

But story can have happy ending . . .

# School can make life 'hell' for students with learning disorder

In a home in Spearman not too many months ago, a young first grader pouted over a batch of homework papers. Tears streamed from the young student's eyes as months of frustration came to a boil.

Very little, if anything, on the papers made sense to the first grader and, more tears dotted the surface of the homework than did pencil marks.

Pressure on the child was great -- pressure from parents, teachers and peers, pressure to perform, to do better than an occasional good grade; pressure to be like the 'others'.

Unfortunately, this young 7-year old first grader suffered from a congenital learning disorder known as Dyslexia. And, despite intelligence tests which put the student in the average range of 90 to 110, reading and writing comprehension was, for the most part, impossible.

Because of the learning disability, grades could either be '100' or failing -- seldom in between.

The student began suffering from a lack of confidence and low self-esteem. A bright-eyed and challenging demeanor gave way to shyness and reticence.

This is not a fictionalized event. It actually happened. Today that student is again in the first grade after the parents asked to hold the child back.

For protection of the child, this story will deal with Mr. and Mrs. 'A' and their child, student 'A'.

While the first grade may have proven extremely frustrating for student A, it does have a happy ending.

The source of the student's frustration has been diagnosed and a new class, expressly aimed at the dyslexic student, will begin at the start of the second semester this month, thanks to the courage and determination of Mr. and Mrs. A to help their child.

Under guidelines established during the 1985 legislature, schools were required to have a plan for helping dyslexic students in place no later than Jan. 1, 1988.

Because of that, the Spearman school system was ready to step in and begin a program for students with the learning disability.

Student A was diagnosed just last month, Dec. 4 to be exact. The now 8-year old youth will begin the new learning class at semester this month.

The class is a 2-year program designed to help those with dyslexia cope with their learning disorder. It is not a cure.

For student A and others like this child, it could mean a new lease on life. Intelligence is never a problem for the dyslexic student -- only the ability to utilize that intelligence.

"Parents need to be more informed," notes Mr. A, speaking in regard to the learning disorder.

"And they need to be willing to say 'my son or daughter has a problem.' Putting pressure on the child to perform won't do it."

Mr. A speaks from first-hand experience. Now in his 40's, he readily admits to a reading comprehension problem. And he explains

that his nine brothers also suffered from reading and writing problems as well.

Mrs. A had a brother who was diagnosed as a dyslexic. Special training was not available, however, and -- like most with learning problems -- he dropped out of school. Later, at the age of 27, he committed suicide.

"I'm not a psychologist or anything, but I can't help but believe that it (dyslexia) helped contribute to what he did," she says. "It's hell on these kids -- they're beating their brains out and it doesn't do any good."

For the dyslexic, reading comprehension is the number one problem. Word recognition is all but impossible in the severe cases and some word recognition problems affect all cases.

A dyslexic might see the word 'saw' as 'was'. As a result, things don't make sense. Letters may be reversed, word sequences may appear different to them.

Yet, oral instruction is quickly See "DYSLEXIA", p-2



A SPEARMAN COUPLE POURS OVER information provided by the Scottish Rite Hospital in Dallas on a learning disability commonly known as Dyslexia. The disorder can be helped by special classes which will begin at semester in the Spearman school system.

## The HANSFORD REPORT

by JAMES JARRETT

The New Year is barely hours old, but already resolutions are falling by the wayside like so many good intentions do each new year.

However, here at the newspaper, we have geared up to do an even better job in 1988 -- one less filled with error and omission and just plain dumb stunts.

In a grand show of pusillanimity, my typesetters refused to even attempt to set this column to type, especially after reading some of my resolutions -- and hearing some of my threats.

It seems only fitting, however, to share some of them with our readers at this time of the year.

We hereby resolve to never, ever, never, misspell Whitson again. In lieu of that, we'll never write about her again.

We hereby resolve to eliminate as many typographical errors as possible. Well, at least we'll try.

