

ADDING FINISHING TOUCHES to a piece of her decorative art work is Gruver's Merry Wright. A rocking horse ornament she finished out was selected to appear in the Smithsonian's tree display.

New record established for Manor Fund total

Another \$525 in donations to the Hansford Manor Empty Stocking Fund has swelled receipts to \$3,480 effectively doubling contributions from last year in a county community display of Christmas generosity.

'I've just been overwhelmed,' declares manor administrator Carol Hergert who oversees the fund. "It's been really neat. We received twice as much money with three times the number of people contributing as in previous years.'

The Manor Fund and the Hansford Hospital Auxiliary's Operation Christmas Greeting were community projects of the three county newspapers this holiday season with stories, lists of donors appearing in The Spearman Reporter, Hansford Plainsman and Gruver Statesman throughout December.

The largest total received in the past for the Manor Fund was just over \$1,700, according to Hergert.

Money from the M anor utilized throughout the upcoming year to help provide day-to-day amenities which would otherwise be outside the scope of these residents incomes.

"People don't really realize what they've done," notes the nursing home administrator. "It's really wonderful. This helps make our residents feel human . . . it really helps to give them a reason to keep

| on living." | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Listed below are the latest | round |
| of donations. | - Aller |
| Previous Balance \$2, | 955.00 |
| 5 Star Equipment | 25.00 |
| Mr. and Mrs. R.D. | |
| O'Loughlin | 50.00 |
| Idella Randall | 10.00 |
| Anonymous | 50.00 |
| Mr. and Mrs. Burl Buchanan | 10.00 |
| Edith Womble | 10.00 |
| Freeman Barkley | 20.00 |
| Mr. and Mrs. Sammy Jones | 50.00 |
| T.D. Sansing | 25.00 |
| Mr and Mrs Waavar | 95 00 |

SPEARERA NA TEXAS 79081 Wright's work displayed at Smithsonian . . . Artist receives national recognition

A 12-year hobby gained national recognition for Gruver's Merry Wright when an ornament she fashioned was accepted for display at the 11th annual "Tree of Christmas'' exhibition in the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

Her handmade and hand painted rocking horse ornament was one of 30 ornaments which graced the National Society of Tole and Decorative Painter's Tree at the Smithsonian.

"It is a great honor for Merry to participate," says Margy Wentz, executive director of the National Tole Society.

The solety has 35,000 members in 50 states, Canada and 14 foreign countries. Selections were limited to fewer than 600 pieces.

This year marks the third time the National Tole Society has been asked to have a tree in the exhibit.

"We were invited to take part in 1983 and again in 1985," says Wentz. "I understand it is very unusual for an organization to be asked to participate this often. I think a lot of it has to do with the popluarity of tole and decorative painting and the quality of work the Smithsonian has come to expect from our members, like Merry.'

Merry manages to work her hobby around a busy schedule which includes working full time as a secretary for Remmel Enterprises in Gruver, housework, barrell racing and, of course, roping with her husband, L.T. who is a cowboy for Holt Brothers, also of Gruver. Well traveled -- Merry is a self-

professed "Army brat" -- she brings a wealth of experience and ideas into her decorative painting work.

Hailing from Long Island, New York, Merry has also lived in

several different states in America as well as having spent time while growing up in Germany and New Foundland.

"I've always been interested in folk art but didn't get started painting on my own until 1975 when L.T. and I were living in Portland, Or.," she relates. went out and bought a few things and painted them . . . they didn't look quite right, so I took a class and I've been painting ever since."

Not only has she been painting ever since, but she continues to take classes as often as possible -when one is available and she can work it into her already busy schedule.

The Gruver woman is currently working toward her Certified Decorative Artist professional designation. Once she receives that, she plans then to work toward a master's designation.

Currently she is sharing her talents with some Hansford residents by teaching a beginners class in Gruver. This is her second beginners class.

HANSFORD COUNTY L B A

Tole, or decorative painting itself differs greatly from canvas painting, she notes.

"Tole painting actually means painting on tin, but has grown over the years to encompass everything from fantasy and folklore to more realistic work," she notes. "And it's done on wood, furniture and really almost anything. That's why they're moving to calling it decorative painting."

Work on a piece can range anywhere from five to ten hours. depending upon the complexity of the pattern and the size of the surface to be painted, Merry explains.

