

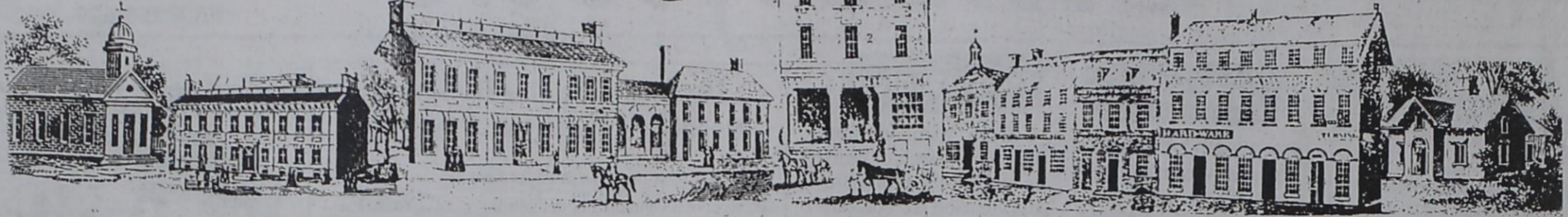
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The Baird Weekly
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December 8, 1887

BAIRD: Officially Designated Antique Capital Of West Texas - Texas Legislature June 22, 1993

Volume 110 Number 51

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Baird, Texas 79504

Thursday, December 17, 1998

THE DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER 24TH EDITION OF THE CALLAHAN COUNTY STAR WILL BE 12:00 NOON ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 21ST. DUE TO THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS THE PAPER WILL BE PRINTED ON TUESDAY THAT WEEK.

Baird Post Office To Close Early For Holidays

The Baird Post Office will be closing at noon on December 24th and all day on the 25th of December so the employees might enjoy this special season with their families.

of the Post Office. If you choose to mail on that day, please use those boxes. There will be no collections on the 25th. Regular mail service and hours will resume on December 26th.

Cross Plains Report
by Paige Smoot

The Cross Plains Library has just recently received a letter informing them that automation will soon begin at the library. In basic terms automation is the process of changing the Duey Decimal System over to the computer ways of the time.

The head librarian, Cherry Shults, commented on her excitement saying that it will be "really exciting to finally have the system updated."

The library began research on automation about four years ago, and after about two years had narrowed the selection of which form to use down to two. In June, with the help of the High School's National Honor Society (NHS) and fellow volunteers from around the community, new renovations began to take place, such as the painting of shelves, and laying of new carpet.

Shults comments "that in due time hardware will be set up and training of use of the new system will begin." Along with the library, the Cross Plains High School is working towards automation, and the two learning facilities expect to be able to network their systems together in time.

space would have to be fixed up, but this is what the dreamers are hoping for. The reason for wanting to enlarge the children's section is to make up more room for the libraries LAP Program (Learn About Program). This program which has been in existence for several years now, was first started to make up for the lack of the school system's pre-kindergarten class. Fortunately though even now that the school has managed to develop such a class, the children are still able to participate in LAP, highly due to the efforts of the community. Each Wednesday a bus from the school, transport the children over to the library, so they can take part in LAP.

Also new to the library this year are Mary Ann Chaffin, Sharon Parr, and Cecil Barton, who are the newest members of the board.

Sue Bennett, who is also a very special lady to the Cross Plains Library, also has begun the once a month special story hour. During this time children play games, do crafts, and receive fun prizes, and yummy treats. This month's story hour is scheduled for Dec. 15, from 3:45 to 5:00 p.m., and will contain a Christmas theme to go along with the spirit of the month. For those who seek wisdom and knowledge, or the chance to expand their imagination, the library comes to you with the highest of recommendations.

Cowboy Christmas Coloring Contest Winners Announced

The Cowboy Christmas Coloring Contest was held December 5, 1998 at the Baird Elementary School. Grades Pre-K through 6th participated in the contest. The results are as follows:

McCraw's AM Pre-K:
1st Place; Ethan Brookey
2nd Place; Katelynn Mitchell
3rd Place; Hunter Dyer

McCraw's PM Pre-K:
1st Place; Harley Boyd
2nd Place; Dustyn Neff
3rd Place; Taylor Benson

Coplen's Kindergarten:
1st Place; Cody Hunter
2nd Place; Ivy Byram
3rd Place; Michelle Robbins

Tollett's Kindergarten:
1st Place; Heidi Hopkins
2nd Place; Alexis Almanzar
3rd Place; Jacob Shouse

Gerngross' 1st Grade:
1st Place; Brittney Russo
2nd Place; Cody Swan
3rd Place; Holley Owens

Kendrick's 1st Grade:
1st Place; Fallon Donlan
2nd Place; Andy Koch
3rd Place; Alysa Isenhower

Barton's 2nd Grade:
1st Place; Klaudyna Szafranek
2nd Place; John Edwards
3rd Place; Zena Hooks

Corn's 2nd Grade:
1st Place; Emalie Green
2nd Place; Weldon Brooks
3rd Place; Ariel Banks

Odom's 3rd Grade:
1st Place; Dalton Dover
2nd Place; Victoria Suarez
3rd Place; Dakotah Tullous

Wilson's 3rd Grade:
1st Place; Summer Olivari
2nd Place; Dillon Fox
3rd Place; Kate Dannheim

Jones' 4th Grade:
1st Place; Chelsea Williams
2nd Place; Angela Ellis
3rd Place; Chance White

Menzies' 4th Grade:
1st Place; Justin Roberts
2nd Place; Jud Clark
3rd Place; Candy Jobe

Diller's 5th Grade:
1st Place; Justin Armstrong

2nd Place; Kaitlyn Walker
3rd Place; Suzanne Ellis

S. Williams' 5th Grade:
1st Place; Dominga Keith
2nd Place; Kelby Cauthen
3rd Place; Marinoel Turner

Burns' 6th Grade:
1st Place; Whitney Windham
2nd Place; Kyle Dillard
3rd Place; Brittany Williams

T. Williams' 6th Grade:
1st Place; Will Green
2nd Place; Lea Sweeney
3rd Place; Lance Fiedler

Congratulations to all the winners!

Card Of Thanks

The Putnam Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank everyone who participated in the benefit for Jo Ann Winters.

We really appreciate all of the donations we received to help hold the benefit.

A special thanks goes to the following merchants: Brookshirer's; Villiage Mart; Rust Processing & etc. Without their help we would have never made it.

Thanks again to everyone!!!
Putnam VFD

Candlelight Service To Be Held Dec. 24th

First Presbyterian Church in Baird would like to invite the community to participate in its annual Christmas Eve Candlelight service on Thursday, December 24th at 6 p.m.

Three Baird High School Students Honored at CJC

Three Baird High School students were honored on December 3, 1998 at the Abilene campus of Cisco Junior College during their Fall Writing Symposium. Students in AP English III and Honors English IV wrote persuasive essays to be submitted to the symposium. Erin Hughes, Ron Baird and Jordan Menzies had their papers chosen as the top three entries from Baird.

Students from Baird, Eula, Hawley, Jim Ned, and Trent entered the contest. Jordan and Ron were presented Certificates of Recognition by Dean

Carol Dupree. Erin, a senior, was one of five area students to read their essay to panels of students and faculty members from CJC plus the audience. She was presented as an Achievement Award Winner and given a \$50 cash prize.

English teachers Hayle Cunningham and Cathy Goldsmith had students write the papers. Both were impressed with the quality of work submitted by all their students. Congratulations to these students for bringing special recognition to Baird High School.

Chamber To Host Baking Contest December 18th

Baird Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its second sweet baking contest/sale on Friday, December 18th at First National Bank.

Once again entries in four categories including cakes, pies, breads and miscellaneous (cookies, candies) will be judged for

appearance, originality, and presentation. Prizes will be awarded in each category.

Entries should be brought to the bank between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m.

Goods will not be sold until the judging is completed.

We invited everyone to participate and show their baking skills.

Baird '48 Study Club

The Baird '48 Study Club met on December 14, 1998, at the home of Rhonda Vestal. The Christmas dinner and social were hosted by Joanie Shrader, Minnie Martin, Dana Barton, and Frances Greenway. All members were served dinner prepared by the Social Committee.

President Barbara Corn conducted a short business meeting. Joann Vestal gave a report on the Cowboy Christmas booth. Correspondence was read by Joyce Smauley. President Barbara Corn announced that the students in the One Act Play are giving a dinner theater performance on Thursday, December 16th.

After dinner was served to all members, the entertainment for the evening was playing Bunko. The meeting adjourned for visiting and Christmas greetings.

Members present were Dana Barton, Kristi Belcher, Barbara Corn, Joy Corn, Irma Crow, Billie Ann Earp, Laurie Eubanks, Frances Greenway, Lori Higgins, Georgie Manion, Minnie Martin, Sue McNeil, Jane Ringhoffer, Joanie Shrader, Joyce Smauley, Dyanne Thompson, Joann Vestal and Pat Holland.

