

Tourists can glimpse into past at old-fashioned country store

DEWART, Pa. (AP) — Young women dressed in white — doily caps, skirts, blouses and aprons — are abustle behind the marble soda fountain.

A few yards away, George Sterner sells some country-smoked ham.

Wood floors creak to the rhythm of browsers' feet.

Bolts of cloth, nuts and bolts, tufted animals, candy, groceries, clothes — all displayed on about 8,000 square feet — are part of a going concern run by Sterner, 70, and his wife, Charlotte, 68.

The couple seems to thrive on it, and Sterner's General Store, age about 133, is doing well, too, thanks.

Several years ago, the Sterners decided to restore the operation, as much as possible, to the way it

looked at the turn of the century. They now seem somewhat surprised at their success.

There was no conscious decision to attract tourists, Charlotte Sterner says.

"George and I like antiques; we like old things; we have a strong feeling for the past," she says.

But the Sterners discovered that old is in, even among those too young to remember a real country general store.

Twenty years ago, the store's customers lived within 10 miles of Dewart, located in northern Lebanon County, just as they have since it opened. In one recent month, however, the Sterners' guest book listed visitors from all over Pennsylvania,

20 other states and two foreign countries.

"By and large, almost everyone who comes in is so appreciative and so surprised that this is not one of those — what I would call tourist traps," Charlotte Sterner says.

With customary country reticence, she won't say just how good business is.

"We're holding our own; we keep paddling hard," she says.

The Sterners have managed to attract tourists while maintaining their regular customers. Items such as bananas, breakfast cereal, work clothes and thermal underwear attest to that.

"I don't like to think of it as tourism," she says, when asked about some of the other items. Tourist

merchandise, she says, consists of "gimmicks which, after you take them home, you find you have no use for."

"I prefer to call it country merchandise."

Tourists hear of the store by word of mouth, advertising or mention in a state tourism brochure.

George Sterner's great-uncle bought the place in 1873. His grandfather and father took turns running it.

All were also postmasters for Dewart. George Sterner retired as postmaster several years ago, and the post office was moved down the street.

The latest addition to the store is a soda fountain and ice cream parlor.

"It has created more activity in the

store than anything we've ever done," says Sterner.

For his wife, it was a labor of love. It started, she says, when a friend told her that an old soda fountain was stored, dismantled, on a farm in the area.

The Sterners bought the fountain and had it restored. They found some old ice cream parlor booths and had them copied.

The back bar came from an antique dealer in Philadelphia, the molded tin ceiling from a school in McEwensville. Other items, including an ice cream parlor light, were donated.

Charlotte Sterner has fond memories of her grandfather taking her to the soda fountain when she was 5 years old. During her high school

years, the fountain was the place friends to gather after a movie school event.

"And as our daughters grew, it isn't that opportunity for young people to do that sort of thing now," Sterner says. "They seem to be such loose ends." So she created a kind of fountain she remembers. Egg creams, phosphates and fountain treats are featured.

The fountain doesn't attract a crowd of a high school crowd, but Sterner says she revels in the delight of young children and the old, sometimes sing to the tunes of a player piano.

"Those are special thank yous she says, "for what we have here."

INTRAMURAL HIGHLIGHTS

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FOOTNOTES

- Exercise Classes begin Monday, January 30.
- Petitions are due for Outdoor Soccer Tuesday, January 31.
- Outdoor Soccer playoffs will be posted Wednesday, February 1.
- Outdoor Soccer playoffs will begin Thursday, February 2.
- Team Bowling Captain's Meeting Thursday, February 2.
- Racquetball Singles posted 1 PM Friday, February 3.

SPORTS CLUB ACTION

- Rodeo will be having an Open Rodeo Saturday, February 4.
- Men's Volleyball will host a Collegiate Tournament on Saturday, February 4, from 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM.
- LaCrosse will play Sam Houston on Saturday February 4, at 1:00 PM.
- Rugby will be playing in a Mardi Gras Tournament in Baton Rouge February 4 & 5.
- Polo will be in a tournament at Tulane University on February 4 & 5.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

- Free Throw Shooting, Handball Doubles, Billiard Doubles, Preseason Softball Tournament, Slowpitch Softball, Basketball 3 Point Shot

Wanted: Softball Officials

First Meeting: Monday, February 6, 6:00 PM, Room 267 G. Rollie White For more information, contact the Intramural-Recreational Sports Office, 159 Read Building or call 845-7826.

Best Kept Secret on Campus Revealed

One of the best kept secrets on campus is the early morning rec hours in the Read Building and DeWare Weightroom. The Read Building opens at 6:00 AM for those of you who would like to get in a jog, racquetball game or basketball game before starting a hectic day of work or school. All regular facilities including lockerrooms are available from 6 - 8 AM Monday through Friday.

