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NUMBER FIFTY-ONE

Gorman Frog

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Gorman, Eastland County, Texas 76454

9:00

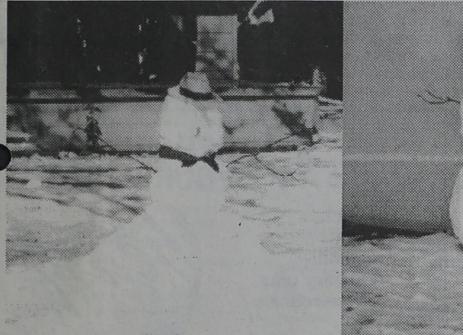


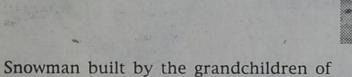
30 Cents

JANUARY 4, 2001

Gorman Hit By Winter Weather Gorman Project Show Storms - Ice and Snow

Local citizens make the best of the snow, they built snowmen all over To Be Held January 6th own and tried to carry one with the normal things that the holidays would town and tried to carry one with the normal things that the holidays would bring. Here is some of the pictues of the ice and snow.





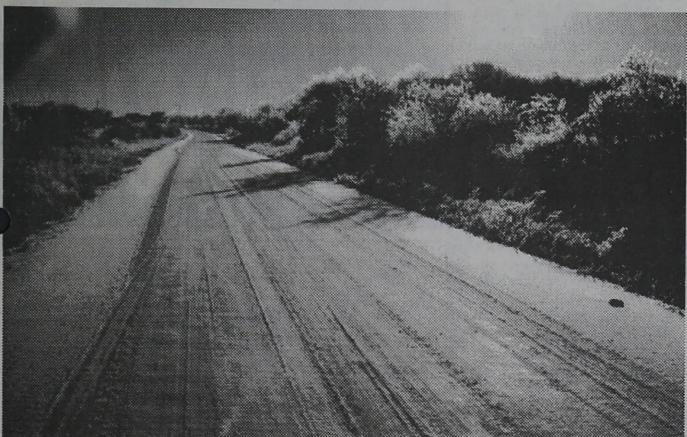
Larry and Joy Campbell



Snowman built by Chris Eason, Rick Eason and Lonnie Joe Eason.



Picture of downtown Gorman before the heavy snow starting falling in the area.



The Gorman Project Show will be held at the Gorman Ag Building on Saturday, January 6th. All animals need to be in place by Friday, January 5th at 6:00 p.m. Animals will be weighed starting at 6:30 p.m. Saturday schedule is as follows

De merginea otal	ang at 0.00 p.m. bataraay benedule is as follows.
Bo Caraway	Show Director/Ag Teacher
Shawn Boles	Show Director/Ag Teacher
	Judge/Professor at Tarleton St. University

Sheep Division

Fine Wool Fine Wool Cross Medium Wool Southdown Grand Champion of Show Showmanship - Sr., Jr. PeeWee

Goats Division 10:00 Light Weight Medium Weight Heavy Weight

Grand Champion of Show Showmanship - Sr., Jr., PeeWee 11:00 Breeding Gilts Division

> Black OPB White OPB Durocs Hamps Cross

> > Hamps

Grand Champion of Show Showmanship - Sr., Jr., PeeWee

2:00 Market Pig Division Berkshires Chesters Polands Spots Yorks Durocs

> Cross Grand Champion of Show Showmanship - Sr., Jr. PeeWee

The Gorman Livestock Raisers Association sponsors concession stand located in the cafeteria. The proceeds benefit Gorman students at the Eastland County Stock Show premium sale.

Together Against Drug Abuse Kicks Off Friday at 2:45 p.m. at GHS

Together Against Drug Abuse is a Masonic program to help young students make correct choices when confronted with the temptation to use alcohol, tobacco, prescription or hard drugs. With the help from teachers, parents, law-enforcement officers, local and state community leaders, local masons and Masonic lodges, and the local business community, we can help them fight a problem they cannot fight alone.

The program brings leaders from the business community, local law-enforcement officers, local and state leaders and masons together in their communities to help their children and grandchildren in their community to give them insight to what happens to them if they make bad choices now and in the future when confronted with the use of these drugs.

The program is designed for students in the fifth grade. Our program is designed to be presented to the students by a uniformed law-enforcement officer in their school and their room. The officer will present the program every week starting the fifth day of January 2001 until the first or second week of May. The instructor's manual has enough material to make about fifteen sessions in the classroom. The lessons are assisted by work problems in the manual and video tapes. Each student will receive his/her own T-shirt with the logo on the front to wear to class the day the officer presents the program. Upon completion, each student will receive a certification with his/her name. The certificate is nice enough to frame and keep and is signed by the officer teaching the class and the school principal.

