

BIG SPRING HERALD

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We're Always There

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

THURSDAY

October 10, 2002

WEATHER

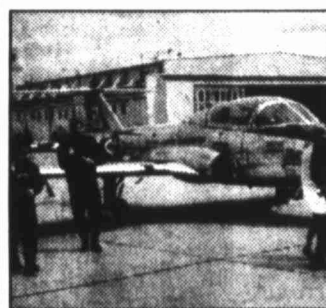
Tonight:



TONIGHT 55°-57° TOMORROW 82°-85°

INSIDE TODAY

WEBB AFB REUNION



Hundreds of people are expected to attend the Webb Air Force Base Reunion this weekend. In today's B section, we take a look back at the air base in stories and photographs.

Page 1-8B

COMING THURSDAY

GAME DAY



Game Day, a feature of the Herald, runs each Thursday. Sports Editor Tommy Wells will have statistics from previous games as well as previews of all the Friday and Saturday pigskin matchups.

MEMORY WALK

One determined lady is on a mission to retrieve her title during the Alzheimer's Association's Memory Walk on Saturday. Jim Marie Permenter of Garden City wants her trophy back and she's knocking on every door in Glasscock County to enlist help.

INDEX

Classified	6-7A
Comics	8A
Horoscope	7A
Local	3A
Obituaries	2A
Opinion	4A
Sports	5A
Webb	1-8B

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Fry convicted on three counts; given 99 years

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

A 118th District Court jury deliberated just 20 minutes before convicting Jerry Leon Fry Jr., 42, of Howard County on three counts of aggravated sexual assault Wednesday.

That jury sentenced Fry to 99 years in prison for

each count. He will serve the sentences concurrently.

Fry was convicted of molesting his three step-granddaughters earlier this year at his residence in the north part of Howard County.

Fry must serve at least half of his sentence, or 49 1/2 years, before being eligible

"I thought that it was a case that had good, but perhaps not great evidence, but the jurors understood that the victims told what they could tell."

Robin Orr, prosecuting attorney



for parole. He will be more than 91 years old before he could be released. "I'm very gratified that the jury took

what evidence they had and came back with the verdict they came back with," said prosecutor Robin Orr following Fry's sentencing. "I thought that it was a case that had good, but perhaps not great evidence, but the jurors understood that the victims told what they could tell. The outcry witnesses

had their stories to tell and it was the same as what the little girls' said, basically. The (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) from Midland essentially confirmed that also. So what you had in this case, to me, was basically a consistency from outcry wit-

See TRIAL, Page 3A



A driver reverses this Jeep Liberty from the wreckage of a house in the area of 15th and Mesa Wednesday evening after a woman accidentally drove the vehicle into the side of a relative's home. No one was injured in the accident.

No one injured as car strikes house

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

Jeeps and houses are like oil and water: They don't mix well.

That's the lesson learned by a woman who accidentally drove her Jeep into the side of her rela-

tives' house Wednesday afternoon.

"Yesterday at about 5:05 p.m., officers were dispatched to 15th and Mesa in reference to a green Jeep that had run into a house," said Big Spring Police Sgt. Roger Sweatt.

"When the officers arrived, there was a green Jeep Liberty sticking out of the house."

Sweatt said the collision was purely accidental.

See WRECK, Page 3A

DAV chapter will hold Forget-Me-Not drive Friday, Saturday in Big Spring

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

A local veterans organization will be out on the streets of Big Spring Friday and Saturday to solicit funds in its annual Forget-Me-Not drive.

"The sole purpose of this drive to raise funds



MEISER

that support services to our local veterans," said Ed Meiser, commander of the local Disabled American Veterans chapter. "The money is used strictly for local veterans. Donations are used for meal programs for veterans, temporary housing for homeless veterans and their families and it supports the veterans transportation network."

The local DAV helps to support transportation

for veterans to and from VA medical facilities in 46 Texas counties and one county in New Mexico.

"The also help to assist volunteer programs at the VA Medical Center," Meiser said.

Members of the Disabled American Veterans chapter and the auxiliary will be at various places in town including Wal-Mart and the U.S.

See DAV, Page 3A

All-City Choir auditions tonight at high school

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

Judges for the All-City Choir auditions will be searching for the best Howard County young singers tonight.

"They will have to fill out an audition form so they may want to get here a little before the audition time," said choir director Linda Lindell.

Auditions will be held at the Big Spring High School choir room, 707 11th Place.

Fifth-grade auditions will be held from 5 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.; fourth grade, 5:45 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.; and for all sixth, seventh and eighth grades, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

"If they can't come at the exact audition time, I will be here from 5 p.m.

AUDITIONS

5th grade: 5 p.m.-5:45 p.m.

4th grade: 5:45 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

6th-8th grades: 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

to 8 p.m. and we can work them in," Lindell said.

Students may sing either "Music Alone Shall Live" or "America" and will be auditioning for three local judges.

Howard County youths who miss tonight's auditions will have another chance on Thursday, Oct. 17, at the same audition times and location.

For more information or for a copy of "Music Alone shall Live," call Lindell at 263-364, ext. 171.

Aerobatic show planned to help get Webb AFB reunion off the ground

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

Big Spring residents and former Webb Air Force Base personnel

alike will be treated to a show of aerobatic excellence this weekend.

Jan Collmer has been a pilot for 48 years and has been doing performances at air shows for 20.

"I'm a low-level aerobatic air show performer," he said. "We're going to do a low-altitude, high-energy acrobatic display."

Collmer flies an Extra 300-L.

"It was built in Germany by a guy named Walter Extra," he said. "It's a small stunt plane. A small 300-horsepower stunt plane."

Collmer's roots are in Naval aviation.

"I was a pilot in the Navy," Collmer said. "The first things we learn to do when we start flying are aerobatics because it's the stock-and-trade of a fighter pilot."

But doing the stunts in his light prop plane are different from the dog-fighting techniques he learned as a jet fighter pilot, Collmer said.

"We do a lot more things in the little light airplane than a jet fighter can do," he explained. "We tumble the airplane end over end, we back it up, we snap roll it and things like that that jets simply can't do."

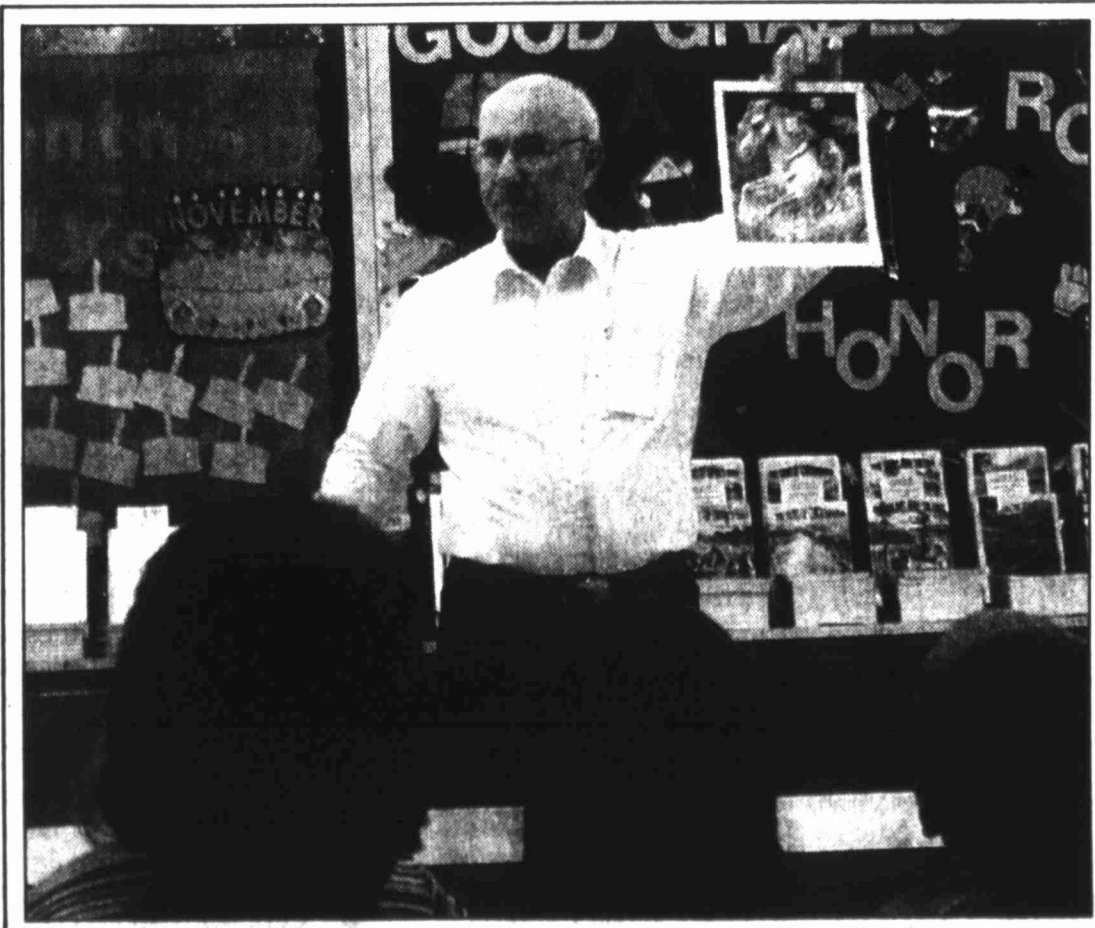
ACTIVITIES

Friday
10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Registration at Hangar 25
Free community events
3 p.m.-6 p.m., Static displays, vintage auto show, fly-in.
3:30 p.m., Fly overs
4 p.m., Jan Collmer's 2002 Air Show routine
3 p.m.-6 p.m., "memories" Community Reception at Hangar 25.
Registration Fee Event 7 p.m.-10 p.m., "Mexican Fiesta" dinner and casino night (casual dress)

Saturday
9 a.m.-noon, Late registration at Hangar 25
Optional events:
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., golf tournament
8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., CAF tour and lunch
1 p.m.-4 p.m., Tours of downtown area, wind farm or airpark, Vietnam Memorial and state park.
Registration Fee Event 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m., Reception and silent auction at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.
7:30 p.m.-9 p.m., Reunion dinner
9 p.m.-midnight, Dance Sunday
8 a.m.-10 a.m., Continental farewell breakfast at Hangar 25.

Collmer has been in Big Spring before, performing at the last Webb Air Force Base Reunion in 1992. During his service as a naval aviator, he never visited Webb during its days as an active

See REUNION, Page 3A



Children's author Herb Marlow spins a story for Kentwood Elementary students Tuesday afternoon. The author spoke earlier in the day at Moss Elementary and was on hand to sell copies of his books and visit with students during the Kentwood open house.

OCT 10 2002

A BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

Obituaries

Marjorie Smith Grissam



Marjorie Smith Grissam, 87, passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2002, in Midland. Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12, 2002, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel in Big Spring with the Rev. Ken McMeans, pastor of College Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Marjorie was born on Jan. 8, 1915, in Howard County and grew up in the Knott Community. She married Thurlo Grissam, a military man, from the Elbow Community in 1945. Marjorie was a graduate of Sul Ross University and taught school for 23 years. She was a member of College Baptist Church and spent most of her adult years teaching Sunday School.

Marjorie was preceded in death by her husband, Thurlo; her parents, Oscar and Annie Smith; two brothers, Robert Smith and Norris Smith and a sister, Neva Phillips.

Survivors include two sons, Charley Grissam and wife, Carol, of Midland and Gary Grissam and wife, Chris, of Humble; a daughter, Carol Combs and husband, Paul, of Tomball; seven grandchildren, Chuck Grissam and wife, Lawana, and Greg Grissam all of Austin, Josh Grissam and wife, Laura, of Midland, David Dickerson and wife, Tina, of Humble, Jennifer Palmer and husband, Jeremy, and Katie Grissam all of Bastrop and Jill Combs of Tomball; six great-grandchildren, Amber, Kristen, Jessica, Mason, Elijah and Ethan and two brothers, Howard Smith of Evergreen, Colorado and Harmon Smith of Victoria.

In addition to her grandsons and son-in-law, Ray McKinnon, Jr. and Clayton McKinnon will serve as pallbearers.

The family suggests memorials to: College Baptist Church Youth Fund, 1105 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring 79720 or to the American Cancer Society, c/o Lucy Bonner, P.O. Box 2121, Big Spring 79721-2121.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home of Big Spring, www.npwelch.com

Paid obituary

Robert L. Noyes Sr.

Masonic Service and Sons of Union Veterans Memorial Service for Robert L. Noyes Sr., 93, of Charlton, Mass., was held Friday, Oct. 4, 2002. Funeral service was held Saturday, Oct. 5. Burial was at Hillside Cemetery, Monson, Mass.

Mr. Noyes died Sunday, Sept. 29, at the Masonic Home in Charlton, Mass.

He was born on March 27, 1909, in Monson, Mass. and resided in Springfield, Mass. since 1926. He moved to Charlton in 1999. He resided in Del Rio as a winter Texan for over 19 years after retiring from Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford, Conn. He was a member of Masonic Lodge for over 58 years, a member of the Scottish Rites, the Melba Shrine Temple and was a Past Grand Noble of Desoto Lodge of Odd Fellows and Past Patron of the Eastern Star, all of Springfield, Mass. He was a 63 year member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. He was a member of the Val Verde AF & AM Masonic Lodge 646 and Del Rio Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star 204, while living there and a member of the Del Rio Host Lions Club.

Survivors include his wife, Carol E. Winchell Noyes of the Masonic Home, Charlton, Mass.; one son, Robert L. Noyes Jr. of Big Spring; one daughter, Marilyn E. Noyes of Springfield, Mass.; one brother, Edward Noyes of Manchester, Conn.; and one grandson.

The family suggests memorials to the Scottish Rite Learning Center, The Shrine's Hospital for Children or the Texas Lions Camp in Kerrville.

Arrangements under the direction of Dickerson Streeter Funeral Home in Springfield, Mass.

Flora "Flo" Roberson



Graveside service for Flora "Flo" Roberson, 71, of Vealmoor, will be 2 p.m. Friday at Vealmoor Cemetery with Ansel Dale Roberson, speaking.

Mrs. Roberson died Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2002, at Comanche Trial Nursing Center following a long illness.

She was born on Oct. 26, 1930, in Mineral Wells. She married Marlin Roberson on Aug. 27, 1982, in Fort Worth. She had lived in Howard County since 1975, moving here from Mineral Wells. She was a Baptist. Mrs. Roberson had worked in home health care.

She is survived by her husband, Marlin (Red) Roberson of Vealmoor; one daughter, Laura Ann Glover of Lipan; one sister; three grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Arrangements are under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Paid obituary

Support groups

MONDAY

☐ TOPS Club TX 21 (take off pounds sensibly), weigh in at 5:30 p.m. and meeting at 6 p.m. at Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 West Third.

☐ Encourager's Support Group (all widows and widowers are invited) will meet Oct. 21, at 6 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church located at Seventh and Runnels (enter through the north door). There will be a covered dish dinner and fellowship. For more information call 398-5522.

☐ New Voice Club is a support group for laryngectomies and their families. No dues. For more information, call 287-2800.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity from 8 a.m. Wednesday until 8 a.m. today:

• **CRAIG STEPHEN ELLIS**, 40, of 2505 Elizabeth in Midland was arrested on a charge of theft \$50 to \$500.

• **PAULA SUE BAKER**, 43, of 538 Westover Road was arrested on a charge of theft less than \$50.

• **DEMETRIUS LYNN PRUITT**, 35, of 707 1/2 N. Scurry was arrested to hold for the Howard County Sheriff's Office.

• **JOSE RENALDO RUELAS-LEMON**, 22, of Mexico was arrested to hold for the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

• **ROBERTO VITAL-VELASQUEZ**, 18, of Mexico was arrested to hold for the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

• **MARIO ARTURO CERRATO-PENA**, 31, of Mexico was arrested to hold for the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

• **ARTURO COSS Y LEON-MATA**, 21, of Mexico was arrested to hold for the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

• **ASSAULT BY THREAT** was reported in the 2200 block of Cecilia Street.

• **ASSAULT CLASS C** was reported in the 2000 block of South Gregg Street.

• **MAJOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the 700 block of North Owens Street and in the 1400 block of Mesa Street.

• **LOUD PARTY/NOISE** was reported in the 1000 block of North Main Street.

• **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 1200 block of Wood Street. The rear door of the home was forced open causing \$20 damage to the structure. Home entertainment equipment worth \$680 was reported stolen.

• **THEFT** was reported:
- At Movie Gallery in the 2600 block of South Gregg Street. Video tapes worth \$131.90 were reported stolen.

- At 7-Eleven convenience store in the 1700 block of Marcy. Somebody reportedly drove off without paying for \$10.01 worth of gas.

- In the 2500 block of Wasson Road. An adult was reportedly arrested after an item worth \$2.80 was reported stolen.

• **FORGERY** was reported in person at the police station. Someone reportedly passed forged negotiable instruments worth \$109.40 at Gold Rush Discount Tobacco in the 800 block of East Third Street.

