Section One- Soil Conservation Edition

The Devil's River News

Published in Sonora, Texas - "The Capital of the Stockman's Paradise"

SIXTY-FIRST YEAR | Sonora, Texas, Friday, May 25, 1951 | THIRTY-THIRD WEEK



THESE RANCHMEN WON SOIL AWARD

Rector Cusenbary, Tom Davis and Ben Cusenbary have been the past recipients of the Outstanding Conservation Rancher Award in the Edwards Plateau Soil Conservation District since its organization in 1948. Joseph Vander Stucken received this award prior to the organization of the District. The awards were made as a part of the annual Fort Worth Press "Save the Soil and Save Texas" conservation awards program. The Sonora Lions Club cooperated with the Fort Worth Press by presenting plaques to the recipients of the award.

The awards were made in recognition of achievements by these ranchers in applying conservation on their ranches.

In addition to the local award, Ben Cusenbary received a cash award of $200 as the outstanding conservation rancher in Region II which comprises 52 West Texas Districts.

Grass slows up surface run-off saving the soil and causing the water to soak in, so it runs under ground to feed the streams with a steady flow.

Drunk Drivers Fined Here

Four men were fined here last weekend following guilty pleas to charges of driving while intoxicated.

Armando Navarro, Ozona, arrested in Sonora Saturday night by Highway Patrolmen Hugh Shaw and Malcolm Bolinger, was fined $50 and costs by Judge G. A. Wynn.

George Brown of Rocksprings was arrested south of Sonora Sunday and was fined $100 and costs. Patrolman Shaw said this was Brown's second offense.

A. F. Carlisle, Odessa, was arrested seven miles west of Sonora Sunday afternoon, and charged with driving while intoxicated. Carlisle was returned to Sonora and paid a fine of $75 and costs. Carlisle has been involved in an accident 22 miles east of Sonora earlier Sunday and had failed to halt at the scene. His car had sidewiped a coupe driven by Shelton Surherland of Medina, and knocked a wheel off Sutherland's auto. Carlisle paid Sutherland $300 damages and charges of failing to halt at the scene of an accident were not filed.

Monday, Jesus Gonzalez of Sonora was arrested in town, pleaded guilty to DWI charges and was fined $50 and costs by Judge Wynn.

—SCS—

The Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Marshall and Mrs. Dee Word are in San Antonio to attend the annual conference held at the Travis Park Methodist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Louin Martin have as their guest, Lenard Martin of Galveston.

Soil Conservation Service 16 Years Young

To-day the Soil Conservation Service is 16 years old-or young. An agency of the U. S. Department of Agiculture, it was formed from the old Soil Erosion Service.

Due to the growing concern of the vital necessity for conserving the nation soil and water resources, the Service was organized by an Act of Congress in 1935.

Dr. H. H. Bennett, present Chief of the Soil Conservation Service, has been largely responsible for the guidance and direction of the Service. Having nearly 50 years experience in soils and soil conservation, he is considered the leading authority in this field of agriculture.

The Soil Conservation Service, under Dr. Bennett's leadership, his developed the greatest number of trained conservationists of any country in the world. This leadership is evident when agriculturists from all over the globe come to the United States to study conservation needs, practices and methods of applications.

In Texas, the Soil Conservation Service has directed all its activities through local soil conservation districts since 1939 when the State set-up enabling legislation.

By providing landowners technical assistance, through landowner elected and operated districts, conservation needs of the land are greatly furthered. In recognizing local conditions, the Soil Conservation Service is in effect helping Districts fit a conservation program to the land rather than attempting to fit the land to a program, as many would do.

The success of soil conservation districts and their rapid acceptance by landowners all over Texas has made it necessary to carry out an extensive training program. By training new men in establshed districts, the Soil Conservation Service can meet the call for assistance to new districts as they are orgaanized.

Here at Sonora, a total of 10 conservationists have received all, or part, of their training in helping ranchers plan, apply and maintain conservation practices on their ranches by working through the Edwards Plateau Soil Conservation District. These men have all been trained here during the past three years and, for the most part, have been moved on to other districts to help carry on work of good land use management. This accounts for the apparent large number of men located here at times.

The recent re-organization within the Department of Agriculture has placed new responsibilities on the Soil Conservation Service and caused even more of a strain on man-power. The Soil Conservation Service is now responsible for the technical phases of the work of the Agricultural Conservation program of the PMA. At present the local Soil Conservation Service office is responsible for providing assistance to the Edwards Plateau Soil Conservation District and, in addition, assistance to the Sutton, Edwards and Crockett County PMA Committees.

With 98 percent of its total money appropriation spent in the field in assisting landowners, the Soil Conservation Service intends keeping with their basic objective to give even greater service in keeping with its capability and treat it in accord with its needs."

—SCS—

Eastern Star Elects Officers

Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Smith have been named worthy patron and matron of the Order of the Eastern Star, Chapter No. 575.

Other officers elected at a recent meeting include Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Prugel associated patron and matron; Mrs. A. W. Awalt secretary; Mrs. Seth Lancaster treasurer; Mrs. M. E. Genrich conductress; and Mrs. Dayton Cain associate conductress.

These officers will be installed at a meeting to be held May 31 in the Masonic Hall. Mrs. L. E. Johnson will preside, assisted by Mrs. R. C. Vicars and Mrs. Jack Turney. A memorial service was conducted with Mrs. O. C. Ogden presiding.

Mrs. Florie Davis and Mrs. Jack Turney were hostesses during the social hour.

30 Years Ago

Mrs. J. B. Glasscock and daughter Mrs. Harold Bevans of Menard are the guests this week of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Glasscock and Family. The Mesdames Glasscock are sisters as well as sisters-in-law.

—30—

Mrs. J. D. Lowrey and daughter Miss Guila Lowrey, left for San Antonio this last week where Mrs Lowrey will attend the Methodist Conference, after which it is thought they will go to Brownsville to visit Miss Marie Lowrey who is teaching in the public school there.

—30—

Jud Nicks and Garland Maddox returned from a trip to Del Rio Wednesday.

—30—

D. J. Ridley is attending the Methodist conference at San Antonio as a representative of the Sonora Church.

—30—

Mr. and Mrs. Sam H. Chanceller of San Angelo were guests at the Commercial Thursday. Mr. Chancellor was here on business.

—30—

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Strickland were visitors here Thursday.

—30—

L. J. Wardlaw, the lawyer was here this week. He is from Fort Worth, Texas. He had business in Del Rio and visited the ranch and office here.

—30—

John Hoffer of San Angelo was in Sonora last Friday returning from a visit to the Del Rio oil field.

—30—

Mrs. Howard Peters of Stockton is here visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Trainer.

—30—

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. McClelland and Mrs. E. J. Pierce returned Sunday from a visit to Angelo.

—30—

Tom Thorp has moved his goats back from the Laguna country in Uvalde county.

—30—

Mrs. T. C. Murray and her brother, Garland Maddox made a business visit to San Angelo this week.

Happy Birthday

Friday, May 25,
None
Saturday, May 26,
Mrs. Arthur Carroll
Sunday, May 27,
Mrs. Bill Bell
Mrs. Nellie Allen
Billy Hearn
Monday, May 28,
John Wesley Joy
Mrs. Tom Womack
Tuesday, May 29,
Jimmy Cahill
Mars Batts Friend
Louis Davis
Dub Cupp
Wednesday, May 30,
Jo Ada Johnson
Mrs. Genard Stephenson
Barbara Schwiening
Louie Trainer
Dick Karnes
Bill Karnes
Thursday, May 31,
Richard Sellman

—SCS—

What's going on in Sonora . .

John Allen Ward son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Ward, Jr., will receive his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Texas June 2 . . . . Miss Martha Lou Renfroe has received a Wilbur Davidson scholarship to the University of Texas . . . . Jimmy Cusenbary received his Bachelor of Science degree in animal husbandry from Texas Tech at Lubbock. Ceremonies were held Monday night. Mr and Mrs. Cusenbary are visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Cusenbary, at the ranch . . . . Another Sonoran who is to receive a college degree is Miss Geraldine Meckel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Meckle. Miss Meckel will receive her Bachelor of Arts degree from Texas Western College at El Paso June 3. . . . Dick Street, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Smith, will receive his Bachelor of Science degree from Sul Ross College at Alpine Monday night . . . . A livepony carrousel, boosting the San Angelo horse show, will visit the Sonora business district Monday afternoon between 2:30 and 4:30 o'clock . . . . Those who would like to send a man in service a Texas flag may buy one at the Alamo Museum on Houston Street in San Antonio. The 12 X 18 inch flags are 50 cents and the 2 X 3 foot flags are $3.85, with a 20 percent discount if the serviceman is overseas . . . . The OPS sent County Judge George Wynn a wire Friday stating that a number of Sonora merchants have not filed their price charts and must do so before May 30 . . . . Wednesday night lightning struck the Earl Lomax and Cashes Taylor homes and the Artie Joy Station. A half inch to an inch of rain fell south and southeast of here, but was widely scattered . . . . The Sonora Drug will sell $20 bills for $17.50 while they last, according to Bob Vicars . . . . Mr. and Mrs. Merton Shurley have bought a ranch near Christoval and are living there now . . . . The Ka-Bar Club will be leased to J. L. Nutt of San Angelo. Details next week . . . . Pat Lyles finally got that cauliflowered left ear. For details ask Plastic Surgeon Bob Teaff . . . . During the big windstorm last week, Camp Comfort, the local fishing club's abode on the Devil's River Lake, blew over as did Roy Valliant's brand new chicken house . . . Wilton Stubblefield, former Sonoran, now serving with the Border patrol, has been promoted to plain closes work and transferred to Nebraska. He was formerly stationed in Pecos . . . . Jim Branscum is the new manager of the Morrison Store. Mrs. Branscum is operating the Western Auto Store. John Morrison, former manager of Morrison's has moved his family to Houston . . . . Dr. and Mrs. Charles F. Browne and daughter, Brenda, leave Saturday for Fayetteville, Ark., where they will visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Browne. Dr. Browne will spend a few days in St. Louis. They expect to be gone about a week. Dr. Julian MarDock, resident physician of Jefferson Davis Hospital, Houston, will take care of Dr. Browne's practice during his absence. Dr. MarDock is a native of Tyler and a graduate of Cornell Medical College . . . . The Clayton Taliaferros are parents of a boy who weighed 8 pounds, six ounces. Mother and son are doing fine. . . . LeRoy Gilbert of San Angelo had a truck wreck Thursday night and landed in a tree. It happened like this: Gilbert missed a turn on the highway near the Edwards-Val Verde line, crashed through the retaining wall over a cliff. He was thrown out as the truck left the cliff and landed in a pecan tree. His injuries consisted of a broken rib.

—SCS—

Legume Planting Helps Build Up Soil's Fertility

The fall of the year usually finds ranchers in the Edwards Plateau Soil Conservation District making preparation for the planting of oats or other small grain crops. This has been a cropping practice followed in this area for many years. Continous cropping with small grain from year to year without returning anything to the soil has seriously depleted the fertility and consequently the production of cropland in the area.

During the last years or so many ranchers cooperating with the District have started a new practice of planting a legume crop to help build up soil fertility, break up hardpans or plowsoles, and improve the physical texture of the soil.

Many fields under a continuous one crop system have developed plowsoles. This plowsole is a campacted layer, usually only several inches below the surface, caused by plowing at a certain depth year after year. This compacted layer becomes very hard and will not allow water to penetrate into the subsoil. This cuts down greatly the amount of water taken in by the soil and therefore, crops suffer from the lack of moisture.

Cover cropping and contour cultivation protects the top soil and save moisture. Hairy Peruvian alfalfa, Madrid and Hubam sweet clover are key plants in a system of cropping designed to provide cover and increase the organic matter in the soil. These clover are well adapted to the soil of the Edwards Plateau, where production is influenced by rainfall. These clovers may be expected to succeed in years when small grain does well. They provide good protection against soil loss, improve soil productivity and are good grazing and hay crops.

In rotation with small grain, these clovers reach deep into the subsoi l,break up plowsole formation, and bring up minerals which have become limited in the surface soil. No other legume so well penetrates the subsoil and opens the soil for aeration and moisture penetration.

Madrid clover is a leafy stemmed biennial plant which produces seed the second year. It is drouth resistant and has a greater root system than annual clovers. It produces forage for grazing from May to December the first year, and early spring and summer the second year, or may be harvested as hay.

Hubam is an annual clover that can be grazed or harvested as hay. Both clovers may be planted in late February or March or in the fall of the year.

Hairy Peruvian alfalfa is a drouth resistant perennial. Although not ordinadily too winterhardy this alfalfa has withstood the extremely cold temperature of this past winter on Rex Cusenbary's ranch. It has made good growth this spring after receiving its first moisture in six months. It is a highly palatable nutritious plant.

Before seeding, the seed of these clovers and alfalfa should be inoculated with nitrogen fixing bacteria to insure the greatest soil building benefit. This inniculant can be purchaased from your local seed dealer. Tom Darrow, of the local Soil Conservation Service, has found that when water is used as a carrier for the inniculant, a large amount of the inniculant is lost or left in the seed boxes when planting. Much greater success has been had when skim milk is used as a carrier. The skinm milk leaves a sticky residue whendry, and carries all of the inniculant into the ground with the seed.

If cropping systems can be worked out where a clover will be included once every three or four years in the rotation, along with the yearly practices of contour farming and crop residue management, it will go a long ways towards curing the ills that affect cropland in the District at present.

—SCS—

This Edition Devoted To Soil Conservation

This week's edition of the Devil's River News is devoted to the work done in this county by the Edwards Plateau Soil Conservation District. All of the feature stories vation Service personnel except vation Service personel except those carrying by-lines. Photos were made by the SCS, the Ranch Experiment Station, and by Boyd Lovelace.

The News is grateful to all who helped put this edition out. Space limitations necessitated leaving out two stories, but these will be published next week.

—SCS—

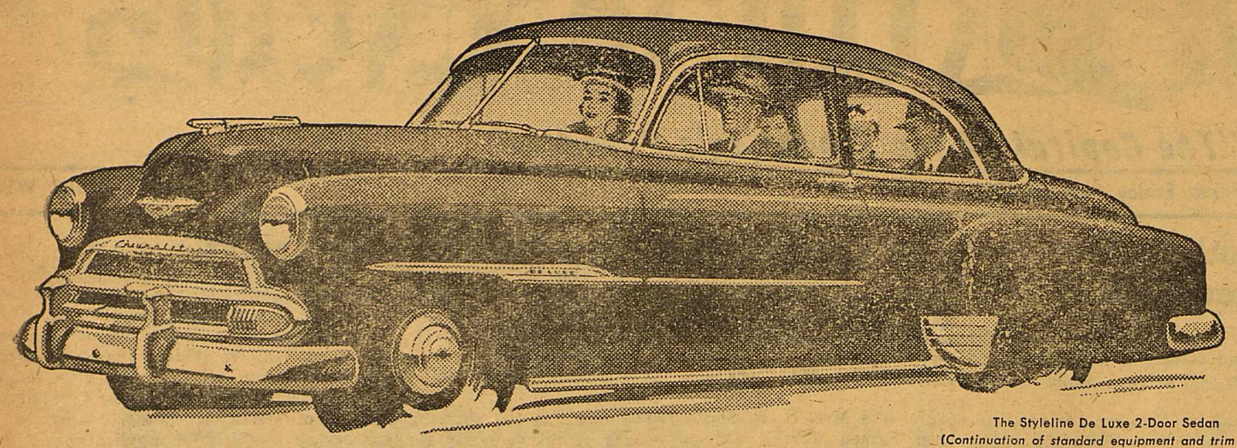
RAINFALL RECORD TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
Sub-Station - 14 Sonora, Texas

Year	Annual Rainfall	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1919	33.61	2.28	1.45	2.15	2.49	3.58	5.48	.95	1.98	9.14	2.44	1.16	.51
1920	25.51	2.33	.36	.40	.32	2.59	4.67	1.96	6.09	2.24	2.78	1.62	.15
1921	17.27	1.13	1.49	3.17	.84	4.76	2.66	.45	1.05	.64	.38	.40	.30
1922	25.07	.65	.10	2.13	5.19	1.03	4.14	1.30	3.23	2.14	3.18	1.93	.05
1923	31.65	1.55	3.98	2.59	4.09	.29	.56	3.38	.46	2.26	5.69	3.99	2.81
1924	19.61	1.02	2.68	2.51	1.37	4.91	.54	.60	1.62	3.70	.10	Trace	.56
1925	21.92	.08	.04	Trace	1.55	9.23	.82	.34	3.89	2.64	1.83	.93	.57
1926	19.28	1.97	.07	2.28	2.97	1.93	1.24	.99	1.25	.25	1.45	1.37	3.51
1927	24.86	.33	1.53	1.59	4.47	.59	3.41	1.84	.55	3.83	5.51	.12	1.11
1928	25.97	.32	.94	.85	.70	3.97	4.73	1.26	2.64	6.84	1.48	1.06	1.18
1929	22.65	.33	.46	1.90	.67	4.99	2.31	2.06	.12	1.67	3.22	.25	4.67
1930	27.96	.16	.05	.54	1.64	.95	3.86	1.44	2.05	1.11	12.80	2.63	.73
1931	26.63	2.95	1.51	2.45	3.23	3.37	1.46	3.24	2.10	.03	.52	3.54	2.23
1932	39.26	.52	1.17	.64	1.18	6.48	.42	1.51	8.92	13.83	.65	1.20	2.74
1933	12.97	1.24	.90	.11	.24	6.52	Trace	.27	1.43	.12	1.17	.75	.22
1934	11.94	1.59	.22	2.23	.76	.45	2.79	.60	.18	2.25	.24	.25	.38
1935	41.51	.46	1.54	.33	1.58	5.96	9.93	4.45	.62	14.05	.90	.47	1.22
1936	27.98	.41	.08	.83	.66	5.12	1.84	3.78	1.26	10.47	2.33	.50	.70
1937	17.04	.24	.26	1.32	.31	.39	2.27	.75	1.69	2.89	2.13	.81	3.98
1938	20.46	1.75	.71	.39	.78	1.77	.67	12.87	.05	.24	.13	.06	1.04
1939	17.35	2.66	.06	.19	.68	2.04	.62	2.78	1.50	.54	1.79	2.60	1.89
1940	21.03	.41	1.15	.69	3.09	4.48	5.14	0.00	2.24	.15	.52	1.95	1.21
1941	28.37	.87	1.49	2.57	2.59	1.94	3.01	6.25	1.47	2.65	4.68	.35	.50
1942	18.92	.33	.65	.22	2.84	.14	.98	1.60	4.94	2.03	3.71	.24	1.24
1943	21.87	.40	0.00	1.30	.68	6.29	2.82	1.64	.24	3.35	1.23	1.26	2.66
1944	22.86	2.51	1.50	2.21	1.41	2.60	1.32	1.40	2.30	2.23	2.39	1.24	1.75
1945	17.21	1.44	1.56	2.31	1.19	.19	2.60	2.03	.55	1.84	3.34	.04	.12
1946	20.03	1.55	Trace	.53	2.41	2.90	3.93	1.25	.09	3.17	2.98	.10	1.12
1947	21.09	3.35	.03	1.68	.63	1.71	2.92	.64	4.62	2.51	1.05	1.07	1108
1948	24.99	.02	.76	.66	2.42	2.62	9.08	4.87	1.58	.67	.91	.61	1.29
1949	36.72	2.49	3.11	.31	4.15	5.34	5.47	1.91	4.35	3.52	3.59	0.00	2.48
1950	21.21	.55	.60	0.00	2.20	5.42	2.35	3.35	1.18	5.53	0.00	0.00	0.00
1951		0.00	0.00	1.40									
Monthly Average		1.15	.92	1.29	1.85	3.27	2.94	2.24	2.07	3.39	2.35	1.02	1.38

Annual Average - - - - 23.9 inches

News Want Ads Bring Results

When the grass dies, weeds move in, like the hated bitterweed, which sheep don't relish at all-weeds help stave off some erosion, but not like grass.