We hereby resolve to never attack Roxie Evans in any form, fashion or fascimilie thereof -- not because of the public outcry, but because of the jalapeno peppers she snuck on my bacon sandwich the other day and my resultant outcry.

We hereby resolve to do our dead level best not to be embarrass-

sed at chess by Jim Evans in 1988. I'll wait until 1989 to play him again.

We hereby resolve to shave our moustache should anyone ever, at anytime, refer to us as "Worley".

We hereby resolve to do our best to not strike the next individual who refers to us as "Billy, Jr.", "Coach, Jr." or any other such epithet; mind you, we don't promise anything, we merely resolve.

And, finally, we hereby resolve to attempt to discover why A&M graduates don't laugh at Aggie jokes. Please, no cards or letters.

\*\*\*\*\*  
If you think 1987 brought a lot of changes to Hansford county and Spearman . . . just wait. A whole new year is beginning and it promises to be every bit as exciting and eventful as the year just finished.

We're coming out of a Texas legislature session where they 'held' the line on spending to keep a balanced state budget. Holding the line, of course, meant making a 'temporary' tax permanent and adding an additional three-quarter percent.

Not only that, but they put more items subject to the tax. Of course See "REPORT", p-2

## Community gifts set all new high for programs

The entire community of Hansford county wound up on the receiving end this holiday season as a pair of community service projects by the three newspapers helped wrap up a pair of Christmas-time projects by the Hansford Hospital Auxiliary and the Hansford Manor Nursing Home.

The Spearman Reporter, Hansford Plainsman and Gruver Statesman helped promote the fund raising activities of the two county organizations and, in one case, contributors more than doubled the total amount received from the highest previous year.

Operation Christmas Greeting -- run under the auspices of the Hansford Hospital Auxiliary -- came to a close this week with a list of six more names of people who contributed here rather than sending Greeting cards.

Money from the Auxiliary Fund will be used to purchase needed equipment at both the Hansford Hospital and nursing home. This is the only fund raising project of the year for the Auxiliary.

With a previous high of \$1,700 in contributions, the Hansford Manor Empty Stocking Fund completed its campaign this year with \$3,510.

setting a new record in excess of \$1,800 higher than ever before.

The Manor Empty Stocking Fund is used to purchase gifts at Christmas and throughout the ensuing year for residents of the nursing home whose budgets would otherwise preclude such amenities as possibly a new pair of shoes, a lap blanket, toiletries or other notions.

