



# Merry Christmas



Lariat Larner promised Santa that she's been good all year long, and it sure wasn't easy. She is the daughter of Marty and Jody Larner.



Little Maddie Sharrock showed a lot of interest in old Santa's white beard. She is the daughter of Terry and Casey Sharrock.



Santa got to pose with two Friona beauties. Little Miss Friona Cassandra Rocha at left, and Miss Friona Haleigh Herbert, shown at right. Cassandra is the daughter of Ismael and Marsha Rocha. Haleigh is the daughter of Don and Marka Herbert.



Jordan and Reagan Cochran enjoyed visiting with Santa this past week. They are children of Shannon & Vickie Cochran.



## Winners Told For 'Ho-Ho' Promotion

Drawing was held on Wednesday to determine the winners in the Friona Chamber of Commerce's "Ho-Ho, Home for the Holidays" promotion.

The three grand prize winners of \$100.00 in Friona Bucks are Elizabeth McLellan, Daniel Hidalgo and Obereta Sudderth.

Winners of \$25 in Friona Bucks were as follows:

A-1 Service Center: Paula Wilson; An Added Touch: Eva Kimbrough; Bi-Wize Drug: Cass Perkins; Custom Cleaners: Jana Barnett and Dairy Queen: Osvaldo Almaguer.

Also, Friona Hardware and Supply: Carl Miller; Friona Star: Alvin Petty and Hi-

Pro/Walco Animal Health Store: Blayne Baxter; Ingrams: Sharon White and Ivy Cottage: Ann Kelley.

Also, Kendrick Oil: Gayle Murdock; Los Arcos: Ruben Chico; Lowe's Super Market: Frankie Torres; Malouf's: V'Lesha Wilcox and Silver Screen Video: Martine Rios.

Also, Sugar Shack: Norma Mata; Tasty Cream: Mary Stone; Town and Country: Belinda Anthony and W.T. Services: Annette Loflin.

The Chamber would like to thank the merchants for participating, and the shoppers for "spending their Christmas bucks" in Friona, benefitting the local economy.



Sterling Osborn and Santa Claus paused for a moment to have their photo made. Sterling is the son of Matt and Jo Osborn.



EVERY YEAR we hear more people bemoaning the fact that the significance of the Christmas season is being smothered by commercialism. Of course commercialism is a big part of America, so we can't complain too much. It keeps a lot of people working and pays a lot of salaries. And, after all, the three wise men started the tradition of gift giving at Christmastime.

A lady was in line in front of me at the post office buying stamps for her Christmas cards. "I need 50 Christmas stamps," she told the clerk, who then asked her "What denomination do you need?"

"Oh Dear, has it really come to this?" the lady sighed. "OK, give me six Catholic, 12 Methodist, and 32 Baptists."

Yes, that was a joke, but this isn't. They are really trying to take Christmas out of Christmas (whoever they are... liberals, I suppose). You don't see quite as many items which say "Merry Christmas" anymore, but "Happy Holiday" is much in evidence. What they don't realize is that the origin of the word "holiday" comes from "holy day," so you see, they really aren't winning, after all.

Personally, I've never outgrown my love for all the many little accessories that surround the celebration of Christmas. . . the songs, the nativity, the tree, the lights, the yummys, and especially Santa Claus. (Check out my collection of 40 miniature Santas, now on display at the Library.)

In fact, there was a real Saint Nicholas, an actual historical person, who was not merely a fairy tale given substance by Clement C. Moore's famous poem "A Visit From St.



"MY TURN" By Carol Ellis

Nicholas," better known today as "Twas the Night Before Christmas." The real St. Nicholas was a priest, later a bishop of Myra, during the fourth century, in what is now modern-day Turkey. Legend characterizes this fellow as being exceptionally compassionate toward the poor and dispossessed.

St. Nicholas is said to have been extremely modest in his own ambitions, yet diligent in relieving the plight of poor families when he learned of their problems. He especially liked to dignify his acts of charity by giving secretly rather than openly. He did his best charity work, not in front of the lights and the crowd, but in the dark of night. You might say he was the first to perform "random acts of kindness."

He made a habit of securing contributions from resourceful friends, adding these to his own donations, he brought these gifts and left them on doorsteps, windowsills or hearths of needy families. These poor people were then free to make use of the gifts as they saw fit, without feeling obligated to a controlling donor who might want to decide "what was best for them."

The earliest tributes to St. Nicholas' life involved performing similar acts of secret charity for those with particular needs, on his feast day which at that time was December 6.

If our impressions of Santa Claus have become superficial, running a little thin by the time we reach age 8 or 9, or 39, perhaps we could draw substance from a look at the life of this legendary but real person, not merely as the inspiration for a mythical giver-of-gifts, but as a saint in the very best sense of the word.

It is my belief that the accessories which surround the celebration of Christmas do not detract from, but only add to the real heart of the "reason for the season" which is the birth of Christ.

## Holiday Schedule Told

We will publish Dec. 27, but due to Christmas, will want your news and advertising by Monday, December 23.

Continuing our tradition of giving employees holiday time off, we will not publish on January 3, 2003.

## One Little Angel

By Mary Dalton Crump



One Little angel flew below to Bethlehem that night.

'Tho he was told he could not go, he had to see the sight Of midnight skies where one Lone star had stopped to shine above a manger where the baby lay

Who brought the world's God's love

He stood beside the shepard boy and blessed him as he knelt

in awesome wonder, and he knew how God and Mary felt.

He stayed there in the stable to keep watch that Christmas night.

He'd sneaked away from heaven just to see that wonder sight.

When the older angels found him, how could they reprimand?

Because the little angel was holding Jesus' hand.

The Holy Babe was smiling at the angel kneeling there.

How could there be a reprimand with Christmas in the air?

The angel kept the Holy Watch and stayed until the morn.

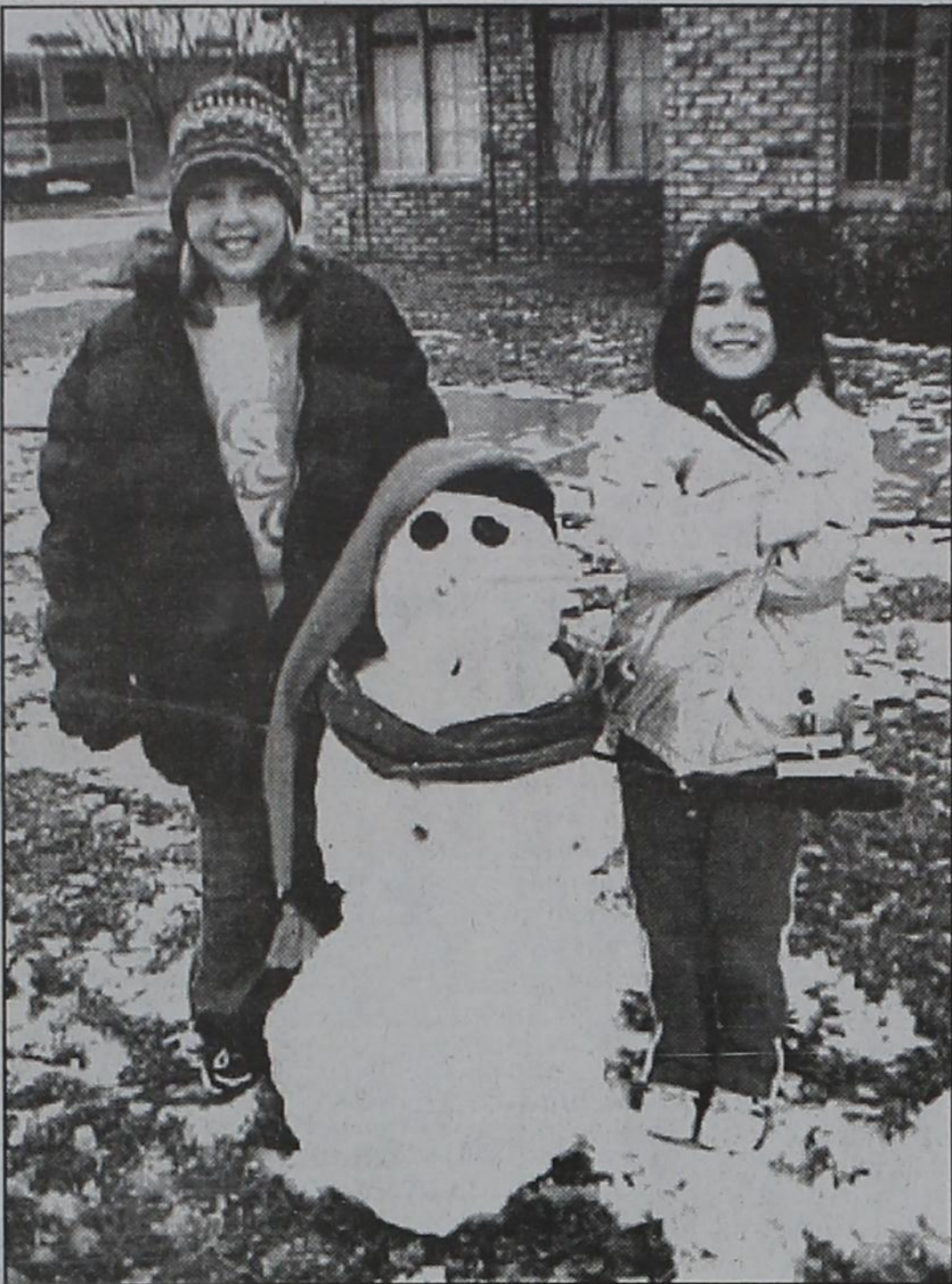
He witnessed all that brilliant time when Jesus Christ was born.



CHRISTMAS DISPLAY--The lighted decorations at the home of the Don Donovans on White Street show a lot of creativity as do many other beautiful lighted displays around Friona. Everyone should take a drive around town to view the nice work done by your Friona friends.

# Friona Flashbacks

...from the files of The Friona Star



A DUSTING OF SNOW has fallen on Parmer County twice in the last couple of weeks. So far there has been no major winter precipitation but enough to cause problems for cotton farmers. These youngsters, l-r, Paige Herbert and Kylie Boyd scraped the Boyd yard clean to get enough snow for their snowman. ron carr photo



THE ALEXANDER GIRLS, Lydia and Kayla Alexander, daughters of Andy & Julia Alexander.



## Grace Baptist Has Mission Celebration

Grace Baptist Church hosted a Mission Dinner Celebration on December 4. The church's mission and W.M.U. director is Eva Kimbrough. Songs of the season were led by Kirk Frye. Donna Mears did a program for the G.A.'s, dressed as Lottie Moon. Exhibits were of missions in Africa, Australia, China and Japan. Dishes from these countries were the meal and chop sticks were available to eat with. A fun and informative program was enjoyed by those attending.

### 75 Yrs Ago-Dec. 16, 1927

The force of workmen of the Texas Utilities Company that have been here the past two weeks on the building for housing the plant and preparing the machinery for was augmented this week by several more men. It now appears that it may be impossible to have the power ready to turn on by the first of the year.

C.J. Willard of Plainview, representing the Nichols & Shepherd threshing machine company, was a business visitor in Friona Monday, making arrangements for a local dealer for this territory. C.W. Stevick will represent the company for the coming year or longer, beginning about January 1.

### 60 Yrs Ago-Dec. 18, 1942

Dear Santa Claus-I am six years old now, Santa. I need a tool chest and paint tray and an airplane. Please don't forget Eugenia Ray, Rosemary and Joe. Your friend Jimmie Dixon.

Dear Santa-I would like for you to bring me a dolly with a coat and bonnet and a little horn like brother's. Please bring my baby sister Karen a doll and a rattle. Your little friend, Phyllis Ann Treider.

### 50 Yrs Ago-Dec. 18, 1952

Santa was well received in Friona this Wednesday afternoon. 775 sacks of candy were distributed by the jolly old soul and his helpers, American Legion Post 206. This was the largest number of sacks ever distributed here on the annual occasion.

### 45 Yrs Ago-Dec. 19, 1957

A quartet of roaming cattle was clipped by a Friona School bus Monday in an early dawn accident on a country route of the bus. Total damage to the bus is estimated at about \$500. Three of the cattle were killed and the fourth required killing due to injuries. Bus driver, Les Weis, escaped injury.

### 40 Yrs Ago-Dec. 20, 1962

Dear Santa-I am a good girl. I would like for you to bring me an Etch-a-Sketch, a Barbie doll and some clothes. Love, Pam Lewellen.

Dear Santa Claus-I would like a Barbie and Ken doll and some nice clothes and a sports car for Barbie and Ken. Love, Lana Renner.

Dear Santa-I am a little boy, five years old. I want a bull dozer with batteries. I try to be a good boy. Love, Roy Smith.

### 35 Yrs Ago-Dec. 21, 1967

Dear Santa-How are you? I hope I get lots of toys this year. I want 48 match box cars in its set. I want John to spend the night with me. Guess what? I had a good time last year. Would you get me lots of toys? From Lynn Welch.

Dear Santa-I want a sound-of-power rifle. And I want a Incredible Edible. I hope I get the things I want this year. Love, Todd Bandy.

Christmas. Yours truly, Tonda Sue Williams.

### 25 Yrs Ago-Dec. 18, 1977

The American Ag Movement's farm strike began on Wednesday, and Friona observed the first day of the strike as most retail stores voluntarily closed for the day, quite a show of sympathy since the strike began at mid-week, at the height of Christmas buying.

### 20 Yrs Ago-Dec. 19, 1982

Prairie Acres Nursing Home has a new beauty shop for the women residents. The area originally built for a garage has been remodeled for the women's hair care. Church groups take turns doing the residents' hair one day each week.

### 15 Yrs Ago-Dec. 19, 1987

The first snowfall of the season turned out to be what could be a record snowfall for the area in December. The snow started at an early hour on Sunday and continued throughout the day on Sunday and Sunday night. Weather officials said that a total of 14 inches of snow was received in the local area.

### 10 Yrs Ago-Dec. 19, 1992

A Santa Fe Railway trail collided with a tractor-trailor rig at Summerfield, about 14 miles east of Friona, but no injuries were reported. Casto County officials said. This was the third truck-train accident in the area in the past two months. The other two occurred just southwest of Friona at the same crossing on October 14 and October 30. The truck driver was killed in each of the previous truck-train crashes this year.

### 5 Yrs Ago-Dec. 19, 1997

Customary installation fees will be waived during an introductory period for WT

Services in Friona.

Work crews are currently completing the installation of underground fiberoptic cable

Dear Santa-I'm having a Merry Christmas. Are you having a Merry Christmas? I put my Christmas tree up last night when you come by my house I want you to bring me a watch for a girl, and a girls stringray bike, and a record player, too. Barbara Rhodes.

### 30 Yrs Ago-Dec. 21, 1972

Dear Santa-I want a Ken

doll and a booby trap game. Also a house boat for Leann. Love Carol Ann Bennett.

Dear Santa-I want a tape recorder. I live at 902 Summitt. Love Winfield Davenport.

Dear Santa-I love you very much. I want a Timy Tell for Christmas. Love, Patty Hinton.

Dear Santa Claus-I want an easy bake oven for that will deliver clear, sharp telephone and cable television signals to Friona.



SKYLER HARRIS, son of Bryan and Christie Harris.



REAGAN STOWERS, son of Gary and Carolyn Stowers.

## Meet Friona's Class of 2015



Brayden Pope

Brayden is a kindergartner at Friona Schools.

His Parents are Charlie & Britny Pope. His Sister is Bailey. His grandparents are Ricky and Diane White, and Mike and Bonnie Pope.

He likes to ride motorcycles and play golf. His favorite food is cheese pizza and his favorite color is red.

## Friona Texas Federal Credit Union



Friona  
Bridal  
Registry

INGRAM'S  
Phone 250-3291  
Cody & Cara Simmons

IVY COTTAGE  
FLOWERS & GIFTS  
Phone 250-8073  
Cody & Cara Simmons

BI-WIZE DRUG  
Phone 250-3010  
Ami Davis & Kevin Schueler  
Roy Hendley & Katie Kennedy

Give Yourself A Raise.



EDUCATION PAYS.

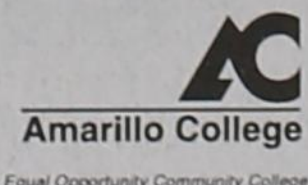
Over the course of a lifetime, people with a college education earn hundreds of thousands of dollars more than those without.

Amarillo College offers more than 150 degree and certificate programs that can put you to work in two years or less or prepare you for successful transfer to a university.

Find out how to make the investment of your lifetime. Give us a call today at 363-7740 or visit us online at [www.actx.edu](http://www.actx.edu).

### Registration

6-7 pm  
Monday, January 6  
Hereford ISD Administration Building  
Call Bryan Hedrick at 363-7704 for more information.



HOMER HAILE and Irma Elena Armendariz wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season. Call us for all your insurance needs.



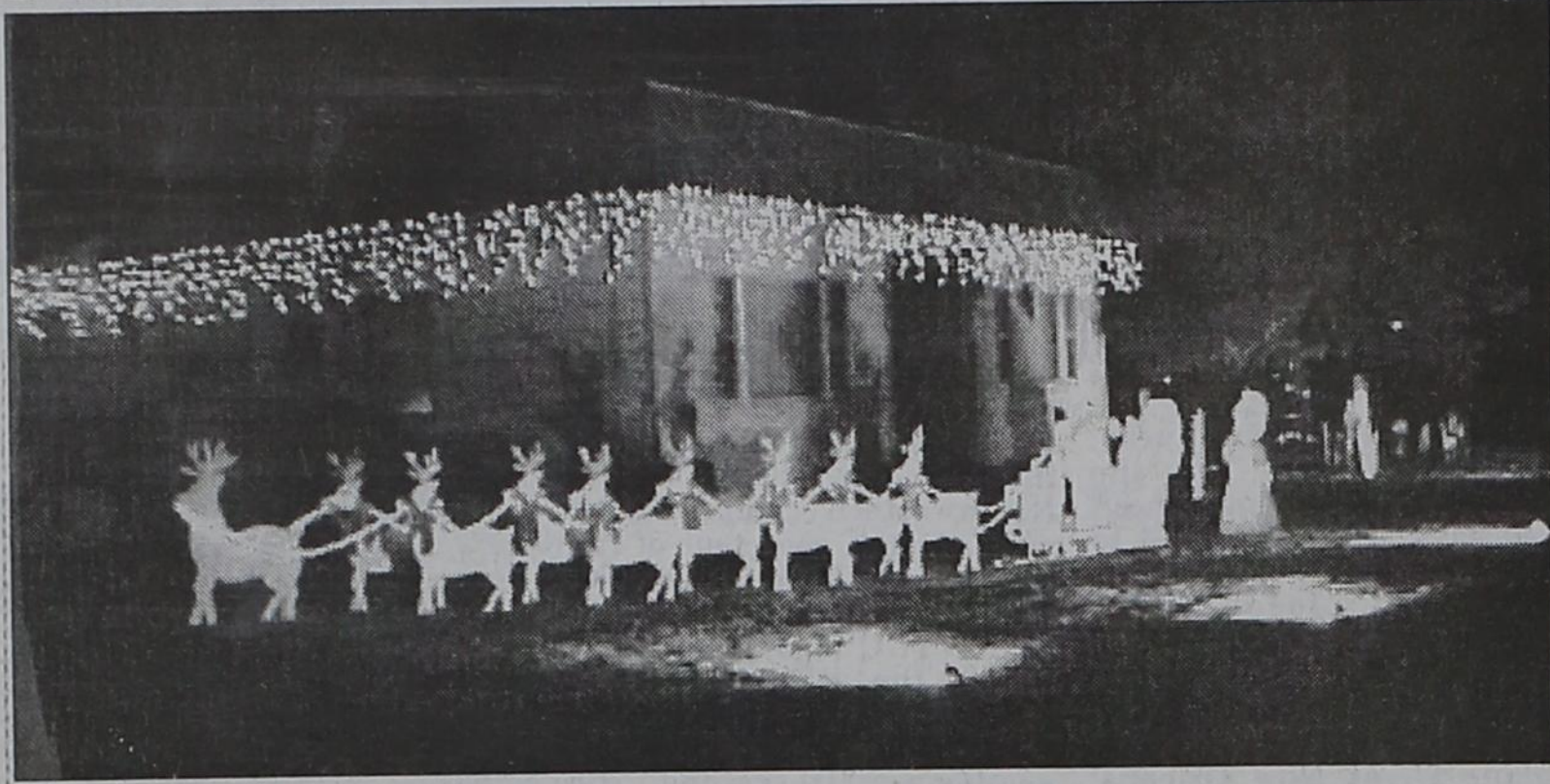
STATE FARM



Homer Haile, Agent

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edged by Tulia...  
Nava score...  
Miller six.





The Joë and Marlene Mueller residence at 701 Pierce displays Christmas decorations that have been handed down in the family for several generations.

## ❄️ Letters To Santa ❄️

Dear Santa,  
How are all the reindeers Is the weather nice? I was good Please bring me a video game about Mash Brothers  
Love Michael Garcia

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa,  
I want a BB gun and a bat that flies and can transform into a robot.  
Love Esdras Rodriguez  
P.S. I like Santa

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa, How is Rudolph? How is Mrs. Claus? How is the reindeers please give me a Brat he and lightts that look like icicles for my room.  
Love, Karina Trejo

Dear Santa  
How are all the reindeers? How is Mrs Claus? Is it fun going down The Chimney? Is The weather nice? Please bring me a snowcone Maher and please bring my tio back.  
Love: Alicia Guzman

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa,  
How are all the reindeers How are you? I am wateing to see you. I was good. I wot a Brat hed  
Love Brandi Ramos

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa  
How is Rudolph? How is Mrs Claus? I was good to day please bring me blocks to build something.  
Love Joshua Hernandez.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa,  
How is Rudolph Is it fun going down Chimney I was good to day I want a purple Xbox and games Spiderman web blaster and a playstation 2 and games  
Love Jose Zamudio

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa, I am waiting to see you I am good I helped you because please bring me a play station 2 Pleas. I like too play my games  
love Henry

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa  
would you please give me a sled like yours? I like your red one  
Henry



### Massies' Granddaughter Writes Poem Saluting Them

Kriste Herring Haile wrote the following poem in honor of her grandparents. Olive and Meryle Massie. The Massies will be honored on their 60th wedding anniversary on Sunday, December 22, from 3-4 p.m. at the Friendship House.

## 60 Years of Marriage

This story begins  
In the year 1942  
It was the beginning of a marriage  
A very special one, too.

The town, Lubbock, TX  
The place, a jewelry store  
She had a job there  
He just came to explore.

With a glance at his air force uniform  
She thought Oh no, another hot shot.  
Bright  
The first thing he noticed was that  
She definatly lacked in height.

Despite the two first impressions  
They had soon made a date  
Which turned into a hot romance  
And gave each one a mate.

They were married on this day  
December 27, 60 years ago  
The weather was so bad  
The family didn't show.

They moved around the first few years  
The Air Force had its way  
"That's the life of a soldier's wife"  
She always remembered to say.

After three years of marriage  
(that makes it 1945)  
A doctor informed them  
A baby would soon arrive.

They were very excited  
At the thought of a son  
Wouldn't it be nice?  
Wouldn't it be fun?

In early September  
Marca Lynn was born  
No, she wasn't a boy  
But she sure was soft and warm.

"We'll get him next time"  
they told one another  
After all, all little girls  
Need a little brother

By this time, the war had ended  
They had no need to roam  
They settled in Friona  
Which they still call home.

The "little brother"  
Was born in December of '46

They named her Betty Merylene  
Just another sidekick!

Life with two little girls  
Wasn't really that bad  
After all, they didn't eat much  
And they didn't talk bad!

But once more  
They got to itchin for a son  
So they decided to give it  
Just one more run.

In October of '52  
Jaynette Lea entered the world  
So much for a son  
They were proud parents of a 3rd girl.

They raised their 3 daughters  
As they would have any son,  
With much love and understanding  
I bet they wouldn't trade a one.

In fact, they decided they liked girls so much  
They took in two more  
Anni Jensen and Nergis Yazgan  
Became daughters number 5 and 4.

These girls were from different countries  
They came to study the U.S.A..  
They lived with the best family ever  
They probably wanted to stay.

Now here they are  
60 wonderful years later  
Full of golden memories  
With many more to come later.

They now even have "a few" grandchildren  
3 of which are boys!  
These plus 4 girls  
Add up to seven sizes of joy.

Many know them as Olive and Meryle  
Mama and Daddy they are called by their girls  
We gave 'em a name too, we think it's tops  
To us they will always be Momz and Popz

Popz has his delicious taffy  
Momz has her wonderful stories  
No one can rightly say  
These two people can be boring.

No matter what their title  
The message is clear and shows through  
You are two very special people  
And we all love you.

