

MY TURN



By Carol Ellis

RECENT DISCUSSIONS of a serious nature have left me "worn to a frazzle" so let's talk about something in a lighter vein. I wasn't sure if "frazzle" was even a real word, so I looked it up in the dictionary and sure enough it said "to wear to tatters," which pretty well describes yours truly.

A couple of years ago John Terry and I discussed the word "snuck" in this column, he claiming to have discovered the origin of the word. It keeps cropping up! Regis Philbin says it all the time on TV and just last week, Amarillo College Professor Bob Wylie, who writes the "Word for Word" column in Amarillo's Sunday paper, noted that the AP (Associated Press) has started using the word. Bob says "their acceptance of 'snuck' rather than 'sneaked' is discouraging." The dictionary lists it as a "non-standard variant" for the past of the verb sneak.

So it appears that Webster's and the AP are now taking the stance "If you can't lick 'em, join 'em," because, believe it or not, the word "ain't" is also in the dictionary. "Ain't" has been around since 1778 and is usually identified as slang "common in the habitual speech of the less educated," but it was among several new entries which made it into the newest edition of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary without any such warning against its use.

Some other new words and terms that got the nod of the day were: safe sex, date rape, boom box, politically correct, megahit, downscale, voice mail, significant other, and veg out.

Noah Webster, great granddaddy of American English, was a renegade who built his book of words on defiance. He thought American English should be independent from British rules of the language. He believed in language by democratic rule. If everybody used it, it was a word.

However, old Noah never had the opportunity to listen to teenagers of the 90s, because if he had heard them, the following words and phrases would have been completely deleted from the dictionary: "you know, goes, radical, like, chill out, gross, you're history, man, get a life." The sound is similar to one of those old scratchy 78 records with the needle stuck in one groove (if you're old enough to remember those).

"So he goes, man, like it gets really rad, y'know? . . . and I'm like, whassa matter, man, y'know, and she goes, look butthead, y'know, like you're outta here, man . . ." etc.

Of course, the kids probably think there are several parental words and phrases which should also be deleted from the dictionary, such as: "NO, sidddown-an-shuddup, don't slam the door, get off the phone, straighten up, it's too expensive, and you can't have the car keys."

One of the most colorful phrases in use today is "excuse me." It is quite descriptive in varied ways. For instance, it asks for pardon when you accidentally bump into someone. It asks for permission to get through a crowd of people such as when you're trying to find your seat in a darkened theater. It says "I didn't hear that; would you mind repeating?" It can express indignation: "excuse ME!"

Or it can express incredulity: "excuse me?" as in "I can't believe what I just heard!" Then there's "Well, ex-cu-uuu-UUU-se me!" which says "Well, pardon me for living, and who are you to question my right to have an opinion of my own, anyway!"

John Milton (1608-1674) English writer of prose and poetry (you studied him in English Lit, remember) said "When language in common use in any country becomes irregular and depraved, it is followed by their ruin and degradation."

I dunno. Whadda ya think?

Storm Does Extensive Damage In Bovina Area

By RHONDA HOLDEN

The hail storm, which hit Bovina Friday evening, June 18, caused extensive damage to homes, crops and vehicles. Donna McCallum of McCallum Agency, said the costs are expected to be "real bad."

A couple of homes south of town received an extensive amount of damage. The clay tile roof on Joe Steelman's home was destroyed.

Just down the road from the Steelmans, most of the windows in Don Hatley's mobile home were busted out. The Hatleys were at the lake when the storm hit, but the fire department and friends tried to cover the windows with plywood and plastic.

Hatley's patrol car and his wife's Suburban were also damaged, as well as the vacant home in front of the trailer. The car's windshield and exterior looked like it was beat with a sledge hammer.

"I'm glad we weren't here," Hatley explained while surveying the damage. A total of 12 windows in the trailer and eight in the vacant house were broken.

Corn fields, sugar beets and wheat were stripped and beaten. Most of the crops will not be able to recuperate from the damage.

There were two unconfirmed reports of tornadoes which didn't touch down. The residents were instructed to seek shelter by the fire department and the town siren.

Monday morning found the McCallums at the McCallum Agency "very busy" taking claims. Donna McCallum explained that the adjuster will begin surveying the claims and the damage. After that point, she said they would have

some dollar figures of the damage caused by the storm.