Bank To Close Early For Holidays

In observance of the Christmas holiday, the First National Bank of Baird will close early, 12:00 p.m., Thursday, December 24, 1998. The bank will be closed all

day Friday, December 25, 1998. Regular business hours will resume Monday, December 28, 1998. We hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday.

Census Bureau To Begin Testing For Census Takers

The Census Bureau will be testing people for the roll of Census Takers. The test will be given every Monday at The Depot in Baird at 10:00 a.m. through January 1999. If you are interested in taking the test you need to be at the Depot a little bit early, because they will start promptly at 10:00 a.m.

You will need to bring two forms of identification, one of them can be a Social

Security Card. Veterans need to bring their DD214. This is for part time and full time temporary positions. The pay is \$8.00 an hour and field workers will receive 32¢ a mile. If you need another testing site you may call 1-888-325-7733 toll free to find out where you may take the test other than Baird. The Census Bureau is an EEO Employer.

Winner Of Rifle Announced By Putnam Volunteer Department

The Putnam Volunteer Fire Department had their drawing for the rifle they were giving away. The drawing was held on November 21, 1998 with Alysa Isenhower

doing the drawing of the name. The winner of the rifle was John Doyle Isenhower. We want to thank everyone for their participation.

Abilenian Takes Top Honor In State Wide Rodeo

Abilene--Posting the highest score ever in state rodeo competition, Roy Isom of the Texas Department of Transportation's Abilene district snared the state's truck driving title.

Making his first trip to the state finals, the district's preventive maintenance coordinator scored 345 points out of a possible 350.

After he finished, Isom, who has worked in the Abilene district equipment shop for 15 years, said he thought he had done real well. "To be honest," he said, "I was surprised to win our district competition, because we have some really good drivers."

To make it to the state finals, Isom first competed against other drivers in his work section. Then he took district honors by edging out 37 other drivers

from the district's 13 county maintenance sections and district complex shops. To take the state title, he topped 49 other district finalists.

Each of TxDOT's 25 districts sent two drivers to the state meet. Abilene's other entry, Norman "Jibber" Herridge of Borden county, placed 29th.

Doug Roberts from the San Angelo district was the runner-up with 335 points.

Isom and Roberts will represent TxDOT in the national truck rodeo in Ohio in May. Approximately 5,250 TxDOT employees have commercial driver's licenses and are eligible for the truck rodeo.

The Waco District sponsored the sixth annual TxDOT Truck Rodeo on the campus of Texas State Technical College.

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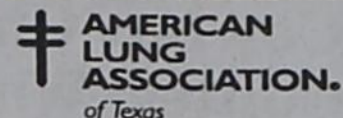
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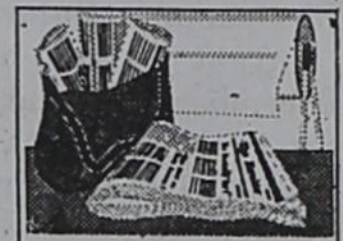


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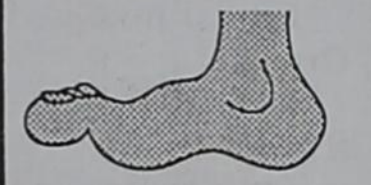
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**NEW FHA LOAN LIMITS ENABLE MORE TEXANS TO
REALIZE AMERICAN DREAM OF HOMEOWNERSHIP**

AUSTIN — New, higher limits for mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) are in effect nationwide, which will help many Texas families obtain home financing, according to the Texas Association of Realtors.
Federal legislation signed into law Oct. 21 increases the range of FHA's mortgage insurance limits for single-family homes to \$109,032 (from \$86,317) in low-cost areas and \$197,620 (from \$170,362) in high-cost areas.
The new loan limits will particularly benefit first-time homebuyers, who received more than 80 percent of FHA-insured home loans during the past year.
"Higher FHA loan limits will open the door to homeownership for more Texans than ever before," said Charles McMillan, president of the statewide Realtors' organization.
In Texas, FHA's new loan limits affect consumers in all 254 counties. The Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University estimates that the new figures open up the FHA program to 336,000 households statewide.
"Now, these families can experience the pride of owning their own home and investing in something that builds equity and contributes to the Texas economy," McMillan said.
FHA does not make mortgage loans directly, but rather insures

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Guest Slot

THE TWELVE THANK-YOU NOTES OF CHRISTMAS

December 25 - My dearest darling Edward, What a wonderful surprise has just greeted me! That sweet partridge, in that lovely little pear-tree, what an enchanting romantic, poetic present! Bless you, and thank you.

Your deeply loving
Emily

December 26 - Beloved Edward, The two turtle-doves arrived this morning, and are cooing away in the pear-tree as I write. I'm so touched and grateful!

With undying love, as always,
Emily

December 27 - My darling Edward, You do think of the most original presents! Who ever thought of sending anybody three French hens? Do they really come all the way from France? It's a pity we have no chicken coops, but I expect we'll find some. Anyway, thank you so much; they're lovely.

Your devoted Emily

December 28 - Dearest Edward, What a surprise! Four calling birds arrived this morning. They are very sweet, even if they do call rather loudly-they make telephoning almost impossible-but I expect they'll calm down when they get used to their new home. Anyway, I'm very grateful, of course I am.

Love from Emily

December 29 - Dearest Edward, The mailman has just delivered five most beautiful gold rings, one for each finger, and all fitting perfectly! A really lovely present! Lovelier, in a way, than birds, which do take rather a lot of looking after. The four that arrived yesterday are still making a terrible row, and I'm afraid none of us got much sleep last night. Mother says she wants to use the rings to "wring" their necks. Mother has such a sense of humor. This time she's only joking, I think, but I do know what she means. Still, I love the rings.

Bless you,
Emily

December 30 - Edward, Whatever I expected to find when I opened the front door this morning, it certainly wasn't six socking great geese laying eggs all over the porch. Frankly, I rather hoped that you had stopped sending me birds. We have no room for them, and they've already ruined the lawn. I know you meant well, but let's call a halt, shall we?

Love, Emily

December 31 - Edward, I thought I said NO MORE BIRDS. This morning I woke up to find no more than seven swans, all trying to get into our goldfish pond. I'd rather not think what's

happened to the goldfish. The whole house seems to be full of birds, to say nothing of what they leave behind them, so please, please, stop!

Your Emily

January 1 - Frankly, I prefer the birds. What am I to do with eight milkmaids? And their cows! Is this some kind of a joke? If so, I'm afraid I don't find it very amusing.

Emily

January 2 - Look here Edward, This has gone far enough. You say you're sending me

ANNIVERSARY



Mr. and Mrs. James Gardner To Celebrate Anniversary

Alta Baucum and James Gardner met at Center, a country school near Ropesville, Texas in January 1935. They were married Dec. 19, 1938 in Lubbock, Texas officiated by Dr. L.N. Lipscomb.

They have been blessed with two sons and one daughter, ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. The children are Stanley Gardner and Peni of the pecan plantation Granbury, Ann Gardner Holland, and

husband Wayne of Lubbock, TX., and Randy Gardner and Patty of San Angelo.

After attending a grandson's wedding Dec. 19th in Dallas the group will travel to Granbury for the 60th celebration hosted by their children and grandchildren.

The celebration will

be at the Plantation Club House and the eldest son Stanley's home. Alta and James farmed fourteen years near Ropesville, farmed and ranched 23 years at Edmonson near Plainview, TX. and have ranched twenty-three years in Eastland and Callahan Co. near Cisco where they now reside.

Christ Jesus is our Savior, Lord and Master. Our church is First Baptist Church in Cisco. Our motto and guide is: God first, Family second and Business third.

January 3 - As I write this letter, ten disgusting old men are prancing up and down all over what used to be the garden, before the geese and the swans and the cows got at it. And several of them, I have just noticed, are taking inexcusable liberties with the milkmaids. Meanwhile the neighbors are trying to have us evicted. I shall never speak to you again.

Emily

January 4 - This is the last straw! You know! I detest bagpipes! The place has now become something between a menagerie and a madhouse, and aman from the council has just declared it unfit for habitation. At least Mother has been spared this last outrage; they took her away yesterday afternoon in an ambulance to a home for the bewildered. I hope you're satisfied.

January 5 - Sir, Our client, Miss Emily Wilbraham, instructs me to inform you that with the arrival on her premises at 7:30 this morning of the entire percussion section of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and several of their

be at the Plantation Club House and the eldest son Stanley's home.

Alta and James farmed fourteen years near Ropesville, farmed and ranched 23 years at Edmonson near Plainview, TX. and have ranched twenty-three years in Eastland and Callahan Co. near Cisco where they now reside.

Christ Jesus is our Savior, Lord and Master. Our church is First Baptist Church in Cisco. Our motto and guide is: God first, Family second and Business third.

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friends, she has no course left open to her but to seek an injunction to prevent you importuning her further. I am making arrangements for the return of much assorted livestock.

I am, Sir, your faithfully,
G. Creep
Attorney at law.

