

THE BORDEN STAR

Volume XXIX

January 31, 2001

Serving the Counties of Borden, Dawson, Garza, Howard, Lynn & Scurry

Spindletop Historical Series – Part One

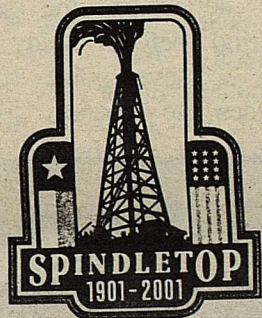
The players: Celebrating the Wildcatter spirit and ingenuity

Editor's Notes: On January 10, 2001, the Spindletop centennial celebration took place at the Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum on the Lamar University campus. The history of the Lucas gusher comes alive in a four part series about the world-changing event that occurred at Spindletop on January 10, 1901. The discovery of oil – in-never-before-seen quantities – that took place near Beaumont that cold winter morning was not only one of the most historically significant moments in Texas history, but also a defining moment nationally.

Part one of a four part series

On a clear, cold January morning, as the drill bit was pulled above the derrick floor, as it had been hundreds of times in the past four months, mud suddenly bubble dup. Then mud exploded out of the drilling hole, hurling six tons of pipes into the air like straw over the derrick top to land like giant spears in the ground.

After a few moments of silence, there came a terrific rear like a heavy cannon shot. Mud erupted from the hole, followed by a terrific column



of gas and then heavy, greenish oil that shot 150-200 feet into the air. It would take the astonished men several days to cap the well.

In 1901, the Lucas gusher at Spindletop Hill signaled the beginning of a new era-propelling modern industrial development with a cheap and abundant fuel source.

In wildcatter fashion, the men who came together and brought in Spindletop were extremely resourceful and demonstrated unyielding faith. Pattillo Higgins started with the vision. Anthony F. Lucas contributed expertise and doggedly raised the money. Remarkable technical ingenuity was delivered in spades by the Hamill Brothers.

Higgins had the unwavering belief that oil was under Spindletop Hill. More times than not, popular consensus and current wisdom ran counter to his declaration in the decade leading up to the gusher.

Continued to pg. 6

Borden EMS Elects 2001 Officers; 2001 Offers New Opportunities

Borden County EMS members met last week for their first meeting of the new year. The meeting was full of discussion about the previous year and what lies ahead for Borden County EMS in the following year with new officers being elected. The newly elected officers are Mike Valentine EMT-P, President; Buddy Wallace EMT-P, Vice President; Carrie Hart EMT-P, Secretary/Treasurer; and Brice Key, EMT-I, Reporter. Kent Holmes EMT-P retained his position as EMS Educational Coordinator. Chuck Kimmel EMT-I, Bob Kempf, EMT-I and Tina Stansell EMT-I were all elected to director positions. Mike Valentine EMT-P also retained his Quality Assurance Officer position. Newly elected Borden County Justice of the Peace, Jane Jones, was also in attendance. Mrs. Jones expressed that she is ready and willing to work with Borden County EMS in whatever capacity her office warrants. Questions were also answered that she had about the organization and her role in it. Newly elected Borden County Sheriff and Borden County EMS member, Billy Gannaway, was also in attendance. Sheriff Gannaway expressed his office's

optimism about the Borden County EMS and looks forward to a strong working relationship between the two organizations in the future.

Membership in Borden County EMS was a heavily discussed topic. It was brought to the attention of the members that BC EMS is in need of new members, especially but not limited to the Vealmoor area and in the Plains community on top of the cap. BC EMS has lost two paramedics, Nelda Burnett and Danita Rowe, in the past several months due to job opportunities elsewhere. These voids are critical to patient care in Borden County. Chuck Kimmel, at the present time, is in paramedic class and will be taking the State Exam in March thus filling one of the paramedic vacancies. Even though, new members are needed to assure that quality pre-hospital care is given to the citizens of Borden

County. If you would like to become a member of the Borden County EMS, please contact Kent Holmes or any other BC EMS member. BC EMS needs new EMT's to serve Borden County.

The meeting ended with Carrie Hart giving a class on the new G.P.S. (Global Positioning System) that BC EMS has purchased. Aerocare will be able to locate BC EMS in the event they are needed in a remote part of Borden County. The Aerocare helicopter will be able to "lock in" on coordinates given to them by a BC EMS member thus hastening Aerocare's response time from Lubbock, Abilene, or San Angelo.

Borden County EMS members are very excited about serving the Borden County citizens in the year to come. With new members and new technology Borden County EMS will be stronger than ever!

Toombs Sworn in Third Term

Sheriff Patrick Toombs was sworn in December 29, 2000, his third term as Sheriff of Mitchell County.

Patrick is a graduate of Borden County High School. He is also a graduate of

Texas Tech University, and hold a degree from Western Texas College in Criminal Justice.

Toombs is the son of Marge Toombs of Borden County and the late Glenn Toombs.

District race continues; BHS girls set sights on playoffs

By Sue Jane Mayes

With less than two weeks remaining in the regular season, the Lady Coyotes find themselves in control of their own destiny.

With Tuesday night's 42-27 defeat of Grady, the girls need wins against Ira and Westbrook to go through district with no losses.

BHS shot well from the field against Grady, 16-of-33, and made 7-of-8 free throws.

