

Panhandle patriots help win World War II.

Editor's note: This week we reprise our Hansford County Centennial Series, beginning with the sixth decade (1940-1949) of history. Today's article concentrates on World War II events which involved Hansford County residents both at home and abroad. Due to the length of time historical research demands and the stringent deadlines the newspapering business requires, the Series is necessarily limiting itself to coverage of a few significant events each decade. It is not our intent to knowingly or unwittingly omit any individual's own story and therefore we continue to cordially invite all readers to contribute their own information to the Centennial Series by contacting the newspaper during regular business hours.

by Jean Ann Behney

Hansford County of the 1930's had weathered the beating of a two-fisted giant--the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression--only to find itself facing the unsettling lull before an even greater storm: World War II. It was as though this county and others like it in the Texas Panhandle took a deep breath of clean air, standing poised on the promise of progress and prosperity, while distant thunderclouds, whole oceans away, foreshadowed the United States' war years to come. Once again, the exigencies of events beyond mere man's control were to demand great sacrifice and life-altering adjustments on the part of young Hansford County and its residents.

It was easy to ignore faraway Adolf Hitler and his step-by-step conquests in Europe in the late 30's, for this county had crops to make and growing towns to nurture. If there were mutterings around the Westerfield Dry Goods

Store's counters or at Hale Drug, they were of a non-interventionist nature. Local folks, remembering World War I and still shaking off the Dirty Thirties, had no interest in jumping into "somebody else's fight."

"Hitler was becoming a household name, synonymous with Satan himself," comments one Spearman resident who went on to join the Army during World War II. "but so long as this country wasn't threatened; people around here just wanted to get on with things...get out of debt from the lean years and get the kids educated."

Local newspaper coverage of the events in Europe and Japan's simultaneous attack on China gradually got more and more column space as the international situation worsened in the late 30's and 1940. Franklin D. Roosevelt eased this country into the situation with his arms build-up and his Lend-Lease Policy, but continued to promise not to send "our boys" to war. Americans noisily voiced their conflicting views--some wanted intervention, some isolationism and still others involvement of a non-military nature. Hansford County seemed to be split between total non-involvement and non-military involvement, if newspaper editorializing and the memories of a handful of local citizens are used as evidence, but this changed drastically on December 7, 1941.

"Most of us heard about Pearl Harbor on the radio," says Gruver resident and World War II veteran O.V. Walker. "But I was already in Houston in the Army Air Force, because the draft had been instituted a year before." (Walker enlisted and was sent to Houston's Ellington Field to work as a mechanic.) When the news of the Pearl Harbor attack broke, he was on base doing KP duty. He recalls

that a young man in the kitchen wept when he heard the radio news, because he had just arrived in Texas from Hickham Field at Pearl Harbor that week and had left behind all his buddies. According to Walker, base security tightened immediately, as no one could be certain that a direct attack on the U.S. would not follow immediately. "They even rolled out all the old World War I machine guns and set them up around the field as decoys...but there was no ammunition for them!" he says.

Newly widowed and the mother of an infant son, Spearman's Helen Buchanan Fisher was basking in her sisters' admiration of her baby when her mother, Mrs. J.H. Buchanan came in the room with "such a strange look on her face." "She simply said, 'The Japanese have just bombed Pearl Harbor'" Helen remembers, and we sat in stunned silence until we all went to the radio to listen to the newscasts."

Ruth Wilbanks Bryan said her family was sitting around the radio during Sunday dinner when the news broke. "I got a sinking feeling, and so did the others," she comments quietly. "The first thing I thought of was that my husband would be going off to war."

Glen Watley, who was a 14-year-old boy at that time, came into his house only to have his parents tell him about Pearl Harbor. "Sure, everybody was kind of mad," he says, "but kind



Spearman residents and World War II veterans Floyd Close and Ed Garner page through Close's scrapbook of war memorabilia.

of subdued, too. I think the men were all making their resolve to join the fight. Two years later Glen lied about his age with his father's approval and enlisted in the Navy as a 16-year-old. Adding a year or two to one's age or even shaving off a few was anything but

a rare occurrence in the rush to the enlistment office, and several pairs of fathers and sons found themselves in the same line, as in the case of Will J. Miller and Billy Miller.

If Pearl Harbor caught this country unprepared, it did at least

cause an instantaneous, overwhelming unification of its citizenry. Suddenly, everyone wanted the chance to serve his country and the declaration of war against

see WAR, p. 5

Palo Duro River Authority meets; accepts services

The Palo Duro River Authority met in regular session on June 13 at 2 p.m. in the Pittman-Shield-knight Building.

The board accepted bids on a mower and tractor, but tabled making a decision on which bid to accept. They did pass an order to pay small claims at the time they are presented, up to \$500.

A contract from RioGroup in Austin was accepted for architectural and historical services. This company will take pictures and make drawings of the historical houses that are in the reservoir

area. Before the dam could be built a 404 permit had to be obtained from the Core of Engineers of the Federal Government. One of their laws requires that the pictures and drawings be taken.

Members of the Palo Duro River Authority are: Kenneth Evans and Robert Novak, of Spearman; J.C. Harris and Tommy Joe Bergin, of Gruver; Bruce Titus, of Stinnett; Howard Kiedrichsen, Arthur Davidson, Orval Allen, and J.W. Buchanan, of Dumas; and Johnnie Lee, General Manager.

Murrell signs track letter with SMU

by Jim Lexy

[permission of Amarillo Globe News]

The ability to feel needed factored greatly into Spearman's Heather Murrell's decision to attend Southern Methodist University on a track scholarship.

Murrell, who won four consecutive Class 2A state championships in the 400, should help a fledgling SMU women's track program that has just begun to offer full scholarships. Murrell took third in the 100 hurdles at the state meet in her junior and senior years. She also took eighth in the state cross country meet as Spearman won the team title last fall.

Murrell is one of two area girls recently to sign with a Southwest Conference university. Canyon's Cathryn Crowder, a two-time state meet qualifier in the 100 hurdles, has decided to attend Baylor University.

SMU has just finished its fourth season fielding a women's track team. The university recently hired away Dave Woolman from Stanford as the team's head coach.

"I like Dallas a lot," Murrell said. "SMU's a very prestigious school. I feel I can get my education there and it will be beneficial to me to be in Dallas. They (coaches) just kind of made me feel that they really needed me."

Murrell said it will be new



HEATHER MURRELL

experience joining a program that's trying to get its feet off the ground. She said she probably will compete in the 400 hurdles, maybe the 400 individual and "someday when they get enough people I'll be in the mile relay."