Clark's Building Supply

The Gorman Masonic Lodge would like to thank the following Sponsors for their support:

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Gorman Masonic Lodge #716

(All Sponsors are invited to attend the Kick Off Program)



ITEMS OF INTEREST TO AREA FOLKS

Gorman Pharmacy

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS — Blood Pressure Checks by Heritage Manor of Gorman. Every other week at Senior Citizens at 11:00 a.m. Other week at Gorman Hotel at 10:30

Gorman Primitive Baptist Church has Services Every Sundays. Services begin at 10:30 a.m. Bro. Mark Waltenbarger - 1st Sunday; Elder Mike Webb, Pastor - All Other Sundays - Everyone Welcome To Attend.

FOOD PANTRY Second Thursday of Each Month

Gorman Masonic Lodge No. 716 A.F. & A.M. Regular stated meetings are 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Members are urged to attend. Visitors are always welcome. Roy Lipson, Worshipful Master - Pat Moseley, Secretary

Athletic Boosters to meet January 8th at 7:00 p.m. at the Dairy Queen. Come and support the Panthers and join the Boosters.

The Order of the Eastern Star holds its regular stated meetings on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. - Nell Ragland, Worthy Matron and Elwood Ragland, Worthy Patron.

Gorman Oaklawn Cemetery Association is accepting donations for the Care of the Cemetery. If you would like to make a donation in memory of or In Honor of someone, please send to Rt. 3 Box 121A, or American State Bank, Gorman, Texas 76454.

SANDRA CAGLE WILL BE IN GORMAN THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE CITY OFFICE TO RENEW AUTO LICENSE PLATES. HER NEXT VISIT WILL BE DECEMBER 20TH FROM 9 - 12 NOON.

Speech is civilization itself. The word,

Thomas Mann

Obituaries

Hazel B. Wisdom

Hazel Beatrice Wisdom, 95, of Gorman died December 25, 2000 in the DeLeon Hospital. Funeral services were 2:00 p.m. December 27, 2000 in the Higginbotham Funeral Chapel with Rev. Jerry Speer officiating. Interment was in the Alameda Cemetery.

Borne in Hassie, Texas she married David Earnest Wisdom in the Salem Community near Desdemona. She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Gorman.

She is survived by one son, Bobby Wisdom of Desdemona; two daughters, Patsy J. Kincanon of Hice and Eloise Williams of Desdemona; three sisters, Corinne Waldon of Clyde, Irene Harrison of Gorman, Nelda Towery of Princeton, Kentucky; 12 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren, and 6 greatgreat grandchildren. She was preceded in death by one daughter, Helen Joyce Kimbrough and a great grandson, David Kimbrough.

One grandson, David Williams, and a son-in-law, Leo Williams, helped with the music. A granddaughter, Linda Barker, read a poem.

Six of her great grandsons were pallbearers.

Services Held for James Grimshaw

James J. Grimshaw, 97, of Desdemona, Texas was born December 14, 1903 in Xray, Texas, near Stephenville in Erath County and passed away December 26, 2000.

Funeral services were Friday, December 29, 2000 at the Desdemona First Baptist Church.

Mr. Grimshaw was saved and baptized in the summer of 1925 in Elida, New Mexico. He was ordained as a Deacon in 1930. He served in many positions at the church and also served

Velma E. Bennett Laid to Rest

Velma E. Bennett age 94, died Monday, December 25th in the DeLeon

Services were Saturday, December 30, 2000 in the Higginbotham Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. James Haynes and Rev. Victor Pena officiating. Burial was in the Gorman Cemetery.

Mrs. Bennett was born July 29, 1906 in Hot Springs, Arkansas to Ellery Wilson and Myrtle (Reynolds) Wilson. She married Hubert Gail Bennett on November 24, 1927. He preceded her in death in 1960. Mrs. Bennett and her husband owned and operated Bennett's Grocery & Station for 22 years. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Gorman. She had served as director of the Chamber of Commerce and had been a member of the Kokomo Home Demonstration Club, Gorman Park Association, and the Senior Citizens Club.

She is survived by one son, Herman Bennett of Gorman; one grandson, Ronald Bennett of Gorman and one granddaughter, Rita Salas of Grand Junction, Colorado, and two great grandchildren.

on the Desdemona School Board two terms. He farmed peanuts and raised cattle near Desdemona until 1976.

James J. Grimshaw and Nona Rogers were married October 20, 1926 in Elida, New Mexico. She preceded him in death October 28, 1992. He married Gladys Simpson in 1993 and she preceded August 11, 2000.

He is survived by two sons, Jay R. and Carmen Gene Grimshaw of Desdemona and one daughter, Nella V. Ragland of Desdemona; 14 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

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Joe Bennett - Lonnie Bennett - Marilyn Warren

Desdemona News

By Vonnie Guthery

Desdemona Monthly musical will be on Saturday, January 27th (if) the weather is good. This musical was dismissed for November and December due to the busy holiday season. We are ready to start a New Year with a good musical, good singers and lots of visitors at the Community Center. Come early to enjoy the good food at the concession stand.