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(Continuation of standard equipment and trim illustrated is dependent on availability of material.)

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The Amarillo trap on J. P. Rieck ranch 34 miles east of Sonora accidintally burned in May 1948. It was planted in the spring of 1949 to K. R. bluestem, sideoats grama and buffalograss and deferred during the growing seasons of 1949 and 1950. Tom Darrow, District Conservationist, is admiring the Excellent stand of grass that came from this planting.

Grass Contests Now Permanent In Big Shows

by Walter S. Davis, Jr
Pres., Assoc. of Texas Soil Conservation District Supervisors
League City, Texas

The following article is printed because of the wide interest here in grass and grass judging contests.

For the past two years, the Edwards Plateau Soil Conservation District has sponsored a grass judging contest in connection with the Sonora Wool and Mohair Show.

As a result of these contests the grass judging feature has been made a permanent part of the Sonora Show, and is now on a State wide basis for 4-H and FFA clubs.

Something new came to livestock show in Texas this past winter--grass judging contests for 4-H and FFA boys. The first one was held at Fort Worth on January 29th and the second at Houston, February 5th. The Association of Texas Soil Conservation District Supervisors originated and fathered the idea. Of course there was nothing very novel about grass identification contests.. They have been held for years. The newness was in getting the young folks to really study grasses and to show off their knowledge at state competition.

Perhaps the real credit for originating these contests should go to the grand champion steer at the 1948 Houston Fat Stock Show. This steer was an Aberdeen Angus. According to newspaper reports he weighed 750 pounds and the boy who fed him paid out $700.00 for feed. Headlines screamed, "Champion Steer brings $12,500!" Pictures and interviews crowed the papers and magazines.

A few of us sat down for a little high voltage figgering. Now things in the cow business have reached a pretty pass, we reflect, when we reward somebody for putting gains on a steer at a cost three times what the animal would bring in the open market.

Texas is a grass state. Fifteen bushels is a good corn crop in these parts. And here we were digging deep into our pockets, encourging boys to spend time and money learning the art of cattle feeding. Corn belt folks, with 100-bushel yields, can feed out livestock. In Texas with a few exceptions we graze them or go broke.

For several months we kept thinking of what could at least leaven this lump of insanity. A Lord High Agricultural Educator told us that the feeding program was what the people wanted; that the boys and girls had to have a program that was both educational and competitive and this was the only one in sight. While driving over the State, always seeing overgrazed pastures, we kept thinking of those words, "education and competitive". At last the idea of having grass judging contests at livestock shows was born.

The first person consulted about this notion was Bill Allred of the Soil Conservation Service. Bill assured us that such contsts were and named off a few characteristics of grasses that people should know.

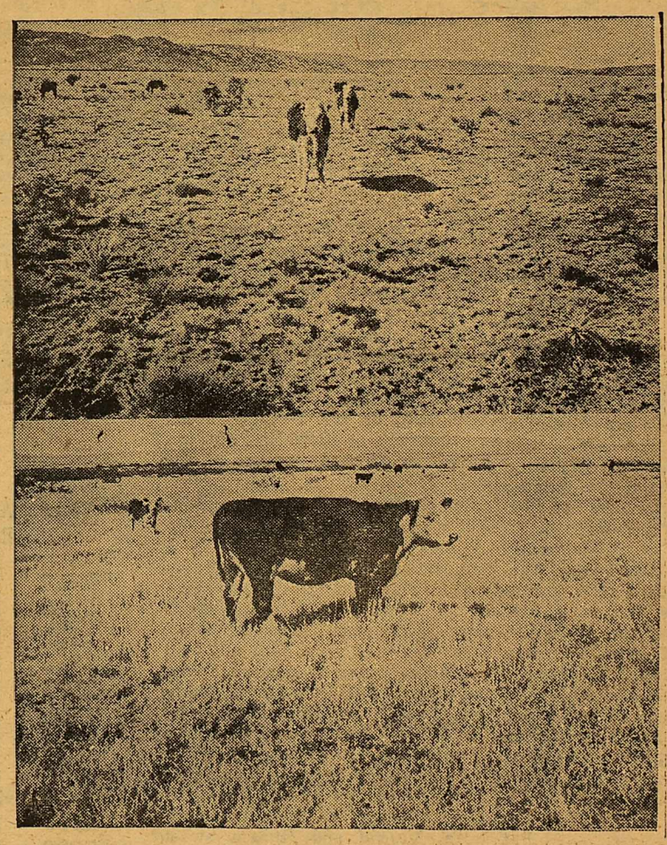
Next we talked the project over at College Station with the A. & M. Extension Service officials. They agreed to go along with us on the contests.

Another important feature of these contests is that they are giving the public a chance to know Soil Conservation Districts and their Supervisors. The Supervisors can't bring a farm to a stock show, but they can sponsor a grass contest. And it's a grand sight watching a hundred or more boys at one time working like beavers over the most important and most neglected and abused crop in the world - GRASS.

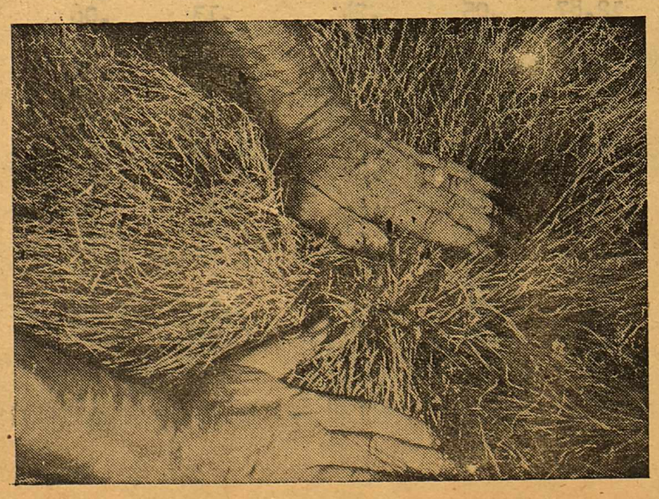
—SCS—

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Norbert McIntyre, son of Mrs. Scott Roberts, reported Monday to Harrisburg, Penn, where he will enter an army officer canidate school. McIntyre has completed three years work at Sul Ross College.

Hal Hervey, former member of Sonora Schools faculty is visiting friends here. A member of the Marine Reserve, Hervey was called back to service last year. He is a staff-sergeant and is stationed at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

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Normal Rainfall Can't Offset Over - Grazing

A rancher must have rain to produce grass. He must have grass to produce livestock economically on the Edwards Plateau. Lack of grass results in more supplemental feeding, less production and forced sales.

A ranch operation should be flexible enough to reduce feeding and forced sales to a minimum. This might be done by stocking according to rainfall. Each ranch operation has its own problem that call for variations.

Using the rainfall record maintained the past 32 years by the Texas Agricultural Ranch Experiment Station, South of Sonora, it was determined that the average rainfall for that portion of the Edwards Plateau Soil Conservation District was 23.9 inches. If a rancher maintained the size of his breeding herd on the grass produced by the average rainfall of 24 inches he would have been short of grass 18 out of the past 32 years. If he stocked on a basis of grass produced by rainfall 25 percent above normal he would have been short 27 out of the past 32 years.

Stocking at 25 percent below normal is stocking on a basis of 18 inches of rainfall annually. This would indicate a rancher would have to buy feed only 6 out of the past 32 years. This does not take into consideration that there are certain times of the year that a majority of the ranches consider it advisable to supplement grass regardless of the amount they have in their pastures.

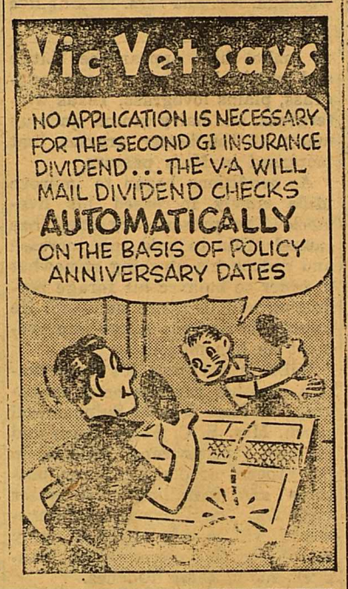
The question then arises, if a rancher was stocked with a breeding herd on a basis of feed produced by 18 inches of annual rainfall, wouldn't he be wasting feed 26 out of 32 years? The answer is, no. The extra grass is real insurance, for the next year may be "the dry one" and a rancher can always use a little extra grass. It assures a cow or ewe sufficient feed to maintain her self and produce a good calf or lamb.

This system permits a rancher to maintain a more stabilized breeding herd in which he can maintain or improve his particular line of breeding. The wet years provide an opportunity to hold replacments for the breeding herd, the dry years provide opportunities to cull his herd closely.

Range improvement cannot be overlooked under this system. The stocking rate is light enough that rotation and pasture deferments can be more easily practiced. With pasture deferments, grass can produce seed and maintain itself in a healthy vigorous condition.

This type of management does away with forced sales of some breeding herds which a rancher may have been working a long time to improve. He may find it necessary to include a small percentage of steers or muttons in his grazing herd to utilize forage production during wet years. These represent a product that can be marketed readily if the natural feed plays out.

—SCS—



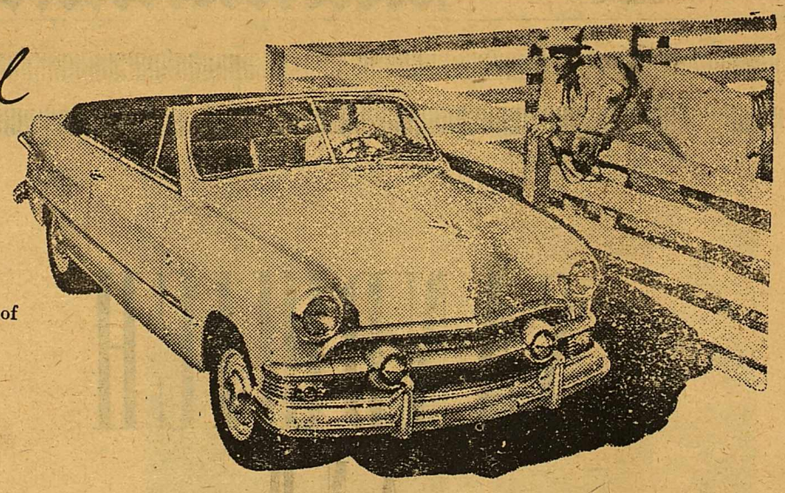
Mr and Mrs. M. C. Scott and sons, Billy and Bobby, and Miss Lois Lu Lomax will return next Saturday from a trip to Dallas and Fort Worth.

LOST:- Top off Frigidaire, Call Mrs. Gene Lightfoot at the Sonora Appliance Store. Reward. 1 tc 32.

Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Hay and children will spend the summer in Fort Worth. Hay, a Navy reserve pilot, will be stationed in Dallas for jet training. Unless he is called back to permanent duty, he will return here as band instructor in the fall.

Wanted:- Bookkeeper. Prefer woman. Inquire at Wm. Cameron Co., 1 tc 32.

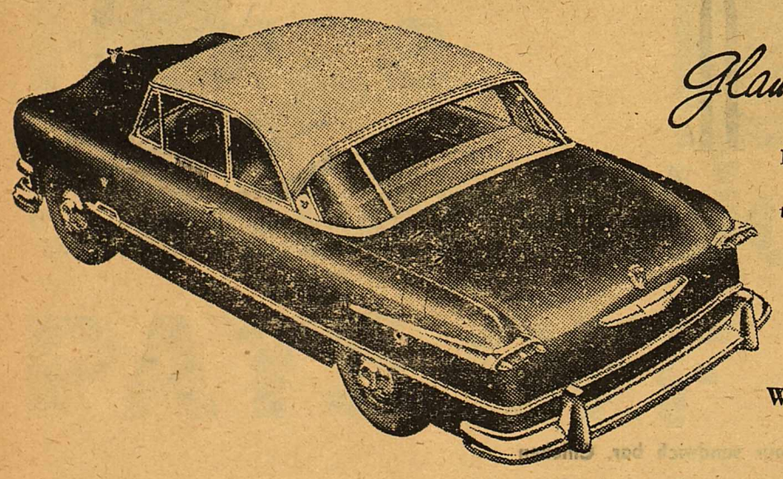
Outdoor Girl



You can pay more but you can't make a better buy in a convertible! You get the quiet, get-going power of a V-8 engine . . . the type of engine now powering the top models of America's top cars. It's fuel-saving power, too, with Ford's Automatic Mileage Maker squeezing the last ounce of power out of every drop of gas. And you get a ride that's the equal in comfort of far costlier cars, with Ford's Automatic Ride Control self-adjusting the ride to the road.

They're built for the years ahead!

Glamour Girl

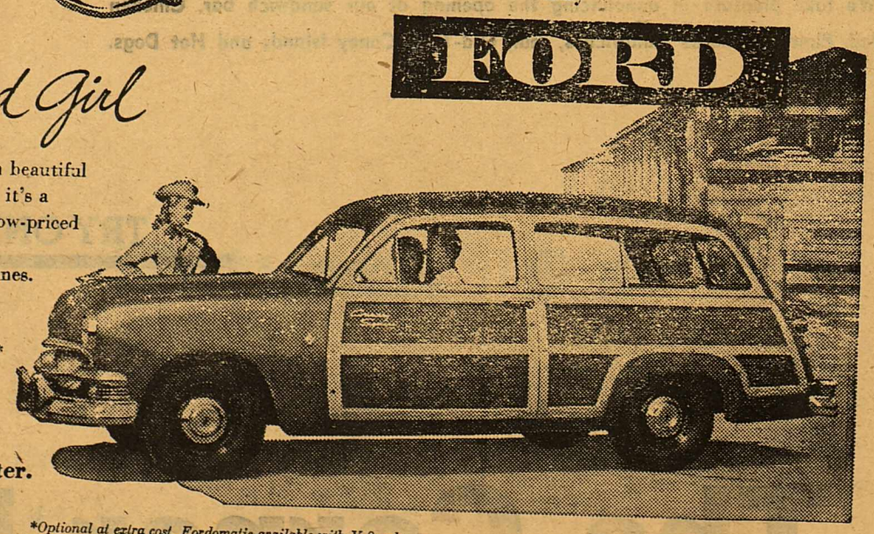


If you want to enjoy the wide-openness of a convertible and still have a steel-topped car, you can't buy better than Ford's new Victoria! It offers you your choice of 5 beautiful solid colors or 4 smart two-tone combinations (with color harmonized interiors). And for automatic driving at its finest, it offers Fordomatic* the newest, most advanced of all automatic drives!

When you buy for the future—buy FORD

All-around Girl

One moment, Ford's "Country Squire" is a beautiful eight-passenger station wagon . . . the next, it's a rugged hauler of half-ton loads. No other low-priced station wagon offers you so much one-level floor space or your choice of V-8 or Six engines. And only Ford, in its field, offers you your pick of three great transmissions: Conventional, Overdrive* and Fordomatic.*



You can pay more but you can't buy better.

*Optional at extra cost. Fordomatic available with V-8 only. Equipment, accessories and trim subject to change without notice.

Sonora Motor Company

CLEARANCE

Save Up To 50 %

AND MORE AT JOSEPH'S CLEARANCE SALE OF

Juniors-Misses-Womens

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Dresses

- Rayons
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- Voilles
- Chambrays
- Ginghams
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Including such nationally Advertised LABELS as Doris Dodson, Martha Manning, Shirley Lee, June Patton, Jonathon Logan, Town and Country and many others.

NOW IN 4 REMARKABLY LOW PRICE GROUPS

Up To $10.95

Dresses $5

Cottons and Rayons for Juniors, Misses and Women. Every one and wonderful Buy at this low clearance price

Up To $12.95

Dresses $7

One and 2 piece Styles smartly fashioned from Rayons and Cottons. Now priced for quick clearance at Only.

Up To $16.95

DRESSES- - $9

Solids, prints and combinations, one and 2 piece styles in Rayons and better cottons you'll Marvel at the values FOR ONLY.

Up To $24.95

Dresses $11

From our better lines in Rayon Crepes and Fine quality Cottons. One and 2 piece Styles. Priced for quick clearance

Because of the extremely Low Prices. No approvals or refunds all sales final on these Clearance Prices dresses But what savings. You'll want several when you see the Price Tags.

Dresses you can wear now and all summer. Including many sun backs and sheers.

HURRY! HURRY! HURRY!!

NOW TO

JOSEPH'S

Sonora, Texas

Senior Girls Feted Friday

Mmes. Bill Fields, Jack Wardlaw, and Sam Karnes entertained with a dinner party Friday evening at the Fields home honoring girls of the senior high school class.

The dining table was laid with an embroidered linen cloth and centered with an arrangement of pink roses.

The graduation theme was used on the place cards and on the buffet centerpiece. A gift was presented to each guest.

Those honored were Anne Karnes, Jackie Wardlow, Betty Drennan, Martha Renfroe, Blanche Taylor, Flora Dell Davis, Nina Smith, Geraldine Peitchinsky, Zane Gardner, Peggy Sharp, Peggy Reiley, Beverly Howard, Enedina Chavez, Emma Jo Richardson, Carlene Peeples.

MRS. GOODWIN GIVEN PARTY BY DAUGHTERS

Mrs. C. W. Taylor and Mrs. Palmer West of Eldorado honored their mother, Mrs. Betty Goodwin of Hobbs, N. M., with a dinner recently in the Taylor home.

Canasta and "42" were played.

Those present were Messrs. and Mmes. O. C. Ogden, Lee Patrick, Mrs. Carl Peeples, Mrs. D. T. Myers of San Angelo, Misses Betty Ann Patrick, Carlene Peeples, Dale West, and Billy Wright Taylor, Mr. Taylor and Buddy Gray of Menard.

THANK YOU

We wish to thak the public for supporting or pistol scabbard and belt raffle. Especially we thank the Sutton County Rifle and pistol Club. -Members of the Arts and Crafts Class, Sonora High School.

—SCS—

BAPTIST GIRLS HOLD SERVICE WEDNESDAY

The Bolton and Yearwood Circle of the Baptist Church had an opportunity to learn what the Intermediate and Junior G. A. are learning, May 15 at the Baptist Church.

The Junior girls put on their initiation service in a very impressive way. The intermediates gave the G. A. Aim, Significance of Our Emblem, and Characteristics of a Christian (Matthew 5: 1-12) from memory.

At the close of the program an offering was taken to help buy a lot and cabin at the Baptist Encampment held at Brownwood.