Kriste Herring (Haile) (1st Granddaughter)

## ❄️ Letters To Santa ❄️

Dear Santa, Do you likies Cookies?-I want a hula hoop and a horse.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa  
Is mrs. Clause Nice to you? I want PoP goes refection. I want a barbie house. I want a Selena tape. I want a Rupunsel Book.  
Thank you very much.  
Love Lucy

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa, Who feed the reindeer? I have ben good. I want a Scooter and I want a Skateboard.  
Joel Garcia

Dear Santa,  
How is Rudolph? How is Mrs. Claus? I was good Please bring me a Brats.  
Love Jasmin Anzua

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa,  
Hi how is Mis Claus? Is it fun going down the chimuney, I want a Xbox, and train,  
Love Elvis Alvarez

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Sant Cluas  
Please wil you breeing me a SKat boarRd I Llove your cot  
Katiyynn Osdorn

### Get Family Photos Made During Christmas Holidays

The Friona Star wants to remind you to get photos of the children, grandchildren, great-grands, etc., while everyone is visiting during the Christmas holidays.

Keep in mind that it is not long until the special Valentine issue in February which features those pictures of everyone's cute kiddos and family groups.



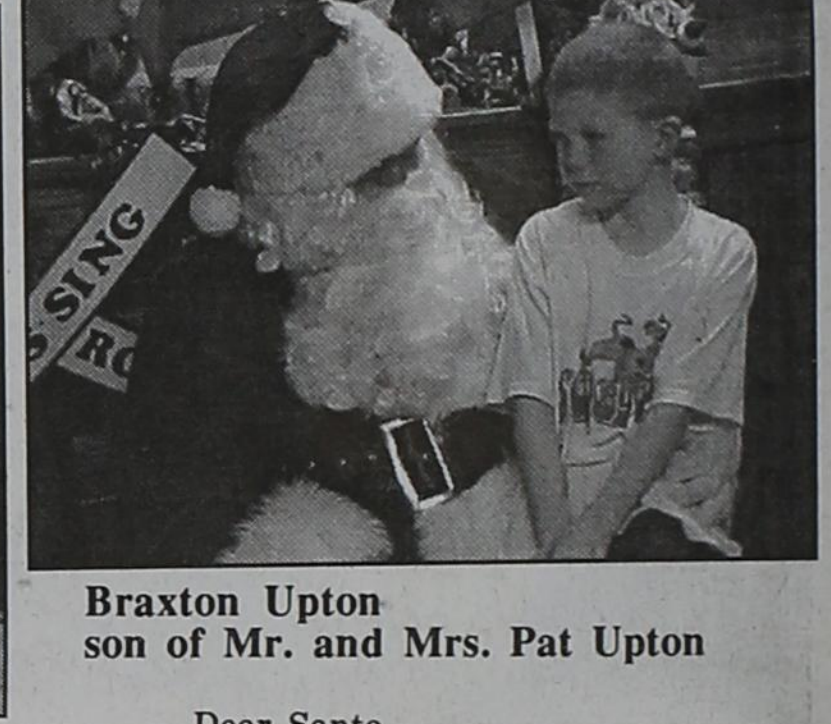
Robin Kelly  
Daughter of Doug and Ann Kelly



Mason Fleming  
son of Bruce and Shana Fleming



Ivan and Isaac Gallardo  
sons of Omaro and Vilma



Braxton Upton  
son of Mr. and Mrs. Pat Upton

Dear Santa  
I want a remote control car, a bike and 4 Nintendo games. I like your long beard  
Hector Garcia

Dear Santa  
Are you ready for Christmas? I want A Blue Pogo stick.  
Thankyoy. Love Trent

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa  
Do you like milk and cookies? I bin gud. Sumdays I will Mac sum cookies for you. I want a play shwantshen.  
Isaac Gallardo

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa  
Are you redy for Christmas? I Bin niss. I want a Teeset and a Barbec.  
Love Niomi Correa

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa  
How are you doing? I have bin good. I want a puppy that walks and Barks and has puppies  
Love Teri Reed

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me a BB gun, I lik your Rein deer.  
Jakelin Sanchez



### Amarillo Livestock Auction

Amarillo, Texas  
Cattle Sales Every Tuesday-10 a.m.  
(806) 373-7464

Joe Bell, Manager/Owner  
(806) 353-0811 Home - (806) 683-0449 Mobile

Madison Michener, Owner • John Graves, Asst. Mgr.  
(806) 359-7548 Home (806) 622-0227 Home  
(806) 679-9320 Mobile (806) 654-2965 Mobile

Receiving Pens Bovina, TX  
Houston Bartlett • Rocky Bartlett  
(806) 225-6699 (806) 251-2000  
(806) 225-7084 Mobile (806) 799-7079 Mobile

Receiving Pens Plainview, TX  
Frosty Freese (806) 293-1051 • (806) 774-1895 Mobile

## THANKS FOR DROPPING IN

Wishing you a bundle of happiness this holiday season. We always look forward to your visits.



FRIONA HEATING & AIR

KEVIN & VERNA PATTON

410 W. 11th St. (Hwy 60) -Friona- Ph. 250-2536

Dear Santa, control car an the gift. I lik thim. Please! Love, Omar

Dear Santa, raders, how you give me you give me a Josephine S

Dear Santa, Hi how are your Eli? I'm a good sister. I do n want a pet bu Long hair. I w I want new clo Love Citlali

Dear Santa, Will you tal sleigh? For Ch a secret diary. a teddy bear. Luv Ricky Ri

GED Or in Bovin January The Bovina a GED orienta 9:30 p.m. ea Jan 6-9, 2003 Jan 14 the meet every 6:30-9:30 p.m. provided via ference system Call 251-13 information a The classes anyone in the



OPAL STRICKLAND



GEORGIA FIELDS



STEPHENIE JONES

❄️ ❄️ Letters To Santa ❄️ ❄️

Dear Santa, I want a remot control car and thank you for the gift. I like the gift i like thim. Plese!  
Love, Omar Ramos

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa, how are all the raders. how they wethr. if you give me u preset can you give me a radio  
Josephine Samarroh

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear santa,  
Hi how are you? how is your Elf?

I'm a good girl I help my sister. I do my homwark. I want a pet bull dog. I want Long hair. I want new shoes. I want new clothes.  
Love Citlali Ojeda

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa,  
Will you take me on your sleigh? For Christmas, I want a secret diary. My sistr wants a teddy bear.  
Luv Ricky Rincon

**GED Orientation in Bovina Set January 6-9**

The Bovina ISD will hold a GED orientation from 6:30-9:30 p.m. each night from Jan 6-9, 2003. Beginning on Jan 14 the free class will meet every Tuesday from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Instruction is provided via the videoconference system at Bovina ISD. Call 251-1336 for more information and to sign up. The classes are open to anyone in the county.

Dear Santa,  
Hi how are you and Mrs Claus? I have been good htis year. I have good grades all As and 1 B. I did my chores, and i don't fight. This year I want a BMX bike, a pair of roller blades,  
Love Edgar Grado

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa,  
Hi, How are you? How many elves do you have? I have been good. I do my chores. I mow the grass. I want a dog. I want a dog. I want a dog. I want Lego Harry Potter, Kirby for Gamedoy advance, and Harry Potter stuf.  
Love Alexys Romero

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa  
Do you like cookies? I want a computer. Is Mrs claus fine? I want a bike. I want a watch. I want stereo. I want a baby doll.  
Love Karina Thanks

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**The Friona Star**

(Publication Friday Weekly, Except Christmas Week  
At 916 Main Street  
Friona, Texas, 79035  
Fax number: (806)250-5127  
**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**  
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Elsewhere, \$27.50 per year.  
Outside Texas, \$30.00  
Bill Ellis.....Editor & Publisher  
Vickie Copley.....Production Supt.  
Marlene Mueller.....Bookkeeper  
Ron Carr.....Managing Editor  
Carol Ellis.....Everything Else



Merry  **CHRISTMAS!**

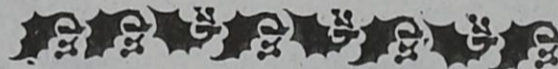
...And **Thank You Friona!**

**Our Staff Sends Best Wishes to all of you and Thank You for your patience and patronage during our first months in business in Friona.**



Left to Right, Lisa Guevara, Sharon Newton, Ab Hendley, Patsy Vazquez and Britny Pope. (Not shown: Lou Keith)

**You stuck with us during our early "learning how" and through our building process. You are truly customers to be treasured. We appreciate you.**



**Congratulations To Our Grand Opening Door Prize Winners:**



**Our Grand Prize Winner was Byron Boyd, shown here with Britny Pope.**



**Winners of \$50.00 Savings Bonds are shown (l-r) , Ron Smiley, Mary Johnston, Lewis Gore, Pudge Kendrick, and Clarence Martin.**



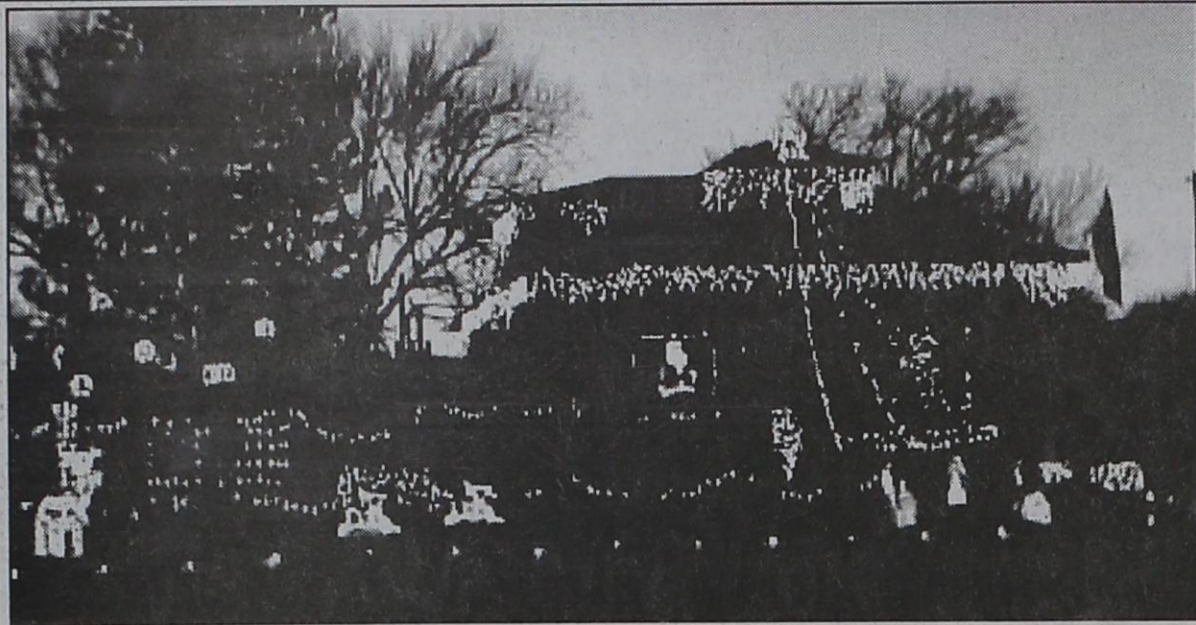
**First National Bank**

*Friona Banking Center*

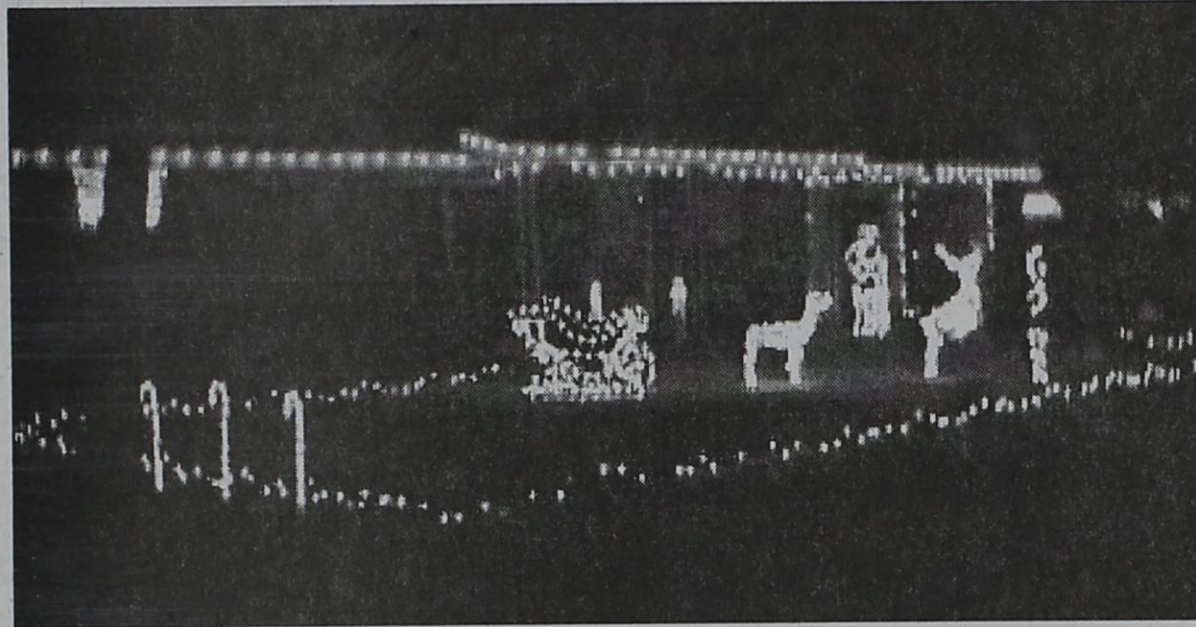
Phone (806) 250-2900 710 W 11th Street Friona, Texas  
Banking Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Drive thru open Friday until 6:00 p.m.

**NOTICE:**  
We will close at noon on Tuesday December 24th.  
Member FDIC

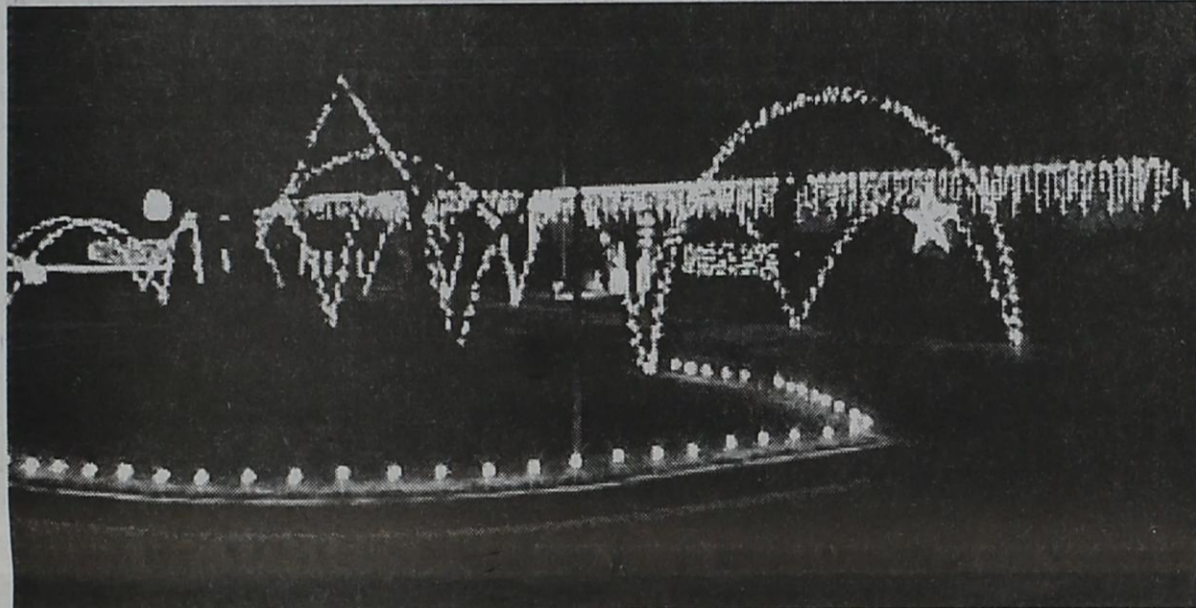




900 BLOCK OF MAIN STREET



1409 COLUMBIA



TENTH & BAYLOR

**\* Santa Letters \***

Dear Santa  
I like you I wish i took of  
picture of sonta.  
Justin Salazar

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa,  
Hi how are you? How is  
Mrs. Claus? I have been good  
this year. I have good grades  
I have responsibility. I do not  
do drugs. This year I want a  
pogostick.  
Love Kelly Preston

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa  
I would like a B.B gan for  
Christmas I have been a gooq  
boy  
Thank you Branden Pope

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa,  
I hope that you can bring  
me a brat head  
Love Isabel Davila

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa  
My name is William. I  
want to tell you wat I want.  
I want a canses city cheefs  
helmet. I want a set of drums  
I want a jets helmet. And  
football pads. And a lettricle  
gatar

**STOCKING  
"FETE"!**

May your stocking be filled to the brim with joy, cheer, everlasting peace, & all the good things life has to offer! **Best wishes and many thanks for your friendship and continued support.**

**Brockman  
Sales  
Auto Parts**  
509 W. 11th - Ph. 250-2219

*Peace at  
Christmas*

*May you celebrate  
the meaning of  
Christmas with  
warmth and love  
of family.*

*To our 'family' we  
extend our thoughts  
of thanks for your  
good will and  
friendship.*

**Attebury Grain**  
RANDY THOMAS, Manager  
Black, Texas Phone 265-3286

TOMMY  
FBC  
Men  
Friona B  
has named  
directors to as  
agriculture fir  
Ab He  
president and  
Center mana  
the appointm  
Tatum and  
advisory direc  
Tommy  
Lifetime resie  
County. He  
Friona High  
Texas State  
a Bachelor of  
in Animal Sci  
Tatum ha  
farming and  
since 1962. H  
in Cattle T  
served on  
Directors for  
He is pr  
Board of Di  
Feedyard and  
the ownersh  
also has an  
new Lone Sta  
Tommy a  
have two da  
Carthel of F  
Hawkins of  
Tatums enj  
entertainin  
grandchildren  
Bill Stov  
Vice Presiden  
Stocker Oper  
International,  
previously a  
Manager of F  
Health, a divi  
Industries I

*Wishing You  
Resounding  
Success  
at Christmas*

**EXPRESSLY FOR YOU**

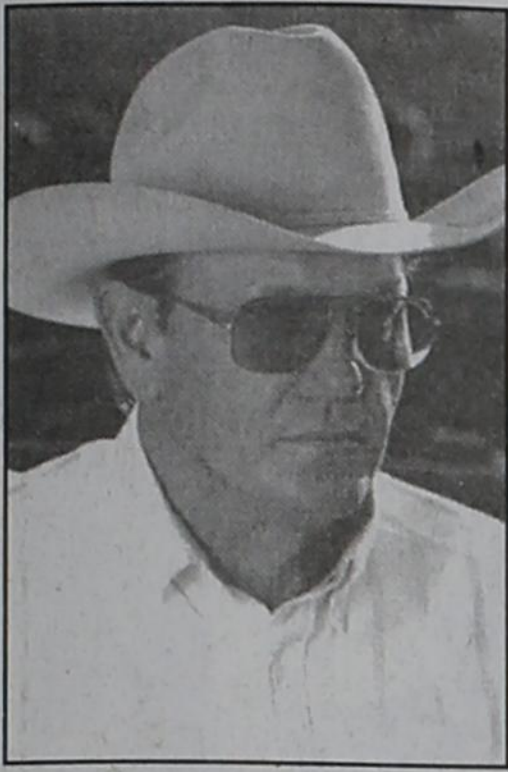
We're happy to have this opportunity to express our gratitude and offer our very best wishes to all of you at this joyous time of year. Thanks!

**Kendrick Oil**  
Fast Stop Convenience Stores  
Fast Stop Truck Wash

★  
**OUR  
WISH  
FOR YOU,  
DEAR FRIENDS,  
IS A VERY MERRY  
CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR**

**West Friona Grain  
& Fertilizer**

Office: 250-3839 Mobile: 265-7922  
Agri-Inject Dealer & Service Center  
Terry Sharrock, General Manager



TOMMY TATUM



BILL STOVELL

## FBC Names Two Local Men To Advisory Board

Friona Banking Center has named two advisory directors to assist the bank in agriculture finance.

Ab Hendley, vice-president and Friona Banking Center manager, announced the appointment of Tommy Tatum and Bill Stovell as advisory directors.

Tommy Tatum is a lifetime resident of Parmer County. He graduated from Friona High School and West Texas State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science.

Tatum has been active in farming and cattle feeding since 1962. He was a partner in Cattle Town, Inc. and served on the Board of Directors for many years.

He is presently on the Board of Directors of Paco Feedyard and is a partner in the ownership of Paco. He also has an interest in the new Lone Star Dairy.

Tommy and Diane Tatum have two daughters, Wendy Carthel of Friona and Holly Hawkins of Hereford. The Tatums enjoy traveling and entertaining their four grandchildren.

Bill Stovell is currently Vice President for Cow Calf Stocker Operations for Walco International, Inc. He served previously as the General Manager of Hi Pro Animal Health, a division of Friona Industries LP. He was

general manager of the division for 25 years.

Stovell has served as a Board member of the American Feed Industry Association, Chairman of the Animal Health Committee AFIA, Texas Cattle Feeders Allied Industry Committee and Board member of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

He also was District Chairman of the Boy Scouts, president of the Friona Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Friona City Council.

Stovell now serves as a Board member and President of the American Veterinary Distributors Association, Board of Directors and Finance Committee of Agri-Labs Inc., and Board member of the Friona Economic Development Corp.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Business from Texas Tech University. He and his wife Marilyn have two children.

Wade Easley, president of First National Bank in Hereford, said, "We are pleased to have these two individuals on the Friona Banking Center Advisory Board. Their business background and expertise in the agriculture industry will be a valuable asset to Friona Banking Center and its customers."



ATTEND LUNCHEON...The First Baptist Church's ladies Christmas luncheon was held December 10. Jean Roberts, Wyona Clark and Virginia Cleveland enjoyed the holiday gathering.

### \* \* Letters To Santa \* \*

Dear Samta  
I want a tool box truck, a toy power tool set, a train set and a drum set(a real drum set) I want a camouflage tent set.  
Keaton

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me a Rapunzel doll and a baby and a Brat doll Thats all!  
Love Kendall. Kimbrough

Dear Sata  
i wot too tac of pishr with yoo.  
Alyssa Salazar

Dear Santa  
I hop you are vyn in that cold wether. I wudr if your Randeer Are fin. tak you for the presints that you gave me can you ples give me a my Reposot Brby ples. can you ples give my bruthra Remockitrol car. can you get my Dad a noow frand. and can you give my mom sun noow jewlry  
Lov Kailey Lucas

Dear Santa,  
Hi. How are you and Mrs. Santa claus? I have been good. I haven't been saying bad words. I wont a cd player.  
love Blane Parker

Dear Santa  
I want a Cinderella, Please Love Jazmine Morales

**Season's Greetings**  
To Our Many Fine Customers  
Thank you for putting your trust in us.  
**WILBUR-ELLIS/TIDE**  
PH. 265-3271

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
We're proud to be of service to you throughout the year.

**4-Way Pump Service**      250-2241  
1400 W. Hwy 60

# MERRY CHRISTMAS,

## Y'ALL

With Our Thanks

*There's no better time of year to express our gratitude and offer our very best wishes for a joyous season and a happy new year.*

*It has been our pleasure to serve the fine folks of Parmer County during this past year.*

**ConAgra Beef Company**  
295-6905 • Friona



**SENIORS ATTEND CHRISTMAS PARTY....**A large crowd of Friona State Bank's senior club members attended the Christmas luncheon on Tuesday, December 10.

### Presentation On College Financial Aid Scheduled

Parents of middle school and high school students have an opportunity to learn about a new financial aid program that is opening the doors to institutions of higher learning for thousands of students in Texas. The program, called the TEXAS Grant, makes financial aid for college available to any Texas resident who completes the Recommended High School Program and meets financial need requirements.

The TEXAS Grant is one of several financial aid programs available to students who want to attend a technical, community or four-year college for post-secondary studies. Many of these programs are explained in a new Texas Education Agency video, "Financial Aid Opportunities," which will be shown Dec. 30-Jan. 3 twice daily at 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on channel 76.

This video is one in a five-part series called, "Pathways to Success," which is available for viewing in every school district in Texas to help parents help their children get the most out of their education.

