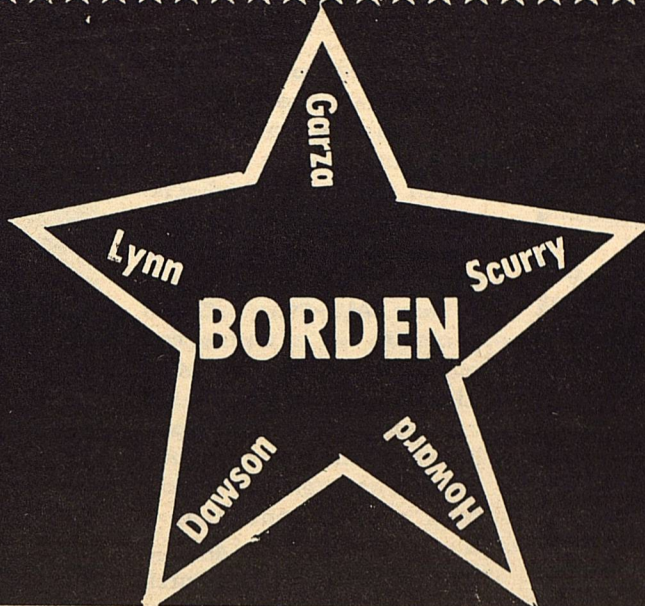


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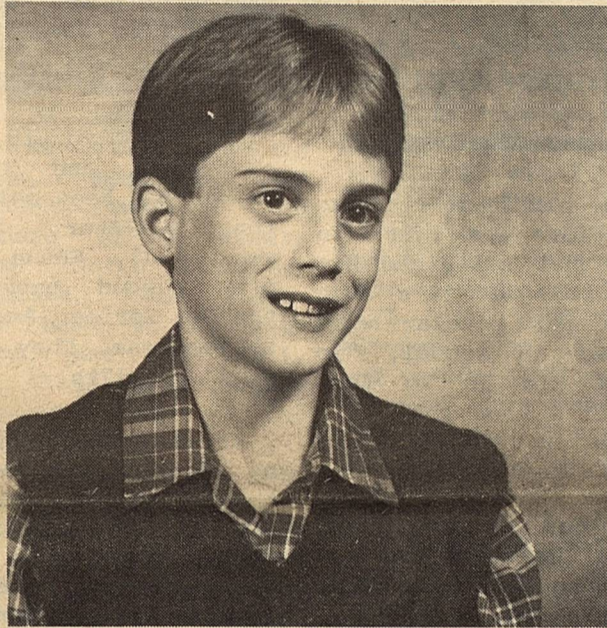
VOLUME XIV



STAR

JULY 20, 1988

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



Chad Williams

Chad Williams, 16, Vincent community, died Sunday, July 17, 1988 in a local hospital following a long illness.

Services were held at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the First Baptist Church, Big Spring, with Rev. Greg Jensen and Joe Pat Harding, Vincent community, officiating. Interment was at Trinity Memorial Park under the direction of Myers and Smith Funeral Home.

He was born Oct. 27, 1971 in Big Spring. A lifelong resident of the Vincent and Coahoma area, he was a junior at Borden County High School. He was a member of the high school band, and drama club, manager of the boy's basketball team, a member of the Beta Achievers and a member of the Vincent Baptist Church.

He is survived by his parents, Gaylon and Janine Williams, and one brother, Bucky

Williams, all of Vincent his paternal grand parents, R.F. and Doris Williams, Atlanta, Texas; his maternal grandparents, James and Maidell Honea, Shelbyville, Tenn; his great-grandparents: Cleo Wislon Atlanta, Texas; Clay and Edna Honea, Telehoma Tenn; Marie Lambert, Yakima, Wash.; Paul and Dorothy Lambert, Tacoma, Wash; and several aunts, uncles, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his maternal grandmother, Irene Dello Layman on Jan. 5, 1970.

Pallbearers will be Jimmy Sterling, Wendell Walker, Randy Adcock, Steve Wolf, Ted Floyd, and David Barr. Honorary pallbearers will be Mike Stephens, Bobby Cathey, Bruce Kemper, Marty Harrison, Mike Cathey and Tommy Merritt. The family suggests memorials to Cystic Fibrosis Association, Northeast Texas Chapter, 2504 Cedar Springs, Dallas, Tex. 75201.

Ostriches

Big birds adapting to West Texas



UP PERISCOPE? - Two ostriches from a flock of four owned by Dan Turner lift their heads up to keep an eye out for intruders at the farm, located in the northwest corner of Borden County. Turner is joining producers in Snyder, Plains and Lubbock in raising the giant birds as an alternative type of livestock.

(Photo by Dave Green)

There seems to be no limit to the variety of agricultural diversification being seen in this area, judging from a new operation located in the northwest corner of Borden county.

Producers within a 30-mile radius of Lamesa are already trying their hand at growing such alternate crops or livestock as grapes, watermelon and shrimp. To that list may now be added the world's largest flightless bird: the ostrich.

In residence at Dan Turner's farm since last November is a small flock consisting of two ostrich couples which the farmer hopes will be the beginning of a new industry here.

Turner decided to become an ostrich breeder last fall after reading an article in a farm and ranch magazine about a breeder in Oklahoma who was having success with his operation. For Turner, a cotton farmer here for some 40 years, ostriches seemed to be a good alternative to cotton as any other choice.

