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THE VALLEY TRIBUNE

Voice of the Rolling Plains

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Quitaque First United Methodist Church To Celebrate 100th Year Anniversary

History Of First United Methodist Church
Quitaque, Texas

Story Compiled By Church Members

The First Methodist Church of Quitaque was organized on October 4, 1903 with only 13 members listed on the charter roll. Services were held in the schoolhouse. Inspired by the zeal of the young circuit rider, C. D. Pipkin, who came over from Matador to preach and give them encouragement, these few brave Christians undertook the task of organizing, supporting and helping enlarge a Methodist congregation.

In November 1904, only a year after the organization of the church, the group had increased by 21 members and had a new pastor, Rev. J. T. Hicks, who also came from Matador to serve the Quitaque Church.

With the population increasing rapidly in the fertile valley other denominations were also worshipping in the schoolhouse, so the little band decided to build a church house and to share it with other denominations.

The entire community joined in the project and in 1908 a small white building with a steeple was erected on the same site where the Methodist Church still stands. The building was ready for use early in the year of 1909 but the debt was not cleared until several years later. Everyone in the community helped with box suppers, all kinds of entertainment and other projects to raise money to clear the church debt.

In 1915 the Methodist gained a faithful worker when a young woman came from Whiteflat to Quitaque to teach school. She later became Mrs. B.H. Hughes. She helped to organize the first Women's Missionary Society and became the first president.

To be able to purchase rugs for the rostrum and aisles of the church, the ladies put on a play, "Old Maid's Convention", which got quite a bit of attention. The Society grew rapidly for a while and then died out. In 1920 it was reorganized with Mrs. W.P. Hall as president. Since then the women's work has been a big factor in the growth of the church.

W. S. Gregg was the first Sunday School Superintendent during the years that the other denominations worshipped with them. In 1917 the Methodist organized their own Sunday School Department. During the pastorate of Rev. B. E. Boyd in 1923, the church was blessed with a wonderful revival with L. N. Lipscomb of Chillicothe doing the preaching. Many members were added to the congregation.

For over 20 years the church shared its pastors with Methodist Churches in surrounding towns. In 1909 the church was transferred to the Turkey circuit and remained there until 1924. In 1925 the church was made a station with J. E. Stephens as the pastor.

A year or so later the first parsonage was built and the women began working again to make it into an attractive and comfortable home for the parsonage families that followed. In 1926 there was a Junior Society organization with 25 members.

During this period the little town of Quitaque had made great strides in growth and the denominations that shared the little white church building with the Methodists moved away and built their own churches.

In 1938 the ladies of the church began to serve the Lions Club meals. They took this project again for several years in the early '50's. They once again began to serve the Lions meals in 1984 and continue today.

The Methodist congregation had grown until it was too crowded in the small church, so in July of 1927 the little white church was razed and plans were made and sketches of a larger church building were drawn up.

Pre-Game Soft Taco Supper

There will be a soft taco supper this Friday, October 10 before the football game between Valley and Silverton.

Food will be served from 5:00 to 7:00pm in the Valley school cafeteria. Each plate will have 3 tacos, beans, salad, dessert, and tea.

Come out and support the Valley Family, Career and Community Leaders of America and stay and support the football team at

E-Mail Us
At
The Valley Tribune
vtaylor@caprock-spur.com
We Want To Hear From You!

Fall Foliage Health Fair To Be Held At Quitaque

A Health Fair sponsored by Texas Cooperative Extension, Briscoe County, the Turkey Extension Club, and the Quitaque Lions Club will be held on October 25, 2003 at the First National Bank in Quitaque from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

"This year's health fair looks like its going to be the largest yet," according to Cory Edwards, Briscoe County Extension Agent for Family & Consumer Sciences who coordinates the event, A large number of vendors have already responded and some of the services that will be offered include flu, pneumonia, and tetanus/diphtheria shots, bone density screening, cholesterol checks, blood pressure and blood sugar checks, and glaucoma screenings. In addition lots of freebies and door prizes will be given away.

