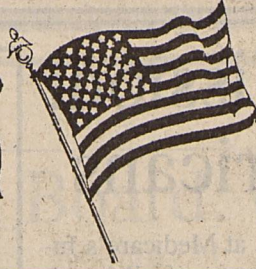


The Brackett News



Historical marker dedicated at fort
See story below

9th year, No. 50

Serving the communities of Brackettville, Fort Clark Springs, Spofford and Kinney County

1 Section, 8 Pages

Briefs ...

Rokovich resigns as BHS athletic director

Roy Rokovich has resigned as Brackett's athletic director, officials confirmed this week.

Rokovich's resignation will be the topic of a special School Board meeting slated for 5 p.m. tomorrow.

"Presuming the board approves the resignation on Friday, we would begin the search for a replacement immediately," Superintendent Taylor Stephenson said. "We would hope to have somebody on board this spring."

Rokovich has served as Brackett's athletic director and head football coach for three years. If his resignation is approved, his tenure would officially end on Friday, Jan. 30.

Officials set to discuss fireworks ordinance

The Brackettville City Council will host a workshop tomorrow to piece together a city ordinance concerning fireworks within the city limits.

City Councilwoman Mary Flores brought the item to the table and noted that she is not against fireworks, but there should be some limit to them.

"I'm not saying I am against fireworks — my grandchildren love them," she said. "But I believe there should be some limit to them. If we can save just one home from a fire caused by fireworks, it is worth it."

The last city ordinance concerning fireworks was passed in 1928.

"We are looking at different ordinances," Flores said. "Eagle Pass and Uvalde sent us their ordinances and we hope to sit down at the workshop and put our ideas together to come up with a reasonable ordinance."

Currently, there is no true enforcement of the ordinance, according to officials.

Free income tax assistance offered

The AARP Tax Aide help will be at the Brackettville Aging Services location each Friday from 9 a.m. to noon to offer free income tax assistance beginning Feb. 5.

Interested persons should bring their tax package, a copy of their 1996 tax return, forms W-2 and 1099 showing 1997 income, social security numbers for dependents, and other documents showing income or expense.

For an appointment, call 563-2015.



Zack Davis, right, accepts an award from Tony and Nancy Frerich at Saturday's livestock show. See related stories and pictures on Page 4 and in next week's edition of The Brackett News.

Montalvo trial begins

Case postponed because of sick juror

County Commissioner Joe Montalvo went to trial this week to face charges dealing with theft and misappropriation of highway guard rails.

District Judge George M. Thurmond ruled Tuesday that three of the five charges Montalvo faces dealing with abuse of official capacity would not be considered by this jury because of a clerical error.

The trial began Tuesday, but was postponed Wednesday because one of the 12 jurors became ill. The case is expected to resume at 9 a.m. today.

Montalvo and County Judge Tommy Seargeant were indicted by the grand jury in July and were arrested on charges of theft and abuse of official capacity.

Thurmond ruled that the two county officials would be tried separately, at the request of Seargeant's attorney, Robert T. Bass of Austin.

"It has to do with some guard rails that came into the possession of the county and then ended up on the private property of Mr. Montalvo."

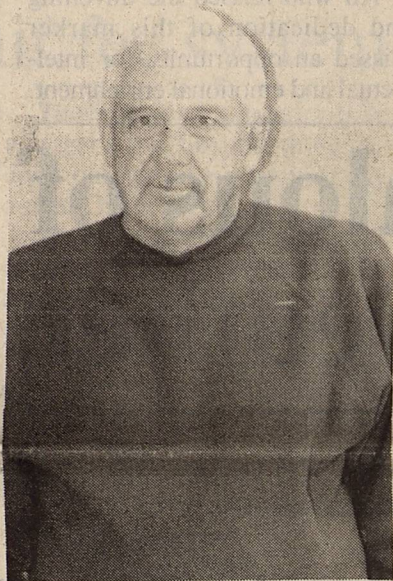
District Attorney Tom Lee

Seargeant was acquitted in December because of lack of evidence.

Montalvo is being represented by Rogelio F. Munoz of Uvalde.

"It has to do with some guard rails that came into the possession of the county and then ended up on the private property of Mr. Montalvo," District Attorney Tom Lee said.

Bizzell announces candidacy for Precinct 4 commissioner



BILL BIZZELL

Bill Bizzell has announced his candidacy for county commissioner, Precinct 4.

Bizzell has spent 27 years helping to develop Fort Clark and Brackettville.

His public service includes six years on the Fort Clark Board of Directors and four years as county commissioner.

Bill Bizzell was a working commissioner and had a strong voice in how the county progressed during his four-year tenure. He helped to make it one of the most prosperous four years in Kinney County history.

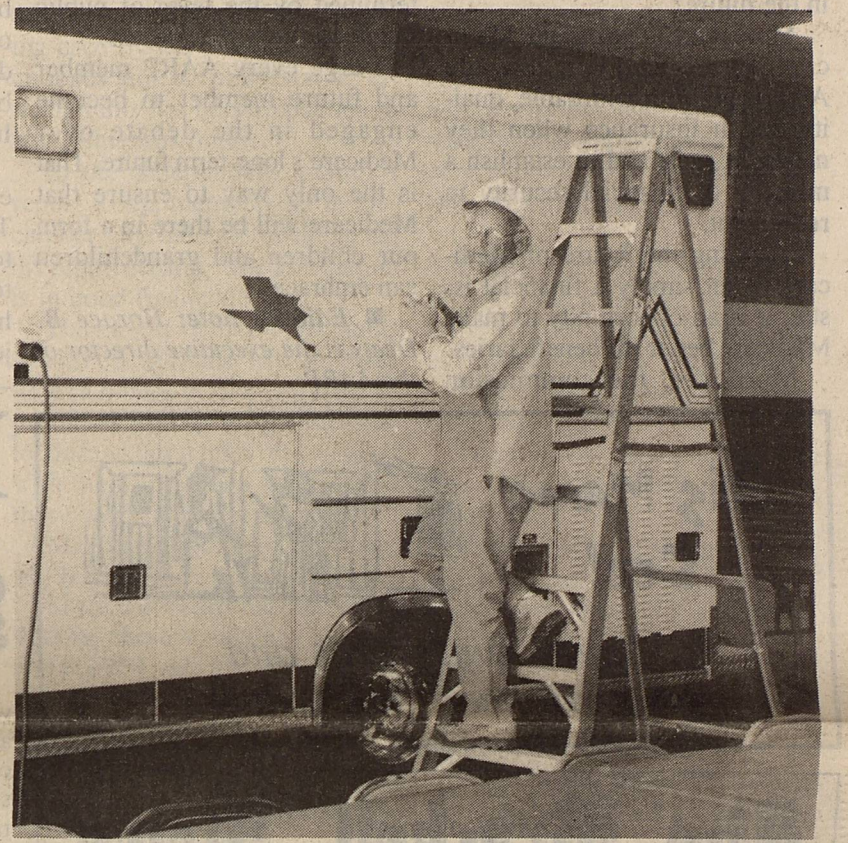
"Kinney County has been very good for the Bizzell family," he said. "I know that I have a lot to offer with my business back-

"I know that I have a lot to offer with my business background, education and a lot of common sense. I was a very good commissioner and when I am elected again, I can be even better."

Bill Bizzell

ground, education and a lot of common sense.

"I was a very good commissioner and when I am elected again, I can be even better," Bizzell added.



John Ford puts the required lettering on the county's new EMS ambulance. Officials want the ambulance on the road as soon as possible, but identification lettering must be done before it is operational. The ambulance still needs a grill guard and a two-way communication device. Brackett News Photo by Sonja Shell

Kinney County sales tax allocations fall

AUSTIN — Kinney County sales tax allocations for the month of January are down 5.1 percent from payments for the same period a year ago, State Comptroller John Sharp announced.

The county received a sales tax rebate of \$2,110.51 in January, down from the \$2,222.76 rebate delivered in January last year.

This month's payments include local sales tax collected by monthly filers in November, at the start of the traditional holiday shopping season, and reported to the comptroller in December.

The city of Brackettville's sales tax allocation for January was \$3,303.21, which is 4.8 percent lower than the January 1997 payment of \$3,468.06.

Kinney County Health Services, one of 29 special purpose districts in the state, received a sales tax rebate of \$2,114.13 in January, which is 3.8

percent lower than last year's \$2,197.78 payment for the same period.

While allocations were down in Kinney County, sales tax rebates statewide are rising.

"We're beginning another promising year," Sharp said. "Sales tax rebates to cities and counties are 12 percent higher in January than those for the first month of last year. Consumers continue to show increased confidence in the Texas economy."

Monthly sales tax rebates to Texas cities totaled \$142.4 million, 12.5 percent higher than last January's payment of \$126.6 million. Rebates of \$13.3 million to Texas counties were 7.4 percent higher than allocations of \$12.3 million in January 1997. Another \$4.2 million went to special purpose districts around the state.

American Red Cross to sponsor instructor course

DEL RIO — The American Red Cross will sponsor an instructor course this weekend.

Students will learn to teach basic first aid and CPR skills, using American Red Cross curriculum. The minimum age to participate is 17 years old.

This course will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. on Friday.

On Saturday and Sunday, call will be from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m.

The course is limited to eight students and require preregistration and prepayment.

For more information or to register for the class, call 775-8626 or 298-5125.

INSIDE

Joe Townsend

It was my privilege to participate in the dedication of a historical marker at the Post Theater on Fort Clark last week. Opinion/Page 2

Livestock show

You can buy a pig in a poke, but that's not what you get at the 43rd annual Kinney County Livestock Show. Community/Page 4

Tigerettes victorious

La Toya Wright hit a jump shot with two seconds left Tuesday to give the Brackett Tigerettes a 56-54 win over Charlotte. Sports/Page 5

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9th year, No. 50
8 pages

Historical marker dedicated at Fort Clark's Post Theater

By Sonja Shell
Staff Writer

Wind and sun whipped up a typical Texas January day last Thursday for the dedication of the historical marker on the Post Theater at Fort Clark.



