

WEST TEXAS Country Trader



The West Texas Country Trader is a section of:

Thursday April 22, 1993

ABERNATHY WEEKLY REVIEW
Abernathy, Tx - Hale County
CANYON NEWS
Canyon, Tx - Randall County

CLARENDON NEWS
Clarendon, Tx - Donley County
CASTRO COUNTY NEWS
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HEREFORD BRAND
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LAMB COUNTY LEADER
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Plainview, Tx - Hale County
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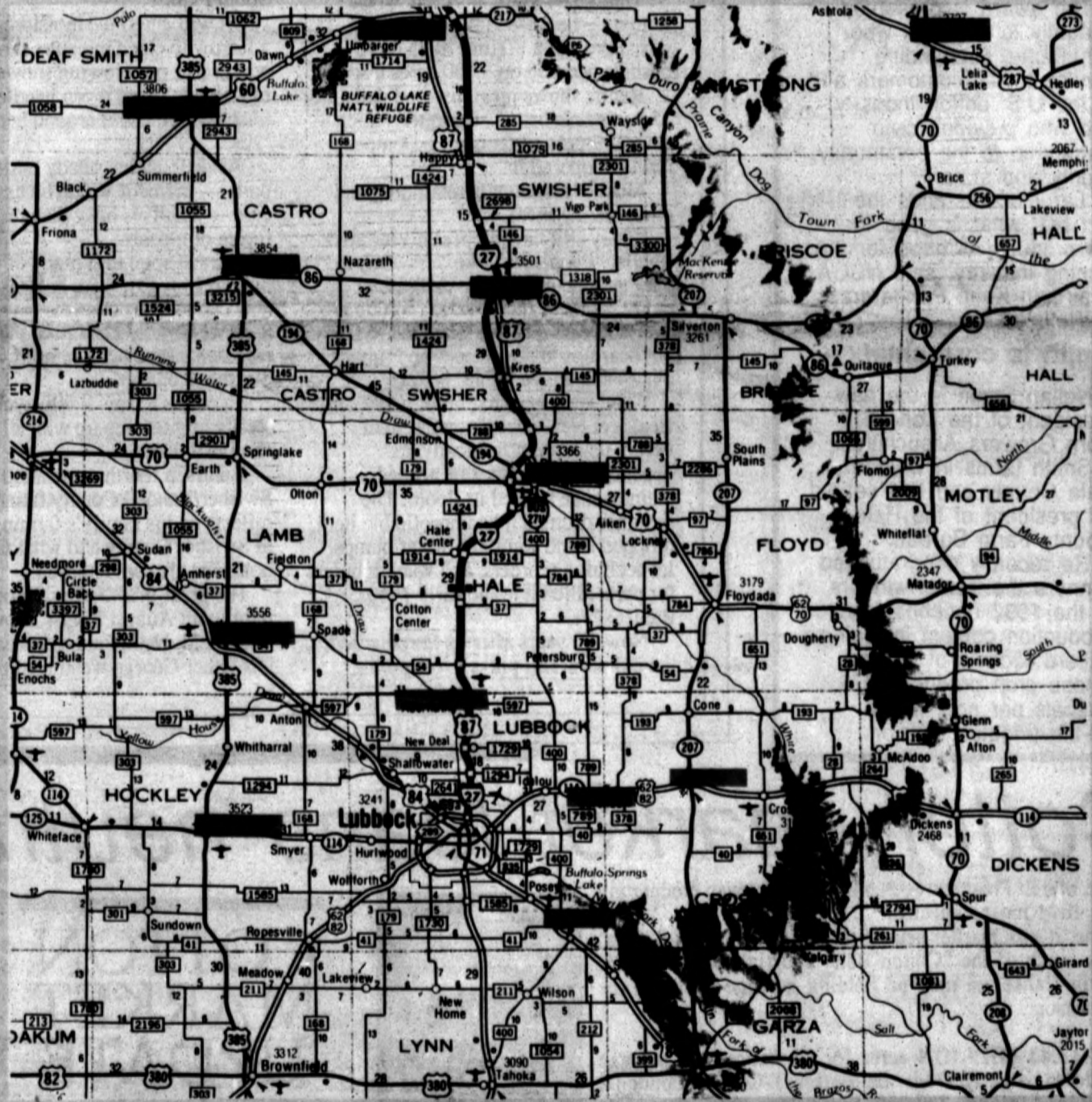
SLATON SLATONITE
Slaton, Tx - Lubbock County
TULIA HERALD
Tulia, Tx - Swisher County

- What is the "West Texas Country Trader"?
- The COUNTRY TRADER is a weekly section produced and published by these following newspapers:

- **Abernathy Review, Hale County 298-2033**
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- **Castro Co. News, Castro County 647-3123**
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- **Hereford Brand, Deaf Smith County 364-2030**
- **Hockley County News, Hockley County 894-3121**

- **Lamb County Leader, Lamb County 385-4481**
- **Lorenzo Examiner, Crosby County 634-5390**
- **Plainview Daily Herald, Hale County 296-1300**
- **Ralls Reporter News, Crosby County 634-5390**
- **Slaton Slatonite, Lubbock County 828-6201**
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AgReview



South Plains Ag News

Nation's top ginner

EDMONSON — Larry Nelson of Tulia and owner of Edcot Gin in Edmonson has been named winner of the 1992-93 Horace Hayden National Cotton Ginner of the Year award.



NELSON

Nelson was presented the award during National Cotton Ginners Association annual meeting at San Antonio recently.

The award is presented annually to a ginner who contributes outstanding service to his customers and to the U.S. cotton industry, and who provides civic leadership to the community, county and state.

"Larry understands the fact that what is good for the producer is good for the ginning industry," said NCGA Chairman Keith Pendergrass of Wellman.

Smith is corn chief

Neilan Smith is the new president of the Lone Star Corn Growers Association.

Smith farms in western Hale County and has served as president of the Hale County Farm Bureau.

He recently congratulated winners the Texas winners in the 1992 national corn production contest including Milferd Nichols of Dalhart, whose crop produced 279 bushels per acre in the no-till, irrigated division.

Rahlfs, wheat drill: 'ones of a kind'

■ Dryland wheat farmer
wearer of many hats

By GORDON ZEIGLER
AgReview Writer

HAPPY — Lloyd Rahlfs has played his part in the nation's wheat belt for a lifetime. He's raised dryland wheat and lots of it. And, for years, he's been known as the only man in the nation who can still supply parts for a popular old wheat drill.

Several thousands of farmers across the Midwest like the implement so well they won't retire or trade 'em in on new ones. So they come to Rahlfs for parts. So do hundreds more in Randall, Swisher, Castro, Armstrong and Briscoe counties.

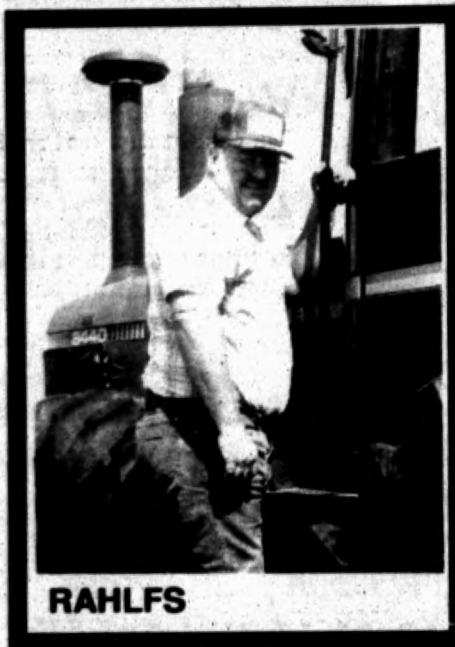
Though he's still an active wheat farmer — he raised his best dryland wheat crop of a lifetime at 35 to 40 bushels per acre on 3,000 acres last year — Rahlfs shows up at his shop daily. For 15 years he's been keeping the nation's several thousand remaining Dempster Drills in operation.

Most of his work is rebuilding and modernizing them.

"They still haven't beat it yet," says Rahlfs. "People still like 'em. They don't put that kind of metal in drills any more...a lot of these we're running are over 40 years old. We've added to them, put bearings in new places and rubber in places and added bigger boxes."

The Dempster, first built in 1927 in Beatrice, Neb., was a popular item before its demise. Ironically, its dependability and lack of needed maintenance spelled its doom. The designer deemed it an unprofitable item, dropped it and went into water pumps. Its declining reorders, and waning orders for parts killed it in the early 1960s, Rahlfs says.

Now, 70 years after its introduction, the old plow still plays a role on the



RAHLFS

South Plains.

"It will get to the moisture, and leave a furrow to catch moisture through the winter like our blowing snows," Rahlfs explained. "And, it can handle a lot of trash. We've had it around here since the '20s."