Other videos in the series, which were specially created for parents of middle school and high school students, include: "How to Encourage Strong Academics at Home," "The Importance of Standardized Tests," and "The Value of Taking Challenging Courses." The series flagship video, "Education Opportunities in

Texas," explains new statewide programs that are raising educational standards, preparing students for post-secondary education, and expanding opportunities for financial aid. All the videos in the series were produced in both English and Spanish and are approximately 15 minutes long. They will be run on the cable twice daily at 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The viewing schedule for the video is as follows:

• "Educational Financial Aid Opportunities" on cable Dec. 30-Jan. 3

Parents who do not have access to cable TV or who miss viewing one of the series may call Kitty Gallman at Friona High School 250-3951 to make arrangements to see the videos.

#### \* Santa Letters \*

Dear Santa

I wood like a my sise rupoazol barbey plees and a keley booll too I would rire like to hav ony own tv son and i wood rierile like to by a aktr mostley and I hoe you liece our coocke too and thank you for reding my letor from kailey

Dear Santa

i like the precens. that you give me to me how or. you i love you how is roodof and the navr reindeer i wonet a blisekland roloskrs and one mor theng a cash reshestr. and i want a now swenx lvov Alejandra Garcia

*Happy Birthday Friona....*

#### Week of December 22-28

Friona residents observing their birthdays next week include:

**December 22--**Sabrina Clark, Jane Houlette, Chris Haile.

**December 23--**Lavenia Duke, Sue Wells, Uldene Grimsley.

**December 24--**Jon Osborn, Bert Osborn, Wana Brewer, Gabriel Baca, Mike Herbert.

**December 25--**Bob Hurst, Dr. Bob Sanders, Betty Smock, Michael McLellan, Mickey Harrelson.

**December 26--**Wade Cargile, Lindsey Jennings, Guy Ellis, Tony Day, Opal Baxter, Teresa Taylor, Lynda Grimsley, Tyler Peace.

**December 27--**Joanna Schueler, Johnnie Walters, Micha Duke, Levi Whitney Bandy.

**December 28--**Allen Stewart, Todd Long, James Chadwick, Sara Zerfas, Kim Caffey, Jan Parker, Nathan Hoon, Amy Stephens.

If you or someone in your family has a birthday coming up soon, please call the Friona Star office at 250-2211 and report it.

When you see names which should have been removed from our birthday listings (moved away, names that have changed, deceased, etc.) call the newspaper and let someone know.



**HOST CHRISTMAS PARTY....**These four Friona State Bank employees assisted in hosting the senior club members party held last week. Pictured are (left to right) Shirley Ferguson, Marca Herring, Nora Rose and Jerry Hinkle.

*We at DQ wish you a Merry Christmas*



Dairy Queen  
W Hwy 60  
247-3838

**That's What I Like About Texas.**

## HOLIDAY GREETINGS!



To our many fine customers and friends, we extend our very best wishes for a season filled with peace and joy.

We appreciate your loyal business!

**FRIONA FARMERS CO-OP GIN**  
Ph. 806-265-3398



## Wishing You A Harmonious Season

As the sounds of Christmas fill the air,  
Refrains of peace and joy are everywhere,  
And we'd like to add a good measure of cheer  
To all of those whom we hold dear.  
We know it's more than coincidental  
That your kind patronage has been instrumental  
In making our year a resounding success,  
So to all of you, we wish the best!

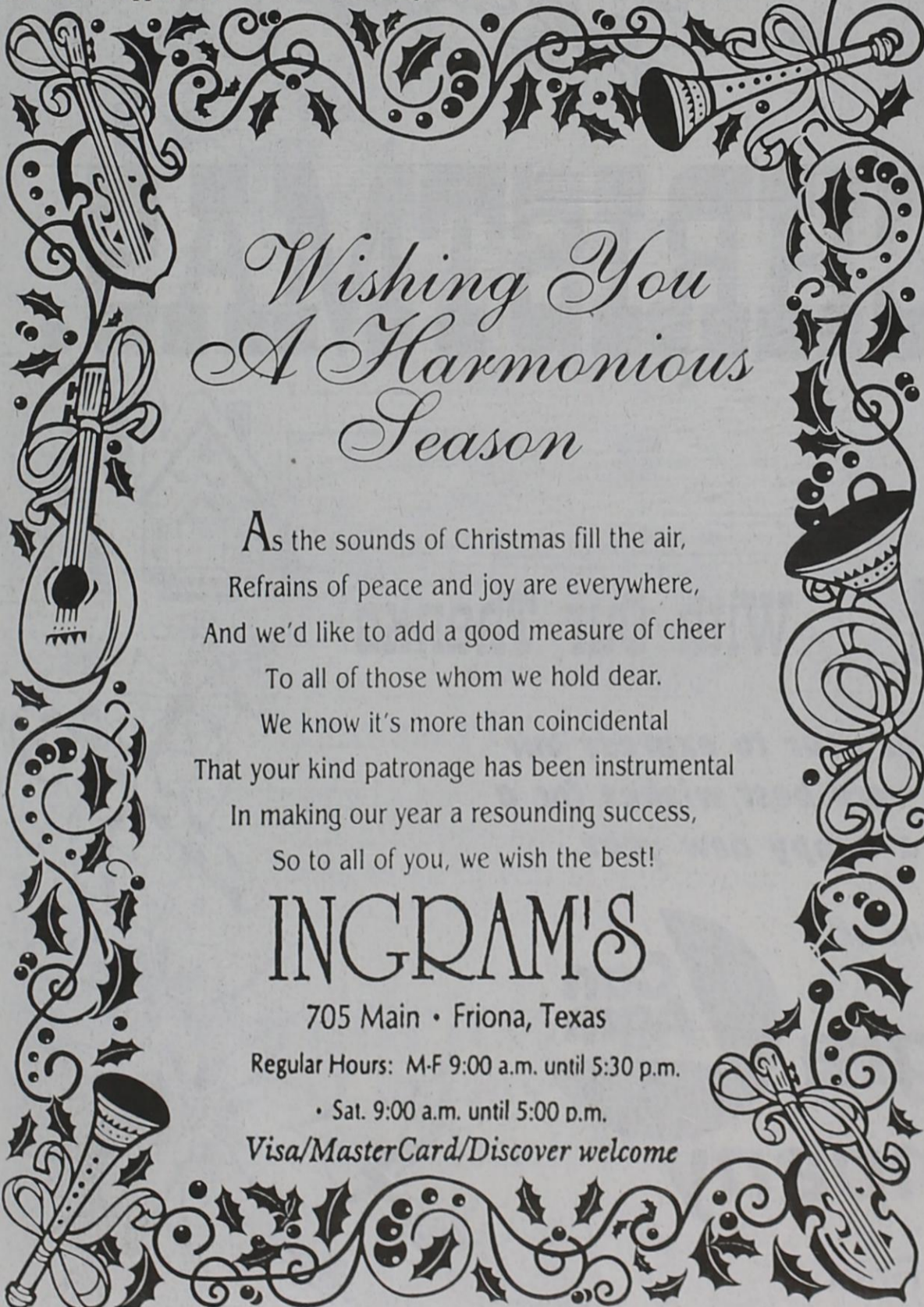
**INGRAM'S**

705 Main • Friona, Texas

Regular Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

• Sat. 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Visa/MasterCard/Discover welcome





# MERRY CHRISTMAS

## Project Christmas Card

Sponsored By Modern Study Club  
& The Friona Star

### \* A \*

Maynard & Mildred Agee  
Chris Alexander  
Dennis, Loraine, Adrienne, Erin,  
Morgan, & Regan Anthony  
Irene L. Anthony  
Glendora Lee, John, & Shawn Appling  
Jeff, Kathleen, & Victoria Appling  
LeeRoy & Glennella Appling  
Roy Lee, Leslie, Sarah, Celestie & Jay  
Lee Appling (Panhandle, TX)

### \* B \*

John Baca  
Eugene & Patsy Bandy  
Ann Barker  
Butch & Martha Barker  
Doyce & Mary Joyce Barnett  
Wesley & Doris Barnett  
Opal Baxter & family  
A.L. & Clydie Black  
Danny, Linda, Deven, & DaLinda Black  
John & Jo Blackwell  
Claire Charron Blanco  
Joe & Tommie Boeckman  
Rex & Darla Bracken  
Cody, Lana, Lexie, & Laura Bracken  
(Canyon, TX)  
Wana Brewer  
Eldred Brown  
Ralph & Dean Broyles  
W.D. & Reba Buske

### \* C \*

Danny, Holly & Stephen Campbell  
Ron Carr  
Mary Lee Cass  
Mike & Betty Chaney  
Jay & Jonell Claborn  
Dub & Virginia Cleveland  
Ronald Dee & Wyona Clark  
Terry & Vickie Copley  
James & Vernell Cunningham

### \* D \*

Ron & Edwina Davenport  
Stuart, Julie & Morgan Davidson (Olton,  
TX)  
Marlene Drake  
Baker & Margaret Duggins  
John & Deanna Duke  
Andre, Staci, Taylor, & Kyndali Duran  
Tony & Mary Duran

### \* E \*

Bill & Carol Ellis

### \* F \*

Julia Fairchild  
Butch & Paula Fairchild (Adrian, TX)  
Fred & Shirley Ferguson  
Howard & Patricia Fleming  
Kenneth & Mary Ford  
Kip & Misty Frye  
George & Aundrea Frye & Jukka

### \* G \*

Je'Don & Kitty Gallman  
Liliah Gaye Gee  
David, Kathryn, Jon, Erin, Charlotte, &  
Julie Ann Goddard  
Lewis & Elizabeth Gore  
Sterling & Joy Graham  
The Jayson Grimsley Family

### \* H \*

Martha Hamilton  
Raymond & Pam Hamilton  
Bill & Ruthie Hardin  
Dale & Laura Hart  
Wanda Hart  
Ab, Deb & Sarah Hendley  
Marca Lynn Herring  
Lucy Beth & Jerry Hinkle  
Hollis & Lunell Horton  
Walter Hudson

### \* J \*

Galen & Keri Jack  
Tom B. & Bettye Jarboe  
Frances E. Jennings "Pug" (Muleshoe)  
Edith Johnson  
The Joe Bob Johnsons

### \* K \*

Mr. & Mrs. H. K. Kendrick

### \* L \*

Delton & Betty Lewellen  
Jerry & Raye Jene London

### \* M \*

Cecil & Mary Maddox  
Clarence & Wynona Martin  
Donita Martin  
Mike & Reta Martin  
Meryl & Olive Massey  
Jimmy & Barbra Maynard  
Harold & Eddie Mays  
Joe & Loy McLellan  
Donna & Sam, Clint Mears  
Freeman & Rosemary Melton  
W. J. & Tommie Mercer  
Roy & Eva Miller  
Frances Milner  
Mildred Mingus  
Clarence & Peggy Monroe  
Larry & Genie Moyer  
Joe & Marlene Mueller  
Curtis & Gertie Murphree

### \* N \*

Robert & Connie Neelley  
Bill Neely  
Lois Norwood

### \* O \*

Ann Osborn  
Dottie M. Osborn  
Valoris Osborn

### \* P \*

Grace & Bruce Parr  
Percy & Margaret Parsons  
Cassey, Wade, & Ellen Perkins  
Benny & Mary Pryor

### \* R \*

Bud & Sandra Rainey  
John & Sandra Randall  
Rickey & Pam Rector  
Fay Reeve  
Floyd, Betty & Becky Reeve  
R.J. & Betty Renner  
Wayne & Judy Rhodes  
Royce & Patcy Riggins  
Jean Roberts  
LC & Sandra Roots ( Gilchrist, TX)

### \* S \*

Dr. & Mrs. Dale Schueler  
Troy R. & Mona Sharrock  
Jerry & Beth Shelton & Iona Deaton  
Richard, Pat, James, & Mathew Shirley  
(Katy, TX)  
Gary & Kay Snead  
Rene & Jinx Snead  
Raymond, Cathy, Tammy, & Logan  
Spencer  
Ann & Gigi Spring  
Don & Gladys Spring  
June, Dr. Paul, & Susie Spring  
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Stewart  
Randy, Doreen & Megan Stone  
William & Marilyn Stovall

### \* T \*

Joe & Betty Talley  
Leon & Nelda Talley  
Harold & Trel Taylor  
Mitch & Kathy Terry  
Dave & Norma Thompson  
Ralph & Jeanette Thurman

### \* V \*

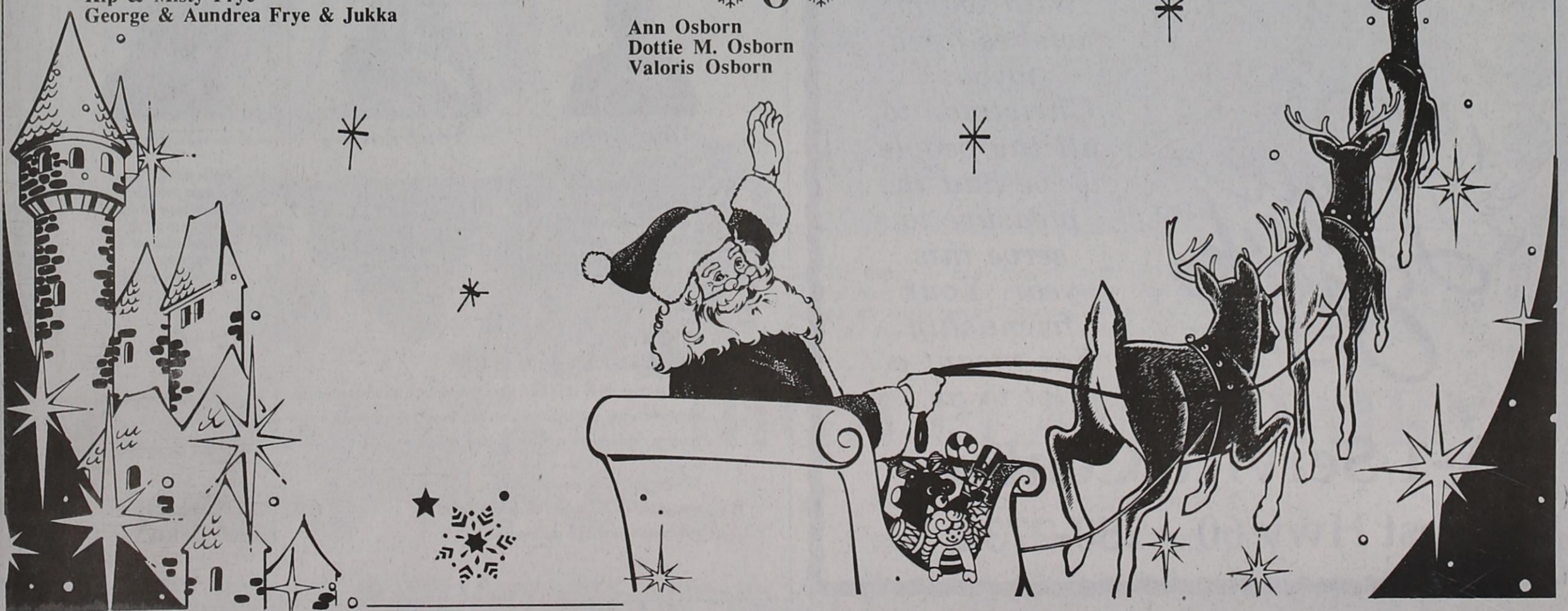
V.F.W. Auxilliary Post 1413  
Greg & Mary Lou Venhaus

### \* W \*

Ethel Walker & family  
Marilyn & Dean Watson  
Gene & Mildred Welch  
Lous & Mamie Lou Welch  
Linda & John F. White  
Teddy & Sharon White  
Buddy & Betty Wiseman  
Gene & Pat Wright  
Wade & Amelia Wright

### \* Z \*

Billy Gene & Karon Zachary





THE WOMEN'S DIVISION of Friona's Chamber of Commerce sponsored the annual Santa at the Park evening last Monday. Shown with Santa are Women's Division members, l-r, Stormi Roberson, Vickie Cochran, and Jennifer Harris.

**\* Santa Letters \***

Dear Santa,  
Could I have a elf toy? and I want a new bike, and a skateboard. And a motorcycle, but you can't carry a motorcycle in your sack so I will take a motorcycle toy. And a Stitch Christmas. I miss you  
Mason Fleming  
\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa,  
I got cookie and milk. Santa is a good Santa. Santa is a very great fellow. He has lots of presents. I want a Barbie House, with two babies in a stroller.  
Amy Daffern  
\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me some baby and some baby clothes and a big huge motel. And I want a little baby trial house and some blocks. And some babies, and some baby shirts and a dress-up clothes thing. And a santa toy. And an angel, and a Kitchen. And some books and a snowman  
Kendall Barnett  
\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa,  
I miss you. I hope you love me. I've been doing hard papers. Santa, at school. School is fun. I like Miss Shana's friends. I want a Play House. I love you. I made a santa and it is suppose to look like you.  
Kayla Newton  
\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa,  
I want some games for Aaron's thing. And I want some dress up clothes and a helmet, and one of those game boys that you play when you get bored. And that's all.  
Trey Hurst



BRETT TOWNSEND and RAINEY WILLIAMS, children of Misty Baxter.



WESTON SASSER, son of Dean and Keeley Sasser, and JAYCE BELK, son of Jamie and Krista Belk.



GABBY DOUGLAS



DESTINY and AMELIA ROSE SANDOVAL



TRISTEN STORMES, son of Andy and Lori Stormes.



ASPEN FLEMING, daughter of Bruce and Shawna Fleming.



TOMMY and MARISOL BENEVIDES, children of Jaimie and Lourdes Benevides.



BAILEY BRAILLIF



KARINA TREJO



COTTON FLEMING, son of Bruce and Shawna Fleming.

**Meet Friona's Class of 2015**



Miranda Parvin

Miranda is a kindergartner at Friona Schools.

Her Mother is Peggy Parvin. Her Grandparents are Abraham and Gloria Escobedo, and Frances Parvin.

She likes to ride her bike and swim. Her favorite food is chicken nuggets. Her favorite colors are blue, pink, and purple.

**Friona Texas Federal Credit Union**

**\* Santa Letters \***

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me a Barbie Jeep, 3 feet Barbie doll, Magic Sweet Kitchen and a Kitty.  
Love Miranda Parvin  
\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa,  
This is my christmas toys leap frog books, football for gameboy advance, xbox games, GiJoe Weapons & GiJoe toy, bebeGun cds Dragonball Z toys Santa Claus present  
Caleb Ray Monroe

**The best gas leak detector is *you*.**

You were born with the best equipment for detecting a natural gas pipeline emergency—your eyes, ears and nose.



Your Nose

Unusual aromas around your property resembling rotten eggs, skunk or sulfur could indicate a natural gas leak.



Your Ears

Don't ignore a shrill hissing, blowing or roaring noise on your property. All of these could be signals of a high-pressure natural gas emergency.



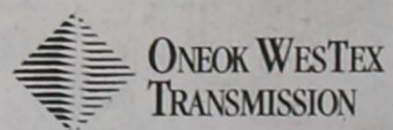
Your Eyes

Visible warning signs of a gas emergency include water or dirt blowing in the air, discoloration of vegetation or continuous bubbling from standing water.

**Take the Time to Call.**

If you discover any or all of these warning signs, leave the area immediately. Do not operate motor vehicles or equipment nearby, and forego any activity that could generate a spark. You should immediately contact your local emergency authorities and ONEOK WestTex Transmission at 1-800-562-5879, or the operator of the pipeline.

By using your built-in detection devices, you can prevent any disasters associated with random natural gas pipeline leaks.



*Peace on Earth*

With warm wishes for a joyous Christmas to all the people we've had the pleasure to serve this year. Your friendship has meant a lot to us.

**A-1 Service Center**  
West Hwy 60 250-2731



Sawyer Reed, Brett Field, Erica Wyly, Ryan Geries, Alan Huckins, John Torres, Sean Lookingbill, Valente Casas, Trent Hudson, Caleb Miller, Joshua Jameson and Emily Allen.



Deirdre Johnston, Allison Jones, Hollis Gurley, Briana Wright, Erica Davila, Marie Tirado, Meghan Hendrickson, Jordan Monroe, Jordan Jamerson, Isabel Romero, Kathy Anthony and Leslie Avalos.

## Junior High Band Students Named Tops In 2A Feeders

Thirty eight students of the Friona Junior High Band traveled to Panhandle High School on December 5, to audition for the ATSSB Class AA All-Region Junior High Band.

Of those thirty eight students participating, 34 were selected. Only Canadian was able to put more students in the 100 piece honor group. Other schools participating in the auditions were Canadian, Panhandle, West Texas, Sanford-Fritch, Highland Park, Spearman, and Boys Ranch.

Students and their chair placement representing Friona Junior High were:

Flute: Deirdre Johnston (4), Allison Jones (10), Hollis Gurley (15)

Clarinet: Briana Wright (4), Erica Davila (5), Marie Tirado (8), Meghan Hendrickson (11), Jordan Monroe (16)

Alto Saxophone: Jordan Jamerson (2), Isabel Romero (5)

Trumpet: Kathy Anthony (1), Leslie Avalos (2), Sawyer Reed (3), Brett Field (4), Ryan Geries (7), Alan Huckins (9), John Torres (10), Sean Lookingbill (11), Erica Wyly (12), Valente Casas (13), Trent Hudson (15), Caleb Miller (1st Alt.)

French Horn: Sandra Godoy (4)

Trombone: Alonzo Rojas (2), Chance Lewellen (4), Alex Gurley (6), Emilio Tarango (7), Fernando Moreno (12), Juan Reyes (1st Alt.)

Baritone: Lauren Hughs (1), Hunter Monk (2)

Tuba: Octavio Moreno (1), Curtis Graham (2), Tolby Wilcox (5)

Percussion: Joshua Jameson (2), Emily Allen (3)

Saturday, January 18, the student's efforts will pay off when they perform with the ATSSB All Region Band at the Civic Auditorium in Amarillo. "Both Mr. Youree and I are very proud not only of all the students who made the band, but all of the

students who tried out. This was the most students on any given year at Friona Junior High to make the All Region Band. Our students represented our school and community very well", said Ron McWilliams, Band Director.

### \* Santa Letters \*

Dear Santa, how are all the reindeers? Please bring me a new watch and skates I was good love Rainey Williams

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Santa, Is it fun going down the chimney? How is Rubolph? I was good this year. I wot a big brat face wast you can poot makeupe and whole set of Bratz toys I have yasin. Love Mykelti Rhodes

\*\*\*\*\*

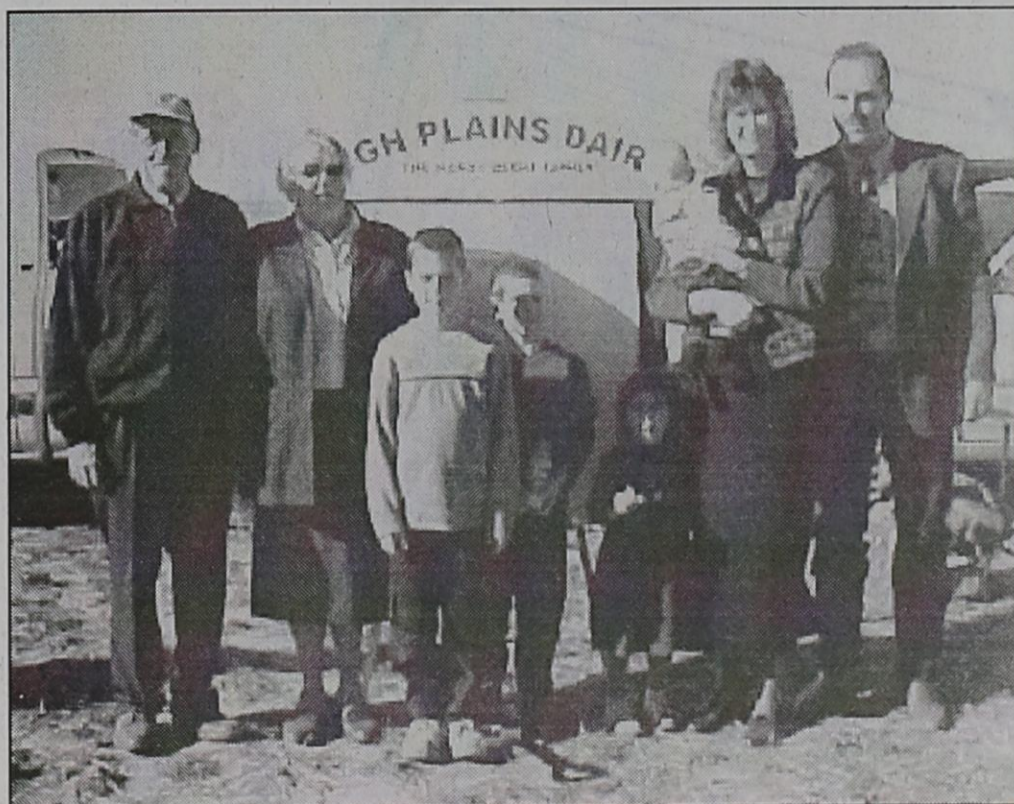
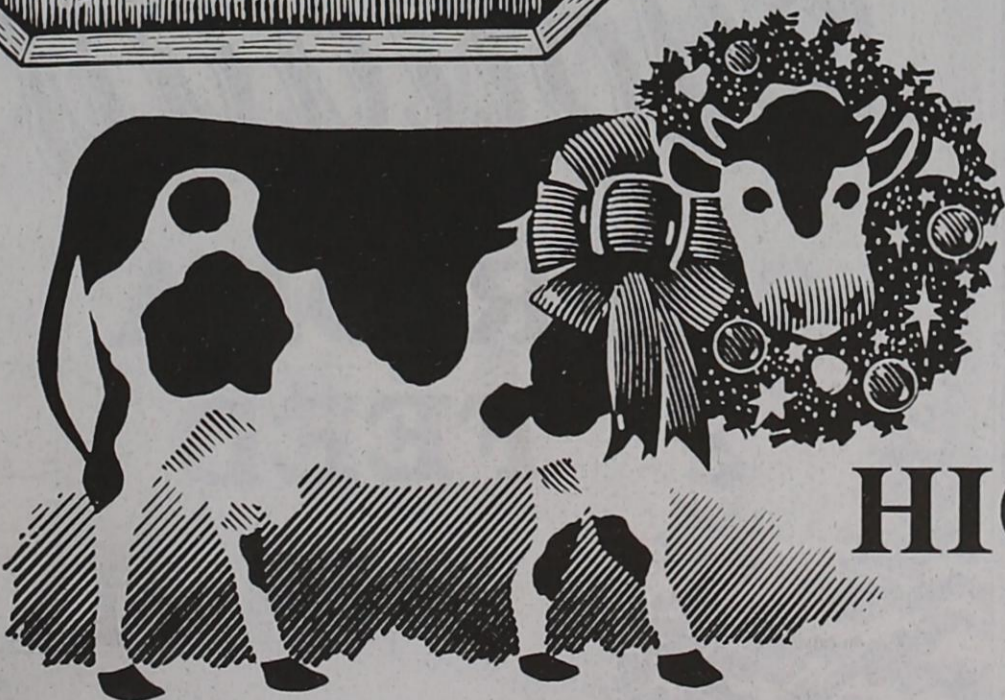
Deer Santa, How r the randerers. Haw r you santa. and santa I want a reel motorcycle. luv Andres Montanez.



