

MY TURN

By Carol Ellis



IF YOU OWN any real estate in Parmer County, whether it is a home, a business, vacant lot, farm lands, etc., you might want to take some time to look over the abstract of the deed to your property. That is quite a historical document you own, dating back to the 1880s when a land investment company located in Chicago got financial backing from some wealthy investors in England and Scotland to obtain 3,050,000 acres of land in the Western Panhandle area. This then became the famous XIT Ranch.

A series of dramatic events led up to that blue-backed legal document in your safety deposit box.

First, when Texas became a state in 1845, the federal government deeded tens of millions of acres to the state. Most of Texas remained in public lands, owned by the state government, for many years while the main focus of settlement was located in East Texas; the rest was just "empty" land occupied mostly by buffalo, outlaws and a few wandering bands of Indians.

Then in 1881 the old capitol building in Austin burned, so it became necessary to build a new one. Texans, being no different than now, decided they needed the biggest, finest, showiest capitol building ever built; in effect, one that would rival the capitol in Washington D.C. This would, of course, require millions of dollars to build. Texas did not have millions of dollars to spare at that time, but it DID have millions of acres of land to spare.

So in 1882, the state legislature advertised that they would accept bids from any person or persons who would build an enormous state capitol building in exchange for three million acres of public lands located in the Texas Panhandle. A company of four Chicago businessmen took up the gauntlet and were awarded the three million acres which stretched 30 miles wide and 200 miles long, along the Texas-New Mexico border, in exchange for providing the funds to build the capitol in Austin. So the largest fenced ranch in the nation, if not the world, was established right here where we live.

Legend says the XIT took its name from the fact that the three million acres of ranch lands touched into ten counties in the western Texas Panhandle; the interpretation being "Ten In Texas." I had always heard that, of those ten counties, Parmer County was the only county which was completely encompassed by the XIT Ranch. However, a more accurate map of the ranch shows that all except one small two-mile area up in the northeast corner of Parmer County was included as ranch property. So you could say that Parmer County was about 99.98% XIT lands.

John and Charles Farwell, Amos Babcock and Abner Taylor were four of Chicago's leading businessmen. They didn't know much about buying cattle, providing water where there was almost none, building barns and corrals, fencing 3,000,000 acres of land, etc. And they really didn't have enough money to build the new capitol building for Texas, either, but they had the "know how" that it took to raise money.

American banks would not loan money for such a venture and it was impossible for them to raise the "capital for the capitol" in the U.S., and so they went abroad.

The Farwells were the largest suppliers of wholesale dry goods merchandise in the Chicago area, and as such, they had ample connections in Europe. The Farwells maintained offices in Paris, Manchester, and Belfast and were well known as capitalists in those cities. In 1885 the Chicago businessmen and their British friends formed an English company known as the Capitol Freehold Land and Investment Company, Ltd. in London.

This company had nothing to do with the raising of cattle; just cash, through the sale of bonds. Major

(Continued On Page 3)

Sales Tax Money Is Received Here

Parmer County's three municipalities received their February sales tax payments from Comptroller of Public Accounts John Sharp this week.

Friona received \$34,892.56 for the month of February 1997 compared to \$25,219.16 for the same period last year. Friona has received \$47,969.17 for the first two months of 1997 compared to \$41,111.82 last year.

Bovina received \$2,955.10 for February 1997 compared to \$2,862.18 last year. Bovina has received

\$4,297.19 for January and February 1997 compared to last year's \$4,244.32.

County totals were \$42,387.10 for January and February compared to \$34,808.31 last year. The 1997 total payments amounting to \$58,909.29 compare to the 1996 total of \$55,130.92.

This month's payments to Texas cities and counties include sales taxes collected by monthly filers at the height of holiday shopping in December and reported to the Comptroller in January.

Friona Grad Works On "Vital Signs" TV Show

Richard (Rick) Ellis, youngest son of Carol and Bill Ellis, has been working on the TV special "Vital Signs," which will be seen next Thursday, February 27, on ABC (Channel 7, Amarillo) at 8 p.m.

Starring in the show will be Robert Uric, who is recovering from cancer.

"Rick" has worked on a number of movies, in a technical role, since moving to Los Angeles (Hollywood) in August of 1995. In Thursday's production, he is working as "best boy," and "dolly grip."

He has had the chance to work with and be photographed with such stars as Mickey Rooney, Burt Reynolds, Dom Deluise, and Randy Travis. This is his first chance to work on a TV show. The "Vital Signs" production is thought to be a TV "pilot." It is being produced by Buena Vista, a division of Disney Studios.

FHS Schedules Change For TAAS Exit Test

In an effort to provide an ideal setting for TAAS Exit test administration, all FHS students who are not required to take the Exit level test will be dismissed from attending classes the mornings of February 25, 26 and 27.

Classes for all high school students will begin at 12:40 p.m. on the testing days. Schedules for the afternoon classes will be distributed to each student.

All 10th grade students in addition to 11th and 12th grade students who must retake portions of the TAAS Exit test will come to school at 8:15 a.m. Students not required to take the test will

not be allowed in the building with the exception of students who must ride the bus.

Bus students will be required to stay in the cafeteria until afternoon classes begin. Lunch will be prepared for the students who are testing, but no breakfast will be served on the test days at the high school campus.

Friona I.S.D. Is Recognized As Top School

Friona I.S.D. has been recognized as a Title I Commended School. This honor is based upon the academic performance of the district's Title I students on the junior high and high school campus.