Flyers will be posted at various places around Silverton, Quitaque, and Turkey with information about making an appointment for a mammogram. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity for health care and information in our area.

JUNK VEHICLES? SCRAP METAL?

Do you have junk vehicles or scrap metal that you need to get rid of? Call City Hall in Quitaque at 455-1456. Arrangements will be made to get these items removed from your property. Hurry! This offer won't last long.

Free Food Giveaway Helped 223 Area Families

A free food giveaway was held Friday, September 26, 2003 at the Bob Wills Center in Turkey. Approximately 7,000 pounds of free food was given away to 223 Quitaque, Turkey, and surrounding area families. The food was generously donated by High Plains Food Bank of Amarillo and included pie shells, pizza crusts, blueberries, and peaches. This event was coordinated by Lan Maya of Panhandle Community Services in Clarendon with the help of Cory Edwards, Briscoe/Hall County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences and Turkey City Manager Jerry Landry.

A big thanks to all those who helped pick up, hand out, carry and deliver the food.

Picture Day

Blunck's Studio photographers will be at Valley School on Tuesday, October 14.

During the morning they will be photographing the individual student pictures for grades Pre-K through Eleventh.

During the afternoon junior high and high school pep squad, cheerleaders and football players will be photographed.

Valley Calendar of Events

- October 9**
- * Turkey City Council meeting @ 7 p.m.
- * Valley Jr High vs Silverton, there @ 5 p.m.
- * Valley JV vs Silverton, there @ 6:30 p.m.
- October 10**
- * Valley Varsity vs Silverton here @ 7:30 p.m.
- October 11**
- * Mexican Stack Supper beginning at 4 p.m. at Bob Will Center Gymnasium
- * Jim Ed Brown & Helen Cornelius In Concert at Bob Will Center Gymnasium in Turkey @ 7 p.m.
- October 12**
- * Quitaque Methodist Church Celebrates 100th Year Anniversary @ 10:30 a.m.
- October 13**
- * Columbus Day - All Local, State, & Federal Offices Closed
- * Turkey Lions Club meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
- * Valley Board of Trustees meeting
- * Quitaque City Council meeting @ 5:00 p.m.
- * Quitaque Fire Department meeting
- * Quitaque Weight Watchers meeting, weigh in @ 5:15 p.m., meeting @ 5:45 p.m.
- October 14**
- * We The Women @ 12 noon
- * Flomot Do Gooders meeting
- * Turkey Lions Broom & Mop Sale @ 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- October 16**
- * Immunization Clinic (Open to The Public) at Valley School @ 10 a.m. - 12 noon & 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

October 13 - 18
Has Been Designated As

Clean-Up Week

In Quitaque

Monday, October 13 at 9 a.m.:

Workers will meet at Community Center

All Week Long:

Everyone is encouraged to clean up trash & weeds around your home

Saturday, October 18 at 9 a.m.:

Workers will meet at Community Center to complete various projects

- Bring your tools -
edgers, trimmers, rakes & hoes!

Call 455-1308 or 455-1315 for more information

"Modeling The Cure" Fashion Show Coming Back To Quitaque

By Cory Edwards, CEA-FCS, Briscoe Co.
Modeling The Cure-A Breast Health Education Style Show will be held in conjunction with the Fall Foliage Health Fair on October 25, 2003 in Quitaque.

It is sponsored by the Amarillo Area Breast Health Coalition and Briscoe County Extension's Family & Consumer Sciences Committee through a grant from Texas Tech University's Health Sciences Center. The show is a tribute to Breast Cancer Survivors and a Celebration of Breast Health Awareness. A doctor who specializes in oncology will address each model's story, speak, and answer questions.

Local breast cancer survivors will be the models for the event. Their story will be shared in an effort to raise the awareness of the importance of breast health and early detection of breast cancer, it is also a chance to honor these survivors for overcoming their battle with breast cancer.

