

Prairie Dogs Saved From Extinction

LUBBOCK, Tex. (UPI)—Prairie dogs once were as hated as the rattlesnake and as pesky as a corn-stealing crow. Galloping horses tripped in burrows and broke their legs. Cowboys spilled onto the prairie with broken bones. The farmer joined the range rider in shooting the rodents on sight.

Nine years before the incorporation of Lubbock an estimated 400 million prairie dogs made their home in a 25,000-square-mile area surrounding the South Plains city. The city began to grow in 1909, and with its growth the small chattering rodents began to diminish.

The cowboys and farmers who had to put up with the "critters" were only too happy. But Kennedy N. Clapp decided to save the rodents, and more than one million tourists are glad today he did.

Live in Park
In a seven-acre town in McKenzie State Park, located only a few blocks from downtown Lubbock, 600 to 1,000 "dogs" live in cement confines. They frolic and chatter to the delight of children and adults alike. They have no worries except an occasional burrowing owl, the only "outsider" allowed to pitch camp.

The elimination of the prairie rodents was a certainty when McKenzie Park was being planned. But Clapp looked to the future.

"Why poison them?" he said. "Let's preserve them. In 10 years they will be a big attraction. It only took five years. 'Prairie Dog Town, Population?' is a regular stopping place for the 142,000 residents of Lubbock as well as the tourists."

A two-foot high cement wall protects the dogs from the visitors and vice versa. Rolls of chicken wire are buried beneath the wall, which extends four feet underground. The dogs make no attempt to leave their home.

The rodents received the tag "dog" because of their barking cry, and not due to any kinship with man's best friend. The grey to reddish animals grow 12 to 15 inches long and weigh from 2.3 pounds. They wag their short black-tipped tails with the regularity of a clock.

Their homes are L-shaped burrows, 12 to 20 feet deep and 6-15 feet horizontally. Most have only one entrance, with his banked with earth to keep out water.

Own Warning System
The smart little animals have their own warning system. No vegetation is allowed to be more than six inches high within 100 feet of the burrows. As an intruder approaches, signals are relayed throughout the town, and the dogs "freeze" until a final warning bark is given, sending them scurrying to their homes until the danger has passed.

The semi-hibernating animals are vegetarians by circumstance only. They get all the water they need from the grass, weed seeds and other plant life in their "town."

The rattlesnake, ferret, coyote and badger are chief enemies of the prairie dog, and the burrowing owl is only reluctantly admitted. Snakes sometimes invade burrows for food, but only when they are starving. When they enter, the dogs pitch in and fill the holes with dirt, entombing the intruder.

The owls live only in abandoned burrows, too lazy to dig their own. Owls who are not against an occasional meal of young prairie dog, are torn to pieces by adult dogs if they try to enter an occupied home.

Rockefeller Raps Right

ALBANY, N. Y. (UPI)—Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller continued his unofficial quest for the 1964 GOP presidential nomination Tuesday with a renewed attack on Sen. Barry Goldwater's failure to reject the support of "extreme right-wing elements."

Without mentioning the Arizona Republican by name, Rockefeller charged that the failure of responsible conservative leaders to dissociate themselves from the extremists "was a great disservice to the cause of conservatism itself."

In a letter to the New York State Young Republican Clubs, Rockefeller noted that on July 14 he had issued a statement repudiating the right-wing extremists' philosophy and tactics.

He said his attack last month was not against "the responsible conservative of our party. Extremists have nothing in common with responsible conservatism. They are in fact, its greatest enemies."

Goldwater is the leading conservative candidate for the GOP presidential nomination next year.

"DENNIS THE MENACE"



JOEY FOUND A FOUR LEAF CLOVER, AND HE CAN'T EVEN COUNT!

Two Puffing 'Old Ladies' Rescued From Scrap Pile

ARCADE, N.Y. (UPI)—Two "old ladies" who habitually smoke in public, will be huffing and puffing through western New York again this year.

The venerable dowagers are a pair of steam locomotives rescued from the scrap pile and restored to operate on the 15-mile Arcade & Attica Railroad.

Built more than 40 years ago and still going strong, the two coal burners have been earning their keep hauling old-time coaches filled with railroad fans, picture-taking tourists and school children.

The weekend excursions, which began last year, have proved amazingly popular — and they have probably made the Arcade & Attica the only railroad in the nation without enough rolling stock to handle passenger loads.

