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THE FIGHTING BUFFALOES
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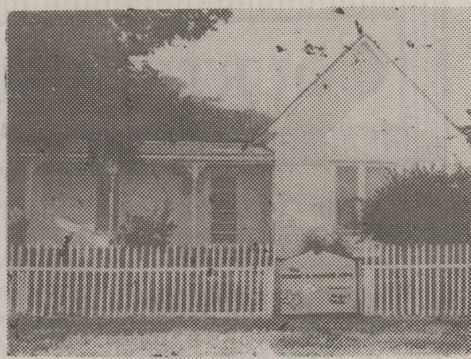
Cross Plains Review

CROSS PLAINS' OLDEST BUSINESS INSTITUTION

"A Caring Community"

THURSDAY, January 2, 2003

SOUTHWEST COLLECTION
Texas Tech University
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94TH YEAR

CROSS PLAINS, CALLAHAN COUNTY, TEXAS 76443

NUMBER 41

DOWN HOME

EDITOR'S NOTE: Daniel Ingram brought this beautiful poem by recently and it is one we can all benefit from. After reading the wisdom filled words, it made me realize we need to shop at this "grocery store" daily. One item that wasn't mentioned, was forgiveness. It is an important factor that we often overlook. We tend to be quick to judge, but slow to forgive. Thank goodness God does not react to us in that manner. Read this with your heart. Vanda Anderson Creech

"Heaven's Grocery Store"
Author Unknown

I was walking down life's highway
A long, long time ago.
One day I saw a sign that read,
Heaven's Grocery Store.

As I got a little closer,
The door came open wide
And when I rubbed my eyes and
looked around,
I was standing there inside.

I saw a whole host of angels;
They were standing everywhere.
One handed me a basket and said,
"My child, shop here with care."

Everything a Christian needed
Was in that grocery store,
And all you couldn't carry, well...
You could come back the next day
for more.

First I got some patience.
Love was in the same row.
Further down was understanding;
You need that wherever you go.

Then I got a box or two of wisdom,
And a bag or two of faith,
And I sure couldn't miss the Holy
Ghost,
'Cause He was all over the place.

I stopped to get some strength
and courage
To help me run this race.
But by then my basket was getting
full.
And I remembered I needed to get
some grace.

I didn't forget salvation because
salvation, you know, is free.
So I tried to get enough of that
To save both you and me.

Then I headed to the counter
To pay my grocery bill.
I thought I had everything I needed
To do my Master's will.

But as I went on up the aisle, I saw
prayer
And I just had to put that in...
Because I know for sure when I
stepped outside,
I would run right into sin.

Oh, and peace and joy were
plentiful,
They were on the very last shelf and
there
Were songs and praises hanging near,
So I just kinda' helped myself.

Then I said to the angel,
"How much do I owe?"
He just smiled and said, "My child,
Just take these wherever you go."

But again I smiled and said,
"How much do I really owe?"
He smiled again and said, "My child,
Jesus paid your bill a long time ago."

Happy New Year



Eunice Pointer Now 86 Years Young and 2003 Marks 30 Years in the Cross Plains Community



CELEBRATING 86TH BIRTHDAY—Eunice Pointer



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE POINTER

By Kandy Jones

Eunice H. Pointer was born January 2, 1917. Yes, that was 86 years ago, and she is celebrating her birthday and the fact that she has spent the last 30 years as a resident of Cross Plains.

It was back in 1973 that she and her husband, George F. Pointer, moved here from Corpus Christi. Mr. Pointer retired from Exxon after 28 years of service and he was looking for a new adventure. Because Mr. Pointer had a brother who had already lived in Cross Plains, he inquired about property for sale.

Before George and Eunice knew it, they found a house on East Highway 36 and some additional property close to Cottonwood. It was no time before Mr. Pointer had his hand in cattle Coastal, goats and even chickens! They produced fresh eggs, fresh milk and had a very productive garden.

Life was good. Mr. Pointer bought many of the cattle from Glenn Winfrey and it just seemed natural when they purchased all of these cows that they should have names. One by one, George and Eunice named every cow they ever had. And, if they got a bull, it would always be named Mr. Winfrey. No telling how many Mr. Winfrey's they had over the years, but believe it or not, there is a Mr. Winfrey in the pasture as we speak!

While Mrs. Pointer lived in Corpus Christi, she had always wanted to learn to swim. At age 34, she took swimming lessons given by the Red Cross. (Once she completed all her classes, it was her desire to be an instructor.) She worked for the Red Cross for many years teaching hundreds of children and adults the joy of swimming. Eunice and her swimming buddy, Emma Harris, even

took the challenge of completing six, 50 mile swims together. Among other things, she was a coach at the YMCA for the local synchronized swim team, The Lorelettes.

Upon arriving in Cross Plains, the opportunity came along for Mrs. Pointer to become the swimming instructor and lifeguard at The Lakewood Recreation Center. It was a match made in heaven. How many of you reading this were taught to swim by Eunice Pointer?

At the recreation center, Mr. and Mrs. Pointer met the Ranks, Jay Ernestin, Laquetta, Gene and Mary. It was Mary Rankin who asked Mrs. Pointer what church she attended and the next Sunday Mrs. Pointer went to Pioneer Baptist Church. Soon after, she became a member and is to this day.

While George busied himself being a cattleman, rancher, husband and a friend to many in Cross Plains, Eunice started quilting with the Cottonwood Quilting Club. That was not all...she had a Doll Hospital and made dolls from scratch. She poured her own slip into molds, fired them in her kilns, painted and then dressed all she made. She also repaired many dolls that people would bring to her. There's no telling how many dolls she has made or repaired over the years.

On February 2, 1990, Mr. Pointer lost her beloved George F. Pointer to cancer. They were married 34 years. He was her best friend. George was a native Texan and U.S. Army Veteran earning The Bronze Star Medal, which symbolizes an achievement in ground combat against the armed enemy during World War II. George was also a Boy

See Pointer Page 8

Senior Country and Western Dance to Take Place at Coleman

A Senior Country and Western Dance for all ages will be held Saturday, January 4th, at 401 East College, Coleman. The dance will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. and admission is \$4.00. No alcohol and no tobacco are allowed.

The Stone Mountain Band will be performing. Kenny Kannada has 25 years plus performing country western music including a 37 Country World Tour of military installation. He is the lead guitar player and vocalist. He is a Brownwood resident, originally from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Willena Benson, a Brownwood resident, is a well-known vocalist for the group. James Russell is the rhythm guitarist from Brownwood, originally from Hobbs, New Mexico. Charles Lawson, local Bangs resident is the drummer.

This band has been to several local musicals and dances at Coleman and Cross Plains receiving many compliments on their talents. Don't miss a chance to hear this band for yourself!

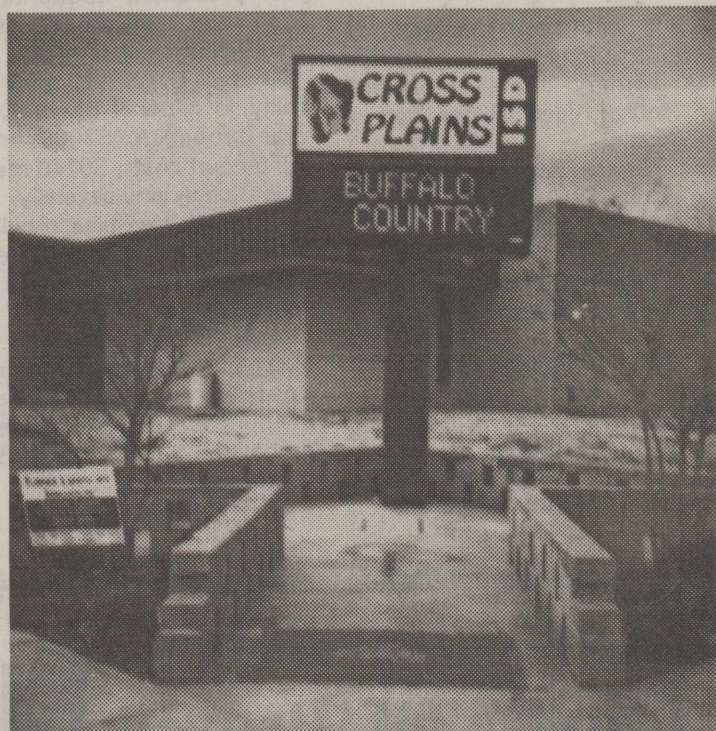
2003 Skywarn Storm-spotter Training Session at the ACU Campus Center March 1

For general information, in the event you may be interested in attending, the 2003 Skywarn Storm-Spotter Training Session is currently scheduled to be held in the Hilton Room of the ACU Campus Center on Saturday, March 1st, 2003, beginning at 9:00 A.M. There will be a break for midday meal, which can typically be purchased at the ACU Cafeteria, located in the same building as the Training Session. The session normally ends around 3:00-3:30 PM.