An enchilada lunch will be served for \$5 a plate which includes a drink and dessert. Donations will also be accepted for the Briscoe County Breast Cancer Fund which has been set up to help those diagnosed with breast cancer with travel and medical expenses.

Lunch and registration will be from 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m., and the style show will begin at 12:45 p.m. in the Quitaque Community Center.

Several great door prizes donated by local vendors will be given away. If you have any questions about the show, please contact Cory Edwards at 823-2521.

Quitaque To Hold Christmas Lighting Contest

The Quitaque Chamber of Commerce is requesting local residents to start making plans to enter the Christmas Lighting contest.

Because the Trent and Wanda McKay home is in a special realm all its own, you will not be in contention with it. This is strictly a home decorating contest.

There will be designated place signs given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. There will also be a contest for the businesses with designated place signs. Winners will be announced on the 16th of December.

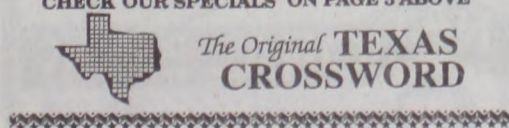
Let's make this a "glowing Christmas" and let our lights be seen from the rim of the Caprock!

Valley 9 Day Extended Forecast

DATE	FORECAST	HIGH/LO	PRECIP.
Thur. Oct. 9	Partly Cloudy	85°/59°	20%
Fri. Oct. 10	Iso. T-Storms	82°/60°	30%
Sat. Oct. 11	Sct. T-Storms	78°/54°	30%
Sun. Oct. 12	Partly Cloudy	72°/55°	10%
Mon. Oct. 13	Partly Cloudy	77°/55°	10%
Tue. Oct. 14	Partly Cloudy	76°/51°	0%
Wed. Oct. 15	Partly Cloudy	74°/51°	0%
Thur. Oct. 16	Partly Cloudy	74°/51°	10%
Fri. Oct. 17	Partly Cloudy	75°/50°	0%

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
THE VALLEY TRIBUNE
VOICE OF THE ROLLING PLAINS

THE CAPROCK CAFE
Closed On Sundays 455-1429
CHECK OUR SPECIALS ON PAGE 3 ABOVE





Muller & Curry Announce Engagement

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Muller of Littlefield announce the engagement of their daughter, Carolyn, to Jonathan Curry of Turkey-Quitaque. Jonathan is the son of Larry and Aranda Curry. Vows will be exchanged January 3, 2004 at 4 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Littlefield. Carolyn is a 1999 graduate of Littlefield High School and will graduate in December from Texas Tech University. Jonathan is a 1999 graduate of Valley High School and currently attends Texas Tech University. All family and friends of the couple are invited to attend.

Panhandle Community Services Again Awarded Top State Honors

Panhandle Community Services was recently awarded the honor of Number 1, in the state of Texas for assisting persons achieve self-sufficiency. The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs bestows monetary awards to top community action agencies that have transitioned persons out of poverty. This is the 12th year in a row that Panhandle Community Services has won this coveted award.

Quitaque Chamber Plans Christmas Events

By Arlene Hinkle
The Quitaque Chamber of Commerce met Tuesday, October 7. There were 6 members present. President Phil Barefield explained the Texas Yes! program which is free and open to communities of 20,000 or less. Members will be able to use logo, receive newsletter, e-mail for workshops, etc., inclusion in database, and be involved in marketing opportunities to promote Texas. Applications may be picked up from Caprock Public Library. A photography contest was suggested, but tabled for further discussion. The Hello Neighbor Luncheon will be in Plainview at the Ollie Linder Center on Friday, October 17 at 11:45 a.m. All are welcome, but make reservation by Wednesday, October 15 if you plan to attend. Call 1-806-296-7431 to make reservations. Work is in progress on Day Trip to Quitaque. Phil has done quite a bit of work on this. Best of Co-Op Country Contest. Where you vote for your favorite State Park, Barbeque, County Courthouse, Volunteer Fire Department, Chicken Fried Steak, etc.. Pick up application at Library. Saturday October 25, Quitaque will have it's annual Health Fair at the First National Bank in Quitaque. A Style Show/Luncheon will be held at the community center at 12 noon. All models will be cancer survivors. Caprock Country Christmas will be held on Saturday, December 6. Verla Barrett is Chairman of this project. There will be a breakfast with Santa, gift bags, photos, Poker Run with local businesses, Christmas Lighting contest, Christmas Candy Contest, and maybe Arts/Crafts booths. Plans will be finalized at the November meeting. Remember, new brochures are in the planning stages & the City Wide Clean-Up day is on October 13.