John Mattingly (from left), Joe Townsend, Harrell Floyd, Rosetta Pingnot, Ida Holley, Ben Pingnot and Betty Schlatterer were present at last week's dedication of the historic marker at Fort Clark's Post Theater. Brackett News Photo by Sonja Shell

A large crowd gathered to take part in the festivities to honor the memory of those who lived and worked in a world that we can only see remnants of.

Members of the Old Quarry Society for the Performing Arts are responsible for making the

marker possible. They had the vision, they raised the funds, they did the research, and after all their hard work, invited others to share in the moment.

Harrell Floyd, master of ceremonies, called the guests together, Ida Holley led the Pledge of Allegiance, Ben Pingnot gave the dedication address, John Mattingly and Betty Schlatterer unveiled the marker, and Larry Mendeke was responsible for the reception and refreshments.

Director Hector Jimenez led the Brackett High School Band in four lovely, unusual, musical selections. Their school uniforms and instruments sparkled in the bright winter day.

Marker approval was granted by the Fort Clark Springs Association, the Kinney County County Historical Commission, and the Texas Historical Association.

Following the ceremonies, refreshments were served.



FORT CLARK POST THEATER

CONSTRUCTED IN 1932, THIS BUILDING REPLACED AN EARLIER FORT CLARK POST HALL THAT SERVED AS A CHURCH COURTROOM THEATER AND RECREATIONAL CENTER. A UTILITARIAN MILITARY DESIGN OF CLEAR SPAN CONSTRUCTION, BRICK WALLS AND A STUCCO VENEER, THE BUILDING ALSO EXHIBITS CLASSICAL STYLE INFLUENCES IN ITS PILASTER ARCHED WINDOWS AND PEDIMENT. A POPULAR MOVIE THEATER UNTIL THE FORT WAS CLOSED IN 1944, IT LATER BECAME A TOWN HALL FOR THE FORT CLARK SPRINGS COMMUNITY.

Medicare Panel Mission: Listen to all Americans

By Horace B. Deets
Contributing Writer

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 called for the creation of a Medicare commission specifically to look at the longer-term issues facing Medicare. While not the only way to ensure Medicare's future, it is a promising step.

AARP has long advocated a two-step approach to bring about changes in Medicare.

Step 1 — reform that ensures the program's solvency for the short term — was accomplished by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, which AARP supported.

Step 2 — guaranteeing the long-term solvency of Medicare — will be much more difficult to achieve, but will begin with the appointment of the Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare.

For the commission to succeed, it must encourage and lead a strong public debate about Americans' expectations of Medicare. It will want to raise a basic question: What do younger and older Americans want from Medicare in the future?

More than 30 years ago, Medicare was created to provide Americans with affordable, quality health insurance when they needed it most and to establish a measure of financial security in retirement.

Deciding the future of Medicare is not simply a financial issue, it is an opportunity to make Medicare better for beneficiaries. Moreover, the commission

must also look at Medicare's future in the context of all health care. It must not solve Medicare's problems by making things worse for others in the health-care system.

This is indeed a formidable task. To meet it the commission must address a number of critical questions, including:

Who will be eligible for Medicare? What should the benefits package be? How should the benefits package be financed, or how do we share the cost? What are the appropriate roles for government and the private sector?

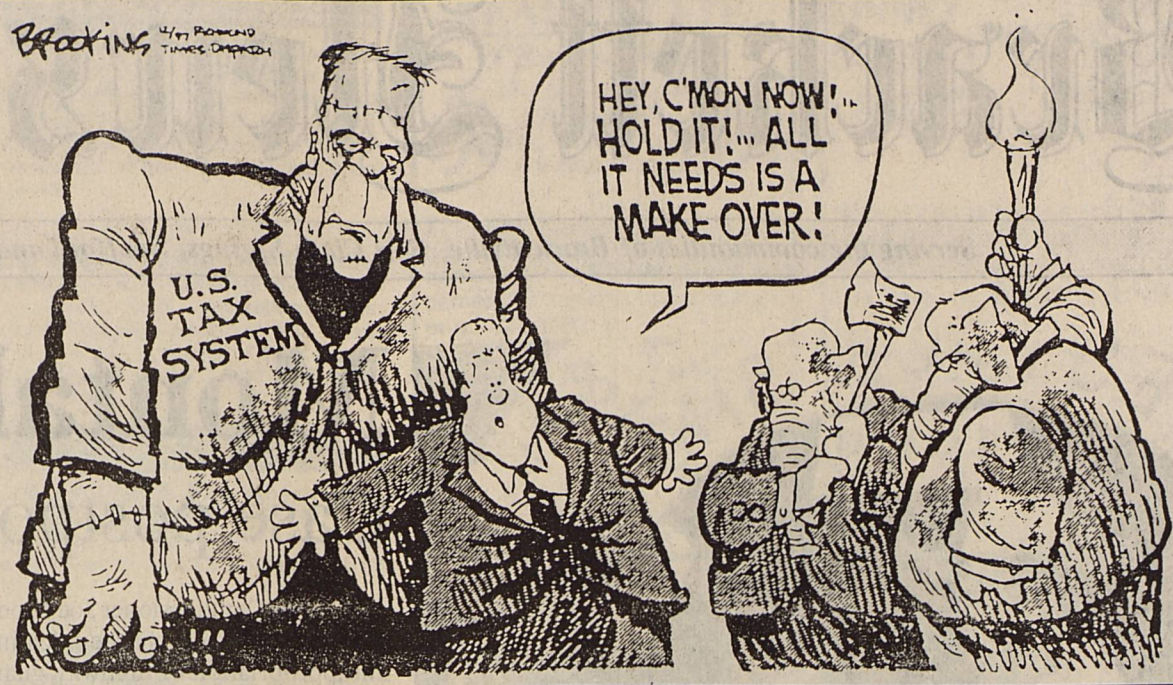
As the commission considers these questions, it should be open to all points of view. This should not be a place where those with preconceived solutions can limit debate.

Every issue should be open for discussion so all Americans, young and old, can begin to think through the options and understand the trade-offs involved with those options.

Ultimately, the success of the Medicare commission will be determined by the level of public involvement in the process.

I urge every AARP member and future member to become engaged in the debate over Medicare's long-term future. That is the only way to ensure that Medicare will be there in a form our children and grandchildren can embrace.

■ *Editor's note:* Horace B. Deets is the executive director of the AARP.



Dedication of historic marker at fort an enriching experience

It was my privilege to participate in the dedication of a historical marker at the Post Theater on Fort Clark last week. It was an enriching experience.

The Brackett School Band presented several selections. This band, though relatively small, is outstanding. Hector Jimenez has done a super job. The band is well balanced and very well developed. It was a real treat to hear them.

As usual, Ben Pingenot did an excellent job in a recap of the Post Theater and the nuances and history involved. It is always a treat to hear Ben because you can know he has well researched his subject and ably presents the matter.

Between Us
By Joe Townsend



Rosetta Pingenot, as usual, did a fine job in coordinating the program and Harrell Floyd handled the logistics in a professional manner.

This area is steeped in rich history. One of the many great facets of Fort Clark Springs is the many ramifications of Fort Clark history through the decades. It is great that there are those who strive to keep alive all the inter-

esting factors in the history of Fort Clark.

The Historical Society and a number of individuals are active and consistent in researching, relating, and perpetuating such interesting and intriguing details of the past.

All who missed the unveiling and dedication of this marker missed an opportunity for intellectual and emotional enrichment.

But, I could be wrong

By Chuck Hall



What is my mistake quota?

I have been wrong so many times in the last few days that I'm not sure I should still be writing this column. Maybe I could get away with just changing the name. Or changing my name.

I had an uncle who once told me that we only grow through mistakes we make. I should be 46 1/2 feet tall.

Anyway, I'll take Uncle Jack's advice, and try to be bigger because of my experiences. I just hope those around me will be patient and realize that right now I'm in a growth period in my life.

But I really am lucky. When I make a mistake, there seems to be a sufficient number of people nearby to point out my error. Not offer a solution, mind you, just point-out-my-error!

So what? If 500,000 people agree with you, just remember, that's only 1 percent of the world. And you know what? The other 99 percent agree with me. They haven't said they don't agree with me, therefore they must!

But, I could be wrong.

Unsung Hero

By Joe Townsend

There is a lovely lady here who has been here for many years. She is the loving mother of five fine children, two girls and three boys, long since grown and away from the home.

This lady is a quiet type person, but a warmhearted friendly person. She has a smile that lights up the whole world.

She is a hard working person and well liked by all who know her. Surely, Mary Koch is an Unsung Hero.

There are still questions surrounding Amtrack

By Kay Bailey Hutchison
U.S. Senator

President Harry Truman once said, "Children and dogs are as necessary to the welfare of the country as Wall Street and railroads."

A great number of Texans apparently put railroads in the same, must-have category.

Nearly 60 percent of those who responded to my annual questionnaire said they believe it serves our national interest to maintain rail passenger service. What follows are some of their comments.

From Lockhart: "The states, as well as the federal government, need to be involved in keeping passenger rail viable. I was glad to see the state of Texas step up to the plate to keep Amtrak's Eagle line running."

From Selma: "The United States is far behind most other developed countries when it comes to convenience. Sooner or later, we must have fast, efficient passenger rail service."

From Longview: "I'm all for Amtrak, but it should be required to be profitable. Government should not provide a subsidy for this service."

When Congress set up Amtrak 26 years ago, it imposed financial burdens that no enterprise, regardless of how well run, could maintain indefinitely.

Reform legislation enacted last fall gives Amtrak a fighting chance. It encompasses what Amtrak needs: contract and liability reform, and closer accountability. It also calls on Amtrak to put its house in order or face the consequences.

Big Mama
See!



Speak kind words and you will hear kind echoes.

The Brackett News

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Northerners jealous of great January weather

Can you believe the beautiful weather that we have had in January? Folks who live in the north country are envious of the sunshine and warm winter temperatures.

My son "talks" with me on e-mail about Kentucky weather, and I sometimes tell him about a cooling trend that takes our temperatures to the mid-60s. He's not too sympathetic to our problems with this great climate.

I hope you are enjoying the outdoors on these beautiful days. I went swimming Sunday afternoon at Fort Clark. The water is a little cool, but what do you expect in January?

New Manager
I was impressed with the new manager at Fort Clark Springs.

