

Clinic offers horse sense Battalion photo by Leslie Turner

Katherine Hayes, right, receives advice from Marcie Stimmer, of Midland, at the Dressage clinic held last Saturday and Sunday at Pleasant Acres Stable in Bryan.

Researchers receive grant for plant study

A grant for \$109,000 has been awarded Texas A&M University to study the desert plant guayule as a commercial source of rubber, said Texas A&M President Jarvis E. Miller.

Guayule (wy-oo-lee) is regarded as one of the more promising "energy crops" in the agricultural field of petroculture.

The feasibility study was funded by the new Southwest Border Regional Commission, whose members include the governors of Arizona, California and New Mexico, as well as Texas Gov. Dolph Briscoe.

Guayule is a shrub that produces rubber chemically identical to that produced by the Asian rubber tree.

"The commission was organized to funnel federal grants to states along the United States and Mexico border," Miller added. "Texas A&M received the first and only grant approved so far."

Miller said Texas A&M researchers will welcome the opportunity to develop petroculture in semi-arid regions.

The guayule project headquarters will be at the Texas A&M University Research Center in El Paso, with some tests carried out in Pecos. Dr. Jimmy Tipton, plant scientist with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station in El Paso, will head the study. The grant will be administered by the Texas A&M University Research Foundation.

Miller said the funds will be used to identify various guayule species, determine rubber content and find which are most resistant to disease and insects. Tests will be conducted on three five-acre plots and will include irrigated and non-irrigated conditions.

Guayule is not new, nor is the interest in it as a rubber source. Spanish conquistadors in the 1500s found Aztec Indians using the plant to make balls for a game similar to basketball. Indians in Mexico also used it for chewing gum.

The plant provided almost 50 percent of the United States' rubber needs, and 10 percent of the world's, in the early 1900s. The government spent \$45 million during World War II for development of guayule as a domestic source of natural rubber. After the war, however, interest lagged when Asian rubber again became plentiful.

A&M starts real estate program

A program in real estate careers has been launched by the Texas Real Estate Research Center (TRERC) at Texas A&M University.

"Traditionally real estate has been a field which attracted persons later in life," said Dr. A.B. Wooten, TRERC director. "We hope to change that. Real estate has a profound effect upon the state and nation and is a career field which should appeal to highly motivated young men and women who want to create their own success stories." Dr. Wooten said many colleges

and universities offer some form of real estate education for the career-minded student.

TRERC has developed a brochure entitled "Building a Future in Real Estate." The brochure is available free to interested persons. Three posters are also available for teachers, counselors and other educators in contact with students.

The research center has also developed a follow-up program to give more information to would-be real estate practitioners.

"Because land and its use is such an important part of our lives," explained Dr. Wooten, "real estate thrives today as one of the nation's largest industries. Real estate is not only big business — it is a diverse one."

TRERC officials note that real estate directly or indirectly generates one of every 10 jobs and one-eighth of all income in the private sector.

There are approximately 4.3 million people employed directly in real estate nationwide, and another two million in other allied indus-

tries. The total value of real estate goods and services produced annually in Texas between 1947 and 1975 rose at an annual compound rate of nearly 8 percent.

Real estate produced \$150.7 billion in goods and services nationally last year, 11.5 percent of the private sector's portion of the gross national product in 1977.

Dr. Wooten said that despite the number of people involved in real estate, there is always room for the success-minded individual.

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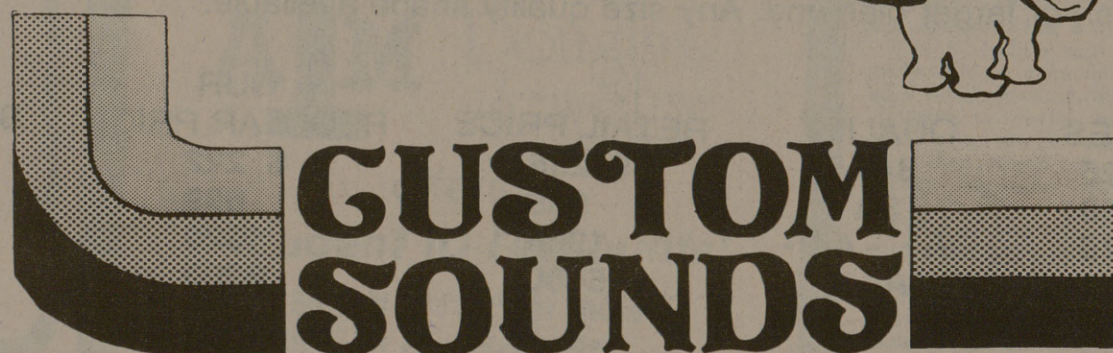
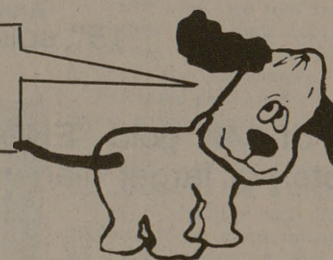
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