Aside from his steady business in drill parts — many of which he has custom cast — Rahlfs is busy planning for the future of his farm.

He will soon turn many of the reigns over to Lloyd Jr. And, he's taken on a new cap to wear this year — that of Swisher County Commissioner. (Rahlfs represents Precinct 1 in northwest Swisher County)

Needless to say, Rahlfs works at a steady clip to keep up with all his responsibilities.

Rahlfs, a fourth-generation Swisher/Randall County farmer, often reflects on his family's farming tradition in Swisher County and what farming holds for his own children.

His great-grandfather, German immigrant August Rahlfs, moved to Wakefield, Neb., then to Texas in 1906. His father George weathered the

Depression thanks to hard work and operating a dairy, which lent itself to cream and milk bartering to keep the family and farm afloat.

Farming is getting harder for the younger ones to do," he said. "It's pretty tough. Our dryland is so much different. You have to diversify so much with cattle and wheat. I farm, I have a business, and I am also a county commissioner."

A challenge for the future, and for the farming future of Lloyd Jr., Rahlfs says farmers must be able to get a better price.

"The main thing is the economics," he said. "You have to be so lucky out here now, because the price of wheat is so low."

Rahlfs bemoans the current prices of \$3.20 per bushel — which seem even more tragic when he considers his grandfather, Otto Rahlfs, sold his wheat for about the same price.

"Government has tried to get out of subsidies, but they still want control. That's a lot of our problem," he said.

Rahlfs recalls the 1970s as a high point for grain farming.

"Our prices really jumped up then," he said. "Wheat prices were \$5 for a while and milo was \$6. Everything was up, then the government froze everything."

Rahlfs blames the Nixon administration for the freeze, but says Carter's embargo dealt farmers a "double whammy."

"We got it from both sides," he said. "I won't lay it off on just the Republicans."

Another future trend Rahlfs expects to hurt farmers is restrictions on chemicals.

"We're going to see years where bugs will eat us up because you can't spray," he predicts. "The next 10 years is going to be hard to survive economically."

Rahlfs considers himself fortunate to have had an exceptional wheat yield last year, but the price kept him from reaping any real financial benefits.

See WHEAT, Page 8

Cotton market leans neutral to friendly

The March Prospective Plantings report was moderately lower than most expected.

Thus, it was market neutral to friendly. Financial stress across much of the "Cotton Belt" and tight water allocations in California may be holding acreage back for the new season.

AT 13.43 MILLION acres for all cotton, the acreage was down slightly from the National Cotton Council's survey and about 200,000 acres less than the trade expected. Last season's acreage was 13.29 million, and the season before acreage stood at 14.05 million.

The market should now turn more responsive to export sales and shipments, weather conditions and policy changes in cotton growing countries. For a market rally to reach towards the mid-sixty cent level for December futures, it appears a combination of larger export shipments and bad weather would be needed.

POLICY DECISIONS in the Former Soviet Union, China and Pakistan could also impact on the positive side of the market.

Prospects for a surge in old crop exports are not good. Exports in 1993 have been sluggish and may fall considerably short of the latest 1992/93 estimate of 6.1 million.

Eventually, exports of 5.8 million bales may be on the high side. Domestic mill use may increase beyond the 9.8 million estimated, but the increase will not likely be enough to offset lower exports and keep the 1992/93 ending stocks from increasing around 200,000 bales above



COTTON MARKET UPDATE

Dr. Carl Anderson

the March estimate of 4.2 million bales.

With prospects good for at least a 17.3 million bale crop and total use of only 16.5, ending stocks will likely increase to 5.2 million by the end of the 1993/94 season next July.

HOWEVER, THE current forward "A" Index suggests that user certificates for forward export sales of the 1993 crop may exceed the 5.5 cents per pound value for the week of April 24 a year ago. During that week, forward sales soared to a high of 2.0 million bales.

Fundamental supply and demand information at this early date strongly favors the bearish side of the market. A drop to the low 50 cent level this fall appears likely. Therefore, watch the market for rallies over the next month or two to implement your marketing plan. You may wish to

spread out the risk by pricing a part of the crop at a time.

Among the pricing strategies that should be evaluated are: 1) buying a put on a "new" crop futures month at or slightly out-of-the-money; 2) buying a put and selling a call out-of-the-money; 3) if available, consider forward contracts but be aware of language concerning loan eligibility (beneficial interest), amount of discounts for qualities under base grade and buyer's financial strength; and 4) use a short futures position.

REMEMBER, A FUTURES hedge strategy requires margin deposits and possible margin calls if price goes up. Also, there are many other feasible pricing strategies available using a combination of forward contracts, options and futures positions.

As a rule, when the potential is for a larger crop and increased supply, the market peaks early in the year. The decrease to a 7.5 percent ARP for the 1993 crop from 10 percent clearly opens the door for more U.S. cotton, big government payments and a depressed market price.

Because of weather conditions and policy influenced production and supply, the market price is likely to continue to vary as new information develops. Be ready to implement your marketing plan, or join a marketing group, or do both. A "do nothing" plan that depends on government payments instead of supplementing them will likely end up in a major financial disappointment.

(Dr. Carl Anderson, Cotton Marketing Specialist with the Texas A&M Extension Service, is a noted authority on the cotton markets)

Farm Aid VI on stage this week

By STEVEN P. ROSENFELD

Associated Press Writer

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Willie Nelson presents Farm Aid VI on Saturday, a marathon concert that has as much to do with raising awareness about rural America as it does with raising money to help family farmers.

While the farm economy no longer is on its knees, as it was in 1985 when Farm Aid was born, an estimated one in 10 farmers remain overwhelmed by debt and times are getting tougher for many others. Some economists believe the farm recovery peaked in 1989, after just three years.

"Agriculture is just the bottom rung on the economic ladder," Nelson says. "Once the farmers go under, then everyone over them starts."

IT IS THE entertainment that draws the crowd and provides a forum for that message.

Dozens of performers are scheduled to join Nelson, including Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard, Waylon Jennings, Kris Kristofferson, Neil Young, John Mellencamp, Ricky Van Shelton and Dwight Yoakam. Hosts include Roseanne and Tom Arnold, Yakov Smirnoff, Lou Diamond Phillips and Williams & Ree.

The concert begins at noon CDT and runs until 11 p.m. at the 50,000-seat Cyclone Stadium of Iowa State University in the central Iowa community of Ames.

The Nashville Network will televise the concert to cable viewers, joining the program at 3 p.m.

BECAUSE THE concert coincides with the Drake Relays track meet in nearby Des Moines and the annual spring student

celebration at Iowa State, hotel rooms throughout central Iowa have been booked for weeks. But plenty of Farm Aid tickets still are available.

Promoters say they're happy with the response, but headed into the final week of sales, Iowa State said more than a third of the tickets had yet to be sold.

Ticket sales were picking up, however, according to Andy Long at the Iowa State Center. Reserved seats remain for sale at \$27.50 each, although the 2,000 choice preferred seats, at \$46 each, quickly sold out.

EVEN BEFORE the entertainment begins, concert organizers have found ways to get out their message that family farmers are vital to the stability of rural America.

On the eve of the concert, a House agriculture subcommittee meets in Ames at Nelson's invitation to take testimony on how the U.S. Department of Agriculture can become more responsive to the needs of family farmers.

On concert day, fans are being urged to deposit nonperishable food at the gate for the hunger relief organization Feed the Children.

Even groups that have yet to share in the nearly \$11.2 million distributed in the past seven years by Farm Aid applaud the way the concerts help focus attention on rural issues.

"I think the proportion of farmers in a crisis situation is less today than in 1985, but it's still a problem. The more public awareness of this the better," says Don Ralston, administrative director of the Center for Rural Affairs in Walthill, Neb.

IN THE 1980S, only generous federal payments kept many farmers on the land, and most of those who survived now rely

on off-farm employment to make ends meet.

Off-farm income represented more than 85 percent of a farm household's total income in 1991, the government says.

The struggles in the 1980s also were marked by an exodus of one of every four U.S. farm residents. That followed a similar flight from the farm in the 1970s.

THE NETWORK of 75 cooperatives throughout the Southeast provides technical assistance, financing and counseling to family farmers, concentrating on minority groups.

"All 2 million farmers are in trouble, but the plight of the minority farmer is twice or three times as bad," Paige says.

Farm Aid last year provided \$75,000 of the federation's \$600,000 budget.

It also has bought eyeglasses for two elementary school girls in south central Iowa, helped support the Oklahoma Ag-Link Farm Crisis Hotline, stocked emergency food pantries across rural America and financed legal services and rural rights organizations.

IN ALL, FARM Aid has provided \$10.7 million to farmer and rural organizations since 1987. It has paid almost \$500,000 more for educational and advisory services, such as a mailing advising more than 80,000 farmers of their rights in foreclosure proceedings.

