

THE

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BORDEN

STAR

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Serving the Counties of Borden, Dawson, Garza, Howard, Lynn & Scurry

Staying the Course

McMeans to Retire After Combined 80 Years Service to Borden County Schools

By Sue Jane Mayes

One of retiring administrator Mickey McMeans's favorite sayings has been to encourage others to "stay the course."

Obviously, he and his wife Shirley are walking examples of such living.

The two longtime employees of Borden County ISD will be honored Saturday evening at 7:30 for their years of service to the school district in a retirement party to be held in the school's cafeteria.

Mr. McMeans stayed the course for 46 years in Gail while wife Shirley put in 34 years alongside her husband.

Except for two years at Roaring Springs in the 1950's for him and four years at Post in the 1960's for her, the McMeans' educational careers have been dedicated to the Borden County community.

The McMeans family came to Gail in August of 1958 when Mr. McMeans was hired to teach science.

The family—which included sons Steve and Ken at that time—lived where Sherry and Stanley Gass live now.

Mr. McMeans taught science, coached, and drove the bus route for students living in the northeastern part of the county—on dirt roads

since FM 669 was non-existent at that time.

On afternoons when Mr. McMeans had coaching responsibilities, Mrs. McMeans would come to the rescue and drive students home in the "bus," a school station wagon for this particular route.

Mrs. McMeans had returned to school herself in 1959, attending classes at Howard College and later graduating from Texas Tech.

Third son Bart was born in 1962, and in 1963 the family moved to Post while Mr. McMeans commuted to teach, coach, and drive the same bus route.

In 1968, Mr. McMeans completed his Masters degree at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene and was named high school principal—a position he held for the next 28 years.

Mrs. McMeans also completed her Masters degree during her tenure at Borden County, in elementary education from Texas Tech University.

With all three boys now enrolled at Borden County schools, Mrs. McMeans settled in to her teaching roles—some reading classes and eventually the 3rd Grade classroom where she spent most of her career.

One year—1990-1991—Mrs. McMeans was the Gifted and Talented Coordinator for the school district but returned as 3rd Grade teacher the following year.

In 1989, upon the retirement of Mr. Ben Jarrett, Mr. McMeans assumed the responsibilities as the principal for both the high school, jr. high, and elementary.

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Mickey & Shirley McMeans

Holmes becomes first National Registry Emergency Medical Technician for BC EMS

In 2001, the Texas Department of Health put out bids to retain someone to create the test for Texas Certified Emergency Medical Technicians. Texas Tech University had been fulfilling this role for many years but did not submit a bid for the upcoming years. As a matter of fact, no one submitted a bid for these tests. Therefore, the Department of Health had no option but to use the same testing system that 48 other states use, National Registry Emergency Medical Technician, NREMT. The Texas Department of Health

will require that all Paramedics certified after September 1, 2002 will be NREMT.

Due to these events, one of Borden County's own paramedics got a head start on every one else. Kent Holmes traveled to El Paso on June 15th to take the two-part NREMT exam. Kent began his day at 8:00 a.m. with skill tests. Only 53% of the first time testers across the nation pass this portion of the exam. After Kent completed this section, he was told that he passed all skills and should report back

in 20 minutes for the written portion of the exam. Kent quickly ate his lunch and returned with pencil in hand to tackle the written section of the test. Nation-wide 41% of the initial testers pass this section of the test. Kent completed his test and his long day about 12 hours after it began. Then the three-week wait for results began.

Before Kent could even get to El Paso to take his test, he had to complete a thorough application, which included several different parts. First, he had to be a working

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McMeans to Retire After Combined 80 Years

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The next seven years proved to be very, very busy as the McMeans attended both jr. high and high school academic and athletic contests in an administrative position and also as fans of Borden County.

Since 1996, when Mr. Chet Dye arrived from Crosbyton to become the high school principal, Mr. McMeans has served as assistant principal.

A quadruple by-pass in February of 2002 interrupted Mr. McMeans' final year with the Borden County Schools for a few weeks, but he and his wife were back at work when spring arrived.

