

# Cross Plains Review

CROSS PLAINS' OLDEST BUSINESS INSTITUTION

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 1997



WEST CADDO PEAK



EAST CADDO PEAK  
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88TH YEAR

CROSS PLAINS, CALLAHAN COUNTY, TEXAS 76443

NUMBER 41

## WTU Announces Retirement of Travis Williams

Travis Williams, West Texas Utilities Area Manager, is retiring after 35 years of service to the company. He will be honored at a retirement party on Friday, January 10 from 10 a.m. to noon at the WTU office in Cross Plains. Everyone is invited to attend.

Williams began his career with WTU in 1960 as a groundsman at the Abilene Substation department. After serving two years in the U.S. Army, he returned to the company as a lineman.

Travis was promoted to local

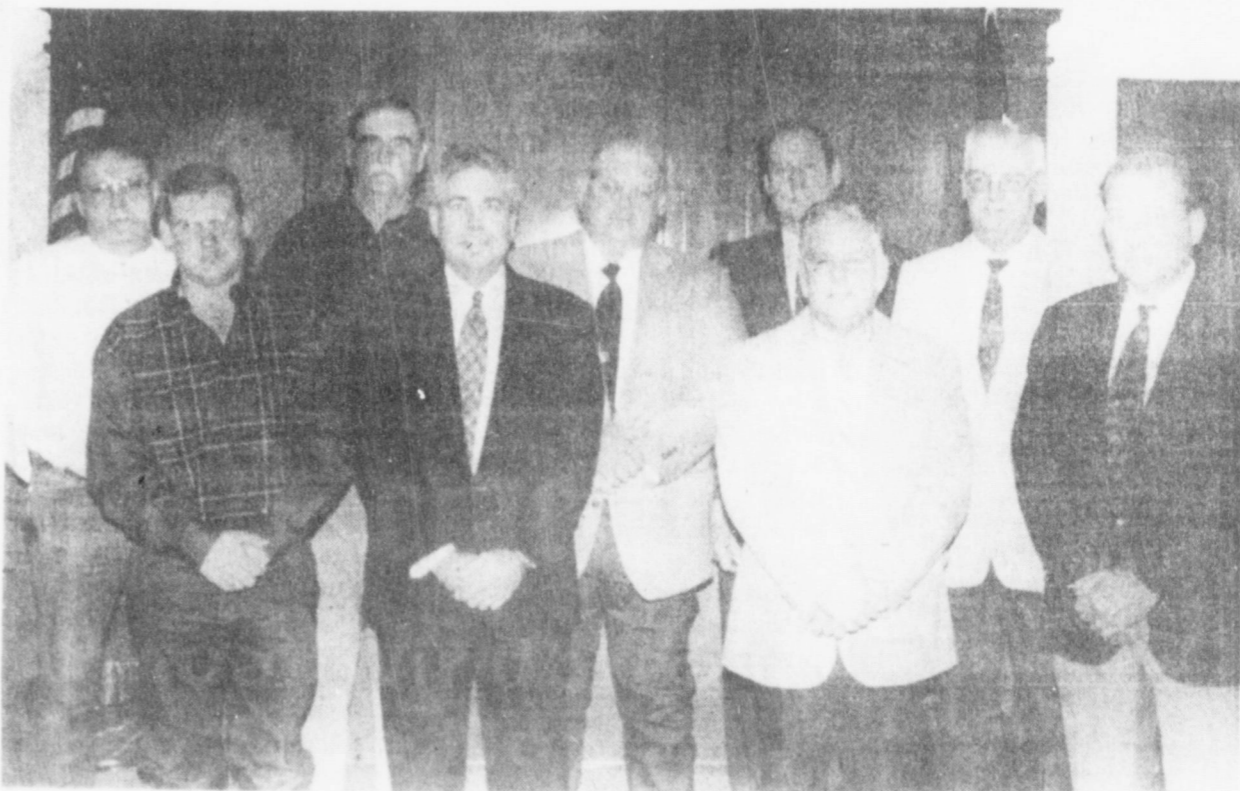
manager of the Moran office from 1969 to 1972. He held the same position in Eldorado for three years before moving to Rising Star where he served for more than nineteen years. In 1994, he became area manager of the WTU Cross Plains office.