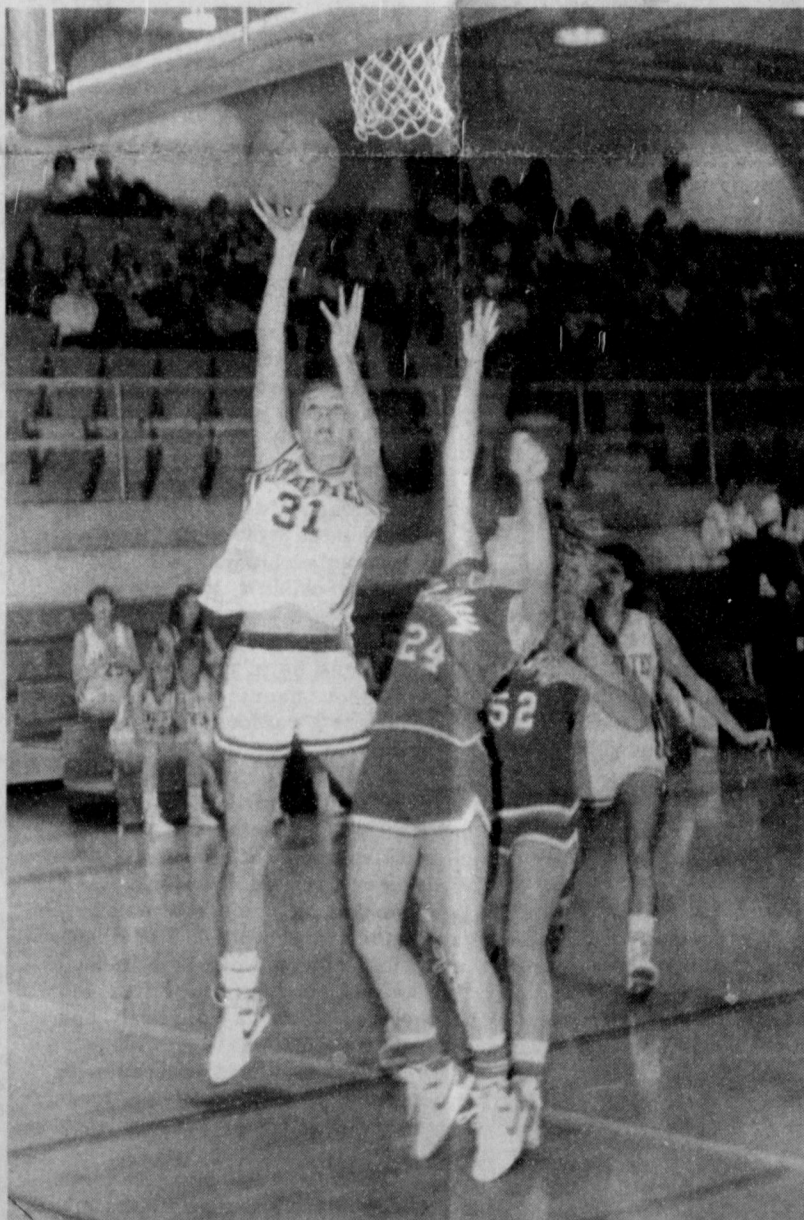
As a result, the entire community of Hansford county winds up the recipient for these noble gestures as already stretched budgets at the hospital and nursing home are relieved to some extent by these two annual projects.

The final listings for the two funds follow.

- Operation Christmas Greeting, 1987
- Evelyn Guthrie
  - Mr. and Mrs. W.W. Weaver
  - Herb and Alda Kirk
  - James Lair
  - Joel and Joyce Lackey
  - Edward and Dorothy Haner

Manor Empty Stocking Fund:

Previous balance:	\$3,480.00
Wanda and Ted Widener in memory of Jerry Ford	20.00
Ada Ruth Diggs	10.00
Final Balance:	\$3,510.00



REACHING FOR THE SKY and a pair of points is Lynxette Heather Murrell (31, white) in Friday's tournament matchup between Spearman and Valley in the Canadian Invitational. At presstime, the Lynxettes were scheduled to compete in the tournament finals for first place.

With wins at tournament . . .

## Lynxettes up season mark

The Spearman Lynxettes put themselves in a position to capture their third consecutive tournament title of the 1987-88 basketball season with a pair of back-to-back wins at the Canadian Invitational Basketball Tournament this week.

In the tournament opener, Spearman girls outlasted Wellington, 53-50, then turned around to blast Valley, 61-33. The Lynxette's season record now stands at 13-1.

The Lynx came up on the short end of a 65-49 encounter with their Wellington counterparts in the tournament opener, then drew a bye in the semi-finals round of the consolation bracket Friday.

In Thursday's opener, the Lyn-

xettes jumped out to a 13-point halftime lead, owning a 31-18 intermission score.

But Wellington slowly ate away at the score following the halftime break and the Lynxettes were down to a 6-point advantage going into the final eight minutes of play with the score at 44-38.

The Spearman girls proved their tenacity as they held off the surging Wellington crew to take the win with a 53-50 score.

Krista Kirkland was the only Lynxette in double figures that game as she hit for seven field goals and six of nine grace shots for a total of 20 points.

The Lynx had their hands full

## New taxes, laws into effect Jan. 1

At the stroke of midnight Jan. 1, more than a new year was ushered in in Texas -- a host of new taxes along with a few new laws also hit the books.

