

THE ELDORADO SUCCESS



"The Voice of Eldorado and Schleicher County Since 1901"



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PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Tough decision -- The Eldorado City Council asked for more information Tuesday night, regarding a request from the YFZ Ranch that the city accept wastewater from the ranch. A crowd of about 75 people turned out for the called meeting, many of whom spoke against accepting the wastewater. Council members include (L-R) Bill McCutcheon, Toni Sudduth, Dora Bosmans, Richard Mendez, Mayor John Nikolauk, Tommy Minor and Juaquin Rojas.

Water District okays water well permits for YFZ

The Plateau Underground Water Conservation & Supply District board of directors met Tuesday, July 20, and approved two permit applications submitted by the YFZ Ranch, allowing a re-entry of an old well and the drilling of a new one. Before voting on the matter, the directors heard from District Manager Cindy Cawley, who explained to the exact location of the wells and said that they met current regulations on spacing and depth.

During the discussion it was noted that there are already two wells in use at the ranch, one of which is being used to irrigate a large garden. Cawley informed the board that YFZ representative Ernie Jessop had told her the garden is soon to be doubled in size. She added that although the well is currently exempt from district rules it would become subject to those rules if production exceeds 25,000 gallons per day. If and when that benchmark is reached, the an application for

a permit for that well must be filed with the district, Cawley said.

Discussion then turned to the issue of municipal water supply wells. It was explained that wells used to serve more than 25 people fall under TCEQ guidelines and must be monitored for bacteria and chemically treated, much the same as wells owned by the City of Eldorado.

As part of the permits issued to the YFZ, the board required each well to have a 3/4 inch access plug so that Cawley could monitor the water level. The directors also reserved the right to require that flow meters be installed on the wells at YFZ expense.

The meeting was the board's regular monthly session and was called to order at 12:35 p.m. by board president De Lux, with directors Lynn Griffin and Sam Henderson, Jr. in at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Traffic stop nets \$83,000 in cash

A traffic stop on a southbound 1994 Volkswagen sedan netted Schleicher County officers over \$83,000.00 in cash and landed a Ciudad Acuña man in jail last week.

Deputy Kevin Herbert reports that on the evening of July 14, 2004, he stopped a Volkswagen Beetle, driven by Humberto Fidel Regaldo Cuellar, 28, heading toward Sonora, some two miles south of Eldorado on US 277. Cuellar was reportedly observed driving very slowly as his car veered back and forth

onto the shoulder of the roadway.

Herbert said Cuellar produced a Mexican driver's license when he pulled him over, but could not provide a proof of liability insurance. At that time, Herbert called in DPS Trooper Danny Nuñez to act as an interpreter.

After determining that Cuellar did not have liability insurance, Herbert and Nuñez reportedly began to question the man more closely. That's when Herbert reports detecting an odor of marijuana in the car. He then called for Deputy Jason

Chatham and the Schleicher County K-9 Unit.

Chatham's drug dog "Brutus" alerted on money found on Cuellar's person, totaling just over \$2,000.00. Brutus then alerted on the car, prompting the officers to take the vehicle to Sheriff's Office sally port for further inspection.

A subsequent search revealed a false panel under the VW's back seat. The panel was removed, revealing a cavity that contained seven small bundles, wrapped in duct tape. The bundles, which later proved to contain cash, had also been covered with a wool fleece, a technique reportedly used to mask the scent of drugs, or drug tainted money, and throw off a drug dog's sensitive nose. In all, the seven bundles of cash, added with the money taken from Cuellar, totaled \$83,235.00.

Cuellar reportedly told the officers he had picked up the car in San Angelo and was transporting the money to Mexico. A bus ticket found in the vehicle indicated that he traveled from Del Rio to Amarillo by bus on July 13.

Cuellar was booked into the Schleicher County Jail on a federal charge of money laundering, more than \$20,000.00 but less than \$100,000.00. He was picked up Tuesday, July 20, 2004, by officials with the U.S. Customs Service, for transport to Lubbock, where he will likely stand trial before U.S. District Judge Sam R. Cummings.

Drug and cash seizure laws allow law enforcement agencies to keep approximately 80 percent of cash seizure, provided a judge finds the seizure to be valid.



COURTESY PHOTO

Late night haul — Deputy Jason Herbert, Sheriff David Doran and DPS Trooper Danny Nuñez pose with more than \$83,000.00 in cash seized following a traffic stop Herbert made some two miles south of town on Wednesday evening, July 14, 2004.

City weighs YFZ wastewater request

Council tables issue pending more information

A crowd of about 75 persons gathered Tuesday evening in the Schleicher County Memorial Building for a called meeting of the Eldorado City Council. While most were there to sit and listen, many took the opportunity to voice their opinions regarding a request by the YFZ Ranch that the City of Eldorado accept wastewater from the ranch at its sewer plant.

After a lengthy question and answer session the council eventually decided to table the question until more information could be obtained, as well as a written request from the YFZ.

The issue became a hot button item last week when YFZ representatives Ernie Jessop and Lee Roy Steed appeared before the council to ask that

they consider accepting the wastewater until a new sewer plant could be built at the ranch.

Most of those commenting Tuesday night were opposed to the idea of taking wastewater from the YFZ, even temporarily, with many of them basing their objections on moral grounds. More than one of the speakers made reference to the fact that the YFZ is actually owned by the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, a polygamous group from the Utah/Arizona border region, and that numbers of FLDS members are relocating to Schleicher County.

Mayor John Nikolauk opened the meeting by thanking those in attendance

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Prophet's wife dies at YFZ

Barbara Ann Barlow, 39, wife of FLDS Prophet Warren Jeffs, died Saturday, July 10, 2004, at the YFZ Ranch in Eldorado. Justice of the Peace James C. Doyle of Eldorado ruled that Ms. Barlow died of natural causes after a battle with cancer.

Sources in Colorado City, Arizona and Bountiful, Canada, tell the Eldorado Success that Ms. Barlow and her twin sister, Annette Barlow, were both married to Warren Jeffs in a joint ceremony, before he ascended to the office of

prophet of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Authorities say that Annette Barlow still lives at the YFZ.

Ms. Barlow had reportedly been under medical treatment and moved to Schleicher County to be with her family. She had been seeing a doctor in San Angelo prior to death.

Ms. Barlow's body was taken to Johnson's Funeral Home in San Angelo. Burial service was conducted at a private cemetery on the YFZ Ranch.



COURTESY PHOTO

Midway attraction — This Kiddy Ferris Wheel is slated to join the Midway at the second-annual Running of the Bull festival here in Eldorado this weekend.

Here comes the Bull!

Ready or not, here it comes, the second annual Running of the Bull, and its going to be much larger than last year. That according to organizer Jim Runge who explained that as many as 60 vendors are expected for the two-day festival.

Timed to roughly coincide with the Running of the Bulls in Pamplona, Spain, the Eldorado version of the event spelled B-U-L-L, is really nothing more than a festival planned around a liar's contest.

A parade is planned for 10:00 a.m. on Saturday with numerous entries including: go-carts, bicycles, clowns, YMCA cheerleaders, classic cars, equestrian entries, fire trucks, motorcycles, ambulances, Explorer color guard, Nursing Home Residents, and floats that include the Catholic Church Queens, Casa

Arispe, First Baptist Youth, SCMC Day Care, West Texas Cloggers and Cathy's Flowers.

Live entertainment will follow throughout the day as various entrants will exchange whoppers from the specially constructed stage. Qualified judges have been secured and awards will be presented.

But there's more to Running of the Bull than a liars contest, there will be dancing, storytelling and even a cowboy poet. All the while, arts and crafts booths will dot the courthouse square, offering a vast assortment of goods. Among the product booths planned are: air plants, angels, antiques, art, barn wood crafts, blankets, blinkies, books, coat racks, collector knives, cookbooks, costume jewelry, crocheted items, crosses and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

RODEO TIME IS HERE!!!



Jim Runge is finally getting the attention he deserves

Jim Runge's "Running of the Bull" Festival in Eldorado is a big breakthrough for him. Newspapers, magazines and television stations all across Texas and beyond are planning to cover this year's event slated for July 24 & 25 around Eldorado's court house square.



by **Tumbleweed Smith**

The festival follows the Running of the Bulls in Pamplona, Spain by a few days. But, as Runge says, "in our festival, entrants are judged on who can run their mouth with the most bull... in several categories."

For years, Runge has staged some of the most unique events ever to occur in the Lone Star State. But hardly anybody noticed. Two years ago Jim took up residence in his hometown of Eldorado and started the EOBOC, the Eldorado Olympic Bid Organizing Committee, a loose knit organization to serve as the vehicle for a tongue-in-cheek bid on the winter games of 2014 and the summer games of 2016. Jim says the underlying goal is the revitalization of the visibility and spirit of this once vibrant village in the middle of nowhere with numerous offbeat stunts, displays, spoofs,

skits, pranks, eccentric attractions and other roadside shenanigans.

He stages the Elgoatarod, a takeoff on the Ididarod dog sled race in Alaska. At the Elgoatarod, goats pull carts around the court-house square. The Tagoo Festival revolves around a mysterious bird that is found only to Eldorado. He created a hysterical district near downtown with all sorts of spoofs and plays on words. The district has a very rare albino bat colony.

In the past, Runge has staged yarn and weaving festivals in McKinney and a llama kissing contest in Fredericksburg. He held an April Fool's day event in Art, Texas.

But the Running of the Bull is becoming a Texas festival landmark. Now, only in its second year, requests for press credentials have come from the San Antonio Express News, Houston Chronicle, Southern Living, Texas Monthly, Saviour

Magazine in New York City, Texas Co-Op Power and several TV stations including WFAA in Dallas.

Last year's inaugural event drew some formidable talent: Dennis Gaines, a national award winning cowboy poet, a clogging group from San Angelo that performed in "heifer outfits" and forty vendors.

The event features the Biggest Lie Contest (Cock & Bull), musical routines, animal acts, impersonations, costuming, skits and stunts, extemporaneous speaking, legal mumbo jumbo, (Flin Flam), the longest talker without stopping, salesmanship (medicine shows, autos), tongue twisters, backwards talk, fastest talker, Burma Shave, cowboy poetry, rhyming poetry, double talk/mangled English, parodies, punning, shaggy dog stories (long story with twisted punch line) and true personal stories.

Judges include western novelist Elmer Kelton, Kathy Straach of the Dallas Morning News, Doug Rogers of Ghostlight Productions and others.

Contact Runge at shootthebull@hotmail.com or 325 853 2434.

A visit from D.W. -- revisited

Randy has been a little busy this week, so we've dusted off one of his old columns. And...in light of recent developments around Eldorado, it's almost timely. Here from June 20, 1996, is a visit with Randy's old and dear friend, D.W.



My old friend D.W. stopped by the office this week for a visit. Actually, he was there to check on a classified ad, but we took the opportunity to catch up on things.

"How ya doin'?" he asked as he pushed through the door. But, I don't think he really wanted an answer because before I could respond he continued, "I got forty-seven hundredths out of that cloud last night."

"Hey, that's great," I replied. "Heard from any of your neighbors yet?"

"Nope," he answered. "I don't think they got as much rain as I did though."

D.W. leaned across the counter and motioned me to step closer. "Is there anybody back there?" he asked as he nodded toward the back room in my office.

"No, D.W., we're alone." I told him and asked, "Why, what's up?"

"Maybe nothin'" he whis-

pered. "But there are a lot of strange folks in town and I wuz wonderin' what it's all about."

Now, those of you who know D.W., or perhaps someone like him, will understand that one need not stray too far from the beaten path for D.W. to consider them strange. By tucking their pants in their boots on dry days or buttoning up their collar on any day but Sunday, they run the risk of being labeled a weirdo. So, I had no idea what to expect from him when I asked, "What sort of strange people?"

"Some kind of furriners," he responded, tilting his head forward ever so slightly. "An' you know what that means," he continued as he peeked out at me from under the brim of his feed cap.

I didn't want to tempt fate by admitting to D.W. that I honestly didn't know what he was talking

about. So, I looked him squarely in the eye and responded in as serious a tone as I could manage, "Yep, I sure do."

That was all the prodding he needed and from that point forward he let me know what he thought about non-Texans — which isn't much.

I won't bother you with all the details. Just suffice it to say that D.W. really doesn't care for anyone who is different from himself. Especially if they speak with an accent or drive foreign cars.

About that time the phone rang and I was tied up for several minutes. Before I could return to continue the conversation, D.W. had to leave. "Isn't that about right?" I asked myself as I hung up the receiver. I had thought of a couple of ideas I wanted to spring on D.W. Deep down I know he's a fine individual and, I thought, if I could knock off one or two of his rough edges, maybe Kathy would finally agree that he does have redeeming qualities.

Besides, D.W. had gotten a new pickup and I really wanted to take a look at it. So, I stepped outside to flag him down. But before I could get his attention, he rounded the corner and was gone...in his brand spanking new Nissan.

New road pitch targets Fort Hood

AUSTIN — Texas has made a pitch to the Defense Department offering to come up with \$20 million for highway improvements on roadways connecting with Fort Hood if the military houses more troops at the Central Texas Army post.

The thinking is that Fort Hood easily could absorb any troops withdrawn from overseas posts. The same theory holds for Fort Bliss at El Paso, which has plenty of space for additional troops.

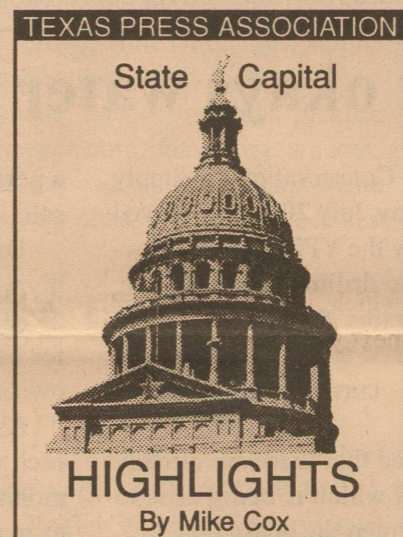
A San Antonio task force has made a pitch in Washington for Congress to delay a planned round of military base closures until 2007.

The two-year postponement effort will be hashed out in a joint conference committee.

While a delay still seems iffy, both Texas senators have called for the Defense Department to consider U.S. facilities in foreign countries before looking at domestic installations.

Since 1988, the military has shut down 97 bases in the U.S. The current planned 2005 round of cuts could exceed that number.

In fact, Secretary of Defense



fi area. In Northwest Texas, two safety rest areas operated by the Texas Department of Transportation have free wireless Internet service.

And TxDOT is currently reviewing proposals from several companies who have submitted plans to provide free wireless Internet access at all of the department's 84 safety rest areas across the state. In addition, the service will be available at the state's 12 travel information centers.

Summer TAKS grades improve

Passing rates on the third-grade state reading test continued to climb with about 97 percent of students mastering the English version of the test by their third attempt.

About 94 percent of the students who took the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) reading test in Spanish also passed.

The most recent test was given on June 29.

Beginning with the 2004-05 school year, fifth-grade students must pass both the reading and math TAKS test in order to be promoted to sixth grade.

Wherefore wi-fi...

Texans have a growing number of places across the state where they can take advantage of free wireless Internet access and view e-mail, check the weather, hear downtown music or just surf the Net.

In Austin, the Capitol is a wi-

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1. Find the total of
- 6. Flow suddenly
- 10. Height: Prefix
- 14. First section
- 15. Folklore fiend
- 16. Stage accessory
- 17. Feature of many work clothes
- 19. Trapper's prize
- 20. Marines' motto, familiarly
- 21. Author Norman Vincent
- 22. Middling grade
- 23. Boiling mad
- 25. Penne or ziti
- 29. Bumstead's boss
- 31. Toward the center
- 33. Coal-rich German region
- 34. Co. called "Big Blue"
- 37. Similar in nature
- 38. ___-garde
- 40. Picket line crosser
- 41. Notes following mi
- 42. Song for a diva

DOWN

- 1. NYPD alerts
- 2. Chip's chipmunk pal
- 3. Bongo or conga
- 4. Lone Star State sch.
- 5. Tempo setter at Indy
- 6. Played 18, perhaps

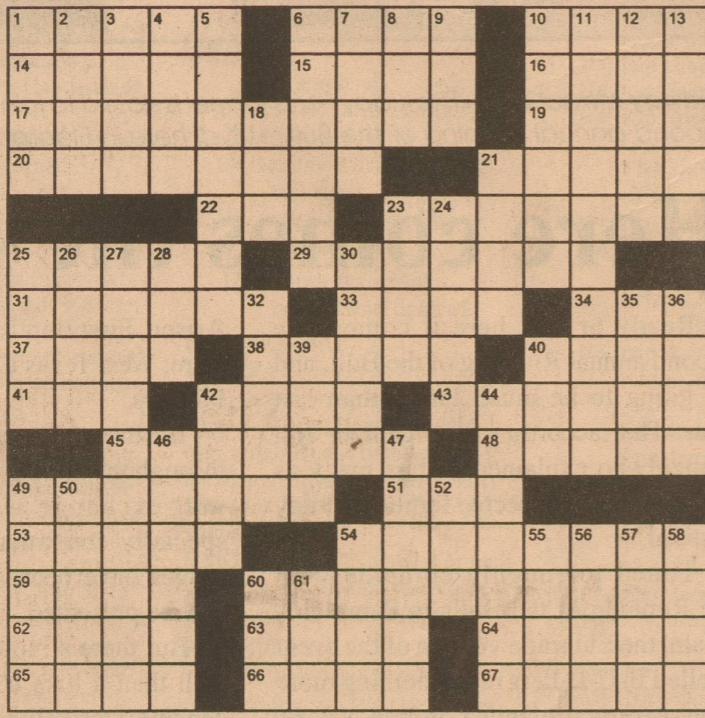
DOWN

- 1. Wrinkled citrus speechless
- 7. Mrs., in Madrid
- 8. The Beatles' "And I Love ___"
- 10. Come into view
- 11. Two-tone treat on a stick
- 12. Esther of "Good Times"
- 13. Made a choice
- 18. Mine yield
- 21. Use a spyglass
- 23. Ollie's partner in comedy

DOWN

- 24. "___ all, folks!"
- 25. Singer Edith, "the Little Sparrow"
- 26. "Diana" singer Paul
- 27. Beef entree
- 28. Béachgoer's goal
- 30. Hayes or Newton
- 32. Risk taker
- 35. Soothing stuff
- 36. Degs. for execs
- 39. Trellis climber
- 40. Get firm
- 42. Astronaut Shepard
- 44. Interval between cause and effect, say
- 46. Actually existing
- 47. Puts up
- 49. Upper crust
- 50. Innie or outie
- 52. Type
- 54. Fork prong
- 55. Irene of "Fame" fame
- 56. Pro votes
- 57. D.C. 100: Abbr.
- 58. Carhop's load
- 60. Bikini part
- 61. Like sashimi

Cheese It!



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Poll gives gov. 40% approval

If Gov. Rick Perry and Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn were running for governor this week, Strayhorn could make an interesting claim: She is less disliked by voters than he is.

Poll numbers in Austin show 40 percent of Texans think the incumbent governor is doing a good job while 35.1 percent think just the opposite.

For Strayhorn, Perry's unannounced but likely opponent, the numbers were 40.6 percent positive and 11.9 percent negative.

The gubernatorial election, of course, is not until spring 2006.

Some other numbers released last week are arguably much more important: The governor's campaign, Texans for Rick Perry, reported \$3.2 million in campaign contributions for the first half of the year. That raised the size of his campaign war chest to \$5.1 million.

Strayhorn reported \$1.17 million in campaign donations during the first six months of the year for a total \$3.6 million available

OBITUARIES

Frank Williams

ELDORADO — Walter Frank Williams, 60, died Tuesday, July 20, 2004, in a San Angelo hospital. Services are pending at Kerbow Funeral Home.

Jesus "Jessie" Franklin

SAN ANGELO — Jesus "Jessie" Franklin, 31, passed away on Thursday, July 8, 2004. The family received visitors from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday, July 11. Funeral service were at 10 a.m. Monday, July 12, in Gutierrez Funeral Chapels/Knickerbocker, with burial in Lawnhaven Memorial Gardens.

Jessie loved life and projected happiness with his infectious smile. He always had everyone laughing. He will always be remembered for his singing, dancing and his credo to live life to its fullest.

There was never a dull moment with him in the room. His love for the game of baseball, whether it be coaching or playing, was apparent. Regardless of his hard work, he always made time for his family and friends. He will be dearly missed and always remembered by his family, friends and his pets, "Murphy" and "Buddy."

Survivors include his wife of 11 years, Rachel Franklin; daughter,

Alexia Franklin; son, Dalton Franklin, all of San Angelo; parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ashby Franklin of San Angelo; brothers, Ashby "Yogi" Franklin III and Miranda Luna, and Thomas "Zeke" Franklin, all of San Angelo; sisters, Cheyene Hidalgo and husband Rudy of Austin, and Sarah Franklin of San Angelo; mother-in-law, Maggie Riojas of Christoval; brothers-in-law, John Riojas and wife Connie of Hondo, Joe Riojas and wife Sheila of Christoval, and Marcus Riojas and wife Jessica of Eldorado; sister-in-law, Rosalinda Williams and husband David of Christoval; and paternal grandmother, Mary Franklin. Also surviving are his aunts, uncles, cousins, eight nieces, three nephews and many close friends.

Pallbearers were Shorty Montalvo, Chris Juarez, Roy Martinez, Ruben Navarro, Jesus Enriquez and Johnny Valdez.



Emily Vorlage and Carter Edmiston

Vorlage/Edmiston to marry

Bill and Rosalie Vorlage of Boulder, Colorado and Joe Max and Marty Edmiston are pleased to announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their children, Emily Anna Vorlage and Carter Brian Edmiston, both of Durango, Colorado.

Emily graduated from Boulder High School. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development and Family Studies from Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, CO. and a Master's Degree in Education from Adams State College in Alamosa, CO. She is currently pursuing a career in curriculum development.

Carter graduated from Eldorado High School. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Sports Management and a Master's Degree in Physical Education from Adams State College in Alamosa, CO. He is currently a nursing student at San Juan College in Farmington, New Mexico.

A late September wedding is planned at Blue Lake Ranch in Durango Colorado.



Hunter Brant Meador

It's a Boy!

Mr. and Mrs. Rocky Hunt Meador are happy to announce the birth of their son, Hunter Brant Meador. He was born June 8, 2004 at 12:28 p.m. at Shannon's Women and Children's center in San Angelo, Texas. He weighed 6 lb. 15 oz. and was 19 inches long.

His proud grandparents are David and Kathy Meador of Eldorado, Texas and Patricia Ebarb of Beaumont, Texas.

He is also welcomed by his Uncles Forrest Meador and Travis Meador; Aunts Jessica Osborn, Katie Ebarb, and Shana Ebarb.

His cousins are Caleb and Hailey Meador, Alexia Sanders and Lydia Osborn.

Eldorado Success recognized at WTPA summer convention

The Eldorado Success received six awards Saturday at the West Texas Press Association summer convention at Possum Kingdom Lake. The awards, given as part of the annual WTPA Better Newspaper Contest, carried with them enough points to earn The Success second place in the overall Sweepstakes competition.

The Success received Second Place awards in News Writing, Photography and General Excellence. The newspaper earned Third Place honors in Feature Writing and Column Writing.

Publishers Randy and Kathy Mankin were on hand for the Saturday evening awards ceremony. They were joined by their daughter and son, Sarah and J.L. Mankin.

Roy Robinson, publisher of The Graham Leader, was named

President of the WTPA for the coming year. He was in charge of staging the convention at Possum Kingdom Lake. Success publisher Randy Mankin moved up from 2nd to 1st Vice President and will be responsible for coordinating the WTPA's 75th annual convention which he announced will be held next year in San Angelo.

The West Texas Press Association, is the largest regional press association in the world. It was formed in 1926 and held its first summer convention in Colorado City. The group did not meet from 1940-45 during World War II, but renewed the tradition of summer conventions in 1946. Since then, the association has met annually. It is made up of newspaper professionals from across the vast expanse of West Texas.

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BIRTHDAY LIST

JULY

22nd Drew V. Bosman, Roy Adame, Alvaro Rojas Jr., Joe Key, Ashley Lozano

23rd Bertha Luz, Coty Tidwell, Corinna Belman, Pam Engdahl Blakeny

24th Sheila Prater, Derek Engdahl, Samantha Santellano

25th Sharon Fitts, Thomas Martinez, Ima Jean Bruce, Kaleb Murr, Colby Niblett, Penny Bland, Jessica Freeman, Fernando Cardenas, Candace Engdahl

26th Johnny Powell, Helen Fay, Susie Richters, Rosa A. Martinez, Bill Samuels, Jesus DeLuna Jr.

27th Adam Dominguez, Drew Graham, Gina Muela, Dora Lynn Fay, Adam Dominguez, Mark Daniel Garcia, Theresa Beach, Bobby Adame

28th Seth Taylor, Charlene Harris, Courtney Sauer, Damien Beach, Tommy Hunley, Mary Jenkins, Charlene Harris, Walter Wagner

ANNIVERSARIES

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24th Marvin & Z. Hickman

25th Scott & Kari Steward

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35th Annual Eldorado Rodeo slated this weekend

The 35th Annual Eldorado Rodeo will be held this Friday and Saturday evenings at the Schleicher County Rodeo Arena, just south of town. This year's event will bring back stock promoter, Cadillac Rodeo Company of Lindale, Texas, and will be sanctioned by the Cowboy Professional Rodeo Association. The show will get underway at precisely 7:45 p.m. each night.

Despite being a pro rodeo, the open aspect of the traditional rodeo will be honored and local talent will be participating during each of the main performances.

Clown's Jeremy "Turbo" Heart and Jeremy Bell will offer their own kind of cowboy clown humor. Barrelman will be Steve Whitt. Two CPRA's All-Around Cowboys will also compete. 3rd place contestant Todd Arthur will try to add to his winnings of \$4,966.81 by competing in Saturday's calf roping and team roping events. Also, top money CPRA's bull rider Red Robbins will be one of Saturday's

Eldorado Golf Club Report

July 4th Playday
 1st Barry Lane, Kerry Brown, Bill Wells, George Scott: score 54.

2nd Sue Scott, Cash Lane, Moises Hill, Gordon Emmons: score 57.

July 10th
2 person Select Shot
 1st fight J. Gutierrez, A. Gutierrez score 57; 2nd John Cartwright, Kirk Griffin score 59; Dan Halbert, Moises Hill score 59.

2nd flight Bill Wells, Tim Williams score 66; Barry Lane, Phil McCormick score 66; V. Gutierrez, G. Gutierrez score 66; play off for 6 teams.

contestants. Local contestants performing Saturday are Clint Griffin, calf roping; Scott Cawley, saddle bronc; and Travis Lively, bull riding. Also from Sonora Stetson and Laramie Hall in steer wrestling.

While there will be plenty of conventional rodeo action, a couple of special events will be of particular interest to local rodeo fans. First, the final round of the Tri-County team roping circuit will be held during the rodeo with livestock provided by Bad Company of Sonora. Secondly, local youths will compete in the Mutton Bustin' competition, always a crowd favorite.

