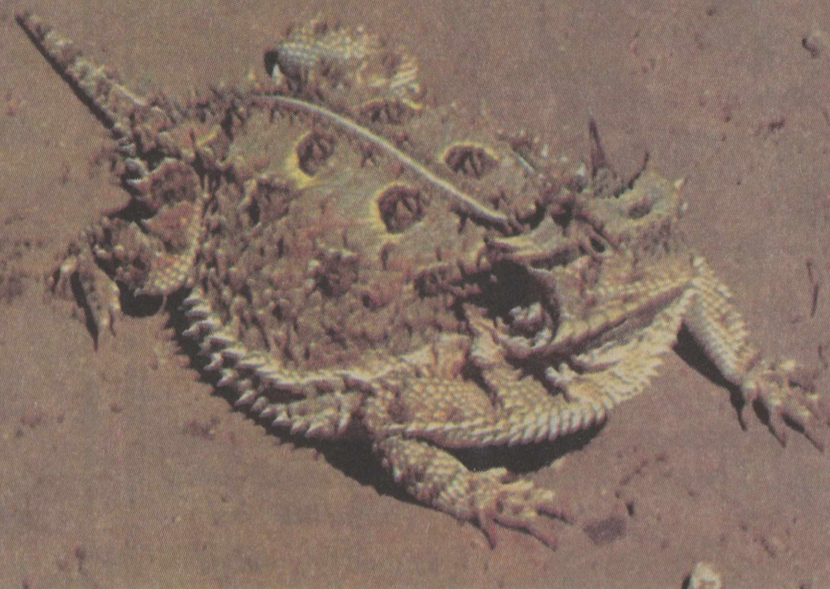


# THE VALLEY TRIBUNE

## Voice Of The Rolling Plains

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RUTH WOOD  
2801 W 18TH ST  
PLAINVIEW, TX 79072



Volume 53 No. 52

Quitaque, Texas 79255

Serving Briscoe ~ Hall ~ Motley Counties

Tuesday, July 23, 2013

### Get Ready for the August Jamboree

Make no plans for Saturday, August 3rd, because you will be wanting to join us at the Gem Theater for the monthly Jamboree!

The night will be starting off with a dinner of Taco Salad and fixings, for the benefit of the Hall County Historical Society. The meal will be \$6, and takeout is available.

Curtis Shelburn, of Childress, will be starting the show. Curtis is a highly recommended newcomer to the Jamboree, and will be performing a special one hour set of traditional country and gospel.

Next on the bill is newcomer Addison Hightower, also of Childress. Addison has gotten great reviews for her voice and stage presence, and we look forward to presenting her to the Jamboree audience.

Closing out the show are the Turkey Gems. Each month these eight talented musicians arrive three hours early to rehearse their own set and work out backing performances for the other acts as needed, and we are always glad to see them.

This month's cash prize has been donated by Rex and Cora Gayle Johnson, of Silverton, and this month's door prize has been donated by Jim Kalafus, of New York.

The meal starts at 6pm, and the music starts at 7. The show is always free, so bring friends and family for a nice night out. See you there!

### Silverton City Council Accepts MMWA Budget for the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year

The City Council of Silverton met in regular session on July 8, 2013. Mayor Garvin, Council Members Kyle Fuston, Wayne Reed, LaQuetta Schott and Delane Smith were all present with Kraig Cox and Administrator Jerry Patton being absent. Secretary Trena Burson and Todd Southard Superintendent of Silverton ISD and Dean Johnson MMWA General Manager were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. Todd Southard, Superintendent of SISD was introduced and a general conversation followed.

Following the approval of the prior month's minutes, financial reports and monthly vouchers, the following items were discussed and acted upon:

- Dean Johnson MMWA General Manager presented two different proposed budgets for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. One budget to be considered if the lake was to receive a rise and one budget to be considered if the lake does not receive a rise. If the lake is to receive as rise in the water level, the operation expense will be higher due to the normal cost of producing water. No increase in the lake level would decrease the budget as water production would cease and the overall operations would go down. A motion was passed to adopt the appropriate budget at their September meeting.

- After a discussion on the Contract/Agreement Texas Community Development Block Grant Texas Department of Agriculture for a \$375,000 Disaster Relief Funds Grant, A motion was made to authorize Mayor Lane B. Garvin and City Administrator Patton to act and execute any and all needed Agreements, Contracts and other required documents in regards to the Disaster Relief Funds Grant Project.