Another portion of the new tax act put out by last summer's special session of the Texas Legislature went into effect New Year's Day.

The sales tax was extended to data processing services, including word processing, data entry, retrieval and search as well as payroll and business accounting, data production, time sharing and computer management.

Taxes will now also be charged on repair and remodeling services, except on new construction and owner-occupied residences with the New Year's start.

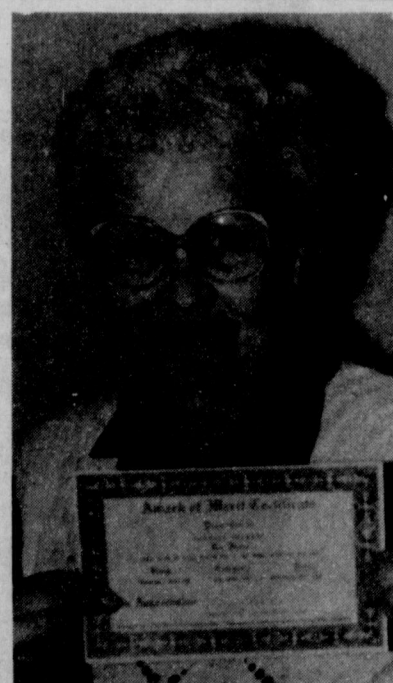
Even professional services such as doctors and lawyers will be required to pay a professional service tax -- something new for Texas and Texans.

As if the new taxes weren't enough -- blushing brides and beaming grooms will have to blush and beam at least 72 hours longer in 1988.

With the start of the new year, the state mandates that there must be 72 hours between the time a marriage license is issued by the county clerk's office to the time of the wedding.

Regardless of the type of ceremony, it's now the law. Variances

to the 72-hour rule could mean that See "TAXES, LAW", p-2



LOMETA SPARKS . . . Post Receives Honorable Mention

## Spearman poet enters national poetry contest

A poem by Lometa Sparks of Spearman won honorable mention in the New American Poetry Contest sponsored by World of Poetry out of California.

The Spearman poet entered the contest after reading an article which appeared in the Spearman newspaper in Mid-October. The article detailed the contest.

She was notified this past week of her honorable mention status and was given a certificate along with a free subscription to the World of Poetry newsletter.

"This is the first time I've ever received this type of recognition for my poetry," notes Mrs. Sparks who is an accomplished painter as well.

Her honorable mention entry is entitled "Two pairs of eyes, biologically the same, view and the new day . . .".

Her winning entry is reprinted in its entirety on page two of this edition.

See "LYNXETTES", p-2

# Candidates sought for silver-haired congress

Silver-haired legislators will be elected by Panhandle senior citizens May 24 with at least one legislator to be elected from this area.

Anyone interested in becoming a candidate should pick up forms from the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission, area agency on aging, 2736 West 10th Street in Amarillo or request a form by mail for PRPC, Box 9257, Amarillo, 79105.

Legislators will be elected from Hansford, Dallam, Hartley, Sherman, Moore, Ochiltree, Lipscomb, Hutchinson, Roberts and Hemphill counties.

One legislator will also be elected from Oldham, Deaf Smith, Parmer, Castro, Swisher, Briscoe, Hall, Collingsworth, Donley, Gray and Wheeler counties of the Texas Panhandle.

Two legislators will be elected from Potter, Randall, Armstrong and Carson counties.

The silver haired legislature is

composed of 116 legislators elected across the state.

Candidacy requirements include being at least 60 on Jan. 1, 1988, being a resident of the area in which candidacy is sought;

Be a registered voter in Texas, be willing to participate in all activities required and expected of Texas silver haired legislators;

Must file for candidacy by an official form, complete an official candidacy petition with 25 signatures from registered voters living in the appropriate area who are 60 years old or older;

Must pay a filing fee of \$5. All information must be returned to the PRPC no later than Feb. 29 by 5 p.m.

