

## West Nile Virus (WNV) and Encephalitis a Threat to Sutton County Horses

### Vaccination Can Provide Protection

A few moments with your local veterinary practitioner in Sutton County can help protect horses, mules and donkeys against mosquito-borne diseases, advises Dr. Terry Conger, veterinarian and state epidemiologist for the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock health regulatory agency. Vaccines are available to protect horses against three viral diseases that pose a risk to Texas horses: West Nile Virus (WNV), and Eastern and Western Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and (WEE). The three diseases are forms of "sleeping sickness," that can cause infected horses to develop debilitating fever, swelling of the brain, muscle tremors, weakness and extreme fatigue, and in about a third or more of cases, death of the animal.

"As of July 1, 38 cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) have been reported this year by the Texas Department of Health's (TDH) Zoonosis Control Division, which maintains the state's statistical database for reporting laboratory-confirmed WNV cases in humans, mosquitoes, birds, and horses," said Dr. Conger. "According to the TDH, the 38 cases have been confirmed in one horse each in Angelina, Calhoun and Tarrant counties, and two in Van Zandt County. WNV also has been detected in six birds and four mosquito pools in Harris County; one bird each in Hunt, Smith and Orange counties; three birds and four mosquito pools in Dallas County; five mosquito pools in Tarrant County, three mosquito pools in Jefferson, two in Nueces, and one in Travis County. An infected bird and mosquito pool has been detected in Brazos County."

"In June 2002, Texas had its first case of WNV, and by year's end, 1,699 equine cases had been reported. Denton County was hit hardest, with 69 equine cases," explained Dr. Terry Conger, TAHC's state epidemiologist.

"More unreported cases undoubtedly occurred across the state, as owners may have been reluctant to ask their veterinarian or the TAHC for assistance."

Only laboratory-confirmed cases are included in the state's database. Most private veterinary practitioners send blood or tissue samples for WNV testing to the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) in College Station or Amarillo."

WNV infection was first detected in the U.S. in New York in 1999, and since then, the virus has swept across the country, spread by infected mosquitoes that have fed on birds carrying the disease. Only four states on the U.S. mainland have not reported cases: Arizona, Nevada, Oregon and Utah. Dr. Conger said it is likely that these states also will eventually have cases of WNV.

"Sporadic outbreaks of WEE and EEE also occur throughout the U.S., and this year we may have cases in Texas, as South Carolina, Florida and Georgia have already confirmed EEE in horses. Because Texas has a large mosquito population and history of infection in past years, it is prudent to have equine animals vaccinated against WEE and EEE every year," said Dr. Conger.

"It is important to note that the vaccines for WNV, WEE and EEE do not provide cross-protection. For example, WNV vaccine protects only against WNV." As of late June, 14

horses in South Carolina have been diagnosed with EEE. In Florida, more than 110 EEE cases in equine animals have been confirmed, and in Georgia, a dog, three birds and 16 horses have tested positive for the disease.

"WNV, EEE and WEE are going to be with us always, as these diseases have become endemic in our country. Even if you try to reduce the mosquito population in your area, vaccinating against these mosquito-borne diseases still needs to be part of routine horse health maintenance," said Dr. Conger.

Dr. Conger explained that the WNV vaccine for horses vaccination requires a series of two shots, administered three to six weeks apart. After the second injection, several more weeks must pass before full immunity is developed. Equine animals vaccinated last year should receive a single WNV booster this year. In areas where mosquitoes are a continual problem year-round, animals should receive a WNV booster every six months. "Owners should take action now to get their equine animals vaccinated, before cases become more widespread," urged Dr. Conger.

"EEE and WEE vaccines are available in a combined product. To develop disease protection, the animal will need two injections, 30 days apart. A booster shot is then needed annually or biannually," said Dr. Conger. "In most cases, horses can be vaccinated for WNV, EEE/WEE at the same time."

He said some veterinarians also employ the EEE/WEE vaccine in an off-label use to protect raptures (emus, rheas and ostriches) against the disease.

