

# Cross Plains Review

CROSS PLAINS' OLDEST BUSINESS INSTITUTION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1997

WEST CADDO PEAK

EAST CADDO PEAK  
Price 50c

89TH YEAR

CROSS PLAINS, CALLAHAN COUNTY, TEXAS 76443

NUMBER 38

## Three candidates now competing for county judge office

Three candidates are now competing for the vacant Callahan County judge's office, while the 42nd District Court clerk position is being contested after the latest filings reported for the Democratic Party's Primary Election.

Benjamin Holloway, 75, is the latest to file for the county judge's office. He is seeking the post being vacated by Bill Johnson. Winford Hogan and Roger Corn have previously announced they will seek the county judge's post on the Democratic Party's ticket.

Holloway, who is a retire peace officer, resides at 667 FM 603, Clyde. He has lived in the state 75 years and in Callahan County 21 years.

Sharon Owens, 48, announced her intention to seek the 42nd District Court clerk position being vacated by Cubelle Harris, Georgie Manion has earlier filed for the 42nd District Court clerk position.

Owens, who resides at 6218 County Road 252 in Clyde, is currently occupied as the deputy tax

assessor/collector. Owens has lived in the state 48 years and in Callahan County 25 years.

Candidates who have already announced their intentions to seek the Democratic Party's Primary ticket are:

### County Judge

Winford Hogan, 62, who resides at 507 Pleasant Lane in Clyde.

Roger Corn, 57, who resides at 532 Poplar in Baird.

### County Clerk

Jeanie Bohannon, 54, who resides at 601 West 3rd Street in Baird.

Belinda Davis, 51, who resides at 617 Vine Street in Baird.

### 42nd District Clerk

Georgie Manion, 49, who resides at 317 Spruce Street in Baird.

### Co. Commissioner Prec. #2

Bryan Farmer, 41, who resides at 9312 FM 603, Clyde.

### Co. Commissioner Prec. #4

Charlie Grider, 59, who resides at

See CANDIDATES page 5

## Conflict of Interest Charges Still Pending

By BILLY HARRIS  
Special Writer

The "Conflict of Interest" charges against Cross Plains are still pending according to Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs spokesman Patrick Rhode.

Rhode said, in a Friday afternoon telephone interview, "The TDHCA is awaiting the response from Cross Plains to resolve the situation." A follow up letter from the TDHCA will be sent to the city with a time frame to come up with a solution on the matter.

"Typically 30 days are allocated for compliance," said Rhode.

"We (the TDHCA) are pointing out, per the federal guidelines that we have to maintain, the fact that in the case of one of these homes, out of twenty-seven replaced or repaired, there are some questions," said Rhode, "this basically is a very good contract with the city with exception of this one instance." "That's the only thing we are hoping to clarify because we have no hidden agendas," Rhode added.

Two issues are to be resolved by the City of Cross Plains in regards to the TDHCA grant.

One is that the home at 700 Chestnut Street (1) must be boarded up and the utilities disconnected (2) the home must be demolished (3) all funds must be repaid that were used in the construction of the new home at 640 Chestnut.

The second is that City Secretary Debbie Gosnell is related to the recipient of a grant and served on the Advisory Selection Committee and possibly contributed to her sister being awarded the grant for storm repairs.

There are no remedies mentioned for the conflict of interest violation other than the statement that a waiver should have been requested before any work could begin.

According to the City's Housing Assistance Guidelines, the Advisory Committee serves to "recommend approval of the applicants to the city council."

Debbie said, "Yes I was appointed to the Advisory Selection Board by the city council, but we never met or made any decisions." Everyone that applied for any funding received it and Jean Everett, with the TMS Group, handled the applications said Gosnell. "There was no selection process, so we really did nothing," said Gosnell.

According to Gene Dillard, Jerry Casle, and Leon Nixon the city had nothing to do with the grant project other than hiring the TMS Group, headed by Buz McKethan, to take care of the matter. Dillard was mayor at the time the grants were requested, Nixon and Casle were both on the city council at that time, Casle is the only one of the three that still holds public office.

All three men commended Debbie for doing a fine job for the city and expressed regrets that allegations of wrong-doing have come to light because they feel they (the allegations) are unfounded.

Waivers were filed, with the TDHCA, for Dillard and a councilman who received work on their homes while serving in office relieving them of the conflict of interest allegations.

Rolan Jones, who coordinated the Callahan County disaster rebuilding efforts, said, "Debbie told Buz, when Mae Parker applied for the grant, that this was her sister and she didn't want anything to do with it (so there would be no conflict)."

Jones said the TMS Group handled all the applications, submitting bids, and got the contractors that did the work for Cross Plains and Callahan County. The city and county didn't have anything to do with the project except the city provided a meeting place.

McKethan said he had no comment on that matter (the waiver on Debbie) for now, although he said he didn't believe there was any intentional conflict of interest in any of the dealings.

See CITY page 8

## Three Cross Plains residents charged with arson

By BILLY HARRIS  
Special Writer

Three Cross Plains residents remain charged with arson in connection with the December 7th Cross Plains High School fire.

Cory Lee Switzer, 18, a 1997 CPHS graduate was charged with arson along with two high school juniors. All three have been released from custody, the two juveniles were released to guardians and Switzer posted a \$40,000 bond.

The two juveniles are also charged with burglary.

Callahan County Attorney Allen Wright objected to the release of the juveniles but 42nd District Court Judge Don Lane released them after a closed door hearing Wednesday.

Wright is awaiting Juvenile Probation Office studies before proceeding further with the case.

Cross Plains Police Chief Ed Duncan said testimony pointed to Switzer not entering the building, but helped the other two boys. "He had knowledge of what happened. He's an accomplice," said Duncan.

Switzer was brought to the Callahan County Jail by his father after Duncan informed the father of the charges against his son.

The investigation is continuing into the late night drinking party, attended by as many as fifty teenagers, at a ranch north of Cross Plains said Duncan. The party possibly had something to do with the

Sunday morning fire.

Jim Hayes, with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission confirmed that the TABC is investigating the drinking party.

Cross Plains Superintendent Jackie Tennison said Tuesday that the cleanup is well underway and thought maybe the north rooms of the high school building could be cleaned up and used soon. Those rooms just suffered smoke damage and some water damage.

Tennison said an insurance adjuster was supposed to make a final determination Tuesday afternoon and the opinion of the second structural engineer would be made known soon.

"We got a portable building with three rooms in today," said Tennison, "This will let us get some of the classes out of the locker rooms."

Biology teacher Jamie Dement said last week that the students were allowed to recover personal books and other belongings two days after the fire.

Eastland, Rule, and Eula schools sent desks to use and Walmart Stores sent tablets and pens for the students.

Dement said she was holding class in the new gym foyer. Other classes were being held in the auditorium, locker rooms and the ag teacher had moved his classes to the shop area so the ag classrooms could be used by other teachers.



1ST PLACE HOME — Joe Holland Family

## Christmas Home Contest Winner Announced

Winners of this year's Christmas Home Contest sponsored by Project Pride have been announced. Homes were judged on Christmas Spirit, lights and visual effects.

The 1st place winner is the home of the Joe Holland family, located at 408 East 12th. The front yard is beautifully arrayed in white light trees and fence figures. A charming display of colorful cut-outs in the back yard can be seen from East 11th Street.

The home of Mrs. Maurine McCuin at 117 West 12th is the 2nd place winner. Her home is decorated with an elegant display of green and red light wreaths and white light icicles.

The Hoyt Foster family home at 317 East 14th is the 3rd place winner. Their home is trimmed in beautiful soft blue lights with a white rooftop angel and highlights.

Honorable mentions are the home of Mr. and Mrs. T.W. Anderson near Cottonwood and the Hogrell Family at 225 Avenue D.

Judges were Nancy Chapman of Moran and Bill Kimsey, a housing officer at Dyess Air Force Base.

Please take a tour of the many holiday lit homes in town and the surrounding area. It is sure to put you in the Christmas Spirit.



1ST PLACE BUSINESS — Judy's Hair Place

## Decorated Business Winner Chosen

The Cross Plains Chamber of Commerce sponsored the Christmas Business Decoration Contest and the 1st place winner for 1997 was Judy's Hair Place, owned by Judy Porter, located at East 15th Street and Avenue A. The windows of her shop were decorated and trimmed in lights and the outside featured wooden re-

indeer, Christmas tree, and poinsettias displaying the holiday spirit.

The Movie Store, owned by Skeet and Wanda Walker, took 2nd place in the contest. The front of the business is festive with lights and wooden Christmas character cut-outs.

The judges were the same as used in the residence contest.

## Christmas Crossroads to be presented Sunday at FUMC

Members of the First United Methodist Church and Choir will present their annual Christmas program on Sunday, December 21, at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary located on North Main Street. The program, "Christmas Crossroads - Where Everyone Comes to Bethlehem," is a contemporary Christmas choral collection and Biblical monologue created by Dennis and Nan Allen.

The production, under the direction of Terry Nixon, will be different this year, as Biblical characters find their way to the manger where they discover the baby Jesus. (The cast was blessed with the arrival last week of a baby to play the part of Jesus!)

The public is cordially invited to rejoice in praise of the birth of our Savior as the members share their Christmas gift to you.

## Biblical Character to Present Life of Christ at FBC

This Sunday, December 21, as he has for the past three years, Dr. Jim O'Dell, pastor at First Baptist Church in Cross Plains, will portray a bible character in the morning worship service. His character will deliver a first person account of Christ from his birth to the ascension. In the past, Pastor O'Dell has been the Innkeeper at Bethlehem, one of the Wise Men, and even a Roman Centurion.

Everyone, from children to adults can identify with the character, as he shares the life and ministry of Jesus. Dressed in costume, Pastor O'Dell will walk around the sanctuary and tell the story as if he were actually the person who had been with Jesus.

Come and be blessed as you hear and see a story based on scripture and expanded to let each individual see the possibilities of a life that looks for Jesus.

Everyone of all faiths and denominations are welcome.

## Christmas Open House at The Secret Garden

Does the holiday stress have you in a panic? Do you feel there isn't time to slow down the pace of the holidays so you can enjoy this special time? Join the ladies of The Secret Garden on Saturday, December 20, for Open House and workshops will be held at 11, 1, 3, and 5. For only \$15 you can have FUN and RELAX while discovering the magic of Aromatherapy while mixing your own special scents of bubble bath, bath oils, and salts or body creams.

To also relieve some of your shopping stress, purchase those special gifts you need at 10 percent discount store-wide. Aromatherapy candles as well as many unique gift items are available for you shopping convenience. The Secret Garden will be open Monday and Tuesday, December 22 and 23 from 10 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. The shop will be closed December 24 - January 10.

## CITIZENS STATE BANK Cross Plains, Texas

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Presents:  
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THE CROSS PLAINS REVIEW WILL BE PUBLISHED WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, DUE TO THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

All Articles and Ads Must Be Turned in By Noon Monday

The Cross Plains Review Will Be Closed Thursday and Friday, December 25-26

# COURTHOUSE NEWS

**COUNTY COURT**  
Bill Johnson presiding

**Misdemeanor Filings**  
Steven M. Nail, DWI & resisting arrest.  
Jerry Edward Dugan, DWLS & possession of marijuana.  
Curtis Smythe, TPC (theft of property by check).  
Gregory Brian Gilman, reckless driving.  
Wayne Gordon Coleman, theft.  
Marion Thomas Dison, DWI.

