

# The Gorman Progress

1998 Member  
Texas Press Assn.

Gorman, Eastland County, Texas 76454

NUMBER TWENTY-NINE

AUGUST 6, 1998

## Rozanna Rainey and Kevin Scitern Pledge Vows July 4th



Can you think of a better way to spend a 4th of July afternoon, than marrying the love of your life?

That is exactly what happened this July 4 at 4:00 p.m. at Bas s Lake when Roxanna Renita Rainey and Kevin Dean Scitern exchanged wedding vows in a double ring ceremony performed by Rev. Dane Gressett. The beautiful western setting, with bales of hay, saddles, boots, ropes, and a white arch made of willow branches, decorated in white, burgandy and hunter green ribbon and bows, served as the altar.

Roxanna wore a western style white formal length gown of lace over satin. The elbow length sleeves were trimmed with pearl fringe. She wore a western straw hat trimmed in white and burgandy roses and ribbon. She carried a bouquet of white roses. Kevin wore black wranglers, white western shirt, a black bolo tie and a western straw hat. Roxanna's sisters, Mitzy Rainey of Abilene and Rachel Rainey of Gorman served as her attendants. They wore matching denim jumpers dresses with white western shirts. They each carried a single burgandy long stem rose.

Brent Elliott of Midland and John Barfield of Desdemona served as Kevin's attendants. They wore black wranglers and white western shirts.

Flower girls were Rebecca and Rasha Rainey of Gorman, Roxanna's sisters, and Kinsey Johnston of Gorman, Kevin's niece. They wore denim dresses and carried baskets decorated with miniature western hats and burgandy and hunter green ribbon.

Shawn Rainey of Gorman, Roxanna's brother served as her ringbearer. He carried a white heart shaped satin pillow. Nathan Tucker of Desdemona, Kevin's nephew served as his ringbearer and carried a rope coiled and tied with hunter green ribbon. Shawn and Nathan both wore black wranglers and white shirts and western hats.

Emily and Ashley Auvenshine of De Leon and Audrey and Jaime Johnston of Gorman served as Roxanna's maids in waiting and kept Roxanna's dress off the ground. They wore denim jumpers and white shirts.

Ushers were Marvin Rainey of Abilene, Roxanna's brother and William Rainey of Gorman, Roxanna's cousin. Registering guests were Hank and Leland Rainey of Gorman, Roxanna's brothers and Mike Rawls of De Leon.

Following the wedding, a reception was held at the far end of the pavillon. The brides table was covered with a green cloth with a white skirt. The white cake was decorated with burgandy roses and hunter green leaves. It featured two heart shaped cakes on each side with stairway to the top of the three tiered center cakes. On top of the cake was a miniature cowboy kissing a cowgirl. The beautiful cake was baked and decorated by Cindy Rawls of De Leon. Serving at the brides table were Amy Johnston of Gorman, Kevin's sister and Michelle Steed of Gorman.

The beverage table carried out the western theme and was covered with burgandy cloth with white skirt. Serving the tea and punch were Roxann's sister, Rhesa Rainey of Gorman, Mindy Rawls of De Leon and LaDonna Purdom of Gorman.

Kevin's table was covered in hunter green cloth and carried out the western theme. A black boot with burgandy flowers served as the center piece. Slush was served out of a galvanized bucket, mints and nuts were served in cast iron skillets. The chocolate cake was topped with a young cowboy on a stick horse and inscribed Best Wishes Roxanna and Kevin. Kevin's sister, Nita Auvenshine of De Leon made the cake. Serving at Kevin's table were Nita Auvenshine, Brenda Tucker of Desdemona, Kevin's sisters and Shirley Burns of Gorman.

Roxanna is the daughter of Hank Rainey of Rucker and Teresa Rainey of Gorman.

Kevin is the son of Ina Scitern Smith and the late Gerald Scitern.

### NOTICE

Duster School Reunion — August 8th at 5 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in De Leon. Call 254-893-5532, Cleed Heathington for more information.