The organization reports raising almost \$14.2 million since 1985 through concerts, television programs and contributions. It has spent about 17 percent, or about \$2.3 million on management and fund-raising. Most of the remaining \$682,000 is in a special scholarship account created by the Des Moines-based Youngers chain of Midwest department stores.

Tractor antiquers love pastime

Farmer and wife into 'Deere' hunting

By GORDON ZEIGLER

AgReview Writer

ABERNATHY — Frustrations of farming fade into nothing when you're fixing up old tractors.

In fact, rebuilding the old iron ghosts has put a lot of spice back into life for Jimmie Davis, a charter member of Texas' newest group devoted to restoring two-cylinder antique tractors, the Texas Two-Cylinder Club.

Davis admits he works out lots of frustrations by going out to the barn and picking over pieces of a 60-year-old tractor yet to be restored.

Though he's already restored more than one, he spends hours trying to make this one run again. He's learned there's no bigger challenge than putting one of these aging iron horses back into running shape.

"None of it is work, you understand that," Davis emphasizes. "How many hours do you work playing golf? Or going fishing?" he asks.

Davis was bitten by the tractor bug by accident, he claims, after seeing a real beauty sitting in front of a friend's house several years ago.

"Preston Reeves of Ropesville had redone a Model B John Deere, and put it in front of his house," recalls Davis. "I thought it looked pretty nice. So I started out to find one to put in front of the house."

A few months later, Davis showed up at a farm sale in Plainview, saw a John Deere Model G he liked, and bought it.

Davis learned within minutes he had bought into more than just a tractor.

"Four or five different people came up to me and started talking about old tractors," Davis recalls. "The boys I met that day are some of the best friends I've got today. All of these people, I found out, are all just alike in this deal."

Soon Davis and enthusiasts banded together to form the two-cylinder group.

From that time on, he learned he wasn't in this game alone.

"When I get kind of aggravated and run into a problem, I just walk off and leave it," he says. "I make a phone call, and you usually find somebody who's had the same problem you're having. Somebody out there has an answer for anything."

A handsomely-restored model G John



DAVIS AND WIFE

Deere now sits in front of Davis' farm home just south of Abernathy along Interstate 27 stands tribute to a hobby shared by many today.

The tractor marks the spot where the Two-Cylinder club got its start.

"What we did, we just met here at my house," he recalls. "About 70 people showed up, many with their old tractors."

The club and its old machines attracted much attention that day from traffic going up and down Interstate 27 — affording a first hand look at the new phenomenon of a down home, West Texas old tractor meet.

Soon Davis became the group's vice president and his wife, Gail, became reporter/historian.

The couple has added some unusual items to their collection — like their huge John Deere power unit — an engine that originally pulled an oil well in Illinois, running off raw fuel coming out of the well. Davis runs it on propane, has it mounted on a John Deere Trailer.

Fellow members have found some conversation pieces also.

Al Irons of Hart has a four-wheel-drive Massey Harris, vintage 1930. It's unusual since there weren't many 4WD machines up to that time.

South Plains farmer Paul Armstrong has an old International Mogul, a pretty rare breed of tractor.

Davis says the ultimate, for him, would be to find one of the rarest of the rare machines ever used on the farm — a small iron beast called a Linderman Crawler.

"They're not used any more," explains Davis. "This little crawler was kind of like a caterpillar."

Another tractor, Waterloo-Boy, would be quite rare. It is one being produced when John Deere decided to get into business, bought out the Waterloo company and started on its own.

Davis and his wife, Gail, soon discovered they share a common passion for old tractor hunting.

"She enjoys it as much as I do," Davis said.

He laughs when he remembers just several years ago a vacation was just a vacation. Now it's a tractor hunt.

"When I'm not looking, she's looking," Davis laughs. "One takes a nap and the other does the looking. We never quit hunting. We call it going 'Deere' hunting. We drive every road on the way to where we're going."

Lots of old tractors are found that way. But they're getting scarce. Parts are hard to find — especially blocks, pistons and heads. But, surprisingly, John Deere houses carry or can order many small parts which still change out with the modern versions.

The Two-Cylinder Club has informal activities through the year. Its member show up at area parades and community celebrations.

Formal events are planned, however, with the club set to hold a show in June at Paul Armstrong's farm near Hart. In July, they meet at Donald Webb's on the edge of Amarillo. Some members take their tractors each year to the state tractor show in Temple.

"We try to have three meets every year, plus two at individual farms," he explained. A recent successful tractor show was staged at Ollie Liner Center in Plainview.

Calendar Ag News

May 1-2

SHOOTING SPORTS: Extravaganza, Texas 4-H Center, Lake Brownwood. Contact Ron Howard, 409-845-1214.

May 5-7

HORSE SHORT COURSE: Texas A&M University. Contact Dr. Doug Householder, 409-845-1562. tion's capital were:

May 15-16

OLD SOREHEAD TRADE DAYS: Courthouse lawn, Stanton. Contact Kathryn Burch, 915-756-3316.

May 20

SMALL GRAINS FIELD DAY: Chillicothe Extension Center. Contact David Worrall, 817-552-9941.

Young farmer wins ag award for saving man

A McLennan County man has received the 1992 Rural Heroism Award for saving a China Spring cattleman from being crushed in a hay baler last June.

David Jackson was awarded the prestigious honor at the annual Texas and Southwestern Safety Association meeting in Austin recently.

HE RESCUED Dennis Provasek, who had become caught in a haybaler, on June 16, 1992.

A neighbor hailed down Jackson, who was driving a tractor on a rural road. He drove to the site where Provasek was fighting for his life; reversed the movement of the haybaler roller and freed the injured cattleman.

For Jackson, the rescue brought back other memories. His father was killed several years ago in a farming accident. Both Jackson and Provasek are members of the McLennan County Farm Bureau.

Feedgrains enjoy seasonal rally, wheat mixed

The corn market is continuing to edge higher, slowly building onto the long awaited seasonal rally. The old crop fundamentals are still not anything to get excited about (the April supply and demand report did not contain any real positive surprises).

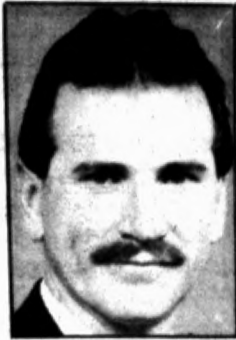
However, the Russian aid package announcement and growing concerns over planting delays are providing some fundamental support for the rally.

Planting has been delayed across most of the Southern states, with some producers in Texas suggesting that they are running 3 to 5 weeks behind their desired planting schedule. That could come back to haunt them if the weather turns hot and dry during pollination time.

It is still too early to say how much of a delay Midwestern corn producers may face since they do not normally get much planted before late April.

The concern, however, is that last fall's field work never got caught up, and now they are missing the chance to do a lot of their normal pre-plant preparation. Current weather forecasts suggest that more delays may be experienced before much work gets done, and the traders will likely view that as bullish for prices.

Remember, though, that the major planting timeframe in the Midwest is from the last week of April through the end of May, and that the crop will almost certainly get planted



GRAIN MARKET UPDATE

Dr. Mark Waller

somehow.

From a marketing perspective, that may suggest that there could be some pricing opportunities coming up soon, but they could disappear fast if and when the weather moderates.

So far as wheat is concerned, the situation remains mixed.

Old crop fundamentals continue to improve, providing underlying support for May futures, but continued favorable weather and good crop condition reports provide

resistance on rallies for the July new crop futures. There were no major surprises in the April release of the

World Agricultural Supply and Demand estimates report. World beginning stocks and production were increased slightly from last month but were mostly offset by slightly higher consumption.

As a result, ending stocks increased, but only slightly, and not enough to have any impact on the markets. The U.S. numbers showed a 25 million bushel increase in feed and residual use, boosting total use to 2.478 billion bushels. U.S. ending stocks were lowered another 21 million bushels to 520 million bushels. This should help to provide underlying support to old crop prices, especially in light of recent Russian aid announcements which could result in additional demand from those low stocks.

From a marketing perspective, the new crop futures still are not offering much, with July still hovering in the 3.10-3.05 area. Unless crop conditions start to erode, however, it may be difficult to get prices to rally very far as we approach summer harvest.

We are starting to see more rumors about disease and concerns that too much wet weather could cause crop problems. Unless that happens, we may not see much of any better pricing opportunities until after harvest.

(Dr. Mark Waller, Grain Marketing Specialist with the Texas A&M Extension Service, is an authority on the nation's grain markets.)

Value added firm shipping to Japan

■ Putting area beef, grain products to work

By GORDON ZEIGLER
AgReview Writer

HEREFORD — Value-added processing continues its growth, making new marketing inroads on the South

Plains and the latest effort involves beef and grain products made into dogfood in Deaf Smith County.

