

Live, Laugh & Love

by Catherine R. Smith
cathysmith@antden.com



My dear friend Sheri Benton sent me the following prayer, entitled "Good Morning, Lord." I would like to share it with you now, in honor of Sheri. She will be retiring as Hansford County Librarian at the end of this year.

This morning when I wakened
And saw the sun above,
I softly said, "Good morning, Lord,
Bless everyone I love."

Right away I thought of you
And said a loving prayer,
That He would bless you specially,
And keep you free from care

I thought of all the happiness
A day could hold in store,
I wished it all for you because
No one deserves it more.

I felt so warm and good inside,
My heart was all aglow,
I know God heard my prayers for you,
He hears them all, you know.

May God bless and keep you; May He make his
face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26
Catherine :)

Wolf Creek Heritage Museum Notes

by Virginia Scott

Museum Happenings
November 30 from 1 pm to 4 pm, a needlecraft demonstration class - open to everyone. The disappearing needlecrafts such as sewings of rugs and decorative pieces from pieces of cloth called "yo-yo's" will be demonstrated. A "Tatting demonstration" will also be available. Refreshments will be serviced and opportunities to try your hand at creating will be available.

December 4 from 1pm to 4pm will be our reception for EttaLu Ruf Sherman. This reception will also be our Christmas reception. Please plan to join us.

Our traveling exhibit from Exhibit USA and TexasHELP "Aprons strings: Ties to our Past" is still here and is appropriate for this season. With families gathering for family celebrations, this exhibit will allow grandmother or an aunt or uncle to recall the time thanksgiving dinner with her best apron on. Plan to bring the family in to enjoy past and present memories. Special groups or times can be arranged by calling us at 806-852-2123.

HOLIDAY HISTORY

In writing this column, I have the excuse to spent time browsing through our collections for information on any topic I desire. At this time of the year, I like to investigate for stories about past holiday celebrations and practices. The problem is that there is very limited information. We have some newspaper coverage and some photos mainly of Christmas. As to information on Thanksgiving, I have found only two historical facts. One: a turkey shoot was held on Saturday, Nov 22, 1930 in Follett, Tx south of the depot. I was unable to find out the winners in the next issue. Two: Some of the worst snow storms occurred around Thanksgiving in 1911 and lasted the whole winter. It was this winter that farmers built sleds under their wagons to deliver food to stranded farmers. An enormous amount of livestock and

wildlife were lost that year. Snow drifts of fifteen to twenty feet were said to be common. Filling our canyons and making the landscape look flat.

If you have sources for local history of holidays, please share them with the museum. Family and organization celebrations are especially needed. Please share your history with us.

Here is a Timeline for Thanksgiving history: 1620: the Mayflower Compact, 1676: first Thanksgiving Proclamation, 1782: Continental Congress Proclamation, 1784: Ben Franklin makes his case for making the Turkey the National Bird. 1789: Washington proclamation for Thanksgiving Holiday. 1863: Lincoln's proclamation declaring the last Thursday in November as a national day of Thanksgiving. This was proclaimed by every president after Lincoln. Franklin Roosevelt tried to change it to the Next-to-last Thursday to create a longer Christmas shopping season. The Public uproar against this decision caused the president to move it back to its original date. In 1941, Thanksgiving was finally sanctioned by Congress as a legal holiday, as the fourth Thursday in November.

Lastly, it is appropriate that I end this column with some facts on Turkeys. Turkeys did not become a common meat to the Thanksgiving dinner until about 1800. In 1975, Americans ate 8.3 pounds of turkey per year and in 1995, Americans ate over 18 pounds of turkey per year.

The "turkey trot" was a dance made popular in the early 1900's. Conservative members of society thought the dance was demoralizing and tried to get it banned at public function, which only served to increase its popularity. The turkey trot was not a graceful dance, as couples danced around in circles bobbing their heads like strutting tom turkeys. Alas, it was soon replaced by the ever so popular "Fox Trot" in 1914. (source: www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/turkey/history)

Have a good Thanksgiving!