It really isn't all painting," she See "ARTIST", p-2



2 die as separate accidents mar Hansford County holiday season

A pair of unrelated accidents marred an otherwise quiet holiday in Hansford county last week with a Spearman man killed in an oil field accident and a Stinnett man killed in a car-truck accident.

Jerry D. Ford, 49, of Spearman was killed Dec. 23 about nine miles southwest of Perryton while checking pump jacks in an Ochiltree county field, according to Ochiltree sheriff Joe Hataway.

In the early hours of Sunday morning, Alvie Bodey, 19 of Stinnett, was killed near the intersection of highways 15 and 207 in Spearman when his car broadsided a flatbed trailer according to police reports.



was used to purchase gift items for several Manor residents whose budgets don't allow for any extras at any time of the year, much less at Christmas time.

Futhermore, the money will be

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Flowers 200.00 Claude Sheets in memory of Don Schumann 20.00 Walter and Dorothy Woolley 20.00 **Evelyn Burch** 10.00 **Ending Balance:** \$3,480.00

Mr. Ford's body was discovered late Wednesday afternoon by fel-See "ACCIDENTS", p-2

Serving Texas Farm Bureau . . . Hart ends reign as 1987 state Miss

When Gruver's Carrie Hart stepped on stage in Lubbock earlier this month at the annual Texas Farm Bureau state convention, she crowned a new Miss Texas Farm Bureau queen and officially ended her year-long reign as the Farm Bureau Miss.

The daughter of Don and Mary Hart of Gruver, Carrie is currently a sophomore at West Texas State University in Canyon where she is majoring in marketing.

Her main interests, however, lay in the field of public relations or telecommunications, an area she hopes to enter when she transfers back to Texas Tech next fall.

The petite and pretty Gruver Miss was no stranger to the competition when she claimed the Miss Texas Farm Bureau title in December, 1986.

She had already run the gamut of contests the year before, first winning the county pageant in 1985, then the district pageant and finally winding up as runner-up at the state convention in Ft. Worth in December that year.

The 1985 competition was for the 1986 title. So, in 1986, she entered again. And again she won county, then district and this time claimed the state title for her 1987 reign as Miss Texas Farm Bureau.

Her only other experience in scholarship pageants came when she was invited to enter America's Homecoming Queen Pageant in 1985.

She was one of 76 girls to compete in the contest where she won a \$300 scholarship and an all-



CARRIE HART . . . Ends Reign as Miss Texas Farm Bureau

expense paid trip to Honolulu, Hawaii.

At that competition, she placed in the top 10 finalists, a prestigious honor for the Hansford County native.

Her trips through the Farm Bureau pageants earned the Gruver High graduate another \$2,500 in scholarships and a \$500 wardrobe as well.

"It's been a wonderful experience," declares the 5-3, blue-eyed blonde from Gruver. "And the Farm Bureau people have been simply great -- they really treat you like royalty."

During her tenure as the state queen, Carrie attended a pair of conventions for the Farm Bureau, including a legislative session where she was introduced on the house floor in Austin and to the state FFA convention where she spoke to FFA members.

A 1986 graduate of Gruver High School, the talented Miss Hart was active in her school, serving as cheerleader for three years, in the school Harmony Club for three years and a member of the GHS band and choir as well as working with 1-act plays.

New school year starts Monday mom

School bells signalling the end of the Christmas-New Year's holiday period will ring at their regular times Monday morning for all students in Hansford county.

Gruver school students have been out of classes since Friday. Dec. 18 while Spearman students were let out for the holidays on Tuesday, Dec. 22. Both school systems will resume regular classes this Monday, Jan. 4, 1988.

A POST-CHRISTMAS ACCIDENT in which a 19-year old Stinnett man was killed left his 1977 Oldsmobile in a managled condition after striking a

flatbed trailer. The accident occured at the intersection of highways 15 and 207 in the early hours of Sunday morning.

30-day snow 1988 campaign features all 6 Hansford incumbents totals up to

21-inches

Another winter snow storm dumped five more inches of white powder on an already beleagured Hansford county over the Christmas holiday period, bringing the first White Christmas to the Panhandle area in over 25 years.

The latest winter storm began Thursday, Christmas Eve and ran through Saturday, the day after Christmas.

According to Dewayne Smith of KRDF-FM in Spearman, the official weather reporting station for Hansford county, precipitation from the holiday snow measured only .09 inch.

This latest snow brings to a total of 21 inches of the white powder which has fallen on the county since Thanksgiving.