If you plan to attend, arriving no later than 8:30-8:40 A.M. to find a good seat as well as to obtain handouts, may be advisable. Training is conducted by Officials of NOAA (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration), and are usually provided by a combination of the Fort Worth and San Angelo National Weather Service Offices. Weather forecasters from Abilene Television stations may also address the session. There is no cost for attending this session or the handouts provided. If needed for your employer or volunteer fire department, a certificate of attendance is available.

Clarifying information can be obtained by contacting a local Ham Radio operator/Storm Spotter, the ABC/CBS/NBC Television stations in Abilene or the National Weather Service Office in San Angelo. A local website typically carries information about this training, as well as displays computer graphics and NEXRAD and Doppler Radar screens from several area and regional Weather Offices/Radar sites. The address for this site is: www.qsl.net/kc5ffq/ and is provided by a local Ham Radio operator.

If you wish to better understand the formation and identification of tornado and severe weather-producing storm cells and associated weather patterns, this session is for you.



NEW SCHOOL CAMPUS ADDITION—The marquee at the Cross Plains I.S.D. announces upcoming activities with style.

Beautiful Marquee Graces the Cross Plains I.S.D. Campus

The new marquee at Cross Plains I.S.D. is an attractive addition to the campus. The generosity of the Luter Estate, contributions by the Cross Plains PTO, Project Pride and completion by Cross Plains I.S.D. have made this project possible.

Turner Landscape Irrigation provided the beautiful landscape design and construction of the park surrounding the marquee. Included in the park are cornerstones from the old high school building and Bison Park, and monuments commemorating the

Senior Class of 1929 and the 1982 Student Council. Bricks, also from the old high school building complement the cornerstones and monuments, as well as form a CP insignia at the center point of the park.

Citizens of the community are invited to view this new campus addition.

Additional donations may be made to:

Cross Plains I.S.D.
C/O of Jackie Tennon
700 North Main Street
Cross Plains, Texas 76443.

Sales and Use Tax Totals Reported For The Second Quarter of 2002

The state sales and use tax analysis for Callahan County has been reported for the second quarter of 2002 by State Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander's office on Monday, December 30.

Rylander reported gross sales, for all industries in Callahan County, for the second quarter of 2002 at \$17,514,996 which was 7.8 percent higher than the gross sales of \$16,244,377 reported during the second quarter of 2001. Gross sales are the total amount of all sales, leases and rentals of tangible personal property and all labor and service charges made during the reporting period.

Use tax purchases for the first quarter of 2002 for all industries in Callahan County amounted to \$40,025. Use tax purchases are the cost of all taxable items removed from inventory for personal or business use and all purchases on which no Texas sales tax was paid or use tax accrued.

The amount subject to state sales and use tax in the second quarter of 2002 in Callahan County was \$6,827,888. The amount subject to state sales and use tax is calculated by taking taxable sales and adding use tax purchases.

The number of business locations in Callahan County, with a sales and use tax permit which filed a return, was 256. There were 260 permits issued during the same quarter the previous year.

The gross sales for the retail trade division in Callahan County for the second quarter of 2002 was \$9,749,839 which is 10.9 percent higher than the

2001 second quarter gross sales of \$8,788,842.

The use tax purchases for the retail trade division in Callahan County for the second quarter of 2002 was \$6,350.

The amount subject to state sales and use tax for the second quarter of 2002 was \$5,111,763 for the retail trade division in Callahan County.

The number of reporting outlets in the retail trade division in Callahan County totaled 138 for the second quarter of 2002. There were 142 reporting outlets during the same quarter in 2001.

Texas Heritage Bank

"We're Proud of Our Local Heritage"

MEMBER
FDIC

Presents:
"What's Inside"

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COURTHOUSE NEWS

COUNTY COURT
Roger Corn, presiding

Misdemeanor Minutes

Billy G. Christensen, plea of guilty to driving while intoxicated (DWI), 10 days in jail, \$100 fine, \$243 court costs.

Michele Renee Eldred, motion to withdraw as surety and application for warrant granted.

Marvin Powers, Jr., order extending probation granted.

Marriage Licenses

Tommy James Blair and Marilyn Aleene Huges, both of Austin.

William Jerry Cumbee and Karen Sue Ramsey, both of Madison, NC.

42nd DISTRICT COURT
John Weeks, presiding

Civil Filings

Dale Andrew Brewer and Ladean Ellen Brewer, divorce.

Civil Minutes

Richard Raymond Rutledge and Karen Elaine Rutledge, divorce granted.

Kim Alexander and Kenneth Alexander, divorce granted.
Barbara Jean Haas and Daniel Ray Haas, divorce granted.

Criminal Minutes

Benji T. McDougal, plea of guilty to criminal mischief, 5 year probation, \$3000 fine, \$256 court costs, \$6740 restitution jointly and severally.

David J. Lucas, Jr., plea of guilty to criminal mischief, 5 year probation, \$3000 fine, \$256 court costs, \$6740 restitution jointly and severally.

Tara A. Fowler, plea of guilty to burglary of a building, 4 year probation, \$1500 fine, \$211 court costs.

Ronald M. Massey, plea of guilty to possession of anhydrous ammonia in an unapproved container, 10 year probation, \$5000 fine, \$291 court costs.

OBITUARIES

Barney Carroll Klutts

Barney Carroll Klutts, age 80, of Lockhart, formerly of Smithville, passed away December 26, 2002.

Services were held at 2:00 p.m. at Marrs-Jones Funeral Chapel in Smithville Saturday, December 28, with Brother Richard Pruitt officiating. Burial was in the Oak Hill Cemetery.

He was born November 8, 1922 in Dressy, Callahan County, Texas to Carl Klutts and Jessie Long Klutts.

Barney graduated from Burkett High School and attended John Tarleton State College in Stephenville. Most knew Barney best from his many years of selling real estate, but in his young years his adventurous and entrepreneurial spirit took him to the copper mines in Bisbee, Arizona; to Mexico with his own import-export company name appropriately, "Little Amigo"; and to making a recording of "Georgia".

He was a decorated World War II veteran, having enlisted in the Army at the outbreak of the war in 1941. He served in the Pacific Theatre with the 43rd Infantry Division, 2nd Battalion, 169th Infantry Regiment, H Company, where he saw 426 days of active combat.

After the war he returned to Callahan County to farm and ranch, and to marry Joyce Helms, not only his wife, but also his business partner who worked side by side with him in his every endeavor. When the drought hit in the late 40's and early 50's they headed for the Texas coast where he worked for Phillips Petroleum in Sweeney for seven years. In 1958, he bought his first tract of land, a ranch in Fayette County. The selling of that ranch marked the beginning of a career in real estate sales and development that spanned four decades. He loved the land and he loved meeting and talking to people. Many of his buyers became lifelong friends. Barney treasured his friends and his many nieces and nephews. He enjoyed raising Longhorn cattle and working outdoors. His proudest achievement and greatest love was his family. His grandchildren valued his ability to deal with life's challenges with a sense of humor, and his belief that there is goodness in everyone.

He was a member of the Lockhart Church of Christ, the Cross Plains Masonic Lodge and the Smithville American Legion. He had served as a Director of the First State Bank of Smithville and the Lost Pine National Bank of Smithville.

Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Joyce Helms Klutts; a son, Carlos Klutts and wife, Cindy, of Austin; grandchildren, Tiffany Klutts Brumley and husband, Wayne, of Austin, Brandt Klutts and wife, Kim, of Boerne, and Clayton Morgan Klutts of Austin; great-grandchildren, Buddy and Ellie Brumley and Brooks and Molly Klutts; a brother, Fred C. Klutts and wife, Wynell, of Benbrook; and a sister, Wilda Edgington, of Abilene.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister, Goldia Edgington, a daughter, Vanita Joy Klutts, and a son, Jimmy Carroll Klutts.