"I decided I'd diversify and try something other than cotton," he recalled, adding he is continuing to grow cotton while the ostrich enterprise takes wing.

"It's a fad," said Turner, referring to the current demand for

Cont. to pg. 7

West All-Stars Dominate Games

The West All-Stars won both the basketball and football games at the annual Texas Six-Man Coaches All-Star games.

The West used aggressive defense throughout the game and they jumped to a quick lead. The game is played like a college game with two 20 minute halves. There are 15 players on each squad. In the first half each player plays about 1/3 of the time. Then in the second half there is not any time requirements to be followed as long as everyone plays.

The West jumped out to a 14 point lead, but the East closed that to just a seven point lead at half 43-36. In the second half the West's defense caused many problems for the East. Wellman's Tomy Timmons, who only played seven minutes, sparked the West's offense. Tony was chosen as the Most Valuable Player and ended the game with 34 points, 6 rebounds, 6 assist, and 4 steals.

Borden County's Shannon Bond was a member of the West squad. The West had a very good group of guards, and Shannon was part of the guard rotation. Shannon scored 2 points, pulled down 3 rebounds, and made 2 assist. Shannon was 0 for 4 from the 3 point range and was 2 of 2 at the free throw line.

The West went on to win by a wide margin 98-81. After the game each team member receives a ring to cap off the week of practice and the game.

The West also won the football game 8-6 in a game that was dominated by defense. The score was 0-0 at the end of the first half. It really didn't look like a six-man score. The East scored first, but they failed on their PAT.

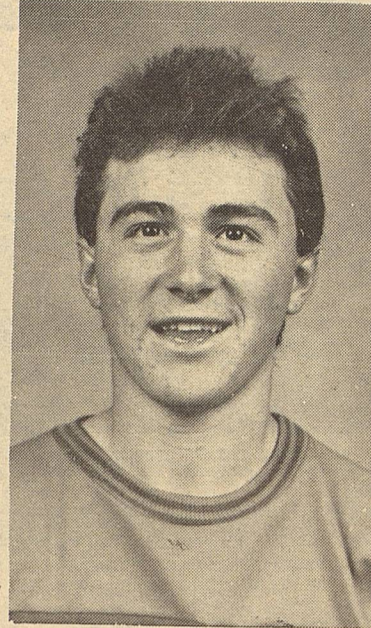
The West finally scored on a fourth and goal. Wellman's J Rowden took the ball about the 2 yard line, but when he was hit the ball bounced away. As luck might have it,

his teammate from Wellman, Share Hamm fell on the ball for a touchdown. Loop's David Davis kicked the PAT to give the West a sweep of the All-Star Games.

The All-Star Games provide a way for athletes from the Six-Man school to receive recognition. Every one of them seemed to enjoy their week at Stephenville.

We were very saddened to learn of the death of Chad Williams upon our return to Gail. Chad served as our basketball manager for the past two years. I've seen a lot of boys and girls with great athletic ability during my lifetime, but I've never seen anyone with any more courage and faith as Chad. Chad had to fight many more battles than we will ever have to face. Some might think that he lost, but those who knew him knows that he has finally won and is being rewarded already. His beautiful smile and personality didn't show his pain and suffering. It's very obvious to those who

Baseball All-Stars Chosen



Shane Kemper



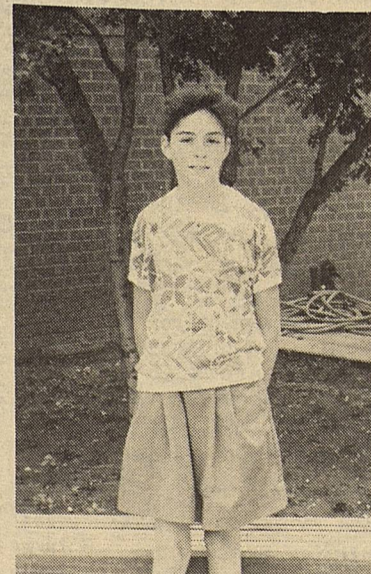
Klint Kemper

knew him that it was his love and faith in God that sustained him. I'm reminded of a song that was popular when I was in school, "To Know Him is to Love Him." I know that it's true in Chad's case. We'll really miss him. To his family we offer up our prayers and love. We thank God for letting us know this little man.

Shane Kemper 15, son of Bruce and Brenda Kemper has been selected for All-Star (14-15 year old). Shane will play second base for the Big Spring American League team. They begin play July 17th.

Klint Kemper 13, son of Bruce and Brenda Kemper has been selected for All-Star (13 year olds). Klint will play catcher and out-field position for the Big Spring American League. They begin play July 19th.

4-H'er Attends Leadership Camp



Mendy Hensley

Borden County 4-H'ers participated in the District II 4-H Leadership Camp held at the

South Plains College in Levelland on June 14-16. Mency Hensley represented Borden County at the camp. Mency participated in leathercraft, decorating a sweatshirt, recreational activities, and leadership workshops.

Cody Stone, D'Lynn Lloyd and Lance Telchik also attended Leadership Camp in the role of Camp Staff.



