



Castro County Centennial CHURCHES

1891
✦
1991

Church of Christ organizes congregation in 1921

Although gospel preaching had been done in Dimmitt by O. M. Reynolds as early as October, 1917, the small band of Church of Christ members organized in September, 1921.

Original members were Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Willis Sr., Charlie "Dad" Mapes, Mr. and Mrs. Norwood, Minnie and Alfred Grant, Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Love, Mrs. John Carter, Mrs. Lennie Cauldwell, Mrs. Hightower, Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Luther Ramsey and Mr. and Mrs. John Roberson.

In 1922 lots were purchased one block east of the present location and building. Mr. and Mrs. A. O. Gregory, the T. W. Malone family, and Mrs. Ola Murphy moved to Dimmitt in 1925 and gave impetus to the work. The congregation met in a two-room residence and later in a school building. Still later, it met in a room in the courthouse. In 1927 a building was constructed on the lots. It was the second church building in the city.

In 1925 Jack and Ethel Summers, together with their four small children, Elbert, Elouise, Trellis and Ola, moved to the Cleo community eight miles south of Dimmitt. Earl Smith came from Amarillo to preach for the church in Dimmitt on Sunday mornings, and in the afternoon went to the Cleo community to hold services in the school house for the small group there.

Brother O. M. Reynolds held his final meeting, his eleventh in Dimmitt and his fourteenth in the county, on Friday night, May 30, 1930. Reynolds held the distinction of

conducting more meetings in Dimmitt and Castro County than any other evangelist of the Church of Christ.

Through the years, great preaching has been done in gospel meetings by other evangelists such as M. Norvel Young, James Baird, Hugo McCord, Bobby Hoover, John Gipson, Norman Gipson, Avon Malone, Stanley Shipp, Earl Danley, Richard Rogers, John Bannister, Doyle Wells and King Burney.

In the 1930s the membership of the Dimmitt church was strengthened by the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Davis and their son, Ulys, who helped provide leadership. In 1932, A. O. Gregory and J. W. Davis were selected to serve as the first elders of the congregation. Jack Summers was added as an elder in 1939.

By the early 1940s the membership numbered about 100, and it grew to 200 by 1948. Truvis Campbell was added as an elder in 1949. Other men who have served as elders through the years are Homer Herring, Sisco Cathey, Carlos Calvert, Eldon Minchew, Bill King, Elbert Summers, Trellis Summers, Jack Miller and Dean Wiseman.

A building fund was begun in 1950, and in 1952 lots were purchased at the corner of West Fourth and Bedford. The present building was built in July, 1953, with additions made in 1955 and 1964.

Evangelists who have served the congregation and the years they arrived are Earl Smith, 1928; Thomas McDonald, 1934; E. H. Garner, 1936; L. E. Carpenter, 1939; Morgan Sturgess, 1942; D. C. Lawrence,

1944; H. C. Winnett, 1949; Linwood Bishop, 1951; T. J. Finley, 1953; D. C. Lawrence, 1955; M. B. McKinney, 1961; Ronnie Parker, 1965; Viggo Ulrich, 1975; Dale Wells, 1977; Greg

Harper, 1986; and Benny Baker, 1990.

Associate ministers have been Paul Smith, 1958, Travis Looper, 1963, Joe Wilkerson, 1983, and Jason Gossett, 1989.

Mission work has been a major thrust of the 4th and Bedford church since 1956, when the congregation agreed to oversee the work in Copenhagen, Denmark, and furnished the support for Earl Danley. Jorgen Donslund, a converted Dane, began preaching full time in December, 1958. Bent Oddershede became the second Danish preacher in 1962. Americans who have preached in Copenhagen are Cline Paden, Clinton

Davis, Earl Danley, Ronnie Parker, John Cathey, Bob Burgess and Bob Eubanks.

In January, 1974, the Dimmitt church began sponsoring a radio program to Tapachula, Mexico, and funded three campaigns in the area. Jack Miller, Trellis Summers, Lonnie Bell, Dale Wells, Dean Wiseman and Joe Valdez have all made trips to this mission field. The church also supports Jose Salas in Chiapas,

Mexico. Other missionaries supported by the congregation are Sammy King and Sam Coy.

In 1963 a work among Dimmitt's Mexican Americans was begun by Valente Morin. A meeting house was built at the corner of East Third and Lee Streets in 1968. Ministers for this congregation have been Max Zamorano Jr., 1966, Miguel Zuniga, 1972, Joe Valdez, 1981, and Pedro Gonzales, 1987.



ORIGINAL CHURCH—The first Church of Christ congregations met in residences, school building and the courthouse before this building, on the corner of Third and Bedford Streets in Dimmitt, was constructed in 1922. *File photo*

Glory to God!

Our Present Church

In October 1917, O. M. Reynolds held a twelve-day meeting in Dimmitt. From that meeting and other efforts, our church began meeting regularly in 1921.

From 1921 to 1927 our congregation met in private homes and public facilities.

Then, in 1927, we built our first church building at Third and Bedford. In 1953 the congregation moved into the current facilities at Fourth and Bedford.

In 1964 our congregation helped found—and continues to support—the Iglesia de Cristo at Southwest Third and Lee.

The Fourth and Bedford Street Church of Christ is happy to be a part of the 100-year history of Castro County. Our congregation also would like to welcome back to Dimmitt those who have been part of the 70-year history of our church, as we celebrate 70 years of service to our Lord and this community.

Our First Church

Charter Members

Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Willis, Sr.
Charlie "Dad" Mapes
Mr. and Mrs. Norwood
Minnie and Alfred Grant
Mrs. Hamilton
Mrs. Love
Mrs. John Carter

Fourth and Bedford Street Church of Christ

Dimmitt, Texas

We Salute

Castro County on its 100th Birthday as well as all who have fought for our country and county.

VFW

Castro Memorial Post #8056 and Auxiliary
For Over 30 Years

Sunnyside Baptist marks 70 years of service

By TEENY BOWDEN
 The Sunnyside Baptist Church was organized Aug. 10, 1921 with ten charter members.
 After they were pronounced a church by the presbytery, Rev. G.I. Brittain, chairman, preached a sermon, and seven candidates were received for baptism.
 Before 1921, everyone in the community, regardless of denomination, worshipped at the Congregationalists at Old Springlake; or at the Sunnyside school, where occasionally a preacher held services.
 During 1920 and 1921, several Baptist families moved to the community. When a lost man expressed his desire for a church in the community for his children, the Baptists decided to reorganize a church. They met in the schoolhouse until 1925.
 Virgil Lemons, the first pastor was called Aug. 12, 1921 and a Sunday School was organized two days later. In September, the church was accepted into the Staked Plains Baptist Association. A B.Y.P.U. was organized in 1922 and a W.M.U. in 1924.

In the summer of 1925, the church met in family's homes because the school building was being renovated.
 Jeff Gilbreath, a member of the First Christian Church, donated a two-acre tract of land across from the school for the church. It was a one-room wood, frame building.
 Wires with curtains hung over them were stretched across the building, dividing it into four classrooms. Howard Bridges and "Dad" Johnson hauled the lumber for the church building from Sudan in their Model T trucks. The \$2,500 building was debt-free and dedicated on Sept. 6, 1925.
 The lake on the J.I., Phipps place was the first baptistry; others were Running Water Draw and ground tanks such as the Tuckers.
 At the end of 1925, there were 75 members and in 1930, the services went to half-time.
 In 1942, the church building was wired and stuccoed, and full-time services were begun. Rev. C.W. Thomas was called as pastor Sept. 22, 1946 and was the first pastor to live on the field. He and his wife,

Grace, and son Paul lived in the teacherage across the road until August 1947 when a ready-built four-room frame house was moved to the church property. It was replaced in 1959 with a three-bedroom house.
 In July 1947, a barracks building was purchased from the Hereford Prisoner of War Camp for a Sunday school annex.
 In 1944, a W.M.U. was reorganized. A Sunbeam Band was organized in 1948; Girl's Auxiliary and Royal Ambassadors in 1950-51. The Brotherhood was organized in 1955.
 In 1946, the church had its first Vacation Bible School, and has continued with the event annually, except in 1960.
 In May 1952, the church voted to build a new 32'x72' cinder block auditorium. It was connected at the entrance of the original building by a hallway. The auditorium was dedicated to the Lord on Aug. 17, 1952.
 In Feb. 1960, Sunnyside Baptist joined the Llanos Altos Association.
 On Tuesday night, April 12, 1960, approximately 140 men from the Staked Plains Association were at Sunnyside for a Brotherhood Meeting.

Most of the men had finished eating supper and were visiting in small groups scattered about the building when suddenly, there was a warning of an approaching tornado. The men sought cover in the old light-plant cellar and Weldon Bradley's basement — the original basement of the Sunnyside School. The few men who remained inside the church building hid under pews.
 The new cinderblock church auditorium exploded; the east Sunday school wing collapsed, and the parsonage was blown to the northeast corner of the lot and almost destroyed.
 The pastor, Murle Rogers, not knowing his wife and son were safe in the cellar, went to the parsonage looking for them, and had to seek safety in a closet.
 When the storm subsided, only the original building remained intact. One of the 140 men at the church was killed. The injured were taken to Dimmitt.
 On April 20, 1960, the church voted to tear down the old building and rebuild. The parsonage was replaced with a similar model.
 The first services were held in the new building Jan. 8, 1961. Dedication ceremonies were held on Sunday, April 16, 1961 with three former pastors conducting the services: Brittain in the morning, Rogers in the afternoon, and Rev. M.D. Durham in the evening.
 The first music director hired was Lonnie Follis in 1965.
 A library was established in 1962 with a fund given in memory of Bill Shirey, who was killed in a car-train accident. Mrs. L.B. Bowden was elected librarian on Feb. 3, 1963.
 The church celebrated its 50th anniversary on Aug. 22, 1971 with an all-day celebration and historical pageant.
 On Feb. 12, 1975, Rev. Raymond Jones was called as pastor. He served until 1981.
 The greatest number of baptisms was 26 in 1930, mostly the results of a three week revival. Only three years show no baptisms — 1929, 1935, and 1945.
 Since 1981, Sunnyside Baptist

Church has had three pastors: Rev. Richard Clymer, from Nov. 22, 1981 to July 1, 1983; Rev. Bentley Gwyn, May 6, 1984 to Nov. 1, 1987; and Rev. David Fletcher, Jan. 24, 1988 to present.
 The church has declined in numbers since 1981, but not in spirit or determination. There have been no building programs, but carpet has been installed for the first time in the life of the church.
 Recently, Doris Armes of Gruver, Debra's mother, painted a beautiful scene in the baptistry.
 The church has had some remarkable experiences and growth to God's work through the Cooperative Program. Our commitment today is even stronger because of the things we have experienced.
 For several years, the Sunnyside Baptist Church was among the top ten in Texas with their per capita giving to missions through the Cooperative Program. In 1984, with 68 resident members, we were ninth in the state in per capita giving.
 Throughout the years, the church has increased their donations to the Cooperative Program. Currently, it gives 14 percent.
 One special blessing from the years of service, is that a former

Sunnyside Baptist Church member is now a foreign missionary in Tanzania. Gale Sadler was born and raised in the community and church.
 He met Verna Mae Lewis of Missouri when they both were students at Texas Tech. After other areas of work, they both felt the call for special service at a State Evangelism Rally and surrendered to missionary service.
 Their first assignment was in Moshi, distributing literature throughout Tanzania. Currently they are in the Capitol city of Dar es Salaam.

This ad ran in the Aug. 10, 1944 edition of *The Castro County News*.

For more miles
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WE APPRECIATE YOUR
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Presbyterians build 'little white church'

By EDWARD D. FREEMAN
 The Presbyterian Church was organized by the Presbytery of Dallas, of the Presbyterian Church U.S., who were good at planting churches, but neglectful in servicing them.
 In 1917, they built the first church building in Dimmitt. The little white church was located where the First United Methodist Church now stands. Although it was the only church building in Dimmitt, the church was dissolved in 1942 because of lack of pastoral leadership.
 On Oct. 11, 1959, the Presbytery of North Plains, of the United Pres-

byterian Church in the United States, reorganized a Presbyterian Church in Dimmitt which met for several years in the basement of the courthouse. The present church, at 16th and Western Circle Drive, was built in 1962. The church celebrated its 25th Anniversary, Oct. 7, 1984.
 Pastors who have served this church are: Herman Boles, Oct. 28, 1959 to Aug. 31, 1961; Arthur Burr Morris, March 23, 1962 to January 1966; Michael Kennedy, Jan. 22, 1967 to Dec. 31, 1969; Edwin Manning, Aug. 10, 1970 to July 1, 1979; and Edward DeWitt Freeman, April 1, 1981 to present.

Presbyterian Organization

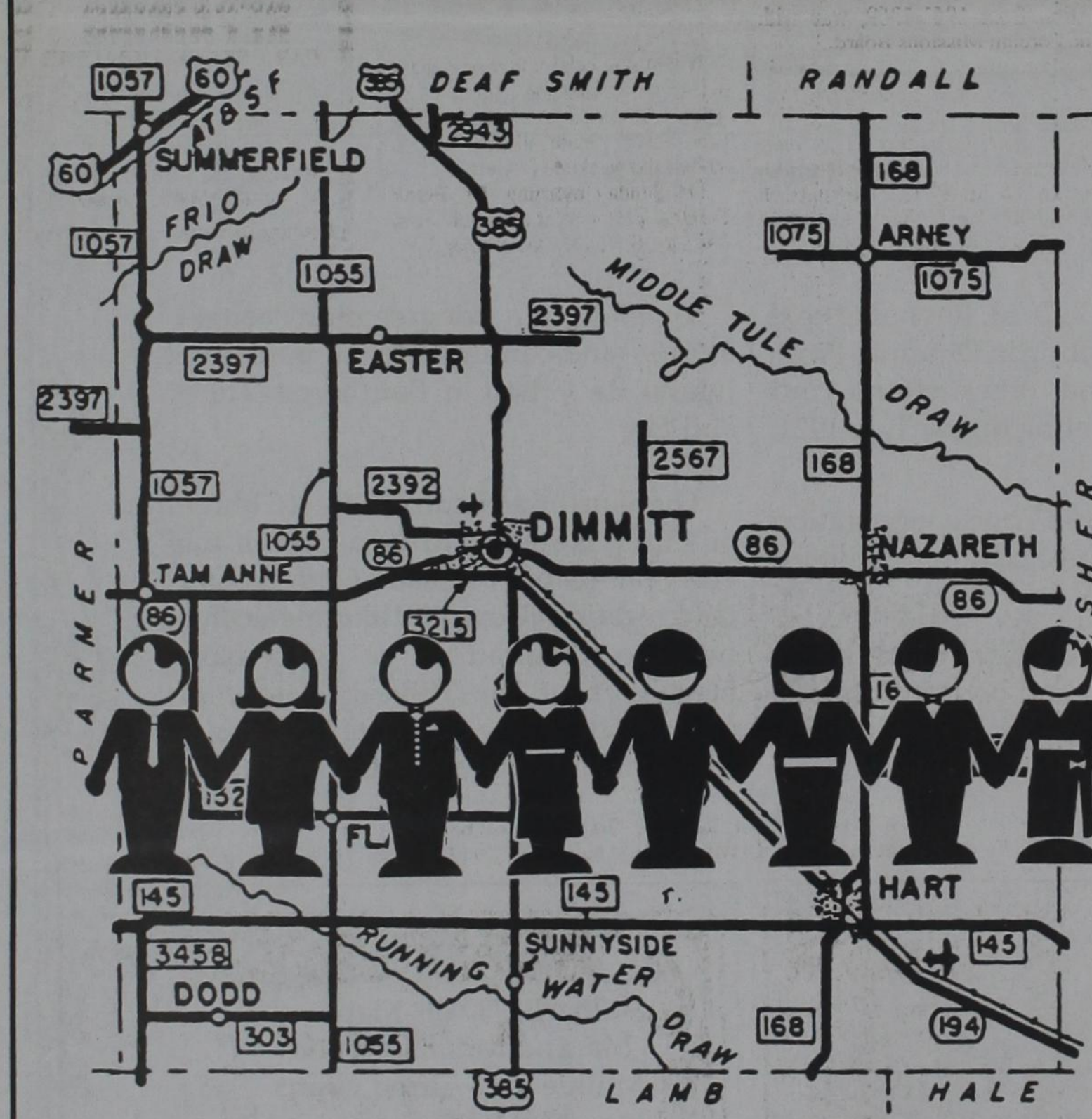
(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following information was obtained from *A Religious History of Dimmitt, Texas 1891-1959*, by D.C. Lawrence.)

On Sunday, Oct. 20, 1901, the Presbyterians of Castro County, according to previous appointments, met at Dimmitt with Rev. J.D. McFerrin, D.D., and proceeded to the organization of a Presbyterian Church with the following results.

The following named persons were enrolled: Mrs. A.E. Shive, R.L. Shive, Mrs. Ada H. Owens, Mary Blanch Owens, Barclay T. Bell, Mrs. Lillian A. Bell, Barkley T. Bell, Jr., Grayson Bell, Miss Hester Bell, Mrs. Kate Copes, Miss Lalla Hill, and Miss Q.B. Hill.

Officers elected were: B.T. Bell, R.L. Shive, A.J. Owen as Elders; Grayson Bell, Deacon.

On Oct. 20, 1901, the session met. Present were: J.G. McFerrin, D.D. Moderator; and ruling Elders, R.L. Shive, A.J. Owens, and B.T. Bell, who was elected clerk of the session.



"Anyone who does God's will is my brother, and my sister, and my mother."

(Mark 3:35)

Best wishes to our extended family,
 the residents of Castro County!

Holy Family Parish
 Nazareth

Baptist Church is older than county

From an old, wooden store to the steeple-topped brick building First Baptist Church members now call home, throughout the years, the place of service may have changed, but their dedication to a century-old commitment remains constant.

However, this weekend, FBC members will once again move the place of services — this time to the Castro County Expo Building — as they celebrate the church's centennial.

For 100 years ago, on June 7, 1891, the 17 people organized what eventually became First Baptist Church.

Elder G.W. Capps, pastor of the Amarillo Baptist Church, assisted the group and served the church one Sunday each month.

First meetings

Some members of the first families recall the church meeting in an old store building having Sunday School as they sat on the tongues of covered wagons. The wagons also served as the families' homes until they could build houses.

Around turn of the century, worship services were held on Sundays in the red brick school building — presently where city park is located.

In May of 1897, church members petitioned for membership in Llano Estacado Baptist Association. In 1908, they joined the new Tierra Blanco Association. However, in 1961, associational boundaries were reset, and the church moved into the Llanos Altos Association.

As early as 1897, the church sent messengers to Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Tank baptisms

Because there was no sanctuary, most baptismal services took place in a water tank on the Carter place, east of Dimmitt. In 1899, Pastor J.D. Clark baptized 10 young people there. The Carter place was used for baptismal services for many years.

The early church was strict in the discipline of members, according to church records. A person's fellowship was withdrawn if he or she was guilty of drinking, dancing, lying, cursing or contempt of the church. Of course, they were warned and given an opportunity to repent.

In the early 1900s, J.R. Gollehon and J.O. Ayers led the music. Gollehon first served in the Community Church and later in the Baptist Church. Noel Gollehon organized the first program in 1935 and served as director for 22 years.

The Union Church

Almost 13 years after the Baptists organized, the first church building was erected. Community members, along with the Presbyterian Mission Board raised the funds necessary to build the church.

Although the Presbyterians owned the building, they shared the white, slat-wood facility with the Methodists and Baptists. Each group was responsible for services on alternate Sundays.

FBC records show the Baptist pastor came the fourth weekend of each month.

Women organize

Baptist womens' work was begun in 1909 — with a group of women whose purpose was to study the Bible and collect funds for a church building.

In 1909, the women of Dimmitt Baptist Church organized a society. Ten women were present: (Mrs) N.J. Lovelace, T.H. Beach, J.W. Slover, T.A. Turnbow, J.E. Turner, G.J. Stapleton, B.J. Ramey, B.D. Woodlee, U.A. Tate and Miss Nellie Turner.



THEN—The Bedford Street complex served as the First Baptist Church home from 1930 until 1970, with additions being made in 1949 and 1955. Courtesy photo



FIRST—The old Union Church, which was shared by the Presbyterians, Methodists and Baptists from 1904 until 1929, stood on the lot where the present-day Methodist Church is located. Courtesy photo

Mrs. Tate and Mrs. U.T. Gollehon, Mrs. J.M. Gollehon and Mrs. J.R. Gollehon were added in January 1910. Dues were 10 cents per month.