Tired of the crowded conditions in the DeWare Weightroom? Try an early morning workout from 7 - 7:45 AM. The weightroom is available during this time and gets the least amount of use. Take advantage of this early morning secret!

GOLF DRIVING RANGE HOURS

The Driving Range located at the Intramural Sports Center is now open for operation Mon-Thu, 3 PM - 6 PM; Fri, 12 PM - 6 PM; Sat, 10 AM - 6 PM; and Sun, 12 noon - 6 PM. Individuals with student ID or TAMU Recreational ID may purchase a large bucket of balls for \$3.00 and a small bucket of balls for \$1.50. Without an ID individuals may purchase a large bucket of balls for \$4.00 and a small bucket for \$2.00. Club rental is also available. For more information, contact the IM-Rec Sports Office, 159 Read, or call 845-7826.

AUTO EXPO

Don't miss the General Motors Auto Expo sponsored by the Sports Officials Association February 7 & 8 at Rudder Fountain 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

TAMU-OUTDOORS

BACKPACKING

SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL FOREST February 17-19
REGISTRATION: January 30 - February 13

Enjoy exploring part of the Texas Big Thicket with piney woods, hardwoods, and spring-fed streams. We consider this the best time of the year to visit Sam Houston National Forest. The \$35 (\$45 Non A&M) fee for this backpacking adventure includes rental of camping gear, backpack, food and experienced guides. This trip is geared for the beginning and intermediate backpacker. Sign up in the Intramural-Recreational Sports Office, 159 Read. For more information, please call Patsy Greiner at 845-7826.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: McDonald's Intramural Highlights is sponsored in the Battalion by your local McDonald's Restaurant at University Drive, Manor East Mall, Hwy 21, Texas Ave. at SW Parkway and Post Oak Mall. Stories are by Steve Harding, graphics are by Paul Irwin and photos are by Mark Figart and Lynda Bottos.

IM GAMEPLAN

ENTRIES OPEN: JANUARY 23 ENTRIES CLOSE: JANUARY 31

TEAM BOWLING ENTRY FEE: All league games and the first round of playoffs must be paid at the time of entry in the Intramural-Recreation Sports Office, 159 read building. Entry fee is \$20.00 per team.

DIVISIONS: Men's and women's residence hall, men's and women's independent and CoRec. **COMPETITION:** Class A highly skilled; Class B - moderately skilled; Class C - novice. All tournaments are round-robin with single elimination playoffs. Class A All-University Champions will receive a t-shirt. Class B and C All-University Champions will receive a certificate. Class B CoRec Champions will receive General Motors shirts. **TEAMS:** There are 4 members per team. CoRec teams consist of 2 males and 2 females.

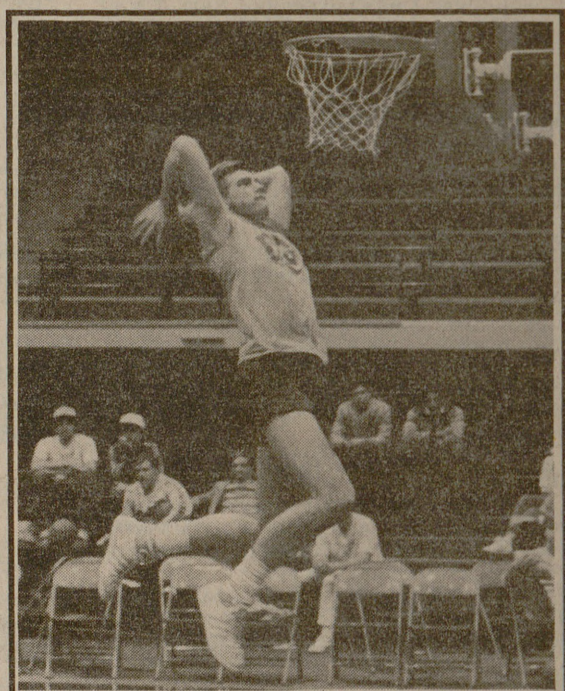
ELIGIBILITY: One TAMU Bowling Club member per team. Any team with a TAMU bowler must play in Class A. **SCHEDULES:** Schedules may be picked up at the team manager's meeting on Thursday, February 23, 5:00 pm in 164 Read Building.

