The Buck Ends Here

By IVAN D.E. BEAUMONT

Mrs Keith Guthals and me looked at the dessert served the other night at the FFA-Chamber banquet and wondered, "Why not sour cream chocolate cake?"

Keith just laughed, Millie snorted and I got hunger pangs.

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Actually, the fault lies with Walter Eden. He had a farm sale and ole' butterfat rich Bessie is not around to yield to the strong (mebbe a bit cold in the mornings) hands of Walter.

Millie will find another source, but until then we'll settle for chocolate chip cookies and chocolate cake with maraschino cherries. They're a pretty good substitute.

There is one pastry that we stay away from — peanut butter cookies.

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The big news the past week came from Morton House Kitchens, Inc. and from Omaha Public Power District.

One hundred employes affected by a temporary layoff were notified Friday that they are to return to work April 7. Plant manager Ray Ott was pleased to make that announcement.

OPPD awarded a $5 million contract on the coal burning plant to be built five miles southeast of town and will act on a $12 million site preparation contract at a later date.

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Stolen —

A man promised his wife that when they'd saved enough money, they'd take a trip to Europe. For years they scrimped, going without many things, missing all the good movies and stretching last winter's clothing another year. Finally, the husband was able to report:

"Good news, mother We've saved enough money to pay for a trip to Europe."

"Wonderful," she exclaimed. "Can we start packing tomorrow?"

"Well, no," he said, "Now all we have to do is save enough for the trip back."

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From Bill Schock, editor of the Falls City Journal:

"It feels like spring today. Spring — the time when middle aged men's thoughts turn to how to dodge upcoming home and lawn improvement suggestions."

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Bill "made the news" in the News-Press 40 years ago as a basketball selection following a tournament at Falls City. . ."and all the time the people around Falls City had been of the opinion that all the gray hair and wrinkles were considerably premature," he said after reading the item.

Time does have a way of slipping past us, Bill. Did I ever tell you about the time I took on No. 1 son in a wrestling match on the living room floor after we had been pheasant hunting all morning?

The Queen Bee welcomed the hunters with one of those great fried chicken Sunday dinners with potatoes and super gravy and such. The only way, we figured, to settle that food was to do a little wrestling.

We chose the living room, despite the "get out of my house" pleas from the other ½. Fortunately we did not break anything nor did we settle who really was the winner.

No. 1 son settled back in a chair for a few minutes to rest up while I leaped to my feet, danced a jig, then went into the bedroom and out of sight to gasp for air.

I failed to follow Max Moyer's advice: "Lay it on heavy for 10 seconds, then quit."

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Did the winter seem long and drawn out to you?

It's easy to be pessimistic during winter, but sunshine and the 60s sure have a way of brightening a day and the outlook.

There is one casualty — my winter coat.

Oh, it's still good for another winter, but it became somewhat of a troublesome task for Millie. I buttoned it and unbuttoned it so many times this winter that Millie had to sew the buttons on three times

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This is called sticking your foot in your mouth:

At a dinner party, a shy young man had been trying to think of something nice to say to his hostess. At last he saw his chance when she turned to him and remarked, "What a small appetite you have Mr Landis."

"To sit next to you," Whoopie replied gallantly, "would cause any man to lose his appetite"

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Little Bucks —

Ken Wiles needs some help. Can anyone help him with the names of the recipients of the Elks of the Year award? . . .We think the suggestion by Leroy Fletchall was the best we've heard this week: Every home should be equipped with a 2½ pound dry chemical fire extinguisher. . . .Who does all the work setting up the annual Legion birthday dinner? Mrs Bud "Mickey" Schreiner is quick to name a dozen people. . .but they say Mickey is spoofing us. . . .she's been doing it for 22 or 23 years and giving the credit to others each year.

Didya hear about the little old lady who entered a department store and suddenly became the center of attraction?

Instantly a band began to play, an orchid was pinned on her dress, and a $100 bill was put into her hand. She found herself being photographed and interviewed by newspaper reporters.

"You're our one millionth customer," Bob McKone, the master of ceremonies told her, smiling broadly. "And now, can you tell us what you came into our store for today?"

"Yes," said the little old lady. "I'm on my way to the complaint department."

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ARS wrote in his column the other day that an award will be presented to a newsman in the Phoenix area in memory of the late Virg Hill.

We knew Virg and his late wife, Ruth, for many years. We didn't know about the Hill award until we read the Notebook.

Virg was a Kansas newspaperman, then published the Fairbury Daily News. I worked for him as a part-time linotype operator while going to Doane college. I used to pick up the key to the shop from his mailbox at 5 a.m. on Sundays and Ruth always had something for an empty stomach when I returned the key.

I timed Virg when he wrote his daily column, "Hilltoppers." His speed was something else. He also had a photography hobby. He admitted that the 35mm cameras were here to stay, but there was nothing like his old waist-shooting Graflex.

