

Locals review McMurtry's saga of the West

LONESOME DOVE

Hansford County head librarian Rita Curtis reports much recent interest in novelist Larry McMurtry's books. McMurtry, a native of Archer City, Texas, is the author of *Lonesome Dove*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning saga of the Old American West.

"*Lonesome Dove* is what has made McMurtry suddenly so popular here," Curtis said. "We noticed a lot of interest in all his books when it was first announced that *Lonesome Dove* was being made into a miniseries, and people have been on our hold list for the book ever since the television program was on."

Curtis commented that *Lonesome Dove* has rarely been "on the shelf" since the television adaptation aired. She herself read the book soon after its publication and its appeal, she believes, lies in its juxtaposition of humor with the harsh reality of life in the Old West. She particularly enjoyed the character Gus.

The feedback she is getting from those who check the book out is that "people either love or hate *Lonesome Dove*." She thinks many of those who do not like the novel quit reading it before they get past the first 150 pages, which they perceive as boring. "The first night of the miniseries had the same effect on some people," she noted. Despite its slow start, Curtis promises that the book is hard to put down once a reader gets into it.

Incidentally, libraries all over the country were flooded with phone calls from people wanting to know what the Latin words featured on Gus's sign meant. (this sign was an important symbol in the book and miniseries.) Curtis has a translation of this Latin phrase, which she got from a Dallas Latin professor, available to local people who are curious about it.

For those who haven't yet become caught up in the *Lonesome Dove* maelstrom, the book is about two aging Texas rangers' final adventure--an arduous cattle drive from the Texas-Mexico border to Montana, where they hope to realize their dream of starting a ranch. Along the way, they encounter everything from Indians and murdering outlaws to duststorms. (A review of both the novel and the miniseries appears on page 3 of this issue of the *Hansford Plainsman*.)

The book's author, whose own father and grandfather were cattlemen in Texas, portrays the Old West as lonely, ignorant and violent, but these negative factors combine to bring out heroic qual-

ities in his very human main characters. Originally, McMurtry used the *Lonesome Dove* theme in a screenplay he wrote for Warner Brothers in 1972. This script was called "Streets of Laredo" and was also set at the end of the Wild West era with three old Texas Rangers as its characters. Although the script never resulted in a film, it did form the basic idea for McMurtry's novel *Lonesome Dove*, which was published in 1985. This information was found in Lera Patrick Tyler Lich's *Larry McMurtry's Texas*, a book available at the Hansford County Library.

According to McMurtry's editor of 20 years, as reported in Lich's book, *Lonesome Dove* is "the book Larry was born to write." Many literary critics believe his epic fills a void in the existing literature about the Old West. *Accent West*, Amarillo's newsmagazine, says McMurtry is reputed to be "the finest novelist Texas has ever produced." (*Accent West*, Feb. 1989 issue) The *Accent West* article also reports that McMurtry currently lives in several cities in other states, but that he comes regularly to Texas. Among other interests, the author has rare bookstores in Washington D.C., Dallas and Houston.

Several Spearman residents were glad to share their views on *Lonesome Dove*, both as a novel and as a televised miniseries. "The thing I liked best about the book

was learning more about the Texas Rangers," commented Buena Lyon. "They are fascinating, an unusual cut of men who had to be so tough!" She also appreciated the miniseries' authenticity, such as scenes showing cowboys playing mumblepeg with their knives and doffing their hats when being introduced to a lady. "My mother lived on a ranch in New Mexico and she always said cowboys were polite, especially to the women. The things she used to describe were there in the program."

J.D. McCoy declared, "*Lonesome Dove* is about as good a book as has hit the market in a long time." He read it several years ago and watched the miniseries last month. "I liked the book better, but of course you can't put all of it into the show. I definitely recommend reading the book before watching the show. That way you won't miss anything."

When asked to account for the book's popularity, Betty Perry said, "I think everybody's looking for a hero, and Gus is one. And they couldn't have picked a better actor for his part than Robert Duvall for the TV program!"

Curtis Davis, who read *Lonesome Dove* on Perry's recommendation, theorized that the book is "dry" at the beginning to some

who read it because "it is set at a time when the main characters' heroic days were over, and there isn't any excitement until later on." He enjoyed the first part of the book himself, however, and had no trouble getting through it. "I have a different sense of humor, I guess," he remarked. "I appreciated the humor of Gus and his pigs, for example. Even the other characters in the book didn't understand that Gus was just trying to be funny with his pigs." (Gus's pet pigs, who later make the trek to Montana, are introduced early in the story.)