"It's bad," she said, "we have three people working on claims and we're still behind."

She said that the majority of the homes in the Bovina area were damaged and will be needing repair. The new roofs on the Baptist and Catholic Churches, as well as the Methodist Church, received damage.

Most of the crops hit, will be recovering losses for those who have crop insurance.

She compared the damage to the costly hail storm in 1982, which she described as a "total wipe out."

Not all is bad news, though, from Wednesday, June 16, Bovina has received over two inches of rain.

Police Investigate Several Burglaries

By RHONDA HOLDEN

A burglar has left a curious trail of evidence for the Bovina Police Department to follow.

An individual broke into three buildings Tuesday morning, June 22, taking stereos, a microwave and various other items, according to Leon Saddler, Bovina Police Chief.

Approximately 3 a.m., someone busted out windows in a pickup and car at Northside Motors on U.S. Highway 60. The person or persons took the stereos and speakers from both vehicles.

At the Texaco on U.S. 60, windows were busted out of two cars and the vinyl top on a convertible car was slashed. The burglar broke a window in the station to gain access and stole a television, mobile phone, stereo and \$15 in change.

In town, the burglar broke into the residence of Virgie Adams at 600 Fourth Street. Adams has been in a nursing home, so the home wasn't occupied. Saddler said the police department isn't sure what was taken and are talking with

family members to determine what is missing. As far as they could tell, a microwave, telephone and various kitchen items were taken.

A woman who works at the elementary school called police and led them to clues as to the identity of the burglar. The police found a shirt and a screw driver. Saddler believes that the items will help lead to the suspect.

"Since the items were laying together, we're assuming that the shirt belongs to my suspect," Saddler said. He believes that all three burglaries were done by the individual who owns the shirt the police found.

The shirt is yellow with black pin striping. It is a large and the brand is Trader Bay, from Sears. "It is a rather expensive shirt, probably \$35-\$40," Saddler said.

In addition to the shirt, the police took extensive fingerprints, found footprints and are doing other tests which they expect to unlock the identity of the burglar. The samples and fingerprints will be sent to the labs at the Texas Department of Public Safety in Austin and the FBI lab in Washington, D.C.

"The test results will take awhile to get back, but we plan to hit his case hard," Saddler said.

They are under the impression that the burglar is a local person, who knew that the Adams residence was empty.

Anyone who knows the person who owns the shirt or with any information on these burglaries are strongly encouraged to contact Saddler at the Bovina Police Department at 238-1116. "Anyone with information can remain anonymous," Saddler said.

July Fourth Plans Made

The Bovina Chamber of Commerce wishes to invite any individuals or groups to have an exhibit or booth at the annual Fourth of July celebration.

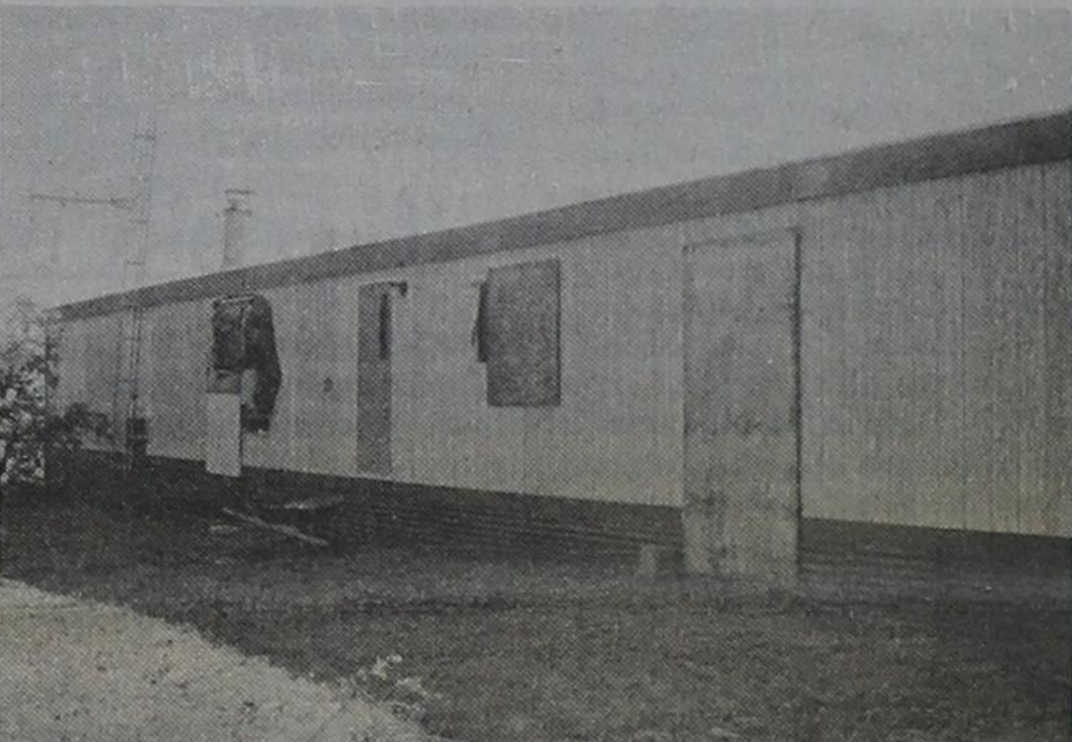
All interested parties are asked to call Bret Whitten at 238-1666, D'Lynn Jamerson, 225-6136 or Arla Waters at 238-1525.