He sold the Fairbury paper and moved to Scottsdale, Ariz. He told me once on a visit to their home that if he'd gotten his wisdom in younger years he'd moved to Arizona sooner. They were very happy there.

Virg died at his desk while covering the Arizona legislature. His widow moved to Los Angeles and by coincidence, in the same neighborhood of my folks. My mother and Ruth visited over the phone a great deal.

Then four years ago when we were in LA, I dialed the Hill phone number on a Monday morning. A woman answered. I asked to speak to Mrs Hill and told who I was.

"We buried mother Saturday," the daughter said. "She was 83 years old."

Johnson-Brock teachers approved

The Johnson-Brock Board of Education has approved teachers for contract renewals.

They are Mary Jane Anthony, Duane Arends, Georgina Behrends, Marie Boellstorff, James Buffington, Ruby Burr, Arlene Henderson, Douglas Hunzeker, Jacquelyn Kelsay, Donna Kohrs, Michael Lewis, Bryan Mabie, Denise Mabie, Ronald Meyer, Elaine Patras, John Schulze, Irene Seeba, Maxine Smith, Linda Vogel, Darlene Wright, Merlin Wright, and Terry Zimmers.

A half day contract was approved for Ruby Lockwood. The terms of the contract will be determined after negotiations are completed.

The Midland View

By. M. M. VAN KIRK
Nebraska Farm Bureau

Waiting For Buildup

There are signs that foreign customers who have been eager buyers of U.S. agricultural products, particularly wheat and feed grains, are counting on a buildup of U.S. grain stocks and subsequent lower prices.

Russia, India and China have all canceled or reduced grain purchase orders in the past month, orders that included deliveries from the 1974 crop as well as for the 1975 crop and at the same time several of these countries have placed small wheat orders with Australian suppliers.

President Ford has removed the USDA's grain export monitoring activities which he had imposed last year when a major grain export sale to Russia was halted. That action, taken to protect drought-shortened domestic supplies of feed grains to pacify consumers, has curtailed grain exports in recent months. Removal of the restrictions is a bit late. Every salesman knows he has to make sales when customers are ready to buy and that a customer once lost is mighty hard to recover. It is another example of what government interference does to the market system.

The director of the United Nations food and agricultural organization says that needs of the world's poorest countries for food imports have been cut almost in half in recent months. He reports there has been a break in the dark clouds that have hung over the immediate food situation in the last few years but shortages remain acute.

What happened to all of those starving people that the World Food Council in Rome was so worried about in December? All of a sudden things get so much better that nations which had been clamoring for U.S. food donations start cancelling orders. Did those countries decide to let their people go ahead and starve or did they miraculously find things weren't so bad as they thought?

Reliable foreign agricultural observers have said that it will take two to three years of good crops to rebuild world grain reserves. It is rather apparent that at least some nations have decided they prefer to go back to a system where the U.S. stores the world's reserves of grain, pays the storage costs, and either sells or gives the grain to them when they run short. They are counting on U.S. farmers to put themselves back into a surplus situation this year with corresponding price declines this fall.

The slide in grain and soybean prices since the first of the year doesn't make sense in terms of either world or domestic supplies. Carryover stocks of wheat and feed grains are going to be very much on the skimpy side by harvest time. Domestic feed grain consumption is down, of course, because cattle and hog feedlot numbers are off drastically.

Farmers in Nebraska and throughout the Midwest, faced with costs that are 12 per cent higher than a year ago and prices for their products that are 17 per cent less than they received a year ago, have good reason to be pondering their moves. They can reduce their use of high priced fuels, fertilizer and chemicals by planting their poorer ground to crops other than feed grains. They can do a better job of rotating their crops, conserving soil and water and increasing their options. "Fence to fence" planting from a long-range standpoint when the costs of production may exceed the returns is not good farming or good management.

A network radio announcer started a story recently in disapproving tones, "Despite worldwide food shortages, U.S. farmers are seriously considering cutting back on their production this year."

Whatever farmers decide to do will be on the basis of economics. They have no personal obligation to bankrupt themselves and the nation's agriculture to feed the world or to provide domestic consumers with cheap food.

Most of the Arctic's lands lose their covering of ice and snow in the summer. Temperatures can rise to as high as 90 degrees F. in some places.

Auxiliary to hold Easter egg hunt

UNION — (N-P) — The annual Easter egg hunt for children, pre-school through second grade, will be held March 29 at 2 p.m. it was reported at the American Legion Auxiliary March meeting held at the home of Mrs Paul Pickering. Mrs Charles Crook, Mrs Art Jones, Mrs King Clark and Mrs Larry Hathaway as co-hostesses.

Donations were made to the Nebraska Children's Home Easter Fund; Freedom Foundation, Gold Star, Easter Seals, Disabled Veterans, "Forgotten children and Children and Youth.

A foreign relation report written by Mrs Ted Brannon, was read by Mrs Charles Attebery.

A report was made on the American Legion birthday dinner.

The next meeting will be on April 7. This is an early date, because of the annual luncheon to be held on April 15.