"I read the book a long time ago," Patty Shepherd said, "and I can't say I liked it as much as I thought I would." She explained that so many people had raved about it to her that she brought very high expectations to her reading of *Lonesome Dove*. She also reads most books in one day-long marathon, and she couldn't do that with this novel. "I got bogged down in parts of it," she admitted. Nevertheless, she considers the book to be well-written and enjoyed the miniseries, which she felt handled the book well and featured good acting.

Lyon commented on McMurtry's writing talent as well. "He always puts in just enough humor to offset the bad parts," she said. "I would

love to hear Larry McMurtry talk about his life and writing. I'm kind of a Texas hound, because anything that relates to Texas interests me." *Lonesome Dove*'s setting gives the story particular appeal to readers living in rural Texas.

Lonesome Dove is only one of several books McMurtry has written about his native state. He grew up in a small town near Wichita Falls and received degrees from North Texas State University and Rice University. His novel *The Last Picture Show*, published in 1966, is based in the fictitious town of Thalia, but its real setting is his own Archer City, whose movie theatre closed in the 50's. The front page of this novel dedicates the book "lovingly...to my hometown." *The Last Picture Show* was later made into a well-known movie starring Cybill Shepherd. In 1987, *Texasville* was published as a surprise sequel to *The Last Picture Show*, and McMurtry dedicated this book to Cybil Shepherd.

Other books by this prolific Texan include *Horseman, Pass By*, on which the movie *HUD* was based, *Leaving Cheyenne*, which was made into the film *Lovin' Molly*, *All My Friends Are Going to be Strangers*, *Terms of Endearment*, also made into the movie of the same title, *Somebody's Darling*, *Cadillac Jack*, and *The Desert Rose*. Spearman's library has hard-back copies of all except the latter three novels. McMurtry also wrote *In a Narrow Grave: Essays on Texas* and it is available at Hansford County Library as well. His latest novel, about a criminal named Billy Bone, is titled *Anything for Billy*.

McMurtry's books have been described as "intensely human" and "brilliantly readable." The jacket of one of his novels describes the story inside as a chronicle of "the home truths of the heart and of the heartland." This reviewer also praised the author's ability "to create characters, men and women, we recognize, believe in, and care about" and states that McMurtry's talent in doing so is "unique among American writers."

In Lich's analysis of several McMurtry novels in her *Larry McMurtry's Texas*, she claims that his "fusion of setting and characters has created powerful and touching narratives about people trying to cope in compelling but usually unpredictable and changing environments." This quote is an excellent summation of what *Lonesome Dove* is all about, and also explains the story's enduring appeal.



The Hansford Plainsman

Volume 19, No. 18 YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER Sunday, March 5, 1989

25¢
Per Copy

4 Pages

Mission Conference begins at local church on March 11

The First United Methodist Church of Spearman will be hosting a Mission Conference on March 11 and 12 featuring missionaries, Mike and Bonnie Shrode and W.L. and Faye Armstrong. Jerry Lane will provide the music during parts of the conference.

Mike and Bonnie Shrode are from Canadian, Tex. They have been in Ecuador since 1980 working in the missionary field. While in Ecuador, Mike worked with the national evangelism committee to strengthen existing churches and establish new congregations and Bonnie served as a teacher and principal of a school in Guayaquil for children of missionaries. The pair are currently serving as dorm parents in Quito for missionary children.

The Armstrongs have served in Missions in Hawaii and Indonesia

as well as working in several towns in Texas. The couple has spent the last three years as missionaries in Indonesia, assigned by Bishop Schowengardt. W.L. has helped to build new churches in Indonesia and establish new congregations while Faye has helped teach English.

Jerry Lane is a fifth grade school teacher in Pampa. He has been speaking and singing in churches in the Panhandle for the past nine years.

The conference will begin Saturday, March 11 with a breakfast at the United Methodist Church at 7 a.m. The Shrodes will be present. That evening, the church will have a covered dish supper and the Armstrongs will present slides taken in Indonesia.

On Sunday, March 12, the church will have Sunday school at 9:45 with guest speakers present. The Sunday school is for all ages. At 11 a.m., there will be a service led by Mike Shrode. After the service a fellowship luncheon will take place.

Dam project ahead of schedule

"We have only missed a few days of working due to bad weather, so we are a little ahead of schedule on the dam project," reported Johnnie Lee, general manager of the Palo Duro River Authority (PDRA).

In his recent update on the dam construction's progress, Lee reported that approximately 40 to 50 additional workers will be hired in April by Central Plains Construction Company for work on the dam's in-take system, Morning Glory Spillway, and emergency spillway. The crew working at the dam site currently numbers 46, including engineers.

In other dam-related news, the PDRA met on Tuesday, Feb. 28, to discuss the upcoming archeology projects. "We aren't sure yet who will be doing this work," Lee said, adding that bids for the job would be taken at a future time.