During that holiday, one inch of snow was recorded. Three weeks later, the county was blasted by a 15-inch snow storm which cancelled schools for a day and left roads snow-packed and hazardous.

The holiday snow apparently attributed to a fatal accident this

The final three incumbents for county offices in Hansford threw their hats in the ring and their money in the pot in filings with their respective parties since last Wednesday, joining three others who had already filed their intent to seek re-election in 1988.

County commissioner of precinct three, B.J. Renner of Gruver, tax assessor-collector Helen Dry and 84th district judge J.E. Blackburn

past weekend in Spearman where a Stinnett man was killed in a car-truck accident at the intersection of highways 15 and 207.

While the snow has been deep, moisture totals have been light with only .01 of moisture for the Thanksgiving snow and .53 inch from the 15-inch snowfall.

Total precipitation for the 30-day period which spans Thanksgiving and Christmas measures just under three-quarters of an inch at .72 inch recorded.

Total moisture through Tuesday morning in Hansford county is now up to 26.7 inches, well eclipsing the 10-year average of 19.01 inches. have all filed their intent to seek reelection to their respective offices in the March 8 primaries.

Renner and Dry each filed with Democratic county chairman Carl Archer while Blackburn filed with the state Republican party headquarters in Austin.

Renner and Dry each paid their \$600 filing fee to get their names on the Democratic primary ballot while Blackburn's \$1,200 filing fee went to state headquarters.

The latest round of filings brings all six incumbents up for reelection into the campaigning process.

Earlier county commissioner of precinct one, Garland Head, sheriff R.L. McFarlin and county attorney John Hutchinson filed for reelection.

Head and McFarlin both filed with the Democratic party while Hutchinson switched parties this year by filing with the Republican party

Office seekers have until Monday evening at 5 p.m. to file with their respective party chairmen for any of the offices open for election in 1988.

Page 2

'New Years is a time to make resolutions." I told my friend Shorty, "like giving up liquor." "I'll drink to that," said Shorty. "Where do I go to surrender?'

H NSEO DODINT 48

THERE TAXES IN ARASH

"You can't drink as much as they make," I explained.

'No," he replied, "but I got 'em working nights.'

One of the first rules of communication is to never lecture to a guy who drinks from a sack.

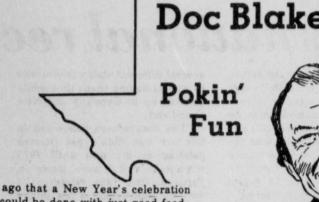
'Celebrations on New Year's Eve can be done in other ways besides drinking," I reasoned. "Name me 600," he countered.

The guy knows how to slow down a conversation. I couldn't think of

anything but wearing a party hat and blowing on a whistle. And both of those made me thirsty.

However, I learned a long time

Weekly Bible Study **Richie Fletcher's Home** 711 Womble, Gruver **Monday Evenings** 7:30 p.m. **Everyone Welcome.**"



could be done with just good food, good friends, and diet Dr. Pepper. Of course, it wasn't any fun, but that's beside the point. We should all develop the discip-

line to do without alcohol or at least use it in such moderation that we don't endanger our lives and the lives of others by drinking. I know a guy who played it safe last year, took a cab home although he had only one drink. His dog didn't recognize him sober and bit him.

You know you've had too much to drink when you blow out the candles on the New Years's birthday cake and your breath sets fire to the icing.

So as usual, I don't plan to drink to celebrate. I'm going to make a



1-800-821-5486 In Texas also call:

THE GRUVER STATESMAN

Sheriff's office warns Doc Blakely's of medi-care problems

A pair of Hansford county people have been helped by the Hansford county sheriff's office in getting insurance premiums returned when they became "uneasy" about their purchases, reports., R.L. Mc-Farlin, sheriff.

A third Hansford county resident has also contacted the sheriff's office seeking help on getting their premium back from Christian Brotherhood Insurance, a fraternal association, notes McFarlain.

Each of the three Hansford county residents had been approached by different agents representing the company. Two were from Amarillo while a third was from Borger.

According to McFarlin, the Agents were selling a medi-care supplement policy. In an article which appeared in

the Dec. 25 edition of the Lubbock Avalanche Journal, an AP wire story noted that Christian Brotherhood insurance sells policies by using a mix of old-time religion and modern marketing techniques.