Sheriff's blotter

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following recent activity:

• **DEMETRIUS LYNN PRUITT**, 35, of 707 1/2 N. Scurry was arrested on a motion to revoke parole for possession of marijuana less than two ounces.

• **ERNESTO DIAZ JR.**, 21, of 4107 Dixon was arrested on a charge of failure to comply with requirements of an accident.

• **ANTHONY SARMIENTO**, 29, of 1304 E. 18th St. was arrested on a motion to revoke parole for duty on striking an unattended vehicle.

• **JERRY MARTINEZ**, 31, of 308 W. Eighth St. was taken to the Howard County Jail after being arrested by Big Spring Police Monday on charges of driving with a suspended license, failure to identify/fugitive from justice, parole violation — driving while intoxicated third offense or more, assault causing bodily injury and interfering with an emergency call.

• **JAMES PHILIP BELL**, 28, of 1100 W. Second St. was taken to the Howard County Jail after being arrested Monday on a charge of driving with a suspended license and for failure to pay child support.

• **MARK ANTHONY MADIGAN**, 42, of 4006 Chaparral was taken to the Howard County Jail after being arrested by Big Spring Police Saturday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **VICIOUS DOG** was reported in the 100 block of Jonesboro. Animal Control was notified.

• **THEFT** was reported from a barn on Route 2.

• **DRUG ACTIVITY** was reported in the 500 block of Westover. Two juveniles were arrested.

• **DOG BITE** was reported at the intersection of Dogwood and Ash. The incident was called in from the Scenic Mountain Medical Center emergency room.

• **ANIMAL PROBLEM** was reported in the 600 block of Culp. An injured dog was reported in the resident's yard. The dog was picked up by the Howard County Humane Society.

Lottery

Wednesday's Texas Lottery game results:
Lotto Texas results Wednesday 12-15-22-27-30-53
One jackpot winner, sold in Madisonville.
Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated \$4 million.

Cash 5 results Wednesday 3-7-9-26-31
Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night 1-7-8
Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday afternoon 1-6-4

Do you have a favorite holiday recipe?
Enter it in the Herald's
Recipe contest.
Send mailed entries to Big Spring
Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring
79720 or by e-mail to news-
desk@crcom.net

Bulletin board

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact Herald Features Editor Andrea Medlin at 263-7331, ext. 238 or email johnmoseley@bigspringherald.com.

TODAY

☐ American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 West Highway 80. For more information call 263-2404.

☐ Masonic Lodge 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

☐ Masonic Lodge 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 219 Main.

FRIDAY

☐ Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281. Bring a lunch.

☐ AMBUCS meets at noon at the Brandin' Iron Inn.

☐ Greater Big Spring Rotary meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.

☐ Registration for Webb Air Force Reunion events that have fees will begin at 10 a.m. at Hangar 25 located at McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark. The Reunion community events will be 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Hangar 25.

☐ Spring City Senior Citizens Center Country and Western Dance 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. All area seniors are invited.

SATURDAY

☐ Howard County Scottish Rite Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge, 21st and Lancaster. Breakfast served.

☐ Free eye glasses for needy adults are available from 9 a.m. to noon at Bob's Custom Woodwork located at 409 East Third.

☐ Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 3188 and Auxiliary will be giving away winter coats from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Eagles Lodge located at 703 West Third.

☐ Potton House, 200 Gregg, a restored historical home is open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. A one time admission fee of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens is encouraged.

☐ Heritage Museum, 510 Scurry is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

☐ Hangar 25 Air Museum is located at the McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark. It is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

☐ The Big Spring Art Association will be having an art show and sale Saturday and Sunday at the Big Spring Mall. The sale will continue Oct. 19-20. For more information call 267-9773.

Take note

☐ The Texas Department of Health will have a flu shot clinic Saturday, Oct. 12 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. located at 501 Birdwell Ln., Suite 28 B. Shots are \$10 unless you have Medicare. Claims will be filed by the TDH. For more information call 263-9775.

☐ The Texas LST/Amphibious Association invites all shipmates, past and present, to the amphibious reunion to be held in San Angelo Oct. 10-13. For more information contact Bob Garner LST 461, HC 52 Box 362, Hemphill 75948. Send e-mails to TexasLSTs@aol.com

☐ Tommy Hogan was diagnosed with cancer one year ago and is in need of financial help with medications and future surgery.

An account has been set up at First Bank of West Texas. To make a donation call 267-1113 and ask for the Hogan account.

☐ The Class of 1992 is looking for the following students for their upcoming reunion — Valarie Akin, Ben Chau, Christina Cox, Gary Flynn, Jason Gonzales, Michael Hauser, Brian Jones, Kimberly Myers, Jo Beth Neighbors, Jeremy Pope, Cynthia Resendez, Kris Ryan, Kevin Stansel, Daniel Vera, James Ward, Belinda Banks, Ortencia Chavera, Sidney Dixon, Michael Gamboa, Zybou Gonzalez, Darius Hill, Roger Kilgora, Hilary McGuire, Jason Mills, Joey Perez, Kati Reagan, John Richardson, Valorie Samora, David Valencia, Patrick Walker, Amy Weaver, Jason Beddow, Pat Chaverria, Kayla Donica, Sheila Gamboa, Amanda Gorrondona, Eric Johnke, Willie Kimble, Debra McMillan, Wanda Peterson, Lance Reeves, Teresa Ross, James Soles, Anthony Vera, and Amie Walters. If you have any information about these classmates' phone numbers or addresses please contact Brooke Everett at 268-9742.

BIG SPRING HERALD

Reflecting A Proud Community

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John A. Moseley	Est. 280
Edwin Vela	Est. 225
Carlos Gonzalez	Est. 240
Tony Hernandez	Est. 286
Dianne Marquez	Est. 286

Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.
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TRIAL

Continued from P
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Support Group

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☐ New Voice support group f gectomees and ilies. No dues. I information, ca 2800.

☐ Military su group meets at the VA Medical in room 212 the Monday of ever Contact Wanda at 263-7180 or T at 263-8574.

☐ Project Free Christian supp for survivors of cal/emotional/s and/or spirituat. Call 263-5140 or for dates and ti upcoming grou

☐ Bereaveme Support Group 6:30 to 7:30 p.m Monday of each at Community Hospice.

☐ Surviving Pregnancy Los: the second Mor each month at the Howard Co Library Comm: Room. Call 631- more informati

☐ Alcoholics Anonymous me noon to 1 p.m. Settles. Open n fourth floor at Medical Center p.m. to 9 p.m.

TUESDAY

☐ AA Open c meeting, 615 Se p.m. to 1 p.m. podium meetir Settles 8 p.m. t

☐ TOPS Clul (take off pound bly), weigh in p.m. and meeti p.m. at Birdwe Church of Chr and Birdwell.

☐ Gamblers Anonymous, 7 Stephen's Cath Church, room Neeley, Midlar 263-8920.

☐ Alcoholics Anonymous, 6 closed meeting 9 p.m.

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TRIAL

Continued from Page 1A
ness to SANE nurse, to in-court testimony."

Orr said he was surprised by the short deliberation of the jury in finding Fry guilty.

"I think they certainly took an adequate amount of time, but not a long

Support Groups

MONDAY

□ TOPS Club TX 21 (take off pounds sensibly), weigh in at 5:30 p.m. and meeting at 6 p.m. at Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 West Third.

□ Encourager's Support Group (all widows and widowers are invited) will meet Oct. 21, at 6 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church located at Seventh and Runnels (enter through the north door). There will be a covered dish dinner and fellowship. For more information call 398-5522.

□ New Voice Club is a support group for laryngectomies and their families. No dues. For more information, call 267-2800.

□ Military support group meets at 6 p.m. at the VA Medical Center in room 212 the first Monday of every month. Contact Wanda Gamble at 263-7180 or Treva Hall at 263-8574.

□ Project Freedom, Christian support group for survivors of physical/emotional/sexual and/or spiritual abuse. Call 263-5140 or 263-2241 for dates and times of upcoming groups.

□ Bereavement Support Group meets at 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Community Care Hospice.

□ Surviving Pregnancy Loss meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Howard County Library Committee Room. Call 631-4430 for more information.

□ Alcoholics Anonymous meets from noon to 1 p.m. at 615 Settles. Open meeting on fourth floor at VA Medical Center from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

TUESDAY

□ AA Open discussion meeting, 615 Settles 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Closed podium meeting, 615 Settles 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

□ TOPS Club TX 1756 (take off pounds sensibly), weigh in at 5:30 p.m. and meeting at 6 p.m. at Birdwell Lane Church of Christ, 11th and Birdwell.

□ Gamblers Anonymous, 7 p.m., St. Stephen's Catholic Church, room 1, 4601 Neeley, Midland. Call 263-8920.

□ Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, closed meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

time," he said. "To me those are indications that the evidence was very convincing. They had heard what they had heard through the course of the trial. They had had the opportunity to observe the witnesses as they testified and those things apparently made a big impression on them."

Defense attorney John Young of Sweetwater said he was caught off-guard by the verdict and sentence.

"Obviously I'm extremely disappointed. Jerry was very disappointed," he said. "I don't know how the jury put all those pieces together to come up with what they came up with. I understand and acknowledge and respect the verdict of the jury. I just saw the evidence differently."

Young said emotions were running high in the courtroom because of the child witnesses.

"Any time a case involves children, there are extremely high emotions and some extremely important interests to protect," he said. "But as you heard from the beginning of the case, in my point of view, it is equally important to protect the rights of the accused."

During the punishment phase of the trial, Orr presented two witnesses, Debra Dawkins of San Angelo and Lucy Smith of Monahans. The women are licensed professional counselors helping two of the victims deal with their emotional trauma.

Both Dawkins and Smith said that the girls they are treating suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, with nightmares and flashbacks of the abuse.

Both said the victims feel betrayed by a man they loved.

Dawkins added that sex offenders can't be rehabilitated.

"It doesn't happen," she said. "The studies are crystal clear. Sex offenders don't rehabilitate. Even with castration, even with (drugs). Sex abuse is more a matter of domination."

Under cross-examination, Dawkins admitted that many psychologists believe that sex offenders can be rehabilitated.

The defense called Fry and his father, Jerry Fry Sr., as witnesses during the punishment phase. The defendant asked the jury to grant him probation so that he could work to support his 61-year-old wife.

"I've got a family," he said. "My wife is unable to work. She's got a couple of surgeries that she's planning on going through."

The senior Mr. Fry told the jury that he would do everything he could to help his son comply with the strictures of probation.

The jury could have only given Fry probation on a sentence up to 10 years.

Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

Scenic Mountain Medical Center
1601 W. 11th Place
263-1211

Pizza Inn
Family Night
Thursday 5 pm-10 pm
Large 1 Topping \$7.99
Call For Details
1702 Gregg • 263-1381

WRECK

Continued from Page 1A

"What the driver said was that she was a family member and she had been driving along and turned into the driveway," Sweatt explained. "She gave it some gas and evidently caught a slick spot or something, because she just started spinning and kind of jumped out there and ran into the house."

No one was injured in the accident.

"There was no injuries. The only thing was some property damage to the vehicle and the house," Sweatt said, adding that police treated the event as an incident and didn't file an accident report.

"There was nobody inside (the home) when the wreck happened," he said. "No injuries or anything like that. They didn't want a report made because it was on private property and nobody was injured or anything like that."

Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

REUNION

Continued from Page 1A

base.

"I never did, actually," he said. "Because of the difficulties in starting these jet aircraft. You need specialized equipment and that specialized equipment did not exist at all Air Force bases. You took a risk if you flew into an Air Force base. I flew into a few of them but you risked not being able to get her started, and then you had a real problem."

Reunion co-chairman Jim Little said he expects the reunion to be a great event.

"I think that it's going to go quite well," he said. "We've got planes committed by the Air Force, a

great flight of T-37s, the type of plane that was used out here. We're going to have a T-28, a type of plane that was used out here, to be on static display and do a fly-over and Jan Collmer's routine."

Other than the flying, those attending the reunion should have a good time.

"We've got a lot of great food and refreshments out there and I think it's going to be an exciting event for people to come in, browse around and greet the people that are coming back into Big Spring," he said.

Registration for the event is \$50 per person and sign-ups will be accepted through 1 p.m. Friday.

"It is not just for the people that are coming in from outside, it is just as much for the people that are here as well," Little said. "The essence of what we are hearing from the people that are coming back, one of the primary reasons that they are coming back is because of the warmth and hospitality of the people of Big Spring when they were here. They remember that and it would be great for the people to reflect that again."

Free community events kick off Friday at 3 p.m. with static aircraft displays, vintage autos and the fly-in.

At 3:30 military flyovers are scheduled, and Collmer's show begins at 4 p.m.

From 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. a "Memories" Community Reception will take place at Hangar 25.

Later that night, those who registered for the event will partake a "Mexican Fiesta" dinner and a casino night. Dress for the event will be casual.

Saturday, those who registered for the event have the option of participating in a golf tournament at the Big Spring Country Club, a tour of the Commemorative Air Force in Midland and one

of three other tours: A tour of downtown Big Spring including antique shops, the Potton House, the Heritage Museum, the Railroad Museum and Glickman's Armory; a tour of the Wind Farm turbines; or a tour of the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark, the Vietnam Memorial and the Big Spring State Park.

On Saturday night, attendees will participate in a reception and silent auction at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum followed by dinner and a dance. Dress will be business casual for that event.

Sunday, those registering for the event will be treated to a continental breakfast and farewell at Hangar 25.

For more information call Hangar 25 at 26264-1999.

Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

DAV

Continued from Page 1A

Post Office all day Friday. On Saturday, members

DUNLAPS
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will collect donations at the intersections of the Highway 87 bridge and FM 700 as well as various other locations in town.

"We will be wearing our blue Disabled American Veterans caps and the containers will have DAV signs," Meiser said.

Those who donate will be given a polyester Forget-Me-Not blue flower.

"We hope the public will wear them to remember our veterans," he said.

The drive started in 1926 by the DAV to raise fund to help thousands of veterans who were denied medical help by the government

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

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OCT 10 2002

EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Hank Bond
Publisher

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Have great fun at the reunion this weekend

It's reunion time. And we'd say "about time," too, after 25 years. More importantly, welcome back.

Visitors and hometown folks will want to enjoy the Webb Air Force Base Reunion, which begins Friday. It promises to be a great time, whether you were involved with Webb AFB or not.

You'll want to go out to Hangar 25 Air Museum on Friday afternoon for a series of free, entertaining activities. These include a fly-in, jazz band, an air show routine, a display of vintage automobiles as well as the museum's static displays, plus refreshments. It's a come-as-you-are, come-and-go reception that promises to be a lot of fun.

Then, there are a couple of registration-only evening activities scheduled for Friday and Saturday at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The cost is \$50 per person and includes a "Mexican Fiesta" dinner and casino night on Friday and Saturday. There's also a continental breakfast Sunday morning back at the hangar. You'll need to register by 1 p.m. Friday by calling the Big Spring Chamber of Commerce or Hangar 25 Air Museum. They won't be able to sell tickets at the coliseum door either night.

Fifty dollars per person is a low price when you consider it pays for two meals and two evenings of entertainment — and that you'll be benefiting a worthy cause. Proceeds from the auction go toward preservation of the air museum.

Another reason to go to the reunion is to welcome those who worked, trained and served at Webb back to Big Spring. It's a great opportunity to remind them how much we appreciate their service to our nation as well as the time they spent in our city.

It's been 25 years since Webb AFB closed, but it was part of our community for more than 50 years — and a lot longer than that if one takes into account the Big Spring Bombardier School, which opened in 1942.

Plan on attending some of the reunion events this weekend, especially those free ones on Friday afternoon and early evening. They are all family oriented, and promise to make great memories.

LETTERS POLICY

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. Please:

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- We do not acknowledge receipt of letters.
- Letters from our circulation area will be given preference.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to johnmoseley@bigspringherald.com.

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

With you, Lord, we can get even the most difficult task done. May we ask for your help in all we do. Amen

We're struggling to connects the dots

Despite its high murder rate, the streets of Washington and its surrounding suburbs have always seemed safe to me. Sure, there were plenty of shootings and robberies



LINDA CHAVEZ

Washington, D.C., routinely ranks in the top 10 most dangerous cities in America — but so long as you avoided dangerous neighborhoods, your chances of becoming a victim were pretty slim. Suddenly, with a homicidal sniper on the loose, even the most banal acts of filling your gas tank or going to the supermarket have begun to seem fraught with danger.

As of this writing, six people have been killed and two others critically wounded by high-power rifle shots that hit them while they were going about their daily routines: sitting at a bus stop, mowing the grass, loading groceries, buying gas, crossing the street, and worst of all, walking into a middle school. Anxiety, if not downright fear, has now gripped much of the population. It has been a year of high anxiety, what with the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the Pentagon, the anthrax deaths of two area postal workers, and the new security precautions in place around public buildings and monuments as we brace for yet more terrorism.

