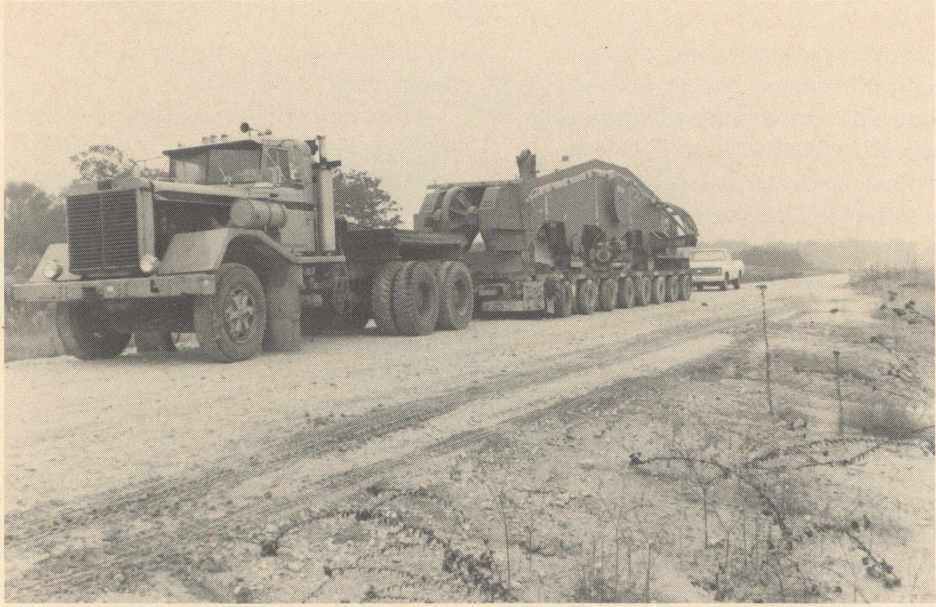


Cross-pit spreader could “revolutionize” mining industry



Parts for the first-ever cross-pit spreader began arriving at Big Brown from the Houston Ship Channel in early October. In all, there will be 190 trucks carrying a total weight of 4,000 tons. The parts were manufactured in West Germany. Construction has already begun.

Parts for the cross-pit spreader (XPS), a new surface mining system, have begun arriving at Big Brown, and when assembly is completed around September 1985, predictions are that it will revolutionize the strip mining industry.

The design and manufacture of the cross-pit spreader—the first of its kind—were done by Mannesmann Demag of West Germany. The parts were shipped by boat to New Orleans and loaded onto barges which were towed to the Houston Ship Channel. Starting in early October, 190 truckloads of parts (weighing a total of 4,000 tons) are being transported to Fairfield. Construction of the XPS has already begun.

Basically, the cross-pit spreader will carry dirt (overburden) on a cantilevered conveyor belt across the open mine pit a sufficient distance so as not to adversely affect the remaining overburden removal activities which are performed by draglines. The cantilevered conveyor boom will be 672 feet long.

“At Big Brown TUMCO started mining on the shallow side of the deposit. As mining progresses across the deposit, the overburden depth is continually increasing as the lignite dips toward the Gulf. We mine two seams at a time and we use draglines to remove the overburden material,” explained Lonnie Smith, Big Brown mine manager. The two-seam mining sequence places overburden from above the top seam into the adjacent empty pit after the bottom seam has been removed. As the top seam overburden depth increases, the draglines reach a limit due to maximum dumping radius or “reach” when they can no longer safely stack the overburden material in the empty pit.

“As you mine deeper you are removing more overburden than previously. You can’t put 80 feet of dirt in a 40-foot hole,” Smith stated.

Each type of overburden has an angle at which it can be safely stacked. To exceed this limit the dragline must be moved over into the spoil area (already mined area) to extend its dumping radius. This requires filling in the gap between the pit being stripped and the spoil, and results in a large percentage of the original overburden material being handled a second time. This is called rehandle. Since stripping is the largest component of the cost of mining, costs begin to balloon when lignite is mined at greater depths and the overburden has to be handled twice.

Smith noted that more efficient and economical ways of combatting these problems have been investigated by System mine planners since the 1970s. Around-the-pit conveyor systems have been in use in other countries, but were rejected by Texas Utilities as too expensive and hard to maintain. The cross-pit con-

cept was an obvious choice—it’s the shortest path—but the engineering technology wasn’t there to build a conveyor that large yet structurally stable. TU needed something that could move the overburden 1,000 feet.

Many companies had cross-pit conveyors on the drawing boards, but few seriously pursued the idea. However, TU mining personnel continued to look at the possibility of such a system. Plains Machinery Company of Amarillo served as the middleman working with TU to find an engineering and manufacturing company that could come up with a suitable concept.

Big Brown was a good choice for this first-ever XPS for a number of reasons. It is the oldest TUMCO mine and was approaching the point in some mining areas when the economic limit of using draglines only would soon be reached due to increasing overburden depths. The experience of the mine personnel, the stability of its mining operation, and more favorable surface topography make it easier to implement the new technology.

The design theory is simple, but the engineering is a sophisticated application of equipment, materials and time, says the president of Plains Machinery. Bucket wheel excavators (which look like ferris wheels) will remove the overburden. It is

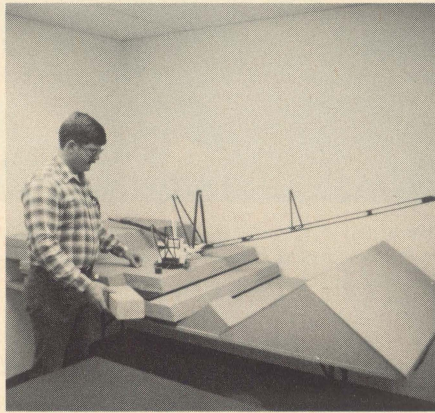
then carried on the conveyor approximately 1,000 feet to the spoil site. According to Smith, only one bucket wheel will be used when the system first goes into operation during the fourth quarter of 1985. A year later in September 1986 the second bucket wheel will be added.

The conveyor operates at speeds up to 1,475 feet per minute and has a capacity to move 24.5 million cubic yards of material yearly. The boom which supports the

conveyor belt is 672 feet long. The system is designed to move in concert with the operation of the other mining equipment.

Big Brown will be the testing ground for the XPS, predicts TUMCO mine officials, and if it proves to be efficient and economical, there will be more built for other companies. But for right now, Texas Utilities has the first cross-pit spreader system of its size in the world.

XPS—a model system



Joe White and the model of the cross-pit spreader he built.

Barrett Sledge, Big Brown superintendent of mine engineering, had a good reason for wanting a model of the cross-pit spreader (XPS). No one had ever seen one before, and since the first-ever XPS was being built at Big Brown, he wanted the foremen and technicians who would be actually working with it to see how it operated.

Engineer Joe White was given the assignment, and he spent a month of Fridays in his garage making the model, which is 6 feet long and built on a 150 to 1 scale. The conveyor system and accompanying dragline are made out of redwood. The hardest part was rounding up the materials, said White.

“I cleaned out every hardware store in Corsicana buying tiny hardwood screws. I think there are about 200 in the model.”

Working with wood isn’t anything new for White, who is the Big Brown representative at the XPS erection site. He’s made some toys for his daughter—a coaster wagon, for example—and two years ago built a home in Corsicana.

The booms on the conveyor system-model actually work. The larger one, the discharge boom, sways up and down; the two smaller ones, the receiving booms, move up and down and side to side. All movement is to scale. The track of the model XPS doesn’t actually move, but White has built wheels underneath to allow it to move. The base of the model, which is about 4 × 8 feet, represents the mining surface and is made of Styrofoam. It has removable blocks to show the different mining configurations.

In addition to illustrating how the XPS will operate, the model will enable the engineers to figure out how big a ramp will be needed to get the finished XPS from the undisturbed soil where it is being erected into the mining pit.

“We can figure it out analytically,” said White, “but this is better. We will have a detailed plan.”

System News

Farrington heads ERCOT

Jerry Farrington, chairman of the board and chief executive of Texas Utilities Electric Company, has been elected chairman of the executive board of ERCOT (Electric Reliability Council of Texas).

