



Partners in Progress

During the first 100 years,
progressive Castro Countians have
forged some significant developments.

Here's to the next 100.

American Fructose-Dimmitt, Inc.

Producer of high fructose liquid corn sweetener for the American food industry.
Subsidiary of American Fructose Corp., Division of American Maize Products Co.



Castro County Centennial FAMILIES

1891
◆
1991

The James Beach Family

The James L. Beach family arrived in Dimmitt in the spring of 1891, after a 3 1/2-day trip from Amarillo.

They found a sleepy little town of some two dozen families. Census figures show that Dimmitt had nine people in 1890, 402 people in 1900.

Most of the families the Beaches saw were living in dugouts, half-dugouts or even covered wagons. This new influx of settlers was a phenomenon to the plains, and the new arrivals were dubbed by cynical cowboys as "nesters." Actually this was the beginning of one of the most

rapid transitions to take place in any area in the world. Small farmers and ranchers, filing on the new land, would quickly replace the "open range" rancher, who grazed his cattle at will.

As the new land owners began to fence the land and put their roots down in one place, the J.L. Beach family was among the first, and many of their descendants would remain to see this so-called "uninhabitable land" become one of the richest farming areas in the United States.

After arriving in Dimmitt,

the Beach clan located their new land and began building themselves homes or shelters. Toombs H. Beach and his wife Julia Ann located their land some five miles from Dimmitt and began digging a dugout in which to live. T. H. is said to have asked an early settler one day, "Does the wind blow this way all the time here?" and the settler replied, "No, sometimes it blows the other way."

On Dec. 9, 1891, T. H. and Julia Ann had their first child, Ollie Mae. In 1892 they built a house in Dimmitt and lived there until 1894, when they joined many others forced to leave the plains because of a long drought. All of the Beach family except Ben, who had been elected County Clerk, left the Panhandle. Three years earlier a group from Dimmitt had gone to Tascosa and presented a petition for Castro to become a county. Later Dimmitt was named the county seat and Ben became the first County Clerk. In later years T.H. served as County Treasurer after having returned with his family to Dimmitt in 1899.

When they returned, the family had grown. Marie Lida Beach had been born Aug. 15, 1896, in and James Carroll Beach was born Nov.

20, 1898, both in Sadler. Earl Toombs Beach was born May 18, 1901, Joe Bailey Beach was born May 15, 1904, and Madella Laura was born March 3, 1911, all in Dimmitt.

Soon after their return, T. H. became a partner with C. F. Kerr in a general mercantile store, selling varied items from groceries to harnesses. Four years later they dissolved the partnership and Beach opened a dry goods and grocery store with the post office located in the back.

At this time a mule buyer, I. S. Richardson moved his family to land near Dimmitt, and his son, Will, began working for T.H. Will began courting Ollie Mae, and later, his father traded his section of land to T. H. for the store, then quickly went broke. The Beaches built a big, two-story house on the newly acquired land.

In their later years, the T. H. Beaches lived near their children in Oklahoma, New Mexico, Plainview and Lubbock. T.H. died July 18, 1950, in Lubbock, and Julia Ann died Feb. 23, 1956, in Lubbock. They were married for 59 years. They are buried in the cemetery at Plainview.

The Bill Birdwell Family

Bill Birdwell, the second child of Bud and Mayme Birdwell, was born in 1926 in Dimmitt. He spent his school days playing football and basketball and managing not to let his studies interfere with his fun.

In 1944, the basketball team went to Austin to play in the state tournament. Bill and his teammates were somewhat in awe of the "huge" Gregory Gymnasium. He was named to the All-State team, and 31 years later his son, Jim, would also play in that gym and be named to the All-State team. This was unusual, in that seldom would a father and then, his son, represent the same school and both be named to the All-State team.

World War II cast a dark cloud over Bill and his classmates in their high school years. After graduating in 1944 Bill enlisted in the Navy and was stationed in San Diego, Calif., until his discharge in 1946.

The G.I. Bill and a full basketball scholarship enabled him to receive a degree from West Texas State College. He began coaching and teaching in Lockney. As Bill would say later, "I taught them all I knew in two years, so I had to quit."

In Lockney he met a fifth grade teacher, Kathryn Norris. After a "whirlwind courtship" of five years, they were married.

In 1956, they moved to Dimmitt. Bill began working for the Dimmitt Gin and Elevator Co., and Kathryn began teaching school. Their son, Jim, was born in 1958.

They lived on Grant Street, where life was very pleasant. Bill

and Jim did the usual father and son things: scouting, playing Little League and Pony League baseball and Little Dribblers basketball. Kathryn was busy being den mother, room mother and Sunday School teacher, along with teaching in the public school.

The family has many memories of happy times spent with neighbors and friends both from church and school.

Many times a camping trip was the highlight of summer vacation.

Jim's high school days were busy and enjoyable for the family. Jim was active in the youth group of the Methodist Church, the band, basketball and the Honor Society.

In 1975, Jim was a member of the basketball team that won the Class AA state championship. He was valedictorian of the 1976 graduating class. His education was interrupted for several years for him to receive therapy for a juvenile stroke suffered a few weeks before he graduated. In 1983, he received an associate degree in drafting and design from Amarillo College, graduating with honors. He worked at American Fructose as a drafter for three years.

In 1986, Jim and Wendy Downing were married and moved to Sikeston, Mo. In 1989 and in 1991 they enabled Bill and Kathryn to become doting grandparents to Courtney Hannah and Eli Grady.

Bill retired in 1989, after 31 years as manager of North Gin. The two now spend many weeks a year in their motor home, mostly spoiling their two grandkids.

The Ed Brockman Family

Ed Brockman was born in 1901 and Agnes Vendhaus was born in 1906 in St. Stephens, Neb. They moved to Nazareth as small children in 1907 and 1908, respectively, arriving in Tulia by train. By coincidence or plan, their families settled within two miles of each other across the prairie.

Sadly, when Ed was 19, his father was killed by lightning, and when Agnes was 18, her mother died of pneumonia. Consequently, both helped raise their younger siblings. They married in 1926.

In spite of very few years of formal schooling, they were skilled in carpentry and remodeling. Ed supervised the "house raising" of many area homes, and most of these are still in use today. In 1941 he tore down the old two-story Vendhaus home, and built a more modern home for his family.

They farmed south of Nazareth and raised Hereford cattle. Agnes was noted for her large gardens, and sold many fresh eggs and cream to supplement their income.

Active in civic and church work, Ed served on the school board, church council, county committees and fraternal organizations.

Agnes chaired church and civic organizations. Interested in politics, they opened their home as the election polling place for south Nazareth for many years.

Their home was a welcome

stop for friends, neighbors and strangers alike, and all were invited to stay and eat.

Ed died of heart disease in 1961, and Agnes, now 85, resides in Canterbury Villa in Dimmitt.

Their seven children are Jerome, born in 1928, married to Margaret Ann Schacher and living in Nazareth; Regina, born 1929, married Ralph Steffens (deceased) and living in Nazareth; Rita, born 1931, married George Book, living in Bluffton, Tex.; Irene, born 1934, married James Wilhelm, living in Nazareth; Cyril, born 1936, married to Mitzi Conrad, living in Nazareth; Tom, born 1940, married Pat Norris, living in Friona; and Phil, born in 1945, married Judy Schulte, living in Lazbuddie.

There are 49 grandchildren and 59 great-grandchildren.

This advertisement taken from the October 10, 1944, issue of the *Castro County News*.

1901-1944 FORTY-THREE YEARS OF SERVICE

E. B. Black Co.

FURNITURE AND UNDEDTAKING
PROMPT AMBULANCE SERVICE
WE NOW OFFER \$150 CASH BURIAL
INSURANCE AT LOW COST

HEREFORD, TEXAS

The Ralph Steffens Family

Ralph Steffens was born in Slaton, in Lubbock County, in 1925, the third son of John H. Steffens and Ida Schilling Steffens. Regina (Brockman) Steffens came four years later, in 1929, the daughter of Ed Brockman and Agnes Vendhaus Brockman. Ralph grew up in the Slaton area until adulthood, and Regina was raised on farms around the Nazareth area.

Ralph and Regina married on May 4, 1949. After marriage they located on a farm northeast of Dimmitt, where they raised milo, cotton, wheat and other feed grains. Cattle were also raised in addition to other crops. They sold Grade C milk and eggs for extra income. Mr. Steffens also engaged in custom harvesting of cotton and milo. A flock of laying hens were raised, and many eggs were "peddled door-to-door" in Dimmitt.

The couple had eight children: Jane Steffens Anderson, a registered nurse working in Canyon, born in 1956; Judy Steffens Brox, a teacher living in Amarillo, born in 1958; Rosemary, a nurse's aid working at Canterbury Villa, born in 1960; John, who is a digital switch operator for Northern Telecom in St. Louis, Mo., born in 1961; Edward, who lives in Dimmitt and drives an 18-wheeler, born in 1964; William, who works for Affiliated Wholesale in Amarillo, born in 1967; and Barbara, a registered nurse who lives in Amarillo and works for High Plains Baptist. Another son, an infant Ralph Michael, died in 1957.

Mr. Steffens passed away in 1973. Regina and the children stayed on the farm for five more

years, then sold the farm and moved to Nazareth. Regina resides there now with one daughter and works at Canterbury Villa in Dimmitt. She has resided all her life around Nazareth and Castro County.

Built by Harry Kleman in the 1950s, Nazareth Shamrock and Nazareth Oil & Gas were taken over by Harry's son, Walter, in 1968. He continued operation of both establishments for a while, but the Shamrock Station was eventually closed. Walter's wife, Georgie, is still the owner of Nazareth Oil & Gas, and continues to offer quality products and friendly service.

We wish
Castro County
a Happy
100th Birthday.

**Nazareth
Oil & Gas**

945-2545



Manager Mark Johnson, Gloria Hinojosa, Cecilia Ontiveros, Mary Ann Ruiz, Martha Martinez, Pat Pugliese, Renea Harman

**Congratulations
Dimmitt and
Castro County!**

Wishing you the best for another 100!

**Dairy
Queen**

706 S. Hwy. 385, Dimmitt
647-3405

The James Wilhelm Family

James Wilhelm was born in 1930, and Irene ("Chunky") Brockman was born in 1934 in their family homes in Nazareth.

After high school graduation, James started farming, but was drafted in 1951, and was stationed with the U.S. Army in Korea during the Korean War. Chunky worked in Tulia until James was discharged, and they married in 1953. James has farmed and ranched since.

He has been active in community work including the Lions Club, church council, school board and the American Legion. He was also president of the Running Water Soil Conservation District. Chunky enjoys art work, gardening and sewing, and has worked with the Legion auxiliary, church and school organizations, and Pro-Family Forum.

The have nine children and 18 grandchildren. Their children are:

Juanita, born in 1953 and married to Charlie Barker. She works with the state government in Austin.

Vickie, born in 1954 and married to Paul Chester. She lives in Midland and is a special education teacher.

Mary Lynn, born in 1955 and married to David Olvera. She lives in Nazareth and teaches at Hart Elementary School.

Angie, born in 1957 and living in Amarillo, where she manages a restaurant.

Tim, born in 1959 and married to Monica Friemel. He lives and farms near Nazareth.

Evelyn, born in 1960 and married to John Rankin. She works for USAA Insurance Co. in San Antonio.

Dale, born in 1962, lives and farms at Nazareth.

Jeanie, born in 1965 and married to Clyde Birkenfeld. They live in Nazareth and she teaches at Hart High School.

Shawn, born in 1969, attends Texas Tech. After graduating in August, he will work in Houston as an electrical engineer.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT: On July 4, 1983 and 1987, Historical Markers were placed on the courthouse square in Dimmitt.



THE JAMES WILHELM FAMILY—Seated, from left, Jeanie Wilhelm Birkenfeld, Irene "Chunky" Wilhelm, James Wilhelm and Evelyn Wilhelm Rankin; and standing, from left, Vickie Wilhelm Chester, Juanita Wilhelm Barker, Tim Wilhelm, Dale Wilhelm, Shawn Wilhelm, Mary Lynn Wilhelm Olvera and Angela Wilhelm.

The R.E. Hendrix Family

Robert Estell and Mary Edna Hendrix and their two daughters, Mary Lynn and Sue, moved to Dimmitt from Amarillo in April, 1949. They bought the Dimmitt Implement Company and operated it until Mr. Hendrix died in 1961.

He had been active in his church and community. He belonged to the Lions club, was president of the Chamber of Commerce, was secretary of the Dimmitt School Board, taught a Sunday School class, and was secretary of the deacons of the First Baptist Church.

Mrs. Hendrix has been active in the First Baptist Church, as well. Some of her responsibilities include teaching a Sunday School

class, pianist for a children's choir, leader for the Sunbeams, and a member of the church choir. There were also school activities, such as being room mother for her daughters' classes and a band booster. She also was a Brownie and Girl Scout leader.

Both daughters attended Dimmitt Schools and were active in band, speech, and other school organizations. They were also active in their church, belonging to Sunbeams, G.A.'s, YWA's and choir, and were pianists for church services.

Mary Lynn graduated in 1959, and married Bill Lankford of Tulia. They have one son, Kevin, and

a daughter, Lauren. Kevin married Neely Stafford, and they have three children, Adria, Matt and David. Sue graduated in 1965, and worked in the First State Bank for two years. She married David Vaughan. They had one daughter, Shannon, who was killed in a car wreck when she was 15, and one son, Brent. Later they adopted a daughter, Kristin.

Mrs. Hendrix managed the Dimmitt Implement for five years, worked as a receptionist for Lee Real Estate, was County Librarian for five years, and has been curator for the Castro County Museum for five years. She writes "On the Go" for the Castro County News.

"If We Can't Fix It, Throw It Away"

Your mechanical troubles are our business. We are prepared to keep your farm machinery running efficiently. See us for any kind of repair work.



WENCH TRUCK WORK
OF ALL KINDS

**REUBENS WELDING AND
MACHINE SHOP**

Happy 100th Anniversary Castro County!

We've hauled your goods since 1962, and we appreciate your patronage. We look forward to serving you in the future.



**Braafladt
Transport Co.**
Dimmitt

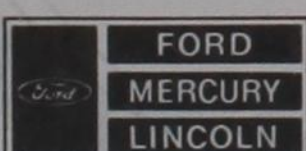
We're proud to serve our customers and friends in Castro County and we offer our congratulations to Castro County on your 100th Anniversary.



**Whiteface
Ford-Chrysler**

Hereford

364-2727



Hours:
8-7, Monday-Friday
8-7, Saturday



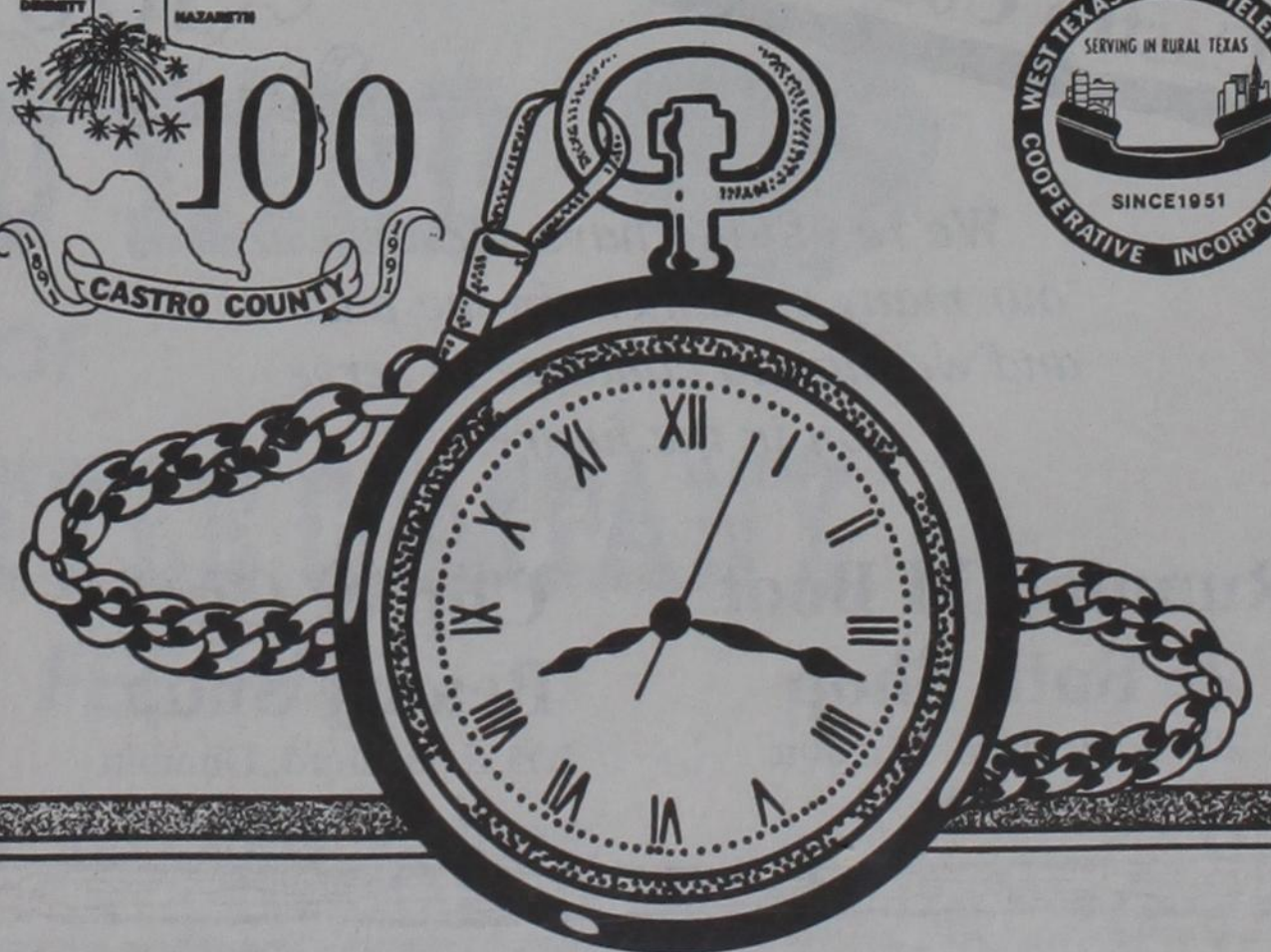
It's Time to Celebrate!

It's not every year a county achieves a century of history.

So we want to say
**Congratulations
Castro County**
and thanks to our customers
who allow us to serve them.

**West Texas Rural
Telephone Cooperative, Inc.**

Hereford



The Jimmie Rawlings Family

Jimmie (James C.) and Tina Sorelle Rawlings moved to Dimmitt on Nov. 14, 1936. They had two daughters, Patricia and Carolyn Rose, both of whom graduated from Dimmitt High School. Patsy and Carolyn both attended the University of Texas in Austin, and received diplomas from UT.

Jimmie and Tina moved here from Shamrock. Jimmie was born in Brandenburg, Ky., and raised in Kansas City and St. Louis. He was in the sheep business in Shamrock when they married.

Tina was born in Waco and raised primarily in Clarendon. She attended college in Galesburg, Ill., and had just finished school when she met Jimmie in Shamrock. They were married in 1922. Patsy was born in Canadian, and Carolyn, in Amarillo.

In addition to owning and operating the hotel here ("The first time I had ever been in business of any kind, and the first time either of us had been in the hotel business"), they were involved in other businesses in Dimmitt through the years. He started Rawlings Insurance Agency in an office in the hotel. She owned and operated Dimmitt Drug (where Kittrell Electronics is now located.)

Jimmie died in February, 1977, "the coldest day in history—snow, ice, wind, everything." Tina served 18 months as Dimmitt postmaster during the Eisenhower administration. She continued to operate the hotel until 1978, and sold it in 1981.

At first the couple owned a home on Front street, which was unpaved, on the west edge of the original town of Dimmitt. Later, they moved into the hotel. She now lives in the Ruskin Apartments.



THE MAYFIELD BROTHERS—each played two or three musical instruments and entertained family and friends. From left: Arlie (Smokey) of Spearman, James of Lordsburg, N.M., Herb of Dimmitt, and Rufus (Slim), who is deceased.



