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Thrill of the Ride...

Hello OKFR readers, and welcome to the June issue of the Oklahoma Farm & Ranch magazine. Summer is right around the corner and that can only mean one thing—rodeos. Nothing beats a summer night in Oklahoma while watching cowboys and cowgirls battle it out in the arena. Check out our Calendar of Events to find an event near you.

This OKFR issue is packed with content as entertaining as an Oklahoma rodeo. First, read “The Last Roundup of a Vanishing Era” as Ralph Chain recalls buying cattle from the San Carlos Indian Reservation.

The reservation closed in 1971, and Chain happened to see 1,400 cattle herded down a mountain on a narrow road. Check it out in the Farm & Ranch section.

As Oklahomans, we are proud of the products made in our great state. Next, read about an Oklahoma beekeeper who began his business as a hobby. In this article, we investigate breeds of bees as well as the process of collecting honey. Learn more in “Sweet as Okie Honey” in the Farm & Ranch section.

Back in April, a two-day rodeo was held at the Lazy E Arena in Guthrie, Okla. The Oklahoma High School Rodeo Association competes against the Kansas High School Rodeo Association while the Kansas Junior High School Rodeo Association and the Oklahoma Junior High School Rodeo Association competes in the annual Border Bash. More than 700 runs or rides were made each day. Learn more in “The Border Bash” in the Equine section.

Keeping with the theme of rodeos, I met with former rodeo performer and rodeo clown, Wayne Cornish. Born in Waukomis, Okla., Cornish is the son of pioneer rodeo performer, Cecil Cornish. The father-son duo traveled from coast to coast performing at rodeos both big and small. Many of his acts included animals—six golden liberty horses, a pig and a Roman riding team named “The Flying White Clouds.” Learn more about the Cornishes in “Son of Mr. Rodeo.”

Next, read about a Purcell, Okla., native who went on to open for Old Crow Medicine Show, be featured on Late Night with Conan O’Brien and receive an invitation to play with Elton John. Parker Millsap first picked up the guitar at nine years old, but continues to stay true to his Oklahoma roots. Learn more in “From Small Town to Big Time” in the Attractions section.

To celebrate Father’s Day, we recommend visiting an Oklahoma State Park. Full of recreational activities, we visited Lake Thunderbird State Park in Norman, Okla., this month. Learn more in the Outdoors section.

If you have an event, photo or topic idea that you would like to see in Oklahoma Farm & Ranch, email editor@okfronline.com. Keep up with new OKFR updates on our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages. For more information or subscription information, visit our website www.OKFRonline.com.

Until next month,



ON THE COVER

A rodeo commentator once said Wayne Cornish is “a chip off the old block who is rapidly becoming a block of his own.” The son of pioneer rodeo performer Cecil Cornish, Wayne Cornish traveled from coast to coast performing in front of crowds as a rodeo performer and as a rodeo clown. Throughout his career, Cornish had many acts including the Roman riding team pictured on the cover known as “The Flying White Clouds.” (Photo courtesy of Wayne Cornish)

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Many of Wayne Cornish's rodeo performances included animals.

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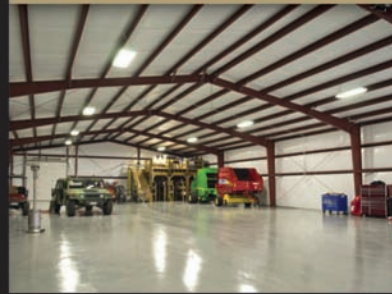


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INSTAGRAM POSTS

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okfr_magazine When your foal has diarrhea, the list of questions can go on and on. We discuss the main causes, clinical signs and some of the treatment and preventative measures for foal diarrhea in the latest issue of #OKFR. <http://ow.ly/2YMn30bzkcw>

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 OKFR Magazine @OKFRMagazine · May 2
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Here is some additional information about the Davidson silo mentioned in the article Agricultural Architecture by Rhonda Shepherd in the May issue. This silo was a true work of art and a fascinating structure. I certainly enjoy your magazine and look forward to every issue.

JoAnn Rohrer, Vici, Okla.

Have OKFR sent to your email each month!

OKLAHOMA FARM & RANCH
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Archive detail of Oklahoma Farm and Ranch



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BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

By Barry Whitworth, DVM



Bovine tuberculosis has been reduced in the United States over the past 100 years, but it has not been eradicated. (Photo by Laci Jones)

In 1917, Congress appropriated the money to begin the State-Federal Cooperative Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Program. The program was started to reduce the number of human tuberculosis cases that were the result of being infected with bovine tuberculosis. Most human cases were caused by humans consuming unpasteurized dairy products. Although the number of cases of tuberculosis in cattle has been greatly reduced over the past 100 years, the disease has not been eradicated from the United

States.

New cases continue to be found in cattle and on occasion in other animals. White-tailed deer have been a problem in the state of Michigan. In the northern portion of the Lower Peninsula in Michigan, the bacteria is well established in the white-tailed deer population. These deer have infected cattle.

Just in the past few months, Indiana found positive cases in cattle and deer. South Dakota is the latest state to find cattle with the disease. New Mexico

and Texas are dealing with herds infected with tuberculosis. These few infections indicate a need for producers to remain vigilant in keeping tuberculosis out of their herds.

Bovine tuberculosis is caused by *Mycobacterium bovis*. This bacteria is contagious to other animals and humans. The bacteria survives in moist warm environments for long periods of time. The organism can be found in exhaled air, saliva, feces and milk. The bacteria is rarely found in semen, urine, vaginal, and uterine

discharges from infected cattle.

The organism is found more often in dairy breeds than beef breeds. This is due to dairy cattle being kept in close confinement. Most cattle get the bacteria from other infected cattle. In rare circumstances, people infected with the bacteria may infect cattle. Most cattle will inhale the bacteria or ingest it. Calves are easily infected from ingesting colostrum and milk from an infected cow.

Tuberculosis in cattle usually progresses over a long period of
See TUBERCULOSIS page 11

TUBERCULOSIS

time; however, it can be fast and progress quickly. Clinical signs of cattle infected with *M. bovis* depend on the location and severity of the infection. Early in the disease, cattle display very few or no signs of sickness. Common clinical signs seen in cattle are emaciation, weakness, anorexia, and fluctuating fever. The lymph nodes will enlarge.

In the final stages of the respiratory form of the disease, cattle will have bronchopneumonia which results in a moist cough, labored breathing, and an increased heart rate.

If the digestive system is infected, the cattle may have diarrhea or be constipated. In the end, most cattle will be extremely thin and have severe respiratory problems.

Diagnosing tuberculosis in cattle based on clinical signs can be difficult. Most cattle with the disease are found at routine inspections at slaughter facilities. They are also found when conducting surveillance tests in infected areas and when state regulations require testing the animals before entering the state.

When a veterinarian tests for the disease in cattle, they will do a tuberculin test. The veterinarian will inject the tuberculin intradermally. Any swelling at the injection site indicates a positive reaction. Since tuberculosis is a reportable disease, any positive test would be reported to the state and/or federal veterinarians.

The state and/or federal veterinarians would confirm the test with additional tests. In most

positive cases, the cattle are sent to slaughter. In some rare cases, the state and federal authorities may allow the cattle to remain quarantined to the premises.

Since treatment of the disease is difficult and expensive and no vaccine is available, prevention is the key to controlling the disease. Preventing the introduction of tuberculosis into the cattle herd begins with biosecurity.

The ideal situation is to maintain a closed herd. If this is not possible, ranchers should purchase replacement bulls, cows, and heifers from a reputable seed stock source. When purchasing cattle from states with bovine tuberculosis, producers should consider TB testing the cattle prior to entering their ranch.

White-tailed deer in Oklahoma

have never been found to have bovine tuberculosis. Even knowing that fact, cattle should not be allowed to have contact with white-tailed deer. One way to prevent this contact is prohibit the feeding of deer on their ranch. Researchers at Michigan State University have proven that the organism will survive on salt blocks, so producers may need to cover mineral and/or salt feeders at night.

Bovine tuberculosis occurs rarely in cattle, but producers should be aware the problem does exist. They should do everything possible to keep the disease out of their herds.

If a producer would like more information on the disease, they should contact their local extension educator or their local veterinarian. ☞

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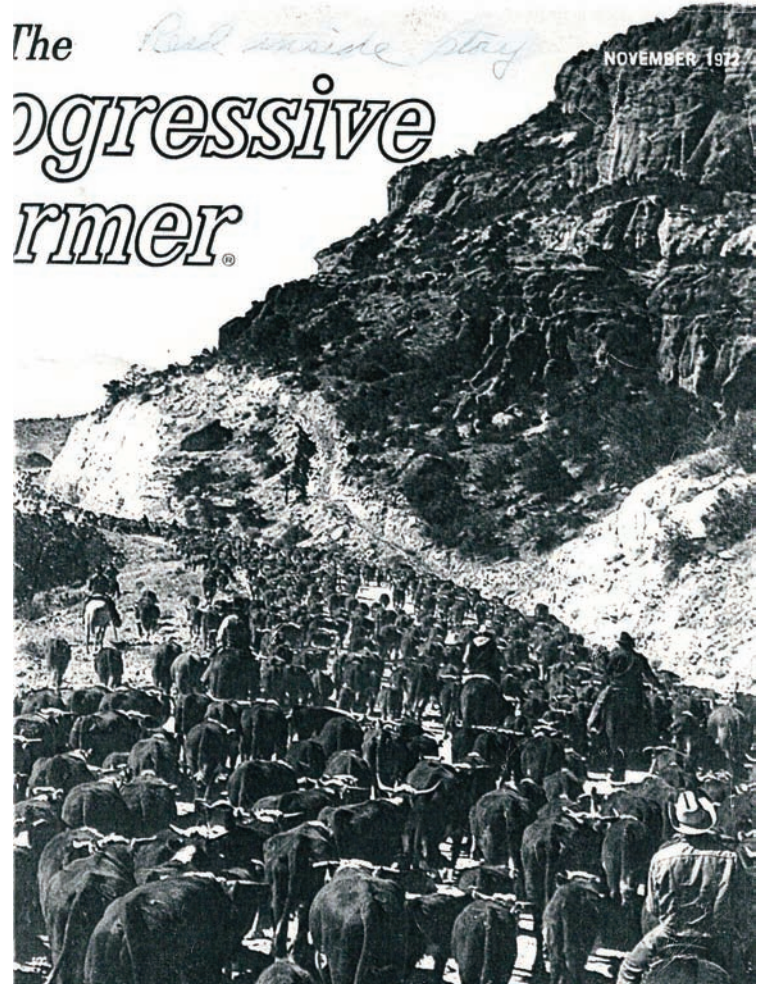
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(Left to right) A copy of the receipt for cattle purchased by Ralph Chain from the San Carlos Livestock Associations in 1971. A copy of the November 1972 cover of the Progressive Farmer featuring the cattle drive down a mountain. (Photos courtesy of Chain Ranch)

I have seen a lot of change in my lifetime. One of the most historical changes would be concerning the San Carlos Indian Reservation in central Arizona. The reservation covers approximately 1.8 million acres in the White Mountains of Arizona.

For over 10 years we bought cattle from the San Carlos Indians on this reservation. At one time the reservation had a herd of over 14,000 Hereford cows. The cattle herd was managed by Gunter Prude for over 25 years. Gunter

was an outstanding cattleman from Portales, N.M., and did a fantastic job of managing the huge reservation.

The reservation was divided up into four divisions: The Point of Pins, The I.D. Herd (where they raised their registered bulls for commercial cows), Tonto, and Slaughter Mountain.

The reservation was so large and so rugged that their fall roundup started in June, going from the north end of the reservation and selecting the cattle to be sold in

November. It would take them this long to gather the cattle—five months.

They ran chuck wagons and large remuda saddle horse herds. We would buy the cattle in the fall and usually send them to Oklahoma or Kansas to wheat pasture or directly to a feedyard. One year I remember buying 1,200 cutting bulls that the Indians had never castrated.

The maverick steers, those that were five to seven years old and had never seen a horse or human

except maybe once in their lifetime, had to be trapped at waterholes in order to be caught. It was interesting how these waterhole traps were made. Two swinging gates made from sharp, forked poles just large enough for cattle to squeeze through were constructed. Once inside the trap, they were able to drink, but unable to get out because of the funnel gates with the sharp, pointed ends.

Can you imagine how they got the maverick steers back to See **ROUNDUP page 13**

ROUNDUP

Continued from page 12

the main herd, which might be from five to eight miles, to where they could be driven through the mountains to the sale? This was accomplished by roping the steers, cutting about half of their horns off, and tying them to a post or a tree for one or two days until their head became really sore. They were then tied to a burro by a lead collar.

Sometimes it would take two or three days, but the burro would eventually show up with the maverick steer, and it could be mixed in with the other cattle. If we had to rope them when we got them home, it was amazing that as soon as the rope hit the old steer's head, he would stop dead in his tracks and you could lead him anywhere. He'd been broke

to lead in Arizona.

It was interesting when we got the cattle back to Oklahoma or Kansas and we started gathering them again. They would hide from us. Some of these steers we had for two or three years because we couldn't gather them; they were hiding.

I remember gathering a group of steers one morning and seeing five big Hereford steers run into a small plum thicket. They never came out, so I rode up on them. They were lying flat on the ground, heads down, not moving a muscle. I would have never known they were there if I had not seen them go into the plum thicket.

Years later, the great cowherd on the reservation deteriorated when the Gunter Prude passed


away. The Indian Reservation then took responsibility for the herd, but the tribes could not get along. This led to a dispute where two tribes burned the other's scales, leaving no way to weight and sell the cattle.

I happened to be there when the San Carlos Reservation ended its historical era. It was November 1971, and the Progressive Farmer magazine was covering the story. I was supposed to be flying out of Phoenix, Ariz., at 3 p.m., and got behind 1,400 head of cattle being driven down the mountain on a narrow road with no chance of passing them. I trailed them for three hours until they came to camp at Arsenic Tubs and was then able to pass. When I look at the picture of the great cattle

drive, which was captured on the December 1972 cover of Progressive Farmer, I remember trailing behind them.