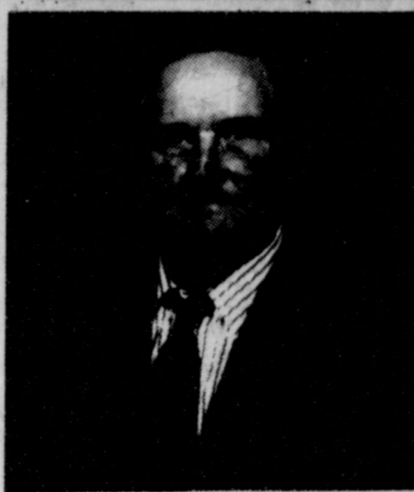
**Misdemeanor Minutes**  
Motions filed to revoke probation: Pat D. Starr, Terry Royal Ratley.  
TPC charges dismissed due to restitution having been made: Emily Austin, Naomi Berumen.  
Chad Edward Cauthen, possession of a protected non-game bird, \$150 fine \$142 court costs.

Probations discharged: Timothy Ray Doty, Curtis Ray Smythe, Jr., Suzanne Jennifer Horn, Thomas Edward Ivy.

In the matter of Marion Thomas Dison, American Bail Bond allowed to withdraw as surety.  
In the matter of Scott Allan Douglas, SOS Bail Bond allowed to withdraw as surety.

**MARRIAGE LICENSE**  
Jayne Louise Brown & Ronald Charles Broadus of Clyde.

# OBITUARIES



**E.W. 'Jack' DeBusk**  
E.W. "Jack" DeBusk, 84, widely-known Coleman County farmer-rancher, who died unexpectedly at his home four miles west of Burkett, was laid to rest Sunday afternoon. Funeral service was held from the Higginbotham Chapel in Cross Plains with Dr. Richard Chaffin, local United Methodist pastor officiating. Jack Scott, a lifelong friend, delivered the eulogy.

Friends crowded the funeral home far beyond capacity with scores of people standing in the aisles and adjoining corridors. The procession to the Burkett cemetery was reported more than a mile in length, as friends paid parting respects to a man who had been their neighbor and friend for generations and was a descendant of pioneers who settled in this locality more than 100 years ago.

Jack DeBusk had been in declining health for more than a year but continued to live alone after the death of his wife three years ago. He had planned to visit a cardiologist Thursday afternoon and when he was late in meeting a nephew who was to accompany him, relatives drove to his home and found him dead in the yard. Oddly, his body was only a few steps from the spot where his wife had been fatally stricken. Death resulted from heart problems. He was wearing a pacemaker at the time.

Jack DeBusk was widely known. He graduated from Cross Plains High School and had been active in community and church affairs throughout his life. He had been a Burkett school trustee, election judge for many years and an agricultural committee member for Coleman County in various phases of the federal farm program. He was a long-time member and dedicated supporter of the United Methodist Church.

Survivors are a son, Pat DeBusk and wife Suanna of Houston; two sisters, Lois Garrett of Cross Plains and Jo Davee of Rising Star; two grandchildren, Andrew DeBusk and wife Cathy, and Amy Gillispie and husband Mark, and one great-granddaughter Kirby (Hoover) Gillespie, all of Houston.  
Pallbearers were Dick Koenig, Sam Koenig, Jack Angeley, Larry McAnally, Eddie Joe McAnally, Jerry Andis, Dwayne Cunningham and Tom Carter.

**Bertha Mae White**  
RISING STAR—Bertha Mae White, 88, passed away Tuesday, December 10, 1997, in a Brownwood hospital.

Services were held at 1 p.m. Saturday in Higginbotham Funeral Home Chapel with Dick Williams officiating. Graveside services were at 3 p.m. in Elmwood Memorial Park in Abilene.

Mrs. White was born in Amity in Comanche County and was a homemaker. She lived in Abilene and Brownwood before moving to Rising Star in 1972. She was a member of Order of the Eastern Star, Saturday Club in Rising Star, Schubert Music Club in Brownwood and First Baptist Church. She was the widow of Horace Edward White, whom she married in 1929 in May.

Survivors include three sons, H.E. White and William A. White, both of Austin, and Robert W. White of Dallas; one brother, John M. Robertson of Comanche; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Lida Mae Howard**  
RISING STAR—Lida Mae Howard, 89, of Powder Springs, Georgia, and formerly of Rising Star, passed away Sunday in a Marietta, Georgia hospital.

Services were held at 10 a.m. in Rising Star Church of Christ with Gary Adams officiating. Burial was in Longbranch Cemetery, directed by Higginbotham Funeral Home.

Mrs. Howard was born in Coryell County and was a homemaker. She moved to Hatboro, Pennsylvania in 1990 from Rising Star, and Georgia in 1993. She was a member of the Church of Christ and was the widow of Curtis Howard, whom she married in 1927 in Rising Star.

Survivors include one daughter, Betty L. Evans of Powder Springs, Georgia; one sister, Virgi Morgan of Dumas, Lois Wilkins of Junction City, Kansas, and Pauline Howard of Rising Star, six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

**Ottie Lorene Smith**  
COMANCHE—Services for Mrs. Ottie Lorene Smith, 85, of Comanche were at 10:30 a.m. Monday, December 15, 1997, at Comanche Funeral Home with the Rev. Kenneth Steele officiating. Burial was in Oakwood Cemetery in Comanche.

She passed away Sunday, December 14, 1997, at Comanche Community Hospital.

Mrs. Smith, who united with the Baptist church at the age of 12, was a homemaker. She was married to William Ory Smith on December 24, 1932, in Comanche.

She was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers and one sister.

Survivors include her husband, Ory Smith of Comanche; four sons, Paul Smith of Gustine, Kenneth Smith of Hasse, Charles Smith of Comanche and Vernon Smith of Cross Plains; two daughters, Geneth Andrews of Comanche and Jearldine Kincheloe of Carthage; one sister, Oleta Coker of Colleyville; one sister-in-law, Nadine Parkman of Abilene; 16 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I hope I can say something to all of you that will cause you to run as Hab. 2 Chapter Verse 1 thru 5 tells us to do. Also, we are told in 1 Peter Chapter 4 Verse 4 to think it not strange concerning the fiery trials that come to try us.

My dear friends and loved ones, these times are upon us all. We are being tried as Job was. He was the best God had in the earth then, and the church or Christian of today are the best now -- so we are going to be tried as Job was.

Jesus said He would not put more on us than we could bear, but with every temptation He would make a way of our escape that we might be able to bear it (1st Cor. Chapter 10 Verse 13). Oh the goodness and mercy of our God.

Dear friends and loved ones, if you do not know that your name is written in God's book in Heaven, call upon Him and He will write it there. No one but you can do this.

What am I trying to tell you? Here is my answer: Luke Chapter 2 Verse 28 says "When you see all these things coming to pass, look up for your redemption draweth nigh." It behooves us all to be ready.

Your friend and sister in the Lord,  
Sister Ruby McCowen

Dear Editor:

At present, there is a petition circulating to place a curfew on our teens. A curfew is only possible if there is someone to enforce that curfew. Most of our kids do have a curfew and are in their homes at a reasonable hour. Those kids who are going to get into trouble will do so regardless of a curfew. Anyone that has the mind-set to set a fire to their own school, is not going to make the decision not to because its "after curfew."

What Cross Plains does need is a night watchman, someone who is on duty from 11 p.m. until 7 a.m. every night patrolling the streets, "rattling door knobs" of businesses and checking around the school. Our present policeman works mostly days and some evenings. If having a policeman late night sounds like a better solution to you, show your support of this idea at the next City Council meeting on January 6.

Jana Hinkle

## Social Security Rep. Schedule Announced

A representative from the Social Security Administration, 209 S. Danville Dr., Bldg. A, Abilene, will be in Eastland at the Senior Citizens Center on Tuesdays, January 27, February 24, and March 24, at 9:30 a.m.

You can call social security toll-free any weekday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. 1-800-772-1213.

## Political Calendar

The Cross Plains Review is authorized to publish the following political announcements for the Callahan County office filings in the Democratic Primary Election set for Tuesday, March 10, 1997.

**For Callahan Judge Winford Hogan**

Pol. Adv. paid by Patsy Hogan, treasurer, 507 Pleasant Lane, Clyde, TX 79510

**For County Clerk Jeanie Bohannon**

Pol. Adv. paid Karla Gilliland, treasurer, 601 W. 2nd, Baird, TX 79504

**For County Clerk Belinda Davis**

Pol. Adv. paid by Belinda Davis, 617 Vine Street, Baird, TX 79504

**For 42nd District Clerk Georgie Manion**

Pol. Adv. paid by Mizzie Martin-Treasurer

**For County Judge Roger Corn**

Pol. Adv. paid by Roger Corn, 532 Poplar, Baird, TX 79504

All political calendar advertising for the Democratic Primary Election is payable in advance, at a cost of \$100.00. A free press release and photograph will be published one time with each announcement.

## CROSS PLAINS REVIEW

(USPS 138-660)  
DON TABOR, PUBLISHER  
VANDA CREECH, EDITOR  
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# CHURCH SERVICES

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

10TH & MAIN CROSS PLAINS (254) 725-7629  
Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Prayer Service ..... 7:00 p.m.  
Dr. Jim O'Dell - pastor - 725-7556  
Jason Kempf - Youth & Music Minister

## UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9TH & AVE. D CROSS PLAINS  
WORSHIP SERVICE ..... 9:30 A.M.  
BIBLE CLASS ..... 10:30 A.M.  
Rev. Henry Grubbs, Pastor  
Everyone Welcome

## Living Water Ministries Fellowship

Full Gospel — Non-Denominational  
Apostolic  
Restoring And Equipping The Saints  
Colleen Anderson Sunday Morning 10:00 a.m.  
Maxey Evans Thursday Evening 6:30 p.m.  
For Information Call (254) 725-6800  
1-800-252-3629

## BELIEVER'S FELLOWSHIP

Inner-denominational — Evangelical  
EAST HIGHWAY 36  
Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship ..... 10:45 a.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Night Family Bible Study ..... 6:30 p.m.  
Bob Wallace, Pastor (254) 725-6607

## COTTONWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Service ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer Time ..... 7:00 p.m.  
Joe Coppinger, Pastor (254) 725-7730 Church 725-6266  
Friendly Church • Bible Teaching

## USDA Commodities Distributed Locally Today

Central Texas Opportunities, Inc. will distribute USDA commodities at the following site and time:

In Cross Plains Thursday, December 18, 1997, from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Central Texas Opportunities, Inc. Multi-Purpose Center at 701 E. 8th Street, Cross Plains.

Central Texas Opportunities, Inc. has no control over what items are available or the quantity of the items. All eligible persons will be served on a first-come, first-serve basis as long as supplies last without regard to race, sex, color, national origin, political belief, religion, or handicap. All eligible persons must bring their social security number, their own sacks, and must sign for food received. You cannot send an authorized representative unless you are a shut-in not able to pick up your own food. Volunteers are greatly needed and appreciated to help with this much needed program. If you have any questions or wish to volunteer your help, please contact Margaret Burkhardt at (915) 625-4167.

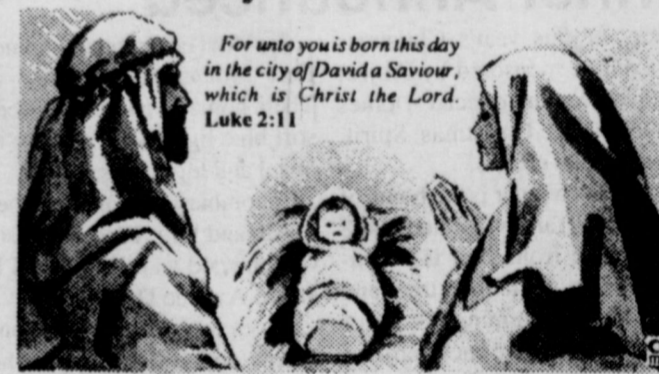
**WE PUT A LITTLE EXTRA INTO OUR BOOTS**

Right now, when you buy a pair of Red Wing Boots, we're throwing in a free gift which just goes to show that you can expect a little more from Red Wing.