MAYFIELD CHILDREN—from left: Tom, Lorina and Herbert. Tom, Lorina and Reuben are deceased. Curtis, Arlie, Reuben, Louie Golloway of Dalhart

The J.M. Birdwell Family

J.M. (Buddy) Birdwell was born July 19, 1903, near Loving, Young County, Texas. His family moved to Oklahoma and spent five years, then moved back to Loving.

In the summer of 1918, he met Mayme Evelyn Hawkins, who was born Aug. 16, 1903, at Loving. They had lived within ten miles of each other, but had never met, as they attended different schools. They were married July 21, 1923, and lived on a farm in the Indian Mound Community near Graham.

On July 15, 1924, a son, James Kent, was born. In October, 1925, they moved to Castro County to help an uncle, George H. Webb "hand head" his maize crop.

In January, 1926, the Birdwells moved to Dimmitt, and Bud went to work for Castro County, grading roads. On Sept. 26, 1926, another son, Willis Neal (Bill) was born.

Bud worked at a service station for a year, then worked for W. E. Kirkpatrick driving a gasoline transport truck from Borger to Dimmitt and places in New Mexico during the week, and working at Kirkpatrick's service station on weekends.

On Feb. 3, 1929, a daughter, Bobby Ruth, was born. Bud continued working for Mr. Kirkpatrick until Dec. 1, 1941, then worked at the Courthouse until Dec. 1, 1942, when he took over the Gulf Wholesale dealership. Gasoline rationing began at the same time, and his commission check for December \$17.

At the time the family first moved to Dimmitt, they lived with Mayme's uncle, Bill and Ruby Webb, for three months, then in the old Hyatt Hotel for a short time before renting a house. In 1934, they bought a house in east Dimmitt and lived there during the "dirty thirties" when the sandblow so badly that you could not tell what color the bedspread was.

Mayme recalls one day when she went to Artie Cone's house to plan

an Easter party for Melba and Bobby Ruth's school class. She had left all the sand in her house, and Mrs. Cone had cleaned hers. Mayme went home and tried to sweep the dirt from her house, as they could not afford a vacuum cleaner. It did very little good, as it came another sand storm the next day.

Another incident she recalls is going to Portales with Floyd and Nell Copeland to get tomatoes, pulling a flatbed trailer with no springs. They got 13 bushels, and by the time they got home the tomatoes were so bruised that they had to work all night canning tomato juice.

In September, 1945, the Birdwells moved their house to 409 W. Bedford, where it now stands on what used to be part of the City Park.

Kent, Bill and Bobby worked through most of their school days. Kent worked for Darsey Drug and Stub Jones. Bill worked for Walter Griffith's grocery store, and Bobby Ruth worked for Stub Jones' drug store. In the early 1940s, Mayme worked for Wilson Grocery before helping Buddy at the "warehouse."

Bobby Ruth and Harlin Dodd were married March 15, 1946; Kent and Mary Jo Tatum were married July 28, 1946, and Bill and Kathryn Norris married July 4, 1958.

Buddy served as mayor of Dimmitt from April, 1959, through April, 1961, and continued to operate the Gulf Wholesale until his death July 12, 1970.

Mayme began china painting lessons from Lurline Smith, Ralph Smith's mother, in 1963 and has enjoyed toll and oil painting since that time.

After surviving two bouts of lymphoma since 1973, she is still active at home and in the First United Methodist Church, looking forward to the "big 88" on Aug. 16.

This advertisement taken from the August 3, 1944, issue of the *Castro County News*.

FRED GOSS
OPTOMETRIST
319 Skaggs Bldg. Plainview, Texas

The Will Mayfields

Will and Neppie Mayfield and their six children, Reuben, Lovie, Lorena, Rufus, James and Herbert, moved to Texas from Erie, Okla., in 1921. Two more children, Arlie and Tom, were born in Dawn.

The family moved to Castro County in the winter of 1931, living five miles southeast of Dimmitt. Each member of the family played two or three musical instruments, and often entertained family and friends.

Tom, the youngest, played in the Grand Old Opra with Bill Monroe from 1952-1958, recording some 25 songs with the Blue Grass Boys. He died of acute leukemia in July, 1958, in Bluefield, W. Va.

James, Arlie and Herb still play, just for personal enjoyment. James and son, Butch, own a ranch at Lordsburg, N. M. Arlie is ranch manager for the Whittenburgs at Spearman, and Herb is a feed lot welder.

The Mayfield family was honored with a tribute at South Plains College in 1989, and music trade magazines still mention Tom from time to time for his outstanding guitar work. The National and International Blue Grass Foundation has recognized the family for their many years of promotion of Blue Grass and old time music.

This advertisement taken from the August 10, 1944, issue of the *Castro County News*.

Dr. R.F. M'Casland
DENTIST
Heard and Jones Building
TULIA, TEXAS

1891
to
1991

It's been
a bloomin'
century!
SO
Let's celebrate!

Seale Florist
647-3554
Carole
Schroeder

**Congratulations
Castro County**

We're glad to have served
our many customers in the past
and we plan to continue to serve
you in the future.

**Running M Boot
& Bath Shop**
205 E. Bedford, Dimmitt
647-4264

**Clip & Curl
Beauty Shop**
205 E. Bedford, Dimmitt
647-4260

**HAPPY
100th ANNIVERSARY
CASTRO COUNTY**

*We're proud to have served the people
of this area since 1985, and look forward
to keeping you healthy in the future.*

**Gary R. Hardee, M.D.
and Cenci**
**Beth, Carole
and Suzan**
103 Front, Dimmitt
647-5162

The Jim and Robertha Bagwell Family

After a long courtship by horse and buggy, Jim Bagwell and Ola Robertha Wood were married Dec. 24, 1916, at Robertha's parents' home in the Harmony Community west of Floydada in Floyd County, Texas. The whole community was invited to their wedding, so Robertha made wedding cake and a washtub full of boiled custard to serve over 100 people. During the first three weeks of their marriage, they lived in a tent that Jim had floored and reinforced with boxing boards to make it comfortable.

On Jan. 8, 1917, they left Floyd County in four wagons (one covered), bringing household goods, farming equipment, feed for the stock, seed for planting, etc., and pulled their buggy behind one of the wagons. They arrived at their new home in the Bethel Community, west of Dimmitt, on Jan. 12. They lived in a two-room house on the two section of land they rented

from Jim's father, J.A. Bagwell, who had purchased the land the previous year. The 50 head of cattle were moved later in May.

Jim cultivated 180 acres with four horses, a one-row lister, one-row slide-go-devil, and a single-row cultivator. The rest was grass-land. Their furniture included a four-eye wood stove, round oak dining table, four chairs, iron bedstead, and a piano. Cabinets were made from orange crates. The first three years, water had to be hauled for household use, and the cattle driven to the neighbors', since they had trouble finding a good well on their land. Grains harvested were hauled in wagons to Hereford, until the railroad came to Dimmitt in 1928. Cattle were driven to market at Hereford or Friona.

The original house was replaced with a four-room house in 1925. Christine was born Oct. 5, 1918; Grace Marie was born Jan. 4, 1922;

and J.A. was born May 3, 1927.

During the early years, neighbors were visited by buggy, wagon or sled. The first Model T was bought in 1920, and the first tractor in 1927. The family moved into a new house in 1930. It was built on the quarter along the highway that Jim had bought in 1925. Robert was born here Oct. 12, 1931. This house burned April 1, 1936, but was replaced with a house purchased from John Flanagan in Dimmitt, and moved to sit on the same foundation. LaTrelle was born here Nov. 5, 1939.

The Bagwell family experienced some lean years during the dust bowl and depression years of the 1930s, but never went hungry since they always had milk cows, chickens, hogs, beef, and a good garden.

Everything possible was canned. Clothes, quilts, sheets, pillow cases, aprons, etc., were made from feed sacks and flour sacks. Flour was

milled at Hereford from grains grown on their farm. Robertha was active in the Home Demonstration Club at Bethel, and was always ready to learn better ways of doing things. Cream and egg money provided money to buy the "extras" that couldn't be produced on the farm.

Christine, Grace Marie, J.A., and Robert attended school at Bethel, and all but Robert graduated from Dimmitt High School.

In 1944, the Bagwells sold their farm and bought a ranch at Amistad, N.M., where Jim and J.A. farmed and ranched. Robert and LaTrelle attended school at Amistad, and graduated from Clayton High School.

In 1959, Jim sold out and built a home in Clayton, N.M. In 1960, Jim and J.A. bought a ranch near Salida, Colo. In 1967, Jim and Robertha sold their home in Clayton and bought a home at 1007 Oak

in Dimmitt. Jim continued to ranch in Colorado until 1970, when he and J.A. decided to sell the ranch. J.A. stayed in Colorado, but Jim decided to retire, and once again, he and Robertha were to make their home in Castro County. They were happy to be back near family and friends of earlier years.

Robertha kept busy with many kinds of needlework and crafts, which she shared with her family and friends. Jim enjoyed working in his yard and garden. They were members of the United Methodist church. On Aug. 1, 1987, because of failing health, they moved into Canterbury Villa Nursing Home, where Robertha died on March 26, 1988, at age 92, and Jim died on Oct. 13, 1988, at age 94. They had celebrated 71 years of marriage on Dec. 24, 1987.

Jim and Robertha Bagwell were devoted parents, grandparents, and friends, and went without many

things to provide for their family. They were generous with their love, and shared whatever they had with their family and friends. Their family includes Christine Bell of Perryton, Grace Marie Holland of Midland, J.A. Bagwell of Moran, Wyo., Robert Bagwell of Hazlehurst, Miss., LaTrelle Bagwell of Apple Valley, Calif., nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

— Submitted by Christine Bagwell Bell.


CENTENNIAL MOMENT: Neva Hastings served as Castro County District Clerk from 1952 to 1958.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT: Charles Wesley Slover and his wife, Ferbie Lou, along with their children arrived in Castro County in January of 1898 to live on their claim nine miles east of Dimmitt.



We established our business in 1962 and turned commercial in 1981. We're proud to be a part of Castro County's ag economy.

Our congratulations to the people of Castro County on the observance of its 100th birthday!

H-C HILL FEED YARD 
 A DIVISION OF
HILL LAND AND CATTLE COMPANY
CUSTOM CATTLE FEEDING

938-2156

Owners: Bob Hill, Dennis Hill and Cindy Studdard

HART



H.W. and Oleta Golden

The H.W. Golden

Henry Ward Golden was born in 1905 close to Snyder in Scurry County, and Oleta Oswald Golden was born in 1909 in Bosque County. After high school, Ward went to West Texas State University in Canyon, where he played football, and graduated in 1929.

He became manager of the Panhandle Lumber Co. in Mobeetie, where he met and married Oleta Oswald in 1933. In 1934 they moved to Dimmitt, where he managed the local Panhandle Lumber Co. Later it was sold to Higginbotham-Bartlett

Lumber Co.

Oleta was bookkeeper of the lumber company, working alongside Ward for a number of years. Also in 1934, the Golden's went into debt to buy a 200-acre farm just north of Dimmitt. Ward's dad loaned him money to buy 21 head of cattle to graze on his new farm, thus giving

Ward his start in ranching.

The farm was only the beginning, as Ward became one of the largest farmers and ranchers in Castro and Bailey counties, growing wheat and corn, and raising his favorite, Hereford cattle.

Ward was very civic and community minded. He served as mayor of Dimmitt, and president of the School Board. He was on the City Council, belonged to the Chamber of Commerce and the Lions Club, and helped to organize the Rotary Club. He was also instrumental in starting the Senior Citizens organization, and tried hard to help Dimmitt grow and make it a better place to live.

The Golden's had three sons, Harold, Donald and Ronald. Ward retired from Higginbotham-Bartlett in 1979, but stayed active in farming and ranching until his death in 1985. Oleta moved to Pampa in 1990 to be near her family.

The E.J. Wilhelm Family

Edward J. Wilhelm was born Sept. 19, 1896, in Potosi, Wis. His parents were Frank Wilhelm and Cecilia Drilling. He moved with his parents to Nazareth in 1910. He attended school in Potosi and Nazareth. E. J. had several jobs until he was drafted for service in World War I. While on the military train, he received word that the war was over, so he returned home.

Ed loved to hunt and dance. While at a country dance, he met Margaret Schacher, daughter of George Schacher and Mary Schmitz. Margaret was born on April 18, 1900, in Boone County Nebraska. She moved to Nazareth Feb. 22, 1917. She and E. J. were married May 17, 1921, at Holy Family Catholic Church in Nazareth. Their wedding was an all-day celebration, a German custom.

In 1930 E. J. purchased the Bill Dixon farm north of Nazareth. In 1936 a home was built and is still being lived in by one of the sc. s. E. J.'s livelihood was farming, mostly wheat, and running cattle. April 6, 1921, the livestock brand with an "E" on the right side was started and is still being used. The brand was chosen as one of the eleven brands to represent Castro County in the Ani-

mal Science Bldg. at Texas A & M University.

Margaret was educated in Nebraska. She was a homemaker and active in community organizations. Ed and Margaret had seven children, five of whom are still living. They are twins Florine and Francis; Leonard; and twins Jerry and James. Florine married Ernest Brockman in 1945; Francis married Betty Ramaekers in 1948; Leonard married Rosemary Guggemos in 1947; Jerry married Nellie Bradlock in 1954; and James married Irene Brockman in 1953. All of the children made their homes in Nazareth.

Joseph, the eldest, died in infancy. Richard, the youngest, drowned at the age of 2. Other descendants include 41 grandchildren and 60 great-grandchildren.



The Mark Cowser Family

Matthew Mark Cowser was born in California and grew up in Kimble County. On March 10, 1897, he married Araminto Almeda Rayner in Junction. He began the study of law and in September, 1908, he took his bar examination in San Antonio.

In a letter to his wife at that time, he told her about the examination saying, "The examination is easy, but very long. . . there are only two of us taking the exam and everything is very pleasant. We come and go as we like and are left entirely by ourselves. The other fellow doesn't know too much law and I have been helping him. . ."

Mark Cowser moved his family to Dimmitt in August 1909. He described the town as a prospective home for his family in a letter to his wife, dated June 15, 1909.

"The county judge and one commissioner tell me that the county will furnish an office with fixtures and pay me \$25 per month. . . also appoint me county attorney. The town has about 40 people in it and they are all energetic. They have the finest courthouse here that I have ever been in, outside of San Antonio. They are fixing to build a school house to cost \$15,000."

On June 22, he wrote that he had decided to take the court's offer and settle in Dimmitt. He and his wife, Minta, brought their five children to Dimmitt by covered wagon. Those children included Helen, Ruth, Jack, Mary and Ray.

The family first moved into a three-room house southeast of the courthouse; this house was later moved to the site of the present Dimmitt Fire Station. Later, they moved to what was known as the O'Brien place, to the house which is now the Castro County Museum, where they lived for three years. Their daughters, Josephine and Norma, were born during this period. They moved to the house located at 300 Southwest Fourth Street in 1918, where their youngest child, Winnie, was born. This re-

mained the family home until the death of Mark Cowser in September 1959. That house is located across the street from the present City Park, but at that time, it was the site of the two-story red brick schoolhouse.

At the time that Mr. Cowser was appointed county attorney for Castro County, it included the area which was later organized into Bailey County. To cover this large territory, he and Sheriff Roy Barber traveled by motorcycle to attend their duties. He practiced law and operated Mark Cowser, Abstractor.

Mark and Minta celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary surrounded by family and friends. That was on March 10, 1947. Minta died the next year in April.

The Cowser children and their

spouses and children are:

HELEN married C.B. Killgore. Both are deceased. Their children are Mark, who lives in Dallas; Mary Manire, who lives in Albuquerque, N.M.; and Joe, who lives at the family ranch near Maryneal.

RUTH married Roy E. Haberer and died in 1926, leaving two children, Roger and Phillip, who both live in Earth today.

JACK married Myrna Montgomery. He is deceased and she lives in Dimmitt. They have two children, Carole Farris who lives in Dalhart, and James Mark, who's living in Georgetown.

MARY lives in Houston. Her husband, Charles Schelling, is deceased. Their daughter, Joan, is married to Arthur Few and they live in Houston.

RAY married Louella Thomas and both are deceased. Their daughter, Donna June Morton, lives in Albuquerque, N.M.

JOSEPHINE married Hugh E. Russell, who is now deceased. She lives in Corpus Christi. The couple's children are Ruth, who is deceased; Larry, who lives in Houston; John, who died in Vietnam; and David, who lives in Portland.

NORMA married Harold Gladman, who is now deceased. She lives in Plainview. Their children are Linda, who married Morris Steen and lives near Cloudcroft, N.M. and Gayle, who married Bob Riley and lives in Big Spring.

WILLI LOIS died in 1921 at the age of three years.

The Jimmy Howell Family

Jimmie and Sue Howell were married June 2, 1962, in San Jacinto Baptist Church in Amarillo. Jimmie was born in Castro County Aug. 20, 1934, to Moss and Hattie Howell. Sue was born in Olustee, Okla., Sept. 15, 1939, to Roland and Blon Ward.

Jimmie graduated from Dimmitt High School in 1952, and has been engaged in farming nine miles west of Dimmitt since that time. Sue graduated from Amarillo High School in 1957, and attended West Texas State University, receiving B.B.A. and M.B.A. degrees.

Their three children have all graduated from Dimmitt High School. Kennen James, born Sept. 21, 1965, received a B.S. degree in

engineering from Texas A&M, and is presently employed by American Fructose in Dimmitt. He also is engaged in farming in the Bethel Community.

Kim LeAnn, born March 26, 1967, received a B.S.N. degree from WTSU and works as a registered nurse at Plains Memorial Hospital in Dimmitt. She married Dennis Burnam June 6, 1987. Dennis is the son of Carroll and Eileen Burnam, and is employed by Stanford Body Shop. Dustin Dwayne Burnham, the first grandchild of Jimmie and Sue, was born Jan. 18, 1990.

Kelly Moss, born Dec. 21, 1970, is attending Panhandle State University in Goodwell, Okla., where he participates in football and track. Sue is a counselor at Middle School,

and previously taught seven years at Dimmitt High. She also taught at Hereford High School from 1961-1965.

Jimmie and Sue live on the "home place," having moved there when Moss and Hattie moved to Weatherford in 1974. Jimmie farms the "home place," the Ross place across the road, and the "old Sinclair place."

Jimmie and his brother, Jack, bought and farm the Gaines Neill place, and also purchased Grandad Bagwell's home place, where Jack now lives.

Jimmie has served as a County commissioner. The family attends First Baptist Church and is active in the Bethel Community.

This advertisement taken from the March 27, 1952, issue of the *Castro County News*.

GLENN RATCLIFF

CONOCO WHOLESALE

Phone
31

M. W. LEMONS, BURIAL ASSOCIATION

Operated in Connection with
M. W. LEMONS FUNERAL HOME

Plainview, Texas Phone 6
Write For Complete Information

This advertisement taken from the September 15, 1955, issue of the *Castro County News*.

CURRENT DIVIDENDS

50%

(All Covered)

ON AUTOMOBILES INSURED WITH THE

Southern Farm Bureau Casualty Insurance Co.

CONTACT YOUR AGENT FOR THE ADVANTAGES OF FARM BUREAU LIFE, AUTOMOBILE, & FIRE INSURANCE

Castro County Farm Bureau
E. L. IVEY
General Agent

It's our Anniversary

100 YEARS FOR CASTRO COUNTY!

And we're proud to be a part of the history of this great county, serving you locally since 1946, 708 members strong, working together to obtain the best insurance at reasonable prices.

From left: Donna Snitker, Office Secretary; Bob Anthony, Agent; Kristie Salinas, Secretary; (not pictured) Don Moore, Manager.

Castro County Farm Bureau

304 N. Broadway
Dimmitt
647-5106

We appreciate our friends and customers in Castro County and congratulate you on your 100th Anniversary!

Stevens Chevy-Olds

Hereford • 364-2160



The Joe Guggemos Family

Joe Guggemos and Loretta Kleman were true pioneers in the Nazareth Community. They, along with their parents, overcame many difficulties to help Nazareth and Holy Family Catholic parish become a reality for many generations to come.