Seventy percent or more of the participating Title I students passed the reading and mathematics sections of the TAAS tests in the 1995-1996 school.

"We are delighted with this recognition. Student success validates our efforts as educators and we are very proud of our students and faculty," stated Hal Ratcliff, superintendent.

Friona was the only high school in District 1-3A to receive this honor.

St. Teresa Ladies Plan For Annual Mexican Dinner

Final plans have been made for St. Teresa Ladies Society's annual Mexican Dinner which is set for Sunday, March 2 in the Parish Hall.

The meal will consist of enchiladas, tacos, beans, rice, chips, salsa, cake, tea and coffee. Cost of the meal will be a donation of \$5 for adults and \$3 for children age eight and under.



BOARD REMODELS.....Friends of the Library board members gathered last week to award the remodeling/construction contract for the library building. Clint Cox, left, back row, of Cox Construction was awarded the contract for the remodeling and expansion. Others are Micah London, Don Kimbrough, Front, l-r, Susie Perez, Nancy Edelman, and library staffers Darla Bracken and Brenda Patterson.



PACKIN' FOR THE PIGS.....It's Houston Livestock Show time this week and next. Friona FFA/Ag students will take 16 pigs and 5 lambs to the show and they have to take their own pens. Loading up last week for the trip are Ag instructor Hollis Harris, left, and Parmer County Extension Agent Cody Hill, right, and local ag students help out. (Ron Carr Photo)

Excel Earns College/Career Seminar Recognition Set February 22 At FHS for Safety

Cargill's best! That recognition was earned by Excel Friona's first shift fabrication group last week.

The shift, which employs over 200 people, was presented a plaque by company officials for the lowest accident rate company wide for the June-September, 1996 period.

According to Excel's Brad Churchill, "The employees and supervisors of the first shift fab are to be commended for their cooperation and concern for safety at the plant. They well deserve the award."

Pictures of some of the excellent Excel workers are inside this issue.



CARRIE COX Selected All-State

Carrie Cox was recently selected second chair Bass Clarinet in the Association of Texas Small School Bands All-State Band.

She spent three days in San Antonio rehearsing with the band under the direction of Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser.

The program performed by the all-state band on Saturday, February 15, included "America The Beautiful", arranged by Carmen Dragon.

Also performed were "A Touch of the Earth" by H. Owen Reed, "Festive Overture" by Dimitri Shostakovich, "Lord of the Rings: The Hobbits" by Johan De Meij, and "Semper Fidelis" by John Philip Sousa.

"I am very proud of the work Carrie did in order to be awarded her chair in the ATSSB All-State Band", said Zane Polson, Friona Band Director.

Polson said Miss Cox went through an audition process that included competing with students first in the Panhandle Region, then the West Texas area, and finally auditioning for chair placement among those that were selected as the best from their areas of the state.

"She was then chosen the second best Bass Clarinet performer in the state of Texas in A-AA-AAA bands," Polson stated. "She deserves a great deal of recognition for her accomplishments."

Miss Cox is the daughter of Leroy and Terri Cox.

College/Career Seminar Set February 22 At FHS

The Friona High School Spanish Club is sponsoring a seminar for FHS students and their parents Saturday, February 22 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the Friona High School auditorium and cafeteria.

For the students, a panel of college students will present information about college life and answer questions from the audience. Another panel of young adults who have recently entered the work force will talk about their careers, present information about the world of work and answer questions from the audience.

Roundtables for parents of FHS students will be provided in the cafeteria. Consultants will have information on the following topics: Texas Workforce Commission including Job-finding Skills, Interviewing Skills, Career Possibilities; Government Programs including Income Tax Filing, Citizenship Application, Social Security Benefits, Unemployment Benefits, Food Stamp Appeals.

Also, Adult Education including GED Programs and Adult Literacy; Texas Department of Health Programs including Medical Services, Dental Services, Optometry Services, Social Services; Financial Information provided by Friona State Bank and Panhandle-Plains Higher Education Authority including Accounts, Loans, Credit Rating and Financial Aid For College.

Representatives from local colleges and the Armed Services will also be present to answer questions about educational and career possibilities for students and adults who may wish to attend continuing education classes. Consultants and panel members will be bilingual.

Friona High School students and their parents are encouraged to put this event on their calendars and make plans to attend. For additional information, call Kitty Gallman at Friona High School, 247-3951.



TOP DEBATERS.....Do these gentlemen look like fast talkers? They are indeed as Jason Slagle and Justin Grimsley tune up for state competition in Cross Examination Debate. The two qualified for state competition which will be held on March 9 in Austin. (Ron Carr Photo)

Lubbock Youth Symphony To Perform Here Sunday

The Lubbock Youth Symphony Apprentice Program will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday, February 23, 1997, at the Friona High School Auditorium. The concert is free to the public.

The Youth Symphony includes 67 string musicians, ranging in age from 7 to 15. Orchestra members are selected by audition only.

One of the performers, Samantha Shehan, is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tomas Ramirez of Friona. Samantha plays the violin, and is a 7th grader at Dunbar Junior High in Lubbock.

Her parents are Maria and Gregory Shehan. Maria (Villanueva) Shehan is a graduate of Friona High School and was a first chair

trumpet player in the FHS Band.

Jason White, of Lubbock's Monterrey High School, is a member of the Symphony and will be participating when the group appears in Friona on Sunday. Jason is the son of former Friona residents, Larry and Anita White. He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Edward White and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Perkins of Friona.

