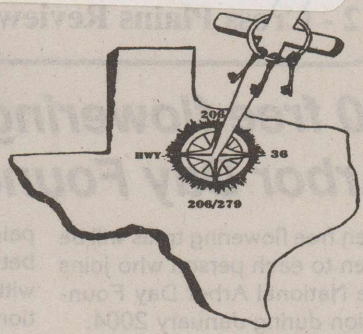


Cross Plains Review

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"A Caring Community"



Keys to our Past,
Present and Future
Hinge on the Cross

Rich in Agriculture
Abundant in Wildlife

Masthead Designed by Deborah Lowitzer

THURSDAY, January 1, 2004

95TH YEAR

CROSS PLAINS, CALLAHAN COUNTY, TEXAS 76443

PRICE 50¢

NUMBER 41

DOWN HOME

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jerry and Chris Biggerstaff of Cross Cut brought this story by to share with our readers. It is great reading and wonderful advice. May it touch everyone's heart and encourage them to do "the right things" to make a difference in someone's life. Vanda Anderson

Sometime we think that we don't impact other peoples' lives and we need reminding that we are all diamonds!!!! Worth taking the time to read. This is a touching story. Makes one think about judging someone without really knowing the story behind their life. You can make a difference!

"The Perfume"

As she stood in front of her 5th grade class on the very first day of school, she told the children an untruth. Like most teachers, she looked at her students and said that she loved them all the same. However, that was impossible because there in the front row, slumped in his seat, was a little boy named Teddy Stoddard.

Mrs. Thompson had watched Teddy the year before and noticed that he did not play well with the other children, that his clothes were messy and that he constantly needed a bath. In addition, Teddy could be unpleasant. It got to the point where Mrs. Thompson would actually take delight in marking his papers with a broad red pen, making bold X's and then putting a big "F" at the top of his papers. At the school where Mrs. Thompson taught, she was required to review each child's past records and she put Teddy's off until last. However, when she reviewed his file, she was in for a surprise. Teddy's first grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is a bright child with a ready laugh. He does his work neatly and has good manners... he is a joy to be around."

His second grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is an excellent student, well liked by his classmates, but he is troubled because his mother had a terminal illness and life at home must be a struggle."

His third grade teacher wrote, "His mother's death has been hard on him. He tried to do his best, but his father doesn't show much interest and his home life will soon affect him, if some steps aren't taken."

Teddy's fourth grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is withdrawn and doesn't show much interest in school. He doesn't have many friends and he sometimes sleeps in class." By now Mrs. Thompson realized the problem and she was ashamed of herself. She felt even worse when her students brought her Christmas presents, wrapped in beautiful ribbons and bright paper, except for Teddy's. His present was clumsily wrapped in heavy, brown paper that he got from a grocery bag. Mrs. Thompson took pains to open it in the middle of the other presents.

Some of the children started to laugh when she found a rhinestone bracelet with some of the stones missing, and a bottle that was one-quarter full of perfume. But she stifled the children's

See Down Home Page 8

Services Held December 30, for Eugene D. Rhodes

Eugene D. Rhodes, 81, passed away Sunday, December 28, 2003, at Abilene Regional Medical Center in Abilene.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 30, 2003, at Higginbotham Funeral Chapel with Richard Chaffin officiating. Burial was in the Cross Plains Cemetery, directed by Higginbotham Funeral Home of Cross Plains.

Gene was born in Crosbyton, Texas to Charlie and Lettie Lane Rhodes on February 20, 1922. He married Charlene Smith on December 18, 1946 in Abilene; she preceded him in death on September 16, 1981. He married Eula Carroll Gunnels in Abilene on August 14, 1982.

Mr. Rhodes was employed by West Texas Utilities in Cross Plains and Rising Star for 32 years as a manager. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church and a member of the Cross Plains Masonic Lodge #627, as well as a member

of the Chamber of Commerce. He also served in the U.S. Navy in World War II.

Survivors include his wife, Eula Rhodes of Abilene; three sons, Ronald D. Rhodes and wife, Nancy of Brenham, Donald G. Rhodes and wife, Sue of May, and James M. Rhodes of Lubbock; step-daughter, Neet Moore of Abilene, and step-son, Bunkee Gunnels of Bowie; a brother, Glen Rhodes and wife, Evy of Potosi; and a brother-in-law, Royce W. Smith and wife, Johnnie of Abilene; 6 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, 4 step-grandchildren and 7 step-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Charlene; a grandson, Ethan Rhodes, and a granddaughter, Jana Rhodes; and a step-daughter, Carol Collins.

Pallbearers were Dale Crawford, Freddy Tatom, Dale Bishop, Travis Williams, Tom Hinkle and Donnie Dillard.

USDA CROP DISASTER PROGRAM SIGN-UP ENDS JANUARY 30

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1, 2003 — Agriculture Secretary

Ann M. Veneman today announced that sign-up ends Jan. 30, 2004, for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP), which provides payments for producers who suffered 2001 or 2002 crop-year losses due to a natural disaster.

"USDA has issued \$2.2 billion in benefits to about 325,000 farmers across the country," said Veneman. "We encourage qualified farmers to take advantage of this assistance."

CDP, which is authorized by the Agricultural Assistance Act of 2003, has no overall funding limitation, but each "person" is limited to \$80,000. Producers are reimbursed for qualifying crop production and quality losses (other than sugar cane, sugar beets or tobacco) for either the 2001 or 2002 crop years. Payments are issued for losses exceeding 35 percent of expected production at:

* 50 percent of the established price for crops that were covered by crop insurance;

* 50 percent of the established price for crops for which crop insurance was unavailable; and

* 45 percent of the established price to producers for crops that could have been insured but were not.

Producers are also reimbursed for quality losses of at least 20 percent for certain crops.

Eligible producers who did not have crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program coverage during the year of the disaster must agree to purchase coverage for each of the next two crop years.

CDP payments will be reduced if the sum of: (1) the CDP payment; (2) the net crop insurance indemnity; and (3) the value of the crop that was not lost, exceeds 95 percent of what the value of the crop would have been in the absence of a loss.

More information on CDP and other USDA disaster assistance programs is available at local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices and on FSA's Web site at <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>

Area Fellowship to be Revived

Representatives of five area churches met in Cross Plains in October for the purpose of re-activating the "Draw Nigh to God Fellowship". This group was originated a number of years ago and was active up until a few years back.

The purpose is to provide fellowship among believers of different churches. Persons attending will enjoy congregational singing, and those attending will be afforded an opportunity to sing a favorite song, read a special passage of scripture, or testify about what God has done in their lives.

The first meeting will be held at Believers Fellowship

in Cross Plains on Friday, January 2, at 7:00 p.m. Meetings will be held on the first Friday of each month. Anyone who loves or needs Jesus Christ is welcome.

Future Meetings and Locations
February - Maranatha Faith Temple - Brownwood
March - The Revival Center Cross Plains
April - Calvary Assembly Rising Star
May - Wings of Eagles Church Burkett

For more information about Friday's meeting at Believers Fellowship, please contact Pastor Fry at (325) 643-1011.

Last Chance for G.E.D. Classes held Locally

This is your last chance to take G.E.D. classes at the Cross Plains Public Library. January is the last month classes will be offered unless interest in the class picks up.

Classes will begin again on Monday, January 5th. Classes will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. You may start the class at any time because instruction is individualized. However, you must be enrolled by Monday, January 19th in order for classes to continue through February.