WINDMILL COLLECTIQUES, Etc.
204 W. MAIN ST. - TURKEY, TEXAS 79261 (806) 423-1349

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MON. - FRI. / 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
806-455-1374 AFTER HOURS 1-806-293-2270
Dr. Ontai, MD Don Turner, MA & EMS

Obituaries

Richard Dale Ray

Richard Dale Ray, 26, died at the scene Sunday, September 28 after hitting a horse on State Highway 207, seven miles south of Silverton. Services were conducted Wednesday morning, Oct. 1, at the Silverton United Methodist Church. Officiating was the associate pastor, Rev. Ed Norris and the pastor, Rev. Rance Young. Graveside services were scheduled for Friday, Oct. 3, 2003, in the Oaklawn Memorial Gardens in Olathe, Kansas. Mr. Ray was born March 31, 1977 in Olathe, Kansas. He grew up there and was graduated from Olathe North High School in 1995. He married Stephanie Oliver July 11, 1997, in Miami, Oklahoma. He coached Little League baseball for several years. He obtained his certification as an Emergency Medical Technician in 2003. He was working toward becoming a Paramedic. He was a member of the Silverton Volunteer Ambulance Service. Survivors include his wife, Stephanie Ray of Silverton; his daughter, Kali Ray of Silverton; his mother and step-father, Diane and Mike Norris of Silverton, and his maternal grandparents, Dale and Donna Ray of LaCygne, Kansas. Memorials may be made to Kali's Trust Fund, P. O. Box 373, Silverton, Texas 79257. (Obituary taken from the Briscoe County News)



Betty Jane Hawkins

Betty Jane Hawkins of Terrell, born February 13, 1937, passed away October 6, 2003. Services were held Wednesday October 8, 2003, at the Galloway Avenue Baptist Church, 1930 N. Galloway, Mesquite. Interment will be in Resthaven Cemetery in Quitaque, TX, Friday October 10, 2003 @ 11:00AM. She was a member of Galloway Avenue Baptist Church and a loving mother and grandmother who ministered to all she knew. Betty was preceded in death by her father, John King, brother, Johnny Wayne King, and grandchild, Lauren Vercher. She is survived by her mother, Ruby King of Quitaque; brother, Jerry King; sister, Joyce Price; daughter, Beth Vercher & husband Bob; sons, Troy Hawkins, Coy Hawkins & wife, Sharla; grandchildren, Paula & Blair Vercher; Zachary & Tanner Cole, Amy, Aleigh & Emma Hawkins.

Free Blood Pressure/Blood Sugar Clinic

Texas Cooperative Extension, Briscoe County is collaborating with Linda Moore, RN of the South Plains Health Provider Briscoe County Community Clinic in Silverton to provide a free blood pressure/blood sugar clinic. The clinic will be held in the basement of the Briscoe County Courthouse on Wednesday, October 15, from 9:00 a.m. to approximately 11:00 a.m.. Everyone is invited to take advantage of this free service!

The Valley Tribune
at
vtaylor@caprock-spur.com
Let Us Hear From You!