ERCOT is a voluntary organization comprised of 81 electric systems in Texas engaged in the generation, transmission and/or distribution of electric power that seek to maintain an adequate and reliable bulk power supply through coordination of planning and operations.

Concurrent with his duties as board chairman, Farrington will serve as one of two ERCOT representatives on the board of trustees of NERC (North America Electric Reliability Council).

ERCOT is one of the nine regional councils of NERC, which includes most of the major power systems in North America and portions of Canada.



Louis Buck new executive assistant

“Rarely doing the same thing twice” is how Dr. Louis Buck describes his job as executive assistant to Erle Nye, president of TUSI. Specifically, he studies particular issues of concern to the Texas Utilities System and compiles the information for management’s use.



Buck transferred to TUEC last October from TP&L, where he was an econometrician. His first position at TUEC was as supervisor of economic analysis in economic re-

search. This August he was named to his present job.

Buck was born in New Braunfels, but grew up in Austin. After high school graduation he was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy and graduated with a B.S. in naval science, “basically mechanical engineering.” He spent seven years in the Navy, mostly in the Pacific, including

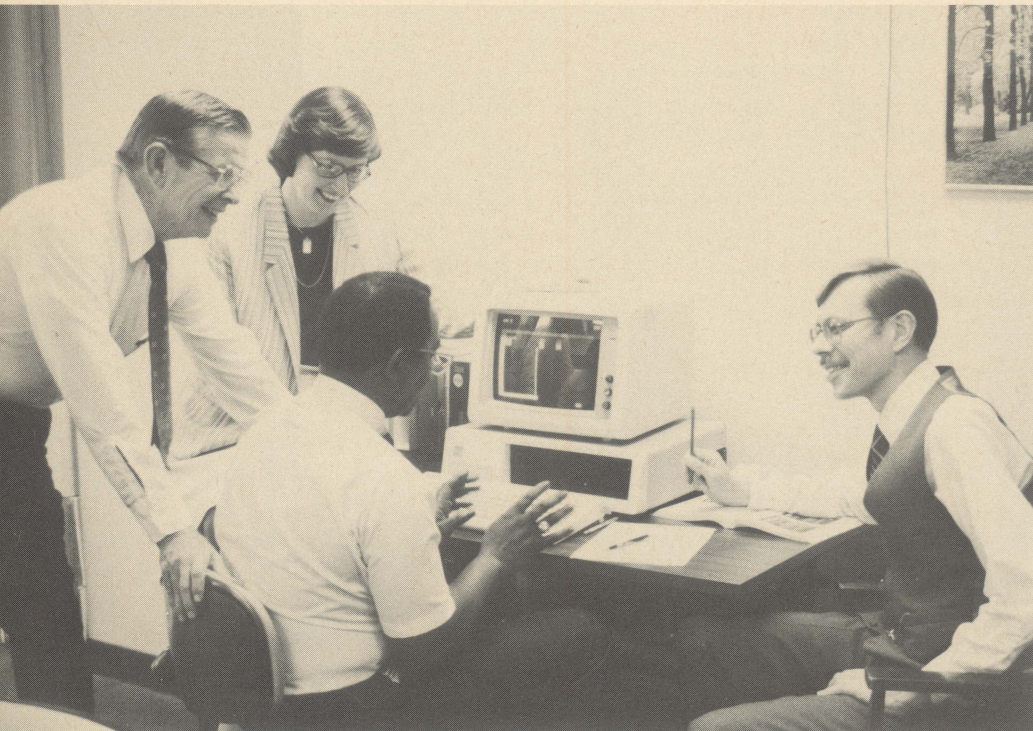
three cruises to Vietnam.

His last Navy assignment was as head of the department of naval science at the Texas Maritime Academy, part of the Moody College of Marine Sciences at Texas A&M University. While there he earned a master of business administration degree from the University of Houston. Buck worked on his doctorate at Texas A&M University while teaching undergraduate courses there.

In July 1980 he joined TP&L and finished his doctorate in 1982. Buck has also taught at the University of Dallas and the University of Texas at Dallas.

Buck is a commander in the Naval Reserve and drills once a month at the Applied Research Laboratories at the University of Texas at Austin. He and his wife, Nancy, have two boys.

"Self-Service" Information Center eliminates middleman



Jack Gates, Jo Carol Porter, George DePillars and John Hansen, left to right, are the staff of the Information Center. They try to meet the needs of the employee who has the one-of-a-kind report or short-term analysis by making access to company data quicker. This is done by teaching the employee to use a personal computer to obtain the information.

• An engineer is asked to research a new piece of equipment to see if it is adaptable to the System's needs. He figures he will have to gather data from at least 20 different sources. He envisions sitting before a table covered with books, spread sheets, charts and graphs, getting a line or two of information from each.

• A new government ruling mandates a quarterly report from the personnel department listing the number of women in the company in a certain salary bracket, broken down by job title.

• The Company's bond experts are considering a bond sale so they meet to talk over the timing of the sale. A lot of "what if" questions are tossed about. To compile a possible scenario for each question, financial employees do spread sheets and calculations manually. The experts meet a week later and three more scenarios, just a little different from the previous ones considered, come out of it. It's "back to the drawing board" with more spread sheets and calculations.

Until recently employees with assignments like those mentioned above got their information by compiling data from files and records, asking co-workers and doing their own calculations. Or they could be added to information system's schedule which is busy with large development projects or maintenance activities like check writing, invoices and daily reports.

The new Information Center (IC) offers another alternative. In addition to the traditional development of applications, the Information Center enables the employee with the one-of-a-kind report or a short-term analysis to prepare to have reader access to company data. This is done by teaching the employee to use a personal computer or a computer language designed for use by non-computer people. The development of spread sheet and report writer languages in the last few years has opened up certain kinds of "computer programming" to virtually everyone, says Jo Carol Porter, supervisor of the Information Center.

"We're eliminating the middleman where possible to increase productivity by giving employees direct access to their data and letting the 'middleman' in systems development spend more time on program development that can't be done without lots of computer training," she explains.

For some departments the "standard" reports may satisfy only a small percentage of their reporting needs, so they require

new reports all the time. This way they get them faster, Porter added. Two such departments that use personal computers in addition to a statistical analysis system on the main IBM computer are TUEC's economic research and TUSI's personnel department. During rate cases, for example, these departments don't always know what information will be requested, but they always have to respond quickly.

It's a self-service approach, but Porter and her staff will be available to help the employee every step of the way. Actually, the Information Center is really a consulting service with Texas Utilities employees as the clients.

Porter invites the employee with the occasional report or special assignment to visit with her and her co-workers, Jack Gates, John Hansen and George DePillars. Together they will discuss the job to be done and the best way to accomplish it with a computer.

Porter notes that their clients could literally have their choice of hundreds of computer programs on the market, but some products are more powerful and easier to understand and use than others. One of the Information Center's jobs is to

research the available computers and software in order to be able to advise employees on what is suitable for their needs. Each of the four divisions of TUEC has an Information Center and they establish recommended hardware and software products across the whole TU System under the direction of Lynn Hunstable, manager of information systems services.

"Our job is to see that a connection is made between the data in the company computers and the employee who needs that data, and that it is made available in a form that the employee can use."

During the coming year the IC staff plans to get an overview of the operation of each department and the typical work assignments so they can assist in selecting computer products for the employees.

According to Porter, "Our job is to see that a connection is made between the data in the company computers and the employee who needs that data, and that it is made available in a form that the employee can use." She explains that to do this the Information Center may write a "bridge" program that adapts the complicated computer formats used by information systems to those that can be used by the employee on the personal computer.

"It's like learning to drive a car. We give you enough information to drive, but not enough to make you a mechanic."

After the appropriate software package has been selected, the employee will be trained to use the computer with emphasis on the types of programs needed for his or her particular assignment. The idea is to make the employee self-sufficient on the computer, without the worry of being overwhelmed with too much information.

"It's like learning to drive a car. We give you enough information to drive, but not

enough to make you a mechanic," says Porter.

If later on an employee needs more training to operate a different type of program or computer software, the Information Center is there to help.

