

To Boys' State



ROSWELL BOUND for New Mexico Boys' State June 6-12, under the auspices of the National American Legion, from the left, delegates Kirk Eubank, Gary Sanchez and Mark Wimberly with

alternate Steve Hirschfeld. All are Ruidoso High School students. Group sponsors include Robert J. Hagee Post 79 American Legion, Evening Lions Club and Rotary International of Ruidoso.

To Girls' State



LAS VEGAS BOUND for New Mexico Girls' State June 6-12, under the auspices of the National American Legion Auxillary, from the left, delegates Francine Brillante and Wanda Sanchez and

alternates Sandra Sanchez and Debbie Richardson. All are Ruidoso High School students. Group sponsors include The Legion Auxillary, Women's Club and Beta Sigma Phi of Ruidoso.

The Ruidoso News

VOLUME NO. 93 IN OUR 30TH YEAR

Ruidoso, Lincoln County, New Mexico 88345

MONDAY, APRIL 26, 1976

'SET WATER RATE COULD BE DISASTEROUS' — ERICKSON

Valley ranchers fighting severe cut in water rates

Ranchers and farmers utilizing water from the Ruidoso, Bonito and Hondo rivers are in court this week to try to prevent New Mexico's State Engineer from cutting water rates for irrigation.

The ranchers and farmers are defendants in a suit filed by State Engineer Fred Allen and the Pecos Valley Artesian Conservance District (PVACD). The suit, which began last Monday, is an attempt to determine how much water may be extracted from the three rivers by the defendants.

Last June, Allen tried to set the water rate for the mountain valleys at 2.5 acre feet. The defendants refused to comply with the new rate, claiming irregular

rainfall and water availability made a standard rate impractical for the area.

Santa Fe attorney Jeff Bingaman, special water master for the case, was expected to wrap up testimony on the case Thursday in the District Courtroom in Roswell. Bingaman will review the evidence presented and issue a judgment on the case in several weeks.

In testimony Thursday, former State Engineer John Erickson told the court it

was not practical to establish a set water duty for the farms and ranches in the mountain valleys.

"If the water rate is cut it will cut production and efficiency on the average farm by about one third," Erickson said.

According to the defense, the farmers in the area have historically used from 3-3.5 acre feet of water to irrigate their crops.

Erickson, who conducted a study of irrigation conditions for the defense from

Feb. 1 through April 16, testified the extreme variability of weather conditions in the area made an average set rate impractical.

Exhibiting a chart of rainy seasons from 1955 until the present, Erickson pointed out the extreme fluctuation of precipitation from year to year.

"Several dry years in a row on a set water rate could be disastrous for a farmer here," he said.

Erickson noted two definite trends in water use for irrigation in the mountain valleys.

First, he said farmers have a tendency to irrigate as much as possible when water is available, to make up for the deficit during the dry season.

"Farmers never know how much water they're going to have so when it's there they use as much as they can," Erickson said, "thus, when water supplies are diminishing the consumptive irrigation requirement (CIR) in the area is

[SEE PAGE SEVEN]

Village boards set meetings

The Ruidoso trustees will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, in the Ruidoso Library and the Ruidoso Downs trustees will meet at 7:00 tonight, in village hall.

The Ruidoso agenda includes:

- A feasibility report on Eagle Creek Dam with preliminary review comments by the U.S. Forest Service.
- Annexation via assessment district reports on the Second Addition to the Paradise Canyon and the B.J. Watkins Additions.
- Appointment of two members to the Planning and Zoning Commission.
- Progress report on the proposed Architectural Committee.

-Proposals from visitors, Phil Embrey, Mr. and Mrs. Harlan McGraw, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Wimberly, Ruidoso Tennis Association and Til Thompson.

The Ruidoso Downs agenda includes:

- Appoint five members to the reactivated Planning and Zoning Commission.
- Occupational licensing for transient businesses.
- Approval of the village auditing contract.
- Approval of a \$5,000-increase in the current fiscal year budget.
- Approval of an approximate \$270,000 budget for fiscal 1976-77.

No burning

No outside burning of any kind is permitted within the village limits of Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs. The use of barbecue grills, with charcoal, and fireplaces is permitted.

All outside fires are prohibited in the Bonito Fire District, including all property north of Ruidoso to Nogal and Capitan, bounded by Sierra Blanca and Nogal Peak on the west and Ft. Stanton and Goat Mountain on the east. Covered metal or stone barbecues may be used only in cleared areas.

Violators will be subject to prosecution.

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'76 Thoroughbred Futurity purse pegged at \$75,000

The gross purse for the 1976 Ruidoso Thoroughbred Futurity, to be run Saturday, Sept. 4, is expected to top the \$75,000 level, according to Nominations Secretary Liz Devine.

If the figure is attained, Liz points out, it'll represent the richest thoroughbred race in the history of the mountain track.

"The original nominating deadline recently came due, and 200 head were entered," Liz reports. Last year, the first nominating payment attracted 139 head, and the gross purse eventually reached \$72,870. Contributing to the optimistic outlook is the fact Liz has already received two supplemental nominees at \$1,000 each, even though that payment isn't due until July 1. Last year, the tab for the July supplemental payment was \$800, and five

got in the running by that method. Last year's Futurity crop also included three supplemental nominees—at \$2,000 each—at the time of entry into the trials. This year, the late-nominating fee will be boosted to \$2,500.

The original nominating payment, which came due on Feb. 15, consisted of a \$50 fee. The second hurdle of \$150 came up on April 1. On July 1, a \$250 payment is due. The last payment is \$300 to enter the trials.

The two "biggest" nominators were the combine of Norman Blankenship and Melvin Paul of Bosque, N.M., and Walter Merrick of Sayre, Okla. Each named six head. Heretofore, Merrick had been known almost exclusively as a breeder, owner and trainer of quarter horses.

The '76 Ruidoso season, which gets

rolling May 15, will cover 68 race days and offer a total purse disbursement of about \$4.6 million. Also drumming up much interest among horsemen is the fact the starting minimum purse has been hiked to \$1,800.

In addition, the mountain track will be offering the finest stakes schedule in its 29-year history. Virtually every event on the stakes calendar has been increased in value.

The season, once again, will consist mainly of Thursday-through-Sunday racing through Labor Day (Sept. 6). The

highpoints of the glittering stakes schedule are some of the richest races in turf history. These include the \$1,000,000 All-American Quarter Horse Futurity, the \$550,000 (est.) All-American Quarter Horse Derby, the \$375,000 (est.) Kansas Quarter Horse Futurity, the \$350,000 (est.) Rainbow Quarter Horse Derby and the \$300,000 Rainbow Quarter Horse Futurity.

The All-American, Kansas and Rainbow Futurities comprise the Triple Crown of the quarter horse world, and will once again be televised live by the All-American Network of Topeka, Kansas.

Hondo Fiesta this weekend

The nationally known Hondo Fiesta Dancers will present the 24th annual Hondo Fiesta Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., in the school gymnasium.

Forty-seven high school students, in traditional colorful costumes, will perform Spanish, Mexican and New Mexican dances under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Fernin S. Montes, founders of the dance group. This year's fiesta has been named "Fiesta del Recuerdo" the Fiesta of Memories.

Dances to be performed include El Movillero, El Jarabe Pateno, La Varsovianna, Frijolitos Pintos, Jerabe de Valle, El Shotis Norteno, Jesusita en Chihuahua, Los Matlachnes and El Jarabe Tapatio, the Mexican Hat Dance.

Over the years the dancers have appeared in Tucson, Nashville, Mexico City, Acapulco, Disneyland, San Juan Capistrano, San Antonio, Chihuahua City and Los Mochis and extensively in New Mexico and other Texas cities.

The troupe will leave May 4 on an expense paid nine day junket to California with stops scheduled at Disneyland, Knotts Berry Farm, Marineland, Universal Studios and the San Diego Zoo.