Wolf Creek Heritage Museum

Museum Hours: Monday thru Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday 2 to 4 p.m. Special hours upon request.
Museum Information: Hwy 305, Lipscomb; telephone: 806-852-2123; fax: 806-852-2117; email: wolfcrk@amaonline.com; website: www.wolfcreekheritagemuseum.com

Ralph Depee, D.D.S.



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The Hansford County Reporter-Statesman

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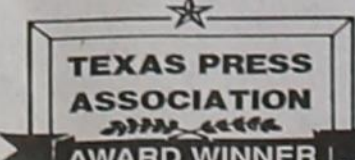
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Advertising

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Texas Press Association and Panhandle Press Association



HWYI

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Prairie Rivers Musical

The Prairie Rivers Musical is featured on the 3rd Saturday of each month (October through April) at Canadian Middle School. There is no admission charge. For more information, call (806) 323-6213.

Gladiola Flower Club Home Tours Set

The Gladiola Flower Club is making plans for the Annual Home Tour, Sunday, December 4, 2005 from 2-5 p.m. This year's homes are: Glenda Ujhely, 902 Maple; Chad Wilkerson, 706 Wilmeth Dr.; Fred Shieldknight, 7 miles S. FM 760, 1 mile W. County Road CC and Mrs. Kenneth Evans, 7 miles S, FM 760, 1 mile W, County Road CC. Tickets will be \$5 each. Proceeds are for the scholarship given each year by the Club.

Hospice Lights of Love

The Hospice Lights of Love service will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, December 5th. The service will begin at the Manor, and will move out to the Gazebo for the lighting of the Lights of Love Tree. Refreshments will be served.

FNB, Accolade Home Care provide services

Accolade Home Care will be at the First National Bank in Spearman on Monday, December 5, 2005 from 9 a.m.-12 noon. They will provide the following free services - blood pressure, weight, pulse, oxygen saturation. For more information call Linda Todd (806)282-5867 or Teresa at (806) 659-5544. Everyone is invited!

Motorcycle Toy Run

A toy run benefiting Toys for Tots, Bib Brothers Big sisters, Panhandle Crisis Center and area children and families will be held December 4. Bikes will meet at 1 pm at the United Supermarket, with a police escorted drive down Main Street to the Expo Center. All Bikes Are Welcome. Entry fee is (1) toy or game per person, all donations are appreciated. For more information contact: (Day) 434-0714, (Night) 648-1703 or 648-1995.

Spearman Band Sells Decorated Christmas Cookies

Spearman Band and Jeanette's Sweet Creations - what a combo! The Spearman Band is now selling Home-made Hand-decorated Christmas Cookies by Jeanette. The cookies are a variety of snowmen, Christmas trees and Santa's. If you are interested in purchasing cookies, they are \$10 per dozen. You can order them from any band student, or call the band hall at 659-2584.

Rushing Wind Emmaus Community Meeting

The Rushing Wind Emmaus Community will meet Saturday night, December 10 in Follett. Food and fellowship will begin at 6 p.m. Bring your favorite foods to share. Sponsor Training will be at 6:30, followed by Worship at 7.

You're Never Alone - Narcotics Anonymous Group

Each year individuals struggling with drug and alcohol addiction make the resolution to quit using drugs. For many of them it is a resolution that they cannot keep. Narcotics Anonymous can help. Open meetings are held on Thursday nights from 8-9 p.m. at the First Christian Church (29 S. Bernice in Spearman) for the "You're Never Alone" group of Narcotics Anonymous. Anyone interested is invited to attend. Drug addiction can leave an individual feeling helpless and out of control.

Panhandle Crisis Center Outreach Office

Panhandle Crisis Center (PCC) has an Outreach Office in the Pittman-Shieldknight Building, 511 SW 11th Avenue, Suite 105, in Spearman. In case of emergencies, please continue to call the hotline, 1-800-753-5308. To schedule an appointment with a worker in Hansford County, please call 659-3391 to leave a message, or call the hotline number above. Panhandle Crisis Center serves victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Please call for more information regarding PCC's services.

Letters to Santa

The Hansford County Reporter-Statesman will print Letters to Santa from children in Hansford County in our annual Christmas edition, which will be published on December 22nd.

