

SNOW CRITTERS....Several residents around Bovina built snow creatures in their yards after the foot of snow which fell during the Christmas holidays. Snow bears were seen on Avenues A, D, and G. The snow bunny below was found at the Neals' on Ridgelea Drive. (Photos courtesy of Don & Gladys Spring)



THE RECENT New Year's celebration reminded Ye Editor about what "us kids" did a time or two down at Muleshoe.

The First Baptist Church would sponsor a "Watch Night" service to which the young people were invited. It provided a safe and meaningful way to usher in the new year, in the confines of church.

However, after leaving the church and reaching our vehicles, someone glanced at their watch and exclaimed "If we leave right now, we can make it over to Clovis, and celebrate the new year all over again!"

So, there we went—a car full of kids out on the road on a holiday. This might have been what the "Watch Night" program was trying to avoid all along. Oh, well....at least my group never fooled with alcoholic beverages. (And we made it in time to honk our car horn along with the Clovis celebrators!)

So, as Carol might wonder: was our new year (the way we kids did it) 30 minutes shorter than everyone else's—or was our old year 30 minutes longer...or what?

WHEN I WAS FORMERLY a Dallas Cowboy fan, Carol tells everyone that when I was watching their games I became an entirely different person. She claims that I would use language that I never would have otherwise, and would become very irritated if anyone interrupted my "space," or called on the phone, I might be downright rude.

(Thanks to the current Cowboys team, I am now a changed man).

But did you hear about the TV football fan in St. Louis who shot and killed his son when the younger man deliberately stood in front of the TV set while a football game was in progress?!

This story just about "takes the cake," as far as we're concerned. Either someone had their priorities 'way out of line, or once again, perhaps one or both had been nipping on the old Demon Rum, to say the least.

THE DEATHS THIS WEEK of Michael Kennedy and Sonny Bono in skiing accidents were very untimely, and should serve as a reminder that skiing is a dangerous sport.

Ye Editor only skied once, and somewhere through that day he promised the Lord that if he made it down the hill without breaking his neck, he'd never be so foolish as to strap on another pair of skis.

Younger son Rick had a close call when he hit a tree while skiing in Colorado some years back. This week's accidents showed us how lucky we were in his regard.

A MAN TOOK HIS DOG to the vet, when the animal stopped moving. "He's dead," the vet told him, upon examination. "Are you sure?" asked the pet owner.

Whereupon the vet brought in a pair of cats and turned them loose in front of the dog, which didn't move a muscle.

"That'll be \$50. Just pay the receptionist on your way out," said the vet. "50 dollars?! He was dead when I brought him in. Where do you get \$50??" the man asked.

"\$10 for the office call, and \$40 for the cat-scan," the veterinarian replied.

Bull Town Bulletins
By Bill Ellis



FRANK A. SPRING

County's "Number 1 Baby" Is An Active Nonagenarian

by BILL ELLIS

Parmer County may be the only county in Texas whose "first registered birth" is still an active resident.

Frank A. Spring was born October 9, 1907 on the family's farm north of Bovina. Parmer County had been organized just a few months earlier that year, so when the doctor rode to the courthouse to register Spring's birth, he became the first registered birth in the county.

Frank's father, Frank Lewis Spring, rode the Santa Fe Railway to Bovina from his home in Aldridge, Illinois in 1905, at the invitation of the Southwest Land Company of Chicago, which was one of the companies involved in selling off plots of the old XIT Ranch, which was put on the market early in this century.

The elder Spring liked what he saw in Parmer County, and purchased 320 acres eight miles north of Bovina, at a price of \$8.50 per acre. He hired a "Mr. Teeter" to build a house and barn on the place.

Later on, Spring bought another quarter-section of land from the Schlenker family for \$5 per acre.

In 1906, F.L. Spring returned to Illinois, married his young sweetheart, Ocie Adams, and then moved their belongings to the couple's new

home on the Texas Plains.

F.L. Spring rode in to Bovina to secure Dr. Oliver for the birth of the couple's first child, a son they named Frank Augustus.

In 1913, the family, which numbered five by that time, moved into Bovina, so the children could attend school there. A second son, Edward, was born in 1908, and a daughter Mary was born in 1911.

After moving into Bovina, three more children were added: Paul in 1916, Floyd Lee in 1919, and Lydia Marie in 1921. A third son, Thomas Lewis, died shortly after his birth in 1913.

Paul and Lee were both medical doctors, and served their neighbors as the "Dr. Paul" and "Dr. Lee" brother team at Parmer County Community Hospital for a number of years.