The traditional Mexican dinner will be served from 5 to 8 p.m., preceding each performance.

The admission charge will be \$1.50 for adults and \$1 for students with the dinner to cost \$2 per plate.

Skiing, Ski Pak, rated 'good' for no-snow season

Though the 1975-76 ski season was a short 112 days, due to receiving a scant 104 inches of snow on the slopes, Sierra Blanca Ski Resort still had sales of nearly 90,000 lift tickets and 400 season passes.

In 1974-75 the area received 275 inches of snow for a 157 day season that ended April 13. 120,000 lift tickets and 708 season passes were sold.

"This has been a very trying season for us," ski area general manager Roy Parker said, "in view of the fact that the average snow fall is approximately 160 inches, with 130-135 ski days.

"We started out on a bad note with high winds around Thanksgiving which forced us to shut down for almost a week. However, we were really lucky with two big snowfalls around Christmas."

The Christmas holiday crowd, he said, was the largest ever for the area. "It was really the bright spot of the skiing season."

The Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Com-

merce' Ski Pak also fell far short of the patronage enjoyed during the long 1974-75 skiing season.

Package payments to restaurants totaled \$4,497.01, motels \$11,577.29, ski shops \$7,374.60, Sierra Blanca Ski Resort \$11,913.25 and grocery stores \$1,559.70, for a total pay out of \$36,921.85, compared to \$59,358.09 added to the local economy during the previous boom season.

"Through January," C-C manager Richard Cothrun said, "our Ski Pak was running about 20 per cent below the previous year. This in spite of the published and broadcast reports of snow conditions here.

"Then the bottom fell out, cancellations started rolling in in February and continued through March and our refund payments were large. However, considering the general conditions, the response to our Ski Pak was good and nearly \$37,000 in Monday-Friday revenue isn't bad."

DAV veterans service unit coming to Ruidoso

Free service to veterans and their families will be available in Ruidoso May 12, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., when a Field Service Unit of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) will be stationed at Gibson's parking lot at the "Y", junction of Sudderth and State Highway 70.

This is the third consecutive year that one of these 26-foot mobile offices has been in Ruidoso to provide free counseling and claims service to veterans and their families.

The traveling veterans' service facility will be manned by DAV National Service Officers who are fully qualified to assist veterans or their families in filing claims for federal and state benefits to which they are entitled by law — disability compensation, pension, employment, job training, education, hospitalization and medical care, social security, death claims and other matters.

During the first two years of the DAV's nationwide tour with its fleet of Field Service Units, more than 98,000 veterans and their dependents contacted the mobile offices for assistance. As a result of these visits, DAV National Service Officers filed 6,000 new claims and re-opened another 33,000 claims for veterans benefits.

The project is an extension of the DAV's long-time national service program which

provides a wide variety of free assistance to veterans and their families. During the period from July 1, 1974, to June 30, 1975, the DAV was successful in filing favorable claims which resulted in 220,000 individual awards totaling \$465-million in federal benefits. Membership in the Disabled American Veterans is not required as a basis for this DAV counseling and claims service.

The DAV employs 280 full-time National Service Officers — most of whom are disabled Vietnam Era veterans — at Veterans Administration installations throughout the county. However, the location of some VA facilities makes it difficult for many veterans, as well as their widows and dependents, to personally visit a DAV National Service Office. The DAV's Field Service Unit program carries assistance right to the veteran's doorstep.

DAV officials urge that veterans of all wars, particularly disabled veterans, should visit the organization's mobile service units to discuss any problems they have concerning benefits. Special emphasis is placed on Vietnam Era veterans, because large numbers of these young men are not taking advantage of the benefits which they have earned, specially in the areas of education and vocational

rehabilitation.

Local DAV members are cooperating with the national headquarters of the

Disabled American Veterans in bringing the Field Service Unit program into this area.

A DAV SERVICE UNIT will be in Ruidoso May 12, manned by trained DAV National Service Officers, offering free counseling and claims service to veterans and families. Local post members are assisting with local arrangements.



PEOPLE

JERRY SHAW,
SOCIETY EDITOR
257-4001

Blend n' Share

by my. pat
healy

Happenings by Jerry

Ruidoso's first bowling alley was gathering place

There was always a pot of coffee hanging in the fireplace. Mike, a St. Bernard, was on hand to greet you at the front door. A group was gathered around the fireplace enjoying a cup of coffee while others were bowling, playing ping pong, shooting pool and a group of young people were dancing the Balboa! It was the gathering place of Ruidoso!

If you remember that scene you remember the Ruidoso Clubhouse and you visited here in the early forties. Marie and Bernard Rooney built the first bowling alley in Ruidoso on that same spot in the middle thirties. It was open one month and burned to the ground when a bar adjacent to it on the corner of Sudderth and Mechem caught fire causing the bowling alley to also succumb to fire. There was no fire department so the local men formed a bucket brigade from the river to the buildings in an effort to save them.

This did not stop Marie and Bernard, however, so they built back on the same spot—the Ruidoso Clubhouse. There were six lanes for bowling and it became the center of Ruidoso. Marie laughingly recalls that they baby sat there because it was the only place to leave your youngsters in the area. For in those days, Ruidoso consisted of the old Navajo Lodge, the old Wingfield home (which is now Ray Heid's Ski shop) where they had a dairy and a dance hall, the post office and a grocery store.

Marie's memories go back to 1929 when she moved here with her parents from Roswell. This was the time of the depression in our country and they had lost everything they had, but a cabin in Ruidoso. It was where the Mount Haven Lodge (which recently burned) stood. They borrowed \$200 in 1930 and built four cabins costing \$50 a piece on the site of the shopping center across from the present post office.

The cabins were not fancy and they started out with only a bed in each one. Their first renter was the Baptist preacher from the Baptist Tabernacle which was located where Security Bank now stands. Marie said they rented it for \$1.50 a night. When the pastor paid she ran down to the only store in town to buy the sheets

while her mother visited with him. They quickly made up the bed for their first guest.

The only tub in Ruidoso at the time was at the Wingfield's so they put up a tarp by the river and bought a tub. They heated water on a rack and this was where the guests bathed. Marie said, "I don't remember if we furnished soap or not."

The original cabin became the "Ye Olde Pyre Tavern". They had a large lobby and served meals. You could have your choice of steak or chicken with all the trimmings for 50c. They cooked the meals on a wood stove and since there was no water in the tavern the two women hauled it from the river. Later, Andy Randolph, the mail carrier, started hauling water for 50c a barrel.

In 1934 Marie and Bernard married. They met while he was in college. When they married Bernard was running a saw mill but soon after they built the first bowling alley.

When the Village Hall was the school building, Marie taught school there. There were only three other teachers at that time. Her salary was \$80 a month, she recalled, and when

she got her first paycheck she sewed it in the back springs of the car and carried a pistol until she could go to Alamogordo to spend it. There was no bank in Ruidoso at that time so they usually put the bowling alley receipts into a money order to send to the bank in Alamogordo.

Marie's next teaching experience was to teach skiing. In 1939, they started renting skis and toboggans. No one else in town was renting skis except a service station in mid-town owned by J. A. Moore.

Since no one else was teaching skiing and Marie was decked out in her ski clothes, she became a ski instructor. They had a pamphlet that said — if you can skate — you can ski! It's just like riding in a wagon — you just keep your knees, elbows and insteps in line.

Marie was so busy instructing skiing that she never learned to ski herself. She remembered a group of models from Ft. Worth who were here and she gave them skiing instructions. They came back from their first day of skiing so enthusiastic that they wanted Marie to join them. Marie said she had to tell them

that she had never skied before and also that she was pregnant, one of the models sent her her first baby blanket.