Immediately following the concert, the Friona Band Booster Club will hold a dessert sale in the school cafeteria. All proceeds from the dessert sale will benefit the FHS Band.

The public is encouraged to support these young people by attending the Sunday concert.

Friona Flashbacks

...from the files of The Friona Star

55 Yrs Ago-Feb. 20, 1942
American farmers are being asked to come to the nation's rescue in its need for scrap materials for war weapons, and the farmers of the Friona territory will have full opportunity to do their part. To meet this challenge, the farmers and businessmen of Friona have announced that they will operate in Friona a scrap collection depot to which farmers may bring all the scrap iron they can find on their farms. The metal brought to this depot will be sent as quickly as possible to factories and foundries to turn out tanks, guns and other war supplies.

40 Yrs Ago-Feb. 21, 1957
Kenneth Thompson of Dove Creek, Colorado, and a former resident of Parmer County, has been named the new manager of Parmer County Community Hospital in Friona, according to G.B. "Pete" Buske, president of the hospital board. Buske made the announcement this week, and the change will become effective March 1. Thompson is to replace Jimmy Baxter, who has been manager for over four years, but is resigning to go into business in Littlefield.

Johnny Mabry and Tommy Tatum are the county's best young growers of cotton and grain sorghum, respectively. The boys competed in a 4-H contest for the honors. Tommy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Tatum of Black. Mabry is the son of Mr. and Ms. James Mabry of Hub. Both boys who received \$50 and plaques, are students at Friona Schools.

35 Yrs Ago-Feb. 22, 1962
Selection of a jury will begin on Monday for the trial of two Bovina residents who are charged with the murder of Jesse Dawkins last December 8.

Country Club members have been busy turning the golf course into a miniature forest during the past week. Over 200 elms and evergreens have been set out along the edges of the fairway. Many of the trees were obtained from Glyn Hughes' Nursery at a reduced price.

30 Yrs Ago-Feb. 23, 1967
Rev. W.G. (Bill) Burton, pastor of Friona's First Baptist Church for the past six and one-half years, tendered his resignation during the regular Sunday services of the church last Sunday. Rev. Burton will become pastor of the Elgin Avenue Baptist Church in Lubbock. While at Friona, Rev. Burton was instrumental in forming the Ministerial Alliance and minister's benevolent fund.

The Friona High School Squaws lost a 62-49 game to the Floydada girls in a one-game playoff at Plainview last Thursday, for the District 3-AA championship. The Squaws, coached by Mel Williams, compiled a 25-7 season record. Four of their losses were to Floydada and the other three to Springlake-Earth in non-district play.

One streak continued, but another was broken at the 11th annual Parmer County Junior Livestock Show conducted in Friona last weekend. A Lazbuddie entry was judged grand champion of the barrow show for the seventh straight year, but Friona entrant's

domination of the championship of the steer division was halted. Nineteen-year-old Jacquelyn Langford, a Farwell 4-H Club member, had the grand champion steer. In the barrow division, Rickie Seaton won the championship for the second straight year.

25 Yrs Ago-Feb. 24, 1972
David Gallman, Lazbuddie FFA member, kept the string going for his school and community at the Parmer County Junior Livestock Show last week by winning the Grand Champion Barrow honors for the 12th consecutive year for Lazbuddie.

The Friona High School Forensics team won the sweepstakes trophy at the Dalhart Invitational Forensics Tournament last Saturday. It was the first sweepstakes trophy for the FHS team this year. The team won over 14 other schools. Caprock High School of Amarillo was second, and Hereford High School finished third. Steve Stone was third in prose reading, Troy White was third in poetry reading, Sally Kendrick was third in persuasive speaking and Trip Horton placed second in informative speaking.

The strike against Missouri Beef Packers by the local Amalgamated Meat Cutters union was in its third week this week, although killing operations are continuing at the plant. A shooting incident near the gate to the plant late last Wednesday caused some emotion, but no further trouble has evolved.

20 Yrs Ago-Feb. 20, 1977
MBPXL Corporation released details this week on the proposed \$7 million expansion program for its Friona plant. An additional 50,000 square feet are to be added to the present plant, which contains approximately 80,000 square feet of space. The additional space will be used to fabricate the beef carcasses, a step which will enable MBPXL to greatly enlarge its market capabilities for finished beef. "We will also add another shift at the plant, which will allow us to slaughter an additional 800-1,000 cattle per day," said MBPXL Corporation president Dave LaFleur.

The detour at Running Water Draw will be put into use beginning Monday, it was announced this week by Rhea Bradley, resident engineer, Texas Highway Department. The detour will be in use for approximately 60 days while the old bridge is torn out and the new bridge constructed for the improved Highway 214 project.

15 Yrs Ago-Feb. 21, 1982
Among those students at FHS chosen for special recognition in the 1982 yearbook are Andy Fleming and Amber Smith as "Most Likely to Succeed," and Lesa Bermea and Robert Caballero as "Mr. and Mrs. FHS."

Several city streets were severely damaged by the recent snow and ice, which caused some buckling and pot holes in a number of places, City Manager Jerry Lewis said this week.

Jeff Lundy exhibited the Grand Champion Steer at the 35th annual Parmer County Junior Livestock

Show, an Angus-Chianina crossbred. His sister, Corrie, exhibited the Grand Champion Heifer in the first running of the heifer show on the county level.

