



Every year thousands of Western Swing fans converge on Turkey, Texas, the home of Bob Wills, to enjoy some of the best music in the United States!

# Welcome To Bob Wills Day!

This year will be the 37th Annual Bob Wills Day celebration. A procession of Bob Wills fans are already flocking into Turkey in their RVs and pulling their campers in anticipation of the toe-tappin' Western Swing and Country/Western music that will ring down every street.

On Thursday, April 24 three time Grammy nominee Dave Alexander will perform to kick off this year's Bob Wills Day weekend at a dance beginning at 7 p.m.. Tickets will be \$15 per person. The Toots Comedy Show from Arkansas will perform two matinee performances from 2-4 p.m. on both Thursday and Friday, April 24 and 25 at the historic Gem Theatre in downtown Turkey. Cost will be \$10 per person. Friday, April 25 from 7-8:30 p.m. the South Plains Cowboys under the direction of Joe Carr will perform "Continuing The Tradition". Then at 9 p.m. that night there will be a dance featuring the former Texas playboys under the direction of Truitt Cunningham. \$15 gets you into both dances!

Saturday, April 26 there will be a parade in downtown Turkey beginning at 10 a.m. Then spend the day visiting the many arts and crafts booths, visit the Kenneth Wyatt gallery exhibit, stroll the streets and shop the downtown stores. There will be a BBQ lunch at the Bob Wills Cafeteria and the Old Fiddlers Contest at the bob Wills Center beginning at 11:30 a.m.

The former Texas Playboys under the direction of Truitt Cunningham will perform a free concert at the old football field starting at 2:30 p.m. Dr Charles R. Townsend will be the Master of Ceremonies for the concert. Saturday night the 37th Annual Bob Wills Day will conclude with a dance featuring Jody Nix and the Texas Cowboys beginning at 9 p.m. Tickets will be \$15 per person.

There will also be jam sessions all over town! With folks gathering at various locations, including The Church of Western Swing. Stop by these locations and visit, listen to some great music and maybe scoot a boot!

Make plans today to bring a few friends and come on over to Turkey, Texas this weekend to enjoy some of the best Western Swing music and some of the friendliest folks you will ever meet.



## Bake Sale In Turkey

The VHS Cheerleaders are having a Bake Sale this week at the Turkey General Store. Homemade pies, cakes, breads, puppy chow, cobblers, carmel apples and more are for sale. Come help support the VHS Cheerleaders as they raise money to go to Cheerleading Camp this summer!

Concession

Historic Phillips Station In Turkey Restored As Music Studio

By Roberta Carson & Paulette Lipscomb

Buck and Rhoda Coghan were drawn to Turkey, Texas by their love of music. In 2007 during Bob Wills Day, friends of Buck's insisted that he come to Turkey to play with their band. However, some of the musicians did not show up, so Buck pulled out his one-man laptop band and began to entertain. While Buck was playing music, Rhoda checked the town out, saw the old Phillips 66 station and fell in love.

He remembers that as a child he lived near a car mechanics garage and spent hours helping, as many young boys have. Rhoda's discovery of the Phillips 66 Station fit right in with his interest in all things old and related to cars, tools and gas stations. The Coghans immediately began to look for the owner and after purchasing the building, he had the outside restored as closely as possible to the original. The inside became a stu-dio for his one-man laptop band. Technology allows Coghan to play with all his fa-vorite musicians. After all of his years in the music business, he emphasizes that he can now play only what he wants to play. He laughingly says, "I've played with George Strait and

he must have liked it. He didn't say anything." Buck's love of music began early in life, playing bass fiddle at age 16 with a local band. He later played with musicians passing through Phoenix and has been on stage with the likes of Patsy Cline, George Jones, Slim Whitman and Roy

Orbison among others. He and two of his friends formed a trio and performed in Arizona venues for many years. Aside from being a bright

spot on Main Street, Buck and Rhoda are generous and giving people, they have donated a fire truck to the Turkey Volunteer Fire Department.

They invite all to stop by the Old Phillips 66 Station and listen to the music. Welcome to Turkey, Texas, home town of Bob Wills!



Buck and Rhoda Coghan in front of the old Phillips Station in Turkey that they have lovingly restored. Photo by Tina Carson



Buck Coghan loves music and has converted the old Phillips Station into his music studio. Photo by Tina Carson

Bob Wills Schedule of Events On Page 4, Stories & Pictures Pages 6-10



Chances on this giclee print, Ridin' Point by Kenneth Wyatt are on sale now at Turkey City Hall or Turkey Bank.

## Wyatt's Art On Bob Wills Day

The Committee to Renovate Turkey School will be selling chances on a giclee print, Ridin' Point, by Kenneth Wyatt. The tickets are \$5 each or 6 for \$25. All proceeds will be used to continue work on the windows and doors of the old school. Tickets may be purchased at City Hall or at the Turkey Bank.

On Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26, Kenneth Wyatt will be showing his work in his van in front of the Bob Wills Community Center. The art show and sale will be from 10 am to 5 pm on Friday and from 8 am to 5 pm on Saturday.

Kenneth Wyatt, a Tulia resident, is well known for his depictions of cowboy life and historically accurate paintings of earlier times. His western paintings are among the collections of many famous people, including President George W. Bush, former President Ronald Reagan and the Queen of England. However, it is his Christian art that has given him world-renowned fame. Offer Them Christ, a painting showing John Wesley bidding farewell to Thomas Coke and his party as they embark for America, was painted to celebrate the Bicentennial of American Methodism, and lithographs now hang in over 91 countries. A series of portraits of Jesus and the Apostles are critically acclaimed and owned by many churches and individuals throughout the world.

## Stand At Bob Wills Center This Weekend

The VHS Cheerleaders will be having the Bob Wills Concession Stand at the Bob Wills Center starting Thursday night through Saturday night. The cheerleaders will be selling BBQ sandwiches, Brisket Wraps, Jalapeno Pimento Cheese Sandwiches, and they also have made 700 Apricot, Apple and Cherry Fried Pies to sell this weekend.

Come by and see the 2008-2009 Cheerleaders at the Bob Wills concession stand. The new cheerleaders are Chancy Campbell-senior & co-head, Jordan Jenkins-senior & cohead, Jacy Proctor-junior, Lauren Young-junior, Caitlyn Brown-freshman and Kristen Jenkins-freshman.

# Toot's Comedy Show Returns To Turkey

The award winning Ooty, Pooty & Sister Cutie - The Toot's - return to Turkey for 2 p.m. matinee shows on Thursday & Firday of Bob Wills week. Also on stage will be the Chicken House Opry of Mission, Texas - America's fastest growing entertainment venue.

Making new appearances this year are Alma Reed, Bruce & Elaine Nelson and Cajun comedian Charlie LeBlanc plus regulars Punjo Reed, Lucy Jackson and Ike Thurn. Include in the two shows next week are the off-broadway style comedy plays of a cajun de-

Include in the two shows next week are the off-broadway style comedy plays of a cajun declaring war on Saddam Huesein in Thibodeaux's Big War plus Boudreaux, Jole Blon & FEMA and the popular family comedy of Betty Lou, Billy Two and Teacher Ms. Badawop Stadawop. For reservations call Marie Cruse in Turkey at 806-423-1420.

## **Motion Failed That Would Have Removed Personal Property From The Briscoe County Tax Roll**

The Briscoe County Commissioners Court met in special session on Thursday, April 10. Present for the meeting were County Judge Wayne Nance, Commissioners Terry Grimland-Pct 1, Larry Comer-Pct 3, Dale Smith-Pct 2, John Burson-Pct 4, County Clerk Bena Hester, and County Treasurer Mary Jo Brannon. After attending to regular court business the following items were addressed

A motion passed to include cell phone allotments and meals for day trips to be reimbursed through payroll.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned. The Commissioners Court met in regular session on Monday, April 14. Present for the meeting were County Judge Wayne Nance, Commissioners Terry Grimland-Pct 1, Larry Comer-Pct 3, Dale Smith-Pct 2, John Burson-Pct 4, County Clerk Bena Hester, guests Dale Ramsey, Missy Reynolds, Betty Stephens and Pat McWaters. The following items were addressed in this meeting:

\* A motion passed to allow Silverton Chamber of Commerce to hold their Trade Days on the courthouse grounds and charge for booth rent during the August, Briscoe County Celebration. Voting against this motion were Commissioners Smith and

Grimland. \* The Commissioners' Court engaged in a teleconference with Galen Chandler, AgriLife Extension District Director and Nathan Carr, prospective CEA-Ag agent. After the phone in-terview with Mr. Carr, a motion passed to hire Nathan Carr as the new Briscoe County CEA-AG agent, to begin work on May 12, 2008

\* A motion passed to purchase "Burn Ban In Effect" signs form TxDOT. Signs will be located at the County line markers on each state highway entering the county

\*A motion passed to sign Resolution #08-002 which supports Expedited Development of Competitive Renewable Energy Zones in West Texas including Infrastructure to Export Wind Power for West Texas.

\* A motion failed that would have removed personal prop-erty from the tax roll. Voting against were Commissioners Smith, Comer and Burson.