Protecting Our Future
Texas Coalition for Safety Belts

The Borden Star
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Editor
Barbara Anderson

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Borden Star Owners:
James McLeroy, Barbara Anderson, Doris Rudd, Pat Porter, Bob Dyess, Edna Miller, Ruth Weathers, Mrs Nathan Zant, Sonny Tucker, Eddie Simer, Loreen Jones, Martin Parks, Dan Turner, Lela Porter, and Marge Toombs.



Placing 2nd in the 4-H "Share The Fun" program from Borden County were Shayne Hess, Jill Voss, Niki Holzmann, Laura Hensley, Mendy Hensley, and Kurt Hess.



The Azteca Inn of 1932

From time to time, I like to buy boxes full of old letters and papers at flea markets. Maybe it's because I'm naturally nosy about people. I really do enjoy reading through things that people have saved for years, thinking that someday they'd want the stuff. Sometimes there are some real surprises.

One of these came in a shoe box full of dusty, downright dirty papers that I bought for \$5 not long ago. All the old greeting cards, momentos and letters belonged to members of a family from North Platte, Nebraska. What does this have to do with Texas, you ask? Well, two items were choice bits of Texana -- for me at least.

According to the name on the little tablet, a trip diary I found in the box belonged to Cathryn L. Grady of North Platte. She kept it on a Christmas-time visit to Port Arthur in 1932. The tablet on which she kept her diary advertises the Chenier Business school at 577 Orleans Street in Beaumont.

Her notes show that Cathryn departed Kansas City by train for Port

Arthur on the evening of Dec. 19. My guess is that she rode on the Kansas City Southern line.

The next day, Dec. 20, she wrote, "Spent the day on the train... Arrived in Port Arthur at 1:15. Train 2 hr. late." Cathryn continued her running narrative with accounts of visiting schools, seeing the jetties, having meals with friends and relatives and going to picture shows.

The high point of the Nebraska girl's Texas trip came on Dec. 23. She and her friends drove to Beaumont, where the architecture impressed the small-town girl. "We rode around through the business and residential sections. Beaumont is about the size of Port Arthur and has wonderful buildings"

After seeing the sights, "Then we went to a Mexican cafe and had a real Mexican dinner." She was so impressed that she took home as a souvenir one of the typewritten menus, and that menu also ended up in the shoe box full of papers that I bought.

Cathryn's real Mexican cafe was the Azteca Inn, located at 918 Railroad Avenue in

Beaumont. The menu tells much about Mexican cuisine prepared for Anglo diners during the days of the Great Depression.

The "Special Dinner," the most expensive meal listed, consisted of tamales with chili, and enchilada, chili rellenos, taco, fried rice, desert, and choice of coffee, iced tea or milk, all for 75 cents. The more modest "Mexican Dinner" with only tamales, chili, enchilada, rice, tortillas, dessert and drink cost 50 cents.

A note appended at the bottom of the menu advised, "Please ask for hot sauce."

The a la carte section of the menu, a second sheet attached with a straight pin, included such food items as huevos rancheros for 30 cents, bowl of chili for 20 cents, and half a dozen tamales with chili for a quarter. Coffee, iced tea, milk and cokes were a nickel a glass.

Cathryn Grady, coming from the land of plain cooking in Nebraska, concluded her comments on the spicy meal at the Azteca Inn with the observation. "The food had a peculiar taste."



prevent dehydration, a major cause of fatigue during physical activity

Before a workout, drink water liberally. Drink two to three, eight-ounce glasses with the last glass being within an hour of the workout. Cool water (40°F.) is best absorbed.

During exercise, drink small amounts of water (½ to 1 cup) every 20-30 minutes. It is important to note that sport drinks, juices and sodas are generally too concentrated and actually promote dehydration of the cells. After working out, keep a glass with you for several hours to assure adequate consumption.

CARBOHYDRATES—Carbohydrates are extremely important to the athlete because they provide the most efficient source of energy to the

Regular School Board Meeting

The Board of Trustees of the Borden County Independent School District met in regular session on July 18, 1988 at 8:00 p.m.

School Board members present were Tom Ed Vestal, Scott Clayton, Jon Monger, Jack McPhaul, Steve Hess, Bill Phinizy and Joel Dennis.

Administrators present were James McLeroy, Superintendent and Ben Jarrett, Elementary Principal.

President of the Board, Jack McPhaul, call the meeting to order.

Minutes of the June 20, 1988 meeting were read and approved.

Visitor present was John Harris, band director, observing the board meeting as part of a college class requirement.

July bills were reviewed and approved.

Gandy's Dairies was the only company to submit a bid to provide milk for the 1988-89 school year. The Board was unanimous in accepting this bid.

The Superintendent presented a year-to-date financial report and recommended itemized budget amendments.

Superintendent McLeroy submitted the resignation of Jan McCathern, high school English teacher, who accepted a teaching position at Western Texas College in Snyder.

Superintendent McLeroy recommended that John Wilson, currently teaching English in Corpus Christi be hired for the high school English position for 1988-89 school year.

The Board was unanimous in accepting the Superintendent's Report and personnel requests.

The TI-IN Network (Satellite Transmitted Academic Resources) was discussed resulting in the Board's decision to participate in the program for the 1988-89 school year. The basis for the decision was to reduce budget and at the same time enrich the quality of education. Voting for TI-IN was Jon Monger, Joel Dennis, Bill Phinizy, Scott Clayton and Tom Ed Vestal. Steve Hess voted against.