"We congratulate Travis and invite everyone to come by Friday morning to wish him the best in his retirement," said James Elam, WTU North Central Division Manager of Abilene.

## First Baptist Youth Group To Have "Hamburger Drive-In"

The youth group of First Baptist Church is sponsoring a "hamburger drive-in" sale to help raise funds for the group to go snow skiing during Spring Break. Hamburger sales will begin at 11:00 a.m. and go until 3:00 p.m. Saturday, January 11, at the First Baptist Church. Prices will be \$2.00 for hamburgers, \$2.50 for cheeseburgers, 75¢ for regular fries and \$1.00 for a large order.

You may call in your order at 725-7629 or just come on by and visit with us and make your order in person.



**TAKE OATHS OF OFFICE**—Nine Callahan County elected officials took their oaths of office during a swearing in ceremony Wednesday, January 1 in the District Courtroom at the county courthouse in Baird. Pictured from left to right front row are: Kevin Weiss,

Constable Precinct #4 (Cross Plains); Judge John Weeks, 42nd District Court Judge; David Blalock, Constable Precinct #1 (Clyde); and Bun Barry, County Tax Assessor/Collector. Left to right back row: Howard Bredehoft,

Constable Precinct #3 (Baird); Tommy Holland, Commissioner Precinct #3 (Baird); Eddie Curtis, County Sheriff; Allen Wright, County Attorney; and Harold Hicks, Commissioner Precinct #1 (Clyde).



**PROUD WINNER OF SHOTGUN**—Joe Wyatt, left, was the winner of the shotgun given away by

Dusty Finn at Collum's Restaurant. Pictured with Joe is long time waitress Sharolyn Walker.

## Winner of Shotgun from Collum's Restaurant Announced

Joe Wyatt's name was drawn as the winner of the shotgun given away by Collum's Restaurant during deer season. Mr. Wyatt is originally from Brownfield and has recently moved to this area. He and his family purchased part of Dr. J.O. Williams' place in the Cottonwood Commu-

nity. The drawing for the shotgun was held December 31 and the presentation was Friday, January 3 at Collum's. Dusty and Jody Finn, owners of Collum's Restaurant, noted that they look forward to next year's deer season.

## Free Income Tax Service Offered

By PAUNIECE OGLESBY

Through the Tax-Aide program, volunteers provide free personal income tax assistance to the Senior Citizens, low-income families and the general public with basic tax returns. Individuals with complicated tax returns will be advised to seek professional tax assistance.

Volunteers are specially trained, in cooperation with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS), to understand those provisions of the tax code that affect Senior Citizens as well as the low and middle income families. Tax-Aide volunteers provide personal, one-on-one assistance to help you complete your federal tax returns, including special rebate programs.

Tax-Aide volunteers are available from February 1 to April 15 each year. There will be only one volunteer working the Cross Plains area using the Multi-Purpose Center on East 8th Street as headquarters. Tax returns will be prepared by APPOINTMENT ONLY so you will need to call the volunteer (Paunie-

Oglesby, 817-725-6772) for an appointment. The volunteer in Cross Plains is Paunieece Oglesby. Mrs. Oglesby prefers to volunteer on Tuesday, but will make appointments on other days if necessary.

When you meet with a Tax-Aide volunteer, you should bring the following: (1) a copy of last year's (1995) income tax return, (2) any W-2 forms you have received showing your income from working, (3) all 1099 forms you have received which show the interest and/or dividends, (4) all 1099-R forms which show all pension monies paid to you, (5) form SSA-1099 which shows the Social Security paid to you, (6) records of any other income you have received, and (7) receipts or cancelled checks for any of your medical/dental expenses and any contributions you have made to charities.

This is a community service available to those stated above the Tax-Aide volunteers are eager to be of assistance, so please call for an appointment and let me assist you.

## Services For Jane Burks Held Tuesday, December 31

Jane Burks, 59, passed away Sunday, December 29, 1996, at her residence in Cross Plains.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Elliott-Hamil Funeral Home Chapel of Faith, 5701 Highway 277 South, with Bill Luttrell and Bob Pipes officiating. Burial was in Dudley Cemetery.

