

# Dreams

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debts that were coming to maturity in September and that he could not pay. He was forced to assign the property in 1893 to Wilbur Fisk Sanders, an attorney and one of the first United States Senators from Montana, who was ordered to settle the debts.

Sanders estimated that in ordinary times the assets would have been worth between \$100,000 and \$200,000. The debts were about \$30,000.

After assigning the ranch, marking the end of a great dream, Child became despondent and depressed. After he had walked to the ranch, Dr. Miller, his physician, was called to his bedside. Child was dead when he arrived.

Although there were rumors of suicide, this was not confirmed by the doctor, who was of the opinion that death was the result of nervous prostration brought on by severe worry and mental strain of the past month.

A note found in his vest pocket read, "I arrived at the ranch very much worn out and need rest. Something tells me I shall never leave this place alive."

**SHORTLY AFTER CHILD'S DEATH** the ranch was ordered sold.

From 1893 to 1901 when Sanders, the assignee, deeded the land to Reynolds Prosser, who married one of Child's daughters, it was apparently leased. For the next 40 years the land had several owners.

**PAUL KLEFFNER AS A YOUTH** had no intention of becoming a farmer. Fate destined otherwise.

He temporarily farmed with a brother at Belt, Montana, until he could get the type of employment that he wanted. He later assumed his brother's share of the stock and machinery. When he tried to make improvements on the place, the owner took exception to some of the things he was doing. As a reward for his efforts, he received an eviction notice.

He now found himself faced with the problem of having farm equipment and livestock and no place to keep them. He began looking for a place to locate vowing that he was going to own, not lease, a farm. This led him to a representative of the Federal Land Bank, which had come into possession of a lot of farmland.

The agent showed him the Child Ranch. A down-payment of \$2,100 would be required. Paul liked the place and the price, but said he didn't have any money. Another representative suggested that Paul rent the place for three years with an option to buy the ranch at that time if he could make the down payment.

Paul signed papers for the transaction. After three years he was able to make the down payment and purchase the ranch. He and his wife, Thelma, have lived there since 1943.

Paul Kleffner turned out to be the type of person that the ranch needed. The once proud and immaculate ranch had suffered from years of neglect by a series of owners. Windows were broken. Roofs were deteriorated. The second story of the house, where once elite people from Helena had gathered and danced, had been used for a chicken coop.

One of the first tasks was to haul away tons of manure to make head clearance at the rafters. The yard was cleaned, broken glass replaced, the roof of the barn and floor of its upper level were replaced, and the wooden part of the barn painted giving it a well groomed look. Deteriorated fences had been replaced.

**THE CHILD-KLEFFNER RANCH** was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. In

the accompanying description it lists some changes in the house by the present owner.

Three of the four original fireplaces remain. The interior has been remodeled.

The Kleffners raised a family consisting of six daughters and a son. This required bedroom space. Temporary bedrooms and a bathroom were partitioned off in the upstairs ballroom. There was still ample space for growing children to roller skate.

When the Kleffners bought the ranch it had 750 acres. The farmland consisting of 610 acres was separated from the land with buildings and meadow by a highway.

For years Kleffner was actively engaged in raising hogs. When he found this to be unprofitable he switched to grain, alfalfa, and cattle. He has recently sold the farmland across the highway leaving only the building site and about 140 acres of the original 5,000 acre Child Ranch.

Kleffner has been very interested in antiques, and he has acquired a large collection. The barn now houses antique cars, carriages, very old farm equipment, saddles, bottles, household equipment, and much, much more.

**AND NOW WE COME** to the second dream. Paul and Thelma know that the years are creeping up on them. They remember what the ranch looked like when they took it over and started renovating. They know that it is now in mint condition and would like to see it stay that way. The thought that it might deteriorate from neglect as it did before is intolerable.

So Paul Kleffner dreamed of his ranch being maintained in basically its present form, but as a State Park. He dreamed of it becoming a living monument to the William Child White Face Farm, and a fitting tribute to a rural life that is disappearing year by year, acre by acre.