Loretta moved with her parents, E.B. (Barney) and Anna Kleman; sister Pauline; three brothers, Art, Harry, Ed and his wife Mary, to Nazareth in November, 1906. The journey was made by train, with all their worldly possessions, from Glandorf, Ohio, where Loretta was born Nov. 19, 1896.

Barney had read about Nazareth in a German newspaper, "Landman." In 1905 he traveled to the Texas Panhandle to see if the land agent, Father Reisdorff, was right about the opportunities of the region. Barney purchased a section of land, located four miles west of the townsite of Nazareth.

When he returned to Ohio, Barney had decided he would like to locate nearer to the townsite. He sold a half section to the Drerups, whose farm adjoined the Kleman farm in Ohio, and sold the other half section to Mr. Reitz.

After selling the land at a profit, Barney, through correspondence, purchased a section of land one mile north and one mile west of the townsite.

Located on this section of land was a two-room shack, which became home for the Kleman family when they arrived from Ohio. The lumber and materials for their new home were hauled from Hereford with a wagon and team of horses. Each trip took two days.

Loretta was attending public school in Ohio, and after moving to Texas, Loretta, Art and Harry attended the parochial school taught by Frank Woelfle. County records show that Woelfle taught 54 students in the school years of 1906 and 1907.

About this time, Charles Guggemos in Minnesota was reading the advertisements in the "Landman" newspaper about the cheap farm land located in the warm climate of Nazareth, Tex.

Charles Guggemos' dream was to have a farm for each of his seven sons, so in the spring of 1907 he visited the area and purchased a half section of land, two miles east and two miles north of the Nazareth townsite.

Charles, his wife Josephine, and their sons, Joe, John, Charlie, Al, Arnold, Greg and Gene, and infant daughter, Josephine, arrived in Tulia by train Nov. 19, 1909, from Winsted, Minn.

The family moved into the Frank Wilhelm house west of town, until their new home was built on their farm. Their daughter, Elizabeth, was born Nov. 12, 1912, in Nazareth. All the other Guggemos children had been born in Winsted, Minn., starting with Joe, the oldest, on Jan. 16, 1891.

Because of several years of crop failure, Joe Guggemos went to Amarillo looking for carpentry work and other odd jobs. He eventually went to work in St. Francis, Tex., as a farm hand for Fred Klinke. Later, Loretta Kleman went to work for the Klinke family, caring for the children and helping in the home.

Mrs. Charles Guggemos' health had deteriorated, and in hopes of providing better living conditions the family decided to return to Winsted in October, 1916.

Joe returned to Nazareth and rented the family farm from his parents. He was the only farmer of



Joseph and Loretta Guggemos
... A wedding portrait

the seven sons. John and Charlie also stayed in Nazareth, and the three brothers threshed, repaired machinery, and worked sod ground for the public, using a steam engine.

John and Charlie were drafted and served their country during World War I. They loaded their possessions onto John's motorcycle and returned to Minnesota in the fall of 1917.

Joe Guggemos and Loretta Kleman were married in Holy Family Catholic Church in Nazareth Feb. 14, 1917. They began their married life in the home that Joe's parents had built. Joe supplemented his farming income by working as "road boss," first under Sam Allen, then Mr. Burks, and finally, Mr. Lilley, who were the commissioners at that time. The grader was pulled by eight mules, hitched in teams of four.

Joe and Loretta finally purchased a half section of land four miles north of Nazareth from Clements Richwartz in 1930, and took possession of the place Jan. 1, 1931.

The family was very excited and happy to move to their new home. Originally the first church built in Nazareth in 1903, it had been remodeled into a large, two-story house.

Joe and Loretta had many dreams for the future to improve their own place, but their dreams were short lived. On Good Friday, April 3, 1931, Joe was driving a loaded grain truck when he was involved in a train wreck at the railroad crossing on the Dimmitt-Tulia highway, a quarter mile south of the Santa Fe station. Joe was killed instantly.

Loretta continued to live on the farm and raise her nine children. The family worked hard so they could stay together. As the children were old enough to work at other jobs,

they helped support the family. Loretta had a very hard struggle to keep the farm during the depression and "dirty thirties."

Loretta's parents, Barney and Anna Kleman, who were now retired and living in town, helped her through many difficult times. Anna suffered a stroke and died May 4, 1934. The second sorrow to strike the family that year was when Loretta's 3-year-old son Richard died June 23 after a lengthy bout with a blood condition.

But Barney continued to be a shoulder for Loretta to lean on, until he fell and broke his hip. He was bedridden for several months, and died Jan. 26, 1942.

By then the country was involved in World War II. Loretta's sons were in the service, Vincent, in the Army, and Leonard, in the Navy. She decided to sell the farm and take the job of managing the new lunchroom program in the school system.

She moved into her new home in Nazareth in December, 1944, and continued as lunch room manager until 1958. Most of the school children called her "Grandma Guggie." They spent their spare time in the lunchroom, trying to "con" her out of cookies.

In her later years, she kept busy quilting, tating, crocheting and sewing doll clothes for her grandchildren. She also spent many hours caring for her flowers and garden.

In January, 1971, her health started failing rapidly, and on Dec. 23, 1971, she died of a cerebral-vascular hemorrhage.

Today Joe and Loretta's family live on through their children:

The Bill Gregory Family

Billy Ross Gregory was born Oct. 26, 1934 in Dimmitt, the second son of Jack and Jo Gregory. He began his school year in the same red brick building from which his mother graduated in 1927.

Bill graduated from Dimmitt High School in May, 1953, and on Aug. 22, 1953, married Dalia Ann Twiner. Dalia moved to Dimmitt from Hereford in 1950 with her mother, M.E. Twiner, and her brother, Jack. Mrs. Twiner managed a new dress shop in the community, The Vogue. Dalia was born in Rochester, Tex., and moved to Hereford in 1939. She also graduated from Dimmitt High.

Bill and Dalia moved to El Paso, where Bill attended college and played basketball for Texas Western College, and Dalia was a secretary for El Paso Natural Gas Company. In 1954 they moved to Abilene, where Bill attended Abilene Christian College on a basketball scholarship. He graduated in 1957. Dalia worked as a secretary for Citizens National Bank.

On April 30, 1956, their first son, Bill J., was born. In May, 1957, the family moved back to Dimmitt, where Bill joined his dad in the family business, Castro County Grain Co., and Dalia was a full-time homemaker.

They bought their first home at 204 N. W. 5th St. Three more sons were born in the years to follow, David Scott, in 1960; Bryan Wade, in 1964; and Blaine Ross, in 1970. In 1962 the family built their present home at 721 Maple.

Over the years Bill has served as a cubmaster for the Boy Scouts, was on the board of directors of the Castro County Recreation Association, served as a director of the Chamber of Commerce, and was named "Father of the Year" by the Castro County Cowbells.

Bill is now employed at Dimmitt Agri Industries, and Dalia is a secretary at Dimmitt High School. They are members of the Bedford Street Church of Christ.

Bill J. graduated from DHS in 1974,

and from Lubbock Christian University in 1978. He is now a CPA in San Antonio. He has a daughter, Allison, 9, and a son, Jonathan, 2.

David graduated from DHS in 1978 and attended Abilene Christian University. He now lives in Abilene and owns Gregory's Trim Shop. He and his wife, Mary, have two daughters, Elizabeth, 6, and Anna, 3.

Bryan graduated from DHS in 1982 and attended ACU. He is now employed at Super Cuts in Lubbock. Blaine graduated from DHS in 1988 and attended Texas Tech. He is now working at Clark-American and attends college part time in San Antonio.

This advertisement taken from the August 10, 1944 issue of *The Castro County News*.

J. C. Rawlings

Every Kind of Insurance
Farms and Ranches

Phone 4 Cor. Office in Hotel

Lucille, born Nov. 27, 1917, married Ed Drerup in 1939. He died Dec. 13, 1976.

Alice, born June 7, 1919, married Clyde Fisher in 1940. He died Feb. 1, 1972.

Rita, born Oct. 20, 1920, married Eddie Hoffman in 1943. He died Feb. 28, 1969.

Vincent, born Jan. 26, 1922, married Josephine Hoffman in 1950. She died April 14, 1990.

Leonard, born Nov. 21, 1923, married Phyllis Glasrud in 1950.

Rose Mary, born Nov. 22, 1925, married Leonard Wilhelm in 1947.

Stella, born Nov. 6, 1927, married Ralph Shirley in 1949.

Betty Joe, born Dec. 6, 1931, married Leonard Bartels in 1954.


There are 46 grandchildren, 78 great grandchildren and nine great-great grandchildren.

This advertisement taken from the February 28, 1952, issue of *Castro County News*.

Join the Farm Bureau Serving Your County and Working for Agriculture


Take advantage of the
Service Programs
Being Offered.
See your community Direc-
tor or E. L. Ivey, Sec.-Treas.

It's Magic



Celebrating a Century!

We're proud to
have been serving
Castro County
since 1987.



Video Magic

200 S. Broadway, Dimmitt
647-5200

Congratulations Castro County!

Serving you since 1982

Tole Auto Parts

Brian Tole, Owner • Agustin Perez Jr.
Hart
938-2641



The Harvest is Plentiful



During Castro County's 100-year history, harvests have mostly been plentiful—due to the blessings of God and the efforts of the people—farmers, workers, business people, and community. We have been a part of the picture since 1985, and we look forward to continuing to serve you in the future.



Front from left: Laura Hart, Elaine O'Daniel. Middle from left: Roberto Chavez, Donald Robinson, Jarrel Sewell. Back from left: Darrick Brownlee, Abelino Carrasco, Valdo Meroles, Ismael Carrasco.

Farmers Grain Co.

Subsidiary of Cargill, Inc.

938-2178 Jarrell Sewell, Manager Hart

The Ernest Brockman Family

Ernest (Ernie) Brockman was seventh of nine children born to Frank Brockman and Josephine Hoelting on Oct. 3, 1916. Ernie grew up on a farm and attended school in Nazareth. In 1938 he went to Bisbee, Ariz., to work in the copper mines. In January, 1941, he was called up to serve with the Arizona National Guard, and was in the 145th Infantry Regiment serving in the Panama Canal area and the South Pacific. He was discharged from the service Nov. 19, 1944, and returned to Nazareth, where he has lived since.

Ernie married Florine Wilhelm, daughter of Ed Wilhelm and Margaret Schacher, April 4, 1945. Florine attended Nazareth schools and studied nursing at Amarillo College. Ernie and Florine had an all-day wedding celebration with a dance that night, a real German custom. They settled on the Frank Brockman farm, and soon purchased the acreage. They are still living there, although Ernie has retired from farming.

Ernie and Florine had six children. Shirley, born in 1946, graduated from Texas Tech University, and married Leonard Melcher July 5, 1969. Richard was born in 1949, and graduated from the University of Kansas. Hal, born in 1951, graduated from Stephen F. Austin University, and married Gretchen Ploeger in 1973. Kerry Joe, born in 1954, graduated from the University of Texas at Austin, and married Colleen Lowery in 1975. Mark, born in 1956, graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso, and married Rosalie Ortega in 1982. Ladonna, born in 1960, graduated from Texas A & M University, and married Greg Miller in 1983. The children were all educated and worshipped at the Holy Family Catholic Church in Nazareth.

Ernie and Florine established their family in Nazareth and were active in the community. Ernie was one of the organizers of the American Legion and was the first commander of the Nazareth Legion Post in 1946. He served in that position for three years. Belonging to the fraternal organization of the Knights of Columbus, Ernie held numerous offices in addition to being a state officer. He was active in the

Running Water Soil Conservation District for 28 1/2 years.

Florine was active in community organizations, and has held numerous offices. She has contributed 15 years of volunteer work at

the Amarillo veterans hospital, where she continues to work.

The Ernie Brockmans are an established family and active members of the Nazareth community. They are the proud grandparents of nine grandchildren.

The Ray Stevens McEntire Family

Ray Stevens McEntire was born May 20, 1915, in Olney in Young County, Texas, to James Marvin McEntire and Eva Lena (Webb) McEntire. His family moved to Dimmitt in Castro County in November of 1917, where they lived until 1925. They lived a short time in Plainview, Flagg, and Hereford, moving back to the farm northwest of Dimmitt in 1928. Ray graduated from Dimmitt High School in 1931. After graduation he helped his father farm until 1934, when he entered West Texas State Teachers' College in Canyon. His parents moved to Chatsworth, Calif. in September of 1936, so Ray's education was interrupted, but her returned to Canyon in the summer of 1937 to complete his B.S. degree. He returned to California and remained until May of 1938 when he returned to Dimmitt to work as a clerk for the AAA Farm Program, living with his grandmother, Mrs. C.H. Webb. Ray was a member of the Methodist Church in Dimmitt.

Myrtle Christine (Bagwell) McEntire was born Oct. 5, 1918 at the Bagwell home west of Dimmitt in the Bethel Community. She was the first child of Jim and Robertha Bagwell and grew up on a combination farm-ranch. She attended school through the ninth grade at Bethel, graduated from Dimmitt High School in 1935, and took a post-graduate course the following year. It wasn't easy to get to school during the early years, but Christine rarely missed—going by buggy, walking or riding a horse. While attending school at Dimmitt, she had a room with Mrs. Edna Tate,

the Frank Easters, and Maggie Boren, and commuted from home the rest of the time during the 10th, 11th and post-graduate years. In the fall of 1936, she went to Plainview Business College in Plainview. After graduation, she worked at Burn's Elevator in Dimmitt the summer of 1937, and began working for the AAA office in the fall of 1937, where she worked until her marriage to Ray McEntire on Sept. 10, 1939.

Ray and Christine lived in Dimmitt until June of 1940, when they moved to Silverton in Briscoe County, where Ray worked at the same job. Their daughter, DeVona Rea, was born Oct. 22, 1941 at the Dimmitt Hospital, since Silverton had no hospital facilities. They moved to Floydada in August of 1942, continuing at the same job for Floyd County. Their son, Larry Don, was born April 5, 1946. In January of 1951, the family moved to Perryton in Ochiltree County, where Ray worked for Perryton Equity Exchange as office manager until his death on Aug. 1, 1963. Christine still lives in Perryton, and married Orlan Bell on Oct. 19, 1965. She retired Jan. 1, 1983 after 31 years as church secretary for the United Methodist Church.

— Submitted by Christine McEntire Bell.



THE WILLIS FAMILY—Seated, from left, George Lee and Nancy Willis; and standing, from left, Irene Willis Lee, Allie Mae Willis, G.L. Willis Jr., and Anita Willis Morris.

WANT ADS

FOR SALE— 1942 long wheel base Ford Truck, two-speed rear end, good 8.25x20 tires, good condition, new grain bed.
George Behrends

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1944

NOTICE—A nice line of Christmas Card samples have been received by the local chapter of the Eastern Star, let us have your orders early.
Mrs. J. L. Coke

WANT ADS

CARBOLINEUM
For healthy chicks and producing flocks sterilize your poultry houses and equipment with Carbolineum.
Sold By
Willson and Son Lumber Co

CENTENNIAL MOMENT: Mr. and Mrs. W.B. (Buck) Green and their children arrived in the Frio Community in 1901. In 1916, Mr. Green was elected County Tax Assessor and the family moved to Dimmitt.

As Castro County celebrates

100 Great Years

we congratulate you and look forward to serving you in the years to come!



Front from left: Rhonda Aven, Aurelia Perez. Back from left: Kevin Malone, Katherine Huseman, Ethel Schmucker, Richard Kimbrough.

In 1900, people were coming to this area from all walks of life—looking for better opportunities and a more secure environment in which to raise their families. Those early pioneers found that security in Castro County.

When Hale County State Bank became a part of the Hart community in March of 1987, it made a commitment to become a part of Hart and a part of the people in Castro County.

We believe a strong county needs a strong bank and there is no "impossible dream" when hard work, dedication and foresight exist. The people of Castro County can profit from past achievements and take on goals that can become a reality.

We're making progress every step of the way . . . let's look to another 100 years with the prospect of brighter tomorrows, greater accomplishments and envisioned dreams fulfilled.



424 Broadway



HALE COUNTY STATE BANK
HART

MEMBER FDIC

In Touch
with You

938-2111



**Castro County Centennial
FAMILIES**

1891
◆
1991

The Kent Birdwell Family

Kent Birdwell came from Young County, near Loving, Texas, in 1925 with his parents, J. M. and Mayme Birdwell at the age of 1 year. His brother, Bill, and sister, Bobbie Ruth (Dodd) were born in Dimmitt.

Kent's employment began at age 12 behind the soda fountain of Darsey Drug Store, where he worked when not in school until graduation in 1941. He was then employed by the ASC office until joining the U. S. Air Force in March, 1943, being stationed in Italy from 1944 until he was discharged in 1946.

On July 28, 1946, he and Mary Jo Tatum were married. She was the daughter of Hugh and Mae (Dalmont) Tatum, early settlers of the Plainview area. Kent and Mary Jo met on a "blind" date arranged by Billy Jo and Dorothy (Simmons) Rothwell while Mary Jo was attending West Texas State in the fall of 1942.

Following military service, Kent was employed by Higginbotham-Bartlett Lumber Co. He and Mary Jo built their first house on a lot donated by his parents just west of their house on Bedford St., which then was unpaved. Kent and Mary Jo used oak lumber for the old Italian prisoner of war camp near Hereford, and borrowed money from Mary Jo's father. The first payment of \$35 came due, and they didn't have enough money in the bank to make the payment. Mary Jo secured employment from Cowsert Abstract Co. until shortly before the birth of Paula Jo on Oct. 24, 1949. Another daughter, Karen



Mary Jo and Kent Birdwell

Evelyn, followed on March 22, 1951.

The couple's son, Steven Kent, was born on Mother's Day, May 9, 1954; Kelly Lee was born June 1, 1957; and Russel Lynn was born Dec. 8, 1961.

In the meantime, Kent accepted employment June 1, 1947, as Deputy Sheriff and Tax Collector, first working for "Peck" Wyer, who was appointed sheriff after the death of Garland Brown. After office hours it was also Kent's duty to sit with

the Sheriff at the highway intersection waiting for "bootleggers" and accompanying him on disturbance calls.

In 1958 the offices were separated, with Kent being appointed Castro County Tax Assessor-Collector on Jan. 1, 1959. He served in this position for 20 years, until Jan. 1, 1979, giving him a total of 31 1/2 years as a deputy and elected official, longer than anyone in the history of Castro County had served up to that time.

Kent began selling insurance for

State Farm on a small scale in 1952, and in 1973 opened an office at 116 E. Jones, with Mary Jo as manager. Kent's hobby of trading cars evolved into a used car business, Kent's Auto Sales.

Paula Jo received degrees from WTSU and North Texas State. She is a Certified Legal Assistant working with attorneys in a general law practice in Denton. She and her husband, Dr. Robert E. Bradford, son of the James Bradfords of Dimmitt, are the parents of two children, Jaime and Scott Edward.

Karen (Barron) also graduated from WTSU and has two sons, James Kyle and Jason. She is employed in the offices of Alfa Engineering in Austin. Steve attended WTSU and has a degree in sound technology from South Plains College and an electronic engineering degree from Amarillo College. He is In-House Engineer with WHTN-TV in Nashville.

Kelly is employed by Messer Construction in Hereford and is the father of Buddy James, Elvis Joel and Benjamin Zachary.

Russel received a B.S. degree in agricultural economics from Texas Tech and began working in the family insurance business in 1986. He was appointed State Farm agent March 1, and Kent is now an Agent Emeritus. The disastrous explosion and fire Dec. 20, 1990, in the PCA building next to their office resulted in the agency being displaced for four months during remodeling.

Kent and Mary Jo are still looking forward to really enjoying retirement.

Advertisement from March 27, 1952 issue of *Castro County News*.

**COMPLETE
Radiator Service
Castro Motor Co.**

**Drs. Wood & Armistead
OPTOMETRISTS
406 LFD Drive LK/Hofield
Phone 328**

Thanks to our many Castro County customers for 27 years of business.

We look forward to serving you in the future.

Richard Franks, Bob Bowden, Lee Bradley, Mary Ann Schulte, Jack Vise, Carlos Martinez, Tony Leibel, Marco Vasquez, David Neudorf

**Wilbur-Ellis,
Tide Division
Sunnyside & Hart**

We're flying high in celebration of Castro County's 100th Anniversary.

