

The Munday Courier

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NOTICE: Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of the paper will be gladly corrected upon the notice of same being brought to the attention of the publisher.

Birthdays & Anniversaries



- March 20 - Allene Brown.
- March 21 - Samuel Tyra, J.D. Hart.
- March 22 - Clarence Herring, Margaret Hill, Cody Kuehler.
- March 23 - Marilyn Moore, B.J. Funk, Kelly Fisher, Pete Brockett.
- March 24 - Davis Maulding, Dayle Kuehler, Shanna Murphy White, Kari Kuehler.
- March 26 - Jordan Lowe.

Momentum building for Texas FFA Endowment Campaign

Familiar to thousands of rural and suburban area Texans are the bright blue and gold jackets worn by young men and women who study the agricultural sciences in Texas schools. The jackets sport the emblem of the FFA, an organization that today is threatened by the ever-widening circle of federal and state budget-cutting.

The good news, however, is that FFA has many friends. They are now joining forces to develop an endowment fund that will preserve the structure of FFA for future generations of students.

Former FFA members, current and past teachers and students, and Texas agricultural leaders have signed on to broaden the funding base for FFA state leadership training, coordination of meetings, conventions, seminars and contests, and scholarship funds.

Durwin Hill, executive director of the Texas FFA Foundation and statewide coordinator of the endowment campaign, reports that more than 60 percent of FFA chapters pledged to underwrite the foundation's current budget. Cash donations, some as high as \$10,000 have helped launch the endowment campaign. Contributions in varying amounts, plus vehicles, farm equipment and other donations that can be raffled or sold have pushed the total toward the eventual goal of \$500,000 for 1996.

Momentum is building, and it could not happen at a more critical time in FFA history.

"It's really a simple story," said Hill. "State and national funds have

been significantly downsized." In the case of FFA, core program responsibilities that were carried out in 1985 by 16 professionals and eight staff support personnel must be provided now by four professionals and one half-time support person.

"There is no reason to believe that the budget cuts will stop at current levels," Hill said.

Early contributions and pledges to the endowment campaign reflect an understanding of the dilemma, and a serious commitment to help by those who already know FFA or have participated in it.

The letters FFA once stood for Future Farmers of America. With the technology revolution in agriculture, fewer farmers are needed to grow food for the rest of the population. Today's FFA, however, continues to prepare students for careers in agricultural science. Even students who choose careers outside of agriculture say the hands-on skills they learned in FFA are valuable to them. In addition, the emphasis in learning and practicing FFA traditions of personal responsibility, productivity and community-building, is attracting growing numbers of parents and students who are participating in FFA chapters in suburban Texas.

"Parents would rather have their youngsters learning about the environment, our food and fiber system, and problem-solving and leadership skills than to have them hanging out at the mall," said Elvin Caraway, a past state and national FFA officer, attorney and FFA Foundation board member.

Interest from the permanent endowment fund will be spent in two ways, Hill explained. It will fund the support staff needed to carry out Texas FFA activities. This includes the state convention, state office, coordination, leadership training, career development and the Texas FFA magazine. The funds will also be used to continue and expand the FFA scholarship program.

"For the students and teachers who've experienced FFA, it is difficult to imagine education in Texas without a significant role for the organization," said Hill. "Make no mistake, current funding will eventually disappear, and if we are not ready with the endowment, FFA as we have come to know it will cease

to exist."

To help build a strong Texas FFA for future generations of our young people, send your contribution to Texas FFA Foundation; 614 E. 12th St.; Austin, Texas 78701 or call 512-472-3128 to find out how you can become a volunteer. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Health Department offers Adult Health Services

The Texas Department of Health in Stamford is now offering Adult Health Services to citizens of Knox County. The cost of this service is determined on a sliding scale and the size of the household and monthly income. In most cases there is little or no cost.

Adults may receive the following health services at the Stamford Field Office: Pregnancy Testing, Breast Exams, Pap Smears, and Immunizations. In addition to these services they can receive Adult Health Screenings including Risk Assessment for cholesterol, diabetes, cancer, hypertension, and safety.

Call Gloria Fischer at (915) 773-5681 Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. for an appointment.

When you know a thing, to hold that you know it; and when you do not know a thing, to allow that you do not know it - this is knowledge. -Confucius

Vera News

by Mrs. Thelma Coulston

Christopher and Jason Marek of Holliday spent Saturday and Sunday with their grandmother, Mrs. Aleitha Beck.

Jim and Nelda Coulston of Sour Lake are spending a few days of their school spring-break with their parents, the Carl Coulstons and Ferman Dowd.

Billy and Betty Kinnibrough visited with Mr. and Mrs. Billy Marberry and Glen and Lou Kinnibrough in Vernon, Tuesday.