In a story in the Dallas Morning News, reports there note that the Brotherhood has hired insurance agents whose licenses have been revoked by the state or who have histories of fraud, and some other Brotherhood agents are under in-

continued from p-1

ACCIDENTS

low employees of Horizon Oil and Gas, according to the sheriff's report.

"The other employees had been trying to locate him by radio several hours and they were unsuccessful," Hataway said. "They knew the pumps he had to check so they traced his route and located him.

According to authorities, the Spearman man might have been snagged by a 400 to 500 pound weight that operates in a circular motion around the pump jack.

"He was apparently checking the motor on the pump jack and it appears that the pump jack came on automatically and, as it came down, it caught him between the frame of the pump jack and the counterweight, decapitating him and killing him instantly."

Mr. Ford has lived in Spearman for the past 29 years and had been an employee of Horizon Oil and Gas since 1979.

Spearman police and DPS troop-

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1987

The Gruver Statesman

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vestigatgion by the State Board of

across is that if anybody is having

any trouble, they should contact

the sheriff's office as soon as

possible," notes McFarlin. "We'll

be happy to assist in any way we

ARTIST

laughs. "A lot of it is grunt work

like sanding the surface, facing it

Once that is accomplished, then

the painter chooses their pattern

and begins the actual process of

transferring the pattern into a work

doesn't require a special workshop

or area and can be done anywhere

from the kitchen table to a convert-

ed spare bedroom such as Merry

money invested in paints alone,"

she reports. "But if you enjoy

what you're doing, it really doesn't

So it goes with most hobbies and

Merry Wright's appears to be no

Club News

ALPHAMUPSI

Beta Sigma Phi met recently for

their annual Christmas party in the

country home of Mrs. Bob Tolle-

A brief business meeting was

held prior to the holiday festivities.

Alpha Mu Psi fed 249 hunters at

their Pheasant Hunters Breakfast.

Frank Prouty of Gruver won the 12

gauge shot gun which was raffled

off. It was decided to make

donations to the funds established

for Kyle Gordon Baker and Baby

Brax. Work shifts were decided

upon for the Chili Supper to be held

January 12, prior to the Gruver-

Spearman basketball game. Serv-

ing will begin at 4 p.m. at the First

Baptist Church and all proceeds

The Alpha Mu Psi chapter of

different in that respect.

"You can wind up with a lot of

Fortunately the painting itself

and getting it ready for the paint.'

'The main thing I want to get

Insurance.

can.

of art.

uses

matter.'

son.

continued from p-1

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Any erroneous reflection upon the character of any person or firm appearing in these columns will be gladly and promptly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the management.

Member of the Texas Press A sociation

PUBLISHER James. C. Jarrett A DVERTISING DIRECTOR

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will be donated to the Gruver City Library.

A wonderful lunch was enjoyed then gifts were exchanged between secret sisters. White elephant gifts were drawn for, then everyone left to welcome Santa Claus at the Methodist church.

Those attending were Kelly Armes, Toni Atwood, Tersa Barkley, Gail Etheredge, Cindi Ferguson, Angela Grotegut, Ginny Gro-tegut, Debbie Deeds, Pam Harris, Jody Irwin, Kristy Johnson, Marsha Lowe, Amy Tebeest, Jean Prouty, Teresa Weldon, Tonni Yanke, and our hostess Carol Tolleson.

Janie's Junk & Crafts 418 Main 733-2981 Gruver

resolution to skip all the fun stuff

and go straight to the hangover

Lately, I've been hanging over

If I wanted to do something

daring and show off my macho

mentality, I wouldn't drink, I would

really live dangerously and rip the

That may not sound dangerous

But as usual, I'll just settle for

setting the alarm at 11:59 and

running outside in my underwear

to honk the car horn. I did that last

year and created quite a stir in the

neighborhood. The alarm went

School

Menu

January 4 - 12

MONDAY

SALESBURY STEAKS W/GRAVY

MASHED POTATOES

CARROTS

VANILLA PUDDING

HOT ROLLS

MILK

TUESDAY

CHEESE SANDWICHES

TATOR TOTS

FRUIT

COOKIES

MILK

WEDNESDAY

CHICKEN PATTIES

MASHED POTATOES W/GRAVY

PEAS

CHOCOLATE CAKE

HOT ROLLS

MILK

THURSDAY

WESTERN BURGERS

CORN

and daring but it depends on who's

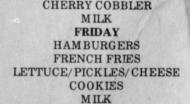
every bar stool on which I sit.

