

Hansford's early years explored. . .

Buffalo-hunting brothers bring birth to county

by Jean Ann Behney

Hansford County's first white settlers were encouraged to come to the United States by their father, an Englishman named John Bertie Cator. Cator was a sea captain in the King of England's Royal Navy and did not wish for his sons to follow in his footsteps because of all the time his career caused him to spend away from his family.

Accordingly, Captain Cator wrote to the U.S. government in the 1860's asking if his sons could settle here and acquire property. An affirmative response was all Jim and Bob Cator needed to set sail for the country where they would, a few short years later, help found Hansford County.

Eva Cator Pierce, Jim and Bob Cator's niece, who lives in Spearman today, recounts the adventures these brothers experienced on their trip across the Atlantic Ocean and then across the United States to the Southwest Plains. Being quite young and more than a little naive, the Cator brothers were robbed of all their money their first night in New York City and were forced to get what odd jobs they could to earn their way westward to Dodge City, Kan.

Making Dodge City their headquarters, Jim, Bob and a companion became successful buffalo hunters in Kansas, the Oklahoma strip (called No Man's Land) and the Texas Panhandle. They sold their first 300 hides for two dollars apiece and invested their profits in a span of horses, bought from Billy Dixon, a wagon and some "grub."

In later life, Jim Cator estimated that he alone killed as many as 16,000 buffaloes. A good hunter, it was said, could kill 50 or more buffaloes in one day without even leaving his saddle. The Sharps Rifle Company's famous .40-.50 caliber, single-shot, breech-loading rifle is credited for

much of this seemingly effortless hunting, but the marksmanship of the hunter was also of paramount importance, and the Cator brothers quickly became renowned hunters.

Buffalo herds were rapidly declining in the Dodge City area by the mid 1870's, so the Cators and others like them became the first white men to venture further and further into the territory stretching down through the Panhandle into the Southwest Plains, which the Indians thought of at this time as exclusively theirs. For decades, white explorers and soldiers had considered the Great Plains, as the area was called, to be a "useless plateau" and it was people like the Cator brothers who showed the world that there was important economic opportunity here for strong, fearless individuals willing to "rough it."

The Cator brothers made their first permanent camp on the Palo Duro Creek in 1872 and within a few years, Jim Cator had built the first structure, a trading post for buffalo hunters, in what was to become Hansford County. He named it Zulu Stockade after the Zulu War his native England was fighting in Africa about that time.

A band of Kansas hunters, including Billy Dixon, had established another permanent camp at Adobe Walls on the Canadian River in 1873. Adobe Walls is best remembered for the Indian battle fought there in 1874 which pitted a handful of white hunters against several hundred angry Indians. The Cator brothers were camping north of Adobe Walls the morning it was attacked, but rode into the settlement a few days later to help drive off the last of the Indians.

Zulu Stockade was a large two-room house built of cottonwood poles from Moore's Creek. It became the main trading center

for the country north of the Canadian River and maintained this status for many years. When the buffalo hunting business began declining in the Great Plains, the Cators turned to raising cattle, marking them with the Diamond C brand. Interestingly enough, President Theodore Roosevelt wrote to the Cators inquiring about buffalo hunting prospects in the Zulu area. Roosevelt later satisfied his urge to be a cowboy in the Dakotas.

A century plus a few years after Zulu's construction, the Hansford County Historical Society contracted Bill Harrison, anthropology curator of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, to excavate possible sites of Zulu Stockade, which had vanished after 1912. By early 1982, following many false leads, the outlines of the building were exposed. Finding a post, which made up part of the structure's north wall, was the discovery which enabled the entire building's outline to be gradually unearthed. Artifacts from the site included horse shoes, square nails, bullet cases, window glass and buttons. Many Spearman and Gruver residents worked with Harrison on this fascinating project. Some of these amateur

archeologists were local historian Dorothy Hart Hudson of Gruver and her mother, Mrs. Hart, Hansford County Librarian Rita Curtis, Marilyn Groves and Ernie Newcomb of the Stationmaster's House Museum, the Gus Renners, and Candy Boxwell. Interestingly, Hudson had lived at the Zulu site as a child.

By the early 1880's, more of the Cator clan had come to this

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Hansford Plainsman looks to the past and the future in this special issue.

Our Centennial articles include:

- p.1 - Hansford's first years
- p.2 Hansford County "on the line": A Timeline
- p.2 - History Quiz

And we catch a glimpse of our future . . .

- p.1 - Palo Duro Dam progress

country from England: Captain Cator's daughter Clara and her younger brother Bert in 1879 (with Clara's companion Jennie Ludlow, who married Bob Cator in 1882)



EVA CATOR PIERCE

The daughter of Lester Stuart Cator, Hansford pioneer, shows a picture of her father's original stone house on the Palo Duro.

and Lester Stuart Cator (Eva Pierce's father and Jim and Bob's brother) in 1882. Jim Cator returned to England in that same year, where he became engaged to Edith Land, his family's physician's daughter. Promising to send for his fiancée the following year, he returned to Zulu and began working on a rock house for his bride's first home. A deve-

statingly bitter winter caused the Cators' cattle to die, and it wasn't until 1887 that Jim Cator was able to send for Edith, whom he married upon her arrival to Dodge City. In their marriage record, Jim Cator's address is given as "Rock House, Hansford, Texas." This house was the first of its kind in see COUNTY'S BIRTH, p.3

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Volume 19, No. 22 YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER Sunday, April 2, 1989



The youth in the community seemed to enjoy all the activities that went along with the "thirtysomething" Main Event that the FCA and local churches sponsored last week. Here the youth were participating in the singing in the program. Other activities included curriculum to help the youth take a stand for what they believe in, and enjoying fellowship at host homes of volunteers in Spearman. See related photo, page 3.

Spearman city council meets

Members of the Spearman City Council met Tuesday, Mar. 14 to discuss items of business on the agenda for their regularly scheduled meeting.

After the minutes of the last meeting were considered, councilmembers voted to approve an addendum to the library service agreement with Hansford County Library in which the monthly support from the city would raise from \$500 per month to \$750 per month.

Next councilmembers voted no to covering the cost of providing sewer service to a tract of land at the corner of West 7th and Highway 207. Councilmembers noted that a city ordinance specified that such expenses should fall to the developer.

The next item on the agenda was the consideration of awarding a contract for the financing of various lease purchase agreements. Some of items being purchased included a two step chlorination system for the utilities department; an animal control shelter; an addition to the fire station;

An automatic control system for the utilities department; a building to house well number seven; and a portable defibrillator for HMS Emergency Medical Services.