The construction crews at the site are working on the parks now, according to Lee. There will be a

meeting of the PDRA and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in Austin on March 22 to determine specifications for the two boat ramps planned to be put in at the park locations before the dam closes. The Parks and Wildlife

Department has agreed to stock the lake with fish when the dam is halfway built, said Lee. He estimates that construction will reach the halfway point sometime this summer, and that the dam will be ready to function by July of 1990.



This trench that was dug recently at the Palo Duro Dam site immediately filled itself with water.

Applications for farm loans accepted at Perryton FmHA

Applications for emergency farm loans for losses caused by drought conditions are being accepted at the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) office located in Perryton, FmHA County Supervisor Larry J. Goetze said recently.

Hansford and Ochiltree counties are two of 24 in Texas recently named by Secretary of Agriculture as eligible for loans to cover part of actual production losses resulting from the drought conditions.

Goetze said farmers may be eligible for loans of up to 80 percent of their actual losses or the operating loan needed to continue in business or \$500,000, whichever is less. For farmers unable to obtain credit from private commercial lenders, the interest rate is 4.5 percent.

"As a general rule, a farmer must have suffered at least a 30 percent loss of production to be eligible for an FmHA emergency loan," Goetze said. Farmers participating in the PIK or Federal Crop

Insurance programs will have to figure in proceeds from those programs in determining their loss.

"Applications for loans under this emergency designation will be accepted until Oct. 23, 1989 but farmers should apply as soon as possible. Delays in applying could create backlogs in processing and possibly over into the new farming season," Goetze said.

FmHA is a credit agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is authorized to provide disaster emergency loans to recognized farmers who work at and rely on farming for a substantial part of their living. Eligibility is extended to individual farmers who are U.S. citizens and to farming partnerships, corporations or cooperatives in which U.S. citizens hold a majority interest.

The FmHA office in Perryton is open from 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Construction workers at the Palo Duro Dam site have accomplished a lot lately. The weather has been cooperating so far. Visitors are encouraged to come to the overlook and see how much has been done.

The Hansford Report

By Karen Goodman



A few citizens of Spearman asked me to look into the matter of the Gus O. Birdwell estate, in regard to what he left to the Spearman school system.

To study this, I first went to the Hansford County Courthouse and copied down accounts of deeds and transactions of titles, in regard to the estate. Then I went to attorney, Bob Pearson, who is executor of the estate. He showed me the will of Gus Birdwell and many other documents.

The first thing many citizens may need to be reminded of in this matter is that the Spearman school district was not willed the land, but monies acquired from the sales of Birdwell land and property. This benefactor of the will, mainly Spearman I.S.D., were printed in the Jan. 28, 1988 issue of the *Spearman Reporter*.

Bob Pearson, as executor of the estate, and with Birdwell's power of attorney, was given full authority to sell the property however he saw fit. According to the will, he may sell any property or land publicly or privately, as he thinks best.

Pearson has chosen to ask advice of school board members in the sales of the property, even though the will did not require him to do so, and board members did not ask

him for that consideration, but they were pleased that he did ask for their comments. Pearson said that since they were involved in how the money would be used, he preferred to have their opinions on how the matters were to be handled.

I have at my desk now 36 pages of copies I have made of general ledgers of the Gus O. Birdwell Estate. These are accounts of the monies spent of the estate and the monies acquired and added to the estate, through sales of property and land. The monies acquired include monies from rental property, government payments, interest income, royalty payments, sale of assets, and miscellaneous income. The monies spent include debts of decedent, costs of sale, insurance, repairs, supplies, taxes, dues and fees, contract labor and other expenses.

Some of the monies acquired from the estate have already been given to the Spearman Independent School District. The properties and land that has been sold so far has been sold at a price that is equal to or above the appraised values for the land.

Pearson has set up accounts of the estate at both local banks to

see REPORT, p.2

Among the Neighbors

by HELEN FISHER

Paul and Betty Hazlewood returned Monday from two weeks in the lower Rio Grande Valley. The change was traumatic for Paul from lolling under the Palm trees in Bermuda shorts to donning his thermal to bring in the coal and kindling.

At Brownsville, they enjoyed being with Bill and Estelle Jackson. They attended the Confederate Air Show at Harlingen, visited the very interesting Padre Island area and Port Isabel. En route home they stopped at Zapata for a visit with Ruth and Major Lackey.

Friends of Bob Urban are relieved to learn that he is recovering from by-pass surgery at High Plains Baptist hospital. Ruth Ann, his sister, and Marvin Jones were with him during the surgery on Monday morning.

On February 24, the party for those having birthdays during February was held at the Hansford Manor. Providing refreshments and handling the hostess duties were members of the Ladies Auxillary-Gwen Smith, Edith Smith, Peggy Ellsworth, and Rosalie Butt.

