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MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE



VOICE OF THE FOOTHILL COUNTRY

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A Retrospective 25 year anniversary of Matador tornado



This photo shows the front of the school before cleanup began. Note the trophies (front, center) sitting on the lawn, alongside a downed American flag (left). (Photo courtesy of MC Athletic Booster Club).



Debris litters the lawn of the old elementary school, a block southwest of the school. The Matador Elementary, still standing, and built in 1930, survived a direct hit. (Photo courtesy of Billy and Brenda Osborn).

By Carol Campbell

On May 1, 1984, at 8:46 p.m., a tornado with wind speeds from 158 to 206 mph tore through the southern part of Matador, traveling an unpredictable route from northwest to southeast, rather than southwest to northeast, the normal path for storms this time of year.

It gobbled up outbuildings in west Matador on the Ros Bearden property, imploding all the glass in the 2-story house; then it crossed state highway 70, taking a direct path to the

school complex where five families were scrambling for protection in the basement. It sucked up stadium lights, the scoreboard, and a press box from the football field, flattened the new livestock-bus barn, and tore into the school building, auditorium, and gymnasium.

Then like slicing a pie, the twister veered temporarily northeast, sucking up homes north and east of the school; obliterating homes on east Main, and lifting the roof of the old Sheridan house where five members of the Pipkin family

laid huddled in a 3-by-6 closet.

It moved about a block east, collecting roofs, trees, and outbuildings on Eubank and then suddenly, like a fierce pendulum swinging on a powerful track, the twister backtracked on its original path to destroy what it missed the first time, hitting the school a second time from a different angle and dumping debris as far as the eye could see.

The powerful winds lifted a school bus from the front of the school to the baseball field two blocks away, chomped up a few more roofs south of Walton Road as terrified neighbors ran for cover in Bundy Hal Campbell's basement, before bouncing southeast to continue its destructive path in open prairie.

It was estimated this Category 3 tornado caused between \$500,000 and \$5,000,000 in damages, destroying 87 homes and the Motley County school complex while leaving a path of destruction unimaginable 25 years hence.

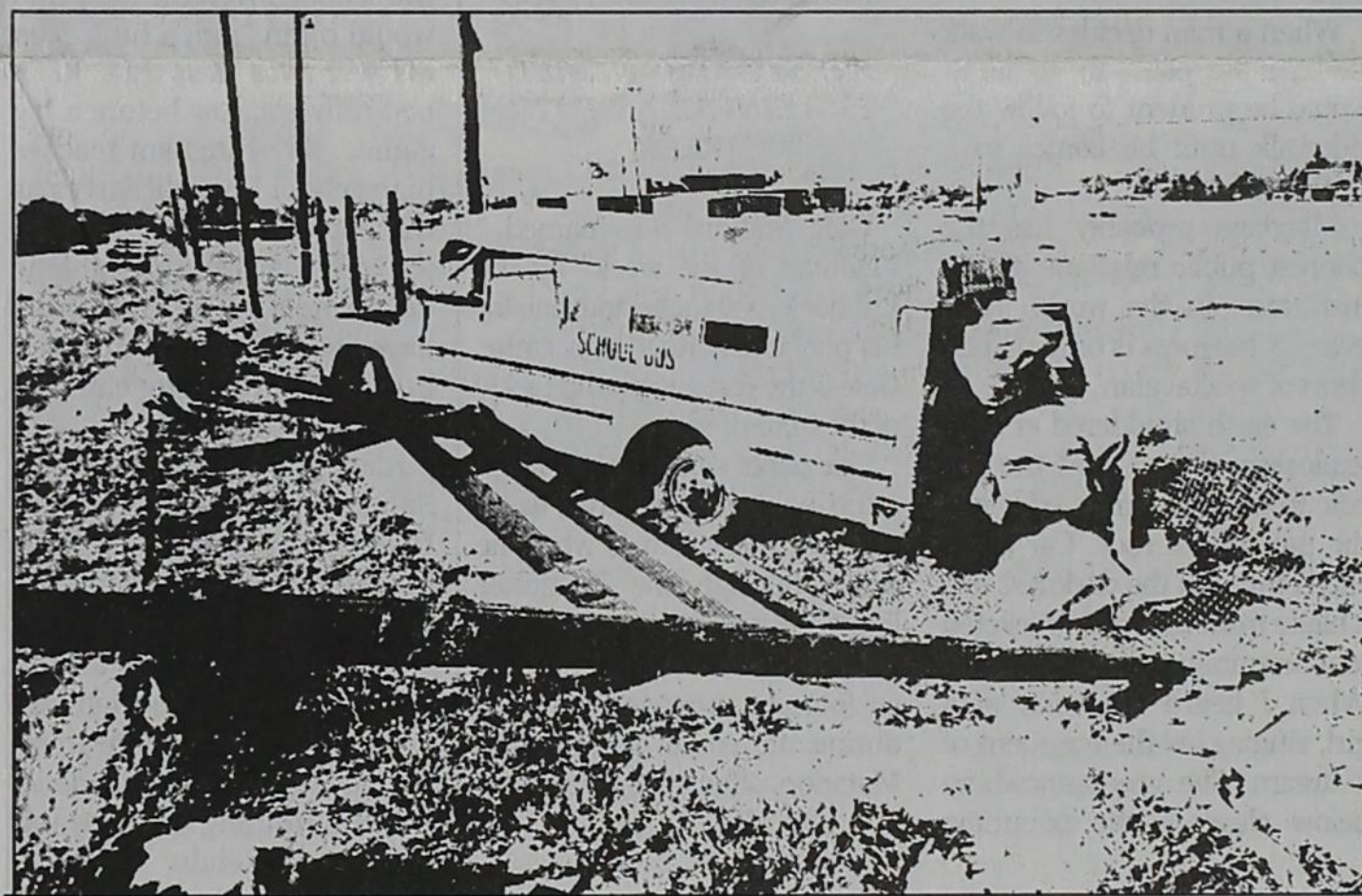
Miraculously, no one died, but Addie Murphy's house on the corner of Main and Hazel streets was completely destroyed. Ad-



This is a "before" picture of Addie Murphy's home.



The north wall of Addie Murphy's large Victorian home with a wrap-around porch and high roof was all that remained in the aftermath of the tornado. (Photo courtesy of Bundy and Dixie Campbell).



A school bus was lifted two blocks south of the school to Walton Road, where it was dumped on the concrete bleachers at the baseball field. (Photo courtesy of Billy and Brenda Osborn).

die suffered a broken pelvis when the suction from the force of the wind threw her into the dining room where she landed underneath the dining room table. "That table saved her life," her granddaughter Kay Bailey said. "It was the only piece of furniture still standing when it was over."

Many residents remember that day clearly - a day in May when the world changed dramatically for 87 families and a whole school community. Fifteen minutes of sheer terror followed by disbelief and despair; then exhausting cleanup; and finally months, then years, bargaining for disaster relief with the state and federal governments which ran the gamut from jubilation to despair to cautious optimism. A \$236,000 disaster grant from the U.S. Department of Education was received in April, 1987, three years almost to the day that the tornado struck.

Finally, this community of

survivors like their pioneer forefathers before them pulled themselves up by their boot straps and moved on.

Matador Exes pitched in, benefit fundraisers were held to replace the athletic facilities, spearheaded by the Motley County Athletic Booster Club. Secretary of the Booster Club Barbara Christian, along with Francis Hobbs and Del Bearden are credited with a massive fundraising effort for the athletic program. The Club mailed thousands of grant letters and requests for donations, raising more than \$30,000 to renovate the athletic facilities.

This retrospective is written in honor of all those residents who survived this storm; to the countless men and women who rose to the occasion, cleaning debris, salvaging furniture, returning treasures to their rightful owners, working long hours on a job, then going to work again.

This is written in honor of the children of Motley County, who helped pick up the pieces of their school, crawling methodically on their hands and knees to salvage scraps of paper; and to remove shards of glass in the grass of the football field in preparation for the fall kickoff; to those volunteers who cooked meals for the workers; to the workers who donated countless hours of labor, and on and on.

Finally, this is written in honor of the exes of Matador-Motley County high school who couldn't be here to lend a hand, but helped financially or used their clout to bring our school back to its former glory.

This is not intended to be an exhaustive story on what happened, but a reminder to reflect on May 1st, 25 years ago, when Matador was asked to show the region, state, and nation what we are made of. We call it True Grit in this part of the country.

continued on page 6

May 2, 2009 HWY 70 Garage Sale

Bigger and Better than Ever

Spur, Dickens, Roaring Springs, Matador, Flomot, Turkey

Foothill Country Connections

Community, Diversity, Art

By Laverne Zabielski

If you love this issue, with its 25 year retrospective of the tornado, thank Carol Campbell. And thank an advertiser. Without them there would be no *Motley County Tribune*. And if you have an idea for a feature, email it to us.

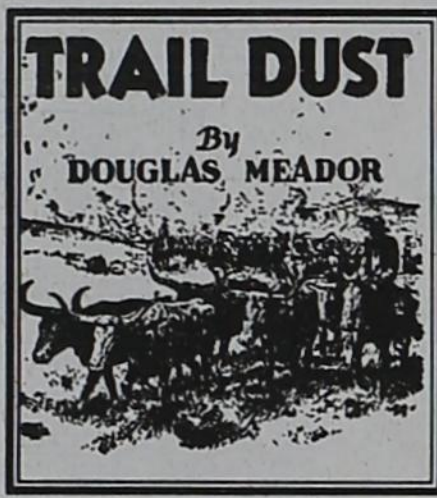
It's always amazing what happens when a community works together. There is evidence of that in Carol's research. There is evidence in the many events that Motley County produces, most recently the upcoming Hwy 70 Garage Sale and Relay for Life. There is evidence in all the submissions we get for stories and photos. And Carol's memorium for Alan Bingham emphasizes the impact one citizen can have when they are actively involved.

The blessing for us this

week is having all our kids together for a short time in Kentucky. Cementing family connections by retelling the stories that identify us always bring us closer together. We couldn't have had this experience without the hard work of Jennifer and Carol in getting the Tribune out.

Sometimes getting the paper to Roaring Springs is difficult. If anyone is in Matador on Wednesday afternoons, and could take the paper to Roaring Springs, let us know. And if anyone makes the trip to Flomot on Wednesday afternoons, we could set up a stand there, somewhere. Also, if anyone wants to stop by for some papers for Hackberry Creek Care Center, let us know. It's this kind of working together that produces results.

sea. Other breakers roared and shook the earth, overwhelming the voice, and shooting geysers beyond the point where I stood. Departing hastily from the lonely area I tried to hear the song again but there was only the eternal music of the sea.



