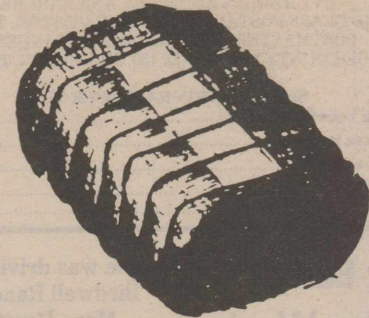


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Briscoe County News

THINK SILVERTON!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1985

VOLUME 77

NUMBER 52

Jack Sutton, "King of Panhandle Western Swing"

by Wendell Tooley

The printing on the eight track stereo tape says, "Windy Wood Presents The New Sons Of The West . . . Jack Sutton at the keyboard."

The tape was made back in July of 1974 at Billy's Band Aid in Amarillo and sold for \$5.00 each.

The tape is a very enjoyable sound of Big Band western swing . . . a lot of the late Bob Wills sound and style. The album includes special arrangements of Spade Cooley's "Minuet In Swing;" Duke Ellington's "A Train;" Bob Wills "Faded Love" and "Maiden's Prayer;" Cliff Bruner's "Jessie Polka;" one of the best waltzes ever composed "Westphalia Waltz" and a real soul toucher "Keeper Of My Heart."

Now back to the keyboard man for this big band of some ten years back . . . where's Jack Sutton?

I've enjoyed renewing a friendship with Jack and his wife Teresa just recently . . . they live in a nice comfortable home some seven miles south of Rock Creek over in Briscoe County . . . near the old Francis School.

Jack's not doing a whole lot of music making of late . . . he's doing his best to overcome Parkinson's Disease . . . it's slowed his piano playing . . . he's had some trouble getting around . . . his speech has been affected by the malady.

But Parkinsons hasn't slowed his love for western swing music and he still enjoys joining area musicians for a jam session quite often.

A few weeks ago I enjoyed some 'pickin' and grining' in Jack's home with Tulia's O. B. Barnes, Lockney's Lewis Stapp and Dowell Brewer. Jack has this piano with the rinky dink ping . . . he played it awhile and later picked some beautiful harmony on his electric Gibson with O. B.'s mandolin. Lewis and Dowell are well known all over the Panhandle and South Plains of Texas as they accompany many of the leading fiddlers with their guitars. This night Dowell was

playing his electric bass.

Jack grew up in the Clarendon-Goodnight area . . . his daddy worked for the railroad . . . his mother played piano and Jack developed a keen ear for good music at an early age. He was playing a Sears & Roebuck mandolin at the age of 12. He was piano playing "by ear" . . . he tried a tenor banjo for awhile . . . eventually became a great guitar and piano player . . . and learned the fiddle.

He was drafted into the Navy in 1944 just before graduation from high school, played snare drums for the Navy band at Great Lakes, Chicago while in basic training. (No, he couldn't read drum music either.) After graduating from gunner's school, he was on ship and headed for the invasion of Japan when the war ended.

He went on to college in Clarendon, worked in the Borger-Pampa area . . . began to spend a lot of time playing piano and guitar for various dance bands.

Fact is, at the age of 16 he was playing for his first dance in the old opry house in Clarendon.

In 1949 he went to work for Johnny's Butane in Kress . . . he drove the big transport truck and eventually became book-keeper.

He enjoyed playing guitar duets with Paul Raines and in 1951 he and Paul plunged into marriage at the same time . . . they married in a double wedding in Clovis, New Mexico.

Jack married a lovely lass he had met at a Whitfield School square dance one night by the name of Teresa Crass. They lived two years in Plainview before deciding to enter farming on the Crass homeplace where they have lived ever since.

In 1981 Jack had to give up farming and rented the farm out.

The Suttons enjoy the visits of five grandchildren; their three daughters live in Victoria, Corpus Christi and the younger one attends college at LCC.

Teresa was a good sport about

Jack's playing for dance bands, but he decided he couldn't make a living playing at dances and tapered off to playing for the musical enjoyment soon after they married.

"Well, I might have made a living playing for dances . . . sometimes I would make \$100 a night . . . in fact, back in 1947 I made \$82.50 playing for a dance at Shamrock . . . sometimes we played from 9 until 12 in the morning," Jack added.

After playing for a Rotary banquet in Floydada back in 1976 Jack remarked to Teresa, "My hand and arm are just worn out." Later on his hand would just quit functioning. Jack saw eight or nine doctors who couldn't really figure out what was wrong. Finally a doctor in San Angelo diagnosed his problem . . . the early stages of Parkinson's Disease. In 1980 he visited a specialist in Joplin, Missouri and began medication to slow its advance.

He began to lose strength in his right leg, the speech impediment has been more recent. "I'll have days that are just no good," Jack said. He added that the disease is not particularly painful . . . he just loses muscle control.

"I've served on the Briscoe Soil Conservation board many years with Bob Rauch . . . he's fought the same disease for some 15 years . . . so I sorta understood it when I discovered I had the same disease," Jack added.

Teresa is an executive secretary for The Tye Company and says she really doesn't have much musical talent . . . she likes church singing . . . she claims a liking for Billy Vaughn's band, and like Jack likes about every kind of music except rock.

Jack enjoyed singing . . . he has sung with many of the bands in which he has played and sang bass and tenor in church groups.

Jack has played with some Lubbock area bands . . . Reese Air Force dances . . . he's played with the Old Masters of Swing from the Plainview area. He considers Weldon Allard, now an



Jack Sutton

Amarillo Baptist preacher, the best singer of any of the bands he has played in . . . He liked the original Sons of the West and their singer Jimmy Meeks. They were known in Amarillo as Cal Farley's noon band that was on radio KGNC each day.

