

## FOLKS CALM DOWN

# Yak Suspected Of 'Crittering'

**CADDO** — Want to earn a \$25 reward? Just yoke a yak, pen it up unharmed and notify Harrell F. Cook, who ranches north of here.

If you accomplish this, the odds are that Caddo's case of "critter jitters" of the last week will end at the same time.

Cook believes the animal is probably the one which has caused such a stir around Caddo, what with folks keeping their lights on all night and one citizen, Charley Gantt, firing ten shots at what has been described as a "hairy, ape or gorilla-like thing about seven feet tall and four feet wide."

The rancher said he believes the critter is a yak, or Asiatic ox, which strayed onto his range and spent the last winter grazing with his cattle. He said the yak apparently drifted from his ranch, located 10 miles north of Caddo, sometime during the spring.

Cook said the yak, a shaggy beast most often found in Tibet, was one of two or three known to have been kept in a game preserve on the F. Kirk Johnson ranch near Possum Kingdom Lake. It is "gentle, and completely harmless," says Cook.

He said he offered the reward Thursday to keep the animal from being killed. The yak was first noticed grazing with his cattle last November by a deer hunter, Bobby Wilson of Graham.

A tall animal standing about six feet at the shoulders and

Drawing on Pg. 1-A

with a shaggy coat, it gets even shaggier in the winter when hair on its belly grows so long it drags the ground. Its coat is blackish-brown and its horns are shorter than those of cattle.

Meanwhile, Stephens County Deputy Sheriff Edgar Marlin visited in Caddo late Thursday returning from a trip to Ranger and found things "much quieter," although he said a few citizens were still "a bit nervous."

Martin said he had received no new reports on the situation other than Cook's explanation and offer of the reward.

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