The Great Cattle Drive of the San Carlos Indian Reservation ended when they built a road through the north part of the reservation. The cattle could then be hauled instead of driven. What cattle they now sell are through the sale barn in Phoenix or on video auction. It used to take us a week to drive to Globe, Ariz., buy the cattle, and come home.

Today, we can buy the same cattle over video auctions, never leaving the couch in our office. Times have changed.

It is an era that is gone forever, and it was interesting to be a part of it. 

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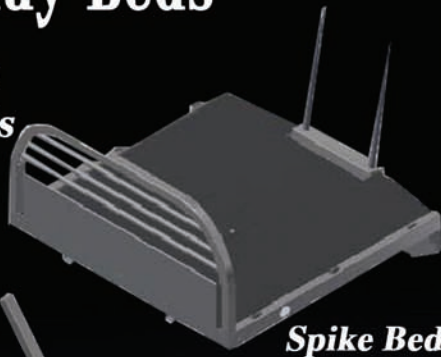
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BACTERIAL BLIGHT

By Everett Brazil, III

Altus is in the heart of Southwest Oklahoma cotton production. Receiving irrigation from Lake Altus-Lugert to the north, much water flows through canals to irrigate the many fields. But in 2016, area producers lost a lot of yield, not due to drought, but through Bacterial blight, and that year, conditions were ripe for a breakout.

“We definitely had yield loss in 2016, and all of the growers that we’re working with have a pretty clear understanding in choosing a (resistant) variety in 2017, maybe even more than traits,” said Shane Osborne, crop specialist-agronomist, Western Equipment, Altus. “You’ll never realize your yield, not in a bad blight year.”

Bacterial blight is a bacterial disease in cotton plants, caused by the pathogen “*Xanthomonas citri malvacearum*.” Other names for the disease include Angular Leaf Spot and Black Arm due to symptoms on various parts of the plant. The disease can be identified by scouting within the field on leaves as well as bolls.

“Typically, when you start to see the symptoms on the backside of the leaf, you will see these angular spots,” said Randy Boman, director of the Oklahoma State University Southwest Research and Extension Center, Altus, the leading cotton research center in the state. “It gets on the boll, too, and when it gets on the boll, it starts out as a ‘waxy’ spot, and starts digesting and breaching the boll wall. It begins to digest even the inside of the boll, and discolor the lint, and later can trigger boll rot.”

The plant eventually begins to shed infected leaves, which is

another symptom.

“You have this necrotic tissue that becomes sensitive; they get ruffled by the wind,” Boman said. “These leaves get so damaged, they fall off; they defoliate because of the damage. This damage can keep on going on new leaves or on bolls.”

There are several factors that increase the risk of bacterial blight.

Environmental factors include relative humidity above 85 percent, with average temperatures between 86 to 97 degrees Fahrenheit. But it must also include the pathogen itself, along with a host, Boman said.

The pathogen can be prevalent due to overwintering in fields, especially no-till fields.

“If a producer had it in the field last year, then there is a very high likelihood you’ll have it again this year, because it does overwinter on the soil surface,” Osborne said.

Due to the prevalence of Bacterial blight in fields, it seemed no-till fields fared the worst during infestation last year.

“[No-till] is an opportunity for the bacteria to have a nice, warm home to overwinter before the next crop begins,” Boman said.

Irrigated fields also have a higher risk of the disease.

“The other thing I would say is, mainly, all the more significant yield losses were in irrigated fields, so it wasn’t as bad in dryland fields of susceptible varieties,” Boman said.

However, even with perfect conditions, there is no way to predict an infestation.

“Just because you have bacterial blight, doesn’t mean it’s going



Irrigated fields of cotton have a higher risk of contracting bacterial blight. (Photo by Everett Brazil, III)

to end up like 2016,” Boman said. “That is one of the things that makes it difficult. It can be in last year’s crop debris, and get moved around.”

Once the disease is identified in the field, there is no way to control it because there are no pesticides designed for it, Osborne said. However, tillage may serve a limited role, as it buries the pathogen below the surface.

“Conventional tillage has been shown to reduce the amount of carryover year to year. It doesn’t survive well once it’s been buried,” Osborne said. “Since everyone likes no-till, that is one management practice that could reduce the amount of residue on the surface.”

The best way to battle the disease is to plant resistant varieties.

“That is part of what makes it so important to choose a variety that has some proven tolerance, or resistance, to the disease, and while weather does seem to be a

defining [factor] in the severity of the disease year to year, there is really no other remedy but to plant resistant varieties,” Osborne said. “At the very minimum, if I were a grower who had significant damage last year, I would definitely be looking to plant a variety that has been determined to be fully resistant.”

Spring 2017 has shown to be mild, with quite a bit of moisture for Southwest Oklahoma, and if conditions persist, it could lead to another year of Bacterial blight infestation.

But there is no way to predict it, which means the only sure way to protect yields is to plant resistant varieties.

“I’m not a weatherman; I didn’t expect to see it so bad in my career in 2016, so I don’t know if we’re going to see it bad on susceptible varieties or not, but I can say this, if I’m a producer, and I don’t want to lose sleep over Bacterial blight, the only thing I can do is to plant a resistant variety,” Boman said. ☞

Sweet as OKie Honey

By Laci Jones

Oklahoma is well-known for producing cattle, growing wheat and the Native American heritage. Honey may not top the list, but Oklahoma beekeepers recognize the demand in the state for local honey.

“We capitalize on the demand for local honey,” said Michael Roark, owner of Roark Acres Honey Farms. “Our honey is local to Northeastern Oklahoma so people will pay a premium for it.”

Roark started his business as a hobby with two beehives in 2011. Six years later, he has expanded the business and began selling to consumers. Roark Acres Honey Farms has between 800 and 1,000 beehives today.

“When it became apparent that I was going to be doing this for a living, I went to work full-time for a couple of brothers in Pryor, Okla.,” he said.

Roark, who did not have a farm background, spent a year working and learning every aspect of the business from Green Country Honey. While production varies from year to year, Roark expects to extract 60,000 to 70,000 pounds of honey.

“In Oklahoma, we don't produce nearly as much honey as a lot of other states do,” Roark added. “On average in the state of Oklahoma, a hive will produce between 30 to 50 pounds.”

Breeds of Bees

While there are several breeds of bees, beekeepers around the world typically use the European honey bee. Bees native to the United States are not honey bees, he added.



Roark Acres Honey Farms has between 800 and 1,000 beehives. (Courtesy of Roark Acres Honey Farms)

“The two most prevalent strains or breeds of the European honey bee that are used in the United States for honey production are the Carniolan or the Italian,” Roark explained. “There's also Russian and Cordovan's. There's a bee called a Caucasian. All these are different breeds of bees.”

Many hobbyists have the Italian breed because they are non-aggressive. The Carniolan breed is an old cross between the Russian and the Italian breed. Carniolans have a similar temperament to the Italian breed but manage how many bees are in a hive more effectively. Bees used in the Midwest are a crossbreed between the

Carniolan and the Italian bee.

The Process

This process begins each spring where the bees are transported 400 miles south of Roark Acres headquarters in east Texas between Dallas and Houston. This allows the bees to get an earlier start as it begins blooming four weeks earlier than in Oklahoma.

The beekeepers make splits or divides, where they pick one hive and split the hive into two to four hives. They add a new queen bee to each hive, where hopefully she will establish herself as a honey producer.

“Each year, we bank on between 80 and 90 percent success

when we make those divides,” Roark explained. “If I make 1,000 or 1,500 divides or splits, then I'm banking that 80 percent of those, or better, will turn into honey producing hives.”

Once the hives are split, they sit in Texas for a month to “grow up a little bit,” he added. The honey is not extracted in Texas. Instead, the bees use the honey as fuel to grow in the spring. They are then shipped to Oklahoma, where they are spread out into a honey making yard. The beekeeper starts adding empty boxes and honey supers after, which are commercial beehives. The hives are

See OKIE page 17

evaluated throughout the process for health.

In the third week of June, they extract the honey and begin bottling. All Roark Acres honey bottled in Oklahoma is sold under the label “Okie Honey.” At the end of the process in Oklahoma, they are moved to central Wisconsin to start another honey crop. The extracted honey crop is kept separate from the Oklahoma honey.

“The honey that we make in Wisconsin, typically, is sold by the barrel to another bottler,” he added.

Roark said Roark Acres Honey Farms currently does not have a market for honey extracted in Wisconsin. This year, Roark Honey Farms plans to start bottling honey other than Oklahoma honey including the Wisconsin Wildfire Honey that will be available under the Roark Acres label.

The bees are returned to Oklahoma to prepare for winter when the process is finished. Preparing for winter entails giving the bees a round of sugar water to make sure they would have enough food to survive winter.

“We will give them some pollen substitute called pollen patties,” Roark said. “It is basically a protein supplement that is very similar in nutrient content to natural pollen.”

Those two food sources are what bees need to survive the winter and feed their young. The bees start to increase their numbers by the end of winter. If they have enough food storage, they can grow exponentially by this time, he added. In January, Roark Acres exports the bees to California to pollinate almonds, specifically in the Central Valley area.

“California actually imports a little over a million beehives each year to place into the almond orchards to pollinate those almonds,” he added.

Once the almonds are pollinated, the bees are shipped back to east Texas to complete the cycle.

Common Pests

While there are many minor pests, they can be prevented by having a strong beehive. However, a strong beehive cannot prevent the varroa mite.

“The varroa mite has struck the world except for Australia right now,” he explained. “It is a mite that has a parasitic relationship with bees. The mite feeds off the larva of the bees, and they come into the beehives on the adult bees.”

The mites pass on viruses that weaken a beehive. As the number of infected bees increases, the more likely the hive will die. Roark said different methods are used to keep the mites at bay. Making sure the beekeepers stay on top of mites is a key to a successful hive, he added.

One method of testing is using an alcohol wash, where 100 bees are gathered into a jar and washed with alcohol, killing them. Then, they are screened to see how many mites have died.

“Knowing the number of mites that you have in your hive per hundred bees or so on any given month is important,” he added. “We try to make sure that we have the mite loads really low at the beginning of spring and the next time we can treat is after all of the honey is done, which is at the beginning of fall.”

Forms of Honey

The rawest form of honey is comb honey, where the honey is unprocessed. Comb honey is not extracted as it is a honeycomb with caps that still has honey, he explained.

“A lot of folks really love to eat it that way because it's kind of nostalgic,” Roark added. “It's hard to find anymore. We make a little bit of it each year and harvest



A queen bee is added to each hive and will establish herself as a honey producer. (Courtesy of Roark Acres Honey Farms)

that in July.”

The most familiar form of honey is liquid honey, which can be found on the shelf at the grocery store. All honey will crystallize naturally as honey is a super solution and water. Honey has too much sugar for the water to hold, so it crystallizes.


When the honey is extracted, Roark Honey Acres lightly strains the honey and bottles the liquid honey.

“A lot of times, the big bottlers process honey to prolong its liquid state,” he added. “Ours will always look less crystal clear than what you'd buy in a grocery store.”

Another form of honey is known as creamed honey, whipped honey or spun honey. This form of honey is made in a controlled crystallization process.

“It's taking advantage of something that happens naturally and forcing it to happen quickly,” Roark said. “In doing so you keep the sugar crystals small and you get a creamy texture or a whipped texture.”

Also at some grocery stores are honey granules, where other ingredients like processed sugar are added to the honey.

To contact Roark Acres Honey Farms, visit www.roarkacres.com. 



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THE DROVER

18,000 Cattle, Nine Months and 1,600 Miles

By Jessica Crabtree

Imagine if you will, being in the saddle, atop a horse, behind cattle, in the dust and heat for nine months. That's 39 weeks, 273 days and 6,570 hours. That is just the logistics behind the Brinkworth Cattle Drove of 2013 that took place from Winton, Queensland to Hay, New South Wales, in Australia, traveling various stock routes. Between Queensland and New South Wales are 3.2 million hectares (7,907,372 acres) of stock routes. It is an authorized thoroughfare for farmers to walk domestic livestock from one location to another. Most commonly the stock route is known as "The Long Paddock." A huge undertaking, the drovers navigated the stock routes through advisement from the local shire council on which were passable, had good grazing and were with or without water. Permits were written weekly to the "mobs" or herds so that they could keep traveling. The stock routes were put in place years before roads were made and trucks were used to haul cattle. When made, the water was put in place every six miles or so. Modernization proved the demise of the routes.

Australian farmer and agriculture tycoon Tom Brinkworth purchased 18,000 head of cattle in 2013 in the midst of a staggering drought. That totaled \$8 million. This was the largest transaction ever in the world from a seller to a buyer in cattle. Brinkworth was challenged with moving his cattle more than 1,600 miles to his station, also known as his ranch. When adding up the cost of freight to truck the massive amount of cattle, it was nearly the same amount of money to simply walk



The cattle were split into nine mobs of 2,000 head of cattle to make the 1,600 mile trip. (Photo by Al Mabin)

the cattle down. The purchased cattle were eight months to two-year-old breeding heifers. Their breeding was a mix of Brahman crosses, short horn crosses and Santa Gertrudis.

Alice Mabin, a New Zealand born girl, was raised on a station with cattle, sheep and deer, riding horses and tending to animals. After receiving her degree in animal science, Alice worked on various stations until an injury to her leg resulted in her finding a new career. That was in the form of working with the corporate company, Zoetis. Through her job, the young lady was able to travel and live in Canada, Europe and Australia. It became apparent to Alice that the farmers and ranchers she dealt with regularly had no means of photography to properly

market their livestock. An idea evolved and led Alice to resign from her position and seek out a photography class. From there she set out to be a photographer. On her first day of unemployment, fortune struck.

The drove began in June of 2013. "All the media was covering the event. I thought I would go out and take a picture or two," the photographer said. As Alice stood with the cattle approaching, the lead drover pointed to her. He was riding one horse and leading another. He asked if she could ride. "He asked and then said, 'Here, get on.' I thought okay. I never really got to answer, just grabbed the horse and said, 'yep, right on.'" At first the photographer thought it was a joke, that she was being used for entertainment.

