



Castro County Centennial SCHOOLS

1891
◆
1991



EARLY-DAY DIMMITT STUDENT BODY
... In front of red brick school, located where city park is today

Bayne starts schooling before county organized

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Information for this story was obtained in part from the History of the First Seventy-Five Years of Castro County, Texas and the Castro County History, Vol. 1.)

The history of Dimmitt schools is closely tied to the history of Castro County. Four years before the Dimmitt School District was organized in 1892, students were already learning their ABCs from Miss Lizzie Bayne.

Miss Bayne began teaching the three J. W. Carter children in their home in 1888. With more families settling near the present location of Dimmitt, she started a "subscription" school in the fall of 1891—probably for the Tate, Beach, Dyer and Turner children.

Miss Lou Belsher became the first teacher in the newly organized Dimmitt School District in 1892. That first fall, school was held in one of the two stores in Dimmitt at that time while a white frame school house was being built between Third and Fourth Streets on Belsher Street, named for Miss Belsher's father.

County records indicate that L. Gough received the first check written on Dimmitt School District, or any school district in the county.

The first eight grades were taught to the 36 students enrolled in the Dimmitt school in 1896.

The white frame school house was used until the red brick building was constructed in 1910. That year the tenth grade was added. Four students were graduated at the first graduation exercises in May, 1910. Dimmitt school offered 11

grades for the first time in 1911.

Students attended the little red brick school, located at the site of the present city park, from 1909 until 1952. The bricks from the little red brick school were bought and used in the A. J. Kemps' and Howard Scoggins' homes on Lee Street.

The new high school at Seventh and Jones Street was completed in 1929. The building is now the east part of Dimmitt Middle School.

Dimmitt Independent School District, along with Hart and Nazareth, became consolidated in the 30s thanks in part to the increased enrollment from smaller communities in the county.

Despite World War II, enrollment increased. Barracks from the POW camp near Hereford were brought in to be used as classrooms. Although a new grade school building was completed in 1952, students continued to overflow into the barracks.

In a continuing building program, South Elementary School, which housed the first four grades, was finished in 1956. Within a few years, new classrooms and another cafeteria were added to the building. But high school and junior high school classes were still taught in the barracks.

Classes were moved into the new high school in 1963.

In 1975, North Grade School and the old high school building were combined as Dimmitt Middle School with additional classrooms and offices.

Later that year, South Elementary School was renamed Helen Richardson Elementary School,

upon Richardson's retirement.

She was born in Castro County and grew up watching her mother, Lenna Estes, teach children in their home and in little rural schools. She graduated from Dimmitt High School in 1929, and started teaching at the Big Square School after attending West Texas State for a year.

Through the years, she kept returning to school until she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1937, and later, a Master of Education degree in 1955.

During a 44-year career, Richardson taught three generations of Dimmitt pupils, including great-grandchildren of her mother's former students.

Because of Richardson's dedication to education, and of those like her, the Dimmitt schools continued to prosper.

The late 70s saw the addition of four tennis courts, a new ag farm, and a vocational agriculture and industrial arts building.

Improvements were also made to the high school library and the football and track stadiums.

By 1980, over 1,700 students were enrolled in the Dimmitt Independent School District.

Computers for students and administration, a new science lab at the high school and construction of a building to house the severely handicapped at the middle school were some of the 80s' highlights for the Dimmitt schools.

Enrollment peaked at 1,752 students in 1985-86. Current enrollment in the Dimmitt Independent School District is 1,667 students.

Early-day small schools were consolidated to form Hart ISD

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Information for this story was obtained from the Oct. 27, 1976, issue of The Hart Beat, published during Castro County's Bicentennial celebration.)

There are no Hart school records for the years prior to 1951 when the school was destroyed in a 2 a.m. blaze that has been described as "the worst in the county's history."

But some of the history has been resurrected through the collective memories of those who attended the numerous small "houses of education" during those early years.

In 1921, Killough and Lone Star were consolidated and became "Hart School C-1," denoting it as the first consolidation in Castro County.

Wise School, named for the family on whose land it was located northeast of Hart, was started soon after 1900, according to personal recollections of persons who attended Wise.

Killough, also named for the early settler who provided land, is believed to be the earliest school. It was originally located about one-half mile south of the present townsite of Hart.

The small one room, unpainted frame structure was built in 1902. Lumber was hauled from Hereford by wagon and a wood-coal heater in the middle of the room furnished heat in the winter. Handmade tables each served as desks for two students.

Held in the upstairs room of the Hamm home, a school serving the children northwest of Hart in 1916 or 1917, was named Mulkey School, after young Mulkey Hamm died of acute appendicitis. The site

still is referred to as Mulkey.

Mulkey's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Hamm moved to Castro County in 1905 and lived in a small two-room house with a lean-to until they built their own home in 1907.

After moving into the new home, they discovered they needed a school for the children in their community.

Approximately 12 children were enrolled in the school.

A school in Cleo or "Ragtown," served the boys and girls who lived near Sunnyside; and Struve was the school attended by those living further south of Hart.

For some years, school was held at Valley View, and a number of pioneers attended there part time.

In 1927, a townsite company was organized to promote the sale of lots for the town of Hart. The school was located on the site. That year, Frank Shotwell was superintendent and four women were teachers. The name of Mrs. Faye Allen is the only teacher's name found during that period.

Constructed of brick, the school boasted an auditorium in the basement where community functions were held and all denominations met together for church services.

A new townsite company was organized in 1928 and the town of Hart moved three-quarters of a mile to the northwest.

Businesses moved to the new location, but the school was not moved until 1936 when it was relocated at the present site. Superintendent that year was a Mr. Strickland.

The new building consisted of nine classrooms, a gymnasium, bookroom and superintendent's of-

fice. When a fire destroyed the building in 1951, additional rooms had been added to the building, plus the construction of a school lunch room and work shop and a home economics cottage. The lunchroom and home economics buildings were not destroyed.

Insured for \$50,000, the building replacement costs were estimated at \$150,000.

When the new high school was completed in 1953, it included 10 classrooms, a study hall, gymnasium, six restrooms, four dressing rooms adjoining the gymnasium, showers and lockers in the main corridor. The gymnasium was to be used as an auditorium with a seating capacity of approximately 500.

When school bells rang in September 1964, students in junior high and high school had another new building in which to attend classes.

School board members had accepted bids totaling \$321,644 at a meeting in October 1963 for the construction of the building deemed vital due to increased enrollments each year. Construction began Oct. 25, 1963, and was completed in time for the next school year.

Recent years have seen the addition of other buildings including a new reading room, band hall, field house. The school district also renovated an old dwelling for a Coordinated Vocational Academic Education laboratory.

The 80s saw a renewed emphasis on academics and athletics. New science and computer labs were added along with new classrooms, tennis courts and a track.

Thier began first school in 1904

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Information for this story was obtained in part from the History of the First Fifty Years of Holy Family Church, the History of the First Seventy-Five Years of Holy Family Parish and the Castro County History, Vol 1.)

Nazareth School District 4 was organized Feb. 10, 1902, two years before the Rev. Joseph Reisdorff, leader of the settlement, began plating the town of Nazareth.

When Louise Thier, the first Nazareth school teacher, started the classes in 1904, they were held in the small church that had been paid for with the assessment of \$50 on each section of land in the new colony, whether the owner resided at Nazareth or not.

By 1905, the one-room "green school" was built on church property. From 1910 to 1915, the Olivette Benedictine Sisters taught in the school. In 1915, the Benedictine Sisters of Fort Smith, Ark., took charge of the church school.

In 1910, using surplus money that had accumulated in the general fund provided by the state, school trustees bought two acres of land a mile east of Nazareth for a public school. Nazareth Public School was completed in 1913.

The 1913 school census showed 86 pupils attending both the parochial school and the public school. Many of the students roomed and boarded in town during the week, staying with friends and relatives in order to be closer to school.

In 1916, Nazareth Public School was changed from a primary school to an intermediate school. Later this school house was moved.

The first public school built within the townsite of Nazareth was opened for classes in the fall of 1917. This two-room school was built just west of the present grade school. According to old records, 1917 was the first year Sisters received pay from the state.

By 1923, the number of pupils had increased to 163 thanks to additions of land from Arney and Wise school districts. Another two-room school building was constructed to accommodate the growth. The new school found many uses over the years from the first school cafeteria to the band house.



NAZARETH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL—First and second grade students attending Nazareth Schools in 1928, benefitted from a new classroom—this one, which was located beside the Holy Family Church. On the left, students play on a swing and see-saw on the school's playground.
Courtesy Photo

Higher grades were added to the public school system in 1924. In total, 11 grades were taught with seven grades in the grade school and four grades in the high school. Adult evening classes in vocational agriculture were taught for a while in the little green school house.

The four-year high school was phased out in 1930, and the common school district returned to a two-year high school with grades one through nine. In 1935, the Nazareth Common School District reverted back to an 11-grade school with 169 students enrolled.

By 1928, the church had built a new parochial school just west of the church, and the first one-room school building was sold and moved to a new location.

Although another room was added to the first public school building in 1936, a new brick school was constructed by the Public Works Administration in 1939. The new school had six classrooms, an office, and a combined auditorium and gymnasium. By 1940, the new school was classified as an accredited public school with 12 grades, and the parochial first and second grades became part of the public school.

In conjunction with community interest in Nazareth schools, a number of parents in the parish formed the first PTA unit in 1938.

Baseball is mentioned frequently in histories about Nazareth. As early as 1909, the first baseball team was organized in Nazareth. However, baseball was not added to official school activities, which included softball, volleyball and basketball, until 1955.



DEDICATION ceremonies at the new Blue Ridge School were held in 1918 with many students present. Early records indicate the school probably was originally named Hogge, and it was located

three miles east and two miles south of Arney. It is believed that when this new building was constructed, the name of the school was changed to Blue Ridge.
Courtesy Photo



Money shortage forces consolidation of community subscription schools

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Information for this story was obtained from the *Castro County History, Vol. I.*)

From teachers living on ranches to "subscription" schools, wherever the need arose in the early days of Castro County, concerned settlers devised means to provide their children with an education.

Subscription schools were supported financially by the students' parents and concerned patrons. These schools developed anywhere teachers' salaries and facilities did not warrant state funds.

In 1911, Castro County had 22 schools. Nineteen schools existed in the county in the 20s.

Before 1911, it is almost impossible to count earlier schools accurately because there were so many "pockets" of education throughout the county in addition to the regular schools.

Nicknames made some of the early schools hard to keep track of. Some of the schools carried two names at the same time, and some of the community schools completely changed their names through the years, as Shive, "Ragtown" and Cleo did. A few of the schools in Bailey County were under Castro County supervision.

Other than a check written to L. Gough on the Dimmitt School District no other activity appears in county ledgers until 1899. Schools continued to be organized or closed depending on need.

Because of economic conditions during the 30s, the smaller communities could not meet State Department of Education requirements, and they began to bus their children to the larger schools in Dimmitt, Hart and Nazareth. The increased enrollment in the larger communities eventually led to a consolidation of school districts in the county.

As the schools started consolidating into the Dimmitt, Hart and Nazareth districts during the depression and dust bowl days, tax money remained scarce. Although economic conditions were better during World War II, there was a

shortage of teachers who sought higher paying jobs in government and industry. By 1945, the Dimmitt, Hart and Nazareth Independent School Districts had absorbed all other schools in Castro County.

Not everyone was happy about the consolidation. Smaller communities struggled to keep their identities after their schools, focal points of the community, closed. Some of the small communities had issued bonds to finance their buildings on 40-year terms. The independent districts helped pay off existing school debts of the smaller communities who owned their school buildings.

Besides Dimmitt, Hart and Nazareth, there have been schools in each of the following ranches and smaller communities: Frio, Shive/"Ragtown"/Cleo, Wise, Big Lake, Arney, Killough, Summerfield, Hogge - Eaton/Lone Star, Rance, Stiles-Big Square, Roush, Abbott, Red Tower, Lynch, Ax-Lakeview, Sunnyside, Hamm - Mulkey, New Castle, County Line, Jumbo, Sheppard Ward and Flagg.

Although "Lorena" and "Union" are names of schools in Castro County, existing in 1899 and 1902 respectively, nothing more is known about either of these schools.

State invents first tax loophole in 1876

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Information for this story was obtained from the *Castro County History, Vol. I.*)

When the State of Texas created the public school fund in 1876, it unwittingly created the first "loophole" for taxpayers.

The state designed a land apportionment plan not only to create a perpetual public school fund but also to encourage railroad expansion throughout the state.

The state intended to raise monies for the perpetual public school fund by taxing every other section of land. For taxing purposes, even-numbered sections were considered school lands and odd-numbered sections were considered railroad lands.

The state encouraged railroad expansion throughout the state by giving 16 odd-numbered sections for every mile of railroad line laid. That left only even-numbered school lands that could be filed on by early settlers.

With only a filing fee of \$16.50, a settler could file on school land, and payment for it was not due for 40 years.

The prospective taxpayers would

not pay the taxes levied. They claimed that until the 40 years was up, they did not own the land and, therefore, did not owe taxes.

Other collection problems plagued the state's perpetual public school fund. Settlers were required to live on the land for at least 3 years to get the 40-year payout offered by the state. During the early years, life was hard and many settlers could not hold on to their land. Many settlers either sold out or gave their claim back to the state.

Despite these problems, the state managed to create the perpetual public school fund, of which only the interest could be used. While the available interest was apportioned among the counties on a per capita basis, it would be many years before more than a few schools in the state would have the necessary facilities and equipment to qualify for state funds.

The early "subscription" schools in Castro County were a direct result of their failure to qualify for state school funds because they did not meet state requirements for school facilities and equipment.



HELEN ESTES RICHARDSON was a vital part of the Dimmitt School System for many years, having taught 42 years of her 44-year teaching career here. She said she taught pupils in all grades, with the exception of kindergarten and 12th grade. She was principal of Dimmitt Elementary School twice,

serving in that capacity for 17 years. Upon her retirement in May 1975, Dimmitt Elementary School was renamed after her—Helen Richardson Elementary School—and it is still known by that name today.

Castro County History, Vol. I



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Model: Mandy Davis

Naz students boast six gold medals in state UIL events

By KIM DOBMEIER

Nazareth's success in sports has spoken for itself in the past 20 years, but students from Nazareth also have excelled in other areas of competition as well, mainly academics.

Many students from Nazareth High School have captured the gold medal in the state in University Interscholastic League academic meets while competing in everything from shorthand and speaking to journalism events.

With the exception of two out of the past 14 years, a NHS student has competed at the state UIL academic meet. Out of those 14 years, there have been six state champions and many medalists.

It all started in 1877 when Gail Kleman won the state Shorthand contest. She was the first person from Nazareth to win a gold medal in an academic event at the state level.

Kleman says it was a valuable learning experience for her. She added that it helped her throughout college, not only to get jobs, but also in her study skills.

"Competing in UIL gave me a very disciplined attitude. I had to practice everyday, so that developed my study skills greatly," Kleman said. "It also developed my listening skills, and that was very useful in college and jobs that I had."

Speaking is another event in which students from Nazareth have competed. Although there only have been two champions in the speaking events, which are Persuasive and Informative Speaking, there have been three other competitors that have placed in the top four at state.

In 1979, Darryl Birkenfeld won the Persuasive Speaking contest. Then in 1987, Russell Acker won the Informative Speaking contest.

In 1984, Nazareth sent two students to state in journalism and since that time, there has been a competitor at state in a journalism contest every year except in 1985.

The gold medals didn't come along until 1986, though, when Alan Birkenfeld won the Editorial Writing contest.

In 1988, Stacy Albracht (now Wilhelm) won the gold medal in Feature Writing. That was her second trip to state in journalism. She qualified in the News Writing contest in 1987.

The last state champion from Nazareth was Cindy Albracht, who captured the gold medal in News Writing in 1990 after finishing second in the event at state in 1989.

But these are not the only champions from Nazareth High School.

Many other students have competed on the state level in Spelling, Science, Headline Writing and more, and they have placed near the top each time.

Other students placing in the top

four at the state contest through the years follow:

1982: Denise Acker, fourth, Persuasive Speaking.

1983: Mary Jean Huseman (now Wilhelm), fourth, Spelling.

1984: Anne Birkenfeld (now Acker), second, News Writing and fourth, Headline Writing.

1985: Russell Acker, third and Dwight Acker, fourth, both in Informative Speaking.

1987: Alan Birkenfeld, third, Editorial Writing; and Russell Acker, third in Ready Writing.

1988: Lorelea Acker, third, News Writing.

1989: Cindy Albracht, second, News Writing.

1990: Lorelea Acker, fourth, News Writing.

1991: Kim Dobmeier, second, News Writing; and Kalina Pohlmeier, fourth, Editorial Writing.

Omega Leavitt, math and computer teacher at NHS, helps students with the UIL speaking events and she thinks that working with UIL "helps the student's self-esteem" no matter what event they compete in.

"I believe it will make students' lives better no matter what they compete in," Leavitt said. "UIL also helps in regular school work. Journalism, spelling and writing events help the students express themselves in English class, just like math and science contests help the students develop those abilities for their normal schoolwork."

"It is a very good experience for the kids," Kleman said. "And it will help them a lot in college as well as in later life."

Swift Band wins two Sweepstakes

The Nazareth Swift Band achieved its most successful year in 1987, when it captured the school's first Sweepstakes Award and qualified 17 members for the all-region band.

The Swift Band, which includes band members from the seventh grade through senior class, earned first division ratings in each of three competitive events — marching, concert and sight reading, to earn the Sweepstakes Award. In 1987, the band performed under the direction of Bernie Tackitt.

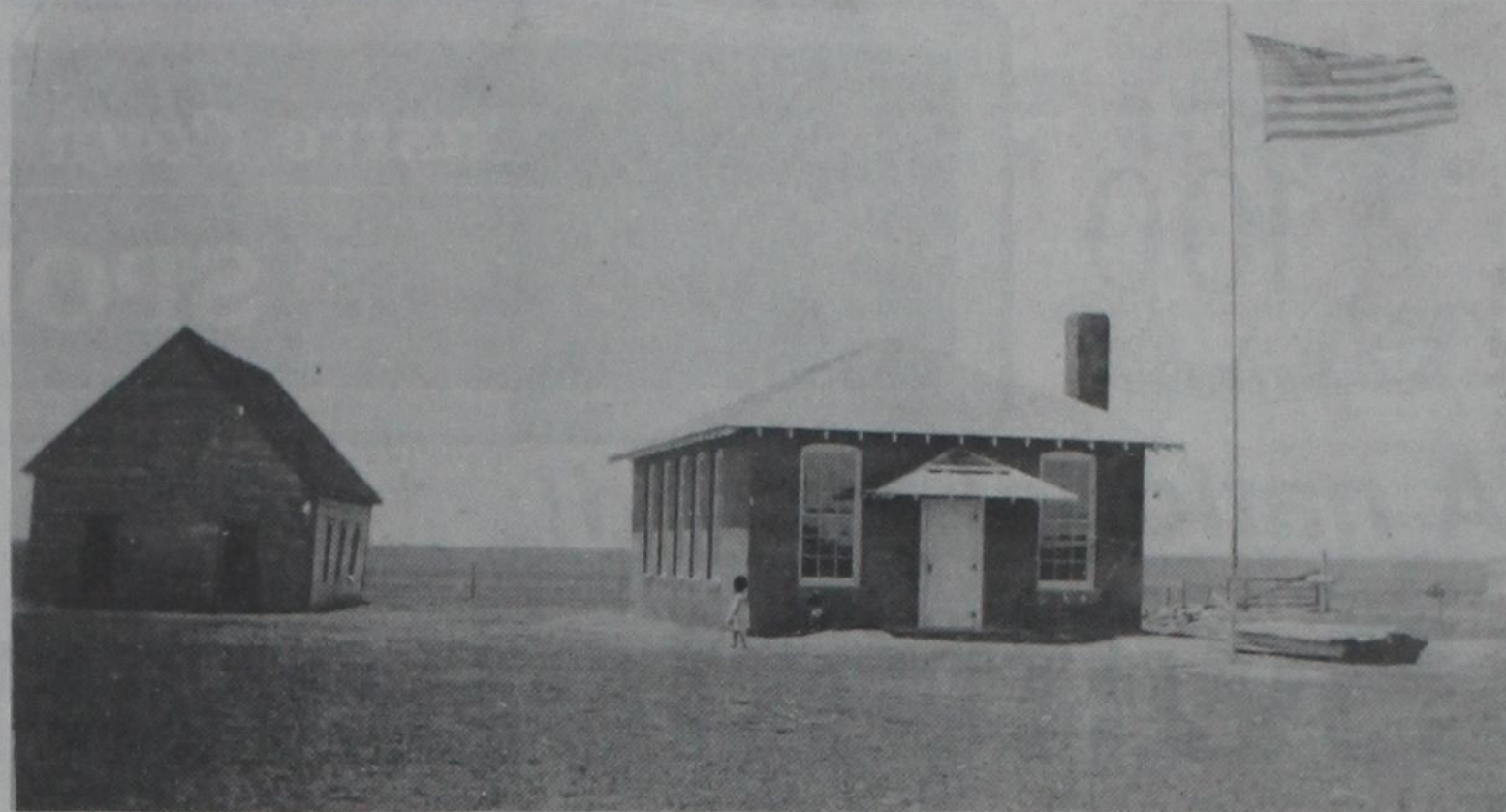
The Swift Band repeated its Sweepstakes Award in 1991, performing under the direction of Roger Myers.

Carson makes all-state at Hart in '77

Sharla Carson of Hart was named all-state in 1977.

Carson, a 5-8 guard, was named to the all-state third team, despite the fact that her team didn't make the playoffs.

She also earned "Most Valuable Player" honors as a guard in the Golden Spread All-Star Tourney.



THE FIRST SCHOOLS AT BETHEL, pictured here on the left, was built in 1909 and the first classes were held in 1910. It was located near the present-day site of Bethel. Classes were held here

until 1918, when the second school, pictured on the right, was constructed. Classes were held here until it burned in 1931.

Courtesy Photo

Bobcat band earns sweepstakes

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Information for the following article was obtained from the *Castro County History Book, Vol. 1 and the News.*)

By DANETTE BAKER

When someone mentions the word "band" in Dimmitt two words come to mind: Ralph Smith and success.

But the Smith musical history began years before Ralph came to the area.

J. Ralph Smith of Hereford, Ralph's father, introduced the music regalia to Dimmitt in 1926, in the form of a municipal band.

Eventually, the music concept integrated with the Dimmitt school system. Nolan Froehner served as the band director from 1947-51. Paul Jordan directed the band from 1951-52.

Then Ralph began his 31-year tenure, in which the Bobcat Band garnered 28 sweepstakes trophies, and won many festivals and other awards.

Between 1952 and 1979, the Bobcat Band won 25 University Interscholastic League Sweepstakes Awards and 27 First Division awards in UIL marching.

Other awards include: two-time sweepstake winners at the Borger Festival, Outstanding Band at the Buccaneer Festival in Corpus Christi, Outstanding Band at the Tri-State Music Festival in Enid, Okla., and the Featured Band in the Battle of Flowers Band Festival in San Antonio (three times).

The band also performed during half-time at the football game between the Air Force Academy and the University of Washington, which was televised nation wide.

During the next three years, Smith directed the Bobcat band in three additional sweepstakes

awards.

In 1989, under the direction of present band director Michael Johnson, the Bobcat Band won their 29th sweepstakes award.

Between Smith's retirement and Johnson's term, two other men have lead the Bobcat Band: Cody Myers, 1983-85 and Todd Parker, 1985-88.

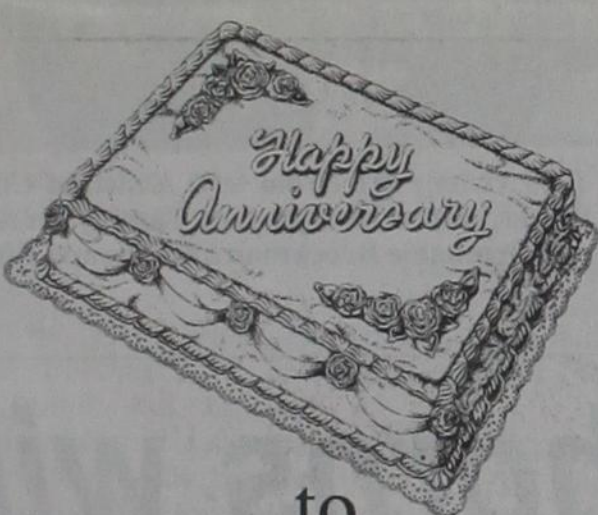
Hart students compete in state UIL literary meet

Three Hart High School students have achieved success on the academic level by competing in the state University Interscholastic League's literary meet.

In 1987, two HHS students advanced to state, but didn't place in their respective contests.

They were Joey Flores, who qualified in Shorthand; and Joel Wilson, who competed in Debate.

Melinda Wilson was the last Hart student to qualify for state in an academic event. She competed in Feature Writing in 1988.




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Castro County Centennial

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Swiftettes win 12 state titles

If there is anything that can prove the theory that success breeds success, the Nazareth Swiftettes basketball program might be at the top of the list.

The Swiftettes have enjoyed success for many years and have reached the top of the heap in girls' basketball 12 times since 1977, winning a dozen state championships—a national record.

It all started back in 1976 when a group of talented girls traveled the long road between Nazareth and Austin, to Gregory Gym to compete in the school's first state tournament. That group came up short in the semifinal game, but they started a tradition that continues today.

Since that first trip, the Swiftettes have made the trip to Austin 13 times and have finished first 12 times and second another time. The only two times the Swiftettes haven't made it to state since 1975 another Panhandle team—Sudan—has beaten them out in the Region 1-A finals and then gone on to win the state title themselves.

That's a pretty impressive record for a tiny West Texas school that today sports a high school average enrollment of under 80.

Cathy Wilson, an all-American guard from Wayland Baptist University, took over as Nazareth's head coach in 1976 right after graduating from WBU, and guided that first group to Austin. That team included Elaine Schulte, Rachelle Pohlmeier, Cheryl Hartman, Karen Schulte, Glenda Gerber, Lynora Braddock, Vera Birkenfeld, Rosemary Schulte, Cindy Schacher, Carol Hochstein, Beverly Heck, Colleen Gerber and Germaine Pohlmeier.

For a lot of schools, just getting to the state tournament would have been a thrill, but it wasn't for that group. They wanted more. And next year they got it.

Eight members of the 1976 team returned to provide inspiration as the team captured school's first state championship. Team members that year were Glenda Gerber, Doretta Ramaekers, Ladonna Brockman, Cindy Schacher, Marlene Huseman, Dianne Hochstein, Michelle Acker, Rosemary Schulte, Colleen Gerber, Karen Schulte, Rachelle Pohlmeier, Cheryl Hartman, Lynora Braddock and Germaine Pohlmeier.

The tradition continued with another state title in 1978, then another in 1979, 1980, 1981 and 1982 before Sudan halted the string in 1983. But in 1984, a new group of girls with a vision posted an undefeated record and got the tradition back on track winning the school's seventh state title. Only two girls graduated that year and the 1985 team was stronger than ever and continued the unbeaten string, eventually winning another state title. The Swiftettes hit a "cool

streak" for two years, finishing second in state in 1986 and losing in the regional finals to eventual state champion Sudan in 1987 before finding its way back to Austin in 1988, starting its current streak of state titles (four-in-a-row).

And all that with five different coaches.

After her 1977 team won state, Wilson left Nazareth to coach at Slaton and George Cox took over at the helm.

He guided Cheryl Hartman, Karen Schulte, Glenda Gerber, Doretta Ramaekers, Colleen Gerber, Lynora Braddock, Germaine Pohlmeier, Michelle Acker, Ladonna Brockman, Dianne Hochstein, Lori Gerber, Sharon Gerber and Paula Maurer to win the school's second straight state title, then left to pursue other interests.

In the meantime, Joe Lombard, decided to take a chance in coaching and accepted the position at Nazareth. He stayed for seven years and guided six teams to state championships.

His teams added to the string of championships through 1982 with teams that included:

1979—Glenda Gerber, Colleen Gerber, Marlene Huseman, Michelle Acker, Dianne Hochstein, Doretta Ramaekers, Lori Gerber, Sharon Gerber, Becky Hoelting, Leona Kleman, Roxanne Birkenfeld and Danelle Schmucker.

1980 — Doretta Ramaekers, Michelle Acker, Dianne Hochstein, Sharon Gerber, Roxanne Birkenfeld, Danelle Schmucker, Liz Wilhelm, Brenda Hoelting, Karen Birkenfeld, Rhonda Hoelting and Sharon Birkenfeld.

1981 — Sharon Gerber, Lori Gerber, Roxanne Birkenfeld, Liz Wilhelm, Danelle Schmucker, Brenda Hoelting, Karen Birkenfeld, Rhonda Hoelting, Sharon Birkenfeld, Annette Hoelting and Deanna Hoelting.

1982 — Roxanne Birkenfeld, Brenda Hoelting, Danelle Schmucker, Liz Wilhelm, Karen Birkenfeld, Annette Hoelting, Sharon Birkenfeld, Rhonda Hoelting, Shari Schilling, Renee Ramaekers and Leona Gerber.

Then in 1983 the streak was halted—just briefly—by the Sudan Hornets.