In other business the Board voted to set aside a separate certificate of deposit to cover the sickleave liability. Transfers and dual residence were also discussed. The Board voted by unanimous decision to appoint board members to verify that dual residents were in full compliance before students would be permitted attendance on September 1, 1988.

The Board was unanimous in its decision to reduce incentive pay to U.I.L. coaches from \$500 to \$300 per event in a budget cut-back.

The preliminary budget for 1988-89 was discussed.

working muscle.

Complex carbohydrates provide the best type of energy.

Food sources include whole grain breads and cereals, pasta, rice, legumes and potatoes. These foods supply a

steady release of energy into the bloodstream and allow the body to spare muscle glycogen, which is the energy stored in the muscle.

Cont. to pg.4

Dietary Modifications Promote Optimal Athletic Performance

With society's emphasis on physical fitness, questions arise as to how and what we should eat to promote optimal performance while exercising. The athlete, whether recreational or competitive, should follow the same nutritional recommendations as the general public and pay special attention to fluid and carbohydrate consumption. The follow-

ing tips are from the fitness coordinators in the Centre for Cardiac Rehabilitation and Fitness of Methodist Hospital.

FLUIDS—Fluids regulate the body temperature, so they are especially important during hot weather to prevent heat sickness. One of the most important fluids to consume during exercise is water. Water helps

AMBULANCE MEMORIALS

In Memory Of:

Christine Cunningham
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Dennis
Rube & Sue Smith
Lela Porter

Garland Doyle
Jim & Joyce Smith
Eva Doyle & Family
Mr. & Mrs. John Dennis
Rube & Sue Smith

Hettie Ledbetter
Rube & Sue Smith

Jettie Shepherd
Mr & Mrs. Bill O'Brien

Billy Wills
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Staton
Billy & Martha
Huddleston

Jim & Joyce Smith
The Family of R.B. Wills
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Dennis
Madge Hendricks
Melba Rinehart
Eurdist & Brenda
Rinehart
Travis Rinehart
Jym and Amy Rinehart
Max & Myrl Fitzhugh
V.A. Wills
Rube & Sue Smith
Donald & Jo Ann Boulter
Lela Porter

The Borden County
Emergency Medical
Service would like to
express to you our
appreciation of your
generous contributions.
Your donations will be
used to better equip
the ambulance so as to
better serve you and
all of Borden county if
and whenever needed.
Thank you.

Donations and memor-
ials may be mailed to
the following:

Borden County EMS
Box 153
Gail, Texas 79738

Checks may be made
payable to Borden
County EMS.



About three-quarters of
the earth's fresh water is fro-
zen in glaciers and ice-caps.



Only three percent of the
earth's water is fresh.

OBITUARY

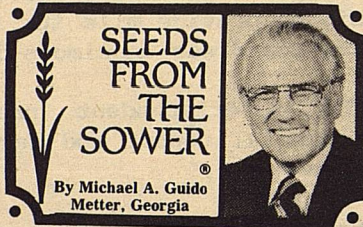
Sue Horn Moorhouse

Sue Horn Moorhouse,
43, died Sunday July
10, 1988 after a bout
with cancer.

Sue, the wife of Tom
Moorhouse of the
Moorhouse Ranch Co.,
Inc. was buried at the
Ranch headquarters on
Tuesday at 4 p.m.

She is survived by
her husband Tom, a
son, Jed, 15; a daughter
Jody, 12; and her
parents, Harry and Jean
Horn of Sweetwater.

The Moorhouse lease
and operate the Beal
Ranch in Borden County.



In a store in New York there was
an exhibit of crosses in a window.
Underneath was a sign that
read "EASY TERMS"

But the Christian finds no easy
terms with the cross of Christ.

There's a startling honesty
about the Lord. He never tried to
bribe men and women by the of-
fer of a crown. He offered a cross.

He said, "If any of you wants to
be My follower, you must put aside
your own pleasures and shoulder
your cross, and follow Me closely."

It costs you nothing to become
a Christian, but it costs you
everything to be a Christian. There
are no easy terms.

Are you willing to pay the price?

Athletic Performance

Cont. from pg. 3

SUGAR-Simple sugar
should not be consumed
prior to exercise.
Sweet snacks such as
honey, syrup, jams,
jellies, cakes, candies,
pies and carbonated
beverages stimulate the
body's production of
insulin and lower blood
sugar. This combined
effect promotes fatigue
and poor performance.

In addition, high
sugar foods usually
lack essential vitamins
and minerals. Fresh
fruits are good alter-
natives for sweetened
snacks.

OUTDOORS

by AARON PASS

A Lure For All Seasons

In these days of
"hi-tech" angling, the
choice of an artificial
bait can get a bit
confusing. You have
your crank baits, your
spinner baits, your
buzz baits not to
mention your twitch
baits, stick baits,
flippin'baits and so
forth. Actually I'm not
sure some of the fore-
going aren't the same
things—at least from
the fish's point of
view.

However, there is one
lure (or class of
lures) that belongs in
every angler's tackle
box. That is the jig.
It is the essence of
simplicity. It has been
around virtually forever
And best of all, it
catches fish—a wide
variety of fish, under
a wide variety of
circumstances.

