





## Ask the Historical Society

by Jo-Ann E. Palmer,  
Secretary  
Sutton County Historical  
Society

**Note:** The Sutton County Historical Offices are located at 307 Oak St, Sonora, TX, and open Monday, Tuesday mornings and Friday; our telephone number is 387-5084.

**Q.** Do you have any information on the Mayfields?

A. Wilma Friend wrote the following story for "Sutton County History 1887 - 1977." J. W. "Jess" Mayfield was born to Mr. and Mrs. John Andrew Mayfield I, in 1857, in Janes Chapel, a small community near Valley Mills, and Clifton, Texas, in Bosque Co. John Andrew was the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Mayfield who settled in Denton Co. in 1851. The early Mayfield family came from Kentucky and only went back there for visits. Jess Mayfield was raised in Bosque Co. and later leased land there near Hamilton, Texas on which he raised horses and mules and began his horse trading career. He married Ellen Louis in June, 1876, and to this union, one son was born, Louis Mayfield. After the death of Ellen Louis, Jess Mayfield married Nancy Roena Wallace, May 15, 1882. To this union, one son was born, Ed. C. Mayfield, on September 28, 1884, also in Bosque Co (married Zena Wheat (1884-1978) on 12-30-1909, died 12-3-1959). Then, in 1887, Jess and Rena Mayfield with their son, Ed, came to Fort McKavett. There he sold horses and mules to the Cavalry. A year later, the family moved to the Sonora area and settled at Lost Lake east of Sonora. A few years later the family moved to Sonora and owned the Mercantile Store but continued to operate their ranching business. Jess Mayfield passed away in 1932.

Nancy Roena Mayfield, known to Sonorans as Rena, was born in Bell Co. in 1863, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Wallace. Her father was serving in the Civil War at the time and Rena was born at the home of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Ike and Nancy Ann Casey. They returned to Bosque Co. when the war was over to find all their cattle and livestock gone. They operated land a few miles south of Norse, Texas. Her family settled in this community in 1857. She grew up with two brothers, Joe Wallace and Rufus Wallace and Sudie, Lucy and Beulah. Sudie married W. B. Keese in February 1892. They lived near Hurst Springs before coming to Sonora. Lucy married Ed Grimland who operated the Sonora Mercantile. Beulah came to Sonora to visit and later married Curtis Allison, December 29, 1908. They had one son, George Edward

Allison. Beulah Allison passed away August 5, 1910. George Edward who was nine months old at the time of his mother's death, made his home with Rena and Jess Mayfield. Rufus Wallace later worked for Jess and lived in a dugout on the open range. Later, he returned to Clifton, married and had a daughter, Willie Mae. Joe Wallace also came to Sonora but moved to Rocksprings and married Mattie Fleisher but returned to Hamilton to make their home. Rena had another brother, Tom, who worked on the railroad. Rena Mayfield passed away in 1950. She gave a home to so many that it was called "The House by the Side of the Road."

In a previous column we had written the following on Fountain and John C. Mayfield: John Andrew Mayfield (1855-1911) married Mary Elizabeth Jane Simmie Odle and they were the parents of three boys and six girls, all born in Valley Mills, Bosque Co., Texas. Valley Mills was John Andrew Mayfield's home base of operation but he also had land in Sutton Co. area and in order to teach the ranching business and help him, he would bring the children with him each summer to this area. When John Carter and Fountain Tolbert were 9 and 10 years old he would send them with herds of horses he had raised, along with several hands to Sutton Co. They boys would later move to the Sutton Co. ranch, which they operated for several years before moving to Val Verde Co. Cart bought land 5 miles south of Juno in 1905 and Fount bought 22 sections on the Pandale Rd. in 1910. They were among the earliest ranchers to use wire net fencing, constantly upgrading their properties and tried to provide for future generations by using early day conversations measures.