Twenty-six rebounds, 10 assists, and 15 steals also aided in the victory.

Box Score & Stats

Grady	6	2	8	11	27
BHS	12	19	7	4	42

B. Hensley (6 pts., 4 reb., 4 assists, 4 steals); R.

Copeland (2 pts., 5 reb., 2 assists, 1 steal, 1 blocked shot); B. Kempf (18 pts., 4 reb., 4 steals); D. Kempf (10 pts., 7 reb., 1 assist, 2 steals); M. Hensley (2 pts., 4 reb., 2 steals); K. Culp (4 pts., 1 reb., 2 assists, 1 steal); P. Rodriguez (1 deflected pass); C. Arellanos (1 reb.); S. Gass (1 assist); also seeing action, Jessica Ellison

District 11-A Girls' Race Tightens as Ira gets past Lady Coyotes

By Sue Jane Mayes

Basketball results in last week's district girls' race was much like last week's weather—very unpredictable.

The Sands Lady Mustangs upset the Ira Lady Bulldogs Thursday night, but Ira returned that favor by defeating the previously unbeaten Lady Coyotes, 49-39, to scramble the district standings.

Heading into the final two weeks, BHS remains atop with a 6-1 record; Ira and Sands follow with their 5-2 marks.

The Lady Coyotes started off well, leading 9-6 after the first quarter. That margin narrowed to one by intermission as the Lady Coyotes led Ira, 23-22.

The third quarter went the Lady Coyotes's way as they extended their lead to 35-27.

Basketball has four quarters, however, and it would be Ira who showed up for that one. The Lady Bulldogs outscored BHS 22-4 in the final period to take the 49-39 win.

Bobbie Kempf scored 12 points, Micah Hensley 9, Bekah Hensley 8, and Kylia Culp 6 in the girls' first district loss of the season.

Dalene Kempf and Rika Copeland also chipped in two points each.

Pati Rodriguez and Carolina Arellanos also saw action.

On the season, BHS's record goes to 15-12 with two remaining district games.

BHS Boys Drop District Game to Ira

By Sue Jane Mayes

Take away two quarters, and the score is 25-20, Ira.

Just as in the girls' game, though, basketball counts all four periods, and Ira made the most of the second and fourth quarter to take a district win Friday night at home against Borden County.

The Coyotes 11 first quarter points kept them only one away from the Bulldogs. Trent Pepper hit one of the teams' three 3's in the first quarter to pace the offense.

The only offense the Coyotes could manage in the second period would be free throws as they were 6-of-10 from the free throw line. Talin Pepper's two points thrown in were the only other scoring.

Meanwhile, Ira exploded for 21 points and left for the locker room with a 34-20 lead over the Coyotes.

Third-quarter action saw the Pepper cousins connect on two three's (one each) while Evan Winegarner made 2-of-5 free throws to give the Coyotes their

eight points in the period.

Ira finished strong, with 18 fourth-quarter points to BHS's 10 to claim the district win.

A bright spot for the Coyotes was that seven players scored. Leading the way was Trent Pepper with 12 points, followed by Evan Winegarner with 9, and Talin Pepper with 8.

Rowdy Dunlap (3 points), John Stamper (2 points), Dan Griffin (2 points) and Jacob Zant (2 points), also contributed.

Boys stay with league-leading Grady

By Sue Jane Mayes

Remove the first quarter, and the Coyotes find themselves in a ballgame against first place Grady.

First period do count, however, and the 13-4 margin made the difference as the Wildcats held off a tough effort by BHS to take a district win, 52-35.

Good rebounding and timely steals helped the Coyotes get back in to the game in the second period, with Jacob Zant and Rowdy Dunlap doing a good job on the boards.

The closest the boys would get would be a 15-12 deficit in the second period before Grady went on a seven-point run to widen the margin.

Both teams scored 14 points in the final period, but Grady's fast start was enough to prevent a Coyote comeback.

Box Score and Stats

Grady	13	13	12	14	52
BHS	4	9	8	14	35

Tr. Pepper (21 pts., 5 reb., 2 steals); T. Pepper (5 pts., 2 reb., 1 assist, 1 blocked shot); J. Zant (5 pts., 8 reb., 1 steal, 1 blocked shot); E. Winegarner (1 pt., 2 reb.); R. Dunlap (1 pt., 9 reb., 4 steals); J. Stamper (2 reb., 1 assist, 1 steal); D. Griffin (2 pts., 1 steal); B. Jackson (1 steal, 1 assist); also seeing action before leaving with an injury, Kyle Pinkerton

From the Counselor:
by Mary Airhart

TAAS Dates Fast Approaching!

TAAS Testing is scheduled statewide as follows:

Tuesday, February 20th – Writing for grades 4th, 8th & 10th.

