6 shopping days 'til Christmas

Colorado City Record

Have A Nice Week

8 PAGES - 1 SECTION | COLORADO CITY RECORD, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17,1972 | 10 CENTS (Plus Tax)

Award To Cowen's

Chamber of Commerce President Dick Wistrand, right, was present Saturday to present a plaque to Mr. and Mrs. Eli Rivera for redecorating their store along lines to fit the 1880's motif adopted by the Chamber's Community Development Committee. Shown looking on is A.C. Craig, a Cowen's employee.

'Cowen's 1880'

Store Given Plaque

Cowen's Shoe Store in Colorado City has been the first to receive the Chamber of Commerce Community Development Committee's award for redecorating the exterior of a building to recreate the atmosphere of the 1880's.

A hand carved wood plaque bearing the inscription "Cowen's, 1880," and with a carved black shoe was presented Saturday to Mr. and Mrs. Eli Rivera, owners of Cowen's.

Making the presentation were Mrs. Dennis Wright, chairman of the chamber committee, and Mrs. Tom Neff, chairman-to-be of the committee.

Also present for the ceremony was A.C. Craig, an employee of Cowen's who has furnished pairs of old fashioned shoes for a window display in the store, and Dick Wistrand, Chamber of Commerce president.

A letter from the chamber committee, signed by Mrs. Wright, was presented to the Riveras. It read:

"The Community Development Committee of the Colorado City Chamber of Commerce proudly presents Mr. and Mrs. Eli Rivera, owners of the Cowen Shoe Store, with this gift of appreciation.

"You have shown a very real interest in your community by decorating the exterior of your place of business in a charming and pleasing manner.

"As an individual merchant, you have pioneered our effort in recreating the atmosphere of the 1880's.

"Since Colorado City has an interesting and unique hismittee feels that the effort you have shown, deserves particular recognition.

"For Your Leadership in this program, we thank you."

"Cowen's" has been a familiar name in the mercantile business since the 1880's when Mrs. Rivera's great-grandfather arrived in Sweetwater and opened a mercantile store there.

The store later became a shoe store which is now operated by Mrs. Rivera's father, C.D. Boatright. In the 1960's the Sweetwater operation was expanded to Colorado City when Boatright purchased Kelley's Shoe Store here.

The Riveras purchased Cowen's Shoes in Coorado City in 1969.

The Chamber of Commerce Committee also has plans to present specially carved plaques to the Colorado City Historical Museum, the Opera House and the Police Department.

The plaques were carved by Manuel Garcia.

Final Drawing Saturday

Saturday at 4 p.m. on the City National Bank will be the time and place for the final drawing for "Santa Dollars" sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce Merchants Commitee.

All money that hasn't been given away thus far in the $875 giveaway will be given away at that time.

Winners in yesterday's (Sat-

See DRAWING Page 3

Tax Break For Over 65?

Exemption Being Studied Here

Property-owners over 65 with a homestead may soon get a tax break from at least one Mitchell County governmental agency.

The other agencies, the city of Colorado City and the Colorado Independent School District, have and will be giving the matter serious consideration.

Mitchell County commissioners discussed the measure at length during their regular December monthly meeting this past week and seemed ready to approve the measure when an unanswerable question popped up.

The tax break under consideration is the recently passed amendment to the constitution allowing local governments to allow persons 65 and older a $3,000 exemption on homesteads. This does not apply to business property.

The amendment was approved by voters in the Nov. 7 general election and Mitchell County voters gave their approval by the vote of 1,619 for and 650 against.

However, county commissioners could not determine by reading the law if the $3,000 exemption should be deducted from the actual value of the assessed value.

For example, should the $3,000 come off the $20,000 value of a home (none in the county are valued this high), or should it come off of $5,000, the assessed value of the $20,000 home under the 25% county assessment.

County officials contacted the attorney general's office in Austin and found out that many other countys and towns want to know the same thing.

The commissioners deferred action, awaiting the opinion from the attorney general.

However, even if the commissioners should act soon, this exemption could not be put into effect until next year as the tax rate and tax rolls for 1973 are already set. This is true for everyone else considering the exemption.

The question has come up of how many propertyowners were 65 with homesteads there are in the county.

There are 952 on county social security rolls but this includes couples, some between the ages of 62 and 65 and some who are not property owners and some whose property is not homesteaded.

City Manager J.A. Sadler Jr., said there are 2,000 water taps in Colorado City and of these, he guesses about 25% are for persons 65 and older.

See TAX Page 3

Schools Out Soon For Christmas

Mitchell County Schools will close for the Christmas holidays midway thru next week and classes will not be resumed until next year.

In Colorado City and Loraine, classes will be dismissed at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday and will be resumed Jan. 2. (Monday).

In Westbrook, classes will let out at 2 p.m. Thursday and teachers will return to work Jan. 2 and Westbrook students will resume classes Jan. 3.

Death Ruled Accidental

The death of an airman missing more than three weeks whose body was recovered last Monday from Lake Colorado City, has been ruled accidental by Peace Hustice Leonard Henderson.

The body of Charles Thomas Burt of Webb Air Force Base, in Big Spring, was recovered from water about 200 yards north of Cooper's Cove on Lake Colorado City.

Henderson said that an autopsy report showed there were no indications of foul play.

Funeral for Burt will be 2 p.m. Monday in his hometown, China Springs.

Team Leader

Melvin Jackson, shown taking a shot in a recent game will lead the Colorado City Wolves into district competition next Tuesday. He is the only returning letterman on the varsity cage team. Jackson was all-district last year.

School Study Underway

Report Due In Late April

Colorado City schools are being closely scrutinized by a team of experts from North Texas State University.

The scrutiny is being done at the request of the Colorado Independent School District board of trustees.

Its purpose is to determine the direction of the school system, its programs, staff facilities and finances.

A team consisting of Dr. Vaughn Huffstutler, Dr. Earl McCallum and Dr. M.B. Nelson is making the study. They are due to return a report to the school board by the end of April. The report is to be a comprehensive master plan for the schools.

The evaluators have already made two visits to Colorado City schools and have studied various reports on the school systems here.

They are to make concrete recommendations on what the school needs, especially in relation to facilities, and how these recommendations can be financed.

The evaluators have already made two visits to Colorado City schools and have studied various reports on the school system here.

After their visit here Friday, Dr. Huffstutler and Dr. McCallum told the Record in an interview that they have been very impressed with what they have found.

Particularly impressive was the maintenance, housekeeping and the fact that floors of the school are shining, a rare thing in schools, they said.

The two scholars also were

See STUDY Page 3

B&PW Club Top Window Decorators

The Business & Professional Women's Club decoration of a window in the Berman building has been judged the winner of the annual Chamber of Commerce Merchant's Committee window decoration contest.

Second place went to the window decorated by the hospital auxiliary and third place was won by the self culture club.

Prizes for the winners was $15 for first place, $10 for second and $5 for third.

Westbrook Cagers Win District Games

Westbrook boy's varsity cagers are undefeated thus far in district B competition.

Tuesday night, Westbrook defeated Hobbs 67-16 with Randy Anderson, Bruce Rich and Tim Oden each scoring 14 points.

Friday night, Westbrook Varsity downed Fluvanna 69-51 with Anderson scoring 31 and Oden, 18.

In junior varsity action Friday, Westbrook lost 20-41 with Billy Hogue scoring 20 points and Allen Johnson dropping in 15 points.