Kress' champion fiddler Gary Williams and square dance caller Jack Thompson are two more local musicians Jack enjoys.

The late Bob Wills and his style of Western Swing is still Jack's favorite . . . and Jack's similar style on the piano and guitar is the favorite of many friends and people all over the Panhandle of Texas.

Now back to the eight track tape "Windy Wood and The New Sons of the West present the Big Band Sound of Western Swing."

R. T. (Windy) Wood does the vocals on the tape. When asked what gives the band the big sound, he said, "Lots of musicians. First you must have a good

solid rhythm section and I think we have one of the best, good lead musicians that can really take off, and in our case we have probably the world's best twin five-string fiddle players in Frankie McWhorter and Jack Bailey." McWhorter is from Canadian and played with Bob Wills. Bailey is from Pampa.

Other musicians in the recording session were Jimmy Carroll of Pampa, pedal steel; O. J. Keith, who played with Bob Wills, and Kenny Williamson, both of Amarillo, lead guitar; J. L. Jones of Pampa, rhythm guitar; Herman Wright of Borger and John Martinez of Canadian, electric bass; Jerry Powers of Pampa, who has played with Charlie Pride's band and Jim Benjamin of Amarillo who played with Bob Wills for several years, drums; and Jack Sutton, keyboards.

See Related Picture on Page Two

Happy New Year

BRISCOE COUNTY NEWS

Published every Thursday at Silvertown, Texas 79257 by Charles and Mary Ann Sarchet. Second class postage paid at Silvertown, Texas 79257. Postmaster: send address changes to Briscoe County News, Box 130, Silvertown, Texas 79257.

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Paper Out Early This Holiday Week

This issue of the Briscoe County News was printed and mailed early due to the closing schedule at Blanco Offset in Floydada.

The next issue will also be printed early, due to the New Year's holiday also occurring in the middle of the week on the day the local paper usually is printed.

Driver Uninjured When Car Hits Cow

Mrs. Amy (Birdwell) Perot was uninjured when the 1980 Cadillac she was driving hit a cow about 6:30 p.m. Saturday, December 14, about 7 1/2 miles east of Turkey on Highway 86, as

she was driving west toward the Birdwell Ranch.

Mrs. Perot was wearing her seatbelt and escaped injury, but the cow was killed and the car was heavily damaged.

According to Deputy Sheriff Woolley of Turkey, this was a good example of the value of using seatbelts.

Names Omitted From Greeting Page

The names of Mattye Mayfield, Lillian Lindsey, Melannie Daniels and the Eldon O'Neal family were omitted from the Christmas Greeting Page.

They also extend best wishes to friends and relatives, and have donated to the Silvertown Volunteer Fire Department in lieu of sending Christmas cards locally.



Back in the middle 1950's this band entertained in Lubbock. Band members are [left to right] Charles Edwards of Tulia, steel guitar; Bernard Hicks of Lubbock, fiddle; Junior Keith of Amarillo, drums; Otis Short of Amarillo, guitar and vocal; Jack Sutton of Silvertown, piano.

Dear Santa,

I'm almost two years old and have tried to be a real good boy. Please bring me a mini Hot Wheels, a sit 'n Spin, and a Larry Bird basketball goal. Please remember all of the other boys and girls.

Preston Andrew May
Amarillo

Dear Santa,

I've tried to be a real good boy this year. Please bring me some Thundercats, a Basharus, and a My Little Pony.

Thanks,
Anthony Douglas May
Age 4
Amarillo

Cletus Grady was taken to Central Plains Hospital in Plainview shortly after midnight last Thursday by the Silvertown Volunteer Ambulance Service.

Mrs. Rosie Dickerson has left the hospital and is continuing to recuperate at the home of her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Rauch and son. Their address is 5520 90th Street, Lubbock 79424, for those who would like to send Rosie cards.

Mrs. J. M. Hill of Tulia hosted a pre-Christmas dinner for her family at the Holiday Inn in Plainview Sunday. Attending were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sarchet of Silvertown, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hill, Brad and Brian of Tulia, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Sarchet, Brandon, Jordan and Molly of Lubbock, and Linden Howard of Amarillo. Linden has been staying with his uncle and aunt in Lubbock for a few days. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ricky Howard, became parents of a daughter Wednesday, December 18. The nine-pound three-ounce baby girl has been named Ashley Noel.



The Russian composer Tchaikovsky made his debut as an orchestral conductor at a charity concert in 1867.

Advertisement for 'Phear Delight Beauty Salon'. It features a woman's profile and text: 'Hair Care For Every Member of the Family', '823-2468 Silvertown, Texas'.

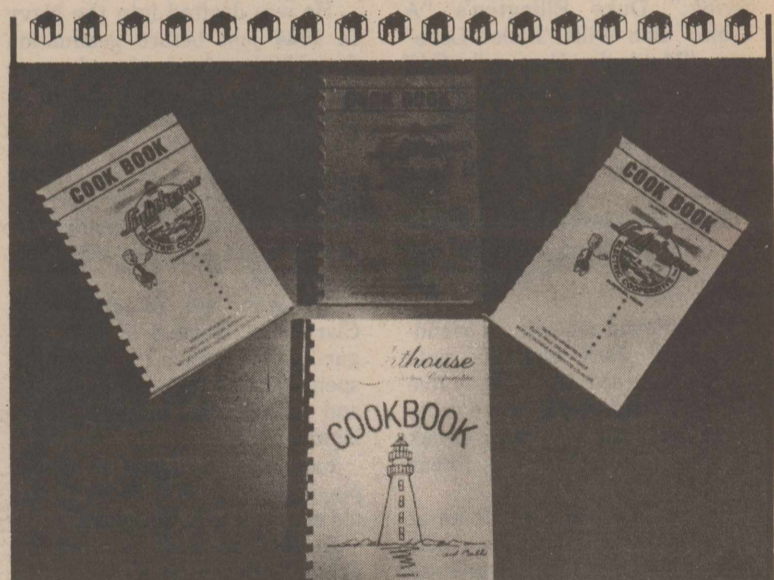
Advertisement for 'FRANCIS AERIAL SPRAYING'. It lists 'PESTICIDES APPLIED: Oil - Water Dried Pellets' and provides the contact 'Call Alvie Francis 806-847-2523'.