The jig consists of a
lump of lead molded
onto a hook (hence the
name, lead head). This
is followed with a
variety of dressings:
deer hair, marabou
feathers, rubber skirts
or small plastic grub-
like bodies. Sometimes
it is even tipped with
a natural bait such as
a night crawler or
minnow. It comes in a
variety of weights,
casts like a bullet and
sinks like a rock.

You pick the weight
to match your equipment
and the type of dressing
to match your quarry's
feeding habits.

A lead head dressed
with a brush-like
plastic weed guard and
tipped with a strip of
pickled pig skin becomes
the justly acclaimed
"jig and pig." This is
a favorite early spring
lure of bass anglers
who fish it slow and
deep on steep rocky
shorelines. Later in
the summer, the lead
head, dressed with a
plastic worm, is used
to probe deep structures
for summer bass action.

A jig's head with a

soft plastic, fish-
shaped body is a favor-
ite for such open-water
predators as the striped
bass; its little cousin,
the white bass; or the
cross between these
species, the hybrid
"sunshine" bass.

Once, while we were
casting shad-bodied
jigs and hoping to
find a breaking school
of stripers, my fishing
partner set his hook
into a solid fish. In
due course an eight-
pound channel cat came
over the side. I doubt
that jigs will ever
replace blood baits,
stink baits, etc. for
catfishing, but it
proves that if a game-
fish will eat a baitfish
it will take a jig.

Scale down the lead
head, add a grub body
and a safety-pin spinner
and you have about
the best bluegill bait
this side of wasp
larvae. Used on ultra-

light tackle and cast
into a hot bed of
spawning bluegills, the
jig/grub spinner
renders great sport and
a great fish fry.

Jigs in their tradi-
tional feather and hair
dressing and sometimes
"sweetened" with a
minnow have long been
the standbys of wall-eye
and crappie anglers.
They are also a favorite
of winter ice fisherfolk
for a variety of species.
Simple, relatively
inexpensive and amazing-
ly versatile, that's
the humble lead-head
jig. It catches almost
anything, almost any
time. It's hard to ask
for more than that.

Buckle Up, Texas!

**1
deathless
day**

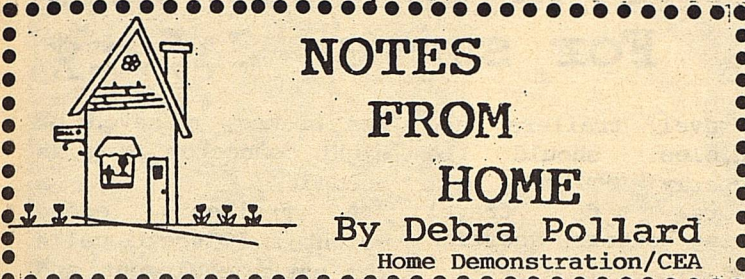
101 Driving Days
of Summer

May 28 - September 5, 1988
Texas Coalition for Safety Belts

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NOTES FROM HOME

By Debra Pollard
Home Demonstration/CEA

Get the Most From Your Freezer

The money saved by freezing fresh produce or food bought on sale can easily be eaten up by energy costs if you don't make good use of your home freezer.

A frost-free freezer costs about \$15 per month for electricity, depending upon size and your local electric rates. You can keep your freezer from using more electricity than necessary by making sure it operates efficiently.

A freezer inside the home requires less energy than one kept in the garage because it doesn't have to work as hard to maintain its low temperature.

When the garage is the only space available put the freezer against an inside wall, if possible, since it will be cooler there. If your garage has no ventilation, consider adding a roof vent for air circulation and lower temperatures.

A full freezer runs more efficiently than one that's half empty. If you use your freezer very little, consider pulling the plug on it, buying only what you need for a short period and storing it in the refrigerator-freezer.

Older freezers often use extra energy because they have leaky gaskets that let cold

air escape. Test the rubber gasket by placing a piece of paper in the door and closing it. If you can pull the paper out without tearing it, the gasket needs to be replaced.

Depending upon the size of the freezer, replacing a rubber gasket is about a \$15-\$25 do-it-yourself job.

Don't freeze foods you eventually have to throw away. If your family doesn't eat zucchini, for example, freezing quarts of it will simply be a waste of money. Freeze foods you need and use most often and amounts you can use within the recommended storage time.

For best quality in frozen foods, check the temperature of the freezer with a freezer thermometer to make sure it is at 0°F. or less.

Invest in moisture-vapor proof plastic bags and wraps, freezer wrap, freezer containers or heavy duty foil to prevent freezer burn. Don't try to cut corners by using old plastic bread bags or containers not meant for freezing since that will just reduce the quality of the food.

Also label and date frozen food packages. Then keep a simple

inventory of your packages of food within freezer to tell you the recommended storage time. what's on hand and remind you to use

stock their home freezers.

If you do buy meat in bulk, protect it in the freezer with proper freezer containers and tape so you have a good quality product three or four months later.

Also consider the cost of the electricity it takes to run the freezer. If, for example the electricity for your freezer costs \$15 per month, that could offset the savings you realized by buying extra meat now.



Drought To Impact Meat, Poultry, Produce Prices

Drought-driven increases in feed grain prices will eventually have an impact on consumer costs for meat, poultry, some produce and canned goods, according to specialists with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service at Texas A&M University.

Food shoppers probably won't see higher meat prices until late this summer.

