Thursday, February 9, 1989

The Battalion

off. Tasks range from setting the table to washing and drying one

"We change the schedule of-ten," Mrs. Vore said. "But if we didn't do it this way, with so many of us messing the house up, it wouldn't get done. We have to charge the work."

The rule is simple in the Hop-

"If you want anyone to come over as a guest, you help clean up," Hopkins said. Money for Christmas and

birthdays is also monitored clo-

"We allot about \$100 per child for Christmas," said Mrs. Vore. "But as each child gets older, the

amount graduates. For example,

the 17-month-old may not need

\$100 worth of toys, but the 18-

year-old may need a senior ring. The children draw names to de-

cide who they'll buy a gift for.

They get an allowance and can

Hopkins has much the same plan. So much money is allotted

than usual," said Dot Yates, Hop-kins' mother. "But we had our traditions and everyone was very

"This Christmas was smaller

Birthday celebrations are small

in both families as well. The birthday child in the Vore

household is allowed to have two

close friends spend the night, go

Friends are an important part

We always have something,

of any birthday at the Hopkins

whether it's a piece of cake and a

balloon," Yates said. "But as long

as they've got their friends,

they're happy." Attention can be just as scarce in a large family. The parents

work hard to make sure no child

is swallowed up by the demands

achiever, the middle child is out-

They say the oldest is an over-

of too many brothers and sisters.

to a movie or go out to dinner.

spend up to \$15 on the gift."

to each child.

home as well.

grateful.

load of laundry.

share the work."

kins household.

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Kind sheriff solves problems for 36 years by being friendly

STANTON (AP) — You couldn't From childhood, when he got ac-find a better next-door neighbor quainted with amiable Martin the Sheriffs Association, whose than Dan Saunders.

And that's pretty much what Saunders is to the 5,000 people who live and work in rural Martin County and its home-spun countyseat - Stanton.

Saunders, who at 63 has been the Martin County sheriff since 1953, is known as amiable, understanding, temperate, compassionate and outright nice.

He's not just a peace officer. He's personality

The sheriff seems to be on the threshold of sainthood.

He is the "Dean of Texas Sheriffs," which means he has been in office longer than any of Texas' current 254 sheriffs.

And Saunders is right proud of living so long and being elected term after term. He has been challenged by an opponent only once — in 1980 - since he first was elected to office in 1952.

"I made a mistake," he said. "The rumor got out that I was not going to

So, another Democrat, who hadn't a prayer, challenged the sheriff and, of course, lost.

"I'm a firm believer in dancing with the one that brung you," smiled saunders, who says he is a "dyed-in-the-wool" Democrat. "I believe in staying with the party. I don't believe in changing parties," he said, "and I don't believe in children in contributed don't believe in splitting a ticket. That would be just like saying I love one of my sons more than the other.

"When they bury me, they can say, 'Well, there lies a loyal Demo-crat,' "he said. "Loyalty is one of oteworthy femal Anjelica Huston biggest words in my vocabulary." Clara Allen, M Well, the sheriff's work here is not finished and neither is he. And pears only in pa "they" already are talking about Dan

Saunders — a country boy and a farmer's son who was raised on a cotton farm at neighboring Lenorah.

explores

Spelunker

with McMurtry's d West as a lawles e only law is that o hanging is justic ve" contains scen ore graphic that ally seen on tel

Ronnie Montgon

Dove'

rostitute. All gi

formances, part

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ance in a most

e love who lives

horse ranch. A

series, Huston

esenting her cha

passionate frontie

vie

beating of a U. new realms who tries to tal id a young Indian ets are two exan of shoot-outs an sprinkled through BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP)

-James H. Smith was a terrified, 14-year-old Boy Scout growing up in Georgia when he entered his first cave. second episode, w arsome Indian ba ue Duck (Freder rest makes Blu

cing character t

m can make o

"I was scared to death," Smith recalls. "There were large lakes and large streams. People put on scuba diving equipment and went under water.

remember thinking, 'I'll never do that.' Now, some 19 years later,

Smith has won a national award for his work in cave exploration, and he is working on a master's

thesis on the caves of the Huautla

Smith received the 1988-Lew

Bicking, an agressive spe-lunker from Baltimore who died

in an automobile accident, ex-

plored caves in the East - partic-

ularly in West Virginia — during

Smith is credited with tripling

the number of known caves in

Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia

that are more than 400 feet deep.

ing the first cave in the Western

Hemisphere to be more than a ki-

For Smith, caving has been a

Smith says. "When

way to push himself beyond limits

you're exploring a cave, you have

o expose yourself to heights.