Matador Tribune, 1960

Unselfishness is a divine impulse activated by happiness and peace of spirit that in turn are sustained by its perpetuation.

When a man decides to walk alone, if he plans to go far it would be prudent to follow the sidewalk until he comes to a traffic underpass.

Marriage probably has the poorest public relations of any institution in the world. However, its business is only slightly short of spectacular.

The earth shuddered at each explosion of surf, and the Pacific frothed and groaned below the palisade of rock. Car lights sliced through the darkness like a blade from the road bracketed to a mountain half a mile away. When I heard the voice of a girl, singing, as the fragment of a dream. She was somewhere below close to the pounding

RETRO NEWS

Matador Tribune, 1960

STAFFORD IS NAMED THE LINEMAN OF THE WEEK

Gale Stafford was named "Lineman of the week" by the Lubbock Avalanche Journal, for his play in the Rochester game. Gale is the 6'4, 235 pound tackle of the Matadors.

The paper said that he played a terrific defensive game, especially in the last half when he broke through the Rochester line to drop their backs for losses several times. He made thirteen or fourteen unassisted tackles during the game. Most of the Matadors offensive yardage was over him, also.

WRITING COMMUNITY

Uncle Sud and Aunt Limmer Stories

by Monta Marshall

Uncle Sud had a friend named Willy. (Marshall was their name but it was a different set of dogs from these in Motley County so you don't likely know them.) Willy's dad was well into his nineties. He had a stroke that mostly just caused him to do things that were considered impolite. His dear wife took care of him and occasionally she would be so tired that their children would go and stay for a few days and let Mrs. Marshall have some rest. He loved to come and eat with the family just like he had always done, he would sit at the head of the table as always and would offer thanks for the food as he had since he and Mrs. Marshall married way, way back there. He could not control his fork too well and so he wore a bib like a baby. Bless his heart. He really relished his food, but as soon as he was finished eating

he would promptly remove his teeth and fling them across the room. This was a bit rough on a good pair of false teeth. He had a daughter-in-law that was sort of squeamish. She usually had to run out in the yard for a while. Poor old feller, he didn't intend to upset Willodean so.

Now he didn't sleep too well either. He would be wakeful and restless. He would get up and wander about and maybe go outside during the night or decide to cook something and go back to bed leaving the pan on the fire. That can scare up a family pretty bad. To solve this problem someone always had to sleep with him. He also had to wear a homemade diaper because he had become incontinent. (This was before Depends.) One night his son had come to stay awhile and went to bed

with him so he would be sure that he would hear him if he tried to get up. The poor old soul was very restless that night. Willy checked him to see what was disturbing him. He wasn't sure what the problem was but the old fellow was clearly uncomfortable. Willy checked to be sure a diaper pin wasn't sticking him. He checked to see if he was wet or soiled. No that wasn't the problem. Finally in exasperation he asked, "Dad what in the world is the matter with you?" You need to get some sleep. Mr. Marshall kept putting his hand down in his diaper, Willy would say, "Don't do that you're okay". Finally Mr. Marshall said, "Well son, there is something hard in there". Willy assured him that he would be okay if he'd just go on to sleep. He kept mumbling and flouncing around so finally Willy got up and turned

on the light and unpinned his diaper. There was something hard in there, his false teeth!

I learned a little limerick when I was in high school English. I thought it was so important, I memorized and have remembered it until this day. It goes like this:

There was an old man of Black Heath
Who sat on his pair of false teeth

He said with a start,

"Oh Lord Bless My Heart"

For I fear that I have bitten myself underneath."

You just never know when English literature will come in handy. I am sorry that I can't remember the author of this little important piece of poetry.

Alan Bingham Memorium

By Carol Campbell

Alan Bingham died unexpectedly April 16, 2009. His funeral was held in the gymnasium, "appropriate to the occasion," his young widow said. Everyone knew that Alan was the Mighty Matador's biggest fan. He loved the school, loved the kids, and would often "pinch hit" when his wife was desperate for a pep rally speaker before a big game. Kay Bingham teaches high school English, serves as the pep club sponsor, and is the golf coach for the athletic department. The Bingham's have been intimately involved in the lives of many children in Motley County.

Alan had a great send-off Sunday, April 19. Francis Dixon played the piano, flawlessly covering the old-time funeral favorites, as more than 300 friends took seats for the service. The front row left was reserved for the pallbearers, all close personal friends -- golf and running buddies, and childhood friends. Twenty-three Fire Department friends (one of his many volunteer jobs) were seated on three rows of bleachers to the left of the podium, all decked out in creased denim jeans, traditional blue shirts and ties; and about 50 relatives sat on the right side of the podium, with the more than 300 guests surrounding the family. Alan touched a lot of people.

There were more than 20 sprays of fresh flowers encircling the beautiful walnut casket. Abundant displays included red carnations, yellow and gold iris and lilies. An arrangement of white daisies in the shape of a cross sat impressively in front of the piano, courtesy of Capital Farm Credit where Alan worked for 32 years.

Left of the casket was perhaps the most poignant sym-

bol of the day -- a lone fireman's jacket with "Bingham" printed boldly on the back, hanging on an easel holding a bright yellow fireman's helmet. The jacket and helmet were placed by fireman and Pastor Matt Crawford, as the men solemnly filed into the gym as a group to pay final tribute to one of their own. To the right of the casket were displayed three pictures of Alan, looking healthy and happy.

Three songs were interspersed during the service between scripture and acknowledgements, all sung without accompaniment by Quin Hays and Blair Fowler. Quin's clear, crisp base voice with harmony by Blair touched every heart in a perfect way. "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder" followed by "The Old Rugged Cross" and in closing, "How Great Thou Art" reverberated from the high ceilings, as if the angels in heaven were lifting their voices.

The Rev. Mike Crowley said Alan was a "community builder" who was "fully engaged in the human experience." "He was my friend, my comrade," he said. "We have a lot to learn from his example of service." Crowley and Bingham served in Viet Nam at the same time. Crowley out-ranked his friend and every morning at the post office, Alan would salute Mike, who would dismiss him with "Carry on soldier..." It was a game they played.

Pallbearer Kenneth Marshall said Alan was "his best friend." "What a great guy," he said, "if we had more like Alan the world would be a better place."

Then the unexpected happened. Alan's son, Chance, bravely took the podium in tribute to his father. "Dad would want me to thank you for being here," Chance graciously said, "and I want you

to know what a great dad he was." Chance thanked the community for all their support, and especially for the food that has been lavished on the family. "Matador could make a Better Crocker book," Chance said. This bit of levity raised the spirits of the crowd who were dabbling their eyes and choking back tears.

Pallbearer Larry Powell, Spur, said that "Alan Bingham was a friend of mine. We grew up together ... we were neighbors. We played football together, and believe you me, you wanted Alan on your team," Powell said. "He was the biggest 145-pound guard we had."

Alan's childhood friend remembered a moment in time more than 40 years ago. "We made a drive for the goal and wound up face-to-face, helmet-to-helmet on the ground." They were covered up with bodies, Powell said. "Alan said, 'Did you score?'" "I don't know, but I think I did," he replied.

Alan keeps his friends close. "Looking back 40 years from high school, Alan Bingham was my friend; and 58 years ago, Alan Bingham was my friend. He was always there, always in a good mood, always with a smile on his face," Powell said.

Sue Collier, a longtime friend of Kay's, said that Kay asked her to check out her new beau many years ago, and "the first thing Alan did when he met me was give me a big hug."

And then, surely by the 'Grace of God,' Kay Bingham stood in front of more than 300 gathered and thanked the crowd "for the love you have shown me and my family."

"Thank you for being here to show your love for him," she said, adding, "Alan was so much a part of this school, it is fitting that his services are

held here."

Finally, Alan's pastor and friend, the Rev. Bill Manney told the story of the naming of his son. "When the doctor told Kay she was going to have a baby, she said, 'Alan this is your last chance.'" When his son was born, dad named him Chance, in honor of his wife's sentiment. "As Paul Harvey would say, now you know the 'rest of the story,'" Pastor Manney said.

Manney preached a beautiful funeral service, citing scripture, telling meaningful stories, and giving us plenty of time to reflect on the fragile state we all find ourselves -- whirling in space on this tiny blue marble in a galaxy so large it defies logic.

In a fitting end, the community filed past the open casket, resting their eyes for one last moment on Alan Bingham, at least on this earth; and then moved out the door to wait reverently for the family to emerge following final goodbyes. When the casket emerged on this bright sunny day with blue sky and cotton puff clouds, a hauntingly mournful bagpipe played "Amazing Grace."

Passing the fire truck, the very one that Alan had ridden only a short time ago as a volunteer, he was placed in the hearse for his final trip home to Spur, America, as longtime friend Larry Powell would say.

Losing one so near and dear to the heartbeat of this community makes us all re-evaluate our priorities. Several themes were clear this day: Be a friend; smile a lot; help children, participate in your community, and love your neighbor. Thank you, Alan, for being our teacher.

MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE

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BBQ Fundraiser
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Youth Camp
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Saturday May 2, 11:00 - 2:00
Matador Church of Christ Building

DAYS GONE BY

The Greens Go West...and Settle At Whiteflat

By Carleton Green

Editor's Note: This chapter from The Green Family is shared by Richard "Jiggs" Green of Hackberry Creek Care Center. "Jiggs" lives and breathes fishing. He is anxiously awaiting a field trip to wet a hook, so he has his rod and reel polished and ready to go. Lately he has been exercising and walking more so he will be in shape for the spring outing.

The Lure of Whiteflat

In late 1912, Jim and Jennie moved their family from Gasoline 12 miles south to a farm east of Whiteflat in Motley County. In those days, Whiteflat was a farming center, boasting of a population of several hundred people. It had some stores, a blacksmith shop, a post office, a gin, three churches, a family and farm house on almost every quarter section, and a high school which rivaled anything in the area.

My uncle, George Foster, my mother's oldest brother was one of the first teachers, along with Emma Garrison, who was the mother of Edna Ruth (Bourland) Green, Luther Green's wife. Everybody seems to have lived in Whiteflat at some time or another. This is where my father's and mother's family seem to share a common background.

According to my Aunt Ona, Whiteflat was named by a friend of theirs. He said the whole flat was covered with white needle grass, making a solid, beautiful sight. He arrived in 1889, named the place White Flat, and sent the name in for approval of a post office. They wouldn't accept it as two words, so they settled for Whiteflat as one word.