The 1983 Swiftettes defeated Sudan twice in district play, and both teams breezed to the regional finals, but Sudan finally found enough power to defeat the Swiftettes and claim the Region 1-A spot in the state tournament.

But the 1984 group — Renee Ramaekers, Shari Schilling, Leona Gerber, LaDawn Schmucker, Ramona Heiman, Kelly Schilling, Debbie Schmucker, Cece Kern, Annette Schmucker, Anita Huseman, Sheila Acker and Gail Birkenfeld — were a determined bunch. They not only came back to win state the next year, but they did it

with an unblemished record of 35-0.

"It made us mad," said Shari Schilling in describing how the team felt after losing in 1983. "We didn't ever want to feel that way again."

After the team won the championship, LaDawn Schmucker said it was a team joke at the first of the year that they would go undefeated after losing last year. Midway through the season, the team made it a much-wanted goal.

"We never dreamed that it would happen at first," said Renee Ramaekers.

"We will always remember this year," said Schmucker.

Schmucker had another year to add to her list of memories, though. She was just a junior on the 1984 team and in 1985, her team would once again go undefeated and claim the state crown.

The 1985 team, coached by Lombard, included Schmucker, Leona Gerber and Ramona Heiman, all returning starters from the 1984 team; Kelly Schilling, Debbie Schmucker, Anita Huseman, Annette Schmucker, Gail Birkenfeld, Missy Brockman, Traci Hill, Cece Kern and Sheila Acker.

In 1986 Lombard accepted the position as Canyon High School's head girls' coach and he was replaced by Sandy Oliver (Heiman), who had been his assistant at Nazareth.

Under her tutelage, the Swiftettes advanced to state in 1986, but lost in the championship game to Snook. In 1987 history repeated itself when Sudan beat the Swiftettes in the Region 1-A title game.

But in 1988, the Nazareth crew started another string of state titles which is unbroken at four-straight today. Each year's toughest competition has been in district, as always, but the teams are different. Sudan isn't the main obstacle standing in Nazareth's way—now it's Happy. For the past three years (1989, 1990 and 1991) the Happy Cowgirls and Swiftettes have faced off in district and in the regional championship game, with the Swiftettes winning eight of the nine confrontations. The Cowgirls were able to end Nazareth's 152-game winning streak in district in 1991 by claiming a buzzer-beater victory in Nazareth in the second District 5-A game.

But the Swiftettes still managed to win that Class A trophy, the fourth in a row and 12th overall—a national record.

Coach Oliver, who married Nazareth's Wayne Heiman, resigned as head coach in 1990 in order to devote more time to her family and another Lombard protege, Denese Skinner, was hired as the girls' head coach and she continued the winning tradition instilled by her predecessors.

Members of the 1988-1991 teams were:

1988—Rachel Huseman, Traci Hill, Missy Brockman, Bobbi Hochstein, Barbie Steffens, Stephanie Brockman, Shana Birkenfeld, Jenny Brockman, Darla Leavitt and Tami Ball.

1989 — Stephanie Brockman, Tammy Drerup, Shanna Birkenfeld, Jenny Brockman, Dana Schulte, Nikki Schulte, Monica Kleman, Tami Ball, Marla Ramaekers, Darla Leavitt, Stephanie Farris and Janay Johnson.

1990—Darla Leavitt, Tami Ball, Dana Schulte, Monica Kleman, Stephanie Farris, Peggy Huseman, Jodi Johnson, Janay Johnson, Jill Pohlmeier and Noel Johnson.

1991 — Noel Johnson, Janay Johnson, Jodi Johnson, Monica Kleman, Stephanie Farris, Peggy Huseman, Jill Pohlmeier, Natalie Schmucker, Nicole Kleman, Kristin Brockman and Jenny Jones.



THE CHAMPIONSHIP MOMENT — Moments like this one, captured after Nazareth won its 10th state girls' basketball title in 1989, were common throughout the 1980s, when the Swiftettes captured seven of the school's dozen titles. Celebrating the

1989 victory are (from left) Assistant Coach Leslie Storer, and senior players Tammy Drerup, Jenny and Stephanie Brockman and Shanna Birkenfeld.

File Photo

1976 Longhorns win regional in football

The Hart Longhorns of 1976 fielded the most successful football team in Castro County history, when the group captured the Region 1-A championship before losing in the North Texas Championship game.

The Longhorns success started in 1972 when the team qualified for the playoffs for the first time in the school's history.

Hart beat New Deal 28-13 in bi-district, but lost 6-21, to Clarendon in the regional championship game. The loss to Clarendon was the Horns first loss of the 1972 season, and they finished with a 9-1-1 mark.

Stanley Dyer was one of the main cogs in the Hart starting lineup that year and he earned all-state honors as a linebacker for the second straight year.

"Stanley Dyer is by far the best linebacker I have had the privilege of coaching," Hart Head Coach Lonnie Phillips said after the 1972 season. "He's always in on the tackle or at the point of the ball every time."

Dyer also doubled as a fullback in 1972 and he was joined in the backfield by tailback Jimmy Brown, who scored two touchdowns to lead Hart to its victory over New Deal in bi-district.

The team missed out on the playoffs in 1973, but the Horns were back with a vengeance in 1974 and qualified for bi-district, only to lose the game to Petersburg by a 24-0 count. The team finished with an 8-3 overall record under Phillips guidance.

The Longhorns qualified for the state playoffs again in 1975, but again they were eliminated in bi-district, this time by New Deal.

The 1975 team averaged 334-1/2

yards per game on offense and Barry George was one of the team leaders offensively. From his position in the backfield, he rushed for 953 yards on 165 carries and scored nine touchdowns and six two-point conversions throughout the season.

The 1976 team was by far the most successful in the Hart Independent School District history.

The Horns breezed through the regular season under the tutelage of first-year Head Coach Bill Taylor, then beat Petersburg in bi-district and Memphis for the regional championship.

"Our kids have set their sights on going farther than any other Hart team has gone," Taylor said after the Petersburg game, and little did he know that that was exactly what would happen.

In the bi-district game against Petersburg, the Horns were down with just a minute-and-a-half left in the game, but they weren't going to give up. The offensive unit drove 87 yards in four plays to score the

winning touchdown late in the game.

That moved the Horns into the regional championship game against Memphis and the team pulled out a come-from-behind victory to claim the title. Tight end Bryan Irons caught the winning touchdown pass from quarterback Eliazar Castillo with 34 seconds left to give his team a 14-12 win.

The Horns played Seagraves for the North Texas State Championship, but lost the contest, 6-26.

After that the Horns hit a dry spell and didn't make another playoff appearance until 1990, when they faced Seagraves in a Class AA bi-district tilt.

The Horns were on top and it looked like they would win the contest, but Seagraves scored on a last second play to win the game, 14-10, and that eliminated the Horns from the playoffs.

The team finished the 1990 season with an 8-3 record with Head Coach Alan Cherry at the helm.

Swiftette all-staters

Here's a list of the Nazareth High School girls basketball players that earned all-state, academic all-state or all-state tournament honors in the school's history.

1976: Elaine Schulte and Vera Birkenfeld.

1977: Karen Schulte, Cheryl Hartman and Rosemary Schulte.

1978: Cheryl Hartman, Colleen Gerber and Lynora Braddock.

1979: Glenda Gerber, Doretta Ramaekers and Lori Gerber.

1980: Sharon Gerber, Roxanne Birkenfeld and Doretta Ramaekers.

1981: Lori Gerber, Sharon Gerber, Roxanne Birkenfeld and Sharon Birkenfeld.

1982: Roxanne Birkenfeld, Annette Hoelting and Karen Birkenfeld.

1983: Rhonda Hoelting and Sharon Birkenfeld.

1984: LaDawn Schmucker, Shari Schilling, Leona Gerber, Renee Ramaekers and Ramona Heiman.

1985: Leona Gerber, LaDawn Schmucker, Ramona Heiman and Kelly Schilling.

1986: Gail Birkenfeld, Ramona Heiman and Kelly Schilling.

1987: Rachel Huseman and Missy Brockman.

1988: Darla Leavitt, Missy Brockman, Rachel Huseman, Stephanie Brockman and Traci Hill.

1989: Darla Leavitt, Jenny Brockman, Stephanie Brockman and Shana Birkenfeld.

1990: Monica Kleman, Noel Johnson and Darla Leavitt.

1991: Noel Johnson and Janay Johnson.



Bobcats hold AAA record for state trips

By DON NELSON

If you don't go to state, then it hasn't been a successful season.

No other Class AAA school in Texas has a boys' basketball tradition quite so impressive. But the Bobcats have been such a basketball dynasty for so many years, and have been to Austin so many times, their fans have practically come to expect it.

And for almost half a century, DHS's coaches and players have given them good reason to.

In the past 47 years, Dimmitt High School has produced no fewer than 37 all-staters and placed two coaches in the Balfour Hall of Fame in Houston, the ultimate honor for a high-school coach.

DHS has had only five boys' varsity basketball coaches over the last half-century. Three of them—John Blaine in the 1940s and early '50s, Johnny Ethridge in the late '50s and early '60s, and present coach Ken Cleveland since 1961—have created dynasties.

Blaine's 1944 Bobcats were the first team to go to state. That team finished third in the eight-team tournament and produced Dimmitt's first all-stater, Bill Birdwell. Other starters were Tom Mayfield, Howard Cook, Kenneth Jackson and John Curtis.

Blaine's Bobcats went again in 1948, when the starters were Lewis Martin, Carl Jowell, Lonnie Rice, Junior Fuller and Jack Ziegler. They defeated unbeaten Sinton, the tournament favorite, in the first round, but lost 41-40 in overtime to unbeaten Mount Vernon in the second round, finishing third.

Then, in 1952, Blaine and his Bobcats racked up a dream year—an undefeated 36-0 season and Dimmitt's first state championship in boys' basketball.

Starters on the 1952 team were Bill Gregory (all-state), Glenn Brown (all-state), Marvin Axe (all-state), Douglas Dennis, Weldon Warren and Wesley Smith.

Not only did the 1952 Bobcats win the Class A state championship; after doing so they had to play the Class AA champion, Bowie, in what promoters called a "divisional championship" game. Bowie had towering Temple Tucker, who would go on to play for TCU, but the underdog Bobcats won the game by six.

That was the year Blaine also coached the Bobbies to a 36-0 undefeated season and the state championship (Mrs. Blaine went with the boys' team to the regional tournament while he was at the state tournament with the girls' team), and guided the Bobcat foot-

ball team to a 10-1 record and the regional finals to become the winningest coach in the US in high-school team sports that year.

As a result, Blaine would be inducted into the Balfour Texas Coaches Hall of Fame in 1970.

When Blaine moved to Sundown after the '51-'52 school year, Leo Fields coached the Bobcats until the late 1950s, when Johnny Ethridge took the helm.

Ethridge, a former point guard for TCU, guided the Bobcats to the state championship game in both 1960 and '61.

Both teams lost in the finals, but those Ethridge teams wrote a new chapter in the Texas high school record books. Junior Coffey of Dimmitt became the first black player to appear in a UIL state boys' basketball tournament in 1960, and in '61 became the UIL's first black all-stater.

"I was on the campus at Southwest Texas State in San Marcos, going to summer school, when I read this little piece in the *Austin American-Statesman* that Johnny Ethridge had accepted the coaching job at Amarillo High School," Cleveland said. "I didn't walk, I ran to the nearest phone and called Paul Hilburn (Dimmitt superintendent).

"I knew Dimmitt was a basketball town—I had watched them play in the state tournaments ever since high school," Cleveland said. "It was just the kind of town I wanted to be in."

Cleveland—an all-stater at Coleman and an all-Southwest Conference guard at Texas—had been out of college just two years, coaching at Sonora, when he was hired as DHS's new boys' cage mentor in 1961.

He's been here ever since.

Cleveland's first team here advanced to the regional finals in '62, losing to Perryton, 47-52.

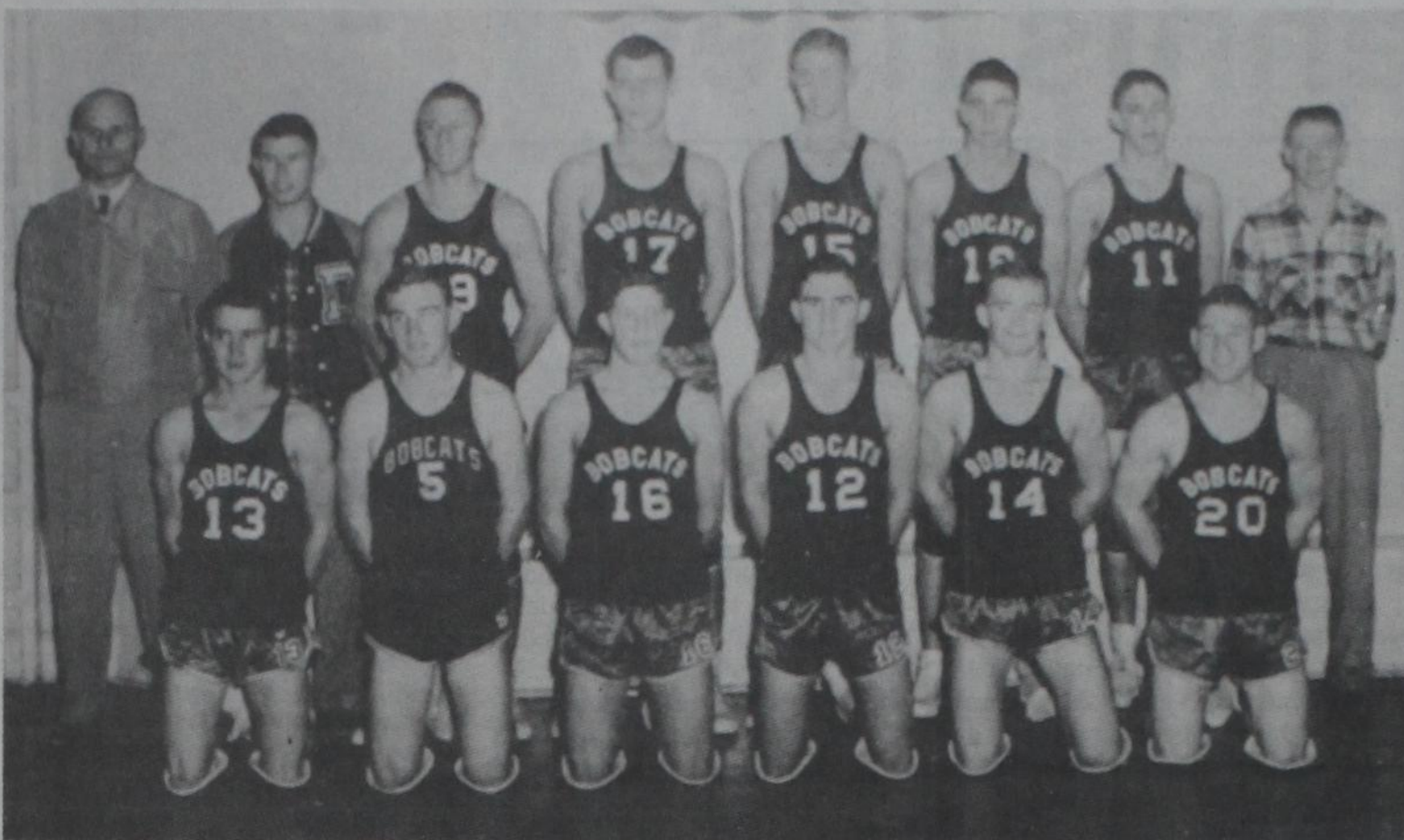
In 1963, Cleveland produced his first all-stater, Michael Calvert. He would be the first of 28 so far. That '63 team won district but lost to Denver City in bi-district.

After making it to the regional finals again in '64 and '66, Cleveland's 1967 Bobcats hitched the bus to Austin—his first trip as a coach, the school's sixth time in boys' basketball.

That team finished as state runners-up, losing to Hardin-Jefferson of Sour Lake in the state championship game, 51-59.

The Bobcats' next trip to Austin was in 1971, when they lost in the first round to Hughes Springs, 45-56.

That made seven trips to state,



THE 1952 BOBCATS won Dimmitt High School's first state boys' basketball championship—and they did it in spades, posting a perfect 36-0 record and defeating Class AA state champion Bowie after capturing the Class A title. In FRONT ROW, from left, are Weldon Warren, Jimmie Howell, William

with one state championship.

"Dimmitt, Darnit, Wants It," the headline in the *Austin American-Statesman* said when the 1975 Bobcats made the school's eighth appearance in UT's old Gregory Gym.

Well Dimmitt, darnit, dunnit that year. The team that included Steve Myatt, Jim Birdwell, Craig Williams, Wayne McKee, Brad Sanders, Travis Hampton Jr. and Johnny Hampton defeated Kountze in the first round, then knocked off Van Vleck, 49-42, in the finals to capture DHS's second state boys' championship, and Cleveland's first.

Cleveland was given the top honor by his peers the 1976 when he was named to coach the North All-Stars in the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches' annual meeting.

Bobbie all-staters

Here's a list of the Dimmitt High School girls' basketball players that earned all-state, academic all-state or all-state tournament honors in the school's history.

- 1930: Lillian Harp and Zonelle Brooks.
- 1931: Frankie Senters, Zonelle Brooks and Evelyn Blanton.
- 1932: Frankie Senters, Ona Fay Smith and Elaine Dyer.
- 1950: Lometa Odom and Mauriene Smithson.
- 1951: Lometa Odom, Mauriene Smithson.
- 1952: Lometa Odom and Mitzie Wilson.
- 1954: Margaret Odom, Mary Nelson and Mary Ann Witt.
- 1955: Margaret Odom and Shirley DeLozier.
- 1976: Maria Winders and Beth Cleveland.
- 1977: Beth Cleveland and Nita Parker.
- 1979: Lori Dyer and Vicki Cleveland.
- 1989: Renae Josselet.
- 1990: Renae Josselet.
- 1991: Halley Bradley.

(This list was compiled from *News'* records, and the omission of any names is unintentional. If any names have been omitted, we would appreciate knowing. Just call us at 647-3123.)

The Bobcats and Morton Indians, especially, staged some fierce, high-stakes battles during those years—first at the bi-district or regional level, and later in the same District 2-AA.

The year after Dimmitt's 1975 state championship, for instance, the Bobcats posted a 31-2 mark. Their only two losses were to Morton, and the Indians went on to win the state championship while the Bobcats had to settle for second place in district.

After losing to Seminole in the regional finals in '85, the Bobcats returned to Austin in '86, '87 and '88 to set a new UIL Class AAA record for number of appearances in the state tournament—15.

The '86 Bobcats lost a heartbreaker to Cleveland, 56-57, in the championship game. The '87 team suffered a disastrous 29-59 loss to Hughes Springs in the first round, and the '88 team lost to powerful Sweeney, 53-67, in the first round.

In 1988, Cleveland joined John Blaine in the Balfour Texas High School Coaches Hall of Fame—a rarity for a still-active coach.

It's been—gosh—three years now since the Bobcats have finished a season in Austin.

And as the county enters its second century, Dimmitt's spoiled fans are probably wondering how many times they can do it again between now and the year 2091.



**Best Records of the Century,
BOYS' BASKETBALL**

1983 Dimmitt Bobcats.....38-0
1952 Dimmitt Bobcats.....36-0

**Coach of the Century
JOHN BLAINE**

Dimmitt High School, 1951-52

Boys' Basketball.....36-0
Girls' Basketball.....36-0
Football.....10-1

Bobcat all-staters

Here's a list of the Dimmitt High School boys' basketball players that earned all-state, academic all-state or all-state tournament honors in the school's history.

- 1944: Bill Birdwell.
- 1948: Carl Jowell.
- 1952: Bill Gregory, Marvin Axe and Glenn Brown.
- 1960: Hal Ratcliff.
- 1961: Junior Coffey and Jim Ratcliff.
- 1963: Michael Calvert.
- 1966: Bob Bradford.
- 1967: John Howell.
- 1969: Jerry Brady.
- 1970: Bobby Baker.
- 1971: Mark Wohlgenuth and Kent Bradford.
- 1972: Danny Ebeling.
- 1974: Paul Langford.
- 1975: Craig Williams, Wayne McKee, Jim Birdwell and Steve Myatt.
- 1976: Jim Birdwell.
- 1977: Keith Crum.
- 1978: Rocky Rawls, Jim Bradford and Jeff Bell.
- 1979: Mark Summers.
- 1982: Kevin Cleveland; Phil King and Jeff Watts.
- 1983: Kevin Cleveland, John Smith, Jeff Watts and John David Kiung.
- 1984: Brad Holcomb and Dwight McDonald.
- 1985: Pat McDonald.
- 1986: Pat McDonald and James Alexander.
- 1987: James Alexander.
- 1988: Warren McDonald and James Alexander.
- 1989: Emilio Arce.



END OF A PERFECT SEASON — Dimmitt's 1982-83 Bobcats climaxed a perfect 38-0 season by capturing the Class AAA state championship March 12, 1983. Here, Kevin Cleveland draws a roar from the state tournament crowd of 8,500 as he hoists the state championship trophy and game net over his head following the

Bobcats' 81-54 victory over Van Vleck in the title game in the Frank Erwin Special Events Center at UT-Austin. Four members of the team which the *News* dubbed "The Awesome Bunch" made all-state. It was Dimmitt High School's fourth state championship in boys' basketball.

NHS has won 17 state tennis titles

Kim King is queen of Texas tennis is how the News headline read in May 1973, when Kim King brought home Nazareth High School's first state championship in athletics, and her victory started a tradition that continues today when current headlines could read, *Nazareth tennis players reign supreme—again.*

It all started back in 1973 when King brought home the school's first state championship by winning the Class B singles title in tennis and since then the school has added 16 more state championship tennis trophies to its trophy cases.

King may have started a new chapter in the school's history with her victory in May 1973, but the story continues today as Adrian Farris, a sophomore, won the school's 17th state tennis title by claiming the Class A singles crown in May.

King played on the University of Texas courts in Austin in 1973 and that's where Farris claimed his single's title just a month ago.

In 1973, King, who was then a junior in high school, defeated two other regional champions to win Nazareth's first state title in athletics.

Meanwhile, NHS's boys' and girls' doubles teams fought their way into the championship matches before bowing in the finals and finishing as state runners-up.

Despite the fact that Celeste—a perennial state tennis contender—won both doubles championships, NHS finished with the highest point total in the tournament.

With 15 points for a championship and 10 for a second place, Nazareth generated 35 team points to Celeste's 30.

King started her state tourney climb by defeating Tivoli's Suzie Farris, 6-3, 6-4, then topped Forestbur's Carolyn Conway 6-2, 6-3 for the championship.

Nazareth sophomores Patti Hochstein and Delphine Wethington won a tough match in the first round to advance to the championship match in girls' doubles. There they found the defending state champions, Celeste's Deborah Stutzer and Sharon Gray, to be a little too much, dropping the title match 3-6, 4-6.

The boys' doubles team of Richard Birkenfeld and Glen Ehly had a tough climb throughout, but almost pulled a state championship out of the hat before losing the final match.

After winning the state match, King said "I didn't know whether to laugh or cry after it was over. I think Nazareth getting three teams into the state finals surprised everybody, especially Dad," she added, referring to then NHS Supt. Joe King, who was the tennis coach and King's father.

"Dad helped us a lot," she said. "He gave us the initiative and he always evaluated us after a match and told us what we did wrong. And he encouraged us during a match. He put a lot of faith in us and that helped our confidence."

In 1974, King repeated as state champion her senior year while Hochstein and Wethington returned to the state meet, but lost out in the semifinals.

The doubles team had been denied at the state tourney for two straight years, but they were young and still had one more chance. And that was all they needed.

The third time proved to be the charm for the Hochstein-Wethington duo, who finally won the Class B state doubles championship in 1975. Another doubles team from Nazareth entered the scene that year and qualified for state—Rosemary Schulte and Rachelle

**Best Records of the Century,
GIRLS' TENNIS**
Nazareth High School, 1973-1991
3 State Titles, Girls' Singles
9 State Titles, Girls' Doubles

Pohlmeier.

Although Schulte and Pohlmeier were denied in their first appearance at Austin, they returned to the tournament two years later and didn't lose a single set enroute to a Class A girls' doubles title. That was in 1977.

A year earlier, Danny Gerber qualified for the state tournament and he was the first Nazareth boy to compete in the state meet.

Karleen Kleman and Doretta Ramaekers teamed in 1978 to claim the Class B girls' doubles title, bringing the trophy home to Nazareth for the third year. Glenda Gerber qualified in girls' singles that year and made it to the state finals before losing out. The Nazareth's boys' doubles team of Derwin Huseman and Wayne Heiman made their first appearance at the Class B state tournament that year, also.

Ramaekers teamed with Glenda Gerber to win her second straight Class B doubles crown in 1979. The Nazareth boys also were well represented at state in 1979, sending two doubles teams to Austin—Norman Gerber and Perry Brockman, and Jimmy Huseman and Stanley Hoelting.

After many tries at the state meet, the Nazareth boys managed to bring home a state championship in tennis in 1980.

Gerber and Brockman returned to Austin in 1980 and were determined to come back with a trophy and that's just what they did. The duo won the school's first boys' tennis state title—the Class B boys' doubles crown.

In 1981, Nazareth jumped to Class A, but that didn't stop the Swifts and Swiftettes from winning.

Gerber graduated in 1980, but Brockman still had another year left, so in 1981 he teamed with Calvin Schulte and the two won the Class A state championship in three matches, without dropping a set.

That year, three girls qualified for state, but didn't come away with first place honors.

Roxane Birkenfeld and Sharon Gerber came close, though. The two finished as state runners-up in Class A girls' doubles. Brenda Hoelting qualified for state in girls' singles, but was eliminated before the finals.

She got her chance for a state title the next year, though. Hoelting and Birkenfeld teamed in 1982 and captured the Class A doubles title, the school's seventh girls' tennis championship.

A freshman entered the scene in 1983 and promptly qualified for state, making it all the way to the Class A championship match before she lost out. She was Ramona Heiman, younger sister of former state qualifier, Wayne Heiman, and before her high school career was over, she would have three gold medals around her neck. Leona Gerber, whose brother, Norman, won state earlier, also qualified for state in Class A girls' singles in 1983, but she was eliminated in the semifinals.

So, Gerber and Heiman teamed up in 1984 and 1985 and won back-to-back Class A girls' doubles crowns.

Gerber graduated in 1985 and in 1986, Heiman teamed with cousin Traci Hill and the duo won another Class A doubles crown.

Hill's parents had a double reason to be proud spectators at Austin that year—Traci's brother, Todd, and his partner, Kenny Kern, also captured the Class A boys' doubles title that year, winning after a three-hour duel in the championship match.

Kern and Hill won the championship again in 1987 and another girls team entered the race and also won bragging rights in the state—Traci Hill and Stephanie Brockman, the younger sister of Perry Brockman, who teamed up with Norman Gerber and Calvin Schulte to win state championships in boys doubles earlier.

Traci Hill and Stephanie Brockman qualified for state again in 1988, but the duo were upset in the finals and had to settle for second place.

Stephanie Brockman went out on her own in 1989 and succeeded in capturing the Class A singles title. Tami Ball and Jennifer Brockman represented Nazareth in the Class A doubles tourney, but were eliminated in the semifinal round.

The decade of the 1990s looked bright with the emergence of Adrian Farris, who, as a freshman, competed in the Class A state tournament, working his way into the championship match before bowing out.

Farris got a second shot in 1991, though, and this time he didn't miss a beat enroute to his first Class A singles title. And he did it without losing a set. And he only lost two games along the way.

That's pretty impressive—especially when he's still got two years left in his high school career.

And with his talent and the talents of others like Jodi Johnson, who played in the Class A girls' singles tourney in this year as a junior; and junior Natalie Schmucker, who teamed with senior Stephanie Farris this year to qualify for state in Class A doubles, the future still looks bright for Nazareth's tennis program.

... with more state championships to come.



TIRED BUT HAPPY—Swiftettes celebrate after winning Nazareth High School's third straight girls' cross country state championship in 1985-86. Team members include (from left) Rachel Huseman, Gail Birkenfeld, Kelly Schilling, Debbie Schmucker, Linda Birkenfeld, Monica Kleman and

Stephanie Brockman. Swiftettes won handily, 38-110, over the runner-up Sudan Lady Hornets. Three Swiftettes finished in the top 10 in team scoring including Linda Birkenfeld, fifth; Schmucker, sixth; and Huseman, 10th. Also placing included Schilling, 11th; and Gail Birkenfeld, 12th.

Naz girls win five state titles in cross country during 1980s

Five straight state championships in cross country highlighted the running efforts of Nazareth High School athletes during the 1980s.

The Swiftettes fielded their first cross country team in 1980, and three years later, in 1982-1983, the first girl advanced to the state cross country meet at Georgetown. She was Leona Gerber, and she placed 20th.

When the cross country program was implemented in Nazareth in 1980-81 by then girls basketball coach Joe Lombard, "We Run For Fun," was the motto the team lived by. That motto was adopted by other teams through the years.

That's because the teams didn't take the sport seriously in the beginning, despite winning state championships.

Lombard initiated the cross country program because the meets are held at the start of the school year and it soon became a conditioning workout for the girls' basketball team because most of the cross country competitors were members of the basketball team.

They carried their success in basketball over to cross country and before long, the runners' reputation for success spread across the state.

The five-year streak started in the 1983-84 season.

