

WEST CADDO PEAK

Cross Plains Review

CROSS PLAINS' OLDEST BUSINESS INSTITUTION

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EAST CADDO PEAK
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CROSS PLAINS, CALLAHAN COUNTY, TEXAS 76443

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For the love of Muriel

Touched by Victorian 'baby book,' Texas woman sought family

EDITOR NOTE: The following is an article written by staff reporter for *The Evansville Press* Patricia Swann in Evansville, Indiana, on December 25, 1997, about one of our local resident's search for the family of a "precious treasure" - an 80 year-old plus baby book. **Vanda Creech**

As soon as Gaynelle Callaway saw the robin's egg blue volume at the Cross Plains (Texas) Library's used book sale, "I just knew it was a precious book."

After she started to read it - a baby book more than 80 years old - she decided it was indeed "a precious treasure." Too precious to be kept by strangers. She felt it had to be returned to the family, wherever they might be.

It took her a telephone call to *The Evansville Press*, some local historical research and a call to Fort Worth, but today - on Christmas morning - a little boy will get to look at pictures and read about the grandmother who died two years before he was born.

He'll learn also of his great-grandmother, who recorded every little achievement of her baby's first years of life.

The book details her many names. To her father she was "darling." Grandma called her "Child" and Grandpa "Little Pet." Great-grandpa called her "beauty," and her aunts referred to her as "angel." To her mother, she was just Muriel.

Between 2 and 3 years old she began to talk in sentences. Spotting an electric car "standing by McCurdy's, (she said) 'Mama, is that an itric?'"

Another time she said, "I got a headache. Give me a caterpillar."

At 3, Van Dyke wrote, "on election day, Mama reading letter. 'Well, Papa isn't coming home.' Muriel, 'You lonesome little girl.' Nod from Mama. Pause, Muriel, 'Mama! Let's get somebody else to live with us.'"

When Callaway, a devout Christian, read of little Muriel saying, "I do not want to sit at Jesus's feet. I'd rather sit in his lap," she became convinced she was supposed to get the book back to family members.

There are no Van Dykes listed in the Cross Plains telephone book; so, she called *The Evansville Press* and asked if the newspaper could help her find a relative of Muriel's.

To assist in the search, Callaway photocopied pages from the book and mailed it to the newspaper.

help the library.

"I guess I gave one book too many," he said.

He immediately telephoned Callaway, who mailed him the book that same night.

In a note accompanying the book, she wrote, "It is my joy to return this lost treasure to you and your family."

Recalling little Muriel's comment about sitting on Jesus' lap, she added:

"Even as a small child, her love for the Lord poured forth. I am so glad she married you - a minister and a servant of God. She used her life in service for others, as did you, and now I can return a small service to you in the return of this beautiful, lost, precious book."

"It is marvelous," Allen said of the book's return.

Talking of the comments in the book, he said, "Mother Van Dyke was a marvelous person."

Muriel, he said, died in 1991.

"We lacked just 13 days of having 50 years together," he said.

Allen was a Methodist minister, and Muriel had gone to DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, and then to a Nashville, Tennessee, college, majoring in social work. She

A typical page of Muriel Van Dyke's baby book included a heading, such as the one shown, a short poem and handwritten notations from her mother. On this page, for example, it was recorded that baby's first tub bath occurred on Easter Sunday, 1912.

was working as a deaconess in a Dallas community center, a Methodist mission, serving Mexican-Americans. He had been assigned to Dallas and went to the center, where they met.

On August 5, 1941, the couple married. They lived all over the South - Forth Worth, Shreveport and New Orleans, Louisiana, Vicksburg and Huntsville, Mississippi - with Allen serving as minister of education at large Methodist churches.

They had two children, Estill Van Dyke Allen, a teacher in Pasadena, Texas, and a daughter Gwendolyn Manuel of Colleyville, Texas, a sales representative for a paper firm. Allen has one grown grandchild, a computer information specialist, and a 5-year-old grandson.

That youngest grandson is getting the book today as a Christmas present so he can learn about the grandmother he never met. Allen has had all the pages copied and is having them bound for other family member.

Callaway paid \$2 for the book but has refused any money for it or her expenses in returning it to Allen for the holidays.

"Oh, no," she said. "I did it for the love of Muriel."

Project Pride Planning Annual Membership Dinner

Project Pride is beginning the new year with its annual membership dinner. The date has been set for Tuesday evening, January 20, at the Cross Plains Community Center.

No formal program is planned. Dress will be casual. Plan to meet your friends for an evening of visitation and a great fish dinner served with all the trimmings. Watch for details in next week's *Cross Plains Review*.

Candidate filing concludes Fri., January 2

All Democratic Party Primary Election ballot positions are now filled after the most recent filing for county treasurer by a Baird woman.

Dianne Alexander, deputy county treasurer, filed Tuesday, December 30 for the county treasurer's position now filled by Dora Hounshell. It is believed Hounshell will not seek re-election due to her health.

Alexander, 47, resides at 516 Thelma Street in Baird. She has resided in the state and in Callahan County 35 years.

Candidates who have already announced their intentions to see the Democratic Party's Primary ticket are:

County Judge

Winford Hogan, 62, who resides at 507 Pleasant Lane in Clyde.

Roger Corn, 57, who resides at 532 Poplar in Baird.

Benjamin Holloway, 75, who resides at 667 FM 603, Clyde.

County Clerk

Jeanie Bohannon, 54, who resides at 601 West 3rd Street in Baird.

Belinda Davis, 51, who resides at 617 Vine Street in Baird.

County Treasurer

Dianne Alexander, 47, who resides at 516 Thelma Street in Baird.

42nd District Court Clerk

Georgie Manion, 49, who resides at 317 Spruce Street in Baird.

Sharon Owens, 48, who resides at 6218 County Road 252 in Clyde.

Co. Commissioner Prec. #2

Bryan Farmer, 41, who resides at 9312 FM 603, Clyde.

Co. Commissioner Prec. #4

Charlie Grider, 59, who resides at 424 Fos Bond in Cross Plains.

Justice of the Peace Prec. #4

Rolan Jones, 56, who lists an address at P.O. Box 352 in Cross Plains.

Justice of the Peace Prec. #1

Eston Shelnut, 72, who resides at 504 South Third Street in Clyde.

Justice of the Peace Prec. #3

Don Burns, who resides at 508 Thelma Street in Baird.

Callahan County public offices up for election in the Democratic and Republican parties primary elections scheduled for March 10, include: county judge, county treasurer, county clerk, 42nd District Court clerk, commissioner precinct #2 (Eula and Oplin area) and commissioner precinct #4 (Cross Plains area). The justice of the peace offices in Clyde, Baird and Cross Plains are also up for election this year.

Candidate filing for both political parties primary elections will conclude at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, January 2, 1998.

Candidate application filing for the Democratic Party's Primary Election will be held with Jon Hardwick of Baird, County Democratic Chairman. Filing for the Republican Party's Primary Election will be offered through David Holmes of Cross Plains, County Republican Chairman.