The society held regular meetings until November 1911 — the last recorded minutes available.

However, three years later, the organization was revived. On Sept. 14, 1914, U.R. Triplett, pastor, asked the women to meet and reorganize.

Mrs. U.R. Triplett was elected president; Mrs. G.J. Stapleton, vice president and Mrs. Bruce McLean secretary. The group was comprised of mainly those women in the first organization.

On Nov. 28, 1921, they were officially recognized as the Womens Missionary Society by the Hereford WMS. Members elected Mrs. R.G. Shuford as president, Mrs. J.E. Turner vice president, Mrs. U.L. Pickett secretary-treasurer.

When the Townsite Company was organized, a town lot was given to the church. In 1921, WMS bought adjoining lots for \$48 each.

On Sept. 9, 1928, 78 people met in a tin building, which also served as the school's gym, to organize a Baptist Sunday School and become a full-time church.

Church is named

That same year, they adopted a \$3,000 annual budget and the name "First Baptist Church."

Later church members decided their town lot was too close to the public square and sold it on Sept. 26, 1928. The church accrued \$2500 from the sale — with \$2163 from lots purchased by WMS.

The next year, FBC had purchased a tract of land at Fifth and Bedford, and in March broke the ground for a new church building.

Construction began in July on the three-story educational building, the first of the three-phase project.

First building

On July 21, members held a fund-raising rally at the site. Although all materials and labor on the building had been purchased, an additional \$14,000 was needed to complete the structure.

FBC members on the building committee were: Sid C. Huckabay, G.L. Musick, B.A. Fuller, chairman, and W.T. Gollehon, church treasurer.

Jim Maynard, architect of the building, was first to be baptized in the new building, according to Kathryn Easter Vardell, who was the second.

WMS projects contributed to the building funds. The women cooked lunch for railroad workers, and the Lion's Club. They also sold vanilla.

To buy furnishings for the church, Mrs. Ruby Maples said that she and Mrs. Lena Ramey drove from farmhouse to farmhouse soliciting farm products such as eggs, butter, chickens and vegetables.

These were sold to the Poultry and Egg Co. and proceeds were donated to church.

"The first farm Lena Ramey and I visited, the farmer gave us the prettiest Buff Orpington hen I ever saw," Maples said.

The car contest

Ramey said one of her favorite projects was when the Baptist women won a new car, sold it and used the proceeds to purchase chairs.

Seems that, the Baptist women were in competition with the Catholic women at Nazareth. Both groups entered a subscription contest sponsored by the Castro County News, in which the first prize was a Chevrolet sedan — valued at \$700. The WMS, entered under Mrs. O.B. Trimble, WMS president.

Although Miss Pohlmeier's class (from Nazareth) stole the lead several times, the WMS ladies won and contributed the money from selling the car to the church building fund.

Now with a 30-year-old church, FBC had its own building. In February of 1930, the educational building was completed at cost of \$21,000.

State Evangelist C.Y. Dossey conducted a revival Feb. 9-23 — the first services conducted in the new facility.

Because the 30s were especially hard years—with the Depression and Dust Bowl—at times, there wasn't enough money to meet expenses. However, with hard work and dedication, the church managed to continue.

First parsonage

Six years after the church was completed, the first parsonage was built for \$3,100 at 506 W. Jones.

At this time, the church owed less than \$700 on the six-room house, according to church records.

In 1960, a new parsonage was bought at 606 W. Lee.

The summer of 1942 recorded three significant events: the first Vacation Bible School enrolled 175 students, all financial notes were paid and \$1,800 in War Bonds were purchased for a new sanctuary.

The building grows

Work on the new sanctuary was completed in April of 1949, with dedication services held April 10. The auditorium joined the educational building on the east. Rev. Earl R. Landtroop, pastor, led the all-day celebration services.

Six years later, FBC added the final building — a new educational unit — to their complex. The 10,000 square feet structure, at a cost of \$50,000, provided space for seven additional departments allowing room for 300 to 400 additional people in Sunday School.

These facilities were used until November 1970, when the church moved to its present location.

In 1971, the City of Dimmitt bought the land and buildings. The two east buildings were torn down and the west building now houses the city's fire station.

Present building

On October 2, 1966, the church voted to build a new facility on a 10-acre site located at 1201 Western Circle Drive. Three years later, Feb. 16, 1969, Charlie Hays, chairman of the building finance committee; R.B. Strother, chairman of the deacons; and Gene Morrison, chairman of the building committee and Dr. Raymond Perkins, pastor braved 35 degree weather for the church's fourth ground-breaking ceremony.

Building Committee members were: Bob Baker, Vaden Kirby, Tommy Stanton, Mrs. C.G. Maples, Mrs. Jim Hays, Mrs. Herb Mayfield, V.C. Hopson, Billy Hackleman, Doyl Underwood, Elbert Smith, J.M. Wright, Cecil Dennis and Jimmy Ross.

On Nov. 22, 1970, the first services were held in the new sanctuary and the building was dedicated on Dec. 13, 1970. Total investment in the new facility was estimated at more than \$560,000. The church assumed a note for \$415,000 and

on Feb. 1, 1979 the final payment was made.

One member, Mrs. W.T. (Aunt Maggie) Gollehon participated in the ground-breaking ceremonies of all three church buildings.

Salvadoran crusade

In January 1976, FBC extended its service to God as 16 members joined about 150 other area Baptists for a joint mission crusade to El Salvador, Central America. FBC members preached and witnessed in Chalchuapa, El Salvador, a small town near the Guatemala border.

"Close to 4,000 professions of faith were made in the 36 participating churches, as well as in other gatherings such as schools, factories, shops and jails," said Carlos Gruber, a Chalchuapa pastor, in his February 1976 newsletter.

FBC members who went were: Mayor and Mrs. Elmer Youts, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Dennis, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Heard, Mr. and Mrs. V.C. Hopson, Irene Carpenter, Mary Edna Hendrix, Pam Heard, Christy Peggram, Dusty Dobbs, John Street, pastor, and Ben Vera. Each person paid his or her own trip expenses.

Brazilian mission

In August of 1979, 19 members and Pastor John Street, again at their own expense, joined Rev. Ed Riley and his wife, from Bula and other area Baptists in a partnership mission to Belem, Brazil.

The following members went to Brazil: Rev. John, Dorothy and Sharla Street; Dan, Oma Dee and Danny Heard; Rev. M.A. and Christine Pennington; Elmer and Maugee Youts; Charles and Esta Vandiver; Tom Burnett, Youth and Education Director; Matt Howell; Mike Oldham; Irene Carpenter; Faye Mohan; Laura Lapins and Debbie Dobbs.

In Belem, they teamed with missionaries Johnny and Barbara Burnett. Johnny, who had served as FBC's Minister of Music and Education from 1961-1969, was with the Foreign Missions Board.

Approximately 200 professions of faith were made during the two-week trip.

For many years, the name Mary Kirkpatrick was synonymous with missions at FBC. Kirkpatrick served the local church as WMU president from 1927 to 1940.

When she died in 1977, Kirkpatrick's family helped convert a large storage closet in the west wing to a missions room. A large glass door and window were installed along with shelves and cabinets to display her collection of mission memorabilia. Home and foreign missionaries sent the items to Mrs. Kirkpatrick in appreciation of her love and concern for them and those to whom they ministered.

Present staff

In September of 1985, Richard Young and his family joined the FBC staff as Minister of Music and Youth. Young graduated from Hardin Simmons University and attended Southwestern Seminary.

Four years later, FBC's present pastor, Paul Kenley, and his family moved from Abilene to Dimmitt.

Kenley, a native of Tahoka, graduated from Texas Tech University and Hardin-Simmons University, with additional studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Biggest revivals

Throughout the years, FBC has held countless revivals, but members say two separate themselves as major evangelistic efforts to win Dimmitt to Jesus.

One in the '60s, led by Homer Martinez, evangelist and Eddie Nicholson, music evangelist, resulted in approximately 75 public professions of faith. M.A. Smith was pastor at the time.

The other was in the spring of 1989, when more than 134 people made public professions of faith. Evangelist Daniel Gage and music leader Billy Taylor led the services, which were a part of the Texas Baptist Convention's simultaneous revival. Ken Cole served FBC as the pastor at the time.

Centennial celebration

A two-day celebration on June 7 and 8, celebrated the church's 100 years of service to God. An old-time lawn picnic at the church started the weekend festivities.

On Sunday morning, Dr. Frank Pollard, pastor of the church from 1965 to 1967, gave the message.

Charter Members

Deacon J.L. Beach
Deacon J.H. Turnbow
Brother J.E. Turnbow
Brother T.M. Belsher
Brother T.H. Beach
Brother Willie Lindsay
Brother J.S. Beach
Brother W.B. Beach
Brother Early Beach
Sister M.E. Beach
Sister B.L. Dewes
Sister J.A. Beach
Sister M.J. Beach
Sister O.A. Dyer
Sister R.A. Turner
Sister U.M. Turnbow
Sister Z.A. Beach

Following the message, 434 people attended a fellowship luncheon and service of remembrance at the Castro County Expo Building. Special music, testimonies, presentation of the centennial family album, and a re-enactment of early-day church history highlighted the afternoon activities.

This ad ran in the Sept. 15, 1955 edition of *The Castro County News*.

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L. KANADY, Owner



NOW—The First Baptist Church held its first services in the Western Circle Drive location on November 22, 1970. Members voted to build the new facility on the 10-acre site in October of 1966. Courtesy photo

Pastors

G.W. Capps 1891-?
J.D. Cook 1897-1961
C.R. Steward 1901-1903
T.J. Powell 1903-1905
U.J. Fox 1906
J.T. Burnet 1906-1909
G.T. Bailey 1910-1911
W.R. Triplett 1913-1916
A.L. Duncan 1916-1917
J.A. Lindlay 1917-1924
B.R. Fronabarger 1924-1926
W.R. Derr 1927-1928
N.M. Gilbert 1928-1929
R.E. Bost 1930-1934
Vernon Shaw 1934-1936
J.W. Ware 1936-1938
J.N. Campbell 1938-1939
A.F. Russell 1940-1942
V.E. Temple 1942-1943
M.J. Lee 1943-1948
Earl Landtroop 1948-1951
George Ray 1951-1958
M.A. Smith 1958-1964
Frank Pollard 1964-1967
Raymond Perkins 1968-1971
John Street 1972-1984
Ken Cole 1985-1989
Paul Kenley 1989

We're glad to be a PART of Castro County's 100 years of history!

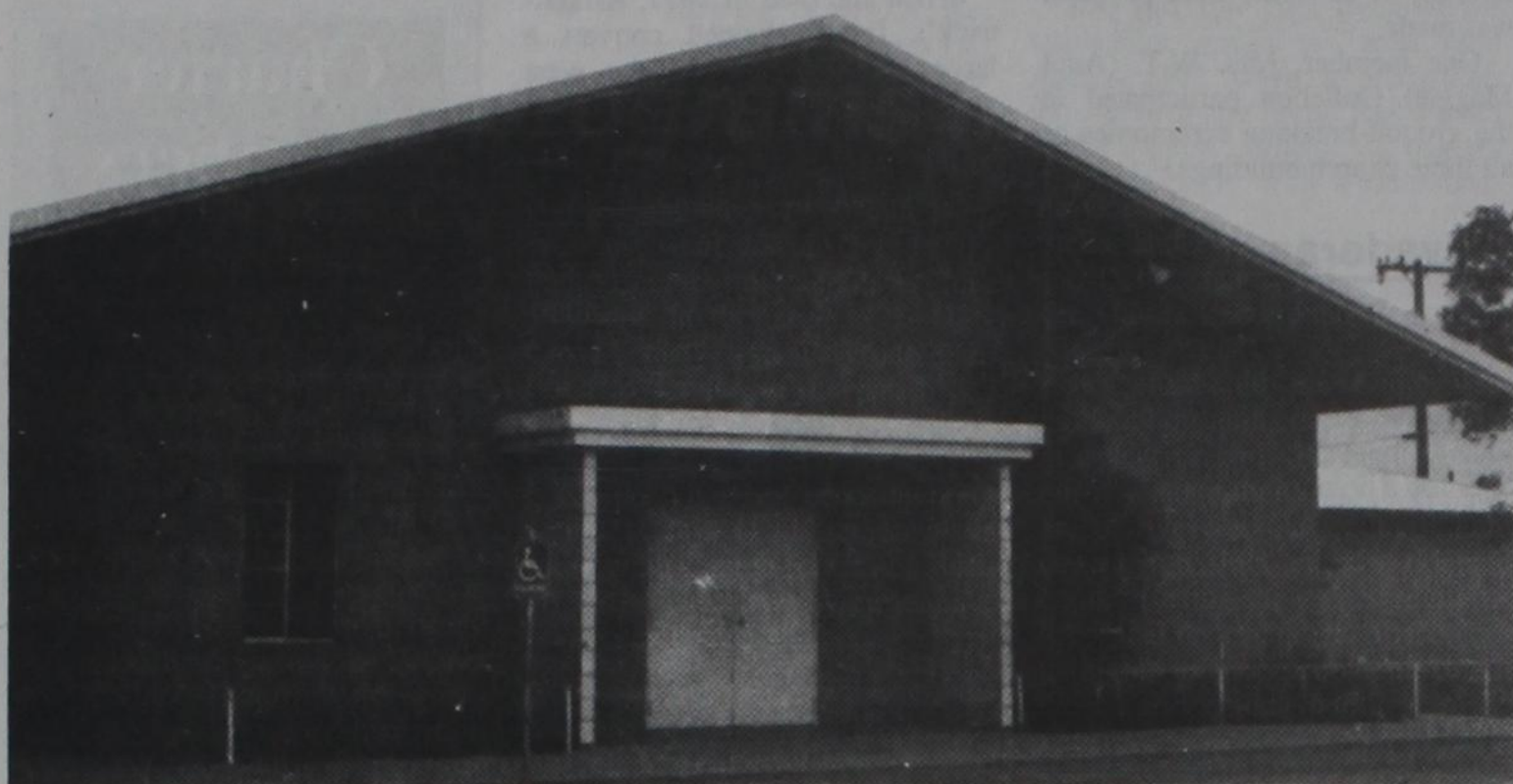
And we're proud to have supplied our customers with parts, tools and accessories since 1977.

Zane Ellison, Owner

The Parts Haus of Dimmitt

647-3468

St. John's parish established in 1958



ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE— Hart



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH — Dimmitt

Immaculate Conception Church expands programs in 1980s

By FATHER NORBERT CHOONG

The Guadalupanas, a women's group, were active with food sales, bazaars, and Jamaicas.

In May 1982, a Catholic Youth Organization was formed with David Nino as coordinator. In Oct. 1984, Fr. Chen retired after 23 years of ministry in Dimmitt. On Nov. 3, 1984 Rev. Norman Boyd succeeded him. He left in October of 1985. Fr. Harold Waldow became the pastor for a very short while. Fr. Pat Walsh of Hereford and Rev. Michael Wood of Amarillo ministered the parish by way of weekend masses only.

On June 1, 1986, Father Norbert Choong became our new pastor. He was brought up and educated in Malaysia. A former police inspector, he studied law in London, England and practiced as a lawyer for several years. He has been a part-time radio and television newscaster for a number of years and has visited over 30 countries. He studied for the priesthood in Malaysia and in San Antonio.

A number of changes and projects were introduced and implemented: a new mass schedule, bilingual mass, a clothes closet for the needy, a building committee, a pictorial directory, free printed bulletins and purchase of a piece of land nearby for a parking lot.

In October 1986, the church began the first season of Renew — a two and one-half year long process of parish renewal. Cuca Nino, Stella Mendez and Gloria Hernandez serve as coordinators of the three CD sessions.

The charismatic prayer groups, with Pancho Sepeda and T.D. Davila as leaders are active. The cursillistas meet regularly. Bea Acker, with Rita McDaniel as organist has led the English choir with fidelity for many years. Likewise, Felix Balderas and Pancho Sepeda in respect of the Spanish choirs.

The old hall was converted into our community center. ICC happenings appeared for the first time in the Castro County News in August 1987. Tony Garza and Joe Ortega were ordained our permanent deacons on Aug. 14, 1988.

The lay-ministeries program be-

gan in September 1988 with Dimmitt and Hart having by far the biggest number of candidates. June 1989 saw the formation of the Holy Cross Society, a men's group dedicated to service to the parish and the youth.

Emilio Nino has been devoting countless days of his retirement in serving the Church Ex Gratis, Justino Ortiz and Louis Arguijo have often been his able helpers.

During the last few years, the Youth Ministry, under the leadership of Mary Lou Lumbrera and Corina Montalvo, has been very active having, organized about six dances annually. In addition, the youth have participated in several volleyball tournaments and attended Diocesan Youth Conventions and rallies.

Through a thorough and on-going census taking, ICC together with St. John Nepomucene in Hart, our mission has established itself as being the largest parish in the Amarillo Diocese, with over 1000 families.

This fact was acknowledged by the appointment of Patrice Schaaf as our pastoral assistant in August of 1989.

She is from Minnesota and has a B.A. in Latin American studies and Spanish as well as a B.A. in psychology and a M.A. in religious studies.

A former Maryknoll sister, she has a varied and vast pastoral experience, having served in Mexico, Chile, Abilene, Dallas, California and Minnesota.

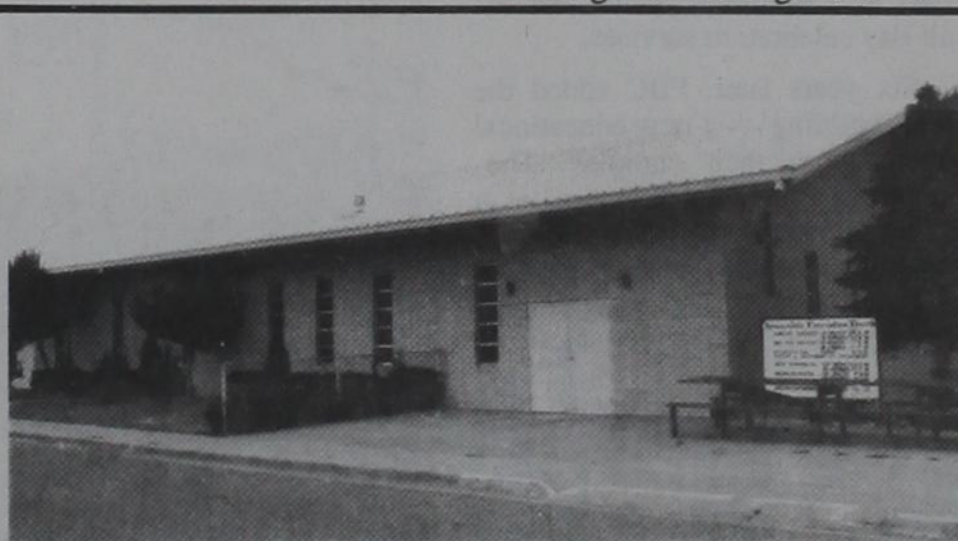
As our new director of religious education, she has helped to implement our monthly CCD Youth program, the Children's Church Celebration and improve the standard of CCD education. She visits our parishioners regularly.

In February 1990, the church formed small christian communities (SCC) aimed at establishing true christian living at grass-roots level and combating the evangelizing strategems of some sects or denominations.

The following were appointed neighborhood coordinators (a neighborhood consists of 10 SCC and each SCC consists of 10 families): Deacons Joe and Frances Oretaga, Deacon Tony and Josephi-

na Garza, Emilio and Cuca Nino, Stella and Nano Mendez, Sotero and Delia Ramos, Paul and Ortensia Garcia, and Juan and Felis Nino.

ICC looks to the future with jubilant hope and confidence. Within a year or two, SW should have our new community center consisting of five new classrooms, kitchen, a gymnasium and a re-oriented church (facing the gym through an accoridian door) capable of accommodating up to 1000 people, making it the biggest church building in the Diocese.



Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Dimmitt

going census taking, Immaculate Conception Church in Dimmitt (750 families) together with our mission (230 families) has established itself as being the largest parish in the Amarillo Diocese.

Pastoral assistant, Patrice Schaaf was appointed to serve as our new director of religious education. She has been visiting our parishioners and has made herself available for consultation and counseling.

By FATHER NORBERT CHOONG

St. John Nepomucene Catholic Church of Hart was started by Rev. Jesus Quintero in 1958 with the help of his parishioners. A small wooden-framed building was purchased and moved to the land on Ave. C, donated by Jessie Rubalcaaba. Quintero renovated the building. He ministered to the community until 1962 when Rev. Rafael Chen took over.

