

# THE BORDEN STAR

Volume XXIX

February 14, 2001

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

## Spindletop Historical Series – Part Three Life in the first Texas Boomtown

When the first oil gusher in the United States blew in – bringing with it unheard-of quantities of oil – Beaumont, Texas, became overnight a mecca for anyone who yearned for wealth.

On January 10, 1901, news spread so rapidly that night trains from Galveston and other Texas towns were making special runs to Beaumont, accounting for the greatest offloading of passengers in the town's history.

Hundreds, and then thousands, of people began pouring into the sleepy sawmill town of 9,000 solid citizens, swelling the population to 50,000.

"All kinds of people swarmed the city – governors, lawyers, doctors, preachers, and just plain folks who wanted to be in on the boom," said Curt Hamill, a Spindletop driller.

The sudden influx of people strained every element of daily living. The hotels or boarding houses became instantly full. Cots and mattresses lined the halls, filled the lobbies and every available space.

According to James A. Clark and Michel T. Habouty in *Spindletop*, "men slept on pool tables, in barber chairs, on roof tops, in pup tents ...porches, store windows and wherever they could find a place."

Every human need was in high demand. Housewives cooked out of their kitchens, any type of team with a buggy or buckboard could be rented, and small boys could make up to \$10 a day by selling their place in line at outhouses.

"There were no strangers. Every man was a boomer. The carnival spirit prevailed. Deals involving millions of dollars were as common as popcorn sales at a fair," Clark and Halbouty write.

Speculation was gushing almost more than the Lucas well. A farmer with land near the Spindletop Hill had been trying to sell a track of land for three years for \$150. After the gusher, he sold it for \$20,000, and the buyer sold it 15 minutes later for \$50,000.

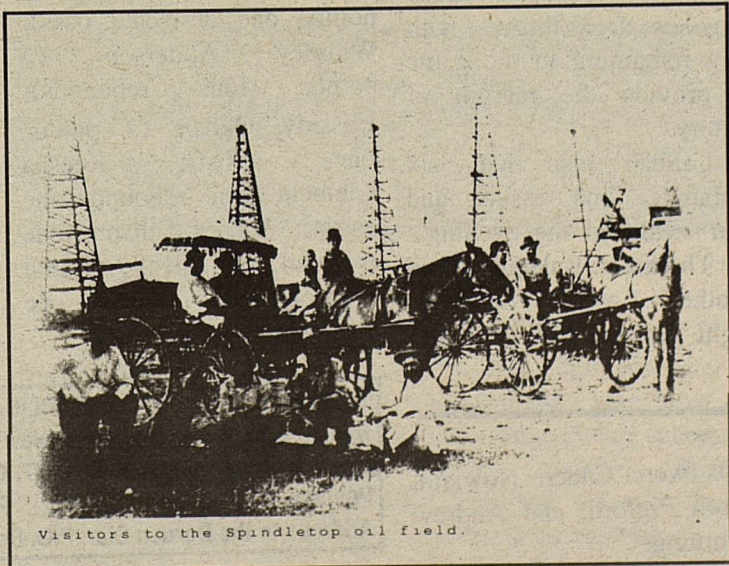
During the frenzy, one well with an initial investment of

less than \$10,000 was sold for \$1,250,000 to a New York firm.

A new word was coined – "Swindletop." Excursion companies ran tours out to the Hill and opened synthetic gushers to impress those ready to open their wallets for quick wealth.

A person didn't need oil to get rich. Enterprising brokers sold stock, leases or land on a commission. Land and leases were sold without abstracts or titles and then resold over and over again. The boom

Cont. to pg. 7



Visitors to the Spindletop oil field.

## Ragin' Cajun Comes to Lubbock!

It's a Louisiana-style Cajun celebration and you're invited. The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Ragin' Cajun benefiting the Special Olympics Texas South Plains Area will be held on Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the South Plains Fair Grounds Merchants Building.

The day-long event will feature Cajun food, live entertainment, celebrity waiters and live and silent auctions, all to help the athletes of Special Olympics Texas.

The menu will consist of traditional Cajun fare-crab, shrimp, sausage, and crawfish mixed with new potatoes, corn, onions and

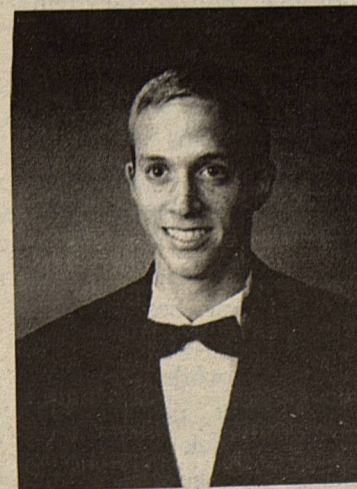
Cajun spices. There will be live entertainment featuring the Klifnotes, and also, Jazz Alley. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased in advance or at the door. "all monies raised at Ragun' Cajun will stay in the South Plains area to benefit the more than 850 athletes that participate in Special Olympics, a number that has increased 15% from 1999," says Marisa Moreno, Development Director for Special Olympics South Plains Area 17.

Special Olympics Texas is a privately funded non-profit organization providing year-round training and competition to over 23,064 children

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## Trent Pepper Advances to Finalist Standing

Borden County ISD Administrators have received notification that senior Trent Pepper has advanced to Finalist standing in the National Merit Scholarship Program based on his PSAT scores from his junior year. Trent is now eligible to become a National Merit Scholar and receive a substantial scholarship. Announcement concerning the final standings and awards will be made in late spring or early summer.



Trent Pepper



## Coyotes, Lady Coyotes Close out Regular Season at Westbrook Girls Begin Playoffs This Week

By Sue Jane Mayes

Borden High School's Lady Coyotes continue the post-season tradition as they prepare for the next level of competition—Class A Division II playoffs.