Floyd and Nell Moore of Benbrook spent most of last week at their Desdemona home. They hosted an "Open House" last Friday night and many of their friends and neighbors in this area enjoyed visited and refreshments.

Visitors this past week with Marie Patty were Darwin Patty of Stamford, Stacy, Jonathan and Matthew Patty of Lubbock.

Lelan Pack of Lubbock visited the past weekend with his mother, James and Dixie Ryon. They enjoyed a trip to Dallas on Friday to take care of some business and spend time shopping.

Gary and Linda Barker of Teague; Garrett and Racheal Barker and children, Morgan and Seth of Meridian; and Billy Williams of Lovington, New Mexico visited the holidays with Bob and Merlene Wisdom, Marsha Johnson and Chris.

Dorothy Roberts spent the past weekend in Fort Worth to welcome a new great grandson, Cameron Neil. Parents are Shawn and Heather Caddell and big sister, Kelsey. Grandparents are Keven and Ulenda Weaver, all of Fort Worth. "Congratulations" to this couple and their baby.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to the family of Jim Grimshaw, 97, who was buried on Friday, December 29 in the Howard Cemetery north of Desdemona. Survivors are two sons, Jay Grimshaw and Gene Grimshaw both of Desdemona and one daughter, Nell Ragland of Desdemona. Preceded in death by his wife, Nona.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to the family of Mary Madelle (Lee) Ragland who was buried this past week in Lovington, New Mexico. Survivors are her husband, Bobby Jack Ragland and their children of Lovington, New Mexico. Preceded in death by her parents, J.C. and Neta Lee.

Larry and Gay Moore hosted a family Christmas dinner. Those attending were Shorty Fox of Desdemona; Bruce and Ranae White and children, Chelsea and Cory of Dublin; Ruby Hathaway and Diane Miller of Stephenville; Paul and Susan Moore and children, Hagan and Scarlett; and Charlotte Clark of Eastland.

Pug and Vonnie Guthery, Dorothy Roberts, Leo Williams and several from Desdemona attended the 100th birthday celebration for Odie



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Brightwell in Gorman last Sunday. Odie had a wonderful day and a large crowd attended (both friends and relatives). His picture and story were on the front page Sunday's Abilene Reporter.

Lots of sickness in our area, Robert Cummings hurt his back and now on crutches, Benton Echols in the hospital, Ruth Daffron in the hospital. Lots of flu and bronchitis, several recovering from surgeries. Remember all these with your cards and prayers.

Those visiting with Bernard and Ann Keith During the holidays were: Dewitt and Vicki Robinett, DeLeon; Billy, Nikki and Christopher Ferbinger, Stephenville; Bill and Tami Sanders, Chicota; Brad, Priscilla, Jeanna and Brett Keith, Louisville, KY; Derek Robinett, Monterey, CA; Krystal Roecker, Pebble Beach, CA; Avie Taylor, DeLeon; Jean Cearley, Ft. Worth; Nelda Keith, Gorman; Nikki Keith, Gorman; Terri and Regina Lewis, White Settlement; Raymond and Vivian Hart; Ranger; Belinda Webb, Desdemona; Gary and Jody Walston, Desdemona; Mike, Sommer, and Mason James Keith, Stephenville.



The Ship That Won't Sink

(NAPS)—An exciting new book dispels some myths and reveals some surprising new truths about the extraordinary ship that seems to float forever in the imaginations of people everywhere.



Secrets beneath the sea come to the surface with a chilling eyewitness account.

In his new non-fiction book, Ghosts of the Titanic (William Morrow, \$26), Charles Pellegrino brings startling new information to light about the shipwreck and the human dramas of survivors, reconstructed from letters, diaries and oral histories.

Pellegrino is an oceanographer, who draws on his 1996 deep-sea expedition to the Titanic as well as other marine scientists' recent research to dispel some myths and reveal some surprising new truths.

Contrary to the popular notion that the ship succumbed to a gigantic gash after hitting an iceberg, he shows that the Titanic was felled by a series of ice stabs and bullet-hole-like punctures adding up to just 12 square feet of openings through which tons of water poured.

In addition, Pellegrino reveals: who was looting cabins as the ship went down

· the surprising fate of the Grand Stairway

· why the lookout never saw the iceberg before it was too late. For more information on this

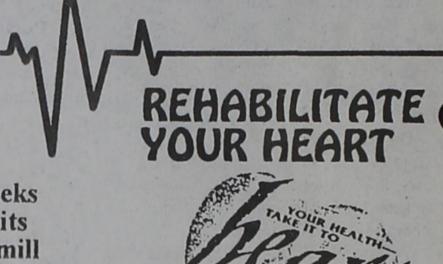
book go to www.HarperCollins Publisher.com.