Teddy was already living

in Floydada and had married Gracie Lee "Grace" Foster on June 12, 1911. I was born on October 9, 1912, and Annie married Arthur Garland on October 19. This left Jamie, age 19, as the oldest still at home, with Daisy 17, Earl 16, Art 15, and Luther 9.

Jamie Takes Over

In early 1914, Jim moved out and abandoned the family. Just why he chose that particular time, no one seems to know. As mentioned earlier, he had never completely adjusted to Walter's death. Annie and Teddy were gone, and he had become a grandfather, me. Maybe it was too many teenagers for him at age 60. Whatever the reason, he simply disappeared.

He was a gentle, sensitive man, with considerable artistic ability. He was an excellent violin (fiddle) player and occasionally performed professionally. One time he went to Denver and won \$1,000 in a contest playing "Silver Threads Among the Gold." These artistic genes were apparently passed along to some of his children, too. Jamie was also an excellent fiddle player and could play by ear any tune he heard. His son, Jack, played the guitar and they used to play for dances at the big ranches around Matador. Jack now plays the mandolin and, like his father, can play anything he hears. Teddy became a sign painter and commercial artist.

Jennie, too, had artistic abilities. She was a tiny woman, never weighing more than 100 pounds, as far back as anyone can remember. She was always very prim and neat, and often wore a little cap trimmed with lace which she made herself. She sewed beautifully, and always kept the children

neat and well-dressed. She loved to make braided rugs. In later years she made flowers from glass beads to pin on a dress, and a woman friend of hers sold them for her. She also played the organ, the old foot-pedal pump kind, and sang, always religious songs. I don't remember how well. It is no wonder, then, that their offspring inherited signs of artistic ability, and that these talents are still showing up in their descendents.

In February 1914, tragedy struck again. Daisy died suddenly of pneumonia after riding a horse four miles to church in Whiteflat on a bitter cold Sunday. Daisy was a beautiful young woman, age 19, when she died, and very popular. She had gone some with Arthur Garland, whom Annie later married. Annie had been going with Orris, Arthur's brother, when she and Arthur suddenly discovered each other. After that, Daisy went some with Orris. Daisy kept a small diary filled with notes written in it to her by her close friends wherever she went. This diary was given to me by Luther Green, and is the source of many of the dates regarding Kenna, Gasoline, and Whiteflat.

Before she died, Daisy had introduced her brother, Jamie, of whom she was very proud, to Leona Mae Slover, my Aunt "Ona," then a resident of Whiteflat. When his father left, Jamie had to take over the support and responsibility of the family, that is, his mother and remaining three brothers. He was 21 at the time. With Daisy gone, he didn't even have her help. He and Ona were married on October 10, 1915, but she had to live at first with his family, Jennie, Earl, Art and Luther.

School Menu

May 1, Friday- Breakfast: Cereal/Blueberry Muffin, Milk, Juice. Lunch- Corn Dogs, Baked Beans, Pickle Spears, Jello, Milk, Juice.

May 4, Monday- Breakfast: Pancake/Sausage, Cereal and Toast, sliced Pears with milk. Lunch- Pizza, Salad, Pineapple Chunks, Vanilla Wafers, Milk.

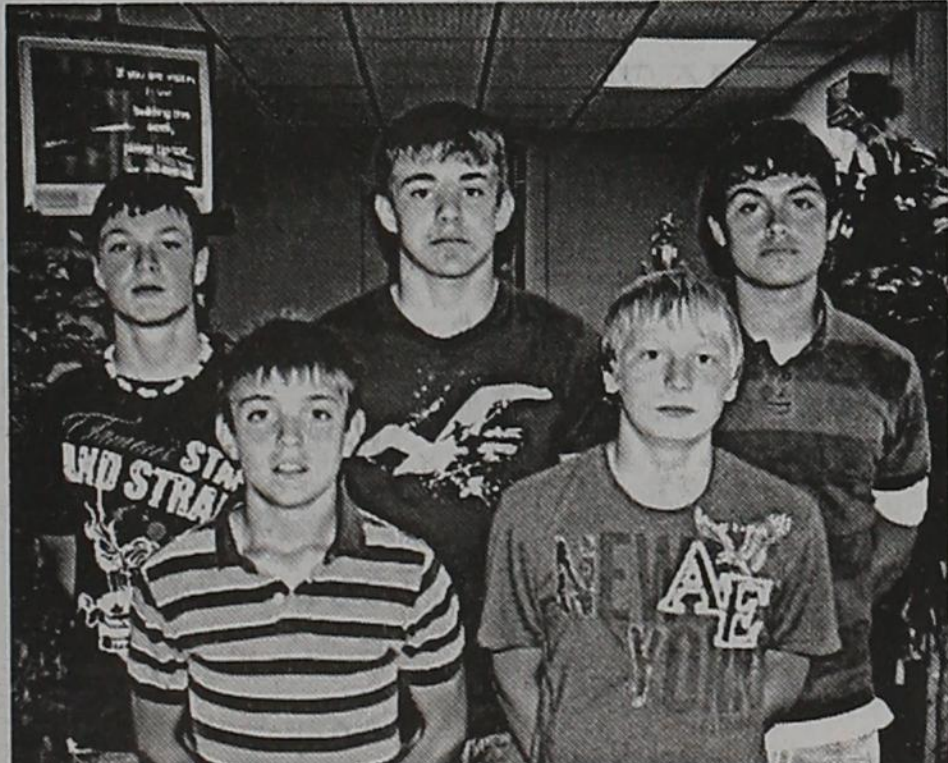
May 5, Tuesday- Breakfast: Cereal, Toast, Milk, Juice. Lunch- Steak Fingers, Creamed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans, Hot Roll, Milk.

May 6, Wednesday- Breakfast: Biscuit, scrambled eggs, and bacon/ cereal and toast, milk or juice. Lunch - Macho Nachos, Salad, Orange slices, Milk.

MCISD junior high boys golf team participate in Memphis Junior High Invitational Golf Tournament

The Motley County junior high boys golf team participated at the first annual Memphis Junior High Invitational Golf Tournament on Saturday April 25, 2009. This was a particularly special event for the junior high boys because it was the first junior high tournament ever for this group. The boys did a fantastic job with Austin Taylor winning first place in the boys division

followed by Britt Simpson in fourth, Conner Mason in fifth, Coby Cochran in seventh, and Jamie Jameson rounding out with tenth place. Many other schools in our district are communicating and hope to have more tournaments scheduled for Spring 2010. This is a great opportunity for our junior high to sharpen their skills and be prepared for high school golf.



Pictured left to right from top row is: Britt Simpson (8th), Austin Taylor (8th), Coby Cochran (7th). Left to right from bottom row is: Conner Mason (7th), Jamie Jameson (7th).

May 6
Last Kids Praise
til next school
year!

William Manney
is hosting an
Open House at the
Methodist Parsonage
901 Dundee, Matador
May 3 1:30 to 4:30

TxDOT Earns State's Highest Environmental Award

Programs recognized with the 2009 Texas Environmental Excellence Award

AUSTIN - The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has won the state's highest environmental award, the 2009 Texas Environmental Excellence Award, in recognition of the department's overall environmental efforts. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) sponsors the award and TxDOT won in the government category. Honorees are selected by a blue ribbon committee of environmental experts from public and private industry, and individuals, businesses and organizations that have created successful programs that conserve natural resources, reduce waste, and prevent pollution are eligible for the honor.

TCEQ commissioners will present the award to TxDOT Executive Director Amadeo Saenz, Jr. at their annual awards banquet on Wednesday, May 13, 2009, at the Austin Convention Center as part of the annual Environmental Trade Fair and Conference.

"The Texas Environmental Excellence Awards recognize

Texans that are implementing the most innovative and effective environmental projects in the state. The winners of these awards were selected after a review of more than 200 applications," said TCEQ Chairman Buddy Garcia.

"Environmental protection and air quality improvement are among TxDOT's core values. Our environmental programs were created to benefit and beautify Texas communities using innovative approaches to conservation and beautification," said Deirdre Delisi, Texas Transportation Commission chair. "The department and its employees are honored to receive this recognition for long-standing efforts and will continue to strive to create a transportation system that is environmentally sensitive."

A number of TxDOT environmental initiatives were recognized:

- * Drive Clean Across Texas
- * Clean Air Plan
- * Recycling Program
- * Compost Program
- * Alternative Fuels Program

* TxDOT Bat Program
* Wildflower Program
* Don't Mess With Texas
To learn more about these and other environmental programs at TxDOT, visit http://www.txdot.gov/business/contractors_consultants/environmental/default.htm.

The Texas Department of Transportation

The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining nearly 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, rail and public transportation across the state. TxDOT and its 15,000 employees strive to empower local leaders to solve local transportation problems, and to use new financial tools, including tolling and public-private partnerships, to reduce congestion and pave the way for future economic growth while enhancing safety, improving air quality and preserving the value of the state's transportation assets. Find out more at www.txdot.gov.

Motley County Boys and Girls Golf Teams traveled to Regional Tournament



Kay Bingham, Coach, with MC boys and girls golf team, Courtney Alexander, Christian Brooks, Kyla Simpson, Leanne Jameson, Lexi Osborn, Jonathon Osborn, Haley Blanco, Reagan Elliott, Will Butler, Andrew Martin.

On April 20th & 21st members of the Motley County Boys and Girls Golf Teams traveled to the Shady Oaks Golf Course in Baird, Texas for the Regional Tournament. There were sixteen teams each of boys and girls representing schools from Region II as well as individual medalist competitors. The Girls Team, led by Senior veteran player Courtney Alexander, placed 7th overall. Other Motley County qualifying team members included: Sophomores - Kyla Simpson, Haley Blanco and Leanne Jameson and Freshman - Lexi Osborn.

The Boys Team placed 9th overall and included Freshmen - Christian Brooks, Jonathon Osborn and Reagan Elliott,

Sophomore - Andrew Martin, and Senior Will Butler. Both teams, coached by Kay Bingham, had a terrific year and should be commended for the manner in which they represented their school and communities both on the golf course and off. Congratulations to both these fine teams.

Senior Menu

April 30, Thursday: Smothered Steak, Au gratin potatoes, Broccoli, Wheat Bread, Cake.

May 1, Friday: Cheeseburger with bun, Lettuce, tomato, onion, baked beans, oven fries, fruit of the day.