During Rev. Chen's 20 years of ministry, the Altar Society, DDD, CYO and Cursillista movement were organized. In 1965, he purchased three lots of land from Frank Bauman on the corner of 7th and Ave. D to build a new brick veneer church, which was dedicated by Bishop Lawrence Defalco on October 2, 1966.

In 1982, St. John became a mission of Nazareth's Holy Family Church with Rev. Harold Waldow as pastor. The church altar was remodeled. Waldow also started the Guadalupanas, the Sacred Society and Adult Bible Classes.

Construction of a parish hall with a kitchen, restrooms and four classrooms at a cost of \$56,480 was begun Nov. 8, 1982. Rev. Waldow served until 1985 when Rev. Norman Boyd took over for a short time. Upon his departure, Rev. Waldow resumed pastorship of the mission.

In July 1986, Fr. Norbert Choong, who took charge of Immaculate Conception in Dimmitt a month earlier, assumed the pastorship of St. John Nepomucene and Hart became a mission of Dimmitt.

One of the first things Fr. Choong did was to convert the first room behind the sanctuary into his office. He also moved the confessional from the corridor into the said office.

In October 1986, a pictorial directory of the parish was completed and a free printed joint missalette (a common cover with ICC, Dimmitt) was in use in the same month. At about the same time, St. John began the first season of Renew, a two and one-half year process of parish spiritual renewal.

Roberto Gonzales was ordained as our permanent deacon on Sunday, Aug. 21, 1988. The lay-ministry training program began in September 1988 with Dimmitt and Hart having by far the biggest number of candidates in the program. Martha Bauman was the sacristan for a good number of years and Ramona Barretero has single-handedly prepared the bulletin for several years now, and Manuel Sanchez the choir director.

In 1989, the Guadalupanas, one of the most active organizations in the parish, with the help of a dozen or so men, renovated an old trailer into a mobile snack bar.

Through a thorough and on-

HAPPY 100TH CASTRO COUNTY

Since 1959 Dimmitt Meat Co. has appreciated being a part of Castro County's progress.

We look forward to furnishing the best in Hopson's Country Sausage, custom slaughtering and meat processing to the people of Castro County in the next 100 years!

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V.C., Dorothy and Van Hopson
200 N. Broadway • 647-3210

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Lynn West
116 W. Bedford, Dimmitt

647-2644



St. John Nepomucene Catholic Church, Hart

"When the Just prosper, the City rejoices"

(Proverbs 11:10)

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

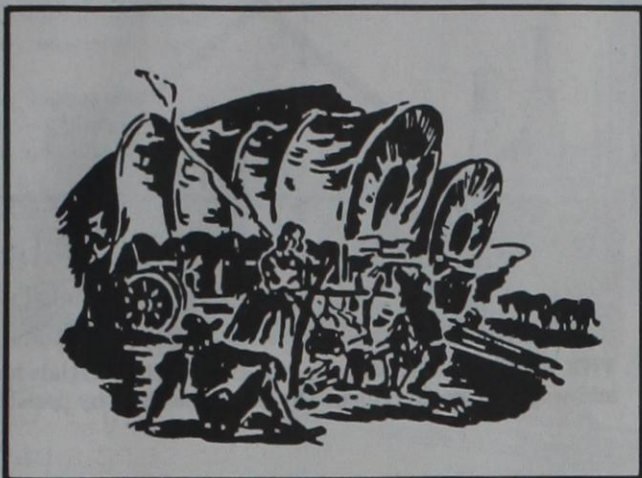
Established 1958 — Dimmitt

St. John Nepomucene Catholic Church

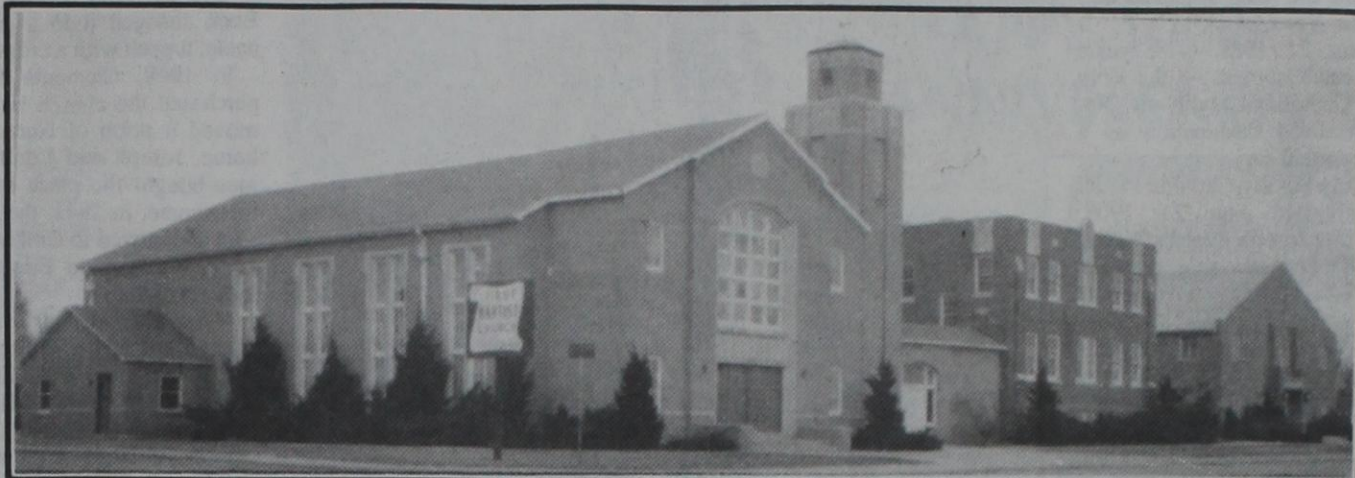
Established 1958 — Hart

Father Norbert Choong, Pastor

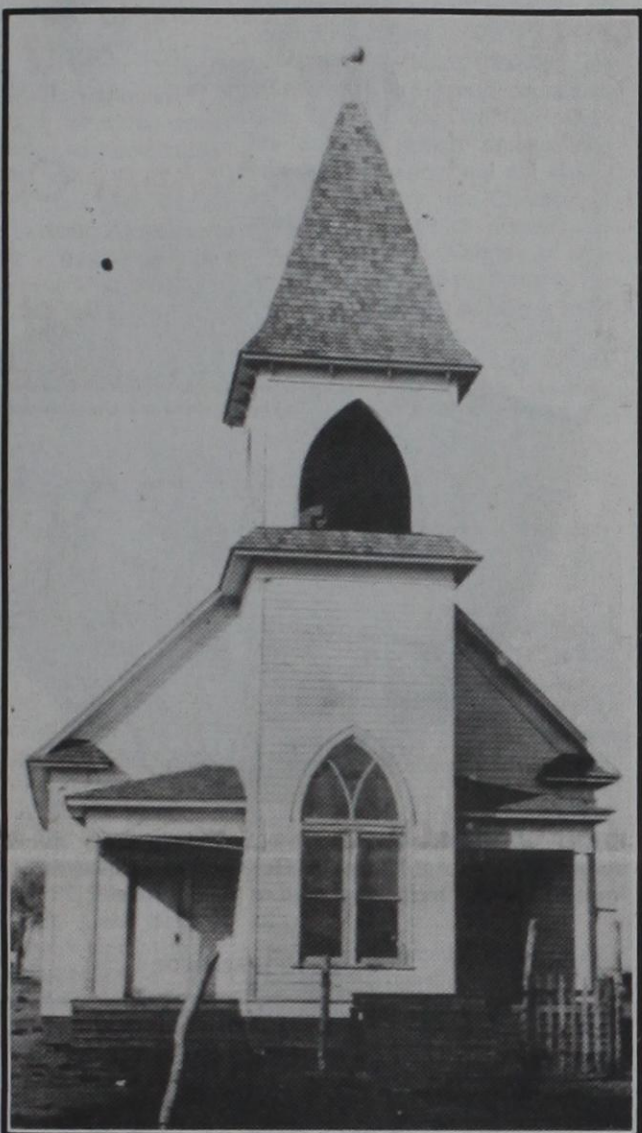
THEN . . . and NOW



Our church's organizational meeting was held June 7, 1891, on the tongue of a covered wagon.



The Bedford Street complex was our church home from 1930 until 1970, with additions being made in 1949 and 1955. The original structure was the square building in the center. The building at right now serves as the city fire station.



Our denomination shared the old Union Church with several other denominations from 1904 until 1929.



Our present church was built in 1970 at a cost of more than \$560,000. Our congregation paid off a \$415,000 note on it in less than 10 years. We held our Centennial Celebration here June 7 and 8.



The J. E. Turner Family



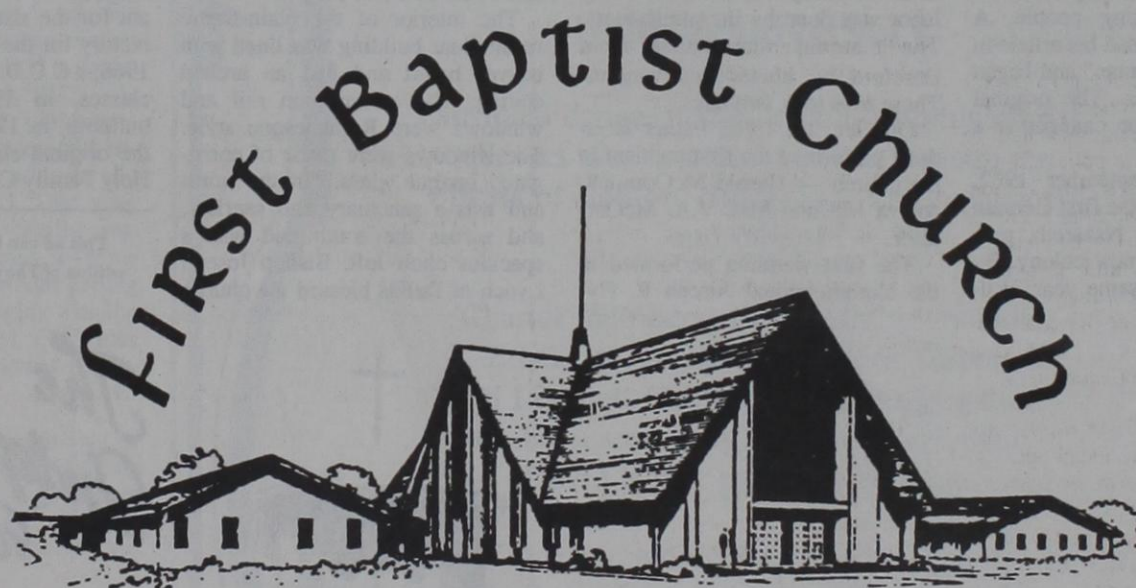
The J. L. Beach Family

Charter Members

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Deacon J.L. Beach | Sister M.E. Beach |
| Deacon J.H. Turnbow | Sister B.L. Dewes |
| Brother J.E. Turner | Sister J.A. Beach |
| Brother T.M. Belsher | Sister M.J. Beach |
| Brother T.H. Beach | Sister O.A. Dyer |
| Brother Willie Lindsay | Sister R.A. Turner |
| Brother J.S. Beach | Sister U.M. Turnbow |
| Brother W.B. Beach | Sister Z.A. Beach |
| Brother Early Beach | |

Pastors

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| G.W. Capps 1891-? | Vernon Shaw 1934-1936 |
| J.D. Cook 1897-1901 | J.W. Ware 1936-1938 |
| C.R. Steward 1901-1903 | J.N. Campbell 1938-1939 |
| T.J. Powell 1903-1905 | A.F. Russell 1940-1942 |
| U.J. Fox 1906 | V.E. Temple 1942-1943 |
| J.T. Burnet 1906-1909 | M.J. Lee 1943-1948 |
| G.T. Bailey 1910-1911 | Earl Landtroop 1948-1951 |
| W.R. Triplett 1913-1916 | George Ray 1951-1958 |
| A.L. Duncan 1916-1917 | M.A. Smith 1958-1964 |
| J.A. Lindlay 1917-1924 | Frank Pollard 1964-1971 |
| B.R. Fronabarger 1924-1926 | Raymond Perkins 1968-1971 |
| W.R. Derr 1927-1928 | John Street 1972-1984 |
| N.M. Gilbert 1928-1929 | Ken Cole 1985-1989 |
| R.E. Bost 1930-1934 | Paul Kenley 1989 |



1891 - 1991

Dimmitt, Texas

A Century of Service to God

Nazareth Catholic church designated as historical site

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Information for the following history was compiled from *The Holy Family Parish, The First 75 Years, Holy Family Parish Golden Jubilee Book*, and the Aug. 18, 1988 edition of the *News*.)

On Aug. 21, 1988 — 85 years after its establishment — the Holy Family Catholic Church in Nazareth received designation as a Texas historical site.

The Holy Family Catholic Parish was established Aug. 21, 1903, when Father Joseph Reisdorff, who colonized Nazareth, said the first mass in the Thomas McCormick home.

However, the colony's religious endeavors began about 10 years earlier.

Aloysius and James A. McCormick, Irish settlers from New York, came to Castro County in 1890 as traveling salesmen. They wrote to their brother, Thomas, and other Irish friends in New York, asking them to come settle in the Texas county.

By 1893, several families responded and had settled in the new colony, but had not seen a priest for some time. So, Thomas wrote to the Bishop of Dallas. Father Thomas Blakney, pastor of Henrietta responded at once; the settlers celebrated mass at the Lassiter place, where Thomas was living. On rare occasions, Father Blakney returned to the settlement to say mass.

A room in the McCormick home was set for the celebration of mass, when a priest visited.

The first entry for Castro County in the mission register of Henrietta records is Feb. 23, 1893.

By the early 1900s, most of the Irish settlers, except the McCormicks, had fled the county, to escape the drought and a grasshopper plague.

However, essential elements missing from the new settlement was a church and a priest. Thomas, realizing that the Irish-Catholic settlers were no longer coming to the settlement, decided to move his family where there was a church and school.

Having heard of the Rhineland settlement in Knox County, Thomas journeyed there and met Father Joseph Reisdorff. Reisdorff had heard about the settlers in Castro County and advised Thomas to return until he had an opportunity to visit the area.

Father Reisdorff first visited the county in June 1902, and after discovering the productivity of the land, purchased section 223 of Block 6 for \$2.50 an acre. He chose the biblical name "Nazareth" for the colony and named the parish in honor of Joseph, Mary and Jesus — the Holy Family.

Father Reisdorff advertised in German-language newspapers around the country. His reason for attracting the German-Americans was, he found, that they were diligent, hard-working people. A number of people read his article in the German "Landman" and began their trek to Texas. The original Irish settlement soon changed to a German settlement.

As early as September 1902, Bernard Huseman, the first German settler to arrive in Nazareth, purchased land in the new colony. By November of that same year, Wil-



THE SECOND CHURCH—was built in 1917 during the time Father Matthew Saetalle was pastor.

Courtesy photo

helmina Thier, along with her seven children and her brother, Joseph Doerr, and Fred Lange had also purchased land.

Father Reisdorff used Mrs. Thier's new home, which was located one-half mile from the present-day church site, as his residence and chapel from March 1903 until the fall of 1903.

Through a quiet-claim deed, Thier sold the west one-half of section 218 to Father Reisdorff. At a later date, he traded an equal amount of acreage to Thier, adjacent to her land. The trade enabled Father Reisdorff to build the church on a higher ground.

In order to secure money to erect the new church, an assessment of \$50 was placed on each section of land in the colony, whether the owner was a resident at Nazareth or lived elsewhere. In 1902, \$900 was collected — \$200 more than the building's cost.

The Holy Family Church was a frame building, 32 feet long by 16 feet wide, located in the front center of the church plat. Father Reisdorff is thought to have been the architect of the church. Two carpenters from Rhineland, Englebert Gier and John Schumacker assisted in the construction, but most of the labor was done by the parishioners. The material was hauled from Hereford by horses and wagons. These trips took two days.

On Oct. 26, 1902, Father Reisdorff performed the first baptism in the church — Harold McCormick, son of Mr. and Mrs. V.A. McCormick.

The first wedding performed in the church, united Joseph E. Hy-

land and Frances McCormick, daughter of Thomas McCormick on Jan. 7, 1903.

Two years later, a 16-by-16 addition enlarged the building. Again, in 1907, the church was altered and enlarged to a 24-by-48 structure, under the guidance of Father Bonaventure Binzegger.

Nuns from the Oliveton Benedictine order came to Nazareth in 1909 to teach in the school. The Benedictine nuns from Fort Smith, Ark., who taught in the public school until 1988, replaced the Oliveton Benedictine nuns in 1915.

By 1916, once again the congregation outgrew the church building. When Bishop Joseph P. Lynch of Dallas made a canonical visitation on May 15, he granted the parish permission to erect a new church.

Father Matthew Saetalle, who arrived Feb. 1, 1917, was a known builder. During his 40 years of missionary work, he had built a number of churches. He collected \$8,335 for the new church.

The second church building, completed on April 15, 1918, was located in the middle of the plat of land laid out for the original town of Nazareth. Slightly larger than the first church, the 40-by-120 structure could seat 300 people.

The interior of the plain-frame rectangular building was lined with beaver board and had an arched ceiling. The communion rail and windows were Romanesque style. The windows were made of corrugated opaque glass. On the north end was a sanctuary and sacristy, and across the south end was a spacious choir loft. Bishop Joseph Lynch of Dallas blessed the church

on April 15, 1918.

During the next 12 years, the building underwent two changes on the tower. Father Fintan Karemer in 1930 finished top part with a cupola and in 1934 Father Alphonse Bock changed it to a gabled pinnacle, topped with a cross.

In 1948, Clements Rickwartz purchased the church building and moved it north of Nazareth for a home. Joseph and Loretta Gugger bought the place in 1930 for their home. In 1941, the house was sold and moved to Umbarger. As of 1987, the Richard Friemel's lived in the building.

Very Rev. Gegory Boeckman came to Nazareth in January 1942 and saw a great need for a larger church. He began to collect money in 1945 for a new church.

Because the new church was to stand on the same spot, parishioners removed the sanctuary and boarded the north end of the church on Feb. 9, 1949. Then the building was moved a few hundred feet westward, for use until the new church was completed.

Several original items remain in the present church. The tower on the east contains the bell from the old church, along with a new bell. The large sanctuary has a sacristy on either side, connected by an ambulatory. The altars from the 1917 church were brought to the new church, along with the Stations of the Cross and an organ purchased a few years earlier.

The buff-colored brick building has a 700-capacity seating arrangement.

Sunday, Oct. 23, 1949, marked a first and last in the church's history: the last mass was said in the 1917 church and the first in the new church.

On Nov. 9, 1949, Bishop Lawrence J. FitzSimon of Amarillo blessed the new church — the parish registered 146 families and 656 souls.

In May 1952, the 19 stained-glass windows, designed by Karl Fredelmahier, a native of Munich, Bavaria, Germany were installed.

Father Peter Morsch led the parish's Golden Jubilee on Aug. 21, 1952.

Under Father Stanley Crocchio, in 1971, the basement was divided into classrooms, restrooms and a storage room; carpet and lights were installed.

In 1977, a 18 feet by 34 feet, was added to the south entrance of the church. Bishop Lawrence M. DeFalco of Amarillo blessed the addition on the parish's 75th anniversary.

In the years that followed, repairs and minor changes have been made in the church. As of 1987, all of the property of Holy Family Parish is debt free.

The parish is truly proud of its accomplishments in the past 88 years. On the original church plat laid out in 1902, now stands a magnificent church, a large convent for the sisters, built in 1960; a rectory for the pastor, completed in 1968; a C.C.D. building for religion classes, in 1970 and a storage building, in 1977. Also located on the original church property is the Holy Family Cemetery.

This ad ran in the Aug. 10, 1946 edition of *The Castro County News*.

The Independent Way

We are proud to be part of the Independent telephone industry, which has contributed so much to communications progress... contributions such as the dial telephone, the pay station, and the modern switchboard key. We are proud, too, that Independent companies serve more than 12,000 communities.



THE FIRST CHURCH—built in 1902, with materials hauled by horse and wagon from Hereford. The labor was done by parishioners.

Courtesy photo



FIRST PASTOR—Father Joseph Reisdorff is noted for several accomplishments at Nazareth. He established the area as a community, built the first church and served as the first pastor.