\* A motion passed to advertise for sealed bids to sale a 1980 (approximately) 140G Caterpiller Motor Grader, Serial #72V3327 and a 1960(approximately) W9BD Case Front End Loader, Serial #9800754, each located in Precinct #2. \* A motion passed to advertise for sealed bids to sale the

additional benches and miscellaneous furniture located in the courthouse



# The Valley Tribune, Quitaque, Texas **Motley County Lifts**

**Burn Ban** 

The Motley County Commissioners Court met in regular session on Monday, April 14. Present for the meeting were County Judge Ed d. Smith, Commissioners Ronnie Davis-Pct Donnie Turner-Pct 2, Franklin Jameson-Pct 3, Russell Alexander-Pct 4, County Attorney Tom Edwards, assistant Carol Campbell, Sheriff Michael Crutchley, County Extension Agent Ryan Martin, citizens Vann Francis, Ronnie Cox, Betty Simpson, Rae Baxter, Larry Vogt, Ches Carthel, Elena Quintanilla, and Mary Sue Potts-Powell. After attending to regular monthly court business the following items were addressed

\* Judge Smith presented a resolution form State Representative David Swinford's office requesting the court to approve the support of new transmission lines to wind energy construction in West Texas. Tom Edwards informed the court that Rep. Swinford's Wind Energy Resolution would not benefit Motley County and could be used against our area. Mr. Edwards presented several scenarios to the court that are being presented. The Amarillo area is not in ERCOT as we are. After discussion by the court, the Resolution was not approved for lack of a motion

\* Sheriff Crutchley informed the court the prisoner the county had housed in Dickens County Jail since November 2007, has been paroled. The county has paid \$5,000.00, 1/2 of the year's budget for prisoner upkeep on this one inmate.

\*Judge Smith opened bids that were submitted to purchase used and salvaged equipment. Bids for the 1980 International Dump Truck - Bid was accepted from Jeromy Jameson for \$1,577.89; Bids for the Moline Tractor and Shredder - Bid was accepted from Robert L. Copeland for \$515.21. Bids for the salvaged Mack truck - Bid was accepted from Jeromy Jameson for \$600.00.

\* No action was taken on the fire Extinguisher replacement in county equipment and barns. Commissioner Davis is to check with Western Fire Extinguisher Company on prices and

the sizes needed and report back to the court. \* Judge Smith gave a report on the radio tower inspection that was completed at the request of TxDOT before they installed their equipment. The court will table this until a TxDOT representative can meet with the court and present more information

A motion passed to advertise for bids on Lot 27. Block 121. this lot is located across form Pct #1 County Barn.

\* County Extension Agent Ryan Martin and Ray Baxter presented to the court a request to dedicate the year 2008 to Colorectal Cancer Awareness and Prevention. There is a 90% cure rate for this cancer if detected early. A motion passed to approve this request

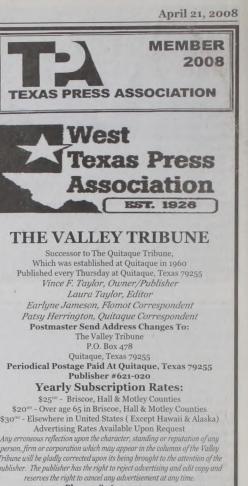
\*Architect Hugh Welch informed the court on the mandatory asbestos study and the bid proposals on the historic jail renovation. There were minute quantities of asbestos in the tiles and glazing of the windows. The asbestos can be abated under special rules that are accepted by the state and feds. Only one of four categories on the bid process was within budget. Mr. Welch recommended to the court that all bids be rejected and renegotiate the bids with the interested bidders. A motion passed to reject all bids and to give Judge Smith, Carol Campbell and Mr. Welch the power to reject or accept other bids submitted. In kind work needs to begin when time allows. County employees can start getting cleaned up around the jail so scaffolding can be erected for the workers. The City needs to turn the water on and check for needed repairs on water and sewer lines. The Fire Department can help with the

bee eradication. \* Judge Smith opened two bids for engineering services for the Flomot Water Grant. The bid was awarded to Carthel Engineering. \* Judge Smith informed the

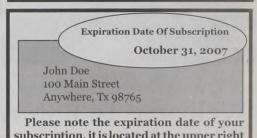
court that a 7 foot county road map would be displayed in the courthouse in September and October of this year. This map is to inform land owners and interested citizens of the county's intention to adopt an official county road map. After the display time, a public meeting will be announced. Then protest in the County's claim of public interest in a road can be heard. \* The County Burn Ban was

discussed by the court. Due to greening up in the county, a motion passed to lift the burn band, to be reviewed in 30

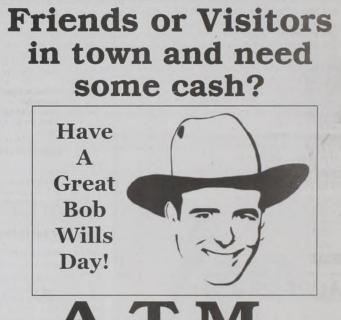
days. \* Judge smith informed the



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April 21, 2008

A little girl was visi melon. She picked out "That will be \$3,00. "But I have only 30 The farmer pointed vine and said, "How a "I'll take it," said th back for it in a month.

Wilburn Martin and were guests this week and husband, Nita and Saturday for the cere. Marker at the Scott's C Wilburn's and Nita was wounded in the C

as other family memb En route home Sun

Mrs. B. Rogers and Saturday with Shawn and Jake. They celeb her two candles on a members attending w ley Degan of Kalgar McDaniel of Sundown Kason Degan of Mata Marisue and Ralph

urday afternoon with Sandra and Jerry Ba

his parents, Mr. and M Anna Beth and Joe with daughter and fan Kyler. They enjoyed t Savannah Young, I was recognized at the

night at the Valley Sch ing Girl Scout cookies her proud mother, M Jackie Sperry of Quita Mrs. Waydetta Cla

the Lynn Alexander a urday night held at th Attending the fune Wyona Clark held Mc in Friona were Johnie

and Jack and Nada St Orville and Ruth L sary Friday, April 18th in Childress Sunday.

Joe Ike Clay and An end for the Kairos Pri Turkey also attended Haley and Emily M

with their grandpare companied them hom their parents, Christia tersburg senior class ti





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# **FLOMOT NEWS**

## By Earlyne Jameson **OVERHEARD**

A little girl was visiting a farm and decided to buy a water-melon. She picked out a big one and asked the farmer's price. "That will be \$3.00," he said.

"But I have only 30¢," the girl said. The farmer pointed to a very small watermelon still on he vine and said, "How about that?"

"I'll take it," said the girl, "But leave it on the vine. I'll be BY LAURA TAYLOR back for it in a month.'

Attend Historical Dedication Wilburn Martin and daughter, Mrs. Marilee Cooper of Borger Wilburn Martin and daughter, Mrs. Marilee Cooper of Borger were guests this weekend in Granbury in the home of his sister these yummy breakfast dishes and husband, Nita and Ervin Merritt. They were in Hillsboro Saturday for the ceremony of the unveiling of the Historical Marker at the Scott's Cemetery.

Wilburn's and Nita's great-grandfather, A.B. Martin, 41, who was wounded in the Civil War was buried there in 1872 as well as other family members.

En route home Sunday they visited in Anson with J.C. Moss.

Mrs. B. Rogers and son, Donnie Rogers visited in Abilene, Saturday with Shawna and Jeff Abernatby and children, Allie and Jake. They celebrated the birthday of Allie who blew out her two candles on a colorful decorated cake. Other family members attending were grandparents, Donna Sue and Stanley Degan of Kalgary and grandchildren, Seth and Luke McDaniel of Sundown, Dane Degan and children, Kyler and Kason Degan of Matador.

Marisue and Ralph Powell of Mott Creek Ranch visited Sat-urday afternoon with her aunt, Mary Ellen "Dude" Barton. Sandra and Jerry Barclay visited Friday night in Lockney with

his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S.D. Barclay Anna Beth and Joe Ike Clay visited last weekend in Clifton with daughter and family, Lori and Kevon Kleibrink, Karlee and Kyler. They enjoyed the soccer game in which Karlee played.

Savannah Young, member of the Brownie Girl Scout troop, was recognized at the Awards Penning Ceremony held Monday night at the Valley School for her outstanding work when selling Girl Scout cookies. Attending the ceremony with her were her proud mother, Mrs. Cally Sperry and grandmother, Mrs.

Jackie Sperry of Quitaque. Mrs. Waydetta Clay and Mary Ellen "Dude" Barton enjoyed the Lynn Alexander and 8 Second Ride Band performance Saturday night held at the Gem Theatre in Turkey.

Attending the funeral services of their paternal cousin, Mrs. Wyona Clark held Monday at 2 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Friona were Johnie Starkey and brother, LT. Starkey of Ralls and Jack and Nada Stareky.

Orville and Ruth Lee celebrated their 61st wedding anniver-sary Friday, April 18th. They enjoyed lunch and entertainment in Childress Sunday

Joe Ike Clay and Anna Beth Clay were in Childress this week-end for the Kairos Prison Ministry. Others from Quitaque and Turkey also attended.

