



MERRY CHRISTMAS

DEPRESSION CHRISTMAS

by MARY DALTON CRUMP

When I was just a little tad,
back in Depression time,
Things were so bad, folks struggled hard,
we didn't have a dime.

Out in the breaks, Pa found a tree
with branches that were green,
a tinfoil star on top made it
the grandest ever seen.

Pa cut a beat-up broomstick and
Ma helped me fix it up.
They knew that Christmas morning
would be such a bitter cup.

If presents were not underneath
that scrawny cedar tree,
for just a kid who never thought
that Santa would pass me.

Pa carved a piece of board and
frazzled rope to make a mane.
He took old tack and soaped it up,
it made some dandy reins.

Ma somehow found a little paint,
some buttons for the eyes,
and when they had it finished that
stick horse was just my size.

Ma took her hen-egg money and
bought me some cowboy boots.
They went without their coffe but
my stocking had some fruit.



GIFTS FOR BOVINA'S CHILDREN...Becky London of First Baptist Church and Quita Jones of First United Methodist Church want to thank everyone who contributed to the first annual Bovina Community Christmas Tree. Some children who would not have had a Christmas, benefited from the generous donations of Bovina's citizens.

Holiday Church Services

On Monday, December 24, Bovina's First Baptist Church will have a candlelight service at 6 p.m. First United Methodist Church will also have a candlelight service at 6 p.m. St. Ann's Catholic Church will have Mass in English at 7:30 p.m. and Spanish at 8:30 p.m. St. Ann's will have a New Year's Mass Monday, December 31. The English service will be at 7:30 p.m. and the Spanish service will be at 8:30 p.m.

Community Choir Presents Program

Bovina's Community Choir presented "Welcome to Our World, A Musical for Christmas," Sunday evening, December 16 at First Baptist Church.

The musical, created by Claire Cloninger and Robert Sterling, was directed by Michael Downes, First Baptist Church and BISD superintendent. Gene Hawkins, interim pastor of First Baptist Church, narrated.

Songs that were performed included, "Emmanuel's Light" with "Welcome to Our World" and "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"; "The Open Arms of Christmas"; "A Carol at the Heart of Every Christmas" with "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing", "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" and "Angels We Have Heard on High".

Also, "Welcome to Our World"; "Welcome, Jesus, Our Redeemer", "Behold, He Has Come"; "Come, Now Is The Time to Worship", "Once Again" solo by Michael Downes; "There Is a Place"; "Joy to the World!" with "Go, Tell It on the Mountain".

The finale consisted of "Emmanuel's Light", "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" and "Welcome, Jesus, Our Redeemer". Singers from throughout the community and various churches filled the choir loft. The altos were Sarah Owens, Dotty Powers, Courtney Jamerson, Judy Hodnett, Esther Steelman and Krystal Weber.

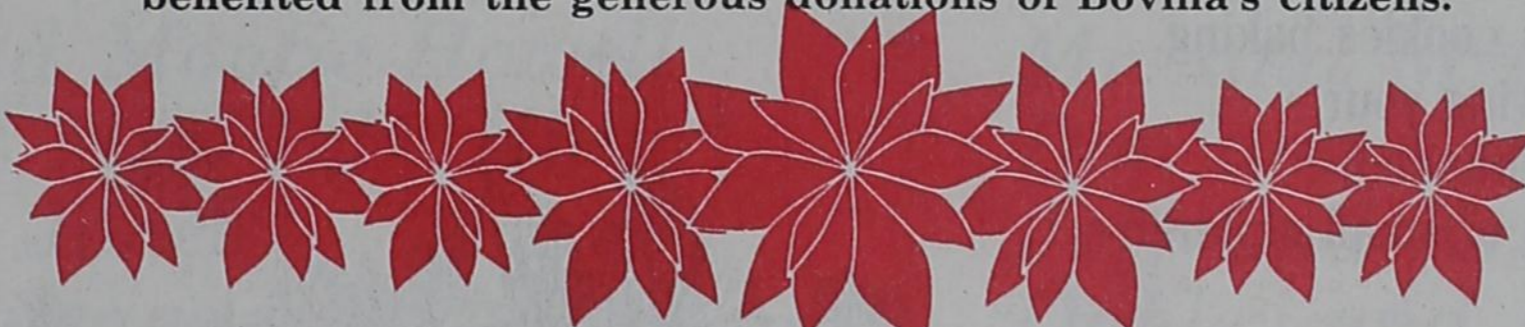
The sopranos were Mary Rose Paterson, Kelcey Scroggins, Miguelina Castro, Isabel Espinoza, LaQueta Garner, Karen Schilling, Vernie Schacher, Lisa Schilling, Mendy Warlick, Leah Mason and Erra Jamerson.

The tenors were Justin Brozek, Doyle Garner, Travis Monk, Billy Smith and Bob Wilson.

The bass singers were Steve Powers, Mac Langford, Galen Hromas, Randy Stone, Matt Downes and Richard Carson.

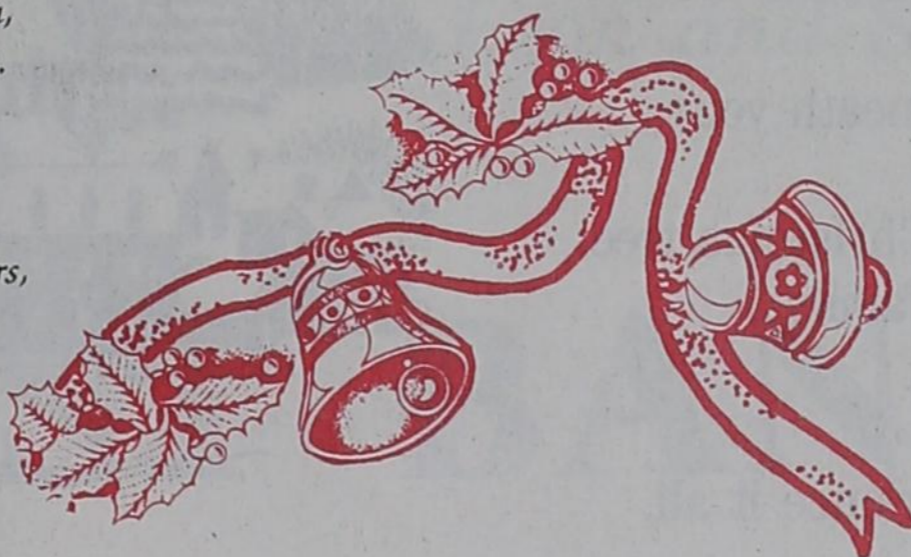
After the presentation guests and choir members had refreshments to celebrate the event.

Plans for an Easter program are rumored to be underway. We can all hope!



In later years, when I was grown,
I learned what they had done.
They sacrificed a lot to make
a Christmas for their son.

I've kept that horse all these years,
it's such a special one.
It's wrapped up in the attic for
I've saved it for my son.



SWEET LITTLE ANGELS...Daughters of Bryan and Leah Mason, Mallie, Brynna and Ashton, paused before their Sunday morning program.



"DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?" Children from TEAMKID at First Baptist Church presented a Sign Language program Sunday morning.



RETIREMENT RECEPTION...Postal customers said goodbye to exiting postmaster, Laura Bartlett Friday, December 7 during a retirement reception hosted by the Bovina Post Office. Pictured with Mrs. Bartlett are Rose McCain, Mary Rose Paterson, Peggy Hargrove and Mary Bartlett.



Jack and Ona Patterson enjoy refreshments with Laura's mother, Viola Hadaway of Earth.

Laura Bartlett Retires As Bovina's Postmaster

Laura Bartlett began her twenty-seven year career with the Bovina post office as a part time clerk under then postmaster, Gene Ezell, on September 1, 1974.

Back then the employees consisted of Laura, Gene and Flossie Rhinehart. Gene passed away in November and Flossie has moved to Wyoming to be near relatives.

In 1984 Laura's duties changed from clerk to Officer In Charge, OIC, at the Earth post office. She worked there for two months until they got a new postmaster. On her return to the Bovina post office, she applied for the vacant position here, Gene was retiring.

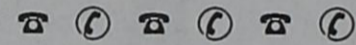
On May 12, 1984, she began her full-time duties as Bovina's postmaster. Because of arthritis in her hands, Laura decided to retire this year after 27 years and three months.

She was feted with a retirement reception at the Bovina post office Friday, December 7.

She and her husband, Houston, have two sons, Bart

and Rocky. Bart has three children and six grandchildren: Laurie Perez and her two sons of Clovis, New Mexico; Cole Bartlett of Portales, New Mexico and his three children; and Serina Bartlett of Clovis and her son.

Rocky is married to Mary. His son, Dustin, lives with the couple in Bovina.



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Ron Carr.....Managing Editor
Becky London...Bookkeeper, Comp

Santa Letters

Dear Santa,
I would like a play station and a cross Jesus. I will give you milk and cookies. I like you to give me a go-cart. So have a good time Mr. Santa, bye. Thank you for the gifts.

Jeremiah DeLaRosa

Dear Santa,
I would like to thank you for the things you got me last year. My brother Gabe would like a lot of toys this Christmas. I would like a other game for my Game Boy. I would also want a telescope. Can you tell Rudolph how come his nose glows so red?

Michael Garner

Dear Santa,
I hope you bring Brianna something. I want to thank you for bringing me that telescope. The things that I want for Christmas is good health for my family. I hope you get a present from a little boy or girl. I hope you have a good Christmas with your elves and your wife. Thank you for every thing you gave me on every Christmas Eve. Have a good Ho! Ho! Ho!

Jennifer Garza

Dear Santa,
I would like these things Santa Claus. I want a leap frog that twist it is a spelling Leap Frog. I want a laptop. I want another Leap Frog that is a science or social studies. Bring a game cube for Haylee, my sister. Thanks very much for the presents from last year. I will leave cookies and milk for the cookies.

Padyn Hughes

Dear Santa,
I would like you to bring me a new doll, barbie and a game. I appreciate you for bringing me a barbie. I leave out cookies and milk when Santa comes. Sometimes my sister and I play in the snow. We have snowball fights. It is really fun. We make snow ice cream. We have lots of fun on Christmas Eve.

Taylor Lane

Dear Santa,
I would like a computer, Nintendo, and a puppy. Thanks for the things you brought me last year. How is Mrs. Claus and Rudolph doing? Thank you for the gifts last year.

Edwin Carrillo



ENJOYING THE FARE...Earl Whitten; Sandra Cockerham, route delivery; Jeff Steelman; Donalita Hawkins; Lenore Falcon, new postmaster and Pat Bandy, clerk, have coffee, cider, cookies and cake during the retirement reception honoring Laura Bartlett.

Christmas Cheer To All Customers of Pay & Save

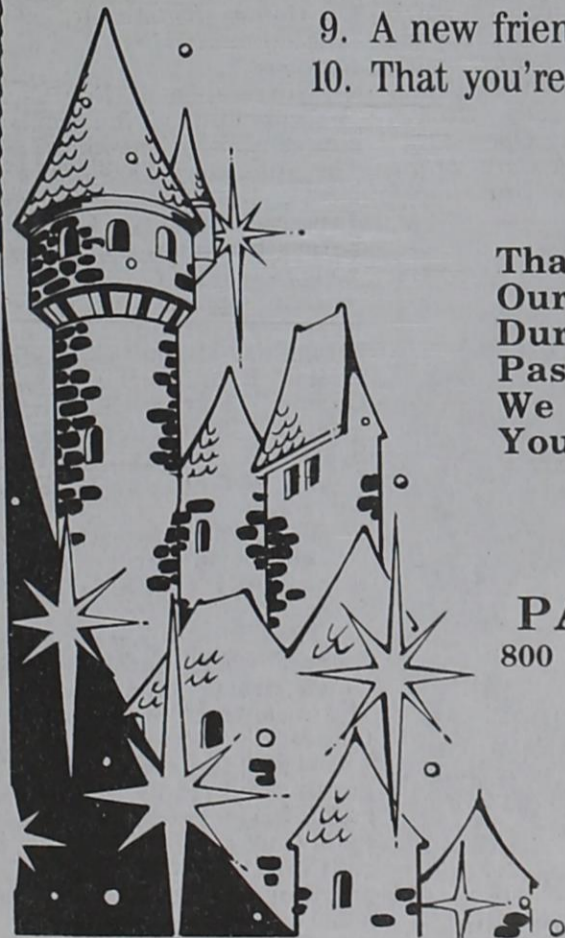
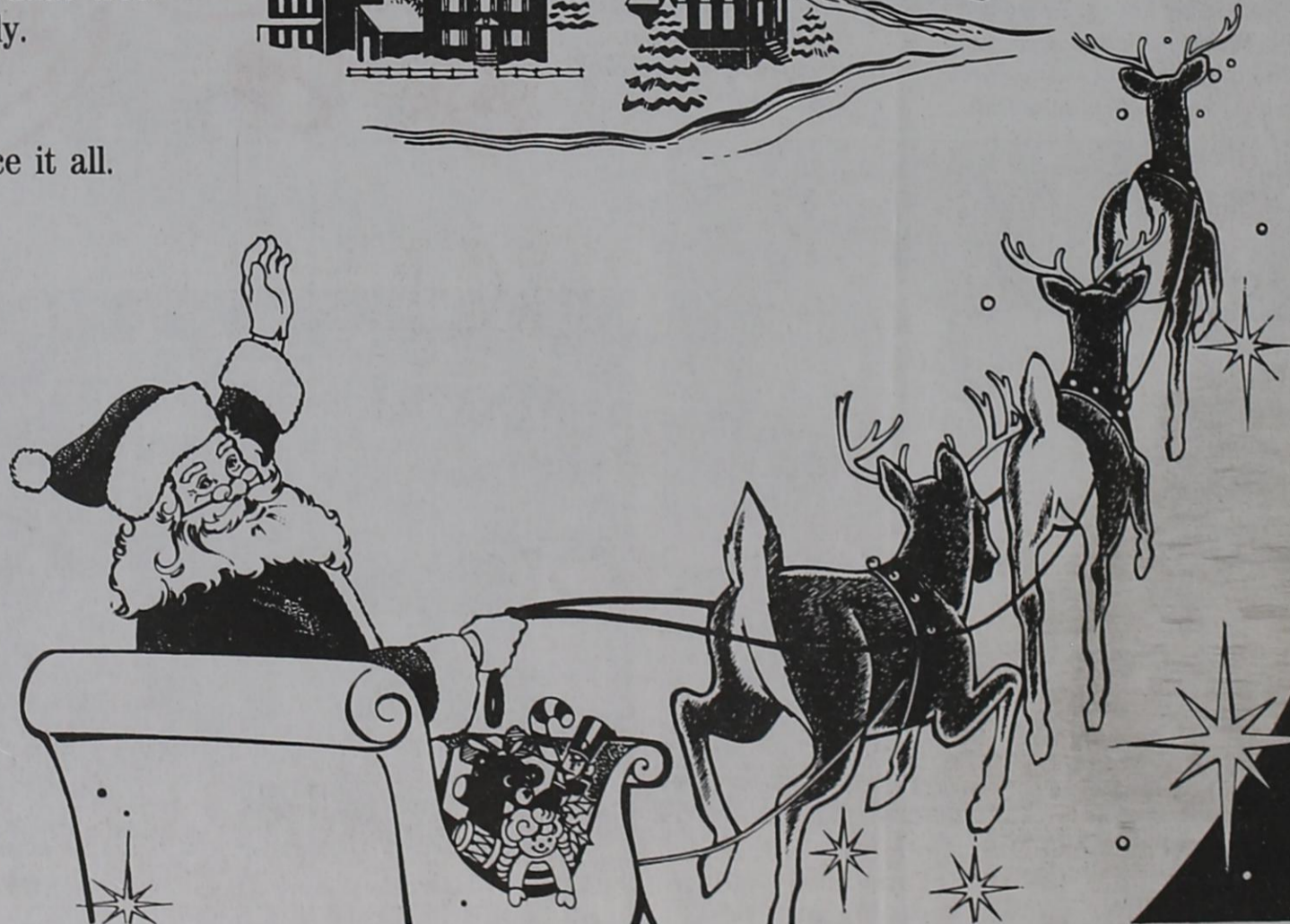
To spread a little cheer starting here, we've compiled a list of things worth celebrating. Feel free to add a few of your own.