Congratulations to those students who have already taken and passed the G.E.D. exam. They put in a lot of hard work to accomplish their goal. The class is free, so now is the time to take this opportunity to make a new year's resolution and get your G.E.D. certificate.

Union Center Baptist Host A Special Watch Night Service this Wednesday

Union Center Baptist Church will host a "Watch Night" Service Wednesday, December 31, from 9 to 12 p.m. Ernie Overstreet will be the special guest for the evening. Overstreet will present a one hour program of music, followed by prayer, singing and testimonies.

You will thoroughly enjoy this man of God as he ministers in music. Union Center Baptist Church is located 1/2 mile east of Union Center, off Highway 183, north of Rising Star. Pastor Jerry Eckhart welcomes everyone to the "Watch Night" service.

Jerry Wood's Services Pending

Jerry Wood, 69, of Sonora, passed away Monday, December 29, 2003, in Hendrick Medical Center at Abilene.

Jerry was born April 21, 1934. He was store manager at Village Market in Cross Plains for a couple of years. His wife is Nelda "Joy" Wood of Sonora. The couple were in the process of moving back to Cross Plains.

Services are pending at Higginbotham Funeral Home of Cross Plains.

The Cross Plains Review Will Be Closed Thursday, Jan. 1st Will Re-Open Friday, Jan. 2nd Have a Safe and Happy New Year

County outdoor burn ban rules, regulations told

Callahan County Commissioners reinstated the county-wide burn ban at its commissioners' court meeting held Monday, December 22.

The burn ban is effective immediately. The burn ban regulations follow:

Callahan County, Texas Order Prohibiting Outdoor Burning

WHEREAS, declaration with provision of the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, a state of disaster has been declared based on the imminent threat of disaster from wild fire and,

WHEREAS, declaration of such a disaster authorizes the imposition of controls on activities which tend to increase the likelihood of such fire,

BE IT THEREFORE ORDERED, that the following emergency regulations are hereby established for all unincorporated areas of Callahan County, Texas, effective December 22, 2003 and further notice,

(1) Action prohibited.
A. A person violates this order if he or she burns any combustible material outside of an enclosure which serves to contain all flames and/or sparks, or orders such burning by others.

B. A person violates this order if he/she engages in any activity outdoors which could allow flames or sparks that could result in a fire, or orders such activities by others.

(2) Enforcement.
A. Violations of this order may be prosecuted in accordance with the statutes and procedures governing misdemeanors, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 and/or up to 180 days in jail.

(s) Roger Corn
Callahan County Judge
(s) Harold Hicks
Commissioner Precinct #1
absent, Bryan Farmer
Commissioner Precinct #2
(s) Tommy Holland
Commissioner Precinct #3
(s) Charlie Grider
Commissioner Precinct #4

B. This order may be enforced by any duly commissioned peace officer and that the venue for prosecution of violation of this order will be the County Courts at Law of Callahan County, Texas.

(3) A person is not in violation if, prior to the setting of any outdoor fire, he or she obtains permission to stage a Prescribed Burn from the Natural Resources Conservation Services.

(4) A person is not in violation, if prior to the setting of any outdoor fire, he or she first obtains the permission of the appropriate volunteer Fire Chief or the Callahan County Sheriff. In this instance, the Fire Chief or Sheriff will have the authority to set the conditions, restrictions, and or precautions which must be observed.

(5) Further, the burning of prickly pears as a food supplement for livestock is not a violation, if he or she first obtains the permission of the appropriate volunteer Fire Chief or the Callahan County Sheriff. In this instance, the Fire Chief or Sheriff will have the authority to set the conditions, restricts, and or precautions which must be observed.

ORDERED by the Commissioners Court of Callahan County, Texas on the 22nd day of December, 2003, and executed on the same day.

Blood Drive Jan. 6 at First Baptist

The First Baptist Church in Cross Plains will host a BLOOD DRIVE on Tuesday, January 6, from 1:00 until 6:00 p.m. The last blood drive, on October 21, resulted in 47 pints of blood.

"Our staff was so glad to see the great turnout at the last blood drive. Blood drives right after the holidays are always important, as the supply is typically low, so I am hoping that those who gave at the last drive will donate again," said Frances Baker, donor recruiter. Blood may be donated every eight weeks.

Meek Blood Center has tions as well, and each and every donation is appreciated," said Baker. For more information about this new collection system, please call Meek Blood Center at (325) 670-2805.

Each donor will receive a "Digital Robot", which pops open at the touch of a button and features a clock, world time clock, perpetual calendar, alarm clock, count-down timer and calculator. In addition to that, a complimentary cholesterol reading will be available two days after the blood drive by calling (325) 670-2799.

implemented a new blood collection system that allows donors who qualify to give two units of red cells instead of one from a single donation. With this system, only the red cells are collected, returning the plasma and platelets back to the donor. The donation only takes 10 minutes longer on average and uses a smaller needle. "This technology will help alleviate blood shortages, and is geared to those who donate between one and four times a year. We will still be doing manual whole blood collec-

Texas Heritage Bank
"We're Proud of Our Local Heritage"
MEMBER FDIC
Presents: "What's Inside"

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Quips, Clips & Comments	Page 3
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Student Review	Page 4

10 free flowering trees from Arbor Day Foundation

Ten free flowering trees will be given to each person who joins The National Arbor Day Foundation during January 2004.

The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

The ten trees are 2 White Flowering Dogwoods, 2 Flowering Crabapples, 2 Washington Hawthorns, 2 American Redbuds, and 2 Kousa Dogwoods.

"These compact trees were selected for planting in large or small spaces," John Rosenow, the Foundation's president, said. "They will give your home the beauty of lovely pink, white, and yellow flowers — and also provide winter berries and nesting sites for songbirds."

The trees will be shipped post-

paid at the right time for planting between February 1 and May 31 with enclosed planting instructions. The six to twelve inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

Members also receive a subscription to the Foundation's bimonthly publication, Arbor Day, and The Tree Book with information about tree planting and care.

To become a member of the Foundation and to receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to TEN FREE FLOWERING TREES, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by January 31, 2004. Or go online to arborday.org.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH

832 Ave. E Cross Plains, TX

Pastor: Donald Duke
 Sunday Morning Bible Study.....10:00 AM
 Morning Worship11:00 AM
 Evening Worship6:00 PM
 Wednesday Night Bible Study.....7:00 PM



Our Church Is A House Of Prayer

GOSPEL MISSION

716 1st Street
 Full Gospel

Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 a.m.
 Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 p.m.

Michael Ingram, Pastor

BELIEVER'S FELLOWSHIP

Inner-denominational-Evangelical EAST HIGHWAY 36
 SUNDAY WEDNESDAY
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 7:00 p.m. Christian Youth Activities
 10:45 a.m. Morning Service THURSDAY
 6:00 p.m. Evening Service 7:00 p.m. Midweek Service

PASTOR: J. D. FRY (325) 646-7647

Last Sunday of the month singing. Come one-Come all.
 Chips, Dips, Sandwiches

UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

209 S.W. Hwy 36 CROSS PLAINS

Welcomes You!