Mrs. Burks was born in Russellville, Arkansas, and graduated from Abilene High School. She moved to Cross Plains 12 years ago. She had worked for Montgomery Ward in Pasadena, Santa Fe, New Mexico and Abilene for a total of 11 years. She and her husband, Bob, owned and operated The Movie Store in Cross Plains for approximately 6 years.

She married Robert L. Burks, Sr. in Abilene in 1954 and was a home-

maker and a member of the Cross Plains Church of Christ.

Survivors include her husband, Robert L. Burks, Sr. of Cross Plains; six sons, Robert L. Burks, Jr. and Ryan W. Burks of Fort Worth, Randy J. Burks of Amarillo, Ricky L. Burks of Baird, and Russell A. Burks and Rory K. Burks of Abilene; a daughter, Rebecca J. Timms of Fort Worth; her mother, Mae Gipson of Abilene; four brothers, William L. Holland, Jr. of Vallejo, California, David S. Holland of Houston, John K. Holland of Camarillo, California and Joe L. Holland of Wimberly; a sister Mae Rue Hazard of Arlington; and 20 grandchildren.

Memorials may be sent to Tipton's Childrens Home, P.O. Box 370, Tipton, Oklahoma 73570 or Boles Home in Quinlan, TX.

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**LAKEWOOD PROUDLY DISPLAYS NEW CLUB SIGN**—Lakewood's new sign, located at the #1 green of the club's golf course, was designed by board director

David Strickland's wife, Jane Strickland, and was painted by her and her art class at Sidney.

As you drive east on Highway 36, 7

miles out toward Rising Star, take a good look at the sign on the left side of 36 just before the entrance to Lakewood.

**COURTHOUSE NEWS**

**COUNTY COURT**  
Bill Johnson presiding

**Misdemeanor Filings**  
James Robert Gunn, possession of marijuana.  
Theresa Rucker, theft of property by check.  
Leah Massey, theft of service.

**Misdemeanor Minutes**  
Donald B. Hitzelburger, motion filed to revoke probation.  
Probations discharged: James Harold Allen, Rafael Alvarado, Anthony Joe Beaver, Lynn Douglas Brandon, Charles Augusta Brown, Vernell A. Brown, Gary Lee Hensel, Sr., Mike R. Salge, Martha Donette Biziko, Troy W. Richburg.

**MARRIAGE LICENSES**

Joyce Edna Hobbs & Eric Zane Hester of Abilene.  
Patricia Faye Bullard, Baird, Weldon Lee Tollett, Clyde.  
Kimberly Kaye Williams, Newcastle, Michael Duane Franke, Cross Plains.  
Brenda Lynn Bullock & Jerry W. Morgan of Clyde.

**42nd DISTRICT COURT**  
John Weeks presiding  
Civil Filing

Divorce filed:  
Hayhurst, John Anthony & Terry Lynn, and in the interest of minor child.

**Civil Minutes**  
Beck, Brenda Sue & Loyd Grimes, case dismissed.

**Felony Minutes**  
Shawn Ballard, tampering with government record, \$100 fine \$1728 restitution, 80 hours community service, 1 year deferred adjudication probation.

**OBITUARIES**

**Eula Webb**

Eula Webb, 91, passed away Sunday, January 5, 1997, at a Brownwood hospital.

Services were held at 3:30 p.m. Monday at Higginbotham Funeral Home Chapel with Bob Pipes officiating. Burial was in Burkett Cemetery.

Mrs. Webb was born in Burkett and was a homemaker and a member of the Church of Christ.

Survivors include one son, Tony Burns of Burkett; six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and two nephews.

**Nettie Roady**

Nettie Roady, 92, passed away Monday, January 6, 1997, in the Brownwood Regional Hospital following a lengthy illness.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Higginbotham Funeral Home in Cross Plains with Dr. Richard Chaffin officiating.