Young Frank was a good student, and along with his brother Edward (Ese) won county declamation contests.

Graduating from high school in Bovina, Spring received his B.A. degree from Texas Tech (College) in 1930. He had started attending what was a virtually new college at Lubbock in only its second year of existence.

Frank began his career in the banking business in the early 30s at Friona State Bank. He married Ethel Ruth

Collins October 3, 1937 in Canyon. At the time of his marriage, Spring was working for the International-Harvester company in Amarillo.

He later managed the Chevrolet dealership in Muleshoe for a year, returning to Friona to operate an insurance agency, which later became Ethridge-Spring (with Dan Ethridge as partner).

In 1944 Spring joined Fred Carson, J.G. McFarland, Sloan Osborn and J.R. Roden in purchasing Friona State Bank. He was elevated to president of the bank in 1948, and held this position until his retirement in 1973.

Spring and his wife Ethel Ruth (or "E. R.," as he fondly refers to her) were very active in civic work in Friona. He was honored as "Man of the Year," and she was named "Woman of the Year" by the Friona Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture.

Frank was a member of the Finance Commission of Texas, and was a member of the Rural America Committee of the American Bankers Assn.

Following his retirement, the Springs did a lot of travelling, and he was able to pursue his favorite hobby—fishing.

The couple visited all of



BONNIE CLAYTON
Clayton Is Re-election Candidate

Bonnie Clayton has announced that she will be a candidate for re-election as Parmer County Judge.

Mrs. Clayton is currently serving her second term.

"I appreciate the opportunity to serve and I consider it an honor to hold this position. I will continue to serve the people of Parmer County to the best of my abilities," Mrs. Clayton said.

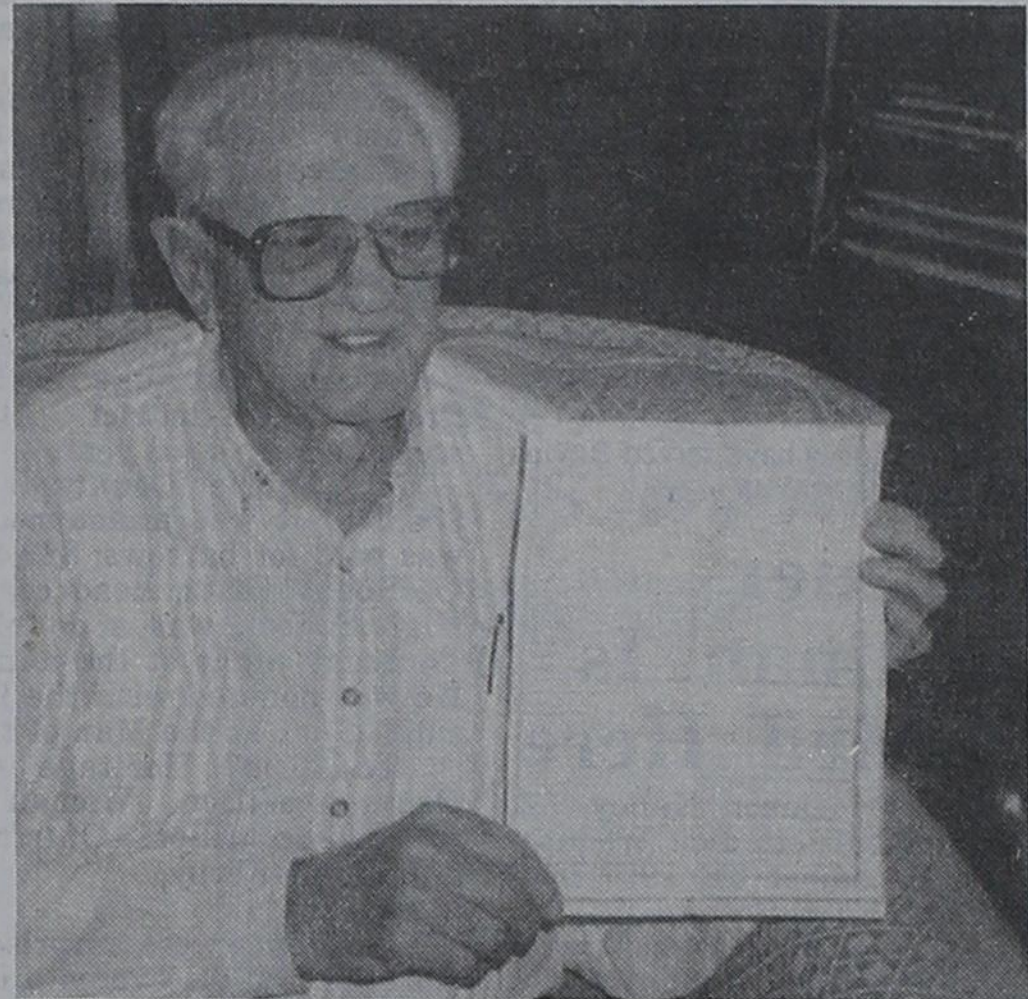
Mrs. Clayton is the mother of a daughter, Holli Read, a speech therapist who lives in Lubbock, and a son Chad Clayton of Dallas. She also has a granddaughter, Kennedy. Holli's husband Lynn Read is a Parmer County native. (Pd. Pol. Adv.)