Two circles were formed, the girls circle being joined to the women circle by the councilors and young people secretary. Mrs. Alfred Cooper dismissed the group in prayer.

The decorations were the emblem of the W.M.U. chained to the globe of the world in W. M. U. colors and the emblem of the girls auxilury chaned to the W. M. U. emblem with the girls colors. This was banked with honeysuckle and roses.

A cake was served by the W.M.U. members in G. A. colors. The cake and punch were served by two intermediate girls. Those present were: Louise Wall, June Miller, Barbara Mayhew, Cleo Peitchinsky, Ruth Drennan, Marilyn Valliant, Wanda Rector, Lois West, Dickie Coleman, Nancy Milly, Armilda Odom, Lennie Mayhew, Eveline Wall, Earline Smith, Charlotte Carter, Norma Drews, Billie Jean Caldwell, Gloria Bolt, Norma Maxey, and Mmes. J. A. Cauthorn, W. O. Crites, R. G. Nance, N. E. Drews, J. E. Eldridge, A. L. Bolt, Fred Spinks, Alfred Cooper, Pink Glasscock, J. B. Heflin, Bill Drennan.

Reduce some and produce more!

J. F. HOWELLS ENTERTAIN SENIORS SUNDAY NIGHT

Dr. and Mrs. J. F. Howell entertained the members of the senior class and close friends with an informal reception immediately following Baccalaureate service Sunday night.

The table was laid with a lace cloth over white, centered with an arrangement of snapdragons and sweet peas in a silver bowl. This arrangement was flanked by silver candle holders with yellow tapers. Cut flowers and potted plants were used as other decorations throughout the reception rooms.

In the receiving line were Dr. and Mrs. Howell, Mrs. Bryan Hunt and Mrs. E. A. Brodhead presided at the punch bowl. Others assisting were Mmes. Dantes Reiley and Sam Karnes.

About 75 called, during the evening.

1949 Rains Gave Mills' Program Big Boost

Range improvement is usually a slow process, but when good management and excellent growing conditions are combined the results are likely to be surprising as in the case on Stella Sewell's ranch.

J. O. Mills became a cooperator with the Edwards Plateau Soil Conservation District in 1948. At this time Mills, working with technicians of the Soil Conservation Service, made an inventory of his range. He found his range was in poor condition because of drouth and heavy stocking.

Mills wanted to get improvement so he reduced his stocking from 60 to 15 animals units per section. He also worked out a deferment and rotation system whereby pasture deferments would be rotated. He planted K. R. bluestem in a corner of his field, to be used as a seed source.

In 1949 the rains came and so did the grass. Not just the grasses already growing but good grasses began to show up in the open. Good perennial weeds also began to make their appearance. Little and silver bluestem, Texas cupgrass, plains lovegrass, Texas wintergrass, and hairy grama made up many of the better grasses that increased in Mills pasture.

As conditions began to improve Mills slowly increased his livestock. The present dry spell has caused Mills to hold this increase and reduce his stocking somewhat in order to balance his forage porduction and livestock numbers. He intends to hod the range improvement he has made.

Mills is carrying his conservation to other ranches he is managing. On Mrs. Sewells Sulpher well ranch, Mrs. S. C. Felps ranch and his own Puckett ranch Mills is in the process of dividing large pastures and installing new water facilities. These physical improvements will enable Mills to apply more intensive conservation management to these ranches.

—SCS—

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Luckie had as their guest last week Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Luckie and daughter, Lenora, of Eunice, N. M. Luckie is employed by the Humble Company.

—SCS—

Mr. and Mrs. George E. Smith spent last weekend in San Angelo with his mother, Mrs. Mary Smith.

—SCS—

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Hallum are in Odessa visiting Mrs. Margaret Blakely and son, Jon Dunagan.

—SCS—

Jess Bricker underwent surgery in a San Angelo hospital Monday morning. He is reported to be recovering.

The Rev. J. E. Winslow and Armer Earwood are spending today and Saturday in San Antonio.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Decker of Galveston and Mr. and Mrs. Joe A. Walker of Jacksonville are the guests of the Henry Deckers and the Jim Deckers this week.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEWS

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank the public for appreciation to our many friends for their kindness and thoughtfulness during our recent loss.

C. T. and Juliet Driskell.
The Holland Family.

Mr. and Mrs. O. V. Mullins, former Sonorans, will be the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Shaw this weekend. Mr. and Mrs. Mullins live in Eden.

Mr. and Mrs. Palmer West and daughter and Miss Blanche Taylor are leaving next Friday for a three-weeks trip to California and the western states.

Miss June Ann Hill is spending two weeks in Dallas with Mr. and Mrs. Charli Lay and daughter, Francis.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Carter of Hamblin and Mr. and Mrs. B. D. Carter of Troy were guests this week of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Harrison.

College education for your children? Old-age retirement? Plan now. See Louin Martin, representing the best in insurance. Adv. 29.

Say It With Flowers
Duckett Flower Shop

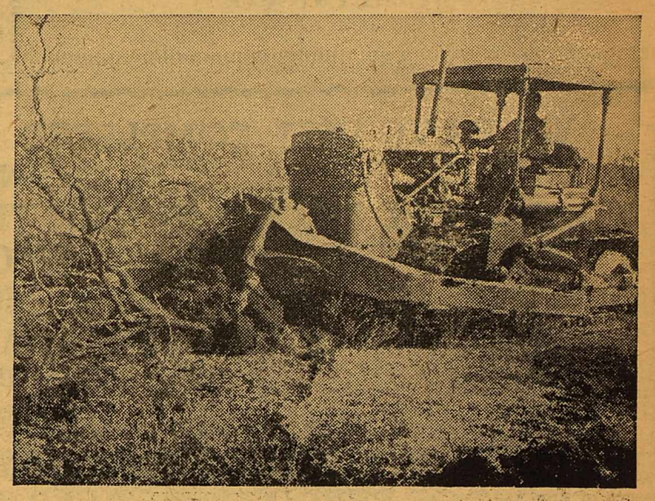
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CONTRACT WIRING COMMERCIAL WORK
APPLIANCE REPAIR & INSTALLATION
REWIRING & REPAIRING
ANYTHING ELECTRICAL
No Job Too Large Or Too Small

Agency For
AIRWAY VACUUM CLEANER
Have Stock of Supplies
J. P. (Smitty) SMITH
PHONE 24951

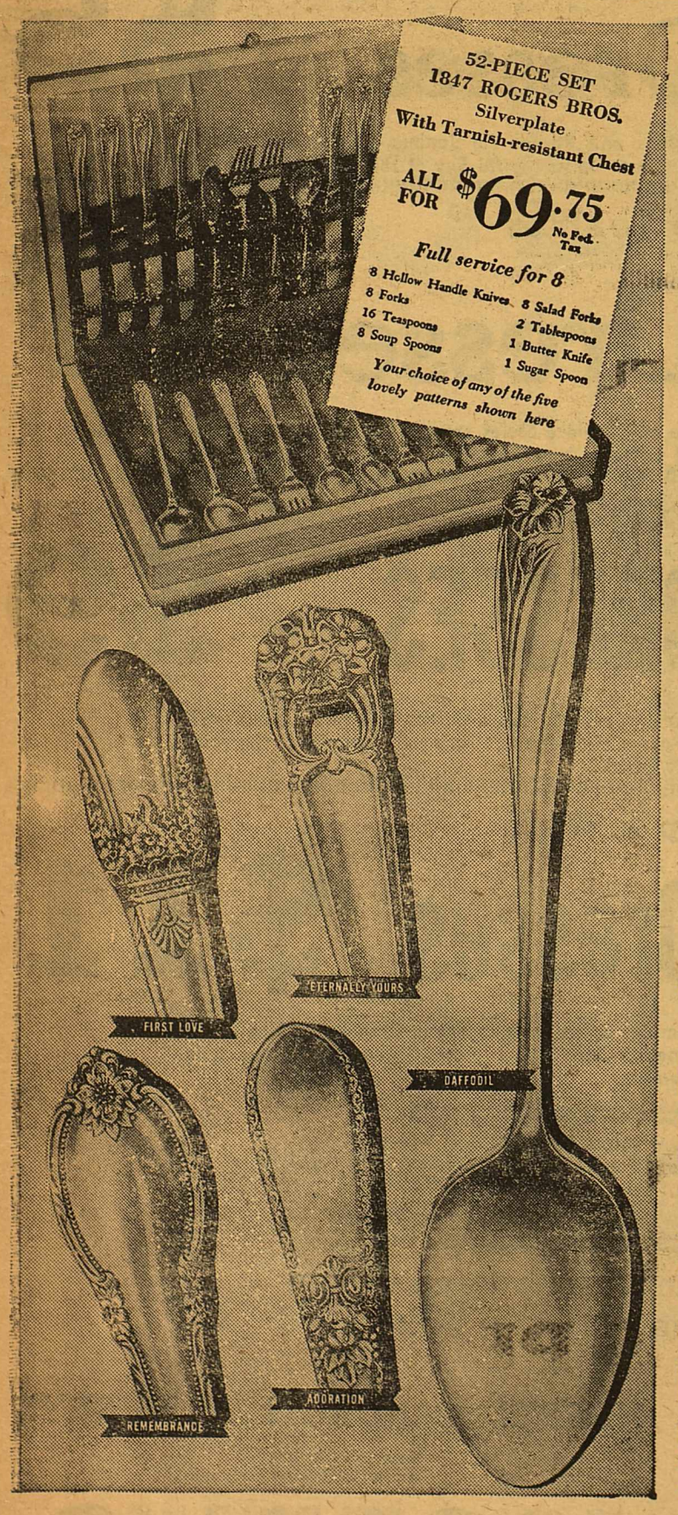
PHOTOS BY BOYD ARE BETTER
PHONE 23441

SAVE YOUR SOIL



AND YOUR SOIL WILL SAVE YOU. APPLY COORDINATED SOIL-SAVING PRACTICES. GET A RANCH PLAN. HOLD ON TO YOUR TOP SOIL.

THE RATLIFF STORE



JOIN NOW!

Silver Chest Club Plan .. PAY ONLY $1 DOWN

$5. WEEKLY

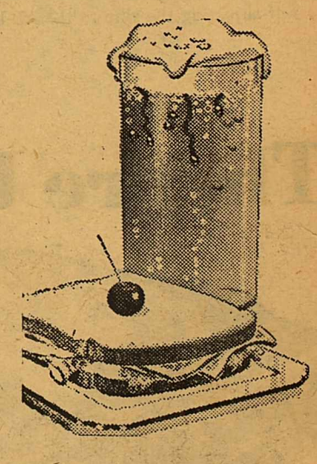
. . . sets your table with your most-loved pattern in America's Finest Silverplate tonight . . . .

1847 ROGERS BROS.

There is no need to own anything less than the finest! . . . Our budget terms bring famous 1847 Rogers Bros. to you the easy way . . . at payments so small your budget feels not the slightest pinch. Choose your pattern now, use it proudly the same day.

George Barrow
Your Jeweler

SANDWICH AND SODA



We take pleasure in announcing the opening of our sandwich bar. Chicken Salad, Pimento Cheese Sandwiches, real, Old-Time Coney Islands and Hot Dogs.

TRY ONE TODAY!

The Corner Drug



Here are the people who compose the PMA County Committee of Sutton County. They are left to right Mrs. Alma Ogden, secretary, W. B. McMillan, chairman, Thomas Morriss and Cleve Jones Jr., members. This committee administers the funds for payment of the application of conservation practices on ranches in Sutton County.

Stocking "Below Rainfall" Can Assure Ranchman Of Grass Ahead

On range land, soil conservation and range improvement are obtained by improvement of vegetation On any range there is a reason for the presence of any particular species, and a reason for the absence of any plant that is present over the fence.

Iis generally accepted that some range plants are superior for forage, or for holding the soil, while others are of small value. It is necessary, therefore, in appraising range land, to recognize the various combinations of the many plant species, and to know the significance of the various combinations of plants.

In an attempt to convert those plant combinations to a useable scale, "Range Condition Classes" have been established. These have been accepted as good by the Supervisors of the Edwards Plateau Soil Conservation District, and, as a result, are being used by Soil Conservation Service technicians.

While the Indian ruled the Edwards Plateau and for awhile thereafter, vegetation was allowed to develop according to the rules of nature. There was about 20 to 22 inches of rainfall then, just as now. Grass was left at the end of the growing season, and thus shaded and cooled the ground thus reducing evaporation. Acting like a sponge it slowed down runoff water and held it on the ground; plant roots and litter kept the soil loose and open, and rain water, most of it, entered the ground and was available for plant growth.

Under excellent conditions some of our common short grasses, curly mesquite, rad grama, and hairy triodia, for example were minority members of the plant community. With most of the rainfall entering the soil, there was ample water available for the taller grasses to thrive, Sideoats grama, the bluestems, plains lovegrass and others made up the greater partof the plant composition. These taller grasses were desirable because they added variety to the animal diet, but especially because they produced two or three time as much edible feed as do short grasses. They were producing the maximum that soil and moisture allowed on the Edwards Plateau. Such range may be called Excellent.

Early accounts of the vegetation on the Edwards Plateau referred to "the luxuriant grass sufficient to graze millions of animals". Many ranchers who followed those early settlers have realized that the country gradually changed through the years.

Under grazing management that demands removal of all the grass each year the ground is bared, organic matter is removed from the soil, the ground crusts, and water runs off down the draws, with less and less rainfall percolating into the soil. An artificial drought results and the tall, higher producing grasses are slowly removed because insufficient water enters the soil to maintain their tall growth. This process is speeded up by livestock grazing yearlong on the food producing leaves of such grasses.

As the taller, better grasses are reduced, their place is occupied by short grasses which produce less and, consequently, require less water. When the range reduction process reaches the point where the range plant community contains only 50 to 75 percent of the best plants and over 25 percent of the poor species it has dropped to "Good Condition".

Rangeland in fair condition is not nearly as productive as land in excellent condition. Such pastures often contain almost solid stands of one kind of grass with a liberal sprinkling of weedy grasses such as red grama, hairy triodia, and three-awn needlegrasses, and poisonous plants such as bitterweed are beginning to increase. The lower producting short grasses such as curly mesquite then bear a greater load, With continued close use the best grasses present weaken and die. The stage is then set for weeds, shrubs and other low producing grasses that are unattractive to animals to increase and take over.

Range in Poor Condition is recognized by less than 25 percent of the vegetation being composed of good range plants. Poor grasses and unpalatable poisonous weeds are in abundance. The soil is light in color indicating low organic content which means poor growth conditions. Rocks appear to be more abundant. Without organic matter and good plant cover the soil becomes packed and crusts. Rain water, then runs off, instead of soaking into the soil..

One of the most disturbing features of range in poor condition is erosion. The water which runs off such land picks up the fine soil particles which includes plants nutrients and organic matter. Each runoff carries off the land a sheet of the best soil material, just as one might strip sheet after sheet off a writing tablet. Eventually such erosion progresses into gullies which cut up pastures and drain the soil.

The objective of the Edwards Plateau Soil Conservation District and the technicians cooperating with the District is to help all ranchers to improve and maintain their ranges to insure maximum production of high quality forage for livestock. Much progress has been made towards this objective in spite of one of the driest periods in our rainfall history.

—SCS—

STARTED CHICKS

4- week heavy breed cockerels- - 35c each.
4- week old combine and Austra-White Pullets - - - 53c each.
5- week old Combine and Austra-White Pullets - - - 60c each.
6- week old Combine and Austra-White Pullets - - - 67c each

You may get thes at the Hatchery or have your local Trucking Co. pick them up for you at the COMFORT HATCHERY Box 987 - - - - Phone 116. COMFORT, TEXAS. ADV.

From The Churches

ST. ANN'S CHURCH

Sunday Masses ——— 8 o'clock
——— 10 o'clock
Weekday Masses —— 7:30 o'clock

BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School ——— 10:00
Morning Service ——— 11:00
Young People's Meeting —— 6:00
Evening Services ——— 7:00
Mid-Week Bible Study
Each Wednesday ——— 7:00
W.M.U. ——— Each Wednesday
Men's Brotherhood meets Tuesday after the first and third Sundays
Jr. G A's Each Monday —— 3:45
Int. G A's Each Monday —— 4:15
R A's Tuesday ——— 4:15
Sunbeams Wednesday —— 3:00

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bomer B. Gist, Minister

10:00 a. m. ——— Bible Classes
10:45 a. m. ——— Worship
3:15 p. m., Young People's Meeting
8:00 p. m. ——— Worship

THURSDAY

8:45 p. m., Ladies' Bible Class
Everyone Is Welcome At Every Service.

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
W. H. MARSHALL, Pastor

Our guest speaker Sunday will be Mr. Larry T. Taylor, a prominent layman in our church. Mr. Taylor is a consulting engineer and makes his home in san Angelo.

Church School ——— 9:45 o'clock
Morning worship —— 10:50 o'clock
Youth Fellowship —— 6 o'clock
Evening Worship ——— 7 o'clock

St. John's Episcopal Church
The Rev. J. E. Winslow, Rector
Office hours: 9 to 12 daily

First Sunday After Trinity May 27

Holy Communion 8 A.M.
Morning Prayer and Sermon 11 a.m.

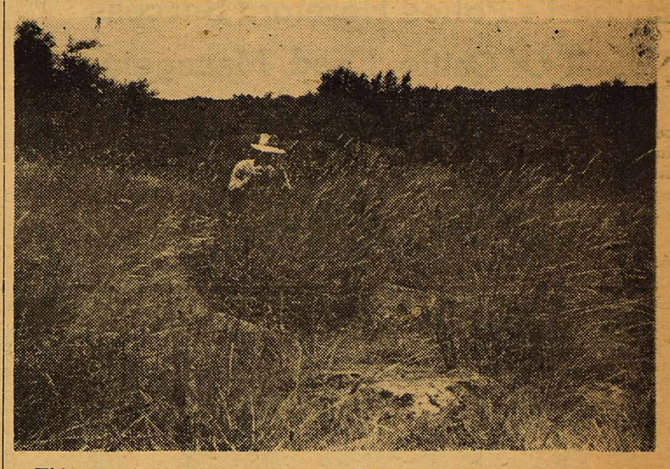
CHURCH OF CHRIST
(South Side) Holiness Building
Services Each Lord's Day at 10:30 o'clock
Evening Services — 7:30 o'clock
Welcome All -- T. R. Chappell

MEXICAN BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. L. R. Flores, Pastor

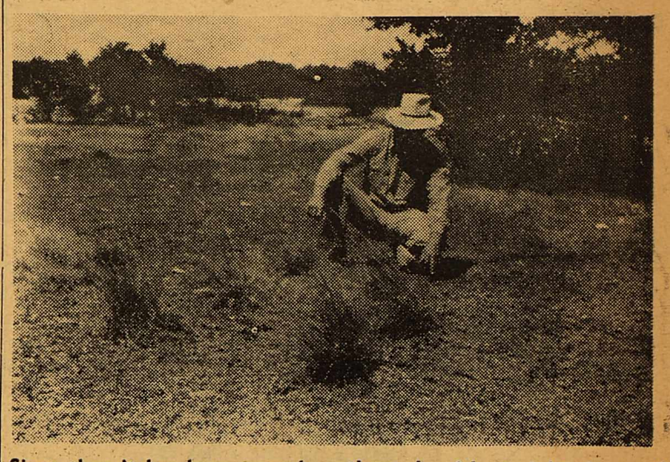
Sunday School ——— 9:30
Morning Service ——— 11:00
Young People's Meeting —— 7:30
Evening Service ——— 8:00

Mrs. John Hull of Houston is here this week visiting Dr. and Mrs. Tom White and her mother, Mrs. Clyde Gardner.