The trips leave the line's depot on Main Street here and meander up an unfenced grass-covered right-of-way through rolling hills to the hamlet of Carriers. With unscheduled stops for photography, or on some occasions to

New Stamp Sale Noted

A stamp noting the second anniversary of the Alliance for Progress program will go on sale in the Klamath Falls post office Aug. 19.

Collectors wanting first-day copies were asked to send self-addressed envelopes to the postmaster, Washington, D.C., before Aug. 17, when the stamp will be issued in that city.

The five-cent stamp was designed by William K. Schrage and the format is based on the Alliance for Progress emblem. It features a hand carrying a torch.

On The Record

LAKE COUNTY BIRTHS
NEWMAN—Born to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Newman, Bly, July 24 in Lakeview Hospital a boy weighing 7 lbs., 4 ozs.
VARI—Born to Mr. and Mrs. William Van Cleave Jr., July 25 in Lakeview Hospital a girl weighing 4 lbs., 4 ozs.
JACKSON—Born to Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Jackson July 20 in Lakeview Hospital a girl weighing 8 lbs., 2 ozs.
WOOD—Born to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Wood July 30 in Lakeview Hospital a boy weighing 7 lbs., 11 ozs.
ANDREWS—Born to Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Andrews Aug. 2 in Lakeview Hospital a girl weighing 8 lbs., 8 ozs.
SMITH—Born to Mr. and Mrs. Homer Smith Aug. 6 in Lakeview Hospital a girl weighing 7 lbs., 12 ozs.
LAMB—Born to Mr. and Mrs. Louis Lamb Aug. 11 in Lakeview Hospital a boy weighing 8 lbs., 8 ozs.
HARRIS—Born to Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Harris Aug. 12 in Lakeview Hospital a boy weighing 8 lbs., 7 ozs.
COWLEY—Born to Mr. and Mrs. Gene Cowley Aug. 13 in Lakeview Hospital a girl weighing 7 lbs., 13 ozs.

MARRIAGE LICENSES
Raymond A. Olivarez, 18, Lakeview, and Katherine Ann Jaquith, 18, Orland, Calif.
Ray Arnold Hurley, 30, Yukon, Mo., and Helen Joyce Pierce, 30, Lakeview.

DIVORCES
EAST—Catherine Rose vs. Arthur James, divorce granted.
YOUNG—Phyllis Joanne vs. Dudley Ross, divorce granted.
PIERCE—Bobby Glenn vs. Alice, divorce granted.
KYLEAN—Nellie J. vs. John J., divorce granted.

Court Records

LAKE COUNTY COURT RECORDS
Carl Wayne Cascorra, minor in possession of liquor, drunk in a public place, \$25 bail forfeited.
Lennie Niles, contributing to delinquency of minor, and over to grand jury, bail set at \$2,000.
Gerald Wayne Mosier, assault with dangerous weapon, 10 years in state penitentiary.
Philip Luther Richards, overloaded truck, \$44, \$14 suspended.
Rene Marie Elizabeth Burrows, As operators license, 15.
Howard Joseph Becker, overhauling load, \$15.
Elizabeth Hilborn, obtaining money by false pretenses, bail set at \$500.
Herbert Austin Pollock, possession of alcoholic liquor by minor, \$14.50.
Frank Lightie, drunk in public place, \$14.50, 30 days sentence suspended on good behavior for one year.
Neil Breshears, driving under influence of intoxicating liquor, \$34.50, 90 days suspended for good behavior for a year, driver's license suspended.

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Secretary Finds Opposition To National Seashore Plan

ASSATEAGUE ISLAND, Md. (UPI)—Assateague Island off the Maryland-Virginia coast is submerged again — this time in controversy.

On Ash Wednesday in 1962 a storm swept over the low sand reef, carrying away all but a dozen of its houses.

Now Interior Secretary Stewart L. Udall wants to do away with the remainder and make Assateague a national seashore. But the owners — at least some of them — don't want to go. And they're holding onto their land almost as stubbornly as the waves are trying to eat it up.

Last spring when Udall dropped onto the beach in a helicopter, one of the owners walked up to the secretary, shook his finger at him, and said, "you, sir, are on our land, and you're trying to use our money to take it away from us."

Gets One Third
As a matter of fact, the Interior Department already has appropriated the southern third of Assateague — the Virginia portion — for a wildlife refuge. What Udall wants is the rest of a barrier reef typical of many along the Middle Atlantic Coast.

