

### Apples of Gold

JOY—I want a soul so full of joy—  
Life's withering storms cannot destroy.

No Room for a Manger  
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# The Winters Enterprise

Serving Winters and North Runnels County

Volume 8, Issue 51

Thursday, December 18, 1997

Winters, Texas

50¢



LANCE DONICA escaped with minor injuries Tuesday morning after rolling this water truck owned by Mac Oil Field. Traveling west on Hwy. 153, Donica was unable to negotiate a curve at Poe's Corner onto Hwy. 384. The truck apparently rolled one and a half times, coming to rest on its side. Donica was transported by ambulance to North Runnels Hospital where he was treated and released. The clean water was transported to another truck in order to upright the wrecked vehicle.



WAYNE GREEN, left, accepts his award as Fireman of the Year from Jack Davis, Jr., Chief of Winters Volunteer Fire Department. Green, who joined the WVFD in 1993, was honored during the annual Christmas banquet on December 9.

## Wayne Green named Fireman of the Year

Wayne Green has been named 1997 Fireman of the Year by the Winters Volunteer Fire Department.

The announcement and presentation were made at the annual Christmas banquet on Dec. 9.

Mr. Green joined the department in Sept., 1993. He has attended Abilene Fire School summer courses for three years and has participated in local CPR courses and other emergency training.

He served as vice-president of the Winters department in 1995, was president in 1996, and is currently assistant captain of Company 1.

Wayne's family is also very involved in the fire department. His wife Dawn has served as reporter, vice-president, and president of the auxiliary and is currently treasurer. She also serves as parliamentarian of the Hill Country Firemen's Association.

Wayne and Dawn are parents of Amber, 11, Allan, 8, and Austen 1. Amber is sweetheart of the Hill Country Auxiliary. Allan is mascot of the local department, and Austen has "tagged along since birth," according to mom, to all the fundraisers and various activities of the department.

Also receiving awards at the banquet were Johnny Merrill and Richard Hamilton for 25 years of service; Jack Davis, Jr., Mike Meyer and Bobby Staggs for 20 years; John Joeris for 15 years; and Bobby Blackwood and Curtis Jackson for 5 years of service.

Receiving pins and gifts were Tonya Grenwelge, senior sponsor; Crystal Grenwelge, junior sponsor; Darci Lindsey, sweetheart; and Allan Green, mascot.

## Public library to offer Internet training

Demonstration and sign-up to be Thursday, Dec. 18, from 6-8 p.m.

If you have been hovering on the edge of the Internet, but haven't yet taken the plunge, here's your chance to learn how to swim in the information ocean, with your own lifeguard at your side.

You are invited to a reception at the Winters Public Library to celebrate YuleNet '97: "Bringing Home the Net for Christmas."

The reception will be Thursday, December 18, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

There will be demonstrations on the Internet for public access at the library.

Also at this time, you may sign up for your own personal lifeguard to train you on how to surf the Internet.

Your lifeguard will be either Kevin Conner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Randall Conner, or Robyn Parramore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Parramore.

The Winters Public Library is one of 30 public libraries across Texas selected by Texas Rural Communities, Inc. (TRC) to participate. This special program, which will only be offered this holiday season through January 10, 1998, is provided by TRC, in cooperation with the Texas Rural Education Center, and with support from the Tocker Foundation.

Texas Rural Communities, Inc. is a non-profit organization that has been assisting rural Texans since 1934 and using the Internet

to develop rural economic development alternatives since 1995. Using lessons the organization has learned in its network projects, TRC formed the Texas Rural Education Center this year to bring training previously offered only in classrooms to the Internet.

The Tocker Foundation distributes funds principally for the support, encouragement, and assistance of small rural libraries.

The YuleNet '97 program offers individual, one-to-one training in getting the most out of the Internet. It is free to all patrons of the library.

Kevin and Robyn have used the Internet to receive training for the program using online resources of the Texas Rural Education Center. They will sit beside you and unlock the mysteries of the network, showing you how to reach the information and people you need, at the library, using the computer and Internet connection.

Kevin and Robyn will show library patrons how they can take advantage of the Internet, even if they don't own a computer and never plan to buy one.

This special, holidays-only free training will be available during library hours from December 22 through January 10, by advance appointment or on a standby, time-available basis. This means if you want to be sure to take your own 45-minute to one hour, one-to-one training session, please call the Winters Public Library, 754-5402, or email winterspl@mail.bitstreet.com as soon as possible. Walk-in patrons may be accommodated if there is an unbooked hour or a cancellation, but they can make no promise without an appointment.

If you already have the Internet hooked up and want to know how to get more out of it, Kevin and Robyn can also help you at your office, during hours when the library is closed, only by advance arrangement.

You will learn:  
—The names and electronic addresses of other Winters residents who are already using the network and be able to contact them electronically.

—How to use the latest and See INTERNET, page 6

## Emergency Family Shelter Outreach Program extended to Runnels County

Mrs. Debra Thomas, Outreach Program Coordinator of Emergency Family Shelter in San Angelo, will be traveling to 13 counties, including Runnels County, to provide services similar or equal to those offered at the San Angelo Emergency Shelter.

The Outreach Program is designed to extend services to family violence victims who live outside of San Angelo.

Volunteers will be providing a range of services, including: peer crisis counseling, information and referral, court escort, and emergency shelter. Volunteers will receive 20 hours of free training, including crisis intervention skills, community resources manage-

ment, and training related to the Texas Family Violence laws.

To make the Outreach Program a success, volunteers are essential. The Emergency Family Shelter is asking volunteers to staff the Outreach Program in Runnels County. If you are interested in volunteering, please call 655-5774 or (800) 749-8631 for a volunteer application.

Office space is needed on a part-time basis to enable volunteers to meet with victims for counseling and other services. Any church, civic agency, or business interested in donating part-time use of such a facility is encouraged to call the Emergency Shelter.



SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEER is Bill Spiller, left, local manager of First American Bank of Winters, as he presents one of several turkeys to Janet Cason, director of the Senior Citizens Activity Center. Mrs. Cason will prepare the turkeys for a Christmas dinner for all the local Meals on Wheels recipients.

## Early deadlines set for Christmas edition

Due to the upcoming Christmas holiday, Thursday, Dec. 25, *The Winters Enterprise* requests that newsprint for the Dec. 25th edition be turned in to our office no later than the following date and times:

General news/retail advertising Fri., Dec. 19 12 noon  
Classified advertising Fri., Dec. 19 5 p.m.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING ?

- Dec. 18-11:30 a.m., Senior Citizens Meal Literary & Service Club
- Dec. 19-11:30 a.m., Senior Citizens Meal Last Day of School Til After New Year
- Dec. 20-9 a.m.-1 p.m., Post Office Open
- Dec. 22-9:30-10:30 a.m., SS Rep, Winters Housing Authority
- 10 a.m.-4 p.m., "A Gift of Love" Intergenerational Training, Farm Bureau, Ballinger
- 11:30 a.m., Senior Citizens Meal
- 5:15 p.m., 4-H
- 6-9 p.m., GED Classes, IA Bldg., Room A, WHS
- 7 p.m., Wingate Masonic Lodge
- 7-10 p.m., 4-H Holiday Hop, SPJST, Rowena
- Dec. 23-11:30 a.m., Senior Citizens Meal
- Noon, Lions Club
- 7 p.m., Athletic Boosters, Blizzard Stadium
- 7 p.m., WVFD
- WVFD Auxiliary
- Dec. 24-Christmas Eve
- Dec. 25-CHRISTMAS DAY
- "Merry Christmas to You and Yours!"
- The Winters Enterprise* Closed



## Oil Bidness

By Reg Boles ©1997



There is an underlying problem with royalties that is rarely apparent to mineral owners. And, now, there are attempts in certain parts of the oil patch to remedy the inherent inequity in the royalty arrangement.

In case you have forgotten (or if you are unlucky enough to not own any mineral interests), then you should be reminded of just exactly what a royalty is.

An oil patch royalty is the percentage of a well's or wells' production that goes to a mineral owner. For example, if a mineral owner has the rights to a 1/8th royalty in a well that makes 100 barrels of oil per day (BOPD), then the royalty share will be 12.5 barrels per day.

O.K., so where's the inequity? Well, consider the perspective of the working interest partner (operator, investor, oil company). He or she gets their share of the production just like the royalty owner, but they also have to pay their share of expenses.

For example, if a working interest owner owns 100% of the working interest in the aforementioned 100 BOPD well, then they only get what is left of the production after the royalty owner is paid. This means the working interest owner gets 87.5 BOPD, but he/she has to pay 100% of the expenses.

Now, this is not inequitable from a legal point-of-view, as both parties signed on the dotted line to participate in the production under these exact terms without duress. It is inequitable only in that it is not equal.

This inequality is most significant near the end of the life of a well or field.

Consider, if you will, the typical well that declines in production until it can no longer pay its bills. In our example above, assume our 100 BOPD well has declined to about 3 BOPD.

From the perspective of the working interest owner, the well should be shut in because it can no longer support the costs needed to produce the well.

On the other hand, the royalty owner, who pays no expenses, thinks the well should continue to produce. After all, it is making money as far as the royalty owner is concerned.

This situation is very common in the oil patch, particularly in the U.S. Most of the time, it creates no conflict, as royalty owners go quietly into the night, glad for what money they did get.

Occasionally, a royalty owner will raise Cain when the checks no longer show up in the mailbox,

but this doesn't happen very often.

And, now, someone has discovered that both parties could gain if the well or field's life were extended. The royalty owner may be willing to take a lesser percentage (after all, any money is better than no money) to prolong the life of the well. The working interest owner can also make a little more money in this situation.

This is called a sliding-scale royalty, and it has been around in other parts of the world, but is just now popping up in the domestic U.S. oil patch.

Watch for it in a lease coming your way if you are a mineral owner. Next year, we'll touch on the pros and cons of this sort of arrangement.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF AREA DRILLING ACTIVITY COMPLETIONS

**Nolan County**  
Hallwood Petroleum has completed the Guthrie #2 in the Weaver Springs Field (15 miles SE of Sweetwater) at an initial rate of 272 BOPD in the Palo Pinto (perfs 4732-60). Loc. is 1865 FNL & 1396 FWL of Sec. 73, Blk. 5, T&PRR Sur., A-516.

**Runnels County**  
Walsh Resources has completed the Lee-Bishop Unit #1 in the North Winters Field (3 miles N of Winters) at an initial rate of 12 BOPD & 8 BWP in the Gardner Sand (perfs 4382-4394). Loc. is 467 FNL & 1050 FEL of Sec. 86, Blk. 64, CTRR Sur., A-929.

**Taylor County**  
Continual Oil & Gas, Inc. has completed the Newsome #2 in the County Regular Field (5 miles SE of Shep) at an initial rate of 12 BOPD in the Hope Lime (perfs 3080-83). Loc. is 330 FWL & 2052 FSL of Sec. 119, Blk. 64, H&TC Sur., A-150.

Midland Oil & Gas has completed the Antilley -A- #2 in the Big Easy Field (6 miles E of Abilene) at an initial rate of 99 BOPD in the Palo Pinto (perfs 3262-80). Loc. is 1958 FWL & 1804 FSL of Sec. 56, Blk. 1, BAL Sur., A-859.

### STAKINGS

**Concho County**  
Norman Oil Corporation has staked the R. L. Stansberry Trust #1 as a Wildcat, 6 miles S of Millersview (Depth 1990). Loc. is 467 FNL & 467 FWL of Sec. 1970, Blk. 72, T&NO Sur., A-1857.

**Runnels County**  
Core Quest, Inc. has staked the Mansell #1 in the Hall Field, 7 miles NE of Ballinger (Depth 4600). Loc. is 2032 FNL & 689 FEL of Lot 38, D. Diaz Sur. No. 532, A-115.

Edco Petroleum has staked the McNeill #2C as a Wildcat, 2 miles SE of Wilmeth (Depth 4800). Loc. is 386 FSL & 770 FEL of R.A. Maulsby Sur. No. 12, A-663.

**Taylor County**  
Harlow Oil has staked the Harlow #1 in the County Regular Field, 5 miles NE of Tuscola (Depth 3000). Loc. is 1760 FWL & 3900 FSL of W.M. Smith Sur. No. 517.

Sundance Resources has staked the Standard #4 in the County Regular Field, 1 mile W of Tuscola (Depth 4500). Loc.

## Obituaries

### Thomas Lugo Luna

**BALLINGER**—Thomas Lugo Luna, 74, died at 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, December 9, 1997, at Ballinger.

He was born March 7, 1923, in Runnels County, Texas, to Masario B. Luna and Dolores Lugo. He married Victoria Vasquez Luna on July 22, 1950, in Ballinger.