Washington has begun to seem like a war zone, and the recent spate of killings in the area's suburbs has only intensified the feeling. Many area schools are on "lockdown," meaning children cannot play outside or come and go for lunch. Restaurants report that customers are choosing to stay home, with some popular spots noting a 25 percent decline in business. Shopping mall parking lots have fewer cars — no wonder since two of the sniper attacks took place in such settings.

People are choosing to stay home, with their blinds drawn, just in case the murderer should decide to change his method of attack.

Of course the public response is irrational. The odds of being shot while out shopping or going to school are still tiny, but that is small comfort when it feels like you're under siege. And the police can offer little help. Even with several jurisdictions pooling their resources and federal investigators on the scene, it is impossible to protect every school, much less every street corner.

So we wait, hoping that the killer will make a mistake, wreck his car as he escapes from the scene, get stopped for a routine traffic violation, or pick the wrong location and have his image captured on tape. Or maybe he'll just tire of his killing spree, though that seems unlikely. In the long, awful history of modern-day mass murder in the United States, most killers kept at it until they were caught or killed. Perhaps this killer — or killers, some witnesses claim that two men fled the first crime scenes in a white delivery truck or van — has family or friends who will tip off the police. Luck

seems as much a part of catching this homicidal maniac as it does in becoming one of his victims.

But there is something innately human that makes us believe we can outwit chance. If only we take the proper precautions, try to stay one chess move ahead of this killer in his vicious game, maybe we can protect ourselves and our families.

So we spend a little less time chatting with our neighbors on our front lawns, washing our windshields at the gas pump, or playing soccer after school in the hopes that we won't fall victim to this random violence.

Of all the aspects of this horrible crime spree, it is its terrible randomness that makes it most intolerable.

Our brains are hardwired to seek clues to explain the world around us.

There must be some logic or order to explain the inexplicable.

We struggle to connect the dots, even when there is no connection that makes sense. In the absence of explanations we're left with pure, primal fear.



When you have something to lose

It's funny how age changes one's perspective. When I was a kid, hurricanes and tornadoes were just an adventure. I'd seen the havoc of tornadoes and lived through a couple of hurricanes. It was all just a spectacle.

Now I worry when one of the monsters is roaming around in the Gulf of Mexico, and the reason is quite simple: When I was child, I didn't own anything but a few marbles and stuff that would fit in my pockets. Now I'm a property owner. Now it could be my house that gets smashed to pieces or flooded by torrential rains after the roof has been torn off.

It's funny how owning stuff makes you feel less secure. You'd think you'd feel more secure, but you don't. Now you have something to lose. It really is true, as that old Kris Kristofferson song says, "Freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose." If you don't know where you're going, you can't get lost, and if you have nothing, you can't

lose it. Years ago, in my public-relations days, I was squirring the great South African heart surgeon Dr. Christiaan Barnard around a Catholic hospital. He is the man who performed the first heart transplant in 1967. For those of you who have read Ayn Rand's novels, Barnard is the closest man I've ever seen to her fictional characters of John Galt and Hank Reardon. A reporter asked him, "Who is the least likely person to suffer a heart attack?"

Without hesitation, Barnard replied, "A drunken bum." I realize the American Heart Association would probably not agree, but with all due respect, Barnard knew more about hearts than probably anybody. If you will observe drunken bums, you will see that quite a few of them reach old age, depending on how tough their livers are. I take that as a sign of their not worrying about very much of anything, except their next drink.

But it is funny that the more you have, the less secure you feel, and — while I've never experienced it — it seems, looking at the Enron types, that some people can never get enough money, even though they have millions or even billions of dollars. I do believe that if I could

lay hands on a million dollars, I'd be inclined to take some time off and enjoy myself until it was all gone.

My beloved high-school Latin teacher told us that the Romans believed a man could become a slave to his possessions. Not much Latin stuck in my memory, but that did, and for years, I tended to rent and to take pride in the fact that I could leave town for good with one suitcase.

Eventually, though, I went the way of all flesh and started a family, and when you start a family, stuff starts to accumulate. As the years go by, it seems that every move requires a bigger van. Pretty soon, you have so much stuff that most of it you never go near or even look at except to dust it. You have so many books you couldn't read them all if you lived to be 120 years old. You've collected so much music it would take months of 24/7 listening to hear it all. You've got so many guns you could start a war, providing you had more than two hands.

But if a hurricane comes knocking on your door, all that stuff will just sink or float way. At least then you won't be a slave to your possessions.

Write to Charley Reese at P.O. Box 2446, Orlando, FL 32802.



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S
Adult volleyball league...
Community slated for...
Longhorns set for Oct...
Lady Steers to meet Oct...
Coahoma, Boosters will...
Country club 2-man scramble...
Slowpitch tournament for Oct 19...

Erstad, Fullmer enable Angels to tie series

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A night after losing meekly to Minnesota in the opener, the Anaheim Angels came alive.

Darin Erstad and Brad Fullmer hit big home runs, Troy Percival and the bullpen got important outs, and the Angels beat the perky, pesky Twins 6-3 Wednesday night to head home with a split in the first two games of the AL championship series.

"Our job was to come here and win one out of two on the road," Fullmer said. "So we've done that. We've bounced back. We're a

resilient team. Nobody panics."

The Angels had been 1-9 on the road in the postseason before winning Game 2 of the division series in New York last week.

Minnesota had been 13-2 in the dome during postseason play, where Homer Hanky-waving fans turn up the volume and throw off opponents.

Now it's goodbye hankies and hello "rally monkey." The next three games are in sunny California. When the series resumes Friday, Jarrod Washburn faces the Twins' Eric Milton — who

no-hit the Angels in September 1999.

A night after Joe Mays stymied Anaheim's high-octane offense in the Twins' 2-1 opening victory, the Angels quickly got to Rick Reed. Erstad, the No. 2 batter, sent Reed's sixth pitch over the fence in right-center.

Anaheim tacked on three more runs in the second, two of them unearned because of a costly error by catcher A.J. Pierzynski — who couldn't hold on to a throw home after Reed caught a runner off first.

When Fullmer chased Reed with a two-run homer in the sixth, it

seemed over. But Minnesota battled right back, knocking Ramon Ortiz out in the sixth when Corey Koskie hit an RBI single and Doug Mientkiewicz, who had three hits, had a two-run single.

Then the Angels bullpen stopped the Twins, however. Brendan Donnelly got out of the inning, and 20-year-old rookie Francisco Rodriguez struck out two in a 1-2-3 seventh.

Percival, who hasn't allowed an unearned run to Minnesota in 35 innings during the regular season, got the save.

RIFF

Adult volleyball league now forming
An organizational meeting for adults, ages 18 and older, interested in playing volleyball will be held at the YMCA on Monday, Oct. 21, at 6 p.m. Anyone interested in playing either Co-rec or Power volleyball should attend the meeting.

For more information contact the YMCA at 267-8234.

Community pep rally slated for today
A community pep rally will be held today in the Steer Gymnasium. The event, which is open to the public, will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Big Spring opens District 4-4A action in football on Friday, Oct. 11, in San Angelo against Lake View.

Longhorns touney set for Oct. 11-12
The inaugural Longhorns Softball Tournament will be held Oct. 11-12 at the Comanche Trail Park in Big Spring.

Deadline to enter the tournament is Oct. 10 at 6 p.m. The entry fee is \$110 per team.

Teams finishing first, second and third will be presented with t-shirts and a trophy. Ten all-tournament selections will also be announced.

For more information contact Pano Rodriguez at 267-8307 or Oscar Cervantez at 268-9597.

Lady Steers boosters to meet Oct. 17
The Big Spring Lady Steers Booster Club will be holding a meeting of its members at 7 p.m. on Oct. 17 in the BSHS Athletic Training Center.

For more information contact Beverly Hayworth at 264-0356.

Coahoma, Big Spring boosters will meet
The Coahoma Athletic Booster and the Big Spring Quarterback Club will be holding a meeting Monday at 7 p.m. The Coahoma boosters will meet in the Coahoma Elementary cafeteria. The Big Spring boosters will meet at the ATC.

Country club slates 2-man scramble
The Big Spring Country Club will be holding a 2-person scramble on Oct. 19-20 for teams with a combined age of more than 80.

Entry fee is \$60 per player plus the cost of the cart. Private carts will be allowed.

Entry includes barbecue on Saturday.

For more information contact the Big Spring Country Club pro shop at (915) 267-5354.

Slowpitch touney set for Oct. 19 in Midland
The 20th Annual Permian Basin Softball Unifies Association Slowpitch Softball Tournament is scheduled for Oct. 19-20 at the Bill Williams Complex.

For more information call Al Enriquez at (915) 684-9351.

CLFL Week 6 FINISHING STRONG



Cardinals' linebacker Tanner Ruiz intercepts a pass during the second half of the team's 27-24 win over the Falcons in Crossroads Little Football League play. The win propelled the Cardinals into a first-place tie with the Falcons heading into the final week of the CLFL flag division regular season. CLFL games begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday.

'Little SWC' kicks off district play Friday

Out on the tranquil plains of West Texas, the Friday night lights will shine as brightly as they ever have on "The Little Southwest Conference."

The Abilene, Midland and Odessa 5A schools appear to be at their dominating best this season, compiling a 20-4 record against non-district competition and placing two teams in the Associated Press' high school football poll.

They'll focus their attention on each other Friday, promising one of the most interesting and competitive seasons in the storied history of the district.

"I was telling someone the other day that the district hasn't been this good from top to bottom since 1973," said Abilene Cooper coach Randy Quisenberry, head of 5A's ninth-ranked team and a 1975 graduate from Odessa Permian.

District 3-5A kicks off Friday night with matchups between 5A No. 9 Abilene Cooper (5-0) and Midland (5-0); 5A No. 6 Abilene (5-0) against Midland Lee (2-2); and Odessa (4-1) versus Odessa Permian (4-1). Those three

Weekend's schedule

The following is a list of the area high school games for this weekend.

Friday, Sept. 13

Big Spring at SA Lake View 7:30 p.m.
Forsan at Crane 7:30 p.m.
Stanton at Colorado City 7:30 p.m.
Coahoma at Seagraves 7:30 p.m.
Loop at Sands 7:30 p.m.
Grady at Dawson 7:30 p.m.
Klondike at Borden Co. 7:30 p.m.

games will be among the most intriguing in Texas this weekend, as most of the state's top teams begin their run to the playoffs with district contests.

"The Little Southwest Conference" earned its nickname because the competition and passion between the teams and towns was so intense that it was just a smidgen below that of the SWC, a college league that once was filled with mighty teams.

Although its college namesake no longer exists, the grouping of West Texas high schools is still going strong despite losing one of its original mem-

bers in 1986 when Big Spring was moved to Class 4A. The remaining six schools have won a total of 16 state titles, including three by Midland Lee in the past four years.

The power of the district has, at least for the past two seasons, shifted east to the Abilene schools. Abilene Cooper has earned a playoff berth for 10 straight years, and last season, Abilene won a district title for the first time in 42 years.

Once, a district title meant knocking off Odessa Permian or Midland Lee, who have combined to win eight of the past 10 district championships.

But it's been three years since Odessa Permian qualified for the post-season and Midland Lee has gotten off to an uncharacteristic 2-2 start this season. That follows up a year in which Midland Lee lost five games and was defeated in the quarterfinals of the Division I playoffs.

"We don't look at it like we lost mystique," Midland Lee coach John Parchman said. "It won't be long until we're back up there. Maybe it's just a changing of the guard."

Bonds powers Giants to win

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Barry Bonds delivered yet another big hit, then almost got into a real slugfest with the St. Louis Cardinals.

In a postseason that is rapidly becoming all his own, Bonds was in the middle of the action Wednesday night. He lined a two-run triple and later became part of a bench-clearing brouhaha as the San Francisco Giants beat St. Louis 9-6 in the opener of the NL championship series.

Though no punches were thrown, there was plenty of pushing and shoving in the fifth inning after Kenny Lofton, who had admired a home run he'd hit in his previous at-bat, took exception to a high-and-tight fastball. Bonds jawed with the Cardinals as tempers flared.

Bonds went 1-for-2 with three walks and scored twice. He'd already put his previous playoff failures in the past, hitting three home runs against Atlanta in the opening round.

"The thing this win does, it guarantees us four more games, that's it," the four-time MVP said.

Benito Santiago, batting behind Bonds, homered and drove in four runs, and David Bell and Lofton also connected.

It was 6-1 after three innings as the Giants tattooed Matt Morris, and it was a good omen for them — the team that has won the last nine NLCS openers has reached the World Series.

Game 2 is Thursday night with Woody Williams, who hasn't pitched since Sept. 20 because of a pulled muscle in his left side, starting for St. Louis against Jason Schmidt.

JV, freshman squads face LVHS today

The Big Spring Steers junior varsity will return to action tonight when they host the San Angelo Lake View Chiefs at Memorial Stadium. The two teams are scheduled to kick-off District 4-4A play at 5 p.m.

Big Spring heads into the game sporting a 2-3 record.

The Big Spring freshman squad, also head into the district with a 2-3 mark, will travel to San Angelo for a 5 p.m. start.

The Big Spring Junior High teams will also be in action, facing Merkel this afternoon at Blankenship.

ON THE AIR

Station	Time	Program
26.1	6:00 p.m.	6:00-7:00 p.m.
26.3	7:00 p.m.	7:00-8:00 p.m.
26.5	8:00 p.m.	8:00-9:00 p.m.
26.7	9:00 p.m.	9:00-10:00 p.m.
26.9	10:00 p.m.	10:00-11:00 p.m.
27.1	11:00 p.m.	11:00-12:00 a.m.
27.3	12:00 a.m.	12:00-1:00 a.m.
27.5	1:00 a.m.	1:00-2:00 a.m.
27.7	2:00 a.m.	2:00-3:00 a.m.
27.9	3:00 a.m.	3:00-4:00 a.m.
28.1	4:00 a.m.	4:00-5:00 a.m.
28.3	5:00 a.m.	5:00-6:00 a.m.

FISHING REPORT

AUSTIN (AP) — Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Oct. 9. (Report also available on Web as www.tfw.state.tx.us)

WEST
ALAN HENRY: Water clear; 76 degrees; Black bass are fair on minnows, poppers and soft jerk baits. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs.

ARROWHEAD: Water stained (from wind); 75 degrees; 19 feet low; Black bass are fair. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs suspended around districts. White bass are good on shallow white divers while trolling near shallow islands. Catfish are fair on live and prepared baits near rip-rap off the dam.

COLORADO CITY: Water clear; 80 degrees; 5 feet low; Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. White bass are slow. Redfish are slow. Catfish are slow. Fishing is extremely slow because of a toxic golden-

algae bloom.

FT. PHANTOM HILL: Water clear; 78 degrees; 6 feet low; Black bass are fair. Crappie are fair. White bass are good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on minnows.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water lightly stained; 76 degrees; 14 feet low; Black bass are fair on topwaters, spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs suspended at 8-12 feet. White bass and hybrid striped bass are good on minnows. Catfish are good on minnows.

OAK CREEK: Water lightly stained; 77 degrees; No boat ramps open. Black bass are fair. Crappie are good near docks on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair on trotlines using live bait and cheese bait.

O.H. VIE: Water lightly stained; 76 degrees; 19 feet low; Black bass are fair on minnows, spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on minnows. Striped bass are fair on trotlines with live bait and liver.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear; 76 degrees; 4.4 feet low; Black bass up to 16 inches are good on topwaters early. Crappie are fair. White and striped bass are fair at night under lights. Catfish are fair.

SPENCE: Water stained; 78 degrees; 56 feet low; Black bass are fair on jigs and red shad plastics. Crappie are fair on jigs 8-12 feet. White bass are very good on topwaters and worms. Striped bass and hybrid striped are fair on minnows, cutbaits and topwaters. Catfish are fair on trotlines with live bait. Fishing is generally slow because of golden

algae bloom.

STAMFORD: Water lightly stained; 78 degrees; 2 feet low; Black bass are fair on minnows. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass and striped bass are fair on crankbaits and minnows. Catfish are good on trotlines baited with shad and stinkbait.

SWEETWATER: Water lightly stained; 76 degrees; 19 feet low; Black bass are fair on crankbaits and live bait. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on minnows. Catfish are good on trotlines with live bait and liver.

WHITE RIVER: Water lightly stained; 76 degrees; 18 feet low; Black bass are fair with craw trailers, topwaters and spinnerbaits. Striped bass are good on shad, striped jigs and slabs. White bass are good on shad, striped jigs and slabs. Crappie are slow on live minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on cheesebait in 15-50 feet.

Catfish are good on prepared baits in the shallows near the rocky shoreline of the dam.

CENTRAL
PROCTOR: Water murky; 76 degrees; 11:00-3:30 feet; Black bass are slow on soft plastic worms in 5 feet. Striped bass are slow on gizzard shad. White bass are slow in the Sowell Creek area. Crappie are good but small on minnows, and jigs. Channel and blue catfish are good on cut shad. Yellow catfish are slow.