### REUNION

Desdemona School Reunion — August 8th at 10 a.m. till ?? - Desdemona Community Center - Desdemona - Lunch - Bar-b-que Beef - \$6.50 per plate. Donations Appreciated for Building Repairs. More info contact Vonnie Guthery - 254-758-2665.

### Peanut Festival Saturday, Sept. 12

Parade Entrants Need To Call  
George Simmons at 254-734-2859.

## Free Country Concert and Street Dance Friday Night

Free Country Concert and Street Dance sponsored by Gorman Livestock Raisers Association will be held on Friday, August 7 at 8 p.m. Area residents will have a toe tapping time when Sheila Helton and her Texas Lawmen Band perform for the 5th year in a row in Downtown Gorman. Sheila is a native Texan and is now being billed out of Nashville, Tennessee where she has been privileged to appear and perform with some of the best in Country Music.

The performance is being sponsored by the *Gorman Livestock Raisers Association* (FFA and AG Booster Club). There will be NO ADMISSION CHARGE. Bring your lawn Chairs for an evening of good family entertainment.

## Gorman Peanut Festival To Conduct Peanut Festival Stamp Cancellation Contest!!!

This year we will have a Stamp Cancellation Contest open to the general public. Your entry, art work and slogan, must fit into a 2"x4" space. Children and parents may work on this together or separately. There are no age categories, anyone may participate.

As a community service, the Postal Service offers pictorial cancellations to commemorate local events celebrated in communities throughout the nation. A list of event for which pictorial cancellations are authorized appears below. If available, the sponsor of the pictorial cancellation appears in italics under the date.

Generally, the cancellations feature wording and graphics relating to fairs, conventions and various types of local celebrations. All designs must carry the



September 11, 1999 — Date of Next Cancellation

name of the exhibition or event, followed by the word "Station" or "Sta.", the city, state and ZIP Code and the month, day and year. However, cancellations may be approved that recognize events such as meetings or conventions sponsored by or involving such organizations, providing their designs do not include words, symbols or illustrations referring to ideals, policies, programs, products, campaigns or candidates.

Entries will be judged on creativity and originality. There will be prizes, stamp collecting items, for First thru Third Places, and ribbons for 4th thru 6th.

All or part of the winners art work and slogan may be used in next years stamp cancellation. All entries will be displayed downtown during the peanut festival. Deadline for entries is August 28, 1998. Entries may be turned in at City Grocery, Higginbothams to Cathy or Mike, or the City Office.

For examples or ideas on what a cancellation should look like you may ask at the Post Office. For more information contact Gloria Glasson at 734-2746.

### KEEPING UP WITH FRIENDS

Lonnie Bennett enjoyed a trip to Port Aransas over the weekend with some friends from Eastland. They all reported enjoying the weekend of sun, sand, surf and bikinis. Jake also celebrated his birthday there, too.

## Registration For High School Classes Set

Gorman High School will be conducting registration for fall classes on August 13-14. Registration will be conducted differently this year, so it will be important for students to arrive on time.

All registration will take place in the high school library. The following schedule will be followed:

GRADE	TIME	DATE
12	12:30 p.m.	Thursday, August 13
11	2:30 p.m.	Thursday, August 13
9	7:00 p.m.	Thursday, August 13
New Students	9:00 a.m.	Friday, August 14
8	9:00 a.m.	Friday, August 14
7	11:00 a.m.	Friday, August 14
10	12:30 p.m.	Friday, August 14

**Ninth Grade:** There will be a meeting for 9th graders and their parents on Thursday night, August 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Topics to be discussed include:

- \* the new graduation plan for the class of 2002
- \* TAAS for graduation
- \* the Tech Prep program
- \* Career Pathways
- \* course selection
- \* planning for college and other opportunities after high school
- \* coherent sequence of courses

At the conclusion of the meeting, students will register for their classes.

## Desdemona Ex-Students To Meet Friday, Aug. 7th

Ex-students who graduated from Desdemona High School more than 50 years ago will meet Friday, August 7, at the Travis Room, Dining Hall, Tarleton State University, Stephenville.

The group will consider setting up a Golden Ex-Student Organization. The room will open at 4 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m.