Haley and Emily Milam of Petersburg visited the weekend with their grandparents, Kathy and Clois Shorter. Kathy ac-companied them home Sunday and remained to visit them as their parents, Christi and Dwain Milam are sponsors of the Petersburg senior class that are on a trip to Disneyland in Florida.

## Woman wins State Hopping Contest after using Thera-Gesic<sup>®</sup>



BEXAR COUNTY - Mary Ann W. applied Thera-Gesic® to her aching hip and one day later went on to win the State Hopping Contest. When asked what she likes most about entering hopping contests, she painlessly replied, "None of your dang business!"

Stay tuned for another Thera-Gesic® moment!





The Valley Tribune, Quitaque, Texas



With all the Bob Wills fes-tivities this weekend you might that can be made the night be fore and just popped into the oven in the morning. **Grits, Sausage &** 

Egg Casserole

4 cups water 1 teaspoon salt 1 cup quick-cooking grits 4 eggs, lightly beaten

1 pound pork sausage, browned & drained

1 1/2 cups (6 oz) shredded cheddar cheese, divided 1/2 cup milk 1/4 cup butter or margarine,

softened

In a large saucepan, bring water and salt to a boil. Slowly stir in grits. Reduce heat and cook 4-5 minutes, stirring oc-casionally.

Remove grits from heat and add a small amount of hot grits pan. Stir in sausage, 1 cup cheese, milk and butter; stir

baking pan. Sprinkle with re-maining cheese. Bake at 350 degrees F for 50-55 minutes or until the top begins to brown. Yield: 10-12 servings. World's Best Egg

## Casserole...Ever!

12 eggs 1 cup plain yogurt 1 teaspoon Lawry's sea-

soned salt (or, to taste) 3/4 stick butter or marga-

rine 2 cups shredded hash brown potatoes (thawed) 1/4 cup (or less) chopped

onion 1 cup grated sharp cheddar

Preheat oven to 350°. Spray

Preheat oven to 350°. Spray or grease a two-quart casserole dish with cooking oil. Beat eggs, yogurt, and salt together. Melt butter and lightly sauté onion. Add thawed potatoes. Stir to mix. Pour in egg mixture and lightly stir to blend ingre-dients. Pour into casserole dients. Pour into casserole dish. Sprinkle grated cheese over casserole. Bake at 350° for approximately 25 minutes or until knife comes out clean when inserted. Cut into 8 square

## **Baked French Toast**

Casserole 1 (16 oz) loaf supermarket French or Italian bread, sliced

1 tablespoon unsalted butsoftened (to coat baking

2 teaspoons vanilla extract

1/2 teaspoon ground cinna-

1/2 teaspoon ground nut-

**Topping:** 4 tablespoons (1/2 stick)

unsalted butter, softened 3/4 cup packed light brown

1 cup pecans, chopped

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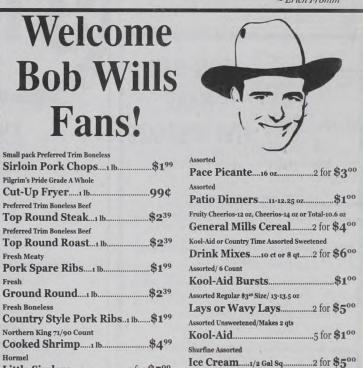
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Spread the bread cubes in a baking pan and bake for 15 minutes or until dry and hard at 325 degrees. Pull out of oven to cool. Butter a 13 x 9 inch pan and pack the dried bread cubes into it. Whisk the eggs in a large bowl until combined. Then whisk in the milk, cream, granulated sugar, vanilla, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Pour the egg mixture over the bread cubes. Cover the entire mixture with plastic wrap and push the bread down into the egg mixture until soft and well coated. Refrigerate overnight. Stir the butter, brown sugar, and corn syrup together until smooth and then stir in the pecans. Wrap in plastic wrap and also refrigerate overnight. Unwrap the casserole and bake in a preheated 350 degree oven for 45 minutes. Pull out and sprinkle the blueberries on top, then the the bluebernes on top, men the pecan topping mixture and bake for another 15 minutes until golden brown and bub-bling. Serve immediately with warmed maple syrup.



The lack of objectivity, as far as foreign nations are concerned, is notorious. From one day to another, another nation is made out to be utterly depraved and fiendish, while one's own nation stands for everything that is good and noble. Every action of the enemy is judged by one standard - every action of oneself by another. Even good deeds by the enemy are consid-ered a sign of particular devilishness, meant to deceive us and the world, while our bad deeds are necessary and justified by our noble goals which they serve.



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.5 for \$200

.2 for \$100

.2 for \$500

.2 for \$5°

.....2 for \$400



Page 3

until butter is melted. Pour into a greased 13X9X2-

tue Sizziers12 oz	Blue Bunny Sandwiches or
ton's iced Bacon12 oz\$199	Ice Cream Cones6 ct\$4
l Ripe	Buttermilk or Homestyle/ 10 ct
aermeloneach\$400	Shurfine Biscuits
et Red	Yolpait
rawberries1 lb	Yogurt6 oz
dless	Shurfine Decorated
ed Grapes	Paper Towels 3 rolls
ck Size	Shurfine Ultra/4 Big Rolls
ivel Oranges8 for \$100	Bathroom Tissue2 for \$5°
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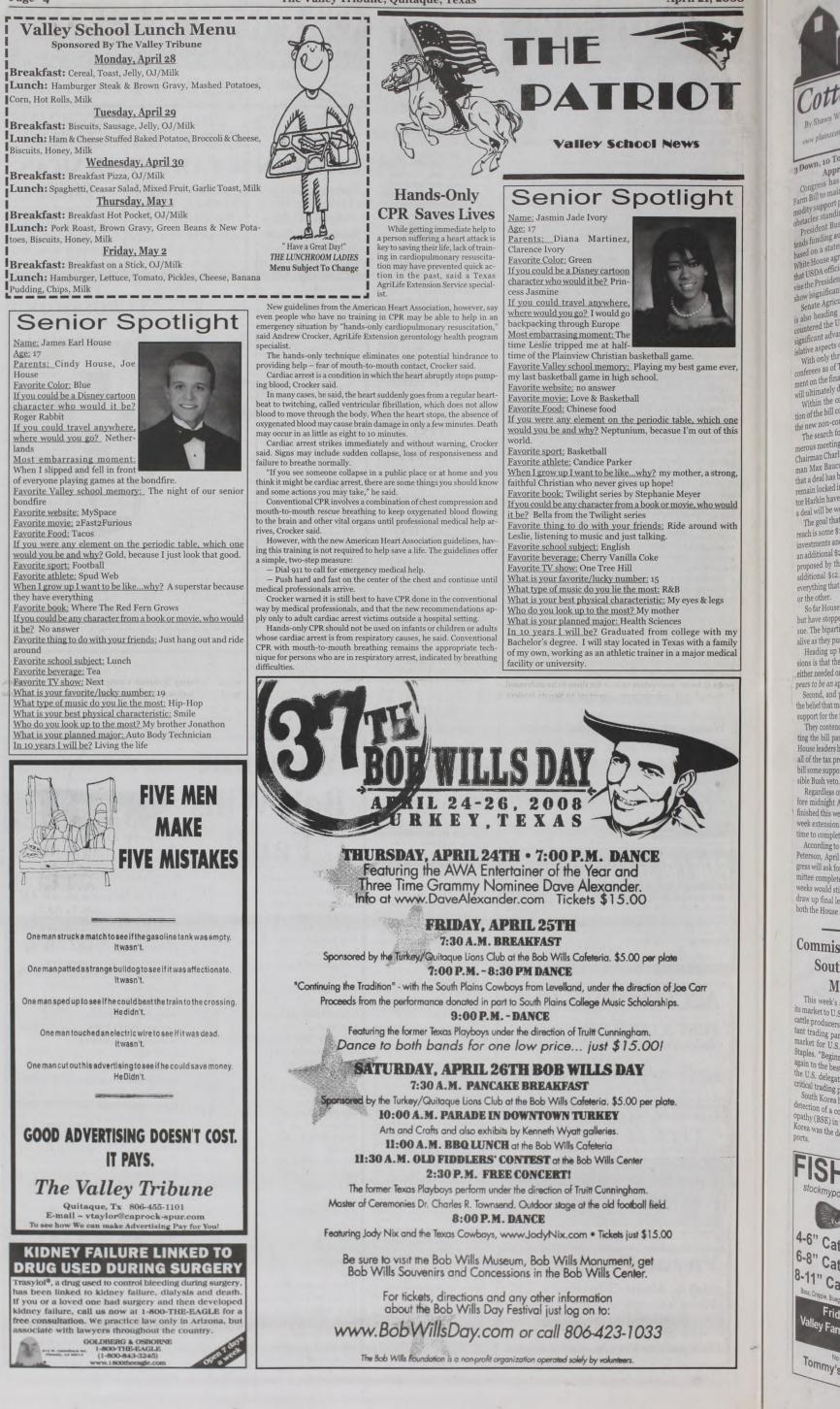
## The Valley Tribune, Quitaque, Texas

April 21, 2008

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April 21, 2008

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By Shawn Wade

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Well, the weather has been erratic! One night was so cold that I turned on my electric blanket, and then Saturday and other days was so hot (in the 80's) and kids all over town were wearing shorts and the wind - my did it ever blow at times! But how can one complain when the gardens are coming up, the wildflowers are a riot of color, and all the trees and countryside are beginning to be so green. I see the magnificent blooms of purple iris resplendent in their glory each time I walk by the Jim and Misti Messer house. One day it will rain, too. As my mother used to say, "I know it's going to rain soon. It always has

Sammie and Delos Johnson have been gone on a trip of 900 miles for almost a week. Old friends from Midland picked them up and drove them through Mississippi and Louisiana to Brehen's Children Home in Harmon, Louisiana established in 1979 and sponsored mainly by Delos Johnson and the Church of Christ in Brookhaven, Mississippi. Delos was on the Board of Directors for many years. They found the home in good condition and was lots of pretty country and gorgeous azaleas e erywhere. Delos attended meetings and they saw lots of old friends. They returned home Wednesday after a wonderful time,

It was really good to see Clyde Dudley working again out at the State Park after his siege of treatments. He is doing much better, and feeling good!