Carter, Ellis Top Players

The Colorado Junior High School 8th grade cagers won their last game of the year Thursday night as they defeated Ballinger in a game played here by the score of 42-36.

Craig Carter was the high point man with 16. Wayne McKee, Manuel Arellano, and Jackie Ellis each had 8 points.

Judged as the defensive standout was McKee with Jim Jordan turning in his usual good performance on defense, Coach Mike Hart said.

Hart also noted that the team had good help from the bench in the game.

The 8th graders won't play again until Jan. 5-6 when they are entered in the Ballinger tourney.

Two 7th grade teams are scheduled to play in a tourney set for Jan. 5-6 in Snyder.

Wolves Open District Play

The Colorado City Wolves will begin District 3-AAA competition Tuesday when the Lamesa Tornadoes whirl into Colorado City.

Game time is 7:30 p.m. preceded by a game between the junior varsities of both schools at 6:15 p.m.

The game against Lamesa will be the only district game played this year. Next Thursday, the Wolves will host the Coahoma Bulldogs and Dec. 28 and 29, Colorado City will play in the Lamesa tournament.

District competition will get into a full schedule when the

See WOLVES Page 7

Lions Want Stop Lights Changed

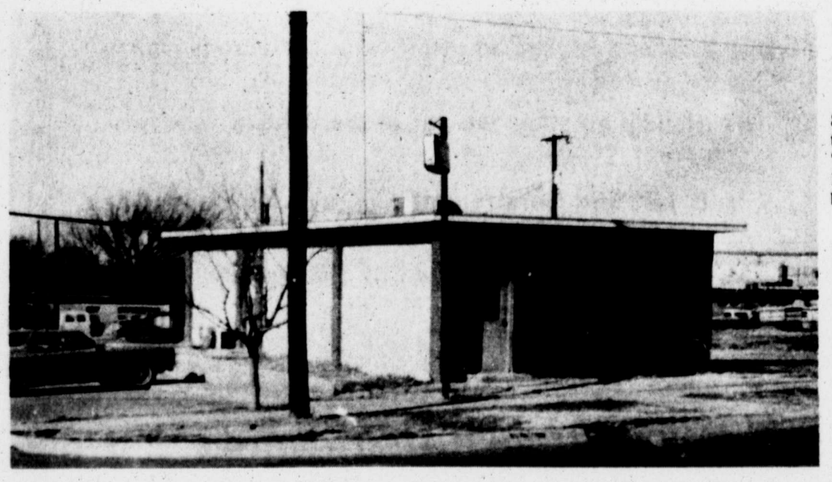
The Colorado City Noon Lions Club Friday announced Friday that the board of directors unanimously passed a resolution asking the city to make changes in the city's stop lights.

Lions President Billy Bruce Bridgford said the board believes that the lights, which change without warning, could possibly get someone killed and something needs to be done.

City Manager J.A. Sadler Jr., said that this city council has been wanting to unde take this project for several years but the cost has been prohibitive.

He noted that to change the lights on Second St. alone would cost some $6,000. He later told the Record that to change the entire system could cost as much as $30,000.

Sadler told the Lions Club that federall reulations effecting stop lights are being changed and when these changes are fully formulated, the city will attempt to do what is possible to change the lights.



New Office

Frontier Cable TV has moved its offices from the 200 block of Walnut to the building that once housed Roberts Butane in the 400 Block of Elm. The Colorado Independent School District Tax Office is scheduled in the near future to move into the former quarters of Frontier TV Cable in the 200 block of Walnut. The tax office is now next door to where Frontier TV Cable was located.

CROP Walk

Some 30 youngsters turned out Saturday morning for the CROP walk to raise funds for a self-help project in Greece. County residents were asked to support the walk by giving so much per mile walked by a particular person.

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1880 Days

Colorado Junior High had their own 1880's Days December 15. Winners in the 8th grade division were third place winners, Kethy Crockett and Ray Ritchey, first Dondi Merket and Jim Jordon, second Linda Taylor and Mickey Neff. 7th grade division, first Belinda Schauwecker and George Hardegree, second, Beverly Mayes and Mike Wilson, third Valerie Lane, Randy Anderson and Ricky Rivera.

TOPS TX751 Christmas Luncheon

The morning TOPS TX757 met Monday for their regular meeting in the Community Center with Mrs. Coy Wooddell crowned "queen for the week".

The meeting was opened with pledge to the U.S. flag and a song sang in unison.

A new weight losing contest was begun for the next six weeks and it was decided that the teams from the previous contest would remain during the upcoming contest.

Gifts were exchanged between members and lunch was served.

Attending the meeting were Mrs. G.R. Admire, Mrs. Clay Graham, Mrs. Bill Erwin, Mrs. Eddie Galvan, Mrs. Edgar Haltom, Mrs. Coy Wooddell, Mrs. James Wooddell.

Mrs. Junior Schafer, Donna Wooddell, Brenda Wooddell, Mrs. Floyd Rice, Mrs. Felix Martin and Mrs. Gene Liles.

Cowboys, Cowgirls Roam Junior High

Cowboys, cowgirls, bartenders, pioneer women, gamblers, undertakers.

They were all alive and active again at Colorado Junior High School Friday as the school relived the 1880's.

The 188o Days were held at the school in conjunction with the celebration held downtown Saturday.

The activities were under the sponsorship of the Colorado Junior High School Student Council led by Miss Dawn Etta Leonard.

Teachers and students dressed in a costume depicting the 1880's and students costumes were judged for prizes to be presented in a school assembly.

Of course, there was a penalty for those who didn't participate in the "dress up" activities. Penalities inflicted during the day consisted of dunce caps, wearing of signs and solo song performances.

The teachers weren't spared in the rulings, either.

Eighth grade winners were girls, Dondi Merket, 1st place; Linda Taylor, 2nd place; and Kathy Crocket,, 3rd place.

Boys winning in the eighth grade competition were Jim Jordan, 1st place; Mickey Neff, 2nd place; and Ray Ritchey, 3rd place.

Winning in the seventh grade girls competition were Belinda Schauwecker, 1st place; Beverly Wilson, 2nd place; Valarie Lane, 3rd place.

George Hardegree won 1st place in the seventh grade boys competition with Mike Wilson, 2nd place; and Randy Anderson and Ricky Rivera, tieing for 3rd place.

Prizes awarded the winning students were antique Mason jars which were used for canning back in the 1880 era.

Invitation To Buffet Luncheon

An invitation has been extended to the people of Colorado City by the Homaking Department of Colorado High School to attend a Food Fantasy buffet luncheon.

The luncheon will be held Tuesday at 12 noon in the school Homaking Department.

Students in the homemaking class, taught by Mrs. Marion Craddock, will prepare various foods and each food will be entered in competition within the classes.

Judges will be Mrs. Opal Kennon, Texas Electric Home Economist of Sweetwater, and Mac McKinnon. Judging for the event will begin at 9 a.m.

Cheers From the Highway Crasher

Here comes the happy Highway Crasher. He's much too polite to crash your New Year's Eve or bowl game parties. He'll just wait until later — when you're on the road — to start his real celebrating. He's had a couple of drinks to see out the old year and a couple more to see in the new. Now he's racing and weaving his way to a final, smashing whoopie. For him, Driving Friendly would have meant not driving at all.