May 4, Monday: Taco Salad, Spanish Rice, Fruit, Cookies

May 5, Tuesday: Green Chili Chicken, Pinto Beans, Tossed Salad, Cornbread, Fruit Salad

May 6, Wednesday: Salmon Croquette, Scalloped Potatoes, Broccoli, Cucumber Salad, Rolls, Apple Cobbler


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"JESUS..."



The name seldom invokes a image of power. Yet the Bible identifies the Lord Jesus as supremely powerful. Sometimes we neglect as teachers or preachers to remind ourselves and others of the might, power, and strength of our Lord. When we do, our audience, and our students become the losers. There is so much of the Bible that we need to learn and learn how to teach.

Generally speaking our view of Jesus is sometimes dim because we try to make Him fit into the little box of our minds. But we have a Lord who is all-powerful. The Bible describes Him as the "Lord Sabaoth" and the "Lord of Hosts." In Revelation 19, Jesus is seen as the Lord of the Army of God.

Our Lord is found in the Bible to be the creator of this world and everything in it. He sustains life on this planet according to the first chapter of John. Jesus is indeed the Savior of us all. Comforting to us is the certain knowledge that our Lord has great power and will continue to exercise such until He comes in glory. Let us never forget the Almighty Lord, who after all, is in control of it all.

Roaring Springs Church of Christ
Michael G. Crowley, Sr.
BIBLE STUDY 10:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m.

NEWS AROUND MOTLEY COUNTY

Roaring Springs News

By Monta Marshall

Memorial Day will be coming up in a month. An updated list is being compiled of our Motley County service personnel for the memorial service. If you have updated information or have someone who has joined the armed forces please call me at 348-7000. The last update was a year ago. We would like to honor those who serve in the armed forces at the memorial service.

Kelly and Pennie Keltz are the proud grandparents of Kirbi Reese Johnson who was born on Thursday morning, April 23rd at Lubbock. This is the fourth grandchild for Kelly and Pennie. Greatparents are June Keltz and Stan Lovell and Corky and Monta Marshall. This is Corky's 10th great grandchild. I am not sure how many greats June has. Kirbi's parents are Kandi and Jared Johnson of Lubbock.

Ken and Dinah Young attended the wedding of Dinah's niece Lezli Wienke at the Cochrane Ranch which raises Peruvian Horses near Caldwell, Texas. The wedding took place in a hundred year old grove of pecan trees. The bride and groom were horseback. Lezli is the daughter of Jerry and Karen Wienke of Lubbock. The bridegroom is Andy Wise. Ken and Dinah attended the rehearsal dinner and a reception after the wedding held at the Hilton Hotel in Bryan. Ken photographed the wedding.

Beau and Shara Fletcher and little sons, Marty Blue and Mason visited J. N. Fletcher and attended the Marshall Reunion on April 19th.

Alex and Jo Crowder were in Lubbock to have lunch with their son, Buddy Crowder on Sunday.

Doctor and Mrs. Tom Bender

of San Angelo visited with Corky and Monta Marshall; they came on Friday evening and stayed until Sunday afternoon. Tom had never been here so we took him on a tour of the area beginning in Matador, the Springs Ranch Club, The 6666 Ranch and the Pitchfork Ranch. Mrs. Bender, Linda, is Monta's niece who has been here many times and helped with Kids' Camp once or twice. Linda and Tom married in November.

Ken Young will have a photography show opening on May 7th at the International Center at the Texas Tech Museum on Fourth and Indiana in Lubbock. He will be displaying work that he did while he and Dinah were in Greece working in the Olympics. There will be a reception on May 7th from 5:00 until 6:30 p.m. His work of about 50 pieces will be on display until June 17th.

Bill Hand was taken by ambulance this morning to the Heart Hospital in Lubbock. His daughter, Kim met him at the hospital; she called and said that he was would be staying at least overnight. He is in room 207 and seems to be doing well. Mozelle said that his blood pressured had dropped suddenly and he needed to get to the doctor.

On Sunday, Mozelle Hand's nephew, Ronnie Tucker had lunch with Bill and Mozelle Bill's daughter Kim and granddaughter Abby Watson also visited them on Sunday afternoon.

Dianne Carter is flying to Nevada tomorrow to see her five year old granddaughter perform in the ballet. Her granddaughter, Lindsey King lives in Parumph, Nevada. She will visit with her son and family for a few days before returning home.

Fairways and Rough

Babe Zaharius Tournament

April, 26, 2009.

1st place with a score of 30. Robert Osborn, Conway Clary, William Cochran, Coby Cochran

Others Playing: Shawn Elliott, Reagan Elliott, Shonda Elliott, Christian Brooks, Timmy Brooks, David Taylor, Tammy Simpson, Shane Taylor, Aus-

tin Taylor, Austin Taylor, Jerry Johnson, Jeannie Johnson, Todd Johnson, Geneva Wilson, Garland Cartwright, Kyle Moore, Brandon Moore, Olivia Barton, Ellis Terry, Ray Martin, Alvin Martin, Randy Martin, Pat Warren, Lee Jones, Bradley Jameson, Crystal Degan, Roy Gene Stephens, Bryan Thomas, Ricky Hughes, Cory Johnston, Lee Hurt

Flomot News

By Earlyne Jameson

OVERHEARD

The Federal government is out of control and life long politicians with no business experience are not helping matters. Mark Dotzeur, chief economist at Texas A&M described federal government's role in this mess as a faternity party out of control.

ATTEND WEDDING

Cole Martin of Portales, N.M. visited overnight Friday with his father, Wilburn Martin. They continued to Granbury, Saturday and attended the wedding ceremony of Emily Ann Merritt and Joseph Charles Morgen Stein held at the O.W Ranch in Granbury. Emily Ann is the granddaughter of former residents, Nita and Ervin Merritt of Granbury. 200 guests attended them there for the wedding was Wilburn's daughter, Lindsay Martin of San Antonio. Also attending were Waydette and Ronald Clay of Flomot and daughter, Mrs. Debbie Arlington of Canadian. They all returned to their respective homes, Sunday.

Cory Kendall and daughter, Chancey of Midland visited during the weekend with his parents, Linda and Travis Kendall and brother and family, Milissa and Tim Kendall, Jere and Ja-

cob.

Mr. and Mrs. T.L. Benson of Canyon and Mrs. Tommie Jo Cruse of Turkey were luncheon guests Thursday of Mrs. B. Rogers and son, Donnie Rogers. Their guests Sunday were son, brother and wife, Ronnie and Lou Rogers of Lubbock.

Jack and Nada Starkey were in Amarillo, Monday for Nada a medical appointment. Their daughter, Mrs. Bessie Reid of Amarillo accompanied them to appointment. En route home, they visited in Canyon with son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Starkey.

Mrs. Kathy Shorter, daughter and children, Mrs. Christi Milam, Emily and Haley of Petersburg attended a baby shower Sunday in Lubbock honoring Mrs. Carla Rivers. Mrs. Rivers is the daughter of Kathy's aunt, Mrs. Joy Barham of Hart.

Visiting during the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ike Clay were grandchildren, Kelsey, Tanner and Sarah Clay of Panhandle.

Ruth and Orville Lee, son and wife, Roger and Shonda Lee were in Clarendon, Sunday, Sunday to attend a local chapter meeting of the Germania Insurance Co. They visited son and family, Joey and Brenda Lee of Clarendon, Jason and Robert Lee of Amarillo.

Arts and Crafts

By Winifred Darsey

Motley County Arts and Crafts Club met at Senior Center for its April meeting on April 6.

Club President Nova Dale Turner called the meeting to order at 10:00 o'clock. A brief business meeting was held and the group discussed the quilt to be raffled at the Fall Bazaar. The quilt is being shown and tickets for it are being sold. A date has been set for the Bazaar. It will be November 21 at the Senior Center.

Joyce Meredith assisted by Jo Trammell were instructors for the class of painting Angels.

It was a delightful lesson using watercolors. The results were outstanding, all kinds of angels appeared on paper with a myriad of colors.

The club has had many outstanding programs. It was a consensus of the members that this program is rated with the best.

Members present were: Nova Dale Turner, Jo Trammell, Joyce Meredith, Dorothy Knight, Lorene Lancaster, Bonnie Vandiver, Joy Archer and Winifred. May's meeting will be announced later.

See you there!

Matador News

Lou Ann and Travis Jameson visited at their family home this weekend in Ruidosa, N.M. Melinda and Clay Jameson

visited during the week in College Station with son and wife, Jason and Samantha Jameson.

Obituary

Velma Pearl Moseley

Velma Pearl Moseley passed away on April 23, 2009 at Sage Healthcare Center in Lamesa at the age of 89. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Wanda and James Davis of Ackerly; grandson, Jim Davis and wife Rachelle of Midland; granddaughters, Julie Holladay, and husband Shawn of Lamesa, and Jill Davis of Lubbock; and great-granddaughter, Katy Kay Holladay.

Velma was born September 19, 1919 in Beaver County, Oklahoma to Lottie and Wiley Bullin. She married Adolphus Moseley on April 22, 1938 in Athens, Texas. Adolphus preceded her in death on July 21, 1990.

For the past 73 years, from the age of 16, Velma was steadfast in her Christian beliefs including her hope of a resurrection. Velma was a loving wife, mother and grandmother. She and Adolphus enjoyed many years of sharing their home in Flomot with their family and friends.

Their home was known for good food and a good game of pitch. Velma enjoyed playing the piano and writing poetry to share with her loved ones. She filled her days with cooking, gardening, sewing, quilting and painting. She was generous with



her time and hospitality.

A graveside memorial service was held Saturday, April 25, 2009 at the Flomot Cemetery under the direction of Seigler Funeral Home of Matador. Services were conducted by Duane Ferguson a minister with the Levelland congregation of the Jehovah's Witnesses.

Following the burial service, friends and family attended a visitation at the Flomot Community Center to share memories. The family suggests memorials be made to the Flomot DoGooders Club, Flomot, Texas 79234 or the Flomot Cemetery Association, PO Box 43, Flomot, Texas 79234.

Frances Marshall Mitchell

Graveside Services for Frances Marshall Mitchell, 82, of Matador were held April 23, 2009 at the East Mound Cemetery in Matador. Mrs. Mitchell passed away in Crosbyton Monday evening. Arrangements are under the direction of Seigler Funeral Home of Matador.

Frances was born October 9, 1926 in Matador, Texas to Mack Darrell Marshall and Ida Velma Ozborn Marshall. Mrs. Mitchell was a homemaker and a member of the First Baptist Church of Matador, Texas. Frances was preceded in death by her husband Bob Mitchell; two brothers, Albert Marshall and Al-

ton 'Susie' Marshall; and one grandchild.