SOUTH
AMISTAD: Water fairly clear; 80 degrees; Black bass to 9 pounds are fair on 1oz. jigs with craw trailers, topwaters and spinnerbaits. Striped bass are good on shad, striped jigs and slabs. White bass are good on shad, striped jigs and slabs. Crappie are slow on live minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on cheesebait in 15-50 feet.

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Combination garage sale and bake sale. 1 of goodies. 11 Runnels. Wednes thru Friday.

Comanche Ladies Golf Assoc. Highland. Sat. Only 4403 Beechnut Wesson Road) Sat Sun.

Garage Sale, 1500 Cherokee, Fri & Sat Stove, dishes, appliances, clothes, misc.

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Moving Sale, Fri Sat 8-7, 3608 Parkway Furn., KS bed, tinn w/6 chairs, dode cloth, misc.

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Sat. Super Sale Sil Hills. Follow signs, house, 5306 Callahan Children's fall clothe toys, CD's, comput games, gas fire log more.

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Garage Sale 1500 E. Cherokee, Fri & Sat 9-7. Stove, dishes, appliances, clothes, lots of misc.
Huge 4 Family Backyard Sale. Sat. 8am-7. 3223 Duke. Junkers Delight!
Moving Sale, Fri & Sat 8-7, 3608 Parkway. Furn., KS bed, dinette w/6 chairs, toddler clothes, misc.
Sat. Only Garage Sale, 4201 Bilger, 9-5. oak dining table w/benches, cream dining table w/ fabric chairs, freestanding elec. organ, dark room equip., 3 Overhead Wreaters, pad of Legos, clothe, misc.
Sat. Super Sale Silver Hills. Follow signs, last house, 5306 Callahan. Children's fall clothes, toys, CD's, computer games, gas fire log & more.

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Lost. A white male cat about a year old. Neutered. Lost near Big Spring Mall. If found call 263-2894 after 5pm

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BY JACQUELINE BIGAR HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Oct. 10, 2002:

You must walk a careful line this year, as Venus, your ruler does a backward twist today. Often, you will not get what you want; but what you don't want, you will get. Karma plays a significant role in what occurs this year. You might not have as much choice as you would like. Focus on the big picture, avoiding major and/or impulsive decisions. If you are single, you will meet someone very special within the year. You will find this person to be quite unusual. If attached, you might be more off-kilter than you realize. Avoid major decisions, if possible. Go with the flow. Ultimately everything will work out, but it might take more than a year to gain perspective. SAGITTARIUS adds to your daily life.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ***** Learn to take an overview, especially if certain people trigger your reaction. In the next month or so, you could discover that others seem a little out of sorts. Don't worry, it's not you. Work on being more understanding and nurturing. Tonight: Browse through a favorite bookstore.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ***** Your ruler goes retrograde, sending you into a sequence of bad hair days, whether you like it or not. Opt to become more of an observer than a player in the next few weeks. A partner or associate demonstrates caring in his or her unique fashion. Tonight: Easy does it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ***** Others seek you out, which might be a relief after a difficult few days. Be open to a child or loved one who might be dealing with

a problem in the near future. Your efforts now are received positively. Remain optimistic. Tonight: Go along with plans.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) *** Dig into work and get the job done. Unfortunately, if you're not careful, you could be working a lot later than you would like to be. Getting a consensus in the office could be close to impossible after today. Move on a key project. Tonight: Bring extra work home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ***** Hone your intuition, and then act on it. Others come toward you like you're honey and they are bears. You love this, but don't hem or haw too long. Don't play games. Ask for what you want, both professionally and emotionally. Tonight: Play the night away.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) *** Aim high, but avoid taking a risk with your finances. Someone at a distance might start acting up. Your perspectives vary considerably, though right now, you might not see the budding of differences. Tonight: Find your favorite chair.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ***** Your ruler goes retrograde at 2:35 p.m. Eastern time. Important projects need to be completed by then. In the period through Nov. 20, you might find it difficult to push your plans through. If possible, do not make any major decisions. Tonight: Visit with friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) *** Curb a need to have things happen your way in the next few weeks. You might inadvertently push someone away if you become too insistent. Emphasize your career, and you will have more control. Tonight: Do something just for yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ***** You feel energized and capable of moving

your immediate world. As you emulate Atlas, recognize a friend's needs as well. Problems will ensue around work and associates in the next few weeks if you're not careful right now. Tonight: Join your friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) *** Take your time deciphering what a partner or associate wishes to bestow on you. Discussions might revolve around the long-term implications of your bond. If you need to say "no," don't even hesitate. You know what's best for you. Tonight: Sleep all you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ***** Zero in on what you want. Timing works. Others seem to feel as if you can do no wrong. Your popularity mounts. A project involving many others

needs to be launched early in the day if it is to succeed; otherwise, expect endless obstacles. Tonight: Call a friend at a distance.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) *** You must answer to a boss or higher-up. How you feel about a personal matter needs to be set aside. Business as usual will get the results you desire. Expect some changes with a partner. A disagreement could start out of nothing. Tonight: Work late.

BORN TODAY Actress Helen Hayes (1900), jazz pianist Thelonious Monk (1917), NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt Jr. (1974) Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com.

(c) 2002 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Mom's dream of discord upsets wife

Dear Annie: I am having a problem with my mother-in-law. "Edna" lives out of state and hadn't called me for several weeks. She then phoned late one night and asked if everything was "all right" between me and my husband. I told her things were just fine. In fact, we have been getting along better than ever. Edna replied, "That's good because I had this dream where you were kissing another man in front of your husband, and he didn't seem to care. The last time I had a dream like that, someone ended up getting divorced." This really fried my petunias. I have never given my mother-in-law any reason to believe I would cheat on my husband. I am offended that she would think so little of me.



ANNIE'S MAILBOX

I talked this problem over with my husband, and he said his mother meant well. I'm not so sure! Edna often talks to my husband's ex-wife, who actually did cheat on him. Edna never had any dreams about HER. What do you think about this? - Wondering in Arizona

Dear Arizona: Let's give Edna the benefit of the doubt and assume she really had a dream that upset her. Dreams are usually a form of wish-fulfillment, a disjointed rehashing of the day's events or a way of working through a troublesome problem. Don't let Edna's dream get under your skin. If she mentions it again, she's simply trying to stir up trouble. Ignore her.

Dear Annie: I have been married to "Charles" for eight years, and we have three children. Before we married, we dated a long time and had a few arguments. During one of those arguments, Charles slept with another woman. I knew about the indiscretion, but I didn't know that the woman had a child, and apparently, neither did Charles. She recently decided to sue him for back child support.

Charles has demanded a paternity test, but that's only part of the problem. If it turns out that the child is his, I don't want to be married to him any longer. I had a stepmother when I was growing up and resented her. I still become jealous when my half-sisters spend time with my father. I swore I would never find myself in the position of having a stepchild, nor do I want my children to have half-siblings.

I don't blame the little girl, of course. None of this is her fault. However, I cannot bear the thought of my children suffering the way I did. What should I do? - Not A Stepmom in Georgia

Dear Georgia: And you think divorcing their father would be better for your children than having a half-sister? Puh-lease. Your attitude is what matters most. If you are accepting of this child and teach your chil-

dren to care about her, you may discover that there are many benefits to opening your heart and expanding your family. You are trapped in the past and have an opportunity to change it. Please try.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Mom in Delaware," who lamented the fact that no one RSVP'd to her son's 6th birthday party.

I have three daughters and one son. I could rely on my daughters to take these invitations seriously, but my son did not. I'm sure plenty of parents thought I was rude and tacky because I didn't RSVP. Why? Because I often found the invitations crumpled up in a jacket pocket or tucked into his backpack a month after the party.

Tell all parents of young children to MAIL the invitations directly to the parents if they want to make sure they are received. - Mom in Massachusetts

Dear Mom: A good point. Children cannot be relied upon to bring invitations home and show them to Mom and Dad. Thanks for saying so.

Dear Annie: My mother and father are both physicians. All my life, Mom has been in charge of my medical care and treated any problems I had. Two years ago, I developed a serious illness and needed a specialist. To my dismay, the specialist and my mother are competing with each other over my care.

My mother's pride seems hurt that I need to seek outside help. My specialist says my mother made my illness worse because her treatment was inconsistent and I developed complications. I have told my mother that she can no longer treat me medically, and now she is upset and angry.

I have always been a good daughter, but I am not willing to risk my health to appease Mom. What is the best approach? - Exasperated in the Northeast

Dear Northeast: Family members should never treat one another - not because they are incompetent, but because they are too close to the patient and cannot be objective. The specialist should have the last word.

If your mother objects, ask the specialist to talk directly to her. Do not allow them to put you in the middle.

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102002

THURSDAY OCT. 10

Table with 24 columns representing different TV channels and their programming for Thursday, October 10, 2002. Columns include KMDI, KPEJ, KERA, FAM, KOSA, WFAA, KWES, WTBS, UNI, DISN, NASH, TMC, SHOW, HBO, KNLM, A&E, DISC, TNT, and TLC.

DENNIS THE MENACE



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



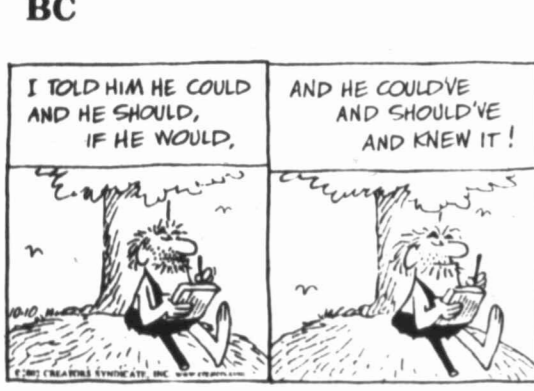
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This Date in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Oct. 10, the 283rd day of 2002. There are 82 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Oct. 10, 1845, the U.S. Naval Academy opened in Annapolis, Md. On this date: In 1886, the tuxedo dinner jacket made its American debut at the autumn ball in Tuxedo Park, N.Y. In 1911, revolutionaries under Sun Yat-sen overthrew China's Manchu dynasty. In 1935, George Gershwin's opera "Porgy and Bess" opened on Broadway. In 1938, Germany completed its annexation of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland. In 1943, Chiang Kai-shek took the oath of office as president of China.

In 1970, Quebec Labor Minister Pierre Laporte was kidnapped by the Quebec Liberation Front, a militant separatist group. (Laporte's body was found about a week later.) In 1981, funeral services were held in Cairo for Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat, who had been assassinated by Muslim extremists. In 1985, U.S. fighter jets forced an Egyptian plane carrying the hijackers of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro to land in Italy, where the gunmen were taken into custody. Ten years ago: Iraq released U.S. munitions expert Chad Hall, two days after he'd been taken prisoner in the demilitarized zone separating Iraq and Kuwait. One year ago: U.S. jets pounded the Afghan capital of Kabul. President Bush unveiled a list of 22 most-wanted terrorists, including Osama bin Laden and associates. Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California won the race for the No. 2 House Democratic leader. Americans George

A. Akerlof, A. Michael Spence, and Joseph E. Stiglitz won the Nobel Prize in economics; Americans William S. Knowles, K. Barry Sharpless, and Japanese Ryoji Noyori won the Nobel Prize in chemistry. Today's Birthdays: Entertainer Ben Vereen is 56. Singer John Brine is 56. Actor Charles Dance is 56. Rock singer-musician Cyril Neville (The Neville Brothers) is 54. Actress Jessica Harper is 53. Singer-musician Midge Ure is 49. Singer David Lee Roth is 47. Country singer Tanya Tucker is 44. iGlennie (James) is 39. Actress Rebecca Pidgeon is 37. Rock musician Mike Malinin (Goo Dolls) is 35.

GEECH



HI AND LOIS



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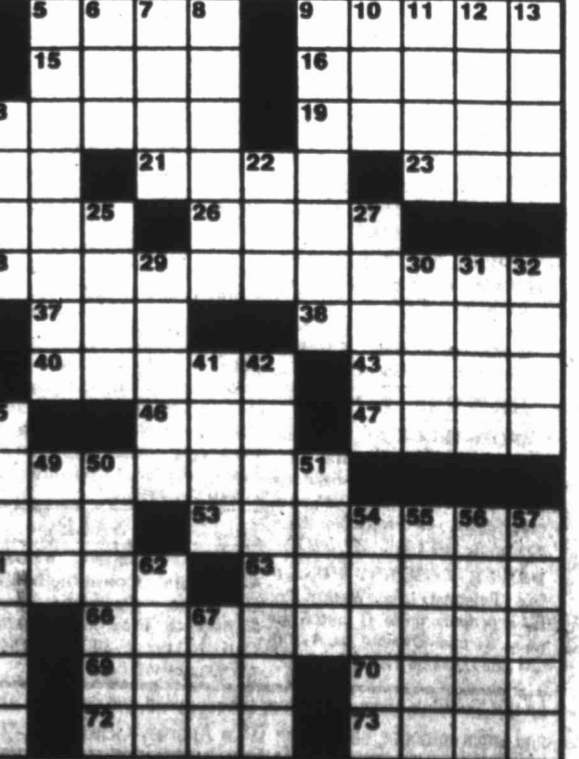
Newsday Crossword

THE GAME'S AFOOT by Fred Piscop

- ACROSS 1 Oscar-winner lives 5 Wear's partner 9 Ryan's daughter 14 Suit to 15 "___ Dinka Doo" 16 Football-shaped 17 Scotch and Drambuie drink 19 Puts a shine on 20 Actress Tammy 21 Unpleasant 23 "Sort of" suffix 24 International accord 26 Son of Seth 28 Lone breadwinner 33 Citrus coolers 37 Barely beat 38 Banks in Cooperstown 39 Petty or Loughlin 40 Ms. 43 Dough dispensers: Abbr. 44 Lower oneself 46 Mork's planet 47 Try for a ringer 48 Hatfields, to McCoy's 52 Plunderer's take 53 Sent to Washington 56 Old hand 61 Vault cracker 63 ___ Islands (Tuvalu, formerly) 64 Back-again style 66 Christmas greenery 68 Key above Shift 69 "Soil" word form 70 Endow 71 NASDAQ offering 72 Time for a bite 73 General ___ chicken

- 9 Tugboat's line 10 An ex of Frank 11 Ride seeker's cry 12 Beehive State natives 13 Fit together 18 Deep desires 22 Burma's first prime minister 25 Essayist's alias 27 Herring type 29 English Derby site 30 Not fooled by 31 Cup edges 32 Working Girl girl 33 M*A*S*H star 34 Active one 35 Author Hoffer 36 Sounds of relief 41 Toledo's lake 42 Anatomy class model 45 Where West Point is 49 Dundee denial 50 Butter-and-___ (small-town tycoon) 51 Auction off 54 Chin indentation 55 ___ Andronicus in brand names 57 Monopoly stack 58 TR or JFK 59 Monopoly payment 60 Grid great Graham 62 Acronymic computer truisms 65 VCR button 67 Sellout sign

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2002 STANLEY NEWMAN



Re

Web History

By JOHN A. MO

Managing Editor

As several hundred military personnel once gathered for a reunion weekend, a look at the facility's history seems warranted.

Webb Air Force Base was activated Spring Air Force Base Oct. 1, 1951, but the first military presence in the community. That belongs to the Army Air Field War II bombing school.

The Big Bombardier opened in August. The bombardier spent the first weeks of the three-course learning process. On the week they flew 11 and began to pound test bombs.

The first class of 118 bombardier year and 10 day bombing of Pe and bombardier continued until World War II.

Following Ja render, cadets were to remain in place were transferred Midland. The declared surgeon deactivated in reverted to city was then used Spring's municipal port for six years.

The base was used as the Big 5 Force Base by (F. Wackwitz, commander of Pilot Training 1 redesignated Flying Training 1951.

Instruction for class of pilots months later in 1952, and before would graduate was re-named 1st Lt. James L. Jr. on May 18,

Webb, a B native and World combat pilot, off the Japanese 1949.

The first 53 pilots ated from the class 52-D on 1952. The student flew the prop Trojan. Class 5 first to fly the trainer. The first

Training planes or phenomenon.

Reunion Special

BIG SPRING HERALD

Page 1B
Thursday, October 10, 2002

Webb Air Force Base:

History made in more than 35 years of military aviation in Big Spring

By JOHN A. MOSELEY

Managing Editor

As several hundred former military and civilian personnel once attached to Webb Air Force Base gather for a reunion this weekend, a look back at the facility's history seems warranted.

Webb Air Force Base was activated as Big Spring Air Force Base on Oct. 1, 1951, but it was not the first military airpower presence in our community. That distinction belongs to the Big Spring Army Air Field, a World War II bombardier training school.

The Big Spring Bombardier School opened in August of 1942. The bombardier cadets spent the first three weeks of the three-month course learning fundamentals. On the fourth week they flew in the AT-11 and began to drop 100-pound test bombs.

The first class graduated 118 bombardiers one year and 10 days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and bombardier training continued until the end of World War II.