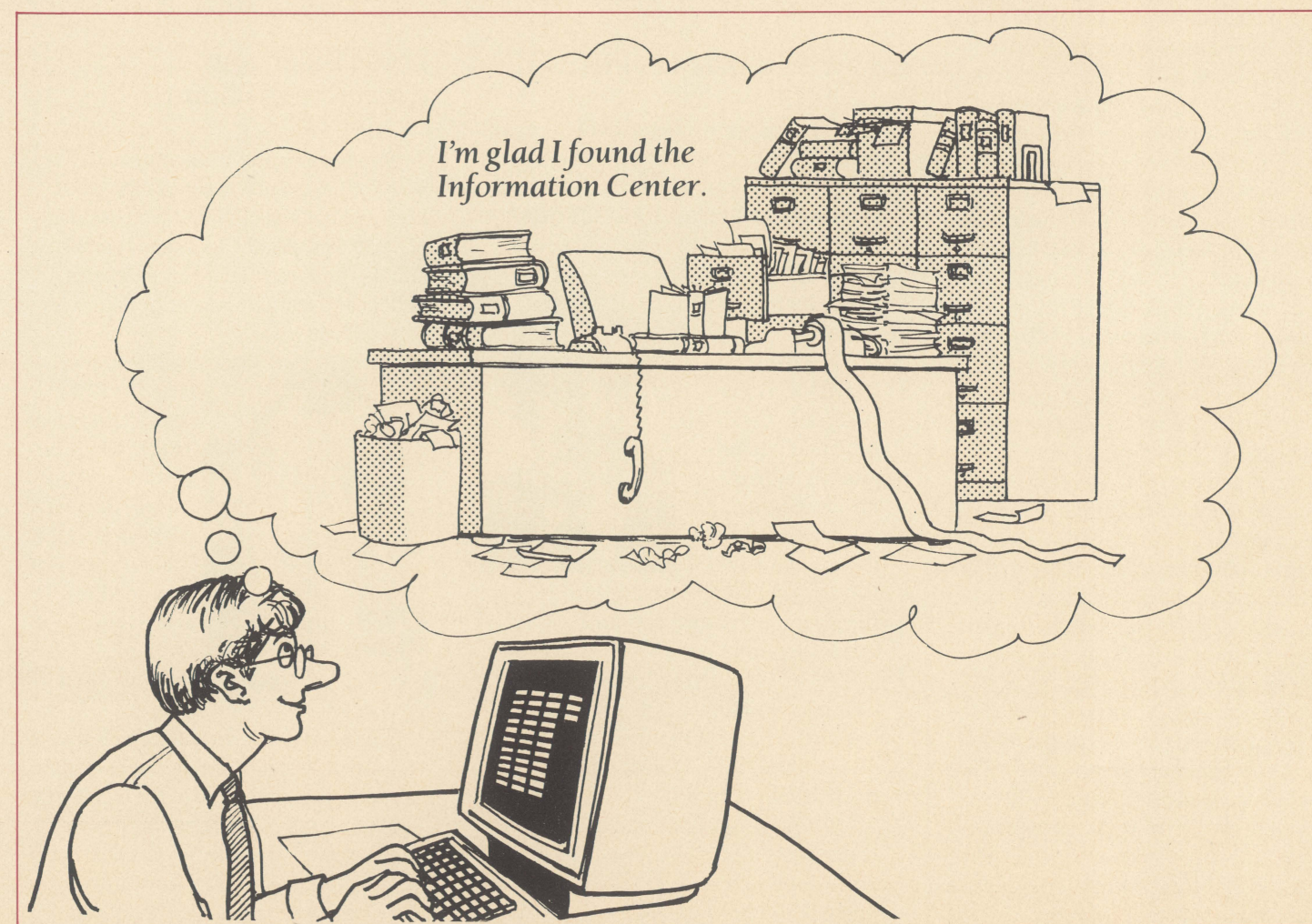
Another feature of this "consulting service" is an information line number to call for any computer-related problem. The Computer Help Desk number is 653-4000. It will serve Information Center customers who have problems or questions about production systems as well as software or hardware questions about user computing. Calls could range from "My computer died" to "We can't get this processed by any software packages. I need a new system written by information systems to do this."

Other calls might be for help in operating a computer, to make changes in a computer program, to interface or "talk" to other computers in the System or to find out where certain information is available, says Porter. She adds, "If we don't know the answer we can talk with other System Information Centers. The purpose is to make it a one-call effort for our clients."

The Information Center is more a concept than a place. Although there are some personal computers on the 17th floor of Bryan Tower, the plan is to place them strategically throughout the System to be used by TUEC, TUFCO, TUMCO, TUSI and BRI employees. (TUGCO, DP&L, TESCO and TP&L have their own Information Centers.) Later, a six-pin plotter for graphs used in presentations and a high-speed printer will be added.

In the future, Porter expects the Information Center to be the impetus for office automation whereby all word processors, PCs and terminals will be tied to a network of computers, making it possible to have an electronic mail system and more flexible data access for TU System employees.

"If we don't know the answer we can talk with other System Information Centers. The purpose is to make it a one-call effort for our clients."



Women's gun safety course on target



The gun safety course's emphasis on self-defense was just what Renee Turner, TUMCO office assistant, wanted. With her husband in the National Guard, she is sometimes alone on weekends. "Even if I never have to shoot a gun, I would like to know how to use it."

Four TUMCO women got a jolt — literally — when they turned out for a handgun course held by the Titus County Sheriff's Office. The Monticello mine office employees were surprised at the recoil of the guns — and surprised at some of the advice from the instructors.

"You don't shoot to wound. You shoot to kill." It was a startling statement prompted by a question from Renee Turner, office assistant in accounting, when she asked where she should aim her gun to wound an intruder in her home. A class instructor replied that there was no thought of wounding.

"I remember very well his explaining that you shoot twice in rapid succession, and if the intruder keeps coming, shoot twice again. If that doesn't do the trick, shoot the remaining two bullets. If he's still coming, throw the gun at him and start running," added Bettye Harris, a co-worker with Renee.

There is an important qualification, the sheriff's office instructors emphasized: it should be a life-threatening situation and don't shoot unless the intruder is inside your home. Don't shoot outside through doors or windows.

Legal considerations were just a part of the course that included the very basics of how to load, hold and fire a handgun. In addition to Renee and Bettye, Betty Fulbright, an office assistant in TUMCO accounting, and Judy Narramore, secretary to Monticello mine manager Ken Price, also attended.

Evidently, the course was just what the women of Titus County wanted. More than 200 women registered for the half-day sessions which were held on 10 successive Saturdays to accommodate them all. Each group was instructed on a one-on-one basis.

The four women's reasons for attending were typical, they said — self protection. Both Bettye Harris and Renee Turner live in the country and Renee and Judy Narramore are often alone at nights when their husbands work or are on National Guard duty. Betty Fulbright lives alone.

Bettye Harris said she had always disliked having guns in her home because of her children and grandchildren, yet the violent times call for her to know how to use one.

"It's a shame you have to even think about it. You never know what is going to happen. And there is no way the police could get to my house quickly if there was an intruder," she explained.

The women agreed that it is one thing to have a gun in the house and another to know how to use it safely and properly. Even knowing how to load a gun is a learned skill.

Judy noted that probably most of her co-workers who attended the course had husbands or friends who could show them how to use a gun, but getting them to take the time is another matter. Sheriff John Moss stated that women in the county had

been asking for such a course for more than a year, but it had to be delayed until the firing range was built.

Women were invited to bring their own guns and all were test-fired by the certified instructors. Some of the guns were declared unsafe, said the TUMCO employees. During the course, the students were taught proper sight alignment, allowed to get the feel of a gun and shown the proper way to load a gun — all before bullets were fired.

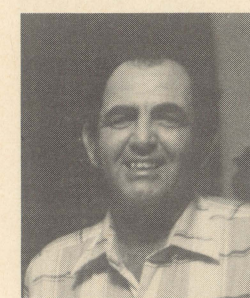
The students learned not to follow television marksmen as examples. Those one-handed or crouched-with-hands-stretched-out-in-front techniques are no-nos — at least for beginners. Hold the gun near the abdomen with the elbows at the side for support and to steady the gun, the women were told.

The course was designed as a defensive measure, to familiarize the students with handguns and advise them on how to act in a life-threatening situation. After completing the course, the TUMCO employees said that they feel more comfortable about firing a gun, but it doesn't completely prepare you for confronting an intruder in your home.

