

The Brackett News

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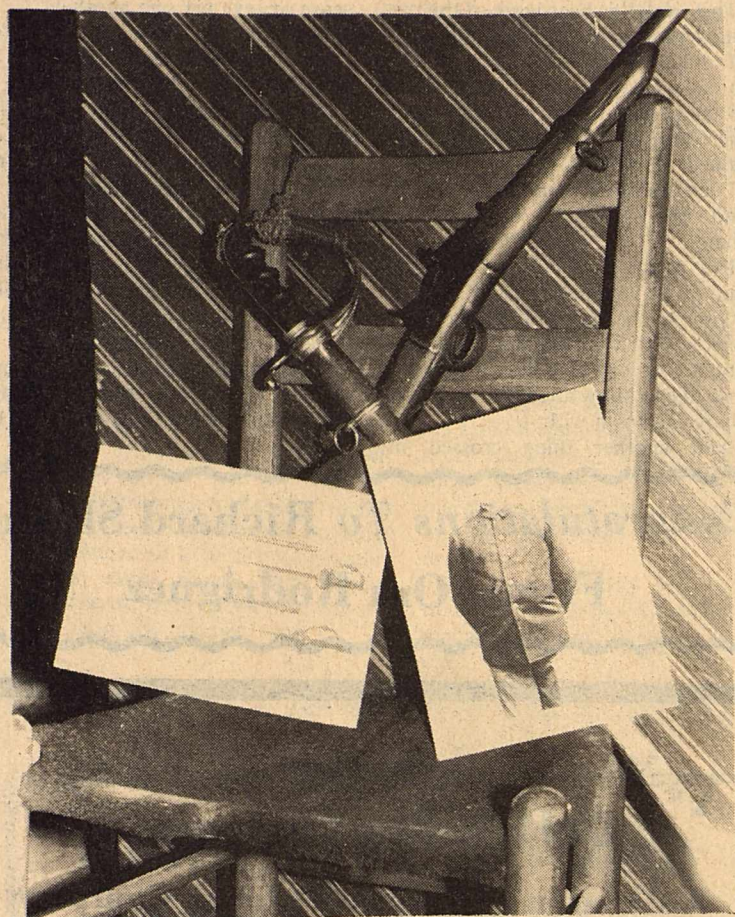
Vol. 1 No. 4

Brackettville, (Fort Clark), Kinney County, Texas

March 2, 1989

6 Pages

The Saga of the Swords



The citizens of Kinney County may never again see the swords their ancestors bought for the peace Bullis brought.

Area residents reacted angrily Wednesday, March 1, to news that the two ornate ceremonial swords presented to Lt. John Bullis by citizens of West Texas and Kinney County won't be coming out of storage for a temporary showing at Fort Clark Springs' Guardhouse Museum, but will instead remain in a box, undisplayed, at the Witte Museum in San Antonio.

The Fort Clark Springs Association, in conjunction with officers of the Ft. Clark Historical Society who oversee the Guardhouse Jail Museum at the old cavalry post, requested a temporary loan of the swords for display during the annual Trooper's Reunion and area school tours in April.

The request was denied because for former jail-turned museum, "falls outside of our guidelines established by our Board of Trustees," according to Gabriela Truly, assistant registrar for Loans and Exhibitions.

"My brother (Paul Hill of Castroville), and I have been to the Witte Museum three different times and asked about the swords. Every time they just give us the runaround," said Mrs. J. Lee Ballantyne, a 25 year retired veteran Brackettville teacher. "It's a heritage the county ought to have - or at least be able to see sometimes. It doesn't seem to mean anything to them, what the swords mean to the people out here."

In 1882, the newspapers of southwest Texas, including the Quill of Castroville, the Hesperian of Uvalde, the San Antonio Express, the Fort Clark News, the Bandera Bugle, and others, raised money to present Lt. John Bullis with a sword in appreciation of his relentless pursuit, with the aid of his Seminole-Negro Indian Scouts, of hostile bands of Comanche and Apache Indians raiding West Texas settlers.

The ceremonial saber, made by Bent and Bush of Boston, in ornamented with the Goddess of Liberty and an American Eagle. The guard is illustrated by a camp scene in the Chenati Mountains with the inscription: "Bullis, the friend of the frontier." On the scabbard is a portrait of Bullis with the words: "He protected our homes—our homes are open to him," and "Presented to John L. Bullis by the people of Western Texas."

The blade is a continuous etched battle scene of Indians and soldiers.

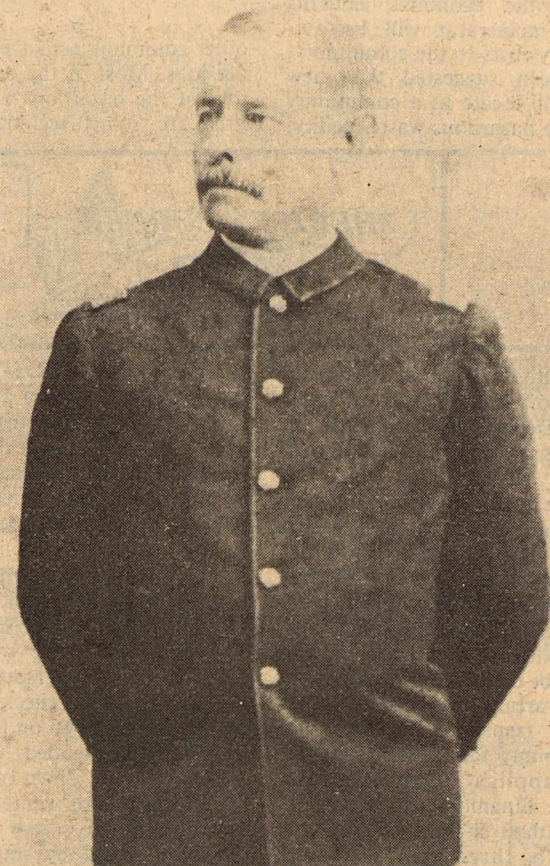
Not to be outdone, the citizens of Kinney County also raised money, and presented Bullis with a silver saber scarcely less beautiful than the first, with the inscription: "Presented by the People of Kinney County as a token of their undying gratitude."

A San Antonio News-Express story by Nelson Allen, said, "San Antonio Museum Association officials admitted the swords were in storage and might only be displayed during certain "historical" exhibits. No such exhibits are currently under consideration."