Chartered in 1960, our spraying service continues to work for you under Dudley Wooten since 1988.

**B&W
Aerial Spray**

N. Hwy. 385, Dimmitt 647-2550

Congratulations

We wish Castro County a very happy 100th Anniversary.

From:
Mike Foskey,
Jerrye Lilley,
Tom B. McGill

**Foskey
Funeral Homes**

Dimmitt Olton



THE JIM CLEAVINGER FAMILY poses for a family portrait after a family wedding. Pictured, from left, are Zek, Candace, Tommy, TerrieLynn, Jimmy, Ina and Jim.

The Jim Cleavinger Family

Jim Cleavinger came to Castro County in 1953. After graduation from Springlake High School and Texas Tech, he served in the Korean conflict before moving to Dimmitt, where he began working at C & S Equipment Co. The Cleavinger family owned the John Deere business for 35 years, selling it in 1985. Later, in 1987, Jim opened C & S Battery and Electric. Golf, fishing and business interests keep him busy at this semi-retired time of his life.

Ina Lewis Cleavinger grew up in Nolan County. During her years at Tech she met Jim, and they were married in June, 1985. Through the years, she has kept busy with family, school, church and commu-

nity activities. At this time her many activities include United Methodist Women, Book Club, sewing, china painting and baking "goodies" for grandchildren.

When Jim and Ina came to Dimmitt, many of the streets were unpaved; there were no house numbers or door-to-door mail delivery; and to make a phone call, you lifted the receiver and waited for the operator to say "number please." They have enjoyed being a part of this little town as it has grown to the nice little city that it is today. They say it is a great place to live and raise a family.

The Cleavingers have been active in the Dimmitt United Meth-

odist Church, Jaycees and Jaycee Ettes, Boy Scouts, Little League and all school activities. Some of these organizations are no longer active in Dimmitt, but were instrumental in helping the community grow during the '50s, '60s and '70s. The '80s were a time of watching grandchildren grow and participating in their activities. Hopefully, the '90s will be a time for some leisure and travel.

Tommy is active in the Dimmitt Volunteer Fire Department, having helped secure a "Jaws of Life" and other emergency equipment for the local fire department. He is one of several firemen who have E.M.T. certification. Through the years he has continued to enjoy water sports and the activities of his children, Zeke and Candace.

Jimmy has lived in Baytown since 1982. He is quality control engineer for Lyondell Petro Chemical, located in Channelview. In September, 1989, he and Terrie Lynn Johnson were married. They enjoy water skiing, fishing and gardening.

The newest addition to the Cleavinger family arrived June 19, when James David was born to Jimmy and Terrie Lynn in Baytown. The infant weighed 7 lbs., 14 oz., and was 21 inches long.

The Don Sheffy Family

The Don Sheffy family moved back to Dimmitt from Canyon in August, 1981. Don, the son of Sid and Myrtle Sheffy, was born and reared in the Flagg Community until 1952 when his family moved into Dimmitt. He graduated from Dimmitt High in 1956, and received his bachelor's and master's degree in Business Administration from West Texas State University in 1961.

Karen lived in Olton and Lubbock before moving to Dimmitt with her parents, Elmo and Polly Bell, in 1951. She graduated from DHS in 1957, and received her bachelor's degree from WTSU in 1961.

Don and Karen were married Aug. 27, 1960, and continued to live in Canyon until 1981. Don was employed as a pharmaceutical representative for Dow Chemical Company for 19 year. Karen was a legal secretary for the District Attorney of Randall County, for the law offices of Lair and Williams, and for George Dowlen, attorney, during their first years of marriage, before retiring to become a full time homemaker, mother, church worker and Girl Scout Leader.

Don and Karen have three girls, Kristi, born in 1963; Karla, born in 1967; and Carrie, born in 1976.

The Sheffy family came to Dimmitt to establish Sheffy Western and Casual Wear, located on the square on SE 2nd St. They will celebrate their tenth year of business in September.

Since coming to Dimmitt, Don and Karen have both been active in the Harvest Days Follies since its inception in 1982. Don served on the Board of Directors for the Chamber of Commerce from 1984-1989. He is currently serving on the Committee for Economic Growth for the city. He has been a member of Kiwanis since 1981, serving as president in 1989 and being awarded the Kiwanian of the year for 1987-88. He was elected City Alderman in 1986.

Don and Karen and girls are members of First United Methodist Church, where Karen has served as a teacher and youth leader. She is Chairman of Education, a member of the Administrative Board and the Council on Ministries. Don sings in the church choir, and Karen is a mem-

ber of the Bell choir.

Kristi came to Dimmitt as a senior from Canyon High School. She was a member of the mile relay team at Canyon High which placed third at state in 1981. She was co-captain of the Dimmitt Bobbie basketball team which won district in 1981. She qualified for Regional in the 400 meter run and held the Bobcat Relay 400 meter run record time for several years. She was a member of the Bobcat Band, Interact Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Future Homemakers of America. She was also active in the United Methodist Youth Fellowship.

Kristi attended West Texas State University and was active in the Buffalo Belles, serving as president one year. She also attended Texas Tech, and was a member of the High Riders. She was active in the Institute of Business Designers student chapter, and served as president. She was the first undergraduate teaching assistant in Computer Aided Design. She received her bachelor's degree in interior design from Tech in May, 1990. She is living and working in Dallas, where she is a member of Lover's Lane United Methodist Church and an affiliate member of the Institute of Business Designers.

Karla came to Dimmitt as an 8th grader, and played basketball for three years. She was a member of the track team and played on the tennis team her senior year. She was a member of the Bobcat Band, and was in Key Club. She was elected Kiwanian Sweetheart in 1986. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Future Homemakers of America and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She was active in United Methodist Youth Fellowship and served as president one year. She also participated in the Methodist Youth puppet group.

Karla graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology in July, 1990. She was a member of Alpha Chi Omega social sorority and was a volunteer at the Rape Crisis Center. She is attending Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colo. She has done work at the Denver Inner City Parish and helps with the worship committee at Iliff.

Carrie has attended school in Dimmitt since she was 5 years old.

She participated in the Gifted and Talented program in fourth through seventh grades. She received a first place in UIL picture memory in the fifth grade, and a second place in UIL ready writing in sixth grade. She was elected class Student Senator in the seventh grade.

Carrie has been on the honor roll many times and has participated in basketball and track for two years. She was a participant in the 400 meter relay which placed first in District in the eighth grade. She will be a freshman this fall, and is also a member of the United Methodist Youth Fellowship.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1944

J. M. H Y D E N
Doctor of Optometry
106 W. 7th St.
Amarillo, Texas
For Appointment Phone 7723

RIO THEATRE

DIMMITT, TEXAS
Friday and Saturday
August 4-5
"FALSE COLORS"
Hopalong Cassidy, Andy Clyde,
Claudia Drake, Jimmie Rogers
"SWING FEVER"
SHORTS
"Fifth Col. Mouse"

Sun. Matinee and Night and Mon.
August 6-7
—Laughs For Everyone—
—SEE—
"MIRACLE OF MORGANS
CREEK"
Eddie Bracken, Betty Hutton, Di-
anna Lynn

NEWS
"Room And Board"
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
August 8-9-10
"DESTINATION TOKYO"
Cary Grant, John Garfield and
Alan Hale
SHORTS—
"Flop Goes A Weasel"

August 11-12
"DOUBLE FEATURE"
"SILVER CITY RAIDERS"
"KLONDIKE KATE"
COMEDY

Advertisement from March 27, 1952 issue of *Castro County News*.

FOR COMPLETE
INSURANCE COVERAGE

—SEE—

Harrison Insurance Agency

MAIL — FIRE — TORNADO — AUTOMOBILE
INSURANCE

Congratulations!
to all our
friends and
customers in
Castro County



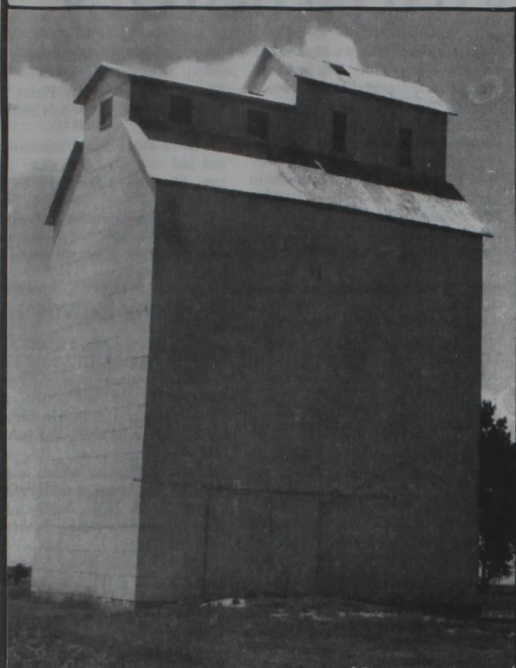
As you celebrate your 100th,
we celebrate our 50th year of electrifying
eastern rural Castro County.

We're proud to be a part of your history,
as well as friends and neighbors for 50 years.
Best wishes as you start the next century.

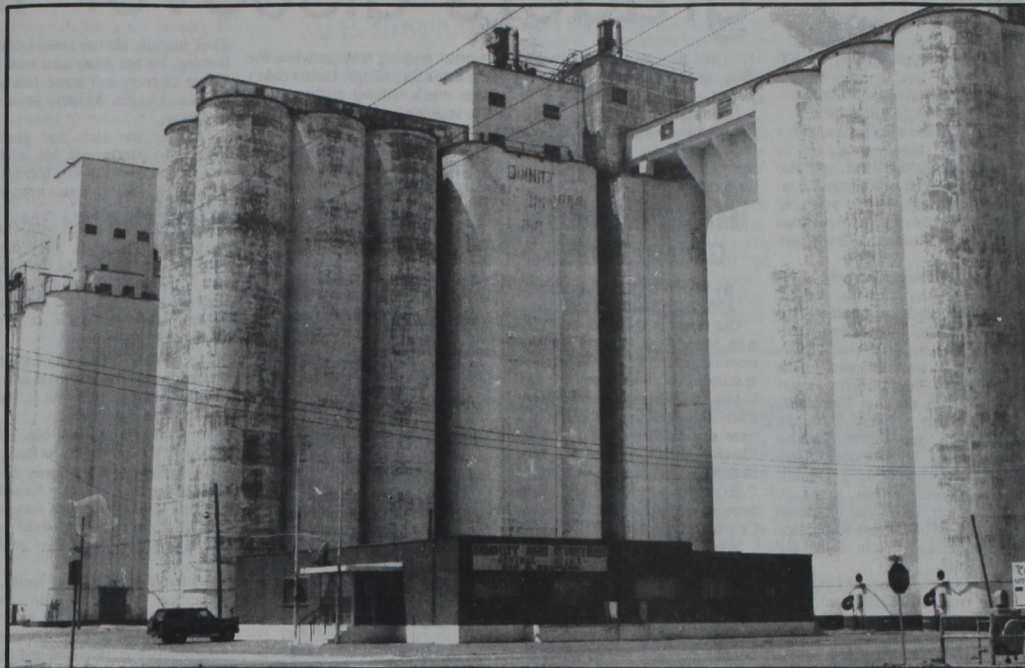


**Swisher Electric
Cooperative**
Tulia





Our Original Elevator



Our Present Main Facility

We're Ready for the Second Century

The State of Texas

The County of Castro

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENT,

that we, the undersigned, all resident citizens of Texas, and all engaged in the production of agriculture products, under and by virtue of the laws of this state, do voluntarily associate ourselves together for the purpose of forming a cooperative association under the provisions of the laws relative to cooperative associations.

P. H. Dyer
J. G. Bingswanger
E. B. Wright
O. C. Axtell
M. H. Fowlkes

Signed on the 21st day of March, 1934

This is how Dimmitt Agri Industries, Inc., was started more than 57 years ago.

The new cooperative, named Dimmitt Wheat Growers, was chartered with an authorized capital stock of \$20,000, and bought the wood-frame elevator that had been built here by the Oklahoma Wheat Pool, which had failed during the Depression.

At that time, wheat brought 20 cents per bushel and averaged 14 bushels per acre (dryland, of course).

Our first concrete elevator was built in 1943-44, with Italian prisoners from the Hereford POW Camp providing part of the construction crew.

With the advent of irrigation in the late '40s and early '50s, our cooperative experienced rapid expansion. We built a second concrete elevator in 1951, a new office and warehouse in 1954, the No. 3 elevator in 1956 and the west annex in 1958.

The 1960s saw the construction of major feedlots in the area and the emergence of grain sorghum as the major crop. Our cooperative responded to the new market challenge, purchasing the Dimmitt Gin & Elevator Co. in 1961 and building receiving points at Nazareth, north of Dimmitt, at Tam Anne and at Flagg.

It was our cooperative that initiated the huge corn milling plant that is now American Fructose-Dimmitt, Inc. At the time we built the original plant, we also changed the cooperative's name to Dimmitt Agri Industries, Inc.

Construction of the "starch plant" here made corn the county's major crop, and created new challenges. We purchased the largest corn dryer in the world, and continued to add to our drying capacity until today we have the largest drying capacity on the Texas High Plains.

As our volume exceeded our capacity, we purchased more facilities as the opportunities arose—the W&C Grain Co. facility in 1979 and Castro County Grain Co. in 1985. This year we leased the elevator facilities of Bruegel & Sons, Inc. And in 1990, we built a large new receiving facility at Hart.

Today, Dimmitt Agri Industries, Inc., is one of the largest grain cooperatives in Texas, with a capacity of 12,300,000 bushels.

This has all been accomplished because of the loyalty and support of our farmer-members of this area. We are proud to be a part of the agriculture industry that employs millions and has the awesome task of feeding the nation and a big part of the world.

Dimmitt Agri Industries, Inc., looks to the future with the same dedication and determination that enabled our cooperative to grow and change with the ever-changing needs of the American farmer.

After playing such a major role in Castro County's first century, we're ready for its second one.



Dimmitt Agri Industries, Inc.

H.J. Clark, President
Rex Lust, Vice President
Thomas S. Martin, Secretary

Luke Acker, Director
Mack Steffey, Director
Randy Bills, Director

David Behrends, Director
Ricky Mitchell, Associate Director
Robert Boozer, Associate Director

Dale Brockman, Associate Director
Bill Clark, General Manager

Third graders discover 'living history'

Because Castro County is 100 years old this year, a group of third grade students decided to do something special in Social Studies.

The students became interested in learning about growing up in Castro County first-hand, and also in learning about how Castro County had changed over the years, so they decided to conduct personal interviews and write an Oral History Book.

They "appreciate the help of resource people, because without their help and cooperation, the book would never have been possible."

The book was dedicated to the individuals the students interviewed. They are Lon Woodburn, Dent Bradley, Hubert Edwards, J.R. Brown, Sue Merritt, Daphne Montgomery, M.B. Odom, Mary Edna Hendrix, Geneva Dennis, Teeny Bowden, Chet Braafladt, John Merritt, Hazel and Ivor Bagwell, G.L. Willis, Allan Webb, Bettye Huckabay, Carole Dyer and Helen Kuntz.

Here are the stories the students wrote from their individual interviews.

Allan Webb

By RANDY PORTER
AND DANIEL SALAZAR

We interviewed Mr. Allan Webb for our chapter in the class project. He is an interesting person.

Did you know that he was a pilot in World War II?

Allan Webb was born in Castro County, 10 miles south of Dimmitt in the year 1920, so he's been here all his life!

He went to school in the first school house in the first grade. His father didn't have a car, so Allan walked to school. Sometimes he would go to sleep on the concrete floor.

Allan was a pilot in World War II. He flew over India and China. Sometimes he was afraid when he was flying in the war, but he never had an accident. He has been flying for 47 years. Flying the Himalaya Mountains in bad weather is the most dangerous thing he has ever done.

Allan Webb and his wife, Peggy, have been married for 46 years. They have three children and eight grandchildren. Two of their children live here and one lives in Lubbock.

We were glad to meet Mr. Webb and hear some interesting facts about his life.

M/M Ivor Bagwell

By CHRISTIE BRYAN
AND HEATHER JETER

For our report, we interviewed Ivor and Hazel Bagwell.

Mr. Bagwell was born in Oklahoma. He had five sisters and four brothers when he was little. His high school was a one-room schoolhouse in Floydada. His hobby was hunting jack rabbits. He was a farmer before he moved to Dimmitt. He moved here in 1928. He is 78 years old now.

Mrs. Bagwell was born on April 13, 1912. She had four sisters, but no brothers. When she was little, she had two cats and one dog. She is 78 years old now. Her hobby is craftwork.

Mr. and Mrs. Bagwell married in

1933 and they love Castro County. They have lived in town for 25 years.

Doing this interview was lots of fun because we got to go and visit the Bagwells at their house. We were glad to do an interview with them.

Mary Edna Hendrix Geneva Dennis

By MONICA GALLEGOS
AND BRENDA ESPINOSA

Our report is about our interview with Mary Edna Hendrix and Geneva Dennis. We interviewed them at school in our workroom.

Mrs. Hendrix had one sister when she grew up. She did not have any brothers. She was born March 4, 1918. We first met Mrs. Hendrix when our class went to the Castro County Museum. She works there in the afternoons. She loves Castro County a lot.

When Mrs. Dennis came to Castro County, Dimmitt was a very small town. There were no streets in town. The sand storms were really terrible in those days. She has lived here for 66 years. Mrs. Dennis' husband helped build the swimming pool at Middle School.

Both Mrs. Hendrix and Mrs. Dennis say that Castro County is special to them. The most special thing about it is the people. The people here are good, kind and love each other. Things wouldn't be like that if we lived somewhere else, probably.

John Merritt

By MARTIN CARDENAS
AND ANTHONY FUENTES

A longtime Castro County resident, Mr. John Merritt, is very smart. We learned a lot from him.

Mr. Merritt told us that when he was a little boy, nobody had refrigerators. They only had ice boxes.

When it rained hard on the side of the house, there was a steady stream for the cows to drink.

In school, the students had ink pencils. Every time they used it, they had to dip the pencil in the ink and write. At his school back then, they had no school equipment. Their playground was empty, so he and his friends would play "Badman."

Mr. Merritt said that they had a lake, but it was a long ways off. They had a big swimming pool. It was made of metal. It's the kind that cows drink from. (They are big. Very Big) We would call it a stock tank.

Mr. Merritt has lived in Castro County with his family for a long time. he is a rancher and a farmer.

Carole Dyer

By KATIE SIMMONS
AND PATTIE GEORGE

Our classes are writing an oral history book about Castro County residents and we interviewed Carole Dyer.

Carole's parents homesteaded in Texas. She was born in Springlake during May in 1924. She went to college when she was 17 years old in Lubbock at Texas Tech.

Things are very different growing up now. Carole had barely

started wearing makeup when she left home for college. Ladies didn't wear much makeup in those days. She is going back for her 50th-year class reunion this year. "Doesn't seem possible," she said.

Carole's maiden name was Cleavinger. Her family owned the John Deere dealership here, and were very active in community activities. Her father served on the hospital board.

Carole grew up in Castro County. She has three brothers and two sisters. She told us that during the 1930s that the sand storms were so bad that the farmers would have to dig their plows out from in under the dirt before they could work in the fields.

After college, Carole taught school. She loved teaching. She said that there used to be just one school in Dimmitt.

Carole has five children, a boy and four girls. She goes to the Methodist Church and she is a widow.

She loves living in Castro County because of the people.

Dent Bradley

By DESTON MILLER
AND LARRY CORDERO

Our research report is about Mr. Dent Bradley. He told us about being a little boy and growing up in Castro County.

he said that the churches weren't very big, just country churches. The people traveled to them in wagons and buggies pulled by horses.

"When I was a little boy your age, I would be in plays and sing school songs. I didn't ever drive a wagon until I was older," Mr. Bradley told us.

He and his two sisters had lots of chores. They had to gather eggs, feed the cows and pigs, and many other things. They raised gardens. They made their living that way.

Mr. Bradley said that they didn't have water in the house when he was little. They had to carry water inside from the well in buckets. They didn't take baths as often as we do today.

Mr. Bradley's folks moved him out here when he was four years old in a covered wagon. You cannot imagine how it was to live in a covered wagon! It took almost a week to go only 200 miles.

