



**READY FOR NEW HOME**—Little Raymond Rivas and his sister, Eva, show big smiles at Castro County Hospital after almost finishing their long road to recovery from injuries they received during the Silverton tornado on May 16th. They will live with relatives in Beeville. —Ayers Photo

about dimmitt and castro county

By Bascom Nelson

Saturday's butane truck fire that did such terrific property damage was an awful thing . . . but it could have been much worse.

There were too many people too close to the fire. We don't know just what the odds are against a burning butane truck exploding, nor do we know how far it would reach. And we doubt that anyone in Dimmitt knew the answers to those questions Saturday. But if that truck had exploded there probably wouldn't be enough room on our front page for all the obituaries this week.

Despite all the damage done during the fire, it was nothing compared to the loss of one human life.

Where people actually had jobs calling for a close proximity to the fire, there is an excuse, but spectators in the future should take it upon themselves to stay well clear of these things.

Again we were proud of the Dimmitt Fire Department. Their courage, hard work in intense heat and quick response should make everyone in the city feel better about the menace of fire. We are extremely fortunate.

And now off on another tangent: We would appreciate somebody coming up with an idea about what to do with unpaved one-half street gaps about the city.

We wonder if it might not be better not to pave at all than pave halfway out to the middle of the street for a lot or so. The person who went ahead and paved his half feels perfectly secure in his right to park on it whenever he pleases—and he's absolutely right.

But cars passing back and forth crowd these parked cars trying to stay on the pavement and someday there's bound to be some scraped fenders or injuries come out of this tight driving.

Besides that, it doesn't look good. But what could be done if a property owner refuses to pay for his share of paving? Probably he can't afford it, or won't afford it. The city can't do this since it wouldn't be fair to those who paved for their paving.

If we could work out some long-range low-interest financing program even more lenient than the one used we might get somewhere. Almost everyone could afford \$25 or \$30 a year.

When we have a paving program it should be a good one and leave nothing undone. Cooperation should be perfect and not spotty.

There is a slight change coming in this area's recreation. It is changing a little more each year. Five years ago there were a few fishing boats spotted in back yards around over the town and county and that was about the extent of it.

But now everywhere you look are sports rigs costing almost as much as a new car. We have several firms dependent on sales of these craft and their motors for a large part of their income. While it isn't big business, it's substantial.

When the kids are driving motor-scooters and powered bicycles now whereas this was just a starry-eyed dream of most of us as youngsters.

We hope this is an indication of things to come. The almost complete absence of anything enticing to sportsmen in this area has been felt for a long time by all of us. It is doubtful if there shall ever be any kind of permanent water or hunting sport available in this county, but give a man a boat and he'll find a place to float it. Such things are good in a community.

We are reminded by the bragging of a local man we once made a trip with. Commenting to a stranger about Dimmitt and its wonderful location he said: "Why man, we live in the center of one of the nation's greatest hunting and fishing paradises . . . just go 500 miles in any direction and you'll find what you want!"

**Silverton Tornado Victims**

**Raymond and Eva Rivas Leave County Hospital for New Home**

A story that began when a roaring, disastrous tornado hit Silverton last May came to an end Saturday when little Raymond Rivas and his big sister, Eva, were discharged from Castro County Hospital.

They still have scars and Eva is in a wheelchair, but they are alive. Both of the children were given less than a 50-50 chance to live when they were brought to the hospital during the pre-dawn hours of May 16th. They each had received a terrible battering from the storm.

The two children will live with relatives in Beeville. Their aunt, Mrs. Adela Rivas of Lockney, has already taken them to their new home.