Both local banks, the First State Bank and the First National Bank presented bids on the financing contract. First National Bank's bid

was accepted by councilmen, being the low bid.

Councilmen then considered a resolution which urges the Texas Legislature to raise the cap on street use charges for electric and gas utilities. Council decided to support the resolution which would raise the cap from the current maximum of two percent to a five percent maximum charge.

After the resolution was considered, councilmembers authorized a contract with Dave Clark for consultant services on bid specifications and evaluations on a type I, walk through ambulance that is being considered for purchase. Current plans are that the city, county, and hospital may each go in thirds on the purchase if all three approve it. Even if approved, the purchase would not be made until Oct. 1.

Before closing the meeting, councilmembers heard reports from the Spearman Volunteer Fire Department and the Director of Public Safety about proposed improvements in the organization of the fire department. Councilmen appointed a committee consisting of Burl Buchanan, Wilson McClellan and Don Reed to further study the matter.

The meeting was then adjourned with the next scheduled meeting dates on April 11 and 25. The times of the meeting will be at 8 p.m. because of the time change.

Lee and Renner to be recognized

Two Spearman people will be among those honored by the Texas Historical Commission for having dedicated 20 years or more of service to the county historical commission. Johnnie C. Lee and Clementine Renner will be named for recognition at the THC preservation conference in Dallas on April 27-29.

Other special awards will also be presented for those people across the state who have contributed fine work to the field of historical preservation in 1988.

Twenty-eight county historical commissions received the Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes groups for participating in three areas of preservation activities. Winning counties are: Anderson, Bosque, Brazoria, Burnet, Caldwell, Calhoun, Cameron, Carson, Castro, Cherokee, Crosby, Galveston, Hale, Hidalgo, Hutchison, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Midland, Milam, Newton, Nueces, Orange, San Jacinto, Tarrant, Waller, Wharton, and Williamson.

Commissions receiving awards for maintaining outstanding programs of work in 1988 are: Crosby, Parker, Hidalgo, and Dallas.

Four counties, Crosby, Wise, Hidalgo, and Tarrant, won honors for producing outstanding newsletters in 1988.

Three Texans received awards for being outstanding members of county historical commissions. Recognized are Pauline Watkins, Crosby County; William Q. Quick, Jefferson County; and Frances James, Dallas County.

Recognized as outstanding committee chairmen of county groups are: Jean Epperson, Liberty County; Skip Kennedy, Nueces County; and Helen Jankowski, Dallas County.

The award for outstanding chairman goes to Mrs. B Bryant, Jasper County; and Dee Barker, Tarrant County.

The THC also honored several county historical commissions that have performed at least one truly significant historic preservation project during 1988. The winners of this award are: Motley, Young, Gregg, and Denton counties.

Finally, the THC honors these see THC HONOREES, p.4

Workers busy at dam site, continue to be ahead of schedule

On a visit to the dam site last Thursday, Mar. 30, onlookers could find the 46 workers employed at the site busy with varied tasks in different locations of the 2,413-acre reservoir.

Much of the crew was busy with finding, hauling, washing and dumping the nearly 20,000 yards of sand that is still needed for the core of the dam project. 78,000 yards of the sand (of a particular grade) was needed. Sand being found now is having to be screened, washed and tested to meet the standards for which it will be used.

Others at the site were drilling holes and preparing for blasts that would be set off. In some places at the site, there is as little as ten-inches of topsoil with solid rock underneath.

In other places at the site, workers were testing areas by drilling holes and testing with water pressure for cracks that might need filling in with cement.

The whole project of the dam is expected to use some 128 train car loads of cement.

Formations for the emergency spillway have been brought onto the site, and a special glass and plastic material that is designed to prevent corrosion of the materials.

The project is still ahead of schedule due to the fair weather in the past winter months, and the project is still staying within the budget on costs. An unexpected savings in the project costs was found when the Parks and Wildlife Department notified the PDRA that because of the rural location the design of the park at the site could be contributed at no charge.

The Soil Conservation Service donated 200 trees that were planted in the future park site last week. These will help provide shelter and food for wildlife in the area.

Activity will increase at the site as summer approaches. More workers will be employed and the

temperature will be more appropriate for pouring cement. Even the ground can't be packed until the temperature is above 35 degrees, which slows down the construction some mornings right now.

The trees that are left on site now will remain underwater. They will be good for the spawning of fish. Fish hatcheries have agreed to have plenty of stock when the lake is ready for it. The lake is expected to be 77 feet deep.

Archeologists will be back at the dam site in two weeks to further study a site where 200 alabite flint and an Indian hearth were discovered. A one-acre area will be examined.

"We like history," Johnnie Lee comments. "We just wish we didn't have to pay to find it." Each site the archeologists decide to excavate will cost the project \$100,000. And it could come to a total of one million dollars in archeological costs.



Job Marsh operates this large caterpillar and washes a lot of sand that has to be hauled, screened and washed at the dam site. See related photo on page 5 of this issue. staff photo

Sources for history series revealed; others sought

by Jean Ann Behney



James H. Cator, first white settler in Hansford County, and one of its founders.

This issue's cover story on Hansford County is the first of a 10-part series the **Hansford Plainsman** and the **Gruber Statesman** will be publishing over the next several weeks in honor of Hansford County's one hundredth anniversary. Today's article, as the time line indicates, includes the events leading up to the organization of the county and the first decade of the county's history.

I have used a myriad of sources for the historical and personal background in this and my upcoming articles, and wish to credit these weekly.

My written sources for today's article include J.B. Buchanan's autobiography, **Buchanan Odyssey**; Dotty Jones' **A Search for Opportunity: A History of Hansford County**; **Hansford County, Texas** (Volumes I and II); and genealogical notes loaned to me by the Cator descendants which were written by Eva Cator Pierce, LaMoyné Cator and other family members. I also referred to Grace Lyon's article "Highlights from the Past to the Present in Hansford County, Texas."

By far the most important and more enjoyable source for this article, however, was the interview I conducted with Eva Cator Pierce, her daughter Betty Jo Vernon and her niece Gwen Cator McLain. Mrs. Pierce's vivid recollections and eager answers filled in many blanks and "colorized" all the black and white facts and photographs for me.

It is my fondest hope that I will be able to feature at least one person like Mrs. Pierce in each decade's article. This is your invitation, reader, to share your family's Hansford history with me so that others will appreciate it as well! Don't tell yourself "Oh, I am not interesting enough." I have yet to meet someone in Hansford County who is not in some way a wonderfully inspiring individual.