In closing out the regular season, the Lady Coyotes easily took care of district opponent Westbrook in an 84-15 win February 6.

The girls scored in double digits all four quarters and held Westbrook to only one point in the third quarter.

Sophomore Bobbie Kempf had a season-high 27 points on the evening, adding 15 rebounds, two assists, six steals, and two blocked shots.

Micah Hensley, another sophomore, was close behind with 20 points, 8 rebounds, two assists, and three steals.

Coach Gailan Winegarner and team advance to the bi-district round and will face Blackwell in Tuesday's late game scheduled for 8 p.m. in Merkel.

If BHS wins this game, they will travel to Abilene for a sub-regional tournament hosting three other small school teams.

Before heading to Austin, the girls will then face Division II teams from Region I in Wichita Falls in the regional tournament.

### Other Lady Coyote Game Statistics Vs. Westbrook

Bekah Hensley (9 points, four rebounds, seven assists, six steals); Kyla Culp (9 points, three rebounds, four steals); Rika Copeland (8 points, six rebounds, one assist); Dalene Kempf (6 points, seven rebounds, one assist, two steals); Pati Rodriguez (4 points, two rebounds, two assists, two steals); Carolina Arellanos (1 point, five rebounds, two steals); also seeing action—Jessica Ellison with one rebound and one assist; Shayla Gass with one rebound and one steal

## Westbrook Takes District Crown with win over BHS

By Sue Jane Mayes

The Westbrook Wildcats allowed BHS to take their district championship away from them a year ago in the final regular-season game.

This time, they held on to take the 56-32 win and advance to the playoffs.

The Coyotes stayed with Westbrook in the first period, tied at 9-9 at the 4:21 mark and trailed by only three at the 2:12 mark.

But Westbrook's height and athleticism took over, holding the Coyotes to only four second-quarter points.

The final period was a bit of déjà vu of last year's successful rally in the fourth quarter, but it fell short as Westbrook still outscored BHS 15-14

in the last eight minutes.

Trent Pepper finished with 22 points and three rebounds to lead the Coyotes.

Talin Pepper added 3 points, two rebounds, three assists, and two steals.

Rowdy Dunlap scored 4 points, grabbed five rebounds, and stole the ball once.

Evan Winegarner also connected on a 3-pointer and added a defensive rebound to the cause.

Also seeing action were Jake Zant with three rebounds, Brionne Jackson with one steal, Cody Nowlain with two rebounds, Kyle Pinkerton with four rebounds, one assist, and one steal, John Stamper, and Dan Griffin.

## Coyote Hoopster Pups Drop last game to Westbrook, 43-37

By Sue Jane Mayes

Borden Jr. High met up with league-leading Westbrook in the district's final game of the season.

Coach Avery played all 13 Coyote Pups liberally during the game while Westbrook chose to stay with its starting five, subbing only in the final seconds.

In the books, the win goes to Westbrook, but in the big picture of what jr. high sports are about, give the Coyote Pups a pat on the back.

Nine Coyote players scored, and 13 Coyote players hustled and fought and did their best against the 10-1 Wildcats.

And while many scored, other players like Jeffrey Minnick were busy dishing off the ball with no-look passes not too

common in jr. high. He finished the evening with six assists.

Cade Peterson and Ben Griffin made an effective tandem, as Griffin hit from the outside, including one 3-pointer; Peterson drove the lane numerous times to take it to the hole and try and draw the foul.

Billy Roper and Casey Divin played solid defense and grabbed numerous rebounds to keep the Coyote Pups close.

### Scoring Totals

Griffin, 5 points; Garrett Chapman, 2 points; Peterson, 4 points; John Wilson, 4 points; Minnick, 4 points; Roper, 4 points; Rodriguez, 4 points; Gicklhorn, 4 points; Adam Carter, 4 points. Also playing for the Coyote

## Missy Coyotes hold on for 31-29 win over Westbrook

By Sue Jane Mayes

The one that almost got away—that may be how many of the junior high girls remember their last game of the season.

Leading 25-12 going into the final quarter, BJH had to fight off a Westbrook comeback in the final period as the Wildkittens scored 17 points to narrow the gap.

LaShae Johnson made two key free throws with 1:54 remaining in the game to provide the margin of victory.

LaShae also had six rebounds, one assist, and four steals on the evening.

Thelma Balaque had another good defensive night as she stole the ball

eight times and grabbed six rebounds.

The girls finish with a 10-4 season record.

### Other Missy Coyote Stats

Cassidy Rinehart (4 points, two rebounds, one block, and three steals); Emily Mayes (7 points, two rebounds, one assist, and two steals); Megan Brooks (6 points, one blocked shot); Shiloh Pool (2 points, one deflected pass); Whitney Anderson (2 points, four rebounds); Cassidy Ogden (2 points, one assist); Keesha Clement (one rebound, one assist); Ashley Ellison (one rebound, one steal); Brandi Hudson (one rebound, one steal)

Pups were Caden Nowlain, Aaron Pigford, and Andrew Lamming.

## 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.

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## Let Me Get My Hat!

By Dennis Poole,  
Borden County CEA-Ag.

*Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Court of Texas Cooperating.*

### Enlist now for the Bobwhite or Buckskin Brigadge

Parents, got an ambitious teen with a little too much time on his or her hands this summer? Then consider "enlisting" your child in one of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service's Bobwhite or Buckskin Brigades. The camps use bobwhite quail and white-tailed deer as vehicles to equip young people with communication skills and leadership development in an outdoor setting. The skills they learn will serve them well regardless of their future career goals.

The Buckskin Brigade is set for June 3-7 at La Bandera Ranch near Carrizo Springs. Dates and locations for the three Bobwhite Brigades are: Rolling Plains camp, June 23-27, Krooked River Ranch, Lueders; south Texas camp, July 15-19, La Bandera Ranch, Carrizo springs; and East Texas camp, July 2-26, Pinewoods Conservation Center, Broaddus.