The annual Desdemona Homecoming begins at 10 a.m. Saturday (Aug. 8) at the Community Center, FM 8 west of Tx Hwy. 16 intersection. Moody B. Koonce will serve as master of ceremonies, and lunch will be served at noon.

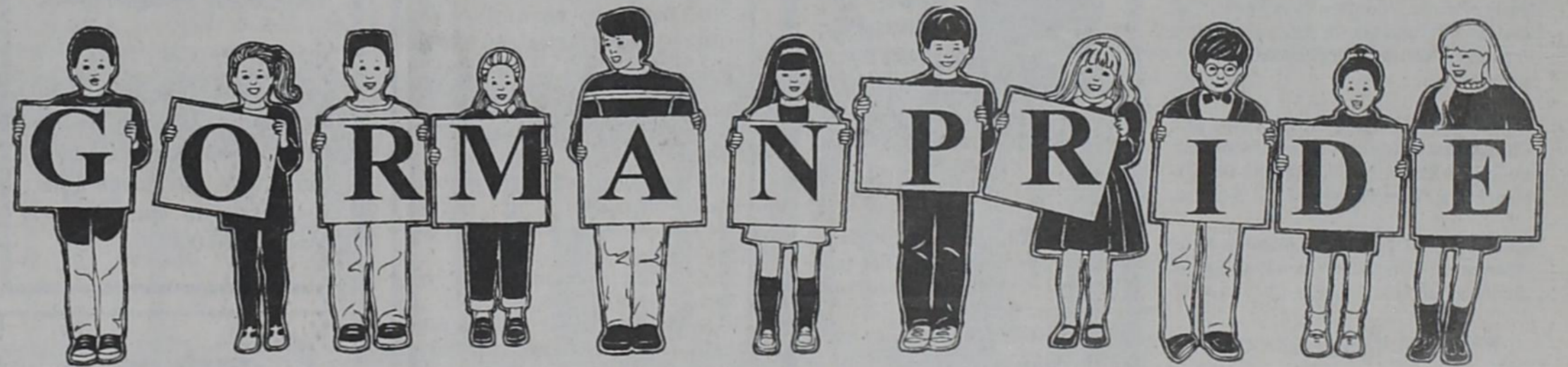
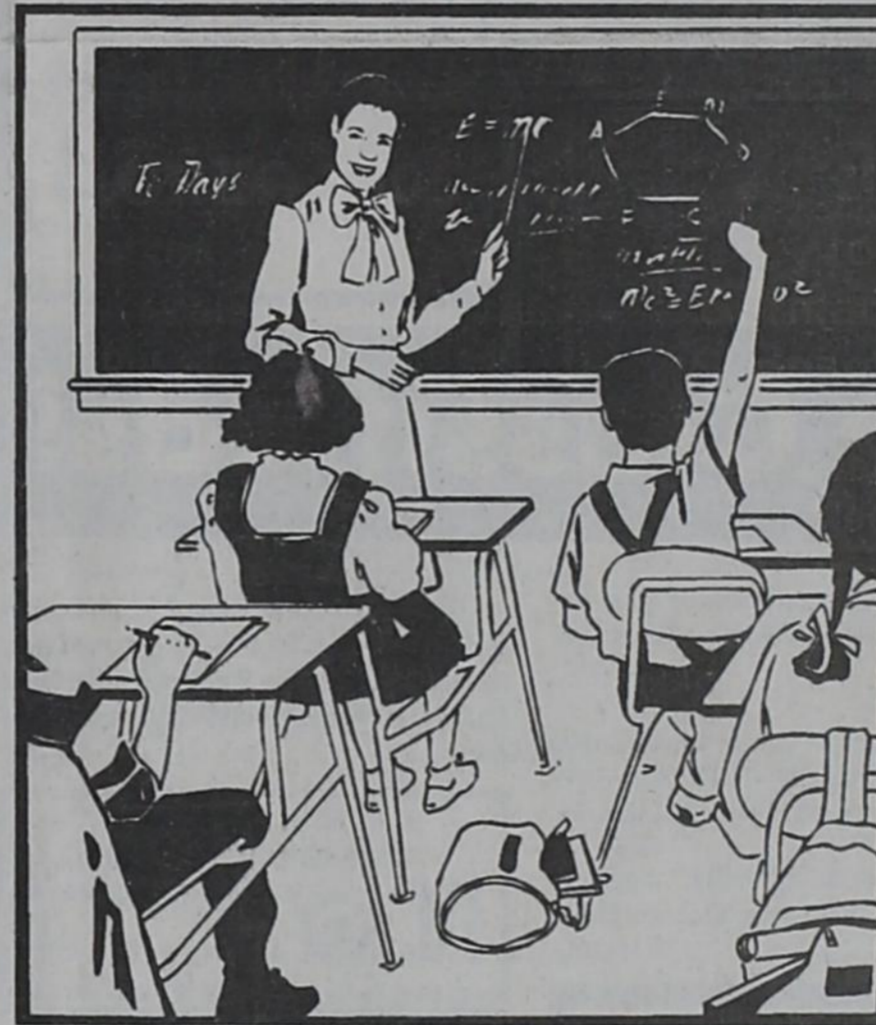
One of the oldest Texas settlements west of the Brazos River, Desdemona was the site of Fort Blair, a fortified-up group of families in the early 1860s. On September 2, 1918 oil was discovered south of town on the Joe Duke farm, setting off a oil boom which hit its height in 1919.