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Sun. 6:30 p.m. Worship & Word *** Wed. 7:00 p.m. Bible Study
 "An Apostolic Church"

PASTOR, Phillip R. Schaefer (254) 725-7140

Living Water Ministries Fellowship

Full Gospel ~ Non-Denominational ~ Apostolic
Restoring And Equipping The Saints

Sunday 10 am * Monday Prayer 7pm * Wednesday 6:30 pm

*Pastors: Max Evans & Colleen Anderson
 Praise & Worship: Glenda Evans & Jamie Lipe
 Youth Pastor: Linda Fortune*



For Information Call (254) 725-4884

Union Center Baptist Church

"Service to God Through Service to Man"

Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
 Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

5 miles north of Rising Star - 1/2 mile east of Hwy 183 on CR 292

Jerry Eckhart, Pastor (254) 643-1027

COTTONWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School.....9:45 A.M.
 Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M.
 Evening Service.....6:00 P.M.
 Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer Time.....7:00

Matt McGowen, Pastor (254) 725-4599
 Church (254) 725-6266

Friendly Church

Bible Teaching

ROWDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy. 36 at Rowden - 12 Miles West of Cross Plains

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....11:00 A.M.

Pastor: Carl Mauldin

Come Worship With Us!

NIMROD BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School.....10:00 A.M.
 Sunday Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M.
 Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.

Bill Armstrong - Pastor

OBITUARIES

Jack Lawrence Agnew

Jack Lawrence Agnew, 89, of Rising Star, passed away on Christmas Eve at Hendrick Medical Center. Services were held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, December 27, 2003, at the Rising Star Church of Christ. Burial was in the Rising Star Cemetery, under the direction of Higginbotham Funeral Home.

He was born August 28, 1914 to E.F. and Lulu Jane Agnew in Rising Star. He was raised in Rising Star and graduated from Rising Star High School in 1932. He attended Abilene Christian College and Texas Tech. He married Ileta McWhirter on November 30, 1939 in Dallas, Texas. He was a veteran of World War II.

Mr. Agnew worked most of his life in the grocery business, first with his family in Rising in E.F. Agnew and Sons Grocery and later, in Lubbock with Furr's Supermarkets and then his own Service Food Grocery. He re-

turned to Rising Star in 1981 to work full-time on the farm he loved so much. He was a member of the Church of Christ.

Survivors include his children, Nancy Cope and her husband, Jocy of Abilene, Frank Agnew and his wife, Peggy of Rising Star, and Mary Chance and her husband, Jim of Flower Mound; seven grandchildren and one great-granddaughter, Jeremy Cope and his wife, Jamie, and their daughter, Landrye, Justin Cope of Abilene, Amy Agnew of Lubbock, Alison and Alex Agnew of Rising Star, and Angela and Aaron Chance of Flower Mound; and numerous nieces and nephews.

His beloved wife, Ileta, preceded him in death.

In lieu of flowers, the family invites memorial gifts to Lake Cisco Christian Camp, P.O. Box 629, Cisco, Texas 76437 or Christian Ministries of Abilene, 425 Highland, Abilene, Texas 79605.

Don Harris

Don Harris, 52, of Hawley, died Monday, December 22, 2003, at a local hospital. Services were held at the First Baptist Church in Hawley on Saturday, December 27, 2003, at 1:30 p.m. with the Rev. Larry Tarver and the Rev. Randy Gee officiating, under the direction of Community Memorial Funeral Home, 1443 North Second Street, Abilene. Burial was in Elmwood Memorial Park.

Don was born in Haskell, Texas on August 2, 1951, the son of the late Dale Harris and Lela (Brock) Harris Pettit. He grew up in the Haskell, Lawn and Abilene areas and in 1983, he moved to Hawley from Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. He graduated from Allen Military Academy in Bryan, Texas. Don was a member of the Clearfork

Baptist Church. He coached his sons' little league games and loved watching them in sport. He owned and operated West Texas Garage Door. He served in the U.S. Army from 1979 to 1982. He married Pamela Burleson in Hawley on December 15, 1979.

Survivors include his wife, Pam Harris of Hawley; three sons, Donnie Harris and his wife Alicia of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Charlie and Kelly Harris, both of Hawley; his mother and her husband, Lela and John . Petit of Anson; one brother, Jimmy Harris and his wife Rita of Cross Plains; and many other family members and friends.

Memorials may be made to the Clearfork Baptist Church Building Fund, P.O. Box 98, Hawley, Texas 79525.

DPS New Year's Driving Resolutions

Let the confetti fly, wear your funny hats and welcome the New Year with good cheer, but resolve to drive responsibly this New Year's holiday. Anyone planning to consume alcoholic beverages should have someone else—who hasn't been drinking—drive them home.

Starting midnight on New Years Day, Operation Holiday will go into effect.

Extra troopers will be on the lookout for speeders, seat belt violators, reckless drivers and drunk drivers from January 1st through January 4th to reduce the number of traffic accidents and traffic fatalities.

"If you choose to celebrate the new year, please drive sober. If you plan to drink, please designate a driver. We want all Tex-

ans to be around to enjoy 2004," said Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr., director of the DPS.

While making your New Year's resolutions, please remember to add "Improve Driving Habits" to your list!

Here are some good habits to employ:

- * Make sure everyone is buckled up.
- * Drive sober.
- * Use your turn signals.
- * Do not tailgate.
- * Obey the speed limit.
- * Do not speed up, block lanes, slam or tap on brakes.
- * Report extreme cases of reckless driving to the appropriate authorities.
- * Do not retaliate, gesture or make eye contact.

Connect to the Internet

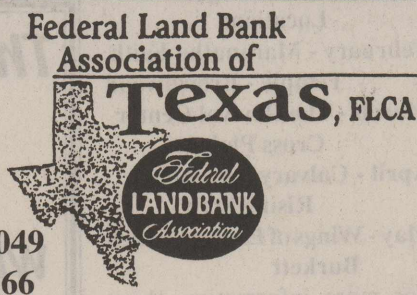
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 President Part of the fabric of rural life.

COURTHOUSE NEWS

COUNTY COURT Roger Corn, presiding

Marriage Licenses

Michael Hugh Philippus of Hawley and Mary Elizabeth Koch of Baird.

42nd DISTRICT COURT John Weeks, presiding

Civil Filings

Michael Rauchle vs. F.A. Adams, et al, petition for declaratory judgment.

April Johnson vs. Danny Cannon, application for protective order.

John Anthony Hayhurst and Joyce Elaine Hayhurst, divorce.

Civil Minutes

Allison Renee Wilson Sullivan and Lon Leroy Sullivan, divorce granted.

Joyce Monsey vs. Texas Rehabilitation Commission, Vernon Arrell, in his official capacity as commissioner of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission and John P. Sutton, in his official capacity as hearing officer for the Texas Rehabilitation Commission, agreed order to transfer venue granted.

Criminal Minutes

Larry D. Floyd, order amending conditions of probation granted.

Daniel G. Parker, Jr., plea of guilty to possession of a controlled substance, 10 years in prison, \$271 court costs.

Lewis A. McWhorter, plea of guilty to possession of a controlled substance, 4 year probation, \$750 fine, \$260.25 court costs, \$140 restitution.

Charles C. Zara, plea of guilty to possession of a controlled substance, 5 year probation, \$1000 fine, \$216 court costs, \$140 restitution.

Rowdy B. Dillard, order amending conditions of probation granted.

Clarissa D. Sallila, order amending conditions of probation granted.