In addition to SMU, Murrell had strongly considered Auburn, and also had Texas and Texas A&M high on her list.

There were tons of schools that called and sent letters and I was in touch with," Murrell said.

Wrecking crew at work . . .

Junior High dynamited

Dynamiting of the Spearman Junior High School began this past Monday, June 12. The job will take approximately 3 - 4 weeks, and the crew is from Midwest Wrecking Company out of Oklahoma City.

Basically, what they are doing now is making a separation between the East and West halves. They are doing this by hand. The last half will then be completely destroyed afterwards, using the larger equipment.

So the hand-laborers are working now, taking the building down all the way to the ground, separating the two halves.

The job should be finished by the middle of July. A parking lot will replace the torn-down portion of the building.



The Spearman Junior High School is starting to show the efforts of the wrecking project done by a crew from Oklahoma.

Airport Advisory

Board administers

oath of office

The Airport Advisory Board of the City of Spearman met June 14, at 3:00 p.m.

The oath of office was administered to Ralph Blodgett, as Chairman, and Mike Schnell, as Vice Chairman. Both men are serving 3-year terms on the board.

Serving 2-year terms on the board are Kerry Henton, Clark Bridges, and Larry Widener.

The board discussed putting unused land that is around the airport into the Conservation Reserve program.

A status report on the airport improvement project, the Federal Aviation Administration grant program, was discussed.

Police TV network readied for hook-up

The Spearman Police Department is ready to hook up to the Law Enforcement Television Network as soon as a cable is run from the Court House to the police station.

Chief Joe Raper is the coordinator of the Spearman Police Department for all training and procedures administered by the department. Chief Raper is a fire arms instructor. He will be coordinating training of firearms.

Sergeant Steve Schmidt-Witcher is qualified as an instructor to teach LETN through

TCLEOSE, Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education; this is a division in Austin that governs what is to be taught. It is like a board of directors for officers. They regulate how many hours an officer must have and what he is to be taught.

Sgt. Schmidt-Witcher received his training certificate at Pampa in 1987. An officer must have 5 years experience before he can take a training course. Then he can only teach what college hours he has training in or what he has 5 years of experience in. Sgt. Schmidt-Witcher has taught patrol pro-

cedures, traffic direction, and mechanics of arrest at TSTI while he was an investigator for TSTI. Students from the Law Enforcement Academy at Amarillo College would come to TSTI for training.

Police Station Activity reports:
Arrests-3 June 1 - June 15
Disturbances-8
Suspicious activities-6
Sick cared for-1
Public services-10
Alarms-5 (problems mostly weather related
Accidents-4
Also several animal control situations.

You are invited to a

Wedding Shower

Honoring

D'Lynn Orr

Bride Elect of

Todd Roberts

2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

1115 S. Bernice

Given by Hostesses

Selections at Sack's & ChaLor's



Among the Neighbors

by Helen Fisher

Mr. and Mrs. Owen Pendergraft attended the funeral for Jimmy Blair, 79, of Balko, on Tuesday. It was held in Hardesty at the high school auditorium. He was a retired school teacher and farmer. He was also the husband of one of the five schoolmates of Olive (Mrs. Pendergraft), who held an annual reunion since 1933.

Blanche Greene is wearing that proud, grandmotherly expression as a result of learning that her grandson, Trent Vernon, was selected one of 12 students in a nation-wide essay contest. He will go to Japan for eight weeks this summer.

He will fly to Seattle on June 20 and then to Kawachinadano where he will live with a family that includes some teenagers.

Trent is the 16 year old son of Joan and Eldon Vernon of Amber, Okla., and is also the grandson of Ivan Allen.

A bunch of kids attended the Ringling Bros. Circus in Amarillo on Wed. They left about 10 a.m., had lunch at the "All the Fixin's" restaurant, attended the afternoon performance, and were back home before curfew.

Those having a fun afternoon were Gertrude Archer, Jane Meek, Jetty and Willard Davis, their two grandchildren, Eddie Largent, Altha Kirk, Helen Etter and their chaperon and driver, Pearl Pierce.

Vi Whitson is savoring the

enjoyment of a week in Albuquerque as her daughter, Ann, and James Nagel, brought her home the first of the week. They were in Spearman for the Hansford Roundup and took her home with them.

Charlotte and Keith Martin took their son, Keith, and his friend, Matt Tucker, on a Caribbean Cruise as a graduation gift.

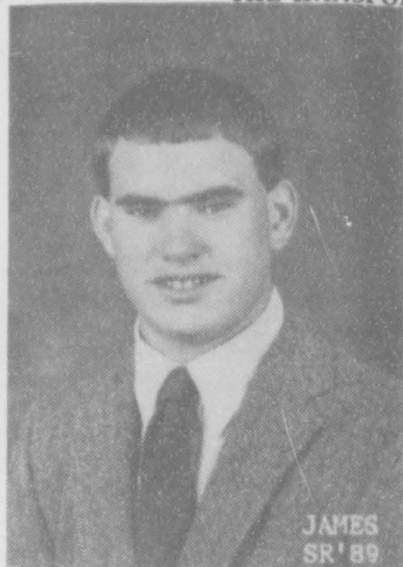
They flew to Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. and took passage on one of the Carnival Line cruise ships for the Bahamas. They spent several days in Nassau and Freeport with beautiful weather. The last night was a little rough with a stormy condition.

Keith is back at work at the A.S.C.S. office and Charlotte at Kid's Stuff.

Mary Sue Ragsdale is here for several days visiting her parents, Paul and Betty Hazlewood. Mary Sue teaches in Brownfield and will be taking some summer courses soon.

Catherine and Darell Edwards concluded a short stay with her parents, Don and Wanda Smith, on Fri. They had driven through from their home in Carolstream, Ill., a suburb of Chicago and made stops in Kansas and New Mexico. They will visit other relatives in Oklahoma.

Darell is a banker and Catherine is an opera singer.



JAMES WARREN TINDELL

Tindell awarded Gibner Memorial Scholarship

James Warren Tindell, son of Rusty and Judy Tindell of Spearman, has been awarded the C.A. Gibner Memorial Scholarship for 1989. James will be attending Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Tx. and enrolling in Agricultural Business.

The C.A. Gibner Memorial Scholarship is open to any student in Hansford County.