- Author unknown

Acts 2:38 **HAVE faith IN GOD** Acts 2:38

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11th Court Of Appeals

The following proceedings were had in the Court of Appeals, Eleventh District of Texas on Dec. 10, 1998:

Affirmed

Maurice David Weaver v. State of Texas, Dallas. (Opinion by Justice Wright) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Dickenson, and Justice Wright)

Motion Submitted & Granted; Appeal Dismissed

Callie Mason Strong v. Robert E. Lindberg, Collin. Appellee's motion to dismiss for want of prosecution. (Per Curiam Opinion) (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Dickenson, and Justice Wright)

Appeal Abated

The State of Texas, Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Wayne Scott and James A. Collins v. Harbert International, Inc. (Per Curiam Order)

Motions Submitted & Granted

Raymundo Ramirez v. State of Texas, Harris. Appellant's ninth motion for extension of time to file brief.

Derrick Lamar Johnson v. State of Texas, Dallas. Appellant's motion to substitute page 13 of appellant's brief. State's motion for extension of time to file brief.

Emanuel Oliver v. State of Texas, Dallas. State's motion for extension of time to file brief.

Walton John Alexander a/k/a John Walton Alexander v. State of Texas, Erath. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file motion for rehearing.

Roland Charles Grabowski v. State of Texas, Rockwall. State's motion for permission to file late brief.

Bryan Keith Priest v. State of Texas, Dallas. State's motion for extension of time to file brief.

Texas Utilities Fuel Company v. Marathon Oil Company et al., Dallas. Appellant's (unopposed) motion for leave to file reply brief to exceed 90 pages.

Peggy Perkins et al v. Douglass Distributing Company, Grayson. Appellee's motion for extension of time to file brief.

Randal Eugene Porter v. State of Texas, Palo Pinto. Appellant's fourth request for extension of time to file brief.

Randal Eugene Porter v. State of Texas, Palo Pinto. Appellant's fourth request for extension of time to file brief.

Dain Rauscher, Inc.

Read The Classifieds

f/k/a Dain Bosworth, Inc. v. William Scott Farrar and James P. Farrar, Eastland. Appellant's motion requesting oral argument.

Joe Harve Roberts v. State of Texas, Parker. State's motion for extension of time to file brief.

James Allen Hanson v. State of Texas, Tarrant. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file brief.

Pecan Valley Nut Company, Inc. et al v. E.I. Du Pont De Nemours & Company et al., Comanche. Appellant's second (unopposed) motion for extension of time to file brief.

Audie Eugene Couch v. State of Texas, Palo Pinto. State's motion for extension of time to file brief.

Angelica Dean and **James Harold Dean, Jr.** v. Rory Giles Lowery and Giles Lowery, Angelina. Appellee's (Giles Lowery) motion to reject filing of appellants' affidavits of inability to give security for costs. (Per Curiam Order)

Barron Jamal Daw v. State of Texas, Jefferson. Appellant's

Alton Wayne Portie, Jr. v. State of Texas, Jones. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file brief.

David Earl Brooks v. State of Texas, Jones. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file brief.

Jesse Dominguez v. State of Texas, Taylor. Appellant's second mo-

tion for extension of time to file brief.

Pablo Ojeda Martinez v. State of Texas, Comanche. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file brief.

State of Texas v. **Tommy Reyes Rodriguez** a/k/a Tommy Reyes Rodriguez, Taylor. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file brief.

Herbert Bernard Griffin a/k/a Herbert Benard Griffing v. State of Texas, Jefferson. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file brief.

Bobby Wayne Bullcock v. Sandra Drake, San Jacinto. Appellee's motion for extension of time to file brief.

Charles Williams v. State of Texas, Harris. Appellant's pro se motion for extension of time to file motion for rehearing and request for court to withdraw opinion.

L.D. Cox et ux Cox v. City of Comanche, Comanche. (Panel consists of: Justice Dickenson, Justice Wright and Justice McCloud) Appellant's motion for rehearing.

Christopher Lynn Rios v. Joe Laymon Perkins and Shirley Theresa Perkins, Dallas. Appellant's motion to continue oral arguments. Appellant's application for bench warrant.

Billy Mack Love v. State of Texas, Taylor. Appellant's motion for oral argument.

motion for extension of time to file brief.

Ex parte Stith Reece Edmondson, Palo Pinto. Appellant's motion for extension of time to file brief.

City of Plano, Texas v. Southwestern Bell Mobile Systems, Inc., Collin. Joint motion for extension of time to file appellant's brief.

Motions Submitted & Overruled

Dalton Dewitt Cozart v. State of Texas, Harris. (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Dickenson, and Justice Wright) Appellant's motion for rehearing.

Jan Iden Evry and **Arthur Evry** v. United Services Automobile Casualty Insurance Company, Howard. (Panel consists of: Chief Justice Arnot, Justice Dickenson, and Justice Wright) Appellant's motion for rehearing.

Clifford Russell Gilbert v. State of Texas, Dallas.

Christopher Cowan v. Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Taylor.

Elouise Louise Henry v. State of Texas, Taylor.

Elouise Louise Henry v. State of Texas, Taylor.

Elks Hoop Shoot Competition In '99

Saturday, January 9, 1999, marks the first round of competition in the 27th annual "Elks Hoop Shoot" to be held in L.T. Cook Gymnasium in Breckenridge. Hoop Shoot is the copyright trademark owned by the Elks for this national free throw shooting contest. It was originated by Frank Hise, a Past Grand Exalted Ruler of the fraternal organization, in Corvallis, Ore. in 1946. The Elks' Oregon State Association directed the program on a national level beginning in 1972. Three million youngsters, ages 8 through 13 participated last year.

Registration will be held in the gymnasium from 8 a.m. until 9:45 a.m., and the competition will begin at 10 a.m. Participants must register during the prescribed registration period. There is no fee to enter the contest.

There are three age divisions, including 8-9 years old, 10-11, and 12-13; one each for boys and girls. Age divisions are determined by the contestants age as of April 1, 1999. Each participant will have 25 opportunities to shoot free throws, and the boys and girls in each division with the most successful of 25 shots advance to the North Central District contest.

The winners from the local contest will advance to the district

contest, which will be held here in Breckenridge at L.T. Cook Gymnasium on January 23, 1999. Last year Lindsey Short, from Breckenridge, Texas, won the 8-9 year old division at the local and district contest. After the district contest she advanced to state competition, where she placed second.

For more information contact Larry Stanford at Elks Lodge (254) 559-3555, (Home) 254) 647-1961 or E-Mail larry_st@email.com

New Medications Are Worth State Investment

By State Representative Jim Keffer, District 60

Recent reports indicate that the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (TDMHMR) will be asking the Legislature to increase funding for new breakthrough medications from the current \$5 million a year to over \$50 million a year.

To date, these new medications have helped more than 2.5 million Americans diagnosed with schizophrenia, a treatable disorder of the brain, live more productive lives without the debilitating side effects caused by older medications.

New drugs to treat schizophrenia include Clozaril, Risperidone, Olanzapine and Quetiapine, all of which have been approved in recent years by the Federal Food and Drug Administration. The downside to each of them is cost; they are currently

far too expensive for most diagnosed schizophrenics to afford.

When the legislature convenes this coming January and budget hearings commence, it is difficult to determine how the nearly \$3 billion surplus will be allocated. Although this year's campaign trail left behind numerous promises of monetary obligations, I would hope a significant increase in funding for these new medications will be supported.

Funding for this medication is essential, especially if we consider factors such as losses in productivity for mental health care consumers, caregivers, and business alike. Accessibility to these medications could also help unclog the state's courts, taxpayer funded treatment centers, and correctional facilities.

The state of Texas has the opportunity to take a proactive stance on mental illness. For instance, nearly 7% of the Texas state prison population is estimated to be mentally ill. These new advanced drugs could ultimately reduce the total population of inmates, thus saving Texans millions of tax dollars.

The cost/benefit of increasing TDMHMR funding is obvious. I am committed to making these medications more accessible to Texans with mental illness, not only to promote self-help, but also to reduce future state spending.

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Back Talk

Chiropractic Care Questions & Answers

Can someone on Medicare or Medicaid get chiropractic care?

Yes, chiropractic care is covered by these government funded health insurance programs. As with any health insurance, not all doctors participate in these programs. Also, some services may not be covered under some programs. Be sure the doctor you are seeking treatment from participates in the program under which you are covered and any provider should inform patients before services are rendered if the services are not covered under the patient's health insurance.

Back Talk is copyrighted by the Texas Chiropractic Association and is edited by a panel of doctors headed by Dr. Chris Dairymple, editor in chief of the Texas Journal of Chiropractic. 5-2

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Moran News

By Mrs. Luke Huskey

Seventeen members of the Moran Birthday Club met at the Deep Creek Trading Post Cafe last Thursday night for the annual Christmas party. The Happy Birthday song was sung to Mrs. Harley Hawkins. Gifts were exchanged and a very enjoyable evening was the result of the meeting, with comments made. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Buy Midkiff, Mildred Smith, Mrs. Audrey Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Butler, Lorene Midkiff, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Mouldin, Mr. and Mrs. Buster Cottle, Mr. and Mrs. Harley Hawkins, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Kays, Margaret Edmison and Elma May Huskey.