10 Yrs Ago-Feb. 21, 1987
The Friona High School Squaws will take on the Sanford-Fritch Lady Eagles in a bi-district Class AAA playoff game Friday at Plainview. The Squaws boasted a 28-3 season record--the best record at FHS in 23 years--and a 19-game winning streak.

Figures released this week by Dale Schueler indicated that the auction sale at the 1987 Parmer County Junior Livestock Show was down by \$20,289 from the sale totals of 1986. The 1987 sale totals were \$54,502.72. This compared to a total of \$74,791.80 the year before.

5 Yrs Ago-Feb. 22, 1992
Members of the Friona Junior High Band traveled to Texas Tech, Saturday, February 15, to compete in the annual Tau Beta Sigma Solo Ensemble Contest. Out of thirty participating entries, the students netted twenty-six first divisions and four seconds.

After an absence of five years in the playoffs, Friona High School's Squaws are back in bi-district action. The Squaws meet District 1-AAA champion Canyon Friday at Hereford's LaPlata Junior High Gymnasium at 7 p.m.

Ex-Resident Gets Tech Scholarship

The Texas Tech University College of Human Services awarded over \$217,000 to approximately 396 recipients for the 1996-97 academic year. Awards ranged from \$200 to \$2,000 for each recipient.

Programs in the college include human development; family studies; early childhood; substance abuse studies; marriage and family therapy; family financial planning; merchandising; fashion design; clothing; textiles and merchandising; interior design; home economics; restaurant, hotel and institutional management (RHIM); food and nutrition/dietetics; environmental design and consumer economics; and home economics education.

Joanna Rene' Noland Bryant, a senior early childhood major, received the Vernon & Elizabeth Haggerton Scholarship. She is the daughter of Diana Delisle of Lubbock and is a 1982 graduate of Friona High School.

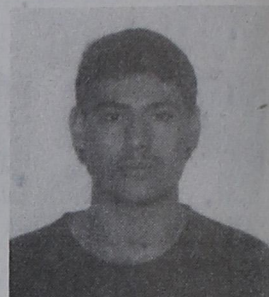
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FIREMAN OF THE YEAR...Jim Taylor presented Bobby Jordan with "Fireman of the Year" award in December for his hard work and dedication during 1996.



Jaime Cruz Recognized

BY JAIME CRUZ
I am the son of Jaime and Beatriz Cruz and am in the Co-Op Program for the second year.

A twelfth grader, I am in the National Honor Society and will graduate this year. I am working at Friona Motors under the supervision of Mitch Terry.

I am very thankful to Mr. Oscar Bronniman and Mr. Terry Wilcox for giving me this opportunity.

Firemen Honor Jordan

BY DARRELL BARLOW

The Friona firemen want to thank the community for their support.

The Friona firemen had their Christmas party on Thursday, December 12. There were 89 firemen, wives, city officials and retired firefighters. Several awards were presented to the firemen.

Joe Mann and Glenn Reeve received their forty year award.

Jessie Aragon received his ten year award.

Bobby Jordan earned the "Fireman of the Year" award.

Gifts were given to the firemen's wives. "A special thanks to these ladies for putting up with us getting up in the middle of the night and supporting us throughout the year."

Mayor Clarence Monroe and City Manager Paula Wilson were also present.

The meal was catered by Cattle Call of Amarillo. Everyone had a great time. A special thanks to Leon Talley for being "Santa".

1996 was a very good year for the firemen. There were no major fires and no one was hurt. However, there were several vehicle accidents and several grass fires.

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FRIONA/BOVINA DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

ABRAM IN EGYPT

HAVING VIEWED SARAI'S BEAUTY, THE EGYPTIAN PRINCES ARE WELL AWARE THAT THEIR PHARAOH WILL REWARD THEM HANDSOMELY FOR SUCH GOOD NEWS—ALL OF WHICH ABRAM HAS FEARED....



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WILL YOU HAVE SOME REFRESHMENT?

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...AND INDEED, THE PRINCES CAN HARDLY WAIT TO TELL THEIR PHARAOH THIS NEWS!



O, MIGHTY PHARAOH, LIVE-FOR-EVER, HEAR US!



...AND YOU SAY SHE IS THE SISTER OF THIS STRANGER IN MY LAND—HAMMM! WE SHALL HAVE TO SEND HIM MANY FINE GIFTS!



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Chiefs Fall To Dalhart In Finale

The FHS Chieftain basketball team dropped their final game of the '96-'97 season last Friday at Dalhart, 61-51.

The loss left the Chieftains' final cage record at 8-11 for the season and 5-9 in district play, where they finished sixth, ahead of River Road and Sanford-Fritch.

Friona started off cold shooting, making only three baskets (Shane Blackburn, Quint Ellis and Kyle Grimsley). But the Chieftains came back with a 19-point second quarter, to take a halftime lead.

Blackburn sank three baskets, one a three-pointer, Charlie Milner made a bucket and was two for two at the line. Grimsley, Aaron King, Angel Vega and Justin Daniel also scored baskets.

Ellis warmed up with six points in the third quarter, and Blackburn added four.

But the team couldn't keep up with a frantic Dalhart Rally. Ellis and Blackburn paced the Chieftain scoring with 13 points apiece.

DAL. 61, FHS 51

Aaron King 1-0-2; Shane Blackburn 5-1*0-13; Angel Vega 2-0-4; Quint Ellis 4-1*-2-13; Justin Daniel 1-0-2; Kyle Grimsley 4-0-8; Charlie Milner 2-2-6; Eric McInroe 1*-0-3, *3-point baskets.



