Texas" continues to be the best attended outdoor musical drama in the nation and attracted more than 85,000 last season. Guests traveled from every state and 104 countries to see "Texas".

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/s/ Borden County 4-H Horse Project Members



Cotton News

from Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.

LUBBOCK, Friday, June 12, 1998

By Shawn Wade

Final decisions about the future of some one million acres of dryland cotton appears to be in the hands of crop insurance adjusters and companies.

Officials at the United States Department of Agriculture Risk management Agency, which oversees regulatory aspects of the Federal Crop Insurance Program, announced a deviation from normal appraisal procedures for drought affected cotton in Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma June 10.

According to the deviation, affected cotton acreage that receives no moisture between planting and the seventh day after the applicable final planting date can be released on the basis of plant count at the time of appraisal.

If "measurable" moisture is received between the time of planting and the seventh day following the applicable final planting date the acreage may not be released until the fifteenth day following the final planting date.

According to USDA officials it will be the individual insurance companies who will determine whether or not "measurable" moisture has been received.

It is evident that some companies are interpreting this language in different ways. Some will enforce the additional seven day waiting period if rainfall is received that was measurable with a rain gauge. Others have determined that recent storms, which dropped generally one-half inch of rain this past week, were not adequate and will go forward to release acreage as quickly as possible.

Only time will tell what effect previously dry conditions and this most recent round of rainfall will have on High Plains crop prospects. Even with rainfall received this week, prospects are not improved for some one million acres or more of dryland cotton. Some areas may see stands established although how much is still in question.

Determining the standards by which all U.S. cotton will be measured is no small task. Representatives from several portions of the cotton industry met in Memphis this past week to do just that.

Probably the most important piece of news to come out of the Universal Standards Conference is USDA's intention to adjust charts defining color grades to more closely reflect equivalent readings from High Volume Instrument (HVI) classing machinery.

There will not be any change for 1998 and the Classer will still determine the color grade on all cotton classed in USDA classing offices. It is anticipated that by the 1999 crop HVI will become the official USDA method of determining color grades of cotton.

* * * * *

By Roger Haldenby

Boll weevil trap catches generally dropped across much of the High Plains over the past few weeks as strong winds, arid conditions and then record temperatures prevailed.

However, since measurable moisture fell on

Tuesday of this week, a marked increase in boll weevil activity can be expected in the next several days. Traps checked in Dawson County on Thursday held significantly higher numbers than others in the same county checked Monday before the rain.

While maybe as much as a million acres of dryland cotton in the entire High Plains area is looking beyond hope, the limited rainfall is certainly of some benefit to the irrigated crop.

Cotton planted under center pivot irrigation in early May is rapidly approaching, or even at pinhead square. Producers and their crop consultants are closely monitoring these fields for boll weevils and other insects as cotton plants reach one of the most vulnerable phases of the growing season.

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