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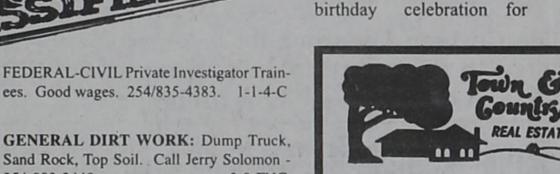


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Robin Taylor New Resident

Heritage Manor is happy to have Robin Taylor, new resident. She is the daughter of Dalton Taylor of Gorman and has two sisters, Ellen Tucker of Gorman and Emery Taylor of Bastrop and a niece, Rachel Taylor of Gorman. She is a member of the First Baptist Church of Gorman.

Visiting Ava Rodgers were Ima Brown, Jana Grice, Nancy Hendricks, Ruth Bryant, Eunice Love, Denzel and Fay Ables, Dave and Laneta Freeman, en and Betty Sue Heathington.

On Sunday morning, Rev. Bill Campbell of First Baptist Church taught the Sunday School lesson for Veno Hale, Cynthia Earles, A.V. Seay, S.D. Gilmore, Modess Self, Frankie Jarrett, Patti Whitehorn, and Dean

Visiting Irene Heathington were Kenneth and Betty Sue Heathington, Dave and Laneta Freeman, Eunice Love and Pat Hagood.

On Sunday afternoon, Bro. Paul Denton of Church of Christ brought church services for Muriel Prewitt, A.V. Seay, Mary Williams, Inez Rogers, Modess Self and S.D. Gilmore.

Some of Mildred Bellows guests were Darrell and Pat Hagood, Eunice Love, Fay and Denzel Ables.

On Tuesday morning, Ina Smith had bingo for Inez Rogers, Mildred Bellows, S.D. Gilmore, A.V. Seay, Sara Rodgers, Ollie Halcomb, Veno Hale, Modess Self and Clifton Jarrett.

Visiting S.D. Gilmore were Howard Hagood and Durwood Webb.

Sorry to report Frankie Jarrett is a patient in the Eastland Memorial Hos-

Visiting Ola Walker were Fay and Denzel Ables, Inez Rogers, and Eunice Love.

Last Party of the Year 2000

It was a happy occasion on Friday when Heritage Manor hosted the last party of 2000. Christmas decorations with a red poinsettia for center piece which belonged to A.V. Seay. Santa Claus came and gave gifts wishing everyone a Merry Ho Ho Christmas.

The Howard family came and sang Christmas songs. Pretty Christmas cookies were served with frosted

Residents were Hallie Clark, Mildred Bellows, A.V. Seay, Dean Pounds, S.D. Gilmore, Iola Johnson, Modess Self, Dorothy Beaty, Stella Files, Veno Hale, Mary Williams, Muriel Prewitt, Irene Heathington, Ava Rodgers, Inez Rogers, Cynthia Earles, Robin Taylor, Ora Mae Atchison, Patti Whitehorn, Sara Rodgers, and Iola Johnson.

Guests were John, Charlotte, K'Ann, Lacy, and Trey Howard, Edith Torres, Janet Sanders, Jo Ann Fraley, Nancy Hendricks and Ruth Bryant.

Visiting Cynthia Earles and Modess Self were Christine Self of Carbon, Ken and Betty Sue Heathington, V.O. Huff, Dave and Laneta Freeman, Howard and Pat Hagood, Dixie Ryon and Violet Watson, Eunice Love, Denzel and Fay Ables, Howard Hagood.

And the second second second second

Visiting Dean Pounds were Roger Pounds, Winston Brown and Howard

Pat Graham and Ina Smith had bingo on Friday for Inez Rogers, Robin Taylor, A.V. Seay, Patti Whitehorn, Mildred Bellows, Veno Hale, Sara Rodgers, Ora Mae Atchison, Modess Self, Ollie Halcomb, S.D. Gilmore, and Clifton Jarrett.

Visiting Ollie Halcomb and Dorothy Beaty were Joe Beaty of Ft. Worth, David and Dena Halcomb, Eunice Love, Denzel and Fay Ables.

Hazel Wisdom Passes Away

Hazel Wisdom, age 95, died December 25, 2000 in DeLeon Hospital. Services were 2:00 p.m. Wednesday at Higginbotham Funeral Chapel. Rev. Jerry Speer officiated. Interment was in the Alameda Cemetery.

She was the widow of Ernest Wisdom and a member of First Baptist Church of Gorman.

Survivors are a son, Bob Wisdom of Desdemona; two daughters, Patsy Kincannon of Hico, Eloise Williams of Desdemona; three sisters, Corinne Walton of Clyde, Irene Harrison of Gorman and Nelda Towery of Princeton, Kentucky; 12 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and 6 greatgreat grandchildren.