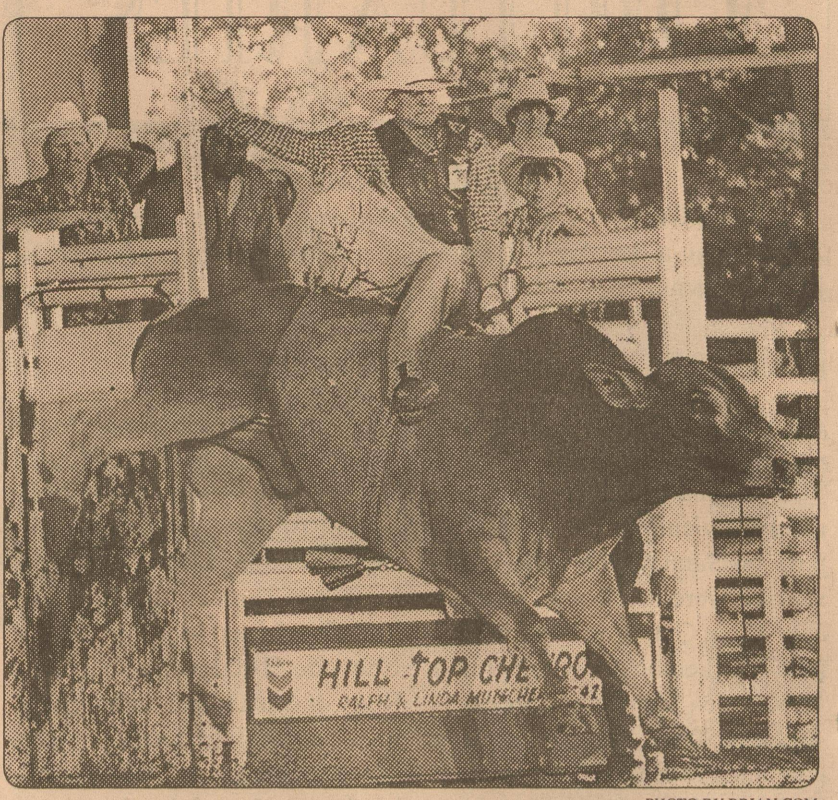
Team ropers from across the Eldorado, Sonora and Ozona will compete in the Tri County Roping to be held in Eldorado on Thursday evening after slack. The top contestants will be move on to the final round on Saturday night.

Youngsters wishing to compete in the Mutton Bustin' event are asked to sign up at the main entrance. Ten names will be drawn each night to compete.

Cadillac Rodeo Company will not only be bringing some top notch professional rodeo talent to town, they will also be bringing some intimidating rough stock. #21 "Tar Baby" bull of the CPRA Final who has been ridden only 3 times, will be waiting in the bucking chute. #93 "Bar Stool", a bull that has never been ridden will also be featured in the show. Meanwhile, "Bo Diddly", nominated "CPRA's Saddle Bronc of the Year" will return.

As always, the Eldorado Rodeo is sponsored by the Schleicher County Rodeo Association, which was named the "New Rodeo of the Year" by the Cowboys Professional Rodeo Association at the CPRA Finals 2003.

SCRA members have made a lot of changes in the rodeo grounds. The arena has been short-



This Bull Won't Run! Shawn Walker is shown here atop #93 "Bar Stool," a bull that hasn't been ridden this year on the CPRA circuit. Both man and beast will be at the 35th Annual Eldorado Rodeo where they just might meet up again.

ened and there is only one chute. They have kept their new stock producer and converted the rodeo's format to a professional rodeo, while keeping the show open to local participants.

Contestants will compete for prize money as well as points on the CPRA circuit. The prize money will include \$2,450 in added money with a \$150 bonus being awarded each night for the top score in Saddle Bronc and Bareback Riding. Also, Skyline Buckles to Event Champion.

As an added bonus, Saturday night will feature the Cadillac Six Pack, a series of six bulls, each unridden on the CPRA circuit this

season.

At press time, Cadillac Rodeo Company reported 200 entrants for this weekend's show.

Speaking of shows, rodeo goers are in for a treat again this year with Sonny Burgess and his opening act Border Trash from Rocksprings. Also Sonny Burgess will sing the National Anthem for the opening of Saturday's evening events. Tickets for the dance on the slab are \$10.

Tickets for the rodeo are \$7 in advance and \$8 at the gate. For more information about this weekend's rodeo, contact SCRA President Troy Daniels at 853-2202 or the CPRA office at 936-395-2772

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor express the opinions of their author. They do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the staff, management or ownership of the Eldorado Success.

Questions paid leave for Superintendent

Dear Editor:

It totally amazes me that one of our school board members actually said aloud that she thought the coaches should only receive \$1,000.00 instead of \$1,500.00 for the work they have put into the softball field.

First of all, If I were her, even if I had thought that, it would have only been a thought, not a statement.

We have heard no "Votes" against paying a full salary to a superintendent that we no longer have, but theres a concern over such a small amount that the coaches will receive for actually working for the money? What is wrong with this picture? Maybe

theres more to the story of why Gesch is being paid a full salary than what everyone knows - Its really hard to understand.

Its going to be interesting this next school year to see what our students are going to sacrifice to compensate for this salary that Mr. Gesch will receive for doing nothing.

I totally agree with John Ben Cawley - at least get something out of Gesch - whether it be a crossing guard, or hey, maybe he could do some of the work at the softball field to help our coaches.

Kathy Faulk

Registration slated at

Eldorado High School registration will be as follow:

- 11th graders - August 5, 2004 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
 - 10th graders - August 5, 2004 from 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon.
 - 9th graders - August 5, 2004 from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Seniors will have their senior pictures taken on August 6, 2004 starting at 8 a.m. in the High School gym foyer. The seniors will also register for their classes on August 6, 2004 starting at 9 a.m.

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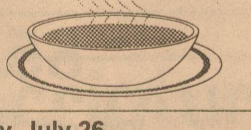
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Tuesday, July 27
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Wednesday, July 28
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Thursday, July 29
 Frito Pie, Spinach, Wheat Bread, Tossed Salad, Cinnamon Applesauce, Milk

Friday, July 30
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SCISD trustees vote to borrow \$600,000 for capital improvements

Surging property valuations mean that Schleicher County ISD could lower its tax rate by a dime or more and still raise the same amount of money as last year. But, taxpayers won't be seeing a reduction this year after school trustees voted Monday night to borrow \$600,000.00 from the Capital Acquisition Plan operated by the Texas Association of School Boards.

The loan will allow the school district to replace some aging air conditioning equipment as well as carry out other projects on a wish list trustees came up with.

The trustees did not all agree on the plan, but the differences had less to do with whether or not the school should borrow money and more to do with exactly how much should be borrowed. A motion to borrow \$750,000.00 failed and shortly thereafter the plan to borrow \$600,000.00 passed on a 4-3 vote with trustees Kurtis Homer, Jan Wanoreck, Lupe Sanchez and Jo Helen Kotsch voting in favor. Trustees John Paul Joiner, Berta Nicholson and Eddie Albin opposed the measure. Albin indicated her preferred to borrow \$400,000.00 with a two-year payout, instead of the three-years required for the \$600,000.00.

In other business, Acting Superintendent George Blanch advised the trustees that the state

will withhold funds from SCISD in order to make up for an overpayment the school had received based on its projected average daily attendance (ADA). Blanch said the school currently owes the state \$290,000.00. He noted that each year the school has to estimate the number of students it will have, and as in years past, the school overestimated the number of students it would have. Blanch added that for the upcoming school year an estimated ADA of 555 students would be used.

Next, the board approved the district's financial reports, minutes of the previous meeting, and food vendors for the 2004-05 school year. Technology Director J.D. Doyle then offered a video presentation showing five new security cameras the school recently purchased. Doyle asked for two more cameras but was told the trustees would consider the item in the budgeting process.

The board then voted to keep Reed, McKee and Co. P.C. as school auditors for the 2004-2005 school year. Also, the trustees elected to keep the student and athletic insurance carrier Student Resources, which had the low bid of \$17,493.18.

Maintenance Director John Kotsch asked for emergency funding, totaling \$53,000 for paving of the elementary drop off zone, 4 air conditioners and a roof for

the Band Hall. The trustees board approved a the bid of \$12,500 from Seidel Construction for paving, \$33,010.00 bid from Air Dynamics, Inc. for 2 Lennox air conditioning units for the band hall and two 10-ton units for the elementary building. A quote from Hartman Roofing, Inc for \$8,695.00 was approved for the roofing material and labor for the Band Hall.

The 2004-2005 Student Code of Conduct met with board approval as did a resolution calling for First National Bank of Eldorado and Schleicher County ISD to enter into an agreement for Automated Clearing House "ACH" Services.

Two new employees were approved. Mary Rios was hired as a custodian and Weldon Jenkins was hired in the Maintenance Dept. It was noted that an aide position at the AEP campus will not be filled at this time.

Next, the trustees went into executive session to discuss Superintendent's contract. No action was taken, however, when the board returned to open session.

Supt. Blanch then presented the board with a preliminary 2004-2005 budget, based on a \$1.39 tax rate and property values of \$231 million. He advised the board that the property value number would probably change since some protests of valuations had been filed with the Schleicher County Tax Appraisal Dist.

Blanch advised that his proposed budget included a new bus, an increase of \$10,000 for legal fees, portable sound system for sporting events and the cafeteria, which is expected to lose \$34,000 this upcoming year.

Discussion then turned to the possibility of reinstating the Federal Lunch Program which Mr. Blanch implemented his first year during his first stint as superintendent. He noted the program increased the budget by \$12,000, plus provided breakfasts for all the students. The program was stopped the next year after Blanch left for retirement.

Before adjourning, the trustees agreed to hold a budget planning workshop for next Monday evening.



PHOTO BY EARTH MANKIN

The shadow knows -- SCISD Technology Director J.D. Doyle presented a video to school trustees Monday evening showing the location of remote controlled surveillance cameras, as well as video taken by the cameras.

City Council hears from public about YFZ proposal

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and explaining that the council faced a tough decision. He added that he hoped the decision could be based on facts and not on emotion. The mayor went on to explain that the city had set a precedent in the past by accepting waste from outside the city limits, first from the U.S. Air Force PAVE-PAWS facility, and secondly from Western Company, an oilfield service company that was later taken over by BJ Services.

Nikolausk informed the audience that experts from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), the state agency that oversees the city's wastewater plant, had assured him that an additional 150,000 gallons of effluent per month would not adversely affect the plant. "In fact, they say it will help us," Nikolausk stated. He then explained that the city's plant is too large for the amount of effluent it currently receives, increasing the time the wastewater is retained in the plant.

Attorney James Kosub, who represents the city, explained that the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution, protects identifiable groups such as the members of the FLDS who live at the YFZ Ranch. He noted that if the city denies the ranch's request, based on moral grounds, especially after having approved other such requests, then it could be faced with a federal discrimination lawsuit.

One person who opposed granting the YFZ request was Vickie Williams. "How comfortable are you as city council and individuals at believing anything that comes out of their mouths because of the lies that have taken place from the get go," Williams asked.

That sentiment was echoed by Deanne Walker. "You can be as nice to them as a anyone would want to be," she said of the YFZ. "They will be nice to your face but will always consider what is best for them. They will go for what the government will give them and what we will give them."

County Commissioner Bill Clark then spoke up and told the crowd that the city council was dealing with a difficult issue and

had to do what is best for the community. "They can't take into consideration most of the things that are being said here."

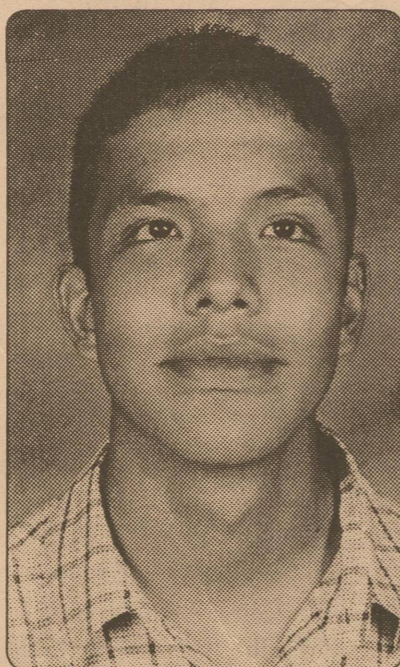
City Council member Bill McCutcheon then offered a motion to table the discussion pending the receipt of additional information, including a written request from the YFZ Ranch, a copy of the application the ranch has filed for its own wastewater treatment plant, and a written legal opinion from Attorney James Kosub.

Another round of discussion then followed before McCutcheon's motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Moments before the council took a break and most of the audience left the meeting, Stan Meador encouraged all in attendance to contact State Representative Harvey Hilderbran and State Senator Robert Duncan. He noted that pressure brought against the FLDS by Utah authorities is likely behind their move to Texas. "We really don't have a leg to stand on here today," Meador said. "It has been a great discussion, but we are probably going to have move beyond this battle and look for the next one...and its going to be through our state legislature. We've got people at that level in Austin and that's where we can take these people head on."

Following a brief recess, the council reconvened across the street in the council chambers at City Hall. Following a review of preliminary budget numbers discussion turned to pay raises for city employees. After a lengthy discussion, and a review of personnel evaluations, the council voted unanimously to award 5 percent across the board pay raises, with additional merit raises for two employees. They also asked that a policy be prepared so that future raises could be based in part on cost of living adjustments, plus merit raises based on individual evaluations.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Diego Barrera

Barrera wins National Award

The United States Achievement Academy announced today that Diego Barrera from Eldorado, Texas has been named a United States National Award Winner in Science.

This award is a prestigious honor very few students can ever hope to attain. In fact, the Academy recognizes fewer than 10% of all American high school students.

Diego Barrera, who attends Eldorado High School was nominated for this national award by Mrs. Angela Case, a biology teacher at the school.

Diego Barrera, will appear in the United States Achievement Academy Official Yearbook, which is published nationally.

The Academy selects USAA winners upon the exclusive recommendations of teachers, coaches, counselors, and other qualified sponsors and upon the Standards of Selection set forth by the Academy. The criteria for selection are a student's academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, citizenship, attitude and cooperative spirit, dependability, and recommendation from a teacher or director.

Diego Barrera is the son of Ernest and Marie Barrera of Eldorado. The grandparents are Juanita Shurley of Eldorado and Lupe Espinosa, Sr. of San Angelo.

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 dts 1:30 4:15 7:00 9:45
 2:15 4:50 7:40 10:15
- ANCHORMAN dts (PG-13)**
 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
- SLEEPOVER (PG)**
 4:00 8:45
- WHITE CHICKS (PG-13)**
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- TWO BROTHERS dts (PG)**
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KIDS KAMPUS (2) #2 Pencils; 1 Small school box; (10) Folders (pocket & brads; 3-red, 3-green, 2-yellow, 2-blue); Kleenex (large box); (2) 8 count box of crayons; \$5 for Pre-K Weekly Reader; (1) 70 page spiral notebook; (1) glue stick; (1) 4 oz. Elmer's White glue; 1 pkg. construction paper; (1) eraser (pink rubber); 1 box sandwich size Ziploc bags; Fiskars scissors (round end); 1 backpack (to hold folders & jackets); 1 water bottle (12 oz.) PLEASE LABEL ALL SUPPLIES WITH CHILD'S NAME IN LARGE PRINT.

KINDERGARTEN Elmer's White School Glue - 4 oz.; 1 Glue Stick; (2) #2 pencils; Eraser (pink rubber); Crayons - 1 box of 24; 1 box of 12 long colored pencils; Fiskars for Kids scissors (metal blades); 1 large box Kleenex; School box-small; 2 vinyl (plastic) pocket folders; Boys (1-box sandwich size ziploc bags) Girls (1-box gallon size ziploc bags); 1 water bottle; Backpack THAT WILL HOLD FOLDERS; (1) regular size towel for napping (no mats, large towels, or blankets); ALL SUPPLIES SHOULD BE LABELED WITH CHILD'S NAME IN LARGE PRINT; Other supplies may be requested by your child's teacher.

FIRST GRADE # 2 Pencils; Large Elmer's Glue (white only); School box; Metal inlaid scissors; Crayons -16 count; 1 pkg. 9 X 12 assorted construction paper (loose); 1 box Kleenex; 4 pocket folders (bottom pocket); 40 page spiral notebook; Pencil top erasers; \$2.00 for Weekly Reader; (1) Box sandwich size zip-lock bags.

SECOND GRADE 6 Pencils - (#2); Crayolas box of 24; Elmer's glue (white); Zipper pouch, large eraser; Fiskar's scissors; 4 Red marking pencils; Kleenex (200 count); 6 pocket folders with bottom pockets; Map colors; Kleenex (200 Count), 2-70 page spirals; \$2.00 for Weekly Reader.

THIRD GRADE Crayons box of 24; (4) #2 pencils; Kleenex (200 count); Scissors - sharp point (Fiskars only); Zipper pouch for notebook; (4) four red marking pencils; small Elmer's glue; Loose leaf 3 ring notebook NO TRAPPER KEEPERS; 1 pkg. dividers (do not write on these); Map colors; 1 spiral notebook (70 pages); 1 pocket folder w/bottom pockets; \$2.00 for Weekly Reader; INDIVIDUAL TEACHERS MAY GIVE ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES NEEDED THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

FOURTH GRADE 3 Ring notebook NO TRAPPER KEEPERS; Notebook paper (no college or narrow ruled); Eraser; Map colors; Ruler both metric and American standard; Glue; Scissors 6" or 7" sharp point; 6 Red grading pencils; Kleenex - large box; #2 Pencils; 6 subject dividers with tabs; Zipper pouch; (3) Spiral notebooks (70 pages); (3) pocket folders (with 3 holes); Composition notebook (not a spiral)

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor express the opinions of their author. They do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the staff, management or ownership of the Eldorado Success.

Utah resident issues warning to locals

Letter to the Editor:
 Congratulations, Eldorado Texas, now you too can enjoy paying for the polygamists to live their "unique" life-style. Here in Utah they have soaked our government for nearly \$10,000,000 a year, yes, that's right 10 MILLION DOLLARS annually. Government officials have no grounds to fight this abuse as polygamists are not legally married so each wife is considered in the Government's eyes a single mother of 4-10 kids and you will now be paying to feed, provide medical care and \$money\$ to these "unique" individuals and all their kids with all of your Texan's hard working tax paying pockets.

If your State officials can find some way to end this "draining

of the beasts" as the polygamists enjoy to call it please let the State officials in Utah know how they too can effectively end this ridiculous abuse.

I understand we live in a FREE, Fantastic Country and people they should do so without making anyone else PAY FOR IT.

If in Eldorado the majority of the population are not polygamists I would highly recommend you do all you can to protect your tax dollars and your State's integrity. Utah seems to have just accepted that these people break the laws of our Country and steal our tax dollars. I hope in Texas they will not stand for it! Soon we will see.

D. Barton
 St. George, Utah

Brigitte R. Rogers a Texas Silver-Haired Legislator representing Eldorado and the Concho Valley will be soliciting signatures for petitions requesting a special election freezing taxes for the elderly 65 years and older and disabled persons. The law requires 5% of registered voters to sign a petition. Rogers made a request to both city and county to freeze taxes. Both government entities denied the request. Proposition 13 was approved in September, 2003 by a majority of 81% in the State of Texas and 72% in Schleicher County

Water Dist. okays YFZ wells

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tendance. Director Ronnie Sauer was absent.

Among other business, the district's financial report was considered and approved, as was a cooperative management agreement with Sutton County Underground Water Conservation District.



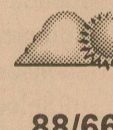


Before adjourning the board reviewed proposed changes to the district's current rules. It was noted that the rules won't go into effect until a public hearing can be held. Following the hearing the

board may then vote on the proposed changes. Cawley noted that most of the changes involve minor changes to the language of the rules, bringing them in line with existing state groundwater regulations. She said that a notice of the public hearing will be published in The Eldorado Success.

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91/69	92/68	88/66	87/65	85/64
Sunny. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the upper 60s.	More sun than clouds. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the upper 60s.	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the mid 60s.	Partly cloudy with a stray thunderstorm.	Slight chance of a thunderstorm.

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Five Eldorado High School students attend 3-day conference addressing respect in secondary schools. Front L - R: Blake Chatham, Maria Huichapa, Joy Martinez; Back L-R Able Montalvo and Allie Perez.

Eldorado students educating peers about sexual violence

While most students spent the weekend of June 24-26 working or playing in the Eldorado area as normal, these Eldorado High School students chose to spend a weekend gaining new knowledge and skills, preparing them to share a message of healthy relationships and respect at Eldorado-area schools this fall. The students attended the fourth annual Students Taking Action for Respect (STAR) Conference at the Stephen F. Austin University campus in Nacogdoches.

STAR, the youth outreach and education program created by the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA), incorporates positive messages directed at reducing sexual harassment and violence in schools. The STAR Program trains high school students to present workshops and organize activities dealing with sexual harassment while building an environment of respect within Texas schools. These student-led presentations are currently traveling the state, allowing STAR participants to increase sexual violence awareness among their peers. The STAR program is so respected and admired nationally that many other states, including Pennsylvania and Louisiana, are using Texas's STAR curriculum as a base for their own youth outreach and education program.

"These students walked away

from the conference empowered by what they had learned and have grown passionate about educating their friends and peers," said sponsor Ilse Williams. "The STAR Program, while offering an education in social responsibility, has also encouraged the students to seek out leadership roles among their peers and has improved their public speaking and presentation skills." The Eldorado High School STAR team is only one of over 30 such teams in the state.

The American Association of University Women study, Hostile Hallways: Bullying, Teasing and Sexual Harassment in School, found that 80 percent of American schoolchildren report they have experienced sexual harassment on campus. This report, a follow-up to the group's 1993 survey, reinforces that sexual harassment has become a fact of life for students.

The innovative and nationally acclaimed STAR curriculum carries the "Speak Up. Speak Out" message of TAASA's public awareness campaign even further, bringing dialogue about sexual violence into school classrooms. Recent studies have shown that sexual assault is a top crime concern for Texans, and the efforts and hard work of STAR participants increases young Texan's awareness of this silent crime. Workshops at the conference are, in many cases, conducted by teens who have been active in the STAR program since its inception and cover topics ranging from acquaintance rape and club or date rape drugs to sexual harassment and dating violence. By the close of the conference, all attendees have amassed the skills necessary to spread their lessons learned to their peers at home.

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Solution to puzzle on Page 2

Chess II

A	D	D	U	P	G	U	S	H	A	C	R	O
P	A	R	T	A	O	G	R	E	P	R	O	
B	L	U	E	C	O	L	L	A	R	P	E	L
S	E	M	P	E	R	F	I		P	E	A	L
					C	E	E		S	T	E	A
P	A	S	T	A	D	I	T	H	E	R	S	
I	N	W	A	R	D	S	A	A	R	I	B	M
A	K	I	N	A	V	A	N	T	S	C	A	B
F	A	S	A	R	I	A		S	T	E	L	L
					S	I	L	E	N	C	E	
E	N	S	N	A	R	E		R	I	M		
L	A	T	E	N		T	E	L	E	C	A	S
I	V	E	S		B	R	I	C	K	L	A	Y
T	E	A	S		R	A	N	T		A	R	E
E	L	K	E		A	W	E	S		G	A	S

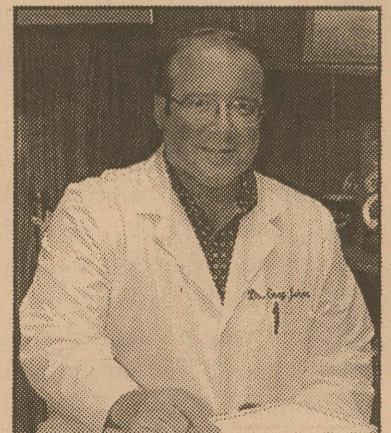
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S.C.I.S.D. announces policy for providing free and reduced meals for children

Schleicher County I.S.D. today announced its policy for providing free and reduced meals for children served under the national School Lunch and School breakfast programs. Each school and/or the central office have a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

The household size and income criteria identified below will be used to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits. Children from households whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Foster children who are the legal responsibility of a welfare agency or court may also be eligible for benefits regardless of the income of the household with whom they reside. Eligibility for the foster child is based on the child's income.

Application forms are being distributed to all households with a letter informing households of the availability of free and reduced-price meals for their children. Applications also are available at the principal's office in each school. To apply for free and reduced-price meals, households must fill out the application and return it to the school. Application may be submitted anytime during the school year. The information households provide on the application will be used

for the purpose of determining eligibility and verification of data. The school officials may verify applications at any time during the school year.

For school officials to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits, households receiving food stamps or TANF only have to list their child's name and food stamp or TANF case number. An adult household member must sign the application.

Households that do not list a food stamp or TANF case number must list the names of all household members, the amount and source of the income received by each household member and the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. If the adult who signs the application does not have a social security number the household member must indicate that a social security number is not available by writing the word "NONE". An adult household member must sign the application.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, The Food Service Director will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the official may wish to discuss the decision with the reviewing official on an informal basis. Parents wishing to

make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to George Blanch, P.O. Box W, Eldorado, Texas 76936 or Phone 915-853-2514.

Households that list a food stamp or TANF case number must report when the household no longer receives these benefits. Other households approved for benefits based on income of information must report increases in household income of over \$50 per month or \$600 per year and decrease in household size. Also, if a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits in household's income falls at or below the level shown above.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call 202/720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. SAMPLE

Dear Parent or Guardian,

For your convenience, I will be taking lunch money anytime before school starts. So please feel free to come by the cafeteria and pay ahead of time, or just drop a check in the mail, to avoid the first day of school rush.

Also due the increase and excess in cafeteria charging, we are implementing a new system in our food service department.

Effective Novmember 14, 2001, if your child has \$10.00 in charges he/she will not be allowed to charge anymore, until his/her charges are paid. An alternate meal of peanut butter sandwich, with milk, will be given to the child.

If you have not filled out an application for free or reduced meals, or if you have had a \$50.00 a month differenced in your wages, since you filled out your application, then you may fill an application out at this time.

Sincerely,
Ima Bruce,
Food Service Director
325-853-3172, ext. 526

Federal Income Chart for School Year 2004-05

Household size	Annual	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	17,224	1,436	718	663	332
2	23,107	1,926	963	889	445
3	28,990	2,416	1,208	1,115	558
4	34,873	2,907	1,454	1,342	671
5	40,756	3,397	1,699	1,568	784
6	46,639	3,887	1,944	1,794	897
7	52,522	4,377	2,189	2,021	1,011
8	58,405	4,868	2,434	2,247	1,124
For each add'l member add	5,883	491	246	227	114

Schleicher County ISD School District/Charter School LETTER TO HOUSEHOLDS (Multi-Child) NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH/BREAKFAST PROGRAM SCHOOL YEAR 2003-04

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. The Schleicher County ISD offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$.50, lunch costs \$1.50. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals. The reduced price is \$.25 for breakfast and \$.40 for lunch.