"While no vaccine can guarantee 100 percent protection, it's much better than no protection," commented Dr. Conger. "Last year, Colorado State University followed more than 500 equine animals infected with the WNV in Colorado and Nebraska. The death rate was greater than 36 percent in animals that had not received vaccine. The death loss dropped to around 20 percent for animals that had received at least one dose of WNV vaccine. Of the 13 animals properly vaccinated with two doses of vaccine, a dozen survived."

Dr. Conger said equine animals infected with WNV, EEE or WEE, may exhibit similar signs, including fever, irregular gait, teeth grinding, drowsiness, an inability to swallow. Affected animals may be paralyzed and be unable to rise. He said TAHC and public health officials advise owners to have sick animals tested to diagnose the disease that caused illness or death, because rabies always must be considered when an animal is disoriented or staggers. If an owner has been exposed to rabies while caring for a sick horse, appropriate preventive health measures must be taken immediately, he said.

"WNV, EEE and WEE impact a community's animals, and owners should take advantage of opportunities to protect their stock by reducing mosquito populations and vaccinating," said Dr. Conger. "Although these 'sleeping sicknesses' aren't regulatory diseases, veterinarians are required to report cases, so that disease trends or outbreaks can be followed and all preventive and educational measures can be taken."



Returning Marines, Gabriel Perez and Adam Esquivel remove their yellow ribbons from the Old Oak Tree.

by Storie Sharp

A special "Welcome Home" ceremony was held for returning U.S. Marines Gabriel Perez and Adam Esquivel on Thursday, July 3, 2003.

The Friends of Historic Sonora Main Street Program invited local dignitaries and friends and family to join them on the Sutton County Courthouse lawn to be part of the special "yellow ribbon" removal from the Old Oak Tree.

With help from family members that put the ribbons on the tree helped the young men locate their names. They then proudly removed the ribbons, signifying their safe return from their service overseas.

Marine Perez, the son of Idalia and Genaro Perez, is a 1995 graduate of Sonora High School. Before returning to Sonora to take down his yellow ribbon Marine Perez was stationed in Iraq for four months

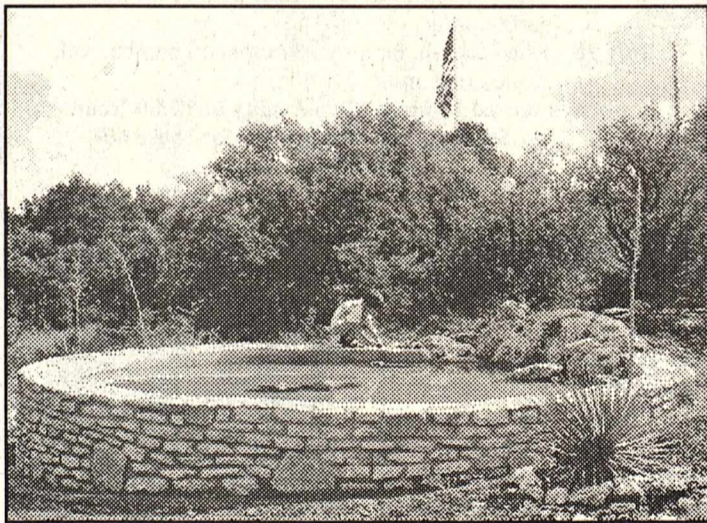
where he was an active part of the infantry ground troops. He said that the experience was "scary, but something I wanted to do". He stressed the fact that he was trained well for the situation and was glad to be there. Marine Perez left for Camp Pendleton on July 8th, where he will begin training again and will redeploy in December to Okinawa, Japan.

Marine Esquivel, the son of Irene Esquivel and Homer

Lozano is a 1996 graduate of S.H.S. The grandson of Lalo and Tina Gonzales, Marine Esquivel said he has been lots of places since his enlistment in 1997. As a part of the Infantry, he has been from Okinawa to the Philippines to Guam and more and agrees that his training paid off. He also left for Camp Pendleton last week for more training. He doesn't know yet where his next deployment will be.