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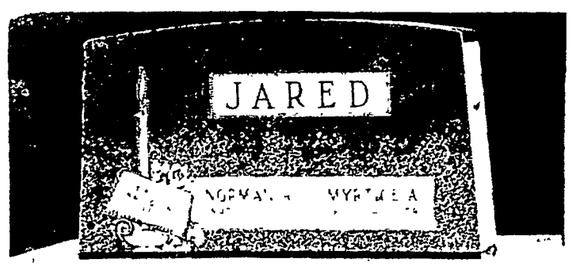
Connie Mullis

Mr and Mrs Clarence Beccard and Mr and Mrs Norman Beccard attended the pork barbecue Saturday night at Paul for the David Kreifels benefit fund.

Mrs Vera Frans of Nebraska City, Mr and Mrs Don Ahrens of Weeping Water and Mr and Mrs John Duncan and sons of Lincoln were recent dinner guests at the Donald Wolfe home.

Dorr-Colbert Funeral Home
PH. 267-2485
Weeping Water, Nebr.

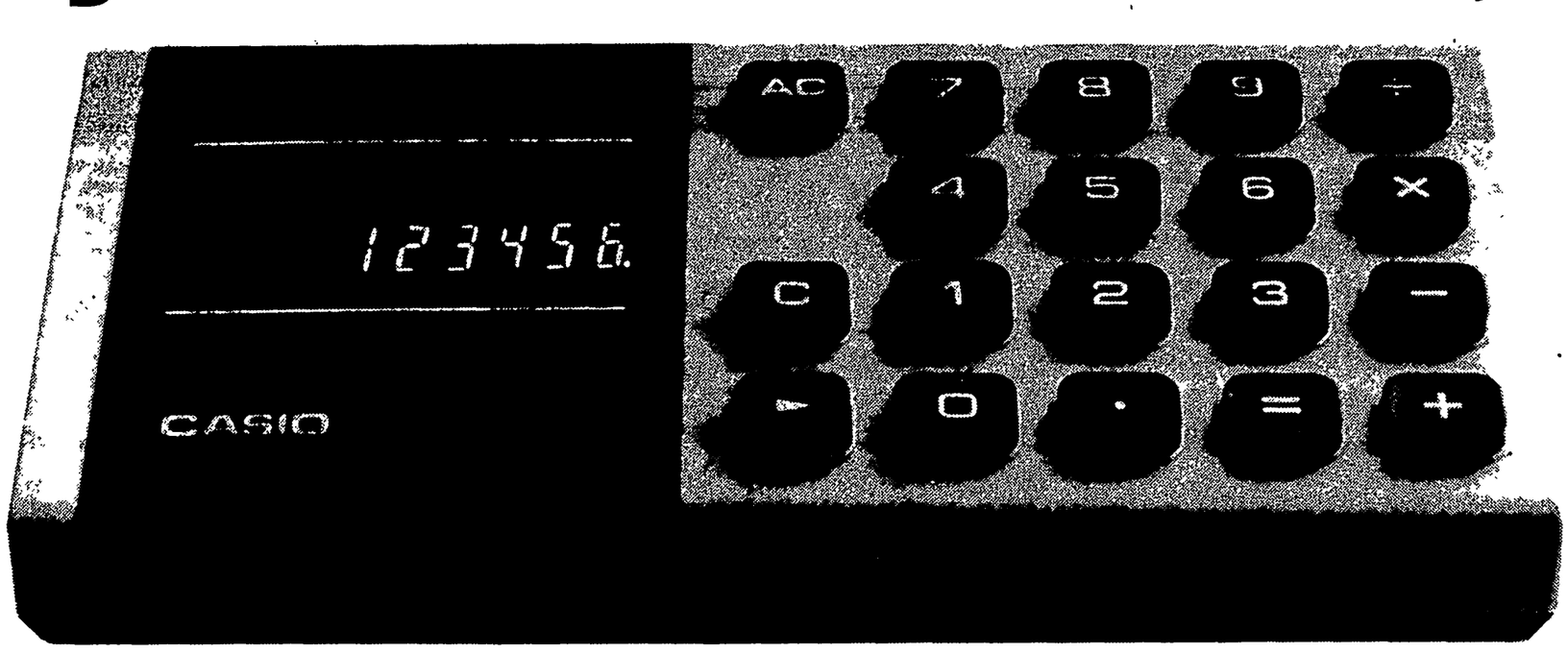
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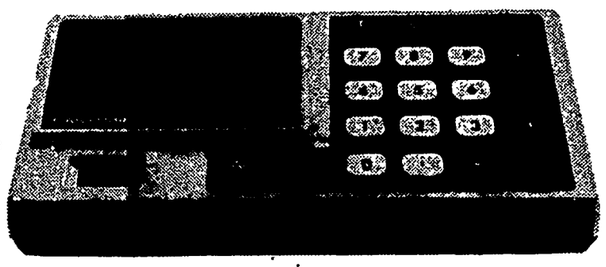
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