Texas Ag Commissioner Rick Perry was in Hereford last Friday to herald the first Japanese export shipments from a new value-added pet food processing plant in Hereford.

Merrick Petfoods, Inc., marked a first when it shipped out its first caseloads of the dog food, Beef 'n More to the Far East.

Perry said that Merrick dog food products are an excellent example of adding value to raw commodities before shipping them

out of stat.

"The Merrick Petfoods company takes Texas' raw agricultural products and processes Beef 'n More, a dry dog food that uses fresh Texas-grown beef and grains as the main ingredients." &

"When we export our raw commodities, we are, in effect, exporting jobs, opportunities and dollars that otherwise would go into Texans' pocketbooks," Perry said.

"But when we ship out processed products, we keep all the profits at home. In fact, a 40-pound bag of dry dog food in Japan retails for \$125, so locating new markets is worth the effort for our processed products."

Merrick annually purchases more than \$4.5 million worth of corn, corn by-products, wheat, wheat by-products and slaughtered cattle. Almost all of the products are bought from Texas producers — over 60 percent from producers in the High Plains.

"I have long believed that the

real economic boon to Texas agriculture and to many rural communities will come from processing," Perry said. "By processing raw agricultural commodities, Merrick Petfoods is cultivating new markets for Texas products, creating new jobs in Deaf Smith County and building economic opportunities for other Texas ag producers." Perry said.

Merrick Petfoods, Inc., is a subsidiary of Hereford Bi-Products, Inc.

Value-added processing plants recently going on line in the area include Beantime Foods, Inc., in Plainview, which prepares 8-ounce bowls of beans from Texas Panhandle pintos; Azteca Milling, a multi-national producer of masa flour from area food grade corn; and a new plant in Post that produces building insulation products from cotton.

Dimmitt has announced plans to open a food processing facility in the near future.

White River yielding some whopper bass

CROSBYTON — White River Lake, located south of Crosbyton in Crosby County, is apparently ready to offer anglers some whopper white bass in years to come.

Fisheries personnel from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in Canyon say a gill net survey of the lake April 6 and 7 turned up some interesting findings.

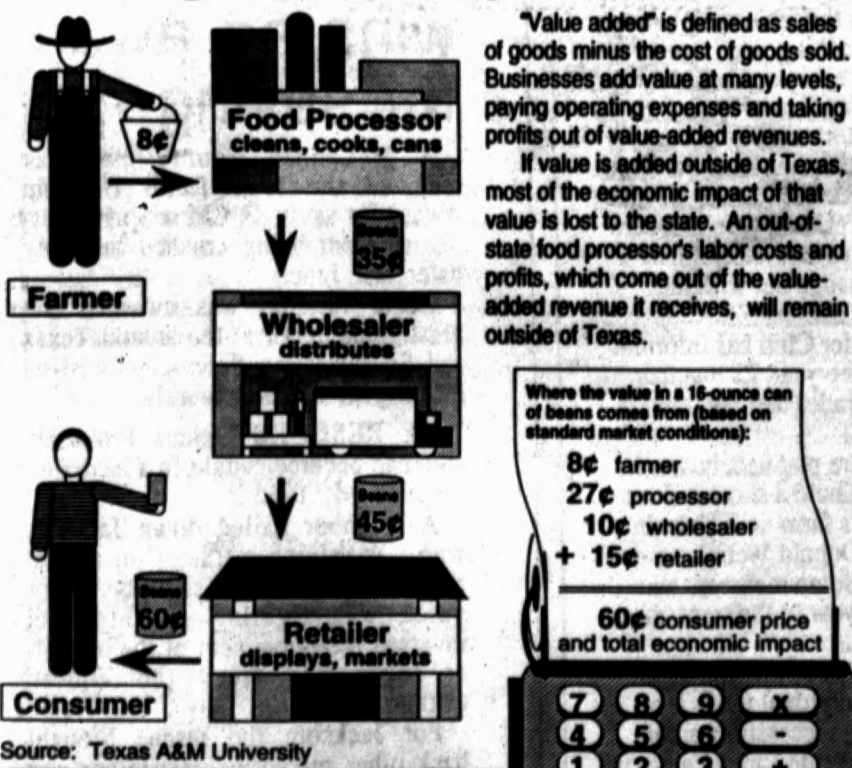
LARGE NUMBERS of sexually-mature white bass were present — including some the largest specimens that fisheries personnel had ever collected — including one 5.9 pound fish which is larger than the state record. A strong spawn is anticipated this year, with those fingerlings able to reach 10 inches by the 1995-96 fishing season.

Channel and flathead catfish are reproducing well, with some very large flatheads reported at more than 367 inches in length, and some channel cats over 22 inches.

SOME TROPHY walleyes are available, but seem less abundant than those netted in 1990 with no evidence they are reproducing. This year, however, cold winter temperatures could have led to successful spawning.

Fish forage was good, with ample shad present. A total of 13 largemouth bass were snagged in gill nets — something rarely seen.

How value is added to an agricultural product



Source: Texas A&M University

Graphic: Agricultural Communications, The Texas A&M System

Castro names new home economics agent

DIMMITT — Marilyn R. Neal has been named the new Castro County Extension Agent-Home Economics and will begin her duties in late April.

Neal has served as CEA-HE in Waldron, Scott County, Ark., for the past year.

She worked with the 4-H program as well as the Extension Homemakers. She said Scott County has approximately the same population as Castro County and the city of Waldron has a population of about 3,000.

Neal has served as CEA-HE for Bryan and Atoka counties in Oklahoma from August 1980 to 1984.

Between her extension assignments, she owned and operated a restaurant and catering service and worked in banking and for an abstract firm.

Her husband, Dan, is the manager of Caviness Packing in

Hereford.

The couple has two children, John, 19, and Sarah, a junior at North Texas State University in Denton.

She is a 1966 graduate of Putnam City High School in Oklahoma City and attended Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. She received a bachelor of science degree in home economics from Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

Texas firm growing Israeli sunflower

PETERSBURG — A Hale County company will soon grow and export edible sunflower seed developed on an Israeli Kibbutz, thanks to the Texas Department of Agriculture's Texas-Israel Exchange.

Agriculture Commissioner Rick Perry said that L&W Sunflower of Petersburg, north of Lubbock, recently purchased 20,000 pounds of seed stock from Kibbutz Shaar Haamakim near Haifa. The seed will be planted to raise sunflowers that have seeds an inch long — twice as long as most U.S. varieties.

L&W PLANS to export the seeds to Spain, where they are in great demand as a snack food.

"TDA and TIE were instrumental in developing the trade lead that will give L&W entrance to this market," Perry said. "Company officials visited the kibbutz last fall to discuss the sale and the possibility of a joint venture."

The seed was shipped Jan. 28 and was due to arrive in Houston in mid-March. Perry said the joint venture to develop hybrid seed with improved yields and vigor is still under consideration.

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INVITATION TO BID

The Abernathy Volunteer Fire Department will receive sealed bids through Friday, May 10, 1993, for one (1) 1974 Chevrolet Suburban and one (1) 1955 Chevrolet 1 1/2 ton truck with utility box.

The vehicles may be inspected by appointment Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 801 6th Street. Call 298-2546 to make an appointment.

The Abernathy Volunteer Fire Department reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to accept such bid that the Abernathy Volunteer Fire Department deems most advantageous to the fire department.

Bids will be opened and considered at 8:00 p.m. May 11, 1993, at the Abernathy Volunteer Fire Department, 9th Street, Abernathy Texas.

Bids are to be marked as follows: Sealed Bid-1974 Chevrolet or Sealed Bid-1955 Chevrolet, AVFD, P.O. 266, Abernathy, Texas 79311-0266.

WOLF IRRIGATION, INC.

Abernathy, Texas

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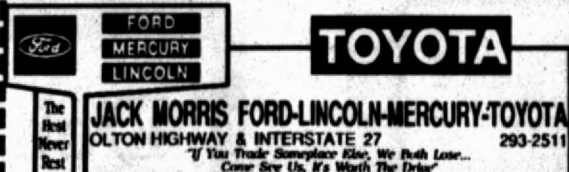
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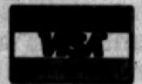
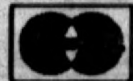
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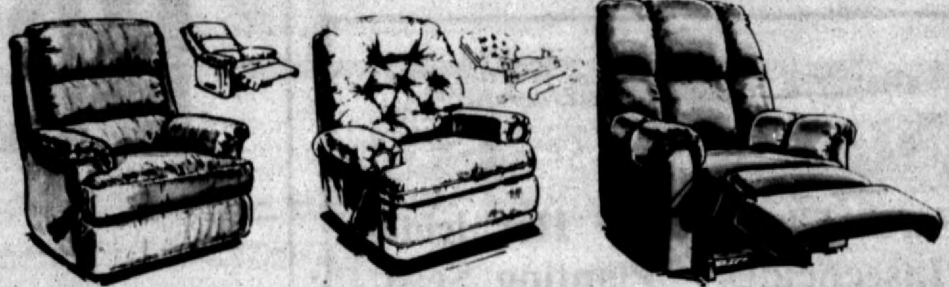
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Rahlf's says 1992 crop produced best wheat yields in his farming career ever

WHEAT

From Page 2

"Last year the price was terrible," he said. "You make a crop like that maybe once in a lifetime. We had boys around here who should have had money in the bank for several years, and it took all of it."