1. The aroma of Christmas cookies baking.
2. The satisfaction of knowing your Christmas shopping is finished.
3. The delight on the faces of small children on Christmas Eve.
4. The frost outside when you're in front of the fireplace.
5. The sound of carollers beneath your window.
6. The star on top of your Christmas tree.
7. The love and warmth of family.
8. An old friend.
9. A new friend.
10. That you're there to experience it all.



Thanks For Being Our Customers During This Past Year. We Appreciate Your Business.

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Season's Greetings

... And Many Thanks!

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

Thank you for brightening our year with your friendship.

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

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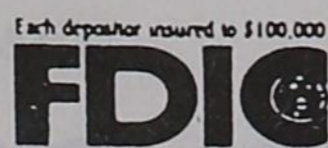
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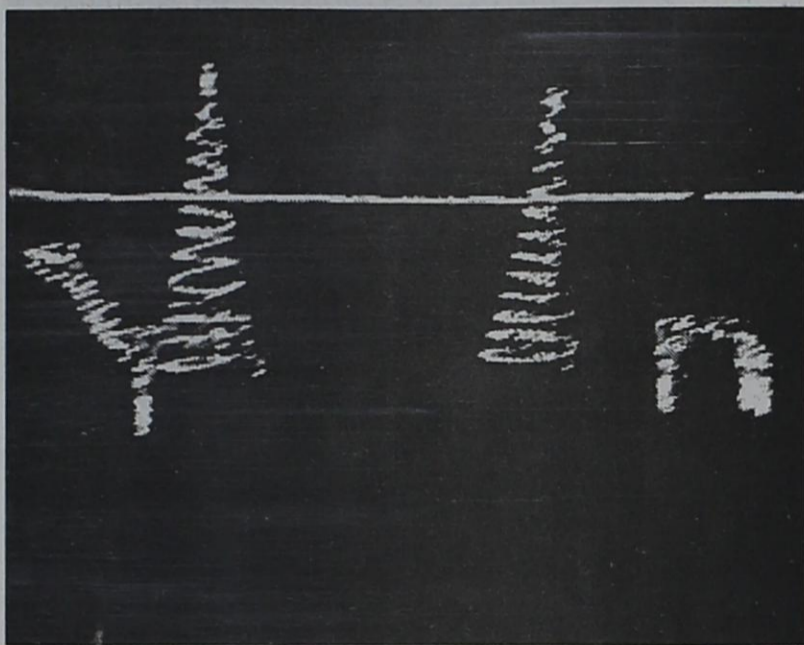
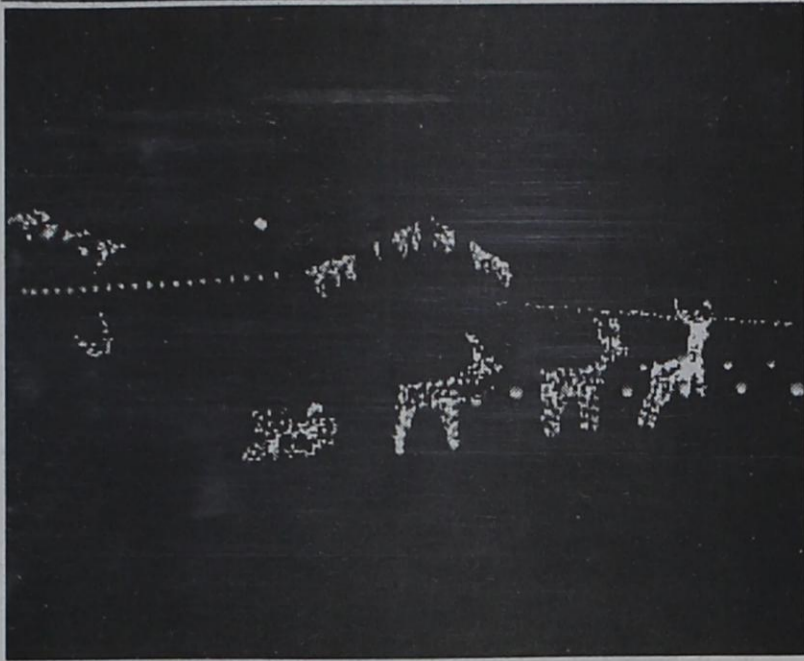
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101 Third Street

Phone 251-1442





❄️ ❄️ Letters To Santa ❄️ ❄️

Dear Santa,
Santa do you know what I want for Christmas? I want a thing but I don't know what its name is but it is for your fingers. I saw it on the paper so I said "I want that for Christmas." Thank you Santa for what you gave me last year. I love it. And the last thing I want for Christmas is my family to be so so safe.

Regina Quintero

Dear Santa,
I want a new computer for me and my brother. I will give my little puppy a stuff ball and a sweater. I am going to leave Santa Claus milk and cookies. Thank you for the presents from last year.

Tamara Rivera

Dear Santa,
I would want a box with three puppies and a mother dog, VCR, reindeer with lights outside. Thank you for the other gifts from last year.

Judith Rodriguez

Dear Santa,
I would like a Barbie and a birthday party for Christmas. How is Mrs. Claus doing and the reindeers? I am going to leave milk and ice cream for you. Then for the reindeers I am going to give them ham. Thank you for the gifts.

Nancy Ann Rosalez

Dear Santa,
I would like to make a wish about a new bike, a puppy and a catfish with a big tank. Thank you for the gifts I got last year. How is Mrs. Claus doing? And Rudolph doing good ok. How are the other reindeer doing? I heard a song coming Rudolph the red nose reindeer had a shining nose. When he came to town it will light up. I don't know the rest.

Marco Terrones

Dear Santa,
I would like a new playstation 2 and some clothes and a go-cart.

Thank you, Gael Vela

Dear Santa,
I want a scooter. I want a computer to. For my birthday I want a wats her face. Thank you for the presents from last year. How is Mrs. Santa Claus doing?

Ashley Villa

Dear Santa,
I wish I can have a new baseball bat and a new CD of Back Street Boys and a new soccer ball and Sonya a new CD. I will leave milk and cookies for you. Thank you for the presents last year.

Phillip Murillo

Dear Santa,
My name is Ramiro. I want a game and a reindeer and a VCR. Thank you for the other gifts from last year.

Ramiro Nicolas

Dear Santa,
I would like a new puppy. I would take care of him. I would like the game Go Fish. I would like a computer for Christmas. Thank you for the gifts I received last year.

Vanessa Ortiz

Dear Santa,
I want a little kitty that is real. I want a toy doll and a computer. Thank you for the gifts last year.

Alejandra Chavez

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Love Fund Set For Former Bovinans
Former Bovina residents Truman and Barbara Trim lost their home in a fire December 7. They lost everything in the fire. A love fund has been established for them at:
Lone Star State Bank
P.O. Box 0267
Lone Star, TX 75668
The Truman & Barbara Trim Fund Account # 1113943.

Academic All-District Announced
The 3-1A Academic All-District selections have been announced.
Football players selected were Josh Kerby, Mike Olvera, Juan Vara, David Garcia and Jeremy Ortiz.
Cheerleaders on the academic all-district list were Christen Stowers, Kelcey Scroggins, Veronica Herrera, Maritssa Salazar and Jennifer Reyna.

We really appreciate your patronage and wish you all a joyous holiday season.

Merry Christmas From All Of Us To All Of You!

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Merry Christmas

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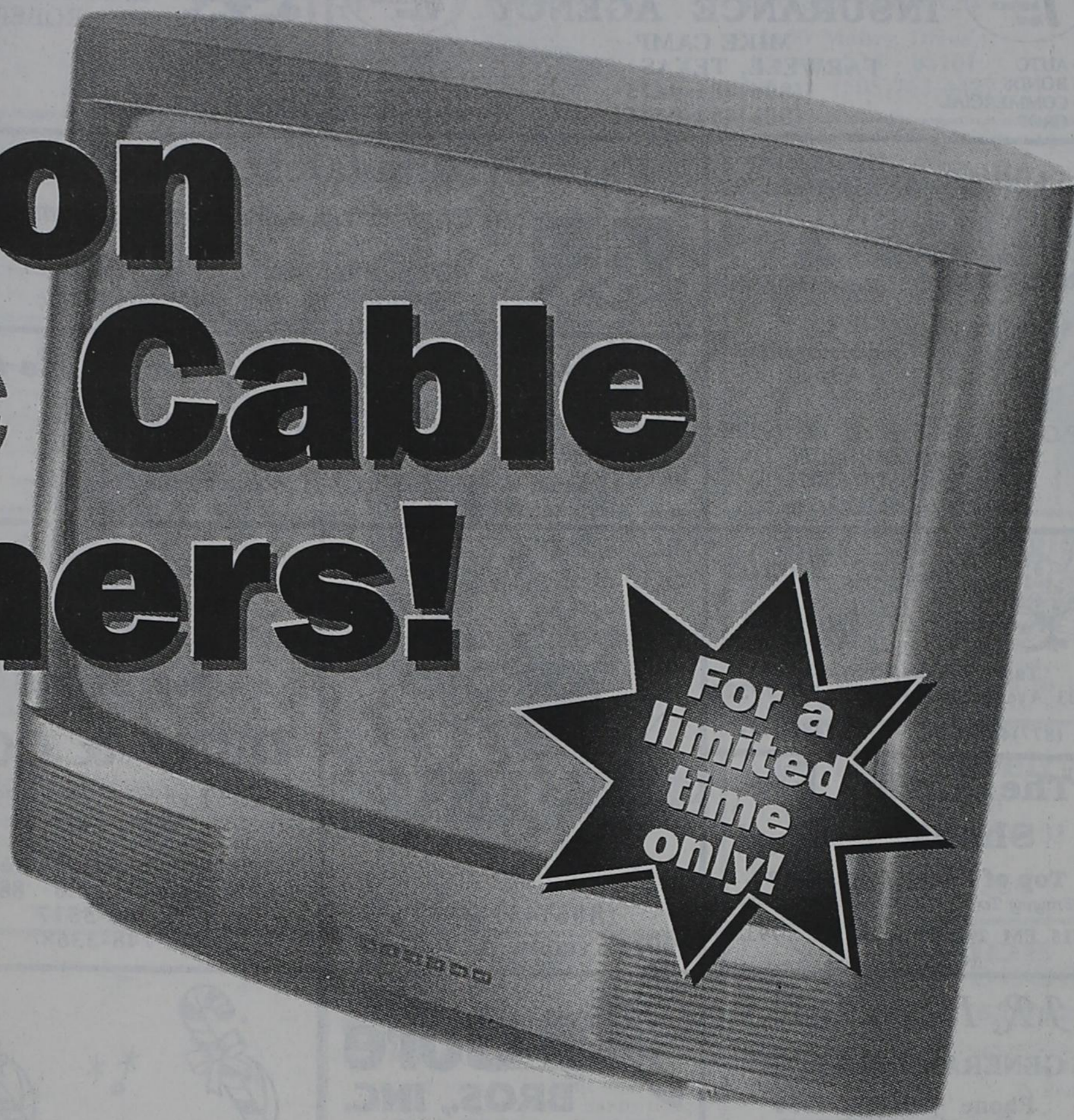
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City Council Authorizes Tax On Leased Vehicles

The Bovina City Council met in regular session on Monday, December 10.

Attending were Mayor Hromas, Aldermen McCallum, Waters, Stone and Hughes, city manager Ernest Terry, and city secretary Bonnie Scalf.

Also present were Jarrett Atkinson and Chris Sharp of the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission.