The scholarship was established in 1988 by the Spearman Chamber of Commerce in memory of Clay Gibner, Spearman resident and banker. Donations can be made to the scholarship fund by contacting Verna Lee Shirley, First State Bank, or Cora Queener at the Spearman Chamber of Commerce.

Plant specialist to visit Spearman

Extension plant pathologist, Dr. Harold Kaufman, of Lubbock, will be in Spearman, Tuesday, June 20th to help identify problems homeowners may be having with plants, trees, gardens or lawns.

Plants may be brought to the Extension office, located in the basement of the courthouse, between the hours of 11 a.m. and noon on that day. Dr. Kaufman will be available from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. to make house calls for anyone wanting him to do so.

Please call the Extension office at 659-2136 or 733-2901 to make an appointment for an afternoon visit.

Toll-free number given to sufferers

The Arthritis Foundation, Northwest Texas Chapter, recently announced the installation of a toll-free number to give people throughout the Chapter easy access to arthritis information and services.

"There are approximately 462,000 people in the 102 counties we serve, who have arthritis," said Marty Cook, Executive Director. "We hope this new toll-free number will make arthritis information and help as accessible in Lubbock, Midland or Dalhart as it is in Fort Worth, where the Chapter office is located."

The Northwest Texas Chapter was recently assigned the responsibility to provide programs and services to many counties in the former West Texas Chapter. Development plans are underway to provide direct patient services in those 72 counties. Organizing support groups for people with arthritis is one of the top priorities. The Chapter is seeking volunteers to attend a one-day Support Group Leaders' Training to be held in Lubbock this summer. An Arthritis Self Help Course is designed to give people with arthritis the knowledge and skills needed to take a more active part in their treatment program.

The Northwest Texas Chapter also publishes a quarterly newsletter that provides current information on arthritis, tips to make living with the disease easier and other articles of interest to people with arthritis and their family members.

For more information on arthritis, support groups or other services, contact the Northwest Texas Chapter by calling our toll-free number, 1-800-283-7733, or write: 3145 McCart, Fort Worth, Tx 76110.

Knack Shoppe personnel attend VSDA Seminar

Knack Shoppe personnel, Rita Weaver and Anita Sumner, attended the 1st annual Video Software Dealers Association Central Texas Chapter - 1st annual Texas Trade Show June 10th and 11th. It was held at the Austin Hyatt Regency Hotel in Austin, Tx. The trade show was financed by Walt Disney/Touchstone, RCA/Columbia Pictures Best Video, Commtron, ETD, IVE, Media Home Entertainment, Ingram Video and Fuji film.

Seminars were held on the Texas Legislative changes by Barbara Vackar Cooke, Texas lobbyist, Lou Berg, President of VSDA, Rick Karpee and a First Amendment Panel that consisted of Sid Grief, Retailer, Robert O. Switcher, Attorney, and Bob Thomajian, Attorney. Guest speaker was Gary Messenger, Vice President of VSDA.

The trade show also consisted of eighty different companies displaying booths. People attending also were able to screen "Heartbreak Hotel" starring David Keith and Tuesday Weld which will be released for Video June 28th. The Knack Shoppe will carry this video and will also be giving away two "Heartbreak Hotel" T-Shirts, one for a girl and one for a boy. Anyone renting the video will be able to register for these T-shirts.

Since January the Knack Shoppe has given away candy on Valentine Day that was won by Amber Newman, an Easter basket won by Buena Lyons, a Mother's Day Cake and free rental won by Sheila LaRochele, a wrestlingmania watch won by Michael Witten, and a Warbirds inflatable plane won by Jared Shufeldt.

On Father's Day the Shoppe will also be giving away a Father's Day Cake and free video rental. Any Father renting a video can register for a chance to win the cake and free rental.

Starting June 19th and running until Sept. 1st for every ten Nintendo games each customer rents, they will receive a coupon for a free Blizzard from the Dairy Queen.

In July the Knack Shoppe will have a coupon in the Spearman Reporter which will enable people to get 2 movies, of equal price, for the cost of one. This coupon will be useable for July 4th.

The Knack Shoppe is sponsoring a softball team this summer, and gave gift certificates to winners in each division of the Miss Hansford Pageant. They also offer a free membership to all Senior Citizens and the youth at the Hideout, allowing these customers to rent movies for \$2.00.

The Knack Shoppe carries Nintendo, VCR accessories, and used tapes. They will special order Nintendo games and Videos. They also carry popcorn, candy and assortment of nuts.

Everyone at the Knack Shoppe - Rita, Anita, Nikki and Aurora - would like to thank all our customers in and around the Hansford County area for your support. Your support is enabling us to continue to grow - bringing into your home the best Video, and Nintendo entertainment.

Commodities will be given out June 21st from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Hansford County Courthouse.

The Hansford Plainsman

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The publisher reserves the right to revise or reject at its option any advertisement which it deems objectionable, either in subject or phraseology, or which it may deem detrimental to its business.

Obituary

Bonnie M. Patterson

Bonnie M. Patterson, a resident of Spearman for 24 years, passed away Thursday June 8, 1989 at Hansford Hospital. She resided at Hansford Manor for 34 days prior to her death.

Born in Comanche, Okla. Feb. 18, 1902, she was married to W.H. "Pat" Patterson in 1965 at Stinnett, Tx. He preceded her in death April 2, 1987. She was also preceded in death by a daughter, Helen Lindsey, of Pampa, Tx. March 21, 1988.

Survivors include two sons; Gordon Kirby of Spearman and Preston Alexander of Seattle, Wa.; one step-son, Bill Patterson of Miramar, Fla.; two daughters; Pauline Gerian of Floral City, Fla. and Dorothy Pollak of Ocala, Fla.; four step-daughters; Patti Alexander of Lufkin, Tx., Judy Jordan Beaumont, Tx., Cathy Patterson of Tempe, Ariz. and Caron Patterson of Grinnett, N. Dak.; eleven grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to all those who offered flowers, cards, prayers and kind words in the loss of our Beloved Mother, Grandmother and Great-Grandmother, Bonnie M. Patterson.

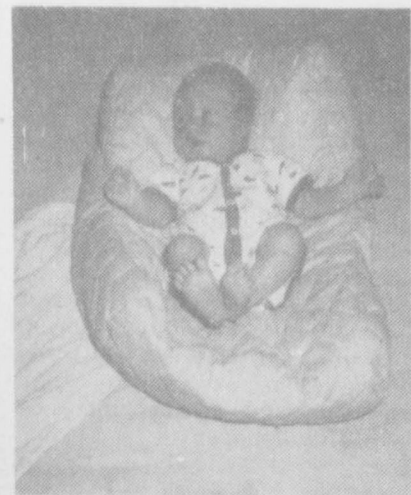
A special thanks to Dr. Juan Viola and the staff of Hansford Hospital, and a very special thanks to John Scott and the congregation of Spearman Church of Christ for the wonderful meal and the beautiful services. God Bless All of You!