Harold and Edith Beck visited during the week end with a daughter, Debra Beck in Denton and with a son, Kent and Elaine Beck and family in Copper Canyon.

A good crowd attended the Friday night pot-luck dinner at the community center.

Burt and Rosalind Bratcher were visitors with his father, Claudell Bratcher, who was a patient in General Hospital in Wichita Falls

following knee surgery.

Bud Conner and Gladene Green of Benjamin were visitors at the morning services at the Baptist Church on Sunday morning.

Jerry and Lynda Beck were business visitors in Abilene, Saturday.

Mrs. Violet returned home recently from a visit in the home of a granddaughter, Gidget Raulston, her husband, Paul, and their little daughter, Destiny Loran, in Phoenix, Arizona. She had accompanied Scott's parents, Ann and Paul Miller of Odessa on the trip to Phoenix.

LOCAL NEWS

Visiting Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Myers were Mrs. Mary Kim Phillips, Rebecca, Jonathon and Tyler. Jonathon and Tyler remained for a few days during their spring break and enjoyed learning to play dominoes with their Pops.

RHINELAND DANCE

DANCE TO "RIVERSIDE" of VERNON

Saturday, March 23

9 pm to 1 am

\$5 Admission

Thank You

To the voters of Precinct 1, I want to thank each & everyone of you for your words of encouragement and support and most of all your vote that elected me your County Commissioner. I will strive to do the best job possible for you. Feel free to call upon me at any time. Again, thanks for your vote and your confidence in me.

Weldon Skiles

The Churches of Munday present:

Christ In The Passover:

A Community Seder Meal Celebration

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 6:00 P.M.
 IN THE M.H.S. GYM

No admission cost/Love offering will be taken for speaker.

Explore Your Spiritual Heritage at This Traditionally Jewish Celebration - Where Christ is the Great Passover Lamb!

Find out more about the Meal we refer to as "The Last Supper"

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An actual meal and worship service with multiple courses.

Special presentation following the meal by Alan Bond, Missionary from Jews for Jesus.

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Abuse. Report it. It's the Law!

Physical, verbal, sexual - it's all abuse and it's detrimental to children. Not only does abuse take young lives but those that survive may be mentally scarred for a lifetime.

What happens to the children? What happens to the victimizer? This is the third article in a series concerning abuse.

CHILD ABUSE

The small town of Burk Burnett, Texas is not too far from Munday. It could happen here just as it happened in Burk Burnett a few weeks ago. A two year old toddler girl was beaten to death and the Dad's girlfriend is charged with the murder.

Some one, an adult of much larger size than a defenseless two year old, had harmed the child to such an extent that the little one died. The child was taken to a hospital in Wichita Falls where she lingered over-night but eventually succumbed to the trauma of head injury, her tiny body marked with multiple bruises.

The horrifying tale doesn't end there. Only three months earlier the child's half-sister, a three year old, died from being shaken violently and suffered with bruises on her body caused by blunt force. The mother's boyfriend is charged in this case.

In Pennsylvania four children were the targets of their own parents abuse. They were physically abused, sexually abused, were involuntarily injected with drugs, were fed rats and boiled cockroaches, and were locked away in dark, damp closets.

Nightmares - all of these stories, and countless others, are sheer nightmares to those of us removed from such ordeals. But can you imagine living the nightmare? Can you imagine the terror in a small person's eyes when the adult whom they are dependent on turns around and beats them with repeated blows that would stagger an adult sized person?

In fiscal year 1995, the Texas child protective service agency received and referred for investigation an estimated 107,895 reports of alleged child abuse and neglect. Of these reports about 50,746 children were found to be substantiated victims of child abuse and neglect in our state. Abandonment occurred in 1,034 cases, emotional abuse was cited in 3,455, medical neglect was involved in 2,371 cases, sexual abuse happened 7,926 times, physical abuse was slated in 15,958 cases and lack of supervision was cited in a whopping 20,466 cases.

In Knox County, in 1994 records, there were 1,269 children listed as residents. Thirty-six of these were the alleged victims of child abuse or neglect. Of these thirty-six, twelve were actually confirmed victims. Twelve too many.

In our nation the link between substance abuse and child abuse has strengthened over the years. Parental abuse of alcohol and the use of other drugs has been identified as a major factor contributing to child maltreatment and death. Although child abuse occurs in all racial, ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic groups, physical abuse and neglect are more likely among people living in poverty.

Child abuse and neglect are defined in Article 34.012 of the Texas Family Code and they include specific acts or omissions by a person responsible for a child's care, custody, or welfare. Responsible parties include parents, guardians, foster parents, a member of the child's family or household, a person with whom the child's parent cohabits, school personnel or volunteers, or personnel or volunteers at a public or private child-care facility that provides services for the child or at a public or private residential institution or facility where the child resides.