Spanning six decades with Borden County, the McMeans are more gracious than proud when discussing the place that has been their home for so long.

Mr. and Mrs. McMeans are quick to point out that

their own three children benefited from the education they received at Borden Schools.

All three sons began and ended their public school education at Borden County and went on to complete bachelors' degrees at Texas Tech.

All three sons have graduate degrees. Son Steve is a minister in Brownwood, Ken pastors a church in Big Spring, and youngest son Bart has followed in dad's footsteps—he's the high school principal at Wylie ISD, southeast of Abilene.

The love of travel—which has taken the McMeans all over the world from Italy to Israel to Canada—will comprise some of retirement time after Mr. McMeans completes cardiac rehab in Lubbock in September.

And, probably, it will be

the nine grandchildren and their activities that will be included in their new lifestyle away from teaching.

Oldest granddaughter Sharissa will graduate from Big Spring High School this next year while the youngest grandchildren—triplets Zach, Mallory, and Mollie—will enter the first grade at Wylie.

RoChelle, Jonathan, Macy, Matthew, and Micah will keep the grandparents from doing anything but retiring from that position.

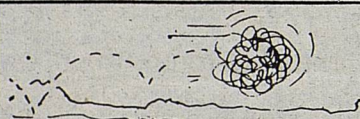
Travel and grandchildren will keep the McMeans busy, but don't be surprised if they are spotted in Borden County, attending a football game or a band concert or a church service.

They have stayed the course—and that course will continue to run through Borden County even after retirement.



Mickey, Shirley, Steve, Ken & Bart McMeans

*Everyone is invited to attend a
Reception Honoring
Mickey & Shirley McMeans
Saturday, July 13th - 7:30 p.m.
Borden County School Cafeteria*



Texas Stories

A showcase of the Texas Spirit

Tumbleweed Smith
Part owner of Texas



An Introduction to Summer

I've been to the Cherokee Rose before. It's a bed and breakfast just outside Rusk. I stayed in the Chicken Room on my first visit there. It's big and roomy and has all kinds of chicken images on cups, posters, towels, bedspreads and dishes. Pictures of chickens hang on the wall. You can almost hear those chickens clucking.

The second time I stayed there was at the beginning of summer. This time I was with my wife and our grandson Jackson, who had just finished fifth grade the day before.

Now the Cherokee Rose is in the country and Jackson is a city boy who lives in Dallas. I promised him we

would do all kinds of country stuff on this trip. We did!

When we arrived at the Cherokee Rose, owner Suzann McCarty showed us to the Texas suite. Everything in it is Texan. The bedspread in the big bedroom has red, white and blue shapes of the state quilted into it. The shower curtain in the bathroom is a Texas Flab.

Antique country paraphernalia hangs on the walls along with various sayings and expressions about cowboys and the west.

When we got all settled in, Suzann and her helper, Ronnie McElroy, took us to the garden. Jackson picked a respectable sized pan of peppers, squash and

cucumbers. The big prize was a fresh strawberry, which he said was the best he had ever eaten.

Next we looked at the bluebird nest with some brand new baby birds in it. Ronnie had been watching the nest for a few days and the eggs had just hatched.

The Cherokee Rose has a pond with catfish, bass and turtles in it. Jackson got to throw catfish feed in the water and see the fish come up and get it. The water swished around as the catfish, some weighing as much as fifteen pounds came up and sucked up that food like a vacuum cleaner would. The turtles had better manners, taking just one morsel at a time.

The place has a hen house where a rooster named Henry takes care of his flock of hens. Jackson gathered eggs and fed the chickens, letting them eat out of his hands.

That evening we went into town for supper, then walked across the longest footbridge in the world. A Rusk landmark. The footbridge was built over an area that flooded often. It carried foot

traffic between Rusk and New Birmingham, now a ghost town.

The next morning we rode the steam train from Rusk to Palestine. That's always an adventure. The train passes through some of the most awesome scenery in East Texas.

Back at the Cherokee Rose that night we sat in rocking chairs on the wide porch and in between our conversations listening to frogs, coyotes and owls. Jackson is eleven years old and did things he had never done before. That's a great way to start a summer.

