THE VAILEY TRIBUNE

Voice Of The Rolling Plains



Volume 53 No. 27

Quitaque, Texas 79255

Serving Briscoe ~ Hall ~ Motley Counties

Tuesday, January 29, 2013

Turkey

Senior

Citizens

Turkey Senior Citizens

continue to meet on the first

and third Tuesday of each

month. We had a wonderful

Christmas party in Decem-

ber. In January, we only met

once and reelected officers

for the upcoming year. The

motion was made and car-

ried for everything to remain

the same. Our rule of thumb

is to cancel if snowing. We

meet at 5:30 p.m. Our next

meeting is February 5th.

Come join us for pot luck and

games!!

Phil Barefield Receives Certificate of **Recognition Appreciation Award from** The SBRSP

Sixteen members and guests of the Swisher-Briscoe Retired School Personnel began 2013 learning about the legislative agenda that the Texas Retired Teacher Association is sponsoring. Phil Barefield mentioned several items on the slate for the legislative session for 2013 including improving funding for the TRS pension fund and the TRS-health care. He passed out a questionnaire and urged members to contact their legislators regarding their concerns.

Special guest was Minerva Hinojosa of Kress who also joined the group prepping Snack Paks following the meeting.

Evelyn Rossi, Health Chairperson, reminded members to report steps for the Walk Across Texas Project. This project encourages members to participate in regular activity to increase overall health. Sue Davey, Volunteer Chair, reminded members to report volunteer hours to Edna Francies or Sue Davey

Peggie Bush presented The Certificate of Recognition Appreciation Award to Phil Barefield for his work as Legislative Chairman. Mr. Barefield contacts legislators and sends emails to members to help everyone stay informed.

The next meeting is 11 a.m., Monday, February 4, at the El Camino Dining Room. Sally Murrell, Swisher County Museum Director, will present the program Acquisition of Arrows for the Quanah Parker Trail. Members and guests are welcome. Snack Pak prepping will begin at 1 p.m.



Peggie Bush presented the Swisher-Briscoe Retired School Personnel Appreciation Award to Phil Barefield, Legislative Chairman, for his legislative leadership. Left to Right: Lynette Barfield, Phil Barefield, and Peggie Bush.

Due Diligence, or 'Policing for Profit'?: Woman Decries Seizure of Nearly \$30K Cash By Russell Anglin/Amarillo Globe-News -

Laura Dutton counts the \$29,600 Estelline police confiscated from her during a Nov. 28 traffic stop. Officials returned Dutton's money after a prosecutor rejected the case.

Laura Dutton sat at a table, thumbing through stacks of \$100 bills that had been tied up,

like herself, in legal limbo for weeks. Dutton, 62, of Fort Worth, hadn't seen her \$29,600 - in cash - since Nov. 28, when an Es-

telline police officer stopped her for speeding and arrested her on a money-laundering charge. Officials returned Dutton's money after a prosecutor rejected the case, but she still was angry.

Former Estelline Police Officer Jayson Fry said in his report Dutton was nervous, made furtive movements, showed signs of deception and gave evasive answers when he questioned her. In the report, Fry said he also smelled a "strong odor of unknown origin" that he thought to

be marijuana coming from inside Dutton's Ford F-150 pickup. "When asked specific questions about the odor, defendant became almost belligerent and denied consent to search, stating I would have to get a warrant," Fry's police report said.

Memphis Police Chief Chris Jolly said Fry called him to assist with the stop. Jolly brought Kilo, his drug-sniffing K-9, and the dog "obtained a positive hit" on the pickup, Fry's report said. The officer's report said he then detained Dutton and found the cash inside her pickup.

"As I was counting the money, I detected a very strong odor of marijuana coming from the money itself," Fry's report said. "No other contraband was found in the vehicle."

Jolly also interviewed Dutton and contacted an investigator with 100th District Attorney Luke Inman's office, according to Fry's report. Fry said in his report that he and Jolly thought they had probable cause to arrest Dutton because her story about the money's origin could not be corroborated, the cash smelled of marijuana and there was no evidence it was legitimate.