They even offered a ski pack in the winter. They had many groups from the School of Mines. They also held a Snow Fiesta each winter. They would fit skis on any kind of shoe or even cowboy boots.

There were six lanes in the bowling alley and they paid the pin boys 2c a lane. On the Fourth of July the clubhouse stayed open all night long because there was not near enough accommodations in Ruidoso to take care of the crowds. So, those that had no place to stay would stay up all night and Marie and Bernard served coffee, frijole beans and had plenty of apples for the crowds.

Another happening in 1939 that Marie vividly recalled was the night the Lion's club was chartered. They held a dinner that night in the dance hall next to the Wingfield home. She and her mother served the dinner. It was a cold night in February and they wore baseball suits to keep warm. They cooked the food on wood stoves at the tavern and then took the food to the hall in a pickup. They served 200 people that night.

The bowling alley, a service station, a grocery store, the post office, the Tavern, the Navajo Lodge and the great beauty and expanse of the mountains — and most of all people with a lot of pioneer spirit — that was Ruidoso in the late thirties and early forties!

This week Mr. Pat is busy with the Chamber of Commerce and his catering business so he called in these hints to share with you.

Heloise but from Pat's putterings in the kitchen. Hope you will find them useful.

Onion odor may be removed from hands by rubbing hands with lemon juice!

Ideas won't work unless you do!

After a carbonated drink has been opened and you don't have a stopper — put a silver spoon handle in the bottle to prevent losing the fizz!

When scalding milk rinse the pan first with cold water!

To keep vegetables, spaghetti or macaroni from boiling over rub a small piece of butter around the edge of the pan!

To keep lard from splattering while frying sprinkle in a little salt!

If you place small pieces of cotton into fingers of rubber gloves, it will prevent holes from long pointed finger nails!

I eat peas with honey I've done it all my life It makes the peas taste funny But it keeps them on my knife!

Bon Appetit

Ruidoso and is associated with Dr. Tom Thompson.

They really came here to enjoy the beauty and climate of our area and get out of the hustle and bustle of city life. They wanted to do their "own thing."

Their home is nestled among huge pine trees and slopes down to the river. One of John's favorite hobbies is fishing so the setting is perfect for him and he snags trout out of the river often!

The White's have a daughter, Jana, who attends Arizona State University where she is a junior this year. Two more important members of the household are Gibby, their lovable dog and Spook, a large black cat. Both, Gibby and Spook, are 13 years old.

And here is the way the White's start their day!

Sour Dough Pancakes

"Here's how to make sour-dough pancakes without all that fiddling around with 'starter' and crocks. This 'recipe' comes from Dawson on the Yukon. In the evening put 2 cups of warm water in a large bowl. Sprinkle on a package of dry yeast and stir up. Dump in 2 cups of flour

In one of our columns we talked about turquoise and knowing your dealer. Here is some more information in regards to turquoise which we will be giving from time to time.

This information was found in the The Indian Trader, which is an Indian arts, crafts and culture publication.

In buying a good piece of Indian jewelry one should know a little something about the manufacture of silver fitting that the stone will be in. You can find many good books on the subject. It is not so easy with the stone.

phosphate and occurs in nature in copper deposits, in small strips or pockets. The matrix blends with the gem at times, forming a webbing net in the stone's surface or flecking the stone with black and gold traces, the gold being iron pyrites, or fool's gold. This is actually desirable and gives character to the stone.

The above standards were all a person used to need to know to judge a turquoise stone, however, today through the modern miracles of chemistry the problem has been greatly complicated.

prefer the green stone. In the green, the deeper the color, the more valuable the stone. A turquoise stone ranges down to a bluish white, which is called a "chalky" and is not considered valuable at all. However there are white stones whose value lies in their hardness.

The second thing to look for in a stone is the hardness or degree the stone will take a polish.

Thirdly, the experts look for the matrix or stone in which the turquoise is found. Turquoise is a gem form of copper aluminum



THE GATHERING PLACE for Ruidoso in the late thirties and early forties was the Ruidoso Clubhouse — or the bowling alley.

Hondo Valley Extension club to meet

The Ruidoso-Hondo Valley Extension Club will meet April 28 at the Ella May Pearman home.

The Pearman home is on the Sun Valley turn-off, on the gravel road and is the first house on the right just past the station. It is a green house.

All members are urged to attend this meeting as the club will be selecting a nominating committee for the new club officers and discussing programs for the coming year.

And oops! Sunny Hirschfield called to say that when you make her cream cheese cupcakes recipe there is a cup of sour cream in the topping!

Marian and John White moved here about one year ago from Tucson, Arizona. However, they have been frequent summer visitors to our area.

Marian grew up in Oklahoma and John is originally from the state of Washington.

Marian's parents have owned horses that have run here over many years. Therefore John and Marian have been coming up to enjoy the races for many of those years.

Now they make their home here permanently. Marian likes to cook, do needlepoint and macramé and her home reflects her talents.

John has recently opened counseling offices here in

and beat sturdily. Put a plate on top and leave in a warmish place overnight. This mess will rise and work during the night. If your bowl is too small there will be a REAL mess on and around it in the morning. Time to eat. Add 1 teaspoon of salt, 1

tablespoon of sugar, 2 eggs and ½ teaspoon baking soda dissolved in a tablespoon of water. Beat until well mixed. (Batter should be VERY THIN.

If not, add water till it is). Bake on a griddle slightly hotter than Aunt Jemima, Bisquick or Irma Rombauer pancakes. These cakes will be thin. That's the beauty part."

Syrup (Best made the day before so it can thicken)

½ cup brown sugar, ¼ cup water, ¼ cup white sugar. Boil 2 minutes. Add at least 1 teaspoon maple flavoring. Store in tightly closed container.



Marian White begins the day with sour dough pancakes and homemade syrup.

ENMU graduates

Four students from Ruidoso will graduate this spring from Eastern New Mexico University.

Baccalaureate and commencement services begin at 8 p.m., Friday, April 30th, in the Physical Education Complex Arena. Governor Jerry Apodaca will deliver the main commencement address on "The Challenges of 1976."

The candidates from Ruidoso are Jaquetta Ruth Bryant King, BSE in elementary education; Roxie Ann Rodgers, BS in vocational home economics and business, honors in home economics; Sally Marie Siles, BS in physical education and recreation; and Dennis Marie York, MBA in management.

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Warrior booster club to meet

The Warrior Booster Club meeting will be this Thursday, April 29, at the Ruidoso High School at 7:30 p.m. All boosters are asked to attend this important meeting.

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SALUTE TO CHAMBER MEMBERS

This is a regular feature in the Monday edition of this newspaper to introduce the members of the Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce.



BIG TEE, on lower Sudderth, is owned by relative newcomers to Ruidoso. Earl and Peggy Cochran purchased the operation in October of



last year and became Chamber members at that time. **Big Tee** features fast food with dining room service or a convenient drive-in window.



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Visit the Pterosaur hangout

Riddle: What had a greater wingspan than a modern jet fighter, glided (probably) with the skill of a turkey buzzard and dined on dinosaurs?
Answer: The Texas Pterosaur, that's what. And you probably knew the answer to that one if you were reading the papers last year when paleontologist Douglas A.

Lawson announced he had found fragments of wingbones from a flying reptile in Big Bend National Park. Lawson believes the pterosaur had a wingspan of 51 feet or more.

Fortunately neither the dinosaurs nor the pterosaurs inhabit Big Bend today, being extinct. A flock of pterosaurs soaring overhead might be a threat to you and me in more ways than one!

If you are interested in learning about how the park looked several million years ago, stop by the fossil exhibit just north of the Tornillo Creek Bridge on the road to Marathon. The fossil exhibit is just one of several interesting places away from the Chisos Basin "heart" of the park that we talked about in an earlier story. Today, let's travel to other parts of big, big Big Bend.