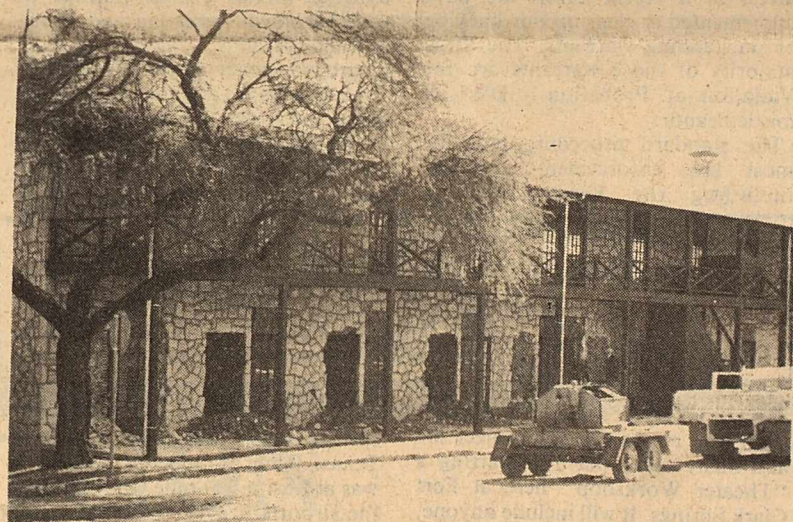
"Museums like that one have all sorts of things in the back rooms the public never sees," said Don Swanson, curator of the Ft. Clark museum. "I think the viewing public should have a say on what is displayed. It shouldn't just be up to what the museum staff wants to display."

"They're too pretty to be just buried in a box somewhere," Mrs. Ballantyne said.

By Penny Nixon



Sad to see Lt. John Bullis transferred from Fort Clark to San Antonio, citizens of Kinney County and Western Texas bought him beautiful swords in 1882.



Motel Renovation

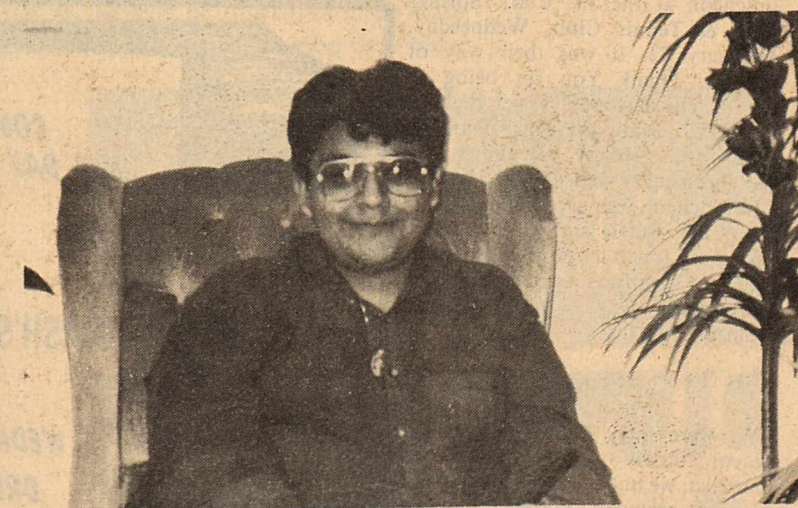
Renovations on Bullis Hall motel building are underway to give Fort Clark Springs members the quality accommodations they enjoy! The new rooms in Bullis Hall will have windows, better air conditioners, new wiring and plumbing fixtures, plus several new larger beds and interior furnishings.

The general contract for the renovation project was awarded to Bizzell Construction Company of Brackettville as the lowest bidder from a pool of six interested contractors. The electrical portion of the project was awarded to Morgan Electric from Uvalde, the lowest bidder of seven

companies seeking the rewiring contract.

Earlier plans to create larger rooms by combining end rooms have been set aside for financial and structural reasons. Instead, end rooms will be available as adjoining rooms for families and groups who wish to stay together, but enjoy the privacy of two rooms. The two ground-floor rooms will also be equipped for handicapped access.

Bullis Hall renovations will be complete for the General Membership Meeting at Fort Clark Springs on March 25, 1989. Patton Hall is open as usual.



Brackett News Welcomes Sports Reporter

Gus Garcia, 16, is a Junior at BHS. He has been the Band President for the past 2 years and is the Alternate Drummajor. He is also the Secretary for the Future Homemakers of America and is on the Student Council. He's been active in UIL competition and has recently won 6th place in Headline Writing.

Gus' hobbies consist of: reading, writing, sketching and meeting new and interesting people.

Gus' parents are Mr. and Mrs. Eloy Garcia and he has two sisters, Mary Jane and Andrea and has one older brother, Sonny, who is in the Army. When Gus was asked how he felt about being a sports reporter, he replied, "I like writing, so this helps me in my goal to being a journalist."

Gus will also entertain readers with his school update column called, "The Grapevine", that will begin in this issue.

Parents Get Free Lunch

Brackett I.S.D. will observe Public School Week, March 6 - 10. Any parent who would like to have lunch with his/her child is invited to call the school by 8:30 A.M. on the desired day to make a reservation. There will be no charge for parent lunches during Public School Week.

March 6 & 7, 1989, the Drug Free School Coordinators from Region XX in San Antonio will present drug awareness programs during the day

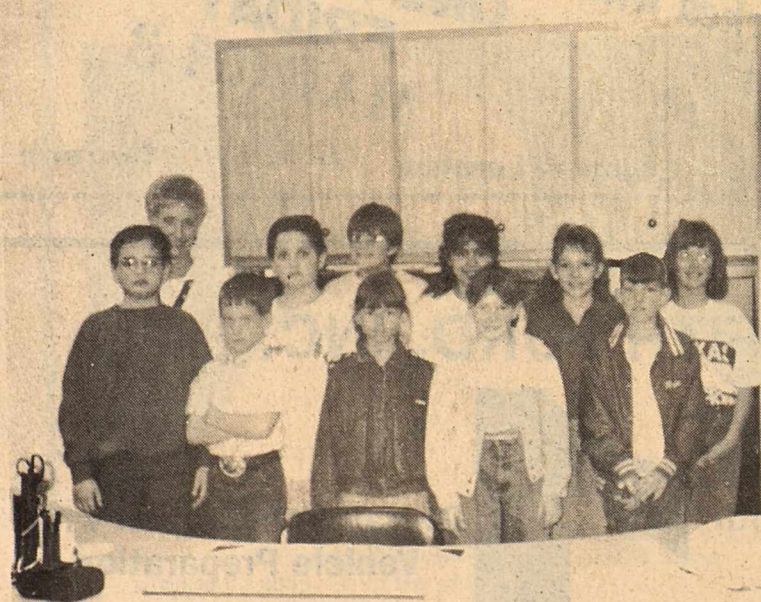
for all Brackett I.S.D. students. Monday, March 6, from 6 - 7 P.M. Brackett I.S.D. will host classroom visitations for all grade levels, Pre-K - 12. March 6, at 7:00 P.M. in the High School Auditorium, Wanda Moody and Sunny Pollak from Region XX will present a drug awareness program for adults. Brackett I.S.D. cordially invites all parents and Kinney County residents to take part in this exciting program.