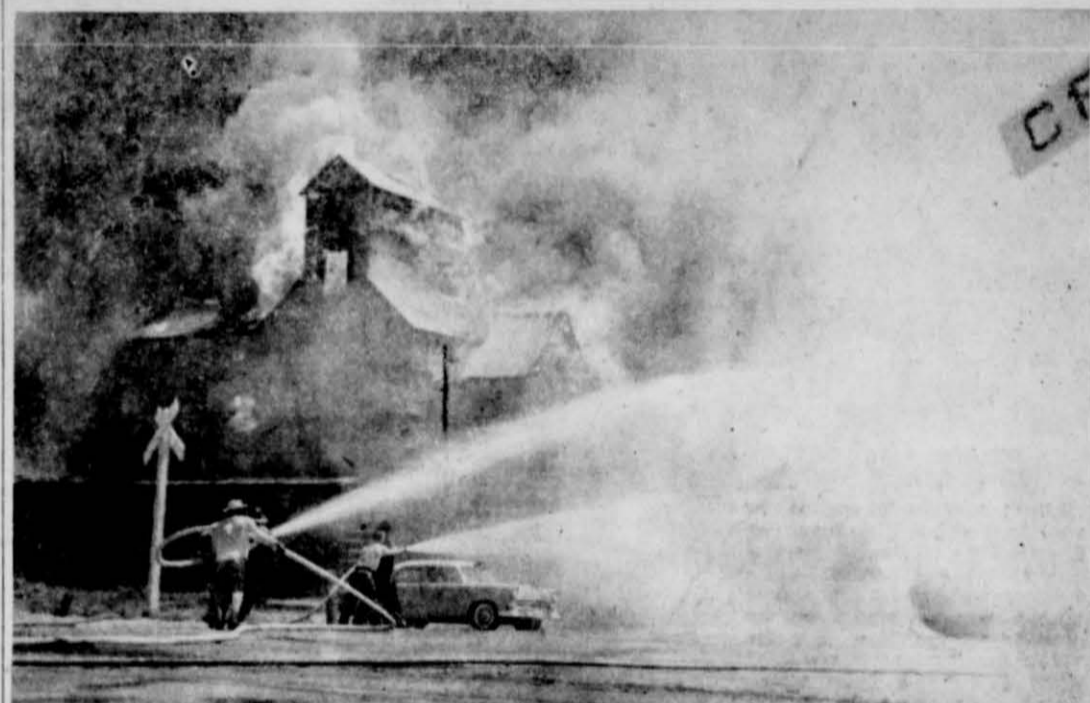
Eva, 12 years old, suffered a fractured skull, a crushed nose, a leg fracture and severe abrasions on the scalp. She was brought to the hospital by a Dennis Funeral Home ambulance direct from the disaster area. Raymond, 4 years

old, suffered a broken arm, a broken hand, and a torn ear along with severe bruises. He was brought to the hospital by Dr. Carl Page.

Their two-year-old sister was treated in a Plainview hospital. The rest of their family, the father and mother and four other sisters and brothers, were killed during the tornado.

Sitting up with the children during their convalescence were members of the Dimmitt JayCee-Ettes. They even bought Eva a new front tooth.

Every treatment rendered the children and everything done for them was free of charge. There were no statements from the hospital, doctors, anesthetist, or anyone remotely connected with their case. The Board of Directors of the Castro County Hospital voted last May not to accept any Red Cross or disaster funds for payment. Services and medical supplies valued at \$964.60 were given to Eva, and \$310.35 for Raymond.



**UP IN SMOKE**—Dimmitt volunteer firemen made a valiant attempt to halt Saturday's blaze in the east part of town. Burning in the background is the main elevator of Castro County Grain Company. In the lower right-hand corner is the overturned butane truck. It was easily seen, but radiations from the terrific heat, which could be felt as much as two city blocks away, affected that portion of the film. The car between the firemen and elevator belonged to Odell Arnold. It was heavily damaged as plastic parts of the interior and parking light lenses melted, seats were burned, windshield shattered and paint scorched off from the heat of the fire just a few yards away. —News Photo