Wednesday, February 21st – Math for grade 10 only

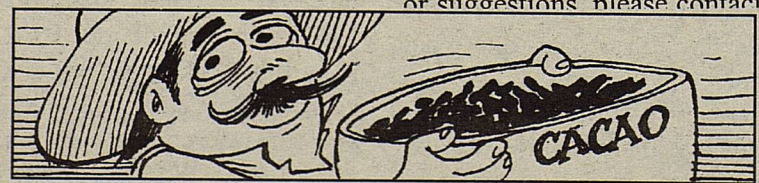
Thursday, February 22nd – Reading for grade 10 only

NOTE TO PARENTS:

TAAS testing will begin promptly at 8:15 a.m. each of these days. The tests are untimed, and students will be allowed as much time as needed. Most students will complete the tests within the first three hours of the day,

but some students will require more time. Please schedule medical and dental appointments around these testing dates so that **all** students who are not ill may be present for testing. Teachers have prepared the students mentally and academically for success. Please add your encouragement and insure that the students are rested and eat a good breakfast.

As always, we appreciate your help and concern to keep our school academically strong. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact



The word cacao, beans used to make chocolate, has been misspelled over the years and eventually became known as cocoa beans.

Boys fall to New Home in extra game Coyote Jr. High Teams Sweeps Sands

Borden Jr. High basketball teams took care of business January 22 as both boys and girls defeated the visiting Mustangs.

In the boys' game, six Coyote Pup players played and all scored to take a close 35-34 win.

After one quarter, the boys led 11-8 and increased that lead to 20-17 at intermission.

Sands was able to move ahead in the third period when the Coyote Pups could only manage six points.

The game came down to the final seconds as BJH rallied and held on to claim the district win.

Scoring for the Coyote Pups were Garrett Thomas with 11 points, Derrick Rodriguez with 7, J. Ryan Gicklhorn with six, including four in the crucial fourth period, Aaron Pigford with five, Jeffrey Minnick with four, and Andrew Lamming adding two points.

The other half of the boys' team played New Home prior to the Sands game. New Home took a 47-26 win.

The visiting Leopards brought a tall, talented group who scored 21 points in the first quarter to the Coyote Pups' six.

The boys played a strong second quarter and outscored New Home 11-5 to go in at half-time trailing only 26-17.

Third-quarter play was dead even as both teams put seven points on the scoreboard.

The Coyote Pups were unable to keep up with New Home in the final six minutes of play as they were outscored 14-2, giving New Home the non-district

win.

Ben Griffin had 9 points for BJH while Cade Peterson and Adam Carter had eight and seven points, respectively.

John Wilson added two, and also seeing action were Casey Divin, Garrett Chapman, and Billy Roper.

GIRLS' GAME

Some solid defense and great offensive teamwork gave the Missy Coyotes their sixth win of the season.

The girls held Sands to only two first quarter points, four in the second, three in the third, and four in the fourth to take the 48-13 win.

BJH went to the free throw line 22 times, converting ten of those.

Defensively, Thelma Balaque, LaShae Johnson, and Cassidy Rinehart paced the Missy Coyotes, while offensively, Emily Mayes pulled down four offensive boards and had 14 points.

Cassidy Rinehart shined with her six assists and nine points while Whitney Anderson had three assists to add to her five-point effort.

Cassidy Ogden and Brandi Hudson played hard on defense, helping to create some turnovers, which converted to points for BJH.

Keesha Clement had one assist and one rebound.

Others scoring points in the game were Thelma with five, LaShae with five, Ashley Ellison and Megan Brooks with four each, and Shiloh Pool perfect from the free throw line, hitting two of two.

Local 4-H and FFA Members Exhibit Animals at 2001 Houston Livestock Show

Twenty-one 4-H and six FFA members from Borden County will be joining other FFA and 4-H members from all over Texas for intense competition in the show ring at the 2001 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Feb. 13 - March 4, at Reliant Park in Houston.

The junior show, which showcases the animal projects of these FFA and 4-H exhibitors, begins livestock competition on Feb. 23.

A listing of local entrants follows:

4-H members:

Alexis Brooks	1 barrow
Heather Brooks	1 barrow
Megan Brooks	1 barrow
Rowdy Clary	1 barrow
Kylia Culp	1 steer
Jessica Ellison	1 steer
Kevin Ellison	1 steer
J. Ryan Gicklhorn	1 steer
LaShae Johnson	1 lamb
Kandace Kimmel	1 steer
Caden Nowlain	1 barrow
Kalli	1 steer
Tanner Poole	1 steer
Kylan Reynolds	1 steer
Chelsea Stephens	1 barrow
Garrett Thomas	1 barrow

Holly Thomas	1 barrow
Miller Valentine	1 lamb
	1 barrow
Kate Wallace	1 steer
	1 lamb
	1 barrow
Tyler Wallace	1 steer
	1 barrow
Cutter Whipple	1 barrow

FFA Members:

James Bond	1 barrow
Bobbie Kempf	1 barrow
Dalene Kempf	1 barrow
	1 lamb
Shawna Kempf	1 lamb
Cody Nowlain	1 barrow
T.C. Stipe	1 lamb

School Menu

Week of:

February 5th - 9th

MONDAY: Pizza, corn, carrots, fruit & milk
Breakfast: Pancakes, ham, juice & milk

TUESDAY: Beef Taco Pie, refried beans, salad, crackers, fruit & milk. **Breakfast:** Hot pocket, hash browns, juice & milk.

WEDNESDAY: Chicken, green beans, potatoes, hot rolls, fruit & milk. **Breakfast:** Oatmeal, toast, juice & milk.

THURSDAY: Steak Fingers; potatoes, green peas, rolls, fruit & milk. **Breakfast:** Sausage & gravy, biscuits, juice & milk.

