

CONTACT: B. Zeeck

LUBBOCK--Approximately 5,000 persons visited the Ranching Heritage Center of The Museum of Texas Tech University in June. The number exceeded that for June visitors in any year since 1978. Dr. James A. Goss, interim director of The Museum, made the announcement.

The center is open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays, 1 to 4:30 p.m. Saturdays and 1 to 8:30 p.m. Sundays during the summer.

On the 14-acre site are more than a score of historic ranch structures authentically restored and furnished. They are situated to give the visitor a visual tour of the development of ranching in the American West.

Texas Tech News

UNIVERSITY NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS/P.O. BOX 4650/TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY/LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409/(806) 742-2136

Residence telephones:

Bee Zeeck, Director, (806) 799-8897

Preston Lewis, Manager, News Bureau, (806) 745-1718

Steve Lindell, Asst. Mgr., Electronics, (806) 795-3463

CONTACT: Cheryl Duke/Harvey Landers

LUBBOCK--Eleven-year-old Ralph S. Jackson III of Beeville admits he is "kind of curious" about the makeup of proteins and amino acids. Blis Powell, a 10-year-old from Midland, is intrigued by the oil and gas industry and dreams about becoming an engineer in that field.

Those adolescent curiosities are being satisfied in an adult way this week as part of a Texas Tech University summer enrichment program for gifted and talented students.

Jackson and Powell are among 135 students selected from more than 500 applicants throughout Texas to participate in the two-week program. Instead of spending their time watching television, listening to records and playing in the yard, these students are studying computer science, medicine, law, philosophy, creative music, creative writing, art and film, remote sensing, laser technology, biology and chemistry.

The program, "Shake Hands With Your Future," was organized under the direction of Dr. Suzan H. Schafer, associate director of the Texas Tech Division of Continuing Education, in cooperation with Dr. Bruce D. Mattson, education professor.

"We wanted to fulfill requests from educators and parents," she said, "with a program to provide special experiences for gifted and talented students and to assist them in the development of personal and academic potentials."

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The 1981 program, offered June 28 through July 10 and July 19 through August 1, is the first of its kind at Texas Tech, but it could become an annual event for youth ages 10-15. To qualify for the program, students must have demonstrated high performance in achievement tests, above average intelligence, creative thinking ability or exceptional skill in the arts.

Charles Floyd, a Lubbock schoolteacher and coach, is program coordinator.

Students pick from a daily schedule the sessions they attend. Called "quests" instead of classes, these sessions offer more latitude in their content and scope than do school classes.

For Simon Burris, 11, of Tomball the quests allow him to study philosophy, logic and argument.

"I'm interested in different kinds of philosophies and seeing how different people think differently," he said.

Then there are quests like "Alice in Wonderland Math," which explores the math concepts in Lewis Carroll's classic.

Laura Bryson, 13, of San Antonio had read "Alice in Wonderland," previously, but now is going back through it, focusing on the math tricks.

"We have to figure out things like how long it would have taken Alice to fall to the other side of the earth," Bryson said. "Actually, she never would have made it because of the force of gravity."

Leslie Appleton, 14, of San Antonio is involved in the creative writing quest. She and the others in that session are writing stories and poems for a literary magazine they will produce. But the real reason she is taking the creative writing is to help her book along.

"I'm writing a murder mystery," Appleton said, "but it's not going too well."

In addition to the various quests, students in groups of six or less meet with mentors such as the president of the university, vice presidents, deans and department heads to learn how a university works, new developments in various fields of study and career possibilities.

Other activities include tours of such Texas Tech facilities as the Ranching Heritage Center, The Museum, Textile Research Center, KTXT-TV, Crosbyton Solar Power Project and the planetarium.

But all is not just study during the two-week sessions. Numerous recreational activities are worked into the daily schedule. Swimming, outdoor concerts, computer games, stage shows and outdoor games are scheduled. Youths live in a residence hall setting during the program.

Schafer said the program offers gifted youth an opportunity not only to expand their educational horizons, but also to learn from equally talented peers.

That is an assessment young novelist Appleton agrees with.

"I can use big words here," said Appleton, "and the others don't give me puzzled looks."

For more information on the program, contact Schafer at (806) 742-2354.

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CONTACT: B. ZEECK

LUBBOCK--Dr. Lauro F. Cavazos, president of Texas Tech University and the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, has been appointed a member of the Biomedical Library Review Committee of the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health.

His appointment, which became effective July 1, will continue through June 30, 1985.

The library is the heart of a national biomedical information system. Its collection of medical literature is considered the finest in the world. Its computerized bibliographies have subscribers throughout the United States and in foreign countries.

The National Library of Medicine Act of 1956 gave it the responsibility of coordinating and disseminating among the health sciences and practitioners the ever-increasing volume of knowledge and information developed in the health science field.