Letters may be mailed to: Santa Letter, % Reporter-Statesman, 213 Main Street, Spearman, TX 79081, or dropped by the Reporter-Statesman office. Office hours are Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-12 noon and 1-5 p.m. (There is a drop-slot located in the window to the right of the door.)

In order for your letter to appear in this issue, it must be in the Reporter-Statesman office by 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 15th. All letters will be forwarded to Santa. (Letters received after the deadline will not have time to reach the North Pole by Christmas.)

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Wednesday
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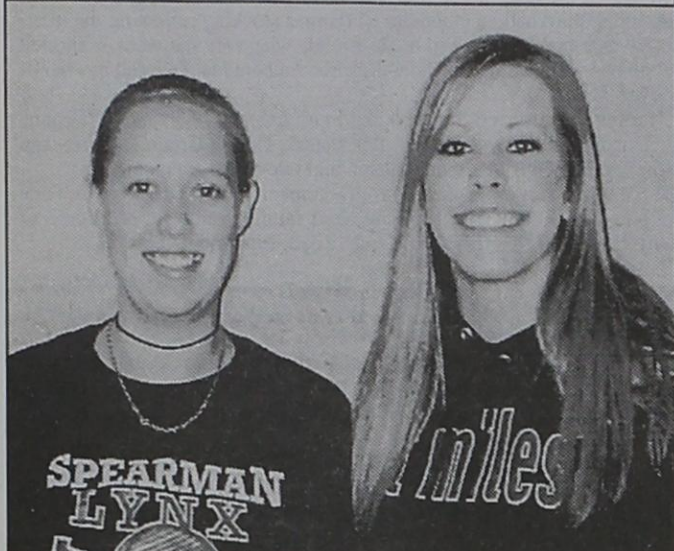
MURMUR'S

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Winter Hours Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Five State Honor Band



Sara Barnes and Aleisha Sweat made the Five States Honor Band, and will participate in a clinic and concert on December 10th in Guymon, Oklahoma.

The Spearman Band would like to congratulate all the students that participated in the Five State Honor Band this year.

Auditioning were: Christina Hunter, Wendy Gaytan, Alejandro Rios, Haley Smith, Sara Barnes and Aleisha Sweat.

Two students placed in the ensemble and will be traveling to Guymon, OK December 10th for a clinic and concert. Those two students are Senior, Aleisha Sweat, 17th chair Clarinet and Junior, Sara Barnes, 1st Alternate Clarinet.

Way to go Band!

Thank You

As we shift from one fund-raiser into another, the Spearman Band would like to thank all those in the community who purchased band cards.

We are now completing our band card sale. If you are still interested in purchasing a one, please call Spearman High School at 659-3865.

Musically Yours,
Amber TeBeest

Words from Faith & Grace

by Cecil R. Biggers, Lutheran Lay Minister

In Advent we await the celebration of Christ's birth and we await the celebration of his second Advent (His return).

Our Advent Wreath is a perfect circle which reminds us of the perfection and everlasting nature of God. Its evergreen weaving represents eternity/eternal life. If we add holly as the evergreen or to the evergreen its berries represent Christ's blood shed for us and the sharp thorns remind us of Christ's suffering for us. There are five candles on the advent wreath.

The first candle represents "Hope." The hope that we have in the promises of God to redeem us, the hope we have in the promise of Jesus to return for us.

The second candle represents "Peace." The peace that Christ gave us when we trust in Him and the peace that He will bring into being at His return.

The third candle represents "Joy." The birth of Jesus gave joy to His mother, joy to those who trust in Him, joy to all who enter His Kingdom. The fourth candle represents "Love." God in love gives us everything we need to live a life of hope, joy, and peace.

The light of all these candles grows as each is lit on its Sunday in Advent, to remind us that Christ is the light of the world. The center candle is the "Christ" candle and, when lit on Christmas day, represents Christ's actual presence.

This week we study Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85, 2 Peter 3: 8-15 and Mark 1:1-8. Isaiah tells us of the Voice crying in the wilderness, make straight a highway for our God.

The Psalmist praises God for giving what is good and saying, His righteousness goes before Him, making a path for His steps.