Burial will be in Pioneer Cemetery. Born Nettie Campbell on October 21, 1904 in Gillespie County, she married Calvin Roady in Olton on November 2, 1924. They moved from Olton to the Pioneer Community in 1934. A homemaker, she resided in the area for more than 50 years and was active in community activities. She was a charter member of the Pioneer Quilting Club and a member of the First United Methodist Church of Cross Plains.

Mrs. Roady was preceded in death by her husband, Calvin, one son Calvin Z., Jr. and one daughter, Mary Jo.

Survivors include 3 sons, Bobby Roady of Cross Plains, N.A. Roady of Baird, Art Roady of Abilene; two daughters, Billie Freeman of Cross Plains and Sue McNeil of Baird; one brother, Virgil Campbell of Kingsland; two sisters, Estelle Roberts of De Kalb and Myrtle Self of Spicewood; seven grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

**M.E. 'Buck' Foster**

M.E. "Buck" Foster, 80, owner and operator of Foster's Pump Service for 20 years, passed away Saturday, January 4, 1997, in a Cross Plains nursing home.

Services were held at 10:30 a.m. Monday in Higginbotham Funeral Home Chapel with the Revs. Darrell Dossey and Craig Rhoton officiating. Burial was in Gorman-Oaklawn Cemetery.

Mr. Foster was born in DeLeon and married Annie Fay Murdock in 1938 in Gorman. He worked for Southern Airways in Mineral Wells and was a member of First Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, of Gorman; three daughters, Martha Russell and Pam Childers, both of Gorman, and Becky Smith of Cross Plains; one brother, Damon Foster of Andrews; and six grandchildren.

**Wilcoxon Family Have Christmas Party**

For the first time since Jesse Wilcoxon died in '93, the Wilcoxon family got together for Christmas. On Saturday, December 28, they gathered at the Cottonwood School House and besides all the eating and visiting, they played baseball and sang to the music provided by Eugene, Everett, R.D. and Sharon. Sandwiches and wonderful desserts were served.

The family members that were able to attend were, from Abilene: Gene

and Nelda Wilcoxon; Darrell, Mary, Sara, Amy and Donald Edwards; Michell Car-Skaden; Randall, Frances and Randy Thornton; Aaron Sanders and Geneva Williamson; Thaila Robertson; David and Carrie Fritz; from Phoenix, Arizona: Matt Robertson; from Cottonwood: Pam, Cory, Wendy, Aaron and Cameron Phillips; from Cisco: Violet Edwards; Frank and Mamie Ruth Wilcoxon; Don and LaVern Ballinger; Melvin and Claudine Wilcoxon; R.D. and Sharon Childers; Jerry, Kristy, Jason and Jessica Ballinger; Marvin Wilcoxon; from Eastland: Rodney, Donna, Kristopher, Kelsey and Caleb Sharpe; Richard Ballinger; from Ennis: Sharon and Elizabeth Sorrells; Troy Slatton; from May: Johnny Edwards; from Ranger: Everett Wilcoxon; and from Austin: Rhonda Fritz.

Everett, Franklin, LaVern and Rhonda all visited with Blanton and Lillie Childers for a short time. Blanton has just recently returned from the Abilene Hospital after a bad fall in his backyard.

A good time was had by all. The family is planning on meeting again on December 27, 1997 for next Christmas.

**OIL NEWS**

**New Tests**

**Callahan**

Regal Operating, Eastland, will drill No. R-1 Baum to 1,750 in the Regular 3.5 miles west of Cross Plains on an 80 acre lease. Spots 1,651 FNL and 627 FEL, A. Montgomery No. 853, A-276.

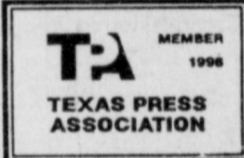
**Selected Scriptures**

...the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has declared him. St. John 1:17, 18

Paid Advertising — Irma Miller

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**Local Lady Makes The News**

**Weighty dessert crafted by masterful pie maker**

By KEN ELLSWORTH  
Eye on West Texas  
Abilene Reporter-News

I was sitting in Collum's Restaurant earlier this week faced with what I thought was a gigantic challenge. A huge piece of coconut cream pie had just been politely served to me by waitress Amanda Sowell. The pie was four inches high and must have weighed half a pound.