Along the drove, the cattle were split into nine "mobs" or herds of 2,000 head each. Each drover had a "ringer" or day worker to help. After a few hours, the lead drover, whose name was Bill Little, offered Alice a drink, long sleeve shirt and hat so that she wouldn't "lobster" or burn. Alice stayed on for four days. Once returning home, Alice, in dire need of a bath and change of clothes, began uploading images to her Facebook. "People went crazy over the pictures!" A mentor of Alice's advised this drove was history in the making, something she needed to be apart of and photograph. "So I set out to call Bill. It took a while to reach him because of poor service in the bush," Alice said. After explaining
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DROVER

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her idea to photograph their journey, he agreed to allow her out.

"He warned me the other drovers may not warm up to me. I was an outsider with a camera seen as media," Alice elaborated. However, after seeing Alice, too, could ride and put in the hours on hot, dusty days, the others warmed up to her presence. Thereafter, the photographer was along for a journey of a lifetime, only seen in movies or read about in books.

Daily the mobs covered four to six miles. It was a huge commitment for every person involved, one that surely tested their devotion. "The days were long and hard work. Our days started at a quarter to 4 a.m. The generator was our alarm clock. We would get dressed, pack up, drink coffee and maybe eat a piece of toast before saddling our horse," the young lady described.

Waking every morning from a "swag" or bedroll from sleeping underneath the stars may raise a few eyebrows as to the comfort and safety of such provisions. "The nights were super quiet, no traffic. All you could hear was silence, but there was still noise from the cattle," she said. Alice remembered the only noise that would keep her up was the sound of cattle chewing their cud and belching. Most agitating was the condamine bell placed around the neck of the lead horse to associate where the horses were. "It would be silence then you hear, ding-ding-ding," she laughed.

At night cattle were placed in a make-shift pen or "yarded" with stakes and hot wire then electrified. "The cattle had to be placed in a pen tightly. If they had too much room to move, they got anxious and might stampede," learned the photographer. Each camp had a horse trailer, basically the equivalent to horse trailers and trucks or cargo vehicles here in the states that would allow for travel back and forth to town for supplies, equipment and dogs.

The drovers used their horses and dogs as tools for their trade while on the drove. "There were lots of puppies born along the way," Alice stated. Each drover had between 40 and 50 working dogs to help keep cattle moving and 20 to 30 horses, a new one for each day. Spare horses walked along side the cattle during the day and were yarded at night. Alice herself brought along her four-legged companion, a Jack Russell named "Harry." "On this particular day it got above 45 degrees Celsius (104



Photographer and self-published author of "The Drover," Al (Alice) Mabin. (Courtesy of Al Mabin)

degrees Fahrenheit). He over-heated and died out there," Alice explained.

Days on the drove were long, hot and dusty, real dusty. After days and days of looking at cattle, Alice admitted they all began to look the same. "I had to get smart when taking pictures. I would lie awake at night thinking about images I wanted or wake up and write an idea down," the photographer explained. The next day Alice would tell the drovers. Getting them involved, they would advise her on when and where to get the shots. Having nine mobs moving at once, Alice would travel between the nine taking photos, "I would hitch a ride to my car. I would know the area another mob may be and set out. I would search for cow droppings along the routes until I found them."

As the drove moved on, grass and water in various areas had been without cattle so long, conditions at times were a toss up. Some grass was "flogged out" or bit off. Water in places was poor quality or dry. Sometimes drovers had no choice other than to move on. "It only happened a few times, but I swear you could see the look of disdain on the cattle's faces," Alice described. Other times it was necessary to truck water in or even pump water to portable troughs if the ground was too soft. "Funny

thing about the cattle, the same always drank first and the last always drank last," agreeing the animals were smarter than they looked.

Along the route there were no major incidents. Cattle maintained their health, especially through vaccinations administered along the way and tick treatment at crossings. Since stations allow bulls to run year-round, some of the yearling heifers were bred and had babies along the way. Due to the long distance, Alice said the calves were given away to local farmers. Alice described, other than the persistent heat and dust, dangers included two snakes by her swag at different times and unruly drivers speeding through mobs of cattle or grumpy farmers unwilling to share the grass with the mob passing through.

The terrain in "the bush," which is associated with anything outside of the city limits of the coastal towns where 90 percent of the populations lives, is flat with few trees called "timber." In areas with timber, Alice described the hardship of moving cattle through it. Even at times finding water and steep ledges they had to drink off of. Because of the sizeable mobs, drovers would check water prior. So cattle wouldn't muddy the water for others by bath
See MABIN page 22



(Top to bottom) At times, along the drove it was necessary to pump water to cattle in portable tanks. The breeding of the cattle was a mix of Brahman crosses, short horn crosses and Santa Gertrudis. (Photos by Al Mabin)





Mabin said the cattle along the drove were quite gentle. Only a handful of times did one become restless and wander. (Photo by Al Mabin)

MABIN

Continued from page 20

ing or get bogged down, they at times fenced it off so that the cattle could only reach in to get a drink. Once at a water stop, it took the mobs of cattle between two and three hours to water. Drovers or ringers would work to slow the cattle, allowing only a few hundred at a time to drink.

Along the drove, Alice carried her computer with her to download and document images, working on them when time allowed. The photographer charged her camera batteries with the generator. "When it came on I would plug in my batteries; however, I never got a full battery the entire time." Camp was primitive as a means of moving on. A "toggle" or large drum of water was kept full for showering, which Alice said was possible to do most days. After a long day in the saddle from 4 a.m. to 8 p.m., filling their bellies each night and rest sustained them daily. Alice learned from the drovers that cattle must be treated the same way. Drover Bill Little said, "It's not about the hard yards, it's about planning. Find out where the water and the feed are and utilize them. Cattle won't settle if they are going to bed at night thirsty and hungry." Alice said additionally, "[A drover] is born in to it. They either do it right or not at all. There's really no way to learn all it entails. There's lots to the logistics of time of water, quality of water, where the better grass is and if you leave early to get good grass further away or leave later because it's close."


Including drovers and ringers, the nine mob drove of 18,000 head consisted of 20 people executing it. Each person ranged in age, experience and came from various areas. All drovers carried a stock whip to use when cattle were being yarded or needed to move at a faster rate. Each maintained their horses, putting shoes on them when necessary. All horses were of a young age, a good time to learn the ropes. Some drovers were single, some married, others brought along their families. A native to the land of aboriginal descent was Theo Parry, who was only 18 years old on the drove. Alice was astounded by the young man's knowledge of the bush and incredible ability with the cattle.

As the end of the trip grew near, the drovers began to prepare the cattle for isolation. "The last two weeks, drovers began stopping the cattle and just sitting, un-training the cattle from constant walking," the photographer explained. As the cattle's journey ended in Uardry, it was eight weeks time of arrival between the first and last mob. Alice explained, "When coming down, drovers had to navigate different routes where grass was available and not flogged out."

As the cattle found their new home in February of 2014, and the dust settled, drovers, ringers and Alice returned to their former lives. Alice had captured nearly 10,000 images. For her 193 page book, she narrowed it down to 200 photos. Printing and marketing the book

initially was not easy. However, once engulfed in the pages, people couldn't get enough. "Creating it, [The Drover] I wanted it to be unique. I spent ages looking through other books. I noticed, for design, so often the pages looked the same. I didn't want people to get bored with just flat pictures," the photographer and creator described. For that reason Alice designed and created pages with a 3-D aspect to show action and emotion. "I wanted to create something never seen before," Alice added.

"The Drover" launched in July of 2014. To date the book has sold more than 30,000 copies world-wide. In a recent trip to the states and first time to Texas, Alice brought her book. Self-published, the thirty-year-old entrepreneur was here promoting and marketing her work. Additional to "The Drover," Alice has created "The Driver." Page by page, the photographer's images tell a story, one that may never be told again. Dust, storm clouds, sunrises and sunsets all through a sea of cattle will never be duplicated. People's raw emotion, hard work and livelihood are seen in the good, bad and in real time.

Deemed the four-time best seller in Australia and an international best seller, "The Drover" can be ordered as well as prints of images via Amazon. To get in touch with the photographer/ entrepreneur email Alice at alice@almabin.com and keep up with her worldly travels through her Facebook page Al Mabin or The Driver. 



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A NEW BREED IN NORTH TEXAS

By Krista Lucas



(Left to right) Galicenos are family-friendly horses. For more information find the Galiceno Horse Breeders Association on Facebook. (Courtesy Galiceno Horse Breeders Association) Lucero de la Manana stands at Zaal Ranch for 2017 breeding. (Courtesy Jennifer Williams)

When beginning to search for a family-friendly horse, you may think where do I begin? Several North Texas residents have turned to the horses called Galicenos. The breed itself dates back to before the “New World,” but there are less than 100 of these horses today, and the Livestock Conservancy now places them on the critically endangered list.

The “little horse with a big heart” originally hails from the small province of Spain called Galicia. The ancient Galicenos were one of the first equine breeds to come to North America. Hernando Cortes brought the horses over from Cuba when he invaded Mexico in 1519. These are the ancestors of the wild mustangs that roam the country.

The Galiceno eventually became a forgotten breed in Mexico and was not brought to the United States until 1958. Two men from Texas were looking for smaller pleasure horses, as well as work-

ing horses. Galicenos once served Conquistadors and are now used for both children and adults to enjoy.

Small and spirited describe the Galiceno breed, and they are known for their riding ease, intelligence, courage, endurance, and functional size. Galicenos are seen in a wide variety of solid colors with a shorthair type.

There are no albinos or pintos. Although a Galiceno will only be 12 to 13.2 hands high, it possesses extremely high stamina that cannot be matched by other horse breeds. The structure of the horse benefits the rider as well.

The Galiceno Horse Breeders Association was formed in 1959. Recently, a couple of local individuals have taken over the association in hopes of growing and promoting the breed they love so much.

Kit Kirkwood is the current president and Jennifer Williams is the vice president. Kirkwood and her husband, Bill, purchased

their first Galiceno horse six years ago, and with help from her friend Jennifer Williams, they were able to restore the association.

“In December of 2016, Kit and I decided to acquire a total of 10 horses and purchase the organization. It was Kit who originally introduced me to this breed when she would bring them here on Wednesday nights to my barrel races,” Williams said. “I started talking to her about them and what great qualities they have. I went with her to look at some of these horses, and we both decided to take a leap of faith and try to save this dying breed.”

Now, both ladies own two breeding stallions and several brood mares and are working on developing breeding and training programs as well.

“Our goal is to try to get these great, big-hearted, little horses in the hands of the right people who will ride them and use them to help us promote this breed to the public.”

Williams wants people to know how vital it is to save this breed. Galicenos will soon be extinct if they are not successful with their plan.

The association encourages owners to get all Galiceno horses registered and accounted for. They can also help owners who may have lost horses’ papers by looking up any records dating back to the origination of the association.

The Kirkwoods own the Galiceno stallion, Sundance Kid, a blue roan seven-year-old by Kid Sunday and stands at Thackerville, Okla. Lucero de la Manana is a 14-year-old red line back dun by Sin Dinero, owned by Andre and Jennifer Zaal of Zaal Ranch in Collinsville, Texas. Both of these stallions stand for \$500 each.

Kit and I are hoping more people will come and take a look at our horses, and we invite everyone out to visit,” Williams said. “We are the original Galiceno Horse Breeders Association.”

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Horse Diarrhea

What is the Cause in Adult Horses?

By Lauren Lamb, DVM

The equine digestive tract is a complex and fragile system that is easily disrupted. Colic is the most common outcome of a digestive tract upset in a horse; however, diarrhea is a close second. Colitis (inflammation in the colon) is another term used to describe a horse with diarrhea.

Diarrhea in a horse is caused by a lack of water absorption in the large colon, which can result in a loss of 10 gallons of water and electrolytes daily. There are numerous potential causes of diarrhea. They can be grouped into the following categories:

- Infectious diseases such as Salmonella, Clostridium or Potomac Horse Fever
- Altered intestinal flora (microbes in the colon). This can be seen in horses that are on antibiotics or exposed to toxins. This type of diarrhea more times than not leads to infectious diarrhea.
- Non-infectious diarrhea

- Changes in diet (lush pastures, rich feed, excessive carbohydrates)

- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Neoplasia
- Sand in the colon

Horses with non-infectious diarrhea can have a transient diarrhea that will resolve in a couple of days with minimal clinical signs, or they can have chronic diarrhea with minimal to mild clinical signs. Horses with diarrhea secondary to an infectious disease will have a more severe case of diarrhea that could potentially become life threatening if not addressed properly.



Classic exam of a horse with watery diarrhea secondary to a Salmonella infection. (Photo by Lauren Lamb)

Clinical signs of infectious diarrhea may be one of the most important factors to consider when deciphering between infectious and non-infectious diarrhea. Horses with infectious diarrhea will develop diarrhea rapidly. Within hours they go from having normal manure to straight water. They are frequently depressed, lethargic, colicky, not eating, sweating, have cold extremities and their heart rate and respiratory rate will be elevated.

All the clinical signs mentioned in the previous paragraph are caused by the horse absorbing endotoxins from the colon. These

endotoxins are produced by the bacteria that live inside the colon and aid in digestion.

When a horse has a form of infectious diarrhea, the colon mucosa (lining on the inside of the colon) is damaged by the infectious bacteria. The damage to the mucosa allows the endotoxins to be absorbed into the blood stream, which in turn cause the clinical signs outlined above.

As mentioned earlier, the three most common causes of infectious diarrhea in the adult horse are Salmonella, Clostridium (difficile or perfringens), and Potomac Horse Fever. Fecal cultures and/or PCR

test (a test to isolate the DNA from a particular bacteria) are the most common ways to diagnose a horse with Salmonella. The culture is a more accurate way to identify the Salmonella bacteria as the cause of diarrhea.