Sandra Godoy, Alonzo Rojas, Chance Lewellen, Alex Gurley, Emilio Tarango, Fernando Moreno, Juan Reyes, Lauren Hughs, Hunter Monk, Octavio Moreno, Curtis Graham and Tolby Wilcox.

# COUNTRY Christmas Greetings

... From The Whole Dewit Family at High Plains Dairy



We are happy to have located in the Friona area and look forward to being "Good Neighbors" for a long time. Our thanks go to all of you who have helped us during our "starting up" period. May your Christmas be filled with the joy of Christ's birth and blessed with the light of His love.

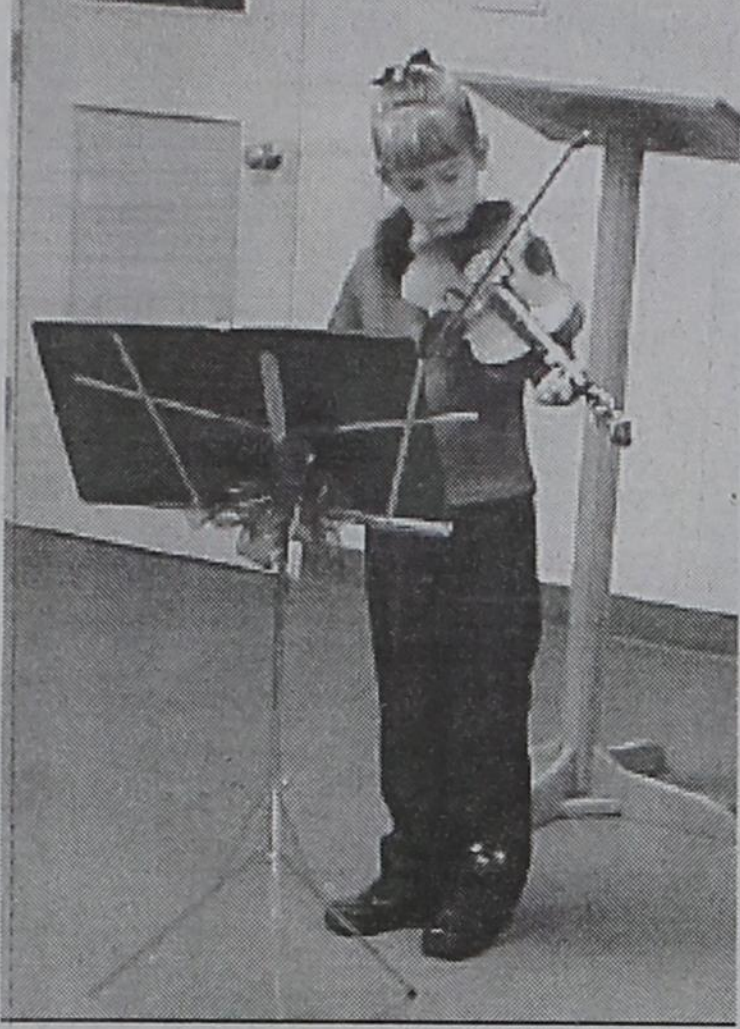
## HIGH PLAINS DAIRY

Southeast of Friona

Harry and Margaret DeWit

Phone 265-3310 Fax 265-3311

PAG



MACY McLENNON



CALLIE HEFNER



HANNAH STOVALL



DEBRA COOPER



SARA COOPER



DEBBIE STOVALL gave a short message.

**LADIES' LUNCHEON.** Friona First Baptist Church held their annual ladies Christmas luncheon on Tuesday, December 10, complete with elegant holiday decorations and a great meal. Over eighty guests were served at the annual event. The young ladies pictured on this page provided musical entertainment throughout the luncheon. Pictured are--Macy McLennon (violinist), Callie Hefner (pianist), and Hannah Stovall (vocalist), middle row--Debra Cooper and Sara Cooper (pianists).

*Have a Happy Holiday*

Let's cherish the spirit of Christmas and the joy of friendship.



**Robertson Electric**

W. Hwy. 60  
250-2169



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JOY,  
LOVE,  
HEALTH,  
HARMONY,  
GOOD FORTUNE,  
PEACE ON EARTH

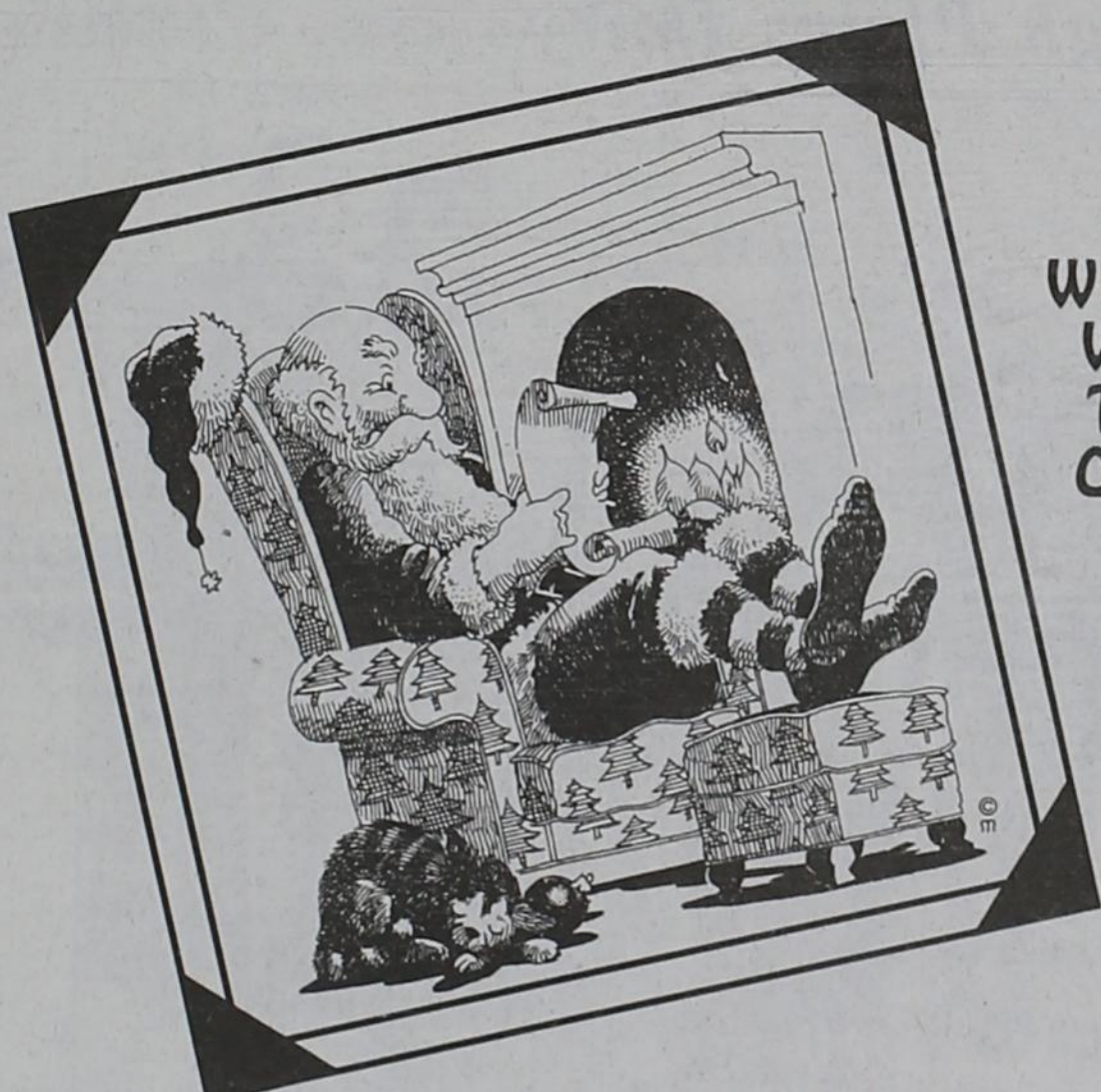
Wishing you and yours all the blessings of this special time of year.  
We really appreciate your business. Thanks!

**Prairie Insurance Agency, Inc.**

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LIFE — HOME — AUTO — CROP

**At Christmastime**



Our Warmest Wishes To All Of You

*May the warmth of family and good friends decorate your hearth and spread throughout your home this happy holiday season.  
Many Thanks for your Patronage*

**Parmer County Pump Company**  
Hollis Horton

FROM OUR SPREAD TO YOURS .....



Our Wish For You and Yours Is  
*A Picture Perfect Holiday*

**FRIONA FEED YARD**

265-3574

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CHEYENNE HARRIS, daughter of Bryan and Christie Harris.



MEGAN SHARROCK, daughter of Terry and Casey Sharrock.



GAVIN DOUGLAS, son of John and Rachel Douglas.



RAY GARCIA, son of Salvador and Sally Garcia.



BLAKE STOWERS, son of Gary and Carolyn Stowers.

\* Santa Letters \*

Dear Santa,  
I want a Star Wars II DVD. I want a blue Star Wars Light Sword. Anthony wants a spiderman whip.  
Love Richard Minavez  
P.S. Brittany wants a Barbie Rapunzel

Dear Santa,  
When did you find roodof? I want a pop sination Barbie and a life size Rapunsel. Brooklyn and I want a Cd player. Ples bring me a infladubl cawch and foot stool  
Love Holly Johnston

Dear Santa,  
I want a Polly Pocket with 2 dogs, a jeep car and the other stuff on my list. I want Harry Potter for Mommy. Do you want Coffee or Milk with the cookies that I leave by the fireplace?  
Love Claudia Alexander

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me a dragon, a Harry Potter game for Playstation, and a Playstation.  
Thank you Sincerely  
Christian Alexander

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me a Spiderman game for Playstation, a Scooby Doo plush pillow and a Mc Donalds food cort.  
Thank you. Sincerely,  
Chase Alexander

## Ugly Truck Contest

Is your truck UGLY enough to win \$500 in our UGLY Truck Contest?

Drag or drive your ugly truck by to enter our UGLY Truck Contest. Be sure to cast your vote for your choice of the UGLIEST truck.

**M-PYRE**  
AUTO SALES, INC.

1112 W. AMERICAN BLVD.  
272-7777  
MULESHOE, TEXAS

Contest ends Dec. 21, 2002.  
Call Randy or Curtis for more details.

The truck with the most votes wins \$500 Cash. UGLY is beautiful if it wins you \$500



Open: Mon.-Sat. 9 am -6pm

# SEASON'S GREETINGS

We want to thank all our loyal patrons for dining with us and wish you all a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

**OLGA'S WILL BE CLOSED SAT. DEC. 21 THROUGH JAN 2. COME SEE US.**

**Merry Christmas From All Of Us To All Of You!**

## Olga's Place

1505 West 5th, At the Country Club  
Dine-In or Carry-Out! Call: 250-5721



**What's on the Bookshelf At the Friona Star for Christmas Gifting?**

- \*Roads of Texas Atlas
- \*Books by Gerald McCathern: "Devil's Rope" "Dry Bones" "Quarantine"
- \*Wayne Bristow's Popular Book "18 Miles From Earth"
- Plus two CDs: "Freedom" & "There Will Always Be Cowboys"
- \*"Black Sunday" by Frank A. Stallings, Jr.  
-an illustrated discussion of the famous black duster of April 24, 1935
- \*The Green Thumb Cookbook

## Friona Star / Bovina Blade

# Following The Stars

By JIM STEIERT  
Co-Op Connection

*In a moment of aloneness a tractor driver witnesses the twinkling of hope against an indigo night sky.*

The throaty thrum of the diesel engine, and the glow of the fuel and amp, temp, oil pressure and tach gauges of the tractor's panel were company to him. Lights mounted on the cab and fenders stabbed into the darkness, illuminating the rutted county road.

He had finally gotten to that place where he had hoped to be a good month earlier—dumping the last load off the boll buggy and into the module builder in a cloud of lint and dust.

Finishing up the last field had left him on the far side of the place. He had to road the rig down the turnrows and over to the other farm where he had left his pickup about mid-morning. A man could not stand to be parted from his pickup for long out in farm country. The shop and office-on-wheels held paper-work and tools and baling wire and duct tape—virtually the entire life support system for a farmer.

He should have been finished with cotton harvest long ago, but the fickle Plains weather had more than lived up to its reputation as this year wound down.

Suitable harvesting days had come only in short clusters this fall, frequently interrupted by rain and drizzle—that very same stuff that had been all but impossible to come by in what now felt like the forever-ago summer months, when this crop looked as if it would be a gin-buster.

## The Legend Of The Holly---

On the first Christmas night, when the shepherds went to the manger, a little lamb following them was caught by the holly thorns. The red berries are the blood drops that froze on the branches that long-ago night.

after the bolls had opened and taken a lot of the shine off of the prospects. The time of gathering that held such promise back in October had dragged on well into the days of December.

He counted himself lucky to have worked with a good crew of neighbors who took everything in stride—the breakdowns and the flats and tumbleweed-induced ballups, and the rotten luck with the weather.

They rode it out and bore down and got the work done the best they could—nothing anybody could do about the weather. Rumbling along in road gear at partial throttle, the tractor had almost a rocking motion as the lugs of the tires bit the road. He glanced back periodically to check that the boll buggy wasn't bouncing excessively, and minded his steering as he stared ahead. His mind raced with relief, and played back the work and obstacle-clearing that had gone before.

He couldn't begin to count all of the late evenings he had spent here in this tractor cab in the last month. Winter days disappeared fast when the sun plunged spectacularly from the western sky and the darkness enveloped everything outside of the dust-dimmed beam of tractor and cotton stripper lights.

They all worked as much as they could, when the weather would let them. Thanksgiving had come and gone in a blur. Christmas was coming fast. He felt in the midst of the hectic hurry that was harvest, that he was missing the holiday.

Now, tooling down the road, surrounded by the darkness of the countryside, his glances over the gauges reminded him of Christmas tree lights. He thought of the glowing yellow-and-green bobbles, the glass balls, and the clumped icicles that decorated the tree in the living room when he was growing up. He remembered how excited he was—so excited it was hard for him to sleep—when the big tree was being decked out by his parents. He and the brother

and sisters always got to put on the clingy icicles in great gobs.

To the drone of the diesel, he wondered to himself, if, in this hurry-up world, little kids could still feel magic in this season.

Amidst his reverie the lights picked up the outline of his pickup. He wheeled the rig up alongside, idled the engine down, then shut off the lights and cut the ignition.

The sudden silence was deafening. He felt strangely alone, engulfed by the immense darkness.

Gingerly, he opened the cab door, rose from the tractor seat, and carefully felt his way down the steps with his feet.

On the ground, he stood for a moment next to the big tractor tire, letting his eyes adjust to the great vastness of the darkness.

In that moment of aloneness, far out in the countryside, his eyes slowly absorbed not the inkiness of a dark night but a great sweeping expanse of long-forgotten twinkling hope against the indigo sky.

He had been so busy worrying about things down here that he had not taken the time to look upward into the night for who knew how long?

Now, standing alone, his breath visible on the chill air, he shivered in amazement at the heavens adorned in their timeless Christmas best. Like the kid of years ago, he felt the excitement and wonder welling inside. Here he was, small and insignificant—yet the stars shone over him with a glory as ancient as the Christmas story.

Inside the pickup, he started the motor, then dialed the cell phone.

"Honey? Yep, I just finished up. Hey, put on your coat right now and go outside and look at the sky...It's filled with Christmas. Take the kids, too. They need to see. Have you and the kids finished decorating the tree? Would you wait for me? I'm on my way...I'll just follow the Christmas stars."



THIS QUAIN TOWN COTTAGE does well to illustrate the beauty of the winter season, and calls to mind that the holidays that accompany the snow are just a short time away.

## Vegetable Conference Set

LUBBOCK - A perennial favorite of vegetable growers in West Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Colorado will return with new vigor January 14, 2003. That's the date for the High Plains Vegetable Conference at West Texas A&M University in Canyon.

This is a rebirth of the former West Texas Vegetable Conference, organized each year by my predecessor, Dr. Roland Roberts," said Russ Wallace, assistant professor of horticulture and Texas Cooperative Extension vegetable specialist at Texas A&M's Research and Extension Center here.

The conference will run from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the West Texas A&M University Alumni Banquet Facility (located at the corner of North 3rd and 25th Streets). Registration over coffee and donuts begins at 7:45 a.m. and costs \$25 per person; which includes lunch, conference handouts, and admission to the

accompanying agri-industry trade show. The deadline for pre-registration is Dec. 31, 2002.

The first morning session will cover crop pests; with presentations on vegetable diseases, insect control, nematode problems, chemical and alternative weed control, and information resources to aid management decisions. The second morning session will cover risk management, an update of current Texas Department of Agriculture rules and regulations, and an industry perspective on pest management.

The keynote luncheon speaker is Ken Mattingly, owner-operator of M-B Farms, Inc., a 1,700-acre vegetable farm in LeRoy, New York. Mattingly will discuss how commodity groups, universities, and industry work together on vegetable research to benefit growers in New York state.

Speakers at the first afternoon session will discuss "what's new in vegetable

crops," such as results from Texas A&M's 2002 statewide watermelon trials; yellow vine disease in High Plains pumpkins; and updates on New Mexico State University's chile pepper program and potato varieties for 2003.

The second afternoon session will include presentations on soil microbes and plant health; successful crop rotation strategies/sequences on the High Plains; and irrigation and water quality issues.

Conference sponsors include Texas Cooperative Extension, the High Plains Vegetable Growers and Shippers Council, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, West Texas A&M University, and the Texas Department of Agriculture.

For registration or more information on the Jan. 14 High Plains Vegetable Conference in Canyon, contact Russ Wallace at (806) 746-6101 or your local county Extension office.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

From Your  
**County Officials**  
We look forward to  
serving you in the new year

<b>Gordon Green</b> District Judge	<b>Bonnie Clayton</b> County Judge
<b>Colleen Stover</b> County Clerk	<b>Bobbie Pierson</b> Tax Assessor
<b>Tom Ware</b> Commissioner	<b>Charles Aycock</b> County Attorney
<b>Kirk Frye</b> Commissioner	<b>Sandra Warren</b> District Clerk
<b>Anne Norton</b> County Treasurer	<b>Johnny Atkinson</b> District Attorney

With Our Thanks

There's no better time of year to express our gratitude and offer our very best wishes for a joyous season.

Deaf Smith Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 753 First & Whittier Streets  
Hereford, Texas 79045  
Phone: (806)364-1166 Fax: (806)364-5481  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperation

**POLITICAL CORRECTNESS**

# Santa Having To Learn New Ropes

'Twas the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck...  
 How to live in a world that's politically correct?  
 His workers no longer would answer to "Elves",  
 "Vertically Challenged" they were calling themselves.  
 And labor conditions at the north pole  
 Were alleged by the union to stifle the soul.  
 Four reindeer had vanished, without much propriety.  
 Released to the wilds by the Humane Society.  
 And equal employment had made it quite clear  
 That Santa had better not use reindeer.  
 So Dancer and Donner, Comet and Cupid, Were replaced with 4 pigs, and you know that looked stupid!  
 The runners had been removed from the sleigh;  
 The ruts were termed dangerous by the E.P.A.  
 And people had started to call for the cops when they heard sled noises on their roof-tops.  
 Second-hand smoke from his pipe had his workers quite frightened  
 His fur trimmed red suit was called "unenlightened."  
 And to show you the strangeness of life's ebbs and flows,  
 Rudolf was suing over unauthorized use of his nose  
 And had gone to Gerald, in front of the nation,  
 Demanding millions in over-due compensation.  
 So, half of the reindeer were gone; and his wife,  
 Who suddenly said she'd enough of this life,  
 Joined to self-help group, packed, and left in a whiz,  
 Demanding from now on her title was Ms.  
 And as for the gifts, why, he'd never had a notion  
 That making a choice could cause so much commotion.  
 Nothing of leather, nothing of fur,  
 Which meant nothing for him. And nothing for her.  
 Nothing that might be construed to pollute,  
 Nothing to aim. Nothing to shoot.  
 Nothing that clamored or made lots of noise.  
 Nothing for girls. Or just for boys.  
 Nothing that claimed to be gender specific.  
 Nothing that's warlike or non pacific.  
 No candy or sweets...they were bad for the tooth  
 Nothing that seemed to embellish a truth.  
 And fairy tales, while not yet forbidden,  
 Were like Ken and Barbie, better off hidden.  
 For they raised the hackles of those psychological  
 Who claimed the only good gift was the ecological.  
 No baseball, no football...someone could get hurt;  
 Besides, playing sports exposed kids to dirt.  
 Dolls were said to be sexist, and should be passe;  
 And Nintendo would rot your entire brain away.  
 So Santa just stood there, disheveled, perplexed;  
 He just could not figure out what to do next.  
 He tried to be merry, tried to be gay,  
 But you've got to be careful with that word today.  
 His sack was quite empty, limp to the ground;  
 Nothing fully acceptable was to be found.  
 Something special was needed, a gift that he might  
 Give to all without angering the left or the right.  
 A gift that would satisfy, with no indecision,  
 Each group of people, every religion;  
 Every ethnicity, every hue,  
 Everyone, everywhere...even you.  
 So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth...  
 "May you and your loved ones enjoy peace on earth."



U DROP INN CAFE is one of the interesting places to stop on old Route 66.

(Photo courtesy of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. For more information, you may write WTAMU, Box 60967, Canyon, Texas 79016.)

## Route 66 Exhibits Open Now

Maps and colorful postcards, as well as photographic images, take the viewer on a scenic journey across Route 66.  
 Beginning with Chicago in the East and ending in California, this exhibit brings the nostalgia of roadside attractions to travelers on the 2,220 mile highway.  
 Photographer, Jim Jordan's "Edge of the Mother Road," "West of Here" and "X'ing the Panhandle" highlight the exhibit which will run January 15 through November 15, 2003 in the Alexander Photo Gallery.