Finally, my first and last "apology in advance"; being one person with limited time and less than boundless energies, there are things I am going to miss in this historical series! Inform me of anything important that has been omitted or mistakenly reported and I shall do my utmost to rectify the situation.

Hansford Historical Trivia... Did you know that the County's fifth sheriff was murdered? Read the Centennial Series each week to find out more.

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Hansford County "on the line": A Timeline of Historical Events

1871 - Cator brothers come to U.S. from England

1873 - Adobe Walls build on Canadian River

1874 - Battle of Adobe Walls Place

1876 - Hansford County takes Cole

1880 - 1st Federal Census taken in the county

1880 - Hansford County's 1st town, Farwell, first county newspaper, **Graphic** estab.

1887 - The town of Hansford begins office, Bob Cator 1st postmaster

1889 - Hansford County officially organized by Huff Wright seat to Hansford

1890 - Jim Cator 1st county judge, I.H. McCree 1st sheriff

1890-91 - 2 cyclones destroy 1st 2 Hansford County Courthouses; 2nd courthouse salvaged.

1892-95 - Bert Cator is Hansford County sheriff

1896 - Pleasant Hill School ("Ignorant Ridge") - located on the Palo Duro between Cator and Jones ranches - estab.

1899 - Mullock on the Palo Duro northeast of Hansford

1899 - Mullock estab. on the Palo Duro northeast of Hansford

mid-1870's - Jim Cator builds ZULU Stockade on Palo Duro River (1st permanent building in Hansford County)

1879 - 1st women come to Hansford County

1880's - Jim Cator constructs county's 1st rock home

1887 - Hansford's 1st (short-lived) newspaper estab. Appleton and its post office estab.

1890 - Waverlan and its post office estab.

1890's - 1st schools conducted in Hansford

1898-1900 - Les Cator is County Judge at Coldwater Mission

1900 - First Methodist Church, 1st church organized in the county, begins at Coldwater Mission

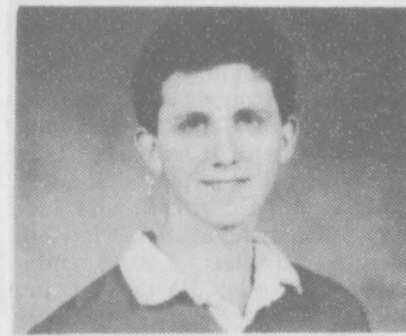
Note: "Hansford" refers to the town we today call Old Hansford. When the county is mentioned, it is always called Hansford County. The area which became Hansford County in 1889 is called Hansford County from the 1870's on.

Quiz Time! Each of the ten weeks of our Centennial Series, we will be presenting our readers with the opportunity to show off their own historical knowledge about Hansford County. In the issue with each decade's article, we will be posing two questions; a short-answer "Quiz" Question and a more thought-provoking (we hope!) "Think About It" Question. The answers to these questions will not necessarily appear in the historical article, but will relate to the same time period it covers.

Quiz Time! Readers who wish to contribute answers to either or both questions can drop by the Spearman Reporter office or call us at 659-3434 any time after the publication of each week's two questions and before the next week's questions are published. All correct respondents will have their names printed in the paper the following week.

Quiz Time! **The First Decade; "Quiz" Question**-For what or whom was "Hansford" county named?

"Think About It" Question-How did a handful of white buffalo hunters drive off several hundred Indians at the Battle of Adobe Walls in 1874?



Thad Reid honored
A Morse resident, Thad Kyle Reid, was among those honored for outstanding academic achievement during Recognition Day activities Wednesday at Wayland Baptist University. Reid received the Wall Street Journal Award from the Division of Business, recognizing one of Wayland's top students in business administration. A 1986 graduate of Spearman High School, Reid is a senior majoring in accounting, with plans to pursue a career in that field. He is a Dean's Honor Roll student and is active in Phi Beta Lambda business fraternity.

Clinic to offer vaccines, April 3
An immunization clinic offering vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases is scheduled for April 3, between the hours of 9 and 11:30 a.m. and 1 - 4 p.m. at the Spearman Elementary School. These vaccines offer protection against polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping cough (pertussis), measles, rubella, and mumps. The influenza vaccine will be available at area clinics. The Texas Department of Health is charging money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount of money charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay.

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COUNTY'S BIRTH, from p.1

the county and was made of native rock. It still stands today on Jim and Edith's place on the Palo Duro Creek.

Cator family genealogy writings indicate the extreme change Edith Land's life underwent when she became Jim Cator's pioneer wife. In England, she had been waited on by servants and lived graciously, as befitted a surgeon's daughter. Once in her rock home in the Texas Panhandle, she had to quickly learn to handle rugged ranch life, often going for months at a time without seeing another woman.

Eva Cator Pierce recalls with a chuckle that her Uncles Jim and Bob, both large, strong men, fit more easily into the rough, and tumble cowboy life than did her own father, Les. Les, she recalls, was a small, very dapper English gentleman who had to prove his manhood in Dodge City not long after his arrival by "whipping" one of the cowboys jeering at his proper British attire of tight knickers and bowler hat. Les Cator was a fully-trained blacksmith, as his hidden muscles quickly demonstrated!

Les Cator set up shop as a blacksmith in Dodge City, but later moved to Hansford County where he filed on four sections of Palo Duro Creek Prairie land. He and his brother Bert "batched" it in a dugout there (which, Eva recalls, was later used as an ice cellar during her childhood) until Les built a one-room rock house for his bride Bessie Ambrosia Donaldson. (More of Eva Cator Pierce's memories will be featured in the next two articles of this series.)

By this time, the Indians were permanent, subdued and rarely bothered the white settlers for more than a meal. The first Federal Census of the area was conducted in 1880 and listed the following residents:

