

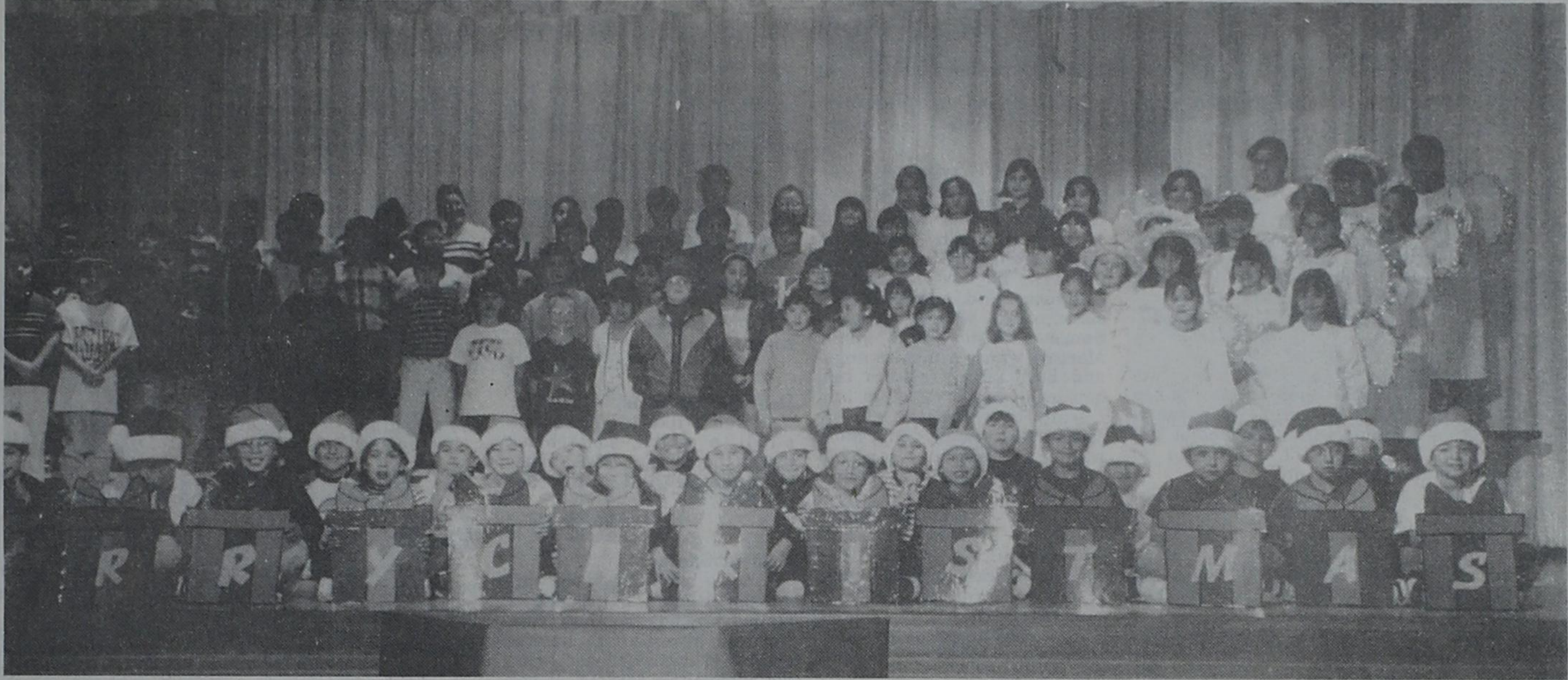
The Bovina Blade

HOLIDAY
Joy

VOLUME 46, NUMBER 22

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24-31, 1999

TWO SECTIONS, 20 PAGES



Merry Christmas to everyone from the children of Bovina

MERRY CHRISTMAS

The Miracle of Christmas

By Mary Dalton Crump

A baby in a manger born,
No crown a King used to adorn.
Coincidence? How could it be,
The miracle of nativity?
For long ago it had been told
That this time would someday unfold.
On angel's wings the stars unfurled
With holiness that touched the world.
Could shepherds see the Magi start
Halfway across a world apart?
His resting place, a humble barn,
No royal robes like kings had worn.
Yet on this night the angels came,
Told of His birth and sang His name.

AFTER MORE THAN a year of hearing and reading all of the "Y2K" hype, it will all be history in just one more week.

By the end of that week, we will find out if all of the speculation as to how the change from "99" to "00" will bring about many of the problems that various sectors of our society have been fearful might beset their companies or organizations.

While it is understandable that many of the problems involving computers which must "roll over" into the 2000s might experience problems, for many of us, the changing of the calendar will simply bring about the usual problem of remembering to write the correct date.

It has always been a problem when December gives way to January to get used to writing the new year correctly. It usually takes about a week or so to get the old year out of our system.

For the first time in a thousand years, the change next Friday night involves not only the changing of a year, but also the changing of a decade (meaning the last two digits change), and also a century (meaning three digits change), and (drum roll) and also a milenium (all four digits change).

This old world has undergone a lot of changes since our calendar's "odometer" rolled that many numbers when December 31 ended. As far as that goes, the past 100 years have seen every facet of our very existence change so much that if a middle-aged person from 1899 could see our world today, they would not see anything they would recognize.

If science develops at the same pace in the next 100 years, it is hard to imagine what one would see at the dawning of the year 2100. Technology has already outstripped science fiction from a half century ago as it is.

The decade just ending has been known as the "90s." Before that, it was the "80s," and when Ye Editor graduated from high school it was the "50s!" The new problem is how to refer to the new decade. Will it be called the "oughts?" Or the "double zeroes?" Someone more creative than myself will surely come up with something, and it probably won't be long in coming.

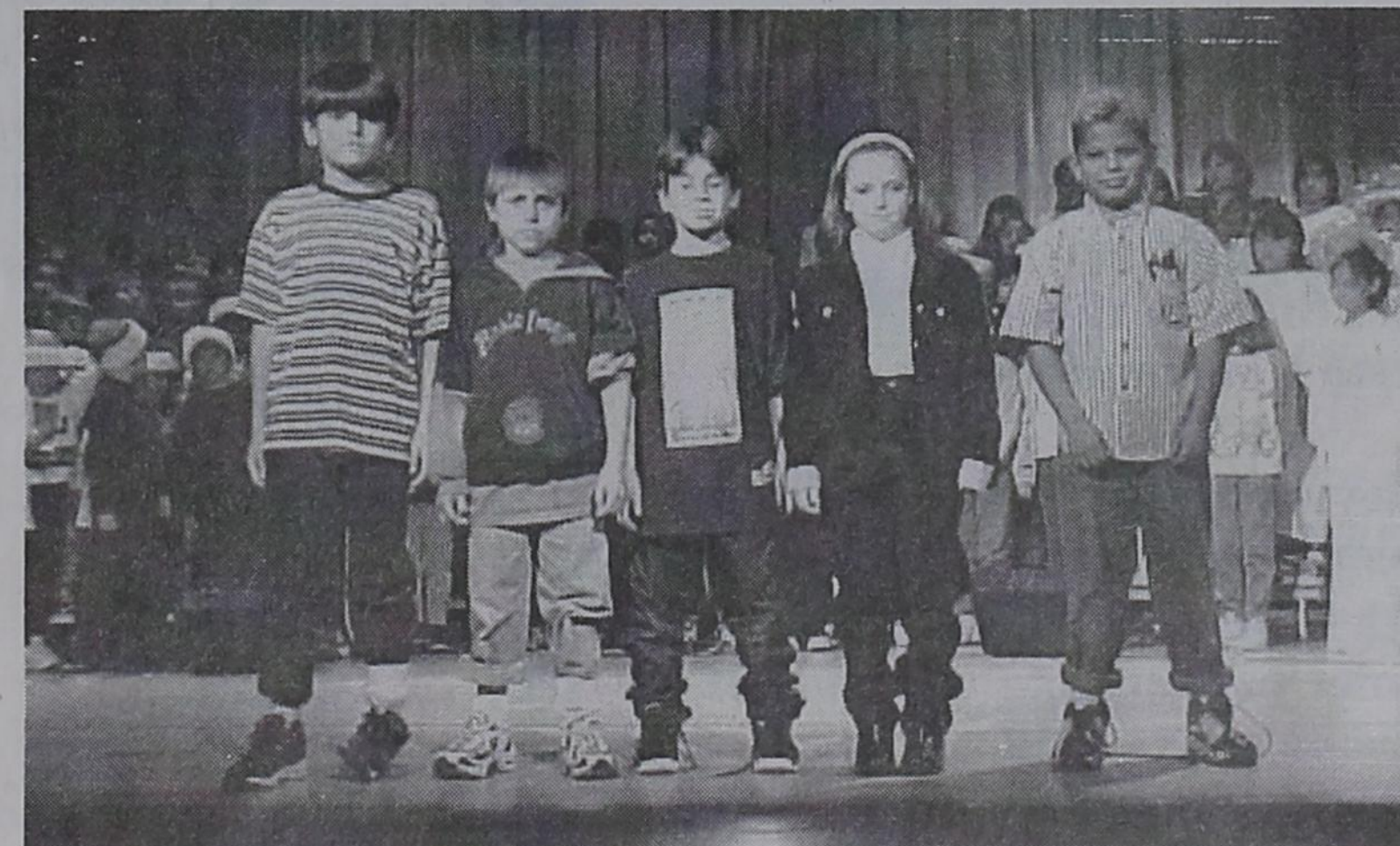
Since Ye Editor observes his birthday on December 31, he will have even more folks joining in the celebration than usual. But don't celebrate too much--and we'll see you in 1999 2000. Happy holidays!

Star Lites

By Bill Ellis



THEY ARE ALL ANGELS...What a gorgeous group of little angels. These elementary school angels were part of the elementary school musical presentation and they wish each and every one a very Merry Christmas.
ron carr photo



MERRY CHRISTMAS from, l-r, Joe Angel Garcia, Jason Sheena, Aaron Ramon, Christy Thatcher and Josh Lucero.



This Is The 1999 Final Publication Of The Bovina Blade

This Christmas edition will be the final issue of the local newspaper for 1999, marking the end of this decade and century.

Down through the years, the paper has traditionally allowed the staff to have a week off between Christmas and New Year's to celebrate and enjoy this time with family and friends.

Your newspaper is looking forward to great things for our community in the coming year 2000.





MUSICAL CAST MEMBERS in the 1999 elementary school Christmas play are shown during the dress rehearsal last week. ron carr photo

✻ ✻ Letters To Santa Claus ✻ ✻

Dear Santa,
Iv been kinda bad and good. What I want is a pall 2000, bike, cloths, gams, bord gams, dragon ball Z action figures, wwf toys. My sister wants lots of barbie, princess cloths that gos whith a crown. Thank you santa.
Luis Galvan

Dear Santa,
I have been a bad little boy and I will try to be a good little boy this year I hope you will bring me a Nintendo 64 and my sister wants a big doll like her and my family want lots of presents and my other two brother want a playstaytion and I hope you have a happy christmas. Thank you Santa.
Jesus Rocha

Dear Santa,
Ive been good this year. But my little brother wants a little car and my little sister wants some barbies. But I already have shoes and my big brothers do too. I want a Playstation, bike, and a costume like yours. Thank you.
Robert Salas

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl this year. i have helped clean my room. could you bring me a new pair of shoes. Thank you very much.
Elia Mojica

Dear Santa,
I am a good listener. I cleaned my room. I help at home. I help rack the leaves. I help mom if she is sick.
Irvin Vela

Dear Santa,
I will help mom. Santa clos it is fun to help mom. Santa I will help momol the das. Santa I want you to beren me a doll.
Blanca

Dear Santa,
I have been a good listener. Santa will you bring me a battle ship like the one I seen on T.V.
Migel Guerrero

Dear Santa,
I help rack the leves. I bin fedeing my pets. I help my mom if she is sick. Santa will you bring me a nintendo.
Alex Salazar

Dear Santa,
I been good. I have been helping at home. Santa would you bring me a bat movie.
Alexo

Dear Santa,
The joy of Christmas is sharing. I have helped my dad all year by doing my chores. Santa will you bring me a dog for Christmas.
Alberta Rangel

Dear Santa,
I have been very good and I would like a CD player, TV, VCR and a computer and printer. My sister Ashley would like a doll house and my little sister Marissa wants a mysized angel and both of my sisters hav ben good and my sisters and I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas. My mom wants a dress and my dad wants some tenys. Thank you.
Felisha Villa

Dear Santa,
I been nice to my momm. I want a radio and a cumputer.
Karen Rodriguez

Dear Santa,
I help clean my room. I have been good. Santa will you please bring me a bicycle.
Carmen Gutierrez

Dear Santa,
I have been a good listener. I share with my big brother. Santa could you bring me a new bike. thank you very much.
Alexis Martinez

Dear Santa,
Will you get me a Playstation? Will you get me a tv?
Raymond Fuentes

40 Yrs. Ago--Dec. 22, 1959
Dear Santa Claus,
Will you please bring me a tiny tears doll and a rocker bassinett? Thank you.
Your Friend, Deborah Kay Spicer

Dear Santa,
I want a bike and a basket and a nurse set and a tiny chair. Merry Christmas Santa, Goodbye Santa.
I Love You, Debra Kirkpatrick

Dear Santa,
I would like a BB gun and a Wyatt Earp Suit. If you are hungry, help yourself to our Christmas goodies.
Love, Michael Beauchamp

30 Yrs. Ago--Dec. 24, 1969
Dear Santa,
My name is Charlie and I have been a pretty good boy only part of the time. I would like a trampoline, a mighty loader and a tr-smoke.
Charlie Trimble

Dear Santa Claus,
I would like a baby catch-a-ball, a watch, some black patent boots, size 13-D. How is Rudolph and the other reindeer?
Love, Denise Read

Dearest Santa,
I have been very good this year. Please bring me a Dallas Cowboy Football suit. I would also like to have a service station. Please bring me some little "extras" if you have them. I Love You, Santa.
Jon Lin Riddle, Jr.