## Acquisitions Exhibit Opened December 19

New stuff: Recent Acquisitions of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society, an exhibit of selected items donated to the Society during the past five years, will open at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum on December 19. The various objects displayed will include what is believed to be the large oak desk used by the first president of West Texas State Normal School, Dr. R.B. Cousins.  
 The late Dr. Jack Hughes, long-time professor of archeology and geology at W.T., purchased the roll-top desk during the 1950s at W.T. surplus property sale. Papers found by Hughes in the desk indicated that Dr. Cousins and his successor, Dr. Joseph A. Hill, probably had used it.  
 The exhibit also will feature several items donated from the estate of Marshall Cator, the 99-year-old Sunray ranchman who died in January 2002. Objects on display will include Cator's handmade oak bedroom suite as well as a bronze portrait statue of the veteran rancher by sculptor Edd Hayes.  
 Other items to be exhibited are a Movieola film editing machine, the first costume used by the Kwahadi Indian Dancers in 1947, a large prehistoric water jar, a Casas Grandes effigy vessel, a bronze cast of the reconstructed head of a prehistoric Buried City woman, several quilts, a pageant dress, and other textiles. The exhibit also will display a number of works of art, including paintings by Joseph Fleck, A.W. Mack, and Charles Berninghaus.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS



This is a fitting time to say, may your holiday be filled with lots of joy, laughter and festivities.

Thank you for your patronage.

1602 W. HWY. 60  
 P.O. BOX 896  
 FRIONA, TEXAS

(806)250-2758 Fax: (806)250-2114

Offices in Amarillo, Plainview, Dalhart, Dimmitt, Dumas, Floydada, Friona, Muleshoe, Olton and Tulia.

**Great Plains Ag Credit**

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

Our best wishes to all you home folks for a blessed Holiday and a wonderful New Year. We hope this Christmas Season brings you lasting health and happiness.

We enjoy serving you and want you to know how much we appreciate your loyal business year after year.

## BI-WIZE DRUG

Phone 250-3010 or 250-2270  
 902 Main Street Friona  
*A Lot Of Good Things, But 'Always' A Drug Store!*

# Season's Greetings



### Loan Department

Back left to right: Jerry, Gary, Mac Langford  
Middle row: Elaine Cain, Susie Teaque, Myra Rangel  
Front: Casey Sharrock, Carolyn Dement



### Maintenance

Maria Rodriguez, Enrique Rodriguez



### CDs & New Accounts

Shirley Ferguson, Marca Herring



### Tellers

Left to right: Cecilia Dominguez, Candice Schueler, Cherlyn Pruitt, Ginger Quinn, Mary Rodriguez, Cathy Spencer

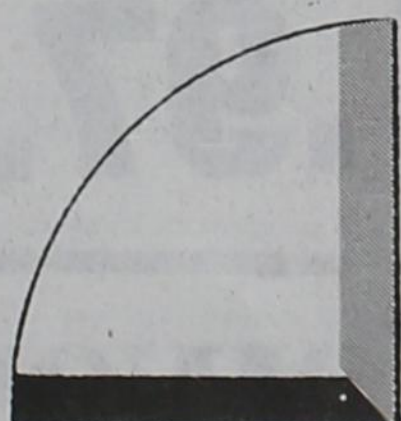


### Operations

April Reyes, Misti Cooper, Nora Rose, Larry Knowles, Belen Trevino

Bank Closes at noon on the 24th

# MERRY CHRISTMAS & MANY THANKS



# FRIONA STATE BANK



THE FRIONA STAR  
WRITING  
P  
H

Not that I never published... After all, he volumes of the and 30 of the on shelves in h... Those bo comprise 23,6 the news conte is much hig average book. In addition Carol publish genealogical Ellis Cousins 23 years. Bil newsletter a 400 pages making him the most pro these parts. But just finished a considers e important and his newspaper been. Having spe 30 years re writing, he h "George Rich Ancestors and The book pages packed photographs, sketches (by wife Carol). Also, there charts, detail older genera Ellis family ar lines, coun histories, and census records. The census published with their family's goes back to Included in his book, Bil vital record marriage dat etc.) on individuals. Bill has numerous de including thos father and gra most of their si has these vital great-grandfa Richard Ellis

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**WRITES FAMILY BOOK**

**Publisher Adds To His Prolific Career**

Not that Bill Ellis has never published a book.

After all, he has 41 bound volumes of the Friona Star and 30 of the Bovina Blade on shelves in his office.

Those bound volumes comprise 23,600 pages, plus the news content of the pages is much higher than the average book.

In addition, Bill and wife Carol published a national genealogical publication, the Ellis Cousins Newsletter, for 23 years. Bill's part of the newsletter added another 400 pages to the total, making him without doubt the most prolific writer in these parts.

But just recently, Bill finished a book that he considers every bit as important and challenging as his newspaper volumes have been.

Having spent the past 25-30 years researching and writing, he has just finished "George Richard Ellis, His Ancestors and Descendants."

The book contains 340 pages packed with over 500 photographs, plus five artist's sketches (by you-know-who, wife Carol).

Also, there are 40 family charts, detailing all of the older generations of Bill's Ellis family and the collateral lines, countless family histories, and many pages of census records.

The census information is published with the head of their family's chapter, and goes back to 1830.

Included in the pages of his book, Bill has recorded vital records (birthdates, marriage dates, death dates, etc.) on over 1,000 individuals.

Bill has also included numerous death certificates, including those for his grandfather and grandmother, and most of their siblings. He also has these vital records for his great-grandfather, Geo. Richard Ellis (the book's

namesake), and four of his siblings.

There are copies of several Bible records, deed records from Tennessee, Arkansas and Texas, marriage licenses and war records from the Revolutionary War through World War II.

Bill credits the fact that he was raised by his grandparents, Dovie and Willie Ellis with contributing to his interest in family history.

"He was one generation further back than most people. Besides the fact that many of his grandparents' siblings and their children visited regularly with the Ellises in Muleshoe (or vice versa), his Ellis family had held yearly family reunions since before 1940," says wife Carol.

Carol says that some years back, while looking in a box of mementos of his school years, she discovered bits of family information he had jotted on the backs of envelopes, etc. "I suppose you could say he has been working on this project for over 50 years," she said.

Bill says that he feels that everyone who has the ability to research and write, owes it to their family to preserve their family's records, regardless of whether they publish them or not.

In his case, since he has spent 42 years interviewing, researching and photographing individuals for his newspapers, he was the self-appointed member of his Ellis family to take on this project.

"It is also a very fulfilling 'hobby,'" Carol concluded.

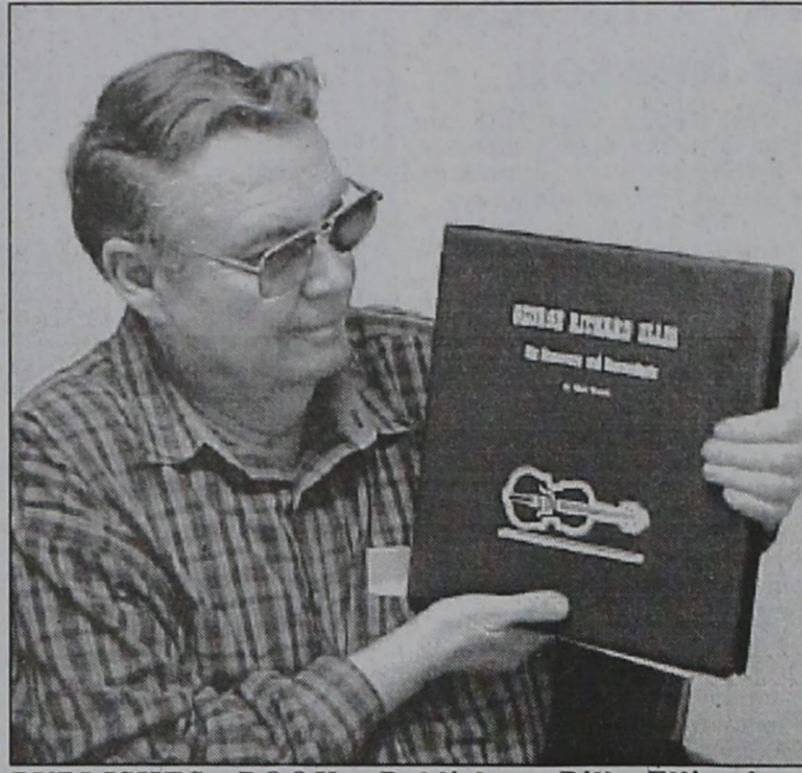
Other family lines which are given more than token space in the book include Fletcher, Mobley, Nored, Teakell, Byford, Byler, Leggett, Kerley and Cox.

Bill's Ellis ancestors settled in Western Tennessee in the 1830s from North Carolina.

His great-grandfather and three siblings came to Montague County, Texas, prior to 1880. A great uncle, James Washington Ellis, was an early settler and land developer in Bailey County, and was responsible for his family's migration there.

His 3rd great-grandfather, Wilkinson Fletcher, came to Texas while it was a republic, and argued in favor of annexation. Wilks Fletcher was the first schoolteacher in Bonham, and is written up in the book "Texas Patriots."

His Mobley group was right behind, settling in Tarrant County, in time to be enumerated in the 1850 census. The Mobleys were in the U.S. in the late 1600s.



**PUBLISHES BOOK....** Publisher Bill Ellis has recently completed his "labor of love," a 340-page family history on his Ellis family and collateral lines. Researching and writing have taken about 30 years for him to complete.

**"The Old Home Place"**

by BILL ELLIS

I wandered down a country road,  
I hoped once more to find  
The Place that means so much to me,  
That old Home Place of mine.

Since Mom and I have moved to town,  
The place has changed, I fear.  
No more the hustling, bustling place  
When all our kids were here.

The house, our home, is but a shell,  
Where once loud laughter rang,  
Especially at Christmas-time,  
When all our children came.

On holidays, when all were there,  
And grandkids filled the place--  
Oh how I loved to see each one,  
The smile upon each face.

The yard where Dovie's flowers bloomed  
Has now grown up in weeds;  
The lawn we labored over,  
Look--now a yearling feeds.

The gate I worked so hard to fix,  
To keep old Joner in,  
Is gone, as is the picket fence,  
Good Lord--how's long's it been?



The house is cold where once our warmth  
Filled every corner space.  
Can this have been my bedroom?  
I recalled a larger place.

A cotton crop is growing still,  
Where once I knew each stalk.  
This place--I knew each inch of it  
As o'er it I would walk.

The barnyard, where we milked the cows,  
Has changed, with fences down.  
I didn't know it changed so much,  
Since we have moved to town.

I like it best in my mind's eye,  
There everything I'll find,  
The place that means so much to me--  
That old Home Place of Mine.

**Holiday Spirit Can Be A Gift To Last All Year**

A lovely family dinner with traditional holiday foods ...

A Christmas party with so close friends ...

An exciting morning of tearing open colorfully wrapped gifts with the children ...

A romantic evening by the fire with a loved one ...

A walk through a snowy wonderland while sipping warm apple cider ...

Christmas time means many things to many people, but one thing remains constant--the holidays are a time of "goodwill toward men."

After a year of hustle and bustle and dealing with the stress of Day-to-day living, Christmas is when people can relax and enjoy the happiness that infuses the season. Warmth and generosity seem to fill overtone's heart as they spread joy to their family, friends and even strangers on the street.

Whether remembering the delightful Christmases spent with grandma and grandpa or planning a special holiday for their own children and grandchildren, people are filled with the spirit of the season. A feeling of harmony is in the air, bringing people from far and wide together. They share their time, their thoughts and even special gifts with each other, and they seem to forget about the troubles they faced just a short while ago.

Christmas is a time of reflection and rejuvenation, allowing people to recover from their hectic daily lifestyles.

This year, they should let the spirit of Christmas live throughout the year. Not only will they be happier, but their kindness will brighten another person's life, and hopefully, he or she will spread this joy on to others. This is just one small way to make the world a better place.

So, to their Christmas list, people can add a wish that the holiday spirit lasts the whole year through.

**HI-PRO SAYS...**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**The Christmas**  
by Mary Dalton Crump

A host of angels in the air,  
a child lay sleeping, unaware  
that Magi saw the shining star  
and followed from a land afar.

The shepherds watching on the hill  
heard angel's song, saw time fulfill.  
How Mary held, with loving care,  
a Baby with an answered prayer.

A peace was born in Bethlehem,  
below the star, the earth was dim.  
The prophesy foretold was done.  
The angels sang for God's own Son.

The noel chorus lifted high  
to one star gleaming in the sky.  
A hush descended on the earth  
the Holy night of Jesus birth.

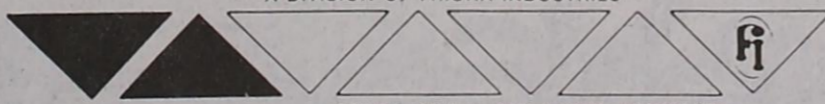
God must have smiled as Jesus lay  
so small, but Holy on this day,  
He blessed the world and gave us of  
His greatest gift, a wondrous love.



Hi-Pro sends Best Wishes for a Holiday Season filled with warmth and good cheer. Happy New Year to all our friends and neighbors. We look forward to doing business with you in 2003!

**HI PRO FEEDS**

A DIVISION OF FRIONA INDUSTRIES



BOX 519 FRIONA TEXAS 79035 806-247-2791

## Celebrate The Timeless Spirit Of The Season

Christmas is not a time or a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.

As we celebrate the arrival of the holiday season, Coolidge's words are a particularly apt reminder of the importance of cultivating and maintaining the true Christmas spirit.

When friends and family members join together, it is the genuine warmth of loving relationships, not elaborate gifts or multi-course meals, that gives life to the season's festivities and enriches the lives of the participants in the years to come.

The joy of the season can be captured in even the simplest activities: teaching a child to make a gingerbread house; going caroling with friends; stringing popcorn and cranberry garlands for the

tree; sending Christmas cards to far-away family members; setting out a tray of milk and cookies for Santa to enjoy.

Whether holiday traditions are simple or elaborate, they serve to bind loved ones together, creating a sense of continuity and permanence that transcends the worries of everyday life.

So, even if your Christmas gift budget is not as big as you would like it to be, celebrate the goodwill of the season and find ways to share that joy with those you love. Whether you put a festive CD on the stereo, throw a holiday video in the VCR, light some candles, bake holiday cookies, have a tree-trimming party or arrange for a more formal event, the smiles on the faces of those you love will prove your efforts to be both rewarding and appreciated.

Saturday I watched the Midland High vs. Converse Judson football game on the Fox Sport Net channel.

The two teams were playing for the Division I 5A state title at the Alamodome in San Antonio. Midland High had not even been to the playoffs since 1951 and here they were playing in the state title game under first year head coach Craig Yenzler.

Most folks around here know Yenzler was the coach at Hereford when they went to the 4A state title game a

couple of years ago. This was Yenzler's first year at Midland High.

What a story. The last time Midland High won a playoff game was 66 years ago. And they hadn't even been in the playoffs for 50 years. And here they were playing in the Alamodome before a TV audience for all the 5A marbles and accolades.

It is a story that movies are made of. And it was a darn good game. Midland High went ahead with 40 seconds to play. When Judson got the ball they had 17 seconds left and were on their own 24 yard line.

Midland High was seconds away from football history. One long pass by Judson. One wide open receiver high-tailing it at full speed. A 76-yard touchdown. Only 7 seconds left now. Judson wins 33-32.

I felt sorry for the Midland High kids and fans. So close to an impossible dream. But I figured that for whatever reason, God just didn't want Midland High to win the state championship.

For some reason we'll never know, God preferred to give Converse Judson their sixth state title, instead of Midland High's first one. God works in mysterious ways.

I came to this conclusion that God meddles in sports after watching one of the commercials that ran during the game.

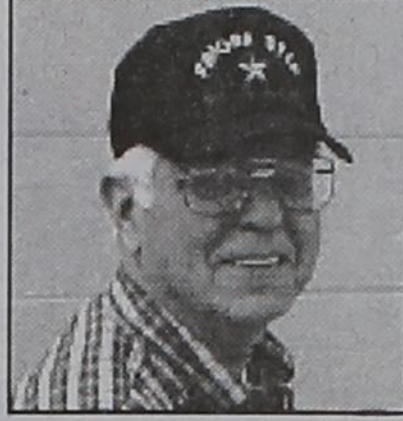
A guy in a grizzlies sweatshirt is walking down a crowded sidewalk. A gust of wind, blowing only on him and not on the other people, blows him down and along the sidewalk until he smashes into a trash can.

He gets up, takes one step, and another gust of wind carries him straight up

# Out Here

by Ron Carr

"God Is A Maverick Fan"



out of the TV picture. He lands on the hood of a car several blocks down the street. Hard enough to kill him it looked like but we never found out.

After he landed on the car hood, the commercial went to black with white wording that said "God Is A Mavericks Fan."

See, the guy had on a Grizzlies shirt. The Grizzlies are a pro-basketball team (I guess).

So are the Dallas Mavericks. They were playing each other Saturday night, hence the "God Is A Mavericks Fan" commercial promoting the game.

So here is God, slamming a man to the ground, then sucking him up in the air and slamming him on a car hood, all because he doesn't like the Grizzlies. Or likes the Mavericks better.

I was surprised at the reference to God in a stupid pro-basketball commercial. That's cheap. It is bad taste. It is for the shallow minds that watch pro-basketball in the first place. I was offended and I am not even close to being a religious nut.

God Is A Mavericks Fan. Do you suppose the Mavericks or the NBA is paying God a royalty fee for the use of his name? They should be. That's the way our system works. You mention one of the NBA players and you have to pay them a lot of money. The Mavericks appear to have gotten God's endorsement free.

See, the God I believe in does not do anything to anybody. He doesn't "call people home", he doesn't choose to kill some people and let others live, and he sure as

heck doesn't decide the outcome of high school football games or pick sides in

the NBA.

You say, "well Ron it was just all in fun. It was just a commercial. Lighten up."

Okay, so I'm lightened up. Lot of people make fun of God and religion. Lot of people die in wars, and terrorist acts because of disagreements about God and religion.

Maybe God ought to be standing watch over evil instead of rooting for basketball teams. Maybe He can do both. I don't know and neither do you.

I'm calling my personal attorney, Bobby Bobby P. C. in Lubbock. If I can get the copyright and prove that I am God, then I can demand the Mavericks pay me a bunch of money.

If you take my name in vain after that, it's gonna cost ya'.



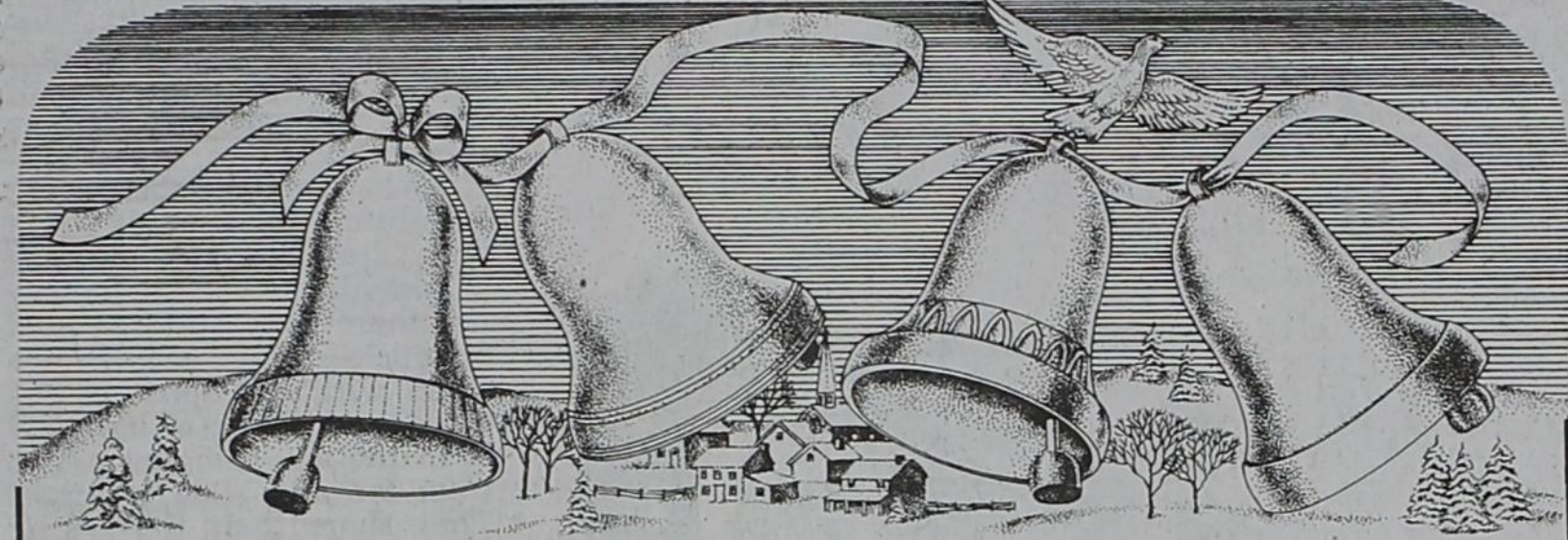
## Holiday Tip:

To figure out the amount of wrapping paper you will need to cut from a roll, just wrap a piece of string around the package and cut it to length. Then use that string to measure the wrapping paper.

## Did You Know?

The term "Xmas" is not an attempt to take Christ out of Christmas.

Actually, it is merely an abbreviation of the word itself. The X in Xmas is the Greek letter Chi, the first letter of Christ's name when written in that language. This simple abbreviation dates back to about the 12th century.



# JOYOUS TIDINGS

This Christmas season gives us the opportunity to send greetings and best wishes to all our good friends and customers. Thanks for allowing us to serve you again this past year.

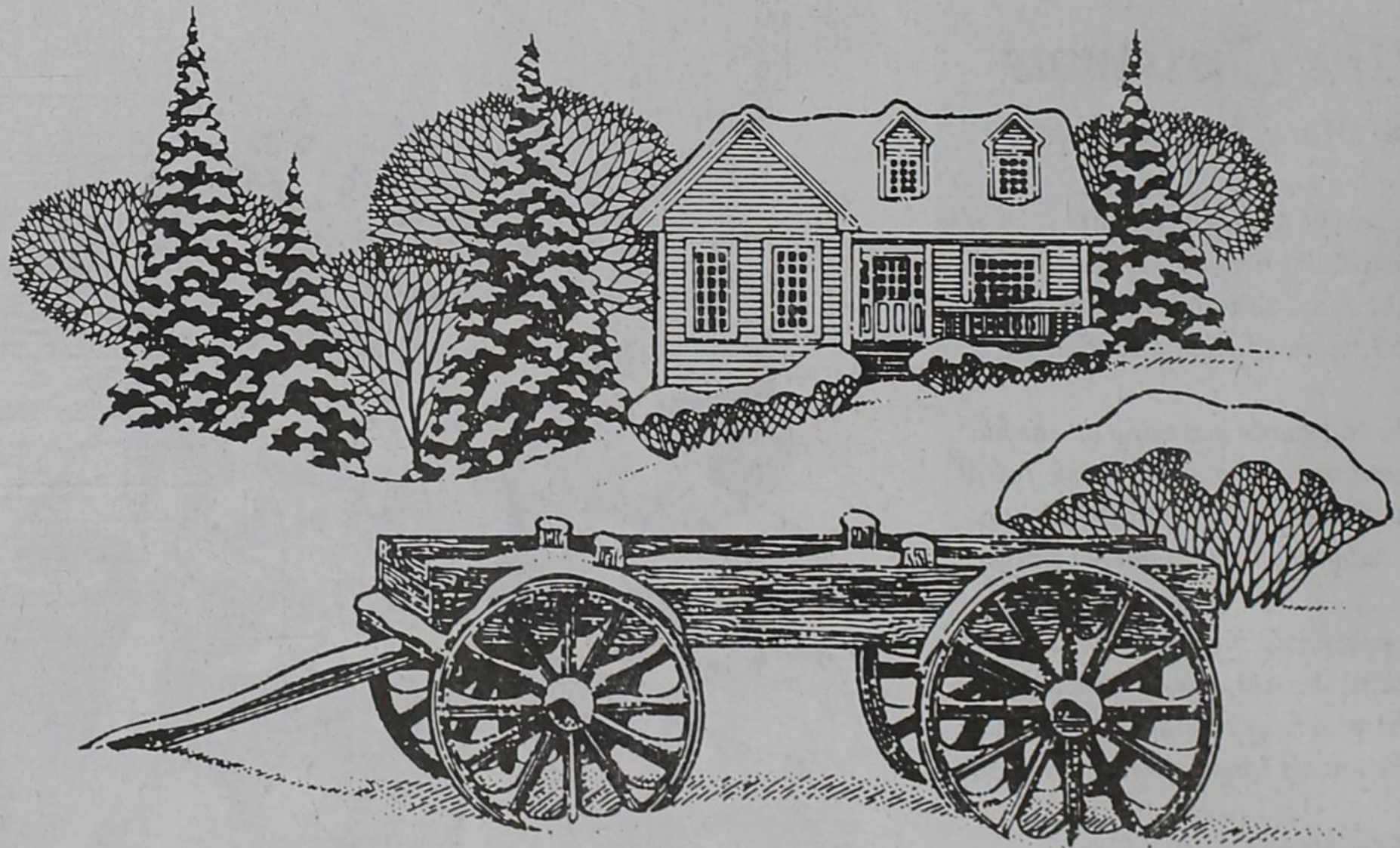
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# Greetings of the Season

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## Christmas Celebrations Observed Internationally

Christmas is a joyous season that is celebrated throughout the world. Just as your family has traditions that are followed every year, like the angel that has been passed down for generations and must be put on the tree, families around the globe have their own customs. Following are some ways that this holiday is celebrated in other parts of the world.