The guests are still toe tapping after the stimulating and enjoyable musical program. Leroy Farris, on the guitar and harmonica, accompanied by Otho Gammil of Gruver on the mandolin, with some vocalization, played numbers known and loved by the residents. They are very grateful and appreciative of Mr. Farris and Gammil.

Those being honored were: Sam Miller, Juanita Boxford, Lula Flock, Nina Evans, Merle Farrington, Anna McGary, Ruth Young and Phoebe Fox.

New residents arriving in February are Loretta Murray and

Josephine Murray, sisters, of Amarillo, to make a total of 71 residents.

Peggy and Alton Ellsworth are back at home after about a week's absence. They drove to Las Vegas, Nev. for the "Show West/NATO 89" convention of theatre owners.

On February 27, the Amarillo News-Globe printed a timely, thought-provoking letter written by Supt. Roy Harris of Morse. It refers to small towns and the quality of life in them and their probable demise. The letter expresses lucidly the sentiments of most residents of small towns. Perhaps it could be published in the local papers for those who missed it.

For many, many years all the neighbors have appreciated Raye Gibson, always considering him to be a practical, down-to-earth person. Who would have guessed that under that strict business exterior there lurked the soul of a poet? This astonishing fact came to light with a ballad he has composed in connection with the retirement of his long time friend and employer, Pete Fisher.

Whether or not this will lead to a new career as a versifier for Raye remains to be seen. For comments he can be reached at the Thriftway Grocery. The composition follows.

Fisher's Path

T'was the year of Forty-Eight, when Pete and Alta opened the gate.

They landed in Spearman, at the head of "The Golden Spread."

Pete said this is "home", we will look no more.

So they purchased a store, t'was a forty by four.

Pete says, "Alta, this beats raising cotton, I ain't gonna do that anymore."

So they labored and toiled from early 'til late, cause they realized they opened a gate.

So everything went fine, in the year of Fifty-Nine.

Pete said, "Alta, we are fixing to have some fun!

For I am going to build a Super Market that will be second to none."

So he purchased some lots, and went off in a trot, for he knew there was work to be done.

T'was the year of Sixty-One, when the fun had begun.

The customers started coming by fortys and twenties.

For they knew on the shelves there was food a big plenty.

Everything went fine, 'till the year of Eighty-eight.

When along came Roger Lowe, with his face all a glow.

He said, "Pete, I'll buy this store, and you won't have to work anymore."

Pete ask Alta what do you think? "Well, Pete, it's later than you think,

we might as well close the gate."

The transaction was completed and Pete's debts were deleted.

T'was the day before the year Eighty-Nine,

Pete was feeling fine.

Roaming the store he said, "I'm looking for bargains,

cause I ain't gonna be here no more."

I'll buy me some crackers and get me some cheese,

and sit down and do whatever I please.

I'll be home early and get up late,

cause I won't be going to the store, anymore....

Alta, our careers are won, and our work is all done.

All we'll do now is have lots of Big Fun.

For this is our home, we will look no more.

by James Raye Gibson

Six Flags Over Texas to begin 1989 season

Six Flags Over Texas in Arlington, Texas, will begin its 1989 season Saturday, March 4. Now in its 28th year, the theme park expects to welcome its 60 millionth visitor sometime during the spring.

Six Flags will be open on weekends only until May 27, when daily operation begins for the summer months. The only exception will be the Spring Break period when the park will be open daily from March 18 through March 26.

Park president Bob Bennett said the newly re-themed Good Time Square section and the new Flash-back roller coaster will be opened early in the season. The exact date will depend on completion of testing for the ride which travels both forward and backward, turning passengers upside down a half dozen times.

The section surrounding the ride has taken on a 1950's look complete with vintage cars and a diner and soda fountain trimmed in brilliant neon. New shows will premiere in both the Southern Palace Music Hall and the Crazy Horse Saloon on March 4, and the Six Flags Dolphin and Sea Lion show will return after an absence of several years.



The Arctic tern spends three months of each year in the arctic regions, three months in the Antarctic and almost six months in the air.

Club News

PTA NEWS

Last Monday night, Feb. 27, a PTA meeting was held in the Spearman High School Auditorium. Those attending watched an educational film, selected a nominating committee for nominating next year's PTA officers, and were entertained by two youth whose work has been selected to enter district competition in the National PTA "Reflections" contest.

The film, sponsored by the National PTA and the Keebler Company, depicted the every day situations of parent-child conversations and reviewed the impact of how parents' words effect children's self-esteem.

Pamphlets were passed out that were related to the film, offering advice to parents for building self-esteem in children. The pamphlets included exercises for parents to practice in observing the positive characteristics of their children.

