Copied from an original at The History Center Diboll, TX www.TheHistoryCenterOnline.com

Believe it or not:

Diboll once had miniature golf course, 'leading' cafe



PORTRAIT FROM THE PAST — The Believe It Or Not Cafe as it looked in 1931 was located behind the present Pavlic's Supermarket and is now the home of Mrs. Myrtle Waltman. Diboll Motor Company was located (to the right) where Pavlic's is now located. In the picture here are Edwin Nelson, Pauline Devereaux, LaRue Warner, Fred Nelson Sr., Fred Ike and Luke Phillips. The car belonged to the late Dred Devereaux.

(Photo courtesy Edwin Nelson)



DIBOLL'S FIRST (and only) miniature golf course was operated here in the early 1930's, next to the Believe It Or Not Cafe. Some of those in this photo are Guy Nunelle, Harrison Bateman, George Rat Johnson, Clifford Conner, Clabe Bateman, Wilbur Fogg, Earl Fairchild, Mrs. Doolittle; children Raymond Weeks, LaRue Warner and Macbeth Warner; and Walter Purdy, Edwin Nelson, Fred Nelson, Pauline Devereaux, Kenneth Nelson, Mrs. Fred Nelson, Eugene Baker, Buel Small and Fred Ike.

By ELLEN TEMPLE
Special Press Writer

A miniature golf course in Diboll?

Believe it or not, it's true! In the early 1930's the Fred Nelson family owned and operated the Believe It Or Not Miniature Golf Course and Cafe, named after the famous Ripley's "Believe It or Not" newspaper column.

Fred Nelson passed away a number of years ago, but his sons Kenneth and Edwin still live in Diboll. Edwin describes the golf course.

"The golf course was located on the Old Diboll Highway (Hwy. 35) on land now occupied by the post office. One of the first in the area, the popular course was open for a year or two. Sand covered the playing area; low board walls and pipes provided ingenuous obstacles."

Mr. Nelson talks too about their cafe which was adjacent to the golf course. His father Fred Nelson, Southern Pine Lumber Co. timekeeper for years, built it in 1929. And family members helped operate it.

What was really unbelievable about the Believe it Or Not Cafe was the price of a meal — 35 cents, which included a beverage and dessert. Luke Phillips, the Nelson's nephew operated the place for awhile; brothers Edwin and Kenneth helped out. Their mother Mrs. Nelson, who was a great cook, liked to work at the cafe occasionally, too. It was a real family operation!

The food was good. Travelers on Hwy. 35 (now Hwy. 59) would wait until they got to Diboll to eat fresh vegetables, homemade chili or a quick sandwich at the cafe.

Believe It Or Not was open all night long. But the only trucks that stopped in those days were carrying East Texas cotton to Galveston for shipping. At that time, logs and produce were moved by train.

Edwin Nelson recalls one exciting night when he and E. T. Clause were working the cafe night shift. It was about 7:00. The short wave radio announced the news that Raymond Hamilton, Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker had escaped from prison. Folks were enjoying their evening meal.

About that time two men and a woman walked in. Mr. Nelson was working and didn't pay much attention to their entrance. But after awhile he noticed that everybody else had cleared out of the cafe.

Only later did he discover that the two men and women he had served were the infamous outlaws. Cafe patrons who had moved on over to the gas station, told the constable Mr. Green who the three were. His response? "I don't want to mess with them!"

The Nelsons sold the Believe It Or Not Cafe to the Weeks. Then Austin McCall operated it for awhile before selling it to the Bushs and Jacksons. The building still stands behind Pavlic's. It's now Mrs. Waltman's private residence — a reminder of the early 1930's in Diboll.

Temple-Eastex *People*

On The Move

James Senter to special operations, Jasper from special operations, Diboll.

Leo L. Lepold to corporate data processing as data base administor from operations supervisor data processing at Eastex Division.

Steven M. Keith to salesman/urethane plant from sales department trainee.

Judy Eldridge to office manager/Sabine Investment Company of Texas Inc. from secretary/Sabine Investment Company of Texas Inc.

New Faces

Martha A. Jackson, sales back-up, sales department.

Randy Joe Bowers, sales trainee, sales department.

John David Harrelson, systems analyst, data processing.