**IM Western Wear**  
Downtown Coleman  
(915) 625-2433

RED WING SHOES  
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**"Christmas Crossroads"**  
Where Everyone Comes To Bethlehem Will Be Presented by Members and Choir of **First United Methodist Church** At the Local Sanctuary - North Main Street **Sunday, December 21 - 6:30 p.m.** Everyone Is Invited



?? QUESTIONS ABOUT ?  
? HOME? EQUITY ?  
?? LOANS ?  
? ?

Visit with your Hometown Bankers **BEFORE** you talk to someone who has to consult a map to find out where Cross Plains is!!

See Steve Mack or Stephen Jamison or call us at 254-725-6141.

**CITIZENS STATE BANK**  
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# NEWS

By  
**LINDA MERRITT**  
Activity Director

We will be having our Open House Christmas Party for the residents Sunday, December 21, at 2:00 p.m. Bro. Dwaine Clower and members of Pioneer Baptist Church will be presenting the program. The Garden Club will be providing the refreshments for us. All family and friends are invited to come and help celebrate with us.

Thoughts and prayers for Jake Green and Myrtle Owen who are in the hospital.

Lorena Wright and Allie Dickson are looking good with their new perms.

Minnie Swann was our winner for a free meal at Jack's Place. Thanks Wanda and Jack.

Appreciation to the Richardson family for the candy, chips, and dips. Bill and Billie Wright from Clyde and Vida Balkum visited with Lorena Wright.

Mona Wilson from Abilene visited with Gertie Powell and Blanche Brooks.

Laquetta Rankin, Frankie Smith and Angie Clower visited with Falba Shofner and Jo Boatright.

Dorothy Welch from Fort Worth

visited Leila Montgomery.

Broodee Eubank from Austin visited with Bransford Eubank. Visiting daily is his wife Eloise.

Violet Edwards and Don and LaVern Ballinger from Cisco visited Lillie Childers.

Brenton and Bryon McNutt, Phinesia and Kristina Chastain was here visiting everyone.

Activities during the week were:

**Monday:** Bingo winners were Louise Richardson (3), Falba Shofner (2), Minnie Swann (2), Vera Belyeu and Dorothy Thomas. Exercise class.

**Tuesday:** Sing-a-long with Bob Wallace. Popcorn social and Skip-Bo games.

**Wednesday:** Art class. Exercise class.

**Thursday:** Bingo winners were Falba Shofner (2), Vera Belyeu (2), Ruby Harrell, Minnie Swann (3) and Louise Richardson (2). Skip-Bo games.

**Friday:** Singing with Bob Wallace. Sit-down-basketball.

**Sunday: Open House.**

Jesus is the Gift we all can share.

## Clips, Quips & Comments

By KAY DENNIS MOSLEY

### "VEGETABLES -- IT'S CHRISTMAS"

If you prefer a vegetarian meal for Christmas or just want something different a suggested menu follows.

#### MENU

Hors' D'oeuvres -- Ripe olives and stuffed green onions on toothpicks, a mixed platter of various cheeses and snack crackers.

Gazpacho Soup with raw vegetables

Eggplant in Crust  
Corn Casserole  
Julienne Vegetable Medley  
Cranberry Jello with apples  
Hot French Bread or Rolls  
P-nut Bud-Der Kup Choco-Pudding with cherries

To prepare the Gazpacho soup, either prepare ahead of time, homemade tomato soup using chicken broth as the base or use canned. Be sure to chill the soup overnight in the refrigerator. The next morning, in a large bowl dice, celery, onions, cucumbers, parsley and chopped fresh dill to sprinkle atop the chilled tomato soup before serving.

Eggplant in Crust  
Dip thinly sliced, peeled eggplant in milk and coat with 3 parts cornmeal, 1 part flour (or use bread crumbs), salt and pepper and fry until crispy in olive or canola oil.

If you do not like fried eggplant try Eggplant Oat Marinara cakes. To prepare, peel, wash and chop one medium eggplant (or 3 zucchini), mix with 2 cups uncooked 3 minute Oatmeal, 3 eggs, salt and pepper to taste, teaspoons parsley flakes and 2 tablespoons chives and 3/4 cup Marinara or Teryaki sauce. Mix and form into 2 inch thick patties or cakes. If mixture needs more thickening to form patties, add a small amount of wheat flour. Place in a refrigerator and leave overnight. (After 4 hours turn and add more sauce.) When preparing the next days meal, place dish in 350 degree oven about 45 minutes and bake until crispy.

Corn Casserole see Column of

November 20 for recipe.

Julienne Vegetable Medley-Cut Julienne style, one sweet potato or yam, two carrots, 2 medium or 3 small zucchinis, 2 yellow squash, one medium Jicama, 1/2 an onion, 1 cup green beans-split, 1 can of mushroom slices, 3 red potatoes, and 1 cup each, green, new and yellow bell peppers. Add salt and pepper and saute until tender in a large skillet using canola oil. After first 5 minutes or cooking, add 1/2 cup crushed dried mint leaves, and one tablespoon Tarragon, finishing with 1/2 cup pineapple juice. Serve warm.

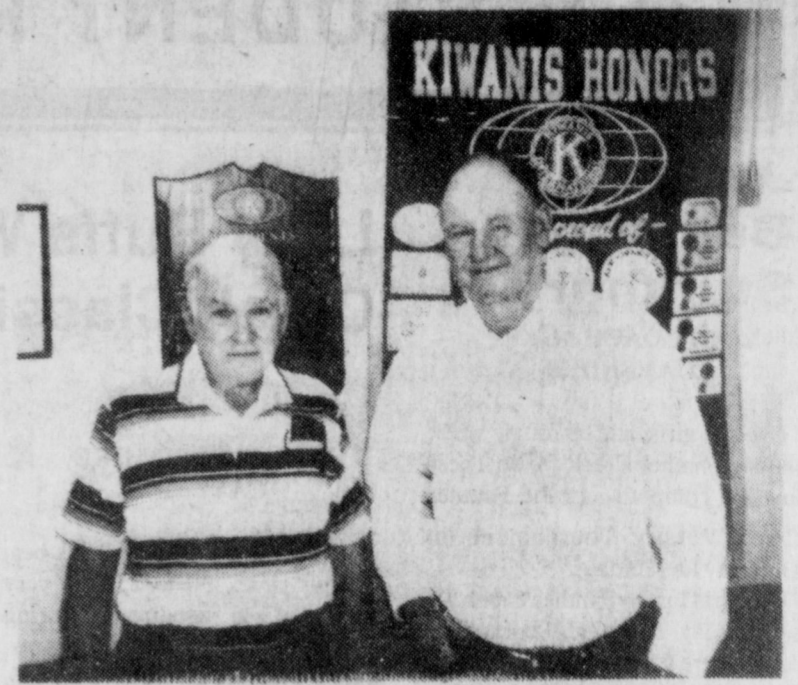
Cranberry Jello with cooked fresh apples.

Peel, slice and cook 10 to 12 red delicious or Gala apples in a small amount of water or applejuice, until just tender. Remove from heat. Open one package cranberry jello and pour contents directly into the cooked apples. Stir until Jello completely dissolves. If you prefer you may also add 1 tablespoon cinnamon. Is delicious served hot. Or serve congealed as a delicious alternative to cranberry sauce. If you wish you can use sugar free Jello and will have a heart healthy dish. Simply pour into your favorite mold and chill.

P-nut Bud-Der Kup Choco Pudding with Cherries

Purchase one large package Vanilla wafers. Spread P-nut butter between 2 wafers until all wafers have been used. In bottom of a glass casserole or bowl; layer wafers (with P-nut butter) until bottom of bowl is covered. Pour overfill 1/4 of instant Chocolate pudding (which you have just made), then sprinkle 10 Maraschino cherries overall, continue with 3 more layers ending with pudding. You can use sugar free pudding if you so desire. Place in refrigerator to chill overnight. To serve, place in individual dessert dishes and top with Kool Whip or other whipped topping.

Whatever our holiday choices, Merry Christmas and Mucho Gusto!!



SPECIAL GUEST — Charlie Grider, (right), Callahan County Commissioner for Precinct 4, was guest of Joe Hanke (left) for last week's Kiwanis meeting. Following lunch Grider spoke relating information about current activities in the county. The Kiwanis Club meets each Tuesday at noon at the local Dairy Queen.

The Kiwanis Club of Cross Plains expresses genuine appreciation to the community for its support of the recent Christmas program, especially to the merchants and individuals providing gifts; CPHS Band and others involved.

**ARISTA BLAZE SMITH BIRTH ANNOUNCED**

Ricky Lee and Stacy Smith of Malakoff would like to announce the birth of a daughter, Arista Blaze Smith, born Monday, November 3, 1997, at St. Frances Hospital in Tyler. She weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces and was 20 1/4 inches long. She was welcomed home by her 3 1/2 year old brother, Chase, and a niece, Holly Smith. Her maternal grandparents are Jim and Ann Bjork of Huntsville, Alabama. Paternal grandparents are Ricky Wayne Smith of Lake Brownwood and Sheryl Holt of Malakoff. Great-grandparents are W.L. and Doris Renfro of Malakoff and Carl and Ileen Smith of Lake Brownwood. Great-great-grandfather is A.B. Foster of Cross Plains.

## Cross Plains Cemetery Association Report

Month of October 1997  
**DONATIONS:** I/M of Ressie and Ruth Browning by Cliff Browning and Regina Parker \$100; Wendell & Pat Willis \$100; Earnings added to acct. \$2.51 TOTAL \$202.51  
**GRAVE OPENING PERMITS:** Lynn's Funeral Home for Larry Bishop Service \$75 TOTAL \$75

M Sterling Odom by Joyce Odom \$25; CD Interest payment #7719 \$512.69; Earnings added to acct. \$1.84 TOTAL \$539.53

**GRAVE OPENING PERMITS:** Heartland Funeral Home Service for Jeff Fox \$75; Higginbotham Funeral Home service for Nell Bowden \$75; Higginbotham Funeral Home Service for Lester Wyatt \$75; Lee Service - Baird \$75; TOTAL \$300

Month of November 1997  
**DONATIONS & EARNINGS:** 1/

## BURKETT NEWS

By  
**LOVERA STRICKLAND**

For the Thanksgiving holidays Bob and Beth Kleiber had Cody and Dawn Hill of Farwell; Matt and Emma McKinney, Alice and Kevin of Goldsboro; and Steve and Amber Kleiber and Brenna of Burkett. Saturday they shared Thanksgiving dinner with Low and Liz Golson of Burkett; Pete and Carlene Golson and

Marley of Rankin; Michele Wilkovich, Kelsey and Logan of Coleman; Misty Golson and Mitch of San Angelo; Tim and Suzanne Golson, Tyler and Lauren of Coleman. Jon and Matt Turney of the Whon Community and Daniel Strickland spent Saturday and Sunday visiting Jack and Lovera Strickland.

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### Folic Acid Helps Prevent Birth Defects

Although many women of child-bearing age now know that folic acid taken daily can avert birth defects, 78 percent still take a risk rather than a multivitamin. The brain and spinal cord develop in the first four weeks of pregnancy. Women should begin taking folic acid before the pregnancy. If women would take 400 micrograms of folic acid daily, they could cut the risk of birth defects, including spina bifida, by 70 percent.

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## BREAKTHRU

By Bob Pipes, preacher  
Cross Plains Church of Christ  
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Who is this Jesus over whom so many get especially excited around this time of year? People's thoughts usually center around His birth, conceived of the Holy Spirit of God, born of a virgin, Mary, named Jesus, meaning "Savior," for He was to "save His people from their sins," Matthew 1:21. But His name was also "Immanuel," which translated, is "God with us," verse 23. The writer of Hebrews said it well: "God, who at various times and in different ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For to which of the angels did He ever say: 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You?' (Hebrews 1:1-5)

Let's see now: 1) He's "God with us, the express image of His person;" 2) Heir of all things; 3) The One through whom the world was made; 4) The Purger of our sins; 5) Higher than the angels -- at the Father's right hand; 6) God's Son! And the list could go on and on...