A three-story brick high school building was dedicated in 1922. It burned in December, 1937. The Works Progress Administration built a new building in 1938. The "new" Building now serves as the Community Center, though the school system closed in 1969.

The First Baptist Church will serve a free continental breakfast at the Church Annex (formerly the Methodist Church) beginning at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 8th.

## Back To School

Registration for Kindergarten, Pre-K, or new elementary students that did not attend school in Gorman the prior school year will be held August 3rd through August 14th. Parents may enroll their children by bringing the social security card, birth certificate, and shot record for each child by the elementary office. Students who attended school at Maxfield Elementary last year will not need to register. Classes will begin August 17th at 8:00 a.m. and dismiss at 3:34. Kindergarten through 2nd grades will dismiss at 2:30. Pre-kindergarten will have two classes with the morning class beginning at 8:00 and dismissing at 11:00 and the afternoon class beginning at 12:30 and dismissing at 3:34.



## Gorman ISD Receives Recognized Rating

Superintendent Shackelford reports that the Gorman ISD received its ratings earlier this week. The ratings are based on TAAS scores in reading, writing, and math as well as the student attendance rate and the dropout rate.

The campuses and district were divided into four groups of students populations including African-American, Hispanic, White and economically disadvantaged.

A campus must have 90 percent or more passing for each group in reading, writing and math portions of the TAAS, a dropout rate of 1.0 percent or less, and an attendance rate of at least 94.0 percent to receive an exemplary rating. To be recognized the Campus and/or district must score at least 80 percent passing each subject area of the TAAS, a dropout rate of 3.5 percent or less in each group, and at least 94.0 percent attendance. To receive an acceptable rating, at least 40 percent of all groups must pass reading, writing and math sections of the TAAS, a dropout rate of 6.0 percent or less, and at least a 94.0 percent attendance rate.

The Gorman ISD received a rating of Recognized with Maxfield Elementary receiving an EXEMPLARY Rating and Gorman High School receiving an Acceptable Rating.

## Char-Broil Electric Grill

to be given away at the  
Gorman Peanut Festival - Sept. 12  
Sponsored by Gorman Peanut Festival Committee  
(Donated by TU Electric / Lone Star Gas)  
Tickets are \$1 Each or 6 for \$5.00  
Need Not Be Present To Win

## '98 POLARIS EXPLORER 300

to be given away at the  
Gorman Peanut Festival - Sept. 12  
Sponsored by Gorman Chamber of Commerce  
(in cooperation with Ken's Cycle - Eastland)  
ATV is on display at ZJ's in Gorman  
Tickets are \$20. Each — 400 Tickets To Be Sold

## 19" Color TV

to be given away at the  
Gorman Peanut Festival - Sept. 12  
Sponsored by Gorman Lion's Club  
(donated by Shirley's Air Conditioning - Gorman)  
Tickets are \$1 Each or 6 for \$5.00  
Need Not Be Present To Win