- OPEN -

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Lamesa, Texas

Mebane, Hess Repeat Vows

Abigail Ellen Mebane and Stephen Kurt Hess were united in marriage on Saturday, June 8, 2002, in the sanctuary of First United Methodist Church of Borger with Reverend Jim Terry, pastor, officiating the double-ring ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Jimmy and Connie Mebane of Borger. Grandparents of the bride are James and Zonelle Mebane and Orval Allen, all of Dumas.

The groom is the son of Pam and Larry Reeder of Fort Sumner, New Mexico and Steve and Linda Hess of Matador.

The Vienna Conspiracy String Quartet of Amarillo provided musical selections that included "Rondeau" by Mouret at the lighting of the candles, "Jupiter" theme by Holst and "Canon in D" by Pachelbel as the parents and grandparents were seated.

Accolytes were Addison and Ashli Damon of Amarillo. A special candle on the alter was in memory of Frances Ellen Allen, Abby's grandmother and John and Katherine Stephens, Marie Teeter and Ethel Hall, Kurt's grandparents.

Bell Chimmers were Elizabeth and Amanda Griffin of Borger. Processional music selection was "Alla Hornpipe" from Water Music Suite. Honor Processional was "Highland Cathedral."

The bride was escorted to the altar through an arbor of greenery and twinkling lights, and presented in marriage by her father. Vows were exchanged among an array of candles and spring flowers. She wore a traditional white designer gown with a strapless bodice. The full skirt and fingertip veil was accented with crystals, and she carried a bouquet of fuchsia flowers and baby's breath tied with a satin ribbon.

Special music "In This Very Room" and "The Lord's Prayer" was provided by soloist Cari Earnhart and pianist Billie Jo Forney, both of Borger, as the bride and groom lit the Unity Candle.

Serving as maid of honor was the bride's sister, Emily Mebane of Dallas. Matron of honor was Jaymie Venhaus of Amarillo, cousin of the bride. Bridesmaids were Susan Beaty of Houston, Jennifer King of Abilene, Sarah Page of Fort Worth, Lacey Beauchamp of Canyon, Callie Beauchamp of Houston, both

cousins of the bride, Shayne Bowen of Lubbock, sister of the groom, Jamie Estes of Wichita Falls, and Cari Earnhart of Borger.

They each wore a long black gown of their choosing and carried a hand-tied fuchsia bouquet.

Flower girl was Kristen Mills of Borger. She wore a white princess sleeveless ankle length dress and tiara in her hair to complement the bride.

The groom wore a designer tuxedo, a white shirt with button down collar and vest. He wore a fuchsia baby's breath boutonniere.

Best man was Corey Gass of Fort Worth. Groomsmen were Torbin Lancaster of Abilene, Stacy Beaty of Houston, Coby Yowell of Waxahachie, Andy Peveto of Fort Worth, Manse Draper of Lufkin, Jeremy Mebane of Plano, brother of the bride; Drew Tackitt of San Angelo, Jonathon Read of O'Donnell and Jeff Duncan of Midland.

Ringbearers were Colton Stephens of Borden County, cousin of the groom, and Peyton Lewis of Fort Sumner, NM, nephew of the groom. Ushers were Kurt Bowen of Lubbock, brother-in-law of the groom, and Mark Cash of Plano. Honorary Ushers was Kooper Bowne, nephew of the groom.

They were attired in tuxedos complementing the groom.

Other members of the wedding party included greeters Lauren Brisco of Wichita Falls and Haylee Mills of Borger. Readers were Summer Holbrook of Denton, Elizabeth Griffin and Haylee Mills, both of Borger. Ashlee Bowen of Lubbock, niece of the groom, and Chelsea Stephens of Borden County, cousin of the groom, handed out Rice bags and programs. The wedding coordinator was Pam Stegall of Borger.

Reception

Following the ceremony, a reception was held in the Garden Room of the First United Methodist Church.

The bride and groom's tables were covered with white linen cloths and draped with black cloth with white lace trim.