That took a lot of repetition and

coaxing by more experienced

and dropping ropes back out. I've

always had an adventuresome

spirit, and I've always wanted to

est my own ability and daring. Even after 19 years of caving, I

Smith asked his future wife,

Pamela Duncan, for their first

ind a job that will allow him to

ake off three months a year to go

"When you explore a cave," he

ays, "you are actually going to

ne of the few places on the face

of the earth where nobody ever

"By going into a cave, you are

aking a contribution to the un-

lerstanding of unknown realms

still have not found my limits.

You are going into black voids

he once thought impossible. "I've always been afraid of

He also is credited with discover-

Plateau in Mexico.

outstanding explorers.

County sheriffs such as Milt Yater and Morris Zimmerman, Saunders was impressed.

Particularly, he recalls Zimmer-man. Way back, young Dan Saun-ders respected and admired the sheriff who, like Saunders is today, was a friend of youth. Zimmerman kept a lot of kids out of trouble, Saunders said. The old sheriff wore a good hat" and drove a new black Ford automobile.

"I thought he was rich," Saunders recalled. "I can see now he was just like me - had an overdraft and bought groceries on credit.' More than just a few folks attest to

Saunders' impeccable character. "He's solid in his ways — a fine

fellow, sure is," said former Gray County Sheriff Rufe Jordan ot

Saunders succeeded Jordan as

'I've known Dan since he was was

Gordon Johnson, an ex-lawman

a highway patrolman," said Jordan. "He's a nice boy — an exceptionally fine man and officer."

who is executive director of the

1874-founded Sheriffs Association

of Texas, calls Saunders a "mighty fine individual. He's very attuned to the needs of his people."

Pampa in the Panhandle.

dean of Texas' sheriffs.

ever called up Dan that he wouldn't

don't believe that anybody has ever called up Dan that he wouldn't help them. "He doesn't help people for what they can do for him. He helps them because he likes to help

people. It's a different approach than what a lot of people take."

James McGilvray, Martin County Attorney

of Investigation agents.

person.

Saunders is a father-figure to

rookie sheriffs, says Midland County

Sheriff Gary Painter, 41. "If a guy

needs assistance, he is always there.

He never turns anybody down. Seems like I've known him all of my

life. Midland County couldn't have a

better neighbor. He's a wonderful

Martin County Attorney James

"I don't believe that anybody has

McGilvray says he is impressed with

his neighbor in the courthouse.

help them," McGilvray said.

"He doesn't help people for what they can do for him. He helps them because he likes to help people. It's a different approach than what a lot of people take."

The genteel sheriff has a knack for soothing irate folks, resolving problems, solving cases, and be-friending the forsaken. He doesn't holster a sidearm, although he has a cabinet full of rifles and six-shooters and a well-used Bible on his desk. The He doesn't even hunt and doesn't him.

Saunders is a former president of have a hobby

"He will soothe you down and take care of your problems," McGilv-ray said. "Dan is able to handle them 23,000 members include sheriffs, policemen, deputies, marshals, Texas Rangers and Federal Bureau (the accused and criminals) and still be their friends.

> And the sheriff, who earns \$27,400 a year in a county that's relatively rich in cotton, cattle and oil production, is not in the job for the money, McGilvray said. "That (salary) is no money for the top peace officer in the county. He's in the job because he loves it.

"It (the pay) figures out to \$3.35 an hour," said Martin County Judge Bob Deavenport, who, like the sher-iff, puts in long hours — days, nights and weekends.

And Saunders figures no man 'amounted to a hill of beans" if he worked only eight hours a day.

'A sheriff has lot of power," he said. "I may under-do my power, but I have never over-done it or used this badge on my left chest to abuse people. I treat them with dignity.'

And Saunders, who knows the county and its people well, says: "There is not a farm or a ranch in Martin County that I can't go to at 3 o'clock in the morning, and that sure helps me serve people.'

Saunders, who gets along well with judges, other officials, and lawvers, said that he thanks God "we live in a land where we can be tried before a jury of our peers. It may not be a perfect system, but it is the best in the world, and I respect it.