**JUST AFTER IT STARTED**—Most of the Kearns Elevator office was still standing when this picture was taken on Highway 86 in East Dimmitt. Escaping butane gas from a hole in the side of the overturned truck fed the flames which was turned like a giant blowtorch on the nearby buildings and boxcars. —News Photo

**Well Ahead of Last Year . . .**

**County Produces 1.3 Million Bushels of Wheat**

Castro County farmers came through with a bumper wheat crop this year, harvesting somewhere in the neighborhood of 1,341,000 bushels.

men indicated that this year's harvest was about thirty percent higher than last year. Some grainmen said they handled almost twice as much this year as last and others about twenty-five per-

cent more. The harvest was cut an estimated five to ten percent by heavy hail last month over the county.

Some barley was harvested although 20,000 bushels would be a high estimate.

Government loan when the market price dropped to \$1.88 where it has held this week. The loan rate also nets \$1.88 per bushel. There were about 130,000 acres planted to wheat in the county.

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**\$240,000 Estimated Damages After Butane Truck-Train Collision Saturday**

**No Serious Injuries In Midday Fire Despite Three Narrow Escapes**

An overturned and burning butane truck Saturday morning like a giant; blowtorch, the offices of Kearns Elevator, two boxcars, and a Castro County Grain elevator and storage building into a roaring inferno.

The butane-fed fire caused an estimated \$240,000 in damage within two hours and totally destroyed everything within reach despite all

efforts of Dimmitt firemen.

Within forty-five minutes after the fire started trucks from Tullia, Plainview and Hereford arrived.

The giant fire occurred immediately after a collision between a Fort Worth & Denver locomotive and a Keystone-Fleming butane transport at about 11 o'clock.

The engineer of the train, J. A. Furr of Childress, said he saw the truck and that it was going at a slow rate of speed, apparently preparing to stop. When he saw the truck was going on across the tracks it was too late to stop the train he said. Driver of the truck, Mr. Homer Womack, 35, of 2819 Orbin, Lubbock, said he never saw or heard the train. The train was going north at the Highway 86 crossing in East Dimmitt and the truck was headed east.

**New Gulf Station Under Construction**

A new Gulf Service Station in Dimmitt will be completed about September 1, according to Buddy Birdwell, Gulf wholesale dealer here.

This will be Birdwell's second Gulf station here and it will be located at the northeast corner of East Third and Bedford.

The building is being constructed of hydrok block by Harold Biffle, Lubbock building contractor. It will measure 48 x 25 feet and will have a concrete ramp with four pumps. It follows a standard plan of Gulf service stations. Mr. Birdwell said this week that he does not have an operator as yet.

Elevator, and his father-in-law, Bunyan Price were in their office when the accident occurred. "I was working at my desk when a big ball of flame came through the office door," Arnold said.

The only exit was a window at the rear of the office with an air conditioner in it, so Arnold kicked the air conditioner out and he and Mr. Price made their escape out the small opening. Arnold's car, a 1956 Ford, was badly damaged from the heat and flames.

The fire at Jack Gregory's Castro County Grain Company elevator was still smoldering Monday afternoon. "I'm going to build back," he said, "but just what or when I don't know yet. About all we know now is that it will be fire-proof." Mr. Gregory also said the retail stock building would be rebuilt. He still has some storage capacity in one metal elevator and

the concern was in operation Monday. He was still doubtful as to what his losses were.

Kearns elevator was also in operation and Odell Arnold, manager, was making preliminary arrangements for a new office Monday.

The spectacular fire shot flames high into the air and created a dense pall of smoke over East Dimmitt during noon-day.

Damage to Fort Worth and Denver equipment consisted of two steel boxcars loaded with wheat almost totally destroyed. The locomotive which struck the rear of the truck as it passed the crossing suffered only slight damage.

The Keystone-Fleming truck, operating out of Lubbock, was a total loss.

Traffic was blocked on Highway 86 during the 2 and one-half hour

fire.