A PCR test can also be performed on the feces for toxins that are produced by the Clostridium bacteria. A test performed on the horse's blood can be used to diagnosis Potomac Horse Fever. Potomac Horse Fever is rarely seen in this region of the country. It is typically seen in the north-eastern part of the United States. **See ADULT page 27**

Adult

There are several other tests such as complete blood cell count, serum chemistry, pack cell volume, total protein, abdominal ultrasound, peritoneal fluid analysis and abdominal radiographs that your veterinarian may run to help establish the cause of the diarrhea and how sick your horse is as a result of diarrhea.

Treatment for a horse with diarrhea is usually geared toward supportive care. Supportive care includes IV fluids to replace all the water and electrolytes not being absorbed by the large colon. Pain killers and anti-inflammatory medication (such as Banamine or Bute) help decrease the amount of inflammation and thickening of the large colon wall. The anti-inflammatory medication will also help your horse feel better and encourage him to eat.

Eating food such as grass hay is beneficial when trying to get a horse's diarrhea to resolve. Intestinal protectants such as Bio-Sponge, Pepto-Bismol or activated charcoal are given to help prevent absorption of damaging toxins into the blood stream.

Similar to eating grass hay, the intestinal protectants will help the colon heal faster, which in turn will cause the diarrhea to stop. Probiotics are also administered to a horse with diarrhea to help re-populate the colon with normal flora (good bacteria that aid in digestion and do not cause diarrhea).

The one treatment for diarrhea that is controversial among veterinarians is the use of antibiotics. As mentioned earlier, the use of antibiotics can cause a shift in the normal bacteria flora within the colon. This shift can cause the bad bacteria such as Salmonella and Clostridium to overgrow and cause the clinical signs associated with infectious diarrhea. Most veterinarians will avoid using

antibiotics unless the horse has a low white cell count (white cells are responsible for the horse's immune system fighting of bacterial infections).

Two possible complications of horses having diarrhea is laminitis (founder) or kidney failure. Icing a horse's feet will help prevent the horse from getting laminitis and IV fluids will help prevent kidney failure.

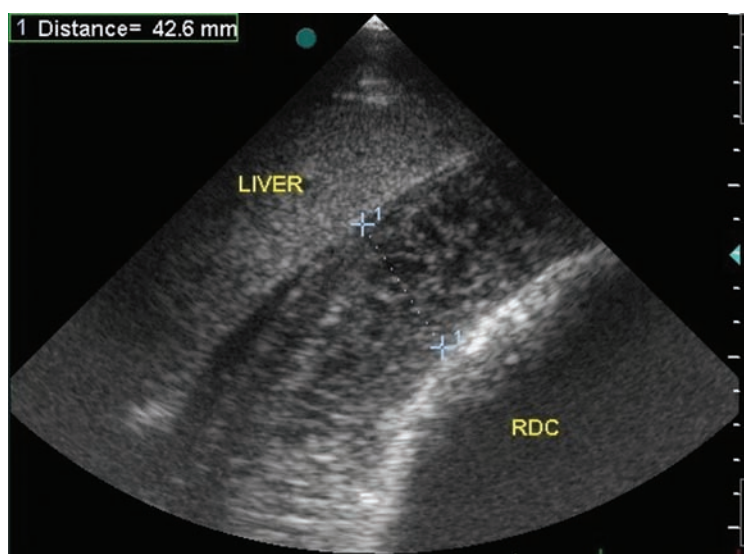
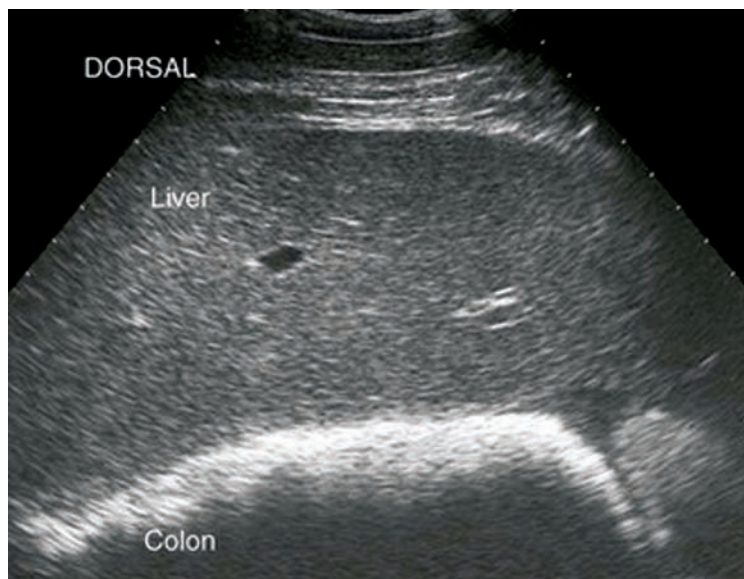
Salmonella and Clostridium can cause diarrhea in other horses, as well as other animals and humans. For this reason, horses with diarrhea should be isolated from other animals on the farm and strict biosecurity measures should be used when handling horses with diarrhea. Potomac Horse Fever is not contagious between horses or other animals.

Isolating a horse means they are kept in an area of the farm where they cannot have direct contact with other animals. When handling horses with diarrhea, you should wear disposable gloves, boot covers and a pair of coveralls that are only worn when going in and out of the stall or paddock where the horse is housed.

Your boots should be dipped in disinfectant when leaving the isolation area and your hands should be washed with antimicrobial soap. Separate buckets, grooming and stall cleaning equipment should be used on a horse with diarrhea.

The take-home message is that diarrhea in an adult horse is frequently a result of stress or a change in diet. This type of diarrhea will resolve in a day or two and will cause minimal clinical signs.

On the other hand, diarrhea can be caused by infectious agents, which can be life threatening if not addressed rapidly. Contacting your veterinarian if your horse has diarrhea is strongly encouraged. ☒



The top photo is a picture of a horse's colon wall that is normal in thickness. The bottom photo is a picture of a horse's colon wall that is extremely thickened, secondary to a Clostridial infection within the colon. (Photos by Lauren Lamb)



Intestinal protectants such as Bio-Sponge are given to help prevent absorption of damaging toxins into the blood stream. (Courtesy photo)

Life of a Ranch Wife

By Lanna Mills

Ranching is one of America's oldest professions. Long before computers, cars, department stores, and even electricity, there was ranching. There must be a reason why after all these years, all the advancements in technology and all the changes this world has seen that ranching remains. There is a need and a demand for ranching. Why is ranching so important? Ranching feeds us, it preserves the land, and it is part of our history.

Without ranching, there would be no beef for cheeseburgers or steaks for those summer cookouts. The United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service reported Americans consumed 24.8 billion pounds of beef in 2015. In addition to the beef consumed by Americans, \$5.6 billion worth of beef was exported. The top four countries being exported to include Japan, Canada, Mexico, and South Korea. These are astonishing numbers given the fact that 90 percent of beef produced in America is sold in America and only 10 percent is exported.

Millions of consumers go to the supermarket and purchase beef every day. How many of those consumers actually stop and think about the process to get that cut of meat? There is a lot of work that goes into getting it from hoof to plate.

First, there is a ranch somewhere that raised the calf. The calf was then weaned at about 450 to 700 pounds and put on pasture. From there it goes to a feedlot (feedyard) where they will typically spend four to six months. When the cattle reach market weight, which is usually 1,200 to 1,400 pounds, they are sent to a



Americans consumed 24.8 billion pounds of beef in 2015. (Photo by Lanna Mills)

processing facility.

When at the processing facility, the beef is inspected from the time it arrives until it is sent out. The final step is when the beef is sold and shipped to restaurants and grocery stores where it is purchased by the consumer.

In addition to meat, the hide is also used. The hides are tanned and the resulting leather is used to make many things we use every day. Some products from the hides include saddles, chaps and bridles used by cowboys. Some hides are also used to make shoes, purses, gloves and furniture.

Ranching also helps to preserve the land. Cattle graze, which controls the amount of tall dry

grasses that can fuel wildfires. The manure produced by cattle returns nutrients back into the soil and fertilizes vegetation.

Studies have shown that the diversity of plants and animals is greater on grazed land than that of land that is not grazed. As long as the land is being used for ranching, it will not be destroyed for "development," which some call it, meaning that the trees and grass will be dozed and homes, pavement, and building will be built in its place.

Ranching is an important part of our heritage. As long as we keep the traditions alive, this vital part of our history will not be forgotten. Ranching is passed

down from generation to generation. We pour our heart and soul into the land, the livestock, and the work that coincides with the two. Though the ways of ranching have changed from that of a few hundred years ago, the end goal remains the same: raise healthy cattle for beef production.

While there are some people who disagree with ranching practices and the consumption of beef and there are organizations that hinder the processes and make things harder on producers, ranching will remain important. There will always be a demand for beef, ranchers will continue to preserve the land, and ranching will forever be a part of our history. ☞

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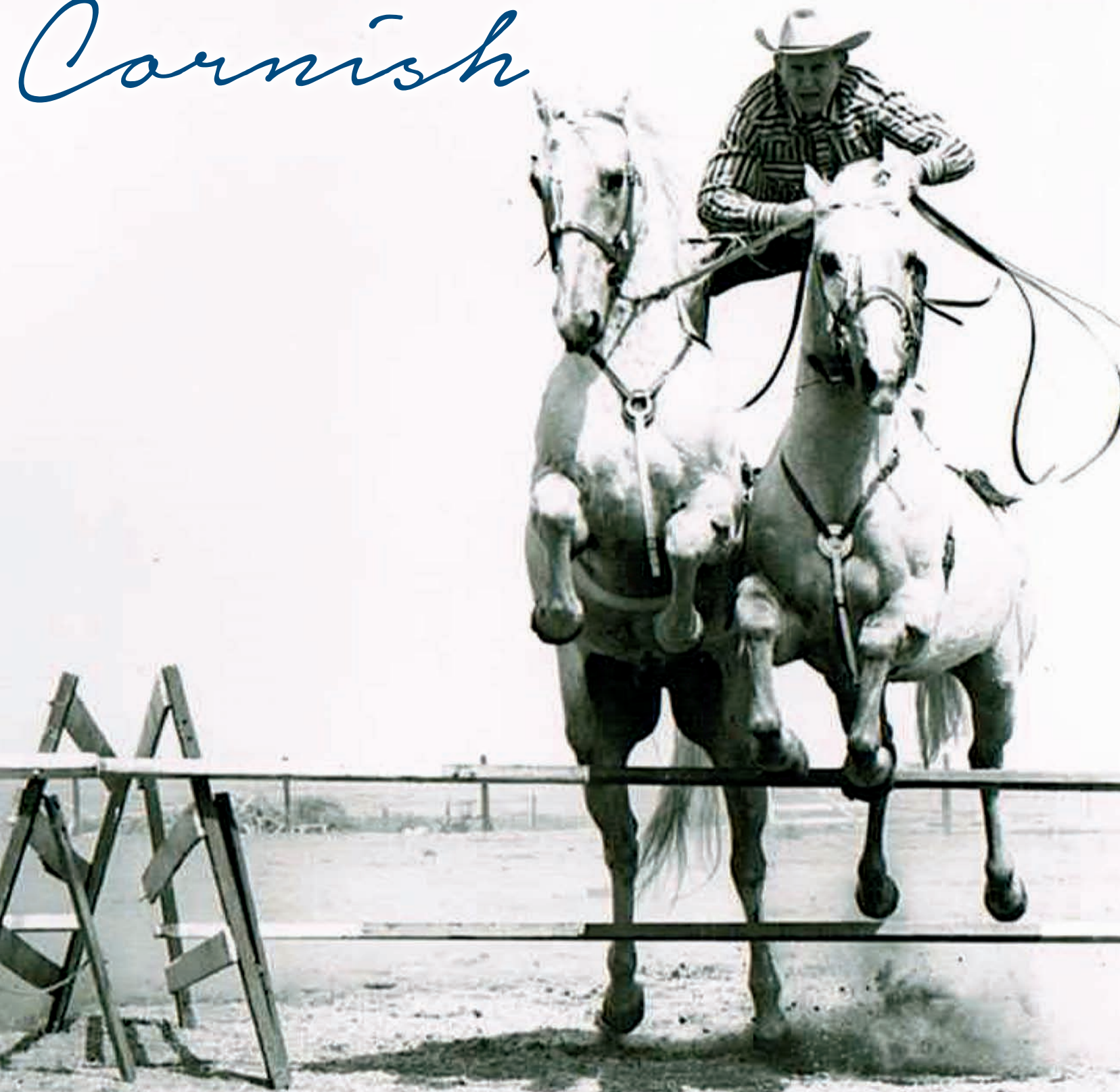
SON OF MI

Wayne



MR. RODDEO

Cornish



This photograph of Wayne Cornish (left) and his father, Cecil is the only photo taken of the father-son duo jumping their Roman riding teams together. (Courtesy of Wayne Cornish)

SON OF MR. RODEO

Wayne Cornish

Eighty-two-year-old Wayne Cornish walked through his home in Enid, Okla., that is filled with old memorabilia and talked as if the photos were taken yesterday. He pointed to a large black and white photo of two men jumping over a fence while standing atop two Roman riding teams. The two men in the photo happen to be Cornish and his father, Cecil Cornish.

"I'm going to tell you a story," Cornish began.

A man came to their farm near Waukomis, Okla., requesting to take a picture of the father-son duo. Cecil told the photographer, "We are going to have to get them ready, but I guess we will get a picture." They took their Roman riding teams—Cornish's "The Flying White Clouds" and Cecil's "The Golden Eagles" to the pasture and the picture was taken.

"It was the first and only time they jumped together," said Jackie Cornish, Wayne Cornish's wife of 22 years.

Formerly known as Mr. Rodeo among his friends, Cecil was born in 1909 in Waukomis, Okla. He began his rodeo performance career in the 1930s. As an animal lover, he began training a six-month-old colt named Smokey to perform tricks, later becoming one of his favorite acts. The pioneer performer taught Smokey how to dance, shake hands and play dead, among other entertaining tricks.