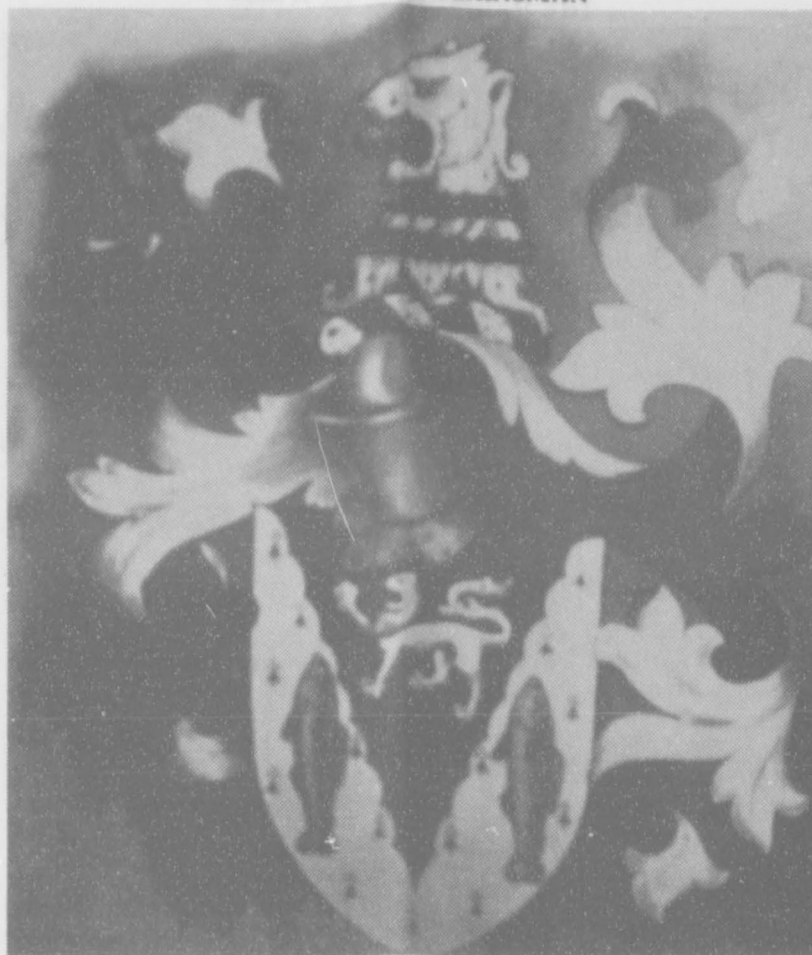
new county's seat, Farwell, located some three miles east of present-day Gruver, and Hansford, located

The Texas Law Book of 1879 describes Hansford County's boundaries as "Beginning at the Southwest corner of Ochiltree County; thence West thirty miles to the ninetieth mile post; thence South thirty miles; thence North thirty miles to the place of beginning."

Born in 1887 as the county seat, the town of Hansford served as a stage stop for the Dodge City-Tascosa Trail, as a trading spot for many early settlers, and as the center of the county's governmental affairs. Though the construction of the county courthouse seems comical now, it was a serious problem at the time, because two cyclones destroyed most of the first two courthouses built. The second courthouse was salvaged to a great extent, as only the upper level and its roof was destroyed.

The first Commissioner's Court of Hansford County met Mar. 23, 1889, with the following officers in attendance: County Judge - James H. Cator; Commissioners - Ira Neff, A.J.L. Cator (known as Bo), and J.H. Wright; Clerk - Jas. Arnold; Sheriff - J.H. McGree; Treasurer - B.P. Ward; Counselor - W.H. Woodman; and County Assessor - Ralf Biggers.

Commissioner's Court records from this early meeting onwards can still be examined at Hansford County Courthouse. Reading through these old records, impeccably recorded with beautiful quill handwriting, reveals that the main business of the Court seemed to be paying out bounties for coyote, wolf, skunk and rabbit pelts. Bert Cator, as well-known for his trapping skills as for his horse-breaking, received a whopping \$3.09 for 37 rabbit skins in one



This is a photograph of the Cator family's English Coat-of-Arms, dating back many hundred years. Notice the fish which appear on the shield. It is not known, but perhaps they symbolize the family's tradition of seafaring careers.

exemplified by the Cator family, was the key to the great decades of progress which were to follow these early, inspiring, but difficult years.



ZULU STOCKADE
FIRST PERMANENT SETTLEMENT
IN HANSFORD COUNTY
BY JAMES AND BOB CATOR - 1873

4-H'ers compete in judging event at Clarendon

The Hansford County 4-H Club recently sent nine members to Clarendon Junior College for a horse judging contest. Two teams of four and one individual participated in the event. Melinda McCullough and Nancy Morris accompanied the participants to the contest.

The first team brought home a second place trophy. Members of that team were Matt Eakin of Spearman, Breena Hays, Dawn McCullough, and Jake McCullough of Gruver. Breena Hays was awarded a plaque for earning the second high individual score.

The second participating team consisted of Monty Eakins of Spearman, Kyle Deeds, Raymond Lewallin, and Brandy Morris of Gruver. Monty Eakin received third high individual score.

Brady Tidwell entered the individual competition. This was the first judging event Tidwell, Deeds, Lewallin, Morris, and Monty Eakin have entered.

Wanda Eakin is leader of the club. The club will be traveling to judging contests and shows every weekend until April 22. On April 22, they will be participating in the district contests.



The singer at the Main Event that some local youth participated in last week, got the youth involved in the singing with verses including, "untie the shoes of the person next to you" and other fun songs.



Julie Deakin



Pam Doty

Texas, New Mexico and Colorado were honored during Wednesday's ceremony.

Wayland honors two area students for academics

Two residents from Gruver, Julie Deakin and Pam Doty, were honored for outstanding academic achievement during Recognition Day activities Wednesday at Wayland Baptist University.

Miss Deakin received the Chemistry Award from the Division of Math and Science, recognizing Wayland's top student in that field of study.

A 1985 graduate of Gruver High School, Miss Deakin is a senior majoring in chemistry and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Deakin of Gruver.

Miss Doty was named recipient of the Helen Barnhart Reese Memorial Award and Scholarship. The Award and \$200 scholarship are presented annually to an outstanding junior student who has career goals in the field of education.

Miss Doty, an elementary education major, is a 1986 graduate of Gruver High School and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Doty of Spearman.

A total of 41 students from

Seminar to address lowering estate taxes

Estate taxes can take a big bite out of any business, including farming and ranching operations. To help that situation, the Texas Agricultural Extension Service is conducting a seminar.

A two-day seminar is slated for April 4-5 at the Holiday Inn Civic Center in Lubbock.

"Purpose of the seminar is to help business owners such as farmers and ranchers learn how to reduce taxable estates and new methods for passing their operations to the next generation without tax burdens," said Dr. Wayne Hayenga, an attorney and economist with the Extension Service.

The seminar will begin with a discussion on estate taxes, including deductions, expenses and tax rates, Hayenga said.

Basic estate planning devices will be explained in depth, including wills, by-pass trusts, gifts, disclaimers and property titles.

"Relating estate plans to income tax savings can be of even greater benefit than just a single plan," Hayenga said. "In fact, sometimes

income tax savings over many years can be greater than estate tax savings for people with commercial-sized farm and ranch businesses."

The seminar also will deal with treating beneficiaries fairly, estate planning tools for agriculture, and the "ins and outs" of corporations, partnerships and selling part of the business to heirs.