File For School Board

Monday, February 20, 1989, was the first day for filing for one of the three at large positions on the Brackett Independent School District School Board. Applications for a place on the ballot will continue through March 21, 1989. Interested individuals may file at the Central

Office on Ann Street for the May 6, 1989, election.

Drawing for positions on the ballot will be held at 8:00 A.M. on March 23, 1989, in the Board Room. Any and all candidates, or their representative, are welcome to be present for the drawing.



Front Row: Michael Benacci, J. Wayne Ballew, Brandy Meeks, Lindy Lamascus, Katy Hall. Second Row: Shirley Hadsell (REA), Matthew Benacci, Jeffrey Hood, Samantha Luna, Regan Spring, Courtney Harrison. Not Pictured: Kim Ahrens, Jessica York, Sonya Corraera.

Talented Kids Take Tour

Project Horizons consisting of the gifted and talented students of Jones Elementary were treated to a tour of the R.E.A. building.

The tour took place Wednesday, March 1, under the guidance of Shirley Hadsell, Member Service Advisor. Shirley drove here from Marfa for the prerogative of showing the students how the corporation functions.

The students learned the history of the Co-op. They toured the building and visited each department. A film titled "Safe Watch" was viewed by

the students, it accented on electrical safety. A tour of the yard and all equipment was also taken.

The purpose of the field trip was to better enlighten the students on the economical impact of a business such as R.E.A. on our community and to expose the children to a different aspect of life.

Project Horizons visits a different vicinity once a month for two hours. This is part of the local curriculum aimed at working on higher level thinking skills.

Commissioners Court

Commissioners Court met February 27, at 10:30 A.M. in an emergency meeting.

DPS Vehicle Granted

Amendment of the budget to include a 1987 Dodge Diplomat at \$5,000 was requested by the Sheriff's department.

Need for the vehicle was recognized by commissioners court and a unanimous vote in favor of the motion was made by Judge Tommy Seargeant, Comm. Joe Garza and Comm. Ruben Fuentez. (Comm. Bill Bizzell and Comm. Rose Mary Slubar were not present at this time. Comm. Slubar did attend the latter part of court.)

Filing of Depository at The First State Bank of Brackettville

Judge Tommy Seargeant informed the court that Attorney Tully Shahan had looked over and recommended the execution of using the First State Bank of Brackettville as a depository for surplus funds of the county revenues that were not projected as being needed.

County Treasurer, Carlotta De La Rosa, stated, "Their interest rates lately have been very good."

Motion was passed unanimously.

Chamber of Commerce Gets Discount Rate at Civic Center

Motion was made by Comm. Joe Garza to allow the use of the Civic Center to the Chamber of Commerce

at a discount rate of \$300 (plus clean-up) for the County Fair. Motion was passed unanimously.

Constable Receives Law Enforcement Equipment

A 4-wheel drive Blazer that had been confiscated by the Sheriff's department with a lien in the amount of \$2,500 paid by commissioners court was awarded to Constable Juarez for county wide use.

Also awarded was all law enforcement lights, radio and decals needed, not to exceed the amount of \$1,200.

Judge Tommy Seargeant stated, "If he wants to get out and is willing to get out and walk up these alleys on his weekend, that would be great. I'm certainly not going to ask him to without proper equipment."

After a brief discussion on the legalities pertaining to personal use of the vehicle, it was passed unanimously by Judge Tommy Seargeant, Commissioners Garza, Fuentez and Slubar, that said vehicle and all law enforcement equipment be granted for County use with the County remaining responsible for all maintenance.

Correction

At a Feb. 6 special Commissioner's Court meeting Pct. 1 Commissioner Joe N. Garza did not make a motion for discussion on Civic Center work. The discussion, which was "heated," was an agenda item requested by Commissioner Bill Bizzell, according to unofficial County Clerk minutes.

Waste Site Questioned

Editor's Note:

[This report was prepared for the Legal Environmental Assistance Foundation - a public interest law firm by University of Georgia law student Douglas P. Haines, and supervised by Laurie Fowler, attorney for the Legal Environmental Assistance Foundation.]

Proponents of hazardous waste incineration have made promises of prosperity to the county which allows location of the state's commercial hazardous waste incinerator within its boundaries. In addition to a percentage of profits from the operation of the facility, there have been promises of jobs and an influx of new industries which will be anxious to locate near a hazardous waste facility. The public has not been informed, however, that in all likelihood the economic benefits from the incinerator will be outweighed by costs to the community.

It has been suggested that new industry will locate in a community which has a hazardous waste facility.

In fact, history demonstrates that just the opposite is true. According to Kaye Kiker, after a hazardous waste facility was constructed in Sumter County, Alabama, with promises of prosperity, seven industries shut down. One of the community's two hospitals closed, and half of the downtown businesses in York, Alabama, went out of business. Similarly, the hazardous waste incinerator in Caldwell County, North Carolina, did not attract new industry despite promises of economic growth by the operator. Now that citizen groups have forced the accident-plagued incinerator to shut down, local officials expect the community to rebound.

Despite the promise of new jobs, the siting of a hazardous waste facility in

other communities has provided few net jobs. Most of the newly created jobs at the hazardous waste facility itself are trained technical positions

which, in most instances, will be filled from outside the community. A number of jobs, however, might be lost: unemployment rose 254 percent

in Sumter County, Alabama, after a hazardous waste facility was constructed there. According to statistics from the State of Alabama, the percentage of persons unemployed in that county has risen from 5.8 percent in 1978 before the facility was constructed to 21.1 percent in 1988. The percentage of persons unemployed would be even greater if these statistics had accounted for over 2,000 persons who have left the county to find work elsewhere.