25 Yrs. Ago--Dec. 25, 1974
Dear Santa Claus,
If you can bring me some walkie-talkies, air hockey table and a mini-bike, I would be thankful.
Love, Tommy Hutto

Dear Santa,
I am Scotty. I would like a Cox Dunebuggy. Charles would like a crane car and and boomfender, Sharlet would like a bicycle with training wheels.
Your friends, Scotty, Charles & Sharlet Johnson

Dear Santa,
I want a stuffed monkey with a banana in it's hand, please. I also want a tape recorder. How is Rudolph and the other reindeer? How is Mrs. Claus?
Love Holli Clayton

20 Yrs. Ago--Dec. 26, 1979
Dear Santa Claus,
It will soon be Christmas again. I tried to be good this year. Could you please bring me a play dog and race track.
Love, Libby Marshall

Dear Santa,
My name is Angela. I have a sister named Lori. We have been good girls this year. Would you please bring us a playhouse and some dishes. Thank you very much.
Angela and Lori Beauchamp

Dear Santa,
I am in the first grade. I have been good. I want a trampoline and fashion plate.
Love, Keri Mitchell

15 Yrs. Ago--Dec. 25, 1984
Dear Santa,
I am in first grade. I have tried to be good this year. Please bring me Cabbage Patch Kid, care bear, barbie, cabbage patch swing and something for Willie.
Love, Kasey Bell

Dear Santa,
I would like to thank you for bringing all the toys last year. I know how Christmas was made. It was made like

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Bill Ellis.....Publisher
Ron Carr.....Managing Editor
Scooter Russell.....Advertising
Tammie White.....Composition

BOVINA REFLECTIONS

....from the files of The Bovina Blade

this when baby Jesus was born. That's how Christmas happened. Plez bring me a football.
Love, Lance McClaran

Dear Santa,
I would like to thank you for bringing me toys. I want a Care Bear and a mask of you, and a funny hat. Bring my brother a car.
Love, Brooke Charles

10 Yrs. Ago--Dec. 20, 1989
Dear Santa,
I want you to bring me a Black Wolf Roller Coaster Set and the game of Gone Fish'n. How are your reindeer? How are you? I am fine.
Love, J.T. Roach

Dear Santa,
I want a remote control pickup called Baji Bandit and a game watch. I want no school and \$100,000 dollars. I also want a racing sled for my vacation. I want a bunch of candy to and a nentendo tape.
Thank you, Jeremy Willard

Dear Santa,
I want P. J. Sparkles and

bubl Baby. I love you very much.
Love, Jamie Kunselman

5 Yrs. Ago--Dec. 24, 1994
Dear Santa,
How are you? I hope you are well. Thank you for the gifts you gave me last year. I hope you bring me some roller blades, Game gear, and a teddy bear. Please give my family some gifts, too.
Dustin Lara

Dear Santa,
How are you? I hope you are fine. Thank you for the gifts you gave me last year. Please bring me a bunny rabbit, bike and roller blades. I hope Mrs. Claus is fine. I hope the elves have got the gifts ready. I hope the reindeer are ready to go.
Kristen Montgomery

Dear Santa,
I want a farm and a truck with a trailer. How is the north pole? How is Mrs. Santa doing? I hope she is doing good. How are your deer doing? I think they are doing fine to.
Your friend, Chris Bachicha

What Christmas Was Like When I Was A Child

I will say in the beginning of my short story that things, everything, was so very different then. I won't say how long ago that was.
We were a large family, 7 children, but 3 of them were grown when I was still a "kid." My parents were strict, hard-working people. So we were taught to work as well.
At Christmas we each had a gift or two. We had lots of fruit and nuts as well. We usually had relatives for Christmas dinner. The visiting women helped my mother to prepare the meal while we "young 'uns" ran and played.
We were farm people with few luxuries, but we always had plenty to eat. Most of it was grown at home.
We were content because every one we knew was also farm people with the same principles and likes. We went to Sunday School and church regularly. Church was held in a school building where I also went to school.
Church services have always been an important part of my life. I hope Rouel and I have instilled a love in our children for church and its activities.

An Old Kid
THELMA BARRON

WHAT CHRISTMAS WAS LIKE TO ME

I was born in Dsoto Parish, Louisiana and my first Christmas I do not remember much about. My family moved to Plomot Community which is in Motley County.
My dad farmed with my mother's five brothers. They were all married except one and our Christmas was with mom's family. I can remember one of the brothers would buy a stalk of bananas and hang it out on the back porch. And after Christmas they were about all gone.
My mother was a good cook and she made a banana cake every Christmas and there was very little of it left after Christmas dinner.
On one occasion we were going to grandma and grandpa's house for Christmas. We lived about four miles away. But we had to go in a wagon. We lived just south of the Quitaque River. The water was about 50 feet wide and frozen solid.
One of the mares that was pulling the wagon slipped and fell on the ice and would not try to get up. Dad had to walk back to the house and get another horse to drag the mare off the ice and he turned her loose. He was afraid she would fall again.
Our Christmas dinner was a little late.

ROUEL BARRON

Y2K Y2K Y2K Y2K Y2K Y2K Y2K

Deaf Smith Electric Cooperative

would like to reassure our customers that we are as ready for the arrival of the new millennium as is humanly possible. Although no one can guarantee that there will be absolutely no problems, we fully expect the transition from 1999 to 2000 to be uneventful.

Our equipment has been updated and is now Y2K compliant. We will be open Friday, December 31, 1999 and DSEC crews will be on duty the night of New Year's Eve just in case there are isolated communication problems to be solved.

DSEC crews will also periodically check in at predetermined locations in the various communities of the area to address concerns regarding Y2K.

The following community locations will be visited by DSEC crews on New Year's Eve:

- Castro County Courthouse
- Simm's Store parking lot
- Nazareth Community Hall

Farwell: Sherley Anderson Grain Elevator located on Hwy. 84
Dawn Cafe parking lot
A1 Service Center parking lot - west side of Friona on Hwy. 60
Cotton Gin: 1 mile west of the Hub Intersection
Hereford: Deaf Smith Electric Cooperative offices on East Hwy. 60

Y2K Y2K Y2K Y2K Y2K Y2K Y2K



Out Here

By Ron Carr

"Welcome To The City Of E"

By the time 2000 arrives millions of words and billions of dollars will have been spent in anticipation of something that nobody really knows much about.

For any of you that might be taking marketing classes, what has happened leading up to 2000 is called "HYPE." It is a vital part of any marketing plan and is equally important to professional scammers.

My Webster's Ninth New Collegiate defines hype as a put-on, deceit, or to promote or publicize extravagantly.

Lord only knows we have been buried in a big pile of millennium hype. Most of the commercials on TV these days hype some e-tail store or e-shopping website, the names of which I can't remember.

The e-commerce frenzy has swept across America faster and further than even the experts predicted. It is definitely leaving me and a lot of other people behind.

In the 2000's, almost every word or every business will have an e- in front of it. Future generations will not be able to communicate without a "www" on one end and a ".com" on the other.

Now as we get set to cross Billy Jeff Clinton's carefully

constructed bridge to the 21st century, scientists and engineers are developing wireless technology. They claim that a person soon can connect to the Web, retrieve e-mail, and even make a phone call on their cellular phone.

I'm not worried too much about 2000 getting here next week. I'm happy to have lived in the last 60 years of the 1900's.

I received some Christmas cards in the U. S. mail this year but they say that future generations will exchange Christmas cards via computer. What a merry e-Christmas that will be. We will be able to pay bills, register cars and trucks, get driver's licenses and order almost any good or service imaginable from the comfort of our own home. That's what they say and I believe them.

We are in a frenzy of hype that will intensify for years to come. Having one's own computer will be necessary not for enjoyment but for survival. There was a time only geeks loved computers. Now you are a geek if you don't love 'em.

None of it makes a lot of sense to my generation, but that is the secret to today's

frenetic society. It doesn't have to make sense. In fact it is not supposed to make any sense. Just go with the flow.

For instance, you have at least heard of Amazon.com. They sold lots of books on the Internet. It has been an amazing growth story. Amazon's founder, 35-year-old Jeff Bezos, is the Time Magazine man-of-the-year.

Amazon.com now sells everything you can imagine through your computer. They sell electronics, software, toys and home improvement items. They run auctions of clothing, wine and other collectibles. They own a stake in other websites like drugstore.com, HomeGrocer.com and pets.com.

Here is the most amazing fact of all. Amazon.com was established in 1994 and has never made a profit. This year, founder Bezos expects the company to lose \$350 million and warns that it will not be profitable until 2002. Yet he is a billionaire, the stock is sky high, and people are nuts about the company.

Here is what Bezos said when asked about losing money: "People believe passionately in the future of the Internet and e-commerce, so they're investing sort of commensurate with that belief."

So there you are. As we creep toward next week's turn of the century, America is in a frenzy. One TV ad is for a company named "mysap.com" I know you can get merchandise there because the guy in the commercial ordered soccer equipment for his son's team.

Mysap.com's motto is "Welcome to the city of E..." It struck me as appropriate as a New Year's greeting. Come midnight next Friday, we will all enter the city of "e", never to return back to the future.

I am resolving to get

more involved with my own home computer. I am hooked up to the Internet with WT Services. I even have an e-mail address: ronc@wtrt.net. It does not work yet 'cause I am still trying to find my browser.

By January 1, 2000 you can just e-mail away. I'll be ready. All inquiries kept in strictest confidence, prompt returns guaranteed.

Now maybe you can help me out with a question that has been bugging me. There are 26 letters in the alphabet. Why did they choose the letter "e?" Instead of e-mail, it could have been z-mail, or c-mail. Why "e?"

If you know why and can explain it to me, please contact me at 806-250-2211, 806-250-5319, 806-265-5205 (mobile), e-mail ronc@wtrt.net, or write to me at P.O. Box 789, Friona, 79035.

In the meantime, to mother and Martha, Coach Dewitt, Al Podsednik, Bobby Bobby, PC., Zora Gaede, Rick & Sherry, Candee, Kirsten, Casey, Zach, Megan, all my ex-wives and any future wives, all my friends and customers in and around Parmer County, I would like to say:

I have enjoyed the 1900's with you, thank you for reading the paper, have a Merry Christmas and....

"Welcome to the city of E."

DID YOU KNOW?
The term "Xmas" is not an attempt to take Christ out of Christmas.

Actually, it is merely an abbreviation of the word itself. The X in Xmas is the Greek letter Chi, the first letter of Christ's name when written in that language. This simple abbreviation dates back to about the 12th century.



DOREEN DURAN and RANDY STONE.... Antonio and Mary Duran of Friona announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Doreen, to Randy Douglas Stone of Bovina. He is the son of Jessie and Alice Stone of Bovina. The couple will exchange wedding vows on February 12 at 3 p.m. in the First Baptist Church of Bovina.

Attention Everyone

H&R Block will be open
January 3, 2000. We prepare all types of returns. The Rapid Refund Program will start January 14, 2000.

Happy Holidays To Everyone

Dale & Laura
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We are proud to now offer epidurals for those concerned about pain-relief during labor. Birthing classes are provided regularly and parents can take advantage of complete prenatal and post partum care at the Women & Children's Health Clinic.

HRMC's newly remodeled OB unit provides the perfect setting to welcome your new arrival. Our skilled medical staff is committed to offering quality care to expectant parents and their families in a friendly, caring environment.

This commitment underscores our belief that the best medicine is close to home.



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8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
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Thank you
for your
support in 1999

**Merry Christmas and
Happy Holidays from the
employees at
Western Chevrolet-Oldsmobile**

**DURING THE HOLIDAY BREAK,
COME IN AND CHECK
OUT OUR YEAR-END
CLEARANCE
SALE VALUES.**

Season's Greetings

... And Many Thanks!

From all of us, to all of you, go our warm wishes for the brightest holiday season, ever!

Thank you for brightening our year with your friendship.

These folks have joined together to wish their Bovina friends and neighbors a very Merry Christmas. Proceeds from the Annual Christmas Card Fund, sponsored by the Bovina Ambulance Service, will benefit the Bovina Ambulance Service and Bovina Volunteer Fire Department. Donations were received from:

Leon and Martha Nell Schilling
Bill and Joyce Read
Mr. and Mrs. Pat Kunselman
Jimmie and Barbara Cockerham
Bonnie and Chad Clayton
Janice Richards
Erith and Frances Hawkins
Oakley and Yvonne Stevenson
George and Pearl Cervantez
Leslie and Rose McCain
Charlene and Leon Grissom
Oma Lee George
Dean and Juanita Hastings
Mr. and Mrs. JT Hammonds
Jeff, Kristi and Scott Steelman
Edna Scott
Rouel and Thelma Barron
James and Sandra Clayton

Gaylon and Shelby Rhodes
HJ Charles
Virginia Steele
Helen Mazurek
Don and Gladys Spring
Robert and Sarah Owen
John and Jo Blackwell
Al and Jeanne Kerby
Thomas and Virginia Rhodes
Leon and Shirley Ware
Don and Juanda Murphy
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Chris, Jill, Chase and Jarad Timms
Bill and Carol Ellis
Jim and Scooter Russell
Ron Carr

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RIBBONS
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Elementary
peaceful a

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Bo

Because of
the paper with
2000, the bi
final 1999
birthdays fro
1999 to Jan
Dec 26 D
Dec 27 N
Joe Steelman
Dec 28
Francis John
Dec 29 A
Riley
Dec 31
berry, Joshua
Wilson
Jan 1



RIBBONS AND BOWS adorn this warm and friendly Christmas tree at the Bovina Elementary School. We hope you have a peaceful and joyous Christmas season.

Happy Birthday Bovina Residents...

Because our next issue of the paper will be January 7, 2000, the birthdays in this final 1999 issue include birthdays from December 26, 1999 to January 8, 2000.
 Dec 26 Dean Wines
 Dec 27 Norma Villarreal, Joe Steelman
 Dec 28 Tammy Stormes, Francis Johnson
 Dec 29 Angie Riley, Scott Riley
 Dec 31 Michelle Stanberry, Joshua Parson, Brenda Wilson
 Jan 1 Jody Wilburn,

David Murphy
 Jan 3 Jerry Ward
 Jan 4 Judy Hromas, Brad Hromas, Peter Vanegas, Sandra Cockerham, Joe Black, Sr., Brandi Ventura
 Jan 5 Nora Fuentes, Charlsie Eubanks, Ricky Jamerson
 Jan 6 Don Teague
 Jan 7 Wayne McClaran
 Jan 8 Belinda Dale, Ruben Serna
 To make corrections, changes, or additions to our birthday list, call 238-1523 or write to Drawer B, 79009.