The city manager reported that the tree grant for the soccer field and city park would be submitted this month and the NRA grant would be completed by December 2002.

Jarrett Atkinson of the PRPC gave the council a briefing on the transition to a city management style of city government.

For several months the council had discussed, then tabled, whether to tax leased vehicles in the city. Alderman Kenneth Waters made the

motion at the December meeting to tax leased vehicles, Hughes seconded and the motion passed.

In other business, Hughes moved to accept a city ordinance amendment establishing purchasing guidelines for the City of Bovina. McCallum seconded and the motion was approved.

Aldermen also passed a motion instructing the city administration to initiate a joint sealcoat project with other West Texas cities.

City manager Ernest Terry reported on the status of the Fund Balance, utility billing, and the city Christmas party. Favorable reports were also given concerning ambulance billing and collections and on the inspection of the water storage tanks.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m. and the next regular session of the council will be January 8, 2002.

School Board Approves 2000-01 Annual Audit

The Bovina School Board held a regular meeting on December 10 at the administration building.

A financial report was given and the board approved the 2000-01 Annual Audit Financial Report.

The council discussed a public hearing for the District Annual Report Card and reports on the migrant program and the head start program.

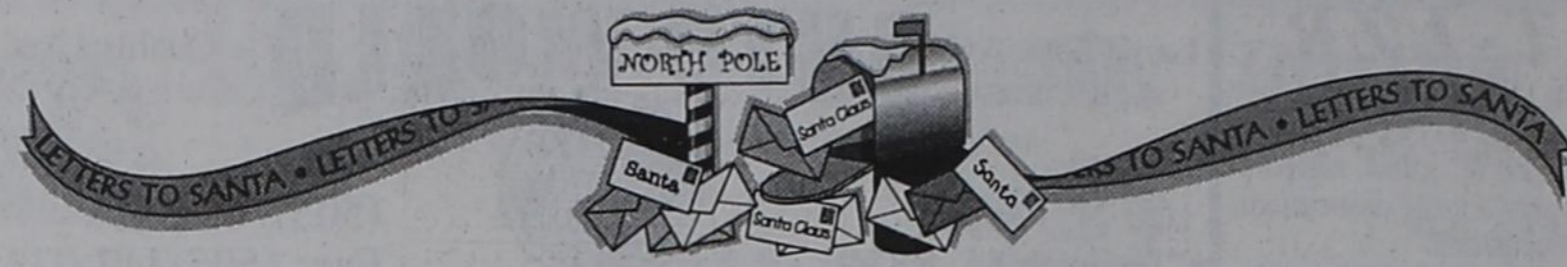
In board action items, a bid was accepted from Texas Association of Public Schools of \$32,656 for property insurance through September 2002.

The TAAS attendance day waiver request for the

high school was approved; campus principals were appointed as textbook committee chairmen and all teachers were included on the textbook committees; and a teacher recruitment plan for paraprofessionals was approved.

Principals reports and the superintendent's report were heard. December 22 will be a workday. Superintendent Michael Downes reported on the Community Networking grant and the Harrington grant (see separate story).

The board went into closed executive session at 10:10 p.m., came out at 12:30 a.m. and the meeting was then adjourned.



Dear Santa,
Thank you for ever thing you gave me. Give presents to the people in New York City and the people that are poor and helpless. Can you bring me a Nintendo? Bring my brother Tyler a new computer game. I will leave some cookies and milk.
Clay Plummer

Dear Santa,
My name is Shaylee Anderson. I am 7 years old. I have been pretty good this year! Would you please bring me a Barbie laptop computer, a basketball and some new boots? Would you like some cookies and milk? Could you bring my brothers something too? Thank you Santa.
Shaylee Anderson

Dear Santa,
I always wanted to get a flute for myself and Pokemon Mewtwo Returns movie. Ever year I will always leave you cookies and milk for in case you are hungry and write you a poem it go like this:
Santa and Elves make toy for boys and girls. Boys and girls scream and shout for Santa to give them toy and doll, ball, candy. And wish you a merry Christmas.
Truly yours, Ricky Sanchez

Dear Santa,
I want transformer and a Power Ranger and some Lego transformers. Thank you for my toys last year, Santa Claus. How is Mrs. Claus and the reindeers, too?
Jalen Allred

Dear Santa,
I would like a scooter, reindeer and barbie. How is Mrs. Claus doing and the reindeers? I am going to leave you milk. But one thing is missing. I am going to Paris, but don't forget where I will be all right? So you will give me a lot of presents. I hope you will give me a lot and lot and lot and more and even more and more presents every year. I want you to have a very good Christmas.
Love, JaNae Blevins

Dear Santa,
I wish I could see you when you come at night. I would like a Hot Wheel super concher. P.S. Thanks for all the toys from last year.
Jake Brozek

Dear Santa,
How are you? I am fine. How is Mrs. Claus? Can you bring me a bike and my mom a water bed and the last thing is bring my big cousin a bike too.
Thank you, Eric Reza

Dear Santa,
I want to ask you if you can give me a dog and cat that are toys for my neice and nephew. I just want to have a happy mary christmas and a happy new years. happy mary christmas to you and everyone.
Love, Esmeralda Sauced

Dear Santa Claus,
Please bring me a game boy, X-box, a B.B. gun, a CD player, clothes, a go-cart. I hope you can bring me all that stuff.
Your friend, Alexis Martinez

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus? For Christmas this year I would like a computer and printer. I think my sister wants Doc Marten's. I don't know what my brother wants but he's been nice enough to get what he wants. Have a Merry Christmas.
Love, Taryn Jamerson

Dear Santa,
How are you doing at the North Pole? How is Mrs. Claus doing? Are the elves working hard this year? I've been a good girl this year Santa. The thing that I want most for Christmas is to see my grandpa and my grandma because they live in Mexico and I never get to see them. So please, if it is not too much trouble, help me to see them soon.
Love, Daniela Flores
P.S. There is one little favor I would like. I would like to have lots of presents under the tree.

Dear Santa,
How are you, the elves, and the reindeer doing? I am doing fine and I have been a good girl this year. Santa can you bring me Sony Playstation and a CD player for Christmas this year? I hope you have a really good Christmas. See you soon!
Love, Jeanette Varela

Dear Santa,
How are your elves doing today? Are Blitzen, Donner, Cupid and Dasher doing fine? I hope Mrs. Claus is doing fine also. I just wanted to tell you that I would like an X-box for Christmas. I have been a really good girl this year. My nephew has also been good and he wants a football and a tee. I would also like a hockey set with two hockey sticks and a black puck. I also want the video game Mortal Combat. Thank you for reading my letter.
Love, Kimberly Casas

Dear Santa,
How is Rudolph? Is he eating his oats every day? He needs to eat so he doesn't get hungry on Christmas Day. I hope he's alright and you too. I hope you have a Merry Christmas. I would like a Zoid model kit for Christmas as if you have time.
Love, Bryan Gist

Dear Santa,
How is Rudolph? Is he eating his oats every day? He needs to eat so he doesn't get hungry on Christmas Day. I hope he's alright and you too. I hope you have a Merry Christmas. I would like a Zoid model kit for Christmas as if you have time.
Love, Bryan Gist

Dear Santa,
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Thank you, Eric Reza

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Love, Esmeralda Sauced

Dear Santa Claus,
Please bring me a game boy, X-box, a B.B. gun, a CD player, clothes, a go-cart. I hope you can bring me all that stuff.
Your friend, Alexis Martinez

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus? I hope you are just fine. Are you getting ready for a busy Christmas Eve? What I would really like for Christmas is for my family to really have a great time when we go to San Antonio. I hope my wish comes true. Merry Christmas to you and all your friends and family that live at the North Pole.
Love, Monica Martinez

Dear Santa,
How are your reindeer doing? How is Ms. Claus doing? Santa, do you like Jingle Bells or Santa Claus Comes Tonight? When is your birthday, Santa? It will be fun for you to come and give us presents for Christmas Day. Do you give presents to bad boys and girls? No, I forgot, you can't give presents to them. You only give presents to good girls and boys. For Christmas this year I would like to have the Nintendo 64 game called Powderpuff Girls. Thank you.
Love, Alan Chavez

Dear Santa,
How are you and how is Mrs. Claus? I've been wondering if I am on the nice or naughty list. Well I hope I am on the very nice list. How are your reindeer? Would you get me just one thing if my mom hasn't bought it for me yet? That one thing is a karaoke machine. I hope it isn't too much trouble.
Your best friend,
Cheyenne Dutton

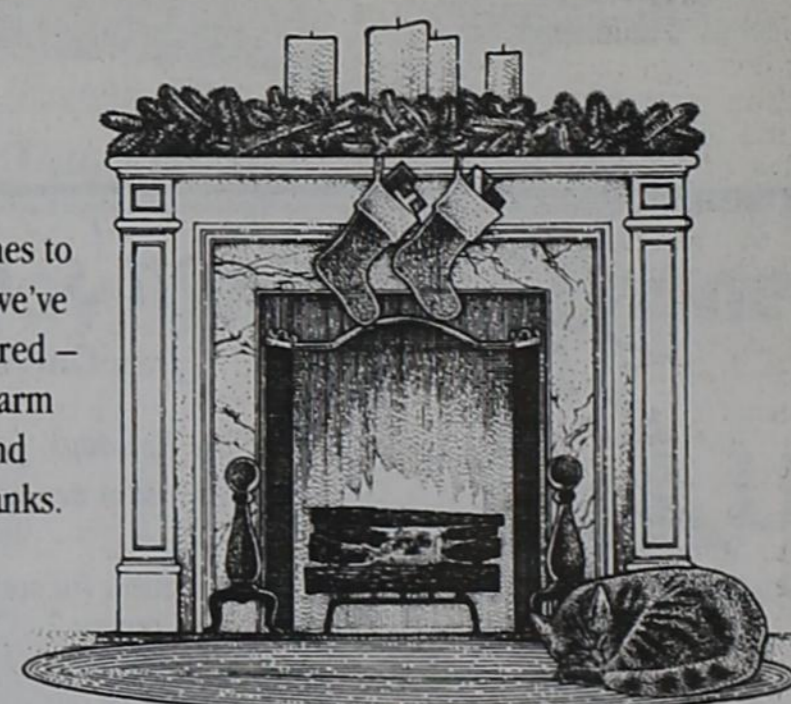
Dear Santa,
How are you and the reindeer? I hope you will give me a big present. We will give you some cookies and some milk. you are a nice man everybody says that. I want a bicycle, clothes, sweaters, socks, a Nintendo 64, a trampoline, a swing set and a lot more. I hope you will come to my house and celebrate Jesus' birthday with us. It will be fun. You will probably get presents from your wife while you are giving us presents. When you get home you will have lots of presents waiting for you. I loved talking to you, bye-bye.
Love, Karen Joselin Nieto

Dear Santa,
How is everything at the North Pole? How are the elves? I want an Nsync CD. My mom wants chocolate. Next year I will have a computer. My brother Israel wants walke-talkies. I hope you have a good Christmas. I hope you are doing good at the North Pole. My friend angelica wants a bike. My friend Rolando wants a remote control car.
Love, Cristal Nicolas

Dear Santa,
How is it in the North Pole? I hope you wish me a happy birthday. What I want is a nail polish set. Tell Jesus happy birthday. I hope he has a good birthday.
Your friend, Erica Oviedo

Dear Santa,
How is everything at the North Pole? Are your reindeer, elves, and wife okay? Would you please let me have a race track with two loops. I hope everyone who died is going to have a good Christmas. Please let my 3 brothers, 2 sisters, my mom and dad get what they want. Oops I almost forgot, please let my best friends have what they want or need, thank you.
Sincerely, David Martinez

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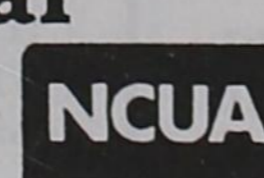
Noel! Noel!

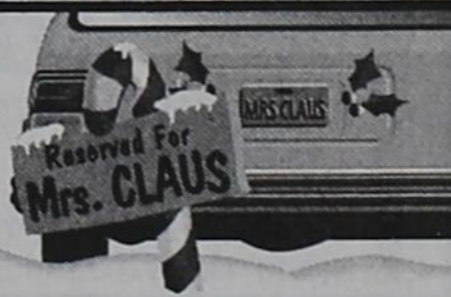
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Red Talk The BY REI Getting remember only we seventh ge home bec I'd work go to sch I rep teacher greatest-time. He ha were all r Allegianc over. Mr. name. H listening girls rec allegiance seems a becoming If I may, try to e meaning I-me, committee Pledg worldly g self-pity. Alleg devotion To the Old Glo freedom; there is n loyalty dignity the everybody Of the that we together. States communit into forty forty-eig community dignity divided boundarie common love for co And Republic, sovereign representa people governme and it's the leade leaders to For w One na meaning indiv being divi With freedom power to without some sort And or qualit with other For boys and your coun And r let me h Pledge of I pled flag of t America for whic nation, liberty an And story, Res Since two state to our co have be Pledge of God. Woul someone prayer eliminate (Most comedian dialogue was su Hughs. V and appr

Red Skelton Talks About The Pledge

BY RED SKELTON

Getting back to schools, I remember a teacher I had. I only went through the seventh grade of school. I left home because I was hungry. I'd work in the summer and go to school in the winter.

I remember this one teacher. To me he was the greatest—a real sage of my time.

He had much wisdom. We were all reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and he walked over. Mr. Lasswell was his name. He said, "I've been listening to you boys and girls recite the pledge of allegiance all semester and it seems as though it is becoming monotonous to you. If I may, may I recite it and try to explain to you the meaning of each word?"

I—me, an individual, a committee of one.

Pledge—dedicate all my worldly goods to give without self-pity.

Allegiance—my love and devotion

To the flag—our standard, Old Glory, a symbol of freedom; wherever she waves, there is respect because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts freedom is everybody's job.