Cadet age limits are 13-17 years-old, but preference is given to incoming high school sophomore and junior students (15-16) years old).

The intensive four-day camps are designed to make quail or deer experts of their participants. Cadets are schooled in quail or deer biology and management by leading wildlife scientists from across Texas. After graduating, each cadet is encouraged to present quail or deer management educational programs in his or her home county. The camps have earned several state and national awards for conservation education. The 300 cadets graduated since the camps debut in 1993 have

conducted over 3,000 educational programs.

"I'm not sure who's more impressed with the camps. — the cadets themselves or their parents," said Dr. Dale Rollins, San Angelo-based Extension wildlife specialist and the camps' originator. "Each year I have a parent lament 'where was this type of camp when we were that age!'"

"Every year after the camp I meet a lot of parents who ask whether there could be a career in wildlife management for their child. I tell them there are such careers, but to be successful, you have to outshine the competition. Camps like the Bobwhite and Buckskin Brigade provide a unique opportunity for youth to meet wildlife professionals. The teens can then decide whether this is really the line of work they want to pursue."

The camps' sponsors include: Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Quail Unlimited, local soil and water conservation districts, and private landowners.

### From the Counselor:

By Mary Airhart

**REMINDER:** Borden County 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders will join like classes across the state of Texas to take the Writing portion of the TAAS on ^Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. The sophomores will also be taking the Math TAAS on

## Arts & Craft Show

The tenth annual Permian Basin Arts and Crafts Show will be held February 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> in Barn G. at the Ector County coliseum Complex. Exhibitors from throughout the Southwest will fill Barn G with original art, limited edition prints, art ad hand crafted items. Hours from the show are Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. There is no admission charge to the general public.

Applications can be obtained from the Borden County Extension offices or from the Internet as <http://texnat.tamu.edu>. Helen Holdsworth, San Angelo-based Bobwhite Brigade executive director, handles Bobwhite Brigade applications and information. You can reach her at (210)467-6578 or e-mail her at: [h-holdsworth@tamu.edu](mailto:h-holdsworth@tamu.edu). Tamara Trail, Educational Director for the Texas Wildlife Association, is in charge of Buckskin Brigade applications and information. Contact Trail at: 1-800-839-9453 or e-mail her at: [t-trail@texas-wildlife.org](mailto:t-trail@texas-wildlife.org).

Cost varies among the camps from \$100 to \$200. Scholarships are available for those who request them for at least half the tuition. Organizers stress that inability to pay should not be a reason for not applying. Deadline for applications is April 15.

Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, and the Reading TAAS on Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. These tests begin just after 8 A.M. and may take most of the morning. Please schedule medical and dental appointments around these dates for these students.

## Cross-Ex Debate Takes 4<sup>th</sup> Place at District Tournament

Borden High School's Jerry Hernandez and D.J. Smith finished their high school debate careers at Highland February 12.

The two seniors, third in last year's meet, finished one place lower to take the yellow ribbon.

Two teams advanced to the state tournament to be held Spring Break at the University of Texas in Austin: Dawson and Highland's B team.

Hernandez and Smith debated the resolution regarding privacy issues in the United States.

Both debaters had competed in tournaments this year at Texas Tech and Andrews, placing as semi-finalists at the Tech meet.

## School Menu

### Week of:

### February 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>

**MONDAY:** Tamales, potato wedges, salad, & milk

**Breakfast:** Pancake pups, fruit, juice & milk

**TUESDAY:** Chicken Fried Steak, potatoes, green beans, hot rolls, fruit, & milk.

**Breakfast:** Cinnamon toast, fruit, juice & milk.

**WEDNESDAY:** Meat & gravy, corn, carrots, fruit, & milk **Breakfast:** Eggs & ham, juice & milk.

**THURSDAY:** Chicken on a bun, salad, cup, chips, fruit, & milk. **Breakfast:** French toast sticks, fruit, juice & milk.

**FRIDAY:**

## HOLIDAY NO SCHOOL

### FOR SALE

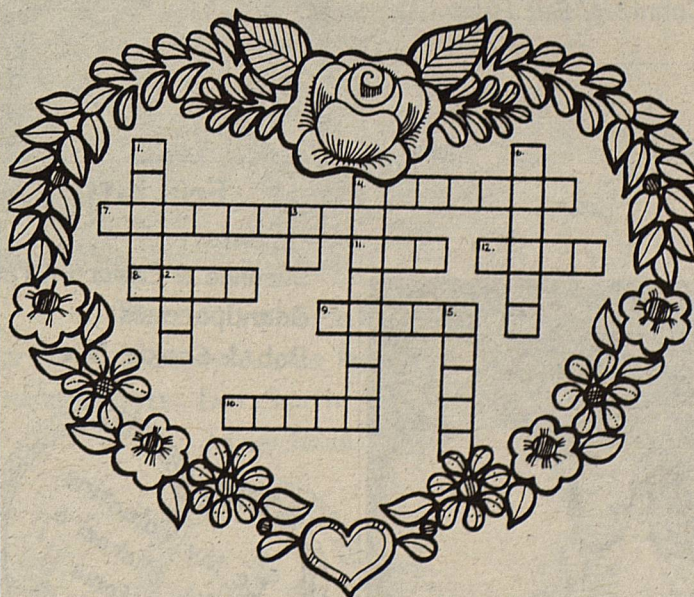
500 gal. Propane Tank  
With Nearly New  
Regulator!  
\$350.00  
Call Fiddler @  
756-4485

Drive Safely



Watch Out for our Children...