FRIDAY: Hamburgers, salad, cup, French-fries, cookies & milk. **Breakfast:** Breakfast burrito, hash browns, juice & milk

FFA Meat Items Available

The Gail FFA Chapter would like to let the public know that there is a few extra meat items left for sale from their meat sale earlier this year.

Meat items available:

Smoked Wheeler Hams	\$20.00
Spiral Turkey Breast	\$22.00
Peppered Ham	\$20.00
Pork Loin	\$16.00
Beef Fajita	\$ 9.00
Chicken Fajitas	\$ 9.00
Spiral Sliced Ham	\$30.00
Candied Nuts	\$ 9.00
Brisket Kit	\$20.00
Snack Sticks	\$ 7.00
Smoked Turkey	\$15.00

If you would like to purchase any of these items you may contact any FFA member or Buddy Wallace @756-4313.



February 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 JH Basketball Westbrook Here 6:00	6 HS Basketball Westbrook There 6:30	7	8	9	10
11	12 JH Basketball Westbrook There 6:00	13	14	15	16 End of 4 th Six Weeks	17 Coronado Solo Ensemble
18	19	20 TAAS Exit, 8 th & 4 th Writing	21 TAAS Exit Math	22 TAAS Exit Reading	23 HOLIDAY	24
25	26	27	28			



Texas Stories
A showcase of the Texas Spirit

Tumbleweed Smith
Part owner of Texas



The Sportsman's Memory Shop

Several people told me that I ought to go see a taxidermy place just outside Grapeland. So I did.

It's called The Sportsman's Memory Shop and is owned by two guys who have been partners for 21 years. They are Bobby Shaw and Robin "Trap" Coppedge.

The first thing I saw when I walked through the front door was a big alligator on the floor. It looked so real I thought it was alive. "It's twelve feet, four inches," says Trap. "It weighed 750 pounds when we brought in tin. We caught him on a hook down near Bay City. We drew on an alligator hunt and went down there and ended up catching that alligator and another nine footer."

Bobby says the word taxidermy derives from two words: taxi, meaning to move from one place to another and dermy, which means skin. "You basically have a tanned animal skin and as you put it on a mannequin, you've got to get everything adjusted in the right places, then glue it or staple it down to hold it while it dries so it looks real when you get through. It's really an art."

When I was there the shop he had two large elk ready to ship to Midland. "We've done work for people in Spain and Austria and Switzerland, just all over the world," says Bobby.

Their business has come a long way since they started it in Bobby's house in 1980. "We just enjoyed going hunting together and used to have somebody else do the taxidermy work on the game we brought in. Then we got interested in it. We started skinning fish on a butcher

block in my kitchen, trying to figure out how to mount them. We first opened a shop at Trap's house, then moved out here on the highway. We were serious about it. We didn't consider it just a hobby. We always wanted to be full time, professional taxidermists."

They have built the largest and most modern taxidermy studio in East Texas. A life-size bear greets people as they pass by on Highway 287 north of Grapeland.

These two master taxidermists have re-created some rather amazing hunting scenes: a mountain lion attacking a deer, two hunting dogs attacking a mountain lion. "We've mounted life-size Brahma bulls, lions and bucking horses," says Bobby. "We've even done full safaris, where a guy will spend a hundred thousand dollars in Africa hunting and bring thirty different species of animals back; leopards, lions, even elephants."

Their motto is "We Bring 'Em Back To Life." They do antler and horned shoulder mounts, open mouth animal shoulder mounts, horns on panels and lined rugs with head and feet. They do fish, reptiles and birds. They don't do pets.

They do a big business in bleached animal skulls, from

a baboon (\$150) to a wart hog (\$250). Prices include mounting panels. They also tan and dress skins for both small and large game.

Bobby and Trap have won state, national and world competition awards for their work. Their business has been so good in recent years they haven't had much time to hunt, the thing, which was the basis for their partnership.

In taxes, don't be near-sighted

TAX TIP #3

The law offers you choices of tax treatment in many situations. You can make choices on your 2000 tax return that might result in the lowest tax for this return. But you should consider the long-term effect of your choices in order to pay the lowest total tax over time. To keep taxes and your overall financial picture in focus, give us a call.

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This is my brother Omar.

He had a hole in his tummy.

A bullet hit him.

I saw red grass.

A gun was in the garage.

I didn't mean to shoot daddy's gun.

I didn't mean to shoot daddy's gun.



An unlocked gun could be the death of your family.
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NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

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Diabetes: The Silent Killer

It is a disease that has no cure, and there are 15.7 million people in the United States who have it. Each day approximately 2,200 people are diagnosed with this disease.

The disease is diabetes and it is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States, and the physicians of Texas Medical Association wants you to be aware of the warning signs.

There are two major types of diabetes: Type I occurs when the body does not produce insulin, a hormone that is needed to convert sugar, starches, and other food into energy. Type II, referred to as non-insulin dependent, occurs when the body does not make enough, or properly use, insulin. Type II diabetes is the most common form of the disease, accounting for 90 to 95 percent of diabetes cases. The cause of diabetes is unknown, although obesity and lack of exercise appear to play roles.