APPEARING SUNDAY....The "Big Country Boys" will bring a program of gospel music Sunday, February 23 at Calvary Baptist Church's 11 o'clock worship hour. The quartet is composed of Chuck Sims, Mike Collier, Dick Jackson and Lance Read. They are church music directors. Jackson grew up in Shallowater together with Calvary pastor Vergil Ichtertz and Butch Preston. The group holds a weekly concert at Abilene's Historic Paramount Theater. Their latest single is entitled "It's Still the Cross." They have released albums entitled "Changed by the Power," "He's My King," and "An Evening with the Country Boys." The public is invited to the concert. The quartet will also give a concert Sunday evening, 6 p.m., at First Baptist Church of Muleshoe.



1996-97 FRIONA SQUAWS....Standing, l-r, Coach Connie Comer, Veronica Trevino, Whitney Ellis, Sheri Fiel, Tammy Spencer, Amanda Pope, Rosa Mendoza, Coach Richard North. Middle, Rachel Burleson, Jamie Stokes, April Pope. Front, Jamie Slagle, Sandra Gonzales, Heather Martin, Amber Martin, Christina Santellana, Cassie London.

Leaders Given For Squaw Basketball



JOHN MORATH Concert Is Saturday

The Hereford Community Concert Association will feature Max Morath, The Ragtime Man, in concert on Monday evening, February 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hereford High School Auditorium. This is the second presentation of the 1996-97 season. Admission is by season membership. Student tickets are available for interested students.

Morath, a pianist, singer and humorist, presents a musical glance at an earlier America, blending music, humor and satire in a bright and affectionate look at another era. He takes his audiences on a rollicking musical tour from the Naughty Nineties to the Roaring Twenties.

The New York Times acclaims his show as one that "crackles with wit and wisdom," and another critic has dubbed Max Morath, "the greatest living expert on the ragtime era."

The songs and piano solos in the repertoire of the Ragtime Man range from piano rags to show tunes, from vaudeville novelties to the blues giving new life to immortals such as Scott Joplin, Irving Berlin, George M. Cohan, Bert Williams and May Irwin.

Senior Amber Martin was the leading scorer for the Friona Squaws 1996-97 team, according to statistics compiled this week by Coach Richard North.

Miss Martin scored 186 points on field goals, and 60 points at the free throw line, for 246 points. She averaged 9.1 points per game for the Squaws, who won ten games and lost 18. The Squaws finished with a 6-8 district record. Among the team's losses were several by just a point or two.

Miss Martin connected on 51 of 145 two-point attempts, 35 per cent, and added 28 of 111 from three-point range, 31 per cent. She made 60 of 94 free throw attempts, 64 per cent. She also had 35 assists and 47 steals.

Tammy Spencer was the team's second leading scorer with 198

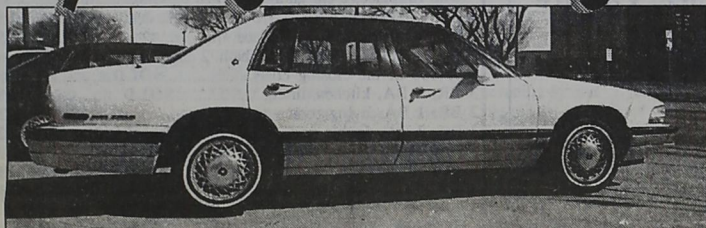
points. Miss Spencer hit 39 per cent from the field, including 38 of 104 three-pointers (37 per cent) and 42 per cent of her two-point shots (36 of 85).

Jamie Stokes was the team's leading field goal shooter, hitting 47 per cent of her shots (53 of 112), all from two-point range. Miss Stokes and Whitney Ellis tied for third in the scoring race with 141 points apiece.

Sandra Gonzales had the best percentage from the free throw line, 67 per cent, making 16 of 24 attempts.

Jamie Stokes was the team's leading rebounder with 128, having an even split, 64 on offense and 64 on defense. Miss Spencer had 68 defensive rebounds, and 92 overall. Whitney Ellis had 111 rebounds, 59 on offense and 52 on defense.

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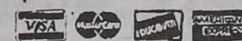
Final Winter Clearance
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Congratulations to winners in our Brighton Valentine Drawing!

Barbara Sumrall, Grady; Fern Tharp, Texico; Donna Jordon, Farwell; Beth Harington, Farwell; Belinda Steinbock, Muleshoe; Sherri Whitten, Bovina; Susan Williams, Farwell; Jonell Clark, Friona; Kathy Fury, Broadway; Peggy Gikas, Farwell.

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R. Martin Chosen For Staff

Renee Martin, a senior biology major from Friona, has been chosen as the manager of the freshman ushers act for Abilene Christian University's 1997 Sing Song.

Martin is the daughter of Mike and Reta Martin of Friona and graduated from Friona High school in 1993.

The musical variety show, a 40-year tradition that involves more than 1,000 students, will feature seven student hosts and hostesses. To relate with this year's theme, "The Incredible Journey," they will perform songs from the past four decades including "Runaway" by Janet Jackson, "Walk Like an Egyptian" by the Bangles, and "Blowin' in the Wind" by Peter, Paul and Mary.

Football Issue Here

The souvenir FHS Football issue is still on sale at the Friona Star and Bi-Wize Drug.

The issue contains 18 pages, including a page in full color. All of the team's '96 games are summarized, plus photos and statistics.