"Only you can be the judge if you can shoot to kill," said Bettye Harris.

Easterwoods keep their eyes on needy children

You could say that Charles and Marcia Easterwood immediately make eye contact whenever they see a child. A youngster's eyes are usually the first feature they notice.



Charles Easterwood

Charles, a fuel mechanic at Big Brown, and his wife, Marcia, are actively involved in providing treatment for needy children with serious eye problems through Charles' membership in the Fairfield Lions Club.

He has held almost all of the offices of the local club, is a past deputy district governor and is currently a director of District 2X of the Lions Club Organ and Eye Bank at Scott and White Hospital in Temple.

But Charles' — and Marcia's — involvement is much more than holding offices. When a child with a serious eye problem is brought to their attention, they talk to the parents about the resources available to help the child, take the family to the eye exam, stay with them through surgery if that is the doctor's recommendation, and accompany the parents on any follow-up visits.



Target practice was just one of the activities at the handgun safety course attended by Bettye Harris, Judy Narramore and Betty Fulbright (left to right). Before they ever loaded bullets into their weapons, these TUMCO employees learned about the different types of guns, handling, sighting and loading a gun properly.

Handling guns safely

Safe gun handling should be practiced wherever guns are involved. Surveys conducted by the Texas Fish and Game Department and the National Rifle Association show that there are guns in 75 percent of American households. More than 70 percent of gun-related deaths occur in the home.

With the hunting season, chances of accidents increase. Accidents with guns usually are the result of ignorance or disregard for safety rules. The following "Ten Commandments" of handling guns are recommended by the hunter safety division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife.

1. Treat every gun as if it were loaded.
2. Watch the muzzle. Be able to control the direction of the muzzle even if you should stumble.
3. Be sure of your target and know what's beyond it before you pull the trigger.

4. Be sure the barrel and trigger assembly are clear of obstructions and that you have only ammunition of the proper size for the gun you are carrying.

5. Unload guns when they are not in use. Guns should be carried in cases to the shooting area.

6. Never point a gun at anything you do not want to shoot. Avoid horseplay with a gun.

7. Never climb a fence or tree or jump a ditch with a loaded gun. Never pull a gun toward you by the muzzle.

8. Never shoot a bullet at a flat, hard surface or at water. A ricochet can't be controlled. At target practice, be sure your backstop is adequate.

9. Store guns and ammunition separately and beyond the reach of children.

10. Avoid alcoholic beverages before or during shooting.

It's a labor of love for the couple; they have a child with serious eye problems, too. But Charles' involvement in Lions Club youth projects came long before his son, John, was born. He joined the international civic organization when he moved to Fairfield in 1967 and almost immediately became part of the Lions Club Crippled Children's Camp at Kerrville. It is a self-help camp for children with diabetes and other physical handicaps. While at a two-week session, a child learns about his handicap or illness and how to take care of himself. Charles has been a camp director for 14 years.

Charles and Marcia married in 1970; he had one child and she had two. A year later John was born. He visited his first eye doctor at three weeks of age, but it wasn't until John started school that the seriousness of his eye handicap was completely known, says Marcia.

She describes his defect as "strabismus-Nystagmus," an inability of his eyes to focus properly and a sensitivity to sunlight. It is hereditary, and as Marcia found out

later, comes from her side of the family.

"It seems like it affects every second or third generation. When we found out about John, I remembered my grandfather's dancing eyes," and that he always wore a hat because his eyes were sensitive to the sun," she added.

Three other children in her family have the same handicap. Their grandson, Jeremy, was less than a year old when his eye problems were diagnosed by Dr. Everett Moody, a children's eye doctor in Irving, near Dallas. Marcia was amazed when she heard the doctor had ordered surgery for the 11-month-old baby.

After Jeremy's successful surgery they immediately took John to Dr. Moody. "Dr. Moody's opinion is that the quicker the problem is diagnosed and corrected, the more vision is saved," says Charles. Unfortunately the doctor didn't think surgery would help John at that time. He urged them not to give up hope because new advances in children's eye surgery were occurring all the time.

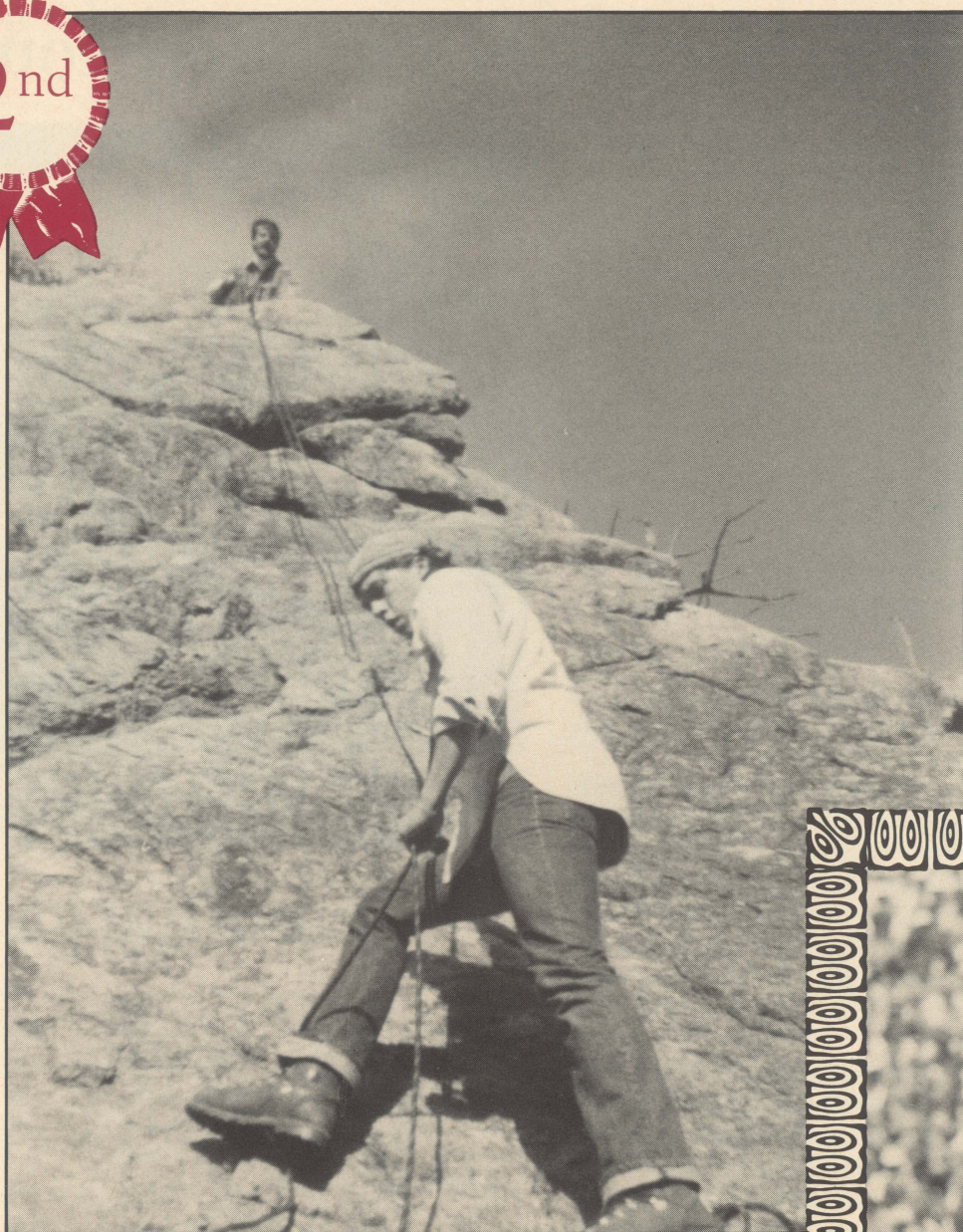
John had surgery when he was 10 years old. Sutures were taken in each eye to tighten the muscles. While the operation didn't give him perfect eyesight, it helped him to focus better.