Mr. Luna was a machine operator for Ballinger Compress.

Survivors include his wife, Victoria Luna of Ballinger; four sons, Ruben Lara and Raymond Luna, both of San Angelo, and Felix Luna and Mike Luna, both of Ballinger; two daughters, Beatrice Luna and Alice Tucker, both of Ballinger; three sisters, Concepcion Bribiesca of Pejamo, GTO, Pauline Chavez of Big Lake, and Francis Magana of Krum; and eighteen grandchildren.

Rosary was at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 10, at Rains-Seale Funeral Chapel in Ballinger. Funeral mass was held at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, December 11, at St. Mary's Catholic Church with Father Samuel Homsey officiating. Burial was in Evergreen Cemetery in Ballinger, directed by Rains-Seale Funeral Home.

### Mrs. John H. (Shirley) Hallford

**MIDLAND**—Mrs. John H. (Shirley) Hallford, 80, formerly of Ballinger, died at 10:30 a.m. Friday, December 12, 1997, at her residence in Midland.

She was born April 28, 1911. She married Reverend John Henry Hallford on May 1, 1931, in Mullin, Texas.

Mrs. Hallford was a Baptist and had worked as a teachers aid with Ballinger I.S.D.

She was preceded in death by her husband on March 12, 1984; and a brother, Andy Baker.

Survivors include two sons, Baker Hallford of Midland and Ricky Hallford of Ballinger; one daughter, Sherry Palmer of Midland; one sister, Willie Adams of St. Louis Obispo, California; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Services were held at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, December 14, at Rains-Seale Chapel with Reverend Ferris Akins officiating. Burial was in Talpa Cemetery, directed by Rains-Seale Funeral Home of Ballinger.

Memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association, The National Kidney Foundation of Texas, or a favorite charity.

### Paul Woodie Branham

**SAN ANGELO**—Paul Woodie Branham, 57, died Sunday, December 7, 1997, at Shannon Medical Center in San Angelo.

He was born June 22, 1940, in Rockhouse, Kentucky, and came to Texas as a young man. He served in the U.S. Army for 20 years, including time in Vietnam. He married Shirley Jo Lusk on April 5, 1961, in Gatesville, Texas.

Mr. Branham was a security guard for TSSI and was a Baptist.

He was preceded in death by his wife in 1992.

Survivors include his mother, Opal Mayhew of Christianburg, Virginia; three sons, Paul Branham of Norfolk, Virginia, Perry Branham of Haysville, Kansas, and Robert Branham of Midland; two daughters, Billie Fort of Abilene and Sarah Haby of San Angelo; fifteen grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

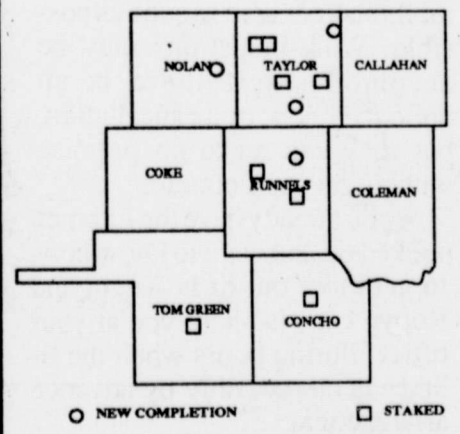
Services were held at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 10, at the Winters Funeral Home Chapel with Reverend Doyle Pruitt officiating. Burial was in Bradshaw Cemetery, directed by Winters Funeral Home.

is 500 FNL & 2134 FEL of Sec. 40, Blk. 1, SPRR Sur.

Ventex Operating has staked two wells in the Casady Field, 3 miles NW of Merkel (Depth 4900). The Ethel #1 is loc. 2310 FWL & 782 FSL of Sec. 22, Blk. 18, T&PRR Sur., A-460. The Reynolds -B- #1 is loc. 2618 FNL & 689 FWL of Sec. 19, Blk. 18, T&PRR Sur., A-346.

### Tom Green County

TKP Petroleum has staked the Jones -C- #5 in the Panacea Field, 3 miles E of Knickerbocker (Depth 6200). Loc. is 246 FSL & 656 FEL of Sec. 930, R. Hoab Sur.



### Championship t-shirts available

The Athletic Booster Club congratulates the 1997 Blizzard football team.

Area Championship Blizzard football T-shirts are now on sale from the Booster Club. Adult sizes are medium, large, extra large, and extra extra large. The price for all sizes is \$10 per t-shirt. The tees are gray with players' names in white letters, outlined in blue, and feature the theme "Men in Blue." Scores of this year's games are listed on the back of the tee.

Please contact Susan Conner at 754-5760 or Renee Calcote at 754-5600 if you would like to purchase a t-shirt.

Downtown flags will be flown for all home basketball games. Thanks to Lee Colbath for all his hard work in accomplishing this task.

### The Winters Enterprise (USPS 005016)

Published every Thursday by *The Winters Enterprise, Inc.* 104 North Main Street, Winters Texas 79567 915-754-4958 • FAX 915-754-4628

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Periodicals Postage Paid at Winters, TX.  
**Subscription Rates:**  
Runnels County \$15.00 per year  
Other Texas Counties \$17.00 per year  
Outside Texas \$19.00 per year

Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation, which appears in the columns of this paper will be corrected upon due notice given at *The Enterprise* office.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Winters Enterprise*, 104 N. Main, Winters, TX 79567-5108.

**TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION** MEMBER 1997

### J.B. (Jimmy) Dankworth

**BALLINGER**—J.B. (Jimmy) Dankworth, 72, died at 1:40 p.m. Saturday, December 13, 1997, at Shannon/St. John's Hospital in San Angelo.

He was born September 20, 1923, to Sadie and J.E. Dankworth. He graduated from Ballinger High School in 1943 and entered the Armed Services where he served as a pilot in the Army Air Corps. He returned to Ballinger and married Dorothy Miller on January 3, 1947.

He entered business with his father, J.E. Dankworth, and his uncle, Cap Middleton, in the C.O.D. Grocery. In 1959, he established Dankworth Packing Company, a family business now managed by his son, Michael Dankworth.

Mr. Dankworth was the president of Dankworth Packing Company Inc. He was a life-long member of the First United Methodist Church of Ballinger where he provided leadership on various committees including the Administrative Board, the Board of Trustees, and the Pastor/Parish Relations Committee. He served as a chairman of the Ballinger Memorial Hospital and was a key figure in the establishment of the South Runnels Hospital District. He also initiated discussions that led to the affiliation with Shannon Health System in San Angelo.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include his wife, Dorothy Dankworth of Ballinger; one daughter, Kathy Henry, and her husband Jake Jr. of Corpus Christi; one son, Michael Dankworth, and his fiancé Barbara Green of Ballinger; two granddaughters, Christie Majors of Austin and Ami Henry of Lubbock; one sister, Eloise Loika of San Angelo; and one brother, Milton Dankworth of Anchorage, Alaska.

Family visitation was held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Monday, December 15, at Rains-Seale Funeral Home. A memorial service was held at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 16, at First United Methodist Church in Ballinger. A private burial followed.

Honorary pallbearers were Don McGregor, Bill Sykes, Craig Porter, Hudson Russell, Rushing Sheffield, Fred Mahler, O.L. Schuch, Jo Ed Hill, Wilson Page, Gus Alexander, and John Jones.

Memorials may be made to Ballinger Memorial Hospital.

### Dudley W. Richards

**BALLINGER**—Dudley W. Richards, 70, died at 1:05 p.m. Wednesday, December 10, 1991, at his residence in Ballinger.

He was born in Wilmeth, Texas, to Ardell Jesse Richards and Edith Lyle Carlton. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Mr. Richards was a farmer. He was employed by McKee Construction in Coleman for many years.

Survivors include one brother, Carroll W. Richards of Kermit; one sister, Dorthalene Archie of Granbury; six aunts, Geraldine Davis, Charlene Willis, Ethel Richards, Geneva Tekell, Geraldine Coats, and Loudell Shields; and two uncles, Wilmer Richards and Paul Richards.

Services were held at 2:30 p.m. Friday, December 12, at Rains-Seale Chapel in Ballinger. Reverend Dale Schultz of the First United Methodist Church officiated. Burial was in the Garden of Memories in Ballinger, directed by Rains-Seale Funeral Home.

### Robert Allen (Al) Brown

**BALLINGER**—Robert Allen (Al) Brown, 41, died at 1:30 p.m. Monday, December 8, 1997, at Shannon Medical Clinic in San Angelo.

He was born June 6, 1956, in Dallas, Texas, to Ezekiel Brown and Maria Owens. He married Carolyn Brewer on February 19, 1987.

Mr. Brown was a contract roofer.

Survivors include his wife, Carolyn Brown of Ballinger; three sons, Ezekiel Brown and Shaun Dale Brown, both of Ballinger, and Quincy Haden of Paris, Texas; one daughter, Michelle Brown of Lawton, Oklahoma; one brother, Owen Travis Brown of Pampa; three sisters, Patricia Murry, Sandra Norton, and Toni Brown, all of Pampa; and two grandchildren.

Graveside services were held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, December 12, at the Evergreen Cemetery in Ballinger. Reverend Theodore Boone officiated.

### Vivian E. Hipp

**CARROLLTON**—Vivian E. Hipp, 91, formerly of Blackwell, died Friday evening, December 12, 1997, in Brookhaven Nursing Home in Carrollton.

She was born May 12, 1906, in Nolan County and lived there most of her life. She married John Hipp in Blackwell.

Mrs. Hipp was a homemaker and a member of the Church of Christ in Blackwell.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 1973.

Survivors include one granddaughter, Pat Stephens of San Antonio; two grandsons, Jerry Linsley of Lewisville and Paul Linsley of Dallas; six great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

Services were held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, December 15, in the Winters Funeral Home Chapel with Rick Cobb officiating. Burial was in the Shep Cemetery, directed by Winters Funeral Home.

## SERVICE DIRECTORY

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## In Full Bloom For Christmas Giving

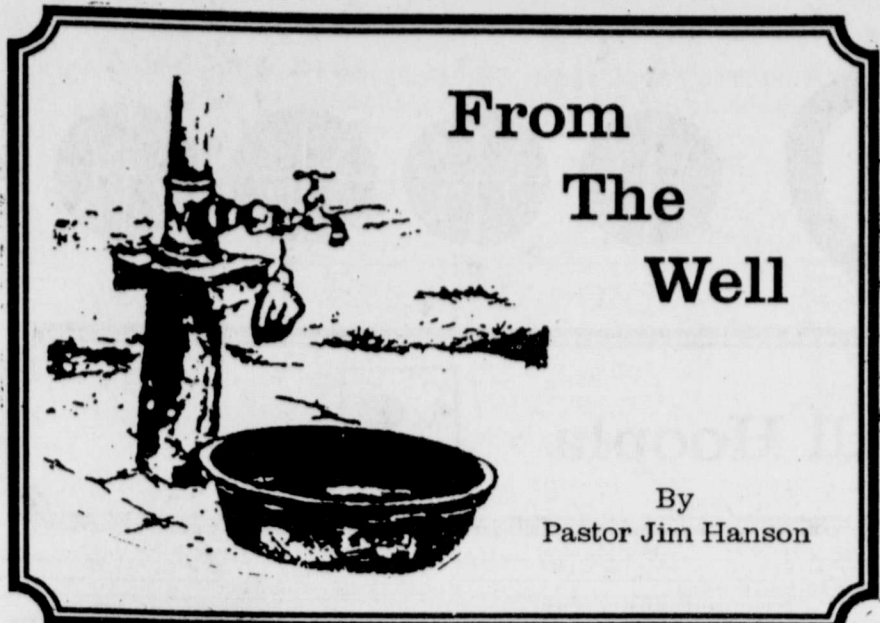
Poinsettias, Pines, and Various Plants  
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Plus a wide array of Gift Items

With a \$20 or more cash purchase (excluding tax), you become eligible for a 37-1/2" Snowflake The Snowman, a \$200 value. Drawing will be Dec. 24.

Winters Flower Shop  
... & More

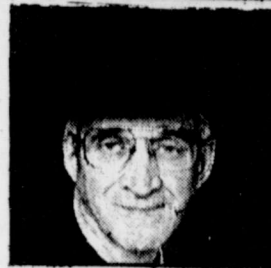
119 S. Main 754-4568  
Janice Pruser, owner





## From The Well

By Pastor Jim Hanson



Pastor Jim Hanson

The other day I got stopped. Still. In all my hurrying and scurrying around in this busiest season of the year, someone put the brakes on me. Not only was I stopped, I was struck dumb...silent. I couldn't speak. Only...listen. And...learn.