VFW Chicken Dinner Jan. 18

The American Legion-VFW building at 6th and Euclid in Friona has a new name, Veteran's Hall. However, nothing has changed about the popular chicken dinners held there.

Veterans will host a chicken dinner again on Sunday, January 18 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Come enjoy good fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, salad, tea, and homemade dessert. All this for only \$6 adults and \$3 children. Carryouts will be available.



NUMBER ONE....Frank A. Spring, life-long resident of Parmer County, holds a copy of his birth certificate. Spring was the first baby born after Parmer County was organized in 1907.



WITH THEIR CATCH....Frank A. Spring of Friona, right, poses with his son Frank L., and daughter-in-law Martha, on a fishing trip to Alaska last year. Salmon and halibut the trio caught are being proudly displayed.

the continents during their travelling, and participated in a trip around the world in a hectic 43-day schedule.

Spring's son, Frank Lewis Spring II, who is an attorney in Albuquerque, N.M., joins his dad on many of his fishing trips.

Frank has been to Alaska to fish for salmon on five different occasions. On his first trip, Frank A. and Frank Lewis chartered a pontoon plane, and had their personal guide. After their fishing was through, they took a boat back to Ketchikan.

In subsequent trips to Alaska, Spring has fished along the shore in the ocean. They sometimes go 30 to 40 miles down the coast. Besides salmon, Spring has caught halibut in the ocean. These large fish can weigh up to 400 pounds, and Spring has caught fish between 15 and 40 feet long.

The Springs bring their salmon home, where it is either frozen or canned, so it can be enjoyed for months.

Padre Island, on the Texas coast, is another favorite fishing spot for the Springs.

(Continued On Page 6)

College Aid Night Scheduled

All parents of seniors who are planning to attend college are reminded that a meeting to discuss financial aid has been scheduled.

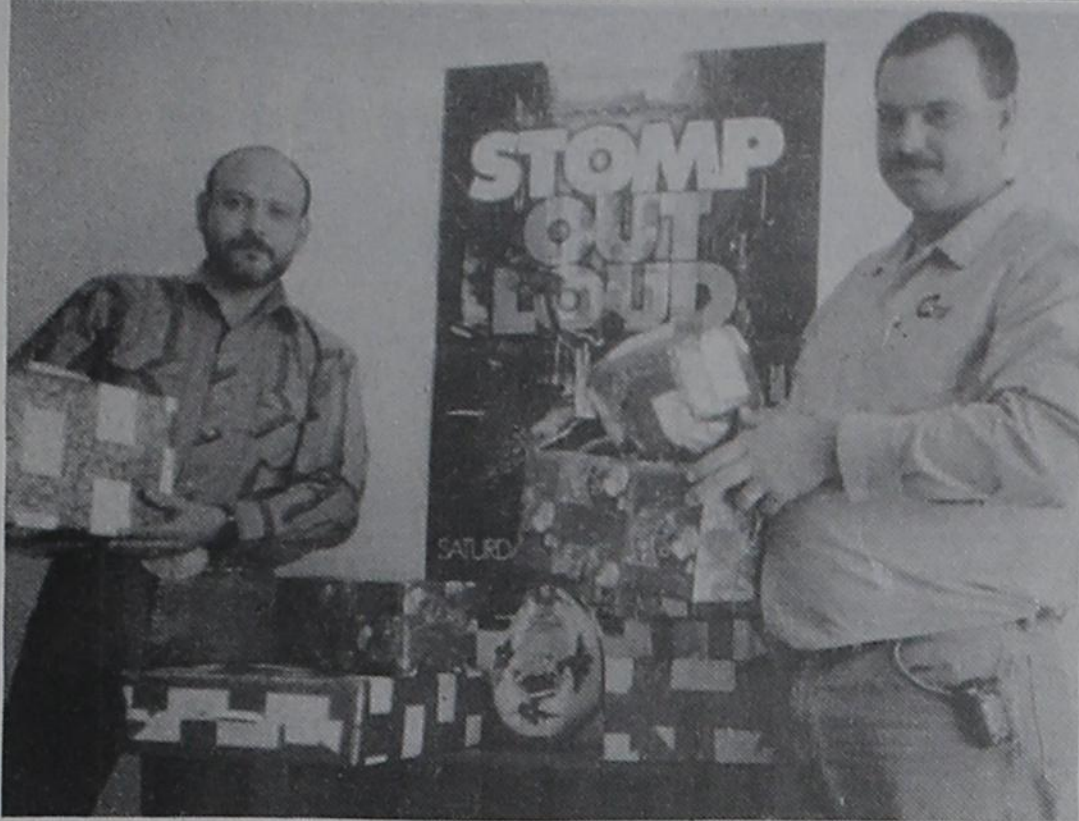
Financial Aid Night is January 14, 1998, at 7 p.m. in the high school library. Refreshments will be served.