As the U.S. population becomes increasingly overweight, researchers expect Type II diabetes to appear more frequently in younger children.

Type II diabetes commonly occurs in children who are:

- Overweight: as many as 80 percent may be overweight at the time of diagnosis;
- Older than 10 years of age and are in middle to late puberty, although cases of Type II diabetes in children as young as four years old have been documented;
- Have a family history of Type II diabetes;
- Are a member of a certain racial/ethnic group, specifically African Americans, Hispanics, or Native Americans

Obesity, a contributing factor to diabetes, is on the rise in the United States and is blamed for the high number of children with diabetes. In the United States about 14 percent of children

age 6 to 11 and 12 percent of adolescents age 12 to 17 are overweight. Obesity is not only caused by poor eating habits, but also by the sedate lifestyle that children are leading. Too often, they entertain themselves in front of a television or computer instead of engaging in some form of physical activity.

People with Type II diabetes often have no symptoms at the onset of the disease although the following symptoms have been attributed to people with diabetes:

- ✓ Increased thirst and hunger
- ✓ Increased urination;
- ✓ Weight loss in spite of increased appetite;
- ✓ Fatigue;
- ✓ Nausea;
- ✓ Vomiting;
- ✓ Frequent infections, especially bladder, vaginal, and skin;
- ✓ Blurred vision;
- ✓ Breath odor;
- ✓ Impotence in men;
- ✓ Cessation of menses in women;
- ✓ Bleeding gums;
- ✓ Ear noise or buzzing;
- ✓ Diarrhea;
- ✓ Depression;

Cont. to pg. 8



Parents & Grandparents

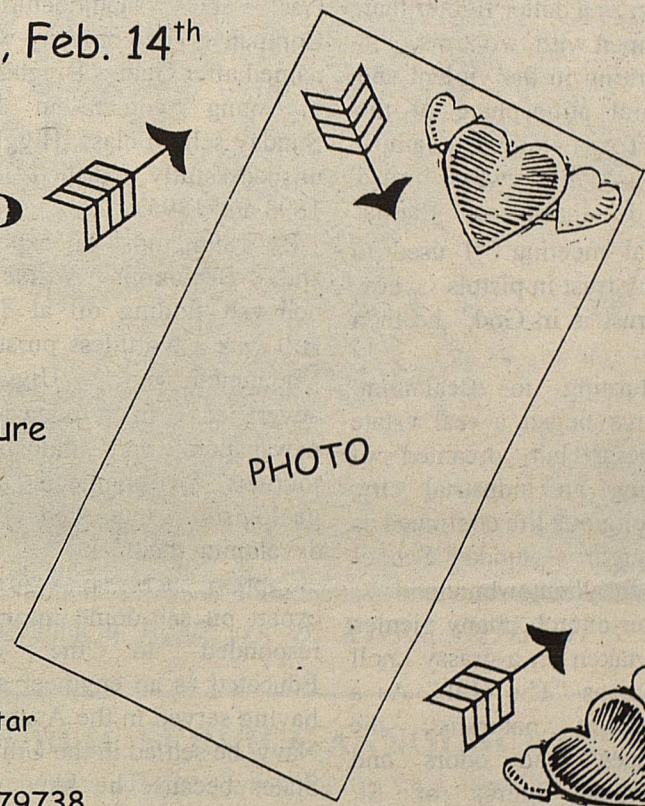
Do you have a Special Valentine in your life? Show them off in the Borden Star's Valentine Special to

Run on Wednesday, Feb. 14th
For only

\$ 10⁰⁰

Bring in or mail in your Special Valentines picture by noon Tues. Feb. 13th to be included on this special page!

Borden Star
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Gail, TX 79738



New Home Needed!

I need your help! My family has moved to town and I'm in need of a new home.

My name is Walker and I am a 1 year-old Black Lab. I would love to come live on a nice country farm and would be a great companion to young and old.

(I was hit by a car and walk with a limp, but I can run real fast!)

If you are interested in giving me a nice country home, Please call: 806/756-4378 for more information.



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Thank You!

We would like to thank all the folks for their cards, food, prayers, and calls while Rube was in the hospital and recovering at home. It was all appreciated very much. Also, special thanks to Carrie, Buddy and Chuck for their care and the super ride in the Borden County EMS 'Chariot'.

Love,
Rube & Sue Smith

The Department of Transportation
has an opening for a
Transportation Maintenance Tech, III

Location: Borden County Maintenance
Gail, Texas

JVN #: 1 08 K513 091

Closing Date: February 5, 2001 at 5:00 p.m.

A complete job description and application
may be picked up at the Gail Maintenance Office
or any TxDOT location

Spindletop Historical Series – Part one

The players: Celebrating the Wildcatter spirit and ingenuity

Continued from pg. 1

A self-educated man, Higgins left school in the 4th grade to apprentice as a gunsmith. Always an eager learner, he went through life completely self-assured. As a teenager, he was described as a practical joker and troublemaker, a fact that was evidenced by the loss of an arm following an altercation with deputies. Still, he was known as a better fighter than most men with two arms.

Working in the violent and immoral atmosphere of the east Texas logging camps, Higgins' life was turned around during a Baptist revival meeting. "I used to put my trust in pistols ... now my trust is in God," he then said.

