



EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS from the National Newspaper Association watched as students worked during a class in a small Costa Rican school. — Herald photo by Cynthia Haynes



Open Season

By Cynthia Haynes
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Unannounced visit to school worth the trip to Costa Rica

The sign said "Escuela el dos San Ramon Tilaran."

As our bus drew up in front, curious children stopped their games and came to see why the tourists were stopping in their little part of the world.

The cinder-box schoolhouse had two classrooms with desks, a kindergarten room out back and a kitchen housing a wood stove.

Recess was just getting over when we got off the bus. As the tour guide asked those of us who hadn't been able to hop off almost before it stopped to wait for him to speak to the teachers, the first of our editors on the ground were handing out pens and trinkets.

The children were enchanted by the strangers with gifts and the publishers on the bus, all members of the National Newspaper Association, were taken by the youngsters, with their shy smiles and open welcome.

There were 33 of us, but we crowded around the edges of the classroom while our guide relayed our questions to the teacher, Edel Cascante Navarro, a middle-aged woman who said she was both the principal and teacher for grades 3, 4 and 6. She had a master's degree and had taken English in school but did not speak it.

There were 34 students in six grades, she told us, broken up into two classrooms. The teacher for grades 1, 2 and 5 was sick, so those students were not in class. Apparently, there is no substitute teacher in San Ramon.

We were on a study mission in Costa Rica learning about volcanoes, rain forests and the culture of this tiny Central American nation.

We had already visited the country's largest newspaper, La Nacion, where we learned that Costa Rica has a free press which fights government corruption and prints books.

The books, all by well-known authors with expired copyrights,

cost about 40 cents each. They are about the size of comic books with lurid colors on the cover and cheap newsprint inside. Titles include works by Henry James, Edgar Allan Poe and Jack London, among others — all in Spanish.

At the school, we noticed that the children, while cleanly dressed in mismatched uniforms, had little play equipment and few books.

The newspaper people passed out the trinkets we had brought for the kids — ink pens, pins, and hats.

They wanted to know our names and some of the more enterprising got our autographs.

Mostly, they are the children of small dairy farmers, our guide said. Their parents probably make about \$350 to \$450 a month, the average for Costa Rica. They aren't poor for this region but their school lunch of rice, beans and cabbage would be cooked over a wood stove and they would walk the few blocks or several kilometers home at the end of the day.

Our tour guide was nervous. This stop was not on his regular schedule. He didn't quite know what to do about Americans who wanted to stop and visit a country school.

But it turned out to be a good stop for all of us. We enjoyed the children. The kids enjoyed the attention, and the photographs we took. And the teachers will soon be enjoying a whole stack of books we persuaded La Nacion to give them.

Meanwhile, back in the states a high school in New Jersey is about to find out that it's becoming a sponsor for a little two-room school in the middle of Central America.

One of the publisher's had a daughter on the tour who was just looking for a project, and she found it in Escuela el dos San Ramon Tilaran.





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Tues, Aug. 16, 2005 • 10 a.m.

Auctioneer's Note: There will be very few small items, so please be on time for machinery.

Tractors and Combine



1989 John Deere 4755, Quik attach, triple hydraulics, new inside rears w/duals, 20-8R-42, front mount for weights



1976 John Deere 8630 H, 3-pt., triple hydraulics, P.T.O., 8350 hrs., S.N.002656R, real good



1986 John Deere 4650, triple hydraulics, Quad Range, 5800 hrs., duals, 20.8-38 tires



1990 John Deere combine 9600 (no header)



Blair feeder wagon

7"x50' Bennett grain auger
Assorted windmill parts
Farmhand F-236 loader, bucket w/grapple, John Deere mounts
16' stock trailer
John Deere SX75, 9 h.p., 32" riding mower, like new
John Deere power washer, new
Large Radial arm saw • Jointer

Trailer load of tools and miscellaneous

All buyers unknown to auctioneer must have a letter of credit with their checks.

Not responsible for accidents. All guarantees are between sellers and buyers. No items are to be removed until paid for. Announcements Day of Sale take precedence over printed matter.

Location: Lots west of A&W and D&M Service Station on north side of U.S. Highway 36, Oberlin, KS

Consignments will be taken until day before sale!



1975 John Deere 8630, S.N. 8630H002379, duals, 3-p.t., Quik Attach



1984 John Deere 4650, duals, 3 pt., triple hydraulics

Tillage Equipment



Quinstar 32' Follow-Master

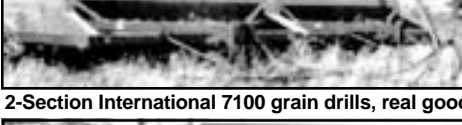
16' Double tool bar w/gauge wheel, 7 shanks sweeps
14' John Deere 3-pt. rotary hoe
Sunflower 27' high clearance sweeps
Sunflower 27' high clearance chisel w/extension to 35'
(2) Richardson 5-5 sweeps
12 volt drill fill auger
Hitch, hydraulic meter, shut-off tubes for 42' Follow-Master
Krause 5-shank, ripper, like new



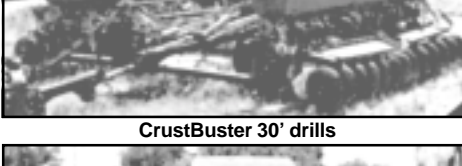
Sunflower 18' disc

1990 Chev. 454 extended cab
1978 Kenworth cabover truck
20 ft. gooseneck flatbed trailer
1955 Chevrolet truck, Box & Hoist
1996 Freightliner, FLD120, NT14 Cummins engine,
13 speed, new brakes and hubs

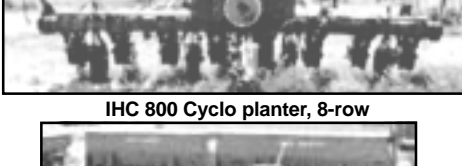
Drills and Planters



2-Section International 7100 grain drills, real good



CrustBuster 30' drills



IHC 800 Cyclo planter, 8-row



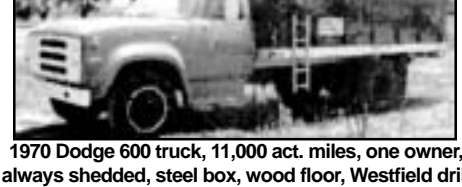
John Deere LZ drills, 8-12"

JD 9350 grain drills w/dry fertilizer, 10" spacing, 25'

Trucks, Pickups & Van



1973 Chevrolet C65 fuel truck, 366 engine, 5x2 trans., hyd. pump for diesel only, 10.00x20 radial tires, real good condition



1970 Dodge 600 truck, 11,000 act. miles, one owner, always shedded, steel box, wood floor, Westfield drill fill auger attached. This truck is just like brand new!



1992 Dodge 250 Ram Conversion van, loaded, 318 fuel injected, automatic, P.S., P.B., good tires, tilt, cruise, front & rear radio, VCR's, TV, 85,000 miles w/trailer package

1988 Chev. P.U., Vin: 2GCEK19K0J1167622
1995 Chev P.U. Vin.: 2GCEC19K551170997
1965 Ford truck Vin.: F100K663452
1976 IHC 1700 truck. Vin.: D0522FHA20687
1952 Dodge 1-1/2 ton truck

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Friday, August 26th
7 p.m.
McCook Community Hospital Community Room



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Refreshments will be served and one lucky person in attendance will receive a discount for their own LASIK procedure. Reservations are encouraged but not required by calling McCook Eye Clinic or Lifetime Eyecare. We look forward to seeing you there!

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This message brought to you by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and its partners. For more information, visit KDEH at <http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us/immunize>




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