The Family of
Bonnie M. Patterson
Gordon and Mary Ann Kirby
Barbra Fight,
Jerald and Maranda

The Centennial Series continues!

Coming in next week's
Hansford Plainsman...
Life on the Home Front
during World War II.

Birth announcement



BREGAN MITCHELL HEITZ

Layne and April Heitz are proud to announce the arrival of Bregan Mitchell Heitz. He was born May 24 at 8:07 a.m. and weighed 8 lbs. 9 ozs. He was 20 1/2 inches long.

Bregan is also welcomed by brother, Joshua Brett.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Pearcy, of Spearman. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Roland Heitz of Canyon. Paternal great-grandmother is Lucille Swanson of Nebraska. Maternal great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Leo Pearcy of Woodville.

You are Invited
to a
Wedding Shower

Honoring
Calvin & Tamara Pond

June 24

2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

First State Bank

Selections at Sack's & ChaLor's

Given by Hostesses

ChaLor's Bridal Gift Registry

Wedding Date

D'Lynn Orr & Todd Roberts	July 10
Lea Ann Gibner & Chris Schrader	July 22
Kim Jenkins & Tim Wadley	August 19
Suzy Ragsdale & Jeff Varlandingham	August 19
Rhonda Ross & Tony Hans	July 8
Cynn Brown & Michael Lopez	July 8
Maria Vela & Felia Acaredo	July 22
Carmon Aquirre & Joe Avila	August 19
Vita Baker & Larry Red	August 19
Jan Allen & Micky Robinson	July 8
Regina Loomis - Tracy Vernon	July
Michelle Yarbraugh - Bill Cope	July 29
Tammy Loason - Dale Red	June 30

Just Married

Roger and Shelly (Friesel) Eckenbrough

Kevin and Kari Lou (Schumann) Russell

214 Main 659-2767 Spearman, Texas 79081

J&G's

Summer Sale

Starts Mon. June 19 at 9:00 a.m.

306 S. Hancock

Spearman, Tx.

Hansford Heroes: two men's true war stories

by Jean Ann Behney

It would be impossible to point to one individual as Hansford County's ultimate World War II hero, or for that matter limit oneself to naming only a dozen names. Nevertheless, certain people do stand out among the 341 residents who served this country during the war, and we are privileged to tell two of their stories as part of Hansford County's Centennial Series.

Oliver Wallin was only 18 years old when he enlisted in December of 1943. He left behind his family and childhood chum and sweetheart to train for and take part in the Normandy invasion. Oliver survived the brutal beach landing which has become such a well-known battle (D-Day) and got as far as Saint Lo, France, with his battalion. The capture of Saint Lo was imperative if the Allied troops were to break out of Normandy and push on across France to drive the Germans out and liberate this country.

Saint Lo was captured on July 18, but during the battle, a hand grenade caught Oliver. He realized immediately that he had lost his leg and sustained multiple injuries, but there were no survivors around him to offer first aid. (It was later learned that he was the sole survivor of his entire battalion at Saint Lo.) He managed to make a tourniquet for his upper leg out of his belt and a second tourniquet for his arm

from his handkerchief, and then Oliver crawled one-half mile until he reached the medics behind the front lines.

Months and months followed in the military hospital in Temple, Texas for this 19-year-old Gruver boy. Opal, who married him soon after his discharge, says, "Oliver always felt fortunate that the came back as whole as he did. He wore a prosthesis the rest of his life and at times needed crutches, but he told people he wasn't disabled, only handicapped."

The Wallins were engaged in farming and ranching and reared three children over the following 43 years. Oliver died recently of cancer.

"He never talked much about the war," Opal muses today. "He never felt any bitterness in the loss of his leg because he loved his country and believed he had meant to fight to keep it free."

Even more extraordinary, Oliver never voiced a single complaint during his brief, painful struggle with bone cancer more than forty years later. Near the end of his life, his oncology doctor recommended Oliver take morphine for the extreme pain he was experiencing. Oliver hesitated and remarked that he had never taken the drug. In amazement, his doctor asked, "What did you take when you were wounded in the war?" Oliver replied, "A tightened fist!"

Oliver's wife, family and those who knew him are grieving over

their loss at this very time, yet all realize that his life will always be an inspiration to others and that their loss is Heaven's gain.

Ed Garner claims today that he "sat out" the war, but if you question him further, you quickly discover that this is how he refers to his 42 months as a prisoner-of-war (POW) of the Japanese.

A member of the Texas National Guard, 36th Division, in 1940, Ed and his group were headed to the Philippines when Pearl Harbor was bombed by the Japanese in December of 1941. "The Japanese fleet cut us off," he explains, "so we went to Fiji and then Australia and then to Java, which was then called the Dutch East Indies."

There, he was one of only 500 Americans in a multinational force which was instructed to defend the island. The Japanese invaded Java in February of 1942 and the Dutch General over the Allies capitulated a month later. Ed was trying to get off the island when he ran into some enemy troops, who took him prisoner along with other American and British soldiers.

As a POW, he was herded to Japanese prison camps in Singapore, Saigon, Manila, and finally northern Japan, where he spent the next three years in captivity. During the majority of this time, his family back in Texas had no idea whether he was dead or alive and Ed knew nothing of the rest of the world and subsequent events

of the war.

He credits his unflinching morale to "just being so busy trying to stay alive from one day to the next." Countless numbers of his friends died in the camp, mostly from tropical diseases and the complications caused by malnutrition and the cold temperatures. "I knew fellas who said they were going to die there...and they did," he said. "Once you thought that way, you were doomed."

He smiles a bit as he confesses, "What do you think we POWs missed the most? You would guess it would be pretty girls, but it was FOOD! All I could think about was a beautiful baked ham with pineapple on top. And ice cream!" His actual diet was comprised of rice (swept up from the factory floors) and barley, and sometimes even insects. At the time he finally left the camp, after the atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima--only a few hundred miles away, but he knew nothing about it until afterwards!--Ed weighed only 87 pounds.

Today this quiet hero says he doesn't think about those years as a POW too often, but anyone who knows Ed realizes that the strength of his spirit was extraordinary for him to have survived his ordeal. While he doesn't talk often or openly about what happened to him, Ed is a living inspiration to all Americans and someone Hansford County is particularly proud to claim.