Returning to Beaumont, Higgins began a real estate business, but dreamed of creating an industrial city. His religious life continued as he taught a Sunday School class for young women.

After church, many picnics were taken on a grassy knoll known as "The Hill." As a self-taught naturalist, the seepages, bad odors and wraithlike figures of St. Elmo's lights in the evenings led Higgins to believe that oil could be found there.

While on a research trip to eastern brick factories,

Higgins not only saw producing oil fields, but also investigated the clue the land gives on the location of oil. He learned that the most efficient brick factories of the day were oil burning. Thus began his crusade to find oil on Spindletop Hill.

In 1892, he convinced two Beaumont businessmen to invest in the Gladys City Oil, Gas and Manufacturing Company. The company was named after Gladys Bingham, a young woman in his Sunday school class. Higgins unsuccessfully drilled in 1893 and 1895.

By 1896, most oil experts and Beaumont residents believed finding oil at The Hill was a worthless pursuit. Undaunted, Higgins advertised in magazine, newspapers and industrial journals for engineers and geologists interested in developing the track.

Captain Lucas, an Austrian expert on salt-dome mining, responded to the ad. Educated as an engineer and having served in the Austrian Navy, he settled in the United States because he liked the optimism, adeptness, perseverance and the risk-taking entrepreneurship of the American people.

After visiting the site and

examining Higgins' records, Lucas also felt oil was present, in part because he had found some oil in similar formations while salt mining in Louisiana.

In June 1899, Lucas partnered with Higgins and leased a tract of land from Gladys City to drill. After six months, and only drilling to 575 feet with equipment that proved to be too light for the task, money ran out.

Still believing in the project, Lucas traveled east to seek additional funding. He soon met with James M. Guffey and John H. Galey, a famous Pittsburgh wildcatting team. That, in turn, successfully engaged the interest of Eastern-financier Andrew Mellon.

Showing good faith with the new partners, Lucas drew no salary and he and his wife soon were selling furniture out of their home to meet household expenses.

Money and contacts brought the final critical players to Spindletop – the Hamill Brothers Drilling Company from Corsicana, the best rotary drillers of their day.

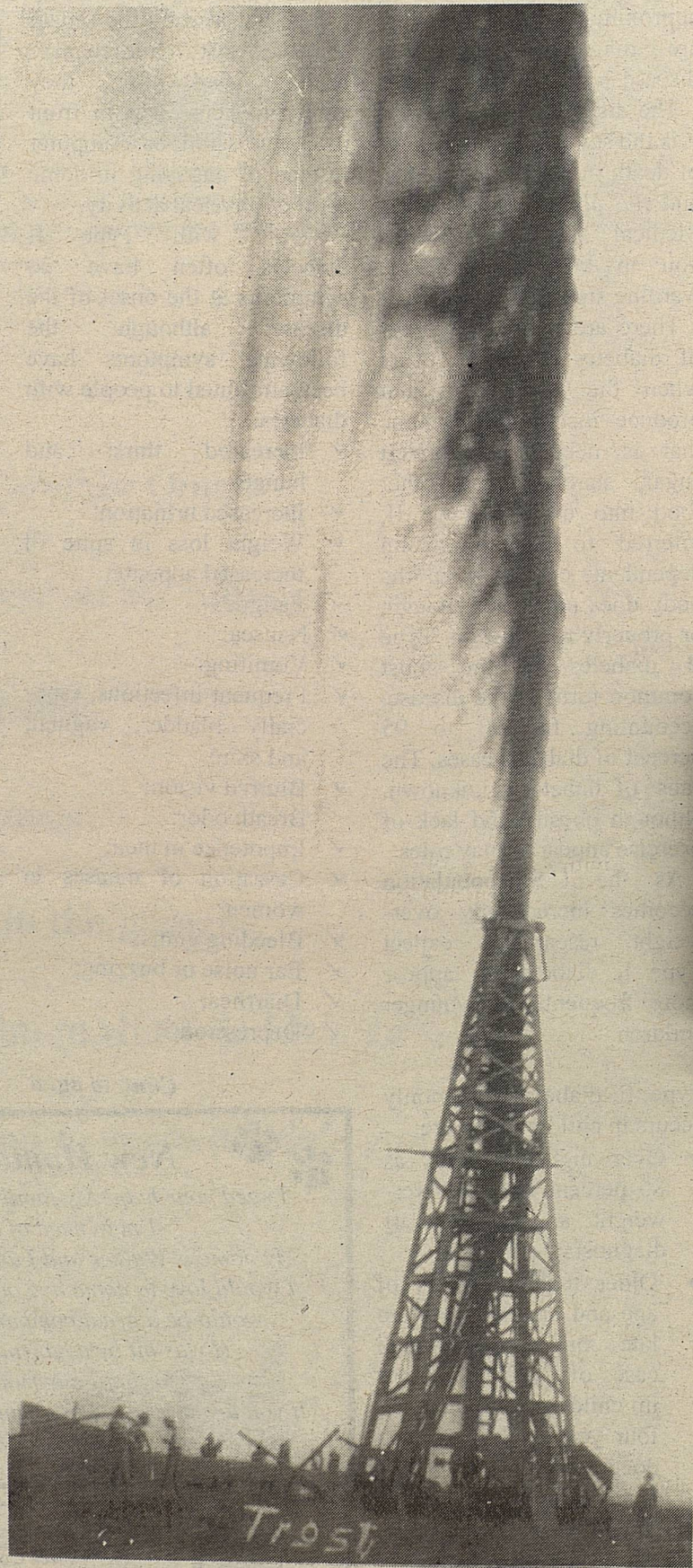
In October 1899, using the heavier and more advanced drilling equipment that the hard rock and quicksand site



Anthony F. Lucas



Patillo Higgins



The gusher that changed the world was captured by Port Arthur news photographer Frank J. Trost within hours of the event that took place at 10:32 a.m., January 10, 1901. In the photo the drilling crew works to cap the well, a feat they accomplished by pumping mud – stirred up by cattle – into the well.