Pallbearers were Ryan Branch, Sammy Edgington, Russell Fuqua, Steven Fuqua, Scott Fuqua, Bob McGee, Will McAdams, Mike Odom and Scott Odom. Honorary pallbearers were Ken Blaschke, Grover Shade and his buddies from the Lockhart Dairy Queen "Medicare Corner".

Opal Graves

Mrs. Opal Graves, 89, of Cross Plains, died Monday, December 30, 2002 in the Songbird Lodge in Brownwood. Funeral services will be 2:00 P.M., Wednesday, January 1, 2003 at the Higginbotham Chapel with Mike Redd assisted by Bob Pipes officiating. Burial will be in the Cross Plains Cemetery with Higginbotham Funeral Home of Cross Plains in charge of the arrangements.

Opal was born December 30, 2002 in Clifton, Texas to Willie Arthur and Ola Belle Hill Arthur. She married Joseph N. Graves in May 1942. She was a member of First United Methodist Church of Cross Plains.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Joe and Mary Graves of Cross Plains; grandsons, Todd Graves of Dallas, Kent Graves of Arlington; granddaughters, Kelly Brooks of Belton, Cynthia Fairbanks of Big Sandy; and a special cousin Betty Eastep of Marble Falls; 4 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and husband.

Allie L. Dickson

Mrs. Allie L. Dickson, 91, of Cross Plains, died Monday, December 30, 2002 in the Clyde Nursing Home in Clyde. Funeral services were held at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 1, 2003 at the Higginbotham Chapel with Ronnie White officiating. Burial was in the Rising Star Cemetery with Higginbotham Funeral Home of Cross Plains in charge of the arrangements.

Allie was born April 14, 1911 in Callahan County, Texas to Joe Edd Duncan and Mary Ellen Miller Duncan. She married Marvin Dickson in Cisco on February 22, 1938. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Cross Plains.

She is survived by her nieces, Ann Belz and husband Frank of Brownwood, Mary Joe Hook and husband Albert of CA, Vera Ann Snowden and husband Everett of CA, Julia Clark; nephew, Charles Duncan and wife Nancy of CA; several great nieces and nephews; four stepsons, V.A. Montgomery, Jerry Dickson, Wayne Dickson, Donald Dickson. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, son, 2 sisters and 4 brothers.

Lura Lee Covington

Mrs. Lura Lee Covington, 73, of Brownwood, died Saturday, December 28, 2002 in the Brownwood Care Center in Brownwood. Funeral services were held 2:00 P.M., Monday, December 30, 2002 at the Higginbotham Chapel. Burial was in the Sabanno Cemetery with Higginbotham Funeral Home of Cross Plains in charge of the arrangements.

Lura was born December 26, 1929 in Rowena, Texas to John R. Rector Sr. and Jessie Lee Wallace Rector. She married Bill Covington Sr. in Texas on September 16, 1947.

She is survived by her sons, John Covington of Webster, Billy Covington of Sugarland; daughters, Karen Ribble of Brownwood, Lee Wilson of Sanbanno, Gayle Foster of Paris; brother, J.R. Rector of Brownwood; 15 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by her parents, one brother and her husband.

Tommy Paul King

Tommy Paul King, age 49, of the Pioneer Community, passed away Sunday, December 29, 2003, at his home.

Services are pending with Higginbotham Funeral Home of Cross Plains.

Anthony Dean Smoot

Anthony Dean "Uncle Dude" Smoot, 37, of Eula, died Wednesday, December 25, 2002, at an Abilene hospital.

Services were held Friday, December 27, 2002, at 2:00 p.m. at the Highway 36 Church of Christ with Ed Hedrick and Marcy Grun officiating. Burial will follow in the Dudley Cemetery under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home of Clyde.

Anthony was born August 23, 1965, in Brownwood Medical Center to Bill and Judy McMillan Smoot. The family moved from Cross Plains to Wylie, a suburb of Abilene, when he was a year and a half old. He attended school at Wylie until 1977 when he moved to Eula and graduated from Eula High School in 1983.

Anthony was employed by Bandag for 14 years as a machine operator, and for Hirshfield Steel in security until his death. He was a member of the Highway 36 Church of Christ.

Survivors include his mother, Judy Smoot of Clyde; two brothers, Johnny and his wife, LaJuanda Smoot, and Garry Smoot, all of Eula; two sisters, Tammie and her husband, Brian King, of Lawn, and Alaina and her husband, Dan Vogler, of Potosi; several nephews and nieces -- Rusty and his wife, Laci, Smoot, Doug Smoot, Chris Smoot, Kole King, Blake Vogler, April and her husband, Zack Hayhurst, Kara King, Kali King, Ashlynn Vogler; one great-nephew and one great niece, Zane and Natalie Smoot; and a dear and special friend, Marcy Grun and his wife, Judy.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, William Neely Smoot and Loyd and Vernie McMillan; his father, William Duwain "Bill" Smoot; and a niece, Braley Vogler.

Annual C.P.H.S. Class of 1946 Christmas Party Held Dec. 7th

The Class of '46 met on Saturday, December 7, 2002 for their Annual Christmas Party.

Our host and hostess Dick and Joan Vestal as always provided the perfect setting for the holidays, everything was beautifully decorated.

Those in attendance were: Colleen Anderson, George and Bonnie Barnard, Morris and Karen Barrington, Wanda and Arthur Bayle, Garrold Garrett, Robert and Charlene Grider, Imogene Haun, Bobbie Hinkle, Bobbie and Dan Johnston, Jack Lacy, N.L. and Ann Long, Donald White, Edgar and Virginia Sessions.

Everyone enjoyed a wonderful evening. An unexpected **Candlelight** dinner was the highlight of the evening. For those of you who have not attended one of our get together, you don't know what you are missing. We hope to see you at our next gathering.

Abundant Life Church Hosting "The Delta Force" January 7-8

The Delta Force is coming to Brownwood January 8th-12th. The Delta Force is an action packed program with professional athletes performing feats of strength including breaking concrete blocks with their heads, bending steel bars with their teeth and much more.

You have seen them on ESPN, FOX, ABC and you can see them in person at Abundant Life Church.

Each performance will include an inspirational motivational message for people of all ages promoting the theme of becoming a "Dream Maker or Dream Breaker".

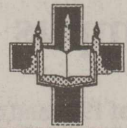
Performances will be at Abundant Life Church in Brownwood beginning at 7:00 p.m. nightly.

Abundant Life Church is located at the corner of West Commerce and Belle Plain. For more information call (915) 643-4738.

Our Church Is A House Of Prayer

Sunday Morning Bible Study.....10:00 AM
Morning Worship.....11:00 AM
Evening Worship.....6:00 PM
Wednesday Night Bible Study.....7:00 PM

Cornerstone Bible Church



832 Ave. E Cross Plains, TX

DONALD DUKE - PASTOR

CHURCH DIRECTORY

GOSPEL MISSION

716 1st Street
Full Gospel

Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 p.m.

Michael Ingram, Pastor

BELIEVER'S FELLOWSHIP

Inner-denominational-Evangelical
EAST HIGHWAY 36

Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship.....10:45a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service.....7:00 p.m.

The End Of Your Search For A Friendly Church
PASTOR: J. D. FRY (915) 646-7647 OR (254) 725-7696

Living Water Ministries Fellowship

Full Gospel Non-Denominational Apostolic
Restoring And Equipping The Saints

Sunday 10 a.m. * Monday Prayer 7 p.m. * Wednesday 7 p.m.

Pastors: Colleen Anderson and Maxey Evans
Glenda Tidwell - Praise & Worship

Linda Fortune - Youth Pastor

For Information Call (254) 725-6800 1-800-252-3629

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

Matt McGowen, Pastor (254) 725-4599

Church (254)725- 6266

Friendly Church

Bible Teaching

ROWDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Hwy. 36 at Rowden - 12 Miles West of Cross Plains

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....11:00 A.M.

Pastor: Carl Mauldin

Come Worship With Us!