It was a telephone call from our daughter Katie, who with her husband Dan and children Hans and Siri live on a farm in South Dakota. They were experiencing an early snow. And Hans was excited! All 3-3/4 years of him. He welcomed the snow. He didn't complain about it. He just wanted to get out into that snow. And do something with it.

That's why he wanted his mother to call us. In his fertile imagination he was building a "Frosty," a snowman. And, of course, Frosty would need 3 big blue buttons. Where would they come from? For some reason, he was sure that Grandpa Jim would supply them. In fact, in his fertile little mind, he was certain he had heard me tell him that I could and would provide them.

So, after talking to Ramona a few minutes, she asked that I pick up the phone. Which I did. Not having been part of Hans's mind, I really didn't know what to say when he said, "Grandpa, I need three big blue buttons. Pretty ones."

"O.K., Hans. What for?"

"For Frosty."

That stopped me. Who, or what was Frosty? Ramona whispered, in a grandmotherly voice, "Frosty, the snowman!"

"Oh," I replied.

"Yes Grandpa. You told me that he needed the 3 big blue buttons, and I know you can get them for me...for him."

Of course. Three big blue buttons. It had been revealed to him in this season of revelations, and who am I to stand in the way of such a revelation. So I made a decision. Yes, I, we, would go to town and get the buttons. I told him so.

Then he said, "Grandpa, why don't you come and see us? You know the way. You go by Grandma Ollie's and then by Grandpa Wallace's and then you turn on the gravel road...you know the way."

That was an order of a different kind. Three blue buttons is one thing. A trip, a thousand miles north at this time of the year, is quite another.

So, for the past three weeks, Ramona and I have been on a "blue button" hunt. We have invaded button boxes that our friends have opened to us. We have tried Wal-mart. We have yet to lay our eyes on Hans' heart desire. At times I have, in my imagination, seen my mother's button box with 3 big blue coat buttons in it. But that's not good enough. Besides, that button box is long gone.

Ramona and I are going to Abilene today. (By the way, did you know Abilene is a Bible name? In Luke 3 it speaks of "Lysanias, tetrarch of Abilene.") On a button hunt. Oh, to be sure there are other things to get. Important things that we can't get in Winters. But none more important than three big blue buttons for a yet-to-be-built snowman in Hans' front yard on a farm in eastern South Dakota.

It's strange. His soft little voice reached us in a way no million dollar commercial on T.V. can or ever will! And we won't quit til we find it. Because his little voice has great hope and great expectation. Like the very heart of Christmas. Which is the celebration of a little town, and little people, and a little baby. Even as the Scripture says, "A little child shall lead them."

And this little child, Hans, without knowing it or anything like that, has lead us to the heart of Christmas. In simple things. Like buttons for a snowman. Like a star in the East. Like shepherds. And sheep. And stopping the mad rush. And not talking...but listening. Like the heaven-sent child who says to us this season, "You could come and see us. You know the way." And we could. And, we know.

The highest result of education is tolerance. — Helen Keller

## Filing continues through Jan. 2 for '98 primary election

Filing for the 1998 primary elections for county offices continues through Friday, January 2, 1998.

Prospective candidates for county offices must file and pay a filing fee with the respective party chairman for the Republican or Democratic party. Independent or write-in candidates should file with County Judge Marilyn Egan at the Runnels County Courthouse.

Runnels County Democratic Chairman is Martha Zertuche,

9703 US Highway 67, Ballinger, TX 76821, phone 365-3775 (home) or 365-2575 (work). Republican County Chairman is William J. "Bill" Cervenka, 2718 CR 400, Ballinger, TX 76821, phone 442-4431.

The first primary will be March 10, 1998, with any runoff to be held April 14, 1998.

As of Tuesday, the following had filed as candidates in the Democratic Primary:

•Marilyn Joyce Egan, Runnels County Judge

•Margaret Louise Smith, Runnels County Treasurer

•Loretta K. Michalewicz, Runnels County District Clerk

•Elesa Ann Ocker, Runnels County Clerk

•Keith Collom, County Commissioner, Precinct #2

•Jeryl Priddy, County Commissioner, Precinct #2

•Greg Lange, Justice of the Peace, Precinct #1

•Joyce Weems, Justice of the Peace, Precinct #2

As of Tuesday, no one had filed in the Republican Primary.

## U.S. Post Office open Saturday

The Winters Post Office will be open Saturday, Dec. 20, for mailing Christmas packages.

Hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Postmaster Deen Thompson recommends mailing as early as possible.

Express or priority mail may be necessary if one waits much longer.

## Smith files for re-election to office of Runnels County Treasurer

Margarette Smith has filed for re-election to the office of County Treasurer.



She has held this position since 1992, when she was appointed County Treasurer by Commissioners Court to fill the unexpired term of Nora Halfmann. She was elected to the office in 1994.

Prior to that, she worked ten years in the County Auditor's office and 15 years as bookkeeper for Bailey Drug.

She is married to Frank Smith and has one daughter and son-in-law, Jill and Mike Schwertner, and a grandson, Ben, of Lubbock.

## Michalewicz seeking re-election as Runnels County District Clerk

Loretta Michalewicz is seeking re-election to the position of Runnels County District Clerk.



She was born in the Olfen Community and attended school there, as well as in St. Joseph's Catholic School and Slaton High School. She graduated from Ballinger High School.

Loretta is the widow of the late Don Michalewicz. She has five children, Terri Cahoon, Curtis, Clifton, Kenny and Kevin. She also has eight grandchildren.

Loretta was elected to the office of District Clerk in 1982. She has acquired 135 hours of continuing education as required in Section 51605 of the Government Code.

## Ocker files for County Clerk position

Elesa Ocker has filed for the position of Runnels County Clerk.



This position is currently held by Linda Bruchmiller who has announced she will not seek re-election for another term.

Elesa is currently employed by the Runnels County Clerk's office and has been

a Deputy County Clerk in this office for the past thirteen years.

She is a lifetime resident of Runnels County and a 1982 graduate of Ballinger High School. She attended Angelo State University 1982-1983 and completed Office Management Training at American Commercial College in San Angelo.

She is the daughter of Sue Gray of Ballinger and the late Roy Gray. She and her husband, Chris, have one daughter, Abigail.

## Beat tax rush for Social Security numbers

Incorrect Social Security numbers continue to be a frequent reason for the delay of income tax refunds, according to Frank Upp.

Taxpayers are urged to act now to beat the rush for Social Security numbers needed for tax returns. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will not process returns with missing or incorrect Social Security numbers. If the return does not include the correct Social Security number, IRS may contact the taxpayer for the correct information before issuing a refund.

Taxpayers are now required to have the names of all dependents correctly listed on their tax returns. To avoid delaying your refund, you should make sure your name and Social Security number, and the name and Social Security number of your spouse and any dependents listed on the return, agree with the name and number shown on each individual's Social Security card.

To get an original or replacement Social Security card, call Social Security's toll free number, 1-800-772-1213. The best times to call to avoid peak telephone traffic are later in the week and the second half of each month.

If you have already applied for a Social Security number for your newborn child at the hospital where you gave information for your child's birth certificate, you should receive your child's Social Security card in the mail within six weeks after Social Security receives the information from your state's vital records office.

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### Preventing Ear Infections in Children

Ear infections are one of the most common problems for children in the preschool years. Some will get repeated infections that never seem to clear up completely.

However, keeping the ears free of infection and fluid is very important at this age when so much of a child's learning and social development depends on good hearing.

### Parents Can Prevent Infections

Fortunately, there are many things a parent can do to help protect a young child's ears from infections.

First and foremost is a clean environment. Pollution is a big factor in causing the congestion that can eventually lead to plugged ears, fluid accumulation and infection.

Cigarette smoking is a major cause of irritation to the airways. Children will get a runny nose, congestion of the nasal passages and a cough from cigarette smoke. These conditions lead to infections and also prevent the child from resolving infections as easily.

Heating with wood or kerosene is another source of pollution which contributes to congestion and infection. Heating with oil, gas or electricity is far cleaner.

For young children, being put to bed with a bottle is a problem. The milk or juice will pool around the Eustachian tube and promote infections.

The other big cause of ear infections is through exposure to viruses from other children, especially in day care centers. The larger the group of children, the greater the number of viruses that are spread around. Try to keep the groups small, and stress frequent hand washing.

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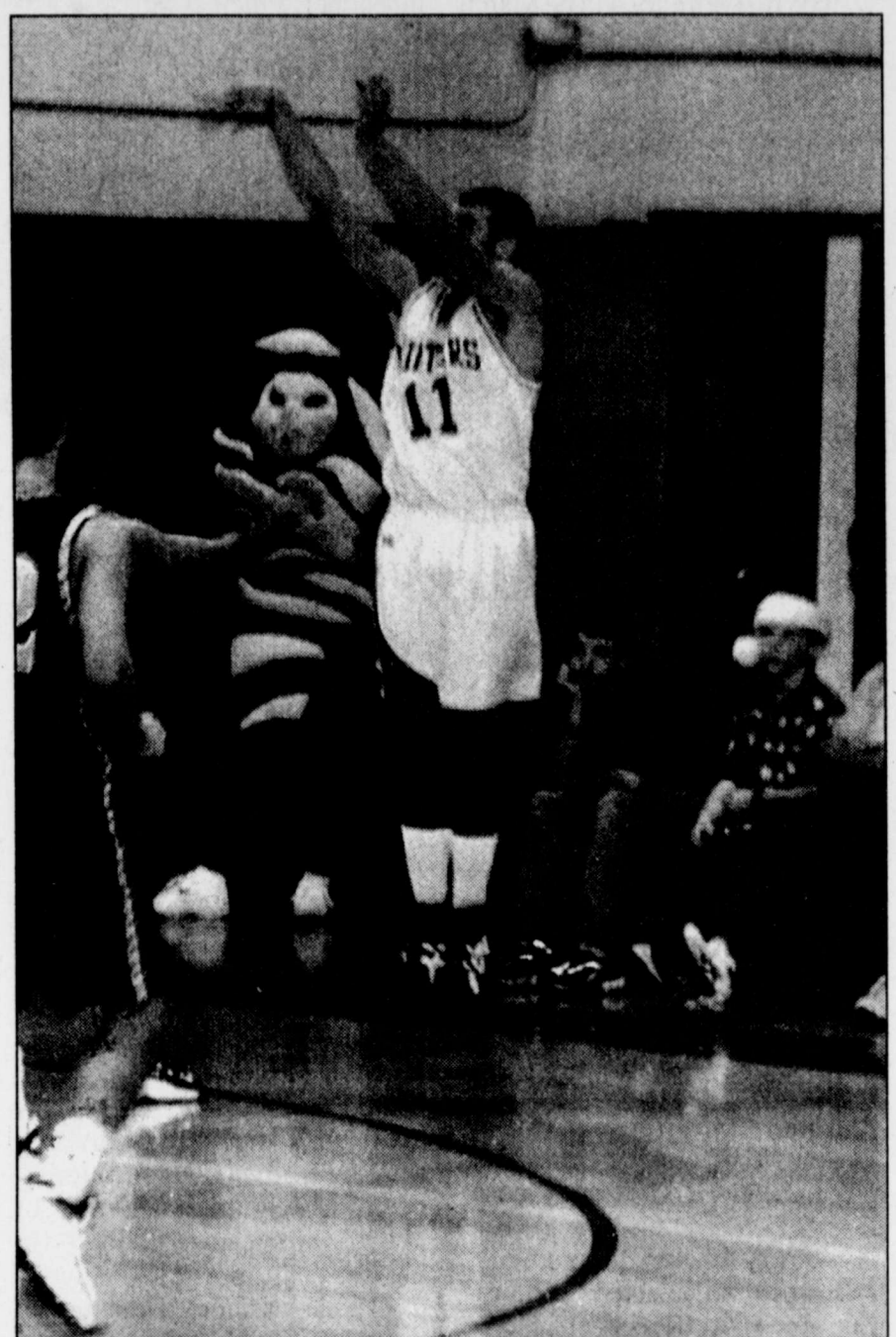
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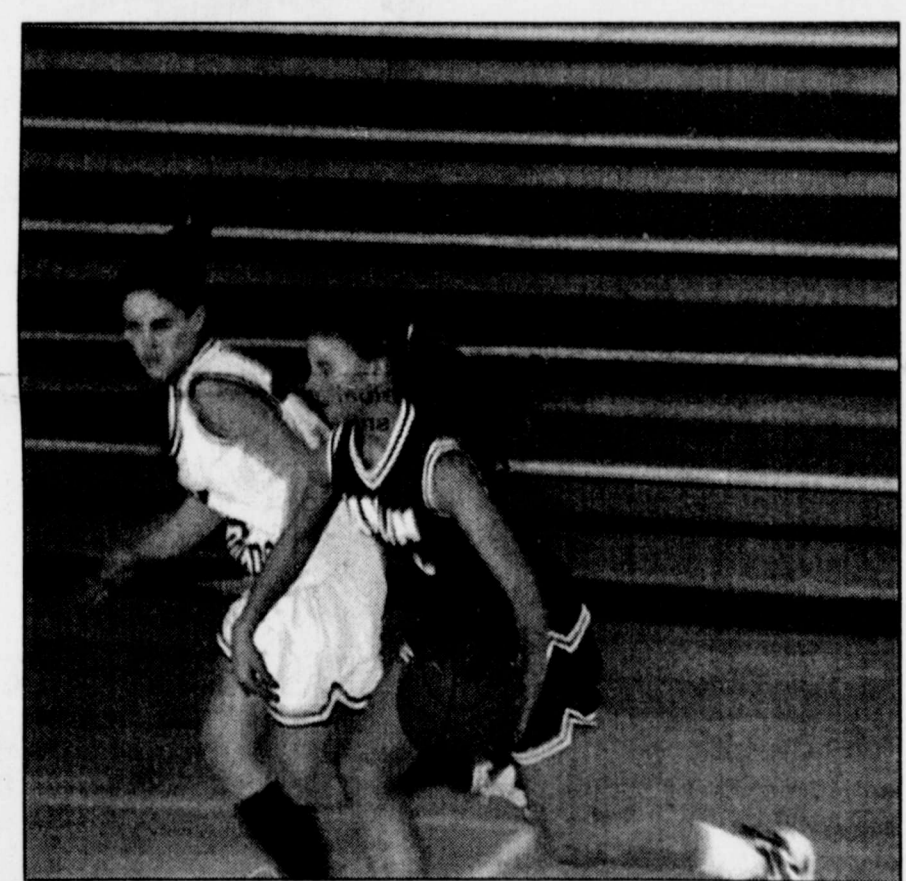