The committee to which Cavazos has been appointed advises on matters of policy.

Cavazos has had an extensive career in medical education. He formerly was dean of the Tufts University School of Medicine.

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CONTACT: Duncan McDowell

LUBBOCK--A natural birth control system may be the reason quail survive in areas suffering frequent droughts.

Seemingly triggered by a substance in the quail's diet, the system effectively reduces the number of offspring born in a dry season, according to this hypothesis.

The hypothesis is offered by Dr. Samuel L. Beasom, staff member of the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station's laboratory at Texas Tech University and an adjunct professor in Texas Tech's College of Agricultural Sciences. Beasom, who is conducting a five-year study on quail productivity in West Texas, has long been puzzled by the erratic fluctuations in quail populations from year to year.

He believes that these fluctuations may be caused by substances in the quail's diet. During dry seasons when the food supply is limited, plants which are part of the quail's diet produce these substances in sufficient quantities to inhibit reproduction in the birds. Beasom and his assistants are trying to identify the substances involved in this natural contraceptive process.

"If we can pinpoint the cause," Beasom said, "then we can moderate these fluctuations in quail productivity."

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He explained that moderating the fluctuations would mean a dependable harvest for hunters from year to year, while finding the cause of the fluctuations would provide a key to understanding how animal populations in arid and semiarid environments are regulated.

"The fluctuation problem is unquestionably related to moisture conditions in the environment," the scientist said. "But we want to know the specific mechanism through which the moisture interacts with the birds."

"Late winter and early spring are the times of the year when birds normally receive stimuli to their reproductive systems which lead to mating," Beasom said. "But when the quail are not reproducing, something is inhibiting the release of hormones from the pituitary gland, which in turn controls the reproductive system."

Beasom and his associates suspect that certain plant compounds called phytoestrogens inhibit quail reproduction when drought conditions prevail. Phytoestrogens build up to higher levels when plants lack adequate water.

These plant compounds, when eaten by the birds, act as estrogens, the female sex hormones in animals and humans. By consuming the phytoestrogens the quail could overload the normal hormonal balance and reduce reproductive ability, Beasom said. Birth control pills in humans operate by the same mechanism.

The immediate goal for the investigators now is to identify the specific phytoestrogens responsible for this inhibiting effect.

"Once we identify the suspect specific phytoestrogens," Beasom said, "then we will feed them to birds in pens to see how reproduction is inhibited."

The next phase of the experiment will be to find a biochemical agent that will counter the inhibitory effect of the phytoestrogen on quail reproduction.

"We expect to be field testing a food compound on the original study areas within three years," Beasom said.

The compound, if effective and economical, could be made available to landowners interested in maintaining stable quail populations on their lands, he said.

Assisting Beasom in the research are technician John D. Burd and temporary helper Bruce R. Leland, a graduate of Texas Tech's Range and Wildlife Management Department. The researchers have studied the quail in two locations: on the Keeney Ranch near Muleshoe in Bailey County and on the Irwin Ranch near Andrews in Andrews County. Both scaled or blue quail and bobwhites were studied.

For the past two years, Beasom and his collaborators have gone to the field every two weeks from January to the end of June, collecting quail and obtaining samples of the plant food eaten by the birds from their crops. The plant samples have been identified and assayed for chemicals that either enhance or inhibit quail reproduction.

The fluctuation in quail numbers is a phenomenon long noted in the Southwest, Beasom said. Besides affecting all Southwestern quail species, the phenomenon also affects wild turkeys. Beasom's studies of wild turkeys for 11 years sparked his current interest in quail reproduction.

The quail productivity research is a cooperative project by the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station of the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Texas Tech University.

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CONTACT: Steve Lindell

LUBBOCK--For once, the little guy may have won in the big business of international gold trading, according to a Texas Tech University economist.

Dr. Robert L. Rouse, professor of economics and business administration, points out the peak in gold prices last year spelled a windfall for the average person selling gold and marked the beginning of gold's price decline.

Rouse said that for the time being, the average person who sold gold when the price was high can be content knowing that all of that gold was worth more than it may ever be again.

"Gold has always been a scarce commodity and expensive. When gold prices reached their peak last year, people started selling whatever gold they could get their hands on," Rouse said.

"With all of the old rings and watches, some increase in the supply of gold occurred. While the total impact on world supply was unknown," he said, "it would contribute to a softening of prices."

Rouse pointed out that the price of gold is also pegged to anticipated economic conditions within the United States. If gold investors and speculators feel America's economic forecast is gloomy, the price of gold goes up. If the forecast is good, the price tends to come down.