Poet's Corner

The following is a poem Floyd Close's cousin, Gladys Close Buchner, wrote for him when he was a major in the Army Air Force flying bombing mission over France and Germany during World War II.

A PRAYER FOR FLOYD by Gladys Close Buchner

Dear God, if he flies tonight
Please hold his plane high.
Keep him safe, dear Lord,
Above the earth, near the sky.

His brown eyes will be serious
His young heart strangely old
Keep his soul sweet and tender
But let his thoughts stay bold.

Please send a guardian Angel
Along in his bomber tonight
Tell her to watch over him
Keep him safe, hold him tight.

This too I ask you, Father
Bless Floyd across the foam
May his plane never fail him
And bring our boy safely home!



A solemn Floyd Close looks out from the cockpit of his World War II plane a B-17. Close flew 48 missions over European territories on bombing missions as an Army Air Force major.

Hansford County

historical trivia:

Crime doesn't pay!

Crime really didn't pay in Hansford County of the 40's, it seems. Just a year after Orrin J. Brown was convicted and sentenced to death for the hammer slaying of Leota Murphy, burglars struck in Gruver at Westerfield's and Gross Drug, getting away with over \$1,000 in cash and merchandise. The burglars had been observed earlier that same day "casing the joint" and purchasing nickel and dime items, so the local authorities were provided reasonable descriptions. Within a few weeks, the burglars were caught in another part of Texas, much of the stolen merchandise still in their car. During the robbery at Westerfield's, the criminals had emptied out 100 pounds of sugar in order to make use of the cloth bag. This being the era of sugar rationing, they probably would have found it more lucrative to steal the sugar itself! The bottom line was that townspeople and farmer-ranchers alike in these parts took notice of strangers and never forgot a face in the aftermath of a crime.

Hansford County W.W. II

veterans who gave their lives for their country

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| C.P. Archer | Jesse Ralston |
| P.D. Brockus | Harlon Roper |
| Charles Castleman | Leroy Sheets |
| Mikeal Dougherty | R.B. Smith |
| Caylor Davis | Gunder Stavlo |
| Clarence Gill | Ira Tomlison |
| Walter Hart | T.J. Utly |
| Felix Pierce | Adlee Wright |
| J.A. Russell | |



World War II veteran O.V. Walker of Gruver poses beside the building he and other American Legion members helped put up as a memorial to veterans in 1946. The American Legion currently leases the building to the Golden Age Center.

Series corrections noted

In the Centennial Series article which dealt with the battle over the Hansford County seat, it was reported that the town of Gruver purchased the Old Hansford courthouse's bricks and used them to build the Gruver Community Church. Various denominations met in this building for many years before the Methodists purchased the building. The article went on to say that this Methodist church later burned to the ground. This is incorrect! The

Methodists had built a new church across the street from this original building in 1951, and this new church was the one that burned in 1979. Fifteen months later, Gruver's present Methodist Church was completed. There is a well-written account of Gruver's Methodist Church in Volume I of the Hansford County, Texas history book on pages 362 and 363. I am grateful to Beulah Bort of Gruver for drawing my attention to the mistake made in the original article and ask all readers who are saving the series to correct this error.

Also the subject of corrections, I found a second version of the "Shoe Clue" part of the 1941 "Hammer Murder" which my May 28th article in the Hansford Plainsman covered. People I interviewed claimed murder victim Leota Murphy's shoe was traced to a shoe store in Marion, Indiana, after a local deputy took it to Amarillo to be identified by its label, "Sydell's Shoe Store." After the publication of this article, I found a 1942 Spearman Reporter series on the murder mystery in which Sheriff Hix Wilbanks told writer Will J. Miller that the shoe was labelled "Sydell's Fifth Avenue" and was traced to Marion, Indiana, through a written inquiry his office made to a shoe manufacturer in St. Louis. I suppose it is possible that both things happened, but what is important is that the shoe provided the clue to the woman's identity which in turn solved the mystery of who her murderer was and led to his ultimate capture, conviction and execution.

Jean Ann Behney

Quiz Time! Quiz Time!

by Jean Ann Behney

Once again we are pleased to feature a weekly quiz to accompany our historical series. Two questions are posed in conjunction with the series--a short-answer one and a longer, "Think about it" type question. Readers are invited to telephone us at the newspaper (659-3434) with their answers. Correct answers and the names of their contributors will be published in the following week's Quiz Time. We have our favorite few whom we can always count on to provide-brain power for Quiz Time, but we welcome all respondents. And you regulars...keep up the good work!

THIS WEEK'S QUESTIONS

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION: Who had the first television set in Hansford County and in what year?

"THINK ABOUT IT" QUESTION Which had the greater effect on Hansford County's economy--the rainfall of the early 1940's or World War II? Why?

LAST TIME'S ANSWERS

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION: Who were Spearman's mayors in the years 1940-1950? Spearman had two mayors during the 40's.

They were E.C. Womble and C.A. Gibner. Womble served from 1938-1948 and Gibner served from 1948-1958.

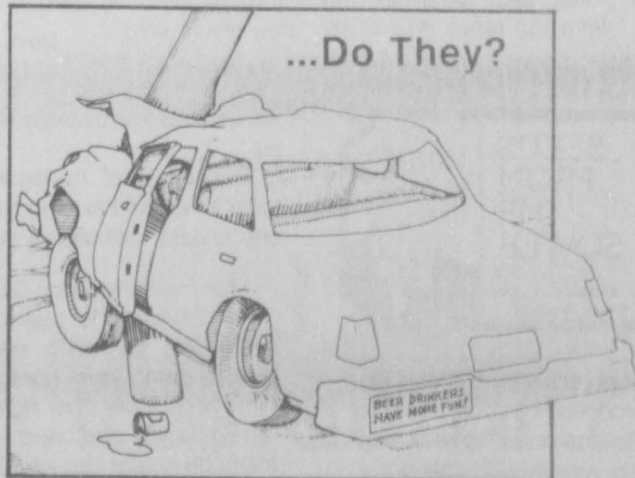
"THINK ABOUT IT" QUESTION

What was the most profound effect World War II had on Hansford County and why? A wonderful local resident who adamantly declined being named in the paper told me that aside from the loss of human life, probably the most significant development in the county as a result of the war was, ironically, prosperity. Although no one would consider a serviceman's pay a gold mine, every able-bodied man between 18 and 44 years was eligible to serve this country and draw military pay. This created jobs in the hometown for those left behind. Many left the county to take shift jobs at defense factories, such as Pantex Munitions Plant. At this same time, the military's demands for wheat and other crops escalated sharply. Hansford County, we are reminded, was one of the biggest wheat-producing counties in the state of Texas during (and since) this war time. Uncle Sam caused prices to rise for agricultural and factory products alike.