It wasn't long before the Easterwoods began to reach out to help other children

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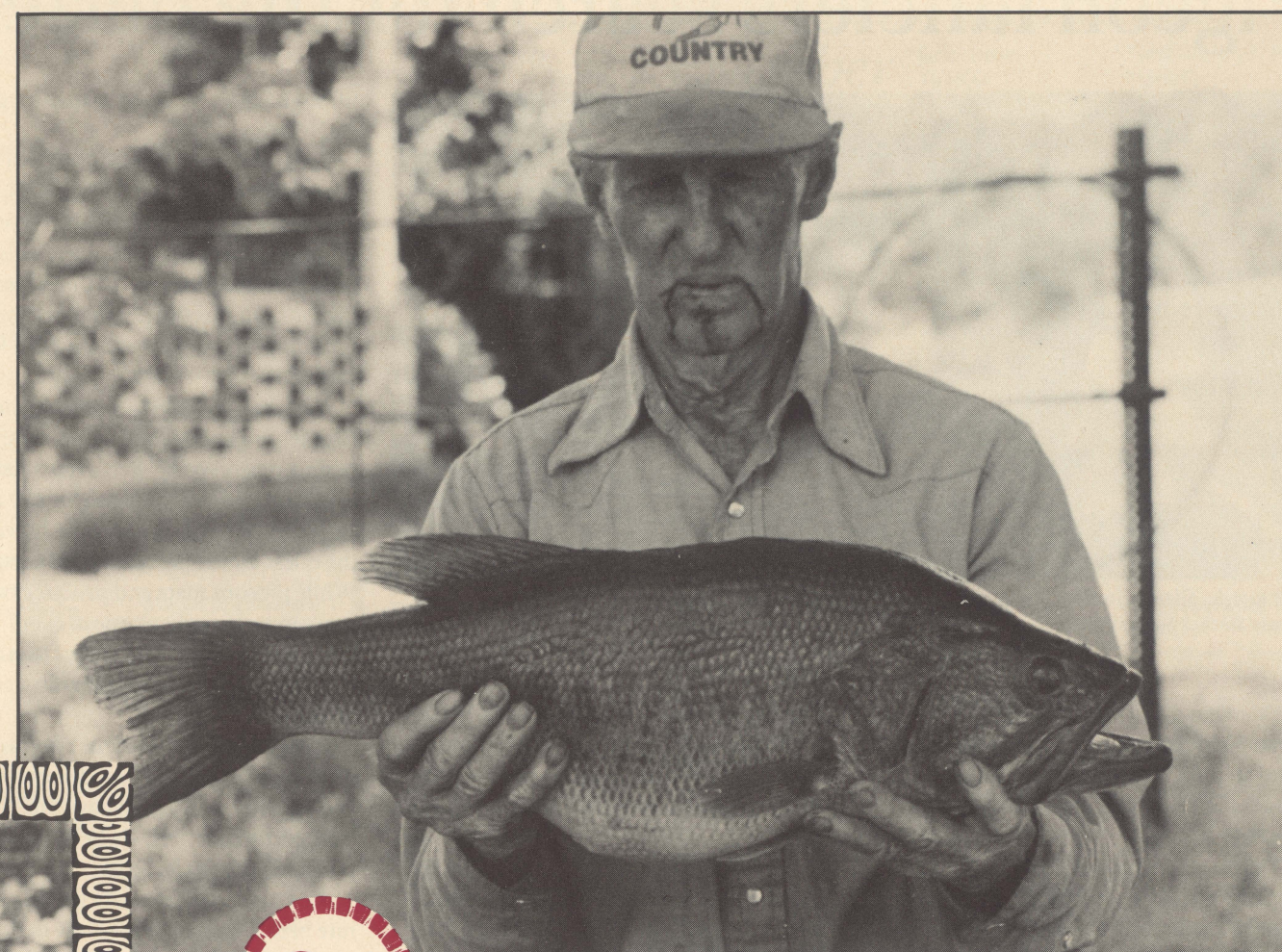
Susie Erickson, TUEC senior accountant in financial and regulatory, won second place with her photo of John and Todd Erickson rock climbing in Oklahoma.



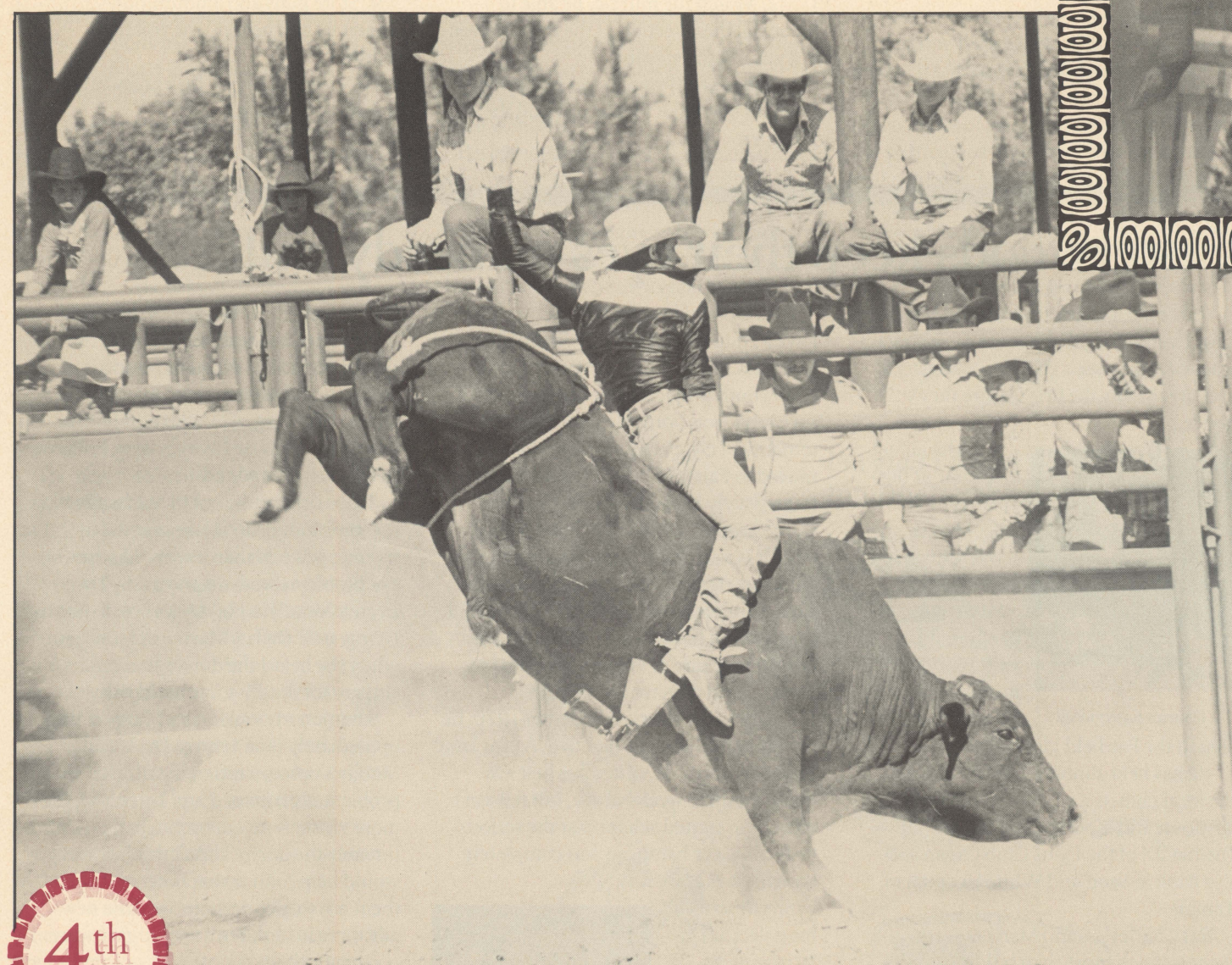
Communicator Photo Contest Winners



"Monticello Bass — caught by a level-headed fisherman" is what Jay W. Hodge titles his third place photo. Hodge is a fuel mechanic helper at Monticello's Winfield North mine site. The photo of L. T. David was taken with a Konica camera.



Paula Perkins, TUMCO buyer at Martin Lake, titles her grand prize winning photo of an Olympic equestrian event "Going for the Gold." She shot it with a Canon AE 1 with a 200mm lens and motor film advance. "The problem was finding a spot from which amateurs could shoot. The pros were everywhere," she commented.