# BLIZZARD

# ASKETBALL



**KENNY WHITTENBURG #11** of the varsity Blizzards puts up the 3-point shot against the Clyde Bulldogs.



**KENDRA HOPE** cuts off the Hamlin dribbler during Lady Blizzard junior varsity action.



**KELLI SLIMP** shoots over the defender for the Lady Blizzards.

## Basketball Hoopla

**Team:** Varsity Girls **Coach:** Will Corley  
**Opponent:** Edinboro **Date:** Dec. 3, 1997

POINTS SCORED EACH QUARTER	
WINTERS	12 18 15 7 47
OPPONENT	12 13 11 11 47
Free throws made: 4 of 10 for 40%	
POINTS SCORED EACH QUARTER	
WINTERS	0 0 0 0 0
OPPONENT	0 0 0 0 0

**Team:** Varsity Girls **Coach:** Will Corley  
**Opponent:** Brook **Date:** Dec. 6, 1997

POINTS SCORED EACH QUARTER	
WINTERS	10 17 13 16 56
OPPONENT	8 8 8 8 32
Free throws made: 6 of 11 for 55%	
POINTS SCORED EACH QUARTER	
WINTERS	1 2 3 4 OT FIN
OPPONENT	1 2 3 4 OT FIN

**Team:** Varsity Girls **Coach:** Will Corley  
**Opponent:** Misia **Date:** Dec. 4, 1997

POINTS SCORED EACH QUARTER	
WINTERS	1 2 3 4 OT FIN
OPPONENT	1 2 3 4 OT FIN

**Team:** Junior Varsity Girls **Coach:** Deb Whittenburg  
**Opponent:** Roscoe **Date:** Dec. 15, 1997

POINTS SCORED EACH QUARTER	
WINTERS	6 7 10 11 34
OPPONENT	11 16 13 16 56
Free throws made: 11 of 24 for 46%	
POINTS SCORED EACH QUARTER	
WINTERS	7 10 11 26 54
OPPONENT	7 10 11 26 54

**Team:** Varsity Boys **Coach:** Ed Henley  
**Opponent:** Albany **Date:** Dec. 12, 1997

POINTS SCORED EACH QUARTER	
WINTERS	12 15 14 18 59
OPPONENT	6 10 17 18 51
Free throws made: 3 of 7 for 43%	
POINTS SCORED EACH QUARTER	
WINTERS	12 15 14 18 59
OPPONENT	6 10 17 18 51

**Team:** Varsity Boys **Coach:** Ed Henley  
**Opponent:** Monday **Date:** Dec. 11, 1997

POINTS SCORED EACH QUARTER	
WINTERS	12 15 14 18 59
OPPONENT	6 10 17 18 51
Free throws made: 14 of 33 for 42%	
POINTS SCORED EACH QUARTER	
WINTERS	15 7 18 8 48
OPPONENT	13 11 10 10 54

**Team:** Freshmen Boys **Coach:** Chris Bearden  
**Opponent:** Colorado City **Date:** Dec. 5, 1997

POINTS SCORED EACH QUARTER	
WINTERS	12 17 19 16 64
OPPONENT	13 20 14 15 62
Free throws made: 9 of 14 for 64%	
POINTS SCORED EACH QUARTER	
WINTERS	1 2 3 4 OT FIN
OPPONENT	1 2 3 4 OT FIN

**Team:** Junior Varsity Boys **Coach:** Biff White  
**Opponent:** Ballinger **Date:** Dec. 9, 1997

POINTS SCORED EACH QUARTER	
WINTERS	3 9 18 10 40
OPPONENT	22 22 9 5 58
Free throws made: 13 of 27 for 48%	
POINTS SCORED EACH QUARTER	
WINTERS	1 2 3 4 OT FIN
OPPONENT	1 2 3 4 OT FIN

**Team:** Junior Varsity Boys **Coach:** Biff White  
**Opponent:** Colorado City **Date:** Dec. 11, 1997

POINTS SCORED EACH QUARTER	
WINTERS	11 9 18 9 47
OPPONENT	17 10 18 13 48
Free throws made: 15 of 31 for 48%	
POINTS SCORED EACH QUARTER	
WINTERS	1 2 3 4 OT FIN
OPPONENT	1 2 3 4 OT FIN

**Team:** Junior Varsity Boys **Coach:** Biff White  
**Opponent:** Ballinger **Date:** Dec. 15, 1997

POINTS SCORED EACH QUARTER	
WINTERS	1 2 3 4 OT FIN
OPPONENT	1 2 3 4 OT FIN

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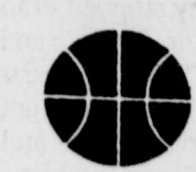
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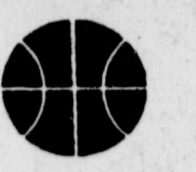


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**NOT YOUR TYPICAL HIGH FASHION MODELS** but actual members of the Winters Lions Club who provided many laughs (and some unique makeup tips) at the recent "Walk on the Wild Side" fund raiser fashion show. Models were (left to right) George Mostad, Lanny Bahlman, Bill Spiller, Jimmy Butler, Larry Suit, Dale Montgomery, Aref Hassan, Kenneth Slimp and Randall Boles. Not pictured is Terry Wyatt.



**LOCAL 'VILLAGE PEOPLE'** who performed the YMCA song, complete with audience participation, at the recent Lions Club style show are (back row, left to right) Jennifer Davis, Alison Wells, Candi Lara, and Misty Pritchard. Front row, same order, are Tarra Burns, Tammy Thorpe, and Brooke Tounget.

**December 31, last day to buy a brick in Rock Hotel Walkway**

The December 31 deadline is fast approaching for the Z.I. Hale Museum and Rock Hotel of Winters to meet their goal of \$42,000 to receive a matching grant from the Meadows Foundation. To date, funds totaling \$29,300 have been raised. The majority of this amount has been from brick sales. Two hundred and fifty (250) more bricks in the Rock Hotel Walkway are needed. Monogrammed bricks are \$50 each (\$100 with logo) and can be purchased to remember family members, recognize friends on special occasions, and to record historical/school/community events in the walkway for future generations. Several businesses

and former businesses are being remembered in the walkway. If purchasing a brick as a Christmas gift, a gift card is available to mail to that person or use as a Christmas stocking stuffer. All donations go towards the restoration of Winters' Rock Hotel and are tax deductible. Consider ordering your bricks today by contacting Julie Springer at the Rock Hotel, 754-2036, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. each weekday or mail your order to the Rock Hotel, P.O. Box 42, Winters, Texas 79567. When the brick layout is finalized in January, no additional bricks can be added to the walkway.

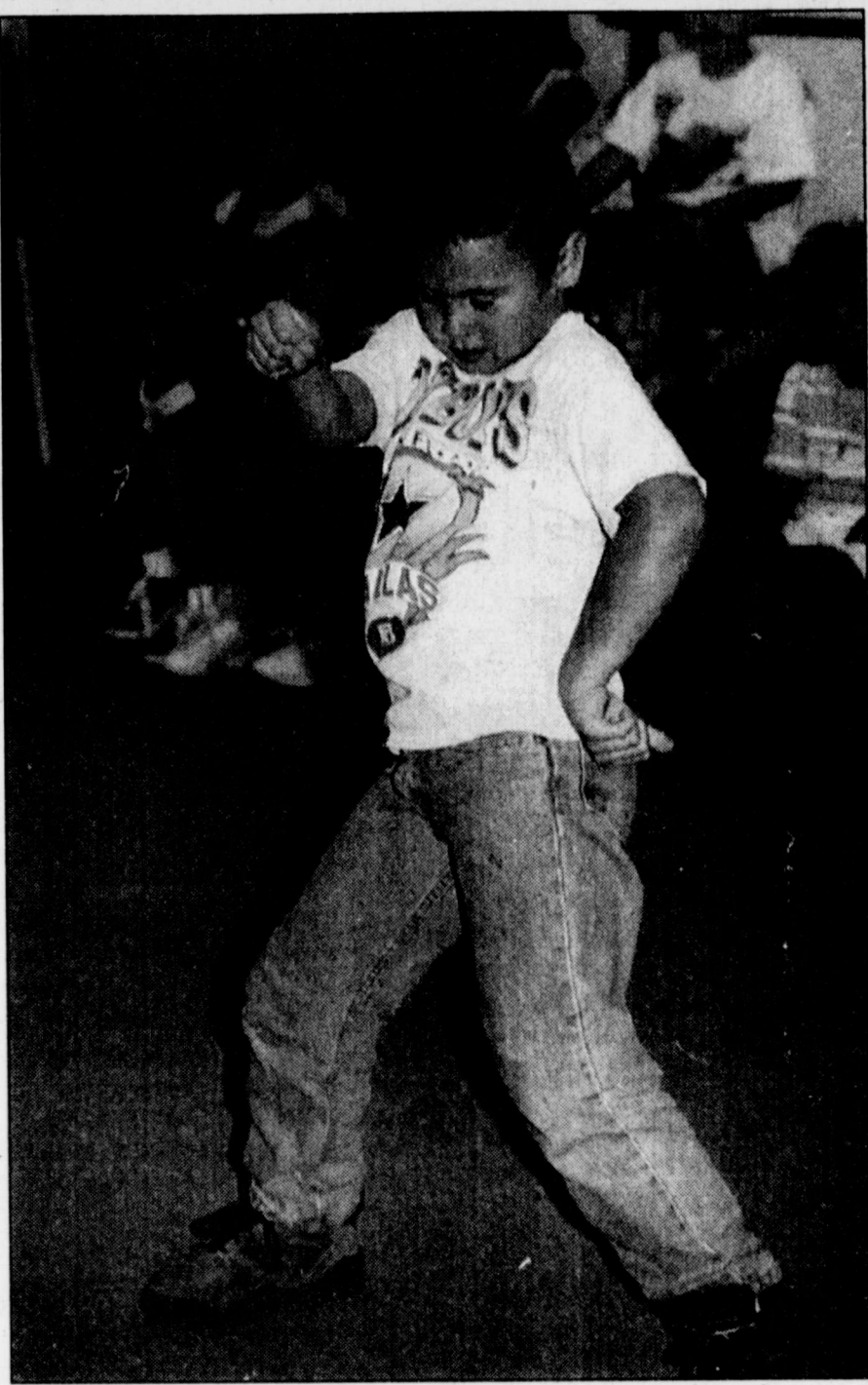
**Donate Your Car and Receive Year-End Tax Break**  
By donating your used car, truck or boat to the American Lung Association of Texas you may receive a tax deduction toward your 1997 itemized income tax return.