Among Floyd Close's war photographs is this one of an American Plane which was shot down over Berlin only seconds before this picture was snapped. The plane spiraled downwards, one wing blown off by the explosion, before it blew up entirely. Miraculously, the pilot survived the explosion and the crash. Close theorizes that the initial explosion blew open the pilot's parachute and enabled him to get out safely.

Beer Drinkers Have More Fun



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
STATE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION



The biggest continent is Asia. At almost 17,000,000 square miles, it's nearly 30 percent of the earth.

World War II. photos shared by local veteran



Marine Corporal Johnnie Lee relaxes momentarily during a break in the action in the South Pacific during World War II.



Johnnie Lee's Marine unit included one man who took photographs which reflect many moments of the war in the Pacific Theater. Lee's copies of these photos include this one taken on Iwo Jima in which American soldiers display the captured enemies' Japanese flags.



The grim reality of warfare in the South Pacific is symbolized by this American cemetery on Saipan. Hansford County lost several men to the war in the South Pacific.

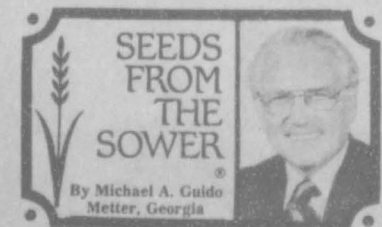


During the battle of Saipan in the South Pacific, men wounded while storming the island's beaches were taken by Huggins boats to pontoons located near the ship for first aid. Casualties were then lifted up to the hospital ship with pulleys. This view is from the deck of one such ship.



This is the Christmas card Edna Buchanan Bassel sent from France to her family back in Spearman in December of 1944. The message read "A Merry Christmas and a most happy and prosperous New Year with every one at home next year to the people I love the most. My Mom

and Dad. May the past two years be only a memory and may you be repaid for all of your goodness to all of your families. Next year I'll put the slice of cake out for Santa Claus. All of my love and prayers on this x-mas day. Love Edna



A farmer, showing a friend his cattle, stopped, climbed a fence, and pulled up some thistles. "Is that your land?" asked the friend. "No," said the farmer. "But that thistle is flowering. Soon the seed

will be blown all over my field and his." Thistles and transgressions have a way of crossing lines. No one is safe until all are safe. That's why the Living Bible says, "If a Christian is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help him back onto the right path, remembering the next time it might be one of you who is in the wrong." So help somebody today, won't you?



Congratulations ON YOUR ACHIEVEMENT

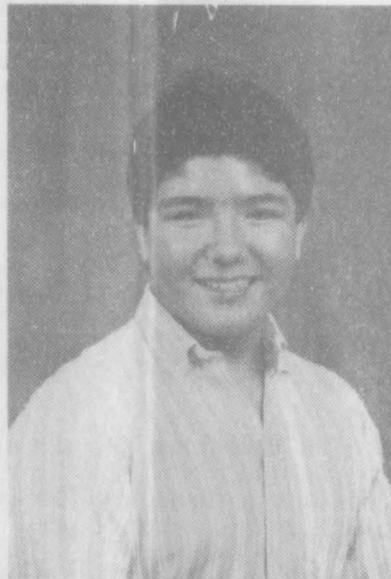
We wish to congratulate the following students on their selection for Boy's State and Girl's State



DARYL HAWKINS



CACY MCGILL



FRANK SALGADO



MICHELLE COOK



First National Bank

You gave 110% of yourselves to achieve these goals.

We want to wish you Good Luck in the future.

Classifieds

For Sale

FOR SALE: 1980 Mercury Cougar in Good condition. 74,000 miles. For information call 659-3611. S33S-2tp

HOUSE FOR SALE: 4 bedroom - 1 3/4 bath, new carpet. Possible assumption, 659-2125 after 5 p.m. 1112 S. Dressen. S28-1tp RTN

HOUSE FOR SALE: 3 bedroom 1 3/4 bath, central heat and air. Basement storm cellar. New carpet, fenced yard. Close to elementary school, hospital and shopping center. Affordable! Call A.A. Realty 659-3034 after 4:00 p.m. S33S-3tp

FOR SALE: 3 bedroom, 1 3/4 baths, 3 lots and cellar. \$36,000. Call 659-2186 or can be seen at 217 N. Hoskins. S31S-8tp

FOR SALE: 1985 Chevy pickup. Red body with black stripe... suspended frame. Runs good. \$4500. Call 733-2135. S32-4tp

FOR SALE: 3 ton gas air conditioner. Call after 6:00 p.m. 659-2175. S32-6tc

USED AUTO PARTS FOR SALE: Located 4 miles west of Hooker, Ok. on highway 54. **Muss Cat Auto Salvage.** (405) 652-2400. S10-rtn

FOR SALE: 1 Metal Building and Property 35' x 50' - 1 Large Cinder Block Building and Property 3000 sq ft. Contact: First State Bank, Box 247, Spearman 659-5565. S29-RTN

FOR SALE: 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. Sunken living room, parquet floors, fireplace, covered patio, 2 car garage, sprinkler system, 2193 sq. ft. living space, excellent location. Call 659-3587 or 659-5022. S33-RTN

FOR SALE: Nice 3 bedroom 2 bath home. Large den - fireplace on 1 1/2 acres with barn and corrals. For appointment call 659-5162. S32S - 2tc (SUN only)

NOTICE
Wallace Monument Co.
Monuments, Curbing,
Grave Covers
Local Representative
LEONARD JAMESON
Spearman, Texas

OSGOOD MONUMENT CO.
Amarillo, Texas
Dealers of Rock of Ages Granite, as well as all colored granites, marble and bronze memorials.
represented by
BOXWELL BROS.
FUNERAL HOME
519 S. Evans
659-3802

For Rent

FOR RENT OR SALE: 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living areas, Fenced backyard. Across from school. \$350 per month plus deposit. Call Jenny between 8:30-2:30 at 659-2290 or after 5 p.m. 817-696-0433. S32S-4tc

FOR RENT: 2 bedroom home for rent. Fenced in back yard. Call 659-2506 days and 659-2327 after 6:00 p.m. S32S-RTN