Aside from the Basin, the only place in the park where overnight lodging is available, and park headquarters at Panther Junction, much of the interest lies along the Rio Grande which separates the park and the U.S. from Mexico along a 107-mile border.

One developed area on the Rio

is Rio Grande Village, a peaceful spot where you can fish, camp, picnic and explore the contrasts between the jungle-like river floodplain and the arid desert via self-guided nature trails. Evening naturalist programs are given outdoors in winter.

And across the river and a little downstream is the tiny Mexican town of Boquillas, a rustic community with a church, school, a couple of cantinas and a few adobe houses.

Four miles downstream from Rio Grande Village is Boquillas Canyon, one of three major canyons cut by the river. A short trail from the parking area takes you into the canyon. Many, many miles upriver from Rio Grande Village is another developed area—Castolon. The road into Castolon offers spectacular views as it winds through the Chisos foothills.

Castolon is situated on a floodplain terrace overlooking the river and there are opportunities to fish, camp and picnic in the area. Supplies are also available at the store.

Eight miles from Castolon is Santa Elena Canyon, one of the deepest gorges cut by the river. From the parking area you can follow a short nature trail into the canyon.

In addition to the developed areas, Big Bend has a vast primitive backcountry and you can backpack for days on end. And float trips on the Rio are possible.

There are also numerous primitive roads through the desert country, offering a variety of scenery and history.

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The Dreamer

BY **DANNIE STORM**
 Shady and I are sending you this message on April 20, which is Easter Tuesday, the last day in the blessed Easter season. And what a beautiful and blessed day the Lord has given us today!
 The words of the psalm come to mind:
 "The Heavens declare the glory of God
 And the firmament telleth his Handiwork."
 The fast-moving season of spring is stepping up its pace day by day and hour by hour. All through the winter the world is waiting, moving slowly, biding its time. Now in the spring everything is moving, growing, awakening, coming to life and rejoicing.

And you catch this joyful spirit of spring. There are so many nice things that need to be done day by day. It is time to plant trees and vegetables and flower gardens, and ornamental shrubs and vines. The growing things need water, and the cows with their little calves need a little extra feed. You are happy in fixing things and dressing up here and there around the place for spring. You can not wait to make the rounds to see what new springtime surprise is waiting for you.
 Out on a little field near the house this morning a little springtime friend was smiling up from the ground, the first rose-colored bloom of a beloved New Mexico flower - the wild pink. This delicate little messenger of summer happiness brings to mind the first verse of "An April Day" by the beloved American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow:
 "When the warm sun, that brings
 Seed time and harvest, has

returned again,
 'Tis sweet to visit the still wood, where springs
 The first flower of the plain."
Fruit Blossoms
Weather the Cold Spells
 Today, (still April 20th), the fruit blossoms appear to have come through the recent cold snaps without much harm. As we observed earlier, the blossoms of the different fruit trees came out very much together, instead of in the usual pattern, which is one at a time. They seemed to say:
 "Let us all hold back a while and then see if we can fool Jack Frost and get through the last cold blast of winter. If one of us makes it, we all make it."
 Here on the place, the apple blossoms got through unharmed; the same with the pear. There is one cherry tree and the blooms are still all right. And - this is something unusual - there are several little apricots; on one of the trees. This particular tree seems to bring fruit quite often. The apricots are not very large, but they have a good

flavor and they have the good feature of an apricot in this region. They bloom later than most. That is what we need in this country; fruit that blooms late.
 From the looks of things - taking the fruit region as a whole - from Tularosa on the one side and Riverside on the other, and from Cloudcroft on this side and the Bonita and Nogal on the other, there should be a good supply of the different kinds of fruit: plums, peaches, apples, pears, cherries and apricots. The main concentration of apricots is in Tularosa and the cherries are mostly over toward High Rolls, on the way to Cloudcroft.
Rhubarb and Asparagus
 Out in the garden, the rhubarb has sprung up all in a day. And this caused me to wonder if the asparagus might be showing its first delicate shoots above the ground down by the riverside.
 So Shady and I took a little stroll down to the creek. The

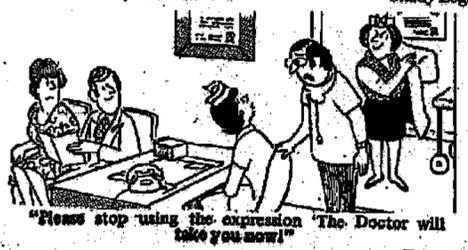
new grass was green along the banks, so Shady began eating some of the green blades for his spring tonic. Then he took a dip in the river and went running up and down the bank and finally began rolling in the grass and sand, smiling with delight.
 After a bit, sure enough we found some young asparagus sprouting from the ground. Asparagus is one of the many edible green things that grow wild in this region, like water cress, dandelion greens, and lambs quarters and many others.
A Note from Shady Logan
 Dearest Friends,
 Well, well, it has been quite some time since we had a visit through that happy invention, the printed page. I have missed you, but I have been thinking of you.
 The Ridge Runner is always walking up to somebody and saying, "Tell me something good, and tell it quick."
 Well, I will tell you something good: spring is here and we are

going to have a wonderful summer.
 It is also good that there are so many good people in the world who love and appreciate dogs and other creatures. Bob Scribner said a good word for our clan when he said that "dog and man" need each other and that this is a two-way street. The dog watches and protects and give full devotion. And in return he gets care and love also. We could not get along without each other. That is sure.
 I was saddened by the death of "Tigre", the beloved pet of the Haake family. But there is

nothing to worry about, for we will all meet in Heaven some day. All we need to do is trust the Good Lord.
 It is wonderful that Mrs. Johnny Williams has her great little friend "Happy", and that Happy has such a good friend as Elsie Williams.
 There will be a bigger crowd than ever this year in Ruidoso and on the highways. So be ever so careful.
 Well, I will be seeing you up and down the way through the summer, and until then I beg to remain yours ever the same.
 Shady Logan

Hawaiians Hope For Heat Source

Hawaiians think they may soon have a partial solution to the energy crisis, but it won't do the rest of us much good.
 The Federal Energy Administration reports that scientists in Hawaii are trying to harness the heat of volcanoes to generate electric power.
 They have not yet been successful, but a research team is about to drill 6,000 feet into the side of Kilauea, the world's most active volcano. If they can find a steady supply of steam or hot water, a generating plant could be operating on the site by 1979.



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Inside the Capital

by Fred Buckley

LAS CRUCES — Arizona Rep. Morris Udall says he, Jimmy Carter and Henry Jackson will reach the national Democratic convention with 600 to 900 delegates each in the presidential race.

Winging over Southern New Mexico, the 6 feet, 5 inches Congressman said: "It depends on how things go in the primaries and conventions ahead as to who is on the high or low side of that figure."

Udall said: "We're shooting for six or seven of 18 New Mexico delegates, 15 of 25 in my home Arizona state, 15 or 16 of 35 in Colorado, 12 of 53 in Washington and 30-40 of 178 in Pennsylvania." The key Pennsylvania primary will be Tuesday.

Udall says he has 128 delegates now and expects 200 before April 30. Besides Pennsylvania, among other big delegation states Udall says: "It looks like I might make the best showing in Ohio." Ohio Democrats will pick 152 delegates June 8.

Udall says voters whose first choice was Hubert Humphrey supported him in the Wisconsin and other primaries. "I'm proud," he says. "Hubert and I share many of the same views. I'll take delegates any way I can get them." But Udall said emphatically he has no agreement with Humphrey. Humphrey has entered no party primaries.

Udall expects Humphrey to stay out of remaining primaries. He says: "If Hubert entered any of them now and lost, he could be really hurt. You can get beat in the primaries." If Udall's delegate strength assessment is accurate, the national Democratic convention will be open and brokered. Udall told a responsive capacity breakfast crowd of 300 at Albuquerque: "Democrats are going to have a good old rousing contest at the national convention for a change." He told us: "It's in Jackson's interest to keep a three-way race going."