All photos courtesy of The Texas Energy Museum.

would demand, the Hamills met each challenge with ingenuity and resourcefulness.

As in most drilling

operations, the crew of Al and Curt Hamill and Peck Byrd worked around the clock for \$2 per foot drilling.

Cont. to pg. 8

Cherry Blossom Rolls

12 **Bridgford Parkerhouse** or **White Rolls**, thawed or 1 loaf **Bridgford Frozen Bread Dough**, thawed
1 cup cherry pie filling
¼ cup melted butter or margarine for brushing dough

Lightly grease baking sheet(s); set aside. If using loaf of dough, divide loaf into 12 equal slices. If using rolls, they are ready to use once thawed. With lightly floured hands, roll each piece of dough into a thin rope about 8-inches in length. Coil the rope and place on prepared baking sheet. Place the rounds of dough 1-2 inches apart on baking sheet(s). Brush dough with melted butter or margarine. Let the dough rise in warm area until double in size. Place approximately 1-tablespoon of cherry pie filling in the center of each roll. Bake in a preheated 375-degree oven for 15-20 minutes or until light golden brown. Brush again with melted butter. Remove from oven and pan to cool n wire rack.

YIELD: 12 rolls.



Cherry Blossom Rolls made with BRIDGPORT FROZEN BREAD or ROLL DOUGH

Advisory Regarding Possible Feed Contamination

During the past week, the media has focused on a situation in Texas regarding a possible feed contamination issue. We are taking this opportunity to advise you of the facts surrounding this situation, in order to avert undue concern:

According to reports from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), about a week ago, some cattle in a Texas feedlot may have consumed some feed that contained mammalian protein (meat and bone meal). Since 1997, the FDA has banned mammalian protein in feed for ruminants (multi-stomach animals), such as cattle.

The error was noted within hours and was reported by the feed manufacturer to the FDA. The use of the lot of feed in question was

suspended and the feedlot is voluntarily holding the cattle on site. The FDA is analyzing samples of the feed. The feed analysis should be complete by Monday, evening, January 29, 2001, at which time, the FDA will evaluate the next step regarding these animals. FDA officials expect to make a decision regarding the animals by Jan. 31st.

Some salinet points:

- This is not a disease situation
- The FDA is determining if mammalian protein is contained in this feed. (The meat and bone meal, if present, was derived from US-origin animals.) This situation is NOT a disease issue. It is a possible contaminated, or adulterated, feed occur-

rence and is under the jurisdiction of the FDA.

- The US does not have BSE, and the ban on feeding mammalian protein to ruminants is a preemptive precaution.
- The FDA has not released the name of the feed company or the feedlot and its location.

Please refer interested parties to Mr. Lawrence Bachorik, at the Food and Drug Administration, which is in charge of this situation. Mr. Bachorik's number is 1-301-827-6250. Carla Everett, public info officer at the TAHC can be reached at 1-800-550-8242, ext. 710.



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Are drugs affecting your family or a friend? For more information, log onto www.stopaddiction.com or call 1-800-468-6933. Narconon provides answers to drug addiction, we provide free assessment, evaluation and referral services to internationally recognized alternative and traditional treatment facilities. When continuing relapse is occurring, call Narconon 1-800-468-6933. Don't give up, drug addiction can be overcome. Call Narconon at 1-800-468-6933, or visit our website at www.stopaddiction.com today.

BID NOTICE

Borden County Commissioners' Court will receive bids until 10:00 a.m., February 12, 2001 for the purchase of a new 2001 automobile for use in the Borden County Sheriff's Department. Bids will be opened and considered in the Borden County Commissioners' Courtroom in the County Courthouse. Specifications may be obtained at the office of the County Judge, 806/756-4391 or the Sheriff's Office 806/756-4311. Borden County Commissioners' Court reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive all formalities.

BY ORDER OF THE BORDEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT.
Van L. York, County Judge
Borden County

BOX SCORES

BJH Split Games with O'Donnell Boys

With enough boys to field two teams, Borden Jr. High was able to get in two games Monday night. Late box scores for both boys' games are below:

Early game

BJH 11 6 10 8 35
OJH 6 2 2 5 15

Scoring for the Coyote Pups:

G. Thomas (17 pts.), A. Pigford (6 pts.), A. Lamming (6 pts.), J. Ryan Gicklhorn (4 pts.), C. Nowlain (2 pts.)

Late game

BJH 6 4 4 2 16
OJH 4 4 10 17 35

Scoring for the Coyote Pups:

C. Peterson (7 pts.), C. Divin (4 pts.), B. Griffin (3 pts.), A. Carter (2 pts.) also seeing action...J. Minnick, J. Wilson, D. Rodriguez

Girls Fall to O'Donnell

The last time these two teams met, O'Donnell took an easy win. The Missy Coyotes lost again this time, but the results were much closer.