The question in my mind was, was it possible for a human being to eat the whole thing in one sitting and survive? In the interest of science, I would find out, and so would the brave friend who was with me.

I had earlier heard about Cross Plains' pies from this same friend who remembered eating them at a restaurant called Odom's more than 30 years ago. Odom's, however, had changed ownership over the years and had become Collum's. My friend wondered whether the pies, under new ownership, would match more than 30 years of memory.

Well, to make a long story shorter, I have never found it so easy to down half a pound of pie. Except for the guilt, it was wonderful.

As I left Collum's, I picked up a

business card. It said, "Jody Finn, Master Pie Maker," and waitress Sowell said Jody and Dusty Finn were the owners of Collum's.

Having eaten Jody Finn's pie, I am not about to argue with her Master Pie Maker title, but I started wondering who conferred such titles, so I called her.

"Oh," she said. "I got a new computer over the holidays, and my children were playing with it and made the business cards and put that on it."

So, it was Finn's proud children who conferred their mother's lofty title. Still, the pride was not misplaced. Finn, 43, said her children were grown up.

Thinking Finn's best pie had to be her delicious coconut cream pie, I asked her, just to make sure, what her own favorite pie was.

"I would have to say that would be the peanut butter pie," she said, surprising me.

Cross Plains, my stomach hears you calling. I shall return.

This column covers the cities and communities of this part of West Texas. To contact Ken Ellsworth, call (800) 588-6397 or (915) 673-4271, Ext. 381, or write to P.O. Box 30, Abilene, TX 79604.

**PUBLIC FAX**  
AT THE CROSS PLAINS REVIEW  
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**Robert E. McCool**  
Attorney at Law

Law Offices at:  
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Wednesday Night Family Bible Study ..... 6:30 p.m.  
Bob Wallace, Pastor (817) 725-6607

**Sales & Use Tax Totals For County**

The state sales and use tax analysis for Callahan County has been reported for the second quarter of 1996 by State Comptroller John Sharp's office.

Sharp reported gross sales, for all industries in Callahan County, for the second quarter of 1996 at \$13,274,985 which is 5.2 percent higher than the gross sales of \$12,622,705 reported during the second quarter of 1995. Gross sales are the total amount of all sales, leases and rentals of tangible personal property and all labor and service charges made during the reporting period.

Use tax purchases for the first quarter of 1996 for all industries in Callahan County amounted to \$49,472. Use tax purchases are the cost of all taxable items removed from inventory for personal or business use and all purchases on which no Texas sales tax was paid or use tax accrued.

The amount subject to state sales and use tax in the second quarter of 1996 in Callahan County was \$5,245,169. The amount subject to state sales and use tax is calculated by taking taxable sales and adding use tax purchases.

The number of business locations in Callahan County, with a sales and use tax permit which filed a return, are 249. There were 284 permits issued during the same quarter the previous year.

The gross sales for the retail trade division in Callahan County for the second quarter of 1996 was \$8,508,264 which is 11.4 percent higher than the 1995 second quarter gross sales of \$7,635,815.

The use tax purchases for the retail trade division in Callahan County for the second quarter of 1996 was \$4,371.

The amount subject to state sales and use tax for the second quarter of 1996 was \$3,805,332 for the retail trade division in Callahan County.

The number of reporting outlets in the retail trade division in Callahan County totalled 148 for the second quarter of 1996. There were 175 reporting outlets during the same quarter in 1995.

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COLONIAL OAKS NURSING HOME

NEWS

By  
LINDA EDINGTON  
Activity Director

Well it looks like winter has finally arrived. Several residents made comments on how pretty the snow looks as it falls to the ground. Blanche Brooks said that we don't see this kind of weather in this area very often. Gertie Powell laughed and said maybe we all could go out and make a snow man.

Thoughts and prayers for Buster Black, Leila Montgomery and Nettie Roady who are in the hospital.

We would like to express our heartfelt sympathies to the family of M.E. (Buck) Foster on the loss of their loved one.

Ruby Harrell was our winner for a free meal from Jack's Place. Thanks Wanda and Jack.

Jo Ann Elston from Lingleville, Gloria Wagner from Stephenville and Sally Davis visited with Dixie Ingram.