To apply for free or reduced-price meals, use the Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Application, provided by the school. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to:

Schleicher County Independent School District
PO Box W
Eldorado, Texas 76936

Here are answers to questions you may have about applying:

1. Who can get free or reduced-price meals? Children in households receiving Food Stamps or TANF and most foster children can get free meals regardless of household income. Also, if your household income is within the limits on the Federal Income Chart, your children can receive free or reduced-price meals.

2. Will my information be checked? Yes. We may ask you to send written proof of the information you give.

3. What if I stop receiving Food Stamps or TANF? If your children qualify because you listed a Food Stamp or TANF case number, you must tell the school when you no longer receive Food Stamps or TANF.

4. What if my household size or income changes? If your children qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on your income, you must tell us if your household size goes down or if your income goes up by more than \$50 per month (\$600 per year). Call us at 325-853-3172 ext.526.(Schleicher County ISD Cafeteria Office) to update your application.

5. If I don't qualify now, may I apply again later? Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start receiving Food Stamps or TANF. If you lose your job, your children may be able to receive free or reduced-price meals during the time you are unemployed.

6. What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application? You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to Schleicher County Independent School District, George Blanch, P.O. Box W, Eldorado, Texas 76936.

If you have other questions or need help, call 325-853-2514 ext. 222. si necesita ayuda, por favor llame al telefono: 325-853-2514, ext. 222

Sincerely,
Ima Bruce,
Food Service Director

PUBLIC NOTICE Free and Reduced-Priced Meals NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Multi-Child Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Application for 2004-05

District/Charter School

Part 1: Children in School (Use a separate application for each foster child.)

Names of all children in school (Last, First, Middle Initial)	School Name	Social Security #, Student I.D., or Date of Birth (OPTIONAL)	Grade	Food Stamp or TANF case # (if any)
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				

If you listed a Food Stamp/TANF case number for one of the children listed above, list it here: _____

Part 2: Foster Child

If this application is for a child who is the legal responsibility of a welfare agency or court, check box and list the amount of the child's personal use monthly income: \$ _____

Part 3: Household Income (List each person in the household. For each person who receives income, write the amount received and how often it is received.)

1. Name (List everyone in the household. (In the example, the household includes mother Jane, grandfather Ralph and child Susie.)	2. Income and how often it is received. Weekly (W), Monthly (M), Every 2 Weeks (E), Twice a Month (T). (Jane earns \$200 every 2 weeks and receives \$50 a month in child support. Ralph receives \$300 a month from Social Security. Susie has no income.)	3. Check if NO Income.
Example: Jane Smith	\$ 200 / E	
Ralph Smith	\$ 300 / M	
Susie Smith		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part 4: Signature and Social Security Number (Adult must sign.)

An adult household member must sign the application. If Part 3 is completed, the adult signing the form must also list his or her Social Security Number or mark the "I do not have a Social Security Number" box. (See Privacy Act Statement on the "Instructions for Applying" page.)

I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the school will get Federal funds based on the information I give. I understand that school officials may verify (check) the information. I understand that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted.

Sign here: _____ Date: _____

Social Security Number: _____ I do not have a Social Security Number.

Printed Name: _____ Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Do not fill out this part. For school use only.

Monthly Income Conversion: Weekly x 4.33, Every 2 Weeks x 2.15, Twice A Month x 2

Monthly Income: _____ Household size: _____ FS/TANF: _____ Date Withdrawn: _____

Eligibility: Free _____ Reduced _____ Denied _____ Reason: _____

Temporary: Free _____ Time Period: _____ (expires after _____ days)

Determining Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____

The Blotter

The Blotter is a summary of the previous week's activity by the Schleicher County Sheriff's Dept. For practical reasons of time and space, The Blotter does not include every call made to the Sheriff's office, nor does it include routine security checks, minor traffic stops or routine patrols. Incidents of major impact will be reported separately. Subjects reported to have been arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Arrests

July 14 • Chitsey, Corby, male age 35, arresting officer DPS trooper, offense Interfering with Public Duties, Released on \$1,000.00 PR Bond.
 July 14 • Cuellar, Humberto Fidel Regaldo, male age 28, arresting officer SC deputy, offense Money Laundering.
 July 14 • Sahr, Leslie Dale, male age 33, arresting officer DPS trooper, offense DWI 1st offense and Open Container, Released on \$1,000.00 Surety Bond.
 July 16 • Gauna, Tonya Sue,

female age 34, arresting officer SC deputy, offense Theft by Check, Released on \$500.00 PR Bond.
 July 17 • Rocha, Enrique Juan, male age 22, arresting officer SC deputy, offense MTR, and Burglary of a Building.
 July 17 • Clark, Amy Michelle, female age 27, arresting officer SC deputy, offense possession of Controlled Substance and Disorderly conduct, Released on \$3,000.00 Surety Bond.

Incidents

July 14 • 3:31 p.m. Complainant requested an officer at location. Reported power outage, officers responded. Two arrests were made.
 • 5:00 p.m. Complainant requested an officer to location. Officer responded.
 July 15 • 8:24 p.m. Complainant called to report some juveniles riding around in go cart. Officer responded.
 • 9:44 p.m. Sutton County advised a drunk driver on Hwy 277 South. Officers responded.
 • 11:43 p.m. Complainant advised of a possible disturbance. Officers responded.
 July 16 • 8:04 a.m. Complainant reported that someone tried to break in her vehicle and steal her stereo at the Eldorado Place Apts.

Officer responded.
 • 11:08 a.m. Complainant requested to speak with a officer about her neighbors. Officer responded.
 • 10:08 p.m. Complainant reported a burglary. Officers responded.
 July 17 • 12:18 a.m. Complainant reported an intoxicated driver. Officer responded.
 • 7:18 a.m. Caller reported a fire at Tom Green County. Tom Green County was advised. Officer responded.
 • 7:12 p.m. Complainant requested an ambulance for an elderly male who was having trouble breathing. Officers and EMS 2 responded.
 • 7:50 p.m. Complainant reported a subject causing trouble out on the baseball field. Officers responded two subjects were involved.
 • 4:13 p.m. Complainant reported a grass fire. Eldorado Fire Dept., Sonora Fire Dept. and Ozona Fire Dept. responded.
 • 4:13 p.m. Complainant reported a grass fire. Fire Dept. responded.
 • 8:12 p.m. Hospital request for ACLS transfer to Community. EMS responded.
 July 18 • 9:35 a.m. Complainant reported that grass fire had started back up. Fire Dept. responded.
 • 9:02 p.m. Complainant reported an intoxicated driver in a White Nissan Altima. Officer responded.
 • 10:38 p.m. Complainant advised that a male subject had passed onto her property to retrieve wire that had belonged to him. Complainant was angry to the fact that the male subject had trespassed onto her property without her presence. Officer responded.
 • 10:54 p.m. Complainant requested to speak to an officer. Officer responded.
 July 19 • 1:35 a.m. Hospital requested a ambulance for a basic transfer. EMS 1 responded.



Unusual traffic stop — Chief Deputy George Arispe and DPS Trooper Danny Nuñez investigated an accident (above) on East Street last week after this tractor damaged four utility poles. The following day, the tractor's owner, Corby Chitsey of Wall, was arrested by Trooper Nuñez on a charge of interfering with a public servant. Chitsey reportedly refused to provide the officer with identification. AEP crews (at right) were called in to repair the damaged lines

PHOTOS BY J.L. MANKIN



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Lions Eye Bank elects new officers

On June 26, 2004 Western Texas Lions Eye Bank Alliance Board of Directors elected new officers for 2004-2005. They are: President, Lion Brigitte Rogers, Sonora; Vice President PDG Bob Noyes, Big Spring; Secretary PDG George Costlow, Stanton; Treasurer, Lion Joe Payne, San Angelo.

The eye bank provides donor corneas to surgeons for transplant to recipients. Since 1982 more than 300 people have received sight from corneal tissue processed through Western Texas Lions Eye Bank Alliance. The cornea transplant is the oldest and most successful transplant performed today with a 90-95% success rate. Through careful donor screening and tissue evaluation the recipient can be assured of receiving safe, quality tissue. The eye bank serves as the link between the donor and the recipient. All information is kept confidential and there is no cost to donor families. Anyone between the ages of 2 to 65 can be an eye donor. The gift of sight is priceless. For more information please contact the eye bank office at 325-653-8666 or 866-226-7632 (toll free)

Searching for the right Medicare Supplement Insurance plan?

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* Sierra Health and Life Insurance Company, Inc. is not affiliated with or endorsed by Medicare or State or Federal Government. Network Restrictions apply. Standard and Select Plans A, B, C, and F are available in this area. An outline of coverage is available and may be requested by calling 325-659-7591 or 1-888-755-3250 (toll free) without obligation to purchase.

** Premier Health is the marketing name for the policy. Sierra Health and Life Insurance Company, Inc. is the underwriter.

*** If hospital services are needed, your physician must have admitting privileges to a Network Hospital or be willing to refer you to one who does.

TX 175H (Rev 1/04) Eldorado, TX

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F.M.I. contact Annie Arispe at 325-853-2507, ext. 107.

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Scripture

My shield is with God, who saves the upright in heart. God is a righteous judge, and a God who has indignation every day.
 Psalm 7:10-11

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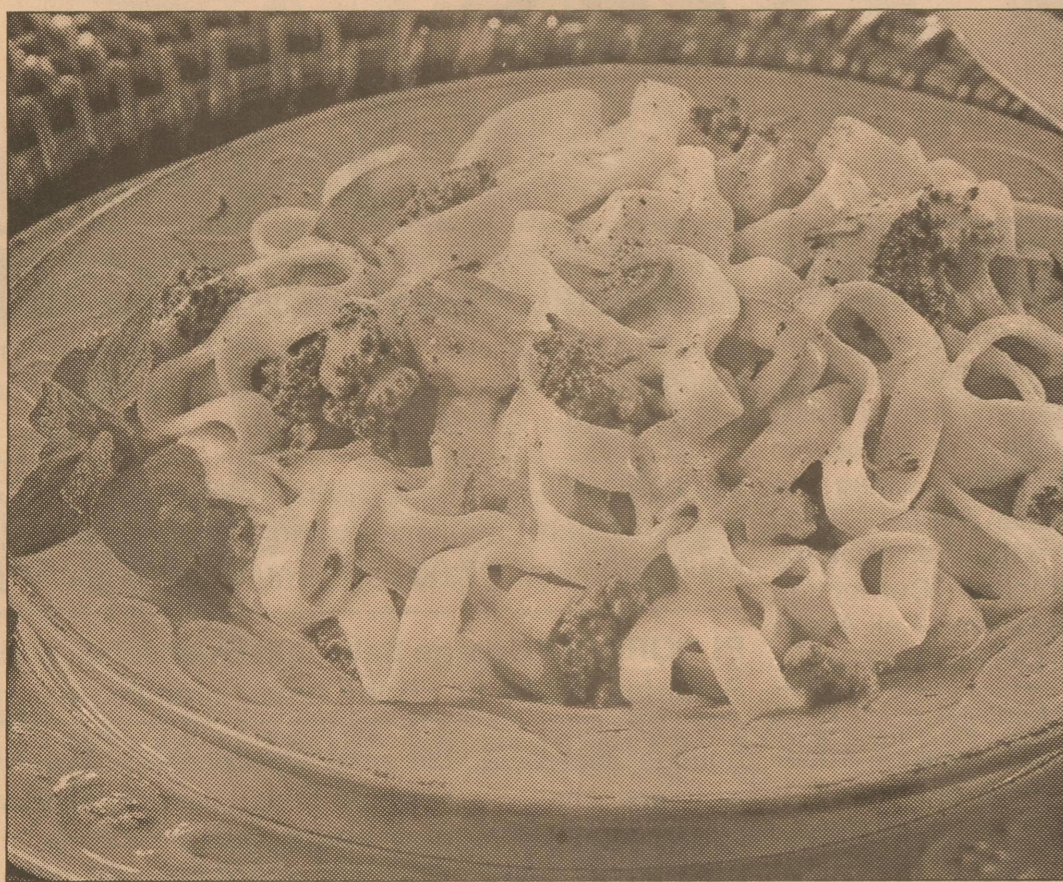
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Fettuccini Primavera

A Cook's Secret

FAMILY FEATURES EDITORIAL SYNDICATE

Evaporated milk is a cook's secret ingredient. This convenient staple lends its rich, creamy homemade taste to these international favorites, as well as to "made in the U.S.A." dishes.

Fettuccine Primavera

Makes 4 servings

- 1 package (9 ounces) Buitoni Refrigerated Fettuccine, cooked, drained, kept warm
- 3/4 cup water
- 1 cup broccoli florets
- 1/2 cup sliced carrots
- 1/2 cup red pepper strips
- 3 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 cup Nestlé Carnation Evaporated Milk
- 1/2 cup chicken broth
- 1/2 cup (4 ounces) shredded Parmesan cheese

- 1/2 cup grated provolone cheese
- 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- Fresh ground black pepper to taste

HEAT water in medium saucepan to boiling. Add broccoli, carrots and red pepper. Reduce heat to simmer; cook 5 to 7 minutes. Drain; set aside.
MELT butter in same saucepan over medium heat; stir in flour. Gradually add evaporated milk and chicken broth. Cook, stirring constantly, until mixture comes to a boil and thickens. Stir in Parmesan cheese, provolone cheese, cayenne and black pepper until cheese is melted. Toss with fettuccine. Add vegetables; stir to coat. Serve immediately.

Quiche Lorraine

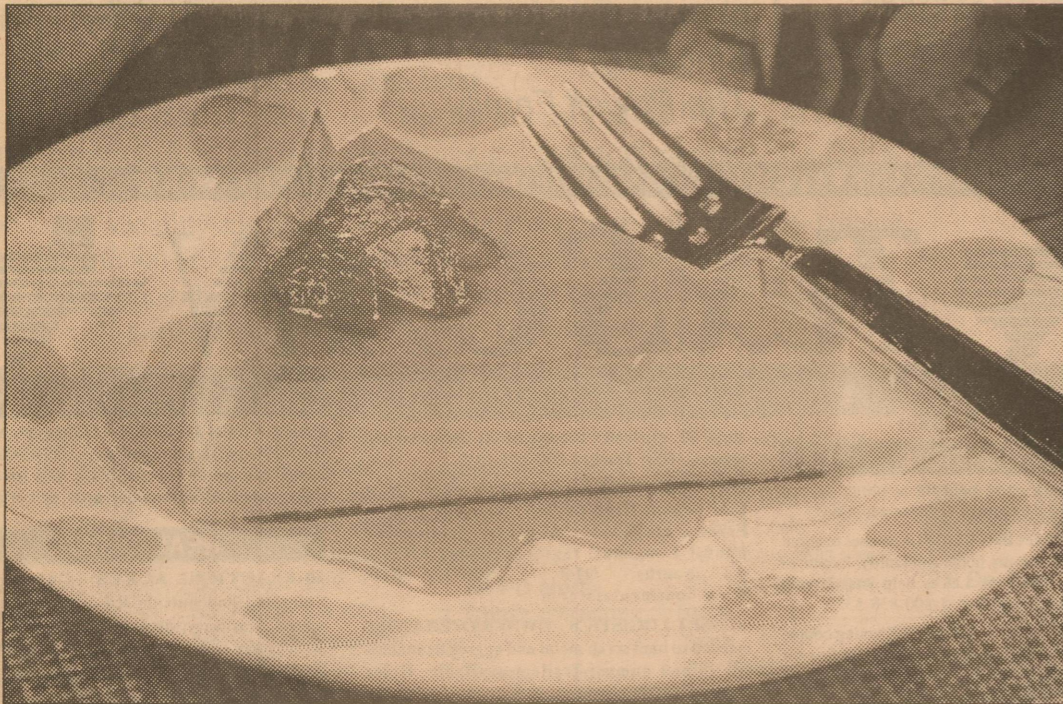
Makes 8 servings

- 1 unbaked 9-inch (4-cup volume) deep-dish pie shell
- 6 slices bacon, chopped
- 1/2 cup chopped onion

- 1 1/2 cups (6 ounces) shredded Swiss cheese
- 1 can (12 fluid ounces) Nestlé Carnation Evaporated Milk
- 3 large eggs, well beaten
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg

PREHEAT oven to 350°F.
COOK bacon in large skillet over medium heat. When bacon starts to brown, add onion. Cook until bacon is crisp; drain. Sprinkle cheese on bottom of pie shell. Top with bacon mixture. Combine evaporated milk, eggs, salt, pepper and nutmeg in small bowl until blended. Pour into pie shell.
BAKE for 30 to 35 minutes or until knife inserted halfway between center and edge comes out clean. Let cool 5 minutes before serving.

For more recipes, visit www.verybestbaking.com



Cream Cheese Flan

Cream Cheese Flan

Makes 12 servings

- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 can (12 fluid ounces) Nestlé Carnation Evaporated Milk
- 1 can (14 fluid ounces) Nestlé Carnation Sweetened Condensed Milk
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 5 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

PREHEAT oven to 350°F.
HEAT sugar in small, heavy-duty saucepan over medium-low heat, stirring constantly, for 3 to 4 minutes or until dissolved and caramel colored. Quickly pour on bottom of 2-quart casserole dish.
PLACE milks, cream cheese, eggs and vanilla extract in blender; cover. Blend until smooth. Pour mixture into prepared casserole dish. Place casserole in 13 x 9-inch baking dish; fill with warm water to 1-inch depth.
BAKE for 1 hour and 20 to 30 minutes or until knife inserted near center comes out clean. Remove flan from hot water; cool to room temperature on wire rack. Refrigerate for several hours or overnight. Run knife around rim; gently shake to loosen. Invert onto serving dish.

Swedish Meatballs

Makes 8 to 10 servings

MEATBALLS

- 1 1/2 pounds ground beef
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup plain bread crumbs

- 1 can (12 fluid ounces) Nestlé Carnation Evaporated Milk, divided
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg

GRAVY

- Vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 1/2 cups beef broth
- 1/4 teaspoon dried or fresh dill weed
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 12 ounces dry noodles, cooked and drained

FOR MEATBALLS:
PREHEAT oven to 350°F.
MIX ground beef, onion, bread crumbs, 1/2 cup evaporated milk, egg, garlic salt and nutmeg lightly but thoroughly in medium bowl. Shape into 2-inch balls. Place in jelly-roll pan.
BAKE for 20 to 25 minutes or until no longer pink. Drain; reserve fat drippings. Keep meatballs warm.

FOR GRAVY:
COMBINE 1/2 cup fat drippings from meatballs (adding vegetable oil to make 1/2 cup) and flour in large saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture comes to a boil. Boil for 1 to 2 minutes. Stir in broth, remaining evaporated milk, dill and pepper. Cook, stirring constantly, until mixture comes to a boil and thickens slightly. Add meatballs to sauce; stir. Serve over noodles.

New England Clam Chowder

Makes 4 servings

- 4 slices bacon, chopped
- 1 pound (about 3 medium) potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch chunks
- 1/4 cup chopped carrot
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 1/4 cup finely chopped celery
- 1 can (12 fluid ounces) Nestlé Carnation Evaporated Milk
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 cans (6.5 ounces each) chopped or minced clams, undrained
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- Salt and ground black pepper to taste

COOK bacon in medium saucepan over medium heat until crisp; remove bacon and set aside. Reserve 2 tablespoons bacon fat in saucepan. Add potatoes, carrot, onion and celery. Cook, stirring frequently, for 6 to 7 minutes or until potatoes are crisp-tender.
COMBINE evaporated milk and flour in small bowl until blended; add to potato mixture. Stir in clams with juice, milk, water, bacon and Worcestershire sauce. Reduce heat to medium-low; cook, stirring frequently, for 15 to 20 minutes or until creamy and slightly thick. Season with salt and pepper.

Materials courtesy of Nestlé Carnation Evaporated Milk



PHOTO BY KATHY MANKIN

Snap, Crackle and Pop and a Bang -- Jesus and Mary Adame were enjoying the evening out side Tuesday when around 6:00 p.m. a large limb of a tree snapped and fell with a thud on the couple's 1977 Chrysler New Yorker. Luckily no one was injured and the vehicle sustained minor damage when the limb broke away from a large Mesquite tree. Mary Adame said her children usually park in the spot where the limb fell and that she is thankful no one was under the tree at the time.

Here comes the Running of the Bull!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

There will also be deer blinds, dream catchers, figurines, gifts, glow stuff, a gun raffle, hair halos, hats, jewelry, leather crafts, metal art, neck coolers, novelties, palm leaf hats, plant stands, pure Texas honey and purses.

Also, rain gauges, shelves, shoes, sport plaques, sterling silver jewelry, sunglasses, t-shirts, toys, turtles, Victorian votives, wind chimes, woodburning plaques, wooden crafts, wooden pictures

and wreaths.

Food planned for the weekend include: apple dippers, apple wedges, bottled water, BBQ sausage on a stick, BBQ on a bun, hand dipped ice cream, brisket sandwiches, brisket burritos, cakes and sweets, cheesecake, cheese peppers, chips, Coke floats, and cookies.

Also, fruit smoothies, funnel cakes, hot dogs, iced tea, lemonade, nachos, peanuts, pickles, roasted corn, shaved ice, smoothies, sodas, sports drinks, steak sandwiches, stuffed potatoes and

sweet potatoes.

Midway attractions will include: balloon dart game, duck pond, face painting, ferris wheel, inflatable obstacle course, inflatable slide, mechanical bull, ring toss game, rock climbing wall and a trackless train.

The Saturday evening performance of the Eldorado Rodeo will round out a day of fun for everyone. But, remember, it starts all over on Sunday when the Running of the Bull kicks off again at 12:00 noon.

Sheep and Goat Field Day slated Sept. 2

SAN ANGELO -- The 31st annual Sheep and Goat Field Day conducted by the Texas A&M University System Research and Extension Center at San Angelo is set for Sept 2.

Registration starts at 8 a.m. with

the program to follow at 9 a.m.

The center is located north of San Angelo on U.S. Hwy. 87.

"After 30 years we're making some changes in our field day thinking," said Dr. John Walker, the center's resident director of research and a field day coordinator. "Because of the interest in natural resource management, we are now having two field days each year: this one -- our traditional fall sheep and goat field day -- and a new spring natural resources field day."

Morning topics are animal ID issues, Country of Origin Labeling and the agricultural economy, the Quality Assurance program, recent fiber measurement ad-

vances, the center's sheep breeding research, a Mohair Council of America update and a report from the National Sheep Improvement Center.

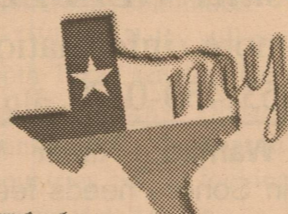
Following a noon "Dutch-treat" lunch at the center, the field day resumes with talks on embryo transfer and artificial insemination, and soremouth problems in goats.

Updates from Ranchers Lamb of Texas, Texas Wildlife Damage Management Service, the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association and the Texas Hair Sheep Association will also be presented.

The day's activities end at 3 p.m.

For more information contact the center at (325) 653-4576.

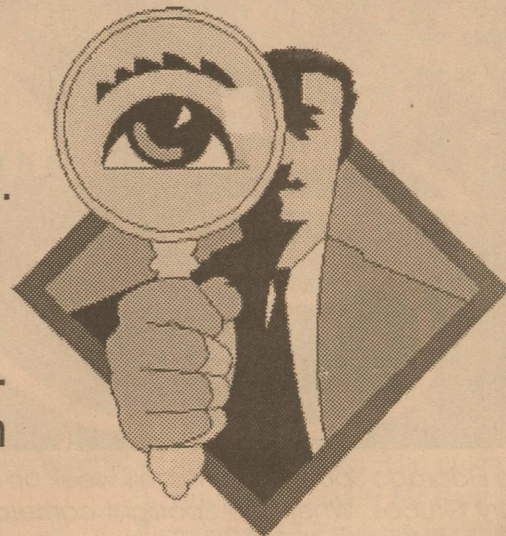
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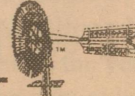
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The Salt Lake Tribune

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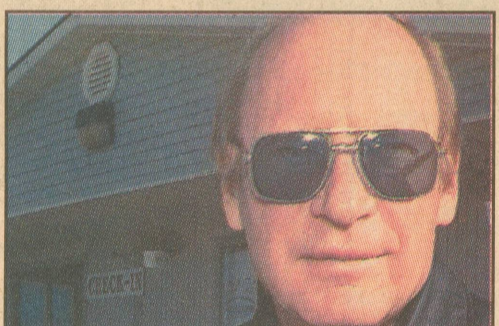
Flora Jessop



Fawn Holm and Fawn Broadbent



Linda Earl and son, Derrick



Richard Holm



Debbie Palmer



Warren Jeffs

POLYGAMY ON THE BORDER

LIVING THE PRINCIPLE

THREE-QUARTERS OF A CENTURY AGO, a small group of polygamists settled on the banks of Short Creek, which winds through the high desert of southern Utah and on into Arizona. There they would preserve the principle of plural marriage, believing it to be the path to the highest reach of heaven.

Today the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints counts about 10,000 members in what now are the twin cities of Hildale, Utah, and Colorado City, Ariz. A branch flourishes far to the north in Bountiful, British Columbia. Despite state and federal laws banning polygamy, the practice has continued all these years.

Their leader is Warren Jeffs. The faithful believe his words are given by God. He shields his people from the outside world, himself living in a walled compound protected by bodyguards. He exiles men who displease him, yet many yearn to come back. Most of the FLDS flock say they have found spiritual fulfillment, but some chafe at the austere lifestyle and flee.

"Warren is trying to accomplish something that even God hasn't heretofore," says a man who once was close to Jeffs. "To be able to pull together a captive group of followers who are measured by a mortal man as being perfectly united in mind and body and purpose."

His goals: perfect obedience, perfect faith, perfect people.

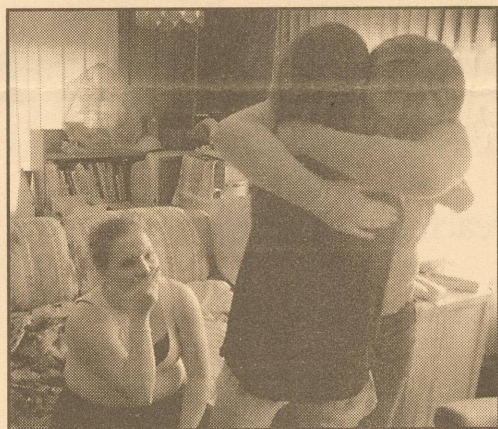
Living the Principle

Polygamy on the border



LEAH HOGSTEN/The Salt Lake Tribune

Colorado City, Ariz., is a central city for the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.