Nazareth's girls won their first state championship that year with the help of Debbie Schmucker, Renee Ramaekers, Shari Schilling, CeCe Kern, Kelly Schilling, Gail Birkenfeld and Leona Kleman.

The Swiftettes repeated their performance in 1984-85, when Ladda Schmucker, CeCe Kern, Kelly Schilling, Debbie Schmucker,

Leona Gerber, Bobby Hochstein, Missy Brockman, Rachel Huseman and Gail Birkenfeld made the long trip to Georgetown and returned home with a gold trophy and medals.

Linda Birkenfeld paced the 1985-86 and 1986-87 teams, by finishing fifth and third at the state meet, respectively. Her teams won state both years, to give Nazareth four straight championships.

Members of the 1985-86 team were Linda Birkenfeld, Rachel Huseman, Gail Birkenfeld, Kelly Schilling, Debbie Schmucker, Shana Birkenfeld and Stephanie Brockman.

In 1986-87, team members included Nikki Schulte, Marla Ramaekers, Barbie Steffens, Rachel Huseman, Shana Birkenfeld, Stephanie Brockman, Missy Brockman, Bobbie Hochstein and Linda Birkenfeld.

The Swiftettes of 1987-88 captured Nazareth's fifth consecutive—and to date, their last—state championship in cross country.

Girls running for Nazareth that year included Missy Brockman, Rachel Huseman, Shana Birkenfeld, Barbie Steffens, Darlene

Heck, Nikki Schulte, Linda Birkenfeld, Jenny Brockman and Janay Johnson.

The next year the streak ended, but the Swiftettes still qualified for state and placed third, paced by Christy Birkenfeld's ninth place finish. Although the Swiftettes haven't managed to bring home another gold trophy in cross country since the 1987-88 year, they have sent a team to the state championship every year.

The 1989-90 and 1990-91 teams managed to bring home silver medals with second place finishes.

The boys' cross country teams were not without success, either.

Joel Birkenfeld was the lone boy competing in the sport in 1983-84, but he qualified for regional.

In 1989-90, the boys entered their first cross country team in meets, and they proceeded to claim second place at district and advanced to regional. That was as far as the team would advance.

The boys advanced to regional again in 1990-91, but couldn't manage to nail down a state berth.

Happy 100th, Castro County!

**Best Record of the Century
GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY**
Nazareth High School,
1983-84 to 1987-88
5 Consecutive State Championships

It's not a Mirage!

Castro County really did make it to the century mark, and we're looking forward to the next century, continuing to do business with you as our family has since 1964.

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George Book, Owner
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Fathers and Sons

FATHER: Bill Birdwell, Dimmitt High School's first all-stater in boys' basketball (1944).
SON: Jim Birdwell, Dimmitt's first second-generation all-stater (1975).

FATHER: Robert Wesley Smith, starter on Dimmitt High School's first undefeated boys' basketball team (36-0) in 1951-52.
SON: John Smith, starter on DHS's second undefeated boys' basketball team (38-0) in 1982-83.

FATHER: Kenneth Cleveland, Coleman High School all-stater and career basketball coach.
SON: Kevin Cleveland, Dimmitt High School all-stater and career basketball coach.

Hart netters display talents at state meet

The decade of the 1980s saw the Hart Longhorn and Lady Horn tennis teams advance from the regional tournament to the state tourney for the first time in the school's history.

In 1985, a girls' doubles team and a boys' singles player added another chapter to the school's net history when they advanced to the state tournament.

Castillo went a step farther by finishing third in the state meet, and although another singles player and two doubles teams also have finished third in the state meet since then, Castillo was the first.

In 1986 Ammons returned to the state meet again, this time as a singles player. She finished third. Also that year, Martin Castillo

and Andy Castillo teamed up to finish third in the boys' doubles tournament at state.

The Castillos competed at state again in 1987, but this time they didn't place in the top three.

In 1988, Andy Castillo teamed with Blair Brown and the pair captured the bronze medal at the state doubles tournament.

The most recent success story about Hart tennis players is April Bennett, who qualified for state as a singles player this year—and she's only a sophomore. That means she's got another two shots at a gold medal.

Hart also has hopes for April's younger sister, Shea, who has been winning tournaments herself.

**Best Records of the Century,
BOYS' TENNIS**
Nazareth High School, 1976-1991
1 State Title, Boys' Singles
4 State Titles, Boys' Doubles

**Best Record of the Century,
GIRLS' BASKETBALL**
1952 Dimmitt Bobbies.....36-0
1984 Nazareth Swiftettes.....35-0
1985 Nazareth Swiftettes.....34-0

Swifts claim first state basketball title in 1986

The fourth time proved to be the charm for the Nazareth Swifts in 1986.

After three previous unsuccessful bids for the state championship in Class A boys' basketball, the Swifts finally captured the elusive crown in 1986.

Nazareth's boys earned their first trip to the Class A state championship in 1980, but lost in the state semifinals to West Lamar, 50-53. Team members that year were Jeff Schmucker, John Steffens, Bryan Huseman, Calvin Schulte, Dale Hoelting, Dwayne Acker and Gary Book, and they were coached by Bud Birks.

That group reached a milestone in Nazareth's boys' basketball history just by getting to state, but three teams in the middle of the decade would top that.

For three straight years, from 1984-86, the Swifts advanced to the state title game, but they only managed to win one championship—in 1986.

In 1984, Coach Joe Lombard

(who was doubling as head girls' and boys' coach at the time) guided Mark Huseman, Randy Leavitt, Scottie Book, Johnny Schmucker, Marvin Schmucker, Sidney Gerber, Eric Wilhelm, Ricky Backus, Chris Gerber and Russell Hoelting, through the regular season, bi-district and area rounds, and the regional tournament to earn a spot in the state tournament with a 32-2 record. After winning the state semifinal game, the Swifts were beaten in the championship game by perennial Class A champion, Snook, 30-39. They finished the season with a 33-3 mark.

But the Swifts were back again next year and this time the road to Austin was a little harder to travel. The Swifts won the Region 1-A title again, but it was a tough battle throughout the tournament. Things definitely didn't let up once the Swifts reached the state semifinals, either. They managed to pull out a 44-42 win over Munday in the contest, but then dropped the cham-

pionship game to LaPoyner by a heart-breaking 43-45 decision.

Members of the 1985 team were Billy Steffens, Kenny Kern, Kevin Hoelting, Randy Leavitt, Russell Hoelting, Chris Gerber, Craig Huseman, Ricky Backus, Darryl Hoelting, Todd Hill and Chris Schmucker. Lombard was the head coach.

Then came the boys of 1986.

They captured the school's first-ever and only state championship in boys' basketball.

The group edged Laneville 57-47 in the state semifinals, then beat Archer City 53-49 in the title game. Darryl Hoelting sank clutch free throws in the final stanza of the title game to keep the Swifts in the lead.

In addition to Hoelting, other team members were Randy Leavitt, Billy Steffens, Kevin Hoelting, Chris Schmucker, Craig Huseman, Todd Hill, Kenny Kern, Marlon Backus, Gregg Gerber and Kyle Schilling. Johnny Hampton coached the championship team.



THE TOP OF THE HEAP—Senior members of the 1986 Nazareth Swifts basketball team raise the state championship trophy in celebration after they won the school's first boys title. The team finished

as the most successful boys team in the school's history, winning the state championship with a 28-6 record. Johnny Hampton coached the Swifts that year.

File Photo

NHS lines up first full gridiron schedule in 1957

Nazareth High School first ventured onto the gridiron during the 1956-57 school year, when a game or two was played, but the school didn't officially adopt football as a "full season" sport until 1957-58.

Dan Schmucker said he remembers playing one game against Spade before football was officially listed as a sport at NHS and he said the Swifts lost by quite a good margin.

After that a team was organized for the next year, Fred Scott was named coach and they played nine games. They won their season opener over the Petit Eagles, 27-7.

A lot of the early six-man games which the Swifts played, were played at Hart on the nights when

the Longhorns were off, or when they were out of town. Hart's field was wider and longer than the regulation six-man fields were supposed to be, so tapes were rolled out and nailed down to mark off the sidelines and end zones.

In 1960, the Swifts captured the school's first district championship in football (in six-man play) and advanced to the playoffs.

In 1960-61 Nazareth was promoted to an eight-man lineup and they played that way for four years before switching to an 11-man format.

The eight-man football team won district and bi-district in 1963, but lost to Darrouzett in regional play.

Jimmy Hoelting was named an

all-state end that year.

During this time, football was played on the community baseball facilities, which had been located along Highway 86, just east of the city.

Hoelting said the school allowed the Swifts to play three 11-man practice games that year, but the team still competed as an eight-man team in the playoffs. James Gibson, who now coaches at West Texas High School, was the head coach for the Swifts in 1963-64.

The football field located at Nazareth's school was used for the first time during the 1964-65 season, when the school switched from eight- to 11-man football.

Naz golfers achieve district success

Golfers in Nazareth have enjoyed success through the years, with several teams and individuals advancing to regional.

The boys' team in 1986 was just one spot shy of advancing to the state meet. They finished third at regional, just one spot short of earning a state berth. Billy Steffens and Dezane Schacher each placed third at district, in the boys and girls meets, respectively.

Nazareth adopted a golf program in 1979 and since then the boys' team has advanced players to regional nine times. The girls sent golfers to regional for seven years.

The first year a girls' team advanced to regional was 1991. Before that, only individuals placed and district and advanced on to the regional meet.

In 1980, two members of the boys' golf team advanced to regional. At district, Steve Albracht winning a sudden death playoff hole to claim second place medalist

honors. Teresa Brockman was the first girl to earn a spot in the regional meet.

Nazareth qualified its whole boys' team for regional in 1981 for the first time in the school's history. That team finished seventh at regional.

There wasn't a golf team fielded in 1982, but in 1983, another team was created and it won the district title for the first time. Dale Albracht placed second. Liz Albracht qualified for regional with a third place district finish in the girls' meet. At the regional tournament,

the 1983 team placed 12th.

In 1984, Liz Albracht once again finished third in district while the boys team placed second in district and eighth at regional.

Albracht repeated as a medalist at district while the boys' team qualified for regional again in 1985.

The boys' qualified teams for regional in 1987, 1990 and 1991 while the girls' team qualified in 1991.

No Nazareth golf team or individual has advanced to state, to date.

**Best Record of the Century,
BOYS' TRACK & FIELD
Dimmitt Bobcats, 1950-51
State Runners-up**

Swift all-staters

Here's a list of the Nazareth High School boys basketball players that earned all-state, academic all-state or all-state tournament honors in the school's history.

- 1979: Jeff Schmucker.
- 1980: Jeff Schmucker.
- 1982: Calvin Schulte.
- 1984: Johnny Schmucker and Mark Huseman.
- 1985: Chris Gerber, Ricky Backus and Russell Hoelting.
- 1986: Darryl Hoelting and Randy Leavitt.
- 1987: Kenny Kern.

The first black athlete to play in a University Interscholastic League state boys' basketball tournament was Junior Coffey of Dimmitt High School in 1960. His team finished as state runner-up to Linden-Kildare.

HHS votes to organize football team

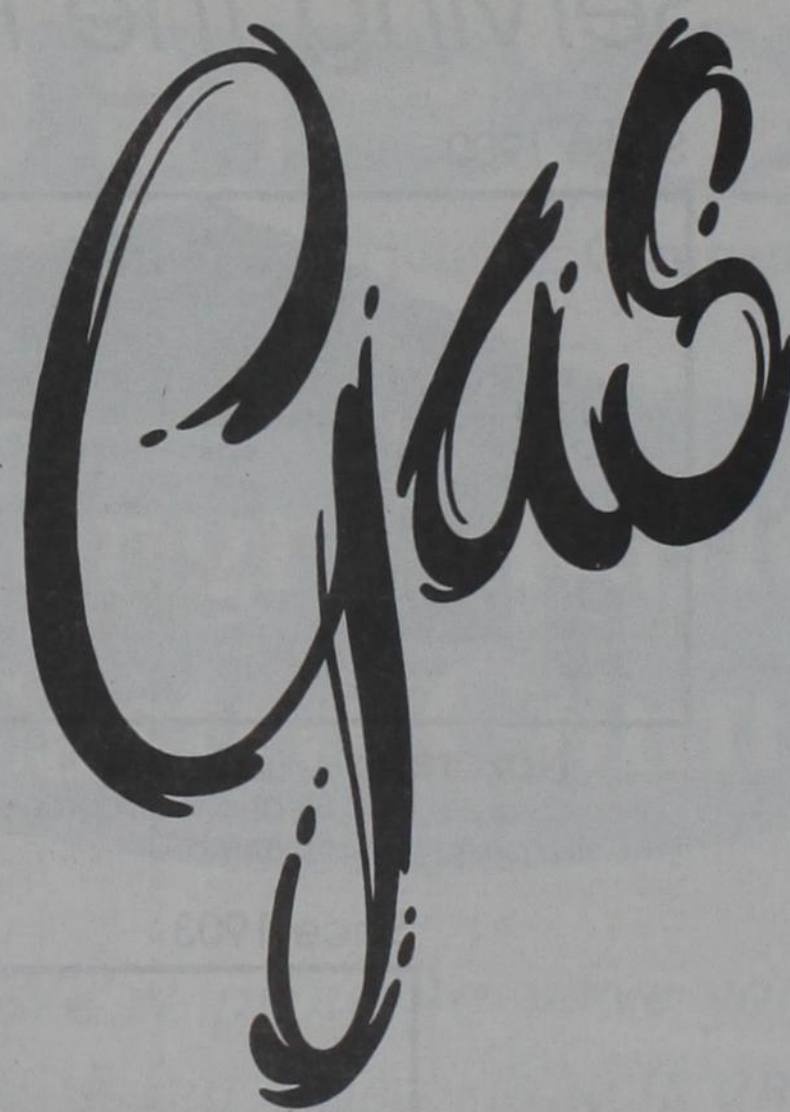
Hart High School joined the ranks of other District 3-B schools by deciding to field its first football team in December 1954.

The school officials and townspeople had contemplated such a move earlier, but not until the December 1954 meeting of the board was the decision made which gave Hart its first football team in the history of the school.

Seven games had already been scheduled for the 1955 season, but only after the board sanctioned the move did the tentative gridiron slate become official. Two more games were scheduled to give the school a completed schedule which included games against Kress, Whitharral, Anton, Amherst, Plains, Bovina and Farwell. All of the games counted as conference tilts.



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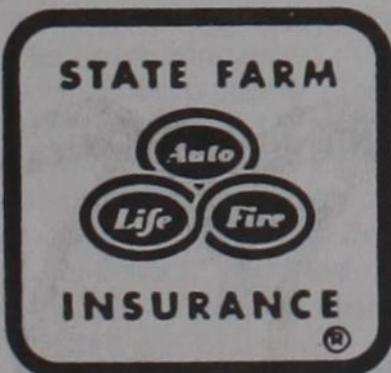


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Bobbies own seven state title trophies

By DON NELSON

Dimmitt's Bobbies were winning state championships long before the Bobcats ever earned their first one.

In fact, the Bobbies captured seven state titles over a 25-year period of the county's first century.

Dimmitt had some crackerjack girls' basketball teams in the 1930s. They did most of their playing on outdoor dirt courts, and played half-court offense and defense, with six girls on a team—three on each end of the court.

The Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) organized the state playoffs in those days.

The Bobbies—originally called the Whirlwinds, then Bobcats, and later Bobbies—advanced to the state tournament for the first time in 1930, with Henry Loter as their coach. The state tourney was held in Celeste that year, and the team made the trip by train, with much hoopla at Hart, Plainview and other towns along the way as they rode down and returned home.

That team lost to Athens in the championship game, and produced Dimmitt's first two all-staters—Lillie Bell Harp, a guard, and Zonell Brooks, the jumping center. The squad also included Ethel Womble, Ona Fay Smith, Alyne Creager, Leona Hastings (third team all-state), Louise Houtchings, Evelyn Blanton, Elfreda Murphy, Irene Waggoner, Effie Elder (captain and second team all-state), Ruth Waggoner and Willie Mildred James.

The Bobbies captured their first state championship the following year, defeating Mengus, 30-26, in the 1931 title game. All-staters on that team were jumping center Zonell Brooks, outside forward Frankie Senters and guard Evelyn Blanton. At least one existing record also shows Ona Fae Smith to have been an all-stater on that team.

Dimmitt repeated as the state girls' basketball champions in 1932, defeating Celeste, 42-34, in the title game. Senters repeated as an all-state forward, and was joined on the all-state team by teammates Ona Fay Smith, a forward, and

Elaine Dyer, a guard.

The Bobbies went to state at least twice more in the 1930s, winning consolation under Coach Troutman in 1935 and losing to Ropesville in the second round in 1936, under Coach LeRoy Landers. Girls on those two teams included Ina Dee Merritt, Florene Meek, Kitten Smith, Pauline Rothwell, Lucille Dyer, Billie Dyer, Mary Alice McLean, Marjorie Butler, Marie Langford, Helen Dixon and Mildred Lust.

Just as Dimmitt High School had ushered in the '30s with state-class teams, so it did in the '50s. In fact, the Bobbies were the dominant team in Texas girls' basketball during half of that decade.

It was the team of 1949-50 that started the Bobbies on their Fabulous Fifties championship path that led to national fame for their school and their coach, John Blaine.

These girls were the first in a girls' state tourney to use the one-handed push shot—a technique used previously only by boys. That's partly because they grew up practicing against the boys—who also had a state-class program going under Blaine by that time.

After barely missing out on a trip to state in 1949, the 1950 Bobbies not only won a berth in the state tournament, but captured the championship over 15 other teams from schools of all sizes.

Starters on the 1950 championship team were forwards Pat Tate, Mona Simmons and Lometa Odom (all-state) and guards Mauriene Smithson (all-state), Phyllis Behrends and LaNelle Walthall.

This team, like all the Bobbies teams of the '50s, brought a faster game to the state tournament than many of their opponents were accustomed to seeing. Still playing the six-girl, half-court game and restricted to two bounces on dribbles, the Bobbies seldom let the ball touch the floor. It was pass-and-move, pass-and-move until there was an opening for a shot or a feed.

After surviving a fierce shootout against their powerful "neighbor-

hood" rivals, Cotton Center, in the semifinals, the Bobbies went up against defending state champion Seagoville in the championship game. Although the Dragonettes had all their players back from the previous year, the Bobbies defeated them by 15 points, with subs playing most of the final quarter.

The Bobbies were decimated by the graduation of four starters, but Blaine built the next year's team around Odom and Smithson and captured another state championship. Starters on the 1951 team were Odom at post forward, Smithson at post guard, Johnnie Godfrey and Mary Nelson at outside forwards, and Katy Coke, Decimae Dennis and Mitzi Wilson at outside guards.

Odom and Smithson repeated as all-staters in 1951. In fact, both later were named to the All-Time All-State Team of the Texas Girls' Basketball League, and would later become all-Americans at Wayland College, along with Pat Tate and Margaret Odom.

The 1950 and 1951 teams both won the mythical "national championship" in high-school girls' basketball by defeating the Iowa state champions in post-season games. The 1950 interstate game was played in the Baylor Field House in Waco, and the 1951 game was in the Drake University Field House in Des Moines, Iowa.

1952 saw the best year in the history of Dimmitt High School girls' basketball—an undefeated season. That state championship team had eight "regulars"—Mitzi Wilson, Decimae Dennis and Katy Coke at guards, and Lometa Odom at post forward, and Shirley Markley and Mary Nelson sharing time with Yvonne Bearden and Darlene Cates at the outside forward positions.

Odom set an all-time single-game individual scoring record in the Bobbies' second-round game against Penelope in 1952. Despite playing on a bad ankle that X-rays later showed was broken, she scored 78 points as the Bobbies won the game, 96-54. That was probably an all-time team scoring

record in those days, too.

Odom was chosen as an all-stater for the third year in a row, and Wilson was named the all-state post guard that year.

For many years, high-school girls' basketball was coordinated by the Texas Girls Basketball League (also known as the McCamey League, after its founder). The league was headquartered at Baylor University, and state tournaments were played in Waco.

But about 1950 the University Interscholastic League—which ran all other high-school sports and literary competitions—organized a girls' basketball program and urged all public schools with girls' programs to switch.

Dimmitt High School resisted for several years, as long as the Bobbies were the defending state champs of the McCamey League—which still was the stronger program—although the handwriting

was on the wall.

After the 1952 season, the Blaine era ended when the Hall of Fame coach resigned to accept a coaching position at Sundown. He was succeeded by Leo Fields. After the Bobbies failed to make it back to the state tourney in Waco in 1953, Fields' first year here, DHS quietly made the switch to the UIL program.

The following year, the Bobbies went "back" to state—although to Austin this time, to their first UIL tourney—and won it all. They came from behind in the state championship game to defeat Granbury, 66-60, for the 1954 title. Post forward Margaret Odom set a single-game scoring record with 48 points in that game, and a tournament scoring record with 109 points in three games.

Named with Odom to the 1954 all-state team were guards Dalvia Howard and Mary Ann Witt and

forward Mary Nelson. Finishing out the Bobbies' 1954 starting lineup were forward Darlene Cates and guard Sonya Lowe.

In 1955, the Bobbies went back to Austin and won their last state championship—their fifth in six years. Team starters were Margaret Odom (all-state) at post forward, Darlene Cates and Ann Spear at outside forwards, Shirley DeLozier (all-state) at post guard, and Sonya Lowe and Mary Ann Witt at outside guards.

Since their six-year domination of Texas girls' basketball in two leagues, the Bobbies have produced several other state-class teams—notably under Van Kountz and Jimmy Hoyle in the 1970s—and they have a state-class program now under Coach Richard Wood.

The magical state championship has eluded the Bobbies since 1955, but their fans keep hoping for a return to those glory years.



THE 1952 BOBBIES posted the best record of any of Dimmitt High School's five state championship teams of the 1950s, finishing their season with a 36-0 mark. In FRONT ROW, from left, are Darlene Cates, Mary Ann Witt, Katy Coke, Connie McRee, Mary Nelson, Yvonne Bearden, Decimae Dennis

and Shirley Markley. STANDING, from left, are Coach John Blaine, manager Margaret Odom, assistant manager Dalvia Howard, Jacqueline Cartwright, Lometa Odom (all-state), Braunita Cole, Mitzi Wilson (all-state), Peggy Alley, Barbara Clark and manager Carolyn Campbell.

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DHS gridgers don't stray far from home

By DON NELSON

When they played their first two football games in 1929, they were called the Dimmitt Cubs. The rest of that year, the Castro County News called them the Daring Demons. The following year, they officially became the Bobcats. They've been the Bobcats ever since.

Dimmitt High School has produced some exceptional football teams through the years, but no Bobcat team has ever advanced past the regional finals.

DHS fielded its first team in 1929, and lost its first game to Turkey, 0-28. But the next week the school recorded its first football victory by downing Muleshoe, 12-7.

That first team later defeated Tulia 6-0, but lost the rest of its games — to Farwell, Lockney, Farwell, Tulia and Muleshoe, although the scores of those losses weren't publicly reported.

Starters on that first football team were Ed Bills, Spurgeon Webb, Winifred Fuller and Elbert Newton in the backfield, Greer Estes and Thelbert Newton at ends, Gaston Jackson and Glenn Maples at tackles, Marvin Rocky and Don Malone at guards, and Truett Boothe at center.

In 1934, the News printed a Page 1 story that said DHS would field a football team for the first time "in several years," but no game results were ever reported.

In 1935, DHS played a full 10-game schedule and went 4-5 in its first nine games. The result of the final game of the season, against Claude, wasn't reported.

First District Title

1943 was a banner year for Bobcat football. That year, Supt. John Blaine—a former player at West Texas State—was "conscripted" by the school board to coach the team. He introduced the T formation, installed senior Bill Birdwell as the Texas Panhandle's first T-formation quarterback, and the Bobcats won the school's first district championship in football.

Other starters on that team were Raymond Mobley at right halfback, Troy Stewart at left halfback, John Curtis at fullback, Kenneth Jackson at left end, Jim Dyer at left tackle, Bill Gladman at left guard, J. A. Bagwell at center, Marvin Cryer at right guard, Ray Aldridge at right tackle and Glenn Godfrey at right end.

After a 7-14 loss to Olton in their first game, the 1943 Bobcats held the rest of their opponents scoreless, defeating Lockney 32-0, Dumas 24-0, Friona 13-0, Tulia 19-0 and Hereford 45-0 for the district title. The team lost to the powerful Phillips Blackhawks in the bi-district championship game.

J. O. Seale, vocational ag teacher, did double duty as football coach in 1944, and when World War II ended in 1945, Velton Sargee was hired as head coach and athletic director. After records of 4-6 in 1945 and '46, Sargee's 1947 team posted a 9-1 record, losing only to Tulia, to finish second in district. The Bobcats were district runners-up again in '48 with an 8-2 record. Quarterback Lonnie Rice, halfback Jack Ziegler, linebacker Junior Fullmer and guard Jack Miller were all-district players on that team.

Sargee was succeeded by Jess Wright Jr. in 1948. That year's Bobcats climbed to the No. 1 ranking in the region, only to be toppled by Hale Center by a margin of two first downs, and finished as district runners-up.

John Blaine resigned as superintendent in 1949 to return to full-time coaching, and built a successful football program that climaxed with his teams of 1950 and 1951 going into the playoffs.

The 1949 Bobcats posted a 9-1 record, losing only to Olton to finish as district runners-up.

Bi-District Champs

The 1950 Bobcats were the first DHS football team to win a bi-district championship and advance to the regional finals. They outscored their opponents 350-63, including five shutouts, and recorded the school's record high score in a 92-6 victory over Springlake.

The 1950 Bobcats finished their regular season with a 7-1-1 record, tied with Olton and Sudan for the District 3-B title. After winning the coin toss, they defeated New Deal 52-7 in bi-district, then lost to Happy, 0-13, in the regional championship game.

The starting lineup on the 1950 team included Gene Easley, Jack



THE BEST D.H.S. FOOTBALL record was compiled by the 1951-52 Bobcat team, which went undefeated to the Region I-A finals, where they suffered a disputed 19-20 loss to Abernathy. In **FRONT ROW**, from left, are Bill Gregory, Marvin Axe, Milton Bagwell, Roy Murphy, James Dobbs, Donald Wright and Wesley Smith. **MIDDLE ROW**, from left: Assistant Coach Aubrey Lester,

Glenn Lust, Douglas Dennis, Jack Hodges, Don Ziegler, John Gilbreath, Jimmie Howell, Weldon Warren, Glenn Brown, Bill Hunter and Coach John Blaine. **BACK ROW**, from left: Manager Jack Copeland, Maxie Warren, Franklin Brown, Edgar Dennis, Wayne Smithson, Bobby Jones, Elmo Blackwell and Paul Stanford.

Dyer, Glenn Brown, Weldon Warren, Douglas Dennis and Jack Hodges in the backfield and Jimmy Cluck, Jim Jowell, Donald Wright, Bill Murphy, Marvin Axe, David Behrends, Don Nelson and Bill Gregory in the line. Easley was the region's high scorer and earned all-regional honors along with Murphy, Jowell and Behrends.

Best Season

The 1951 Bobcats posted a record that's still the best in DHS's football history. They went undefeated all the way to the Region I-A championship game, where they lost to Abernathy by a point.

That team outscored its opponents 382-65 during the nine-game regular season, then defeated Canadian 25-6 for the bi-district title before suffering a disputed 20-19 loss to Abernathy in the regional championship game.

Halfback Glenn Brown was the region's high scorer and was named to the all-regional team along with quarterback Douglas Dennis, tackle Marvin Axe and end Bill Gregory. Other team members were Weldon Warren (all-district halfback), Roy Murphy (all-district center), Milton Bagwell (all-district guard), Jack Hodges, Bill Hunter, Glenn Lust, Jimmie Howell, Wesley Smith, Donald Wright, James Dobbs, Elmo Blackwell, Paul Stanford, Don Ziegler, John Gilbreath, Bobby Jones, Franklin Brown, Maxie Warren, Wayne Smithson and Edgar Dennis.

The team manager for both the 1950 and 1951 Bobcats was Jack Copeland, who went on to become the trainer for the Hardin-Simmons Cowboys, the Ohio State Buckeyes and the New York Titans, forerunners of the Jets.

After a 3-7 season in 1953, the Bobcats won the district championship in 1954 under Coach Leo Fields, losing to McLean, 49-13, in bi-district.

The 1955 and '56 teams both went 5-5, then Coach J. D. Covington guided the Bobcats to district titles in 1957, '58 and '60. The

1957 team tied Lockney 13-13 in bi-district, but lost on first downs and finished with a 9-1-1 mark.

The Coffey Years

Covington's district championship teams of '58 and '60 featured the school's first black athlete, Junior Coffey, who was to go on to become an all-American at the University of Washington and play for the Green Bay Packers and Atlanta Falcons.

The 1957 district championship team's members were Carlos Barnes, Truman Touchstone, Keith Lowe, Jimmy Curtis, James Collins, Zay Gilbreath, Jerry Hyatt, Norman Nelson, David Bradley, Marion Oakley, Boyce Tate, Jimmy Tate, Cary Johnson, Mike Bailey, Houston Frye, Quinfred Oakley, Coyce Wilkinson, George Frye, Berle Hyatt, Leon Gunn, Jack Ragland, Gordon Thanisch, Jerry Cluck, Hal Ratcliff, Jerry McGowan and Gary Cleaver.