Abuse includes the following acts or omissions by the aforementioned persons: mental or emotional

injury that results in an observable and material impairment in the child's growth, development, or psychological functioning; causing or permitting the child to be in a situation in which the child sustains a mental or emotional injury that results in an observable and material impairment in the child's growth, development, or psychological functioning; physical injury that results in substantial harm to the child, or a genuine threat of substantial harm; failure to make a reasonable effort to prevent an action by another person that results in physical injury that results in substantial harm to the child; sexual contact, sexual intercourse, or sexual penetration with a foreign object, incest, sexual assault, or sodomy; failure to make a reasonable effort to prevent the above mentioned sexual acts; compelling or encouraging the child to engage in sexual conduct; or allows or encourages the child to be involved in pornographic exploitations.

In Texas there are both civil and criminal laws which help to protect children from abuse and neglect. These laws state that a person having cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been or may be adversely affected by abuse or neglect by any person should immediately make a report. You can make a verbal report to the Department of Human Services or a law enforcement agency and it is imperative that you make the report as soon as possible. The more time that elapses between the incident and your report, the more difficult it is for Child Protective Services specialists to conduct an appropriate and thorough investigation. Linda Haynes, Child Protective Services Supervisor from Haskell states that "The more information a caller has the easier it is to make informed decisions." She says that "specifics" are very important when reporting abuse cases - tell what you have observed first hand or mention to the case worker what the child might have mentioned to you about his treatment, help them identify and locate both the child and the person you believe is responsible for the abuse or neglect.

Professionals are required to report suspected cases of abuse no later than 48 hours after they first suspect that a child has been or may be abused or neglected. The

term "professional" refers to teachers, nurses, doctors, and day-care employees. This chapter of the child protection law also states that the identity of an individual making a report is confidential and may be disclosed only on the order of a court or to a law enforcement officer for the purposes of conducting a criminal investigation of the report. It further adds that a person commits an offense if said person has cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been or may be adversely affected by abuse or neglect and knowingly fails to report the suspected treatment.

There are also penalties for knowingly or intentionally making a report that is false or lacks factual foundation. This is a Class B misdemeanor.

Remember to make reports of suspected abuse as soon as possible. Over time, bruises can heal, memories may fade, people may change their minds as to what to say to investigators, and physical evidence may disappear or be obscured. If you report the incident you are not expected to prove that the abuse or neglect has definitely occurred; it is up to the CPS specialists to do this, but you can cause more injury to occur if you delay your report or try to monitor the situation yourself.

Some of the warning signs of physical child abuse are: bruises, welts or broken bones, cuts or scrapes, missing hair, injuries or

redness around the genitals, injuries at different stages of healing, injury or medical condition that hasn't been properly treated.

Warning signs can also be exhibited by a child's behavior. They might include: aggressive or withdrawn behavior, unusual fears (of certain people, of going home, etc.), craving for attention, fatigue, lack of concentration, hunger, begging for food, stealing, frequent tardiness or absence from school, unusual knowledge of sex.

Adults who victimize children may also display some warning signs. They may include: harshly punishing the child in public, referring to the child as "difficult, different, or bad," seem unconcerned about the child, give conflicting stories about injuries, or become defensive when asked about the child's health.

It is up to the public to help

protect victims of abuse because most often the victims are unable to protect themselves. They are dependent on others for help and we must educate ourselves in order to help stop this uncalled-for violence.

To report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect please call our local Texas Department of Human Services office in Haskell at 817-864-2682 or the Abuse Hotline at 1-800-252-5400. Our local law enforcement officers would also be available to help.

Abuse. Report it. It's the law!

Calendar of Events

- March 21 - Chamber of Commerce.
- March 25 - Volunteer Fire Department.
- March 26 - Lions Club.