Interesting Firsts

City of Nazareth
and
Holy Family Church

FIRST SETTLERS: A.V. and J.A. McCormick in 1891.

FIRST MASS: Said by Rev. T.J.E. Blackeney in 1892 in the old Lassiter house.

FIRST PASTOR: Rev. Joseph Reisdorff, who arrived Aug. 21, 1902.

FIRST CHURCH: Completed in the fall of 1903.

FIRST SCHOOL: Opened in the fall of 1904. Louise Thier was the teacher.

FIRST BAPTISM: Harold McCormick, son of Mr. and Mrs. A.V. McCormick, on Oct. 26, 1902.

FIRST MARRIAGE: Joseph Hyland and Frances McCormick, on Jan. 7, 1903.

FIRST DEATH: Mrs. Anna Lackermann on Aug. 12, 1906.

FIRST SETTLERS OF GERMAN DESCENT: The family of Wendelin Litsch, who arrived in December 1902.

FIRST PARISH MEMBER ORDAINED TO PRIESTHOOD: Rev. Cyril, O.S.B., in the year 1936.

FIRST STORE: Opened in 1905 by Mr. Heidergerken.

FIRST POSTMASTER: Mr. Godfrey Binzegger in 1908.

FIRST BLACKSMITH: Charles Smitsch in 1905, succeeded by Godfrey Binzegger in 1906.



RIGHT WHERE IT STARTED — The current church building is located on the same plat of land where the original church, in 1902 stood. The Holy

Family Church was designated as a Texas historical site on Aug. 21, 1988 — 85 years after it originated.

File photo

Holy Family Church

Present building constructed in 1949

Holy Family Church in Nazareth awarded a contract in 1949 to the C. Killingsworth Company of Memphis to build a new church building at an estimated cost of \$85,000.

The announcement of the contract's award was made by Father G.A. Boeckman, pastor, and construction was scheduled to begin on March 1, 1949.

The building which housed the church at the time was moved and the new modern edifice was built on the old building site and it's the same building which houses the Catholic church today.

Leo M. J. Dielmann, architect of San Antonio, drew up the original plans for the church.

The members of the parish did the excavating, starting on March 1, 1949, and actual work on the construction of the building started on March 15, 1949. The cornerstone was laid on May 8, 1949, by Bishop FitzSimon in the presence of 21 members of the clergy and a large crowd of parishioners.

The bell was blessed by Rt. Rev. Msgr. John Stenlage on Oct. 2, 1949, assisted by Rev. Thomas Drury and Rev. G.A. Boeckman.

The parishioners did all the work of hauling materials and performed much of the other labor.

The Church Committee, which doubled as the building committee, included Arthur Kleman, Andrew Acker, John Litsch, Lawrence Huseman and Louis Schacher.

On May 8, 1949, at 4 p.m., Bishop FitzSimon blessed and laid the cornerstone of the new Holy Family Church.

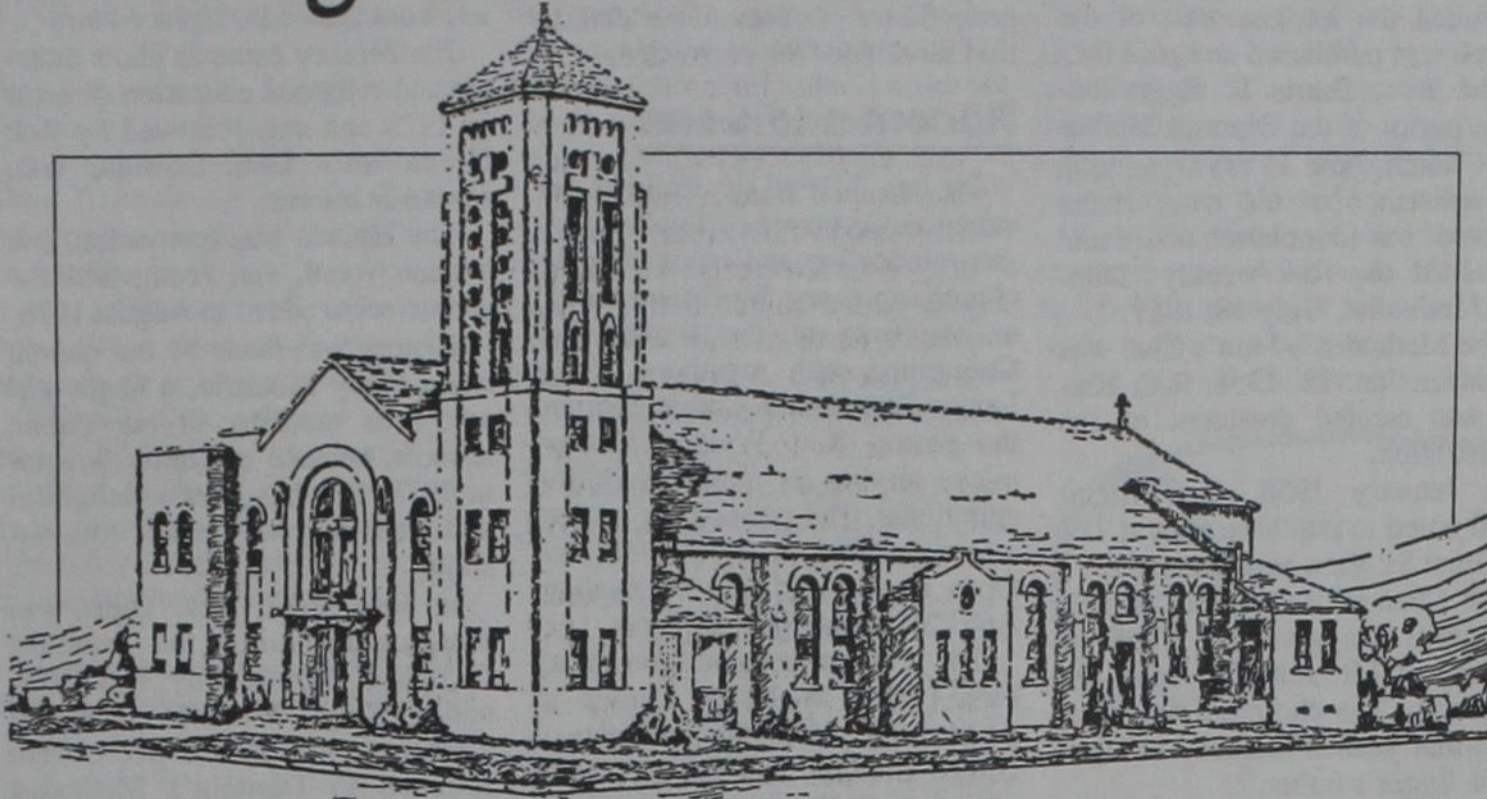
Clergy came from across the area to witness the event.

In the cornerstone was placed a document containing the names of the clergy attending, the ceremonies, and the names of the Holy Father, the Apostolic Delegate, the Bishop of Amarillo, the pastor of Nazareth, the President of the United States, the vice president, the governor of Texas, the lieutenant governor, the Castro County judge, commissioner of Precinct 4, the contractor and superintendent.

The names of the church committee, organist, assistant organists, members of the choir, sisters stationed in Nazareth, mass servers and those who contributed at least \$500 toward construction of the facility were also included. Various coins, including foreign ones, a copy of the *Amarillo Register*, *The Castro County News* and the *Tulia Herald* all were placed inside the cornerstone.

On the stone are the following dates: 1902—The year when the parish was founded by Rev. Joseph Reisdorff; and 1919 — The year when the present church was built.

It also contains the names of the church; the name of Pope Pius XII; the name of the bishop of Amarillo at that time, the Most Rev. Lawrence J. FitzSimon, D.D.; the present pastor, the Very Rev. G. A.



-CATHOLIC CHURCH - NAZARETH TEXAS - -LEO M.J. DIELMANN - ARCHITECT-

Boeckman; and the architect, Mr. Leon M.J. Dielmann.

The new church was 150 feet long and 63 feet wide and seated 640 comfortably with room for 80 more if necessary.

Various societies donated articles toward the church's construction. They are the Christian Mothers Society, which donated the communion railing and the railing for the baptistry; the Children of Mary Society, which donated the confessional; the Knights of Columbus and Foresters, the bell; the Catholic Daughters, a lectern; holy-water fonts by the St. Joseph's Society and American Legion; the ambry by Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Miller; the Infant of Prague Shrine by Mrs. A.M. Heiman; and the sacristy bell by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Kleman.

Father Joseph Reisdorff's Fourth Degree Assembly donated the cornerstone.

The new church was dedicated on Nov. 9 at 10 a.m. by Bishop FitzSimon.

The celebrant of the Mass was Rt. Rev. Msgr. F.J. Pokluda, vicar general of the diocese and pastor of St. Ambrose Church in Wall. He was assisted by Rev. Cyril Lange, O.S.B., as deacon; and the Rev. Frederick Hyland as subdeacon. Both were ordained from the Nazareth parish.

Master of ceremonies was Rev. Edmund Hartigan of Rotan. Deacons of honor were another former member of the parish, Rev. Harold Heiman, O.S.B. and a former pastor. The sermon was preached by Rev. Alcuin Feldhues, O.F.M. of San Angelo.

Holy Family parish was started on Aug. 21, 1902, with the arrival of Father Joseph Reisdorff who remained in Nazareth for three years and eight months.

His successor was Father Bonaventura Binzegger, a Benedictine priest who remained in Nazareth until July 1939 when it was over the diocesan clergy. Father Bo-

naventure remained in Nazareth for two years and 10 months; then was succeeded by Father Anselm Kaelin, who remained seven years and five months.

During Father Anselm's time, Father Peter Post also was in Nazareth for six months. Father Matthew Saeftle built the church in 1917 which was in use up to the present time. He remained only for a year.

Father Conrad Herda came in February 1918, and stayed until August 1923, when he was succeeded by Father Andrew Quante, who stayed until May 1925.

Father Justin Wewer served as

pastor from 1925 until July 1929; and he was followed by Father Fintan Kraemer, who remained only 10 months.

Father Thomas Buegler followed Father Kraemer and stayed 11 months. Father Alphonse Bock was the last of the Benedictine fathers, and he left in July 1939. Father Norbert Wagner succeeded him and he remained in the parish until January 1942.

Rev. Boeckman had been pastor of Holy Family Parish for seven years and nine months—longer than any of his predecessors—at the time of the present church's construction.

Christmas pageant depicted Christ's life

Father Stanley Crocchiola, who served as pastor of Holy Family Church for many years, had a dream of starting a Christmas pageant to be enacted at the church and with the help of Donna Benke Birkenfeld, his dream came true in the early 1970s.

Donna Benke had been choral director at Springlake-Earth school before she married Leslie Birkenfeld and moved to Nazareth. She approached Father Stanley about starting the pageant and soon began making plans to organize it. It would depict the story of Christ's life, beginning with the Annunciation and continuing through the 12 years he spent in the Biblical town of Nazareth.

Birkenfeld wrote the script, found songs and music, decided what to use for props, lighting and sound, and got costumes together and before long, the pageant was born. Along with the help of Ernie Brockman, the Jerome Brockman family, the David Acker family and the Vincent Gerber family, Father Stanley's and Birkenfeld's dream was born at Christmas, 1972. As soon as the first year's performances were complete, Birkenfeld began making plans for a bigger and better pageant in 1973. That year, almost every parish family was involved in the pageant in some way, whether it be through getting the word around or singing with the CYO, who performed Christmas carols before each pageant performance.

Birkenfeld dreamed each year of making the pageant better than the year before, but in 1974, her dream was shortlived, because she was killed in an auto accident in February.

After that, the community pulled together and took over to present the pageant that year in Birkenfeld's memory and it continued to be held in her memory for many years.



Donna Birkenfeld

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We treasure so many things from the past, but we especially value your patronage.

Wishing Castro County a Happy 100th Anniversary!

We've kept you running since 1987.

Dale's Auto & Salvage

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Service you can count on today and tomorrow!

At
This Special Time . . .
we wish
Dimmitt and Castro County a joyous and spirit-filled 100th Anniversary

Our local congregation of non-denominational believers was founded in 1960 through the efforts of Bedford Smith (our first preacher) and others.

Charter members still remaining include Ethel Fry, Doris Gabel, Tony Gabel, and Loranel Hamilton. The congregation has been served by five preachers, with David Keller presently serving.

Our new auditorium was dedicated Feb. 8, 1976, and plans are underway for a new educational wing, the Lord willing.

First Christian Church of Dimmitt
600 Western Circle Drive • 647-5478

*We welcome you to worship with us.
"Christians only, but not the only Christians."*

We're moving on!

After a century for Dimmitt and Castro County, we look forward to serving you in the future, as we have since 1984.

Happy 100th Birthday Dimmitt and Castro County!

"We'll Move The Earth For You!"

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Clark first Methodist minister, church organizer

The first record of any church organization in Dimmitt was in 1891. At this time, there was a union church made up of Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist faiths. There was no church building during these years, so the congregation met in the homes, probably the B.T. Bell home was used, and in the public school building. This union lasted until 1905.

The first Sunday School was organized in 1898. Mrs. Judge Kerr was the organizer and first superintendent of it. There were 44 enrolled.

In 1905, the little white church known as the Presbyterian was built. To begin with, every man in the county was asked to assist in building the church. The labor was donated and those who couldn't help with labor gave money. Lumber was freighted free from Hereford, by different members using wagons, and mules. They worshipped in this church about three years, unpainted and unpapered, then decided to paint and paper by borrowing money on the building and property.

The Presbyterian was the only denomination who had the financial set-up whereby they could loan the money. They borrowed \$350.00 for this project. Thus from the time the loan was made, about 1908, it was referred to as the Presbyterian Church. When the Methodists bought it, they paid the State Presbytery for it.

Organization

Early-church members think that Rev. C.A. Clark organized the first Methodist Church in Dimmitt. He was preaching in Hereford at the time. The Methodists held services two Sundays each month, with the Presbyterian and the Baptists each holding services one Sunday a month. However, during this time, the Methodist Church was the only church that had a resident pastor in the county.

Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Hastings were at that time members of the Methodist Church in the Lakeview community, between Tulia and Dimmitt. They moved their membership here, where Mrs. Sallie E. Ramey (mother), Mrs. Etta Brashears, and Mr. and Mrs. John Smith were charter members. Mrs. Percy Estes and Mrs. Effie Jacobs moved their membership here during the year 1906, under Rev. U.H. Trammel.

Mrs. Etta Brashears was the only living charter member who had never moved her membership to any other church, when the writing of this history was begun in 1957.

First parsonage

Although records are not available for 1905, 06, or 07, early-church members are positive that a Methodist parsonage was furnished in 1906, for Brother Trammel.

From conference minutes of Rev. W.P. Edwards, who followed Rev. Trammel, statements dated Oct. 21, 1908, noted: "There is one church building and one parsonage in Dimmitt. \$108 has been paid on the parsonage this year in the way of improvements and furnishings. The parsonage is valued at \$450 and the deed is recorded in both Castro and Swisher counties, which is somewhat confusing to us."

It is to be surmised that Happy, in Swisher County, was in charge of Dimmitt, or possibly at one time Dimmitt was a charge of Happy.

This parsonage was situated near the northwest corner of the town section, as the nearest windmill was at the residence of S.J. Vaden, an early member of the church. This site is the former residence of Elmer Youts.

Early pastors

Rev. G.H. Bryant followed Rev. Edwards to Dimmitt. He moved his family here in November 1908. Rev. G.S. Hardy was presiding Elder at this time.

Rev. J.T. Ross came to Dimmitt in 1910. Rev. Trammel, Edwards, and Bryant served all charges of the Dimmitt circuit, with Brother Ross having some additional charges — Parrott (Jumbo) and Big Square.

Ministers who served in the Presbyterian church following Brother Ross are as follows:

J.A. Smith	1914
B.T. Sharp	1915
W.L. Lightfoot	1917
Preston Florence	1919-21
L.R. Fee	
McNeely	
G.R. Fort	1921
H.K. Monroe	
W.U. Coughran	1925
Eugene Naugle	1926

The old Presbyterian Church,

which stood where our church now stands, was used by all denominations until 1928. On Easter Sunday, 1946, it burned. It was then in use by the Assembly of God congregation.

Basement church

In 1928, under the ministry of Rev. J.R. Bright, the basement, which is now the Masonic Lodge Hall, was built by the Methodists. Dimmitt continued to be part of a circuit until the year 1930, when Rev. J.R. Bright became the first full-time pastor. A parsonage was built for the new circuit preacher, Rev. Peters.

During the basement church years, which were the depression years, the following men were pastors:

Sam A. Thomas	1931-32
Alfred Freeman	1932-34
Joe Strothers	1934-36
O.M. Addison	1936-37
R.L. Butler	1937-38
Wallace Rosenburg	1939-40
Melvin Rankin	1940-42
U.S. Sherrill	1942-47
Horace Brooks	1947-50
Lee Stanford	1951-53
Raymond Vanzandt	1953-57
Darris A. Egger	1957-60
Hugh Blaylock	1960-65
Weldon McCormicks	1965-68
Jim Picken	1968-73

New building

A building fund for this beautiful church (dedicated in 1958) was started one Sunday morning when Betty Boothe (Hastings), who was nine or 10 years old, went up to Brother R.L. Butler, as he made the call for members, and handing him a nickel, told him she wanted to start a church building fund. Several thousand dollars were placed in the fund with the nickel during the pastorate of Brother Sherrill from 1942-47.

At this time, plans were to build on top of the basement. After the Presbyterian Church burned in 1946, a church member with some foresight suggested the church buy these lots for parking space. The lots were purchased and during the pastorate of Rev. Horace Brooks, the church was built.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service had a great part in equipping the church. The kitchen and all equipment — dishes, tables, stoves — were purchased by the society. Also \$1,000 which was made by a calendar project, was used to help purchase the pews. All of the pulpit furniture was given by Mr. and Mrs. Percy Estes in memory of their son, Greet. The whole project amounted to \$145,000.

The formal opening for our church was held Sept. 18, 1949. Bishop Martin was in charge of the program for the day.

Rev. Lee Stanford followed Rev. Brooks as pastor of our church in 1950. In 1951, the Bethel circuit decided to disband and many of the members of the Flagg, Big Square and Easter churches moved their membership to Dimmitt Methodist Church. Rev. D.W. Brashears was their pastor at the time.

In the last year of Brother Sanford's pastorate, a contract was drawn with Mr. Will Gollehon to exchange his home, which is now the parsonage, for the former parsonage, which was built during the pastorate of Alfred Freeman.

On June 23, 1953, Rev. Raymond Van Zandt and his wife moved into the new parsonage. Since then much progress has been made, materially and spiritually. The women learned that Brother Van Zandt was a good cabinet maker, and during his term as pastor, he added many nice built-ins in the church and parsonage. The cabinets in the fellowship hall, furniture in the nursery, and the shelves in the junior department for storing literature were all items he built.

Additions

During 1956-57, money was raised to fund the Educational building. This included a parlor, pastor's study, and Sunday school superintendent's room.

The foundation planting for the church yard was given as a memorial to Ray Sheffy, Sr., who was chairman of the board at the time the church was built.

The first funeral to be held at the church was that of Mrs. Rosa McLean, Sept. 26, 1949 and the first wedding was Mary Jean Webb, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Webb, on Oct. 29, 1949.

The remainder of the note on our church, which was \$12,915, was

paid off Feb. 7, 1957, and soon afterward the lot just west of the church was purchased and paid for.

The Rev. Darris L. Egger became pastor of the Dimmitt Methodist Church, June 1, 1957. He, with the assistance of his wife, Helen 'opened' our first church office and published the first weekly "Dimmitt Methodist," July 18, 1957.

The Methodist Men's Club was organized Jan. 23, 1958. R.C. Bailey was elected president of the organization.

In January 1958, the official board voted to purchase a lot at 712 W. Grant St. for a new parsonage.

The Chancel Rail of our church sanctuary was given in 1958 in memory of Mr. John M. Coke, by his family. The choir rail was also given that year in memory of Rev. Darris Egger's father.

Mrs. Bill Dillon (nee Joneen Bice) made a sketch of our church to be used on our weekly church paper.

The WSCS financed the installation of the Cross and Dossal. Harold Gladman built the cross, and installation was made in April 1958.

New parsonage

A new parsonage was completed in 1958. Rev. and Mrs. Egger and sons were the first parsonage family to move into the new structure in January 1959.

In August 1959, Raymond Wilson, who served as church superintendent for 15 years, resigned, and Jack Flynt was elected to the office.