The 1958 district champions posted an 8-2 record, then lost to Abernathy, 20-26, in bi-district. The roster included Coffey, James Collins, Carlos Barnes, Stanley Nelson, Ben Holcomb, Mike Bailey, Norman Nelson, Myles Sadler, Jerry Hyatt, Jimmy Slough, Gordon Thanisch, James Ragland, Jimmy Curtis, Don Warren, Jerry Blackwell, Hal Ratcliff and Romero Garcia.

The 1959 team compiled an 8-2 record also but didn't get to go into the playoffs, losing to Tulia 14-16 and to Canyon 12-14 in their final two games.

The 1960 champions finished the regular season with a 7-3 mark, then lost to Olton, 12-15, in bi-district.

Members of the 1960 squad were Coffey, James Cowell, Donnie Nelson, Kelton Cates, Stanley Nelson, Roy Battles, Darless Goolsby, Gene Bradley, Howard Cummings, Mike Burkett, Jimmy DiCuffa, Jim-

my Chavers, Mike Chaney, Michael Calvert, Dwight Cathy, Jimmy Barber, Mike Goodwin, Kenneth Odum, Stanton Calvert, Leroy O'Brian, Wayne Meachum, James Powell, Aaron Hutto, Charley Flores, Glenn Boozer, Jim Ratcliff, Harold Golden and Jim Cowser.

mark before disaster struck. After rousing down nine opponents by an aggregate score of 274-50, the '74 Bobcats saw their dream of an undefeated season shattered in a 14-28 loss to Olton in the district championship game, with star runningback Robert Mayberry hobbled by a sprained knee.

It was one of the most exciting teams ever to wear the purple and white of DHS, and probably the best team Dimmitt ever had stay home from the playoffs.

Team members were Brad Sanders, Travis Hampton, Robert Mayberry, Gene Veals, Cliff Parker, Robert Horton, Lance Loudder, Dusty Dobbs, Rick Wright, Shannon Truelock, Larry Duke, Harold Love, Randy Porter, Robert Calhoun, Kenny Smith, Larry Robb, Ronnie Lawson, Kyle Touchstone, Thompson Mayberry, Leon Sandoval, Keith Goldsmith, Mark Welch, Greg Burks and Mark Cluck.

Three players on that '74 team—Robert Mayberry, Gene Veals and Rick Wright—went on to play college football.

In 1975, the Bobcats finished 4-6 under Bobby King.

Last Playoff Year

The last trek into the playoffs

On the Wane

DHS football waned for several years after that as the Bobcats posted records of 5-5 in '61, 4-6 in '62, 2-7-1 in '63, 1-7-2 in '64, and 1-9 in '65.

Coach Brown L. Smith brought the Bobcats back to prominence in the late '60s, posting marks of 5-4-1 in '66, 6-3-1 in '67, 8-2 in '68 and 7-3 in '69 and '70. But none of these teams, as exciting as they were, could crack the playoffs.

After Smith's '71 and '72 teams both finished with 3-7 records, Deane Wright led the Bobcats to a 6-4 mark in 1973.

Best Team Not To

In 1974, Wright led a fabulous Bobcat Wishbone-T team to a 9-0

record and the district championship. That team lost to Floydada, 8-29, in bi-district.

Offensive and defensive starters on the '76 district championship team were Lane Loudder, Donnie Carpenter, David Malone, Joe Aleman, Kevin Hucks, Reggie Washington, Larry Bossett, Dennis Veals, Jody Minnick, Louis Perez, Brad DuLaney, Scott Armstrong, Jim Wright, Ricky Hunter, Steve Anthony, Gary Nutt, Eddie Chavers, Tommy Kenworthy, Thompson Mayberry and Tony Washington.

Under Coach Jerry Vance, the Bobcats finished 5-5 in '77 and 4-6 in '78. Under Coach Wayne Garner, DHS posted marks of 3-7 in '79 and 2-8 in '80, then the Bobcats went 3-7 under Coach Mike Major.

The 1982 team, coached by Gene Griffin, finished in a second-place tie, and Griffin's 1983 Bobcats finished 4-6. Under the four-year tenure of Coach Clifford Smith, DHS posted records of 6-4 in '84, 5-4-1 in '85, 2-7-1 in '86 and 2-8 in '87.

Coach Army Salinas guided the Bobcats to a second-place tie with a 7-2-1 record in 1988 and posted a 5-4-1 mark in '89 and a 7-3 showing in '90.

1983 Lady Horns capture Hart's only district title

First Ever are the words engraved on the one and only gold basketball in the Hart High School trophy case, and that trophy, which is for the district championship, belongs to the 1983 Lady Horns.

The Lady Horns of 1983 were the most successful basketball team in the history of the Hart schools.

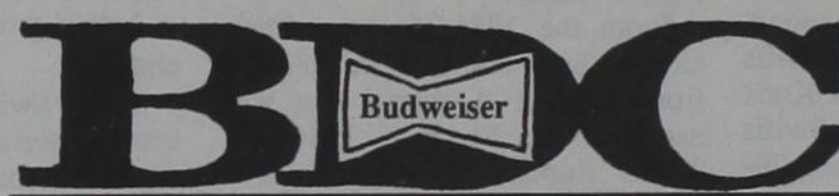
They won district, then played Plains in the bi-district round, but they lost that game by four points.

The team finished the season with a 21-5 record and four girls made the all-district team while their coach, Ken Hoskins, was coach of the year. The all-district players included Linda Washing-

ton, who also received "Most Valuable Player" honors in district; Robin Bowden, Grace Bonsal and Melissa Kittrell.

Other team members included, Neomi Ponce, Nena Castillo, Linda Washington, Susie Reyna, Diane Montiel, Lori Sarabia, Robin Bowden, and Sheryl McLain.

To date, this is the only district title won by a Hart basketball team—boys or girls.



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"Making friends is our business"

Bobcat all-staters

Here's a list of the Dimmitt High School football players that earned all-state in the school's history.

- 1960: Junior Coffey.
- 1966: Mike Bruegel.
- 1970: Randy Schumacher.
- 1982: Jeff Watts.

Bobbies' cross country teams won regional titles

Two third place finishes—one by an individual and the other by a team — are the highlight of the Dimmitt Bobbies cross country history.

The Bobbies have advanced to the Class AAA state meet as a team since 1988-89, and this year (1990-91) they managed to pull out a third place team finish.

The year before (1989-90), Dimmitt's Halley Bradley had finished third overall with a time of 12:20, the best of any Dimmitt runner.

Renea Harman started the state qualifying string off when she competed at the meet as an individual in 1987-88. She finished 12th overall with a time of 13:18. Harman competed on each of the state-qualifying teams between 1988-91.

In 1988-89, the team finished eighth overall and Harman paced them with a 27th place showing. Other team members included Heather Moore, Christina Velasquez, Beatrice Ramos, Becky Rodriguez, Sydelle McDonald and Kim Spring.

Bradley's third place finish in 1989-90 was the best on that year's team, which included Harman, Christina Velasquez, Rosie Enriquez, Becky Rodriguez, Monica Garcia and Beatrice Ramos.

Bradley again paced the Bobbies at the 1990-91 meet, recording an 11th place finish in a time of 12:37. Team members were Renee Garcia, Selma Montalvo, Bradley, Monica Garcia, Amanda Flores, Angelica Garcia and Harman.



QUARTERBACK SNACK — Sundown quarterback Rocky Winn spent most of the 1983 zone playoff game trying to avoid a hungry Nazareth defense. Swifts (from left) Frank Wortham, Billy Huseman and Francis Kern deflect a pass, then move in for the kill. The 1983-84 team finished the season with a 10-2 record and made it to the regional playoffs before being eliminated from the state title chase by Knox City. *File Photo*

In 1983-84 season

Swifts football team qualified for regional

A group of determined boys rushed, passed and tackled their way to Nazareth High School's first-ever playoff berth in the school's 11-man history during the 1983-84 season.

That team, coached by Ken Cole started a three-year run in which the Swifts made it into the state playoffs, and that crew was the most successful team in the school's history.

After earning the playoff berth, the 1983-84 Swifts won a 2-A North Zone Playoff against Sundown (33-14), then upset perennial playoff contender, Wheeler, by a 20-14 count in the bi-district round. Next up for the "Cinderella" Swifts was the regional round and Knox City, but that's as far as the Swifts would go in the playoffs, losing 20-6.

But that team still holds the record for the most success by a Nazareth team.

Prior to the Knox City game, the Swifts had shut out five opponents and gave up an average of 5.3 points per game. They finished the year with a 10-2.

Francis Kern earned all-state second team honors for his work on the defensive line that year.

In 1984-85, the Swifts operated under a new head coach, Rex Minshew, and they breezed through the 10-game regular season scheduled with an unblemished record to win the district title, then won the zone championship by a penetration.

The Swifts tangled with Whiteface in the zone championship and after four full quarters, the teams had battled to a 20-20 tie. Nazareth

advanced to the bi-district round by one 20-yard penetration.

Wheeler got revenge for the 1983-84 season defeat at the hands of the Swifts by beating Nazareth in the bi-district round in 1984-85, 25-0, ending the Swifts season with a 10-1-1 record.

"Our toughest games during the year were probably Valley and Whiteface — and of course, Wheeler," Minshew said after the bi-district clash. "I felt all along that we could make it into the playoffs, but I didn't know we would go undefeated during the regular season."

From the 1984-85 team, Chris Gerber was one of two players from a Class A school that was named to the 53-player 1984 All-Texas Super Team's defensive backfield.

The next year Nazareth also got past district and into the zone playoff, but that was as far as the 1985-86 team would go. They lost to Amherst 22-13 in the zone playoff matchup to finish with a 9-2 season record.

The Swifts didn't make it to the playoffs again until 1990-91, but one team between the years deserves a lot of credit—the Swifts of 1987-88.

That team finished the year with an 8-1-1 record and just barely missed snaring the second playoff berth from their district. The Swifts breezed through their pre-district without a loss, but lost to Vega in district, the team that won the district championship. That was the Swifts only loss of the season.

The second playoff spot wasn't

decided until the last game of the regular season, when Nazareth traveled to Happy.

After a hard-fought battle, the teams had battled to a 16-16 tie, but Happy had advanced inside Nazareth's 20-yard line one too many times and was given the playoff nod by a penetration.

"The guys did an excellent job all year long," Minshew said following the Happy loss. "There weren't many people around who thought we'd finish the season at 8-1-1. We didn't have a lot of great talent, but the kids played well together. I couldn't have asked for a better group of kids (to work with)."

Three Swifts from the 1987-88 team earned all-state honors including quarterback Chris Schmucker, first team; wide receiver Heath Schulte, first team; and wide receiver Brad Hoelting, second team.

The Swifts finally got back into the playoff hunt in 1990-91 when they closed out the regular season with a 7-3 record and finished second in their district behind state-ranked Farwell. Rick Price was the head coach.

The Swifts took on Wheeler in bi-district, but were eliminated from the playoffs when the Mustangs won 21-6.



First Dimmitt football team is fielded in 1929

The first team ever to take to a football field wearing Dimmitt High School uniforms, was fielded in 1929.

Parker, Glenn Maples, Elbert Newton, Thelbert Bills, Winfred Fuller, Heavy Newton, Edwin Holland, James Booth and Greer Estes.

The team practiced at the athletic field west of the high school building under the guidance of Coach Loter.

Since it was the first year for Dimmitt to field a high school football team, officials "encountered some difficulty in mustering sufficient material for a strong squad. This was not the lack of material, but rather a reluctance on the part of the boys in venturing into the sport" because it was new.

Principal Roberts and Coach Loter urged that all students interested should report to all meetings and after enduring "exhaustive teaching and practices," they would soon know the intricacies of the game.

The first-year schedule follows:
 SEPT. 13: Dimmitt at Tulia.
 SEPT. 20: Turkey at Dimmitt.
 SEPT. 27: Muleshoe at Dimmitt.
 OCT. 4: Farwell at Dimmitt.
 OCT. 11: Anton at Dimmitt.
 OCT. 18: Tulia at Dimmitt.
 OCT. 25: Dimmitt at Amherst.
 NOV. 1: Dimmitt at Turkey.
 NOV. 8: Dimmitt at Muleshoe.
 NOV. 15: Amherst at Dimmitt.
 NOV. 22: Dimmitt at Farwell.

The following is a list of the squad as selected at the initial 1929 practice and organization meeting: Pat Hardy, Junior Rothwell, Bill Webb, Marvin Rockey, Don Malone, Oattie Malone, Jack Crump, Clyde Tisdale, Young Cooper, Jack



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HIGHEST STEP EVER — Hart Longhorn captains Gary Jackson and Bryan Irons (45) hoist the first regional championship trophy ever won by a Castro County team. The Horns beat Memphis,

14-12, in 1976, to win the Region 1-A championship, but fell to Segraves in the state quarterfinals, 6-26. *File Photo*

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Commissioners' Court

SEATED: County Judge Polly Simpson, Commissioner Harold Smith, Precinct 1.
STANDING, from left: Commissioners Jeff Robertson, Precinct 3; Vincent Guggemos,
Precinct 4; Dale Winders, Precinct 2.



County Department Heads

FRONT ROW, from left: Tax Assessor-Collector Billy Hackleman, County/District
Attorney Jimmy Davis, Constable James Dobbs, Sheriff Lonny Rhynes. BACK ROW,
from left: Auditor Shirley Brockman, Treasurer Oleta Raper, County/District Clerk Joy
Jones.

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Hart farmer's collections include 'magical' lamps, miniature tractors

By KATHLEEN LATHAM

When someone first says Aladdin lamps, it might conjure images of magic genies and flying carpets.

However, to collector Paul Brooks, Aladdin Lamps is the name of a company that has manufactured oil-burning lamps for almost 70 years.

Brooks is a collector - from Aladdin Lamps to peddle tractors, from promotional mirrors and wall clocks to toy tractors.

Brooks, a Hart resident, has more than 60 Aladdin lamps in his antique oil-burning lamp collection.

The oldest lamp in Brooks' collection was made between 1922 and 1928, and it is one of the first Aladdin lamps. Each design was produced in limited, numbered quantities, so it is easy to know which year a lamp was made in,

Brooks said. "Scarcity more than age determines the value of anything you collect," Brooks said.

"That one sold for \$5.45 in a 1934 catalogue, while now it could sell for anywhere from \$100 to \$1,500," Brooks explained.

The Aladdin Lamp factory is still in operation and does a big business in Central America where electricity has not reached the more remote regions and power outages are frequent. The light from one lamp gives off the same amount of light as a 60-watt bulb, according to Brooks.

Brooks may be better known for his collection of peddle tractors than for any of his other collections. His collection includes more than 100 of the tractors children used to peddle down driveways and dirt roads in imitation of the real

thing. Made from tin and cast aluminum, the peddle tractors resemble the original working tractors. The oldest in Brooks' collection was made in 1947.

Brooks also has several trailers that children could attach to their tractors to pull behind. A child lucky enough to have one of these tractor-trailer sets might have pulled the same things other children pulled in their little red wagons: their dog or a little brother or sister, or even the groceries.

The collection consists of replicas from many tractor manufacturers including Farmall, Moline, Massey-Harris, Allis-Chalmers, Oliver, International Harvester and John Deere.

"Most all of the clocks are related to farming," Brooks said.

Manufacturers' names advertised on the face of the clocks range from Amalie Motor Oil to Peppard's Hybrid Seed to Aeromotor Windmills. All of the clocks are electric, and some have neon lights.

"I rebuild them myself, and I've never failed to make one run," Brooks said.

The oldest clock in his collection is about 50 years old. The oldest of his many toy tractors is about the same age.

Brooks calls them "little" tractors to differentiate the toy tractors from his collection of peddle tractors.

"These are not really toys. They're 1/16-scale models that salesmen could have carried with them to show their wares," Brooks said.

Raised in Lamesa, Brooks and his wife Irene have lived in Hart for 42 years. He farms about 4,000 acres in Castro and Lamb counties.

"I work on the collections during the evenings," Brooks said, "repairing and rebuilding the little tractors and the wall clocks."



WHOA MULE—Edgar Dennis draws his mule team and spring wagon to a halt near Dimmitt. The

brown mule is Ruth, and the gray mule is Rascal. Photo by Kathleen Latham

Dimmitt native keeps western heritage alive with early-day transportation, gun collection

By KATHLEEN LATHAM

Two mules pull the "spring wagon" away from the barn, the shiny appointments on their harnesses reflect the sun's rays. The lone driver, with cowboy hat pulled low to shade his eyes from the glare, directs the mules with soft-spoken voice commands as well as the reins.

Is it the 1800s? Is this the opening of a western movie? No, it is Dimmitt rancher Edgar Dennis ready for another wagon train.

Dennis and his team may be seen around the country from the Fourth of July Celebration in Muleshoe to Abilene's Ranch Rodeo to the Cheyenne Frontier Days.

Dennis, a Dimmitt native, believes in keeping his western heritage alive. As well as riding and showing his mules and antique spring wagon, Dennis' interests include his herd of registered short-horn cattle and a museum-quality

gun collection.

Dennis, the youngest of three children, was born on his parents' ranch in 1937. The herd of registered shorthorn cattle are descendants of the herd Dennis' grandfather had brought to Texas from the British Isles in 1894. Currently the herd includes 20 mother cows plus calves and bulls.

"The registration is important," Dennis said. "I can trace my herd back through the years."

In college during the mid-50s, Dennis became a special whip artist featured in the Hardin-Simmons Cowboy Band.

"In 1958, I got to see the world when I traveled as the feature whip artist in the USO Bob Hope-type shows," Dennis said.

In 1959, Dennis went back to Dimmitt to farm and ranch equipped with a degree in business administration from Hardin-Simmons.

"I started my gun collection while I was at Hardin-Simmons," Dennis said. "Now, I have over 30 antique guns in the collection."

Dennis' gun collection, which is kept in a special vault in Hereford, includes an 1852 Smith and Wesson army officer's pistol. His rifle collection ranges from a little boy's squirrel gun to a big-bore, big-calibre buffalo rifle.

Dennis has two Winchester '73s, known as the gun that won the West, and a model 1866, which was the first year of production for Winchester.

A Colt rifle and a Winchester pistol are among his favorite guns.

"Winchester built a few pistols, and Colt built a few rifles," Dennis said. "Then, they got together and agreed not to compete."

"From then on, Winchester only made rifles and Colt only made pistols."

At one point, the two companies got along so well together Winchester and Colt made matching rifles and pistols.

"The rifle and the pistol both shot the same shell," Dennis said. "It was a lot easier if they didn't have to carry different ammunition for the rifle."

While Dennis' gun collection has never been on official display for the public, he said that he would not mind putting a few in cases at the bank or some other safe place.

In the meantime, Dennis shows his mules and antique spring wagon several times a year at rodeos and other western celebrations.

"The difference between a spring wagon and a buckboard is that the buckboard bed was built solid on the carriage and the seat had springs while the spring wagon bed was on springs and the seat was not," Dennis explained.

Dennis, who has been riding and training mules for 15 years, has been invited to Cheyenne's Frontier Days two years in a row.

"They have the largest collection of authentic horse-drawn vehicles in the world," Dennis said, "and they invite teams from all over the states to join in their three-hour parade."

Dennis rode a mule in the Texas Sesquicentennial Wagon Train that traveled the 500 miles from Sulphur Springs to Fort Worth in 1986.

"It can be a hard day," Dennis said. "After you feed and water the mules, it takes about one hour to harness the mules and get hooked up to the rig, and approximately two hours to make camp at the end of the day."

Every year since the Sesquicentennial wagon train, there have been two to three smaller wagon trains which are spin-offs of the original in '86. Dennis joined one of these trains out of Canadian for about a week.

"It's called the J. W. Jines Ride," Dennis said. "We met in Canadian and rode the Canadian river breaks for 140 miles to Perryton."

The team and wagon can average about four miles per hour or about 20 miles a day, according to Dennis.

"The idea is to keep the team moving at a good, steady walk so they can go all day," Dennis said.



LITTLE GREEN TRACTORS—Paul Brooks stands beside his John Deere tractor collection. The replicas are made from tin and cast aluminum. Courtesy photo

Dimmitt postmaster describes town as 'right place'

Dimmitt Postmaster Bill Sava believes he has been in the right place at the right time—and Dimmitt is that "right place."

Sava, a third-generation Italian American, has earned the reputation of having "the right stuff" for this right place, with his patriotic presentations and community activities in the last few years.

His performing career didn't begin until he was 42 years old, he said, and his daughter wanted him to be in a school production.

"I found out that there's a lot of ham hiding behind this postmaster," Sava said with a laugh.

Animated and personable, Sava punctuates most of his comments with spontaneous laughter that leaves a listener with the feeling he doesn't take himself too seriously, but that he loves every minute of what he does.

After his "debut" in his daughter's play, Sava started participating in the Lions Club follies for Harvest Days.

"I discovered I liked making a fool of myself," he admitted, as his eyes twinkled above a neatly trimmed salt-and-pepper beard.

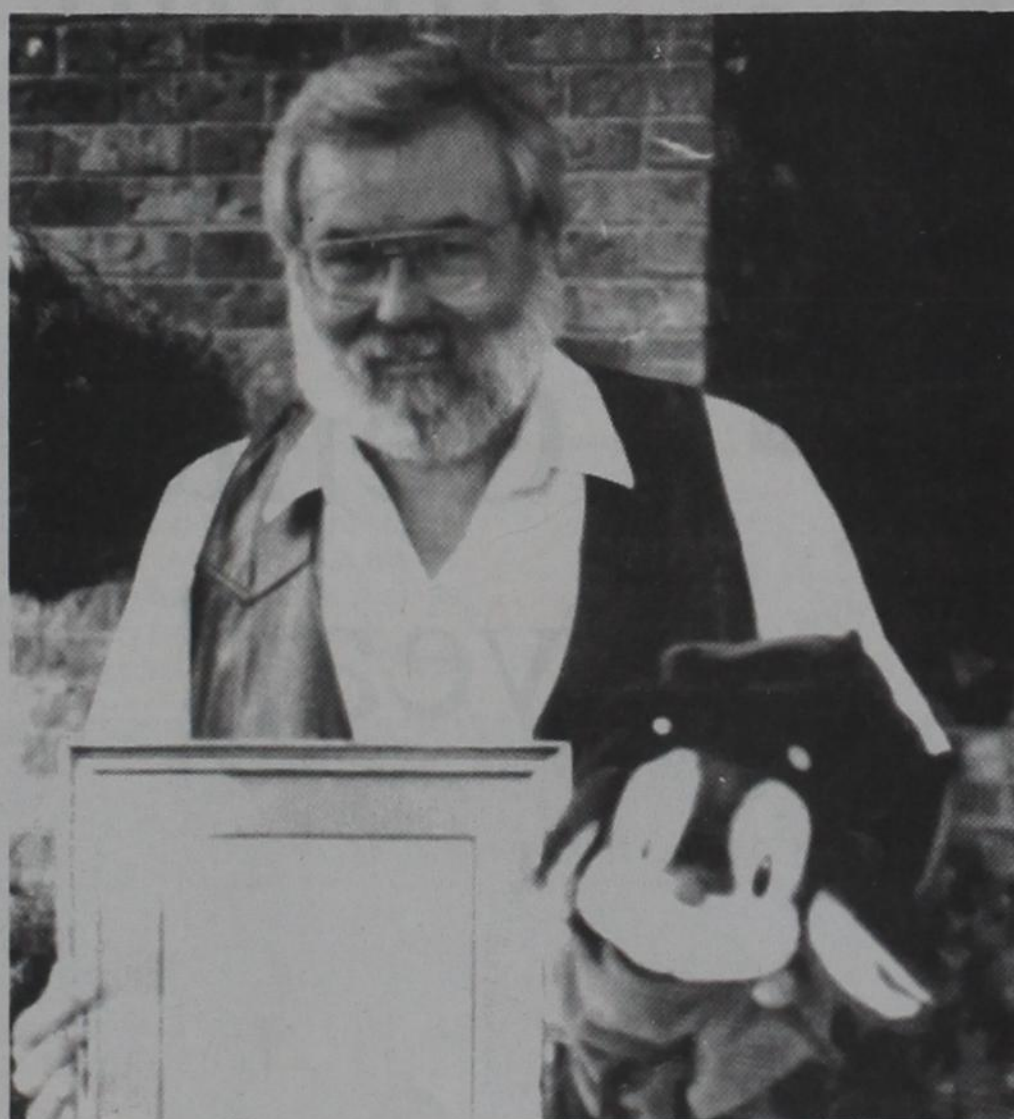
From the follies Sava established the Harvest Days Players, to present the story of Dimmitt and Castro County in the form of a play. He naturally sought long-time Dimmitt resident "Goose" Ramey to get some of his stories from the early days.

"Goose told me it didn't matter if the stories were completely true," Sava said.

"There's nobody left who knows the truth but me," Goose told the postmaster. "If we get it wrong, there's nobody to dispute it."

So Sava wrote his first play, "The Life and Times of Mr. Goose." He and 26 other Dimmitt area residents began rehearsing the play after Sava "doctored it up" with some singing and dancing.

Ramey, whose health was failing, was invited to the Methodist Church, where the group had been practicing, to the final dress rehearsal. After the rehearsal, everyone was eager to hear Ramey's reaction to the play.



SAVA AND FRIEND—Bill Sava and his "friend," Fival, who Sava uses in his patriotic programs, proudly display his grandfather's citizenship papers, which serve as a constant reminder of his heritage and the opportunities America has provided. Photo by Freda McVay

"The play was fine," Ramey told them. "But I didn't know me and Mrs. Ramey was so talented."

"Goose" Ramey died prior to the first performance in Dimmitt, but the group continued to do the Castro County historical play, and "took it on the road," Sava said.

They did the play in the foyer prior to a performance of "Texas" at Palo Duro Canyon, and at the Goodnight birthday party at the Panhandle-Plains Museum, as well as for the Texas Wagon Train when it came through Dimmitt.

Sava said the cast finally said, "We never do this again!"

Undaunted, Sava continued to write short skits, and said he had begun to think about "some of the things that seemed to be going wrong

in America," and how things had changed since his grandfather had come to this country as a stowaway on a boat from Italy.

Sava's oldest son had been accepted to the Air Force Academy, and Sava reflected on the changes that had occurred in his own family in just four generations.

The grandfather had been caught hunting on private property in Italy before the turn of the Century, and stowed away on a boat to escape jail. When he arrived in New York City he couldn't speak English or write his own name. Sava's father had to learn English to be able to start school, but was so self-conscious about the way he talked, that he was reluctant to speak in front of people. The family had moved Texas

because of the grandmother's health, and Sava went to school in Texarkana, and speaks with no trace of an accent.

Sava says he really began to think about this country, and his family's opportunity to go from a grandfather who couldn't sign his own name to a son graduating from the Air Force Academy.

He took his own family story and combined the narrative with the singing of "God Bless America," "America the Beautiful," and "God Bless the USA."

Once again, Sava said, it's a matter of being in the right place at the right time. He was scheduled to do his patriotic program for the first time for the Dimmitt Lions Club, and it happened to be the same day that the Supreme Court had ruled on the flag-burning issue.

"I ended up getting a standing ovation—from my friends!"

As word was spreading about Sava's performance that night, operation Desert Shield started, and Sava found himself in demand throughout the area.

"I've done it 35 or 40 times now," Sava said, "for all kinds of groups in Hereford, Nazareth, Hart, Tulia, Plainview, Friona, Easter and Dimmitt." He is scheduled to do the program for the Oklahoma Division of the officers of the U. S. Post Office Aug. 25 in Oklahoma City.

Sava has added some to the original program, including a paraphrased passage from the Air Force Contrails that says, in effect, "war is an ugly thing, but the ugliest thing is the apathy that says nothing is worth fighting for."

Sava has had other experiences connected with his latent talents, including a statewide song competition to commemorate the Battleship Texas.

Avie Lewis, music teacher at the Middle School who "writes the notes down for my music," encouraged Sava to enter the contest, so he wrote a song called "Raise a Flag High in the Bright Texas Sky."

Out of several dozen entries, Sava's

song was picked in the top 12, and he went to Houston for the final competition. He was quite surprised at the calibre of composers who made the final cut; but, as usual, was unperturbed by the stature of his competitors.

"I didn't win, but I wasn't embarrassed—or subdued—by the 'big names' who were there," Sava said.

In spite of his new-found fame, Sava is similar to many other Dimmitt residents in his participation in community activities. He sings in the church choir and has coached softball and basketball teams, been a Scout leader and taught religious classes.

He also has coached an Odyssey of the Mind group for five years, first for the 6-8 grade group, and now for the high school group. His teams have placed no lower than third all five years, and won first in the state and fourth in the nation his first year as coach.

In addition, he is a member of the Centennial Singers and is co-chairman of this year's Centennial Celebration.

He and his wife, Jacque, attend St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Hereford. They have four children, Debra Bridenbaugh, who teaches in Amarillo; Greg, now a 1st Lt. in the Air Force, stationed in Rapid City, S.D.; Scott, a senior at West Texas State University; and Jennifer, a senior at Dimmitt High School.

Sava is quick to sing the praises of Dimmitt and its people, pointing out how much talent he believes is in the area.

"It's all these people who have made me look good," he said. "And I have a very good time."

Sava said he ended up in "the right place at the right time" by landing in a community that has a combination of a lot of talent, and not much to do.