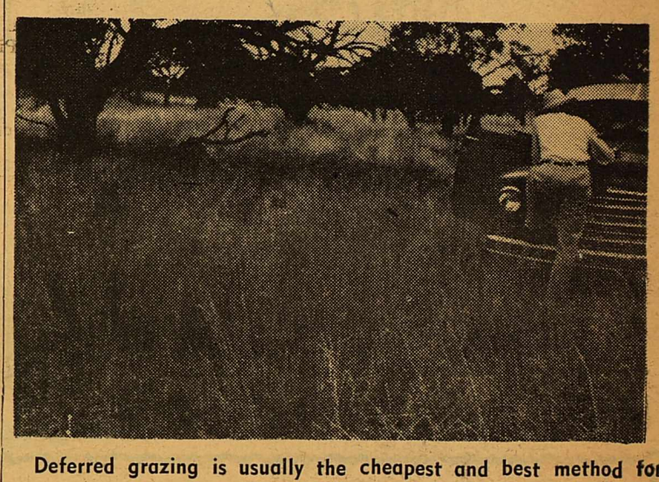
Less cattle on the range - more money in the bank!



This experimental pasture at Sub-Station No. 14, Sonora, has been rested for 27 months. Note recovery of the good, climax grasses in this period.

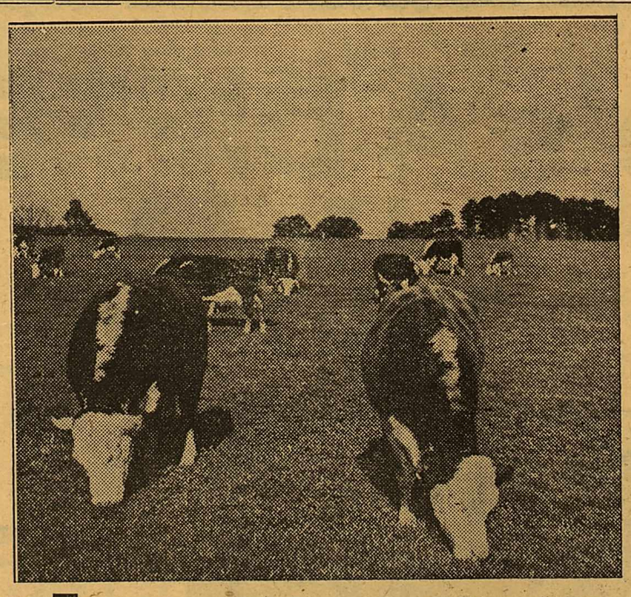


Since then it has been grazed continuously with straight sheep at a rate of 48 animal units per section. The good grasses have been grazed off short with threeawn, a poor grass, predominating.



Deferred grazing is usually the cheapest and best method for range recovery. This pasture has had two summer rests and was grazed each winter producing 50 pounds of beef per acre the past season.

Range Conservation PAYS OFF



Brings more grass, better grass.

Produces more pounds of beef and mutton.

Returns $ s

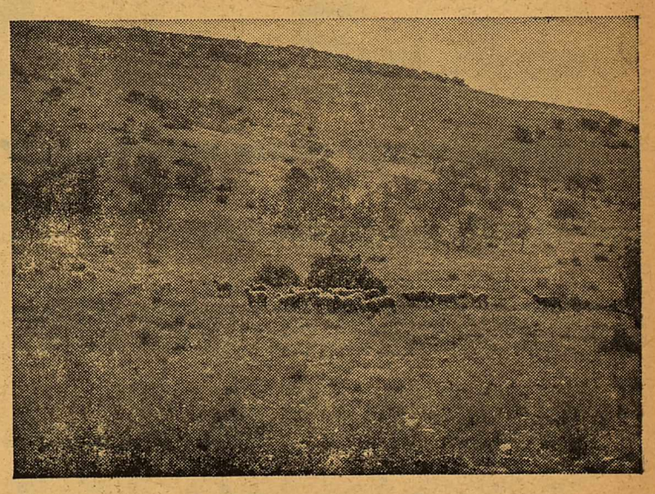
The Edwards Plateau Conservation District has Range Conservation Savvy. See them.

JOSEPH'S

Just The Right Thing !

CONSERVATION RANCHING

Balance your forage production with the grass consumption of your stock. That's what your range conservation plan helps you do. Your conservation district supervisors and SCS technicians can aid you in conserving your grass.
Soil Conservation farming and ranching Pays.



PLAN YOUR GRASS PROGRAM

The Wesley Sawyer Jewelry

Halbert's Polled Hereford Success Result Of Cattle, Feed, Management

Ranchers in southwest Texas are becoming convinced that a successful, stabilized livestock industry depends on both good grassland management and good livestock management.

It was no accident that Robert A. Halbert broke all records at the 1950 National Polled show at Kansas City for the number of trophies won. For, as Halbert says: "Good cattle, good feed and good management always produce good results." He has combined all three in his successful ranching operation. And results are good.

Halbert's hornless Herefords have consistently placed among the top of their classes in all major shows in the past several years. Individual animals such as Domestic Mischief 259, grand champion senior bull at Kansas City and the Texas State Fair at Dallas are proof of Halbert's success as a cattle breeder. Another Halbert bull, Domestic Woodrow 244, won the champion sale bull trophy at Kansas City. This was the third win for a Halbert bull. It gave him permanent possession of the revolving "Texas Trophy Cup". He is the first exhibitor to show three champion sale bulls, having won in 1945, 1947 and last year.



The high quality brood cows shown here illustrate the type of cattle that produce Halbert's champion polled Herefords.

Not content with these two Kansas show champions, Halbert followed up with first place in the senior heifer yearling class with Miss Domestic Mischief II, which had also been a Dallas winner.

These awards are a just tribute to a man who has been breeding polled Herefords since 1918 and is now the fourth largest polled Hereford breeder in the United States.

An early cooperator with the Edwards Plateau Soil Conservation District, Halbert has always been concerned with the feeding end of his business. "Purebred cattle need purebred grasses to make the most efficient return per acre," he emphasized.

Halbert feels that good rangeland with large amounts of the most desirable grasses, such as the bluestems and grama grasses, is used to better advantage by good cattle. A poorly bred cow will eat as much as a high quality cow and yet make fewer pounds of marketable cuts. Cattle also need the variety and higher food value that the better ranges provide, Halbert has learned.

By keeping his livestock numbers in balance with the amount of grass produced each year and by practicing a system of pasture deferments, Halbert is continuously improving his rangeland in addition to providing plenty of good forage for his polled Herfords.

He says: "I leave grass ungrazed each year to pay my range insurance premiums." By doing this he increases the carrying capacity of his range and provides ample feed reserves on the ground. This reserve feed, in the form of grass, conserves maximun moisture and protects the soil from erosion. It also helps to lesson the effects of droughts and unseasonable weather.

On his 24-section ranch, Halbert farms 735 acres on the best land, of which 185 acres are irrigated. The same principles of good conservation land management that he has applied to his rangeland are being followed on his cropland.

In cooperation with the Edwards Plateau Soil Conservation District, through which he receives help from Soil Conservation Service technicians in planning and applying his coordinated soil conservation program, Halbert has terraced and contoured all dryland fields that require such treatment to conserve soil and moisture. Soil-improving Madrid and Hubam sweetclovers are being used regularly in the crop rotations, not only to maintain but to increase fertility. In addition, Halbert allows plenty of old crop litter and residue to remain ungrazed on the ground. This practice helps him to build up the organic matter in the soil, hold rainfall and reduce soil loss.

Fields less suited to cultivation because of erosion hazards are being retired to permanent grasses as rapidly as seed can be produced from plantings made last year for seed source on part of the irrigated acreage. King Ranch bluestem, sideoats and slender grama and Boers, Lehmann and sand lovegrasses make up the plantings. Halbert plans to try blue panic next spring for dry land planting.

Adapted grass is also used in reseeding rangeland where the brush has been bulldozed. By reseeding the bare, disturbed areas, Halbert is speeding up grass recovery considerably.

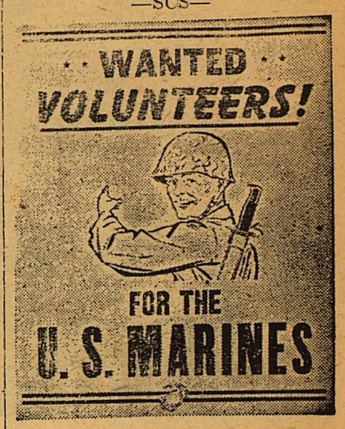
By applying conservation measures to his cultivated land, Halbert produces more feed which in turn enables him to rest more pastures and thereby hasten his range recovery.

The irrigated 185-acres assure Halbert of feed regardless of the weather. Since the irrigation system is part of his coordinated conservation ranch plan, it helps to advance the good land use Halbert is striving for on the place as a whole.

It's a pretty picture to see Halbert's polled Herfords grazing lush native pastures of bluestem, sideoats, grama, and other good grasses-to see soil held in place and the greatest use made of limited rainfall, and to know that the land is being used according to its capabilities and treated according to its needs.

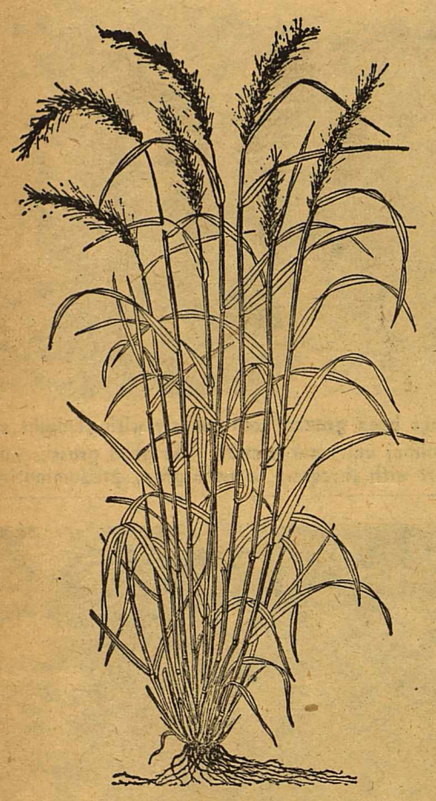
It is ranchers like Halbert on whom the nation depends to increase livestock production without permanently damaging their land during these trying times.

—SCS—



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Know Your Grasses



CANADIAN WILD RYE

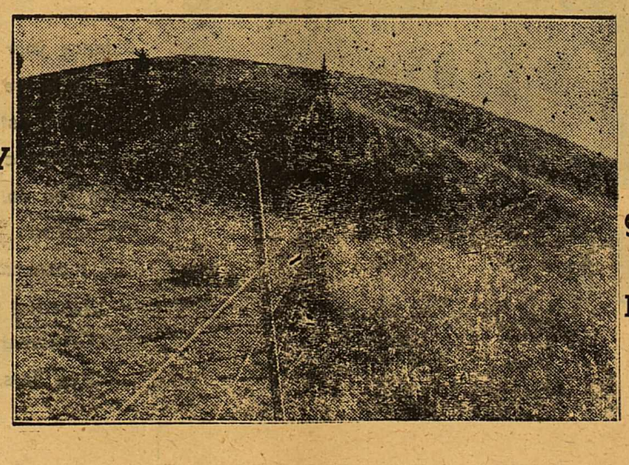


Lee Lewis, farm managar, and his son Bill check the flow if irrigation water on the Halbert Ranch. The mile maize, hegari and red top cane seen in the background are used for silage for supplemental winter feeding.

Look out for the range of tomorrow.

You Bet There's A DIFFERENCE !

Depleted range offers nothing now and very little for future generations.



A conserved range produces- builds beef, grows wool, mutton and mohair for indefinite period.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT HAS BEEN BREWING IN SUTTON COUNTY.

RANCHMEN HAVE BEEN GETTING TOGETHER THROUGH THE EDWARDS PLATEAU SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO HANDLE THEIR OWN CONSERVATION PROBLEMS. WE THINK THAT'S THE AMERICAN WAY TO GET A NEEDED JOB DONE.

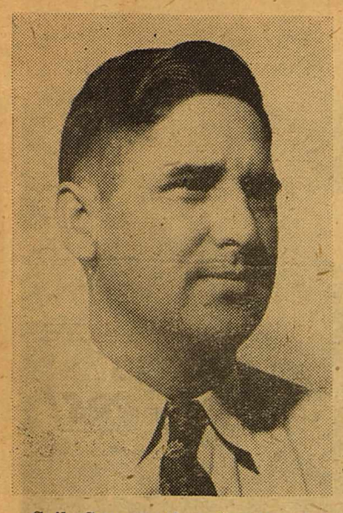
H. V. Stokes Feed Company

LIN TURNEY, Owner Sonora, Texas

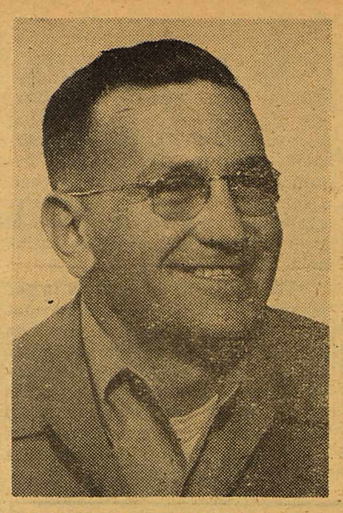
Western Cotton Oil Company

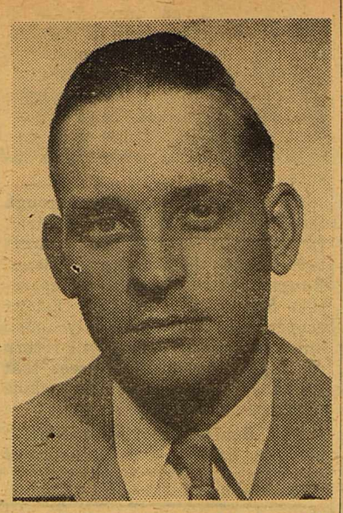
Makers of Paymaster Feeds *San Angelo, Texas*

Soil Conservation Service Personnel









Soil Conservation Service personnel working with the Board of Supervisors are providing technical assistance in conservation problems of the Edwards Plateau Soil Conservation District. Left to right they are: E. B. Keng formerly District Conservationist has become assistant State Conservationist working out of the State office at Temple. Tom Darrow, District Conservationist is working with three soil conservation districts. In addition to assisting the local District, he is working the Upper Llano Soil Conservation District with headquarters in Junction and the Devils River Soil Conservation District with headquarters in Del Rio. Andy Truden is Work Unit Conservationist in the Sonora Office. Jack Jarvis, who in addition to assisting the local District, is starting to work with PMA in Edwards and Crockett Counties.

—SCS—



In March of 1949 the field in the above picture was covered by a heavy stand of poisonous bitterweed. Before the end of that year its physical appearance was to be completely changed.

Joe Hardgraves, with the assistance of local Soil Conservation Service technicians, planted the field to King Ranch bluestem in March, 1949. The planting was made in a heavy cover of bitterweed and was planted in 36 inch rows.

The above picture shows the results. The dense stand of K. R., which is waist high onHardgraves, has completely eleminated the bitterweed. In the short period of one year, Hardgraves has converted a hazard area that was producing proctically nothing into a highly productive area that was producing grazing as well as high priced seed. This field was brought from a liability to an asset in one year by planting of grass.

Mayfield Took Advantage Of Good Rains

Stanley Mayfield's Hill Road ranch has made some marked improvement the past several years. This was accomplished by taking advantage of rainfall when it was available.

During the past two favorable growing seasons, Mayfield reduced his stocking. Light summer stocking coupled with pasture deferments has brought about an improved range condition. Many of the better grasses have increased considerably. Sideoats grama is the most prevelant with numerous young seedlings producing seed in the open away from protective thickets. Silver and little bluestem are becoming more prominent and noticeable. The grass cover as a whole has shown much improvement with many of the bare and weak spots now completely covered.

Showing concern over invading brush, Mayfield cabled oak and some mesquite. He has been using goats to control oak sprouts and plans to follow up on the mesquite with 2 4 5 - T and kerosene of necessary.

Mayfield has set the stage for continued range improvement. Even with normal rainfall, his range should continue to improve under this type of treatment.

Friess Sold On Madrid Clover

Harold Friess has found a new friend in Madrid sweet clover, due to the large amount of grazing he has obtained from this biennial legume.

As part of his conservation plan with the Edwards Plateau Soil Coservation District, Friess planted his West Field to Madrid clover in March, 1949. The seed was innoculated and planted on the contour.

On July 3, 1949 Friess opened the gate into this 10 acre field and allowed 14 cows and calves and one bull to graze at choice.e Most of their time was spent in the field, Friess pointed out. After two weeks grazing he closed the gate and allowed the clover to make new growth. The clover was again grazed from August 10th until September 6th. About 58 days of grazing was furnished by this acre planting of clover for 15 animal units or the equivalent of 160 animal units per section on a year-long basis.

For 5 days during January of 1950, the field was grazed with 250 head of ewes. The clover was then rested and allowed to make a seed crop. During the summer Friess turned the clover under as a green manure crop to add organic matter to the soil.

At the present time, the clover has come back to a volunteer stand from the clover that was plowed under during the summer of 1950. It is no wonder that Friess considers Madrid clover a true friend. It has given him a large amount of grazing while at the same time it was improving the physical condition of his soil by breading up any restrictive layers in the soil and improving its structure and fertility by the addition of organic matter.

Another good sound conservation practice that Friess is applying to some of his other cropland is retiring it to a good clover of perennial grasses.

Three years ago Friess began plantin his House Field to grasses by sowing a small amount of K.R. bluestem, sideoats grama and weeping lovegrass. Each year he planted more of the field until now he has the whole field in grass and a permanent cover.

K. R. bluestem is in the majority, following by slender grama and sideoats grama. Present in the composition also are Boers and Lehmann's lovegrass, canada wildrye and a little blue panicum.

Besides halting a serious erosion hazard these desireable grasses are proving their worth from a grazing standpoint as well.

On fourteen acres, Friess grazed sixty-one cows and sixty calves for five days (Aug. 28 - Sept. 2, 1950). This amount of grazing on fourteen acres is the equivalent of grazing approximately seventy cows per section on a year long basis. One hundred and thirty-one ewes were also grazed for nine days (Dec. 6th - Dec. 15th, 1950) on this fourteen acres or the equivalent of 29 animal units per section on a year long basis. Now thats a lot of feed even for a field in cultivated crops.

To top it all off, Friess doesn't have to worry about planting, plowing or harvesting each year. He has a permanent cover of high quality, deep rooted perennial grasses that will produce a dependable supply of good forage each year.

—SCS—

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In appreciation of 60 years of loyal support by our subscribers, The Devil's River News will, on Saturday July 28, 1951, at 5 P. M., give away, absolutely free, to one of its subscribers, a Brand New 1951 Ford Six Tudor Sedan, Complete with radio and extra tire.

FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION CALL NEWS OFFICE OR CONTACT REPRESENTATIVE IN FORD SEDAN.

SEE THIS FORD SIX SEDAN ON DISPLAY AT THE DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS OFFICE, OR AT THE SONORA MOTOR COMPANY, YOUR FORD DEALER.

RULES

1. Any person whose subscription is paid up until May, 1952 or beyond, is eligible for this gift, holders of life subscriptions excepter.

2. A person subscribing to The Devil's River News for one year will receive one certificate of elegibility entitling him to one opportunity to be awarded this prize.

3. A person subscribing to The Devil's River News for 2 years will receive 2 certificates of eligibility entitling him to 2 opportunities to be awarded this prize.

4. A person may not subscribe to The Devil's River News for more than five years in advance or not beyond May, 1956.

5. To be eligible for this outstanding prize, a subscriber must bring his subscription at least up to May, 1952. Should his subscription be in arrears, he will receive a separate certificate of eligibility for each year he brings his subscription up.

6. Who May Subscribe? Any person may subscribe for himself or for any member of his family and he may buy a subscription or subscriptions for a friend or friends. Remember-A certificate of eligibility is awarded with each subscription.

7. This Appreciation Prize will be awarded to one of our subscribers on Saturday, July 28, 1951, at 5 P. M. in front of The Devil's River News office. A subscriber need NOT be present to win.

8. Deadline for persons entering or renewing subscriptions is 4:30 P. M. Saturday, July 28, 1951.

9. WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO WIN THIS PRIZE? -

A. Owner or employees of the Devil's River News, their fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, husbands and wives of their brothers and sisters, and children of any of the foregoing.

B. Persons who already hold life subscriptions.

CAR TO BE AWARDED SATURDAY, JULY 28, 1951. AT 5 P. M. AT NEWS OFFICE

SEE CAR AT NEWS OFFICE OR SONORA MOTOR CO.

HOME OF FINER FORDS

Conservation Means Grass In Edwards District

Conservation may mean terrances ir tanks to some, but in the Edwards Plateau Soil Conservation District, it means GRASS, GRASS-tall grass and lots of it, is what made the Sonora area known as the Heart of the Stockmans Paradise.

Concerned with invading plants, decreasing livestock production and increased soil and water losses, ranchers in Sutton and the northwest part of the Edwards County organized the Edwards Soil Conservation District. Three years ago, in April 1948, the District went into operation. The District Board of Supervisors include J. M. Vander Stucken, Chairman, Fred Earwood, Joe B. Ross, Edwin Sawyer and Frank Bond. Now, in 1951, ranchers are well on the way to regaining title to the slogan, so easily acquired through nature's generosity with her vegetation.

During the past three years 75 percent of the ranchers in the District have entered into cooperative agreements with their Soil Conservation District. This is evidence enough that ranchers are concerned about their ranges and are anxious to make corrective measures.

By working together through their Soil Conservation District ranchers are finding the answers to many of their range problems. Range men of the Soil Conservation Service are helping District cooperators plan and apply sound land use practices that will return the higher producing grasses that are the backbone of the whole livestock industry.

The Ranch Experiment Station between Sonora and Rocksprings is conducting grazing management tests to help determine safe carrying capacities that will yield the maximum pounds of beef, lamb and wool, and will also permit adequate soil and water conservation.

Results of these grazing studies will be of great value in furthering the range improvement work in tthe District. The Ranch Experiment work in the District. The Ranch Experiment Station has, also, entered into a cooperative agreement with the District to add their weight to the conservation movement.

"The proof of the cook is in the pudding", and likewise the amount of conservation work applied on the land is proof of the soundness of the District program and operation. To date about 238,00 acres of rangeland has shown marked improvement, which indicates that ranchers are aiding the bluestems and grama grasses to win out over invading vegetation, such as bitterweed and mealycup sage.

Some 3000 acres of rangeland and old cultivated fields have been reseeded to native and introduced grasses. Chief among these have been K. R. bluestem and slender grama. Many of these plantings are providing seed sources for further reseeding work.

The Edwards Plateau Soil Conservation District has materally helped cooperators in this respect, by providing scarce grass seed produced in SCS grass nurseries and by purchasing a grass planter for use in the District.

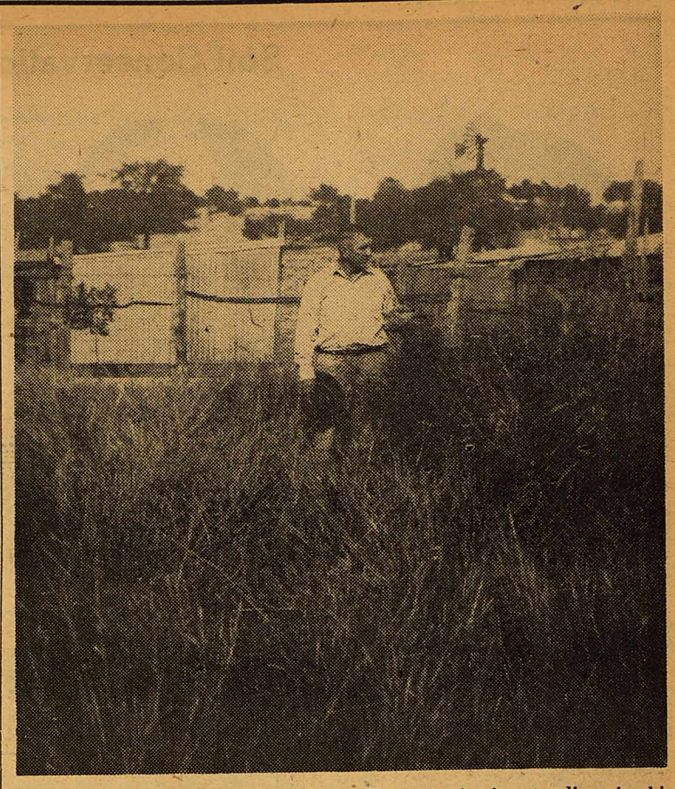
While there is less than 10,000 acres of cultivated land in the District, is represents some of the best and most capable land in the District. Conserving this acreage and increasing its productiveness is an important feature of the District program.

Some 2,300 acres of this cultivated land being farmed on the contoonur to hold more water and soil in place.

Approximately 1000 acres of soil building crops have been planted in the District. Hubam and Madrid clovers are the most popular, but trial plantings of peruvian alfalfa have been made this year by Ben and W. R. Cusenbary. The Ranch Experiment Station also has a planting of Australian dryland alfalfa.

These are a few of the things that ranchers have done during the past three years in conjunction with their Soil Conservation District to retard erosion and to improve the condition of their land and make for a more stable and permanent ranching industry.

—SCS—



Tom Davis is standing in his grass nursery which he maintains on his ranch to check new grasses for adaptability to this area, palatability to livestock, and forage production.

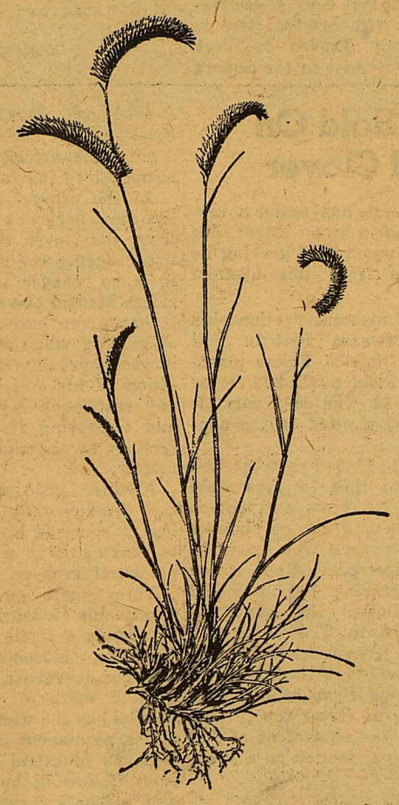
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Martin of Eunice, N. M., were the guests of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Martin, Jr., last weekend. Martin is employed as pumper with the Shell Oil Company in Eunice.

FOR SALE:- New 880 Colman Floor Furnace. Call 2173. 2 tp 32.

Mrs. J. P. Riddle and Mrs. A. N. Wood of Big Spring were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Cooper this week.

Keep a sponge on your range - not a slicker!

Know Your Grasses



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Section Two- Soil Conservation Edition

The Devil's River News

Published in Sonora, Texas - "The Capital of the Stockman's Paradise"

SIXTY-FIRST YEAR | Sonora, Texas, Friday, May 25, 1951 | THIRTY-THIRD WEEK

Grass Fires Cause Double–Loss

There is at least one man around these parts who smokes his cigar without a fire on the end of it, but most of us like to burn up our cigars and cigarettes, if for nothing more than just to watch the smoke.

Smoke. Now that's a word we hear a lot. Most of the time it dosen't mean much, but every so often it is spoken in such a manner that it immediately commands the attention of every person that hears it. Anxious eyes search the skies for smoke. Is it my house? My barn? My pasture? Well, it's someone's pasture, and something has to be done. The fire is put out, but only after it has caused some damage. It would have been so much better if the fire had never been started in the first place.

Yes, that's what will be said everytime. And everybody will agree with it. But when it comes to being a little bit more careful with that fire on the end of a cigarette or the match that lit it, well, that's too much trouble. Even empty bottles thrown out along the roadside can start a roaring grass fire.

We would all be more careful if we realized that a grass fire costs us plenty. Perhaps indirectly, but costly. Not only is there a loss of money through loss of improvements, livestock, winter roughage and feed, but a loss which can be paid for only by time - - soil.

How does an uncontrolled pasture damage soil- Just ask any cooperator with the Edwards Plateau Soil Conservation District, or one of the Service Conservationist aiding the District, or a rancher that has had several hundred acres burned.

He would tell you that with all the grass and vegetation burned off the soil it would be unprotected. The rain drops can explode directly against the soil, breaking small particles loose. These particles are then easily moved when water starts to run. On barren soil it doesn't take much rain before water starts to run. This running water will carry those tiny soil particles away and pile them up in a tank or some other place where they aren't wanted. Sure, they are mighty small particles, but just try counting the raindrops in one rain.

Or maybe someone will answer your question by saying that not only is the vegetation that was on the ground lost, but the seeds were lost too. So the next year the only things growing will be undesirable plants that always come first on bare ground. It will be several years before nature can again cover the ground with grass. During those years much of the valuable top soil will be washed away.

Another might approach the question still differently by telling you that a hot fire will burn the organic matter out of the soil. This would leave the soil in poor physical condition. It would be like powder which is easily washed away.

All the answers add up to the same thing; grass fires are destructive not only to the owner, but to all.

Pastures with lots of grass on the ground are probably more susceptable to fires than ones in poor condition, but the added value of a disirable plant cover more than offsets any degree of fire hazard. In addition, a pasture in good range condition can withstand a fire better than one in poor shape. A range with large percent of sideoats and hairy grama, the bluestems etc. has more soil moisture and protection than one coverer with red grama, needlegrass etc. A grass fire on a range in good conditions does not destroy the organic matter to the same extent that one on poor range does.

So overusing a range and keeping it in poor condition is no sure way of avoiding grass fires - nor desirable either.

The best method of fighting grass fires is to prevent them, but failing this, several suggestions have been made to stop a fire before it spreads too far.

The proposal that ranchers keep spraying machines filled with water at all times is a good one. Another safty measure would be to have a good supply of old feed sacks available. Providing water outlets at mills and tanks would be good insurance also.

Any method that would stop a grass fire and save feed and soil would be worthwhile.

—SCS—

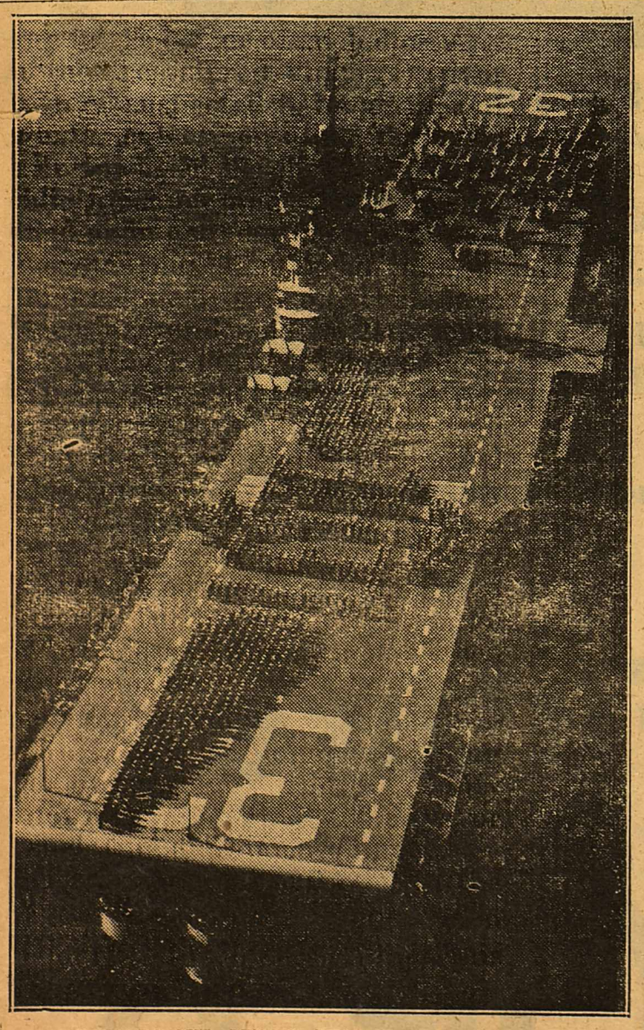
Its takes hundreds of years to "make" one inch of top soil-without grass a single storm may scalp off several inches of this "skin" (top soil)-when top soil is gone, the land is practically useless-nothing worth while will grow.

—SCS—

Overstocking is a rustler! He who steals his own grass hangs himself!

—SCS—

Grass-when most folks think of grass, they associate it with lawn mowers-o' course we know that cows eat th' stuff-but that's about as much as we know.



CREW SPELLS OUT "LEYTE"; READ IT—Shown in the above photograph is the USS Leyte upon her recent return to the United States after several months of duty with U.N. Naval Forces in Korean waters. The Leyte joined Admiral E. C. Evan's Task Force 77 early last October after a record breaking run three quarters of the way around the world. The next day her pilots started pounding the enemy giving close support to ground troops. During the tour of duty in Korean waters the Leyte's planes restroyed or damaged over 1,000 military buildings, 127 vessels, 59 bridges, besides blocking 3 tunnels and inflicting 10,000 casulties.



Here Are The Board Of Supervisors Of The Edwards Plateau Soil Conservation District. Left To Right Joseph Vander Stucken, Chairman, Fred Earwood, Edwin Sawyer, Joe Brown Ross and Frank Bond. These Ranchmen, Elected By Landowners In The District Are Working For The Ranchmen In Administering The Conservation Needs Of The District.

NOTICE

Sutton County Will Enforce The Dog Law Immediately!

On the 22nd day of July, 1950, this county in a county wide election voted to adopt Act 1937, 45th Leg., p. 1119, ch. 450. This act made it unlawful for the owner of any dog six months or more of age, to allow said dog to run at large, unless such dog shall have been by such owner or person having control of said dog duly registered with the County Treasurer. And such dog if running at large, shall have securely fastened about its neck o.dog identification tag, Mrs. Thelma Briscoe, County Treasurer, has on hand a supply of identification tags, and any owner of any dag that is allowed to run at large should immediately have such dog registered. Each dog so registered shall be subject to a tax of One Dollar which shall be paid to the County Treasurer at the time of such registration, and shall be good for the period of one year from rate of such registration.

The act also made it unlawful for the owner of any dog to allow such dog to run at large between sunset and sunrise of the following day, unless such dog has securely fastened about his mouth a leather or metallic muzzle as will effectively prevent such dog from killing or injuring sheep, goats, calves, or other domestic animals or fowls. This in effect says either muzzle your dog at night or keep it up.

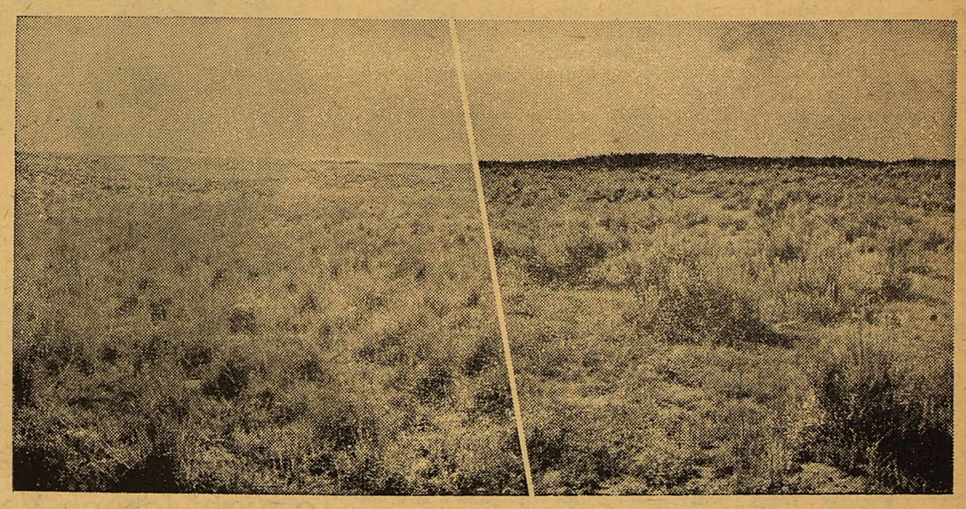
The act further provides that any dog, whether registered and tagged or not, when found attacking any sheep, goats, calves, and-or other domestic animals or fowls, or which has recently made, or is about to make such attack on any sheep, goats, calves, and-or other domestic animals or fowls, may be killed by anyone present and witnessing or having knowledge of such attack and without liability in damage to the owner of such dog. Any dog, whether registered and tagged or not, known or suspected to be a killer of sheep, goats, calves, or other domestic animals or fowls, is hereby declared to be a public nuisance and such dog may be detained or impounded by any person until the owner may be notified, and until all damage done by said dog shall have been determined and paid to the proper parties. Any dog known to have attacked, or injured any sheep, goats, calves, or other domestic animal or fowl, shall be killed by the owner of such dog, and upon failure of such owner so to do, any sheriff, deputy sheriff, constable, police officer, magistrate, or County Commissioner is authorized to kill such dog, and such officer is further authorized to go upon the premises of the owner of such dog for such purpose.

The penalty for violation of any provision of this act is a fine not exceeding $100.00, or by confinement in the county jale for not more than thirty 30 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

This act has not been enforced in the past, but Sutton County is hiring a man whose primary job will be to enforce this act, and it will be strictly enforced.

Sutton County Commissioners Court Sonora. Texas

GET ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE FENCE!



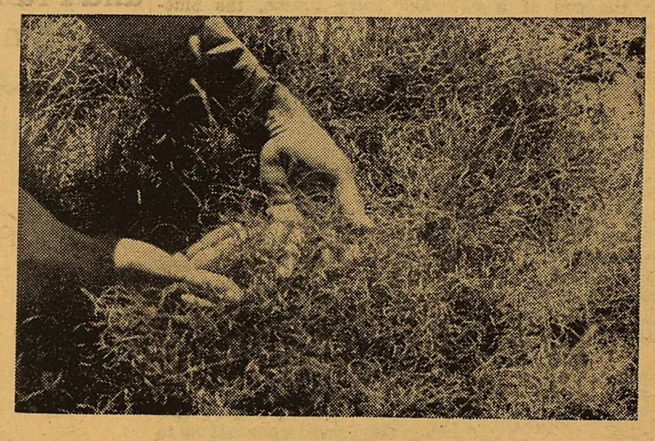
Tomorrow's Business depends on how well you use your Soil Today!