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**School Business Office to close for holidays**

The Administration Office of Winters Independent School District will be closed for the Christmas holiday beginning December 22. If you would like to make a tax payment, you may send your payment by mail to: Winters I.S.D., P.O. Box 125, Winters, Texas 79567. School taxes for 1997 will not be delinquent until February 1, 1998. The office will reopen January 5, 1998. Happy Holidays!



**WILEY GUY, age 8, does his best "Saturday Nigh Fever" dance** during rehearsal in music class at Winters Elementary.

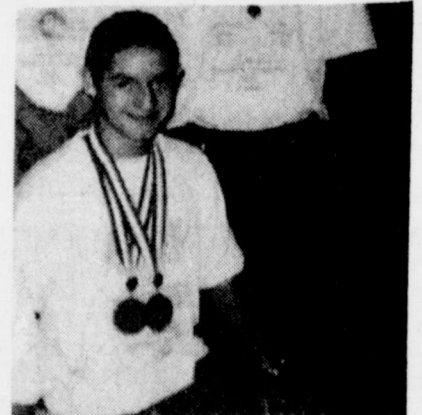


That great American game of basketball was invented by Canadian Rugby and lacrosse star James A. Naismith in 1891.

**Commissioners get contract on courthouse elevator; ask about Carnegie Library**

County Commissioners met for a short special session on Tuesday, December 16. A representative of Otis Elevator Company discussed with the Court the maintenance program and contract on the courthouse elevator. Commissioners were told the monthly contract amount with Otis prevented the county from having a surprise large billing for maintenance. The contract with Otis allows the county to know what they will be spending on elevator maintenance each year, with no surprises. In response to a question from Commissioner Skipper Wheeler, the Otis representative said the elevator is close to meeting all state specifications. There is one item, a cartop inspection, which Otis will put on their priority list and handle in 1998. Commissioner Keith Collom asked if Otis would contact Carnegie Library and try to work out a discount maintenance program for them. The court had discussed with another elevator maintenance company the Carnegie

Library elevator maintenance. The Otis representative said he would contact Carnegie Library and try to work out something with them. The county is in the first year of a five-year maintenance contract with Otis. The Otis representative said they had been maintaining the courthouse elevator for 21 years. Other items on the agenda and their action included:  
•Approval of the laying of water pipeline in a barrow ditch and crossing four country roads for Rowena Water Supply Corporation.  
•Approval of a bid of \$210 by David Kent for property held in trust at 1306 Broadway.  
•Authorized County Judge Marilyn Egan to execute contracts for construction of the new jail when negotiation of contracts has been authorized by the Commissioners Court.  
•Approved a tax abatement requested by Porter Henderson Implement Co. on proposed construction of a new facility.



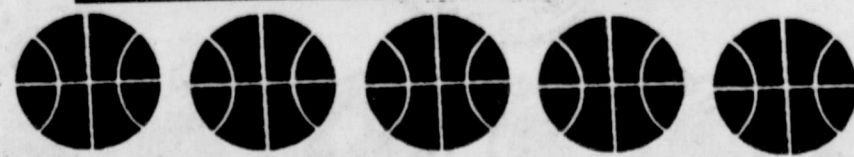
**Jimmy Rodriguez selected to All-State CC team**

Jimmy Rodriguez, WHS freshman, has been named to the Class AA All-State Cross Country Team by Texas Track & Field magazine. Rodriguez, who led his Blizard cross country team to a third place win at State, finished eighth at the State competition, and was a strong contender throughout the season.

**Basketball '97**  
**Catch the Action**  
Dec. 19—Eldorado\*, 5:00, Here, JVG, VG  
Dec. 19—Rising Star, 5:00, There, JVB, VB  
Dec. 19—Colorado City, 3:30, There, 9B  
VG Varsity Girls VB Varsity Boys  
JVG Junior Varsity Girls  
JVB Junior Varsity Boys  
9B Freshmen Boys  
8B 8th Boys 8C 8th Girls  
7B 7th Boys 7C 7th Girls  
\*Denotes District Games

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**WINTERS**





STEPHANIE BURLESON (left) serves as the new director of North Runnels Home Health Agency. Julie Springer, public relationist, welcomes Mrs. Burleson to her position.

## New director at North Runnels Home Health

Stephanie Burleson, RN, joined the North Runnels Home Health staff as a new director December 10, 1997. She was formerly associated with Home Care Corporation of America. Most recently, she served as the director of the Abilene office and previously worked with the firm in Amarillo. Originally a native of Minnesota, her family eventually moved to New Mexico where she graduated from Mayfield High School in Las Cruces. Stephanie was introduced to health care in 1981 when she completed an Emergency Medical Technician course in Albuquerque. She later obtained her nursing degree from Amarillo College. Stephanie currently resides in Abilene with her husband Bruce,

sons Kenneth and Lonnie, and daughter Brittany. Another daughter, Brook, is married and has two sons, Larry and Colby. They live in Vega, Texas. Though she admitted that work and family occupy most of her time, she and Bruce do enjoy occasional tours on their Honda Gold Wing. When asked about her interest in home health care, she said, "I enjoy nursing in general and have found home health to be the most rewarding job I ever had. I feel it is a privilege to be invited into a patient's home and provide them education and treatment that will allow them to remain independent as long as they possibly can. I am very excited with the opportunity to work with the staff of North Runnels Home Health and the residents of this area."

## Runnels County Retired Teachers hear "The Littlest Angel"

The Runnels County Retired Teachers Association met Monday, December 8, for their Christmas program at the First United Methodist Church in Ballinger. Mrs. Ramona Akins gave an entertaining oral reading of "The Littlest Angel" by Charles Tazewell. N.T. Gault opened the meeting with an invocation and leading the group in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Ann Patterson, president, conducted a short business meeting.

The members made donations to the West Texas Rehabilitation Center in lieu of a gift exchange. The hostesses, Lela May Shelbourne, N.T. Gault, and Mary Gault, served refreshments to Ann Patterson, Freddie Gardner, Nina Hale, Mary Stanfield, Patricia Hambricht, Hortense Joyce, Josephine Estes, Sarah Parker, and guests Ramona Akins and Milton Shelbourne. A visitation time was enjoyed by all.

## "Texas Friendly" to be spoken: workshop scheduled in January

Texas means "friendly." And now, in keeping with this long standing tradition as the Friendship State, the Midwest Region of Texas will be given a far-ranging transfusion of new energy with hospitality training programs for local industries and businesses. Texas Hospitality Training is a statewide training program developed by the Extension program and the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Sciences. Conducted by a community-based instructor, training workshops are aimed at sharpening front-line employee hospitality habits, as well as helping managers and owners focus on hiring and training customer-focused employees and "Hospitality Habits," to improve service and customer satisfaction.

This instructor training program will be held January 21-22 at the Brownwood Chamber of Commerce. Cost for the 2-day training is \$195. Register by calling Diane Breeding at (409) 845-5419 by January 14. Conducting the workshops are Suzy McElmurry, who has been an instructor/trainer for five years; and Diane Breeding, program manager. Whether you are an owner, manager, or an employee of any business in the community, customer satisfaction is extremely important and you are a major player that will benefit from Texas Hospitality Training in terms of developing new concepts and skills to better serve your customer!

**INTERNET, continued**  
most powerful tools to find information, using search engines, directories, discussion lists, archives, special interest web sites and much more.

If you are already familiar with these tools, Kevin and Robyn, can help you find the specialized knowledge you seek, show you how to locate individuals, establish new email accounts, some free for life, and how you can benefit even more from your time on line. Participants will also learn how Winters will join a number of other communities designated, "The Smartest Little Towns in Texas," with completion of the town's InterActive Vacation web site that will be built and designed to attract more visitors and business to Winters from around the world.

(Note: This program is to demonstrate how to get information from the Internet and not to provide technical expertise on installing network systems.) For more information, contact Joyce Krause, librarian, at 754-5402 or email winterspl@mail.bitstreet.com.

## Crews News

By Hilda Kurtz



Hilda Kurtz

*Don't worry what people think of you — they seldom do.*

Crews folks enjoyed their Christmas potluck supper on Saturday night. Nila and Therin Osborne and Marqué Mathis were hosts. The tables were decorated beautifully and one could tell they did a lot of work.

President Therin Osborne called a brief business meeting. Secretary Nila Osborne read the minutes.

After the business meeting, gifts were exchanged from under a beautiful lighted tree, donated by Margie Jacob. Thank you Margie.

Bro. Ferris and Ramona Akins were hosts in their Ballinger home for the congregation's Christmas dinner Sunday. Afterwards most attended the funeral for a dear friend, Shirley Hallford, 86. She was buried in the Talpa Cemetery. Bro. John Hallford was pastor at Hopewell Church on three different occasions. Our sympathy to the Hallford family.

Coleman Foreman called and told me he had some news for me this week. He had some boys out of Coleman, Texas, doing odd jobs when they ran up on some rattlesnakes in an old cellar on the Foreman Farm. They caught 180 rattlesnakes. Yes, you read it right!

Saturday evening Harvey Mae and Noble Faubion and Carolyn Kraatz drove to Ballinger to see

the Christmas lights. On their way to Robert Lee, they stopped in to visit Noble's sister, Nelda, and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Thomason near Bronte. While there they also got to see some old friends, Mr. and Mrs. Glen and Tommy Chambers, from Dallas. Tommy is Bill's sister. From there, they went on to Robert Lee and the beautiful sights of the Christmas lights.

Nila and Therin Osborne attended the Winters Band Christmas Cantata. Granddaughter Stefanie McGallian was in the band.

Coleman Foreman spent Sunday evening with Lawaan in the Senior Citizens Home.

Wanda King hosted an early Christmas farewell gathering for Melinda and Autumn Amidon. They had spent one month with their family. They went back home to San Deigo, California. Those attending a Mexican dinner and gift exchange were Melinda and Autumn Amidon; Chris, Kris, and Casey Rives; Joe Sims; Adeline Grissom; Katherine Grissom and son Luke; and Amy, Erica, and Josh Lugane. They all had a great time. Melinda and Autumn will be missed by all. May they have a safe trip home and a Merry Christmas.

Those helping Bill Hoppe celebrate his 90th birthday were Thelma Hoppe; Wayne and Samantha Sattersfield; Lena Sentz; and Dawn, Scott, and Clint Bryan. Punch and refreshments and a birthday cake with a water pond and geese were served. Why geese? Bill loves to set and watch his geese come by his house.

Pat Giles of Brownwood spent Sunday with Leona and Roy Matthes.

**Start a new holiday tradition... Send Flowers!**

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The AFS Christmas Traditions™ Bouquet is a lovely way to say "Merry Christmas".

## Health Notes

At North Runnels Home Health our focus is providing the best care possible for patients and helping them care for themselves. We believe the more our patients know, the better care they can receive.

### A Foreign Body In The Eye Home Treatment

Be gentle. Flush the eyes with water. Inspect the eye yourself and have someone else check it as well. Use a good light and shine it from both the front and the side. Pay particular attention to the cornea — the clear membrane that covers the colored portion of the eye. Do not rub the eye; if a foreign body is present you will abrade or scratch the cornea. Check vision each day; compare the two eyes, one at a time, by reading different sizes of newspaper type from across the room. See the doctor if you are not sure that all is going well.

### What To Expect at the Doctor's Office

The physician will check your vision and inspect the eye, including under the upper lid — this is painful. Usually, a fluorescent stain will be eye-dropped into the eye and the eye will then be examined under ultraviolet light — this is not painful or hazardous. An ophthalmologist will examine the eye with a slit lamp. A foreign body, if found, will be removed. In the office, this may be done with a cotton swab, an eyewash solution, or a small needle or "eye spud." An antibiotic ointment is sometimes applied, and an eye patch may be provided. Eye drops that dilate the pupil may be employed. X rays may be taken if it is possible that a foreign body is inside the eye globe.



Miriam Jones, RN

Remember, patients always have the right to choose their Home Health Agency.

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Men in Blue is a gray tee with players' names on front and game scores on back

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## At Christmas

Packed up lots of wishes  
Wrapped 'em full of fun,  
For a healthy, happy Christmas  
With thanks to everyone.

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## Poe's Corner

By Charlsie Poe

### No room for a manger

"Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head." So goes the song; but in my case, it was "no room for a manger."

I was on a 16-day tour of the Holy Land with a Christian group from Dallas. Our party included Dr. and Mrs. John Griffin and Myra Dorsett. The trip went fast and furiously from June 14-29, 1979. And with the events that follow one can understand why there was little shopping. Besides the price of the carved olive wood manger scenes, there was the freight expense of bringing them home.

We departed for Italy through the gateway city of New York via Alitalia Airlines. Arriving in Rome we visited the Catacombs, the Colosseum, walked on the Appian Way, and toured Vatican City before motoring to Ancona where we boarded a chartered ship, Apollo XI, for a visit to Greece, Turkey, and the islands of Patmos, Rhodes, and Santorini.