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CROSS PLAINS REVIEW

(USPS 138-660)

DON TABOR, PUBLISHER
 VANDA CREECH, EDITOR
 CROSS PLAINS REVIEW



(USPS 138-660) is published weekly on Thursday, for \$20.00 per year within Callahan County; \$25.00 per year elsewhere in Texas; \$28.00 per year out of state. (No foreign copies except APO or like Address); by Review Publishing Co., 166S.E. 1st St., Cross Plains, Texas 76443.

Periodical postage paid at Cross Plains, Texas 76443

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Cross Plains Review, P.O. Box 519, Cross Plains, Texas 76443.
 Telephone: 1 (254) 725-6111
 FAX: 1 (254) 725-7225

First Baptist Welcomes You! Worship with us!

Sunday School
 9:45 am
 Worship Services
 11:00 am
 Evening Services
 7:00 pm

First Baptist Church

Ronnie B. White, Pastor
 3rd & Main, Cross Plains, TX 725-7629

Let Us Rejoice At His Birth

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 Van Service Available - Call (254) 725-7694

N. Main (Hwy. 206)
 Cross Plains, Texas
 Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
 Worship - 10:45 a.m.
 Rev. C. Michael Redd, Pastor



RISING STAR NURSING CENTER

Well, Christmas is over for another year. We had a great turnout for our Christmas party. Thanks to all the family members and friends who came.

Thanks also, to Weldon Hill for lending us chairs, the Rising Star Church of Christ for bringing each resident a neat gift and the family of former resident Darrell Madison for the beautiful flower arrangement. One last important

"thank you" to the local 4-H group who put out ornaments at Peoples State Bank.

There were two or three very generous people who ended up buying at least 6 to 10 presents for our residents and wrapped them beautifully. Thanks for your generosity. I'll have plenty of photos next week.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

Submitted by Deborah Alexander

LIBRARY NOTES



Well! Christmas is over and the new year is beginning. We, even bookworms, know that "time flies". Spring will be here before we can take a deep breath. Spring means "gardens". Gardens say, "Go to the library!"

Yes, yes! That is where you'll find what you need to get ready for raising your own veggies. Close your eyes and see those tomatoes hanging on vines or tomato trees! Try planting something you haven't planted before and have the fun of watching it develop. The sight can be a thrill.

I may even pay a visit to see plants I've not "experienced" before. Check us out. We'll have, or can get, what you want. Ya'll come!!!!

Statistics

December 22- 26

Circulation:	
Books	31
Interlibrary Loan	4
Total	35
Donations - Books:	
Joan McCowen	
Brenda Rivard	

OSTEOARTHRITIS OF THE ANKLE JOINT AFFECTS MILLIONS What can you do to help yourself?

Osteoarthritis of the ankle joint affects over one million Americans. Treatment ranges from physical therapy and exercise to a sometimes unavoidable surgery depending on the severity of the case. If you've been diagnosed with OA, there are many things you can do on your own to supplement the care you get from your doctor.

The American Arthritis Soci-

ety of Boston, MA, has compiled some useful and practical tips for self-care and has made them available on their website. Developed with the help of some of the leading foot surgeons in the country, each is easy to follow and can provide significant relief of the symptoms of osteoarthritis. They can be viewed online at:

www.americanarthritis.org

COTTONWOOD NEWS

By WALLACE BENNETT

Happy New Year! If you haven't made any resolutions for yourself about the coming year, you are not alone. I have been toying with the idea, not an original one, of not breaking any resolutions by not making any. But, that may sound too much like cheating.

Recently, a friend said something like that to me when he remarked he was not going to lose any money in Las Vegas this coming year because he wasn't going there. That's not cheating, just good thinking.

However, not making any resolutions seems to be avoiding the reality and responsibilities of life. So, I will make a few, but only ones I can remember. Unlike Lady Bird Johnson, I hate making lists and hate checking them off. As reported in the "Texas Monthly" a couple years ago, she responded to a question asked by her daughter, Lucy Bains Johnson, "How do you want to be remembered?" Lady Bird remarked, "Just say, I've made a few lists in my life and checked a few off."

To start off with, I look forward to a continued life in God's Kingdom among my family and friends and the continued activity of reading and writing.

In that vein, I have come into possession of some reading material over the Christmas holidays that I am anxious to begin. Our neighbor April Wheeler, of Cottonwood, drove by a few days ago and presented me with a gift of two old books which I appreciate very much. I value old books, not for their monetary value about which I know nothing, but for the "thinking matter" they contain. Old books of all kinds, novels, poetry, magazines, textbooks, etc.; are valuable because they reveal what people and their lives were like in a by-gone time.

April's gift of a book written by Edna Ferber in 1911 is entitled, "Dawn O'Hara," and one entitled "What Everyone Should Know About the Bible," now live next to my reading chair and will be well re-used in the coming days.

Another book entitled "TEXAS ALMANAC, 2004-2005" is a volume I am quite familiar with but haven't owned an updated copy of in a few years. So I purchased one recently. Its already sampled content seems to reveal everything you ever wanted to know and were afraid to ask about Texas; its history, its land, its people, and its no-matter-how-trivial statistics. So, if you want to know something about TEXAS, ask me. I probably want know it, but can look it up in my new book and share it.

Scranton Musical January 3rd

The Scranton Musical will be held at the Scranton Community Center, Saturday, January 3, 2004. The kitchen begins serving at 5:30 p.m. Anita Webb and Ruth Ray will be hostess in the kitchen. They will be serving some great soup. Your contribution of sandwiches and/or pies is appreciated. The music begins at 6:00 with Mark Ray as emcee. All musicians are invited to play and may call 325-692-2057 to reserve a time for your group.

Submitted by: Joan Shrader

Callahan County DPS Report

Calls received by the Callahan County Department of Public Safety from December 21, 2003 through December 27, 2003 include:

Cases Investigated

Warnings—182
Complaints—187
DWI—2

Vehicle Accidents

There were three vehicle accidents investigated during this time span.

3 - Cross Plains Review January 1, 2004

QUIPS, CLIPS & COMMENTS

By KAY MOSLEY

Note: Please remember to pray for peace in the world. Pray also for our troops and for our world leaders and for truce.

"New Years...Make It Happy, Make It Happen"

Once in a great while I think it's the viable thing to do to sit down and take stock. Make a list, if necessary. List all you have accomplished with in a certain amount of time, such as every 3 months or every 6 months.

List also all you had planned to accomplish, but did not. Do the same with you finances, your correspondence, your wardrobe, as well as your makeup, etc.

Just dig in, clean out, revamp, redo, re-arrange, start with A and proceed directly to Z.

Once you have finished all that, it will be an excellent time to make at least one more list. A list of resolutions— yeah! It's time again for those New Year's Resolutions.

Just remember that the sooner you get your income tax sent off, the sooner you will get your income tax refund back.

Seriously however, it's New Years and time to celebrate the season.

As many diverse citizens as populate Texas, it's very likely a given that there is most likely that many ways of celebrating New Years. Everyone or every group have their own traditional way to celebrate.

In many large cities, as when I resided in Dallas, you can see the revellers in their tuxes, top hats, formal, furs, etc. arriving disembarking their stretch limousines, throwing confetti, entering clubs, restaurants, etc. Just like in the movies, there are also a great number of private parties, some held in home or in party rooms reserved for the occasion. Probably plenty of us still recall Guy Lombardo and Orchestra on the Roof celebrating zillions of New Years.

Some stay home, like we now do. We watch on T.V. Times Square at midnight. We plan and eat our black-eyed peas. Other towns in other areas, states, countries, have their own version of New Year's foods.