When the Bradley family moved to this country, there were no houses or fences like we see today. They had to live in a tent until there was a house. The land was not "broke out."

"We had to break out the land with horses," he said. That was really hard work.

Mr. Bradley was born on the Fourth of July. Sometimes he had to walk to school. Things were really different back then.

G.L. Willis

By ISRAEL RAMIREZ
AND SERJIO NAVARRO

We interviewed Mr. G.L. Willis for our class project. He is a very interesting man and he said that we were glad for us to interview him.

Mr. Willis was born March 5, 1918, in Hereford, Texas. He was named after his father, G.L. Willis Sr.

Mr. Willis has lived in Hereford

all of his life. He has always liked farming. He has some land here in Castro County, and some ranches in New Mexico. Mostly, he is a cattleman.

The day our class had guests come to be interviewed, Mr. Willis saw a good friend of his, Mr. John Merritt. Mr. Merritt is also a farmer and runs cattle.

Mr. Willis married his wife, Ouida, on June 3, 1938. They have three daughters and all of them live here in Dimmitt. Their names are Sharri Bradley, Jan Baca and Kay Rogers, and Mr. Willis is very proud of all of them.

Mrs. Willis' father, Clarence O. Byrnes, owned the first grain elevator in Dimmitt, the old Castro County Grain Company.

We learned a lot from Mr. Willis. Doing the interview was fun.

penny would last a long time. You could buy a stack of candy for only one cent. Her family made some of their toys and bought some of them. For five pennies, they could buy a sack.

Her family lived in a big house. Daphne picked cotton and chopped cotton. Her father hauled cotton in a wagon. In those days, farmers raised more cotton and less corn and maize. Daphne's father took the cotton to a gin not far from where her family lived. A gin is a place where cotton is separated from its seeds.

Daphne's family raised cows, turkeys and hogs. They had outdoor plumbing. They had flower gardens and vegetable gardens.

The first time she went to town she was four or five years old. She started school at the age of seven and she graduated high school when she was 17. There were 11 people in her family. Back then, the girls did not wear makeup until they were about 15. They used material to make ribbons for their hair and to wear on their dresses.

They had no electricity and their school was only two rooms. There were only two teachers. One teacher taught from beginners to fourth grade and the other one taught from the fifth grade to the 10th. Her favorite teacher was Mr. Blackwin.

In high school they switched classes and had a different teacher for each subject. They had programs and plays. They did not have

"Open House" like we have at our school today. Only the students' parents were invited to school programs.

Daphne's favorite hobbies were reading and sewing. They had sewing machines back then, and they did not have to go to the stream to get their water. They had water that came out of the faucet in town.

For a long time, they did not have many doctors. When somebody got sick, the doctor had to go to their house. They lived in Spur, Texas, in Dickens County. They had ropes, but they did not have T.V.s. They had rugs instead of carpet. Her first car was blue. They played ball for fun and they had each other to be with. They had books when Daphne was little, just like we have today.

We were very glad that we got to meet Daphne. She said she felt fine about being part of our book and we had fun interviewing this nice lady.

M.B. Odom

By MOSES LUGO
AND SHAWN PARSONS

Our classes are writing an oral history book of Castro County. We interviewed Mr. M.B. Odom.

Mr. Odom is 75 years old. He came to Castro County in 1941. That was 50 years ago!

His dad's name was M. Odom and he died in 1935.

M.B. and his wife have four boys and one girl. His oldest is 50 years old and was born in 1941. His youngest boy is 30 years old and was born in 1960. They all went to school here and they all graduated from Dimmitt High School.

M.B. does not need a job. He likes to read. He thinks reading is his hobby.

He grew up in Oklahoma. Castro County is special to him because it's like home.

Mr. Odom likes to sing, but he does not think he knows how very well. He weighs 145 pounds and is 5 feet eight inches tall.

The Odoms' grandson was in Saudi Arabia. His name is Kevin.

Mr. Odom moved to Castro County when he was 30 years old. He lives here and raises a few calves.

In Oklahoma, M.B. went to school with the Indians. His first teacher's name was Mrs. Heart.

He went to three schools and that was all.

M.B.'s mom was a homemaker and had seven children older than him. She had to take care of the family.

M.B. also went to school in Washington, D.C. He stopped going to school in the 9th grade. He is retired now.

Teeny Bowden

By STEPHANIE FLORES
AND LAURA HERRERA

We interviewed Mrs. Teeny Bowden for our part of the class project. As a child, her favorite hobbies were baseball and basketball.

She started school when she was seven in Stephens County, down in Central Texas. Now, she lives in a little community called Sunnyside in Castro County.

Mrs. Bowden loves living in Sunnyside. It is 14 miles south of Dimmitt on Highway 385.

Mrs. Bowden had one sister, Verba. She had two brothers. Their names were Alton and Leslie. Her dad's name was Earnest and her mother's name was Nora.

The family lived in a white house with blue stripes. They grew their own vegetables and had lots of chores to do. They had to ride the horses after the cows.

She went to Sunnyside Schools in 1930.

She is glad that she lives in Castro County and we are glad that we got to interview her. She is a nice lady.

Bettye Huckabay

By FELICIA SANCHEZ
AND YESENIA LOPEZ

Betty Huckabay has lived in Castro County for more than 20 years. Her husband died a few years ago.

Bettye's family lived near Flagg when she was a little girl and her father was a farmer.

She had her own horse. They didn't have a T.V. back then. They only had radios. They had a differ-

(Continued on Page 5)

Our Living History



Our 63 residents represent a total of more than 4,790 years' worth of experience and personal history, much of it crucial to the development of Castro County, and we're proud to say

HAPPY 100th ANNIVERSARY CASTRO COUNTY!

We're also proud to serve our residents and the community, having been in operation in Dimmitt under various names and management companies since 1973, when the home opened as South Hills Manor, under the ownership of Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Justice.

The current management company, Texas Health Enterprises, has continued the tradition of a caring and stimulating environment for our residents.

Come out anytime and get to know some of our "living history" right here at

Canterbury Villa

1621 Butler Blvd.

647-3117



CONGRATULATIONS to Castro County for your CENTENNIAL YEAR!



J.C. Rawlings began serving the insurance needs of Castro County in 1936, and we are proud to continue that tradition of service as Jones-Rawlings Insurance Agency, with Carolyn Jones, agent.

Jones-Rawlings Insurance Agency

121 E. Bedford

647-5244

Third graders discover 'living history'

(Continued from Page 4)

ent kind of soap that they made themselves. She and her brother, Norman, had a lot of chores to do.

Bettye told us that they had built three courthouses here. One of them was burned down. The second one was torn down and the third one we have right now.

Bettye and her husband, Bob, had an abstract business in Dimmitt. Huckabay Abstract was begun in 1961. Jack Edwards bought the business from her in 1980 after Bob died.

Bettye has three children, and they all live in Lubbock.

She used to have a parakeet named "Bird" that talked all the time, but she gave it to her granddaughter.

Bettye grew up during the Depression. She still does not like chocolate pie to this day, because that was the only kind of dessert her family could afford when she was little.

They had enough money to buy cocoa and sugar, and the rest of the ingredients were always on hand.

We had a good time at school that day getting to know Mrs. Huckabay.

Sue Merritt

By EDITH FULLER AND BRENDA LEAL

We interviewed Mrs. Sue Merritt at our school. She is 64 years old and has lived in Castro County all of her life. She was born in Dimmitt and her birthday is in May.

When Mrs. Merritt was little, there was just one school here and that was Middle School. There was no kindergarten or first grade.

Mrs. Merritt's parents are not living, but if they were, they would be in their 90s.

Sue Merritt and her husband, John, have four children. They have two daughters and two sons. Only one of their children lives here, though. Lint Merritt, the oldest one, and his family live in Dimmitt. His wife, Connie, is a third grade teacher in our school.

Mrs. Merritt went to college in Canyon at West Texas State University and she majored in speech. She was a member of Chi Omega Sorority.

Mr. and Mrs. Merritt married in 1948. They have lived here ever since.

Lon Woodburn

By JIMMY MOSS

This is the story of Lon Woodburn. I interviewed him for our class project.

Lon was born in 1915 one mile northwest of Dimmitt. He started irrigation farming in 1953.

Lon and his wife, Mary, started married life dryland farming for two years on Lon's home place.

Lon's first memory about Dimmitt is at the annual picnic. There was a stock tank filled with ice and red soda pop and this man gave Lon a drink of it.

Lon Woodburn started school in 1922 and graduated in 1933. The school was small in those days. Lon's first teacher was Miss Walden.

One time Lon remembers is this deal where you chase rabbits into a little star-shaped gate and let them go. Letting them go doesn't seem fun.

Mr. Woodburn was nice to come to our school to be interviewed. His wife came with him, also.

Helen Kuntz

By FELICIA SANCHEZ AND YESENIA LOPEZ

Our classes are doing an oral history book about Castro County residents. We interviewed Helen Kuntz.

Helen lived on a farm near Flagg when she was a little girl. The house was not very big and it did not have a bathroom on the inside. They did not have inside water, either. She moved here in 1932.

Helen has one brother. His name is Bob Anthony. He lives in Dimmitt.

Now, Helen lives a half-mile away from Flagg. Her neighbor lives one-half mile from her and the rest of her neighbors live east of her. Helen and her husband have a fertilizer business at Flagg.

Mrs. Kuntz told us that she has a horse that she loves a lot and its name is Lupe.

Helen Kuntz loves to live in Castro County. She loves it here

because of the good people. The people here are what make Castro County so special to her.

We are glad that we got to meet Helen Kuntz and interviewed her. She came to our school.

Daphne Montgomery

By IRONICA TRAYLOR AND ANGELA MONTIEL

For our chapter in the class history book, we interviewed Daphne Montgomery. She told us some interesting facts about herself.

When Daphne was a little girl, a

Chet Braafladt

By JESSICA MARTINEZ AND DEE ANN VERA

The Castro County resident that we interviewed for our class project is Mr. Chet Braafladt. We really liked interviewing this interesting man.

Mr. Braafladt was born in Chicago, Ill. His father was working in medical school when he was born. Chet was the oldest boy in his family.

Mr. Braafladt lived in China for a while. He belonged to the Boy Scouts when he lived there. He went to school in China, but he also went to school in England. He played rugby when he was in an English school. Rugby is a kind of football that is played with a round ball.

Mr. Braafladt met his wife, Helen, in San Francisco, Calif., while she was singing on the radio. Then, one day they met and had a big wedding.

Helen and Chet came to Castro County in 1962. He was 46 when they moved here. The Braafladts own a business named Braafladt Transport Company.

Mr. Braafladt and his wife have three children and eight grandchildren. They live in a two-story house. Two of their grandchildren are named Summer and Cassie McLean.

We are glad that we got to meet Mr. Braafladt. He came to our school and talked to us. We had fun. He even wrote his name for us in Chinese!

J.R. Brown

By JEFF STOVALL AND STEPHEN BAILEY

Mr. J.R. Brown was born in Hart. He has lived in Castro County for a long time.

As a child, Mr. Brown milked cows and helped with all the other farm chores. He had one sister and one brother. He and his sister had to ride a horse to school every morning.

Mr. Brown's father was the Castro County Sheriff. Once Mr. Brown got to go to Huntsville with his dad to take a prisoner to the State Penitentiary.

Mr. Brown's wife is a teacher in our school. They have lived here for a long time. The Browns have two children, Jill and Blake. They both live in Austin.

Hubert Edwards

By KYLE WOOD AND SHANE FURR

Our class is doing an oral history report and we interviewed Mr. Hubert Edwards.

Mr. Edwards was born in the year 1913, August eighth.

The first word he said was "Daddy."

He moved to Lynn County when he was three. He didn't move to Castro County until he was 43 years old. He had four brothers and three sisters. Their names were Lloyd, Ceile, Nola, Lillian, Carl, Joel and Estella. The first school he attended was a two-room schoolhouse and had only two teachers. As a child, his favorite hobby was playing "Hide and Seek."

Mr. Edwards is 78 years old today as we speak.

Mr. Edwards began his farming career when he was 10 years old.

He loves Castro County because of the good land, good people and good churches. He was real glad we thought to interview him.

That is the end of Kyle Wood's and Shane Furr's report.

Yvonne Wakefield

By GABRIEL AND VANESSA

Yvonne Wakefield was born in East Texas in the same house her

father had been born in. She started school in a four-room schoolhouse where all grades were taught.

Her first grade teacher, Miss Hampton, taught both First and Second Grades. They all read the Dick and Jane Series.

In the second grade, Mrs. Wakefield's family moved to Dennison so her father could work on the M.K.T. Railroad. Her aunt was her teacher in one-room schoolhouse. There was a pump outside the room where they could draw water for drinking and washing their hands.


In the third grade, Mrs. Wakefield's family moved to Maple,

Texas, because of her father's health. She attended Three Way School and graduated as valedictorian in 1953.

Then, she went to Wayland Baptist College and graduated in 1957. She went back for her Master's in 1982.

Mrs. Wakefield has lived in Dimmitt a very long time. She is a widow, but she raised her children here. She is a resource reading teacher in our school.

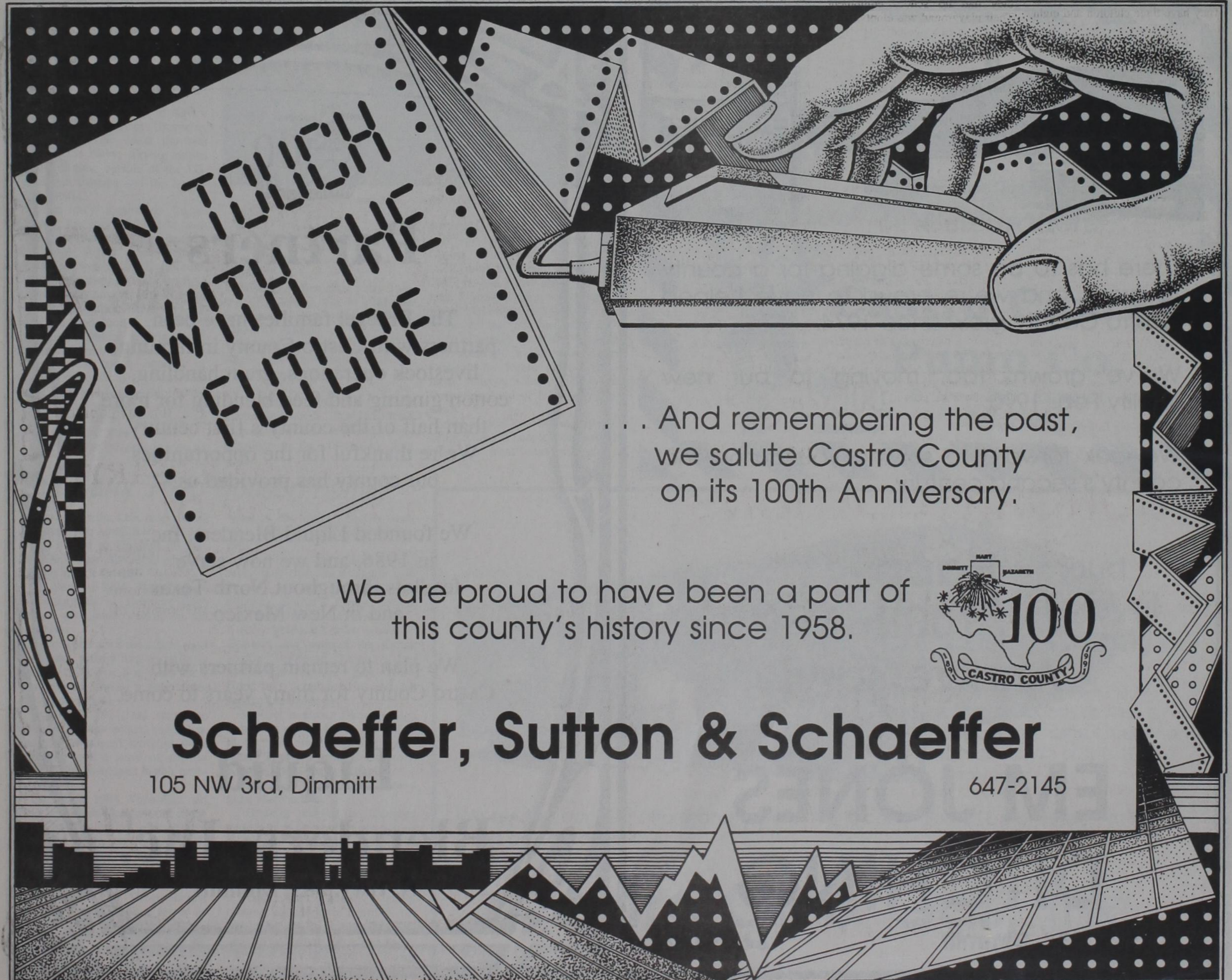
CENTENNIAL MOMENT: Girl basketball players known as the "Bobbies" went to the State Championship in 1931 and 1932.



HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY

We've enjoyed working with Castro County Farmers, helping them make a better profit through aerial spraying.

Dimmitt Aerial Spray



... And remembering the past, we salute Castro County on its 100th Anniversary.

We are proud to have been a part of this county's history since 1958.

Schaeffer, Sutton & Schaeffer

105 NW 3rd, Dimmitt 647-2145

William and Irene Dixon Family

William Stanfield Dixon, born Sept. 30, 1866, and Ellen Irene Chenault, born July 29, 1879, were married Oct. 12, 1889 in Brazos County, where they had grown up.

William (Will as he is better known) and Irene had five sons, Charles Pinkery, born in 1890 and died in infancy from whooping cough, Emmitt Orr, born Aug. 9, 1891, Clarence Wright, born Sept. 23, 1893, William Harvey, born Aug. 3, 1895, and Elmer, born Sept. 8, 1897, all in Brazos County; and Ollie Houston, born March 29, 1904 in Castro County.

Will and Irene started their lives together on a plot of land in Brazos County that he had cleared with a crosscut saw, axe, grubbing hoe, a horse and an ox that he yoked together to do the plowing. By tight living, hard work and saving, they had accumulated a little money, and after hearing stories about cheap land in the Panhandle, they decided Will would go out and see for himself the possibilities that were in that area of Texas.

In 1901 he loaded his wagon with a little bit of furniture, supplies, tools and his prize possession, his fiddle, which he would play any time a chance arrived.

Upon his arrival in Castro County he learned of 640 acres of land eight miles south and one mile west of Dimmitt that could be bought for \$1 an acre. He purchased the land from Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gallehan, and began the task of digging a dug-out, building a two-room house, and digging a water well for the family who would join him later.

The family arrived by train in Hereford in January, 1902. It was cold and snowing when they began their journey to the new home by wagon. There were many new and odd things for the boys to discover. There were coyotes, antelopes and mustangs roaming the prairie, but most unusual to them was the vast distance they could see in any direction.

The boys all attended school in a one-room school, and they didn't have grades—they'd just finish one book and start on the next one.

Will and the boys worked hard and soon had purchased a herd of cattle and sheep, which became



A FAMILY PORTRAIT—W.S. and Irene Dixon (seated) pose with their sons, Elmer, Emmitt, Harvey, Clarence and Ollie for a family portrait taken in 1912.

the younger boys' job, to herd them wherever there was water and grass. Irene always had a garden, so that kept them busy as well.

Whenever it came time to harvest, or help some one else, everyone would help. The men and boys labored in the fields or built a new family a home, and the women and girls would do the cooking and serving the meals, or tending to the sick or newborn babies.

Will always raised a large herd of sheep, and they had to be sheared each spring. After he had sheared his sheep, he'd go into other communities and shear. He got wages of five cents for each sheep he sheared.

Will used his "prize possession" to help him campaign for the office of Tax Assessor in 1906. He served Castro, Bailey and Lamb Counties for two terms.

The boys enjoyed riding their horses, playing baseball and swimming in the lakes.

The boys began to marry, Clarence first in 1915, then Emmitt in 1916. Harvey served in France during World War I, and married when he returned in 1920. On Aug.

8, 1920, Elmer married Mary E. Dodd, who had moved to Castro County in 1918 from Callahan County with her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Wagley.