Frankly, we are looking ahead.

We want to see every landowner operating the conservation way.

Our method is simple. We're recommending that every ranchman work up a conservation plan with the local soil conservation district. And we're suggesting that you keep on improving soil.

If you're a landowner who hasn't yet discovered his local soil conservation district and the technical help of the Soil Conservation Service, you'll do well to get acquainted now.



GRASS LIKE THIS–



BRINGS RESULTS LIKE THIS!

Save the Soil and save Texas

Your Soil Conservation District Aims At:

1. Sound Land Use.

2. Building Soil Productivity.

3. Using The Right Soil-Saving Measures On Each Acre.

4. Providing Economically Sound Conservation Methods.

"Your Soil Is Our Future"

CITY OF SONORA

YOU PLUS YOUR SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT CAN HANDLE YOUR SOIL BEST.

Ten Years Of Conservation Work Has Brought Turney Range Back

Paul Turney's ranch, located 30 miles south of Sonora on the Rocksprings road, affords one of the many reasons why the area camprising the Edwards Plateau Soil Conservation District has been labeled the "Stockman's Paradise".

The range history of the Edwards Plateau Soil Conservation District, comprising all of Sutton and the northwest protion of Edwards counties, can well be traced on the Turney Ranch.

The county was fairly new in 1916 when Turney took over his present holdings, and lack of easily available water provided him with an almost "virgin" range. According to Turney, the shallow divides and low rolling, stony hills were covered with tall bunch grasses. Mr. Turney says now. that he knows they were the bluestems, grama grasses, Texas cupgrass and Plains lovegrass that are now proving so valuable for grazing animals.

Since 1916 there has been a lot of grass gone down the gullet and lost of water run off the hills to flood the draws. The rangeland that ince seemed indestructible proved to have very definite limitations after all.

Like most ranchers in the District, Turney went into the sheep business following the first World War. Heavy grazing with sheep furthered the range depletion started by grazing too many cattle. The grass reserve which had been built up over a long period of years could not withstand the onslaught of grazing animals which, coupled with dry years, reduced the grass forage production to approximately 25 percent former rate.

The advent of poisonous bitterweed, forcibly called to Turney's attention his range condition. Realizing something was amiss, Mr. Turney sold out his sheep in 1940 and began a program of range improvement that has been outstanding in this area of outstanding that once seemed indestructible conservation ranchers.

Concentrating on Hereford cattle and Angora goats, Turney reduced his livestock numbers by more than half, and in line with grass forage available. In this way he managed to have considerable grass left each year to recharge his "feed account". He had found that all "with drawals" and no "deposits" means uncertainty bitterweed, high feed bills and high death losses.

Mr. Turney was an early signer of the rancher petition to organize the Edwards Plateau Soil Conservation District, and has been an active cooperator since the District operations began some three years ago.

Today, after ten years of good conservation range management, Mr. Turney's range is showing a strong resemblance to the original ranch of 34 years ago.

The hills are taking on the healthy, rosy hue which is always connected with a good range. The rocks have stopped "growing" and water that once went off down the draws, carrying soil that was none too plentiful to begin with, is now being held up and put into the ground to grow even more grass.

Indicative of the improvement found on the Turney ranch is the fact that a recent check by Soil Conservation Service range men disclosd 19 varieties of grasses, 40 varieties of forbs and 18 varieties of brush growing in six acre exclosure near the Ranch Headquarters.

These same plants are found in Turney's pastures as well and are providing the variety and quanity of feed so essential for a successful, stable ranch business.

Mr. Turney, with his son, Jack, well known Quarter Horse breeder, actually operates three ranches. With this set-up they manage to defer most pastures on at least one ranch for several months each year. In this manner pasture deferments are rotated so that most pastures are rested every 3-4 years at least. With this type of management the Turneys are able to make rapid range improvement and assure themselves of an adequate feed reserve.

In addition to these longer pastures deferments, the Turneys have also practiced a system of rotated grazing so that all pastures get some rest during the growing season.

The sound principles of range management being followed on the Turney Ranch can, and are being applied on ranches of all sizes throughout the Edwards Plateau Soil Conservation District.

Mr. Turney's son-in-law, Harold Friess, ranching a few miles north, is also carrying out a sound conservation program similiar to the Turneys'.

The Turney family hasn't limited their efforts to rangeland alone. All crop land has been cultivated on the contour and had green manure crops, in the form of Hubam and Madrid clover applied. By thus increasing the value of their cropland, more grazing is available and more rest allowed the paastures.

All three ranchers, Paul and Jack Turney, and Harold Friess have also planted old, depleted fields to native and introduced grasses. Friess obtained the equivalent of approximately 70 animals units per section year long grazing from his grass planting of King Ranch bluestem and sideoats grama and in addition harvested 2-300 pounds of valuable seed last year.

The two Turney plantings were allowed to seed out and fall in order to increase the stand and hasten the spread of the ground cover.

Paul Turney, by working with his son and son-in-law and with other ranchers, through cooperation with the Edwards Plateau Soil Conservation District, is not only returning his own 30 odd sections back to maximum forage production, but is helping in the conservation work of another million acres in the District.

Bundys Have Reseeded Range

Stanton Bundy, Jr. is a firm believer in conservation ranching. The condition of his range shows that he and his father, S. S. Bundy, Sr., have long practiced methods favorable to soil conservation.

With the aid of Soil Conservation Service personnel working with the District, Bundy has worked out a long range, over-all conservation plan for his ranch. This conservation plan calls for range improvement which is being obtained on the Bundy ranch by such sound conservation practices as **range reseding and pasture deferments.** Pastures are being rested for short periods of 3 to 4 weeks during the growing season to give the better grasses a chance to gain a foothold. Bundy's Rough and Station pastures look exceptionally well following a growing season of rest.

Another good sound conservation practice being applied by Bundy is range reseeding. Realizing that variety is the key to maximum forage production, Bundy has been planting native and introduced grasses in his pastures. **These grasses include K. R. bluestem,** sideoats and slender grama and little bluesstem.

Not content with the normal rate of range improvement, Stanton has recently tried some range pitting and reseeding. The pitting **trials were made on a shallow di**vide site where the dominant grass was curly mesquite. The idea behind the pitting was to hasten improvement by a rapid increase in variety. The pitting was done with a one-way disc plow and a tractor. Sideoats grama and K. R. bluestem were planted in the pits. This is the first time any of this type of range reseeding has been tried in the district. It may prove to be a helpful tool in stepping up range improvement.

Bundy's cropland was not excluded from his conservation plan. Important conservation such as **contour farming, cover cropping,** stubble mulching and terracing are planned. Most of the above mentioned plans have been carried out at the present time.

He has also returned 32 acres of cropland back to grass. Such grasses as K. R. bluestem, sideoats grama, slender grama, Boer's lovegrass, little bluetem and Canada wildrye have been planted for seed production. Seed produced will be used for range reseeding. This will represent quite a saving considering the present cost of seed.

Also included in Bundy's conservation plan is the practice of salting away from water to give a more even distribution of grazing. This practice is proving beneficial in obtaining a more uniform rate of improvement.

This well rounded conservation program along with Bundy's production of a high grade of live**stock can only lead to healthier** range conditions and a more stable ranch business.

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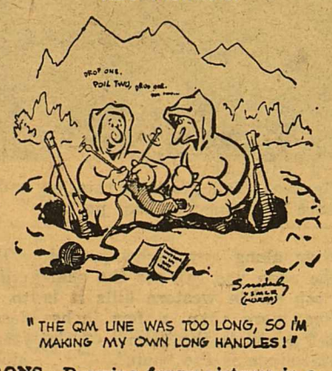
Sez Bre'r Fox



Wait a Minute!



Red Flannels?



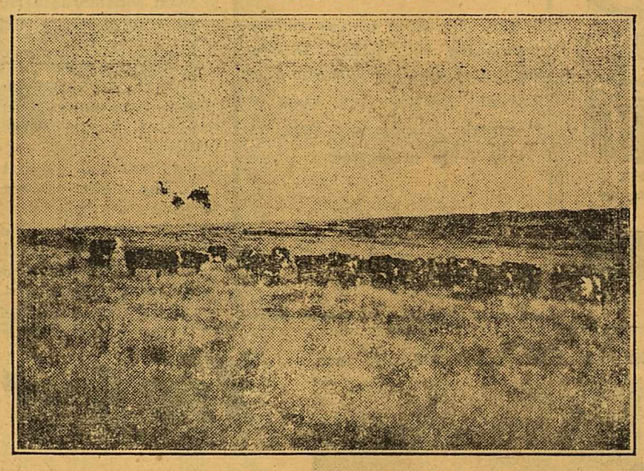
COMBATIVE COMBAT CARTOONS—Drawing funny pictures in a slimy foxhole up front where the bullets sing and the shells whine has a zest all its own. It is a lot different from "art as usual" in a studio or in the corner of a busy newsroom. Floyd A. Snoderly, who is giving these impressions of the U. S. Marines at war, has been covering the advance of the First Marine Division since shortly after the Inchon invasion. He has been a frequent cartoon contributor to the Pacific edition of "Stars and Stripes." S/Sgt. Snoderly was a member of the original staff of the weekly Parris Island "Boot" in World War II. He went to Guam and subsequently did several comic strips for Marine field publications. Before the Korean invasion he was art director of an advertising agency in Knoxville, Tenn., where his wife and nine-year-old son, Gary, now reside.

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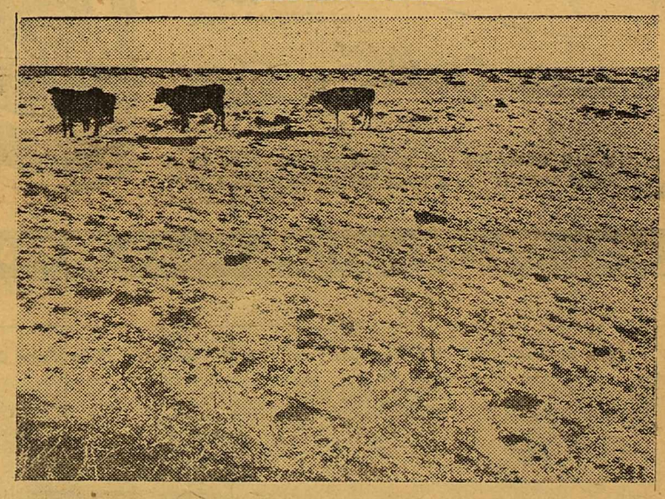
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ASSETS



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ALWAYS SAY, "BOTTLE OF PEARL PLEASE"

Sub-Station 14 Tests Show Light Stocking And Pasture Rotation Gets Best Results

Range management has long been studied and discussed. Unfortunately, it has previously made more progress in other western states than in Texas, and only in very recent years have the ranchmen of Texas become interested ing into the lead in its proper ment. Since that time, Texas has made notable progress, not only towards overtaking the other states in Range Management, but in moving into the lead in its propler place.

Without the full cooperation and backing of the stockmen such advancement could not have been possible, and it was this interest, prompted by the need to improve the range lands of the Edwards Plateau and surrounding areas, that led to a series of range management meetings, the first of which was held at Substation No. 14, Sonora, Texas, in November of 1945. At this meeting ranchers, personnel of the Soil Conservation Service, Extension Service, A. & M. College Range and Forestry Department and the Experiment Station worked together to set up a grazing study on the Ranch Experiment Station to determine proper stocking rates, systems of grazing and combinations of livestock for most rapid range recovery, in conjunction with adequate financial return to the operator.

The group decided that the most outstanding problems were to determine:

1. Best rates of stocking for average conditions.
2. Reaction of cattle, sheep and goats grazed alone and in varying combinations.
3. Reaction of livestock and vegetation to a deferred rotation system of grazing.
4. Rate of improvement of pastures under various systems and intensities of grazing, as compared to those not grazed at all.

Progress was to be determined by keeping careful records on gain in weight of livestock and on wool and mohair production, and by making detailed vegetation surveys at regular intervals on all of the pastures in the test.

Shortages of fencing material and water pipe greatly delayed the beginning of the project, and it was not until February 1949 that livestock were turned into the various paastures and the test actually begun.

Records kept over the camparatively short periods of time during which the study has been in effect indicate that livestock have made better per-head gains on lightly-stocked than on moderately-stocked pastures, better uer-head ed pastures, and better per-head gains on moderately-stocked than on heavily-stocked areas. The rotation pastures stocked at the moderate rate show better livestock gains than the moderately stocked pastures grazed yearlong.

During the dry period from July 1950 to March 1951 none of the livestock on any of the pastures were given supplemental feed. Gains have been light, but the per-acre gains of steers on the deferred rotation pastures and on the lightly-stocked yearlong pastures have been greater than on the moderately-stocked or the heavily-stocker areas.

Reaction of the vegetation to the various rates of stocking may be summed up as follows:

1. Heavily stocked pastures have made the least improvement. In most cases the condition of the vegetation went downhill, with little or no reseeding of the better grasses. The pasture stocked heavily with straight sheep suffered most, as is evidenced by large areas of bare ground where desirable grass cover has been destroyed by spot grazing (Figure1), leaving no vegetative litter for protection of the soil and thereby creating execellent seedbeads for poisonous bitterweed. On other heavily-stocked areas the grass cover is very short and deterioration is evident. (Figure2)
2. Moderately-stocked pastures showed considerable reseeding and some improvement with sufficient cover to provide fairly good erosion and evaporation control.
3. Lightly stocked pastures have showed pronounced recovery. There has been heavy reseeding of the desirable grasses, and a good ground cover is present. (Figure3)
4. The deferred rotation pastures are showing excellent results, both in recovery of the vegetation (Figure 4) and in condition of the livestock. Desirable bunch grasses in all of these pastures are in better conditions and the vegetative cover as a whole is superior to that in any of the other pastures stocked at the same rate under the yearlong grazing system.- In the pasture which recieved two rest periods, one during the months of March, April, May and June of one year and one during July, August, September and October of the following year, the condition of the grass is superior to that in any of the other pastures in the grazing study.
5. Ungrazed areas show good grass condition, but little if any better than that on lightly stocked pastures.

Thus, a summing up of results gained to date indicate that the lighter stocking rates and the rotation system of grazing are showing continued improvement over moderate and heavy stocking rates both in vegetative cover on the range and in pounds of meat, wool and mohair produced per acre.



Figure 1. Site adapted to bunch with straight sheep. grasses in pasture heavily grazed

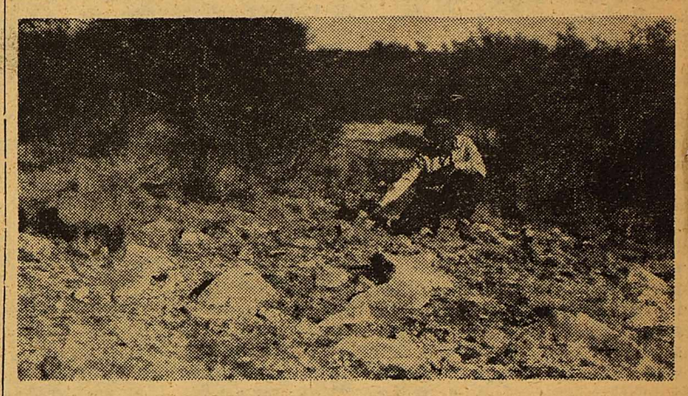


Figure 2. Site adapted to tall yearlong with Cattle. grasses in pasture heavily grazed



Figure 3. Site adapted to tall grasses in lightly stocked pasture.

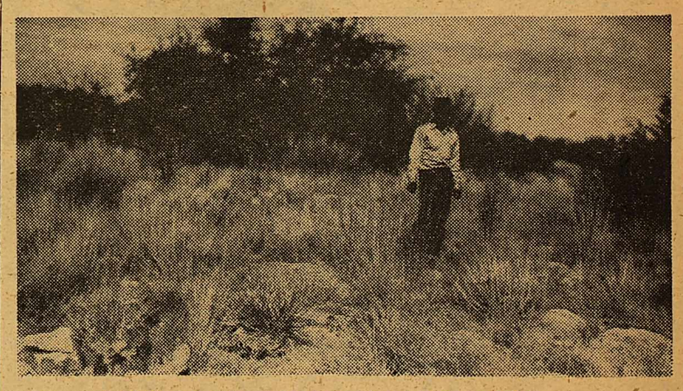


Figure 4. Tall grass in rotation and a years grazing. pasture following two rest periods

Drive along any highway, and, at the cuts, you can see the shallow top soil-in western hills it is seldom more than a few inches deep-top soil is the "skin" of the earth-foliage is the "hair".

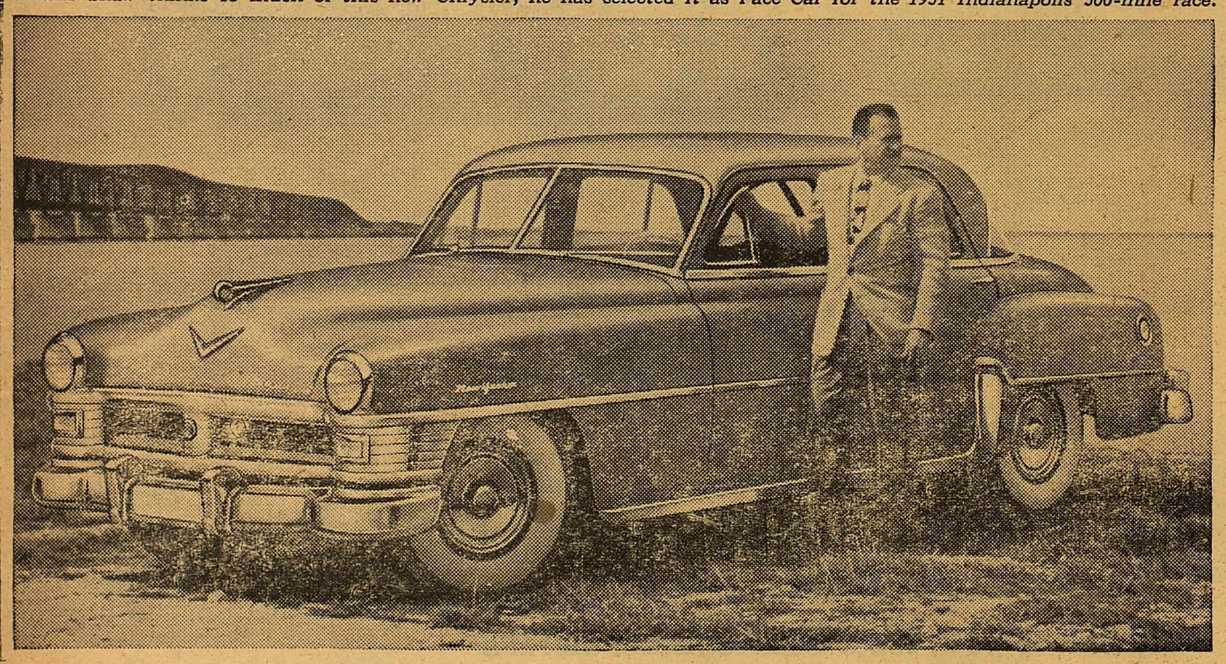
Where grass is thinned out (though not yet killed) cattle have to hike further and further for feed-which goes into muscle instead of fat-thin cattle require more pasture.