Visiting George Stewart were Redge and Vicki Stewart of Flowermound and Larry Stewart.

Velma Bennett Passes Away

Velma Bennett age 94 passed away on December 25, 2000 in the DeLeon Hospital. Services were 2:00 p.m. Saturday, December 30, 2000, directed by Higginbotham Funeral Chapel. Internment was in the Gorman Cemetery.

Velma was the widow of Gale Bennett. She belonged to the First United Methodist Church in Gorman where she was very active. She also belonged to the Rebecca Lodge and the Kokomo Extension Homemakers Club. The Bennetts operated the Bennett Grocery Store for many years. She worked several other placed including the Eastland Memorial Hospital and cafes.

Survivors are one son, Herman Bennett of Gorman, a grandson, Ronald Bennett of Gorman and a granddaughter, Rita Salas of Grand Junction, Colorado.

Some of Robin Taylor guests were an aunt, Mrs. Nowlin of Big Springs, Dalton Taylor, James Ellen and Rachel Tucker, Eunice Love, Fay and Denzel

On Wednesday, Ennis Joiner of First Baptist Church came and had chapel for Inez Rogers, Ora Mae Atchison, A.V. Seay, Ava Rodgers, S.D. Gilmore, Cynthia Earles, Modess Self and Patti Whitehorn.

Visiting Richard Kinser were Howard Hagood, James and Ruby Lee Kinser and Rex Kinser.

On Wednesday afternoon, those enjoying Arts and Crafts were A.V. Seay, Inez Rogers, Modess Self, Ollie Halcomb.

Visiting Muriel Prewitt were Durwood Webb, Bro. Paul Denton, Amy Fraley, Eunice Love, Denzel and Fay

Guests visiting Buddy Winn and Ed

Thank You

We would like to say "Thank You" to all of our friends and relatives who attended our 50th wedding anniversary reception and for all the lovely cards and gifts. It was a special day for us. Pug and Vonnie Guthery

Johnson were Lance Winn of Irving, Harvey Winn of Carbon, Fay Johnson, Vernon Fields and Howard Hagood.

The Gorman sixth grade students and teachers visited the rest home on Wednesday before Christmas. They sang songs and took hot chocolate and cookies.

Sixth grade and teachers were: Amanda Regian, Chrissy Carlton, Matthew Smith, Maria Oronia, Crystal Thackerson, Britney Shirley, Leland Rainey, Stephanie Hughes, Orlando Valencuala, Rosa Herrera, Kaci Seaton, Anna Loredo, Brad Grissom, Pete Ramirez, Reji Senchiez, Brian Greer, Brenda Olivarez, Michael Marian, Amanda Brown, Pricilla Estrada, Tiffany Perez, Josh Cox, Mindy Katon, David Ibarra, Christina Garcia, and teachers, Susie Hampton and Stephanie

Residents were Veno Hale, Modess Self, Inez Rogers, A.V. Seay, S.D. Gilmore, Patti Whitehorn, Robin Taylor, Ola Walker, Cynthia Earles, Ora Mae Atchison, Dean Pounds, Iola Johnson and Frankie Jarrett.

Some of A.V. Seay and Sara Rogers guests were Argie and Margie Hale of DeLeon, Martin Seay and children of Abilene, Ima Brown, Thomas, Vicki and Tommy Lynn Seay.

A.V. Seay enjoyed Christmas dinner with her children, Thomas, Vicki and Tommy Lynn.

On Thursday morning, Ina Smith read Christmas stories to Inez Rogers, Modess Self, Cynthia Earles, A.V. Seay and Ollie Halcomb.

Some of Mary Williams guests were Fred McMullen of Melrose, New Mexico, Ina Reynolds of Carbon, Maxine Frasier of DeLeon, Howard and Pat Hagood, Amy Fraley, Ima Brown, Nancy Hendricks and Ruth Bryant.

Visiting Veno Hale and Iola Johnson were Jimmy and Verna Lee Little, Ina Reynolds of Carbon, Eunice Love, Fay and Denzel Ables.

Thursday afternoon, Ina Smith had a snowball fight. Residents enjoying the game were Dean Pounds, Dorothy Beaty, Ollie Halcomb, Hallie Clark, Modess Self, Inez Rogers, A.V. Seay, Veno Hale, and guest, Sherry Paris.

guests were Trevor, Melissa and Jarrett Robertson of Kerrville, Bill Johnson and Kay Watson, Mark Watson, Fay and Denzel Ables, Eunice

Patti Whitehorn goes to Abilene

Patti Whitehorn and husband, Bro. T.D. Whitehorn spent Christmas with their son and wife, Dr. Michael and Marsha Whitehorn in Abilene. Other guests were Heidi Forbes of Virginia, Chris Schertz of Dallas, Sylvia Estes, Mary Estes, Marie Cook, Lyndal and Linda Cook of Synder, Eunice Love, Denzel and Fay Ables visited Patti Whitehorn.