Last Friday three vivacious excited ladies, Phyllis Geisler, Helen Huley and June Parish came down from Earth, Texas to ew our town and get information about tearing down uninhabitable houses as we did. We (Patsy Herrington and Delene Tyler) drove them around, showing them before and after pic-tures, also The Thrift Shop where We The Women make their money, the Hope Center, and Caprock Canyons State Park. Arlene Hinkle came over for awhile, too. They plan to do some of the same things at Earth. Before leaving they hosted us to coffee at The Sportsman. They loved our new sidewalk and general appearance of our town.

I ran into Darrell Ramsey, son of Ray Doyle and Ladell Ramsey, here recently. He and his family lived here many years while Ray Doyle ran the Farm Store. Darrell now lives in Lubbock and works at a concrete plant. His parents are still in Plainview

Quitaque has had at least forty old junk cars smashed and removed from our town with more to go, we hope. If interested phone Gary Cole at 479-243-7237(cell). He pays \$100 per car.

Home phone is 940-684-1969. This is old cars-no titles. Lex Herrington, Floydada, was here this week after probating a will in Silverton. He went out to the farm, and also visited his mother, Patsy.

Doug Bingham, his mother, Mary Sue Bingham, Donna and Jim Taylor, cousins, and all of Amarillo have been busy as bees getting the Sportsman Lodge ready for next Bob Wills week-end, only a few days away. They have put up new sheetrock and painted the tow new bathrooms recently installed, put down new carpet and various other things to improve it. Donna and Doug are co-owners of the hotel.

Ruby King is getting all excited about going to her sister's Ima Jean Bethel, of Lamesa, 90th birthday next weekend. Ima Jean is a frequent visitor of Quitaque

First Baptist church, Quitaque hosted thirty teenagers and four families from Plainview last weekend for a Disciple Now concert featuring Zechariah's Song. There were Bible studies, meals, and testimonies. Some were form Wayland and one member played in "Texas in the Swing" and also with Benny Brown.

John Lynn and Janet Johnson took Joyce Price, Jake Merrell, Jake and Edwina Johnson and Jill Johnson out to dinner this week

Everyone in Turkey is busy getting ready for Bob Wills this coming weekend. Let's all be good neighbors and visit the pretty parade, see the craft show and listen to good Bob Wills music!



**Palo Duro Basin Oil** and Gas Update

**By Tom Musser** Motley County: Drilling is scheduled to begin this week

on the Roaring Springs Energy, Ltd. Hamilton lease well #1, which is located one mile east of Roaring Springs in the Roaring Springs,

Permo-Penn) Field. Motley County: On Thursday, April 17 Sharp Im-

age Energy, Inc. applied for a drilling permit for the Vinson se well #1, Birnie (Strawn) and (Congl.) Fields to be located 467 feet from the south line and 467 feet from the west line of Section 2, Block O-5, M. Damron Survey, Abstract-1771, six miles south-south-

east of Flomot. This will locate the Vinson #1 approximately midway between the 1959 General Crude Oil Company I.F. Fish #1 and the 2001 Petrotex, Inc. Frank Eiring #1 plugged locations. Mr. Vince Hatfield of Midland, Texas is the president of Sharp Image Energy, Inc.

# Wind Farm Lease Seminar April 30 In Memphis

Landowners and ag producers from across the state are making it their business to learn more about the development and enefits of wind farm leases. On Wednesday, April 30, at 9 a.m., the North Rolling Plains Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) will host a meeting in Memphis at the Memphis Community Center, 721 Robertson in Memphis, Texas.

Landowners interested in wind energy are encouraged to attend the meeting. Presenters will provide information about the environmental, ecologic, economic impacts and other concerns for wind energy utilization.

The primary purpose of the meeting is to discuss items land-owners and ag producers should consider when leasing their land for wind farm development.

Alan Carmichael, the co-author of a booklet titled "Wind Facts: A Landowners Guide," will give an overview of current wind farm development and discuss what landowners should look for in their leases.For more information, contact the North Rolling Plains RC&D at 806-669-0312.

## **House Passes Short-Term Farm Bill Extension On Voice Vote**

Thornberry Says Time Running Out For New Bill

Washington, DC - Congressman Mac Thornberry recently announced that the House has passed H.R. 5813 to provide a clean extension to the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 through April 25, 2008. "The new Majority in Con-gress has made a habit of waiting until past the last minute to



West

islative aspects of the bill. With only three of the thirteen total farm bill titles closed by conferees as of Thursday afternoon and, as yet, no final agree ment on the financing package, it is unclear what the President will ultimately do.

Within the conference the major issue holding up comple-tion of the bill continues to be budget ipay-forsî needed to fund the new non-commodity title program additions.

3 Down, 10 To Go In Farm Bill Conference; Congress

Approves 7-day Funding Extension

Congress has approved a one week extension of the 2002 Farm Bill to maintain continuity in key nutrition and non-com-

modity support programs as they work to overcome the last few

President Bush is expected to sign the extension, which extends funding authority for certain programs through April 25,

based on a statement issued by the White House early Friday.

White House agreement on the extension comes despite the fact

that USDA officials clearly stated Thursday that they would ad-

significant advances had been made on both financial and leg-

obstacles standing in the way of completing a new farm bill.

The search for acceptable budget offsets has resulted in nu-merous meetings between House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Charlie Rangel and Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus that have yet to result in an announcement that a deal has been struck. While it appears these negotiations remain locked in a virtual stalemate, Senator Baucus and Senator Harkin have both indicated that progress is being made and a deal will be worked out.

The goal that Rep. Rangel and Senator Baucus are trying to reach is some \$10 billion in new money to support key farm bill investments and, whether or not to find offsets for all or part of an additional \$2.5 billion in controversial agriculture tax breaks proposed by the Senate. All together that means as much an additional \$12.5 billion in funding would be needed to fund everything that is currently considered to iin-playî by one side or the other

So far House leaders have resisted the Senate tax provisions, but have stopped short of breaking off all discussion of the issue. The bipartisan effort by Senate leaders has kept the issue alive as they push hard to maintain the provisions Heading up the Senate arguments for including the provi-

sions is that they say that many of the tax changes have been either needed or promised for some time and the farm bill appears to be an appropriate vehicle for them to be addressed. Second, and perhaps most important to Senate leaders, is

the belief that many of the changes will in fact attract additional support for the farm bill in the Senate. They contend this could be the difference between just get-

ting the bill passed and or passing it by a veto-proof margin. House leaders have argued just the opposite saying that adding all of the tax provisions to the farm bill could actually cost the bill some support and make it more difficult to overcome a possible Bush veto.

vise the President not to sign an extension unless Congress could show isignificanti progress on the new farm bill. Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Tom Harkin, who is also heading up the farm bill Conference Committee, had countered the USDA assessment of no progress by noting that

## The Valley Tribune, Quitaque, Texas

# Who Played Western Swing When Bob Wasn't In Town

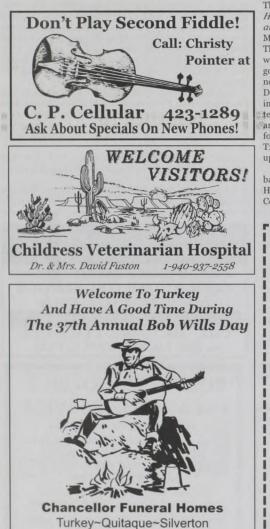
## by Robin Brown

After Bob Wills & the Texas Playboys became popular in the thirties (and 40's) a number of bands in West Texas bands began playing Will's songs and copying his style. Although Wills and his band continued to play in West Texas at places like the Cotton Club (Lubbock) and the Avalon Ballroom (Amarillo) it is still interesting to know just who carried on, when Bob Wills wasn't in town!