There is a measurable decrease in property values surrounding toxic disposal facilities. A 10.5 percent to 16 percent decrease in property values is normal. In some instances,

property values have dropped even more dramatically. For example, the

Mayor of Emelle, Alabama, was informed that the value of his home

had dropped to one-third of its previous value due to its proximity to a hazardous waste facility. In Michigan, a tax court reduced tax assessments by 99 percent because of the siting and operation of a waste facility in the neighborhood.

A hazardous waste incinerator imposes great costs on the community. Increased traffic in large vehicles transporting hazardous waste to the incinerator will cause wear and tear to roads and bridges, increasing the county's maintenance costs. The county must also train and equip emergency personnel to act in the event of a release of toxic substances, either at the facility or en route by a transporter of hazardous wastes. In many rural counties, emergency services are provided by volunteers. Training and specialized equipment is expensive. Protective suits and breathing apparatus alone cost \$3,500 per person. In addition to equipping a special force, the county may be expected to specially train and equip fire and police departments because these people are likely to be the first on scene when there is a vehicular accident involving hazardous wastes.

A great economic drawback to siting a hazardous waste incinerator is the community's potential liability in the event of an accidental release of hazardous materials. In most instances, clean-up costs from spills and pollution which carry over to adjoining property is excluded from insurance coverage. There are very few insurers who will provide coverage for hazardous waste transporters or facilities. The coverage which does exist is severely restricted and has inadequate policy limits. Insurance coverage in the amounts needed to cover a major release of hazardous materials simply cannot be found. If a facility operator or waste transporter is unable to pay clean-up costs, the county may be left to find a remedy of its own. Leakage from a town dump led to a \$15,000,000 judgment, the cost of insuring Jackson Township has risen 800 percent.

It is by no means clear that payments and general assistance promised to the host county will provide for the full extent of costs associated with the siting and operation of a hazardous waste incinerator. And, of course, there are no payments provided to deal with the quantities of hazardous materials which remain as noncombustible byproducts of incineration and which require subsequent disposal.

The Grapevine

By Gus Garcia

What's going on at the school scene? Well here it is!

Word has it that the consumer and Family Economics class filmed their own commercials.

And Dan Villarreal is a terrific quistarist. Aimee Smith really knows how to keep Jr. Samaniego's and Gass and Monica Falcon know what it takes to get their laundry sparkling white with "Proud Shine."

The Jr. and Sr. prom is set for May

6, have you got your special someone ready to dance the night away?

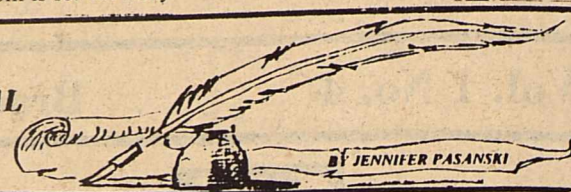
Happy belated Birthday to Lea Anne Carle, who just turned 17 on Saturday the 25th.

There's a new category in the UIL Competition-Spanish I and Spanish II-Good Luck to all who enter!

There's a new display at the Kinney County Public Library, handmade porcelain, through April 1.

Got any more "Grapes" to add to the cluster? Talk to Gus!

EDITORIAL



This seems to have been a people week for me. A time to notice people; their expressions, their ideas, the way they express themselves, their clothes and their manner, the things they say and the things they don't say.

This week I've heard talk of the past and dreams of the future and fears of the unknown. I've seen some inspired to make things better, some inspired to make trouble, some just doing their job, and some just grateful it rained.

I've seen some hoping for change and some hoping nothing will change.

I've noticed something else about our small community, all of the people know something about everyone. It's hard not to, and I think just about everyone here likes it that way - we like to know about the people we share our town with.

And another thing crossed my

mind, how different we all are, yet how much we were all the same. The thing that made everyone I saw the same was that everyone cared about something, and there was more, something deeper, an underlying sense of love for one another.

Not the kind of love you'll feel for your children, a different kind of love, the kind of love you feel for a comfortable pair of house slippers, or a memory that makes you smile or a fresh bouquet of budding carnations, a kind of love that is comfortable and warm, like a smile.

If you hadn't noticed, or don't find this to be true, just sit back sometime and watch your neighbors shake hands and smile at one another, with their greetings of Howdy-do.

If I had a phrase to best describe our town, it would be - Kinney County cares, more loving folks just can't be found.

Congratulations To Richard Slubar

From: Ora Rodriguez

SHERIFF'S CORNER

KINNEY COUNTY

BY NORMAN H. HOOTEN SHERIFF

The Fugitive Criminal Warrants Division of the Travis County Sheriff's Department contacted us over this past weekend to advise that they had arrested a probation violator we have been trying to locate for the past couple of years. Frank Finamore, 66, was arrested at his home Friday night, February 24, and remains in jail in Austin in lieu of \$2,500 bond set in the case by District Judge George Thurmond. Should Finamore be unable to post bond, we will make arrangements to travel to Austin to transport him back to Kinney County for a hearing in the State's application to revoke probation. Finamore was convicted on felony theft charges in 1985 and received a three-year probation sentence, the State now contends that he has violated that probation on several counts and a hearing will be held in the 63rd Judicial District Court of Kinney County to determine the outcome of the State's allegations.

Finamore's arrest is the first felony arrest in a recent effort we have implemented to clear up our backlog of outstanding warrants. The large majority of those warrants are for Violation of Probation - DWI, a misdemeanor.

The standard procedure used by most law enforcement agencies, including the Kinney County

Sheriff's Department, is that once a warrant is received on a subject, we enter all known information on the wanted person into the TCIC/NCIC computer network (Texas & National Crime Information Centers). This procedure works well in the event the wanted person comes into contact with a peace officer somewhere and is identified and a check run on him through the TCIC/NCIC system. The weak link in the system is that unless the wanted person is identified and has a wanted check (10-29) run on him, he could go on for years and not be apprehended. Our recent efforts to crack down on the search for and arrests of wanted persons in our files is not a new one and is commonly used by many law enforcement agencies throughout the state and nation. The difference is that we do not have the manpower or funds to set up a Fugitive Warrants Division that most of the larger law enforcement agencies have. A Fugitive Warrants Division has officers, equipment and money assigned for the express purpose of tracking down, arresting and transporting persons wanted by the respective agency or department.