To one and to all—Happy New Year!!!!!!

SENIOR CITIZENS MENU

JANUARY 5 - 9

MONDAY - Lasagna, Carrots, Tossed Salad, Fruit, Garlic Toast, Milk
TUESDAY - Enchilada Casserole, Spanish Rice, Gelatin, Crackers, Milk
WEDNESDAY - Sausage, Hominy Casserole, Kraut Salad, Brownie, Bread, Milk
THURSDAY - Beef and Macaroni Casserole, California Blend, Vegetables, Pears, Cake, Bread, Milk
FRIDAY - Chicken Spagetti, Corn, Green Beans, Cookie, Bread, Milk

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BREAKTHRU

By Bob Pipes
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As the Israelites were about to leave the land of Egypt—just before the tenth plague upon Pharaoh and all Egypt (the death of all firstborn ones)—and just before the Israelites were given the instructions in regard to observance of the Lord's Passover—God told Moses and Aaron, "This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you" (Exodus 12:2). So the first Abib, "the month of ears"—our April (most nearly)—became their sacred "first of the year." (They still had another civil "first of the year," however.)

There is no designated sacred "first of the year" in Christianity but the beginning of our civil "first of the year," of course, is today (Thursday, 1/1/04). Let us use it as an opportunity for sacred (spiritual) "new beginnings"—sometimes referred to as "New Year's resolutions"—which are needful in our lives. They may come in the form of "deletions" or they may come in the form of "additions"—but most probably, some of both are needed...

We encourage you to share with us in all the times of Bible study and worship as we meet together. We really do care about you!

Sunday Morning Bible Class...9:45a.m. Sunday Evening Worship...6:00p.m.
Sunday Morning Worship...10:45a.m. Wed. Evening Bible Study...7:00p.m.
Friends & Neighbors Caring In Jesus

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FIRST SESSION
STARTS AT 7 PM
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**COME AND BRING IN THE
NEW YEAR WITH FAMILY
AND FRIENDS.
(NO FOOD OR DRINKS CAN BE
BROUGHT IN AND NO ALCOHOL
ALLOWED ON PREMISES)
(EVERYONE TAKING UP A SEAT
MUST BE PLAYING)**

SEE YOU THERE!!!!!!

C.P. STUDENT REVIEW

Lady Buffs Defeat Panther Creek in Last Minute

The Cross Plains Lady Buff basketball team improved to 8-6 on the season with a 34-32 victory over Panther Creek just before the holidays.

The Lady Buffs got out to a first quarter lead but couldn't hold it and found themselves having to come from behind. Behind most of the game, the lady Buffs had the ball with thirty seconds left but found themselves down by one point. The Lady Buffs

missed, but an offensive rebound from Jesse James gave the girls one more shot.

Jesse Norris took advantage hitting a big three pointer to give the team a two point advantage. After forcing a turnover, the Lady Buffs held on to win by two points.

This was an exciting game and a good way to head into the holidays.

Happy Birthday!

JANUARY 3
Sandy (Bailey) Hunter
Teck Whitney
James Alexander
Cookie Robinson
Mrs. Pat McNeel, Jr.
Kathy Pippins
Mrs. Donald Baird
Billy Joe Lofton
Eddie Wade Dillard
Mrs. Morland Baldwin
Joann Womack
Lessie Baum

JANUARY 4
Jim Forbes
N.L. Dillard
Mrs. Treva Garrett
Danny Myrick
Michael Chase Childers
Troy Stone
George Hoover
Shana Bagley
Brian Odom
Ronald Allen Steele
Kayla (Cupit) Rodgers
Myrna Mitchell
Lowell Clark
Douglas Bowden

JANUARY 5
Jo Boatright
Peggy Hilburn
Wanda Ruth Anderson
Donald Rhodes
Ronald Rhodes
Clara Smart
Tye A. Flippin
Vernon H. Simpson
Jo Rhodes
Debbie Wilson
Bobby Joe Sheppard

JANUARY 6
Brenna Michelle Kleiber
Mrs. Bob Henderson
Kathy Parrish Cole

Betsy (Bowden) Kington
Troy Shane Knowles
Betty Holland
Mrs. O.B. Byrd
Mrs. Jerry Whiteside
Melissa Clark
Jessica Sue Hall

JANUARY 7
Randall Kyle Foster
Mrs. Roy Thornton
Dick Koenig
David Grider
Glenda Lane
Deloras Stover
Karen (Ringhoffer) Combs
Bobby Oliver
Ricky Purvis
Mrs. Carl King
James Crowley
Betty Strength
Bridgette Allen
Shae Connelly

JANUARY 8
Austin Chastain
Joe McWilliams
Claude Boyd
Johnny Nunn
Bill Forbes
Jimmy Hargrove
Jean Johnson
Mrs. L.M. Barrow
Allen Bland
Jay Staggs
Mrs. Eugene Strickland

JANUARY 9
Carol Parsons
Charles Williams
Alvie Hutchins
Karen (Dunn) Dooley
Clint Ivie
Ronny Nunn
Patrick Sadler
Cathy Meroney
Teri Brown
Kim Koenig



SCHOOL MENU

JANUARY 5 - 9

BREAKFAST

MONDAY - CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

TUESDAY - French Toast, Sausage, Assorted Juice

WEDNESDAY - Breakfast Pizza, Assorted Juice

THURSDAY - Hot or Cold Cereal, Toast, Assorted Juice

FRIDAY - Breakfast Bread, Assorted Juice

LUNCH

MONDAY - CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

TUESDAY - Salisbury Steak w/ Brown Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Peas, Rolls, Peaches

WEDNESDAY - Spagetti w/Meat Sauce, Cheese Stick, Broccoli, Garlic Toast, Mixed Fruit

THURSDAY - Meat-Cheese Nachos, Salad, Corn, Apple Crisp

FRIDAY - Hamburger, Lettuce, Tomato, Pickles, Fries, Cookie

Cross Plains Review

4

January 1, 2004

Class of '46 Celebrate Christmas Together

On Saturday night, the 20th of December, the Class of 1946 met at the home of the Dick Vestal's for their annual Christmas party.

Those attending were Morris and Karen Barrington, Arthur and Wanda Boyle, Robert and Charlene Grider, Dan and Bobbie Johnston, Edgar and Virginia Sessions, Bill White and friend, Becky Wood, Imogene Haun, Dorothy Petty, Bobbye Hinkle and host and hostess, Dick and Joan Vestal.

Those who were unable to attend were missed and missed lots of good food and conversation. Thanks again to Dick and Joan for opening their home to us each year.

Submitted by Bobbye Hinkle

COULD YOUR CHILD BE AT RISK FOR HEART DISEASE?

When you think of heart disease, you probably don't think of your kids. But maybe you should.

Almost 40 percent of children in Texas are considered overweight or obese, significantly increasing their risk for type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke - even cardiovascular disease. The number of overweight adolescents has tripled over the past two decades, up to 15 percent. And an overweight child has a 75 percent chance of growing up to be an overweight adult.

Type 2 diabetes, once considered an adult disease linked to obesity, is being diagnosed in our children in unprecedented numbers - most likely a direct result of eating too much and not exercising enough. In fact, type 2 diabetes can promote the development of heart disease at younger ages.