Broom & Mop Sale

The Turkey Lions Club Broom & Mop Sale will be Tuesday, October 14 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in front of Turkey Automotive Supply. This money goes to help the blind. Please come by and see all the items they will have for sale.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

October 9
Rick Mareum, Shawn Williams
October 10
Don Taylor, Oleta Randell
October 12
Brenda Smith, Martha Bradshaw
October 13
Jason Powell, Rose Castillo, Estelle Lane, Cade Lange, Kevin Carter
October 14
Fredia Fuston, Ginger Morgan, Galen Saul, Belinda Barrett
October 15
Joann Reagan, Janice McBee, Rachel Kay Hancock, Chastity Lane, Haley Wheeler
October 16
Elena Fierro, Briana Sperry, Buster Chadwick,

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

October 11
Mr & Mrs Walt Rice
October 12
Mr & Mrs Joe Taylor
October 12
Mr & Mrs Felix Ortiz

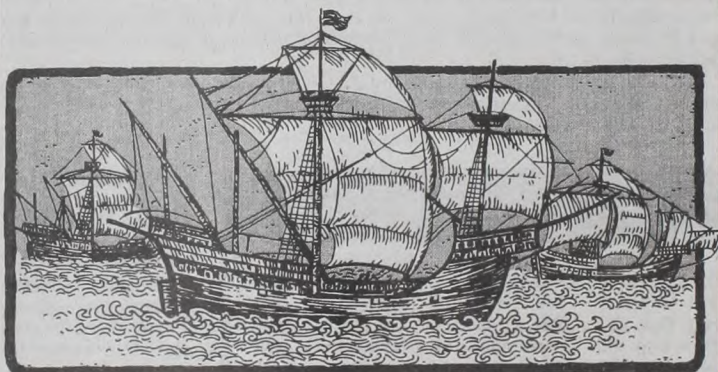
MEMBER 2003
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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Midway Drive-In
SHOWING OCTOBER, 11th
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Adults \$4.00 ~ 12 & under \$2.00
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Movie Starts at Dark!
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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14th

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QUITAQUE

VALLEY PATRIOT FOOTBALL

2003

HEAD FOOTBALL COACH
Bret Tyler

ASST. FOOTBALL COACHES
Thomas Clay
Greg Ramsey
Stewart Smith

SUPERINTENDENT
Jerry Smith

PRINCIPAL
Jon Davidson

CHEERLEADERS
Katherine Pigg
Chelsea Wheeler
Paige Hughes
Alicia Roys
Macy Davidson
Molly Davidson

MASCOT THE PATRIOT
Larrisa Payne

CHEERLEADER SPONSOR
Shadi Buchanan

PEP SQUAD SPONSOR
Lisa Farley

PATRIOT MANAGERS
Seth Fuston
Mitchell Farley
Bryce Regan



2003
VALLEY PATRIOT HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL ROSTER

Player	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Pos.
Rodney Fuston	5-8	210	Sr	C-DE
Chase Manard	6-0	170	Sr	QB-LB
Adam Ortiz	5-9	180	Sr	OE-DE
Douglas Payne	5-11	170	Sr	OE-DB
Ramiro Ramos	6-0	220	Sr	OE-DE
Juan Regalado	6-1	175	Sr	OE-DB
Kellan Roberts	5-8	165	Sr	RB-LB
Frankie Rodriguez	5-7	190	Sr	RB-DE
Cliff Yeary	5-9	195	Sr	RB-LB
Anthony Orúz	6-2	175	Sr	OE-DE
Jorge Alanis	5-8	160	Jr	OE-DE
Albert Espinoza	5-9	185	Jr	RB-LB
Jake Maupin	5-6	150	Jr	OE-DE
Zack Ramsey	5-8	165	Jr	QB-LB
Fidel Valdes	5-9	175	Jr	RB-LB
Matt Whittington	5-7	155	Jr	OE-DE
Cody Barrett	5-10	165	So	QB-DB
Alex Espinoza	5-11	165	So	RB-DE
Randy Farley	5-10	250	So	C-DE
Chance Maynard	5-6	135	So	OE-DE
Ruben Ramos	5-10	210	So	OE-DE
Fernando Regalado	5-8	155	So	RB-LB
Derek Roys	5-8	160	So	RB-BD
Charlie Walden	6-1	175	So	OE-DE
Fannin Gwynn	5-8	175	Fr	C-E
Matt Dozer	5-6	210	Fr	RB-E
Maguel Santes	5-10	160	Fr	OE-DE
Jake Glass	5-5	130	Fr	E-CB