The nominating committee approved by PTA members who were present at the meeting include Sue Woolley, Lyn Woolley, Judy Hutchison, and Barbara Townsen. They will choose names for possible PTA officers for the 1989-90 school year to be voted upon in the next PTA meeting.

Kathryn Murphy, daughter of Larry and Marsha Murphy, sang a song she had written and entered in the "Reflections" contest. And Ben Queener, son of Robert and Cora Queener, played a tune he composed on the piano. He was assisted by pianist, Jayne Kunselman.

Families-In-Action president, Gary Ellsworth, was present to discuss with PTA members the "Thirtysomething" program that local churches and the FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) have put together for local youth. The program is a Bible-based curriculum designed to help youth learn to take a stand for what they believe in and help them cope with peer pressure problems such as those pressures to use drugs and alcohol.

The PTA has endorsed the program, and Ellsworth was there to report that 140 youth have signed up to participate in the program which will take place March 23-25. He also asked parents to sign-up to help provide food for youth participating in the program.

THANK YOU

We want to thank you for the prayers, cards, flowers and other expressions of love and concern you have shown the past three months. How wonderful to live in a community with so many caring, helpful and thoughtful friends.

Charles Bell and family
Phil Ormon and family
Carl Clawson and family

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Paper profiles class of 1979

Editors Note: The "Class of 1979" will be having their 10 year reunion this summer. The Hansford Plainsman will be running a brief profile on the students during the next few weeks. We want Spearman to remember our exes.

Connie Vernon Bridges - graduated from West Texas State University with a degree in primary education. She also received her kindergarten endorsement there. Connie is now doing some tutoring. She chose to stay home from teaching until Blake, age 3, and Brady, age 1, are a little bigger. Connie and her husband, Jimmy, own Bridges Equipment Company in Odessa. She enjoys cross-stitch, painting, and teaching Sunday School in her "spare" time.

Jamie Morley Casdorph - started her banking career shortly after graduation. She has been with the Gruver State Bank for nearly 9 years. She is married to Rex, a road foreman for Precinct 3 of Hansford County. They have three children, Macee 9, Candice 7, and Brandon 4. Jamie and her family recently bought a new home so she has been busy working on it. She coaches little girls' t-ball, reads, and has been chairperson for Bike-a-Thon for two years.

The Hansford Plainsman

Your Hometown Newspaper
USPS 2346-6000 Spearman, Tx. 79081

213 Main, Box 458, 659-3434

Published Weekly at
213 Main, Spearman, Texas

Owned and Operated by:

Texas Independent Newspapers, Inc.

19906 Encino Grove, San Antonio, Tx 78259

Second class postage paid at Spearman, Texas 79081.
Any erroneous reflection upon the character of any person or firm appearing in these pages will be gladly and promptly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the management.

PUBLISHER - Karen Goodman

Subscription Rate: Spearman, adjoining counties, combination with the Spearman Reporter, \$19.95; non-adjoining counties, \$24.95 annually.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Hansford Plainsman Box 458, Spearman, Tx. 79081.

The publisher reserves the right to revise or reject at its option any advertisement which it deems objectionable, either in subject or phraseology, or which it may deem detrimental to its business.

Obituary

Durland Sheets

Durland Sheets, 52, died Tuesday, Feb 28, 1989.

Services were Friday in Church of Christ with Bill Osborne, former minister, officiating. Burial was in Holt Cemetery by Boxwell Brothers Funeral Home.

Mr. Sheets, born in Amarillo, was a lifetime resident of Spearman. He was a retired oilfield worker. He was a 1954 graduate of Spearman High School. He was a member of Church of Christ.

Survivors include a son, Matt Sheets of Owasso, Okla., a daughter, Annette Cross of Amarillo; a brother, Lowell Sheets of Booker, and two grandchildren.

Al Baker

Funeral services for Al Baker, 81 year old Shattuck resident were Friday, March 3 at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Shattuck. Elder Van Hurst officiated. Burial was in the Shattuck Memorial Cemetery under the direction of Good Samaritan Funeral Service.

Alva Leighton Baker was born Feb. 8, 1908 in Dierks, Ark. He grew up in Plainview, Tex. and went to work as a Signal Maintainer for the Santa Fe Railroad. He moved to Shattuck on May 15, 1937.

He was married to Virginia Kelln. He continued to work for the railroad until 1948 when he became engaged in full time farming. They resided for a time near Spearman, where one of their farms is located, and returned to Shattuck in 1955.

He is survived by his wife, Virginia, of the home; a daughter, Carol West of Dallas, Tex.; two sons, Dr. Jack K. Baker and his wife, Judi, of Petaluma, Calif., and Dr. William J. Baker and his wife, Daina Sue, of Norman, Okla.; two sisters, Velda Wimberley and Thelma Orr, both of Lubbock, Tex.; a brother, Ted Baker of Sun City, Ariz.; six grandchildren, other relatives and many friends.