- No action was required or taken for Silverton Economic Development Alliance, Inc. recommendation to fund grants.

- The Council reviewed and approved a letter to be sent to each water customer.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

### Area Receives Much Needed Rain!!!



Farmers and Ranchers in the area breathed a sigh of relief as a slow, soaking rain covered the area between Sunday and Thursday of last week. Some areas received as much as five inches of rain from the isolated storms. Cooler temperatures mixed with the slow rain allowed the ground to soak in the moisture and caused less run off. See Page 4 for more information.

### Entertaining Program Held at Community Center in Flomot

By Earlyne Jameson

Opening the entertainment program sponsored by the Do Gooders' Club Tuesday night, July 16 held at the Community Center in Flomot were Mrs. Elaine Hart and Mrs. Doris Moore of Matador. They told of being lost en route to Austin to attend a Mission trip. The episodes they encountered brought resounding laughter to those attending.

Mrs. Lou Burleson of Floydada, "The History Teller" presented another historical woman to life. She enacted a skit as "Rosie the Riveter", a lady who worked in an airplane factory during World War II. Her research into the lives of American women made a mark on the history of our country doing their patriotic duty was impressive information. Everyone felt the blessing of living in the USA, a free nation.

Appropriate patriotic décor throughout the building by Mrs. Shonda Lee and Mrs. Kathy Shorter was a historical attraction.

Adding to the night of good entertainment were refreshments of finger foods and door prizes. They sold 260 chances on the club's quilt, "antique Shoes" that was on display.

Guests of the Do Gooders' Club attended from Denver, Colorado, Granbury, Dallas, Lubbock, Quitaque, Silverton, Matador, Turkey and Flomot.

### Texas Records More Job Growth in June with 5,800 Jobs Added

Unemployment rate unchanged in June

The Texas economy added 5,800 seasonally adjusted total nonfarm jobs in June for a total of 303,000 jobs added since June 2012. Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady in June at 6.5 percent. Texas' unemployment rate remained below the nation's June unemployment rate of 7.6 percent.

"Economic growth in Texas has proven to be diverse, consistent, and long-term," said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Andres Alcantar. "The annual job growth across all industries continues to provide opportunity for Texas job seekers."

Over the month, seven of the 11 major industries in Texas saw positive growth. Leading the way was Leisure and Hospitality, which posted over-the-month growth for the fifth time in six months and added 4,600 jobs. That industry has added 55,600 jobs over the last year for a 5.1 percent annual growth rate.

"Our economy continues to offer numerous opportunities to job seekers," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. "We encourage those looking for work in Texas to visit a local Workforce Solutions office for help finding the right job for them."

Professional and Business Services employment expanded for a fifth consecutive month with the addition of 3,100 jobs in June. The industry has had an annual growth rate at or above 4.0 percent for five straight months. Additionally, Financial Activities, Information, Manufacturing, and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities all saw positive job growth in June.

"With an annual growth rate at or above three percent since April 2011, Texas' private employers continue to play an important role in our state's expanding job market," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Hope Andrade.

The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) had the lowest June unemployment rate in the state at 3.7 percent. The Odessa MSA came in second at 4.5 percent and the Amarillo MSA third at 5.3 percent (not seasonally adjusted).

### Ribeye Dinner July 26

A fundraising meal and concert is planned for

Friday, July 26th, 6:00 p.m.  
at the Silverton High School Cafeteria

Ribeye steaks and baked potatoes along with  
homemade ice cream will be served.

Entertainment by Jimmy Burson and Cecil  
White will begin around 7:00 PM.

The cost will be \$20.00 per plate.

For more information call 806/269-0419.

Proceeds go to the Comanchero Canyons Museum  
Come out and support this worthwhile project.

### Governor Signs Senate Bill 1458

During the 83rd Legislative Session, the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) and active teacher groups worked together with legislators to pass Senate Bill 1458. The "TRS Actuarial Soundness Bill," as it has been termed, makes the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) pension fund actuarially sound for the first time in many years.

The TRS pension fund has a value of \$117 billion and provides retirement security for over 300,000 Texas public education retirees and nearly 1,000,000 active school personnel. The fund must meet the state requirement of "actuarial soundness" in order for current retirees to receive a permanent cost-of-living raise, which hasn't occurred since 2001.

With the passing of SB 1458, the TRS fund is now financially sound and is able to provide a 3% ad-hoc COLA to over 200,000 current retirees. The raise will go into effect in the fall of 2013.

