

'Critter Talk' Takes Heat Off Caddo Conversations

By BOB BRUCE
Reporter-News Staff Writer

CADDO — Parched range conditions and descending clouds of grasshoppers have been supplanted here as conversation pieces by the Caddo Critter.

Most Caddoans joke and laugh about it, perhaps as many as 10 persons strongly swear to its existence, and a few outsiders have even come looking for it.

Two Breckenridge men showed up Tuesday, driving a pickup truck carrying their guns and a dog.

The two men, Harvey Russell and Floyd Rodgers, said "we came down to have a look." Asked if they hoped to get a shot

at it, they replied, "We're just curious."

The man who did get a shot at it—in fact a whole pistol full—is 72-year-old Charlie Gantt, who insists the creature "looked like a gorilla."

'Risked His Life'

Aware that some people in Caddo are skeptical of his claim, Gantt takes the stand that "I

feel like I risked my life for the community."

Gantt talked to two newsmen from Abilene and Fort Worth Tuesday, obligingly fired his 22 pistol for them and instructed them how his name is spelled: "That's G-A-N-double-T."

A lifetime Caddo resident, Gantt fired nine or 10 shots Saturday night at the critter outside his home, he said.

A neighbor, John Mitchell, 40, has a "big .30-30" waiting for the critter. "Looks like we're gonna' have to kill it and put it under their noses to convince them," he said of the non-believers.

A neighbor boy, Gene Couch, 9, said he saw the critter 200 yards from his home Saturday, on his way fishing.

Dogs Disturbed

Mrs. Couch hasn't seen it, but disclosed that "something has been fighting the dogs at night."

Two Caddoans who don't hold with such a tale are oil pumpier John Luttrell and retired farmer Z. W. Sutphen, 80.

Luttrell thinks that "Mr. Gantt probably saw a buck deer." Sutphen is more concerned with the grasshoppers that are stripping his peach trees.

Mrs. Rex Carey finds the topic laughable in one breath but not quite so funny at a second glance. Monday night, it seems, some one drove up to her place, presumably looking for the critter.

"It was a black car with spotlights on both sides. They started shining the lights all over the place and began stampeding the cattle over the fences," she said.

Somebody voiced the opinion it might be a bear. But no tracks have been found at waterholes; no slain livestock have turned up.

Meanwhile, the talk continues. And why not? It's certainly more amusing than no rain in two months and withering grass-land.



Staff Photo
GENE COUCH, 9
... he saw it right there

Burmese Reds Set New 'Alliance'

RANGOON, Burma (AP)—Burma's feuding Communist rebel factions have agreed to form an alliance in the face of heavy mauling by government troops, reports reaching Rangoon said today.

Elements of the Karen rebels, one of the five major insurrectionist groups in Burma, already have aligned themselves with the Communists.

Press reports said the Red Flag, or Trotskyite Communists, and the White Flag, or Peking-leaning Communists, made a deal that would unite their combined guerrilla following of 3,000.

Government troops continued to press major operations against rebel strong points. Twice in the past two months, the government has reported 100 or more guerrillas killed in a single week.

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ONE WOMAN TELLS ANOTHER !!

HURRY, DEAR! I WANT TO BE ON TIME FOR THE SHOWING OF THE NEW FURNITURE JUST ARRIVED AT

WOODLOCK'S

Judge May Name Lawyer For Ruby

DALLAS, Tex. (AP)—Probate Judge F. W. Barlett Jr. said he will name a lawyer to represent Jack Ruby at an Aug. 6 guardianship hearing unless Dist. Atty. Henry Wade contests the hearing request.

Barlett Tuesday conferred with Wade about the legal problems involved in the defense request for a court-appointed guardian to manage Ruby's business affairs.

Wade had no comment after the meeting. Prosecutors said earlier they did not object to the