Advertisement for the '1986-1987 Sesquicentennial issue of the TEXAS ALMANAC'. It states it is published by The Dallas Morning News for \$8.95 each and is available at Briscoe County News.

Advertisement for 'NEIL A. BRYSON, DDS, Inc.' located at the 'Briscoe County Medical Clinic, Silvertown, Texas'. It lists 'Hours by Appointment 806-995-4191'.



The hummingbird is the only feathered bird able to fly backward.



Set - \$20.00 Plus Tax Per Book - \$5.75 Plus tax

Advertisement for 'The Congregation of the CHURCH OF CHRIST Meeting at Rock Creek'. It includes the text 'EXTENDS A GRACIOUS WELCOME TO ALL TO ATTEND ANY AND ALL OF OUR SERVICES.' and a schedule: Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.

Looking Back

through the files of the Briscoe County News

December 24, 1970—Reception honors Mr. and Mrs. Frank Breedlove on golden wedding anniversary . . . Montague Christmas dinner held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Henderson and Freeda . . . The home of Mrs. Tony Burson was the scene of a Christmas party and meeting of March of Time Study Club . . . Dear Santa . . . Please bring me a big dump truck, a football helmet and a new pair of boots. My mommie will leave a glass of milk and some cookies setting out for you. Love, Shane Tipton . . . I would like a Polly Pose N Curl doll and Floral Flore jeans, no iron Safari Shirt, a ballerina dress suit, a fringe shoulder bag kit. Love, your friend, Suzie Perkins . . . Please bring me a Crissy and a pair of knee boots. Love, Shelly Harris . . . Please bring me lots of toys. Love, Cynthia Hale . . . I want a steel guitar not the one that has any legs. That is all. With love, Bobby McPherson . . . Please bring me a wagon, train and a telephone. Love, Monroe Hill . . . Please bring me a Hot Wheel two track racing set and racing cars. I would like a baseball glove and bat. I love you, Mitcheal Martin . . .

December 22, 1960—Mrs. J. H. May buried here . . . Hereford boys, Clarendon girls win Silverton Tournament . . . Dear Santa . . . I am a little girl two years old. I have tried to be good. Will you bring me a "Baby Tootles" doll and a horse. Don't forget to bring Sue Lynn her Pollyana doll. And, Santa, please bring "Nona" a pair of pajamas so she won't freeze this winter. I love you, Robbie Martin . . . I have been a good little girl and would love to have a baby doll with a pink dress and hat and a pink bed. Don't forget my little sister, Susan, who wants a baby doll and a buggy. Love, Christi Northcutt . . . R. A. Day, father of Mrs. Ware Fogerson, was treated last week at Stanley Hospital in Matador for burns about his hands and arms as the result of an explosion at the Day by Day Cleaning Plant Wednesday morning . . . The only man who ever got all his work done by Friday was Robinson Crusoe . . .

December 21, 1950—Dear Santa . . . I am a little boy in the third grade. I wish you would bring me a football, suit, shoulder pads, B.B. gun and also fruit and nuts. Thanks, Santa, Larry West . . . I want a big baby Coo Doll with hair and sleeping eyes. Don't forget all the other little girls and boys. My love, Raye Garrison . . . I am a little boy four years old. I have been a good boy. Please bring me a pair of boxing gloves and a punching bag, and please bring my little sister, Laquita Jo, a doll and doll bed. I love you, Robert Bomar . . . Jo Ziegler weds Roy Vaughn . . . Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Self and daughter, Zobie, left Saturday for Corpus Christi to visit their son, Billy, who has been moved from Oakland, California to a hospital at Corpus Christi for treatment. Billy is reported to be slowly improving . . . Mr. and Mrs. Claudia B. Welch are parents of a boy . . . Mr. and Mrs. Jack

Loudermilk are parents of a son . . .

December 18, 1941—Coleen Bomar and Herman Robinson marry at Clovis . . . Aviation Cadet George W. Lee will be graduated soon from the Air Corps Advanced Flying School at Stockton, California. . . Dear Santa . . . Please help the cotton farmers on top the hill. You know why. Ray McEntire . . . I don't know what I'd do with it, but Santa, I've always wanted a hair brush. Your friend, W. Coffee, jr. . . Please bring me a little more time. Boy, Santa, what I'm short most of is time. T. R. Whiteside . . . Please bring me a little ready-to-put-together sheep

barn. Yours sheepishly, H. Roy Brown . . . Gordon Fore and W. A. Simmons left Thursday to join the Army . . . Little Ann Brown is on the sick list this week . . . The Haylake School turned out December 2 for cotton picking and took up December 8 . . .