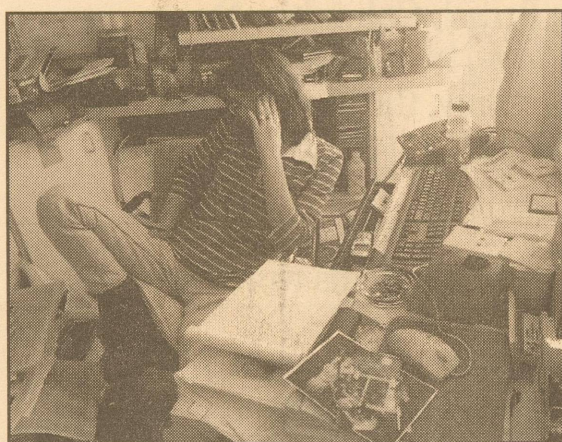
INSIDE A 14-page section

THOU SHALT OBEY

● Since succeeding his father as FLDS leader, Warren Jeffs has tightened his grip on his followers in Colorado City, Ariz., and Hildale, Utah, in part by casting out "sinners." **Page 3**

YOUTH IN TURMOIL

● They're known as the Fawns, these teenage girls who ran away from what they feared would be a dreary future in the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. **Page 9**
● Dissidents, apostates and, sometimes, FLDS young men also find themselves shunned – the young men because of rowdy tendencies, but also because there aren't enough eligible young women in a community that often marries multiple teenage girls to older men. **Page 8**



A SPIRITUAL HAVEN

● For the 1,000 or so polygamous residents of Centennial Park in northern Arizona, life appears simple and fulfilling. The turmoil of the FLDS community just across the border in Utah seems a world away. **Page 8**

THE ACTIVIST

● Flora Jessop was 16 and newly married to a cousin when she fled the FLDS community. Now she's a tough, media-savvy crusader against what she sees as rampant abuses of young girls in polygamy's secretive realm. **Page 10**



SOCIAL AND LEGAL COSTS

● The close-knit, family-oriented culture of the two polygamous communities does not welcome outsiders. **Page 6**

POLYGAMY BEYOND UTAH

● Eldorado, Texas, had never seen anything like it on the West Texas hardpan: A new polygamous enclave on what once was a weekend ranch stocked with exotic deer. **Page 13**
● An FLDS leadership feud with connections to Utah has divided deeply intertwined families of polygamists just across the border from Idaho. **Page 12**



ROOTS IN THE PAST

● The disastrous Short Creek raid on southern Utah polygamists in 1953 still has an impact on law enforcers. **Page 14**
● Polygamy is practiced among LDS splinter sects in Utah, Montana, Arizona, Canada and Mexico. **Page 7**
● A time line traces the history of polygamy. **Page 11**
● The LDS Church for decades has fought to exorcise its polygamous past. **Page 7**

POLYGAMISTS AND GAY MARRIAGE

● Advocates for plural marriage see hope for their cause. **Pages 9,13**

ONLINE

● The complete project, with photos and more, at <http://www.sltrib.com>

To our readers,

The polygamist communities along the border of Arizona and Utah were catapulted into the spotlight when the secretive leader of the FLDS Church expelled 21 men, giving some of their wives and children to other men.

We hope our coverage helps readers understand the issues surrounding the practice of plural marriage and how it has survived for more than 170 years in the shadows of Utah and the Mountain West -- even though it is illegal and unsanctioned by the mainstream Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints.

It is a topic that has important implications today. Once secretive and hidden, polygamists now say their cause has been strengthened by legal victories for same-sex marriages. But for many Utahns, polygamy is a chapter of their state's history they would like to leave behind.

Nancy A. Conway

Nancy A Conway

**Editor
The Salt Lake Tribune**

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JUD BURKETT/The Spectrum

Residents of Colorado City, Ariz., and Hildale, Utah, gathered last July for dedication of a monument commemorating "the greatest miracle of all time" — the community's survival of a 1953 crackdown on polygamy. FLDS leader Warren Jeffs later ordered the monument destroyed.

UNDER HIS COMMAND

Edicts from FLDS leader Warren Jeffs have brought the reclusive church into public focus

By BROOKE ADAMS
The Salt Lake Tribune

ONE MORNING IN JANUARY, Warren Jeffs stood and spoke with the voice of an angry God. Twenty-one men had sinned, Jeffs said the Lord had told him, and now they would be made to repent. The prophet of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints spoke for an hour that day in Colorado City, Ariz. About 1,500 men and boys sat in stoic silence as Jeffs read off the sinners' names. There were Barlows, Jeffs, Johnsons, Wylers, Jessops. One by one, Warren Jeffs cast out men who had built the community and the faith. Jeffs told the men to stand. He asked if they accepted his judgment. After each answered yes, Jeffs told them to leave their homes and families. Confess your sins, he said. Repent from a distance. By dusk, they were gone.

What happened that January morning has cracked the calm that normally lies over Colorado City and its twin, Hildale, Utah. Some young women fled from their homes. Law enforcement officials in Utah and Arizona vowed a closer look. And, once more, national attention came to the polygamous communities that quietly flourish in the Mountain West.

Jeffs, 48, became president of the FLDS church after his father's death 18 months ago, and moved swiftly to take command of the 10,000 people who live in the twin cities. The church adheres to a 19th-century version of Mormonism that includes plural marriage and is made up of mostly good, earnest people trying to live up to a difficult holy ideal.

He oversees a multimillion-dollar church trust that controls property, companies and assesses up to \$1,000 monthly tithes on families. He doles out land, homes, jobs and wives

according to spiritual promptings.

Jeffs also has now ousted scores of men he views as spiritually flawed, troublesome or as rivals, and taken away their homes, wives and children. Even the beloved bishop Fred Jessop, 93, was whisked away in midwinter and hasn't been seen since.

Some families have been "reassigned" to other men — a brother, a disliked neighbor, a church leader — whose selection seems designed to sharpen the pain of loss.

"Holy prostitution," is how one woman characterizes what is happening in the twin cities. "Overwhelming devastation," offer others.

Yet thousands continue to revere Jeffs as their prophet and to instantly follow his direction.

Where is he headed? No one is sure.

See JEFFS', Page 4



LEAH HOGSTEN/The Salt Lake Tribune

Ross Chatwin, ousted from the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, is fighting the United Effort Plan Trust's eviction notice to vacate his residence. The FLDS church owns all property through the trust and allows residents to occupy homes as "tenants at will." From left are Chatwin's daughter, Carol, wife, Lori, and daughters Vera and Kimberlina.

THOU SHALT OBEY

Since his father's death, FLDS leader Warren Jeffs has tightened the grip on his followers

By BROOKE ADAMS
The Salt Lake Tribune

AS PRINCIPAL OF ALTA ACADEMY FOR 22 YEARS, Warren Jeffs was a stickler for the little things. Sloppy handwriting, an untucked shirttail, a bad grade — all were signs of a personal flaw that needed to be confessed, corrected and often punished.

Now, as president of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, the scope of his dominion has grown from 300 students in the Salt Lake Valley to 10,000 people on the Arizona Strip.

His discipline has hardened into law, and his goal is perfection on earth. To err is to risk one's eternal salvation.

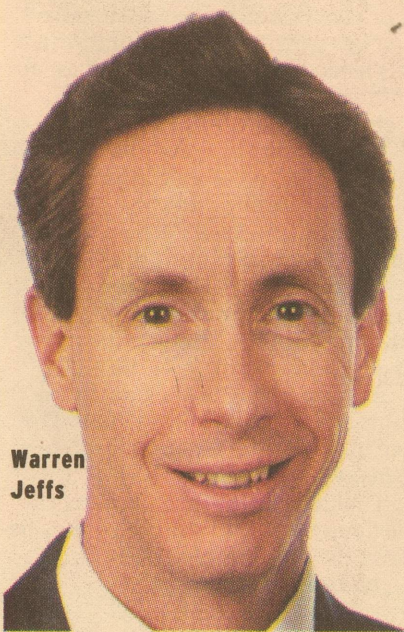
"I believe Warren is trying to accomplish something that even God hasn't heretofore," said a close associate. "To be able to pull together a captive group of followers who are measured by a mortal man as being perfectly united in mind

and body and purpose." Never a public man, Jeffs, 48, exercises power over his people from a walled compound on Utah Avenue in Hildale. Outside, there are whispers about why he recently exiled so many men, whose families might be scattered next, and whether a wholesale decampment to Mexico is in the works.

Loyalty seals his followers' lips. Many people who have been kicked out won't speak, for fear of ending any hope of rejoining the faith and their families. And those who abandoned the church long ago worry that talking freely could cause trouble for relatives still under Jeffs' rule.

FLDS attorney Rod Parker didn't bother to ask Jeffs if he would consent to an interview with *The Salt Lake Tribune*. "He has never given one," he said. Even Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff has been rebuffed in his attempts to meet with Jeffs.

See FLDS, Page 5



Warren Jeffs



Rulon Jeffs

● FLDS leader Warren Jeffs is estimated to have around 40 wives, some of whom were formerly married to his father, and about 56 children. Most of his time is spent managing church affairs, but he also is described as an accomplished singer/songwriter.

FLDS leader keeps the faithful under tight control

● Continued from A1

That leaves mostly critics and those wounded by Jeffs' actions to offer an unflattering, and incomplete, portrait of the man many consider their unerring prophet.

The church he heads is one of Utah's largest, and most insular, polygamous splinter faiths that follow early teachings of LDS Church founder Joseph Smith, including plural marriage.

Jeffs assumed leadership of the FLDS church in 2002 after the death of his 92-year-old father, Rulon Jeffs.

But he has helped shape the sect for many years, first as an educator, then as spokesman for his ailing father and now as its leader.

JEFFS GREW UP IN THE SALT LAKE VALLEY, the second son of his father's fourth — and favored — wife, Marilyn Steed, and one of dozens of full and half-siblings. He graduated from Jordan High School in 1973, one of nine seniors who placed in the top 3 percent of the class.

As a youth, Jeffs came across as "humble and righteous" — but also willing to rat out others' mischief. A fleeting, "quietly wild" period "showed he was human and subject to temptation, like all of us," the associate said.

After high school, Jeffs worked briefly with his father, an accountant, and then became a teacher at the church's new private school, Alta Academy.

He taught math, science and computer programming for about three years before being named principal.

Jeffs presided over Alta Academy, located in the family's compound near the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon, until its closure in 1998.

It was in that role that he set about making students live up to this motto: Perfect obedience produces perfect faith, which produces perfect people.

Jeffs didn't hesitate to expel those who were troublesome, several sources said.

"Parents would plead for a second chance and he'd give them a meager second chance, but not hope," the associate said. "He succeeded in pushing dozens of children out of the school that with patience and love could have remained, with no regard to the long-term well-being of those kids."

The curriculum was selective by design, teaching U.S. history only to the time of the establishment of the Constitution, for example, and ignoring events church leaders have deemed fiction — from dinosaurs to Neil Armstrong's walk on the moon.

Jeffs personally oversaw students' religious instruction. The lectures he gave in morning devotionals and in church history and home economics classes were taped, and many families still use those recordings in the education of their children.

In one 1995 tape, Jeffs lectures on the need to be "perfectly obedient and come out of the world" to avoid apostasy and reiterates a well-worn theme about following a single, God-anointed leader — at the time, his father. "That one man is as God over the people and has the right to rule in all areas of life," Jeffs says.

Today, Jeffs is intent on making it clear he is that one man — even as some dispute his claim to authority — and on defining what perfect obedience entails.

JEFFS IS A TALL, LANKY MAN whose church-sermon cadence is described as mesmerizing; even critics compliment his skills as an orator.

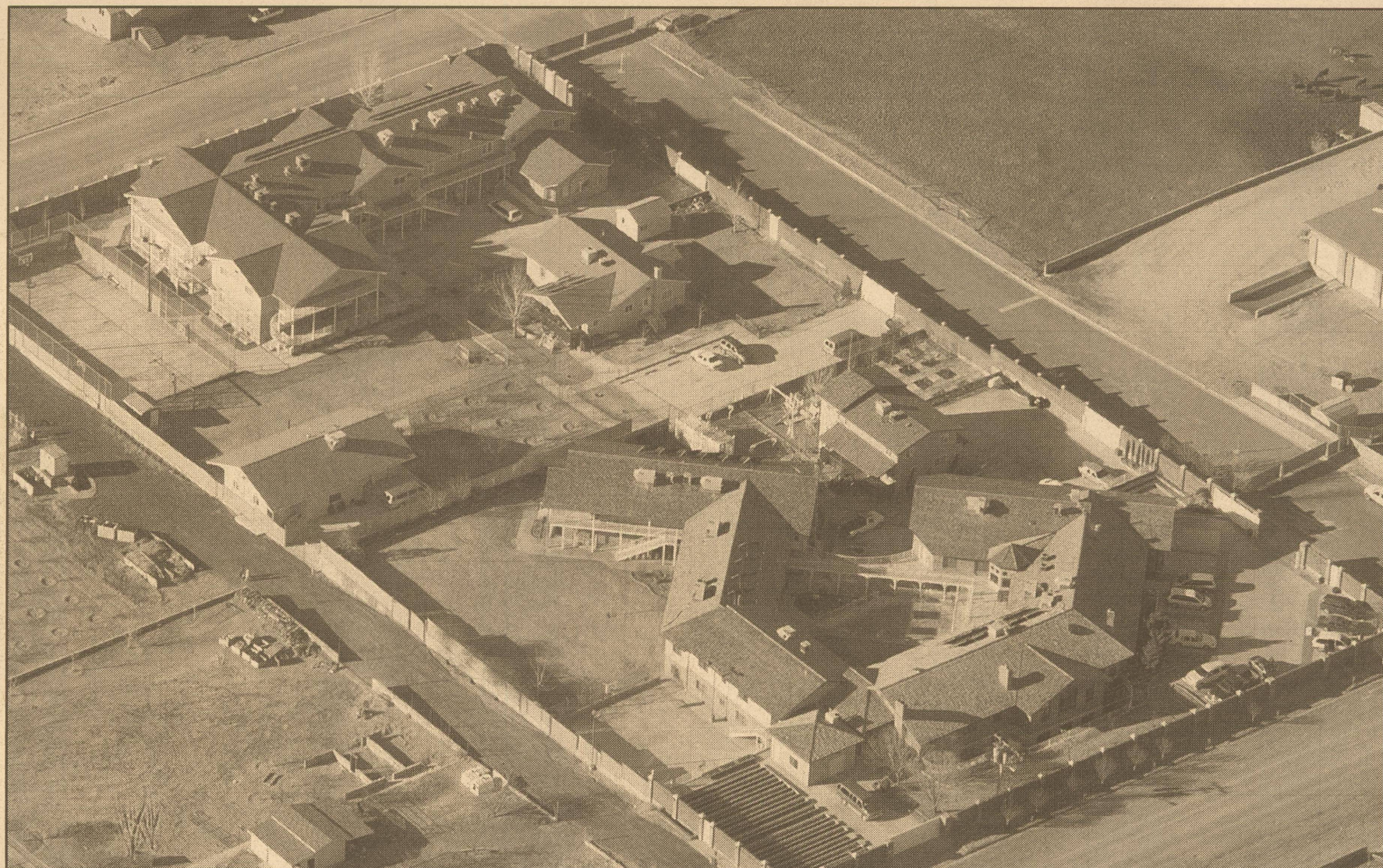
He has a dry sense of humor that was most visible at Alta Academy, where he often joined in school plays — once giving a "hilarious" spoof of Sherlock Holmes and another time a dead-on impersonation of Jerry Lewis in "The Disorderly Orderly."

He is estimated to have around 40 wives, some of whom were formerly married to his father, and about 56 children. Most of his time is spent managing church affairs, but he also is described as an accomplished singer/songwriter.

Among Jeffs' credits are "Zion from Above" and "He Will Be Renewed," an ode to his father. He has embellished several well-known LDS hymns with new verses.

And, accompanied by some wives, he has produced tapes and CDs that are available to followers.

Rulon and Warren Jeffs moved to Hildale, Utah, and Colorado City, Ariz. in 1998, when they began to predict that the Apocalypse was near and



PHOTOS BY LEAH HOGSTEN/The Salt Lake Tribune

FLDS leader Warren Jeffs' compound in Hildale, Utah. "He is paranoid about people trying to get to him," said former FLDS member Benjamin Bistline. "You don't see him around."



FLDS women, with their distinctive body-shrouding dresses and long, uncut hair, wait outside to enter the home of their prophet, Warren Jeffs, in Hildale, Utah.

the Salt Lake Valley had a bull's-eye on it. More pointedly, some say Warren pushed the move as a prelude to taking over the church.

Age and a series of strokes were taking their toll on Rulon Jeffs, and Warren Jeffs began to deliver messages that routinely began with the words: "This is what Father wants me to tell you."

Some directives came over the pulpit. Others were delivered in personal interviews, as many as 50 a day, with families or individuals who made sure not a button or collar was out of place, that sleeves were pulled just so to reveal a bit of the long undergarments worn by the faithful. Some sessions were recorded, including those in which members were challenged about misdeeds.

CRITICS VIEW JEFFS AS A USURPER and believe some of Rulon's last "decisions" were merely his son's machinations, such as the 2000 demand that followers pull their children from public schools and an order that Salt Lake City FLDS members move to Hildale and Colorado City before the 2002 Winter Olympics, which, it was said, would forever corrupt the state.

Another example: Some say Warren orchestrated Rulon's dismissal of Winston Blackmore as leader of the FLDS' Canadian branch in 2002, removing both a rival and a more senior leader.

With Jeffs' ascendancy, the mantle of authority passed not to the next most worthy senior man, as it has historically, but in the father-to-son ascendancy of a monarchy.

"What we witnessed was a power play," said Ezra Draper, one of Rulon

Jeffs' many grandchildren, who moved last June from Colorado City to Bonners Ferry, Idaho, after becoming disillusioned with Jeffs.

"Through careful manipulation he was able to disqualify, on false accusations, one person after another."

So it may not be surprising that Jeffs travels with an entourage of bodyguards.

"He is paranoid about people trying to get to him," said Benjamin Bistline, a former FLDS member and author of the newly published *The Polygamists: A History of Colorado City, Ariz.* "You don't see him around."

Warren Jeffs does not yet have the allegiance and recognition that followers gave to past prophets, including his father, Bistline and others said.

He lacks the down-to-earth warmth of "The Boss," as some called Leroy S. Johnson, Rulon Jeffs' predecessor. And Draper said Rulon was accessible but more reserved.

"Roy would go out of his way to find the person who was having trouble," he said. "Rulon tolerated those who were having challenges. Warren disfellowships them."

Under Warren, Rulon's admonishments have become gospel, which some find unnervingly difficult even as they are cast as the way to salvation.

Rulon Jeffs advised people to limit television viewing and suggested getting rid of their TVs if that proved impossible. Warren Jeffs demanded they toss out their sets, along with VCRs, video games and Internet connections. Period.

After some FLDS boys' misadventures during a sea cruise, Rulon Jeffs told his flock to avoid cruises with the statement, "Let's stay off the water"

— which Warren is said to have translated into a ban on boating, fishing and the like.

Jeffs also banned community recreational activities, such as basketball games, that take members away from home. (Schoolyard basketball standards were removed within a day of that edict, some say.)

"Everything he has done was to take things to an extreme," said Richard Holm, one of dozens of men Jeffs has banished in a series of "adjustments" that are becoming the hallmark of his presidency.

Nineteen-year-old Brigham Holm, Richard's nephew, is among the community's teens who found the increasing restrictions too much to handle.

"It got to the point where me and my friends didn't care anymore," he said. "Living there wasn't fun anymore. I would tell my parents I was going to priesthood meeting and go off and watch movies. I just didn't care. When we couldn't even play basketball and stuff, that was it."

Parents were told to scrap most children's books — including Bible and Book of Mormon storybooks — and videos, particularly those involving fantasy or that depicted animals with human characteristics.

Draper and his wife, LeighAnn, had built a sizable library to instill a love of reading — and learning — in their children.

"My wife was just in tears," Draper said. "She said 'You can't just lay a Book of Mormon before kids at age 5 and get them to read.'"

"I said, 'Don't worry, I'm your husband, not Warren Jeffs. You do what I want you to do,'" Draper said.

Still, he said, "We had all those books in our living room and we moved them into a separate room in the house so if guests came in they wouldn't be seen."

Women especially feel pressure to keep their homes tidy, their children in check, behavior controlled — pressure that often is unbearable.

Jeffs has instructed adults to quit patronizing distant restaurants, calling it a waste of time and money. He has scrapped community and holiday celebrations — from marking past leaders' birthdays to Pioneer Day festivities — along with dances, socials and other get-togethers.

And people have been warned that laughter causes the spirit of God to leak from their bodies, amplifying an obscure tenet in Joseph Smith's *Doctrine and Covenants*.

"We tried not to laugh," Draper said. "We wondered 'How do we do this? Is there anyone who is going to make it?'"

He recalls telling his wife, "Gee, LeighAnn, all we can do is eat."

IN A KINDER LIGHT, Jeffs' actions can be seen as attempts to fulfill the long-standing prediction of his ecclesiastical forefathers: In order to be spared the Apocalypse that will precede the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, the church needs a select group of true believers who are pure and perfect in following its teachings.

Of late, Jeffs is said to have suggested that members not bother reading scriptures or listening to tapes and instead rely solely on his instructions, which, he says, are inspired of God.

Most FLDS members are willing to do whatever it takes to be part of that

great event regardless of how their actions may be interpreted by outsiders.

Susan Hammon, an FLDS member and dean of Mohave Community College, says the news media and critics are unfairly depicting the community as being in upheaval.

"I know there are concerns about Warren Jeffs," Hammon said. "But so much is made up. This is a totally media-driven drama."

But others say Jeffs' control over the community, as prophet and his father's "mouthpiece," has proven bizarre, hurtful and even scary.

Marvin Wyler came to that conclusion after the ailing Rulon Jeffs sermonized one Sunday in 2001 about former follower Jason Miles Williams.

Williams had sued FLDS leaders for alienation of affection, claiming they persuaded his only wife to leave him. With Warren at his side and occasionally prompting him, the elder Jeffs called on the flock to unite their prayers in asking God to "handle" Williams, even if that required his destruction.

The next morning, Warren led a community prayer that asked for fulfillment of his father's wish, Wyler said.

Several sources say a similar awkward moment occurred one Sunday when Rulon Jeffs brought up the subject of Ruth Stubbs, then involved in a public child-custody fight with her husband, Rodney Holm. "God will bless that girl," Rulon Jeffs is reported to have said — only to be corrected by Warren, who audibly told his father "No, no, no, Father, she is fighting against us."

Rulon Jeffs twice more suggested God would bless Ruth Stubbs. Each time he was corrected by Warren.

IT IS THIS HARSHER LEADERSHIP that alarms some FLDS members as well as outsiders, even as Jeffs' more ardent followers embrace his judgments.

A trickle of expulsions turned into a stream in January when Jeffs ousted some of the community's most prominent and long-standing members, calling into question their standing here and in the afterlife.

Ever the school principal, Jeffs has told men he has cast out to provide a list of their spiritual failings to see if they match up with transgressions revealed to him by the Lord.

Wives and children have been separated from husbands and fathers; parents and children, brothers and sisters have ended up on different sides of this theological divide. Many are accepting these familial rearrangements in perfect obedience, believing their salvation depends on it.

"There has been so much conflict and needless turmoil and sorrow that has been put on families in the name of religion," said a woman associated with the Canadian branch of the FLDS church. "Kids who used to play with their next-door neighbors aren't allowed to do that and are saying nasty things to each other when they meet across the fence, like, 'Your father is going to hell.'"

The pain, some say, is immeasurable.

"There is nothing closer to murder," Richard Holm said, "short of taking a gun and shooting somebody."

Tribune reporters Pamela Manson and Hilary Groutage Smith contributed to this story.

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• Whether plural marriage works in this isolated society along the Utah-Arizona border is not the question. Whether young girls are being forced into it is.

FLDS: Time to close the circle

Family-oriented and faithful, a community endures turmoil

BY HILARY GROUTAGE SMITH
The Salt Lake Tribune

COLORADO CITY, Ariz./HILDALE, Utah — In these desert towns, funerals are as much about saying hello as saying goodbye. No surprise, then, when 2,000 people turned out last Sunday to mourn the passing of Dena Olson Zitting Young.

But the memorial turned celebratory when four brothers, told by their leader to leave the community two months ago, also showed up to pay their respects.

It was the first time Dan, Truman, Joe and Nephi Barlow have been back to the communities they helped build. Dan Barlow was longtime mayor of Colorado City. He and his brothers have reportedly been living in a rental house about 40 miles away in St. George since Jan. 10 when their spiritual leader, Warren Jeffs, disciplined them and asked them to leave their wives and homes.

"It was almost like there were two reception lines, one for the casket and the family and another for them," Marvin Wyler said. "They must have had permission to come back."

Jeffs, Wyler said, was absent.

The moment illustrates yet another twist in the politics and religion of these towns straddling the Utah-Arizona border, where the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints owns nearly every inch of land and all residents have some connection to the faith and its troubling cornerstone — plural marriage, though many men have just one wife. As a tenet of their faith, women wear long-sleeved dresses and don't cut their hair. Men and children are covered ankles to neck, even under the searing sun.

"We have three parks and a zoo," said Colorado City resident Mathew Broadbent. "Tell me another town this small that has all that."

Family-oriented? Absolutely. But whether plural marriage works in this society is not the question. Whether young girls are being forced into it is.

Since coming here in the late 1920s, residents have developed a culture as distinctive as the Amish or Mennonites, minus the charm. Men in the two communities work mostly in construction trades. There is a cabinet-making plant and a factory, Western Precision, that employs dozens of machinists. If you know where to shop, there's delectable jam, jelly, cheese, handmade hair clips and hand-stitched baby undershirts.

An outsider wandering in off U.S. Route 59 might not be so lucky. One day you might get polite directions to the local cafeteria. On another you might be told to get out of town.

FLDS church leader Jeffs will not allow his followers to speak with outsiders. And since he ousted many prominent men in a round of "corrections" and "adjustments," residents have been especially tight-lipped.

Church members may have spoken freely to reporters in years past, but now most will say nothing — and certainly not on the record — about Jeffs or the church, and tend to answer questions with references to scripture.

"This dispute will not be resolved in the pages of the press," said one long-time resident. Esther and Carl Holm are deeply rooted in the church and have raised 18 children together. There are other wives and children, but neither will say how many. Today, Esther and Carl are embroiled in a custody tussle over their 16-year-old daughter, one of two teens named Fawn who ran away with the help of activist and former church member Flora Mae Jessop.