## Up On Eaton Hill

### Just Add Water



Animal tracks around the new water tanks on Eaton Hill prove that the wildlife have already found them and will be a good place for viewing for visitors.

by Delyse Jaeger

The raw ingredients for the sensory feast of Eaton Hill are more than adequate for an extraordinary cobbler of natural wonders. But, just add water and you've gone ala' mode! And water is exactly what visitors can now enjoy - sight and sound. What toppings are being served up with this dish? Well, wildlife of course. The cool, clean water bubbling up out of the rocks is vital to the birding operation, will enhance wildlife viewing opportunities and add immeasurably to the overall "Eaton Hill experience". The rock pond is located along Zed's Cut (named for Zed Snodgrass who constructed the trail as a Boy Scout project), just west of the American flag. A resting bench awaits hikers who stop to enjoy the refreshing sounds of water trickling down the rocks into the pool. Should you visit the pond and be struck with inspiration for an appropriate name, please let us know at 387-6280 or 387-2061. The birding trail is sporting a dripping crown in the form of a water tank, visible from birding station #2, the

birding hut and the opposite canyon side. From birding station #1, visitors can look down into the canyon and see a rock retaining wall which catches water and forms a small pool. Our birding operation has "arrived", providing all the essential elements necessary for attracting feathered beauties and the folks with a passion for watching them. This is a dream come true!

Speaking of dreams coming true, the regular rains continue to entice new treasures up from the ground. Various wildflowers, flourishing from the moisture, cover the hill. An abundance of an, as yet unidentified delicate, yellow, five petaled flower has perfumed the trails with a hint of honeysuckle. Take advantage of the delightfully cool mornings or evenings and treat yourself to a hike on Eaton Hill. The sunset from the hill can be awe inspiring, not to mention the thrill of watching a storm blow in. Oh what treasures will be revealed. Eaton Hill Wildlife Sanctuary is a project of the Sonora Industrial development Corporation. Hit the trails!

## S.I.S.D. Offers Pre-K Program

Sonora Elementary is offering a full day Pre-Kindergarten program (8:00 - 2:30) to all students who will be 4 years of age on or before September 1, 2003. Tuition will be charged at an annual rate of \$2150 or \$215 per month. Tuition will only be charged to those students who would normally be considered ineligible for Pre-Kindergarten. Those students who qualify for Pre-Kindergarten as Limited English Proficient or economically disadvantaged will not be charged to attend.

Tuition includes the price of

breakfast, lunch and our after school program which is open from 2:30 to 5:30 each day. The first and last months payment will be due August 1st of this year. Eight additional payments will be due on the first of each month. Space is limited to a maximum of 15 students. Slots will be filled on a first come first serve basis. Please come by the Sonora Elementary School office at 807 S. Concho to register your child. If you have any questions, please call Louise Dermody at 287-2414.

## Broncos Make All-State Baseball



The Texas Sport's Writers Association has announced the Class 2A All-State Team for 2003. Two Sonora Broncos received the Honorable Mention award. Receiving this honor were: Landon Brockman - Catcher (left) and Justin Sims - Outfielder (right).



## Ask the Historical Society

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

**Q.** Who were the parents of Albert Jackson Lee Owens?

**A.** Robert Owens, born Aug. 25, 1835 in Florida and died Nov. 26, 1864 in Uvalde Co., Uvalde, Texas and Priscilla Eleanor Gossett, born Dec. 25, 1840 on Salado Creek, Bexar Co., Texas, died Feb. 21, 1920 in Uvalde, Co., Uvalde, Texas were the parents of Albert Jackson Owens. Priscilla married a second time before her death; Andrew Jackson Sykes on Nov. 2, 1871.