The silver haired legislature is an elected, representative, nonpartisan body, elected by persons 60 and over across the state of Texas.

The objective of the silver haired legislature is to serve the needs of both present and future older Texans.

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## TAXES, LAW

the marriage is voidable.

Marriage licenses have a 30-day expiration time frame -- that means the licenses can be secured weeks before the actual ceremony.

The newlyweds-to-be should not look for help from their minister, civil official or others who perform ceremonies.

Under the law, it is illegal for a wedding official to carry out a ceremony without having the signed certificate, properly dated.

Failure to adhere to the letter of the law can mean conviction of a misdemeanor crime punishable by fine of not less than \$200 nor more than \$500.

Worse still, the marriage would be null and void as though it never took place if couples are married prior to the end of that 72-hour waiting period.

Outside the 72-hour rule, there are no changes for getting married in Texas. A birth certificate or driver's license is needed to verify age at the time the certificate is issued.

And, it is still illegal for persons under the age of 18 to marry without parental consent. Only legal guardians can give such consent.

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## REPORT

they also starting taxing professional services such as doctors, lawyers and garbage collectors. I don't know which group there is more incensed.

To top it all off, the state is now charging everyone \$25 a year just to have the privilege of collecting tax for the state. That's a thrill all unto itself.

Our hats are off and our pocket-books are empty thanks to the grand efforts of our legislators. And fellows, don't think we don't appreciate it either--because we don't.

It wasn't just our state politicians who got in on the act, however. Our own local politicians deserve a pat on the back, too.

Where else but in politics could a board, after establishing a tax increase of better than 50 percent in an effort to balance their budget, go ahead and allow pay increases which had been trimmed with the

(Two pairs of eyes, biologically the same, view the new day . . . )  
by Lometa Sparks

To One:  
The exquisite beauty of a drop of dew  
Holding the converse image of a world,  
Glowing and fairylike with beauty;

The extreme beauty of a slender sword of green emerging from the lawn  
The trill of birdsong  
Followed by the shirr of soft wings,  
The rustle of leaf-chasing shadow  
Into an elusive movement of shape cast upon the earth,  
All of life expectantly and breathless awaiting  
The new day.

Achance one more to fulfill the promise to lost to Yesterday.

To the other:  
". . . Dra! Another damp morning . . .  
Must cut the grass and I try to escape the dark and tiresome day  
By somehow finding something  
Beautiful. Perhaps  
Tomorrow."

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## DYSLEXIA

grasped and understood by the dyslexic. Their memories tend to be better than the norm and spoken communication may be their only way to learn -- that is, without the special classes.

"Intelligence is not the problem," stresses Mr. A. "Comprehension is the problem."

Mr. A himself is a high school drop out and to this day has difficulty with reading comprehension. He also has a 19-year old who has the same problem. Part of Mr. A's frustration now lies in the fact that he learned too late to help his older child.

His greatest desire at this point is to help his 8-year old. There are few parents who don't want better for their children they they had themselves.

"Our child may not make A's, but should be in a position to do more than manual labor," Mr. A says with a pardonable amount of pride.

Mr. and Mrs. A hope that what they have learned over the past year will help others who might have children suffering from dyslexia or a related disorder.

Testing on student A was performed at the Scottish Rite Hospital for Crippled Children in Dallas. The test was performed free and included both a physical and mental evaluation.

Student A was diagnosed with 'specific dyslexia involving reading, reading comprehension, writing and spelling'.

"There may be other children who are having similar problems," notes Mrs. A. "There is help available. For their children's sakes, we hope parents will make an effort to find that help."

Characteristics associated with dyslexia include problems in learn-

continued from p-1

## LYNXETTES

Friday's semi-finals match between the Spearman and Valley girls was never in doubt.

The Lynxettes -- behind the 23-point effort of Kirkland and the 16-point shooting of Lisa Cazarez -- piled up a 30-6 first quarter score and held a 42-13 advantage at the half.