Letters To Santa Claus

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good girl this year. For Christmas I want a stereo and a Lisa Frank chest and my mom a Dad they want a dress and my dad wants a checkbook. And my brother wants the pokemon trading card and thank you for the things that you have brought me.
 Cynthia

Dear Santa,
 I have been good this year. The joy of Christmas is sharing. Santa I want a pair of new shoes.
 Luis Oviedo

Dear Santa,
 I have been a bad boy. But if I was a good boy I would like a sega dream cast because I like all the games like ready to rumble and NFL blitz 200. My second thing that I want is a computer. I like computers because you can play games and it is fun. My big brother wants a football and a carset. My other brothers wants a remote control car and karate fighters. Thank you Santa clause.
 Love, Christian

Dear Santa,
 For Christmas what I want is a computer and some barbies and cloths Santa is it cold over ther santa. I hope you are right. By bye dear santa. Thank you.
 Karina Jasso

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good boy this year. The joy of Christmas is sharing. Santa will bring me a game please.
 Ramiro Nicolas

Dear Santa,
 I want a doll house. I like sum skates. I wat a prasit. I am good.
 Yesenio Cervantes

Dear Santa,
 I am nice to my mom. I want a car for Christmas.
 Your friend
 Eric Rezo

Dear Santa,
 I have been nice I have helped my sister on the boat of the Nintendo. I do not want anything for Christmas.
 Adan Newton

Dear Santa,
 I have been good this year. I help at home. I clean my room when my mom and dad tell me to. I get thangs for my sister when she needs somethang. Will you bring me a cd player and a cd.
 Mary Christmas Santa.
 Savanna Winn

Dear Santa,
 I have been good this year. I have helped feed the animals. Will you bring me a teddy bear.
 Jessica Brito

Dear Santa,
 I have been good this year. I have cleaned my room once a week. Santa would you bring me a barbie car. The joy of Christmas is sharing.
 Michelle Zolman

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good girl this year. I have helped my parents clean the living room. Santa could you bring me a new bycle and a new kite. thank you very much.
 Ashley Galvan

Dear Santa,
 I clen my room. Santa i want a jet. Your frens
 Sergio Hernandez

Dear Santa,
 I clean my room. I help my mom. I read my books. please bring me a control remote car.
 Gustavo Ortiz

Dear Santa,
 I have been helping my mom throw the trash. Could you buy me skates with a helmet?
 Justin Salazar

Dear Santa,
 I have been good. I want a computer. I help my mom clean the kitchen. Your friend,
 Mariana Guevara

Dear Santa,
 Will you bring me a Nintendo. Will you bring me a robot. I wud thanc you for the present vere much. Will you bring me a movei Will you bring me a bruther and a sister and my grandpa and a ranedeer.
 Omar Banegas

Before the Holiday Dash...

We want to wish everyone all good things in this festive season. Thank you so very much for your support and loyalty.

All the best to you and yours!

Rhodes Crop Care

Hwy. 60
 238-1331

A Special Time of Year

Have a truly beautiful Christmas, filled with love, laughter, warmth and wonder. We enjoy serving you, and look forward to seeing you again very soon.

Happy holidays, everyone!

Marie's Use Value

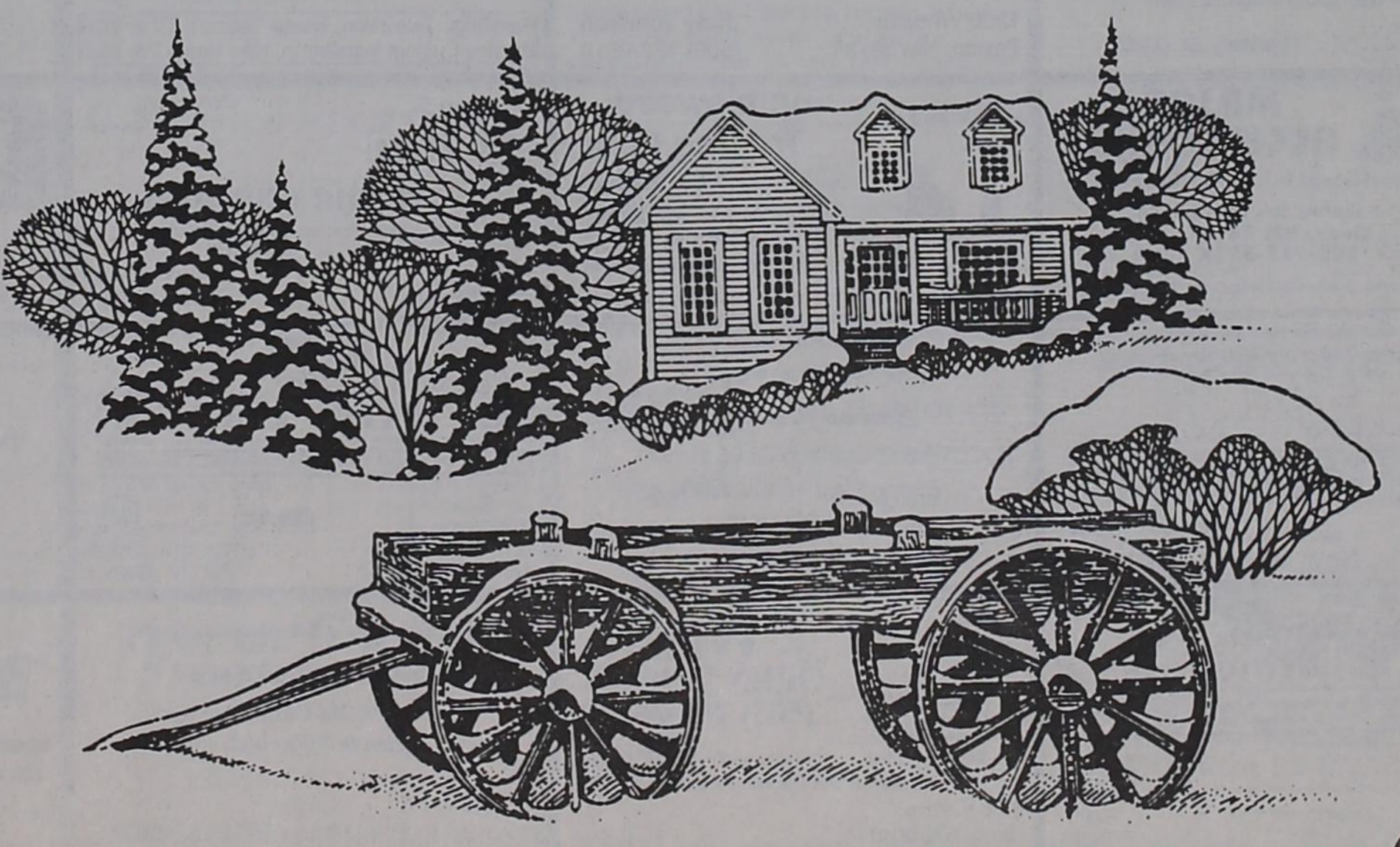
Elton & Marie Venable • 238-1107

Greetings of the Season

Holiday Blessings from Your Friends and Neighbors at

Caprock Industries of Bovina

225-4400



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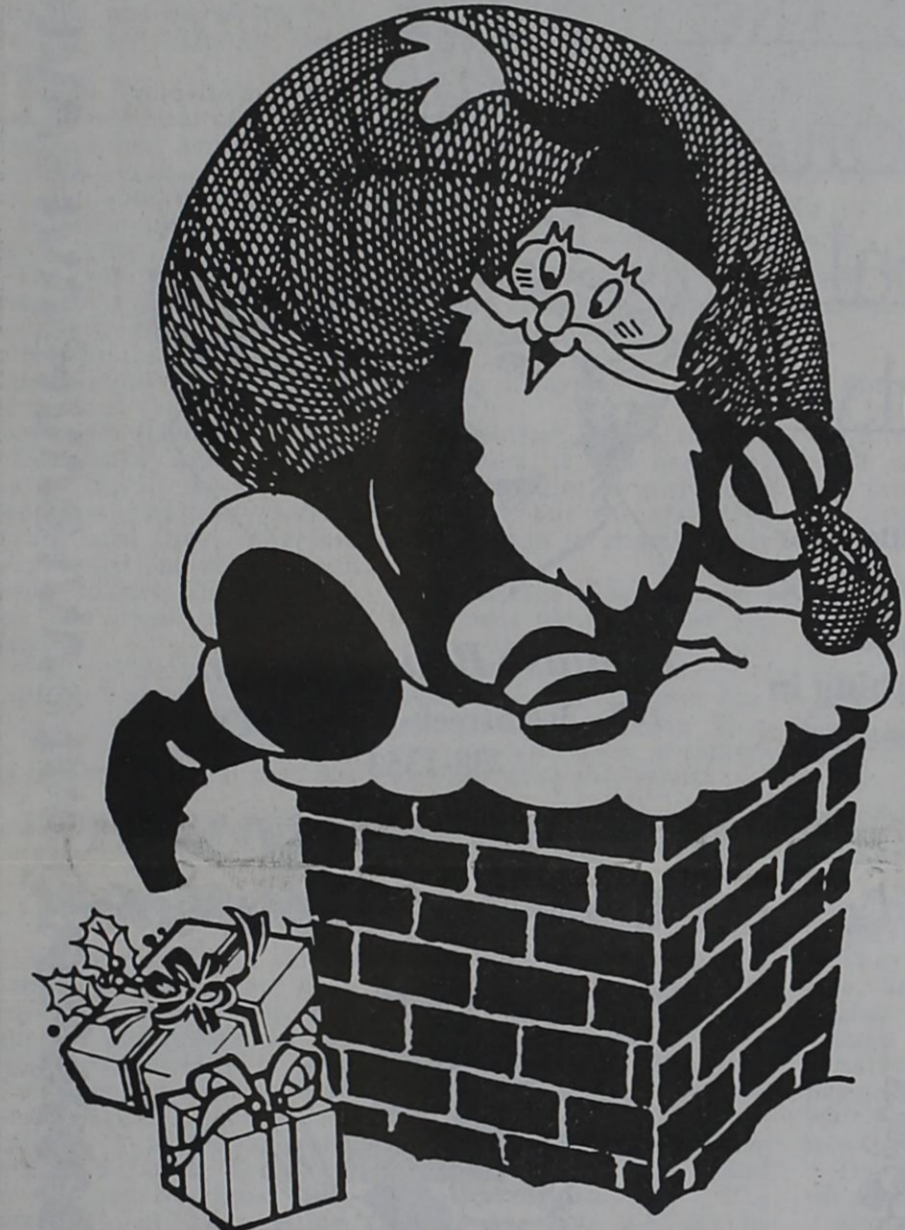
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JOY TO THE WORLD....More elementary school musical performers, including Santa Claus, send their very best wishes to everyone in Bovina to have a safe and happy holiday season.
ron carr photo



DON'T THEY LOOK PRETTY?...All dressed up for their part in the Christmas musical were, l-r, Megan Martinez, Hannah Miller, Dalton Cockerham, Lucero Saucedo, and Denise Larrea.
ron carr photo

✦ ✦ Letters To Santa Claus ✦ ✦

Dear Santa,
I been bad but I'll promise to be nice. I just want a control and a low rider me and my brother want the same thig. Please take care of the raindeer and take care of Rydolph.
Alan Rueda

Dear Santa,
I been a bad boy I an going to be good this Christmas and I will want a gameboy cobre and a new game for 64 and my little brother wants a boon box and a puppy and my big brother wants a staireo and a remote control car and my dad wants a computer and a princiser and my mom wants a coputer too and a angal.
Miguel Salazar

Dear Santa,
I was a good boy. I want a WF box. I want a playstation and some new game of playstation and Santa don't forget to take care of your reindeers and your wife and I want a car of control and a computer. My sister wants a princess barbie. My brothe wants a lowrider and I do too. Thank you Santa.
Omar Flores

Dear Santa,
Iv had been kind and good little girl. what I want in Christmas is a trampoling and bike and a television. I hope none of your reindeers get sick. My little brother want a remote control and a bicke. Every single kid loves you. Thank you Santa Claus.
Edith Carrillo

Dear Santa,
I want a game boy for Christmas and skates and a nintendo and a bike and a computer and a giga pet and a basketball with a basketball court. Thank you Santa Claus.
Denise Larrea

Dear Santa,
I bine a verry good girl this yere. My big sister wans a picachu pillow for Christmas. If my dad wont by her the pillow wode you gife it for her please. For this December is the same thing that my sister wode want for Christmas. My brothers woud want sumding coll stuff and if you soud gife us a computer for Christmas. Thank you Santa and Merry christmas.
Esmeralda

Dear Santa Clause,
I would like a big long swimming pool. I would also like a globe with snow. and a t.v. I realy want a door for my room.
By Kimberly Clarice Tamez

Dear Santa Clausa,
I would like a bike with a basket and a globe with snow falling down. I would like a computer with lots of games and stuf I could looke up what I want. I woude like a pool. I would like my own room with a t.v. and have my own stuff. Hope you are coming this way.
Audrie

Dear Santa Clause,
I would want a 200 swimming pool for Christmas and a 2000 computer please.
Love
From Sandra Ortiz
pretty please