Billy and Paul Wright from Clyde, John Howard and Vida Balkum visited with Lorena Wright.

Dan Ingram from Fort Worth visited Inez Ingram.

Leo and Jewel Thompson visited with Sylvia Smith and others.

Levoy Arnold from Livingston, Bobby and Lori Haddox from Eastland and Michael Curry visited with Irma Deen Haddox.

Crystal and Vickie Murphy from San Angelo visited Troy Tomlinson also Debbie Spry.

Activities during the week were: **Monday:** Ruby Harrell (3), Midge McCall (3), Vera Belyeu and Allie Dickson. Exercise class.

**Tuesday:** Art class. Popcorn and Skip-Bo games.

**Wednesday:** Sing-a-long with Bob Wallace and Diana Heizman. Exercise class.

**Thursday:** Bingo winners were Midge McCall (3), Gertie Powell (2), Sylvia Smith (2), Ruby Harrell, Minnie Swann and Allie Dickson. Music with Colleen Anderson.

**Friday:** Singing with Bob Wallace. Sit-down-basketball.

**Sunday:** Believer's Fellowship Friendship warms the heart.



**EMPLOYEE OF MONTH—** Mediplex Home Health Care Companies has selected Johnnie Hallford as Employee of the Month for November 1996. Johnnie is a licensed vocational nurse for the Cross Plains branch and has been with Mediplex since July 1994.



RANDAL ROBISON

**Randal Homer Robison Graduates From Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary**

Randal Homer Robison formerly of Grand Prairie, son of Patsy Parrish Robison and the late Homer Robison, graduated December 14, 1996 from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, earning his Master of Divinity.

Randy is a 1984 graduate of Grand Prairie High School and a 1988 graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University. Randy is a chaplain candidate for the U.S. Army Reserves and will receive his commission as a chaplain in spring 1997. He became an ordained minister on December 1, 1996 at First Baptist Church of Grand Prairie.

He is engaged to be married to Vanessa Suarez of Denton who is a 4th grade teacher at Newton Rayzor Elementary.

Randy is the nephew of Velma Jones Lee, Lou and Dick Grider, Raymond and Mary Parrish, Alvin and Edna Parrish and has a host of other family and friends in the Cross Plains area.

**Locally Known Tennis Retailer Receives National Certification**

Randy Stephenson (son of Tom and Arlene Stephenson) of Oshman's Supersports #1275 in North Dallas has passed the examination and satisfied the experience requirements to be named a Certified Racquet Technician (CRT) by the United States Racquet Stringers Association (USRSA) in Del Mar, California. Established in 1993, the CRT is the highest designation a racquet sports retailer can receive.

To be eligible to the CRT, Randy had to pass an exhaustive exam that tests knowledge of all facets of racquet service. "The exam measures the understanding of how to install string, how to select the optimum racquet for every player and how to re-size handles, re-grip racquets and customize weight and balance," says Don Hightower, USRSA associate director. "A CRT must also demonstrate advanced knowledge of current frame and string technology and how that technology translates to player satisfaction." The CRT designation also requires that the racquet service professional satisfy specific experience requirements, and be referred by an industry sales representative, a colleague or manager and a customer.

The CRT program is supported by the top manufacturers in the tennis industry: Alpha, Babolat, Dunlop, Ektelon, Gosen, Head, Prince, Pro Kennex, Technifibre, TOA Strings, Wilson and Yonex. "These companies are funding the CRT program because they know it is in everyone's best interest," Hightower says. "Satisfying the customer is good business for everyone."

Randy would like to thank first and foremost, his family for standing by his decision to pursue a life in tennis, and also his High School Tennis Coach, Mac McConal, for keeping me interested in the sport.

**Aaron L. Ullman Promoted To Captain**

Aaron L. Ullman has been promoted in the U.S. Air Force to the rank of captain.

Ullman, a navigator, is stationed at Barksdale Air Force Base, Bossier City, Louisiana.

He is the son of Robert E. and Kaye T. Ullman of 1303 Fowler Drive, Gamer, North Carolina.

