

Range Specialist Fred Walker retires after 35-year career

A. H. (Fred) Walker, assistant director and state agricultural leader for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, retired Friday after a career spanning 35 years. Walker began his professional career as a demonstration agent for the United States Department of Agriculture Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine in June, 1936, with headquarters in San Antonio. The following

March, he joined the Extension Service as county agricultural agent for Culberson County. He transferred to the same position in Menard County in January, 1940. The Extension official entered military service in February, 1942, and served through November, 1945. He was discharged with the rank of captain in the honorary reserve for wounds received

in action. Walker's military service included military intelligence and navigator on a B-24. His plane was shot down over Germany, and he spent some time as a prisoner of war. Walker returned to Menard County as agricultural agent after coming back from military service. He remained there until September, 1946, when he received a Sears Foundation Schol-

arship award for graduate study at A&M. He completed the M.S. degree in range management and was appointed range specialist for the Extension Service at College Station in the fall of 1947. Said Dr. John E. Hutchison, Extension director: "He had the distinction of being the first range specialist named in the nation, and played a leading role in establishing the importance of

this area of work. Mr. Walker received national acclaim for his work as range specialist. He played a major role in popularizing the grass and range judging contest for both 4-H and FFA members and in developing a well-rounded range improvement program for Texas." Walker was named state agricultural leader in October, 1957, with responsibility for supervising

Extension agricultural specialists. During the more than 14 years he served in this area, the specialists' staff tripled in size. "He provided leadership in pioneering the area specialist concept where Extension specialists are placed at the district headquarters offices throughout the state and can be immediately responsive to the needs of the area

they serve," Hutchison said. "Under this leadership, Extension specialists have had an increasingly important role in the development of in-depth Extension education programs for each economically important agricultural enterprise of the state." Early in 1972, Walker's title was changed to assistant director and state agricultural program leader in further recognition of the importance of his work.

"Mr. Walker has made highly significant contributions to the improvement of Texas agriculture and to the efficiency of Extension programs," Hutchison added. "His dedication and performance are an inspiration to all who know him."

A member of a pioneer Val Verde County ranch family, Walker is a 1936 graduate of A&M with a B.S. in animal science. As an undergraduate, he was a distinguished student and a member of the Ross Volunteers. Besides his M.S. degree, he has done other graduate study at Colorado State University.

Walker is a past president of the Texas Section of the American Society of Range Management and received that organization's "Rancher of the Year" Award in 1965.

He is married to the former Nell Seargeant of Brackettville. The Walkers have one daughter, Mrs. Dan Hawkins of Austin, and three grandchildren. Walker's mother, Mrs. H. A. Walker, resides at Comstock, and Mrs. Walker's mother is Mrs. Laura Seargeant of Brackettville.

The Walkers will continue to make their home in College Station. He will have an active role in the management of his ranch and farming properties and other investments and will also do some consulting work.

MSC employes are hospitalized

Two Memorial Student Center staff members were hospitalized last Wednesday after suffering unrelated medical problems.

Under observation at St. Joseph Hospital are Ben F. Sauter, MSC main desk supervisor, and Mrs. Verlean Lewis, cook in the center food service department.

Sauter collapsed while on duty of what was at first believed to be heart trouble. An MSC spokesman said, however, the attending doctor indicated it was not an attack or stroke.

Mrs. Lewis was first taken to the University Hospital with chest pains. She was then transferred by ambulance to St. Joseph. Conditions are not listed for either patient.

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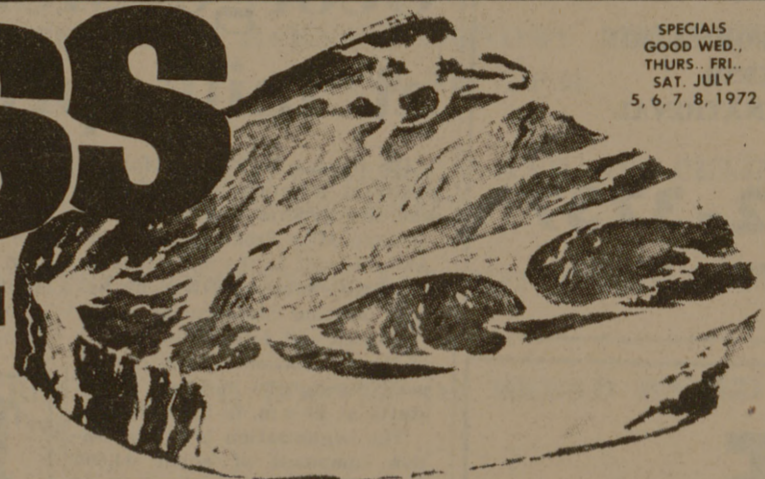
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