**Bethlehem**-The little town where Jesus is said to have been born is the site of the Church of the Nativity, which is adorned with flags and other decorations every Christmas. On Christmas Eve, natives and visitors alike crowd into the church to watch the annual procession. Galloping horsemen and police mounted on Arabian horses lead the parade, followed by a solitary horseman carrying a cross and sitting astride a black steed. Then come the churchmen and government officials. The procession enters the church and places an ancient effigy of the baby Jesus inside. Visitors proceed to a grotto, where they find a silver star marking the site of the holy child's birth. Christian homes in Bethlehem are marked by a cross painted over the door, and each home displays a manger scene. A star is set up on a pole in the village square.

**Scandinavia**-It is from this area that most of the yule-log traditions derive. The dark, cold winters inspired the development of traditions concerned with warmth and light. The yule log originally was an entire tree, carefully chosen and brought into the home with great ceremony. The butt end would be placed in the hearth while the rest of the tree stuck out into the room. The tree would be fed into the fire slowly, and the process was timed to last the entire yule season.

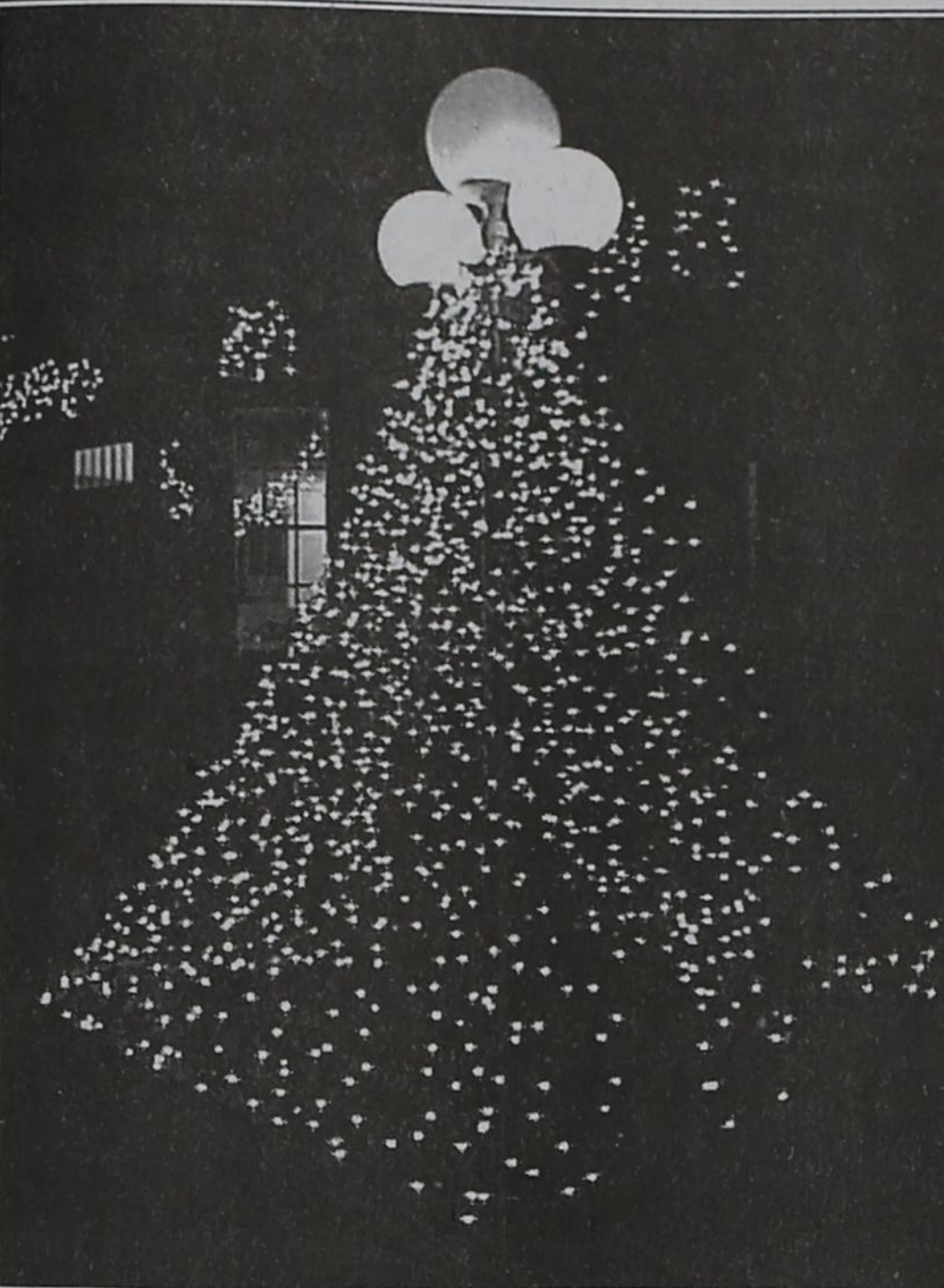
**Japan**-Christmas was introduced in Japan by the Christian missionaries, and for many years, the only people who celebrated it were those who had turned to the Christian faith. Now, the

Christmas season is full of meaning and is almost universally observed in the country. The idea of exchanging gifts appeals to the Japanese people. Other Western customs they have adopted include eating turkey on Christmas Day and decorating their homes with evergreens and mistletoe. In some homes, carols even are sung.

**Russia**-Most Christian Russians are members of the Eastern orthodox Church, and it is customary for them to fast until after the first church service on Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve dinner is meatless, but festive. The most important aspect of the meal is a special porridge, called kutya. It is made of wheat berries or other grains, which symbolize hope and immortality, and honey and poppy seeds, which ensure happiness, success and untroubled rest. The porridge is eaten from a common dish to symbolize unity. A ceremony involving the blessing of the home is frequently observed.

**Romania**-Throughout the Christmas season, the tradition in Romania is for children to travel from house to house singing carols and reciting poetry and legends. The leader carries a large wooden star, a steaua, which is covered with shiny paper and decorated with bells and colored ribbon. A picture of the holy family is pasted in the center of the star. The entire creation is attached to a broomstick or stout pole.

**South America**-Christmas is celebrated in a deeply religious way throughout South America. The main focus of the season is the manger. Often, an entire room is devoted to the display, complete with landscape and tiny figures made to scale. While the central feature is the manger at Bethlehem, elaborate scenes may include hills full of shepherds, the wise men crossing the desert on their camels, water mills, grottos, electric trains and even sailboats on the sea.



**CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON...**As the Holiday Season continues, Christmas lights and decorations abound. The above scenes are at the Old Depot in Friona's City Park. Our staff at the *Friona Star/Bovina Blade* wish all our readers near and far a blessed holiday season. ron carr photos

## Celebrate The Timeless Spirit Of The Season

Christmas is not a time or a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.

As we celebrate the arrival of the holiday season, Coolidge's words are a particularly apt reminder of the importance of cultivating and maintaining the true Christmas spirit.

When friends and family members join together, it is the genuine warmth of loving relationships, not elaborate gifts or multi-course meals, that gives life to the season's festivities and enriches the lives of the participants in the years to come.

The joy of the season can be captured in even the simplest activities: teaching a child to make a gingerbread house; going caroling with friends; stringing popcorn and cranberry garlands for the tree; sending Christmas cards to far-away family members; setting out a tray of milk and cookies for Santa to enjoy.

Whether holiday



traditions are simple or elaborate, they serve to bind loved ones together, creating a sense of continuity and permanence that transcends the worries of everyday life.

So, even if your Christmas gift budget is not as big as you would like it to be, celebrate the goodwill of the season and find ways to share that joy with those you love.

Whether you put a festive CD on the stereo, throw a holiday video in the VCR, light some candles, bake holiday cookies, have a tree-trimming party or arrange for a more formal event, the smiles on the faces of those you love will prove your efforts to be both rewarding and appreciated.

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(Part 1 of a Series)

**#1: You should wait as long as possible before cleaning your carpet.**

No, dirt is an abrasive - like sandpaper. Every time you step on your carpet, you grind dirt into the carpet fibers. This cuts your carpet, just as if you had used a knife. This cutting action causes carpet to wear out faster. A dirty carpet will not last as long as a clean carpet. And while vacuuming helps - by itself, it's simply not enough. The longer you wait to have your carpet cleaned, the more damage you do to your carpet and the faster it wears out.

**#2: The only reason to clean carpets is to remove dirt.**

No. As you probably know, outdoor air contains pollens, fungus, bacteria, air pollution, cigarette smoke, car exhaust - and hundreds of other chemicals. When you come into your home, you carry those pollens, bacteria and chemicals in your hair and on your skin, clothing and shoes. Not surprisingly, all those chemicals and toxins wind up in your carpet.

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# Claire Blanco Tells Memories Of Christmas In New England

BY CLAIRE BLANCO

Memories of Christmas in New England.

One of the many blessing The Lord has given us is memories-the happy ones that no one can take away from us.

At this time of year those dear memories keep coming back to mind. Especially those of the mid 1930's to early 40's.

Christmas never started until we had "celebrated" Thanksgiving. Then it seemed like overnight we went from pilgrims and turkeys to managers and Santas.

The huge community Christmas Tree was set up in the traffic circle at the east end of North Adams! (my home town) Main Street. It was covered with lights, Christmas balls and tinsel (the old fashioned kind.)

I seem to remember green garland from one lamp post to the other on the opposite side of Main Street. Seems to me they were also lighted and there were carols (way before Rudolph) from speakers at different spots along Main Street.

Those were the days! There was a large J.J. Newberry across a drive from a Grant's (these both had basements) just down the street was a Woolworth's too!

On Main Street there was a J.C. Penney's and not too far away from there a Boston Store. There were dress shops, a Milliner's

There were two men's clothiers, a furrier, a couple of shoe shops, a smoke shoppe, three drugstores, a candy shoppe, a couple of gift shoppes, a florist and three banks.

Almost to the end of Main Street (west-end) There was a News Store and there was also a stationary store.

There was a Sears Catalog store just past the news store, almost just across

from Sears. Just a few doors south was a Montgomery Ward's Catalog Store. Interspersed around were a couple of restaurants. What a shopper's paradise!

As I look back on my North Adams I cannot imagine all that on our Main Street (about the length of Friona's Main Street.)

We always seemed to have snow by mid November and Art (my brother 3 years younger) and I were in our glory cause we'd go out as soon as we could to shovel drives, walks and porches. Those quarters and half-dollars added up fast. Whenever I'd baby sit, I'd add that to our shoveling monies.

Then we'd go shopping for Mom and Dad and each other (for Christmas)

At home we started about the 15th of December, putting up the red and green paper roping over the window tops and door jambs. Sometimes we'd loop them from one corner of the living room to the direct opposite corner. Where the roping would cross in the center we would gather them up to the ceiling and hang a big red honey comb (fold-out paper bell.) remember those? I do believe we can still buy white ones!

From the lock in the middle of each window we hung Chenille (red) Wreaths, these were electric. There was a socket right in the middle of the wreath. The candle bulb was screwed into that. It was about 3 to 4 inches of cream painted glass and then there was about a 1 inch shaped flame in red. I've never seen anything like that since.

By the 18th of December we always had one tree-always live-either a Balsam or Blue Spruce. It always went in the bay windows in the front of the living room.

The pine scent permeated through all the house. Mom

and Dad always put on the lights and most of the ornaments. We kids were always left with the ornaments for the lower part of the tree. We also put on the strings of small palls and the icicles one by one!

I don't remember too many Christmases that were not white. At that time we could look out of our windows and see all of the city from where we lived, it was beautiful and peaceful.

On Christmas Day, Art and I would run downstairs just as it was getting light-then Mom & Dad would come down and we would open our gifts.

Mom would get the chicken and dressing in the oven so that by the time we'd all get home from church, it would be just about ready.

I will never forget the marvelous taste of Jello back then. Mom would prepare it in a large covered tin mold, as we'd leave for church she'd stick it in a snow bank by the back door. I'd bring it in upon returning home. We had no refrigerators then-only "ice boxes." sound familiar?

We'd spend the rest of the day with our gifts. Sometimes we'd have company or go visiting.

The tree always came down on New Year's Day, everything was carefully put away 'til the next year.

I will never forget the Christmas of my first year at St. Anne's Academy. I arrived home just a few days before Christmas of 1941. Right after Pearl Harbor Sunday 12/7/41.

My brother had been out shoveling snow off drive-ways, walks, and porches. It must have been the time because we were all scared. Just as we were all scared after 9/11/01...We all ended up being kinder to each other. People were kinder to Art for shoveling for them. There were more half dollars and bills.

After I got home, he showed me his earnings and said "come on. We're going shopping." We never went again. Christmases were never the same after that.

the second World War lasted almost 4 years. There were not all the lights and gay trimmings, not all gifts-foods-candies or whatever were as readily available.

We may never again be the same as we once were. Thank God for giving us Christmas-the day He walked down the stairway to heaven with his baby son in his arms. I love Christmas

Merry, Blessed Christmas, a Happy Peaceful 2003!



XMAS IN NEW ENGLAND...Claire Blanco is shown with her brother Arthur W. Charron on their street in North Adams, Massachusetts. Claire was about ten, her brother seven. They had a White Christmas!



## Joyeux Noel

May your Christmas be filled with the joy of Christ's birth and blessed with the light of his love. Let us all pray for peace.

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*Best Wishes at Holiday Time*

Best wishes to everyone for a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with good health.

The Board of Directors and Employees of  
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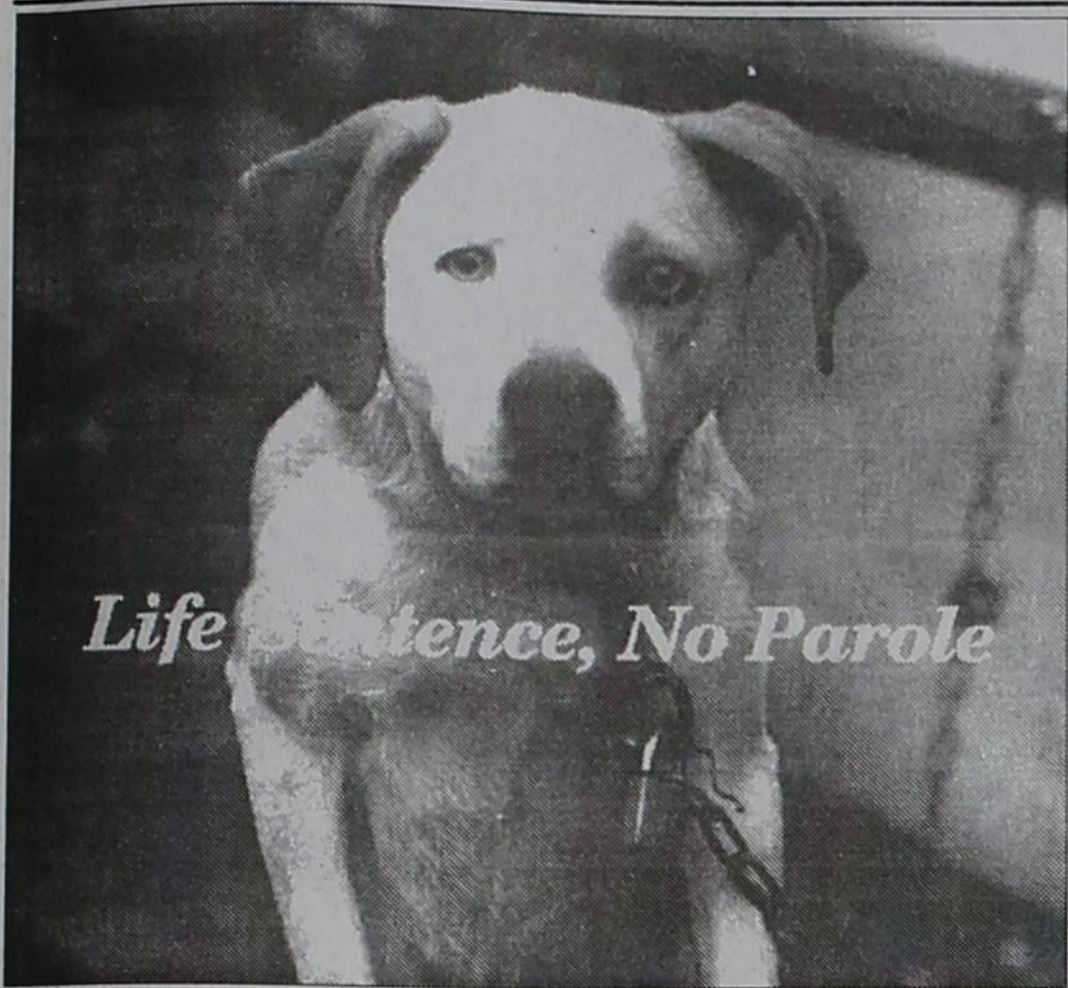
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Life Sentence, No Parole

AN EDITORIAL

A Christmas Plea For Our Four-Legged Friends

Is the cute puppy you got the kids for Christmas last year grown up now and not quite so cute anymore? Is he sitting out in the yard now, chained to a post, looking longingly at the house where his people are warm and happy? His entire life is lived on the eight or ten feet radius of dirt where his master allows him to sit day after day.

A chained dog can only watch as life goes by. If we tried to invent the cruelest punishment for dogs, we probably could not come up with anything worse than "solitary confinement" on the end of a chain.

Dogs crave companionship. Scratches behind the ears, games of fetch, or walks around the block mean the whole world to him. His idea of heaven is curling up at your feet while you watch TV in the evening.

Give your dog a Christmas present this year. Let him come inside just for a little while to spend some time with the family. He may leave you a present on the floor, but it's only because he is so surprised and excited. A little time spent with you every day, and he would soon learn proper behavior.

He doesn't want much for Christmas, just a little attention from the people he loves.

THE FRIONA SPCA

Legend Of First Christmas Tree

One clear, cold Christmas Eve, a man walked through the snow toward his home. As he looked up through the branches of the evergreens along the way, he saw hundreds of stars twinkling like silver jewels.

He was enthralled and wished he might share this beauty with his small daughter, who was an invalid. He hurried home to fetch his axe and returned to find a beautiful evergreen with full branches. He chose the loveliest of all and took the tree into his home.

On its branches, he placed lighted candles, so that his daughter would know something of the beauty of the stars shining through the branches of the trees. It was almost as if the light of heaven was within their small home.

Today, the twinkling lights on our tree remind us of the light from heaven above.

Merry Christmas In Many Languages

(Posted with permission of the author, Marlene Trader Molisee.)

Afrikaner: Een Plesierige Kerfees Arabic: Idah Saidan Wa Sanah Jadidah Argentine: Feliz Navidad Armenian: Shenoraavor Nor Dari yev Pari Gaghand Azeri: Tezze Iliniz Yahsi olsun Basque: Zorionak eta Urte Berri on! Bohemian: Vesele Vanoce Brazilian: Boas Festas e Feliz Ano Novo Breton: Nedeleg laouen na bloavezh mat Bulgarian: Tchestita Koleda; Tchestito Rojdestvo Hristovo Catalan: Bon Nadal i un Bon Any Nou! Chile: Feliz Navidad Chinese: (Mandarin) Kung His Hsin Nien bing Chu Shen Tan (Catonese) Gun Tso Sun Tan/Gung Haw Su Cornish: Nadelik locan na looan blethen noweth Cree: Mitho Makosi Kesikansi Czech: Prejeme Vam Vesele Vanoce a stastny Novy Rok Danish: Glaedelig Jul Dutch: Vrolijk Kerstfeest en een Gelukkig Nieuwjaar! or, Zalig Kerstfeest English: Merry Christmas. Joyous Christmas Esperanto: Gajan Kristnaskon Estonian: Ruumsaid juuluphi Farsi: Cristmas-e-shoma mobarak bashad Finnish: Hyvaa joulua Flemish: Zalig Kerstfeest en Gelukkig nieuw jaar French: Joyeux Noel Gaelic: Nollaig chridheil agus Bliadhna mhath ur! German: Froehliche Weihnachten Greek: Kala Christouyenna! Hebrew: Mo'adim Lesimkha. Chena tova Hindi: Shub Naya Baras Hausa: Barka da Kirsimatikuma Barka da Sabuwar Shekara! Hawaiian: Mele Kalikimaka ame Hauoli Makahiki Hou! Hungarian: Kellemes Karacsonyi unnepekent Icelandic: Iledileg Jol

Indonesian Selamat Hari Natal Inuit: (inupik) Jutdlime pivdluarit ukiortame pivdluartilto! Iraqi: Idah Saidan Wa Sanah Jadidah Irish: Nollaig Shona Dhuit or Nodlaig mhaith chugnat Italian: Buone Feste Natalizie Japanese: Shinnen omedeto Merii Kurisumasu Korean: Sung an huk E Ha Latin Natale hilare ct Ammm Faustum! Latvian: Prieci'gus Ziemsve'tkus un Laimi'gu Jauno Gadu! Lithuanian Linksmu Kaledu Macedonian Sreken Bozhik Maltese LL Milied Lt-tajjeb Manx Nollick ghennal as blein vie noa Maori: Meri Kirihimete Marathi: Shub Naya

Varsh Navajo: Merry Keshmish Norwegian God Jul, or Gledelig Jul Pennsylvania German Lin frehlicher Grischtidaag un en hallich Nei Y aahr! Polish: Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenha or Boze Narodzenie Portuguese: Boas Festas Rumanian Sarbatori vesele Russian Poz.drerlyayu s prazdnikom Rozhdestva s Novim Godom Samoan La Maunia I c Kilisimasi Ma Le tausaga Fou Serbian Hristos se rodi Slovakian: Sretan Bozic or Vesele vianoc Sami: Buorrit.Juovllat Samoan: La Maunia Le Kilisimasi Ma Le Tausaga Fou Scots Gaelic: Nollaig chridheil huibh Serb-Croatian: Sretam Bozic. Vesela Nova Godina,

Hristos se rodi. Singhalese: Subha nath thalak Vewa. Subha Aluth Awrudhak Vewa Slovak: Vesele Vianoce. A stastlivy Novy Rok Slovene: Vesele Bozicne. Screno Novo Leto Spanish: Feliz Navidad Swedish: God Jul, and (och) Ett Gott Nytt Ar Tagalog: Maligayang Pasko. Masaganang Bagong Taon Tami: Nathar Puthu Varuda Valthukkal Trukeese: (Micronesia) Neekinisimas annim oo iyer seefe feyiyeech Thai: Sawadee Pee Mai Turkish: Noeliniz Ve Yeni Yiliniz Kutlu olsun Ukrainian: Srozhdstvom Kristovym Vietnamese: Chuc mung Giang Sinh Welsh: Nadolig Llawen Phillipines: Maligayang Pasko Rapa Nui Mata Ki Te Rangi Te ito o Te Henua



Merry Christmas

We appreciate the good will and trust of our loyal patrons. Have a happy holiday.



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Christmas Is Here!

with warm wishes and gratitude from all of us

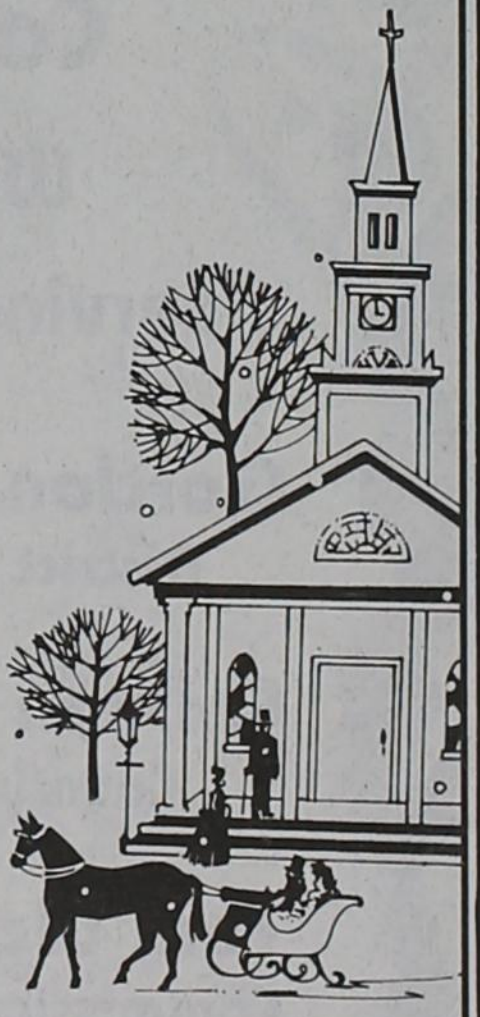
How can we thank thee? Let us count the ways:

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2. Thank you for putting your trust in us. *It lets us know we're doing a good job.*
3. Thank you for your loyal patronage. *We couldn't have made it without your support.*
4. Thank you for the gift of your friendship. *It makes it all worthwhile.*
5. Thank you for making us a part of your lives. *It's always a privilege and a pleasure to serve you.*

Wishing You All A Joyous Holiday And A Happy New Year.