"The Good Man up above was riding with me," Womack, the truck-driver, said following the accident. "Boy, it scares you," he said, "I thought only about getting out of there and leaving . . . With a load like that, a wreck usually doesn't happen but once . . . I live on the road, traveling perhaps 100,000 miles a year. The law of averages is bound to catch up with you sooner or later." Womack has been employed by Keystone-Fleming for three or four months and this was his second narrow escape in less than a year. Last November his private car was in a collision with a road maintainer near Muleshoe.

Keystone-Fleming officials in Lubbock said the truck and trailer were valued at \$8,000 and that there were 6,000 gallons of butane in the transport.

**Braves Lead Little League With Perfect 3-0 for Record**

Dimmitt and Nazareth's Little League baseball leagues kept on knocking balls all over the field this week as the end of the season approached.

The Braves are holding a strong lead with a 3-0 record followed by the Yankees and Cardinals with 2-1 records each in the Little League. The Dodgers are fourth with 1-2 and the White Sox are the cellar team with 0-4.

Dimmitt and Olton split winning honors Tuesday evening when the Olton all-stars defeated Dimmitt all-stars in the PeeWee League, 9-8 and Dimmitt won a similar Little League game 9-3. Pitching for Dimmitt in the PeeWee game were Larry Fields and in the Little League game were Jim Ratcliff and Chuck Youts.

Mr. W. R. McElroy, who has umpired Little League and PeeWee League games this year, also worked the all-star games, assisted by Hal Ratcliff.

The regular season will end later this month. But Coach Thomas Harrison said there will be more American Legion games and possibly a tournament along with post season matched games.

Several people and organizations have helped with the Summer Recreation program this year. "We would like to thank the city for spraying for mosquitoes every game night," Coach Harrison said, "and Odell Arnold for mowing weeds around the field and out-

side the fence. I would also like to thank Mr. McElroy for his umpiring. Our teams are getting good and are playing some fine games. Attendance is picking up all along, but we'd still like to see more people out."

The Summer Recreation Program is sponsored by the Dimmitt Junior Chamber of Commerce.

In games last week, the Cardinals defeated the Yankees, 2-0; the Braves bested the White Sox, 13-3; the Yankees won over the

White Sox 13-10; and the Braves bested the Dodgers 11-2.

**GAMES THIS WEEK**

Thursday, July 11, 7:45 p.m.

Yankees vs. Dodgers

White Sox vs. Cardinals

Monday, July 15, 8:00 p.m.

Cardinals vs. Dodgers

Braves vs. Yankees

Thursday, July 18, 7:45 p.m.

White Sox vs. Dodgers

Braves vs. Cardinals

Starting times are for first game of the evening. Second game starts when first is finished.

**Gaylon Patterson Critically Injured In Auto Accident**

A 1954 graduate of Dimmitt High School is in critical condition in an army hospital in Germany. He is Galon Patterson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Patterson of Hereford and formerly of Dimmitt.

Patterson, a paratrooper in the army, was involved July 7th in a civilian automobile accident in Germany and suffered a brain concussion, and a compound fracture of the right leg. He was reported Thursday to have responded well to brain surgery and will have an operation on his leg in two weeks. His father left for Germany from New York Wednesday afternoon and was expected to be there Thursday night.

Young Patterson will be returned to the states in about three weeks.

**APPRECIATION DAY JACKPOT NOW \$667.50**

**County Branch of Cancer Society To Be Formed Here**

A Castro County branch of The American Cancer Society has been set up and will open its local work with a drive for funds July 23rd to the 30th.

Mapping out the program have been a committee composed of Mrs. Hugo Byers, Mrs. J. C. Gilbreath, James Bradford, M. E. Cleavinger and Frank Latimer. They have met twice so far.

Handling details of the drive will be the Dimmitt JayCee-Ettes and county Home Demonstration clubs.

None of the money collected will stay in Castro County according to Mr. Latimer. It will be sent to the Texas Division where it can be used for three purposes: Research, for treatment of individuals, and for education. Cancer is the second major killer in the United States. Further details of the local drive will be announced later.