Lighting of the Community Christmas Tree on Sunday night was well attended. A large crowd came and enjoyed the program and see the tree lights turned on.

Master of Ceremonies. Rev. Cole Farmer led the prayer. John Connally read the Christmas Story from the Bible. The singing was led by Dara Trainham, Donna Robinson and Stoney Trainham with everyone taking part in the singing. They were accompanied by guitars played by Dara and Stoney. Buster and Julie Cottle were recognized by the group for the work they have done in promoting the Moran Clean and Proud organization. Others were recognized for the work in helping to make the appearance of the city lovely and helping to put up the Christmas lights. Lights have been placed on the business house and many of the homes are beautifully decorated in keeping with the Christmas season.

Mr. and Mrs. Billy Dunaway, Robert,

Read The Classifieds

Brandon and T.J. of Burleson visited with Elma May Huskey, Sunday afternoon.

Moran and community received the first freezing moisture last Friday, with sleet falling. Moisture in the form of rain fell most all day Friday, making the weather feel more like winter. The moisture was very much appreciated and will be good for the grain and grass in the pastures. From the looks of the grass in the yards, lawn mowers will have to be used soon.

Dary Edwards celebrated his 90th birthday Monday. We say Happy Birthday and Congratulations!!!

POEM

The Shepherd's Voice
As we go down life's highways
Turning neither left or right
We are like sheep that's gone astray
With no shepherd in sight.
When the Lord show's His mercy
Open our eyes that we may see
Softly He speaks to us
Take up thy cross and follow Me.
For we know His voice

ANNIVERSARY



Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Wilcoxen To Celebrate Anniversary

Edwin E. Wilcoxen and Nelda F. (Woody) Wilcoxen will celebrate 50 years of marriage on December 23, 1998. They were married in Cottonwood, TX. on December 23, 1948.

A stranger's voice we would not obey
All we need is for Him to speak
And then to lead the way.
As the trumpet sounds
And we close our eyes in peace
Will we hear the Good Shepherd
When He calls home His sheep.
Bob Harbin

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Mrs. Wilcoxen was born on March 6, 1926 in Cottonwood, TX. Her parents were W.F. (Frank) and Emma Woody. Mr. Wilcoxen was born on November 25, 1926, also in Cottonwood, TX. His parents were Gilbert and Jesse Wilcoxen.

Edwin and Nelda attended high school together in Cross Plains, TX and dated and married after his return from his military tour during WWII. They were members of the Church of Christ. They have farmed peanuts and been ranchers. Edwin has also been a boilermaker and a welder for power plants and shipyards. In 1963, they moved to Lubbock, TX where Edwin attended the Sunset School of Preaching. Edwin has preached for various congregations over the years as well as preached over the radio. Edwin is also well known in the Cottonwood and Cross Plains area for his abilities as a singer and guitar player of old-time musicals. Since retiring from preaching, Edwin has been a prolific writer of religious articles. Nelda was a housewife and also worked for the

Cross Plains school system for some time. Nelda is currently a Foster Grandparent for the Abilene State School.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilcoxen have three children, Thaila Robertson, and husband James, of Abilene, TX.; Rhonda Crawford and husband Don, of Liberty Hill, TX.; and Marvin Wilcoxen of Cisco, TX. They have two grandchildren, David Fritz and wife Mandy of Abilene; and Carrie Fritz of Abilene. They have one step-grandson, Matt Rob-

ertson of Abilene, TX. A celebration of their love and their marriage will be held at the Cobb Park small recreation building on Forrest St. in Abilene, TX from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 26, 1998. All friends and relatives are invited to attend.

Answers to Super Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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Super Crossword

ACROSS
1 Each
5 "Urano dot"
10 Prejudice
14 Delhi dignitary
19 Lund Lugosi
20 Maine town
21 Bound bundle
22 Manage to miss
100 Mrs. Zeus
23 Sociopath's stationery?
25 Chilly powder?
26 Committee
27 Robbed
28 Lauren of "The Love Boat"
30 Roy's refusal
32 Spigot
33 Fall behind
35 Dinky Olym-pic award?
40 Grand
45 Actor Jacques
46 Ration, with "out"
47 Tennis term
48 Tackle a bone
50 Snoots
52 Bolivian capital
56 Disney film about a big-time butcher?
60 Rude out-let
63 "Salome" character
64 Nationality suffix
65 Las - N.M.
66 Charged atom
67 "Work over?"
70 Cuban DOWN
72 Clear (oil)
73 Word before Domini
74 Roth character goes with the "out"?
78 They may needle you
80 Knock
81 Like a garage floor
82 Chinese principle
83 Past
84 Snout man?
88 Finish

DOWN
1 Basics
2 Saucy
3 Spread in a tub
4 Spanish specialty
85 They may needle you
86 Knock
87 Like a garage floor
88 Finish

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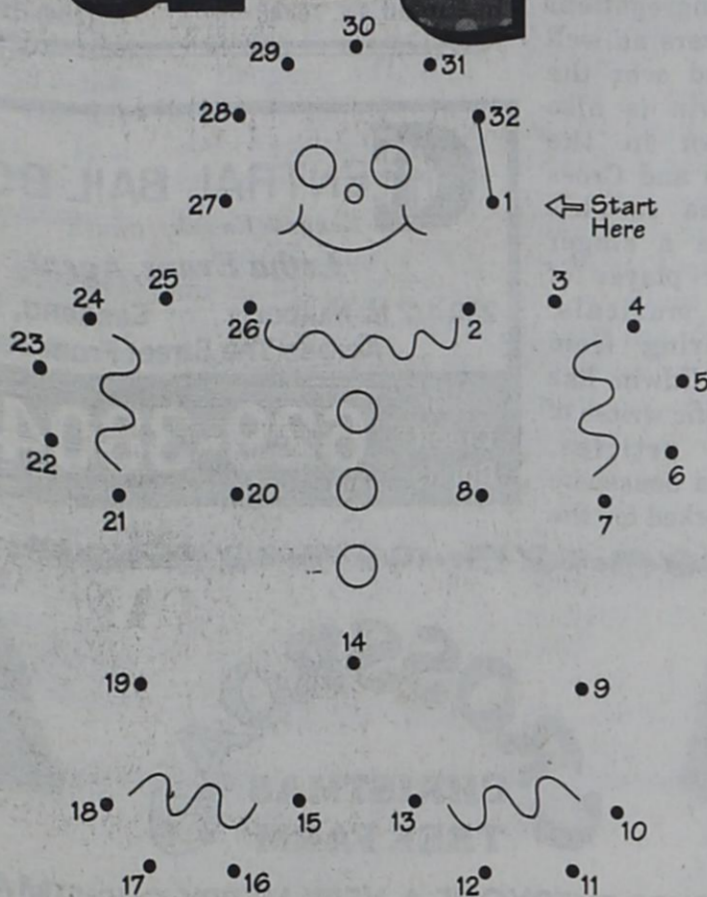
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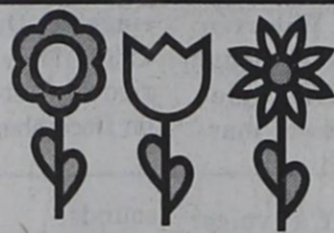
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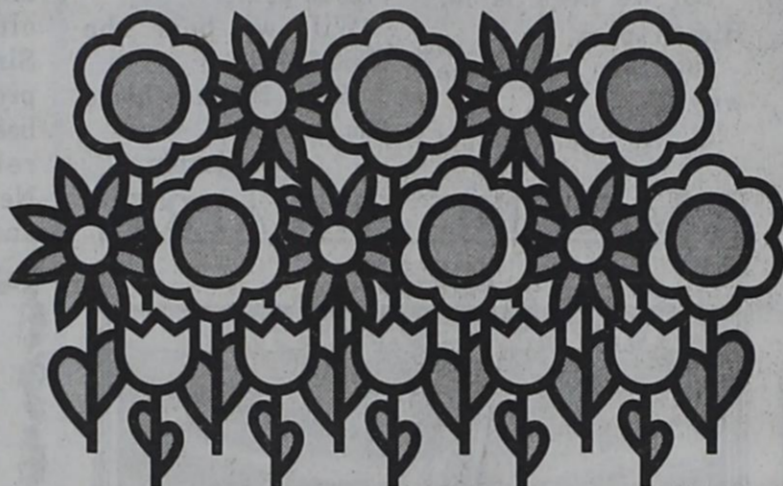
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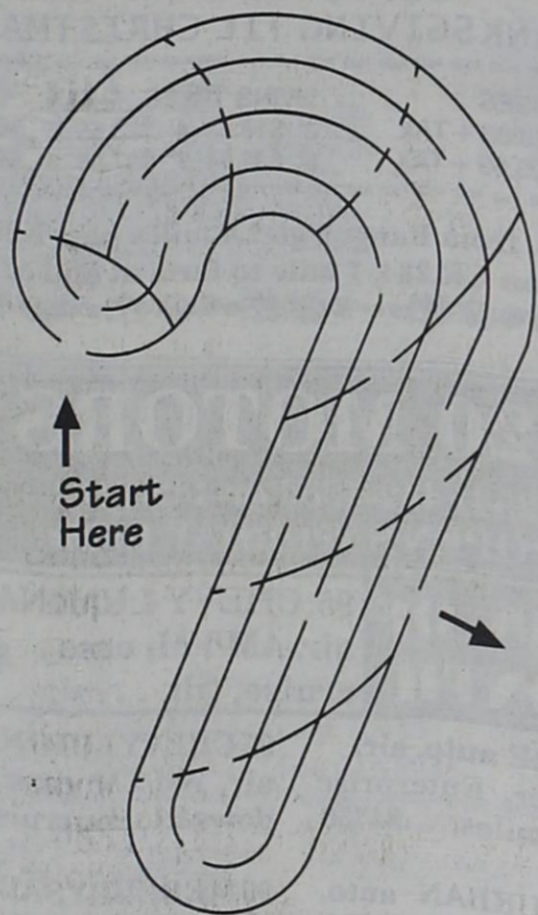