We remember Jesus' death each Sunday in the Lord's Supper, and "proclaim the Lord's death till He comes," 1 Corinthians 11:26. And we thank God for His birth, and all the things mentioned above on a daily basis -- and encourage others to do the same. Will you?

Sunday Morning Bible Class ... 9:45 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship ..... 10:45 a.m. Wed. Evening Bible Study ..... 7:00 p.m.

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# C.P. STUDENT REVIEW

## JV Girls Basketball Summary

By COACH MIKE CAVENDER

The JV girls had a tough week playing Panther Creek JV on Tuesday and competing in the Panther Creek Varsity Tournament on Thursday and Friday.

The girls lost to Panther Creek JV on Tuesday 28 to 24. Scoring the points were Christy Beaty with 10, Brandy Hutton with 7, LeaJean Wyatt with 6 and Stephanie Childress added 1.

The girls traveled to Panther Creek for the tournament on Thursday losing to Panther Creeks Varsity by a score of 49 to 15. Later that night, they lost to the Bangs JV 23 to 14, and on Friday they played Panther Creek again losing by a score of 44 to 25. Through the course of these 4 games these kids faced a great deal of adversity and I'm proud of the way they handled it. If we could have shot the ball a little better from the field and the free throw line a couple of those games could have had different outcomes. Scoring summary for the tournament was Christy Beaty 4, LeaJean Wyatt 14, Brandy Hutton 19, Stephanie Childress 2, Jessica Childers 2, Nikki Bushnell 9, and Hutch 4.

## Jr. High Girls B-ball

By COACH MIKE CAVENDER

On Monday, we traveled to Santa Anna for two games.

The 7th grade gold team was defeated by Santa Anna 59 to 7. Falon, Judith and Wendy each scored 2 points, Marion added 1 point to round out the scoring.

The 8th grade purple team won by a score of 52 to 18 in the second ball game. Candice lead all scorers with 25 points, Sarah added 12 more, Sheena contributed 10 points, Erin with 3 points and Amanda finished with 2.

On Saturday, the 8th grade purple team traveled back to Santa Anna for a 1 day, 2 game tournament. In the first game we defeated Gorman 34 to 20. In the second game we lost a close one to blanket 32 to 31. By defeating Gorman in the 1st round and losing by 1 to Blanket in the finals, the girls finished 2nd in the tournament.

Scoring summary for both games Candice 26, Sheena 15, Sarah 11, Emily 6, Erin 2, Amanda 3, Stephanie 2. After 6 complete games the 8th grade season record stands at 3 and 3.

## Careful diagnosis

HOUSTON—Inattentive and hyperactive children do not necessarily have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

"Diagnosing ADHD requires testing and careful evaluation of a child's behavior," said Dr. Diane Treadwell-Deering, a child psychiatrist at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston and a specialist at Texas Children's Hospital's Learning Support Center.

ADHD, characterized by short attention span, distraction, impulsiveness, aggressiveness and constant attention-getting behavior, is a biological disorder present at birth. Symptoms, often recognized by day-care or first-grade teachers, must be present by age 7 for classification as ADHD.

"Clinical experience and testing helps us determine whether the symptoms and behaviors are abnormal for a child's age and developmental stage," Treadwell-Deering said.

Diagnosis involves obtaining information about the child's habits and life-style from teachers, parents and other adults. Specific tests to determine attention span, impulsivity and how a child approaches academic tasks are given.

Physicians also rule out conditions that can have similar symptoms such as learning disabilities, depression,

## Lady Buffs Win Rough Creek Classic

By COACH MIKE CAVENDER

On Tuesday, the Lady Buffs beat Panther Creek 60 to 25 in a very emotional win. Leading the scoring was Laura Ricci with 31 points, Jolena Fleming 6, Holly Butler 6, Jennifer Turner 7, Candice Francy 4, Mindy Mitchell 4, Brandi Richey 2. Our shooting was tremendous at 59 percent from the field and 6-8 from the line for 75 percent. Our defense was outstanding. This was our best performance of the season on both sides of the ball.

On Thursday, we traveled to the Rough Creek Classic Tournament at Novice playing Paint Rock in the first round defeating them by a score of 55 to 13. On Friday, we beat the

home team Novice. The finals on Saturday found us playing our old rivals in Baird. We defeated Baird for the championship 52 to 36. Scoring summary for the tournament was Laura Ricci 46, Brandy Richey 17, Holly Butler 25, Jennifer Turner 20, Candice Francy 16, Mindy Mitchell 20, and Jolena Fleming 33. Laura Ricci was named the tournament MVP and Jolena Fleming was named to the All-Tournament Team.

We're playing some great basketball right now and these kids raised their level of play to keep our program where it belongs. There are a lot of positive things happening in Cross Plains, we just need to find them and support them. The season record for the Lady Buffs stands at 12-0.

## Freshman Girls Play Coleman

By COACH MIKE CAVENDER

On Monday the Freshman girls played Coleman here in the new gym. The final score was 55 to 25 with Coleman coming out on top. Late in the game the score was 35 to 25 and we were still in the game. The last 5 minutes of the 4th quarter really hurt our chances.

Scoring the points were Hutch with 11, Jennifer H. with 6, Amber W. with 4, Ashley H. with 3 and Toni Mae with 1. These kids are gaining valuable experience through these freshmen games that will pay off in the future.

They are having to play 2A, 3A, and 4A teams, because you normally don't find freshman games in class A.

## CPISD Board of Trustees Met Wednesday

The Board of Trustees of the Cross Plains School District held a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the high school faculty work room Wednesday, December 17.

The following agenda was addressed:

1. Open Forum
2. Minutes
3. Disgruntled Parent on Excessive Absences
4. Report on Texas Education Agency School Report Card (AEIS)
5. Act on Insurance Policies
6. Executive Session (if needed)
7. Action to Follow Executive Session
8. Adjourn.

anxiety, obsessive-compulsive disorder or petit mal seizures.

Once diagnosed, there are several medication choices.

"Stimulants, such as Ritalin, dexadrine, Cylert and Adderall, are most often prescribed for attention span and concentration problems," Treadwell-Deering said. "Medication choices often depend on the child's main symptoms."

Other medications, such as tricyclic antidepressants and clonidine, can be given in combination with stimulants are not effective. Wellbutrin may be prescribed when a child has ADHD and depression.

Treadwell-Deering recommends structuring the environment in a way that helps the child concentrate and pay attention. She suggests the following techniques:

- \* Getting a child's attention when giving instructions -- make eye contact, touch his arm or shoulder.
- \* Giving clear, explicit and short instructions rather than a long list. Not "go clean your room," but "go put your books on the shelf."
- \* Making the child repeat instructions.

"Giving a written list or verbal instructions supported by something written -- like a chore chart.

"Most of these techniques work well for all kids and especially well for children with ADHD," she said.

## Buffalo Basketball Update

By GREG TURNER

The Buffaloes opened their basketball season at home on November 25 against Huckabay. Cross Plains came into this game with no practice and did a pretty good job against a team who plays only basketball. The Buffs lost the game by one basket 46-44. Huckabay is a team who scores 80 to 90 points per game and good defense kept the score down. Huckabay's coach stated that he would hate to play Cross Plains after a couple of weeks practice. Scoring for the Buffaloes were Joseph Turner 9, Jody Pancake 7, Jarad Richards 7, Benji Blackstock 6, Dusty Hargrove 6, Coby Richards 5 and Zach Edington 4.

The next week found the Buffs traveling to Gorman for the Peanut Classic Tournament. This was a round robin type where all teams played each other once. Cross Plains started out with May, winning the game by 12 -- Cross Plains 54 - May 42. The Buffs didn't shoot well this game with only 27 percent from the free throw and 31 percent from the 2 point range, but they scored 30 percent from the 3 point range. Turner led the scoring with 17 points and Blackstock followed close with 13 points.

Cross Plains played the Panthers from Gorman again to find the winning column. Our team played well and good hustling was the name of the game. The Buffs shot better from the free throw with 50 percent -- a percent that still need to inch up every game. Scoring for the Buffaloes were

Edington with 16 points and Turner 10.

The team played Gustine next. There were several highlights during this game -- a season high of 20 assists and a low of 7 turnovers. The Buffs also shot 59 percent free throws and 40 percent 2 point range. Cross Plains took the win by 42 points 67-25. Scoring was led by Turner with 18 points, Blackstock 14 and Edington 10.

The final game of the tournament paired the two unbeaten teams, Cross Plains and Rising Star. The Wildcats had been playing well throughout the tourney and led up to a good match. The Buffs jumped out well in the 1st quarter with a 6 point lead and by halftime stretched the lead to 16. The Buffaloes continued to outscore Rising Star adding another 14 points in the 4th quarter. Cross Plains won the game and the Peanut Classic Tournament with a score of 75-40. Edington led the scoring with 12 points, Blackstock 10 and Scott Ricci 10.

Joseph Turner was named Most Valuable Player with 56 total points; Zach Edington All Tournament 45 points; Jarad Richards All Tournament 18 points; Benji Blackstock 46 points; Dusty Hargrove 23 points; Scott Ricci 18 points; Jody Pancake 18; Nathaniel Swift 14 points; and Coby Richards 10 points.

Cross Plains played the Lohn Eagles at the Buffalo Basketball Complex on December 9. Again, hot shooting beat Lohn by a margin of 12 points. Turner came out shooting 3 pointers, hitting 5 of 7 on the night. Blackstock also had a good game

scoring 15. The Buffs took the win 58-46. Turner led with 25 points; Blackstock 15; Nathaniel Swift 5; Ricci 4; C. Richards 4; J. Richards 3; and Sam Nixon 2.

C.P. traveled to Novice for the Rough Creek Classic Tournament and the first game was against Paint Rock. The Buffs took the win 56-18. Turner made 24 points and Blackstock 12. The Buffs went 100 percent from the free throw line.

The Buffs played Novice in the semi-finals outscoring them 31 points with a final score of 65-34. This placed them in the finals to meet Santa Anna. Scoring was J. Richards 21 (made the last 3 points at the buzzer - good shot); Turner 20; and Blackstock 19.

The Buffaloes frustrated the Mountaineers with good defensive play, taking them out of their game plan totally in the championship game. The Buffs took their second tournament championship defeating Santa Anna 60-36. Scoring was Turner 25, Blackstock 15 and Swift 10.

Scoring totals for this tournament (3 games) were: Joseph Turner 69 Most Valuable Player; Benji Blackstock 46 All Tournament; Jarad Richards 30; Nathaniel Swift 12; Scott Ricci 10; Sam Nixon 8; and Coby Richards 4.

The Cross Plains Buffaloes are now 8-1 on the year and have been playing well. I hope everyone can come out and catch the fever and excitement of the games.

See you at the games!!!

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**Editor's Note:** The following was written by Carlton Stowers and appeared in the *Houston Chronicle*. Bonnie Rogers of Cross Plains brought the article by and felt that local residents would enjoy reading it. **Vanda Creech**

Many youngsters of my generation looked upon the outlaw exploits of such legendary figures as Pretty Boy Floyd, Bonnie and Clyde, and Ma Barker and her boys with a skewed sort of awe. Not that we wanted to grow up to be notorious bank robbers or be chased by the law, mind you. But in that pre-tabloid time, they were the titillating stuff of romantic legend, their lives and criminal deeds chronicled on the front pages of our daily papers and in occasional B-movies. We followed their trails with the same enthusiasm we have attached to collection baseball cards.

