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Cattle Brands Pose Problem For Inspectors

Having already proven through two previous written tests that they possess the I.Q. of the average American—90 to 110—and a good job knowledge—applicants for livestock brand inspector jobs showed Oregon Department of Agriculture personnel it still takes aspiring inspectors more than a minute per head to decipher the correct brands on assorted cattle.

The occasion was the first field performance test given by the Oregon Civil Service Commission, in cooperation with the department and which took place in Redmond recently. Similar exams are currently being held for 30 additional applicants in Ontario, Medford, and Corvallis to supplement a list of eligibles for any future openings with the livestock division.

Ten head of cattle, previously closely examined by H. A. Matschiner, supervising livestock officer, and brand inspector aides, were loosed in a pen and applicants given turns at distinguishing which of Oregon's more than 13,000 registered brands was before them.

Actually, an Oregon brand inspector's work is further complicated with the influx, for example, of some 40,000 additional brands from California; 60,000 assorted designs from Montana; 20,000 from Idaho; and a multitude of other hot iron impressions from other states and Canada.

"Hank" Matschiner, a former state police officer of seven years experience, has been in his present work with the State Department of Agriculture since 1953. He was assisted in the testing by George L. Ouellette, civil service examiner, Portland.

Brand inspectors Ray Ego, Ed Ivory, and Bill Radosevich, joined Matschiner in grading the contestants. Ivory, an experienced inspector, personally scrutinized 3,000 cattle in Deschutes and Crook counties during November alone. Redmond Auction Yards, Inc., where the tests were given, move more than 500 cattle each week, with a brand inspector attending every sale.

For legal recognition, Oregon law permits branding on six locations: both hips, shoulders, and rib areas. In addition to the brands, those vying for future work with the department were asked to note such other memorabilia as ear notches, flesh blazes, and so forth. Several steer bore more than one imprint from hot irons.

"Because it is possible for cattle to be moved 300 miles in 12 hours, we have problems which didn't face the cattlemen of yesteryears," Matschiner said in explaining the importance of ciphers imprinted into the living hide.

Unless ranchers and farmers record their brands with the department every five years, the ownership expires and the brand is open to be used by someone else.

M. E. Knickerbocker, chief of the department's division of animal industry, stated that Oregon's sixth livestock brand book will be issued in 1960. Oregon livestock growers will be notified in July, 1959, and must re-register their brands with the department by January 1, 1960.

Division head for 12½ years, Knickerbocker was a former ranch owner, administrator, and county extension agent. He proudly notes that of his nine livestock officers, seven have been former state police officers and the other two have had extensive law enforcement experience on the county level.

A livestock officer has, generally, had greater experience and training in police work than a brand inspector. A minimum four years, or equivalent investigative experience, is a necessary qualification.

Knickerbocker also observed that a number of states have adopted Oregon procedures for brand identification in their entirety.

Oregon's brand inspectors had inspected 590,000 cattle through October of this year and, during the same period, returned 38 sheep, 24 horses and 449 cattle to rightful owners.

The state has about 100 full-time and part-time brand inspectors. Each inspector receives a live-



COZY DEN REPLACES ATTIC — Attics are good for a lot of things and not the least of them is the possibility of converting it into that much-needed family room — home office — hobby shop. Just exactly that was accomplished in this attic den. Shown here in "his" side which provides a built-in desk for hubby's record keeping and writing chores. Desk and wall paneling are of sunny Douglas fir, left natural for the walls and painted for the desk. Flooring is of inexpensive and amazingly tough west coast hemlock.

Cozy Den Furnishes Male Retreat From Togetherness

There are times when family "togetherness" can get to be too much of a good thing. Every member of the family, from the youngest toddler up to the clan head, needs an escape hatch, a place to which he can sneak off for privacy and quiet.

The private lair for a child usually consists of the back yard or the child's bedroom, and usually, this is sufficient for his needs. For Mom and Dad, however, something more is in order—a den which is more or less off-limits to the youngsters. Here the adults can escape for a few minutes' respite from family brouhaha and recharge their emotional batteries in peace and quiet.

The adults' den can be a reclaimed attic or basement, or can even be a corner filched from the garage. It needn't be large, but it must be comfortable, the accent falling on privacy and relaxation.

Achieving a restful atmosphere

stock brand book, published by the department. This book of signets facilitates checks on all cattle arriving at a saleyard or slaughter plant. The ownership of stock must be proven before animals can be sold or slaughtered. Also, all cattle, horses, mules, and asses must be brand-inspected before shipment out-of-state.