Of the United—that means that we have all come together.

States—individual communities that have united into forty-eight great states; forty-eight individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose, all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that's love for country.

And to the Republic—Republic, a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern; and government is the people, and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

For which it stands One nation—the nation, meaning so blessed by God.

Indivisible—incapable of being divided.

With liberty—which is freedom and the right of power to live ones own life without threats, or fear or some sort of retaliation.

And justice—the principle or quality of dealing fairly with others.

For all—which means, boys and girls, it's as much your country as it is mine.

And now boys and girls, let me hear you recite the Pledge of Allegiance:

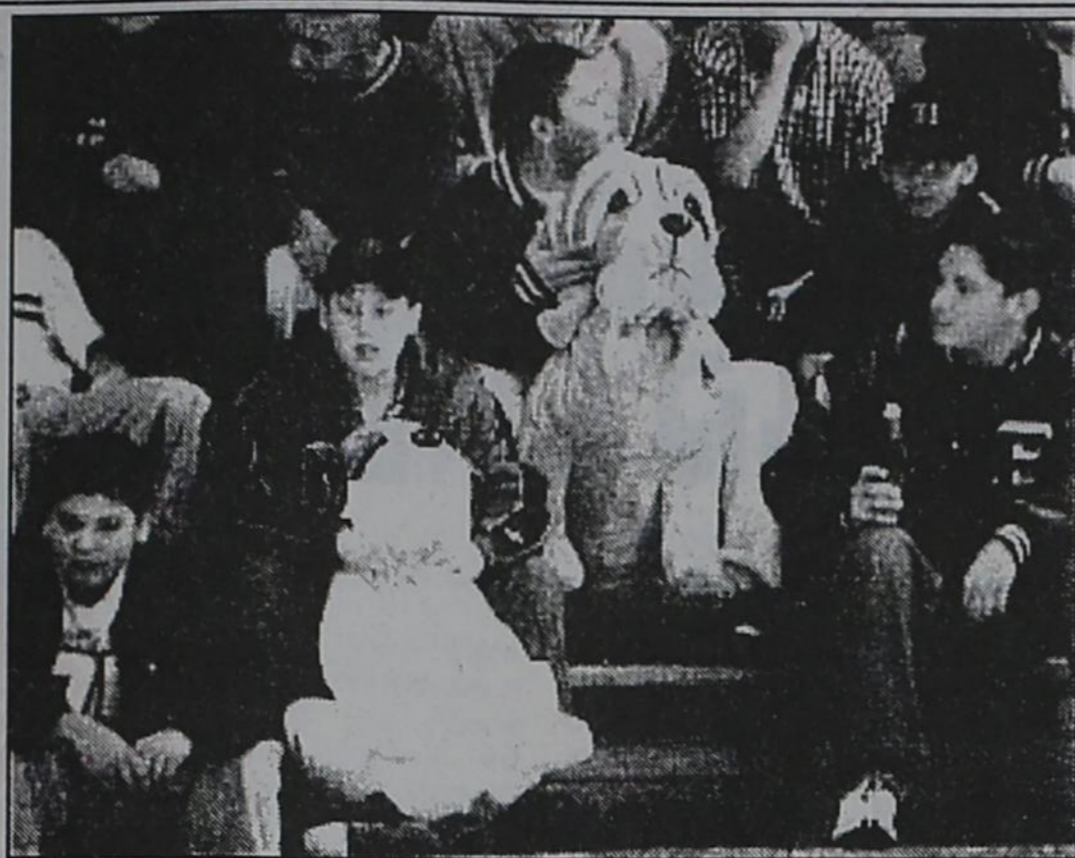
I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

And having told the story, Red Skelton continued.

Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country and two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance: "under God."

Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said, "That's a prayer" and that would be eliminated from schools, too?"

(Most old-timers remember comedian Red Skelton. This dialogue from Mr. Skelton was submitted by Feller Hughs. We hope you enjoyed and appreciated it.)



THE DAWG POUND—Bovina style. Students gather in the stands every basketball game, bring their "dawgs" along, and let go with some rowdy cheering. Maybe that is why the Mustangs are 11-2

From The Desk Of The Bovina City Manager

BY ERNEST TERRY

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. This has been an interesting year from my view point. When I came to Bovina, I tried to hit the ground running, because I saw so many things to do. With your help, we have started to work on some of them.

The animal control problem has improved. We've made a dent in the abandoned vehicles within and around the city. We are looking into even bigger programs to cleanup the city. We've cleaned up the city dump area. We've started on the new utility billing program that is a part of the new software that the City Council approved and purchased. The City Hall has been upgraded, electronically, into the 21st century with new computers, wireless internet connections, and communications.

With the help of the Cemetery Association, now the Cemetery Board, we are planning for the conversion of the city cemetery to perpetual

Mustangs Continue Win Streak, Kerby-Sheppard Lead Scoring

While the Bovina Fillies are still seeking a winning combination, the Mustangs continue their win streak, taking an 11-2 record into the Christmas break.

The boys routed Cotton Center 68-23 as Josh Kerby and B. J. Sheppard scored 19 points each. The two also combined for 13 steals and 7 rebounds.

Other scoring was: Jake Steelman 8; David Garcia 7; Raymond Chisom 5; Jeremy Ortiz 4; Eddie Garcia 4; Jeff Casas 2.

The competition stiffened for the boys when Anton came to town. In a defensive contest, the Mustangs won the game 38-26. Kerby and Sheppard again led the scoring with 12 points each and they combined for 18 rebounds and 10 steals.

Scoring for the 'Stangs were Johnathan Chisom 5; Eddie Garcia 4; Raymond Chisom 3; Jake Steelman 2.

Coach Sims said "Both teams played very well on defense and this was a hard fought defensive effort."

The Mustangs again

care. We have a new Board of Adjustment to advise the City Council and to adjudicate citations concerning the city zoning ordinances.

Last Saturday, we had a Christmas Party for the staff, council, and others associated with the city functions. I believe everyone had plenty of food and fun. I hope to make celebrations like this a quarterly event.

As an example, the next one could be a city resident appreciation day in the city park as a barbeque. I'm open for suggestions. The more people we can get involved, the better!

In a few days, it will be the year 2002. What wonders will this new year bring? I am excited about it, and I hope you are, too.

If you have ideas of how we can make Bovina better, if you want to get involved in one of our advisory boards, or if you just have an opinion, come and see us. I would love to hear from all of you.

Feliz Navidad y Ano Nuevo!

demonstrated their determination as they traveled to Lazbuddie to take on the state-ranked Longhorns and brought home a 43-39 victory.

As the longhorns keyed on Kerby and Sheppard, Jeremy Ortiz and Eddie Garcia stepped up on offense. Ortiz canned 12 points and Garcia pitched in 11. The two boys combined for 24 rebounds and 5 steals also. They earned Coach Sims' offensive players of the game plaudits.

Also scoring were: B. J. Sheppard 10; Johnathan Chisom 4; Josh Kerby 4; Jake Steelman 2.

The win should give the Mustangs some confidence in their ability to win close games as well as step up on defense too.

Sims said, "The boys played well against a state-ranked team on their home floor. I am proud of them."

Next up for the Mustangs and Fillies is the Silverton tournament December 27-29. Next home game will be January 8 against Farwell.



Bovina Bits

BY BECKY

Phone Becky London at 806-250-2211 or 238-1146
When you have news items, (e-mail: case @wtrt.net)

We received notice this week that Truman and Barbara Trim, former Bovinans, lost their home and belongings in a house fire on October 7.

Donations are being accepted to help the couple at the Lone Star State Bank, P.O. Box 0267 in Lone Star, Texas, 75668. The account number must be noted as #1113943 for Truman and Barbara Trim Fund."

A note from Helen Johnson, "I want to thank you for my paper and extend my subscription for two more years. Like to keep up with old friends in Texas. Would also like to know where I could get a copy of "Black Sunday." I can remember that day very well, as I was living in Oklahoma Lane at that time. Would appreciate any help you might be able to give me. Sincerely, Helen Johnson" at 9105 183rd Ct NE in Redmond, Washington, 98052-3359.

Helen, send us a check for \$23 and we will send you a copy of this great book by Frank L. Stallings, Jr. The entire title is, "Black Sunday The Great Dust Storm of April 14, 1935".

Sergeant Brian K. O'Hair was recently awarded the Army Commendation medal with the 101st airborne division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He is the son of Michael C. O'Hair of New Boston, Texas and the grandson of Mrs. Fred (Artie Faye) O'Hair of Bovina.

Ty London, 3, was a patient at Parmer County Community Hospital for three days last week. He and his mother, Becky, had a terrible virus and he got dehydrated Wednesday. They returned to their home in Bovina Saturday evening after receiving wonderful care by Dr. Dickson, Dr. Jubay and Dr. Alexander. Thanks!

A letter from Erma Bradshaw Schrader: "Dear Bovina Friends, I had recent visits from my grandson and his family from Springfield, Missouri and from my son and his wife of Lubbock and I was reminded again how wonderful family and friends are to me.

I have lived in a nursing home here in Neligh for some time and now my husband, Carl, has moved here with me. We are well cared for; we have church services to attend, an exercise program and lots of games and activities to occupy our time. Carl's son and his family live in Neligh and they are a good support to us. I have dear, wonderful memories of living in Bovina and think so often of my long-time friends. I send love and Holiday Greetings to you all. I would love to hear from you." Signed, Erma Bradshaw Schrader, Neligh Nursing Center, 1100 North T Street, Neligh, Nebraska, 68756. Her phone number is 402-

887-1331.

junior at Bovina High School.

Al and Susan Kerby have enjoyed having all their children home for the holidays this week.

Their son Tyson, a freshman, is home from South Plains College in Levelland. Their son and daughter-in-law, Jason and Nikki and their new son, Kaden, 3 months, are visiting from Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. They will stay until Christmas Eve and will go to Aspermont to be with her family.

The Kerbys son, Josh is a

Friends say Jason Stone is doing some better at Baptist/St. Anthony's Hospital in Amarillo. Tuesday, while hunting with friends, he tripped on some barbed wire and severely cut his leg. It took surgeons three hours that evening to fix all the damage. He expects to be home at Bovina by Christmas Day.

He is the son of Jessie and Alice Stone of Bovina. He and Tyson Kerby are roommates at South Plains.

Bovina Community Network

Wins Grant, Receives Award

The Bovina Community Network has been named a recipient of a Golden Web Award. The International Association of Web Masters and Designers sponsors the award in recognition of creativity, integrity and excellence on the Web.

According to local Webmaster Mike McCallum, "We are very glad to see our community efforts recognized internationally. This is a great award for Bovina."

The Golden Web Award has been recognized as a leader within the web community and is one of the most respected, popular and sought after awards available online. Each week the IAWMD receives over 1,000 applications and entries from around the world for consideration.

Webmasters and designers in over 130 countries vote on candidate websites. The award is then presented to websites whose web design, originality and content have achieved levels of excellence deserving of recognition.

The Bovina Community Network website can be found on the Internet at www.bovinanet.org. Bovina residents can use the site to find local weather conditions and forecasts, financial information, games, cooking

recipes and news. Visitors to the community portal also have access to a local events calendar for Bovina, local classified ads and discussion groups. All of these website services are free.

The BCN has also received a \$25,000 grant from the Don and Sybil Harrington Foundation. The funds will be used in the local project as part of the matching requirement for the \$25,000 award received earlier this year from the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund (TIF) board in Austin.

Oilman Don Harrington and his wife, Sybil, founded the Don and Sybil Harrington Foundation as a trust in Amarillo in 1951. It became a nonprofit corporation in 1971.

Its interests include hospitals and health care agencies, cultural programs, higher education, youth agencies, social services and civic affairs. It concentrates its funds in Amarillo and the Panhandle.

The BCN committee is currently completing the implementation plan for the TIF board. The plan will be submitted to Austin by February 1 and the implementation phase will begin March 1.

*The family of
LeVerne Stevens Black
Invite Community Friends and
Neighbors for a
Celebration of Life,
2-5 p.m. on December 29, 2001
Bovina Senior Citizens Center*

*Come to share and bring extra pictures,
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With warm wishes for a joyous Christmas to all the people we've had the pleasure to serve this year. Your friendship has meant a lot to us.

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701 Main Street

250-2050

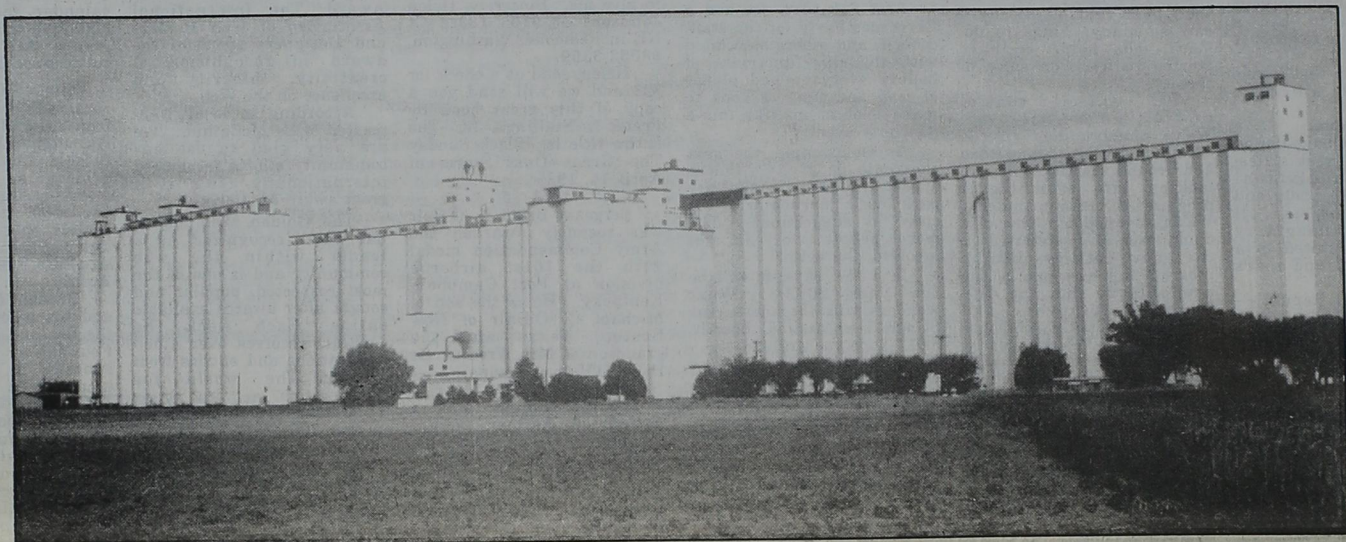
MERRY CHRISTMAS

and HAPPY NEW YEAR



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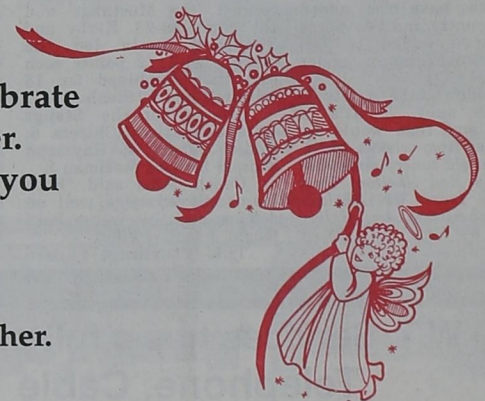


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Out Here

by Ron Carr

"Two Left Shoes"

The hip newscasters are calling him UBL. Usama bin Laden. Some call him Osama bin Laden.