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Tips From The
City Of Colorado City

The Fire Whistle Will Be Blown At Noon Instead Of 6 p.m. For 14 Days Beginning Dec. 24(Christmas Eve) And Ending Jan. 6. This Is Being Done In Cooperation With The Ministerial Alliance To Remind Everyone To Take A Moment For Prayer During The Christmas Season.

Mrs. Sidney Compton Named 'Outstanding Club Woman'

The Mitchell County Home Demonstration Council hosted a Christmas luncheon Thursday in the Civic House.

Invocation was given by Paul Hunter and Charles Smith sang "White Christmas" accompanied by Mrs. Myrtle Biggs.

Judge Bill Carter led those present in the singing of Christmas Carols. Members of Mrs. Williams Conaway's sixth grade class of Westbrook school enacted a play entitled "The Little Blind Shepherd".

Recognition of an outstanding club woman was extended by Judge Bill Carter. Mrs. Sidney Compton was recipient of the plaque presented.

During her twenty-nine years of work as a home demonstration club member, she has served in every official capacity of her club. She is noted for leadership in 4-H, Community Action Program work and church activities.

Mrs. Raymond Wheeler was honored with a plaque as outgoing Council chairman for the 1972-73 year.

The HD Council also presented Mrs. Janis Choate, Mitchell County Extension Agent, with a savings bond.

Guests registering for the event were Mrs. Henry McGuire, Mrs. Bennett Scott, Mrs. J.P. Nunn, Muriel Thurman, Charles Williams, Mrs. Charles Williams, Mrs. N. O. Brown, Mrs. Arthur Shepherd, Effie Watkins.

Mrs. A.J. Ellyson, Mrs. J.E. Price, Mr. and Mrs. George Admire.

Bertha Simpson, Mrs. Sidney Compton, G.L. Craghead, Mrs. John Palmer, Mrs. Ross Hargrove, Mrs. J.D. Gibson, Undine Bobo, Mrs. Bruce Byrne, Mrs. Mabel Givens, Wilma Womack, Mr. and Mrs. Don Blassingame.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Carter, Paul Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Smith.

Mrs. Myrtle Biggs, Bonnie Hunter, Lodena Blassingame, Bobby Lemons, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. R.E. McMillan and Mrs. Janis Choate.

Zeta Delta Has Party

The last two regular meetings for the Zeta Delta Study Club were held on Nov. 28 and last Tuesday.

On Nov. 28, the club had an "Antique Show and Tell".

Members brought antique items and told the stories about the items.

Hostess for the meeting held in the Texas Electric Reddy Room was Ernestine Harrell.

Members present were Janie Farda, Ernestine Harrell, Jennifer Hart, Marilyn Hicks, Ann Nobles, Tina Raschke, Brenda Tarter, Jennie Wright and Nancy Hamner.

Last Tuesday the group had a Christmas party in the home of Jennifer Hart.

Hand-made Christmas gifts were exchanged by club members.

Members present were Shana Bassinger, Janie Farda, Jennifer Hart, Marilyn Hicks, Ann Nobles, Tina Raschke, Brenda Tarter, Jennie Wright, Jean Robinson, Jolyn Mikow, Sharon Bautisto, Joyce Yoakum and Nancy Hamner.

One guest, Cheryl Kennedy, was present for the meeting.

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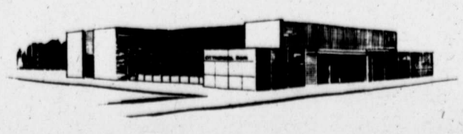

STUDY
From Page 1

impressed with the array of education equipment on hand in the schools but pointed to the fact that possibly the equipment can be shuffled around for better utilization.

One thing that immediately struck the two men is the fact that Colorado City has two many school buildings, a fact that has bothered local school officials and a fact that is costly in maintenance.

In the community setting, the men believed that all of the schools with the exception of Wallace Elementary are ideally located. In regards to Wallace, they pointed out that it is not feasible to have a school building with only 130 students in it.

In their report, the evaluators said they will try to utilize as many of the buildings as possible and said that while several of the buildings are outdated, although structually sound, they are still usuable and probably will be used.

Their recommendations will be geared to the capabilities of the school district and to what will be accepted by the public as reasonable.

The school board has discussed the matter of the school facilities and realize that a realignment of the school system is needed. Along with this realignment is the possible conconstruction of new facilities.

However, the evaluators said they have not yet reached the point where they can say if new construction will be necessary but it is already obvious that changes will have to be made in order to accomodate changes in the manner of teaching, including team teachings.

Also, they pointed out that none of the school buildings were designed to accomodate youngsters kindergarten age.

Before any consideration is given to new construction, the North Texas men will look at the cost of renovating buildings. The rule of thumb on renovating is that if it costs 50 to 60 per cent of the cost of a new building to renovate an old building, then it is time to consider new construction.

Particularly impressive to the evaluators was the positive and aggressive attitude of principals and teachers with whom they have talked. A self-study was conducted here in the past and the principals and teachers know what is needed and are on top of the situation, Dr. Huffstutler said.

The men have talked with the Chamber of Commerce and city officials in an effort to learn what the future holds for Colorado City so that they might be able to make their plans accordingly.

After they have concluded what is needed, the evaluation team is to come up with a plan to finance their recommendations.

TAX
From Page 1

That would be 500 and about 500 seems to be the estimate of several others including school tax assessor-collector J.S. Craddock believes the exemption would cost the schools between $22,000 and $40,000 a year.

McCreary & Huey, tax attorneys for the school district, outlined provisions of the amendment in a letter to the school board:

"This amendment goes into effect on Jan. 1, 1973, however, before your political subdivision is affected, one of two things must occur;

(1) A voluntary act by the board of trustees or city council adopting this provision. In the alternative--

(2) An Election must be held upon a petition signed by 20% of the voters who voted in the last previous election held by your political subdivision and an affirmative vote by the majority of the persons voting.

"The vice in this amendment is that only a relatively small percentage of persons over 65 are in a serious need of a tax exemption and, in fact, most of them are in better financial condition than young married couples.

"It will be extremely complicated to administer the last sentence of paragran (b) which requires the tax jurisdiction to levy and collect tax against the homestead at the same rate as the tax pledged, where there is a bonded indebtedness.

"A $3,000 exemption at $1.

DRAWING
From Page 1

urday's) drawing still have until 5 p.m. Wednesday to claim their prize money by presenting the winning tickets at the Chamber of Commerce.

Money not claimed plus $175 in $100, $50 and $25 drawings will be given away this coming Saturday, the eve of Christmas Eve.

To be eligible for the drawing it is necessary to get tickets at any one of the particpating merchants this week. No purchase is necessary.

SHOWER
From Page 6

cut work linen cloth and centered with a floral arrangement of purple and gold with purple tapers flanking either side.

Punch, cookies, mints and nuts were served by Miss Mary Glenda Ellington and Miss Betty Graham.

Mrs. Virgil Troutt presided at the registry table and gifts were registered by Miss Rita Sue Barron.

Miss Hughes and Butler will exchange wedding vows Dec. 23 at 3 p.m. in the Elmwood Baptist Church in Abilene.

50 per hundred is $45 in tax money. . .tax money which must be picked up by others who, though younger, may be in greater need."

The county does not presently owe money on bonds. But the school and city are in debt on bonds which complicates the administration of the exemption as noted in the letter.

Here is the paragraph of the amendment which sets out the exemptions on bonded indebtedness:

"Where any ad valorem tax has theretofore been pledged for the payment of any debt, the taxing officers of the political subdivision shall have authority to continue to levy and collect the tax against the homestead property at the same rate as the tax so pledged until the debt is discharged, if the cessation of the levy would impair the obligation of the contract by which the debt was created."