There are still some Tornado issues the Star will give with each purchase of the football edition.



CHERITH HOWARD

Friona Girl Joins Firm

Cherith Howard has joined The Prudential Ada, Realtors as a sales associate. Cherith is also a member of the Amarillo Board of Realtors, Texas Association of Realtors and the National Association of Realtors. She attended Amarillo College to receive her credits for licensure.

A native of the Texas Panhandle, Cherith formerly worked in retail management. She and her husband, David, have recently moved "back home" from Charlotte, North Carolina.

David and Cherith are natives of Friona. She is the daughter of Dale and Evelyn Randolph and David is the son of Valton and Peggy Howard.

Huffman Graduates Sub. School

Navy Seaman Clark R. Huffman, a 1996 graduate of Friona High School of Friona, recently graduated from the Basic Enlisted Submarine Course at the Naval Submarine School in Groton, Connecticut.

During the five-week course, Huffman learned the basic theory, construction and operation of nuclear-powered submarines. Huffman also learned shipboard organization, damage control and submarine safety and escape procedures.

Huffman participated in hands-on training with reality simulators, practicing firefighting and flood control on board a submarine. Huffman also learned about a submarine's basic hydraulic, water and air systems, and practiced escaping from a simulated sinking submarine.

Light Rain Is Received

The Friona area managed to squeeze out only .09 inch of moisture this week, with dense fog a couple of mornings. Friona received .10 inch a week earlier, and .16 inch from the rain/snow mix of February 6-7. Farmers could use much more.

Date	Hi-Low
Friday, February 14	51-22
Saturday, Feb. 15	61-23
Sunday, February 16	64-33
Monday, February 17	67-36
Tuesday, Feb. 18	62-37
Wednesday, Feb. 19	39-33
Thursday, Feb. 20	53-34

Lee & Jo Witten Celebrate Golden Anniversary At Their Home

John Leroy "Lee" Witten and Alma Jo Holley Witten celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday afternoon, February 2, 1997 by renewing their wedding vows in a small private ceremony at their home in Friona.

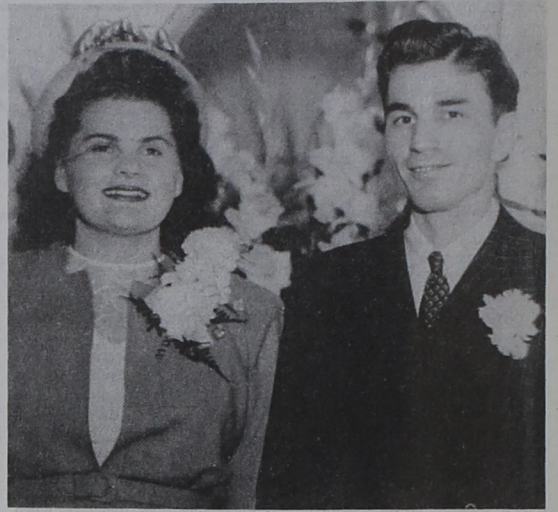
Rev. Jeremy Grant, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Hereford, officiated at the ceremony which was attended by members of the Witten's family and a few close friends.

Mrs. Doris Holley Purcell of Abilene, Texas, who is Mrs. Witten's sister, served as Matron of Honor, as she did when the Wittens married 50 years ago in Abilene. Lee Witten's brother George Witten of Colorado City, Texas stood as Best Man, again as he did 50 years ago.

The couple's granddaugh-

ters, Tina, Teri and Kimber Clark of Vega, Texas, ages 16, 15 and 14, sang "Make The Message Clear." Their grandson, Thomas Clark, age 13, also of Vega, recited First Corinthians 13. Mrs. Witten played two numbers on the piano and sang "I'll Be Loving You, Always."

Following the ceremony, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ellis hosted a reception for the Wittens and their guests. Those attending were: Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Purcell of Abilene; Mr. and Mrs. George O. Witten of Colorado City; Mrs. Letha Clark, Tina, Teri, Kimber and Thomas, all of Vega; Rev. Jeremy Grant, Dr. and Mrs. John Channer, and Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Williamson, all of Hereford; Geraldine Taylor and Bill and Carol Ellis of Friona.



MR. & MRS. LEE WITTEN, 1947

Depot Heritage Society Installs New Directors

At the Depot Heritage Society's Annual Meeting held Monday night, February 17, Evelyn Mars was elected to the Board of Directors and Porter Roberts was appointed to fill the unexpired director's term vacated by the death of Ilene Osborn. Three board members who were re-elected to their posts were Judy Cummings, Dottie Osborn and Martha Rutherford.

Plans were made to continue the "Spring Luncheons In The Depot" which has been the group's primary money-raising activity for the past several years. The luncheons are again scheduled for the four Thursdays during the month of April. Be watching for pre-publicity and ticket sales for this event, as they usually sell out early.

During the meeting there was also discussion about repairs to the Depot during the past year. These consisted of having the trim painted and repaired, treating the building for mice and insects, the purchase of eight new tables, repairing the old bank building columns in the park, and having a historical plaque installed at the site of the columns on the northwest corner of the park.

Other projects of the Heritage Society include efforts to interest young people in the history of the town. The group sponsors a \$150 scholarship to a Friona High School student who is interested in history. They also sponsor a Junior High essay contest about the old Santa Fe railroad and how it relates to the history of Friona. The writer of the prize-winning essay receives a \$50 bond from the Heritage Society.