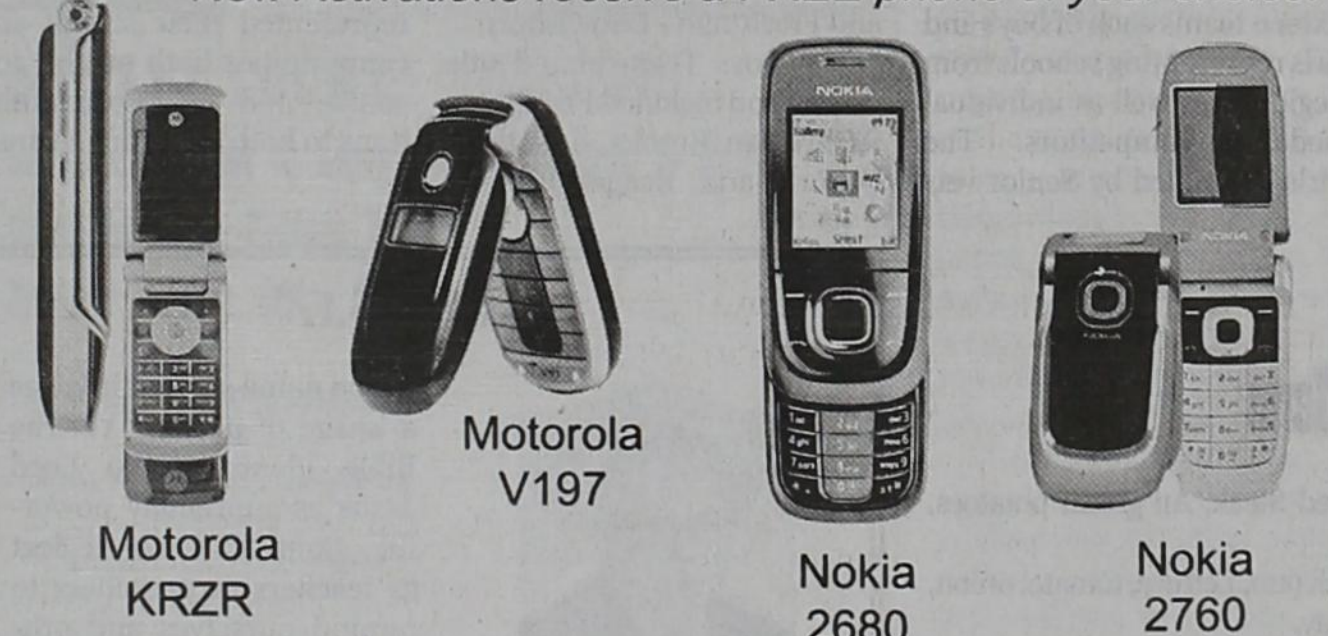
Survivors include four daughters; Sandra Bennett of Ballinger, Texas, Betty Farley of Turkey, Texas, Glenda Smith of Dumont, Texas, and June Gholson of Waurika, Oklahoma; one son, Bobby Mack Mitchell of Matador; eight grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and two on the way.

Family viewing and visitation was held on April 22 at Seigler Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were Wesley Farley, Bo Bennett, Carl Gholson, Jay Gholson, Max Meyer, Mike Awtry, Dave Dingman.

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Friday-Saturday
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Sunday
8:30 am - 2:00pm
5:00pm - 8pm
Friday Night
Fish Fry

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Notes from the Library

By Buffy Crutchley

It's been a light week at the library. I think everybody has spring fever! I do want to thank all the wonderful folks who cleaned out their bookshelves in celebration of Earth Day, and brought their goodies to the library. Thank YOU! New books in this week: "First Family" by David Bal-

dacci, the long awaited fourth book in the Sean King series, "Loitering With Intent" by Stuart Woods, "8th Confession" by James Patterson, which is the latest in the Women Murder Club Series, and "Vision In White" by Nora Roberts.

Obituary

Juana Williams

Juana Clifford Turner Williams went home to meet her Heavenly Father on April 22, 2009. Born on September 20, 1918 to Earl Turner and Emma Bramlett Turner, she was raised and attended school in Roaring Springs. Due to the distance of her family farm from town, she spent her high school years as a boarder in the home of her high school principal, Ms. Medlin. It was during this time she met the man who would be the love of her life for the next 70 years. She and Johnnie Williams were married on December 30, 1934 in Roaring Springs, Texas.



St. Luke's United Methodist Church parlor from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM on Friday evening, April 24, 2009. Arrangements are under direction of Adams Funeral Home of Ralls.

They were involved in farming for 20 years until Johnnie answered the call of the Lord. Johnnie earned his Bachelor's Degree with the help of Juana writing his papers. Her family always teased her that she really should have received the diploma. Their ministry was a true partnership as each church had a bonus preacher because she always stepped in to fill his pulpit when he had to be absent. A district and conference officer for the United Methodist Women was a role she filled for many years. She taught various Sunday school classes throughout her life as a dedicated Christian. Her church membership was St. Luke's United Methodist Church and the Homebuilders Sunday School Class.

She was preceded in death by a son, Artie Earl, her husband, Rev. Johnnie Williams, and a grandson, Gregg Wellman. She is survived by her two daughters and their husbands; Glenda and Jim Briggs of San Antonio, Marlene and Harvey Wellman of Lubbock, a grandson and his wife, Johnnie Brent and Bobbi Briggs of Puerto Rico, two granddaughters, Jana Stowe of Austin, Karen Rothwell and husband Stephen of Childress, three great granddaughters, Maggie Stowe of Conway, Arkansas, Donnie Stowe of Austin and Callie Wynn of Lubbock, two great grandsons, Colton Wynn of Childress, David Briggs and wife Chrissy of San Antonio, and one great great grandson, Jayden Heiss of Austin.

One of her many talents, which she lavished upon her family and a few lucky friends, was her gift of quilting as evidenced by the beautiful cross quilt to adorn her casket.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Star Chapter, P. O. Box 112 Midland, Texas 79702-0112 or your favorite charity.

A graveside service was held at Resthaven Memorial Park in Lubbock, Texas on Saturday, April 25, 2009 with a memorial service following at St. Luke's United Methodist Church at 11:00 a.m., Larry Mitchell, cousin of Juana will officiate. Visitation will be at

The family of Juana Williams gratefully acknowledges the loving care given to their mother and Mam-ma by Dale and Grace Abesamis and the Bethany House staff.

County Agent's News



by Ryan Martin, Agri LIFE EXTENSION Agent

Texas has more farms, fewer acres, new study shows

COLLEGE STATION - The loss and fragmentation of Texas' farms, ranches and forests is part of a continued trend that highlights the importance of rural lands in maintaining the state's natural resources and economic base, according to a newly released study.

The study shows that lands classified as farms, ranches and forests declined in 156 of Texas's 254 counties between 1997 and 2006. In all, there was a loss of 2.1 million acres of agricultural lands since 1997, the report notes. "When you talk about the infrastructure of the economy and life in Texas, land is it," said Dr. Neal Wilkins, one of the study's authors and director of the Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources. The study, commissioned by American Farmland Trust, indicated that about 50 percent of the land converted from agriculture to other uses was concentrated in the state's 50 highest-growth counties. These counties lost 1,084,566 acres while increasing in population by 4,017,765 residents.

"In some regions, including South Texas and the Edwards Plateau, our state's rural lands continue to be divided into smaller acreages, and this may have consequences for future profitability," Wilkins said. "According to the data, only 50 percent of farms and ranches below 500 acres showed a net profit during 2007. In addition, these fragmented ownerships are more likely to be converted to non-native pastures and become a challenge for managing wildlife and other natural resources." While the report showed an increase of about 1,900 new farms and ranches in Texas, he noted, the average size dropped to 527 acres in 2007 from 585 acres 10 years earlier. "Where traditional agriculture has declined in profitability, landowners have faced a hard decision of having to sell parcels of land," Wilkins explained. "When that happens, the open land becomes fragmented, and the consequence is the loss of rural lands to support our natural resources."

American Farmland Trust's Texas advisor, Blair Fitzsimmons, agreed. "Agricultural lands provide significant public benefits such as clean, abundant water, carbon sequestration and clean air," she said. "This study is a wake-up call that those public benefits are disappearing."

One unique feature of the study, however, is a new tool developed to aid policymakers and local officials in making land-use decisions, Wilkins pointed out. The Texas Land Trends Web site, <http://www.txlandtrends.org/>, links to a trend visualizer-

an exhaustive database that enables one to view 10-year land-use trends by Texas county, area (such as I-35 corridor), river basin or ecoregion.

"This is an amazing new way to access information and visualize what it means," Wilkins said. "It makes the information local and personal." Wilkins and his team spent about nine months gathering information from readily available sources - including the U.S. Census, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts - to access the land use data for over 1,000 school districts, for example. That data was combined with natural resource expertise. Computer programmers and potential user groups assisted in making the Web site easy to navigate.

Among the other overall trends reported in the study:

- Texas now has about 142 million acres of private farms, ranches and forests, equaling 84 percent of the state's entire land area.

- The state has more than 247,000 farms and ranches.

- The land base for Texas agriculture decreased by as much as 2 percent between 1997 and 2007.

- In high-growth areas, about 270 acres of agricultural land are converted to non-agricultural use for every 1,000 new residents added to the population.

- As of 2007, operations with less than 100 acres occupied about 3 percent of the state's land but more than 50 percent of the farms and ranches.