December 24, 1936—Two Silverton boys made the second all-district team selected by the coaches of the district last week. Datis Martin made a second string halfback and Odis Gregg was given a tackle post. Elmo Walling received honorable mention . . . Mr. and Mrs. Joe Blocker and daughter, Ona, were in Lubbock on Sunday . . . A birthday dinner was held at the

home of Mrs. A. A. Boling Sunday in honor of Fulton and Homer Gregg . . . Editor Roy Hahn wrote: "The telephone man was in this morning—but I fooled him. Sent Foust out the back door with the telephone rent. And when he called headquarters to see if it was paid—did he gnash his teeth . . . I hear the tinkle of sleigh bells—or maybe it's just the loose wheels—funny I never noticed it before—anyway I'm practically on my way" . . . Dear Santa . . . I want a little set of dishes and a ring with lots of sets in it. Bring me a watch and a tricycle. Love, Jane White . . . I am a little boy in the second grade. I want a cowboy suit and a

football. Milton Clemmer . . . I am nine years old and in the fourth grade at school. I want a wind-up tractor. That will be all. Lois Sanderson . . . I have been a good boy this year. Please bring me a gun and a cowboy suit. Edwin Norris . . .



The term *drawing room* is a shortening of the word *withdrawing*, for the room to which guests withdrew.

Christmas on the Farm

Time to Look Ahead

First State Bank

FDIC

Silverton School Files Performance Report

The Silverton Independent School District has filed its annual performance report which was approved by the board of trustees on November 15, 1985. The report is available for inspection at the school administration office.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE

SRA and TABS testing results indicate that improvement is being made in the areas of math and reading by a majority of the students. Writing skills have shown a decline in high school.

PROGRAM OFFERINGS

The time requirements mandated by Chapter 75 were implemented in the elementary school. Remediation plans were made and implemented in high school English classes where the need was shown by the testing program.

STAFF QUALITY

The school has an excellent staff of dedicated teachers who are sincerely interested in the students. One-fourth of them have masters degrees, eight are on career ladder step two.

Twenty-seven have eleven

years' average experience with a total of eight years' average experience. Evaluation results show the teachers are doing a good job. The local salary pattern has not changed in the last four years. The teachers have received the state raises which include career ladder.

FINANCIAL CONDITION

There is a \$240,000 tax base per student average daily attendance with a tax rate of 74c. This makes the district's financial condition a little better than average.

IMPACT OF LEGISLATION

House Bill 72 is, overall, considered by the local school administration to be one of the worst things to happen to education in the state of Texas.

The credibility of teachers has been destroyed by a continual barrage by Perot, White and the press about how bad teachers are and that none of them are fit to teach until they pass a test.

The teachers have not heard a positive word in over a year and the state board has told them they may lose their lifetime contracts of certification. They feel they have been singled out for abuse and as result teacher morale is at an all-time low.

Teacher pay is way below other college grads. As a result of all these things, very few people are planning to teach. In the opinion of the administration, the state is headed for a severe teacher shortage.

Local control has vanished because of House Bill 72. The Texas Education Agency does not even have a say any more. Everything is decided by the state board. The Agency is reduced to doing secretarial work and passing the word on to the schools.

The legislature did not begin to fund the things it mandated and as a result, local taxes will go up every year.

IMPACT OF REQUIREMENTS

One period was added to the school day in order to be able to meet graduation requirements. Remedial reading was added in the seventh and eighth grades. Computer literacy was added.

The learner-based accountability system was started school wide for math, and progress was made in other subject areas.

IMPACT OF CHANGES

The discipline management bill and court orders are making it very difficult for schools to operate. They are also contributing factors to the teacher shortage. The mandates in House Bill 72 make it difficult to find certified teachers for all classes. Relief is needed on one or both ends of this situation. Federal funding cuts will force the school to cut out some of its services. Career ladder will cause a severe financial impact in years to come and it is already causing dissension in faculties.

MEASURES OF ACHIEVEMENT

The Silverton ISD gives the SRA standardized tests from grades kindergarten through eleven. A comparison of test results over the past three years indicates that students are, on the average, scoring higher on math, language arts and reading. A comparison of scores on the Texas Assessment of Basic Skills over the past three years indicates that students at the exit level have reasonably constant skills in math and reading and increased writing failures.

CLASSROOMS

There are 17 classrooms in grades kindergarten through eighth, 15 classrooms for grades 9-12 and two special education classrooms.

CAREER LADDER

There are three male teachers on level 1, two male teachers on level 2. There are 12 female teachers on level 1, six female teachers on level 2. The amount of supplement per teacher is \$700 on level 1 and \$1,500 on level 2. This increases the total salaries \$10,500 for those on level 1 and \$12,000 for those on level 2.

PUPIL/TEACHER RATIO

The pupil/teacher ratio is (regular) 254/13, (special education) 36/5, (vocational education) 70/9, (compens. education) 27/8, and (bilingual education) 7/7.

ATTENDANCE RATIO

The attendance ratio is 97.0%.

DROPOUT RATE

The Silverton School has had three dropouts, for a 1% dropout rate.

GENERAL EXPENDITURES

Total general fund expenditures for instruction were \$446,635, an average of \$1,801 per pupil. Total instructional support expenditures were \$21,526, an average of \$87 per pupil. Campus administration expenditures total \$34,204, an average of \$146 per pupil.

YOUNG FARMERS HEAR

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS

Joe Taylor, James Long and John Smith presented a program on Pre-Paid Legal Casualty, Inc. for the Silverton Young Farmers and their guests on Thursday, December 12, in the Pioneer Room at First State Bank.

During the business meeting, several reports were given. The rodeo was discussed. The annual Christmas supper was set for December 20 in the school cafeteria.

Those attending were Hand Baird, Calvin Shelton, Manuel Aguilar, Harvey McJimsey, Clinton Dickerson, Wayne Stephens, Randy Lyons, Tobe Riddell, Eloy Reyna and Dale McWaters.