Let's begin with a somewhat famous band that played out of Amarillo, "The Sons of the West'. This band had originated in Ft. Worth in the mid thirties when one of Bob's cousins founded the group. His name was Son Lansford and he played upright bass. Not long after their beginning, the band moved to Amarillo where much opportunity awaited them. This was the age of radio and ballroom dancing and they thrived well in Amarillo during the later thirties and forties playing radio shows, the Nat Ballroom and other night spots. However Lansford turned the band over to Jimmy Meek and returned to Bob Will's band not long after the band moved to West Texas in 1938. Early members of the band included Jimmy Meekvocals & fiddle, Billy Briggs-steel guitar, Jesse Williams-guitar, Loren Mitchell-piano, Pat Trotter-fiddle, Cliff Wells-banjo, Jess Robertson-banjo, Freddie Dean-guitar, Buck Buchanan-fiddle, and Leonard Seago-fiddle.

One of the earliest groups to play western swing down in the Midland-Odessa area of West Texas was a band called '*Bob Skyles and the Skyrockets*'. This band was made-up of the Kendrick brothers Bob, Clifford & Sanford. It seems that Bob had only used the stage-name 'Skyles' because it fit well with the word 'Skyrockets'. This eclectic group worked out of Pecos, Tx and they purportedly played all types of music, including western swing in the late thirties and early forties. They had numerous 78 rpm records on the Blue Bird and Decca labels and even traveled to El Paso for bookings. However, most of their recordings are corny, novelty songs and not western swing it appears. Besides the Kendrick brothers, other members at various times included Moon Mullican-piano, Curley Nicholsguitar, Max Bennett-piano, Frank Wilhelm-accordian, Brooke Kendrick & Dave Hughes.

In the fifties Bob Wills music was still in vogue in West Texas and the early Maines brothers of Lubbock played it. Their band was called *The Western Swing Kings'*. Their key members were Sonny & James Maines while other members included Curley Lawler, Frank Carter, Gerald Braddock & Fernie Reed. Their familiar haunt was the old Cotton Club and later their sons would carry on the tradition as the new Maines Brothers Band. Lloyd, Kenny & Steve Maines would eventually record for Mercury records in the early eighties and they also played some western swing in their early days.





Billy Briggs and the XIT boys in Amarillo and Hoyle Nix in the Big Spring area would also continue the tradition of western swing during the fifties. Briggs was not only a good musician (steel guitar) but like Nix he also was a good writer. In 1951 his song 'Chew Tobacco Rag 'hit the national charts and for a time he called his band the 'Chew Tobacco Rag Boys'. But most of his recordings are listed under 'Billy Briggs and the XIT Boys and he was quite a star in the Amarillo-Dalhart area playing Will's type music until he moved to California in the late fifties

Fiddler Hoyle Nix and his brother (Ben Nix) had established the *West Texas Cowboys* in 1946 in Big Spring, Tx. They also established regular bookings that included Lubbock, Odessa, Midland, Abilene and San Angelo. Then in fifty-four they decided to build a dance hall outside of Big Spring and see if they could make a go of it. *The Stampede Club* was a resounding success and Nix was on his way to fame & fortune, playing Bob Wills music! Then in 1958 he wrote and recorded 'Big Balls in Cowtown' which Wills himself covered and the rest is history. Hoyle Nix became the heir apparent to Will's legacy, at least in West Texas. Aside from Ben Nix, other musicians associated with Hoyle Nix have included sons Larry Nix & Jody Nix, Tommy Harvel, Dusty Stewart, Wink Lewis and Merle David of Clarendon

Three other bands that played western swing in West Texas in the late fifties, probably competed for prime rodeo dances. They were the *Miller Brothers Band* of Wichita Falls, *Jimmy* Heap & the the Melody Makers of Stamford and Don Allen and the Sunset Ramblers of Lubbock, Tx. I recall hearing the Miller Brothers at the Horse & Colt Show in Paducah in 1960. They played western swing with an Eldon Shamblin feel and were good! I am sure Heap and the Melody Makers were very good during their heyday also. Both of these bands music has now been re-issued on a CD titled: 'Dance Hall Music of Texas'. Don Allen and his Sunset Ramblers used to play Western Swing in this area at Matador in the late fifties. They also played a television show on KLBK channel 13 regularly at this same time and were quite popular on the South Plains. Allen's dad had founded the original Sunset Rambler band over in Allanreed, Tx some years prior. Quitaque native James Baird played upright bass with Don Allen during the late fifties.

at this time and his band was popular there. Haddock had come into the area to work as a disc jockey at Lamesa, Tx and had first played fiddle with Colbert at Danceland in Odessa in c.1954. There is little doubt that the Tiny Colbert band played a lot of western swing and Haddock seemed to have also been a singer as well as fiddler. He had several 78 rpm releases under the name 'Durwood Daily' back then. Although the band that Tiny Colbert founded in Odessa has been mostly forgotten Miller and Haddock co-wrote the country standard '*There She Goes*' and their creation lives on! Eddie Miller also co-wrote another great standard 'Please Release Me'and he also fronted a successful band "Eddie Miller & the Oklahomans". This band

also toured Texas and played some western swing, I beleive. Will's type music was continued in west texas by *Charlie Phillips & the Sugartimers* of Amarillo. Phillips got his start in big-time music when he co-wrote the classic song 'Sugartime' with Odis Echols and recorded it in Clovis, NM in 1957. Sugartime became a country & pop hit when it was covered by the McGuire Sisters. It appears Phillips then left his hometown of Farwell, Tx and went into radio in Amarillo where he became a noted disc jockey & singer. Although radio may have been his mainstay, on weekends he played at the Avalon Ballroom and eventually signed with Columbia records for more record releases. Turkey's own native son Gary Johnson played drums with Phillips band for a year in the mid-sixties! Some lesser known bands in the Turkey area also were

playing Bob Wills music and deserve mention. Pat Seigler and the *Hepcats*, an instrumental band from Matador played a few western swing numbers at local dances. One of their favorite places to play was the old VFW there and I recall their music fondly from the late fifties. They played San Antonio Rose very well,! *Bobby* Wynne was also playing western swing over in nearby Floydada, in the early sixties. In fact he started a band called Kings of Western Swing while working at the Ford house there and began playing weekends at the VFW in Plainview. Bobby sang & played trumpet well enough to travel with Hank Thompson and has been inducted into the Western Swing Hall

In the early sixties Cliff Stodghill & wife Joy fronted a band in Silverton that also played western swing. Initially, Morris Stephens, Dick Polk, Odis Honey and the Mayfield brothers played some with them. Later the Stodghills teamed with Bennie Brown, John & Maybelle Francis and Jimmy Burson and called themselves '*The Country Sounds*'. This band kept Will's music alive around the Silverton-Quitaque-Turkey area for decades and were (or have been) real proponents of Western Swing!

I cannot conclude this article without mentioning several other old-time musicians of our area. One was Bob's old friends, the late Zip Durrett of Lakeview, Tx. When Bob was in the area he always visited Zip and tried to play some with him. Durrett played guitar with a lot of other, local fiddlers in his lifetime also. Another somewhat legendary musician was Ollie Miller of the Dickens area. He also was noted for playing guitar behind local fiddlers and had a reputation for being good at it also! My favorite local fiddler was Travis Carruth of Olton, Tx and he deserves mention also because he always played a lot of Will's music around the Plainview area during his lifetime. Now perhaps we know the answer to the question, "Who played Western Swing when Bob wasn't in town?" Travis, Miller, Durrett and the other musicians I have mentioned continued the tradition of Western Swing in West Texas, *when Bob was* not in town

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April 24, 2008

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## Bob Wills: The King Of Western Swing

By Cotton Lewis of Olton Bob Wills was an industrious hard working kid Nobody dreamed of his success although he did. It's common knowledge I've heard lots of folks say He'd "pick" uh halfuh bale of cotton any old day. Leaving Turkey, Texas with a fiddle in a flour sack Dang, he looked like a bum, but I'll take that back. They offered him a radio program at five bucks a week

At least he could eat and not sleep in the street. The 'Fiddle Band' of three with a sound not heard before Opened up with, "*Who Broke the Lock on the Hen House* Door?

When they went into a number called Four or Five Times This good buddy will ring your chimes.

Bob's start wasn't easy, that old Depression was rough work was scarce nobody could provide enough. He barbered in New Mexico and practiced a little

He wrote, The Spanish Two Step and played his fiddle. Bob had charisma and a great love for his fellow man And would never belittle a musician or an unhappy fan. When rude and rowdy fans made noise he maintained his poise

With standards high as a steeple he was loved by the people. Bob became famous for "Take it away Leon, Ah-h Ha!" Never dreaming their names would be in NEON. Those lyrics kept coming, the kind of songs that sells,

My what a song in that great Silver Bells. Then came songs like Ida Red and Little Liza Jane. That's enough to drive 'legit' musicians insane. I shall never forget that beautiful, excellent treasure When old Bob turns out My Life's Been a Pleasure.

