

THIS WEEK ON THE LLANO ESTACADO

1-29-2-4-12



Ted Jones epitomized the scientific mindset of so many oilfield geologists after World War II. His inquisitive mind investigated playas, meteor craters, salamanders, toads, birds, and more. The bench was installed in 1981, by the Midland Naturalists, at the Sibley Nature Center Pond. The Sibley Nature Center has the only complete set of "the Phalarope," the group's newsletter, that began in the 1950's. Ted, John Galley, Walter Ammon, Jo Young, Ola Dublin Haynes, Harold and Frances Williams, Anne Lesassier, Johnny Bizilo... and many others brought the Audubon Screen Tours to Midland, and Roger Tory Peterson, Alexander Sprunt, Sproul, and other great

naturalists came and presented. Ted often wrote for the Phalarope, and here he discusses what he found at the City of Midland's sewage ponds, a place he loved to visit.

“Never having imagined such bizarre animals, I determined to find out what they were. The clue turned out to be the environment; proximity to the polluted stream. They were 'tubifers, or rat-tailed maggots, the larva of the Flower Fly. In the water, the tail can be extended into two or more sections. It is a breathing organ, reaching to the surface of the water while the animal feeds on the bottom, thus making up for the lack of oxygen in the water. The mature insect is brightly colored, one-half inch long, and bee-like. It has been called a "hover fly" from its ability to remain poised in the air. It feeds on pollen and nectar, and does not bite or sting, which is more than can be said for some of the other inhabitants of Rose Acres.”

Challenge; Join the Master Naturalists*call 684 6827, ask for Burr