Special estate tax rules for agriculture will be discussed, including special farmland valuation, deferred estate tax payment, life insurance, "flower" bonds and other property.

"Estate planning is a way to

reduce taxes," Hayenga said, "and this process should start early. Such planning is especially important when you plan to inherit substantial property, when you have an active and growing business, when you still have time to take tax-saving actions, when you have minor children, and when your children marry or divorce."

Detailed information about the estate planning seminars is available from any county Extension office or from Hayenga in the Department of Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843; telephone: (409) 845-2226.

NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	BIRTH PLACE
A.B. Mathews	38	stock raiser	Va.
J.M. Donalson	30	herder	Penn.
E.O. Locher	23	herder	Va.
A. Walker	30	herder	Ark.
Henry O'Neil	25	herder	N.Y.
J.C. Daley	29	Sheep herder	Wyom.
Manuel Valverde	45	herder	Mex.
Luthero Reono	19	herder	Mex.
Luono Vaulio	35	herder	Mex.
J aun Ethersoe	25	herder	Mex.
C.H. Yates	32	herder	England
Robert Cator	29	civil Eng.	England
James Cator	27	?formanfirm	England
Clara Cator	22	keeping house	England
J. Ludlow	25	visitor	England
B.O. Cator	18	herder	England
S.C. Tyler	23	stock raiser	Mass.
C.H. Wilson	46	blacksmith	Mass.

The settlers in the Hansford County area in the 1880's and 1890's were primarily ranchers and not farmers, although early ranchers did grow a few plots of grain sorghum and alfalfa as feed. The area was growing in population and in 1876, a Mr. Cole surveyed the land that was to become Hansford County.

Bob Cator had left for Oregon and greener pastures after several bad winters on the Palo Duro. B.O. Cator is Bert Cator, who was later the county sheriff.

In 1889, "Huff" Wright and Jim Cator, along with other early settlers, helped to organize Hansford County. Prior to this time, all governmental affairs were handled in Mobeetie, Wheeler County. Two towns competed to be the

duly-noted transaction!

The Commissioner's Court also had to approve the use of the county courthouse, the largest building in Hansford County, for "necktie socials," church meetings, dances, and "apron-hemming" circles.

From the time the county was officially established, churches, schools, and homes began to spring up steadily as more people came to settle here in spite of the relatively harsh physical environment and complete lack of mechanized farm and ranching equipment. Windmills played a large role in making the land habitable and guns in keeping its citizens reasonably law-abiding, but the fortitude of Hansford County's original pioneers, as

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April 15 - 1:00 p.m. Perryton, Texas
600 NE 6th - (3 blocks W. of Drive Inn Theatre)
Tack sells first

FARM AUCTION
Troy Sloan & Others
April 20 - Thursday - 10:00 a.m.
Old Airport - Spearman, Texas
Limited Consignments Welcome

FARM EQUIPMENT & REAL ESTATE
Lipscomb County - April 22 - 10:00 a.m.
Limited Consignments Welcome

May 20 - Annual Consignment

For information call: Rick Riggins - 659-3819

Among the Neighbors

by Helen Fisher

Announcement is being made of the arrival of Audrey Rose, daughter of Julia and Bert Wofford. She was born on March 27 at Spearman, weighing 8 pounds 8 ounces and measuring 20½ inches long.

She has a 3½ year old sister, Erin. Grandparents are Mae and Dale Wofford (their 8th), Mr. and Mrs. Al Schmuck, Portales; great grandparents are Rosa Wofford, Bath, Pa., Lelia and Leonard Ditzler, Portales, and Mrs. Florence Cotton, Roswell.

Carter Crawford spent several days last week in the Coronary Care Unit of Northwest Texas Hospital. He is back at home now, able to be up and around, but far from his usual sprightliness. However he is working at regaining his agility and is optimistic it will be soon.

Maxine Banister had a pleasant couple days visit with her niece and family from Denver the early part of the week. Cathy Crawford Herring and husband, Sonny, and

Christie, Kelley and Andrew. Cathy was a little too rushed this trip to renew old friendships.

Mrs. Allan Isbell of Clovis spent a few days this week with her aunt, Carrie Marie Berry.

Marjory Collard is in St. Anthony's Hospital in Amarillo where she was to undergo hip surgery on Friday. The surgery was necessitated by a fall she suffered recently when she and John R. were in Nashville.

It is expected that she will be confined for another week or ten days. Her room number is 555.

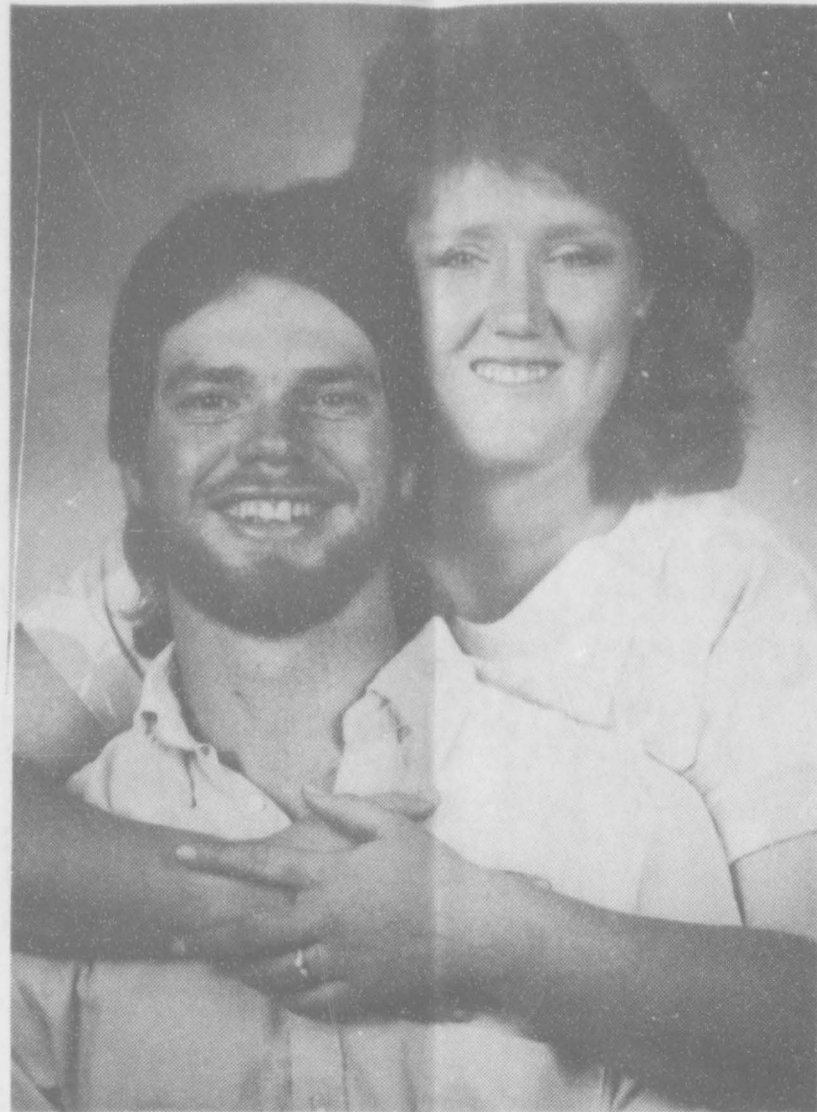
To observe the first 100 years since the organization of Hansford County, the staff at the **Spearman Reporter** is planning to put out an edition that will be worthy of preservation for every family—actually ten editions.