Sava laughed again. "There are thousands of people who have more talent than I do, who don't have the opportunity that I've had—that's one thing Dimmitt has done for me."

Early-day entertainment

Annen remembers 'dancing all night'

By KATHLEEN LATHAM

What did they do for entertainment in the early days?

"There wasn't much, and what there was, you had to make!" Nazareth resident Raymond Annen recalls with a twinkle in his eye.

Annen and other Castro County residents would go to dances, play dominoes or, in one instance, challenge the prize fighter in a traveling show.

"We danced all over this Caprock," Annen said. "We would pile into the wagon, going to different farms for the dances."

Annen's brother-in-law, Daniel Fehr, was one of the fiddlers.

Most houses were pretty small - just three or four rooms. So, they would clean out one room for dancing and use the kitchen to keep the babies warm, Annen said.

"And you had to be able to dance all night, because there was no place to sleep and it was too far to drive home," Annen added.

The early dances were for square dancing which did not take up as much space as "round" dancing, according to Annen.

"In fact, with so many trying to dance in a small place, sometimes we had to draw numbers," Annen explained. "Odd numbers would dance one dance, and even numbers, the next."

Not all the "dancing places" were furnished and small. There was an empty house on a farm near Hart they were allowed to use for the dances.

"All we had to do was just make sure to close the doors and windows before we left," Annen said.

"Uncle Bill" Todd's ranch on the Swisher County line was also used for big dances.

"Uncle Bill" built a big two-story house and a big barn," Annen said. "They accidentally built the barn in Swisher. So, those dances were really held in Swisher County."

ty."

The Todd barn was a large structure with a strong second floor which "Uncle Bill" would let them use for dances before he became worried about cigarettes and fire.

Cecilia Husman attended the last dance that was held at Todd's ranch. She had come with an older couple who suggested that Annen take her home since it was more on his way.

"We had known each other before, but, from then on, we were a couple," Annen said.

Annen said every Thanksgiving they would go to Arney and play dominoes "until they couldn't see."

"We had contests, and gave out prizes to the winners - something that would please the ladies like candy or flowers," Annen said.

People used the Fourth of July celebration in Dimmitt as a chance to see all the people they did not see the rest of the year.

"There was always plenty of watermelon, and we made lemonade in the stock tank," Annen said. "We played the usual games - horseshoes, sack races, dunking for apples."

"They had a bigger 'toadstool' in those days where the German big horn players would play with the bands on the Fourth of July in the late 40s," Annen recalled. "Three of them - not in the same year - were struck by lightning."

Other entertainment included going swimming in what became the Nat Ballroom in Amarillo.

"They put a floor over the pool and made it into a ballroom for 'round' dancing," Annen said. "In the late 20s, we used to go over there for the dances."

Annen said traveling shows provided some of the entertainment, but not very often since they were usually just trying to sell something.

"One day, a prize fighter came through with one of the shows,"



CECILIA and RAYMOND ANNEN
...married in 1930

Annen said.

"If you could last five minutes in the ring with him you would win. So, Alfred Schecker said he was faster than that old boy, and he could out run him for long enough to win. And he did!"

Annen, the youngest of 13 children, was born in Mansfield in

1908.

"Dad was tired of black mud and cotton, so he bought some land in Rosco," Annen said. "He went out in the field in Rosco, saw the black mud and moved the family to Lubbock."

"One day, we got in the model T and drove to Dimmitt. Dad looked

it over and bought two sections. I'm still living on one of them," Annen added.

It was 100 miles exactly from the courthouse in Lubbock to the Annen property land, and it took three days to drive from Lubbock to Dimmitt with the wagons when the Annens moved to their land outside of Nazareth in 1916.

"We used buggies and cars to go to school in Nazareth until the 1918 blizzard," Annen said. "The snow was knee deep and you could make the trip only on horseback."

The snow lasted a month. During that time, Annen and his brothers would skin the dead cattle for \$20 a head.

"They used cottonseed cakes to feed the cattle during the winter, but they couldn't get it to them through the snow, so a lot of cattle starved," Annen said.

Annen attended school on the John Gordon ranch during his last years in school.

In 1920, an Ozark stump marking the Ozark Trail was raised in the middle of the main intersection in Dimmitt. In the early 30s, with people getting tired of going around the stump and because they were expecting a highway to be put through in the near future, Annen, his brother Tom and Goose Ramey pulled the stump down and moved it to the site of its current location on the corner of the courthouse square.

"We roped it and pulled it down with an old model T onto a pile of

dirt so it wouldn't break," Annen said. "We put up a scaffolding, put it in the new hole and watered it down so it would settle."

Cattle buyers would come to Castro County, but the ranchers still had to drive the cattle as far as Happy to pick up the train in the early days.

"The last time we made that trip, we got there early so we wouldn't have to wait in line to load the cattle," Annen recalled. "The problem was that Mr. Irlbick knew hogs, he didn't know cattle. He slapped the back of one of them to hurry it out of the corral and stampeded the herd all over a section and a half."

Annen, his brother Frank, his brother-in-law Daniel Fehr and Albert Backus practically rode their horses to ground trying to head off the cattle.

"It was one o'clock at night before we got them herded up. And we still had to shovel sand into the cattle cars and load the cattle," Annen said. "The next day, we headed home pacing the horses."

Annen has described his settling down with Cecilia as "deciding to sow wheat in '28 and '29, and fooling her in '30!"

Annen and Cecilia were married in 1930. Cecilia Annen was born Cecilia Husman in Nazareth in 1905 and was the first child baptised in the old wooden church. In 1990, she was honored for being the oldest woman born in Castro County.

McLains describe earlier customs

By KATHLEEN LATHAM

Thirty-three years is not a long time as history goes, but to Ira McLain, it made a family once and forever "newcomers," Marguerite Bennett McLain recalls, laughingly.

Ira came to Castro County with his family, the J. C. McLains, in 1904. The G. R. Bennett family came to Hart from Floyd County in 1937. Therefore, the Bennetts would always be "newcomers" to Ira.

Could you still be a "newcomer" after almost 50 years? It sounds like Ira would probably have said so just to tease his daughter-in-law.

Marguerite's husband Laurence was born in Castro County only seven miles from the Lamb County line. The grandson of early settlers John and Daisy McLain, Laurence played the violin at dances. That's where Marguerite and Laurence met, despite the fact that her father G. R. did not believe in dancing.

Marguerite has written about the early days and has a great admiration for the people from that time.

"It's their sacrifices, the kind of life they lived and their moral character that makes them so admirable," Marguerite explained.

Marguerite described life in the 30s and 40s as centered around the home and church. Social life centered around the church.

"School centered their activities around the homes," Marguerite said. "Things started changing when they no longer let children out of school to help pick the cotton."

Not all changes were for the worse, Marguerite said.

"I got my first pair of long slacks in 1940, despite my father's objections, because it was going to be so cold on the trip we were taking," Marguerite recalled. "My father was on the school board, and we were going to Vincennes, Ind., to pick up the new school busses."

Marguerite was graduated from Hart High School in 1942, the last of the 11th grade seniors. The very next year Hart High School had 12 grades.

"I was 15 years old, and I was valedictorian - but there were only four in our class," Marguerite said.

Despite protests that she is not a feminist, Marguerite was the first woman to serve on a school board or a hospital board in the county.

"My idol was Myrtle Scott, whose husband Ily donated the land for the city of Hart," Marguerite said. "She learned to fly after she was 50, and she traveled around the world twice. And she admitted to a wig and two facelifts."

Not all changes over the years have been for the better, Marguerite continued.

In those years, cowboys and farmers only wore their boots for work, Laurence said. They would wear their nice shoes for dancing.

"Now, you have to have boots and hats to dance," Laurence added.

"I miss Cel Kendrick tipping his hat to me," Marguerite said.

An anonymous Hart resident said recently, "In Hart, if you're not a McLain or a Bennett, you're not anybody."

If what that one resident said is true, Marguerite Bennett McLain must truly be a somebody because she is both a McLain and a Bennett.





Happy
100th
Castro
County!

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CASTRO COUNTY**

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Castro County News

VOL. 1, NO. 5

DIMITT, CASTRO COUNTY, TEXAS

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 1925.

STATE HIGHWAY TO VEGA TO BE NAMED DELEGATES BELIEVE

Judge Ray L. Shetty, with a delegation from neighboring towns returned Friday from Austin where they presented data and a petition to the State Highway Commission asking that the road leading from Plainview to Vega be designated as a state highway.

This road leads north and south through Castro county and touches Runningwater, Dimmitt and Hereford.

Judge Shetty is highly pleased with the results and is confident that this route will be turned into a state Highway just as soon as the Commission can pass on it. It will probably be a few months before the petition can be passed upon, according to Shetty, due to the large number of petitions submitted at the last meeting.

This highway will mean thousands of dollars to Castro County each year because it will turn thousands of tourists through our county, who otherwise might go another route and because sixty per cent of the traffic of the county uses this road.

SECOND SURVEY BY SANTA FE BEING MADE THIS WEEK

A full corps of surveyors for the Santa Fe Railway Company were working towards Dimmitt the first of the week on the second survey for the line which is to be constructed between Plainview and Dimmitt by that company.

The survey was ten miles out of town towards Runningwater and is scheduled to be completed here the latter part of the week.

At the second of preliminary survey the line was run through the most two miles out of town towards Runningwater and is scheduled to be completed here the latter part of the week.

MISS KIMBELL IS PLEASING HOSTESS

Miss Kimbell is a very popular hostess and is always glad to welcome a man to this place of Mr. Seay's shanty and one who is not easily discouraged by adversity and one who has a vision of future possibilities for Castro county.

Fined for Show
 CARLOW Eng - The Rev. Douglas Morgan Heath, vicar of St. John's church, was fined \$20 for staging a play in a parish church without a license.

For Her



Miss Kimbell is a very popular hostess and is always glad to welcome a man to this place of Mr. Seay's shanty and one who is not easily discouraged by adversity and one who has a vision of future possibilities for Castro county.

Girl Tells How She Turned Sleuth, Finds "Double" and Frees Brother



MRS. HELEN SAUERMAN BOWMAN WHO SAVED HER BROTHER, LEO (UPPER RIGHT), FROM A LIFE IN PRISON AND CAUSED THE CONVICTION OF HARRY HILL (LOWER RIGHT), ON A CHARGE OF MURDER.

By HERBERT WALKER
DETROIT, Mich., May 7.—"I believe you are innocent and I'll work until I die to set you free." A sister's loyalty has saved her brother from a life behind prison bars.

She lived the life of the underworld. She invaded the haunts of bootleggers and hi-jackers. She subjected herself to extreme danger.

But she found her brother's double.

Leo Sauerman, the brother, has been pardoned after 36 months of imprisonment. The real murderer, Harry Hill, is sitting a life's sentence.

In October, 1922, Sauerman was sentenced to life imprisonment on a charge of having been a member of a gang which had killed Alex Dombrowski, a farmer living near Brownstown, Mich.

Evidence submitted tended to show that a gang visited Dombrowski's home on January 21, 1922 and posed as Federal agents, demanding the farmer produce liquor believed to have been cached on the farm. When Dombrowski refused to permit the men to search the farm he was shot and killed.

Dombrowski's widow, seeing Sauerman's picture, said he was the slayer. Her son, a cousin and hired man at the farm, who witnessed the shooting testified that Sauerman was the slayer.

Sauerman was convicted. His sister at once started a fight to prove his innocence.

She insisted that the slayer was a man who resembled her brother.

She got affidavits and a hotel register showing that Sauerman was in Kalamazoo at the time of the murder.

She induced Melvin Brown and Homer Noid, who confessed that they were members of the gang which visited Dombrowski's home to admit that Sauerman was not in the gang.

"Fin Harry Hill," they said. But police laughed. They believed Hill to be a phantom character.

"It's a frame-up and it will come out some day," Sauerman told his sister before being taken away to begin his life term.

From that time on until her brother was freed from prison Mrs. Bowman did not rest. Every night after finishing her work she sought clues to the whereabouts of Harry Hill.

"I first went to Escrow, near here. Hill is known as the lieutenant of bootleggers and hi-jackers," she says.

"By mingling with these characters of the underworld for several days, I found that a Harry Hill once lived in Battle Creek. I heard that Hill's sweet-

heart lived there. After working for many days, I finally obtained her name and by pretending that I was seeking a room to rent, I talked to her a few times. But she was suspicious and all I could learn was that she was corresponding with Hill, who was staying through the hands of five members of Hill's gang before they reached him.

"Some time later, I got word that Hill had a brother who ran a garage in Chicago. A friend of mine had a car. "We damaged the carburetor and the ignition and took it to Hill's garage for repairs.

"For weeks I watched his garage, thinking that Harry Hill would come there. Many a night I parked in front of his brother's home watching for the man whose arrest I believed would clear my brother.

"I did manage to learn that Hill often came to Chicago. By this time I convinced the police that Harry Hill was not a phantom, but a real character and probably the real murderer of Dombrowski.

"In November, my long search was rewarded with the arrest of Hill in a Chicago Y. M. C. A. He was getting small there through a friend, who roomed in the building.

VICTORY CROWNS BOOSTERS FIGHT FOR W.T.C.C. MEET

(FROM AMARILLO DAILY NEWS)
 (BY STAFF CORRESPONDENT)

MINERAL WELLS, May 6.—The 1926 convention of the West Texas Chamber of Commerce belongs to Amarillo. Abilene withdrew from the contest on the roll call immediately after Amarillo had voted. When San Antonio's name was called, that city cast its 339 votes for Amarillo and moved that the election be made unanimous. Resulting in a demonstration that shook the municipal auditorium. This took place just a few minutes before 5:00 p. m. The selection of the convention city was made this afternoon on account of the heavy rain.

Selection of Amarillo as the 1926 convention city was generally conceded, but it was a great fight and the boosters never missed an opportunity to push Amarillo. The Amarilloans arrived in the auditorium at 12:30 o'clock and staged demonstrations for two hours before the afternoon session began.

The selection of the convention city is always the great feature of the convention every year. The nominating speeches are usually given, and the ones today were remarkably well given and brought forth round after round of applause.

Just before the afternoon session began Miss Katy Myrtle Parks, sponsor of the Old Gray Mare Band of Brownsville, stood on a table on the stage, waved Amarillo boosters and led a demonstration. The Pullman porters, a negro quartette, gave several numbers.

Milo Atkinson Offers Wichita Falls
 Rev. Milo Atkinson of Wichita Falls, formerly of Amarillo, placed Wichita Falls in nomination for the 1927 convention. After Amarillo has the convention in 1926, he said he wanted it to meet "at home" again, or in Wichita Falls.

Introduction of officers and directors was then made by Col. C. C. Walsh, retiring president, after which Mayor Charles E. Coombes of Abilene placed that city in nomination for 1926. His address was a classic in wit, and entertained the vast audience which packed the convention hall.

Marvin Jones Nominates Amarillo
 Amarillo's nomination was made by Congressman Marvin Jones, instead of A. E. Boyd of Brownsville, as had been previously announced. He promised the convention that the next year would be the greatest ever held. He said he wanted the people of West Texas to see all of West Texas and that it was necessary to make a trip to Amarillo and the Panhandle to see all of it.

Congressman Jones kidded Abilene for extending an invitation, as the convention met there in 1925 and had only 500 present, he said. Amarillo received considerable advertising when he said that the city would have an office building 3,700 feet high. This, he explained, was possible by the fact that Amarillo was more than 3,800 feet above sea level, and that the sky scraper graced that altitude.

Nominations Bring Applause
 Nominations of Amarillo brought forth another big demonstration, with Miss Parks, the sponsor of the Old Gray Mare Band, riding on the old gray mare band through the bands of Brownwood, Memphis, Canyon, Plainview and Canadian through the convention hall, after which the Amarillo boosters followed in a goose-step march. Representative Chiswood of Sweetwater represented the nomination of Amarillo, and his remarks were also received with genuine applause. He told the audience that Amarillo is 130 miles from the Texas border, and that that section deserves a convention "made all of West Texas" he advised.

San Antonio Nominates
 San Antonio was next nominated by...

San Antonio Votes Amarillo
 Then San Antonio was called. San Antonio cast its 339 votes for Amarillo moved that the election be made unanimous and the race for the convention had ended, amid a tremendous demonstration. Taboka, Vernon, Vega, Wichita Falls, Tulla, Shamrock and many other cities never had a chance to vote.

Col. Ernest O. Thomas, sponsor of the graduation of Amarillo in winning the convention and promised the best entertainment that has ever been given and that, without reflecting on any of the past conventions, he said.

William Ochs, of San Antonio, in a spirited address and tribute to the boosters of Texas cast 250 votes for Amarillo as the city for the 1927 convention.

San Antonio Nominates
 San Antonio was next nominated by...

Castro County Has Never Had Murder Conviction; Only 3 Divorces During 33 Years

The showing Castro County has made in criminal court records since its organization in 1891 has been nothing short of phenomenal and bears out the often quoted statement that "Castro gets only the higher class of citizenship."

Since the county was organized there has never been anyone convicted of murder in the county and three have been sentenced on felony charges. The doors of the jail swung open nearly the year round and Sheriff Bill Bowman is never bothered with the "blue travelers" common to so many counties in Texas. The jail room is now being used as a county depository for legal books, and Judge Shetty states that he is never bothered with delinquent visitors (after the school holidays). Through it any are confident enough to get in he will furnish them plenty of reading material.

Castro county holds another marvelous record, in the number of divorces that have been issued here since the organization of the county which gives rise to the expression "When they marry in Castro county, they stay married." There have been only three divorces issued during the history of the county, the last one being over five years ago and it is doubted if there is...

Many counties get publicity through the columns of the big daily newspapers because some prominent family has been robbed or murdered, or because some prominent society woman and her husband had a divorce, or because some rich business man dined with his pretty stenographer in Castro county is making himself conspicuous throughout Texas by the absence of these crimes, and she is a daily reader of her law reporting columns and is trying to build up a record that will stand out as an accomplishment.

If this record is kept up, it won't be many years before Castro county will build up the reputation of being the modern "Paradise" of Texas where young people will come, get married and live happily ever after.

Gold-Tipped Bees
 PARIS.—Almost large feet with toes...

1925 Buddy Poppy Girl



Miss Dagmar Oakland, of New York, selected by the Veterans of Foreign Wars as the Buddy Poppy Girl to head the sale of poppies made by disabled veterans.

CASTRO FARMER LEARNS POULTRY IS PAYING "CROP"

Miss Noble living 7 miles northwest of Newcastle, finds the poultry business very profitable and says that it is one of the best ways for a farmer to stay out of debt. Mr. Nobles has around 250 laying hens and since the first of February he has sold 23 crates of eggs besides the ones used for the family. The eggs have averaged around \$1 per case, which means \$175 during the three months period for the flock.

While the flock has been very profitable, Mr. Nobles believes that the egg production could be greatly increased by scientific feeding and care of the birds. This is just one of the many farmers of this county who has learned that the laying hen is of vital necessity to the successful farmer.

This is the front page of the oldest copy of the *Castro County News* known to be in existence. Dated May 8, 1925, it was the fifth edition of the paper. This copy was found in the wall of a farmhouse being torn down, and was saturated with oil or grease, which darkened the paper and made the print almost impossible for the reproduction camera to "pick up." The historic copy is housed permanently at the Castro County Historical Museum.

B.M. Nelson recalls many changes

By LINDA MAXWELL

On the day B.M. Nelson was born he says his dad went fishing, and when his family later moved to Rogers, they traveled by covered wagon.

Those are only two of the stories he has to tell from a life that has had considerable impact on the history of Dimmitt and Castro County through the 48 years he has lived here.

When I asked him when he was born, he said he didn't really know what time of day, he couldn't remember that far back; so when I asked him what day it was, he replied, "My Dad caught a fish that day, my mother said. It was Feb. 3, 1906, in Ferris, Texas, that's just southeast of Dallas."

I asked him how old he was when he came to Castro County.

"I thought you were going to say how old was I when I was born," he wise-cracked. "How old was I when I came to Castro County? I was 37, blue eyes and brown hair. What else you want to know? That oughta be enough."

But it's not enough for a man who established the reputation of *The Castro County News*, was a charter member of the Dimmitt Chamber of Commerce, helped establish a hospital and vegetable industry here, led a drive to sell memberships so that Dimmitt Wheat Growers could obtain a \$10 million loan to build the corn mill, and worked to bring the agricultural housing project to Dimmitt.

B.M. Nelson came to Castro County in 1943, "trying to find a place to make a living." He already had 18 years of experience in the printing business, starting with two weeks under supervision in Rogers, Texas. He also worked at printing in Paducah, then published newspapers at Roaring Springs, Amherst and Olton, before taking the opportunity to lease the *Castro County News* from T.A. Singer and Pete Whitlow, with an option to buy at the end of a year.

There weren't any paved streets in Dimmitt when the Nelsons arrived—B.M. and his wife, Viola, and three children, Bascom, Don, and Mary. Their arrival represented a considerable boost in the population of 940.

The businesses around the courthouse square included a service

station, the Rawlings Hotel, and adjacent to the hotel, a hardware store, then a variety store. On the north side of the hotel was a drug store. Also around the square was a small six-stool cafe, and there was a coffee shop in the hotel.

"Walter Griffiths had a grocery store, and Buster Cooper had a tractor parts store," B.M. recalled. He said the bank had been in the building now occupied by Cowsett Abstract, and on the second floor was Dr. Cogswell's hospital. He included a lumber yard, McMahon's blacksmith shop and a machine shop on the list.

What Dimmitt did not have when the Nelsons moved here was available housing, so the family of five lived in an apartment in the back of the newspaper shop for the first year, then rented a house for a year. In 1945 they were able to build a home at 211 Southwest Third, where B.M. continues to live today.

"I guess we came here at an opportune time—just about the end of the war, and irrigation had just barely started," B.M. said. "And when the war was over, industry started to booming."

"We've always had a progressive population, always willing to support, promote and finance whatever was deemed good for the community."

"I've seen the city grow from 940 to a little over 5,000 population. The business district of the town grew in proportion to the residential areas. We've always had progressive businessmen who supported and financed development, and in that process, we saw the production of the county increase probably several times over, due to irrigation and improved, modern types of farming," B.M. noted.

B.M. says he has seen many changes through the years.

A reduction in the number of cotton gins, grain dealers and auto dealerships are reflections of the general economy.

Along with the changes in the business climate, there have also been changes in politics, according to B.M.

"Some way, somehow—I don't know how—I got the reputation for being a Democrat," he said with a grin. A staunch Democrat, he does admit to voting for a Republican at

least once—when Gen. Eisenhower ran for President.

"That was the first time that the people of Castro County realized they could vote Republican," B.M. quipped. "Since that time, Castro County has been a swing county. It's voted Democratic, and it's voted Republican."

B.M. has been a member of the Dimmitt Lions Club for as long as he has lived in Dimmitt, and that club has been instrumental in many of the improvements that have come to Dimmitt, including the first street paving program in the city.

Transportation has changed a lot through the years, according to B.M., with distances being shortened by good roads and better cars.

Of course, there were virtually no paved roads and precious few cars in 1913 when 7-year-old B.M. rode in a covered wagon from eastern New Mexico to Rogers.

"I heard my mother say the trip took a month and a day," B.M. reported. "We camped out the whole way, except one family along the way came out and made us come in the house with them."

Pretty exciting stuff for a 7-year-old. B.M. was the youngest of three boys. He said the family had everything they owned packed in the covered wagon.

"We spent a night in the wagon yard in Seminole, and we spent a few days during rainy weather in a wagon yard in Coleman," he recalled.

Along the way, they came to a pretty long bridge over a creek.

"It shook pretty bad," B.M. remembered, and after they had crossed it, "We looked back and saw a sign on it that said 'This bridge condemned.'"

B.M. said it was a wet year, and there were places that were impassable, so the family would have to go around or wait until the roads dried out.

"We got within eight miles of Rogers, and Dad put our wagon in a man's barn, turned the team out in his pasture, and we walked down a railroad track the rest of the way to town," he recalled.

I asked him what kind of schooling he had had.

"Haphazard," he shot back with a laugh.

The first school he remembers

attending was a one-room school west of Lake Arthur, N.M. He graduated from Rogers High School in 1925, and went straight into the printing business.


"The Castro County News has come very far. I'm thankful to have had the opportunity to grow with the development of the city and area," B.M. said. "We were fortunate to be able to help with the phenomenal growth that took place in this county. There may be a slow down in the economy and there may be different means of doing business, but the growth should continue."

"I don't know what the future will be like or what the main resources will be, but the people who are here are capable to see that the growth will be orderly."

"The enthusiasm and support being given to the Centennial Plaza and Gazebo project bodes fair for the continued development of Castro County. This celebration is not a political thing. It's for all the people of Castro County, celebrating the 100th birthday of the county and paying homage to all of the old settlers from the time it was established until now, and its history all through those years has been good," he said with feeling.



B.M. NELSON
... relaxing at home.



Remember when...

a dollar's worth of gas would take you everywhere you wanted to go—in a car you still remember with a smile? We'd like to help you find a car you'll enjoy just as much. We're proud to have served you in the past, and look forward to getting you where you want to go in the future.

Happy 100th Anniversary!

Scott's Trading Post
647-3414

Harvest Days Schedule

CASTRO COUNTY HARVEST DAYS — DIMMITT, TEXAS — AUGUST 11-17, 1991

DATE & TIME	EVENT	SPONSORED BY	CONTACT & LOCATION
SUNDAY, AUGUST 11			
2:30 P.M.	Centennial Pageant (Community Variety Show)	Dimmitt Chamber	Bill Sava, Director DHS Auditorium Delores Heller 647-2524 Tks: \$3 - Door \$4 - 5 yrs. under Free
MONDAY, AUGUST 12			
8:00 P.M.	Centennial Pageant		
AUGUST 12-17			
	E-B Fun Time Rides Carnival	Dimmitt Chamber - Cotton candy & all the trimmings	South of the Expo Building
THURSDAY, AUGUST 15			
11:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.	Fair & Quilts Entries Due at the Expo	Castro County Fair & Quilt Association	Yvonna Hays 647-5214; Carolyn Osborn 647-4115; J.D. Ragland - Expo 403 S.E. 4th
FRIDAY, AUGUST 16			
9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.	Arts & Crafts Booths Open	Castro County Fair Association	Booths, Dimmitt Chamber/Expo 403 S.E. 4th 647-9275
10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.	Special Seniors Honor Hour	Y.E.S./4-H (10% Discount for Seniors Over 65 During This Hour)	Expo Building
11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.	"Good Food & Exercise Tips" (with samples)	Cindy Sides Ebeling	Expo Stage
1:30 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.	"Window Panes To The Past"	John Greene, Education Dir. Panhandle Plains Historical Museum	Expo Stage
3:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.	Previews of FALL Style Show	Kozy Korner, Hart	Expo Stage
4:30 P.M.	"Pet Talk" with Jay Rapp	Dimmitt Veterinary Clinic/Merrick Pet Foods	East of Expo
5:00 P.M. - 5:45 P.M.	Pet Show - Bring Your Pets		East of Expo
6:00 P.M.	Plaza Dedication Concert	Centennial Commission	Centennial Plaza
7:30 P.M.	"Spur Jingles & Saddle Songs" Cowboy Poet & Musicians Program	Dimmitt Chamber	Tammy Wilhite 647-3138, DHS Auditorium - Tickets \$3
SATURDAY, AUGUST 17			
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.	Fair, Arts & Crafts Booths	Castro Co. Fair Association - Expo, 403 S.E. 4th	J.D. Ragland/Carolyn Osborn 647-4115
9:00 A.M.	Parade Judging Begins	Dimmitt Lions Club	Marvin Bryant, CH.
10:00 A.M.	Parade Begins	"Once In A Lifetime"	
10:00 A.M.	Early Settlers Reunion Registration	Senior Citizens Center, 218 W. Jones	Garnett Holland 647-5544
AFTER PARADE ABOUT 11 AM	Centennial Plaza Dedication		Centennial Plaza, Judge Polly Simpson 648-4451
11:30 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.	Centennial Car Show/Swap Meet	Gary Bruegel Memorial Scholarship Fund - DATA	First State Bank Parking Lot 647-2524/Don Moke, Jessie Sepeda
12:00 NOON	Chowtime - Food at the Fair: Hamburgers, Fajitas, Ice Cream, Snow Cones, Funnel Cakes & more		All Around the Expo Area
12:00 NOON	Early Settlers Reunion Lunch	Senior Citizen Center, 218 W. Jones	Garnett Holland 647-5544. Bring a covered dish & join us
1:00 P.M.	4th U.S. Cavalry Regiment (Memorial)	Fair Association & Chamber	Expo Area
12:00 NOON - 4:00 P.M.	Outdoor Games: Pillow Fight & Parachute Jump, Dunking Board, Horseshoe Pitching, Water Polo & Pumper Teams, Spur & Bit Making, Great Duck Race	Local Organizations	Expo Building Area
12:00 NOON - 5:00 P.M.	Museum Open House (Volume II Castro Co. History Book Available)	Castro Co. Museum Association. Visit with Jim Gough in the afternoon	404 W. Halsell 647-2611
2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.	Art Show & Authors Reception	Art Club	Rhoads Memorial Library, 105 S.W. 2nd, Francis Frazier, Cindy Pottorff
3:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.	Top of Texas Cloggers	Fair Association	
4:00 P.M.	Costume Contest, Prize Drawings		Expo Stage
5:00 P.M.	Car Show Trophy Presentation		First State Bank Parking Lot
6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.	Barbeque Supper at the Expo Catered by Dyers	Dimmitt Promenaders Tks. - Advance \$6 Children \$4.50 Door \$6.50	Expo Building, Bill & Ann Henderson
8:00 P.M.	Square Dance (Expo)	Gary Smith - Caller; Bill Harman - Rounds	Expo
9:00 P.M. - 12:00 P.M.	Street Dance featuring The Roughriders Band	Dimmitt Chamber of Commerce	East of Courthouse

Happy 100th Anniversary



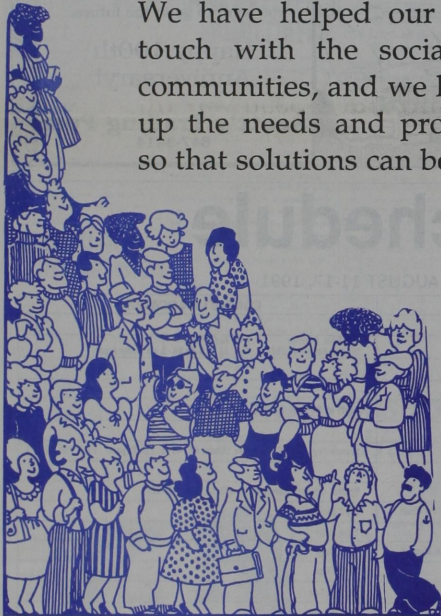
Since 1925, *The Castro County News* has been a vital part of the history of our county, and we are proud to continue contributing to its growth.