Les fleurs



The flowers are in the garden.
Les fleurs sont dans le jardin.

MAZE



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CHEDDAR LIMBURGER PARMESAN
SWISS

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R G F N D S E A Q E
H L C M U N S T E R
M O Z Z A R E L L A

WHAT DO YOU EAT?



The holidays are usually a time to gather with family and friends and eat special meals. So what do you eat for Christmas, Hanukkah or New Year's Day?

Look at some of these traditions from other countries.

Denmark

Christmas is celebrated December 24 in Denmark. Oatmeal balls are prepared by combining oatmeal with butter, sugar, coffee and cocoa powder and rolling the balls in coconut pieces. Christmas dinner is either pig or duck, which is stuffed with apple slices and dried plums. After dinner they dance and sing around the Christmas tree and have coffee and cookies.

Québec, Canada

Today in Canada, people eat turkey for Christmas dinner. In the old days, they ate Tourtière. It is a stew made up of layers of meat, potatoes and onions, with a layer of pastry on top. Christmas dinner is called Reveillon, which means waking up, and it is eaten when people return from Midnight Mass, usually about 2 a.m. The end of Christmas is called La fête du Roi and celebrated January 6. For this celebration, a cake is baked with a bean inside. Whoever gets the bean is the king or queen.

Japan

The New Year is celebrated in Japan by eating special kinds of sushi, sashimi and rice cakes called mochi. Relatives give children money to spend at shops that have special toys and candy.

Russia

On New Year's Day, a tree is decorated with glass balls and other glass decorations. Along with the glass, chocolate candies wrapped with paper are hung on the tree. When it's time to eat them, it's like the tree is giving candy to children.

Israel

Hanukkah is celebrated from the 25th day of Kislev to the second day of Tevet, a total of eight days. Potato latkes (or pancakes) are fried in oil and eaten during the holiday, many times with applesauce on them. Children play with a top called a dreidl and earn gold-covered chocolate, gelt, as prizes.

New Zealand

Christmas is usually hot and sunny in New Zealand. Family and friends get together, and the children play outside. Usually steaks and chicken are cooked on the grill for dinner.

Belgium

In Belgium, Christmas is known as St. Nicholas Day. On this day, children get bags filled with sweets, oranges and peppernuts.

Alaska—Eskimo

Villagers may gather together to eat the traditional Christmas feast. It consists of maktak (raw whale meat); Beluga whale; caribou; seal; owl; nigiglik (eider duck); polar bear; walrus; and new to the menu, roast turkey and stuffing. Eskimo doughnuts and Eskimo ice cream are served following the meal.

England

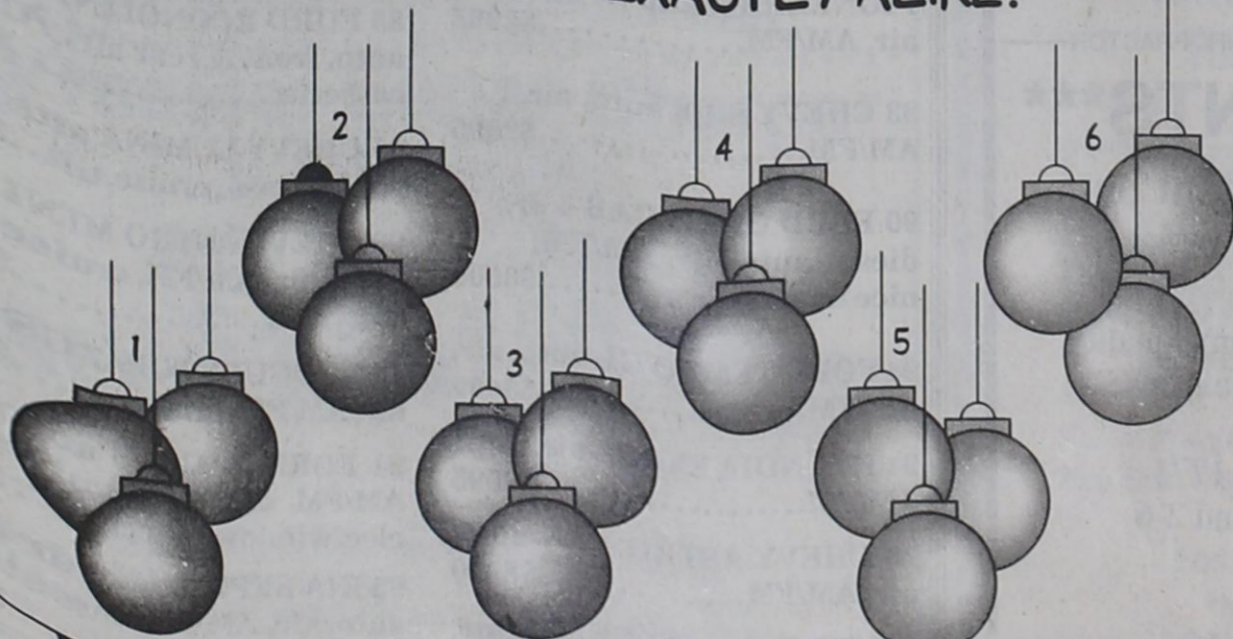
After the stockings are emptied, families go to church. When they arrive home, dinner usually consists of goose. Then they get to open their presents and crackers, which are made out of rolled up paper. When you pull it apart, a little toy falls out.

Newfoundland

"Mumming" is an old custom that involves people disguising themselves in old articles of clothing. Sometime during the 12 days of Christmas, they cover their faces and visit the homes of neighbors and friends. They usually carry their own musical instruments to play and sing and dance at each house. Mummers are usually served Christmas cake with a glass of syrup and blueberry or dogberry wine.

FIND THE TWINS

WHICH TWO ARE EXACTLY ALIKE?

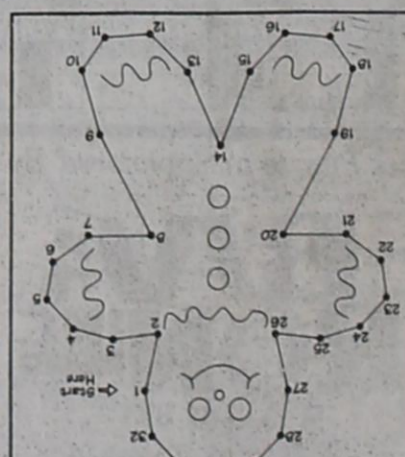
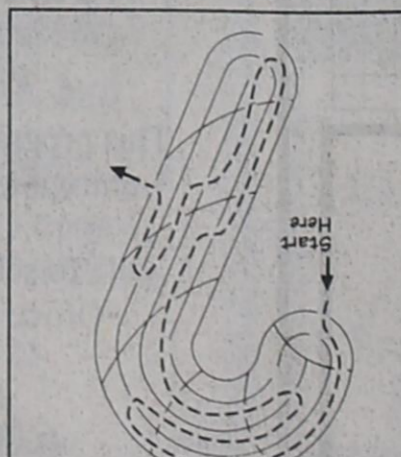
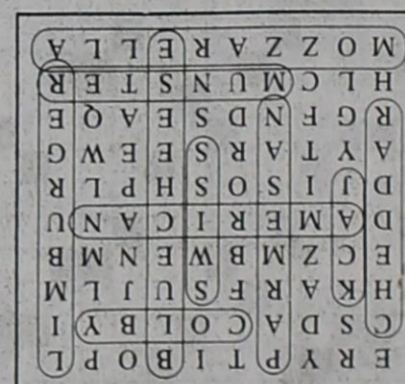


ANSWER: THREE AND FOUR

TIC-TAC-TOE



Answers



Guest Slot

YEAR 'ROUND SCHOOL-MORE POLITICAL PARTIES-DADDY-MOMS

Americans Hopeful At Brink Of New Millennium

Americans are approaching the new millennium with more hope than dread for the future, though their optimism is tempered by concerns about a decline in morality and basic values and an uncertainty about the growth of technology. And as the 20th Century draws to a close, they place great importance on the achievements made in the past 100 years. These are among the major findings of the newest edition of "The Shell Poll," a quarterly opinion survey of Americans conducted for Shell Oil Company by Peter D. Hart Research Associates.