The first indication of rising prices is usually fewer and fewer sales on meat, or slight discounts only on the less expensive cuts such as chuck and hamburger.

During the mid-summer consumers should find attractive meat prices and sales as farmers continue to sell off their stock.

Poultry marketing specialists say shoppers will find a similar situation with poultry.

Consumers can expect a 3-6 month lapse before poultry prices rise because most poultry producers locked in grain prices on the futures market months ago. But the drought will eventually have a heavy impact on

poultry since 60-65% of the price the farmer receives goes to feed.

With the large supply of poultry and especially eggs on the market now, consumers can expect low prices and more specials throughout the summer.

The produce counter may be the first place shoppers notice the effects of the drought.

Now should be the start of the summer vegetables season from the midwest, but consumers aren't going to see the abundance of produce that usually prompts sales and falling prices as the season progresses.

We've already seen this effect with Texas watermelons, cantalopes and peaches. There's no shortage, but prices aren't falling as you would expect during the height of the summer.

Since the upper midwest is the source of many vegetables for canning, such as sweet peas, consumers will also see higher prices on some canned goods next winter.

While prices are still low this summer, consumers may want to

POLITICAL CALENDAR

U.S. CONGRESS

Charles Stenholm (D)

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 69

Larry Don Shaw (D)

JUSTICE, COURT OF APPEALS, 11th DIST.

George Hansard

DISTRICT JUDGE

Gene Dulaney (R)

Leland W. "Pete" Greene (D)

SHERIFF

R.D. Lewis (D)

COMMISSIONER

Prect.#3

Vernon Wolf (D)

Prect. # 1

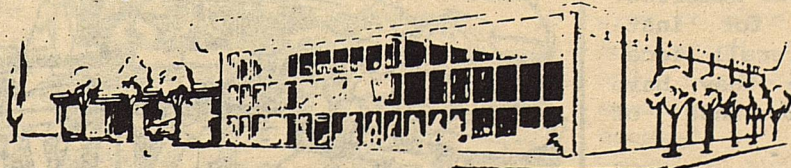
Frank Currey (D)

Jack McPhaul (R)



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ASCS NEWS BY Jerry Stone

1988 CROP CERTIFICATION

We would like to take just a minute and say thanks to the producers of Borden County for your patience and understanding during certification.

An accurate certification is a must in order to maintain all program benefits. All the extra time spent at the counter in measuring and computing the crop acreage on your farm is only an effort to help you maintain your program eligibility. Again Thank You.

AERIAL MEASUREMENT SERVICE

AERIAL MEASUREMENT
For those producers that made applications for measurement service, we are scheduled to be flown as early as July 28 or 29, so if you need to make adjustments or plow lines between similar crops be sure to be finished before this date. Keep in mind that you will be notified when we have completed your measurement service request and then you have five (5) days to make any required adjustments and come to the county office to certify. **YOU MUST CERTIFY YOUR MEASURED ACRES.**

The tolerance for program crops is the larger of 1 acre of 5% of the reported acreage not to exceed 50 acres. The tolerance on ACR is ZERO. If measured acres reflect less than your required ACR you must give us the required acreage.

EMERGENCY HAYING AND GRAZING

Borden County has made an application but has not been approved for Emergency Haying and Grazing at this time. To remain eligible for program benefits producers must not graze or hay ACR or CU for Pay Acreage during the restricted period. The restricted period for Borden County is from April 1 through August 31, 1988.

CRP SIGNUP UNDERWAY

The 7th Signup period for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) began Monday July 18, 1988 and will continue through August 31, 1988.

Eligible land must have been planted to an agriculture crop at least two out of the five year period beginning 1981 through 1985 and be classified as

highly erodible according to SCS determinations.

All signatures of owners and spouses must be returned to the County office by Wednesday August 31, 1988.

FAILED ACREAGE

Before you destroy any crop acreage needed for payment or history purposes you must first certify the acreage and then file a request for failed acreage.

Failure to file a request will cost you loss of program payments plus history credit for planting the crop. Failed acreage must be due to a natural disaster and not caused by weeds or workmanlike manner.

ACP

Funds are available for approved conservation practices. Applications are now being accepted for practices to be completed during August and September.

If you are planing some conservation work on your farm or ranch and need cost share assistance come by the office and make an application.

Bird brains: Blue jays and other members of the crow family seem to display the greatest levels of intelligence in the bird world. According to National Wildlife magazine, crows, ravens and nut-crackers are able to open and close latches and tie knots. Some captive birds have learned to count and to read clocks. The birds also have good memories. Blue jays, for instance, can recall locations where they have stashed thousands of acorns.

Travel Trailer Tips For summer Safety

Travel trailers and vehicles should be properly equipped to ensure safe travel during summer vacation time.

Care should be taken to secure proper hitches and electrical hook-ups, along with taking safety precautions when on the road.

A quality hitch properly suited for the trailer tongue weight and your particular automobile is a necessity.

Universal type hitches cannot always be adapted to all automobiles. Heavy duty shock absorbers or springs may have to be installed on the car if the trailer tongue weight exceeds towing specifications.

Transmission coolers and external electric fan cooling devices can be used to supplement standard engine cooling fans.

To compensate for the extra electrical load a trailer adds, a heavy duty flasher should be added to the turn signal and emergency flashers.