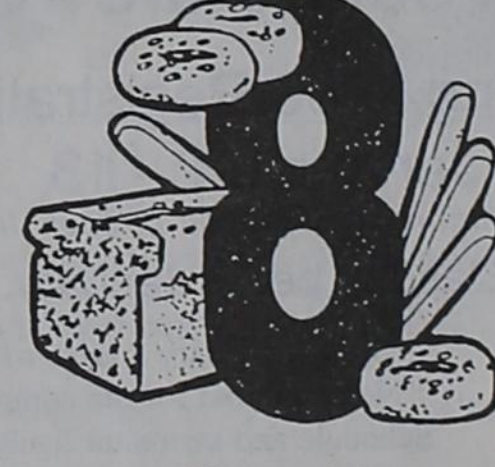
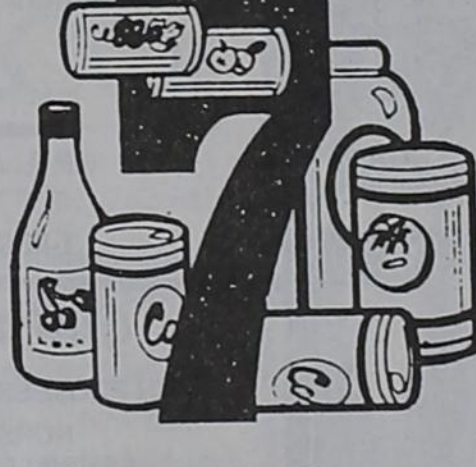
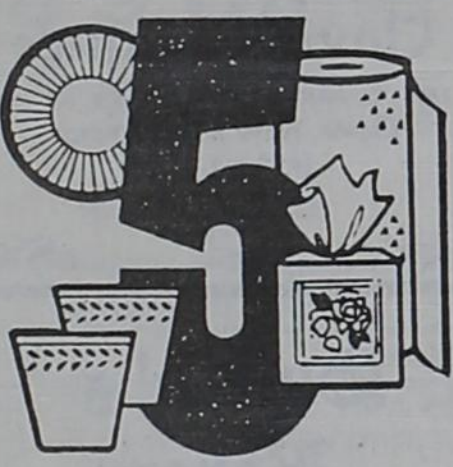
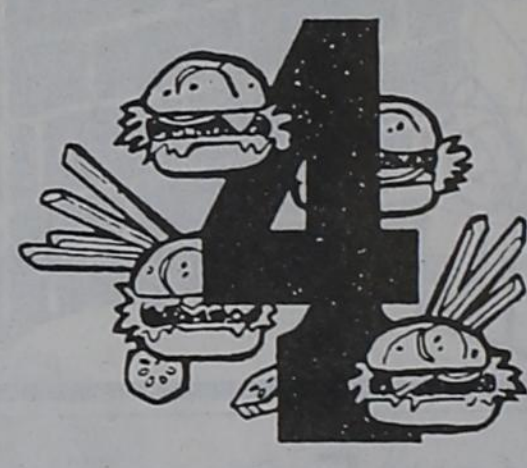
Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl this year. For Christmas I want a basketball goal and glue on fingernails. My sister wants a telltubbie. Make sure you feed your reindeer extra hay on Christmas Day.
Signed, Hannah

Hope The
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Donalita Hawkins Tells "Christmas Memories"

by SCOOTER RUSSELL

Donalita Hawkins was one of four children. Her parents were Tom and Pearl Hastings, who were from a pioneer Parmer County family.

Donalita has lived in Bovina all of her life, and still has one brother living here, Dean Hastings. Donalita's father, Tom Hastings, was killed in a car wreck at the intersection of Third Street and Main Street. At that time, Bovina's Main Street was part of Highway 60.

Another man drove out in front of Tom, and he was killed instantly. This left her mother with four children to care for. At that time, Donalita was four years old, Dean was five, Imogene was seven and Gordon was not quite two.

Tom's brother, who was a bachelor, came and ran the farm for Pearl Hastings. She also worked at selling insurance, in order to make ends meet. Donalita told us that her mother was very religious, and her strong faith brought her through tough times.

When Donalita's father died, he was clear of any debt. They had their house paid for, their quarter-section farm paid for, and the car he was driving was new, and it was also paid for.

The car was also their first-ever. Up until that time, the family rode in a wagon pulled by horses. Donalita said her mother had \$1,500 in the bank at the time, a lot of money back then.

Donalita's uncle farmed their land during the depression, and everyone was having hard times. She said they only made enough money to pay the taxes, as was the case with many others.

Her mother prayed every night that the family would have enough food and clothing to make it through those days. She said that her



HASTINGS CHILDREN....Pictured are the four young children who were left without a father back in 1926. Their parents were Tom and Pearl Hastings. Show, l-r are Gordon Hastings, Imogene Hastings Swim, Dean Hastings and Donalita Hastings Hawkins.

mother always took them to church. When her grandmother came to live with them, it was necessary for her mother to stay home with her, but she still took the children to church every Sunday.

A heritage of love for each other was their greatest gift left to them, Donalita says. She said her mother never let them "fuss," and stopped disagreements immediately. They grew up with a lot of respect for each other as a result.

She remembers good times and lots of fun while growing up. She remembered when it came a big snow when she was fairly young. There were big drifts, and the children loved playing in the snow, making snow angels and snow men.

One of the Christmases that came to her mind was when they made all of the gifts they gave each other. She said her brother Dean made her a doll bed out of an oatmeal box cut in half, and her sister Imogene made sheets and pillowcases and put cotton in for the mattress. She remembers getting a little broom and dust pan from her mother.

They always had a little tree, and constructed paper chains which they draped around the tree. They also constructed "chains" of popcorn and cranberries, which were also put on the tree.

Donalita's mother died when she was 90 years of age. Donalita and husband Charles Hawkins had two daughters, Darla and Janie. Charles died in 1978.

Darla is a registered nurse and works as a therapist at St. Mary's Hospital in Lubbock, and also works at the prison in Lubbock.

Darla has three children: Ricky, and twins Dusty and Misti. Ricky and his wife have a three-month-old son, Logan.

Daughter Janie lives in Plano, and works as a counselor in the Plano Independent School District.

Donalita is looking forward to spending Christmas in Lubbock with daughter Darla and the grandkids.

❖ ❖ Letters To Santa Claus ❖ ❖

Dear Santa,
How is Mrs. Claus? I want a doll and a sleigh please sr. You are the best man. I hope you have a good time with Mrs. Claus. How are your elves? I hope the elves are ok. How are you doing? Are your deers ok because they are sweet, you are too. Say hi for Cheyenne Dutton. Thank you for everything.
Love, Cheyenne Dutton

Dear Santa,
I do the dishes. I want a angle for Christmas and a barbie to. I am a good girl this year.
Alexandra Lara

Dear Santa,
I help my mom to clean my room. I want a bike and a pajamas and a teddybear. I have been a good girl this year.
Yesenia Rodriguez

Dear Santa,
I clean my room. I want a necklace and a ring for Christmas. I have been a good girl this year.
Yadiva Garcia Nieto

Dear Santa,
I help my mom clean her room. I want a ball for Christmas. I help my mom clean the dishes. I want a necklace. I have been a good girl this year.
Kyla Salinas

Dear Santa,
I can do my bed. I help my mom to wash the dishes. I help to wash the car. I help my mom and dad and my family. I want a computer and a bike. I'm been a good girl this year.
Carmen Cruz

Dear Santa,
I help my mom. I want a wagon and a dodge for Christmas. I have been a good boy this year.
Luis Sanchez

Dear Santa,
I help my dad. I want a airplane and a jet. I have been a good boy this year.
Andy Duarte

Dear Santa,
I clean my room. I want a puppy and a dog. I have been a good girl this year.
Briselda Munoz

Dear Santa,
I was nice the mom to clean the floor. Can you bring me a bike.
AlexLava

Dear Santa,
I've been nice. Will you bring me a jumprope and a toy car. Your friend,
Fernando Banuelos

Dear Santa,
I help my mom clin the sishis. I help my dad to clin the car. I want a bike. Your friend,
Cynthia Lara

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I help my mom mop. Will bring me a Barbie and put it under my tree. Thank you your friend,
Lorena Armijo

Dear Santa,
Will you bring me a yellow bike. I clend my room. I wish I had a toy truck that smoke coms out of. I helped my mom with the dishes. Your friend,
Zachery T. Ward

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? How is Rudolph? How are you elves Santa? Santa is the North Pole cold? Santa I want a puppy for Christmas. Santa I would like some roller blades for Christmas. How are all the reindeer Santa? Bring my parents a gift. Santa I want a camera. Did your elves work hard? Did they work on a lot of toys? How is Mrs. Claus? Is she fine. I like you Santa, you are a good friend. Santa you are the Best in the world. Santa. Santa you are a good man.
Love, Kimberly Casas

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? How is Mrs. Claus? How are the reindeer? How are the elves? Are the working hard? I would like a computer, bike, and a bible. How are the people at the North Pole? Thank you for the Nontendo 64 and the game last year.
Love, Taryn Jamerson

How are you doing. How is Mrs. Claus? How is Rudolph? How are the elves? How cold is the snow in the North Pole? Will you please bring me a nintendo game. Will you please bring Mike and Matthew a game too?
Love, Gabe Garner

Dear Santa,
How is Rudolph? How are all of the reindeer? Thanks for giving me a camera? How is Mrs. Claus? How are all the red and green elves making toys? I would like a picachu.
Sarah Morales

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? How is Rudolph? How are your elves? Are they working hard? Is it cold at the North Pole? How is Mrs. Claus? could you bring me a talking picachu.
Love, Bryan

Dear Santa,
I want a super smash brother game for my Nintendo 64 and two more controllers. I want a Playstation and a game of spiro and Bugs Bunny. I want Hot Wheels leading the way. smash cars. I want game boy color.
Your friend, Alan Chavez

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? How is Mrs. Claus? Santa will you please bring me a game boy game called Pokemon yellow version, Playstation, please bring me a Pokemon snap. And please bring my little brother something.
Love, Corbin Holman

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I want a baby doll and a Nintendo please. thank you. How is Mrs. Claus. How is the North Pole? I will leave you a glass of milk and coockis ok. Thank you.
Love, Karen Nieto

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? How is Mrs. Claus? How is Rudolph is he working hard. I will leave you three cookies with milk. Santa would you bring me something neat? Santa are you in the North Pole? Is your sleigh red and shiny? Are the elves working on the toys right now? could you bring me a Marshall Brodien's Magic Show, TMH Super Ldound Asst and Century Kid Jr. Combo set?
Love, Patrick Espinoza

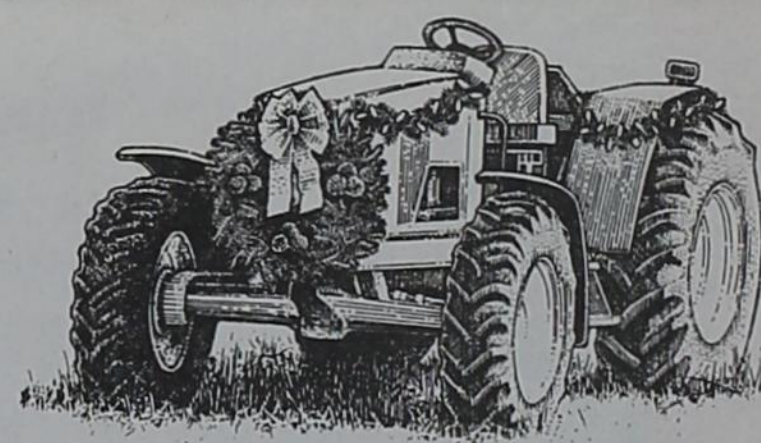
Dear Santa,
I want some rollerblades. How are your reindeers? Are you coming to mmy house? Are you going to mmy house? How is Mrs. Claus? Are the elves working? How are you doing Santa? I will leave you some cookies and milk. Thank you for all the things.
Love, Amanda Cervantes

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I was wondering how it is over there in the North Pole? Oh and now I want to talk about my presents? I want a game boy color and a Street Fighter 2 game. Oh and if you can bring my brother a cassette player and that is all. Thank you.
Love, Jonathan Roldan

Dear Santa,
I want a mini-pool table for my brother and me. Santa are you doing ok? Are your elves doing good? I want a Nintendo 64 for Christmas. Thank you for toys. Are deers doing.
Love, Richard Fabela

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? How is Mrs. Claus? Santa will you please bring me a game boy game called Pokemon yellow version, Playstation, please bring me a Pokemon snap. And please bring my little brother something.
Love, Corbin Holman

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I want a baby doll and a Nintendo please. thank you. How is Mrs. Claus. How is the North Pole? I will leave you a glass of milk and coockis ok. Thank you.
Love, Karen Nieto



HOLIDAY GREETINGS

It's our favorite time of the year, when we pause to thank our many good friends in the area for making business easy to do around these parts.

Have a happy and healthy season!

Agri-Plan

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Have A Beautiful Christmas!

Hope your holiday is glorious, and that each moment is filled with good cheer and happiness.

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May Your Christmas Dreams Come True

Hope Santa is very generous to you this year, and that you get everything you've been dreaming about.

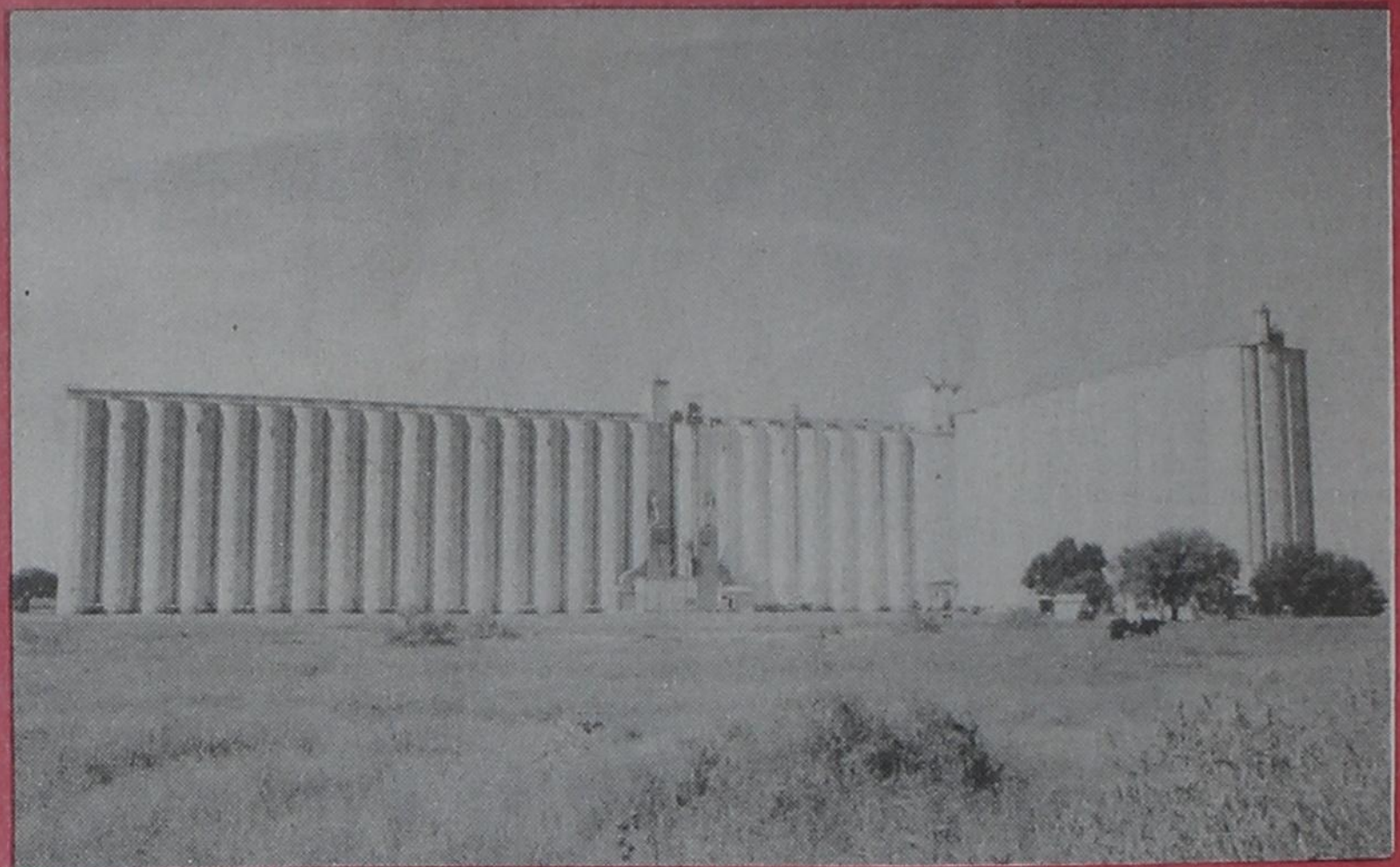
A very warm thank you for being so kind to us this year. We look forward to serving you again, soon.