The process we are using is to track down and locate the wanted persons in our files and then send copies of the warrant and other related paperwork to the Fugitive Warrants

Division of the primary law enforcement agency in that city, asking for their assistance in locating and arresting the wanted person. Once we have been notified that the wanted person is in custody and has not bonded out, we make travel arrangements to transport him back to Kinney County for a trial or hearing.

One of the major problems we are experiencing, is that due to the amount of time that has passed since the original arrest or conviction date and the time the warrant is issued (sometimes up to two years), the wanted person may have changed jobs and addresses, many moving to other cities without leaving a forwarding address. In those cases we use simple, basic law enforcement investigation procedures in attempting to locate the wanted person. Sometimes we get lucky and get him located and arrested quickly, in most cases it takes longer and this costs money in time and telephone calls. And we have to work all this in along with our other duties of providing law enforcement service and protection for our law abiding citizens. Our message to fugitives from justice from Kinney County? Listen for those footsteps in the night, we're coming!

That's all!

OUR TOWN



Marjorie Love shared her excitement with me on the new project she and many others have in starting a "Theater Workshop" here at Fort Clark Springs. It will include anyone, of all ages, with any talent, i.e. singing, dancing, acting, directing, prompting, coaching, writing. In fact, any talent necessary in theater work, including making costumes and props. It includes everyone from Brackettville and the Fort. Presently, their plan is to meet once a month, for two hours, on Monday evenings, from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M., at the Town Hall, on the Fort.

Whether seasoned or a neophyte in theater work, she says "Ya'll come". Theater work takes serious dedication and hard work. The reward is an audience response of applause and laughter. The first date will be March 20, 7-9 P.M. Phone Marj., at 563-9543 Town Hall.

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Six of our Winter Texans hosted a luncheon at the Ft. Clark Springs Golf & Tennis Club, Wednesday, February 22. It was their way of saying "Thank You for being so nice". The hostesses were: Eleanor Herron, Jean Petaja, Darlene Horning, Helen Peck, Ann Descheemaeker and Phyllis Herron. The luncheon was prepared partly by the Club Staff and part by the hostesses. It was a beautiful luncheon and was greatly enjoyed by all. The door-prize was won by Joan Boutwell.

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We were sorry to hear about the recent illness of Father David Zumaya, we understand he is making a speedy recovery. We wish him the best.

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Welcome home, Robert Nelson of Fort Clark Springs, who has just completed a 14-month work assignment in Saudi Arabia.

Robert left the U.S.A. in Oct. 1987 and returned Dec. 16, 1988. He was employed by the Bendix Field Engineering Corp, who had a contract from the Presidency of Civil Aviation, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Robert was in charge of 68 Inter-

the Navigational aids at six airports spread over an area about the size of Texas. Being stationed at ABHA it was at least a 300-mile trip to any of the airports, traveling over a terrain similar to that of New Mexico and Arizona, both mountainous and desert.

Robert retired from the Air Force as Chief Master Sergeant in February 1982, having served 30 years, four years in the Navy and 26 in the Air Force. He is married to Marguerite and they have 2 sons and one daughter.

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An unusual sight: If you have not driven through Pecan Park, at the Fort, just around the bend from the little Red Bridge...you have missed an unusual sight. Several hundred black buzzards perched on the trees. We understand they migrate from Mexico in the winter-time to this area. Most of them leave during daytime and return in late evening.

Unsung Heroes

Many times we simply take for granted people who do their jobs well. One of the greatest characteristics of an outstanding person is that he does his job well. Dr. Jim Harber, from the time he came to Kinney County and established his home in Ft. Clark, has done an outstanding job in his profession as a dentist. The hundreds of children checked and cared for by him in the local clinic will owe him thanks for years to come. One of the first big projects he came to be involved in was the Pecan Project.

Many hours and much work went into this project. He spent much time establishing delineating "green belts" in Ft. Clark. He did a great deal of work in surveying the local cemetery. Many other things mark the path Dr. James Harber has worked since coming to Ft. Clark Springs. Truly he is one of our "Unsung Heroes".

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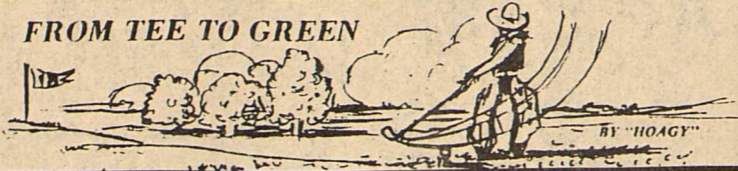
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8
DROP IN ANYTIME BETWEEN 10 - 4 ?
AND DISCOVER A NEW YOU

THRU COLOR ANALYSIS
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SCARF & ACCESSORIES TIPS (demonstrations)
ALL AT YOUR CONVENIENCE WHILE SHOPPING FOR YOUR SPRING FASHIONS

APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE
563-2527



FROM TEE TO GREEN



On Sunday afternoon, February 19, I called the golf course on Ft. Clark to ask if it would be open. I was told that the course was closed on Mondays. The course is normally closed on Mondays, however, when the Monday in question is a holiday, the course is sometimes open. The answer to my query, concerning President's Day, was that the course was closed on "minor" holidays. This raised another question, since Presidents Day and Martin Luther King Day are both federal holidays, which one is a "minor" holiday and which a "major" holiday? As I can best recall, the course was open on M.L.K. Day. In the evening, when I returned to Ft. Clark, I learned that golf had been allowed that day. I wonder if it is necessary to own a home on the golf course, enabling one to see if the course is open for play or not.

After the first weekend of play in the Ft. Clark Springs Club Championship golf tournament, George Bumgarner leads the men with a score of 155, while Helen Miller has a two-day total of 158 to set the pace in the women's division in the quest for "Club Champion" in each of their divisions.

Flight Leaders are:
Championship Flight (ladies)
Low gross Helen Miller 158
Low net Helen Miller 130
First Flight
Low gross Chick Cruse 161
Low net Chick Cruse 117
Second Flight

Low gross Pat Nelson 179
Low net Pat Nelson 127
Championship Flight (men)
Low gross George Bumgarner 155
Low net Bill Bizzell 128
First Flight
Low gross Bob Derrickson 162
Low net Bob Derrickson 132
Second Flight
Low gross Carl Spray 180
Low net (tie) Andy Anderson
Harold Kaufman 130
Super Seniors (65 years & older men & women)
Low gross George Bumgarner 155
Low net Chick Cruse 117

The 4th and 5th of March are scheduled to be the final dates for the last two rounds of a four round (72 hole) stroke play event. Next weekend should provide us with some interesting scores and some happy winners in each of the flights, and two "Club Champions".