I'm sure that you notice I try to stay out of politics. I carefully observe the political scene, but schools and superintendents should not be part of politics.

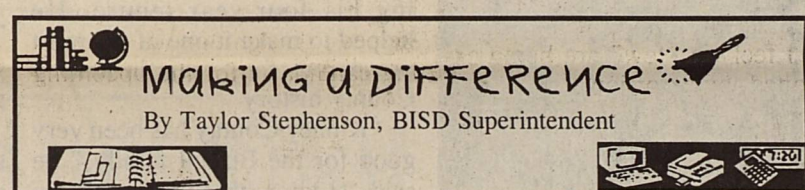
Jim Heath looks to have the experience and wisdom to keep Fort Clark as the best kept secret in Texas.

I've been a board member and personally know the time that it takes to serve the membership. It's a tough job that has no compensation attached.

A fine manager can help the board attain its mission. Good luck. I hope the membership will welcome our new manager and give him a chance to be a problem solver.

It's my understanding that Mr. Heath will be on the job the first week of February.

Garage Sale
On Saturday, Jan. 31, the schools will have a garage sale at



the Alternative School. We'll place an ad in the paper so you can remember the sale.

There will be everything from tires to student desks. Come check it out. The Alternative School is located at what used to be the PCI building.

Spanish Classes
How about those Spanish classes? They're full of folks who seem to be having fun learning some of the basics of the Spanish language.

I visited the early class Monday night that was completely full. Our next classes will be Thursday for those who have signed up already.

The instructor also had a good time getting to know and visit with many of the adults in the school district.

Academic Building
This past Monday, our architect and engineer visited the site for our academic building.

He's working with the site plan now, trying to fit the building onto the site. I'll keep you informed. The completion of this building is a major goal of the Board of Trustees and school administration.

Web Site
If you have a computer and can check out a web site, take a look on the internet at www.brackett.k12.tx.us.

We have our own web site that lists teachers, historic sites, Su-

per Bowl predictions, and many other tidbits of information.

There is a real need in Brackettville for an internet carrier that can connect our folks to the outside world without costing a fortune for long distance calls.

One of the suggestions from the DEC committee was for the school district to form a committee to look into grants for implementing this much-needed service. I hope that we can look at this possibility soon.

That's about it this week. We're having a great week at BISD.

Our staff is grateful for the support that we receive from this community. We know that we make mistakes every day. We also know that each day we try to improve and get better tomorrow than we were today. With your help and support, we can get there.

School Board Appreciation
Don't forget that this is School Board Appreciation Month. Our School Board is a fine one that includes President Lloyd Lee Davis, Vice President Tim Ward, Secretary Gloria Garcia, Steve LaMascus, Jim McDaniel, Darlene Shahan, and Rose Mary Slubar.

Take a minute this week to thank these folks for the time, effort and guidance that they give Brackett ISD.

Have a great week.

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Super Bowl Party

Sunday, Jan. 25
5 p.m. until ?
Come one, Come all!

Ora's

Letters to the Editor

How many readers are fed up with continuing letters

How many readers of The Brackett News are fed up with the continuing stream of poison pen letters to the editor?

They have spewed forth, week after week, filled with lies, distortions, allegations and misrepresentations.

How many have noted the orchestration, with two uninformed writers repeating the same tired smears on a predictable schedule? Has anyone else observed that the letters ceased for a few weeks during a third individual's absence?

Certainly I am not the only reader questioning the judgment displayed by those engaged in this campaign of deceit.

There is real perversity in this deliberate assault on their own assets. I pity anyone so consumed with hatred and so determined to exact vengeance that he will wage war against the place where he lives and has a sizeable investment.

Pity subsides, however, when I consider that he does not put his label on his poison, but allows others to take responsibility ... and blame.

Adolf Hitler wrote, "The great masses of the people ... will more easily fall victim to a big lie than a small one."

P.O. has unfair fee system

I am writing to request your help in correcting the unfair fee system for the Post Office boxes at our Post Office. Fee is not equitable for equal service.

As of this year, boxes for people whose physical address is greater in distance than a quarter-mile from the Post Office pay nothing for a box. Those under a quarter-mile distance from the Post Office now must pay about 40 percent higher fee than it was.

William Hazlitt said, "To spread suspicion ... to propagate scandal ... to create an unfavorable impression, it is not necessary that certain things be true, but that they have all been said."

Edward Howe observed, "Americans detest all lies, except printed lies."

The letter writers and their mentor apparently rely on these propositions.

I prefer instead the saying: "A liar is one who fools himself most of all when he imagines people believe him."

A lot of dirt has been flung at Fort Clark, at the Board of Directors, at the Good Government Group, and at individuals during the past year. Lies, accusations, scurrilous allegations and defamation have filled the letters column weekly.

I believe, nevertheless, that the good sense of most members will prevail and that the Fort will continue to prosper and grow despite dirt or those who throw it.

Seventeenth century scholar Thomas Fuller wrote, "He that flings dirt at another dirteth himself most." Bravo, Mr. Fuller, and thank you!

Don Parks

Those beyond a quarter-mile now get a free box and those under a quarter-mile now must pay a much higher fee.

Since we do not have any mail delivery service anywhere in the county, we have no choice but to rent a box for this exorbitant fee and others now pay nothing for the boxes. Please help correct this inequity.

I feel we "few" are being exploited, by extortion.

Norman Hampton

Members should not be concerned with finances

Several weeks ago the board was questioned about the unexplained discrepancy in the General Fund balance.

The results of that criticism is that now the board doesn't show the balance in the general fund (cash in bank) on the monthly financial statement.

The membership should not be concerned over the year-to-date loss of almost \$45,000 reported in the association's financial statement summary for Dec. 25, 1997, distributed at the January meeting.

The figure is false. Since November the board has been distributing financial statements which include a "General Fund Expense" entry. This figure represents depreciation, not cash.

It was not spent, it is an illusion. It's use results in a misleading statement of our cash position, which is no longer reported anyway.

We did not lose \$24,513.12, we had a surplus of \$1,301.81. In December we had a surplus of

\$12,941.79, not a loss of \$11,077.85. In fact, our reported year-to-date loss of \$44,921.16 is in reality a modest surplus of \$4,914.12 (compared to last year's surplus at this time of over \$57,000).

Why is the board attempting to create an illusion and report false and misleading financial data to their membership? Are we, the membership, being set up for another assessment increase and/or to justify the Jan. 1, 1998, increase? Numbers don't lie, but people do.

When compared to the first quarter (October, November and December of 1996), this year our income is down by over \$91,000; management has cost over \$3,000 more (this without a manager); the golf course has cost \$10,000 more to operate; the restaurant is costing more and making less; and so is the RV Park.

Any answers would be appreciated.

G.C. Slate

Financial statements can be viewed at Fort offices

I too hope that you will write an editorial that will reassure Bill Harrell and the other members of Fort Clark Springs Association that things are going well on the Fort.

However, any member can go to our Member Services Office and view our most recent financial statement or any other information that concerns members.

Our auditor attended the December 1997 open board meeting and reported that our financial condition is sound.

We made a major investment last year in buying the remaining property of Janie Mendelsohn, heir to our founder, and we extended the sewer line to these lots which already had electricity and water in place.

Situated on the golf course, a number of people have already opted to purchase these beautiful lots.

To be a satisfied member of FCSA one should read carefully the Declaration, bylaws, rules, and also the restrictive covenants of the particular piece of property he selects, keeping in mind that this is a recreational development for people of all ages. That done, he is free to move here to enjoy this beautiful place, not to try to make it into the place he left behind.

I have had a membership for 15 years and a lovely home here for 12 years, and I enjoy the affordability, safety, and amenities available very much.

Thelma Adams

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Brackett News welcomes and encourages letters to the editor. The editor reserves the right to edit all letters submitted for length, potentially libelous statements and accuracy of information. All letters must be signed and include a mailing address and phone number for verification purposes. Letters published do not necessarily reflect the editorial beliefs of this newspaper.

Good Government Group controlled by Fort's board

On Jan. 14, 1998, we went to a Good Government Group meeting. This meeting was to elect three candidates that they would endorse for the Board of Directors.

All but one of the board members was at this meeting. Some of the directors wives are members of this group.

They told us we had to vote for three candidates or our vote would not be counted. This is illegal.

Good luck to new manager

Fort Clark Springs Association now has a new general manager named Jim Heath from Irving, Texas, a native Texan.

He said he served in community services most of his adult life, except for a period with the Texas State Workmans Compensation Department.

He did not mention any managerial experience during any of his employment years. Good luck Jim.

Why hasn't the Board of Directors informed the membership of the purchase of five new pickups and 12 new golf carts?

Why does the maintenance department continue to pickup garbage in pickups and flatbeds? Could it be the association has not

paid the repair bill for the garbage truck? Why?

The Board of Directors did not show how much money was in the bank account at the end of December on the financial statement. Did we have any money?

Nor did the financial statement show \$16,000-plus which is owed to Smith Security each month.

Would this indicate more loss in three months operation than they want us to know (\$60,900-plus), and all the money that has disappeared from our bank account?

They approved this financial statement as being correct. Do they pay attention to our financial condition?

Art Baker

Results are 'very interesting'

This letter is written on 14 January, 1998, at 20:50 hours.

We have just returned from the Good Government Group meeting. We thought we were selecting candidates for the upcoming election of Board of Directors for Fort Clark Springs.

There were 14 in our group to

support Bill Kelly. We all voted for Mr. Kelly, but according to the tally sheet, Mr. Kelly received only 12 votes!

To borrow a phrase from the TV series, "Hogan's Heros," Sgt. Schultz would say "Ver-r-y Interesting."

Glenn G. Heesacker

Board: Charges are untrue

Recently, Mr. Bill Harrell wrote a letter to the editor of The Brackett News with concerns caused by the adverse criticism appearing almost weekly, primarily from two dissident resident members, Mr. Arvel "Art" Baker and Mr. Robert Moore, regarding the management of Fort Clark Springs Association and its Board of Directors.

The Fort Clark Springs Board of Directors would like to make it known that Mr. "Art" Baker has seen every known record requested with three exceptions -- these being the executive minutes of the Board of Directors (which deal with salaries, contract negotiations, employee evaluations, and attorney information), association real estate notes and payroll records.