WT Services Inc.

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# Following The Stars

By JIM STEIERT  
Co-Op Connection

In a moment of aloneness a tractor driver witnesses the twinkling of hope against an indigo night sky.

The throaty thrum of the diesel engine, and the glow of the fuel and amp, temp, oil pressure and tach gauges of the tractor's panel were company to him. Lights mounted on the cab and fenders stabbed into the darkness, illuminating the rutted county road.

He had finally gotten to that place where he had hoped to be a good month earlier--dumping the last load off the boll buggy and into the module builder in a cloud of lint and dust.

Finishing up the last field had left him on the far side of the place. He had to road the rig down the turnrows and over to the other farm where he had left his pickup about mid-morning. A man could not stand to be parted from his pickup for long out in farm country. The shop and office-on-wheels held paperwork and tools and baling wire and duct tape--virtually the entire life support system for a farmer.

He should have been finished with cotton harvest long ago, but the fickle Plains weather had more than lived up to its reputation as this year wound down.

Suitable harvesting days had come only in short clusters this fall, frequently interrupted by rain and drizzle--that very same stuff that had been all but impossible to come by in what now felt like the forever-ago summer months, when this crop looked as if it would be a gin-buster.

## The Legend Of The Holly---

On the first Christmas night, when the shepherds went to the manger, a little lamb following them was caught by the holly thorns. The red berries are the blood drops that froze on the branches that long-ago night.

after the bolls had opened and taken a lot of the shine off of the prospects. The time of gathering that held such promise back in October had dragged on well into the days of December.

He counted himself lucky to have worked with a good crew of neighbors who took everything in stride--the breakdowns and the flats and tumbleweed-induced ballups, and the rotten luck with the weather.

They rode it out and bore down and got the work done the best they could--nothing anybody could do about the weather. Rumbling along in road gear at partial throttle, the tractor had almost a rocking motion as the lugs of the tires bit the road. He glanced back periodically to check that the boll buggy wasn't bouncing excessively, and minded his steering as he stared ahead. His mind raced with relief, and played back the work and obstacle-clearing that had gone before.

He couldn't begin to count all of the late evenings he had spent here in this tractor cab in the last month. Winter days disappeared fast when the sun plunged spectacularly from the western sky and the darkness enveloped everything outside of the dust-dimmed beam of tractor and cotton stripper lights.

They all worked as much as they could, when the weather would let them. Thanksgiving had come and gone in a blur. Christmas was coming fast. He felt in the midst of the hectic hurry that was harvest, that he was missing the holiday.

Now, tooling down the road, surrounded by the darkness of the countryside, his glances over the gauges reminded him of Christmas tree lights. He thought of the glowing yellow-and-green bobbles, the glass balls, and the clumped icicles that decorated the tree in the living room when he was growing up. He remembered how excited he was--so excited it was hard for him to sleep--when the big tree was being decked out by his parents. He and the brother

and sisters always got to put on the clingy icicles in great gobs.

To the drone of the diesel, he wondered to himself, if, in this hurry-up world, little kids could still feel magic in this season.

Amidst his reverie the lights picked up the outline of his pickup. He wheeled the rig up alongside, idled the engine down, then shut off the lights and cut the ignition.

The sudden silence was deafening. He felt strangely alone, engulfed by the immense darkness.

Gingerly, he opened the cab door, rose from the tractor seat, and carefully felt his way down the steps with his feet.

On the ground, he stood for a moment next to the big tractor tire, letting his eyes adjust to the great vastness of the darkness.

In that moment of aloneness, far out in the countryside, his eyes slowly absorbed not the inkiness of a dark night but a great sweeping expanse of long-forgotten twinkling hope against the indigo sky.

He had been so busy worrying about things down here that he had not taken the time to look upward into the night for who knew how long?

Now, standing alone, his breath visible on the chill air, he shivered in amazement at the heavens adorned in their timeless Christmas best. Like the kid of years ago, he felt the excitement and wonder welling inside. Here he was, small and insignificant--yet the stars shone over him with a glory as ancient as the Christmas story.

Inside the pickup, he started the motor, then dialed the cell phone.

"Honey? Yep, I just finished up. Hey, put on your coat right now and go outside and look at the sky...It's filled with Christmas. Take the kids, too. They need to see...Have you and the kids finished decorating the tree? Would you wait for me? I'm on my way...I'll just follow the Christmas stars."



THIS QUAINCOUNTRY COTTAGE does well to illustrate the beauty of the winter season, and calls to mind that the holidays that accompany the snow are just a short time away.

## Vegetable Conference Set

LUBBOCK - A perennial favorite of vegetable growers in West Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Colorado will return with new vigor January 14, 2003. That's the date for the High Plains Vegetable Conference at West Texas A&M University in Canyon.

This is a rebirth of the former West Texas Vegetable Conference, organized each year by my predecessor, Dr. Roland Roberts," said Russ Wallace, assistant professor of horticulture and Texas Cooperative Extension vegetable specialist at Texas A&M's Research and Extension Center here.

The conference will run from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the West Texas A&M University Alumni Banquet Facility (located at the corner of North 3rd and 25th Streets). Registration over coffee and donuts begins at 7:45 a.m. and costs \$25 per person; which includes lunch, conference handouts, and admission to the

accompanying agri-industry trade show. The deadline for pre-registration is Dec. 31, 2002.

The first morning session will cover crop pests; with presentations on vegetable diseases, insect control, nematode problems, chemical and alternative weed control, and information resources to aid management decisions. The second morning session will cover risk management, an update of current Texas Department of Agriculture rules and regulations, and an industry perspective on pest management.

The keynote luncheon speaker is Ken Mattingly, owner-operator of M-B Farms, Inc., a 1,700-acre vegetable farm in LeRoy, New York. Mattingly will discuss how commodity groups, universities, and industry work together on vegetable research to benefit growers in New York state.

Speakers at the first afternoon session will discuss "what's new in vegetable

crops," such as results from Texas A&M's 2002 statewide watermelon trials; yellow vine disease in High Plains pumpkins; and updates on New Mexico State University's chile pepper program and potato varieties for 2003.

The second afternoon session will include presentations on soil microbes and plant health; successful crop rotation strategies/sequences on the High Plains; and irrigation and water quality issues.

Conference sponsors include Texas Cooperative Extension, the High Plains Vegetable Growers and Shippers Council, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, West Texas A&M University, and the Texas Department of Agriculture.

For registration or more information on the Jan. 14 High Plains Vegetable Conference in Canyon, contact Russ Wallace at (806) 746-6101 or your local county Extension office.

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**POLITICAL CORRECTNESS**

**Santa Having To Learn New Ropes**

'Twas the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck...  
 How to live in a world that's politically correct?  
 His workers no longer would answer to "Elves",  
 "Vertically Challenged" they were calling themselves.  
 And labor conditions at the north pole  
 Were alleged by the union to stifle the soul.  
 Four reindeer had vanished, without much publicity.  
 Released to the wilds by the Humane Society.  
 And equal employment had made it quite clear  
 That Santa had better not use reindeer.  
 So Dancer and Donner, Comet and Cupid, Were replaced with 4 pigs, and you know that looked stupid!  
 The runners had been removed from the sleigh;  
 The ruts were termed dangerous by the E.P.A.  
 And people had started to call for the cops when they heard sled noises on their roof-tops.  
 Second-hand smoke from his pipe had his workers quite frightened  
 His fur trimmed red suit was called "unenlightened."  
 And to show you the strangeness of life's ebbs and flows,  
 Rudolf was suing over unauthorized use of his nose  
 And had gone to Geraldo, in front of the nation,  
 Demanding millions in over-due compensation.  
 So, half of the reindeer were gone; and his wife,  
 Who suddenly said she'd enough of this life,  
 Joined a self-help group, packed, and left in a whiz,  
 Demanding from now on her title was Ms.  
 And as for the gifts, why, he'd never had a notion  
 That making a choice could cause so much commotion.  
 Nothing of leather, nothing of fur,  
 Which meant nothing for him. And nothing for her.  
 Nothing that might be construed to pollute,  
 Nothing to aim. Nothing to shoot.  
 Nothing that clamored or made lots of noise.  
 Nothing for girls. Or just for boys.  
 Nothing that claimed to be gender specific.  
 Nothing that's warlike or non pacific.  
 No candy or sweets...they were bad for the tooth  
 Nothing that seemed to embellish a truth.  
 And fairy tales, while not yet forbidden,  
 Were like Ken and Barbie, better off hidden.  
 For they raised the hackles of those psychological  
 Who claimed the only good gift was the ecological.  
 No baseball, no football...someone could get hurt;  
 Besides, playing sports exposed kids to dirt.  
 Dolls were said to be sexist, and should be passe;  
 And Nintendo would rot your entire brain away.  
 So Santa just stood there, disheveled, perplexed;  
 He just could not figure out what to do next.  
 He tried to be merry, tried to be gay,  
 But you've got to be careful with that word today.  
 His sack was quite empty, limp to the ground;  
 Nothing fully acceptable was to be found.  
 Something special was needed, a gift that he might  
 Give to all without angering the left or the right.  
 A gift that would satisfy, with no indecision,  
 Each group of people, every religion;  
 Every ethnicity, every hue,  
 Everyone, everywhere...even you.  
 So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth...  
 "May you and your loved ones enjoy peace on earth."



U DROP INN CAFE is one of the interesting places to stop on old Route 66.

(Photo courtesy of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. For more information, you may write WTAMU, Box 60967, Canyon, Texas 79016.)

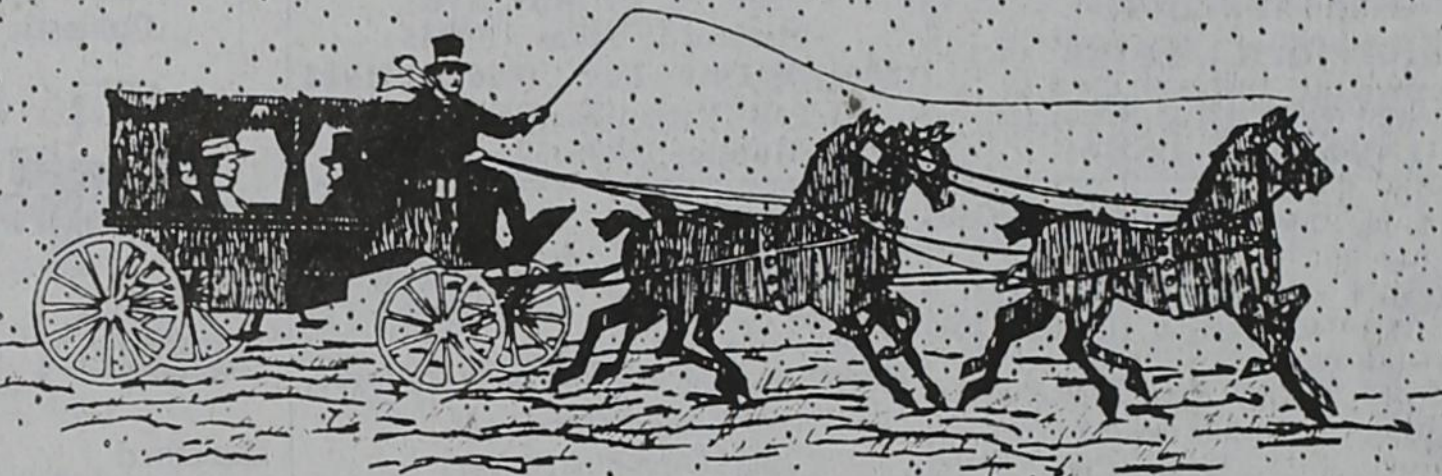
**Route 66 Exhibits Open Now**

Maps and colorful postcards, as well as photographic images, take the viewer on a scenic journey across Route 66.  
 Beginning with Chicago in the East and ending in California, this exhibit brings the nostalgia of roadside attractions to travelers on the 2,220 mile highway.  
 Photographer, Jim Jordan's "Edge of the Mother Road," "West of Here" and "X'ing the Panhandle" highlight the exhibit which will run January 15 through November 15, 2003 in the Alexander Photo Gallery.

**Acquisitions Exhibit Opened December 19**

New stuff: Recent Acquisitions of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society, an exhibit of selected items donated to the Society during the past five years, will open at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum on December 19. The various objects displayed will include what is believed to be the large oak desk used by the first president of West Texas State Normal School, Dr. R.B. Cousins.  
 The late Dr. Jack Hughes, long-time professor of archeology and geology at W.T., purchased the roll-top desk during the 1950s at W.T. surplus property sale. Papers found by Hughes in the desk indicated that Dr. Cousins and his successor, Dr. Joseph A. Hill, probably had used it.  
 The exhibit also will feature several items donated from the estate of Marshall Cator, the 99-year-old Sunray ranchman who died in January 2002. Objects on display will include Cator's handmade oak bedroom suite as well as a bronze portrait statue of the veteran rancher by sculptor Edd Hayes.  
 Other items to be exhibited are a Movieola film editing machine, the first costume used by the Kwahadi Indian Dancers in 1947, a large prehistoric water jar, a Casas Grandes effigy vessel, a bronze cast of a reconstructed head of a prehistoric Buried City woman, several quilts, a pageant dress, and other textiles. The exhibit also will display a number of works of art, including paintings by Joseph Fleck, A.W. Mack, and Charles Berninghaus.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**



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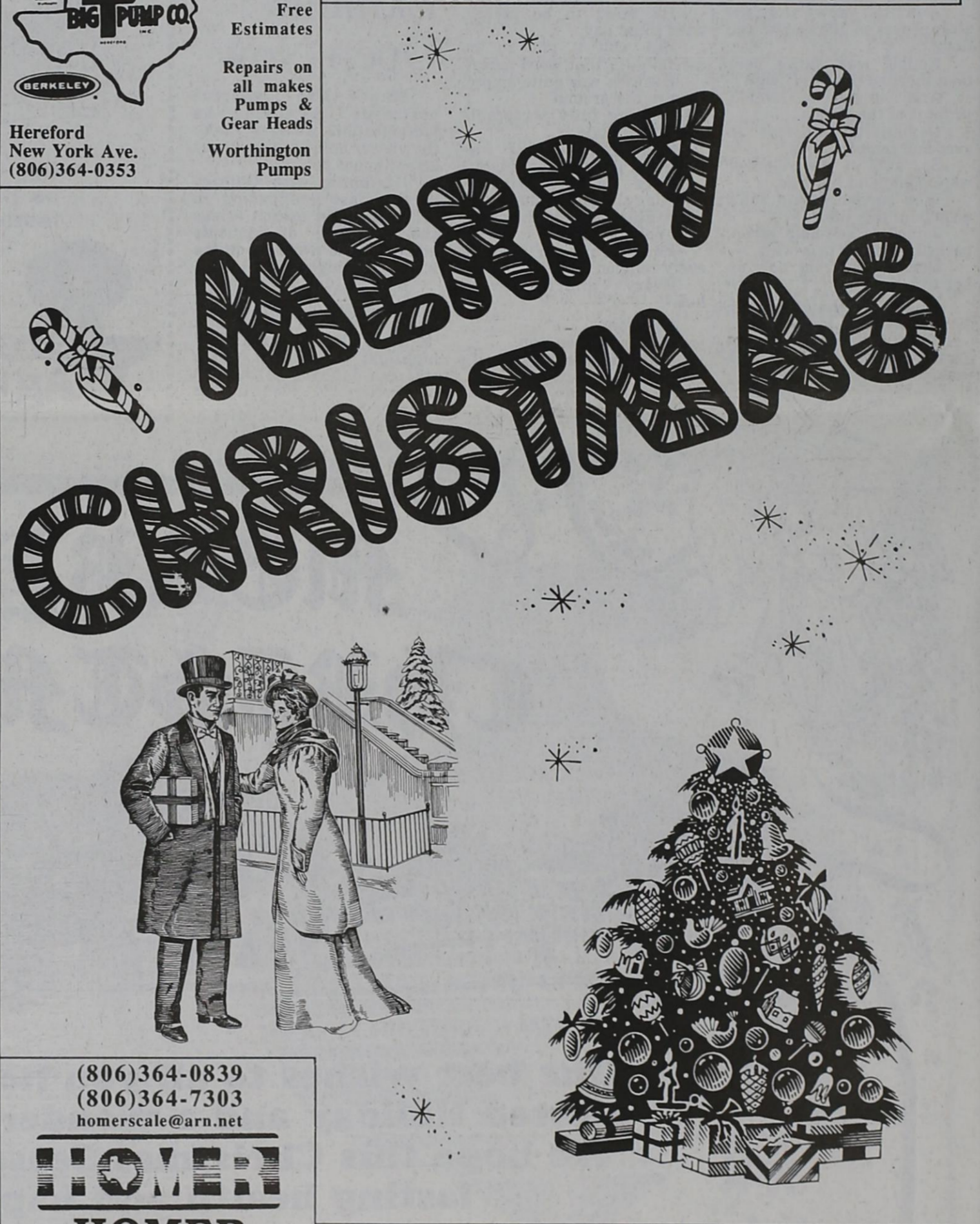
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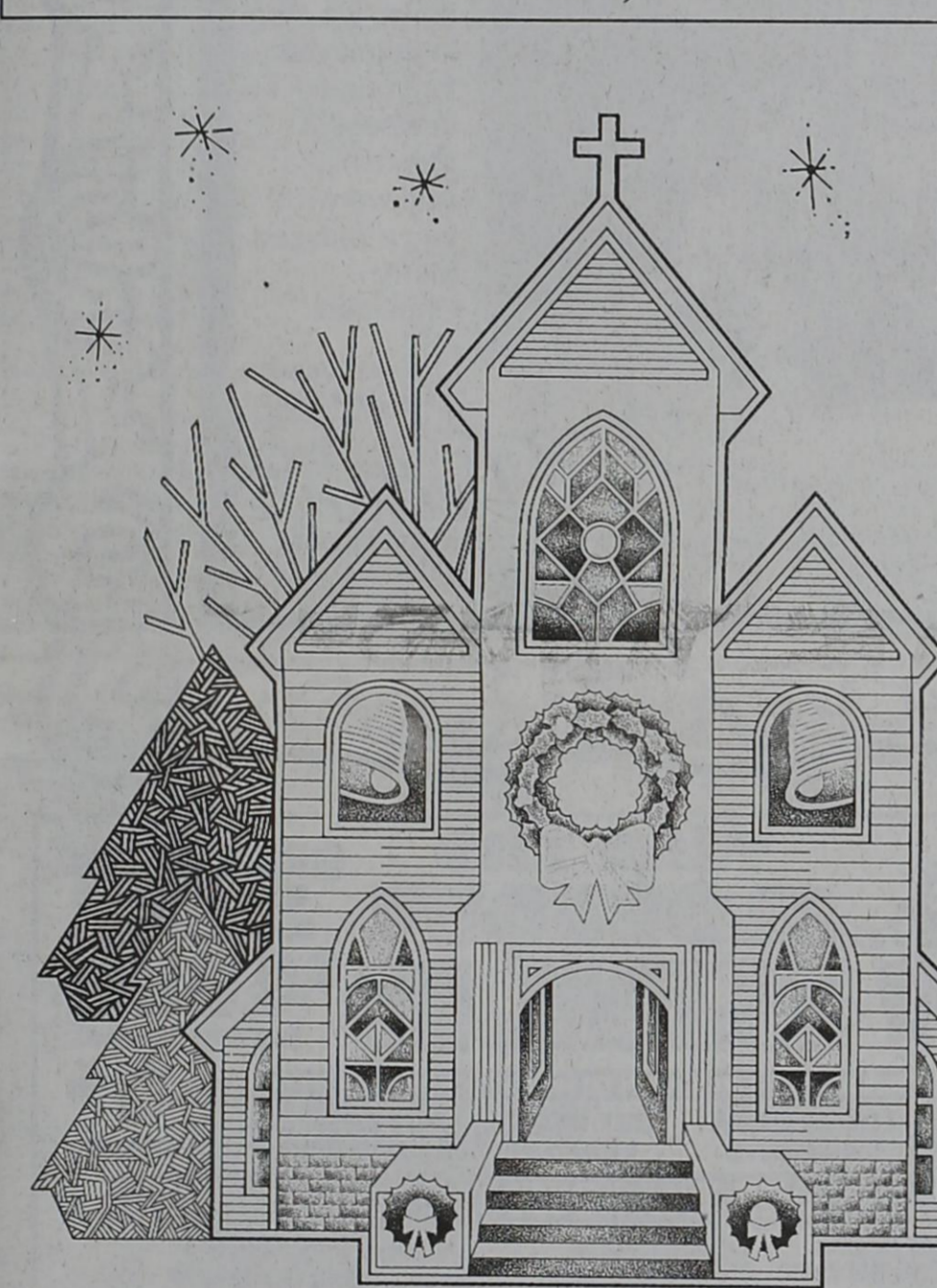
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# Cargill Scholarships Are To Be Awarded Locally

Cargill will award \$350,000 in scholarships this year to high school seniors planning to enroll in accredited post-secondary institutions in the fall of 2003.

The Cargill Community Scholarship Program is designed to serve high school seniors in Cargill communities planning to pursue a two or four-year degree in any major. The program, administered by the National FFA Organization, will award 350, \$1,000 scholarships. In addition, each recipient's high school may be eligible for \$200 library grant.

Students are selected based on academic achievement and involvement in extra-curricular activities. Applicants must visit their local Cargill facility or subsidiary and obtain a signature from a location manager on their application.

Cargill subsidiaries in the United States include: Excel, Sunny Fresh Foods, Horizon Milling, Caprock Industries, Wilbur Chocolate, North Star Steel, Hohenberg Brothers and Empack Foods.

"We are pleased to join FFA in an effort to reward outstanding students and assist them in their efforts to

continue on to higher education," said Mark Murphy, manager of Cargill Stakeholder Relations. "Cargill, and its subsidiary businesses have a longstanding commitment to education programs and will continue to look for opportunities to nourish the lives of young people in the communities where we do business."

FFA will handle the processing of applications and the selection of winners. FFA will perform independently of Cargill and make its awards without regard to race, color, creed, sex, religion, handicap or national origin. Students do not need to be a member of FFA to be eligible.

"FFA prepares young people for future success in more than 300 diverse careers through agricultural education," explains Anna Melodia, director of educational programs for the National FFA Organization. "Supporting those young people in pursuing a post-secondary degree is crucial to this mission."

Through volunteerism, partnerships and grantmaking, Cargill contributes more than \$18 million each year to civic and

charitable organizations to help fulfill the company's vision to be the global leader in nourishing people. This year, the company will commit more than \$500,000 to provide scholarships to students living in or near Cargill communities.

FFA is a national youth organization of 461,043 student members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture with 7,308 local chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. FFA strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org) for more information.

Cargill, Incorporated is an international marketer, processor and distributor of agricultural, food, financial and industrial products and services with 97,000 employees in 59 countries. The company provides distinctive customer solutions in supply chain management, food applications, and health and nutrition.

## College Hotline Available

COLLEGE STATION TX- The Texas Association for College Admission Counseling (TACAC) announces its 18th annual toll-free College Information Hotline (877-275-7007). Hotline 2003 will be available January 18 and 19, 2003, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Central Standard Time). The College Information Hotline, which is the largest project of its type in the nation, provides information about post-secondary educational opportunities to students and their families.

The College Information Hotline is available to anyone in the state who has questions about any aspect of college admission, financial aid, degree programs, housing, student life and activities, or special programs. Callers may also request information from specific colleges and universities or information about any college in the United States. Spanish-speaking counselors and admission representatives from more than 25 public and private colleges and universities in Texas will be on duty.

In previous years, callers have predominantly been high school students and their parents, but an increasing number of information requests are beginning to come from middle school students, current college students, adults who did not complete college or have never attended, and veterans with questions about their benefits.

TACAC would like to thank LoanStar Educational Loans for their support in serving the students of Texas.

## Paul Harvey Writes

We Tried so hard to make things better for our kids that we made them worse. For my grandchildren, I'd like better.