Fountain Tolbert Mayfield was born on January 12, 1877 in Bosque Co., TX. He married Beulah Mae Bruton/Brewton on September 24, 1903. They had a son, John Thomas Mayfield, in 1905. Beulah Mae was born November 9, 1844 and died Tuesday, April 7, 1908 at 2:05PM. She was buried in the Sonora Cemetery on April 8, 1908 with her unnamed baby. Fountain (Fount) Mayfield died in Del Rio on June 5, 1948 and is buried in the Sonora Cemetery. John Thomas married Marion Brauer and they had the following children: John Thomas, Jr., Marion Katherine, Louis Font and Ellen Anne.

John Carter (Cart) Mayfield was born in Bosque Co., TX on October 20, 1878. He married Sue Peters (10-29-1879-7-14-1944) in 1900 in Valley Mills. They had two children, John Carter (Jake) Mayfield (1884-1994) was married to Mary Savannah Fort on March 24,



Last week's gentlemen have been identified as John Paul Friess, Tom Glasscock and Mark Jacoby. Can anyone tell us who these ladies are?

1942 and Mary Irene Mayfield who married J. O. Taylor, Jr. in 1935. John Carter, Sue and Jake Mayfield are buried in the Mayfield Cemetery south of Juno that was constructed by Ramon Guerro Cantu in 1984 and dedicated on Thanksgiving of 1984 by Bro. John Cash, Baptist Minister, under the direction of the late Jake Mayfield. Jake and Mary Savannah had 4 children, John Carter III, William Travis, Grace Irene and Robert Scott. J. O. Taylor, Jr. and Mary Irene had 2 sons, J. O. III and John Edward.

If we tried to list all the descendants of J. A. Mayfield and give stories of their lives we would need to write a book on the family instead of just this little column. If you need more information stop by the Sutton County Historical Society offices at 307 Oak Street, the rock house right next to the Miers Home Museum or contact the Bosque County Historical

Society. The Sutton County Historical Society offices are open Monday, Tuesday morning and Fridays.

If you have any questions concerning Sutton Co. history, send them to "Ask the Historical Society," P.O. Box 885, Sonora, TX 76950-0885 or e-mail them to schs@sonorax.net. You can stop by the offices at 307 Oak St. when we are open or give me a call during office hours at 387-5084. You may also call me at home on days off at 387-2855 on other days. Items you wish to donate should be left at Al Elliott's office if the society offices are closed or with Jo-Ann Palmer. No one but officers are authorized to accept donations for the society. So please, only give items you wish to donate or monetary donations to Eddie Sawyer, Kelly Owen, Al Elliott or Jo-Ann Palmer. We are all listed in the phone book, but Jo-Ann or Al are usually the easiest to find as we live in town.

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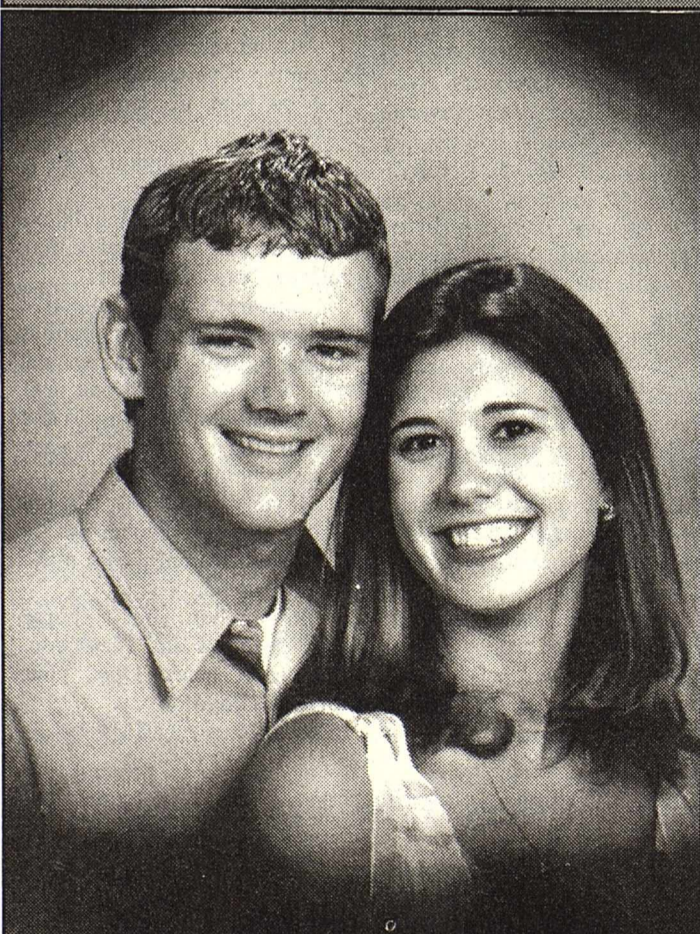
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## Engagement