Local High School Will Need Extensive Repairs

Extensive structural repairs have been deemed necessary for the Cross Plains High School before the entire building is safe, according to a structural engineer.

School officials are hopeful that five of the 15 classrooms will be ready for use by January 5 when students return from the holidays.

Superintendent Jackie Tension stated that part of the south wall and roof will have to come down. The facility still reeks with the smell of smoke from the December 7 fire. The lingering smoke smell is a great concern. The ventilation system has already been cleaned but needs to be turned on and aired out.

Intensive heat caused the steel beams to expand at the south end of the building pushing the brick walls of the structure outward. It is estimated that as much as one-third of the building will have to come down and be rebuilt.

The trustees will try to meet Friday to determine how to proceed. Tension expected the board to rebuild the damaged section and have it ready for the 1998 fall classes.

Last year a portion of the building was completed at a cost of \$400,000. Dollar estimates of the damage have not been received from insurance adjusters.

The north side of the building, housing five of the least-damaged classrooms and connecting hallways,

is being repaired rapidly. This will allow the students to move from the auditorium and gym for the remainder of the year.

A portable building donated by Jim Ned ISD was appreciated by Cross Plains I.S.D. Students are scattered throughout the campus, but a central working bell is not available. Also, the intercom system no longer works. Tension noted that it was difficult, but they were making it.

3,000 plus library books have been treated for smoke and water damage but will have to be checked individually. The Cross Plains Public Library has offered their services and students will probably be bused there to obtain needed books.

Approximately 200 sports trophies survived the fire, while another 100 or so melted in the heat. Some of the trophies dated to the school's beginnings. All the pictures of students who had gone to state were lost.

During the last homecoming a lot of former students (some of them over 70) asked about their trophies. At that time school officials were able to show them they still had them. Next homecoming the trophies and pictures will not be there. Sentimental value can't be replaced.

Mr. Tension praised the students for their coping skills. "Lots of boys and girls have turned into young adults in this situation. They've matured and helped out and really come around for us," he stated.

"White Christmas" Delayed One Day

By BILLY HARRIS
Special Writer

An average of 3 to 4 inches of snow blanketed northern Callahan County Friday morning bringing a "White Christmas" one day late.

The Cross Plains area reported about 1.5 inches of snow coverage. The snow quickly melted after noon, in all areas, when temperatures rose into the mid thirties.

The snow cover contributed to six automobile accidents on IH-20 according to Callahan County Dispatcher Arlinda Williams with the last one occurring at 10:30 a.m. The first accident was recorded on the log at 2:25 a.m.

"A west bound Acura hit some roadside slush after crossing the Cherry Lane overpass at Clyde causing the driver to lose control," said DPS Trooper Bill Russell. He then skidded across the median and side-swiped an east bound Ford pickup sending the Acura skidding back across the median and ending up setting sideways on the west bound side blocking the traffic lanes. "The driver of the Acura received a citation for unsafe speed for weather and road conditions," said Russell.

The 1990 Acura was driven by Somphane Outsama, 24, with one passenger, Linda Phongsavanhthong, 17, both of Fort Worth. Donald Roberson, 52, of Midway was driving the '91 F-150 Ford pickup.

Russell said a few inches could have made the outcome of the accident a lot different. Both vehicles had damage from the headlights to the taillights, if they had made a more head-on impact the occupants probably wouldn't have walked away.

Traffic was routed around the incident, onto the west bound service road, for about 20 minutes until the

traffic lanes could be cleared. All the victims of the six Callahan County accidents refused hospital treatment for injuries.

Russell said, Friday afternoon, he felt that if the temperatures had reached the mid-twenties as predicted for Friday morning, "We would still be out there working wrecks."

Callahan County Sheriff's Department, Clyde Police Department, Citizens EMS, and Clyde Fire Department assisted with the late morning accident.

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Presents:
"What's Inside"

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THE BATH

PLASH, splash, swash about,

Soap and suds a-flying.

The bath sponge is so big and fierce,

It sets the baby crying.

"You can just tell how much this mother loved her baby," said Callaway, a nurse. "I cried all the time I was reading it."

The baby was Muriel Marjorie Van Dyke, born September 29, 1911, to Roscoe and Mabel Van Dyke at the family home, 26 Jefferson St. in Evansville.

In spidery, old-fashioned script Mabel Van Dyke faithfully recorded details of Muriel's early life, from her first nurse - Miss Lily Metz, paid \$2 for the first day - to her first baby present - "from Papa, red rose buds."

Her first "outing" was "at 4 weeks October 18. On front porch, held by Grandma Neale (a nurse) while Mama went driving."

Locks of her hair are in the book, with the notation: "when I was just a few days old, they robbed me of a lock that hung, down at the nape of my neck, and still I had so much, it never will be missed." By June, her bangs had been cut three times "and hair peeps below bonnet."

She had the usual round of childhood illnesses: tonsillitis in June of 1912, followed by an ear inflammation, "indigestion attack" in May 1913 and "grip" in January 1914.

Among the pages was one containing the newspaper announcement of Muriel's birth, which reported Mrs. Van Dyke's maiden name was Mabel Vickery, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George S. Vickery.

Local historian Mary Dannettell suggested contacting Louise Vickery of Evansville, because she "knows all about the Vickery family here."

A call there and the response was, "Oh, Muriel. Yes, of course she's my cousin."

On the page in the book listing "Baby's First Visitors" are: "Cousin Louise, Marian, Florence, Aunt Anna and Uncle Rob."

"That's me and my sister," Vickery said. "We were very little then. Aunt Anna and Uncle Rob are my parents."

Muriel was dead, she said, but her husband, the Rev. Estill Allen, lived in Fort Worth. She provided a telephone number.

When contacted and told of the find, Allen kept repeating, "Oh, it's wonderful. Just wonderful."

The book, he said apparently was among a box of books he had donated to the Cross Plains library for its annual book sale. He had friends who lived in the town and wanted to

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

COURTHOUSE NEWS

COUNTY COURT
Bill Johnson presiding

Misdemeanor Minutes

Ed McConnell, theft of property by check, \$100 fine \$157 court costs, \$107.31 restitution, 6 months deferred judgment probation.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

Sandy B. King, Baird, Donal Lloyd Ivey, Jr., Cisco.

42ND DISTRICT COURT

John Weeks, presiding

Civil Minutes

Divorces granted:
Estrada, Tomme & Manuel.
Bryant, Karen & Jon A.
Barnes, Russell Gene & Sally Deann.
Aguirre, Shari DeNiece & Jessie Cruz.

Felony Indictment

Laurie Lee Newson, possession of cocaine.

OBITUARIES

Iva Williams Bains

BAIRD—Iva Williams Bains, 100, passed away Sunday, December 21, 1997.

Services were held at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Primitive Baptist Church, 3565 Hickory in Abilene, with Mark Burris officiating, assisted by Travis Brown. Burial was in Oplin Cemetery, directed by Parker Funeral Home.