But Dutton denied having any connection to drug activity. Dutton said the money came from property in Eden she recently sold, and that her sister spoke with Jolly on a cellphone during the stop. Dutton said her sister couldn't remember the

date the sale took place and Dutton didn't have the papers documenting the sale. Dutton was booked into the Hall County jail on a third-degree felony charge and spent a night there before she posted about \$1,000 bail, she said. Dutton did not specify why she had the cash in her pickup, but said she didn't have it for any illegal purpose.

Inman rejected the money laundering charge because the seized cash had bank wrappings on it and Dutton provided documentation for the property sale, according to a Jan. 10 letter sent from Inman's office to Estelline City Manager Richard Ferguson. Dutton's speeding citation also was dismissed.

Local Woman Reaches Plea Bargain

Belinda Barrett of Quitaque has reached a plea agreement with the Briscoe County District Court. On January 23rd, Barrett plead guilty to Misapplication of Fiduciary Funds stemming from an indictment that was handed down from the Briscoe County Grand Jury on May 3rd. According to Becky McPherson, District Attorney, Barrett has been sentenced to 8 years in a penitentiary with a fine of \$2,500 and restitution of \$239,000. At this time, she is currently being held in Briscoe County awaiting transfer.

Valley Patriots Still Rolling

The Valley Patriots continued on their winning ways last week with two more district wins to remain undefeated at 7-0 in district (11-4 overall).

On Tuesday the Patriots knocked of the Groom Tigers 53-38. Leading the scoring for the Patriots was Gustavo Alanis with 13 pts and 5 reb, followed by Barrett Bland with 10 pts. Having an all around good night was Kameron Buchanan with 2 pts, 9 reb, 6 asst., and 2 steals. Ketch Smith contributed 8 pts and 8 steals. Also scoring for the Patriots were Carson Proctor

7 pts, Cody Heck 6 pts, 9 reb. and 3 blocks, Ben Seth Ramsey 4 pts, Brennan Allen 3 pts.

On Friday the Patriots hosted the McLean Tigers and came out on top 75-32. This the 13th time in 15 games that the Patriots have held their opponents under 50 pts in a game. The team is really playing great defense this season. The Patriots had many players contributing to Friday nights success. Ben Seth Ramsey, though only scoring 4 pts pulled down 11 reb. and had 2 blocks, Gustavo Alanis had 14 pts and 12 Reb and 2 steals, Barrett bland put up 15 point to lead the team in scoring. Ketch Smith was also in double figure ending the night with 10 pts, 4 asst. and 3 steals. Carson Proctor had 9 pts, Kameron Buchanan had 9 pts, 5 asst., 5 steals, Cody Heck 7 pts, 6 reb, Brennan Allen 6 pts, 3 steals, Gustavo Santos 2 pts and 3 steals.

The Patriots Travel to Hedley on Tuesday before returning home for a matchup with Silverton on Friday.

LADY PATRIOTS MOVE TO 7-0 IN DISTRICT The Valley Lady Patriots racked up two more district wins this past week with victories

over Groom and Mclean.

Last Tuesday evening's game saw the Groom Lady Tigers come to town. Valley opened up a 24-4 lead in the first quarter, on their way to a 72-22 win. The Lady Patriots had four players in double figures. Haley Wheeler and Monica Alanis had 16 points each, and Abby Hill and Emily Barrett followed with 12 and 10 points respectively. Others scoring for Valley were April Villarreal-6, Makenzie Standlee-5, Kodie Saul-3, and Colleen Hancock and Shawna Davis with 2 points each.

Friday evening's game had Valley facing the Mclean Lady Tigers. The Lady Patriots once again raced out to a big first quarter lead of 28-4. They use that momentum to carry them to a 86-20 win. Abby Hill led all scorers with 23 points. Emily Barrett would follow with 15 points, and Makenzie Standlee and April Villarreal were also in double figures with 12 and 11 points respectively. Other girls scoring for Valley were as follows; Colleen Hancock-8, Haley Wheeler-6, Monica Alanis-6, Shawna Davis-3, and Kodie Saul with 2 points.

The girls will next be in action Tuesday evening in Hedley. Game time is 6:30.