NIMROD BAPTIST CHURCH

Sponsor: Pioneer Baptist Church

Sunday School.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.

Bill Armstrong - Pastor

Cross Plains Masonic Lodge

No. 627

Stated Meeting

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

www.cross-plains.tx-mm-org

www.gltexas.org

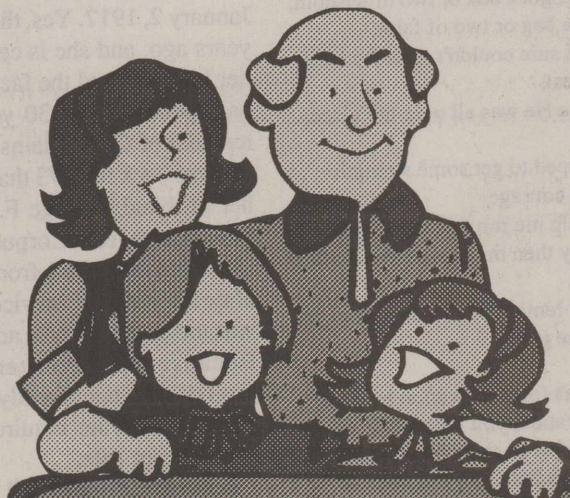
Sec. (254) 725-7530

Cross Plains Review

2

January 2, 2003

SUBSCRIBE TO THE CROSS PLAINS REVIEW



Come Worship With Us!

Sunday School for ALL the FAMILY

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship

6:00 p.m. Evening Worship

7:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer/Worship

First Baptist Church

725-7629 3rd & Main Cross Plains

Ronnie B. White, Pastor

Christ, The Hope Of Glory

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Van Service Available - Call (254) 725-7694



N. Main (Hwy. 206)

Cross Plains, Texas

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

Worship - 10:45 a.m.

Rev. C. Michael Redd, Pastor

Sunday's Sermon

"Christ The Gift"

LIBRARY NOTES

Hi! Please say you've missed me. The year has taken its toll, but hopefully I'm "on the upward trail" and can keep you up on what is going on here. Number one is New Years. Remember your friends and family with donations to the library in their honor. What better way to say "I love you" than a gift of that lasting kind? Then don't forget memorials and honorariums throughout the year. The library sends cards acknowledging your gift. Remember, parents, that LAP begins again on January 8. We'll be looking for those young ones. Come by. We can help you find what you need.

Now the Statistics for December 23-27:

BOOKS: 11 were checked out on the 23. We were closed the rest of the week for Christmas.

MEMORIALS:

Mickey V. Bush in memory of Mr. and Mrs. H.C. Freeman. Cecil and Mary Barton in memory of Kathryn Tunnell.

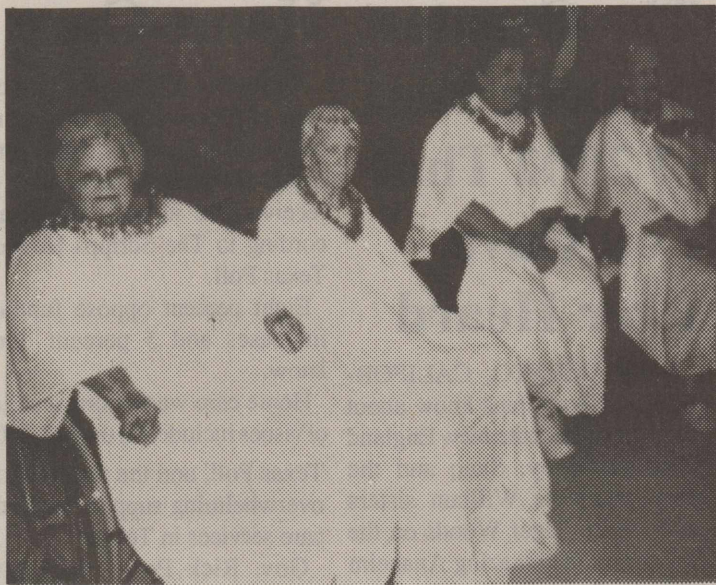
HONORARIUM:

Cecil and Mary Barton in honor of Jack Tunnell and Fred J. Tunnell.

DONATIONS:

BOOKS - Lou Rodenberger
AUDIO BOOKS - Mickey V. Freeman

RISING STAR NURSING CENTER



ANGELS—Pauline Switzer (from left), Elizabeth, Hallie Hartley and Pauline Regian.



MARY AND JOSEPH—Roby Kornegay (from left) and Leon Stewart.



WISEMEN AND SHEPHERDS— Derrell Madison (from left), Willie Wilson, Nathan Foster and Jack Smith.



NARRATOR FOR CHRISTMAS STORY— Rozell Gary (center, seated).

We have so many people to thank for their time and generosity.

First, "thank you" to the kids from the Rising Star 4-H Club and their leader, Kathy Herring, for organizing the gift tree, making candy boxes and mittens for our residents. The kids worked really hard on these projects and your efforts were very much appreciated.

Thanks to the Rising Star First Baptist Church for the cut and fragrant handmade air fresheners and the Christmas cards. Thank you to Nancy Randolph and her Pre-Kindergarten students from Cross Plains who came by to sing and give gifts to each resident with a candy cane.

Both our staff and resident parties were a big success. We had good food, entertainment and fellowship. A big "thank you" to Ray Dodd who played Santa for us.

During our resident party we

enjoyed a performance of "The Story of Christmas". Rozell Gary was the narrator, Roby Kornegay played Mary, Leon Stewart was Joseph, Angels were Pauline Switzer, Hallie Hartley, Pauline Regian and Mary Chamberlain, Shepards and Kings were Nathan Foster, Willie Wilson, Jack Smith and Derrell Madison. Patty Davis and Linda Payne did some special singing. Thanks to Red and Sarah Chamberlain for lending us chairs and also the Rising Star Foundation for the use of their chairs.

The renovation continues at the center. All of the residents' rooms have been painted and the floors redone. They have new light fixtures and over bed lights, brand new night stands and beds. The new bedspreads and privacy curtains will be here soon!

The new laundry building is up and its huge! The paving has been completed in the front of the building, stop by and check it out. Happy New Year!

3-Cross Plains Review January 2, 2003

QUIPS, CLIPS & COMMENTS

By KAY MOSLEY

Note: Following are some helpful hints on vegetable, flower and herb gardening. Certain plants complement other plants in the garden. For instance, planting marigolds, borage, basil or parsley near tomatoes will improve their flavor and can help prevent attacks from aphids, beetles and other pests.

"Lists, Lists and More Lists—Throw One Batch Away, Make More Lists"

I have been very busy throwing away all my lists of things I wanted Santa Claus to bring me for Christmas. I had to write them on a list because otherwise I might have forgotten some of the gifts I wanted to receive and that would never do. Because I wouldn't receive anything at all. So, I thought then, that Santa would not know what to bring me. See, I was just trying to help out old Saint Nick...

Immediately following that chore, I began compiling my lists of resolutions for the coming year. As I began working on my resolution lists, many thoughts of

New Years past cross my mind. Some even go so far as to criss-cross it. Back and forth, and from side to side. I find my thoughts just floating on a sea of ideas, past resolutions and forgotten memories.

Necessity led me to change from reverse to second gear, then into drive; in order to reach a decision on which resolution to include on my New Year's Resolution List.

My New Year's Resolutions are as follows:

1. I resolve to help those I can, pray for those I can't help and show compassion for all.

2. I resolve to reduce my weight, get more exercise and persevere until the goal is reached.

3. I resolve to be a better Christian, as well as a better neighbor, wife, mother, and grandmother; a "much better" friend and a more discriminating steward.

4. I resolve to complete all of my New Year's resolutions, and if I fail—that I will follow up on them next year. That's it!

Have you made you New Year's Resolutions???

New Fertility Hope for Men After Suffering Cancer

HOUSTON—Men undergoing radiation or chemotherapy for cancer may soon have new hope for fertility after beating the disease, said a Baylor College of Medicine urologist.

"Depending on the amount of radiation or chemotherapy, men are often sterile after treatment," said Dr. Larry Lipshultz, Baylor professor of urology. "It is our hope that soon men can regain fertility after treatment."