Although smoking is still the leading preventable cause of cardiovascular disease, obesity is quickly gaining on it. An estimated 300,000 deaths nationwide each year can be attributed to obesity. Child obesity has become an epidemic that is threatening the future of an entire generation of Texans. There are close to 6 million children living in Texas, and the prevalence of overweight and obese children in Texas is higher than the national average. If we don't take action now, this generation of children may not outlive their parents.

For the vast majority of our children, there is a sensible solution - eat better and exercise more. As with many, if not most, of our lifetime habits, nutrition and exercise habits are developed in childhood. It sounds simple enough, but changing the nutrition and exercise habits of a generation is a unique

and profound challenge - one that requires coordinated efforts from parents, schools, elected officials and health care organizations.

Our school system can be an ideal environment for children to learn about the importance of nutritious eating. Children consume roughly 30 percent of their daily calories at school. But only two percent of children receive the daily recommended number of servings of fruits and vegetables, according to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Fortunately, this school year, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) was named the administering state agency for the Child Nutrition Programs in public schools, and, under the leadership of Commissioner Susan Combs, has implemented bold changes regarding foods of minimal nutritional value. The sale of certain junk foods and sodas in elementary school vending machines and cafeterias is now prohibited, and access to junk foods in middle schools has been restricted.

Good nutrition, combined with regular physical activity, can combat the incidence of obesity. A recent study from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, however, found that almost 62 percent of children do not participate in any organized physical activity during after-school hours. The American Council on Exercise has reported that 63 percent of children are no longer active by the time they reach high school.

We know that the most effective weapon in the fight against obesity is preventing poor health choices now instead of treating chronic illnesses later. Now let's act on that knowledge.

Visit our website at www.americanheart.org for

more information on children, nutrition and physical activity.

Make these low-fat sugar cookies for your kids (and Santa) to snack on this holiday season!

Ingredients:
1 cup sugar
1/3 cup margarine, softened
1 egg or egg substitute equivalent

2 tablespoons fat-free milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
Vegetable oil spray

Directions:
In a large mixing bowl, combine sugar and margarine. Beat in egg substitute, milk and vanilla. In a medium bowl, sift together remaining ingredients except vegetable oil spray. Gradually beat into sugar mixture. Cover and refrigerate dough until chilled thoroughly, about 2 hours.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Spray baking sheets with vegetable oil spray. Form dough into about 48 balls 1 inch in diameter, and put on baking sheets. Lightly press thumb in center of each cookie.

Bake for 8 minutes or until light brown. Remove cookies from baking sheet and let cool on cooling rack.

Serves 24; 2 cookies per serving; 3 grams of fat.

Chef's Tip: For lemon sugar cookies, substitute 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice and 1 teaspoon grated lemon zest for milk and vanilla.

The American Heart Association is the largest community-based voluntary health organization fighting heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases. These diseases devastate millions of people of all ages and claim nearly 950,000 lives a year.

New County Fee Will Assist Organizations of Family Violence

Callahan County approved a Family Protection Fee to be used by nonprofit organizations which help anyone involved in family violence, during the commissioners' court regular monthly meeting held Monday, December 22.

The commissioners voted 4-0 in favor of the order to establish the Family Protection Fee in the amount of \$15.00. The optional fee will be collected by the Callahan County District Clerk's office and reported to the County Treasurer's office for the specific fund.

Those nonprofit groups will include organizations such as a Noah Project, Crime Victims Crisis Center, etc. These funds will help offset the cost these agencies expend in dealing with victims of family violence who reside in Callahan County.

The District Clerk's office will collect the fee on divorce suits filed in District Clerk Sharon Owens office beginning January 1, 2004. District Clerk Owens will start notifying the attorneys from divorce cases when the majority of the District Clerk's fees go into effect January 1, 2004.

Other agenda items brought before the commissioners' court included:

-The commissioners court meeting opened at 9:30 a.m. with County Judge Roger Com, Commissioners Harold Hicks, Tommy Holland, and Charlie Grider present.

-Commissioners voted to sign the minutes of the previous commissioners' court meeting.

-Commissioners voted to approve a contract for professional services with Allison, Bass & Associates, L.L.P. of Austin to provide the necessary legal services to successfully complete all procedural steps outline in Chapter 258 of the Texas Transportation code imposed by House Bill #1117.

Counties in Texas were able to obtain legislative action to address the problems related to county maintenance of roads by right of prescriptive easement. The Texas 78th Legislature passed House Bill #1111, now coded as Chapter 258 of the Texas Transportation Code. This statute authorizes a county to establish the existence of a public interest in a road by an administrative procedure. The procedure to implement

HB 1117 requires advance planning and considerable organization, plus the ability to accurately map, label and modify maps and descriptions of existing county roads, as well as the ability to marshal and present evidence necessary to support the County's claims regarding the public status of county maintained roads.

Allison, Bass & Associates, L.L.P. is well experienced in the law regarding county roads, and has considerable experience with Geographic Information Systems, or G.I.S., including mapping.

Allison, Bass & Associates, L.L.P. is proposing a flat rate fee for the project, based upon the number of linear miles Callahan County has reported to the Texas Department of Transportation.

Because of considerable time and expense in acquiring, analyzing, and applying data contained in existing road maps to a suitable G.I.S. application and conducting the required legal proceedings, the proposal allocates the cost into three distinct payments. The total flat rate fee for Callahan County will be \$9,750, spread over three budget cycles.

-Commissioners voted to table setting regulations on County Roads.

-Commissioners voted 4-0 to approve a Mutual Aid Agreement between Callahan County, with cities and the West Central

Texas Council of Governments.

One portion of the grant Callahan County will receive for Homeland Security, requires each entity to complete and accept the Mutual Aid Agreement.

The State of Texas would ultimately like to connect all of its regions through Mutual Aid Agreements. This process will consist of three separate agreements making up the three tiers of the Mutual Aid pact. The first level, Inter-Jurisdictional Mutual Aid Agreement, will be signed by and between cities and their county. The second level, Regional Mutual Aid Agreement, will be signed by and between counties within a Regional County of Government. The third level Mutual Aid Agreement, will be signed by and between Councils of Governments within the State of Texas. Each of these agreements builds toward the next level of Mutual Aid Agreement.

The signing of these agreements will not supersede any existing agreements nor do they commit the signatories to providing service above or beyond what they deem their capabilities to be. It is very specifically stated that each entity will have sole discretion in determining whether or provide mutual aid at any given time.

-Commissioners voted 4-0 to pay all approved bills and voted to adjourn the commissioners' court meeting.