**Levi Pool and Christy O'Mealey**

Mr. Ronnie O'Mealey and Mr. and Mrs. Stan Hubbard are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Christy O'Mealey to Levi Pool, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Pool. Christy graduated from Medina Valley High School in 1998 and received her Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science from Texas A&M University in 2002. She is currently working at Alamo City Eye Physicians in San Antonio while preparing to pursue her masters in Physician Assistant Studies in the fall. Levi graduated from Sonora High School in 1996 and earned his Bachelor of Science in Agbusiness from Texas A&M University in 2001. He is currently working for American Sales and Service, Inc. in San Antonio. The couple will be married on April 12, 2003 in Dewees, Texas.

**TEXAS TALES TOLD BY**  
**TUMBLEWEED SMITH**  
Wheelchair Balladier  
Knows His Place  
Tumbleweed Smith

Dr. Marian Mustoe teaches geography at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin in Odessa. He was intrigued recently by a National Geographic study that revealed eleven percent of Americans, Canadians and British residents between the ages of 18 and 24 couldn't find their own country on a map. Twenty-four percent of that populace couldn't find Iraq. "Geography is not just the study of maps, where students learn the names of towns or countries for tests, then forget them after the course. There has to be something of significance before the location means something," says Dr. Mustoe. "It was that way in Grenada. Once the war started, people began to notice it." He is a native of Washington state and grew up with an appreciation of music. He plays the musical saw, guitar, flute and harmonica. He sometimes entertains his students. "For me it's always been a blessing to be able to sit down and play the guitar. It releases my inner energy. It's kind of a tradition with me to sing a few songs to lighten everybody up at the beginning of a semester. Ever since I've taught I've always played my guitar and sat around and sung songs." He incorporates sounds and voices in his teaching. "It's because I like to play with recorders. I just enjoy that. I can record chickens in West Texas and record chickens in Maine and there's a difference. And when you quote somebody, you normally read it right from the book. But sometimes I like to change my voice a little bit and record it like it was

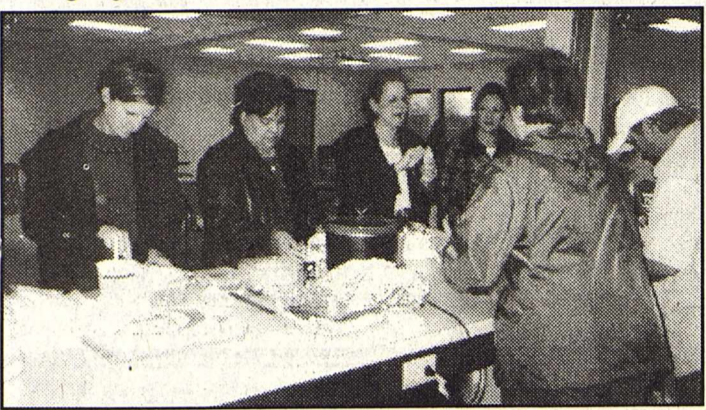
Christopher Columbus or somebody like that. Then I play the recording of that person and it's interesting how students are not listening to me any longer, they're listening to the person on the recording." Marian writes folk songs. Some are on the radio and have won awards. "My big hits have been songs about frogs and stuff like that. I had a song called WOODEN FROG FOR CHRISTMAS which is actually played a lot around the world." One of his songs is called BUZZARDS OF STEEL. "It's a song about people who live in West Texas and work in the oil industry. And the buzzard is this thing going up and down, right?" The words go something like this: "Was out in West Texas where the buzzards are steel. Deep in the ground they find their next meal. And the working man prays those buzzards won't starve. 'Cause as long as they're drinking, you're driving your car." Marian has a PhD from Texas A & M University. While he was just getting started in his doctoral work, he developed Multiple Sclerosis and gradually lost the use of his legs. "It was quite a blow. My wife left me and I became a single parent. I lost everything in a flood and all sorts of things happened. If you look at it one way, I guess I got a lot of material for sad songs." Today he is taking medicine to slow down the deterioration. "I can walk like a drunk with a cane or a walker. I spend most of my daylight hours in my wheel chair. But it's fast chair. I don't miss much." Marian is one tough cookie. With his kids, his students and his wife Kathy he finds plenty to sing about.