SB 1458 protects the TRS pension fund by improving its revenue streams and even adding a new one. The state contribution will increase from its current rate of 6.4% to 6.8% in both years of the coming biennium. The active teacher contribution will increase gradually over time, rising from 6.4% in 2014 to 6.7% in 2015, then 7.2% in 2016 and finally capping at 7.7% in 2017. School districts that do not pay into Social Security (about 95% of Texas school districts) will begin contributing 1.5% towards their employees' retirement fund beginning in 2015.

The TRS pension fund is vital to the financial futures of all active public education employees in Texas, since most employees will not receive any Social Security benefits during their retirement years. TRS, as one of the largest and strongest pension funds in the nation, is leading the way in preserving the benefits that hard-working educators have earned over the course of their careers. Many pension funds in other states have struggled to maintain their systems and some have reduced benefits or changed their pension funds into 401(k)-style plans.

SB 1458 preserves the benefits of all vested TRS employees, those who have been working for at least five years as of September 2014. Those employees who are not yet vested (less than 5 years paying into the system), will have a minimum retirement age of 62 to qualify for full benefits.

SB 1458 was signed by Governor Rick Perry in June 2013 and goes into effect in September 2013.

# FLOMOT NEWS

By Earlyne Jameson

### OVERHEARD

OVERHEARD on an American Airlines flight into Amarillo, Texas on a particularly windy bumpy day: During the final approach, the Captain was really having to fight it. After an extremely hard landing the Flight Attendant said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to Amarillo. Please remain in your seats with your seat belts fastened while the Captain taxis what's left of our airplane to the gates!"

### BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATED

Heston Franks of Idalou celebrated his fourth birthday July 4th in the home of his parents, Cory and Amy Franks. He blew out his candles on a beautifully decorated cake as everyone sang "Happy Birthday".

On July 6th, Cal Franks of Idalou had a fun filled party with all the trimmings on his first birthday in the home of his parents, Cary and Mary Franks.

Those enjoying the happy occasions were their grandparents, Connie and Coy Franks and great grandmother, Mrs. Erma Washington of Flomot; Cara and Clint Cowart of Southland; Brad and LeeAnn Ralston and son, Gary of Lubbock; Hudson and Madison Franks of Idalou.

\*\*\*

Visitors of Shonda and Roger Lee July 13-18 was her daughter, Mrs. Jessica Schupbach and children of Denver, Colorado, another daughter, Jennie and children and niece, Erin of Dallas.

L.T. Starkey of Ralls visited Thursday with his brother Johnie Starkey. They enjoyed lunch in Quitaque.

Ruth and Orville Lee were in Lubbock Monday for Orville a medical checkup.

Visiting during the week with Mrs. Janice Hughes was son, Roger Hughes of Floydada. Visiting her Friday were son and family, Rickey, Tasha, Kendal and Kason Hughes of Floydada.

Wilburn Martin was in Lockney Monday for a medical appointment.

Brooke Sehon of Wolforth visited Wednesday and Thursday with her grandparents, Clois and Kathy Shorter. They met her mother, Mrs. Keri Sehon in Plainview for her return trip home and enjoyed lunch.

## Roaring Springs News

By Monta Marshall

The rain was wonderful; it is so good to see how quickly the rain greens the pastures.

The cool days were a treat too, flowers that looked ready to give up the ghost revived. Rain makes even people look more rested and of course happier. Droughts are discouraging and depressive. Since these rains were the most general we have had in a very long time I am praying that the worst of the drought is broken. God is able even when the predictions are not rosy; He has a few surprises in his repertoire.

On Friday morning, a fire partially destroyed Lee Cook's trailer home. The fire started about 9:45 a.m. The Roaring Springs Fire Department answered the call quickly with the Matador Fire Department joining them to put the fire out quickly. Early in the afternoon the fire broke out again; the RS Fire Department came back and extinguished that fire.

Mr. and Mrs. Shorty Fallin were guests at the Travelers Inn. They were here to hold a wedding at the Roaring Springs Ranch Club. Mr. Fallin is a minister.

Ken Abbott got the cast off his hand this week. Eugene Daniell spent a few hours at with his parents this morning. He stopped over to get some adjustments made on his truck. He was in route to Utah.