Albert Jackson Owens was born on Feb. 21, 1865, in Coleman Co., Texas and died June 6, 1952 and was buried in the Sutton County Burial Park. He married Fannie L. Brockman on Sept. 8, 1886. They had four children: Albert Milton Owens (1887-1974); Jack Marion C. Owens (1888-1944); Fannie Eleanor Pearl Owens (1890-1985) and Robert Owens (Jan. 4, 1892-Jan. 12, 1892), Fannie died on Jan. 11, 1892 from complications of childbirth.

On December 27, 1892, Albert Jackson Owens married Alta Purcell at Menard, Texas. They had 11 children: Lois Owens (born and died July 25, 1894); Ellen Owens (1895-1993) married William Owen Ray; William James Owens (1898-1972); Annie Irene Owens (1903-1985); Elzie Purcell Owens (1904-1960); Viola Izora Owens (1906-1993); Mary Edna Owens (1908-1969); Bessie Louise Owens (1910-2001); Wilson Roy Owens (1915-1992); Violet May Owens (1917-2003) and Lillie Anita Owens (1920-alive).

In the 1880 census of Pct. 2 of Kimble Co., Texas, we find Albert J. Owens listed as 15 years old, single, a cowboy and living in the household of his brother, William M. Owens and his wife Sarah A. Owens. William is listed as a stock raiser.

When he was around 16 he served as a courier/guide for Captain Dan W. Roberts of the Texas Ranger Frontier Battalion stationed near Ft. McKavett. He was nicknamed the "Kid" by the regiment and often guided them through terrain he was familiar with at night. There were still Indian raids in the area, nearly every light of the moon, and the Frontier Battalion tried to protect and secure the western frontier from Indians and outlaws.

Albert established his home and ranching headquarters on Copperas Creek and had the brand 75 with the 7 written above the 5. He ran livestock on the open range in the early days. He sold this land, shown as survey 30 to L. F. Barksdale on July 17, 1900.

In 1902 J. L. Davis was elected Sheriff of Sutton County and Albert moved his family to town to serve as Deputy Sheriff and Jailer of Sutton County. He resided in the old Sonora jail for 4 years in this capacity. He then returned to ranching.

On October 9, 1909 he purchased 694.5 acres of land, survey 25, which was located 8 1/2 miles NW of Ft. Terrett, for \$1,041.45. This land was near the ranch settlement called Owensville in 1894. It was the ranch headquarters of his brother Bob Owens. The settlement, for a while, had its own U.S. Post Office and school.

Due to a judgement against

Albert, his brother and F. E. Bihl, awarded to E. F. VanderStucken, a local merchant, Albert's days of ranching came to an end. He worked in Real County for a while and then Brown County. He finally returned to Sonora about 1922 and would work again as a deputy sheriff and then constable until his health prevented any further employment.

We have several different family trees on file on A. J. Owens and would suggest that you use them as guides. Some of the dates differ and it is always best to verify information yourself and not take another person's research as correct unless there are copies of birth, death and marriage certificates attached to the research. We have verified the fact that A. J. Owens did serve as a Deputy Sheriff of Sutton County during the term of J. L. Davis and find mention of him serving in later years in the old issues of the Devil's River News. He is also mentioned as serving with the Texas Rangers as a guide in some write ups on him.

When you go on line to do research you will find several different people have worked on a family line you are looking for. It is not uncommon to find that many of the dates are not the same. This is why we strongly suggest you find the birth, death and marriage records to verify dates. We have found cemetery stones in the Sonora Cemetery that say a man died a year after his death was recorded in the Devil's River News. So please, don't just use dates on a cemetery stone, if official documentation can still be found on file.

Members, there will be a meeting of the Sutton County Historical Society on Wednesday, July 16, 2003 at the Sutton County Steak House in the Ross Room at 12:00 noon.

A special thank you to Rose Mary Whitehead Jones for copying over 150 pages of the Record of Marks and Brands on file with the Sutton County Courthouse. We have also copied the index. This has been put into archival safe plastic sheet protectors and in a large binder and will be available for people to look at when we have the Branding Party on July 26 from 8:00 a.m. till we finish, at the Amphitheater behind the



Albert Jackson Lee Owens

Miers Home Museum.