Assateague is long, narrow and low. From the air it resembles a worse-for-wear dragon clinging close to the mainland for protection.

A broad sandy beach confronts the ocean. Behind the beach dunes rise up gently where grass has gotten a foothold. Still farther inland, vegetation increases and dunes fall away into salt swamps.

The owners shook their fingers at Secretary Udall but they did not order him off their land. He stayed long enough to explain why he wants Assateague for a federal reserve.

Offers Wide Uses
Assateague, he said, is the largest undeveloped seashore between Cape Hatteras, N.C., and Cape Cod, Mass. It offers splendid swimming, fishing, boating and other water sports as well as a

chance to watch birds and other wildlife in their natural habitat. The island is within easy reach of the major population centers of the Middle Atlantic states. One can drive there from Baltimore in three hours, from Washington in four. Philadelphia is 200 miles away. New York 290.

Udall said the federal government would build bridges to the island and sand dunes along its 23-mile ocean front to protect it from storms like the one last year.

Thus a fine stretch of seashore would be preserved for the enjoyment of millions of persons.

Says Future Dim
Left in private hands, Udall said, Assateague's future is dim.

Private developers would probably not be willing to build dunes at the rate of \$1 million a mile or install the expensive water and sewage systems required because so much of the island is at sea level.

But, like most Americans, the owners have pride of ownership. "This is our land. We want to keep it," one of them told Udall. "This isn't Czechoslovakia."

Local officials on the mainland have sided with the islanders. They don't want to see the property taken off their tax rolls. Maryland state officials take the federal view that national parks always produce prosperity next door.

A spokesman for the landowners accused Udall of wanting to "keep the whole country 'a wit' that if this attitude prevailed, there would be no national park system."

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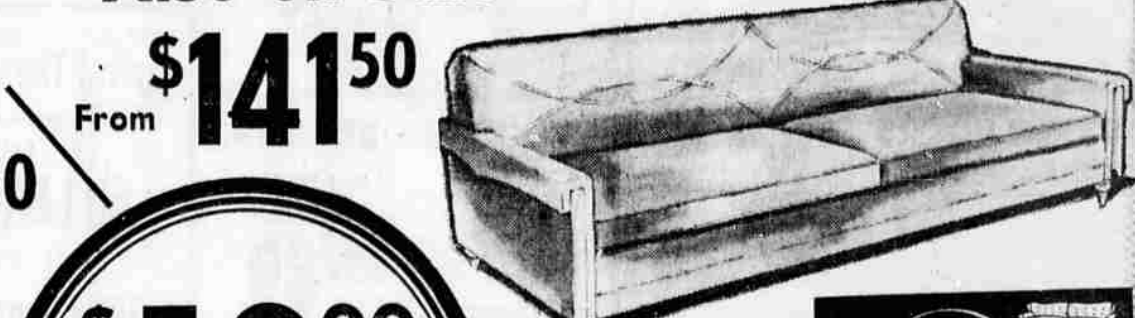
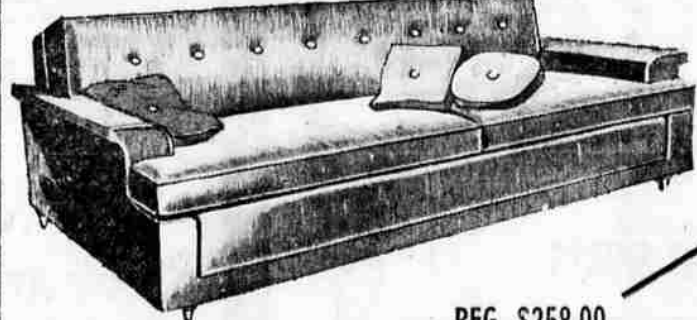
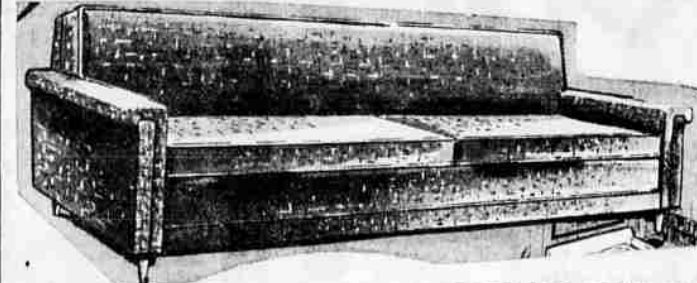
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