During the meeting, a moment of silence was held to honor three members who were deceased last year: Ilene Osborn, Forrest Osborn and Doyle Cummings.

Door prizes were won by Evelyn Mars, Peggy Monroe and Katherine Blackburn.

Other officers and directors include: President Lois Norwood, Vice President Peggy Monroe, Secretary Judy Cummings, Treasurer Dottie Osborn, Reporter Carol Ellis and Directors: Mary Johnston, Dave Thompson, Evelyn Mars, Martha Rutherford, Porter Roberts, Carrie Tatum,

and Martha Hamilton. Memorial contributions to the Heritage Society can be sent to the Heritage Society's treasurer, Dottie Osborn, at Rt. 1, Box 1B, Friona, Texas 79035. Acknowledgements are always sent to the families of all memorials received, and memorials are printed in the Depot's permanent memorial register.



MR. & MRS. LEE WITTEN, 1997

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February 23, 2-3 p.m. in the home of
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Town Talk

By JUNE FLOYD
Call 24 7-3681 With Your News Items.

My favorite hobbies are sewing, crocheting, knitting and quilting and everything I see in print which has to do with these subjects always attracts my attention.

Recently "All I Need To Know About Life I Learned From Sewing" crossed my desk. I enjoyed it so much that I want to share it with our readers. It reads thusly:

Things aren't always as bad as they SEAM.
Life is more fun if you keep it in STITCHES.
You'll get nowhere in life by just BOBBIN around.
A good friend never NEEDLES you.
If your life is in PIECES make a QUILT.
If your life begins to UNRAVEL make some FRINGE.
You can always learn to IRON out your difficulties.
If a friend seems STRETCHED out give her your BACKING.
A quick GATHERING can always make you happy.
Life is fun because everyone is CUT from a different PATTERN.
In times of trial, you see what MATERIAL you are made from but LOVE is the THREAD that holds it together.

One of our long time residents, George Rushing, reached the half century mark Friday. Since his birthday was on Valentine's Day, his wife, Leslie, planned a surprise sweetheart dinner for him.

"However," she reported, "It didn't turn out to be a surprise. It was fun, though," she said.

Guests were Eric and Chris Alexander and sons, David, Steven, Robbie, Michael, Lee and Andrew of Amarillo; and the following Frionans: Jim and Rhonda Murphree and daughters, Amy, Brenda, Staci, Anna and Maddy; Mitchell and Johnnie Wiseman and children, Christopher, Julie and Lindie; Alan and Patty Hale and sons, Mark, Chris and John David.

Also, Kevin and Sharlet Cooper and children, Sarah, Debra and William; and Linda, Eric and Marion Rushing.

Gary and Gail Hand and daughter, Tania, were joined at the Hand cabin in Ruidoso for a weekend of fun on the ski slopes by another daughter, Trista, and her fiancé, Tommy Stallings, students at Lubbock Christian University.

This was Tommy's first skiing experience.

Gary said, "There were so many people on the slope you could hardly count them, but I didn't see anyone else from Friona, which is very unusual."

The Hand family returned home Monday evening.

Out-of-town weekend visitors in the homes of Opal

twenty years to make living in the country possible for me."

As I was contemplating his answer to my unspoken question "What does that mean?" he went on to explain.

He said, "Twenty years ago I bought land in Dona Anna County, New Mexico, where pecan trees grow, thinking I would get out of the city of El Paso."

"However," he continued, "I came back to Friona and liked it so well that I've just stayed. Now, I'm moving to the country."

Since that conversation he has had his mobile home moved from its site near the north side of the home of his parents, the late Dalton and Estelle Caffey, which is located at the corner of Elm and Fifteenth, to a farm site northeast of town which was originally the home of Mr. and Mrs. H.R. Cocanougher and their family and is currently owned by Tim Herring.

Kim ended our conversation by saying, "I know I'm going to enjoy living out there and it really isn't too far from town--about 3-1/2 or 4 miles."

Bill and Doris Young of San Angelo returned to their home Tuesday following a six day stay in Friona, where they were visitors in the homes of her mother, Lillie Taylor and sister, Mildred Rule.

The Youngs came up to help Lillie get established in her new home and to assist her in getting her spring garden started.

She reported, "They did so many things while they were here and even spaded up a spot for my garden, so I now have onions started."

Alicia Smith, one of our across the street neighbors, showed a calf at the San Antonio Livestock Exposition last week and came home with a sizeable amount of cash from its sale.

She was accompanied to the Alamo City by an aunt, Bessie Holt of Friona, and the two had a lot of fun and learned many things about showing calves while they were there.

CONGRATULATIONS ALICIA!!! We're proud of you!!!

Gary and Kay Snead and Veronica Valesquez returned Monday after spending a long weekend in Abilene, Texas. They attended the annual Sing Song and Homecoming activities of Abilene Christian University, where Josh Snead is a student.

The Friona trio also visited with Gary's sister, Janet Payne, and her daughters, Shea Woodard and Shanel Denson and daughter, Kayli, who live in the Taylor County capital city.

A large number of Frionans were in the Red River, New Mexico area for the weekend due to the annual ski break from school. However, I've not had any report about it.

Williams, Sarah and Robin Rushing went skiing at Wolf Creek, Colorado, with a group of young people from Hereford.

Ricky Cooper of Eureka Springs, Arkansas, has been visiting in the homes of his parents, Lawrence and Mildred Cooper, and sister, Leslie Rushing and her family.