Just before Elmer married, Will and Irene had purchased 320 acres in the Frio Community and built a five-room house there. Will farmed and raised cattle, and Irene made a garden, raised chickens, and had a beautiful rose garden.

The family was a close family, and twice a year everyone came in to help Irene celebrate her birthday and to help Will to celebrate his.

They had fourteen grandchildren, and it was a delight when the family began to reminisce about the "Good Old Days." One of the stories they enjoyed was when Elmer and Mary married, Will and Irene "look" their honeymoon. They had bought their first car just before the wedding, so Will and Irene went back to Brazos county to visit their families there. When they returned home, Elmer and Mary wouldn't move, so Will and Irene moved to Frio, leaving Elmer and Mary on the home place taking care of the sheep, cattle and

farm work.

They liked to remind their grandchildren that their Grandmother Irene had no use for a refrigerator, because there was nothing left on the platter when the five boys finished eating. Irene always washed on a rub board and used lye soap she had made.

Will and Irene attended church in the Frio school house, and whenever there was a revival or need for a baptismal service, everyone came to the Dixons' on Sunday afternoon because they had a large storage tank that could be used. On one such occasion, two older women were to be baptized, and the ice had to be broken and removed from the tank.

Will and Irene always had wonderful memories of neighbors and friends. They enjoyed fishing, so nearly every November until April they spent the winter on the Gulf of Mexico. Will loved to tell of Irene's love of fishing, saying if she ever got a nibble, she'd stay all day. One day she caught a fish that was longer than she was tall.

Will and Irene sold their farm and retired in 1945, moving to Dimmitt. He was a farmer at heart,

and hardly a day would go by that he didn't go to the farm to see if he could help Elmer. He never used a tractor during his farming days.

Will's health began to fail, and he passed away June 11, 1951. Irene continued to live in Dimmitt until her death, June 5, 1956. They were buried in Castro County Cemetery, and were members of the Baptist Church.

Elmer and Mary continued to live on the home place, raising their four daughters, Nancy Irene, Mary Elizabeth, Wilma Ruth and Peggy Ellen. Elmer sold the cattle and sheep, and broke out more of the land, also putting in irrigation wells.

They retired and moved to Dimmitt in March, 1973. Elmer passed away Aug. 30, 1980, and

Mary, on March 27, 1982. Mary was born May 3, 1898 in Paris, Texas, and they had one daughter, Wilma Ruth Harris, who preceded them in death July 14, 1980. Elmer and Mary also were Baptists, and were married in the Castro County Cemetery.

It has been about 90 years since Will and Irene made their first purchase in Castro County, and the land is still in the family. A granddaughter, Elizabeth Worthington, lives on the home place, and another granddaughter, Irene and her husband Weldon Bradley, live in Dimmitt. One of their sons, Lee and family, live in Sunnyside.

Castro County will always be "Home" to the Dixon families.

The Charles Hottel Family

The Charles Hottells lived in Dimmitt from July, 1958 until July, 1984. They were involved in community activities and were members of the Church of Christ family.

Charles was County Agricultural Agent for the Extension Service in Liberty and Beaumont before coming to Dimmitt. He received his B.S. degree from Oklahoma A&M (now OSU), and his master's degree from Texas A & M. He retired from the Extension Service in 1983.

Estella taught sixth grade in 1958-59, then homemaking in high school until she retired in May, 1984.

Julie June, their daughter, attended Rosetta Billingshausen Kindergarten and Dimmitt schools, graduating in 1971. She was active in 4-H, FHA and the band. She received her B.S. degree in Home Economics from Texas Tech in 1975.

She is catering director at the Metropolitan Club in Austin, and enjoys meeting interesting people at a variety of events.

Robert, their son, attended Lucky U Kindergarten and graduated from Dimmitt High School in 1984. He was active in 4-H, FFA, athletics, industrial arts and band. He received his B.S. degree in Agricultural Economics from OSU in 1988.

He taught American business-related classes in the OSU exchange program, in the College of Finance and Economics in Tianjin, China in 1988-89, returning home June 18 after the Tiananmen Square massacre. He completed an International M.B.A. at OCU in Oklahoma City in 1990.

He reported to work June 5 as agricultural analyst at American Institute of Taiwan, in Taipei, Taiwan. In March and April he worked at OCU with the spring Soviet Aviation Industry Executive Management Program

Now living in Davis, Okla., Charles stays busy ("almost as busy as a county agent") with cattle, hay and community work, etc. Estella stays busy ("almost as busy as a home economics teacher") canning and freezing fruits and vegetables and community work. They are members of the East Main Church of Christ in Davis.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT: The Dimmitt Lions Club, after being formed in 1930, was the only service organization in Dimmitt for many years. While meeting its responsibilities as a service club, it also functioned as the Chamber of Commerce.



There has to be some digging for a county to grow, and we're proud to have helped Castro County grow since 1974.

We've grown, too, moving to our new facility Feb. 1990.

We look forward to serving you during the county's second century.

Happy
100th
Anniversary!

**EM JONES
DITCHING**

N. Hwy. 385, Dimmitt

647-5442



Partners

The Bruegel families have been partners with Castro County in farming, livestock operations, grain handling, cotton ginning and feed blending for more than half of the county's first century. We're thankful for the opportunities our county has provided us.

We founded Liquid Blenders, Inc., in 1986, and we now serve feedlots throughout North Texas and in New Mexico.

We plan to remain partners with Castro County for many years to come.

**Liquid
Blenders, Inc.**

N. Hwy. 385, Dimmitt

Hazel Merritt tells her story

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This was probably written in 1967. In 1968, Hazel Merritt was honored as Citizen of the Year, and was specially cited for her efforts as chairman of the Castro County Diamond Jubilee.)

By HAZEL MERRITT
 Hazel Merritt was born Nov. 18, 1909, and died March 7, 1974.

I, Hazel Merritt, am a native of Castro County, the oldest of nine children, seven of whom are still living and have a talent for acquiring all sorts of non-paying jobs.

My maternal grandparents, James Franklin and Sarah Ann Sweazea, were pioneer residents of Castro County. My mother, Dell Sweazea, homesteaded a claim in Quay County, N.M., before her marriage to my father, Lint Merritt, also a pioneer of Castro County.

I received my early education by riding horseback to Killough, Mulkey, and Hart schools and attended West Texas State College (University, now) High School for two years, receiving my high school diploma in 1928. I received a B.S. degree from West Texas State College in 1933.

Being unable to find a teaching job because of large numbers of people with experience available during the Depression, and because of my mother's failing health, I helped out at home with housework, gardening, canning, etc., from 1933 until 1942.



Hazel Merritt

I worked in home demonstration work and was elected chairman of Castro County Home Demonstration Council in 1941 and 1942.

With the United States' entry into World War II, and the resulting shortage of teachers, I was

asked by Supt. R.A. McCollum to teach in the Dimmitt schools in the fall of 1942. I taught social studies, American history, world history, world geography, civics, economics and Texas history from the fall of 1942 through the school year 1954-55. Some of my leadership

jobs undertaken while teaching included class sponsorships, sponsor of the National Honor Society, Future Teachers of America, Pep Squad, and possibly others. One year I served as county representative to the Area Council of the Texas State Teachers' Association, another year as secretary to the Area Council of Social Studies. I also served as vice-president of the local Parent-Teachers' Association.

I was invited to become a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, an honorary society of women teachers, in 1947, accepted, and continue active membership.

For better than 20 years, Dimmitt had a Business and Professional Women's Chapter. I served as president on two occasions, and in various other official positions, and was elected Area Director for 1948-49, and 1949-50.

I retired from teaching in 1955 because of a problem with hypertension. I have since made my living by operating a stock farm inherited from my parents.

Since 1955, I have served two two-year terms as president of the Dimmitt Book Club, one two-year term as president of the Delta Xi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, a two-year term as president of the Dimmitt Chapter of the American Field Service (a foreign exchange student program and the cheapest ambassadorial program in our country), four and a half years as chairman of the Castro County Library Board, which I was instrumental in organizing, and continue to represent Precinct I on the Castro County Library Board.

I am a representative of the Hart community on the Castro County Activities Committee, an organization to promote the county and sponsor Roundup Week in August of each year. In 1966, I acted as pageant chairman of "From Prairie to Paradise," presented in three performances during the celebration of Castro County's Diamond Jubilee.

If this sounds as if I'm about worn out, you're right, I am.

Get "Fire-King"
CUP AND SAUCER
 IN MOTHER'S OATS
 Beautiful "Azur-ite" Blue Glassware
 by Anchor Hocking

Inside every big square package of Mother's Oats you get a valuable, useful premium. Actually a *double* value because money can't buy a finer quality, more delicious, more nourishing oatmeal than Mother's Oats!

Start now to give your family this good, hot, creamy-smooth oatmeal every morning. And get famous "Fire-King" Cups and Saucers, or Aluminum Ware, "Wild Rose" pattern China, or Carnival Ware. Buy Mother's Oats today!

MOTHER'S OATS—a product of THE QUAKER OATS COMPANY

We're proud to be a part of Castro County and we're excited about the celebrations for the Centennial Year!

Don and Shirley Cornett, Owners
 Roger Underwood, Rose Crispin and Rachel Vigil

Corner Place Package Store and Corner Place Barn
 301 E. Bedford, Dimmitt
 647-4222

The Russel A. Moran Family

In 1950, Russel A. and Myrtle Lois Moran moved to Castro County from Mineral Wells, where he had been serving as county attorney for Palo Pinto County.

Russel was born and lived in Parker and Palo Pinto Counties, the son of a farmer-stockman and a country school teacher.

He and Myrtle Lois met at Weatherford Junior College and married several years later in Lorenzo after World War II ended. Myrtle Lois' parents were early pioneers in Crosby County and she grew up in Lorenzo.

Myrtle Lois graduated from Texas Tech with a degree from the school of home economics and she taught home ec at Perryton High School for several years.

Russel was a graduate of Baylor University and Baylor University Law School. He spent the war years in the Navy, serving almost all of his time outside of the US, usually in Panama and the Southwest Pacific.

When they moved to Castro County, the Morans brought with them their daughter, Mary Patricia, and a son, Robert Scott, both of whom followed their father through Baylor University and into the field of law. Pat is now an official court reporter for Fulton County in Atlanta, Ga., and Scott is a practicing attorney in Dallas, working with the firm of Buford and Ryburn.

Russel was county attorney of Castro County from 1952 to 1960. In 1958, he and Jack Miller formed a partnership and the law firm of Moran and Miller, which was an active firm until 1981.

Scott married Sharon Horton of



Mr. and Mrs. Russel A. Moran

Dallas in 1975 and they have three children including Jacob Claybourne, Allison Huldah and Angela Carol.

Pat married Benjamin Perry Tanner III in Atlanta, Ga. in 1988 and they have a son, Benjamin Perry Tanner IV (Jamin).

The Morans have enjoyed seeing much of the growth and progress of Dimmitt and Castro County and have worshipped with and been active members of the First United Methodist Church. They have tried to be good citizens and make contributions to the community they

are proud to call home.

From the first time Russel saw Castro County and Dimmitt in 1949, until his death on Oct. 26, 1986, he had a love affair with the area. Upon returning home from a trip to other parts of Texas or other states in the US, or even trips halfway around the world, when he was about 40 to 50 miles from Dimmitt he would always comment, "I haven't seen a place that looks this good or is this productive."

And it was one of his greatest delights to tell people that "we are citizens of West Texas by choice."

We're pumped up and ready for the Centennial Celebration!

Castro County Pump Co.
 S. Hwy. 385, Dimmitt
 647-5404

The Harry Theo Dodson Family

Theo, his wife, Lela Jane (Janie) and their two sons, Jerry and Michael, moved to Dimmitt on July 26, 1966, from Antelope, which is located in Jack County.

On Aug. 1, 1966, Theo became the custodian at Dimmitt High School and Janie worked in the cafeteria.

Theo worked for the school until his health caused him to retire in August 1979. For five years Janie worked with him as a lady custodian in the school.

In August 1977, she started to operate the high school snack bar, and she continued working there until she took a leave of absence when Theo developed health problems.

On July 4, 1984, Theo died and Lela Jane went back to work in the snack bar, continuing to work there until her retirement on Jan. 31, 1990. She had served the school for 24 years.

The Dodsons are Baptists and Janie attends Lee Street Baptist Church in Dimmitt. Theo served as a deacon when he was alive.

Janie's hobby is quilting and her goal this year (1991) is to make her 100th quilt in four years' time.

Most of the quilts she has made were made for her friends in Dimmitt.

When the couple moved to Dimmitt, they left their eldest son, Jimmy, and his wife and three children, Barbara, Cindy, Marvin and Jaime, in Wichita Falls.

Jerry graduated from school in Dimmitt and married the former Evelyn Taylor of Dimmitt. They have four children, Lisa, Amy, Clint and Jennifer. He and his family live in Happy.

Michael is also a Dimmitt High School graduate. He is married to the former Teresa Tindell of Spearman. They have one daughter, Kristan, who lives in Arlington.

Janie said Dimmitt has been a great place to live.

"Dimmitt people, the churches and civic clubs were so good to us during the time Theo was on the dialysis machine and we were forced to go to Amarillo every other day until his death."

Today, Janie is the only family member still living in Dimmitt, but she calls the town her home and although she may leave here someday, she says she "will go loving each of you."

YES . . . We're proud to be a part of Castro County!

We want to extend our congratulations to the people of Castro County on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary.

We pledge our best efforts and experience in continuing to be of service to the "Folks of Castro County."

Castro Oil & Gas, Inc.
 500 E. Bedford, Dimmitt
 647-5174



Read

Locally Owned . . .

Dimmitt Thriftway Supermarket is a direct descendant of Wilson's Grocery, which was founded in the 1930s.

Raymond Wilson (later to become county judge) opened Wilson's Grocery in the building where the Castro County News is now located. In 1957 he built a new facility and opened Wilson's Super Market in the building that is now the Castro County Senior Citizens Center.

When Mr. Wilson retired from the grocery business, a group of local men bought the store and renamed it Bob's Super Save.

Walt Hansen, who had been in the grocery business in Hart many years, bought the store in 1970 and renamed it Dimmitt Super Market.

In 1976, Walt built the present store at 103 W. Belsher. With twice the floor space, the new store was designed to suit shoppers' habits and preferences as determined by nationwide market surveys.

Later, Dimmitt Super Market joined the Thriftway affiliation of independent stores to provide better prices on brand-name products through group purchasing. That's when the store became Dimmitt Thriftway Supermarket.



THRIFTWAY

Ready? Set? Celebrate!



... Locally Committed

In 1987, Walt bought out the other major food store in Dimmitt, Taylor & Sons, at 600 N. Broadway, first naming it Dimmitt Market, then changing it to IGA Foodliner when the store affiliated with the Independent Grocers Association for large-volume purchasing power.

The store was completely remodeled from the floor up, and now competes with its sister store, offering competing brands of quality products.

Both stores also compete successfully with all the large grocery chains in the region, and offer additional benefits you won't find at a chain store. For instance, Thriftway continues to offer delivery service for shut-ins.

With a staff of 35 at Thriftway and 22 at IGA Foodliner, our stores are locally owned and locally committed. Our people volunteer their time in many ways to benefit our community and our county.

For most of Castro County's first century, our residents have enjoyed the convenience of having a locally owned, independent store nearby that is responsive to their needs.

We plan to continue this tradition of service into the county's second century.

From all of us at Thriftway and IGA Foodliner — Happy 100th Birthday, Castro County!



IGA Foodliner

The P.M. Adams Family

Pearl McClain Adams married Eula Sheehan in southwest Oklahoma in 1907. Nine children were born to this union: six sons — Jephtha, R.C., Elza, Harley, Jewel and Carl; and three daughters — Mary (Bryan), Virgie (Moulton) and Jean (Kasher).

When Mr. and Mrs. Adams relocated in Castro County in 1938, five of the children were married and gone from home. With World War II coming on, the three younger sons, went into service. By then Harley and Jewel had married.

Jewel was wounded two different times while serving in Italy. With the second injury, he received a medical discharge and returned to his home in Stratford.

Harley served in Alaska and Carl, who later decided on a career in the service, served in Germany.

Later, Carl married a German girl, Tina. They were parents of two sons. When the boys were quite young, five- and six-years old, Carl died in Vietnam.

His family continued to live in San Antonio, where they were living at the time he left for Vietnam.

Carl served as a medic in the Brook Army Hospital and wherever he was stationed.

The Adams' eldest son, Jephtha married Rachel Venable in Oklahoma. They raised their family — five sons and one daughter — mostly in Monte Vista, Colo.

R.C. married Edith Potter in Oklahoma and Elza married Edith's sister Claribel. Both raised their family in Dimmitt. R.C. and Edith's children were Jack "Moose," Blake "Snake," Dwain "C.D.," Georgia Ann (Walthall) Derrick and Sandra Sims.

Elza and Claribel's children were David "Bullet," Bobby "Cobb," Jimmy, Eddie and Johnny.

Of the two families — R.C.'s and Elza's — one son, Eddie lives in Dimmitt with his wife Cindy and son Lyson. One of Bobby's daughters, Sha Marie Ebeling lives with her husband Kenny and two children, just a few miles out of Dim-



P.M. ADAMS FAMILY — The Adams family assemble for a family photograph at the 1947 family reunion in Kerrick. On the back row: Japhtha, R.C., Elza, Harley, Jewel and Carl. Middle Row: Jean (Kasher), Virgie (Moulton), Mary (Bryan). Front row: Pearl and Eula Adams

mitt. Her sister Raneta married Billy Patton of Dimmitt. They have one son and live in Houston.

Harley married Annie Schrayner and they had two sons, Jerry and Claude. When the boys were three and five years old, Harley and Annie died in an accident in Denver, Colo. The grandparents adopted the boys and Dimmitt was their home, making a total of 11 children for Mr. and Mrs. Adams to raise.

Jewel married Ruth Blake of Stratford. They were parents of a daughter and son.

Their eldest daughter Mary married Ott Bryan in Oklahoma. They had five children and at one time they lived in Dimmitt, and in later years in Hereford, after living in

Stratford and Dumas.

The youngest daughter, Eula Jean, married Art Kasher. They were parents of three children after he retired from the Air Force, he worked in air traffic control, then moved to Dimmitt and lived until 1980, then moved on to Amarillo where he recently retired from the Potter County Sheriff's Department. Their children were Tony, Mike and Kathy Shugart.

Virgie married Fred Moulton of Kerrick and they had one son Raymond O'Neil. Fred went into the service and after training, he served in Japan. After his discharge in 1946, he returned to Dimmitt, where Virgie and O'Neil were living. He was employed some years for the Bearden Tractor Co., then

after several years, with Killingsworth Construction. He served the city as police officer about 15 years. Fred died in 1982. Virgie retired from the school cafeteria.

Jerry married Madelene Reesing of Stratford and they have one son, and make their in Lubbock. Claude and his wife Lauren (Moulton) have four children and live in Alabama. Lauren was one of Fred's nieces.

Claude works in the food department for the schools in the county in which he lives. Jerry works for the Human Resources.

Eula and Pearl died in 1967. They were members of the Church of Christ. Of the six sons and three daughters born to them, only two daughters survive: Jean and Virgie.

Virgie Moulton

Old-fashioned home cooking is what we do best and we're glad to have been serving you since August of 1990.

We want to cook up a bunch of good wishes for Castro County's 100th Birthday, too.

Grandma's Kitchen

608 South US 385



Elsie Bever & Levi Reynolds, Partners

647-5413



The John Merritt Family ... During wedding ceremony

The John Merritt Family

John and Sue Merritt both were born and grew up in Castro County. Lint and Dell Merritt, John's parents, came to the county around 1900.

Sue's parents were Ray and Pearle Sheffy. They came to Dimmitt around 1920. At the time of their marriage he was Castro County Judge. Mrs. Sheffy started Dimmitt's first kindergarten.

John was in the Army Air Force from 1942 to 1946. Sue attended college from 1943 to 1947, obtaining a B.S. degree from West Texas State Teachers College.

John came home to farm and ranch, and the couple married Feb. 8, 1948 in the Methodist Church basement, two years before the present Methodist Church was built.