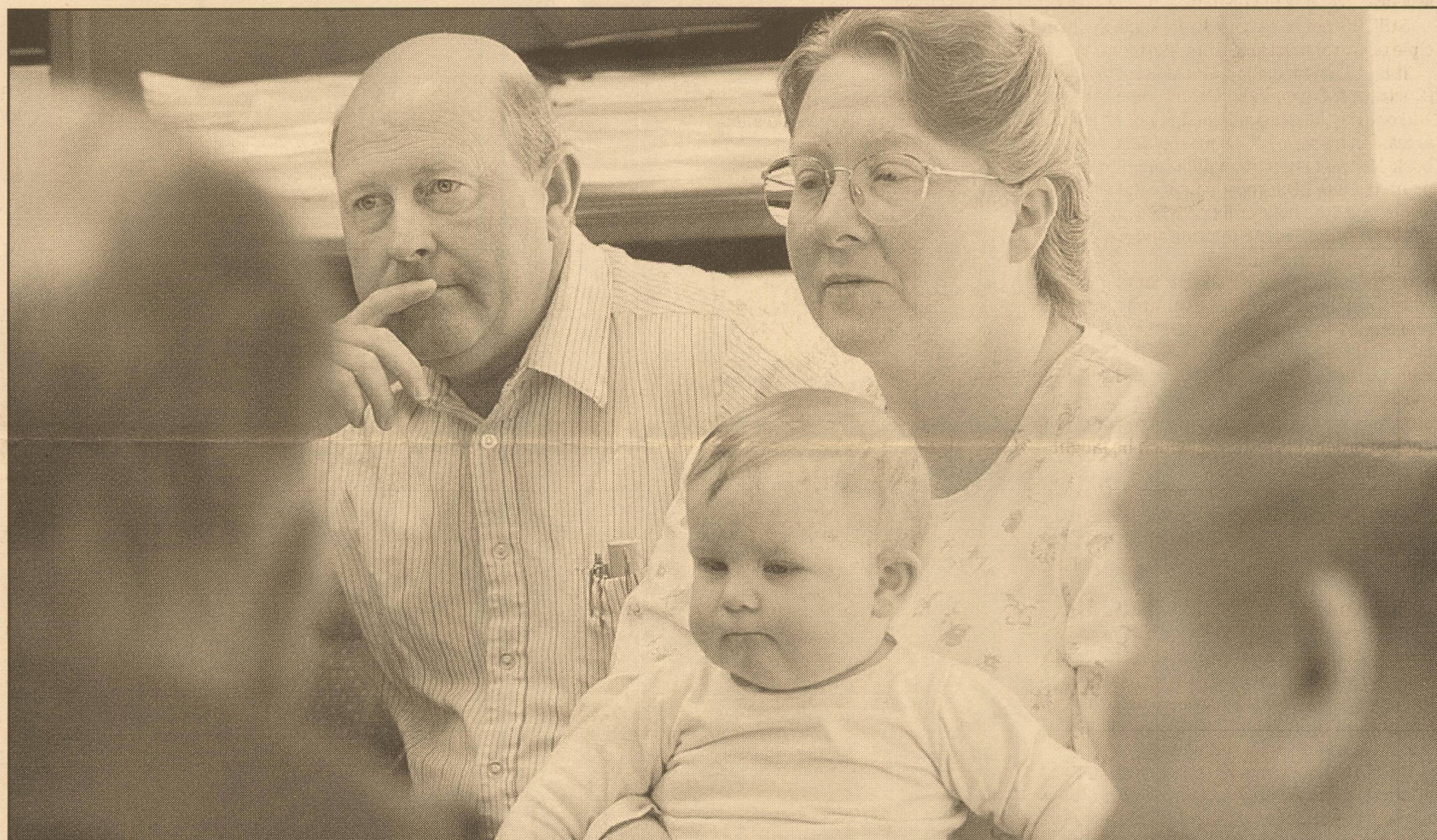
The two girls are somewhere in Arizona, their parents believe, and want to move to Sandy and live with Esther and Carl's older son and his wife.

If Jessop or anyone else knows where the girls are, they are not saying, and the Holms are headed for trial next month to assert their right to custody.

"She came in one day a few months ago just loaded for bear," Esther said. "Fawn and I didn't fight much, but she yelled at me and said: 'I'm not going to be a polyg. I'm not going to stay here and marry a 50-year-old man who has



The rise in power of FLDS leader Warren Jeffs has divided the family of Marvin Wyler, 59, above, in front of photos of his 34 children in his living room. Wyler says he will stay in his home on Arizona Avenue in Colorado City, Ariz., even if the FLDS church tries to evict him.



Mathew and Catherine Broadbent, holding their 10-month-old Warren Mathew, discuss legal matters with Carl and Esther Holm, in foreground, in finding both couples' runaway daughters and friends Fawn Broadbent and Fawn Holm. "They just got nasty with us," Esther Holm said.

seven other wives!' I said to her 'As far as I know, you haven't been asked.'

"These girls are far from being ready for marriage," Esther Holm said. "Her brother and friends were feeding heavy metal [music] to those girls. It made them have the worst attitude. They just got nasty with us. She's too young. We just wanted her to stay here and mature a little bit," Esther said.

Now the girls' fates — if they are found or come forward — will be decided by Arizona juvenile court. Wyler, 59, is a lifelong Colorado City resident who left the church in 2001. Ten of his 34 children still follow Jeffs — he calls them "Warrenites" — and they refuse to talk to him. Worse, they keep their children, 40 in all, away from their grandfather.

Wyler said he has been asked to leave the stucco home he has cobbled together on Arizona Avenue, but has not been given an eviction notice. His son, Ross Chatwin, has and is battling in court for the right to stay in his home — the basement of a house his brother also lives in.

"I know God is love and I know that what is going on here is not love," Wyler said. "Our family used to do everything together. We were very close."

Wyler is particularly proud of a photo gallery on the living room wall. A kitchen photo collage has Wyler and church leaders at the center, surrounded by dozens of family photographs.

"It's just not like this anymore," he said.

And it's not just the families who have changed. Since January's expulsions, Utah and Arizona law enforcement have beefed up patrols in the twin cities, an irritation to townspeople who say they are now ticketed for minor infractions like seat belt use.

"Can you imagine how long it takes

Getting public assistance

Families in the Hildale-Colorado City area received more than \$3 million in food stamps and cash assistance between July 2002 and July 2003.

Food Stamps			
Month	Cases	Recipients	Payments
July 2002	363	3,388	\$218,840
August	374	3,518	223,943
September	381	3,471	227,515
October	386	3,561	239,340
November	384	3,525	238,500
December	390	3,667	243,205
January	392	3,736	245,863
February	399	3,798	248,222
March	406	3,849	256,735
April	412	3,969	258,729
May	420	3,912	260,831
June	412	3,912	253,742
July 2003	418	3,978	261,603
Total	5,137	48,284	\$3,177,068

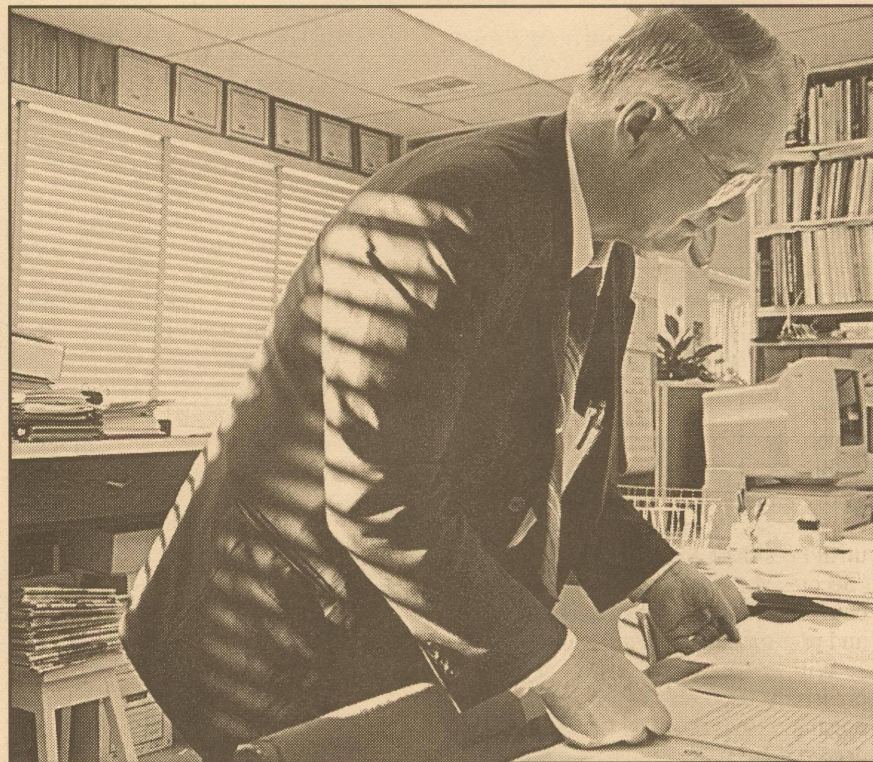
Cash Assistance			
Month	Cases	Recipients	Payments
July 2002	4	35	\$2,050
August	4	25	2,096
September	4	25	2,096
October	5	33	2,730
November	5	34	2,699
December	6	25	2,192
January	6	67	2,792
February	8	36	2,699
March	8	32	2,848
April	7	28	2,393
May	7	29	2,470
June	7	32	2,116
July 2003	5	20	2,002
Total	76	421	\$31,183

Source: Utah Dept. of Health *The Salt Lake Tribune*

to buckle 14 kids in a minivan to drive a block?" one woman said.

Utah and Arizona officials have no plans to leave the communities and, in fact, plan a permanent substation near Mohave Community College in Colorado City.

Rod Parker, attorney for the FLDS



Colorado City Unified School District Superintendent Alvin Barlow is familiar with turmoil surrounding his community. Barlow, a survivor of the 1953 Short Creek raid, has seen his family members and friends ousted by FLDS leader Warren Jeffs, but remains faithful.

church, blames the newly tense, secretive atmosphere on Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff, who has said he is investigating Jeffs and the church.

"He has created the very closed society he talks so much about," Parker said.

And, Parker said, there are no underage girls being married off to older men.

Still, the atmosphere in town has turned hostile for Wyler and others. For example, Wyler was married for nearly two decades to Young, who was

73 when she died. He was not welcome, he said, to greet other family members at the service. He remains married to Young's daughter.

"I sat a few rows back. It ripped my heart out," he said.

Chatwin said he was close to Young, who was actually both his grandmother and one of his father's wives.

"I was told the only reason I was allowed at the funeral was because Warren had shown such compassion and forgiveness for me."

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● Throughout the 20th century, LDS leaders worked strenuously to separate the church from plural marriage by excommunicating polygamists, clamping down on historical research and eradicating any reference to the practice in the church's official literature.

Polygamy was rejected under the gun

The federal government had disincorporated the LDS Church and stripped rights from those with plural wives

By PEGGY FLETCHER STACK
The Salt Lake Tribune

Despite a century of efforts to distance itself from polygamy, the notion of multiple wives clings to the LDS Church in the popular mind.

That's because it was once at the heart of Mormon identity — defended from the pulpit, in the courtroom and in Congress. Latter-day Saint leaders forsook the practice only after draconian anti-polygamy measures by the U.S. government left them believing their very survival was at risk.

Today The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints excommunicates anyone who promotes or practices polygamy. Candidates for a temple recommend are asked whether they "support, affiliate with or agree with" any opposition groups, which is often seen as code for polygamists. And the church's global missionaries cannot even begin to share the church's message with African polygamists.

"It's behind us," LDS Church President Gordon B. Hinckley said in 1998. "I condemn it as a practice. It is not doctrinal. It is not legal." Still, it's not so easy to disentangle the principle of plural marriage from Mormonism.

It is still enshrined in Mormon scripture (Doctrine & Covenants 132) and some believe it will one day be re-established, if not on earth, at least in heaven. In his quasi-official 1966 book *Mormon Doctrine*, which remains in print, the late LDS Apostle Bruce R. McConkie wrote that "the holy practice will commence again after the Second Coming and the ushering in of the millennium."

LDS Church founder Joseph Smith first encountered the idea of taking multiple wives, Mormons believe, during his 1831 study of Bible passages that described the polygamous marriages of Old Testament patriarchs such as Abraham, Jacob and David. It became synonymous with Smith's efforts to "restore" the ancient order of priesthood, which he taught was lost over the centuries.

In 1843, Smith recorded what he said was a divine revelation, defining "a new and everlasting covenant, including the eternity of the marriage covenant, as also the plurality of wives."

Smith introduced the practice to a small circle of associates in Nauvoo, Ill. Most of them initially resisted, but came to believe it was God's will for them. By the time the Mormon pioneers established their Great Basin kingdom in Utah several years later, plural marriage was an open secret.

In 1852, historians say, Apostle Orson Pratt publicly defended the "doctrine of plurality of wives," arguing it was essential for eternal salvation and to bring more posterity into the world.

Besides, Mormons believed the right to practice their religion was protected by the First Amendment.

It didn't take long, however, for the federal government to attack that last argument, enacting laws that stripped polygamists of their right to vote, hold office or own property. It eventually disincorporated the LDS Church itself and refused to allow Utah to become a state.

Finally, in October 1890, President Wilford Woodruff proposed a truce. He issued "the Manifesto," which stated: "Inasmuch as laws have been enacted by Congress forbidding plural marriages, . . . I hereby declare my intention to submit to those laws, and to use my influence with the members of the church over which I preside to have them do likewise."

But most Utah historians believe some LDS leaders continued to authorize plural marriages in secret for at least another 14 years until President Joseph F. Smith issued the "Second Manifesto" in 1904, which threatened church action against those who continued in and promoted the practice.

Within a few decades, LDS apostles would present the church's new perspective that monogamous marriages in LDS temples were, indeed, "celestial marriages."

"The Book of Mormon makes clear," says Brigham Young University historian Ronald K. Esplin, that "plural marriage was appropriate at special times for God's purposes, but monogamy is the general standard."

Throughout the rest of the 20th century, Mormon leaders worked strenuously to separate the church from plural marriage by excommunicating polygamists, clamping down on historical research, and eradicating any reference to the practice in the church's official literature.

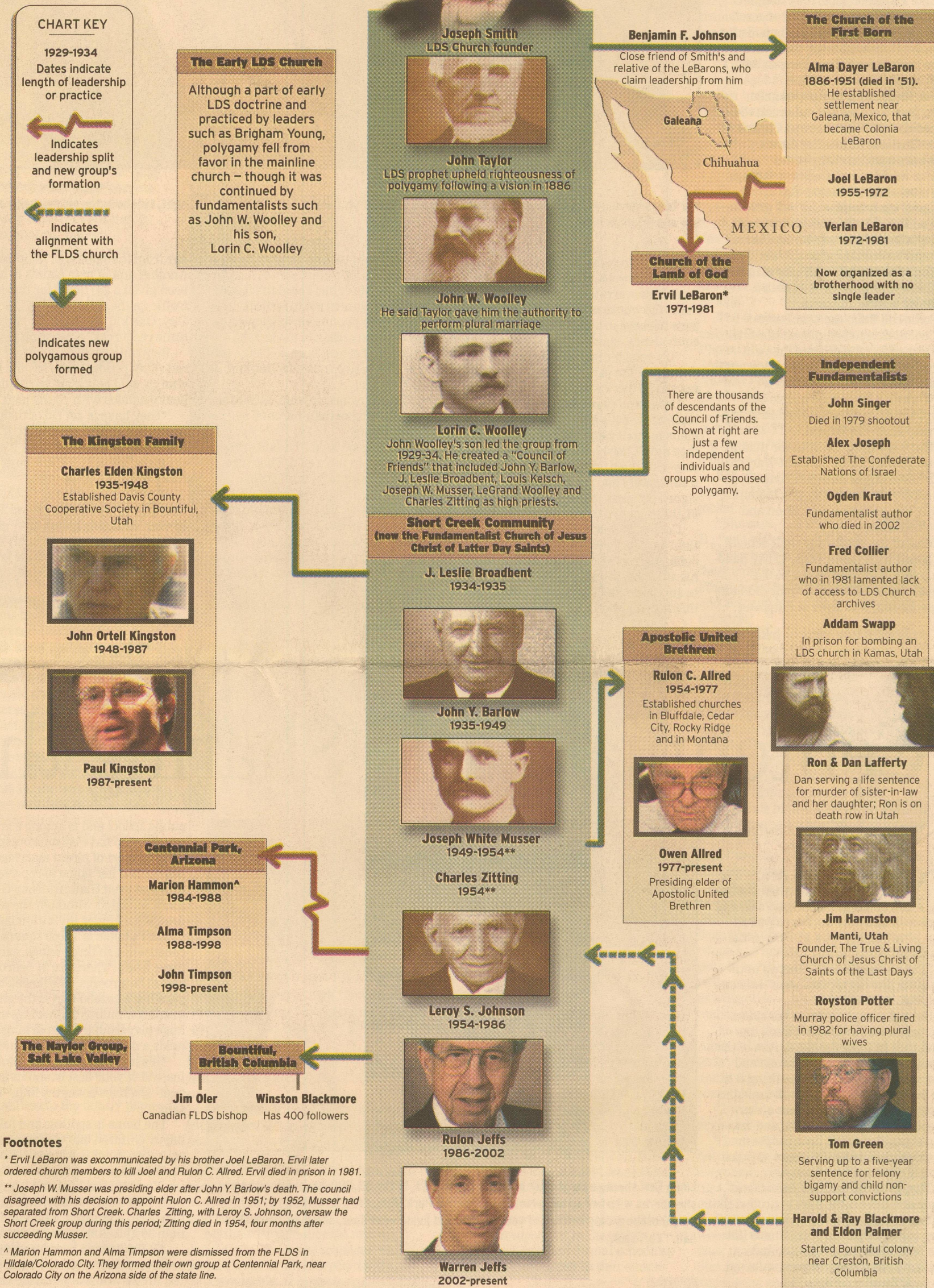
Today, many Mormon Sunday schools speak of celebrated polygamists such as Brigham Young as well as of little-known polygamist prophets such as Heber J. Grant as if they were 20th century monogamists. There's rarely a mention of more than one wife — despite the fact that thousands of Utahns are descended from those other wives.

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Charting polygamy leadership: Religious ideal grows, divides

Based in the early ministry of LDS Church founder Joseph Smith (shown right), polygamy was later discontinued by the church but embraced by fundamentalists, who now number in the thousands. About 10,000 claim membership in the Fundamentalist

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The ranks of the Apostolic United Brethren number about 7,500. The Kingston family has approximately 1,200 members, and about 1,000 belong to the Centennial Park, Ariz., group.



Footnotes

* Ervil LeBaron was excommunicated by his brother Joel LeBaron. Ervil later ordered church members to kill Joel and Rulon C. Allred. Ervil died in prison in 1981.

** Joseph W. Musser was presiding elder after John Y. Barlow's death. The council disagreed with his decision to appoint Rulon C. Allred in 1951; by 1952, Musser had separated from Short Creek. Charles Zitting, with Leroy S. Johnson, oversaw the Short Creek group during this period; Zitting died in 1954, four months after succeeding Musser.

^ Marion Hammon and Alma Timpson were dismissed from the FLDS in Hildale/Colorado City. They formed their own group at Centennial Park, near Colorado City on the Arizona side of the state line.

Sources: "The Forgotten Kingdom" by David L. Bigler; "The Polygamists: A History of Colorado City" by Benjamin Bistline; "Mormon Polygamy: A History" by Richard S. Van Wagener; "History of Priesthood Succession" by Rulon Jeffs; "Mormon Focus" magazine, 2003

TEXT BY BROOKE ADAMS, GRAPHIC BY TODD ADAMS / The Salt Lake Tribune

Countries outlaw polygamy

By PAMELA MANSON
The Salt Lake Tribune

No matter where they've settled in North America, believers in plural marriage never have found respite from laws against polygamy.

Utah was able to gain statehood only after The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints discontinued the practice in 1890, and the state Constitution expressly forbids polygamy.

State bigamy laws also encompass polygamy, and a person doesn't have to be legally married to be subject to prosecution for taking another spouse. Living together as husband and wife is enough.

In recent years, Utah prosecutors have brought charges of bigamy and sexual conduct with a minor against several men who have entered into "spiritual" — read polygamous — marriages.

A bigamy charge can be brought even if the spiritual wife is an adult. And marrying a girl under 18 can add a sex offense to any charges.

Utah requires parental consent for a legal marriage to a minor age 16 or 17, plus a judge's consent if the minor is 15. Even with the parents' OK, a spiritual union is not a legal marriage and sexual relations with the underage partner still are against the law.

Arizona has no specific laws

against polygamy, but its constitution also bans it, and now legislators are considering outlawing child bigamy, thus targeting men who take underage brides. Canadian law bans bigamy and polygamy. Going through a "form of marriage," even a rite not recognized as a binding form of wedlock, will make an already married participant a bigamist or polygamist. Traveling to other countries to enter into a bigamous union won't give Canadian citizens any leeway — that's also illegal.

But prosecutors can find themselves in a quandary. Vaughn Marshall, a Canadian lawyer who represents former plural wives, said polygamists have invoked religious-freedom

claims under the country's Charter of Rights to defend themselves.

Mexico recognizes only civil marriage, said Jorge A. Vargas, a professor at the University of San Diego School of Law. The custom in that country is to first participate in a civil marriage, which includes a contract and is permitted by law only between a man and a woman, and then a religious ceremony the next day.

Besides being a ground for divorce, polygamy is punishable by jail time and a fine, the professor said.

"Mexico is not going to be a haven to introduce practices that go contrary to the values and morality of Mexican people," Vargas said.

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Outcasts find a friendly refuge

By HILARY GROUTAGE SMITH
The Salt Lake Tribune

ST. GEORGE — The house looks to be part foster home and part hangout, but it's, like, totally home to the young men who wander through the door.

"We're like a family," said Alvin Fisher, 18. "We're all into helping each other."

The family, then, has most unusual roots and branches. There are about a dozen boys and men, all with ties to Hildale, Utah, and Colorado City, Ariz., and all with stories of how they gravitated to this house and its owner, Doug Cooke, because they have no other place to go.

Like a litter of pups, they rough-house, goof around, then flop on a sofa to take in a video. Some step outside for a smoke: House rules say they can't come back in for half an hour so they don't smell the place up.

For these guys, life turned grim when they were kicked out or left their homes and the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. There are reasons: They've lost faith, they've misbehaved, they want things like music and television that aren't available back home.

And this one: There aren't enough young women in a community that often marries teenage girls to older men.

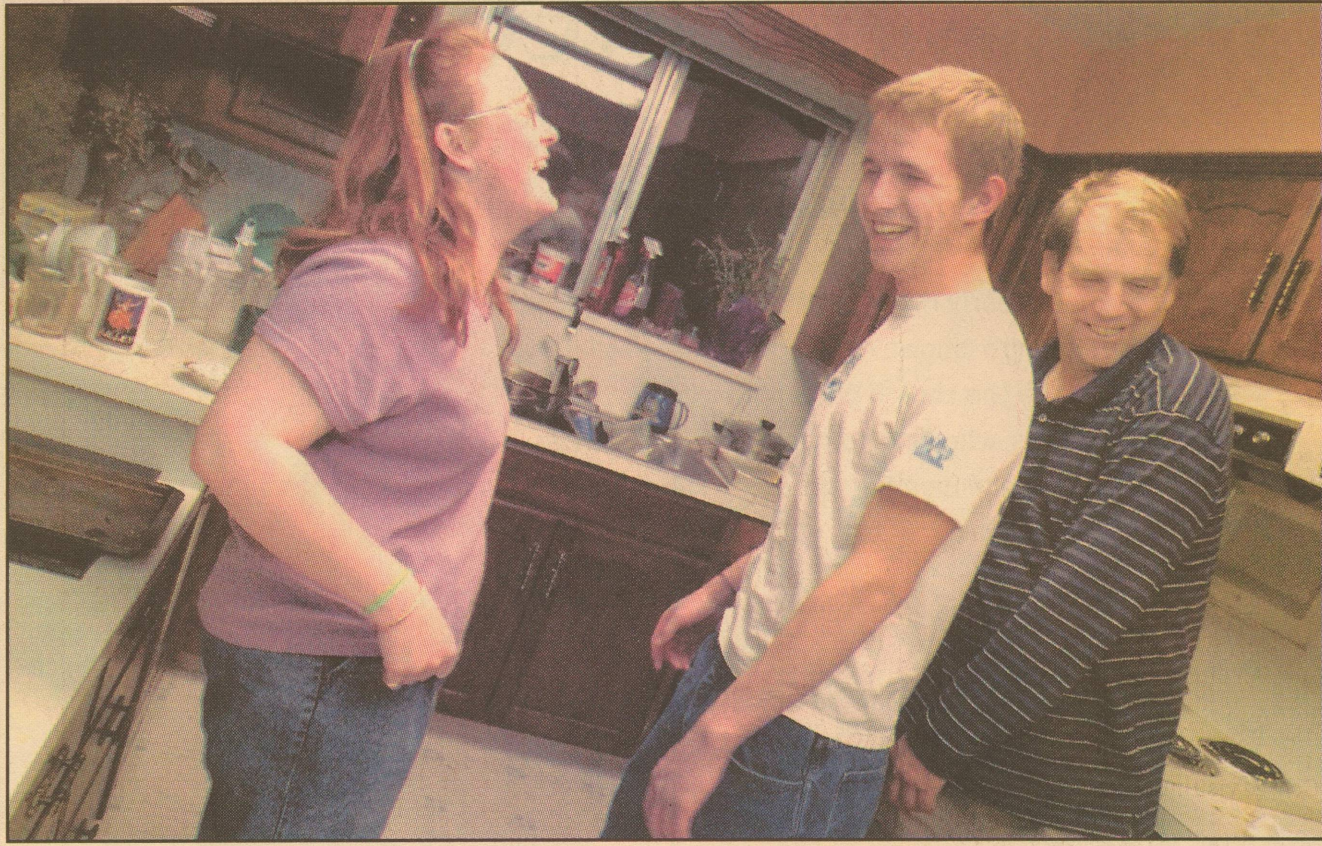
You can come up with a lot of names for these youngsters: rogue males, bachelor wolves, outcasts.

Some call them the Lost Boys. Cooke, 48, a self-employed tilesetter and himself a refugee from the twin towns, puts them to work, starting at \$9 an hour plus room and board.

"There's a lot of good people out there, but it's not the same place it was 10 years ago," Cooke said.

There are many reasons for that. In recent years, FLDS President Warren Jeffs has clamped down on virtually every aspect of community life, including family life, behavior, education and even recreation.

Most of the youths say their schooling ended with junior high. "They hand you a shovel as soon as you're old enough to hold it," said 19-year-old Sterling Johnson, who lives in Ivins and



LEAH HOGSTEN/The Salt Lake Tribune

For teens leaving FLDS communities, Doug Cooke's home in St. George is a refuge. Cooke, right, laughs in the kitchen with Ada Barlow and Brigham Holm.

stopped by to visit.

So, after work, some of the boys attend classes arranged by a St. George man who works in anonymity to prepare the boys to take a high school equivalency exam.

"It's good for us," said Brigham Holm, 19. "I'm getting a lot of these guys to go there with me."

Cooke and the others are trying to teach these boys how to hold a job, manage money and learn the life skills they didn't need back home. Teens who stay with their families, and most do, traditionally marry young and are assigned property and a job through the FLDS church.

Cooke himself was put on "probation" in 2001 by FLDS leader Rulon Jeffs, Warren's late father. Eventually his wife and children were "assigned" to another man. This after he was told that his salvation hinged on his ability

to write a letter to Jeffs confessing all his sins.

"For the life of me, I couldn't figure out what he wanted me to write. I asked; he told me this wasn't a questionable society. He told me he felt I had the spirit of apostasy, so I left," said Cooke, whose two sons now live and work with him.

Cooke welcomes anyone, as long as they're 18 or have their parents' permission to stay.

"They're good kids," he said. "The best workers in the world. They just don't know what to do with themselves."

In Jeffs' view, the purity of the community is paramount, and a boy's misbehavior may force his parents to let him go. The boys arrive usually with a long list of traffic tickets and curfew violations.