Using an animal model, Baylor researchers led by Dr. Dolores Lamb, associate professor of urology, have had positive results by taking biopsies of the testes, extracting sperm, and isolating stem cells. The stem cells are then injected back into the testes of an animal without the ability to produce sperm to see if repopulation is possible. They have found sperm production is occurring.

Researchers hope to soon use this same procedure in humans to give men a chance to establish their family after the cancer is gone.

"Patients will have a biopsy before their radiation or chemotherapy," he said. "After they recover from the cancer, the stem cells from that biopsy will be injected back into the testes."

This would give men an alternative to visiting a sperm bank before cancer therapy.

"We've been banking sperm for men diagnosed with cancer for years and that has always given couples the opportunity to have children once they beat the cancer," he said. "However, if this new therapy proves to work the way we feel it may in humans, it will allow couples to conceive naturally."

SENIOR CITIZENS MENU

January 6 - January 10

MONDAY -- Meat loaf, Blackeyed Peas, Pickled Beets, Peanut Butter Chews, Bread, Milk

TUESDAY -- Chili w/beans, Onions, Peaches w/cottage cheese, Cookie, Cornbread, Milk

WEDNESDAY -- Ham, Peas & Carrots, Sweet Potatoes, Apple Celery Salad, Spice Cake, Bread, Milk

THURSDAY --Homemade Vegetable Soup, Pimento Cheese Sandwich, Peach Cobbler, Crackers, Milk

FRIDAY --Chef Salad, Ham, Egg, Cheese, Baked Potato, Banana Pudding, Crackers, Milk

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BREAKTHRU

By Bob Pipes
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Not everyone lives in as much of a "glass house" as others but it would be well for each of us to so live our life that we could sell our pet parrot to the town gossip and not have to worry.

There are many "parrot" jokes and I simply use this to make a point: we should each live our life as an "open book" -- so we could sell our pet parrot to the town gossip and not have to be concerned about what it might say about us!

Wouldn't it be nice, for instance, for our preciously owned parrot to say to its new owner as each meal was about to begin: "Let us pray, let us pray"? Wouldn't that give the gossip something to talk about?! If he told anything, he'd have to report: "Man, those people must pray before every meal." Or maybe the parrot would be so quite -- not having been taught to curse, for instance, as the proverbial parrot he'd take it back and demand his money to be returned.

How can we insure that our life is lived "aboveboard" to such a degree? Try this for starters: "Whatever things are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, and of good report -- if there is any virtue and anything praiseworthy -- meditate on these things," Philippians 4:8, "for out of the heart spring this issues of life," Proverbs 4:23b.

We encourage you to come study and worship with us when we gather together. We really do care about you, too.

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C.P. STUDENT REVIEW

Varsity Boys Basketball

The boys dropped two games the week before the holidays to very tough teams. Hico beat the Buffaloes 98-45. Panther Creek (#12 in the state rankings) beat the Buffaloes 75-40.

Scoring against Hico were M. Allen 14, Dickson 9, Goains 9, Harris 7, Gardner 4 and Mauricio 2. Rebounds were M. Allen 6, Dickson, Goains, Harris and Gardner each had 5.

Hico 23 31 23 21 98
CP 8 12 14 11 45

Scoring against Panther Creek were Goains 10, M. Allen 10, Barton 9, Gardner 4, R. Allen 3, Dickson 2 and Joy 2. Rebounding were Goains 8, M. Allen 7 and Williams 5. Steals were led by Harris with 3. Assists were led by Barton with 4.

PC 16 17 26 16 75
CP 11 7 14 8 40

Submitted by
Coach Jay Wilcoxon

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The Greatest Athletic Feat of 2002 That You Have Ever Heard

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA — Sports fans know about Tom Brady and the New England Patriots; Koby, Shaq and the three-peat; the William sisters and tennis; Tiger Woods on the links; and the amazing Anaheim Angels. But have they heard of California's Helen Klein and Ray Piva?

On December 8th Helen Klein ran a 4:31:32 at the California International Marathon in Sacramento, California. That 10-minute 21-second per mile pace may not be a threat to world champion marathoners Paula Radcliffe and Khalid Khannouchi, but Klein is not competing with them because she is 80-years-old! This world record performance broke the former record for her age group by an astounding 39 minutes. And, there is more. Back in October when she was a mere youngster of 79, she ran a 4:46 at the Des Moines, Iowa Marathon and then just 6 days later, with barely time to catch her breath, Klein ran the Dick Collins Fire Trail 50-Miler in 13 hours 4 minutes.

In all, this mother of four and great-grandmother of 18 ran five marathons, three 50Ks (31 miles), and three 50-milers among her races in 2002. Not bad for someone who never played sports, smoked for 25 years, and didn't start running until age 55. Has all this running worn out her 80-year-old body? Apparently not. Referring to the finish of her record-breaking marathon she says, "I felt so good, I could have turned around and run home." How many 20-year-olds have the energy and vitality to keep pace with this world champion octogenarian?

Seventy-six-year-old Ray Piva of San Francisco is our other candidate for the greatest unheralded athletic accomplishment of the year. All Piva did was set a world record for his age group with an amazing (for any {age group}) 105-mile run at the Olander Park 24 Hour National Championships in September. He amassed all these miles despite less-than-ideal running conditions -- temperatures in the mid-eighties and high humidity during the day; severe thunderstorms and torrential downpours during the night.

In July, Piva ran an age group world record 66.5 miles at the San Mateo 12 Hour endurance run. At the Ruth Anderson 100K in May, he set several more world and national records for varying distances along the way. During 2002, Piva set no less than 10 world and national records in ultra-long-distance races. Is this senior athlete, who like Klein didn't start running until his mid-fifties and had no athletic background, ready to hang up his running shorts? No -- he's just getting started. Piva, who started running ultras just a dozen years ago, admits, "I'd like to try a 48-hour race now."

Author and fitness expert Ed Mayhew says, "These awesome feats prove that it is possible to be not just fit after 50, but actually in better shape than most 40, 30, and even 20-year-olds!" You can learn more about Helen Klein and dozens like her and their secrets to successful aging in Mayhew's latest book, *Fitter After 50* (1st Books Library, 2002) and at FitterAfter50.com

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Texas Poll Shows Strong Support for Home Care

AUSTIN—Eighty-seven percent of Texans favor increasing state funding so more elderly and disabled residents are eligible to receive care in their home, according to The Scripps Howard Texas Poll.

Eight percent oppose funding increases and 5 percent don't know.

Home care was among a series of issues included in the Fall 2002 Texas Poll, and the results show overwhelming support for home care services in Texas.

Gov. Rick Perry designated November as Home Care and Hospice Month. Home care, which can delay or prevent the need for institutional care, provides services to people of all ages. It includes preventive, acute, subacute, rehabilitative and long-term care with services ranging from assistance in daily living activities to high-tech IV therapy.

"The medically frail, the elderly and disabled in Texas depend on home care to help with their daily lives," said Anita Bradberry, executive director of the Texas Association for Home Care, which commissioned the survey. "Texans know these services are not only cost effective compared to nursing home care, but they also understand that home care provides a choice. Full funding for home care should be a priority in the next session of the Legislature in light of the importance Texans give to home care services."

Eighty-five percent of Texans favor legislation requiring the state to increase rates to home care providers at least equal to inflation. Seven percent oppose increasing rates and 8 percent don't know.

Meanwhile, 87 percent of Texans say they would be very or somewhat concerned if they thought home care services may no longer be available to their family or community. Only 9 percent are not very or not at all concerned and 4 percent don't know.

While Texans support home care, they also believe that the state should regulate those who provide such services. Ninety-four percent say it is very or somewhat important for the state to license home care agencies, compared with 3 percent who say it is not very or not at all important. Three percent don't know.

In Texas, the state Department of Human Services licenses home and community support agencies.

The Fall 2002 Scripps Howard Texas Data Center in Abilene from October 7 - October 29. The Poll surveyed 1,000 adult Texans by telephone in a random sample of active telephone exchanges statewide. Margin of error for whole sample is +3 percentage points.