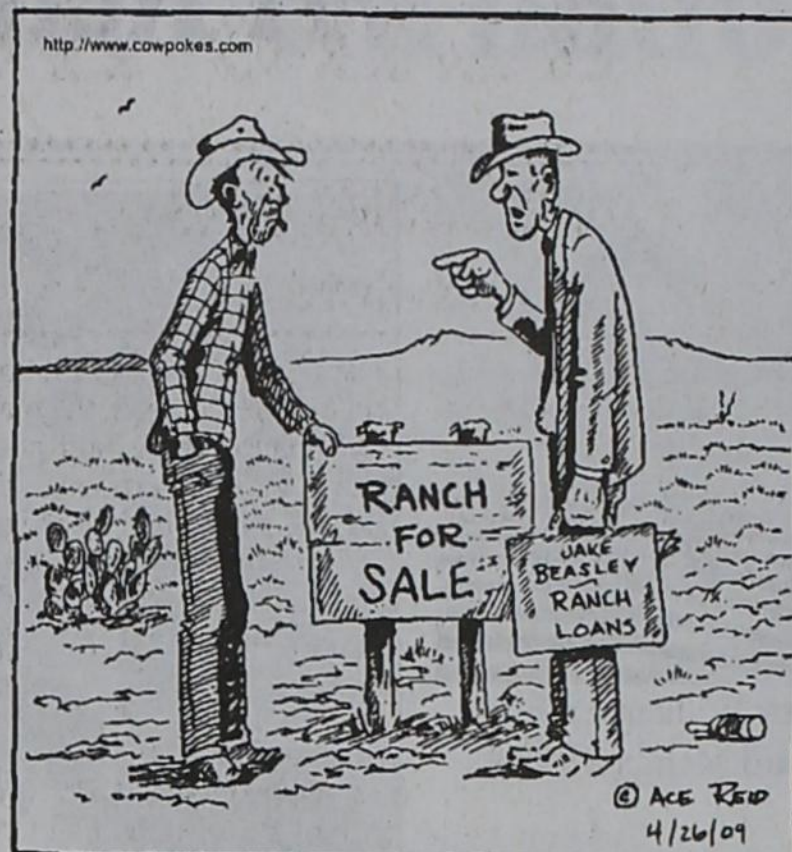
- Texas land values increased about 140 percent to an average of \$1,196 per acre, though much higher values are found near metropolitan areas.

Wilkins said some of the regions with the fastest losses to fragmentation were in the Trans Pecos, Edwards Plateau and South Texas regions where more than 2.8 million acres were chopped into small- and mid-sized parcels since 1997. One positive note, however, is in the northern areas of the state where some 2.5 million acres were consolidated into larger operations, he added. For understanding how remaining land is being used, Wilkins pointed out, the online trend visualizer provides data not only on totals but specifically on irrigated cropland, dry cropland, non-native pasture, native rangeland, wildlife management, forests and other uses. Each of these also can be determined by county, area, river basin or ecoregion. The largest overall land-use category is native rangeland at 92.6 million acres, the report noted.

Another trend is an increase in the use of land for wildlife management which the report indicated resulted from state legislation in 1996 that provided tax appraisal benefits for that category. Wildlife management land use now accounts for 2.37

COW POKES®

By Ace Reid



"Son, I'm lettin' you have this loan but it's gotta be paid back in less than 500 years!"

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million acres statewide. "We hope this tool will be useful in helping people understand the trends in Texas land use and how that will impact society," Wilkins added.

The study was funded in part by The Brown Foundation, Houston Endowment Inc., Shield-Ayers Foundation, Magnolia Charitable Trust, and The Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation. The Institute of Renewable Natural Resources is part of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas AgriLife Research and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Texas A&M University.

Human infections with Swine Influenza Virus in California and Texas

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified six cases in Southern California and two in Texas where people have been diagnosed with a form of influenza virus known as swine influenza virus subtype H1N1.

Preliminary investigations indicate that in all cases there was no contact with swine.

The swine influenza subtype isolated from these cases is unique and not previously recognized in either pigs or people. According to the CDC, "This virus is different, very different from that found in pigs." At this time there is no evidence that this swine influenza subtype is present in pigs in the United States. The CDC's investigation continues.

Swine influenza virus in meat

The risk of illness from consuming pork is minimal. The CDC said Thursday that humans cannot contract this strain of swine influenza from eating pork.

In pigs, swine influenza is a respiratory disease. Few reports exist supporting theories of influenza entering the bloodstream or causing systemic infection in pigs. Therefore, it is reasonable to expect that swine influenza cannot be found in pork/pork products.

If an animal with active swine influenza infection should arrive at a harvest facility, it would not pass the Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) ante-mortem inspection and would be condemned as an animal not fit for human consumption.

FSIS has stated that even if surface contamination of a product should occur, common-sense food handling and preparation practices would minimize the risk of illness as normal cooking temperatures should inactivate the virus.

Background Information on Swine Influenza in Pigs

The clinical signs/symptoms of influenza in pigs are fever, lethargy, lack of appetite and coughing.

As external temperatures drop in the fall and winter, influenza persists better in the environment. Extreme temperature changes and other stressors can affect the susceptibility of pigs to the virus.

Influenza season in pigs typically runs from November through April, although influenza viruses can be isolated from pigs year round.

About interspecies transmission

It is possible for humans to transmit some influenza viruses to pigs. And it is possible, though not common, for pigs to transmit some influenza viruses to humans.

Interspecies infections are most likely to occur when people are in extremely close proximity to pigs.

The cases have been investigated, and it appears that they did not have contact with swine.

Reducing interspecies transmission of influenza viruses

It is in the best interest of both human public health and animal health that interspecies transmission of influenza viruses from people to pigs and pigs to people be minimized.

Pork producers should work with their herd veterinarian to reduce transmission of influenza viruses:

Influenza virus vaccination of pigs

Influenza virus vaccination of swine farm workers

Implement worker sick-leave policies that encourage employees to remain away from work when they are suffering from acute respiratory infections. People typically shed influenza viruses for approximately 3-7 days, with the period of peak shedding correlated with the time of most severe clinical illness.

Maintain appropriate ventilation in the barns

Enforce basic hygiene and biosecurity practices

Prevent pig to bird contact. Bird-proof buildings and treat water if it supplied from an open body of water where birds and migratory fowl may be found. Separate pig and bird production to prevent any potential cross-contamination of the animals with influenza virus.

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This Week's Local Forecast

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
86/63	86/50	67/51	72/53	78/51	75/51	74/50

Weather Trivia

What is the first day of spring known as?

Answer: Vernal Equinox

Weather History

April 30, 1852 - A tornado, following the same track as the famous "Tri-State Tornado" of 1925, struck the town of New Harmony, Indiana. Just sixteen persons were killed by the twister, due to the sparse settlement. The "Tri-State Tornado" on March 18, 1925 killed 695 persons.

Moon Phases

First	Full	Last	New
5/1	5/8	5/17	5/24

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A Retrospective May 1, 1984



Bobby Williams, School Board Member, 1984

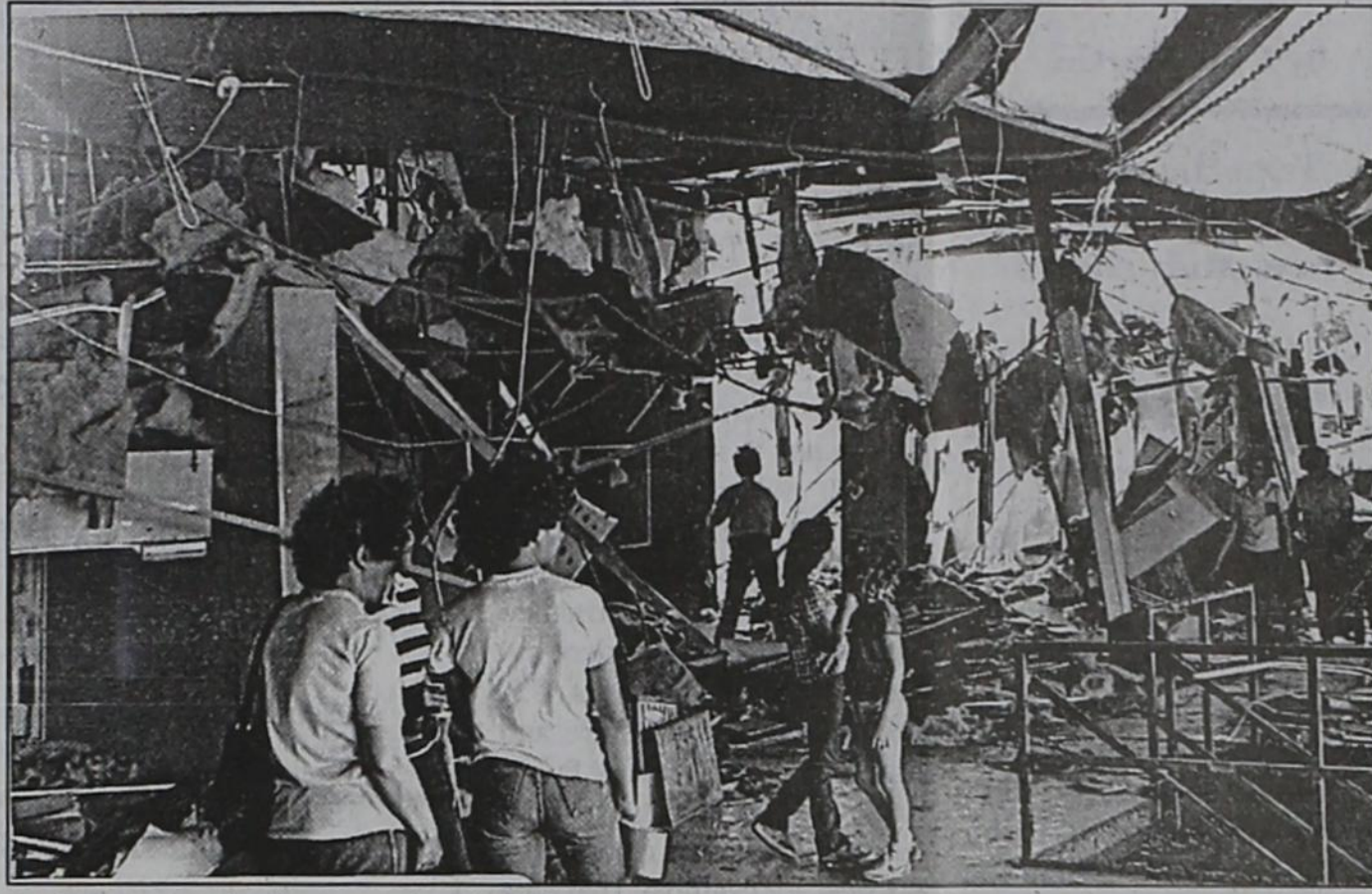
Bobby Williams

Bobby Williams was just finishing up a school term as a trustee when the tornado hit, he said. While he had already made up his mind not to run for another term, dealing with the aftermath of the tornado vaulted him squarely back into overtime active duty. "My big regret now is that we didn't keep up with the volunteer hours we (the school board) put in," he said. "We were working fulltime jobs, and then working with the board until midnight or later," he said. Bobby served with Guy Campbell, Roy Hobbs, Donnie Cruse, Roy Tippin, Randy Barton, and Stanley Martin. Superintendent Charlie Johnson and Principal Ron Cummings led the group.