But in the hard scrabble West Texas of my youth, I listened as my elders talked of a family of brothers whose exploits put all others to shame. They were the homegrown Newton Boys. If the stories I heard were true, they robbed half the banks in the country, making off with gigantic sums of money while - gentlemen that they were - never once killing anyone. They drove fast cars, carried out their crimes with great planning and nerve, and deserved to be listed among the most notorious outlaws of their time.

Yet the Newton Boys never received their just place in the annals of criminal history. Those of us with the provincial mind-set that demanded that our bank robbers be duly recognized grumbled over the short shrift given the local boys.

Only now, decades after their glory days, will the world come to know Willis, Dock, Jess and Joe Newton. They finally came to the attention of a retired San Antonio-based *Life* magazine writer named Claude Stanush and a gifted Austin movie director named Richard Linklater. Through their efforts, the Newtons are to be portrayed soon on the big screen in the \$20 million *The Newton Boys*, starring a who's who of young Hollywood stars.

This spring, the movie will reach theaters nationwide. It is based on the State House Press oral history of the brothers' Texas-to-Canada crime spree, *The Newton Boys: Portrait of an Outlaw Gang*, which Stanush co-authored after lengthy confessionals from Willis and Joe Newton. It will star Texan Matthew McConaughey as Willis, Ethan Hawke as Jess, Vincent D'Onofrio as Dock and Skeet Ulrich as Joe.

Finally, the story that has fascinated me for a lifetime will emerge from history's footnotes.

It was a time when the Republican Party was enthusiastically endorsing a Calvin Coolidge platform. A wavy-haired youngster named Gene Tunney was being groomed as the next heavyweight champion of the world. The Depression was something that could never happen in a place like America. The Jazz Age had spilled merrily into the Roaring '20s.

And, on the evening of June 13, 1924, Engine No. 57 of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Express left Union Station with nine mail and two express shipment cars in tow. In less than two hours it would find its place in history and in the folklore of my hometown storytellers.

As it slowed for the hamlet of Rondout, Ill., just outside Chicago, the Newtons prepared to stage the richest train robbery in American history. In a matter of minutes the holdup men accompanied by an Oklahoma cowboy named Brent Glasscock (portrayed in the movie by country singer/actor Dwight Yoakam) and Chicago postal inspector Bill Fahay, had gathered \$3 million in cash, stocks, bonds and uncut diamonds.

Months of preparation had gone into the robbery. Willis and Jess Newton and Glasscock had boarded the train in Chicago, posing as railroad employees. They climbed toward the engine in time to order the engineer to stop the train at a predetermined spot known as Buckley Road. The plan called for Dock Newton to take his position on foot, just outside the lead mail car while the others entered and located the pouches containing money and jewels.

There was, however, a hitch in the plan. The train crept another hundred yards down the track before the engineer brought it to a complete stop. Dock ran alongside the mail car so that he might be at his appointed position. Irritated by this departure from the plan, he shouted toward a figure stepping from the rear of the train: "Hey, what the hell's going on?"

He was answered by five gunshots, which hit him in the jaw, arms, hands and side. Before he could aim the shotgun he carried, he fell to the cinders, unconscious.

Only after the robbery was completed and the outlaws were preparing to make their getaway did they notice that Dock was missing. His crumpled body was quickly located. Not even bothering to pick up his hat, which lay nearby, his brothers lifted him into the back seat of one of the two cars that waited to speed them from the scene of the historic crime.

It had been Glasscock, started by Dock and more than slightly unnerved by the situation, who had fired the shots.

Close to death as he rode in the back seat of the car for two days and nights, Dock's condition was to be the gang's downfall. Gangrene set into his jaw, and it was obvious that without the attention of a doctor he would never live to spend any of the fortune that had been so quickly accumulated. Thus his brothers took him to the Chicago address of an underworld doctor, who removed part of Dock's infected jawbone and mended his other wounds.

Other underworld figures were questioned repeatedly by Chicago authorities. They became irritated with the accusations that they were involved in the train robbery and began suggesting that "that shot-up guy over on North Washtenaw Avenue might be able to tell you what happened."

As a result the gang was apprehended. The stolen money and fruit jars filled with uncut diamonds were returned in exchange for lenient sentences. Fahay, the postal inspector who was the robbery's architect and inside man, received a 25-year sentence. Willis and Dock Newton were sentenced to 12 years in Leavenworth, as was Glasscock. Joe received a three-year term.

Jess, the youngest of the brothers, would ultimately receive a short sentence behind bars, but only after leading law enforcement officers on a merry, winding chase.

Says Stanush: "Jess was the only one not arrested, and he took off to Texas with some of the money they'd taken from the train. He apparently hid out in San Antonio for a time and one evening, after getting quite drunk in a bar, hired a cab driver to take him somewhere out in the country, where he supposedly buried something like \$35,000."

"According to the stories his brothers told me, Jess woke up the next day and, applying more sober reasoning, decided to retrieve the money and take it into Mexico with him. Trouble was, he couldn't remember where he'd buried it. And when he finally located the Mexican cab driver, the guy who had taken him to the location west of town, he couldn't remember either. 'I was very drunk, too,' the driver explained."

The money was never located. Ultimately, authorities were able to track Jess to Piedras Negras, a city in northeastern Mexico near the Texas border, where he spent most of his time drinking tequila and entertaining locals with stories of his talents as a brone rider. Since no extradition agreement existed between U.S. and Mexican authorities, the federal agent who had located Jess had to resort to a devious plan to lure him back into the United States.

After several nights of drinking bouts with the unsuspecting Newton, the agent noted that there was a rodeo upcoming just across the border in Del Rio. It would feature a horse that no man had successfully ridden.

"I damn sure can," Jess announced. The agent offered a wager of \$500, which the brash Newton quickly accepted.

The following day, as he entered the rodeo grounds to get a look at the renegade horse, the agent placed him in handcuffs. Jess would serve a year and a day for his part in the Illinois train robbery.

"The reason he got such a light sentence," says Stanush, "was the fact he'd never been in any trouble before and because of the sympathetic testimony of the engineer at his trial. He recalled that when Jess had approached him with demands to stop the train, he'd smiled, shook his head, and said, 'Isn't this a helluva way to make a living?'"

Back in Texas, bankers breathed a sigh of relief at news that the Newton gang was finally behind bars. So widespread had their reputation become that they were routinely credited with robbing banks they had never even heard of. On more than one occasion they had been reported in two places at one time - a certain mark of notoriety.

Such were the stories I pursued once I became a young journalist, digging through time weathered courthouse records, old news clips and listening to tales spun by those who had known and chased after the Newtons.

It was left for author Stanush to provide details of the Newtons' upbringing, to offer some hint of why they turned to their lives of crime. Born near the Callahan County farming community of Cottonwood, their father was a sharecropper farmer who constantly moved from one dusty patch of land to the next.

"People said my daddy (Jim Newton) was a good man," Willis told Stanush. "They just never said what he was good for. He was what folks called a cyclone farmer, blowing all over the county, always looking for something better than what he had."

His mother, Janetta Pecos Newton, worked miracles to keep food on the table and outfit her 11 children in homemade clothing. When the seat of fourth grader Willis' pants finally frayed beyond the ability of his mother to repair, he avoided further embarrassment by simply dropping out of school. Soon his brothers followed suit.

While the other children learned their multiplication tables and verb conjugations, the Newton boys grew up working in the cotton fields with their father. To escape the tedious work and dreary farm life, they occasionally hid out in boxcars and rode trains to such exotic places as Cross Plains, Big Spring and Abilene for a sample of big city life. The Newton boys were touched by wanderlust and an affection for bright lights early on.

Though official records revealed amazingly few depositions against them, they were generally credited by newspaper and historians with bank robberies in such Texas outposts as Winters, Coleman, Waxahachie, San Marcos, Boerne and New Braunfels, as well as throughout the Midwest and into Canada. Stanush credits the gang with 60 bank robberies; Willis claimed an additional 20. They hit six trains in all, practicing for the multimillion dollar Illinois robbery by holding up mail trains near Denison, Belts and Texarkana.

As colorful as they were daring, the Newtons thrived in the public imagination, bridging the Old West outlaw and the gangsters of the Al Capone era. The Newtons rode horses and drove Cadillacs. They wore cowboy boots and diamond stickpins.

What Linklater has fashioned, according to publicity releases, is a similar hybrid: a Western-gangster movie, the character study of a family of young men who robbed banks as an alternative to long, brain-baking days in the Texas cotton fields.

"The reason people haven't heard much about the Newton gang," actor Hawke recently suggested to a gathering of press on location, "is because they never killed anybody. They weren't a bunch of thugs. Robbing banks and trains was just their business - and they seemed to have fun doing it."

In time, apprehension of the gang became an obsession with Texas law enforcement officials. The public, on the other hand, wagered they would never be caught. The Newton boys, popular theory had it, were too cunning, their cars too fast. They spent weeks, sometimes months, planning each robbery, were careful to cut telephone and telegraph wires, used nitroglycerine to blow safes - methods that kept the law off-balance and unprepared. The raw money reportedly totaled nearly \$100,000.

There was often a dark comedy attached to their activities. One time they used a bit too much nitro and not only ripped the door off the vault but

also blew the entire front wall of the bank into the street.

Following the robbery of the Winters National Bank, word quickly reached nearby Ballinger that one of the Newtons had been killed in a shootout during their getaway. A sheriff's deputy had chased a member of the gang as far as the community of Buffalo Gap and shot him in a downtown gun battle. He quickly sent word back to the Runnels County seat that he had killed Jess Newton and was returning the body for all to see.

Later that day the body was placed on a slab on the courthouse lawn so that townspeople might be afforded a view of one of the region's most notorious robbers.

J.P. Clifton, a Ballinger resident who had grown up with the Newtons near Cross Plains, was summoned to identify the body.

Clifton, the son of a former Texas Ranger, was residing in a rest home back in the late '70s when I visited him to hear his recollection: "They came and got me and said they'd shot Jess and wanted me to come and officially identify him. We went down to the courthouse, where people were milling around everywhere. The fella they had shot was heavy set and bald. I told them right quick that it wasn't Jess Newton."

"Sometime before dark, Willis Newton came driving into town, big as life (there was no proof that he had been involved in the robbery, so he was safe from arrest), and went over and looked at the body. He told the sheriff that he thought the guy's name was Ingram but that he wasn't sure what his first name was."

"The sheriff asked Willis what he should do with the body and of Willis just looked down at it for a few seconds and then said, 'You can throw the SOB in the Colorado River for all I care.' And with that he left town."

Jess Newton, the man who had caused such a furor on that day in 1917, died of cancer in 1960.

Clifton was not among those who remembered the Newton boys kindly. They had grown up together in West Texas, and he'd had more than his share of run-ins with the brothers. "They wee meaner than hell," he recalled.

"We were at a dance one night, and I'd just bought me some new clothes at a store over in Cross Plains - a couple of pairs of pants and a new shirt. They were still bundled up and in the back of my buggy. The Newton boys came to the dance and later in the night stole my clothes and hid out in the brush with them until the next morning, when we got our guns and tracked them down."

Willis, who had already done prison time after he and Dock were convicted of stealing cotton from a local gin, was arrested and sentenced to two years for the theft of Clifton's new clothes.

In time, however, Willis and Dock matured to far more serious criminal behavior, luring their brother along.

During January 1921, they robbed the Hondo State Bank and the Hondo First National on the same Saturday night, making off with \$150,000. They hit the Citizen's Bank of Houston two days later in broad daylight for \$80,000.

In February - they routinely picked cold weather for their work since townspeople and the authorities were less inclined to brave the elements - they took \$150,000 from the First State Bank in Boerne and robbed the New Braunfels State Bank of \$115,000. The last Texas bank robbery credited to the brothers occurred in 1924 when they took \$24,000 from the San Marcos Bank and Trust.