First Baptist Church of Desdemona had good attendance last Sunday. Special music was presented by the church choir, Bobbie Haggard, Joan Baker, Wilma Fay Iley, Nell Ragland, Dorothy Roberts, Ruth

Daffron, Wayne Eaves, Lorin Eaves, Ashton Cummings and Cambron Cummings led by the choir director with Karen Eaves at the piano. Visitors for the morning service were Mica Riggs of Corpus Christi, Aaron

Henslee of Lingleville, Thomas Hurd and Stormy Hurd of Gorman, Hershel and Wanda Brinson of Morgan Mill. Sunday night service was the Possum Kingdom Resort Ministry Team presenting a "Puppet Show" led by Dan Collum, son of Bill and Helen Collum of Desdemona.

Loreta (Griffith) Crenshaw of Alva, Texas called this reporter on Thursday. She has plans to attend the Homecoming on Saturday, August

8th. Loreta graduated from Desdemona with the class of 1945 and would like to say "Hello" to all her friends and former classmates in this area.

Ernest "Sonny" Dishman, Jr. of Brownfield called this reporter on Saturday. He has plans to attend the Homecoming. "Sonny" graduated from Desdemona with the class of 1945 and would like to say "Hello" to all his friends and former classmates in this area.

Remember --Saturday, August 8th is the annual Desdemona Homecoming and School Reunion in the school gym. Program begins at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend, visit with friends, former classmates and teachers. Also, make plans to enjoy a bar-b-que beef lunch catered by the Gorman Ag Boosters at \$6.50 per plate.

Lavada (Swaim) Redding of Denver, Colorado (class of 1954) called this reporter on Sunday. She has plans to attend the Homecoming with

her two brothers, Floyd Swaim of Colleyville, Texas and Lloyd Swaim of Mead, Oklahoma and sister, Mary Swaim. Lavada is looking forward to visiting with friends and former classmates.

Aaron Henslee of Lingleville attended the funeral of Dick Cutting in Cisco last Thursday. Aaron and Dick are former classmates and graduated from Desdemona with the class of 1930.

Mica Riggs of Corpus Christi spent the past few weeks with her parents, Mike and Mary Riggs and Jordan and her grandparents, James and Freda Riggs.

Glyn and Alpha Thiebaud are now in the De Leon Nursing Home. They are improving everyday.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to the family of Paul Lancaster, 70, of Stafford, Texas, who was buried on May 22 in the Dublin Cemetery. Paul graduated from Desdemona with the class of 1945. He is survived by one

brother, Homer Lancaster of Fort Worth, one sister, Margaret Lancaster Pool of Fort Worth. Preceded in death by his mother, Lucile Lancaster Caraway who taught school in Desdemona.

O.C. Patty, 82, was buried on Friday in the Desdemona Cemetery. Survived by his wife, Marie Patty of Desdemona and their family. Our sincere sympathy goes out to this family.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to the family of Richard "Dick" Cutting, 86, of Lake Leon who was buried in Cisco last Thursday. Preceded in death by his wife, Beryle Gallagher Cutting who taught school in Desdemona. Dick graduated from Desdemona with the Class of 1930 and Beryle graduated with the class of 1929. They attended the Homecoming each year as long as their health permitted.

Thought for today---Whoever has a heart full of love always has something to give.

"Have a nice day"---Vonnie

## Desdemona "Hog Town", Texas

The welcome flag will be hanging high for all former residents of Desdemona - still know as "Hog Town", which was the scene of one of the greatest "Oil Booms" in history.

They will be welcomed home on Saturday, August 8, 1998 in a Homecoming Celebration marking the eightieth anniversary of the discovery of Oil near the banks of Hog Creek.

The great boom was set off on September 2, 1918 when the now famous Duke #1 discovery well blew in, which caught fire almost immediately and that "green lighted" the stampede toward much wealth and excitement.

Near the corner county lines of Comanche, Erath and Eastland Counties - Desdemona grew almost overnight from a village of fifty to sixty people to a bountiful city of an estimated 28,000 to 30,000. Oil sold for \$3.00 a barrel, rigs and gushers were springing up all over the area.