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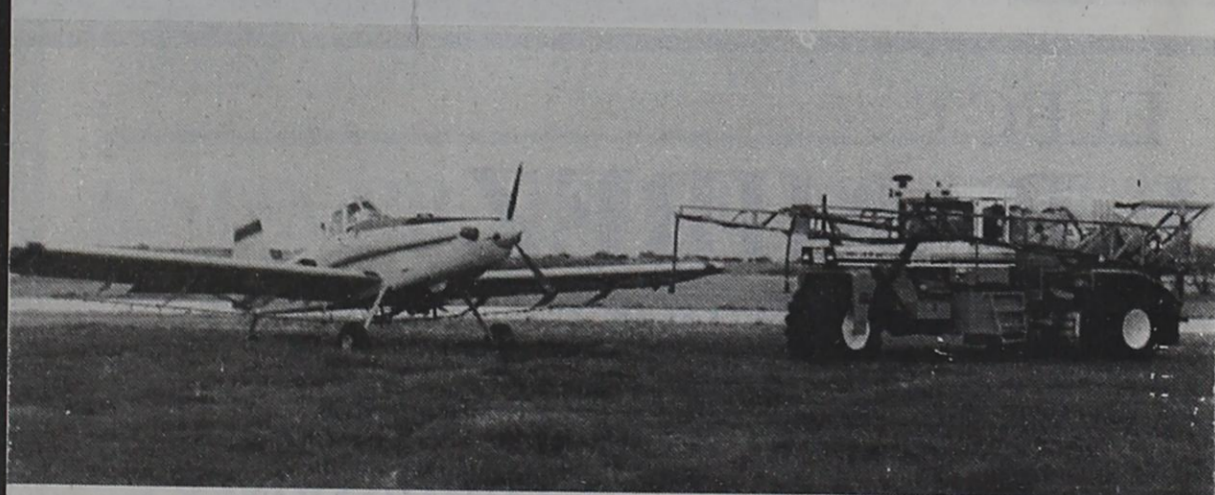
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Mr. and Mrs. Cody Dan Josselet

Michele Berryhill and Cody Josselet united in Haskell wedding ceremony

Michele Lee Berryhill of Munday and Cody Dan Josselet of Haskell were united in holy matrimony on Sunday, February 4, at the First United Methodist Church in Haskell with the Reverend Sid Parsley officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Buford and Cheryl Berryhill of Munday and the groom is the son of Danny and Vicki Josselet of Haskell.

Melissa Berryhill, twin sister of the bride, registered guests for the wedding.

Nelda Lane, organist, provided traditional wedding music and accompanied Ember Josselet, sister of the groom, as she sang "A Long and Lasting Love." Mrs. Lane also accompanied a trio consisting of Ember Josselet, Melissa Berryhill and Jodi Pope as they sang "That's What Friends Are For."

The bride was given in marriage by her father. Her bridal gown was white satin with lace overlay covered with tiny seed pearls. The slim-fitted skirt was split to the knee. A detachable train of satin accented with appliqued roses completed the wedding ensemble. The bride's veil was a headband of tiny white flowers surrounded by pearls with a tier of bouffant lace ruffles and tiny seed pearls. Layers of shoulder length bridal net were gathered and attached to the back of the headband.

The bride's bouquet was fashioned of tulips in her chosen colors of burgandy, mauve and white. A white linen handkerchief given to the bride by the groom's grandparents completed the bouquet.

Mrs. Kent (Cindy) Josselet of Muenster served as her sister's matron of honor. She was attired in a tea-length dress of burgundy satin accented with pearl buttons and a criss-cross tie in the back. She carried a small bouquet of tulips that matched the bride's bouquet.

Kalee Josselet, the bride's niece and the groom's cousin, from

INDIVIDUALS WITH MS

If you have a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis and are interested in filling out a research survey about your experiences with MS, please contact:

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University of Texas at Austin
School of Nursing

for the summer by the Texas Department of Transportation. They will be attending Midwestern State University in the fall.

The couple was honored with two wedding showers. The first one was held on Sunday, February 18, in Haskell at the First National Bank Community Room. The theme was "Cow Country" and the wedding gifts were displayed on the Josselet family quilts. Punch and cookies were served to the guests.

The second shower was in the home of Mrs. Elaine Hall in Munday on Sunday, February 25. Guests were greeted at the door by the honoree; her mother, Cheryl Berryhill; her grandmother, Arlee Bruce; the groom's mother, Vicki Josselet of Haskell; and the groom's grandmother, Norma Lowry of Knox City.

The registry table held a wedding book, wedding pictures and an antique crystal vase (a gift to the bride from Laura Bumett) filled with sunflowers. An arrangement of silk sunflowers was the centerpiece on the serving table. The guests were served cookies and punch.

Hostesses for the shower were Marilyn Bennett, Allene Brown, Judy Bumett, Stella Caram, Janice Dutton, Elaine Hall, Pat Hutchinson, Sandy King, Dulah Lambeth, Bobbie Martin, Wynters Matthews, Gayle Morgan, Kathy Morgan, Sheila Morgan, Pat Owens, Debbie Pankhurst, Brenda Patterson, Barbara Ratliff, Becky Ratliff, Amy Rogers, Nancy Whitmore and Penny Winchester.

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by Jane Rowan
Knox County Extension Agent

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Consumers are still receiving offers to start a new credit card account at a low interest rate. The offer may or may not be a real money harvester. Before taking the offer, get all the facts.

