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**SHORTGRASS COUNTRY by Monte Noelke**

Our area is going to have the first ranch radio channel to add video programs. Goat Whiskers the Younger, who owns the repeater on the big tower close to Mertzon, agreed last week, after his big goat shearing event, to permit filming for, and of, the subscribers' operations.

The big circuit-wide heifer calving season will be the lead event. A roving photographer will be on call to cover spectacular open range deliveries and extra-ordinary feats like two men loading one cow in a two-horse trailer some 18 inches too high off the ground to slide her body onto the trailer floor.

Scenes around veterinary clinics are going to be the only episodes colored for more drama. Copying the big successes of the afternoon shows on TV, these stall-side doctors and nurses are going to be prepared ahead of time by giving them the opportunity to use eye make-up and dispose of such off-stage frailties as plug or powdered tobaccos.

However, the biggest drawing card is going to be the gathering and shearing of the Whisker' goat herd. For a week before and afterwards, the audio on the channel is going to be blacked out. No one but the photography crew and the Whiskers' ranch squadron will hear or see the action.

One extra cameraman is going to be one hand to shoot the side events, like trucks falling off worn-out jacks; or the cook taking three days off to go into San Angelo; or catching on fast film under flash, shots of Whiskers' changing a stranded motorist's tire in the dark, and before his supper, with an interlude of the second jack of the day falling from full mast.

At the end of the two-week blackout, the tapes are going to be distributed, first to the subscribers, and then for sale on the open market. Ranch heritage museums will be given preferred price lists.

The primary viewing may be too real for the actual performers of these dramas to watch. Nevertheless, I expect this living record to remind me not to fall for the wild claims of the breeders of heifer bulls and renew my oath not to go in the hair goat business.