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*Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year*



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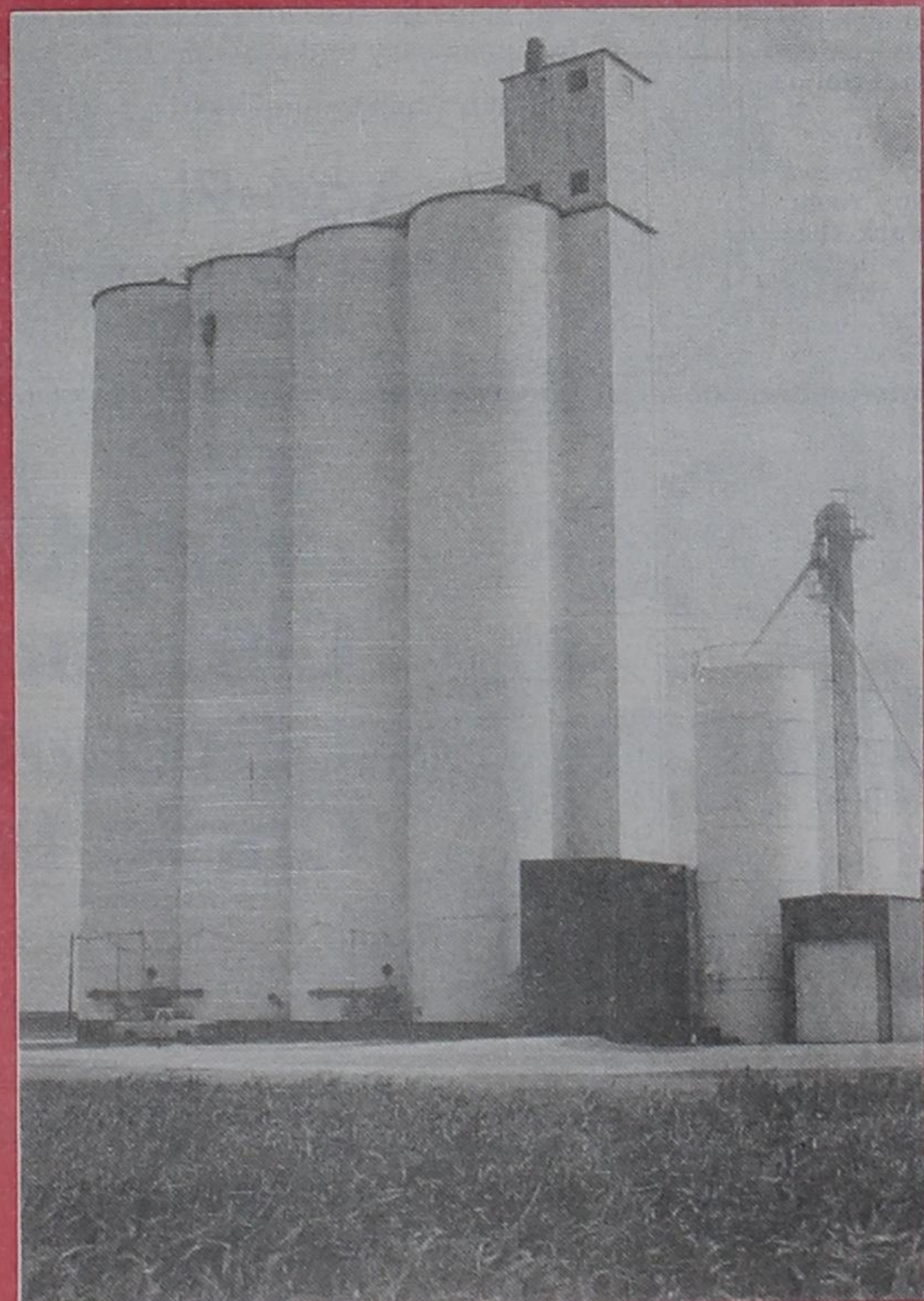


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Sherley - Anderson
Lazbuddie Elevator
SCOTT BROWN - RAY STANLEY

Supplement

Celebrate
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To
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Celebrate The Timeless Spirit Of The Season

*Christmas is not a time or a season,
but a state of mind. To cherish peace
and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy,
is to have the real spirit of Christmas.*
Calvin Coolidge

As we celebrate the arrival of the holiday season — the last of the millennium — Coolidge's words are a particularly apt reminder of the importance of cultivating and maintaining the true Christmas spirit.

When friends and family members join together, it is the genuine warmth of loving relationships, not elaborate gifts or multi-course meals, that gives life to the season's festivities and enriches the lives of the participants in the years to come.

The joy of the season can be captured in even the simplest activities: teaching a child to make a gingerbread house; going caroling with friends; stringing popcorn and cranberry garlands for the tree; sending Christmas cards to far-away family members; setting out a tray of milk and cookies for Santa to enjoy.

Whether holiday traditions are simple or elaborate, they serve to bind loved ones together, creating a sense of continuity and permanence that transcends the worries of everyday life.

So, even if your Christmas gift budget is not as big as you would like it to be, celebrate the goodwill of the season and find ways to share that joy with those you love. Whether you put a festive CD on the stereo, throw a holiday video in the VCR, light some candles, bake holiday cookies, have a tree-trimming party or arrange for a more formal event, the smiles on the faces of those you love will prove your efforts to be both rewarding and appreciated.



John, Matilda, Terry and Peggy Baca in 1966

Bacas Tell About Memorable Christmas

John and I married in October of 1956. That December we went to Booker, Texas, to spend Christmas with his folks.

On Christmas day we decided to take a train ride to Kansas. The train consisted of the engine, passenger car and the caboose. It was called the "Doodle Bug." We like to have starved that day. Nothing was open for business.

The next Christmas was going to be a sad one, for we had our oldest daughter and no money to buy her a gift. We managed to buy an aluminum tree and decorations of newspaper.

Then on Christmas Eve at noon, John's boss gave him a \$20 gift certificate at Hurst's for Christmas. So John and I came to Friona and bought a T-shirt and pant and small toy for Terry and two towels and we put them under the tree. There was no money to buy paper for wrap.

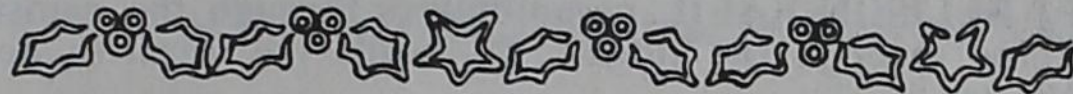
Our biggest Christmas was in 1987 when we had an exchange student from the Phillipines, Florencia Ley. Peggy and family had come in from Germany and Terry and family from here.

When Santa knocked on the door the grandchildren all started crying and wouldn't go to the door. We more or less had to push them out.

For Peggy's gift to Terry, she took string and strung it through the house and outside and Terry had to follow it. Needless to say Terry was crying and the four grandchildren were right behind her. It finally ended up behind the commode and it was a very beautiful ring.

Now the kids all look forward to their stockings at Granny and Grandpa's house.

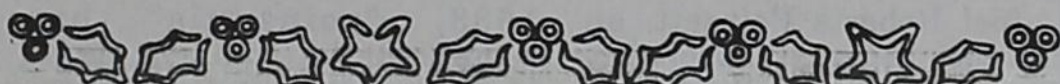
MATILDA BACA



The Real Meaning Of "12 Days of Christmas"

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young members of the Church. Each element in the Carol has a code word for a Religious reality which the children could remember:

- The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
- Two turtle doves were the Old & New Testament.
- Three French hens stood for "faith, hope and love."
- Four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
- Five golden rings recalled the Torah -- the first five books of the Old Testament.
- Six geese-a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
- Seven swans-a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Eight maids-a-milking were the eight Beatitudes.
- Nine ladies dancing? These were the nine truths of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galations 5:22-23)
- Ten lords-a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.
- Eleven pipers piping stood for the 11 faithful disciples.
- Twelve drummers drumming symbolized the 12 points of belief in the Apostle's Creed.



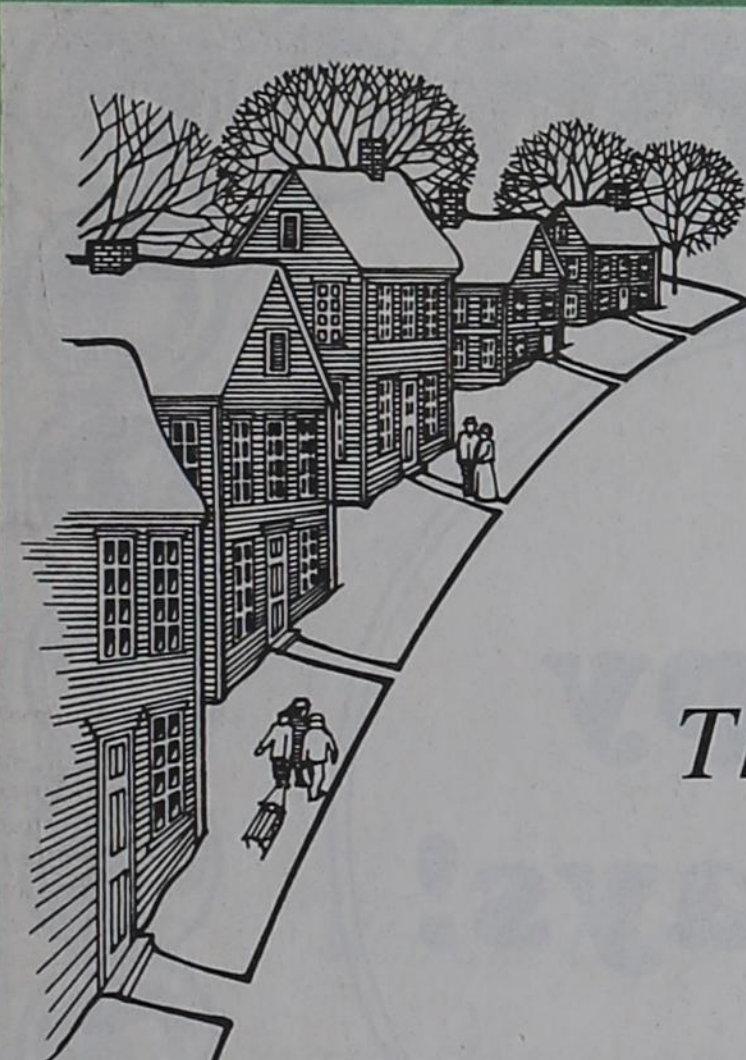
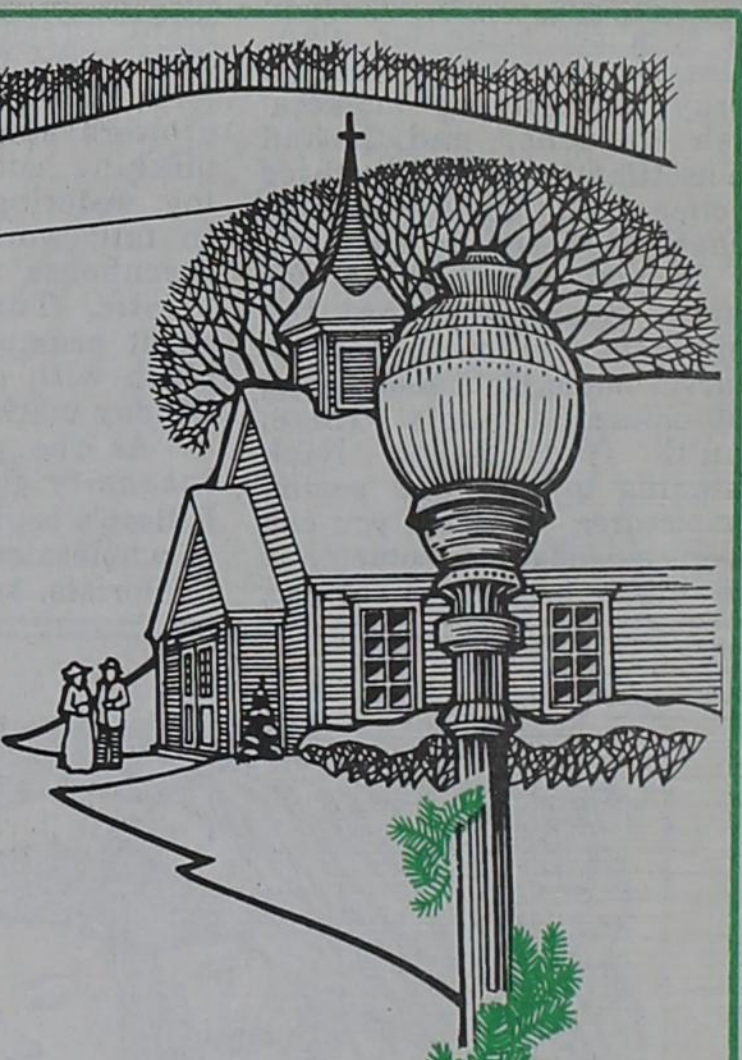
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business a snap for us.
Thanks!