In regards to financial conditions, the county with the lion's share of money received here through revenue sharing seems to be the only political subdivision which could afford to give the exemption without a tax increase to make up for the loss of taxes.

While the school and county have talked formally about the exemption, the city council has not yet discussed the matter before the next city budget is drawn up and the tax rate set for 1974.

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Ronald Wayne Kimbrell & Alanes Miles
. . .to exchange January vows.

Miles, Kimbrell Engagement Told

Mr. and Mrs. Allan Miles of 835 Walnut announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Alanes Jo, to Ronald Wayne Kimbrell.

Kimbrell is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Houston Kimbrell of Lake Colorado City.

The couple will exchange wedding vows Jan. 7 in a 7:30 p.m. ceremony in the First Baptist Church.

The bride-elect and prospective groom are both 1972 graduates of Colorado High School and are currently attending Angelo State University.

After their wedding, the couple will reside in San Angelo where they will continue their education.

In Cotton Home

Recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. Pete White were Mr. and Mrs. Rayburn White of Abilene and Mr. and Mrs. Arlie Taylor of Dunn.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Whit Farmer of Ira were recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. T.J. Webb.

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In Cotton Home

Mr. and Mrs. Pat Fuller and family of Colorado City recently visited in the home of Mrs. Arlis Cotton and son Tommy Lee.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Rockey Allen and family of Big Spring recently visited Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Allen.

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Mrs.H. Jene Steakley Is Garden Club Program Leader

The Colorado City Garden Club met Wednesday in the home of Mrs. George Lay Powell with Mrs. Don Stewart, Mrs. Ben Elliott and Mrs. Roy Davis Coles as hostesses.

Mrs. H. Jene Steakley was program leader for the meeting in which she told a Christmas story entitled "The Year There Was No Christmas", by Samuel Grafton.

Mrs. John Mikow sang two Christmas songs accompaning herself on the guitar and then accompanied the group in the singing of Christmas carols.

The home was decorated in the Christmas theme. It was lighted with Christmas candles and a large flocked Christmas tree stood in the living room.

The hostesses served hot apple cider and coffee with various small sandwiches and cookies.

Mrs. Steakley began her program by saying "A good friend said 'I wish we wouldn't celebrate Christmas this year- I hate it'. "

"I got a little sick and very sad and I remembered a story I had read about Christmas in the future," Mrs. Steakley said.

THE YEAR THERE WAS NO CHRISTMAS

By Samuel Grafton

There had been signs for a long time that it was coming, but 1984 was actually the year in which the whole country almost forgot to celebrate Christmas altogether.

As I look back, I can see that it happened rather naturally and nobody was really to blame.

After all, we'd become kind of used to having the government do everything, and Christmas is--well, it's sort of a private enterprise. Bit by bit, in those middle years of the century, Christmas began to slip out of our minds. You remember that time, or at least you've read about it: everything upset, the world in turmoil. It was very hard to buy anything with which to make a Christmas and certainly as far as remembering it as the birthday of Christ had gone by as most of the religious holidays had gone. . .We were building up our defenses then, making more planetory exploration and you need about the same materials to celebrate Christmas you need for national security and the conquest of space. For instance, A Christmas Tree uses a lot of electrical equipment when you get down to it, plus the fact that after the middle of the century most of them were made of artificial materials which was probably a good thing since the natural supply had depleted itself by about that time anyway. . . Toys had become more and more electric and every nursery in the country was competing with the Armed Forces and it had become a bit rugged. . .

That was when the government set up the Bureau of Christmas Economics. The government had discovered that Christmas was becoming awfully important. About a quarter of the year's department-store sales were keyed to Christmas, in one way of another, and government statisticians found that Christmas ranked right up there with the meat industry in our economy. It clearly needed the attention of a new bureau.

The B.C.E. as the new bureau was known, didn't set out deliberately to extinguish Christmas, but tried to steer the holiday celebration into paths that wouldn't bother the defense effort. We were urged to give presents made only of plastics or paper. But then in '77 the plastics shortage hit, and the next few years were paper Christmases.

It became rather foolish to keep harping on only so many shopping days left to Christmas when all you could give anybody was a memo book or a book of mathes, and the usual warning notices began to drop out of the newspapers. TV and radio announcers stopped mentioning Christmas too, because they found it made people sad to be reminded of the good times they had had. It became actually polite not to talk about Christmas.

All these trends apparently came to a head in 1984. The microfiles of the newpapers of the period show that there was no editorial mention of Christmas that year at all. The world was in so much trouble that even to talk about gay, good holidays carried a kind of unpatriotic implication.

And so December 20 came around, and then the 21st, and the 22nd and nobody had mentioned Christmas and there was no decoration in any window. It was truly a terrible year.

People would look at the calendar, Dec. 23rd, and they'd walk by store windows that were showing nothing except utility suits for men (all paper except for the seats and knees) and seam pencils, with which women drew lines on the back of their legs to make it look as if they were wearing nylons.

Somewhere inside of everybody, of course, the pressure must have been building up. The historians have written many accounts of the event that finally took place on the night of Dec. 24th. . .Since I was an eyewitness, and since my family was involved, I feel I ought to add my own version.

You see, the hero was my father. I don't mind writing about it now. I guess I was pretty ashamed of him for a long time though. He had spent six or seven years in the Federal Attitudes Hospital and we used to go visit him every week. There was nothing really wrong with him except that, well, he became pretty excited sometimes.

Around the end of October he would begin to talk about bobbing for apples in a washtub. Nobody had done that for years, not with apples being used as a prime raw material for the mastics that were substituted everywhere for plastics. And on the night of the last day of the year, he would jump onto a chair and wave a glass of water and holler "Whoopee!" until they got him down and gave him a sedative.

He had lost contact with reality they said. It was a commonenought type of psychological disorder: He was living in the past. They would try gently to bring him up to the present by talking to him about current events and taking him on tours around town. But about five o' clock he would start talking about going into a church and say a few prayers and everyone knew the churches had been closed for decades since no-one attended them anyway and their so - called programs had become so useless. . .It wouldn't have made any difference if he had wanted to go to a bar. . . they also had been closed since the government didn't want anyone drinking up the aviation fuel. . .The government hadn't quite come out and said for the churches to close. . .they had sort of let the people do that on their own. . .but I have heard they were sorta glad since it wouldn't really look good for the people to be depending on their people to be depending on some other source of power or comfort rather than on they, the government. . .However, they had just outright closed the bars. . . Sort of funny . . . both sides of a persons' comfort had been taken away. . . but for awhile they hadn't seemed to mind. . .

Now my father was sweet and gentle most of the time. I saw him badly upset only once. . . We'd gone to visit him, early in July, and we found him bursting paper bags to make a popping noise and crying. He was always bad, they told us near the beginning of July. September was troublesome too. He always wanted to take a long automobile drive, he would go to his bed and lie in it all day.

How he escaped on Decmeber 24th, 1984, isn't clear. He had begun to talk rationally a few days before. One morning he mentioned to his doctor that he was glad people didn't celebrate Christmas any more, because it was a waste of material and energy. They thought he was improving wonderfully, and they gave him the fun of the hospital. I suppose he just walked out the front door Dec. 24th and came home.