Most of the benefits of 1992 were caught up for past years.

"The year before we missed a crop," Rahlfs said. "And a year before that was not a very good crop."

This year — with a dry year developing last fall — forced Rahlfs to make a choice.

"We didn't have good prospects, so we're grazing it out," he said.

And, he calls the decision a good one for the times — he chose to graze and pass up a crop. Since moisture was poor, and crop prospects are down, grazing was a better choice, he thinks.

"I don't do a lot of smart things through my life, but I felt like this was one of them," I Rahlfs said. "By grazing it out, I've cut my income. But knew what I was going to get. In January and February I made my deals... We could have had a fair crop. But things don't look good for wheat. I've taken the gamble out this year and I feel like I made the right decision."

RHALFS IS looking at no wheat crop on his 3,000 acres, but will raise his traditional 40-acre plot of watered milo.

Rahlfs and wife, Ann, have six children and one granddaughter.

Rahlfs' farm 10 miles southwest of Happy has become somewhat of a museum of farm equipment — much of it from the family, but a lot

of it he saved from being cut up and put in the junk heap.

He recently joined the Texas Two-Cylinder Club and has restored, steel-wheeled, 1928 Model D John Deere Tractor.

His goal for the future?

"If I'm lucky enough to have my health, I'd like to

restore some of the others," he said.

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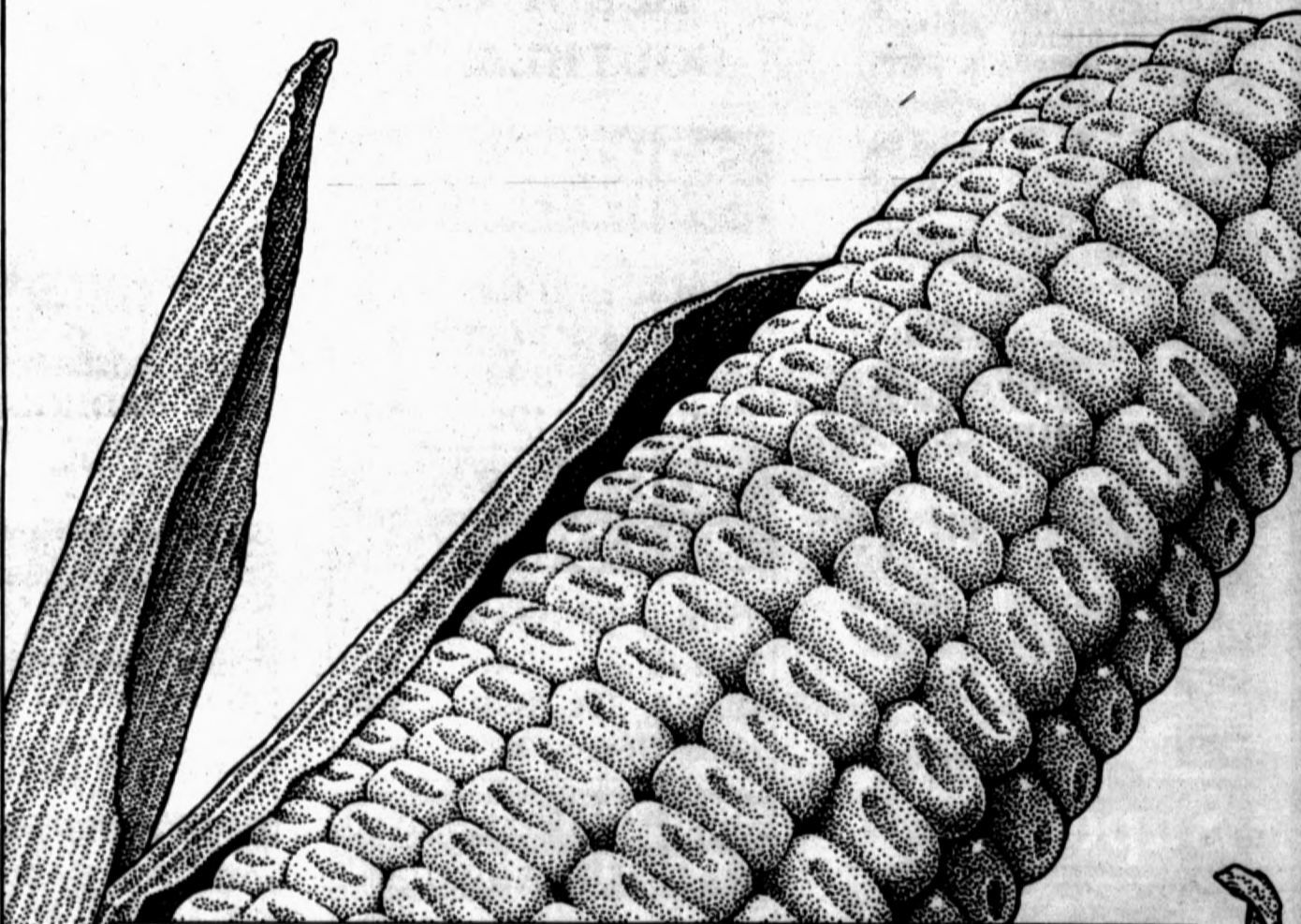
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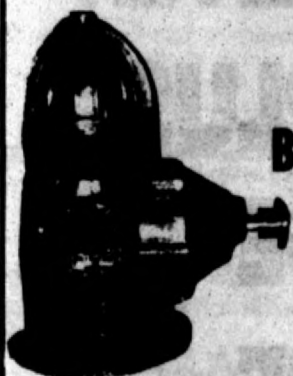
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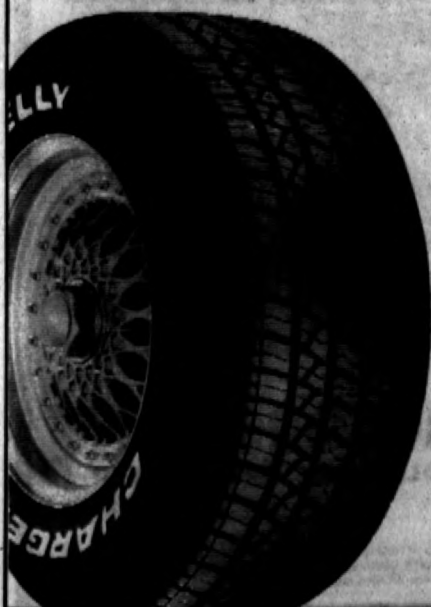
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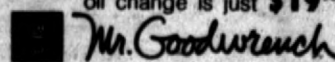
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Farmers tell Mrs. Clinton of health care woes

ANKENY, Iowa (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton heard first hand recently, and in plain terms, how the soaring cost of health insurance is hitting farmers.

She heard it explained this way — The equivalent of "A cow every month" has to be sold by one farm family to pay health premiums.

In a living room chat with five farm families and at more formal public hearing later in the day, Mrs. Clinton heard a human side to the health dilemma fac-

ing rural Americans. "It's not just taking down the families, it is taking down our whole community," farmer Craig Bolinger of Creston told Mrs. Clinton. Bolinger and his wife, Ruth, took extra jobs, off their farm, to help pay health insurance premiums that now are nearly \$7,000 a year, he said.

Chelsea farmer Jim Kaplan explained that he doesn't like to go into town anymore, "because I just can't see how I'm going to buy anything because all my

money's going to health care."

"You've got to sell a cow every month to pay for health insurance," Kaplan said.

Over and over, Mrs. Clinton heard about the problems of self-employed farm families in

paying high medical premiums, particularly when a family member has a serious health condition that makes it hard to switch insurance companies.

Mrs. Clinton, who is chairing a presidential task force charged with

drafting a health care reform plan by May, cautioned that the reforms would not be easy or universally popular.

She said the administration's goals include making sure people

aren't prevented from getting insurance because of pre-existing conditions, allowing people to buy more-affordable insurance through big purchasing cooperatives.