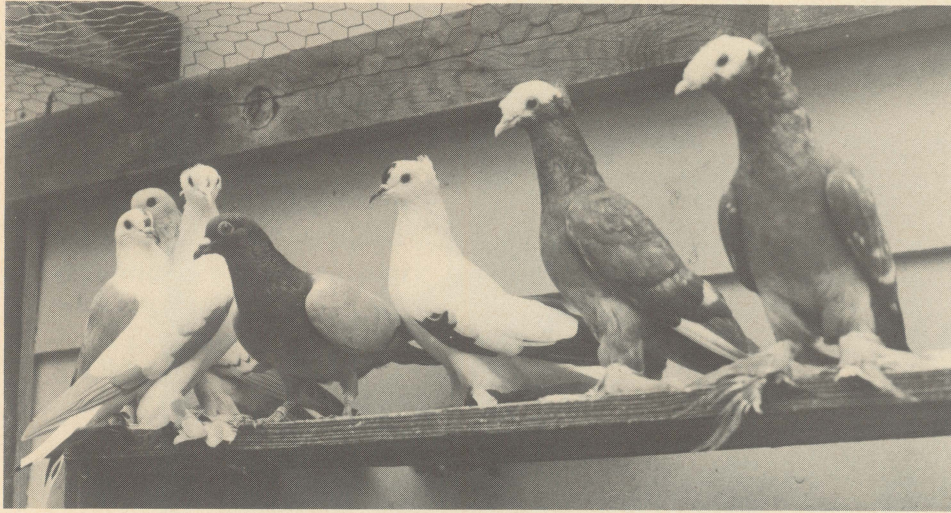
Denny Jernigan, storekeeper at Martin Lake-Beckville Mine, won fourth place with his black and white photo of a bull rider. He titles his shot "Eight Seconds." Jernigan used a Mamiya-Sekor 1000 DTL camera with a Vivitar 90-230 lens. He also printed the photo.



Rickey B. Goodwin's early-morning photo of "Ballooning Over Florida" was named fifth place winner. The TUMCO engineer took the shot at 7 a.m. with a Ricoh XR-7 from another hot air balloon.



Pigeon fanciers search for the perfect bird



Left to right, Silesian Swallow, Ice Pigeon (behind Swallow), Saxon Stork, European Rock Pigeon, Saxon Stork, 2 Saxon Priests.

“Man has always wanted to fly. There is something fascinating about God’s winged creatures. It’s a challenge to raise and tame them, and I believe it stems from man’s desire to fly.”

Pigeons to many people mean dirtied statues and infested parks, but in talking with Bob Feister you begin to see pigeons in terms of traditions, great beauty and the science of genetics.

Bob, fuel production technician at Martin Lake’s Beckville Mine, raises rare pigeons, the kind that never set foot outside their loft, much less rest on the head of a bronze statue. The fun of the hobby is in striving to breed the perfect bird.

Most rare pigeon fanciers don’t seek to develop a new breed, but to achieve the perfection in color, appearance and markings established as the standard by breeders in Europe, Asia and the Middle East hundreds of years ago. Feister concentrates on those from Germany.

Bob was born near Philadelphia, in an area populated by German immigrants in the Pennsylvania Dutch country. Raising pigeons is a German tradition and the breeds developed by them are recognized for their striking and rich colors, Bob explains. These breeds are often called “German Toys” because of the time and devotion these early-day pigeon fanciers gave to their hobby.

Bob started raising pigeons as a youngster when the man who bought his grandfather’s farm moved in with his 2,000 rare pigeons. He gave some to the young boy, who “built a rinky-dink loft where the floor slanted and the roof didn’t. I was in heaven.”

He majored in forestry at Penn State University, where his studies in genetics fueled his interest in breeding pigeons. That had to be put on hold after graduation while he served on reconnaissance missions worldwide for the Air Force. About five years later he again started breeding rare pigeons.

He recalls that at Penn State he worked on a project to cross pitch pine with loblolly pine to get a tree resistant to winter damage with the fast growth characteristics of the loblolly. Now 20 years later, that first generation is reaching reproduction age but the cross will probably not be perfected in his lifetime.

It’s different with pigeons. “At least in three years you will have an idea of whether it will work or not. I can think of nothing more satisfying than to succeed in even a simple genetic project with my family of birds. That is the reason I love to deal with the German Toys. If I were strictly a showman, I’d definitely deal with another breed of pigeon, one in which the competition is keener and it is easier to buy good stock to get started with.”

Bob adds that he doesn’t mean other breeds are easier to perfect; they’re not. “All standards are generally just a little out

of reach, which is what they should be.”

The German Toy breed has been described to Bob as “living animals with a whole range of colors and patterns to play with.”

“The men of Germanic Europe have had their Toys for centuries and their descendants brought them to the New World. We’re trying to preserve their patterns and their colors but very few of us are trying to unravel the secrets and go on,” he says.

Bob, who is South Central vice president and Texas state director of the Rare Breeds Pigeons Club and a show judge, notes that rare pigeons don’t compete with one another. The birds are competing against a standard. And it is exact. The standard for each breed details not only the general appearance and breed characteristics, but color and markings down to the primary and secondary feathers. Grading goes from royalty, which is perfect,

through highly superior, superior, good and inferior.

Some of the nearly 400 breeds of pigeons aren’t found in the U.S. at all. All the breeds are distinct and different from each other and come in almost every color. Breeds include the rare; the performing pigeons, such as the homing, rolling and tumbling; and utility pigeons bred for eating.

A logical question to a rare pigeon breeder might be, “Why not just buy a perfect pigeon pair?” Few are available, says Bob, and many are not for sale at any price. Besides, the fun is in the breeding — the quest for the perfect and true pigeon. While pigeons mate and produce two eggs every month, perhaps one in every 10 birds hatched has the genetic traits a breeder is looking for, primarily a color or marking.

Bob has concentrated his efforts on three breeds, Saxon Priest, Saxon Stork and Ice Pigeon. They all have muffs or feathers on their feet. He believes he has perfected the Saxon Stork.

Rare pigeon fanciers are themselves a rare breed, he adds, especially in Texas. Nationwide, there are probably fewer than 10 who breed Saxon Storks of any quality.

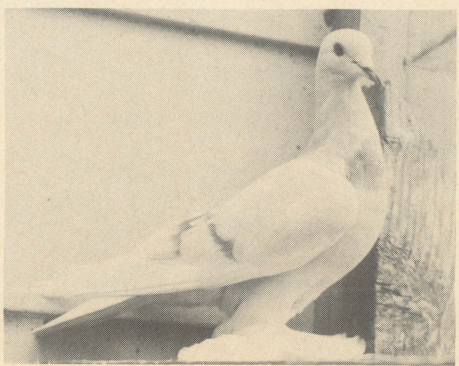
One reason for the lack of rare pigeon breeders may be the public attitude toward pigeons, Bob suggests. The birds have an undeserved reputation as being dirty and noisy. He contends that their droppings are fast drying and odorless and their cooing can’t be heard 10 feet from the loft. As proof Feister notes that his 80 birds occupy a relatively small loft adjacent to his garage at his home in Henderson. He adds that rare pigeon fanciers across the nation maintain a campaign



Bob Feister . . . “Raising pigeons is just plain fun.”

against restrictive city ordinances.

Bob is a man with a lot of hobbies, among them collecting and refinishing antique furniture and remodeling his two-story home. But, he says, all that is work. “Raising pigeons is just plain fun.”



Swiss Crescent

Easterwoods’ eyes on needy children . . . continued from page 3

have a chance at better eyesight. The first was a child of an acquaintance. With the mother’s permission, Charles took the child to Scott and White, where the doctor diagnosed the 6-year-old as having inoperable cataracts. They had waited too long, they were told. The parents agreed to seek a second opinion, and they and the Easterwoods visited Dr. Moody. He immediately ordered surgery.

“He don’t move slow,” laughs Charles. “He doesn’t give you time to dread it.”

It was a room of joyful adults when the young boy opened his eyes after the surgery to say, “I can see my car,” referring to the toy nearby on a windowsill. Marcia explains that the child’s eyesight will never be 20-20, but without the surgery he would have lost his vision completely.