The Newtons got around. There was the bank robbery in Spencer, Ind.; one in Deer Trail, Colo.; another in Moosomin, Saskatchewan; a mail-truck hijacking in a Chicago suburb; and the robbery of a bank clearing-house in Toronto.

Writes Stanush, "By their own accounting, they made off with more loot in a four-year period than Jesse and Frank James, the Dalton Boys, Butch Cassidy and all those other famous outlaw gangs put together."

After serving their respective sentences in Leavenworth, Kan., for the Illinois train robbery, the Newtons dropped from the criminal limelight, settling down on small farms in Texas and Oklahoma. Dock married, but soon his wife and land were both gone. He moved to Uvalde to exercise the boiler-maker trade he'd

learned in prison.

Willis stole back for another fling with the law in 1962 - 52 years after stealing the cotton that sent him to prison for the first time. At age 74, he was sentenced to a year in Oklahoma state prison for the kidnapping of a man who worked for him on his ranch near Tulsa. The hired hand, according to Willis' testimony, had stolen some jewelry from him; all he was doing was attempting to scare him into telling where it was hidden. The jury determined that chaining the man and forcing him to ride halfway across Oklahoma in the trunk of a car was a bit too severe.

By then Dock was collecting Social Security back home in Uvalde. He suffered from arthritis brought on by the numerous bullet wounds he'd endured during the 1924 train robbery. His heart was failing.

Joe, having divorced himself from his earlier ways, had become a well-respected rancher near Uvalde.

There would, however, be a nostalgic footnote to the Newton Gang's criminal career.

On the evening of March 5, 1968, 78-year-old Dock Newton found himself back in the country he'd known as a boy, taking his last look at the far-reaching West Texas plains, the scrubby mesquites, the windmills and endless rows of cotton fields he'd so long despised.

Late that night in the tiny community of Rowena, hometown of the infamous Bonnie Parker, Dock and his Uvalde friend, Robert Talley, entered the First National Bank, carrying with them two .38 caliber handguns and a .30-30 rifle.

Across the street, a man named Butch Lisso, a boyhood friend of famed Texas Ranger Frank Hammer - the man who tracked down Bonnie and Clyde - was startled from his sleep by the bank's alarm, which was located in the rear of his liquor store.

Lisso quickly summoned the sheriff from nearby Ballinger. After a brief gun battle had shattered the silence of the sleeping hamlet, Dock Newton was back in custody, along with his partner. A third party, whom Lisso thought he'd seen enter the front door of the bank, escaped.

Forty-four years after he had received his sentence for the now legendary Illinois train robbery while lying on a stretcher, Dock pled no contest to the Rowena charges in an out-of-the-way courtroom in Fort Stockton. He was sentenced to two years in prison.

I watched that day as a sad-faced, gray-haired man squinted into the sunlight as he was taken from the courtroom and walked toward a car waiting to return him to his jail cell. He moved in the shuffling gait of a tired old man.

There was time for but one question as he passed by. Why, I wanted to know, had he done it?

There was a faint smile as he pondered my question, then a shrug. "Who knows why anyone does anything?" he replied.

After spending eight months in a prison hospital, Dock Newton was released and entered a nursing home in Uvalde. He died in 1974 at age 83.

On a recent visit to Claude Stanush in San Antonio, I made no attempt to hide the envy I felt for his having had the opportunity to hear first-hand accounts of the Newton's exploits from Willis and Joe before their deaths. They had, the 79-year-old author explained, come to him in 1973, looking for someone who might help them tell their story.

"I'm not sure what I expected," Stanush says, "but neither of them looked like hardened criminals. Willis was dressed like an elderly businessman, wearing a suit and tie; Joe was dressed like the cowboy he'd always really been."

"What they wanted to do was set the record straight. While they acknowledged robbing a lot of banks in their day, they were credited with a number of crimes they didn't commit. And, according to Willis, the reported amounts of money they'd taken was often inflated by bank owners who, he felt, were just as crooked as he was."

"And while I found the stories of their bank-robbing days interesting, that wasn't what really attracted me to them. They seemed to have such a wonderful recall of history, of the climate of the times in which they had grown up. They were intelligent men who were fascinated by nature and the outdoors."

In time, he says, they became more than subjects of a book. They became his friends. They visited his home; he visited theirs. Stanush was at 90-year-old Willis' bedside when he died in 1979.

"The thing I remember about that night," he says, "was this fella who was a patient in a nearby bed telling me, 'You know, I really liked that old man.'"

So, obviously, did Stanush. Joe Newton, also a close friend, died in 1989 at age 88.

But before they were gone, Stanush taped hours of their reminiscences for the book he would write. He also teamed with Trinity University professor David Middleton to produce a film documentary of their lives. Shown at film festivals and on college campuses, it earned numerous awards.

And, he says, Willis and Joe seemed to enjoy the spotlight that shone on them in a kindlier fashion during their final years.

On one occasion, when the San Marcos State Bank was in the midst of an anniversary celebration, it had as its featured guests the two surviving members of the Newton Gang - which had robbed in back in 1924. "They answered questions and were treated like celebrities," Stanush says. "They thoroughly enjoyed themselves."

One can only imagine the promotional spice they could have added to the upcoming movie.

What, I wondered, became of all the money they had stolen?

"They spent it," Stanush says. "You've got to remember, they were just young kids back when they were riding high. They all liked to have a good time, dress well and drive new cars."

Nothing was put back for some eventual rainy day?

"Oh, maybe a little," the author says. And with that he was off on yet another Newton Boys story.

"Once when I was in Uvalde," he says, "I was introduced to (former Texas Gov.) Dolph Briscoe, who now owns the local bank. The meeting gave rise to another question I needed to ask Willis and Joe. I wanted to know why they had never robbed the bank in their hometown."

"It was Willis who answered what he clearly felt was a rather dumb question."

"Hell," he said, "we had to have some bank where we could keep the money we were robbing from the others."

## CANDIDATES

424 Fox Bond in Cross Plains.  
**Justice of the Peace Prec. #4**  
Rolan Jones, 56, who lists an address at P.O. Box 352 in Cross Plains.

Callahan County public offices up for election in the Democratic and Republican parties primary elections scheduled for March 10 include: county judge, county treasurer, county clerk, 42nd District Court clerk, commissioner precinct #2 (Eula and Oplin area) and commissioner precinct #4 (Cross Plains area). The justice of the peace offices in Clyde, Baird and Cross Plains are also up for election this year.

Candidate filing for both parties primary elections will conclude at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, January 2, 1998.

Candidate application filing for the Democratic Party's Primary Election will be held with Jon Hardwick of Baird, County Democratic Chairman. Filing for the Republican Party's Primary Election will be offered through David Holmes of Cross Plains, County Republican Chairman.

Filing fee for the justice of the peace office is \$300 and \$600 for all other county offices. There is no filing fee for county or precinct chair posts with either party.

A candidate's application for a place on the primary election ballots may be accompanied by a petition in lieu of the filing fee. For the county or precinct offices, a set number of signatures are required.

All candidates, except county or precinct chairs, are reminded that they must appoint a campaign treasurer. The necessary forms for this filing may be obtained from the county clerk's office in the Callahan County Courthouse in Baird.

## Medicare Costs Increase for 1998

The 1997 increases in the hospital costs payable by Medicare beneficiaries -- the Part A hospital insurance deductible and the Part B medical insurance premium -- were announced this month. The deductible and the premium are recalculated each year to reflect changes in the costs of health care or changes in Medicare law. The Part A deductible for beneficiaries admitted to hospitals in 1977 will be \$764, an increase of \$4 over this year's \$760. The monthly Part B premium will remain at \$43.80. These relatively modest increases for 1997 reflect increases in Medicare spending lower than previously projected.

The Part A deductible is a beneficiary's only cost for up to 60 days of covered inpatient hospital services during a benefit period. A benefit period begins when the beneficiary enters the hospital and ends when he or she has been out of the hospital or a skilled nursing facility for 60 consecutive days. The Part A

deductible is based on the rates that Medicare pays hospitals for inpatient care.

For hospital stays longer than 60 days, a beneficiary will be responsible for \$191 per day for the 61st through 90th days, and \$382 per day for the 91st through 150th days.

When a beneficiary needs therapeutic care in a skilled nursing facility after at least three consecutive days of inpatient hospital care, Medicare pays 100 percent of covered expenses for the first 20 days. The beneficiary is responsible for \$95.50 per day for the 21st through the 100th day.

Part B Medicare helps beneficiaries pay for the services of doctors and other medical practitioners, hospital outpatient services, independent clinical work and durable medical equipment and supplies. The premium is determined by a formula, set in law, to cover 25 percent of current estimated costs.

## GTE to expand local calling for customers in May

SAN ANGELO—GTE Telephone Operations will extend local calling for all customers in the May telephone service area, beginning January 8.

Under the plan, all calls from May to Blanket, Brownwood, Comanche and Lake Brownwood will be local calls. Calls from Blanket, Brownwood, Comanche and Lake Brownwood to May will also be local calls. "Prior to the start of Extended Local Calling, each call between these areas was billed separately as a long-distance call, and customers would see a long-distance charge per call on their monthly bills. Now, these calls are equivalent to local calls," said Bob Bates, Area Manager - Customer Operations, West Central district.

The implementation of this service may require modification to some telecommunications equipment such as fax machines, speed calling, PABXs, key system, automatic dialers and other equipment that may restrict or automatically dial long-distance numbers.

Customers are not required to take any action to take advantage of the new service offering. Once extended calling is operational, it will no longer be necessary for customers to dial "1+" before the number when placing calls between these communities. Since Brownwood, Blanket, Comanche and Lake Brownwood are in the 915 area code you must dial the area code and the seven digit number for ELC calls.

This is a result of balloting which took place in the May telephone service area under the rules of Sen-

ate Bill 632 and the Public Utility Commission Rule 23.49 (c). Under those guidelines, certain communities were allowed to petition for extended toll-free local calling to nearby communities.

With GTE's Expanded Local Calling Plan, the \$0.73 surcharge will be replaced with the following monthly charge: \$3.50 per line (residence); 7.00 per line (business). The charges will be listed as "EXPANDED LOCAL CALLING/SURCHARGE" in the tax portion of the telephone bill. More information will be provided to affected customers in their monthly telephone bill as the service becomes operational.

Residential customers with questions about the ELC service should call toll-free 1-800-483-4400, and business customers should call 1-800-483-5400.

With revenues of more than \$21 billion in 1996, GTE is one of the largest publicly held telecommunications companies in the world. In the United States, GTE offers local and wireless service in 29 states and long-distance service in all 50 states. GTE was the first among its peers to offer "one-stop shopping" for local, long distance and internet access services. Outside the United States, where GTE has operated for more than forty years, the company serves approximately 7 million customers. GTE is also a leader in government and defense communications systems and equipment, directories and telecommunications-based information services, and aircraft-passenger telecommunications.

PUBLIC FAX  
AT THE CROSS PLAINS REVIEW

### The School Burning Scandal or Christian Approach? Who recognizes mercy?

There is no question of the fact of the school's burning any more than there is a righteous demand for clear and significant punishment. We all agree.

Thus, the primary question is, will all juveniles and delinquent adults clearly contributing to this delinquency and destruction by the two minors who lit the matches be both recognized and fairly punished?

Secondly, are any in the Cross Plains community interested in pursuing an honest course of Biblical mercy ... for any earnestly asking?

Those committed to Matthew 6:33, please contact David Holmes: (254) 725-7141 POBox 117 Cross Plains 76443

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### CJC Spring Semester Registration Information

Cisco Junior College is making preparations to begin its 1998 Spring Semester Registration for night students and sophomores will be held on Monday night, January 12, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Harrell Fine Arts Building. Registration for all freshmen will be held Tuesday, January 13, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

All students who have not conferred with their advisor about their spring schedule of courses should do so prior to registration. First time entering freshman and transfer students should report to the Vocational-Technical I Building, Room 33, on Monday, January 12, at 9:00 a.m., for assignment of an advisor.