Meeting Set For Retired Personnel

The Parmer County Retired Teachers and School Personnel Association will meet Monday, January 12 at the Friona State Bank Community Room 3 p.m.

Betty Mercer, president of the Hereford Retired Teachers Association, will be the guest speaker for the meeting.

All current members and those eligible are encouraged to attend this important meeting.



CHRISTMAS BY CLASSIC...Joe Lafuente and Chet Hawkins of Classic Cable delivered gifts to needy kids and families at Christmas.

Sugar Beet Banquet Scheduled Jan. 17

Area farmers can learn the latest about sugar beet production and earn two CEUs at the same time by attending the Texas-New Mexico Sugar Beet Growers Association annual business meeting at 9:30 a.m., Friday, January 16 at the Hereford Community Center.

The TNMSBGA annual banquet will be at 7 p.m., Saturday, January 17 at the Hereford School Administration Building, 601 N. 25 Mile Highway, said Kenneth Frye of Hereford, association president.

Frye urged sugar beet growers and those with an interest in adding the cash crop to their grain and/or

cotton rotation to attend the business meeting. Two CEUs will be available from the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. And those attending will hear various reports on the future of beet production in the Panhandle, South Plains and Eastern New Mexico area.

"With the availability of Round-Up Ready, Liberty Link and other herbicide resistant sugar beet varieties just over the horizon, that future looks bright," said Frye. "We are excited about the improvements we should see in beet production and quality."

"There are also more efficient irrigation techniques being perfected, along with other methods of obtaining better beet performance. These and other key issues of

interest to beet producers will be discussed at the annual meeting."

The meeting will feature research reports from Dr. Charlie Rush, Dr. Steve Winter and other crop and soil scientists with the Texas Agriculture Experiment Station in Amarillo and Bushland. Jim Gerik, a plant pathologist for Imperial Holly Corp., which operates the Hereford beet processing plant will discuss rhizomania research that should help regional growers become more efficient beet producers.

"Growers will also want to hear a report from Imperial Holly's Kenneth Chambers, who will review the past year's crop, as well as Holly's future plans for improving production in our area," said Tony Brorman of Vega.

Branson Pals' Show & Tell On Tuesday

Those who made the bus trip to Branson, Missouri prior to Christmas sponsored by Friona State Bank are invited to a special meeting on Tuesday, January 13, at the Bank's Community Room, at 2 p.m.

Those travelers who took pictures are invited to bring them, as many may want to secure copies for their scrapbooks.

Bovina's Stock Show

Lawrence Widner, Bovina ag teacher, announced that the Bovina Stock Show will be held on Thursday, January 15, at the Bovina Show Barn which is located next to the new water tower.

Lambs and barrows will be shown. Tracy Blount, ag teacher at Anton, will be the judge.