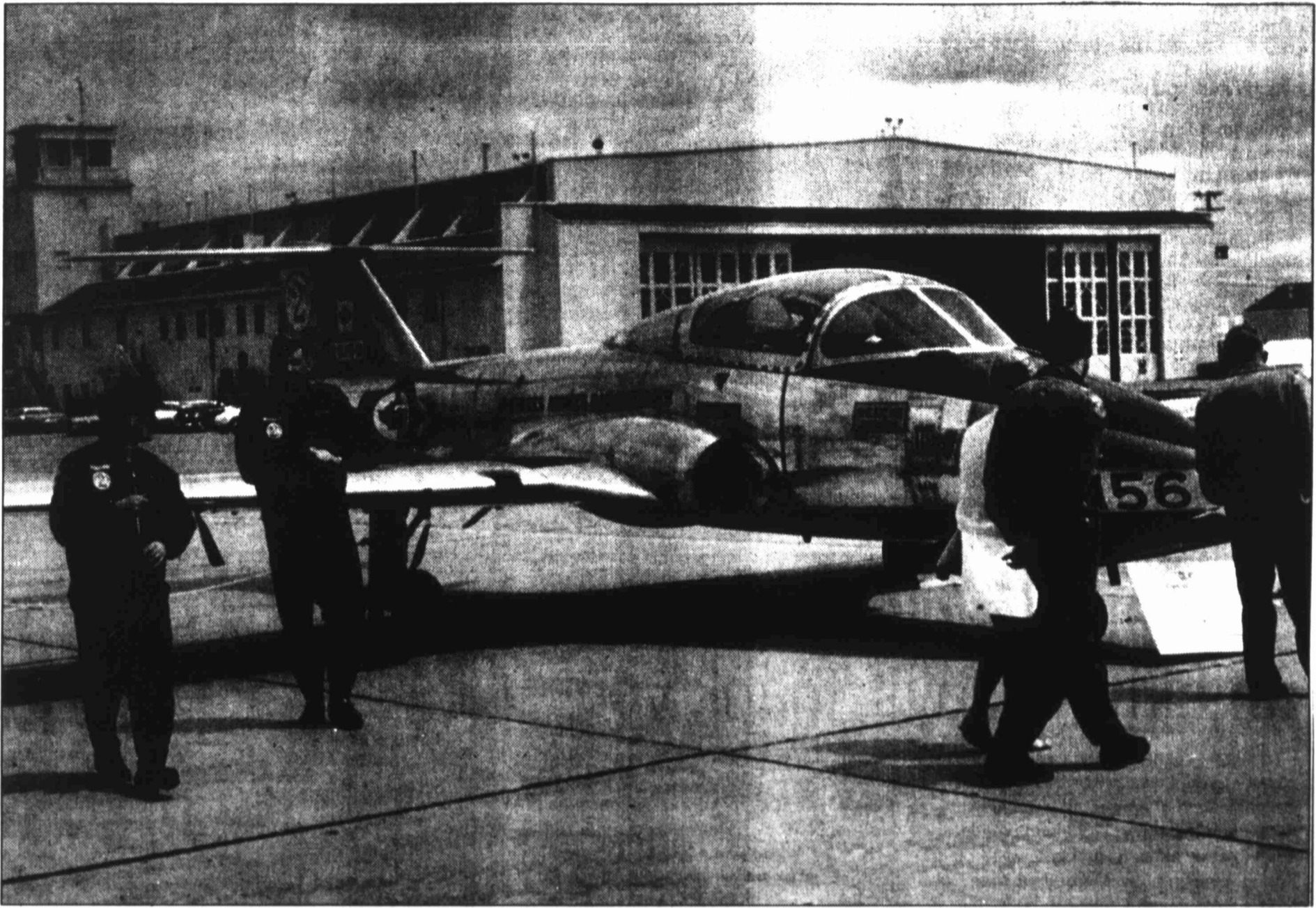
Following Japan's surrender, cadets who agreed to remain in postwar service were transferred to Midland. The base was declared surplus and deactivated in 1945 and reverted to city control. It was then used as Big Spring's municipal airport for six years.

The base was re-activated as the Big Spring Air Force Base by Col. Ernest F. Wackwitz, the first commander of the 3560th Pilot Training Wing (later redesignated the 78th Flying Training Wing), in 1951.

Instruction for the first class of pilots began six months later in April of 1952, and before that class would graduate, the base was re-named in honor of 1st Lt. James Louis Webb Jr. on May 18, 1952.

Webb, a Big Spring native and World War II combat pilot, was killed off the Japanese coast in 1949.

The first 53 pilots graduated from the base in class 52-D on June 20, 1952. The student pilots flew the prop driven T-28 Trojan. Class 52-F was the first to fly the T-33 jet trainer. The first foreign



Static displays of the base's training planes were a staple when Air Force officials staged air shows and other public events when Webb Air Force Base was in operation. Courtesy photo

students — 27 of them from France, the Netherlands and Belgium — graduated with Class 53-F.

The base's population quickly swelled to more than 2,000. During that period the base saw a number of highlights, including Col. Fred M. Dean, the wing's second commander, becoming the youngest brigadier general at the age of 37 in 1954 and the command's official designation becoming the Air Training Command (ATC) in 1955.

In 1956, the largest pilot training class, designated 56-M, graduated 105 students.

It was in 1956 that the 331st Fighter Interceptor Squadron was transferred to Webb from Stewart Air Force Base in New York to defend the southern United States border on air intercept missions.

Twelve F-86s and one T-33 trainer arrived with

the 331st.

New facilities to house the interceptor squadron were approved at a cost of a little more than \$3.6 million in 1958, and the same year the first resident moved into Capehart Housing.

Throughout the 1950s and most of the 1960s, Webb was also the site of annual summer training for ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) cadets.

In 1960, Class 61-F closed out cadet training at Webb and the base got its first T-37 jet trainer. Two years later, Class 63-A took up the first T-38 Talon. Earlier that year, Class 62-F was the first to graduate under the UPT Program concept.

In 1965, the base's newspaper, *The Prairie Pilot*, won first place in its class in worldwide competition with other Air Force newspapers. That same year, bids were issued for the T-41A trainer contract and Class 67-B began T-

41A training.

The memorial window now on display in the Hangar 25 Museum was dedicated in the base chapel during 1965 as well.

With escalation of the Vietnam War looming in 1966, Webb's flying hours were up 12 percent with an increase in pilot training. That year a new UNIVAC 1050 II computer arrived at base supply, and Webb's canteen was voted best in Air Training Command.

Webb also put a new ATC engine maintenance management concept into operation in 1966.

In 1967, the base celebrated its 25th anniversary and the T-38 Talon flew its one-millionth hour. In March of that year, the 331st was redesignated the 4760th Combat Crew Training Squadron and charged with training Jordanian Air Force students.

The 4760th was deacti-

vated when the Jordanians were recalled because of the war with Israel in the summer of 1967.

Among the other highlights of 1967 at Webb, the new base hospital was approved at a cost of \$2.12 million and work began on the new \$350,000 Non-Commissioned Officers Open Mess.

By the end of 1968, almost 9,000 pilots had been trained at Webb.

In 1972, Webb marked its 30th anniversary as a base and 25th with the Air Force. Two years later, the base graduated its 10,000th student in UPT training.

Air Force officials announced the base was a candidate for closure in 1976. A civilian reduction in force was announced that would result in deletion of 101 positions by Sept 30. The 10,422nd and last U.S. pilot trained at Webb received his wings under the UPT program.

The end of the war in Vietnam meant a decrease in the need for Air Force pilots and in 1977, the Air Force announced its decision to close Webb and personnel began receiving assignment. The last class, 77-08, left Webb Air Force Base and in October the base was reduced to a caretaker force of 350 people.

After the base closed, the property was turned over to the city of Big Spring with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) oversight.

Over the years, a number of businesses and several prison units — both federal and privately owned — have been established on the old base grounds.

Today, Webb Air Force Base lives on only in memory. But they are good memories for this community. So too are the memories of those — were trained, stationed and worked there.



Training planes sit parked at Webb Air Force Base as a West Texas sandstorm blows into Big Spring. For many of the pilots trained at Webb, sandstorms were an unexpected weather phenomenon. Courtesy photo

OCT 10 2002

Military personnel quickly learned to love Big Spring

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Staff Writer

Newly stationed Air Force personnel would come to Big Spring with trepidation, leave with the community in their hearts and during their stay bring excitement and pride to the area, one local resident and former Webb Air Force Base employee recalled.

"I remember when a group shipped in as new arrivals during one of the worst sand storms," said Dene Sheppard, who was employed as the secretary for the commander of the air base group from 1955 to 1960. "Some of these men were on the brink of tears.

"Many of the men who first arrived in Big Spring would be so dejected, so depressed," Sheppard recalled. "They

"When they got ready to ship out they would all say this was the best base that they had ever been stationed at and the number one reason was the friendliness and the acceptance of the community for them and their families."



Dene Sheppard, former commander's secretary

thought they had been stationed at the end of the world."

Sheppard just turned 20 when she was hired on at the base and full of youthful confidence:

"I was young and had lots of confidence in my skills," she said. "My first day of training, the master sergeant handed me my job description. It was single-spaced, legal size and four pages long."

"I went down to the personnel office and said I don't think I can handle this. I don't think any person could do this."

Her five-year employment opened new worlds to the West Texas native.

"When I worked there I was absolutely awed at men from the enlisted on up," Sheppard said.

"Some of the officers I worked with would share their stories from previous campaigns. The sacrifices they made — I was



A 20-something Dene Sheppard visits with her boss, Colonel Glenn A. Stell, former commander of airbase group of Webb Air Force Base, and Colonel Jackie P. Goode, former commander of Webb, during a break at work. Sheppard was employed as a secretary for Stell from 1955 to 1960.

when remembering the pride and dedication of the military personnel. "They drilled all the time" she said. "They

could be airborne within minutes. Those men were so impressive. They stud-

See **PRIDE**, Page 3B

34 years after leaving Webb, an airman says 'thank you'

TO THE WONDERFUL PEOPLE OF BIG SPRING:

Last March, I was in Abilene to attend the dedication of a memorial at Dyess AFB. I had my son with me and I made a point to save an extra day to drive to Big Spring. I was met by one of your own, Bob Moore, who gave us a king's tour of the city. Later that month, I celebrated the 34th birthday of my son.

Now you may wonder why a New Hampshire "Yankee" came to Big Spring

and why his son's birthday has anything to do with you folks. I guess I should back up a bit and tell you more of the story. On March 24, 1968, a little boy was born in the Webb AFB hospital. That little boy was my son and I was an Air Force Second Lieutenant in the middle of USAF Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) in Class 60-03 at Webb. I was living in a strange place as far from home as I had ever been and I was under the considerable duress of learning to fly the T-41, T-37, and T-38 in succession.

I am pleased to report that on Oct. 26, 1968, Colonel W. C.

McLouthlin, the commander of Webb at that time, handed me a Certificate of Aeronautical Rating and my coveted USAF pilot's wings. I left Big Spring to go on to advanced training and my operational assignments and I hadn't returned until this year. As it turned out, Bob Moore was the squadron admin clerk of my unit during my Vietnam assignment and I had come in contact with him through a veteran's organization in which we are both members. When I heard that the *Herald* was doing a special edition with coverage of Webb AFB, I thought that perhaps 34 years later was high time for me to offer my thanks to the people of Big Spring.

Big Spring is very special to me. It was my home for a little more than a year and it is the birthplace of my son. I will always remember the day I arrived, driving in on I-20 in my little British sports car and stopping at the first motel (was it a Holiday Inn?) on the east side of the city to find a room for the night. For a life-long New Englander, you can't imagine how foreign the surroundings were to me. From the lack of hills and trees to the pervasive smell of crude oil, I might as well have been transplanted to the moon!

It was the people of Big Spring who made the difference. We quickly found an apartment and also found that virtually everyone we encountered was friendly,

sympathetic, and helpful. The newspaper published a two-page spread with photos of each man in every UPT class, each man was "adopted" by a local business and presented with a gift, and our checks were accepted universally. Those collective acts of kindness and generosity were a tremendous boost to a bunch of young men about to undertake some of the most difficult training the military has to offer.

Unlike my home area, the people of Big Spring made us proud to be in the service of our country and helped us immensely to overcome the challenges of the training.

So now, 34 years later, I would like to offer my profound "thank you" to the people of Big Spring. I apologize for the sonic booms you had to endure, but it was a necessary part of our training. I also expect you got pretty tired of the noise from the airplanes buzzing around the city day after day, but if you did, you never said a word about it. For the ranchers and farmers who saw us tearing up the countryside in our T-38 "White Rockets" at 500 feet and 500 knots, we were

learning how to get to a target visually and below radar detection. Rest assured that the graduates of Webb's pilot training program went on to serve their country with distinction. We couldn't have done it without your total support.

I couldn't help feeling an almost overwhelming sense of sadness as Bob Moore drove us through what remains of Webb today, but the Hanger 25 Museum is a fitting memorial to the legacy of the base. I would also like to thank you for the beautiful Vietnam War Memorial you have built. I spent an hour there reflecting on those times so long ago. Only God knows why some men were chosen to return from Vietnam, but I like to think that my training at Webb had a lot to do with my return. Part of that training was the open and honest support of the entire Big Spring community. May God Bless each and every one of you, for you have something no amount of material wealth can provide.

Very Sincerely,

PETER A. BIRD
HOLLIS, NEW HAMPSHIRE
GRADUATE, WEBB UPT CLASS 69-03

Editor's note: Peter Bird is interim vice president of the C-7A Caribou Association and the Web master of several internet sites. His homepage can be accessed at www.petester.com

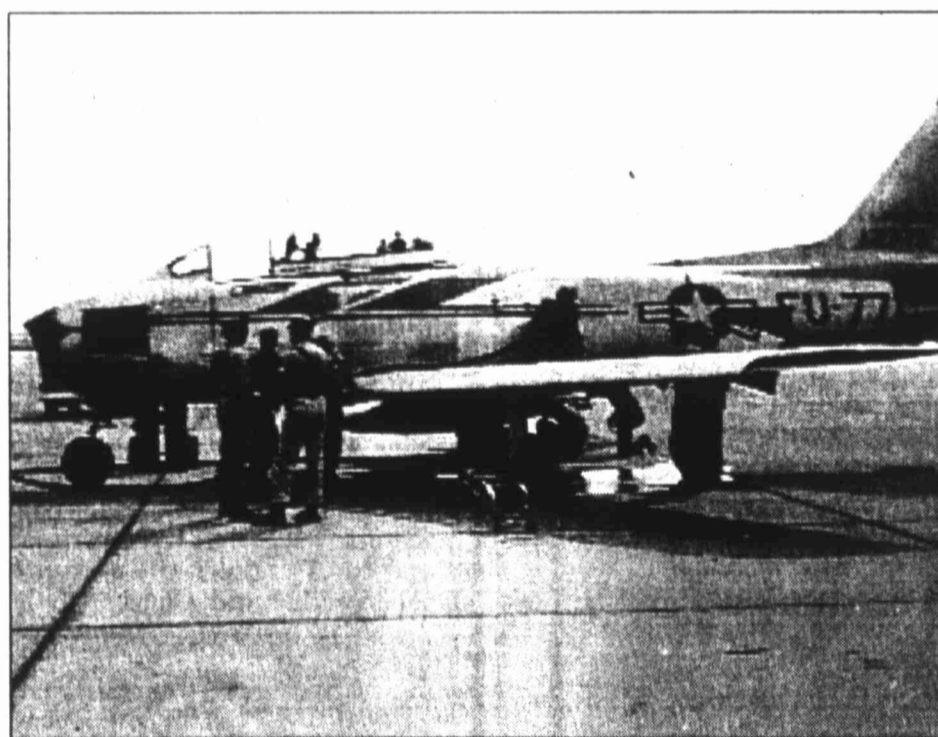


Courtesy photo Peter Bird upon graduating from pilot training at Webb Air Force Base in 1968. The former USAF and Eastern Airlines pilot makes his home in New Hampshire.



Aviation cadet Jimmy L. Escalle received pilot training at Webb Air Force Base, graduating in 1952. Unfortunately, 2/Lt. Escalle, an F-86 pilot, was reported missing in action during the Korean War. His brother, Robert, trained at Webb a year after Jimmy. Robert makes his home in California. His son, Jim, has dedicated separate Web sites to his father and uncle. The site dedicated to the memory of Jimmy Escalle can be accessed at www.jimmylescalle.com. A number of photos of the brothers appear in this section with Jim Escalle's permission. Below, A visiting F-86 Sabre is studied at Webb in 1952.

Courtesy photos



The City of Big Spring, Texas welcomes Webb Air Force Base Alumni & Guest

We invite you to shop, dine and see the familiar sites of our city.

Please Come Again!

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By **ROGER CLIN**
Staff Writer

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PRIDE

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Keeping the planes flying at Webb AFB

Every action had to be documented

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

While it was best known for its pilot training program, Webb Air Force Base required a lot of enlisted personnel to keep the program running smoothly.

Big Spring's Bob Noyes of Bob's Custom Woodwork manned Webb's flightline in the '70s as a staff sergeant and swing shift aircraft maintenance supervisor.