This poem could run at least forty more pages So Bob's songs will be sung throughout the ages. Take Me Back to Tulsa, my what an appropriate song it became another hit and it didn't take long. It's as if the best lyrics come down from heaven above

As Bob Wills proudly unfurls, Faded Love. That all-time great favorite San Antonio Rose Bob Wills has been gone about twenty years But his western swing music still brings tears. His influence on Western Swing-there is no way to measure I can sing with Bob, My Life Has Been A Pleasure.

WELCOME

## The Valley Tribune, Quitaque, Texas

# **Musical Happenings This Week In Turkey**

### by Jill Johnson

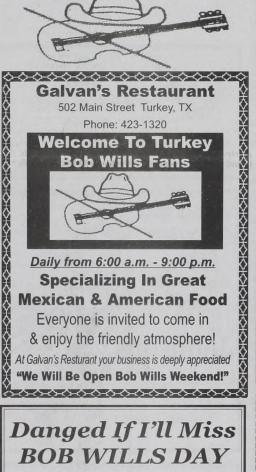
Last fFiday a prelude to Bob Wills Week began at the Church of Western Swing in Turkey. The band kicked-off a little past eight and it featured the playing & singing of Henry Baker, Bobby Wynne and Buster Redwine. The amazing Lucy D. Record was on piano, Odie James was on drums and Lee Barlow played bass. Alfie Johns of California contributed some sax solos which rounded out the Western Swing sound. Doris Ann sang her usual songs and an amateur from Oklahoma sang 'Back in the Saddle Again'. When Lee Barlow moved over to play fiddle later in the night, Michael Grace played bass behind the singing of Redwine and Baker. A moderate crowd of outof-towners applauded each song and appeared to enjoy the music, which was good!

On Saturday evening some jamming also occured at Pat Seigler's tent up at the football field. Local guitarist Bennie Brown joined Don Lawrence, Pat Seigler and Dub Williams and entertained the crowd. Mr. Williams had driven in from Huntsville, Alabama to play under Siegler's infamous tent while Lawrence came in from Oklahoma. The band was somewhat dazzled by a fingerless guitarist that also played a song or two.

On Monday afternoon the Western Swing Society were playing at the downtown stage and also sounded good! The band (I heard) featured Pat Gore on lead guitar, Larry Nelson on sax, Chuck Hayes on steel, Harry Coffman (bass), Wayne Glasson (piano), Jimmy Cox (rhythm/vocals), Hack Starbuck (bass) and Odie James on drums. The band members came from Kansas, Oklahoma & Texas however other society members were due in from more distant places

Some jaming was also happening at the refurbished 66 Service station on Monday afternoon in downtown Turkey. Buck & Rhoda Coghlan drove in from Arizona just in time to be met by wannabe musicians. A piano player from Massachusettes jamed with Buck and Robin Brown. They played several Bob Will's tunes including San Antonio Rose & Deep Water. The former Kay Norman of Anton, Tx and her husband contributed some singing and fiddling to the music

Be sure to attend the main 'Bob Wills' events which begin this Thursday. Then, there will also be a post-event on Sunday at the Turkey Hotel, where a Hank Williams copiest is scheduled to perform.





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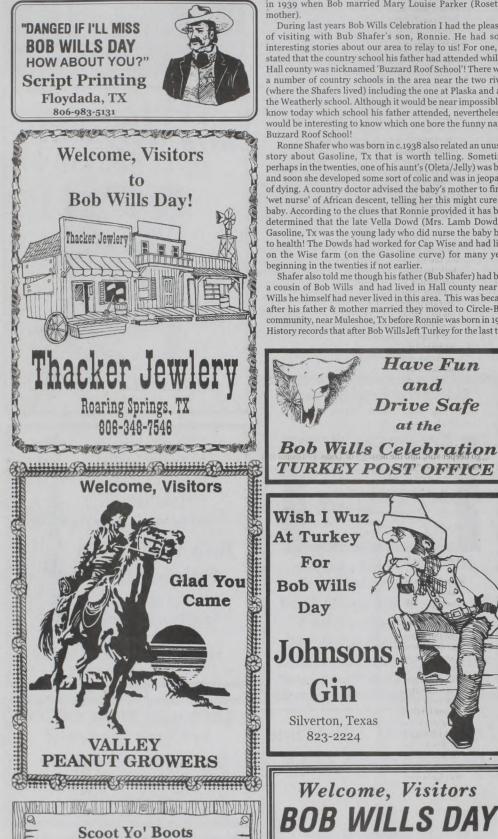


## The Valley Tribune, Quitaque, Texas

Page 8



Bob Wills also starred in many Western movies.



# The Wills-Shafer Connection

### by Robin Brown

Sometime after Bob Wills moved from Turkey in 1929 and sometime before 1939, the rest of the John Wills family had moved away from Hall County also. They had first moved to a farm near Muleshoe, Tx. to join relatives there. It seems that one of John's sisters had married a man named Shafer who had lived in Hall county also. One of the Shafer's sons (Bub) had later married a girl from Gasoline, Tx. Her name was Fiddle Stevenson and her parents were early Gasoline residents John & Elizabeth Stevenson. The Shafers had moved to the Circle-Back community (near Muleshoe, Tx) before the John Wills family had decided to move to Muleshoe. According to Ronnie Shafer the Wills had moved to that area of west Texas to join them (perhaps in the early or mid thirties). The Wills had lived there for awhile before they moved on to Tulsa, Oklahoma where Bob was then living. The whole family was living in Tulsa in 1939 when Bob married Mary Louise Parker (Rosetta's mother)

During last years Bob Wills Celebration I had the pleasure of visiting with Bub Shafer's son, Ronnie. He had some interesting stories about our area to relay to us! For one, he stated that the country school his father had attended while in Hall county was nicknamed 'Buzzard Roof School'! There were a number of country schools in the area near the two rivers (where the Shafers lived) including the one at Plaska and also the Weatherly school. Although it would be near impossible to know today which school his father attended, nevertheless it would be interesting to know which one bore the funny name, Buzzard Roof School!

Ronne Shafer who was born in c.1938 also related an unusual story about Gasoline, Tx that is worth telling. Sometime, perhaps in the twenties, one of his aunt's (Oleta/Jelly) was born and soon she developed some sort of colic and was in jeopardy of dying. A country doctor advised the baby's mother to find a 'wet nurse' of African descent, telling her this might cure the baby. According to the clues that Ronnie provided it has been determined that the late Vella Dowd (Mrs. Lamb Dowd) of Gasoline, Tx was the young lady who did nurse the baby back to health! The Dowds had worked for Cap Wise and had lived on the Wise farm (on the Gasoline curve) for many years beginning in the twenties if not earlier.

Shafer also told me though his father (Bub Shafer) had been a cousin of Bob Wills and had lived in Hall county near the Wills he himself had never lived in this area. This was because after his father & mother married they moved to Circle-Back community, near Muleshoe, Tx before Ronnie was born in 1938. History records that after Bob Wills Jeft Turkey for the last time

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in 1929 (and sometime before 1939) the rest of the John Wills family did move away from Hall county. According to Rosetta Will's book they had moved to a farm near Muleshoe before moving on to Tulsa. Ronnie told me that the Wills family had moved to Muleshoe to be near relatives, the Bub Shafers of Circle-Back!

I'm not good at geneology but let's see if we can keep this complicated story of the Wills and Shafers straight! It seems that one of John Will's sisters had married Ronnie Shafer's grandad and they had perhaps migrated west to Hall county at about the same time the Wills had. Then sometime around 1930 one of the Shafer's sons Bub (born in 1913) had married the Stevenson girl from Gasoline, Tx. As already stated, she was the daughter of John & Elizabeth Stevenson. All the Shafers seem to have moved to the Circle-Back community before the John Wills family had decided to move to a farm near Muleshoe & Circle Back. According to the clues it seems the Wills had moved there perhaps in the early or mid thirties. There the Wills had lived for awhile before they moved on to Tulsa, Oklahoma where Bob was then living and playing on KVOO radio. Bob's parents had left Texas and were living in Tulsa in 1939 when Bob married Mary Lou Parker. Rosetta Wills states that when Bob married her mother in thirty-nine, "Bob lived on a ranch (near Tulsa) with his parents John & Emma Wills, his young brothers and sisters and other relatives. He had moved his family from a farm at Muleshoe, Tx." A final story that Ronnie related to me is somewhat touching

and part of family legend. Many know that Bob's father (John) was also a champion fiddler and had competed against the great Eck Robertson (among others) at fiddle contests here & there. However, the Will's fiddling tradition goes back even farther in the family lineage. As the story goes one of Bob's ancestors (I'm not sure which one) was on his deathbed and he asked to hold his favorite fiddle just one last time. With the family nearby he composed the melody to the classic song 'Maiden's Prayer just before he died. I'm not sure who today is credited as the song's author but in the Wills-Schafer part of the family, the song is said to have been handed down from generation to generation. Thanks Ronnie for your interesting family stories!