Minutes into the third stanza, Spearman coach Jimmy Kirkland called on the reserves and still the Lynxettes held a 35-point edge at that period's close, 55-20.

In the final quarter of the game, Spearman added six points while Valley managed 13 to put the final at 61-33.

resounding statement, "We didn't lose as much money as we thought we would"? And all this only 30 days into the new fiscal year.

Yeah, Jimmy Stewart, It's a Wonderful Life.

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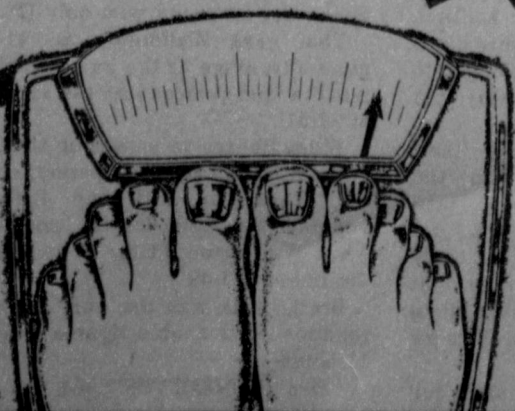
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(SOURCE: Portland, Oregon Seminar)

Prepared by Texas Newspaper Advertising Bureau (TNAB)  
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### Retailers/Newspapers . . . formula for success

# 4.2 percent increase to vets, dependents Jan. 1

More than 706,000 veterans and dependents nationwide will receive up to a 4.2 percent increase in Veterans Administration Improved Pension checks payable Dec. 31, 1987, the VA announced.

According to Waco VA Regional Office Director Stephan L. Lemons, the increase, effective Dec. 1, 1987, applies to 431,000 veterans and 275,000 surviving spouses and children nationwide. Lemons said that 36,000 parents of deceased veterans receiving Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits would also get

increases.

The new payments are automatic and require no action by recipients. They range from annual maximums of \$6,214 for a veteran without dependents to \$13,976 for a veteran with three dependents who is in need of regular aid and attendance.

Unlike compensation benefits paid to veterans disabled by illness or injuries related to military service, pensions are affected by income from other sources, so the exact amount of the increase varies. Increases in Improved

Pension and DIC payments to veterans and deceased veteran's parents are set by law at the same rate and date as Social Security benefits.

VA pensions other than the Improved Pension remain fixed at the rates in effect in 1978. The income limits that control eligibility for these programs, however, are also increased by 4.2 percent, effective Dec. 1.

Recipients of these pensions may request transfer to the Improved Pension plan at any time. The VA reviews each request to

advise beneficiaries which program would be most advantageous for them.

VA pensions are paid to wartime veterans totally and permanently disabled from circumstances unrelated to their military service, and to needy survivors of wartime veterans.

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## NEIGHBORS

and Charles Brillhart north of Spearman were the family when Mrs. Hazel Jackson developed a medical emergency. She was rushed to Hansford Hospital, then by ambulance to St. Anthony's hospital in Amarillo.

Those present at the home were her daughter, Merline Crawford of Denver, Susan Tracy with Amy Katie and Jay, of Waco; Kirby and

Loretta Brillhart and two girls of Perryton; Larry Brillhart, Amy and Doug Booth of Oklahoma City.

Mrs. Jackson was seriously ill for several days, but is recovering at home now. She is optimistic about facing the New Year, and glad and relieved that she is here to enjoy it.

## Markets

WHEAT	\$2.57
MILO	\$2.90
CORN	\$2.00

# Country Stitches

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## JANUARY PRICE THAW

**25% off All**  
Fall & Winter Fabric

**All Cross Stitch Books**  
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Friday - 12:00 p.m. ... Sunday edition.  
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**WEIGHT WATCHERS:** meets each Monday at 6:00 p.m. at the Home Demonstration Building, Spearman Texas.