A white, four tiered wedding cake topped with an array of fuchsia flowers was featured at the bride's table. Wedding punch, nuts and mints were served from crystal



Mrs. Stephen Kurt Hess

appointments. The groom's cake was a doubled-layered chocolate fudge cake of basket weave design surrounded by an array of fruit. Coffee was served from a silver service.

The buffet featured an assortment of hors d'oeuvres. A second table featured a tiered artistic fruit display.

Following the reception, a trio of limousines took the couple and their wedding party to Amarillo where they met their

guests for an Evening of dinner and dancing at the Big Texan Palace.

Following a honeymoon trip to Cancun, Mexico, the couple will reside in Euless, Texas.

The bride is a 1996 graduate of Borger High School and a 2000 graduate of McMurry University in Abilene. She is currently a Kindergarten teacher in the Grand Prairie Independent School District.



DISHES left at Church

There are a lot of dishes left at the Gail Baptist Church from funeral meals served the past several months.

If you are missing some, you might check at the church and see if yours might be there.

Please come by and pick them up anytime.

Have a Great Summer!



Moore-Rains Insurance
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O'Donnell, Texas
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The groom is a 1995 graduate of Borden County High School and a 1999 graduate of McMurry University in Abilene. He is manager of Sam's Wholesale Club in Fort Worth.

Courtesies

A miscellaneous bridal shower was held in Fort Worth. Hostesses included fellow teachers of the bride.

A bridal shower was held Saturday, April 6 at the First United Methodist Churches Garden Room in Borger.

A couples shower was held April 27 at Hillcrest Country Club in Lubbock. Guests enjoyed a cookout at poolside.

A rehearsal dinner was hosted by Jeff and Terri Griffin of Borger at their home June 7.

Abby's Wedding Day Brunch was held at 11:00 a.m. June 8 at First United Methodist Church's Soda Fountain.

Meal Planned for Fund Raiser

The FBC Youth Group is planning a meal of Hamburgers and Ice Cream for Sunday, July 14th, following the morning service.

Everyone is invited to come and eat with them in the Church Fellowship Hall. Call-in's are welcome.

Donation will be excepted for their Summer Trip.

Snyder National Bank



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West Texas Windmill Days Blows into Midland

On July 12 and 13, West Texas Windmill Days goes back a hundred years to Midland's wild western days at the new Beal Park on Midland's southwest side of Loop 250 and Business 20 (old Highway 80).

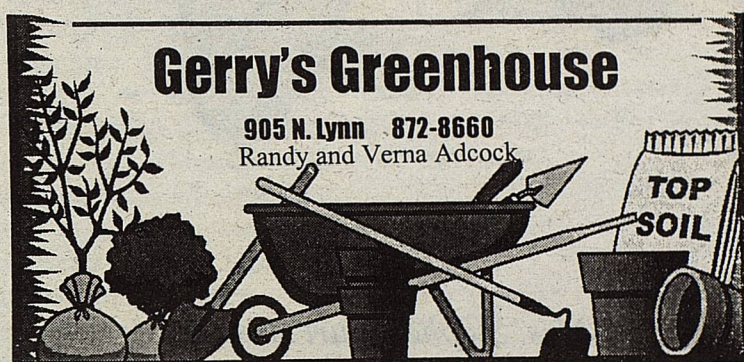
It starts Friday evening with the inaugural event of the refurbished, air-conditioned Beal Park Ranch House. Reservations are required for the barbecue meal, open bar and the new historic play in about Midland in 1902.

On Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. there is family fun including gunfights, stagecoach rides, children's kite making and flying, old West costume contest,

horses, turn-of-the-century businesses, scrimshaw, carving, quilting, fishing and other activities of the 1900s. Clawson Pipkin, owner of a Midland funeral parlor, will play the role of the turn-of-the-century undertaker, complete with antique hearse and pine coffins. In addition, there is a jolly old cricket match and an activity by the new Chinese Pavilion. Admission is free to outdoor

activities.