Tuesday afternoon, Ina Smith had bingo for Patti Whitehorn, Veno Hale, Cynthia Earles, Ollie Halcomb, Clifton Jarrett, S.D. Gilmore, Mildred Bellows, Inez Rogers, A.V. Seay and Modess Self.

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JANUARY 4, 2001 THE GORMAN PROGRESS

BY ZELDA JORDAN

KOKOMO NEWS

I don't think that I have ever seen a more beautiful picture than the beautiful snow landscape. God is the greatest artist. No one else could paint a picture as beautiful. Along with the cleansing snow, God has given us a New Year to start new with our activities, so let us ask his leadership in our lives that we may strive to always to do His will for our lives.

Special music at the Kokomo Baptist Church on Sunday morning was rendered by Woodrow and Helen Browning and Daryl Hirst with Glynda Bond at the piano. The Sunday evening service was dismissed so the members could attend the fifth Sunday and New Year's Eve Singing at the New Hope Baptist Church.

Visitors with John and Troy Scitern during the Christmas Holidays were Tommy and Laverne Carr of Lake Whitney, Mickey Carr of Dallas, Johnny and Jo Ann Scitern of Kokomo, Nicholas and Keri Guthery of Stephenville, and Kris and Kristen Scitern of Kokomo.

Matt and Amy Hawkins, Mark Ethan and Macalister of Fort Worth visited with Delmon and Joyce Eaves enroute home from a visit with Amy's parents, the Kenn Norrises in Sanderson. They spent the night with Delmon and Joyce while they waited for the icy road conditions to clear up.

Visitors with Nancy Hendricks were Buck and Pearl Anderson of Clyde, Joe and Justin Miles of Austin, Zelda Jordan, John and Troy Scitern, Ruth Bryant and Sylvia Buchanan.

Those enjoying a late Christmas celebration with Glenda and Leon Black in Abilene during the New Year's weekend were Joe and Justin Miles and Viki Hart of Austin, Robert, Diane, Brad and Meagan Miles of Leander, Sheri, Wade, Ryan and Kody Daniell of Abilene, Cindy, Kyle and Kayla Jordan of Lubbock and Zelda Jordan of Kokomo. Zelda, Cindy, Kyle and Kayla were overnight guests of the Daniells and the others were overnight guests at the Black home. A wonderful time with bountiful meals was enjoyed.

Joe and Justin Miles of Austin spent Some of Clifton and Frankie Jarrett Thursday night with Zelda Jordan and she accompanied them to Abilene on Friday. Cindy, Kyle and Kayla Jordan of Lubbock brought her home on Sunday and remained for a few days visit.

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Estelle Craddock is our Representative for the Gorman Area

She may be reached by calling 254-734-2363.

David and Cassie Brasher visited during the holidays with Pleas and Pat Reneau at Ranger. Other visiting with them in the Reneau home were Sarah, Shane, Tricia Rose and Zach Dumith of Olney.

Teresa Findley and a friend, Joe, of Fort Worth visited with Cassie and David Brasher on Saturday, and while here they went deer hunting and Teresa got an

County Commissioner L.T. Owen To Retire After January 1, 2001

Things are really going to be different around Eastland County Commissioner's Courtroom after Jan.

For one thing, L.T. Owen of Rising Star, who has been Commissioner of Pct. 3 more than 28 years is retir-

Owen was appointed by County Judge Scott Bailey in 1972, and served with Judge Bailey until the Judge's retirement Jan. 1, 1999. Since that time he has served with County Judge Brad Stephenson.

Judge Bailey says he thinks L.T. Owen has been a County Commissioner longer than anyone else in Eastland County. Bailey says the next longest term would be that of Comm. of Pct. 4 "Runt" Dill of Cisco. Dill began as Commissioner in 1963 and served until he retired in 1986.

L.T. Owen's position in Pct. 3 will be taken by Bill Underwood, who won in the General Election 2000.

"You have a good man coming in," L.T.-as he is called- said recently. "Bill has worked for me, and he's always been a good employee. He'll take care of things--I feel good about

"Taking care of thing," to L.T. includes keeping up some of the best rural roads in the county.

"L.T. Owen was one of the more experienced County Commissioners to come board," Judge Bailey recalls. "He was the one of only three Commissioners I appointed during my 36 years as County Judge."

"Pct. 3 Commissioner L.J. "Buck" Collins died in 1972, and I appointed L.T. right after the Runoff election."

The Judge continued, "Owen hasn't disappointed me. He has served during critical times."

