

Features

'East Texan' talk is fading

United Press International
LUFKIN — In Houston it may be "a big thunderstorm" but in an East Texas town like Carthage that rain would be remembered as "hub-deep to a ferris wheel."

The truth of the matter is that if there is something to say, country folks, those in East Texas, for example, will say it with more style and more color and in more ways than the urbanites.

Bob Bowman, a public relations executive with St. Regis Paper Co., offers proof in his book "If I Tell You a Hen Dips Snuff." The title comes from an old saying one uses to boast of his integrity — "If I tell you a hen dips snuff, you can look under her wing," meaning there will be a tin of snuff under that wing, as unlikely as it might seem.

Consider the old physics law that states that for every action, there is a reaction. The East Texas translation is: "There was never a persimmon 'cept there was a possum to eat it."

Bowman's book is 106 pages of country metaphors, similes, understatement and overstatements — followed by translations — commonly used in East Texas to brighten conversations about looks, anger, marriage, morals, dogs and anything else.

Bowman has been around the porch-sitters, spit-and-whittlers, farmers and loggers all his life. He was born near Palestine, raised in Diboll and educated in Tyler. East Texas is his native tongue.

"You find some of these expressions frequently used today,

but I think more and more you'll see them fade into oblivion," he said. "The culture is becoming more sophisticated, urbanized. People don't talk like that in Dallas."

The most popular subject in Bowman's book is ugliness, offering 12 ways to describe the unattractive, including "ugly enough to sour milk," "ugly as a wart on a pickle" and "so ugly she has to sneak up on a mirror."

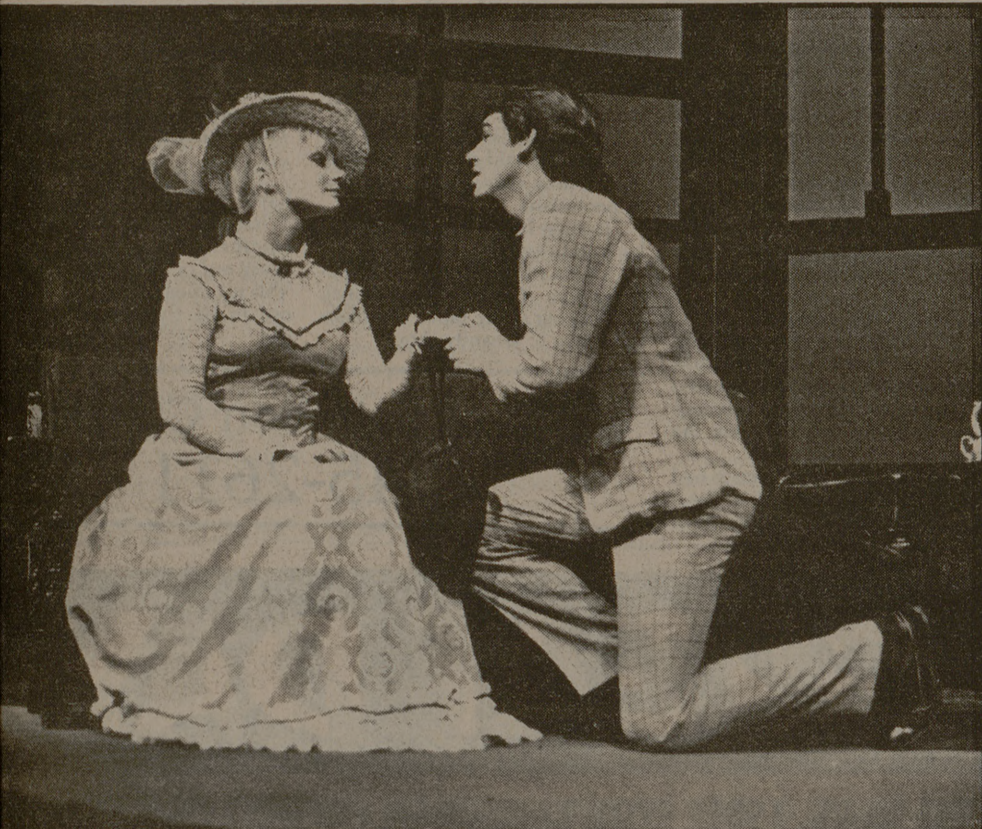
Marriage is another favorite topic — "She'll marry at the drop of a hat and throw it herself" — and the book offers a bit of cracker barrel logic: "Every man is born free and equal. If he gets married, that's his fault."

"A lot of the expressions came out of the cowboy culture in West Texas. A lot came out of the farm boy culture and the third grouping is the logging industry."