BJH 6 3 6 8 23
OJH 11 4 10 13 38

A. Ellison (3 reb., 1 assist, 2 steals); C. Rinehart (3 pts., 10 reb., 2 assists, 3 steals, 1 block); E. Mayes (12 pts., 4 reb., 1 steal); L. Johnson (2 pts., 3 reb., 3 steals); T. Balaque (1 pt., 3 reb., 2 steals); W. Anderson (2 pts., 1 reb., 1 assist, 1 steal); M. Brooks (3 pts., 2 steals, 1 reb.); S. Pool (1 rebound); C. Ogden (1 steal); B. Hudson (1 rebound); K. Clement (1 rebound)

Diabetes: The Silent Killer

Cont. from pg. 5

- ✓ Confusion or Irritability;
- ✓ Cuts and bruises that are slow to heal;
- ✓ Tingling and numbness in the hands or feet.

School nurses are helping to identify early warning signs of diabetes. According to Dr. Stanley Fisch, a Harlingen pediatrician, "The Texas Department of Health has a program called ANTES which allows school nurses to look for early signs of diabetes much like they test school children's spines for

scoliosis." By identifying early warning signs, more children are getting early treatment for a dangerous disease before it gets out of hand.

Parents need to stress good eating habits to their children. It is never too early to set them on the course of eating nutritious foods low in sugar, fat, and high in fiber. Instead of watching TV or playing on the computer, parents should also encourage their children to be physically active and play outside.

Spindletop Series

Cont. from pg. 6

At the well site, they lived in a 14-foot by 30-foot one-room shack. With only board windows and no screens, "the mosquitoes were terrible ... all these frogs everywhere, they would jump and land on the table while we were eating," said Curt Hamill in an account of the period.

When the saturated sand kept clogging the drill bit and pipe, they made a back-pressure valve by whittling a piece of wood from a soap box and using the sole of a boot for the flap. Placed on the first joint of pipe above the bit, this allowed the water to flow down the pipe, but prevented the sand from coming up.

At 640 feet, another strata of coarse sand posed a problem. Normally, water was pumped down the hole to support the hole and wash away the cuttings. At Spindletop, the sandy layer kept collapsing and absorbing the water.

Curt Hamill felt muddy water would solve the problem. A herd of cattle was driven around the settling pond to churn up the bottom. The slurry was then pumped down the drilling hole. Drilling mud is still a part of today's drilling operations.

In January, diligence and ingenuity paid off when the first gusher in the United States shot up in the air over 150 feet.

Now, the Hamills were faced with the challenge of closing down a run-away well. They improvised a heavy shed of timbers, railroad iron and plumbing. The new fixture was winched over the well foundation and bolted down. Then the stack of valves were progressively turned down stopping the flow. The creation of the "Christmas Tree" valve marked a new era in engineering technology.

Within days of the Lucas gusher, Texas became the focus of the oil industry and created a fevered rush to

Beaumont for wealth.

A boomtown immediately sprang up, driving the population from 9,000 to 50,000; however, the overabundance of drilling at Spindletop led to a rapid decline in oil production. Within 10 years, Spindletop Hill was a ghost town and the wildcatters had moved on in the search for oil.

Higgins spent the next 50 years exploring the Texas Gulf Coast for oil-rich salt domes with some success. Lucas also sold out early. Highly sought after in locating new fields, he traveled across Texas and Mexico. Individually, the

Hamill brothers continued their successful drilling operations and made their mark in oil exploration and production in Texas.

With unbending determination and relentless pursuit, wildcatters gambled everything on their dream of wealth. They often made some money, but their fortunes swung wildly from the thrill of bringing in a gusher to the heartbreak of drilling another "dry hole." But always the tantalizing possibility of discovery, of being first and the challenge of overcoming unbelievable odds fueled their endeavors. Their discoveries would fuel the industrial age.

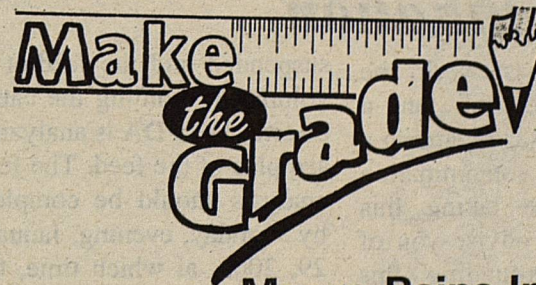
Abilene VA Clinic Relocating

Cary Brown, Chief Executive Officer, West Texas VA Health Care System, is proud to announce the expansion of the Abilene VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC). Approximately six years ago, the Abilene VA Outpatient Clinic opened its doors to serve veterans in the Abilene

area. Fortunately, growth and expansion has required relocation to a larger facility.

On February 5, veteran outpatients will report for their scheduled appointments at the new location - 4225 Woods Place. Our new clinic space is located in the Harmony Medical complex, which is located at 1111 Industrial Boulevard.

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