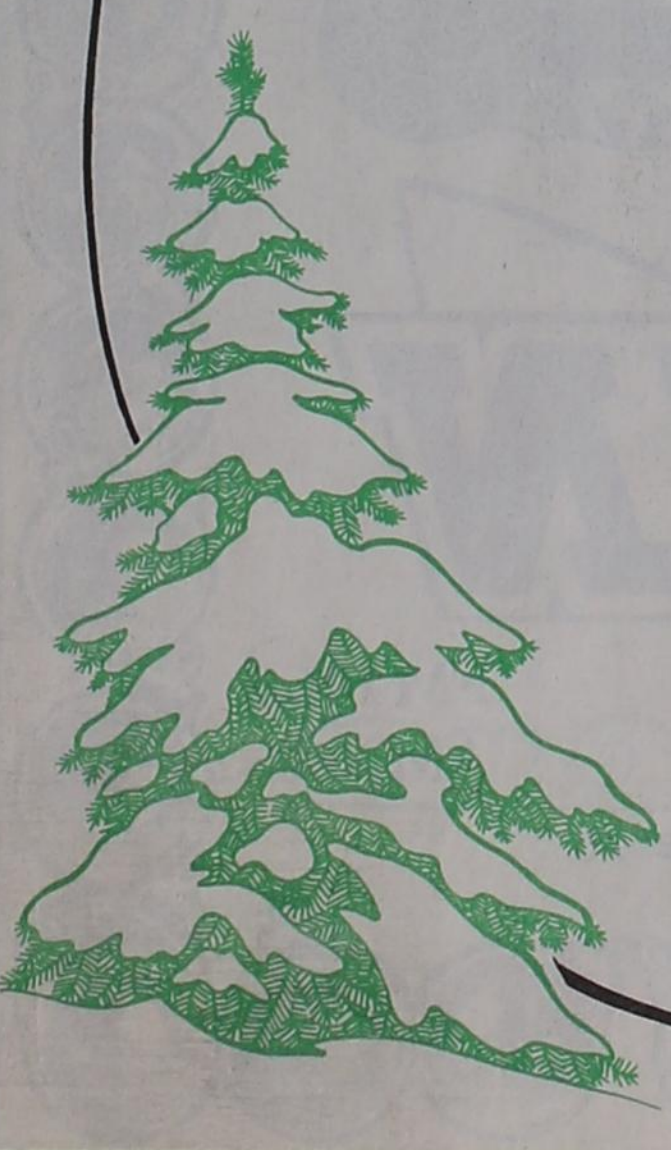
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It's Christmas On The Town


*The town is bright with Christmas lights
And sounds of celebration.
The windows are a wonder,
With their cheerful decoration,
People's hearts are happy,
And joy is in the air.
It's Christmas everywhere!*

*Our heartfelt thanks to all our friends,
Whether far or near.
We wish you Merry Christmas,
And a wonderful new year!*



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IN FLOWER INDUSTRY

Ellisons Introduce New Marketing Ideas

Step into the greenhouses during the annual Poinsettia Celebration at Ellison's Greenhouses in Brenham, and get ready to be dazzled. Poinsettias--some 50,000 plants representing about 25 varieties--fill the benches and tumble from hanging baskets in waves of gorgeous color.



JIM AND ELLEN ELLISON get into the holiday spirit. When the couple began opening their greenhouses for tours in 1990, others in the wholesale plant industry thought they were crazy. Ellison is a former Bovina resident.

nurseries in Austin, San Antonio, Bryan-College Station, Dallas, Fort Worth, and Houston. Some plants will flaunt their beauty at the Governor's Mansion and the State Capitol; others will decorate the George Bush Presidential Library at Texas A&M University in College Station.

Although Ellison's ships the majority of poinsettias by mid-December, the color in the greenhouses only momentarily wanes. Daffodils, hyacinths, tulips, and miniature roses welcome flower-lovers in February. Easter lilies unfurl in March. Hydrangeas announce May. Azaleas, kalanchoes, gloxinias, African violets, chrysanthemums, and foliage plants create a sensation with tourists nearly every month of the year. In all, the dedicated team at Ellison's grows 135 species of flowering and foliage plants that develop and bloom at just the right times.

The ongoing bouquet beckons families, garden clubs, and school kids, who inspect the flower-filled greenhouses on guided tours given year round. The 45-minute treks begin and end at Ellison's Garden and Tourism Center, a shoppers' haven filled with gift items as well as plants. (The only time shoppers can purchase gift items and plants at the greenhouses is during the November Celebration.)

The program for visitors evolved after Ellison's 20th-anniversary open house in 1990. The event created a milestone in the Texas wholesale greenhouse industry, according to PJ Ellison Kalil, who heads the business started by her parents. "When we opened our doors to tourists, people in the industry thought we were crazy," she says. "Now, they call us innovative and progressive. Educating the public about the plants we grow and how we grow them is one way we differ from other wholesalers."

PJ oversees 40 employees, five acres of greenhouses (including a branch operation east of town where 50,000 more poinsettias are being groomed for future markets), and the Garden and Tourism Center. Jim and Ellen Ellison, co-founders of the business, serve as advisors.

In the 1960s, shortly before Jim and Ellen started their mom-and-pop enterprise, genetic botanists developed long-lasting poinsettia varie-

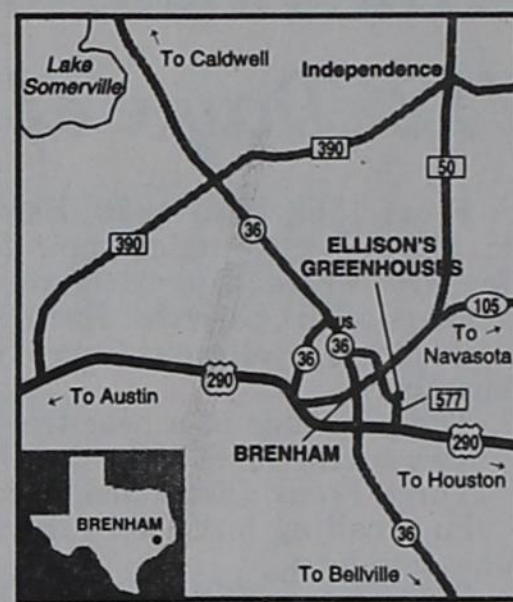


PJ ELLISON KALIL perambulates through the poinsettias (in February, she'll tiptoe through the tulips). PJ heads the business her parents started in the 1960s.

ties. Until then, poinsettias were almost impossible to ship, because their color faded quickly. The breakthrough opened the doors for the plants' burgeoning popularity. In 1998, says the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Americans bought about 70 million poinsettias to adorn their houses, churches, and offices. The same year, Texans spent a whopping \$13 million or so on the showy plants.

Although the poinsettia is a relatively new holiday symbol in this country, in Mexico and Central America, where the plants grow wild, folklore has long linked the Flores de Nochebuena (Flowers of the Holy Night) with Christmas. One story says that when a poor peasant girl offered the Christ child a bouquet of roadside weeds, the barren stalks miraculously burst into luminous red poinsettias.

Joel Roberts Poinsett, an amateur botanist, probably knew the legend. When his



five-year tour as America's first ambassador to Mexico ended in 1829, he returned to his South Carolina plantation with poinsettias he had spotted growing near Taxco. Word of the brilliant red "Poinsett plants" quickly spread through horticultural circles. Although a German taxonomist tagged the species *Euphorbia pulcherrima* in 1833, "poinsettia" has remained the common name in English-speaking countries.

But whatever name you call it, no other plant announces the holidays like the poinsettia. Red poinsettias enliven a gala; pink poinsettias brighten a room; white selections seem to simulate freshly fallen snow. And what could ignite the holiday spirit faster than strolling through greenhouse after greenhouse aglow with this flamboyant holiday herbage.

"Most wholesaler growers just produce plants," says PJ. "Ellison's though, is in the business of beauty. At the Poinsettia Celebration and throughout the year, our goal is to create a memory."

Shopping savvy: select poinsettias with fully colored, expanded bracts whose dense, dark green foliage extends to the stem's base. Tightly clustered, yellow "buds" (in the center) indicate freshness. Never buy poinsettias with overly dry or waterlogged soil.

Looking around, it's easy to see why the poinsettia is America's biggest-selling flowering potted plant. Vibrant specimens welcome the holidays in bright red, pale pink, muted coral, and creamy ivory. Close inspection reveals poinsettias with marbled bracts in combinations of crimson-and-white and pink-and-cream.

Other discoveries include poinsettias with "petals" shaped like oak leaves or curling in clusters like some roses. To the delight of visitors, other plants enrich the breathtaking scene. Chrysanthemums--numbering thousands--boast pompon blooms in lavender, lilac, gold, and white.

Christmas cacti catch the eye with flowering cascades in coral and pink. Azaleas, too, are memory-makers, especially tabletop varieties with red-and-white-speckled blooms. "These flowers look like peppermint candy," says Marge Harris, a watercolor artist from Houston.

But for the 5,000 or more visitors who attended the two-day Poinsettia Celebration (November 20-21, 1999), exploring the greenhouses on the self-guided strolls is only part of the fun. In the indoor promenade connecting the greenhouses, browsers inspect candles, chimes, Christmas ornaments, and other gift items.

At a display of exquisite new poinsettia varieties, visitors chat with plant breeders from California and other states before casting ballots for their favorite introductions. Just ahead, in an area set aside for plant sales, shoppers select from an array of hanging baskets, dish gardens, and potted poinsettias ranging from three inches tall to Texas-size beauties towering to six feet.

If you are looking for Santa, meander toward the poinsettia tree, a 15-foot-tall marvel made from more than 450 poinsettia plants. There, you'll find Saint Nick listening to kids and posing for pictures. Nearby, you can savor a wedge of homemade pie, nibble Christmas cookies,

or devour lip-smacking good barbecue while enjoying performances of Christmas music. Lectures by horticulturists on plant-related topics provide opportunities for learning.

Ellison's information booth is the place to glean poinsettia facts and fancy during the weekend festivities. Look for a display of poinsettia-growers' paraphernalia and for Cathy Ganske, an experienced greenhouse technician known to Celebration-goers as "the lady with the answers."

Cathy usually brandishes a ruby-red beauty while explaining poinsettia physiology. "The colorful parts of the poinsettia are modified leaves called bracts," she says. "The true flowers are the little yellow bud-like berries in the center." Cathy also shows bystanders the steps Ellison's follows to coax three-inch cuttings into glorious holiday plants.

"We begin in March when the starter stock arrives from plant breeders," she says. Once these patented cuttings form roots, onlookers learn, growers start a regimen of pinching, cutting, transplanting, watering, and fertilizing. In fall, workers shroud the greenhouse roofs with black plastic. Turning day into night prompts poinsettias to blush with color in time for holiday markets.

As the poinsettias' hues intensify in November, Ellison's begins shipping them to wholesalers for distribution to florists, supermarkets, and



For unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given:
and the government shall
be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be
called Wonderful, Counsellor,
The mighty God,
The everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace.

— Isaiah 9:6

Bless you for your kindness throughout this past year.
It has meant a lot to us.
Merry Christmas to all.

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Happy Holidays!



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KNOWN IN MEXICO as Flores de Nochebuena, or Flowers of the Holy Night, poinsettias grow wild south of the Rio Grande. Tamer varieties of this wildly popular plant lure visitors to Brenham each year for the Poinsettia Celebration at Ellison's Greenhouses.

Jack Patterson Recounts Christmas '44 in Germany

We grew up poor, Ona and I, in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Georgia. But we didn't know we were poor until we were grown up, got married, and left there.

I was the 11th child in a family of 19. Fifteen of the children lived to be grown. I know what it's like to sleep at the foot of the bed. There were sometimes as many as four of us kids in a bed at one time.

We lived in the last house in Hell's Hollow in Fannin County, Georgia, on the border between Georgia and Tennessee. If you were in a wagon and were planning to go further on up into the hills from our house, you had to stop and get out and walk the rest of the way. So I guess you could say that our place was pretty remote.

Each one of us had a nail on the mantle up over the big fire place and that's where we'd hang up our stockings for Christmas. We each got a stick of hard candy and an orange, and that was a real treat. Oranges were special and we were sure glad to get them. The only time we ever saw an orange was at Christmas time. It was better than all those electronic toys that kids get for Christmas now days.

As one of the younger kids, I had to learn to hold my own with the older ones. Hunting, shooting and fishing was a way of life for us. We didn't do it just for fun. We learned to hunt and fish as soon as we were big enough, so we would have enough to eat. You had to be able to shoot a rabbit in the head because the body was going to be part of your dinner. I guess that's why I still enjoy hunting and fishing. It's in my blood.

Growing up under those circumstances, was probably the Lord's way of preparing me for that memorable Christmas of 1944 when I was in Germany helping General Patton try to stop the



JACK PATTERSON

 Germans at the Battle of the Bulge. The Germans launched their surprise attack on December 16, working their way through the Ardennes Forest to force that bulge in the Allied line from Belgium and Luxembourg to a depth of about 60 miles.

The winter of '44-'45 was the worst winter on record in Germany. It wasn't windy like it is here, so the snow came straight down and it was knee deep. I was never so cold in my life.

The reverberating roar of those guns and exploding shells went on continuously all day long without stopping. The noise slacked off a little bit after dark, but not much. The constant roar and the

cold really took its toll. Our forces finally got it ironed out by about the end of January 1945. That was my most miserable and memorable Christmas.

I missed getting home for about three Christmases in a row. I went into the service just before Christmas '42, and got out in September '45. But the real heroes were the ones who gave their lives or came home crippled up for life.

After that experience, those Christmases back home in the Blue Ridge Mountains with 13 kids getting an orange in their stockings, seemed mighty close to heaven on earth.

---Jack Patterson



May the magic and mirth of the holidays bring many happy surprises!



"When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."
 —Matthew 2:10



May you, and those dear to you, be filled with the joy of the Three Wise Men on that first Christmas night, and may the true meaning of our Savior's birth guide you, and bring you peace.