Extra wiring presents a need for a quality trailer plug to make the added electrical load compatible with your car. A six connector plug allows for tail lights, left turn signal, right turn signal, stop lights, back up lights and a ground. If the trailer

has brakes, a seven or eight connector plug is needed.

A trailer's added weight and length calls for extra equipment and safety precautions to ensure a safe trip.

Extra length side mirrors may have to be added to the towing vehicle for good rear vision. Wide angle mirrors used in conjunction with standard mirrors are best for covering blind spots.

When loading the trailer, place 60% of the total weight in front of the trailer axle to provide maximum stability.

Extra air should be added in the tires to reduce side-sway, overheating and possible failure.

The added weight and length of a trailer alters driving conditions. Passing calls for at least doubling the space and time normally needed. Do not over-steer when making lane changes or the trailer will sway or "whip".

Lightly pumping the brakes when stopping can prevent them from overheating due to the extra load.

By following these suggestions, your pace will be more leisurely, the drive smoother and safer, and your family will have a better chance to enjoy the scenery.

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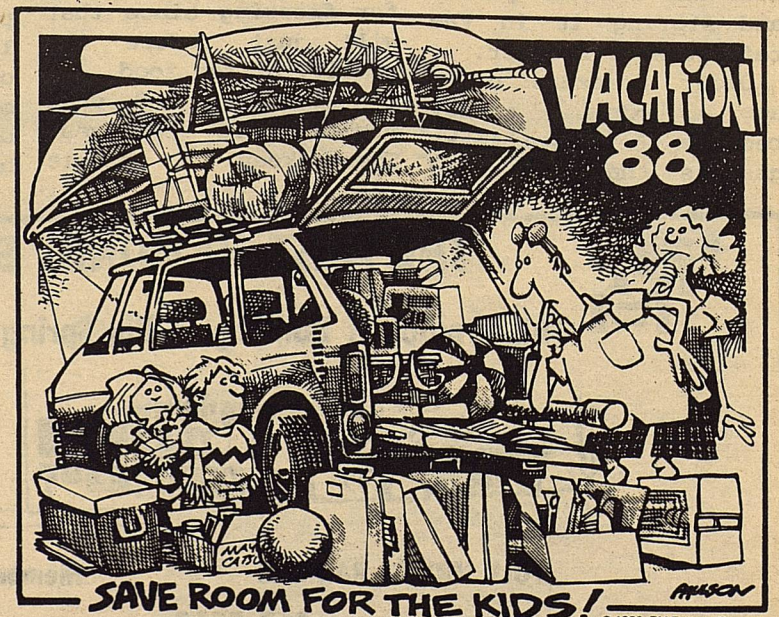
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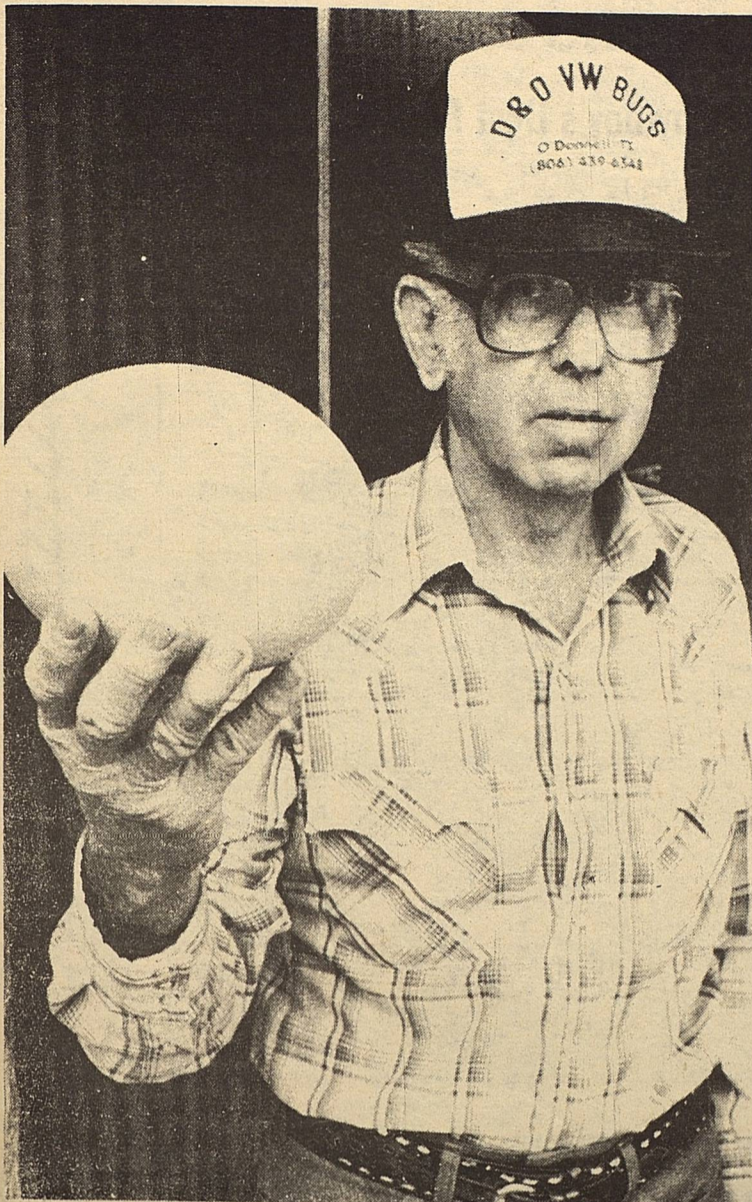
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GRADE A SUPER LARGE? - Borden County farmer Dan Turner holds up one of four unhatched eggs laid earlier this year by one of the four ostriches he is raising on his farm. Turner said there is a growing demand in the U.S. for domestically-produced ostrich skin, feathers and meat. (Photo by Dave Green)

Birds

Cont. from pg. 1

products made from ostriches. "People want them for their potential for profit."