Mr. Baker has accused the association of losing a tremendous amount of money this past year. In actuality, the association's assets are larger than the same time a year ago.

One of Mr. Baker's problems is he either does not understand the accrual method of bookkeeping used by the association or he chooses not to understand, although this has been explained to him numerous times.

In the independent auditor's report to the membership in December, the auditor summed up his report stating, "the association is in good financial shape."

The Board of Directors holds workshop sessions two or three times a month to keep apprised of problems arising on the fort and to discuss strategies for dealing with them. No votes are taken at these workshop meetings.

Mr. Baker accuses the board of "holding secret sessions."

Since the board has been conducting these workshop sessions since 1984, isn't it strange that both Baker and Moore were silent during the tenure of the previous general managers?

Even more outrageous is Baker's question: "Could there be

an exchange of monetary compensation under the table?"

Fort Clark Springs members who serve on the Board of Directors put in many long hours and do so without compensation.

Such a scurrilous remark also indicts at least one or more of our hard working and dedicated employees who would have to be conspirators in any such illegal arrangement.

When Mr. Baker and Mr. Moore claim that their property values have gone down, we would ask if they are aware of the recent tax evaluation from the Kinney County Appraisal District for Fort Clark Springs, as well as real estate sales over the past two years.

Certainly, the beautiful new homes that have been recently built on the fort have added to overall property values.

Concerned members should ask these two dissidents, who profess to know everything that is wrong with how Fort Clark Springs is being managed, why neither one of them put their names up as candidates for the Board of Directors?

Concerned members should know that the large group of resident members who attend our monthly board meetings have been very supportive of the Board of Directors and the management.

Could Mr. Baker and Mr. Moore have a special agenda of their own they hope to advance by denigrating the management and the Board of Directors of Fort Clark Springs?

Such would appear to be the case when one reads their diatribes carefully.

Please rest assured that the Fort Clark Springs Board of Directors vigorously denies the unfounded and untrue negative charges being leveled by these dissidents and understands the concern these give rise to among our non-resident members.

Mona Miller, President
FCSA Board of Directors

Any budget surplus belongs to citizens

By Henry Bonilla
U.S. Congressman, 23rd District

Not too long ago, budget analysts were predicting huge deficits as far as the eye could see. Now, the tide has turned.

For the first time in 30 years, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is predicting an actual budget surplus. That's right, the federal government is in the black. It's hard to believe that anyone born after 1969 hasn't seen a government that lives within its means.

As soon as the predictions of a budget surplus started rolling in, folks started pitching

their ideas of what to do with it. There's two problems with that. First, these are just predictions for now. We need to sit tight until we know what the real numbers are. Second and most important, a budget surplus is not the government's money to spend, it's yours.

There are three basic ways to use this surplus: spend it, save it or cut your taxes. Of course, some tax-and-spend liberals are already plotting how to spend the extra money.

Seems some folks just can't get enough. For them, a surplus means the era of big government is back. The government is not under an obligation to spend more each year. It

is under an obligation to be fiscally responsible to the American public.

Instead of expanding the federal government, we should send any extra money back to the American people. You and your family, not the federal government, should be the ones who benefit from our booming economy. That's exactly why we should use the surplus to chip away at the huge national debt or give you a break in your taxes.

Decreasing the national debt and reducing your tax burden means more money in your pocket. We must keep this ball rolling. After all, it's your money.

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Dishwasher

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Huge master bedroom. You must see this walk-in closet to believe it!
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Man size fireplace with blower in the family room. Built-in bookcases, sliding glass patio doors, ceiling fan with light package.

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Top quality animals on display at Kinney County Stock Show

By Sonja Shell
Staff Writer

You can buy a pig in a poke ... but that's not what you get when you buy a pig, or any other animal at the 43rd annual Kinney County Livestock Show.

Top quality animals were on display in the show arena at the Civic Center Saturday when the 4-H'ers strutted their stuff.

There are few things more enjoyable than watching the serious faces of the young exhibitors in the show ring. You can just see them willing their animals to behave and stand up straight when the judge looks their way. After months of hard work and effort, it finally payed off for the youngsters Saturday. Feeding, brushing, bathing, leading and so much more was what it took to build these winners.

A winner is what Lilly, the pig, became. Sharon Moore raised a Hamp/York cross and fed it out to perfection. At 250 plus pounds, Lilly was the top of her class as she became the Grand Champion Hog. Lilly started out as a cute little piglet at Jimbo Hollon's place in Gonzales. She moved to Brackettville and Sharon and her family started grooming Lilly to vie for the winning colors.

You know the Moore family did more than just feed Lilly, by

her behavior. When this writer looked into the pig pen and saw a tiny girl sitting on a sleeping hog it was a picture come to life. Five year old Rachel Moore was sitting quietly on Lilly's well-fed, stretched out body. Her tiny hands were patting the sleeping hog with tenderness. Rachel's friends, Kyle and Christian Bailey, 6 and 4, were also in the pen, visiting with Rachel. That little scene is the perfect example of how much attention goes into the making of a fine show animal.

Lambs, goats, rabbits, and pigs must have care and attention. Cassandra Gomez said, "We really had to work hard to get the lambs ready to show." She said, "We even had to scrub out the water tank each weekend." Cassandra's mother, Honeybee, said, "It was a family affair to work and feed the animals. All of the kids helped."

Jerritt Meeks also had a winner with his Grand Champion Meat Pen of California Rabbits. The Californian's are white, with black noses, ears, feet, and tails. A meat pen consists of three rabbits. To get a winning meat pen, it requires that all three look as much alike as possible. The depth of color on ears, noses, feet, and tails must be uniform. The rabbits must meet other standards as



Rachel Moore, right, comforts her sleeping hog as she visits with Christian and Kyle Bailey. Brackett News Photo by Sonja Shell

well. Jerritt's exhibit made the grade, to net him top honors.

Since this is typically sheep and goat country you would expect to find top quality in these classes. That is just what Show Judge, Ross Stultz, faced when he had to make his choices from the fine exhibits of sheep and goats. Patrick Rose, Laura Lee Ballew and Megan McWilliams took top honors this year with their fine animals.

It took months of preparation

to put on this fine show. The logistics of getting food, buyers, and someone to do the hundreds of other jobs that go into making a successful show are overwhelming.

There is not enough room to list all of the hard workers who participated, with their time and their money. So we will just say 'thank you' to all who gave. We salute the community who supported the great meal that was so generously provided.

Obituaries

Ursula Beloz

Ursula Beloz, age 92, died Thursday, Jan. 15, 1998. She was born Jan. 7, 1906, in Spofford.

She is survived by her son, Larry Mendeke of Fort Clark Springs; brother, Cruz Beloz of Del Rio; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation was on Friday, Jan. 16, from 1 to 9 p.m. at the Brackettville Funeral Home Chapel with a rosary at 7:30 p.m.

A mass was held on Saturday at 3:30 p.m. at St Mary Magdalene Catholic Church with Rev. David Cashien officiating. Burial followed at the Catholic Cemetery.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the Del Rio Funeral Home, dba the Brackettville Funeral Home Chapel, 114 North Street.

Mary Collins Stine Curcio

Mary Collins Stine Curcio passed away on Jan. 8, 1998, at the age of 83. She was born on May 5, 1914, in Tuscumbia, Ala.

Her studies in education and theater and her love of nature fueled a life of leadership and services to the community and environment.

Curcio's work included leading the development of the Old Quarry Theater of Fort Clark in her beloved state of Texas.

Her death came quickly and unexpectedly at Scripps Green Hospital in La Jolla, Calif. from natural causes brought on by pneumonia.

She is survived by her husband, Luigi, of San Diego, Calif., and her sons, Robert Eugene of Escondido, Calif., and Paul David of Marina del Rey, Calif.

Following memorial services to be held at All Saints' Episcopal Church in San Diego on Saturday, Jan. 24, at 11 a.m., her ashes will be scattered at sea.

In lieu of flowers, please contribute to Mountain Shadows Support Group.

Contributions should be sent to the attention of the Mary S. Curcio Memorial Fund, 2067 W. El Norte Parkway, Escondido, Calif., 92026.

Emil "Pat" Bruno Harborth

Emil "Pat" Bruno Harborth, age 72, passed away Thursday, Jan. 15, 1998, in San Antonio. He was born on May 27, 1925, in Sandy Fork, Texas.

Survivors include his beloved wife of 49 years, Faye B. Harborth, the former Icy Faye Bricker of Spofford; children: Patricia Ann Needels and husband Keith, E.B. Harborth Jr., and Gina Lynn Biesenboch and husband Dennis; grandchildren: Melton Carl Harborth, Elizabeth Ann Harborth, Amber Nicole Harborth, Cody Lynn Harborth, Travis Wayne Harborth, Michele Megerle and husband Robert, Keith Needels Jr., and Tabitha Biesenboch; great-grandchildren: Taylor Storme Harborth, Michelle

Ann Harborth, Suzanne Nicole Megerle, Felicia Rachelle Megerle, Keith Andrew Needels III, and Anthony Quinton Needels; brothers: Herschel M. Harborth and wife Thelka, Kenneth R. Harborth and wife Joyce, and John W. Harborth and wife Margaret; sister: Kay Beyer and husband Joe; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be held on Saturday, Jan. 24, at 3 p.m. at Kingsbury United Methodist Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Bethany United Methodist Church of San Antonio or Kingsbury United Methodist Church of Kingsbury, Texas.

Bonita Eleanor Nipper McKnight

Bonita Eleanor Nipper McKnight of Rocksprings was born May 8, 1912, in Uvalde. She passed away Jan. 17, 1998, in Boerne.

Her parents were Dr. Wallace Nipper and Bonita McKnight Nipper.

She and Daniel McKnight married Jan. 19, 1936, in Brackettville.

She is survived by her husband, Dan McKnight of Rocksprings; children: Dan (Tuck) and Sue McKnight of Layton, Utah, Bob McKnight of Houston, Ted and Rhonda McKnight of Austin, and Bill and Nita Theford of McKinney; grandchildren: Kenny and Whitney Myers of San

Angelo, Hadra McKnight of San Angelo, and Betsy, Ellie and Marty Theford of McKinney; great-grandson: Lane Myers of San Angelo; sisters: Dorothy Jean Nipper Avnehe of San Antonio, and Maude Nipper Adler of Boerne; and many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Mary Katherine Nipper Naylor.