The Captain's farewell dinner was held Friday night at sea as the cruise portion of our tour ended. The next morning we debarked for a day of sightseeing in Athens, Greece, followed by an afternoon flight to Amman, Jordan.

Modern Amman spreads over seven hills and we saw the city during the morning. There were many high rise apartments built of sandstone and stucco, all unpainted, but quite in keeping with the rocky, semi-arid terrain.

As we sped along in our air conditioned bus, one guide supplied us with information about the area. Of the 2 million, 700 thousand inhabitants of Jordan, one million live in the capital city of Amman. Only 11 percent of the land is fertile. The rainy season is from October to April and the average yearly rainfall is only 13 inches. Grapevines and olive trees



Charlsie Poe

could be seen along the road which is the ancient "King's Highway."

We traveled this highway to Mt. Nebo, where Moses stood and viewed the "Promised Land." The weather became hotter and the land more arid with little vegetation in sight.

Mt. Nebo overlooks the entire Dead Sea, which covers 400 square miles and is 1,300 feet below sea level, the lowest spot on earth. There is little vegetation around the Dead Sea, but many valuable minerals have been discovered in its waters and health resorts are numerous.

When our group finished shopping in the huge flea markets at Kusadasi, Turkey, we went island hopping at the isle of Rhodes and the Greek island of Patmos.

There were other trips that could be taken, but I gave up. There was nothing else I wanted to do. Also it would be too difficult and costly to have a manger set shipped home. Something I had wanted to accomplish very much to use for programs at church. A decision which I was to regret for years to come.

It wasn't until ten years later, 1989, that Brother Shoemake announced he was going to take his mother, Dorothy Dell, a retired missionary, to the Holy Land at her request and expense. When I heard this, I very quickly engaged him to bring back a manger scene for me — at my expense, of course. He recalls that the shipping alone cost \$100, but it was worth it.

When Christmas came we displayed the unusual manger of gleaming olive wood on the of-

feratory table. We marched by and placed our mission offering at baby Jesus' feet. A reverent moment for us all.

Pastor Shoemake and his mother spent much time in places where Jesus walked: Nazareth, Bethlehem, (where Pastor Shoemake bought the manger scene), and Masada. They also visited the Garden and the open tomb. With his knowledge of the Bible and the many pictures that he took, our pastor gave a number of excellent programs.

Eight years have gone by, and the manger scene is as attractive as ever. It graces the corner of the vestibule where everyone can see it as they enter the church and pause for a silent prayer.

Since time is fleeting and I want the influence of the manger scene to be carried on for the youth and others, I have bequeathed it to the church in memory of my children, Dennis and Jeannine.

### Sherry Calcote named to TSTC President's List

The Admissions and Records Office at Texas State Technical College, Abilene, has recognized Sherry Calcote of Winters for academic excellence.

Sherry has completed the Medical Records Coding Specialist and Computer Applications program, maintaining a 4.0 GPA throughout her course of study, and has been named to the President's Honor Roll. She will graduate in the next commencement ceremonies.

Students must earn a 4.0 grade point average to be recognized on the President's Honor Roll.

### Touched by the heart of Christmas

by DORINE KOZELSKY

We had a most unusual experience today. The backing for this incident happened just before Christmas of 1990. It has to do with fear, hope, answered prayers, blinking Christmas lights, and really great reasons for celebration.

Threatened by blindness and a year of trips to Dallas for check-ups, five eye surgeries in seven months were torture for Joe. His strength and courage amazed me.

My driving in Dallas was a miracle in itself. Only comment on that: never drive with a blind co-pilot. I begged for prayers from everyone with responses of kindness, faith, hope, and courage because the margin of successful surgeries was so narrow.

On our last check-up trip, Joe drove most of the way home. Signs of Christmas were everywhere and miles turned into smiles. So many reasons for joy.

Dancing lights in the cities prompted us to stop in Abilene and together we decided to buy happy lights for our front yard, something we had not done be-



CHARLSIE POE and GLENN SHOEMAKE worked tag-team style to bring Charlsie's olive wood nativity set from Bethlehem. Charlsie traveled to the Holy Land in 1979 but was unable to bring back one of the beautifully hand-carved sets and had deep regrets until Glenn, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Winters, fulfilled Charlsie's request when he brought the set back from his trip in 1989. The display is located in the foyer of the First Baptist Church.



TONY APPUGLIES, Music Minister at First Baptist Church, leads the Community Choir in their annual Christmas performance on Dec. 7. At left is Jim Lincycumb, featured trumpeter. Pianist was Susan Conner, organist was Lillian Cooper.

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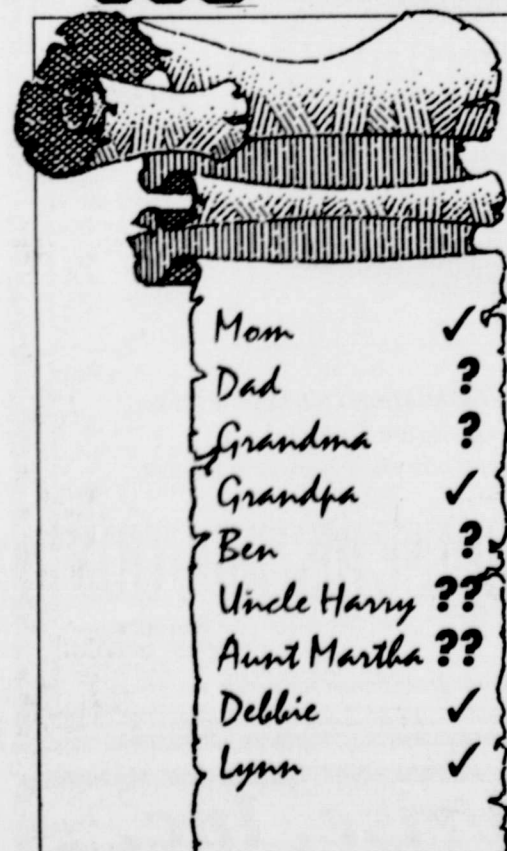
Cost of Membership:  
(Membership available for 18 and older)  
\$20.00 per person (plus tax) - per month (unlimited usage)  
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For Christmas '97

fore. We were going home to celebrate Christmas!

The next day, we put the lights on the holly hedge in our front yard. While we watched the lights chasing and dancing, we thanked God for the gift of light, sight, and answered prayers. It would be a different kind of Christmas!

Four nights later as I returned from a meeting, I noticed there were no lights. As I went into the house I said to Joe, "You forgot to turn the lights on."

Moments later Joe returned, shocked with total disbelief. "There are no lights; they're gone."

All we found was a short extension cord, fallen holly leaves, torn twigs and ragged twisties. How could this happen? Who had we angered? We were saddened because our "thing" for Christmas was gone. Joe, as he is, said, "I guess we just weren't supposed to have them."

I prayed that whoever had taken them needed lights and would enjoy them. We try not to make snap judgements or hold grudges because there isn't enough time in life for that.

Today, after a week of hospitalization, I faced transfer to Abilene for more tests. We made a short stop at home to reorganize my things for more hospital stay.

There on the bar was a new big box of Christmas chaser lights. It puzzled me. Joe said they were on the front porch when he went for the morning paper. There was a letter with the box. Quickly I opened it and was absolutely amazed.

On a white sheet of paper neatly folded, was a handprinted note beautifully and articulately done. It read: In reparation for a wrong done a few years back. Have a Merry Christmas!

We were so overwhelmed, so lifted up! We knew that somehow everything would turn out well and again we would have a blessed Christmas because what you did for us has no measure. You have given us the most precious of all gifts—hope, kindness, peace, and faith in the future.

May you have a wonderful Merry Christmas, whoever you are.

God's love to you, Joe and Dorine Kozelsky.

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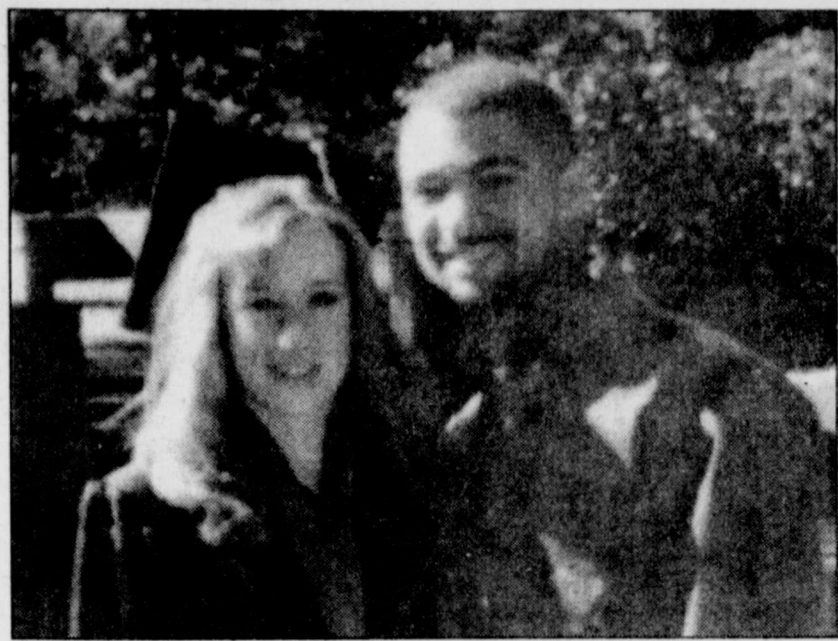
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**University of Texas Graduate —**



**MINDI (WAIDE) ARNOLD** and husband James at her graduation from the University of Texas at Austin on December 6, 1997. The ceremony was conducted in the Frank C. Erwin Center on the UT campus. Mindi earned a bachelor of science degree in Child Development and Family Relationships. She is the daughter of Melanie and Donald Wade of Winters. Grandparents are James and Dorothy Bomar and Wesley and Margie Wade, all of Winters, and the late Mary Louise Wade. The Arnolds now reside in San Diego, California.

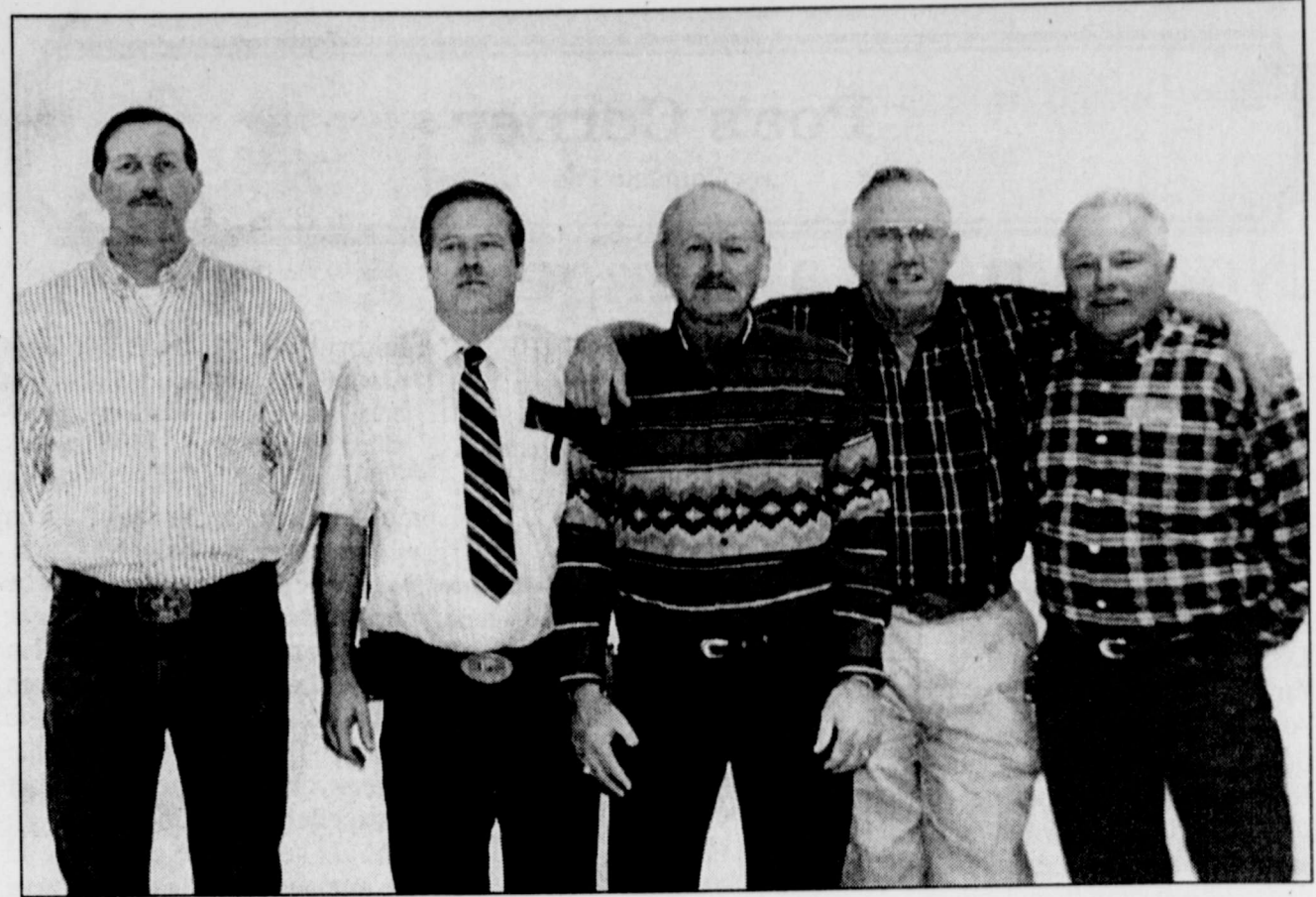
**Texas DPS scheduling training**

The Texas Department of Public Safety has announced the scheduling of a 1998 DPS Trooper Training school.