Udall said he is entitled to \$250,000 in federal election money now and the total due will be \$300,000 before April 30. He said the tie-up of federal election money because of a bill pending in Congress "is hurting all the candidates except President Ford and is very unfair." Udall's campaign has received no federal money since March 23. Congress will vote on a conference report on a bill amending the election law when members return Monday from the Easter recess.

But Udall says Ford may veto the bill. If it clears the Congress and Ford approves, he says, federal election money would still be unavailable to presidential candidates until mid-May.

New Mexico Udall Chairman Eugene Gallegos of Santa Fe

says \$15,000 to \$18,000 has been raised in this state for Udall. A private Albuquerque Reception for 30 Tuesday added another \$4,000 in \$200 to \$400 contributions.

Udall strummed his progressive, reform campaign themes in five New Mexico cities just ahead of statewide Democratic precinct and ward conventions tonight. They will start the showdown in the fight for New Mexico's 18 national convention delegates.

Udall drew 100 at Grant County airport 22 miles southeast of Silver City. At other airport stops he attracted 150 at conservative Roswell and 125 at Carlsbad. United Steel Workers union leaders were in the Carlsbad crowd. Six USW locals total 1,500 members in Eddy County. No formal union commitments were made but Udall is bidding strongly for Carlsbad-Silver City USW support.

The 41-vote Grant County delegation to the state party convention in Albuquerque May 15 will likely be pro-Humphrey and uncommitted, said State Sen. Ben Altamirano, D-Silver City. The 61-vote Eddy County delegation will apparently be split among Carter, Udall and uncommitted-Humphrey forces. Chaves County Democratic Chairman Pauline Mann said Chavez' 47 votes will probably be uncommitted.

Alabama Gov. George Wallace backers in Roswell are expected to run as uncommitted delegates with little hope of winning places on the New Mexico delegation to New York for the July 12-16 powwow.

Udall drew an overflow crowd of 350 at Las Cruces' Knights of Columbus Hall. Dona Ana County Democratic Chairman Ray Sadler, a Carter backer, said the turnout was impressive and may have cut Carter's apparent Dona Ana lead. Dona Ana has 105 state convention votes.

Bernalillo County Democratic Chairman Ed Romero, leading a strong uncommitted-Humphrey bid, predicts the big, 490-vote Bernalillo delegation will be equally divided among Carter, Udall and uncommitted-Humphrey forces. Udall supporter Arsenio Gonzalez of Las Vegas says Udall will win most

of San Miguel County's 51 delegates and some will be uncommitted. Gonzalez, a San Miguel County Commission member, rates Carter's stock as low in San Miguel. Gonzalez was a 1968 Eugene McCarthy national convention delegate.

Los Alamos County Democratic Chairman Don Oschwald, a Udall fan, says the 25 Los Alamos delegates will probably vote 12 or 13 for Udall.

8 or 9 for Carter and 3 to 5 uncommitted. Udall salted his talks with humor. He told the the Roswell crowd: "It's good to be back out here where you can't see the air you breathe." Udall lost his right eye in an accident when he was six years old. He said: "Two-eyed government has failed. It's time to try one-eyed government."

Protection for whom?

The Civil Rights process, valid though it may be to protect the innocent, is rapidly reaching the point where the US penal system could make us the laughing stock of the world.

In trials of the famous and infamous it is now commonplace to keep juries from hearing testimony that could influence their judgment, because the testimony could be harmful to the person being tried.

Damaging evidence in court cases attracting nationwide, and statewide, attention has been suppressed. Suppressed because, if the evidence were admitted, the freedom of the accused would be placed in jeopardy.

And thus it is that the law tends to open up, for the accused; many avenues of escape from conviction.

The innocent should be declared so. The guilty should be punished.

It would seem that trial judges could start the movement in Congress to reverse the present trend of leniency and of having good solid cases against the accused thrown out of court on a technicality.

Not that severe fines or prison terms would deter crimes, but either or both could serve as a restraint on criminals paying their dues to society.

All too often rapists, armed robbers and burglars are turned loose by the courts to repeat their crimes before being tried for a first offense. This makes a mockery of our laws.

The way the judicial system works today offenders, and repeat offenders, often receive slap-on-the-wrist sentences. What is the deterrent?

Our laws offer protection for whom? — CD

MY side of the mountain

By Randi McGinn



PET KILLERS

Hunting season on household pets officially opened last week in Ruidoso.

With the tremendous influx of racetrack-affiliated traffic into the area the bodies of family dogs and cats have begun to pile up alongside the mountain roads.

Within three days, a German Shepard, a puppy and a housecat were run over on one small section of Paradise Canyon Road alone.

Whose to blame? Well, partially it's the pet owners fault for allowing the dog or cat to roam loose in direct defiance of Ruidoso's leash law.

On the other hand one must place a great deal of blame on the person who speeds around the curving Ruidoso roads never slowing for a blind spot, although many of those speeders angrily refuse to take responsibility for their actions.

"But I didn't see the dog... it prairie for Ruidoso's beautiful jumped right out in front of scenery, he can always turn it me," protests the woman who onto the area's older barreled around the narrow generation.

Even if the dog or cat didn't other places are left to "leap" in front of the car, the deteriorate, the older people in pet killer can usually make Ruidoso keep their minds and enough excuses to clear his or worth alive by staying involved her conscience and successfully and in touch with the com-shift the burden of blame to the munity.

Why feel guilty? Why even stop to see if the animal is alive or try to find its owner? After all, it was only a dog or a cat.

For one thing, leaving the scene of an accident, even an

accident involving an animal, is an misdemeanor under the law and can result in a maximum fine of \$900 and 90 days in jail.

However, what frightens this columnist most is that it might not have been just a neighbor's pet that was killed last week. It could just have easily been a neighbor's son or daughter.

One wonders who the hit and run speeder would blame if his accident had involved a child instead of a puppy... unfortunately, there is no leash law in Ruidoso for children.

As traffic increases with the racing season, here's hoping motorists will slow down and take a few extra minutes to get to their destinations.

So far, no human bodies have been added to the heap of dead animals on the roadside. With a little extra caution, it can stay that way.

YOUNG FOGIES

If a person ever runs out of

Viewing these vital, active people from my 20 year old perspective suddenly takes away the fear of growing old.

Right on seniors!



Laura has had \$71,760 pass through her hands in the last fifteen years.

And doesn't have a cent to show for it!

And Laura is just a minimum wage earner. Earning far below what the people in Ruidoso earn.

But, let's take Laura's modest income of \$4,784 a year. If, over the last fifteen years, she had put only \$30 a month into a Ruidoso State Bank Savings Account she would now have \$8040.94 in savings. That's something to think about.

Laura's no different than you or I. Saving is something we put off, because it's more fun to spend. That's why it's so important to put a little away each month.

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STUPH & JUNK By

Cale Dickey

HIGH HOPES

You have to hand it to the British . . . and their desire to come up winners in the Montreal Olympic Games this summer.

Seems they are pinning their victory hopes on the equestrian expertise of Princess Anne . . . bearing in mind that she just got thrown in trials . . . and is nursing a cracked vertebra . . . and further that she also got dumped twice before . . . looks like the promoters of can't-stick-in-the-saddle Anne are carrying loyalty to royalty to absurd lengths.

On the other hand . . . if Anne's the best they have . . . the prognosis for fetching home a gold medal via Anne is about as remote as a \$4 pound.

CONFUSION

English, as spoken, tends to lead to confusion . . . capital can be the seat of government . . . capital can be the seat of a legislative body . . . capital is a statehouse . . . capital can be money or ideas.