"When I first came to Webb in 1970 I was aircraft maintenance working T-37s on the flightline," he said. "It was the evening shift. We went to work at 3 or 3:30 p.m."

Noyes said that, because of his work schedule, his day started later than most at Webb.

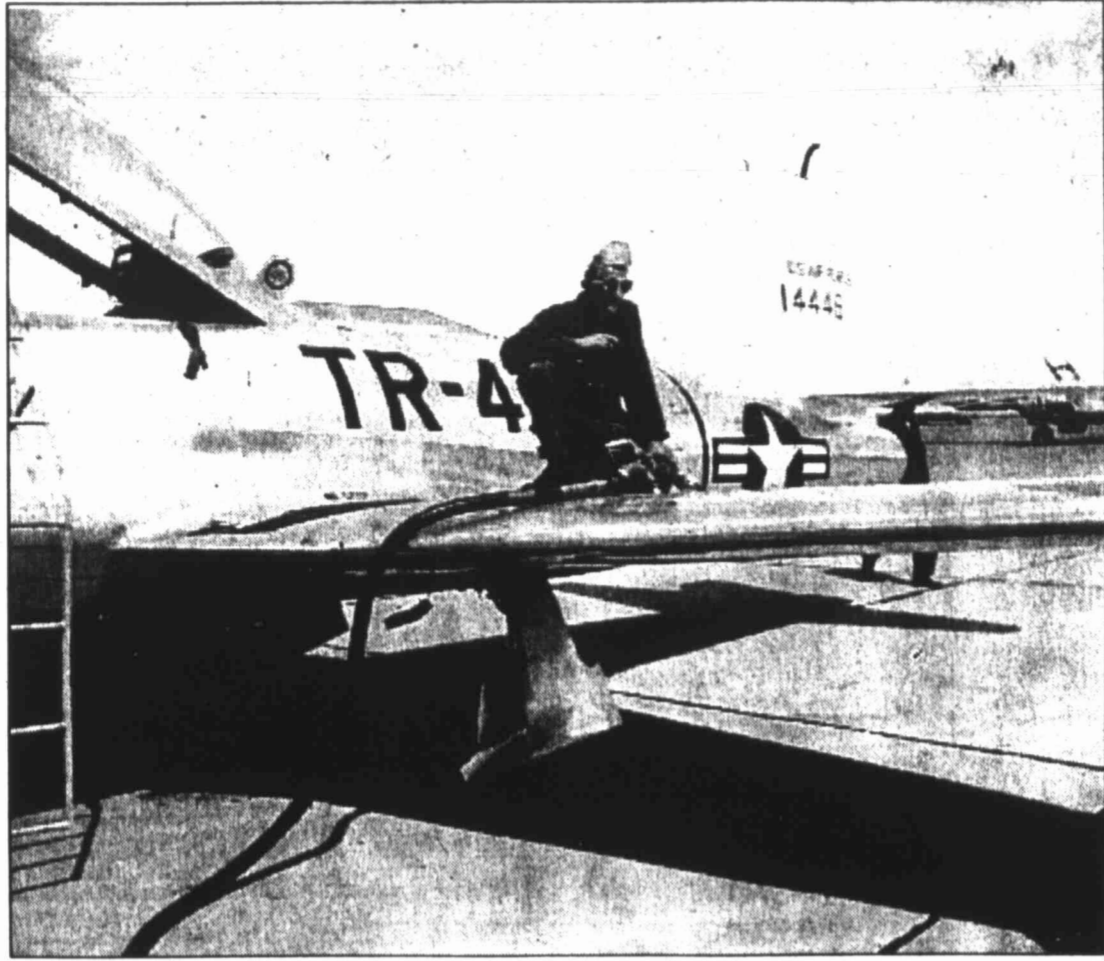
"We didn't wake up until 9 or 10 o'clock," he said. "We actually did what most people did after they got off work. We had breakfast, read the paper, ran around and did shopping or banking or all those things. Personal time before going to work instead of after work like a lot of people did."

That time was also the time for his shift's official physical training.

"We were supposed to," he said. "Aircraft maintenance had a lot of physical training, hopping up and down aircrafts and changing brakes and hauling fuel hoses, removing panels up and down on airplanes. It wasn't like some of the desk jobs where you actually had to go to PT to maintain weight."

Upon arriving at work around 3:30 p.m., Noyes attended a briefing on the status of the airplanes under his care before getting to work.

"On the T-37 flightline, I was the evening supervisor. I don't remember how many were underneath me. I guess probably six or eight on a shift. I think there was like 14 or 16 planes, I don't



Refueling a T-33 for another training flight. It took a lot of enlisted personnel to keep the program running smoothly. In 1960, the base received the Cessna T-37.

remember for sure," he said. "Sometimes they ended flying at 5 o'clock, and sometimes we had night flights going up

"The most boring part of the job was when it rained. You just sat around and didn't do anything. 'Go wash the airplane,' well, I've already washed it once this week. 'Go polish it'"



Bob Noyes

until 11 or 12 o'clock at night, which meant we washed airplanes, fueled them and so forth until the midnight shift came in."

T-37s were relatively simple planes to maintain, he said.

"You could stand on the ground and talk to the pilot like you were talking to somebody in a pickup truck today," he said. "It was a pretty simple airplane. It was low to the ground and it was pretty easy to work on because of its height."

After each flight, pilots filled out a form reporting any problems with the plane.

"They had to fill out the 781, it was the aircraft record," Noyes said. "It broke down the discrep-

ancies. That was how the aircraft maintenance people went to work on the airplane. The air crew filed their report and then

the after-flight inspection found additional things and that's everything that had to be fixed before the airplane flew again."

Obtaining parts to make the repairs was usually not a problem, he said.

"The Air Force used to be criticized for \$800 hammers and stuff like that, but minor things were never a problem," he said. "Brakes and things like that weren't a problem. When it came to fiberglass domes and antennas and all, they had to go to the shop for repair."

Sometimes the maintenance personnel got creative when it came to supplying the more complex or intricate parts.

"A lot of times we would be waiting for instruments or electrical com-

ponents that had to be rebuilt," he said. "Usually if it was a shortage of something and we had a flight we had to maintain, we'd cannibal off another airplane. That didn't happen to much, but it did happen."

Paperwork was also a constant part of the job.

"Every action, whether it was a replacement screw or whatever, had to be documented in the Aircraft Maintenance Form," he said. "If it was a grounding item, it had to be inspected and signed off on. We called it 'red X.' If the airplane had a red X on it, it couldn't fly. It had to be fixed and then it had to be signed off by a supervisor."

Noyes said he enjoyed the constant flow of work the job entailed.

"Getting them repaired, getting them off and going again. It was always moving," he said. "The most boring part of the job was when it rained. You just sat around and didn't do anything. 'Go wash the airplane,' well, I've already washed it once this week. 'Go polish it.'"

After the shift ended, Noyes said he usually needed a winding down time.



A young Gloria McDonald is pictured with an X-ray machine used when Webb Air Force Base was active. McDonald was the only female civilian in her unit.

Big Spring an exciting place in '50s, McDonald recalls

By LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

Excitement and youthful exuberance filled the atmosphere when Big Spring was booming with young military men and their wives back in the 1950s.

"In the 1950s, Big Spring was an exciting place full of shops, stores; it was filled with vitality," said local resident Gloria McDonald. "There was more going on in Big Spring than in Midland. The stores and downtown shops were full of young people, young military men and their wives."

The town, with an estimated population of 40,000 was vibrant and a young 21-year-old McDonald, fresh out of training as an X-ray technician from Parkland Hospital in Dallas, had a job at Web Air Force Base.

"My hands were on the backs of every pilot for three years," said McDonald, who worked at the base from 1956 to 1959. "They were young and I was young. That was a fun job and I grinned a lot."

The only female in her department, McDonald remembers the pilots and servicemen as exciting men, yet always courteous.

"They were lot of fun," she said. "The were always making quips. For the most part they were very respectful of each other and their supervisors."

McDonald became fasci-

ated with planes and would often watch the pilots train in the decompression chamber.

"If I had my life to live over and do it in today's world, I would be a pilot," she reminisced.

McDonald left Big Spring for about 20 years and the sound of the early morning training flights was one of the things she missed most.

"One of the first things I missed was hearing them fly touch-and-goes early in the morning," she said. "It was so much a part of Big Spring and when it's not there you miss it."

McDonald now dedicates part of her time to keeping the memories of the base alive, as a volunteer for the Hangar 25 Air Museum.

"It was such an active part of my youth," she said. "It was a sad time to see the base not active."

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

PRIDE

Continued from Page 3B

ied all the time and were always on top of world events. They were always in shape. They kept sharp mentally and physically.

"They were so committed to their job," she continued. "They would sometimes leave on a mission and they might not be back in two weeks. There was no contact with their family."

Sheppard also learned exactly what the phrase "by the book" meant.

"If you were going 17 miles an hour (in a 15 mile an hour zone), when you got to the guardhouse you were ticketed or reprimanded," she said. "There was no gray area. It was all black and white."

"The rules and regulations extended to their families, especially officers," she recalled. "When the Colonel evaluated the men, part of the evaluation was of a man's family."

The military also brought energy and culture to the town.

"Pulsating," Sheppard said, describing the atmosphere of Big Spring at the time. "There was lots of energy because of these people. They came from rural towns to big cities and they brought lots of culture."

"People at the base were encouraged by the Air

Force to become involved with the community," Sheppard said. "They added a lot to our community."

And they brought pride. "These men were proud they were serving their country," she said. "Even stateside they were proud of being a part of the military and keeping their country safe."

"All the buildings were

kept up, the yards, trees and base houses were taken such good care of. It made me feel proud to be apart of it."

The community also left an impression on those who were stationed at Webb.

"When they got ready to ship out they would all say this was the best base that they had ever been stationed at and the num-

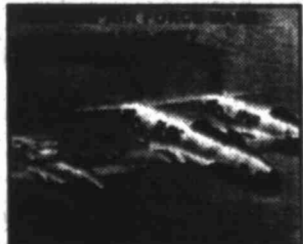
ber one reason was the friendliness and the acceptance of the community for them and their families," she said. "We got lots of letters (to the commander) like that. That always gave me pride."

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Welcome Webb Reunion

The Potton House will be open special hours during the Reunion Fri., Oct. 11th and Sat. Oct. 12th - 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The Heritage Museum will be open regular hours Fri. Oct. 11th and Sat. Oct 12th - 10:00 am - 5:00 p.m.

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OCTOBER 10 2002

Pilot training intense, included multiple stages

By ROGER CLINE
Staff Writer

For 35 years, Webb Air Force Base, originally Big Spring Army Air Field, trained some of the finest pilots anywhere.

Vaughan Martin was stationed at Webb from 1960 to 1965, and again from 1967 until the base closed in 1977.

"When I first started, I was a first lieutenant," Martin said. "When I retired, when they had to close the base, I was a lieutenant colonel."

Students and instructors both put in long days at Webb, Martin said.

"Basically the student and the instructor, in the summer months, we usually started out at 4:30 or 5 o'clock in the morning," he said.

"Our first take-off was around the crack of dawn and we were up flying. Every student, we tried to get them up at least once a day. Instructors who had three or four students, they would fly once with each student. In the afternoon the students would have academic and military training and their physical training after that."

Those that wanted breakfast had to get it before they started work, Martin added.

"You had breakfast and we were on the flightline by 5 o'clock in the morning," he said.

The goal was to get would-be pilots in the air at first light.

"Each morning you had at least an hour briefing before first take-off," Martin recalled. "We tried to have some of the students out by the airplanes with their instructors for first take-off by first light. First thing you got in the morning was a weather briefing.

Fortunately here in West Texas we have some of the best flying weather anywhere. That was a general briefing for the whole group. Then I had a table with three or four students. You went over what you were going to do today and what the flight would entail."

Webb pilot trainees with no flight experience would start out at the Howard County Airport.

"If they haven't had any basic airplane training at all — for example, some of the academy boys had 15 hours in a little T-41, which is actually a Cessna 172 — we had a T-41 program out here at the Howard County Airport," he said. "We gave them 15 hours in that airplane. Just to see basically how they responded to the flying and getting them familiar with the airplane and flight. Letting them know that the airplane wasn't going to just fall out of the sky."

For some, even the T-41 was too much plane.

"There was always a few that, even that phase, they just couldn't hack the program," he said.

After the T-41, students spent six months each training on the T-37 and T-38.

"You had three or four different categories of flights," he said. "You had what was called 'transition flying.' That was just the basic teaching of take-off and landing. We would go over areas, teaching them level flying, minimal turns. We actually did some acrobatic maneuvers with them, some loops and turns. You're really getting the student familiar with the airplane and what it will do."

had a radio operator with us on these missions. Shortly after the weather change he came up to the cockpit and informed me that he was unable to reach anyone, not even on the long distance short wave set.

So, I did time and distance calculations to Fort Worth, revised the estimated time of arrival and kept calling Fort Worth Control from the voice radio in the cockpit. Fifteen to 20 minutes later they came through, told us that they were closed in and advised me to head back to Hobbs A.B.

We were further cautioned that even Hobbs A.B. might be socked in also and that heading west with our fuel supply would be better than going north.

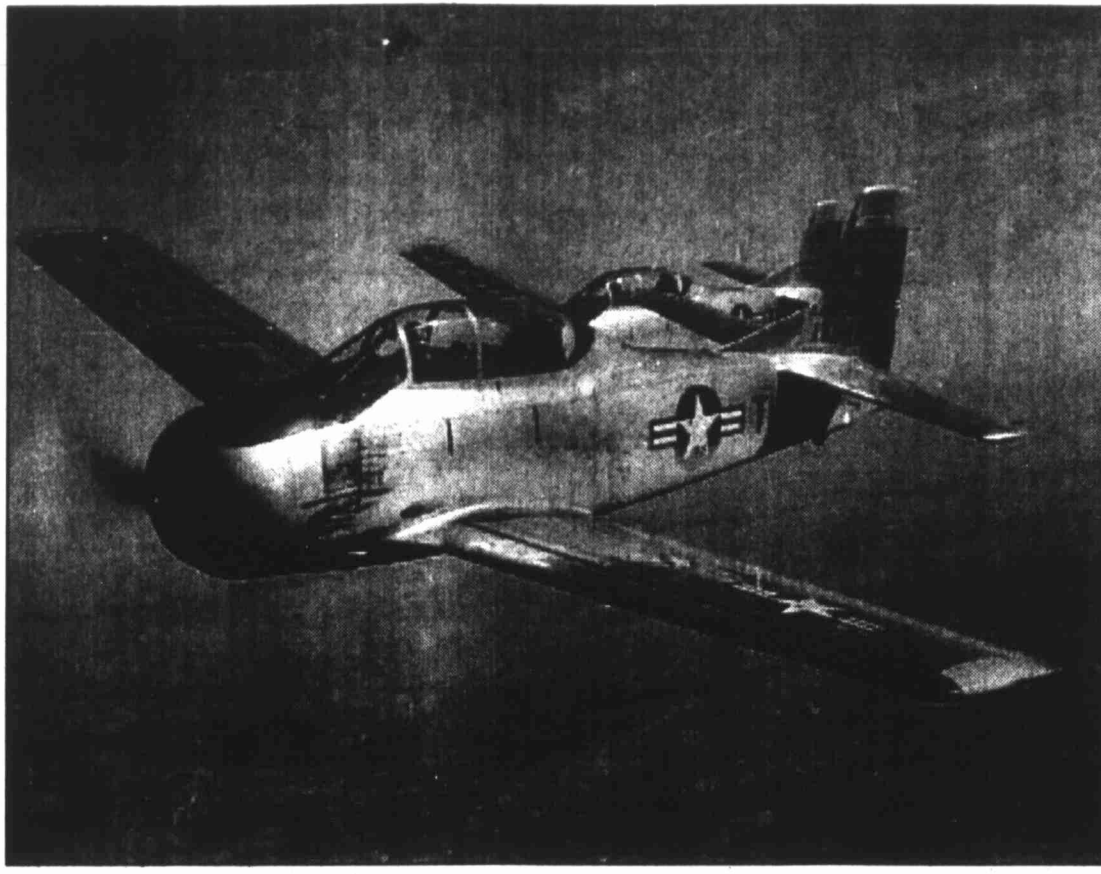
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We checked their voice radio and received an answer. With a stronger beacon we did an orientation, gave them our position and were told that the weather there was Zero-Zero also. I told them I was going to come in and to turn the light

worked and she had to get up and go to work in the morning, so it was quiet time alone. So I'd usually find a snack, watch a late night program and go to bed around 12:30 or 1 o'clock."

Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net



Above, T-28s flying in formation over Howard County. At left, Vaughn Martin at Webb Air Force Base.



Of course, what goes up must come down.

"Basically landing was always a big part of transitional flying," he said. "Always the main phase. You can take an airplane off pretty easy. Sometimes getting it back on the ground is the hardest part. Like they say, if you get one back on the

ground and you can walk away from it, it's a good landing."