# Relay For Life Enthusiasts Enjoy Baked Potato Lunch



American Cancer Society Relay for Life team captains and community members interested in finding out more about the event enjoyed Baked Potatoes with all the trimmings on Friday. The Relay for Life Kick-Off Lunch, hosted by the Relay Committee, provided valuable information for the 2003 "Storybook" Relay for Life. Team captain packets and sponsorship packages were passed out and questions were answered. If you missed the kick-off you missed some great spuds, but you didn't miss your chance to be a part of this community celebration and fund-raiser. Don't miss out, help us make this one for the books... "where everyone lived happily ever after...cancer free".

# Ports-to-Plains from page 1

(Extends 4-lane divided hwy. From intersection of SH 158 and US 87 west along SH 158 for approx. 5 miles. First part of 4-lane divided to Midland area) - \$844,475; Lamesa Reliever Route - Engineering (will provide engineering \$ and EIS money for the Lamesa Bypass) - \$844,475; West Laredo Multimodal Corridor - Various - \$3,477,250; Wiley Junction, CO Imp. to US 287 - Reconstruction (This is for reconstruction to Super-Duper 2-lane of a portion of a 12 mile segment North of Wiley Junction. Very important link between already improved sections) - \$2,980,500; U.S. 287 Corridor in Oklahoma - Engineering (This will be for engineering of a segment of US 287 through Oklahoma. My guess is it will be used on the Southern section from Texas border to Boise City, OK) - \$1,490,250; Corridor Management Plan - Planning -

\$1,987,000 for a TOTAL of \$11,623,950 in 2003. "As you can see these projects are well distributed all along the Corridor and are key pieces to the Ports-to-Plains puzzle", said Neugebauer. The Coalition will be focusing their efforts on the reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (Current Transportation Law for America) in hopes of including major policy changes that will benefit the Corridor. Also, during the reauthorization the Coalition will attempt to garner additional funding for other parts of the corridor. For more information about the Ports-to-Plains initiative contact: Randy Neugebauer, Ports-to-Plains Chairman at 798-0098 or Tommy Gonzalez, Ports-to-Plains Federal Relations Advisor at 775-2016.