The annual Marshall Family Reunion will be held the 27th and 28th of July. They will meet on Saturday at 1:00 p.m. at the Springs Ranch Club for swimming. At 6:00 p.m. they will be served a hamburger and hot dog supper at the Roaring Springs Community Center. Sunday morning the group will begin to gather at 9:00 a.m. for coffee. At 10:00 a.m., a worship service will be held with John Smith of Dumont leading the singing and Cody Clower of Fort Worth bringing the message. Wes Farley of Turkey will prepare a bar-b-queue lunch with all the trimmings. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. The family will hold an auction this year. This is fun thing to do and brings in money to meet expenses. Friends of the family are invited to enjoy the day of singing and visiting.

### Roaring Springs Lions Club News

Steve Warren of Texas Boys Ranch Speaks at Roaring Springs Lions Club

The Roaring Springs Lions met at noon on Thursday, July 18th at the Roaring Springs Community Center. The meeting was postponed because their regular meeting day coincided with the Fourth of July.

Boss Lion Alvin Alexander opened the meeting. Announcements were made by secretary, Corky Marshall. Boss Lion introduced Lion Steve Warren from the Lubbock Club.

Mr. Warren is the Texas Boys Ranch representative as well as is on the staff at the Ranch. Several new additions have been made at the Boys Ranch. They now have 15 employees. Girls are being accepted at the Ranch making it a coed home. Currently they provide a safe loving atmosphere for seventeen boys and sixteen girls. They range in age from 3 years old to 14 years.

As with all facilities taking care of children in crisis, there is a need for donations to operate and provide for the children.

The Annual Texas Boys Ranch Telethon is set for August 23rd at the Friendship High School Performing Arts Center located at FM 179 and 82nd St. Everyone is invited; the telethon begins at 7:00 p.m.

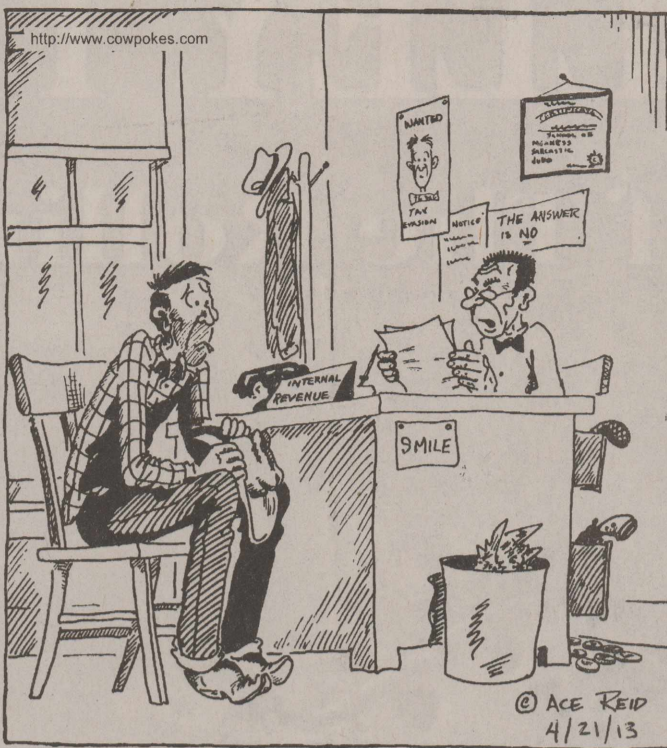
The Lions enjoyed a tasty meal of spaghetti and meat balls prepared by Lion, Chris Spence.

The August meeting will be held on the usual schedule, the first Thursday of August at noon at the Roaring Springs Community Center.

KMAC, Channel 28 in Lubbock, with Carla Leslie will be hosting this year's Texas Boy's Ranch Telethon. This will be Carla Leslie's nineteenth year to work with the Texas Boy's Ranch Telethon. During the year Carla is busily involved with the activities at TBR. Carla has family ties in Motley County.

## COWPOKES®

By Ace Reid



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## OBITUARIES

### LaVerne Tiffin

Quitaque - LaVerne Tiffin, 84, of Flomot passed away Saturday, July 13, 2013 at Mangold Memorial Hospital in Lockney. Graveside services were held Wednesday, July 17, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. in the Memorial Park Cemetery at Flomot with Bro. Virgil Lowery from the Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses presiding. Arrangements are under the care of Moore-Rose Funeral Home of Quitaque.