It is almost August and time to pay dues again. Please send your dues, \$10 per person to the Sutton County Historical Society, Attn: Al Elliott, Treasurer at P.O. Box 885, Sonora, TX 76950-0885. All it takes to be a member is \$10 dues and a desire to see that all the history of this area is preserved for future generations. We have several buildings that we have to maintain and pay insurance on each year: The Miers Home Museum, The John & Mildred Cauthorn Memorial Building, The Old WFTU Ice House/Sales Office and The Sutton County Historical Society Office/Archival Storage Area plus the lawn areas of all these buildings. We are a non-profit organization and all our funds are raised through dues, donations and fund raisers. We receive no funds from the City of Sonora or Sutton County. We have extensive written files, individual collections that have been donated, photographs, and also have care and custody of the Devil's River News from 1890-1980. Preserving the history of this area is a huge under-

taking, different members have been working on for over 30 years and we can't do it without your help and support. Thanks!

We heard a complaint that the Miers Home Museum is never open? The museum is open on Mondays 8-4, Tuesdays 8-lunch and Fridays 8-4. All you have to do is what the sign on the door says, walk next door and ask for a tour. We will be glad to take you through the museum and the depot if it isn't rented that day. We have taken over 40 people through already this summer, and it just started, so I don't understand why someone says it isn't open. You may also book a tour ahead of time by calling me at the office, 387-5084 on the days we are open. Many small museums and historical societies are only open one day a week or once a month. Thanks to our volunteers we are open 2 1/2 days a week at no cost to the local taxpayers.

We would like to extend a very special thank you to Johnson's Pest Control for doing such a great job at the old Ice House. All the bugs are gone, we didn't even find a mosquito! Thank you so much!

Please send your questions to the above address, atten: Jo-Ann E. Palmer, Secretary/Archivist or e-mail them to schs@sonorax.net. A special thanks to Cam Campbell for the computer service and for helping us install the scanner Mrs. Jones donated.



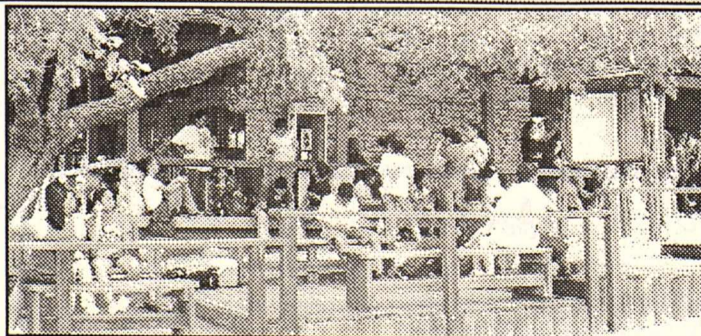
A. J. L. Owens Family - 1903

## A Caravan Visits The Caverns



by Storie Sharp

Sutton County's underground treasure, The Caverns of Sonora, were overflowing last week. This is a good thing when the overflow is with visitors who traveled on seven buses from San Antonio to visit the attraction. Gifted and talented students attending St. Mary's University prep courses were on a field trip for their summer classes. The students, ranging in age from 14 to 18 enjoyed the guided tours, slucing for gems, and relaxing under the shade trees on the front porch. There was even a pick-up basketball game going on down in the picnic area. One visitor said her



favorite things in the cave were the "upside-down swords" and, of course, "the butterfly". The students were all smiles and full of tales after their tour. If you haven't visited the Caverns in a while, and think you have

already "been there, done that" you should go for one of the new adventure "discovery challenge" tours. It will send you climbing and crawling for an afternoon of excitement that's "under this world".