Deadline for entering has been extended to Thursday, June 24.

The "Anything Goes" events have been opened for individuals who aren't part of a team, but want to join in the fun. For entry information, contact Arla Waters at 238-1525.



GOLF BALLS....no, hail. Noe Estraca, 15, holds hail that pelted Bovina and did extensive damage to homes, vehicles and crops last Friday night.



BROKEN WINDOWS....A total of 13 windows were broken out of Don Hatley's mobile home Friday night during the hail storm.

Wheat Harvest Is Well Underway

By RHONDA HOLDEN

The winter wheat crop is beginning to come in to the elevators and is better than expected, according to Harry Johnson at Sherley Grain Company.

The wheat yield is lower than average, but Johnson was expecting it to be even lower. So far, the wheat yields haven't dropped to projected levels.

Depending upon the methods used, the dryland crop ranges from five to 43 bushels per acre. Johnson explained that the lower yields are on fields which were planted last year with wheat. The top end is about 20 bushels per acre.

The fields, which were summer tilled and lay dormant last year, are bringing in the higher yields. They

range from 35-43 bushels per acre.

"The wheat is coming in earlier than normal," Johnson said. "The dry spring led to the early maturity of the crop. Someone forgot to tell it to rain," he added.

The first load brought in was on June 4 by Dan Ray. His farm is located west of Bovina, and he won the fifty dollar bonus for bringing in the first load.

The irrigated wheat is beginning to come in, but it is too early to tell how strong the yields will be, Johnson explained. Some crops received hail damage and may change the amount, but the early yields have been around 100 bushels per acre.

Last year's wheat yields were above average, which contrasts with this year's dry weather and below normal numbers.

Women Fill Posts As Bovina Principals

By RHONDA HOLDEN

For the first time in the Bovina ISD history, three women were named as principals.

In a school board meeting earlier in the month, Sue Nuttall was named as high school principal, Brenda Wilson for junior high and Darla Sealy for elementary level.

A vacancy for high school principal opened the position as elementary principal, Norma Whitten, a school board member, explained. Nuttall accepted the post of high school principal, leaving the elementary position open.

The school board voted to create a separate position for the junior high school. Though the grades from sixth through twelfth grades are in the same building, the board agreed that it would better serve the students with two principals.

According to Dennis Willard, school board president, the women

were qualified, recommended and from the area. He provided some personal information on the new principals.

Nuttall has worked in the Bovina ISD for six or so years, first as a teacher and then as the principal for the elementary school. She lives with her husband in Bovina.

Brenda Wilson has taught for 17 years. She taught junior high classes and most recently taught the Gifted and Talented classes for kindergarten-twelfth grades. She also lives in Bovina.

Darla Sealy taught in the elementary school for five or so years. She lives in the Clovis area at this time.

Wilson and Sealy are taking courses this summer to receive mid management certification to qualify for the positions.

Nuttall has been a principal and has already received her certification.



UNUSUAL CLUES....This yellow shirt with black stripes was found after three buildings were burglarized. This shirt is thought to belong to the burglar. It is a Trader Bay shirt, a brand from Sears.