The writer of 2nd Peter reminds the faith community that God's time is not the same as ours. He affirms that the Day of the Lord will come as a thief and exhorts the faith community to remain without spot or blemish so that all may avail themselves of the "extra" time to repent while waiting for the Day of the Lord. He cites the writings of Paul, and agrees that the will of the Lord is that none should perish.

Mark, disciple of Peter, writes of the messenger crying in the wilderness and immediately introduces us to John the Baptist. In his lifetime, John the Baptist denied that he was the returned Isaiah, but Mark shows John the Baptist as fulfilling the purpose of Isaiah by proclaiming the greatness of the One who is to follow John, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

May the Holy Spirit create in you a spirit of expectation in this season of the birth of our Savior and a spirit of expectation of His return. Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus!



Eleven year old, Justin Rindlisbacher, bagged his "first deer" November 11, 2005, instructed by his Grandfather, Jim Russell. The white-tailed, ten-pointer field dressed at 187 pounds and was taken down in the canyons in Hutchison County. Justin is the son of Todd Rindlisbacher of Idaho and Rene' Griffin of Spearman.

You are invited to attend a Wedding Shower

honoring
Michelle & Shane Hill

on Saturday, December 10th
at 10 a.m. at the

First Christian Church

29 South Bernice - Spearman, TX

You are invited to attend a Wedding Shower

honoring

Katy Higgs & Jeremiah Shrode

on Sunday, December 11th

at 2:30 p.m. at the home of

Eulalia & Eschol Blankenship

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Katy Higgs & Jeremiah Shrode - 12/11

Baby Registry

Lindsey (Smith) & Britt Savage
Stacy & Cody McLeod
Melinda & Crockett Tidwell

Celebrate

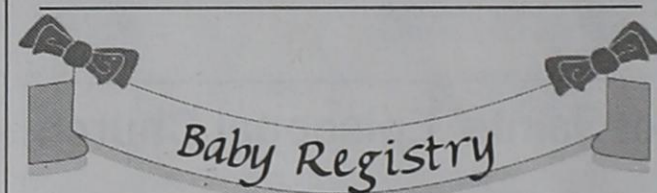
203 Main St. Spearman, TX
(806) 659-3350 1-800-663-8026

Gordon's DRUG



Couples Currently Registered

Shane & Michelle Hill - Dec. 10th
Katy Higgs and Jeremiah Shrode - Dec. 11th
John & Elissa (Petersen) Holt



Britt & Lindsey (Smith) Savage

Gordon's DRUG 659-2141
314 Main Spearman

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301 S. Ash - Perryton
435-5008

Battering Intervention & Anger Management Available
Memorials Accepted

Are You A Victim of Domestic Violence, Sexual Abuse or Physical, Emotional or Sexual Assault?

Call Toll Free Hotline
1-800-753-5308

We can see individuals from Hansford County anytime upon request. Call 435-5008 or 1-800-753-5308 to set up an appointment in Hansford County. We operate a safe place for victims and their children to stay in times of crisis.

Battering Intervention & Anger Management Available

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Memorials Accepted

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You might be a little more excited when you open your bill from PTCI! We're randomly placing Instant Winner Tickets for \$25, \$50 or \$100 just in time for Christmas!

Ten Golden Tickets will be invitations to come to the PTCI office on December 21 to spin for a chance to win up to \$1,000!



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Manor Matters

by Merry Sparks

My, My the Holidays!! What a wonderful time of year. The Residents love holidays and this is a special time of the year that is traditionally spent with families and friends. We appreciate the volunteers that come to give of themselves so much especially through the fall and winter seasons because we realize that all of you are extremely busy yourselves. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to all of you.

We have enjoyed the Union Church and the Church of Christ bringing services to the Manor on the last two Sundays.

We have had many unexpected volunteers this past month. One was Eugene Haith from North Carolina. He came to play his guitar and sing and play the harmonica a couple of times over the last two weeks. He is very, very good and we enjoyed him very much. He was in this area visiting a new grandchild and came to the Manor to offer his services. Kudos to him! We appreciated it.

The Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce have been hosting bingo on Monday nights throughout the month of November. We also have had many extra volunteers on hand to help them. Many thanks go out to all of you!