JV GIRLS WIN CHAMPIONSHIP AT VALLEY TOURNEY

The Valley JV girls defeated Motley County in the semifinals, and then beat Miami in the finals, to bring home the championship of the annual Valley JV tournament. In the semifinal game, Valley raced to a 27-6 halftime lead, in route to the 64-19 win. Freshman guard Kenadee Buchanan led the way with 20 points, and Jessi Messer followed closely with 15 points. Esmarelda Cruz was also in double figures with 13 points. Others scoring for the JV Lady Patriots were Francisca Alanis-9, Jacy Crump-5, and Amy Scott with 2 points. In the championship game, Valley had to overcome a 4 point deficit at the end of the first quarter, to ultimately win the game by a 45-27 score. Kennadee Buchanan came up big again with 23 points. Jessi Messer also turned in a good performance with 9 points and 5 steals. Jacy Crump added 4 points and 6 rebounds. Francisca Alanis had 6 points and 3 assists. Rachel Hancock had 2 points, and more importantly 6 steals in the game. Esmarelda Cruz added one point, and Amy Scott did not score, but contributed 7 rebounds to the cause. This was a really good day for the JV girls, and their efforts show that the future is bright for Lady Patriot basketball! Congratulations JV

February Pre-Super Bowl Jamboree Show

There will be a great pre-game show, Saturday, February 2, Super Bowl weekend, at the Gem Theater in Turkey. A fun night at the best free show around will be just the thing to get everybody's weekend started out right!

A complete ham dinner will be served, starting at 6pm, for the benefit of Turkey Heritage and the Turkey Roost Museum, \$6 will buy you delicious ham, with fixings, a drink, and dessert. Marie Cruse and Margie Pinkerton will be doing the cooking, so come early and bring a

Lynn Alexander, from Lubbock, will be starting the show. Lynn is a great all-around musician and a Jamboree favorite. Joel and Sharon Browning are up second. Their strong solo numbers and duets have earned them many fans, and we look forward to another excellent set from them. Jimmy Burson, from Silverton, is justifiably well known for his voice and his fiddle playing skills, and is going to be a superior third act. Our friends, The Turkey Gems, will round out the bill with their trademark blend of fun and serious numbers.

There will be a talent showcase, open to anyone who wants to sing, play an instrument, or recite. If you want to try your act out in front of a large, friendly, audience, here is your chance! This month's cash prize was donated by Billy Jean Williams, from Turkey. The door prize was donated by Jim Kalafus, from New York.

So, remember. February 2nd at the Gem Theater in Turkey- a great meal starts at 6pm and an even greater free show starts at 7. Be a friend and bring a friend-you'll be glad that you did!

FLOMOT NEWS By Earlyne Jameson

Overheard

At a certain age, everyone will understand this poor guy; I thought about the 30 year business I ran with 1800 employees, all without a Blackberry that played music, took videos, pictures and communicated with Facebook and Twitter!

Mrs. Elisa Wiggley of Lubbock visited this weekend with her mother, Mrs. Aleda Ross.

Mrs. Lou Burleson of Floydada, Mrs. Marisue Potts of Mott Creek Ranch and Mary Ellen "Dude" Barton, who all have birthdays in January, enjoyed lunch in Plainview, Friday.

Joe Ike and Anna Beth Clay attended a basketball game in Panhandle ve. Clarendon Friday night in which granddaughter, Sarah Clay played. They visited her family, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Clay, Tanner and Kelsey. Anna Beth attended Valley

Stock Show Saturday. Visiting Mrs. Nada Starkey during the weekend were children and families, Bessie and Clifton Reid of Amarillo, Michael Starkey of Canyon, Mrs. Jackie Lynn Davis, Michael and Virginia Davis of Fritch.

Wilburn Martin attended to business in Lockney and Plainview, Friday.

Visiting from Monday until Wednesday with grandparents Clois and Kathy Shorter was Brooke Sehon of Wolfforth.

Tylee, Trent, and Trevor Barclay of Matador visited the weekend with grandparents, Jerry and Sandra Barclay. Mrs. Connie Franks visited in Idalou Sunday with son and

family, Cory and Amy Franks, Hudson, Madison and Heston. Mrs. Janice Hughes attended the birthday of granddaughter, Kendal Hughes held in Floydada Saturday in the home of her family, Mr. and Mrs. Rickey Hughes and Kason. She blew out her ten candles on a colorful decorated cake, enjoyed opening her gifts and playing games.