The Merritt's children Lint, Suzanne, Amy and Johnny, graduated from Dimmitt High School and graduated from WTSU and Texas Tech University. Now all married, their children and grandchildren are Lint and Connie Merritt, Julie and Jill of Dimmitt; Suzanne and Harry Lunt, Kaleb and Jayme of Sunray; Amy and Kelvin Parsons, Ty Joel and Jacob of Lubbock; and Johnny and Denise of Amarillo.

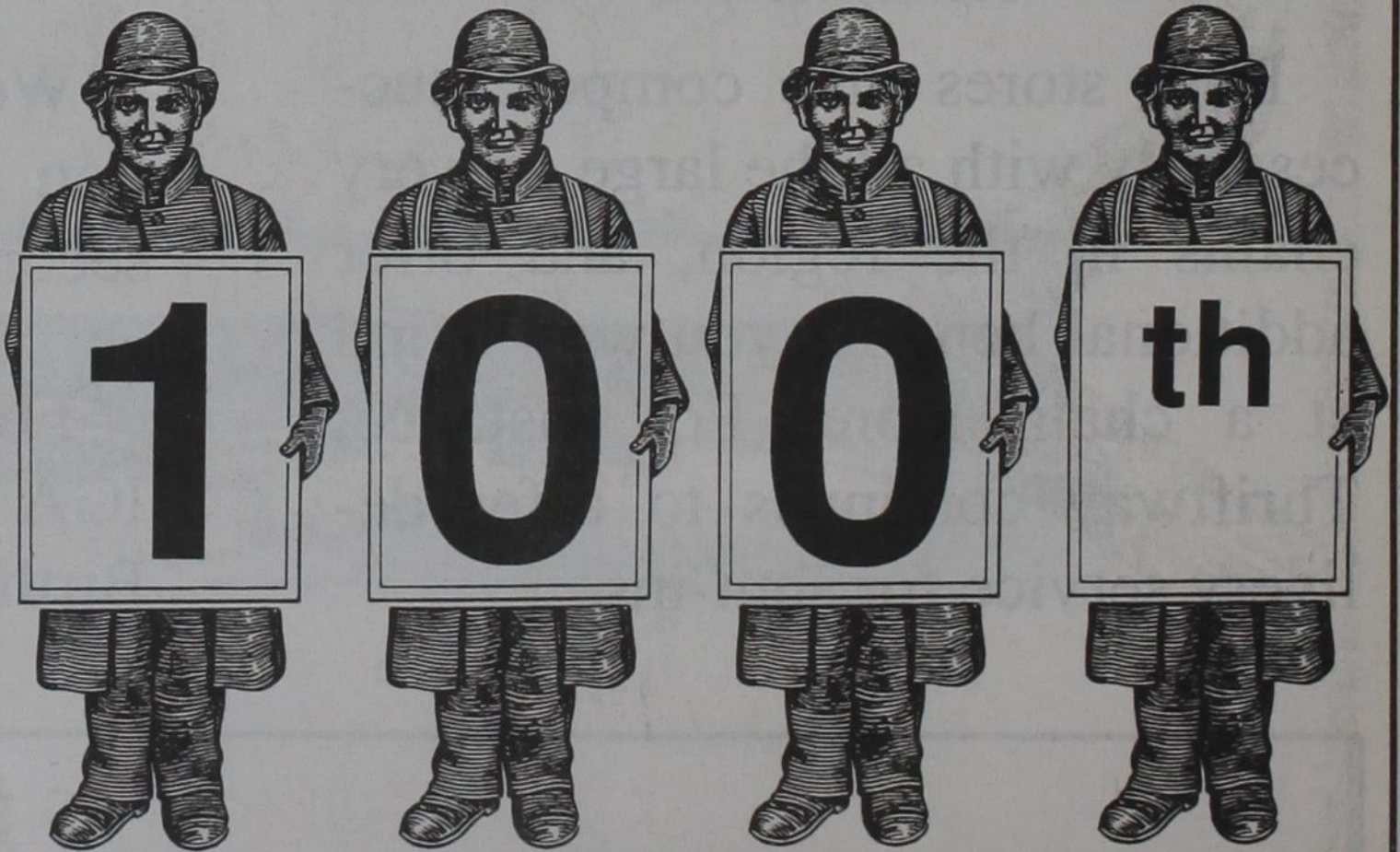
P-R-E-S-E-N-T-I-N-G



our

VERY BEST WISHES

on Castro County's



Anniversary

HOLLY SUGAR

I missed most of Castro's first 100 years.

But I look forward to serving Castro people in the next 100!



CASTRO COUNTY CHIROPRACTIC CENTER

DR. LEE BAGGETT
CHIROPRACTOR

208 W. Jones, Dimmitt

647-2664

**WE ARE PROUD
to have been
a part of
Castro County's
Progress
during its first
100 Years!**

And we look forward to
the future and the next 100!



*Serving this area
since 1917!*

**Westex
Federal
Land Bank
of Dimmitt**

**115 N. Armstrong
Tulia, Texas**

Offices in three locations

**105 W. Bedford
Dimmitt, Texas**

**N. Main
Hereford, Texas**

The W.J. Hill Family

William Jesse Hill III, was born April 19, 1942, in Amarillo to W.J. and Evelyn Hill, a pioneer ranching family. W.J.'s grandad, W.J. (Jess) Hill moved to Potter County in 1887 from Gainesville when he was a boy. He married Bell Shotwell of Canyon and lived in Bushland, where W.J.'s dad was born and reared. W.J.'s mother, Evelyn was the daughter of W.R. and Addie (Johnson) Dale. They moved from Rogers, Ark., to Raton, N.M., and in 1924 to Amarillo. W.J. III was reared on the Hill Ranch near Bushland, and attended Amarillo High School.

Saralce was born March 6, 1944, to Coleman H. and Sally Geraldine (Sides) Cox of Canton. Sara was born and reared in Lubbock and attended Lubbock High School.

W.J. and Sara met while serving in the student government at Texas Tech. W.J. was a Saddle Tramp, a member of Alpha Tau Omega social fraternity, Block and Bridle, and Alpha Zeta honorary. He was elected senior favorite. Sara was a member of Delta Delta Delta social sorority, Panhellenic Board, Who's Who among College and University Students, Mortar Board, and was secretary of the Student Senate.

W.J. received his B.S. Degree from Tech in 1965. He entered Veterinary School at Texas A & M in the fall. Sara graduated from Tech with a B.S. degree in education in 1966. They were married Aug. 13, 1966, in Lubbock and moved to Bryan/ College Station after their honeymoon. Sara taught fourth grade while W.J. finished Veterinary School. They attended the First Baptist Church in Bryan, where W.J. was baptized and joined the Baptist Church with Sara.

After W.J. received his doctor of veterinary medicine degree in 1968, they moved to Dallas, where W.J. was associated with Dr. David White and Dr. Dub Anderson. W.J. practiced in Dallas until November, 1969. Sara taught at White Junior High, and they attended First Baptist Church of Dallas. William Scott was born to them in Dallas June 3, 1969.

In November, 1969, W.J. and Sara and six-month-old William Scott moved from Dallas to Dimmitt, where W.J. had taken a job at Dimmitt Veterinary Clinic with Dr. David Bechtol. After five years of partnership, W.J. bought the clinic outright, and has continued to operate it as a solo practice. In 1988 W.J. had the clinic completely remodeled and re-decorated. An open house of the new clinic was held in February, 1989. The new clinic is double the size of

the old clinic, with several pieces of new equipment that greatly help W.J. in his practice.

The Academy of Veterinarians was founded by a group of eight Panhandle Veterinarians, including W.J. and Dr. Bechtol. It is now a national association, and W.J. was the first secretary of the Academy. On Feb. 1 W.J. opened the new addition to the clinic, Dimmitt Veterinary Supply, a new business providing cattlemen with pharmaceuticals and biologics.

Meanwhile, on the home front, the Hills had three sons. William Scott Hill was born June 3, 1969, in Dallas. At Dimmitt High School, Scott was in the academic Top Ten of his class all four years, lettered in basketball and tennis, was selected to attend Texas Boys State, was president of his class, and was elected Most Likely to Succeed his freshman and sophomore years, Most Handsome his junior year, and Mr. DHS and Prom King his senior year. After graduation in 1987, Scott attended Texas A & M University, and graduated in May. He was on the Dean's Honor Roll and a member of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity. In the summer of 1989 Scott worked at the famous jewelry store, Tiffany's in New York City. After his graduation from A & M with a B.A. degree in economics, Scott was employed by Princeton Financial in Houston.

Barry Trent Hill was born Aug. 22, 1971, in Plainview. At DHS he was in the academic Top Ten all four years. He also was named Most Likely to Succeed his freshman year, Most Handsome his sophomore and junior years, Mr. DHS, and Flame King his senior year. He was a member of National Honor Society, president of the junior class and vice president of the senior class. He earned three letters in golf and Bobcat football, and received the Fighting Heart Award. He is now attending Texas Tech, where he has made the Dean's Honor List and was inducted into Phi Eta Sigma, freshman honor society. He also has pledged Phi Delta Theta.

Andrew Lee Hill was born Aug. 14, 1980 in Plainview. He has completed fifth grade at Dimmitt Middle School, where he served on the junior Student Senate in fourth grade, and continues to be in the Gifted and Talented program. He is a member of the 4-H Trap Team, has showed pigs in the Stock Show and loves to play baseball and basketball, snow ski and help his dad at the Clinic.

In 1985 W.J. bought a farm north of Dimmitt from Mrs. Oleta Golden. He has made several improvements on the farm, where he grows wheat and milo, and grazes cattle. The farm is W.J.'s favorite hobby, and he also enjoys all the hunting Castro County has to offer.

After a 21-year "maternity leave", Sara started teaching school at Dimmitt Middle School, teaching the Gifted and Talented classes and English.

The Hill family continues to enjoy living and working in Dimmitt, and love to attend church at First Baptist, where all three sons have been baptized. They say they hope to live in Dimmitt many more happy years.



J. Paul and Gertie Waggoner

The J. Paul Waggoners

J. Paul Waggoner came to Castro County in 1924 with his parents, Ernest and Zelma Waggoner, his brother, E.R. and sister, Claudia. He has lived in Castro County since that time, except for three years in the Navy and one year after he returned from the Navy.

Gertie was raised in Olton, in Lamb County. They were married in Yuma, Ariz., in 1943. They have two sons, Mickey, born in 1944, and

Jimmy, born in 1949. Their five grandchildren are Jason, Julie, Stacy, Jana, and Kadi.

They farmed in Sunnyside Community until he sold the farm in 1977. They bought a home at 730 Pine, Dimmitt, in 1980. J. Paul is still helping Jim in his radio communication business.

The Waggoners are enjoying their retirement years with family and friends in Dimmitt.

Advertisement from March 27, 1952 issue of *Castro County News*.

Just Received New Shipment of
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The E. Lee Stanfords

The Rev. and Mrs. E. Lee Stanford and son Paul moved to Dimmitt in 1950, serving as pastor of the United Methodist Church. They had four children: Arvalce married Eldon Saul of Miami and they have

two daughters, now all residing in Houston; Dorothy Sue married Travis Tadlock at the church in Dimmitt,

and they had one son, Travis III, before she was killed in an accident in 1957; Jesse married Brooks

Robinson, and they now reside in San Angelo with their four children;

Paul, who graduated in 1953 from Dimmitt High School, was named "Mr. Dimmitt", and was involved in

church activities, sports and band. He attended Texas Tech, and married Betty Lovelace of Abernathy. They now reside in Abernathy with their two children, Jon and Jena.

The Rev. Stanford retired after serving 50 years in the ministry. He and his wife returned to Dimmitt

where he filled pulpits, when needed, for ministers who were ill or on vacation. He additionally had interests in

farming and Missouri trotting horses. He passed away in July, 1972, with a massive heart attack while on vacation. Mrs. Stanford retains here home in Dimmitt, and is still active in many church activities.



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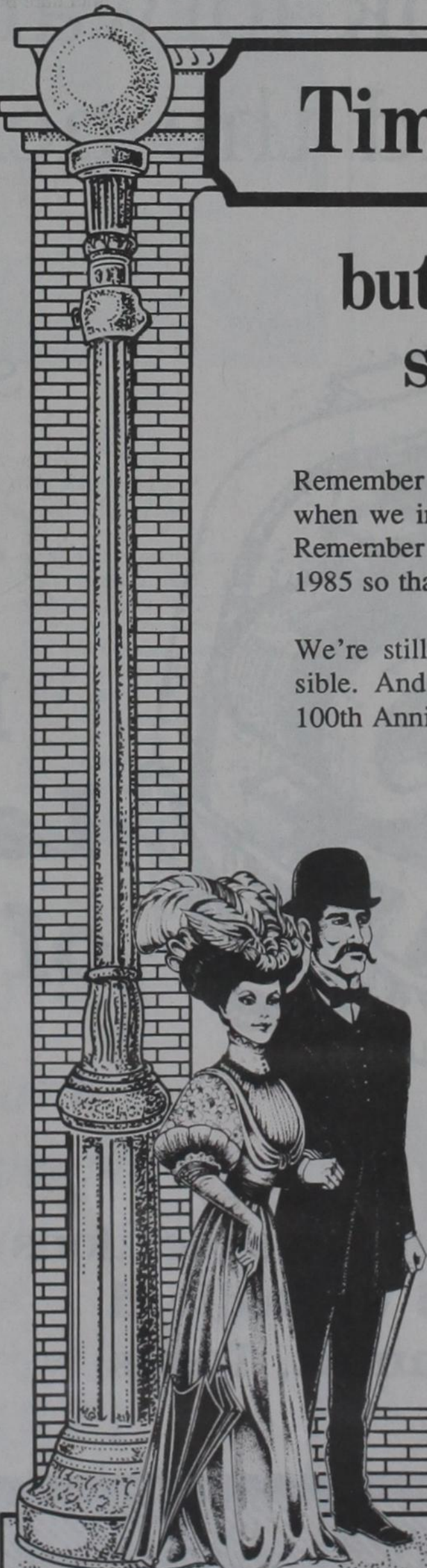


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Frank and Josephine Brockman Family

Frank J. Brockman moved with his family from Iowa to Nebraska by covered wagon when he was 5 years old. He spoke very little of his family, but did tell about being approached by Indians on the trip. He said they only wanted food. He also spoke of an uncle who had an argument with his father and rode away, never to be seen again.

Arriving in Nebraska, the females of the family stayed in a dugout, while the boys stayed in a partially completed barn. Brockman often talked about a storm that hit one night, causing a large piece of lumber to come through the walls of the barn, just missing his head. He had utmost respect for storms for the rest of his life.

Frank grew up on the grasslands of Nebraska, herding and taking care of cattle. He started his adult life when he met and married Josephine Hoelting Oct. 22, 1901. She had been born Oct. 20, 1882, at St. Stephens.

Frank and Josephine, who were nicknamed "Page" and "Phine", lived on a farm near their parents' home until 1908. At that time they moved to Nazareth, coming by railcar to Tulia. They brought horses, a wagon, and some farm machines with them.

Striking out from Tulia in a wagon with the three children who had been born in Nebraska, they arrived in Nazareth March 25, 1908. They spent a short time with the Ben Huseman family, then moved into a small building that would be used as a granary. In October the square, two-story house was completed. This house would be home to all of the nine children raised by Page and Phine. The first child born in Texas was Agnes, a month after the home was completed.

The farm that Frank purchased in 1907 was land homesteaded by one of the Heidgerken families. The land was originally part of the famous TXL Ranch.

At the time Frank and Phine started their lives in Texas, there were few roads and not too many fences. Phine talked about her first garden being wiped out by a herd of running antelope. Page used to talk about the elimination of the antelope herds caused by the big-wheeled Buicks



FRANK AND JOSEPHINE BROCKMAN
... Married Oct. 22, 1901

and Dodge cars that could traverse the flat prairie at high speeds and shoot the wild animals on the run.

Frank and Phine raised nine children on the farm about two miles south of Nazareth, facing what is now a paved highway, the Hart road. Seven of the nine children are still living:

Josephine Brockman, born Aug. 11, 1902, died Feb. 28, 1941. Married Hubert Braddock Feb. 22, 1927. Children, Norma Jane, Vernon, Evelyn, Jeanette, Cornelia, Patrick.

George Brockman, born Aug. 17, 1904. Married Mary Albracht Sept. 4, 1928. Children, Robert, Ormalene, Allan.

Lawrence C. Brockman,

born Aug. 20, 1906, died Dec. 14, 1979. Married Marie Rickwartz Feb. 12, 1935. Children Gerald Joseph, Lorene Madonna.

Agnes Brockman, born Nov. 16, 1908. Entered convent March 18, 1922, religious name Sr. Jane Frances.

Martha Brockman born Oct. 1, 1911. Married Bill Ponder, 1937, he died in 1950. Married Bill Woods in 1955, living in Easton, Md.

Mattie Brockman, born April 24, 1914. Married Leonard Endres June 5, 1935. Children, Thomas Leonard, Kenneth Raymond, Richard Francis, Judith Kay, Sharon Ann, Mary Beth, Susan Carol, Jeanne Lynn, Nicholas David, Donna Marie,

Catherine Irma. Endres died in 1980. She married Raymond Swirczynski in 1986, living in Nazareth.

Ernest Brockman, born Oct. 3, 1916. Married Florine Wilhelm April 4, 1945. Children, Shirley, Richard, Hal, Kerry, Mark, Ladonna.

McEntire and Webb Families

James Marvin McEntire and Eva Lena Webb were married July 4, 1901 in Baylor County, Texas, where Eva's parents, Calvin Houston Webb and Mary Caroline (Killingsworth) Webb, lived. James and Eva lived on a farm east of Olney in Young County, Texas, where they had three sons: 1. infant son born April 23, 1903 (died in infancy); 2. Hubert Leroy, born Sept. 22, 1907; 3. Ray Stevens, born May 20, 1915.

The McEntire family moved to Dimmitt in Castro County in November of 1917. They bought a farm northwest of town where they farmed and also carried the mail. In 1919, they moved to town where they operated a hotel (1919-1924), a drug store (1921-1923), and a grocery store in 1925. They moved to Plainview for a short time before moving to Flagg, south of Dimmitt, where they operated a hotel and worked at drilling water wells. Later, they moved to Hereford and worked for the City for a time, but in 1928 they returned to their farm and built a new home. In 1936, the McEntires sold their farm to Mr. and Mrs. P.P. Robb and moved to California, where James worked for Lockheed Aircraft in maintenance. Except for a short time when they returned to Dimmitt in 1945 to care for Eva's mother, Mrs. C.H. Webb, they continued to live in California. James Marvin died Oct. 1, 1956, and Eva Lena died July 30, 1959. Both are buried in Castro Memorial Gardens in Dimmitt.

— Submitted by Christine McEntire Bell

Arnold Brockman, born May 3, 1919. Married Katie Schmucker Feb. 11, 1941. Children Edna Jane, who entered a convent and took the name Naomi, which she has retained since leaving the convent; Ralph Edward, Arthur Joseph, Monica Ann, Dale Francis, Joyce Lynn and Virgil Paul.

Victor Brockman, born Dec. 23, 1921. Married Valeria Kleman June 15, 1943. Children, Belinda Kay and Frank Jay. Valeria died May 10, 1980.

Frank Brockman worked

with the early settlers of the area in numerous ways. At one time he was a county "Road Overseer," and his family says they do not know if this title preceded the days of County Commissioners.

Page and Phine were active in the church and school. They instilled a heritage of community spirit and hard work in all of the children, who remember them lovingly.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT: Highway 385 to Hereford was paved in 1946.

Happy Birthday Castro County!

We're proud to be a part of your 100-year history and look forward to serving in the coming years.

Sunnyside Farm Store

— Submitted by Christine McEntire Bell

A County's Strength Lies in Its People

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The Moss and Hattie Howell Family

Moss Howell and T. Hattie Bagwell were married July 9, 1927 in Floyd County. We lived there in the Harmony Community where I grew up until 1933. Our first three children were born there Charles, Herbert and Jack.

In January 1933, we moved to Castro County, in the Bethel Community to a farm owned by my father J.A. Bagwell. He had bought the land from a Mr. Lust in 1916. Three of my brothers had lived there at different times from 1917 to December of 1932. We later bought the farm in 1945.