Call the 800 number on the back of the credit cards you hold which currently have a low interest charge that may be expiring soon. Ask what your new rate will be when the introductory rate expires. When they tell you the new, higher rate, politely ask what lower rate they might offer to keep you as a customer, since you have an option to transfer your account to another credit card that has a lower interest rate. The rate could be as low as 1 percentage point higher than your introductory rate. Consumers will not get a reasonable rate unless they ask for it.

If a low rate is not available from current credit card companies, look closely at the new offers. Check the fine print closely. Every credit card solicitation must spell out the main cost factors, the interest rates and grace periods. Look also for fees for balance transfers and cash advances.

Avoid low-rate cards that charge a cash-advance fee, often 2 percent of the amount being transferred.

Accept cards only if they provide interest-free grace periods of 30 days on balances transferred, and a 30-day grace period for new purchases. Cards without a grace period charge interest from the date of the balance transfer or new

purchase, regardless if payments are made by the due date.

Apply for only one card at a time. Trying for several at once is called the "shotgun" approach. While hoping to be approved for at least one card and then cancel the others, credit card companies may see such activity in your credit reports as a signal for high probability of financial irresponsibility. When cards are available and approved with low interest, grace periods and low, no annual or transfer fees, respond if you need the credit. When your new credit is approved, consolidate as many balances on other higher interest cards as possible to your new account.

Don't be tempted to pay the minimum payment at the new low interest. Take the total of payments you had been making on all accounts consolidated, and make that

payment on your new account. That is the only way making a change to a lower interest account will truly help you harvest more money by lowering the amount you pay for credit purchases.

Theatre students to participate in Zone competition

This Thursday, March 21, will be an exciting day for cast members of Munday High School's one act play as they travel to Knox City to compete in the East Zone competitions.

The starting time is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. with drama teams from Crowell, Munday, Aspermont, Knox City and Paducah participating.

How much time he gains who does not look to see what his neighbor says or does or thinks, but only at what he does himself, to make it just and holy.

-Marcus Aurelius Antoninus

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Morning Service 9:30 a.m.
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Evening Service 5:00 p.m.

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**VOTE FOR A PROVEN AND SUCCESSFUL
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(PD. POL. ADV. BY DANIEL RAMIREZ, MUNDAY, TEXAS 76371)

Personalities in profile

NAME: Shawna Kiser

BIRTH PLACE: Hamlin

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT: Cornerstone Home Health

HOBBIES: work, work, work

Shawna is a familiar face to many but since she is usually buried in work there may be some who don't recognize her. She is married to Steve Kiser and is the accounts payable secretary for Cornerstone Home Health. As Shawna puts it, "because of our strict and stringent licensure guidelines my position at Cornerstone is very time consuming and encompasses most of my daily life." That and her four children keep her very busy. Shane - age 10, Joseph age 9, Parris age 7, and baby Rachel age 7 months, generate a lot of activity and a lot of laundry! When Shawna was asked about her hobbies she answered, "Hobbies? Well, my hobby is doing laundry and getting all the socks to match and have mates!" She did add that having a wonderful and helpful husband kept their lives on a more even keel.



Shawna graduated from Old Glory High School and also obtained a degree from TSTC in 1992. She is a member of Faith Lutheran Church in Sagerton.

Currently Shawna is coaching 5th and 6th grade girls in Little Dribbler's basketball. She heads up the Slammin' Jammers!

Former Munday resident named Engineer of the Year

Lubbock City Engineer Larry Hertel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hertel of Munday, was named Engineer of the Year by the South Plains Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers during an awards banquet February 20.

A 21-year employee of the city of Lubbock, Larry came on board right after graduating from Texas Tech with a BS in Engineering Technology with a construction option. Once he had the required eight years of experience under his belt, he began to prepare for the grueling exams that would lead to registration as a professional engineer.

Larry studied during his lunch hours for a year, then passed the tests on the first try. He received

his P.E. registration in February of 1984 and was then promoted to Civil Engineer. Four years later, he was promoted to City Engineer.

As City Engineer, Larry supervises 20 professional engineers and engineering technicians in the planning, designing and construction of City street and drainage improvement. He works constantly with the Lubbock Developer's Council to maintain a high quality working relationship between the development community and City Hall.

Larry's duties at City Hall are too numerous to list but his staff says that new EPA stormwater rules and regs have driven him to hit the Tylenol bottle with a greater frequency these days.

When not at the office, Larry can be found on the tennis court. He

has coached a number of successful teams, including the winners of the last two years' local US Tennis Association tournaments.