Others attending beside her friends were her maternal grandmother, Mrs. Janelle Rochelle and uncle Andy Rochelle of Paducah, Sherry and Trent McKay of Quitaque, uncle and family, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Hughes, Tara, Reagan, and Brody of Floydada.

3rd Six Weeks Valley Honor

Roll

Madison Bagwell

Kloee Farley

Susana Mora

Diego Alanis

Eric Martinez

Brynlii Chandler

Thor Meade

Cyrie Ruff

Max Cryan

Chance Pigg

Jaycee Pigg

Gage Sperry

Tenanye Taylor

Victor Chavez

Ariel White

Angel Alaniz

Lana Belmares

Deklyn Chandler

Brylie Edwards

Connor Kerzee

Kelsey Flowers

Ismael Valdes

Iracema Mendoza

Yuzalette Chavira

Savannah Young

Kennadee Buchanan

Germain Mendoza

Jacee Crump

Tricia Curry

Amy Scott

A&B

A&B

A & B

Patric Snyder

Barrett Bland

Esmarelda Cruz

Monica Alanis

Jessi Messer

Ketch Smith

Makenzie Standlee

Matthew Greene

Kamberlyn Salazar Beverly Whitaker

A&B

A&B

A&B

A&B

A&B

A&B

A&B

Jace Bland

Trey Smith

Zack Tyler

Caitlin Stewart

1st Grade

2nd Grade

3rd Grade

4th Grade

5th Grade

6th Grade

7th Grade

8th Grade

9th Grade

10th Grade

11th Grade

Jerrica Galvan

12th Grade

Morgan Hawkins

Jaydan Bagwell **Brayson Cruse** Reese Cruse Laney Edwards **Dustin Frazier** Harmony Mellor Cheyenne Smith Cash Sperry

Blake Beard Corbyn Standlee Adrian Valdes

Jaxon Edwards Jordan Harrison Jeren Hughes Charlie Pointer Kyrie Valdez

Baylor Cruse Cooper Hill Brooke Hughes Jaden Pigg

Parker Carson Cody Crump Madison Pigg Chloe Smith

Branson Cruse Kara Luckett Allison Patrick

Dax Allen Kylie Brown

Ryleigh Carson Jolee Hill Sheridan Reagan Zack Stumbo Micah Willey

Francisca Alanis Rachel Hancock J. D. Schnitker

Walker Carson

Haley Wheeler

A None

Kameron Buchanan Brennan Allen Sunny Helms Abby Hill Ben Seth Ramsey

Colleen Hancock Cody Heck Jose Mendoza Blake Pigg **Carson Proctor** Devanara Quintero Kodie Saul Daniel Valdes **Zack Williams**

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TXDOT BLITZES GAME-DAY DRINKING AND DRIVING, **URGES FANS TO "P.A.S.S."** THEIR KEYS FOR THE SUPER BOWL

AUSTIN- Texas football fans spend weeks preparing for Sunday's big game - deciding where to watch the game, the luckiest shirt to wear, and what snacks and refreshments to serve. Too often though, Texans forget to make the most important game-day decision, to either pass up that drink or pass off their keys to a sober driver.

Drinking and driving after the Super Bowl is a serious problem in Texas. Texas Department of Transportation records show on Feb. 5, 2012 (Super Bowl Sunday), there were 100 alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes in Texas, which led to 33 serious injuries and 4 fatalities. And a 2009 report shows that 45 percent of Texans who drink while at football watching parties report driving home. In an effort to curb this dangerous behavior, TxDOT is ramping up a campaign called, "Know When to P.A.S.S." (Person Appointed to Stay Sober).

The campaign is aimed at increasing awareness of the consequences of game-day drinking and encouraging drinking fans to pass their keys to a sober driver.

"As one of America's most anticipated and celebrated sporting events kicks off, fans will gather to watch the football game at sports bars and restaurants often times drinking alcohol," said Carol Rawson, TxDOT traffic operations director. "TxDOT wants to remind everyone to avoid getting behind the wheel after drinking and 'Know When to P.A.S.S.' the keys to a sober driver so that you, your passengers and others on our roads can get home safely."

Fans can learn more about "Know When to P.A.S.S." by liking the TxDOT Facebook www.facebook.com/ txdot.