They spell it Al Qaeda and Al Qaida. They say we have him cornered and then they say he has slipped away.

Geraldo Rivera says he has had a religious experience. He is no longer a suck-up liberal reporter. Fox News hired him on their channel to go to Afghanistan and find UBL.

He has been "eyeball to eyeball and bayonet to bayonet" with the enemy he says. I haven't been able to spot a bayonet on any of the Afghan fighters' guns but what do I know.

Sometimes he will interrupt a report to point to the sky like a little boy seeing his first airplane. "There goes a B52 now." The properly groomed reporter in New York shouted enthusiastically, "Yes Geraldo, we hear it, we hear it."

Of course you can't hear a bomber flying at 39,000 feet but the blonde reporter was trying to be cool.

Geraldo says his comrades in arms told him UBL was cornered and it would all be over in a few hours. Then those same sources reneged. They said UBL shaved his beard and slipped away to Pakistan.

Reporters pronounce that one either "Pack-u-stan" or "Pock-e-ston." The latter pronunciation makes you appear cooler of course and being "cool" is important to TV reporters.

Even the names of the Afghan areas make good TV schmuck: Tora Bora, The White Mountains, Kabul, which can be pronounced as "Ka-bool" or "Kobble" depending on how cool you

want to be.

Geraldo says that Tora Bora means Black Wind. In a report this week the "Tora Bora" was blowing at 40 knots. It was blowing dust in their faces and they even had to take their tents down. Tsk, tsk! Panhandle cowboys around the feedyards face their own Tora Bora every day. They call it working.

The 24-hour news wouldn't be complete without a whole team of "formers." Every old gray-haired analyst who offers an expert opinion is a "former" something: former Lt. Col.; former General; former federal prosecutor; and on and on.

The old generals take a pointer and go over to the screenwriter and outline where the attacks are going to be. They talk about the battlefield as though they were still in command of something.

We get to listen to former SEALS, former Green Berets, former Cabinet members. Everybody has an opinion and a forecast.

But, you know what? I don't think any of them have any more of an idea what will happen next than you and I do. They make a prediction one day, then the next day try to explain what went wrong.

It appears that the only thing still sacred on the National News Channels like Fox, CNN and MSNBC, are the commercials.

They set up all these elaborate satellite links to bring reporters from around the world into our living room. Then with some guy standing out in the rain at midnight explaining the latest suicide bombing, the perky host back in the comfy studio interrupts for a

commercial.

The poor nerd stands out there, with fires burning and body parts hanging on trees, while we watch a commercial for Cingular. What the hell is Cingular anyway?

Or how about the Video Professor? I hate that guy. "Try my product" he whines. He wants to send me the first lesson free. I don't trust those pitches. I'm not ordering anything that starts out being free.

I got hooked-on a free Time-Life book offer about World War II once and ended up buying about 30 volumes at \$9.95 each. Got some pretty good money for them in the garage sale though.

Last Saturday, I took time off from the TV news and mother and I went to Bed, Bath and Beyond and the Shoe Carnival in Amarillo for some focused shopping.

Bed, Bath and Beyond would be a great place to go in the middle of the week some time other than Christmas. The aisles are narrow and there are not enough checkout stands for a crush of shoppers.

We liked the "Beyond" sections best. That is where all the kitchen gadgets are. They have items for your kitchen you never imagined.

We bought some shoes at the Shoe Carnival. They had a "Buy One, Get A Second Pair For Half-Price" sale. Some of their shoes were already marked down to half-price so they were not included in the sale. Mother had a little trouble with that concept.

I can pretty much tell by looking whether a pair of shoes are my style. In a place like the Shoe Carnival most of the shoes are hip and cool,

(Continued on Page 5)

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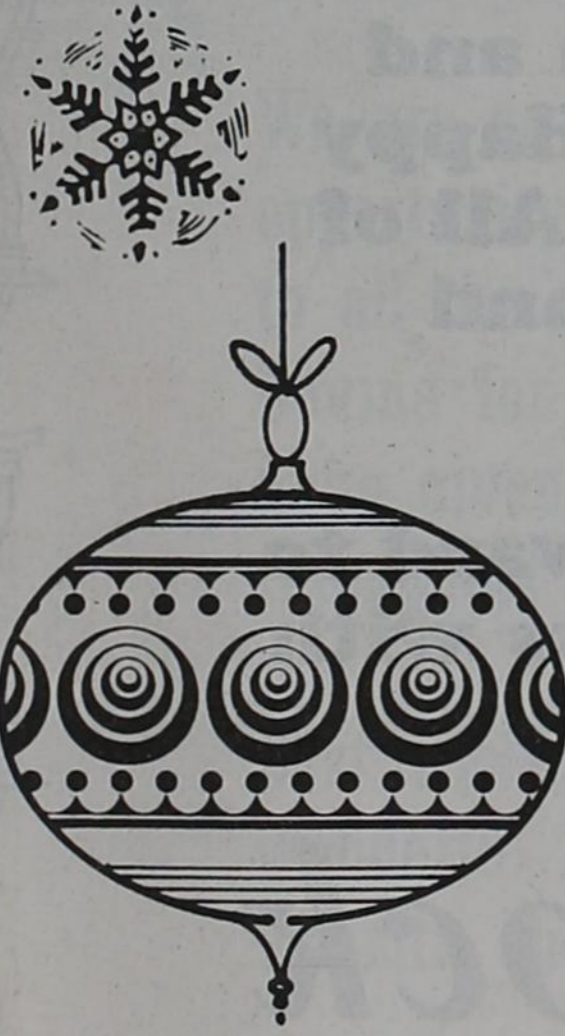


Merry Christmas to all

To all our loyal customers, friends and neighbors, we'd like to extend our heartfelt wishes for a happy and healthy holiday. May it be heavy with blessings and joy. Many thanks for your loyal support and friendship.

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FRIENDS FROM ENGLAND

British Residents Recall Events Of Sept. 11th In New York City

Anne Spring, who grew up in Manchester, England, has some distant friends and acquaintances from there, who happened to be in New York, or on their way to New York, at the time of the September 11th terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. After they returned home, the British travelers were asked to write a piece about their memories of the frightening events for a newsletter which is published by their neighborhood association.

Following are selected articles which were written by two of the British citizens:
by Brian Broadbent

We had sailed to New York on the P&O ship Aurora and had planned to stay for three nights and then fly back. We had two very busy, happy days in New York.

On Sept. 10, we took the ferry from Battery Park to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. On our return we looked at the Manhattan skyline and I said "Let's go up the Twin Towers tomorrow." This was greeted with eager approval.

Over dinner that evening we discussed our sightseeing for the following day. Our son showed a distinct preference for going to the top of the Empire State Building instead of the Twin Towers, to which we agreed. Little did we know!

The following morning we left our hotel at 8:45 a.m. in Times Square, walked down Broadway and Fifth Avenue toward the Empire State Building. It became apparent that something was wrong because of the excessive police and fire engine sirens, but I thought "Well, this is New York."

We saw a restaurant we liked and decided to pop in and book a table for dinner. The door was opened by a very anxious New Yorker and we were all invited in to watch TV, just in time to see that a plane had hit one of the towers.

"What a tragic accident," everyone thought! But wait, another plane is flying into the second Tower! This is no accident! The horror on the faces of the people present and their typically New York exclamations said it all.

There we were, only about half-a-mile away! Reports

then came from the Pentagon, more horror and then later, a fourth plane, which we had been told, was shot down by the U.S. Airforce; My God, is this World War III, we thought.

Panic set in and we wondered what to do and where to go. I said "Central Park! There are no skyscrapers there!" So that is where we went, and so too did the rest of New York. The traffic was at a standstill and the Park was full of 'men in suits' and mobile phones that wouldn't work.

After a long hot day looking at the cloud of smoke from Lower Manhattan, and listening to the U.S. Military circling the skies, we eventually made our way back to our hotel in Times Square. We hoped the New Yorkers would get home, but I don't know how, because all the bridges and tunnels were closed and there were no trains or underground services. Manhattan was sealed off!

The following day was traumatic also. There was a bomb scare at the Empire State Building and for two hours we feared more atrocities there. We should have flown home on Sept. 12 but we were in a "war zone."

The next day Times Square was evacuated, including our hotel, but the bomb-scars turned out to be hoaxes. All this was very nerve wracking, coupled with the fact that Manhattan was still sealed off and we couldn't get out.

Eventually, five days after the tragedy, we were taken by coach to Boston to sail back home, as there were no flights available in the foreseeable future. We have to say that P&O were brilliant during this emergency.

We arrived back in "Old Blighty" feeling more relaxed after six days at sea. As you can imagine, the events of 11th September are ingrained in our minds and will be for the rest of our lives. We just thank God that we still have our lives to live.

by Michael Lightfoot

On Friday I had my last day at work before retirement. On Tuesday following my wife Dorothy, our son David and I set off on a long-planned retirement holiday in America.

We left Manchester on flight #CO21 more or less on time, and the flight went well. About 4 hours into the flight the plane deviated to the north, it seemed because of turbulent weather.

An eventual request for the reason for the continued deviation was met with "The Captain will make an announcement shortly. Half an hour later, a similar request received the same answer.

It was an hour before an explanation was given, during which time, in the minds of many on board, wings or engines were on the point of falling off.

It was Tuesday, the 11th of September.

After an hour, the reason: "Major terrorist incidents within the borders of the United States." We had no other information except that we were heading for Gander, Newfoundland. The U.S.A. had shut its airspace.

Gander was full; St. John's was full. We landed in mist and heavy rain, at Stephenville, Newfoundland, a small airport used to receiving 2 or 3 small planes a day. The weather was bad;

we could see a grey sludge about 500 yards away: it was the Atlantic Ocean.

We sat on the plane for 9 hours. By this time 7 other passenger jets had landed to be filmed and recorded by the astonished townsfolk, who number just over 8,000.

Eventually we were taken off the plane, escorted through a cordon of Royal Mounted Police and registered by the Red Cross.

At 12:30 a.m. local time, about 3:30 English time, we were taken to the local Holiday Inn where we were billeted for the next 3 days. We were lucky; many stayed in gymnasias and school halls. On Wednesday morning

we woke to brilliant sunshine, low hills sloping into the blue Atlantic and a welcome that would have made a winter's day in these northerly parts glow with warmth.

The people of the town, the staff at the hotel (the premier hotel in town-I know, I saw the other one!), the shopkeepers, the staff at the superb library could not have been more helpful, more gracious or more hospitable.

How a town of 8000 managed to accommodate close to 2000 travellers is a mystery, but they did, and they did it royally. For three days we were lodged, fed and cossetted, but uninformed. We had no idea when we would leave or where we would go.

One couple sat in the hotel as their daughter was married in Las Vegas, where they were heading. Tours from New York were missed; all but the planes carried on. We packed the local stores hunting for socks, pants, shirts and the like, as all the

luggage remained on the plane.

On the 3rd day, Friday, a Salvation Army major told us "Your prospects of leaving today are zero, and that's being optimistic." A hurricane was coming up the east coast towards us!

At 2 p.m. we were told we would leave at 3:30. We left at about 8 p.m., and arrived in Newark, N.J. at about 9:45 p.m., to commence a delayed holiday.

What are the memories? Foremost the unbridled horror of the attacks on the U.S.; the reported anguish of John Kelly, who for years designed covers of a magazine--John was an eyewitness of the W.T.C. attack.

Also, the generosity of the people of Stephenville, the bewilderment, hurt and distress of so many New Yorkers who were, nevertheless, unfailingly welcoming, helpful; and courteous, but most of all, full of spirit and pride. They were brilliant, and so was their city.



Wishing You Good Times Aplenty

Go ahead and enjoy everything the season has to offer -- an abundance of good friends, family, food and fun for everyone!

Thanks to one and all for bringing us so much joy!

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MERRY CHRISTMAS



Our Best Wishes For a holiday season filled with warmth and good cheer. Happy New Year to All of Our Friends and Neighbors.

We look forward to doing business with you in 2002.

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225-4400

New Baby Shop Caters To Needy Area Mothers

The Baby's Coming Shop has a new location at 301 S. Polk in downtown Amarillo. For the first time, the shop will be located in the same building as the Coalition of Health Services, streamlining

operations for staff and volunteers who operate the shop to benefit participants in the Coalition's 2CARE for MOMS program.