Helen Miller: February Golfer of the Month.

Helen made an award winning shot on the #2 (par 3) hole at the Ft. Clark Springs Country Club, using a 3 wood. This was the fourth hole in one she has made in a 21 year golfing career. Three of her aces have been made at Ft. Clark and the first one was accomplished golfing in Wichita, Kansas. She plays to an enviable 14 handicap. The Millers, Helen and George, have been members of Ft. Clark Springs for 3 years and have built a lovely home adjacent to the #9

fairway, where it is evident that Helen is very good at raising quite a variety of plants and flowers, which include orchids and Bird of Paradise plants. When George and Helen purchase new golf clubs, they hand the used ones down to the children and grandchildren, six sets so far. Now when they go visit relatives in Wichita, they have no trouble arranging two foursomes.

From the Pink Tees. Results from ladies play on Tuesday, February 21 were:

1st low net Pat Nelson 65
2nd low net Molly Schroeder 68 (Molly was also awarded a Birdie Pin for a deuce on #11.)
1st low gross Dalene Horning 87
2nd low gross Carol Benfield 88

From the Red Tees. Wednesday, February 22:

The mens club blind draw tournament resulted in a tie for 1st place. The score cards were used to determine a sudden victory winner. Roy Dyer and Howard Peck came in 1st with a 128. 2nd place with an identical 128 went to Charlie Rose and Carl Spray. Coming in 3rd were Doc Cruse and Bob Miller, shooting a combined 130.

Twenty players showed up on Friday, February 24, for the Mixed Couples League. A four person scramble was held and provided the following winners:

1st Hugh and Pat McKelvy and P.M. Moore and Evelyn Whitely.

A tie for second resulted in splitting the prize between Helen and George Miller, Charlie and Ann Descheemaeker, Robbie and Ruth Robinson and Bob and Pat Barnett. Welcome back Pat, it's sure good to have you back with the gang.

The monthly P.B.G.A. meeting was held Wednesday, February 22. A discussion was held concerning the upcoming annual tournament. Hoagy Nelson was appointed tournament chairman. The date selected is March 20, and will include a cross country tournament, beverages and a meal for an entry fee of \$15. Guests will be included for the meal for \$5 per person.

Charlie Descheemaeker was selected as chairman of a committee to study and organize a P.B.G.A. golf league for the 1989-1990 season.

Our cart paths may not be first class pavement, but even with some very strong winds our daily dust consumption rate must be down about 80 percent. Thanks to Larry and the greens crew.

Golfers Want to Know

If you have a golf or golf course related question, please let me know and I'll do my best to find out the answer for you. Call the office, 563-2961, and leave a message or catch me at the golf course during my normal work hours, 9 - 5 daily, except Monday.



February Golfer of the Month -- Helen Miller, has made 4 hole-in-one shots in her golfing career.



The Buffalo hunter has taken his place among the heroic figures of the early west. He came along behind the missionary, the explorer, the fur trader, before the settlers and ranchers. By depriving the hostile Plains Indians of his food, clothes and shelter he made him submissive because the Indians depended on the Buffalo for everything.

The Buffalo hunter was usually young and tough, could outdrink anyone at the outpost and was accurate with his Buffalo gun. All he wanted was those smelly old hides, he could care less about the Indians or the meat he left to rot for the wolves. His time lasted only for a dozen years, but in that time he left the prairies covered with bones for the bone pickers who hauled them to the nearest town to make a few dollars.

They came from the east to the frontier to escape boredom, or perhaps an angry father, or maybe to get away from the local sheriff. After the buffalo were thinned out some hunters went into the army or became cowboys, some got mixed up with rustlers or horse thieves.

The buffalo were not just thousands but millions. When the hunting began in 1871, some protested at the slaughter but the government condoned it.

The buffalo herds were so many, they sometimes completely stopped trains on the prairie. Some estimates were figured to be sixty-five million in the herds, but in ten or twelve years, an estimated forty million were still on the plains.

Students Excell

By Gus Garcia
During the past week, 32 AA All-District teams were named. In the Boys Division, Mitch Frerich, a Junior, was named to the First Team. Second team players were Abel Esparza and Frank Morgan, both Seniors.

In the Girls Division, Sherri White, a Senior and Yvonne Luna, a Junior, were awarded a place on the First Team. Second Team players were, Melinda Meyer and Pilar Lozano, both Seniors and Stephanie Ahrens, a Junior.

At 4:00 A.M. Saturday morning, 16 devoted students arrived on campus to begin their journey to Boerne to oppose other schools in the UIL Invitational Tournament.

Three Gold medals, 1 Silver medal and 1 Bronze medal were earned.

Kelly Hall, a Senior, captured the Gold, outwitting 21 other contestants in the Headline Writing competition. When asked about winning first,

The buffalo were different colors and different sizes in all parts of the plains. He might look stupid and slow, but it took a top-notch horse to keep up with him, he also had an amazing sense of smell.

In order to eat, the buffalo had to keep on the move to find enough grass and water. He really didn't migrate, but stayed mainly in his local vicinity. In the summer, when he shed his old hair, he was at the mercy of the flies and mosquitoes, to get rid of them he wallowed in the dust or mud. These wallows can still be seen on the plains. The wallows were usually about eight to ten, or twelve feet across, and about two feet deep. Finally, after heavy use, it might be twenty feet across. The buffalo loved to rub his itchy hide against a tree or anything handy, so when the telegraph poles were installed, he rubbed against them.

Pioneers and Indians preferred the tongue next to the hump. Buffalo jerky was very nourishing and would keep a long time. The Indians called jerky "pemican" and took it along on their travels.

After slicing and roasting the hump, they dipped it in gall, cracked the bones and ate the marrow which was called "hunter's butter". The Comanches mixed the meat of the hump with nuts and dried berries and other fruit. It was common in Indian camps and the settlers called it "Indian bread". The buffalo chips were burned as wood, which was ideal for cooking as other wood was scarce.

Kelly stated: "Naturally, I was happy and proud!"

Lee Floyd, also a Senior, outfoxed about twenty other contestants to clinch the Gold medal in Feature Writing.

In the Spanish II category, Arturo Lincon, a Junior, was in tip-top form when he beat about 21 other contestants in the race for the Gold.