Patriots Win Valley JV

Tournament

The Valley JV boys walked away with the Championship of the Valley JV tournament on Sat. They notched win against Motley Co. 48-30 and Happy 29-17.

VS Motley Co. scoring for the Patriots were:

James Castillo 15 pts, Dustin Crump 15 pts, Ashton Barclay 9 pts, Keeno Ferrel 5 pts, Brian Myers and Cory Williams 2 pts each.

Vs. Happy James Castillo 12 Pts, Dustin Crump 5 pts, Keeno Ferrel 4 pts, Ashton Barclay

Geoffrey Patrick 2 pts each. Next for the Patriots. Tuesday @ Motley Co., Friday at home vs. Happy

4 pts, Tyler Campbell and

Correction

In the Hall County Commissioners' article last week. Item #7 was eft out. Burn Ban has been removed. Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

2013

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Texas Press Association

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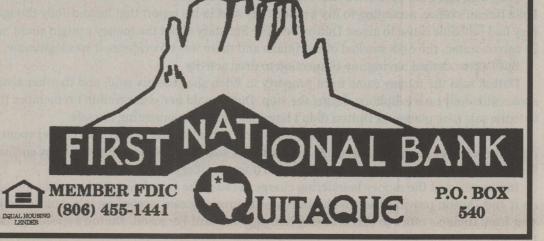
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POLL SHOWS SUPPORT FOR CAPPING PAYDAY LOAN RATES AND FEES

A statewide poll released today shows that nearly twothirds (63 percent) of surveyed Texans age 45 and older support a state law that would cap the interest rates and fees these businesses can charge borrowers. The majority of those surveyed (79%) believe that these loans should be capped at 36% or less.

AARP is urging the Texas legislature to clamp down on the predatory practices of payday and auto title lenders. These lenders regularly charge annual percentage rates (APRs) of 500 percent or more--draining wealth from Texas families and often pushing them further into debt and financial hardship. The poll was commissioned by AARP Texas and has a 4.4% margin of error.

These poll results suggest we have Texans' support.

"Clearly Texans think that putting a stop to the high interest and fees that trap Texans in a never-ending cycle of mounting debt is long overdue," said Joe Sanchez, Associate State Director of AARP Texas. "It's time to give borrowers a fighting chance to repay these loans."

The poll clearly indicates that Texans are looking to their elected officials for answers. The vast majority (75%) of Texans surveyed strongly agree that government leaders in Texas should work to lower the interest rates and fees of payday and auto title loans in the state.

In 2011, the Texas Legislature took an initial step towards meaningful reform for the first time in a decade. House Bills 2592 and 2594 established basic licensing, reporting and regulation. But they fell short in addressing the cycle of debt these loans create.

For many cities and counties across Texas, this just wasn't enough. Austin, Dallas, El Paso and San Antonio have taken measures into their own hands by enacting ordinances to rein in payday lending and protect their residents.

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Larry Norton

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8995 * 206 Russell in Quitaque. 1482 sq. Ft. 3 bedroom,2 bath, living room brick home, metal roof, den, repainted inside, new dishwasher and disposal, eating bar, laundry room, double carport, 24x24 covered patio neat could be enclosed for den, this is a neat home on a 75 x 140 lot, privacy fence large shade trees. Under Contract

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Things That Make You Go Hmmm.... By Laura Griffin

Great Truths in the Cycle of Life GREAT TRUTHS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED:

- * No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats. * When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush
- * If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always
- catch the second person. * Never ask your 3 year old brother to hold a tomato.
 - * You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
 - * Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair. * Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
 - * You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk. * Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
- * The best place to be when you're sad is Grandpa's lap. GREAT TRUTHS THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED:
- * Raising teenagers is like nailing Jell-O to a tree. * Wrinkles don't hurt.
- * Families are like fudge...mostly sweet, with a few nuts.
- * Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its
- Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside. * Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber,

GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLD:

- * Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional. * Forget the health food. You need all the preservatives you
- * When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do
- while you're down there. * You're getting old when you get the same sensation from
- a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
- It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
- Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician. * Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.
 - THE FOUR STAGES OF LIFE:
 - * You believe in Santa Claus.
 - * You don't believe in Santa Claus.
- * You are Santa Claus.
- * You look like Santa Claus.