Mrs. Bains was born in Jewett and moved to Callahan County in 1908 from Leon County, settling in Cottonwood. She later moved to Oplin, where she farmed and ranched. She was a member of Abilene Primitive Baptist Church. She married Nigle Earl Bains in 1915 in Callahan County.

Survivors include two daughters, Elba Gaffin of Spur and Delma Scott of Clyde; two sons, Harvel Bains of Lubbock and Horace Bains of Abilene; 11 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, seven great-great-grandchildren and a number of nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to Oplin Cemetery Association.

George Carlile

BAIRD—George L. Carlile, 87, passed away Monday, December 22, 1997, at an Abilene hospital after a sudden illness.

Services were held at 3 p.m. Tuesday at Parker Funeral Home Chapel. Burial was in Ross Cemetery Annex.

Mr. Carlile was born in Belle Plaine and lived in Callahan County most of his life. He was a rancher and cowboy and a member of Clyde Church of Christ.

Survivors include one daughter, D'Ann Holson of Tuscola; one stepson, Harvey Christensen of Dallas; two sister, Amy Albrecht of Cross Plains and Doris Wilson of Baird; five stepchildren and a number of nieces and nephews.

Rev. Sam Partee

BIG SPRING—Rev. Sam Partee, 73, passed away Tuesday, December 23, 1997, in a local hospital.

Services were held at 10 a.m. Saturday at First United Methodist Church in Big Spring with Dr. Ed Williamson officiating, direct by Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. Graveside services were at 3 p.m. at Bradshaw Cemetery in Bradshaw.

Mr. Partee was born May 10, 1924, in Hill County and married Rose Best on July 3, 1964, in Bradshaw.

Mr. Partee grew up and attended school in Colorado City. He was affiliated with the Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church and pastored United Methodist churches in the Central Texas area until retiring in 1990. He was also a World War II veteran of the United States Navy.

Survivors include his wife, Rose Partee of Big Spring; three daughters, Patricia Vanover, Jeanett Ross and Becky Rodriguez, all of Odessa; three sons, Tommy Partee of Sumpter, Oregon, Devin Partee and Richard Partee, both of Abilene; three sisters Alma Bishop of Colorado City, Roxie Phillips of Early and Jewell Purvis of Cross Plains; and 19 grandchildren.

The family suggests sending memorials to Permian Basin Rehabilitation Center, 620 N. Alleghany Ave., Odessa, Texas 79761.

6th Big Country Farm & Ranch Show to Take Place in Feb.

Minneapolis, Mn... The 6th Annual Big Country Farm & Ranch Show is scheduled for February 10 and 11 at the Taylor Country Fairgrounds in Abilene. The show will feature the latest in agricultural equipment and offer area producers a two day educational conference.

The 1998 Big Country Farm & Ranch Farm Show is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, and Wednesday, February 11, at the Taylor County Fairgrounds in Abilene. Sponsors for this year's event include the Abilene Reporter News, KTAB-TV, Taylor County Ag Extension Service and the Rolling Plains Cotton Growers. Admission is free. For more information, please call 800-827-8007.

Callahan County Commissioners Meet -- Discuss CR 120 Project

By BILLY HARRIS
Special Writer

Residents on CR120 requested speed limit signs be posted in Precinct 1 from Union Hill Road to FM604.

Several residents spoke of concern about vehicles driving too fast on the county road. There were stories of residents placing 4X4 boards in the roadway and other methods of trying to slow the traffic down.

One lady said she was afraid to even try and cross the road on foot because she couldn't move fast enough.

Hicks said if he put the signs up it would be a waste of money, unless the roads were patrolled. He questioned -- do you people want the speed limit signs even though they wouldn't be enforced?

Citizens said something needed to be done about the speeding on CR120.

Hicks requested the signs for CR120 and said he would research costs. This information would be made available at the January 12th, 10:00 a.m. public hearing on the matter.

Commissioners accepted a \$71,500.00 bid for a 120H Caterpillar maintainer from West Texas Equipment Company for Precinct 3. This price includes trade-in value on a 1983 120G maintainer and a guaranteed buy-back on the new machine in five years. This was the only bid. Motion was made by Holland and seconded by Grider.

Janice Grant spoke to commissioners concerning the Nativity Scene that commissioners had previously voted, during their October 20th meeting, to allow the Cross Plains Project Pride to use. The Nativity Scene had been in storage (in disrepair) in the courthouse attic for many years. The Cross Plains folks wanted to restore and use the item.

Grant said the Nativity Scene belonged to the Baird Chamber of Commerce and the City of Baird. Judge Johnson said he would retrieve the Nativity Scene if Baird wanted it. "I checked with the Baird Chamber of Commerce President and another member before we did anything with it -- to see if they wanted on the agenda about the Nativity Scene, and they didn't," Johnson stated.

Grant said if you get it back, we're just going to give it back to Cross Plains.

Johnson said, "We'll get it back and we can do what you want with it. We won't have it that the commissioners gave it away and the Baird Chamber wanted it."

Baird resident Bruce Williams was reappointed as the county's representative on the Callahan County Appraisal Board. Motion was made by Holland and seconded by Hicks.

State Library and Archives Commission annual approval was passed unanimously. Motion was made by Grider and seconded by Farmer.

Thirteen holidays were approved for county employees for 1988 on a motion by Farmer and seconded by Holland.

Holloway announces candidacy for county judge position

I, BEN HOLLOWAY, am announcing my candidacy for county judge of Callahan County in the Democratic Primary, March 10, 1998.

I was born in Sherman, in 1921. I graduated from Sherman High School in 1939. I have completed two years college, attending University of California at Berkeley, Hardin-Simmons University and Abilene Christian University.

I am a veteran. During World War II I was a Combat Intelligence Specialist. After World War II I served as a special agent with the United States Air Force office of Special Investigation (OSI) until 1966 when I retired as a Chief Warrant Officer. In OSI I conducted criminal and counter intelligence investigations. I was an OSI Detachment Commander at Kimpo Air Force Base in Korea and at Perrin Air Force Base at Sherman.

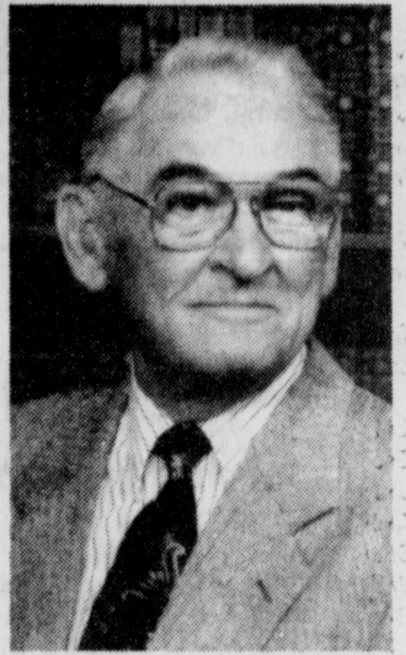
After retirement I worked briefly as a mail carrier for about 6 months. Next, I accepted a job as a Special Agent Investigator (CS9) Civil Service at Abilene, and served in that position for five years.