**BATTERED AND BURNED**—It was the end of the road for this Keystone-Fleming butane transport Saturday when it was struck about halfway back on the tank by a Fort Worth and Denver locomotive. It is shown here after being set back on its wheels. The driver, Homer Womack, 35, of Lubbock, escaped with minor burns, lacerations and abrasions on his arms. —News Photo







**NEWS FROM FRIO**

**Visited Sister**  
Mr. and Mrs. Roland Wheat and son, Jim, were here this week to visit her sister, Mrs. Franklin Latimer, and family.

**Undergoes Surgery**  
Mrs. Bruce Wooddell underwent surgery Wednesday morning in Hereford.

**Visited Parents**  
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Stephens were visitors of his parents in Amarillo Tuesday.

**Visit in Hale Center**  
Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Cunningham are visiting Ernest Jones who is in the hospital in Hale Center.

**FILLERS**  
In both England and the U.S. the term "convict" refers only to a person found guilty by a jury.

Coodies was a nickname applied to those members of the Federalist Party in New York who favored the War of 1812.

The island of Corregidor is one mile wide, four miles long.

Darrell and Larry Richardson of Oklahoma City came Sunday evening by train to visit for a few weeks with Mr. and Mrs. Herb Schmidt, Tommy, and Dale. The Schmidts met them in Amarillo Sunday evening.

Don Mobley and James Dobbs spent Saturday night with Joe and Glen Andrews.

Mr. and Mrs. Darwin Miller and Mrs. H. M. Mobley left for Odessa Saturday afternoon to visit with Mrs. Mobley's brother and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Taylor and Judy. They returned to their homes Sunday evening.

Correction for item in last week's paper: Mrs. T. L. Sparkman, Jr., Bonnie and Darlene, Miss Alma Andrews and Mrs. Ernest Harder were in Amarillo Tuesday afternoon of last week to visit with Mr. and Mrs. Charles King and for Mrs. Sparkman to see the optometrist. Bonnie and Darlene remained for a visit with their uncle and aunt, the Charles Kings. Miss Andrews and Mrs. Sparkman went to Amarillo after them Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dobbs, Larry, James, and Tommy Spark-

man were dinner guests Sunday in the home of the Rev. and Mrs. B. H. Baldwin and family.

Cheryl Cole is ill with the measles.

Glen Andrews of Las Cruces spent from Thursday morning until Monday morning with his folks, the Owen Andrews.

Mrs. Weldon Stephan served as Matron-of-honor, and Weldon Stephan served as usher in the wedding of Weldon's sister, Miss Rose Stephan, and Dale Wright Saturday evening at the Grace Gospel Church.

Darlene Sparkman was a dinner guest Sunday of Carol and Gene Robbins, Steve, Jerry, George, and Carol visited Sunday afternoon and were supper guests Sunday evening in the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Sparkman, Jr., Bonnie, and Darlene.

Mr. and Mrs. Olin Parris and Walker went to Tahoka on Tuesday of last week for Walker to go to San Antonio with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Paris, of Taoka. Walker plans to return to his home Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Leach and family of California and Mrs. Emmett Leach of Canyon visited Wednesday in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Andrews and Alma.

Mrs. Olin Parris, Mrs. G. W. Parker, and Mrs. D. F. Yandell were in Amarillo Monday to shop.

Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Sparkman, Jr., Tommy, Bonnie, and Darlene were supper guests Saturday evening in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Stewart, Linda, and Jerry, of Dawn.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark Dobbs and Judy were in Portales, New Mexico Saturday evening and Sunday to visit with Mrs. Dobbs' parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Davis, and boys.