Services were held Thursday, Jan. 21, at the Methodist Church in Rocksprings. Interment followed at the Rocksprings Cemetery.

Arrangements were under the direction of Nelson Funeral Home of Rocksprings.

Kinney County Sheriff's Report

Sunday, January 11

3:00 p.m., A Brackettville man said that his neighbor's dog bit his daughter on the foot. He said that he had contacted the city, but nothing had been done. Chief Deputy Johnny Fritter said that he would talk to City Secretary, David Luna, about the situation. Luna said he would have Randy Castilla check the city's records. Castilla then told officials that he would

tell the owner of the dog to secure the animal or it would be impounded.

Tuesday, January 13

3:38 p.m., A Brackettville man reported loud music on Gove Street. Chief Deputy Fritter was dispatched to the location. The music was turned down at 3:43 p.m.

8:01 p.m., George Talamantez, 24, of San Antonio was arrested

by DPS Trooper Tony Ashley on outstanding DPS warrants out of Kinney County. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail. Talamantez was released on Jan. 18 after paying a \$170 fine, plus time served.

Wednesday, January 14

12:35 p.m., A Brackettville man said that someone was burning trash on his lot and would not put the fire out. Sheriff L.K. "Buddy" Burgess was dispatched to the scene and said the problem was taken care of.

Friday, January 16

8:25 a.m., A Fort Clark man said that he had found a dead deer at the golf course. Officials notified Smith Security, and the matter was turned over to Fort Clark's maintenance department.

11:13 a.m., A Brackettville woman reported a reckless driver on W. Thorn Street. Deputy Sheriff Bobby Guidry was dispatched to the scene, but was unable to locate the vehicle.

11:58 a.m., A Brackettville man reported four subjects carrying duffle bags getting out of a vehicle and crossing a fence at Fritter Park. The man said he believed that the men, who were believed to be illegal aliens, had a hand gun. Chief Deputy Fritter and Deputy Guidry were dispatched to the scene. The matter was turned over to the Border Patrol.

10:50 p.m., Poff Billy Ozell,

68, of Brackettville was arrested for public intoxication by Deputy Sheriff Karl Chism. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail. Ozell was released the next day after paying a \$100 fine, plus time served.

Sunday, January 18

12:58 a.m., A Kinney County man reported a truck on F.M. 674 was travelling very slow. He said the occupants might be hunting on the side of the road. Deputy Chism was dispatched to the scene. He talked to the driver of the vehicle, who said that he was leasing property at the location.

10:35 a.m., An anonymous caller reported a fight outside of Ora's Drive In. Deputy Chism was dispatched to the scene. He said the matter was taken care of.

8:30 p.m., A Kinney County man reported six illegal aliens at a ranch five miles west of Brackettville on Highway 90.

10:32 p.m., An employee at Mario's Bar requested the assistance of a deputy to escort a drunk out of the bar. Deputy Chism was dispatched to the scene.

Monday, January 19

12:29 a.m., A Border Patrol agent reported a possible break in at a ranch. Edwards County officials were notified.

12:30 a.m., A Brackettville man reported loud music on E. Thorn Street. Deputy Chism was dispatched to the scene and the music was turned down.

Birth announcement

The joy of our heart is here!

Xavier Rene Herrera January 9, 1998
7 pounds, 8 ounces 19 inches

Debra and Rene

Grandparents: Ruben and Dolores Buantello, and Armando and Cecilia Herrera

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Your Valentine will be published in the Feb. 12
edition of The Brackett News

BISD Cafeteria Menu

Parents welcome to join their children at breakfast or lunch There are three choices for Breakfast every day. 1. The printed Menu. 2. Cereal, Toast, Fruit or Fruit Juice. 3. (2) toast, Fruit or fruit juice. Milk served with all meals	There are 19 days in the month of November. Elementary @ \$1.10 = \$20.90 Middle & High @ \$1.25 = \$23.75 Salad Bar & "B" Line every day. Extra Bread Grain for grades 6 through 12 everyday
Breakfast Menu Friday, Jan. 23 Banana Muffins Fruit or Juice	Lunch Menu Friday, Jan. 23 Roast Beef, Brown Gravy Baked Potato Seasoned Vegetable Fresh Baked Roll
Monday, Jan. 26 Breakfast Pockets Fruit or Juice	Monday, Jan. 26 Corn Dog, Oven Fries Fresh Fruit
Tuesday, Jan. 27 Glazed Donuts Fruit or Juice	Tuesday, Jan. 27 Lasagna Seasoned Vegetable Mixed Fruit Fresh Baked Roll
Wednesday, Jan. 28 Bean and Cheese Burritos Picante Fruit or Juice	Wednesday, Jan. 28 Beef Tacos Spanish Rice, Pinto Beans Lettuce & Tomato Salad
Thursday, Jan. 29 Pizza Bagel Fruit or Juice	Thursday, Jan. 29 Hamburger, Burger Salad Oven Fries, Fruit

Tigers claim second place

The Tigers took second place at the Brackett junior varsity basketball tournament Saturday after falling to Eagle Pass White 45-34 in the title game.

Eagle Pass led 11-10 after the opening stanza, but built a 21-14 at halftime and outscored Brackett 15-6 in the third period.

Steven Hagler and Daniel Hernandez both scored eight points to pace the Tigers.

Tony Rubio and Jacob Mann each finished with five points, and Jacob Hughes and Damion Toms scored four apiece.

In the semifinals, Brackett edged the Sabinal Yellowjackets 42-40.

The Tigers trailed 32-29 after three quarters, but rallied to outscore the Yellowjackets 13-8 in the final period.

Mann poured in 14 points to lead Brackett's scoring attack.

Hughes finished with nine points, Hagler had eight, Toms scored six, and Hernandez had five.

In the second round, the Tigers routed the Nueces Canyon Panthers, 41-21.

Mann led the way with 13 points, Toms scored seven, Hughes and Rubio both had six, Hagler finished with five, Brian Collier scored three, and Hernandez had two.

Brackett opened the tournament with a 35-20 win over Eagle Pass Orange.

Hughes was the high scorer with 13, Hagler had eight, Toms scored seven, Hernandez chipped in five, and Mann had two.

On Tuesday, the Tigers opened their district slate at home with a 45-24 loss to the Charlotte Trojans.

Charlotte was ahead 12-10 after the opening stanza, but the Trojans rallied for a 14-point run in the second quarter to go up 26-10 at intermission.

Hughes was Brackett's top scorer with 10 points, Toms finished with six, Mann scored four, and Hagler and Hernandez both had two.

The Tigers resume action on Tuesday as they host the Natalia Mustangs at 5 p.m.

Tigerettes rally past Lady Trojans, 56-54

Wright's buzzer-beater lifts Brackett into tie for second

La Toya Wright hit a jump shot in the paint with two seconds left Tuesday to give the Brackett Tigerettes a 56-54 win over the Charlotte Lady Trojans in District 30-2A basketball action.

With the victory, the Tigerettes (12-7) move into a tie for second place in district with the Lady Trojans (12-8). Both teams are 2-1 in league play.

Comfort (15-6) improved to 3-0 in conference action after picking up a 72-54 victory over Natalia (4-15). The Lady Mustangs are 0-3 in district.

In the other conference matchup, Center Point (12-11) edged Natalia (4-15) 47-42. Both teams are tied for fourth in the league standings with 1-2 marks.

Brackett trailed Charlotte 12-11 after the first period in Tuesday's contest, but the Tigerettes

outscored the Lady Trojans 20-14 in the second quarter for a 31-26 advantage at halftime.

Sarah Jo Garcia scored a game-high 19 points to lead the Lady Trojans. Sarah Casares added 11 for Charlotte.

Lindsey Brotherton paced the Tigerettes with a 15-point performance. Patty Lopez and Wright also scored in double figures, finishing with 14 and 12 points, respectively.

Jennifer Ashabranner scored eight points for Brackett, Stephanie Terrazas had five, and Tricia Robinson contributed two.

Brackett will face Dilley on the road tomorrow and host Natalia on Tuesday. Both games begin at 6:30.



Jennifer Ashabranner (3) scores a layup as Stephanie Terrazas (22) and La Toya Wright look on. The Tigerettes moved into a tie for second place in the District 30-2A basketball standings after defeating Charlotte 56-54 on Tuesday. Comfort is leading the conference race with a 3-0 mark, and Brackett and Charlotte are both 2-1. Brackett News Photo by J.J. Guidry

Trojans run past Tigers for 88-37 victory in district opener

Charlotte rallied for a 27-1 run in the third period Tuesday as the Trojans picked up an 88-37 victory over the Brackett Tigers in the District 30-2A basketball opener for both teams.

The loss drops the Tigers' overall mark to 7-12. With the victory, the Trojans improve to 10-4 on the season.

In other conference games on Tuesday, Comfort (15-7) topped Natalia (9-9) 51-43 and Dilley (7-12) blew past Center Point (14-8) 70-42.

Jason Ruple scored 27 points and Ruben Campos had 22 to pace Charlotte's fast-break offense.

The Trojans jumped out to a 23-11 advantage in the first eight minutes and then outscored the Tigers 27-10 in the second period for a 50-21 halftime lead.

Xavier Toms led Brackett with eight points and Schiller Hill finished with seven.

Rene Luna scored six points, Luis Guajardo pitched in five, Brent Woelke

scored four, Caleb Crumley, Phillip Juarez and Demitres Williams all had two, and Coty Williams added a free throw.

The Tigers resume action on Friday as they face the Dilley Wolves on the road. On Tuesday, Brackett hosts Natalia. Both games begin at 8 p.m.

Stephenson claims Club Championship

Mary Stephenson won the 1998 Ladies Club Championship on Tuesday after edging out two other golfers by one stroke at the two-day event hosted by the Fort Clark Ladies Golf League.

Stephenson finished the Championship Flight with a 163. Lou Green and Gwen Ladd tied for second with 164s.