On the other hand . . . capital punishment can be suffered on the steps of a capitol . . . which could, in the sense of a seat of government, lead to some interesting developments, requiring just some big hangman's noose.

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If the voters in the 50 states could get together this fall and issue a mandate to the US Senators and Representatives and the President, clearly spelling out that economy in government is a must . . . instant Utopia.

CAPITAL IDEA

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END-GATE

No matter what . . . it's still

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Clipped Comment

OFFSHORE ENERGY

The House has almost unanimously approved a bill to help states manage offshore energy development problems. Coming in the wake of similar Senate action, this is further evidence that Congress accepts the federal responsibility for aiding in such development, whatever state rights are involved.

ZIP

A MAN OVER IN ALAMOGORDO CLAIMS HE CAN'T READ IN THE DAYTIME . . . "I WENT TO NIGHT SCHOOL," HE DECLARES.



- Ruidoso News -

GOING STRONG

by Gerry Johnson

The Handyman as World Traveler

U. J. Grant and his wife Margaret have just returned from Puerto Rico, where most people go to relax and forget about the cares of the workaday world. Not the Grants. They spent six weeks at a Presbyterian mission, where Mr. Grant, 77, repaired washing machines, automobiles and did electrical and plumbing work.

"We go down every year or so," Mr. Grant said, "and it seems like the same things need fixing as the last time we were there. The people are so appreciative, though, and that's what counts. Making someone happy is very important to us."

The Grants live in Rittman, Ohio, where Mr. Grant was an engineer with a large corporation for 40 years. He started as a truck driver for the company right out of high school. Six years later, he decided he was destined for better things and went to Ohio State University where he got a degree in mechanical engineering. He worked summers for the company while attending college and was hired by the firm as a senior engineer when he graduated.

What might be U. J. Grant's true calling didn't really surface until he retired 12 years ago: he is the consummate handyman. His work in Puerto Rico is just a small part of his penchant for making things work. At home in Rittman, neighbors are constantly bringing vacuum cleaners, toasters and other small appliances to him for repairs.

What takes up most of his time is fixing clocks for a local jeweler. Since he started several years ago, Mr. Grant estimates he has repaired over 400 clocks.

The Grants' interest in the Presbyterian mission came about when Mr.

Grant was called out of retirement by the firm to work in a small salt plant they own a half interest of in Puerto Rico. For the six months they were down there, the Grants were the only Americans in a Puerto Rican neighborhood.

"We learned a little Spanish and they learned a little English," Mr. Grant told a writer from The National Council on the Aging. "Before long, people found out I was handy and began asking me to fix things for them."

When they were introduced to the mission, Mr. Grant's mechanical abilities were again discovered. He was so efficient and they so enjoyed their time there, that the Grants try to spend six to eight weeks in Puerto Rico at least once every two years.

When they're not on a working vacation in Puerto Rico, traveling elsewhere or visiting one of their 17 grandchildren who live in all parts of the country, Mrs. Grant stays just as active as her husband.

"I'm not one to sit around," she said. "I do volunteer work at the hospital and work in a number of church groups."

Life for the Grants continues to be as fulfilling as it was before he retired. "I often wonder how he found the time to work," Mrs. Grant said. "He's so busy now that we have to take a trip if either of us wants to relax."

But that's the way Mr. Grant planned his life. Retirement didn't require any adjustment, because, he says, "There are so many things to do. I can't imagine sitting around and watching television. There's not enough time in the day."

What advice does he have for people about to retire? "All I know is what worked for me," Mr. Grant

said with a chuckle. "Just do what comes naturally."

"Too often we display an attitude that all of the skills, all of the experience and all of the knowledge that men and women have acquired in their careers disappear like Cinderella's coach at age 65," Senator Edward Kennedy, from an address to the 25th Anniversary Conference of The National Council on the Aging.

One way to beat the continually rising cost of food is by forming a food co-operative. Savings of up to 20 percent are possible on items such as fresh produce. There are two publications available that can be of great help in establishing your own co-op. The first is "Moving Ahead with Group Action," published by The Cooperative League, Suite 1100, 1828 L St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Cost for the publication is \$1.25. "The National Consumer Directory" is published by Community Services Administration, 1200 19th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506. Address inquiries to the attention of Ms. Caroline Ramsey. There is no charge for the directory.

Concerned about the environment? An illustrated booklet describing the fundamentals, tools and techniques of organized citizen action may stimulate action by your group. The booklet is available for 55 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

If you're planning to travel during the Bicentennial year, you can get free information by writing to the following sources. For Boston write: Boston 200, One Beacon St., Boston, Mass. 02108; Washington: Washington Area

Convention and Visitors Bureau, 1129 20th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036; Philadelphia: Philadelphia '76, Inc., 1525 J. F. Kennedy Blvd., Philadelphia, Pa. 19102; New York: New York Convention and Visitors Bureau, 90 E. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10017; Vermont: Bicentennial Transportation Committee, Pavilion Bldg., Montpelier, Vt. 05602.

A study of older workers by the Department of Labor has produced some interesting results. Among the findings were:

Older clerical office workers had a steadier rate of output and were as accurate in their work as younger persons. The oldest age group, 65 and over, actually had the best performance record.

Supervisors who rated 3,000 workers age 60 and above in 81 organizations said they considered them to be as good as or superior to average younger workers with reference to dependability, judgment, work quality, work volume, human relations and absenteeism.

Markers Will Show Black History Sites

The Amoco Foundation has made a \$75,000 grant to a U.S. Bicentennial program to permanently mark sites where black Americans made significant contributions to the progress of the nation. The funds will allow the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH) to erect bronze markers at 100 or more of the most significant sites in black American history.

According to Amoco Torch, local ASALH branches and other black organizations will be invited to nominate sites, from which a final selection will be made by a committee of scholars.

The ASALH is the major national association of students of black history and publisher of two major journals in the field, *The Journal of Negro History* and *The Negro History Bulletin*.

Red, White, Blue Enliven Tank

Each month, thousands of motorists are getting a look at the star-spangled paint job recently applied to a large gas storage tank at Amoco's Whiting (Ind.) refinery. The red, white and blue Bicentennial theme is easily spotted from the heavily traveled adjacent road.

A whole "gallery" of the cylindrical works of art may soon appear. The refinery management is surveying area high schools to learn whether there is sufficient interest to sponsor a design competition among students.

Count New Haven In

When New Haven, Conn., residents were mailed Bicentennial badges bearing the message "Count US in '76" the response was remarkable.

The New Haven Bicentennial Commission received more than \$2,000 in three days to use for ambitious projects which include an archaeological investigation of the Eli Whitney Gun Factory site, participation in Operation Sail events, a summer series of outdoor pageants and many more.

Currently 25 per cent of U.S. businesses use dictating machines, but the Business Equipment Manufacturers Association predicts that the industry's 1975 sales of \$200 million will climb to over \$334 million by 1980.

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Valley ranchers fighting

(FROM PAGE ONE)

frequently increasing."

Secondly, he said the consumptive use in dry years is higher than in rainy years, creating an accumulated double effect which makes water shortages twice as severe.

Erickson also testified that comparisons between the Pecos Valley farming district (which has a set rate of 3.5 acre feet of water) and the mountain valleys were invalid.

"Conditions in the Pecos are not similar to those in the upper valley," he said. "The wells available in the Roswell area produce three times more than those around Ruidoso. Furthermore, water is available on demand in Roswell through wells, whereas the upper valleys are

forced to just do the best they can with what the weather hands them.

"An average duty rate can work in an area like the Pecos valley, but it is not practical in the mountain valleys," he said.

Although defense attorney Bill Schauer refused to speculate on the State Engineers motives for the 2.5 acre-foot rate, the general feeling among ranchers is the additional water will be diverted for use in the Pecos Valley near Roswell.