I'd really like for them to know about hand me down clothes and homemade ice cream and leftover meat loaf sandwiches. I really would.

I hope you learn humility by being humiliated, and that you learn honesty by being cheated.

I hope you learn to make your own bed and mow the lawn and wash the car.

And I really hope nobody gives you a brand new car when you are sixteen.

It will be good if at least one time you can see puppies born and your old dog put to sleep.

I hope you get a black eye fighting for something you believe in.

I hope you have to share a bedroom with your younger brother/sister. And it's all right if you have to draw a line down the middle of the room, but when he wants to crawl under the covers with you because he's scared, I hope you let him.

When you want to see a movie and your little brother/sister wants to tag along, I hope you'll let him/her.

I hope you have to walk uphill to school with your friends and that you live in a town where you can do it safely.

On rainy days when you have to catch a ride, I hope you don't ask your driver to drop you two blocks away so you won't be seen riding with someone as uncool as your Mom.

If you want a slingshot, I hope your Dad teaches you how to make one instead of buying one.

I hope you learn to dig in the dirt and read books.

When you learn to use

computers, I hope you also learn to add and subtract in your head.

I hope you get teased by your friends when you have your first crush on a boy/girl, and when you talk back to your mother that you learn what ivory soap tastes like.

May you skin your knee climbing a mountain, burn your hand on a stove and stick your tongue on a frozen flagpole.

I don't care if you try a beer once, but I hope you don't like it. And if a friend offers you dope or a joint, I hope you realize he is not your friend.

I sure hope you make time to sit on a porch with your Grandma/Grandpa and go fishing with your Uncle.

May you feel sorrow at a funeral and joy during holidays.

I hope your mother punishes you when you throw a baseball through your neighbor's window and that she hugs you and kisses you at Hannukah/Christmas time when you give her a plaster mold of your hand.

These things I wish for you - tough times and disappointment, hard work and happiness. To me, it's the only way to appreciate life.

Written with a pen. Sealed with a kiss. I'm here for you. And if I die before you do, I'll go to heaven and wait for you.

We secure our friends, not by accepting favors, but by doing them.

Paul Harvey RIDDLE: When asked this riddle 80 percent of kindergarten kids got the answer, compared to 17 percent of Stanford University seniors.

What is greater than God, More evil than the devil, The poor have it, The rich need it, And if you eat it, you'll die? The answer is "nothing"

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Dear \_\_\_\_\_

You have been presented a one-year gift subscription to the Friona Star as a present from: \_\_\_\_\_

We will place your name on our mailing list when you notify us of the effective date on which you want the subscription to begin, and the address to which you want your copy mailed.

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As 2002 winds down, we stop to thank you for your business & friendship. And we wish you a Blessed Merry Christmas

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<p><b>2003 DODGE RAM 1500</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.7L "Magnum" V4 engine • 5 speed heavy-duty transmission</li> <li>• Graphite metallic clear coat finish</li> <li>• 40/20/40 split bench seat</li> <li>• Value group package</li> <li>• Much more!</li> </ul> <p>SAVE \$2,199 MSRP \$17,071 OR \$229</p>	<p><b>2003 Ford F-250 SUPER DUTY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5.4L V8 engine • 4-speed automatic transmission • Trailer tow package</li> <li>• Chrome rear step bumper • Cruise control</li> <li>• Am/Fm stereo cassette/clock</li> <li>• Passenger airbag</li> <li>• Much more!</li> </ul> <p>SAVE \$3,381 MSRP \$21,229 OR \$249</p>
<p><b>2003 DODGE RAM 2500 QUAD CAB ST</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5.7L "Magnum" V4 engine • 5 speed heavy-duty transmission • Trailer tow package</li> <li>• Folding trailer tow mirrors</li> <li>• 40/20/40 split bench seat</li> <li>• Convenience package</li> <li>• Much more!</li> </ul> <p>SAVE \$2,154 MSRP \$27,321 OR \$375</p>	<p><b>2003 Ford EXCURSION XLT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5.4L "Triton" V4 engine • 4 speed automatic transmission • Third row seat</li> <li>• Premium Am/Fm cassette/CD player</li> <li>• Front &amp; rear air conditioning</li> <li>• Power heated mirrors</li> <li>• Chrome wheels</li> <li>• Much more!</li> </ul> <p>SAVE \$4,710 MSRP \$31,680 OR \$429</p>

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

Here's to a harmonious holiday. May the friendships and fun times abound.

Thanks for all your kindness and support during this past year.

**Parmer County Implement Co.**

Highway 60 Bob Hurst 250-2721

**CASE IH** **FENDT** **T/L** **CLAAS**

COLUMNIST LEON HALE

# Christmas Is Starting Slower This Year

By LEON HALE

IT'S 7 o'clock Christmas morning, and I'm at home waiting for everybody else to get up and see what Santa Claus brought.

Thermometer on the back fence says 39 degrees. Skies solid cloudy. Not raining yet but looks like it wants to.

All around the house, several creatures are stirring, including the mouse that lives in the attic just above this desk. Also on the roof I can hear the thumping and scratching of a couple of squirrels. They play chase up there every morning until I go out and feed the birds, and then they come down and tear up the feeder.

But I'm the only human creature doing any stirring so far.

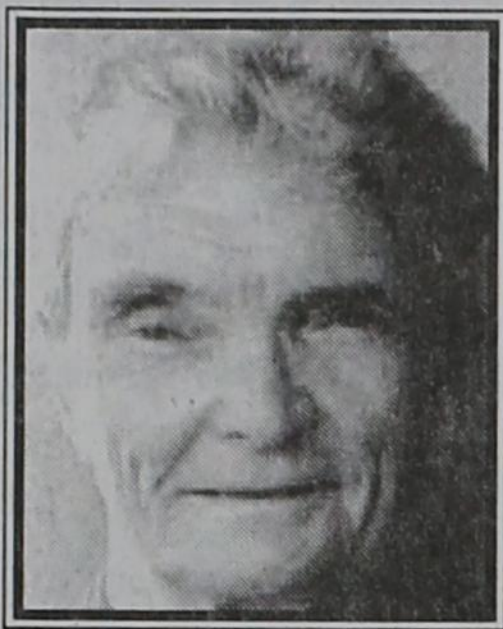
A quiet house on Christmas morning is still a strangeness to me. Most of my Christmases have been spent in places, where everybody got up early and rushed into the living room and began opening presents.

But there were children in those places. The youngest child in the house is 26, and you don't tell him to get up. Or when to go to bed, either.

Santa Claus did come during the night. I took a peek in there and saw that. In fact, I have already opened one of my gifts. It's a toy. The last few years I have received at least one toy for Christmas which I think is meant as a sort of joke, but I'm not certain.

### Health is dearest gift of all

The toy this year is a miniature steam locomotive maybe 2 inches long. It's loaded with batteries, and when you punch a button on top of the boiler a little steam whistle blows and then comes the sound of the tiny engine puffing and a bell ringing and wheels click clacking on



LEON HALE

the rails. I'm about to wear down the batteries already, listening to that little train.

A block away an ambulance goes screaming south, headed probably to a hospital in the Medical Center. There's a downer for you -- someone seriously sick or hurt on Christmas morning.

The past few days I have paid more attention to ambulances, and I've spent a little more time thinking of what those sounds mean. They mean trouble, of course, for somebody.

The reason for this change in me is that for the past couple of weeks I've been sailing under the weather, playing host to a contrary virus that has had me down in the quilts.

No matter what gifts are waiting for me under the tree in the other part of this house, none will be as dear as the one I've already received. That is, I'm about to get well again.

On Dec. 12 that bug grabbed me, and since then I've been out of this house twice. Once on the 17th, when I went down to Sugar Land for a book event, and that was a mistake. The second outing came a day later when they hauled me to a hospital emergency room because they figured I had

pneumonia. I didn't, but at the time I thought pneumonia would have been an improvement.

So, here's my first new year's resolution -- if I get sick and the doctor tells me to stay home, take my medicine and drink lots of water, that's what I intend to do.

Being sick at Christmas is a curse. While everybody else was scurrying around, buying gifts and getting ready, I was lying up here swallowing aspirin and blowing my nose.

I heard on the radio that merchants are saying retail sales this Christmas are down from a year ago, that we didn't spend as much as we usually do. Well, I'm one of the culprits who helped bring about that development. I didn't do one lick of shopping this time. Didn't go into a single store.

But I did make one interesting discovery.

### Recycled gifts work for me

At the last minute I looked around this room and I found a few things I thought might make pretty decent gifts. Books, mostly, but other items, as well, that I don't really need and have never used, and they're good as new. I wrapped them and stuck them under the tree.

Now I'm wondering. I bet most of the people of this country could get through a Christmas season without buying one new gift. Instead we could all give things we already own. Most of us have too much stuff anyhow. What do you think?

Well, I've got to go feed the birds.

You can write Leon Hale at P.O. Box 4260, Houston, Texas 77210, e-mail him at leon.hale@chron.com or visit his Web site at www.leonhale.com (Leon Hale is a popular columnist with the Houston Chronicle.)

# Parmer County Tax Appraisal District Office In Bovina

## Will Be Closed December 24 and 25 and January 1



Call us or come by the office.

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

# Merry Christmas



---And in the spirit of the season may we say

## THANK YOU

to all the many fine folks in Friona, Bovina, and elsewhere in Parmer County. You have been so kind and we appreciate all the support you have given to Prairie Acres and Heritage Estates over the years.

Our wish is for Peace and Happiness at this Christmas time and throughout the coming New Year.

### Prairie Acres and Heritage Estates Nursing Home and Assisted Living Center



EMPLOYEES HONORED...Seven Prairie Acres employees were honored for their service on Thursday. In the back, l-r, are Kristi Grenko, RN, five years; Beth Shelton, 25 years and Eileen Gomez, five years. Kneeling are Jennifer Baize and Leticia Sales, five years each. Not present were Dianna Perez, five years, and Glenda Sifford, 25 years.

# Doctor Offers Advice For Holiday Eating And Exercise

*(Editor's note: The following "question and answer" session was sent to the editor from one of his many cousins. This particular cousin, Dr. Wm. T. Savage III, has a super sense of humor. ce)*

### The Straight Dope On Food, Health, & Exercise

Q: I've heard that cardiovascular exercise can prolong life. Is this true?

A: Your heart is only good for so many beats, and that's it. Everything wears out eventually. Speeding up your heart will not make you live longer; that's like saying you can extend the life of your car by driving it faster. Want to live longer? Take a nap.

Q: Should I cut down on meat and eat more fruits and vegetables?

A: You must grasp logistical efficiencies. What does a cow eat? Hay and corn. And what are these? Vegetables. So a steak is nothing more than an efficient mechanism of delivering vegetables to your system. Need grain? Eat chicken. Beef is also a good source of field grass (green leafy vegetable). And a pork chop can give you 100% of your recommended daily allowance of vegetable slop.

Q: Is beer or wine bad for me?

A: Look, it goes to the earlier point about fruits and vegetables. As we all know, scientists divide everything in the world into three categories: animal, mineral, and vegetable. We all know that beer and wine are not animal, and they are not on the periodic table of elements, so that only leaves one thing, right? My advice: Have a burger and a beer and enjoy your liquid vegetables.

Q: How can I calculate my body/fat ratio?

A: Well, if you have a body, and you have body fat, your ratio is one to one. If you have two bodies, your ratio is two to one, etc.

Q: At the gym, a guy asked me to "spot" for him while he did the bench press. What did he mean?

A: "Spotting" for someone means you stand over him while he blows air up your shorts. It's an accepted practice at health clubs; though if you find that it becomes the ONLY reason why you're going in, you probably ought to reevaluate your exercise program.

Q: What are some of the advantages of participating in a regular exercise program?

A: Can't think of a single one, sorry. My philosophy is: No Pain - Good.

Q: If I stop smoking, will I live longer?

A: Nope. Smoking is a sign of individual expression and peace of mind. If you stop, you'll probably stress yourself to death in record time.

Q: Aren't fried foods bad for you?

### Season Evokes Lasting Memories

Of all special days, Christmas evokes the most memories. These dreamlike excursions into a vanquished past are made of many things--the merry blinking of lights garlanded about a fragrant evergreen; the savor of cinnamon and nutmeg, ginger and all-spice adding its scent and flavor to cookies cut in festive shapes; the crackle of a yule log on a cozy fire; the razzle-dazzle of brightly colored wrappings and ribbons.

Christmas memories are made of sounds and scents, sights and tastes, bound together with good feelings. They reach back through the years and decades, to the earliest recalled moments of childhood and beyond, to stories told of holiday seasons long before--memories passed on by parents and grandparents--to become part of the fabric of this most magical of seasons.

People from all over reach out to one another, and families come together to rejoice and celebrate, to recall and make memories.

This rebirth of the human community and family unity is the true wonder of Christmas, and infuses the season with the glow of childhood, as glorious as it is innocent. It is the stuff from which dreams--and memories--are made. For that, it is all the more precious.

A: You're not listening. Foods are fried these days in vegetable oil. In fact, they're permeated in it. How could getting more vegetables be bad for you?

Q: What's the secret to healthy eating?

A: Thicker gravy.

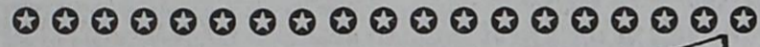
Q: Will sit-ups help prevent me from getting a little soft around the middle?

A: Definitely not! When

you exercise a muscle, it gets bigger. You should only be doing sit-ups if you want a bigger stomach.

I hope this has cleared up a few misconceptions about healthy eating!

*A wise person once noted that one's cholesterol level is just a measurement of how much enjoyment you've gotten out of life.*



## Letter To The Editor



A sincere "Thank You" to each of you who voted for me during the years--to each of you who may have appeared before me through the years--to each of you whose wedding I performed. It really didn't come with a guarantee and I hope you stayed married.

Thank you for bearing with me during the past year especially. I'm very sorry for any inconvenience I have caused anyone; for the extra work heaped on the other JPs. I thought each month that I would be better the next month and be able to go back to work.

I was once threatened with being taken to the Supreme Court regarding a

fine; a message was left on the answering machine threatening me with "the terror of Yahweh."

Though some are angry when they first appear, I'm still of the opinion that 95% of the people are nice.

A very special "Thank You" to the County Judge and County Commissioners for their kindness to me.

Thanks to everyone for a pleasant (for the most part) 33 years.

God bless each of you and Merry Christmas. Frances Euler Justice of the Peace Precinct 1, Parmer Co. Friona, Texas



## SEASON'S GREETINGS

*We would like to wish all our friends and customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

*We appreciate all your business--big and small. Looking forward to serving you in the years to come.*



Ronnie & Carolyn Stevick  
Stevick Sales & Service

## Merry Christmas

**To Our Loyal Readers At Christmas**

As we wrap up another holiday edition, we'd like to deliver an extra measure of thanks and best wishes to all of you.

**Here's Hoping All Your News Is Good News During This Wonderful Holiday Season**

**FRIONA ★ STAR**  
*The Bovina Blade*

*Let us all pray for Peace at Christmas*

**The Best of the Season to You and Yours.**

*We wish the best of things for all of you during this Holy Season and the coming year.*

**BLACKWELL FUNERAL HOME**

815 Main, Friona --- ph. 247-2729

THE FRIONA STAR & BOVINA BLADE

LADIES Christmas decoration the event

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**LADIES AT LUNCH---**Friona First Baptist Church hosted their annual ladies Christmas luncheon on Tuesday, December 10, complete with elegant table decorations and a tasty menu. The Baptist ladies served over eighty guests at the event held in the church Fellowship Hall.

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED INCREASE IN SERVICE CHARGES**

On December 6, 2002 Atmos Energy filed a Statement of Intent to change its service charges with the Railroad Commission of Texas and each incorporated city listed below. The proposed changes will take effect no sooner than 35 days after filing.

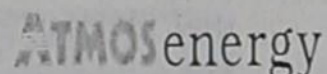
The proposed increase will not effect the Company's other gas rate schedules. The change will apply to Residential, Commercial, Small Industrial, and Public Authority customers. The Company proposes the following increased service charges:

	During Business Hours	After Hours
Turn on new service with meter set	\$32.00	\$48.00
Turn on service (shut-in test required)	\$23.50	\$35.25
Turn on service (meter read only required)	\$15.00	\$22.50
Reconnect delinquent service or service temporarily off at customer's request	\$37.50	\$56.25
Miscellaneous service calls	\$11.25	\$16.88

The proposed service charge changes are expected to increase the Company's annual revenues by approximately 4% and therefore do not constitute a "major change" The proposed changes could affect approximately 215,000 gas customers in the following communities and surrounding rural areas:

Abernathy	Lamesa	Quitaque
Amherst	Levelland	Ralls
Anton	Littlefield	Ransom Canyon
Big Spring	Lockney	Ropesville
Bovina	Lorenzo	Seagraves
Brownfield	Los Ybanez	Seminole
Buffalo Springs Lake	Lubbock	Shallowater
Canyon	Meadow	Silverton
Coahoma	Midland	Slaton
Crosbyton	Muleshoe	Smyer
Dimmitt	Nazareth	Springlake
Earth	New Deal	Stanton
Edmonson	New Home	Sudan
Floydada	Odessa	Tahoka
Forsan	O'Donnell	Timbercreek Canyon
Friona	Olton	Tulla
Hale Center	Opdyke West	Turkey
Happy	Pallsades	Vega
Hart	Pampa	Wellman
Hereford	Panhandle	Wilson
Idalou	Petersburg	Wolfthorh
Kress	Plainview	
Lake Tanglewood	Post	

Copies of the filing are available at the Atmos Energy Office at 5110 80th, Lubbock, TX 78408-1121 or at an Atmos Energy Office nearest to you. Affected persons whose gas rates are subject to the original jurisdiction of the Railroad Commission may file in writing comments or a protest concerning the proposed changes with the Docket Services Section of the Legal Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, at any time within 30 days following the date on which the change would or has become effective.



**\* Santa Letters \***

Dear Santa thank you for the athr presens I love thom. get a cd for My mom ples I want a pupe My sistr wons a froponso Bobbie. thank you love Liliana Chavez

Dear Santa, I want a ramote catrol motorcycle how are the reindeer? Love Blake Stowers

Dear Santa, How is the reindeer? I wut a bbgun and I wut a motorcycle I wat a remote control motorcycle luv, Corey Williams

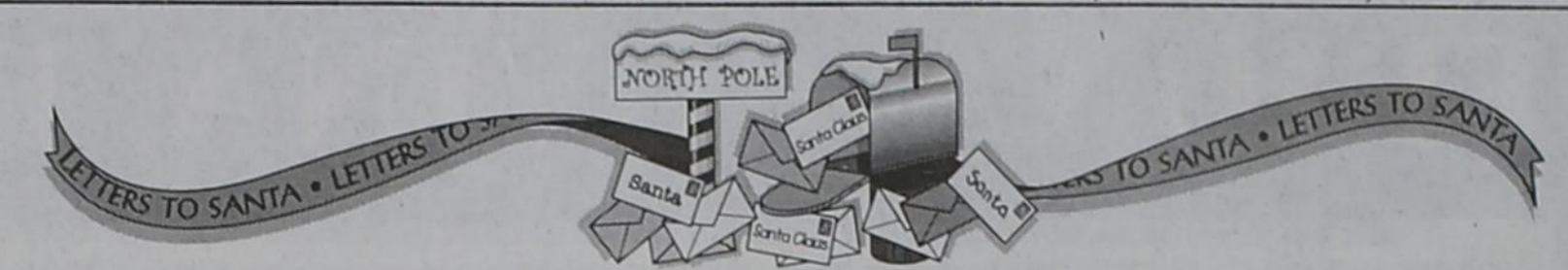
Dear Santa and Mrs Clos I hope you have a good Christmas and I olmost for got I want a now puppy and a raponsol doll. Love Amy Savannah Osborn

Dear Santa Hi How are you? How are the reindeers? I have been good this year. I have not been talking back. I have been sharing my toys with my sister. I've been mowing the grass. I want a motorcycle, a slithering Jake, a Harry Potter game, an eye popping SpongeBob, a mouse trape, an OctBlast, and a Silly Six Peahs. Love Anthony Tapia

Dear Santa, How are the Reindeer? How's Mrs.Claus? I have been a good girl. I've been helping my dad with the trash. This year i want a bsrbie train, clothes, shoes, ball, and a game. From your friend, Gaby Quintana

Dear Santa, How is Mrs. Claus? How is Rudolph? I helped my keit on the calendar I want a Playstation 2 with the games, and a spider man web blaster Luvu Skyler Harris

Dear Santa, I hope that you are doing great. I have been good this year. I would like a robot. Merry Christmas and happy New year. Love Ivan Soto



Santa I whant a truck thats is litte with a traler on it by Eribaldo Delgadillo

Dear Santa My name is Eddy I want a game 6 cyaduats. and a buccaneers helmet and buccaneers jersy nubear 20 with hernandez on the back.

Dear Santa I want a Atv. I want a TV I want a Sponge Bob movie My family is going on vacation. I want a fish Colby

Dear Santa I want a gameboy and with the game. Love you Santa Mario Vega

Dear Santa, How is Rudolph? is the Weather? How are all the? reindeers? I was good. For Christmas I would lilfe to havea play doll and a playhouse Love Kaylyn Gaussoin

Dear santa How is Mrs, Claus? How is Rudolph? How are the elfs? I have been good. I do my chores, I clean my room. I cout the yard. This year I want a go-cart, skates a dirt bike, a little race car, and a horse. Love Andres Silva

Dear Santa, What are you doing? How are your reindeer? I help people. I help my family. I help the world. This year I want a football helmet, a game cube; a TV cleets, and a Dalla's Cowboy' shirt. Please. Love Trey Crozier

Dear Santa, Thank for the pesens I love my pesens an plesse want you bring me borbie cor I love you thank you Love Rebecca Bailey

Dear Santa, Hi how are you? How are your elves at the North Pole? I have been good this year. I have been good in school. I want shoes shirts, pajamas and ballerina shoes. Love Leah Castillo

Dear Santa I would like a Dog please. Love Destiny Sandoval

Dear Santa, How are your reindeer I want a barbie. Rosy Calvillo

Dear Santa I hope that you are great. I have been good. I would ike a yu-yu-gi-oh troudin cards merry christmas and happy New Year Love Abel

Dear Santa I want a remote Control Car bowling gol meondua bee bee gun Merre Christmas Santa claus Jacob Osborn

Dear Santa I want a toys a Brat toys and a move and a gam plastashon 2 luvu santa. and Eric wants a ya ga ya cards and sierra wants a roponsl. barbie Luvu Stephanie Martinez

Dear Sarta Hi. How are you? How do you fly? I have been good. I made good gragej. I like my toys. I play with them, I want batship, Soge Hewos 1, Bingo, a game boy color and a football. Love Tylin Stephens

Dear Santa Claus, for Christmas I want a Barbie Dream House, PoP sinsation barbie and a Electronic Ker-Plunk 2. And please get me that's not so hard to get and I don't care what I get. Amber

Dear Santa, I hope that you are doing great I have been good this year I would like a playstatian with games merry christmas and Happy New Year. Love Adolfo

Dear Santa, I hop you ar find Mrs. claus to I Love you. I want a dog. I want a fulle dog. I want a doll. I want a bredcer Love Bianca Hernandez

Dear Santa, I hope that you are doing great. I have been good this year. I would like a Yu-goh travldng cards christmas and happy new year. Love Jesus

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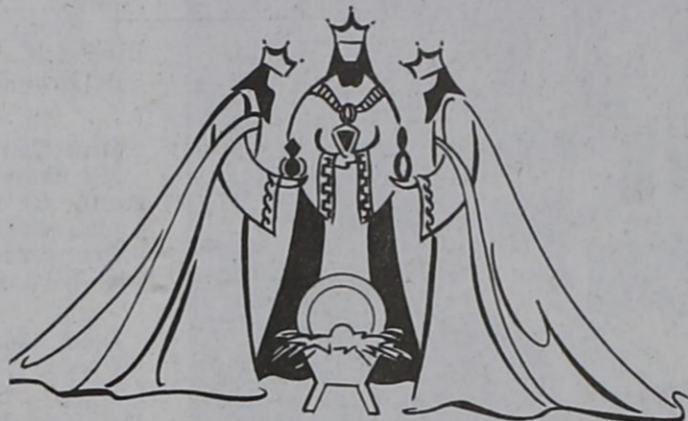
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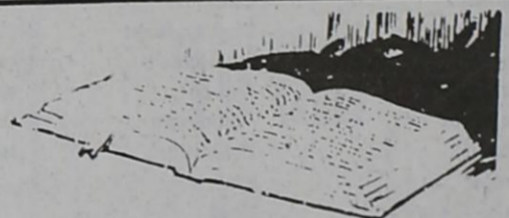
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