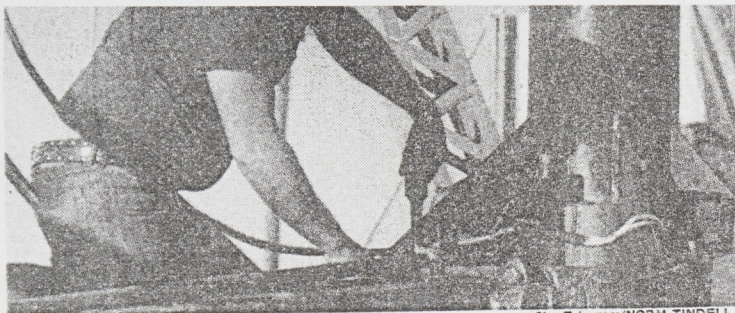


Id support
ompleted.
cases, the
work on a

h we could
y won't be
next," said
r the Fort

on Page 5

hild support
it division of
336-1371 in
also may be
ity Domestic



Star-Telegram/NORM TINDELL

Start me up — David Boyles assembles a ride on the grounds of the

Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, which begins Wednesday.

ride cost him \$3,050

By LAURA YEE
Star-Telegram Writer

Stephane de Grees of Belgium has visited the United States before, but now he knows he'd never want to live here.

Especially not after \$3,000 was stolen from him shortly after landing at Dallas/Fort Worth Airport on Friday night. And to make matters worse, de Grees said today, the cab drivers who took him to his destination about 20 miles away wanted \$56 for fare. That's about twice what the trip should cost.

De Grees was on his way to Fort

Worth Meacham Field to take a plot's examination when two cab drivers working for Terminal Cab Co. of Dallas offered him a ride, he said.

De Grees said they dropped him off at the Ranch Motel near Meacham Field. When he went into the motel to get a room, one of the men followed him while the other was handling his luggage, he said.

After the two men left, de Grees said, he realized that a small hand bag containing \$2,000 in cash and \$1,000 in traveler's checks was missing.

Please see Visitor on Page

Paintings roost Fort Worth's Gentling twins displaying art of Texas birds

By SAMUEL HUDSON
Star-Telegram Writer

Two artists who as youngsters studied nature at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History are returning the favor.

Their 40 paintings of Texas birds, watercolors that are being reproduced in book form at \$2,500 a copy, are on display at the museum and will become part of its collection.

Not as soon as they hoped (1985), but less than an eon later, the Gentling twins delivered. The paintings will hang in the east gallery of the museum through Sunday. Each bird is depicted life-size.

Reproduced as offset prints on imperial folio pages, the 40 bird paintings — plus like-sized prints of 10 landscapes by the 43-year-old Fort Worth artists, plus a free-standing essay by John Graves (author of

Goodbye to a River and *From a Limestone Ledge* — are the elements that make up the book *Of Birds and Texas*.

The book is sold by subscription. It will weigh 39½ pounds (an imperial folio page measures 22 by 28 inches). Only 525 copies will be produced.

"The printer in Austin will finish the prints of the paintings in another two months — I think," Stuart Gentling said as he and his fraternal twin, Scott, stood in the museum next to their work. "I've learned not to say exactly when anything'll be ready, until we actually have it in hand.

"We're still taking orders for copies of the book," he said.

Besides being co-painter of most of the bird pictures and solo painter of a few individual paintings, Stuart is the business-managing partner on the *Of Birds and Texas* project.



Star-Telegram/RON T. ENNIS

Stuart (left) and Scott Gentling with display of Texas birds

The paintings will become the property of the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, the first art by living artists that the museum has ever bought, which means that they'll stay together. The twins get the money (eventual total: \$300,000), the museum gets the paintings and the donors who buy the paintings for the museum get the tax write-off.

The Gentlings are selling the original paintings to the museum for \$7,500 each. Museum development director Anne Miller Tinsley said "12 and a half" of the paintings already have been bought for the museum.

"There's one, flat price for each painting," Stuart Gentling said,

Please see Paintings on Page 4

Lost-found office is one leg up

San Francisco Examiner

SAN FRANCISCO — It is a strange collection: a stuffed monkey, an enervating plan for a building in Eureka, Calif., a 2-peso note from the Philippines and a bottle of Wonder Bubbles.

These are some of the things people have left on the San Francisco Bay area mass transit system.

"One person forgot his wood leg," said Mike Healy, Bay Area Rapid Transit spokesman. On another occasion, he said, a man lost his St. Divarius violin, although he later picked it back. Other finds have included bag containing \$40,000 and a copy of the Magna Charta.

Several wheelchairs have been left on BART trains, said Ma Rousseau, who presides over the system's lost and found.

How could somebody forge wheelchair?

"That's what I would like to know," said Rousseau.

Paintings roost at FW museum

Continued from Page 1

"whether it's for the wild turkey, which is huge, or for the towhees, which is a much smaller piece of work. That's to make it simpler. We haven't put the museum on any kind of deadline because we want the museum to have the original paintings, and because we're sure that donors will buy them for the museum."

Scott Gentling said, "We want the museum to have the paintings because we were students here when this institution was the Fort Worth Children's Museum. I began my painting career when I checked out one of the museum's books of reproductions of Audubon prints and started making copies."

Donald R. Otto, executive director of the museum, said the purchase of the Gentlings' paintings "signals a new era for the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History. In 1984 and 1985, the museum redefined its primary focus to Texas... and the museum made a commitment to quality acquisitions and public programs. We believe the 40 paintings in this collection exemplify that commitment."

"Individually, Scott and Stuart's paintings are very special; as a collection, they are spectacular. We believe, as do the artists, that the collection should remain intact," Otto said.

"However, the paintings will be shown in other cities. Several Texas museums have contacted us about borrowing the collection for exhibition. It is our plan to schedule tours for the paintings while we prepare our facility for regular use of the paintings here at home.

"Obviously, our ability to acquire the collection depends directly on the willingness of museum patrons to purchase the individual paintings for the museum."

Museum trustee John Roby Penn said he has no doubt the museum will find donors to buy the paint-

ings, "not day after tomorrow, but soon enough."

"After all, these are the Gentlings, whose work we all know and admire, and this acquisition is for Fort Worth," Penn said.

These are not simple, technical studies of birds. If Scott and Stuart Gentling are perpetrating realism, it's realism of a highly poetical order.

Fort Worth poet (and birdwatcher) William Barney went to the museum Thursday to take in *Of Birds and Texas*. He filed this report:

"The debt to Audubon is evident, of course. Audubon first freed birds from stiffly posed paintings. A small portrait of Audubon by Scott Gentling is included in the exhibit. It seems to me the Gentlings match the old artist in many respects; their turkey has an iridescence in its feathers that I don't see in Audubon. If you like scaly feet, the Gentlings know how to paint them.

"Nearly every Gentling painting tells you instantly and accurately the habitat of the subject bird. Most of them bring in a clearly defined touch of Texas: the purple gallinule stands on an alligator's skull in a swamplike area; the road runner peering down from a limestone rock is looking for the snake you can barely see squeezing under the rock.

"The last painting in the exhibit is that of a neighborhood mockingbird catapulting up from his perch on a summer night, in full song against a heaven of Texas stars, complete with Halley's comet. You can almost hear the bird in his wild aria and smell the honeysuckle twining around his perch."

The Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, 1501 Montgomery St., is open Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.; Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Visitor says ride cost him \$2.05

Not Be Bra \$49

TO A NYW