Mrs. Tiffin was born Gladys LaVerne Whitford on January 22, 1929 in Jayton, TX to Merrell Whitford, Sr. and Gladys (Jeffers) Whitford. After moving to Turkey, she met Glen Dale Tiffin and they married in Hollis, OK on February 24, 1945. Other than for a few years away, they spent their 68 years together at Flomot. They were members of the Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses of Plainview.

LaVerne is survived by her husband, Glen Dale, two daughters, Sue Tiffin of Kingsville, TX and Karen Farmer and husband Joe of Akron, OH; sisters Emma Hicks of Uvalde, TX and Sara McFarlin and husband James of Plainview, TX; grandsons Michael Tiffin and wife Phyllis, David Clayton, Garrett Clayton and wife Veronica; granddaughters Kris Court and husband Tony, Kimberly Allaire and husband Mike, Jennifer Montgomery and husband Robert, six great-grandsons and six great-granddaughters; many nieces and nephews as well as beloved friends.

LaVerne was preceded in death by her parents; son, Dale; granddaughter, Brandi Clayton; three brothers, Merrell, Jr., Jerry, and Albert.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, memorials be made to Tri County Meals, P.O. Box 421, Quitaque, TX, 79255.

We would like to thank everyone who prayed for our family, sent food, flowers, cards and those who called and visited us during LaVerne's illness and passing. Your kindness was greatly appreciated. We value our friends and community so much.

Sincerely,  
 Glen Dale Tiffin, Sue, Karen, and Family

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## THE VALLEY TRIBUNE

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 Patsy Herrington, Quitaque Correspondent  
 Lataine Dillard, Silvertown Correspondent

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## Menu Subject To Change Tri-County Meals

Dining Room Menu Different Than Delivered Meals!

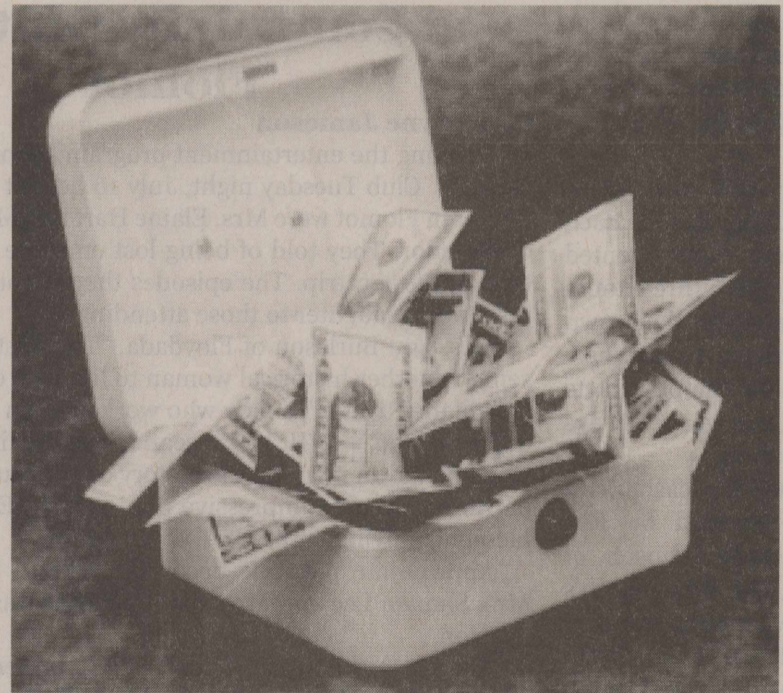
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Dining Room Meal Menu		
<b>Wednesday, July 24</b>	<b>Friday, July 26</b>	<b>Monday, July 29</b>
Meatloaf	Fish	Ham
Veggies	French Fries	Mac & Cheese
Salad	Hush Puppies	Salad
Dessert	Dessert	Dessert
Drink	Drink	Drink

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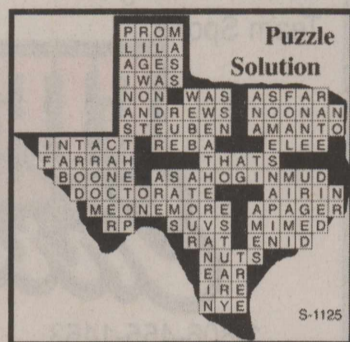
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## BID NOTICE

Turkey-Quitaque ISD is accepting bids for Fleet Vehicle Insurance for the 2013-2014 school year. The bid must include insurance for all passenger school buses, vans, sub-urbans, pickups as well as livestock, cargo, and utility trailers owned and operated by the Turkey-Quitaque ISD. Interested providers should contact Jon Davidson, Superintendent, Turkey-Quitaque ISD at 806-423-1348. 52-1tc

## Comptroller Susan Combs Returns \$1 Billion to Texas Unclaimed Property Owners

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs announced today she has returned \$1 billion in unclaimed property to rightful owners since she took office in 2007. This is the largest sum of money ever returned by a Texas Comptroller.