### Valentine Crossword



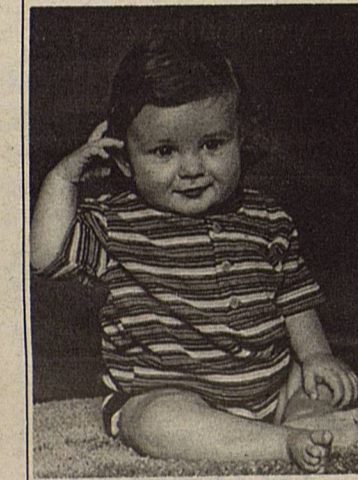
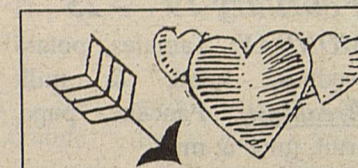
#### DOWN

1. We all have a \_\_\_\_\_ that beats
2. Roses are \_\_\_\_\_ Violets are blue.
3. The opposite of out.
4. The second month of the year.
5. A flower with many petals
6. Cupid shoots \_\_\_\_\_ from a bow.

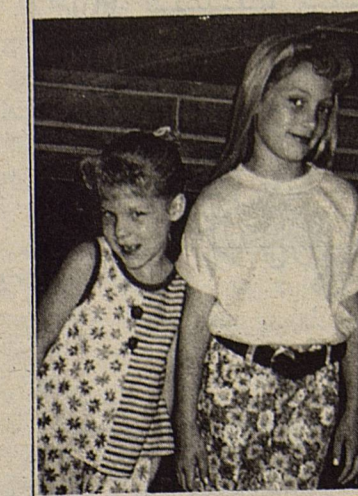
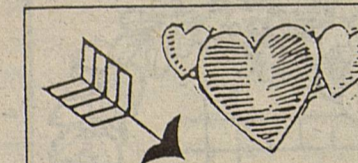
#### ACROSS

4. What blooms in the spring
7. A sweetheart on February 14<sup>th</sup>.
8. The opposite of false.
9. The Valentine cherub.
10. Something sweet to eat.
11. Cupid carries a \_\_\_\_\_
12. "I \_\_\_\_\_ You!"

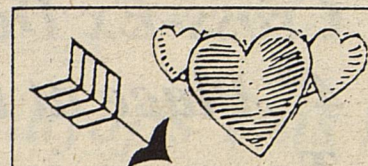




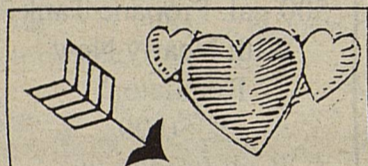
**Kabale Kleck**  
Parents:  
Robbie & Hopper Kleck  
Grandparents:  
Connie & Sid Hart



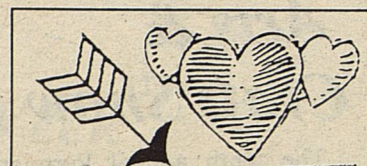
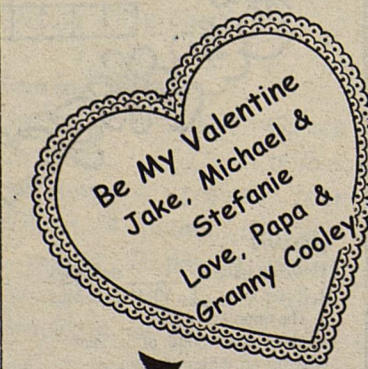
Happy Valentines Day  
Love, Papa & Nannie



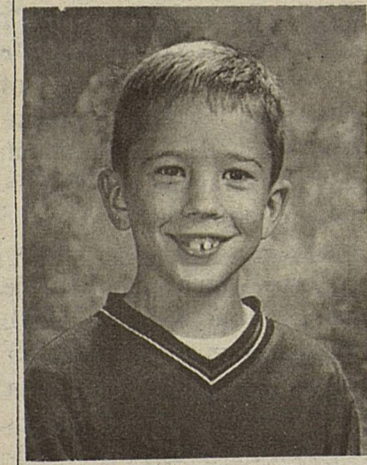
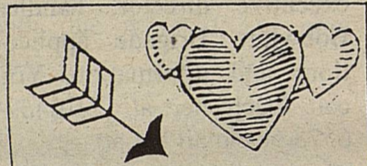
**Kaitlin Francis York**  
Parents:  
Chris & Van Lee York  
Grandparents:  
Van & Barbara York



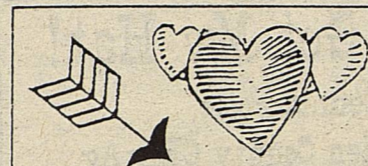
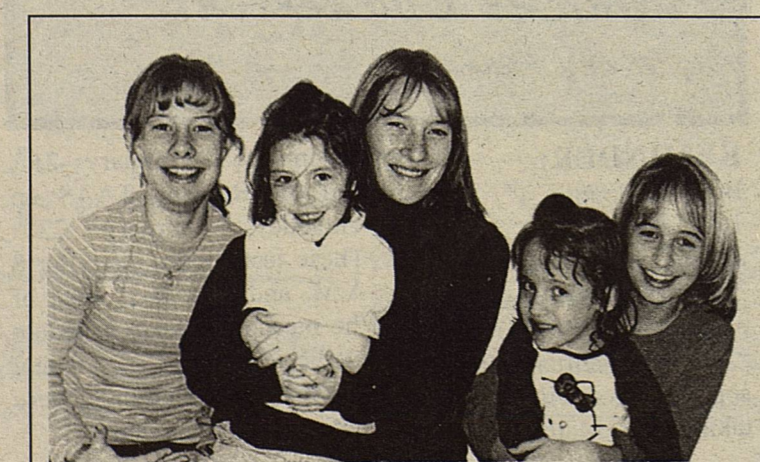
**Erin Kitten**  
Parents:  
Suzanne & Edward Kitten  
Grandparents:  
Bob & Cookie Dyess