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**AL ANON**  
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**STEAM RINSE & VAC-Rinse and Vac Shampooer** for rent at Gordons Drug. \$10.95 up to 24 hours.

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**FOR SALE** Queen size waterbed \$200 Large Office Desk \$150, Love Seat \$75.  
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**DID YOU KNOW ?**

Here are three statistics in which you might take a healthy interest:

- Life expectancy at birth is rising. It's now about 70 years for men and almost 80 for women.
- Cancer is being conquered. Medicine can now save the lives of half of all those who get any form of cancer—much more than that for some forms—and are constantly coming up with new ways to deal with the disease.
- Heart disease, America's major killer, is also showing a decline.

Among the reasons for this good news are the many machines and other diagnostic and health care tools and the often almost as vital communication and computer equipment that comes here from Europe. Mindful of that, many Americans are taking a healthy interest in what Congress plans to do about free trade.

## Among the Neighbors

by Helen Fisher

Always in America Christmas is pictured with deep snow on the evergreens; mountain peaks in the background; fire in the fireplaces; the warmth of the reunion of far separated family members; with the laughter and excitement of little children.

Such was the actual scene for Betty and Chalmers Porter and their family as they gathered at the Porter's lodge northeast of Colorado Springs. They began gathering prior to Christmas, and were completely snowed in, so the holidays lasted 10 days though that was not the original schedule.

Betty and Chalmers returned

late Tuesday. Those sharing in the long-to-be remembered Christmas were Dr. and Mrs. William Porter and two little girls of Columbia, Miss.; Mr. and Mrs. Raymie Porter and two boys of Ithaca, N.Y. and Doug Porter of Wheaton, Ill. for a total of 11 family members.

Doug returned to Spearman with his parents and will remain here for several more days.

Mary Alice Gibner has just returned from a visit with relatives in Houston. She left soon after Christmas after having guests during the holidays. Mr. and Mrs.

Stinson Gibner of Altadena, Cal. spent a week with her and Lea Ann.

Lea Ann leaves in early January to enter Texas A&M to complete work on her Master's degree.

The family of Penny and Jim Thomas will have mixed memories of this holiday season. They enjoyed the visit of their daughters-Jamie Shope of Houston, Stacey Brown of Whiteface, Terry Thomas of Perryton and thier son, Gary, of Amarillo.

During the holidays, Penny's mother, Mrs. Atchley was hospitalized in Hansford Hospital where she still is a patient.

Nelson Atchley, driving a truck for Baker-Taylor, was in an accident at Quanah on Tuesday. The roads were icy and to avoid a collision with a train, he was forced to slide into a ditch.

He suffered a crushed vertebra and is also confined to Hansford Hospital. His prognosis is indefinite.

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Fisher spent the Christmas weekend with her mother at Cache, Ok. They were accompanied by their granddaughter, Dawn, who is on holiday from school in Tucson, Ariz.

Mike Dixon left Saturday, driving back to Clemson University. He had been here during the Christmas holidays in the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Perry Dixon.

House guest of the Dixons during the holidays was Miss Shannon Thomas, Mike's fiancée, and also a student at Clemson.

Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bob

Thomas, drove down from Joplin, Missouri for the Christmas weekend. Needless to say, the drive on icy roads was extremely slow and hazardous. They continued to California from here after the weekend.

Carlee Dixon of Texas Tech is also here for the holidays. All this group plus Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Gumfory and family and Mrs. Kelly Garrett of Gruver enjoyed Christmas day in the home of the Carl Archers.

A happy family Christmas gathering narrowly averted tragedy on Christmas eve.

Gathered at the home of Evelyn

See "NEIGHBORS" p-3



MRS. STEVEN WAYNE FRY  
...nee Tisha Len Percy

## Pearcy-Fry vows exchanged

Tisha Len Percy and Steven Wayne Fry were united in marriage Monday, Dec. 21, in the First United Methodist Church in Spearman.