SCHOOL MENU

JANUARY 6 - JANUARY 10
BBREAKFAST

MONDAY --Muffins, Assorted Juice
TUESDAY--French Toast, Sausage, Assorted Juice
WEDNESDAY--Eggs, Bacon, Biscuit, Assorted Juice
THURSDAY--Cereal, Toast Assorted Juice
FRIDAY --Breakfast Bread, Assorted Juice

LUNCH

MONDAY--Corn Dogs, Baked Beans, Pickle Spears, Peaches
TUESDAY -- Salisbury Steak w/ brown gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Peas, Rolls, Peas
WEDNESDAY--Meat - Cheese Nachos, Salad, Corn, Blueberry Crisp
THURSDAY--Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce, Cheese Broccoli, Garlic Sticks, Mixed Fruit
FRIDAY-- Hamburger, Lettuce, Tomato, Pickles, Fries, Cookie

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Callahan County Jr. Livestock Show to Held in January at Cross Plains

The Annual Callahan County Jr. Livestock Show will be held Thursday, January 16th - Saturday, January 18th at the Cross Plains Callahan County Show Barn. Starting time will be Thursday, January 16, at 5:30 p.m. with the judging of the rabbits and poultry.

Frankie Hyles, President of the Callahan County Jr. Livestock Association, said that entries are expected to number about 450 this year from the various FFA Chapters and 4-H Clubs in the County.

Other officers of the association are Steven Mitchell as Vice President, Johnny Adkins as Treasurer and Karen Johnston as Secretary.

Superintendents for this years show are:

Beef Cattle — Eddie Riley, Jimmy Seider, Johnny Lee and Richie Crow
Market Swine — Jackie Tennison
Poultry & Rabbits — Doug Johnston and Larry McIntire
Sheep & Goats — Steven Mitchell, Lesa Harris, and Toby Reeves

Judging of the rabbits and poultry will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 16th with Scott Anderson of Brownwood doing the judging. All participants must be checked in by 5:00 p.m. on the 16th.

Judging will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, January 17th, with the Breeding Swine Show followed by the Market Barrow Show. Gary Houser of Roysse City will be judging the Swine Show.

At 1:30 p.m. on Friday, January 17th, Justin Jonas of San Angelo will start judging the Market Lambs followed by the Meat Goats and Boer Goat Show.

On the afternoon of the 17th from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. all steers and heifers will be classified and weighed. Mr. Greg Gruben of Snyder will get the judging of the Beef Cattle underway at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, January 18th with the heifer show. Mr. Gruben will also judge the steer show starting at 9:00 a.m.

The Premium Sale will begin at 1:00 p.m. The Awards Presentation of all the trophies for the champion animals will be held prior to the premium sale auction.

Announcers for the three day show will be Dick Vestal, Greg Gengross, Tom Turner, John Belcher and Doug Johnston.

Officials of the Show would like to invite everyone out for all or part of the show and support the young folks of Callahan County.

Census Bureau Updating Information in January on Americans' Spending Habits

Information about how much Americans spend on items such as groceries, clothing, health care and housing will be collected in January by the Census Bureau from a sample of randomly selected households across the country.

In the Consumer Expenditure Survey, about 7,500 households will be interviewed once every three months over the next year. Another 7,500 households record their expenditures during a two-week period. Government economists use the results to update a "market basket" of goods and services for the Consumer Price Index, the single most widely-used measure of inflation in the coun-

try. "Without the Consumer Price Index," said Alfonso E. Mirabal, director of the Census Bureau's Dallas regional office, "businesses around the country would not be able to keep wages, salaries and pensions in line with increases in the cost of living."

By law, the answers the Census Bureau receives from survey respondents are confidential. Participating households receive a letter from Census Bureau Director C. Louis Kencannon informing them of their selection. Census Bureau field representatives, who conduct the interviews, carry official identification cards.

TDA is Now Accepting Nominations for 2002 Rural Heroism Award

AUSTIN—Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs announced today that the Texas Department of Agriculture is now accepting nominations for TDA's 2002 Rural Heroism Award.

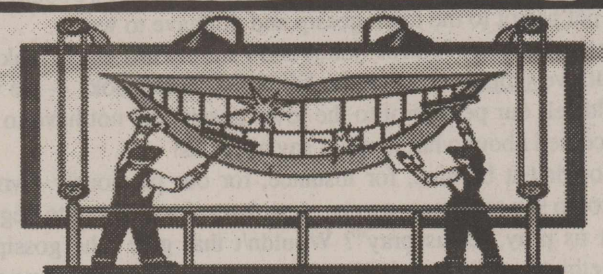
Candidates must have performed a heroic, lifesaving act within Texas during 2002. The heroic deed should be related to farming or ranching and occur in a rural area. Automobile accidents or accidents caused by negligence will not be considered.

Nominations should include a written account of the incident and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of everyone

involved. If available, newspaper clippings and photographs should accompany all nominations.

Nominations must be post-marked by Feb. 1, 2003 and mailed to Lola Lemmon, TDA Safety Coordinator, Texas Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 12847, Austin, Texas 78711. For additional information on qualifications, contact Lemmon at (512) 475-1611.

The 2002 recipient will be announced March 31 at the Texas Safety Association's annual conference at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Houston.