"They're not even sure they can get the water all the way over there in sufficient quantities for irrigation, but because of the large amount of political clout in Roswell, they're going to try to give it to them," one rancher, who asked not to be identified, said. "We need the water a lot more than they do."

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Then there's housing. The Manufacturing Chemists Asso-

ciation reminds us that all plywood is held together with plastic resins, as is the bulk of home insulation. Paints, floor tiles, circuitry, enamels, and faucets' washers are just a few more of the things that come from petrochemicals.

Voting clinic time changed

The hours of public voting machine instruction have been changed by the Capitan sponsors to between 9 a.m., and 4 p.m., April 26 in the Lincoln County Fair building.

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When my sky on earth must end.

I would rather have a pleasant word
In kindness said to me,
Than flattery when my heart is still
And this life has ceased to be.

I would rather have a loving smile
From friends I know are true,
Than tears shed around my casket
When this world I bid adieu.

Bring me all the flowers today—
Whether pink, or white, or red,
I'd rather have one blossom now
Than a truckload when I'm dead.

(Anon.)

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- Ruidoso News for Advertising
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- Safeway Food Stores for food assistance
- EVERYBODY

WE HAD FUN ...

... HOPE YOU ENJOYED IT!

WE'LL DO IT AGAIN !

Future home builders learn basic construction

BY HILL WILSON, Staff Writer

The Drafting/Electronics class of the seventh grade at Ruidoso High School is beginning to take some kind of "shape." (Excusing the electronics bit.)

Thurman Sanchez, instructor of the class tells us that "we are teaching a hands-on approach to basic construction."

The students, through classroom instruction, do all the planning, measuring, cutting and fitting of the materials.

Beginning with single view drawings and working up to three dimensional drawings and finally to architectural drafting, Sanchez explained, "We study all of the basic types of floor plans and then after the group begins to comprehend what we are trying to accomplish we conclude the course with the building of a scale model house." The models are on a scale of 1" to 1 foot.

The class is divided into groups of four or five with each group having a foreman. It is set up as if each group is a construction crew actually building a house. The foreman is the boss and the students are graded accordingly.

The actual construction starts, as with any house, a foundation laid out on a sheet of plywood. The floor joists are laid, after measuring and fitting and then glued in to place.

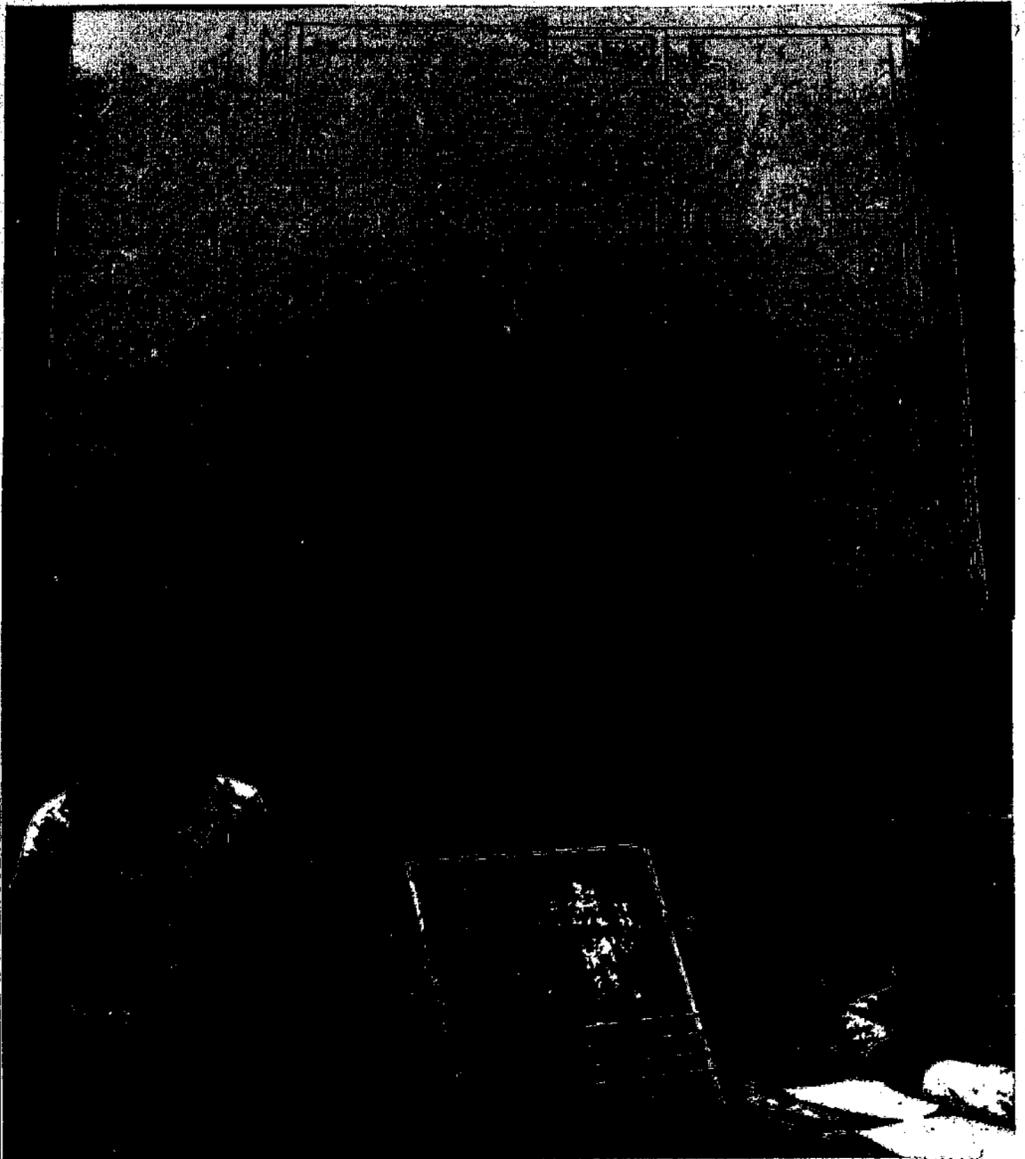
Next comes the framing walls, with door and window cutouts and finally the ceiling joists and rafters.

This completes the phase of construction as far as basics goes.

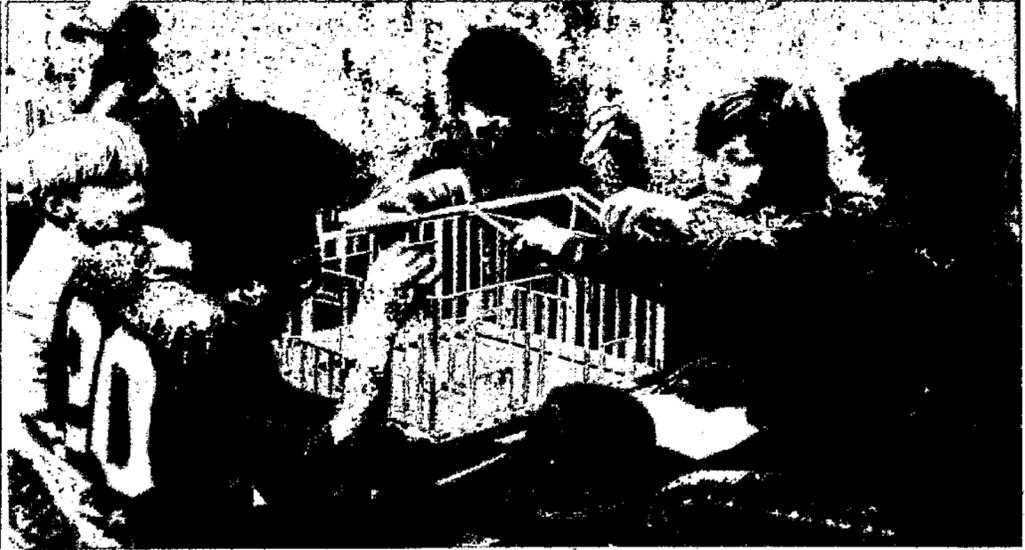
The next step would be putting on the roof and siding on the walls.