2003 VALLEY PATRIOT FOOTBALL TEAM
CHEELEDERS & MASCOT

2003 Valley Jr. High Football Schedule

Sept. 4 Aspermont	T - 5:00
Sept. 11 Meadow	H - 5:00
Sept. 18 OPEN	
Sept. 25 Spur	T - 5:00
Oct. 3 Cotton Center	H - 5:00
Oct. 9 Silvertown	T - 5:00
Oct. 16 Patton Springs	T - 5:00
Oct. 23 Happy	H - 5:00
Oct. 30 Hedley	T - 5:00
Nov. 6 Motley Co.	H - 5:00

2003 Valley J.V. Football Schedule

Aug. 29 Benjamin(V)	H - 7:30
Sept. 4 Aspermont	T - 6:30
Sept. 11 Meadow	H - 6:30
Sept. 18 OPEN	
Sept. 25 Spur	T - 6:30
Oct. 3 Cotton Center(V)	H - 7:30
Oct. 9 Silvertown	T - 6:30
Oct. 16 Patton Springs	A - 6:30
Oct. 23 Happy	H - 6:30
Oct. 30 Silvertown	H - 6:30
Nov. 8 Patton Springs	H - 6:30

2003 Valley Varsity Football Schedule

Aug. 30 Blum	@Bryson - 4:00
Sept. 5 Aspermont	H - 7:30
Sept. 12 Meadow	T - 7:30
Sept. 19 Follett	T - 7:30
Sept. 26 Spur (#)	H - 7:30
Oct. 3 OPEN	
Oct. 10 Silvertown*	H - 7:30
Oct. 18 Patton Springs*	H - 7:30
Oct. 24 Happy*	T - 7:30
Oct. 31 Hedley*	H - 7:30
Nov. 7 Motley Co.*	T - 7:30

(#) - Valley Homecoming Game
* - District Games

VALLEY PATRIOTS VS SILVERTON OWLS AT VALLEY
Friday, October 3, 2003
At 7:30 P.M.