Since that time Dr. Moody and the Easterwoods have joined together to see that 11 more needy youngsters from Fairfield have a chance at better eyesight. The couple has also helped several other families — including System employees — know about the work of Dr. Moody. These other families have insurance or other means to pay for eye care, but want to know where to go for help with a child’s eye problems.

The Easterwoods term themselves the “go-betweens,” making the contacts, arrangements and appointments for a doctor’s visit, surgery, eyeglasses or whatever is needed. In addition to money from the Fairfield Lions Club, other funds and services are provided by the State Commission for the Blind and the Knights Templar Masonic order in Waco. Dr. Moody charges a flat fee for the surgery, which is paid by the Commission.

The Lions Club provides money for surgery and other incidentals. Most of the

time the youngsters can go home the same day as the surgery. Glasses or contacts are provided, as well as follow-up visits.

One of the Easterwoods accompanies the family on all these trips or Curtis Smith or Frank Peyon, also Lions Club members, may go. “The Three Musketeers” is how Charles describes himself and his friends. Some of the children are from low-income families. Their parents couldn’t have afforded a car trip to Dr. Moody’s, much less surgery. And the presence of the experienced Lions Club members or Marcia Easterwood makes it all go smoothly.

The Fairfield Lions Club is going to have to seek new money raising projects for its eye fund, says Charles. In the past, cattle have been donated for a raffle held during the Freestone County Fair. But this year has been tough on area farmers and no one was willing to donate. The Lions Club also earns money from a food booth at the fair.

Most of the youngsters have come to the Easterwoods’ attention by word of mouth, but the couple is always making eye contact, so to speak. Marcia’s volunteer work as a bus driver for her church gives her an opportunity to spot youngsters with eye handicaps.

Those that receive help will probably never achieve 20-20 vision, but they are at least given a chance at a normal life. Marcia recalled a little girl whose vision was so distorted that she saw two of everything and could not focus at all. She had to feel her way to do simple things such as eating and walking through doorways. Normal childhood playing was a chore for her. Some are not old enough to understand their eye problems and compensate for them, says Marcia.

Charles says that he prefers to let Marcia

talk about the youngsters they have helped. When he starts talking, “I get choked up. What’s fascinating to me is to see them come out of surgery and their reaction when they find out they can see clearly.”

The TUMCO employee may be a doer instead of a talker, but the residents of Fairfield know about his work. In 1979 he was named Fairfield Citizen of the Year and the Lions Club has awarded him a life membership to the Crippled Children’s Camp. His den wall is decorated with other plaques and certificates of achievement.

The Easterwoods say that they have been successful in bringing youngsters for surgery because they can identify with the parents. They know John will not have perfect vision, but they delight in his accomplishments. He is in a regular classroom in school and keeps up with his classmates with the aid of large print textbooks. Although he has trouble focusing at close range, he delights in electronics hobbies which require close, precise work, his parents report.

“I guess we could have pitied ourselves and asked, ‘Why me?’ I appreciated the words of the first eye doctor we took John to. He told us that we would never be able to see through John’s eyes, so not to put limits on him. Let him learn things for himself. That’s what I tell other parents,” says Marcia.

And she adds: “We got involved because of our child and what we learned opened the door to help others. We feel that the Lord gave us a special child like John for that reason. It opened the door. . . . without him we wouldn’t have known about Dr. Moody.”

October

20 years

David Newman Forbus
TUMCO
Martin Lake

Bobby J. Hempel
TUMCO
Big Brown

Franklin E. Humphreys
TUMCO
Martin Lake

15 years

S. D. Borchelt
TUSI
Dallas

B. H. Easter
TUFCO
Dallas

Joanna Y. Oliver
TUSI
Dallas

Thomas E. Reames
TUSI
Dallas

Jerry Wayne Reynolds
TUMCO
Martin Lake

Loyd A. Robertson
TUMCO
Martin Lake

10 years

Paul N. Davis
TUMCO
Monticello

Raymond D. Dugger, Jr.
TUMCO
Monticello-Winfield North

Billy G. Floyd
TUMCO
Monticello-Winfield North

Joe D. Guthrie
TUMCO
Monticello-Winfield South

M. A. Haynes
TUSI
Dallas

Dennis M. Hickerson
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Beckville

Stanley R. Vongonten
TUMCO
Monticello-Winfield North

Charles Adams
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Beckville

James Earl Allen
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Tatum

Mark A. Barton
TUMCO
Monticello

James E. Bonner
TUMCO
Big Brown

Clarence Earl Brummett
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Beckville

Charles Alan Buchanan
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Beckville

Lloyd C. Buford
TUMCO
Monticello-Winfield North

Bobby Byrd
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Beckville

Buford C. Carmen
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Beckville

Randall M. Carson
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Beckville

Johnston J. Colbert
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Beckville

James A. W. Conradt
TUMCO
Monticello-Winfield North

William Curtis Dunn
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Beckville

Jimmie Earl Edwards
TUMCO
Monticello-Thermo

Mark Gray
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Tatum

Steve Warren Glover
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Beckville

Jeff C. Godwin
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Tatum

Robert Herring Green
TUMCO
Monticello-Thermo

Danny G. Harris
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Beckville

Robert David Ingram
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Tatum

Cartritus C. Johnson
TUMCO
Monticello-Thermo

Barbara Raye Jones
TUSI
Dallas

William R. Lancaster
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Beckville

Bobby Wade Langford
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Beckville

Ricky Don Logan
TUMCO
Monticello-Winfield North

Walter Andrew Lowke, Jr.
TUSI
Dallas

James Woodrow Roberts
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Tatum

Jimmy R. Robertson
TUMCO
Monticello-Winfield North

Learnon Roy Shankle, Jr.
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Beckville

Walter R. Shipman
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Beckville

Jerry Marshall Smith
TUSI
Dallas

K. Allen Smith
TUMCO
Big Brown

Stephen Wayne Sowell
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Beckville

Sidney L. Sparks
TUMCO
Monticello-Thermo

Terry E. Spraberry
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Beckville

James Robert Stevens
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Beckville

Michael Orien Taylor
TUMCO
Monticello

Arthur Douglas Vick
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Beckville

John Wilkey
TUMCO
Big Brown

Robert A. Williams
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Beckville

November

10 years

William Bryan Dumas, Jr.
TUSI
Dallas

Willie D. Fulbright
TUMCO
Monticello-Winfield North

J. E. Thompson, Jr.
TUSI
Dallas

5 years

L. J. Acker
TUSI
Dallas

Joe B. Ames
TUMCO
Monticello-Thermo

Zurella Jean Boshers
TUMCO
Dallas

Byron Kent Brummett
TUMCO
Martin Lake

John William Brzeski
TUMCO
Monticello

Roy Wayne Burrell
TUMCO
Big Brown

Michael Thomas Cardwell
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Beckville

Patrick L. Chassot
TUSI
Dallas

J. P. Cortez
TUSI
Dallas

James Robin Davis
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Tatum

James Dixon
TUMCO
Big Brown

Martin Joseph Elman
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Tatum

Robert E. Ferguson
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Tatum

Alan Keith Ford
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Tatum

Ralph Ray Granzin
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Beckville

Carle E. Hale
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Beckville

James K. Hampton
TUSI
Dallas

Bobby Joe Harris
TUMCO
Monticello-Thermo

Dee Ann Hopkins
TUMCO
Dallas

Troy Earl Latham
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Beckville

E. C. Matthews
TUSI
Dallas

David D. Metcalf, Jr.
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Beckville

D. E. Palmer
TUSI
Dallas

Thomas M. Pharr
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Beckville

Steven Earl Pierce
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Tatum

Darrell Lynn Rahier
TUMCO
Martin Lake

James Lynn Smith
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Beckville

Jerrell Ray Smith
TUMCO
Martin Lake-Tatum

Michael Lynn Smith
TUMCO
Monticello-Thermo

James Britton Sturrock
TUSI
Dallas

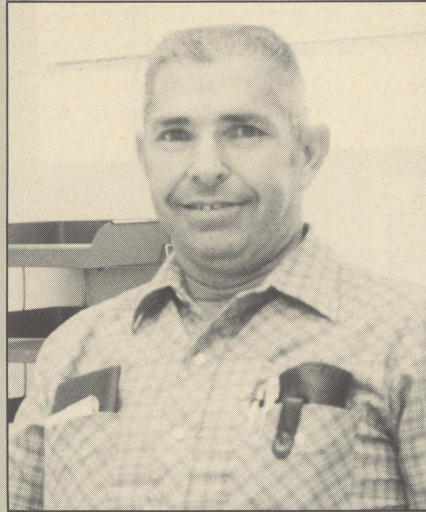
Karen G. Vaden
TUMCO
Monticello-Thermo

Missed service anniversary:
Jerry Nelson
TUMCO
Big Brown
15 years-January

PROMOTIONS



Edwin N. Sandidge



Jack D. Willingham

TUMCO has announced the appointment of two assistant mine managers at Monticello.