Brands are read from left to right, from the top down, or from outside in. A definite method of identifying characters has been established. If a letter or symbol is made backwards from its normal position, it's read as a "reverse."

A letter lying horizontally on its face or back is said to be "laid," while the same letter partially over on its face or back is said to be "tumbling."

In the cattle industry's infant days, ranchers used large, out-sized irons that nearly covered an animal's side. When cattle hides began to bring a good price, the smaller, carefully forged stamping iron was ushered in.

Legibility of an insignia depends a great deal on the cowboy applying it. The cipher is applied with a grey-hot iron, about the color of the branding fire ashes. A red-hot metal produces an overburned brand, often resulting in sores which may become infected, in addition to smudging the print itself.

Though Oregon cowboys may consider it a gross indignity, they're also graded on their confidence or fearful attitude toward cattle while brand inspecting.

for the den is an easy proposition, especially if you take a cue from turn-of-the-century libraries in which decor consisted of rich wood paneling. In that day, the style was to use dark, heavy woods, while today, the favorites are lighter, more cheerful woods like champagne colored west coast hemlock which are finished with clear lacquers or just wax. These paler softwoods are just as melow and rich as the dark, stained woods, but have the added advantage of good light reflection.

Often times, the den must serve double duty as both a retreat and a home office, so a desk is a very necessary part of the plan. To save space, the desk can be built in under the window or into a wasted corner, and following the modern trend, it should be of the same wood as is used for the wall paneling.

Usually, built-ins like the desk are finished clear to capture the wood's texture and graining, but if color is needed in the room, both Douglas fir and west coast hemlock take paint well.

Good reading light is a must in the den, and comfortable easy chairs are also needed. If there is space, a studio couch can be included so that the den can serve as a guest room when needed. A good plan is to build the couch so that it can be pushed half way into the wall during the day and pulled out to its full width at night.

WHAT THIS COUNTRY NEEDS

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (UPI) — Irving "Pop" Slager has worked as a salesman for the same cigar firm for the past 60 years, making all his calls on foot. He works a six-day week and figures he has sold more than 15 million cigars.

NEW STEEPLE

BOSTON (UPI) — The Church attended by one of America's oldest congregations has a new steeple, a replica of the one damaged by hurricane Carol in 1954. The congregation is the First Church (Unitarian of Hoxbury). It was founded in 1630 and one of its first leaders was John Eliot, known as the apostle to the Indians.

ALONG FOR THE RIDE

WAREHAM, Mass. (UPI) — Ed Lincoln spear-gunned a shark off Cape Cod and hung to the line as the fish pulled him through the water. So fast did the shark travel that it took a boat traveling at 14 knots about 600 yards to overtake the pair.

Scholars In This School Yearn To Earn

By C. B. ENGELKE

PHILADELPHIA (UPI)—As a correspondence school of contest technique enters its 28th year, founder Wilmer S. Shepherd Jr., is doing better than ever—and so are his pupils.

The school now has about 2,500 pupils enrolled and an alumni of 40,000. Its graduates have won an estimated \$4,500,000 in prizes.

One "scholar," Mrs. Gilbert Walton of Vancouver, Wash., won first prize in a jingle contest before she "graduated." The prize: \$25,000 or, if she preferred, a producing oil well. The course had cost her \$36.

Last year, Lois Akers, of 7420 W. 12th Ave., Lakewood, Colorado, won an \$84,000 doubled first prize in common stocks of her choice in an electric shaver contest.

Marietta Fletcher, 300 W. Redbud Drive, Knoxville, Tenn., won three cars during 1958.

Mrs. Walter L. Hoke, 717-B Federal, Seattle, Wash., won a trip to London, Paris, Rome and Madrid recently. She also won a trip to Paris in another contest.

Grace Tousey, of Independence, Mo., won her weight in gold. This came to \$50,318.

Dr. Lloyd E. Grama, of Independence, Kans., won a high-priced car and \$10,000 in a gasoline company contest.

The optometrist was in the hospital when he learned of his good fortune. Almost simultaneously, he received more good news. A threatened double leg amputation would not have to take place.

The contest scholars won 78 automobiles and 79 travel trips and cruises during 1958.

George Hill, of Seattle, Wash., has won over \$2,000 in prizes in various contests.

Sometimes the scholars are "accused" of being professional contestants. This, they—and Shepherd—deny. They call themselves "hobbyists."

Even Uncle Sam recently looked in on the school.

The FTC (Federal Trade Commission) checked our claims of big winnings by our students a short time ago by demanding to see the original letters from the winners," Shepherd said, "and were entirely convinced of their truth."