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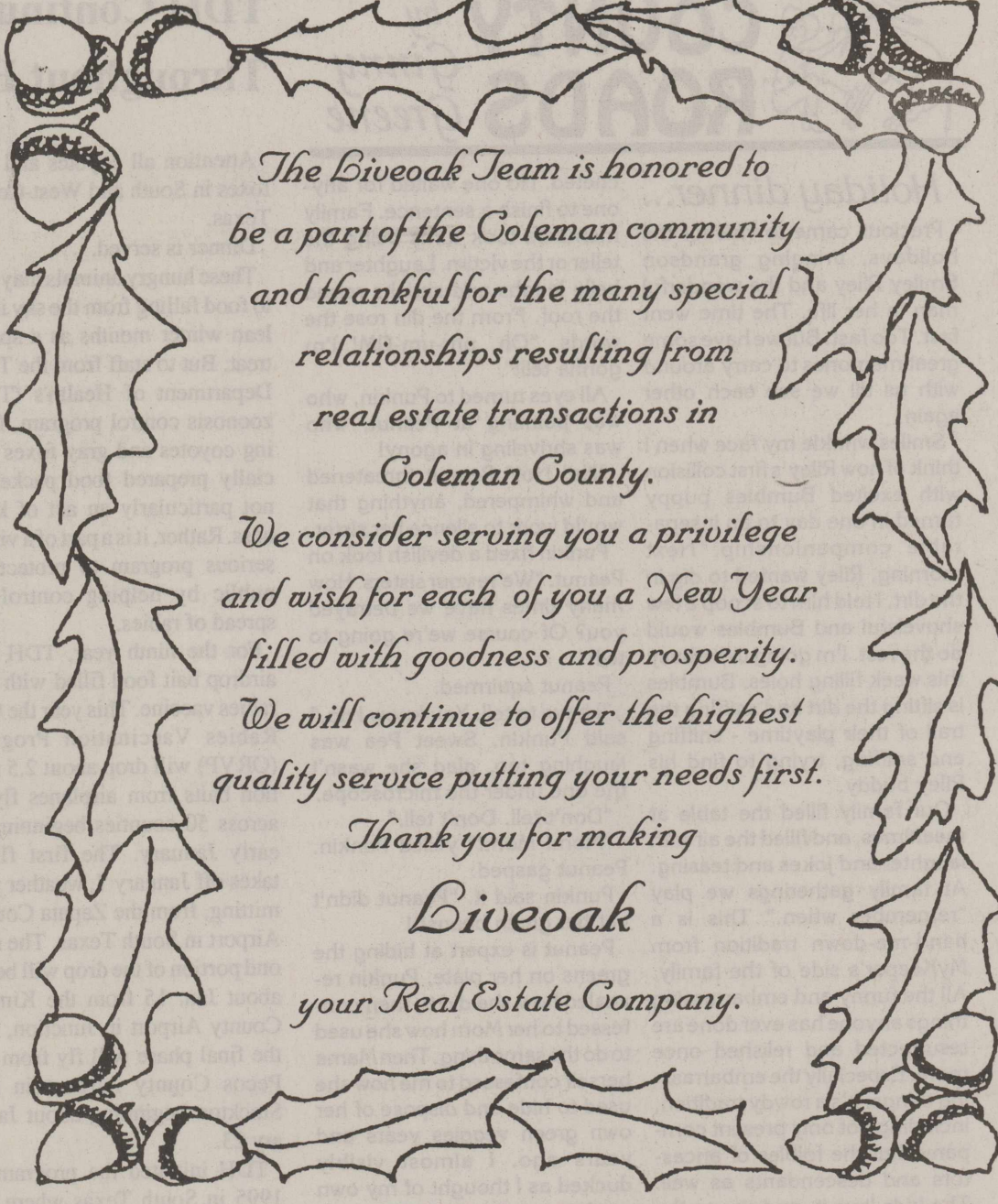
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 * 20/A, on pavement, 5 miles from town unimproved, \$20,000
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 * 22/A. with 4bd/2 bath home with 3/4 acre in Callahan Co. \$250,000
UNDER CONTRACT
NEW LISTING-- 22.41/A in Rising Star, subirrigated, corral, old barn, pecan trees, costal. \$60,000
NEW LISTING-- 40/A. in city of Lubbock, near airport, I 27, Regent St; and M.L.K. Blvd. Excellent Development Property. \$250,000
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NEW LISTING-- 45/A. Eastland Co., Unimproved brush and timber. Good small Deer place.
NEW LISTING-- 99.76/A. Eastland Co. Mobile Home, 5 water wells, on pavement, some thick brush, deep creek, Hunting, Good Stock Farm. \$830,000
UNDER CONTRACT
NEW LISTING-- 100/A Farm with 3bd/1 bath frame house. Several outbuildings, carport and barn. New fences, improved coastal, creek, and 2 tanks, Southern Eastland Co. \$140,000.00
NEW LISTING-- 100/A with 2,432 Sq. Ft. 2002 model Palm Harbor double wide home, excellent water well, 2 ponds, pretty views, good hunting, on pavement, 5 miles from Cross Plains. \$190,000
 * 140/A South of Carbor; 20/A in Cultivation. 120/A in Native pasture with clusters of oak trees scattered throughout. Excellent deer and turkey hunting. \$830,000
UNDER CONTRACT
 * 143.45/A heavily wooded, secluded, close to town, good fences, pond, excellent hunting. \$158,000.
NEW LISTING-- 155/A. Eastland Co., 3/2 brick home, 3 large metal barns, 2 ponds, Costal, woods, 32/A. Vineyard. \$255,000
 * 160/A, 3 miles S.W. of Cross Plains, rural water line, excellent fences, 2 ponds stocked with fish, Good deer & dove Hunting-will divide.
NEW LISTING-- 168/A. Pasture, super hunting, large creek, deep water holes, Eastland Co.
NEW LISTING-- 169/A. Callahan Co., Excellent hunting, 2 large ponds, native pasture, includes 1993, 30' travel trailer, ponds stocked with catfish, bass and bluegill. Owner Finance, 20% down for 15 years.
 * 185/A in North Brown County, 2 stock ponds, rural water line, on pavement, wooded, creek some cultivation. Good hunting & fishing! \$750/A
NEW LISTING-- 200/A Brown Co. good hunting and fishing, 4 ponds, excellent fences, \$750/A
NEW LISTING-- 223/A. 4 ponds, Good Hunting, 160' x 160' metal barn, Rural water, 48% minerals, Owner Financing. Brown County. \$220,000
UNDER CONTRACT
NEW LISTING-- 233/A, Eastland Co., pretty and productive, creek, 3 stock ponds, scattered large oak trees, Coastal and Kline grass, working pens, 2 water wells on County Road. \$233,000
 * 240/A-Comanche County, 20 acre lake, new fences, County Rd., 68 acres cultivation, 110 acres Costal Bermuda, center pivot irrigation system, very productive \$1,600/A Call Pauline
NEW LISTING-- 247.6/A, 3bd/2b Brick home, large trees, 2 water wells, good fences, barn, Comanche Co. \$272,600
NEW LISTING-- 250/A., Callahan Co., Coleman water line, 4 tanks, oaks, 2 creeks, good hunting, improved grasses. \$250,000
NEW LISTING-- 260/A., West of Cisco, North of I-20, hills, creek, mesquite, stock ponds. \$625/A
 * 285/A near Rising Star, costal , good fences, Hwy frontage, \$1,200/A Call Pauline.
NEW LISTING-- 303/A, Eastland Co., game fence around 203/A, 15/A lake, Sabanna Creek runs through it, canyons, live oak, deer, turkey, rural water, super hunting \$450,000
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 * 467/A, 15/A lake, 300/A costal, springs, super productive, Excellent Hunting & Fishing \$485,000
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 * 700/A with costal Bermuda, underground water, near Rising Star. call Pauline \$1,200/A
NEW LISTING-- 705/A., Lake, 5 ponds, irrigation wells, Coastal, approx. 350/A. thick cover, center pivot system, good hunting. Eastland Co. \$780/A
NEW LISTING-- 1243/A in Scurry Co., well, ponds, gages, deep creek, canyons, cedar & mesquite, deer, turkey, hogs. \$295/A. Call Tom
 * large residential lot in the Tom Bryant addition to Cross Plains, trees, prime home building location.
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NEW LISTING-- 3/A and 3bd/2 1/2 bath, CH/A home on Pecan Bayou, garage, 2 car ports, on pavement, basement, city water, excellent fishing, retirement dream spot. Coleman Co., \$60,000
 * 4.89/A with 1,880 sq. ft. 3 bd/1 3/4 Bath, nice, close to town, large storage bld. city water and waterwell. \$80,000
NEW LISTING-- 27/A., 2bd/2 bath home, on 3/4/A in Callahan Co. \$83,000
NEW LISTING-- 50/A, 2bd home, barn, pens, water well, improved grass, good location. \$120,000
NEW LISTING-- 99.76/A. Eastland Co. Mobile Home, 5 water wells, on pavement, some thick brush, deep creek, Hunting, Good Stock Farm. \$830,000
NEW LISTING-- 155/A with 32/A Producing Vineyard, 1,600 sq. ft. Brick home, 3 large barns, water wells, large pond, 60/A thick brush. Eastland Co. Pretty and Productive. \$250,000
 * 255/A with 3 bd/2 bath rock house, waterwell, chard, mountains, good hunting, north of Cottonwood.
 * Fixer upper, 2bd/2 bath, frame, good landscaping, on paved street in Cross Plains, \$15,000
RESIDENTIAL:
NEW LISTING-- 6 lots with older home and two mobile homes, trees, cellar. \$12,000
NEW LISTING-- Nice 3bd/1 1/2 bath, brick, CH/A, 1,100 Sq. Ft., 2 storage bldgs., car port, fenced, paved street, good neighborhood in Cross Plains. \$52,000
NEW LISTING-- 1bd/1bath house close to school, in Rising Star, \$13,500. Call Pauline
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 * 2bd/1 bath , large Kitchen and Dining Area, fenced, on large lot in Cross Plains \$32,500 Call Pauline.
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MEMBER 2003

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COUNTY ROADS by Ginny Greene

Holiday dinner...

Precious came to visit for the holidays, bringing grandson Smiley Riley and the wonderful man in her life. The time went fast. Too fast. But we have some great memories to carry around with us till we see each other again.

Smiles wrinkle my face when I think of how Riley's first collision with excited Bumbles puppy turned in one day to an inseparable companionship. Next morning, Riley wanted to dig in the dirt. I told him to scoop a few shovelful and Bumbles would do the rest. I'm going to be busy this week filling holes. Bumbles is sifting the dirt and sniffing the trail of their playtime - sniffing and sniffing, trying to find his Riley buddy.

Our family filled the table at mealtimes, and filled the air with laughter and jokes and teasing. At family gatherings we play "remember when." This is a hand-me-down tradition from MyKeeper's side of the family. All the funny and embarrassing things anyone has ever done are resurrected and relished once more. Especially the embarrassing things. It's a rowdy tradition, including not only present company, but the foibles of ancestors and descendants as well. The kids love it, and rise to the occasion with their own contributions.

Each mealtime, we crowded around a table or two at home or at a restaurant. Precious's family wedged themselves among Puddin' and her girls Peanut, Sweet Pea and Punkin', and me and MyKeeper.

The first dinner set the tone. Jabs and barbs and jokes rico-

cheted. No one waited for anyone to finish a sentence. Family members took turns being the teller or the victim. Laughter and belly laughs and shrieks raised the roof. From the din rose the words, "Oh, um-um-UM! I'm gonna tell!"