$500 Reward

I will pay $500 to any person furnishing information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone stealing any kind of livestock from any ranch in which I am interested.

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Wilbur Shaw thinks so much of this new Chrysler, he has selected it as Pace Car for the 1951 Indianapolis 500-mile race.



"I've just driven the most powerful car* in the U.S."

WILBUR SHAW, AMERICA'S MOST FAMOUS DRIVER, DRIVES NEW 1951 CHRYSLER—REPORTS TO YOU ON REVOLUTIONARY FIREPOWER ENGINE AND HYDRAGUIDE POWER STEERING

Here are Wilbur Shaw's reactions—in his own words—as taken down by a recording machine in the car:

"The '51 Chrysler has it! With this new engine and power steering, the ... r, it's a whale of an automobile.

"I'm completely bowled over by the ease of steering!

"This steering combined with the automatic transmission . . . is the nearest thing to an *automatic pilot* for a car I can possibly imagine.

"This engine . . . I can't get over the amount of power and snap in this engine . . . it's incredible!

"I drove 111 miles with the feeling I had expended no more effort than in driving around the block.

"When Mrs. Shaw drove, her comments just about squared with mine. Here's what she thinks of the 1951 Chrysler . . ."

Mrs. Shaw: "At first I could hardly believe the ease with which I could turn the wheel. That's important . . . especially in the summertime.

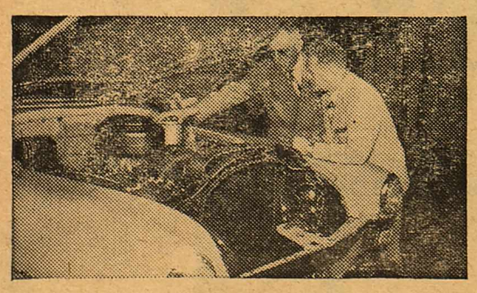
"Often after I have parked a car in the average parking space, I feel I should taxi home, shower and get dressed again. But with Hydraguide Power Steering I parked it with one hand. It practically drives itself."

Wilbur Shaw: "It's hard to describe this new Chrysler without going off the deep end . . . it has it in every department.

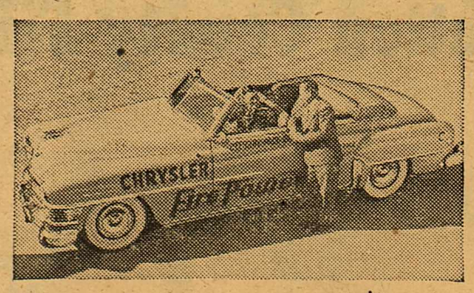
"In fact, I think so much of this car, I've selected it as Pace Car of the 1951 Indianapolis 500-mile race!"

(Mr. Shaw's comments are reprinted through the courtesy of Popular Science Magazine.)

*Mr. Shaw refers of course to standard passenger cars—not racing cars or special models.



Shaw inspects FirePower, the greatest new engine in 27 years.



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4-H Club Members Switching To Study Of Primary Range Products

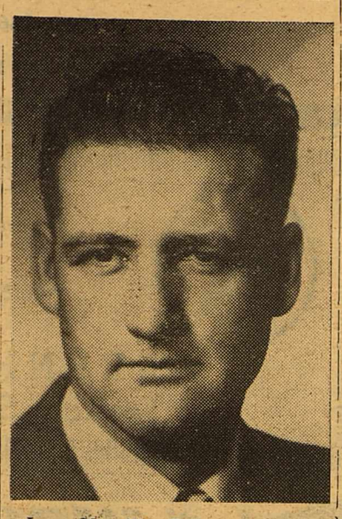
For years 4-H Club members in this area have ben trained in the breeding and selection of higher quality livestock in an attempt to in an attempt to increase the production and quality of wool, mohair and beef. All this time we have been training boys in the secondary products of our range land instead of training them in the primary products which are grass, herbs, and browse. To maintain high production of livestock, we must maintain a high production of forage plants and to do this we have to maintain the productivity of our range lands.

Sutton County 4-H Club members are being trained to judge and classify ranges and range plants much the same as they are taught to judge and classify livestock, wool, and mohair. First they are taught to identify the various range plants and to classify them according to their grazing value, season of growth, and whether they are perennials, or annuals. After they have been taught to identify and classify plants, 4-H Clubs members are taught to classify and judge ranges by the abundance of the varous range plants found on the range.

In an attempt to encourage a better knowledge of range vegetation, the Sonora Wool and Mohair Show added a plant identification contest to its other judging events in 1949. This contest stimulated much interest among 4-H boys in this area and Joe David Ross, one of the local 4-H boys was high point man in the contest.

For 1951 the Sonora Wool & Mohair Show has added a Range Management contest in which contestants are required to place two classes of four range plots just as they would place a class of four animals or four fleeces of wool or mohair.

During the past two years Sutton County 4-H Grass Judging teams have won the District 11 judging contest twice and Joe David Ross was high individual in both contest. In 1949 the grass judging team placed fifth in the Sonora Wool & Mohair Show and in 1950 they placed third.



Leo Merrill, Range specialist with the Texas Experiment Station is working on the grazing experiments of various classes and rates of livestock being carried on at the ranch substation south of Sonora.

4-H Club members are also being trained in the methods of improving range conditions through decreased stocking rates, proper rotation, and deferred grazing. To encourage this type of training the Extension Service sponsors a Conservation Demonstration Contest at the 4-H Club Round-up at A. & M. each year. Two members of 4-H Clubs from each county present prepared discussions on some important phase of conservation. Their discussion can be presented at 4-H Club meetings, Lion's Club meetings, and other public meetings and are helpful in educating the general public in better conservation practices. Technicians working with the Edwards Plateau Soil Conservation District have prepared a Conservation Demonstration which Sutton County 4-H Club members plan to present at the 4-H Club Round-up this year.

It is not the desire of our 4-H Club leaders to develop a group of technically minded specialists amond 4-H Club members but is their desire to develop in boys and girls a practical knowledge of the basic factors that make for better rural living. Conservation is certainly one of these factors because success in ranching and farming certainly depends upon conserving the preductivity of our land.

—SCS—

SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEWS

"Stitch In Time" Saves Burned Off Area On Jim Rieck Ranch

"A stitch in time saves nine". The feasibility of this well worn old saying has been proven again.

In August of 1948, an accidental fire on the Jim Rieck ranch burned about 100 acres of heavy cedar on hilly range. This fire stripped several steep hills of protective vegetation and litter, exposing the soil to rain and run-off water.

Rieck realized that something had to be done or the area would remain relatively unproductive for a long time. He began by first fencing off the area so that it could be specially treated.

In March of 1949 the area was seeded to 40 pounds of K.R. bluestem, 100 pounds of sideoats grama and 100 pounds of buffalo grass. This seed was scattered by hand with the help of a high south wind. After seeding, the area rested during all the growing season.

The above picture was taken 18 months after seed was scattered on the area. Tom Darrow, local S.C.S. technician, is pointing to the heavy stand of K.R. bluestem that has formed a dense cover on the ground. This heavy cover of grass has stabilized the soil and erosion caused by runoff water is being held to a minimum.

During the fall of 1950, the area supplied a large amount of grazing and made a good crop of seed. But for Rieck's "stich in time", this area might have been unproducive for a long time.

In order to bring about improvement on his other rangeland, Rieck is carrying out a number of good sound conservation practices. The practices include cross-fencing, installation of additional water facilities, brush control and periodic resting of pastures. These conservation practices in conjunction with proper stocking is rapidly improving range conditions on the Rieck ranch.

Rieck's future plans call for all of his cropland to be planted to native and introduced grasses. A 12 acre irrigation field has already been planted to an improved pasture mixture. The plants used in the mixture were selected to give a good quality of supplemental winted grazing. The mixture contains Harding grass, Kentucky (31) rescue, orchard grass, perennial rye and madrid clover. Rieck irrigates this field with a sprinkler system.

Rieck, whose main interest is the improvement of his rangeland, is achieving this by carrying out a good sound, well rounded conservation program.

—SCS—

Buyers' dollars don't fall for bum steers.

Worthless weeds, which soak up about as much water as grass, spring up in the poor soil when grass dies out - (Grass "uses up" very little water, anyway) - when grass goes out, livestock industry will die with it--not only that, the lakes behind our great dams will dwindle in size, and eventually fill with silt.

—SCS—

Cowboys like nice calves!

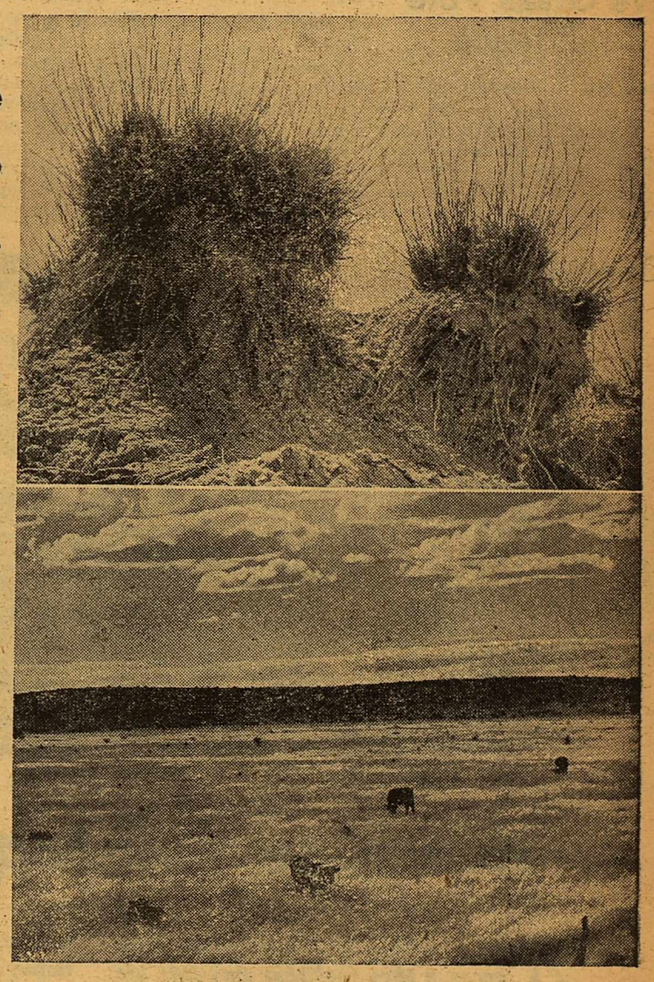
Raise More Grass! Sell More Meat!



Sound Soil Conservation results in an abundant feed supply, which in turn means more animals and animal products for the market.

A PEFFECT TRIBUTE

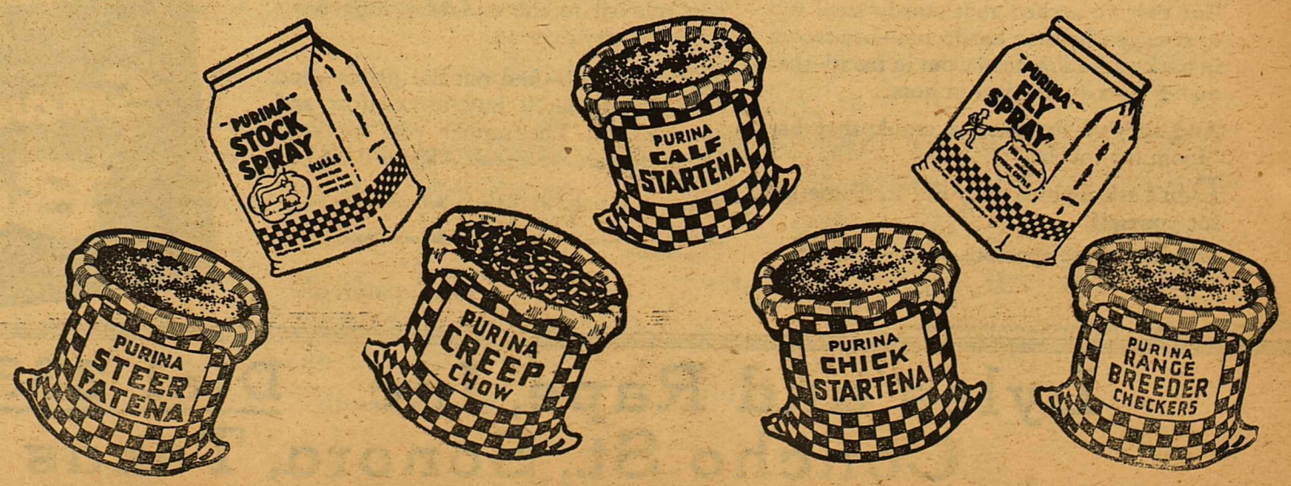
Erosion scenes like one above right have been changed into pictures like the one below-a perfect tribute to our ranchmen and their Soil Conservation programs.



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We have a nice varity of flowerseeds & garden seeds

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RAINFALL RECORD

Wool House, Sonora, Texas

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
1937	0	.26	1.41	.81	1.15	2.34	.48	.53	3.07	2.03	1.43	2.74	16.25
1938	1.84	..60	.17	1.74	1.66	.43	13.17	0	.39	.11	.53	1.30	21.94
1939	1.84	.09	.56	.63	1.98	.10	4.65	1.26	.35	1.36	2.06	1.35	16.74
1940	2.35	1.28	.99	2.95	1.67	3.53	0	2.71	.43	1.01	1.83	.50	17.44
1941	1.42	.39	6.62	3.59	3.49	5.34	1.96	2.81	4.27	6.07	.26	.69	36.91
1942	.18	.53	.19	3.81	.51	.81	.97	4.53	2.20	5.23	.74	1.05	20.75
1943	.40	0	1.03	.30	6.44	.64	.50	0	4.32	.75	1.92	2.53	18.83
1944	2.31	3.26	.45	3.24	.84	1.20	.25	2.43	2.05	1.76	2.12	1.06	20.97
1945	1.08	1.33	2.20	1.20	.81	.92	2.49	2.22	1.25	1.91	0	0	14.81
1946	1.76	.16	.52	1.64	2.28	4.09	1.93	.31	2.13	1.23	0	1.70	17.75
1947	3.94	0	1.12	.62	1.63	2.94	.75	1.73	3.26	2.52	.62	.98	20.14
1948	.27	.47	0	1.59	3.79	3.02	2.24	0	3.01	1.94	.07	1.22	17.62
1949	1.87	2.33	.24	5.68	5.50	3.13	.74	2.69	3.76	4.83	0	1.52	32.29
1950	.33	1.01	0	1.03	2.92	1.67	3.43	1.92	1.99	.80	0	0	14.38

1950 Seed Harvest Gave Grass Vote Of Confidence

Grass, man's best tool for anchoring soil against erosion, was given a sound vote of confidence during 1950 by Texas farmers and ranchers.

Increased respect for this weapon against soil and water waste is reflected by last year's seed harvest, which shows 746,599 pounds of native grass seed harvested in Texas.

Leading the native grass seed harvest parade were little bluestem (400,325 pounds), and blue grama (202,410 pounds), both warm season forage plants.

The 1950 seed harvest figures also reflect widely increased use of King Ranch bluestem by conservation-wise farmers and ranchers. It is a deep rooted introduced grass known for its erosion-resisting and forage qualities and its adaptation to wide extremes of rainfall.

Throughout Texas, a total of 506,537 pounds of King Ranch bluestem seed was harvested, easily a new record seed take for the popular drought and cold resistant grass.

Up until now, rachers cooperating with the Edwards Plateau Soil Conservation District have planted some 3000 acres of cropland to native and introduced grasses for seed production and grazing. Some of the grasses that have been tried and proven adapted to this area are K. R. bluestem, sideoats and slender grama, Canada Wildrye, blue panicum, Lehman and Boer's lovegrass and little bluestem.

Although most of the grass planting have been used primarily for grazing, some 1,350 pounds of native and introduced grass seed was harvested in the District during 1950.

Cooperators in the District have also reseeded extensive acreages of range land to grass. This range reseeding was done primarily on hazard areas such as bare areas with bitterweed and cabled brush pastures.

The 1950 seed harvest and plantings in this District as well as in the state, is clear indicator that Texas farmers and ranchers are paying increased attention to the use of grasses in improving the soil and fighting soil and water waste.

It is much more important, I believe, to teach children that the United States of America is eight inches deep than it is to teach them the length and breadth of the United States of America. After the depth is gone we will not be in a position to teach them anything. - - -Harry Hogerott

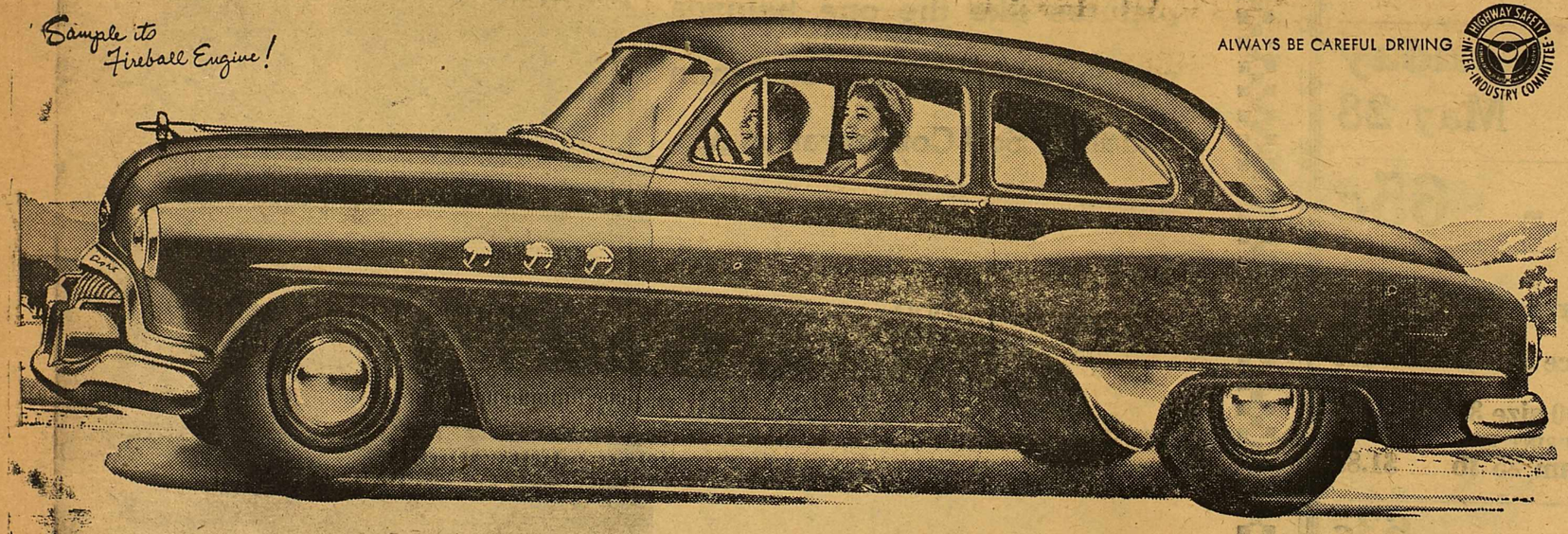
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Range Cover Means Good Rain Penetration

The amount of soil moisture is of major importance to the ranchers in the Edwards Plateau Soil Conservation District. There may be several questions in your mind- - "Is there enough moisture in the soil to bring out the range grasses?" "When will I be able to get out from under these high feed costs?" "When will it rain?"