The WSCS purchased a new Story and Clark piano in May 1960 for the sanctuary.

Rev. and Mrs. Darris Egger, Darris, Jr., and Charles were honored on Sunday evening, May 29, 1960, with a reception in the Fellowship Hall, before leaving for a new pastorate in Colorado City. The membership of our church at the close of the 1959-60 conference year was 585.

Rev. and Mrs. Hugh Blaylock, Charlotte and Judy, became our new parsonage family. Blaylock held his first service here on June 7, 1960.

In June 1961, Rev. and Mrs. Lee Stanford, former pastor of the church, moved back to Dimmitt to make their permanent home.

A called session of Quarterly Conference was held Jan. 23, 1962. Resolutions were offered and voted on to build an addition to the church and repair parts of it. Building committee members were: George Sides, George Webb, D. Neumayer, Donald Wright and Earl Harrison. Used pianos were donated by the Russel Morans and Bill Grahams.

Further expansions

The new educational addition, or north wing of the church was completed December 1963. The new addition consisted of a new fellowship hall, new kitchen, youth department, numerous Sunday school classrooms, pastor's study and secretary's office. The entire building was renovated.

In June 1965, Rev. Blaylock and his wife were honorees at a reception held in Lamar Fellowship Hall, before assuming a new pastorate at the Wesley Methodist Church in Borger.

The church membership in June 1965 was 576.

In May 1965, a committee was selected from the Church Administrative Board to find lots to build a mission church: Paul Hilburn, Bill Bennett, Mrs. Jim Cleavinger, Glenn Ratliff and Mrs. R.A. Moran, chairman. Two lots were given — one each by N.F. Cleavinger and E.B. Wright, and an adjoining lot was purchased for \$100 from P.H. Dyer, who later returned the money to the church. Later the church bought three other lots from Dyer.

Missions

The Dimmitt Methodist Church accepted the church building at Sterley as a gift to be moved and used as a Latin American Methodist Mission church in July 1966. Lamar Foundation Estate Funds were used to pay for the mission work. Rev. Noe Montez was the first pastor of the mission church. He served the Dimmitt and Olton churches. At that time, we rented a parsonage for the Montez family. He was followed by Gilbert Diaz in June 1967. The church purchased a parsonage in 1967.

The Dimmitt Methodist Church celebrated its 75th anniversary with a special service Aug. 14, 1966. Rev. Preston Florence, who was pastor of the church from 1919-1921, was the guest speaker for the occasion.

On Dec. 20, 1966, Bishop Eugene Slater conducted the dedication service for the parsonage.

Recent additions

On Jan. 3, 1968 the Gailey Construction Company of Lubbock began remodeling and renovating the church sanctuary. Ira Brown served as chairman of the Remodeling Committee with members of the Lamar Foundation Committee and the pastor, Rev. Weldon McCormick, serving as members of the committee. The remodeling project was completed in April 1968, and Open House was held on Sunday, April 21, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The church became known as First United Methodist Church in April 1968, when the Evangelical United Brethren and the Methodist Church in Dallas joined.

On May 22, 1968, a covered dish dinner honoring the McCormicks was held in Lamar Fellowship Hall immediately following the morning service. This was the last Sunday before the McCormicks moved to their new pastorate at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Midland.

June 9, 1968, members of the official board hosted a reception honoring the new pastor, the Rev. and Mr. Jim T. Pickens, and their children, Larissa Ann and James Mac. The bishop was Alsie H. Carleton.

Pickens served as pastor for about five years, then moved to the Forrest Heights United Methodist Church in Lubbock.

The Rev. and Mrs. Lenol Hester moved to Dimmitt from First Church in Seymour to assume pastoral duties.

An intern program was begun in June 1972, whereby ministerial students came to the local church for one year's training, before completing their senior year at Perkins School of Theology. The first three students were: Larry Altman, Gene Wisdom and Jerry Wyatt.

Rev. Lenol Hester moved to Asbury Church in Lubbock, September 1975 and Rev. Marvin Roark came from Wheeler to serve as pastor. He moved to Amarillo to study for Chaplaincy at Northwest

Texas Hospital. Rev. Howard Quiet, from Quannah, replaced him.

Jim Massey came as choir director and religious education director in 1975 and was followed by Bob Green and Tom Collins, who served as interns.

The kitchen was remodeled, and a choir room, sun room, and the carport were added in August 1976.

History was made by our church when Ruby Moultrie, a negro girl who was teaching in our public schools, became our choir director in 1978. She has been a delightful and inspirational leader of our choir.

In June 1982, Rev. Quiet was sent from Dimmitt to the Methodist Church of Denver City. Rev. Vernon O'Kelly, his wife Jane and their two sons, Ty and Scott, were assigned to Dimmitt's Methodist Church, coming here from Panhandle. Almost a decade has passed since then and the churches of Panhandle and Dimmitt have become very close due to mutual devotion to this family.

Rev. O'Kelly continues to display concern for his fellow man and gives completely of himself for the betterment of the community.

In 1988, O'Kelly was named "Rural Minister of the Year" by the Texas A&M Extension Service.

Jane O'Kelly became Choir Director soon after moving to Dimmitt. Don Nelson, former director, continues to direct the choir in her absence. Jane organized the Ladies' Bell Choir and the Children's Bell Choir, which consists of 3- and 4-year-old children. In addition, she taught a Sunday School class and helped sponsor M.Y.F. She is employed by the Dimmitt High School as English and literature teacher.

In 1983, Danice Wright and Nancy Fuller developed a puppet ministry. In the latter part of 1985, Wright became Curriculum Director for the church.

Local ministers

Wendy Downing served as Intern Minister. She and Jim Birdwell married in May 1986 and were later assigned to a regular station in

Missouri. Connie Nelson, daughter of Don and Verbie Nelson, received her license to preach and was ordained in 1982. She married a Methodist Minister, Larry Daniel at Perkins Chapel of Southern Methodist University.

She is now director of communications for the Northwest Texas Conference.

Kyle Wise, son of Frank and Shirley Wise, surrendered to preach in 1989. He and his family moved to Boston, Mass., where he is studying for the ministry.

The activities sponsored by the committee on Family Ministries are inviting attraction to Sunday night services. The ABC dinners also originated during the last few years.

The church has done much for the youth in our community. 10 to 12 graduates from Dimmitt High School are given scholarships each year, regardless of their race or church belief.

Many children benefit from attending summer camps that are church sponsored.

This ad was taken from the Aug. 10, 1944 edition of *The Castro County News*.

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Revival services at the Hart School in 1922 led to the organization of the Methodist church in Hart on the fourth Sunday of August in 1922.

Charter members included Mrs. Lena Maples, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Jobe, Morris Jobe, Jack Jobe, Mr. and Mrs. Will Rutherford, Miss Eunice Rutherford, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Lust, Miss Lois Branson, Rob Duff, Mrs. Doyle Duff, E.I. McLain, Mr. and Mrs. E.G. Shive, Leroy Shive, and Belton Finney.

A parsonage was built in the winter of 1929, and in the spring of 1930 a church building was erected. In the fall of 1937, the church debt was paid off and the church dedicated. Ground breaking for the new church building was held in May of 1953, with the sanctuary erected that fall. The structure was dedicated in 1955. The front entrance and pastor's study were remodeled in 1979. In 1986, two rooms behind the sanctuary were remodeled.

Pastors through the years have included Rev. E.L. Naugle, Rev. R.R. Gilbreath, Rev. Horace B. Stanley, Rev. A.D. Moore, Rev. R.B. Walden, Rev. A.A. Peacock, Rev. R.I. Hart, Rev. Frank Beachum, Rev. A.C. Jones, Rev. C.P. McMasters, Rev. J.R. Batman, Rev. Loyd Mahew, Rev. Allen Forbes, Rev. Wilton E. Lynn, Rev. F.R. Pickens, Rev. W.C. Williams, Rev. L.L. Braughton, Grover C. Hensley, Rev. R.O. Browder, Rev. E.H. Coston, Rev. S.A. Sifford, Rev. Lyman Wood, Rev. Lee Crouch, Rev. Walter Cartwright, Rev. Elra Phillips, Rev. Douglas Gossett, Rev. Fred Brown, Rev. Thomas Taylor, Rev. Ray Forbes, Rev. Carl Oglesby, Rev. Lannie Wheeler, Rev. E.C. (Buddy) Payne, Rev. Steve Ulrey, and Rev. Perry Hunsaker.

The First United Methodist Church of Hart

Christian Church has first meeting in 1960

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Information for this story was obtained in part from the *Castro County History, Vol. 1.*)

The first services for the First Christian Church in Dimmitt were held Feb. 28, 1960, with 31 present. Late in the fall of 1959, several interested people met in the hospitality room of the First State Bank to discuss the possibility of organizing a Christian Church in Dimmitt.

Then Mildred Sheffy and Thelma Brown went to New Mexico to meet with R.C. Bolton, minister of the First Christian Church of Clovis, and plans were made for him to hold a five-night evangelistic meeting from Nov. 30 to Dec. 4 in the community room of the courthouse. From these services, Bedford Smith, along with his wife, Elsie, was called from Bucklin, Kan., to be this small group's first minister.

Two acres of land were purchased on Southwest Twelfth (now known as Western Circle Drive) and West Grant Streets — the present day location.

A temporary building was obtained from the air base at Clovis, and worship services were held in it for fourteen years. It now functions as the fellowship hall and classrooms since the completion of a large new structure in late 1975.

Of the 31 who attended the first service in 1960, 16 answered the invitation to become members, including four who were immersed.

March 6, 1960 saw 30 present for the first session of the Sunday School.

Early charter members included Dwayne Brown, Marilyn Brown, Thelma Brown, Clinton Fry, Ethel Fry, Othele Fry, Anna Gabel, Clay Gabel, Doris Gabel, George Gabel, Kent Gabel, Tony Gabel, Loranel Hamilton, Bill Kellar, Earlene Kel-

lar, Sandy Parsons, Mildred Sheffy, Bedford Smith and Elsie Smith. The number had increased to 32 resident and three non-resident charter members by the time of the congregation's first anniversary.

By the end of the second year, the congregation was entirely self-supporting and had added a parsonage. The property, including street paving, was dedicated free of indebtedness in 1963, with the aid of a grant from the Mary Bivins Foundation of Amarillo.

Later in 1963, the Smiths moved to Bridge City, where they ministered for 2-1/2 years.

Loren Dickey came as the next minister, along with his wife, Jeanie, and their two sons, moving here from Albuquerque, N.M. In 1966 they moved to Joplin, Mo., and the Smiths returned to minister here again.

Bedford Smith continued as the minister until his retirement in

1971, when Roy L. Barringer was called to serve, beginning Jan. 10, 1971. He and his wife, Wenonah, and their three sons, moved here from Albuquerque.

The Barringers served for 13 years, resigning in 1984.

Terry Griffith was the next to serve, along with his wife, Melissa, and two daughters. A son was born while they were living here.

The present minister, David Kel-

ler, and his family began their ministry here in 1986. The Kellers have three children.

Groundbreaking for the new auditorium and classrooms was held in 1975, and the completed facility was dedicated on Feb. 8, 1976. A church office and a hallway connecting the old and new buildings were added in 1978. Plans are underway for a new educational wing at this time.

The debt on the auditorium was retired with a note-burning ceremony on the congregation's twentieth anniversary, Feb. 24, 1980.

The congregation observed its thirtieth anniversary in February of 1990.

Charter members still remaining with the congregation include Ethel Fry, Doris Gabel, Tony Gabel, and Loranel Hamilton. Elsie Smith recently moved away.

Auxiliary provides 27 years of hospital support

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Information for this story was obtained in part from the *Castro County History, Vol. 1.*)

Originally the Plains Memorial Hospital Auxiliary was the brainchild of Mrs. Raymond Wilson, but it did not take long to interest other members of the Women's Society of Christian Service at the First Methodist Church.

With the new hospital under construction, the women visited the Lockney Auxiliary and decided the same thing could be done in Dimmitt.

The auxiliary was organized in 1964. The first meeting garnered 55 members and saw the beginning of the regular auxiliary activities. These activities included a coffee bar, gift shop, information desk, memorial fund, LVN scholarship, library cart, and errand, mail and tray favor services.

Auxiliary members had managed to put together a total package of services in only two months.

On May 3, 1964, they served as

hostesses and guides at the new hospital's open house.

By the end of the first month, the auxiliary had more than 100 members.

The first fundraiser, Operation Christmas Greeting, raised \$1,000.

The first awards banquet was held in Jan., 1965. Auxiliary members had donated more than 3,000 hours between May and January. In almost 20 years of service, more than 2 million hours have been volunteered.

In the first six years of the auxiliary, the organization estimates it saved the county taxpayers about \$20,000 on hospital equipment. By 1980, the total equipment and patient aids donated by the auxiliary totaled \$54,000.

For the past 10 years, the auxiliary has funded the Castro County Lifeline, an emergency communication service for people who are homebound or live alone. Lifeline is not a fundraiser, but a service the

auxiliary provides, newly elected auxiliary president Mattie Seal said.

Currently, the auxiliary raises funds through dues and the Fall Bazaar.

Although the auxiliary has charge of the gift shop, it makes little money due to the lack of volunteers to keep it staffed, according to Seal.

Last year, the volunteers clocked more than 17,000 service hours and have raised more than \$26,000 for hospital equipment.



The law firm of Burkett and Ross congratulates Castro County and its citizens in its Centennial Year!

The law firm of Burkett and Ross was an outgrowth of the original solo practitioner, Swain Burkett, who established his law practice in Castro County in 1935. Swain maintained a solo general practice of law until 1963, when Jimmy L. Ross became associated with the firm. The law firm of Burkett and Ross was formed as a partnership in the year 1965. The firm continued as a partnership until the year 1975, at which time Swain Burkett became 'of counsel' to the firm, although the firm has retained the name of Burkett and Ross until the present time. Swain remained 'of counsel' to the firm until 1987, at which time he officially retired. Swain died on January 12, 1991. Swain received a certificate from the State Bar of Texas on July 3, 1981, for fifty years service to the State Bar. In 1985 James R. Horton became associated with the firm after having served as an executive officer of The First State Bank of Dimmitt from 1963 to 1985. The firm is now composed of Jimmy L. Ross and James R. Horton as attorneys, and Valeria Davis and Bettye Huckabay as supportive staff. One or more member of the firm through the years has served Castro County in its position as County Attorney and as attorneys for the City of Dimmitt and the Dimmitt Independent School District.

The lawyers and staff of Burkett and Ross thank Castro County for the opportunity of working for its citizens for more than a half-century.

Jimmy L. Ross, James R. Horton, Valeria Davis and Bettye Huckabay



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Cowboy's grave marks first Dimmitt Cemetery

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This story was excerpted from the May 31, 1990 issue of the News.)

By BILLY HACKLEMAN

In 1890, a cowboy named Joe Franks was riding across the prairie when his horse threw him and dragged him to his death. He was buried close to the place where the horse stopped and his body was found.

Later that year, an orphan who worked for J. W. Carter, the first permanent settler in what would become Castro County, died and he was buried near the grave of Joe Franks. His name was Paskil Brakefield.

In 1894, William Johnston, a brother of Mack and Tom Johnston who lived out their lives in the county, died and he was also buried with the other two.

According to Mrs. J. C. (Pearl) Mapes who wrote the history of this cemetery in 1961, these three graves were marked with wooden

stakes and death dates.

When a shepherd met his death by freezing, he became the fourth man to be buried in this cemetery. Driving rain and snow soon obliterated the penciled name and death date on his marker. Had interested citizens not placed cement markers with plates on these early graves, they would have passed out of sight and mind as had the shepherd, and the entombed would have been anonymous forever.

Somewhere in the cemetery a small unmarked grave is the final resting place for a five-year-old boy who was run over by a wagon in a caravan bound for New Mexico. For many years his grief-stricken mother returned to visit his grave. Mrs. Mapes and others remember her sad vigil.

According to Mrs. Mapes, burials in those days were simple, but meaningful. Black material covered the hand-made caskets. Friends sometimes spent the entire night

digging a grave in the unyielding earth, only to have to cover it in the morning to wait out a driving rain storm.

Undertakers were yet to come, and friends gently dressed the deceased in their burial blacks. The hearse was a horse-drawn wagon and the best hand-made quilt usually encased the coffin. Carriages, buggies, sometimes people afoot, and finally a rear guard of horseback riders moved out in a slow procession toward the cemetery.

For the immediate survivors, cane-bottomed chairs were placed in a circle around the open grave. No floral offerings graced the raw earth.

After the casket was lowered into place, every man took his turn with the shovel until the grave was mounded and man, woman and child stayed until the last bit of earth was firmly in place. Afterward, it was the custom to visit the other graves, and the ones needing attention were cared for on the spot.



BOBBY JONES (left) and C.J. Johnson unveil the new monument denoting the old Flagg Cemetery in May 1988. Jones's father, Ernest Jones, was one of the cemetery's directors, and Johnson's grandfather, J.A. "Arch" Johnson, was the longtime land

agent for the Herring Estate, the original Flagg Ranch property. Jones and Johnson both attended the old Flagg School, a mile west of the cemetery, when they were boys.

Photo by Don Nelson

FLAGG CEMETERY
 BOYD F. BRATCHER
 SEPT. 23 1905 - NOV. 18 1927
 MASON C. BRATCHER
 MARCH 28 1910 - MARCH 18 1929
 PATRICIA JO FLOYD
 NOV. 28 1928 - FEB. 22 1930
 INFANT GIRL SIMPSON
 MARCH 8 1930 - MARCH 9 1930
 FLOYD W. MCGEE, JR.
 AUG. 9 1931
 LEWIS C. CHADDICK
 NOV. 7 1859 - APRIL 28 1932
 INFANT BOY STRAWN
 1934
 MR. DAVIS
 (DATES UNKNOWN)

Hart Cemetery becomes reality in 1945

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Information for this story was obtained in part from the *Castro County History, Vol. 1 and Hart Cemetery Up Dated June 1, 1986.*)

Although Nina Hart Jones was the first person buried in the new cemetery in 1945, the earliest grave in Hart Cemetery is marked 1906.

The result of a community effort spurred on by the realities of World War II, Hart Cemetery itself became a reality in 1945.

Many Hart residents disinterred loved ones in Tulia, Olton and other nearby communities to bring them back home after the creation of Hart Cemetery in 1945, accord-

ing to Marguerite McLain.

With citizen contributions, the newly formed Hart Cemetery Association purchased three acres for the cemetery from Homer Hill in 1944. Hill donated the fourth acre.

In 1946, a windmill was erected, and in 1959, city water was provi-

ded to the cemetery. The road was paved that same year.

An annual Christmas Card project, where citizens make donations to the cemetery rather than sending Christmas cards, helps raise maintenance funds for the cemetery.

A little time on earth he spent 'til God for him, his angel sent.

- Epitaph, Nazareth Cemetery

"Because I could not stop for death," by Emily Dickinson.

- Epitaph, West Lawn Memorial Park

A life that touched the hearts of so many goes on forever.

- Epitaph, Holy Family Cemetery

"Happy trails."

- Epitaph, Hart Cemetery

Reisdorff responsible for Nazareth Cemetery

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Information for this story was obtained in part from the *Nazareth Cemetery Book, 1902-1987 and Castro County, Texas Cemetery Surveys.*)

Although the official opening of Nazareth Cemetery was in 1906, Father Joseph Reisdorff designated the northwest corner of the original Holy Family Parish plat for a cemetery in 1902.

Adults were buried on the north side of the cemetery, and children were allocated the south section. Wooden crosses marked the early graves.

By the 1940s, adjoining Blocks 3 and 4 had been added to the cemetery, and stone markers had replaced the wooden crosses. During the 40s, other improvements were made to the cemetery, including a new arch at the entrance, a new

stone crucifixion group and evergreen trees.

No new sections were added to the cemetery until 1985. A Christmas Card fundraising project provided maintenance and replaced the small donations from each family that had supported the cemetery in the past.

A number of families have four or five generations of their relatives buried in Nazareth Cemetery.

Dimmitt Cemetery renamed in '55

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Information for this story was obtained from the *Castro County History, Vol. 1 and the May 31, 1990 issue of the News.*)

A cowboy died as his horse dragged him across the prairie in 1890. He was buried where they found him.

Dimmitt Cemetery, the oldest cemetery in Castro County, grew up around the cowboy's grave. Other people were buried near the cowboy, and in 1903, J. W. Alexander made the cemetery official when he purchased the five-acre plot expressly for that purpose.