He was carrying a lot of cardboard boxes. We saw him coming across the front lawn and were scared, but Mother told us not to say anything to upset him. He came in the door with the biggest smile you ever saw, and he gave each of us one of the boxes.

There was a seam pencil in the one he gave to Mother, and a kind of white leather ball with red stitching on it in the one he gave me. It looked pretty old and it had the name "Babe Ruth" written on it in ink. Sis's box had some ribbons in it, made of real paper.

Mother looked worried, but we children thought it was an interesting game, being given boxes with different things in them. We got down on the floor to play with our things, and I remember Father saying to Mother, "They're looking for the tree," which seemed an odd thing to say. How could there be a tree inside the house?

He went upstairs to the attic and Mother shushed us and phoned the hospital.

When he came down, he looked and acted weird. . .First in his hands, he held a sort of open barn little thing and some tiny figures of a baby and a man and a woman and some tiny animals also. . . He arranged these on one of the tables downstairs and he had to have them all placed just so and then he put on a red coat with white trimming on it, put some more cotton on his chin and a pointed red hat on his head and walked around the room laughing. . .

We were scared, I can tell you, watching him do all these things. . .Then all of a sudden he waved to us and walked out the front door, and Mother became real panicky.

"Go after him," she told me.

He walking slow, smiling at everybody and waving. I didn't want anybody to know he was my father, so I hung back a good deal just keeping him in sight. People began to follow him, as I guess they would in that get-up and they were laughing too.

A man would glance out of a window and see him, look kind of scared, and then break into a big grin and come out on the street laughing. Pretty soon I guess there were a hundred people following Father.

Somewhere he'd got a bell, and he was ringing it as he walked along. Everytime he'd ring it the people behing him would laugh, and more people would come and they were all laughing and clapping each other on the back and smiling and talking. . .

They arrested him, or course, when he got to the Avenue. One policeman held his arm while another one phoned for the wagon with his walkie-lookie, and when the wagon came, they pushed him inside and took him away, leaving all those people on the sidewalk.

They weren't laughing any mor. They looked kind of strange; they had expressions like they were angry. Scared too, but more angry than scared.

I knew the police would take him to the city home for the maladjusted, Stay- a- While House, where people who couldn't get along with society were kept, so I walked across town to it.

It was getting dark, and what struck me funny was that a lot of other people were walking toward the same place. Some of them would stop in at almost every building we passed and pretty soon they'd come out with more people and before you knew it all the streets leading to the place were crowded.

It was nighttime when I got to the building. There was no moon; it was real dark. But stars were out and shining, particularly one very bright large star in the East, and although you could see your breath cloud into fog in front of you, it wasn't too cold. And there were so many people around me on all sides, crowding into the square, that it felt kind of warm.

They looked up at the building with the bars on the windows, and I heard the people wondering out loud which room Rather was in, and then suddenly they started to sing.

You could hear the song start up at the corner of the square and kind of more across, getting picked up and becoming louder and louder. People sang loud, but there was a kind of something about the song that wasn't loud. It was like each man and woman in the crowd was singing to himself. "Silent Night," they sang, "Holy Night" and you could hear it roll across the square.

When they finished that one, they started on another. . . "Good King Senceslas". . .I now know it was.

Some men came out in front of the building; they set up a public address system, and a man made a speech. He told everybody to go home, that my father would be given the best of care and the most expert medical attention, and that there was no need for concern.

Nobody went home, so far as I could see. The crowd just went on singing.

Along about eleven o'clock at night the newsreel trucks came and floodlighted the square for pictures; then the mobile television cameras moved in, inching their way through the crowd. I guess that was the biggest mistake the police made, letting the television cameras pick up that singing crowd.

I had thought practically all the people in town were there already, but now they really began to come in. Every street leading into the square was packed and these new people were all carrying lighted candles.

They passed candles down into the crowd that was in the square already, and everybody on all sides of me started lighting them and holding them up high, and it was like a wonderful floating fire of pin-point lights, and over it all you could hear that song they seemed to like the best folling up against the building: "Silent Night, Holy Night". . .

The clock in the tower tolled twelve for midnight as they let my father out. He stood on the front steps of the building, still in his red and white suit and his cotton beard; and now the song felt like it was going to lift us clear off the pavement.

I worked my way in between people's legs to the front steps. My father saw me, and big as I was for my age, he picked me up and put me on his shoulder. . . The crowd yelled once, without losing the song and began following my father as he led the way to a building down a small far street that had a high steeple and really looked a little the worse for wear but which seemed to draw the people as though it had been magnetized. . .

I'll never forget it. I've read lots of things people have written about it, college professors and wise men and all and they call it the incident that marked the end of a bad era and tell who everything got better for everybody afterward, when the people on the other side of the world finally realized that we meant to be what we are and wouldn't ever change, not for anybody. . .

But for me it's always that same picture, me sitting on top of my father's shoulder and looking at all the people standing there in the black night, each one holding a candle and singing, making it sound as if the stones of the city itself were singing that song. . .The night America turned backwards, picked up their Christian beliefs and faith and made a giant step forward for humanity. . ."

Guests present at the meeting were Mrs. Charles Thompson, Mrs. Jas O. Jarmon, Mrs. Jene Steakley, Mrs. W.R. Motley, Mrs. Dennis Wright, Mrs. J.D. Williams, Mrs. Ken Sanderson, Mrs. John Mikow, Mrs. W.R. Powell, Mrs. Tom Yoakum and Mrs. Vila Erwin.

Members attending the meeting were Mrs. Ben Elliot, Mrs. C.S. Martin, Mrs. J.W. Watson, Mrs. R.D. Bridgford, Mrs. B.B Mrs. R.D. Bridgford, Mrs. B.B. Bridgford, Mrs. Don Stewart, Mrs. E. M. Owen, Mrs. A. H. Jackson, Mrs. John Bell.

Mrs. Roy Davis Coles, Mrs. Fielding Lee, Mrs. Bruce Johnson, Mrs. S.A. Palmer, Mrs. W.S. Edge and Mrs. L. J. Taylor.

CIA Meeting Announced For Monday

BY MRS. W. A. BELL
RECORD Correspondent
Record Correspondent

WESTBROOK – Sam Oden, president of Community Improvement Association, announced that there will be a meeting Monday night at 7 p.m. in the Westbrook School cafeteria.

Kindergarten through the sixth grade students will present a program of Christmas music and the sixth grade students will present a short Christmas play.

Everyone is urged to attend, according to Oden.

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May the peace and serenity of Christmas fill your heart, your home and your life throughout this blessed season and in the year to come. We take this opportunity to thank you for your continued patronage.