Beth Waller shot 167, Teresa Stephens finished with 168, Joy Hinkleman had a score of 170, Pat McKelvy shot 174, Kelly Dennis had 176, Shirley Stephenson posted a 177, Betty Lee finished with 182, and Sheri White had 185.

Carol Benfield posted a 171 to take top honors in the First Flight. Elizabeth Dillahunt finished second with a 178.

Pat Nelson and Diane Daniels both shot 181, Kay Roberts, Camille Niel and Darline Horning all had 185s, Barbara Miller shot

Golf Roundup

186, Luella Gilliland finished with 187, Arlys Simpson had 196, and Joyce Williamson had 199.

Winning the Second Flight was Ruth Spencer with a 177. Melba Turner took second place honors with 186. She edged out Orlean Alvis, who had 187.

Betty Mathison finished with 189, Edith Zipperer shot 193, Jane Divine had 195, Margo Kendrick posted a 196, Janet Christenson had 199, and Clara McCord shot 205.

Ladies Nine Hole League: Betty Schlatterer won a game of low score on even holes. She finished with 18.

In a game of low putts, Joyce Ambler claimed first place with 12 and Peg Woolston was second with 14.

Tigerettes win championship at junior varsity tournament Freshmen battle Eagle Pass today

Brackett used a balanced scoring attack Saturday as the Tigerettes edged the Sabinal Lady Yellowjackets in the championship game of the Brackett junior varsity basketball tournament.

The Tigerettes led 6-4 after the opening stanza in the tournament finale, and were up 8-6 at halftime.

Brackett then outscored Sabinal 10-8 in the third quarter to take an 18-14 advantage into the fourth period. Both teams scored nine in the final quarter.

Jessica DeLeon, Tiffany Eckenrod and Gracie Terrazas all scored six points for the Tigerettes, while Queta Garza finished with five and Erika Garcia had four.

Brackett opened the two-day tournament with a 19-9 victory over the Nueces Canyon Lady Panthers.

After leading 4-2 after the first quarter, the Tigerettes outscored the Lady Panthers 6-3 in the second period to go up 10-5 at halftime. Brackett put the contest away after outscoring Nueces Canyon 9-4 in the second half.

Samantha Payne paced the Tigerettes with a 10-point performance, Garcia scored six, Garza had two, and Terrazas added a free throw.

On Friday, the Tigerettes dropped a 51-20 decision to Comfort's junior varsity on the road in conference action.

The Lady Bobcats jumped out 13-0 after the first period. Brackett came back as both teams scored eight points in the second quarter, but Comfort still led 21-8 at halftime.

The Lady Bobcats went on to outscore the Tigerettes 30-12 in the second half.

Carissa De la Santos was Brackett's leading scorer with eight points. Garza had seven and Melinda Villarreal scored five.

Brackett's junior varsity will resume action on Tuesday as they battle the Dilley Lady Wolves in conference play. The District 30-2A contest begins at 5 p.m.

Freshmen: The Tigerettes' ninth grade team plays today at 5 p.m. as they travel to Eagle Pass to face the Eagles in non-district action.

Junior High: Brackett's junior high teams were open this week, but will resume action on Monday against Sacred Heart. The eighth grade teams play at home and the seventh graders will travel to Del Rio. Action begins at 5 p.m.

OUTDOORS

State Parks offer variety of events in February

February State Parks Events Calendar

AUSTIN—Following is a listing of some of the upcoming events at Texas State Parks during the month of February. Some events require a Texas Conservation passport, which offers access to guided tours and discounts to events like those listed here. To obtain a TCP, contact your nearest state park or the TCP customer service line at 512-389-4683.

Fate Bell Cave Dwelling Tour
Seminole Canyon State Historical Park, Comstock
Every Wednesday thru Sunday. Take a walking guided tour to see some of North America's oldest pictographs and cave dwellings. 10-11:30 a.m., 3-4:30 p.m., fees \$3 adults, \$1 children 6 to 12, 915-292-4464.

Horseback Outing
Hill Country State Natural Area, Bandera
Ride will focus on the cultural and natural resources of the area. Mount and lunch provided. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., fees \$50 TCP members, \$55 adults, reservations required and must be made through Running 'R' Ranch, 830-796-3984.

Bird Watching
Sparrow Study, Pedernales Falls State Park,

A Little On The Wildlife Side
By Henry Lutz
Kinney County Game Warden

Johnson City
Bring binoculars and walk the trails to spot birds. Bird viewing stations are available daily. 830-868-7304.

Feb. 7 Dinosaur Walk
San Angelo State Park, San Angelo

Hike back in time to tracks left over 200 million years ago by permian vertebrates. Three-mile hike. 1-3 p.m.. In addition to the park entry fee, the tour fees are: free to TCP members, \$2 non-members, \$1 Children 12 and under, reservations available but not required, 915-949-4757.

Feb. 14, 28
Bird Identification Tour
Choke Canyon State Park, Calliham Unit, Calliham

Walk the bird trail and along the water edge with a guide to identify birds and water fowl. 9-11 a.m., 512-786-3868.

Feb. 21 Bus Tour
Big Bend Ranch State Park, Presidio

Departs from Barton Warnock Center at Lajitas. Following El

Camino del Rio, we will visit geological, archeological and historical sites with photographic opportunities along the way. Lunch is included. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., fees \$55 TCP members, \$60 non-members, reservations required, 512-389-8900.

Feb. 21 Petroglyph Tour
San Angelo State Park, San Angelo

Visit the site of a prehistoric Native American village and see Native American rock art. 1 - 3 p.m. In addition to the park entry fee, tour fees are: free to TCP members, \$2 non-members, \$1 children 12 and under, reservations available but not required. 915-949-4757.

Feb. 21 Pressa Canyon Tour
Seminole Canyon State Historical Park, Comstock

Take a hike and view the lower canyons and rock art sites in the closed area of the park. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., fees \$15 TCP members, \$20 non-members, reservations required, 915-292-4464.

VAL VERDE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

801 Bedell Ave.
Del Rio, Texas



1998		February				1998	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1	2 Dr. R. Hernandez Ophthalmologist	3 Dr. M. Singer Ophthalmologist	4 Dr. B.S.Mittler Cardiology/ Internal Med.	5 Dr.S.J.Fisher Ophthalmologist Dr. H. Komet/ Dr. A. Dinesman Ear, Nose, & Throat	6 Dr. David Dean Neuro Surgeon	7	
8	9 Dr. R. Hernandez Ophthalmologist	10 Dr. M. Singer Ophthalmologist Dr. Estrada Pediatric Oncology & Hematology	11	12 Dr.R. Evans Ophthalmologist Dr. H. Komet/ Dr. A. Dinesman Ear, Nose, & Throat	13	14	
15	16 Dr. R. Hernandez Ophthalmologist	17 Dr. M. Singer Ophthalmologist	18 Dr. B.S.Mittler Cardiology/ Internal Med.	19 Dr.S.J.Fisher Ophthalmologist Dr. H. Komet/ Dr. A. Dinesman Ear, Nose, & Throat	20 Dr. David Dean Neuro Surgeon	21	
22	23 Dr. R. Hernandez Ophthalmologist	24 Dr. M. Singer Ophthalmologist Dr. Bloom Pediatric Cardiology	25 Dr. B.S.Miller Dermatology	26 Dr.R. Evans Ophthalmologist Dr. H. Komet/ Dr. A. Dinesman Ear, Nose, & Throat	27	28	

To schedule an appointment with any of the above physicians call (830) 703-1730. All physicians see patients at the Val Verde Regional Medical Center, 801 Bedell Ave., Del Rio, Texas (new wing of the hospital). Easy access through South entrance of the building.

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THE SPATS by JEFF PICKERING

HONEY I'M GOING OUT FOR A WALK.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE WATCHING THE GAME?
AHH PHOOEY, I HAD TO TURN IT OFF... IT WAS THE WORST GAME I'VE EVER SEEN!!
...I SHOULD HAVE GOT A CLUE WHEN WHITNEY HOUSTON PLAYED THE NATIONAL ANTHEM USING HER HAND AND ARMPIT.

OUT ON A LIMB by GARY KOPERVAS

LAND HO!
EARLY EXPLORERS DISCOVER THE NEW WORLD
LAND'S END!
PREPPIES DISCOVER MAIL ORDER SHOPPING
HOW YUMMY!

Super Crossword

ACROSS	winner)	cavity	Instruction
1 Tractoria treat	45 Ship's officer	85 Vincent	4 Vocal
6 Slip of the tongue	46 Recognize	86 Lopez theme	5 Having a handle
11 Cinderella's conveyance	48 Rose-colored dye	89 Becomes	6 Summer refresher
16 He played Moses	49 Calcutta garment	91 less stubborn	7 King of comics
17 Nobelist Root	50 Sought to overthrow a verdict	95 City on the Rhone	8 Bowler's target
18 Fixed portion	54 Small barrel	96 Yield	9 Look for bargains
20 Dining niceties	55 limited without understanding	97 Very, in Versailles	10 Part of EEC
21 Lord's domain	101 Rajah's wife	99 Struck hard	11 Greek Island native
22 Landed properties	102 Heidi's home	100 Bills' partners	12 "Midnight at the ..."
24 Mischivous child	104 Go away!	101 Rajah's wife	13 "— boy!"
25 Think logically	60 Hacienda brick	105 "Cat — Hot Tin Roof"	14 It succeeded the OSS
27 Shakespeare heroine	62 Dishonor or disgrace	106 Hits and rebounds	15 Popular stadium fare
29 Dad's retreat	64 Bargain bonanza	108 Cow catchers	16 Large picnic basket
30 Expectant desires, in Soho?	65 Corn or color lead-in	110 Raided the fridge	19 Goad or heckle
32 Stupely	66 Wildbeest	111 Chemical salt	20 She wept for her children
33 Green veggies	67 Yale man	113 "— Frome"	23 Smile deviously
34 Word with moral or genetic	68 Get overly ripe	115 Connects or associates	26 Chapter of the Koran
35 Uncle Mitlie	69 Euphemistic oath	117 Discontinues	28 Kind of property
37 Special times	71 Electron tube	118 Artless	31 Quenched
39 Bag or pole lead-in	73 Consecrate	119 Escapes detection	34 Rare articles
40 Military alarm?	75 Literary Alexander	120 Business transactions	36 Slight or site in Sicily
41 Artificial	76 Memory prod	121 Cornered	38 Curo hams
43 War — (1937 Kentucky Derby)	78 Pigeon pea	122 Wise ones DOWN	39 Prisons on
	80 Half a college year	1 Red, green and sweet	
	82 Black and Red	2 Inquire	
	83 Anatomical	3 Recipe	