The Auxiliary hosted the birthday party on the 18th by serving many, many pies. Steve Mathews played his keyboard for entertain-

ment. He is wonderful and the Residents as well as the rest of us enjoy listening to him play just as long as he will play. I am sure we wear him out but we do appreciate him. I cannot say enough times how appreciative we are of the auxiliary. They are so faithful to be here every Thursday afternoon to host bingo as well as hosting all of our birthday parties. Prairie Gardens are appreciated also as they provide corsages to the birthday honorees every month also.

The schools are also very helpful. The kindergarten children came to visit on the 21st. They sang, watched a film and had refreshments before they had to go back to classes. Thank you to the teachers, helpers, and schools for sharing your children with us.

We had another great day with babies and toddlers on the 23rd. Several mothers brought their children to share with the Residents. Thank you to one and all!

There was a fun afternoon on the 25th in a discussion circle about Thanksgivings past. Many customs

were discussed as well as tales of duck hunting and funny incidences that had happened during their lifetimes.

Our D.O.N., Lelia Bynum along with Anne Snow, our administrator and other department heads have been working for several months on many new things at the Manor to improve the quality of the Resident's lives. I hope that many of you have been by and noticed the continuing changes. One change that you may not have visually noticed is that we are cross training several CNA's with the activities department so that the front line care givers who are here 24/7 will be equipped to intervene in boredom and loneliness during hours that activity personnel are not traditionally on duty such as late at night and week ends. We even had some group activities on Thanksgiving Day!! Wow !! I appreciate Lelia for this effort and give her many Kudos along with Anne for supporting this effort.

I have only skimmed over the surface of what is going on at the Manor and have left many things out on purpose. We have not skimmed on any of our recurring programs but continue to have a variety of new things to do.

Texas crop and weather report

The following specific livestock, crop and weather conditions were reported by Panhandle Extension directors: Soil moisture is very short to short. Above-average temperatures and soil erosion caused by high winds were reported. Cotton harvest continued; reported yields were good to excellent. Peanut, soybean and sunflower harvest was complete. Wheat was rated fair to good. Dryland crops needed precipitation. Dryland wheat grazing was severely limited. Wheat streak mosaic and High Plains viruses were diagnosed in some fields. Rangeland conditions were poor to fair. Fire danger was very high. Cattle were in fair-to-good condition. Supplemental feeding continued.

the Spirit of Christmas

9th Annual Community Christmas Dinner

Where: The O'Loughlin Center
 When: December 25th • 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
 What: A free dinner will be provided for anyone in the community who would like to share in the Christmas spirit with food and fellowship.

Everyone is invited to join us on this special occasion!

Rides will be available to and from the O'Loughlin Center. Call 659-3550, 659-3584 or 659-3434 and leave message, if you need transportation.

Eat & Be Merry At

MONEL'S

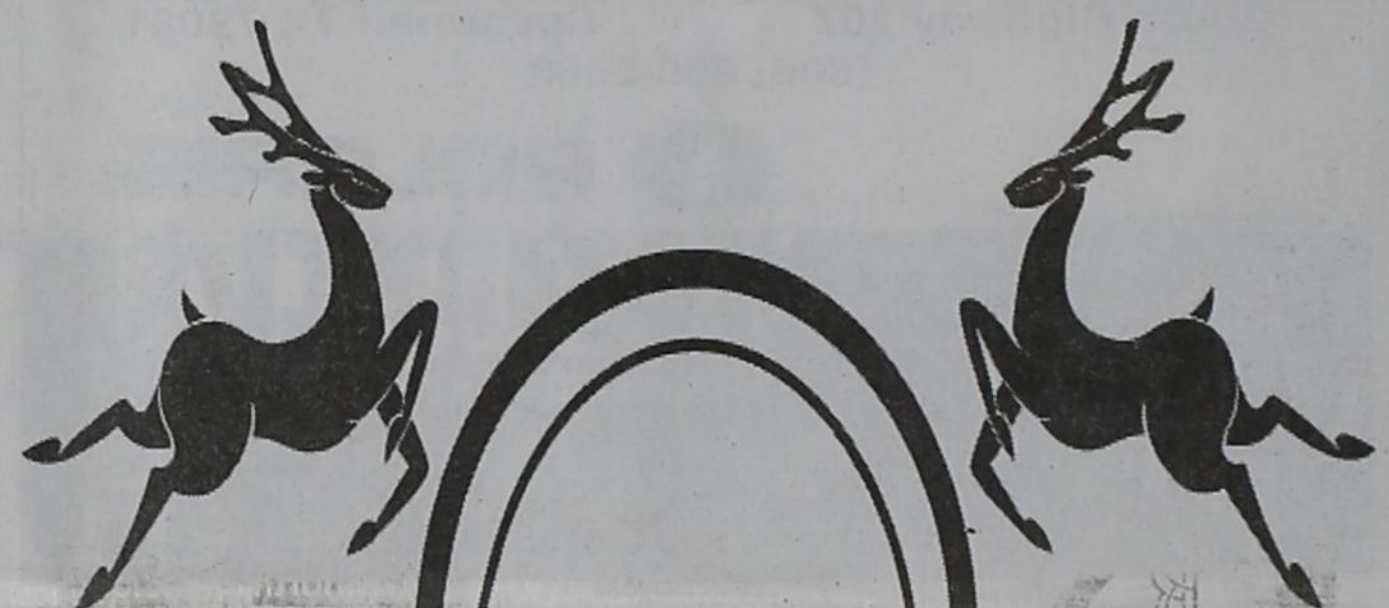
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 Wednesday, December 14th