While he initially took to the rodeo circuit competing as a bronc rider and roper, he later began performing. Arguably, his most famous acts included Smokey, his Brahma bull named Danger, six Palomino liberty horses and his Roman riding team. Throughout his career, there were three Danger bulls, which he taught to

jump over a car as well as perform other tricks.

Throughout his career, Cecil performed with celebrities including Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, Red Ryder and Little Beaver. He was a member of the Cowboys Turtle Association, the predecessor of the Rodeo Cowboys Association, later becoming the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.

"We didn't know we was rodeoing, but we worked hard."

-Wayne Cornish

He performed across the United States and Canada including Madison Square Garden in New York and the Cow Palace in San Francisco. The pioneer performer was quoted in the December 2000 issue of "Western Horseman" estimating he performed in more than 800 rodeos.

In the prime of his performance career, Cecil married Juanita in 1933. With Juanita making his fancy show attire, the couple often traveled together for performances. His outfits were memorable as they were colorful and elaborate, according to his biography in the ProRodeo Hall of Fame.

Two years after Cecil and Juanita were married, their only child was born in Waukomis, Okla., on Feb. 2. Following in his father's footsteps, Cornish began performing at a young age. His rodeo debut was at the age of five when barrel men John Lindsay and Hoyt Heifner put Cornish on a calf in Ponca City, Okla.

"I rode him plum across the arena," Cornish said with a laugh. "I remember my boots fell off, but I rode that bull."

The bullfighters laughed about

the performance and gave the young bull rider \$4 for his rodeo debut. During this time, Cornish also performed in Cecil's act where Danger would jump over a car.

"I would lay down in the back seat, the bull would jump over us and I would crawl out and act like I had been sleeping," Cornish laughed.

The Cornish family traveled from coast to coast together throughout his childhood. In fact, he spent more time on the road with his parents than in school. The family was at a rodeo across the United States when Juanita said Cornish needed to get back to school. Cecil said the experience would not hurt the young performer, but Juanita insisted.

"They got Wayne [Cornish] back to school, but Cecil wasn't happy about driving all the way back here and all the way back to the rodeo," Jackie explained.

Cornish was later expelled from school because of his absences, after working a rodeo in east Texas. Cecil visited the school board to get Cornish back in school.

"Cecil said, 'He probably learned more from going to the rodeo than he would've in school,'" Jackie added.

The school allowed the student to return to school, but he continued to travel the rodeo circuit. The rodeo clown got his Pro-Rodeo Cowboys Association Card in 1953 and graduated from high school a year later.

It wasn't long before com-

mentators referred to Cornish as "a chip off the old block who is rapidly becoming a block of his own." Like his father, many of Cornish's acts included animals—six golden liberty horses, a pig Cornish referred to as a garbage disposal and "The Flying White Clouds."

He started working with The Flying White Clouds in 1953, performing many tricks which included jumping through rings of fire. Cornish said his dad helped him train Susie and Sallie, sisters in The Flying White Clouds, but Ed Curtis helped the performer at an event in Kansas. He said they had a light show and one of the horses fell over backwards during the jump, throwing Cornish. Curtis helped get the horses under control, he added.

"To this day, they always jump perfectly," Cornish beamed. "They were a perfect, perfect act and they were never hurt again."

While he continued his specialty acts, Cornish preferred clowning and being a barrel man. Cornish has more than 20 years of stories while wearing the clown suit and painted face.

"We didn't know we was rodeoing, but we worked hard," Cornish explained.

He performed with some of the best rodeo clowns including Oklahoma natives Dixie Mosley, Junior Meek and Jim Hill, describing them as "some of the best in the world." Performing was not always work as many of the rodeo clowns enjoyed pulling practical pranks on one another.

It once snowed the night before a scheduled rodeo in Utah, and Cornish said there were maybe three or four people in the stands watching the rodeo. He came out
See RODEO page 34



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SON OF MR. RODEO

Wayne Cornish

Continued from page 32

with his old suit on because he did not want to get muddy for only a few people.

“[Jim Hill] moved over behind me and shoved me down in the mud, but I got him,” he recalled. “He said, ‘We need a picture,’ so I hit him. He was a funny act.”

Cornish once performed in front of president Harry S. Truman at a rodeo in his hometown of Independence, M.O. Margaret Truman accidentally stepped on her dog’s tail, making the dog yelp. The yelp sounded like the nickname for former president, Dwight Eisenhower, “Ike.” Cornish told the former First Lady that he would have to shoot the dog for yelping “Ike, Ike, Ike.” The rodeo clown said President Truman just laughed.

Cornish worked as a rodeo clown in many of the rodeos his father performed in, and they often traveled together from coast to coast. Together, they worked in large rodeos as well as the small, local rodeos.

Being a rodeo clown and performer does not come without risks. Like many rodeo cowboys, Cornish suffered from many injuries including broken ribs to broken shoulders. A broken neck in 1962 prevented him from working in the National Finals Rodeo in Oklahoma City.

The injuries he sustained throughout his career was one of the reasons Cornish put away his clown outfit. Another reason for quitting was because of Cecil. By 1971, Cornish said the animals were getting older, which lead Cecil to decide on retiring after returning from a rodeo in Evanston, Wyo.

“He said, ‘Son, I want to tell you something. Smokey is getting

a lot of miles on him, and I had pretty good luck for all them years that he had,’” Cornish recalled. “Some people really thought they were a good act and they were.”

While he no longer performed as a rodeo clown or performer, Cornish remained invested in the rodeo circuit by hauling horses. Traveling across the United States and Canada, he hauled horses for Hull and Smith from Ashland, Neb.; Walter Merrick, race horse breeder from Sayre, Okla.; and Betty and Dee Raper, Belle Mere Farm in Norman, Okla. Cornish said he was always on the road, and he once got a call from Raper who was checking in on him.

“He said, ‘Wayne, are you all right?’” Cornish recalled. “I said, ‘Yes sir, I’m working and busy. I got things to do.’”

Jackie said the Rapers said they have never had anyone before or since Cornish who was as responsible. He hauled racing horses and roping horses. Among those horses included Genuine Risk, one of three fillies that won the Kentucky Derby.

“I hauled a lot of horses—good horses from Florida to California,” Cornish added.

Cornish said he later started hauling livestock but quit because of his daughters. When asked if he missed being on the road, he said “I do” without hesitating.

Since then, he has attended many rodeo clown reunions. One reunion was held at Oklahoma City. Donning his clown suit, he and nine other rodeo clowns raced donkeys and mules in Remington Park. Cornish laughed and said he wanted to prove to the other clowns that he could win the first mule race held at Remington Park, and he succeeded. Cornish was awarded a belt buckle for the

achievement.

Among Cornish’s many achievements includes a lifetime member of the PRCA. The former rodeo clown has received the Andy Womack Memorial Award, named after a rodeo clown from the ‘30s to ‘40s. The memorial award is the highest award a rodeo clown can receive.

In 1991, Cecil was inducted into the National Cowboy Hall of Fame, and was inducted into the ProRodeo Hall of Fame in 2003. He died later that year in Enid, Okla.

The Cornishes collected many years’ worth of rodeo memorabilia. In 2010, a storm caused them to pack the memorabilia including photos belt buckles, medallions and other irreplaceable items into a large suitcase and other bags.

They took the items to Jackie’s mother’s storm shelter to keep them safe. They did not tell anyone where they put the memorabilia, but Jackie was apprehensive about leaving the precious items. She suggested putting a padlock on the storm shelter, but Cornish and her mother believed the items were safe.

“We go over to get [the memorabilia] and this one big suit case that would’ve taken two people to get it out of there is gone,” Jackie recalled. “We searched everywhere, and I know nobody would have just taken them and thrown them away.”

The irreplaceable items have yet to be returned.

Some memorabilia, including the barrel Cornish used in his rodeo clown days, is on display at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

Two years later, Cornish had a brain aneurysm. When they

arrived at the hospital, the neurosurgeon showed Jackie a picture showing the blood clot in Cornish’s cranium and told her he was likely going to die. The neurosurgeon presented the option of surgery, but the chances of the former rodeo performer surviving were minimal.

“I went up to the chapel and said a lot of prayers,” Jackie recalled. “I said, ‘If he can’t be himself, then take him, but if he can, leave him here because I need him.’”

Cornish survived the surgery and was taken to the intensive care unit. While many still believed Cornish would not survive, Jackie knew he would. The aneurysm affected his central nervous system on the left side, impacting his vision and speech, she added. Five years later, Jackie supports Cornish by serving as his eyes and helping tell many stories of his career in the rodeo circuit.

“There’s not much I can do without her,” Cornish added.

Cornish and Jackie met when they were teenagers and were high school sweethearts. Their families were good friends, but Jackie’s parents thought Cornish was too old to date her.

“I always liked her,” he explained. “I really did like her.”

They went on to marry other people, but they were reunited 30 years later. The couple married in 1995. The couple has six daughters from previous marriages: Donna Kay, Shawna, Jacquetta, Kelly Ann, Kimberly and Karen.

“I am so blessed that he is still here,” Jackie said. “He is just so funny.”

Today, the former rodeo clown enjoys making people laugh and reminiscing on the days when he wore the clown suit. ☞

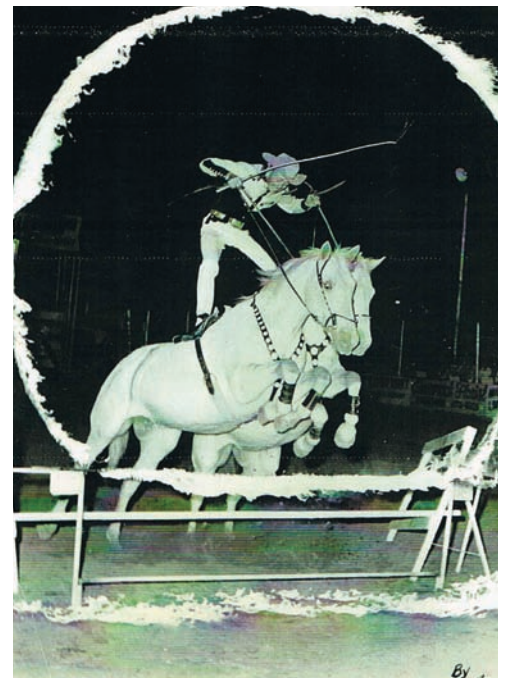
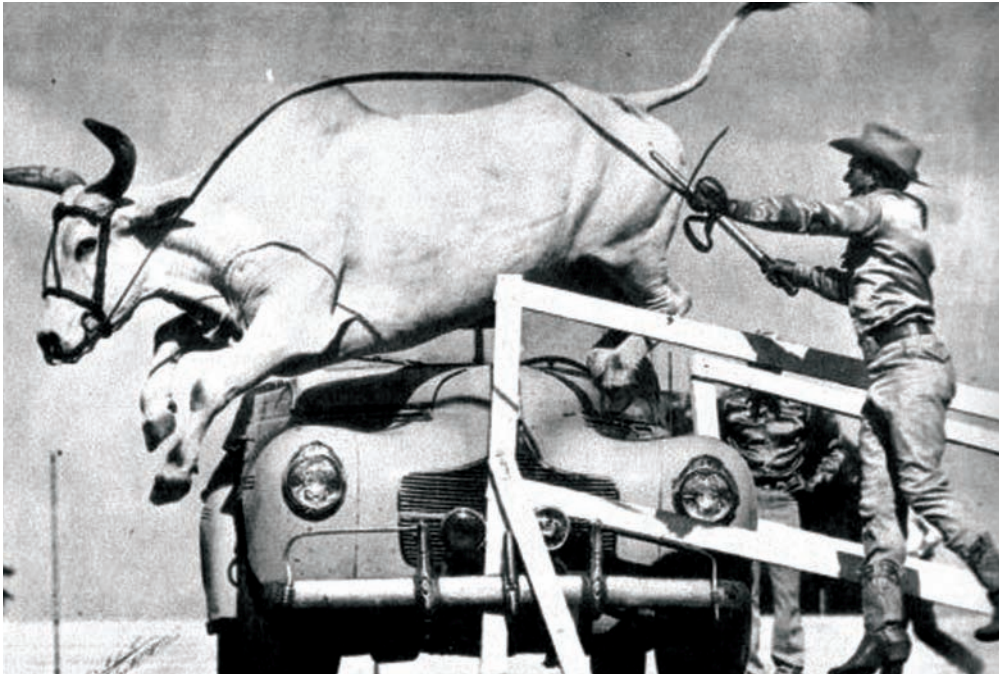


PHOTO DETAILS

(Top to bottom) Cecil jumping his Brahma bull named Danger over a car. Cecil performing a trick with "The Golden Eagles" at the Dodge City, Kan., rodeo. Cornish (left) performing with fellow rodeo clown, Jim Hill at a rodeo in Evanston, Wyo., in 1970. One of Cornish's tricks including jumping his Roman riding team through a ring of fire. Cornish received the Andy Womack Memorial Award, the highest award a rodeo clown can receive. (Photos courtesy of Wayne Cornish)

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LACEY'S PANTRY

By Lacey Newlin



Total Time: 50 minutes

Serves: 20

Ingredients

Crust-

1 cup flour

1/4 cup powdered sugar

1 stick butter, cut into cubes

Filling-

6 large eggs

2 1/4 cup sugar

3/4 cup lemon juice

zest of 2 lemons

Meringue-

3 large egg whites

3/4 cup sugar

Instructions

Preheat oven to 350 degree Fahrenheit. In a medium bowl, mix together flour and powdered sugar for crust. Cut in butter with a fork or food processor until the mixture forms a dough. Pat it into a 9X13-inch pan. It will be very thin. Bake crust for about 10 minutes, until puffed around the edges.

In a mixing bowl, beat eggs, sugar, lemon juice and zest on medium speed for about a minute and a half. Pour over crust and bake for about 20 minutes or until filling is set and no longer runny on top. Remove from oven, let cool, and chill bars until cold and firm.