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FRIONA/BOVINA DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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MOSES HAVING TURNED HIS ROD INTO A SERPENT BEFORE PHARAOH, THE EGYPTIAN RULER HAS NOW SENT FOR HIS SORCERERS...

WE AWAIT THY COMMAND, O MIGHTY RULER OF THE NILE!

TURN THY RODS INTO SERPENTS!

THE ISRAELITES THINK TO CONFOUND ME WITH THEIR MAGIC! NOW-

HOW SAYEST THOU NOW?!

AS THE RIGID SNAKES HIT THE FLOOR, THEY COME TO LIFE AND WRIGGLE!

Next Week UNHEARD-OF PERFORMANCE!!

JOHN LEHTI

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Lilah Gaye Gee Presents "A Nostalgic Christmas Memory"

I remember with nostalgia that perfect night more than 80 years ago -- the night my Mother, Dad and I went to the Dunbar Community Christmas tree and program. Dunbar was located in a rural area near Altus, Oklahoma. This was where I started to school in a two room building.

"Is it time to go to the Christmas tree now?" I repeatedly asked my dad. "As soon as I get Old Prince hitched to the buggy, we will start," he replied.

Mother heated bricks on the coal stove. These were well-wrapped and placed on the floor of the buggy to keep our feet warmer. She sang "Silent Night, Holy Night" as she finished her chores.

The sounds of Prince's nickering, his hooves crunching through the snow, and my Dad's whistling only added to my excitement.

At last Dad came inside, stamping the snow off his boots. The winter cold that blew in with him contrasted sharply to the warmth of his smile as he lifted me to his arms to carry me out to the buggy. There I was snugly seated between my loving parents.

I gazed at the star-studded sky above a winter wonder-land -- I was completely happy! Feelings of contentment and security are forever etched in my memories of that time. No amount of cold wind and snow can erase them.

The creaking of the buggy wheels and the slap-slap of Prince's leather harness were background sounds which accompanied my feelings of bliss.

Today I am nostalgic and happy to recall the joy, peace and trust that I felt that night so long ago. I wonder what gifts were in my Christmas packages -- I have no idea! I do remember the tree decorated with REAL candles and strings of popcorn -- yes, and Santa Claus.

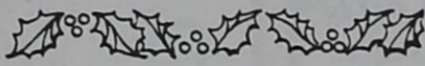
Never will I forget that aura of total serenity and happiness. Aren't we still wishing for these same intangible gifts as we celebrate this last Christmas of the century?

I wish you a Merry Christmas and all these gifts of love, peace, joy, and serenity with trust and security in the future.

--LILAH GAYE GEE



LILAH GAYE & J. T. GEE



Editor's note: Lilah Gaye Gee has resided in Parmer County for the past 67 years. She came with her late husband J.T. to Bovina in 1932, where he was Bovina principal and she taught, from 1932-35.

The Gees moved to Friona in 1935, where both spent the remainder of their teaching careers. Mr. Gee passed away in 1994.

At age 88, Mrs. Gee is today one of our area's honored elder citizens. Her "Christmas Memory" presented here dates back to the early days of this century in 1916.



The Legend Of The Holly

On the first Christmas night, when the shepherds went to the manger, a little lamb following them was caught by the holly thorns. The red berries are the blood drops that froze on the branches that long-ago night.

Cecelia Schueler Recalls A Memorable Christmas Trip

My most memorable Christmas happened when I was in grade school. We lived in the Bethel Community west of Dimmitt. Our parents decided to take our older sister and my twin brother and I to see some friends and grandparents for Christmas.

We went to Little Rock, Arkansas to visit our former neighbors. It rained the whole time we were there. Their home didn't have a fenced yard and a river ran at the edge of the back yard. The rain kept coming and the river kept getting closer and closer to their house. We kids had never seen so much water.

After we left there, we went to visit our grandparents who lived east of Quitman, Texas which is about 100 miles northeast of Dallas. We spent a nice Christmas with them, but then a big ice storm struck and everything was heavily coated in ice.

Our Dad needed to get back to work and we had already missed some days of school. So after a few days we started home. Well, there are a lot of hills in East Texas. We would creep up a hill, only to find ourselves slipping and sliding down the other side. Thank goodness, the speed limit back then was only about 45 miles per hour, so the few cars on the road were already driving pretty slowly.

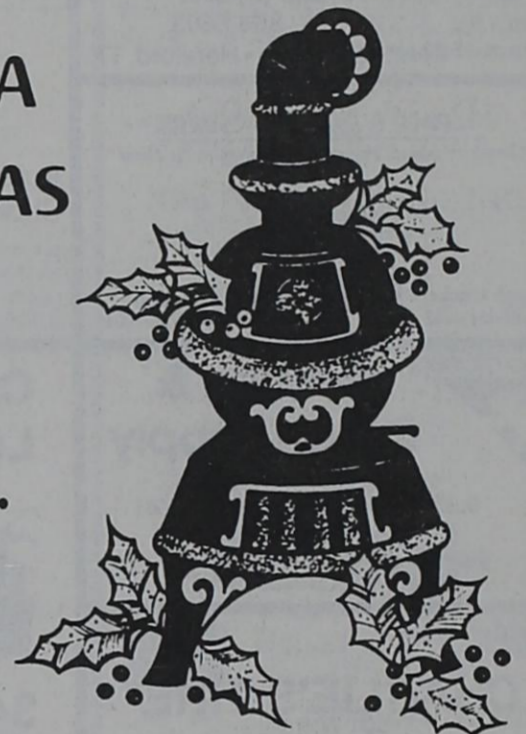
When we got back here, the flat lands of the Texas Panhandle never looked so good. We were all happy and thankful to arrive home safely. Needless to say, I can remember only a very few of the gifts we received that year except for some silver dollars from our grandparents and some angels who were watching over us all.

--Cecelia Schueler

Wishing You A Cozy Christmas

With Warm Wishes.

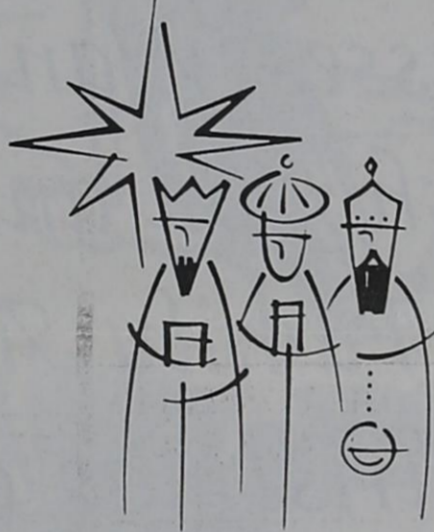
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- Bonnie Clayton
County Judge
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- Tom Ware
Commissioner
- Anne Norton
County Treasurer
- John Tannahill
Commissioner
- Charles Aycock
County Attorney
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District Attorney
- Walt Yerger
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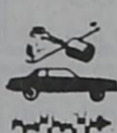
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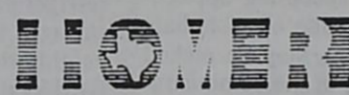
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B-tfnc-8/27

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F-tfnc-11/19

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B-2tc-12/17-12/24

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F-8tc-12/10 thru 1/28

D.O.N. OPPORTUNITY
with an established non-profit campus of care including Independent & Assisted Living as well as a 79-bed Nursing Home. We require strong management skills along with a thorough knowledge of long-term care. Located 50 miles south of Amarillo.

Please fax resume and salary history to:
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REAL ESTATE

HOME FOR SALE-BOVINA
....Nice, spacious 3 BR, 2 BA, brick home, central heat, refrigerated air, built-ins, lots of storage, fenced back yard, good neighborhood. Call for details, Byrd Realty, 1-888-999-3846.
B-tfnc-5/14

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice to Bidders

Bovina ISD is accepting sealed bids for an underground sprinkler system for the high school football field. For specifications contact Doyle Garner at (806) 238-1336. The deadline for submitting bids is 3:00 p.m. on January 7, 2000. Bids will be considered at a regular board meeting on January 10, 2000. Bovina ISD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in part or as a whole. All bidders must be properly licensed and bonded.
B-2tc-12/17-12/24

HOUSES FOR SALE
3 bedrooms, 2-1/2 brick with fireplace. Central air, new carpet, 2,000 sq. feet. Priced to sell at \$60,000.
3 bedrooms, 2 bath brick home with fireplace. Nice, quiet neighborhood, \$59,500.
250-2873 or 250-2584 for appointment. Dale Hart Realty.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice to Bidders

Bovina ISD is accepting sealed bids on moving and refurbishing the football stands and rebuilding the press box. For specifications, contact Stan Miller at (806) 238-1336. The deadline for submitting bids is 3:00 p.m. on January 7, 2000. Bids will be considered at a regular board meeting on January 10, 2000. Bovina ISD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in part or as a whole. All bidders must be properly licensed and bonded.
B-2tc-12/17-12/24

Shot's Tree Trimming
(505) 762-0060
Clovis, N.M.
F-tfnc-8/6

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- ◆ Low Stock Requirement
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Muleshoe, Texas
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We welcome this opportunity to thank all our clients at this most festive time.

We wish you the very best for the new year, and we look forward to serving you in the future.

B.K. Buske, GRI
Broker/Owner
Home: 250-2505

Hal Ratcliff
Home: 250-3493

Janet Buske
Broker/Owner
Home: 250-2505



Hwy. 60 & Main • Phone: 250-2745



Choice lots, Western Addition, 100' or 200' lots....CALL FOR PRICE
Main Street Lot.....\$3,750

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611 West 11th, Friona
Also, Insurance Needs: *Health
*Medicare Supplement *Crop *Life *Annuity

PARMER CO.--897 acres, 567 acres of C.R.P., 330 acres of native grass with house (rough), shop, barn & pens, on Hwy. 60 between Black and Summerfield.

LAMB Co.--11 circles, all fenced and watered for cattle, 3-1/2 circles in Bluestem, balance in cult., excellent cattle or farming operation. WE HAVE other irrigated and dryland farms, ranches in Texas & New Mexico and a "state of the art" grain elevator on the North Plains.

SCOTT LAND COMPANY

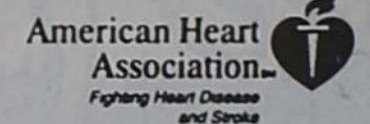
Ben G. Scott (806)647-4375 day or night
www.scottlandcompany.com

F-tfnc-12/3

FOR SALE....Nice three bedroom, 1-3/4 bathrooms, brick house on corner lot. Call 247-3511.
F-tfnc-5/21

SERVICES

Call your local used cow dealer for 7 days a week dead stock removal. Serving the cattlemen for the past twenty years. Call 247-2563 or 1-800-692-4043.
42-tfnc



It keeps more than memories alive.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Valor Telecommunications of Texas, LP, ("Valor"), formerly known as dba Texas Operating Co., LP, has entered into a contract with GTE Southwest Incorporated to purchase the following exchanges in Parmer County: Bovina, Friona. On December 13, 1999, Valor filed an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("Commission") requesting approval of the acquisition and issuance of a certificate from the Commission to provide telephone service to the listed exchange(s). If approved, GTE will cease to be the local telephone service provider in this area and Valor will assume the responsibility of providing local exchange service in this area. The Valor application has been assigned Docket No. 21834. GTE's application to remove the exchange(s) from its certificate has been assigned Docket No. 21830. The Commission intends to investigate the acquisition and its impact on the public interest pursuant to Sections 14.101 and 54.051-54.054 of the Public Utility Regulatory Act.

Valor does not propose any increase in charges to customers in this application. If, in the future, the Company proposes a rate change, customers will be given notice at that time.

In addition, Valor seeks designation by the Commission as both an eligible telecommunications provider ("ETP") and as an eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") within the service area acquired from GTE, to permit it to receive state and federal universal service support. The Valor applications have been assigned Docket Nos. 21832 and 21833. GTE also seeks to remove the service area sold to Valor from the area in which it has been designated as an ETP and ETC. The GTE application has been assigned Docket No. 21831.

All of the applications and the proposed tariffs are available for inspection and copying at the Central Records Office of the Public Utility Commission of Texas in Austin, Texas. The Valor applications and tariffs are also available at the office of counsel, Brook Bennett Brown, McGinnis, Lochridge & Kilgore, L.L.P., 919 Congress Avenue, 1300 Capitol Center, Austin, Texas 78701. The GTE applications are available for inspection at GTE's offices at 816 Congress Avenue, Suite 1500, Austin, Texas 78701.

Persons with questions regarding the Valor proceeding should contact Mike Page with Valor at (202) 466-0940. Persons with questions regarding the GTE proceeding should call Carl Erhart with GTE at (512) 477-8986. Persons who wish to intervene in either proceeding or comment on the action sought should identify the relevant docket number and contact the Public Utility Commission at Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas, 78711-3326, or you may call the Public Utility Commission office of Consumer Protection at (512) 936-7120 or toll free, at (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones ("TTY") may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136 or use Relay Texas at (800) 735-2989 to reach the Commission's toll free number (888) 782-8477. The deadline for intervention in these proceedings is February 22, 2000, and you must send a letter requesting intervention to the Commission which is received by that date.

NOW HIRING!!!

Reasonable pay

3rd shift clean-up (Excel-Friona)

Please come by our office and pick up your application today.