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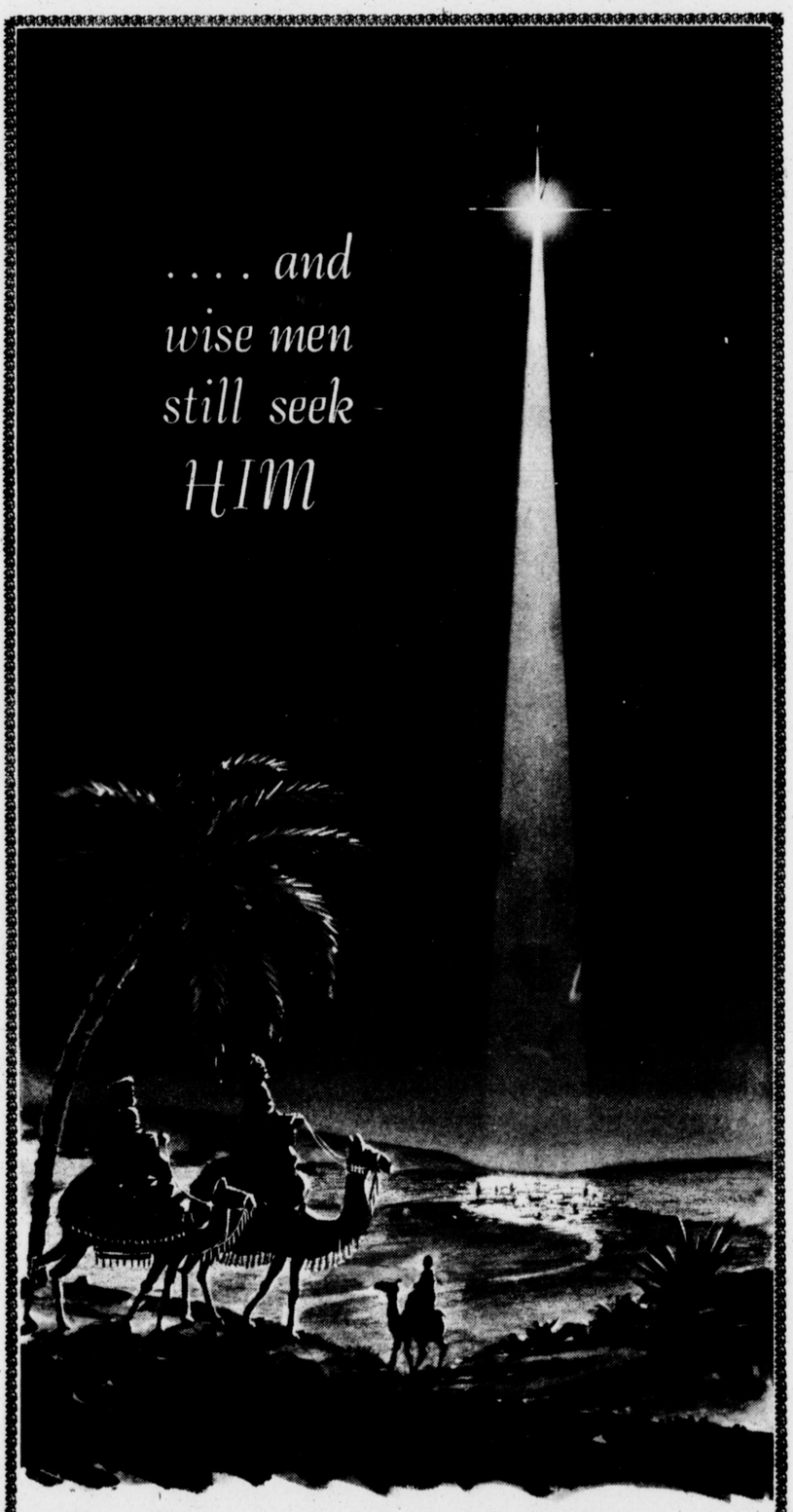
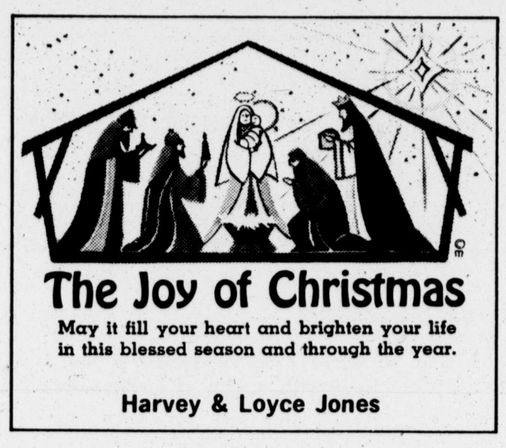


LONE WOLF ELECTRIC CO-OP
Lone Wolf
Electric Co-op
Robert Lee Hwy. 728-5232

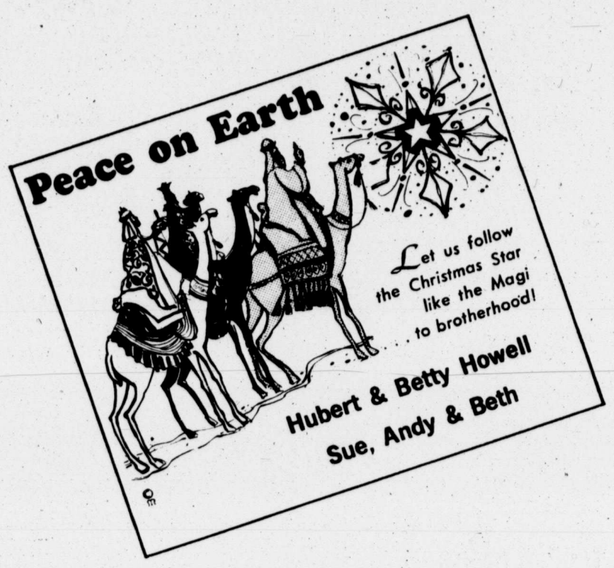
A very Merry Christmas



The Joy of Christmas

May it fill your heart and brighten your life in this blessed season and through the year.

Harvey & Loyce Jones



Hubert & Betty Howell
Sue, Andy & Beth

Best wishes for health and happiness, peace and good will, to all.

John & Donna Hill

Warm Christmas Wishes

May the happiness of friendships be re-kindled this Christmas.

Lloyd, Joan & Wayne McKee

Christmas Wishes

Our holiday mail call — joy to our friends.

The Guelkers
Jay, Esther, Carl, Terry & Genia

Old-Fashioned Christmas Wishes

Share in this holiday's joys with the folks you love best.

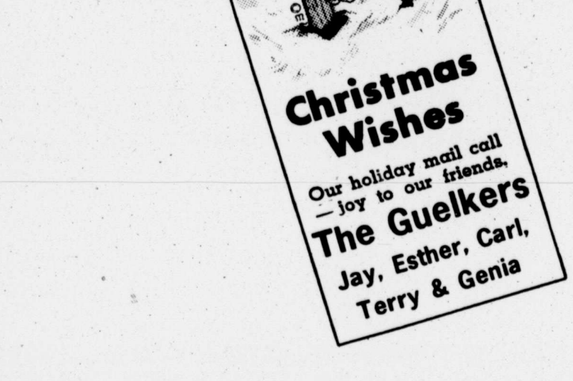
Sandy, Jeanette & Mindy Chamness

Merry Christmas

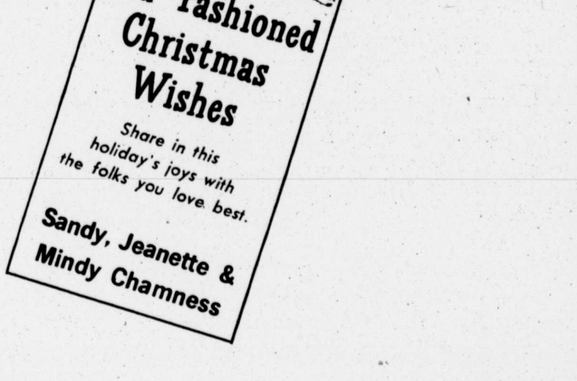
Happy New Year

from our family to your family

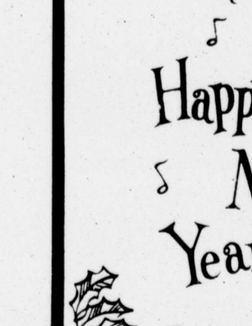
Mac, Donna & Kim McKinnon



Gus & Frances Chesney
Blake & Linda Bennett



To The Employees Of
Colorado City Manufacturing Co.
From Jo Denson



Christmas

May the joy of His birth be with you always.