Birth Announcement

Willie and Malissa Vera of Gruver are the proud parents of a baby girl, born Friday, Feb. 17 at Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo. She weighed 9 pounds 4 1/4 ounces and was 20 1/4 inches long. She has been named Bailey D'Anne.

Raymond and Joanne Fairbanks of Gruver are the maternal grandparents. Lillian Fairbanks of Cherokee, Okla., Ray and Sylvia McAdam of Dalhart and the late Emory Dee Roper are the maternal great-grandparents.

The paternal grandparents are Pete and Toni Vera, Sr. of Spearman. Antonia Vera of Alice, Tx is the paternal great-grandmother.

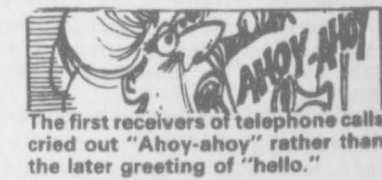
REPORT, from p.1

promote both of them. Some of the property that has not yet been sold has minor complications associated with them. For example, land in Colorado that is land-locked and not accessible to public roads has delayed its sale. Also, some of the mineral rights of the estate have been valued at "valueless," by some companies approached.

Bob Pearson commented that he is trying to do his best in regard to settling the estate, which is what Gus Birdwell would have expected him to do.

I was very impressed with his willingness to talk to me and show me all the documents of the will and ledgers. He took quite a bit of time from his busy schedule to explain things to me.

I would like to say that if anyone is interested in looking over the copies of the ledgers that I have at the Spearman Reporter office, they are welcome to do so. Pearson has made the same offer, but as much time as he has given to those who have already inquired, I hope those interested may first see if the documents in my possession will answer questions they may have.



The first receivers of telephone calls cried out "Ahoy-ahoy" rather than the later greeting of "hello."

interested in fashion. Rick works for Gruver Lumber Co. Leslie, Rick, and Samantha Sue, age 3, live in Gruver. Leslie is interested in woodwork, oil painting, and her family.

James Whitaker - attended Christ for the Nations in Dallas and Frank Phillips University in Borger where he got an associate degree. He is an ordained minister through Word of Faith Fellowship. James is now youth pastor at Four Square Church in Portland, Oregon. Renee, James' wife, is secretary of Dove Care Center. James enjoys snow skiing.

Troy Thompson - attended TSTI in Amarillo after graduation, where he studied mechanics. Troy has 3 children, Aaron 7, Amanda 5, and Allan 2. He now lives in California where he is a mechanic. In his leisure time Troy likes to fish and travel.

Beth Ann Flowers - graduated from Baylor University in Waco, with a Bachelor's Degree in Petroleum Geology. She then worked for a year and a half in Houston in the geology field. Beth Ann recently received her Master's Degree in Hydrology from Baylor. She has not decided any future plans at the moment. Beth Ann enjoys all types of needle work and sewing, especially cross-stitch.



Please join us in celebrating a 25th Wedding Anniversary
Honoring
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2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
First State Bank

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First State Bank

We will be hosting the blood pressure clinic
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LYRIC

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Classifieds

For Sale

FOR SALE: 1973 Green Briar Mobile Home. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath. To Give Away part chow puppies. Call 659-2176 after 5 p.m. S18S 4tp

FOR SALE: Residential development Property on James Street. 806-435-2524 or Box 871, Spearman, TX. S18S 3tc Sun. Only

FOR SALE: 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. Sunken living room, parquet floors, fireplace, covered patio, 2 car garage, sprinkler system, 2193 sq. ft. living space, excellent location. Call 659-3587 or 659-5022. S16 8tc

FOR SALE: 4 bedroom 2 bath 2700 sq. ft. double garage w/storage room Across from Elementary. 526 S. Townsend Shown by appt. only Call 659-3055 or 214-765-2974. S16S 8tc

FOR SALE: 35 foot Country Air 5th wheel trailer - like new; 1984 Ford 350 Dooley pickup with a 90 gallon tank and Owens trailer 5th wheel hookup; 18 foot four horse trailer with a 5th wheel hookup, 4 stalls and new tires. 416 W. 13th - Spearman 659-3301 S14 1tp RTNC

USED AUTO PARTS FOR SALE: Located 4 miles west of Hooker, Ok. on highway 54. Muss Cat Auto Salvage. (405)652-2400. S10-rtm

FOR SALE: Oat Seed, Registered Tamo -386 Oats Call: Morris Seed Co. at 806-733-2203. S18 - 6tc