Clay Hunt, a Sophomore, was awarded the Silver medal in Informative Speaking category, beating other members from schools like Canyon, Comfort, Blanco and New Braunfels. Tammy Frerich's typing bought her the Bronze.

Other winners are as follows: Headline Writing: Gus Garcia-Sixth place, Number Sense: Fidel Hernandez-Sixth-place, Typing: Yvonne Luna-Fourth place, Accounting: Kelly Hall-Fifth place, Science: Travis Smith-Eighth place.

We will start mail subscriptions as soon as our postal permit arrives! If you want a subscription please clip this application and mail to: The Brackett News, P.O. Box 1039 Brackettville, Texas 78832. Or drop the form by our office at 507 Spring St. (by the bank). Our Rate is \$15.00 per year. You will be billed after you receive your first mailed issue.

Thank You,
The Staff of The Brackett News

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I guess the American people will never take seriously the privilege of voting. People seldom consider the qualifications of the candidates, but rather vote on emotional flairs. Hence, we deserve what we get from elected officials. When the city Council, Commissioners Court, state legislature and Congress act, the citizenry deserves what happens.

Recent shenanigans in Washington highlight this fact. At this writing, a Senate committee has rejected John Tower as Secretary of Defense. Seems peculiar that the Democrats on the committee all opposed Mr. Tower. Peculiar, that slanderous innuendo, even though negated by F.B.I. was used to bolster the negative feuding. How can any Senate committee ever question the moral behavior of any appointee, as

long as it contains and supports the presence in its body of Ted Kennedy. Slanderous innuendo is not a factor concerning Kennedy. Facts speak loudly and conclusively, yet he still sits in the body, a committee of which defaces the most qualified man for Secretary of Defense in America. It all boils down to people America elects. Petty politicians have to swing their weight at times, to remind others they have authority. Seems there are always some politicians who soar like buzzards seeking any way they can to destroy whom they choose. After all, when character assassination or career destruction is wanted makes no difference what excuse you use or what cost to the United States. Remember these political charlatans were elected by the people.

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Baptist Church Holds Special Services

Frontier Baptist Church will have special services Sunday, March 5. Following the morning worship service, at 11:00 A.M., there will be a covered dish lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend and enjoy the worship and fellowship of the day. Rev. Joe R. Townsend is pastor. Frontier Baptist Church is located on the corner of Ann and El Paso Streets.

Chili Supper

Salad bar, dessert, tea & coffee Thursday, March 9, Slator Hall, 5:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. Sponsored by Methodist Church choir for Choir Robes. Please help support this project. Adults \$5.00 Children under 10 - \$3.00

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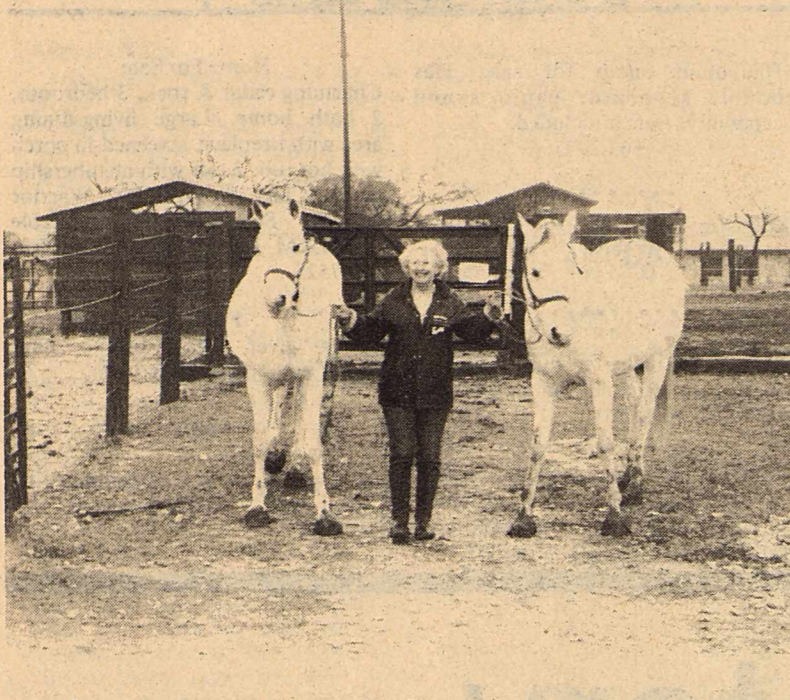
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"Snowbird" of a Different Feather



Stable manager Margaret Byrd with her Arabian horses, "Sparkle" and "Dennis the Menace".

By Penny Nixon

Margaret Byrd is a "snowbird" of a different feather. She made the cold Minnesota to warm Arizona trip...but she did it on a horse. "I'd always wanted to make a long distance ride, and I finally got tired of the Minnesota winters, so I decided to go to Tucson," Margaret said. "Mother was horrified," she said with a laugh, "but Dad always said I'd make it."

At the age of 32 in 1955, Margaret saddled her 5-year-old Arabian stallion, Ganaat, on October 15, and left on the long trail to the Sunbelt. Without planned stops, Margaret rode from early morning to mid-afternoon when she started looking for a farmhouse or friendly face.

November winds blew cold across the plains, and houses were often miles apart for the slender, blonde woman wearing every piece of clothing she had with her. "In Kansas, a guy stopped, got out of his truck, peeled his coat off and handed it to me. He said I looked like I

needed it more than he did. I think he was right! It was a big, warm, leather coat that went on over everything I had," she said.

Margaret averaged riding almost 40 miles a day, with three consecutive days of 70 miles, 68 miles and 40 miles trying to outrun a blizzard. When the snow began to blow outside Garden City, Kan., she and her horse ducked into the first place they could find. But the people had no barn, so Ganaat went in the chicken house. "I had him in garages, backyards, pig pens and various asundry places!" Margaret said.

When newspaper reporters along the way, learned that Margaret had made a \$50 bet with a disbelieving cowboy at an Arabian Horse Show in Chicago, they started looking for her. "They'd stop me to talk, and that kind of slowed me down," she said. But life as the horse odyssey media star had its benefits. "When I got to Wilcox (Arizona) the paper

met me, and life was pretty easy for a couple of days!"

After a year in Tucson as a medical secretary, a job she had left with the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Min., Margaret again succumbed to the call of the West, and went to work on a ranch training Appaloosas.