In a metal mixing bowl, set over a pot of simmering water, whisk together egg whites and sugar for meringue. Whisk until sugar seems to have melted and the mixture forms a syrup, about 10 minutes. Remove from stove and set bowl on your mixer. Beat on high with the whisk attachment until it forms stiff peaks. Cut bars into squares. Pipe or spoon meringue on bars and brown each with a small kitchen torch or in the oven. ☞

Lemon Meringue PIE BARS



I chose this recipe for its bright, zesty flavors and summertime feel. Lemon meringue pie is also one of my favorites, and having it in a bar form updates an old classic into something a little different. Lemon meringue pie is a holiday favorite for my family as well, making this a versatile recipe that can be enjoyed year round.

-Lacey

DILLARD RANCHES

Part 3

James Dillard

By Judy Wade

Rancher, pilot, lawyer, judge, businessman, race horse owner, husband, father and grandfather—James Houston Dillard played many roles in his short life. The older son of Josiah (Foot) Hamilton Dillard and Vida Jackson Dillard began with 2,000 acres he inherited from his late father and turned it into 8,000 acres by the time he succumbed to a heart attack at 53 years old.

Only two years old when his father died, his mother, with the help of her father Lute Jackson, raised the boy and his brother at their home place east of Ringling, Okla. After attending elementary school at Ringling, (His brother Jerry recalled that "James studied all the time.") Dillard then attended Oklahoma Military Academy in Claremore, Okla. While there he taught math to upperclassmen, attributing his interest in math to a former teacher in Ringling.

Dillard enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a pilot during World War II. In a plane crash when his instruments failed, he sustained two broken feet and a lacerated scalp. Going down in a mountainous area, Dillard walked several miles to get help for his more seriously injured passenger, a doctor. Dillard carried the scar on his forehead the rest of his life as a reminder of his brush with death, even though he continued to fly.

Enrolling in Oklahoma A&M, now Oklahoma State University, Dillard pursued dual degrees in business and agriculture. It was during this time that he met his bride-to-be, Jean Luttrell.

They were married in 1947. They returned to Jefferson County after their marriage and two years later, James purchased the existing home place ranch from his mother, who retained her home for the duration of her life. Although the ranch originally stocked Herefords, after he purchased the ranch, Dillard converted to Angus. He continued to use his father's brand, the JHD connected.



After purchasing the family ranch, James Dillard transitioned the cattle herd from Hereford to Angus. (Courtesy of Jean Dillard)

He decided a law degree would enhance his business practices, so he enrolled in Oklahoma University's School of Law graduating in 1960 (while already a father of five). Originally having no intention of practicing law but using the knowledge in his business, so many people sought his advice he eventually opened a law office in Ardmore, Okla.

He continued adding to his ranch and to

his family, building a home just east of the home place on Highway 70. Six daughters were born to James and Jean: Elizabeth, Jamie (who passed away in 2008), Desiree, Davy, Seane and Kateri. Each helped with the ranch throughout the years in different capacities.

The year 1969 brought change when Dillard ran for the position of Judge of the 20th District
See DILLARD page 39

DILLARD

Court and won. The family lived in Ardmore, Okla., located in Carter County, where the girls attended school. While in office Dillard was instrumental in starting the Children's Shelter in Ardmore. The shelter provided a secure, temporary environment for children who were removed from their homes by DHS and the courts. At this time Ardmore has a strong CASA group and is one of the most pro-children areas of the state.

"He was an advocate for everyone," said Dillard's daughter, Davy Madewell. "He didn't see race, gender, religion, education, ability or disability. He saw right and wrong and wanted people to be treated fairly. He was very giving."

"Even though he was in the public spotlight, he was at heart a very private person," Jean and Kateri agreed.

James and his brother Jerry, while very different individuals, were united by a love of ranching and agriculture. Always maintaining the role of big brother, James continually gave Jerry unsolicited advice. James always thought to direct those he cared about with advice and guidance, never realizing a little brother might find this annoying.

"He probably never realized how much James cared for him," Jean said.

Never taking no for an answer, Dillard was successful in buying ranches, turning them around and reselling. Although originally not all that interested in horses, other than for use on the ranch, when Jean expanded her horse involvement into racing, Dillard saw the potential and became an avid partner.

"Dad was so good at animal husbandry and had a great ability when it came to shaping up cattle," Davy said.

In 1978, Dillard presided over a trial for a group of drug smugglers known as the El Paso Ten. They were a well-organized gang and had been arrested when they brought a large shipment of marijuana into the Ardmore Airport. They were also suspected to be involved in the murder of an attorney in El Paso, Texas.

It was around this time that Dillard suffered a major heart attack. Because of the connections to individuals evolved in the situation in El Paso, bodyguards were assigned to guard him in the hospital and his family outside the hospital.

"During this stressful time, it became evident how many people Dad impacted, Kateri



James Dillard (left) pictured with his brother, Jerry. (Courtesy of Jean Dillard)

recalled. "Total strangers would approach me to tell me how he had helped them. When you're 15, being hugged by crying strangers is a little overwhelming, but now those memories mean a lot."

Although usually seen as a serious person, Dillard had a great sense of humor, as evident by the story his daughter Kateri told.

"Dad decided to take Seane and me to a drive-through wilderness park," she explained. "He drove mother's car, which had a cloth roof. As we are driving through, a horde of monkeys suddenly attacked the car. Seane and I are terrified, while he is laughing his head off. As little monkey faces and hands are pressed against the windshield, we hear a ripping sound. Still laughing, he tells us the monkeys are trying to get in because they think we are their relatives. When the gas station attendant later asks what happened to the roof, he just tells him, 'Would you believe monkeys?'"

Daughter Desiree Dillard Britain is proud of her dad, and said she is proud to be his

daughter.

"Having six girls and no boys, Dad was often teased by others who said, 'James H. Dillard and Sons Ranch,'" Desiree explained. "My son Sage was the first grandchild and the first boy in the family. When he was born, Mom was at the hospital, but Dad was on the bench in court. His secretary gave him the message, and he doodled on a notepad, 'IT'S A BOY!!!!' Dad was so thrilled. He adored Sage, and Sage was the only grandchild he ever got to know. I still have that note. It is in Sage's baby book."

Daughter Seane lives on a part of the Claypool ranch and Davy lives in Vida's house while Jean lives in the ranch house she and James built east of the old home place with Kateri. Daughter Desiree just moved back closer to home in Davis and Liz still lives in Houston. Jean is still heavily involved in raising and racing horses.

Next month read Part IV about Jean Dillard. ☞



Jesses Jewelz

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Happy June ladies. If you are like us, you are well into branding season, or may have already wrapped that up for the spring. Ours is next weekend, but by the time you read this, we will have hopefully completed it without a hitch. So, with that being said, I'm feeling a little extra "punchy" right now! These outfits I've put together may have some extra western flair or literal "punchy-ness" to them. (Yep, that's a word). These may be good outfits to throw on after working cows. I wouldn't recommend wearing them to the pens, as you may get some funny looks! Nonetheless, I've included a few options below to bring out your inner western flair. Check them out on my website, www.jessesjewelz.com and also on Facebook and Instagram!

P.S. I will be set up at the All-Around Ranch Rodeo challenge in Fort Worth this month and I'd love for you to stop by and say hello if you make it out!

Until next time,
Jessica Kader
Colossians 3:23



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WHERE THE PAVED ROAD ENDS

> GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS

BY BETH WATKINS

Good News: It didn't take my husband long to figure out that I was a domestic goddess. I cook, I clean, and I have babies. Bad News: that completes the job description. Even though those are the things I am best at, I am always willing to take on more responsibility.

One day I decided I would help by mowing. I turned the key, pushed the start button and drove straight out of the shop. Mowing was easy, and I was getting the job done quicker than my husband normally would. An additional bonus to mowing was all the sun I was getting. I headed the mower back to the shop, beaming with satisfaction of a job well done. I couldn't wait to see the surprise on his face.

To get the mower back in its spot, I had to maneuver it around my husband's current project, a 1966 Mustang, and up a tiny wood ramp. I decided that with the obstacles, it would be safer not to try to back in as my husband always did. The parking place was over the curb, next to the work benches and car parts. I gave it a little gas, and sadly it wasn't enough. I gave it a little more gas, which resulted in a tiny mishap.

I decided I should call my husband at work to fill him on my achievement for the day. I told him I had mowed the lawn, and that I had good news and bad news. Bless his heart, he always wanted the good news first.

"Good news: I don't think I have whiplash. Bad news: Those Mustang doors that were standing against the wall in front of where the mower was parked have been moved. They are now bent and

stuck between the studs in the wall."

Once he got home, all it took was one look at the new patterns in the grass and the trashed Mustang doors, and he ended my dreams of mowing lawns. Even though he had a lot to be frustrated about, he scratched his head, took a deep breath, and said, "Thank you for trying." Even after our kids got married, and we built a house surrounded by woods where no one could see our yard, I was still banned from mowing.

When my husband of 33 years passed away, I found myself pushed into the unknown. My days as the reigning domestic goddess were iffy. The fall turned to winter, then came the spring, and grass began to grow. I had acreage to mow. I climbed up on the new and improved make and model: a zero-turn mower. I put in my headphones blasting the song, "Bad to the Bone." I pulled out of the garage, I looked around at the hundreds of trees on our 13 acres, wondering where to start, as the mower coughed and died.

I've been blessed with a new husband and a new life, here at the end of this dirt road. I admit it, I'm one of those women who needs a strong man around. I'm not good alone. My husband is my MVP. Without him, I wouldn't be able to eat pickles or olives, and sometimes even the laundry soap lid is on too tight.

I'm still a domestic goddess. My job description has been updated since this body won't be having any more babies. I still cook and clean, but I'm also a good helper. I've helped build fence, work cows, and I've even



helped bale hay.

Good news: we are discovering all kinds of things I can do. Bad news: I didn't come with a warning label. We've had an abundance of good news, bad news conversations. We just built a new home, and it went a little over our anticipated price. Bless his heart, he didn't know I couldn't spell b-u-d-g-e-t. I'm focusing on sharing more of my limitations up front.

We were setting up our new grill when I told him the entertaining story that started out with me grilling some steaks and ended with the siding on the back of the house catching fire. Come to find out, men are the only ones allowed to grill at this house, too!

I love working beside my husband. At the end of the day when we are tired and sore, I love looking back at all we have accomplished together. Yesterday, he left me a to-do list: "Please go out and make sure #293's calf is nursing good." For a couple of hours, I sat on the side of the pond dam and watched our herd. I love spending

time with our girls. #293 is Belle, and she would like to be called by her name. Those ladies like having their man around, too.

Not too long ago we lost our bull. The cows have grieved and are now calving. It has been brought to my attention that they need our help in finding their new MVP. So, I'll just leave this here; feel free to pass around. Immediate opening!

Wanted: Big strong male. Must be athletic with high energy. An equal opportunity womanizer. A smooth sweet talker, romantic and passionate. Must like long walks in the rain, skinny dipping and rolls in the hay. An extrovert who doesn't mind on lookers. Intelligence and good manners are appreciated. Must not mind sharing living quarters with a small ass and 35 females. Food and board included. A nine-month vacation after all females have been satisfied. Must be a non-smoker.

If you have an Angus bull fitting this description for sale, call GW. ☒



The cattle at the farm all have names, including this heifer named Moonshyne. (Photo by Beth Watkins)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

MAY 31-JUNE 3

HUGO PRCA RODEO, *Fairgrounds. Hugo, OK 74743*. Grab your cowboy hat, pull on your boots and head to Hugo for the annual Hugo PRCA Rodeo. This rodeo event showcases western heritage and small town hospitality, as well as a grand parade down Main Street. Bring the family to watch all the action and excitement of the Hugo PRCA Rodeo, as cowboys compete in traditional events. For more information, visit www.hugoprrodeo.com.

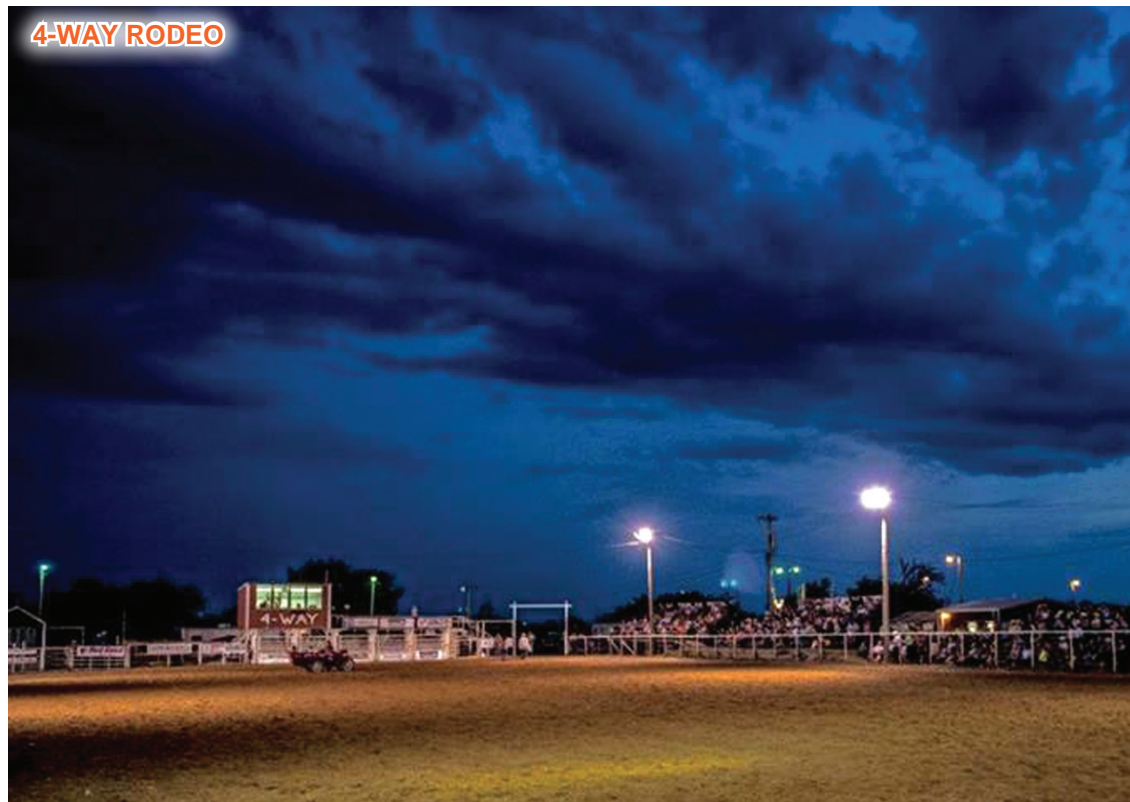
JUNE

JUNE 1-10

REDBUD SPECTACULAR HORSE SHOW, *Oklahoma State Fair Park. Oklahoma City, OK 73107*. The Oklahoma Quarter Horse Association puts on the Redbud Spectacular. Competitors show their skills in roping, Western riding, speed events, reining, barrel racing and more from all different classes at this 11-day equestrian show. It is an American Quarter Horse Association sanctioned event, and riders who successfully compete in their category can move on to the AQHA World Championship Show. Visit www.okqha.com for additional information.