I worked for Boyd Field Real Estate for about 6 months. During that time I earned my brokers license while selling real estate in and around Abilene.

My next position was with Abilene Christian University as Director of Security and Police Chief. I remained with them for five years, during which time I was certified as a Texas Peace Officer.

I then leased the Texaco Service Station at Old Abilene Town. At the same time I owned and operated the Chevron Service Station at I-20 and Hwy. 351, both in Abilene.

I have been retired for the past ten years, living at 667 FM 603, where I bought 40 acres and built a home in 1976. We have lived in Callahan



County for 21 years.

In 1943, I married Nadine Leverette (my best asset). We have been blessed with three daughters: Martha, an acupuncture doctor in California; Janie Smith, attending Angelo State University, graduating in May, 1998 as a registered nurse; Carol, who is a top sales lady for Neiman Marcus in Dallas.

If elected to be your county judge, I promise to be fair and impartial, serving all to the best of my ability. I am certainly mature and experienced. I have been described as honest, loyal and trustworthy.

Our family are members of the Church of Christ, doing our best to live as Christians.

The reason I am asking for your vote is I think I can be of more service to my fellow citizens. If elected, justice will prevail in Callahan County. My long experience in law enforcement uniquely qualifies me to serve as county judge.

Pol. ad. paid by Ben Holloway, 667 FM 603, Clyde, Texas 79510

1997 Census of Agriculture Forms to Arrive Soon

WACO -- Report forms for the 1997 Census of Agriculture will soon appear in the mailboxes of farmers and ranchers across the country, and Bob Stallman, president of the Texas Farm Bureau, encourages Texas producers to participate.

"Ag Census forms have been mailed to more than 295,000 individual producers statewide," said Stallman. "The 1997 Census will provide a detailed picture of the changes in agriculture since the last Census in 1992."

The current Census will focus on the number of farms in the United States, farm size, operator characteristics, crop and livestock production, agricultural products sales and production expenses of farmers and

ranchers. "All answers provided in the Census are considered confidential and will be used only for statistical purposes," said Stallman. "This Census will provide benchmark agricultural statistics for decision making for the next five years for the U.S., for Texas and for each of the nation's 3,100 counties."

Completed forms should be mailed back by February 2, 1998, in the postage paid envelopes provided. Farmers and ranchers who do not respond by February 2, will receive follow-up letters and phone calls reminding them to report.

Farmers and ranchers can receive more information by calling a toll-free number, 1-888-4AG-STAT.

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VANDA CREECH, EDITOR
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Selected Scriptures

Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You. Psalm 119:11
Paid Advertising — Irma Miller

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Wed. Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.
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Jason Kempf - Youth & Music Minister

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Evening Service 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer Time 7:00 p.m.
Joe Coppinger, Pastor (254) 725-7730 Church 725-6266
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Political Calendar

The Cross Plains Review is authorized to publish the following political announcements for the Callahan County office filings in the Democratic Primary Election set for Tuesday, March 10, 1997.

For Callahan Judge Winford Hogan

Pol. Adv. paid by Patsy Hogan, treasurer, 507 Pleasant Lane, Clyde, TX 79510

Roger Corn

Pol. Adv. Pd. by Roger Corn, 532 Poplar, Baird, TX 79504

Ben Holloway

Pol. Adv. Pd. by Ben Holloway, 667 FM 603, Clyde, Texas 79510

For County Clerk Jeanie Bohannon

Pol. Adv. paid Karla Gilland, treasurer, 601 W. 2nd, Baird, TX 79504

Belinda Davis

Pol. Adv. Pd. by Belinda Davis, 617 Vine Street, Baird, TX 79504

For 42nd District Court Clerk Georgie Manion

Pol. Adv. Pd. by Manion Martin-Treasurer

Sharon Owens

Pol. Adv. Pd. by Dale Owens, Treasurer, 6218 CR 252, Clyde, Texas 79510

All political calendar advertising for the Democratic Primary Election is payable in advance, at a cost of \$100.00. A free press release and photograph will be published one time with each announcement.

COLONIAL OAKS SERVICES

First United Methodist will conduct worship services at Colonial Oaks Nursing Home on Sunday, January 1, commencing at 3:30 p.m.

When Renewing Your Subscription To The Cross Plains Review In Person or By Mail Please Bring or Send Renewal Card Sent To You In The Mail.

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NEWS

By
LINDA MERRITT
Activity Director

As another year draws to a close, we want to thank everybody for your friendship and support and sincerely wish you all the happiness that a prosperous and successful New Year can bring.

Thoughts and prayers for Gerie Powell and Jake Green who are in the hospital.

Appreciation to Jack Martin for the fruit and to Bonnie Rogers for the candy.

Reuben and Ruby McCowen from Lubbock, Pamela Gilbreath from Escondido, California, Mona Wilson from Abilene, Jordan Marie and Joshua Crawford from Charleston, South Carolina and Linda Brooks Wilson visited with Blanche Brooks.

Eddie and Kim Jackson from Winters, Kelly Hedrick Howard from Odessa visited with Julia Hedrick.

Paul, Scott, Jonathan, Billy and Billie Wright from Clyde visited

with Lorena Wright.

Virginia Childers from Potosi, Gene and Nelda Wilcoxon from Abilene visited Lillie Childers.

Charles Coppinger from Odessa visited Louise Richardson.

Connie Kirkham, Brenton and Byron was here visiting everybody.

Activities during the week were:

Monday: In-room visiting.

Tuesday: Sing-a-long with Bob Wallace. Popcorn social. Skip-Bo games.

Wednesday: Art class. Exercise class.

Thursday: In-room visiting. Bingo winners were Louise Richardson (2), Falba Shofner, Minnie Swann (2), Vera Belyeu, and Dorothy Thomas.

Friday: Singing with Bob Wallace. Sit-down-basketball.

Sunday: First United Methodist Church

Happy New Year
1998

Clips, Quips & Comments

By KAY DENNIS MOSLEY

Breakfast - OLE!

Like something different for breakfast or brunch one of these cold mornings? If so, you might like to try this one which my husband learned when we lived in Deming, New Mexico, in the late '60's and early '70's.

With hot biscuits and fresh brewed coffee there's nothing better on a cold, frosty fall or winter morning.

"Morning Scramble" Will serve 5 or 6

2 to 3 Chorizo sausages, split the casings, scrape the contents into a hot, buttered skillet and mash the mixture with a fork until minuscule.

Brown, stirring often. Then add one to one and 1/2 dozen eggs, beaten, 1 tablespoon water and 1 and 1/2 teaspoons salt. Scramble to desired consistency and serve. For variation, you can add to the browned sausage 1/4 cup chopped green onions, 1/2 cup fresh tomatoes, and 1/4 cup bell peppers. Stir fry until vegetables are tender. Add 8 to 10 beaten eggs and 1/3 cup grated cheese (Monterrey Jack, cheddar or colby). Stir until firm and serve.

If your preference is not eggs, brown the sausages as directed above, add 1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons oil, then flour to thicken, salt and pepper. Brown the flour, add water and milk until gravy reaches desired consistency. Serve with cottage fried potatoes, hot bread and a selection of fresh fruit or a mixed fruit ambrosia.