**Gifts Galore & More**  
*Bridal Registry*  
Lorena Hernandez bride elect of Rito Renteria Jr.  
Candice Baca bride elect of Eric Geske  
Mrs. Shannon Snyder nee Brittany Kemp  
Mrs. Davis Hale nee Heather Renberg  
www.giftsgaloreandmore-sonora.com  
417 Hwy. 277 N.  
387-2541

**Tedford Jewelry**  
*Bridal Registry*  
Lorena Hernandez bride elect of Rito Renteria, Jr.  
Mrs. Shannon Snyder nee Brittany Kemp  
Mrs. Keith Newland nee Barbara Belk  
Mrs. Davis Hale nee Heather Renberg  
**15th Celebration**  
Christina Martinez  
107 NW Concho • 387-3839

*Office Supplies?*  
**Sonora Office Supply**  
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387-2498

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**Christmas in July Sale**  
  
Special purchase drawing  
**Precious Moments**,  
"Cherished Teddy or Windsor Bear" Figurines.  
**Upside Down Christmas Tree Sale**  
Everything on Tree 50% Off  
Christopher Radko Ornaments  
Buy one get one FREE (same or lesser value)  
**25% OFF**  
Draw for Additional Savings  
**Trapp and Colonial Candles 50% off**  
**Gifts Galore & More**  
417 Hwy 277 N. • 387-2541

*The Board of Directors and Staff of Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital is pleased to announce that*  
**Gregory P. Johnson, M.D.**  
*is now available to see patients.*

*Dr. Johnson completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Texas-Austin and received a Doctorate of Medicine from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Dr. Johnson is Board Certified in Emergency Medicine and will practice General and Family Medicine. Dr. Johnson and wife Becky are pleased to make Sonora their home.*

*Dr. Johnson's Office is located at the Sonora Medical Clinic, Suite B.*

*Office hours are Monday through Friday 8 A.M. - 5 P.M.*

*For appointment, please telephone (325) 387-7911.*  
*Se habla español*

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**Team Graphics**  
**July Clearance SALE**  
 Up to  
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 Select Items  
 Holiday Items \* T-shirts \* Plush Toys  
 Candles \* Baseball Socks \* And More!!!  
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**SALE • SALE • SALE • SALE • SALE • SALE • SALE • SALE**

**Stagecoach  
 BBQ & Catering**

The advertised sale for Rib-Eyes and T-Bones ended on July 8th. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

**BBQ Plates**  
 Brisket, Sausage, Ribs  
 or Combination with sides.

**Fresh Meat Market**  
 Open Monday - Friday  
 Hrs 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. • 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
 109 W. Main ■ Sonora, TX  
 (325) 387-0623 or 650-0623

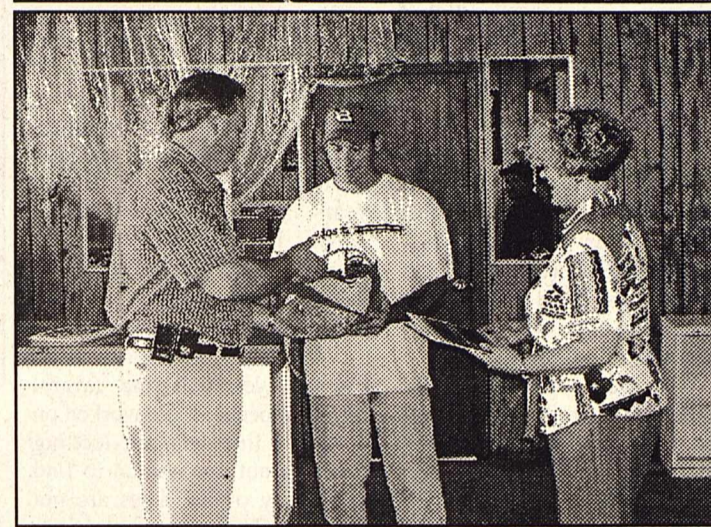
**Welcome Wagon Drops In On New Businesses**