In addition to the usual interviews with old-timers, there will be reminiscences and reports from people of each decade.

Now since Hansford County is still relatively new to the capable Jean Ann Behney, feature reporter, and the other members of the crew sort of have their pasture over-stocked with publishing three issues weekly and assembling the centennial material, certainly all the neighbors should assist in some manner. Relating some personal recollection, or custom, or activity or furnishing some photo—all would be helpful in the special issues. TIME IS FLEETING!

THC HONOREES, from p.1

other preservationists who have dedicated 20 years or more of service to a county historical commission: Ellen R. McReynolds of Anderson County; Walter Carl Jones of Brazos County; Ralph E. Randel, Mrs. Ralph E. Randel, Mrs. Truett Fields, J.R. Hogge, Mrs. Harold V. O'Neal, Alfred Bell, Mrs. George Coffee, Mrs. W.L. Harrington, Mrs. J.B. Howe, Mrs. A.M. Pemberton, Eugene Phillips, Howard R. Pruitt, Mrs. Howard R. Pruitt, Floyd Scott, Mrs. Floyd Scott, Mrs. Minor Simms, Bill Surrant, Mrs. R. Fred Surratt, Mrs. E.C. Shuman, Mrs. O.L. Spurlock, Elten



Mr. and Mrs. Jim Thomas announce the engagement of their daughter, Teri Thomas to Steve Hunter of Perryton. The couple is planning a June 10 wedding in Perryton.

Booster Club to meet Monday

Members of the Spearman Lynx and Lynxette Booster Club are scheduled to meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 4 in the Home

Economics Room at the Spearman High School. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Vance, Jim Williams, and Mrs. Charles Warminski of Carson County;

Wayne Parker, Pauline Watkins, and Verna Anne Wheeler of Crosby County; Dorothy Johnson, Edward Hake Phillips, S.E. Gillespie, Dorothy Gillespie, Emory Christian, Mrs. Emory Christian, Clyde L. Hall, Virginia Hall, and R.C. Vaughan of Grayson County; Gerry Doyle of Jefferson County; Edwin Lepley, Yvonne Lepley, Ynette Boyce, James B. Boyce, Hilde Faulkner, and Billie J. Trapp of San Jacinto County; Eugene G. Connally and Ruth F. Parker of Somervell County; Kath-

rin Hamilton of Terry County; Mildred Moreland of Tom Green County; and Annie Lee Ansley and W.A. Ansley of Wharton County.

Ladies Y-league team takes loss

The local ladies basketball team sponsored by Gillaspie Chevrolet Olds lost their first game in the Y-league competition Thursday night in Dumas. They lost to Frische Farms of Dumas, 44-37. The teams season record is now 4-1. Leading scorers for the Gillaspie team were Janet Walser with 21, Jenni Morris 6, Cissy Gibson 4, Sharilynn Larson 3, and Shelley Beedy 2.

Thursday night they play Stinnett at 7:15 p.m. at the Dumas YMCA. Next Tuesday and Thursday the playoff tournament is scheduled which will conclude the season for the y-league teams.

Local women try to form ministry group

Ella Mae Stark of Amarillo will be in Spearman on Friday, April 7 to meet with women interested in a women's ministry in the Spearman area. She will be in the home of Max and Carolyn Taylor at 1004 Bernice at 10 a.m. that day.

Stark is associated with the Flame Fellowship Organization. It is a non-denominational organization which ministers to all people.

Those who have organized the meeting are asking that at least two ladies from each of the local churches attend the Friday meeting. Plans will be discussed while those attending can enjoy fellowship and coffee.

For more information contact Alice Miller at 659-2976 or Carolyn Taylor at 659-3676.

Paper profiles class of 1979

Editors Note: The "Class of 1979" will be having their 10 year reunion this summer. The Hansford Plainsman will be running a brief profile on the students during the next few weeks. We want Spearman to remember our exes.

Johnny Kenney - went into farming out of high school. The farms near Spearman and on the family ranch, "Chicken Creek Ranch," north of Pampa. Johnny has one daughter, Mandy, age 8. Johnny enjoys fishing and riding horses.

Debra Owens Cook - worked for Sears in high school and continued working for them. She now lives in Elk City, Okla. where she still works for Sears. Her husband, Terry, works for Circle L. Drilling Co. They have two children, Jacque, age 8, and Matthew, age 5. Debra enjoys sewing, cross stitching, and bowling.

Jeff Gatlin - received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Texas Tech University where he majored in Psychology. He is now in the Air Force in Fort Meade, Maryland. Jeff and his wife, Rebecca, have two children, Megan, almost 2, and Austin, 3 months. He likes to ride motorcycles and lift weights. He is also

taking further education.

Jan Oakes Hassinger - worked for several years in the advertising department of American Quarter-horse. She is taking classes at Amarillo College in Amarillo, Texas, where she and her husband, Mark, a dentist, make their home. Jan enjoys aerobics, fishing, and gardening.

Susan Cope Rodriguez - went to West Texas State University where she received her Elementary Education degree. She now teaches first grade at Glenwood Elementary. Her husband, Benny, has his own backhoe business, called "Benny's Backhoe." Susan and Benny have one little girl, Lea, 17 mo. with a second child due in Sept. They recently built their own home by themselves. Susan enjoys reading and oil painting.

We have a few names we were unable to get information about. We will be glad to print their profile if someone will send in information about them.