Gotta go, my mouth is watering already in anticipation of this spicy concoction.

By the way, Marvin learned this recipe at a men's Saturday morning breakfast at the First Baptist Church in Deming, New Mexico. "C" "U"!!!

PERSONALS

The McCowens, Ruby, Naomi and Bob, visited over the Christmas holidays in Houston with Ruby's grandson James Horton, who is a Army Captain stationed there. James' mother and sister, Bonita Horton and Cathy Horton of Burk, Virginia, were also visiting.

While there the family toured the Galleria, a large shopping mall several stories high. The mall has a large ice skating rink on the lower floor and you could stand near the ice or go up many stories and look down on it. Ruby especially enjoyed watching the skaters; more so the little ones. James and Bob contemplated ice skating but decided it would more like ice scooting, so they declined.

Christmas Eve the group drove to Galveston Island where they had a nice noon meal in a restaurant at the water's edge. Then they viewed a large glass pyramid; a rain forest display in a 85 degree humid environment; the discovery pyramid where all kinds of space craft and NASA vehicles were displayed; watched a I Max movie (3D). It

seemed like the flying boulders, meteorites, space stations, etc. were traveling right to you and through you.

James has 7 or 8 guitars, 2 electric pianos, large recording machines and he can also record and make CD discs. The family has recorded with him almost every Christmas the last few years. James plays guitar, Bob guitar and Ruby on the piano.

Ruby, Bob and Naomi returned to Cross Plains Friday, November 26th and reported a great time.

Visiting in the home of Richard and Vanda Creech and Kye King during the Christmas holidays were Wanda Anderson, Joe and Guy Watson all of Abilene; Chris and Leah Orum of Lubbock; Blandye Harris and Tatum of Cross Plains; Ronny Crawford of Abilene; Todd Watson of Dallas; Staci Watson and friend, Scott, of Plano; Vicki Williams of Cross Plains; and Amber Kleiber of Burkett.

The Meanest Mother

By ROBBIE PINGARO

I had the meanest Mother in the whole world. While other kids ate candy for breakfast, I had to have cereal, eggs or toast. When others had Cokes and candy for lunch, I had to eat a sandwich. As you can guess, my supper was different than the other kids' also.

But at least, I wasn't alone in my sufferings. My sister and two brothers had the same mean Mother as I did.

My Mother insisted upon knowing where we were at all times. You'd think we were on a chain gang. She had to know who our friends were and what we were doing. She insisted if we said we'd be gone an hour, that we be gone one hour or less -- not one hour and one minute. I am nearly ashamed to admit it, but she actually struck us. Not once, but each time we had a mind of our own and did as we pleased. That poor belt was used more on our seats than it was to hold up Daddy's pants. Can you imagine someone actually hitting a child just because he disobeyed? Now you can see how mean she really was.

We had to wear clean clothes and take a bath. The other kids always wore their clothes for days. We reached the height of insults because she made our clothes herself, just to save money. Why, oh why, did we have to have a Mother who made us feel different from our friends?

In bed by NINE. The worst is yet to come. We had to be in bed by nine each night and up at eight the next morning. We couldn't sleep till noon like our friends. So while they slept - my Mother actually had the nerve to break the child labor law. She made us work. We had to wash dishes, make beds, learn to cook and all sorts of cruel things. I believe she laid awake at night thinking up mean things to do to us.

She always insisted upon our telling the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, even if it killed us -- and it nearly did.

By the time we were teenagers, she was much wiser, and our life became even more unbearable. None of this tooting the horn of a car for us to come running. She embarrassed us to no end by making our dates and friends come to the door to get us. If I spent the night with a girl friend, can you imagine she checked on me to see if I were really there, I never had the chance to elope to Mexico. That is if I'd had a boyfriend to elope with. I forgot to mention, while my friends were dating at the mature age of 12 and 13, my old fashioned Mother refused to let me date until the age of 15 and 16. Fifteen, that is if you dated only to go to a school function. And that was maybe twice a year.

Through the years, things didn't improve a bit. We could not lie in bed "sick" like our friends did and miss school. If our friends had a toe ache, a hang nail or other serious ailment, they could stay home from school. Our marks in school had to be up to par. Our friends' report cards had beautiful colors on them, black for passing, red for failing. My Mother being as different as she was, would settle for nothing less than ugly black marks.

As the years rolled by, first one and then the other of us was put to shame. We were graduated from high school. With our Mother behind us, talking,

hitting and demanding respect, none of us were allowed the pleasure of being a drop-out.

My Mother was a complete failure as a mother. Out of four children, a couple us attained some higher education. None of us has ever been arrested, divorced or beaten his mate. Each of my brothers served his time in the service of this country. And whom do we have to blame for the terrible way we turned out? You're right, our mean Mother. Look at all the things we missed. We never got to march in a protest parade, nor to take part in a riot, burn draft cards and a million and one other things that our friends did. She forced us to grow up into God-fearing, educated, honest adults.

Using this as a background, I am trying to raise my three children. I stand a little taller and I am filled with pride when my children call me mean.

Because, you see, I thank God, He gave me the meanest Mother in the world.

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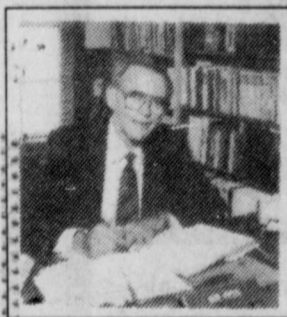
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BREAKTHRU

By Bob Pipes, preacher
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In his book, "The Bumps Are What You Climb On," Warren Wiersbe begins: "A little boy was leading his sister up a mountain path and the way was not too easy. 'Why, this isn't a path at all,' the little girl complained. 'It's all rocky and bumpy.' And her brother replied, 'Sure, the bumps are what you climb on.'"

As we look back over 1997, I'm sure we remember a lot of bumps. Did we stumble on them or climb on them? Mr. Wiersbe shares a remarkable piece of philosophy. What do we do with the bumps along the path of life? What will we do with them in the year just ahead?

In case you have not noticed, even good folk -- even Christians -- often encounter what seems to be more than ones share of "bumps" on the pathway of life. Sickness, financial concerns, grief, death of loved ones which brings more grief. If we're not careful we may get to wondering why God doesn't remove those "bumps" from our path. The reason, if we're wondering, is because if God did that we might never get to the top of life's mountain -- because "the bumps are what we climb on," remember?

One of God's inspired writers of the New Testament put it this way: "Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, my brethren, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. Blessed is the man who endures temptations (bumps, BP); for when he has been proved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him," James 1:2-4, 12.

God doesn't promise to remove the stones or "bumps" from the path, but He does promise to make them stepping stones and not stumbling blocks. Makes me want to wish you a "Bumpy New Year!"

Happy 1998 to you and yours!!