Piano For Sale

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Legal Notices

BID REQUEST

Spearman Independent School District is requesting bids on library furniture for a new resource center. Bid specifications can be obtained from Larry Butler, Superintendent of Spearman I.S.D., 403 E. 11th Ave., Spearman, Texas 79081 or by calling (806) 659-3233. Bids will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on March 13, 1989. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

NOTICE OF CREDITORS TO CORA S. EDGE

NOTICE IS GIVEN that original Letters Testamentary of the Estate of CORA S. EDGE, Deceased, were granted to me, the undersigned, on the 13th day of February, 1989, in Cause No. 1918, by the County Court of Hansford County, Texas. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby requested to present the same to me within the time provided by law. My mailing address is:

Route 1, Box 73
Hardesty, Oklahoma 73944
Jack P. Edge
Independent Executor of
the Estate of Cora Edge, Deceased
S18S-1tc

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

First State Bankshares, Inc., Spearman, Texas intends to apply to the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Supervision & Regulation Department, Station K, Dallas, Texas 75222. The comment period will not end before March 29, 1989, and may be somewhat longer. The Board's procedures for processing applications may be found at 12 C.F.R. Part 262 (as revised, 49 Federal Register 5603 (February 14, 1984). Procedures for processing protested applications may be found at 12 C.F.R. 262.25 (1984). To obtain a copy of the Board's procedures or if you need more information about how to submit any comments on the application, contact the Community Affairs Officer at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Mr. Andrew W. Hogwood, Jr., Assistant Vice President, at (214) 744-6150. The Federal Reserve will consider your comments and any request for a public meeting or formal hearing on the application if they are received by the Reserve Bank on or before the last day of the comment period.

You are invited to submit comments in writing on this application to the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Supervision & Regulation Department, Station K, Dallas, Texas 75222. The comment period will not end before March 29, 1989, and may be somewhat longer. The Board's procedures for processing applications may be found at 12 C.F.R. Part 262 (as revised, 49 Federal Register 5603 (February 14, 1984). Procedures for processing protested applications may be found at 12 C.F.R. 262.25 (1984). To obtain a copy of the Board's procedures or if you need more information about how to submit any comments on the application, contact the Community Affairs Officer at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Mr. Andrew W. Hogwood, Jr., Assistant Vice President, at (214) 744-6150. The Federal Reserve will consider your comments and any request for a public meeting or formal hearing on the application if they are received by the Reserve Bank on or before the last day of the comment period.

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HIGH SCHOOL MENU MARCH 6 - MARCH 10

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SALAD BAR
YEAST BATTER BREAD
PEARS
MILK
TUESDAY
STUFFED BAKED POTATOES
CHILI
CHEESE SAUCE
BROCCOLI
SALAD BAR
PAN MUFFIN
MILK
WEDNESDAY
HAMBURGER
FRIES
SALAD BAR
APPLE CRISP
MILK
THURSDAY
OVEN FRIED CHICKEN
MASHED POTATOES, GRAVY
SALAD BAR
BREAD SLICE
BIRTHDAY CAKE
MILK
FRIDAY
SEA NUGGETS
WHOLE KERNEL CORN
SALAD BAR
BISCUIT
JUICE BAR
MILK

JR. HIGH-ELEMENTARY MENU MARCH 6 - MARCH 10

MONDAY
STEAK FINGERS
MACARONI CHEESE
SWEET PEAS
YEAST BATTER BREAD
PEARS
MILK
TUESDAY
STUFFED BAKED POTATOES:
CHILI
CHEESE SAUCE
BROCCOLI
FRESH FRUIT
PAN-MUFFIN
MILK
WEDNESDAY
HAMBURGER
FRIES
LETTUCE/TOMATO
PICKLE/ONION
APPLE CRISP
MILK
THURSDAY
OVEN FRIED CHICKEN
MASHED POTATOES/ GRAVY
SEASONED GREEN BEANS
BREAD SLICE
BIRTHDAY CAKE
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Reporter reviews McMurtry's Lonesome Dove novel

by JEAN ANN BEHNEY

Reporter's Note: I wish to take this opportunity to recognize and credit the main sources of my information for my two stories on *Lonesome Dove*, Rita Curtis, head librarian at Hansford County Library, was extremely knowledgeable about this book and its author and very useful in directing me to another good source of background information, Lera Patrick Tyler Lich's *Larry McMurtry's Texas*. I also used some of the information provided in last month's *Accent West* newsmagazine story on Larry McMurtry. Additional thanks go to all the local residents who agreed to telephone interviews with me on the subject of *Lonesome Dove*.

LONESOME DOVE REVIEW

I cannot properly term the following as a book review of Larry McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove*, because it has been over eight months since I read the novel. I watched the entire miniseries of the same name last month, however, and have observed with interest the instant, overwhelming appeal television's adaptation of the book gave to an already-worthy novel. The recent tidal wave of *Lonesome Dove* popularity has inspired me to comment on both the book and its miniseries. I highly recommend both.