Butch Howard, the Martin County treasurer who farms and ranches, said Saunders would be sorely missed were he to leave office. "He's going to be hard to do with-

out one of these days," Howard said. "Real hard. He's one of a kind. There will never be another like

United Nation's stamp sales fall, stamp collecting declines

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Earnings from the sale of U.N. postage stamps fell two-thirds in the 1980s, a problem the U.N. postal agency blames on unpopular themes and a vanishing generation of collec-

"Our base group of collectors started in the 1950s and it is dying, to put it bluntly," says Gisela Grunewald, head of the U.N. Postal Administration.

Stamp sales also are hampered by agency reliance on political and social themes: "Our subjects are much more political; we cannot put out a puppy-dog or LOVE stamp,' Grunewald adds.

goes into the general budget, reducing the assessment member nations pay. It does not go to the cause or

agency pictured on the stamp. U.N. stamps vary in their value to collectors. The 1954 Human Rights stamp had a face value of 3 cents. It now sells for up to \$9.50. A three-stamp block in 1955 that honored the U.N.'s 10th anniversary had a face value of 15 cents; now its value ranges from \$190 to \$320.

A recent audit of all U.N. agencies noted that net income of the U.N. Postal Administration declined from \$13.5 million in 1980 to \$4.5 million in 1987. It criticized the agency for king a mar eung

Income from U.N. stamps sales Lichtenstein and Monaco, which aggressively market their stamps for collectors, suffered a slump in the 1980s.

> In 1979-80 there was a boom in all collectibles because of a high inflation rate that cooled in the 1980s, says Lawrence. Sales of stamps, coins, gold, antiques and other tangible goods peaked in 1980 and then tapered off. The U.N. Postal Administration

got an extra lift early in the decade, says Grunewald, because it opened an office in Vienna, joining those in quite mousse, jellied tumbleweed New York and Geneva. It also salad and brandied prickly pears launched a series of flag stamps and had other popular special issues that ate, but a handful of wild food enboosted sales. Stamp collectors generally start the hobby as children, drop out in their teens and take it up again in their late 20s or 30s.

Large families survive financially tough times by sharing clothes, love

ODESSA, Texas (AP) — Steve and Laurel Vore knew when they were sweethearts at Permian High School that they wanted to

"We believe that it's a special privilege to be entrusted with God's children," Mrs. Vore said.

The east Odessa couple made good on their high school plans. They have six children: Chris, 18; Erin, 16; Kerry, 14; Nathan, 12; Britney, 8; and Rebekah, 17 months.

"Sometimes it seems like a lot, but sometimes it seems like some-one's missing," said Vore. "There's never enough of them."

That's a feeling shared by Karen Hopkins, who also wanted a large family. Having only one brother, Hopkins decided she wanted at least six children. She did herself one better. She has seven children: Julie, 17; Jill, 16;

Jenny, 10; Josh, 8; Jordan, 6; Jeric, 4; and Joey, 2. Having large families has pre-sented special problems to the Vores and Hopkins. But if not cheaper, life often is better by the half-dozen.

As part owner of Mesa Man-ufacturing Inc., Vore is able to provide his family financially.

Because of a recent separation from her husband, Karen Hopkins and her family must live with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arte Yates of east Odessa. An insurance agent, Hopkins sometimes struggles to provide for her chil-

dren. But both families deal with fi-nancial problems in much the sharing. same way — sharing. "Sometimes the children have

to share a room or a car," Mrs. Vore said. "I can buy three pair of jeans and the boys share them because they're the same size. If clothes are in good enough shape, they get handed down."

Hopkins also has to keep clothes circulating. "Sunday clothes and dressier things make it all the way down,"

Hopkins said. "The kids keep them in good shape. But we try hard to make sure everyone gets something new. Chores are shared in both fam-

ilies. In the Vore family, a computer readout tells each child what he must do on any given day, including when he has a day

going, the youngest is quiet," Vore said. "We have an example of each in our family. But each has his own interests and we encourage them. Hopkins believes having so

many brothers and sisters was a big help to her children this past year.