The 2CARE for MOMS incentive program encourages

pregnant women to visit a participating doctor or nurse practitioner within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. Participants earn points for completing a schedule of prenatal and postpartum medical appointments, making healthy choices and for attending educational classes related to pregnancy, birth, childcare and more. When fathers participate, even more points are earned. Participants visit the Baby's Coming Shop after their baby is born to redeem points for gifts of baby merchandise.

The Baby's Coming Shop was developed as a joint project of the Coalition of Health Services and the Northwest Texas Division of the March of Dimes. Since opening in 1998, the shop has provided baby gifts to more than 750 mothers and babies. In September 2001, a satellite location of the shop was opened in Borger through the support of the Hutchinson County Area Partnership for Moms and Babies.

"The March of Dimes graciously housed the Baby's Coming Shop since it opened in 1998," said Carolyn Witherspoon, executive director of the Coalition of Health Services. "We will continue our successful partnership on this project with the March of Dimes, and the Coalition will work to provide greater volunteer and staff support with all of our programs under one roof."

"This has been a wonderful partnership," said Vicki Brooks, division director for the March of Dimes. "2CARE for MOMS has done a tremendous job with outreach so that this program benefits women from many communities. We developed the program together and they ran with it. The new location will make the shop easier for women to access."

The Baby's Coming Shop serves eligible women from across the 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle. According to Texas Department of Health statistics, only 79 per

MY TURN

Carol Writes Her Letter To Santa



Dear Santa,

I rarely ask for much. This year is no exception. I don't need diamond earrings, handy slicer-dicers, or comfy slippers. I only want one little thing, and I want it very badly.

I want to slap Martha Stewart. I get all cozy inside just thinking about it. Don't grant this wish just for me; do it for the thousands of women across the country who share this deep-seated desire. Through sheer vicarious satisfaction, you'll be giving a gift to us all.

Those of us leading average garden variety lives aren't concerned with gracious living. We feel pretty good about ourselves if our paper plates match when we stack them on the counter, buffet-style for dinner.

We're tired of Martha's showing us how to made decorative swags from holly-hock dipped in 18 carat gold. We're plumb out of liquid gold, unless it's the furniture polish variety. We can't whip up Martha's creamy hollandaise sauce with turmeric. Most of us can't even say turmeric, let alone figure out what to do with it.

She wants us to make an aromatic holiday centerpiece; a topiary tree constructed of branches pruned from our evergreen, interspersed with seasonal fruits. She wants us to buy plain cloth napkins and stencil our guests' names in the corner of each one in a contrasting color, so they'll have a little remembrance of the occasion to take home with them.

My guests usually feel pretty fortunate if they fail to take home a case of acid indigestion as their remembrance of the occasion. Perhaps that's the reason why the only guest I've had lately is the guy who came to fix the TV set. I offered him a piece of pumpkin pie, but when he saw the cat's paw print embedded on the top, he said "No, thanks."

Martha avoids take-out pizza. She's only ordered it once and she refuses to eat it cold. No cold pizza! Is Martha Stewart living? When it was pointed out that she could microwave it, she replied, "I don't own a microwave."

Martha has 40 sets of dishes adorning an entire wall of her home. Forty sets! Can you spell "overkill?" And all are neatly put away, no less. If my dishes make it to the dishwasher, that qualifies as "put away" at our house.

Martha tells us she's already made holiday gifts for all her friends. "Last year, I made amazing silk-lined scarves for everyone," she boasts. Not just scarves, mind you, but "Amazing scarves." Martha's obviously not shy about giving herself a little pat on the back.

She goes on to tell us that "homemaking is the glamour of the new century" and says her most glamorous friends are "interested in stain removal, how to iron a monogram, and how to fold a towel." I have a piece of advice, "Martha, get new friends."

There you have it, Santa. If there was ever someone who deserved a good smack, it's Martha Stewart. This is going to be an "Amazing" Christmas.

Signed,

Momma Carol in Friona

(Continued on Page 8)

HOLIDAY GREETINGS!

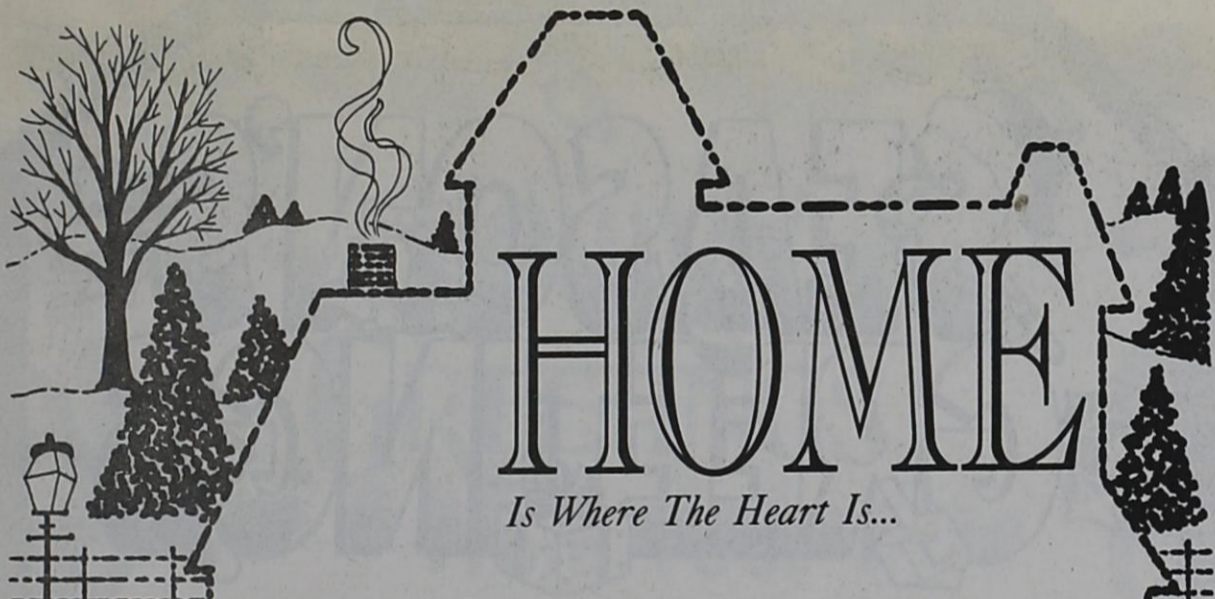
*You've
Been Good --
Especially To Us!*

We're filled with cheer, thinking of the past year and how we couldn't have succeeded without your trust and support.

Wishing you bundles of joy at Christmastime. We hope your season delivers everything you've ever wanted.

Thank you for your kind patronage.

**From the employees and directors of
Deaf Smith
Electric Cooperative.**



We are so pleased to have this opportunity to express our gratitude to all the citizens of Friona and Bovina for the love and support you have given to Prairie Acres throughout this past year.

Best wishes to everyone for a wonderful holiday season filled with warmth and joy.

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December 24, 25 and 26



Our Office Will Be Open
December 27, 28 and 31
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by the office.

8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday
305 3rd Street Phone 251-1405

by **PAUL CRUME**

To Touch An Angel

(Editor's note: Paul Crume was doubtless one of Texas' most-read newspaper writers of the 20th century. His column, "Big D," appeared on the front page of the Dallas Morning News for 25 years.



PAUL CRUME

But the man who has once felt the beat of the angel's wing finds it easy to rejoice at the universe and at his fellow man.

THIS sense of cosmos, or angels, or the divine accommodation of a man with the universe, usually happens to a man suddenly. Angels do not take part in work for civic causes or help raise money for the United Fund. A single human heart has to long to touch an angel before it can sense one.

It does not happen to any man often, and too many of us dismiss it when it happens. I remember a time in my final days in college when the chinaberry trees were in bloom and the air was sweet with spring blossoms and I stood still on the street, suddenly struck with the feeling of something that was an enormous promise and yet was no tangible promise at all.

And there was another night in a small boat when the moon was full and the distant headlands were dark but beautiful and we were lonely. The pull of a nameless emotion was so strong that it filled the atmosphere. The small boy within me cried.

Psychiatrists will say that the angel in all this was really within me, not outside, but it makes no difference.

Crume was born and raised in the Lariat/Oklahoma Lane area, and came from a large family. Most of his siblings are deceased, but his sister, Mary Lou Caison Taylor, is a longtime Friona resident.

The following piece is from a collection of some of his favorite columns, collected by his widow, Marion Crume and published by her in a book entitled "The World of Paul Crume" 1980. There is also at least one other book of his columns).

A MAN wrote me not long ago and asked me what I thought of the theory of angels. I immediately told him that I am highly in favor of angels. As a matter of fact, I am scared to death of them.

Any adult human being with half sense, and some with more, knows that there are angels. If he has ever spent any period in loneliness, when the senses are forced in upon themselves, he has felt the wind from their beating wings and been overwhelmed with the sudden realization of the endless and gigantic dark that exists outside the little candle flame of human knowledge. He has prayed, not in the sense that he asked something, but that he yielded himself.

Angels live daily at our very elbows, and so do demons, and most men at one time or another in their lives have yielded themselves to both and have lived to rejoice and rue their impulses.

There are angels inside us and angels outside, and the one inside is usually the quickest choked.

FRANCIS Thompson said it better. He was a late nineteenth-century English poet who would put the current crop of hippies to shame. He was on pot all his life. His pad was always mean and was sometimes a park bench. He was a mental case and a tubercular besides. He carried a fishing creel into which he dropped the poetry that was later to become immortal.

"The angels keep their ancient places," wrote Francis Thompson in protest. "Turn but a stone, and start a wing!"

He was lonely enough to be the constant associate of angels.

There is an angel close to you this day. Merry Christmas, and I wish you well.

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General Commands Bucs To 'Never Quit'

(From the Tampa Bay, Fla. Tribune)

by KATHERINE SMITH

The Tampa Bay Buccaneer players had a very special visitor after their December 9 game against the Detroit Lions.

Army Gen. Tommy Franks, head of the U.S. Central Command in Afghanistan, marched into Tampa Bay's locker room at Raymond James Stadium, commanding attention and providing inspiration.

"It was like General Patton walking in," Bucs' offensive tackle Jerry Wunsch said.

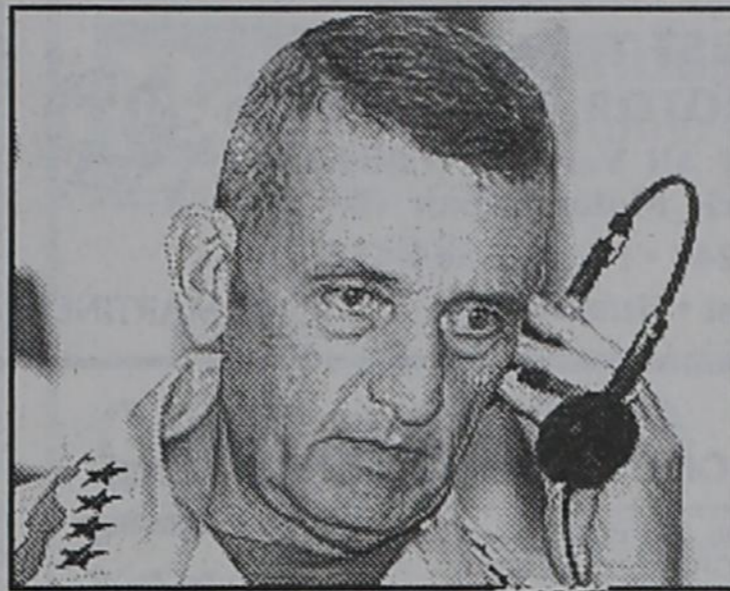
Coach Tony Dungy invited Franks to speak to the team after a come-from-behind victory made possible by a 13-yard touchdown pass from Brad Johnson to Keyshawn Johnson with 45 seconds remaining.

Franks played football at the University of Texas before joining the Army in 1965, according to *The Shorthorn Online*. Franks talked about lessons the sport taught him and how he utilizes them today.

"The lesson he took from his football coach that he carries through life was you can never quit," Bucs' safety John Lynch said. "I thought it was a great example of what this game is all about."

"Talk about getting it done: That guy's getting it done right now," Wunsch said. "He protects our freedom. Every time I look at my child and look at my wife and we're living in a happy little place, it's people like him we have to thank."

As he ended his postgame speech, Franks left the team



GEN. TOM FRANKS

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

with some motivational words.

"He told us to take care of things on the football field and he would take care of 'that guy' over there," Bucs' receivers coach Charlie Williams said.

(Publisher Bill Ellis is proud to claim Gen. Tommy Franks as his cousin, and he is also thankful to another cousin, Don Ellis of Roosevelt, Oklahoma, for sharing this newspaper article.)

Out Here Column....

(Continued from Page 1)

two characteristics I no longer look for in shoes. I need

comfort and price.

I found a nice pair of Skechers. I tried on the left shoe and it felt really comfy. They were marked down. I bought them.

Mother found four pair and thank goodness they all qualified for the sale or else there would have been tension at the cash register.

When I got ready to wear my hip, cool new Skechers Saturday night to the Fireman's banquet, guess what. I got home with a shoebox that had two left shoes in it. Not only that, one was a 9 1/2 and the other was a 7 1/2. I could only laugh. I'm not much smarter than the people I criticize.

Life is not always what we perceive it to be or hope that it will be. Sometimes we end up with two left shoes. This is my last 2001 column. This is our last 2001 paper. We worked hard on it and I hope you like it.

My colleagues and I will be back January 4, 2002. Please have a peaceful Christmas and New Year's Holiday season.

Pray for our boys and girls in the military and let's be grateful that we have what we have.

Don't drink and drive. We love you all. God Bless America!

New Texas Tomorrow Fund Enrollment Set

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander announced that Texas families may enroll children in the Texas Tomorrow Fund from now through May 24, 2002.

