

Seeks Improvement Ideas

# Iran Minister Visits A&M

A&M, long an educational attraction for students and touring agricultural officials from foreign lands, has been visited by one of Iran's top government leaders.

He was Gen. Abbas Izadpanah, in charge of all government livestock, veterinary, range management, milk processing and fisheries in Iran. The officer is deputy minister of agriculture and reports directly to his country's Shah, or king.

The general's purpose in visiting the United States is to seek ideas on operation, administration and

the correlation of all agencies devoted to livestock improvement which can be adapted to problems in Iran. He will be in the U. S. for seven weeks.

Accompanying the official was Amir Behnam, head of Iran's division of sheep, goats, wool and hides. He is an honor graduate of the California State Polytechnic Agricultural College.

Also making the trip was E. M. Harmon of North Carolina, who recently completed an assignment of nearly six years as senior livestock adviser in Iran under the

United States' Point 4 technical co-operation program.

Gen. Izadpanah said Iran's major agricultural problems concern range management and meat shortages. The arid, semi-arid and rough pasture land often are overgrazed by sheep, goat and cattle herds belonging to nomadic tribes. One of the goals is to reduce animal stocking rates, while at the same time producing more meat and milk.

He said technicians and scientists are working on improved and introduced range grasses, such as

crested wheat grass, but are confronted with extreme climatic conditions in some areas.

There are regions in Iran which receive an annual rainfall of as low as 5 inches and as high as 60 inches, with most of the country getting 10 to 11 inches.

One factor easing the problem, he said is the open mindedness of tribesmen. These tribes, he said, are hungry for education.

When and where schools are built, parents are quick to send their children, according to Behnam. He said that approximately 1.2 million out of Iran's estimated 3 million school age youngsters are now receiving education. Literacy definitely is on the rise.

He said that less than a decade ago, the country had one university. Today, there are 10. Iran also has made great strides in public health and sanitation programs.

Most of these advances have come as a result of Point 4 aid, a system praised by Gen. Izadpanah. He said many large dams have been built for irrigation and other purposes.

But Iran is helping itself, too, the official said. Industry is encouraged. The Shah is distributing his own and government lands among his people and there are farm co-operatives and money loans to farmers.

The general said American aid is highly appreciated in Iran, especially during and after World War II when great hardship descended on the land.

## Simpson Heads 'Y' Council

Dick Simpson was elected president of the YMCA Freshman Council last Tuesday night at a meeting in the YMCA.

Other officers elected include the following: Bill Barnhart, vice-president; James McLean, secretary; David Berney, treasurer; Roland Haley, program chairman; Don Willis, publicity chairman;

and Gary Robisheaux, chaplain.

The next meeting of the council will be held Tuesday at 6 p. m. in the YMCA.

Naturalist William Beebe says bird-watchers should "in approaching a singing bird, take a step during each song; most birds will not notice."

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## Southwestern Exposition Gets Poultry Classic Vote

The American Poultry Assn., Inc., oldest livestock organization in America, has voted to award the World Championship Poultry Classic to the 1960 Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, Jan. 29-Feb. 7, according to W. R. Watt, president-manager.

This classic is composed of four departments, three of which will be held in Fort Worth. Those are the large poultry, the bantam poultry and the turkey departments.

Parnell to Judge

E. D. Parnell, poultry husbandry professor at A&M and a licensed APA judge is to be the turkey and water-fowl judge. Other judges for the poultry show

will be C. T. Driessen, Great Falls, Mont., secretary of the American Poultry Association; Allen D. Fitchett, manager Chamber of Commerce, Cushing, Okla.; and Joe R. Harner, treasurer of the association and large poultry breeder of Fremont, Ohio.

World Champs Crowned

The grand champions of the large poultry, the bantam poultry, and the turkey departments will be crowned World Champions. This will be the first time the World's Champions have been selected during the Fort Worth Stock Show.

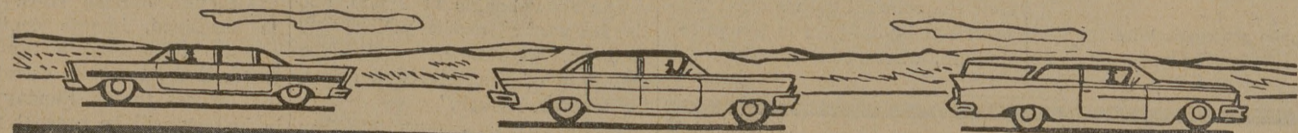
Of special interest to turkey exhibitors is the fact that in addition to the regular premiums, the AMA will award the champion a

beautiful trophy and \$25 cash. There are two divisions in the Fort Worth Turkey Show, the breeder and junior shows.

Two Sections

In order that exhibitors will not have to leave their prize birds in cages over five days, the poultry show is split in two sections. The first five days will include turkeys, pigeons, water-fowl and rabbits. Entries close on Jan. 10, 1960 and exhibits must be in place by 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 3.

This will be the eighth annual show of Standard Bred Pigeons held by the Fancy Pigeon Assn. of Texas in cooperation with the Southwestern exposition and Fat Stock Show.



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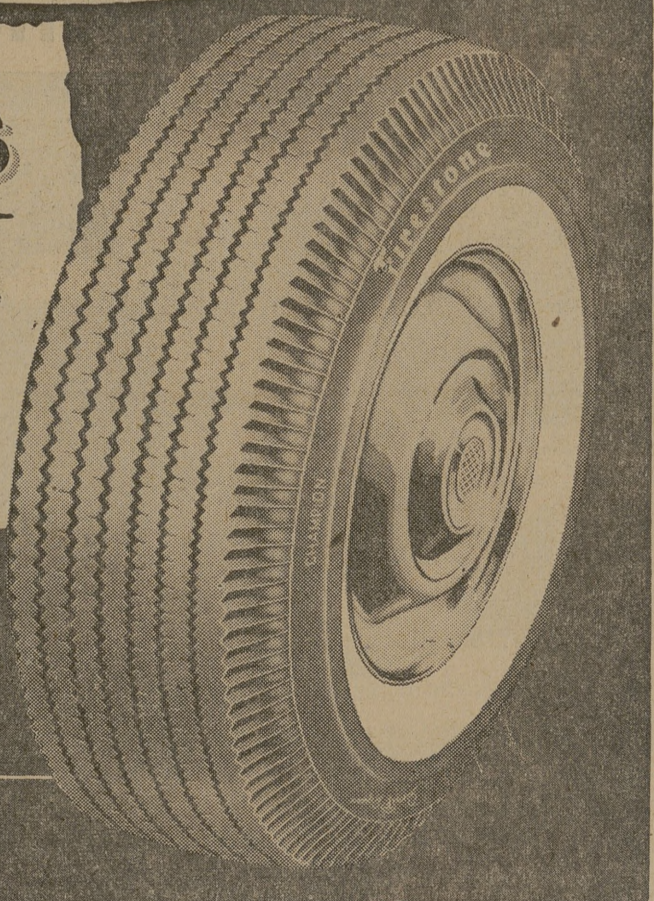
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