Sanchez says from what the students learn in this basic course they should be able to understand and construct a full size house.

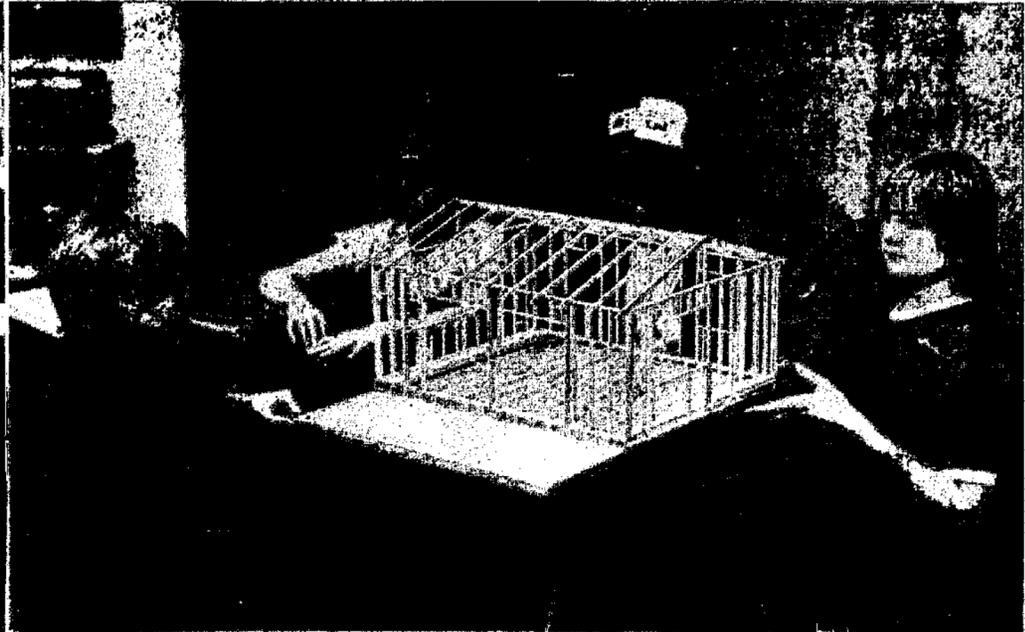
Good luck future home builders!



First of all, as in any house, is the foundation.....



Some work... Some pose... teacher grades accordingly.....



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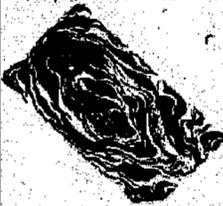
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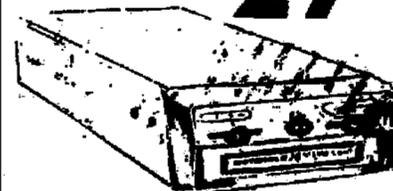
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SHURFINE FROZEN

MRS. B.
By CECILIA BARRON



EXCERPTS OF MILK AND HONEY

Even though we were not to move into our new home until fall, father wanted to make the trip while the weather was warm. We had nothing to keep us, so we did our usual packing; filled our chuck box; loaded everything in; untied Tom and Jerry, waving farewell to our little friends, we went down the road 'licky-split'.

By now we were used to moving and just took it as a matter of course, like breathing in and breathing out; only the breathing became faster and quicker as it does when running. So it was this time, as Tom and Jerry took us away faster.

It took us sixteen long days and nights to go from the Panhandle to Cooke County. Many things happened on the way, but if I were to relate all, it would be a book within itself.

The mules were a little skittish at first, but soon tamed down to the daily grinding of the wagon wheels and the rattling of the trace chains. In fact some of them became down right lazy—not Tom and Jerry though.

We had a couple of rains on the way and when we were going up the slick clay hills of Clay County, Old Tobe just set down on the double tree. Father tried coaxing; then the whip, but to no avail. Old Tobe made his team mate pull the whole wagon. So father unhitched Tom and Jerry from the other wagon and hitched them to the end of Old Tobe's wagon tongue. All he had to say was, "Scratch, boys, scratch". They went up the hill in a hurry, with their hind legs stretched out and their bellies close to the ground. Old Tobe had to step lively or the wagon wheel would run on his heels.

Usually it took Tom and Jerry to get us out of tight places in a hurry—even the extra mules that followed behind were too slow to bother with, but father used them every other day, to rest the other mules.

One day Tom and Jerry got in too much of a hurry. The only automobile we saw on the whole trip, came 'putting' by and cut right back in front of the mules. They either became scared or just decided nothing could pass them. They laid back their ears and just went sailing by the Overland; with the wind billowing and flapping the wagon sheet—on down the road until they ran themselves down. Father tried to pull them back at first, then decided to just let them run. We were all scared, as they just ran off and left us in the other wagon. When they did stop, father got out and waved the automobile to a stop. There was a red headed man driving and father said, "Just because you have an automobile and are red headed, is no sign you can go down the road searing people's teams. The man looked scared and said he was sorry—father walked back to the wagon, grinning behind his ears—the man drove on. 'Put,

Put, Put'.

We went right down beside the Fort Worth and Denver railroad most of the way. Father would never let us drive Tom and Jerry but trusted us with the extra mules. One day my younger brother and I were driving, while my older brother was riding his bicycle; and a train slipped up behind us. The wind was in the wrong direction for us to hear, until it whistled.

The mules lunged and ran past the other wagon down the road, about a mile and into a rough embankment, where there was a crook in the road. By the time father and mother came up in their wagon, we were shaking with fright and both were crying.

My brother rode the bicycle half of the day and I rode it the other half—except when it was muddy, then we loaded it into the wagon. Yes, even though girls did not ride bicycles much then, I learned to ride it, and do a little bit of everything else in later years: from driving six mules to the stubble breaker, to driving our first Model T, (of which I will have more to say).

We went through the country where there are many oil wells today, but then, not a thought of such wealth, also no mesquite trees, as cover the ground today. There was only prairie grass and post oak trees in the more hilly country.

There were some scattered small farms, but most ranch houses were few and far between.

Mother would buy eggs, butter and milk along the road, when we camped near a farm house. Then father would replenish our groceries as we went through a little town or passed a country store.

Once when we were camped on the banks of the Pease River, not far from where the city of Vernon now stands; mother sent me to a house not far down the road, to get some eggs. She put a dime in a little bucket and hung it on the handle bars of the bicycle. (Yes, eggs were a dime a dozen). The road was rather rough and the bucket would swing back and forth, so I guess the dime must have bounced out. Anyhow, when I went to the house to ask for the eggs, the dime was not in the bucket. The lady said I could take the eggs on and bring the dime back later.

When I got back to the wagons, mother became angry because I had lost the dime and she pressed her thumb a little too hard into an egg, making it squash out. She said she did not want them as they were rotten; and had me take them back. When I told the lady, she became angry and said she had never sold a rotten egg in her life. So she made me sit down and watch her break all the eggs in a dish—they were all good. They had scrambled eggs for supper and we had none. I have often wondered how a small thing like a dime could cause so much trouble.

Mrs. B.

So says the VA ... **WEE PALS** by MORRIE TURNER

VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II, THE KOREAN CONFLICT, POST KOREAN AND THE VIETNAM ERA ARE GENERALLY ELIGIBLE FOR GI LOANS FOR HOMES, MOBILE HOMES, AND CONDOMINIUMS

AND WITH NO DISCRIMINATION?



Contact the nearest VA office (check your phone book) or write: Veterans Administration, 271A1; 810 Vt. Ave. NW; Wash., D.C. 20420