Our sympathy is extended to Glenda Procter. Her maternal grandmother, Myrtle Sinclair, a long time resident of Plainview, Texas, was buried here one day last week.

Also, her brother-in-law, Lanny Trussell of Muleshoe, is a medical patient at Methodist Hospital in Lubbock after having been diagnosed with a malignancy of the esophagus.

Lanny and his wife, Lenda, former teacher in

Friona Elementary School, lived here during the early seventies before moving to the Bailey County capital.

Today, Tuesday, February 18, begins the fiftieth year of the residence of the Floyd family in Parmer County. We moved from a farm in northwest Lubbock County to a farm six miles or so west of Friona on February 18, 1948.

I've liked living here ever since we came and like it better each year.

Thanks to all of you who contribute tips to Town Talk. Keep up the good work and we'll keep it going. On the other side of the coin--if you don't supply the news tips, Town Talk will not survive.



ARTIST OF THE MONTH...Patricia Carmichael is Friona's Artist of the Month for February. Her interesting, abstract watercolor paintings will be on display in the lobby at Prairie Acres for the rest of the month. She is shown here visiting with Nancy Houston of Grady, New Mexico, who is a new employee at Prairie Acres. Nancy is an R.N. and has been in nursing for over 10 years. Patricia has an English degree from UNC at Greeley, Colorado and an art degree from Texas Tech. She taught "Batik" during one summer semester at Clovis College and she is currently the elementary art teacher for Friona Schools.

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READY FOR NEXT YEAR...These eighth grade girls were happy with their first place win at the Friona Tournament and second place at the Muleshoe Tournament. Pictured are, back row, (l-r) Coach Herbert, Ema Perez, Kayla Smiley, Jenny Cunningham, Kristie Jack, Tania Hand, Rocio Lugo, Olivia Mendez, Elizabeth Silva, Alisia Rando and Coach Reed. Middle row, (l-r) Stephanie Cabrera, Lynette Jubay, Lafawnda Mays, V'Laura Wilcox, Mary Louise Walker, Valiere Bandy, Kahile Ingram, Mirna Rivera, Perla Chico, Petra Veronica Velazquez and Brandi Brailif. Front row, (l-r) Carolina Rivera, J'Mae Randolph, Jena Grimsley, Suehaye Ramos, Audra King, Amber Wylly, Ashlee Hunt, Maria Estrada and Dianna Tirado.



SEVENTH GRADE DRIBBLERS...With the season at a close, players finished with a smile, taking first place at the Friona Tournament. Pictured are, back row, (l-r) Coach Reed, Cara Evans, Candace Ingram, Rosalba Vera, Zaira Villarreal, Gloria Vazquez, Shonda Bentley, Mandi Daniel, Esmeralda Ortiz and Coach Herbert. Second row, standing, (l-r) Dora Ibarra, Magdalena Legarreta, Jennifer Echevarria, Monica Santellana, Tina Aragon, Claudia Arpero, Felicia Lafuente, Stephanie Collier, Alice Allen and Antonieta Arellano. Third row, kneeling (l-r), Christy Nava, Jenica Shelby, Crystal Tafoya, Kelsey Welch, Amy Terry, Pricilla Rosales, Jacy Grimsley, Sherrill Polk and Crystal Padilla. Fourth row, sitting, (l-r) Angela Trevino, Evelyn Shelby, Isabel Cisneros, Kim Houston, Jennifer Stafford, Katy Field and Roxana Chavez.

Happy Birthday Friona Folks.....

Week of Feb. 23-March 1
Friona residents having birthdays next week include:
February 23--Gayle O'Brian, Dexter Allen, Matthew Kendrick, April Pope, Frances Smith.
February 24--Joe Bob Johnson, Bobbie Clark, Janice Auburg, Sharon Rector, Della Patterson, Michelle Morris, Lisa Ann Edelson.
February 25--Dustin Campbell, Cameron Talley, Tommy Villalobos, LynEldon Randolph, Alexander Gurley, Emily Hollis Gurley.
February 26--Amy Beth Terry, Jerry London, Lesta Lee Neill,
Cody Bails, Duce Faires, Trasa Randolph, Michelle Alexander.
February 27--Misty Baxter Williams, Jesse Saiz, Raye Jean London, Pat Randolph.
February 28--Katrina Smith, Cindy Alexander, Corbin Neill, Todd Drake, Jim Rapp, Sam Mears, Jessie Saiz, Lonnie Ellis, Doreen Duran.
March 1--Clydie Black, Joe Osborn, Jean Terry, Lance Outland, Bill Weatherly, Jesse Mendoza, Jr., Jeff Curtis.
If you or someone in your family is observing a birthday, please call the Friona Star at 247-2211 by Wednesday noon.

YOUR EYES

Getting Used To Bifocals

Remember that it wasn't easy getting used to eye muscles that wouldn't let you focus on small type up close. It wasn't easy getting used to arms too short to hold reading matter far enough away. Keep that in mind and you'll find it's a lot easier to get used to bifocals that let you see again what you want to see.

The basic rule: look straight out to see far, look down to see close, and try to ignore that little line in between. In time you will. Remember how convenient it is *not* to keep switching glasses.

Hold reading matter closer to your body and lower your eyes so you can see through the lower part of the lenses. Lower your eyes, not your head. Newspapers are easier to read if you fold them in halves or quarters; move the paper, not your eyes, to read.

Don't look down at your feet when walking. Make sure glasses are properly adjusted. If they're off kilter, the lens segments may be out of position.

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