Bobby remembers he was watching Channel 13 weather news when he heard there was a tornado east of Matador, traveling east to southwest. "The sun had just set, but there was a big black cloud in the west," he said. His daughter, Page, then about 12 years old, walked out on the east side of the house to look for the tornado, he remembered. Bobby's friends refer to Ron Roberts of Channel 13 as "Wrong" Roberts. "He was off by 30 miles," Bobby added. The tornado was west of Matador, and closing with a vengeance.

A couple of weeks prior to the tornado, the fire department had installed a public announcement early warning system. In addition to the public warning, Bobby eyeballed the tornado in the west, headed straight for his house. He gathered his family and headed to the closest cellar in the neighborhood. He said he watched the cloud from the door of the cellar "as long as my feet would let me."

"It was real quiet, then the wind and rain hit, he said. "I closed the door, and went down into the cellar. I could hear the tin tearing off the house, it was surreal; and I thought: 'there is no way I am going to have a house when this is over.' Luckily, when he emerged from Salty Joneses cellar, the tornado had missed his house. He watched the twister head southeast, and then looked around. Insulation from the school was in his yard, some three blocks away. But Bobby's work was just beginning.



Students survey the damage to the school foyer. Insulation and ceiling tiles hang precariously. Note the stairs (right) that descend to the library basement. (Photo courtesy of MC Athletic Booster Club).



A worker searches the floor of the gymnasium for anything salvageable. (Photo courtesy of the MC Athletic Booster Club).



The grade school was totally destroyed. This photo shows the damage to the southwest corner. (Photo courtesy of the MC Athletic Booster Club).

Addie Murphy

Kay Rattan Bailey, granddaughter of Addie Murphy, (In her own words):

My Grandmother, Addie Murphy, was the only person injured in the Matador Tornado. She lived on South Main Street near the school. Her house was completely destroyed. The only wall left standing was a portion

of the north wall of the living room. Everything else was leveled. It was located where Larry Pierce's house is now.

Grandma Murphy was watching the weather news on her television. When the weather man said for all residents of Matador to take cover, she got up and was about to get inside the closet in her front bedroom which was located next to the dining room. Then, the tornado

hit, and the suction from the force of the wind threw her into the dining room where she landed underneath the dining room table. That table saved her life... it was the only piece of furniture still standing when it was over.

Meanwhile, Mom and my stepfather Frank Price were at the golf course and tried to rush home to check on Grandma Murphy. They had just pulled



Pictured is Addie Murphy, the only resident injured in the tornado; mother of Laverna Price Johnston, Amarillo, Mary Murphy Jones and Dr. C.H. Murphy, Matador. (Photo courtesy of Kay Bailey).

up into their driveway on Walton Road when the tornado hit. It blew the back window out of the pickup truck they were sitting in. By the time they ran inside the house and into the basement, it was all over. They immediately made their way over to Main Street to check on Grandma Murphy. It really looked grim when they arrived and found only one wall standing and everything else a pile of rubble. Mom was crying and yelling "Mother, Mother"... about then Grandma Murphy said, "Quit your crying, I'm over here under this table!" Mom and Frank were so relieved to see that Grandma Murphy had lived through the main path of the tornado. Although she was injured with a broken pelvis, we were all thankful that she had survived!!

that followed suit. "It was a concrete basement, under the library of the school."

"Everything got real quiet," he said, "then it hit the lobby of the school." The group huddled, they could hear the glass shattering and the roof tearing. They waited. It was quiet. Luckily, they waited some more. Then the unthinkable happened, the twister returned:

"The tornado came back and hit the gym and ripped the grade school out," Charlie said, adding, "it was about 8:40 p.m. It was dark when we came up from the basement," he said. Charlie raced home to check out his house and turn off the propane. Miraculously, it was still standing. Then he began to assess the damage.

The school was a total loss. "It was a sick feeling to see the school torn up," he said. It was destroyed beyond repair - equipment, furniture, and memorabilia tossed from Matador to Dickens, he said. Another miracle, the old elementary school, built in the 1940s, was spared.

Within an hour, first responders from Paducah and Turkey had blocked the damaged area for security reasons. "There was only one attempted theft," Charlie said. "By 2:00 a.m., reporters were here from Wichita Falls, Amarillo, and Lubbock," he added. One reporter asked Charlie Johnson why he was still smiling? "Well, I'm alive," he said.

At daybreak, the Red Cross and the Salvation Army set up to help residents. Like waking from a bad dream, survivors wandered the streets the day after, searching for belongings and digging through debris.

The massive cleanup began, he said. Charlie remembers he had already told the board that he was going to retire. He had joked to a board member that it would be nice one day if someone would tell him: "we aren't going to have any more school..." Well, be careful what you say," he said. There were only 12 days left in the term, so the State Board of Education closed the school for the remainder of the school term. The Class of '84 never walked the stage at graduation.

Then the work of moving children to temporary classrooms began. The board worked endless nights in planning the future of the school. By fall, a mere four months from the tornado, the plan was in place. Kindergarten through third grade met in makeshift classrooms at the First Baptist Church; 4th through 6th grade were moved into portable buildings. Home Economics was held in the Methodist Church; and the cafeteria was in the old Legion Hall downtown Matador (now Vickie's Flower Shop). The school transported the children for almost two years.

continued on page 7



Charlie Johnson, Superintendent of Schools, 1984

Charlie Johnson

"I was watching Channel 13 and heard there was a tornado east of Matador. When I went outside and looked to the east, it wasn't there. I turned to go back into the house, and there it was," Johnson said, viewing a fully formed twister barreling down on him from the west.

Charlie Johnson and his family headed to the school basement. There were four families

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A huge thanks to the Matador and Roaring Springs Fire Departments for their quick response to the recent fire on the Matador Ranch. You are all to be commended for the terrific job you did to keep the fire from spreading, particularly under the windy conditions you were dealing with.

Many thanks,

Matador Ranch Crew

Relay for Life Night Golf Tournament

Friday, May 8th

Roaring Springs Ranch Golf Course

Tee off at 6:00pm

There will be 9 holes before dark & 9 holes after dark with hamburgers or hot dogs served between rounds.

Entry fee is \$20.00 per person

All proceeds benefit Relay for Life

To enter call Gina at the Pro Shop at 806-348-7267 Or Ronda Miller at 806-347-2290.

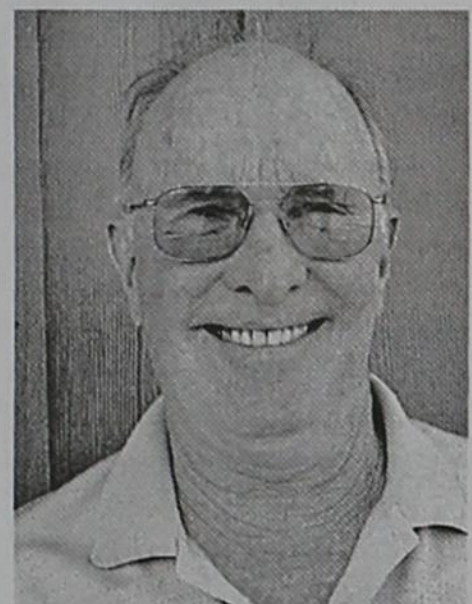
Don't forget to bring flashlights!

25 year anniversary of Matador tornado



The morning after, surveying the damage - the roof was gone on the front of the house, and not visible, to the east, a tree destroyed the rear den and kitchen. An interesting note: Gerald's baby grand piano survived the implosion, but when he raised the key cover, a 2-by-4, "as if someone had cut it to fit," Gerald said, was lying on the keys.

Charlie retired as he had promised he would do, finalizing a 30-year career with Matador-Motley County school district, but he "stayed on as a consultant until it was finished," that is, until the new school was opened for business. "Before Christmas holidays in December 1986, I told the children to pick up their desks and carry them to the new building," he said.



Gerald Pipkin, Survivor

Gerald Pipkin (In his own words)

May 1, 1984, fell on a Tuesday, which meant the Roaring Springs Ranch Club golfers would meet at the Ranch for the usual Tuesday night golf scramble. Many members from both Matador and Roaring Springs looked forward to a fun 9-hole round of golf.

Upon returning to Matador, my wife and I noticed a rather nasty looking storm cloud moving into the city from the west. Hail began falling, pushed around by swirling and gusting winds. Then, as we pulled into our driveway, silence. A quick glance westward revealed what was not visible a few blocks earlier - a large tornado perhaps only a few blocks away. There were no lights on in our home as the tornado had already destroyed power lines along the Matador to Roaring Springs highway.

My mother-in-law, Bonnie Garrett, was home with my two young daughters, Amy and Leigh Ann. Bonnie, being a storm-savvy grandmom, heard the siren and storm warnings over the television and had placed Amy and Leigh in a small closet, complete with a blanket, flashlight, and water. We raced through our darkened home following Bonnie's voice and, found the small closet just adjacent to the front bedroom, and jumped in on top of everyone.

The next seven or eight minutes seemed to last forever. With winds later determined to approach 200 mph the Category 3 storm zeroed in on our home and began tearing it apart. Windows began breaking as large chunks of debris flew into our home from all directions. Like giant hands, the tornado began pulling at our rooftop until finally it gave way, exposing the bedroom to the elements, but not the roof over our closet.

Despite being only inches away from the bedroom, the air in our closet was very calm with only a light covering of dust and insulation swirling softly around us. Other storm survi-

vors describe the sound of a tornado as that of an approaching locomotive. That is a very apt description in how the Matador tornado sounded to us. It sounded as though the train had pulled inside our home and decided to rev up its engine to the maximum rpm. In a matter of minutes, the storm was gone. We stepped out of our closet, completely unharmed, and looked straight up over Amy's bed at the stars now fully visible through the huge hole in our roof.

Everyone was accounted for so we decided to venture "outside" to see what was left of our home. The roof over the front portion of our home was gone. The exterior was battered by the swirling debris, all windows were blown out, and the rear portion of our home was destroyed by a huge elm tree blown in from another yard. The tree was blown through a covered porch, into the rear den, and finally into the kitchen, a distance of about 50 feet. The contents of our home were damaged, mostly beyond repair, with the high-speed debris full of nails, dirt, and building materials such as two-by-fours and shingles. Our two autos, parked in the driveway, were severely damaged also.