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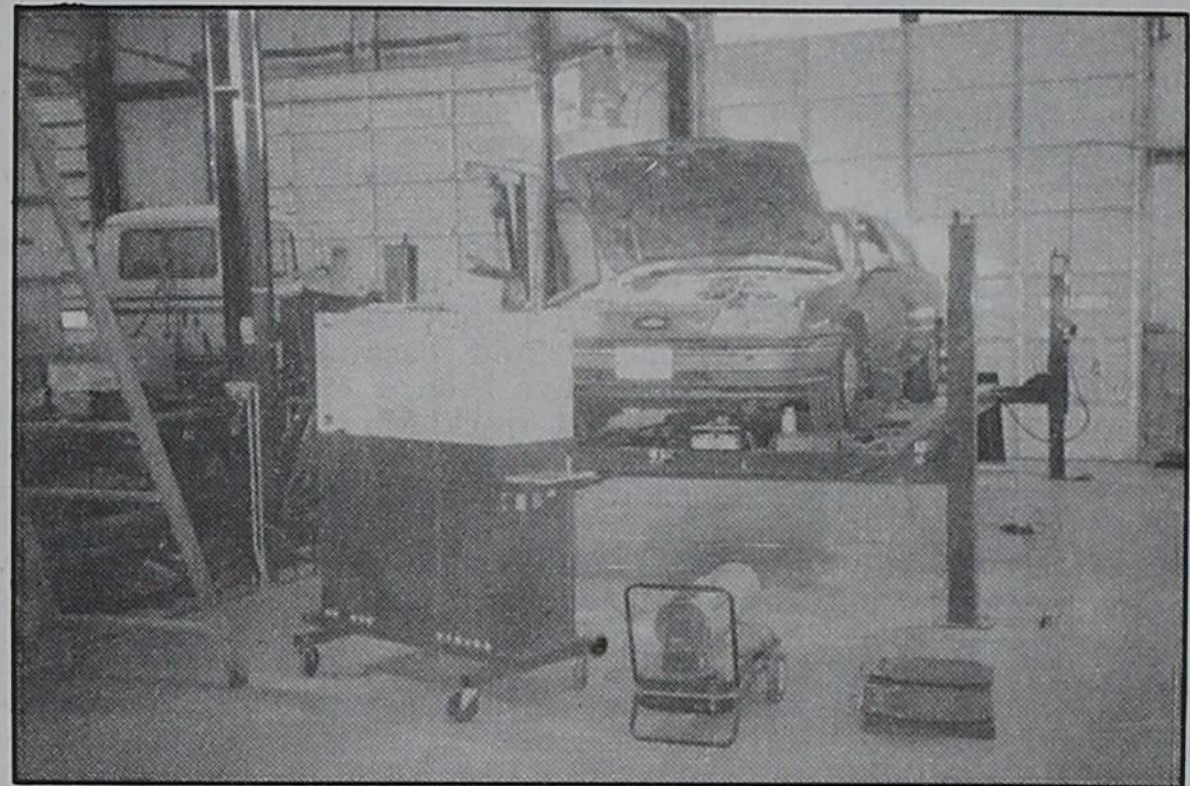


KIRSTIN AMUNDSON
In 1997, she graduated from Pratt High School. She followed Michael Treadway to Texas. Now she has big trouble.

See Ron Carr's Out Here column for the short story of her mixed up life.

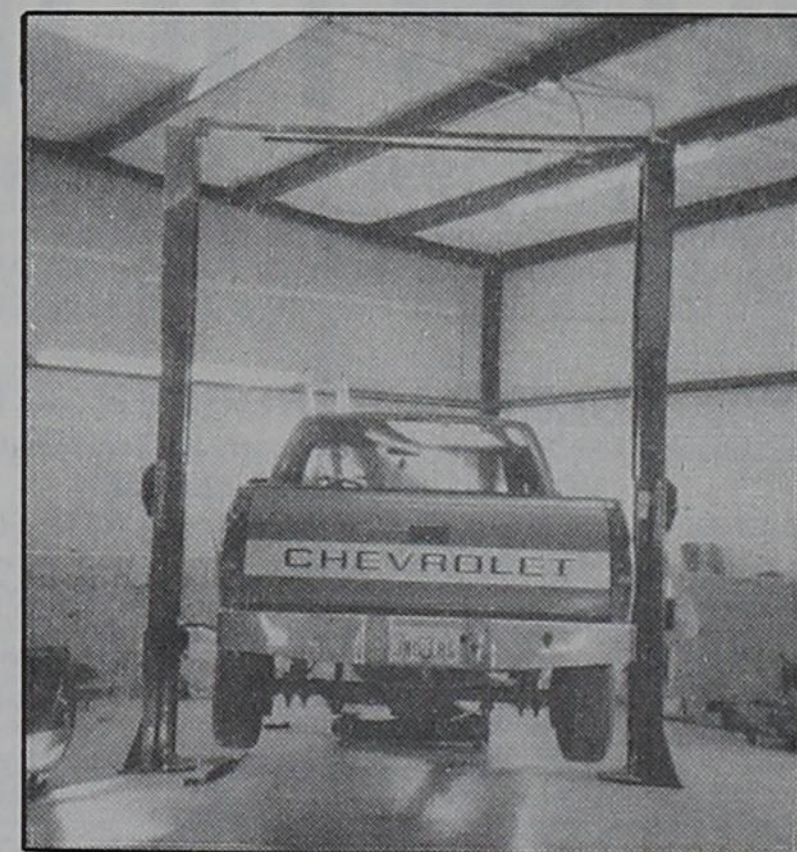
(Ron Carr Photo)