"In January of 1980 when gold prices reached \$800 to \$850 per ounce, the economic outlook for the United States was not too good," he said. "The hostage crisis in Iran even had an effect on the price of gold because that situation was affecting the attitude of people in this country."

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Inflation throughout the world and in the United States is another contributing factor to the decline in gold prices, he said.

"The one big disadvantage to owning gold is the lack of any set return on the investment. Gold doesn't earn any interest and investors are finding they can make more money by putting their capital into stocks, bonds and certificates of deposit," Rouse noted.

With the higher interest rates giving a better capital return, gold investors have been selling off their gold holdings which further adds to the supply of gold, he said. Combined with all of the old rings and watches, the addition of more gold to the world's supply tends to fuel the price decline.

Rouse said a return to high gold prices is always a possibility. Should the economy of the United States turn sour, gold prices could go up again.

"The only way a person can make money in gold is through speculation that the price will rise," he said. "Speculation by gold traders was a big factor in making the price of gold go up in January of 1980. It's impossible to say with much accuracy what will happen to the price of gold,"

CONTACT: B. Zeeck

ATTENTION: Entertainment Editors

LUBBOCK--Only the real oldtimers remember Rolland and Peggy Haverstock, but fans of America's midwestern tent shows of the earlier 20th century recall the Haverstocks as one of the longest running companies.

Now the records, some costumes and even some of the musical instruments that entertained thousands have been given to Texas Tech University. The records will be housed in the Southwest Collection, Texas Tech's regional archive. The costumes and instruments will be in The Museum of Texas Tech University.

Dr. David J. Murrah, university archivist, was intrigued particularly with a set of cowbells tuned for concert performances.

"And the five boxes of written material," he said, "contain the most complete record of a tent show I have ever seen." The material includes financial and performance records, advertising materials and itineraries.

The Southwest Collection is becoming a major repository for tent show materials. It began as a result of necessary research preceding the 1976 revival of the New Harley Sadler Tent Show, staged by Texas Tech University as a bicentennial event.

"As study of the historical Sadler progressed, the need became apparent for a repository that would house materials relating to Sadler and other theatrical companies which had crisscrossed the Plains," Murrah said.

The contribution tent shows made to American culture was significant.

The New York Times in 1927 contended that the tent show "constituted a more extensive business than Broadway and all the rest of the legitimate theatre industry put together" with more than twice the number of patrons. Tent shows annually offered 96,000 performances annually, while legitimate theaters presented 80,000.

And tent shows visited 53 towns to every one visited by Broadway-style companies.

The Haverstocks' was unlike most tent shows that folded during the hard times of the Great Depression. Haverstock shows ran through World War II and closed in the 1950s when Rolland and Peggy retired to Wichita Falls. Rolland died there, and Peggy still makes her home in that city. It was she who gave the materials to the Southwest Collection.

Rolland's parents were associated with the Strong Brothers Circus and Tent Show, and he was used to two-night stands from early childhood when he played both boy and girl parts. He met Peggy in southern Illinois and after their marriage, they formed their own company.

They were masters of comedy and tragedy. They were magicians and musicians. "Ten Nights in a Barroom," "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and the Toby and Suzie comedy parts were standard fare for fans who thronged to see live theater as often as it came to town.

Dr. Clifford Ashby of Texas Tech's theater faculty expects scholarly interest in the tent show culture to grow.

"Although still unremarked by the standard works devoted to theater history," he said, "there seems little doubt that the canvas playhouse is destined to achieve a degree of recognition at least equal to that accorded the minstrel shows and the showboats."

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LISTENING--Texas Tech University President Lauro F. Cavazos visits with students participating in the university's summer program "Shake Hands With Your Future." Involved in the discussion are, from left, Brian Nutter, 15, of 1441 Roanoak, Abilene; Stephen Everse, 15, of 2613 Newcomb St., Lubbock; Robert Bartsch, 11, (back to camera) of 2604 77th St., Lubbock; Greg Whitten, 13, of Lubbock; Scott Long, 13, of 704 K S.E., Childress; and Cavazos. Designed for gifted students ages 10-15, the program offers educational opportunities not available in most classrooms. (TECH PHOTO)

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SOCK STOP--The Textile Research Center at Texas Tech University was one of several campus facilities visited by participants in the "Shake Hands With Your Future" program at Texas Tech this summer. Thad Sneed, 11, (left) of Sterling City Route, Big Spring, and James C. Stroud, 11, of 4715 76th St., Lubbock, inspect a sock-knitting machine as it produces a tube sock. Designed for gifted students, the program provides numerous educational opportunities not commonly available in the regular classroom. (TECH PHOTO)

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CONTACT: B. Zeeck

LUBBOCK--The first J. William Davis Scholarship in political science will be awarded for the fall 1981 semester at Texas Tech University. The award of \$500 honors Davis who served on the faculty 36 years and as a member of the Texas Tech Athletic Council 23 years.