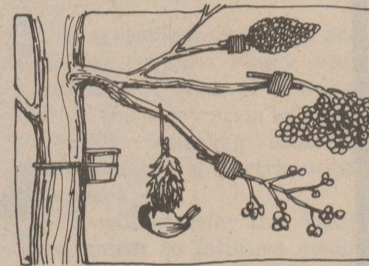


Holiday Trees That Really Feed Birds

This season I'm making a special holiday tree for the birds. I'm by-passing the usual evergreen decorated with strings of cranberries or popcorn or stale cookies. Those traditional "bird trees" do look festive and inviting, but, to tell you the truth, I've never noticed birds eating the decorations. Have you? That's why, this year, I'm going out on a limb or two to experiment with a real bird banquet. You might like to follow suit:

Instead of festooning an evergreen, I'm adorning the bare branches of a deciduous tree. You could decorate either a tree growing in your yard or a cut one placed where birds are most apt to notice it.

Choose a sturdy, sparsely-branched, 5 to 10-foot tree. Gather several kinds of berry-bearing clippings. Using small-gauge copper wire, attach the clippings toward the ends of the tree branches, making it look as if the clippings belong there.



Berry-bearing plants (both native and non-native) vary from area to area. Here in Virginia, I'm selecting mine with one eye on design and color scheme, the other on bird-feeding. Here's my choice:

The color red is, of course, a must in any holiday decorating, and I'm using several red-berried plants: mountain ashes and staghorn sumac, for instance. Then some deciduous hollies (especially possum haw or winter-berry), plus multiflora rose sprigs. (I dip the freshly cut tip of all sprigs in molten paraffin to keep the fruit from drying out too fast). Magnolia berries are among the best foods for robins and other thrushes that may winter with us.

Along with the reds, orange-toned bittersweet and pyracantha make bright splashes of color, balanced attractively by gray or gray-green juniper berries and the blue or black berries of large viburnums. Snowberry fruit provides a contrasting white accent. I'm including a few wild grapes, not for their looks (dry and shriveled) but because I know that over-wintering bluebirds, mockingbirds and robins eat them.

I'm not entirely throwing tradition out the window. My tree includes several cones: pine and spruce cones filled with a suet-peanut butter mixture for chickadees, nuthatches and maybe a titmouse or two.

If you can't obtain pine cones in your area, perhaps you'll be able to use the conelike structure from large magnolia trees. Once the red berries are gone, the big cones (plus 4 or 5 inches of stem) can be dipped in suet-peanut butter mixture and hung by wire, like single tree ornaments. The small, conelike fruits of the sweetgum tree *Liquidambar* can be plucked of their gumball "points" to make attractive cratered structures which can be packed with a suet mixture and wired to the tree.

A holiday tree isn't complete without a string of something twined through some branches. But instead of popcorn, I'm hanging short strings of high-sugar-content, pitted dates, food for bluebirds and mockingbirds. I'm also wiring a few small containers of raisins to the tree trunk.

With our bird tree complete, my family can really celebrate the holidays, watching from the window to see which birds eat what from the feeder tree we built for them. If you make a special holiday tree for the birds, let me know what you see!

For more information about wildlife around your home, contact the National Wildlife Federation, Dept. BN, 1412 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036-2266.



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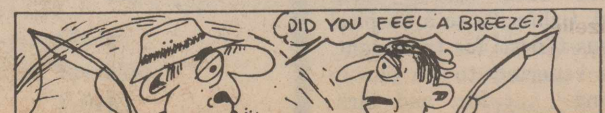
1006 Commerce St. Silverton, Texas 823-2555

When Was Christ's Real Birth Day?

Most Bible scholars conclude that December 25 is most certainly not the time when the Saviour was born. The tradition of celebrating Christ's birth on December 25 seems to have come from Rome in the 4th century of the Christian era.

Though the actual day of Christ's birth is not known, the Town of Bethlehem still sits on a hill just outside the City of Jerusalem. If we were to go to Bethlehem today, we would stoop low to enter an opening said to be the place where the Baby Jesus was born. The Church of Nativity is built over this site and beautiful Christmas bells hang in its belfry.

The most important point about the Christmas celebration is not necessarily the day, but the fact that He was born, and lived among us making this world a better place for us as we reflect upon His love and pass it on to others, and prepare for the place He has gone to prepare for us where peace and love will reign.



Some of the most powerful flying fish can jump over the deck of a small ship.

How Merry Will Your Christmas Be?

The merriness of Christmas is in the eye of the beholder. We can make this holiday as merry as we wish, depending upon our own personal attitudes. Like Scrooge we can squelch every merry feeling by being self-centered or we can throw ourselves completely open -- drinking in happy thoughts as we count our blessings and look around us to include someone in the Christmas spirit who may have no one to care. It may take a bit of sacrifice on our part to get out of our own comfortable little shell to make someone else happy, but that little bit of sacrifice is nothing in comparison to the sacrifice all Heaven made in sending us the Christ Babe to live among us and finally hang on a cross to pay our wages of death that those who accept this Gift might live eternally.



It was the angel Gabriel who told Mary she was especially chosen to be the mother of Jesus. On the Eve of Christ's birth it was a multitude of angels who brought the glad news.

Angels were painted without wings or halos in the early Renaissance but later artists portrayed them with both.

Over the centuries one element of the angelic throng at Christmastime has never changed -- their exquisite and melodic song. We see angels in woodcuts, statues, and paintings playing various instruments -- their mouths rounded in song. Composers in every century have tried to capture the beautiful spiritual meaning of the angels' melodies.

A Christmas Challenge

While driving down country roads or city boulevards and marveling at the Christmas decorations -- do you ever try to imagine what's going on in those homes? Somehow, at Christmastime we seem to feel closer to people we don't even know. There seems to be a special magic about Christmas knowing that for these few days, anyway, we all share the same hopes and happiness.

Like those around us, we're enjoying the traditional things -- friends stopping in to visit, pleasant aromas coming from the kitchen, endless hours of shopping and the fun of decorating. It's a time of smiles and a time to say, "Merry Christmas" to someone who suddenly becomes more than a stranger.