HMMM...

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Drink

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This Week In **Texas History**

Jan 29, 1891

A false report of Indian attacks in the Panhandle had residents from Childress to Amarillo perparing for battle. Jan 29, 1881

The last Indian battle in Texas was fought in Hudspeth County. Texas Rangers suprised sleeping Apache Indians in the Sierra Diablo Mountains and left no survivors.

Jan 29, 1863

Confederate gunboats captured Union warships near the Sabine Pass.

Jan 29, 1854

The Texas Permanent School Fund was established.

Jan 29, 1797

Jose Francisco Ruiz was born in San Antonio. He was one of only two native Texans to sign the Texas Declaration of Independence.

Jan 30, 1861

The Secession Convention named a "Committee of Public Safety" and ordered it to defend the state against Indians.

Jan 30, 1836 A frustrated Sam Houston withdrew from the Texas Army.

Jan 31, 1927 The Texas Legislature desig-

nated the Mockingbird as the offical state bird. Jan 31, 1863

The Battle of Sabine Pass

ended with the Confederates victorious. Feb 1, 2003 The space shuttle Columbia

desintergrated over Texas killing all aboard.

Feb 1, 1971 William J. Marsh died in Fort Worth at the age of 84. He wrote the state song, "Texas Our Texas."

Feb 2, 1862

Confederat troops from Texas under Gen. H. H. Sibley, defeated Union soldiers at Val Verde. N.M. The Texans now had control of Santa Fe and Albuquerque.

Feb 2, 1852

Federal Fort Terrett was established on the north fork of the Llano River. It was first known as the "Post on Rio Llano" and was abandoned on feb 26, 1854. Feb 2, 1848

The war with Mexico ended. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hildalgo was signed, setting the Rio Grande River as the boundry between Mexico and the United States.

Feb 2, 1836

Jim Bowie and his other commanders decide to go against orders to abandon the Alamo and prepare to defend the former mission. William Barrett Travis had arrived with his men by this time

Feb 3, 1959 Rock and roll legend Charles H. "Buddy" Holly of Lubbock died in a plane crash near Mason City, Iowa.

Feb 3, 1885 Delayed since Sept. 21, 1882, because of a lack of funds, grading operations resumed in Wichita Falls on a railroad track between Fort Worth and

Denver. Feb 3, 1841

The Republic Congress authorizes frontier militia units to protect Texas settlers from Indians.

Feb 4, 1956

Snow was reported to be 26 inches deep in Hale Center and 24 inches deep in Plainview. The Plainview snow fell in a 24-hour period and was a state record.

Feb 4, 1911 Southern Methodist University was founded.

Feb 4, 1860

Texas Rangers stopped Mexican bandits from crossing the Rio Grande River into Texas. They chased the bandits into Mexico, and in the middle of a fire-fight gave out a "Texas yell" which later became the "Rebel yell" in the Civil War.

The Dora Merrell Stroup Story

Then we had rain and swollen creeks. One night the clouds were so black and it was raining all around. Father and Mother were worried. They stretched the big tent and dug a trench all around it. They threw the dirt up against the tent. We had gone to bed when the wind and rain hit. The wind blew something awful. The thunder rolled and the lightning flashed. All four men had gone out to hole the cattle. They usually went in pairs. Two watched while two slept but this night they all four went out. Bill went to guard the horses. Father told us to get up and roll up our beds. He was sure the men would be coming to the tent as they probably couldn't hold the cattle on a night like it was. Soon Bud came in the tent door. He said that the cattle are gone. Later the other three men came in. The men just dropped their bridle reins and the poor old faithful horses stayed at their post. The wind blew til it looked like the tent would fall. The men took turns swinging their weight on the tent pole. When the wind finally ceased we children lay down and went to sleep. When we awakened the men folks were gone looking for the cattle. Mother was sitting by the campfire. She had had her breakfast some way. It was cold and everything was wet, down to the bedding in the tent. We stayed there several days till all of the cattle were counted for. Then we started our trip to the plains.