"I got two tickets in two states in one

day from the same cop," said Johnson. Another young man claims to have been given a \$60 ticket for impeding traffic on the dirt streets of Colorado City. One kid was cited for "misuse of finite resources" — wasting gasoline.

Benjamin Bistline, a former Colorado City resident who left the FLDS church, said police are particularly heavy-handed with young men.

"They have to get rid of them and marry the girls to older men. If those boys are just left there, they'll entice the girls," he said. "Those boys are lucky to have a place to go."

When they sit around Cooke's table, eating pot pies taken from stacks in the freezer, chugging gallon after gallon of whole milk, the boys probably agree. The worst day on the outside is better than the best day back home, one boy said.

A boy who calls himself "Roogie"

won't allow a photo because he doesn't want to hurt his mother's feelings, but said he's adjusting to "life out here" just fine.

"The one thing is, I don't know how to date," he said, staring at his shoes and turning bright red. He takes an elbow to the ribs from a friend, but it is clear he is serious.

"They told us it was sinful to look at girls," he said. "In my future, I see being able to raise a family that's not afraid of me."

Added Johnson: "They brainwash you to think you're going to hell." He laughed. "Well, I don't think I'm going to hell, I guess I know I'm going to hell."

Holm said he still believes in Joseph Smith, founder of the Mormon faith.

"He's just an awesome guy, and he lived polygamy," he said. "I guess it's good for those who can handle it. I believe in it, I believe it's a true principle, but religion to me, is kind of like your first true love. It cuts you really deep when it doesn't work out and you don't really want to jump right back in."

He also does not want to fight with his parents anymore. "I really love my mom," he said.

There are two young women in the house. One is underage, with permission to stay. The other is 18-year-old Ada Barlow, who said she quit school in the sixth grade to help at home when her mother broke her back. She said she had some doubts about the FLDS church, but when Jeffs reassigned her family three months ago, "that was the last straw."

So she approached someone in Colorado City who, after checking her birth certificate, agreed to give her a ride out of town.

"I put my stuff out in the back yard the night before," she said. "At 5:30 or 6 the next morning, I told my mom I was going for a walk and I guess I'm still walking."

It costs Cooke a lot to run this youth hostel: Electricity and water, about \$600 a month, and food more than \$2,000. Donations from church and community groups have helped, he said. "It's making me tired, but they're great kids."

Never mind the fatigue — Cooke said he'll keep helping.

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Living The Principle **A spiritual haven**

Centennial Park: Sharing the wealth

By HILARY GROUTAGE SMITH
The Salt Lake Tribune

CENTENNIAL PARK, Ariz.—Midnight in the desert brings smells that could be bottled and sold and stars so bright they dot the sky as if they have fallen from a giant celestial shaker.

"Take a deep breath. There's nothing quite like the air out here," said one resident.

But not everyone would consider this prime real estate. Out here, the wind rolls in from the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, gathering brush and dust along the way and depositing it in the front yards of homes built amid the harsh desert elements. There are no street lights; no traffic lights and few stop signs. But to the 1,000 people in this hidden community about 40 miles from St. George, it's a haven.

They love the desolate desert landscape and have come here to protect the fabric of their lives, which includes deep convictions of a polygamous lifestyle that binds them together and could, if laws against it were enforced, rip their families apart.

"We are just conservative, quiet folks," said one man, who spoke only on condition of anonymity.

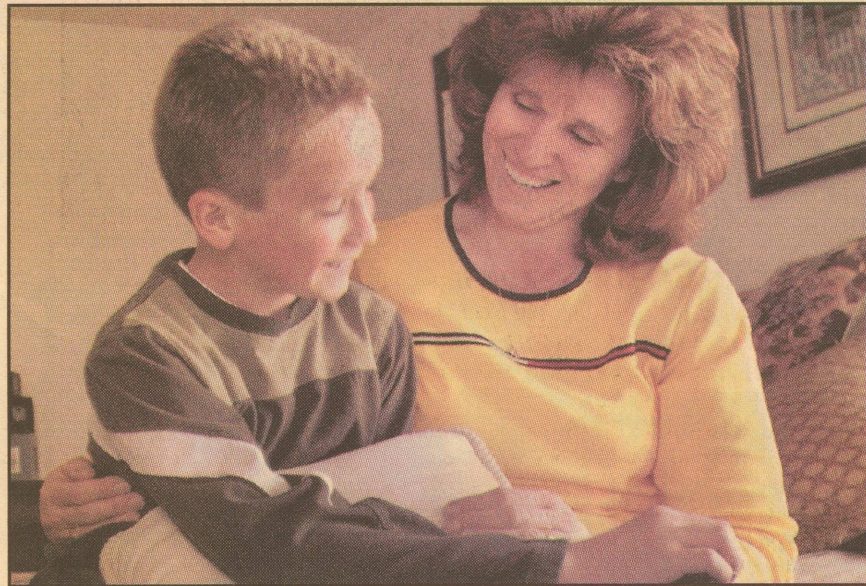
Centennial Park was settled about 20 years ago by a group of men and their families who split from the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, headquartered across the street in Colorado City, Ariz., and Hildale, Utah.

Recent news of turmoil within the ranks of the FLDS church commands little attention or interest over here. In Centennial Park, there are two private schools, a store, business offices, a health clinic and a chapel. Their church is sometimes called the "Second Ward," a play on the way the mainstream LDS Church divides a geographical area into congregations.

People here simply prefer the word "church."

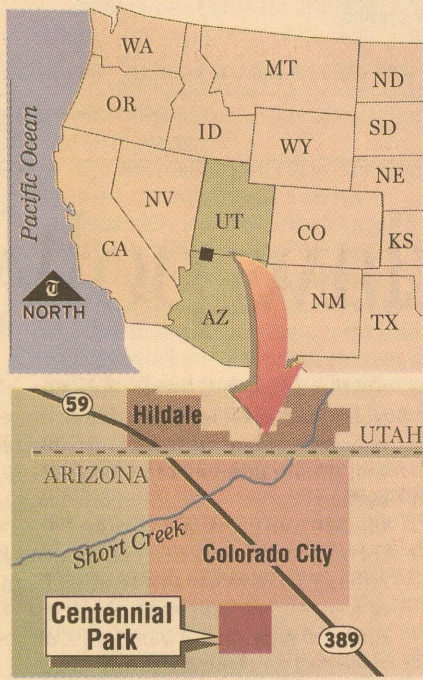
"We have no political agenda. We don't threaten men and we don't threaten women," the man said. "What would we threaten them with? Their salvation? The keeper of the gate is Christ."

The difference between Centennial Park and Hildale and Colorado City is immediately evident. Homes in Centennial Park are well kept and complete. In



LEAH HOGSTEN/The Salt Lake Tribune

Linda Earl shares a laugh with her son, Derrick, 13, in the 33,000-square-foot home she shares with her sister-wives in Centennial Park, Ariz. "It's just like a neighborhood, only instead of your best friend living next door, she lives down the hall," Earl said.



AMY LEWIS/The Salt Lake Tribune

Hildale and Colorado City, many homes are unfinished and appear unplanned, with additions built on every which way.

Centennial Park residents are friendly to outsiders, church services are open to visitors and mimic tradi-

tional Mormon meetings — except this congregation arrives early, stays late and everyone sings the hymns. The choir is superb. Men who preach lapse into pioneer-style cussing at times and upon their return home, members might enjoy tea, coffee or wine with dinner. The Word of Wisdom, which mainstream Mormons believe directs them to abstain, is loosely interpreted.

Here, fashions are modest but mainstream. Across the street, residents dress as if the clock stopped in the 19th century.

Linda Earl, her husband and his multiple wives were among the first to build in Centennial Park, and their hotel-size home stands out on Taylor Court. They left Colorado City in 1983 after FLDS church officials denied their request to build an addition to their home.

Earl, 48, grew up in northern Utah as an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She chose to leave that church and join a polygamous family as the fourth wife 24 years ago.

"The minute I laid eyes on him, I knew he was the one I was supposed to marry," Earl said. "I just felt this tingle go through me."

Earl teaches technology at a nearby

public school and is among a group of women who have become outspoken in their support of plural marriage. She has opened her home to reporters, cameras and even Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff, although she said he declined a dinner invitation last fall.

Earl's home is 33,000 square feet, constructed in three wings, each with three levels. There are 31 bedrooms and 36 bathrooms. The fenced back yard has a gazebo that is the site of frequent community gatherings and has a huge playground. The parking area holds a fleet of household vehicles.

"It's just like a neighborhood, only instead of your best friend living next door, she lives down the hall," Earl said.

The home is spotless and full of happy children and teens engaged in activities ranging from building with blocks and playing tag to baking cookies. Earl and her husband won't say exactly how many women and children live here — multiple wives and more than 50 kids is as specific as they'll get.

All the women work. Among them are loan officers, teachers and secretaries. Those who work outside the home contribute to the salaries of those who work within; for example, of those who run the in-house day-care center.

"I never have to worry who will be home with my kids after school or if they're getting a hot meal for dinner," Earl said. "All that is taken care of."

The "ladies," as the wives are called, all have private, luxurious living quarters that include jetted tubs, balconies and walk-in closets. Children are grouped by age and sex and sleep two or three to a bedroom, each of which has its own bathroom, computer, televisions and VCRs.

By any definition, the family is wealthy. Earl's husband is a businessman with interests in several states. Still, he fears retribution because of his lifestyle and won't allow his name to be used in print.

"Ours is a lifestyle choice," he said. "We are committed to each other forever. In your society, two 20-year-olds figure out they have changed a lot after a few years and they aren't compatible anymore. If you end up out of sync, then you are supposed to discard a relationship and get one that is more compatible. We make commitments for life. We don't have to trade."

Nor is "coercion or constraint" a

factor, he said. "If a woman approaches me and wants to join the family, I tell her: 'Tell me about the exciting things you're doing in your life. I want to be stimulated when I talk to you. Don't follow three steps behind me.'"

That is not to say that plural marriage is for everyone. "These principles stand up on their own. You might come into my home and think 'Hey, this is great, but it's not for me.' I say that's fine."

For Earl, the arrangement is just right.

"I'm at a point in my life where I don't want to worry about keeping my husband happy every night. Let someone else do that," Earl said. "Yes, my husband sleeps with other women and yes, I know who they are."

Earl insists her life, between work, keeping house and raising kids, is pretty dull. "My life is as boring as yours. I promise you, no one wants the normal story."

Marlyne Hammon and Joanne Yarrish would say the same. They grew up in Colorado City and say their polygamous family settings provided them with wonderful childhoods.

Hammon was married at age 16, of her free will and her husband's, she said. "Definitely, the choice was mine when it came down to it."

She was the first of three wives, who among them have 20 children. Her four birth children still live in the community, and have given her 18 grandchildren. Like Earl, Hammon will not identify her husband.

Yarrish, 38, is a family nurse practitioner and certified midwife who works at the clinic. Her family embraced the principle of plural marriage when she was a teenager, she said.

Yarrish holds two master's degrees and was taught as a child that only her own intelligence and ambition limited her. She chose to return to her hometown after more than eight years away.

She is married to a man from outside the polygamous culture and has not ruled out the idea being part of a multiple marriage. Her husband is more hesitant.

"He sees the responsibility of the man," she said. "These men are exceptional to take care of multiple children."

Earl agrees. "If this was all about sex, there are certainly cheaper ways for a man to get it."

Tribune reporter Pamela Manson contributed to this story. hgsmith@sltrib.com

• The Fawns believed that if they stayed, marriage was imminent. After all, they both knew pairings of friends and sisters that were arranged and carried out in the course of a night.

Girls on the run

Teens who fled a polygamous community look for a better future in a new world

By BROOKE ADAMS
The Salt Lake Tribune

PHOENIX — Fawn Holm slips a cassette into the car's tape deck, cranks up the volume and dances in her seat to a 23-year-old hit by The Go-Go's. "We got the beat, we got the beat, we got the beat," she sings.

It is a warm spring night in Phoenix. She rolls down the car window. Her red and blond hair swirls in the sudden gust as she hoots and waves at the man driving in the next lane.

For a moment she forgets that she is a wanted girl, that someone might recognize her as one of a pair of runaways intent on abandoning life in a fundamentalist community known for a rigid lifestyle and the practice of plural marriage.

She is just a teenager — the very thing she hopes to be when the running and hiding are over.

Months ago, Fawn Holm, 16, and Fawn Broadbent, 17, fled Colorado City, Ariz., which with its twin city, Hildale, Utah, is home to the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

The two Fawns are either refugees or rebellious teens, depending on whether they or their parents are telling the story.

Either way, the girls are the latest in a string of teens who have left the polygamous community after being pushed out or becoming disenchanted with — even fearful of — the lifestyle it demands.

But few of those escapes have unfolded in the high drama that has followed the Fawns on a road trip through at least four states, sheltered by a kind of underground railroad and pursued by their parents, law enforcement and the news media.

Passing the time: When they aren't on the move, the Fawns pass the time watching DVDs and TV — Fawn B. likes "Cops" and motocross contests, while Fawn H. favors the Disney Channel and action movies. They listen to music and talk. They get out occasionally to a mall, a movie, a restaurant. They've been bowling.

They also spent a recent afternoon posing for an upcoming spread in a teen fashion magazine — a rush for Fawn B., a skilled seamstress who dreams of being a fashion designer. The freelance reporter had heard about the girls and set up the photo shoot through their supporters.

Oprah has called, too, and so has MSNBC's Deborah Norville. The girls like the attention. "We're camera freaks," said Fawn H.

In March, the teens surfaced in Phoenix so Fawn B. could meet with attorneys from the Houston-based Justice for Children, whom she has asked to represent her in court.

Fawn B.'s parents say they are willing to relinquish custody of her to relatives in Sandy if that's what their daughter wants. "And that is what I want," said Fawn B., who has had frequent contact with her parents during the past weeks.

Fawn H.'s parents are adamant that she be returned to them, so she can "learn to be responsible for her own actions, to get her to grow up and be a civil person," her father, Carl W. Holm,

said. He added: "Her mother loved her, I loved her, her siblings loved her."

That's not how Fawn H. sees it. "My mom and dad before I left said they would make it as hard as possible for me to leave. My father said I'm a piece of property. Why not build a house on me, plant a little tree?"

Why they left: It was on Jan. 10 that the Fawns decided to run. They were in St. George visiting Fawn H.'s adored older brother Brigham, who had left the twin cities two years earlier. Brigham told his sister that their parents had obtained a restraining order to keep him away from her. For her, it was an emotional gut punch.

"Brigham is the whole reason I'm here," said Fawn H., who has 32 full and half-siblings. "He proved things to me, that I could think for myself." The girls had long chafed at the constraints imposed by leaders in the 10,000-strong FLDS community, from the pioneer hairstyles and clothing to bans on TV, most music and even laughter, and a single-minded focus on marriage and childbearing.

Both girls claim they were physically and emotionally abused in their homes, although Fawn B.'s father, Mathew, called that "nonsense."

Holm, Fawn H.'s father, said "all children think they are physically and emotionally abused. That's the way young teenagers are."

And, the parents believe, the FLDS' religious beliefs are clouding what otherwise might have been an everyday case of parent-teen conflict.

The Fawns believed that if they stayed, marriage was imminent. After all, they both knew pairings of friends and sisters that were arranged and carried out in the course of a night.

Fawn B. said she was 14 when her parents entered her name in the "Joy Book" — a list kept by church leaders of girls eligible for marriage.

Her father recalls the details differently, saying that by the time his daughter was 14, she was "chomping at the bit" to get married. Both he and church leaders felt she wasn't ready. "She was not put in the Joy Book," he said.

Fawn B. said that's when she "started being a bad girl."

What she means is, she cut her hair, wore jeans, talked to boys and listened to rock 'n' roll. Fawn B. was 9 when she began school and quit in the eighth grade after, she said, administrators began to complain about her.

Besides, she wanted things. Clothes. CDs. "My dad said, 'If you want things like that, you have to work for it,'" said Fawn B., one of 14 children.

She held a string of jobs — at a bookstore, washing cars, at a telephone call center. The 50 cents an hour she earned there was credited to the family phone bill.

Her last job was at Alco-Brite, which makes camping fuel and fire logs. She made \$7 an hour, enough to pay for her own clothes and food and help her mother out with laundry soap and diapers.

Fawn B.'s desire to get out of Colorado City hardened, and as she neared age 15, she sought her father's approval to leave. He told her she would have to "go through the front door" — ask permission from FLDS church leader Ru-



LEAH HOGSTEN/The Salt Lake Tribune

Fawn Holm, 16, left, and Fawn Broadbent, 17, are adjusting to life on their own terms since leaving their families and the FLDS community of Colorado City, Ariz., in January. The girls are still in hiding and will remain in hiding until they get assurances they won't be placed in foster care or returned to their parents.

lon Jeffs, who at that time relied heavily on his son, current leader Warren Jeffs.

So she did. She got Warren Jeffs on the phone and told him what she thought of him and the religion.

Jeffs asked to speak to her father and, according to Fawn B., told him to keep her home for two years. "You'll turn around in two years," Fawn B. said her father told her.

Mathew Broadbent said that his daughter is a "normal teenager who doesn't want to take responsibility, to be accountable. She wants to go off and do what she pleases."

Fawn B. said she "tried to go high-

teous" late in 2003, donning the standard clothing and hairstyle, putting aside TV and her rap and alternative-band CDs.

She lasted a month. She called FLDS leader Warren Jeffs again. When he refused her call, she left a message that she still wanted out. By mid-January, she was gone.

Making a break: Like her best friend, Fawn H. dropped out in the eighth grade, which is when formal schooling ends for most children in the community.

"I wasn't learning anything except stuff I'd learned the year before," she

said. And she was distraught that her brother Brigham had left the community.

So she, too, went to work — moving from job to job until she landed at her older sister's day-care center. There, she cared for a niece, whom she lovingly describes as "a little slow." Much of the time, though, "I was wandering the streets, sitting in the park," Fawn H. said. Talking to boys and giving other girls advice about how to handle them.

"Everybody called me and Fawn whores because we talked to boys and the way we dressed," she said.

She tried to "stay as far away from home as possible" to avoid fighting with her mom. "She'd try to make me a good girl and I didn't think I was a bad girl."

Contrary to previous reports, the girls said they had never run away from home before, although teen angst took them on hours-long jaunts to St. George and other nearby towns.

"I didn't have the nerve to stay away," said Fawn B.

But in January, the girls decided to make their break.

"You don't have a future there besides being a mom," said Fawn H., the first of her sisters to leave. "I want to be a mom but I want to have choices."

Fawn H.'s father said the girls are overplaying the "forced marriage" card. "Her mother told her, 'Dear, I don't know why you even worry about that until you are asked,'" Holm said.

"She's been a little bit of a stinker. We were trying to help her get over it," he said.

The teens, who became fast friends only in the past year, were spirited to Phoenix by child rights activist Flora Jessop, whom the group Tapestry Against Polygamy had contacted on the girls' behalf.

Until that night, the girls had never met Jessop. They had imagined her a big woman "dressed like a mother — in a flowered blouse and baggy pants."

The short, thin woman who showed up wore tight blue jeans and a leather jacket.

"She says, 'Let's hit it,'" said Fawn H., "and we're like O-O-kay."

They took to Jessop quickly and say their trust in her is absolute, though others have criticized Jessop's tactics and accused her of taking advantage of the girls.

"She's like an angel sent from heaven," said Fawn B.

"She has guts like no other," said Fawn H.

In Phoenix, Jessop set the girls up in a "safe house" that is part of her network and contacted Arizona authorities about getting their custody transferred to Carl John and Joni Holm of Sandy. Carl John, Fawn H.'s brother, left the FLDS community at 16.

The girls hit the road again Feb. 12, when Arizona authorities ordered Jessop to stay away from them. The girls said they also feared they might be returned home or placed in foster care.

Accompanied by Megan Holm, the 18-year-old daughter of Carl John and Joni Holm, they spent six weeks going from "one person's couch to another couch and another couch," as Fawn H. puts it, twirling her fingers across a restaurant table. They dyed their hair as a disguise — blond for Fawn H. and mahogany for Fawn B.

Jessop, the Holms and Tapestry Against Polygamy have covered the girls' expenses, supplemented by gifts and good wishes from strangers — something that mystifies the Fawns.

"I want to say thanks, thank you everybody," said Fawn H.

The world beyond the twin cities "is nothing like what I was told. I was told everybody was wicked and nobody was nice," said Fawn B. "You can be happy out here."

Still, the appeal of life on the run is wearing thin. They would like to get back into school, to pick up their hobbies again — scrapbooking for Fawn B. and hiking and drawing for Fawn H. — and to sleep in beds they can call their own.

Gay marriage now — polygamy next?

By PEG MCENTEE
The Salt Lake Tribune

The historian Sarah Barringer Gordon gave a speech on 19th century polygamy at Weber State University recently, and the next day she asked a group of students about legalizing plural marriage. The answers came fast: Chaos. Fragmentation in the LDS Church. The prospect of polyandry — a woman with more than one husband. Utah as a laughing-stock.

Polygamy has been associated with Utah since its origins in 1847, when Mormon pioneers brought the practice here as part of their faith. But in 1890, when it became clear that the United States would never grant statehood unless Utah abandoned polygamy, LDS

Church President Wilford Woodruff issued a manifesto saying the church would accede to federal law and discontinue the practice. Statehood followed in 1896.

Now, as the nation grapples with the notion of gay marriage, the question naturally follows: Would plural marriage be next?

For Gordon, a law professor at the University of Pennsylvania and a scholar of 19th century Mormon polygamy, the prospect of legalizing plural marriage is "incendiary." It was Abraham Lincoln, after all, who called it one of the "twin relics of barbarism." The other was slavery.

Given that the very idea of same-sex marriage is repugnant to some, any debate over the idea of one man and any

number of women — some who may not be willing partners — will be played out in a nation that defines marriage as being between one man and one woman.

"This," Gordon says, "is something that could rip a country apart."

The answer may be to first allow the states to explore the nature of marriage before addressing it nationally, she said in an interview with *The Salt Lake Tribune*.

"If we do take states seriously, and we want to see them in some sense as laboratories where we can try things out that are more dangerous at the national level, try them out at the state level and learn from them," Gordon said.

That would bypass the problems associated with a one-man-one-woman

amendment to the U.S. Constitution, an idea now being floated in Washington.

Gordon joins other critics in saying such an effort shouldn't be taken lightly or in haste.

"If we have to think about this nationally, and I hope we don't, it seems to me the time to think about it is in four or five years, when we figure out if same-sex marriage has been a non-event like civil unions were," she said.

Relationships recognized: Intimate relationships are being recognized, either by law or by individual government officials, in arrangements other than marriage. Here are some examples:

California: San Francisco begins issuing marriage licenses in February and marrying same-sex couples. Some counties and municipalities in New

Jersey, New Mexico, New York and Oregon begin holding similar ceremonies. Most are stopped by legal action.

Hawaii: State grants benefits to "reciprocal beneficiaries," or two adults who are legally prohibited from marrying under state law.

Massachusetts: Supreme Court rules that depriving gays and lesbians of the same right to get married as heterosexuals violates the state constitution.

Vermont: State recognizes civil unions.

Washington: State recognizes live-in arrangements involving either an opposite-sex or same-sex couple. Intimate relationships are being recognized, either by law or by individual government officials, in arrangements other than marriage.

• Flora Jessop's proclaimed mission: combating abuses she says permeate a polygamous community on the Arizona-Utah border.



LEAH HOGSTEN/The Salt Lake Tribune

Other antipolygamist activists question Flora Jessop's tactics and, occasionally, her motives. Jessop likes the publicity, they say, and she'll embellish the truth to get it.

Facing down polygamy

Undaunted by critics, activist vows to continue her crusade

By BROOKE ADAMS
The Salt Lake Tribune

Flora Jessop snakes her white Suburban through morning freeway traffic as if it were a Mini Cooper. One hand is on the steering wheel, the other darts between a plastic coffee cup and her ever-ringing cell phone. A Camel dangles from the corner of her mouth.

Jessop, 34, is on her way to a meeting on human trafficking, in which people are smuggled into the United States and forced to work as prostitutes or laborers.

Once there, she listens intently and takes notes: Would Elizabeth Smart be considered trafficked? How about forced procreation?

It seems a thin thread to Jessop's proclaimed mission: combating abuses she says permeate a polygamous community on the Arizona-Utah border. She is certainly not the first — advocates in both states have been at it for decades.

But Jessop, who left the enclave 18 years ago, has shown a certain flair for the role, dramatically spiriting two teen girls across state borders to safety and making tantalizing allegations that turn out to be true often enough to keep the public, media and government officials listening.

She came up with the hypothesis — widely ignored at the time — that Elizabeth Smart had been snatched by a would-be polygamist. Last month, Jessop led the national media to a new polygamist outpost in West Texas.

So what to make of her other claims about life in the fold of the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, which dominates the twin cities of Hildale, Utah, and Colorado City, Ariz.? Of genetic problems caused by its ongoing practice of polygamy and intermarriage, rampant welfare fraud, of young girls trafficked to Canada and Mexico as brides?

Not much, say officials in the two states and Canada.

Other antipolygamist activists question Jessop's tactics and, occasionally, her motives. Jessop likes the publicity, they say, and she'll embellish the truth to get it. They call her names. Norma Rae. Erin Brockovich. Joan of Arc.

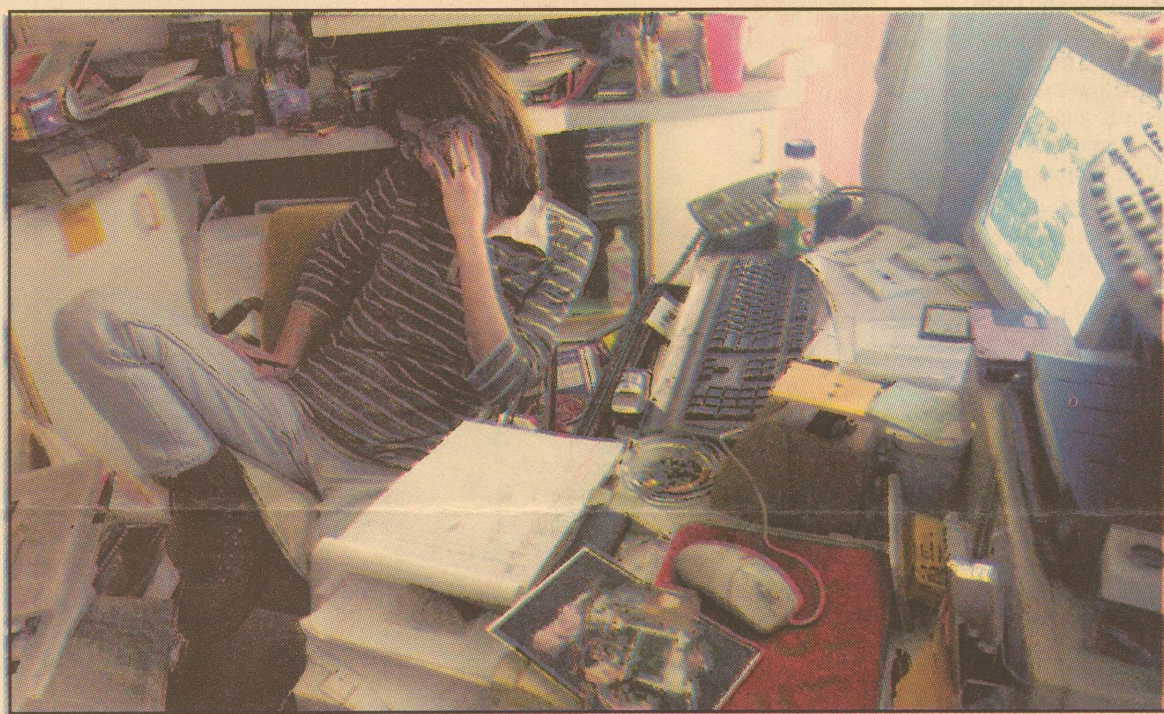
The last one isn't so far-fetched: Jessop is by all accounts a crusader and, because of threats on her life, sometimes dons body armor.