Two-thirds of Americans said they were optimistic and hopeful about the future for themselves and their family. When asked to describe their feelings regarding the coming of the new millennium, more Americans (30%) said "hope" than anything else. Nearly a quarter said "curiosity," while only 6 percent said "worry" and just 1 percent said "dread." They are slightly less optimistic about the future of the country as a whole, with just 58 percent describing themselves as hopeful about the nation's future.

"The portrait that emerges in this study is of a citizenry that is both satisfied and proud of what has been accomplished in this century and hopeful and optimistic about what could be accomplished in the century ahead," said Peter D. Hart. "But behind this broad picture of satisfaction, Americans have some very real concerns about the future."

When selecting from a list of choices, a solid majority of Americans believe both race relations (57%) and physical fitness (52%) will be better 30 years from now, while more believe the standard of living will be higher (43%) than think it will be worse (27%). Americans aren't as optimistic about respect for values and morality: 45 percent think values will be worse in the years ahead. They also worry about the crime rate, with far more (47%) saying it will be worse in 30 years than better (28%).

Surprisingly, young people aren't as optimistic about the future as their older counterparts. Americans under age 35 are very optimistic about their own lives (69%), but only a slim majority (52%) feel good about the prospects for the nation, with 45 percent expressing pessimism. On the other hand, 62 percent of Baby Boomers say they're optimistic, while just 34 percent describe themselves as pessimistic.

Further, Americans expect our daily lives to undergo substantial change. Nine in 10 believe cash will disappear, to be replaced by electronic cards; near-

ly eight in 10 expect informal attire to be the norm in offices; almost two-thirds believe the traditional summer break for students will be replaced by a year-round schedule; nearly three-fourths think there will be more than two major political parties; and 55 percent believe fathers will spend as much time and energy raising children as mothers.

More than six in 10 think the United States will remain the world's greatest power in the 21st Century, while 42 percent believe there's a better than even chance the country will be involved in a major war in the next 30 years. In fact, more Americans (39%) list global war as their greatest fear for the future than any other potential crisis, even though a large majority (77%) cite terrorist attacks as a greater threat to the country than military conflict with another nation.

Health:

Americans have great confidence about the future of health care. A majority of Americans believe several diseases and illnesses -- including spinal cord injuries, diabetes, hepatitis, food-borne diseases, cancer, AIDS, herpes, multiple sclerosis and Alzheimer's disease -- will be cured within 30 years. When asked to name which disease should receive the most research funding in that period, 48 percent chose cancer, making it far and away the top choice over the second

highest funding priority: AIDS (22%).

Technology:

People have more conflicting feelings towards technology. Despite the major technological advancements of the 20th Century, 55 percent say technology will be an equally positive and negative force in the future. And even though a majority believes there's a good chance scientists will clone human beings in the next 30 years, a large number (58%) say that possibility is what they dread most about living in the next century. Americans rate the computer as being the most significant technological development of the 20th Century, with almost twice as many citing it as its closest competitor, the automobile.

Y2K:

Americans are very well aware of the "Y2K" computer problem. Nearly eight in 10 say they know about it, while almost a third say it is a very serious

problem. When given a list of potential problems that could result from "Y2K" computer malfunctions, more Americans (30%) are worried Social Security and other government benefits won't be provided. Just more than one in five are more worried by the prospect of losing banking and insurance company records because of "Y2K."

The 20th Century:

When asked to name one or two of the most important changes in America during the past 100 years, 58 percent said improvements in medicine and technology, while 30 percent cited the growth of civil rights for African-Americans and nearly a quarter said legal and social equality for women. Interestingly, the combined number who said the growth of civil rights for African-Americans and social equality for women (54%) is nearly equal to the number who said improvements in

medicine and technology. Far fewer named the United States' becoming a super power, the country's economic expansion and the growth of the federal government as being the most significant changes.

Other interesting findings include:

Americans expect the biggest changes to be in education over the next 30 years. When asked to name one or two areas where great change will take place, 45 percent said education, while nearly a quarter said the workplace and politics. Further, 36 percent selected "improvements in education" as one of their greatest hopes for the future from a list of choices, ranking it ahead of "less crime" (34%) and better race relations (29%).

Thirty percent say the development of penicillin and other antibiotics is the greatest medical breakthrough of the 20th Century, while nearly a quarter said organ transplants and just more than one in five said the discovery of DNA.

When asked to name which 20th Century household invention would be the hardest to live without, 57 percent said the refrigerator, choosing it over air conditioning, the washing machine, microwave oven, dishwasher and vacuum cleaner.

A large number of Americans think Michael Jordan, Bill Cosby and Oprah Winfrey will be remembered in 30 years. On the other hand, substantial majorities believe Leonard DiCaprio, Roseanne and George Clooney will be forgotten.

Large numbers of Americans believe long-standing institutions such as the Red Cross (93%), Harvard University (90%), Coca-Cola® (89%), Major League Baseball (79%), the U.S. Postal

Service (78%) and The New York Times (72%) still will be around at the end of the 21st Century.

Nearly half believe Biblical prophecies can accurately predict the future, while slightly more than one in five think the Farmer's Almanac is an astute fortune-teller. Twenty-one percent say astrologers can predict the future, and 16 percent believe psychics can. Just one in 10 think pollsters can do so.

Almost seven in 10 believe there's a good chance women will earn as much as men 30 years from now, though more men (82%) think so than women (57%).

When given a choice from a list of potential future breakthroughs, more Americans (35%) would prefer to see medical advances that would create safe and foolproof birth control than would help develop weight-control medication (30%). Twelve percent chose advances in anti-aging skin products, while 7 percent would prefer breakthroughs in hair-loss prevention.

Four in 10 believe

people will retire later than they do now, while just more than a quarter think they will retire earlier.

Forty percent think patriotism is the American character trait most likely to disappear in 30 years, making it the top choice among a list including belief in personal freedom, belief in equality and belief in free enterprise.

Americans expect women's basketball and soccer to gain in popularity. More be-

lieve football, baseball, basketball and hockey just will maintain their current levels of popularity.

Most think letter writing and the tradition of mothers staying home to raise children will disappear in 30 years, but a majority believes large department stores, movie theaters and laundromats still will exist.

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From The Shadows Of Flatwood

By Webb Jordan

P.H.D. (Post Hole Digger)

Series No. 15
Scotland- Part 1

As the saying goes, you will follow your children anywhere. In September 1998, Ruth and I were invited to go to Scotland for our son, Marc Daniel (Danny) Jordan's wedding. His fiancée, Traci Dawn Roberts, is from Crowley, Texas. That made it very logical for Danny and Traci to travel several thousand miles to an unknown country with unknown customs to get married.

In checking on the Internet for the laws governing a Scottish wedding, it was necessary to have all your paperwork filed for a minimum of fifteen days before the wedding date. It takes up to three months to plan a Church wedding in Scotland.

I invite you to join us in a trip from the flatlands of Flatwood to the highlands of Scotland. We will leave the post hole digger at home.

The day finally arrived for the four of us to leave DFW for Scotland. The plane, American Airlines, left DFW at 4 p.m. on Sunday 13th to Chicago O'Hare. We would lay over a couple of hours in Chicago then head for Glasgow, Scotland. As you may well know that flying has changed a lot in the last thirty years or so. Traveling in the early sixties, the beginning of the jet age, you were treated like a honored guest. When you fly now, you usually wind up getting a drink, a bag of peanuts and a napkin. Danny has decided that we should fly business class instead of coach. That was a good decision. On the flight from

Chicago to Glasgow, rows four through eight were the business section. As soon as we boarded the plane, each of us were given our headphones for the flight, a gift cloth bag containing a pair of black slipper socks, a mask to aid in sleeping on the plane, tooth brush, and tooth paste and then the stewardess gave us a glass of orange juice.

After the plane was airborne, we could select another drink of our choice. In about thirty minutes, the stewardess came by with a personal tablecloth and a hot wash rag to wash our hands. I began saying to myself, this is sure different from my flying experiences of the past ten years. Then the stewardess gave each one of us a colorful 12 page menu for our dinner and drink choices. I kept thinking to myself, "Are we on the right plane." To start out, we were given a warmed bowl of roasted mixed nuts. Then the appetizer was Prosciutto Roulade with a black olive and basil filling. They are now using words I don't even recognize.