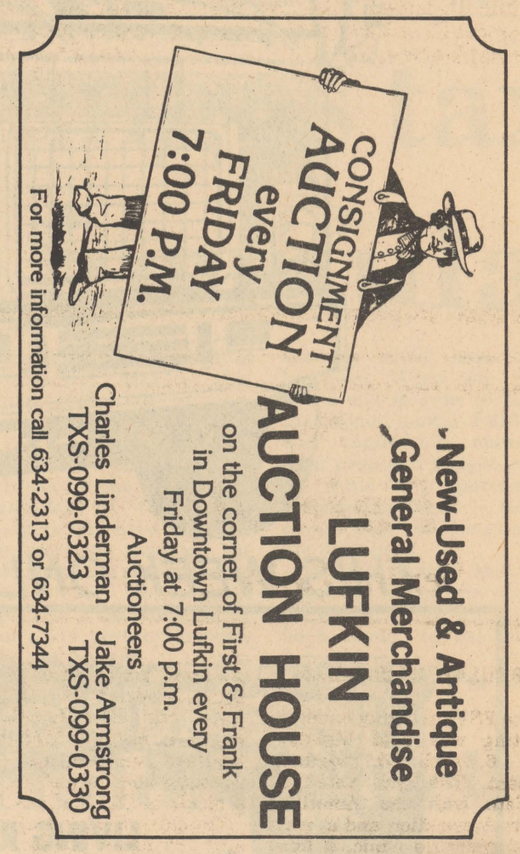
Stan K. Garinger, computer operator, data processing.

COG Council meets Tuesday

The Deep East Texas Council of Governments' Manpower Advisory Council will hold a meeting Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 10 a.m. The meeting will be held in Lufkin at Angelina College in the board room of the administrative building.

The advisory council is the local decision-making body for federal jobs programs operated in the region under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA). Agenda items include a discussion of exemplary youth programs and selection of public service projects to be funded during the current fiscal year.

The public is invited to attend. Persons desiring further information may contact Susan Rushing, planner, at 713/634-2247.



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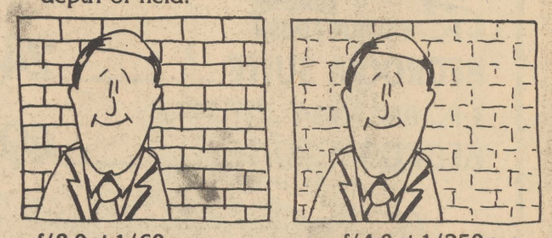
(IF YOU APPRECIATE THIS COLUMN, PLEASE GIVE US A CALL - 634-2313)

#8 IN A SERIES

Keep in mind that shutter speed freezes motion, and f/stop (aperture) controls the "depth-of-field."

For example — your friend is in front of a building or lamp post. You want your friend in focus, but not the background. If you used a higher f/stop, you'd "close down" the lens diaphragm. The result is like squinting — more and more comes into focus. But for this picture, you want less and less in focus — just your friend. Because anything else will distract from your friend's features. Therefore, "open up" the lens diaphragm by decreasing the f/stop. It's like keeping your eyes wide open: what you're looking at stays in focus — everything else blurs. Exactly the effect you want. So, open up your f/stop. Compensate for the larger lens opening by setting to a faster speed.

That's all there is to it! And that's all there is to "depth-of-field" — one of those mystical words that tends to confuse and cause panic in the hearts of would-be photographers. The higher the f/stop number the more depth-of-field, the lower the f/stop number the less depth-of-field.



f/8.0 at 1/60 sec. f/4.0 at 1/250 sec.

All Yashica and Contax SLRs have a depth-of-field-preview button. Just press it and you'll have an "instant preview" of the final picture. You can see for yourself exactly what your depth-of-field situation is before you press the shutter release. You can make sure nothing is in the background to "grow" from your subject's head. And nothing is in the foreground to distract.

(Exposure Continued Next Week)

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If married, spouse's name: _____
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Mother's full name (including maiden name): _____
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Address: _____
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If veteran, name of war: _____ Service #: _____
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Safety Deposit box location: _____ Box #: _____
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Location of insurance policies: _____
Attorney's name: _____
Address: _____
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Church preference: _____
Clergyman: _____
Club memberships and offices held: _____
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Cemetary name and lot # (if you have one): _____
_____
Choice of funeral home: _____
People to be notified: _____
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Special instructions to family (music preferences, clothing, etc.):
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