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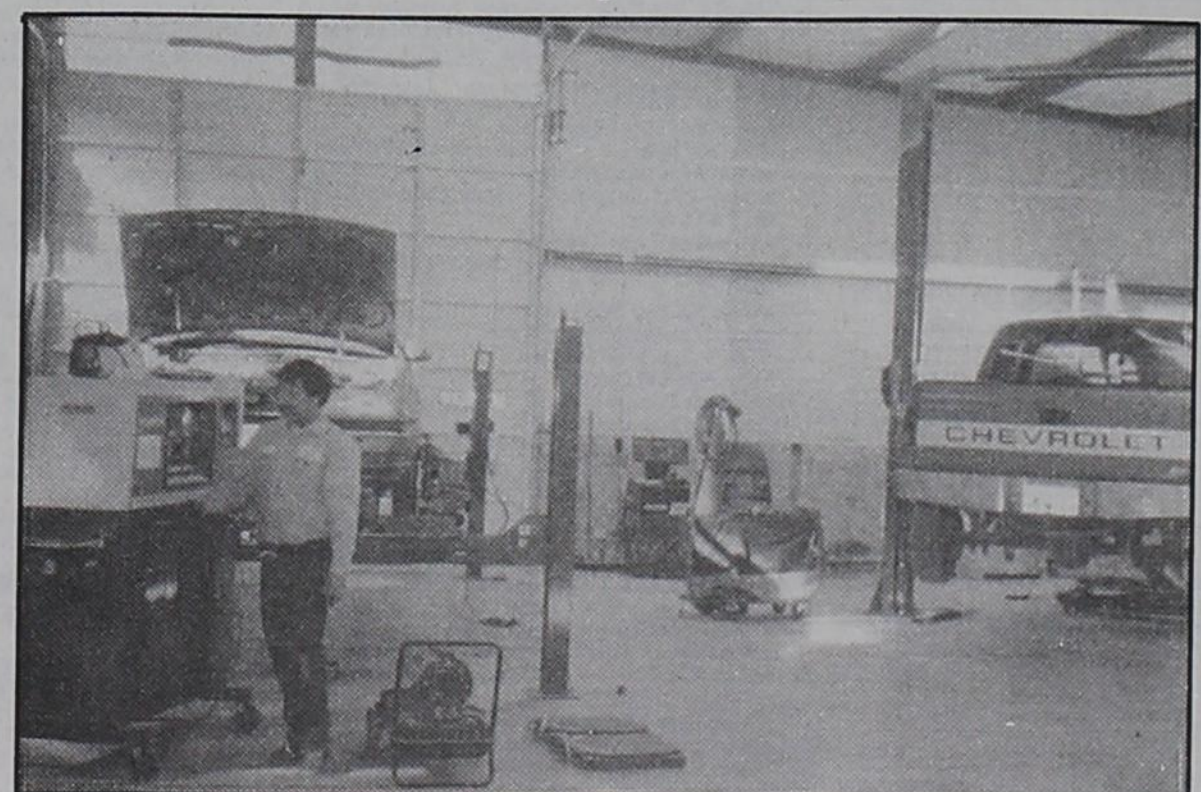


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Out Here By RON CARR



Kirstin Amundson graduated from Pratt, Kansas, High School, Class of '97. She was born in Billings, Montana...

Her boyfriend, Michael Treadway of Farwell, is in the Curry County jail in Clovis, charged with the murder of Red Prather in Texico, NM, on December 11, 1997.

paychecks over to her. By this time she was working for a local telemarketing company selling a long-distance service.

they could stay with him out at his daddy's trailer. By the first part of December money was tight, so Michael Treadway decided to reactivate his drug contacts and open for business again.

Seems that B.J. and Big Ron had fingered their buddy Michael as the shooter. Kirstin says she did not lie to Sheriff Williams when he asked if Treadway was inside.

restaurant and bar. She thinks if she gets out of this mess she will go to Montana too. After Kirstin Amundson's case goes to the grand jury Tuesday, January 13, she will get a court-appointed lawyer.

AUCTION Tuesday, January 13, 1998 - Sale Time: 10:00 a.m. FLOYD & GLENDA SCHUELER - Owners. NO CONSIGNMENTS PLEASE!

