



BY BILL ELLIS

FROM ALL INDICATIONS, the Washington rally, which has seen above-average participation by farmers from the Bovina area, is making some headway in their drive to inform leaders in Washington as to the serious problems faced by farmers.

Twenty-seven farmers from the area took part in the first week's rally, and have been telling their story all around the capital.

On Tuesday, the first group returned from Washington, and another group replaced them.

Meanwhile, governmental officials are beginning to recognize that the farmers are serious, that they are determined to "stand by their guns," and they are making some concessions.

Even President Carter, in his State of the Union message last Thursday, recognized the problems faced by the farmers. He mentioned them in his speech, as television cameras showed the dedicated group in the snowstorm outside the capitol.

Congressman Jack Hightower, a supporter of the farmers' cause from the first, told farmers over the weekend that President Carter has "Finally recognized the plight of the farmers," and that continued pressure on the part of the farmers should result in a bill favorable to their cause.

Hightower, who formerly was this county's senator in Austin, was quoted as saying "The seeds are planted. Now we must cultivate and irrigate until the harvest is ready."

Those attending the rally also indicated that John Tower, the state's senior senator, who had been more or less paying lip service to the farmers' cause without wholeheartedly supporting their drive, had finally turned "whole hog" for the farm drive.

It was thought that perhaps a steady stream of almost 2,500 Texas farmers into the senator's office last week may have been the turning point.

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EVERY SO OFTEN, a Bovina High School graduate's name pops up in the news.

We carried the article a couple of weeks ago about Don Cumpton, a Bovina product, being named head football coach at Hereford High School. Cumpton jumped up a couple of notches, from class AA Muleshoe to the Deaf Smith County position, which is class AAAA football. And, in keeping with a longstanding trend, he's back with a school whose colors are predominately maroon.

Then on Monday we caught part of Butch McCain's program, as he began working at KGNC Radio in Amarillo.

We hated to lose Butch's older brother Ben from the regular faces on Channel Seven's Pro News team, as Ben went to a better opportunity in the Beaumont area. So, it was good to hear another familiar voice this week.

## Indictments Are Returned By Jury

In session on Monday and Tuesday of last week, the Parmer County Grand Jury returned 29 indictments, according to County Sheriff Charles Lovelace. He released information on only 19 of the individuals because several of them were still at large.

Fred Constancio, Friona, and Rudolf Corella, Roswell, N.M., were indicted on two counts of robbery and assault involving the recent robbery of an assistant manager at Piggly Wiggly in Friona. Bond was set at \$50,000 and both men are still in custody.

Other indictments returned were: Joe Segovia, Bovina, forgery; Danny Harris, Bovina, sale of marijuana, \$2500 bond; Pedro Rocha, Bovina, two counts, sale of marijuana, \$2500 bond each count; Ronald Rush Looney, Bovina, sale of marijuana, \$2500 bond; Robert Pesch, Bovina, sale of marijuana, \$2500 bond; Barty Jack Bartlett,



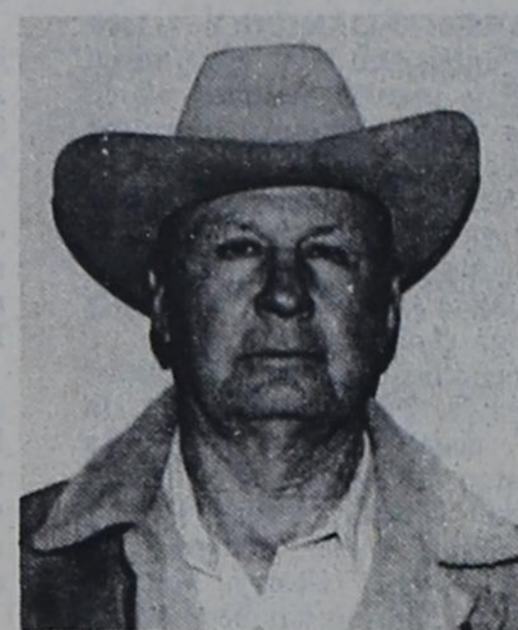
PAUL FORTENBERRY



DOROTHY QUICKEL



BONNIE WARREN



ARCHIE McCUTCHAN



JIMMY BRIGGS



TAKES OATH.... William Gromowsky, center, was appointed this week to fill out the unexpired term of Charlie Jefferson as commissioner

for Precinct 2. Administering the oath is County Clerk Bonnie Warren, left. Mrs. Gromowsky (Katherine) looks on.

## Gromowsky Given County Appointment

William Gromowsky was appointed this week to fill out the unexpired term of Charlie Jefferson as Commissioner of Precinct 2.

The appointment was made by County Judge Paul Fortenberry, as authorized by law.

Gromowsky is the son-in-law of the late commissioner.

In a statement issued this week, Judge Fortenberry said "Due to the death of Mr. C.H. Jefferson on January 16, 1978, I hereby appoint William Gromowsky, a suitable person living in Precinct No. Two, to fill this vacancy for the unexpired term of C.H. Jefferson.