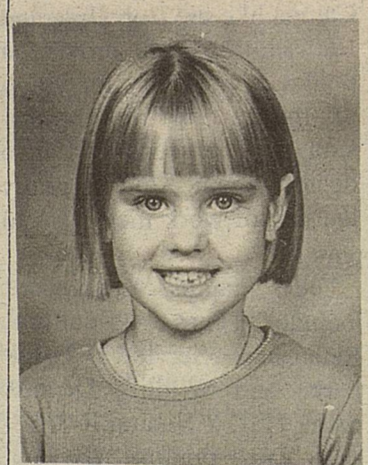
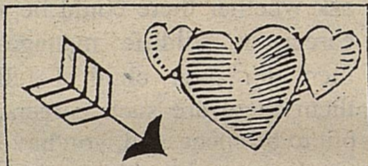
**Thomas Harrison**  
Parents:  
Jon & Kristi Harrison  
Grandparents:  
Randy & Verna Adcock



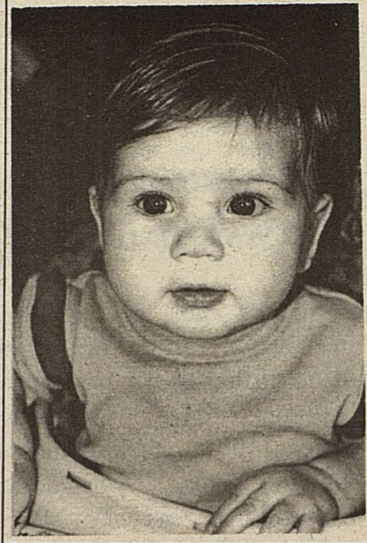
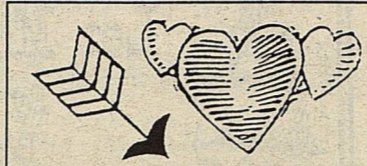
**Spencer Kitten**  
Parents:  
Suzanne & Edward Kitten  
Grandparents:  
Bob & Cookie Dyess



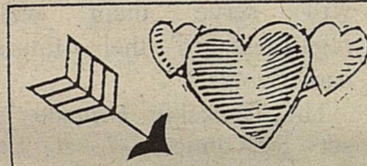
**Channing Miller**  
Grandparents:  
Ben & Paul Miller  
Great-grandparents:  
Riley & Mary Miller  
Paul & Lou Ella Turner



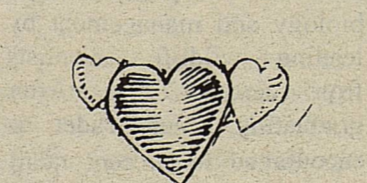
**Alex Walker**  
Parents:  
Mark & Stacy Walker  
Grandparents:  
Bob & Cookie Dyess



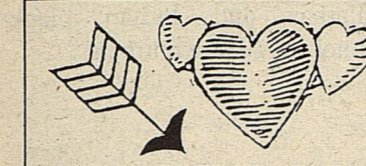
**Brandon Paul Avery**  
Parents:  
Bobby & Lanita Avery  
Grandparents:  
Don & Lois Avery  
Harrold & Janelle Harrison



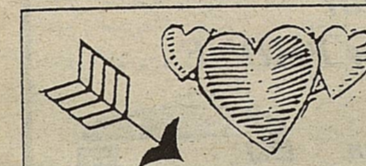
**Reed Walker**  
Parents:  
Mark & Stacy Walker  
Grandparents:  
Bob & Cookie Dyess



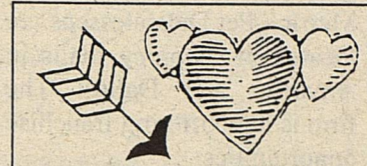
**Mickey & Shirley McMeans Granddaughters**



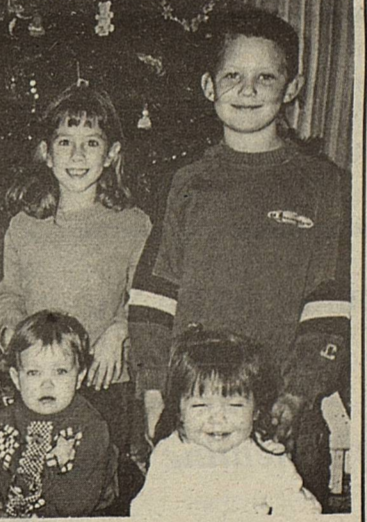
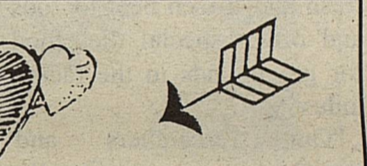
**Jessie B Bolton**  
Parents:  
Scott & Shelly Bolton  
Grandparents:  
R.D. and Carol Lewis



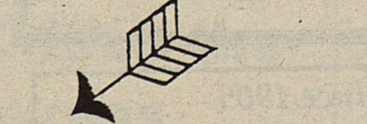
**Hilari White**  
Parents:  
Monica & James White  
Grandparents:  
Bob & Cookie Dyess