- Mitchell Smith
- Billy Sellers
- Tommy Limbocker
- Yolanda Deluna
- Mark Green
- Sherry Johnson
- Linda Garcia
- Esmerelda Vela
- Lucio Vela
- Steve Goff
- Sherri Fox
- Zane Newton
- Deanna Ochoa

Obituary

Anna McGary

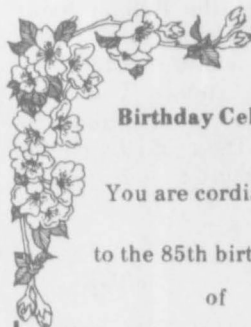
Anna McGary, 78, died Mar. 22, 1989.

Services were Friday, Mar. 24, at the Church of Christ in Spearman. John Scott officiated. Grave-side services were at Channing Cemetery.

Mrs. McGary was born in Swisher County, Texas. She married Hugh McGary in 1945 in Childress. He died in 1960.

She moved to Spearman in 1961. She was a member of the Church of Christ in Spearman.

She is survived by one daughter, Georgia Gaither of Spearman, six grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, and four great-great grandchildren.



Birthday Celebration

You are cordially invited

to the 85th birthday party of

"Grannie" Grace Nemsgern

on Sunday April 2, 1989

from 2 - 4 p.m. in the

Home Demonstration Building

For a hybrid that doesn't compromise good agronomic traits for outstanding yield potential, plant **NEW 3168!**



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- Plant Pioneer® brand hybrid 3343 as a companion to increase your odds for a better corn crop.

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HYBRID	1988			3-YR. AVG.		
	BU AC	% WINS	COMPARISONS	BU AC	% WINS	COMPARISONS
3168	190.8	74	166	198.6	81	252
Competitives	179.9			183.9		

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Billy Logsdon Gruver 733-2803
Andy Watley Spearman 659-3838



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"You should know that this is wrong! That virtually everyone can still benefit through tax-deferred contributions or tax-deferred earnings or both...but the most important thing to remember is that IRAs were not created from tax laws; they were created from need. People need retirement funds when they reach retirement, and your IRA is the safe and sure way to get ready!

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"Get serious about your retirement plan!"



MEMBER FDIC

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Phone: 806-659-5565
Spearman, Tx 79081

Classifieds!

For Sale

FOR SALE: 1981 - 650 Maxim Motorcycle, \$500. Call 659-2764. S21S-RTN

FOR SALE: '83 El Camino in good condition. Call 659-3956. S21S RTN

FOR SALE: CORN SEED \$55 per bag. For information call Morris Seed Co at 806-733-2203. S19 8tc

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

HOUSE FOR SALE: 2 Bdr/Den (Recently remodeled Bath and Kitchen) For more information call 659-3362 at noon or after 6:30 weekdays or anytime weekends. Priced low teens. S19S RTN

FOR SALE: Brick house on 2 acres in Gruver, 3 bdr, 2 full baths, & 2 large water heaters, 4 car garage, large shop, horse barn & lots of trees, \$70,000. 205 E 10th. Call 733-2129, 733-2002, or Norma Swink at 733-2421 or 733-2136 nights. S19 RTN

FOR SALE: 1986-C50-1 1/2 ton Dump Truck, 1988-1/2 ton Ford Ranger-4 wheel Drive, 1986 650 John Deere tractor with 6 attachments. Call 659-3115 week days before 1 p.m. or Saturday all day. Sunday evening. S21S 3tp

SALE on Shaklee Products. 3 days ONLY. April 3, April 4 and April 5. 30% off on in-stock products. Call 435-6836 or 435-2759. S22S 1tc

For Rent

FOR RENT: 1 bedroom furnished apartment. Call 659-3491. S21S-rtm.

Help Wanted

Office help needed for local elevator office. Light bookkeeping experience a plus, but not a necessity. Job will consist of weighing trucks IN and OUT and minimal office duties. Full time job. Contact Pete Stafford, Spearman Grain Co., Gruver Hwy., Spearman, Texas 659-2549. S22S-1tc (call)

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETING

8:00 p.m. upstairs
Hansford County Library
on Tuesday evenings

AL ANON

NOTICE

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

OSGOOD MONUMENT CO.

Amarillo, Texas
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BOXWELL BROS.
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519 S. Evans
659-3802

Miscellaneous

GARAGE SALE: Fri. afternoon Mar. 31 1:00 - 6:00 p.m. Sat. 9:00 - 6:00 p.m. April 1, 1116 S. Archer. S22 2tp

MITCHELL GARAGE DOOR REPAIR & INSTALLATION: Residential and commercial. Also will install electric openers. Experienced. Call after 5 p.m. 323-8210 or 435-3033. s10-rtm

Count on the
Classifieds
to Do the Job

Legal Notices

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids for the purchase of a commercial type diesel powered with hydrostatic drive 72 inch front mount riding tractor mower will be received by the City of Spearman, Texas, at the office of the City Manager up until 2:00 p.m., April 24, 1989, then publicly opened and read.

The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive informalities, and to accept the bid deemed to be the most advantageous to the City. All bids received after the closing hour will be returned unopened.

Specifications and bidding documents may be secured from the office of the City Manager, P.O. Box 37, Spearman, Texas 79081. S22S-2tc (Sun only)

JR. HIGH-ELEMENTARY MENU APRIL 3 - APRIL 7

- MONDAY**
- SAUSAGE ON A STICK
- POTATO SALAD
- COLE SLAW
- CINNAMON ROLL
- FRUIT
- MILK
- TUESDAY**
- HAMBURGER
- FRIES
- LETTUCE/TOMATO
- PICKLE/ONION
- COOKIE
- MILK
- WEDNESDAY**
- STEAK FINGERS
- MASHED POTATOES
- SEASONED GREEN BEANS
- HOT ROLLS
- PINE APPLE TIDBITS
- MILK
- THURSDAY**
- TACO
- PINTO BEANS
- SPANISH RICE
- LETTUCE/TOMATO
- SOPAPILLAS/HONEY
- MILK
- FRIDAY**
- SUBMARINE SANDWICHES
- TATOR TOTS
- CORN ON COB/BUTTER
- PUDDING POPS
- MILK

HIGH SCHOOL MENU APRIL 3 - APRIL - 7

- MONDAY**
- SAUSAGE ON A STICK
- POTATO SALAD
- SALAD BAR
- CINNAMON ROLL
- MILK
- TUESDAY**
- HAMBURGER
- FRIES
- SALAD BAR
- COOKIE
- MILK
- WEDNESDAY**
- STEAK FINGERS
- MASHED POTATOES/GRAVY
- SALAD BAR
- HOT ROLLS
- FRUIT
- MILK
- THURSDAY**
- TACOS
- PINTO BEANS
- SALAD BAR
- SOPAPILLA/HONEY
- MILK
- FRIDAY**
- SUBMARINE SANDWICH
- TATOR TOTS
- SALAD BAR
- PUDDING POPS
- MILK



Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Ross of Spearman announce the engagement of their daughter, Rhonda Ross to Tony Mans. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Mans of Spearman. The wedding date has been planned for July 9, 1989.