"The First thing he faced was having to redistrict Pct. 3 to avoid a Federal Lawsuit. We had to recombine the Rising Star-Gorman area, giving Owen a larger Precinct than he ran

The Retired Judge also explained about some of the other crises the County Commissioners faced-and survived-during the years Owen served. Among other things, they were forced to build a new jail in 1980 and enlargeit

PAGE THREE

"No matter what happened, Owen always stayed within his budget and had good roads," Judge Bailey commented. "His knowledge and expertise of road building and machinery has always been a big help to the county."

"He could do anything he asked his men to do. Anytime the roads weren't being graded just right he wound say 'Let me tell you how to do that.' No he'd say 'Jump off there and let me show you!!"

In thinking about his years as a Commissioner, L.T. Recalls that he has seen many changes.

"We started out with lower salaries and old equipment, he comments. "I'm leaving some good equipment."

When asked if he didn't usually vote against salary raises and tax raises, he nods his head. "Never was in favor of raising things too much in too short a time," he comments. Owen says that one of the worst

things he remembers during the 28 years were the floods of 1991, and the damage they did to the roads. "But I've enjoyed my job," he de-

clares. "There are a lot of people I need to thank, though, beginning with special thanks to the people of Pct. 3. They have always supported me. "Then there's my wife, Josie, who

always encouraged me when things got touch. She and my three boys, Johnny, Robert and Bill, were always ready to help me what they could--even on weekends if necessary.

"I have had good workers on the road crews--I couldn't have done the job without them. They have especially pitched in and helped me during the last few years, when I have been sick some."

"I really appreciate all this help and support."

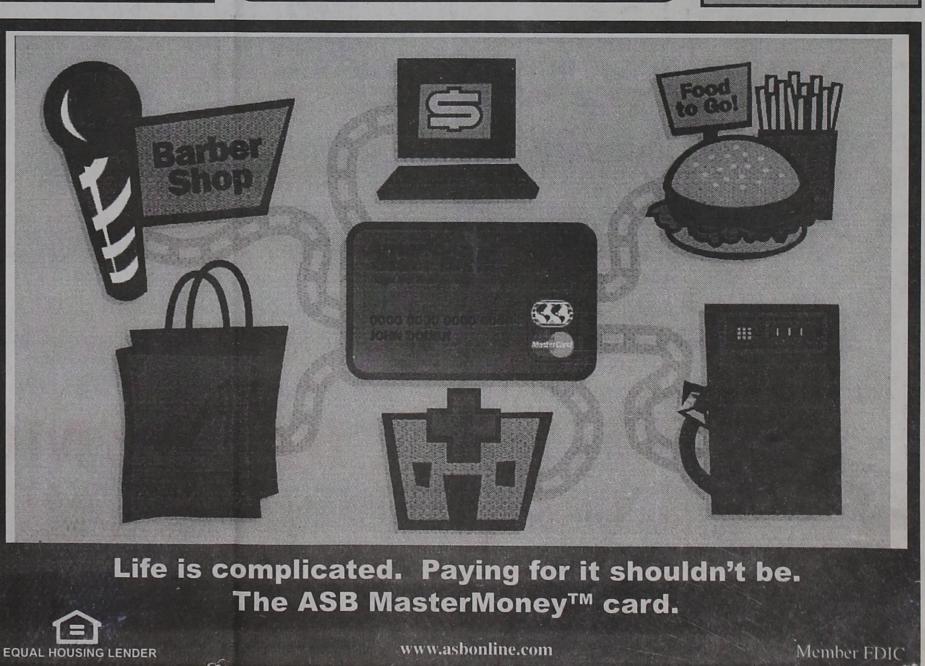
Owen adds: "I'm real strong on the idea that a County Commissioner should serve not only the people of his own Precinct, but also the people of the whole county. You have to vote on stuff that affects everyone."

"Yes, I will miss the job, but I know you have a good man to carry on for the people of Pct. 3 and Eastland

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Pause To Think

Happy New Year to you and your family! It is at this time of the year that many resolutions will be made. We refer to them as New Year's Resolutions, and all of us, at one time or another, have made them. I have already heard several. Here are a few

- 1. Next year I will not be broke at Christmas time.
- I am going to start my diet and lose 40 pounds.
- 3. This year, I am going to keep my room clean without my parents having to tell
- 4. I am going read my Bible every morning this year.
- 5. I am going to pray every day this year.
- 6. I am going to study harder, do all my homework diligently, and improve my grades, especially chemistry and algebra. (fict.)

These are just a few that I have heard.

I have talked to some that have given up on New Year's Resolutions. These folk have decided that this type of decision making is pointless. What about you, did you make a resolution this year? If so, it is now the third day of this year, how are you doing?

Why do people make New Year's Resolutions? Let us explore three common rea-

- 1. People are tired of the way things are
- 2. We are past ready for a change
- 3. We feel like the New Year is a new beginning, a fresh start

Let's discuss these.

