



Photo by Joan Morrison

PAULINE GUNTER of Warner feeds their 850-pound sow which she has been cooling off during recent hot weather. The sow is expected to have her first litter any day.

get into the hog business when he rediscovered his big red hogs.

"I just wanted something to do," he quipped. "I'm 81 now, but I still don't know it. I used to be on a track team and ran a 20-mile marathon. I'm in pretty good shape."

Now he is trying to get some farrowing pens built and keep up with the inquiries and visitors — 59 since January — he has at his farm.

"I like these hogs because they're so gentle. They're healthy too," he said. "I haven't spent a dime on medicine or veterinarians in the five years I've had them."

He attributes that to the wild hogs in their genetic backgrounds.

"In the wild, only the strongest survive," he said. "So I practice similar breeding with my animals. If we do that, we will have good animals. In three generations, my hogs consistently produce the same qualities, and that's because they have good genes."

"It's a combination of man's thinking on genetics and that of the animals themselves in the wild," he said.

Wenglar finds the hogs profitable even though he said he doesn't really need the money.

"I get \$5,000 per pair for any over 8 months old," he said.

But most of Wenglar's fondness for the hogs stems from his childhood memories. Like the time he watched them build a hut in a briar thicket for three days.

"I would ride my horse out to check on them, because in the winter we would turn them loose," he explained. "They would feed on acorns and then we would finish them on corn, cane and rice. It made their meat sweet."

On the third day, a blizzard hit and he went to check the hogs.

"I saw heat waves rising from the hut and I counted 20 hogs come out of it," he said. "They knew that storm was coming, and they were just as warm as they could be."

Wenglar also witnessed a fight between the hogs and a timber wolf when he was 15 years old.

"I was deer hunting and I heard the hogs squealing," he recalled. "Well, I spooked that horse and

rode up on them. A wolf was after a young pig.

"Two hogs would stand together, one had her head one way and the other had her head the other way. They were protecting their hocks," he explained. "A wolf will cut the leaders in the back legs of an animal and bring it down to finish it off."

"I watched them a little and a side hog came in and got that wolf. Then they all piled in on him," he said.

"I don't know how that wolf got out, but he did. I pulled my Winchester out to get a shot," he said. "He was hobbling off on two legs. I missed him, but those hogs really worked him over."

"I said right then, by golly, a hog is not dumb."

Wenglar expects someday his hogs will be one of the most popular breeds in the nation.

"My grandfather told me to take good care of them because our great-grandfather brought them to the farm. They were good hogs then and they still are," he said.