Our first winter was a bad one as all three little boys were beginning to cough of whooping cough when we arrived at our new home. Our house had no insulation and no running water. We carried water from the windmill. If there was water left in the wash basin at night it would be ice the next morning.

I'm thankful little children do not have to suffer through all the diseases they did then. If parents only see to giving them preventive shots.

Most all the people who lived in the Bethel Community at that time had been there for several years.

They were all such good caring neighbors, ready to help when there was a need.

We had church in the Bethel school house until it burned. All denominations went. You received a blessing in more ways then, as you heard a sermon and visited with your neighbors.

After the school house burned, we met in the building that is now the community center.

We survived the Depression and still wonder why the fat cattle were destroyed and not given to the hungry people to eat. The WPA (Works Project Administration) I guess helped, but as now, our country was full of homeless and hungry people.

Then the Dust Bowl took its toll as no rain and no crops.

Our house set in the middle of a section of land, so we got dust from every direction.

After a hard blow, which could last two days and nights, we could sweep up most a five gallon of dust from our four rooms.

I think we learned a valuable lesson from the Depression and Dust Bowl days. Save a little along the way, for there could be another

storm of some kind around the corner.

Our first five sons started to school at Bethel. Their teachers were Mrs. Helen Estes, Elizabeth Womble, Katherine Dever, Elizabeth Thacker and Carrie Neal Russell. Miss Russell was Moss's niece.

Through the years, we had added Jimmie, Oran, Patricia, Gayle, Linda, Karen and John to our family.

The year Patricia started to school, we moved the house up to the main road where it now stands.

Bethel had consolidated with Dimmitt schools and all the country children rode buses to school. We had six in school that year and some mornings when the children were a little slow and we heard the bus horn, I'd open the door and almost push the children out. Some with books in one hand and a jacket in the other. I guess people are at least children wonder why mothers get grey hair.

From the time Charles started school until John finished was 34 years. They were busy years as ball, band and FFA kept children and parents busy. Seemed there was always a bake sale for one thing or other so cakes and cinnam

on rolls were a good item and I baked an awful lot of them.

Our Bethel Home Demonstration Club, I guess, was one of the first in the county. We met for some time in our homes. Sybil Stringer was the Home Demonstration agent. I still have a yeast bread book she gave us published by Texas A&M, first in 1914 and later 1919. We had lots of bakes sales to raise money for different things for the community. Always for me it was cake and cinnamon rolls.

I still make plenty of both as they keep well in the freezer.

For as many children as there was really no serious illness. Jimmie had a badly burned leg when he was five years old and Patricia had a broken arm at six years. In later years, while living in South Dakota, Oran had an eye put out by a ricocheted bullet.

Three of the boys have served in foreign wars. Herbert and Jack in the Korean Conflict. They were both in the Navy. Herbert was aboard the USS Rowan, a destroyer. His ship docked at Pusan, South Korea to pickup some American troops, but he never left his ship. His ship was shelled not far from there.

Jack was aboard the USS Philippine Sea, an aircraft carrier.

When their four years of duty was over, they were ready to leave the service and go back to the farm.

John was in Vietnam and has stayed in the Army. He finished college, when he came back from Vietnam, then went to Korea for a

year. Then he went to Germany for a three year tour. He has just returned (April 24, 1991) from another year in Korea.

While John and his family were in Germany, my daughter Karen and I visited there. We went to Holland for a few days so we were all anxious to get to Amsterdam and visit Corrie Ten Boom's watch shop, as we had read her book and seen the movie.

Wouldn't you know when we got there a sign on the door read "Closed on Vacation." We only got to peek through the windows.

While in Germany, we visited the Dachau concentration camp where so many Jews were killed. If everyone could visit one of these camps, I don't believe there would be any more wars.

In 1974, after 41 years on the farm at Bethel, we decided to move to our present home six miles east of Weatherford. We had bought an interest in the place here. Moss had rented the farm to Jimmie, as he could not do the work due to health problems.

We like to live here and have some wonderful friends, but guess the farm will always seem like home. We go back to the little house and enjoy the children there for a few days as several are pretty close.

The children are kinda scattered, but really not too far away. Charles and Ruby live across the street from us and both have jobs here.

Herbert and Montie live in Bovina, but Herbert still farms at Bethel. Jack and Charlene live on gran-

dad Bagwell's home place at Bethel. Jack farms and auctions and Charlene is employed in the Dimmitt school system.

Jimmie and Sue live on our farm at Bethel. Jimmie farms and Sue is employed as counselor in the Dimmitt school system.

Oran and Norma live at Streetman where he is employed by Texaco. He is chief mechanic for their gas company there.

Patricia and Tom Bands live at Americus, Kan. but she is a counselor in the Emporia, Kan. grade schools.

Gayle and Melvin Stovall live at Fritch. He works for Mapco, a gas company, and Gayle and her daughter Starla have a barber shop there.

Linda lives in Fort Worth and has been employed by General Dynamics where the F-16 fighter plane was built.

Karen and Leon Ahlerich live at Bedford. They have both been employed by General Dynamics.

John and Collene live at Sterling, Okla. He is a major in the Army, stationed at Fort Sill.

Thanksgiving is really our Christmas as all the children and grandchildren who can come here.

We have a good time visiting and eating. The next day is shopping time here in Forth Worth and Mineral Wells as Christmas is just around the corner.

Our family has grown to be fairly large with 29 grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren.

Who knows what the year will bring.

The Ted Sheffy Family

Dorothy Graham and Ted Sheffy were born, raised and lived their married lives in Castro County.

Ted grew up in the Flagg community, eldest son of Sid and Myrtle Sheffy. He went to Flagg school, transferring to Dimmitt in seventh grade. He graduated from Dimmitt High School in 1939, and went to West Texas State for one semester. In January, 1942, he joined the Navy to serve on the USS Alywin until October, 1945.

Dorothy grew up in the Mulkey community, the only daughter of Bill and Rachel Graham. She graduated from DHS in 1941 and from Baylor University in 1945. His first teaching job in 1945-46 was where she started to first grade in an old red brick school house.

Ted came home to work at John Deere for Ray Sheffy. It wasn't long until the friendship between Ted and Dorothy started again after the war years. They became engaged on Christmas of 1945, and were married April 4, 1946, sharing friendship, love and companionship for 43 years.

Ted farmed the Graham home place, and two of the children, Sheryl Beth and Robert Graham, were born there. Eight years later, while the family lived in Parmer Co., Virginia was born.

After many changes, Ted farmed with Graham. Graham married Karen Lyle and they had two children, Gabe and Brittany. They live in College Station. Beth married Rick Wallace and they have two children, Shay and Brook. They



TED AND DOROTHY SHEFFY
... When he was parade marshal in 1988

live in Tulia. Virginia married Kevin Malone of Hereford. Now living in Hart, they have two children, Quentin and Rachel.

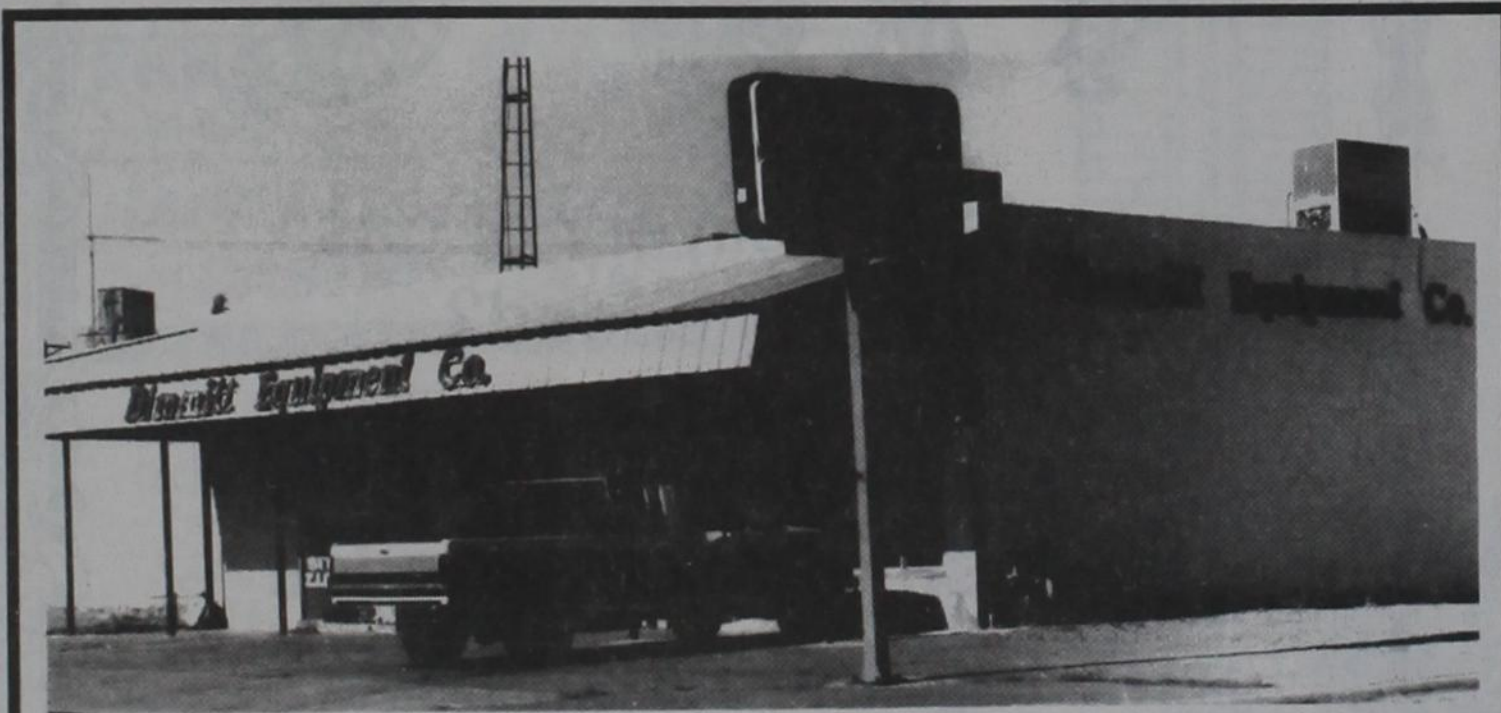
Dorothy retired from teaching in 1987, after 26 years in the Dimmitt school system. Ted retired from farming and enjoyed a life-long hobby of woodcraft, stained glass and antiques. He had a shop in the old John Deere building, where he had worked as a boy.

Ted and Dorothy were Methodists. Ted served as Sunday School Superintendent for 23 years, and

Dorothy as a Sunday School teacher.

Ted was diagnosed with cancer in 1988. He fought a valiant battle for 15 months, and was a shining example to all his family in his walk of faith. He died Oct. 1, 1989.

Dorothy enjoys her seven grandchildren (one is a foster child living with the Wallaces). She still teaches an adult Sunday School class and keeps busy with community affairs.



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The G.L. Willis Family History

George Lee and Nancy Willis moved to Texas in 1915 when George traded land near Yotebo, Okla. for two sections of land one mile south of Dimmitt. They had three small daughters: Irene, Allie Mae and Anita.

A son, G.L., Jr. was born in Hereford in 1918.

There were no buildings on the place, only grass, so the family lived in Hereford until George had a house moved to the place. He also put up a windmill and storage tank, built corrals, an outhouse and dug a cellar.

We came from Oklahoma where tornadoes, "cyclones" as we called them then, were very prevalent.

During the flu epidemic of 1918, George had pneumonia and nearly died. He never really recovered from the effects of it, and was very susceptible to pneumonia.

For several years ranching was his main interest, but gradually, as more grass was plowed up, farming became more and more important. Of course it wasn't until irrigation wells began to pop up everywhere that the county really turned into a fine agricultural community, producing the finest crops grown.

When we first came to Dimmitt, there was only one church building, originally built by the Presbyterians, but all churches used it. Every one went to Sunday School together. During the summer, the different churches would have a preacher come and hold a meeting. Everyone would attend those meetings just as they did on Sunday morning.

George and Nancy were members of the Church of Christ. There were about six families that were members and they met Sunday afternoons in various places such as homes and the schoolhouse and during one time at the county jail. Charlie "Dad" Mapes (a very dear elderly man) a member was the jail custodian. The jail consisted of an iron structure (much like a big cage) that sat in the north part of a large room. Dad Mapes lived in the south part of this room.

There must have been very few prisoners at that time, as I only

remember seeing a man in that jail once or twice.

In 1922, Nancy Willis, Mrs. Carter, Alfred and Minnie Grand, and O.M. Reynolds (a preacher that held several meetings here) picked out a building site for a church and parsonage. It was at Third and Bedford and the property was owned by the Edd Smith family that had operated a telephone exchange for several years.

As more members of the Church of Christ moved to Dimmitt, they decided to build a church. I think it was the second church in Dimmitt. Several of the members worked on the building. George furnished a carpenter during the construction. In a few years, when the Depression came, it was a hard struggle making payments with so few members, but it did survive.

When the present Church of Christ was built, this lot was sold to the McLean family where they built a nice building for the First State Bank. For many years, they very generously made available to the people of Dimmitt a very nice large room that was constantly in demand for meetings, bridge, parties, clubs and receptions, as well as an enjoyable place to drop for a cup of coffee and a chat with a friend.

Irene graduated from Dimmitt High School in 1923, valedictorian of her class. The following year she went to Abilene Christian College where she received a teaching certificate. The next two years she taught at Jumbo. Her cousin Jeanie Bills taught with her the second year.

The Willis home burned and after renting a house in Dimmitt, that sold very soon, the family moved to Hereford where George bought a two story house on 25 Mile Ave. Allie Mae graduated in 1926 from Hereford High School.

That fall Nancy and George moved back to Dimmitt to take care of the cattle. All the children attended schools in Canyon. Their grandmother Robinson stayed with them. Irene and Allie Mae were both in West Texas State College.



G.L. Jr. and Ouida Willis

Irene met Leland C. Lee from Hereford and they became engaged.

In 1927, Anita and G.L. Jr. returned to Dimmitt. Irene and Allie Mae taught school at Jumbo. It was Irene's third term. During the Thanksgiving holidays, she and Leland visited her cousin Jeanie Bills (later Mrs. Goodwin Miller) and her family. While there, they decided to get married, and were married at Lawton, Okla.

George had their house in Hereford torn down and the lumber moved to their farm south of Dimmitt where he had a new home built. While this house was being constructed the family lived in the house that is now the Castro County museum. They moved into their new home in 1929. Anita graduated that year from Dimmitt High School. It was the first class to graduate from the new high school building.

The fall of 1930 Allie Mae and Anita went to Texas Tech. Anita married Claude Lee "Pee Wee" Morris on December 23rd.

Rural electricity was still many years away in 1931, when a gasoline iron caught fire and destroyed this home. This was the second home to burn on the farm. The first one burned when a kerosene stove exploded. Neither house was insured.

George bought a large building in Dimmitt and moved it to the same foundation where it still stands.

During the years of drought and Depression, George traded two sections of land near Summerfield for a herd of registered white-face cows. He leased a ranch in Oklahoma and moved the herd there. Allie Mae taught one year at Sunnyside before moving to Oklahoma with the family.

G.L., Jr. graduated at Mountain Park, Okla. in January 1936. Allie Mae went to Long Beach, Calif. where she worked for several years

for a brokerage firm. George sold his cattle and the family moved back to Dimmitt. G.L., Jr. and Ouida Faye Byrnes were married at Clovis, N.M. on June 3, 1938.

As George became more susceptible to pneumonia, he and Nancy started spending the winters in California, returning to Texas for the summers. G.L., Jr. had taken over the farming and ranching. When the war came along there were no houses to rent, so they bought a home in California, but Texas was always really home.

While in California, when his health permitted, George enjoyed working a little with real estate, buying and selling an apartment complex and several houses. He passed away June 24, 1949.

In 1953, Nancy sold her home in California and she and Allie Mae returned to Texas, building a home in Dimmitt. She lived to be 94, was very active and alert and interested in her family, the church and the county.

Nancy passed away May 27, 1972. Leland and Irene Lee had three children. Leland Willis married Marie Wynn, Caroyln Joyce married James Copeland and Nancy Sue married Joe Upton.

Anita and Claude Lee Morris had 2 sons. Larry Gene married Jean Helburn and Jerry Dean married Linda Schubenski.

There are now 17 great grandchildren and 10 great-great grandchildren.

G.L., Jr. and Ouida Willis had five children. Shari Ann married Gene Bradley, Jan Carol married Mike Baca and Kay Lynn married Andy Rogers.

George Max and Mary Sue died as babies.

Irene Willis Lee passed away July 29, 1979 and Leland C. Lee passed away Aug. 24, 1981. Claude Lee Morris passed away April 30, 1984 and Ouida Faye Willis passed away May 24, 1991.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT: The first church organized in the county, according to records, was the First Baptist Church. It was organized in 1891.

CENTENNIAL MOMENT: Because Castro County was uninhabited at the time of its establishment, it was attached to Jack County for administrative purposes.

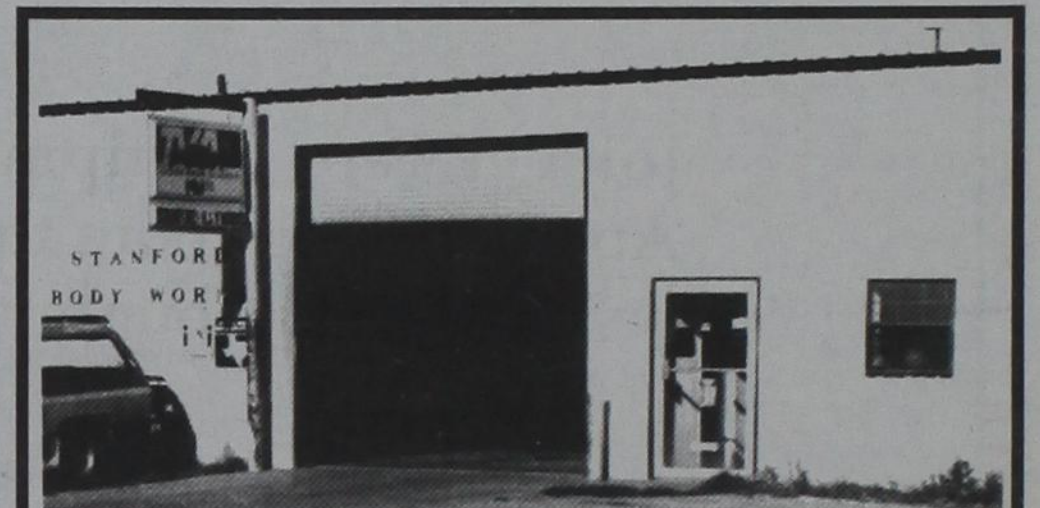
Happy 100th Birthday!

Burgers N' Mor was built in 1986 by Art and Lil Schreck, who sold it to George Lopez in June of 1991, with Linda Reyes as the manager.

We look forward to serving you for many more years to come.

Burgers N' Mor

219 S. Broadway, Dimmitt
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Proud to be serving Dimmitt and Castro County since 1968.

Happy 100th Anniversary!

Stanford Body Works

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Happy 100th Birthday Castro County!

Serving Hart and the Castro area since 1977.

Jim Black Oil and Hart Auto & Farm Supply

Specializing in farms and ranches in Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma.

Jimmie George has 22 years of experience in the real estate business, and Mary Lou Schmucker has 10 years experience. They look forward to serving this area in the future, and appreciate the opportunities to serve in the past.

Happy 100th Castro County!

George Real Estate
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We're Serving up Special Congratulations on Castro County's 100th Anniversary!

K-Bob's Steak House

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- 370-hp 8960 4-wheel-drive with 14 L engine
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The 'Greening' of Castro County

John Deere equipment was tilling America's soil more than half a century before Castro County was organized.

As our progressive farmers developed new crops that created new demands, John Deere technology developed dependable equipment for them.

As our county "greened up" . . . as our economic base progressed from rangeland to small dryland wheat farms to today's large, irrigated, diversified operations . . . John Deere played an important role, and the green machine in the field became a familiar sight.

It's been a century-long partnership . . . a partnership of technology, know-how, innovation and commitment to excellence.

We're ready to keep that partnership going into the second century.



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