Cisco Junior College Spring Registration

—Abilene Educational Center—

January 6 - 8

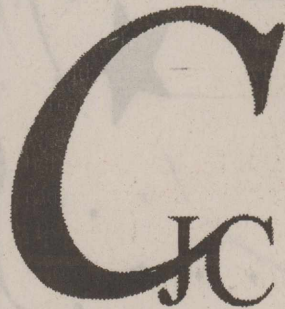
— Cisco Campus —

January 12 -13

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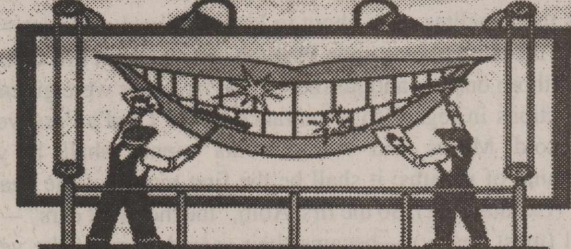
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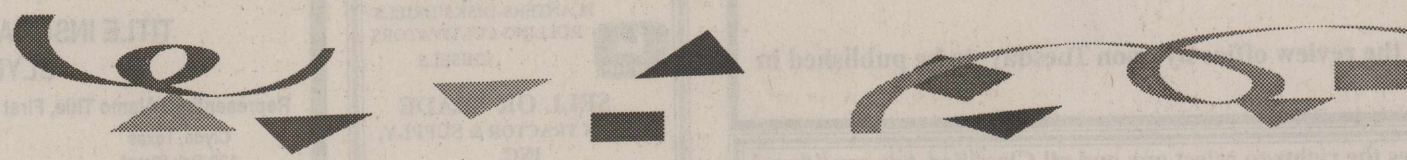
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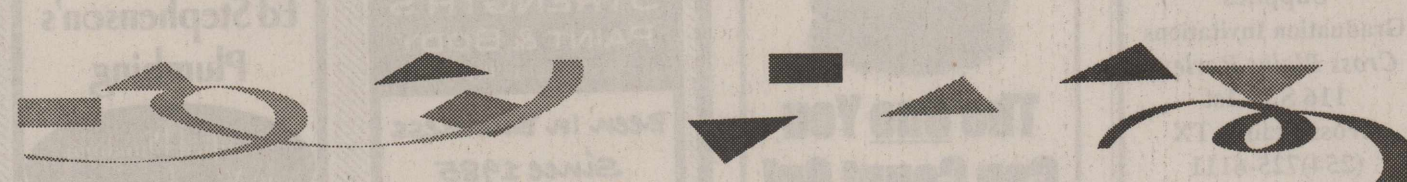
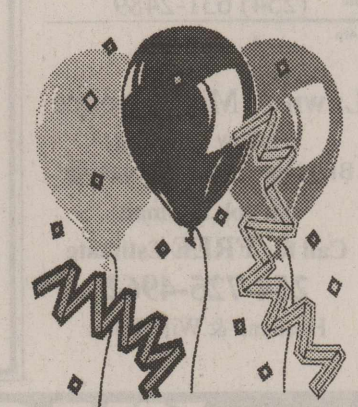
Celebrate

a new beginning

The things we like most about ringing in a new year are the opportunity to express our thanks to our good friends and neighbors, and the chance to serve you all again in the year ahead.

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY

2004



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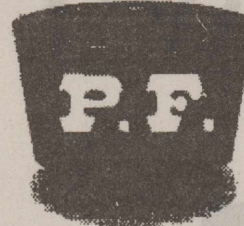
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- *20/A with 2/1.5 Log Home, 1,220 sq. ft. Large Trees, on pavement. Park like setting. Close to Cross Plains. **REDUCED \$118,000**
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- *66/A. NW of May, Brown County, 2 1/2 - 1,220 sq. ft. screened porch, 1,800 sq. ft. 3 bay barn, 3 large tanks, excellent hunting and fishing. \$150,000.
- *80/A with 3/2 home with Central H/A, lots of Cedar and Oak trees, good hunting, 17 miles Northwest of Cross Plains. \$132,000
- NEW LISTING--106/A,** older 2 bd/1 bath farm home, pole hay barn, cross fenced. Approx 60/A. Coastal Bermuda, and 46/A brush, good hunting, water well, on pavement, Callahan Co. \$115,000.
- NEW LISTING--341/A Paradise,** super hunting, secluded, heavy wildlife cover, spring, ponds, excellent underground water, new 1,344 Sq. Ft., 2 bd/2 1/2 bath house, large fireplace. 32' X 30 ft. barn with 30' X 12' shed, New storm cellar, Eastland County. \$1,400 Firm.
- NEW LISTING--381/A,** Cattle/Horse ranch, 6 miles North West of Cross Plains, with 1700 sq. ft. home covered in Coastal and Oak Trees, wet weather creek 2 tanks, excellent fences (pipe and barbed wire), water wells for irrigation. Small guest house behind main house. Mobile home located on back of property. \$575,000

RESIDENTIAL:

- NEW LISTING--4bd/3.5 bath,** Brick 3,083 sq. ft., Formal dining room, fireplace, CH/A, landscaped, on 3/A, 2 car garage, Nearly new and extremely nice, Cross Plains. \$205,000.
- *3bd/2b, 80 X 14 mobile home on 2 lots in Cross Plains. 2 car carport, CHA, Privacy fence, lots of trees, \$25,000
- *Nice older 3/1 home in Rising Star, pretty lot, large trees, garage, \$40,000.
- *4bd/2b home in Rising Star. Metal roof, large trees, big lot. \$38,000
- *4bd/2b in country on one acre, water well, on pavement. Large trees, fenced, landscaped, nice. \$60,000
- *3bd/1 1/2b in Cross Plains. 1300 sq. ft. 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 2 car garage, 2 buildings. \$15,000.
- *3/2 . 2,400 sq. ft., frame house in Cross Plains. Water wells. Lots of trees. \$50,000.
- * large residential lot in the Tom Bryant addition to Cross Plains, trees, prime home building location.
- * Fixer upper, 2bd/2 bath, frame, good landscaping, on paved street in Cross Plains, \$15,000

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- *Lot at Lake Granbury \$4,000.

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- *Business with home, Excellent opportunity, 1 city block, metal shop building, vehicle storage, fenced, outbuildings, Plus 3bd/2 bath brick home, CH/A, privacy fence, good location. \$140,000 Cross Plains
- *PK's or Buffalo Inn Bld. across from school, use for home or business.

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- 159 Lakeview - 5BR-3B brick and cedar home, completely redone, boat dock and storage. 90,000
- 520 Lakeview Dr. - Nice, large 4BR-2B, CH/A, waterfront lot, nice boat dock. 85,000
- 2BR/1B Cross Plains home, nice cabinets, garage apt, RV storage, 4 lots, attractive yard 29,000
- 2.5 Ac. - 3BR-2B, fire place, covered deck, pretty yard, good location, 1 tank 78,000
- 5 Ac. - 3BR-1B, large oaks, pine trees, good fences, 2 wells, hwy frontage. 64,000
- 6+/- Ac. & Home - 3BR-2B, very nice well built 2 story home in quiet community. 76,500
- 6.87 Ac. & Home - 2BR-2B, Mobile home (14x70), 2 water wells, place for 2nd mobile home 35,000
- 10 Ac. - Highway frontage, water well, electricity, good home site, mostly open 20,000
- 17.124 Ac. - nice 1/1 week-end cabin, live oak & mesquite, 1 tank. 67,500
- 42.69 Ac. - Very pretty home site, live oaks, 1 tank, paved road, deer, turkey and dove 59,766
- 50+/- Ac. - Pretty building site with coastal & large oaks, good water well 1,500/Ac
- 66.5 Ac. - 2BR/2B, nice kitchen, guest house, 3 stocked tanks, very good hunting 155,000
- 168 Ac. - North of Eastland, rolling hills with great deer hunting, pecan, live oak, & post oak 275,000

LAND WITH HOME

- 12.44 Ac. 3BR-1B, large oaks, pecan & fruit trees, king pens, garden area. 40,000
- 20 Ac. & Home - 2 BR-1B, 3000 sq. ft., barn, oaks, quiet country living. 65,000
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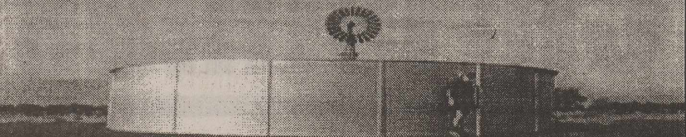
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- 88 Lincoln Cont., 4DR, V6, A very clean car inside & out.....\$850