17th Annual Christmas Hot Dog Cookout

11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

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 Service our Goal

1 NE Court Spearman
 659-5565

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Pictures with Santa
 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

by Dorothy Hudson

Out At The Lake



Jim took this picture of a big buck.

Lake Level--November 28, 2005--24.50 feet

Not many fishermen have been out, according to Jim, but some big blue catfish have been caught. Charley Laxton caught one weighing 21 pounds and then a second one weighing 20 pounds. Rondall Thompson of Hooker caught one weighing 18.5 pounds.

Jim saw 3 eagles one evening on the Gibner side. The geese seem to be stopping overnight but not staying around.

Pheasant season starts this Saturday. Many think this will be a good year for the hunters.

A few weeks ago a friend of our daughter Nancy spent the night with us as she traveled from North Carolina to Santa Fe, New Mexico. As she left, she looked at her map and asked me why the Oklahoma Panhandle was there instead of being a continuation of the Texas Panhandle. "Is it different country?" she asked.

I said she wouldn't be able to tell where the border was, as the country was the same. Much of the Clark Monument story swirled in my head and I couldn't tell her in a concise fashion with dates why the Oklahoma Panhandle was no longer a part of Texas. This is what I should have said:

Neither the Oklahoma or Texas Panhandles were part of the United States until 1845 when Texas gave up its status as a Republic and became a slave state in the Union. This created a controversy because the northern boundary of Texas extended into Wyoming. The Missouri Enabling Act of 1820 had said no slave state could exist above the 36 30' parallel. Texas was deep in debt, so a compromise was worked out where for 10 million dollars, Texas sold to the U.S. all its land above the 36 30' parallel. At that time both Panhandles were considered to be part of the Great American Desert and not worth much.

Next week I will explain how the Oklahoma Panhandle -- a strip 167 miles long and 34.5 miles wide -- came into being.

Hansford County Library Booknotes

by Sheri Benton

As I sit down to write my last Booknotes column for the Hansford Reporter Statesman, I can't help but wonder where the last fifteen years have gone. It seems like only yesterday I began my career as the librarian at Hansford County Library, and now the time has come for me to turn it over to someone else. I leave the library in very capable and caring hands. Maria Carbajal will be taking over as Director, and Liz Miser and Kay Bowles will be sharing the Assistant Director's position. Margaret Ruttman will continue to fill in all the gaps as our part time assistant.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the library board first for hiring me fifteen years ago and then for the support I have received from them throughout those years. These dedicated people care about our library enough to serve on the board - many of them for quite some time - and to do whatever is necessary to maintain our excellent level of service to this community. Those serving on the board are Myrna Biggers - Chair, James Cunningham - Vice-Chair, Kim Brock - Treasurer, Wanda Jones - Secretary, Mary Alice Gibner, Susan Kidder, Wanda Archer, Shonda Odegaard and Jo McLaughlin - Thriftshop Manager.