Christmas seems to prove that we see our fellowman differently when we find something in common. Suddenly we start to care as his world becomes a part of ours.



Gazelles, prairie dogs and many other animals never drink water. They have a special chemical process which transforms a part of their solid food into water.

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<p>GREAT WITH HOLIDAY DIPS RUFFLES® POTATO CHIPS \$1.19 REGULARLY \$1.39</p> 		
<p>Happy New Year!</p>		
<p>PRICES EFFECTIVE DEC. 26-28, 1985 WHILE SUPPLIES LAST</p>		<p>OPEN NEW YEARS DAY FOR YOUR LAST MINUTE PARTY NEEDS</p>
<p>AT ALLSUP'S WE'RE CONSTANTLY STRIVING TO DO A BETTER JOB OF PROVIDING THE BEST SERVICE & QUALITY PRODUCTS. WE VALUE & APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS & WE'RE WORKING HARD TO EARN YOUR TRUST. THANK YOU FROM ALL YOUR FRIENDS AT ALLSUP'S & HAVE A PROSPEROUS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!</p>		
<p>Gallon Prestone ANTIFREEZE \$4.39 Gallon Conoco ANTIFREEZE \$2.99</p>	 <p>12 oz. cans 6 pak \$1.89 POP SPECIAL COCA-COLA, TAB, SPRITE 2 LITER NO REFILL PLASTIC BOTTLES 99¢</p>	



State Senator John Montford and Lieutenant Governor Bill Hobby were pictured with Don Burson when they camped out at the Geissler Ranch and visited constituents in Briscoe County last summer. They enjoyed the scenery and a taste of the cowboy country over a weekend.

BILLY JACK LOUDERMILK

Funeral services for Billy Jack Loudermilk, 35, of Floydada were conducted at 2:00 p.m. Saturday at the First United Methodist Church in Floydada with the Rev. Dennis Flaughner, pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Quitaque, and the Rev. Earl Blair, pastor, officiating.

Burial was in Rest Haven Cemetery at Quitaque with arrangements under the direction of Moore-Rose Funeral Home of Floydada.

He died Wednesday morning. The cause of death is being withheld pending the results of an investigation, said Justice of the Peace Lowell Bilbrey. He said the man apparently died of a gunshot wound.

Born in Silverton December 13, 1950, he married Amanda Torrez November 26, 1980 in Plainview. He moved to Floyd County in 1982 from Flomot. He was a Navy veteran and served in the Vietnam War. He was a farm worker and a member of the First United Methodist Church in Quitaque.

He had been a part-time assistant of his father in the operation of Jack's Club in Silverton.

Survivors include his wife; his father, Jack Loudermilk of Quitaque; his mother, Mrs. Billie Loudermilk of Quitaque; a sister, Mrs. Pam Fields of Oklahoma; two stepsons, Alex Torrez of Lubbock and Ernie Torrez of Floydada; a stepdaughter, Linda Leal of Floydada.

About half the population of America over the age of three wears glasses.



In the early 1800s, half a Washington stamp (10¢) was often used for 5¢ postage.



New Year's Tree

The Christmas excitement is over—New Year's Eve and its excitement will come and go—the day after New Year's Eve need not be a letdown. Decorate your Christmas tree!

Remove the Christmas decorations and place the tree outside where it can be easily seen from a window. Spend New Year's Day making new decorations for the squirrels and birds. Use cookie cutters to cut bread into fancy shapes, then spread with peanut butter that has been thinned with salad oil; now sprinkle with oatmeal or birdseed.

Make popcorn and cranberry strings. Decorate suet balls with corn kernels.

If you don't already have a bird guide, get one for the family and watch the feathered friends happily gather for their treats, not only for New Year's Day but for many days to come!

January New Year's Origin

January 1 was recognized by

most people as New Year's Day in the 1500's when the Gregorian calendar was adopted.

The Chinese New Year, today, falls between January 21 and February 19 each year. For Iran it's March 21. Since the Hindus belong to many different religious groups, each group has a different date as the beginning of its New Year. The Jewish New Year is a feast day celebrated in late September about the time of the autumnal equinox.

Coming to Grips With Resolutions

Well, now that the old year is over and it is time for new resolutions, did you look at last year's list of resolutions? Was that list tucked away in a drawer and you never even looked at it until now?

Last year most of us had a grand time making those resolutions—and good ones they were: "I will be patient with my children...I won't talk about my neighbors behind their backs...I will not eat between meals..." But did we keep them each day?

One fault at a time is about all we can handle. Maybe we were a little overly ambitious last year, expecting to do all that was on that long list at one time. Maybe it would be more sensible this year to make that list, yes—but take one resolution at a time and face it every day with a prayer that day to overcome that fault, then after it's licked, come to grips with another one.

After all—one resolution faithfully kept is better than many that once made are only gathering dust.



An estimated 80 million American homes have at least one TV.

SPS, Valley View Ink Agreement

Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS) and Valley View Energy Corporation have negotiated an agreement that will allow electricity generated by Valley View at its planned cattle manure-fueled power plants to be transmitted on SPS lines.

Valley View plans to construct two 50,000-kilowatt manure-fueled power plants—one at Hereford, Texas, by late-1987, and the other at Gruver, Texas, by mid-1988. Valley View will wholesale the power generated at the "biomass" plants to the City of Austin utility system. The Austin utility will retail the energy to its Austin-area customers.

The SPS-Valley View agreement to interconnect and "wheel" power is the first agreement by SPS to transmit on its lines power owned by another generator. The agreement was hailed by SPS President Bill Esler as "another milestone in Southwestern's ongoing support of alternative-energy generation projects."

The agreement also is the first wheeling contract Valley View has signed. To transmit power to Austin, the corporation will need to secure wheeling contracts with a number of electric utility companies.