BUSINESS OF MONTH....Kevin's Auto is the Bovina Chamber of Commerce's "Business of the Month." Shown at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new business are (left to right) former owners, Paul and Ola Lee Jones, Chamber president Bret Whitten, Suzan and Kevin Hughes, D'Lynn and Taryn Jamerson, Kenneth Waters and Jeff Steelman.

Home Health Helps Area's Patients

By Rhonda Holden
Home health services can help people with a variety of illnesses, provide therapy and medication to allow a patient to heal in the comfort and security of home versus a frightening and expensive stay in the hospital.

The Parmer County Community Hospital is providing home health services for Parmer County and surrounding areas. According to director, Chris Dennison, RN, statistics show that patients heal faster at home and at a lower cost than a stay in the hospital.

Home health is beneficial for someone who has a broken bone which keeps them home bound, newborns with different types of conditions, and individuals that need drug therapy.

The PCCH Home Health can obtain medical equipment which they can teach the patient to use and allow them more freedoms than numerous trips to the doctor away from home. They provide physical, respiratory and chemotherapy and monitors.

The nurses are qualified to teach a patient with diabetes to do blood sugar checks and injections and assist with dietary information. They can also do blood tests and administer medication through an IV or directly into the body.

It is staffed with registered nurses, licensed vocational nurses and certified nursing assistants and the therapists who work with the hospital will do visitations through the home health agency.

Cost is an enormous factor in today's economy, and home health provides services at a lower cost than a hospital stay. It is Medicare and Medicaid certified, and widely accepted by most private insurance carriers.

The closeness of the care by the staff will help in communication with the patient's doctors and can discover conditions which may require more extensive treatment. That helps in ensuring the patient and the family that they are receiving complete care, according to information provided by the PCCH Home Health Agency.

Dennison warns that home health care shouldn't be confused with 24 hour nursing care. The homebound patient and family must be able to care for themselves and not require around the clock medical supervision. Care, depending upon the doctor's orders, usually include three weekly visits for several hours and last about 60 days.

The PCCH Home Health is working closely with the community by providing educational opportunities. They offer free blood pressure checks, blood sugar screenings and will begin cholesterol checks. "We will be available to do different programs for community clubs," Dennison said.

For information, contact Chris Dennison at the PCCH Home Health at 247-2754 or 1-800-525-2754.



EMPLOYEES HONORED.... Prairie Acres awarded years of service pins last week. Receiving pins were: (left to right) Carol Jackson, Eileen Gomez and Carol McIntosh, five year awards; and a ten year award went to Velma Escalante. Not pictured was Roger Graham for five years of service.

Ethel Chitwood's Services Are Held

Funeral services for Ethel Chitwood of Friona, 98, were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, June 22, in Friona's First Baptist Church.

Rev. Charles Broadhurst conducted the funeral services. Burial was in Friona Cemetery under the direction of Ellis-Blackwell Funeral Home.

Mrs. Chitwood died Saturday, June 19 in Lubbock's Methodist Hospital of natural causes.

She was born in Yell County, Arkansas. The Chitwoods moved to Friona from Bledsoe, Texas in 1936. She and her husband, William Tolbert "Bert" Chitwood, lived on his Indian allotment near Alex, Oklahoma several years. She owned and managed the Friona Hotel until 1950.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church, a charter member of the Federated Women's Club of Friona, and was a member and past Worthy Matron of the Friona Chapter of the Eastern Star.

Her husband preceded her in death on November 3, 1975. She was also preceded in death by a son, S.V. Chitwood, on July 28, 1985 and a great-grandson, Phillip Jesko, August 27, 1987.

Survivors include one

grandson, William Tolbert "Billy Bert" Chitwood II of Paradise, Texas; one granddaughter, Dixie Jesko of Muleshoe; two sisters, Wilma Highman of Orange Cove, California and Oleta Thomas of Orangevale, California; and three great-grandchildren, Jeff Jesko, Jason Jesko and Alex Chitwood.

Playnights To Begin June 26

The Friona Riding Club's summer Playnights will begin Saturday, June 26 at 7 p.m. at the club arena west of Friona on Highway 60.

The Playnights will run six weeks with a break on July 3 for the July 4th holiday activities.

There will be three age categories: nine and under; 10-15 years of age and 15-18 years of age.

Events will include barrels, flags, poles, stakes and rings. There is no charge for competing in the events.

There will be no junior rodeo held in Friona this year.

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