First of all, I enjoyed the miniseries *Lonesome Dove* and would have felt this way about it whether or not I had already read McMurtry's novel. I, who can't abide television's offerings in general, would not have turned off the set during this miniseries for anything less than an earthquake. I even memorized in advance what channel and times the program aired: this from a person who still doesn't know which number corresponds to which network or what time the daily news airs! The novel *Lonesome Dove* left me feeling much more ambivalent, and even depressed, but I nonetheless appreciated its author's writing talent and the tremendous scope of the epic.

McMurtry's main strengths as a writer are his characters and their development and his West Texas settings. The actors playing his endearing Augustus McCrae (Robert Duvall) and Woodrow Call (Tommy Lee Jones) created award-winning performances in the *Lonesome Dove* miniseries. In fact, after Gus's death, it was challenging to watch the remainder of the program. I was still mourning, yet the show went on.

In his novel, McMurtry's characters don't so much leap off the pages as they do slowly take form before you, but midway through the book, you identify with them strongly and have to remind yourself that they are not real people.

Both the book and the miniseries get off to a meandering start, which is part of what establishes McMurtry's setting and whom he peoples it with, but it does demand patience on the part of the viewer/reader. Other readers of the book have admitted to me that it took them at least the first 150 pages to "get into" the story, and miniseries viewers claim the initial episode went slowly.

It has been said that McMurtry has a love/hate relationship with

his own native Texas, and his books certainly seem to paint a mercilessly truthful picture of both the Old West and modern-day life in this locale. *Lonesome Dove* is set in the Old American West, but don't expect to see attractive stage scenery and dressed-up characters from old Gunsmoke reruns! Reviewers claim that McMurtry's gift is his "stark realism," and much of *Lonesome Dove* is ugly in its austerity. His novel's main villain, a halfbreed Indian named Blue Duck, is described through such overpoweringly cruel words and actions that sometimes I had to lay the book aside while I took a break before steeling myself to continue reading about this psychopath. Fortunately, his other characters, particularly Gus and the pretty but pitiable prostitute, Lorena, do much to balance out the evil characters in the book and mini-

series.

The best part of *Lonesome Dove* is that it is so much more than the story of a man's final travels on a challenging cattle drive. The form of the novel can be compared to a "picaresque," which is a literary device using a voyage or journey as the movement towards finding life's answers. (Twain's *Huck Finn* is a classic example of this.) By taking Gus's journey with him, we gain an often painfully realistic look at the myth-laden Old West yet we also come to realize that there is a middle ground between grinding through life humorlessly as a workaholic (as in Call's case) and whooping it up as a devil-may-care thrillseeker (as in Gus's case). Most significantly, we learn from both men that bottom-line ethics apply to all people even in the most extreme circumstances, allowing human dignity to reign.

Act stabilizes gas picture

Railroad Commission Chairman Kent Hance said recently that "since passage of the 1986 Tax Reform Act, the Railroad Commission has received more than 300 utility rate cases, and in every case we considered the companies' tax situation along with all the other operating costs. While on the one hand the act lowered rates, on the other it eliminated many deductions. Therefore, the Tax Reform Act's impact varies by company based on their particular tax situation."

The result has been a relatively stable gas rate picture for Texas consumers, he said.

Hance said data examined by the Commission shows federal income tax generally represents between two and five percent of the operating expenses for gas utilities under Commission regulation. "Therefore, a 12 percent cut in the tax rate would reduce operating expenses by well under one percent. And loss of deductions can quickly eliminate that gain. The result is hardly a windfall for gas companies, or reason for a hasty regulatory 'quick fix.'"

Hance said that the Commission doesn't engage in piecemeal rate-making. "In gas rate cases, we don't look at one expense at a time. We must consider all of the revenues and expenses of a company," he said. "We examine all the company's expenses and how they interrelate. And we look at tax implications along with everything else. Tax reductions can offset increases in other costs, reducing the need for an overall rate increase." An example of this is the increases in insurance expense, property taxes, and postage that companies have generally experienced in recent years.

The Railroad Commission chair-

man warned that attempting a statewide review of gas utility rates could also be costly. "Your tax situation is different from your neighbor," Hance said. "You have different incomes and different deductions. The same is true for gas utilities. If we tried to order a statewide increase or decrease in gas rates based on some sort of universal federal income tax calculation, consumers could be adversely affected. The rates would be discriminatory, and unfair to many."

Hance said the Commission isn't ignoring the federal tax question as utility rate cases come up for review. "We give income taxes the same careful scrutiny we give all elements of a company's operating expenses," he said.

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