SPS will transfer the Valley View power to facilities owned by Public Service of Oklahoma near Vernon, Texas. Then the energy will be transmitted to Austin through a direct-current interconnection and a string of other utility company lines.

SPS President Esler said Southwestern Public Service and

Valley View spent months reaching the agreement, which he says, "will pay SPS a fair wheeling rate for the use of our transmission equipment."

Esler said Southwestern also plans to offer Valley View the generation-plant-design services of SPS' proposed subsidiary, Utility Engineering Corporation, for construction of future power plants. Another contractor has begun design of the first two Valley View plants.

The biomass plants Valley View plans to construct in Hereford and Gruver will use fluidized-bed boilers, but otherwise are similar to solid-fueled steam-generation plants such as Southwestern's coal-fueled plants.

Southwestern Public Service primarily provides electric service to a population of about one million in a 52,000-square-mile area of eastern and southeastern New Mexico, the South Plains and Panhandle of Texas, the Panhandle of Oklahoma, and southwestern Kansas.



A newly hatched alligator is just eight inches long. It will grow about a foot a year until it reaches the average adult length of six to eight feet.

The pointed upper lip of the black rhinoceros grasps and picks up small objects almost as deftly as a hand.

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Clay Schott and Todd Reagan, Briscoe County's 4-H Gold Star Award winners for 1985, were pictured at the District Banquet in Lubbock.

South Plains 4-H Clubs Honor Top Members

Thirty-nine outstanding members of 4-H clubs across the South Plains were honored in Lubbock Monday night, November 25.

In addition to receiving the Gold Star Award, highest honor presented by the youth organization at the county level, the youths were challenged by Byrnie Bass, Lubbock attorney and civic leader, to continue to serve their communities.

Joining the youths at the awards banquet at the Koko Palace were parents, government officials, leaders of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, fellow 4-H'ers, educators and other community leaders.

Honored from Briscoe County were Todd Reagan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Reagan, and Clay Schott, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Schott.

Bass urged the youths to determine early in life what their skills are, and to concentrate on these in their careers and their family and community life.

He shared with the group three guidelines for living which he said has been learned from his late father, former Lubbock Mayor Roy Bass. The first, he said, is "take life seriously, but don't take yourself too seriously."

The second is not to complain about where you find yourself and the problems you have, but be thankful for what you have and work to change those situations you dislike.

"Third," said Bass, "give up worry, and trust, instead, in divine providence."

He cited the 4-H motto, "To Make The Best Better," as an enviable goal and the 4-H pledge as a guide in achieving it.

Master of ceremonies was Dennis Engelke, director of rural development for the Association of Texas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., Austin. Guests were wel-

comed by the 12 electric cooperatives which have sponsored the banquet annually for the past 28 years. They are Bailey County, Caprock, Deaf Smith, Dickens County, Lamb, Lea, Lighthouse, Lone Wolf, Lyntegar, Midwest, South Plains and Swisher Cooperatives. Alton Higginbotham of Lighthouse Electric Cooperative gave the welcome. Joel Mitchell, Floyd County 4-H'er, responded.

The awards presentations were narrated by Derick Dunn of Post, South Plains District 4-H Council chairman, and Darlene Draper of Seminole, council vice-chairman. The awards were presented by Dr. Catherine B. Crawford and Bob Robinson, District Extension Directors.

Entertainment was presented by 4-H'er Penni Klesel of Crosby County, Judy Fraw and Amber Harp, both of Garza County. Other 4-H'ers on the program were Matt Mitchell of Floyd County and Jim Bob Carver of Hale County.

Four-H is the youth development program of the Extension Service, an educational arm of the Texas A&M University System.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

December 26—Lindsey Jennings, Sloan Grabbe, Eddie Baker

December 27—Fern Parker, Brady Grant, Holly Glenn, Denny Hill, Ellen Edwards, Dara Ramsey

December 28—Braden Towe, Bill Settle, Mary Chris Cantwell, Walter Bean, Kathy Perkins

December 29—Pat McWaters, Buddy Brown, Joe Edd Burnett, Van Breedlove

December 31—Robby Weaks, Sue Martin

January 1—Dwight Rampley, Jackie Mercer

Over 100,000 patent applications are filed each year.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

December 27—Mr. and Mrs. Terry Grimland, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Towe

December 28—Mr. and Mrs. Barry Francis

December 29—Mr. and Mrs. Scott Hutsell

December 30—Mr. and Mrs. Rex Fuston

December 31—Mr. and Mrs. Mart Self

January 1—Mr. and Mrs. Victor Weaks, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Strange, Mr. and Mrs. Billie McDaniel

Committee Recommended SPS Rate Settlement

Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS) and the Steering Committee representing SPS-served Texas communities have settled upon a rate-restructuring plan that leaves electricity prices for most retail customers stable.

The settlement recommends SPS-served communities in Texas allow the electric utility a base rate increase of \$28 million. However, utility spokesmen point out, the base rate increase will be more than offset by decreased fuel charges. SPS has decreased its boiler-fuel costs primarily by building coal-fueled power plants.

Sam Hunter, SPS vice president of Rates and Economic Research, said the utility now is "designing" rates to fit the settlement the Steering Committee is recommending to Southwestern's Texas retail customers.

Residential rates, he said, are not expected to change noticeably under the proposed settlement. Rates for most other customer classifications also will continue stable, or decrease somewhat, Hunter said.

SPS last sought, and was granted, a retail rate increase in Texas in 1982.

Each of the 65 Texas communities in which SPS has filed for rate restructuring must approve the proposed settlement before it can become effective in that community. Additionally, SPS is asking the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) to approve the settlement so that the rates will apply to SPS retail customers both inside and outside boundaries of the SPS-served communities.