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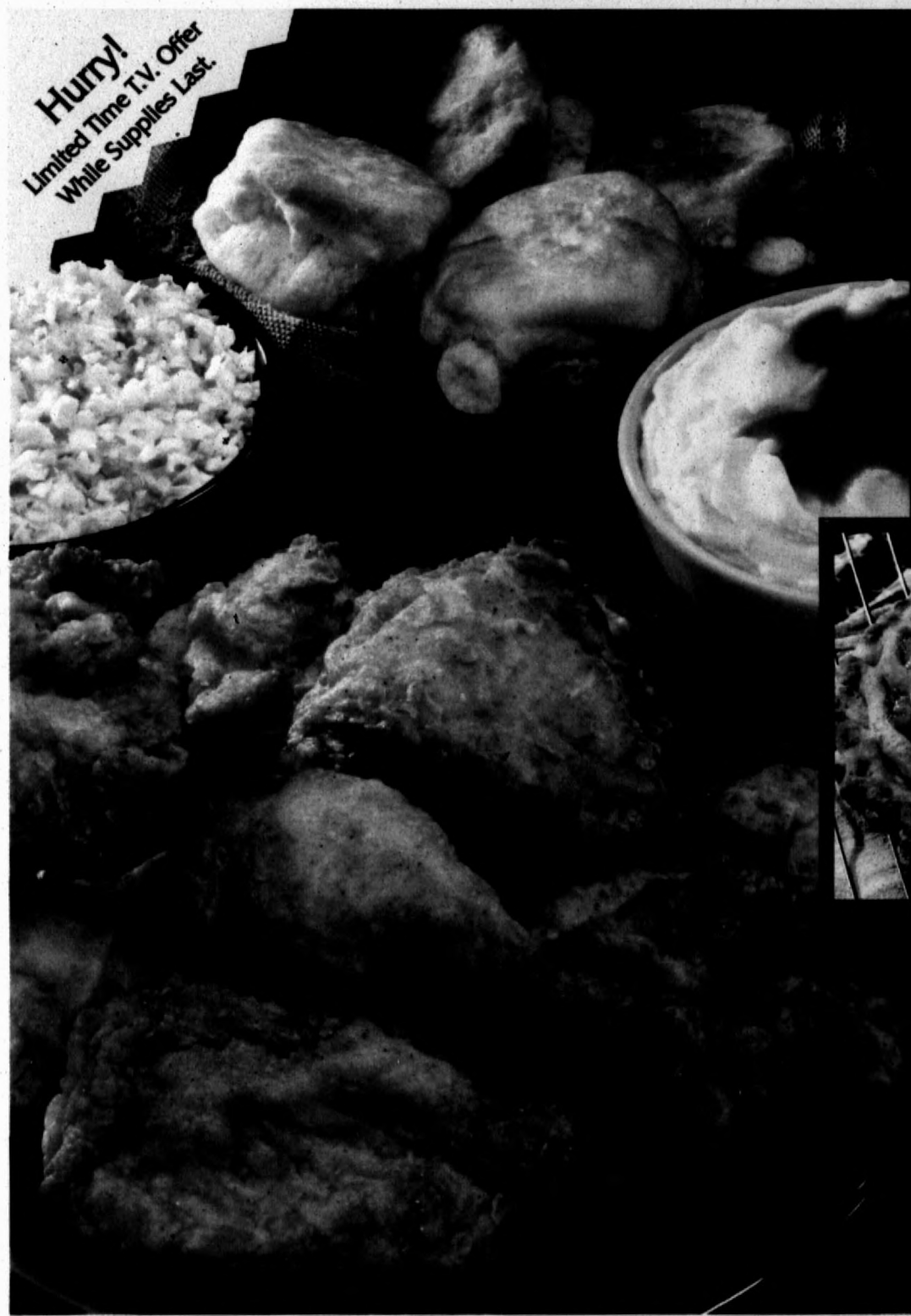
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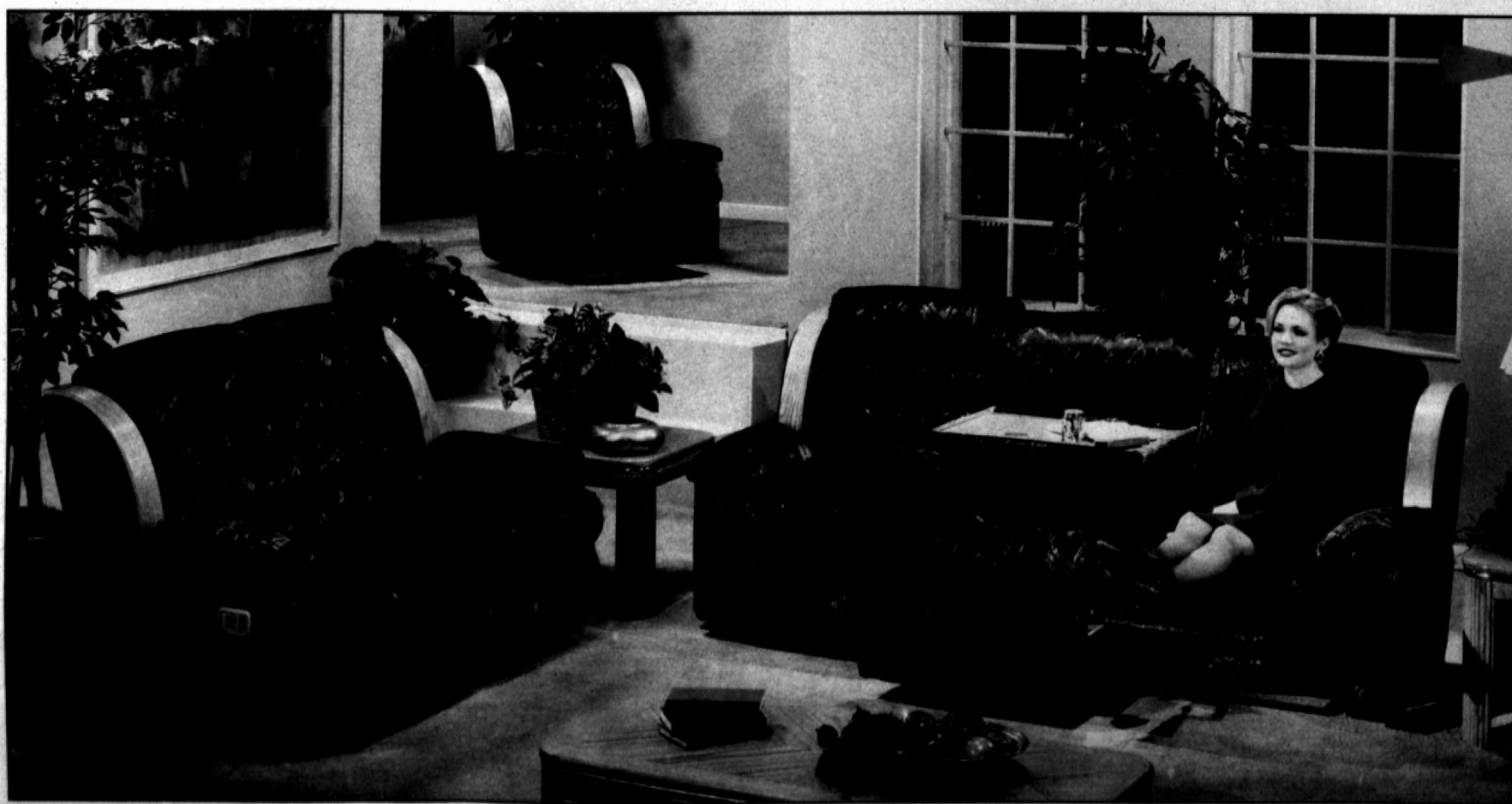
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\$898

SALE
MATCHED LIGHTED
CHINA **\$698**





**Awesome
Comfort.
Incredible
Price!**

This group features generous seat cushions with an over-stuffed fan back for maximum comfort. Upholstered in an exotic black velvet and accented with brass trim.

SOFA **\$478**

LOVE SEAT **\$398**

CHAIR **\$248**

**Uptown
Lifestyle**

We mixed colors with clean lines to get this high style bedroom group. The black lacquer and jade green finish on this dramatic contemporary group give you the European style for today's living.

DRESSER,
MIRROR AND
HEADBOARD

\$598

DOOR CHEST
WITH HIDDEN
STORAGE TOP

\$298

NIGHT
STAND **\$118**



**Southwest
Group**

High pub back design features comfortable seating and casual styling. Upholstered in earth tone Southwest fabric. Add Ashley's oak and glass tables at YOUR CHOICE \$98 for a great room setting.

SOFA **\$398**

LOVE SEAT **\$348**

CHAIR **\$228**

SLEEP SOFA
ALSO ON SALE





**Perfect
for Any
Lifestyle!**

If you like thick, soft cushions you'll love this contemporary group. It's covered in Quaker's "Tulsa." A durable herculon texture and accented with rich oak trim.