"I know what I'm doing is making a lot of people up there hate me, but that's OK because someday they're going to be free," Jessop says.

Always on the move: Flora Jessop's cell phone rings nonstop from the time she leaves the human trafficking meeting until she arrives, two days later, in Eldorado, Texas.

Fox TV's Greta Van Susteren calls. So does KAAA/KZZZ radio in Bullhead City, Ariz. And John Quinones from "PrimeTime Live." Reporters all over the West want the answer to the question posed in that morning's issue of the Eldorado Success: Who is Flora Jessop and why is she coming to Eldorado?

As it turns out, it is a complicated question. In a news conference that day, Jessop made only a passing reference to herself, instead focusing on the



LEAH HOGSTEN/The Salt Lake Tribune



Photo courtesy of Flora Jessop

Flora Jessop says her sister Ruby, who is still in the FLDS community, is why she became an antipolygamist advocate. In this photo taken before she fled the FLDS church, Flora Jessop, center, is with, clockwise from right, Ruby, Lyman, Shauna, Ashley, Amelia and Ryan Jessop.

town's newest neighbors — FLDS members seeking refuge, she said, from legal pressures in Utah and Arizona.

The FLDS church practices a 19th-century version of Mormonism that includes plural marriage, a tenet of the early faith long abandoned by the mainstream LDS Church.

"I encourage people to educate themselves about the abuses and the FLDS," Jessop said, ticking off her standard list of offenses.

What she didn't say is, every one of the claims has been investigated in Utah, Arizona and Canada and, so far, been found to be without merit.

By 9 p.m., Jessop was headed back out of town.

In the name of her sister: In the name of her sister: It has been this way since January, when Jessop helped Fawn Holm, 16, and Fawn Broadbent, 17, leave Colorado City as a Phoenix television reporter captured the escape on tape. There are other children, she says, who want out of a life of servitude, of being traded across borders and from house-to-house.

In between car rides and plane flights and cell phone calls, Jessop explains what drew her into the fight three years ago: what happened to her sister Ruby, born the day Jessop fled the twin towns.

But the facts about Ruby are cloudy. Jessop portrays her as a captive woman married unwilling at age 15 to a stepbrother, Haven Barlow. Jessop says Ruby begged for her help and that she "promised I'd do whatever I could."

Here is the other side: State child-welfare workers and other sources say Ruby is happily married, a mother of two who has no desire to leave Colorado City.

Jessop doesn't buy it. "Let Ruby come talk to me, look me in the eyes and tell me she's happy where she's at," says Jessop, who has not been able to talk to her sister or their mother since these events in 2001. "Until that happens, I'll continue fighting for her."

Still, you wonder if the girl she is really fighting for is herself.

Breaking free: Breaking free: Jessop was 13 when, with the encouragement of a grandmother, she told child-welfare workers her father had sexually abused her. The state, in what Jessop considers her first betrayal, placed her in the custody of her uncle, Fred

Jessop.

She remained a virtual prisoner in his home for three years.

"That was the beginning of the nightmare, and that's why I do what I do," Jessop says.

Isolated from other children, Jessop finished high school through a mail-order GED course. She changed beds and cared for babies at the in-home birthing clinic run by her aunt.

"I remember wishing I could die," she says.

At 14, Jessop was told she would be married to Sam Barlow, a peace officer with a mean reputation. She says Barlow taunted her at church, promising he would "tame" her.

Touch me, she answered, and you're dead. There was no marriage.

But Jessop's reputation for willfulness grew. She ran away a time or two. She talked to boys — a no-no tantamount to having sex, in FLDS teachings.

Once some kids, who considered Jessop wicked, pelted her with stones as she sat on the bank of Short Creek.

At some point, a bit of advice was passed to Jessop: Marriage would make her a free adult.

So when her father offered an ultimatum — enter a mental hospital or marry a cousin she had been caught talking to — Jessop acquiesced.

On May 3, 1986, Jessop, then 16, and Philip LeGrande Jessop were wed in Las Vegas. Jessop waited 10 days and then took off.

"Poor Phil," says Ben Bistline, a former FLDS member who aided Jessop as a teen. "He loved her. He kept sending her money. Of course, she was not going to come back."

Doing it her way: Flora Jessop wound up in Kansas City, Mo., where she got a job as a cashier at a Hen House grocery store. Her long hair was gone; she traded her pioneer-style dresses for more risqué clothes and heavy makeup.

People who knew Jessop then figured she was half crazy because of the unbelievable things she said about her past.

"The whole polygamy thing, I had never heard of it," says Terri Stine, still one of Jessop's closest friends. "We thought she was a good storyteller, a real good storyteller."

The view changed after Harry Reasoner and a "60 Minutes" crew showed

up at Stine's house, where Jessop then lived, to tape an interview with her.

The show aired Oct. 5, 1986, and centered mainly on life in the twin towns. Jessop's star turn came at the end, when she told Reasoner about marrying her cousin. "There's not a chance I'll go back there," she said.

And she seemed intent on proving it, saying back then she didn't care if she lived or died. She became a hard-drinking cocaine fiend, finally walking away from that life when "I looked in the mirror and couldn't see what color my eyes were, they were sunk back so bad."

A relationship yielded a child, but not stability. In 1990, when Jessop's daughter Shauna was a month old, she moved to Phoenix. She worked as a topless dancer, known as "Jessie," and made more than enough to get by on as a single mom.

She quit dancing in 1994, shortly before she met a marine mechanic named Tim. "God gave him to me," Jessop says. "I still had so much hatred in me. It was time for me to let it go, to start living instead of hating."

Jessop became a stay-at-home mom, caring for her daughter and Tim's from a previous relationship. Boat trips and long rides on a custom three-wheeler Tim built helped shed her anger, as did long talks with Tim's mom. She read and reread a self-help book called Toxic Parents, of which she has given dozens of copies away.

Any anger she harbors is focused on the FLDS community, the child-welfare system and her father. She says she understands why her mother couldn't help her. "She had babies to protect."

But like many things in Jessop's life, it is a bit more complicated than that. "I do understand why she didn't do it for me, but why didn't she do it for Ruby? Who was she protecting then?"

And just like that, Ruby brings the past back.

Under scrutiny: Whatever the facts of Ruby's case, Jessop feels she failed to protect her sister. That belief has made her zealous about unmasking the inner workings of the FLDS community.

The work often takes her far from home. Last week, Jessop went to Florida to meet with attorneys about a possible lawsuit; this week she traveled to Utah, stopping in southern Utah to check out some rumors and then pro-

ceeding to Salt Lake City to meet with a state investigator and consult on a made-for-TV movie on polygamy.

And that means she is often away from her own daughter even as she focuses on saving other people's children.

"She's at that age where she has a life of her own now," Jessop says of her child. "So I think that makes the transition a little easier for her."

Jessop's approach has won her both fans and critics, among them some early supporters who were incensed over the way she hustled the Fawns out of Colorado City, handed them to the media and then spirited them out of reach of Arizona authorities.

"She is well-spoken, attractive, sufficiently committed and a product of that culture," Bob Curran wrote in an e-mail to The Salt Lake Tribune. But Jessop's exaggerations and fabrications only hurt our cause.

"The abuses are so manifest and outrageous that simply telling the truth about them offers our best chance of success," wrote Curran, an original backer of Help the Child Brides.

Others say the abuses Jessop claims are "not commonplace" in the polygamous culture. "What she is really saying is 'abuse happened to me,'" says Joanne Timpon Yarrish, a midwife in Centennial Park, Ariz., a separate polygamous community just down the road from the twin cities.

"If her goal is to give people choices, we absolutely support her desire to make sure those resources are there," Yarrish says.

Staying the course: Among Jessop's fans, however, is Rowenna Erickson, also an antipolygamist activist.

"What she is doing raises a lot of eyebrows and people get upset because she comes across as very militant," Erickson says. "She believes nobody cares like she does. I understand that. You get pretty tired of having people brush you off when you know the seriousness of the crimes going on."

Jessop is unapologetic. Consider what happened to Ruby, she says. Or Mattie Wayman, a girl returned to the FLDS enclave by child-welfare workers earlier this year. What about the Fawns? Or even her own past?

"What I do know," she says, "is if one of these girls can pull herself out of there and live a life free from the pain, the abuse, then it will all be worth it."

Polygamy's origins in the LDS Church that settled in Utah and its continuing practice among fundamentalist sects

Early 1830s

LDS Church founder espouses polygamy

Joseph Smith, founder of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, shares the principle of polygamy with an inner circle of church leaders.

1843

Smith discloses the principle of celestial marriage.

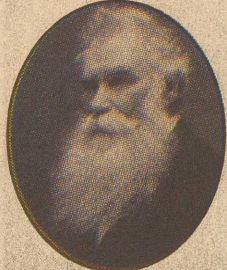
1846

Some Mormons relocate to Mexico to escape persecution for polygamy, settling in Corralitos, Chihuahua.

1852

LDS Church

Apostle Orson Pratt gives a two-hour sermon on plural marriage during conference. It is described as "one of the best doctrines ever proclaimed to any people."



Orson Pratt

1856

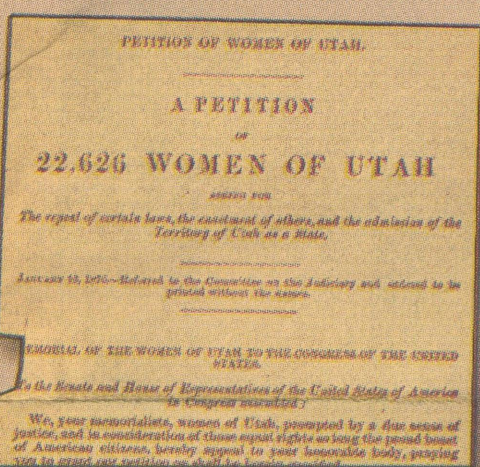
Brigham Young tells Mormon women who complain about polygamy that they have two weeks to "make up their minds whether they would stay with their husbands or be liberated at the General Conference."

1862

The first federal law is passed outlawing polygamy.

1875

Women seek law's repeal



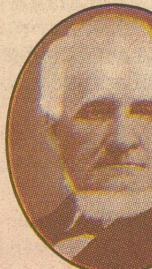
A petition signed by 22,626 women in Utah asks Congress to repeal the anti-polygamy law of 1862.

1879

The U.S. Supreme Court upholds a guilty verdict in Utah territorial court against polygamist George Reynolds, Brigham Young's personal secretary. The case was meant as a challenge to federal anti-polygamy laws.

1885

Polygamists flee to Juarez, Mexico, and Alberta, Canada.



John Taylor

1886

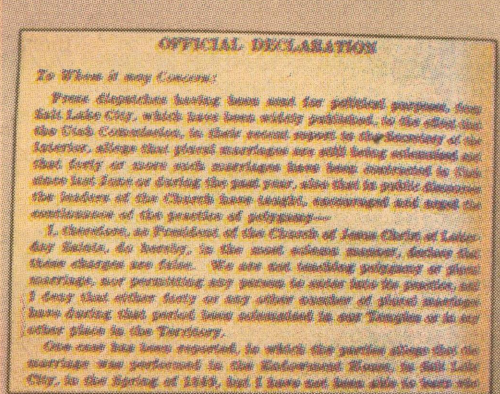
LDS President John Taylor is allegedly visited by Joseph Smith and Jesus Christ, who confirmed to him the righteousness of polygamy. Fundamentalists say Taylor asked five men to ensure the practice lives on.

1887

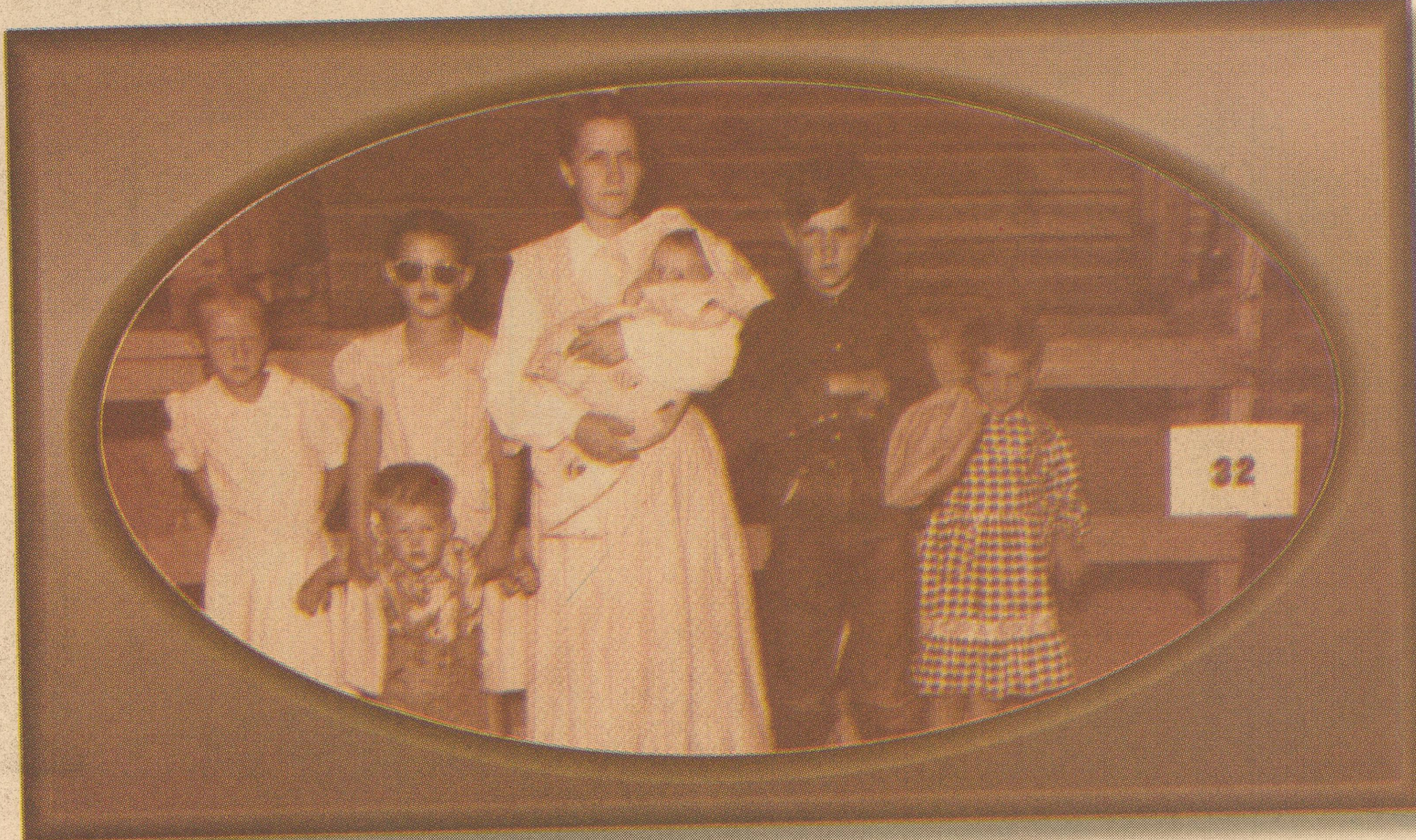
Edmunds-Tucker Act reiterates U.S. ban on polygamy with stiffer penalties.

1890

Contrary to laws of the land



As Utah vies for statehood, LDS Church leader Wilford Woodruff issues "official declaration" suspending the practice of polygamy because it is contrary to laws of the land.



Utah Historical Society photo

Esther Johnson Barlow, her baby and some unidentified children are shown in a picture taken during the 1953 raid at Short Creek, Ariz., where 31 men and nine women were arrested. Vera Johnson Black and her husband, Leonard, were the only Utahns prosecuted shortly after the raid. Short Creek was renamed Colorado City in 1961.

1904

LDS president issues polygamist warning

LDS President Joseph F. Smith's "Second Manifesto" states that any person solemnizing or entering a plural marriage will be excommunicated.

1911

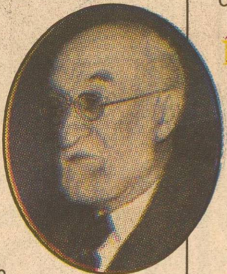
J.M. Lauritzen, a non-polygamist, settles the Short Creek area near the Utah border in Arizona.

1912

Lorin C. Woolley, in a story told about a meeting with Taylor in the Woolley home, confirms Taylor's account of a vision.

1921

LDS Church President Heber J. Grant, a one-time polygamist, reiterates that no man



Heber Grant

has the right to perform plural marriages.

1928

The first polygamists move to Short Creek, enticed by its isolation.

1929

Joseph W. Musser consolidates accounts of Taylor's 1886 vision, including Lorin Woolley's story. Most fundamentalists view this publication as the standard recounting of the event.

1934

Lorin C. Woolley dies. J. Leslie Broadbent is new head of the leadership council.

1935

J. Leslie Broadbent dies. John Y. Barlow is named his successor, causing a rift with those who believed Elden Kingston was next in line. Kingston leaves to start his own group.

1935

John Y. Barlow moves to Short

Creek to establish a United Order, in which polygamists share resources. That same year, Arizona authorities raid the town and arrest six polygamists, two of whom are imprisoned.

1942

The United Effort Plan is formally established to manage properties and affairs for the fundamentalists.

1944

Federal agents again raid polygamists at Short Creek. Simultaneous sweeps are carried out in Utah, Idaho and other Arizona sites.

1949

John Y. Barlow dies. Joseph W. Musser takes over the group.

1951

Joseph W. Musser ordains Rulon C. Allred as first counselor - thus making him next in line to lead the group - over the objections of some in the council.



Joseph Musser

1952

Joseph W. Musser appoints a new council, effectively splitting the Short Creek group. Charles Zitting becomes the unofficial head of the Short Creek community while Musser oversees a gathering in the Salt Lake Valley.

1953

Arizona law enforcement descends on Short Creek on July 26 and arrests 36 men and eight women practicing polygamy. Some 263 women and children are taken into state custody.

1954

Joseph W. Musser dies; Charles Zitting becomes presiding elder. In July, four months after being named president, Zitting dies. LeRoy S. Johnson takes over as the presiding elder.

1958

Hildale established on Utah side of border

Fred Jessop establishes Hildale, across the creek from Short Creek; it is officially incorporated as a Utah town in 1968.

Late 1950s

Canadian polygamists near the Idaho border align with fundamentalists in Short Creek.

1961

Short Creek is renamed Colorado City, Ariz.; it is incorporated in 1985.

1981

"Child Bride of Short Creek," a movie featuring future stars Diane Lane and Helen Hunt, is released. Lane plays a young girl promised to her boyfriend's polygamist father.

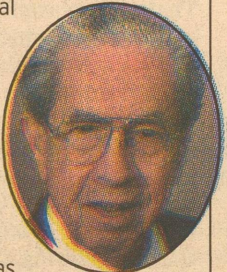


1984

Political infighting leads Marion Hammon and Alma Timpson to be dismissed from the Hildale/Colorado City Priesthood Council. Followers of the two men begin meeting and in 1986 found Centennial Park, Ariz.

1986

FLDS President LeRoy Johnson dies. Rulon T. Jeffs is named president. Winston Blackmore of Canada is named as a trustee.



Rulon T. Jeffs

1987

Families sue the United Effort Plan over ownership of property in the Hildale/Colorado City community; in court documents, defenders of the trust identify themselves, for the first time, as the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

1988

Marion Hammon dies. Alma Timpson is named leader of Centennial Park.

1991

The Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is legally established.

2000

In August, FLDS members pull children from public schools, causing enrollment at Phelps Elementary School to plummet from 350 to 16. The school closes and, in 2002, the building is sold by the Washington County School District to residents of Hildale. It is reopened as a private school.

2002

On May 30, Rulon Jeffs removes Winston Blackmore as bishop of the Canada branch.

On Sept. 8, Rulon Jeffs dies. He is succeeded by his son, Warren Jeffs.

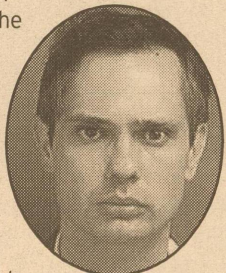
2003

Judge dismisses suit against Jeffs estate

On Feb. 14, a federal judge dismisses a lawsuit by jilted husband Jason Miles Williams against church leaders.

On March 5, the Utah Legislature approves tougher penalties for men who take young girls as their plural wives. Child bigamy, or marrying a second wife who is under the age of 18, is punishable by 1 to 15 years in prison.

On May 20, former Washington County attorney Eric Ludlow, criticized for overlooking the practice of taking child brides in Hildale, is unanimously confirmed as a 5th District judge by the Utah Senate.



David O. Kingston

On June 10, David Ortell Kingston is released from prison after serving four years for having sexual relations with his 16-year-old niece.

On July 15, Jon Krakauer's book Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith, a non-fiction book that explores Mormon belief and centers on polygamy, goes on sale and draws a rebuke from the LDS Church.

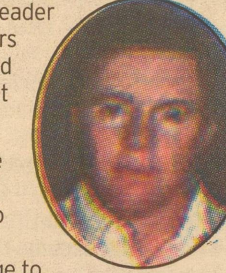
Monument to '53 raid doesn't have Jeffs' OK

On July 26, under the direction of Colorado City Mayor Dan Barlow, a museum and monument commemorating the 1953 Short Creek raid are dedicated without approval of FLDS leader Warren Jeffs.

On Aug. 1, Mary Ann Kingston, a former plural wife in the Kingston family, files a lawsuit seeking more than \$110 million from the clan over her forced marriage to her uncle when she was 16. Kingston was belt-whipped by her father for trying to leave.

On Aug. 10, FLDS leader Warren Jeffs orders the museum closed and the monument destroyed.

On Aug. 14, Hildale police officer Rodney Holm, who was wed in a "spiritual" marriage to his wife's sister, is



Rodney Holm

convicted of one count of bigamy and two counts of unlawful sex with a minor. In October, he is sentenced to one year in jail.

On Aug. 22, Utah and Arizona officials hold a summit in St. George to discuss polygamy issues.

On Sept. 25-26, the plural wives of Centennial Park, Ariz., take the attorneys general of Utah and Arizona on a tour to drive home the message that they freely chose their way of life.

On Oct. 16, Attorney General Mark Shurtleff, backed by the Peace Officer Standards and Training Council, announces his intention to investigate the Hildale police force and recommend decertification for all officers who have multiple wives.

On Nov. 18, Tapestry Against Polygamy protests a decision by the Utah Attorney General's Office to include a plural wife in a project to aid those leaving the polygamist lifestyle.

2004

FLDS leader expels 21 men from church

On Jan. 10, FLDS church leader Warren Jeffs ousts 21 men, ordering them out of the community and stripping them of their wives and children.



Warren Jeffs

On Jan. 11, two teens flee Hildale/Colorado City and are placed in a Phoenix home. One teen says she left because she feared being married to an older man.

On Jan. 12, three Utahns who want to live legally together in a multiple union file suit against Salt Lake County clerks for refusing to issue them a marriage license, challenging state law against bigamy and polygamy.

On Jan. 14, an anonymous letter circulates in Hildale and Colorado City that describes a revelation calling for Louis Barlow, one of the men evicted, to be the FLDS prophet.

On Jan. 16, Social workers, law enforcement and members of victims' rights groups agree on a campaign to assure women and children that they have a safe place to go.

On Jan. 23, Colorado City resident Ross Chatwin says he will ignore an order by Warren Jeffs to vacate his home. A lawyer for the FLDS church says Chatwin was asked to leave because of bad business dealings and other issues. Court records show protective orders to keep him away from two teenage girls.

On Jan. 27, The Mohave County (Ariz.) Board of Supervisors approves up to \$200,000 to lease land from Mohave Community College in Colorado City for a justice center.

On Feb. 2, Utah officials apply for a federal grant to serve victims of domestic violence in rural areas and benefit women and children who live in polygamist communities.

On Feb. 23, Arizona Senate approves child bigamy bill as a way to combat underage marriages.

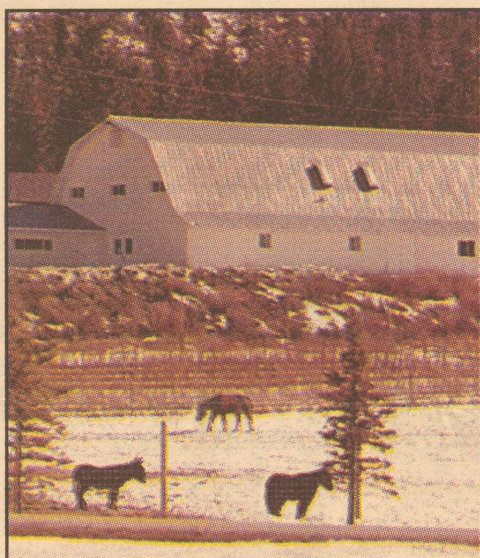
Sources: "The Forgotten Kingdom" by David L. Bigler; "The Polygamists: A History of Colorado City" by Benjamin Bidline; "Mormon Polygamy: A History" by Richard S. Van Wagoner; "Kidnapped From That Land" by Martha Sonntag Bradley, Tribune archives; REPORTING BY BROOKE ADAMS, PAMELA MANSON AND HILARY GROUTAGE SMITH; GRAPHIC BY TODD ADAMS / The Salt Lake Tribune

• Winston Blackmore, deposed bishop of the Bountiful, B.C., FLDS sect, lives in a home that looks like a motel. He has an estimated 26 wives and as many as 70 children.



PHOTOS BY LEAH HOGSTEN/The Salt Lake Tribune

In June 2003, FLDS member Ezra Draper moved his family to Bonners Ferry, Idaho, to join his friend and mentor Winston Blackmore in Bountiful, British Columbia. Draper, above, with his toddler Reagan, now lives without the fear of punishment from FLDS leader Warren Jeffs. Below are scenes of life in Bountiful — from left, the road leading to Blackmore's home, a meetinghouse, folks washing a company truck.



A divided enclave in British Columbia

When Rulon Jeffs fired the charismatic bishop of Bountiful, half the area FLDS stuck by him

By BROOKE ADAMS
The Salt Lake Tribune

CRESTON, British Columbia — Bountiful does not appear on any maps.

But just about anyone in the nearby town of Creston, from the checkout clerk at Extra Foods to the cheerful teen at a gas stop, can tell you how to get there.