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THE RAILROADER

BY JERRY PAYNE

I know, through the years, that you have heard names of different railroads, some were popular and some not so popular. This time I will highlight some of the old and now gone railroads. See if you remember some of them:

Texas and Pacific-bought out by Missouri
Missouri Pacific- bought out by Union Pacific
Katy-bought out by The Missouri Pacific
Cotton Belt - bought out by Southern Pacific
Alton and Southern- bought by The Missouri Pacific
The Chessy System- taken over by the CSX
Southern Railway- taken over by CSX
The Baltimore and Ohio- taken over by Conrail

The Penn Central- Bankrupt
Central Pacific- bought by Southern Pacific
Southern Pacific- bought by Union Pacific
Rio Grande- bought by Southern Pacific
The Abilene Southern- taken over by Missouri Pacific
Western Pacific- bought by Union Pacific
Sante Fe-bought by Burlington Northern
Chicago and Eastern Illinois- Missouri Pacific
Chicago and Northern Wisconsin- Union Pacific.

There are a few, which are no more. As you look at these you will notice that the big have swallowed up most of the small ones that we used to know.

Another person every 12 seconds

Census Bureau Projects Population of 292 Million on Jan. 1, 2004.

As America prepares to ring in the New Year, the U.S. Census Bureau today projected the Jan. 1, 2004, population of the United States will be 292,287,454 up 2,816,586 or 1.0 percent from New Year's Day 2003.

In January, the United States is expected to register one birth every 8 seconds and one death every 13 seconds.

Meanwhile, net international migration is expected to add one person every 25 seconds. The result is an increase in the total population of one person every 12 seconds.

DOWN HOME

laughter when she exclaimed how pretty the bracelet was putting it on, and dabbing some of the perfume on her wrist.

Teddy Stoddard stayed after school that day just long enough to say, "Mrs. Thompson, today you smelled just like my Mom used to." After the children left, she cried for at least an hour. On that very day, she quit teaching reading, writing and arithmetic. Instead, she began to teach children. Mrs. Thompson paid particular attention to Teddy. As she worked with him, his mind seemed to come alive. The more she encouraged him the faster he responded.

By the end of the year, Teddy had become one of the smartest children in the class and, despite her lie that she would love all the children the same, Teddy became one of her "teacher's pets".

A year later, she found a note under her door, from Teddy, telling her that she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life. Six years went by before she got another note from Teddy. He then wrote that he had finished high school, third in his class, and she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life.

Four years after that, she got another letter, saying that while things had been tough at times, he'd stayed in school, had stuck with it, and would soon graduate from college with the highest of honors. He assure Mrs. Thompson that she was still the best and favorite teacher he had ever had in his whole life.

Then four more years passed and yet another letter came. This time he explained that after he got

his bachelor's degree, he decided to go a little further.

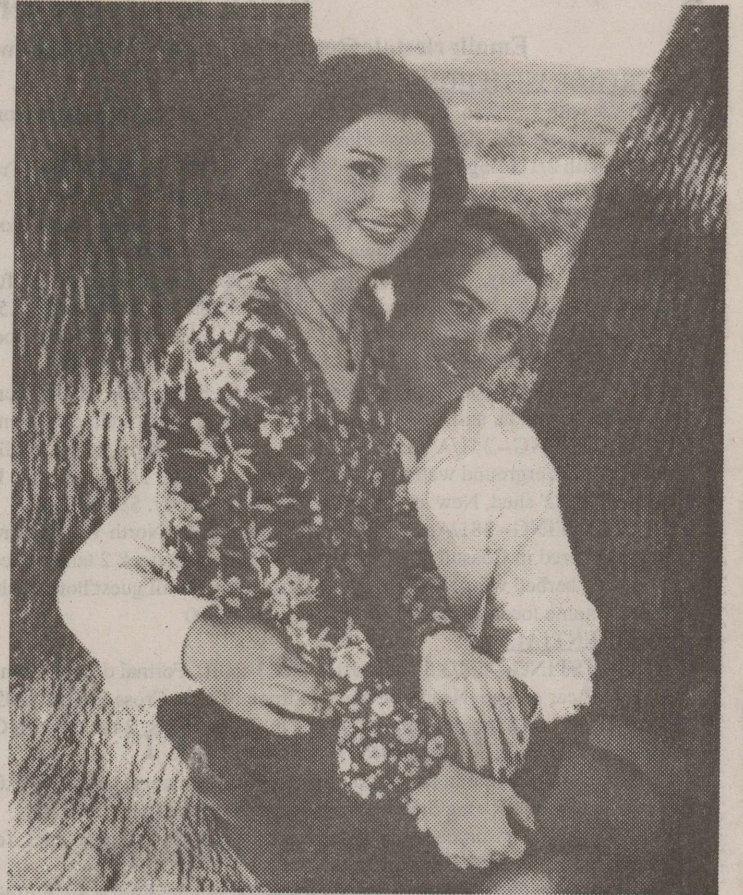
The letter explained that she was still the best and favorite teacher he ever had, But now his name was a little longer...the letter was signed, Theodore F. Stoddard, MD. The story does not end there. You see, there was yet another letter that spring. Teddy said he had met this girl and was going to be married. He explained that his father had died a couple of years ago and he was wondering if Mrs. Thompson might agree to sit at the wedding in the place that was usually reserved for the mother of the groom. Of course, Mrs. Thompson did. And guess what?

She wore the bracelet, the one with several rhinestones missing. Moreover, she made sure she was wearing the perfume that Teddy remembered his mother wearing on their last Christmas together. They hugged each other, and Dr. Stoddard whispered in Mrs. Thompson's ear, "Thank you Mrs. Thompson for believing in me. Thank you so much for making me feel important and showing me that I could make a difference."

Mrs. Thompson, with tears in her eyes, whispered back. She said, "Teddy, you have it all wrong. You were the one who taught me that I could make a difference. I didn't know how to teach until I met you. Warm someone's heart today.... pass this along."

I love this story so very much, I cry every time I read it. Just try to make a difference in someone's life today? Tomorrow? Just "do it".

8 - Cross Plains Review January 1, 2004



CONNIE STEELE AND CLARENCE GRELE

Steele-Grelle Engagement Told

Mr. and Mrs. Tony Steele of Cross Plains are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Connie Rene' Steele, to Mr. Clarence Wayne Grelle, son of Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Grelle of Priddy.

Connie is a 1994 graduate of Cross Plains High School and is currently attending school to

become a medical assistant. She is employed by Harlow's Smokehouse in Abilene.

Clarence is a 1993 graduate of Priddy High School. He is employed by Central Texas Communication in Goldthwaite.

The couple is planning a January wedding.

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Welcome Kelly Corn!

Hanner Chevrolet, Pontiac, GMC in Baird, Texas is pleased to announce further expansion of our Sales Department with the addition of Kelly Corn to our sales team. Kelly will serve as one of our sales managers.

Kelly is a native of Callahan County and is the son of Roger and Barbara Corn. Kelly, his wife and two children live in Baird. We're very excited to have Kelly on our winning sales team, so please stop by our Baird location, help us welcome him and discuss your transportation needs.

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After Christmas

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