SOFA **\$498**

LOVE SEAT **\$448**

CHAIR **\$298**

INNERSPRING SLEEPER ALSO SALE PRICED

**Attractive,
Affordable,
Functional**

Sandberg's wallbed with pier units feature unique "laser lighting" effect and bronze-tone doors. A total of four lights among the three pieces produces a very attractive look.

QUEEN SIZE WALLBED SYSTEM **\$898**

DOOR DRESSER AND MIRROR **\$498**

MASTER CHEST **\$348**



**Casual
Style,
Complete
Comfort**

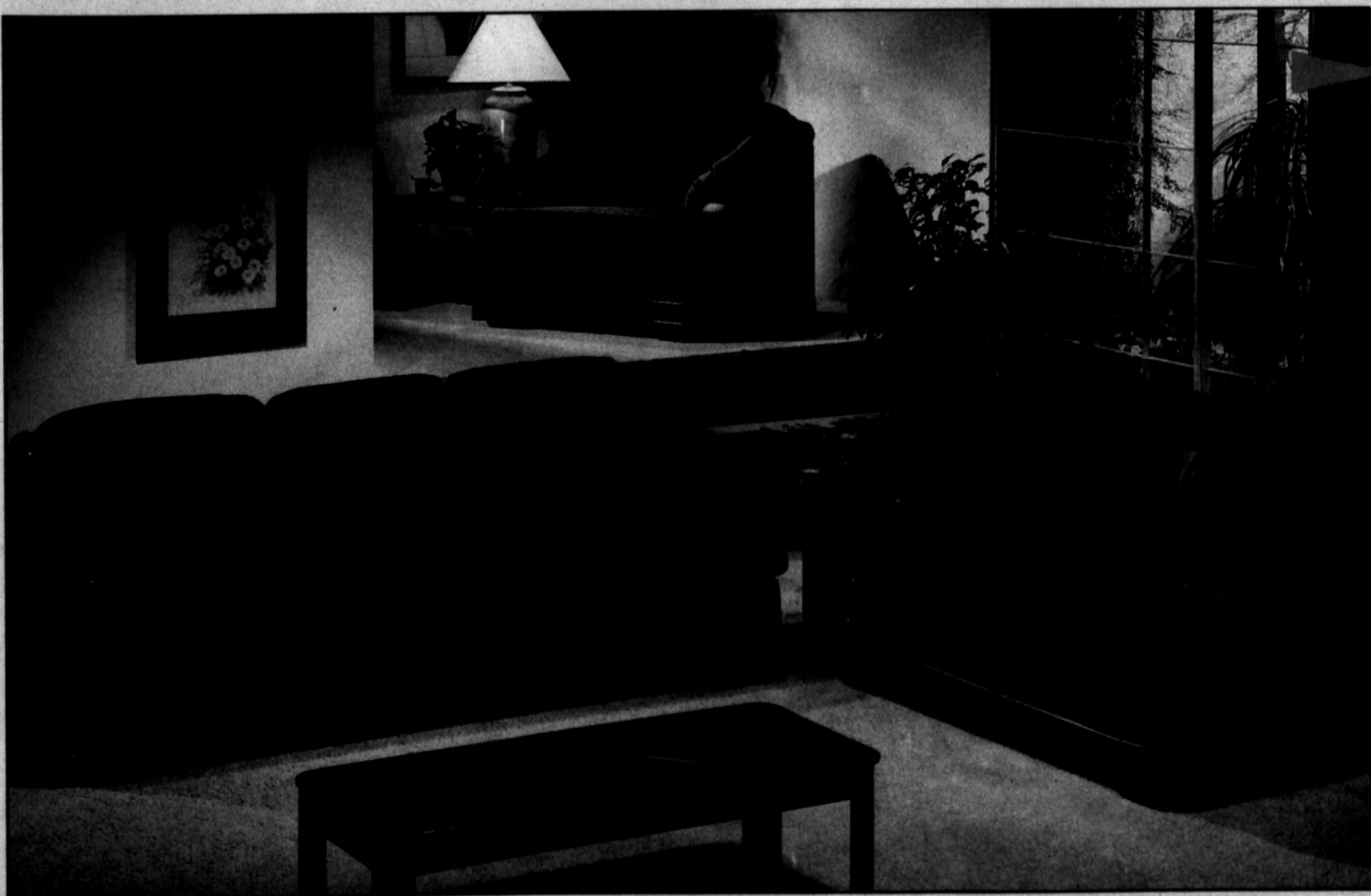
Casual contemporary group features double over-stuffed pub back and arms. Rich oak accents the arms and parson base. Upholstered in a luxurious velvet fabric.

SOFA **\$498**

LOVE SEAT **\$448**

CHAIR **\$298**

INNERSPRING SLEEPER ALSO SALE PRICED





Individual In Style and In Appeal

This traditional living room would be a beautiful addition to any home. The group features padded roll arms, attached back pillows, T-cushion seats. Upholstered in hues of burgundy, navy, and hunter plaid fabric.

SOFA

\$498

LOVESEAT

\$448

INNERSPRING
SLEEPER ALSO
SALE PRICE



Sweet Dreams for Tots To Teens!

This group from Sandberg features panels that can be changed to fit your decorating needs. Each piece comes with red, blue, white, or black panels.

YOUR
CHOICE

\$88

DRESSER BASE \$258

CHEST \$188

MIRROR,
SMALL HUTCH,
OR NIGHT STAND

DESK \$188

CAPTAINS BED \$258

LARGE HUTCH \$128

BACHELOR CHEST \$128

BOOKCASE HEADBOARD \$128



The Lodge

Enjoy the warmth and relaxed lifestyle of South-western living. The bold pattern and rich colors help make this group distinctive from all others. Double pillow back and seat cushions promise endless comfort.

SOFA

\$478

LOVESEAT

\$398



Magnificent Marble

This dramatic bedroom grouping brings contemporary style and flair into your home with its appealing black and burgundy marble finish! The four piece set includes headboard, dresser, mirror, and night stand.

4 PIECE SET

\$598

ARMOIRE

\$288

Fashionable Living Room

That Doesn't Sacrifice Comfort

This plush pillow back with over-stuffed arm rests and thick seat cushions offers superb comfort. Upholstered in easy care Antron velvet.

SOFA

\$398

LOVESEAT

\$298

CHAIR

\$198



Impressive Colonial

If you have been dreaming about having a new bedroom, now is the time to act! As functional as they are attractive, adorned with glass details, brass hardware, and colonial styling.