As a member of the economic community of Castro County, we have tried to do our part to encourage our citizens to trade at home by advertising the goods and services of local merchants.

We have tried to encourage involvement in the political process through keeping our citizens informed and providing an open forum for expression of many differing viewpoints.



We have helped our citizens keep in touch with the social events of our communities, and we have tried to hold up the needs and problems that arise, so that solutions can be sought.



Our number one job is to report the news, but since we're human, we make mistakes, and we sometimes don't see things quite the way someone else might.

We appreciate our many advertisers, our loyal subscribers, and each one who trusts us to "get it right," and we pledge to do our best as we enter a new century together.

Together, We Can

Don Nelson, Publisher
Anne Acker, News Editor and Bookkeeping
Paula Portwood, Ad Composition and Bookkeeping
Linda Maxwell, Associate Editor
Deana McLain, Page Composition and Photo Lab
Freda McVay, Reporter
Danette Baker, Reporter
Kathleen Latham, Reporter



The Castro County News





Castro County Centennial THIS LAND

1891
✦
1991

The sweetest sugar made

Local milling plant converts corn to syrup

The next time you sit down to enjoy a soft drink or any other food that contains high fructose corn syrup, you could be enjoying a part of Castro County.

The high fructose corn syrup product is produced locally at the American Fructose—Dimmitt, Inc. plant.

The vast majority of the corn grown in America is "field" corn, and in today's modern farming, the kernels of this corn are stripped from the cob by harvesting machinery and only the kernels enter the grain handling system.

A typical bushel of this corn

weighs 56 pounds. Some of this weight is moisture remaining from the cornfield, while the remaining parts—starch, oil, protein and fiber are all recovered by refiners for use in other products.

The corn kernel, sliced in two, reveals its component parts including the starch, hull and fiber, gluten and germ.

The germ, the elongated oval-shaped portion, contains most of the oil and some of the protein. The side portions of the kernel are yellowish and slightly translucent, containing the gluten, the primary protein portion. The water which is

scattered throughout the kernel picks up some of the protein and other important nutrients. The remainder of the kernel is white and almost powdery and contains most of the starch. The whole kernel is covered by a fibrous layer called the hull, which is nature's protection for the valuable contents.

Refiners use the shelled corn which has been stripped from the cob during harvesting.

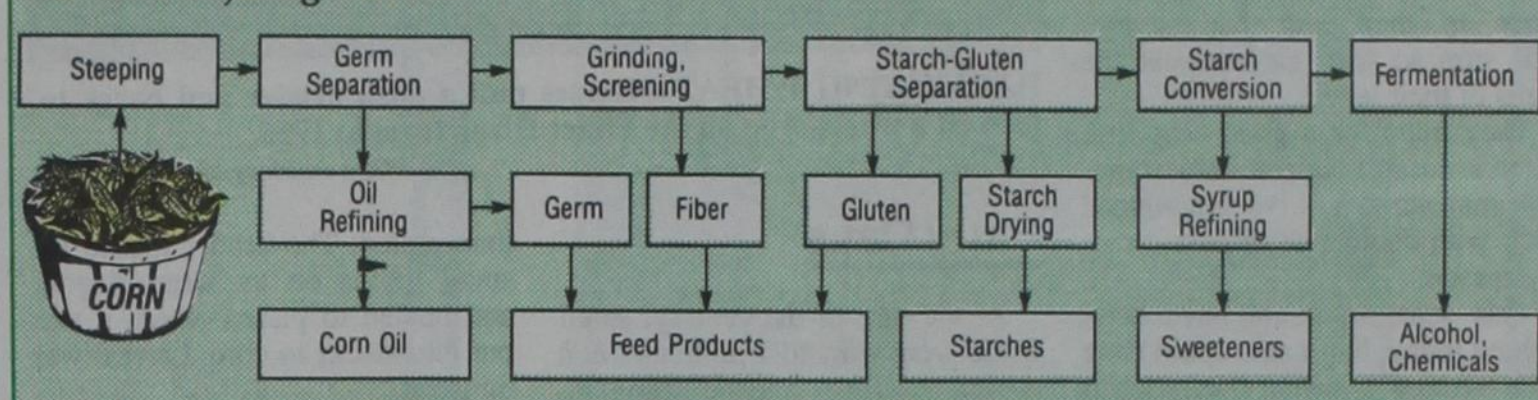
Corn sweeteners are the most important refined corn products and modern science has made possible a variety of corn sweeteners which have replaced sugar and lessened America's dependence on foreign final product has the same sweetness as sugar produced from beets or cane.

This syrup is used widely in soft drinks, bakery products, candies or preserves.

The "55 Refinery," like the 42 Refinery, is a centrally-controlled facility using the latest in ion exclusion technology.

Production of enriched syrups is accomplished by separating the dextrose and fructose fractions of the 42% fructose syrups, then blending the fructose fraction back

The Corn Refining Process...



to the desired fructose concentration.

The resulting 55% fructose product is purified through an ion exclusion exchange process and adjusted by evaporation to a suitable dry solids concentration.

This syrup is used widely by soft drink bottlers.

The plant supplies its own steam for heat and evaporation with three boilers. Also in this area are a water treatment station, air compressors and water cooling towers.

At various process points, the product is sampled and analyzed by the Quality Assurance Laboratory for maintaining good process control.

The plant has a maintenance force which includes varied skilled workers such as mechanics, welders, electricians and instrument men. Accounting, traffic, purchasing, personnel and process engineering groups also are located at Dimmitt.

sugar supplies.

The second major refined corn product is ethanol, which is gaining increasing acceptance as a cleaner burning option for motor fuels. The third major corn product is starch.

And each is produced at the American Fructose plant.

It all starts in the millhouse, where the starch is separated from the other corn components.

Initially, the corn is soaked (or "steeped") to soften it and remove the soluble portion. The soaked corn then is processed through a series of mills, screens, separators and driers.

At each of these steps one of the lesser components (by-products) is removed. These by-products generally are used in the local cattle feeding markets.

The final millhouse product is corn starch, which can be dried and sold either in bulk trucks or bulk rail cars. Most of it will be pumped to two refineries to serve as feed stock for syrup production.

The expanded Dimmitt millhouse produces more than 700 tons per day of by-products in addition to 1,000 tons per day of starch.

The starch then is transferred to the "42 Refinery," which is a centrally-controlled facility where 42% high fructose corn syrup is produced. This is accomplished by treating the starch slurry with a series of enzymes, or complicated substances which produce chemical changes.

The first two enzymes break down the starch into dextrose, which is bland sugar. The dextrose syrup is purified through filters, carbon and ion exchange before isomerization.

The isomerizing enzyme then rearranges about half of the dextrose into fructose.

After further purification and concentration in evaporators, the

Corn wet milling plant is one of county's major employers

When Dimmitt Agri Industries constructed a corn wet milling plant here 20 years ago, Castro County's reputation as a grain sorghum county changed almost overnight to the "main corn producing county of Texas."

Now owned by American Fructose — Dimmitt Inc., which is a subsidiary of American Maize Products Co., the plant is one of the major employers in the county, according to information obtained from a 1989 Community Survey, which was researched and printed by Southwestern Public Service Co.

The Dimmitt plant is the only corn wet milling plant in Texas and the southwest. The plant produces 42% and 55% high fructose corn syrup with the major by-products being dry starch and co-products for livestock feeding. Its products are sold throughout the United States.

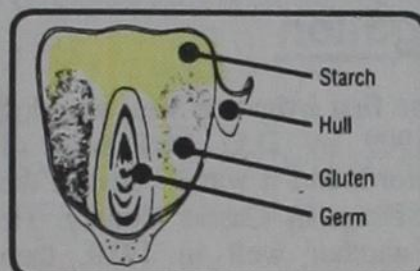
Constructed by Dimmitt Agri Industries in 1970, the Dimmitt plant was leased by Amstar Corp. of New York in 1973. Then in 1984, American Fructose acquired the plant.

American Fructose makes high fructose corn syrup, corn starch and other corn derivative products at its wet milling facilities here and at its plant in Decatur, Ala.

At these two plants, the company annually produces more than a billion pounds of crystal-clear syrup, which is marketed under the trade names Tru-Sweet 42 and Tru-Sweet 55. Both products are used for sweetening soft drinks.

Tru-Sweet 42 also is sold to a variety of food and confection manufacturers for sweetening candies, canned fruits, ice cream, jams and jellies.

American Fructose sells corn starch to the paper and corrugated industries. The company also sells co-products of the corn wet milling process, such as corn germ, which is used to make corn oil; and corn gluten feed and corn gluten meal, which are used for feeding poultry and livestock.



The Initial Phases

Dimmitt Wheat Growers (now Dimmitt Agri Industries) notified its stockholders of its plans for a corn wet milling plant in Dimmitt in January 1968, and groundbreaking ceremonies were held in August of that year. Construction, however, didn't begin until January 1969.

Originally, the mill processed some 10,000 bushels of corn per day into syrup, starch, oil and high-protein cattle feed.

It employed about 70 people and stockholders were members who owned corn contracts.

Dimmitt Wheat Growers formed a new management corporation, Dimmitt Management Co., Inc. (DIMACO) to operate its new corn milling plant, market the plant's products and oversee the cooperative's elevator and farm store operations.

After completing the mill, Dimmitt Wheat Growers changed its name to Dimmitt Agri Industries, Inc., in order to market the products, starches, corn syrups, gluten meal, germ and steep water.

Construction continued through July 1971, when the final chapter of construction was completed with the start-up of the refinery, which starts with the new material produced by the wet process corn mill. Through the use of chemicals and enzymes, it produced corn syrup.

Amstar Corp. Leases Plant

The Dimmitt plant was acquired by Amstar Corp. in 1973 and Amstar proceeded to develop the plant's technology for production of high fructose corn syrup, which culminated in a major \$30 million expansion project in 1977.

Included in the project was the construction of a modern, automated syrup refinery, specifically designed for 42% high fructose syrup production. In addition, the daily grind capacity of the plant (the amount of corn per day used) was increased from 10,000 bushels to 35,000 bushels.

A second expansion in 1981 provided capability for the production of the 55% enriched high fructose corn syrup. Sophisticated technology and advanced instrumentation were combined to produce a high quality 55% fructose product.

American Fructose Takes Over

American Fructose purchased the Dimmitt plant from Amstar in November 1984.

In 1989, American Fructose undertook another \$30 million expansion project designed to increase the plant's grind capacity to 54,000 bushels per day. A refinery expansion also was included, with a finished capacity that now produces more 42% and 55% high fructose corn syrup. The plant has the capability of producing dry starches as well as sweeteners.

"We're especially pleased with what went on . . . particularly the capital expansion in Dimmitt, a project that will have a long-term, positive impact on the company," said William Ziegler, III, chairman and chief executive officer, in American Fructose's 1990 summary and annual report.

In the same report, another American Fructose official, Patric J. McLaughlin, president and chief operating officer, said he feels things are definitely looking up for the company.

"With Dimmitt on line for the full year . . . we may be beginning our most productive and eventful year to date. The high fructose corn syrup market is still growing and naturally, we expect to grow with it. That's why we renovated Dimmitt (plant). Dimmitt was definitely a big plus this past year. In the short run, it increased our operating costs, but over time, it will give us the capacity to grow with the high fructose market.



**KDHN
Radio 1470**

*We've got the
Music!*

and we're ready to celebrate!

**Happy 100th
Dimmitt and
Castro County**

We started broadcasting Dec. 5, 1963, and Wayne Collins bought the station Dec. 14, 1984. FCC authority has been granted for 24-hours-a-day broadcasting when the station is ready for it.

The KDHN call letters were taken from the three towns in Castro County—Dimmitt, Hart, and Nazareth, demonstrating from the beginning the station's commitment to the entire county.

We are proud to serve Castro County and the surrounding area.

County farmers grow food for nation, world

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Information for the farming history was obtained from longtime county farmers Lon Woodburn and George Bagwell; president of the Texas Corn Growers Association, Carl King; and from historical publications including *Castro County History, Vols. 1 and 2*; and *The Holy Family Parish: The First 75 Years*.)

Every morning Castro County farmers wake with the sun, tending to livestock, then working their fields or harvesting their crops, often until sunset and sometimes later.

They pray for rain to bring their crops up, then pray that the rain will stop so they can harvest the fruits of their labors.

They hope for a good crop, but when it doesn't happen, they somehow manage to survive and bounce back with another crop next growing season.

This scenario could have been written today, but it also could have been written a century ago when the county was first settled.

Farming has been the livelihood of Castro County residents for 100 years, first with products like kafir corn, red top cane, hegari and oats; and later with grain sorghum, wheat, cotton, corn, sugar beets, soybeans, potatoes, onions, carrots, lettuce, cabbage, cantelopes and cucumbers. The crops raised here are shipped throughout the nation and are exported to other countries, providing food for the nation and world.

The vegetable industry has been virtually eliminated today, but the sorghum, wheat, cotton, corn and soybeans are still the mainstay of the county's farming economy.

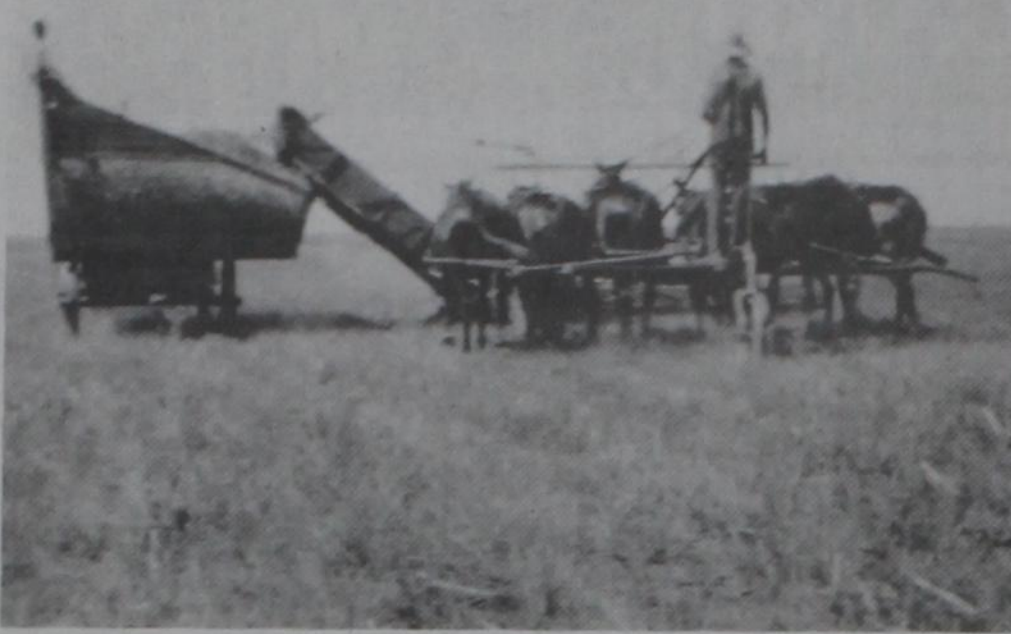
Potatoes are the largest vegetable crop raised in the county and because of the region's climate, the High Plains potato producers grow the first Russet baking potatoes of the season.

Small sweet onions, large Spanish onions and other varieties of the vegetable were grown here in abundance, but the crop's popularity has waned in recent years.

Other vegetables that have been raised here include green bell peppers, jalapeno peppers and chile peppers.

Black-eyed peas have been raised as an alternate crop, planted only if a farmer suffered a loss of some or all of his cotton due to bad weather.

In recent years, many other vegetable crops have emerged including spinach, yellow squash, asparagus, cabbage, carrots, beets and tomatoes. Pumpkins, watermelons and cantelopes also are grown locally.



HARVESTING WHEAT—Horses pull a push header and barge to harvest a wheat crop on the Elmer Dixon farm in 1926.

Photo courtesy of Irene Bradley

Early Days

At the turn of the century, small fields were worked with horses and mules pulling double shovels, walking sod plows, one-row middle buster planters, two-row sod planters, harrows and one-row riding cultivators. Broadcast bombers, single-row binders and knife sleds were used to harvest the crops.

The grain and forage produced from these crops were fed to stock, cows, hogs and chickens.

As more settlers moved into the county in the early 1900s, more land was put into cultivation. The kafir corn, wheat and oats were the staple crops for county farmers from 1908 to 1915 and small plots of corn were planted for hog feed and for making corn meal. The wheat was used to make flour.

Around 1910, a new type of grain sorghum, called goose-neck maize, was planted. It was more drought-tolerant than kafir corn and the yellow-orange grain sorghum was more nutritious.

The new maize had one drawback, though. It had to be harvested by hand because the head grew from the stalk in a U-shape and it didn't harvest well with the row or broadcast binder.

The arrival of the thrashing machine in 1906 was a major occurrence here. Some of the early machines were powered by horses using gearboxes and tumbling shafts. Some were powered by stationary steam engines, which were moved by horses from one farm to another. Within a few years a steam-driven tractor was used to operate the thrasher.

Early-day farmers enjoyed growing wheat because it was easy to raise and it wasn't long before the header for wheat and oats harvest made its appearance. The header was pushed by six horses rather

than pulled. The header loaded the small grains on to barge wagons and hauled to places where it was put into stacks to cure. Later it was thrashed.

Kafir corn was easy to harvest with a row binder, broadcast binder or by hand heading. Some farmers used a small sickle machine mounted on the side of a wagon box and powered by a chain driven sprocket attached to the wagon wheel.

An early day farmer, A. Iten, who lived in the Cleo Community once gave a testimony to encourage people to come to Castro County in 1917.

In his testimony, Iten said he had grown maize, kafir, sorghum, feteria, Indian corn and millet successfully for eight years, without failure.

"I have had no failures. My grain crops had averaged around 30 bushels per acre every year. In 1915, my maize and kafir averaged 56 bushels. I have made as much as 35 bushels of millet seed per acre, but the average will not be more than 20 bushels," Iten added that he felt like Castro County could become the "greatest wheat growing section in the nation."

The Ramey Brothers, Edgar "Unk" and Edwin "Goose," purchased and brought to the county in 1919. The first combine was powered by a gasoline engine and it cut a 12-foot swath and thrashed the grain at the same time. It was pulled by a team of eight horses, hitched four tandem.

Gasoline- and kerosene-powered tractors entered the picture by the late 1920s and had replaced the horse by the 1930s.

The Depression

The depression and drought of the mid 1930s forced farmers to make changes in the way they worked their land and how they raised their crops.

The October 1929 stock market crash and the drought of the early 1930s affected everyone's way of life.

Feed for livestock was becoming scarce and the government started killing cattle in an effort to reduce the animal numbers.

Gradually, the government wormed its way into the farming industry, setting up farm programs. Farmers could either join the government programs or remain independent, but the situation was desperate. Federal loans were offered to farmers at low interest rates. Some crops were farmed out in order to reduce surplus and raise prices.

"We've had this farm program

ever since the depression, but we were getting a reasonable price for farm products," said George Bagwell, longtime Castro County resident and farmer. "During the '50s prices were real good and people made a little money."

"Then the prices of our production started going up and it's been going up ever since until now it's too high for what farmers get. We are getting less on a parity basis today for farm products than we got during the depression years when wheat was 75 cents per bushel," he said.

Bagwell added that farm prices have dropped since World War II, because the government has been on a "cheap food policy."

"Now the prices for our farm products are below the cost of production. Right now, if a man can get the government payments and break even on his crops, he's lucky. The only thing he's really earning, is that government payment for leaving out part of his land. That's the only thing on which he's making any money," he said.

Conservation practices were established during the depression years and they included contour listing, which left stubble for ground cover, and chiseling helped stop wind erosion.

That's when most of the grassland in the county was broken out and planted in wheat, cotton and milo. Farmers in the central and southern parts of the county grew a lot of cotton while the main crop in the north and northwestern portions of the county was wheat.

During the 1940s, cotton gins started to appear in Dimmitt, Hart, Flagg, Nazareth and Sunnyside; while grain elevators were erected in Dimmitt, Hart, Summerfield and Sunnyside.

Irrigation

The first irrigation well was dug in 1909 by D.L. McDonald of Hereford, and it was located in the Frio Draw in Castro County. He dug another well in 1910, then began to grow vegetables, row crops and alfalfa.

According to Lon Woodburn, a longtime Castro County resident and farmer, irrigation soon became more of a necessity because farmers planted crops that needed more moisture, and fields held less moisture because the crops were planted on top of the furrows. He added that milo, wheat, gooseneck maize and red-top cane were more adaptable crops for the amount of rainfall received in Castro County each year.

After farmers discovered the advantages irrigation offered, wells started popping up everywhere. The first ones were drilled in the southern and eastern portions of the county in the 1930s and most were dug to a depth of around 200 feet, depending on the location, because the water table varied in depth.

Irrigation became an accepted practice in the 1940s as more people started to dig wells. R.E. Cade, who lived two miles east of Sunnyside, was one of the first farmers to drill a well in that area and water there was 60 to 70 feet deep at that time.

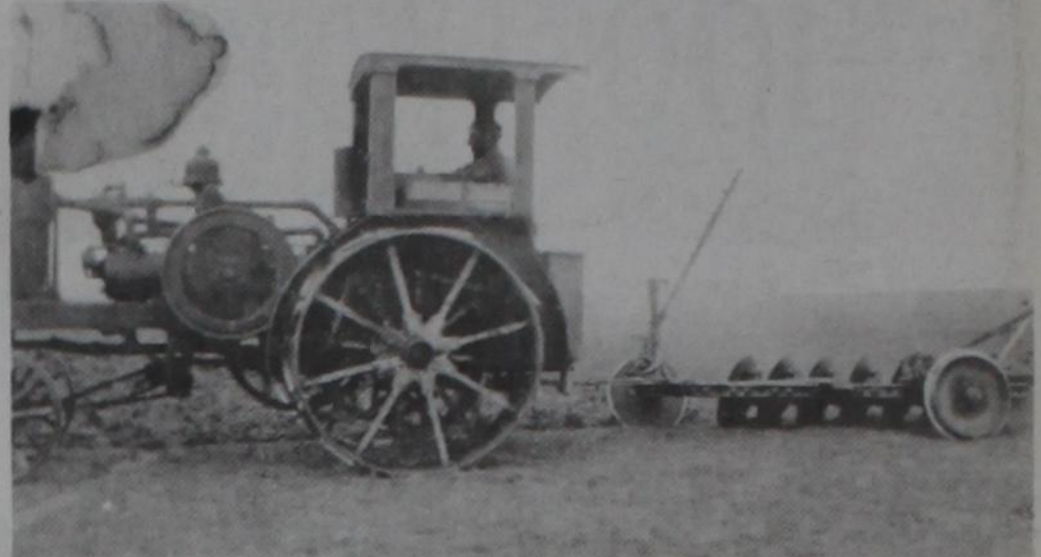
Early irrigation wells were not cased to the bottom, and some only had one joint of casing at the top to prevent contamination of the water. The casing was used to protect the pump and keep the formation around it from caving in and ruining the well.

Rotary drilling rigs that had been used in oil fields were brought to the area around 1940 and they revolutionized water well drilling. These wells were cased from the top to bottom with steel casing.

Irrigation wells started appearing throughout the county during a 10-year period ranging from 1945-55. The southern and northern parts of the county were developed first because the water table was 75 to 100 feet deep; and then the central and western part of the county drilled, but had to go deeper—to 180 or 200 feet—to find water. Sand also was a problem in the central and western areas, and many of the wells were sanded down as they were being developed. After drillers learned to modify the casing perforation in the mid 1950s, good wells were being developed.

The development of irrigation revolutionized the farming industry in Castro County, enabling farmers to grow more advanced row crops such as corn, sugar beets and soybeans instead of just sorghum and cotton.

"When this (farmland) was dryland, it was tougher going in a



PLOWING SOD
... Earl Lust in 1926

way," Bagwell said. "I paid for my land dry farming, and with irrigation, about all I can do is keep it. It's too expensive now."

"Feedlot operators can yell about feeding milo all they want, but they prefer to use corn if they can get it at the price they want," he said.

King added that corn is the "most staple crop known to mankind and it's all around good stuff."

However, King was quick to add that wheat also is an excellent crop, also.

"Wheat is good — take flour tortillas. I really prefer them to corn, but Mexican people like corn better."

Grain sorghum, which was one of the most popular crops grown in the middle of the 20th century, today is used mostly for feeding livestock in the US. In some areas of the world, sorghum is used in place of corn or wheat because one of its values is that it requires less extensive care than corn.

Cotton also has been billed as one of the most important crops in the area and High Plains-area cotton gins, cottonseed oil mills and textile mills utilize the locally-produced cotton crop to produce fiber for fabric, cottonseed oil for food, cottonseed meal for animal feed, cottonseed linters for upholstery and paper and plastics from the seed.

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ELMER DIXON drives his team of horses which are pulling a one-row binder to his field in 1922. *Photo courtesy of Irene Bradley*



FIRST BALE—W.S. Dixon hauls the first bale of cotton to Hereford, where it was marketed in 1911. Dixon raised the cotton crop 30 miles south of Hereford in Castro County. He raised eight bales from his 30-acre crop. *Photo courtesy of Irene Bradley*

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Castro County
1891-1991

Courthouses



EARLY-DAY COMMISSIONERS POSE AT SECOND COURTHOUSE
...Built in 1906, torn down in 1930 to make way for the present one



CASTRO COUNTY'S FIRST COURTHOUSE

...struck by lightning on Aug. 26, 1906 and burned to the ground in minutes

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Symbolizing our county's 100 Years of Progress are the courthouses that have served us since Castro County was first organized and chartered by the state in 1891. From our first woodframe courthouse that served as a community center, dance hall and poker hangout...to the second courthouse which served us well for 30 years...to the Austin-stone structure that has doubled in size since it was built in 1939...all help symbolize the history of our people, the dynamic progress of our county and our hopes for the future.



PRESENT-DAY COURTHOUSE

...completed in 1939. In 1966, it was expanded to the south for more space. The gazebo was constructed in 1991 approximately where one stood on the courthouse lawn when the second courthouse existed.

Corn growers' organization sprouted 'roots' in Dimmitt

By ANNE ACKER

Today's farmers are faced with many hardships — production, financial and political problems. Politics seem to dictate the lives of the farmers and that's the reason many of today's producer organizations were created—to give the farmers a voice on the national and state levels.

The Texas Corn Growers Association (TCGA) and American Corn Growers Association (ACGA) are two such groups. Both were started and are operated under the guidance of Dimmitt's Carl King, a longtime corn farmer and resident of Castro County.

TCGA was formed more than 20 years ago in Dimmitt, but the first meeting didn't take place until the group was chartered on Dec. 15, 1975. Since that time, the group has held 19 meetings.

King serves as president of the Texas Corn Growers Association and is chairman of the American Corn Growers Association, which was formed out of the state organization almost four years ago.

"I have been president of Texas Corn Growers since it was first formed," said King. "I believe there were less than five people at the first meeting, but it (TCGA) has since grown to be a large voice in agriculture, not only in Texas, but across the United States as well."

The TCGA is chartered by the State of Texas under the Texas Dept. of Agriculture; however it is not a state agency. The Texas Corn Producers Board, which was formed from the TCGA, is a state agency.

The Texas Corn Producers Board was formed 10 years ago and it is composed of 15 members. At its inception, the board covered a seven-county area in the Panhandle-Plains area, but in 1990, it was expanded and now is a statewide organization that serves all corn farmers in the state from its Dimmitt-based office.

Also born out of TCGA was the ACGA. The ACGA also is headquartered in Dimmitt and has an office staff in Washington, D.C. to serve its membership, which includes corn growers from 24 states. The organization hopes to expand its membership to 15,000 by the end of the year, King said.

King says one of the biggest challenges facing the organizations is getting their story and ideas to the American people.