I might also add, my father (Blue Brown) had lived in the Lakeview-Plaska area during the 1920's not far from the Wills farm. Occasionally he would tell a Bob Will's story to us kids. He stated numerous times that he had attended some of the country dances where Bob Wills had played. One such dance was held on the Hancock Ranch, near Oxbow crossing I think it was. My father stated that Bob had played a dance there in c.1926 and he had attended. In a recorded interview Bob once reminisced about playing 'ranch dances' in West Texas during his youth and how much fun it had been. During this same inteview he had mentioned playing at the Barton Ranch which was on the North Pease river (between Turkey & Matador). The headquarters of the old ranch is now the Wilson Barton place or it was nearby. (Portions of this article are based on an interview with Ronnie Shafer in 2007 at Turkey, Tx )

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**Bob Wills Day!** 

PAT CARSON ~~~ 423-1289

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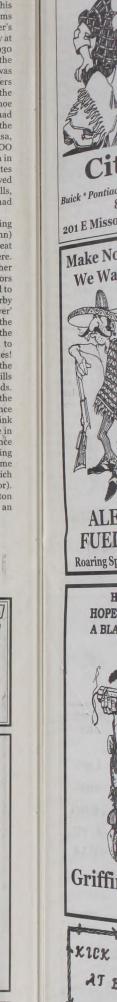
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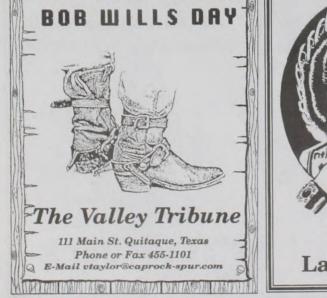
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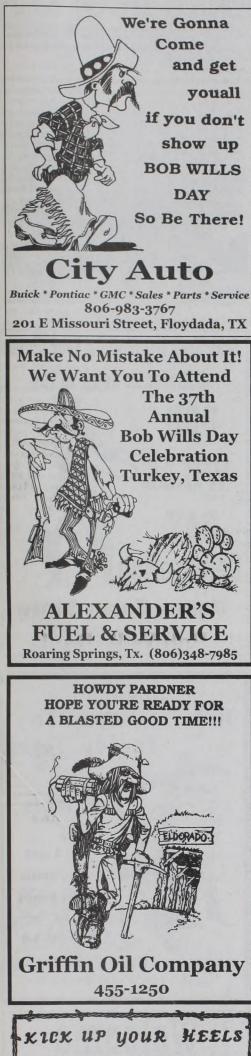
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## The Valley Tribune, Quitaque, Texas

# How Western Swing Got It's Start

During the last 70 plus years Western Swing has evolved into one of the hottest musical sounds around, spreading from coastto-coast. But, it still belongs to Texas.

It was 1930 and two Texas fiddlers, a banjo player, a rhythm guitarist and a vocalist teamed up to form "The Aladdin Laddies." The group made regular appearances on a Fort Worth radio station, WBAP. The name came from the show sponsor, the Aladdin Lamp Company. When the sponsor pulled out, Burrus Mills and Elevator Company took over as sponsor. The company's best known product was "Light Crust Flour," and the group was renamed "The Light Crust Doughboys."

Bob Wills was the fiddler and Milton Brown, the vocalist. Milton's brother, Derwood Brown played the rhythm guitar. By 1932 the Doughboys could be heard throughout Texas, as well as in Oklahoma. Subject to the rigid artistic control of Burrus Mills' manager and future Texas governor, W. "Pappy" Lee O'Daniel, the Brown brothers left Burrus Mills to form the band, "Milton Brown and His Musical Brownies." Soon after, Bob Wills left to form the "Texas Playboys" which was to become the most famous western swing band in history. Combining elements of country, jazz, blues, ragtime, gospel

and folk music, the unique sound that has come to be known Western Swing can be traced to the early efforts of Bob Wills and Milton Brown. By integrating the big-band sounds of Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, Louis Armstrong and Bix Beiderbecke with their own country string and fiddle bands, "big band" country cousins Wills and Brown sought to bring the sounds of swing to Texas-Texas style. Their infectious "hot fiddling" blended country with uptown ballroom swing, and Texas Swing was born.

Texas Swing music became to Texas what jazz was to New Orleans. It had its own style, one that represented a free and swinging form of music that still makes people want to tap their toes, clap their hands and dance. By the late thirties and early forties Western Swing was in full swing-and it was here to stay. Because of its popularity it was quick to spill across the borders of Texas, into Oklahoma, and throughout the South and South-

From its birth and through the mid-1950s, Western Swing was the most popular music in the Southwest, with Texas fiddle players leading the way. One only has to listen to the fiddle, which along with the banjo and guitar to understand that they are the heart and soul of Western Swing. Even in the 1940s, as country swing bands grew to include up to 20 members, the fiddle, banjo and guitar remained the core of the band. A good fiddler, with his mournful, melodic fiddle playing the melody, supported by a second fiddler playing the harmony, almost always held center stage.

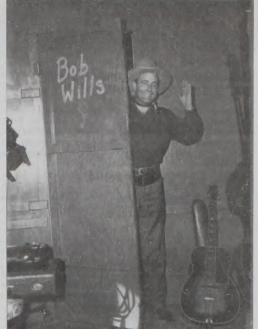
Many music historians acknowledge that "western-swing fiddle," a jazzy, improvisational style played with a swinging dance beat, rose out of the Texas string band tradition. It was a tradition born in the rural south, where string instruments often provided the only form of musical entertainment, often associated with the "barn dance," or the music played as part of local social events and / or church activities. It doesn't't take long for those who grew up along the Bible Belt to hear the sounds of "gospel" music echoed in the songs that make up the repertoire of country swing. And, many agree the roots of Texas Swing go deeper still, into the heritage of Texas, to Texans and their "hand-me-down" music

And, with the advent of radio and its big band sound, Texas fiddle players, already familiar with the concept of improvisation, were exposed to the improvisations of the hot jazz music they heard across the airwaves on their battery-powered radios

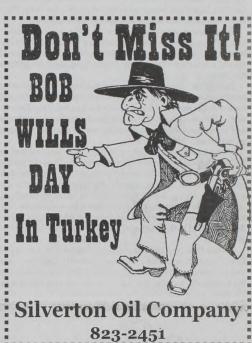
The transition from Texasstyle fiddling to Western Swing fiddling came easy. It was as natural as the piney woods and sagebrush.

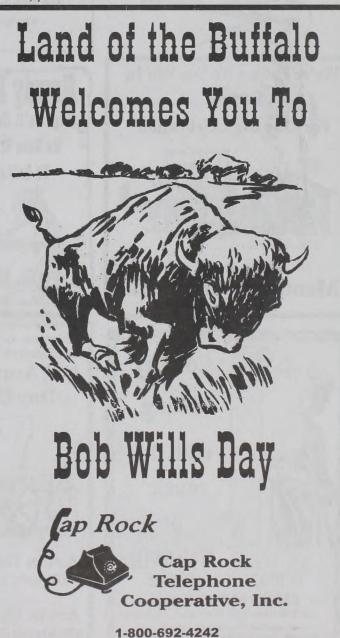
The radio provided a venue to develop and popularize Western Swing. Milton Brown's "Brownies" were es-sentially a traditional Texas string band, but the sounds of country music were about to change forever. The band played hot jazz and popular songs of the day. It was also the first swing band to incorporate the tradition of twin fiddling into its music-one fiddle playing lead and the other a tight harmony. When Brown added jazz pianist Fred "Papa" Calhoun, and finally a steel guitar, a new form of music swept the dance halls and airwaves of the Lone Star State.

Until the untimely death of Milton Brown in a car accident in 1936, The Musical Brownies were the most popular swing band in Texas. With the death of Brown, Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys took center stage to become the all-time king of what had come to be

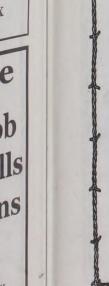


# Welcome Bob Wills Fans!





Page 9



BOB WILLS DAY

"Ya'll Stop In During The

**BOB WILLS CELEBRATION" Caprock Home Center** 

Quitaque, TX

455-1193

known as western swing By 1935, Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys had expanded the string-based band to a thirteen-piece band, with horns, piano, drums, playing a broad mix of fiddle tunes, blues, and Dixieland jazz to a swing beat. By 1940, the Texas Playboys had become the most popular swing band in the Southwest, having evolved into an eighteen-piece big band playing primarily big band swing. The band was heard on jukeboxes by millions of Americans daily. In the late 1930s and early 1940s, Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys performed in dance halls for over 1,000 people a night.



April 24, 2008

# **Bob Wills Is Still** The King

Page 10

Courtesy of Prairie Dog Gazette From his birth in 1905 until his death in 1975, James Robert (Bob) wills was a true "man of the people". Although his life was never really rich in an economic sense,

it was filled with shining treasures few ever attain.

Wills lived much of his childhood in the Texas cotton fields of Limestone County and later in Hall County. The Wills fam-ily was never more than marginally successful at farming, but were proud members of a long line of musicians, mostly fiddle players

Jim Bob (as he was called at the time) accompanied his fa-ther and other family members at ranch dances in the region surrounding Turkey, Texas around 1920. These dances did not provide a huge income but they did help get the family through poor farming years

They also provided Bob Wills with Experience in performing that no wealth child could ever get from stuffy violin lessons. During this time period he and his father, John, wrote the still haunting 'Faded Love'.