MAGIC MAZE

AIR HOCKEY

Q L I F C Z W T Q N K I F C Z
W U R P M J S R E T S A M H E
C Z X U S Q E E N L R J G E C
Z X V K S U R F A C E E T R P
N L J H C E V F E S Y L C A Y
W V T R F U E O T D A I U P N
T L K E I G P E N A L T Y O E
C A R B Z X L C W U P E S R F
P O B M S L I A R L O J I I G
E D S L A O G F B A W Y X H W
U T S M E N I L R E T N E C S

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions-forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Center line	Goals	Rails	Surface
Elite	Mallets	Referee	Table
Faceoff	Masters	Serve	Two players
Foul	Penalty	Shield	

Your Horoscope by Natasha

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your social circle widens this week. A new friend is different from anyone you've ever met. Guard against absent-mindedness and people who don't keep their word.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A higher-up may seem close-mouthed and unapproachable this week. Later, you could discover something of value at a flea market or garage sale. Finances turn for the better.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You're in the mood to try new things. Originality marks your thinking. You may believe a friend is unreasonable — even so, social interests are favored this weekend.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You may do some unplanned shopping for the home. Be careful not to let things slide at work. An opinionated type won't be convinced by logical explanations.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You may take up a new hobby or intellectual interest this week. Creative work will be inspired. Be willing to listen to what a family member is saying this weekend. Be open-minded.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Avoid extravagant spending this week and be wary of those who would take advantage of you in financial dealings. New beginnings at work or at home are highly favored.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Try to avoid being too harsh in your judgments when dealing with a co-worker. Couples may make spur-of-the-moment travel plans. Romance is a plus this weekend.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A relative may be harping about something from the past. An unexpected business opportunity comes your way later in the week. The weekend accents domestic interests.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You may make a sudden decision regarding a romance. Travel is likely to be on your agenda as well. A child has a tantrum later in the week. Socialize this weekend without going overboard.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Though the week brings positive business and financial developments, you still may have trouble completing an existing assignment. Be persistent in your efforts.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You'll be making plans to travel somewhere you've never visited. A new adviser enters your life. A partner doesn't understand your views about a work concern.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Career interests take an unexpected turn for the better. You may think that a friend is a bit manipulative. Extravagant spending may be a temptation this weekend.

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16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122

HOCUS-FOCUS

FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS.

Differences: 1. Bow is smaller. 2. Shirt is shorter. 3. Table leg is missing. 4. Top of bowl is round. 5. Hair is different. 6. Cuffs are missing.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jan. 22	Avain Pacheco	Jan. 24	Jimmy Bader
Jan. 22	Elisa Salazar	Jan. 24	Fern Dyer
Jan. 22	Samantha Smith	Jan. 27	Mary Alice Dimery
Jan. 23	Candy Dyer	Jan. 27	Maragarita Garcia
Jan. 23	Mary Louise Veltman	Jan. 27	Tiara Ward
	Jan. 28	Julian Talamantez	

Hardin discusses conflicting beliefs

By Frances McMaster
Contributing Writer

Brackettville Rotary Club member Joe Harden of Central Power and Light shared some of his thoughts with the group at last Thursday's program.

In his droll, laid back style, Harden spoke of the conflicting beliefs people hold without becoming aware of this disparity. He suggested we examine our own belief system to become more self-aware.

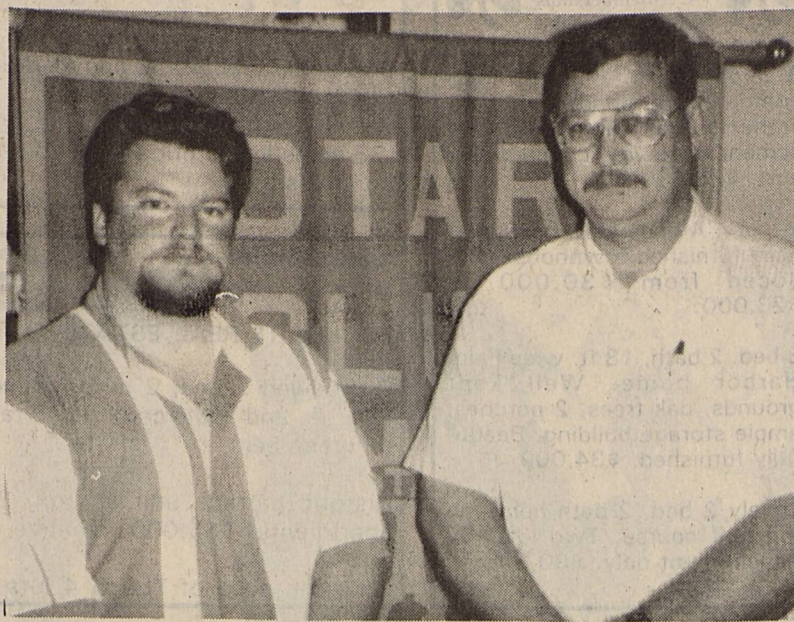
Conflicting beliefs can cause an inner tug of war and make it difficult to make decisions, set goals, and paradoxically, it can make it impossible to reach those goals.

Harden illustrated the point by telling a story from his childhood -- a mischievous scheme that bordered disaster.

He was a member of a group of boys who played together everyday. One of their favorite places was the railroad tracks. It was there they found some strange looking small packages wrapped in red on the tracks.

Curiosity compelled them to pick them up and pull off the red covers to discover a dark, powdery substance. But, what were they and what was the substance each contained?

The boys discovered that when this substance was sprinkled carefully along a railroad track and hit with a hammer, it would smoke. When hit squarely, the



Vice President J.J. Guidry, left, presided over last week's Brackettville Rotary Club meeting and introduced Program Chairman Joe Harden. Photo by Eric McMaster

hammer would be blown right out of the striker's hand. Mystery solved! The black powder was an explosive.

Feeling empowered at this point, they made plans. Each one had a cherished ambition to become famous some day. What could they do that would be admired by their friends? The answer became obvious. They should blow up the school.

They certainly didn't want to get caught, and the chances of blowing up the school without discovery was practically nonexistent. They chose another target.

At the intersection of North and

South First streets, a pedestrian's tunnel ran beneath the street to emerge at the corner of the gasoline station. The target was chosen.

The boys collected the red packets, which they called railway torpedoes. The contents were dumped into a 2-pound coffee can along with powder collected from fireworks, bullets, and from their fathers' shot gun shells. Finally, they had a large stash of explosive material.

The fellow conspirators had gone to the Saturday movies many times and watched the scenes where the "bad guy" planned to

blow up the mine.

He would place the explosive in the mine shaft and create a trail of powder as a fuse which he lit. Then, he would be discovered by the "good guy." A fight would ensue while the fuse burned toward the explosive charge. The "good guy" would always win the fight in the nick of time and emerge a hero.

With this in mind, the boys chose to place their explosive under an iron grate at the north end of the tunnel where the odor of gasoline was particularly strong, thinking maybe they could also blow up the whole gas station!

Charley Nix's little brother was chosen to light the fuse since he could run faster than the other fellows.

As soon as the explosion occurred, the plan dictated that each boy was to run to his own home. Despite the questions that would be asked, they would say nothing despite fame knocking at their door.

Charlie's little brother lit the fuse. Instantly, the explosion blasted the grate off and the boy flew a little way.

Hardin doesn't remember just how far the little fellow flew, but when the boy turned to run, his hair was gone half the way back on his head, his face was black, and he had no eyelashes or brows.

Panic overcame the conspirators, and they stampeded after the younger boy as he ran for home

instead of returning to their own homes.

The herd thundered onto the porch to discover the screen door was locked. Then, they crammed their way through the culprit's unlocked bedroom window and huddled there until the inevitable confrontation.

Hardin is a little unclear about what happened next. Not only was he in shock, but he couldn't hear a thing for several days. He had to fake it.

None of the boys had ever questioned the incongruity of not being found guilty of the crime and becoming admired for their act. They believed both were possible.

Hardin said he noticed this as an adult. When he focused on this, he also discovered other opposing beliefs.

He reexamined these and urges other people to do the same with their own belief systems. Do your words and your actions disagree?

Briefs ...

Genealogical Society plans local meeting

In an effort to stimulate more interest in the residents of the nine-county area served by the Southwest Texas Genealogical Society, plans have been made for the quarterly meetings to be held in the different counties.

Fort Clark Museum Curator Larry Mendeke will present the program, followed by a tour of one of the historic homes on Colony Row.

The meeting on Saturday, March 7, will be in Kinney County at Las Moras Restaurant at Fort Clark beginning at 10:30 a.m. Registration and luncheon fees will be \$10. Anyone is welcome to attend, but must pre-register for the luncheon by calling Pat McKelvy at 563-9287.

Thompson to address historical society

Dr. Jerry Don Thompson will present a slide-talk presentation on Sibley's 1862 New Mexico campaign on Saturday at the Fort Clark Historical Society's monthly meeting, announced Frank Cheaney, the group's newly elected president.

Thompson is the dean of the college of arts and humanities at Texas A&M International in Laredo. An engaging speaker, Thompson is among the best and most prolific historians of the Southwestern campaigns of the Civil War, and is an authority on the Texas-Mexico border.

He is the author of numerous books including, "Vaqueros in Blue and Gray" and "Into the Far Wild Country." His latest books, "Fifty Miles and a Fight: Major Samuel Peter Heintzelman's Journal of Texas and the Cortina War" and "A Wild and Vivid Land: An Illustrated History of the South Texas Border," are due out this spring.

The Fort Clark Historical Society meets on the fourth Saturday of each month, September through May. The monthly meetings are open to the public, and refreshments will be served.