Valley Peanut Growers Inc.
423-1484

Lighthouse Electric Co-op Inc.
1-800-657-7192

Quitaque Producers Co-op Inc.
455-1388

Turkey Branch Memphis State Bank
423-1321

Payne Pharmacy
806-983-5111

Higginbotham Bartlett Lumber Co.
347-2445

Valley Booster Club

City of Turkey
423-1033

City Auto Inc.
1-888-248-9288

Danny Mayfield & Associates
1-800-572-1870

Debbie's Beauty Shop
455-1305

Lacy's Too
423-1442

Midway Drive-In
423-1414

Valley Farm Store
455-1105

Flomot Gin
469-5294

Thayer & Washington CPA
455-1087

Turkey Automotive
423-1366

City Bank Silvertown
806-823-2426

Merrell Food
455-1282

Oden Chevrolet/Olds
800-570-3787

Caprock Cellular
806-271-3344

Quitaque Motors
455-1226

Galvans Resturant
423-1320

Jimmy & Clara Ruth Davidson

Jerry & Brenda Smith

Jon, Laura, Molly, Macy, and Mary Kate Davidson

Bryan, Shadi, Kameron, and Kennadee Buchanan

Wilburn & Zelda Leeper

The Sportsman Cafe
455-1200

Johnson Gin
806-823-2224

Griffin Oil Company
455-1250



Hammond Sheet Metal
806-983-2849

The Valley Tribune
455-1101

Silvertown Oil Company Inc.
806-823-2451

Lacy Dry Goods
423-1155

Caprock Home Center
455-1193

Caprock Telephone Cooperative Inc.
1-800-692-4242

Red Ball Gin
806-348-7221

Turkey General Store
423-1330

Caprock Cafe
455-1429

Jack's Automotive
455-1243

Lee's Insurance
423-1020

Karol's Kountry Korner
455-1174

Just Because
455-1410

Laura's Shop
423-1222

First National Bank Quitaque
455-1441

Ronald & Jackie Carpenter



Henry House, 86, of Turkey caught these 4-5 lb Rainbow Trout on a recent family fishing trip at Las Vegas NM.



Audra (House) Smith caught this 5 lb Rainbow Trout in Las Vegas, NM as three generations gathered for a 40 year family tradition of fishing..

Texas Department of Health
Flu Vaccination Clinics
 Thursday, October 16
 Valley School
 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
 &
 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm



This Week's Movie In Review

Secondhand Lions

Drama :1 hr. 51 min.
 Set in 1960s Texas, this is the story of a timid teenager, Walter (Osment), forced to spend the summer by his irresponsible mother (Sedgwick) with his eccentric (and recently rich) great-uncles (Caine and Duvall) on their farm, as he learns more about their mysterious and dangerous pasts, which we see as flashbacks.
 MPAA Rating: PG for thematic material, language and action violence.
 Starring: Haley Joel Osment, Michael Caine, Robert Duvall, Kyra Sedgwick, Nicky Katt

THE SPORTSMAN CAFE
 EVERYDAY 11:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.
LUNCH BUFFET
 OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!
 11:00 A.M. till 10:00 P.M.
 FRIDAY - FAJITAS UNTIL 10:00 P.M.
 SATURDAY - RIBS & SAUSAGE UNTIL 10:00 P.M.

NEXT OF KIN By Clint Harmon

RIM ROCK CANYON By Clint Harmon

A Look Into The Past
Letters Of A West Texas Pioneer Girl

Introduction By Lynette Barefield
 Born in 1881 soon after the conclusion of the Civil War and living well into the age of space travel, Dora Merrell Stroup saw many changes in her lifetime.
 The year that Dora was born, planning had begun on the Texas capitol building in Austin. When Dora was two years old, the University of Texas at Austin opened its doors.
 In 1888, the year that the state capitol was completed, seven-year-old Dora moved with her family from San Saba to west Texas. The family first moved to Yellow-house Canyon, then to Callahand draw (southwest of Floydada), and finally to the Quitaque River.
 The Merrell family lived in an era that included travel by wagon to settle the frontier, fearing Indian raids, and dealing with "land jumpers." At 84 years of age, Dora Merrell Stroup undertook the task of writing her memoirs - a gift to her brothers, sisters, and children.
 This book of memoirs was inherited this year by a nephew, Jake Merrell of Quitaque, and he has enthusiastically agreed that they should be published for our enjoyment.
 A hearty "Thank You" goes to Mrs. Stroup's entire family for preserving this journal. And Jake Merrell's willingness to share Mrs. Stroup's memoirs is gratefully acknowledged.
 Note - some of the text was unreadable, and where the missing text seemed to be fairly obvious from its context, it will be seen in parenthesis (). Where the missing text could not be determined, there will be a question mark inserted (?).
 The story is presented exactly as Mrs. Stroup wrote it. Corrections or changes were not made to the original text, simply because it was not necessary for clarity.

Dora Merrell Stroup Born March 7, 1881 & Passed away Jan 23, 1966

Memories from years of 7 to 17
 Written by Dora Stroup 1965.
 Given to her children, brothers, sisters Christmas 1965.
 In these many years that have gone by, there has been many changes, many happy memories, many sad memories we would like to erase. God has been good to give us a new day as sure as the sun comes up, to make a better life now as we stand on the brink of the year of 1965. Soon we will enter a new year, lets remember God is still on his throne. Lets try hard to make 1966 a better place to live. Wrote for those I love.