Jessica Helm

Visits From England

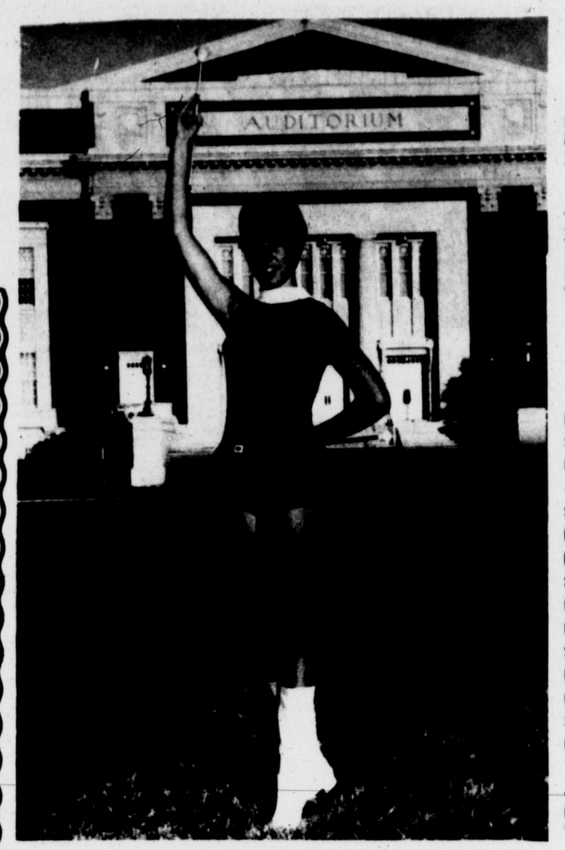
CHINA GROVE - T.E. Grimes of London, England recently visited Mr. and Mrs. Martin Murphy.

* * *

Recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. N.F. Hall were Mrs. J.P. Billingsley and Frances of Snyder, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Rainey of Coahoma, Mr. and Mrs. Arlie Taylor of Dunn and Mrs. T.J. Webb.

* * *

Mrs. Bill Allen of Snyder recently visited Mr. and Mrs. Floyd W. Merket.



Cheryl Hines

Student Profile

By Margo Tomb

Talent and imagination are just two things that Cheryl Hines stand for.

When Cheryl was three, she began dancing lessons under the direction of Elaine Lambert.

Later she studied under the tutelage of Dorothy Brandt.

This tall, dark senior is also an excellant twirler. She has been twirling for ten years. Since her freshman year in Colorado High, Cheryl has been head majorette.

Twirling routines come easy for Cheryl. She is the mastermind behind those routines seen at pep rallies, football games, half-time shows and parades.

There's more to come. . .Cheryl plays the piano. She took lessons under the direction of Mrs. L.J. Latham.

With all of her other activities one wouldn't think Cheryl has time for anything else. But she does.

Cheryl rides horses, holds the position of senior class treasurer and is entered in UIL Prose Reading Contest.

Cheryl is one person you really have to look up to for two reasons, the endeavors she takes on and her height.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bass Hines.

School Menus

COLORADO CITY

MONDAY - Hot dogs, pinto beans, pickles, onion, peaches, cinnamon crispies and milk.

TUESDAY - Turkey with dressing, giblet gravy, congealed fruit salad, green beans, sliced bread, pumpkin pie and milk.

WEDNESDAY - Sandwiches, potato chips, lettuce-tomato salad, carrot sticks, fruit cup, cookies and milk.

THURSDAY - School dismissed for Christmas holidays.

WESTBROOK

MONDAY - Minute steak and gravy, creamed potatoes, blackeye peas, biscuits, butter, cake with orange icing and milk.

TUESDAY - Stuffed weiners, macaroni and cheese, spinach, pickled beets, batter bread, pears and milk.

WEDNESDAY - Pizza, buttered corn, lettuce and tomato salad, sliced bread, coconut cookies and milk.

THURSDAY - Turkey and dressing, giblet gravy, cranberry sauce, green beans and new potatoes, sliced bread, fruit jello and milk.

FRIDAY - School dismissed for Christmas holidays.

LORAINE

MONDAY - Vegetable Pie with crispy topping, green beans, cabbage, raisin salad, bread, butter, milk, and frui jello.

TUESDAY - Turkey, dressing adn gravy, waldorf salad, cranberry sauce, stuffed celery, bread, butter, milk, fruit salad with miniature marshmallows.

WEDNESDAY - Chicken and Ham sandwiches, buttered corn, tossed salad, potato chips, milk, moch mince pie.

Hughes, Butler Bridal Shower

Miss Pam Hughes was honored with a bridal shower last Saturday in the home of Mrs. Ed Small of Loraine.

Hostesses for the occasion were Mrs. E.J. Schroeder, Mrs. Price Hall, Mrs. Herbert Mearse, Mrs. Loyd Brame, Mrs. Tony Snyder, Mrs. Howard Tartt, Mrs. Raymond Wheeler.

Mrs. Royce Mahona, Mrs. Earl Phillips, Mrs. A.R. Miles.

Mrs. Loyd Wiggins, Mrs. Gene Britton, Mrs. Authur Lee Pieper, Mrs. Charles Finley, Mrs. Elton Young, Mrs. A.K. Sheffield, Mrs. Jack Richey, Mrs. Pierce Givens, Mrs. Ida Baird, Mrs. W.D. Cain, Mrs. Roy Richards.

Mrs. Lawrence Graham, Mrs. Woodrow Pratt, Mrs. Joe Terry.

Mrs. Jack Brewer, Mrs. Ted Lefevre, Mrs. Clavin Forbus, Mrs. Roy Little, Mrs. George Lee, Mrs. Billie Ruth Tartt, Mrs. K. L. Taylor and Mrs. Stella Ellington.

Guests were greeted by Mrs. Small, the honoree, and Mrs. Kenneth Butler, prospective bridegroom's mother.

For the occasion, Miss Hughes wore a light turquoise long sleeve dress featuring an empire waistline. The dress was accented with buttons and pockets.

Miss Hughes, Mrs. Butler and Mrs. Clara Butler, prospective bride-groom's grandmother, wore corsages, presented by the hostesses.

Serving table was laid with a

See SHOWER Page 3

A Christmas tree can be the glittering symbol of the holiday spirit or a fiery torch which can destroy your home. Don't rish disaster! Double check the wiring on your Christmas lights before you string them on the tree, and make sure electrical plugs and sockets are in good repair.

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Box Office Opens 6:45 p.m.
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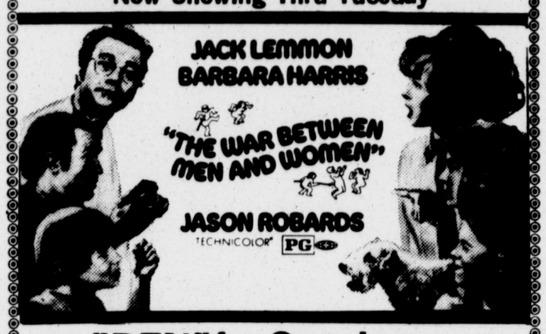

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Elliott-Godwin Insurance
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Two Bedroom House for Sale by owner. Located at 1220 Elm. Phone 728-5188.