DRESSER, HUTCH
MIRROR, CHEST,
BOOKCASE
HEADBOARD

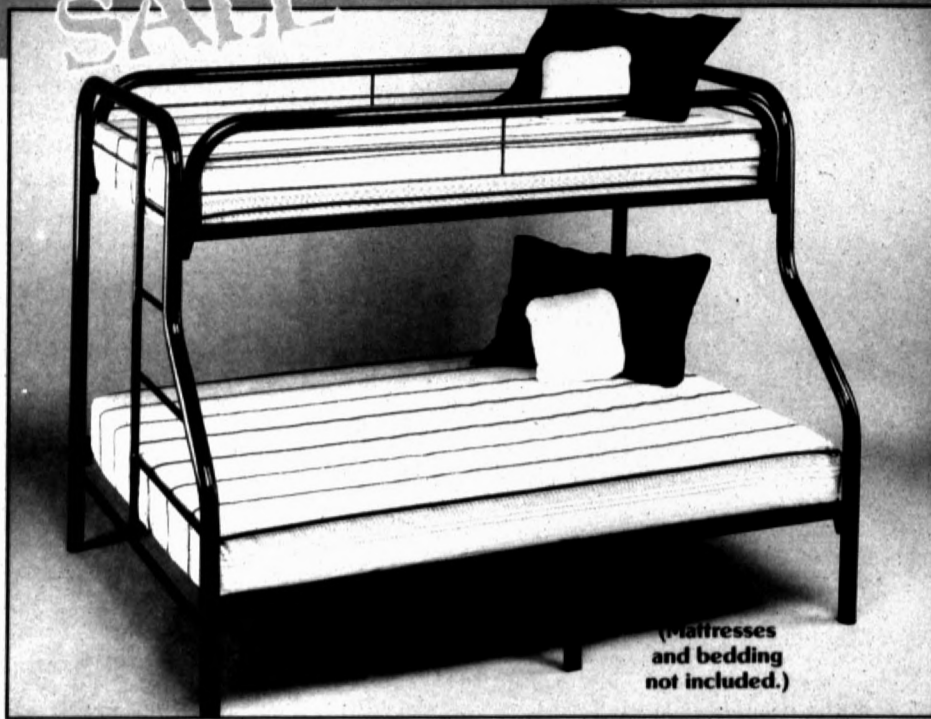
\$698

NIGHT STAND **\$88**



**BEST
SELLERS
SALE**

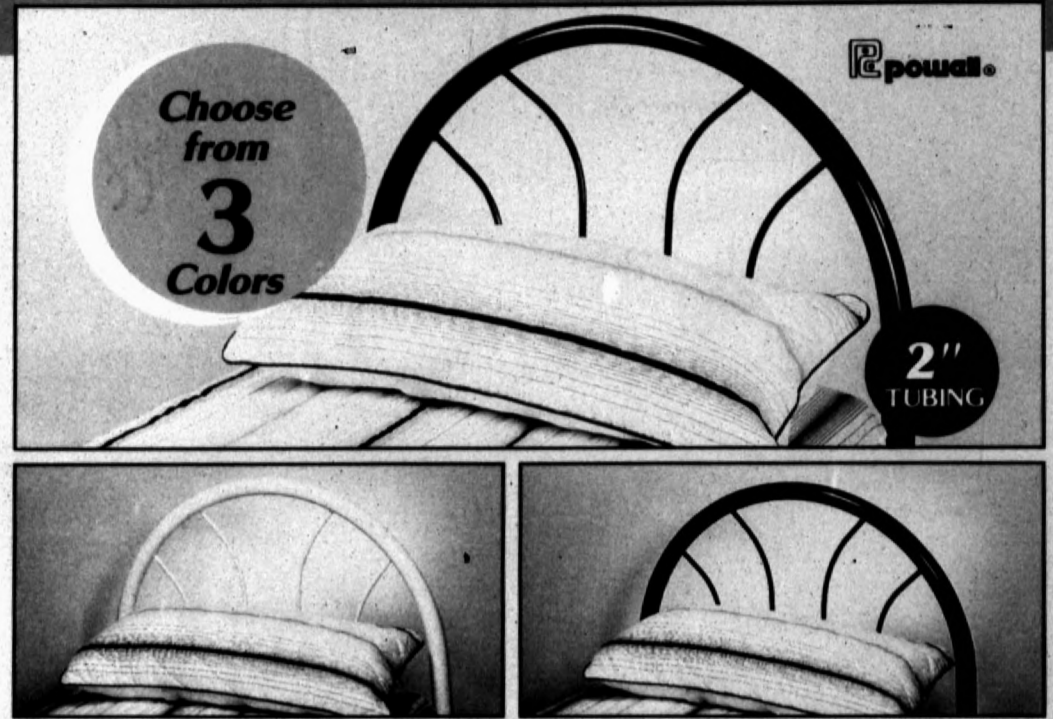
Quality Furnishings for Every Room in Your Home



Red Dual Twin/Full Bunk Bed

Uses standard twin and full size mattresses. Mattress support is provided by sturdy metal slat system.

\$248

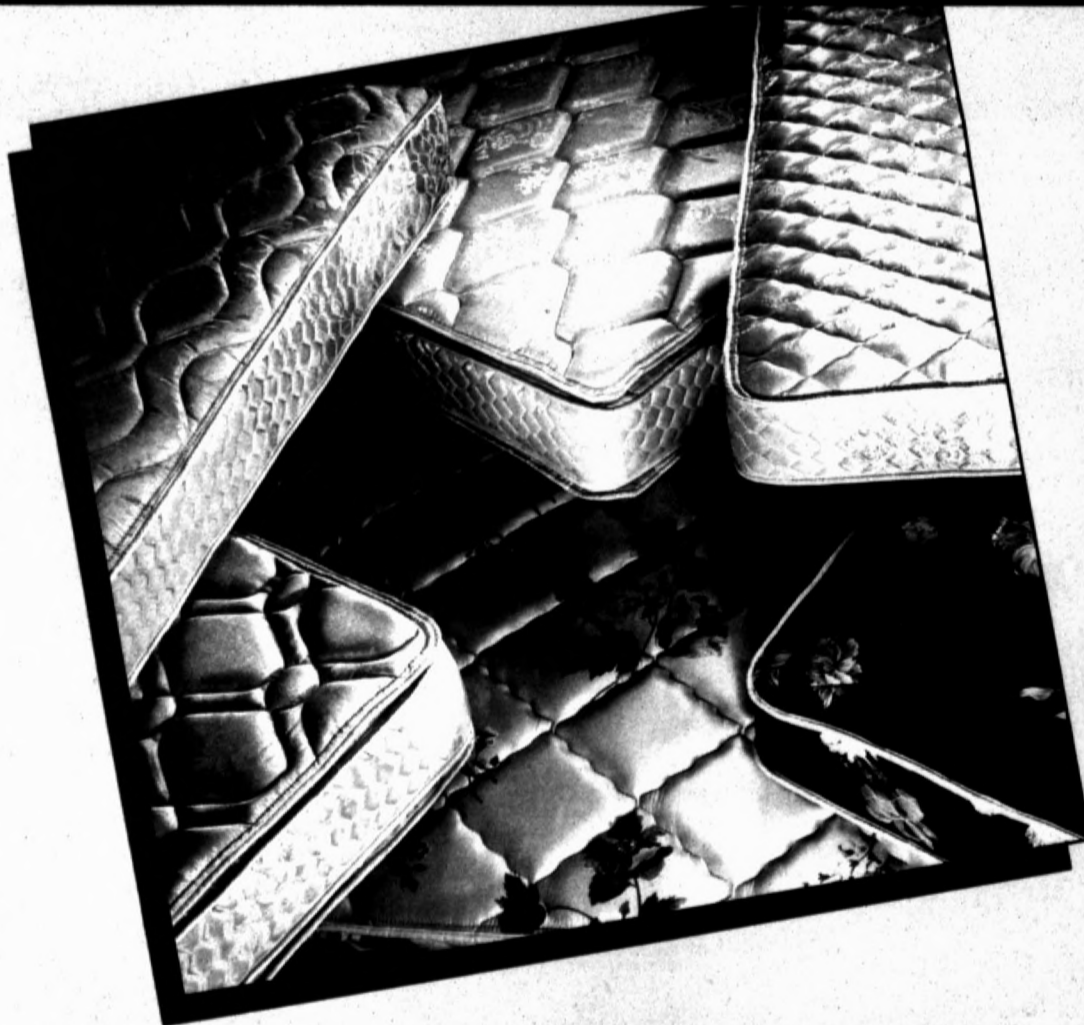


Decorator twin size 2" diameter heavy gauge metal headboard brightens up any bedroom. Electrostatic powder finish... lead free, non-toxic, and virtually chip-proof. Fits standard twin mattress frame. (Bedding and frame not included.) Fully assembled, 39" x 41 1/4" tall.

\$28⁹⁵

SUPER PRICE BREAK

On Entire Stock including SEALY POSTUREPEDIC



*Entire Line of Bedding Now
Sale Priced! Shop Early for
Best Selection!*

\$168

TWIN SIZE • EACH PIECE
SEALY "POSTUREPEDIC
DORAL" • 5/15 YEAR
WARRANTY

FULL SIZE EACH PIECE **\$258** QUEEN SIZE 2-PIECE SET **\$598** KING SIZE 3-PIECE SET **\$798**

Long-lasting "Posturepedic" comfort gives you the best support for a healthy night's sleep! Exclusive 580 coil design conforms to your body. Plush and elegant Damask cover with handles for easy mobility!

Bedding By North American

\$168

TWIN SIZE • EACH PIECE
SLEEP-O-PEDIC
LUXURY TWO
• 5/20 WARRANTY

FULL SIZE EACH PIECE **\$228** QUEEN SIZE 2-PIECE SET **\$548** KING SIZE 3-PIECE SET **\$698**

You'll be cozy and comfortable on this premium set. Features a cloud soft layer of contoured foam on top, 432 coils designed to conform to your body.

\$98

TWIN SIZE • EACH PIECE
COMFORT CREST TWO
FIRM

FULL SIZE EACH PIECE **\$118** QUEEN SIZE 2-PIECE SET **\$298** KING SIZE 3-PIECE SET **\$398**

Sink into restful nights with our special low price on Comfort Crest Two. Layered foam, plus 312 coils over a firmness module foundation.

\$138

TWIN SIZE • EACH PIECE
SLEEP-O-PEDIC ONE FIRM
• 3/15 YEAR WARRANTY

FULL SIZE EACH PIECE **\$188** QUEEN SIZE 2-PIECE SET **\$458** KING SIZE 3-PIECE SET **\$598**

Ultimate comfort, support, and value. Plush and elegant deep-quilted knit cover. Comfortable 336 coil design gives a great night's sleep.

\$10 DOWN - NO PAYMENT 'TIL JUNE!!

Hereford's Largest Home Furnishing Center

BARRICK

**FURNITURE &
APPLIANCE**

W. Hwy 60

"Never Undersold"

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