**Benton Mason**  
Parents:  
Bryan & Becky Justice  
Grandparents:  
Dan & Brenda Copeland  
Dee & Janet Justice



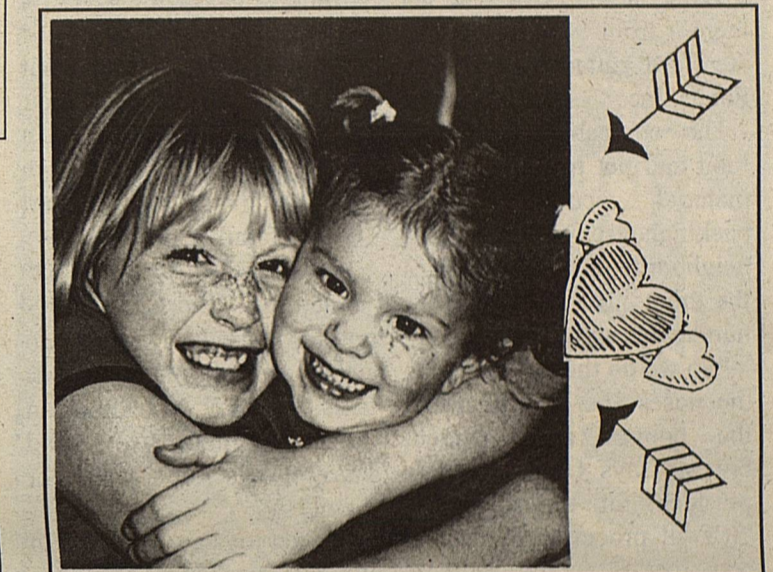
**Kyler, Kortni, Kaimi, Jace (top)**  
**Bethany, Karigan, Karysa & Sydni (bottom)**  
Grandparents: Kenneth & Mary Lynn Williams



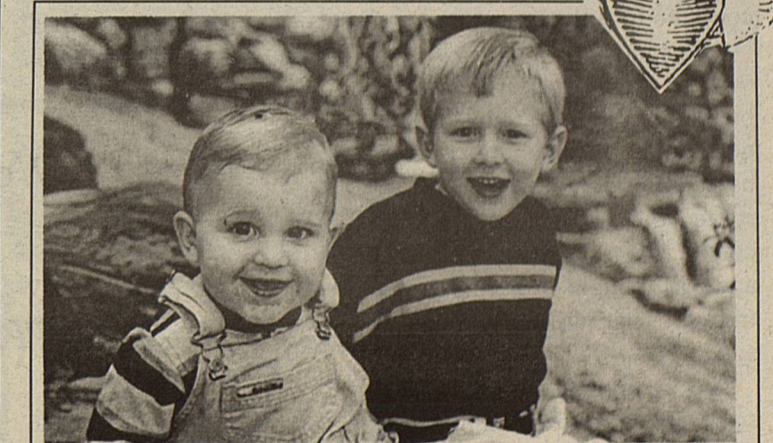
**Mickey & Shirley McMeans Grandsons**



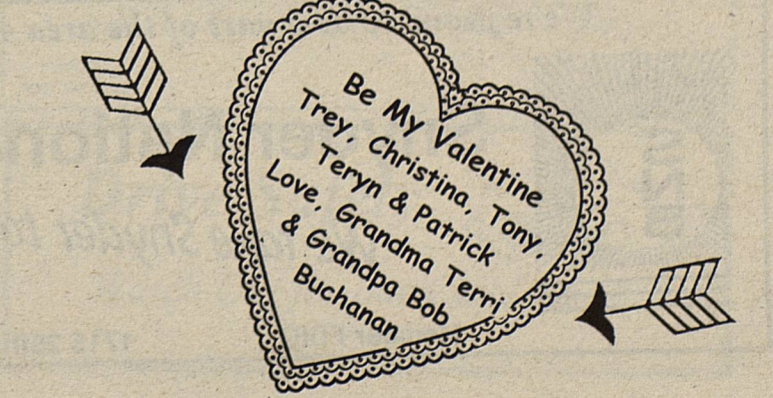
**Emma Claire Key**  
Parents: Brice & Darby Key  
Grandparents: Bill & Nancy Gordon



**Olivia & Zoie Key**  
Parents: Brice & Darby Key  
Grandparents: Bill & Nancy Gordon



**Reese Tate & Ross Pucket**  
Parents: Chancey & Lisa Puckett  
Grandparents: Dot Smith  
Jerry Ross Smith







**Texas Stories**  
*A showcase of the Texas Spirit*

**Tumbleweed Smith**  
*Part owner of Texas*



### Pet Toys From Hereford's Used Cow Dealer

How about a nice pig nose for your dog to play with? Or a horse hoof? You can get them from a place in Hereford called Merrick Pet Foods, Inc.

The company makes pet food and pet treats. The raw material comes from packinghouses in the neighborhood. Merrick uses the things that are not fit for human consumption.

"So we do the tails and ears the noses and the chins and the hooves and different bones," says Garth Merrick, president of the company. "It's all processed in such a way that is totally sanitary and safe for anything that would eat it. We're in the middle of cattle country, of course, so it's our hope to continue to utilize everything but the moo."

Garth grew up in the business. He is the third generation of this family to be in this type of work. "We started out real small, just a couple of guys and myself and a couple of pickup trucks." That was thirty years ago.

The company now has some 500 employees in half a dozen states and supplies pet shops, grocery stores and farm stores all over North America and Europe.

"Pets are more prevalent

today than they were thirty years ago. People are more willing to buy some sort of a treat. And a lot of people don't have kids, so they want to bring a treat home to their pet. Pets have taken on a level of importance in people's lives. They're part of the family. So folks are always wanting to give them something. These are good options because there's no sugar, no salt, no preservatives. So they can chew on them. Protein-wise and nutrition-wise, it's good for them."

The pet toys are wrapped in attractive packages. Most are sold retail, but Merrick does have a Website at [merrickpetfoods.com](http://merrickpetfoods.com) and a product catalog. The Pet Treats Division has experienced a 200 percent

growth in the last five years. Merrick Pet Delicatessens are located in shopping malls in Amarillo and Dallas. The firm is now offering franchise opportunities.

Garth says a hoof from a cow or horse makes a wonderful gift for a dog. "A lot of dogs are alone, so you can give them this and it occupies them and keeps them satisfied rather than chewing on the fence or the house or the furniture. And we process them where we leave what's inside so they get a little rawhide, a little, bone, and little meat along with the hoof. It's a long lasting chew."