In 1985 Kleffner submitted a proposal to the legislature. He would sell the buildings with the antiques and the adjoining 40 acres of land for \$300,000. He proposed that the barn be turned into an agricultural museum and the grounds be made a recreation and picnic area.

State Senator Dave Fuller introduced a bill for the purchase of the property with several options as to how much land might be purchased. Fuller said that the farm could be operated by modern techniques or become a working museum using draft animals and old time equipment. He said that it is ironic that Montana has no agricultural museum to tell the state's largest industry. Each year, he said 170,000 people visit museums in Helena.

**BUT PAUL KLEFFNER'S DREAM** died on the last hour of the last day of the 1985 session. The legislature asked for EPA tests to check for possible pollution and then passed the buck to the 1987 session. The EPA did not make a report and with the budget balancing crunch the proposal was never resubmitted.

Opposition to purchase of the ranch came from two sources. The Montana Parks Division that would be in charge was concerned about maintenance costs. Its budget has generally been inadequate to maintain and operate present parks. Financing of state government has gone from bad to worse. The purchase of the ranch was not considered essential enough to compete in top priority.

Perhaps travelers may wonder about the history of what they see as they pass the enormous barn, the elegant 8-sided dwelling place, and the peaceful scene of cattle grazing in the beautiful Prickly Pear Valley. Perhaps they may not know about the two dreams. The first which was shattered at the very point of fulfillment. The other a dream, not to be realized, of a classic park and museum dedicated to agriculture, Montana's number one industry.

# Golf in China blossoms

## One hole for every 8.5 million people

From the New York Times

BEIJING — If you slice a tee shot off the par-3 17th hole at Chung Shan Hot Springs Golf Club, the ball may well dispatch one of the inhabitants of a duck farm that lies beyond the rough.

"When that happens," says Aylwin Tai, the manager of the club in southern China, "we fix Peking duck."

Indeed, consider a sense of adventure a 15th club as you play golf in China, where there is one hole for every 8.5 million people. If the wandering sportsman manages to locate the few golfing outposts, he'll find the ancient, agrarian culture of the world's most populous nation mixes strangely with one of Western society's most bourgeois sports.

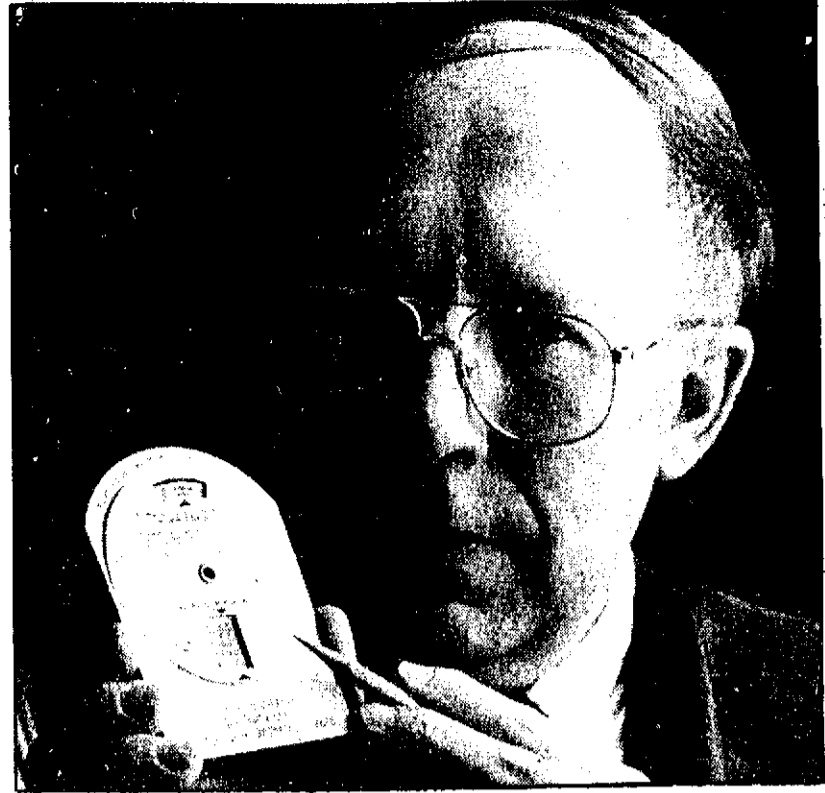
Just north of the capital city, for instance, lies the Beijing International Golf Club, where golfers on the first tee can easily see huge ornate gates built three centuries ago to guard the crypts of the 13 Ming emperors. Japanese architects carved fairways in this valley where for years only royalty were allowed.