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The Case of the Dancing Cowboy

By JOHN R. ERICKSON

Chapter 8
A Shocking Experience

(In the previous chapter, Slim, the ranch hand, serves Miss Viola a cup of coffee only to find out it wasn't coffee at all. It was green bean juice he had saved by pouring it in the coffee pot. Miss Viola gives up on the coffee and asks Slim to look at her car, which is having problems. Slim starts by checking the oil and wipes off the dipstick on Hank the Cowdog's ear. With help from Miss Viola, Slim discovers a loose spark plug wire. Then he makes the mistake of grabbing it.)

"Eeee-Yowwwwwww!"
He'd been draped over the grill, see, but when the spark plug wire shocked him, he straightened up in a hurry and banged his head against the hood. It knocked his hat off.
"By golly," he said, rubbing the top of his head, "why don't you kill that thing before it kills me?"
Viola reached through the window and turned off the key. Then she came back around to where Slim was rubbing the back of his head. "Slim, what on earth happened?"
"Well, them spark plug wires carry a pretty good jolt of electricity and I kind of forgot what happens when you grab one with the motor a-going. But now I remember."
"Oh dear. I'm sorry."
"No, it was my own fault for being dumb."
"How badly is your head hurt?"
"Oh, bad enough to tell me not to do it again."
"Here, let me look at it."
"You can look, but I can already tell you that I ain't going to the doctor for stitches."
"Hush and bend over."
He hushed and bent over, and she parted his hair and studied the injury. "My stars, your hair's been burned."
"That came from a different deal. I was burning Sally May's trash this morning and used a little too much gas."
She clicked her tongue. "You're too careless, Slim. You need to take better care of yourself. Well, you've got a goose egg and a cut. Let's go to the house and clean it up."
"It's OK."
"It's not OK. It's a deep cut and it's bleeding down the back of your neck and you might need some stitches."
"I've got work to do, and I ain't going to ..."
"March to the house, Slim."
"... no dadgum sawbones doctor."
"Now!"
He picked up his hat and the three of us started back to the house. On the way, Miss Viola looked down at me and said, "Has he always been this stubborn?"
Yes ma'am, always.
"I can't believe that a grown man could be so silly about going to the doctor and getting a few little stitches."
"It ain't the stitches, Viola, it's the drive into town. And I've got work to do."
"Oh fiddle." Inside the house, she made him sit down in the living room. "Now, you sit right there while I get some hot water and a washcloth."
"The thermocouple's shot on the hot water heater."
"What does that mean?"
"You'll have to boil your water on the stove."
She blinked her eyes. "Oh. Kay. So we'll boil water on the stove."
"But don't make it too hot."
She went into the kitchen. "Don't be such a baby."
"Well, it's my cut, and my cut says, 'Don't be throwing any scald-

ing water on me."
"I'm trying to ignore you, Slim." She got the water going on the stove and came back into the living room. "Now, we need a clean washcloth."
"Out on the clothesline."
She disappeared out the front door and returned a moment later with two white washcloths and a towel. "Did you just do your laundry?"
"Two weeks ago."
She laughed. "Two weeks ago, and the clothes are still out on the line?"
"I leave 'em out there until I need 'em. It saves folding and finding a place for 'em."
"Slim, honestly."
"Well, it works. You ought to try it sometime."
"Bachelors. It's a wonder you're still alive."
"Survival of the fittest, I reckon. Them that's tougher than germs will survive."
She got all her stuff and came up behind him. "Now, I'm going to wash the cut with soap and water."
"Could we skip the soap?"
"No. It might sting a little bit, so grit your teeth and don't complain." She went to work with her soft pretty hands, while old Slim bit down on his lip and glared at the wall. "Does that sting?"
"Is the Pope Catholic? It feels like you're cleaning it out with a hoof rasp."
"Well, it's a pretty nasty cut."
"It was fine 'til you put some soap on it."
"Please hush." She finished up her work and then hustled off to the bathroom. She came back with a little red bottle of something. "Now, hold still another minute and we'll be done. I'm going to put some anti-septic on it."
"Will it burn?"
She glanced at the label on the bottle. "No. This is the kind that doesn't burn."
"Good."
She dabbed some red stuff on the wound and stepped away. Slim's eyes got bigger and bigger, and then he jumped out of his chair.
"Jeemaneec crickets! I thought you said it wouldn't burn."
She smiled. "I misread the label."
"Yes, ma'am, I think you did. Either that or somebody lied."
"It won't burn for long, and it just might save you from an infection."
"Right now, I'd go for the infection." He paced around the room for a few minutes, fanning the back of his head. Then he dropped into the chair again. "Whew, boy. That stuff's even worse than soap."
She watched him for a moment. "Slim, you really should go to town and get a few stitches in that cut. It would heal faster if you did."
"I ain't going to the doctor."
"Then at least let me trim your hair."
His eyes swung around and locked on her. "Trim my hair? What for?"
She closed her eyes for a moment, then patted him on the arm. "Slim, sometimes it's hard to get a point across to you in a subtle way, so let's talk man-to-man. With half your hair burned, you look ridiculous."
Next Week: Slim Gets a Haircut

This is Chapter 8 from "The Case of the Dancing Cowboy," a previously unpublished book by John R. Erickson, a Texas rancher. Erickson, who has written 27 Hank the Cowdog books for Gulf Publishing, is giving this 11-chapter book to newspapers across the nation to encourage children and others to read.

SCHOOL MENU

JAN. 5 - JAN. 9
(Subject To Change)

BREAKFAST
MONDAY — Oatmeal, toast, assorted juice and milk.
TUESDAY — French toast, bacon, assorted juice and milk.
WEDNESDAY — Donuts, assorted juice and milk.
THURSDAY — Cereal, toast, assorted juice and milk.
FRIDAY — Hash browns w/ gravy, sausage, assorted juice and milk.

LUNCH
MONDAY — Corn dogs, baked beans, pickle spears, diced peaches and milk.
TUESDAY — Chicken nuggets, creamed potatoes, green beans, rolls, pears and milk.
WEDNESDAY — Spaghetti w/ meat sauce, broccoli, garlic bread pineapples and milk.
THURSDAY — Meat cheese nachos, salad, corn, fruit cobbler and milk.
FRIDAY — Hamburger, lettuce, tomato, pickles, fries, Rice Krispie bar and milk.

Congressional Intern Deadline Approaches

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman Charles Stenholm reminds college students and educators that the deadline for the 1998 Washington, D.C. Internship Program is January 9th.
Interns will get the chance to work in the Congressman's Washington office for one month next June or July. The interns work with the legislative staff helping constituents and in other areas of the daily operation of the office.
The internship program is open to college and university students from the 17th Congressional District and those who are now attending school in the district. Teachers and administrators also may apply for the opportunity. Those who are selected will receive a \$1,000 stipend to help with living and travel expenses.
You can get information and applications for the program in the Abilene district office in the One City Center Building in downtown Abilene or by writing: Mr. Raymond McDaniel, Jr., Chairman, Intern Selection Committee, P.O. 543, Abilene, Texas 79604.
The completed applications must be postmarked by January 9, 1998. The committee will select finalists by February 20th. The committee will interview the finalists in Abilene on March 14th and make the selections then.
If you have questions, please call Congressman Stenholm's Abilene office at (915) 673-7221.