JUNE 2-3

4-WAY RODEO, *Mayes County Fairgrounds. Pryor, OK 74361*. Travel to Pryor in northeast Oklahoma for the 4-Way Rodeo, a two-day IPRA/ACRA sanctioned rodeo event filled with exciting acts, vendors and concessions. Feel the suspense in the arena, and cheer for your favorite championship rodeo participants as they compete in traditional rodeo events such as bronc riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, barrel racing and bull riding. Visit www.4wayrodeo.com for more information.



JUNE 1-SEPTEMBER 16

CHISHOLM TRAIL 150TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBIT, *Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center. Enid, OK 73644*. Celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Chisholm Trail with an exciting new exhibit at the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center in Enid from May 5-Sept. 16. Step inside the J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation Gallery and learn about the greatest of cattle trails. Guests can also immerse themselves in the stories of the Trail as they sit around the camp fire. Visitors can enjoy a lonely cowboy's tune while standing on the former grand ole trail. Visit www.csrhc.org for more information.

JUNE 7

SOLA SALE, *Sola Livestock Market. Ada, OK 74821*. Come on out every Wednesday at 9 a.m., where we will be selling calves, yearlings, bulls, pairs and cows. For additional information, visit www.solallc.com or call 580-436-5033.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 7

ENLOW RANCH AUCTION, *Enlow Ranch, Tulsa, OK 74131*. Come on out to our monthly auction. Enlow auction service has more than 50 years of experience. Call **918-224-7676** for more information.

JUNE 9

PAWNEE BILL'S WILD WEST SHOW, *Pawnee Bill Ranch, Pawnee, OK 74058*. Make your way to the historic Pawnee Bill Ranch in Pawnee, showplace of the world-renowned Wild West Show entertainer Gordon W. "Pawnee Bill" Lillie, for an authentic recreation of Pawnee Bill's original Wild West Show. Visit www.pawneebillranch.com for more information.

JUNE 10

OLD SETTLERS DAY & PARADE, *Downtown Checotah, Checotah, OK 74426*. Come to the annual Old Settlers Day & Parade, an old-fashioned event that celebrates the area's rural heritage. Begin the day with a pancake breakfast and don't miss the exciting parade that features floats, rodeo queens, marching bands and much more. Festivities at Old Settlers Day include a carnival with rides, live music, and antique cars and tractors on display. For more information, visit www.checotah.com.

JUNE 10

OKLAHOMA EXTREME COWBOY RACE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP, *Rolling Stone Stables, Shawnee, OK 74804*. The Oklahoma Extreme Cowboy Race State Championship combines speed and horsemanship as competitors compete by roping, working cattle and navigating difficult obstacles. Food vendors will be on-site for lunch and dinner, and a cowboy church service will be on Sunday morning. For more information, call **405-318-3303**.

JUNE 12

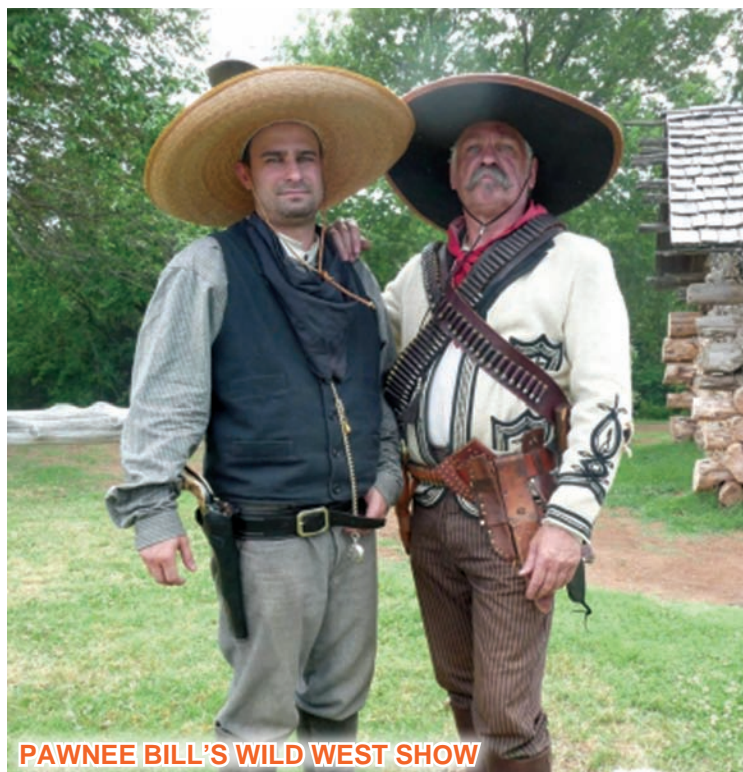
PINTO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HORSE SHOW, *Tulsa Expo Square, Tulsa, OK 74114*. Come to the Pinto World Championship Horse Show at Tulsa's Expo Square to witness the largest gathering of Pinto horses, ponies and miniatures on Earth. Exhibitors will compete in a wide range of disciplines including Western, English, driving, pleasure, halter, roping, speed events and trial. Guests can also enjoy a costume class, dog show, ice cream social and cookout. For more information, visit www.pinto.org.

JUNE 13-20

THE NON-PRO & OPEN CUTTING HORSE EVENT, *Oklahoma City Fair Park, Oklahoma City, OK 73107*. The Non-Pro & Open Cutting Horse Event at the Oklahoma State Fair Park on June 13-20 features horses in all classes showing off their skills in cutting including National Cutting Horse Association Championship classes. Don't miss seeing equestrian feats from amateurs and a Cajun dinner hosted by Shadow Oak Ranch at this fun Oklahoma City event. For more information on this horse event, visit www.nchadella.com.

JUNE 16-17

FARMING HERITAGE FESTIVAL, *Shawnee Feed Center, Shawnee, OK 74801*. The Farming Heritage Festival in Shawnee is a fun event the whole family can enjoy. This two-day festival will showcase antique tractors and farming equipment with an emphasis on Oklahoma's farming heritage. Watch thrashing demonstrations or participate in a tractor pull or tractor parade. Face painting and a petting zoo will be available for the children, and tractors, farming equipment and more will be on display. For more information, visit www.oktractorclub.com.



PAWNEE BILL'S WILD WEST SHOW

JUNE 16-17

WILBURTON ROUND-UP CLUB RODEO, *Wilburton Round-Up Club Arena, Wilburton, OK 74578*. Bring the whole family out to the Wilburton Round-Up Club Rodeo for two evenings of rodeo fun. This event kicks off at the Wilburton Round-Up Club Arena, Friday night at 8pm. Cheer on your favorite cowboys and cowgirls as they display their skills and compete for cash prizes. For more information call **918-465-6433**.

JUNE 17

CATTLEMEN'S CONVENTION, *Osage County Fairgrounds, Pawhuska OK 74056*. The Cattlemen's Convention, an annual gathering in Pawhuska, showcases Oklahoma's unique Western heritage with numerous cowboy-themed events. Join the citizens of Pawhuska and visitors from the surrounding area for a Western trade show, street dance and demonstrations of steer roping. For more information, call **918-287-4170**.

JUNE 23-24

HOG WILD BBQ FESTIVAL, *1113 Joe Long Dr. Chandler, OK 74834*. Come to Hog Wild BBQ Fest for an Oklahoma State Championship barbecue contest and two days of wholesome family fun. The event will have a wide variety of vendors, as well as the People's Choice Tasting and plenty of games and activities for children and other entertainment. Stick around for the fireworks show on Friday evening.

JUNE 24-JULY 2

NATIONAL REINING HORSE DERBY, *Oklahoma City Fair Park, Oklahoma City, OK 73107*. The 2017 National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) Derby & Show will award more than half a million dollars to the winners. Come see the best four, five and six-year-old reining horses in the world. The National Reining Horse Derby is one of two major events presented by the NRHA each year in Oklahoma City For more information, visit www.nrhad Derby.com.

CRYSTAL BEACH PARK

By Rhonda Shephard

On the east edge of Woodward, Okla., lies a public park that everyone should visit. If you've never been, it's one of the best parks in the state, and a real gathering place for the community. Crystal Beach is a place residents and visitors flock to swim in the lake to enjoy the outdoors, and beat the summer heat. Still a popular gathering park, regardless if you make Woodward a day visit or a weekend trip. The amenities of the park are varied and up-to-date. There is a little bit of something for everybody.

Located at Crystal Beach Park is Fuller Park. It is a top-notch facility that is one of the finest baseball venues in the state. The five-plex facility provides a class facility for youth programs and a familiar site for tournaments: AAA play, high school and as young as T-Ball. It can be enjoyed all summer long.

Located at 108 Temple Houston Drive, Woodward, Okla., Fuller Park is now home of the Woodward Westerners, established in 2016 as a part of the expansion team in the Pecos League. Come out watch the Westerners. Check out the team's 2017 home schedule at www.Woodward-Westerners.com.

Across the street from Fuller Park is the Woodward Aquatic Center. This water park is one of Oklahoma's newest additions to hot summer fun and is family-friendly. The facility provides slides, shooting water cannons, lazy rivers and water buckets to cool off the hottest summer days. Spend the day at this fun park. It is safe for children of all ages, with something for everybody.



Fuller Park is located at Crystal Beach Park in Woodward, Okla. (Courtesy of Woodward Convention & Visitors Bureau)

The Woodward Aquatic Center is open on Sunday 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Monday to Thursday 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday to Saturday 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Admission for the facility is free for children under the age of two, \$4 for ages two to 12, \$5 for 13 years and older. To contact this facility, call 580-256-2874.

If your game is golf, check out this nine-hole golf course, Crystal Beach Golf Course. The golf course is located at 2500 Wittaker Way, Woodward, Okla. It features 3,163 yards from the longest tees for a par 35. Designed by Bob Dunning, the course opened in 1954. The course offers 10 driving tees and nine regulation holes. Call 580-256-9028 for additional information.

The Crystal Links Miniature Golf Course is not your normal windmill and loop-the-loop golf course. It plays more like a regular golf course with traps and

roughs. Though not your traditional putt-putt golf course, it may appeal to more for the family.

The course is open 4 p.m. to dusk on Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to dusk Friday and Saturday and 1 p.m. on Sunday. The Friday opening allows visitors and residents to get a start on the weekends. The course is seasonal and it's best to call throughout the year before traveling.

There are discounts for groups of 20 or more and special openings available not during regular hours. For additional information, call 580-352-2200 or visit www.playcrystalbeach.com

Renovated in recent years, the Crystal Beach Stadium has been the site of race horses, rodeos, concerts and political rallies. Crystal Beach has two great equine facilities and two outdoor rodeo arenas. With a covered grand stand, horse stalls, sewer hookups, and abundant parking, it is home to the

Elks' Rodeo, now going strong for more than 75 years. Call 580-256-9990 for more information on the Crystal Beach Stadium.

WPA Bandshell, a small-town band shell of native rock, the central fixture of the park, was built in the 1930s to be used for music events. Since then it's used for outdoor concerts, church events, Fourth of July events and other music events.

Christmas in Crystal Beach is northwest Oklahoma's biggest event with a drive-thru view of two million lights to brighten the holiday. There are concessions, lighted train rides and visits with Santa Claus with a focus on family fun.

There is always something going on at Crystal Beach. The opportunities make this underutilized corner of northwest Oklahoma worth a look. For additional information on this gem, visit www.visitwoodward.com. ☞



(Top to bottom) Crystal Beach has two equine facilities and two outdoor rodeo arenas. Fuller Park is a five-plex facility. (Courtesy of Woodward Convention & Visitors Bureau)

EISCHEN'S BAR

OKARCHE, OKLA.

By Laci Jones

When you think about the best fried chicken in Oklahoma, Eischen's Bar is likely on the top of that list. The oldest bar in Oklahoma, Peter Eischen opened Eischen's Saloon in 1896.

The saloon was open until prohibition, but was re-opened shortly after by the founder's son and grandson, Nick and Jack Eischen. The back bar was hand carved in Spain in the early 19th century.

"During the Gold Rush, it was shipped to California," according to the Eischen's Bar website. "It was lost in time until it was brought to Okarche in 1950 for the enjoyment of all who stopped by Eischen's."

The bar remained open until a fire in January 1993 destroyed all except a small section of the hand carved bar and other memorabilia. The bar was rebuilt, re-opening in August 1993 with the piece of the bar that survived the fire on display.

Nearly 25 years after their re-opening, the historic bar is a favorite among many Oklahomans. My first trip to Eischen's Bar was during my first year in college, and I still enjoy making the hour-and-a-half drive to order their fried chicken several years later.

Okarche, Okla., is a small town with a population of 1,215 located northwest of Oklahoma City. The restaurant is the main attraction to the small town, and I recently made the trip back to Okarche. Located in an old brick building, Eischen's Bar has a small-town bar atmosphere with checkered floors and mementos hanging on the walls. I personally enjoyed



Eischen's Bar, located in Okarche, Okla., is the oldest bar in Oklahoma. (Photo by Laci Jones)

looking at all the historic photos of Eischen's Bar as well as the town of Okarche.