# City Council from page 1

The Sonora Industrial Development Corporation quarterly financial report was approved. Justin McGeath, SIDC Manager, requested the council to consider expending \$25,000.00 of 4B sales tax for infrastructure improvements to the Medical Clinic. He explained that the hospital is making plans for renovations and an addition to the Sonora Medical Clinic. Justin reported that two jobs would be created, a full time physician's assistant and a full time nurse. Blackman made a motion to call for a public hearing on March 18, 2003 to hear comments on using the 4B sales tax funds for the hospital project. Poloccek made the second and the motion carried. Justin then requested the council to consider expending \$12,000.00 of 4B sales to assist B&H Catering in purchasing new equipment to expand their existing catering business. He explained that the three new service jobs would be created. Poloccek made a motion to call for a 2nd public hearing on March 18, 2003 to hear comments on using the 4B sales tax funds for B&H Catering project. With a second by Lopez, the motion carried. Mike Healy, representing the Sonora Golf Club, informed the council that the club was replacing the fence on the course on Highway 277, trimming and grubbing the trees on the fence line, and an over all cleanup. Judge Garner informed the council on how the re-organization of the Public Transportation Program (Trax Van) that Sutton County took over in January was working out and presented a detailed salary expense report. A motion was made by Blackman to approve an inter-local contract with Sutton County to support in funding a portion of the salaries and benefits of the drivers and authorize the City Attorney to prepare an agreement. Mearns made a second to the motion and the motion carried unanimously. J.J. King, Attorney, and Mark Maples, Area Manager, with West Texas Gas, Inc. requested renewal of a franchise agreement to use the city's streets, alleys, highways, easements, parks, thoroughfares or other public ways or grounds. He explained that the contract expires on March 15, 2003. After deliberations, the council asked that the contract be for a five-year term and payments be made on a quarterly basis. With those corrections needing to be made, Mr. King advised that

they would make the revisions requested to the contract and extend the expiration date of the contract to the Regular City Council meeting to be held on March 18, 2003. Pastor Don Longoria from Lighthouse Baptist Church requested a variance for utility services (a one inch water tap) to property the church has acquired at 1705 N. Crockett (the old Ritz Theatre) that is outside the corporate limits of the city. He explained they contemplated annexation, however, Mr. Bloodworth retained a 30-foot strip of land to be used for a private road between the property and did not desire it to be annexed. Poloccek made a motion to approve the utility services since the city had made infrastructure improvements in front of that property and water service was readily available. Mearns made the second and the motion carried. Chief House made a presentation concerning the annual report on racial profiling as mandated by Senate Bill 1074. Poloccek made a motion to approve a bid from Crenwelge Motors in Kerrville for \$18,452.75 for a Dodge Intrepid Police Vehicle. The motion was seconded by Lopez and the motion carried. Upon a motion made by Poloccek and a second by Blackman, a Resolution was approved expressing continuing and strong support for Texas Tech University - Hill Country and its request for appropriations in the Texas Legislature for fiscal years 2004 and 2005. Upon a motion made by Blackman and a second by Poloccek, an election is ordered to be held on May 3, 2003 for the purpose of electing a Councilmember from Ward 1 and Councilmember from Ward 2. Poloccek then made a motion, with a second by Blackman, and approval was given to increase the competitive sealed bidding or competitive sealed proposal limit to expenditures of more than \$25,000.00, the maximum amount according to law a municipality may expend without being subject to competitive bidding and proposal requirements. Job descriptions for a Wastewater Superintendent and a Groundwater Superintendent were approved after a motion by Poloccek, seconded by Lopez. The meeting was adjourned after a video presentation on Water Well No. 1 at City hall was given by Brent Gesch, City Manager.