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FRIONA/BOVINA DEVOTIONAL PAGE

385 *Facts About The* **BIBLE** *BY JOHN LEHTI*

This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Esther, intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times.

EVIL HAMAN
AS HAMAN'S MEN WORK DILIGENTLY THROUGH THE NIGHT, CONSTRUCTING A GALLOWS ON WHICH TO HANG MORDECAI IN THE MORNING, THE KING, UNABLE TO SLEEP, LISTENS TO REPORTS BEING READ, NOW...

...AND IT IS RECORDED THAT MORDECAI, THE JEW, DISCOVERED THE CONSPIRACY OF BIGTHANA AND TERESH TO...

...SLAY THE KING IN HIS SLEEP AND DID FOIL THIS FOUL PLAN!

HEARING OF MORDECAI'S HEROISM IN FOILING THE PLAN TO KILL HIM, THE KING BECOMES INTERESTED...

WHAT HONORS HATH BEEN GIVEN MORDECAI FOR HIS GREAT LOYALTY?

NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE FOR HIM!

WHO IS IN THE OUTER COURT?

HAMAN STANDETH IN THE COURT!

HAMAN, IN HIS EAGERNESS TO GAIN THE KING'S PERMISSION TO HANG MORDECAI EARLY IN THE MORNING, HAS HURRIED TO THE PALACE LONG BEFORE THE BREAK OF DAWN, NOW...

ENTER, HAMAN! THE KING DESIRES THY PRESENCE!

AHHH! WHEN THE KING ASKS FOR ME LIKE THIS, HOW COULD HE FAIL TO GRANT MY SLIGHTEST WISH?!

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Spring Has Seen Lots Of Advancements

Frank A. Spring, who was born in October of 1907, has seen a lot of accomplishments in his lifetime, which has covered virtually all of the 20th century.

When he was born, the Wright brothers, Orville and Wilbur, were still in the process of refining their new invention, the airplane. Their first flight was in 1903, and by '07 they had flown "nonstop" the whopping total of 32 minutes.

Other milestones Spring's life has touched, include:

- *Henry Ford developing the first moving assembly line in the manufacture of automobiles in 1913. Spring says the first automobiles he recalls seeing were the Vealey, the Holiday, the Hupmobile and the Franklin (which was air-cooled). This was around 1914-15.
- *The Jersigs (a Bovina area family) had one of the first automobiles I remember seeing. A Mr. Berggren in Bovina was a mechanic, which turned out to be important," Spring said.
- *Oklahoma, which had been known as "Indian Territory," was admitted to the union as the 46th state, during Spring's birth year of 1907.
- *The second Sunday in May was established in Philadelphia as Mother's Day in 1907.
- *The first daily comic strip appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle, entitled "Mr. Mutt." The strip, drawn by Bud Fisher, later became "Mutt and Jeff."
- *The S.S. "Lusitania" was first launched, and set a new transatlantic record from Ireland to New York in five days, 45 minutes.
- *Spring was five years old when the S.S. "Titanic" made its fateful journey in 1912.

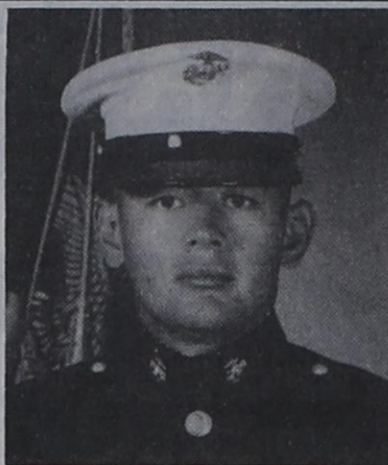
F. Spring Is Parmer Co.'s First

(Continued From Page One)

They go deep-sea fishing there, and catch a variety of fish, including snapper, flounder, shrimp and oysters.

Spring has also fished recently in Baja California, in the Sea of Cortez, which is between "Baja" and the Mexican mainland. They caught a couple of swordfish, and Frank L. caught a nine-foot long striped marlin on his birthday.

Frank has always liked to cook, and has had to sharpen his skills in this activity since the death of Ethel Ruth. He prepares fish, chicken, turkey, and eggs in various styles. He also has made homemade bread for a number of years.



HOME VISITING.. Marine Alfonso Perez is in Bovina visiting his parents Benino and Maria Perez and his four little brothers. He has one brother in the Army and a sister who lives in Lubbock. Alfonso is stationed in Florida.