On a mission for chicken, my date and I shared an order of a basket of fried chicken and an order of fried okra. If you do not like to eat food with your fingers, this joint is not for you.

My favorite part of eating at Eischen's Bar is eating without plates. The comfort food is served in baskets and each party member is given a sheet of parchment paper to use as a plate. Each whole fried chicken is served with bread, sweet pickles, dill pickles and onions.

It may not sound filling, but the chicken is a whole chicken—two wings, two drumsticks, two breasts and two thighs. The chicken was deep fried to perfection. Nothing is worse than dry chicken, but each

piece was crispy, salty and most importantly, juicy.

I have seen several people create sandwiches out of the chicken or eat a bite of chicken, and follow it with a pickle slice. No matter how you eat their chicken, it is phenomenal. The okra, which was also served in a giant basket, was also perfectly fried and salted.

The cost of a whole fried chicken is \$14, while the okra costs \$7. It's a great dinner to share with your family and friends to cut cost.

While the bar is known for its fried chicken, they also serve roast beef sandwiches, homemade chili, nachos and more.

My only complaint is the historic restaurant does not serve iced tea, but that is just a personal preference. They only serve beer, wine coolers and canned soft drinks.

Don't be afraid to take young children into this chicken establishment. Kids of all ages were at Eischen's Bar and seemed to enjoy themselves. I recommend trying this classic bar joint. The people in this small town are friendly, and I left feeling stuffed.

The historic bar only accepts cash or personal checks, but an ATM machine is available on the premises.

Located in the back of the bar is a gift shop including cups, magnets and t-shirts. These items are also available for purchase on their website.

Eischen's Bar is located at 109 N. 2nd St., Okarche, Okla. The kitchen is open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. To get a look at the menu or purchase apparel and items, visit www.eischensbar.com. ☒



HISTORIC OKARCHE



EISCHEN'S BAR



DOWNTOWN OKARCHE



FRIED OKRA



FRIED CHICKEN

From Small Town To Big Time

Parker Millsap

By Jan Sikes

Purcell, Okla., sits right in the heart of the state and boasts a population of 6,340 people. So, exactly how does a young man get from this tiny town to the big Nashville, Tenn., stages?

Parker Millsap has opened shows for some of the biggest names in country and folk music – Old Crow Medicine Show, Patty Griffin, Shovels and Rope, Lake Street Drive, Tedeschi Trucks Band, Jason Isbell, John Fullbright and Sarah Jarosz.

Most recently, he wrapped up a banner year, which included his network television debut on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*. He received an invitation to play with Elton John at the renowned Apple Music Festival, participated in an Austin City Limits taping and received an Americana Music Association nomination for Album of the Year. Millsap also took away the Artist of the Year from the International Folk Music Awards.

That's quite a list of accomplishments for a young man still in his twenties.

Millsap first picked up the guitar at age nine, then graduated to electric after discovering Eric Clapton and Stevie Ray Vaughan. He formed a cover band while in high school, *Fever in Blue*, with a classmate, Michael Rose, who still plays bass with him today.

Shortly after graduating from high school, Millsap moved to Northern California where he interned at Prairie Sun Recording Studio. The experience he gained there proved to be invaluable. Sonoma County artist Tom Waits,



Music artist, Parker Millsap is from Purcell, Okla. (Photo by Laura Partain)

whose *Bone Machine* album, winner of the 1992 Grammy for Best Alternative release, was co-produced by Waits and his wife, Kathleen Brennan, entirely at Prairie Sun. It was also the site of historic recordings or post-productions by Van Morrison, Greg Allman, Kate Wolf, Mickey Hart, Primus, Faith No More, the Melvins, Ramblin' Jack Eliot and surf music creator Dick Dale.

It wasn't until Millsap returned to Oklahoma that he put away

the electric guitar and focused on songwriting.

In 2012, he released an indie album, "*Palisade*," and sold them out of the trunk of his car.

A trip to Nashville, with an opportunity to play the Tin Pan South Songwriter Festival paid off big for Millsap. He impressed Old Crow Medicine Show's manager so much that he offered Millsap a string of tour dates to open for the highly popular group. This led to a monumental New Year's Eve gig

for Millsap at the historic Ryman Auditorium in Nashville.

But, those are all simply events. The reality of Millsap is that once he opens his mouth to sing, you immediately know why he rose so quickly in the highly competitive world of music.

Millsap's style of writing mixes brash with playful while striking imagery, plot twists and cultural symbols. He is not afraid to write about controversial topics.

See MILLSAP page 53

Millsap

And, then there is his voice. One reporter described it like this, "The slightly built 24-year-old from Oklahoma has a bluesy powerful rasp of a howl that sounds equally suited for juke joints or church tents."

Millsap doesn't deny the fact that he was raised in a Pentecostal church and on his newest album, "The Very Last Day," the religious/apocalyptic theme runs strong. Mix in a little Greek mythology and you have quite a gambit of songs.

From an imaginative interpretation of Greek mythology in the lurching boogie "Hades Pleads," to confronting a possible nuclear apocalypse with staggering swagger in "The Very Last Day," Millsap shines. "Tribulation

Hymn" archly filters a post-rapture, left-behind scenario through Appalachian folk music. Millsap relates a story behind the writing of this song.

"According to the Bible, what's going to happen after the rapture occurs is everybody who is saved goes to heaven — for a long time. I used to be really concerned about that. I would walk through the house and everybody would be outside. Maybe Mom would have been folding laundry, so there'd be clothes on the table, and I would think, 'Oh, the rapture happened and their clothes are left behind.' When really, everybody was just outside talking to the neighbors or something. It was a very real fear I had as a child."

Another song on this album,

"Heaven Sent," is not only paradoxical but challenging. Millsap, who is straight, imagines how a young gay man might plead with his evangelical preacher father for reassurance.

He often introduces the song at his live shows as a love letter from a gay son to his father. It is about love with conditions. The lyrics say so much. "Daddy, you're the one that claimed that he loved me through the flame," he sings. "Now why can't you do the same?"


Millsap has hit his stride with this album and his songwriting ability shines. He dares to write about deeply personal subjects, but also ventures out with pure fiction storytelling. He is attracted to stories with characters that make

him identify with somebody completely different from himself.

This unique blend of perspective, raw talent and uncommon vocals has moved Millsap to the forefront of Americana music.

Millsap's band consists of himself on guitar, banjo and harmonica, Michael Rose on the upright bass and Daniel Foulks on fiddle and drums.

His passion to tell a story, to share his music and stay true to his Oklahoma roots are what sets this young man apart from the rest of the herd. He's raised the bar in Americana music with a style that will not be easy to emulate.

For more information about Millsap and to see where he is touring, visit www.Millsapmillsap.com. 

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OKLAHOMA STATE PARKS

Lake Thunderbird State Park

By Laci Jones



The lake at the state park has a surface area of 6,070 acres with 86 miles of shoreline. (Photo by Laci Jones)

Norman, Okla., may be the home of the University of Oklahoma, but this town is also home to one of 33 state parks.

The recorded history of Lake Thunderbird State Park, located east of Norman, dates to 500 B.C.

During the 18th century, Spain, France and England claimed Oklahoma. As part of the Louisiana territory, Spain was awarded the territory. Many explorers traveled the land during this time including French explorer, Pierre Mallet and American explorer, Stephen H. Long. Washington Irving, author of “A Tour of the Prairies” and “The Adventures of Ichabod Crane,” among other explorers toured the area where the state park sits in 1832.

“The purpose of Irving’s tour was to see ‘the last of the redmen and wild game before these things were pushed beyond the reach of civilized man,’” according to the Lake Thunderbird State Park historical essay titled, “Lake Thunderbird State Park History, 500 B.C. to Present.” “Descriptions

of the Little River area given by Irving parallel those of the present in various aspects.”

According the essay, the land was overgrown and rugged and had wildlife including buffalo, bears, elk, deer, wild horses and turkeys. In the 1820s and 1830s, the Five Civilized Tribes settled in Indian Territory. The Choctaw Indians were the first to settle into the area, later sharing the land with the Seminole tribe in 1842.

“By 1850, the Creek tribe moved to another part of the Indian Territory leaving this area to the Seminoles,” according to the essay. “In 1866, this area was ceded to the United States by the Seminoles, which became known as the Unassigned Territory.”

The Land Run on April 22, 1889 opened the land for settlement, designating the area as Cleveland County a year later. The land was used for farming as well as oil and gas production, according to the essay.

Norman city manager, R.E. Clement proposed the idea of a reservoir to the U.S. Corps of Engineers in 1945. Congressional

approval of the lake was given 15 years later. The project for the dam began in 1962, finishing three years later. Construction of the dam cost more than \$18 million.

The lake has a surface area of 6,070 acres with 86 miles of shoreline, said Sherman Johnson, assistant park manager of Lake Thunderbird State Park. The name “Little River State Park” was proposed in 1965, leading to the development of a committee to decide the name of the lake.

“A woman won the contest basing the name on the Native American legend of the mythological creature, the Thunderbird,” according to the essay. “The bird was thought to have carried water in its wings which sounded like thunder when flapped and lightning bolts would shoot from its eyes.”

Several buildings were constructed including the park office. A survey was later conducted in 1997. The survey showed the public did not associate the area as a state park, recognizing it only as Lake Thunderbird, according to the essay. The survey resulted in a

name change to Lake Thunderbird State Park.

Johnson said the close proximity to Norman city limits has helped the state park see more than a million visitors each year. Visitors enjoy boating, skiing and fishing on the 6,000-acre lake.

“We get a lot of visitors because we are so convenient,” Johnson added. “Visitors don’t have to drive two or three hours to come out and enjoy the recreation in the park.”

To enjoy the recreation, there are two marinas at the state park. Visitors can rent boat slips as well as rent boats at one of the marinas. Both marinas have stores for visitors to purchase gasoline and other necessities.

The state park currently has more than 200 RV sites and 100 designated tent sites. Visitors can also visit the nature center located at the state park.

“We offer bow hunting for white tailed deer during designated hunting times,” Johnson said. “It gives the public a close place to come to recreate. If they

See PARK page 55

PARK

want to hunt, they can.”

Lake Thunderbird State Park hosts several events throughout the year, kicking off on Jan. 1 with the statewide First Day Hike. The purpose of the hike is to help citizens kickstart their new year’s resolutions to get active. The state park has several trails for beginners to advanced hikers.


In September, the state park hosts Catch a Special Thrill (CAST) for Kids, for kids with disabilities. The event gives kids who do not get the privilege of catching a fish an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, he added. The state park hosts their Fall Festival at the lake, where they have different vendors dressed in costume handing out candy to trick-or-treaters.

They also hosted their first car show in May and will be celebrating the 80th anniversary of Oklahoma State Parks by hosting different clinics. The state park also offers volunteer events for students at the University of Oklahoma. Students pick up trash for a day during their annual Trash Off.

“They come in and pick up trash during the morning about four hours then we feed them lunch,” Johnson added. “This event has been going on at least 20 years and really helps us clean the lake.”

With the help of the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation, Lake Thunderbird State Park is currently working on a day-use area with eight day-use shelters with tables and grills.

The project also includes a new, ADA-accessible fishing dock and a bathhouse. Johnson expects the project to be completed by fall 2017.

For more information on Lake Thunderbird State Park, call 405-360-3572. 



(Top to bottom) The name for Lake Thunderbird State Park stems from the Native American legend of the mythological creature, the Thunderbird. The state park has two marinas. (Photos by Laci Jones)

Grazing Oklahoma

Sand Dropseed (*Sporobolus cryptandrus*)

By Rob Cook, Noble Research Institute | rwcook@noble.org

Characteristics: Sand dropseed is a native, warm-season, perennial bunch grass. At maturity, it reaches about 18 to 42 inches tall. The leaves are 1/8- to 1/4-inch wide, flat and taper towards the tip.

The leaf just below the seed head grows out at a 90-degree angle from the stem. It sometimes referred to as a “flag leaf,” as it can be seen tattered and blowing in the wind during the winter.

The most identifiable characteristic of sand dropseed is the dense ring of hairs at the leaf collar where the leaf meets the stem. The seed head is wide at the base and narrow at the top; although, on some plants, the seed head can be partially or fully enclosed by the sheath and never emerge like most grasses.

Area of Importance: Sand dropseed is widely distributed and abundant across most parts of Oklahoma and Texas.

As its name implies, it is found on sandy sites but also abundant on rocky or silty soils. It is adapted to open areas or forested sites, but usually will not tolerate wet soils.

It provides fair grazing for livestock especially during the early stages of its growth.

However, the tastiness will drop rapidly with maturity. Sand dropseed is poor value for all types of wildlife.

Attributes: Many pastures across southern Oklahoma and northern Texas are dominated by a mix of sand dropseed and a handful of other less desirable grass species. Repeated overgrazing has reduced the densities of the more desirable grasses, allowing sand dropseed to increase.

Its seed remains viable for long periods of time. Bare ground from drought and/or overgrazing allows room for the seed to germinate after a rain. Sand dropseed is usually one of the first species to begin to revegetate pastures following these events that will limit more desirable grasses.

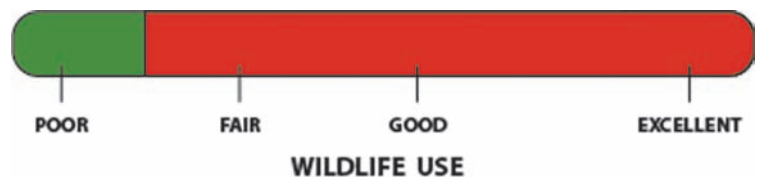
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	= COLD SEASON
	= NATIVE
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PARTING SHOT



Yellow Fields of Happiness...

Kathie Freeman went out for a drive in search of the yellow fields of canola flowers. She pulled over on the turnpike near Piedmont, Okla. After taking several photographs, she happened to capture the moment when a beautiful butterfly landed on a canola flower. (Photo by Kathie Freeman)



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