Useless plants become wild dinner for author

MIDLAND, Texas (AP) - Mes-

on public lands vary widely. In Texas, no foods may be picked from roadsides for safety reasons,

593-2457 for more Bicking Award, presented by the National Speleological Society to ed R. Showtimes: o.m. d PG-13. Show nd 9:40 p.m. es. Rated PG. Sh o.m. and 9:45 p.m

iree

he Manor East Burning. Rated 7:05 p.m. and

al Tourist. Rated 7:15 p.m. and

lometer (0.62 miles) deep. Smith has been on a total of 88 cave trips, logging 12 expeditions to Huautla and 12 more to other other. Rated R.S. and 9:45. Ends areas in Mexico and Europe.

heights,"

the 1960s.

iaisons. Rated 7:20 and 9:45.0m

rt

will be the host e most recorded world. The Acade n-the-Fields char perform tonight a r Auditorium. nance is present

late while they were caving. Smith's wife, Pamela Duncan, ical repertoire co of music by man likes caving, but does not share his passion for it, Smith says. She ost respected com tra has recorded m works, enabling him to study and ums, including al to explore caves. Eventually, he says he hopes to adeus Mozart's v

has been.

ithin this earth.

ny has been featu acks of the films" l Milos Forman's winning biograph adeus." The so

chestra/Page 16

adeus" earned the

d records.

While most political stamps simply fail to attract collectors, some political issues actually repel them.

In 1981, the General Assembly instructed the U.N. postal agency to issue a stamp proclaiming "the inalie-nable rights of the Palestinian people.

Michael Lawrence, editor and publisher of Linn's Stamp News, the authoritative guide for collectors, says the stamp was a disaster because many of the stamp dealers in the United States are Jewish.

"I think we answered 20,000 letters on that issue," says Grunewald. There was a rumor that the U.N. was issuing a stamp to honor the PLO and that revenue from the stamp would be sent to (Yasser) Arafat. It is very difficult to explain to the public the difference between the PLO and the Palestinian peo-

leaving two of three marketing directors' posts vacant. Grunewald says a marketing plan will be in place by the end of the

The agency has been unable to fill marketing posts under the U.N.'s general hiring freeze, but other employees have been performing most

of those duties, she says. "There is an inherent Catch-22 situation in trying to run a commercial enterprise in an organization with bureaucratic restraints," she adds. "It's not something that comes

as a surprise to any of us, although it's sometimes very frustrating." The real crisis, she says, is that stamp collecting, the hobby that has

added tens of millions of dollars to the coffers of the cash-poor United Nations, is in decline worldwide.

Lawrence says that sales by nations such as Andorra, San Marino, aren't interested.

"It is not easy for us to find collectors at the young age because of our topics," says Grunewald. Marketing surveys show political subjects are the least favored by collectors, while stamps featuring butterflies and flowers are the most popular.

"In all postal administrations, the question is 'How can we get 6-, 7-, 8year-olds to switch off the video and go to stamp collecting?'," she says. have to tell you that I have not heard a convincing strategy yet.

'Everybody in the trade and in the business who has children tells me their own children don't collect. My children don't collect. They

Racer wins big bucks racing ducks

ing stable are birds with names like nal race. Michael DuQuackis and Here's Duck' George, neither of whom were win- the eight years they've competed. ners in the recent olympics of wad-

Duck races ducks. In fact, he ternoon gathering in 1980. Several

'Most of them are too fowl to repeat," he says.

training routine at his farm here.

'Go, go, go," he yells as he chases a quacking mallard down a 24-footlong training track.

'Eight-nine," his wife, Kathy, shouts, punching the stopwatch as or more ducks at \$10 an entry. Oliver South rushes past the finish. Duck says he first entered th

Oliver South is one of the most celebrated members of the Ducks' stable. He won the eighth annual Great American Duck Race last year, ing Duck Downs in a record time of 1.23 séconds.

Another of Duck's flock, Pride of

BOSQUE FARMS, N.M. (AP) - won six of eight places in the finals In Robert Duck's championship rac- and all three top positions in the fi-

Duck's ducks have won in seven of

Duck racing has flourished in Deming since it started as an af-

usually dominates the annual Great hundred ducks from several states American Duck Race in Deming, competed this year and were increased increased in the second interval i American Duck Race in Deming. competed this year and were there's been tried and proven tech-

The original idea was to get maybe 50 ducks out to the park, Feathers fly when Duck begins his maybe 150 people or so, have a barbecue, a good time and go home," Duck says. "Then the national news media picked it up and it has absolu- socks kept getting caught on things. tely gone bonkers since.