Verdelle Andrews and Virginia Cox were among those who attended the wedding of Miss Gwendolyn Wright and David Self and Miss Rose Stephan and Dale Wright Saturday evening at the Grace Gospel Church in Hereford.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dobbs and Larry were in Portales, New

**Hi-Plains Station Starts Fertilizer Tests At Halfway**

Even though planted later than desired almost all of the fertilizer tests planned for 1957 at the High Plains Station have been planted and the crops are up to a good stand.

Fertilizer tests on cotton include a rate and ratios study using nitrogen and phosphate at 40, 80, and 120 pounds of nitrogen and phosphate per acre. Each of these rates is applied alone and all possible combinations. These combinations include 40 pounds of nitrogen in combination with 40, 80, and 120 pounds of phosphate, 80 pounds of nitrogen with each phosphate rate. This test is used to show which rates of nitrogen and phosphate are most efficient in increasing cotton yield.

In another fertilizer test with cotton six different sources of phosphate fertilizer are being compared at three rates, 40, 80, and 120 pounds of phosphate per acre. The phosphate materials used are 20 percent super, 45 percent super, ammonium phosphate, ammoniated super phosphate, raw phosphoric acid, and refined phosphoric acid. A uniform application of nitrogen

at 60 pounds per acre was applied to each plot with the phosphate. All these materials are being sold to High Plains farmers and this experiment is being conducted to see if any of these materials is more effective in increasing crop yield and net return to the farmer.

A fertilizer experiment is also being carried out with cotton to compare preplant applications of nitrogen with the same amount applied as a side-dressing when the first squares begin to appear. Application rates are 40, 80, and 120 pounds of nitrogen per acre for both the pre-plant and side-dressing applications. A uniform application of phosphate at the rate of 80 pounds per acre was made to the plots in this experiment before planting.

Another fertilizer experiment is planned for cotton in which all these different methods of application now being used will be compared. These methods will include broadcast applications and chisel in at different depths and spacings before plowing and after plowing

in the fall. Different methods of applying fertilizer to bedded land before and after the pre-plant irrigation will also be included. This experiment will be started this fall.

**Went Fishing**  
Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Curtis, Jimmy, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Campbell and Ronnie Elder enjoyed a fishing trip to Brownwood Lake recently.

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PURE CANE SUGAR	10 LBS.	98c	SHURFINE PEAS	2 FOR	37c
SOFLIN TISSUE	4 ROLLS	49c	SHURFINE HOMINY	3 FOR	25c
SHURFINE NOODLES	3 PKGS.	25c	HUMPTY DUMPTY SALMON	CAN	49c
KIM DOG FOOD	3 FOR	95c	TIDE	KING SIZE	\$1.19
SHURFINE COFFEE	1 LB.	89c	BLACK FLAG Instant Bomb		98c
BELMONT MIXED FRUIT	2 FOR	55c	RICH FLAVOR PEACHES	3 FOR	89c
SHURFINE INSTANT COFFEE	LGE. SIZE	\$1.25	WOODEURY Hand Soap	4 BARS	27c
SHURFINE SHORTENING	3 LBS.	79c			
SHURFINE CHEESE SPREAD	2 LBS.	69c			

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POWDERED OR BROWN SUGAR	2 BOXES	25c	HEREFORD STEAK	PKG.	55c
WASTEX WAX PAPER	ROLL	21c	LIBBY Strawberries	2 FOR	39c
SUNSHINE FUDGE SANWICH COOKIES	1 LB.	45c	HI-C ORANGE DRINK	3 CANS	79c
CRACKERS RITZ	1 LB.	35c	STARKIST GREEN LABEL TUNA	CAN	33c
<b>MEATS</b>			MIRACLE WHIP	PT.	33c
HORMEL Bacon		69c	SUPREME CRACKERS	1 LB.	25c
HORMEL Franks		49c			
T-BONE Steak		79c	<b>PRODUCE</b>		
Beef Ribs		23c	Bananas	LB.	12c
			Celery	STALK	19c
			Potatoes	25 LBS.	89c
			Lemons	DOZ.	29c



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