J. R. Palmer, now deceased, was one of the twenty-eight farmers responsible for the Duke #1 discovery well.

He spoke about the talks and first meeting of drilling for oil in Desdemona following the recent discovery of shallow oil production near Strawn in the northeast corner of Eastland County.

At that time Palmer was a teacher at Hog Creek School which later became the Jakehamon School, three miles south of Desdemona. Hog Creek School got it's name from the near-by Hog Creek.

Palmer stated the first step in promoting a well in the area of the Hog Creek Oil Company.

A Rig was purchased and the drilling began down to 1,600 ft. in 1914, when the money ran out and no pay dirt was hit - it came to a halt.

When the McClesley #1 discovery well in Ranger came in on October 17, 1917 - this revived much interest for the people in Desdemona. Several "Hog Town" residents visited the oil men about a drilling proposition. They were told to get a lease block together. In the next few months 5,000 acres were assembled, and the acreage was turned over to R. O. Harvey in Wichita Falls.

Drilling began in the Spring of 1918, Oil was found in the Fall of 1918 and with the ending of World War I - the "Great Oil Boom" was on.

No discussion of Desdemona is complete without mention of how the town got it's name. It had been known as "Hog Town" until a post office was established in 1877, at which time a proper name was discussed during a called town meeting. Many names were submitted. A town merchant sent in the name Desdemona (later dropped the (i) to Desdemona). This town name was chosen from Desdemonia Wynn, daughter of then then present Justice of Peace J. J. Wynn, who was living there when the town was founded in 1870. Supposedly the father chose his daughter's name from the story "Othello" written by William Shakespeare.