McCains Have First Daughter

Butch and Betty McCain of the Los Angeles, California area, have a new baby girl. She was born November 28, 5:29 p.m. at the UCLA Hospital in Los Angeles.

The baby was named Augusta Leslee, and weighed nine pounds, eight ounces and measured twenty-one inches. This is the couple's first child.

Grandparents are Leslie and Rose McCain of Bovina and Eldon Hansen of Wichita, Kansas.

Happy Birthday Bovina

Birthdays for the week of January 11-17, 1998.

Jan 12-Andy Stormes, Patricia Parsons, Melinda Ramon, Brett Riley.

Jan 13-Sammy Stormes, Ken Sorley, Hermilia Perez, Elizabeth Serna, Jo Bunch.

Jan 15-Julia Leake.

Jan 17-Irma Hernandez, Billy Lynn Marshall.

To add a friend or relative or make corrections to our birthday roster, call 238-1523, or Drawer B, 79009.

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Judy Hromas



January 4

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Demands Recount

Classified Advertising

B3R Beef Co. in Childress, Texas is looking for an enterprising person with mechanical skills. Successful candidate would have a working knowledge of electrical and refrigeration as well as small plant equipment repair. This person would also be responsible for the management of warehouse and packoff crews, as well as shipping and receiving of products. Proper attitude and the ability to be a team player in an entrepreneurial environment will be most important. Past experience in a food plant is a plus. Please call at (940) 937-3668 or fax resume to (940) 937-6657.

FOR SALE...1986 Hacienda Double Wide remodeled mobile home. Very nice 2 bedroom, 1 3/4 bath, weight room, covered patio room. To be moved or sold with 5 acres. 238-1146 or 505-769-9778

HELP WANTED....Caprock Bovina looking for someone interested in shipping fat cattle part time. Good horses and tack required. Excellent opportunity for day workers. For more information call Darren at (806) 225-4400 ex. 30.

ATTENTION: Kirby Sales & Service 207 W. 7th Clovis, New Mexico Next to Sonic Call for Joe Ennis (505) 762-4991 *Repairs *New Self-Propelled Vacuum

HOUSE FOR SALE...3 BR brick, den, LR, utility room, carport and storage building. 804 Avenue I, 238-1191.

FOR SALE...1995 7-Tower Valley Sprinkler. Great condition-must sell! 238-1146 or 505-769-9778

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings every Saturday and Monday, 8 p.m. at Union Congregational Church on North Euclid St. in Friona.

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Blade Classifieds Get Results!

Three bedroom, two bath house for sale by owner. Corner lot, central heat and air, wood frame with attached garage. 500 Highway 86, Bovina. Call (806) 396-5612.

CONSIGNMENTS NEEDED For farm sale in early January. Call or contact John Tannahill at 247-3336 or 265-7902.

First Texas Federal Land Bank Association-Muleshoe 316 Main St., Muleshoe (806) 272-3010 **Long Term Financing for Farms, Ranches, Rural Housing, Operating and Improvements. Both Variable and Fixed Rate are Available. Call for quotes. Property Rights Advocate and Equal Opportunity Lender.**

Political Calendar

The Bovina Blade is authorized to make the following political announcements, subject to next spring's primary elections:

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY: DISTRICT JUDGE Gordon Houston Green **PARMER COUNTY JUDGE** Bonnie Clayton (re-election) **JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 2** Vi Hutto (re-election) **COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2** Tom Ware (re-election)

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To Our Friends

Thanks for your prayers and all the cards, calls and acts of sympathy during the loss of my sister.

Rose McCain

Thank You

The family of Owen Patton wishes to express our thanks to the community for the prayers and concern during this trying time of Owen's passing. Thank you for the visits and support you gave, also for the beautiful cards, floral tributes and all the good food.

A special thanks to the ambulance crew and the Bovina police, you are truly dedicated people. I cannot say enough good for you all, you are the best. We are indeed fortunate to have you. I feel fortunate to be a part of a loving and caring community.

Sincerely, Arlene Patton and family

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904 West 11th Friona, TX 247-3638



ARTIST OF THE MONTH...Friona Art Association has named Carol Ellis as the January Artist of the Month. Her oil paintings will be on display in the lobby at Prairie Acres. Carol enjoys painting florals, landscapes and portraits. She has been painting since she was a teenager and has won many awards for her art work. She is a charter member of Friona Art Association and is also in Clovis Pintores Art League, Muleshoe Art Association and Tri-State Artists.

PRAIRIE ACRES NURSING HOME

The public is invited to view the art in the lobby at Prairie Acres each month.