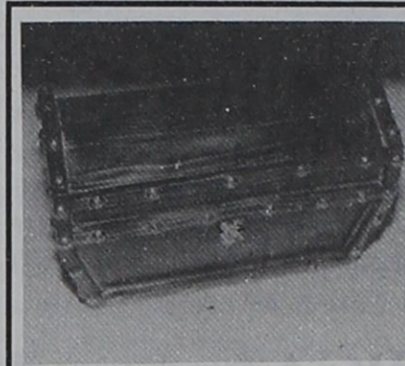
He and his wife Judy have been married for 20 years and have two children. Judy is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Alexander of Munday.

No stranger to being honored for his achievements, Larry also was named the Public Works Leader of the Year in 1992 by the Texas Chapter of the American Public

Works Association.

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From A Carpenter's Son

Don Whetsell, Pastor - First United Methodist Church, Munday & Goree

I don't usually do this, and I want you to know that I have strong ethical concerns regarding the use of my column for personal promotion of my church or activities that I am involved in. But on this particular occasion, I believe that I am justified. Firstly because the event I am about to invite you to is a cooperative venture with four other congregations in our area, and second and most importantly, we already bought an ad!

The event that I am referring to, of course, is the community Passover Celebration this Friday at 6 p.m. in the Munday High Gym. This celebration is free, just like God's grace offered to us through Christ on the cross. The churches of Munday are bearing the cost of this meal, to remind you that Christ bore your sins at Golgotha.

This is a real meal, with roast lamb, traditional Jewish recipes, and lots of good old Texas side dishes for the less adventurous. You will get plenty to eat.

First and foremost, however, this is a time of worship. As we remember how God heard the cries of the Hebrew slaves in Egypt, and delivered them from their captivity, we saw how God hears our cries today, and delivers us from captivity to greed, addiction, guilt, and shame, by sending Jesus as our Passover Lamb. God is always

merciful, and always hears our cries of suffering.

I want you to know that we will be taking a love offering for our speaker, Alan Bond, to pay for his travel expense and to help with missionary work of Jews For Jesus.

I have also been asked to let everyone know to bring a single steamed or boiled vegetable or dry green salad that will feed ten. This will ensure that there is enough food for everyone.

If you are a Christian, I invite you to come and experience this means of grace with us. If you don't think you are, I invite you to come and see and hear the story of God's redemptive power at work for you through Jesus Christ. Bring your friends. Bring your enemies. Let us all come together to show God our gratitude for the rain of his grace.

Card of Thanks —

Many, many thanks for the honor bestowed on me by the Munday Chamber of Commerce for being selected as the Citizen of the Year. I deeply appreciate this. Munday has been a wonderful place to call home, raise my children, then retire to enjoy so many things and the beauty of the world around us.

Mary Cartwright

On behalf of the Athletic Booster Club we would like to thank:

All of the parents who donated drinks and food to the track meet; Everyone who worked in the concession stand; Those that cooked the meat; Those who brought ice, tables, and chairs; and Especially those who came early and stayed late.

We could not have had such a successful concession stand without your help! We appreciate you alot!!

Melissa and Beverly



Mary's Creations

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Watch for details on Easter Egg Hunt in next week's paper.

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Mary Cartwright

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I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to YOU, the voters in Precinct 3, who placed your confidence in me by voting for me in the Primary Election, March 12. I want to say "Thank You" for your support, encouragement, and friendship throughout the past weeks.

The support, encouragement, and confidence you have shown me has given me an even greater desire to serve YOU as your Commissioner of Precinct 3 and Knox County.

There will be a Runoff Election April 9, 1996 and I would appreciate your vote and support.

Jimmy Urbanczyk

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Grandma's stir up goodness in Truscott

by Cynthia White

It was a brisk but sunny day when I headed out to meet the Truscott Grandma's that I had heard so much about. It was my first trip to that area but as I walked out the door my husband said, "Just go to Benjamin and head north on highway 6 - it's on your left." Easy enough, I thought - and it can't be too far.

The country side was just breathtaking. I hadn't been in the breaks but a small handful of times and I'm still in awe of their rugged beauty. It's the kind of scenery that hits you right in your born-and-bred Texas heart and leaves a big 'ole lump in your throat - just looking out your vehicle window makes you proud that you can call the diverse Lone Star state home.

Anyway, I drove, and I drove, and I drove. "Sure, Truscott is on your left just a little ways down the road from Benjamin," I said to myself. Then I drove, and I drove, and I drove! In the distance I could spy a utility line so I knew there was some sort of civilization some where so I drove and I drove and I drove. Finally - there in the distance I could make out the shadowy figures that appeared to be grain towers - this must be it. Then I caught a glimpse of the "Truscott Cemetery" on the right so I felt at ease knowing that my destination was just ahead.