FOR RENT: Trailer space in Spearman, fenced yard, underground utilities, close to High School and swimming pool. Call 435-5080. S31S RTN (Sun ONLY)

Help Wanted

HELP WANTED

Full-time male 18 years or older. Must have valid class C drivers license. Honest, dependable, clean and willing to work or do not apply. Apply in person, **White House Lumber Co.**, 306 Davis St. in Spearman. S32S-RTN

HELP WANTED

Apply to operate small fireworks business for last two weeks in June. Make up to \$1500. Must be over 18. Write to Mr. W Fireworks, P.O. Box 114, Somerset, Texas 78069 or call 1-512-429-3808 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. S28-12tp

Work Wanted

WORK WANTED: Dependable Christian woman would like to clean houses and sit with people. Please call 659-2774. S31-RTN

LAWN MOWING: Neat job promised by a dependable worker. Call: Chad Davis at 659-2912 evenings. S27 RTN

Miscellaneous

TO GIVE AWAY: 2 black healthy dogs to a responsible family. Call 659-3434 or 659-2912. S32S-RTN

WANTED
New family moving to Spearman Needs **Large 2 family home** or 2 smaller homes. Lease with option to buy. Call: 659-3434 S33-RTN

SERVICES
ROOFING, PAINTING and **CARPENTRY.** All work guaranteed. Terry Moore Construction. Leave message at 659-2119. S33-2tp

DEMOLITION SALE: Used lumber 2 x 6's. Used brick steel bar joist. Come by Jr. High or call Jim at 659-3737 Room 48 after 8:00 p.m. S33-4t

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR OIL AND GAS WASTE DISPOSAL WELL PERMIT

Brawley Petroleum Corporation P.O. Box 3407 Borger, Texas 79008-3407 has applied to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of produced salt water or other oil and gas waste by well injection into a porous formation not productive of oil or gas.

The applicant proposed to dispose of oil and gas waste into the Penn Lime Formation on the Pittman Lease, Well Number 1-SWD. The proposed disposal well is located 5 miles North of Morse in the Texas Hugoton Field, in Hansford County. The waste water will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 3300 to 3375 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Underground Injection Control Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, Drawer 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/445-1373). S33S-1t

The City of Spearman will begin its annual sealcoat of city streets beginning Wednesday, June 21, 1989. It will take the contractor approximately three (3) days to complete his work. If you reside on a street listed below, we need your cooperation on the following items during the period of construction:

- (1) Keep all vehicles and trailers off the street;
- (2) Park your vehicles in your driveway and as close to your house as possible;
- (3) Please do not water your front lawn in order to keep water out of the curb and gutter areas.

The streets that are targeted for this years sealcoat program are as follows:

- 200-400 Blocks of Archer
- 10-600 Blocks of Barkley Collier Drive
- 10 - 400 Blocks of Dressen
- All of North and South Endicott
- 10 - 1000 Blocks of Haney
- All of North Hazelwood
- 100,200 and 400 Blocks of South Hazelwood
- 200 - 300 Blocks of North Hoskins
- 10 Block of South Hoskins
- 700 - 1000 Blocks of Linn Drive Sanders Street
- All of North and South Snider
- 700 - 1000 Blocks of Walter Wilmeth Drive
- A portion of East 2nd between S. Snider and Hwy. 760
- 6th Avenue between S. Bernice and S. Endicott

Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions concerning these items, please do not hesitate to contact City Hall at 659-2524.



WAR, from p. 1

Japan and Germany was supported by all.

Exactly ten days later. After schooling in Chicago, his duties began in the Gulf of Mexico on a submarine chaser, but he was also sent to the invasion of Southern France and then on to the Invasion of the Philippines later in the war. He became a Lieutenant Commander before his discharge in 1946, but went back into the service for two years during the Korean War.

Billy Miller remembers going to a map of the world to look up Japan after he heard the news of Pearl Harbor. "I remember looking at the little bitty island and thinking 'Heck, we can beat those Japs in six months!'" He says he later grew to appreciate and fear the highly trained Japanese forces and their superior technology in weaponry. This was evidenced in the South Pacific where he served in an air squadron as a radio operator for the Marine Air Force.

"Everybody just lived for the war effort," Ruth summarizes. "Whether you went or you stayed behind, you wanted to do your part." Sybil Martin Miller concurs, saying, "The patriotism wasn't propoganda! It was a true relection of how we all felt in Hansford County and everyplace else, too."

Sybil Miller recalls how the entire towns of Spearman and Gruver would turn out to watch the local men board the bus to go off to war. "The boys from my high school graduating class talked of nothing else but joining up as soon as they got out of school, and they had no doubts about their decision," she says. An estimated 341 individuals from Hansford County served during the war.

Johnnie Lee enlisted in the Marines with five Spearman friends, three of whom later drowned when their cruiser was torpedoed near Macon Island in the South Pacific. These men's names appear on the Veteran's Memorial at the Hansford County Courthouse.

Johnnie says he was "ready to go" when he heard President Roosevelt declare war against Japan the day after Pearl Harbor was attacked. "I was sitting in the high school gym in Spearman when it was broadcast over the radio," he explains, "and I guess I was too young to know fear, because I decided then and there to enlist." Johnnie served from April of 1943 to June of 1946 in the U.S. Marines as a machine gunner in the South Pacific's Fourth Division, which experienced 90% casualties. He himself was severely wounded twice, for which he was awarded the Purple Heart and the Gold Star.

Floyd Close was in Taft, California when the news of Pearl Harbor hit, and was summoned back to Bakersfield Base immediately. "We were issued old World War I weapons and patrolled the coast, because no one knew what was going to happen next," he reports. An Army Air Force major, Floyd went on to fly 48 bombing missions over European territories from his ground base in England. Although the planes he piloted were often badly damaged and his crew wounded on more than one occasion, Floyd somehow got back from each mission. "Only one crew out of every 10 survived," he comments. "I had come home on a furlough and when I returned to England the second time, I remember thinking I might never come back home again."

P.A. Lyon was enrolled at Texas Tech when Pearl Harbor was bombed and enlisted in the Navy

Gene Fletcher of Gruver was drafted as a newlywed 18-year-old and spent the tail-end of the war serving in the Navy in the Hawaii Islands. He recalls that it was an eerie feeling to see Hickham Air Force Base, where there was still evidence of the devastating bombings by the Japanese three years earlier, but that the tide had turned by the time he served. The United States won the war in Europe during the summer of 1945 and in the South Pacific just a few months later after the atom bombs were dropped on Japan.