The historic play set in Midland in 1902 is performed at 11 a.m., 1, 4 and 7 p.m. on Saturday. Barbecue lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and supper is served from 9 p.m. \$12.50 includes barbecue lunch or supper and the play. For information or reservations call Linda Thorsen Bond, 915/697-7559, or email outdoordrama@hotmail.com.



with the only NREMT Paramedic in Borden County and all of the surrounding counties. Kent Holmes received work that he passed his test last week and is now eligible to work in Texas as well as 48 other states in the United States as a paramedic. Kent was relieved to learn that he passed the test even though his score was a little below his average on the state test.

In all probability, all paramedics in the state of Texas will have to take the NREMT test within the next five years. This means that several Borden County EMS paramedics will be brushing up on their skills and refreshing their memories but we all would like to thank Kent for being the first to wade out and let the rest of us know what is ahead.

Holmes

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paramedic, which he has been in Borden County since 1989. Second, he had to complete the necessary EMT education classes as well as, Advanced Cardiac Life Support training. Next he needed letters from Borden County EMS Medical Director, John Griswold, and Western Texas College EMS Education Director, Tammy Shirley. These two letters had to proclaim Kent's knowledge and ability to perform the necessary paramedic skills. Once all of this was done, Kent chose the El Paso test site out of only 5 total sites in Texas. This all had to be done at least three weeks before the test date of June 15th.

In Kent's 12 years of being a Texas Paramedic, he has taken the test 4 times and has averaged 95% correct which places him in the top 3% of the test takers in Texas. Kent had been studying for about 6 weeks before he went to take the RNEMT test.

Borden County EMS is proud to announce that we have the honor of serving



It's a Girl!

Alice Gene Hamilton

Born: June 22, 2002, 8:44 a.m.
Weight: 5lbs. 14 oz. Length: 18"

Proud Parents:
Heath and Faith Hamilton

Grandparents:
 Philena Farmer, Gail
 Nathan Pewitt, Lamesa
 Beverly Hamilton, Midland
 Gene Hamilton, Andrews

Great-grandparents:
 E.L. and Barbara Farmer, Gail
 Virginia Pewitt, Lamesa

Proud Uncle:
 J Ryan Gicklhorn, Gail

The A-Team

An editorial by Sue Jane Mayes

I'm not sure who coined the phrase for Mr. McLeroy, Mr. McMeans, and Mr. Jarrett, but I always found it fitting.

Of course, the 1980's television show could not do justice to the work that these three men did for Borden County schools--this trio's adventures were not nearly as exciting as watching the TV version blow up cars and set bugging devices and take part in chase scenes.

Mr. McLeroy and his two principals had perhaps more mundane matters with which to deal, but it was the manner in which they worked--independently and collectively--that will forever be a part of this school's history.

Mr. Jarrett, who retired in 1989, was the thinker, the innovator, the progressive guy who brought the dark room and computers to the school. His style was more hands-on and personal; his legacy was his ability to handle the young students who would come to him innocent and cope with them through their mischievous early years of school.

Mr. McLeroy was the consummate superintendent: certainly not popular to all, but admired and respected by those with whom he worked. He was a leader who made the unpopular decisions and ran the show because someone had to do it, and he nurtured the confidence of his school boards with his knowledge of school matters. He brought discipline and academic excellence to Borden County and made an impact in Austin representing not only Borden School students but all school children of Texas--according to UIL administrators who eulogized him at his funeral in 1996.

And Mr. McMeans--the reserved, low-key guy who had to be the "heavy" so many times in his career as high school principal. His strength of character and his conviction to what was right made him ideal for the difficult job; students knew he was going to be tough, but they also knew he would not expect anything of them that he wouldn't expect of his own three sons.

Behind all three of these men were good women: Netta, Ann, and Shirley. They made wonderful "first ladies" of Borden Schools. Graceful, funny, studious, and devoted to their husbands and to their jobs as educators, these women are to be credited with being the loyal advocates and the faithful fans of their spouses and their community.

Closing this chapter of Borden County ISD's history would be difficult if it weren't for the fact that the board continues to bring quality administrators our way. Mr. Thomas and Mr. Dye--with their own unique talents and gifts as educators--are keeping the tradition.

The A-Team has just taken on new faces and different personalities, but the results are the same: Borden County has a school district of which we can all be very proud.