As we stood in our driveway pondering our next move, a large fire department truck pulled up and out stepped a fellow golfer (whom we had played with in the scramble just minutes earlier), Alan Bingham. Alan was now in his fireman uniform and helmet, and asked if we were okay, and did we need a ride somewhere. I told him everyone was okay, but I needed to find my dog, Skipper. Alan and I crawled in to the back of the house (where the tree was) and began calling our dog's name. Prospects of finding our dog alive looked dim until we heard a "groaning" noise and the pile of debris and tree limbs began to rise up and out crawled our long-haired Samoyed. She was unharmed but very upset. Shaking herself off and following Alan's flashlight beam, she began working her way to us. When Skipper saw me she leaped into my arms, unharmed, but "telling me all about it" with moans and groans. We both enjoyed this reunion very much.

Alan offered his home to us as we had no place to go. Skipper was kept by our neighbor in a home next door that was hardly damaged by the tornado. After staying with the Bingham's for a

night or two, we finally occupied the Jacobs' residence, ultimately buying the unoccupied home and restored and remodeled it, living there the next 20 years.

Editor's Note: Later Gerald went to the Channel 13 station in Lubbock and told them their weather forecaster had aired incorrect information on the location of the tornado that hit Matador, announcing the tornado was east of Matador, when in fact it was west of Matador and headed straight for the city. According to Gerald, they denied they had given out any bad information, and said they got their "feed" from the National Weather Service. Gerald discovered later that the Channel 13 overlay maps (this is prior to Doppler radar) had mis-located Turkey, Matador, and Dickens on the maps, which may have contributed to the notion that the twister was east of Matador.

Larry Hoyle

Happenstance saved Larry Hoyle's parents from the driving into the eye of the storm, but his car didn't fare as well.

"My dad, Mike Hoyle, and his golfing buddies, Greer Willis, Howard Edmondson, and Marvin Patton, had been playing golf at Roaring Springs, heading home after a 9-hole scramble," he said.

Mike had a previous family engagement in Roaring Springs, and his wife, Virginia, was driving to Roaring Springs in her vehicle to meet him. So he forfeited his car to his friends who promptly drove to Matador just in time for the ride of their lives.

In blinding rain and hail, the group had maneuvered the vehicle to Main Street, pass the school, creeping to the corner of Main and Hazel streets when the tornado hit.

It tossed the car around a like toy, blew out the windows, and flattened a tire. When it got quiet, Marvin Patton, lying on the floorboard in the back seat, said, "Is anybody here?" The startled group "managed to drive the car down Main Street on that flat tire," Hoyle said. "When Howard took his boots off, they were full of glass."

Ed D. Smith

"I was sitting in my living room in Lubbock, when the weatherman said a tornado was heading to Matador," Ed D. remembers. "I called my mother

(Kathlene Smith), but there was no answer." Then Ed D. called his aunt's house, surmising that his mother had sought shelter there.

"She answered the phone," Ed D. said, "so I asked, 'where's Aunt Margie?'" "They (Margie Smauley and Viola McBride) are in the cellar," she calmly replied. "Mother, why aren't you in the cellar? There is a tornado heading to Matador."

"Couldn't, it's raining outside," she replied. "To say the least, I spoke sharply to her," Ed D. said. He found out later that the storm was over by the time he called to check on his mother.

Bundy Hal and Dixie Campbell, Survivors

On the day of the tornado, Dixie Campbell, Di-ane Campbell, and Olivia Barton were headed back to Matador from a shopping trip in Lubbock. Her husband, Bundy Hal, was also in Lubbock at a meeting. But he was about one hour behind the group. The clouds looked ominous and "we were nervous," she said. Back home, Dixie and her daughter Cory watched in disbelief as the cloud gathered steam, heading straight for Matador.

It happened very quickly, she said. She told her daughter "get your shoes on and head to the basement!" Cory beat her to the basement, barefooted, just as neighbors and other family members arrived to seek shelter. There were about 5- to 6-cars in the south entrance driveway. "Ironically, Bundy, said, 'if they had stayed home they would have been a lot better off. Their homes were not hit,'" he said.



Bundy and Dixie Campbell

The twister blasted the property with a force, caving the garage onto a boat, and tossing a tractor like a play toy. It took the roof off the barn, imploding the building. The 110-foot radio tower in the backyard was toppled onto the parked cars in the driveway, bursting out the windows, and flattening roofs. Dixie's new Suburban took a hit, too, she said.

"We could hear the roof tearing off, and it took all the brick off the high part of the house," she said. Apparently, the barometric pressure dropped: "Our ears felt like they were going to burst," she added. Either from golf-ball size hail or the force of the storm, "It blew out all the glass in the windows on the front." It was over just as quickly, and we were just "stunned at the devastation," Dixie said.

Bundy Hal arrived about an hour after the storm hit. "It was a good thing I wasn't here," he said, "I would have had a heart attack." Not from fear, he said, but from the shock of the sheer devastation to his home. "In fact," Dixie said, "we were devastated at the devastation."

From the looks of the house from the street, everything was intact. But on the backside, the master bedroom was gone, and the entire roof and brick over the south part of the house. "The front of the house looked like nothing had happened," Dixie said. While the Campbell's had plenty of family who offered lodging, they decided to stay the night under the stars. They pitched a mattress on the floor in the living room, and the three of them huddled together, grateful to be alive, waiting for sunrise to assess the damage.

As is sometimes common with tornados, one house will be destroyed and the next one might be unscathed. "The houses to the left and right of our house were not hit," Bundy Hal said.

There is always a silver lining, according to Dixie Campbell: "It was sad, but people really came together after the tornado," she said, "... they wanted to connect." A shared load, can make an overwhelming task bearable. While picking up the pieces, "there was a lot of love spread around."



Surveying the damage, the roof covering the bedrooms in the south part of the house was lifted to oblivion, along with the brick. This 3-gabled house was pelted with golfball-sized hail tearing giant holes in the roof, and shattering all the glass. (Note the cat on the roof, taking a look into the house from a vantage point that only a cat could muster). (Photo courtesy of Bundy Hal and Dixie Campbell).

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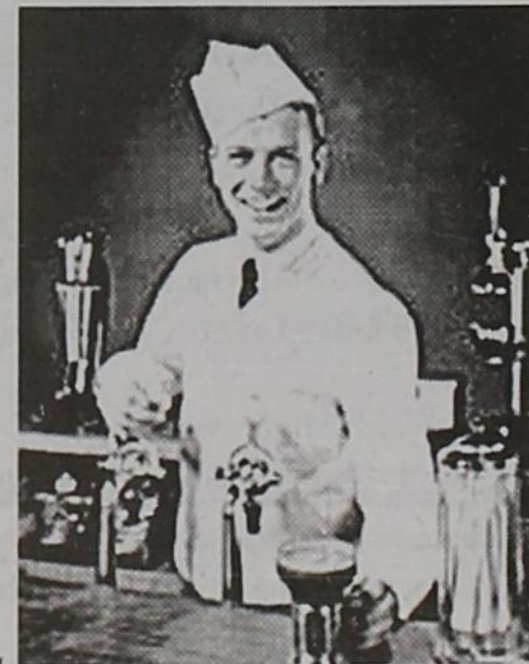
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EVENTS CALENDAR

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FOR SALE

HELP WANTED

May

- Horse Validation due for District and State 4-H Horse Show
- Hwy 70 Garage Sale
- Jr H Golf Meet TBA
- William Manney is hosting an Open House at the Methodist Parsonage, 901 Dundee in Matador from 1:30 to 4:30.
- Matador Lions
- Last Kids Praise til next school year!
- Roaring Springs Lions Club
- Motley 4-H Club meeting
- Meeting of the Friends of the Library at the Library. 3p
- Relay For Life Golf Tournament Benefit, Roaring Springs Ranch Club. Pre-register with Tammy Simpson, 940-585-8689 Jan at the office 806-348-7292 (or e-mail to roaring@caprock-spur.com), or with Gina, Pro Shop 806-348-7267. Tee off time is 5 PM. If you did not pre-register be there before 4:30. Cost is \$25 per person or \$100 per team. The first 9 holes will be played, there will be a break for a meal and the last 9 holes will be played in the dark. Lighted balls will be provided.
- Commissioners' Court, 9am
- RS City Council
- RSCV May at Walter and Jo Trammells out at the Springs Ranch Estates. 6:30
- Hospital Board Meeing, 7:30am
- Matador City Council
- District 3 Trap Shooting Contest - Iowa Park (shotgun)
- MCISD School Board, 7:30pm
- Matador Lions
- Matador Masonic Lodge, 6:30 pm
- Foothills Fellowship 7:00 p. m. at the Community Center in Roaring Springs
- Eastern Star, 6:30pm

June

- 8-12 - Texas 4-H State Roundup - College Station
- 14-16 - Howard College Lamb Camp - Big Spring
- 14-19 - Texas Pork Leadership Camp - Amarillo to College Station
- 15-17 - District 3 Teen Leader Lab - Brownwood
- 19 - Relay for Life
- 24-27 - District 3 Horse Show - Vernon

July

- 9 - District 3 Recordbook Judging
- 10-11 - Motley County Jr. Rodeo
- 25 - Aug. 1 - State 4-H Horse Show

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Hospice Hands of West Texas, Inc. is seeking a provider in Matador. The job consists of 6 hours a week and possibly more in the future. For more information please contact Nora Mendoza @ (806) 652-3000 or toll free @ 1-888-795-1212. ctf

Paducah Nursing Center is now accepting applications for Certified Nurses Aid. You can send an application to 800 7th St. Paducah TX, or call 806-492-3516 c18

South Plains Electric Cooperative is accepting applications for a full time Member Service Representative. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Excellent communications skills and good computer skills required. Previous customer service experience preferred. This position is open at our Dickens Division office in Spur, TX. Qualified applicants may apply in person at our office located on FM 836 in Spur, TX. 79346 during regular office hours from 8-5 M-F. EOE. c19

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 Patton Springs, ISD
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 Gary Campbell, Austin
 Michelle Jeffers, San Marcos
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 John Meador, Gatesville
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 Billie Beth Moore, Ft. Worth
 Patsy Clifton, Granbury

ELSEWHERE
 Jennifer Straub, Nordland, WA
 Donald Wagner, Temple City, WA
 Mitch Cullin, Temple City, CA
 Jack Smith, Calsbad, NM
 Scotty Palmer, Albert, NM

On May 7, 3:00 P. M.
 there will be a meeting of the Friends of the Library at the library

May 2, 2009
HWY 70
Garage Sale
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Notice of Election Cancelled and Council Members Elected

The Roaring Springs City Council met in regular monthly meeting on April 13, 2009, and declared the three unopposed candidates elected to office for new two year terms and cancelled the May 9, 2009, election. The council members elected to the new two year terms this date is as follows: P.K. Green, Timmy Brooks, and Alex Crowder.

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