The Sonora Chamber of Commerce "Welcome Wagon" was rolling around town Monday making stops at some of the new businesses in town. Chamber of Commerce Manger, Ruthie Bounds, Chamber President Keith Butler and President Elect Storie Sharp delivered baskets of goodies and a "welcome" packet of Sonora information to Dr. Gregory P. Johnson and staff (top right), Jason Lynn at Lone Star Automotive (bottom right) and Robert and Melissa Valadez at Angel Cafe (below). With the gifts comes a one year membership with the Sonora Chamber of Commerce, offer-

ing advertising and promotional opportunities for all the members. Dr. Johnson, located in Suite B of the Sonora Medical Clinic, is now serving patients Monday through Friday. Liz Zapata, Olinda Jimenez and Shanna Petty make up his staff. Jason and Steve Lynn are the owners and operators of Lone Star Automotive, located in the old Broncho Ford building on Concho Ave. A certified GM technician adds to the crew, allowing for quality service on all vehicles. The full service auto body and mechanic shop is open and ready to tend to all your automotive needs.

Angel Cafe, with their heavenly homemade food is located at 1005 N. Crockett Ave. and is open for breakfast and lunch Monday through Saturday. Robert and Melissa

say they are focusing on what they know best, good old fashioned food made from scratch. Help welcome all these new friends to town by stopping by and saying hello.



**2003  
 Sutton County  
 Queen  
 Contestants  
 Breakfast  
 Burrito and  
 Bake Sale  
 Tuesday  
 July 22nd  
 8:00 a.m. till ?  
 in front of the  
 Sonora Office Supply  
 & The Devil's  
 River News  
 228 E. Main**

**Donation is Way  
 of Giving Back  
 to the Austin  
 History Center**

reprinted with permission from the May 30, 2003, Austin American-Statesman © by Michael Barnes American-Statesman Arts Writer  
 Painter Mary Curtis is giving away her collection of meticulously researched historical art, including her widely reproduced renditions of Austin street scenes. Not on a whim, but to benefit one of her favorite institutions, the Austin History Center.

"Where else but the place where I found most of the pictures that I paint?" says Curtis. "I wanted every painting to be historically accurate, so I looked up every color and name and address at the center."

The officially sanctioned Sesquicentennial Artist for the State of Texas spent more than 20 years digging through materials at the Guadalupe Street history center, a division of the City of Austin library system. Her paintings will be sold Saturday at the cash-strapped center as part of the Spring Waterloo Press Sale.

"We need the center so badly," Curtis says. "There is no other place where you can find good historical research on Austin."

A Houston native, Curtis grew up in Sonora. Shopping forays into Austin cast their spell over the young Curtis, who returned to study at the University of Texas. After years as a statistical typist at the State Board of Insurance, Curtis took up art at age 50, first studying at St. Edward's University and Austin Community College.

Selections of her dependable historical scenes are on permanent display in Austin, Bastrop and Sonora and are available for sale at Quality Frame and Art on Bee Cave Road.

So why donate her collection now?

"The main reason is age," says Curtis, 75, who lives at a Lake Travis retirement community. "I just broke my leg. Fell down in the middle of the street. The FedEx man had to fetch me out."

Curtis tried storing the art, but could see it was going to be a huge problem for her family.

"I realized this was an important time to help the History Center with the budget challenges at the city," she says. "I hope it can make a difference."

**Chamber Chatter**

**SONORA  
 Chamber of Commerce**  
 by Ruthie Bounds,  
 Manager

This week's column is featuring a new business, "Mindy's Creations" and filling our readers in on our new location and other Sonora Chamber of Commerce news.

Mindy Castaneda will be opening "Mindy's Creations", located at 105 W 4th Street. Mindy worked at Flowers by Irene for about a year and half, where she had a great teacher in Irene Friess. Mindy has also attended classes in floral design. Mindy's Creations will be open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Saturday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Mindy will be carrying fresh flowers, silks, piñatas, party ware, arches, gift baskets, etc. Call Mindy's Creations at 387-6060 for all your special occasion needs.

Mindy's Creations will be having a Grand Opening on July 16, 2003 at 12:00 noon. We hope to see you all there. Mindy says about her grand opening "I would like to dedicate my grand opening on July 16th to the late Alfredo & Marcelena Sanchez, whom we love and miss."