The PUCT already has agreed on an interim basis to let SPS lower its fuel charges to customers by \$40,933,368.00. Final

PUCT action on decreasing fuel charges and on the proposed base rate settlement is expected this week.

The new rates, if approved by the SPS-served communities and the PUCT, are expected to become effective January 1, 1986.

Hunter said SPS settled for the \$28 million base rate increase, rather than insisting on \$40.8 million originally requested, for several reasons. "It is extremely important to us to begin as soon as possible to make a return on our shareholders' new investments, including Tolk Station Unit No. 2 and the Oklaunion transmission line," he said. "Both of those facilities have been in service since June, but neither has been reflected in our Texas rates."

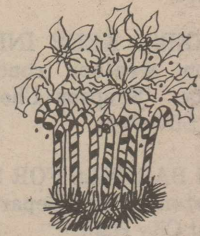
The new 565,000-kilowatt Tolk Station unit cost SPS \$288 million. The Oklaunion transmission line cost the company \$25 million. Hunter noted that the Tolk unit was completed for less than one-half the national average cost of comparable coal-fueled power plants.

"Additionally, the cost of capital is lower now than it was at the time we prepared our rate request," Hunter said. "We had requested a rate of return of 11.95%. We settled for 11.7%."

He said the utility also agreed to lower its request for deprecia-

tion expenses, and to "back out" of the request about \$2 million originally sought for research and development of a carbon dioxide-coal slurry pipeline.

Southwestern Public Service primarily provides electric service to a population of about one million in a 52,000-square-mile area of eastern and southeastern New Mexico, the South Plains and Panhandle of Texas, the Panhandle of Oklahoma, and southwestern Kansas.



Candy Cane Container

To dress up a pot of flowers or to make a pretty vase, attach candy canes to the container with caulking putty.

Place sprigs of evergreen at the bottom.

A glass jar placed inside a tin can is a simple thing, but with the candy canes, it makes a very festive container.

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TRASH BARRELS FOR SALE: Silverton Fire Department. Ask at City Hall. 31-tfnc

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WATKINS PRODUCTS FOR Sale in Silverton. Briscoe County News, 508 South Main Street, or call 823-2333. 41-tfnc

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FOR SALE: SQUARE CANE Bales; clean and bright. Stan Fogerson, 823-2021. 44-tfc

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SWEET POTATOES AND Pea- nuts For Sale. Located six miles north of Flomot or 4 1/2 miles south of Valley School. Joe Edd Helms, 469-5387. 48-tfc

FOR SALE: ELECTRIC COOK Stove, 4000 BTU Dearborn Propane Heater with thermostat; both excellent condition. Call 652-3864. 51-3tp

PURINA 500# SUPPER Blocks For Sale. Recleaned oats for feed or seed. Don Burson, 823-2186, Silverton, Texas. 51-6tc

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FOR SALE: USED CARPET and Drapes. Both in good condition. Mikel Griffin, 847-2225. 51-2tc

GOOD ALFALFA HAY FOR Sale: Small bales; stored in barn. 823-2038. 52-tfc

USED MICROWAVE OVEN For Sale. \$60.00. Raye Smith, 847-2217 or 823-2486. 52-tfc

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FOR SALE: THREE BED- room home. Van Breedlove, 633-4474. 48-tfc

FOR SALE: THREE BED- room, two bath home located at 1001 Main Street. Carman Rhode, 823-2458 or Lubbock 745-7600. 49-tfc

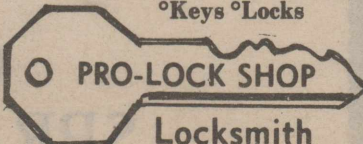
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IS SOMEONE'S DRINKING causing you a problem? Call Al-Anon, 823-2160. 30-tfnc

WATCH FOR THE AN- nouncement of the formal opening of the Holistic Wellness Service in Silverton. It will be a great way for you to start the New Year. 50-4tc

Wanted

BABY SITTING WANTED: Annette Roehr, 823-2520. 48-4tc

Public Notices

Renditions and exemption applications are being mailed to taxpayers in January.

Carlye Hill, chief appraiser, urges all taxpayers please to complete the forms and return them to the tax office either by mail or by coming into the office.

She states that according to law, it is the responsibility of all taxpayers to file renditions annually. This keeps the records correct and you from being taxed for items which you may have sold or no longer have.

If you have any questions concerning these forms, please contact the Briscoe County Tax Appraisal Office or call 823-2161. 52-3tc

Cards of Thanks

Words cannot express to you my appreciation for the many expressions of love and support you have given to me at the loss of my loved one.

For the memorials, flowers, food, gifts and cards and for everything that was done.

I thank God that I am privileged to live in such a caring community. I will ever be grateful. Thank you for caring. Jewell Lyon and family

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Specialized Christmas Cash Gifts

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Bills can be folded into tiny fan shapes and added to a sprig of holly, then tied with a bow to make a cute corsage-like arrangement. For the men, bills can be folded into tiny bowties.

Trace the shape of a Christmas tree onto a colored piece of paper and tape bills on it with invisible stick tape.

Obtain a menu from an interesting restaurant and enclose a check or some cash.

Gift a gift certificate from some store, to make a happy receiver.

For the seamstress, enclose cash in a tiny sewing kit. The gardener gets cash in a toy watering can; the mechanic finds his cash in a tiny tool kit or toy car.

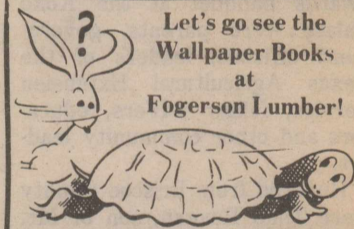
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