Freshman registration is assigned by the first letter of your last name. It is very important that you register at the assigned time.

M, Mc, N and O - 9 - 10 a.m.  
E, F, G and H - 10 - 11 a.m.  
P, Q, R and S - 11 - 12 noon  
T, U, V, W, X, Y and Z - 12 noon - 1 p.m.  
A, B, C and D - 1 - 2 p.m.  
I, J, K and L - 2 - 3 p.m.

First Class Day - Wednesday, January 14, 1998

Dormitories will open at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 11. The cafeteria

will open at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 11.

Registration for the Abilene Center is scheduled for January 7, 8 and 9, 1998. On Wednesday, January 7 and Thursday, January 8, registration will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. On Friday, January 9, registration will be from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Beginning Monday, December 1, students may come to the Administrative Offices at the Abilene Educational Center during office hours and pick up a registration permit for Spring 1998 Registration. This permit will allow the student to register for Spring 1998 classes at a pre-set time during regular registration. You will not be allowed to register without a permit. Permits are issued on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The Abilene Educational Center is located at 841 North Judge Ely Blvd. in Abilene.

Classes will begin January 14, at all locations, but late registration will continue through January 21, during regular office hours.

For more information, call Cisco at (254) 442-2567 or Abilene at (915) 673-4567. Offices will close December 19 and re-open on January 5.

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### The Cross Plains Review

Will Be Published on

Wednesday, December 24

Due to Christmas Holidays

All Articles and Ads Must Be

Turned in By Noon Monday.

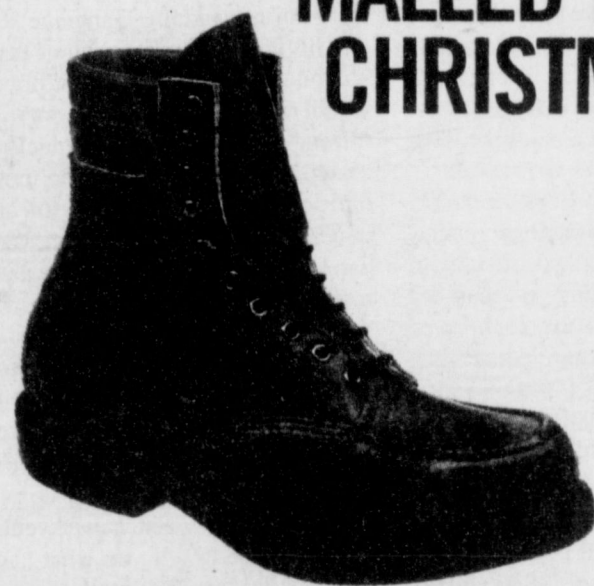
The Paper will Be Printed Monday.

The Cross Plains Review Will Be

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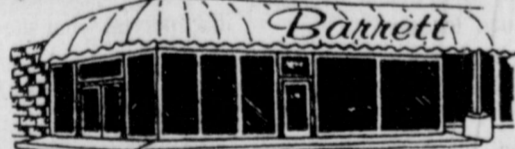
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**CARD OF THANKS**

**Card Of Thanks**  
We wish to thank all our friends and neighbors who have been so responsive during our great sorrow caused by the passing of our loved one, Jack DeBusk. Words are inadequate to convey the deep feeling of affection and eternal gratitude that we feel toward the loyal friends and neighbors who have been so responsive. A special thanks to Dick and Sharon Koenig. Dr. Richard Chaffin and Jack Scott led a service that our loved one would have appreciated. The singing by Karen and Stacy Pena and the organ music by Betty Lewis was beautiful. The flowers were special and Bob Harrell performed a skilled service. Genuine thanks go to the Cross Plains Methodist Church for the bountiful meal served our family, relatives and friends. We will remain forever grateful to all who rendered special tributes to a person whom we loved so much.

Lois Garrett  
Pat & Suanna DeBusk  
Andrew and Cathy DeBusk  
Mark and Amy Gillespie and Kinspeople

**Card Of Thanks**  
I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Cross Plains EMS for their prompt arrival and assistance following my mowing accident. Eddie Albrecht was the first to respond and his help was greatly appreciated. "Thank you" to my wonderful neighbors who came to my home and cleaned and to Mr. E.W. Meador for cleaning my carpet. Everyone was so thoughtful and I treasure your friendship.

Pat Bush

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**FOR HER**—Wranglers, Rocky Mountain Jeans, shirts, skirts, lingerie, dresses, vests, belts, handbags, etc. **FREE GIFT WRAP, Johnson's Dry Goods, Cross Plains (254) 725-6211.** 37-1tc-T

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\* **NEW LISTING**—nice 2 bdr. house on East 14th, near school.

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# The Case of the Dancing Cowboy

By JOHN R. ERICKSON

(In the previous chapter, Hank the Cowdog chases after a mouse at the house where Slim,

the ranch hand, lives but has no luck catching it. Slim gives Hank a can of sardines, as promised. Only Hank's luck turns a little bad because the sardines turn out to have turned bad themselves. But Hank wolfs down the slightly spoiled sardines. After his meal, there is a knock on the door.)

I told you you'd never guess who it was.

You guessed Loper, right? Not even close. See, it was a woman's voice, therefore the person was a ... well, a woman, of course.

So your next guess was Sally May, right? Wrong again. Sally May was a woman, all right, but not the one at the door.

Give up?

OK. The voice at the door belonged to a woman, and the woman just happened to be one of my all-time true loves. No, not Beulah or Miss Camper or Miss Coyote, the lovely princess, or ...

By George, that's a pretty impressive list, isn't it? You bet it is, and without seeming to brag or boast, I could say that the list goes on and on.

It was Miss Viola, my lady friend ... OK, Slim's and my lady friend who lived down the creek several miles - the very lady about who or whom we had been discussing that very day.

Quite a coincidence, huh? She liked dogs, but the dog in particular she liked the most was me. I mean, here was a lady who would smile when she saw me, and she would call me over and scratch me behind the ears and pull stickers out of my coat and let me stay inside the house and sleep at her feet.

Yes, she was my kind of lady and here she was, standing at the door of Slim's house. I went straight to her, gave her a big cowdog smile, and accepted a nice scratch behind the ears.

"Well, hello, Hank. Is Slim around?" Yes, but he was busy cleaning up garbage off the kitchen floor and we didn't need him hanging around and trying to steal the attention from my lady friend, so, uh, it would be OK with me if ...

Rats. He heard her voice and come into the living room, wiping his hands on his jeans. I gave him a dark scowl but he didn't seem to notice.

"Well, I'll be darned. Morning, Viola, won't you come in and sit?"

She continued to stand in the door, clutching her handbag in both hands. "Well, I didn't want to bother you."

"You ain't, believe me. Will you have a cup of coffee?"

"Oh ... well, I really shouldn't, but if it's already made ..."

"Yes, it's made. It's been made for three years. Here, sit yourself down."

He pointed to the big rocking chair beside the woodstove, but before she could sit, he had to clear out a saddle and a pair of chaps.

In the letter advising Cross Plains of the TDHCA's determination of violations it states that the city's application for money to replace the 700 Chestnut home states the home is beyond repair. The contractor was said to have testified that the house was too dangerous and unstable a place in which to work.

McKethan said, "We tried to fix the house, but couldn't get any contractors to guarantee their work on the structure." "I still believe the house is unsafe, but they (the Parkers) may be able to do some work and get it in shape to pass building codes in the future," said McKethan, "but at the time they needed a place to live."

As it stands now the City of Cross Plains will probably discuss the matter at their January 6th regular meeting, because to schedule an earlier meeting would have to be during the Christmas Holidays. The follow-up letter from the TDHCA hadn't been received by City Hall as of quitting time Monday.

She sat down on the edge of the chair and continued to hold her handbag, as though she might run away at any moment. She seemed a bit uneasy about being there. Maybe it was the clutter of the place that made her uncomfortable.

While Slim was banging around in the kitchen, I noticed her eyes moving around the house. She saw the trail of dirty socks leading to the back bedroom. She saw the two holes in the sheetrock, the pile of livestock papers on the floor, and the dead flies on the window sill, and the empty Vienna sausage cans scattered around the room.

I happened to be watching her when she peeked into a coffee cup that was sitting on the table. Her eyes widened when she saw that the coffee was covered with a skim of white mold.

I was embarrassed. I mean, Slim was a terrible housekeeper and a lady of her quality had no business wasting her time with him. But me, on the other hand ...

Burp. Miss Viola wrinkled her nose. "Hank, have you been eating ... sardines?"

Who me? Oh no, not me. I, uh, never ate such things, or very seldom. In other words, Slim's house always smelled of sardines.

I slid my head onto her lap and looked up at her with eyes full of adoration.

She reached out a soft rose-petal hand and began scratching me behind the ears.

Ah, sweet and lovely lady. By George, if Slim was too thick-headed to take this fine lady to the dance, I just might do it myself.

He came out of the kitchen with a cup of coffee in each hand. He gave her a cup. "You want anything in your coffee?"

"Oh, if the cream and sugar is handy ..."

"Sure, you bet. Sit right there." He trotted back into the kitchen. "Viola, do you mind if there's a few ants in your sugar?"

"No ants, thank you. Cream will be fine."

The ice box door opened and shut. Then we heard Slim say, "I don't know how long this milk's been in here."

"Oh, don't bother. I usually take my coffee black anyway."

He brought the carton out and set it on the coffee table. Then he flopped down in the chair across from Viola. She studied the date stamped on the top of the milk carton and I saw her left eyebrow jump, ever so slightly.

I wondered what she had seen.

Next Week: Slim Serves Her Green Bean Juice

This is Chapter 6 from "The Case of the Dancing Cowboy," a previously unpublished book by John R. Erickson, a Texas rancher. Erickson, who has written 27 Hank the Cowdog books for Gulf Publishing, is giving this 11-chapter book to newspapers across the nation to encourage children and others to read.

## WTU offers holiday lighting tips

Holiday lighting with its twinkle and color, adds much to festivities this time of year. To keep your holidays merry and bright, decorate with safety in mind.

"Stringing lights is a fun activity for families," says Paul Valdez, safety consultant for West Texas Utilities Company. "Whether it's along the roof or on a tree, special lighting displays to help welcome in the season. But people need to string lights carefully and avoid electrical hazards."

WTU offers the following tips for safe lighting:

**Outdoors**  
\* Use only lights approved for outdoor use with a "UL-approved" label. They are safety tested by Underwriters Laboratories

\* Check strings and extension cords for damage. Light strings and extension cords can crack and fray. Check all strings, sockets and cords for damage before you plug in your lights. Discard any frayed or damaged items you find. Be sure extension cords are capable of carrying the electrical load you are connecting. Each extension cord carries a rating which indicates its maximum load.

\* Cover connections with plastic wrap and seal with electrical tape and use rubber gaskets in sockets to keep water out. For added protection, hang lights downward from the house or tree.

\* Use insulated staples to attach wires to wood surfaces. Do not staple, tack or nail through wiring insulation or the conductor. Brass cup hooks are most convenient to

use around the eaves of your house.

\* When using a ladder to string lights, always make sure it is clear of any overhead electrical lines. These lines can cause serious injury if you or your equipment should come in contact with them.

\* When working with outdoor lights, make sure your power is off. It is best to control outdoor lighting with a separate circuit breaker.

**Indoor**  
\* Use only lights approved by Underwriters Laboratories. They will have a UL tag attached.

\* Check all light strings for cracked insulation, frayed cords, wires, or faulty plugs. Replace any damaged strings with "UL approved" lights.

