

COWBOYS DO IT IN THEIR SPARE TIME

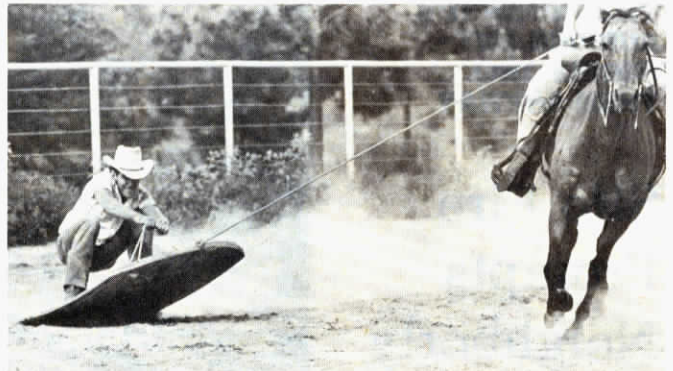
“Sand Surfing” Latest New Sport In Texas

Texas cowboys like anything that involves horses and, if you can throw in a bit of rough riding and an element of risk, you'll get their attention fast. That's why a new "sport" called sand surfing is the latest cowboy craze.

Sand surfing is a little like water skiing except that instead of being towed by a motorboat, the "surfer" skims along the sand behind a horse running flat out. In place of water skis, Texas sand surfers ride on a slab of 3/4-in. plywood attached to a tow line. And, if you wipe out in sand surfing, you don't take a cool dip in the water. You take a bone-jarring, skin-scraping slide across the arena.

Bob McPheeters, Woodlawn, Texas, who's tried the sport, says it won't show up as an event at national rodeos in the near future. So far it's been limited to hometown events in rural Texas.

Beginners usually sit down on their first couple rides. More skilled riders stand and a few "surf-board cowboys" have even learned to manage tricky maneuvers during the ride. Competition is staged as a timed event to see which rider can finish the course fastest and still stay on the board. However, the majority of surfers don't finish the course, which is laid out in a standard rodeo arena. It



Surfers who wipe out take a bone-jarring, skin-scraping slide on dirt.

runs from a starting line at one end to a barrel at the other. McPheeters says the most difficult part of the ride is when the horse rounds the barrel.

Centrifugal force created by the turn has a "crack the whip" effect that sends all but the most skilled surfers

flying.

Besides scrapes, bruises and torn clothes, the most common hazard of the sport is a coating of dust that makes the surfer look like he just survived a Texas sandstorm.

GIANT HORN SPREAD ATTRACTS RANCHERS

Big Horned Watussi Growing In Popularity

Giant horn spreads up to 8 ft. from tip to tip, disease resistance, and hardy calves are three factors that have helped African Watussi cattle catch on fast with U.S. ranchers since FARM SHOW first reported on them more than 5 years ago.

"Demand has grown because of the lack of horned cattle coming in from Mexico," says Dean Drake, a Penrose, Colo. rancher, who breeds Watussi. "Mexican steers must be two to three years old to develop a proper horn base and minimal horn length. A Watussi bull, bred to any commercial cow, can produce an animal with horns adequate for rodeo in less than one year."

In addition to their use in rodeos, Drake says breeders like Watussi be-

cause they're highly disease resistant and their calves are smaller than those of other breeds, which results in fewer problems at birth. "Many of the good traits that have been bred out of our American cattle can be easily acquired from Watussi crossbreeds," says Drake, noting that Watussi calves are so hardy they can nurse within 15 min. of birth and readily follow their mothers around within 30 min.

Drake owns 47 head of Watussi which makes him one of the largest breeders in the country. There are only a few hundred of the cattle all together, he says, and because of disease problems in Africa, no more are being imported.

Watussi, considered the oldest



Easy calving, disease-resistant Watussi develop horn spreads up to 8 ft. from tip to tip.

purebred cattle in the world, are accustomed to temperature changes from 120° during the day to 20° at night in their native lands, so they adapt well to colder climates. "They've survived 7,000 years under the most adverse conditions and are

well equipped to confront predators and difficult forage conditions."

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dean Drake, 333-6th, Penrose, Colo. 81240 (ph 303 372-3605).

MADE FROM RAILROAD TIES, STEEL WHEELS, AND BIG CHUNKS OF STEEL

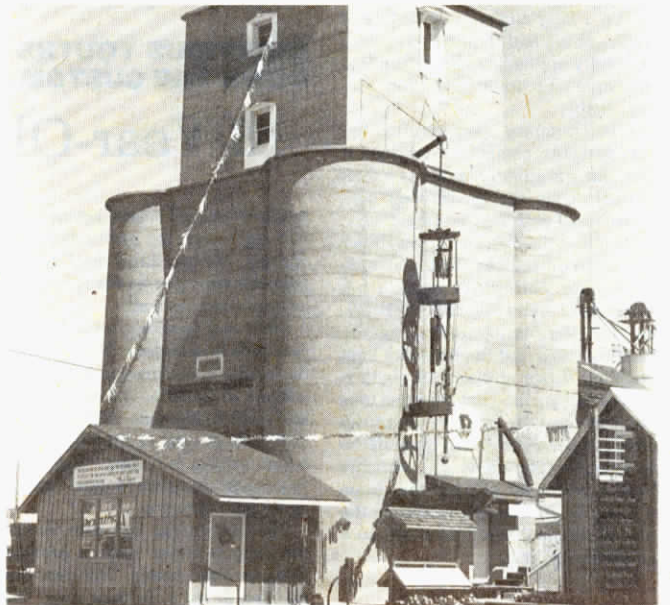
World's Largest Windchime

When Carl Ellberg converted the farmer's grain elevator in Princeton, Ill., into a mini shopping mall in 1983, he needed something to attract attention to it. He gets lots of attention now when the wind blows and sets off "the world's largest windchime".

He got the idea for the huge free-swinging noisemaker from his wife, who has a store in the mini mall called the "Windchimer" where she sells home-size windchimes. There

are nine other stores in the mall and a 2-story penthouse on top of the elevator where Ellberg lives.

The giant 6,300-lb. windchime hangs from a steel beam anchored to the side of the elevator. It consists of elevator cogs, steel wheels, railroad ties, a 20-ft. piece of 4-in. dia. copper, and other chunks of metal. It's suspended by a huge chain and anchored at the bottom so it can't swing out of control.



Giant 6,300-lb. windchime hangs on the side of a grain elevator that's been converted into a mini shopping mall.