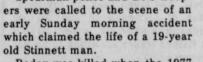
tag off a mattress.

on it at the time.

off just before noon.







Bodey was killed when the 1977 Oldsmobile he was driving struck a flatbed trailer being driven by an Amistad, N.Mex. man at the intersection of Hwy 15 and 207 in Spearman.

Bodey was traveling east on Hwy 15 while David Boggs, the truck driver, was attempting to make a turn headed west onto Hwy 15 from Hwy 207 when the accident occurred, police reports state.

The Stinnett man's car apparently slid into the west bound lane of traffic before hitting the trailer near the front. It then slid the entire length of the trailer before coming to rest, notes investigating officer Dewayne Kyle of the Spearman police department.

Bodey was pronounced dead at the scene by justice of the peace Peter Vernon of Spearman.

Funeral services for Jerry D. Ford were held Saturday at the First Baptist Church in Spearman with the Rev. Russ Gibbs officiating.

Burial was in Hansford Cemetery under the direction of Boxwell Brothers Funeral Directors.

Survivors include his wife, Charolette Martin; two daughters, Tamala Benton and Kamala Goodheart, both of Spearman; parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Ford of Snyder; Two brothers, Weldon of Abi-

lene and Leon of Odessa; two sisters, Joan Holladay and Kay Hickman, both of Snyder; and one grandchild.

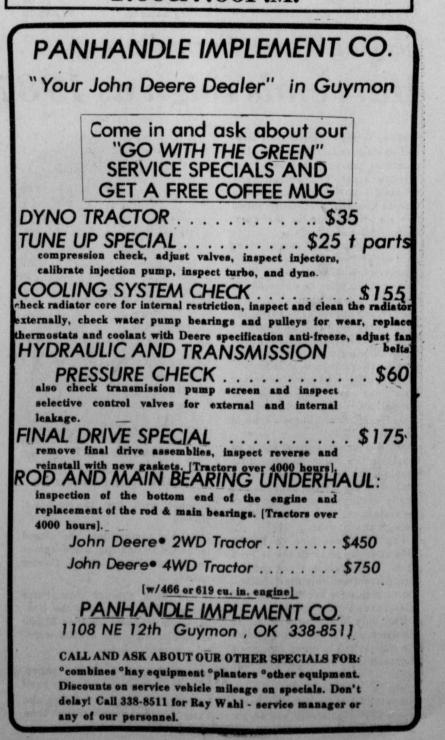
Services for Mr. Bodey were held Wednesday at West Texas high school auditorium with the Rev. Jim Spalding, pastor of Bethel Assembly of God Church in Jacksboro, officiating.

Burial was in Sunset Memorial Park by Ed Brown and Sons Funeral Home.

Mr. Bodey, born at Jacksboro. had been a Stinnett resident most of his life.

Survivors include his mother. Sybil Bodey of Stinnett; a brother, Luke Bodey of Jacksboro; and a sister, Regina Bodey of the home.

Oils on Canvas Classes Begins Mon. Jan .4th 1:00&7:00P.M.



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JOAGAGAGAGAGA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1987

Hansford students receive honor marks

Frank Phillips college announces the honor students for the fall 1987 semester.

The student on the presidents honor roll is Eva Maria Meyer of Gruver.

Students on the dean's nonor roll are Lelia Bynum, Twyla Jeanne Close of Spearman, K. Jason Rodgers, Naomi Schrayer of Morse Jennifer Sintas and Cheryl Whitefield of Spearma





MR. and MRS. WILLARD McCLOY



THE GRUVER STATESM AN

Reception honors Morse couple

Mr. and Mrs. Willard McCloy of Morse celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary Dec. 7. They were honored in November with a surprise reception while their children were all at home for a visit.

The anniversary evening began with a family dinner. Several close friends stopped by to surprise the couple and to share special memor-



used represent a dot, a dash and e end of a word or paragraph

ies about them. The evening also featured special music, photographs and mementos, and refreshments, including a cake decorated in the wedding colors of blue and white.