"We (agriculture producers) are the largest single industry in America, and yet we are walked on the most," King said. "Farming is the lifeblood of the nation and people need to recognize that because if the farmer goes under, so does the nation."

King said that's what happened in the 1930s when the country was going through the "Great Depression."

"When they let agriculture go on the blink, the rest of the country went under with the depression. That's what started it all."

"The main reason Texas Corn Growers was formed was to cooperate with other farm organizations with similar goals and ideas. We are a participant in the US Feed Grains Council," King said. "The reason ACGA was formed was because the other national organization that we had representing our producers did not coincide with our political philosophy on what we needed in farm legislation."

"We believe in trade, but we

believe in fair trade," King said. "We are very active in the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) negotiations that are going on now, along with the North American Treaty Alliance, which is between Canada, Mexico and the US. Our job is to see that the farmer doesn't come up with the short end of the stick on these trade negotiations and this is a tough job within itself. We don't believe we should be exporting our products below the cost of production, and that's what has happened to us for many years."

Through the work of the TCGA, the Energy Users Association was established to prevent the overcharging of electricity and natural gas use by corn producers. The TCGA helped charter the Texas Farm Bargaining Association to bargain with food processors.

"We participate in, and support farm coalitions," King said. "We have provided regular financial assistance to the Farm Crisis Hotline. Class action lawsuits have been successfully litigated supporting fair treatment of producers under a variety of circumstances."

The goals of the TCGA are to improve farm income by pronouncing a supply management concept for agriculture, especially corn.

"We believe we should have a higher loan rate to get our money out of the market. At the same time, when you have a large carryover, you must cut back on supplies. When you have a surplus of grain, prices are cheap, as we have experienced for many, many years," King said.

Prior to the organization of the Texas Corn Producers Board, TCGA helped organize international trade teams for promotional corn sales of Texas corn and also participated in international trade shows to promote Texas corn.

"We have promoted corn in every angle, from attempting to get corn grit plants, to getting corn food processors within the vicinity such as Frito-Lay, Azteca, Texas Sesame and others."

The organization hasn't restricted its actions to corn growers, either.

"We helped organize a task force to prevent dumping and storage of high-level nuclear waste in productive farm communities (such as Deaf Smith County)."

King said he feels like one of the group's biggest achievements was writing the grain portion of the Payment in Kind (PIK) Program, which was presented to the Secretary of Agriculture and then was adopted by the administration.

The TCGA actively supports research related to integrated pest management and has lobbied for



Carl King

Section 18 clearances for the use of Azodrin for five years, until it was banned by the Environmental Protection Agency. After Azodrin was banned, the TCGA worked for and obtained a clearance to use Capture and Comite to combat spider mites.

Another one of the greatest challenges facing the TCGA today, King says, is ethanol production.

"We actively promote decentralization, farmer-owned ethanol production, and have fought to maintain the state motor fuel sales tax exemption for gasoline-ethanol blends. We are a member of ethanol groups in Washington and we have worked and helped accomplish the Clean Air Act, which was passed by Congress in 1990. We are working to get an ethanol bill passed that will enhance the producer. It will not cost the Texas taxpayers any money; it will come out of the rural development fund."

"I have devoted most of my life to agriculture," King continued. "When I was growing up, we didn't have irrigation. I've seen how that changed the farming industry and I've seen it grow from a minimum of production to a maximum of production with the help of irrigation."

King credits a lot of the farming success in the area to the Ogallala Aquifer, from which the irrigation

water is pumped, saying if it wasn't able to grow the corn and beets that for the aquifer, farmers wouldn't be they do today.

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RISKS
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**Carrying
On
The
Legacy**

It was cattle that got Castro County started, when J. W. Carter drove his herd from Buffalo Gap in 1884 and settled in what is now the Flagg community.

From a single herd, to larger operations like the Flagg Ranch, to the gigantic XIT, cattle helped build our county and its communities.

As range land was turned into family farms, cattle continued to play an important role in our economy. Wheat became the main crop because it provided winter pasture as well as a summer cash crop.

Then, with the advent of high-efficiency feedlots, our county became part of the "Cattle-Feeding Capital of the World."

G. L. Willis, Sr., started ranching in Castro County in 1915, and G. L. Willis, Jr., established Willis Cattle Co. in 1938. We are involved in all phases of the cattle industry here, and work with farmers, ranchers, buyers, sellers and feeders. We have ridden out the good times and the bad with our co-workers in the industry here.

We feel a close kinship with those cattlemen who first settled here a century ago. And we're proud to be carrying their legacy into Castro County's second century.

Willis Cattle Co., Inc.

G. L. Willis, Jr.

WW Cattle Co.
Gene Bradley, Mike Baca & Andy Rogers



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Cattle-feeding industry here is one of the state's largest

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Information for this story was obtained in part from the *Castro County History, Vols. I and II* and *1991 Fed Cattle Survey* provided by Southwestern Public Service Company.)

The cattle industry in Castro County has survived "blue northerners," grasshopper plagues, prairie fires and "black duster" sandstorms to become a part of the cattle-feeding capital of the world.

Some things are meant to be, and the cattle industry in Castro County is one of those things.

The cattle industry had its official beginning in 1883 when J. W. Carter, the county's first settler, purchased land in Castro County.

Carter bought 72 sections for 79 cents an acre. Carter brought 1,000 head of cattle with him when he moved to Castro County and returned for 1,500 more head later. After breeding, the total number of cattle Carter raised was 3,000 head, and each was branded with a 7-UP after his ranch, which was known as the 7-UP Ranch.

In 1887, Carter brought an additional 15,000 head from Taylor County to Castro County's open range territory.

Cattle was the only saleable commodity early-day settlers had, and the animals were driven to the nearest railroad, then were shipped to market, where they were sold for \$7 to \$15 a head. Calves sold for \$5 to \$7 a head. Most settlers only made between \$80 and \$250 on their herds.

In addition to Carter's 7-UP Ranch, other early ranches in the county included C. C. Slaughter's and Ramrod Johnson's Circle S, the Running Water Cattle and Land Company's Circle Cross and Capitol Freehold Land. With assets of more than \$15 million, the Cattle Company's XIT stocked its three million-acre ranch with more than 110,000 head of cattle in 1887.

The root of survival for the cattle industry is the native grasslands in the area — Buffalo Grass, Blue Gama, side oats gama and mesquite. But in order for the cattle to feed off of the grasslands, moisture is needed to help the grasses grow.

And the weather and rainfall didn't always cooperate.

Over the years, the cattle industry in Castro County survived many natural as well as man-made threats, but the early years seemed to create the worst obstacles for newcomers to Castro County.

In 1888, a "blue norther" of the kind that J. Frank Dobie wrote about descended on the county. During the two-day blizzard, the wind chill factor was 50 degrees below zero, and many cattle did not survive. The XIT lost over 3,000 head during the storm.

Only four years later, a grasshopper plague passed through Castro County leaving the land without any means to feed the cattle. For nearly two years ranchers had fought drought, and then the grasshoppers destroyed what few crops and range-land vegetation remained.

In 1894, only two years after the grasshopper plague, arson on the XIT caused the great prairie fire that destroyed over 3,000 square miles of range land and several thousand head of cattle.

The disasters continued in the 30s with the black duster sandstorms that turned Castro County into a desert covered with sand. Cattle could not graze because all vegetation was buried under drifts of sand.

With one disaster after another, many of the early settlers moved on.

Of those that stayed on, a few farmers and ranchers began to construct small feeding pens and fed their cattle on the farm.

With the onset of irrigation and the increased production of grain sorghum in the county in the 1940s and 1950s, the number of farmers and ranchers feeding their cattle on the farm grew.

Among the early cattle feeders in Castro County were Clem Maples, Bill Graham, Roy Hackleman, Lewis Coke, Homer Hill, Lloyd Farris, Roy Cluck, John Jarrett and Roy Bennett, according to information from Jimmy Cluck, which was published in *Castro County History, Vol. II*.

Large commercial feedlots started springing up in the county in the late 1960s, and soon they mushroomed into one of the county's biggest industries.

Today, feedlots in Castro County feed almost 600,000 head of cattle per year. That ranks the county as the second-largest cattle-feeding county in the area for 1990, according to the 1991 Fed Cattle Survey released by Southwestern Public Service Co.

A total of 591,349 head of cattle were fed out in Castro County in 1990 by its 13 major feedlots with capacities over 5,000.

The survey lists 13 feedlots with a capacity of 5,000 or more in the county which have a capability of feeding almost 272,000 head at a time. Bar G Feedyard, located in northwest Castro County, can hold the most head of cattle at one time, with a lot capacity of 70,000 head. Dimmitt Feedyard's pens, located west of Dimmitt, can handle 45,000 head; while Rafter 3 Feedyard, west of Dimmitt, can hold 34,000 head.

Other feedlots (with more than 5,000-head capacity) in the county are Seven X Feedyard, located in the extreme northwestern corner of the county; Hill Feedlot, Cluck Cattle Co., Smith Cattle Feeders, Great Plains Cattle Feeders, Inc. S, LS Feeders, Inc., 3K Cattle Feeders, Sunnyside Cattle Co., Bridges Cattle Co. and L&N Feedyard.

Feedlot Name	Site No.	Capacity
3K Cattle Feeders	63	9,000
Bar-G Feedyard	67	70,000
Bridges Cattle Company	127	5,000
Cluck Cattle Company	64	15,000
Dimmitt Feedyard, Inc.	65	45,000
Great Plains Cattle	72	12,000
Hill Feedlot	68	20,000
LS Feeders	66	10,000
L&N Feedyard	69	5,000
Rafter 3 Feedyard	49	34,000
Seven X Feedyard	70	24,000
Smith Cattle Feeders	73	15,000
Sunnyside Cattle Co.	71	8,000



Happy 100th

to Dimmitt and Castro County!

We want to convey our very best wishes as we begin a new century together.

We've been bringing you the best in fashions and gift ideas since 1968, and we look forward to serving you in the future.

Bettye Butler, Owner
Gail Bruegel, Cindy Adams and Janice Shelton

The Village Shop
204 W. Bedford, Dimmitt
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Congratulations Castro County on your 100th Birthday!

We're proud to put a part of Castro County into and on every bag of potatoes we sell. We've been in business since 1977, and look forward to a "growing" future!

Smith Potato, Inc.
Hart • 938-2166

We're so cotton-pickin' happy about Castro County's 100th Birthday!

We're served you for 35 years and look forward to many more.

Monty Phillips, Manager
Nancy Mathis, Office Manager

Hart Producers Co-op Gin
938-2189

We want to communicate our very best wishes to Dimmitt and Castro County on your 100th Anniversary!

We're glad to have been serving you since 1984.

Tri-State Communications, Inc. \$
1-800-365-1839

Founded in 1950 by S.L. Harman Sr., Harman's Dept. Store in Dimmitt has continued in the same family since that time, with S.L.'s son, Bill Harman, and grandson, Billy Harman, continuing the same customer service and fine line of clothing and accessories.

The business started in a structure next door to its present location at 100 S. Broadway, moving into the new building in 1956.

Just before the grand opening Aug. 31, 1956, S.L. said, "We have great faith in the future of Castro County and believe our new building was a fine investment."

Bill and Billy continue to have faith in this city and county as a good place to do business, and appreciate your patronage through the years.

Happy 100th Birthday Dimmitt and Castro County!

HARMAN'S
100 S. Broadway, Dimmitt • 647-4638



LON WOODBURN DEMONSTRATES a "go-devil," part of the farm implement exhibit at the Castro County Museum. Behind Woodburn is an example of the first "cotton-puller," the first farm implement to replace hand picking and pulling. Both implements were pulled behind mules.

Photo by Kathleen Latham

Tractors changed methods of farming, Woodburn says

By KATHLEEN LATHAM

The tractor replaced mules on the Woodburn farm in 1936 but it was not necessarily an improvement, Lon Woodburn recalled recently.

"My father warned me that it would pack the ground, and it did," Woodburn said. "But I had to have one."

With the advent of the tractor, methods of farming changed, Woodburn said. They had to plant on top of the furrows, and crops planted on top of the furrows meant they had to switch to a cultivator instead of a "go-devil" to take weeds off.

Since the cultivator could not get all the weeds as effectively as the go-devil, farmers started summer plowing.

"Of course, back then we only had the thistle which could be plowed under. We didn't even have the old careless weed back then," Woodburn said. "Now there are so many more new weeds, they had to bring in chemicals to kill them."

Irrigation became more of a necessity because farmers planted crops that needed more moisture and fields held less moisture because of planting on top of the furrows. Milo, wheat, gooseneck and red-top cane were more adaptable crops for the amount of rain in Castro County than the corn that is seen today, Woodburn said.

"Corn has broke more people," Woodburn said. "It needs the water.

But water 20 times and you have to go to the bank. By the time you've watered five times, you've already lost your money. Water three times and shut it off if you want to make any money for your trouble."

Circular irrigation is cheaper because it gives more control over the flow and position of the water, Woodburn said.

As a boy, Woodburn started his farming with the go-devil pulled by two mules. The go-devil was on skids and had knives along the sides. It allowed for farming down in the furrows which helped hold moisture in the soil.

"Plus, a go-devil got rid of all the weeds and saved the plants while wrapping the cotton in dirt around the stalk," Woodburn said.

Despite technological advancements in farm machinery, the fingers on new machines are just like the ones on the original go-devils, Woodburn said.

"They haven't been able to improve on that," Woodburn said.

During the 40s when gasoline was scarce, mules took over for the tractor on the Woodburn farm and they had to use the little 6-foot combines.

"We would still use the tractor to list with it, to dig the big, deep furrows," Woodburn said. "Using the little 6-foot combines with the tractor, it would pay for itself for renting out."

Despite his complaints about tractors in general, Woodburn said

he has had his John Deere tractor from Germany since 1963.

"I've had this tractor for 27 years," Woodburn said. "It's a good piece of machinery, and I always put it in the barn."

In 1951, Woodburn married Mary Raper of Vernon. The next year they planted three acres of cotton. He and his wife, Mary, expected to get two bales per acre. While Mary pulled and Lon drug the sack, they gathered 52 pounds before giving up and bringing in the machinery.

The new farm machinery and different crops have necessitated changes in other areas as well, Woodburn said.

"In the early 50s, I finally put in an irrigation well and then got hauled out 3 years in a row," Woodburn said. "I had to go to the land office, and it took 10 years to pay off or lose the farm."

Woodburn was born in Dimmitt in 1915. He attended classes in the old red brick school house and gradually took on more chores at the farm through the years.

"We had to take the grains to Hereford in the early years because we didn't have a grain elevator," Woodburn said. "Even the people in Flagg had to take their grain to Hereford."

Dimmitt got its first grain elevator about the same time it got the railroad, Woodburn said.

In 1933 Woodburn left Dimmitt to go to college in Canyon.

"I had \$8 to pay for college and that was a lot of money back then," Woodburn recalled. "I got all the way over there, and they said they couldn't take me because I had to have \$30."

Woodburn said the college's decision changed his life.

"If they had taken me, I would have been an ag teacher, and I wouldn't be here on the land now," Woodburn said. "Look what I would have missed. This land has supported me all my life."

Woodburn's family bought their farm in 1907. In 1909 Woodburn's father added 50 acres making the Woodburn farm a total of 222 acres. Today, Woodburn farms the same acreage his family farmed.

Currently, Woodburn has 160 acres in cultivation. Woodburn and neighbors Dr. James Sims and Joe Richard Hastings help each other with the farming, and together they operate a successful farming triumvirate.

Woodburn has been president of the Castro County Museum Association since 1985.

Cattle industry is leaning toward 'healthier beef'

By KATHLEEN LATHAM

"The trend in the cattle industry is toward 'healthier' beef," Dimmitt cattleman G. L. Willis Jr. said recently.

"In the last few years, we've seen lots of exotic breeds introduced into the industry," Willis added. "Crossbreeding the limousin and charolais breeds with the angus and hereford breeds has resulted in more muscle and bigger gainers."

Limousin and charolais are less fleshy than angus and herefords, Willis said.

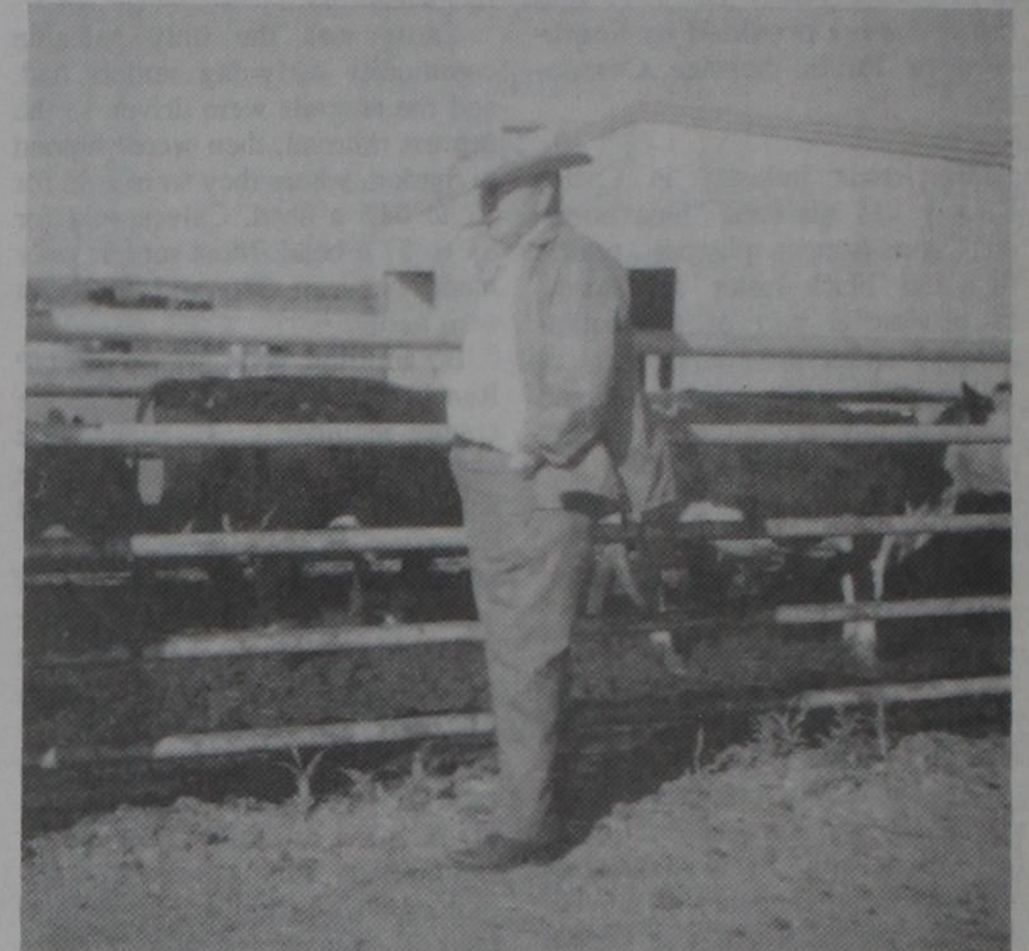
"We don't feed them as long anymore, and the beef is trimmed closer," all with an eye toward keeping beef popular in today's health-conscious market, Willis said.

Most of the calves for Willis' current operation come from the eastern United States, like Kentucky, Mississippi, Arkansas, Willis said.

Calves are brought in weighing 3-400 pounds and are put out to graze until they reach about 700 pounds.

"At 700 pounds, we bring them into the feedlot," Willis said. "We feed them for 120 to 140 days, which puts about 4-500 more pounds on them."

Willis said the two biggest recent innovations in the cattle industry are cross breeding and steam rolling grains.



G.L. WILLIS, JR. surveys cattle cared for in Dimmitt Feedyard's pens on Oct. 5, 1969. Willis and four other men built Dimmitt Feedyard in 1966, and they operated it for 15 years.

Courtesy Photo

"Nutritionists helped design the steam-rolling process," Willis said. "They steam it and roll it which makes the feed more palatable."

Willis' father came to Castro County in 1915, buying land just south of Dimmitt. Willis was born three years later.

Throughout the years, Willis maintained ranches in Texas and New Mexico. He has a ranch in Deaf Smith County and keeps grassland in Castro County. In 1966, Willis, along with A. J. Kemp Jr., Jim Elder, A. C. Hays and Bob McLean, built Dimmitt Feedyard, which they operated for 15 years.

All the ranches used to be "cow and calf" operations, Willis recalled.

"These turned into more of a yearling deal, and now you see more feedlots," Willis said.

Willis' sons-in-law, Mike Baca, Gene Bradley and Andy Rogers, run the Rafter 3 Feedyard.

"They keep about 38-40,000 head," Willis said. "Corn and wheat are the principal feeds they use."

The bigger part of local grains, mostly corn and wheat with some milo, are used in local feedlots, Willis said. Most of the grain at the milling plant is shipped in from the north.

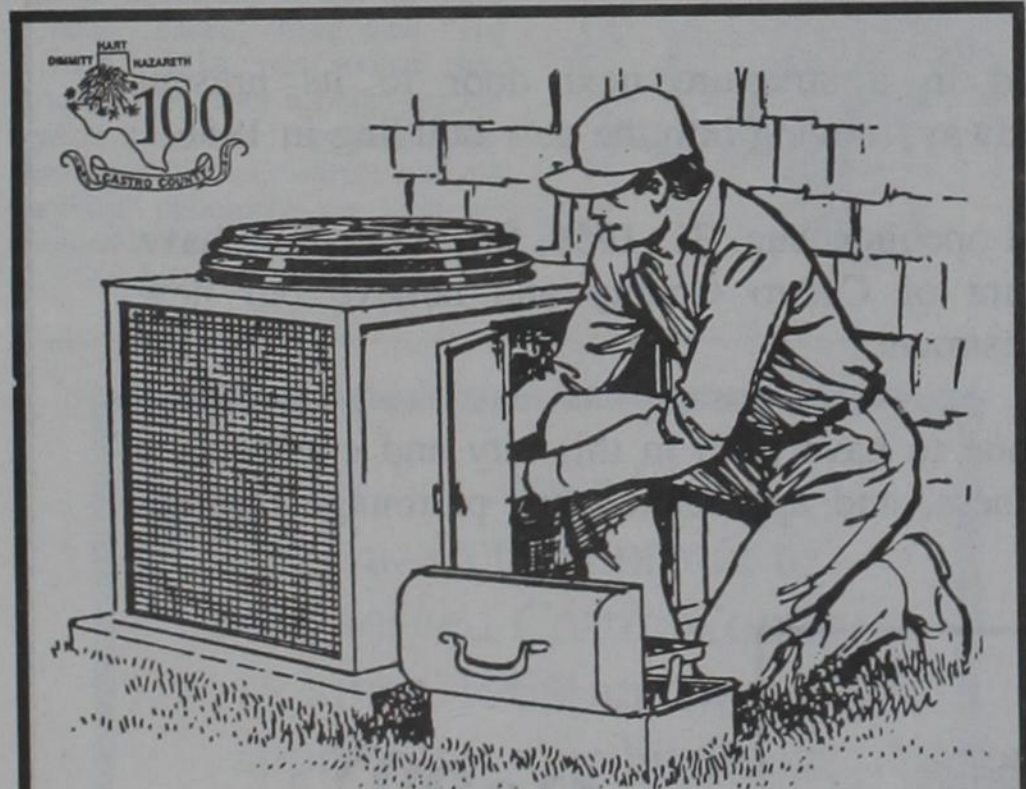
Some early-day brands registered in Castro County

J.W. Carter	⊕ ... OR B
G.T. Abbott	A/A
W.S. Easter	--E--
T.W. Hart	J
G.L. Willis	+
A.V. McCormick	⊕
George Arney	A
Walter W. Hogge	~
F.B. Stiles	U
S.Y. Birkenfeld	MB
J.P. Flores	o°
W.A. Randal	⊕
B.T. Hinton	HA
J.H. Williams	S
R.C. Harlan	TA
Press Burnam	AD
W.R. Griffith	P + horse



Happy 100th Castro County!

Garner Ball Photos
Dimmitt • 647-3140



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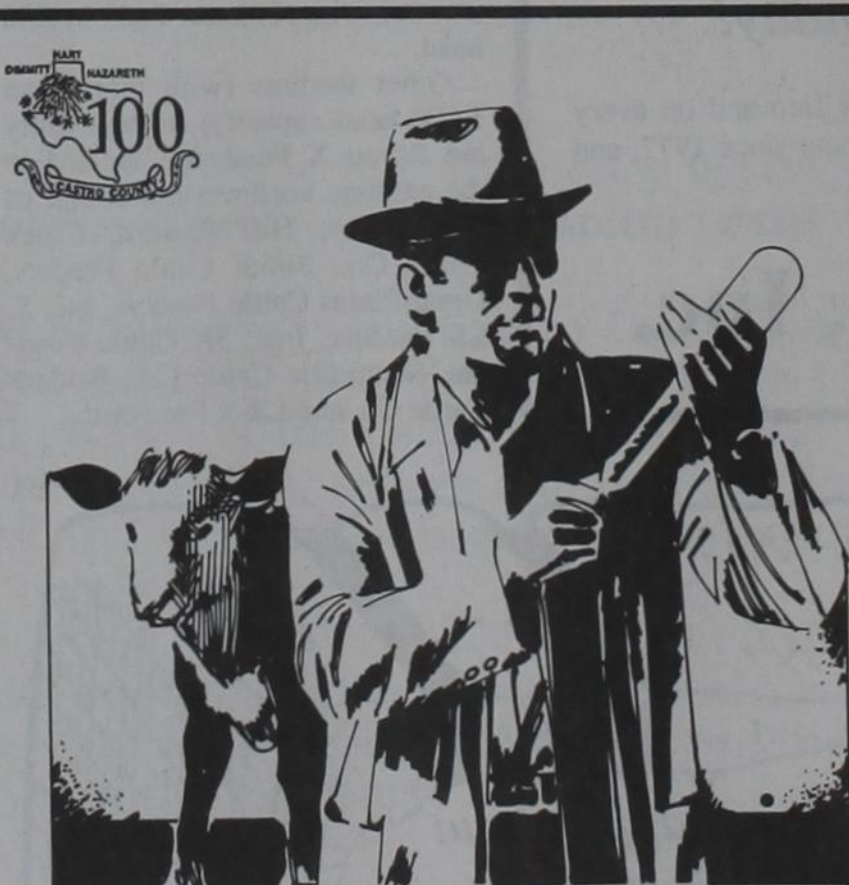
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Happy 100th!

Jerry and Connie McGuire, Owners

McGuire Refrigeration

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We've been handling your livestock feed and supplies since 1988, and we appreciate the opportunity to serve our many customers.

We'd like to take this time to say **Happy 100th Anniversary**

Nazareth Feed & Supply

Dwight Acker, Owner
Nazareth • 945-2291



THE "CORNER DRUG STORE" was always one of the favorite spots of county residents in the early 1930s and one of the most popular was Reynolds Drug Store, which was owned by Carlos and Annie

Reynolds. It was located on the corner where Harman's Dept. Store is today. Iva (Reynolds) Huckabay and Erceen Umberson (brother-in-law of Carlos) were the clerks.

Bauman opens garage; is Hart's first mechanic

Frank Bauman moved to Hart in 1928 and with his father, Joseph Bauman, built a garage and became the town's only mechanic.

Born in Okarche, Okla., the son of Joseph and Mary Bauman, Frank was 28 years old when he moved to Hart. He had a brother and seven sisters.

Joseph had built the family home, which today is located at 302 Seventh Street, and when it was completed, his wife, Mary, joined him and her son, Frank.

Frank, Joseph and Mary lived in the house for many years. On Sept. 13, 1929, Mary died, but Joseph continued to live there until he died on Sept. 28, 1934. Frank married Martha Huseman on May 26, 1930, in Nazareth.

A dealer for Dempster implements, Frank also operated a Phillips 66 wholesale dealership in connection with his garage and farming interests.

In 1943, Frank closed the garage to work at Pantex near Amarillo, but he returned to Hart and re-opened the garage in 1945.

For a time, his son, Joseph Bauman, worked with him. Then Joseph Bauman (Frank's son) and Lyndall Warren took over and operated the garage. (Lyndall had



THE FRANK BAUMAN GARAGE, located in Hart, was the first garage with a mechanic service in Hart. Constructed by Frank Bauman, with the help of his father, Joseph, the garage was operated until 1943. Bauman re-opened the garage in 1945 and for a time, his son worked with him. Later it was operated by his son and son-in-law, Joseph Bauman and Lyndall Warren.

married Frank and Martha's daughter, Patsy.)

Frank bought farmland west of Hart and farmed for several years. After he returned, he leased it out. He died on Oct. 21, 1973, and Martha died in March 1990.

Martha had worked part time at the post office in Hart (from 1946 to 1947), and worked at Brooks' Grocery Store for a year. She also

worked for Lindsey Gin Company as a bookkeeper and weigher, and held a similar position for Co-op Gin in 1956 and 1957. She worked at Hart Gin Company, also.

In addition to their son and daughter, Joseph and Patsy, Frank and Mary Bauman had a second daughter, Antoinette Bently, who now lives in Dimmitt. Joseph lives in Lubbock.

Interest in irrigation developed in 1935-36

Castro County farmers started showing interest in irrigation during 1935 and 1936, and several farmers installed irrigation systems during that period.

An April 30, 1936, story printed in the *Castro County News*, revealed the interested in irrigation projects showed a marked increase in the county during the previous 12-month period.