Merrick does a big business in rawhide with people who make drums, chairs, stirrups and whips. The company's dog and cat food s are sold under the BEEF'n MORE and Merrick Premium Quality brands, Merrick sells fresh and frozen beef to zoos and offers special diet food for greyhounds in the racing industry.

"Our researchers and nutritionists are continually working to provide the highest quality nutrition available in great-tasting foods and treats pets will enjoy," says Garth.

The grounds at Merrick are

landscaped and filled with animals. It looks like a game park. "We've got peacocks and ostrich and emu and llamas and Indian black bucks. We like animals."

*Keeping an Eye on Texas*

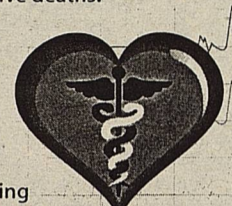
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**American Heart Month**

Every 33 seconds an American dies of cardiovascular disease. Cardiovascular disease, which includes heart disease and stroke, is the number one killer in the nation and in Texas. More than 56,000 Texas residents died from this disease in 1998 - that translates into two of every five deaths.

February is designated as American Heart Month. Take preventative action against a heart attack by recognizing the following warning signs:

- nausea or dizziness
- palpitations, cold sweat or paleness
- shortness of breath and difficulty breathing
- unexplained anxiety, weakness or fatigue
- abnormal chest pain, stomach or abdominal pain



SOURCES: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller ([www.window.state.tx.us](http://www.window.state.tx.us)), and the Texas Affiliate of the American Heart Association.

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**Is your interest deductible?**

Interest expense is generally grouped into the following categories: business, mortgage, education, investment, passive activity, or personal. Record keeping and your individual situation will determine what category your interest falls in and whether it is deductible. For details or assistance, give us a call.

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## Texas Boomtown

Cont. from pg. 1

was also good for lawyers, who had to untangle the mess.

By the year's end, 285 wells were in operation and 600 chartered oil and land companies had been established. Most of these companies generated money, not oil, with watered stocks.

Clark and Halbouty also noted that in the first of year of Spindletop, \$80 million was spent, but only \$50 million came out.

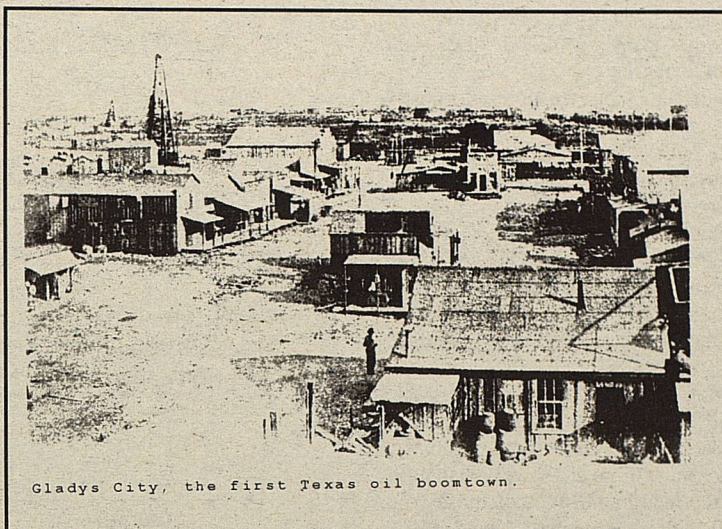
And just about all transactions were in cash. "Silver dollars were stacked like cordwood in the banks and railroad stations. Men would come in and scoop it up in shovels and count it in back rooms. It was not unusual to see a trader throw a five-dollar bill away when it got mixed up in his \$100, \$1,000 and \$5,000 notes."

Beaumont's water soon became unfit to drink. A popular recommendation was to drink whiskey instead. Pious Beaumont community members sold boiled water. Water cost five cents a drink or \$1 a gallon. During the peak of Spindletop production, oil dropped lower than 25 cents a barrel due to the glut.

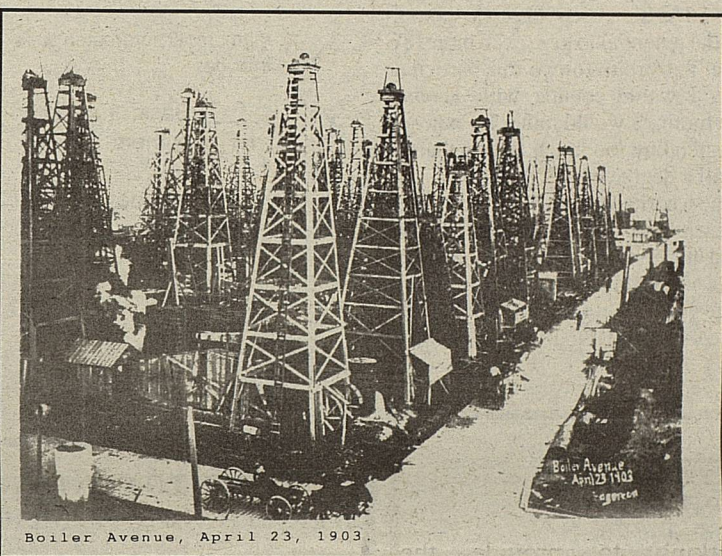
Saloons did a thriving business. Some bars were reported to be six and eight people deep all day. During this time, half of whiskey sold in Texas was consumed in Beaumont. Just about every saloon had gambling halls and brothels offering a choice of vices.

It was a wild and woolly time. According to legend, someone was killed every Saturday night at the Log Cabin Saloon, which was built just a few hundred feet from the Lucas gusher. Law enforcement had their hands full, however, a colorful, but effective, Jefferson County sheriff kept things well in hand for a boomtown.

Within a few weeks along the south edge of Spindletop Hill, a boomtown sprang up. This group of restaurants, boarding houses, saloons,



Gladys City, the first Texas oil boomtown.