Edwin N. Sandidge, formerly assistant manager at Winfield South, assumes the same position at Winfield North. Jack D. Willingham is the new assistant mine manager at Winfield South.

Sandidge joined the Texas Utilities System in 1953 at Rockdale. He transferred to the Winfield North Mine in 1973 as pit foreman and was promoted to assistant mine manager in 1979. When the Winfield South Mine began operations in 1980, Sandidge was reassigned to that location as assistant mine manager.

Sandidge and his wife, Anita, have two children and two grandchildren. They are members of the First Baptist Church in Mount Pleasant.

Willingham joined the System in 1980 as mine maintenance superintendent. Prior to that, he worked for Brown & Root for 11 years as welding superintendent and as project superintendent for Austin Power Company responsible for construction of draglines and heavy equipment for TU. Willingham has a bachelor of science degree in industrial arts from Sam Houston State University.

The new assistant mine manager and his wife, Sandra, have three children. They live in Mount Pleasant and are active members of Trinity Baptist Church.

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EMPLOYEE CORNER



Dana Slay

15-year-olds softball team, the Stingers, which was first in season play and third in the regional championship. Dana, sophomore class president, was named sophomore class princess at Red Oak High School’s homecoming. Robin was shortstop for the Bandits, a softball

team which Pat coaches. The Bandits came in second place for the season and Robin was invited by the winning team to play in the regional championship. The team placed third. Robin has also been named “Most Beautiful” of the seventh grade at Red Oak Junior High. MONTICELLO: TUMCO employees did well at the Mount Pleasant Country Club’s Labor Day Golf Tournament. Jerry Haupt, Winfield South MSHA technician, tied for first place in the championship flight. Billy Cannon, Winfield South bulldozer operator, was first in the third flight and Edwin Sandidge, Winfield North assistant mine manager, was first in the sixth flight.

IN BRIEF

The new Information Center will eliminate the middleman by teaching employees to use personal computers to gain access to company data for short-term reports. No more waiting on an opening in the data systems' schedule or getting information from many different sources. See the story on **page 2**.

Charles and Marcia Easterwood are actively involved in providing treatment for needy children with serious eye problems. The Fairfield couple not only makes arrangements for eye treatment, they often accompany the families to the hospital and go with them for follow-up visits. Their story is on **page 3**.

The Olympics, bull riding, hot-air ballooning and mountain climbing were all winning subjects in *The Communicator* photo contest. The top five photographs are shown on **pages 4 and 5**.

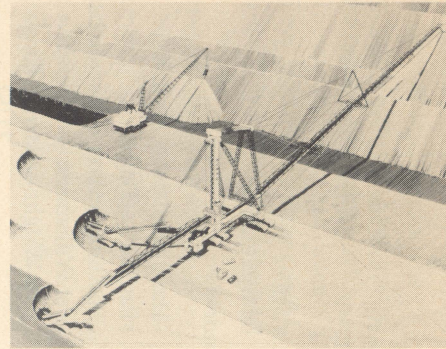
Pigeons have a bad press, says Bob Feister, who raises rare pigeons. They are usually associated with parks and dirty statues, but he thinks of them in terms of tradition, great beauty and the science of genetics. Read about these "German Toys" on **page 6**.

The Communicator

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COVER STORY

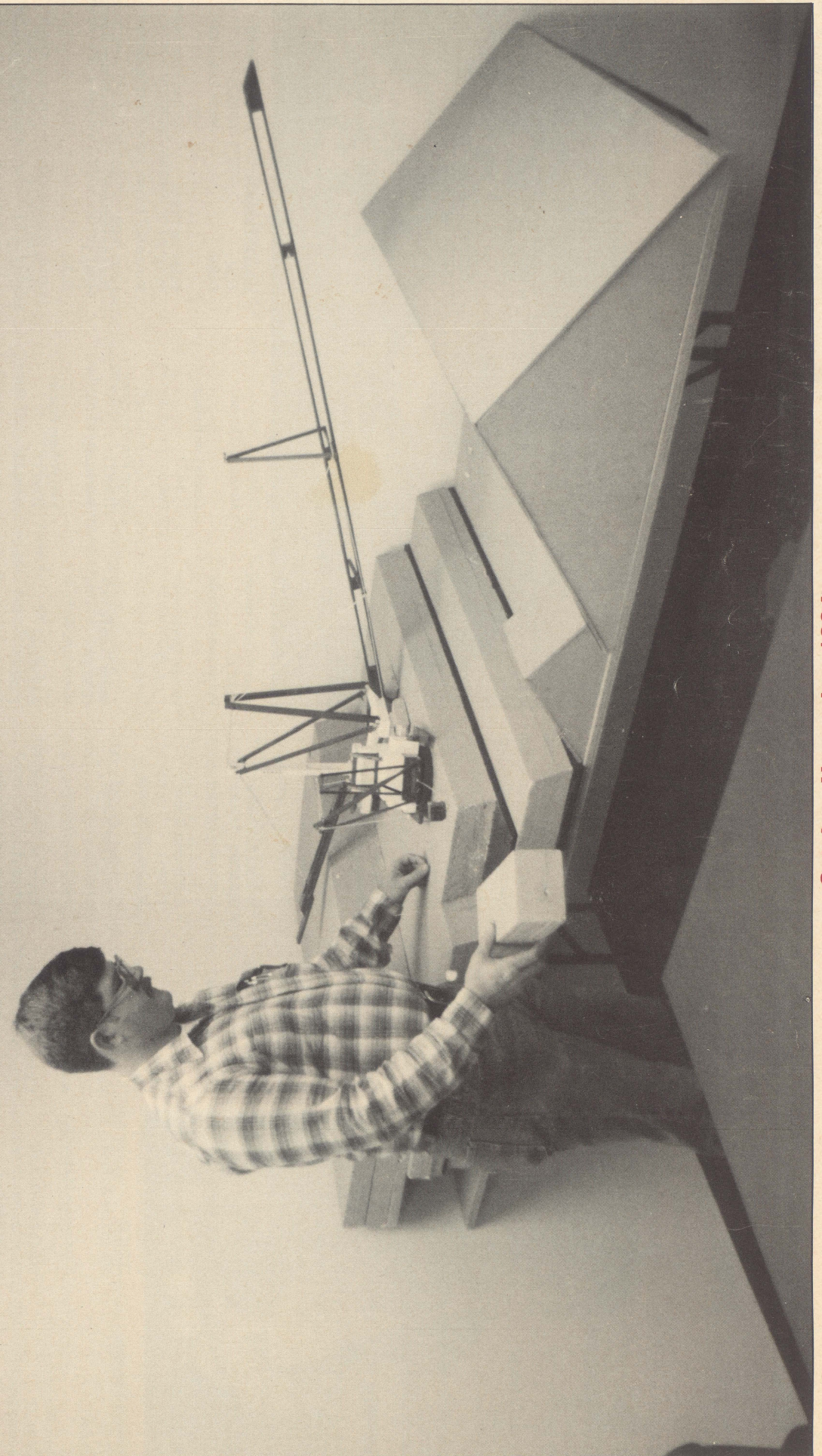


The cross-pit spreader will have its world premiere at Big Brown and the handmade model shown on the cover will help mine foremen and technicians use this first-of-its kind surface mining system. The story on page one describes the cross-pit system which is expected to revolutionize the strip mining industry and a second story tells about Big Brown engineer Joe White building the model in his garage.

Cover Photo by Raymond Ivy

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