**Sonora Chamber of Commerce has moved.** We can now be found across the street from our old office, at 205 Highway 277 North, the rock building next to the Dairy Queen. I would like to thank the Sonora Chamber of Commerce board members that came to help us move: Keith Butler, Storie Sharp, Mike Samuels, Juanita Estrada, and Sue Moore. I also want to thank Location Builders for sending us four men, Carlos, Dimitrio, Ramiro, & Rick to help move and permanently place our work

counter. We could not have done it without you. I want to take time to thank my son Jason Bounds for all of his help, and my assistant Becky Allison, and her family for help above and beyond the call of duty during our move. Moving is never very much fun, but thanks to all of these people, it went very well and very quickly. In the two short months that I have been with Sonora Chamber of Commerce I have had the great pleasure to work with two of the nicest landlords anyone could ever hope for. At our previous location, Jimmy Cahill was our landlord, and if there is anyone in Sonora that loves their community as much as I do, it would be Jimmy. At our current location, our landlords are Jimmy & Sharon Holman, and they have been so accommodating, it has been a real pleasure to work with them.

The planning for our annual Sutton County Days & Outlaw Pro Rodeo is in full swing.

I'm sure you have noticed that our banners have been hung across Crockett Street to announce the coming of our Sutton County Days Celebration. The banners were hung by Jimmy & Bobby of WTU-AEP. If you see these guys around town be sure to let them know how much their service to our community is appreciated. We are very fortunate to have such civic minded people in Sonora.

We will be having more and more information about Sutton County Days in the Chamber Chatter column each week between now and the August 14th issue of The Devils River News.

Sonora Chamber of Commerce  
 Phone: 325/387-2880  
 E-mail: [soncoc@sonoratx.net](mailto:soncoc@sonoratx.net)  
 Website: [www.sonoratx-chamber.com](http://www.sonoratx-chamber.com)

**SUTTON COUNTY  
 HEALTH FOUNDATION**

*Key to the survival of healthcare resources in Sutton County*

The SUTTON COUNTY HEALTH FOUNDATION was established to create an endowment, which will generate income to supplement healthcare services in Sutton County.

In order to fund the endowment, the foundation will be seeking large amounts in the form of tax-deductible contributions, bequests in wills, assignment of insurance policies, appreciated stock, and annual gifts.

**To maintain its status, however, as a Public Foundation, the IRS requires that thirty percent of the monies collected each year must be from small donations, which will demonstrate widespread community support. These smaller contributions can come from many different areas such as memorials, proceeds from fundraising projects, donations from local organizations, and small gifts from individuals or families.**

You can invest in the future of Sutton County  
 by supporting the  
**SUTTON COUNTY HEALTH FOUNDATION**

Memorials and contributions may be mailed to:  
**SUTTON COUNTY HEALTH FOUNDATION  
 PO Box 18  
 Sonora, TX 76950-0018**

(paid for by supporters of SUTTON COUNTY HEALTH FOUNDATION)

**Hilderbran Named To  
 School Finance Committee**

Representative Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville, was appointed to serve on the Select Committee on Public School Finance. The committee is studying the state's tax structure and its public school finance system with a goal of completely revamping the state's tax code and its method of funding schools.

The process will likely abolish "Robin Hood", the existing method of funding schools, which could be found

unconstitutional after the Supreme Court has determined that several school districts that have sued the state over the plan may pursue their lawsuits. Representative Hilderbran will serve on the Employee Benefits/Compensation Subcommittee. The subcommittee will examine and make recommendations pertaining to the state's role in providing compensation to school district employees, including health insurance and salary schedules.

"I am very pleased that Speaker Craddick chose to put me on this committee. Insurance and compensation for school district employees are issues that weigh heavily on the minds of many of my constituents," Hilderbran said. "Any change to the system must be evaluated on how it affects our teachers and school district employees."

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