Before too long Bob began a life travel which continued until his retirement. It was on this long road that he melded the varied influences he had encountered into what is now called 'Western Swing'

In the autumn of 1929 he left the Turkey area, never to re-turn as a resident, but he always considered it his "hometown". Even after becoming nationally known, Wills never denied this emotional tie.

Bob Wills was not a musical virtuoso, but intuitively know how to reach deep within his audiences' souls. He surrounded himself with the right band members to make it seem easy. Through radio broadcasts with the Wills Fiddle Band, Aladdin Laddies, Lightcrust Doughboys and, of course, the Texas Playboys, Bob came into homes throughout the Southwest.

His presence in people's homes, via radio, was very important. Throughout his career there was a special intimacy between the band leader and his audience, just as he and his band shared a common groove while improvising choruses in their hit songs.

During the years while Bob and the Texas Playboys were headquartered in Tulsa, Oklahoma, they shared their personal lives with the audience, helping ease the burden of the Depression. They even played at the funerals of their fans at no charge and were repaid with great devotion (not to mention marriage proposals and birthday cakes).

When a performance got so inspired that Bob just had to holler "Ah Hah!", there was always a response from the people around him. He was not the sort to retire to compose master-pieces in private. Mixing it up right in front of the public was more to his liking. As he pointed out to his band members, their job was to entertain the customers by making the best music possible. That meant not being afraid of trying some-thing different to thrill the audience more than the last performance did

Longer than any stone monument, the world's memory of Bob Wills endures. From the musicians who keep his songs and style alive, to the couple who request 'San Antonio Rose' at the bandstand on Saturday night, all who are ever touched by his music know they are in the presence of West Texas royalty, a man of the people, but also the King of Western Swing.

### **By Ruth Sheldon** PRELUDE written in 1938

The frightened mules bolted around the corner. The hub of the wagon wheel struck a huge rock and the buckboard ca-sened madly back and forth. The frantic driver, slipping precariously from side to side, jerked the lines and pleaded and bellowed...He and the wagon were "Hubbin' It."

The Life Of Bob Wills

ibbin

The life of Bob Wills has been like that...Meeting adversity at every corner.

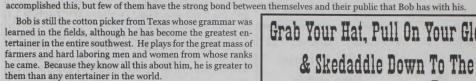
Always, he has been forced to do things the hard way. He came from a way of life that was like quicksand, treacherously and unrelentingly trying to suck him down into it's oblivion. His

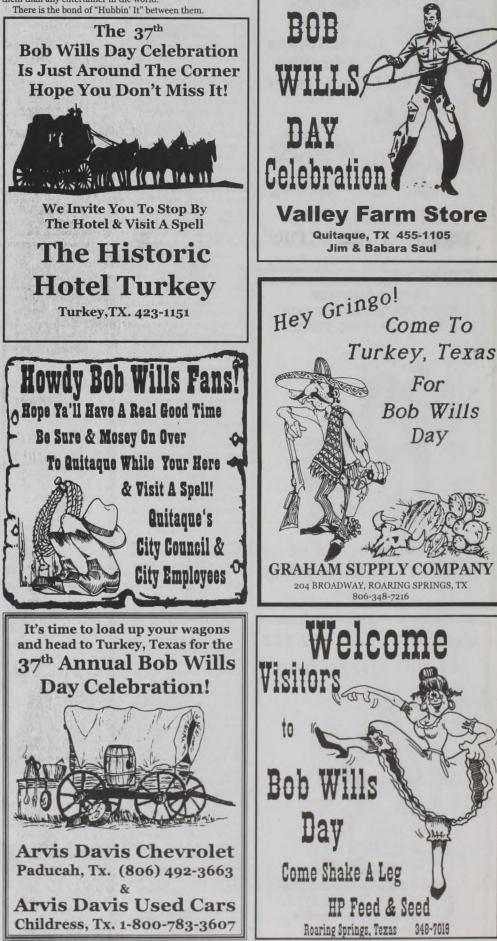
struggle for freedom has led him to do and be many thingscotton picker, preacher, hobo, carpenter, roughneck, surveyor, shoe shiner, insurance man, car salesman, barber, and medicine show entertainer.

As unthinkingly as a man carried his nose on his face, he carried his fiddle in his hand through all his trials, never dreaming that one day it would be the instrument by which he could fulfill himself.

Bob Wills is not a great man, but he has accomplished a great thing. In a world where too much acreage is ploughed by shells rather than mules; where empty bellies, twisted minds, oppressed souls, enslaved bodies make the nightmares of sleep indistinguishable for the nightmares of wakeful living; where all things exist, happiness is as elusive as an echo.

Those who can make others joyous and carefree, for even a little while, today are giving as great a service to mankind as the scientists of many professions who fight to rid the world of disease, ignorance, crazy economic structures, and war. Bob Wills brings gaiety and forgetfulness to thousands of men and women with his music. There are many entertainers who have accomplished this, but few of them have the strong bond between themselves and their public that Bob has with his











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Garag Sales April 21-20 Sale On Main S In Turkey, 7 Across From Fire Statio New Items Fi

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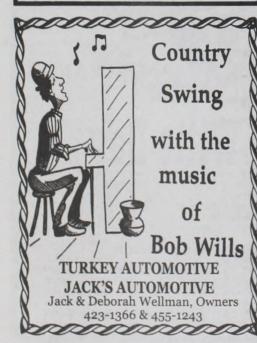
Rosalio "Rosey" H

Briscoe Co

County Commission



**Turkey Branch of** Memphis State Bank MEMBER FDI





Bob is still the cotton picker from Texas whose grammar was learned in the fields, although he has become the greatest entertainer in the entire southwest. He plays for the great mass of







Eisenhower was aboard a spe-cial railroad car taking him from California to his home at

the Louisiana Territory from

S, TX

# **'COOKIN FOR A CURE' In Quitaque**

A new event is coming to benefit the American Cancer Society. The Hope Center in Quitaque, TX will be the scene for

2008

'Cookin' for a Cure" June 6, The Relay for Life committee from Quitaque, Silverton, Flomot and Turkey is deviating from the traditional walk around the football field to bring a fun filled evening and to make a concentrated effort

to combat cancer. A brisket dinner and all the trimmings will be served, door prizes, entertainment, games, ilent and live auction will be compacted into a shorter evening inside the beautiful Hope Center vs the six hour evening on the football field. Mark your calenders for June 6th !!!!

THE MASTER'S TOUCH Nails by Christina Addison Get a set of white tip acrylic nails for \$20 And a pedicure for \$20 During the month of April & May only Silver Wind RV Park Cabins - Laundry

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# The Eagle Lady **Returns To Caprock Canyons State Park**

Doris Mager and her live birds of prey will appear at Caprock Canyons State Park on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Doris is affectionately known as the "Eagle Lady," due to her efforts to educate people about North American birds of prey. Doris has been rescuing and rehabilitating wounded eagles, hawks, owls, and other raptors since 1963. While a member of the Florida Audubon Society, Doris helped start the Birds of Prey Center and she later became the Director of Raptor Research and Education at the Florida Conservation Foundation. She established the not-for-profit organization, S.O.A.R (Save Our American Raptors), in 1983, for the purpose of educating the public about birds of prey

During her visit to Caprock Canyons State Park, Doris will introduce several of her live birds of prey and describe their ecological value, the dangers facing them in the wild and what people can do to help preserve them.

Doris will present her program at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 3rd. There is no additional charge for the program, however, there is a \$3.00 per adult admission fee to enter the park. Children under the age of 13 receive free admission to

## April 21, 2008

## **Silverton City Council Cancels May Election, All Incumbents** Unopposed

The Silverton City Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Monday, April 14. Present for the meeting were Mayor Garvin, Council members Kyle Fuston, Wayne Reed, LaQuetta Schott, Delane Smith, Dwain Tipton and Secretary Jerry Patton. After attending to regular monthly council business the following items were addressed

\* A motion passed to appoint Rick Minyard as a director to the Mackenzie Municipal Water Authority board of directors.

Secretary Patton presented a letter certifying that all three candidates for the May 10th general Election were unopposed and that the City may choose to declare each candidate elected to office as they would be unopposed in he May 10, 2008 general election. A motion passed to adopt City Ordinance #355-Declaring all unopposed candidates duly elected to office.

The secretary reported on three requested amendments to the Bylaws that were adopted August 13, 2007 by Resolution No. 8B07. The Board of Directors have requested changes of 4.05-Meetings; 6.01-Fiscal Year and 7.02-Reports. After a review of the requested amendments a motion passed to adopt and amend the three requested amendments.

\* A motion passed to transfer the total 1/2 cent sales tax fund balance of \$22,235.31 and all future 1/2 cent sales tax funds to the Silverton Economic Development Alliance, Inc. With no further business the meeting was adjourned



The Award Winning Comedy Variety Show Oaty. Poaty & Sister Cutie ~ The Toot's Will Be Coming To The Historic Gem Theatre In Downtown Turkey, Texas Thursday & Friday, April 24 & 25 at 2 p.m. Daily