McKelvy attends Hill Country DAR tea

Pat McKelvy, along with Joan Davis from Reagan Wells, Nell Evins from Batesville, and Virginia Hazelrigg from Uvalde, represented the De Las Encinas DAR Chapter at a tea honoring Barbara Harrell last Thursday.

The tea was held at the main house of the Robert Warren Alexander Flying X Ranch east of Bandera. Members from all of the Hill Country Council chapters attended to support Harrell in her candidacy for the DAR national office of registrar general.

DRT to meet at Fort Clark in February

The Daughters of the Republic of Texas will hold its monthly meeting at Fort Clark's Las Moras Inn at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 19. For information or reservations, call Pat McKelvy at 563-9287.

Keller hosts Theta Sigma Chapter meeting

Doraline Keller hosted Theta Sigma Chapter's meeting on Monday in her home as Jean Land received the Exemplar Degree and Betty Inman and Luella Gilliland received the Preceptor Degree.

Rituals were conducted before the business meeting, and Keller served delicious refreshments of sandwiches, cakes and punch to the 13 members present.

Vice President Alecia Raymer, called the meeting to order. She called for a secret ballot vote to elect the Valentine Sweetheart for the year.

Plans were made for the Valentine banquet to be held Feb. 13 at the Las Moras Inn for all members and their husbands. The Valentine Sweetheart will be revealed at the banquet.

Sorority discusses hosting Valentine party

Beta Epsilon Omicron met on Monday night and discussed a Valentine's party. It was decided to elect the Valentine Sweetheart at the sorority's next meeting.

The minutes were read by Betty Mathison and were approved. Discussion was made to donate money to various needy organizations. It was decided to give a little to each organization discussed.

The business meeting was adjourned by Pam Melancon. Marla Madrid was the hostess. She served snacks and gave an autobiography of her life.

FOOTSTEPS ECHO

The Fort Clark Diaries and Letters of Major General Francis Henry French

Courtesy of his descendants



Francis Henry French was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana on September 27, 1857. Deeply impressed from his youth by the stirring deeds and stories told by veterans of the Civil War, he realized his ambition for a military career by entering the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, where he graduated 12th from the Class of 1879. He was assigned as 2nd Lt. of "E" Company 19th Infantry and came West. Following service at Fort Garland, Colorado Territory and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, the regiment moved to Fort Brown at Brownsville, Texas, where Lt. French was detailed as the Regimental Adjutant. In December of 1882, the 19th Infantry was posted to Fort Clark.

At Fort Clark, on January 1, 1883, Lt. French began diaries, which he faithfully maintained for the next 30 years.

Friday, January 22, 1886

Cunningham relieved me as usual at guard mounting. After guard mounting went to Capt. Vance's and to the office and then took a bath and cleaned some grease spots off my clothes. After lunch Hewitt took me out for a ride in his cart, which was very pleasant. Went to the hospital afterwards to have my ears treated but Black was not there. Then went to the store and had a long talk with Mr. Friedlander about that land investment in San Antonio. The tract consists of about fifty acres in the outskirts of San Antonio which Shunk bought three years ago and now is willing to sell for what he paid then, thus losing the interest on his money. Am very suspicious of Friedlander for he is a thorough Jew and if there were any money in it he would take the investment himself. If I do go into this it will be necessary to borrow \$500 at a good rate of interest. My insurance has to be paid yet and I want to go home this coming Summer. So am very undecided. Sat in Hewitt's while after dinner, Hall being there also and then went into Capt. Vance's. He did not advise me about this land investment, but talked so that I think he regards it unfavorably. Then called at Mrs. Feche's meeting her niece, Miss Folsom of Dakota, a bright interesting young lady, pretty but too tall for me. I hate to dance with tall ladies as the contrast is annoying to both. {HFH was 5'2"} After tattoo went to Col Bliss' to call and found a little whist party there. Other callers came in and two games were started. Played there until after ten o'clock and then escorted Mrs. Remington home first eating some excellent refreshments. Dress parade was as usual this evening. Received a letter and bundle of papers from home this morning.

Saturday, January 23, 1886

Mail brought letters from Capt. Simonds and King. Was glad to

hear from the Captain again whom I knew at Mayers Springs. Had my ears treated as usual this morning and then went to the office where met Gen. Williams the Adjutant General of this Division. Gen. Smith invited all the officers present in Hall's office into his own office and after introduction Maj. Wilcox kept up the conversation with Gen. Williams while the rest looked wise; a fair sample of such affairs. Went over to Library about noon to look over papers. Hewitt went hunting and was absent from lunch. After this meal Geary came in for a while and after talking over the matter we finally decided to take that land and went down to see Friedlander. Geary is able to pay his half in cash and I will have to borrow about \$450 from Friedlander for which the old Shylock is going to charge me 12% interest. Fortunately in about three months Capt. Vance will let me have \$500 and then I can wipe out this. Capt. Vance lets me have the money as long as I want it at 10%. Was very much in doubt about the advisability of this investment but now the die is cast and economy is the order of the day until this debt is paid. Beat Geary at game of billiards and then came to quarters and read Draper. Took a walk before dinner while waiting for Hewitt. Spent the usual pleasant evening at whist at Mrs. Hall's, Hewitt and I winning by a few points. How Capt. Vance and I will miss this and the Cercle Francais when we go to Ringgold. Of this there is no news.

Sunday, January 24, 1886

No mail for me this morning. After inspection went over to office but could learn nothing new of the proposed move. Stayed a while at Capt. Vance's and after a bath wrote usual letter home. Took a walk before dinner. Geary came in after retreat and sat till church time. Was so disgusted with the Chaplain last Sunday evening that felt like staying in quarters this evening, but finally went and heard the best sermon that the Chaplain has ever preached. Escorted Mrs. Gillmore home and was asked by her to notify the members of the Cercle Francais to meet at her house was usual on Tuesday to continue the

readings until time comes for moving. Was very glad to receive this notice. Called at Capt. Vance's until tattoo, after which read Draper.

Monday, January 25 1886

Mail had nothing for me this morning. After guard mounting went over as usual to have ears treated. Then went to office and to Capt. Vance's to notify him about the Cercle but he was not at home. Looked over papers in the Library and then took a pleasant ride with Dr. Black. After lunch saw Capt. Vance and notified him. Then went down with Geary to the store and played a few games of billiards. While there saw the deed and abstract of title of the land in San Antonio. Commenced a letter to Father before parade in regard to this purchase. After dinner intended to complete the letter in time for the mail but met Hammond and accompanied him to Gen. Smith's where we sang with Miss Saunders. Afterwards notified Dr. Town about the Cercle and then called on Mrs. Williams until tattoo. After this called on Dr. Town for a while and read Draper before retiring.

Tuesday, January 26, 1886

Mail brought me a letter from Harry with his bill of \$65. Cannot pay this until the end of February. Must be very economical until all these debts are wiped out. Completed letter to Father and asked him to sell part of my land at home. Then watered the grass. And afterwards Geary had his two horses brought up and we rode out on top of Las Moros Mountain. The ride was very enjoyable but the day was a little hazy so that we could not see as distinctly as we would have liked. After returning played a few games of billiards with Geary and then wrote to King to inform him that I could not find a letter for him that he wrote me about. Studied the lesson for this evening. The Cercle met as usual and had a pleasant evening but too much English was indulged in. An argument sprung up in regard to the advantages or converse of educating the mass of the people. Capt. Vance was somewhat inclined to take a pessimistic view of the present civilization. Read

Draper before retiring.

Wednesday, January 27, 1886

A letter from home made up my mail this morning. Had my ears treated as usual and then went to the office and to Capt. Vance's a while. Played billiards a while with Geary. Hewitt went hunting and was absent from lunch. Looked over the papers in the Library, played piquet with Hammond and wrote usual letter home in the afternoon. Had to wait dinner a while on Hewitt. Escorted Miss Saunders to a promenade concert and had a very pleasant evening there. Geary brought Miss Folsom. She is a bright girl, dances well and good company.

Thursday, January 28, 1886

Only O.B. mail for me this morning. Hewitt came in before breakfast to ask me to take his guard tour today, but had to refuse as Mrs. Bliss is to give a card party this evening to which Miss Saunders said I was to be invited.

Felt ashamed to refuse Hewitt as he has been so kind to me, but he appreciated my reason. Orderly brought around invitation after guard mounting which I answered and then went down to the store to play a few games of billiards with Geary. Sat a while on Mrs. Feche's porch chatting with the young lady while waiting for the mail after guard mounting. After lunch watered the grass a little and went up to Mrs. Feche's to make engagement to escort Miss Folsom to Mrs. Bliss'. Read the papers and Draper. Capt. Vance being Officer took the calls. About 7-30 went after Miss Folsom and escorted her over to Mrs. Bliss' where we had a very pleasant evening at cards. Confound my digestive apparatus it went back on me again and I had to leave the room twice. Must overcome this foolish fear.

Library Memorials

Brackett ISD's Myrtle Higginbotham Hunt Library acknowledges these recent memorials:

The Jimmy Bader family donated "Texian Iliad: a Military History of the Texas Revolution" and "American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence" in memory of Dan Davis; "The Spark of Independence and Henry Ford: Tin Lizzy Tycoon" (VHS) in memory of Jack Whitworth; "The Americans in the Age of Revolution 1750-1850" in memory of Condy Nicols; "Enola Gay and the Atomic Bombing of Japan" (VHS) in memory of Else Sauer and Pearl Miller; and "Malcom X: a Search of Identity" (VHS) in memory of Amelia T. Rodriguez.

Jimmy and Jamie D. Ballew donated "The Great Documents of Western Civilization" in memory of Dan Davis.

Pauline Hilliard donated "Tiger: A Biography of Tiger Woods" in memory of Ernest Villareal Jr.

Judy Blankenship donated "Animal Survivors" (VHS) in memory of Tony Rose and "Pre-historic Life" (VHS) in memory of Amelia T. Rodriguez.

Stan and Lisa Conoly donated a set of Wish Bone Classics entitled "Joan of Arc," "Romeo and Juliet," and "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" in memory of Tony Rose.

Mary Sam and Joe York donated "Classic Poems to Read Aloud..." in memory of Amelia T. Rodriguez and "Online Kids: A Young Surfer's Guide to Cyberspace" in memory of Maxine Carroll.

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