Next was the salad- Red oakleaf lettuce and Napa cabbage offered with creamy Thai dressing or Ginger-Soy Vinaigrette. If you could eat the words, you really would be full. Then we each received our tray of warm breads. Our choice for the entree was: Filet Mignon, Miso Marinated Salmon, Wild Mushroom Lasagne or Veal with mushroom sauce. I chose the Filet Mignon, (Tenderloin of beef complemented by a wild mushroom demi-glace, A roma



Mr. and Mrs. Marc Daniel Jordan

tomato and fennel sauteed and red potatoes roasted in a red wine vinaigrette).

Then came the dessert cart with a choice of fresh fruit and cheese with selected crackers, Sorbet sundae (Raspberry sorbet served over white chocolate sauce, topped with pineapple kiwi relish and a cookie, or Godiva chocolates. At the bottom of page nine on the menu there was the "Snack Attack Service" which said, "If at any time after your meal you feel like snacking, please feel free to help yourself to the assortment of sweets and other snacks that will be available in our gallery." After I had really enjoyed my "Dinner", I went back to the coach section to see what they had to eat. They were serving sandwiches, cookies and drinks.

It was an eight hour flight from Chicago to Glasgow with a six hour time change. The flight left O'Hare at 8:45 p.m. and we would

arrive before 11 a.m. on Monday morning. In our section of the plane there was a 36 inch television screen with a lot of the CBS shows and a full length movie. Then if you wanted to see another movie, they would bring you a personal video DVD Walkman that would sit on your lap. I chose to watch "The Man With The Iron Mask."

After a few hours of rest it was time for breakfast at 34,000 feet. It was back to our menu for our next choice. It was fresh seasonal fruit, cheddar cheese omelette (a fluffy omelette prepared with cheddar cheese), accompanied by Filet Mignon and O'Brien potatoes sauteed with red and green bell peppers and onions), warm breakfast breads and a choice of beverages. I was wondering about that time what the good folks in Eastland were having for breakfast at Snapp's. Hope Dr. Matthews doesn't read this because I think I may have exceeded my diabetic carbohydrate limit for that twelve hour period.

We arrived in Glasgow on schedule and the weather was great. It was about 70 degrees (21 celsius or centigrade). While we were there the temperature ranged from about 50 to 75 F degrees. We had a shower one afternoon with a strong breeze, otherwise we enjoyed a lot of good weather.

After arriving in Scotland, our first task was to exchange some of our money into British money (pounds, pence, etc.). The exchange rate was 1.77 US dollars for 1 Pound British dollar. That makes the cost of all things in Scotland to be almost twice the price of US goods. Then Danny and I went to Alamo

Car Rental to rent a mid-size Ford Mondeo. We received a ten minute orientation for driving on the wrong side of the road and going around the round-about (what we call a circle) in a clockwise direction. I drove for about an hour from Glasgow to Edinburgh. It sure did feel different. My main concern was what I would do in case of an emergency. I drove a little slower than usual. From then on Danny did all the driving. I sure did appreciate him taking that responsibility.

After getting into Edinburgh, we began looking for a Bed & Breakfast place to hang our hat. The very first B&B we looked at was our home for several days. For your information, Scotland B&B's refer to the second floor as first floor. This sounds better in their brochures and ads. No elevators, of course. What we call first floor, they call the ground floor. Ruth and I had a room on the first floor (2nd floor to me when climbing the steps) with a shower and bath (toilet) down the hall. It cost 19 pounds each which is 38 pounds x 1.77 equals to \$67.26 US per night. Breakfast is included: two eggs, bacon, sausage, toast, jelly, cereal, juice, coffee and milk. It took Ruth and me the rest of the day and part of the next to recover from the jet lag.

On Tuesday morning, we had another good breakfast and met some folks from Wales, Ireland, France, and Arizona. The four of us then went to the Registry (like our courthouse) to make sure everything was in order for the wedding at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday. They chose the room at the Registry that they liked best for the wedding. The room had soft white painted walls with natural finished oak trim and library paneling about chair height around the large room. Two eight foot high windows draped with beautiful pale blue material suitable for Royalty. At the front of the room was a beautiful white wood mantle about the fireplace. On each side of the fireplace was a large basket, sitting on a marble pedestal, of white and yellow flowers with a few pale blue flowers.

Our next stop for the day was the Kilt Shop to

rent a Highland (formal attire) Suit for Danny. Traci needed an appointment with a hair dresser for the morning of the wedding. That afternoon, Ruth and I toured the Tarten Mill and gift shops. We got back together for an Americanized dinner (called supper in Flatwood) at the Pizza Hut. That was a fun way of feeling at home in Scotland. After the meal, Danny and Traci brought us back to our room and they enjoyed more sightseeing.

On Wednesday, we walked the Royal Mile anchored on one end by the Edinburgh Castle (atop a sleeping volcano for hundreds of years) and the Palace of Holyroodhouse at the lower end of the Royal Mile. The Edinburgh Castle is set on a hill and cannot be hid. There was never a mote around the castle but high cliffs. This castle would house several thousand people which would include some royalty and a small army. Some of the structures were three and four stories above ground and two are three floors below ground. This castle had a huge metal gate at the entrance that was raised and lowered by large chains on huge

sprockets. On the upper level there were cannon battle stations to protect the walls. Inside there were many displays depicting the equipment of that era. A large display of swords, shields, hammer and full metal body armor. There was a Scottish Color Guard

at the entrance to this castle.

To be continued. Fellow Flatwoodians, lets talk again sometime.

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December, Month Of Miracles

December is the month of miracles, the season of believing. Where there is love, there are always miracles.

The first gifts were wrapped in miracles. God's gift to us was wrapped in swaddling clothes and miracles.

The perfect Rx for December is to learn appreciation for life's most valued treasures, our special gifts which have no price.

The Best Things In Life Are Free

"When we count our many blessings,

It isn't hard to see that life's most valued treasures

are the treasures that are free.

For it isn't what we own or buy

that signifies our wealth.

It's the special gifts that have no price, our family, friends and health."

(Unknown)

This year enjoy the December miracle and remember the reason for the season.

Remember that our lives are a gift from God, and what we do with them is our gift to God.

Someone once said that when people are wrapped up in themselves, the result is a pretty small package.

Do we really understand the miracle of the birth and the resurrection of Jesus, or do we have "Ropes of the Mind"? Let me tell you a story about "Ropes of the Mind".

A number of years ago, several ministers were invited to visit the Ringling Brothers Circus at its winter quarters in Venice. Coming in via the performers' entrance, they passed by the elephants' area. Someone noticed that the ropes around the elephants' feet were not tied to anything.

This oversight was pointed out to the handler. "Oh," he said, "don't worry. We never tie them up. We just tie a rope around their legs and drop it, and they think they are tied up."

How many of us imagine ourselves tied up to something from which we cannot get away, when in truth, the ropes are in our heads and hearts, and not on our hands and feet?

Rx for the miracle month of December is to understand the true meaning of Christmas and untie the ropes of your mind. Contemplate the meaning of faith, hope, peace and most of all God's love for us as we light the advent candles this year.

FAITH: 1st Advent Candle

Saint Augustine is credited with writing, "Faith is to believe what we do not see, and the reward of faith is to see what we believe."

Once a teacher told her class to draw the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt. One small boy handed her a picture of an airplane with four occupants. Three were recognizable as the Holy Family. When the

teacher asked who the fourth person was, the boy exclaimed, "Oh, that's Pontius the pilot."

The boy, in his drawing, expressed more

truth than might be at first seen. Some people do trust the sacred cargo of their faith to the airy flights of their minds.

From Jonah's situation, perhaps we can draw a parallel to our own lives. Aren't we often swallowed by life's trials, our own fears and emotions? It is amazing how totally these things can envelop us, darken our vision, and hamper our lives!

Life is full of ups and downs. There are days when all is calm, life is wonderful and the future couldn't look brighter. Calamity can strike and discouragement sets in. Then doubts begin to surface.

Rx for December is to believe as the plaque hanging in my house states, "Faith is not believing that God can't. It's knowing that God will."

HOPE: 2nd Advent Candle

An old preacher gave this definition of hope. He said, "Hope is acting on the expectation of success."

According to Eric Fellman, Joseph is the person in the Christmas story who best exemplifies hope. When we read the Christmas story we realize that Joseph came from a background of scandal and endured difficult travel. Joseph certainly knew danger and financial hardship, yet he kept moving his family forward. He listened to God's voice and without anything but HOPE, set out for Bethlehem and then Egypt, before returning home to Nazareth. By doing so, Joseph helped Mary to give birth to the infant Jesus in safety, delivered Jesus from the cruelty of King Herod, and raised Jesus in security and love.

Christ himself talked about a mystery which had "glorious riches" when He said, "Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Colossians 1:27) and in 1 Peter 3:15 we find, "Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope in you."

Yes, there are times in our lives when it seems there is no future and no hope, and yet we read that "Our Father hath given us good hope." The one thing the world doesn't seem to have much of these days is hope. The U.S. political situation, the West Texas draught, the East Texas floods have some on the brink of disaster. What hope can there be?