Another five and a half acres were added to the cemetery between 1931 and 1945. Less than ten years later the cemetery was incorporated and given the name Castro Memorial Gardens.

In 1955, the new board of directors created a perpetual-care fund. The first project was laying a four-inch water line from Dimmitt to the cemetery. As of 1986, the fund exceeded \$70,000.

Castro Memorial Gardens celebrated its centennial in 1990. Through the efforts of concerned citizens, cement and metal markers replaced the early and nearly illegible grave markers. Despite these efforts in marking the earliest graves, some 40 to 50 graves of infants and unknown individuals remain unmarked and unknown.



MONTEMAYOR FAMILY — This elaborate tombstone marks a family gravesite at the Hart Cemetery. Photo by Kathleen Latham

West Lawn Cemetery organized in 1967

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Information for this story was obtained in part from the *Castro County History, Vol. 1.*)

West Lawn Cemetery is the newest cemetery in Castro County with its earliest marked grave dated 1955.

Originally incorporated as Castro County Memorial Gardens in 1967, the name changed to West Lawn Cemetery later that year.

The perpetual-care cemetery got off to a rocky financial start. Lack of sales, road repairs and inadequate irrigation were cited as the

reasons for its financial problems. In the mid-70s, local people bought the cemetery, and it became a non-profit organization. The debts were cleared, and an adequate water supply was obtained.

Today, West Lawn Cemetery gains additional support from donations through annual fees and occasional plot sales.

According to board member Oleta Raper, unmarked graves predating 1955 have been surveyed in the southeast corner of the cemetery, but nothing more is known about these graves.



WOODEN CROSSES—mark some of the graves during the 1930s at the Nazareth Cemetery. Later, stone markers replaced the wooden crosses. Courtesy photo

Who catches joy as it flies, inherits eternity's sunrise.

- Epitaph, West Lawn Memorial Park

Murdered by Tom Stuart.

- Epitaph, Castro Memorial Gardens

Killed by horse.

- Epitaph, Castro Memorial Gardens

"Because I could not stop for death," by Emily Dickinson.

- Epitaph, West Lawn Memorial Park

A life that touched the hearts of so many goes on forever

- Epitaph, Holy Family Cemetery

A little time on earth he spent 'til God for him, his angel sent.

- Epitaph, Holy Family Cemetery

"Jamming with the angels."

- Epitaph, Hart Cemetery



Our Philosophy:

"Professional Excellence"

BEGINNINGS

Brown, Graham & Company, P.C. was established in 1955 by Howard and Robert Brown, Wilmer Graham and Arthur Glover, who formed a partnership and purchased an existing public accounting practice in Hereford. The Amarillo office was opened in 1957, the first of several expansion moves that have occurred over the years. As the area's business sector has grown and prospered in the ensuing years, so has Brown, Graham & Company, P.C., adding more offices and taking on new partners as opportunities have occurred. As the company has grown, so has its good reputation, contributing further to the increase in clientele. In 1982 the partners formed a Professional Corporation and became shareholder-principals.

TODAY

There are now 17 shareholder-principals in Brown, Graham & Company, P.C., plus a personnel force of 70 employees, including 35 accountants and 40 support people. The company operates from 11 offices located in Amarillo, Hereford, Tulia, Friona, Spearman, Canyon, Dimmitt, Shamrock, Perryton, Georgetown, and Pampa. The company is thoroughly up-to-date in its operations, utilizing all the time and cost-saving advantages afforded by electronic data processing and word processing equipment.

PHILOSOPHY—COMMITMENT

Brown, Graham & Company, P.C. strives to achieve professional excellence by challenging its staff accountants to become competent in as many areas as possible. Brown, Graham & Company, P.C. adheres rigidly to quality control procedures to insure its absolute independence and unquestionable fairness.

Each of our principals and professional employees is required to complete 40 hours per year of ongoing professional training. Additionally, the company conducts seminars for its clients, to keep them abreast of the latest accounting and tax computation procedures and regulations.

The principals of Brown, Graham & Company, P.C. recognize an obligation to contribute to the community—both civic and professional—in which the company does business. Principals and employees are encouraged to participate in professional, civic, charitable, business and social organizations in their communities.

SERVICES

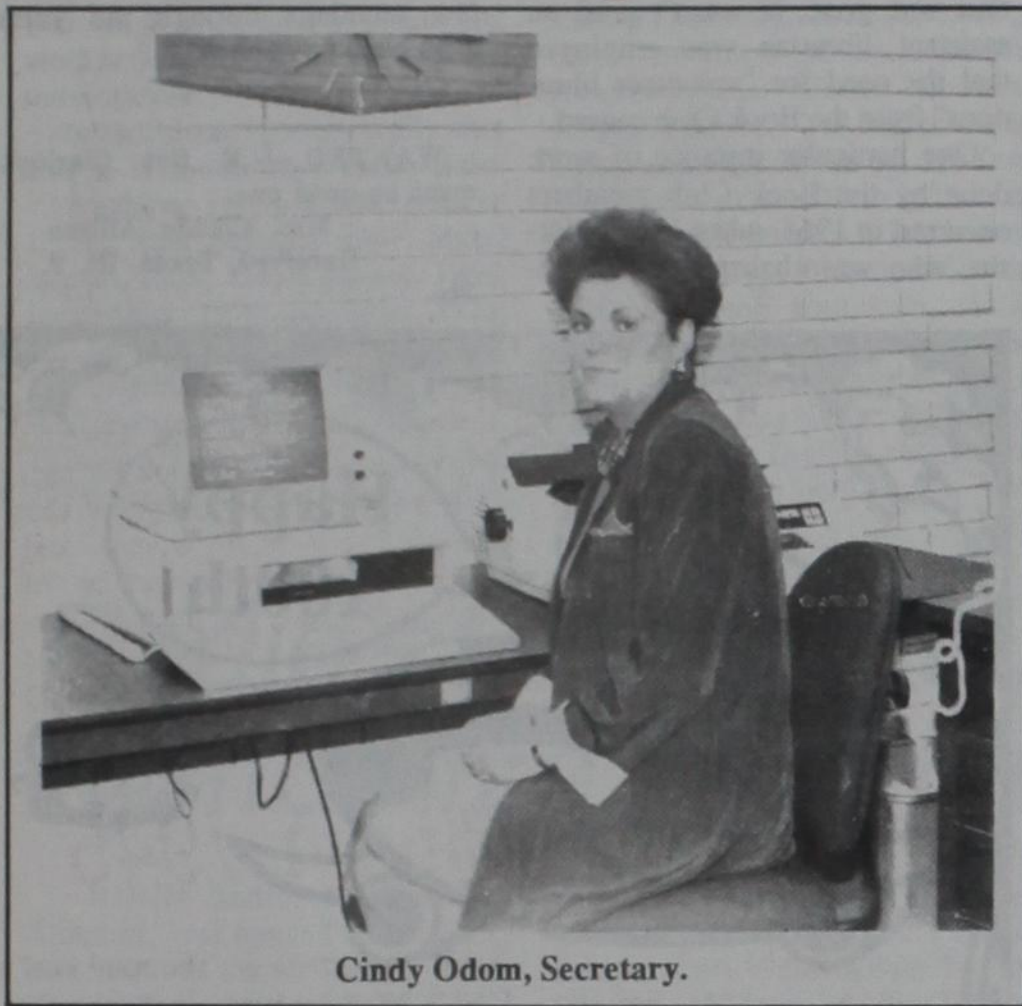
Brown, Graham & Company, P.C. serves its clients in four principal management and financial areas: Auditing, Tax Advice, Accounting and Management Advice.

Because of the company's size and the diverse experience and expertise of its principals, Brown, Graham & Company, P.C. can quickly summon whatever resources might be needed on any given project.

In 1973 Brown, Graham & Co, P.C. purchased an income tax practice in Dimmitt. This office has grown to serve over 350 clients. We're proud of our beginnings, accomplishments and service. We look forward to the future progress of our company and this, our county.



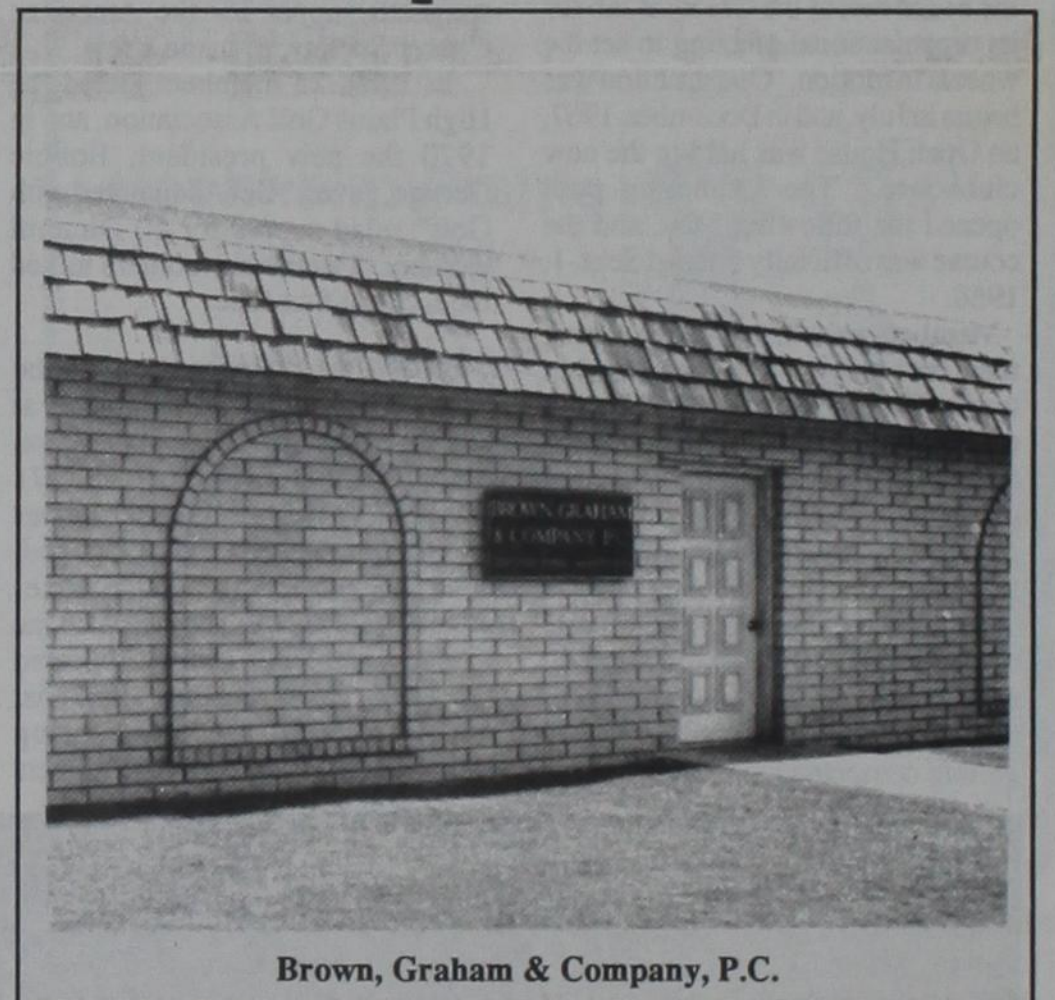
Henry Ramaekers, CPA; Shareholder/Manager.



Cindy Odom, Secretary.



Kimberly Birkenfeld, CPA.



Brown, Graham & Company, P.C.

We are proud to be a part of Castro County, celebrating its 100th anniversary!



BROWN, GRAHAM & COMPANY

PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

308 W. Bedford, Dimmitt

647-3136



GOING OVER THE MINUTES — These men study minutes from the first Castro County Recreation Board of Directors meeting. Pictured from left are Sam Albracht, James Wohlgenuth, who was the charter president; and Bill Glenn, current

golf pro. The Castro County Recreation Association was organized in 1960 and features a golf course, swimming pool and club facilities.

Photo by Freda McVay

Swimming pool and golf course featured as CCRA opens in 1960

Thanks to the determination of a few dedicated golfers, and a \$280,000 loan from the Farmers Home Administration, the Castro County Recreation Association became a reality in the late 1960s, complete with golf course, swimming pool and clubhouse.

The first chairman of the board, Dr. James Wohlgenuth, recalls that the biggest problem was "finding enough land," but that they became aware of a government program through the FmHA that was providing loans for many of the smaller towns to build recreational facilities.

An organizational meeting of the CCRA was set for Feb. 16, 1967, in the Dimmitt High School auditorium. Those attending approved a set of by-laws and elected a permanent board of directors which included Wohlgenuth, Gilbert Schulte, Sam Gilbreath, Gerald Harden, Jack Miller, M. E. Cleavinger and Dewayne Brown.

Less than a week later, on Feb. 22, the board met at the Colonial Inn for its organizational meeting to set the wheels in motion. Construction was begun in July, and in December, 1967, an Open House was held in the new clubhouse. The swimming pool opened the following May, and the course was officially opened Sept. 1, 1968.

Members wasted no time in setting their first tournament, a partnership toumey later that month. Doc Render and Mrs. Ole Mae Trimble tied for first place with the mother-son combination of Mrs. Dugan Butler and Jim Butler at the first-ever tournament of the CCRA.

According to newspaper reports the next day, "Cold weather and 40 mph winds cut the tournament to nine holes, but 32 heavily bundled golfers competed."

Also in 1968, the Ladies Golf Association became a reality, and Mrs. Trimble was elected as its first president. Other officers were Dorothy Mayfield, vice president, and Ruth Jackson, secretary-treasurer. The group met for play in Hereford until their own course was ready.

The LGA was active from the beginning in all aspects of the newly built club. They helped with planning the decor of the clubhouse, and joined with the Dimmitt Garden Club to landscape the front of the building. They also were responsible for the building of a restroom on #6. Over the years they have raised money for an aerifier for the greens, to buy trees for the course, and many other club improvements.

The LGA has also given time and money to other community organizations, including the Lions Club project for junior baseball parks, the Boy Scouts and Campfire Girls for the Dimmitt Scout Hut, and a spaghetti supper for the American Cancer Society, to name a few.

In 1969, 25 members joined the High Plains Golf Association, and in 1970 the new president, Bobbie George, gave a "Get Acquainted with Golf" salad supper for 40 Dimmitt women. Twelve newcomers joined the LGA at that time.

In 1970 Mrs. George became the first woman to get a hole-in-one at the new course. She went on to become City Champion in both 1971 and 1972. In the early days the names of Trimble, George, Polly Holland, Amy Glover, Ann Touchstone, Bernice Hill, Kathy Thomas, Maxine Childers and Neva Hickey appeared repeatedly in scrapbook clippings; and the LGA began hosting tournaments such as the "Flubbers

and Dubbers," and the annual Grandma Tournament, begun in 1974.

Meanwhile, the CCRA board continued to direct the activities of the club as a whole. At the annual meeting in 1969, the new directors were Truman Touchstone, James Bradford, Cliff Cook, B. H. Lee, Bill Gregory, Joe Carver and Jack R. Miller.

The original club pro, Gidd Faircloth, resigned in 1969, and Doc Render was appointed interim until Bud Poasey was hired May 1. Poasey quickly organized the first annual Memorial Day Tourney for later that month.

Other pros who have served the club over the years are Lee Olsen, Al Forrester, Larry Kaplan, Joe Ziegler, Tommy Weaver, Bob Lindsey, Sterling Sasser and Cliff Cook.

The current pro, Bill Glenn, first moved to Dimmitt in 1970, and served as club pro from December, 1973 to 1977. He moved to Dumas, but returned to Dimmitt to become club pro for the second time in February, 1991.

Members of the 1991 CCRA board of directors are Jerry Watts, president, and Jim Long, Truman Touchstone, Jerry Heller, Terry Widick and Don Cornett.

Officers of the Ladies Golf Association are Jo Beth Bates, president; Patti Summers, vice president; Delores Baldrige, secretary-treasurer; and Betty McClure, reporter.

By 1991, annually scheduled tournaments included the two-day Neva Hickey Classic in April, the two-day Dimmitt Darlins Tournament in June; the two-day Doc Render Memorial Tournament in July; and the two-day Dandies & Darlins Tournament in August.



JO BETH BATES (left), current president of the Ladies' Golf Association; **Bobbie George** and **Delores Baldrige** look over a scrapbook with the Castro County Recreation Association history. The

country club, which features club facilities, a swimming pool and golf course, was organized in 1960.

Photo by Freda McVay

Book Club was started to help organize library

The Dimmitt Book Club was organized in 1939 by a group of women who were interested in having a good public library in the county.

They met at the home of Margaret Wilson.

The purpose of the club was to sponsor and promote a public library and the members worked diligently collecting books from many sources in order to build up the library.

Each member took turns keeping the library open four days a week, because they didn't have a paid librarian then.

The club met on the second Friday of each month and each member was required to give one book review and donate one book to the library each year at the time of her review. The donation of a book constituted yearly dues payable by each member.

The number of active members couldn't exceed 19, and when a vacancy occurred, a new member was chosen from a waiting list of names nominated by members. In later years, the number was increased to 24, then to 30 members. The meeting day was changed to the second Wednesday of the month and those rules remain the same today.

Mrs. Goodwin Miller and Mrs. W.E. Kirkpatrick were chosen to meet with the county commissioners to ask that the county support the library. They voted to provide \$10 per month for an indefinite time and to seek Works Projects Administration Funds to help pay for a librarian.

At the same time, a Library Committee was appointed. It included Mrs. Jack Miller, Mrs. Goodwin Miller, Mrs. W.E. Kirkpatrick, Mrs. Ozro Stephens and Mrs. Ray Cowsert, all members of the Book Club. The committee was to serve as advisers to the commissioners, and was instructed to keep the county informed of the progress and needs of the library while acting as a liaison between the library and the public. The committee solicited help to get suitable books and other materials for the library.

This committee later became the Castro County Library Board of Trustees, with members appointed by the commissioners. The appointed members were selected from across the county and those selected were interested in the well being of the library—they weren't just members of the Book Club.

The Book Club sponsored vari-

ous kinds of "Donate a Book" drives and fund raising activities, and the main social event for fund raising was a "Silver Tea" in November of each year. The proceeds from the tea go to benefit the library.

Another tradition started in 1941, when the club voted to have an annual spring luncheon. The first luncheon was held in May at the home of Mrs. Noel Gollehon. It was a covered dish affair and Mrs. Goodwin Miller reviewed the book, *Mountain Meadow*.

For several years, the members gave their own book reviews, but later some members had out-of-town guest reviewers. These guest reviewers attracted added interest to the club, and visitors were invited.

Even after a librarian was employed, there were many times during the year when members of the Book Club would be called upon to keep the library open if the librarian was gone. It wasn't until an assistant librarian was employed that the need for "volunteer librarians" from the Book Club ceased.

One particular instance of work done by the Book Club members occurred in 1965, when Hazel Merritt, who was chairman of the Li-

brary Board, as well as a member asked for volunteers to help catalogue the material in the library.

Mrs. Tyline Perry, a land owner in the area, gave a large endowment for a new library to be built in 1973 and her portrait now hangs in a prominent place in the library.

The new library was named Rhoads Memorial Library in honor of Mrs. Perry's grandparents. The Book Club raised money for the card catalog cabinets and also furnished money for dishes and flatware which are used in the meeting room.

Then about two years later, the need arose for more catalog space to organize files for children's books, so the Book Club purchased another cabinet.

The Book Club has always been dear to the hearts of its members, and although many have lived in the country, they usually get to meetings despite bad roads, rain, snow, sleet or blowing sand. Very few meetings through the years have been postponed.

WANTED — E flat Clarinet, must be good one.

Mrs. Claude Allison
Hereford, Texas, Rt. 2.
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This ad ran in the Sept. 5, 1955 edition of *The Castro County News*.

H. C. (Atticus) Webb
—SPECIAL AGENT FOR—
The Lamar Life Insurance Co.
Jackson, Mississippi
"Buy From Webb and Live Always"



Chamber goals remain despite name change

The Dimmitt Chamber of Commerce was originally chartered as the Castro County Chamber of Commerce July 22, 1947. The name change came in 1974. It was organized for, and remains today a volunteer organization of Dimmitt citizens who are investing in a community development program—trying to improve the agricultural, industrial and civic well being of the community.

Through the years it has been housed in several locations: City Hall at 218 E. Bedford, the second floor of the courthouse, City Hall at 201 E. Jones (1977-1983), and finally in November, 1983, the present office building at 115 W. Bedford. The purchase of the building was a giant progressive step for the Dimmitt Chamber, making a statement of permanence for the organization.