Demand for ostrich products have been strong for two years now, he said, and has been growing steadily. Ostrich skin is used mostly for boots and sometimes for belts, while car makers need the feathers for brushes used in manufacturing process.

Ostrich plumes for ladies hats have been out of vogue for decades now, but the flesh of ostriches is valued because it is all red and similar to beef, said Turner.

Africa is shutting down its export of ostrich skins, so that will make a better market for birds raised

here, said Turner. "A feather merchant from Brownwood said there is a big demand for feathers that's hard to meet," he added.

Even the eggs have some commercial value, fetching a price ranging from \$20 to \$50 each. The eggs are painted, said Turner, or can be carved to contain an assortment of items ranging from clocks to Nativity scenes.

Turner said he spent about a month thoroughly investigating the aspects of ostrich breeding, seeking information from established breeders in Snyder, Plains and Lubbock, plus the breeder in Oklahoma from whom he purchased his flock, before making his investment last November. There was even some information on the subject

available from the Texas Extension Service, he recalls.

Some things about the birds have to be learned through experience, however, such as their temperamental nature.

"They can act intelligent in some ways, and in others they are as dumb as they can be" said Turner, who explained the birds will look at him and cock their heads while he talks as if they understand what he's saying. On the other hand, he added, they will stand out in the rain and hail and not seek shelter in the shed near the pen, much less the enclosed horse barn at the farm.

Turner's best example of the birds' lack of brainpower involves an ostrich which died last March after getting its head caught between a gate and gatepost. Rather than lift its neck and head up to clear the gate, said Turner, the bird tried to escape by pulling its head out and succeeded only in breaking its neck.

"Their brain is very small in comparison to their body weight," he quipped.

While the birds have learned to recognize him when he has on his work clothes, he is treated as a stranger--virtually "ostracized"--by the birds if he shows up wearing a different set of duds and a cowboy hat.

The birds are usually even-tempered, said Turner, except during the mating season when the males become particularly aggressive to intruders. This is especially true when anyone attempts to remove an egg

Turner recalled how a colleague of his was knocked to the ground by an enraged male ostrich -- which can grow to nine feet tall and weigh 400 pounds and received "a good stomping." The farmer escaped, he said, by knocking the bird on the side of the head with a pair of pliers, stunning it long enough so he could get out of

harm's way.

This particular hazard of ostrich breeding can be avoided, Turner suggested, by keeping the adult birds distracted -- not a terribly hard task, considering their I.Q. --while removing the eggs.

The eggs are hatched in a large incubator which resembles a cross between a 50 gallon drum and a cedar cabinet. Each of the eight drawers can hold up to six eggs, and the temperature and humidity level inside are kept at a constant level.

When the eggs hatch, the chicks are moved to a wood and chicken-wire crib in another building where they are kept until they are six weeks old. The chicks are then ready to join the adults outside.

"A baby ostrich is very fragile until it is six weeks old," explained Turner. The chicks are susceptible to pneumonia during their first six weeks, hence the need for keeping them in a controlled environment. Once they grow to three months, however, there are few conditions which will threaten them.

Although ostriches are native to a hot, dry climate, Turner said his flock seemed to have few problems adapting to the cold, wet winter here. He noted the birds preferred to rest on the ground instead of under the shed in all but the very coldest weather.

Feeding the birds has not been a difficult or expensive proposition

for Turner, who mixes his own feed by combining corn, rabbit pellets and Purina Trout Chow. "They need a high-protein diet," he said, explaining his choice of fish food in their menu. "They eat almost anything."

Each bird will eat about two pounds of feed each day. Several days' worth of feed can be put out at one time because the birds will not overeat.

Another advantage to raising ostriches Turner cited is their lack of such parasites as fleas, ticks or lice which means the breeder does not have to bother with grooming.

Turner indicated his family has been supportive of his diversification effort, noting that his wife, Ouida, is as interested in the birds as he is.

To say that purchasing ostriches is a long-term investment is no understatement, considering the birds can reproduce until they are 40 years old or more and may live as long as 70 years.

Turner said he gave his granddaughter a mild shock when she pointed out the ostriches he has now will outlive him.

"She asked, 'What's going to happen to the birds when you're gone?'" Said Turner. "I told her, I'm leaving them to you!"

By David Green



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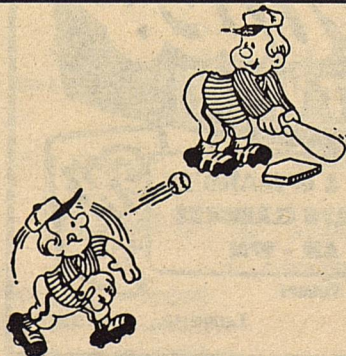
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