The answer is Christ living in us! This is not speculation or wishful thinking. It is the hope of glory!

In a world headed for destruction, we can share this hope. Yet some rush about and fail to act as if the hope of glory is in them.

The following poem, Overheard in An Orchard, by Elizabeth Cheney points this out so vividly.

"Said the Robin to the Sparrow:

I should really like to know

Why these anxious human beings

Rush about and worry so."

Said the Sparrow to the Robin:

"Friend, I think that it must be

That they have no Heavenly Father

Such as cares for you and me."

When victims of the Nazi holocaust gave up hope, they died. So we too, falter when we lose hope in what God can do for us. Sometimes we are blind to power of God to create beauty out of our imperfections and triumph out of our difficulties.

When we are bowed down with criticism and rejection, the God of hope can lift us. When we are imprisoned by failure or circumstances, the God of hope comes with reassurance that we can become what we should be, through His power.

Let us all be more like Joseph and let our hope in Him guide us.

PEACE: 3rd Advent Candle

"His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

I've been intrigued by the variety of names given to our Lord throughout the scriptures. In biblical tradition, names were very important. A person's character was described by the name he bore.

Just contemplating upon His names... Rock, King, Fortress, Shepherd, Savior, Door, Prince of Peace... should give us strength to cope when frustration and fatigue overtake us. When we encounter potential pitfalls and distractions from the path toward God, such as money problems, pressures, mountains of difficulties, bitterness of the heart, clouds of fear and doubt, we need to remember that rain falls into many lives. Where many are concerned with their problems of living, and where clouds prevent their viewing the sunshine of God's love, we need to remind them that God sent Christ into this world to re-

move these clouds so that all can see the sunshine of God's love.

The multitude of our difficulties is not what generally defeats us. Usually it is the attitude we assume which does us in. A Christ-focused outlook can make a difference. For many years I've heard that the best thing about trouble is its tendency to be temporary and brooding over troubles is a good way to make them hatch.

We need to remember that God chooses what we go through, but we choose how we go through.

Lindsay Gabriel wrote that, "Peace is one of the most precious benefits that comes with a higher vision."

GOD'S LOVE FOR US: 4th Advent Candle

God is with us and loves us. This is the real meaning of Christmas. Jesus came to us in human form, which we could understand. This is an incredible fact and central to our understanding of his relevance for our lives.

The prophet, Isaiah, said Christ would come seven hundred years before His birth.

Micah, a contemporary of Isaiah, had told Jesus would be born in Bethlehem.

Many years later, the star at last stopped. The Magi had made a long trip and were not disappointed. The star bids us to come also. That star led the way to the greatest miracle recorded in all four gospels.

During the Advent season, our hearts are filled with emotion as we celebrate the birth of our Savior and Lord.

Shut out the commercial aspects of the season. Remember the real reason for Christmas. It is love-God's love. We cannot duplicate it or even come close. We can give Him our thankfulness, service, and complete devotion.

The Christmas season is a time we are often moved by beauti-

ful music. Handel's Messiah is a good example. This musical work was completed in 1741, but Handel could find no one interested in producing it. Finally he accepted an invitation for a benefit for a charity at a special school in Dublin, Ireland. Several hundred people crowded into the hall to hear it. King George II was so moved by "Hallelujah

Chorus" that he stood during its entirety. This established a tradition that remains today of giving tribute by standing.

Carol Hayman explained this to her five-year-old grandson before they went to hear the Messiah. When the Hallelujah Chorus began, the grandson said, "Get up, Nana. It's time to say thank you to God."

Let's say, "Thank

You" to God for His great love for us!

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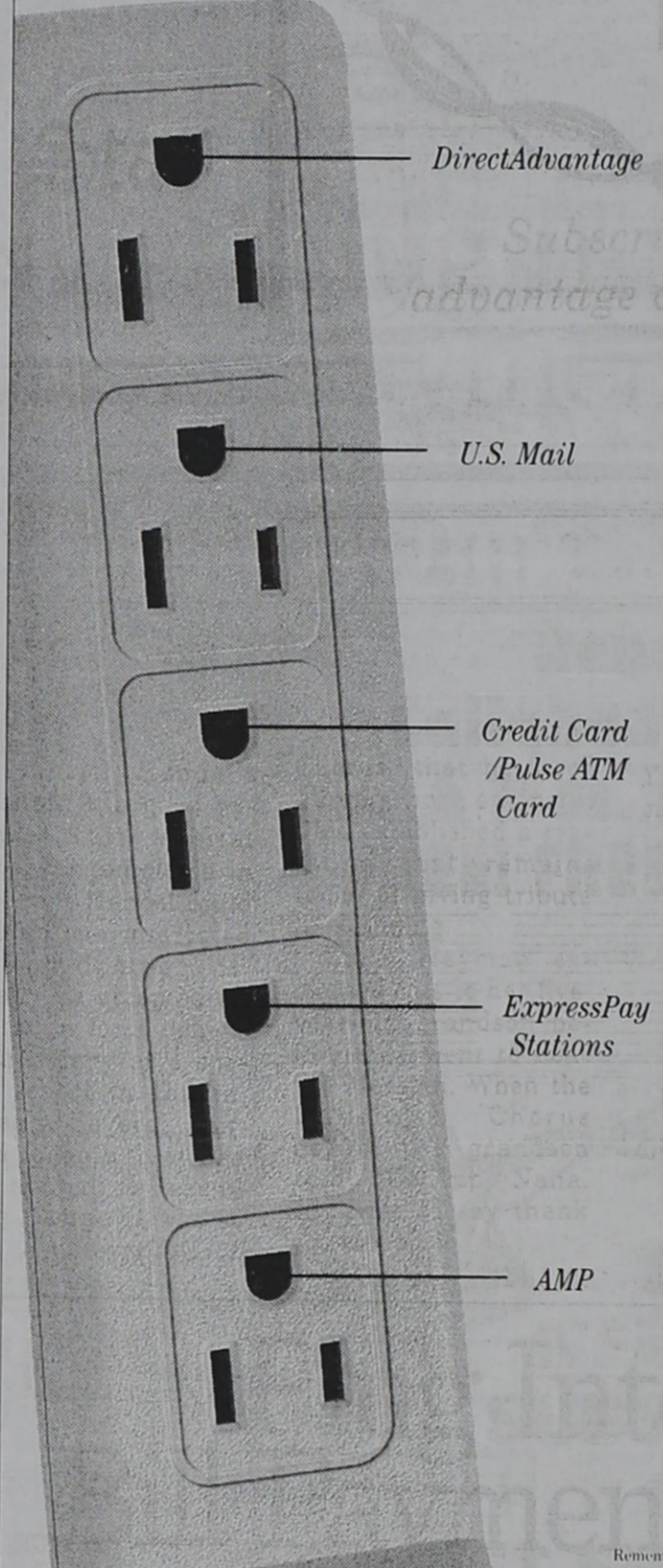


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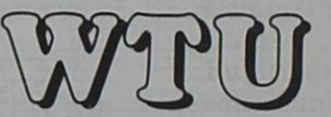
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Obituaries

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RUSSELL L. CHATHAM

Russell Lafayette Chatham, 77, passed away Saturday, December 12, 1998 at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene.

Services were held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, December 15, 1998 in the Parker Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Ricky Carstensen officiating.

Mr. Chatham was born February 23, 1921 in Baird, Texas. He graduated from Baird High School and Texas A&M University.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Ruth Chatham of Baird; one daughter, Kim Chatham of Beaumont, Texas; two stepsons, Tim Armstrong of Sulphur Springs, Texas and Rick Armstrong of Keller, Texas.

Memorials may be made to The First United Methodist Church Building Fund in Baird or the Baird Cemetery Association.

WEEK OF DECEMBER 21-22 BREAKFAST

- MONDAY Scrambled Eggs, Toast, Orange Juice, Milk, Spiced Apples, Muffins, Pears, Milk. TUESDAY Tuna Casserole, Green Beans, Citrus Fruit, Milk. WEDNESDAY Holiday, Thursday Holiday, Friday Holiday, AFTERNOON SNACK. MONDAY Fruit in Season, Milk. TUESDAY Holiday, Wednesday Holiday, Thursday Holiday, Friday Holiday.

Baird Cemetery News

The following have made donations or memorials to the Endowment Fund for November: A.N. & Charlotte Loper; M/M Gene Finley; M/M Felix Manion; Skip, Pat & Mike Parker; Estate of John & Katie Lou Turpin.

Poet's Corner by Susie Wylie

The stars were shining so bright To lead the way this special night There was one star that was so bright Never seen such a light The Sheppard's kept watch, hoping they could see the star that would lead you and me

BAIRD CHURCHES: FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CHURCH OF GOD, BAIRD CHURCH OF CHRIST, FIRST METHODIST CHURCH, CLYDE CHURCHES: FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH, FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH.

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