Hosting the reception were: Delbert McCloy of Morse; Monte and Nan McCloy, Matthew and Clinton, of Guthrie; Mike and Cheryl Peterson, Mindy and Lori, of Albin, Wy.; and Gary and Katina Clark of Waimea on the

WHEAT

мпо

CORN

Markets

\$2.57

\$2.95

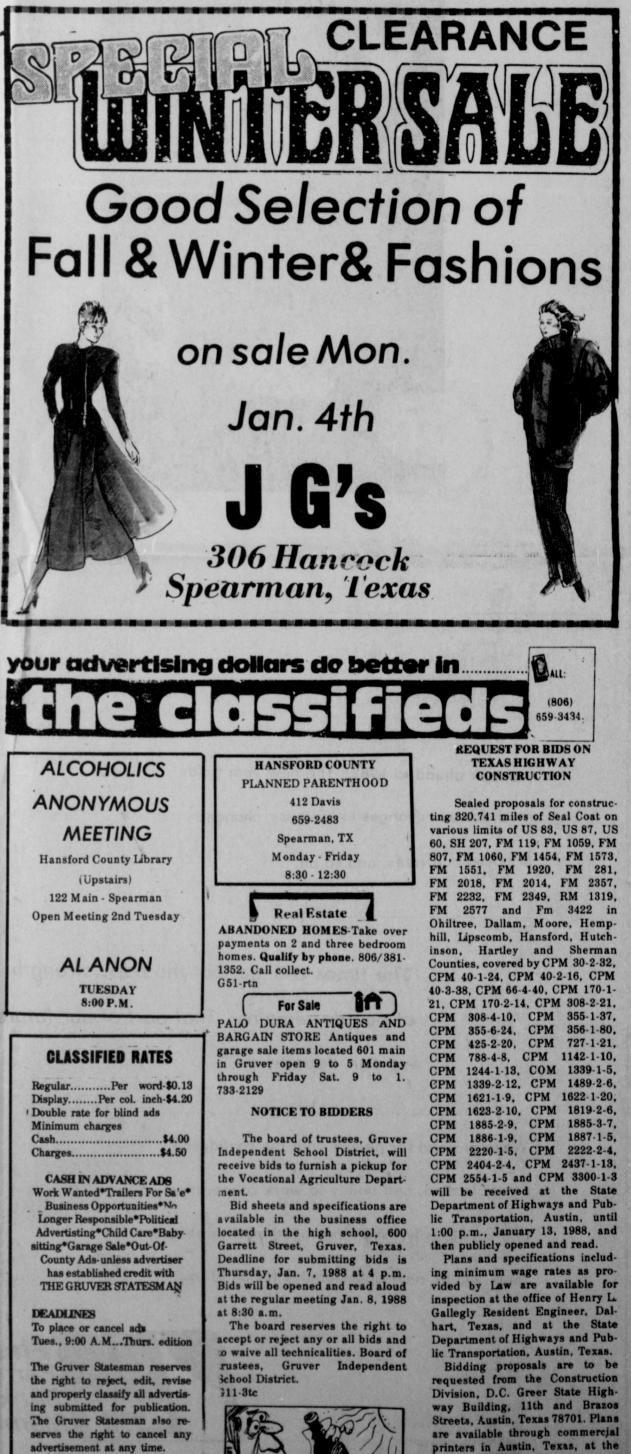
\$2.00

Big Island of Hawaii. Willard (Si) McCloy married the former Beatrice Ferguson, a Morse schoolteacher, on Dec. 7, 1947, in a ceremony at Sunnyside, Tx., her hometown. They have lived on their farm and ranch northwest of Morse since that time.

Hospital Report

Patients in the Hansford Hospital are Nadine Atchley, Viola Graves Irene Brown, Caroline Murphy, Mavis Collings, Ed Garn-

There were no dismissals from the Hansford Hospital.



out the staff of "experts".

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The Gruver States

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Gruver, Texas 79040

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THE GRUVER STATESM AN

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1987

THE NEW YEAR - LOOKING BACK . . . LOOKING FORWARD



Every year brings its own set of opportunities and problems. We look back on 1987 and remember the challenges that our area has experienced. It seems that every year, some things get a little easier, and other things get more complicated.

> "I'm convinced that people here can handle the interesting times ahead, just like they've handled other challenges."

This area has a history of measuring up to difficulties and changes. There is a strength of character that brings out the best in people. I now that First National Bank has shared 80 years of this history, and the bank is ready for many more.

Page 4

We look ahead to 1988. The new year holds

much for us - changes in business, changes

in prices and rates, and so on.

"The times change, but the basic strength of people remains. That part of our future we can depend on."

We're grateful for people with the confidence,

determination, and ability to work cooperatively

and intelligently. Working together with people,

there will be new opportunities for all of us.



CARL W. ELLIS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