Widely known for his expertise in state government and constitutional law, Dr. Davis was chairman of the Texas Tech Department of Government (now Political Science) for 20 years.

The scholarship was established in his honor by Pi Sigma Alpha, political science society.

"His work in teaching, research and public service," the society said at the time the endowment fund was established, "affected the lives of thousands of students with whom he came in contact. He helped recruit, develop and encourage dozens of young professional political scientists who, as a result, chose academic, legal and public careers."

"His orderly developments of the warp and woof of the American constitutional system have been highlights to those fortunate enough to have enjoyed them over the years."

In addition, the society credited Davis with contributing "enormously" to the regularizing of intercollegiate athletics.

"His grasp of due process and his belief in effective constitutional self-government brought to a sometimes painful and occasionally chaotic arena the concept of letters of intent, now well-established in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)."

Davis is the author of "There Shall Also Be a Lieutenant Governor" and other publications relating to state government. He served on two state constitutional revision commissions. The Texas Legislature recognized him by a resolution in 1971, and he received both the first and the 1972 Liberty Bell Award presented by the Lubbock County Bar Association.

He was chairman of the Texas Tech Athletic Council. He was a member of the Governing Board, vice president and president of the Southwest Athletic Conference and was influential in obtaining Texas Tech's membership in the SWC. He was a member of the NCAA Council at Large, member and vice president of the NCAA.

He was a member and chairman of the Lubbock City Charter Commission. On campus his service included the chairmanship and three terms on the Faculty Advisory Committee and chairman of the 1950-54 Self-Evaluation Committee.

Additional scholarships will be granted as the endowment grows.

CONTACT: Duncan McDowell

ATTENTION: Agriculture editors

LUBBOCK--West Texas ranchers should manage mule deer herds on their lands for quality rather than quantity, according to a Texas Tech University range management expert.

Professor Fred C. Bryant of Texas Tech's range and wildlife management faculty said that managing deer for quantity hunting means quick profits in the short run, but investing in managing for quality will bring bigger dividends in the long run.

"The typical mule deer buck brings \$500-\$1,000 as a trophy," he said. "Mule deer are worth managing. For every dollar invested in managing his deer herd, a rancher can get as much as \$2-\$5 in return, compared to a much smaller return for every dollar invested in cattle management."

Dr. Bryant has been overseeing studies on mule deer in the Panhandle since 1978. His studies have focused on ways to help ranchers interested in managing mule deer herds on their lands.

"Deer hunting in the Panhandle started to become a big sport about 10 to 15 years ago," he said. "At that time there was a plentiful supply of mature bucks, and landowners allowed hunters to go after volume."

Males were overhunted, a big mistake in the marginal habitat such as the Panhandle, Bryant said.

"Ranchers asking where all the bucks are need to realize that this kind of deer population cannot sustain heavy harvesting," he said. "Managing for quality is a better approach."

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mule deer/add one

The average age of mule deer bucks in the Panhandle is probably about 2½ years, he said. Bryant recommended an average age of 3½ to 4½ years in males before they are hunted.

For herds which have already suffered severe depletion of mature males, Bryant recommended allowing three years before any further hunting, so that the buck/doe ratio could move closer to an even sex ratio.

"Attrition causes the older does to die, and the younger bucks will age to maturity," he said.

Once a rancher knows that the buck/doe ratio is acceptable, then he should allow harvesting of not more than 15 percent of the total herd. Bryant said a percentage of up to 20-22 percent is recommended for white-tailed deer in the Edwards Plateau, where forage is more plentiful.

Only the oldest bucks, the real trophy animals, should be harvested, he said.

Mule deer can live to 12 or 13 years, but after 8 years of age, the quality of the bucks' antlers deteriorates, Bryant said.

He explained that body growth in the deer continues until the age of 3½ or 4½, requiring most of the nutrition from the animal's food. After that age, more of the nutrition can go into antler growth. Antlers on deer remain large and of good quality until bucks pass their prime, at 8 or 9 years.

"The key to antler growth is age and nutrition," Bryant said. "On one side this involves managing the deer herd itself through proper harvesting. On the other side, it involves improving the deer's nutrition through proper land management."

Bryant recommended planting some wheat or rye near canyon rims to provide mule deer additional winter and spring nutrition.

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POLITICAL SCIENTISTS--Dr. J. William Davis, left, professor emeritus of political science at Texas Tech University, and Dr. Murray C. Havens, chairman of the Department of Political Science, discuss the first \$500 J. William Davis Scholarship Award. Pi Sigma Alpha honorary society established an endowment for the scholarship in honor of Davis who served 36 years on the Tech faculty. (TECH PHOTO)

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