"I further direct that Mr. Gromowsky furnish bond as required by law and that upon the taking of the oath he be declared Commissioner of Precinct No. Two of Parmer County, Texas with all of the rights, privileges and responsibilities pertaining thereto."

Judge Fortenberry pointed out that residents of Precinct Two have until February 6 to file for a spot on the primary ballot for a full term of office as commissioner. Gromowsky will hold the position through December 31, 1978, which is the date on which Jefferson's term would have expired.

# Washington Rally In Second Phase

The second phase of participation by Bovina area farmers in the "Washington Rally", sponsored by the American Agriculture move-

ment, was underway at the Blade's press time this week, as a contingent of 14 people left Amarillo by plane on Tuesday, planning to spend a week in the nation's capital.

Meanwhile, the first group was due to return late Tuesday, and according to early reports, the leaders in the movement feel that some significant gains have been made in getting the plight of the nation's farmers before Congress.

"I feel that we are doing a good job of getting our message across to Congress," said Richard Carson, a member of the first contingent to Washington.

Carson pointed out that Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland had been pinned down to a number of things, including the fact that he personally has the authority to raise parity to 90 per cent under the farm program. However, Bergland has indicated that he will not do so, preferring instead to give the new farm bill a chance to right the wrongs facing farmers.

Carson, one of the first members of the group of 27 from the Bovina area who descended upon Washington to return home, said that the farmers, in addition to getting their points across to congressmen from both the farm belt and non-farming areas, are making points with "the man on the street."

Lovelace reported that arraignments for those indicted will be January 26, at which time trial dates will be set.

# Political Pot Boils

Politics began to "heat up" in Parmer County this week, since 1978 will find a number of county positions to be voted on.

Due to the death of longtime commissioner Charlie Jefferson, a race for the commissioner's spot appears imminent. Other county and precinct offices also are up for election.

The Blade this week received official political announcements from Judge Paul Fortenberry, County Clerk Bonnie Warren and District Clerk Dorothy Quickel, all for re-election. In addition, we were authorized to announce that Jimmy Briggs of Precinct 4 will stand for re-election.

And in the local precinct, Archie McCutchan threw his hat into the ring for the commissioner's spot.

Official announcements of the candidates are as follows:

## Paul Fortenberry

"I wish to take this opportunity to announce for re-election to the position of County Judge of Parmer County.

"I wish to express my appreciation to the voters of Parmer County for the privilege of serving as county judge for the past three years, and respectfully request their consideration in the Democratic primary in May.

"The past three years have been a real experience for me. I have learned a great deal, and have enjoyed every minute of my service to the county.

"I pledge my best efforts to Parmer County. The people of this county have been good to me in times of distress, as well as in times of smooth sailing.

"There have been some disappointments, but on the whole, the

experience has been rewarding," Fortenberry concluded.

## Dorothy Quickel

In announcing that she is a candidate for re-election to her office as District Clerk for Parmer County, Dorothy Quickel issued the following statement:

"In announcing as a candidate for re-election to the office of District Clerk for Parmer County, I wish to thank the people for their support and confidence placed in me in the past.

"If elected, I pledge to continue to

fulfill the duties of this office honestly and to the best of my ability.

"Your support, vote and influence in my behalf will be appreciated." Dorothy Quickel

## Bonnie Warren

Bonnie Warren, incumbent, Parmer County Clerk, has authorized The Friona Star to announce that she is a candidate for re-election to her office. She issued the following statement in regard to her candidacy:

"If elected to another term I shall

(Continued on Page 5)

## Tribute Is Penned To Chas. Jefferson

The Parmer County Commissioners Court passed a special resolution in honor of its longtime member, Charlie H. Jefferson, at its regular meeting January 23.

Jefferson passed away on Monday, January 16, 1977.

### TRIBUTE

Let it be stated and placed in the Minutes of the Commissioners Court of Parmer County, Texas that this Court will severely miss the presence of C.H. (Charlie) Jefferson. He was the Dean of Commissioners. He served the County (in various capacities) for some 49 years and was Commissioner for almost 28 years. His love and concern for his family was evident to all who knew him. He loved his County and Precinct and did his job well. He could be relied on for counsel and guidance in times of trial and turmoil.

He never wasted anything; however, if something needed to be done, or someone (especially children) needed help, he was willing and ready to do what he could. He knew the roads of his Precinct and the machinery with which he maintained them. He treated all people with respect and expected respect in return. He was among the last of those who weathered the depression and Dust Bowl Days of the 1930's and emerged a better person by having done so.

His word was as good as his bond. He lived by the truth and had no patience with those who abused or altered the truth. Yes, this Court has learned a great deal from C.H. (Charlie) Jefferson and will miss him for many years to come.

The Commissioners Court  
Parmer County, Texas  
James P. Fortenberry  
Ernest Anthony  
Archie L. Tarter  
Jimmy Briggs



WASHINGTON BOUND....Three of the group of 14 who left on Tuesday for the second phase of the "Washington Rally" are shown

checking the mileage from Bovina to the nation's capital. From the left are Don Bandy, John Dixon and Mrs. Robert Wilson.









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Kills germs on contact! For cleaner, fresher breath for the whole family.  
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