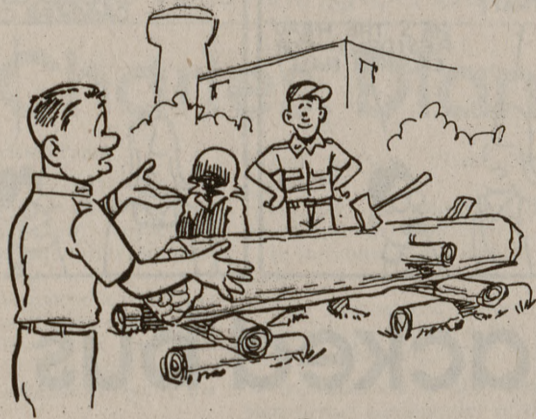


Slouch

By Jim Earle



"Now remember, we don't want to see any more logs with those metal plaques on them that say, 'hybrid experimental tree,' or things like that. We want just plain ole trees!"

Enola Gay symbol of activity, wealth to Pyote residents

Associated Press

PYOTE — Almost 32 years have passed since the four-engine B-29 "Enola Gay" lifted off the dusty runway at Pyote for the last time, but it will long be remembered.

The Enola Gay unleashed the atomic bomb over Hiroshima.

And for the West Texas residents of Pyote, the plane symbolically represents the birth and death of what they called the "Rattlesnake Bomber Base" and an almost overnight transformation of the sleepy town into a hub of wartime activity.

Bulldozers scraped away mesquite and sagebrush from the sandy plains outside Pyote, a town of 300 people 50 miles southwest of Odessa, in September 1942 and replaced them with ribbons of concrete for Pyote Army Air Field.

The 19th Bombardment Group — the first to face the Japanese after Pearl Harbor — limped back to the United States in January 1943 to become the parent organization at Pyote.

For the town that had three cafes, two stores, a post office and a seldom-used train depot, the air field became a bonanza.

Soon there were 10,000 soldiers and 1,500 civilians there, with B-17 Flying Fortresses and B-29s filling

the sunny West Texas skies as eager Army aviators learned their trade.

For Pyote, it was an economic re-birth akin to the glory days of 1928 when the city had almost 40,000 residents as oil gushers in nearby Winkler County brought fortunes.

Unknown to Pyote, however, top-secret flight training was under way over the desolate landscape of Windover, Utah, by early 1945. B-29 pilots were honing up on how to pinpoint the drop of a single, bulky bomb on target.

Contrary to some reports, the Enola Gay had not yet been to Pyote Army Air Field, according to Lenora Price, Pyote's retired Ward County commissioner, town historian and museum director.

But the plane's flight over Hiroshima, Japan, on Aug. 6, 1945, would have an effect on the town of Pyote 10,000 miles away. By December 1945, the once bustling air field had only four officers, two enlisted men and 613 civilians left to man it.

The Enola Gay first came to Pyote in 1946 and was displayed on the flight line for curious aviation enthusiasts. Not until Jan. 12, 1952, was she placed in temporary storage at the field.

The base officially closed in September 1953, after a brief flurry of activity for the Korean war.

'Class clown' training for circus job

Associated Press

LEWISVILLE — Then there was the time they put up a big sheet on the Lewisville High School auditorium that read "This school is for sale" and listed the principal's telephone number.

And then there was that Monday when faculty members arrived at work to find a chicken farm set up in an interior courtyard.

The ringleader was Doug Boyd. Now Boyd, always the class clown, is learning to be a clown with class. The 18-year-old is completing 10 weeks of training at the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College in the circus' winter quarters in Venice, Fla.

Boyd will take his finals Saturday at a live show that also will serve as an audition before circus producer Kenneth Feld, who could make Boyd an apprentice clown.

Friends who saw his clown, mime and magic acts at parties and variety shows — including teachers who now laugh about his sometimes disruptive pranks — see Boyd's chance to become a part of The Greatest Show on Earth as a natural progression.

After all, life with Boyd often was usually a three-ring circus, his classmates said.

"We had theater together (at the high school)," said senior Kelly Fiore, 17. "He definitely contributed to the craziness in that class. When we needed someone to create a weird or bizarre character, Doug could always think of something."

Boyd developed his comical character into Rusty, the clown.

"He got me into clowning," said Ren James, 17, a senior. "I've watched him as Rusty, and Rusty and Doug are two totally different people. He becomes the clown."

At Lewisville High, Boyd was known as "Big John," the mascot for the school's "Fighting Farmers," as well as ringleader of the Bell Crew, whose offbeat pranks kept students laughing and administrators alert, Wright said.

"Nothing damaging or derogatory," Wright said. "Their pranks were always good-natured."

Boyd told The Dallas Morning News he has wanted to be a circus clown as long as he can remember.

And at circuses he went to see as a kid, "I used to go back and talk to the clowns," he said.

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600
1000
1800

Some persons purchase both a board and a point plan.

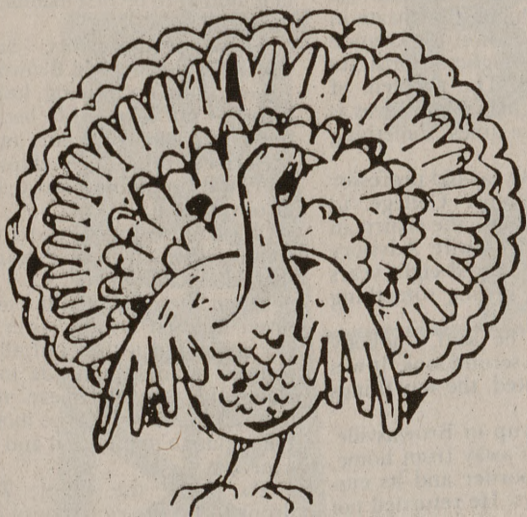
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Department of Food Services



'TIS THE SEASON TO GET SHOT

(For the yearbook anyway)

The schedule has been changed for yearbook photos:

Juniors, Seniors, Vets, Meds and Grads can have their photos taken thru Dec. 13.

All photos will be taken above Campus Photo Center at Northgate.

No pictures will be taken at the Pavilion

(DON'T BE A TURKEY AND WAIT 'TIL THE LAST DAY!)