The new Mrs. Fry is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Pearcy of Spearman. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Fry and grandson of Mary Virden, all of Gruver.

Guests were registered by Karla McGarrough and seated by Newell Allen Pearcy--brother of the bride--Ladd Sheets.

Music was provided by singers John and Michelle Scott and pianist, Anne Sheets. Heart-shaped candelabras were lit by Christie Baldwin and Will Black.

Matron of honor was sister to the bride, April Heitz. Following were bridesmaids Kim Benson and Joanne Odegaard.

Best man, Kip Pittman, stood with groomsmen Brent Pierson and Paul Peterson. Bearing the wedding bands on satin pillows were Darla Black and Bryan Black, children of Mr. and Mrs. Monty Black.

Sermon and vows were presented by Frank Pittman, an elder of the Gruver Church of Christ.

The bride wore a white scallop-

laced gown adorned with satin bows and translucent sequins. A halo-styled veil framed her face.

She wore her maternal grandmother's pendant on velvet ribbon for 'something old'. Her bouquet was of deep red roses surrounded with white.

The groom wore an all-white tuxedo with tails and a rose boutonniere.

Bridesmaids wore deep red tea-length dresses, white halos and carried candles. Groomsmen and ushers wore black tuxedos with red cummerbunds and bow ties.

Raspberry punch was served at the reception by Tiki Jackson, and a red velvet wedding cake by Stephanie Campbell.

Sister of the groom, LeAnn Sheets, served German chocolate cake and coffee.

### Hospital Report

Patients in the Hansford Hospital are ShaLynna Harris, Nadine Atchley, Viola Graves, Nelson Atchley, Terry Burch, E.J. Callaway, Caroline Murphy, Altha Groves.

Dismissed from the Hansford Hospital was Shaffer Baxter.

January

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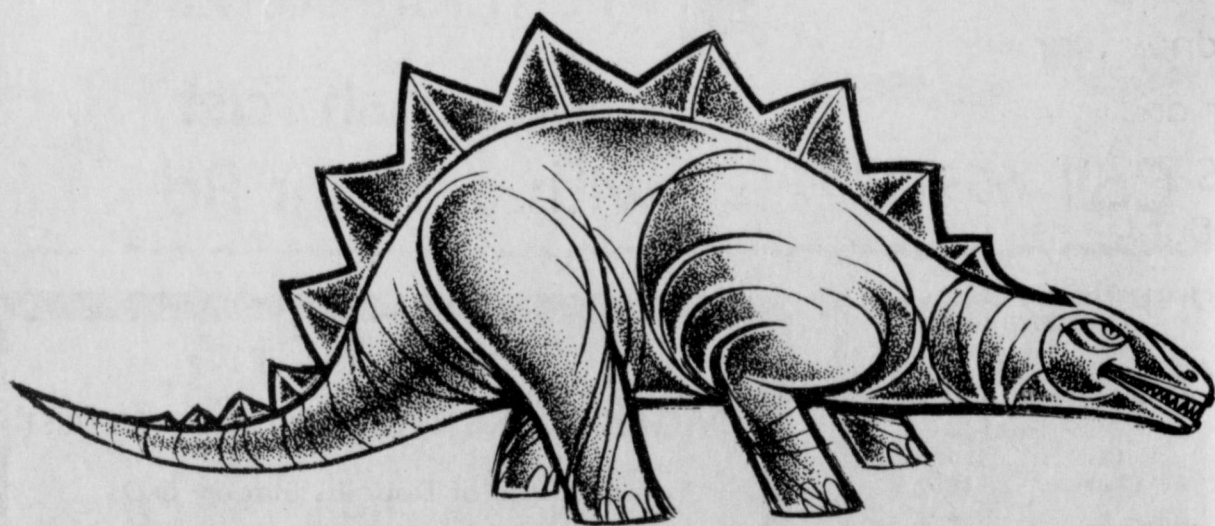
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