RACQUETBALL SINGLES PLAY BEGINS: Tuesday, February 7 **ELIGIBILITY:** All TAMU students, faculty, staff and their spouses may enter if they meet the requirements in the Intramural-Recreation Sports Office, 159 Read Building. **SCHEDULES:** Schedules will be posted after 1 pm, Friday, February 3. Check the bulletin board outside the Intramural Office to see when you play. **RULES:** AARA rules will apply with Intramural exceptions. Matches will consist of 2 games to 21 points and an 11 point tie-breaker, if necessary. **COMPETITION:** Class A - highly skilled; Class B - moderately skilled; Class C - novice. All tournaments will be single elimination. Class A All-University Champion will receive a t-shirt; Class B and C All-University Champion will receive a certificate. **EQUIPMENT:** All participants must supply a new can of balls and their own racquet. No black racquetballs, wooden racquets, metal racquets without guards or black soled shoes are allowed.

ENTRIES OPEN: JANUARY 31 ENTRIES CLOSE: FEBRUARY 3

WALLYBALL PLAY BEGINS: Monday, February 13. **ENTRY FEE:** \$15.00 per team **DIVISIONS:** Men's, Women's and CoRec. **CLASSES:** A, B, and C. **ELIGIBILITY:** No more than one TAMU Volleyball Club member or former varsity letter winner per team. That team must compete in class A. **TEAMS:** Consist of 3 players per team CoRec teams consist of 2 males and 1 female and vice versa. Team manager's meeting Thursday, February 9 at 5:00 pm in room 164 Read Building. Schedules will be available at this time.

SLAM DUNK PRELIMINARIES: Thursday, February 9 at 7:30 pm, Main Floor, G. Rollie White. **FINALS:** Saturday, February 18 at halftime of the Aggie - Arkansas Men's Basketball game. **ELIGIBILITY:** All TAMU students, faculty and staff may participate if they meet the requirements in the Intramural-Recreational Sports Handbook/Calendar. **STUDENTS MUST PRESENT A STUDENT ID AND FACULTY/STAFF MUST PRESENT A RECREATION ID TO PARTICIPATE.** **RULES:** Each contestant will be allowed 3 dunk attempts in each round. Scores do not carry over to future rounds. **Round #1:** All contestants; **Round #2:** Top 6 scores from round #1; **Round #3:** Top 3 scores from round #2. A dunk is when the hand is over the rim and pushing down. Any number of steps are allowed and dribbling is not required. All basketballs used must be fully inflated. A contestant will receive 2 points for each successful basket (hanging on the rim does not constitute a successful basket), and up to 30 points for style in each attempt. Contestants will be able to replace one attempt in each round if they immediately notify the judges after their previous attempt that they would like to replace it. The attempt that is replaced will be scored and therefore cannot count towards contestants final score. Three judges will preside over the competition. Points earned for successful baskets will be totaled and the contestant with the highest score will advance to the next round. The winner will be awarded an Intramural Champion shirt.



ARCHERY DOUBLES CONTEST DATE: Tuesday, March 23 beginning 6:00 pm in 304 Read Building. **ELIGIBILITY:** TAMU Students, Faculty, Staff and Spouses are eligible if they meet the requirements in the Intramural Calendar/Handbook. **SCHEDULES:** Participants will schedule a time to shoot at registration. **DIVISIONS:** Men's, Women's and CoRec. Individuals entering in both Men's or Women's and CoRec will shoot once and count the same score for both divisions. **EQUIPMENT:** A limited number of bows are available for use. Participants should reserve equipment at time of registration. **COMPETITION:** Class A highly skilled; Class B - moderately skilled. All-University Club Members must play one Class level at their ranking. **RULES:** FITA Rules will apply. Each participant will shoot one round (30 arrows) at a distance of 10 yards. The target is 40 cm with 10 scoring rings. Four practice arrows will be allowed. **STRICTIONS:** A Recurve Bow with optional standard sights and stabilizers is to be used. No Compound Bows. Bow must not exceed 45 lbs at draw. No string peep or bow lever. No release field or broad head point. Target points only. No mechanical releases. **GENERAL MOTORS:** General Motors T-Shirts will be awarded to the CoRec B Champions.

RAINING???

CALL 845-2625 TO SEE IF YOUR GAME HAS BEEN RAINED OUT.

T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

Entries are being accepted for the Third Annual T-shirt Design Contest. This contest is held to determine an All-University T-shirt design for the 1989-90 school year. All entries must be received no later than 5:30 PM, Tue, Mar 21. All entries must be 12" by 12", black ink on white paper and should include the words "Intramural Champion 89-90" or "All-University Champion 89-90". It is also recommended that "Texas A&M" or the block ATM be included in the design. Entries will be judged by a panel of students, faculty and staff with the entry best depicting Intramural-Recreational Sports University Champions being declared the winner. The winner will be notified April 17 and will receive \$50.00.