T&G Service Company
1304 W. 9th
Friona, TX

Monday-Thursday
7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Friday
7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

F-4tc-12/17-12/24-1/7-1/14

Snead Realty

- 908 W. 11th St. Phone 250-2345 Fax: 250-3682
Gary Snead, MFLA, MSA Home Phone: 265-3383
- 2 BR, 1 bath, small rent property.....MAKE OFFER
 - 10 acres, on highway, would make nice home site, new listing....\$13,300
 - 3-BR, 1 bath, 1 car garage, clean, NEW LISTING.....SOLD.....\$36,000
 - 3 BR, 2 baths, 2 car garage, BV, new tile flooring, quiet street....\$68,400
 - 3 BR, 1 bath, ready to sell, new listing.....\$35,000
 - 3-BR, 2-baths, 2 living areas, 2 car, with large shop, large corner lot, basement, plus garden shed.....SOLD.....\$112,000
 - 4 BR, 2-3/4 baths, 2 storages with garage, corner lot.....\$85,000
 - 3 BR, 1 bath, family room, living room, corner lot, SD/SW.....\$36,900
 - Small office/studio with 1/2 bath to be moved.....\$5,000
 - 298 acres with CRP, 2 wells, a real deal.....at \$400/Acre
 - 3-BR, 1-3/4 baths, one car, large utility, fence.....SOLD.....\$41,900
 - Country home, 5 acres, new in 1991, basement, with 2 car garage.
 - large shop plus large 2 car garage det.....\$195,000
 - 3 BR, 1 bath, large family room, storage, new listing.....\$39,500
 - 3-BR, 1 bath, storage building, unique.....SOLD.....\$28,900
 - 3 BR, 1-3/4 baths, 2 living areas, 2 car, 2 story, re-done.....\$79,200
 - 2 BR, 1 bath, 1 car, brick, fenced, patio.....\$37,000
 - 2 BR, 1 bath, newly re-done and nice.....\$27,000
 - 2 BR, 1 bath, 1 car, brick, good starter home.....\$37,000
 - 3-BR, 2-baths, permastone, large corner lot, near FHS.....SOLD.....\$49,900
 - 2 BR, 2-1/2 BA, brick home, ex. storage, cellar reduced.....\$59,760,\$64,900
 - 9.5 acres w/country home, 1.5 miles to Bovina, on highway.....\$65,000
 - 2-3 BR, 1 bath, metal, shop, 2-car-carport, nice & clean.....SOLD.....\$51,000
 - 3 BR, 1-3/4 baths, lg. corner lot, 2 car, ref. a/c, lg., shop, cellar.....\$54,900
 - Upstairs & downstairs apartment complex.....\$23,900
 - 3 BR, 2 baths, 2 car, fairly new, NEED TO SELL.....\$69,000

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1-888-363-7427
24 hours/ 7 days a week

"Special Y2K Announcement from Energas Company"

In the unlikely event you experience problems with your natural gas service throughout the evening of December 31, 1999, please call the above toll free number for general service inquires or emergencies.

In the event you have lost your telephone service, please go to the Friona Police Station located at 1614 W. 10th Street to report service problems or emergencies.

• Always remember, if you smell natural gas, do not operate anything that could produce a spark. Leave your home and report the situation to us as soon as possible.

Scooter Russell Tells Her Favorite Christmas Story

by SCOOTER RUSSELL

Christmas is here and a time for giving, sharing, loving and remembering friends and family.

Everyone, even though times are rushed, find the time to remember Christmases of long ago and what Christmas meant to us during our growing-up years.

Thinking about years past, we wonder how parents provided for their families during those years of depression, and how they managed presents at Christmas time.

I had three older brothers, Fred, Preston and Oliver, who made Christmas so very real for me and my sister Jane.

I remember one year at Christmas time there was a heavy layer of snow on the ground, but it seemed that Santa Claus always found our house on Christmas Eve, even though we lived thirty miles from town. Our playmates were a little envious, because Santa Claus always came to our house on Christmas Eve, and most of them had a late visit from him and had to wait until Christmas morning to find their gifts.

One evening my brother Oliver came running to the house, all excited and telling us that he'd seen tracks in the snow up in the fields, so we just knew Santa was making his rounds.

Jane and I always believed brother Oliver, because he never "storied" to us, and needless to say, we were beside ourselves with excitement.

When supper was over and we were sitting around anxiously awaiting Santa's arrival, the brothers went outside to see if they could see Santa coming, and sure enough, our greyhounds began to bark and became

jubilant over the movement, so we knew things were beginning to happen.

Oliver came into the house and told Jane and me that Santa was outside and for us to hide. We always did this when we thought he was near. We crawled under the kitchen table and closed our eyes.

It wasn't long until we heard Santa enter the house and heard the rustling of the presents as they were put under the tree.

We heard him wishing everyone a Merry Christmas before he left and we knew when the door closed we could come out.

I remember the thrill of those presents under our beautiful Christmas tree, and how we went to work opening the gifts. It always seemed to be just what we wanted, and the dolls were played with until we wore them out, because Christmas was the only time of year that we received toys.

I remember that Santa never left much for Mother and Daddy, and it bothered me a little, but they seemed so happy and excited over our gifts that the wonder didn't last long.

Looking back, I know how fortunate and blessed we children were to have our parents, Mr. and Mrs. Birch West, who made Christmas time such a special time and gave us so much fun, laughter, and provided us with a sense of security that surrounded our lives with constant love and these feelings have lasted a lifetime.

These things were gifts that couldn't be bought in any store and during this time of year, we pause to give thanks for our special memories of Christmas in years gone by.

May your Christmas be full of fun and good times, and the new year a happy one!



Piercing The Night

by Wayne Bristow

(Wayne Bristow grew up in Muleshoe, Texas and was a childhood buddy of Star/Blade publisher Bill Ellis. Rev. Bristow is widely-known as an evangelist and is the founder of "Total Life International Ministries" based in Edmond, Oklahoma.)

What was the star all about?
Why did angels look down and shout?
What made shepherds stand still to hear?
Why did the King tremble in fear?

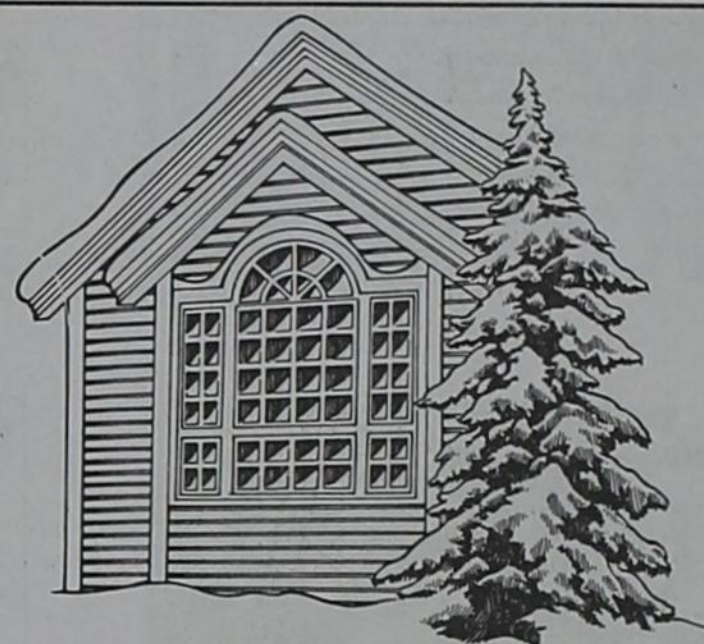
The answer is found in the test of time.
What one life has so affected yours and mine?
He was born to die that we may live.
The gift that lasts was His to give.

Was it just another birth
That stirred Heaven and Earth?
Could one small child, in a bed of hay,
Bring wise men rushing to where He lay?

Of His worth, mocking men are unaware.
That He died for them, they little care.
Yet He calls; stand still to hear.
He has conquered night and casts out fear.

Or was God at work that far-off night,
Piercing the darkness with Eternal Light?
Was this the unfolding of His own plan
To meet our need by becoming man?

Because He loved before we knew,
The Christmas message endured and grew.
Be still; look up on a cold winter night.
Darkness is pierced by Eternal Light.



HOLIDAY Peace

Our thoughts are with you throughout this season of hope and brotherhood. May you experience the true spirit and meaning of the holiday.

God bless you.

Ellis-Blackwell Funeral Home
815 Main • Friona, TX
247-2729

Two Local Ladies Tell Their Favorite Christmas Memories

Emmagene Calaway and Edna Scott grew up in the same community, Hollene, which is east of Broadview, New Mexico, and not far from Parmer County.

They were friends during all of those years, and remember spending nights with each other and going all the way through school together.

Both ladies also remember the community "get-togethers," where everyone gathered and brought presents for their families. Gifts were hung from the huge cedar tree that was cut from the "breaks" (canyons) nearby. There were gifts for both the adults and children.

Emmagene's parents were Charlie and Edith Sheppard, and she has two sisters: Eris Pullman, who lives in Hereford, and Audine Wells, who lives in Midland. (Mrs. Wells is a former Friona resident. Her husband Bill Wells was Friona Postmaster for a short time.)

Emmagene recalls the excitement of one Christmas in particular, when the family gathered at the big party and saw toys hanging all over the tree. She watched and wished, as she saw a beautiful doll hanging on the tree. Sure enough, when the gifts were all distributed, she received the doll!

Edna remembers one year that stands out in her mind as one of the most memorable. Her parents were Sam and Mattie Campbell, who lived on a farm and had eight children. She and her brother, Edgar, and sister Mattie, were the youngest.

The family had a big red barn on their farm, and one could drive in it, and there were bins of grain on the side. The children loved to play in the grain. She said "Papa didn't like for us to play on the mounds of grain, because he wanted them "just so" when it came time for him to scoop up the grain.

One day, a week or so before Christmas, they were playing on the grain and uncovered a big, red wagon. They got the wagon out and played with it every day, but were very careful to bury it and make the mound perfect each time, so no one would know.

The night of the Christmas party, the kids were ecstatic when they gathered for the special community event, and saw a big red wagon hanging on the Christmas tree. When the gifts were handed out, they received the wagon.

They kept their secret about the wagon for years, but that was the night they found out...all about Santa Claus.

--SCOOTER RUSSELL

Peace, Love
and Joy

Merry Christmas!
Thank you for your support and the opportunity to serve your health care needs this past year.

The Board of Directors and Employees of
PARMER COUNTY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

COUNTRY Christmas Greetings

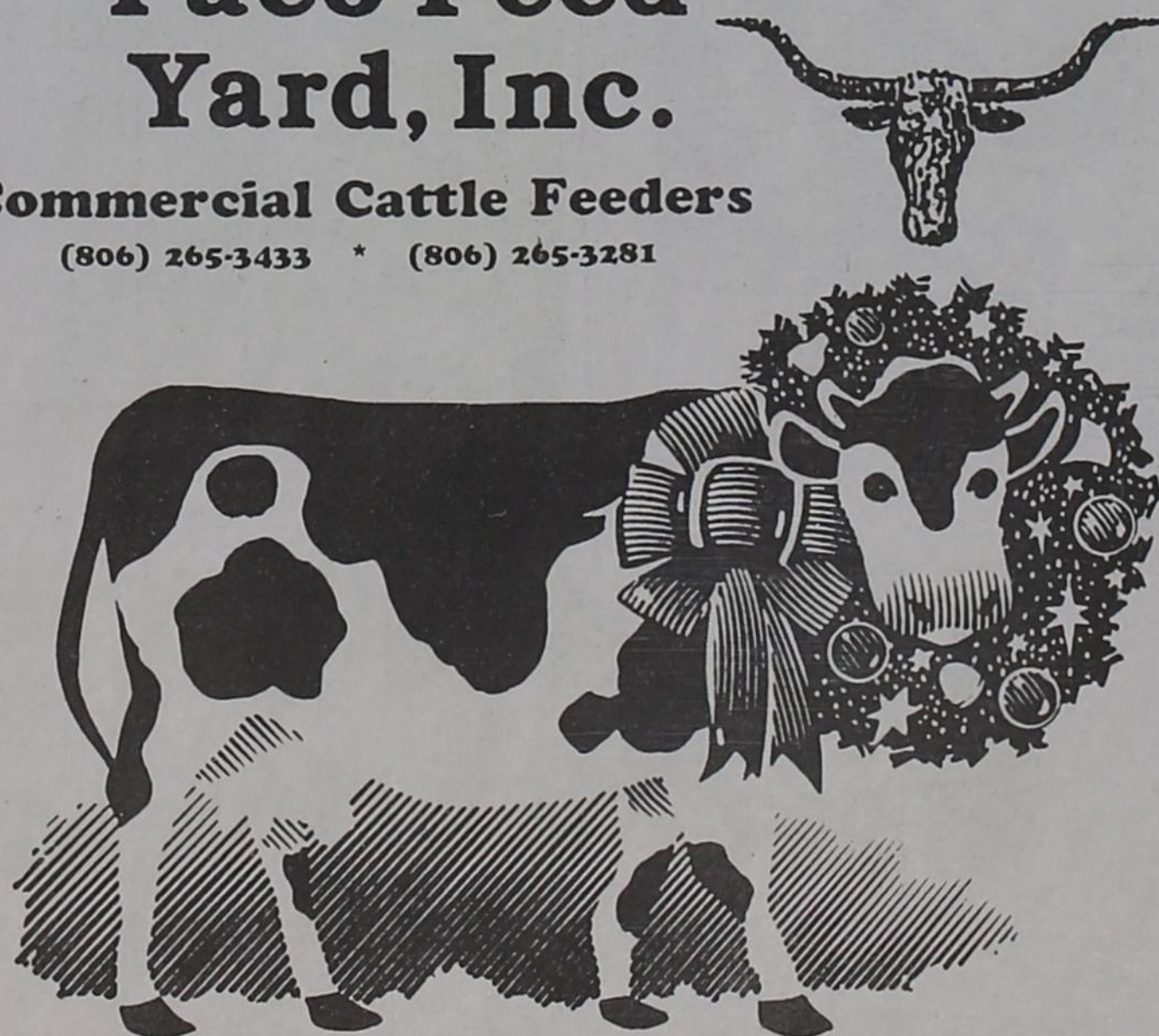
We're wishing you lots of wholesome country cheer. Hope you enjoy every ounce of your holidays.

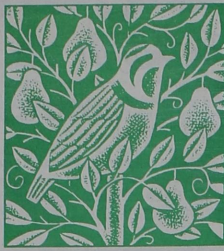
Thanks for all the kindness you've shown us.

Paco Feed Yard, Inc.

Commercial Cattle Feeders

(806) 265-3433 * (806) 265-3281





TWELVE DAYS of CHRISTMAS

...On the twelfth day of Christmas
 my true love sent to me,
 twelve pipers piping,
 eleven drummers drumming,
 ten lords a-leaping,
 nine ladies dancing,
 eight maids a-milking,
 seven swans a-swimming,
 six geese a-laying,
 five golden rings,
 four calling birds,
 three french hens,
 two turtle doves,
 and a partridge in a pear tree.

May all the days of the season be filled with happiness, good cheer, and delightful surprises for you and those you love. Thank you for bringing us the gift of your patronage this year.

EXCEL
 CORPORATION