Each of us has experienced the first scenario. Life and our bad habits have a way of wearing us down. And we have all been to where we were past ready for things in our lives to change. Now, why do we feel that changing the date of the year will help us? Truthfully, we drag all of our past, problems, debts, insufficiences, and etc. right into the New Year. Nothing really changes except our resolve to do something about all of those problems. There is nothing magical that occurs between December 31st and January the 1st.

Now, before I come across souding cynical, I do believe that making goals and being determined is extremely important to one's ability to succeed. However, if change is required there is only one place to turn.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17 Paul said, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." However, we cannot be in Christ unless Christ is in us according to John 15:4-7 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

The way that Christ abides in us is through the gift of His Spirit to us. Christ comes into our lives fully when we receive the Holy Ghost/Holy Spirit. There is nothing else that we could receive that changes more. When we allow His Spirit to fill us and lead us, it will also enable us to do those things we know we should do, and avoid those things we shouldn't do. Changing our lives and affecting the way we live in this life is minute in comparison to the eternal life that His Spirit works within us.

If you really want this year to be the best ever and you really want to make all those changes, then I encourage you to receive the Holy Ghost, God's gift of His Holy Spirit to you, and then let Him lead you. Everything changes in the heart where Christ is truly Lord.

More next week. Address comments or questions to:

John Howard, Jr. jthjr77@txol.net

PO Box 399

Gorman, Texas 76454

Scenes From Desdemona





VIRUS ALERT

Words to live by are, Do Not Open Executable Attachments.

Thats right, we have discovered another new email virus that is invading the TXOL email boxes. It is called W32. Navidad and is a mass mailing worm program. Please just delete the message and Do Not open it. If you do, once executed, its going to make a mess of your computer system. Its not a nuisance virus; it is a true shark and will eat your Windows operating system without a hiccup.

As stated before, even if you know and trust the sender, we suggest you delete executable attachments. That is unless you are prepared for a possible virus such as this. This particular worm checks for all messages in your Inbox and replies to those messages that have an attachment. This is generally without the sender even being aware of the problem.

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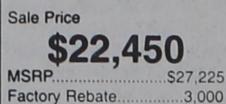
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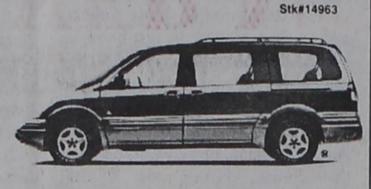
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Custom Leather seating, luxury pkg,

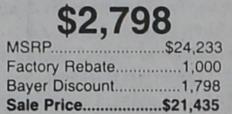
6-way power driver seat, power windows

locks, and mirrors, air, 5 spoke 15" alum wheels

\$23,993 +TT&L

\$2,654 MSRP. Factory Rebate..... Bayer Discount......1,904 Sale Price.....\$23,993

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Total Savings

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2000 Chevy Blazer LS \$25,465 +TT&L

\$3,622 Factory Rebate.....1,500 Bayer Discount.....

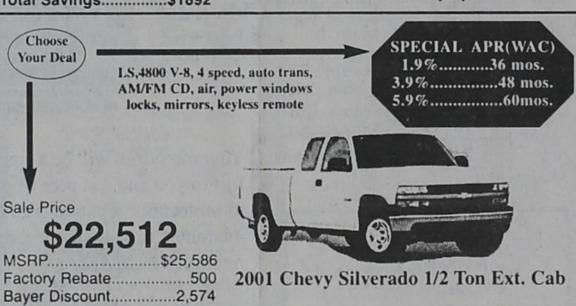
Sale Price.....\$25,465

2-door, 4WD, 4300 V-6, 4 spd auto trans, ZR2 suspension pkg, pwr windows, locks, heated mirrors, cruise & tilt, locking differential, deluxe overhead console, 2 spd active transfer case

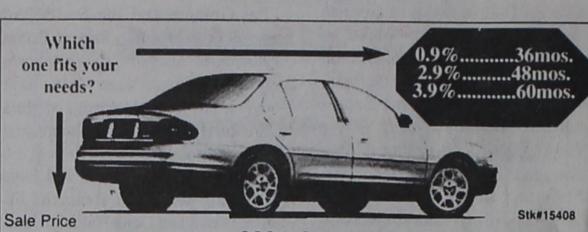


Sale Price Factory Rebate. Bayer Discount. Total Savings.....

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Total Savings.....\$3,074



\$20,248 Factory Rebate.....2,000

Total Savings.....\$3,562

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MSRP. Factory Rebate.....750 Bayer Discount.....1,260 Total Savings..... \$2,010 2000 Silverado 1/2 Ton Ext. Cab

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Total Savings

\$5,368 Factory Rebate.....1,500 Bayer Discount.....

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