Each year since its inception, the Chamber has sponsored an annual banquet. In 1963 the Outstanding Citizen award was established. The first award was presented to Bob McLean because of his outstanding work in industrial, civic and business development.

The award was given annually after that to Wes Anthony, 1964; Helen Richardson, 1965; B. M. Nelson, 1966; Paul Hilburn, 1967; Hazel Merritt, 1968; Goose Ramey, 1969; Jack Miller, 1970; Jim Elder, 1971; Edd McLeroy, 1972; Myrtle Sheffy, 1973; Donald and Katy Wright, 1974; Walt Hansen, 1975; Bill Behrends, 1976; Jack Edwards, 1977; Carl King, 1978; Jerry Marvin Hanners, 1979;

Ronnie Parker, 1980; Laverne Bates, 1981; Bob Murdock, 1982; Dorothy Hopson, 1983; Joe Higgs, 1984; Stanley Schaeffer, 1985; George and Carolyn Sides, 1986; Deanne Clark, 1987; Vernon O'Kelly, 1988; Clara Vick, 1989; and Wayne Collins, 1990.

In 1978 the chamber board felt the citizen award system should be expanded by giving two other awards, "Citizen through the Years," and "Teacher of the Year." Recipients of the Citizen through the Years award, established to honor individuals who continue to work for many years for the good of Dimmitt, have been Bob McLean, 1978; Ray Robertson, 1979; Ettie McDermitt, 1980; Koma Ratcliff, 1981; Ralph Lambright, 1982; Teeny Bowden, 1983; Helen Richardson, 1984; B. M. Nelson, 1985; Joe Cowen, 1986; Bill Sava, 1987; Walt Hansen, 1988; George Bagwell, 1989; and Kenneth Cleveland, 1990.

The chamber also believe that teachers have a great responsibility that is not just a job but a full-life commitment to educate Dimmitt young people. To honor that commitment, Teacher of the Year has been awarded to Mary Jo Brown, 1978; J'Lyn Ryan and Dwight Joiner, 1979; Paul Fry, 1980; Avis Smith, 1981; Loranell Hamilton, 1982; Gainell Minnick, 1983; Nancy Greer, 1984; Sue Broderson, 1985; Charles Cotter, 1986; Kay Kellar, 1987; Jane O'Kelly, 1988; Diane Axtell, 1989; and Linda Koch, 1990.

A permanent plaque is displayed at the Dimmitt Chamber office with the names of all three award honorees, and another plaque displays the names of all chamber presidents. Presidents who were elected and have served are as follows:

1948, A. C. Hays Jr.; 1949, Bob McLean; 1950, Joe Cowen; 1951, B. M. Nelson; 1952, H. H. Carlile; 1953, J. W. Benson; 1954, R. E. Hendrix; 1955, T. E. Harrison; 1956, Earl Brock; 1957, Russell Moran; 1958, Dexter McGaughey; 1959, W. E. Kirkpatrick; 1960, Steve Taylor; 1961, J. R. Brown; 1962, J. E. Wohlgemuth; 1963, J. G. Davis; 1964, Allan Webb; 1965, Jack Miller; 1966, C. W. Anthony; 1967, W. F. Bennett; 1968, J. D. Blackburn; 1969, Jimmy Ross; 1970, Bo Bryant; 1971, Reeford Burrous; 1972, David Bechtol; 1973, Bill Behrends; 1974, M. J. Reed; 1974-75, Bob Caddell; 1976, Jack Edwards; 1977, Walt Hansen; 1978-79; Gerald Hanners; 1980, Maxine Childers; 1981, Joe Josselet; 1982-83, Jim Killingsworth; 1984, George Sides; 1985-86, Gene King; 1987-88, Doug Pybus; 1989-90, Garland Coleman; and 1991, Danny Rice.

The goals and projects of the chamber are carried out by volunteers. Through the years there became a need for a paid office staff person. The chamber has employed B. M. Nelson, Eddie Coltharp, Elvon Devaney, Dorothy Magness, Shirley Hall and Delores Heller in the

capacity of manager/executive director. In 1990, a citizen of the decade award was given to Delores Heller, 1979-1989. The award will be given every ten years.

1990 finds the Dimmitt Chamber 213 members strong. They continue

to pursue the goals of their original founding, with added emphasis to economic development. The chamber works closely with the City of Dimmitt on various projects, and was instrumental in establishing the Castro County Economic Development Commission. Gerald Hanners laid the groundwork for this entity in 1984 and 1985.

Since the last history book writing, the chamber has hosted the wagon train for the Texas Sesquicentennial Birthday. The community celebration of Harvest Days, held each August, continues to grow. Most significantly, during the 1991 year, Dimmitt and Castro County's 100th birthday is a priority item. The chamber believes this 100-year observance is both exciting and historical for all—"truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

The goals and projects of the Chamber are carried out by volunteers, but as the Chamber grew there came the need for paid office staff persons. Through the years the Chamber has employed Glenn Youts, John McFarland, Bob Curtin, B. M. Nelson, Eddie Coltharp, Elvon Devaney, Dorothy Magness, Shirley Hall and Delores Heller in the capacity of manager/executive director. In 1990, a citizen of the decade award was given to Delores Heller, 1979-1989. This award will be given every 10 years.

The Chamber originally operated on a budget received entirely from membership dues, \$5 a month for individuals, and \$5 plus \$1 for each full time employee for business memberships. In January, 1976, the Occupancy Tax Fund was made available for new revenue. Hotels and motels pay three % of local taxable receipts. This money is used only for projects which improve and benefit the town of Dimmitt.

Some of these projects are annual events, such as decorating the town for Christmas, including lighting the Courthouse and putting up street decorations. Activities during the County Fair Week in September also are provided through this tax fund.

Joe Cowen, the oldest former president of the chamber still living, described the early days of work with the chamber as requiring a lot of traveling in order to obtain things for the community.

"In those days the Chamber of Commerce and the Lions Club were about the same organization," Cowen said. "Seems like everyone who was a member of one was a member of the other."

Cowen remembered chamber members working on getting a swimming pool by the high school, and getting the hospital. He credits B.M. Nelson as being the "sparkplug" for that project. After World War II interfered with

the Old Settlers reunion for several years, Cowen said, he felt it was part of his job as president to get it started again.

"I got a guy to donate two 100-lb. sacks of pinto beans, then we got a bunch of posts from the railroad track to use as wood for the barbecue pit," Cowen said. "We stayed up all night at the pit doing the barbecue."

It took a lot of "leg work", Cowen said, but the Old Settlers reunion was renewed.

This year's program of work includes industrial development; working with retail merchants, tourism and public relations; beautification; special events such as

Harvest Days, July 4 Fireworks Display and Christmas decorating; organizational activities; the youth committee; education and government affairs; and the task force for Windowrama, to make vacant buildings look more attractive.

1991 finds the Dimmitt Chamber with more than 200 members, continuing to pursue the original goals of the founders, with added emphasis on economic development. The Chamber works closely with the City of Dimmitt on various projects, and was instrumental in establishing the Castro County Economic Development Commission. Gerald Hanners laid the groundwork for this entity in 1984 and 1985.

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Radio station's call letters symbolize commitment

KDHN Radio, 1470 AM in Dimmitt, was opened for business and went on the air Dec. 5, 1963. Originally the station was owned by Steve Taylor. Johnnie Lynn, known as "Uncle Jay," was general manager.

The KDHN call letters were taken from the three towns in Castro County, Dimmitt, Hart and Nazareth. Current owner Wayne Collins says the call letters demonstrate from the very beginning the commitment to serve all the citizens of Castro County.

The next owner of KDHN was

Dimmitt resident Gerald Hanners, who sold the station Dec. 22, 1981, to Johnnie Cain. Cain sold the station Dec. 14, 1984, to Mayor Collins, who now owns and operates the station with a staff of two full-time and four parttime employees.

The format is basically country and western, with hymn times and Spanish language programming which has been aired since the station began. An "oldies" program was started by Terry Todd in 1990.

The 500-watt station is on the air from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., but Collins

says that KDHN has received authority from the FCC to stay on 24 hours a day when they are ready for it.

"We can stay on later than 8 p.m. now if there is severe weather or any kind of emergency," Collins says.

The directional station can be heard as far west as Portales and other areas of Eastern New Mexico, and as far east as 15 miles east of Tulia.

KDHN's network affiliations include the Texas State Network, Dallas Cowboys, and Voice of Southwest Agriculture.

Volunteers start first fire departments

(Editor's note: the following information came in part from articles printed in the *News*, and from *The Holy Family Parish, the first 75 years*).

With the completion, in early June of 1930, of the city pump station, Dimmitt secured its first organized fire department.

The 26x40-foot brick building, which faced east on 5th Street, housed the fire truck, the city water pump, and a supply and repair department for the municipal water

system. It also provided sleeping space for two firemen.

About two months later, a shrill sound pierced the every-day lull in Dimmitt when the fire siren sounded for the first time — a trial run for the newly-wired apparatus.

However, the next blast signaled an actual fire.

On Aug. 4, 1930, a large car caught fire, but seems the firefighters were well on the way before the siren sounded.

A month later, two crews and officers were elected to the new organization.

First Crew
Truck Drivers—C.B. Nabors; and assistants, C.O. Wright, Dock Dunlap and Bill Easter.

Hose Men—Bob Allen, Hez Wright, Chas. Miller, Roy Brown, Ladder men—L.D. Parker and Thos. F. Bice

Plug Men—Dock Dunlap and Bill Easter.

Second Crew
Hose Men—Andrew Elder, Chas Hastings, S. Cruse, Goodwin Miller

Ladder Men—Chas. Wilson and Ray Sheffy
Plug Men—Wade Dent and Ray Cowser

Officers
Fire Chief: J.C. Stringer
Assistant: Ernest Medkief
Secretary/Treasurer: T.F. Bice
Fire Marshall: Geo. Barnett

After years of supporting the Dimmitt Fire Department, volunteers in Nazareth formed their own department.

A 1958 *News* article mentioned the "new" fire department, but other records list April 1961 as the department's organization date. Carl Dean Kleman was elected the first fire chief; Cecil Hoelting was elected secretary-treasurer.


The Hart Fire Department's beginnings are somewhat sketchy.

A 1954 *News* article mentioned a fire at Hart Grain to which the Dimmitt and Olton fire departments responded.

Then, another *News* article in 1958 mentioned the Hart Fire Department responding to a fire at the Hart elevator.

"There's been one (fire department) here as long as I've been here," said Joe Bailey, Hart Mayor, who said he's lived in Hart for 32 years.

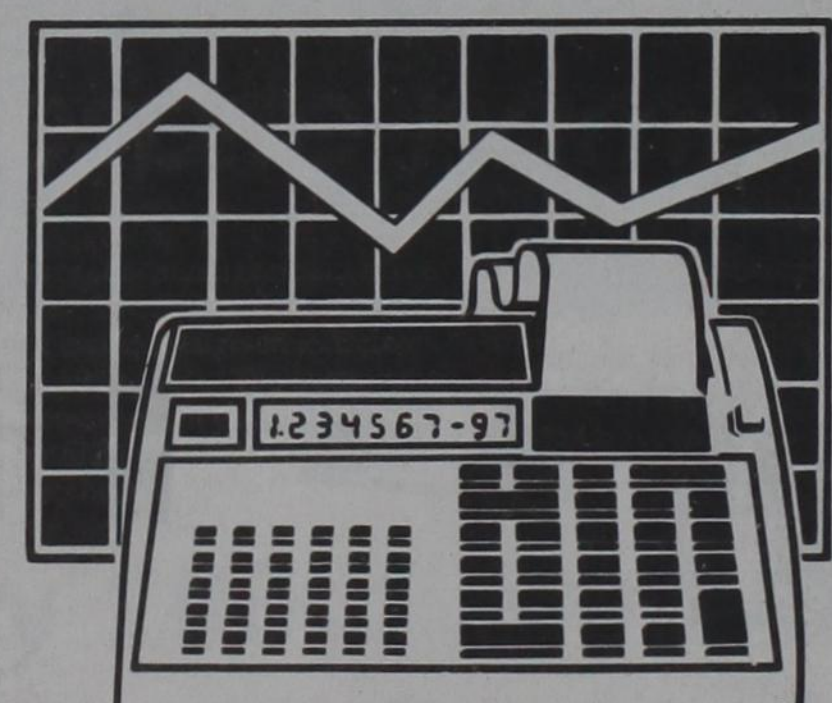
The departments have grown from meager beginnings — each fire department started with one fire truck — to form a combined county-wide protection system with more than 10 units and 50 volunteers.



My family, staff and I have enjoyed working with the citizens of Castro County the last 10 years.

Congratulations on your Anniversary!

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Sandra Lewis and Beth Cook



Plains Memorial Hospital has 'clean bill of health'



HOSPITAL BARRACKS—This building housed the first Plains Memorial Hospital in 1964. It was made from the old hospital barracks building which was at the Hereford Prisoner of War Camp in Castro County. *File Photo*

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Information for this story was obtained in part from the *Castro County History, Vol. 1*, and the Aug. 27, 1987 and May 24, 1990 issues of the *News*.)

Plains Memorial Hospital has faced the same challenges that have closed down other rural hospitals throughout Texas, and won.

Overcoming economic problems that have plagued it throughout the years, PMH was given a clean bill of health in 1990.

Since its inception as a private hospital in 1933, PMH has risen time and again to the need of Castro County citizens, despite these financial problems.

Shortly after the hospital was established by Dr. Mayes Miller on the second floor of the old First State Bank Building, Dr. R. E. Cogswell joined Miller as an associate. Cogswell bought out Miller's interest in the hospital in early 1945.

That spring, a group of men formed a board to establish a non-profit cooperative hospital in Dimmitt. By December, they had purchased the Cogswell Hospital. The hospital was renamed Plains Memorial Hospital.

In 1946, the cooperative bought new buildings for the hospital from the POW camp in Hereford. These buildings were relocated on lots 1-17 in block 2 of the Wanona addition in 1947.

The cooperative hospital became a county hospital in 1953 after a bond issue passed by a narrow margin, and its name was changed briefly to Castro County Hospital.

In 1960, a bond issue provided \$225,000 to construct a new building. However, to qualify for federal matching Hill-Burton funds for the construction, Castro County had to form its own hospital district separate from its then three-county district.

It took two more years and an amendment to the Texas Constitution for Castro County to get its own hospital district. Voters from around the state gave their approval to the formation of the Castro County Hospital District on Jan. 12, 1963.

The new hospital was finished a little over a year later complete with the most modern equipment.

A \$135,000 bond issue in 1968 allowed for the addition of a new 20-bed wing and an LVN classroom to the hospital which was completed in 1970. A flu outbreak in 1972 proved the necessity of the new wing. Of the 48 beds in the hospital, only two remained unoccupied.

The last of the hospital bonds were scheduled to be paid off by 1980.

In addition to new medicines and technologies for saving lives, modern medicine included the complications of insurance, Medicare, Medicaid and indigent health care. As a result of these and other financial considerations, the Castro County Hospital District Board was forced in 1987 to increase its tax rate by 239.48%, from 10.65 cents per \$100 assessed valuation to 35 cents.

Hospital administrator Joe Stevens took over the position just before the tax increase in 1987. Under his direction, the hospital's financial condition had stabilized by 1990.

Stevens credits the cooperation of the staff, the doctors, the larger hospitals' support, and, most of all, the people of Castro County for PMH's survival.



LVN training school once supplied county with nurses

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Information for this story was obtained in part from the *Castro County History, Vol. 1*.)

By KATHLEEN LATHAM

The vocational nurse program at Plains Memorial Hospital in Dimmitt has supplied more than 90% of the nurses for the hospital, nursing home and doctors' offices over the years, according to A'llan Bradley, Director of Nursing at Plains Memorial Hospital.

"Without the LVN program training local women who would stay here to work, we would not have been able to staff the hospital or meet the needs of the nursing home and local doctors," Bradley said. "Plains Memorial Hospital has supplied the county with nurses."

More than 100 nurses were trained under the vocational nurse program over the years. The vocational nursing school was a 12-

month program for the students. After they finished the program, they still had to pass the state exam to become a licensed vocational nurse, Bradley said.

Plains Memorial Hospital first sponsored the LVN training program in 1966. PMH was a tax-based entity supported under the county hospital district which paid for the school with the help of students' tuition.

Four students were graduated from the first class: Leola Rials, Refugio Nino, Kay Sharon Freeman, and Rosalee (Neal) Gallagher. Nino still works at the nursing home.

PMH owned and operated the school until the 1981-82 school year. The school was closed that year and reopened for the 1982-83 school year under the control of Amarillo College's Vocational School of Nursing. The program was known as the Dimmitt Extension.

The program under Amarillo College continued through the 1986-87 school year before it was discontinued.

"There were two reasons why the school closed," Bradley said. "There was not enough demand to make the program financially stable, and they needed a minimum of eight students, and only four or five would sign up."

There are no immediate plans to restart the school, Bradley said.

"If there was a need and it could be financially stable enough, it might start up again," Bradley said.

Bradley cautioned that it would be costly to start up the program, perhaps as high as \$30-\$40,000.

The first teacher was Mary Baldrige who taught until 1969. Other teachers over the years included: Kathy Lyndley, Marian Lee, A'llan Bradley, Mitzie Brockman and Barbara Keel.

Congratulations to Castro County on your 100th year!

When you're ready to slow down and relax after all the celebrating, REMEMBER US!

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From left: Gilbert Rincon, Joe Woetovech, Leticia Carraco and Bobby Reed.

The Harris Lumber Co. was founded by A. J. Harris and his wife, Willie Maude Teurman Harris.

In the early days, lumber companies followed the laying of railroads to the growing towns along the line. Mr. Harris had worked for the Burton-Lingo Lumber Co. along the Katy Railroad lines, and helped build the first lumber sheds for the Fulton Lumber Co. when the Santa Fe Railroad extended its line from Canyon to Plainview in 1906.

After managing the Rockwell Brothers & Co. lumber yard at Kress eight years, Mr. Harris returned to Tulia to begin his own business.

The present Harris Lumber Co. in Tulia was built in 1919. It was operated as "A.J. Harris, Lumberman," changed to "A.J. Harris & Sons" in the early 1940s, and became a full partnership with his two sons, James T. and Edward L., in 1947. This same year, the company opened the new yard in Hart. In 1952, C.L. Harris bought into the business; he sold his interest to Ed and Jim a few years later.

Ed Harris managed the yard in Hart from the time it was built in 1947 until 1970. Since that time, Bob Reed has served as manager. It has been a busy and fast 44 years.

The Harris Lumber Co. has been a part of Tulia, Hart, Swisher and Castro County for 72 years. We have had the pleasure of raising our families here, and look forward to the continued growth of this productive area and its people.



*Proud to be a part of
Castro County's 100th Anniversary!*

Ed Harris Lumber Co.

501 Broadway, Hart

938-2183

Nazareth Post Office now housed in its own 'home'

In the late 1890s and early 1900s it was difficult for residents in the newly-settled community of Nazareth to communicate with the outside world using the mail service, but a type of service did exist.

After being housed in stores, a blacksmith shop and various homes in and around Nazareth, the post office finally has a permanent "home"—its own building at 101 St. Joseph Street in Nazareth.

As early as 1893, Billy Wynne delivered mail to the home of A.V. McCormick in the town of "Wynne," which today is Nazareth.

A few years later McCormick acted as the postmaster and for five years he delivered the mail to Nazareth from Dimmitt. When her husband was away from home, Mrs. A.V. (Frances) McCormick made the drives to Dimmitt in the buggy to get the mail. On March 6, 1903, she was installed as the first official postmaster for the settlement; however, she didn't serve long.

Louise Ther became the second postmaster for Nazareth on June 27, 1903, and a room in her home served as the post office and mail service was provided Monday through Saturday.

Herman Heidgerken opened a store which doubled as a dwelling place and in 1905, the post office was relocated to his store and he became the postmaster on May 24.

Bernard Heidgerken was named the postmaster on July 20, 1906.

Stephen Hoelting bought Heidgerken's store on Jan. 6, 1910, and he became the new postmaster that day.

Three years later, on Jan 4, 1913, Anton Thier was sworn in as postmaster; then Godfrey Binzegger's Blacksmith Shop became the site of the post office. Binzegger was appointed postmaster on Jan. 19, 1914.