It made me sad when I drove into the tiny hamlet and saw what remains of these people's hometown. Slowly, our small town heritage is withering as people move on and buildings become broken down heaps of brick with the other remains boarded up. This Saturday morning found only four cars in sight but I tried to imagine what the town of yesteryear looked like as I ventured into the Truscott Community Center.

I wasn't even in the door when my nose caught the aroma of home cooking and the sounds of excited chatter became evident as I opened the door and walked in. Four lovely



THE TRUSCOTT GRANDMA'S, Clara Owens, Ila Mac Buillion, Geraldine Tomanek and Clara Brown relax for a minute while preparing one of their meals at the Truscott Community Center.

ladies from Truscott were busily preparing "Grandma's Sunday Dinner" just like they've been doing for the past umpteens years. And on the second Sunday of almost each month of the year Truscott comes alive with happy diners that are served by these Grandma's. Most "Grandma's Sunday Dinners" bring anywhere from 70-100 meal seekers and you can bet the old drug store that now houses the community center is not alone and quiet on days when the Grandma's (and great-grandma's) are open for business.

Clara Brown, Clara Owens, Ila Mae Buillion, and Geraldine Tomanek spear head the operation. Plans are almost a continual thing from month to month as the group meets to plan the menu and the decorations which vary from meal to meal. They even shop together for food items and on the Saturday before the event they meet early at the center and begin cooking and setting up, just as they were doing on the day I visited the quarter.

These ladies are proud of their background and, when talking to them about the dinners, you begin to feel that their work is out of love for all who come and out of devo-

tion to keeping a meeting place for area people alive.

The old drug store that once served the good folks in Truscott has been lovingly transformed into the community center. Old shelves that housed pharmaceutical bottles now hold scores of books and magazine that folks are allowed to take home and read and, as Clara Brown puts it, "Some even return them!" There's a gorgeous up-right piano that use to make music for the kids at the school before it closed, sturdy wooden tables were obtained from air force surplus and some were donated by the Methodist Church, plaques and pictures adorn the walls that were given with love from various individuals, and there's carpet on the floor that was purchased from the Grandma's meal monies.

Improvements have been made through out the years from the revenue's the Grandma's cooking brings in. Bathroom facilities have been made, sinks put in, cabinets installed, carpet laid, insurance paid, lights and ceiling fans put in - all because of the Grandma's devotion, and the list could go on and on.

The Grandma's can attest to the fact the Texan's love fried chicken and bar-be-que as those are two of their most requested treats but they also say that people love their August meal which includes an assortment of salads and fruits - everyone loves Knox County watermelons! The meals serve many one and two people families but even young families enjoy the value of the \$5.00 dinners.

Clara Brown reminisces about the time the group decided to up their prices from \$4.00 to the current \$5.00. "There's was a lot of talk about the Grandma's when we thought about a price change. Some said that if we went to \$5.00 we wouldn't have anybody come!" But they did come and they keep coming today.

Most of us would pay \$5.00 just to visit with these vivacious granies and to see the artifacts in the old place. The Texas Sesquicentennial quilt that was a money making project for the group is worth the trip. Area families paid to have their names embroidered on the quilt and it is still on display today. Most regulars to the meals have seen the quilt many times but they

are still quick to point out their names to the new-comers. The tablecloths are also a treasure. They were hand made by Clara Owens and Vivian Brown (now deceased) and are hand-painted with the brands from area ranches.

The meals are prepared by loving hands and salads and desserts are donated. The center pays for the meats, bread, tea and paper items out of money from past dinners.

But it's the Grandma's preserverance that keeps things going. Ila Mac Buillion (lovingly referred to as "The Mayor") even collects tin cans that she cashes in and uses as her "mad money" for the center - acquiring utensils and other small items that the group might need. And this preserverance to keeping the community going has lasted for eight years of dinners. Prior to the dinners Jamborees were held to raise the needed funds. That changed when "all the musicians got too old to play - however, no one's too old to eat!"

All in all the dinners are a thriving success and are the focal point for folks from Truscott and "all around these here parts." Clara Brown states, "I've often said that the dinners are like a country funeral - everyone is visiting, getting reacquainted, and enjoying good food. Fortunately, no body died!"

What a group of great people!

Weather extremes underscore need for direct deposit

Noting that the blizzards, floods, ice and other bad weather that has affected much of the country sometimes obstructed mail delivery, including the delivery of checks from Social Security, Greg White, District Manager of the Wichita Falls office of Social Security, reminds beneficiaries that they can avoid such problems by having their benefits delivered directly to their financial institutions.