Jobs Men & Women

Need CHRISTMAS MONEY? Tupperware has openings full or part time. No investment. Call 728-3005--Bonnie.

Applications for waitress now being taken at Hale's Westbrook Truck Stop in Westbrook. Apply in person.

Licensed Vocational Nurses are needed for Claxton Lodge. Contact Mrs. Geneva Stone at 1941 Chestnut or phone 728-5247.

Experienced service station attendant at Hale's Westbrook Truck Stop in Westbrook. Call 728-2911 for appointment.

WAITRESS WANTED. Good working conditions and paid vacation. Apply in person at Jim's Trucktown.

HELP WANTED: Relief maid. Esperience desired but not necessary. Villa Inn Motel. No phone calls, please.

HELP WANTED: 3 positions now open at the Community Action Program Office; 2 part - time, 20 Hours per week and 1 full - time. Apply at CAP Office at East 10th or phone 728-5060.

HELP WANTED: Lady wanted full-time for snack bar at Bernard's Tourist Town. Hours-10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 4 days a week.

Miscellaneous

REPOSSESSED SINGER
1972 Zig-zag, buttonholes, fancy stitches, $38.75 or $12.00 a month, guaranteed. Phone 728-5554.

FOR SALE: Young green-fed Spanish Goats - Price 10.00 to 12.50 per head. John Latimer, 728-3732.

All New Merchandise:
Singer, 1972 Models that zigzag $34.95; Interspring Mattress or Box Spring, $19.95. King Size Quilted Matress and two Box Springs, complete with stands $99.95. Bunk Bed, sets complete, $79.95. Spanish Sofa Sleepers and Chair, $79.95; Spanish 3-piece bedroom Suites $79.95, Stereos, AM-FM, Cabinet Models, $89.95. Recliners, $49.95, traditional sofa sleepers and chairs, $79.95.

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Across From Thunderbird Lodge

FOR SALE: 1967 Dodge Coronet, 2-door hardtop, 383, 4-barrel. Clean, runs good. Phone 728-5713.

FOR SALE: 320 A @ $157.50 per acre. 13 Mi. NW of Colorado City. 200 A Cultivation, water well, tractor shed and good house. R.B. Baker.

Miscellaneous

FOR SALE - Two steel belted radial tires to fit Volkswagen, with tubes, one slightly used, $40. One wheel, $5. Tom Goss, 933 East Sixth Street.

FOR SALE: 1964 Honda 250 CC Scrambler. Excellent Condition. Phone 728-3394.

FOR SALE: 1972 350 Honda. See at 944 Locust or call 728-5018.

Mobile Homes

FOR SALE: The best made Boise Cascade Mobile Home, 52 x 12, 2 bedroom, 1 bath with high grade furniture & appliances. Home ready to be moved into with all utilities already attached on lot that we will rent or sale. W.H. Cox Agency, 728-3141.

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we offer new 1973 Mobile Homes for sale at Dealers Cost.
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Big Spring, Texas
SEE-Larry - Bobby
Mike - Denton

Public Notices

If anyone knows the whereabouts of the cross-bred Brahma calves involved in the truck wreck, please contact the Sheriff's Department.

Real Estate

FOR SALE: Farms, ranches, houses and residental lots. Also handle rentals. Dulin Real Estate. Phone 728-3387.

FOR SALE: 160 A @ $237. per acre, all in cultivation. Water well, no house. 1 1/2 Mi. N of Bernard's Filling Station on Interstate 20. R.B. Baker.

Houses For Sale

FOR SALE: Clean large 2 bedroom house located at 1041 Cedar. Carpet, Ceremic tile bath, attached garage, utility room, storage room, lots of closets, corner lot, pecen and other shade trees. Maberry Willbanks, 263-3236, Big Spring.

Too Late To Classify

WANTED: Woman wants job to live with and take care of elderly woman. Contact Loyce Lee. Phone 728-2075.

Classified Ads Work!

Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous

FOR SALE

1968 Chrevrolet Trailer-Truck		$2500
1968 GMC Truck	Twin 725 Tanks	$2500
1968 Chevrolet	Bel Air Full Power & Air	$1150
3 4800 Dearborn Air Conditioners		$100 Each

ALL SALES FINAL - CASH ONLY PLUS TAX
PHONE 728-3711

WOLVES
From Page 1

Wolves travel to Lubbock to take on Dunbar Jan. 2.

Tuesday the Wolves will face the team that most people believe will repeat as district champion in District 3-AAA.

The Tornadoes have a well-coached team and have a number of returning lettermen to add experience to their team. Plus, the team has height.

Height is what Colorado City is severely short of.

The tallest man on the Colorado High varsity is 6'2", compared to the 6'4" and 6'5" height they will be facing in most of the teams in this district which includes Dunbar, Estacado, Lamesa, Lake View, Sweetwater and Brownfield.

And in experience, the Wolves are also woefully short, although most of those on the varsity gained valuable experience last year on the junior varsity.

Melvin Jackson, who was all-district cager last year and second leading scorer in the district, is the only returning letterman from last year's team.

Much of the responsibility of guiding the team, making the points and grabbing the rebounds will fall on his shoulders.

Coach Dean Ingram has been impressed with the performances this year of several of his other players, including Tim Stansel, Danny Jackson and Calvin Belvin.

Stansel, Danny Jackson and Belvin are the tallest members of the team and it is up to them to try to control the boards, to get the rebounds and make the plays on offense and defense.

Fans have been impressed thus far in the season with the play of the Wolves, who despite height and experience, have taken on some of the best teams in this area and have given a good account of themselves.

Lamesa has rolled up an impressive record thus far this year as they have won six games and lost only one up until the time they entered the Ft. Stockton tourney this last weekend.

Their victims included powerfull AAAA teams.

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12 FT. X 18 IN. ROLL 39¢
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PAPER PLATES
80 COUNT PKG. 49¢

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BREAD
1 1/2 LB. LOAF 29¢

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DEL MONTE
SWEET PICKLES
12 OZ. JAR 49¢

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HOLSUM THROWN
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5 OZ. JAR NO. 4429 49¢

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DROMEDARY
PITTED DATES
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WRIGHT'S DRY CURED
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TASTE WRIGHT PURE PORK
SAUSAGE 2 LB. SACK 99¢

SHURFRESH
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CHICKEN HENS LB. 59¢

FOOD KING
BISCUITS 10 COUNT CAN 8¢

PHILADELPHIA
CREAM CHEESE 8 OZ. PKG. 39¢

SHURFRESH
SOFT OLEO 1 LB TUB ASSORTED COLORS 35¢

BORDEN'S
EGG NOG MIX QUART CAN 69¢

DEL MONTE
TOMATO JUICE
46 OZ. CAN 39¢
3 CANS $1

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BAKER'S ANGEL FLAKE
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S&H Green Stamps Double On Wednesday With $2.50 Purchase

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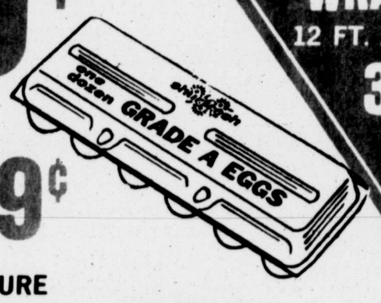

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