(Handwritten is the following:)
 I know no two of us are alike. We may have the same parents, live in the same house, eat at the same table, and still our lives are different from our brothers and sisters. I have often wondered if anything in my life time has been interesting enough to pass on. Perhaps as you read this, you will conclude that I have not wondered in vain.
 I am the daughter of Alex and Mary Merrell. He was a stock man and farmer. Both of my parents were born in Missouri. I remember mother saying several times that she came through Fort Worth with her parents, brothers, and sisters.
 At that time there was only one house there. It answered for a post office, store, and home. I believe they settled in Edwards County. There my mother met my father. On November 27, 1873, they married. Three children were born to them there. Around 1880, they moved to San Saba. They settled on the San Saba River. It is now called Baker Valley after a man named Baker who had a corn and flour mill on the river. It was run by the power of the water from the river.
 My parents and friends cleared the timber to make the field and cut logs and to build their first home there. My brother, sister, and I were born there in the log cabin. We lived there until we moved to the Plains. The river banks were very pretty. The banks were lined with pecan and other timber.
 I believe they lived in a tent while the log house was being built. The plan of the house was very simple. It had one large room with a small room built beside it. Later Father built a large wooden room called a boxed and stripped house with a small room adjoining it. Each big room had a rock fireplace. All of the doors were home made. There were no locks. Each door was closed with a latch. At night the latches that opened and closed the doors were brought inside. When morning came the latch string was pushed outside. The string was usually made of buckskin. The log house had two glass windows. The plank room had only wooden shutters. A wide hall was between the houses.
 At the east of the house a large cistern was sunk. Large live oak trees shaded it. Sometimes the cistern would go dry and they would have to haul water from the river to fill it up. There was a large live oak at the north of the house where we played many a day. The old house was burned down now. Nothing but the stumps of the trees, the old cistern, and some rocks from the chimney is left to tell the fate.
 We lived closest to the little Baker school house. Mother usually boarded the school teacher. The only one I remember is Miss Fanny Woodford. She lived in Galveston. Her mother died when she was a little child. She used to tell us about her Negro nurse. She said the nurse did most everything for her. She helped her put her clothes on and combed her hair til she was a young woman.
 She was my first teacher. I had visited the school many a time, but the first day for me at school I cried. The teacher told me she would let Jane, my sister, take me home. I said, "Oh, I can go home by myself. I am not afraid." She was disgusted with me. I was not afraid to go home alone but too big a baby to stay at school all day. Anyway, she sent me home with poor little Jane along by my side.
 There was another school just across the river from us. We went to Sunday school and church there. It was only a short ways if we could walk, but we had to cross the river. Mother said she would rather walk to Sunday school and church than harness a team and drive all the way down to the ford to cross. The hired man told her he would cut a footlog. That pleased mother. So he cut a tall tree on the bank of the river for us to cross on. How I dreaded to cross the trunk of that tree to go to Sunday school and church. I was fine after I reached the limbs on the tree. From there on it was fun. I won a little red pitcher and a white mug for having good lessons and good conduct. I still have the little white mug, but it is minus the handle. I knocked the picture off the table and it broke to pieces.
 I never went to school there but Lizzie, Bill and Jane did. I am told that one of the four girls that went to school with them still lives there.
 Back to the San Saba school. Miss Fanny taught there for a long time. She came to Floyd County and taught one term of school in our home. We enjoyed that term of school very much. She then went back to Galveston and wrote often.
 Then in the fall of 1900, the Galveston storm came. We never heard from her anymore. Mother wrote but the letters came back. Mother tried to hard to learn of her where abouts. She wrote the people that knew her. They tried to get n touch with her also. Finally we decided that she was one of the many hundreds that met their death in the storm.
 To Be Continued In The Next Edition Of The Valley Tribune

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