Formation, instrument and navigation training came next.

"Probably the hardest phase other than landing and teaching the maneuvers was the instrument training," he said. "The airplane actually has a

hood that pulls down over the canopy. You can't see anything other than the instrument panel. You'd take off and go down to like San Angelo from Webb. They'd never see the ground or air. They'd take off and dial in the frequency for San Angelo and go down there and they'd put you in a holding pattern."

Once the student established the holding pattern, a ground operator would begin talking him down.

"You're high, you're low. You're controlling your vertical descent while he's talking you down," Martin said. "We would never actually land with students in there. About 100 feet from the ground, the instructor would tell him to pull up."

Navigation training taught the pilots to find their way from city to city and to land at strange air bases, Martin said.

"Usually we'd do this on weekends, or sometimes it was just an afternoon," he said. "You might go to Shreveport or some-

where, navigate over there, make some approaches, practice landing on a strange field. Practice night flying."

The weekend experience was much more intensive, he said.

"On weekends, it was a whole weekend of navigation. You might take off on Friday afternoon, usually," he said. "The 37 was a little bit limited because of fuel. The T-38 could go just about anywhere in the States in an afternoon. You might fly to Albuquerque, make some instrument approaches to get familiar and land at a strange air field. Land, see what's going on there, refuel, do your flight plan, go all the way to L.A. or Tucson or somewhere. Spend the night Friday night. Saturday you might make two or three hops somewhere else. Sunday, another hop somewhere and then back home. You'd be home Sunday afternoon so that the airplane could be serviced and ready to go Monday morning."

Part of the navigation experience was to teach students that each air field is different.

"It's just like anything, you know. You do it over and over again at the same place, you get really familiar with the pattern, the traffic pattern," he said. "Also, the width of the runway can have something to do with your landing. Our runways here are 150 feet or 100 feet wide. You've got some of the big bases like Carswell had or Albuquerque, they've got these big wide runways because of bombers. B-52s could land on them. Here we always had plenty of runway, 9,000 feet. Those big places usually had 9,000 or 10,000 feet, but you might go to some places that only had 7,000 feet."

After each flight, instructors debriefed the trainee.

"You'd grade them on every flight," he said. "You had a form, you went over it. The other

See TRAINING, Page 5B

Memories: Making a landing in Zero-Zero weather at Big Spring

TO THE EDITOR
The Webb A.F.B. Reunion is a very memorable occasion for me.

Allow me to go back to a winter night in January-February of 1944:

I was a 2nd Lt. pilot instructor on the Flying Fortress B-17, four-engine bomber. The training mission was called Round Robin and it was to get the students acquainted with flying long distance and point to point.

This particular night flight began at our Home Base, Hobbs Air Base (N.M.) to Fort Worth, TX-Albuquerque, N.M. and back to Hobbs A.B.

The night was moonless and very dark at take off. About halfway to Fort Worth the weather changed to Zero-Zero. I should mention that we

PLANES

Continued from Page 3B

needed a winding down time.

"You just can't run home, lay down and go to bed," he said. "We usually went to supper around 6 or 7 o'clock at night, so you're always looking for a midnight snack. Most of the time the family was in bed, because the wife

had a radio operator with us on these missions. Shortly after the weather change he came up to the cockpit and informed me that he was unable to reach anyone, not even on the long distance short wave set.

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Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

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WEBB AIR FORCE BASE REUNION ALUMNI & GUESTS

Falling In
Many
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By ANDREA I
Features Editor

In 1964, Webb Air Force Base was a hub and the people or working there many lives d stay in Big Sp

With thousands stationed there full of romance was inevitable and many wedd formed at the on the base.

With help from Cleo Thomas Kaufman would stroll down the well. While (in pilot training) he found time camp counsel

"Charles was counselor at I remembers Cl a nursing student the night Spring Hospit Bennet). "Me Jimmy Jones the camp ar (Charles) can looked then introduced us

The result date to the I that changed forever.

"We saw Dr a Bond fan

TRAINING

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Falling in love

Many a romance developed between military & civilians

By ANDREA MEDLIN

Features Editor
In 1964, Webb Air Force Base was a hub of activity and the people stationed or working there touched many lives during their stay in Big Spring.

With thousands of men stationed there and a city full of young girls, romance was certainly inevitable and there were many weddings performed at the little chapel on the base.

With help from friends, Cleo Thomas and Charles Kaufman would take their stroll down that aisle as well. While Charles was in pilot training at Webb he found time to be a camp counselor.

"Charles was a camp counselor at Fort Davis," remembers Cleo, who was a nursing student working the night shift at Big Spring Hospital (Hall and Bennet). "Marianna and Jimmy Jones had a son at the camp and when he (Charles) came back and looked them up they introduced us."

The result was a blind date to the Ritz Theater that changed Cleo's life forever.

"We saw Dr. No and I've a Bond fan ever since,"

she quipped. Many dates followed and the two spent their time together with Charles' classmates and dancing at the officer's club.

"We had wonderful times at the officer's club," Cleo said. "The classes were all very close and they had a lot of parties, but we spent most of our time at the officer's club."

The end of summer came and Cleo had to return to Galveston where she attended nursing school. Although long distance romances are not known to be successful, with visits during spring break and the holidays, their relationship proved to be a sure one.

Cleo and Charles were married on June 12, 1965.

"We were married three days after I graduated," Cleo said. "He came to Galveston for the graduation and then we came back to Big Spring together. My mother was not happy with me."

Despite her mother's temporary ire with her daughter, the couple were married in a military ceremony with "the whole kit and caboodle," said

Cleo. The event was complete with true West Texas flavor.

"I remember the sand blew that day," she said.

After a honeymoon in New Orleans the Kaufmans found themselves moving all over the world during the next five years. Charles was stationed first at Tacoma, Wash., at McCord Air Force Base, at Lowery Air Force Base in Denver and then in Bien Hoa, Vietnam, where their first child was born. They then moved to Charles' last post at Shaw Air Force Base in Sumpter, S.C.

Having a new family and with no desire to return to Vietnam, Charles decided to pursue a different career. Originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, Charles attended law school in Houston where the couple continue to live today. But not for long.

"He practices in Galveston and we are in the process of moving there now," said Cleo.

The Kaufmans have three children. Their daughter, Channah King, has followed in her mother's footsteps and is a



Bob Escalle has his wings pinned on by his fiance, Jean Woekel on graduation, May 1, 1953. The two were married several days later in California. Many romances developed or were rekindled during Webb's heyday.

nurse in Galveston. Their son, Joshua, is a sports attorney in Houston and daughter Marshon Sullivan lives in Houston. They also have five grandchildren with "one on the way."

Cleo gives credit to the longevity of their marriage to that old reliable known as compromise.

"A lot of give and take and we talk a lot," she explained. "We communicate really well together."

But like all relationships it has had its ups and downs.

"I never contemplated divorce, but there were

lots of times when I could have killed him," Cleo said.

The Kaufmans are returning to Big Spring to attend the Webb Air Force Base Reunion and are looking forward to visiting their former stomping grounds and seeing old friends.

The daughter of Dr. Clyde and Jane Thomas

and with her brother, Mike, a local attorney, Cleo still has strong ties with Big Spring.

"Big Spring will always be home."

To contact Features Editor Andrea Medlin call 263-7331 ext. 236 or send an e-mail to newsdesk@crcom.net

TRAINING

Continued from Page 4B

students were there most times listening, learning what errors that student made and what would help. You had a sheet that you graded every flight on. Fair, satisfactory or excellent on several items."

After the trainees left, instructors filed paperwork and attended meetings before leaving for the day.

"Oh, we had different things. It seemed like there was always something," he said. "Safety meetings or briefings or some kind of extra to

keep your training up. Instructors had to maintain a certain proficiency. When you were up with a student, it was usually the student flying. Sometimes on the weekends, just two instructors would get up in an airplane and go across the country so that you could keep your proficiency up."

After leaving the flightline, students hit the books, Martin said.

"The rest of the day for the students was their academic training," he said. "You learned the systems

of the airplane. If something goes wrong you have to kind of know what to do. There were always emergency procedures. There was a lot of ground academic work to learn the instruments. We also had ground trainers. Simulators. They got so many hours in them along with their instrument flying."

Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail to newsdesk@crcom.net

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OCT 10 2002

Economic wasn't the only toll Webb's closing took

By BILL MCCLELLAN
News Editor

There's no question that the closing of Webb Air Force Base in 1977 had a severe effect on Howard County's pocketbook, but equally as reeling was something far less tangible — the emotional impact, a blow to the heart of the community.

Perhaps that's because the relationship between the community and the military training facility was like marriage — a love affair mutually beneficial and exciting. But it was a marriage always on the verge of breaking up.

When it was good, as they say, it was very good.

"I miss that wonderful flush of people out there. There was great civic spirit for the community," said local real estate agent Bobby McDonald. "I can tell you that it was a sad day when the last plane left."

"It was the biggest thing we had going," recalled Tom Eastland, chamber of commerce manager from 1969 to 1971. "Of course, the oil field was big, and agriculture was really the biggest thing going, and probably always will be, but that's not how most people look at things."

"What the people were most interested in was Webb. People thought if we didn't have Webb, we wouldn't have anything," said Eastland. "Part of that was because they fraternized real well with the community. All the social life was tied to Webb."

Many business and governmental decisions were tied to Webb. After all, the base boasted a \$24 million annual payroll, employing 700 civilians and 2,245 military personnel. Businesses catered to the tastes and needs of those whose lives centered on the base.

As Eastland recalled, those tastes sometimes ran a little wild.

"With the base's help, we built a go-cart track that ran all the way through Comanche Park, paved and everything," said Eastland. "And they ran go-cart races out there, because those pilots were crazy enough to go 80 miles an hour, six inches from the ground."

Despite the community's love for Webb, the threat that the base might close was always prevalent.

"Oh, there was a fear of if closing from right after the Korean War on," said John Currie, chairman of the board at State National Bank. "Even during the Cold War there were peaks and valleys."

In fact, those rumors likely hindered the city's growth.

"No one wanted to build permanent structures. They'd come in and look and say 'but the base may close.' Everyone always had that hanging over their heads. There was a lot of apprehension and fear. It kept a cloud of uncertainty over things and we weren't able to enjoy the benefits the base did bring."

So when the final decision was announced, it was no surprise, though an obvious disappointment. And it had a significant impact, said County Commissioner Bill Crooker.

"I worked on economic development (through the chamber of commerce) right around the time of the base closing. We felt it, definitely. You can't take \$24 million out of the economy and

that many people without it hurting."

For some businesses, the fall-out was almost immediate.

"It hit those businesses that catered to the base worse than others, of course," said McDonald. "It hit the furniture stores, grocery stores and entertainment businesses pretty hard."

One was Swartz's, a downtown clothing store that served not only the military, but catered to women as well.

"A d o l p h Swartz. He owned Swartz's and people would come from miles around to shop there. He had great taste," said Eastland. "He was a wonderful man, too."

"The military had to have dress uniforms and all, and the base closing eventually chased that business out of Big Spring to Midland," recalled McDonald.

Plans had been in the works to try and balance the economic loss for some time before the base closed. Some panned out, many others didn't.

"We knew what the loss could do, but it also gave us an opportunity — though a narrow one — if we could have replaced it with industry that would have spawned other industry," said Currie, who was on a committee charged with the monumental task of trying to offset the negative economic impact.

In fact, it looked for a time as if an important agreement with Lockheed might become reality. That opportunity crumbled, though, when the government awarded a bid to another company.

"We worked real hard. We weren't successful in that, but we came pretty close," mused Currie.

The banker and civic leader said many businesses and agencies worked to attract industry. Texas Electric and Cosden were among them.

"We came close on a number of things but we weren't fully able to offset the economic drop. The odds were certainly against us, but the effort was there."

There were a number of factors working against Big Spring, Currie recalled, from freight rates to the community's location. In time, the pluses the community had been able to count on began dissolving.

"One of our selling points was

all of the skilled people who had worked at Webb," Currie said. "Many of those people stayed here. But after a year or so, they had to move on. And then that selling point, that labor pool, vanished."

While not everyone agrees, some believe the base's closure would have been worse had it not been for an oil boom. One who believes that way is McDonald.

"We were expecting economic Armageddon and that is probably what was coming our way until oil really picked up and got so expensive," he said. "What I remember happening is that not too long after the closing, the oil industry picked up and sort of buttressed the community."

Economic efforts eventually turned toward the energy industry, and met with some success.

Oilfield Industrial Lines built derricks for Saudi Arabia and provided enough jobs to fill up the Capehart area, McDonald said.

"We actually had a shortage of housing," he recalled.

Winnabago was another company that took up residence at the airport, manufacturing cabs and chassis.

But the oil boom was short lived.

"The next step, oil went all to pieces in the early '80s and along with it came the savings and loan debacle. Housing went all to pieces," said McDonald.

"To me, it's really after all that that it seemed the community began to feel it — when the oil industry went down and a sort of malaise set in and we really began to feel the loss of the base in a commercial way."

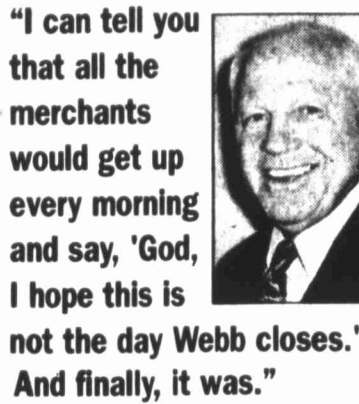
Twenty-five years later, Big Spring can still feel the effects of the base's closure.

"It was a real blow to our community from an economic standpoint," said Crooker. "I feel like we have gotten back on our feet, we've recovered from that, but like other West Texas communities, we have a way to go. Many of us are losing population. We've maintained in recent years, but in my opinion, only because of the federal prison and the Cornell folks."

Today, Crooker is still serving as a county commissioner; Currie is still the board chairman at SNB; and McDonald continues to have his hand in real estate. All three are Howard County leaders and civic volunteers.

Eastland left in 1971, lured away by a higher paying job.

"Nineteen thousand dollars a year! Can you believe it?" he said with a laugh. "But I still



Tom Eastland

"I can tell you that all the merchants would get up every morning and say, 'God, I hope this is not the day Webb closes.' And finally, it was."



HERALD file photo

Project manager Steve Lemons discusses the cleanup of the former Webb Air Force Base property at a 1990 press conference. Other members of the project team included Fredrick Reynolds, Rusi Charna, Mark Bagel and Alan Chandler.

"I miss that wonderful flush of people out there. There was great civic spirit for the community,"



Bobby McDonald

said local real estate agent Bobby McDonald. "I can tell you that it was a sad day when the last plane left."



John Currie

"Everyone always had that hanging over their heads. There was a lot of apprehension and fear. It kept a cloud of uncertainty over things and we weren't able to enjoy the benefits the base did bring."

"We felt it, definitely. You can't take \$24 million out of the economy and that many people without it hurting."



Bill Crooker

love Big Spring. I had a lot of very, very good friends there."

At least one thing has changed, said Eastland, who is now a justice of the peace in Victoria.

"I can tell you that all the merchants would get up every morning and say, 'God, I hope this is not the day Webb closes.' And finally, it was."

"One thing about it though, they don't have that constant worry anymore, 'is the government going to close this?' That's gone."

Contact News Editor Bill McClellan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

The Big Spring Bombardier School opened August of 1942. One hundred and eighteen men were graduated from the first class, one year and 10 days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and bombardier training continued until the end of World War II, when the base was deactivated. It was then used as a municipal airport.

On October 1, 1951, Big Spring Air Force Base was officially reactivated by Col. Ernest F. Wackwitz, the first commander of the 3560th Pilot Training Wing. On May 18, 1952, the base was renamed in honor of 1st Lt. James Louis Webb Jr., a native of Big Spring.

The first 53 pilots graduated from the base in class 52-D on June 20, 1952. The student pilots flew the prop driven T-28 Trojan. Class 52-F was the first to fly the T-33 trainer. The first foreign students graduated with Class 53-F. Twenty-seven foreign students graduated.

1954 - Col. Fred M. Dean became the youngest brigadier general at age 37.

1955 - Air Training Command (ATC) became the official designation of the command.

1956 - The largest pilot training class, 56-M with 105 students

TIMELINE: AIR BASES AT BIG SPRING

graduated.

1958 - New facilities to house the 331st Fighter Interceptor Squadron were approved at a cost of \$3,644,000. The first resident moved into Capehart Housing. Twelve F-86's and one T-33 arrived with the 331st FIS.

1960 - Class 61-F closed out cadet training at Webb. Webb got it's first T-37 jet trainer.

1962 - Class 63-A took up the first T-38 Talon. Class 62-F was the first to graduate under the UPT Program concept.

1965 - The Prairie Pilot won first place in its class in World Wide competition with other Air Force newspapers. Bids were issued for the T-41A trainer contract. Class 67-B began T-41A training. The memorial window was dedicated in the base chapel.