# Exercise from page 5

time, reducing the length of time that the bowel lining is exposed to potentially cancer-causing compounds. Cancers linked to overweight or obesity include cancer of the breast (in post-menopausal women), colon, endometrium, esophagus, gallbladder, pancreas, and kidney. The IOM report includes more detailed advice than ever before on the total calories needed for people of different heights, weights, genders, and by levels of physical activity. The new IOM physical activity guidelines are only a small part of a landmark report that will update food labels and US guidelines for a good diet. The scientific community is still evaluating the 936 page report, but its authors made one point crystal clear right away: Americans must balance their diets with their activity levels. The 60-minute activity goal is based on how much energy is expended on an average day by people who maintain a healthy weight. Fewer Americans are able to do so every year. The number of overweight and obese people in the US has grown steadily over the last two decades to include 64% of the current adult population. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson warned of damaging health effects to come. "We've seen virtually a doubling in the number of obese persons over the past two decades and this has profound health implications. Obesity increases a person's risk for a number of serious conditions, including diabetes, heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, and some types of cancer," he said. Many American worksites, schools, and towns make it difficult to be physically active and to eat right during a typical day. "We need to find better ways to motivate people to work to change the environments where they live, work, and play to make it easier to be active on a regular basis," explained Doyle. She suggests that workers urge their employers to provide access to healthy foods and to establish worksite activity programs; and when possible, even offer subsidies for athletic club memberships. Doyle also recommends talking to the school board if physical education classes and/or recess are being cut, and to influence them to provide healthy meals for kids. Community organizations can press for referendums for transportation and recreational areas in neighborhoods, to help encourage physical activity. "These changes will require new policies to be developed at the local, state, and national levels," said Doyle. It may seem daunting, she admits, but she noted how drastically health behaviors have changed with regard to cigarette smoking. Community and political factors have helped greatly in reducing smoking, she said, and the same types of policy changes will be needed to create healthier environments supporting good nutrition and adequate physical activity. For more information about nutrition, physical activity, or ACS programs to improve communities call toll free 1-800-ACS-2345.

# Public Notices

On January 22, 2003, AEP Texas Central Company ("AEP Central") and AEP Texas North Company ("AEP North"), and Pedernales Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("PEC") filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas a joint application regarding a proposed transaction whereby PEC will acquire a portion of the transmission and distribution facilities and service territories of AEP Central and AEP North. The transmission and distribution facilities and service areas to be transferred are located in and around the cities of Junction, Menard, and Rocksprings, as well as in certain unincorporated areas of southern Mason County, north-eastern Gillespie County and the Freiss Ranch area of Sutton County. The purchase price for this transaction is approximately \$9,450,000. Although ownership and operation of these facilities will transfer to PEC under the transaction, retail customers will continue to be served by their current retail electric provider unless they choose to switch to another retail electric provider offering service in the area under the Texas Electric Choice Program. This application has been assigned Docket No. 27261, Joint Application of Pedernales Electric Cooperative, Inc., AEP Texas Central Company, and AEP Texas North Company to Transfer Certain Distribution and Transmission Facilities and Service Areas. Persons with questions about the application should contact Bennie Fuelberg of PEC at (830)868-7155 or Ron Ford of AEP at (512) 481-4558. Persons who wish to intervene in the proceeding or comment upon action sought should contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas at P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326 or call the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing-impaired and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7135. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is April 11, 2003, and a letter requesting intervention should be received by the commission by that date. A map showing the service areas to be transferred may be reviewed at PEC's office in Johnson City or AEP's office in Austin. Arrangements to view these maps may be made by contacting Bennie Fuelberg of PEC at (830)868-7155 or Ron Ford of AEP at (512) 481-4558.

# PUBLIC HEARING TO EXPEND SECTION 4B TAX PROCEEDS

The city council will hold a public hearing concerning the Sonora Industrial Development Corporation expending Section 4B sales tax funds related to:

- Project to expend \$25,000.00 for infrastructure improvements to Lillian M. Hudspeth Hospital/Sonora Medical Clinic.
- Project to expend \$12,000.00 for new equipment to expand existing business for B&H Catering.

The hearing will be held on March 18, 2003 at 2:00 p.m., City Hall, 201 E. Main, Sonora, Texas. All citizens are invited to attend and provide the council with written or oral comments.

# Much Needed Rain Soaks Sonora



Sonora saw some much needed rain last week, with some people reporting well over an inch in Sutton and Edwards counties. Slick roads caused several accidents on I-10, but the ranchers in this area were sure glad to see the wet stuff falling. The weekend warmed up enough for people to enjoy outdoor activities, but icy weather blew in early this week, causing I-10 to be shut down for most of Tuesday. Drivers are reminded to take caution and slow down when traveling on wet or icy roads. Warmer weather is predicted to return for the end of the week and into the weekend.



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Maps and information available at the Sonora Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Information Center, Sonora Main Street Office and the Sutton County Historical Society Office.  
A project of the Sonora Industrial Development Corp.