"That's where I learned to take a rather dim view of Appaloosa horses!" she said.

The cowboy who still owed her the \$50 bet came to her rescue by inviting her to train Arabians on his ranch near Las Vegas. It was there she met Tex Gates from Brady, Texas - the man who took Margaret off to the mountains for an even wilder round of experiences.

They roped wild burros near Death Valley, "the coldest place in the world," according to Margaret. They gathered herds of up to 70 wild burros for outfitters, the land department and the Old Miner's Association's three day, \$1,000 wild burro race in California.

"A wild jackass is nothing to fool with! Within the first 15 minutes of one race, they had 16 boys in the hospital," she said.

Margaret knew how they felt. She and Tex were late loading a herd one evening, when a jack kicked her, breaking 5 or 6 ribs and collapsing her lung. She sent her husband on the bumpy 100-mile trail to the nearest paved road, and on to deliver the load. She strapped herself up, and waited. The air came back in her lung that night. Tex came back three days later. Margaret had kept the stock fed.

In the years after Tex died, Margaret went back to Tucson to run boarding stables and train Arabians. She went to Lyndale, Texas, to work, then came to visit her brother, Ronald Frisby, and his wife, Valora, at Fort Clark Springs. She became their Unit 32 neighbor in July of

1987. Last June, Margaret became the manager of the 18-stall Horse Club stables and grounds.

"I like it here. It's fun," she said of her duties, which include taking care of her horses, Sparkle and Dennis the Menace. "I don't ride as much as I should. I guess I'm getting lazy," said Margaret, who celebrates her 66th birthday on March 6.

Watching her work around the horse stables, "lazy" is the last thing anyone would call Margaret Byrd.

Thank You

Fran and Mary Jane Kunis want to thank our many friends for their prayers, cards, good wishes and kindness given us during Mary Jane's illness.

Not a day passed in the hospital that cards or calls were received. They all helped, it is difficult to say the least to convey our heart felt gratitude.

We live in the best place in the world and all of you make it that way. I again Thank you!

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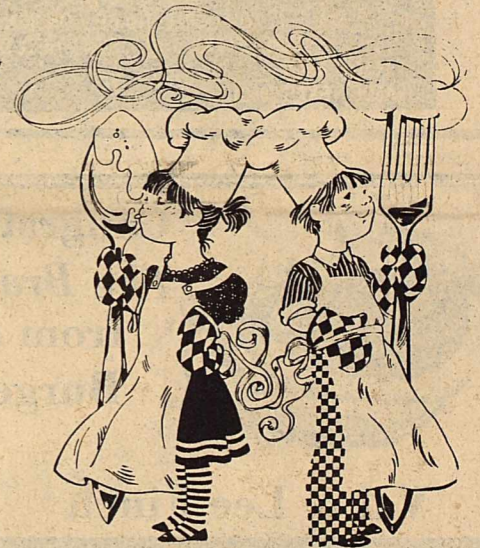
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Brackettville B.I.S.D. School Menu

"A" LINE	"B" LINE	BREAKFAST
Thursday 2, Fajitas Pinto Beans Fruit Tortillas Milk	Thursday 2, Toastaco Taco Salad Fruit Milk	Thursday 2, Sausage Biscuits Fruit Milk
Friday 3, Macaroni & Cheese Peas & Carrots Fruit Cornbread Milk	Friday 3, Baked Potato Bacon Bits Cheese Chunks Fruit Crackers Milk	Friday 3, Pancakes Fruit Milk
Monday 6, Oven Baked Chicken Mashed Potatoes Broccoli Biscuits Milk	Monday 6, Hamburger Hamb Salad Fruit Milk	Monday 6, Hash Browns Biscuits & Gravy Cheese Chunks Milk
Tuesday 7, Pizza Garden Salad Green Beans Fruit Milk	Tuesday 7, Toastaco Taco Salad Fruit Milk	Tuesday 7, Scrambled Eggs Toast Fruit Milk
Wednesday 8, Chili Dog Corn Fruit Spice Bar Milk	Wednesday 8, Potato Bacon Bits Sour Cream Cheese Chunks Fruit Crackers Milk	Wednesday 8, Sausage Biscuits Fruit Milk



I Like



Roberta King

"Woolly little lambs and to be able to travel to another country and not pass through Communist Territory."

GREEN THUMB



It's now time to begin in earnest soil preparation for trees, shrubs and flowers. It's time to fertilize!

Trees need food too. The simplest and easiest way to do this is to get tree "stakes". These are stakes of fertilizer pressed into forms to be driven into the ground at intervals around the tree. These are slow break-down stakes and will be sufficient for the season. These stakes can also be used for large shrubs.

For smaller shrubs, a general all purpose fertilizer will suffice. It should be worked into the soil around the plants. If you have flower beds, they should be loosened to a depth of ten to twelve inches and

fertilizer worked into the soil as it is prepared. This preparation now will pay big dividends all through the summer. Plants, lawns, shrubs and trees need to be fed, the same as animals and people.

School Election List

Below is a listing of the timelines of the upcoming school election to be held on Saturday, May 6, 1989. If you are interested in becoming a candidate, or plan to vote in the election, please take note of these timelines.

February 20, 1989
First day to file for a place on the ballot.

March 7, 1989
First day to accept absentee requests by mail.

March 21, 1989
Last day to file for a place on the ballot. 5:00 P.M. deadline.

March 31, 1989
Last day for a candidate to withdraw.

April 6, 1989
Last day a person can register to vote in the May 6, 1989, election.

April 17, 1989
First day for absentee voting by personal appearance. High School Office - 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Monday through Friday.

April 29, 1989
Last day to receive applications for absentee ballots to be voted by mail.

May 2, 1989
Last day to vote absentee by personal appearance.

May 6, 1989
Election Day
7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.
Saturday, May 6, 1989
Home Economics Cottage

May 12, 1989
Last day for official canvas.

Eye Screening Schedule

The South Texas Institute of Eye Surgery has scheduled a screening in Brackettville, April 14, at the Nutrition Center. A team of one doctor and six technicians will be present. Screening for all eye problems will be done, including cataracts and glaucoma. Blood pressure checking will also be done. There is no more effective eye care

center in South Texas. A number of local citizens have been treated by Dr. Robert Poirier and the clinic. The team will arrive at 11:30 A.M. for briefing, and after eating at the center, will conduct the screening following the meal. Every person in the community is welcome. There will be no cost to those being screened.

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