A rain is always welcome in this country, but how do we "welcome" the rain? That may be even more important than just how much rain we get, according to many ranchers in the District. When we turn a cold shoulder to the rain and let most of it escape down the draw, we are causing "man - made drought."

Soil Conservation Service technicians, co-operating with the Edwards Plateau Soil Conservation District, have made moisture penetration tests periodically for the past several years. The results of these tests clearly show the fallacy of the oft repeated statement that "all this country needs is more rain."

On the Tom Davis Ranch, test holes dug in areas on a valley site where the grass cover was very sparce and resembling ranges in poor condition, 4.75 inches of rain penetrated only eight inches.

The same rain, on an area six feet away, but under a fair condition of curleymesquite, buffalograss, and sideoats grama, penetrated 25 inches.

Following a 3½ inch rain, checks were made on deep valley soils receiving runoff water from adjoining hills. On bare areas, or with only scattering red grama plants, the water penetrated only 3 to 5 inches deep. On areas not 20 feet distant, but covered with a good stand of grass, the soil was still very wet at 31 inches depth where digging was stopped.

E. B. Keng, District Conservantionist, had this to say, "These tests, which can be repeated after any rain producing appreciable runoff, point out some striking facts which are essential to profitable ranching operations. They illustrate the fact it takes grass to make grass, as Thomas A. Morriss contends. Many ranchers have had the opinion that old grass not eaten in the current year, was wasted. A substantial amount of old grass must be allowed to cover and protect the soil, for the same reason that we must make additional deposits to keep a checking account from becoming depleted."

Similar tests made in the District on different sites have shown approximately the same results.

Evaporation tests made on the Dave Locklin Ranch five days after the four inch rain proved again, the extreme value of grass cover. On areas resembling poor range conditions with sparse grass cover, evaporation had taken the top inch of soil moisture and the ground was beginning to crust over. On the same site, but on fair condition range with a good cover, the ground was still moist. The grass cover had saved an inch of moisture.

Evaporation tests made in March 1951 again show the value of a good grass cover as protection against extended drought. On a poor condition valley site under bare ground, there was not enough moisture in the top 24 inches to maintain plant growth. On the same site, a short distance away under a heavy cover of tobosa grass moisture was found at eight inches, there was sufficient moisture for the soil to be mellow and plastic.

The extremely shallow moisture penetration on scantily covered ranges is caused primarily from the sealed, packed, imprevious condition of the bare soil. Litter on the surface slows the water down, and grass roots and soil organisms keep the soil in a more open, mellow condition which takes up water rapidly.

The low rate of penetration and rapid evaporation on bare ground, explains why bare spots remain bare, and are so slow to cover up with grass. Proper stocking, combined with rotated-deferred grazing, will greatly hasten a cover of needle grass, red grama, and other poor plants on bare ground, and these plants will increase moisture penetration, reduce evaporation, and improve conditions for better plants.

Ranchers cooperating with the Edwards Plateau Soil Conservation District are striving towards management methods that will make maximum use of soil and water resources, provide the highest leval of sustained livestock production and yet conserve and ever improve the basic factor - our range grassland.

What is Soil Conservation:

Soil Conservation is the proper use and care of the land. It means using the land to produce the greatest amount of things we need and at the same time protecting the land so it will not lose its productiveness. Soil Conservation must be planned and executed in accordance with sound scientific principles. At the same time it must be reduced to practical and economical terms and methods so that ranchers and farmers who work the land may use it as a part of their every day operations. This is the basis on which Soil Conservation Districts are organized.

Water from heavy rains acts like a bull dozer on bare ground. It tears away the earth and washes it down the draw.

Good Rains Not Whole Answer To Range Problems

By A. H. Walker

Texas Extension Range Specialist

To many it may seem that one good rain would be the whole answer to the present range situation **in this area. No doubt it would be** of much benefit, but without proper range management practice in connection therewith results will not be very permanent.

As a whole the ranges are short and have been grazed too closely. This is damaging to the better grasses but likely will not be fatal to them if good management follows. The roots of grasses are short and there is little plant food reserves stored in the roots. Grasses can stand close grazing for a time but it is continued close use that results in a dying out of the better grasses and replacement with poorer kinds such as threeawn or "needlegrasses".

Drought is characteristic of a great portion of our grassland and management should include measures to moderate its effect. The stocking rate should provide a forage reserve hence "leave some to have some" is fundamental in proper range use.

The breeding herd should be flexible. If more operators ran about three-fourths of the breeding stocking, they think their ranges would carry, there would be less risk, less feeding and often more net returns. Then, in good years an operator could carry over lambs or calves through the winter and in bad years sell them off in the fall.

Following a drought conservation and deferment need special attention. Drought seriously reduces the density and forage production of perennial grasses regardless of the grazing system applied. Recent research shows that heavy grazing during an above average rainfall year following a drought is more harmful to forage production and livestock returns than it is during the drought itself. This is because close grazing **prevents recovery of density and vigor so essential for a high level of production to be maintained. "Conserve and defer" should be the byword until our ranges have a** chance to recover their former production.

Various rates of stocking using different kinds of livestock are showing definite results of the Sonora Experiment Station. Balancing livestock with forage production pays off. Research pastures show the advantages of a deferred - rotation system of grazing **for range recovery. Over eleven hundred demenstratois carried on** proper stocking and deferred grazing demonstrations on 3,300,000 acres last year to show the merits of these sound range managemnts practices.

It takes more than the gleam in the Bull's eye to produce beef on a Western range.

Soil makes grass. Grass makes meat. Meat makes money.

Tom Davis Has Planted Many Types Of Grass

Grass has found an ardent supporter in Tom Davis. In the above picture Davis is shown standing in his grass trial plot which he maintains on his ranch.

He has planted a wide variety of grasses in this trial plot. Some of the seed he obtained fram colorado, New Mexico. Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri and Louisiana.

However, Davis' reseeding is not limited to this small trial plot. He has harvested grass from roadsides and odd ares all over the District. He has also purchased over 500 pounds of various grass seeds that were used in reseeding his crop and pasture land.

Davis is putting all of his cropland back to grass. These fields to produce seed for his range reseeding and improvement program. He has already planted 10 acres of his cropland to K. R. bluestem and slender grama. Last fall he harvested some 200 pounds of K. R. bluestem from his field planting. The remaining 30 acres of his cropland will be planted to grass this year.

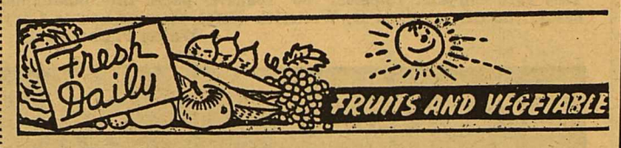
Evidence that Davis' reseeding program is paying off can easily be found on his ranch. Reseeding is aiding range improvement by putting areas that were previously hazard ares into production of high quality, high forage producing range grasses.

PHONE **HAMILTON GROCERY** PHONE

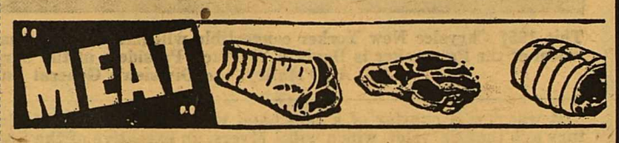
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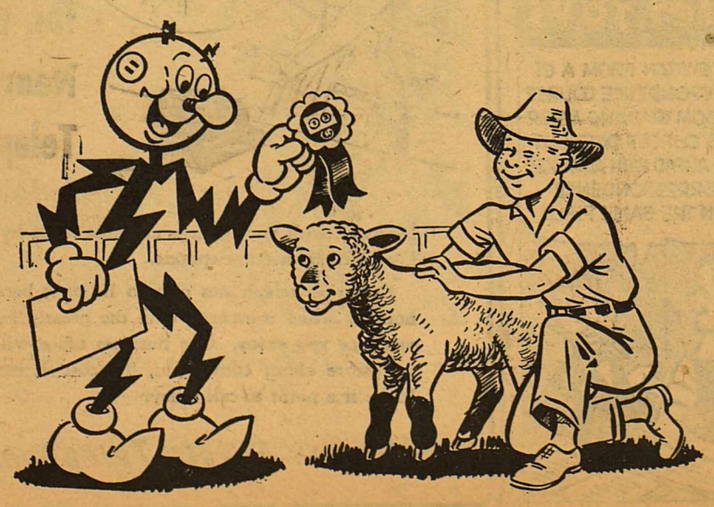
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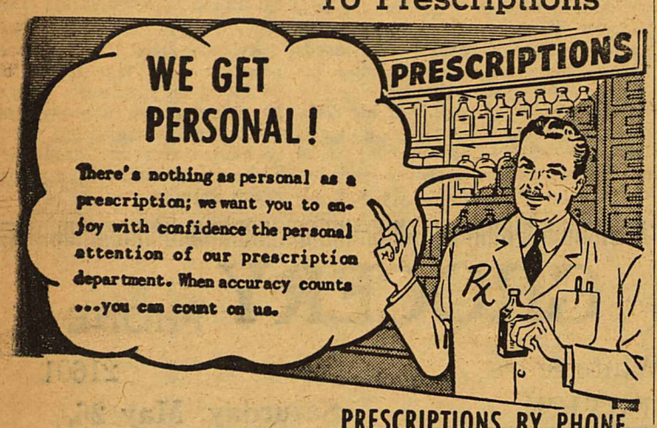
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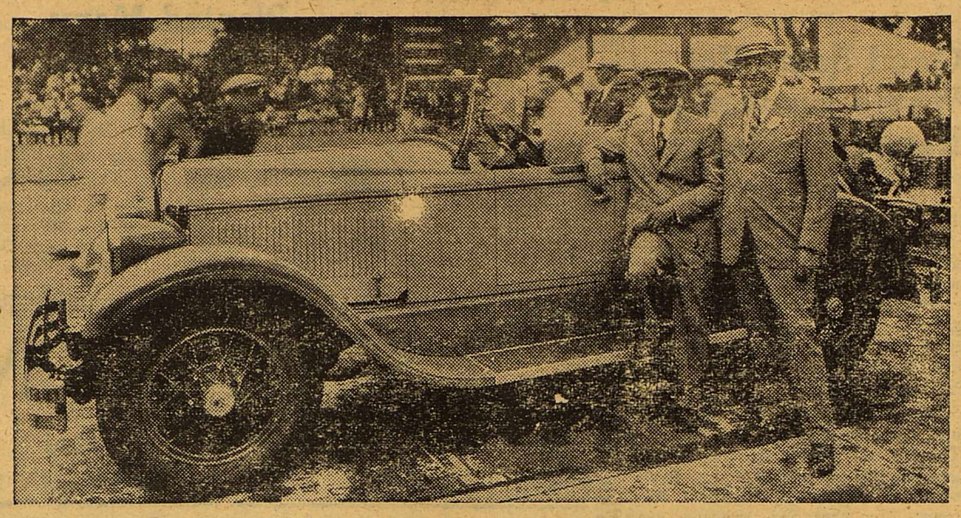
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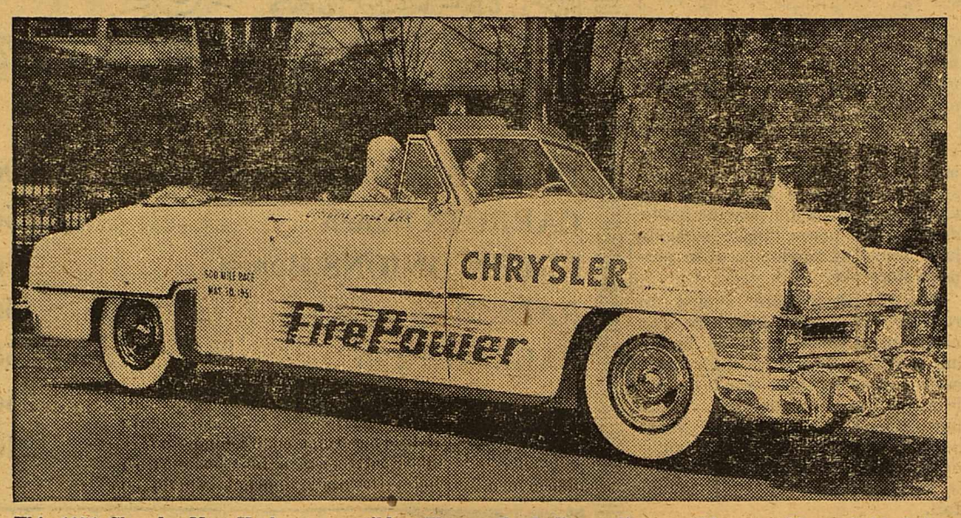
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QUARTER-CENTURY MARKS CHANGE IN PACE CAR



This 1926 Chrysler Imperial "80" roadster paced the Indianapolis 500-mile race of that year. Standing beside the car are Carl H. Wallerich (left) then, as now, a Chrysler dealer in Indianapolis, and the late Walter P. Chrysler.



This 1951 Chrysler New Yorker convertible will pace the Indianapolis race this year. Shown behind the wheel of the Pacemaker is David A. Wallace, President of the Chrysler Division, and beside him is Joseph A. O'Malley, the Division's General Sales Manager.

It was just a quarter of a century ago that Chrysler, which will have the honor of pacing the 500-mile race on the Indianapolis Motor Speedway May 30, first appeared in this role.

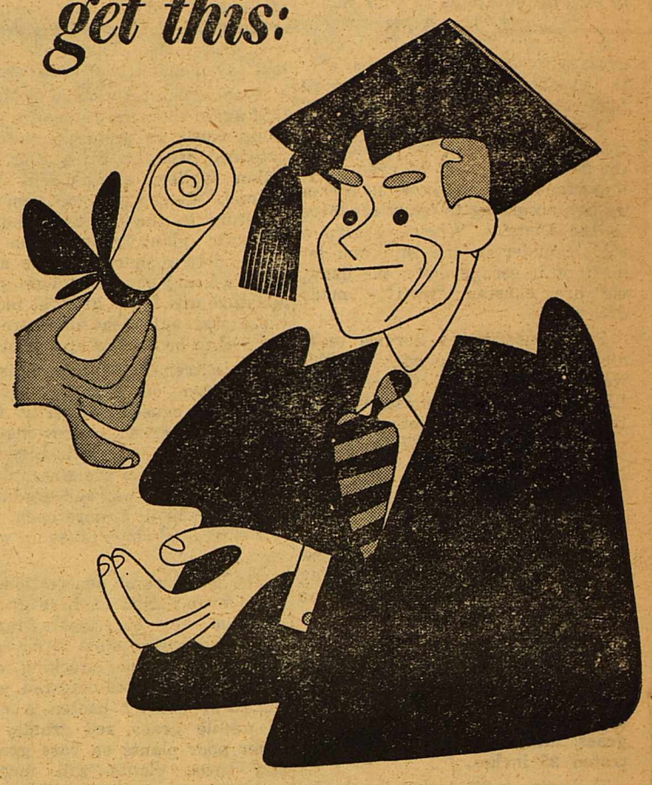
The 1926 Chrysler Pacemaker, a six-cylinder Imperial "80" roadster with a 92-horsepower engine and a wheelbase of 120 inches, was considered the hottest thing on wheels in those days. The late Louis Chevrolet, a famous racing star of that era, was the driver and with him rode T. E. ("Pop") Myers, an executive of the Speedway, who still is active.

This year, a New Yorker convertible with a 131½-inch wheelbase and the new 180-horsepower V-8 FirePower engine, will do the honors. President David A. Wallace of the Chrysler Division, Chrysler Corporation, will be at the wheel.

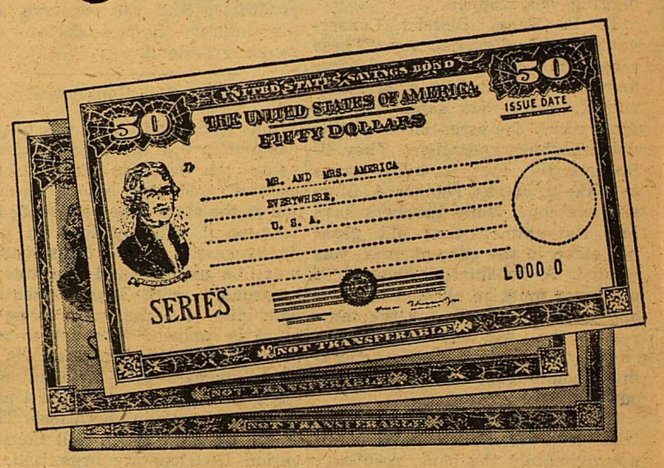
The 1926 race was won by Frank Lockhart at an average speed of 95.88 miles per hour. The 1951 Pacemaker must do 90 miles or better for the lap that gets the field of 33 contestants under way. Incidentally, this is more speed than was required to win the first nine races of the series of 34 that began in 1911.

Today's race cars must average better than 115 miles per hour to qualify. The race record is held by Johnny Parsons, who averaged 124.002 in last year's Memorial Day event.

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Four Ranchmen Work Out Soil Saving Problems

When neighbors grops of ranchers work together on their conservation problems much good work can be accomplished. This has been demonstrated in the Edwards Plateau Soil Conservation District with an outstanding job by a group of four ranchers on the Cusenbary road, southeast of Sonora.

Ben and Rector Cusenbary, Thomas Morriss and Bill Galbreath were conscious of the need for conservation before the Soil Conservation District was organized. Soon abter the organization of the District in 1948, this group got together with Soil Conservation Service technicians to study some of their problems. The organization of the District was only an aid or tool they could use to spreed up the application of conservation to their ranchers.

Bitterweed was a common problem to all of these ranchers. They had recognized the fact that a good cover of grass would keep bitterweed to a minimum and have come a long way to overcoming this problem. Although bitterweed is under control, they realize that it will remain a constant threat and intend to keep a good cover of grass to eliminate this threat.

Rector Cusenbary has been trying yarious new plants to determine their adaptability to this area. He has pioneered the use of Hairy Peruvian alfalfa which shows promise of being well adopted to croplands in the District. His rangeland has improved constantly since 1944 when he began to manage his land in such a manner as to bring about range improvement.

Ben Cusenbary, Thomas Morriss and Billy Galbreath are following much the same type of management on thir range lands. This management consists of conservative stocking coupled with pasture deferments. All cropland adapted to terraces has been terraced and diversions have been constructed to cut off damaging overflow water.

New water facilities have been installed along with new fences to aid in bringing about uniform grazing in some areas. These physical improvements have assisted this group of ranchers in obtaining more intensive management of their range lands.

Even though they have accomplished much in the improvement of their ranches, they are constantly looking for new ways to further improve them. They have taken an interest in each others problems and have made periodic tours to check progress being made.

—SCS—

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Vic Vet says



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