A number of farm owners had drilled irrigation wells and installed pumping equipment in the shallow water areas of the county in 1936.

The article indicates that the majority of the new wells were dug near the Frio Community. Farmers who resided in that area who installed the then experimental devices were Henry Allman, Mr. Bur-

sine, A.C. Hawks, J.E. Andrews, J.E. Springer and others.

C.G. Maples, W.A. Hunter and Sons and O. Stephens also installed irrigation plants on their farms in the Jumbo Community in 1936.

Hunter and Sons opened two wells on their land, W.E. Durree and R.E. Cades at Hart installed

plants and another project near Summerfield was installed by Mr. Muncy.

The 1936 story said that irrigation projects were "more or less experimental," and it was expected that it would be quite a while before the country would be irrigated on a large scale.

County farmer invented machine to pick up cotton left by stripper

A machine designed to pick up cotton left by strippers was constructed by R.E. "Bob" Steffens of Nazareth in 1961.

Steffens, who worked on the machine for several years, still has some work to do on it, but it picked

up as much as a hundred pounds and more per acre of cotton normally plowed back under. Although he had a patent pending, Steffens said he didn't plan to produce the machine commercially when he was interviewed by the *News* in 1962.

Part of the work on the machine required Steffens to go to Victoria to have a sheet of quarter-inch steel rolled into a cylinder.

At first appearance, it was a complex machine, although the principle is simple. Pulled by a tractor and operated by a power takeoff, it was essentially a drum rolling against the direction of pull several inches off the ground.

On the drum were attached scores of small saw segments which are attached to the surface of the drum at one end. As the drum rotated, the saw segments dropped their loose ends they rotated to the bottom, dragging their teeth along the ground, snagging loose cotton bolls and scraps. The cotton was carried up and over on the surface of the drum by the saw segments where it was brushed off and carried through a chute back to the trailer.

In the 1962 interview, Steffens said he was still encountering some difficulties and he planned to work on his machine some more.

There are other machines, which were still in the experimental stage, which did this type of work, but most had design limitations which had kept them off the market.

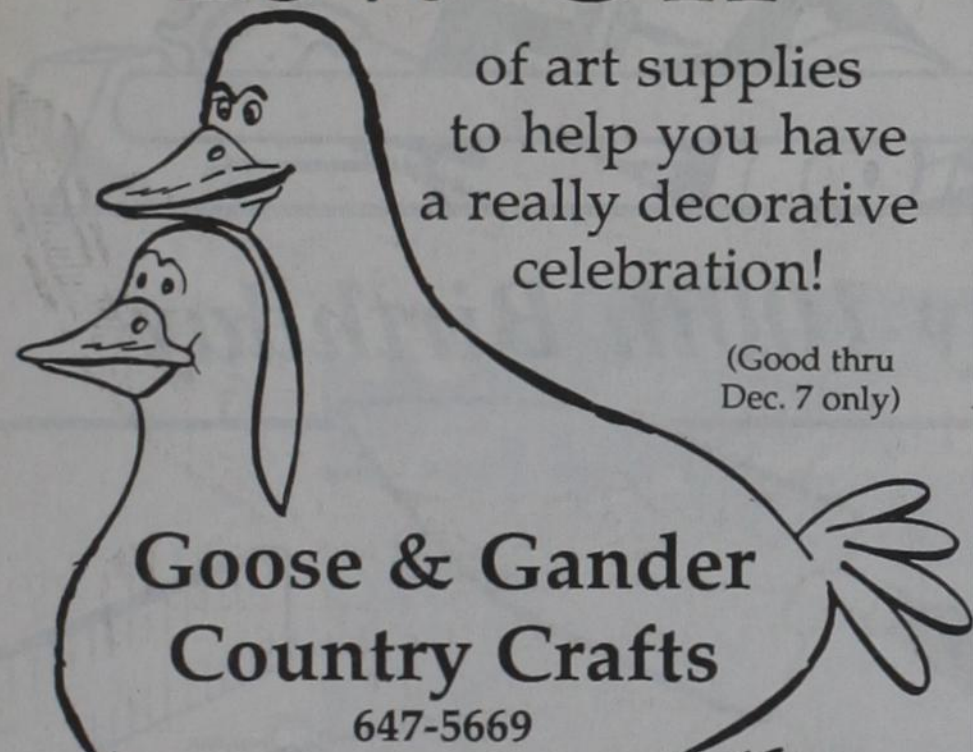
Steffens farmed seven miles north and a half of a mile west of Nazareth.

During the Centennial Year, we're offering

25% Off

of art supplies to help you have a really decorative celebration!

(Good thru Dec. 7 only)



Goose & Gander Country Crafts

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OH BABY

Have we got a new century for you!

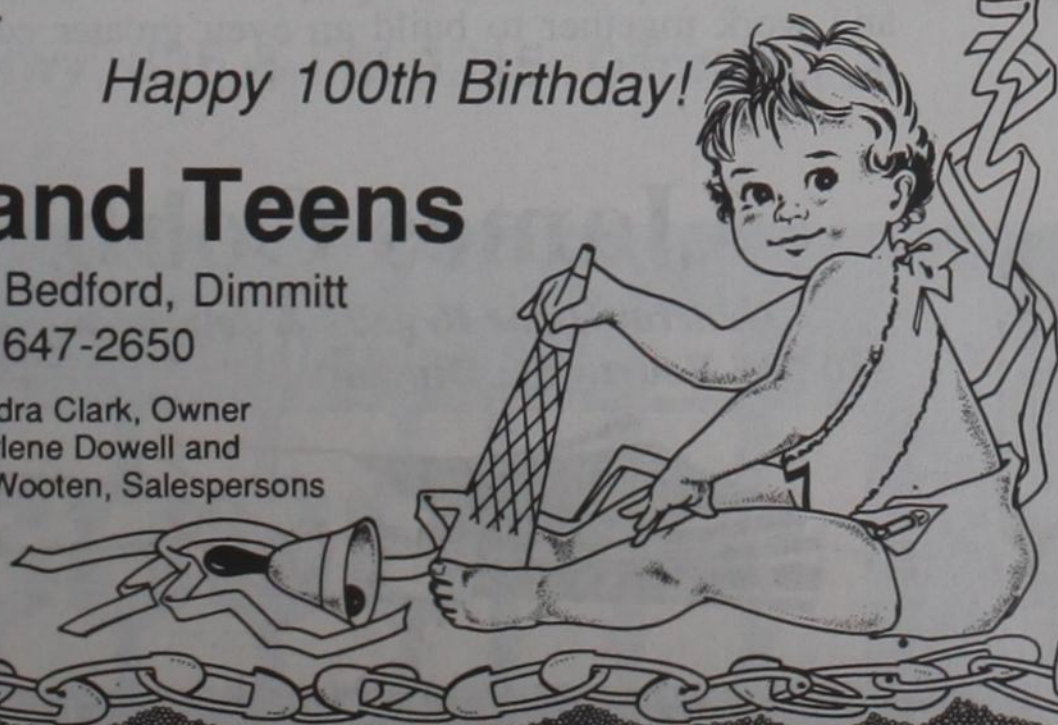
As we complete the first century for Dimmitt and Castro County, we'd like to say, we're glad to serve our customers growing needs. We've been serving you since 1975.

Happy 100th Birthday!

Tots and Teens

101 E. Bedford, Dimmitt
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Sandra Clark, Owner
Darlene Dowell and
Darlene Wooten, Salespersons



Congratulations, Castro County!

We've been offering our fine products since 1983, and we're proud to serve you!

Ramirez AND SONS

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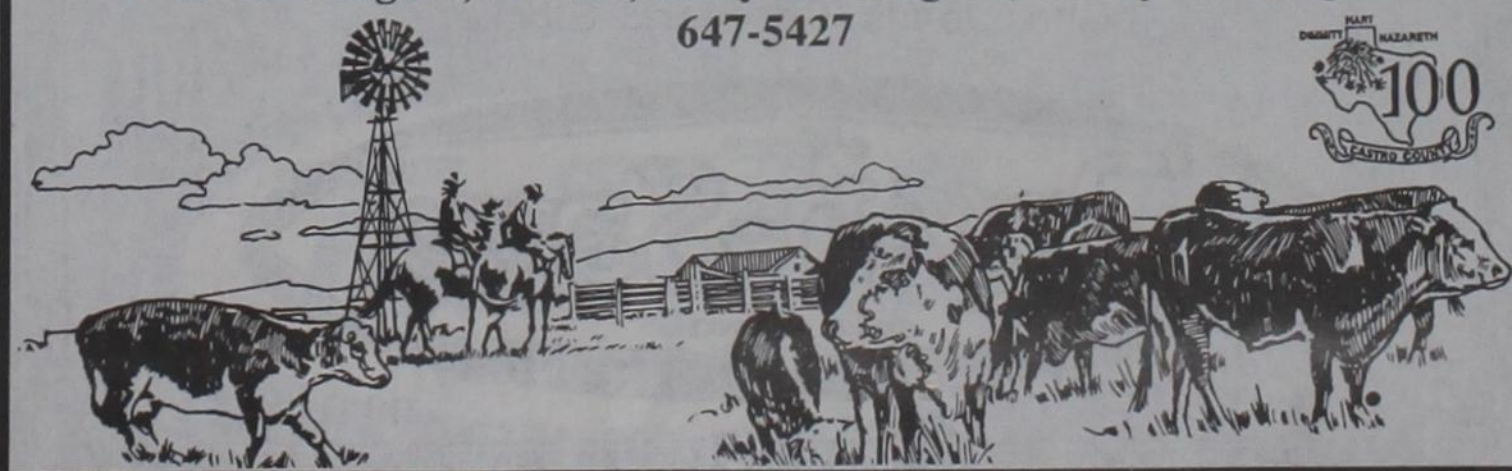


We're a "growing yard," starting with young cattle and letting them grow and fatten. We perform pre-conditioning, cattle feeding and custom processing.

We're proud to be a part of Castro County since 1988, and want to wish all a Happy 100th Birthday!

LN Feed Yard

Fred Lookingbill, Owner; Kelly Lookingbill; Sandy Lookingbill
647-5427



A mammoth discovery

Frio Draw yields animal skull and tusks 10,000+ years old

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Information for this article was taken from a series of stories written by News Publisher Don Nelson in 1988, when the archeological discovery was made.)

Every time there's a heavy rain, you can expect a stretch of unpaved road that runs down the southern slope of the Frio Draw to wash out.

That's what it did in the spring of 1987. Rainwater rushing toward the draw carved tons of earth out of the road and its adjoining ditches. Some of the erosion cuts were four or five inches deep.

That's where of Castro County's most memorable, and largest, archeological find was unearthed.

Lying exposed in the ditch run-



—Ellis Owen, Prehistoric Animals

ning along the west side of the road was a cluster of gigantic teeth.

The teeth were sent to Dr. Jack Hughes in Canyon, professor emeritus of archeology at West Texas

Slate University. Also contacted about the teeth was Dennis Lomas, who had helped unearth several prehistoric animals near Portales and Clovis. Dr. Hughes and Lomas both were fairly sure the teeth were those of a mastadon.

Later, when the POW Chapel was being restored, Lon Woodburn, a member of the Castro County Historical Commission, took Eddie Guffee, director of the Llano Estacado Museum in Plainview, to the spot where the teeth were found.

Guffee spotted the tip of a tusk and that's when the excavation process started.

After work was completed at the chapel, Guffee and Woodburn started digging out around the tusk, and Guffee said he didn't expect to find more than the tusk, but the farther we dug, the more of the mammoth they discovered.

They kept digging farther, following the tusk to the skeletal tusk-cap, then uncovering the second tusk, and finally digging down to the Skull.

Guffee notified the Texas Historical Commission that he had a confirmed archeological discovery and was about to excavate and that the finding was on public land. That brought it under the jurisdiction of the Texas Antiquities Commission.

The excavation team started digging May 13, 1988, and worked most of the day to enlarge the area of the dig and mark off the site in 30-inch squares.

Archeologists and museum scientists from Plainview, Lubbock and Austin carefully unearthed the ancient skull from a washed-out bar ditch along a dirt road half a mile north of the Frio Draw channel. The base of the skull was about seven feet below road level and 10 feet below the surface of the field alongside the bar ditch.

From the curvature of the tusks, the scientists tentatively identified the skull as that of an adult *Mammothus imperator*, or Imperial Mammoth, a 12,000-lb. prehistoric cousin of the elephant. They said the shaggy animal, which stood 13 ft. high at the shoulder, roamed this area during the Pleistocene Age, grazing on lush plants on the alluvial plain here when rainfall was about 40 inches a year and the climate was much cooler than it is today.

They said the skull is at least 10,000 years old and could be as old as 130,000 years.

Once the skull was excavated, it was loaded onto a hay mattress on Don Moke's flatbed trailer. The skull was stored overnight in the Precinct 3 barn, then it was towed to Plainview, where it was restored. The two-ton skull and tusks was unailed in an Imperial Mammoth exhibit at Wayland Baptist University's Museum of the Llano Estacado in Plainview in April 1989, and it is on permanent display there.

In preparing the find for the permanent exhibit, the fossilized bone was cleaned, patched and stabilized to prevent further deterioration.



EARLY-DAY RESIDENT—The skull of the first prehistoric mammoth ever discovered in the county lies exposed below an eroded bar ditch of a dirt

road near the Frio Draw. The Imperial Mammoth skull was discovered in 1988. Photo by Don Nelson



FINAL TOUCHES—Wayland Baptist University's art professor, Candace Keller, puts finishing touches on the display area for the Imperial Mammoth Exhibit at the Llano Estacado Museum

in Plainview. The exhibit houses the restored and preserved skull and tusks of an Imperial Mammoth, which was discovered near the Frio Draw in Castro County in 1988.

Keep on Truckin', Castro County!

We're proud to have served you for the last nine years.

HART HAZARETH DIMMITT CASTRO COUNTY 100

Joe Drerup, Owner

JOE'S TRUCKING

Nazareth • 945-2205

HART HAZARETH DIMMITT CASTRO COUNTY 100

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We've taken care of your pets and stock since 1969, and we appreciate your patronage. We look forward to the start of a new century for Dimmitt and Castro County. Happy 100th Birthday!

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and
Dimmitt Veterinary Supply
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Saul Miller, Butcher; Juanita Allensworth, Produce;
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Sylvia Tonorio, Checker; Ricky Godino, Stocker;
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Hart 938-2312

HART HAZARETH DIMMITT CASTRO COUNTY 100

Happy 100th Birthday

Thank You, Castro County!

We started our business here four years ago to provide remodeling, painting, carpentry, fencing and home repair services.

The people of Dimmitt and Castro County have been very good to Bonnie and me, and a pleasure to work with.

We appreciate your business and your friendship.

Let's all enjoy our county's Centennial together, and work together to build an even greater county in the future!

James Cobb
General Home Repairs & Improvements
310 NW Fourth St., Dimmitt 647-5320

We're Still Young and Growing



1969—Charlie Hays (foreground) retires and turns over the keys to his brother and longtime partner, Jim. Jim's sons—David, Doug and Norman—all are now associated with the company.

We've been serving the farmers of Castro County for 42 years with agricultural equipment that traces its lineage back to Cyrus McCormick.

Hays Implement Co. got its start in March 1944 when A. C. "Charlie" Hays bought the International Harvester dealership here from Edgar "Unk" Ramey and Ernest Harmon. Two years later, Charlie's brother Jim became a partner. Jim became the sole owner in 1969, and his son David, became the manager in 1975. Jim's second son, Doug, joined the firm in 1976, and his youngest son, Norman, joined in 1979.

We moved in our present 32,000 sq. ft. building at FM 3215 and US 385 in 1976.

Ours is the oldest continuous farm-implement dealership in Castro County. But we feel like the youngest, because our major brand, Case International, is the newest in America.

Also, we're still adding new products and services. We've expanded to include name-brand automotive parts and a complete True Value Hardware Store.

We're proud to be serving this great area, and we are happy to pay tribute to those who have made our county great. Happy 100th Birthday, Castro County!



Our present building, completed in 1976



Hays Implement Co.

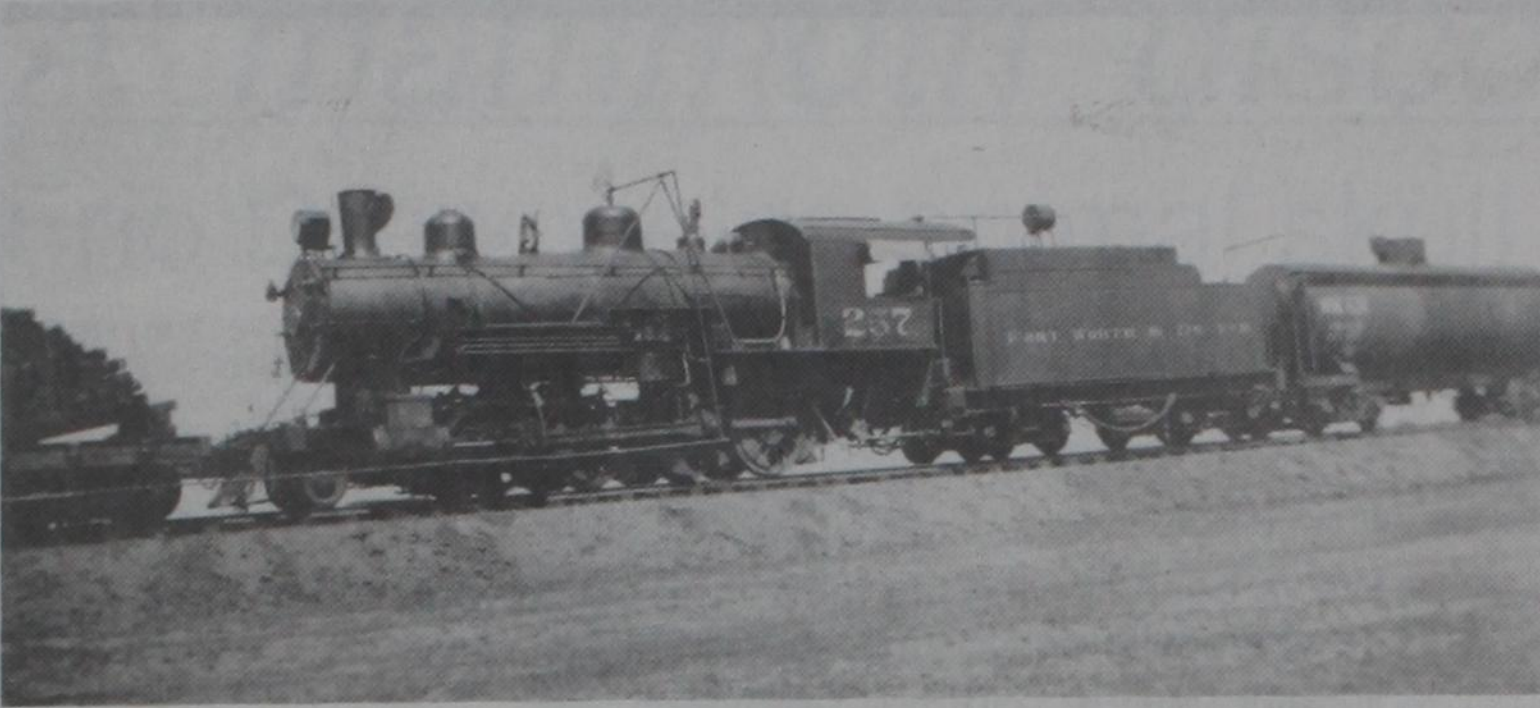
Serving Castro County Since 1944

Hwy. 385 & FM 3215, Dimmitt

647-2151

case

True Value
HARDWARE STORES®



THE FIRST TRAIN which arrived in Castro County was greeted by a throng of curiosity seekers when it stopped in Hart and Dimmitt on Nov. 21, 1928. The first train which stopped here

was operated by Fort Worth and South Plains Railway and it included three passenger railroad cars carrying officials from the company.

First train arrives here Nov. 21, 1928

Trains are wonderful. . . . To travel by train is to see nature and human beings, towns and churches and rivers, in fact, to see life.

Agatha Christie
*Flirting, Cowing
Banns Up, Marriage*

Three passenger railroad cars filled with officials from the Fort Worth and South Plains Railway pulled into the city of Hart on Nov. 21, 1928, then made its way to Dimmitt, where hoards of people awaited its arrival at a small railway station.

The arrival of the train marked the completion of the first railroad

through the county, and also a major milestone in our history.

After all, if it weren't for the railroad, which today is owned by Burlington-Northern, we probably wouldn't have the major industries we do today such as American Fructose Corp., Goodpasture, Inc. and Cargill, Inc. and the major grain handling facilities would have to rely on trucking to ship their products.

When the train first arrived here in 1928, Hart was just a small struggling village with a store, church, school, a new filling station and three or four houses.

The first railroad was known as the Fort Worth and South Plains Railway, a company owned by the Burlington System. Later it became the Fort Worth and Denver Railroad, then Burlington-Northern.

The first three passenger cars which pulled into Hart and Dimmitt in 1928 carried officials of the railroad company including F.E. Clarity, vice president and general manager.

Schools were closed so the students could greet the special trains.

One story in *Castro County History, Vol. 1*, about the "day the train

The celebration held when the train arrived was one of the biggest in the history of the county and it started early that morning with a breakfast served in the courthouse. The celebration continued into the night, as special trains continued arriving.

Jack Hall was the first depot agent at Hart and the first train schedule called for the train to run every day and remain in Hart every night. The history book says the early train had one coach and the freight car, and as the demand for grain cars increased, more freight cars were added.

The history book explains that Hart was denied consideration as a stop along the railroad until an inspection of the area was made by Fort Worth and Denver officials in 1925. The account in the history book reveals that a test run was made with a locomotive to try out the road prior to the day the first train arrived. L.J. Rice was given a ride on the test run by Bob Morris, civil engineer.

The railroad ran from Estelline to Plainview to Lubbock, and the new branch ran from Plainview to Hart and Dimmitt and back.

According to the history book, many residents used the train regularly, including Hazel Merritt, who saved her parents a trip to Canyon by riding the train home each weekend.

Local WIFE group works to promote family farm

In November 1985, a few local women met with a group of women from the Hale Center area to learn about a new farm organization for women—Women Involved in Farm Economics.

The group decided to organize a local chapter of WIFE that day and Lois Wales was elected as president while Sue Boozer was named secretary-treasurer.

In January 1986 WIFE was officially organized with Charlene Hunter being elected vice president and Carolyn Watts earning the title of reporter.

The purpose and intent of WIFE was discussed and adopted at the first meeting.

WIFE is a grassroots organization that strives to achieve profitability for agriculture through education, legislation and communication, according to Wales.

The group's purpose is to promote family farming and provide rural America with a better standard of living, and to be a good ambassador for agriculture.

It didn't take long for the group to realize there were many issues and projects that needed attention. Many long hours were spent on preparing for the National WIFE convention that was held in Lubbock. Other projects during the group's first year were working on farm credit stress in family farming, new labor laws in agriculture and working to keep the first high level nuclear waste dump from being put in Deaf Smith County.

The local chapter became very active in sponsoring informative programs about the dangers and problems associated with the high level waste dump site, and the many implications it would have for the agriculture industry here if the Hereford site was selected. Many letters and phone calls were made to Washington, D.C. and Austin, in an effort to halt the project.

For one month, WIFE teamed with Texas Corn Growers Association and sponsored a booth at the state fair in Dallas. At the fair, 55,000 signatures were collected against the nuclear dump. The petitions were later taken to Washington, D.C., where they were presented to then Vice President George Bush.

Also, a successful community-wide fundraiser for the Nuclear Waste Task Force was held.

Most of 1989 was spent on activities centered on keeping the dump out of the area, and in December of that year, Congress voted to place the dump in Nevada.

In Nov. of 1987, Wales, Pat Bagley and Marie Winders attended a WIFE-sponsored ethanol conference in Denver, Colo., and that meeting kicked off a new project that is ongoing today.

Mary Emma Matthews took over as president that year while Bagley was named vice president, and Nell Ingram was elected secretary-treasurer.

The chapter worked on ethanol

issues among others and many meetings were attended, showing off the benefits of ethanol products.

At the meetings, breads, cakes and cookies were baked and served to guests to promote ethanol because distillers dried grain, which is a by-product of ethanol, and is composed of fiber and protein, was added to the baked goods to enhance the flavor and nutrition.

The chapter has promoted ethanol at the state fair by setting up displays in the Texas Corn Growers Association's booth for the past three years.

Many letters, phone calls and testimonies have been given in an attempt to getting an ethanol industry started in Texas.

There are four major cities in Texas that must have a plan to clean up their air by 1992 and WIFE believes ethanol is the solution, Wales said. She adds that an ethanol industry also could help rural economic development.

Many issues have been ad-

ressed by the local WIFE chapter, including organizing a plastics recycling project in the City of Dimmitt, a project that is still being promoted today.

The current WIFE president, Bagley; Ysleta Ball, vice president; and Wales, secretary-treasurer, and the rest of the group are fighting the addition of a plutonium plant or uranium enrichment plant to the Pantex Plant in Amarillo.

"This could destroy our clean water, air and soil, and could eliminate the agriculture industry—all for the sake of a few new jobs," Wales said, adding that it is the WIFE chapter's goal to educate and build an awareness in the area about the implications of the "so-called expansion of Pantex."

Wales stressed that the local WIFE chapter is committed to the importance of the family farm and it strongly believes that a good agricultural economy will insure a better future for America.

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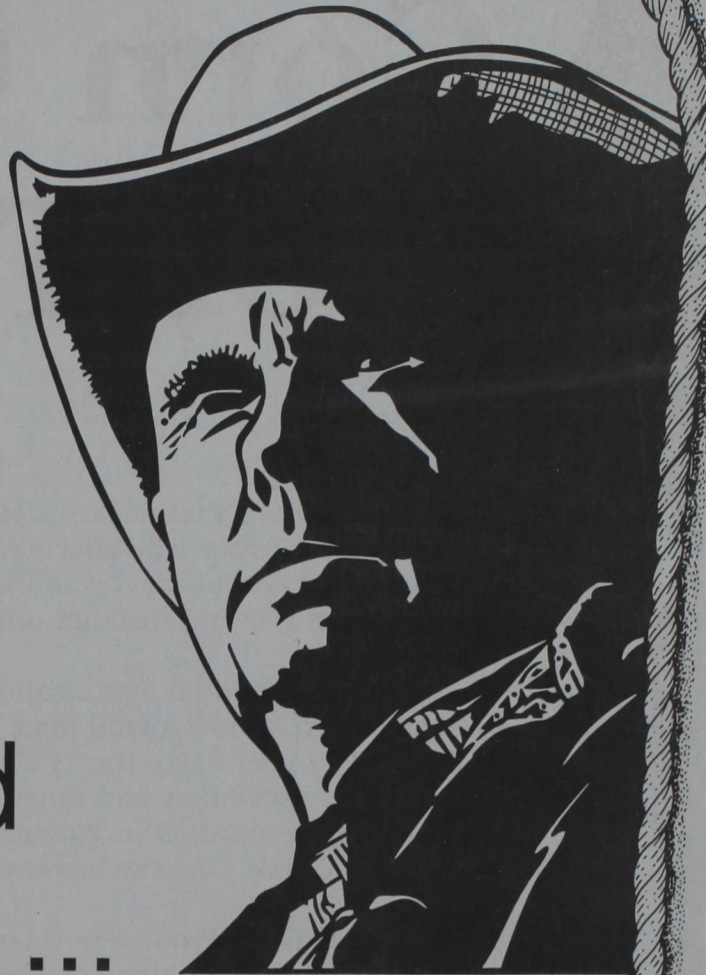
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If they could see us now ...

Beef was Castro County's first commercial product. The first cattle herds here—brought in by J. W. Carter, our original settler, by the Mashed-O and Springlake divisions of the XIT, and others—provided grass-fed beef for northern markets.

Cattle continued to be raised and fed on a small scale through the years until the 1960s, when the advent of large feedlots brought about a rebirth of the cattle industry here.

Today, Castro County's large feedlots (5,000 head or more) have a total capacity of 272,000

head, and turn out more than half a million finished cattle each year. Our county ranks No. 2 in Texas (second only to Deaf Smith County) in the number of cattle on feed.

Bar-G Feedyard in Summerfield is the largest cattle-feeding operation in the county, with a capacity of 70,000 head and an annual turnout of 179,000 fed cattle.

We're proud to be a part of this dynamic industry during Castro County's Centennial year. And we can't help wondering: What would those first cattlemen have thought if they could see us now?

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It's no accident that Castro County is one of the top corn producing counties in Texas. The efforts of the Texas Corn Growers' Association since 1970 and of the Texas Corn Producers' Board since 1980 have aided corn growers through-out the area and state.

Begun as a regional organization, the Texas Corn Growers Association is now a vital force for corn growers throughout Texas. And 3-1/2 years ago, the TCGA spawned the American Corn Growers Association and American Corn Growers Foundation, for better representation in Washington and better markets at home and abroad. The ACGA now has members in 24 states.

The Texas Corn Producers Board introduced a statewide check-off program that generates additional funds for research, development and promotion of Texas corn. Significant progress is being made through this program.

We work constantly with state and federal governments and agencies for legislation and clearances that will benefit Texas corn producers.

We're proud to call Castro County the "Corn Capital of Texas."

Texas Corn Growers Association

Texas Corn Producers Board

*Headquartered in
Castro County*