"When I took office in January 2007 I was committed to return as much unclaimed money as possible to owners who may have forgotten about it," Combs said. "We launched extensive outreach efforts and streamlined processes to help reunite more owners with their money."

The Comptroller presented Austin firefighter Greg Reddish with \$2,009.64 today, which took total payments across the landmark threshold.

Approximately 1.1 million claims have been approved since 2007 totaling \$1 billion over six and a half years. Unclaimed property payments began in 1962, and approximately \$900.8 million was returned in the 44 years prior to Combs taking office.

The Comptroller added new features in the claims process and expanded outreach efforts to increase the amount of returned money. They include:

- An automated-review process for claims up to \$5,000 that matches information in online claim forms to data in the unclaimed property system in order to expedite those claims.
- Access to a dynamic public records database to help efficiently verify claimants and speed up approvals – decreasing the time to pay claims filed by original owners from 45 days to about 20 days.
- Grass roots staff that sets up at events such as expos, the Texas State Fair and events with county treasurers to help Texans find and claim their unclaimed property on the spot.
- Improvements to the Unclaimed Property website that make it easier for claimants to identify and submit a claim for property.
- Annual notification letters to owners of certain types of property valued \$100 or more that was reported to the state in the preceding year.
- Brochures in libraries promoting the unclaimed property program website phone number.

Unclaimed property includes forgotten utility deposits or other refunds, insurance proceeds, payroll checks, cashier's checks, dividends, mineral royalties, dormant bank accounts and abandoned safe deposit box contents. Businesses turn over property to the unclaimed property program after the property they're holding has been dormant for generally between one to five years.

"We will continue our efforts to get as much money back into the right hands," said Combs. "I encourage people to search our website at any time or call us to see if they have money waiting for them and start the process of getting that money back. After all, it's your money!"

There is no statute of limitations for unclaimed property the state is holding, which means there is no time limit for owners to file a claim – they can do so at any time.

To search for unclaimed property and begin the claims process, visit the Comptroller's Unclaimed Property website at www.ClaimITTexas.org or call 1-800-654-FIND (3463).



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## Things That Make You Go Hmmm....

By Laura Griffin

### Yellow Lights

The light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman behind him was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the intersection, dropping her cell phone and makeup.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed, and placed in a holding cell.

After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do?' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me To Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, so naturally...I assumed you had stolen the car."

HMMM...

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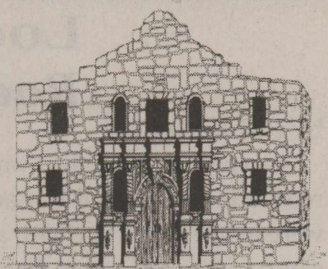
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MONDAY - SATURDAY



## This Week In Texas History

### July 23, 1931

A stand-off had developed overnight between Oklahoma National Guardsmen and the Texas Rangers over the ownership of the bridge spanning the Red River between Durant, Okla. and Denison, Tx.

### July 23, 1839

Eight Indian tribes were forced out of Texas and into Oklahoma and Arkansas. Only two Indian tribes were allowed to remain in the Texas Republic. The Plains Indians still had control of the Panhandle and South Plains region.

### July 23, 1836

President of the Republic, David G. Burnet (1836) ordered an election to establish a Texas Congress. The election was set for Sept. 4, 1836.

### July 24, 1818

Charles Lallemand and his band of Napoleonic exiles at Camp d'Asile on the Trinity River near present day Liberty left the area upon hearing that a Spanish attack was imminent.

### July 25, 1931

Babe Didrikson Zaharias threw a baseball 296 feet to set a women's world record for the longest baseball throw.

### July 25, 1882

Roy Bean opened his saloon at Eagle's Nest Springs. Later he renamed it Langtry.

### July 25, 1536

Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca reported to Viceroy Antonio de Mendez about his six years of wandering in the interior of Texas. His report of possible gold in Texas resulted in the Coronado Expedition in 1541-42.