The library board and staff with help from the Twentieth Century Club held a wonderful appreciation

reception for me on November 13. I know that a lot of work went into making it a huge success. The board gave me a plaque in appreciation of my fifteen years of service to the library. My staff made a great scrapbook for me, gave me a beautiful clock and then had a very moving video presentation covering my tenure at the library. All in all, it was a wonderful afternoon, and I want to say a heartfelt thank you to those who held the reception as well as the many, many friends and family who attended.

There are so many other people in our community who have supported our library in various other ways. Some that immediately come to mind are Ron Antalek, Bill Pittman and his family, Bill Porter, Steve Benton, Cindy Blackman, Mike Ladd, Sandy Drake, Cathy Smith, Carolyn Cummings, Chris Deakin, Kathy Boyd, Pati Schnell, Lyn Woolley, Kyle Nollner, Joe Archer, Justin Boyd, David Boyd, Hank Sutterfield, Ed Hansen, Robert Patrick and others too numerous to mention. The library would not be what it is today without the continuing support of the Twentieth Century Club, Lions Club and Rotary Club. Many local businesses support our library including B & B Sales, CO's Supply, Deakin Electric, Hansford Reporter Statesman, Five Star

Equipment, First State Bank, First National Bank, Celebrate, Gordon's Drug, Cates Men and Boys, John Hutchison Law Office, Dollar General, Brock Insurance and Lowes. No matter what program I had going on at the library or what problem came up if I needed funds or whatever, I could always count on these people, clubs and businesses to come to my rescue.

I also want to thank all of the dedicated volunteers who staff our Thriftshop. They work every Tuesday and every Saturday, and receive no compensation and little thanks for their efforts. If you have ever had a garage sale, this would be like having one every week! It takes a tremendous amount of work, and the library could not exist as it does without the funds this project provides. Current volunteers include Jo McLaughlin (Manager), Marian Upchurch, Sara Dossett, Pauline McGee, Nina Hendricks, Claudine Laxton, Lorene McGuire, Bill Porter, Betty Pugh and Margaret Novak.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the wonderful endowment that the library now has thanks to Stinson Gibner and Enron who matched local donations two to one providing over \$120,000. I know that Enron has become somewhat of a "dirty" word in today's news, but they did provide the matching dona-

tions that were promised to our library. Stinson had the original vision and set everything in motion so our library and our community owe him a tremendous debt. I would also like to extend my personal thanks to Stinson who has not only a great mind but a great heart as well.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to say a final "thank you" to the library staff. It has always been a "labor of love" for me, and I feel secure in saying that the other staff members consider it one as well. You don't work for a small public library for the money, folks, you do it because you want to serve your community and your fellow man. I know that Maria, Margaret, Liz and Kay will take good care of all my library patrons and that makes my leaving somewhat easier. I will miss each and everyone I have gotten to know throughout my fifteen years as Director of the Hansford County Library, but I know that I am leaving you with the best staff that you could possibly have to take care of your library and information needs.

If I have omitted anyone's name that I should have included, please forgive me - my memory is just not what it used to be! I will end by saying what I have been saying for fifteen years now and what I have known since I was a kid growing up in Abilene - take advantage of what your public library has to offer, it's the best bargain in town!

It's A Boy, It's A Boy!

Loretto and Ron Cook of Ennis, Texas (formerly of Spearman) are proud to announce the arrival of their grandsons, Cole Matthew Kotara and Jonas Ryan Kaman.

Cole Matthew Kotara was born on October 28th, weighing 6 pounds, 6 ounces and was 19 inches long. His parents are Mary Catherine and Stan Kotara of Spartanburg, South Carolina. Paternal grandparents are Janie and Ronald Kotara of Panhandle. Cole was welcomed home by his big sister, Kellen Marie.

Jonas Ryan Kaman was born on November 10th, weighing 9 pounds and was 21 inches long. His parents are Michelle and Tony Kaman of San Antonio. Paternal grandparents are Barbara and Dennis Kaman of Ennis, Texas. Jonas was welcomed home by his big brother, Samuel, and big sister, Catherine.

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