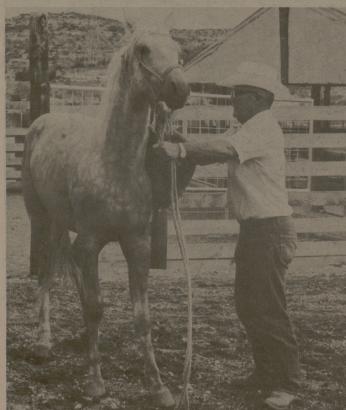


Like a memorial to the horses that have served the ranch, many old horseshoes hang on the saddle house rails.





The old cowboy puts a feed sack to one of the colts. You may steal a cowboy's girl, but you better not touch his horse. Above, this snake has trouble getting a bird started down head first. Almost anything can be seen while riding "home on the range."

## Cosmic

By Larry Chandler

By Larry Chandler
"Ya either gotta work or fight out here. Ain't nobody gets fired."
That's a perfect description for the 66-year-old cowboy I worked for — he's spent his entire life working and fighting.

He quit school at the age of 14 and found a job on a ranch near Brownwood. Within a year, he was breaking horses and riding with the best of cowboys. Ever since, he has been working on ranches and now runs a successful working ranch near Sonora, in southwest Texas. Texas.

By a working ranch, I mean a ranch that makes money from ranching, not oil. There are few ranches left that succeed in show-

ing profits solely from livestock. In the summer of 1975, I jumped on a bus in Houston and jumped off in Sonora. Now, I spend my semester and summer breaks enjoying the simple and healthy life

of ranching.

Five o'clock in the morning brings a cool breeze through the bedroom window. It's a time to enjoy a sky full of stars and the pre-dawn hours. I still have never learned how to shake off drowsiness very soon after awakening. So I stumble into the blackness of the harm knowing that rattle.

of the barn, knowing that rattle-snakes often are found coiled in the straw, but sleepy enough that I decide what the heck, if I get bit, I

James and I are the rancher's main cowboys. There are five other hands that have the misfortune of doing most of the hard labor. How-

## SURPRISE SPECIAL!

Dracaena Marginita

3 plants per 5 gallon pot

req. \$25

Fall foliage, shrubbery and decorative plants also on sale.

Bob's 822-6613

2510 Texas Ave. Next to Baskin Robbins

## THE BATTALION

Focus is published every Thursday as an entertainment section of The Battalion.

Policy: Focus will accept any stories, drawings or photographs that are submitted for publication, although the decision to publish lies solely with the editor. Pieces submitted, printed or not, will be returned upon request. Deadline is 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication.

Contributing to this issue were: Lee Roy Leschper Jr., Larry Chandler, Lynn Blanco, Charles R. Schultz and Rhonda Watters.

Editor: Beth Calhoun

Assistant Editor: Doug Graham