For the past 10 years Bowman has been collecting sayings and witticisms of East Texans. The inspiration came from three colorful friends: Ottis Lock, former state legislator Ben Ramsey and Ed Clark, former University of Texas regent and one-time U.S. ambassador to Australia. His sources also include Texas Agriculture Commissioner Reagan Brown, former legislator Don Adams and Harvey Davis, head of the Texas Water Resources Board.

Perhaps it was even a self-effacing politician who contributed this gem: "A fool and his money are soon parted and a fool and your money are probably running for re-election."

Bowman has authored five other books about the people and places of East Texas. He once was a reporter for the Houston Chronicle, the Tyler Courier-Times and Telegraph and Lufkin News.



"Earnestly..."

Staff photo by Brian Tate

John Worthing (Jeff Fitzgerald) proposes to Gwendoline Fairfax (Laura Bellomy) in the Texas A&M University Theater Arts presentation of Oscar Wilde's final play, "The Importance of Being Earnest," in Rudder Theater. The play will run tonight and Fri-

day night at 8 and Saturday at 3 and 7:30 p.m. The ticket cost is \$2.50 for students and \$3.50 for non-students. The satire on late 19th century society concerns the importance of being "earnest" and plays up the name Earnest.

Texas A&M researcher makes new crystal growth

By JENNIFER WAYMAN

Battalion Reporter
In his book-lined office in Zachry Engineering Center, a short Indian man, eyes bright with excitement, shows his colleagues his new development.

Dr. R. K. Pandey, associate professor of electrical engineering at Texas A&M University, has recently developed a new method of growing crystals.

The U.S. Air Force is interested in the crystals for use in surface acoustic wave devices. Pandey said that no one has been able to grow single crystals as large as those he has grown at Texas would never be used.

Although Pandey has been working on developing the crystals for eight years, he is reluctant to accept the credit for his work.

"Everybody is excited about graduating from it," Pandey said. "Although I have a degree in it, I will not take the claim and a degree because it is the group effort."

Pandey said that he has a great love for researching single crystal materials.

"Crystals, like tomatoes and cucumbers, have to be grown," he said. "When I get a crystal, I have a motherly feeling because it motivates me to achieve."

In 1974, Pandey discovered a new system of growing single crystals, which have recently viewed as a possible material for making a new type of laser.

Aside from his research, Pandey teaches electrical engineering. He said that he loves teaching and that one of the reasons he came to Texas A&M was to work with young people.

"The students have been the best colleagues I can imagine one

can have," Pandey said.

Born and raised in Bihar, India, Pandey graduated from Bihar University in 1957 and got his master's in physics at the University of Patna in 1959. In 1962 he was one of six people selected for a state scholarship in West Germany.

"I ended up going to Germany with no word of German in my vocabulary," Pandey said, laughing.

Pandey has also done research in Italy. In 1966 he went back to Germany, got his doctorate in ap-

order to get a visa to America. "I was too proud an Indian to immigrate," Pandey said. He said that because of the kindness of the people, he and his wife "fell in love" with America and ended up becoming immigrants. They will become citizens in about a month.

Pandey worked for eight years in industry, and after tiring of it went to Mexico in 1974 to establish a research institute there. Pandey said that his wife was surprised when he wanted to learn a fifth language, but after one year, Pandey was teaching Mexican students in their native language.

Pandey said that in 1977 he became homesick for America. He wrote to Dr. William B. Jones, head of the electrical engineering department at Texas A&M, asking for a job. After only a telephone interview, Pandey got the job.

"At first, I was doubtful that I would like College Station, but I love it. The reason has been the people," Pandey said.

Pandey said that in every country he has lived he has always found friends.

"In any country you go, if you are willing to know the people, you find excellent people," he said. "You just have to look for them."

plied physics, and did post-doctorate work in state electronics at the University of Cologne.

After giving a paper at a professional conference on magnetism in Hamburg, Germany, Pandey was offered a job as a research scientist by the research manager of American Standard Co. in New Jersey.

Pandey agreed to come to America for about two years but was upset when he was told that he had to become an immigrant in

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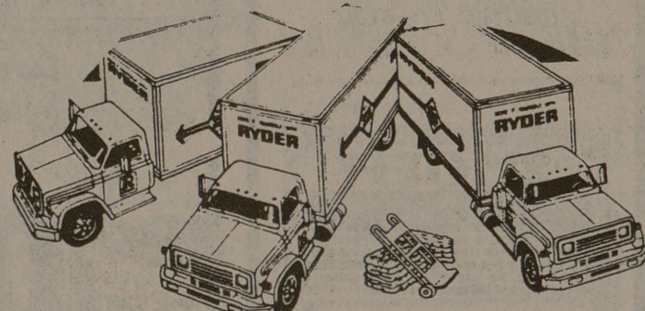
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