### July 26, 1870

Charles Goodnight married Mary Ann Dyer at Weatherford.

### July 26, 1863

Sam Houston, The former Texas Army General, Republic President, Governor of Texas and Tennessee and U.S. Senator from Texas, died at this home in Huntsville at the age of 71.

### July 27, 1931

Oklahoma Gov. Murry tried to keep the bridge between Denison and Durant open. He sent Oklahoma National Guard troops across the bridge and into Texas in the first "invasion" of Texas since the Mexican War. The Texas Rangers allowed the troops to enter the state but were eye-to-eye with the soldiers in a stand-off. Ownership of the bridge was later settled in court.

### July 27, 1861

Confederate Texas soldiers captured Fort Fillmore near Mesilla, N.M.

### July 28, 1888

The Childress Index began publication. It is the second oldest newspaper in the Panhandle still published.

### July 28, 1873

The First Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry in Texas was organized in Salado.

### July 29, 1925

An Earthquake was recorded in Briscoe County at 11:30 a.m. It registered a 3.8 on the Richter scale but no damage was reported.

### July 29, 1918

The Burkburnett oil boom began when the gusher "Fowler's Folly" came in north of Wichita Falls.

### July 29, 1857

U.S Senator and Independence War Gen. Thomas J. Rush committed suicide after the death of his beloved wife.



## Local Facts, Fiction and Folklore: Roads to our Valley of Tears: Part 1 of 2

by Robin Brown

In a previous article it was mentioned that the military road from Ft. Griffin to Ft. Elliott (1875) was probably the first wagon road established that ran across the Texas Panhandle. Nevertheless earlier roads of record leading into the Quitaque region were in use in the late 18th and early 19th centuries and had been used by Mexicans of NM. These were the roads that the Mexican traders (or Comancheros) once had traveled in their big Ox Carts that carried trade goods to the Comanche (and Kiowa Indians) of the Panhandle and South Plains. The famous white trader Josiah Gregg of Missouri reported seeing these oxcart roads as he traveled through the Panhandle in the early 1840's. The Handbook of Texas states:

'By the 1840s Josiah Gregg, Capt. James Abert and other American mapmakers found evidences of broad cart trails leading into the Canadian River valley. Randolph Marcy also described an 'old Mexican cart-road' in his 1849 survey.'

By the ox-carts which were made of cottonwood, these roads were worn into the virgin soil of West Texas over time. The carts or carretas as the Mexicans called them had solid or semi-solid wooden wheels and could carry perhaps a thousand pounds of goods on their trips from New Mexico. The comancheros may have traveled in carravans but not always. The Indians craved



and traded for such merchandise as tobacco, guns, knives, calico cloth, sweet bread and of course guns, wine and whiskey. In 1786 the Spanish governor of New Mexico one 'Juan Baptista de Anza' had reached a peace agreement with the Comanche Indians who were visiting a Pueblo there and this led to the Mexican & Comanche trading in NW Texas for almost 100 years. Part of the agreement was that the Indians would deter Anglo settlement into the Texas Panhandle region!

There were two main Comanchero roads that came out of New Mexico which

reached the Los Linguish creek area here according to an available map. (I'm using a local spelling of the creek, which is today called Las Lenguas or Los Lingos creek by the State.) The South Plains road came by the 'Yellow Houses' landmark West of Littlefield into Texas and worked it's way across the South Plains prairie where it forked into two directions. One fork came NE to the Valley of Tears and the other went South to Ransom Canyon (Yellowhouse Canyon), where Comanchero & Indian trading also took place. It's possible that the beginnings of this road (and perhaps other roads) on the South-Plains and Panhandle may have dated way back to 1540-42 when the Coronado Expedition in New Mexico had sent a caravan of soldiers and supply wagons into our region. A large campsite of the Coronado forces has more recently been discovered in Blanco Canyon (S. of Floydada) and this party had

supply wagons and possibly military equipment on wheels that would have beat-out deep ruts anywhere they traveled. But by the time of the Comancheros arrived traces of such roads would have been mostly covered over by time.