At the nearby Shunyi Beijing Golf Club, built on a former tree plantation, jade, handpainted porcelain or cloisonne can be bought for less than the price of a visor.

**AND IT'S NOT UNCOMMON** at the Chung Shan course to see many of the 70 superintendents who rake traps, pull weeds and entirely resod the tees and fairways with Bermuda grass each year. Some 2,000 workers turned the Arnold Palmer design into reality five years ago by shoveling and carrying dirt in shoulder baskets for a wage of a dollar a day and all the rice they could eat.

Chung Shan was China's first post-revolution golf course, and if not for China's re-establishing ties with the West a decade ago, golf would probably still be banned.

**BUT CHINA'S RECENT** economic reforms have placed a premium on foreign capital, and the government has set a goal of attracting 10 million tourists by next year. Amenities such as golf courses are now viewed favorably by Communist Party high-ups.



John Worden holds up one of the devices he invented that will tell people how much they can drink and still drive safely.

# DUIs drop when drivers know blood-alcohol levels

NEW YORK (AP) — People who learn to estimate their blood-alcohol levels with an inexpensive calculator may be less likely to drive while under the influence of booze, a new study suggests.

After a Vermont community provided such training, its rate of driving with hazardous blood-alcohol levels was only about half that of a similar town without the program, the study said.

Experts called the results promising, but said more research is needed. The strategy should be considered only in combination with other steps to fight drunken driving, they said.

The work was done by researchers at the University of Vermont and the Vermont state government. It appears in this month's issue of the *American Journal of Public Health*.

Study co-author John K. Worden said the results look encouraging even though the limited experiment could give only preliminary evidence of effectiveness.

The work involved three Vermont communities Worden declined to identify, two with populations of about 5,000 and the third approaching 12,000. They were similar in terms of education level, household income and the proportion of males among residents aged 16 to 29.

In one community, an education program featured wallet-sized cards and small cardboard dials for estimating one's own

blood-alcohol concentration after given numbers of drinks. About 3,000 dials were handed out in bars, stores, restaurants and filling stations.

Customers were trained to use the dials at those outlets and in television announcements broadcast about 20 times a week. Worden stressed that training at the outlets was important because it ensured "a lot of conversation about the program."

A second town was exposed only to the television announcements, which mentioned a couple of local outlets for the dials. No training was provided at those outlets.

The third town received no portion of the program.

Six months after the program began, police stopped all traffic on six weekend nights in the three communities. Blood-alcohol concentrations were measured in 333 drivers from the community that had no part of the program, 405 from the town with only the television announcements, and 154 from the community with the full program.

## \$400 stock gift swells to \$16,000

MONROE, Mass. (AP) — A \$400 gift of stock to a tiny schoolhouse a quarter century ago has swelled to \$16,000, providing all nine pupils at the school with swimming lessons, a computer and a microscope, among other things.

"Without it, we wouldn't have a lot of enrichment," said Sandra Goodermote, principal and one of two teachers at the four-room elementary school and kindergarten in the town of 140 people in northwestern Massachusetts near the Vermont border.

The fund was set up in 1963 by a local businessman, Paul Hodgdon, who donated 200 shares of stock in the Deerfield Glassine Co.

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