The training, which will be the second of the fiscal biennium, is tentatively scheduled to begin July 18, 1998.

Anyone interested in becoming a Texas State Trooper should seek an application packet from their local DPS office. Completed applications should be forwarded to their nearest regional DPS headquarters office for review and screening.

If you have any questions about recruitment or training, contact (512) 424-7272, or one of the DPS Regional Headquarters Recruiting Offices located throughout the state.



**AWARDED FOR SERVICE** to the Winters Volunteer Fire Department were Jack Davis Jr., 20 years; Mike Meyer, 20 years; Bobby Blackwood, 5 years; Richard Hamilton, 25 years; and Johnny Merrill, 25 years. Not pictured are Bobby Staggs, 20 years; John Joeris, 15 years; and Curtis Jackson, 5 years. Membership pins were presented December 9 during the WVFD's annual Christmas banquet.

**Texas Industrial Production Index seasonally rises**

As reported December 4, 1997, by the Research Department of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, the Texas Industrial Production Index rose a seasonally adjusted 0.1 percent from September to October. October's level was 3.7 percent above the year-ago figure.

Changes in major components of TIPA between September 1997 and October 1997:

- ◆ Overall manufacturing output increased 0.6 percent. Durable goods increased 0.7 percent. Non-durable goods increased 0.5 percent.
- ◆ Mining decreased 0.8 percent.
- ◆ Utilities decreased 0.4 percent.

Changes in major components of TIPA between October 1996 and October 1997:

- ◆ Overall manufacturing output increased 4.7 percent. Durable goods increased 6.0 percent. Non-durable goods increased 3.3 percent.
- ◆ Mining increased 2.6 percent.
- ◆ Utilities increased 0.4 percent.

**Ethel Wheeler honored on 87th birthday**

Ethel Wheeler was honored November 23, 1997, in celebration of her 87th birthday (November 25).

To start the day, 14 members of the family attended church to hear Heaven's Jubilee. Then family members gathered at The Shed for lunch.

Attending were Mrs. Wheeler of Winters; Auden Self of Bangs; Marybeth Howeth of Rogers; Clinton and Margie Wheeler of Ovalo; Dale and Karen Howeth, Misty, Michael, Dale Jr., and Scotty of Rogers; and Gina Cargile of Tyler and Allen of Rogers.

Also present were Elvin and Sha Wheeler of Abilene; Daylene Wheeler of San Angelo; Curtis Knight of San Angelo; Raby and Edna Ruth Sims of Eula; Huston and Alma Jones of Abilene; Wanda Maddux of Hawley; Larry and Judy Langston, Brandon and Cory of Hamlin.

**Free poetry contest open to area residents**

The U.S. National Library of Poetry has announced that \$48,000 in prizes will be awarded this year in the North American Open Poetry Contest. Poets from the Winters area, particularly beginners, are welcome to try to win their share of 250 prizes. The deadline for the contest is December 31 1997. The contest is open to everyone and entry is FREE.

"Any poet, whether previously published or not, can be a winner," stated Howard Ely, contest director. "Poets from the Winters area have successfully competed in past competitions." Every poem entered also has a chance to be published in a deluxe, hardbound anthology.

To enter, send ONE original poem, any subject and any style, to: The National Library of Poetry, Suite 19814, 1 Poetry Plaza, Owings Mills, MD 21117-6282 or go to [www.poetry.com](http://www.poetry.com). The poem should be no more than 20 lines, and the poet's name and address should appear on the top of the page. Entries must be post-marked or sent via the Internet by December 31, 1997. A new contest opens January 1, 1998.

The National Library of Poetry, founded in 1982, is the largest poetry organization in the world.

**Senior Citizens Nursing Home News**

By Billie Ruth Bishop

**Your participation, donations appreciated during Christmas**

This is the Christmas season and time for programs, music, and volunteers. We thank all of you so much. Thanks to George and Aline Watson for the Santa Claus cookie jar filled with candy, candy canes, and pins for everybody; to Juanita and Freddie for the year's subscription to Guide Post magazine; to the 4-H kids for the program and stamped Christmas cards for the residents; and to Fran and the kindergarten kids for the program.

Our annual Christmas pageant and Christmas tree will be on Friday, Dec. 19, starting at 4:30 p.m. under the direction of Jim and Ramona Hanson. The Family Night supper will begin following the distribution of Christmas gifts.

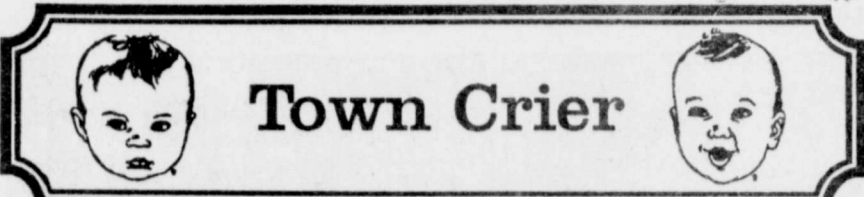
The monthly Birthday Party was held Thursday, Dec. 11, at 3:00 p.m. Hostesses for the party were the Church of Christ ladies. The birthday honorees were: Elva

Barbee, 12-21; Mike Krause, 12-21; Bea Schroeder, 12-12; Ruby Walker, 12-1; and Curtis Morrison, 12-4.

A very special thank you to Mike at the Family Dollar store for allowing us to display a Christmas tree with names of the residents of the nursing home. If you haven't picked a name, you can do so by going to the store and choosing a name from the tree. Leave your gifts at the store if you prefer, and I will pick them up and bring them to the nursing home to be wrapped. Again, we thank you for your responses.

Also, our thanks to Lillie Taylor for coming in to help us wrap gifts. It was very much appreciated.

Mrs. Eunice Polk is a resident at the nursing home. She is in Room 123A. She would appreciate your cards and visits.



**Town Crier**

**Joshua Ridge Wheeler**

Rebecca K. Murchison and John S. Wheeler of Denver, Colorado, are proud to announce the birth of their son, Joshua Ridge Wheeler.

Joshua arrived in this world on Saturday, August 16, 1997, weighing in at 2 pounds, 7 1/2 ounces and standing 15 inches tall.

Joshua's maternal grandparents are Mike and Etta Murchison and his paternal grandparents are Duncan and Mary Wheeler, all of Ballinger.

He has three great-grandparents Leonard and Mary Driskell, also of Ballinger, and Ozella Wheeler of Devine, Texas.

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**Dec. 22 thru Dec. 26**  
Subject to change

**Monday, Dec. 22:** Steak & gravy, rice, tomato salad, combread, and fruit.

**Tuesday, Dec. 23:** Chicken & gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, combread, and banana pudding.

**Wednesday, Dec. 24:** Christmas holiday.

**Thursday, Dec. 25:** Christmas holiday. Merry Christmas to everyone!

**Friday, Dec. 26:** Christmas holiday.

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**Miscellaneous**  
 DON'T FORGET to pick up your pictures or other related items that have been published in *The Enterprise!* 8-10(tfc)  
 HAVE SANTA'S HELPERS WRAP YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFTS IN FEED SACKS AT ALDERMAN CAVE, \$1. 8-51(2tc)  
 Call 754-4958 to place an ad

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 APARTMENTS FOR RENT: 2B/1B, ch/a, carpet, appliances provided. You pay electric and water. For information call 754-5699. 8-50(2tc)  
 FOR RENT: 3 bedroom home. For more information, 915-928-4337. 8-51(2tc)  
 LARGE 1 BEDROOM apartment for rent, 754-2024. 8-51(1tp)

**For Sale**  
 1989 Ragin' Cajun 19-1/2 ft. BASS AND SKI BOAT with 1989 150HP Force motor. Call 766-3910. 8-26(tfc)  
 SATELLITE DISH looking for a real good home, 453-2939. 1-888-339-7328 ext. 3972. 8-47(tfc)  
 IBM COMPATIBLE COMPUTER, hard drive, 5 1/4" floppy, goldtone monitor, b/w printer, software \$300. Jill Bredemeyer, 754-5707. 8-50(2tp)  
 MEN'S CLOTHING. Makes a nice Christmas gift! Shirts-long or short sleeves, size 14 1/2, \$2. Jeans-blue or tan, size 30, \$3. Leather belts and shoes, size 6, \$2. 417 E. Dale. 8-51(1tp)

**Help Wanted**  
 FIREWORKS STAND OPERATOR needed. Dec. 20 through Jan. 1. Earn extra money for Christmas. 915-752-7924. 8-50(2tc)

**Real Estate**  
 HOUSE FOR SALE BY OWNER-3 bedroom, 2 bath. Large lot, remodeled inside and out. For more information or appointment call (915) 754-1015. 200 Parklane, Winters. 8-47(5tp)

**Police Beat**  
 The information below is taken from reports on file with the Winters Police Department. Some of the information is provided to police by citizens, and in some cases, police have not finished investigating the reports. These reports make up a small percentage of the total calls the Department receives and responds to each week.  
 Winters Police Department reports received and/or investigated from Sunday, Dec. 7, 1997, through Saturday, Dec. 13, 1997. Winters Police Officers:  
 \* received a report of a disturbance at the Winters High School. The parties involved were advised that if the problems continued, more appropriate measures would be taken. No charges filed at this time.  
 \* received a report of a family disturbance in the 500 block of S. Rogers. No charges were filed but separation was made.  
 \* received a report of phone harassment in the 600 block of Commerce Street. This case is still under investigation.  
 \* received a report of an assault that occurred in the 600 block of N. Main. The victim was advised on how to file charges.  
 The Winters Police Department would like to remind everyone that beginning January 1st, 1998, a new law on tobacco use by minors takes effect. Any minor 17 years of age and younger caught with any tobacco products on their person or using any tobacco products will be issued a citation. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact the Winters Police Department.  
 Runnels County Crimestoppers offers a cash reward for information which leads to the grand jury indictment or conviction of offenders and the caller does not have to give his or her name. To give a Crimestopper's tip, call your local law enforcement agency at:  
 Winters Police Department—754-4121  
 Ballinger Police Department—365-3591  
 Runnels County Sheriff's Department—365-2121

**Official Records**  
 County Court  
 Civil  
 November 25  
 The state of Texas vs. Jeff Wade Welch, defendant and Stacy Mohler dba Angelo Bail Bond Surety—bond forfeiture  
 Criminal  
 December 3  
 Lance Michael Hall, San Angelo, filed for driving while intoxicated  
 Ronald Glenn White, Winters, filed for theft of cash  
 Mary Paske, Ballinger, filed for theft of merchandise by check  
 December 4  
 Teresa Bess, San Angelo, filed for theft of merchandise by check  
 Ernest L. Stewart, San Angelo, filed for theft of merchandise by check  
 December 8  
 Donna Lynn Whitlock, Abilene, filed for driving while license suspended  
 Patsy Lois Gray, Winters, filed for hindering apprehension  
 December 9  
 Mario Ramirez Perez, Novice, filed for assault  
 Marriage Licenses  
 December 9  
 Derek Blane Tubbs and Marcela Abigail Ortiz  
 District Court  
 Civil  
 December 10  
 Sears, Roebuck and Co. vs. Robert Lynn Glidewell—account  
 December 11  
 Sears Roebuck & Co. vs. Emilio Castro—account  
 Divorces Granted  
 December 4  
 Pete Delgado Guebara and Delores Ann Guebara

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 ■ Riveters - 4:45 pm-3:15 am, M-TH  
 ■ Press Operators (Stamp Shop) - M-F, 8:00 am-4:45 pm  
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 (in Nations Bank Bldg.)  
 Brownwood, TX  
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 Tom Sykes, Broker Mary Slimp, Agent  
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**Underwood Real Estate**  
 100 W. Dale • 754-5128 • Winters  
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 N. MAIN-3 BR, 1 bath, garage, well w/pump.  
 STATE-Price reduced. Remodeled 3 BR, 2 bath, H/A, water well.  
 TINKLE-3 BR, 1 bath, lg. den, 1,712 sq. ft. on lg. lot.  
 WEST DALE-Commercial bldg., 8,400 sq. ft.  
 PENNY LANE-Brick, 4 BR, 2 bath, dining room, 2,400 sq. ft. on lg. lot.  
 TINKLE ST.-2 BR, 1 bath, lg. rooms & storage. Extra nice.  
 WOOD-2 BR, 1 bath, carport. Ready to move in.  
 W. PARSONAGE-Brick, 2 BR, 1 bath. Lennox H/A. Make offer.  
 PENNY LANE-Brick 3 BR, 2 bath, over 2,000 sq. ft., lg. yard. S.E. OF WINTERS-2 BR, 1 bath. Carport & water well, 30 acres.  
 WINGATE-Brick duplex, 2 BR, 2 bath, carport, lg. lot, water well.  
 W. PARSONAGE-24'x24' w/ 1 bath on 2 lots. Fenced. Fruit trees.  
 BALLINGER-8TH ST.-3 BR, 1 bath in good condition.  
 N. CHURCH-Remodeled 3 BR, 2 bath on 2 lots.  
 N. MAIN-Commercial bldg., approx. 2,000 sq. ft.