They know, too, all about the polygamists who live in Bountiful, about their ties to southern Utah and the rift that has divided the families living at the foot of Skimmerhorn Mountain.

It began in May 2002, when Rulon Jeffs, then leader of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, telephoned to dismiss Winston Blackmore as bishop of Bountiful. Some believe Rulon's son, Warren Jeffs, orchestrated the move to ensure his own claim to the church's presidency.

If so, Warren Jeffs misjudged the depth of the people's regard for Blackmore, who had led the community for 16 years.

Half of the 800 FLDS members in northern Idaho and Canada sided with Blackmore. Jeffs, now president of the faith, ordered those who remain with his appointee, Jimmie Oler, to have nothing to do with the Blackmore faction.

Deeply intertwined families who live side by side are no longer talking or socializing with one another, mirroring the wreckage Jeffs' actions have left among some followers in southern Utah.

"It's a terrible tragedy," said Debbie Palmer, who left the faith in 1988 and has tried to interest authorities in an investigation of the sect. She is a sister of Jimmie Oler, ex-wife of Blackmore's father Ray and, through complicated intermarriages, is related to most families in Bountiful.

"You do not see your family. You

can not say 'hi' when you are crossing the street," Palmer said. "It's worse than if you were dead."

The difference between Blackmore and Jeffs, say those who know both, is the difference between optimism and despair — which is what drew Ezra Draper and his family from southern Utah to Bonners Ferry, Idaho, last June.

"The way Warren taught is there was no hope and you had no choices," said Draper, who said he was with Blackmore when the dismissal call came and heard Warren Jeffs prompting his father.

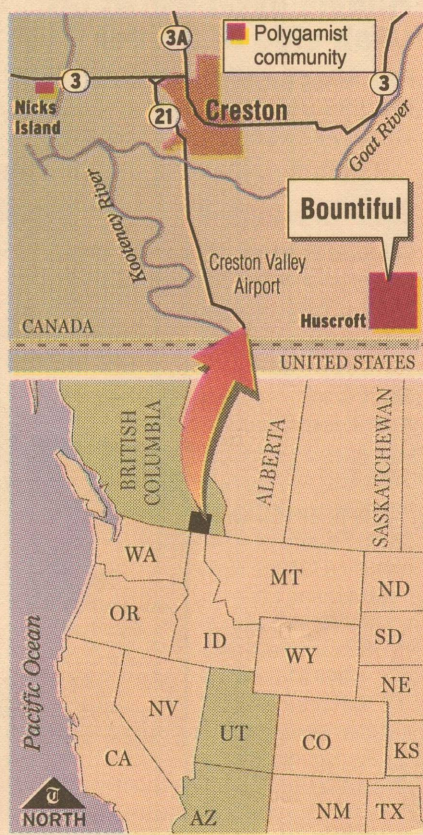
"With Winston, as long as you're willing to do better, there is hope because it starts with you. Winston tells people the only man with the right to rule over your life and mine is Jesus Christ."

For years, that promise has drawn people who have run afoul of Jeffs to Canada. More are ready to come, Draper said, though the sheltered lives they have lived make it hard financially to break away.

Blackmore may be benevolent, but, like Jeffs, he won't talk to reporters. During a trip to Canada, a *Tribune* reporter and photographer were invited to a Sunday church meeting, which was then canceled just before it was to begin. One person said it was because everybody wanted to go to a hockey game. Another said a forestry products meeting had come up.

Bountiful lies about 8 miles east of Creston, a town of 5,000 renowned for its cherries, its bird sanctuary, 10 golf courses and the locally brewed Kookanee beer.

Blackmore's uncle and father, Harold and J. Ray Blackmore, came here in the late 1940s, drawn by the same thing that lured polygamists to the Arizona Strip — isolation. By the 1950s, when Bountiful aligned with what would become the FLDS church, four families were prominent: Black-



AMY LEWIS/The Salt Lake Tribune

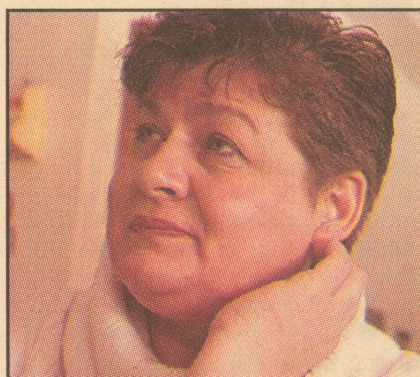
mores, Olers, Quintons and Palmers.

Those families' lines are now so intertwined that Debbie Palmer can call herself her own step-grandmother. That's one reason there is an exchange of marriage partners between Canada and southern Utah — new blood.

In an interview four years ago — his first in a decade — Blackmore refuted one persistent claim: that underage girls are ferried between Canada and Utah to be brides. Canadian and Utah authorities also say they have no proof that is occurring.

A stocky man, Blackmore is described as hard-working, generous and charismatic — "rock star" is how Palmer put it. "That is why so many girls are wanting to marry him," she said.

Blackmore, 47, lives in a home that looks like a motel at the entrance to Bountiful. He has an estimated 26 wives and as many as 70 children.



Debbie Palmer says she was mentally and physically abused by three husbands she was ordered to marry by FLDS leaders. She says Blackmore has a "rock star" charisma that makes him a sought-after groom.

His community includes a birthing center, modern school, a rodeo arena, a mobile home park for young married couples, parks and ponds.

The fundamentalists raise canola, timothy grass and wheat on close to 4,000 acres of farmland they own or share. There is an egg farm, a greenhouse and a trucking company; some women are nurses at Creston Valley Hospital. And Blackmore operates several logging-related businesses.

Dozens of families live in Bountiful, while others are in Kitchener, Yahk, Ryan's Station, Cranbrook and Bonners Ferry, Idaho. On Sunday mornings, traffic backs up at the Porthill border crossing as those on the U.S. side make the 40-minute drive to attend church services in Canada.

Blackmore is said to be worth millions — some of which he will need to fend off several lawsuits the FLDS Trust has filed disputing ownership of property in Bountiful. The trust has prevailed so far in one case, forcing Blackmore's followers out of the school near his home. They have since transformed two buildings on a Blackmore farm west of Creston into a new school and a meetinghouse.

In the past, girls often married as they reached their midteens and boys moved on to work. Now, Blackmore is said to be encouraging them to finish

high school and even college.

"Winston's side is starting to educate youth because they are losing so many," said Marie Louie, who was 13 when her mother pulled out of the faith, angered that her 15-year-old daughter had been married without her knowledge to a man in his 60s.

As in southern Utah, about a dozen teens — including one of Blackmore's daughters — have rebelled, acting like wild teens anywhere who get into alcohol and partying.

But unlike Jeffs, Blackmore has made no move to force the kids' parents to turn their backs on them; many young men continue to work for him.

While the Bountiful fundamentalists share their Utah counterparts' religious sensibilities, they are far more integrated in the local community.

"They are great supporters of the town," said Creston Mayor Joe Snopek. "They come and they buy."

Until recently, the Bountiful community rented the ice rink at the Creston & District Recreational Centre one night a week, contributing \$100,000 annually to the town's coffers, Snopek said.

Earlier this year, the women of Bountiful held a bake sale outside Extra Foods to raise money for the school. The women work out at the Curves fitness center, join in at Tupperware parties and serve on the Kootenay Search and Rescue team.

"A few years ago, I don't think the women would have been able to do that," said Darlla Murphy, who lives up the road from Bountiful. "It just seems they can do what they want now."

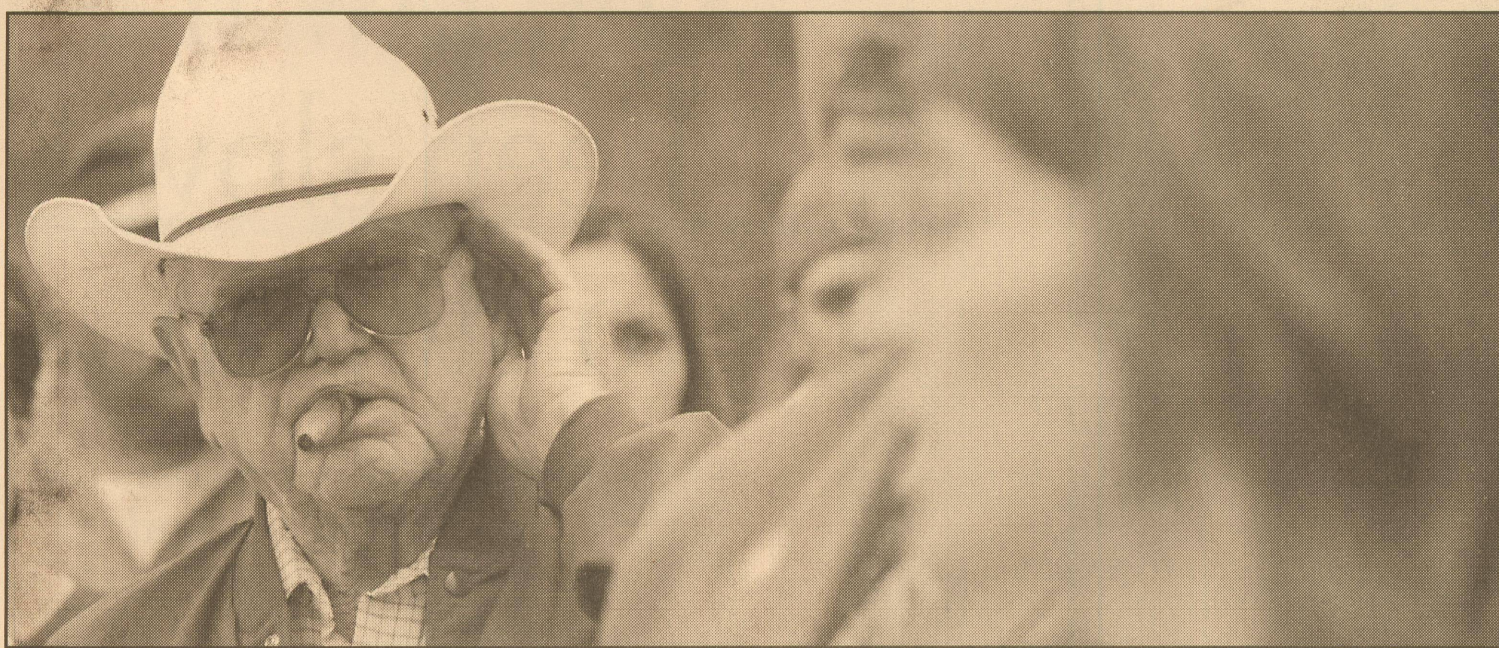
Most years, a Bountiful woman makes the front page of the *Creston Valley Advance* with the first baby of the year.

While some residents frown on polygamy, Canadians tend to be a live-and-let-live people. That's why the FLDS is such a part of life here.

"They seem like they are happy people," said Michael Carpenter, former president of the Creston & District Chamber of Commerce. "They are definitely part of the culture."

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• "Do you remember David Koresh? Well, we're afraid that might happen here, too, and we're afraid for our children."



LEAH HOGSTEN/The Salt Lake Tribune

Eldorado, Texas, resident Orval Edmiston, left, listens as Schleicher County Sheriff Dan Doran, center, and Phoenix, Ariz., children's rights activist Flora Jessop, right, answer questions of more than a hundred Eldorado residents about a polygamous community's apparent move into the area.

Texans worried about newcomers



LEAH HOGSTEN/The Salt Lake Tribune

Aerial photographs show the FYZ Land development near Eldorado, Texas. Many in the area are concerned about FLDS moving into their community.

Little information is available about the alleged polygamous compound and its connection to Utah

BY BROOKE ADAMS
The Salt Lake Tribune

ELDORADO, Texas — From the Texaco Star Stop to Amigo's Dream Restaurant and Gift Shop, speculation ran wild about the newest residents of Eldorado and their apparent ties to a polygamous group from the Utah-Arizona border. Would they snatch children? Overwhelm the local hospital, social service agencies and struggling county budget? Take over the town, population 2,000, in the next election?

"I just think they're nervous about what's going to happen," said Shelly Phillips, one of about 100 people who came to a news conference in this small town in West Texas. "That's why we're here."

The news conference was held by children's rights activist Flora Mae Jessop and Schleicher County Sheriff David Doran, who tried to answer questions and soothe a palpable unease among the townspeople who gathered with more than a dozen reporters from Texas and beyond on the lawn in front of the Eldorado Law Enforcement Center.

But keeping people calm may be a hard sell given the secrecy with which YFZ Land — with arrangements by a member of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints — has moved onto the dry, hilly country dotted with sheep and goat ranches.

Eldorado is the kind of place where everyone knows everyone and few people lock their cars, homes or ranch gates. Most residents grew up here; others come because they want close neighbors and a quiet life.

"We've always been a close-knit, caring, loving community," said Deanne Walker, a cashier at the bank. "The thought that something like this could happen and we could do nothing about it scares me."

Rikki Bosmans put it this way: "We're so small, anything new is different to us," she said as her mother, Dora, held up a sign that read "The Devil Is Here!"

"Do you remember David Koresh? Well, we're afraid that might happen here, too, and we're afraid for our children," said Dora Bosmans, a city councilwoman.

YFZ Land, which lists David S. Allred as its principal manager, bought the 1,371-acre ranch four miles outside of town from Jonny and Susie Isaacs in November. Allred purportedly told several people he is building a corporate hunting retreat.

Allred is a businessman, related by marriage to and a close associate of Warren Jeffs, president of the 10,000-member FLDS

church, in which polygamy is a religious tenet. Jeffs and most of his followers live in the twin cities of Hildale, Utah, and Colorado City, Ariz. The sect also has an outpost in Bountiful, British Columbia.

According to a warranty deed filed in the Schleicher County Courthouse in Eldorado, YFZ paid \$657,500 for the ranch, although it is possible that some additional cash may have changed hands as well.

Few people were aware of the newcomers until private pilots started talking about the large construction on the property — three 3-story buildings, a small concrete plant, several mobile homes and a huge garden.

"That's unusual for West Texas," said James Doyle, Eldorado's justice of the peace and a pilot who spent much of Thursday flying out-of-town news media over the ranch. "You usually don't see that much construction in the middle of a ranch, not without the county mayor or judge or somebody being invited out."

YFZ brought in its own construction crew, and neither Allred nor any of the construction workers have been seen in town — though they may be going instead to San Angelo, about 40 miles to the north.

And that is part of the reason residents are alarmed.

"If it's not bad, why are the gates locked? Why is it all secretive?" asked one woman, who was so fearful she wouldn't let her name be used.

Jessop, who fled the FLDS church as a teenager, told the residents she has no doubt that the church is behind YFZ Land. She believes FLDS members are moving here to get away from scrutiny in Utah and Arizona. There has been speculation in the twin cities that Jeffs is preparing to relocate, with Mexico usually topping the list of possibilities.

She said that Texas may hold appeal because of its proximity to the Mexican border 110 miles south, and also because of the legal precedent set last year by the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled in *Lawrence v. Texas* that the state's antisodomy law violated the privacy rights of consenting adults. The same case is being cited in separate appeals by two Utah men who espouse polygamy, Tom Green and Rodney Holm, both of whom have been convicted of bigamy. It is also a factor in a federal lawsuit filed by a man and two women who were denied a marriage license in Salt Lake County.

Jessop said the FLDS church has been investigated for underage marriages, welfare fraud, tax evasion and child sexual abuse — but failed to point out that Utah and Arizona

authorities say they have found little substance for any of those claims.

"They've been looking for a place where they are not known," she said, urging residents to learn all they can about the fundamentalist group. "We're not trying to get rid of these folks. We're trying to stop abuses."

Jessop also told the townspeople that FLDS members consider outsiders "evil" and thus wouldn't be coming after their children. "They are not a threat to [your] children. They're a threat to their children," she said.

Doran said Jessop contacted him about 10 days ago to share information about the FLDS church and its connection to Allred, but as of yet "we have not made a positive confirmation that this group is associated with the FLDS."

He did say he had learned the construction crew working at the ranch is from Utah.

"At this point in time, we've got a gentleman representing the company saying they're building a real nice hunting retreat," Doran said — a comment that drew laughs from the crowd.

Though the area is good hunting ground for deer, turkey and quail, the ranch is too small to accommodate more than a handful of hunters at a time, residents said. And the buildings don't fit that scenario, either.

"I do a lot of hunting, but the type of buildings being built out there are not for any kind of hunting," said Philip Meyer.

The sheriff vowed to keep a close watch on activities at the ranch for any illegal activity. Otherwise, he asked residents to welcome their new neighbors.

But many residents left the news conference just as leery, with one woman saying she felt some "cover-up" was going on and others saying they still feared what might happen to their own children as well as those who might be living at the ranch.

"I'm probably more concerned," said Patsy Brenner. "Just the knowledge they gave us, and wondering how they're going to infiltrate into our community."

The last shock that pulled the townspeople together, several residents said, was a bus crash last October that claimed the lives of six residents who were members of the town's First Baptist Church.

Once again, said Deanne Walker, "God is strengthening us, giving us bonding that we need to go forward. Whether we need to legally fight this thing or be quiet and accepting, that will be clear to us."

In any event, said J.D. Doyle, "This is going to feed the gossip train in this town for years."

Polygamists see potential in marital movement

BY PAMELA MANSON
The Salt Lake Tribune

And you thought gay marriage would shake things up. Imagine what would happen if wedding bells began ringing for husband and wife and wife and wife. How would insurance benefits be divided in a legal plural marriage? Who would be first in line for the pension? And what would happen to the already strained Social Security system?

America has matrimony on its mind as the debate over gay marriage rages and talk swirls that polygamous unions could become part of the battle.

The Utah Constitution, for example, guarantees "perfect toleration of religious sentiment," but in the same breath states that "plural marriages are forever prohibited."

Absent a constitutional amendment, polygamy will remain illegal in Utah. So that leads to a discussion of decriminalization, which would require only the repeal of laws that punish bigamy, including cases when there is no legal marriage but a married man and another woman living together as husband and wife. Under that system, only the first wife would be recognized by the government as a legal spouse.

Rodney Parker, an attorney who represents the southern Utah-based Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, whose members support plural marriage, said decriminalization is more politically palatable.

"Why don't these people have the right to organize their families without being charged with a crime?" the Salt Lake City lawyer asked.

While many point to a Massachusetts Supreme Court decision that gays and lesbians are entitled to get married as a step toward legal multiple marriage, Parker thinks another case has more impact. The U.S. Supreme Court last year overturned a Texas antisodomy statute prohibiting sexual conduct between same-sex couples.

Justice Antonin Scalia dissented, voicing among other objections that the ruling could lead to the legalization of polygamy.

To Parker, the "liberty interest" in a private relationship "translates directly to polygamous marriages."

And Brian Barnard, a Salt Lake City civil rights attorney, noted that opponents of gay marriage base much of their argument on the belief that marriage is designed for procreation — a virtual certainty in polygamy.

In a case pending in U.S. District Court for Utah, Barnard represents a trio suing over Salt Lake County's refusal to issue a marriage license so the man could legally marry a second wife. The three claim the refusal violates their rights to free exercise of religion and due process of law as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

Barnard acknowledges that legalizing polygamy would "hit the legal system hard," and that his clients would be happy with decriminalization. That way, he said, "spiritual wives" would have full knowledge that they had no rights to benefits and inheritances.

"That's not going to take the massive overhaul of our laws," Barnard said.

And it would be massive, said former Utah insurance commissioner Robert Wilcox.

"For example, laws and rules in regard to Social Security are built around the concept of a spouse," he said. "They are not designed to take care of the situation where an individual would have more than one spouse."

Now, the law sets maximum amounts of available benefits for each household, Wilcox said, and those might have to be adjusted to support all members of a polygamous family who reach full retirement age. The death of the husband could put a family at risk of poverty if he were the major breadwinner and the wives were stay-at-home moms, he said.

"It would open avenues for abuse that would need to be carefully monitored," Wilcox said, envisioning a scenario where a friend needs retirement benefits, so the husband adds her as another wife to make her eligible under his plan.

Martha Ertman, a University of Utah law professor, said the Massachusetts ruling is part of a bigger trend of government taking note of societal changes. For example, open adoptions, which can lead to three legal parents — the adoptive mother and father and the birth mother — are more common, she said.

And just as companies can incorporate or become a partnership, a family can form in more than one way. Hawaii grants certain benefits to "reciprocal beneficiaries," or two adults who are prohibited from marrying under state law, and Vermont has civil unions.

The financial implications pale for believers who embrace polygamy as a religious principle. Some want to make it a legal, state-sanctioned form of wedlock. Others want it decriminalized to avoid government interference.

Many, however, are saying no way.

Former plural wife Rowenna Erickson calls multiple wedlock an abomination. She sees no valid comparison between same-sex marriage and polygamous marriage, saying the first involves two people who supposedly love each other and the second a loveless union.

"Polygamy was outlawed for a good reason," said Erickson, one of the founders of Tapestry Against Polygamy, a Salt Lake City-based group.

But widowed plural wife Anne Wilde said polygamy should be allowed as a religious right. The majority of practitioners support decriminalization, rather than legalization, to keep the state from telling them how to do it, she said. As far as financial considerations, "they've worked it out so far," Wilde said of polygamous families, adding that most of them average two or three wives and share income.

The ripple effect of polygamy could reach outside the home to tourism, one of the top industries in the state, by attracting visitors to polygamous communities.



Utah Historical Society

Alvin Barlow, far left, was 15 during the Short Creek raid; today, he is the school superintendent in Colorado City, Ariz. During the raid, he and other youths were left in the community while men were taken to jail in Kingman and women and children were bused to Phoenix.



Utah Historical Society

Reporters who were present during the raid were shocked by the abject poverty they saw.

Critics of the Short Creek Raid howled, saying no one had the right to tear apart families because of their religious beliefs



Utah Historical Society

Arizona authorities set up a makeshift kitchen in the desert, where residents were served what one described as "tasteless food."

The law has been slow to step in

Bitter memories of the infamous Short Creek raid have paralyzed enforcement efforts for years

By PAMELA MANSON
The Salt Lake Tribune

It always came back to the Short Creek raid, the disastrous attempt more than a half-century ago by Arizona authorities to crack down on polygamy.

On July 26, 1953, lawmen swept in in the dead of night, arresting men and over time removing hundreds of women and children, some of whom were in foster homes for up to two years. Critics howled, saying no one had the right to tear apart families because of their religious beliefs.

The fallout, including a ruined political career for Arizona's governor, seemed to paralyze efforts for years to investigate claims of forced marriages, child abuse and fraud. But now, officials in Utah and Arizona — home to the twin communities of Hildale and Colorado City, respectively, where nearly everyone supports the concept of plural marriage on religious grounds — say they are taking steps to tackle the problems associated with polygamy.

So far, some claim, they've yielded little.

In Utah, there has been a handful of prosecutions, including that of Tom Green, who was convicted in 2001 of four counts of bigamy and one count of criminal nonsupport of his children and sentenced to five years in prison. In a subsequent prosecution, Green was convicted of child rape for impregnating his "head wife" when she was 13 and he was 37 and ordered to serve up to life behind bars.

Others include Rodney Holm, of Colorado City, and three members of the Kingston family, a northern Utah polygamist clan.

Green's case, Utah's first polygamy trial in nearly 50 years, focused more attention on crimes in closed societies, said Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff.

"This caught my interest," said Shurtleff, who is running for re-election. "Why is there a part of Utah that seems to be immune to the protect-and-serve attitude?"

Shurtleff said his office lacks the resources to bring charges against adults whose only offense is to willingly enter into a plural marriage. So far, only county or district attorneys have prosecuted polygamy-related cases.

In 2000, Utah hired Ron Barton as its "closed society" watchdog, an investigative post created by lawmakers alarmed by reports of polygamy-related abuse. In cases where polygamists are charged with child abuse or sex with a minor — so far, only by county or district attorneys — bigamy can be another count, said Barton, who works for Shurtleff.

In Arizona, progress tackling problems related to polygamy seems to be slower — too slow for 27 state legislators who last month sent a letter to Attorney General Terry Goddard urging him to take whatever action necessary to ensure the safety of teenage girls and investigate law-breakers.

The letter's author, Rep. John Allen, R-Scottsdale, said the two most recent attorneys general, Goddard and Gov. Janet Napolitano, have talked about polygamy but done little about it. Even Utah, he said, has done more.

Allen said he was pleased that Goddard now has outlined the resources and legislation, such as a measure outlawing child bigamy, that he needs to combat crimes in the polygamous culture. He also cited the case of Orson William Black Jr. of Colorado City, who has been charged with conspiracy to commit sexual conduct with a minor and sexual conduct with a minor.

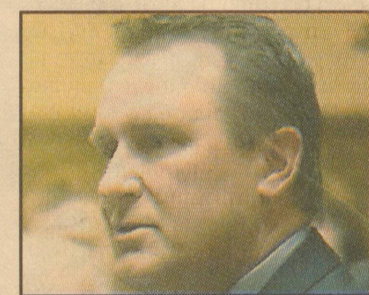
Goddard said Arizona and Utah are coordinating law enforcement and offering social services to the residents of Hildale and Colorado City. Authorities check out every claim of a crime;

some pan out and others are "highly imaginative," he said.

Goddard said the 1953 Short Creek raid remains a terrifying memory. "The scars are still there," he said. "Many fear the state more than an abuser in the family. I think Arizona made a serious mistake there and they've been paying for it ever since."

These days, the two states are taking a less confrontational approach.

In August, the Utah Attorney General's Office organized a "polygamy summit" in St. George that brought together law enforcement officers, social service offi-



"Why is there a part of Utah that seems to be immune to the protect-and-serve attitude?"

MARK SHURTLEFF
Utah attorney general

cials and plural wives. Public servants are working with the private sector to offer help to those who want to leave the life and those who stay. And in a rare meeting of minds, anti-polygamy and pro-polygamy groups are working together.

The combined effort intensified when a January purge of members from the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints produced fears of an exodus from Hildale and Colorado City.

Police patrols have been stepped up. Offers of food, clothing and money for women and children who leave the polygamous life have flowed into shelters and aid groups.

A new center is going up in Colorado City that will house law enforcement and social service agencies. Workers staffing a domestic violence hot line are trained to deal with plural wives who might call for help.

But the turmoil also led to a split in Help the Child Brides, a St. George group that once was a lone voice calling for an end to underage marriages and more aid to women and children.

Robert Curran, a founding member, resigned on Feb. 3 after questioning fellow board member Flora Mae Jessop's tactics in helping two Colorado City runaways get to Phoenix. Jessop had left the community when she was a teen.

Shurtleff said since the government stepped up prosecutions involving polygamy, he's been criticized by both sides for doing too much or too little. But there are those who, so far, are pleased.

"We believe that the Attorney General's office has good intentions and we appreciate their efforts to help victims coming out of polygamy," said Vicky Prunty, director of the Salt Lake City-based Tapestry Against Polygamy.

But Linda Kelsch, community action director of Principle Voices of Polygamy, an advocacy group for polygamous families, thinks there is less crime among polygamists than the general population.

"I don't believe polygamy is the problem here," she said. "I believe it is a lack of understanding of the culture that creates the impression there is more crime." pmanson@sltrib.com