"With the Texas Tomorrow Fund, Main Street Texans don't have to worry about Wall Street volatility," Comptroller Rylander said. "You're not only locking in your child's college tuition and required fees, you're also buying peace of mind at a time of economic uncertainty."

"With the Texas Tomorrow Fund, you pre-pay your child's college tuition and required fees at today's prices," Comptroller Rylander said. "Later, when your child is ready for college, the State of Texas absolutely guarantees those expenses will be paid, no matter how much costs soar in the future."

In kicking off the Texas Tomorrow Fund's annual enrollment period, Comptroller Rylander urged families to take advantage of quick, convenient online enrollment at www.texas-tomorrowfund.org.

"About 40 per cent of the families who signed up for the Texas Tomorrow Fund during the last enrollment period submitted their applications online," Comptroller Rylander said. "When you visit the Texas Tomorrow Fund Web site, you can get answers to your questions and apply immediately. There's no paperwork, no check to write, no concern about mail security and no excuse to put off investing in your child's future."

More than 16,000 Texas Tomorrow Fund contracts were sold during the last enrollment period that ended May 25, 2001. Since the program began in 1996, more than 115,000 Texas families have enrolled in the Texas Tomorrow Fund, and about 8,000 students are now attending college using prepaid tuition.

The Texas Tomorrow Fund allows parents, grandparents or others to prepay a child's tuition and required fees for up to five years at a Texas public or private university, two years at a community college or two years at a senior college. Texas Tomorrow Fund benefits may also be used at out-of-state colleges. Texas Tomorrow

Fund payments may be made in a lump sum or in annual or monthly installments.

"By the time today's newborn is ready for college, tuition and required fees for four years at a Texas college or university is expected to soar to almost \$61,000," Comptroller Rylander said. "If you enroll your newborn in the Texas Tomorrow Fund, four years of tuition and required fees are locked at \$15,131, and you pay installments of just \$132 per month."

The cost of tuition and fees at Texas public colleges and universities has nearly doubled since 1992, and continues to rise about 7.5 per cent per year. Returns on traditional savings accounts and investments may not be enough to cover soaring college costs.

"The Texas Tomorrow Fund makes saving for college easy, economical and absolutely safe," Comptroller said.

For more information, visit the Texas Tomorrow Fund Web site at www.texas-tomorrowfund.org or call 1-800-445-GRAD (4723).

PCA Returns \$502,000 To Members

In excess of \$502,000 has recently been paid to stockholder borrowers of Great Plains Ag Credit, PCA, the majority being attributable to its 2000-year operations.

"This is a stockholder owned organization, and it's our philosophy to return a portion of earnings to defray interest costs," said Troy Christian of Farwell, board chairman.

Great Plains Ag Credit is a full service agriculture lender through its Production Credit Assn. and Federal Land Bank Assn. operations, and primarily serves farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses in the western two-thirds of the Panhandle and upper South Plains.

The lending cooperative is headquartered in Amarillo with other offices in Plainview, Dalhart, Dimmitt, Dumas, Friona, Muleshoe, Olton and Tulia.



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COLUMNIST LEON HALE

Knowing How To "Smell A Norther"

BY LEON HALE

Back on the front porch of my old country house in Washington County. Still waiting for our new house in Houston to get fixed up. By the time that place is ready, we may get more of this country living than we can enjoy.

Lately the weather has been wonderful, but I can sit right here on this porch and smell a norther coming. It may not be showing yet on the weather map, but I know it's on the way. Might be 10 days or even a couple of weeks before we feel it. When it does blow in, this old house will not be much fun to stay in.

Its walls are thin as drugstore toast. Crank the temp down to about 28 degrees and throw in a north wind with gusts up to 30, and this house gets to shivering. It'll make you want to get up and go to town where you came from.

You may remember Old Dog, the black Lab that used to come up here with us. She taught me how to smell a norther coming.

Old Dog loved this house, and the woods around it. She loved taking part in the pieces I do from the country, and she did take part.

When I do these reports from Winedale, I sit in a straight-backed chair pulled up to a redwood picnic table. The chair is one of a set that came out of my Methodist mother's dining room, and the picnic table belonged to one of my sisters.

She gave it to us when she sold her house and moved to a high-rise retirement community. When you have a country place like this, relatives and friends give you things that they no longer want. Sometimes they give you things you can't use, but you take them anyway because what else are you gonna do?



LEON HALE

But this Redwood picnic table was a welcome gift, and Old Dog loved it and slept under it on the porch. She'd lie across my feet while I sat here and put her snout up against a leg of the table and breathe in the redwood smell.

I remember the way she'd get up, about this time in November, and wobble out in the yard. In her latter days she had that crippling dysplasia in her hindquarters so many Labradors have, and getting up and down was a painful struggle.

She'd ease out in the yard and face north, and raise her nose and sniff. Then lower her head a minute before raising it again, to sniff some more. As if she needed to confirm what she'd already detected.

She'd come back on the porch then, and plop down across my feet and look up and I could read that face as sure as I ever read a line in a newspaper. She'd say, "Something's comin'!"

Well, I didn't intend for this to be a dog column, but that's the way it turned out.

By then, Old Dog was pushing 18 and almost helpless. She'd go out and fall and couldn't rise, and I'd have to pick her up and get

her creeping along again. This was a creature that weighed more than 90 pounds at her peak, but she gradually wasted away toward the end and I could lift her into the pickup for the ride she loved.

Her last couple of trips to Winedale, I developed a painful guilt about that animal. I couldn't leave her for a minute. She'd fight slowly to her feet and try to follow me even when every step was a torture.

I was relieved when she died, even though it cost me a quart of tears.

Now we've got this new Lab pup, Charlotte Bronte. I told my partner, Look, this is your dog, not mine. This pup will outlive me, and I don't want to form an attachment. And so far, this is working out pretty well.

Although, I do admit that when I stretch out on the sofa at night to watch TV, I like the way Charlotte Bronte lies there with me, and rests her muzzle on my stomach.

I'm telling you, a norther is coming. I can smell it.

Leon Hale's daily column appears in the *Houston Chronicle*. He is one of *Ye Editor's* favorite writers, through our friend Doris Lange of Houston. Our friend and former publisher of the *Star*, Joe Osborn of Austin, is a longtime friend of Hale's. If you like, you may e-mail Leon at leon.hale@chron.com or visit his Web site at www.leonhale.com

New Baby Shop..

(Continued from Page 3) cent of pregnant women in the Texas Panhandle receive prenatal care within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. The goal is to increase the rate of early prenatal care to 90 per cent by 2010.

CHRISTMAS TRADITION

by Wayne Bristow



For me to discuss Christmas tradition
Calls for a lot of romantic admission.
I'm guilty on every count.
Bring on the tinsel; I can take any amount.

Strains of "White Christmas" put me in a trance
Once through "Jingle Bells" and I'm ready to dance.
I declare open season on peanut brittle,
Losing all care that it goes to my middle.

Trim the tree, and do it quite early.
Take it down before the Super Bowl, and I'll get surly.
You frown and say you hate fruitcake?
Give it to me, and my Christmas you'll make.

Clean the hearth and decorate the mantle.
Bring in the Yule log and all the wood you can handle.
Place a candle before each pane,
And hope that flakes soon fall on our lane.

With nog and the singing of Bing and Gene,
Before a crackling fire I become serene,
Musing about the ones I used to know,
And imagining sleigh bells in the snow.

Call it commercial and say you've had enough.
Cry out against catalogs, sales and stuff;
But leave me alone if you gripe and rave.
It's an overdose of Christmas tradition that I crave.

"Christmas Tradition is taken from Wayne Bristow's popular book, "18 Miles From Earth" which is available at the Friona Star office.

FRIONA ★ STAR
The Bovina Blade

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Thanks For Giving Us A Jingle!

We're so glad you called on us to fill your needs this year, and we'll be happy to continue to help you through the holidays and beyond.

FROM THE WHOLE GANG!

Wishing you a season that's merry and bright, filled with laughter, love and much delight!
It's been a privilege and pleasure serving you this past year. Thanks, friends!

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FRIONA/BOVINA DEVOTIONAL PAGE

Facts About The **BIBLE** BY JOHN LEHTI

THE AMERICAN INDIAN BIBLE!

QUITE FITTING ENOUGH IS THE FACT THAT THE VERY FIRST BIBLE ACTUALLY PRINTED IN AMERICA WAS WRITTEN IN—NOT ENGLISH—BUT A NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE—ALGONKIAN! THE TIME: 1663, THE PLACE: THE COLONY IN MASSACHUSETTS, AND THE MAN RESPONSIBLE: JOHN ELIOT, CALLED "THE APOSTLE TO THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS." ELIOT CAME TO AMERICA FROM ENGLAND IN 1631, WAS MADE TEACHER OF THE CHURCH IN ROXBURY, MASS., AND ORGANIZED THE FIRST VILLAGE OF INDIAN CONVERTS AT NATICK, NEAR BOSTON, IN 1651.



WHETHER THE INDIANS FELT HONORED OR NOT OVER THE FACT THAT THE FIRST BIBLE TO BE PRINTED IN AMERICA WAS DONE IN THEIR LANGUAGE HAS NOT BEEN RECORDED, BUT OVER A CENTURY WOULD PASS BEFORE THE FIRST ENGLISH LANGUAGE BIBLE WOULD BE PRINTED IN 1782!

NEXT WEEK: "THE MYSTERIOUS" SELAH!

SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

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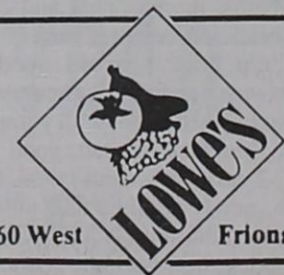
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Rafael Marin, Pastor
250-3472

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Father Ed Sweeney, Pastor
247-2871

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Queta Jones, pastor

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Reader Ads--First insertion, per word.....25 cents
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Classified display (boxed ads--10 pt. type under a specific heading, 1 column width only--no art or cuts. Per column inch.....\$3.50

Card of Thanks--same as classified word rate, 25 cents per word, minimum charge.....\$2.50

DEADLINE for classified advertising in Saturday's issue--Wednesday noon.

Check advertisement and report any error immediately. The Star is not responsible for error after ad has already run once.

All classified ads are CASH in ADVANCE. Only legal notices or continuous running ads will be billed. All other ads must be paid in full before they will be published.

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Friona, Texas
Work: (806)250-2828
Home: (806)250-2072
Fax: 250-2042

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friona Masonic Lodge No. 1332
Stated Meeting-1st Tues. 8 P.M.-7th & Ashland
John R. Blackwell, W.M.
Larry J. Knowles, Sec.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Sixth St. Church of Christ is collecting clothes for Medina Children's Home. If you have clothes that you would like to discard, regardless of size or condition, please bring them to Sixth St. Church of Christ.
F-tfnc-8/3

THE CHILD ABUSE HOT LINE PHONE NUMBER IS 1-800-252-5400.
Remember that our children today are our future tomorrow.
F&B-tfnc

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APARTMENTS:
Blue Water Gardens
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Rent based on income. Accepting applications for 1,2,3,4 bdrms. CALL Debra or Janis TODAY for information & directions. 1-5pm (806)364-6661.
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F-tfnc-11/19

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Danny & Holly Campbell
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Home: (806)250-2584
t/fnc

HOUSE FOR RENT....4
miles east of Hub. Call 265-3502 or 265-7949. F-tfnc-11/2

FOR SALE
FOR SALE....Good wheat and rye hay. Big round bales, \$45 each. 265-3582, 265-7582.
F-4tc-11/30-12/7-12/14-12/21

COUNTRY FLAME FIRE-PLACE inserts, high efficiency rating, heats up to 3,000 sq. ft. Discounted prices. Call 364-3451 and evenings 364-3276.
F-4tc-12/14-12/21-1/4-1/11

FOR SALE....Heavy duty aluminum tool box. Husky brand, single lid for full size pickup. Used 6 months, \$220 new, sell for \$170. Call after 5:30, 247-3409. F&B-tfnc

HELP WANTED
Secretary position available at Charles Pump Co., 203 Gardner. Call 251-1710.
F&B-tfnc-12/21

We've expanded again and are seeking food service workers at the Excel plant at Friona. Need Day Time Cook immediately. For 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. shift. FMI cell 1-800-662-2924. Ask for Rod. F&B-1tc-12/21

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Cell. 806-676-3601
Pager 806-349-1470

Shag drivers wanted. One year truck driving experience and CDL preferred but not required. Contact Kar Services 806-295-3003. F&B Tfn

Production Positions Available
Now accepting applications for production positions at Hi-Pro Feeds. Company insurance, 401k, paid holidays. Must pass drug screening. Apply in person at Hi-Pro Feeds.
F&B-tfnc-8/10

OPENING in Parmer County for a Title 5 position. We can train you for your position. Green Thumb organization pays the wages. Must be 55 years old or older, and have limited income. Call Fay Martin at 505 763-6603. F&B-tfnc

Farwell Feed Yard seeking assistant manager. 1-1/2 miles south of Farwell on NM/TX state line. Apply in person. F&B-tfnc-10/26

PART-TIME HELP WANTED....Apply in person at Brenda's Hub Cafe. F&B-2tc-12/21-1/4

HELP WANTED....Nursery worker at Bovina's First Baptist Church. Every Sunday a.m. and p.m. and special events. Please call 251-1632 for an interview.
F&B-3tc-12/7-12/14-12/21

Opening for Nurse's Aide in Nursing Dept. Contact Lynn Nelson, R.N./D.O.N., Parmer County Community Hospital for appointment. (806)250-2754, Ext. 120.
F-4tc-11/30-12/7-12/14-12/21

WANTED
WANT TO LEASE....Wheat pasture. Floyd, (806) 359-1657 or 295-3702.
F&B-tfnc-8/24

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
REGARDING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS
The Red River Authority of Texas (the "Issuer") will hold a public hearing at 12:00 p.m. on January 14, 2002, at the Excel Corporation facilities located at 4 miles West Highway 60, in the City of Friona, Texas. Among the items to be discussed will be a proposal for the issuance by the Issuer of its revenue bonds (the "Bonds") to finance the acquisition, construction, and improvement of sewage and solid waste disposal facilities, such improvements to include the installation of a wastewater treatment plant, including a modified conventional activated sludge system (the "Project"), for the beef processing facilities located at 4 miles West Highway 60, in Friona, Parmer County, Texas owned and operated by Excel Corporation. The maximum aggregate face amount of the Bonds to be issued with respect to the Project is \$5,000,000. All interested parties are invited to submit written comments to the Issuer prior to the time set for the public hearing or to attend the public hearing and express any comments they may have regarding the Project or the Bonds.