Boiler Avenue, April 23, 1903.

supply shacks and offices was known as Gladys City.

Those that did not come to invest, came to work. Inexperienced workers were paid \$2 - \$3 dollars a day, twice the average pay for labor elsewhere. Depending on their skills and experience, drillers make \$5 to \$15 dollars a day. Most of the workers on the hill were single and between the ages of 17 and 25.

As with most boomtowns

within ten years Spindletop and Gladys City were ghost towns; however the tanks pipelines and refineries created would remain in the area and secure Texas as the leading oil-producing state.

Also created were those mythological Texas characters - the go-for-broke wildcatter, the hard-working roughneck and the rich independent oil man - that remain deeply rooted in the state's culture.

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## Ragin' Cajun

Cont. from pg. 1

and adults with mental retardation in the Lone Star State. Through Special Olympics, greatness can be achieved far beyond the field of competition as participation enhances self-esteem, promotes independence, strengthens families and facilitates social competence, while encouraging fitness.

And this greatness touches not only the athletes, but also the volunteers, who through their participation have the opportunity to touch lives and "Inspire Greatness."

In the South Plains, Area 17, over 850 athletes compete in 12 sports. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 749-7000.

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**CHARITABLE GIVING WITHOUT TEARS**

*'I deem it the duty of every man to devote a certain portion of his income for charitable purposes, and ... his further duty to see it so applied as to do the most good of which it is capable.'* — Thomas Jefferson, 1806

Thomas Jefferson never imagined in his wildest dreams that the federal government which he helped to found would exact tribute from Americans' philanthropic efforts. But that is the case in our country today. Right now, Americans who wish to donate assets held in an IRA to a charity of their choice have to pay federal taxes on those assets first. Under current law, Uncle Sam takes as much as 39 percent of such gifts out in taxes. So I have sponsored legislation, the Charitable IRA Rollover Act, to allow these generous-hearted individuals to roll over assets from an IRA to a charity without incurring a tax liability. Gifts to charity shouldn't be taxable events. This measure is written to encourage America's best charitable instincts, and to strengthen our charitable organizations as well as our colleges, universities and other educational institutions.

Here's how it would work: Many people have done such a good job of saving for their retirement that, when the day comes, they find they do not need any or part of the

assets they hold in IRAs for living expenses. They would like to donate those funds to a charity or educational institution whose work they support.

Under current law, they must remove the funds from their IRA, pay any federal taxes owed and make their diminished contribution to charity.

My bill would change that burdensome and costly process by allowing a person who has reached age 59 to move assets from an IRA directly to a charity or into a qualifying deferred charitable gift plan without having to pay federal tax on the transfer funds.

This could provide a valuable new stream of philanthropy for our nation's charities. Recent studies show that retirement plan assets comprise a substantial part of the net worth of many individuals. So these IRA assets represent the main source of funds from which they can make charitable gifts.

The additional giving encouraged by my Charitable IRA Rollover Act would support increased public services through the nonprofit sector. I believe voluntary charity changes hearts and lives much more effectively than government programs — the hearts and lives of those who voluntarily help as well as those in need of a hand.

Americans are among the most generous people in the world — 70 percent of all U.S. households contribute to charity — but we have the potential to give even more. To those who argue we can't afford to forego this particular stream of tax revenue, I would counter with Thomas Jefferson's words once more: "I would rather be exposed to the inconveniences attending too much liberty than to those attending too small a degree of it."

I first introduced the Charitable IRA Rollover Act in 1998. Unfortunately, it was part of the tax relief bill that President Clinton vetoed in 1999. With a President who has expressed support for tax relief and for encouraging private charities to step in where government cannot, I'm hopeful the time is right to make the Charitable IRA Rollover Act the law of the land.

**Computer Classes**

Borden County School will be offering computer instruction for the public.

If you would be interested in taking such a class, please help us by sending in the form below. We will use the feedback provided by you to determine the type of class to offer.

The form can be sent with your child or mailed. Please respond with this form or on another sheet of paper only. (No phone requests, please.)

Mail to:  
Borden County School  
Box 95  
Gail, TX 79738  
Attention: Kip Wallace

\_\_\_\_\_ (name)

I am most interested in a computer class that would include:

<input type="checkbox"/> Basic instruction for beginners	<input type="checkbox"/> Graphics for intermediate users
<input type="checkbox"/> Internet for beginners	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

(list here)



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Michael A. Guido  
Metter, Georgia

Driving through snow for the first time, I slipped into the ditch. A truck stopped, and the driver yelled, "Hey, you, let me tell you how to drive on slippery roads." "Forget it," said his partner. "He doesn't need advice, he needs help."

That's how our Lord feels. He doesn't denounce, He delivers. From what?

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He delivers from loose living. The Bible says, "He is able to keep you from slipping." To trust in the Savior is to travel in safety. I'm trusting. Are you?

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**NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS**

Sealed proposals for highway improvement contracts will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

**CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE CONTRACT (S)**

**District:** Abilene  
**Contract** 1981-01-013 for MISCELLANEOUS BRIDGE REPAIR in BORDEN County will be opened on March 07, 2001 at 1:00 p.m. at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Pre-qualified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or District Offices listed below. Bidders must submit pre-qualification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Pre-qualification materials may be requested from the state Office listed below. Plans for the above contract (s) are available from TxDOT's website at [www.dot.state.tx.us](http://www.dot.state.tx.us) and from reproduction companies in Austin, Texas at the expense of the contractor.

NPO: 2784

State Office  
Construction Division  
200 E. Riverside Dr.  
Austin, Texas 78704  
Phone: 512-416-2540

District Office(s)  
Abilene District  
District Engineer  
4250 N. Clack  
Abilene, Texas 79601  
Phone: 915-676-6800

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

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