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*** NEW LISTING**—2 bdr. older home on large lot.

*** NEW LISTING**—acreage in Cottonwood area; 13 ac. w/ house, pecan trees and goat fence.

*** NEW LISTING**—nice 2 bdr. house on East 14th, near school.

*** NEW LISTING**—3 bdr. fixer upper on Ave. A, Large lot.

*** NEW LISTING**—5 city blocks in old town Cottonwood. Very good view for building a home.

*** NEW LISTING**—3 bdr., 1 1/2 bath, excellent location, CH/A. George Scott Blvd.

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*** 3 vacant city lots** with nice new home construction.

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SOME FINANCING WITH APPROVED CREDIT

County oil & gas totals lower in Sept.

Oil and gas production figures for September 1997 in Callahan County have recently been released by the Railroad Commission of Texas, and the month's oil production and natural gas production were both lower than the previous month's totals.

Total gas production in Callahan County for the month of September was 139,290 MCF. One MCF is equal to 1,000 cubic feet of natural gas.

Total crude oil production in Callahan County for the month of September was 40,207 barrels of

Callahan County Oil & Gas Production		
	Aug. 1997	Sept. 1997
Total Oil Production	43,340	40,207
Total Gas Production	139,933	139,290

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Central & South West Corp. announces merger agreement

Columbus, Ohio, and Dallas, Texas (December 22, 1997) — American Electric Power Company, Inc. ("AEP") [NYSE:AEP] and Central and South West Corporation, ("CSW") [NYSE:CSR] today announced that their boards of directors have approved a definite merger agreement for a tax-free, stock-for-stock transaction creating a company with a total market capitalization of approximately \$28.1 billion (\$16.5 billion in equity; \$11.6 billion in debt and preferred stock). The combination is expected to be accounted for as a pooling of interests.

This combination creates the nation's preeminent diversified electric utility serving more than 4.6 million customers in 11 states and approximately 4 million customers outside the United States. Both companies have low-cost generation and offer their customers in every state prices below the national average. Over the last two years, both AEP and CSW have ranked among the top five electric utilities in customer satisfaction in the American Customer Satisfaction Index™.

Under the agreement, each common share of CSW will be converted into 0.6 shares of AEP. Based upon AEP's closing price of \$52.00 on Friday, December 19, 1997, this represents a premium of 20% over the CSW closing price of \$26.00. AEP will issue approximately \$6.6 billion in stock to CSW stockholders to complete the transaction. CSW stockholders will own approximately 40% of the combined company. Both companies anticipate continuing their current dividend policies until the close of the transaction. Under the merger agreement, there will be no changes required with respect to the public debt issues or the outstanding preferred stock of CSW or its subsidiaries.

Dr. E. Linn Draper Jr., chairman, president and chief executive officer of AEP, said "We believe that together we will be a successful competitor - nationally and internationally - in the 21st century. This merger creates a company that is diverse in its fuels, its generation and its workplace - a link between the Midwest and the Southwest, reaching from Canada to Mexico. We are two companies that have historically been efficient and financially strong. Together, we will participate in three major power pools (ERCOT, SPP and ECAR) across the country.

"No two companies are more closely aligned in their visions and philosophies than AEP and CSW," Draper continued. "We are both pro-competition and are eager for the day when customers have a

choice of energy companies. We believe this agreement creates the kind of company regulators, legislators and government officials want operating in their states - a company able to produce and deliver low-cost power, a company ready to compete for the benefit of its customers and a high-quality, well-capitalized company positioned to handle the future. The agreement we announce today will create value for customers, employees and shareholders."

E.R. Brooks, chairman and chief executive officer of CSW, said, "With this merger, CSW and AEP will be doing much more than simply combining two excellent companies to create a larger one. We are creating a new standard for excellence in the emerging global energy and related services market.

"CSW and AEP are the right fit. We both excel at customer service. We both are among the lowest-cost electricity generators in the United States. We both place a premium on innovation. And, most importantly, we both are committed to leading our industry into a competitive future," said Brooks. "This strategic combination will create new value for shareholders. It will deliver exceptional service and products to customers and it will be a magnet for talented employees."

Brooks continued, "AEP has positioned itself to become 'America's Energy Partner'™ at a time when customer choices on energy supply are rapidly expanding. This past summer, drawing aim at that same future of customer choice, CSW embraced the slogan 'Advanced thinking. Enhanced living,' as our standard for customer service. Separately, I am confident we would reach these objectives. Together, we'll do it smarter, we'll do it better, and we'll get where we intend to go faster."

The companies anticipate savings related to the merger of approximately \$2 billion over a 10-year period from the elimination of duplication in corporate and administrative programs, greater efficiencies in operations and business processes, increased purchasing efficiencies, and the combination of the two work forces. At the same time, the companies will continue their commitment to high-quality, reliable service. Position reductions because of the merger are expected to be approximately 1,300 out of a total domestic work force of approximately 25,000. The combined company will use a combination of growth, reduced hiring and attrition to minimize the need for employee separations. Organizational and staffing recommendations will be made by transition teams of employees from both companies.

The companies anticipate that the merger will not affect base rates. The electric systems of AEP and CSW will operate on an integrated and coordinated basis as required by the Public Utility

Holding Company Act of 1935. Any fuel savings resulting from the coordinated operation of the combined company will be passed on to customers.

Draper, currently chairman, president and chief executive officer of AEP, will remain chairman, president and chief executive officer of the combined company. Brooks, currently chairman and chief executive officer of CSW, will become a board member of the combined company. Thomas V. Shockley III, CSW president and chief operating officer, will continue as a key senior officer of the combined company in the Southwest region. The board of the combined company will be made up of 15 members, 10 from AEP, plus Brooks and four others from CSW. The name of the combined company will be American Electric Power Company, Inc. and will be headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, with significant operations in all 11 states.

The merger is conditioned, among other things, upon the approvals of each company's shareholders and state and federal regulatory agencies. The companies anticipate that regulatory procedures can be completed in 12 to 18 months.

AEP and CSW have ownership interests in two regional electric companies in the United Kingdom. AEP owns 50% of Yorkshire Electricity Group plc through a joint venture with New Century Energies, Inc. CSW owns SEEBOARD plc. AEP and CSW will keep the United Kingdom regulators and officials fully advised of the transaction.

Salomon Smith Barney acted as financial advisor and provided a fairness opinion to AEP. Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated acted as financial advisor and provided a fairness opinion to CSW.

Central and South West Corporation is a global, diversified public utility holding company based in Dallas. CSW owns four electric operating subsidiaries serving 1.7 million customers in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas, a regional electricity company in the United Kingdom, other international energy operations and non-utility subsidiaries involved in energy-related investments, telecommunications, energy efficiency and financial transactions.

American Electric Power Company, Inc., a global energy company, is one of the United States' largest investor-owned utilities, providing energy to 2.9 million customers in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky. AEP has holdings in the United States, the United Kingdom and China. Wholly-owned subsidiaries provide power engineering, consulting and management services around the world. The company is based in Columbus, Ohio.