All eyes turned to Punkin, who was pointing at Peanut, who was shriveling in agony!

"No! No!" Peanut threatened and whimpered, anything that would work to silence her sister.

Punkin fixed a devilish look on Peanut. "We're your sisters. How many times have we betrayed you? Of course we're going to tell!"

Peanut squirmed. "I have to tell. You know I do," said Punkin. Sweet Pea was laughing too, glad she wasn't the one under the microscope.

"Don't tell. Don't tell."

"Mom! Mom!" yelled Punkin.

Peanut gasped.

Punkin said it. "Peanut didn't eat her green beans!!!"

Peanut is expert at hiding the greens on her plate. Punkin revealed how she did it, then confessed to her Mom how she used to do the same thing. Then Mama herself confessed to me how she used to hide and dispose of her own green veggies years and years ago. I almost visibly ducked as I thought of my own mother, peering at me from a cloud these days. "She knows!" I thought. "I'm just sure she knows how much I hated cantaloupe and tapioca pudding!"

"OK," I said, "this is Christmas. Could we please have some decorum at the table here? Just this once?"

It sure is nice to have family together for the holidays.

© Ginny Greene 2003

TDH Continues Rabies Fight Throughout Bait Drop Program

Attention all coyotes and gray foxes in South and West-Central Texas.

Dinner is served.

These hungry animals may look to food falling from the sky in the lean winter months as a special treat. But to staff from the Texas Department of Health's (TDH) zoonosis control program, feeding coyotes and gray foxes specially prepared food packets is not particularly an act of kindness. Rather, it is a part of a vitally serious program to protect the public by helping control the spread of rabies.

For the ninth year, TDH will airdrop bait food filled with oral rabies vaccine. This year the Oral Rabies Vaccination Program (ORVP) will drop about 2.5 million baits from airplanes flying across 50 counties beginning in early January. The first flight takes off January 7, weather permitting, from the Zapata County Airport in South Texas. The second portion of the drop will begin about Jan. 15 from the Kimble County Airport in Junction, and the final phase will fly from the Pecos County Airport in Fort Stockton beginning about January 23.

TDH initiated the program in 1995 in South Texas where canine rabies in coyotes and domestic dogs had reached epidemic proportions and threatened to invade San Antonio and other major population areas. The next year, an airdrop began in West-Central Texas where an epidemic of gray fox rabies had been occurring since 1988.

The TDH plan was to create zones of vaccinated coyotes and gray foxes to, first, stop the spread of the rabies virus, then eliminate canine and gray fox rabies.

"This program continues to show results," said TDH veterinarian Tom Sidwa, ORVP director. "We have had no human

cases of rabies in either area since the vaccine airdrop began. And among the coyotes and gray foxes we have seen a significant drop in the number of animal rabies cases."

The number of canine rabies cases in South Texas has declined from a high of 142 cases when the program began in 1995 to 1 in 2001 and none in 2002 through October. Gray fox cases have shown a similar decline from 244 cases in 1995 to 54 through last October.

Four Beechcraft King Air aircraft are used to spread the baits. The number of air miles flown in distributing the baits each year is equal to four trips around the world.

The baits offer fish meal for coyotes and dog food containing molasses and flavored with vanilla for gray foxes. Inside each bait is 2 milliliters of oral rabies vaccine in an edible sack.

"The baits are harmless," Sidwa said. "The vaccine inside the bait cannot cause rabies in people or animals."

People should not handle these baits, however, wildlife is less likely to eat them if people have touched them. Anyone who comes in contact with the baits may call TDH toll free at 1-877-722-6725 for information. Each bait, which measure 1 1/4 by 1 1/4 by 3/4 inches, is marked with a label that includes the telephone number.

Sidwa emphasized that owners of domestic animals still need to get their pets vaccinated against rabies by a veterinarian as required by law. A domestic animal's rabies vaccination can be safely given even if the animal recently ate an oral rabies vaccine bait, he said.

Area counties in the 2003 West-Central Texas vaccine distribution area include Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Eastland and Taylor.

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Happy Birthdays!

JANUARY 4
Jim Forbes
N.L. Dillard
Mrs. Treva Garrett
Danny Myrick
Michael Chase Childers
Troy Stone
George Hoover
Shana Bagley
Brian Odom
Ronald Allen Steele
Kayla (Cupit) Rodgers
Myrna Mitchell
Lowell Clark
Douglas Bowden

David Grider
Glenda Lane
Deloras Stover
Karen (Ringhoffer) Combs
Bobby Oliver
Ricky Purvis
Mrs. Carl King
James Crowley
Betty Strength
Bridgette Allen
Shea Connelly

JANUARY 5
Judson Cole
Jo Boatright
Peggy Hilburn
Wanda Ruth Anderson
Donald Rhodes
Ronald Rhodes
Clara Smart
Tye A. Flippin
Vernon H. Simpson
Jo Rhodes
Debbie Wilson
Bobby Joe Sheppard

JANUARY 8
Joe McWilliams
Claude Boyd
Johnny Nunn
Bill Forbes
Jimmy Hargrove
Jean Johnson
Mrs. L.M. Barrow
Allen Bland
Jay Staggs
Mrs. Eugene Strickland

JANUARY 6
Mrs. Bob Henderson
Kathy Parrish Cole
Tommie Connelly
Betsy (Bowden) Kington
Troy Shane Knowles
Betty Holland
Mrs. O.B. Byrd
Mrs. Jerry Whiteside
Melissa Clark
Brenna Michelle Kleiber
Jessica Sue Hall

JANUARY 9
Carol Parsons
Charles Williams
Alvie Hutchins
Karen (Dunn) Dooley
Ronny Nunn
Patrick Sadler
Cathy Meroney
Teri Brown
Kim Koenig

JANUARY 7
Randall Kyle Foster
Mrs. Roy Thornton
Dick Koenig

JANUARY 10
Russell Barnes
Karan Wise
Ricky Wayne Waddell
Ellen Brown
Lila Payne
Eddie Edington
J.T. Isbell

Pointer

Scout leader, Archery Club Member, fisherman, and a wonderful, loving grandfather.

Friends of Eunice and her late husband, George Pointer, would like to say "THANK YOU" for years of friendship and for choosing Cross Plains to become your home, 30 years ago. You have been a valuable asset to the city of Cross Plains. We love you Eunice and we loved George, your friends, Lessie Baum, Ora Breeding, the Rankins, Vernon and Becky Smith, Michael Ingram, Glen and Peggy Winfrey, James and Wilma Lawrence, Donald and Deloras Stover, Dwayne and Angie Clower, Maudie Shepherd, Margaret Pointer, James and Frances Wolf, Frankie Smith, June Rankin, Charlie and Linda Strength, Donnie and Gail McDowell, Tim Dillard, Donnie

Dillard, Dr. Richard Taft, Dr. JoAnn Paulk, Dr. Carpenter, Myrna Mitchell, Donald and Vicky Strength, Recie Tatam, Bob and Sharon Hill, Bro. and Mrs. Clower, Vi Harlow, Jean Fore, Dorothy Mitchell, Eulala Stover, Aileen and Wayne Smith, Higginbotham's, Jean's Feed Barn, Dairy Queen, Village Market, Cross Plains Grain and Peanut, Lawrence's Farm and Ranch Supply, Inc., Johnson's Dry Goods, Mozelle's, Cross Plains Senior Citizens' Center, Tim's Floral, Texas Heritage Bank, Pioneer Baptist Church, Charlie's Truck and Trailer Repairs, T&K Tire and Alignment, Skinny's, U.S. Post Office, The Church of Christ, Cross Plains Review, Best Fried Chicken, the Phone Guy, your granddaughter, Kandy and your best friend, Tony!

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We invite you to attend the first Scranton Musical of 2003. It will be held January 4th at the community center at Scranton. The kitchen will open at 5:30 p.m. with Anita Webb and Ruth Ray as hostess. They will offer something real special, plus sandwiches and homemade pies. Mark Ray will be the

emcee. All area musicians are invited to play. You may call 915-692-2057 to reserve a time for your group. See you Saturday.

Submitted by Joan Shrader

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--- Cisco Campus ---
January 13 - 14

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