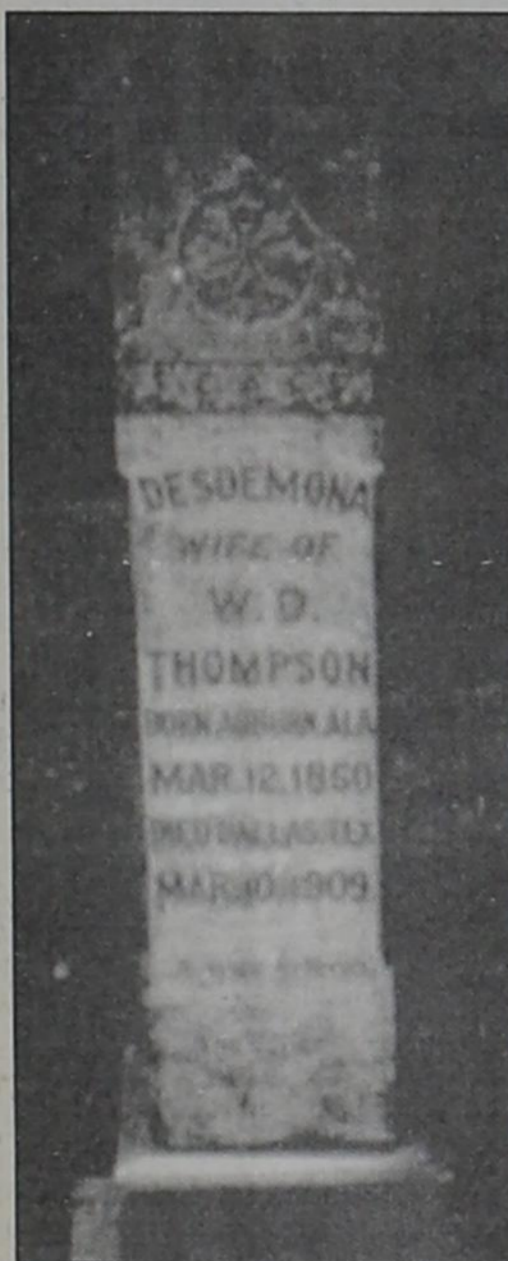
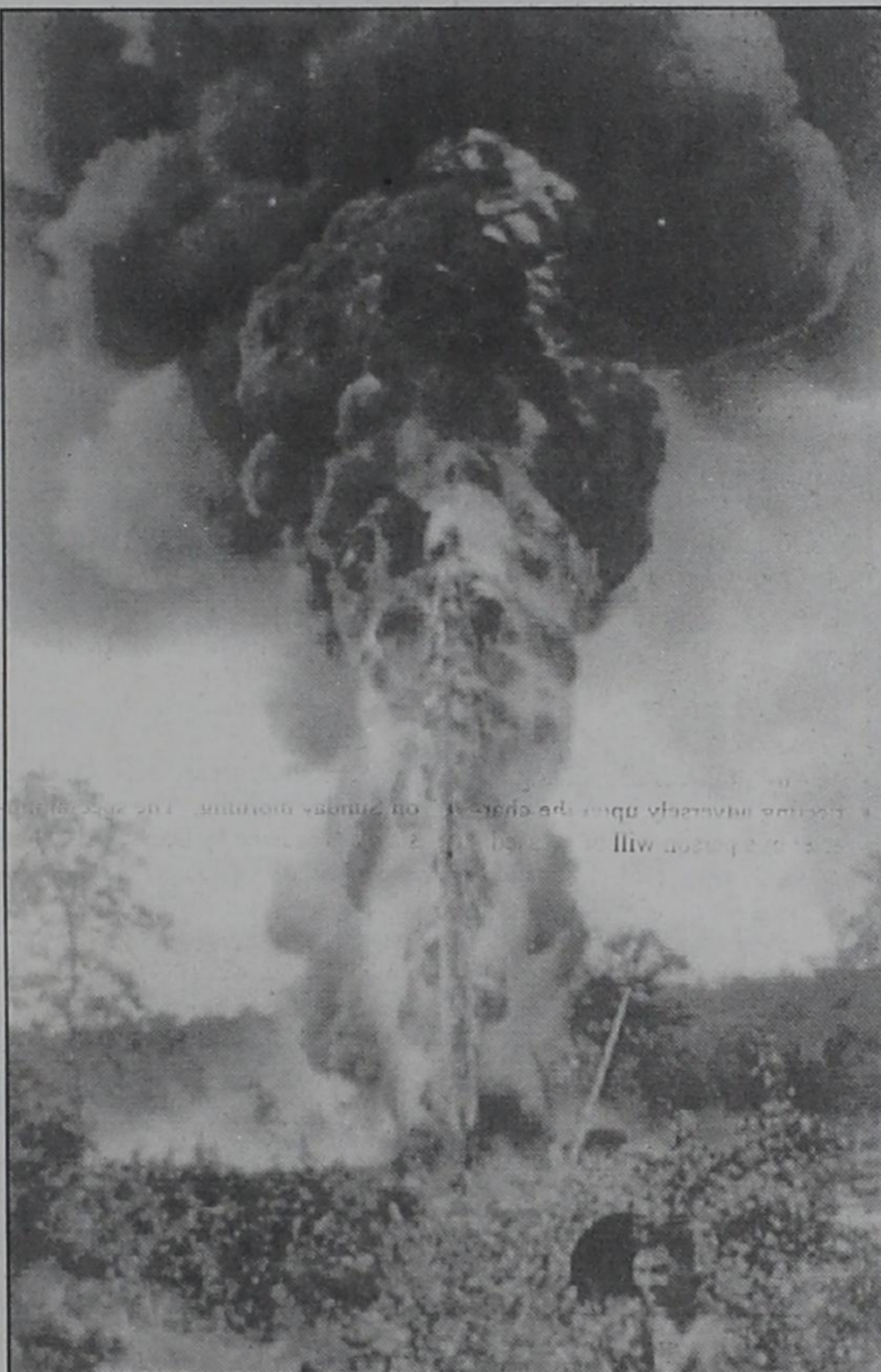
However, the town got it's name, it has gone down in History as one of the greatest Oil Booms of our time.

Desdemona - "Hog Town" with it's mile long streets of mud, many shotgun houses, tents, turmoil and excitement back in the Oil Boom Days in now settled back to a peaceful little town with population of a mere 200.