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**ACROSS**  
 1 this Shivers ran for gov. in '52 on Rep. and Dem. ticket  
 5 TX or Nevada town  
 6 TX football armor: shoulder  
 7 TXism: 'he'd unarm in a battle of wits' (dumb)  
 8 'flutber'  
 9 stores up  
 15 Huckleberry  
 16 detective agency that hunted TX John Wesley Herdin competitor of TX's Blue Bell ice cream  
 21 like a rhinestone cowboy  
 22 TXism: 'got a skunk by \_\_\_\_\_ (trouble)  
 27 TX drug & grocery chain: Jewel  
 28 an original Mouseketeer  
 29 seat of Hudspeth Co.: \_\_\_\_\_ Blanca  
 30 TXism: 'so clumsy he could fall \_\_\_\_\_'  
 32 to San Angelo from Abilene  
 34 UT mascot  
 37 NTSU was \_\_\_\_\_  
 38 TXism: 'long \_\_\_\_\_ country mile'  
 39 how TX Kite, et al. begin (2 wds.)  
 40 a 60s Lubbock high school football powerhouse  
 42 used to blow out oil well fires  
 43 with 45 down, a Mexican who swims the Rio Grande  
 46 approve  
 47 TX Tanya (init.)  
 48 Frio Co. in Spanish  
 49 Confederate soldier  
 50 goes into military  
 53 Palo Duro sound repeat  
 54 this Scala starred with TX Audie Murphy in "Ride a Crooked Trail"  
 55 TXism: 'we've howlded \_\_\_\_\_ shoo' (met)  
 56 TX actor Tommy \_\_\_\_\_ Jones  
**DOWN**  
 1 in Smith Co. on 135  
 2 Houston's last wife Margaret  
 3 TX-filmed thriller  
 4 TXism: 'plain as the \_\_\_\_\_'  
 8 TX Ann Sheridan: the 'Oomph \_\_\_\_\_'  
 9 TXism: 'gave him a dose of \_\_\_\_\_'  
 10 TXism: 'mosey \_\_\_\_\_ up to the trough'  
 11 this Kessler was a Houston Rockets 1st rounder (init.)  
 12 participants in the Sutton-Taylor feud of the 1800s  
 13 colorless  
 14 Cowboys game moments: ticket \_\_\_\_\_  
 15 'G-man' who looks after TX Steve Martin in 'My Blue Heaven' (2 wds.)  
 16 professional rodeo group (abbr.)  
 17 wandering journey  
 18 home of Rangers' Yankee foe (abbr.)  
 20 cable sports net.  
 22 TXism: 'dot the i's and cross the \_\_\_\_\_'  
 23 'howdy'  
 33 TX poet Naomi Nye: work: 'Different to Pray'  
 35 TXism: 'sells like \_\_\_\_\_ cakes'  
 36 TXism: 'get shed \_\_\_\_\_ nonTX oilman  
 41 \_\_\_\_\_ out a living'  
 44 San Antonio street name: \_\_\_\_\_ Chaney  
 45 see 43-across  
 51 TXism: 'spends his time looking for \_\_\_\_\_ (lazy)  
 52 'Gone \_\_\_\_\_ Texas'

**The Original TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
 by Charley & Guy Orbison  
 Copyright 1997 by Orbison Bros.

Solutions for this puzzle appear in this issue.





VOTING DELEGATES representing Runnels County Farm Bureau at the 64th annual Texas Farm Bureau Convention in Arlington November 30-December 3 were (front row, from left) Laverne Redman, Elaine Pelzel, Linda Duggan, Sharla Bredemeyer, Elsie Belk, Sandra Bennett, (standing) Daniel Redman, LeRoy Pelzel, Dale Duggan, Bill Bredemeyer, Ethan Bredemeyer, Allen Belk, and Jimmy Bennett.

## Ten Runnels County delegates to Texas Farm Bureau Convention

Ten voting delegates from Runnels County Farm Bureau recently participated in the 64th annual Texas Farm Bureau convention November 30 through December 3 in Arlington.

They were Laverne and Daniel Redman, Elaine and LeRoy Pelzel, Linda and Dale Duggan, Sharla and Bill Bredemeyer, and Elsie and Allen Belk.

Policies directing the state's largest farm organization were adopted by more than 1,300 delegates from 211 organized Farm Bureaus. Approved recommendations on national policies will advance to the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting to be held in January in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Speakers featured at the convention included Gov. George W. Bush and Ron Wilson, Kansas farm boy and former staff mem-

ber of the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee. Also addressing the delegates were Bob Stallman of Columbus, TFB president; David R. Krebs of Portland, TFB secretary-treasurer; and Vernie Glasson, TFB executive director.

A statewide candidate forum for the offices of Lt. Governor, Agriculture Commissioner, State Comptroller, and Land Commissioner was held Monday afternoon. Each candidate was given the opportunity to express his views on specific agricultural issues and the role of government.

The business session covered the final two days of the meeting. The last order of business was the election of the president, Bob Stallman of Columbus.

Bill Bredemeyer, Runnels County Farm Bureau board member from Winters, participated in the Young Farmer & Rancher

Discussion Meet. The semi-finals were held on Saturday, November 29, 1997, with seven contestants from across the state participating. Bill was selected as one of the four finalists. The finals were held on Sunday, November 30, 1997. Bill represented Runnels County very well even though he was not selected as the state winner. He received a plaque for his efforts as a finalist. Bill was also named as first alternate.

Katy Duggan, daughter of Dale and Linda Duggan of Ballinger, was a contestant in the Miss Texas Farm Bureau Contest. She was joined by twelve other young ladies from across the state in this event. Katy was not selected as the winner but did represent Runnels County and District Seven very well. She received a \$600.00 scholarship and a \$50.00 gift certificate for her efforts.

## '97 Census of Agriculture ready to count the nation's farms

Report forms for the 1997 Census of Agriculture will soon begin appearing in the mailboxes of farmers and ranchers across the nation. For the 25th time since the first Ag Census in 1840, farmers and ranchers will play the key role in providing the country with a statistical picture of U.S. agriculture at county, state, and national levels. The 1997 Census will provide a detailed picture of the changes in agricultural since the last census, in 1992.

The focus of the current Census includes number of farms, farm size, operator characteristics, crop and livestock production, agricultural product sales, and production expenses of farmers and ranchers. Report forms will be mailed late in December to collect data for the 1997 calendar year. Farmers will be asked to return their forms by February 2, 1998.

Census of Agriculture statistics make up the only national, state, and local-level agricultural information database available. These statistics are used by many different organizations and individuals for a myriad of purposes, including:

- ◆ Farm machinery manufacturers use Ag Census statistics to locate their industries where they are needed by using county and state statistics, resulting in economic benefit to farm operators.

- ◆ Researchers and legislators can use county-level data to define problem areas and help farmers recover from outbreaks of disease and pests.

- ◆ The agricultural community as a whole uses Census information for evaluating programs affecting agricultural production.

- ◆ Farm organization, Con-

gress, and state and local governments use Ag Census statistics to plan programs to help farm operators get the most for their investments.

- ◆ Seed and fertilizer producers use Ag Census statistics to compare yields and other information to help operators do the most effective job.

- ◆ Irrigation specialists, water resource developers, and irrigation equipment manufacturers use Ag Census information to formulate practical advice for farm operators.

- ◆ State and national lawmakers can determine where to allocate funds that will benefit agricultural producers.

- ◆ Farm broadcasters and agricultural editors can convey census results to their audiences, and use the data to help focus their stories on important areas of agriculture.

Many of the questions asked in the 1997 Census will be similar to those asked in 1992. Data will be collected from all farmers and ranchers on land use and ownership, crop acreage, and quantities harvested, numbers of livestock and poultry, value of crops and livestock sold, and operator characteristics. New items include area and value of cut Christmas trees harvested.

One of every four farms and ranches will receive a report form that includes additional questions on production expenses, fertilizer and chemicals, machinery and equipment, market value of land and buildings, and income from farm-related sources. All report forms are tailored by region to make them less burdensome to respondents.

Anyone who receives a census form should complete and return it. Individuals who don't operate a farm or ranch could possibly receive census questionnaires. In this situation, recipients should return the form with a note stating that the person to whom it was addressed is not involved with a farm or ranch. The cost of conducting the census can be kept down if questionnaire recipients return their completed forms promptly, so additional mailings can be avoided.

Farmers, farm organizations, agricultural universities, members of the Census Advisory Committee on Agriculture Statistics, and state and federal agencies, were asked for input and advice concerning the content and development of the report forms. Farmers and ranchers represent a major sector of the U.S. economy.

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## Holiday Hop for 4-H'ers

Four-H'ers, families, and friends are invited to "kick up their heels" at this year's Holiday Hop on Monday, Dec. 22, from 7:00-10:00 p.m. at Rowena's SPJST Hall.

Four-H'ers are reminded to bring a cash donation of no more than \$5 per family for this year's community service project. Proceeds will be donated to the Concho Valley Home for Girls.

Everyone should plan on an active night of dancing, eating, and just having some "plain ole" fun.

In case of bad weather, a cancellation notice will be on KRUN radio by 5:00 p.m.

Something wonderful and strange that the artist fashions out of the chaos of the world in the torment of his soul.

—W. Somerset Maugham

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### Pest Management News

By Richard Minzenmayer,  
Extension Agent-Entomology (PM)

**General Situation**—The 1997 growing season is fast coming to a finish and producers will soon be preparing for 1998. Cotton yields ended up much higher than expected, generally speaking.

Fortunately, the open fall allowed the Boll Weevil Eradication program to apply an extensive fall diapause spraying program which should help us tremendously in 1998. Hopefully, the Southern Rolling Plains will soon be WEEVIL FREE.

Moisture conditions have improved somewhat but most areas would still welcome a good 2" rain. About 1/2 inch is all we seem to get out of these cold fronts right now.

Small grain fields are holding their own currently and a few livestock producers are getting ready to turn their livestock in for a few green pickings.

**Small Grains**—With the dry open fall we experienced this year in the Concho Valley, very little small grains were planted early. Some producers are still trying to get wheat up to a stand. It's just been very dry this fall.

Greenbug numbers are low but winter grain mites are present in varying numbers and should be monitored regularly.

The winter grain mite can cause

economic damage to oats, wheat, and barley. The adult has four pair of reddish-orange legs, and the body is dark brown to black.

Seems like most mite infestations now are in the field which were in wheat the previous few years and a lot of stubble remains above ground from last year's crop. This pest primarily feeds at night, remaining around the base of the plant during the day. Mites can cause leaf tips to turn brown and plants to become stunted with a silver/gray appearance.

These symptoms and the presence of mites indicate the need for control.

**Weed Control**—There have been a number of producers asking about weed control in small grains.

Herbicides are generally required to control weeds when wheat is growing slowly and not competing well with the weeds. Successful use of herbicides requires knowing the weed species present, crops that will follow next year, anticipated weather and soil conditions, neighboring crops, and management practices which follow the application.

For more information, contact the Runnels County Extension Service Office at 365-5212.



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