\* Check and replace damaged extension cords.

\* When stringing lights, make sure the power is off.

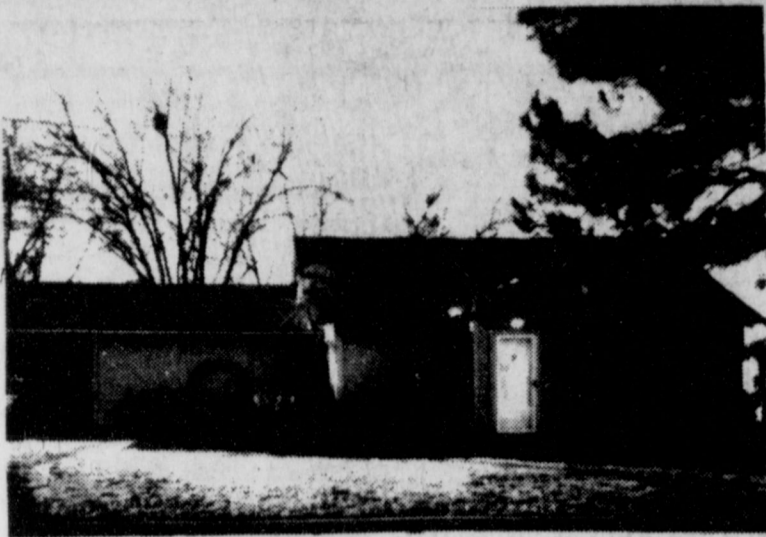
\* Don't overload wall sockets. Use a separate circuit if possible or a wall socket that is on a switch by itself.

\* Always unplug lights when the tree or house is unattended.

\* It is best that extension cords not be used, but, if necessary, place extension cords so they won't cause people to trip. Do not run them under rugs or carpets. Be sure to use only the length of extension cord needed and one capable of carrying the load connected to it.

\* Water the tree frequently to prevent bulbs from scorching pine needles.

\* Don't place hot bulbs inside a container or too near cloth, paper or other flammable ornaments.



2ND PLACE HOME — Mrs. A.J. McCuin



3RD PLACE HOME — Hoyt Foster Family

**PUBLIC FAX AT THE CROSS PLAINS REVIEW FAX # 1-254-725-7225**

## CITY

(Writers Note: the previous three paragraphs were accidentally deleted from the article in the December 11th Cross Plains Review during editing and printing.)

Mae Parker, owner of the homes in question, said she has yet to receive any notification from the state or the city concerning the matter.

"We had already bought the roofing and siding and originally applied for funds for labor to install roofing and siding that we had already bought," said Parker. "Buz (of the TMS Group) said the bids they got for repairs, even with the materials already purchased, were higher than a new house would cost." "Buz said that they were just not allowed to spend that much money on repairing an old house," Parker said, "I told him I really didn't want a new house, I wanted my old house fixed."

"I asked if I would have to tear the old house down and Buz said he checked into it and told me it wouldn't have to be demolished," said Parker. "My son just wanted a room of his own; after graduating from high school, is the reason he moved into the old house."

"I've got a freezer in the old house that I don't have room for in my house," Parker said, "but if we have to cut the utilities off and board the

house up, we're ready to do that." We'll work with the city any way we need to said Parker.

"I asked if this was all right (that Debbie was my sister), at a meeting with Buz, before we started and they said yes, we send in waivers and all this," said Parker, "and then they didn't."

"This house, previously owned by Dr. Robinson, has been my dream house since I was a little girl," said Parker, "and I want to restore it someday so it will be something that Cross Plains will be proud of."

In the December 11th article in the Cross Plains Review there were published conflicting views as to the demolition of replaced structures being in the State guidelines, actually all three parties seemed to be correct.

Jones and McKethan were referring to specific local guidelines developed for the Cross Plains area and Rhode was making reference to a broader state-wide guidelines. This, having two sets of guidelines, seems to be the source of a lot of the confusion on the Cross Plains grant.

McKethan, who worked for the TDHCA under former Governor Clements, said, "I'm sure there were probably some mistakes made during the project by us (the TMS Group), the city and the state." "The thing about it is there wasn't anything fraudulent or misrepresented or anything else during any of the grant dealings, by anyone," said McKethan.

Rhode repeatedly said the state's contract is with the City of Cross Plains and, even if they hired someone to administer the grant, the city is still the one responsible for compliance.

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Weldon McCorkle  
Melissa Parrish  
Max Watson  
Dwayne Wilson  
Don Gardner  
Mrs. Betty Jones  
Mrs. Joe Coppinger  
Greg McNitt  
David Reed  
Betty Mitcham

## DECEMBER 20

Robert Ray Simons  
Don Penn  
William Reynolds  
Bonnie Sheppard  
James Lawrence  
Rocky Champion  
Ted Don Archer  
Peggy Lee  
Becky (Hicks) Lockyer  
Patricia (Meador) Hopkins  
Hannah Chambers

## DECEMBER 21

Allen Woody  
Jackie Monsey  
Cranz (Skipper) Nichols, Jr.  
Jimmy Crawford  
Eddie Hedrick  
Beth Meador  
Tommy Phillips, Jr.  
Riley Allan

## DECEMBER 22

James Illingworth  
Peter Perry  
Cody Joe Slinger  
Mrs. B. Crow  
Gary D. Gilland  
James Goble  
Jerry Walker  
Thurman Furry  
Lindsey Meiron

To have someone added or deleted from the Birthday List call the *Cross Plains Review* at (254) 725-6111 or write to P.O. Box 519, Cross Plains, TX 76443.

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Janet Rister  
Weston Jones  
Cliff Waddell III  
Kenneth Sowell  
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Barbara (Purvis) Batton  
Lauretta Johnson  
Tommie Neff  
Star (Dodds) Burleson  
Mrs. Bertha Hoyt  
Lawana Freeman  
Ida Whitney  
Brian Haun  
Vanessa (Taff) Mathison  
Sheila McPherson  
Loura Johnson  
Kay Dennis Mosley

## DECEMBER 24

Tonya Steele  
Courtney Taylor  
Dena Jo Nickerson  
Mrs. E. B. Webb  
Justin Richey  
Mike Moore  
Frankie (Letney) Neeb  
Christy (Dewbre) Fox  
Judy Steele  
Patricia Webb  
Getrude McIntosh  
D. P. McCorkle  
Carol (Foster) Bectold  
Ethel Eastham  
Mrs. Emma Morgan  
Jim Alexander  
Lacy J. Koenig  
Christy Driskill  
Brandi Hutton  
Rita Falkner  
Theresa Adams  
James Conor Sweetman

## DECEMBER 25

Leanne Gibson  
Jimmy Van Story  
Mrs. Jack Rector  
Donald Stover  
Mrs. R. L. Moon  
Leslie Reed  
Karin Sabaitis  
Wesley Webb  
Brent Hutchins  
Blanche Thrasher  
Charlotte (Brown) Biggs  
Roger Crawford  
Joseph Jackson  
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## \$5,000 Social Security Settlement Possible for Notch Victims

New legislation has been introduced in Congress that would give Notch victims, a group of senior citizens born 1917 through 1926, the option of receiving \$5,000 in lump-sum payments. This new initiative, "The Notch Fairness Act," H.R. 3008, introduced by Representative Mark Neumann (R-1-WI), was actively lobbied for by TREA Senior Citizens League (TSCL). TSCL has long sought a legislative proposal that addresses the Notch problem with the type of cost-capped solution that is in "The Notch Fairness Act." Representative Neumann's bill calls for affected persons aged 71- to 80, or their surviving beneficiaries, to choose between lump-sum payments over four years (\$1,250 per year) totaling \$5,000 or an improved benefit computation formula, which would increase their monthly Social Security benefits for a five-year period ending in 2002. Currently, this group of senior citizens receive up to an estimated \$1,000 a year less in their Social Security benefits.

After years of failed Notch bills, H.R. 3008 is the first Notch reform legislation that would provide the option of lump-sum payments. This new, innovative concept has the support of many senior citizens. In a survey conducted earlier this year by

TSCL, 83 percent of their members believed that the lump-sum settlement proposal was an acceptable solution to finally correcting the Notch injustice.

The Notch problem was created with the passage of the 1977 Social Security Amendments. At that time, the Social Security Trust Fund faced exhaustion by 1983. The amendments corrected an earlier cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) formula which adjusted benefits too quickly. The underpayment was caused by the combined effects of a flawed Social Security benefit formula and runaway inflation which followed the passage of the Social Security Amendments of 1977.

This is illustrated in the following tables by James Kelley, Former Staff Director, Subcommittee on Social Security, House Ways and Means Committee and Joseph R. Humphreys, Former Professional Staff Member, Senate Finance Committee. The table on the following page illustrates what Congressional projections for the new law transition formula would have been if this example had been developed in 1977. The chart on the right illustrates what actually occurred after the impact of inflation.

### Old vs. New Law — Monthly Benefit Differentials for Worker With Average Earnings Retiring at Age 65

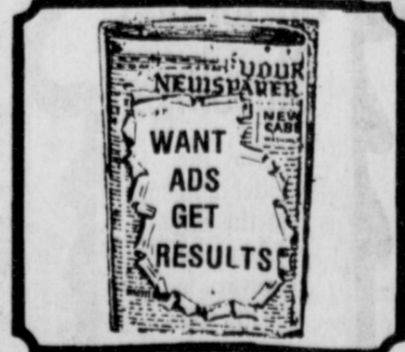
Year	Under 1977 projections				Under actual conditions			
	Birth year	Old law	New law	Difference in % dollars	Old law	New law	Difference in % dollars	
1917	\$492	\$443	-10%	-\$50	\$614	\$535	-13%	-\$79
1918	\$530	\$460	-13%	-\$70	\$682	\$553	-19%	-\$129
1919	\$569	\$489	-14%	-\$79	\$733	\$542	-26%	-\$191
1920	\$605	\$522	-14%	-\$83	\$775	\$548	-29%	-\$227
1921	\$642	\$554	-14%	-\$88	\$816	\$578	-29%	-\$240
1922	\$681	\$587	-14%	-\$94	\$841	\$593	-29%	-\$248
1923	\$721	\$620	-14%	-\$101	\$894	\$626	-30%	-\$268
1924	\$763	\$655	-14%	-\$108	\$943	\$668	-29%	-\$275
1925	\$807	\$693	-14%	-\$114	\$1004	\$720	-28%	-\$284
1926	\$853	\$733	-14%	-\$120	\$1075	\$751	-30%	-\$324

Rather than getting an adjusted monthly benefit which would have been no more than 14 percent less under the new law than under the old law, Notch victims took it on the chin. Benefit cuts were up 30 percent. This was not just a one time cut; Notch victims received lowered benefits every month from the day they retired.

Notch reform legislation, after coming close to achieving passage in 1992, has been pushed to the backburner by Congress as heated budget battles were waged over Medicare, Medicaid and correcting Consumer Price Index (CPI). While Congress and other senior advocacy groups focused their efforts on these important issues, TSCL persisted in pushing the Notch reform issue as well.

The proposal calls for the cost, an estimated \$60 billion, to be financed by clamping down on wasteful government spending and porkbarrel projects.

For more information about "The Notch Fairness Act," H.R. 3008, and how to help win passage of this legislation, send a self-addressed business-sized envelop and \$1.00 for shipping and handling to: TREA Senior Citizens League, Dept. SF712, 909 N. Washington St., #301, Alexandria, VA 22314.



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### Bright - Lee Engagement Announced

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen E. Bright would like to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Rebecca Kay to Robert Eugene Lee, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence H. Lee of Pioneer. The couple plan to wed December 26, 1997, at 2:00 p.m., at 606 Calhoun in Rockdale. All friends of the family are invited to attend.

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