Several trainers show up with 20

Duck says he first entered the race because of his last name, and got serious about it because of the money. The 38-year-old president of an Al buquerque-based wholesale jewelry covering the 16-foot course at Dem- company says he has earned more than \$30,000 racing ducks, taking home \$5,450 this year alone.

"But once you're on top of the the 62nd Army Band, won the 1988 hill, and especially when your name race in late August with a time of is Duck and you're winning duck 1.08 seconds, shattering Oliver races, it's more than the money," he South's record. Duck's 28 entries says. "It's the fun of the event."

Duck also has appeared on the "Tonight Show" and has been fea-

'Duck racing is such a new sport

it doesn't have hundreds of years of history like horse racing where

Duck one year tried filling socks with sand and gravel and tying them to his racers' legs with shoestrings to strengthen the muscles. He abandoned the idea, however, when the "Since then, I have developed

some training methods for building up the muscles, which I am going to

stop short of revealing," he says. But he says it's not true he'll do anything for a fast duck.

'I would never do anything illegal," he says. "I would never do anything to hurt the duck.'

He starts his training routine six weeks before race day, working with the ducks every evening.

Before each race, Duck whispers words of encouragement that would make Knute Rockne proud: "Be a winner or be dinner.

thusiasts are harvesting the same plants that most farmers consider

public nuisances. Many who gaze upon the desert areas of the Southwest may see a harsh land of useless mesquite, scrub, tumbleweeds and cacti. An enlightened few, however, see a land abundant with foods fit to grace the dinner table.

This back-to-the-future trend of using what is available on the land harkens back to ancient agriculture, according to Carolyn J. Nietham-mer, author of "The Tumbleweed Gourmet: Cooking with Wild Southwestern Plants.

She says most of the agricultural crops and wild foods grown in the United States were first domesticated by Neolithic societies.

Niethammer says she was inspired to cook wild plants after reading the "Global 2000 Report to the President," which among other things predicts a 100 percent increase in food prices by the next century. But there are things the consumer can do about it, she says.

"This means gardening, as 42 percent of American households do, and it also means gathering the bounty of free wild produce that continutes to grow throughout the continent," she said.

Niethammer, a resident of Tucson, Ariz., said she discovered that Zuni Indians were still using foods of the past, but using modern techniques to prepare them.

"No rule says you have to use ancient techniques in preparing an-cient foods," Niethammer writes. "Blenders, food processors and slow cookers can make quick work of what took Indian and settler women all day. In other words, it is not necessary to go to a stream bed and pound mesquite bean with a 20pound pestle in a bedrock mortar.

"Just as ancient foods can fit into our modern cooking techniques, so also can they be incorporated into our modern dishes."

One caution, however - plenty of wild foods are poisonous and can cause illness or death. Be certain you know exactly what you are picking, as many desert plants look alike.

Also, state and local regulations for gathering plants, seeds and fruit according to Melanie Sikes of the United States Soil Conservation Service

Public lands also include national parks which are strictly off-limits for gathering anything — rocks or plants, according to Wayne Chappell, captain of the law enforcement division for Texas Parks and Wildlife in Austin.

The best places to gather foods safely on Texas public lands, Chappell said, would be near public sec-tions of riverbeds. "But nonetheless, it's always best to check before gathering," he said.

But Neithammer notes that often, residents of the Southwest need look no further than their own backyards for plants.

Many who gaze upon the desert areas of the Southwest may see a harsh land of useless mesquite, scrub, tumbleweeds and cacti. An enlightened few, however, see a land abundant with foods fit to grace the dinner table.

The plants' availability "gives everyone the opportunity to partake of a genuine American culinary tradi-tion," she writes. "The difference is delightful and nutritious."

Although the use of prickly pears in the United States generally has been confined to prickly pear jelly, Niethammer's cookbook includes recipes for kuchen, muffins, sherbet, candy and rice pudding, all made with prickly pears.

Mesquite, valued by barbecue fans for the destinctive smoked flavor it gives to grilled meats, is also valuable for its bounty of sweet pods, Niethammer says. The invasive tree, which often is bulldozed by ranchers, once was a source of food, fuel, shelter, weapons, tools, fiber, medicine and hair dye for desert Indians.

Even green tumbleweeds can be used like more conventional vegetables in salads and as a side dish, she says.

tured in several national magazines. He says he's not just a lucky Duck. The secret to winning, he says, is trying different training techniques.