His wife, Adriane, is the daughter of Thomas L. Wilson of Rising Star, and Sherric Richardson of 104 E. 28th St., Farmington, New Mexico.

In 1988, Ullman graduated from Gamer Senior High School, North Carolina, and in 1992, received a bachelor's degree from East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina.

**Subscribe To The Cross Plains Review**



DR. AND MRS. JAMES WARLICK

**Smith - Warlick Wed In November Ceremony**

Dora Jane (Price) Smith and James Scaborn Warlick were united in marriage on November 29, 1996 in Dallas. Dora is the daughter of Wright and Verna Price of Early, and James is the son of the late Jimmy and Olzie Warlick of Hamilton. The ceremony was performed by Dora's father, the Rev. Wright Price, in the beautiful formal living room at the home of her sister, Dianne Mobley.

The bride was given in marriage by her sons, Terrill and Brandon Smith who were also her attendants. Attendants for the groom were his daughters, Jamey Seely and Jessica Warlick.

James and Dora both graduated from Hamilton High School. James holds a Doctorate of Educational Administration from the University of North Texas. He has been a school administrator and superintendent for several years and is currently a consultant in the Dallas area.

Dora graduated from Tarleton State University with a Master's of Education in Guidance and Counseling. She taught in the Cross Plains Schools for several years and was an

Educational Diagnostician for three area schools. She currently is an independent representative and sales director for American National Benefits. Dora also operates an active Real Estate and storage business in Cross Plains and Cisco.

The couple resides in both Dallas and Cross Plains.

**HAPPY 40TH BIRTHDAY**

Love,  
Dad, Mummy  
and Grandma

**Colonial Oaks Services**

Believer's Fellowship will conduct worship services at Colonial Oaks Nursing Home on Sunday, January 12, commencing at 3:30 p.m.

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**OOBABY**

**AUSTIN RAY WALKER ARRIVAL ANNOUNCED**

Randy Walker and Tiffany McKenzie would like to announce the birth of their son, Austin Ray Walker, born Tuesday, December 31, 1996, at 9:18 a.m. He weighed 6 pounds 5 ounces and was 19 inches long.

Grandparents are Skeet and Wanda Walker and Charles and Patsy McKenzie all of Cross Plains.

Great-grandparents are Carl McKenzie of Williams, Ruby Buford of Coleman, and Elzie and Ruby Hull also of Coleman.

**Medications Warning**

The American College of Emergency Physicians has issued a warning to parents to keep over-the-counter pain medications containing dibucaine, a local anesthetic, out of the reach of children. Three toddlers died within hours of eating small amounts of a pain medication containing dibucaine. Dibucaine is found in ointments for skin pain such as sunburn, cuts and hemorrhoids. Always read warnings on all over-the-counter medications.

**Your better health is our concern.**

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CROSS PLAINS, TEXAS

**BREAKTHRU**

By Bob Pipes, preacher  
Cross Plains Church of Christ  
433 N. Main At 12th  
(817) 725-6117

Have you ever gone to the peach tree to pick plums? Or to the apple orchard to pick grapes? No, and the reason is so obvious that it needs no explaining. But Jesus used the very obvious to illustrate a point He was making, saying, "A tree is known by its fruit," Matthew 12:33b Jesus continued, "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad," verse 33a.

Jesus' teaching here was on the same order as in His "Sermon on the Mount" wherein He upbraided the false prophets, saying, "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit..." Matthew 7:15-20.

What's the point? You can't have a bad heart and good actions; you won't normally have a good heart and bad actions. "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things," Matthew 12:35. "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks," verse 34b.

Have we expected the impossible? Have we sought for a riddance of bad actions -- like crime and drugs -- without some "heart transplants?" Not that hearts can't be changed, but have we majored in changing bad hearts into good hearts instead of growing good hearts to begin with? No wonder parents, especially fathers, are admonished to bring their children up in the training and instruction of the Lord, Ephesians 6:4. The best way to have peaches is to plant them and grow them!

Hearts can be changed, however. "For godly sorrow produces repentance to salvation..." (1 Cor. 7:10) One of Jesus' aims was to change evil hearts into good ones -- and one of our aims must be the same, for "every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire," Matthew 7:19.

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