RED RIVER AUTHORITY OF TEXAS
900 Eighth Street
Hamilton Building, Suite 520
Wichita Falls, Texas 76301
Attention: Ron Glenn
F-1tc-12/21

PROPERTY ASSOCIATES REALTORS
HOLLY CAMPBELL Res.: (806)250-2584
CAROL BOYD Res.: (806)250-3280
102 East 11th Street
Friona, Texas 79035

NEW LISTING-Commercial property-Hwy 60.....\$240,000
NEW LISTING-CLEAN corner lot 2br 1bath.....\$34,900
NEW LISTING-Commercial property, great location.....\$97,500
NEW LISTING-WESTERN ADDN 3br 1bath sgl garage...\$55,900
NEW LISTING-Cute 2BR 1bath new sewer.....SOLD
NEW LISTING-CORNER LOT 3BR 1bath storage bldg.....\$35,900
NEW LISTING-check it out 3br 1bath fireplace-new roof...\$39,900
NEW LISTING-Lots of space 4BR 2bath.....SOLD
WHAT A DEAL 3br 2bath central heat/air.....SOLD
MUST SEE-Family Home in Western Addition 3br 2bath...\$90,000
PERFECT STARTER 3br 2bath fireplace new roof\$57,000
MOVE RIGHT IN-upgrades & extras 3br 2bath.....SOLD
PERFECT STARTER-3Br 2bath fireplace, central heat/air...\$58,900
ROOMY & RELAXING3 br 2-1/2 bath, fireplace corner lot..\$85,000
UPGRADES GALORE-Must see 4/2.....contract pending
PRICE REDUCED-3 bdr./1-1/2 baths, corner.....SOLD
PRICE REDUCED 3 bdr., 2 bath brick, central heat and air...\$59,000
GREAT INVESTMENT-House w/2 apts-good rent property...\$45,000
WESTERN ADD'N-Very nice 3br, 2bath w/fireplace.....SOLD
Move into a beautiful 3 bdr., 2 bath w/fireplace.....contract pending
PRICE REDUCED-3 bdr., 2 bath, on corner lot, roomy...\$59,000
Great Starter Home, 2 bdr., steel siding, in Bovina.....\$23,900
200X120 LOT WESTERN ADDITION.....SOLD
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New Listing...2 BR, 1 bath, metal siding.....\$39,000
New Listing...In Bovina, 4 BR, 2 baths, 3 car garage,\$59,900
New Listing...3 BR, 2 Baths, 2 car, metal fence, nice. \$64,900
3 BR, 2 Baths, L-R, large carport..Reduced \$59,900..\$65,000
4 BR, 2-1/2 baths, 2 car garage, 2 story, dream home.\$98,500
Price Lowered To \$88,000.....SOLD
4 BR, 3 baths, large lot, beautiful landscape.....\$200,000
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Happy Holidays

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NEW LISTING....2 BR, 1 bath home plus mobile home lot.....\$25,000
NEW LISTING...mobile home, .974 ac., barn, SE Cor. Sec. 25..\$34,500
NEW LISTING...3 BR, 1 bath, 2 carport, trees, lg. lot., Bovina...\$37,900
NEW LISTING...3 BR, 2 bath, on pavement, just outside Bovina...\$80,000
NEW LISTING...3 BR, 2 bath, large lot, storage, 1 car, 2 C/P...\$46,500
2-BR., 2-baths, metal siding, double carport..... SOLD.....\$39,500
3 BR, 1-3/4 bath, 2 car garage, large corner lot, new paint.....\$48,000
Small office/studio with 1/2 bath to be moved.....\$5,000
5 BR, 2 BA, sunroom, basement, carport, large lot.....\$58,000
3 BR, 1-3/4 baths, n. side, neat and clean.....\$56,900
3-BR., 2-bath brick, basement, 2-car.....SOLD.....\$80,000
2 BR, 1 bath, c/p, brick, near HS, good location, corner lot.....\$43,900
Upstairs & downstairs apartment complex...SOLD...\$23,900...\$21,900
4-BR., 2-3/4 baths, 2 storages with garage, corner lot.....SOLD...\$85,000
2 BR, 1 bath, fireplace, fenced, good street.....\$27,900
3-BR., 2-bath, 2-car, brick, with metal, moving.....SOLD.....\$55,000
2 BR, 1 bath, newly re-done and nice.....\$27,000
2-BR., 1-bath, woodburning stove, HUD.....SOLD...\$20,000
Office bldg., brick, new heat/air, 1600 sq. ft., 2--1/2 BA, corner...\$33,900
2-BR., 1-bath, cute home, good neighborhood.....SOLD.....\$33,000
2 BR, 1-3/4 baths, 2 car garage, refrigerated A/C.....\$60,000
2 BR, 1 bath, 1 car, brick, good starter home.....\$37,000
3 BR, 2 bath, brick, basement, metal shop.....\$85,000
residence only.....\$65,000
2 BR, 1 bath, nice and clean, storage.....SOLD.....\$31,800
Commercial building, app. 2400', ready to move in.....\$25,000
77 acres with house, 3 BR, 1-3/4 bath, country home.....SOLD...\$89,500

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A Genealogist's Christmas Eve

'Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even my spouse.
The dining room table with clutter was spread
With pedigree charts and with letters which said....

"Too bad 'bout the data for which you wrote,
It sank in a storm on an ill-fated boat."
Stacks of old copies of Wills and of such
Were proof that my work had become much too much!

My children were nestled all snug under blankets,
Their visions were Nintendos, TV's and fur jackets!
And I, at my table, was ready to drop
From work on my album with photos to crop.

Christmas was here and of such was my lot
That presents and goodies and toys I'd forgot.
Had I not been so busy with grandparent's Wills,
I'd not have forgotten to shop for such thrills.

While others bought gifts that would bring Christmas cheer,
I'd spent time researching those birthdates and years.
But while I was thus musing about my sad plight,
A strange noise on the lawn gave me a great fright.

Away to the window I flew in a flash,
Tore open the drapes and yanked up the sash.
When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But an overstuffed sleight and eight small reindeer.

Up the housetop the reindeer they flew,
With a sleight full of toys, and 'Ole Santa Claus too!
And then in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of thirty-two hooves.

The TV antenna was no match for their horns,
Just look at our roof with hoof-prints adorned.
As I drew in my head it bumped on the sash,
Then down the cold chimney fell Santa KE-RASH!

Dear Santa had come from the roof like a wreck
and tracked soot on my carpet. I could wring his short neck!
Spotting my face, good old Santa could see
I had no Christmas spirit, you'd have to agree.

He spoke not a word but went straight to his work
And filled all the stockings while I felt like a jerk.
Here was Santa who'd brought us such joy
When I'd been too busy for even one toy.

He spied my research on the table all spread
"A genealogist!" he cried. My face was all red!
"Tonight, I've met many like you," Santa grinned
As he pulled from his sack a large book he had penned.

I gazed with amazement--the cover it read:
GENEALOGY LINES FOR WHICH YOU HAVE PLEAD.
"I know what it's like as a genealogy bug,"
He said, as he gave me a great Santa hug.

"While the elves make all the toys I now carry,
I do some research at the North Pole Library.
"A special treat I am thus able to bring,
"To genealogy folks who can't find a thing."

"Now off you go to your bed for a rest,
I'll clean up the house from this genealogy mess."
As I climbed up the stairs full of gladness and glee
I looked back at Santa who'd brought much to me.

When I settled in bed, I heard Santa whistle
To his team which then rose like the down of a thistle.
Faintly I heard his voice come to me,
"HAND WRITING may connect to my family tree."

"So don't forget to send in your check.
"Then you won't miss an issue, by heck."
And I heard him exclaim as he flew out of sight,
"Family History is fun! Merry Christmas, and Good-night."

By permission from the Darke Co., Ohio "Kindling"
Edited and revised by Gladys

Fast Track Legislation Passage Dismays Texas Farmers Union

The Texas Farmers Union (TFU) expressed his disappointment in the narrow passage of fast-track legislation.

After only one hour of regulated debate on the issue, the House Republicans squeaked out a one-vote win on presidential trade negotiation authority.

"Farmers Union will now work to stop fast track in its track as it heads to the Senate for consideration," TFU President Wes Sims said. "Trade promotion authority leaves Congress in a 'take it or leave it' position in trade pacts. It provides a broad list of objectives without any binding requirements to ensure negotiators achieve specific results before a trade agreement may be concluded and sent to Congress for ratification."

Sims pointed out that presidential trade promotion authority is not necessary for the United States to engage in trade pacts, citing Vietnam and Jordan trade agreements as examples.

"Fast track legislation only reduces the oversight capacity of Congress throughout the negotiating process. And, current farm bill proposals appear to be at odds with the position of U.S. trade negotiators," Sims said.

During recent trade talks in Doha, Qatar, U.S. trade representatives agreed to include in the World Trade Organization (WTO) agenda anti-dumping protections and other domestic trade laws

that counter unfair practices by other countries. According to Sims, fast-track legislation would allow the administration to negotiate away domestic trade laws that can be used to protect U.S. producers from unfair trade practices by other countries.

"Over the last five years, competitive agricultural imports into the United States have increased 30 per cent, while U.S. agricultural exports have yet to reach the level achieved in 1996. The bill does not adequately address this disparity or tackle labor and environmental standards and currency differences that are crucial to farmers who compete in an increasingly global economy," Sims said.

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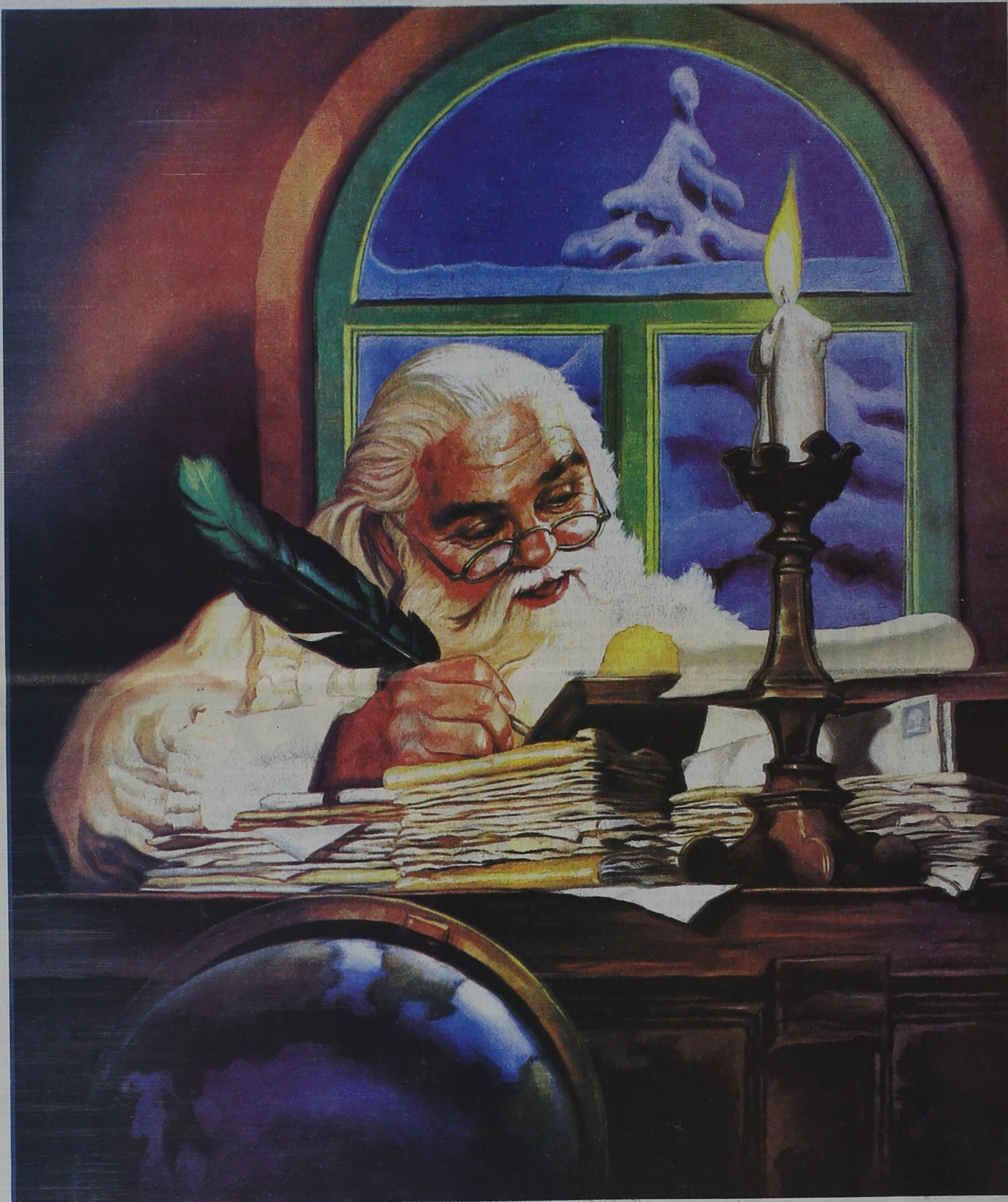
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