The "Little Green School House" which had been the first school in Nazareth, was bought by Joe Heidgerken in the early 1920s and the post office was moved from Binzegger's Blacksmith Shop to the old schoolhouse.

Herman Heidgerken returned to his roll as postmaster on Dec. 13, 1922, and served until May 26, 1925, when Joe Heidgerken was appointed to the office.

Construction began on an adobe building and Paul Kern opened it as a grocery store and post office. His wife, Clara, was named the postmaster on Sept. 27, 1927.

Joe Warren moved the post office back into his store in 1944 and his wife, Rose, was named the postmaster of Nazareth on Oct. 17, 1945. Joe was sworn in as a clerk and he helped run the service. Rose retired in June 1973, and in September Joe was sworn in as chief of the office.

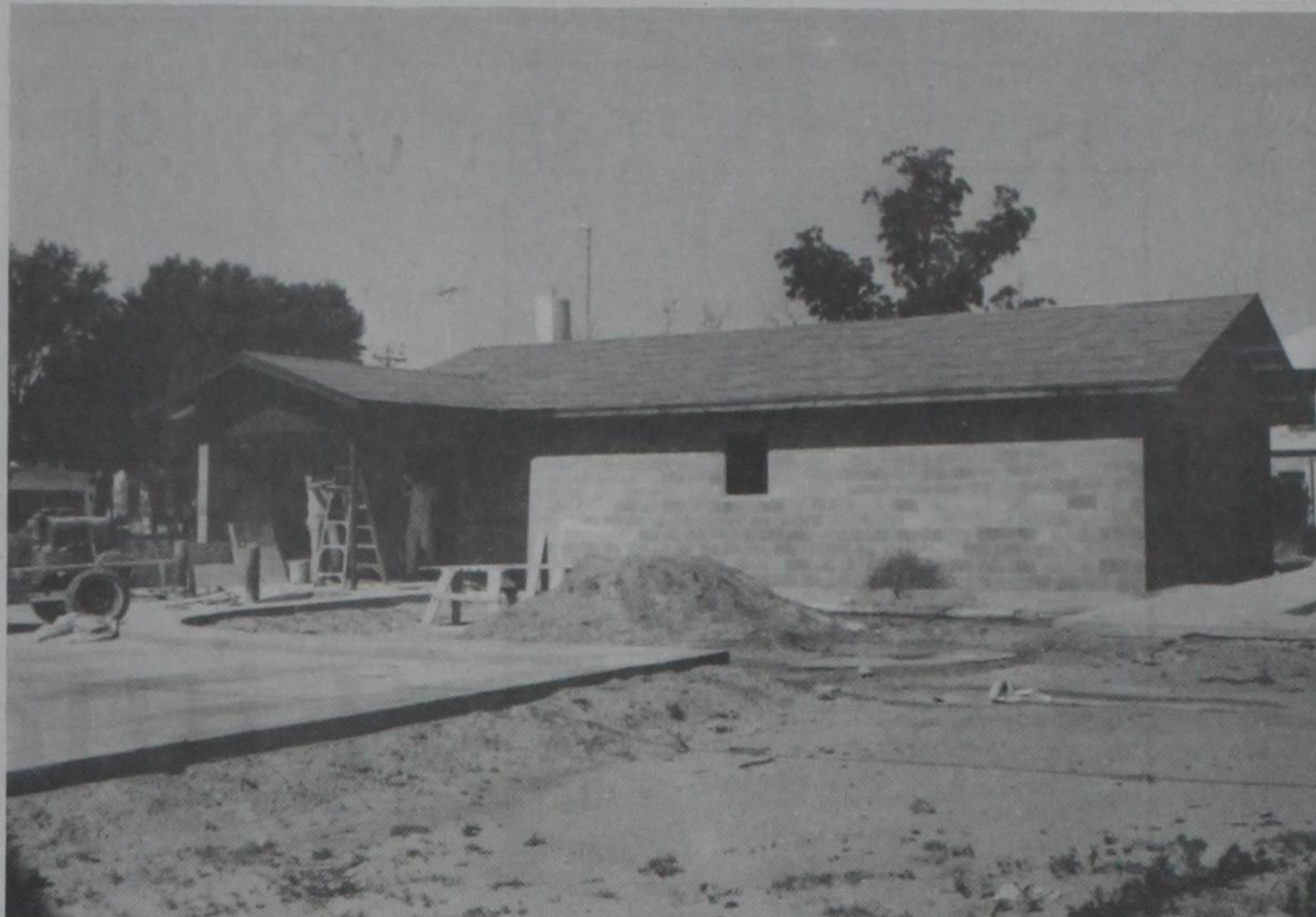
Katherine Acker-Birkenfeld was appointed as clerk at that time.

Joe died in May 1974 after serving nine months, and a clerk from Earth, Beedie Welch, was installed as OIC until another postmaster could be appointed.

That occurred on Sept. 14, 1974, when Mary Harlan of Skellytown was declared postmaster. She transferred back to Skellytown on July 31, 1976 and Birkenfeld was installed as OIC. She was officially appointed as postmaster on June 4, 1977. Stephanie Dobmeier was hired as clerk.

In September 1980, a new post office building was constructed at 101 St. Joseph Street (on the corner of First Street and St. Joseph Street). It is the first time in the history of the Nazareth Post Office that the business was contained in its own building. When the new office was completed, Birkenfeld was still serving as postmaster and Angela Acker was employed as a postmaster replacement clerk.

After eight years of serving as postmaster, Birkenfeld resigned and Dobmeier returned to Nazareth to serve as OIC. On Aug. 31, 1985, Dobmeier was officially sworn in as postmaster and she remains postmaster today. Acker is currently serving as replacement clerk.



ALMOST FINISHED — This photo was taken during the construction of the new Nazareth Post Office in 1980, just two weeks prior to its completion. The new post office was five times larger than the old one, which was located in Home Mercantile.

The new facilities included a lobby, service lobby to buy stamps and money orders and a vestibule for mail. Once the post office moved to its new location, then Postmaster Kathy Birkenfeld kept the business open later for convenience.

Dimmitt Post Office is 100 years old

When people complain about their mail service today, they should be thankful instead. After all, before the first post office was established here 100 years ago, Dimmitt residents waited on their mail for weeks at a time.

The Dimmitt mail service has come a long way since then; however, and now offers many time-saving servicing including an express mail service which can get mail and letters across the country overnight, and it celebrated its 100th birthday on Jan. 10.

More than 100 years ago, on Jan. 10, 1891, Thaddeus M. Belsher was appointed as the first postmaster of Dimmitt and worked from a post office located in the front of a general mercantile store located on the south side of the square.

Now, in 1991, as it celebrates its 100th birthday, the Dimmitt Post Office is housed in a brick building at 205 SE Second Street and Bill Sava serves as postmaster.

The first postmaster, Belsher, has a Dimmitt street named after him—Belsher Street — and current postmaster, Bill Sava, making a "tongue-in-cheek" observation, said he feels that since "Belsher has had a street named after him for 100 years, it's time the street was re-named after the present postmaster."

Currently, Sava has three Highway Contract Route carriers and four city carriers working under him to get mail to residents six days a week.

That's a far cry from the origination of the mail service here.

The first mail service was by a freight wagon which traveled from Springlake to Amarillo and it was days and sometimes weeks before mail was delivered.

The first post office, in front of a general mercantile store south of the square, was moved to a small building southeast of the present courthouse. It also has been located on the 100 block of West Jones Street before it was moved to its present location.

Sava said the favorite "post office story" is when the post office burned during the time Birdie Neill was postmaster.

"The post office burned the day the new Sears catalogs came to town and Birdie told me 'We were just sick. We need those catalogs for a lot more than shopping,'" Sava related.

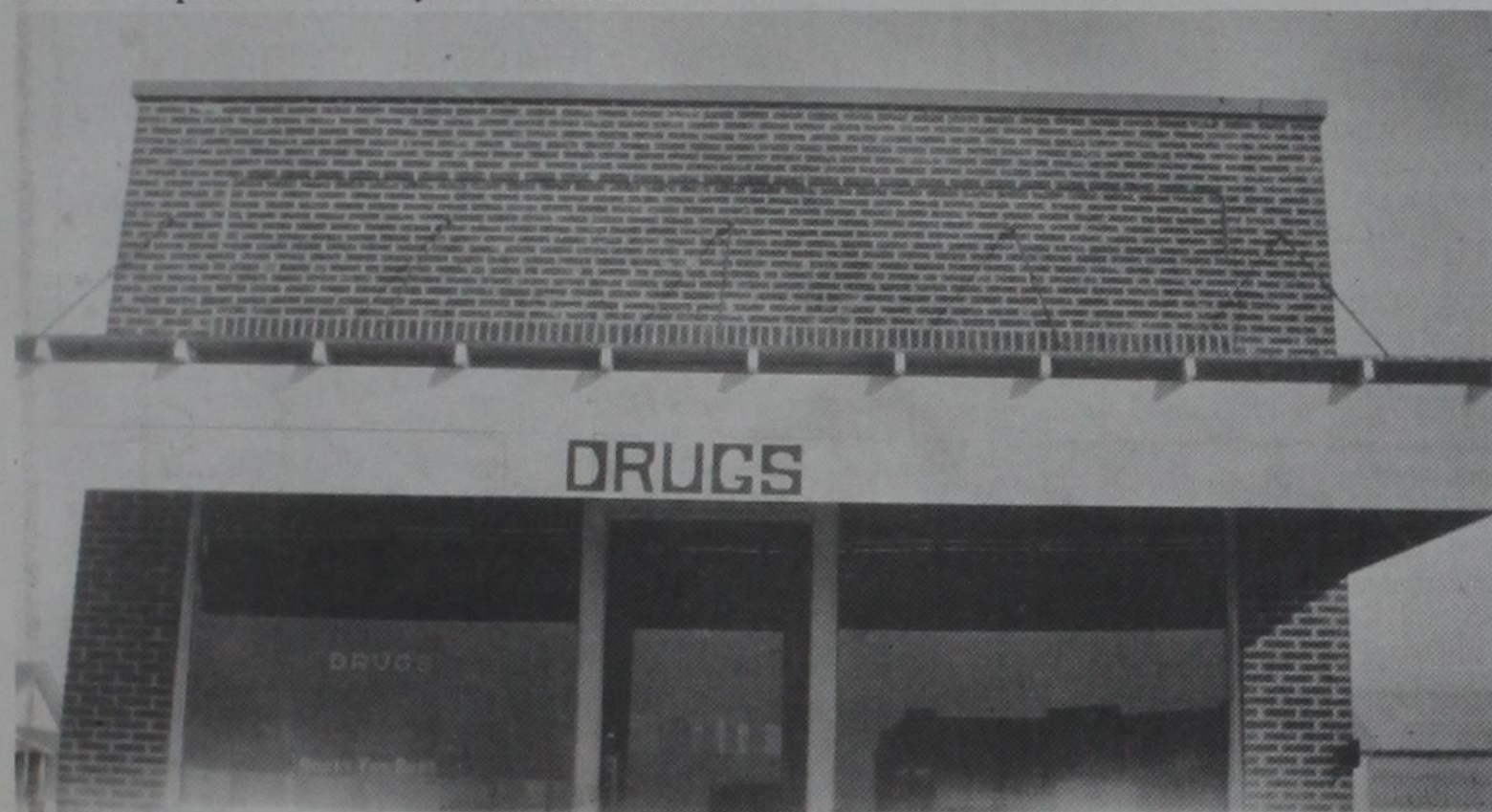
The Dimmitt post office has a colorful history of postal and delivery service which matches the history of the area itself.

W.B. "Buck" Tate served as

pony rider in the early 1900s. Each Tuesday and Thursday he rode with the mail to a point between here and Amarillo known as the Frying Pan Ranch, to meet the Amarillo rider and exchange mail sacks. During one spell of bad weather, he made the trip nine times with the same mail before the Amarillo rider made contact with him. The 1890 census listed nine residents in the county.

The postmasters who have served Dimmitt and the dates of their service include:

Thaddeus M. Belsher	Jan. 10, 1891
Samuel L. Richardson	Oct. 9, 1891
Charles H. Harlan	June 2, 1893
Joseph M. Heflin	July 26, 1897
Eula L. McDonald	April 17, 1899
Lalla R. Hill	Feb. 21, 1902
Helen E. Turner	Jan. 6, 1904
Tooms H. Beach	Dec. 23, 1905
John H. Flanagan	Feb. 27, 1909
William R. Woodburn	March 14, 1910
Kenneth E. Turner	July 17, 1912
Bonnie McPherson	Nov. 16, 1914-Oct. 26, 1917
John H. Flanagan	Oct. 26, 1917-March 21, 1918
Birdie Duree Neill	March 3, 1918-Aug. 9, 1933
C.S. Holland	Aug. 9, 1933-Nov. 16, 1934
Thomas F. Bice	Nov. 16, 1934-June 10, 1942
Maurine Bice (acting)	Nov. 16, 1934-June 10, 1942
Thomas F. Bice	Jan. 1, 1944-Sept. 18, 1959
Tina Rawlings	Sept. 19, 1959-March 9, 1961
Ernest Davis	March 10, 1961-Aug. 18, 1966
John H. Wood	Oct. 7, 1966-Oct. 25, 1974
Bill Sava	Nov. 23, 1974-Present



FORMER SITE OF HART POST OFFICE
... Where Harris Lumber Co. is located today

Homes, stores housed Hart Post Office

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Information about the Hart Post Office history was obtained from *Castro County, Texas, 1891-1981*.)

The Hart Post Office was established in 1900 in the T.W. Hart home and Mr. Hart served as the postmaster until 1914, when the post office was moved from his home to the Tom Ray General Store.

The store handled staple groceries, binder twine, axle grease and the needed items of the day.

In 1920, C.L. Attaway operated a small general store in "Old Store" on the corner just south of Bob's Farm Store, and he ran the post office in the store until 1927 when Willis A. Hawkins Sr. purchased the store and inherited the job of postmaster.

In 1928, the post office was moved from the store to a section of Bryan's Drug Store, which was located where Ed Harris Lumber

Company is today and Charles C. Reynolds became the new postmaster. Later they moved across the street in the building that housed E.P. Patterson's Barber Shop.

During those days stamps were three cents each and post cards could be mailed for a penny. The postmaster didn't draw a salary, but he or she was paid according to the number of cancellations. Reynolds made between \$70 and \$80 per month during his stint as postmaster.

His son, Floyd Reynolds, was named acting postmaster after his father quit. At that time, mail was delivered from Plainview and Dimmitt by rail and by carrier from Kress. In 1935 and 1936 Floyd carried the mail for Route 2, which was about 62 miles long, until Mr. Flippin took over the Springlake Route and brought the mail to Hart. He made the trips driving an old Chevrolet, and he doesn't remem-

ber missing a day because of bad weather. However, he did get stuck a few times.

Ruby Boston was the next postmistress of the Hart office and during her term stamps were three cents and postcards were a penny, but cancellations had increased to as much as \$135 per month.

Carrie Patterson was named postmaster in 1945 and she served until 1950. Mrs. Glen Maples was named acting postmaster until Herb Williams was hired.

Mrs. Jewell Brooks became postmaster in 1957 and she served until 1977 when Betty Sanders, the present postmaster, took office.

A new post office building was constructed and was dedicated on Aug. 8, 1968. One of the guests present at the dedication was Mrs. Fred Hamm, daughter of T.W. Hart, the first postmaster.

The post office is still housed in that building today.



TOMMY TURNBOW carried mail from Dimmitt to Hereford in this vehicle, providing mail service for early settlers of Castro County. Pictured in this vehicle is the Tommy Turnbow Family. *File Photo*

It's been a nearly **PUR-R-R-FECT** century

And we're looking forward to serving you well into the next, as we have since 1972.

Wright's Auto
S. US 385 647-3227

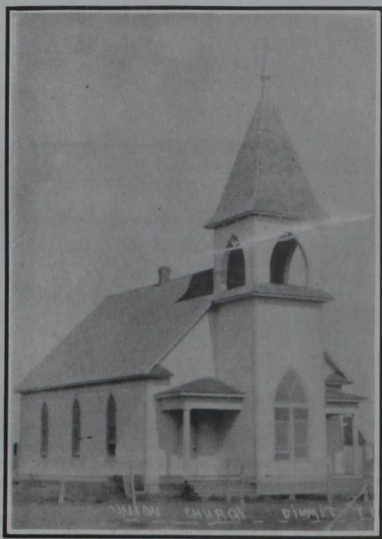
Happy 100th Anniversary, Dimmitt and Castro County!

We're proud to have served you for many years with our tire balancing and brake service, mufflers, service calls, on farm tire service, and oil changes. Now we plan to bring you more quality service with the addition of Kelly tires to our product line.

A good deal on a great tire. Kelly Tires

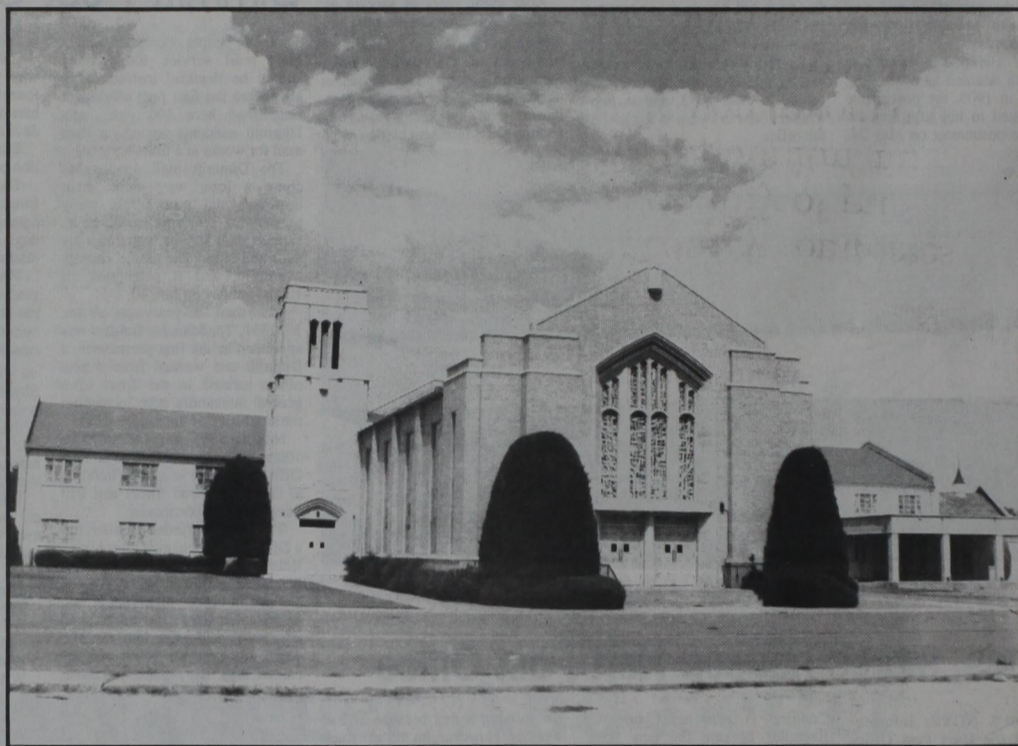
HI-PLAINS OIL CO. Quality since 1894.

206 SE 2nd, Dimmitt Days: 647-4549, Nights: 647-3431



Where the 'Little White Church' once stood . . .

The First United Methodist Church of Dimmitt stands at the same spot where Dimmitt's original Union Church stood. Our church has carried on the Christian tradition here since 1905, and we are proud that people of all backgrounds still come to the site of "The Little White Church" to find forgiveness, comfort and strength in Jesus Christ.



OUR SOCIAL CREED

We believe in God, Creator of the world; and in Jesus Christ the Redeemer of creation. We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God's gifts, and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts to idolatrous ends.

We affirm the natural world as God's handiwork and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind.

We joyfully receive, for ourselves and others, the blessings of community, sexuality, marriage, and the family.

We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and those with handicapping conditions; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of racial, ethnic, and religious minorities.

We believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the good of themselves and others, and in the protection of their welfare in so doing; in the rights to property as a trust from God, collective bargaining, and responsible consumption; and in the elimination of economic and social distress.

We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world, to freedom for all peoples, and to the rule of justice and law among nations.

We believe in the present and final triumph of God's Word in human affairs, and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world.

As our county completes its first century of purpose and commitment, we invite you to join our fellowship, where you can find purpose and commitment in your own life and discover the joy of belonging to a caring church family.

The First United Methodist Church of Dimmitt



Rev. Vernon O'Kelly, Minister