There is still some oil in area, but the boom of the early 1920's is not forgotten and will live on in the memory of those who roamed the banks of Hog Creek.

Desdemona Wynn, daughter of Justice of Peace J. J. Wynn (who was first postmaster and constable) was born March 12, 1860 in Alburn, Alabama. She later on taught school in Desdemona, living with her parents at this time to help care for her invalid mother. She married W. D. Thompson and passed away March 10, 1909 in Dallas, Texas. Burial was in the Thompson Cemetery two miles south of Kilgore, Texas on State Highway 42 South at Laird Hill, Texas. Photo is grave marker of Desdemona Wynn Thompson.

Written by Vonnie Keith Guthery of Desdemona - to acknowledge the 80th Anniversary of the Desdemona Oil Boom.



Riley Gardner Memorial Represented By JONELL TORREZ - 734-2535

Our Memorial Display is Now Located Behind Higginbotham's Funeral Home. We Guarantee You Can Buy The Finest Quality Memorial At The Lowest Price. All Work Guaranteed.



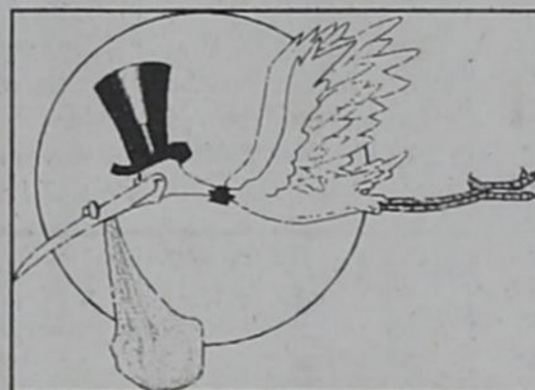
## Driver Appreciation Week

August 9 - 15, 1998 is "Driver Appreciation Week" at Southern AG Carriers, Inc. and we'd



like to say a big "thank you" to our company's dedicated drivers. We want you to know just how important you all are to our company. We take pride in having each and every one of you on board with us. Southern AG Carriers - quality, service, dependability - and drivers who are second to none!

"Thanks, drivers!"



About the only thing a truck doesn't deliver.

Rt 1, Box 95C Comanche, TX

Phone: 915-356-1201 Toll Free: 888-225-8046

Visit our site on the World Wide Web: <http://www.sou-ag.com>

# Business Directory

**Gorman Pharmacy**  
George Simmons, Pharmacist  
117 S. Kent  
Gorman, Texas 76454  
254-734-2859

Agent For:  
**CELLULARONE**  
Stop By For Price Quote

**MARY KAY**  
Marceil Laminack  
Independent Beauty Consultant

P. O. Box 612  
Gorman, TX 76454  
(254) 734-3226

**Texas House Leveling**

Specializing in raising cracked slabs, pier and beams. By contract. 5 year guarantee. Senior citizen discounts. No job too small. 20 years experience. **FREE ESTIMATES.**  
JD Anderson-----1-800-588-3339

**Ken's Motorcycle Shop**  
Ken Chapman, Owner  
254-629-2382  
East Main - Eastland, TX  
Polaris Watercraft & ATU's

**GRANDPA'S TOOL SHED RENTAL**  
254-629-3363 - Located Next Door To Ken's Cycle  
East Main in Eastland

**T. J. Clark Construction Co., Inc.**  
(254) 734-2755  
P.O. Box 176-111 E. Roberts St.  
Gorman, Texas 76454

General Building Contractors--If you can dream it, we can build it!

All Work Guaranteed, Custom Homes, Remodeling  
Commercial, Industrial & Farm, Free Estimates, Financing  
Design, Engineering and Plan Services Available

**Home Remodeling Loans**  
No application fees & No government red tape  
\$100 total closing costs upon loan approval, up to \$50,000 loan.

**We Clean The Most Neglected Unsightly Part of Your Home**  
**YOUR AIR DUCT SYSTEM!!!**

**J & J Air Conditioning, Inc.**  
Plumbing and Appliances  
Phone 254-629-2251 TACLB002300C 800-585-2251  
Downtown Eastland - On The Square

