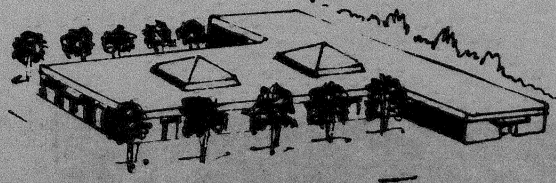


the Banner

Serving the Greater BELDING Area, and rural
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Corporation executive manages school, hobbies in '26 hour job'

BELDING — Barton H Watson sits behind an office desk, surrounded by the tools of his trade, an electric tape dispenser, typewriter, telephone, calculator and numerous reference books.

Barton, who writes and publishes *The American Horseman*, could be considered a corporate finance expert.

The only difference, however, is that Barton is 12 years old.

The son of Mr and Mrs Gerald Watson, 5999 E Belding Rd, Barton began his operation

at the age of 6, "when I needed something to do.

"We owned and raced harness horses at the time and I also received a mimeograph machine. With my interest in horses plus a tool to work with, it gave me something to do, using the Boat Shop, which his father owns, as a profitable outlet," Barton said.

From a rather slim 5 cent issue, Barton has expanded his publication to a more professional 20 page edition costing 15 cents.

Covering primarily the

midwest and eastern United States, Barton's editions have also boomed in subscriptions from a meager 100 issues to between 400 and 500 issues.

The increased demand has led to the purchase of a new rotary press, the hiring of artists and the occasional "typing skills of my mother."

"We came out seasonally at first, but now we publish at a rate of every 2 months or so."

Being editor, Barton also makes his assignments which can take him anywhere in the country.

"I wanted to do a story on horse raising on a Kentucky farm so we went to Kentucky and we have also traveled to Florida for several articles," he said.

"I get quite a bit of travel in on the job. I do try to work in school, but it isn't much of a problem."

And how do interviewees react to the 12-year-old?

Barton noted "that at first they are stunned, but after 5 minutes they know I mean business."

With the mother company as *The American Horseman*, Barton has expanded the corporation into numerous sub companies, including a candlemaking operation, a rock jewelry department, and a now terminated coin selling department.

In order to function efficiently, Barton has also developed a bookkeeping system and extensive filing system for his operation.

When his grandparents suggested that he work, like mowing lawns, Barton used his corporate imagination to hire others out and receive a cut in the profits.

"I don't feel like I am missing my childhood," Barton said. "I am quite satisfied with my life."

"I want to be a corporate

lawyer so I am putting corporate law to work. It is not a game. Everyone thought I was crazy, until they realized I wasn't.

"Working 26 hours a day," Barton also finds time to be an avid chess and audio buff as well as a scale model railroad builder.

The profits, "which are sufficient to have to pay income tax," are generally put back into the corporation.

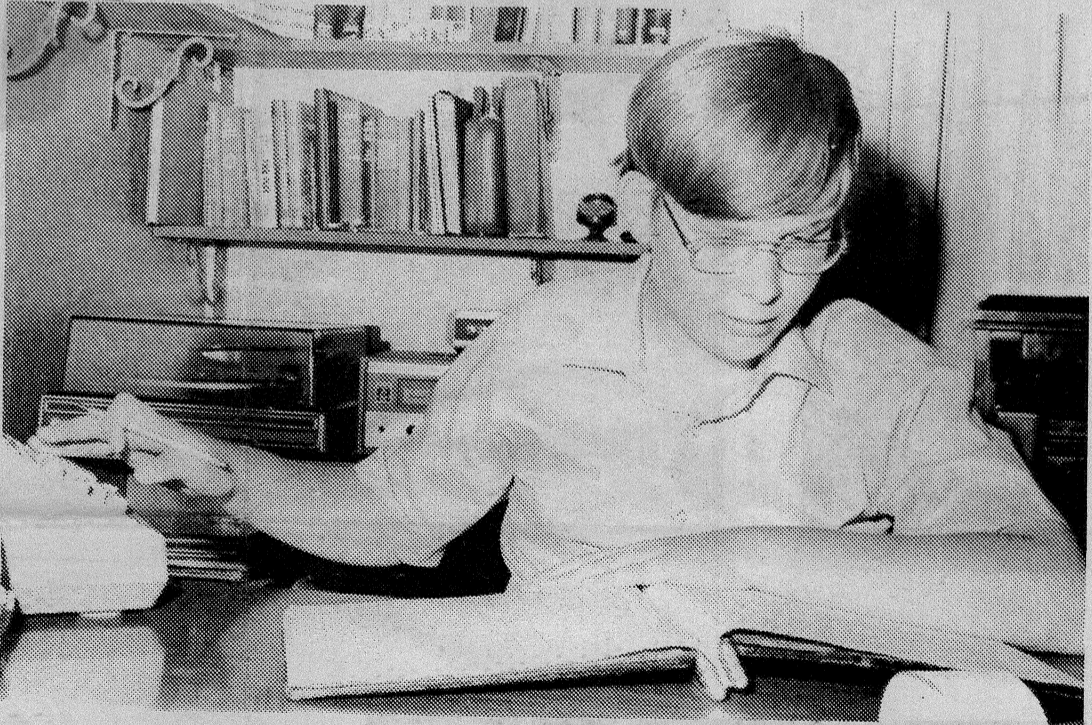
And although the company is not legal, Barton has considered making it a legal corporation, but he isn't sure how much time he will be able to devote to the company once he starts high school.

With phone inquiries daily and more mail than the whole family put together, Barton has also had to inform companies he wasn't interested in their products, including purchase of an airplane.

"It really is an asset to the whole family," Barton said, with a great deal of ingenuity, imagination and genius from a 12-year-old boy.



Whether he is at work at a typewriter, left, or a calculator, Barton H Watson, 12 years old, 5999 E Belding Rd, manages his corporation with relative ease.



King, Queen search begins

BELDING — The search for Belding's miniature King and Queen has begun.

The Jaycee Auxiliary sponsored event is open to children in the Belding School District, except Jaycee children, between the ages of 3 and 5.

Deadline for entries is Aug 11.

Cannisters will be placed in

the stores with a picture of each child on separate canisters. Votes will be registered by the pennies in each container.

The little king and queen will be crowned Sept 2 and will ride in the Labor Day Parade the following day.

HERALD'S ICE CREAM/FOOD
Open Tuesday
M-44 and M-91

Prizes for the contestants are donated by Belding merchants and will be on display in the Chamber of Commerce office.

Mrs Lee Satterlee is chairman for the contest with Mrs Roger Barger as co-chairman.

BELDING'S NEWEST
Open Tuesday
Herald's M-44 West

ENTRY BLANK

for Belding's King and Queen Contest

NAME _____

AGE _____

PARENTS NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

Please include picture of child and send blanks to Mrs Doug McFadden, 201 S Broas St, or Mrs Lee Satterlee, 1587 Louva Ct, Belding, 48809. Deadline is Aug 11.