You can arrange for your benefit to be delivered to your account by calling Social Security's toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213. Service is available from 7 AM to 7 PM weekdays except for national holidays, however, White suggested calling between the hours of 7-9 AM or 5-7 PM, as the lines are less busy during these periods.

LOCAL NEWS

Neva Biggs of Austin visited her mother, Lala Morgan, from Thursday until the next Tuesday.

On Friday they went shopping and Saturday they had lunch in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Nolan Phillips. Others there were Velda and Melvin Wainwright, Irene Carmichael, Juana Ethridge, and Lenora and Stan Hammett.

On Sunday they went to church and visited Gerald Morgan and part of his family in the afternoon. They then went to see her other brother, Melton and part of his family.

Monday was a day of visiting and on Tuesday they voted.

The Christian Life

by Jeff Christian - Minister
Munday Church of Christ

Bill Longan said something that struck me last Wednesday night/Thursday morning. We were sitting in the typical ICU waiting room. Chairs that someone evidently thought people would only sit in for five minutes at a time were spread out around the room. The impersonal fluorescent lighting was invading our tired eyes. I looked up at the clock. 1:25 a.m. The calendar on the wall read March 13, but we realized that it was now March 14. Bill looked at me, obviously shaken up by the days events and said, "You know Jeff, these are four very special girls" I simply nodded my head, not really knowing what to say.

As ministers, we are oftentimes called on for words. At town events, we are called on to "say" a prayer. On Sunday mornings, we are expected to "speak" for 15-25 minutes, depending on how good that particular lesson is. For newspapers and bulletins, we "write" articles for people to read. But in a situation like the one that was faced Wednesday night, sometimes words cannot suffice. When Jesus went to the tomb of Lazarus, he did not impress them with fancy counseling techniques. Instead he simply went and cried with them. Something similar happened Wednesday night when somewhere close to a hundred people showed up at Hendrick, and that

in the wee hours of the night.

I could not agree more with Bill about having four very special young ladies in our town, and thank God, they are still with us today. Life is difficult, and saying a bunch of words does not change that cruel fact. In the blink of an eye, things change in a world that is sometimes taken for granted. Go give your child a hug and tell him or her that you love them. If they live away from home, give them a call. The same goes for us kids in regards to our parents. Life is way too short to hold grudges and be bitter. From time to time, we all need to step back and realize that we have something very special. The prayers of this community are with four young ladies and their families.

LOCAL NEWS

Visiting in the home of Christine Nelson over the week-end was her niece Billie True Nichols of Levelland and her great niece Jane Hebison of Crossroads, New Mexico.

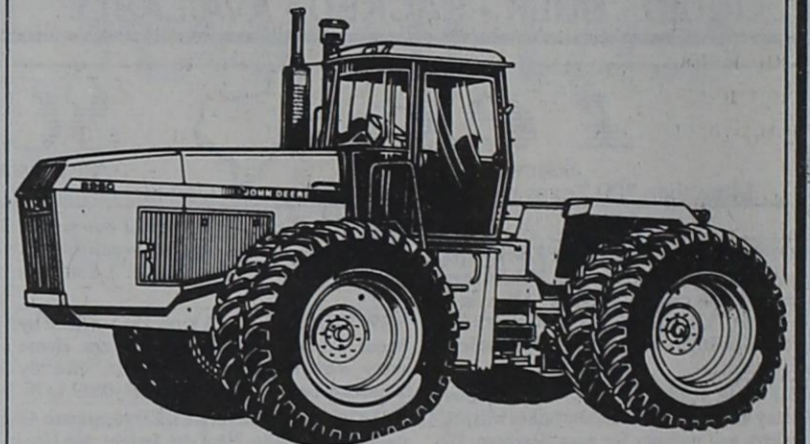
They had such a rip roaring time at Christine's that it seemed as if six people were visiting!

They also visited Hazel Pruitt and Jeanne Haynie just a short time. They plan to be back soon, as they didn't get their visit out.

HAVE A NICE DAY!

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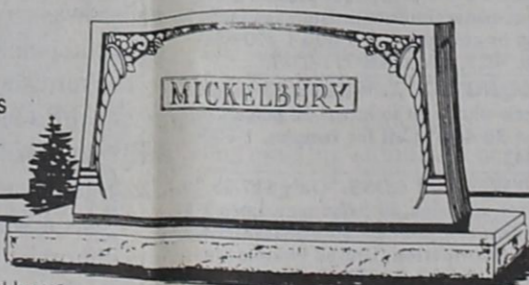


MHS Net Stars Connie Bellinghausen and Tony Scott (with his mouth open as usual) pause a moment for the Tom-Tom camera man. Both were winners in contest for the Western half of District 11-A.

Lived to be 45,
Happy Birthday Tony!

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