The second Comanchero road from New Mexico entered Texas and ran along the southside of the Canadian River past Atascosa creek (near Tascosa) and near a place called Teçovas Springs which is in the vicinity of Bushland, TX where the Fry- ing Pan ranch would eventually be established. The road worked it's way on possibly to Palo Duro creek where it would have turned and followed the creek to Palo Duro Canyon. There it possibly forked into a northern route to Mulberry Canyon and did not enter Palo Duro Canyon but instead skirted it. The south route probably ran along the canyon rim and prairie until it came to Tule Canyon. There the road seems to have run around Tule Canyon to the south side and then turned eastward toward the Caprock. This Comanchero road traveled through the Silvertown area and came down the Cap possibly in the dry arroyo, which the Santa-Fe expedition found and called 'Arroyo Atuley'. This was in 1841. An arroyo is basically an eroded

watercourse or gulch that dries up after rainfalls and the runoff is gone. Where might this important arroyo be?

As one travels along the FM road that intersects the state highway at the Old Smith Station just above the Caprock, we can see dry gullies leading into the canyons on the Southside of the highway that might be similar to the Atuley Arroyo. It's not impossible that an old ox-cart road once passed down one of these rugged gullies, even though all traces have now been washed away. Nevertheless a Comanchero road descended the Caprock somewhere near the 'Valley of Tears' one of the most famous places in West Texas. According to the first edition of 'Footprints of Time' this historical valley was in the southern part of Jim Stroup's ranch. He had purchased this section from the J.F. Suttons in 1925, the original title holder. The Sutton's had paid about \$1 per acre when the land was purchased from the State of Texas. When Dale Smith purchased Jim Stroup's Lazy J ranch- land in 1974 the Valley of Tears went with it. Dale and Dona owned the land for almost forty years but had sold it just prior to Dale's passing. The Handbook of Texas gives this description:

"The Valley of Tears (Valle de las Lágrimas) is a long, narrow swale at the intersection of the Cottonwood and Los Lingos creeks near Quitaque at the southeastern edge of Briscoe County. It is surrounded on three sides by hills. The elevation drops from about 2,550 feet to almost 700 feet in the space of six or seven miles from the tip of the plains to the floor of the valley."

To be Continued...



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### ON THE QT

**By Pasty Herrington**

We the Women met recently on Wednesday – a new time and place at the Tri-County building. There were 12 ladies present. These women included Misty Messer, Heidi Valdez, Ann Irwin, Sherry McKay, Maggie Martinez, Jean Mullin, Patsy Herrington, Aleta Sperry, Clara Ruth Davidson, Joyce Price, Maxine Clark and Barbara Bogart of Spur.

After a delicious meal, a business meeting discussed mostly about a place for a new Library. Just Heard – they bought the Church of Christ building.

It's been a wonderful week, moisture wise, as Quitaque received two inches of rain. The surrounding area received even more – some places around Flomot as much as five inches, according to reports. Wow! How we needed it!

Scotty and Sandra Stark along with much held from Sam Ortiz have converted their garage at home into a new shop for Scotty. It has a new front door, a new paint job and quite a few improvements inside. They also planted a garden inside their back yard which is beginning to harvest many delicious vegetables. I've had the pleasure of enjoying some of them.

Melinda (McWilliams) and Ron Collins have built them a beautiful new home enclosed in the corner walls of First and Main Street! It is quite unique in that I've never seen anything like it, nor have others. It is really pretty and ought to be very easy to heat and cool. They recently moved in, I heard. I can't wait to give it a tour!

Elaine and Rex Harmon spent several days last week in Idalou visiting son and wife, John David and Tonya Harmon and grandson, Brannon. John David and Rex went to a ball game, and Elaine and Tonya enjoyed visiting and shopping.

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*Library Journal*

By Carla Meador  
Motley County Library Director

Our hearts are very saddened this week as we mourn the passing of a very precious person. Marihelen Wason was a longtime member of the Library Board and the Friends of the Library. She gave many tireless, volunteer hours to the Library for many years. Marihelen was always ready and willing to do whatever she could to support the library. I have known Mrs. Wason for many years, but I have only really become close to her since I have been the Library Director.

I enjoyed visiting and laughing over coffee with Marihelen. An avid reader, she was always the first on the list for the newest book arrival, and enjoyed telling other patrons about which books were the best reads and talking about her favorite authors. I know her advice will be missed by many patrons who trusted her expertise. I think about the books she had on her list to read and imagine her, in heaven, meeting and talking with authors who have gone before her. I can just imagine she is probably telling them a thing or two about how their books could have been better!

The past three years of her friendship are special to me and I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to know her and work with her. On behalf of the members of the Library Board and the Friends of the Library, I extend our deepest sympathy to her family. We will greatly miss our friend.

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~ Jane Bryant Quinn \*\*\*