I remember that sometimes they would double teams to pull the wagons up the hills. There were not many roads in those days. That didn't bother us children as everything was new to us on our short trip to the plains. We had heard so much about the land. We came on til we reached Yellowhouse Canvon. The Potters and Suttens lived there. Both men had worked for Father when they were boys and had lived on Father's farm and ranch after they married. Of course we had to stop for a visit. It was there that I saw my first sod house and dugout. The next day we moved on up through the canyon. We passed the Smith house you heard so much about in those days. It was the only big house in the



canyon. One time there came up a blizzard. The settlers had such poor houses to live in. Sod houses with wooden shutters and home made doors. Somehow everyone decided to get to the Smith ranch. The cowboys in the camps decided to do the same. So many of the cattle and horses froze in this storm. As far as I know the Smith house still stands.

We came on up the canyon, passed Billy Merrell's dugout which was dug back in a hill. There we took one team loose from the back wagon and hitched it to Father's wagon to pull it up the Caprock. Cow trail would be more like it. They got the two wagons up then. Father came and drove Mother's team up for her. She rode with him and we children walked up. After

we were up for a mile or so, we were on the plains. I will never forget what a pretty sight it was. The date was May 9, 1888. It had rained a lot that year. As far as you could see it looked like a big green wheat field. No sign of life except wild horses and antelope. The horses were scared of the covered wagons drawn by horses creeping along over the prairie. They would break and run off over the ridge. Then they would venture closer and closer til you could get a fairly good look at them. Then they would tear off again. Their mane reached their knees and their tails dragged the ground. The antelopes knew nothing to do but to run til they were clear out of sight. Then there would be another bunch. They were not very pretty.

We came closer to Callahand draw which was a little southwest of where Floydada is now. Uncle Perry had two big dugouts built in the side of the draw. They had moved all their belongings out of one of the dugouts for us to live in. They heard our horse bells in the distance and came out of the dugout. Sure enough there was Bill with the horses. They were the only sign of humans we had seen since we left Yellow-house Draw. We moved in the one room with a big fireplace, two openings in the wall called windows, one door, and of course a dirt floor. But we children did not mind. We cooked on the fireplace, and cooked our bread in a dutch oven we had brought. We had a table grandfather Edwards had made for Mother when she and Father married. The table is still in use in my youngest brother's home.

It wasn't very lonesome as you would imagine. He lived on the "trail" as they called it. He had a good well of water. They put up the first wind mill that I ever saw. People would come that way as they would hunt for a place to settle that had water.

To Be Continued...

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MERRELL FOOD QUITAQUE, TEXAS

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By Pasty Herrington

Last Saturday morning loomed bright, sunny and beautiful! I made a trip to town to get the mail. I paused and stopped at the beautiful additions to the Tri-County building. Besides the huge cross, the lovely black wrought iron bench and enclosure, a magnificent globe of the world has been added. While there, Rex Johnson, the benefactor drove up with others. Rex, from Silverton (formerly of Quitaque) is a fantastic person, and the town of Quitaque owes him a debt of gratitude for his new contribution. I grew to know him well when I taught his daughter, Iva June piano for

Howard Purcell, long-time native of Quitaque passed away last Sunday. His funeral service was held Thursday, January 24th at 1:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church. Pastor Chris Lucker assisted by organist Pasty Herrington officiated. Howard was born in 1937 in Floyd County. He was a fine man and worked hard with his hands. His work involved furniture refinishing, gin and compress work, and landscape and lawn care. He enjoyed working on small engines. He was a long term member of the First Baptist Church in Quitaque and loved to read and study the Bible. He will be missed with his always big smile and welcoming words to everyone he

It is interesting to see the new highline tower that is being constructed near the old town of Gasoline. It's just northeast of where Bobo and Linda Morrison used to live. It is obviously a special tower as it's much larger than the other towers seem to be. Perhaps it was designed of Mr. Eifel of Paris?

Bill and Aleta Sperry who recently purchased the old Whittington home in Quitaque have repaired and repainted the interior. They have put in many an hour doing this. They've also vacated the Dale Smith house at Cottonwood Lake and are new town residents. Great people! Busy schedules, daily chores, to-do lists that never end, life is full of hustle and bustle and sometimes you need a reminder to cherish the things that matter most - to live everyday with kindness, to laugh with joy and to love with all of your heart!

We all have so much to be

thankful for!

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