1966 - Webb's flying hours were up 12percent with an increase in pilot training. New UNIVAC 1050 II computer arrived at base supply. Base canteen voted best in ATC. Webb put new ATC

engine maintenance management concept into operation.

1967 - The T-38 Talon flew their one-millionth hour. Webb changed to four digit dialing. The new base hospital was approved at a cost of \$2,121,000. Work began on the new \$350,000 NCO Open Mess. The 25th Anniversary of the base was celebrated

1972 - Webb marked its 30th anniversary as a base and 25th with the Air Force.

1974 - Webb graduated 10,000th student in history of URT training at Webb.

1976 - Air Force officials announce that Webb AFB was a candidate for closure. A civilian reduction in force was announced that would result in deletion of 101 positions by Sept 30. The 10,422nd and last U.S. pilot received his wings under the UPT program.

1977 - Air Force announces its decision to close Webb AFB. Webb personnel begin receiving assignments to other bases. The last class, 77-08 left Webb. In October the base was reduced to a caretaker force of 350 people.

Airpark doing well, city manager says

By ROGER CLINE
Staff Writer

When Webb Air Force Base closed down in 1977, the Air Force ceded the land back to the city of Big Spring, including all the buildings, runways and improvements made for the base.

The city reopened the facility as a private airport and industrial/commercial airpark and called it McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

"It's a commercial/industrial park to bring in businesses and enhance the economy of Big Spring," said City Manager Gary Fuqua. "It's also the city and county aviation field to help support all the aviation in the county."

Fuqua said that the city originally donated the land to the Air Force

"It makes a little money each year, not a whole lot, but it does pay for itself."



Gary Fuqua

for the construction of Webb.

"It's my understanding that when the base was closing, at the time that they left it reverted back to the ownership of the city," he said. "Because of all the runways and all the items that they left out there, there was a set of indentures that went with it that established how we could use it."

Fuqua said the Air Force required that the funds from the rental of building space at the airpark be put back into the maintenance of the airport and airpark.

"So that it doesn't fall into disarray," he said. "So that it stays as a viable airport and commercial center."

Despite recent management problems, the airpark is doing well, Fuqua said.

"It's doing well," he said. "It makes a little money each year, not a whole lot, but it does pay for itself. It has a fund balance of around \$2 million. That came from a commercial venture with OIL which was an oil derrick manufac-

See AIRPARK, Page 7B

Blum's
Jewelers One beautiful place

**Over 41 years
in Big Spring, Texas
Welcome Webb
Air Force Base Alumni
& Guest
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Inside Big Spring Mall 267-6335

Hangar

By ANDREIA MI

Features Editor
The Hangar 25 located at what McMahon-V Airpark, is one structures left Air Force Base.

At the time of closing, more than 14,000 students had received their silver wings at Webb AFB.

The museum now occupies an aircraft hangar that was built by the U.S. Army Air Corps at the Big Spring Bombardier School which was constructed in 1942 on 1,280 acres two miles south-west of the city.

The first class held at the school had 118 men who arrived or 1942, and graduated Dec. 17 that year. The purpose of the field was to train in high-altitude bombing.

By the time class graduated 26, 1945, nearly 2000 graduates had graduated.

It was six years after the air field again activated Spring Air Force Base. That was Oct. 1, 1951.

On May 18, 1952, the base was renamed Air Force Base.

Following the war, the base under the threat of being closed.

The base was deactivated on Oct. 1, 1977.

Hundred Friday, S

HERALD Staff

Hundreds of thousands — are expected Hangar 25 Air and Dorothy Coliseum this for the Webb Base Reunion.

The activities numerous, and free.

"This should be a fun two-day event," said Development President Jim "Registration will be on Friday morning, a Friday afternoon going to have out at the Hangar."

Those will reception with tents, a fly-in car display, and the Nighthawk Band and music all at Hangar 25.

"We're going military fly-over air show Collmer," Lt. "He is a great or in terms of ing and performing it should be show."

Two evening are scheduled, fiesta dinner night on Friday dinner, silver and dance on Those are play coliseum and tration is next

Keynote Saturday will

Hangar 25 preserves memories of a by-gone era

By ANDREA MEDLIN

Features Editor

The Hangar 25 Museum, located at what is now the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark, is one of the few structures left of Webb Air Force Base.

At the time of the base's closing, more than 14,000 students had received their silver wings at Webb AFB.

The museum now occupies an aircraft hangar that was built by the U.S. Army Air Corps at the Big Spring Bombardier School which was constructed in 1942 on 1,280 acres two miles southwest of the city.

The first class held at the school had 118 men who arrived on Sept. 16, 1942, and graduated on Dec. 17 that same year. The purpose of the air field was to train cadets in high-altitude, precision bombing.

By the time the last class graduated on Sept. 26, 1945, nearly 6,000 students had graduated.

It was six years before the air field was once again activated at the Big Spring Air Force Base. That was Oct. 1, 1951.

On May 18, 1952, the base was renamed Webb Air Force Base to memorialize Lt. James L. Webb.

Following the Vietnam War, the base operated under the threat of closure. In the spring of 1977 that threat was carried out and the last planes flew out on Sept. 2, 1977.

The base was formally deactivated on Sept. 30,

While industry grew around the base and the Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf and several prisons were added — the remaining original structures fell into disrepair.

By 1995, only two of the original hangars adjacent to the runway were still standing — Hangar T-25 and Hangar T-44.

Both were scheduled for demolition by the Army Corps of Engineers.

However, local citizens stepped in and have preserved the history that was once in danger of being lost.

Bobby McDonald was the individual who came up with the idea of preserving the hangar.

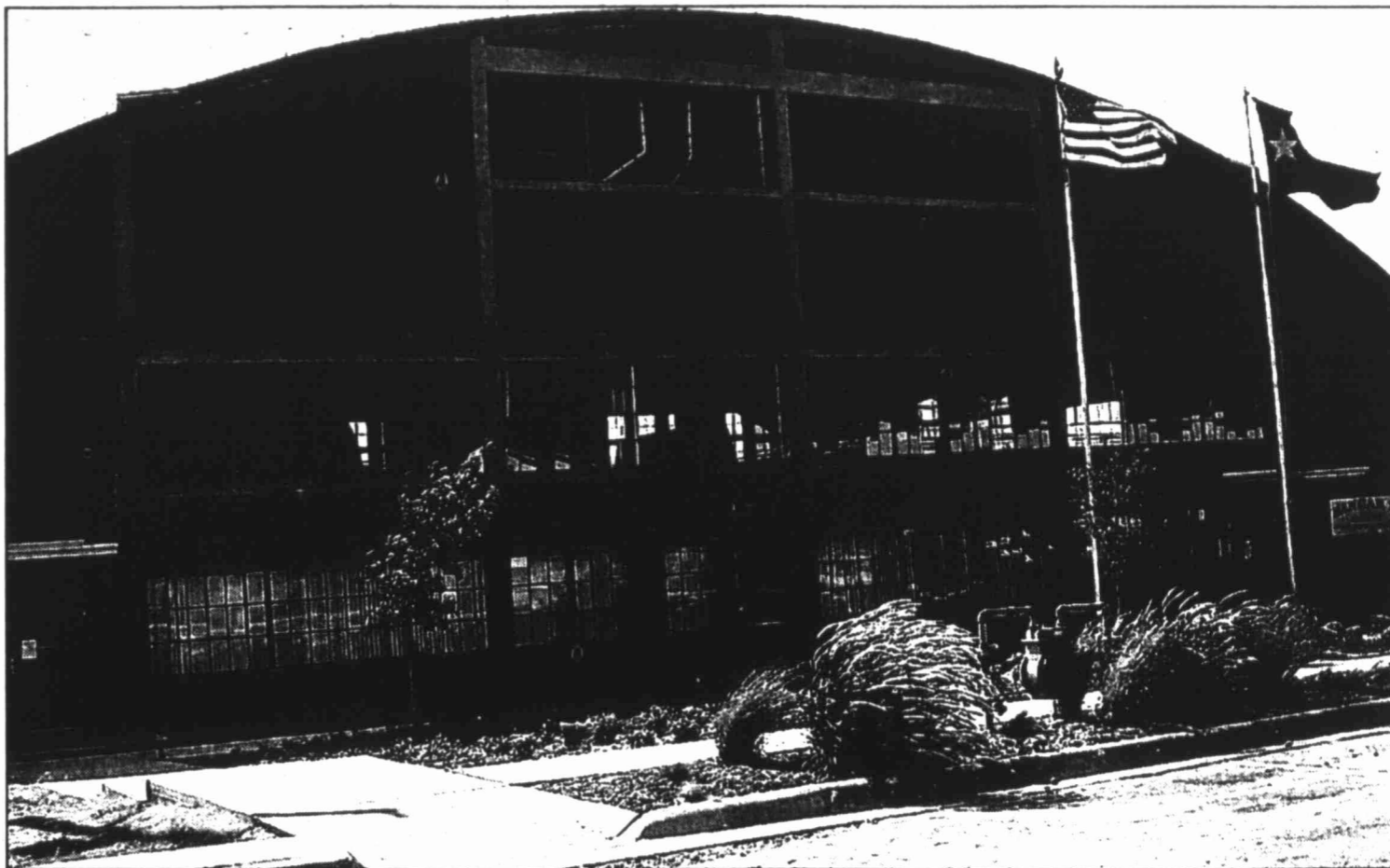
McDonald's enthusiasm attracted a group of citizens who formed the Hangar 25 Restoration Committee in 1995. Their names can be found on a plaque at the museum and include Jerry Worthy, president; Jim Little, vice president; Gloria McDonald, treasurer; and Kim Howell, secretary. Others listed are McDonald, a member of the Airport Advisory Board; Emma Bogard, assistant city manager; and Nelda Reagan. Another plaque lists committee members as including Lou Knight and Kay Hulsey.

Of the two hangars, it was determined that the northernmost one, Hangar T-25, had the best chance of being saved.



Courtesy photo

Many Webb graduates went on to make a name for themselves, some as generals and astronauts. Others left their flying days behind, such as this young man, 1974 graduate Rick Perry, now the governor of Texas.



Above, Hangar 25 Air Museum today. At left, Hangar 25 committee board member Bob Lewis admires the monument created in honor of Webb Air Force Base Class 67C. The concrete slab was once part of a sidewalk created by the class and features World War II Flying Ace Snoopy. Lt. Paul Baker, who was a member of the class, was the designer and had to write Charles Shultz who created the character for permission to use the likeness of Snoopy. It is believed that Class 67C is the only class with the Snoopy depiction and became known as Snoopy Flight.

HERALD Photos/Andrea Medlin

The Texas Department of Transportation awarded a grant for its restoration.

However, the structure was badly damaged in a hail storm before work could begin. Hangar T-44 received less damage and on the advice of TxDOT, permission was granted to change the renovation

project from Hangar T-25 to Hangar T-44. However, that the name on the grant would have to remain the same.

Some of the materials from Hangar 25 were used to rebuild part of the museum's north wall.

Architect's plans were drawn up in 1997 and the

construction contract was let in 1998. Renovation was completed in early 1999, and in February of that year, the hangar acquired its first two major exhibits — a T-33A "Shooting Star" and a T-37B "Twenty Bird."

Hangar 25 was officially dedicated on Memorial

Day 1999, with a special fly-over and other activities.

The facility continues to attract visitors from all over the United States, including those who were once students at the Bombardier School or were stationed at the base.

Hundreds are expected here Friday, Saturday for reunion

HERALD Staff Report

Hundreds — maybe thousands — of people are expected to be at Hangar 25 Air Museum and Dorothy Garrett Coliseum this weekend for the Webb Air Force Base Reunion.

The activities are numerous, and many are free.

"This should be a really fun two-day event," said Airpark Development Board President Jim Little. "Registration will be taking place on Friday morning, and then Friday afternoon we're going to have activities out at the Hangar."

Those will include a reception with refreshments, a fly-in, vintage car display, music from the Nighthawks Jazz Band and much more — all at Hangar 25.

"We're going to have military fly-overs and an air show by Jan Collmer," Little said. "He is a great entertainer in terms of stunt flying and performance so it should be a great show."

Two evening activities are scheduled, a Mexican fiesta dinner and casino night on Friday, and a dinner, silent auction and dance on Saturday. Those are planned at the coliseum and pre-registration is necessary.

Keynote speaker Saturday will be Peppy

Blount. Earlier Saturday, reunion-goers have a choice of activities.

They include a golf tournament, a visit to the Commemorative Air Force in Midland, downtown Big Spring shopping and tours of the wind turbines.

ACTIVITIES

FRIDAY
10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Registration at Hangar 25
Free community events
3 p.m.-6 p.m., Static displays, vintage auto show, fly-in.
3:30 p.m., Fly overs
4 p.m., Jan Collmer's 2002 Air Show routine
3 p.m.-6 p.m., "memories" Community Reception at Hangar 25.
Registration Fee Event
7 p.m.-10 p.m., "Mexican Fiesta" dinner and casino night (casual dress)

SATURDAY
9 a.m.-noon, Late registration at Hangar 25
Optional events:
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., golf tournament
8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., CAF tour and lunch
1 p.m.-4 p.m., Tours of downtown area, wind farm or airport, Vietnam Memorial and state park.
Registration Fee Event
6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Reception and silent auction at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.
7:30 p.m.-9 p.m., Reunion dinner
9 p.m.-midnight, Dance

SUNDAY
8 a.m.-10 a.m., Continental farewell breakfast at Hangar 25.

Big Spring AFB renamed Webb in honor of BSHS graduate, Air Force pilot

HERALD Staff Report

On May 18, 1952, Big Spring Air Force Base was aptly renamed Webb Air Force Base in honor of a 1940 Big Spring High School graduate and World War II pilot who gave his life in the service for his country.

Lt. James L. Webb was born on July 20, 1924, and his family moved to Big Spring in 1928. Following graduation from high school, the young Howard County youth trained at the New Mexico Military Academy in Roswell, N.M. and then at the University of Texas at Austin.

Webb married Doris Taylor following graduation from pilot training school and after entering into military service. In January 1945, was assigned to a fighter group in Europe.

He flew 49 missions over Europe in support of Gen. George S. Patton Jr.'s Third Army before being deployed to Japan.



Lt. James L. Webb

After being discharged from military service in 1945 following the end of World War II, Webb returned to his family but military life was beckoning.

He re-enlisted into the military in 1948 and was assigned to Japan.

On his first mission out on his new base, a weather reconnaissance flight, Webb was lost at sea on June 16, 1949, when his P-51 Mustang went out of control and plummeted into the bay. He was 25 years old.

AIRPARK

Continued from Page 6B

turer that was out there during the boom days. They had a long term lease and they bought out of that lease. Also there's a few oil wells out there and we receive some royalties off those wells."

A new instrument in place at the airpark will soon put Big Spring on the map, literally. The AWOSS system provides electronic weather information and will give Big Spring its own spot on National Weather Service and Weather Channel weather maps.

The first full-time manager for the airpark, Jim Curtiss, recently resigned and left the facility. Fuqua has been filling in as temporary manager for the airpark, but he said the city is well into the process of finding a new

manager.

"We started interviewing for the director's position last week," he said. "We're interviewing the top five candidates and we should be through with that this week."

So far three candidates have been interviewed.

"There's some good, qualified individuals. A lot of experience in the aviation field and also in city government, which is something we wanted to look at," he said. "Just some high-quality candidates. We hope to make a decision next week on the position and I really would like to have somebody in place next week."

Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

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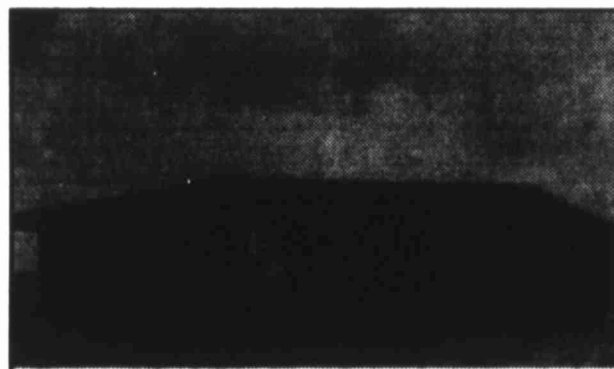
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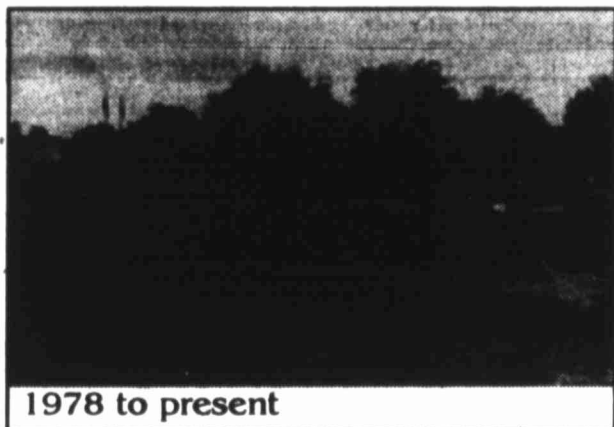
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