Jewell Ward, who was Betsy Dahl in the 40's, was the very first woman to enlist in the WACs from Hansford County. At that time, the WACs were called WAAGs (Women Auxiliary Army Corps), but this was later changed to Women's Army Corps.

At the time of her enlistment, Jewell was 21 years old and working in for Deputy J.B. Cook in

the Sheriff's Office. "I signed at Lubbock and then took basic training for three months in Des Moines, Iowa."

She explains that the WACs were treated "just like regular army," living in the barracks and dressing in a Khaki uniform that was identical to the men's except for the skirt which re-replaced their slacks.

Sent to Fort Sims in Washington D.C., Jewell was a company clerk and worked on officers' payroll, but was then sent back to Iowa for Officer's Training School. "They called us 90 day wonders," she says. She continued her clerical work as a second lieutenant at Fort Des Moines until she was discharged.

As we have seen, Hansford County sent its residents into all phases of World War II, for beach-storming in the South Pacific and Europe to maintaining the machinery and pushing the paperwork stateside. Many were wounded and several were killed in the line of action, but to hear local veterans talk about it today, they believed in their sacrifice and were proud to fight for this country.

Historically the World War II years had faded into less significance for some and many young people know little or nothing about this ear, but the veterans and their families were changed forever by these heartbreaking years. The end result was victory, and that victory has made the United States what it is today.

Reporter's note: I will list my sources for this article in next week's second half of the story. If there is a veteran who has something to contribute, I hope he or she will contact me at the newspaper.

Vandalism destroys centuries of Texas history

A young boy, at the impressionable age of eight or nine, shovels with practiced ease, working with his father. They are robbing a pre-historic grave.

Excited by the pots being uncovered, relic collectors destroy a centuries-old cemetery where pre-historic Indian villagers once buried their dead. The remains of the village have already been bulldozed into meaningless heaps of earth in the determined search for the "good stuff," the burials.

Ancient paintings, recounting the myths of long-vanished Indians, are spray-painted over

with initials and obscenities. The graffiti are the calling card of a collector who came looking for something valuable to carry away and found only priceless art on the walls of a rock shelter.

Other relic hunters pursue more recent pray, digging where a Civil War soldier lies buried. They are looking for a handful of silver buttons.

Bronze monuments marking important places from our honored past are ripped away or stand scarred by rifle bullets.

Are these scenes from a novel about the breakdown of society's values? Are these emotional scare stories made up by some self-interested archeologist who just wants to save the sites from himself? Or are these actual scenes from everyday life, today, in Texas?

All of these are real stories, and we hear them recounted and visit the sites where they happen week after week, year after year. And these are only the stories that disturb us most, that stir our deepest feelings about the sacredness of final resting places and respect for the religious practices and beliefs of all peoples.

What can we do about the desecration of burials and the loss of irreplaceable information about the past? There are not enough law enforcement officers in Texas, big as it is, to solve the problem statewide. There are not, and never will be, enough preservationists, archeologists, or historians to solve the problem in even one region of the state. More laws can be written-and are needed-but only the consent of all Texans to abide by and enforce those laws can make the laws work.

There is only one solution to the problem of the careless destruction of our heritage. Each of us, native Texan and naturalized Texan alike, must care.

Each of us must show respect for human burial sites, regardless of whether those sites are isolated, unmarked burials or recognized cemeteries and regardless of whose remains lie buried there. Each of us must be convinced that knowledge about the human past has a greater value than the price of a pot sold at an auction or a framed collection of arrow points hanging on a collector's wall. Each of us must act on these convictions, in whatever ways are appropriate, meaningful, or possible to us.

When we do this, the vandalism will stop. The heritage of Texas will then be honored as all Texans daily proclaim it is. Or else, the vandalism will be stopped in another way-there simply will be no more sites left to destroy. (A message from the Texas Historical Commission.)

Take Dad Out for Dinner on Father's Day



Buffet Dinner \$5.25

Your choice of one of three meats and various delicious vegetables. Serving until 1:30 P.M.

JJ's Restaurant

Highway 207, Spearman

659-2664

Happy Father's Day to all Spearman Dads! from the Hansford Plainsman



UNITED

★ Supermarket ★

SUMMER

EXTRAVAGANZA!!

PRICES GOOD THRU JUNE 24TH
IN PERRYTON ONLY
DOUBLE COUPONS UP TO
AND INCLUDING 75¢ ON THURSDAY

DOUBLE SEALS ON WEDNESDAY
IT TAKES 24 SEALS TO FILL A SAVER FOLDER
ONE SEAL ISSUED FOR EVERY \$5 EXCLUDING TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Valuable Coupon
Worth \$1.00 Off
your purchase of \$10.00 or
more, excluding tobacco products
Good at United in Perryton
June 18th thru June 24th

Grocery



PEPSI
6-12 OZ. CANS
\$1.29



DOLE PINEAPPLE JUICE
46 OZ.
\$1.09



BETTY CROCKER LAYER CAKE MIX ASST.
18.5 OZ.
.89



BETTY CROCKER HAMBURGER HELPER ASST.
.99



RANCH STYLE BEANS OR PORK & BEANS
15 OZ. **3 FOR \$1**



GOLD MEDAL FLOUR
REG. 5 LB. BAG
.99



POST TOASTIES
18 OZ.
.99

WELCH'S GRAPE JAM OR JELLY
18 OZ.
.99

CHEER DETERGENT
40¢ OFF LABEL
42 OZ.
\$1.89

DOWNY FABRIC SOFTENER
45¢ OFF LABEL BLUE OR SUNRINSE
64 OZ.
\$1.99



UNITED HOMO MILK
1/2 GAL.
.99



FINE FARE ORANGE JUICE
12 OZ.
.99



THOMPSON OR RED SEEDLESS GRAPES
LB.
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FRESH CRISP CELERY
2 STALKS
.79

BIRDSEYE CORN ON THE COB
4 CT.
\$1.29

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UNITED TRU TENDR OR USDA CHOICE SUPER VALU PAK BONELESS FAMILY STEAK
LB.
\$1.78



UNITED TRU TENDR OR USDA CHOICE SUPER VALU PAK BONELESS ARM ROAST
LB.
\$1.88



COUNTRY PRIDE GRADE A FRYER BREAST TENDERS
LB.
\$2.89



EXTRA LEAN CHOPPED SIRLOIN STEAK
LB.
\$1.78