*Survey conducted by University of Michigan Business School and American Society of Quality Control.

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Sales Tax Report for Callahan Co.

—The City of Cross Plains is reporting 1997 one and one-half percent city sales tax payments running 1.09% above the 1996 payments of the tax. Cross Plains 1997 sales tax payments have amounted to \$86,510.37, while the 1996 sales tax rebates were \$85,570.83.

The city's monthly sales tax check for December 1997 was \$6,576.80, down 3.40% from the December 1996 amount of \$6,808.34.

—The City of Putnam is reporting the 1997 payments to the town totalled \$9,964.75, up 8.35% from the 1996 payments to the city in the amount of \$9,196.14.

Putnam's tax payment for the month of December 1997 was \$870.81, down 30.76% from the December 1996 check of \$1,257.69.

Retail sales in Clyde have declined just over one percent this year compared to 1996 sales, according to the city's one and one-half percent sales tax rebates announced by the State Comptroller's Office, Monday, December 22.

John Sharp, State Comptroller, said 1997 sales tax payments in Clyde are 1.02% below tax payments made to the city in 1996. He said the sales tax rebates for the City of Clyde have amounted to \$135,397.24 so far in 1997. The 1996 payments to the city during the same payment period were \$136,802.17.

The city's monthly payment for December 1997 was \$9,264.96, down 4.92% from a check amounting to \$9,745.24 reported in December 1996.

Other Callahan County towns reporting sales tax payments include:

—Sharp said the City of Baird reported that sales tax payments in 1997 are 1.41% higher than the 1996 payments. The city had received \$72,816.79 so far in 1997, while the 1996 tax payments to the city totalled \$71,803.97.

The town's monthly payment for December 1997 was \$4,385.08, down 24.41% from the \$5,801.82 payment reported in December 1996.

Countywide, sales tax payments for 1997 in Callahan County are running 0.43% above the 1996 payments in the county. Callahan

County towns have received sales tax payments in 1997 amounting to \$304,689.15, while the 1996 payments to the county towns totalled \$303,373.11.

The tax rebates in Callahan County for the month of December 1997 were \$21,097.65, down 10.65% from the \$23,613.09 reported in December 1996.

Some area towns reporting sales tax payments for 1997 year-to-date and whether it's an increase or decrease over 1996 sales include: Albany, \$225,243.73 in 1997, 65.96% increase from 1996; Anson, \$144,123.64 in 1997, 0.91% increase from 1996; Stamford, \$51,2308.38 in 1997, 2.52% increase from 1996; Cisco, \$223,774.26 in 1997, 0.45 decrease from 1996; Eastland, \$604,224.43 in 1997, 1.73% increase from 1996; Merkel, \$184,025.25 in 1997, 6.20% increase from 1996; Ballinger, \$574,865.83 in 1997, 2.55% decrease from 1996; and Coleman, \$496,570.39 in 1997, 2.99% decrease from 1996.

Statewide, sales tax payments in 1997 are 6.93 ahead of 1996 rebates, according to Sharp's figures. The state comptroller has sent out checks totalling \$1,998,705,727.93 so far in 1997, while the 1996 payments to the state's cities amounted to \$1,869,090,297.07.

Merchants collect the state and local sales tax and send it to the Comptroller's office with their tax returns. The state keeps its 6 1/4% share and returns the local one percent sales tax each month to local governments. Cities and counties may levy a combined tax of up to two percent above the state's sales tax. Clyde, Baird and Cross Plains all collect 1.50% in local sales tax.

This month's payments include local sales taxes collected by monthly filers on October sales and reported to the comptroller in November. Businesses file sales tax payments either monthly, quarterly or annually depending on the amount of sales tax they collect.

All local sales taxes must be approved by local voters and may be used for any legal city or county expenses. Most areas put the money in their General Fund and use it for normal operations like fire

Owens files for county district clerk position

I am Sharon Owens, filing for the office of Callahan County District Clerk as a Democratic Candidate. I am 48 years of age, married to Dale Owens for 29 years. We have four children ranging from age 16 to 28. We have lived in the county 25 years and raised our family in the Clyde area.

I presently work at the County Tax Office as a Deputy Tax Collector and have been at that position for 3 years. My work history includes: 1 1/2 years for the Census Bureau as a Quality Control Enumerator and Field Operations Supervisor; 5 years with a local insurance agency; and 5 years in the banking business at the First National Bank of Baird-Clyde Branch.

I enjoy working with the public and being of assistance whenever I can. For the past 14 1/2 years I have held positions which involve public contact and have found I really like serving the general public.

As your district clerk I will work to bring the best possible service I can to the office and be a true public servant. In all jobs, I realize, at the beginning much is to be learned and I will commit myself to master my areas of responsibilities and develop

fighting, maintaining roads and law enforcement, Sharp said. Some cities use up to an additional one percent city sales tax to help fund local economic development and to reduce property taxes.

Katie Teague Receives Degree In Science & Nursing

Katie Teague graduated in October 1997 from Regents College of New York with an Associate Degree in Science and Nursing.

She passed the state board for her RN license in December 1997.

She is employed by Columbia Brownwood Regional Medical Center in the Telemetry Unit.



a good relationship with whomever I work with.

In closing, I am a working class woman with a desire to try the American System and go the distance for this job. I will work hard to contact each one of you in the county and ask for your support and vote on Election Day, March 10, 1998.

Pol. Ad. paid by Dale Owens, Treasurer, 6218 CR 252, Clyde, Texas

Wedding Announcements

Wedding announcements which describe in detail such as the apparel, decorations, bridesmaids, groomsmen, etc. will have a \$15.00 charge.

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 Sandy (Bailey) Hunter
 Teck Whitney
 James Alexander
 Cookie Robinson
 Mrs. Pat McNeel, Jr.
 Kathy Pippins
 Mrs. Donald Baird
 Billy Joe Lofton
 Eddie Wade Dillard
 Mrs. Moreland Baldwin
 Mrs. Jimmy Baum
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JANUARY 4
 Jim Forbes
 N. L. Dillard
 Mrs. Treva Garrett
 Danny Myrick
 Michael Chase Childers
 Troy Stone
 George Hoover
 Shana Bagley
 Brian Odom
 Ronald Allen Steele
 Kayla Michelle Cupit
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 Peggy Hilburn
 Wanda Ruth Anderson
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 Clara Smart
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 Mrs. Bob Henderson
 Kathy Parrish Cole
 Tommie Connelly
 Betsy (Bowden) Kington
 Troy Shane Knowles
 Betty Holland
 Mrs. O. B. Byrd
 Mrs. Jerry Whiteside
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JANUARY 7
 Randall Kyle Foster
 Mrs. Roy Thornton
 Dick Koenig
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 Glenda Lane
 Deloras Stover
 Mrs. H. L. Halbrook
 Karen (Ringhoffer) Combs
 Bobby Oliver
 Ricky Purvis
 Mrs. Carl King
 James Crowley
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