This was one of many truckloads of sand that was being dumped into the core of the dam last Thursday. Workers are still busy finding the right grade of sand for the project.

stop using words that hurt.

Start using words that help.

Ad Council

For helpful information, write: National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse, Box 1866E, Chicago, IL 60690

It takes the entire life's work of ten bees to create a pound of honey.

Some sound advice:

There's a sound exam we recommend for anyone who values their hearing. It involves using this simple instrument, as well as listening for a series of tones at various levels. A qualified professional conducts this painless test in minutes.

If you have hearing problems, our professionals can explain hearing loss and also tell you about the latest advances in hearing aids. They're now very lightweight, small and inconspicuous as well as longer lasting and more trouble-free! We think you'll like what you hear.

HIGH PLAINS HEARING AID CENTER

will conduct FREE HEARING EVALUATIONS at the Golden Spread Senior Center, 14 S. Haney in Spearman, Tx on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. If you have any questions please call our Amarillo office at 1-800-333-4504.

GTE begins measures to meet TUC rulings

GTE Southwest President E.L. "Buddy" Langley told employees on March 27 that layoffs, investment reductions and other measures will be necessary parts of the company's response to the recent Public Utility Commission of Texas ruling in the company's rate filing.

Langley said the commission's order requiring GTE Southwest to reduce rates by \$59 million will force the company to eliminate jobs now held by almost 600 Texas employees, release more than 100 contractors who are currently working for GTE and defer filling approximately 400 existing vacancies --A total of 1,100 jobs eliminated.

In addition, GTE Southwest will be reducing its capital investment budget by more than \$100 million and deferring or eliminating further modernization of telephone switching centers and networks in Texas which were already scheduled to be done in 1989. The company will abandon plans for a new \$40 million facility in Irving, reduce \$5 million of vehicle orders and there will also be \$2 to \$3 million of additional reduced or deferred expenses such as training, building repairs and other items.

"In the interim, Langley said the company has filed for rehearing with the PUC, which is now scheduled for April 5 in Austin, and will pursue all legal avenues to modify the commission's final order and its "devastating impact" on GTE Southwest's operations.

"If we are not successful in the rehearing process, we will appeal the commission's action. We are optimistic that our legal position will be ultimately upheld," Langley said.

"But because of the time required in the appeals process and our potential financial exposure, we must take immediate action to reduce expenses." These actions however, only take into consideration the \$59 million reduction and are steps necessary to keep the company financially sound. If GTE SW was required to implement the retroactive portion of the commission's order, and reduce an additional \$138 million, "the company would be in a very, very serious financial position," Langley said.

"Our net income would drop drastically and our interest coverage would be inadequate. No one can possibly know how to react or adjust to meet customers' needs under the devastating effect of such a retroactive rate order. It will simply cripple the company. The revenue stream will be significantly decreased.

"It is obviously very painful to release employees who have been responsible for bringing our service quality to one of the highest of any telephone company in the state. Yet the revenue levels mandated by the PUC simply will not support the programs that we now have. These programs have allowed us to achieve excellent service and to build a modern telecommunications infrastructure --better serving existing customers and helping attract new business and industry to the state. The commission's action leaves us no option but to drastically reduce expenses," Langley said.

The employee reductions will be widespread and touch virtually every area where employees are located. The greatest impacts will be in locations where the company

has the largest number of employees.

Langley said the reduction in capital dollars required under the commission's order will affect all locations to some degree, but will primarily hurt areas where modernization programs have not yet been completed.

He labeled as "outrageous" the commission's claim that GTE Southwest had intentionally delayed the proceedings regarding its rate filing. "Factually, any delays in the final order in this case have been the result of the commission's own timetable or the result of delays agreed to by one or more of the parties to the case."

"It would be similar to having your employer order you to take a 20 percent cut in your pay, going forward, plus return 20 percent of what you had received over the past two years," he said.

"The commission looked at all of our income and expenses in 1983 and set our rates and established a rate of return. We followed the commission's order and only charged the rates they mandated. Now, the commission is saying those rates for the last two years are incorrect, and should be retroactively adjusted."

Langley urged employees to continue doing their best with the available resources remaining after the reductions are made.

"Unfortunately, with these types of reductions, it is inevitable that our customers will see some slippage in the speed at which we have been able to provide service."

Langley noted that the company's commitment of employee and financial resources has allowed its service levels to far exceed those minimum standards for performance established by the commission.

"I don't expect to see our results change overnight and we fully intend to continue to provide service of the highest quality, but the commission's order acts as a barrier to achieving this goal.

"No doubt, our costs will continue to rise. Duff and Phelps has already put GTE Southwest on a negative "credit watch." We may have to pay higher interest rates on the money we will have to borrow to get us through this period. Consequently, over the long run, that will probably result in higher local rates for our customers."

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AUCTION

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18.5 OZ. **.69**



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CITRUS HILL ORANGE JUICE
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SHEDD'S MARGARINE QUARTERS
1 LB. PKG. **2 \$1** FOR



CASA RICA FLOUR TORTILLAS
10 CT. PKG. **3 \$1** FOR

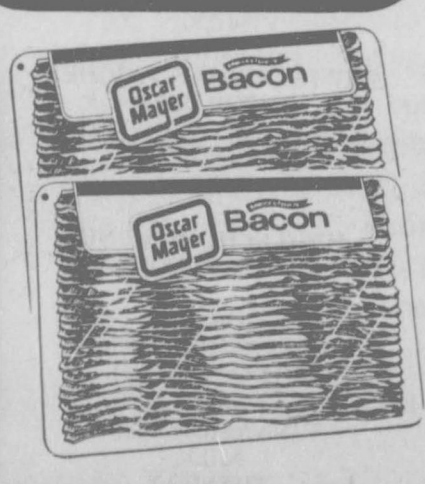


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REG. OR HOMESTYLE
12 OZ. **.89**

UNITED TRU TENDR OR USDA CHOICE SUPER VALUE PAK BONELESS SHOULDER ROAST
1 LB. **\$1.68**

UNITED'S PREMIUM QUALITY CHOICE
SINGLE PAK LB. **\$1.78**

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1 LB. PKG. **\$1.58**



RED DELICIOUS OR GOLDEN DELICIOUS APPLES
3 LB. BAG **.98**

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Seven Days a Week
(Effective April 2, 1989)

