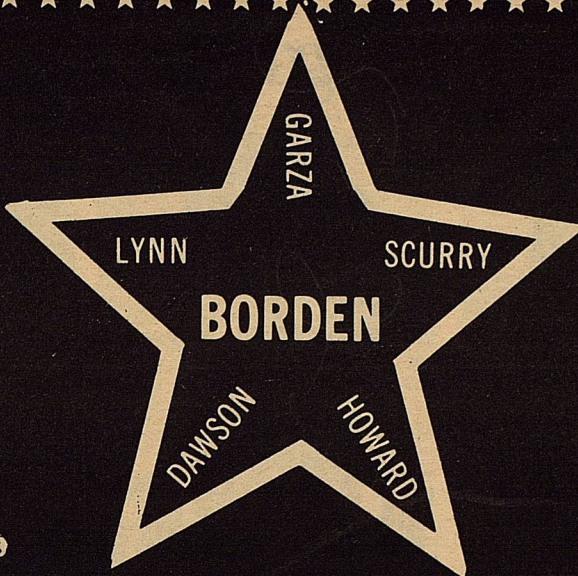


THE



STAR

VOL. 2 NO. 37

GAIL, BORDEN COUNTY, TEXAS 79730

WED., MAY 23, 1973

10 CENTS 8 PAGES

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

Conservationist Of The Year Letter



ALLEN VANDIVERE (right) and his son WAYNE check stubble in a field of harvested grain sorghum. The VANDIVERES leave sorghum stubble standing through the winter to protect the land from wind damage, to trap snow, and to reduce moisture loss by evaporation.

Allen and Wayne Vandivere can rightfully be described as men with vision and a genuine feel for the land. Their performance in conservation and sound land use has won this father-son team recognition as Conservationists of the Year in Dawson County.

Allen Vandivere and his son Wayne farm 1440 acres of land twelve miles northeast of Lamesa. All their land is dry-land, so saving precious moisture is critical. Minimum tillage, crop rotations, and terracing are the key parts in the Vandiveres' conservation program.

Minimum tillage, a farming practice widely acclaimed for preventing erosion, saving moisture and reducing farm expenses, is generally regarded as a "new" farming concept. The Vandiveres have been using the principle for years, with excellent results.

"When I was a boy," Allen recalls, "farmers would talk about plowing to make the moisture rise, or to aerate the soil. Over the years, we learned that if you're plowing and not killing weeds, you're probably wasting time."

Atypical tillage sequence for the Vandiveres begins like this: Following sorghum harvest, a heavy duty chisel is pulled at an angle across the rows. (To save as much stubble as possible, stalks are not shredded.) Chisels are raised from the ground when crossing terraces in order to avoid pulling down the terrace ridge. Nothing else is done until April when the land is listed.

After listing, the land may be knifed once or twice before planting, but only if needed to kill weeds. Cotton is planted with a lister planter and pre-emergence herbicide is banded at the same time. There is still a lot of residue on the surface to protect young plants from blowing sand. After the crop is up, knifing or cultivating is done only as needed to kill weeds in the middles, and usually is needed only two or three times. Wayne says he and his dad have used chisel plows "ever since I can remember." In past years they sometimes plowed with a moldboard, but now that stronger plows and bigger tractors are available, they almost never use a moldboard. In comparing the merits of a chisel versus a moldboard plow, Wayne says the chisel is faster, saves more moisture, and protects the land longer because plant cover is left.

The Vandiveres have been cooperators with the Dawson Conservation District since 1948. In 1951, they built terrace systems on all the land they farmed. In 1970, Wayne started using the new parallel terraces. With technical help through his District and cost-share help through the Great Plains Conservation Program, he built 20 thousand feet of parallel terraces on the 80 acre farm he owns.

"If I were to choose a single conservation practice as our most important, it would be terracing," Wayne said. "Terraces hold rainfall and

prevent water erosion, and they also do much to reduce wind erosion." He explained that terrace ridges act as small windbreaks, and wind can't sweep down the rows very far because they are contoured.

Shortly after Wayne completed his parallel terraces, Allen signed a Great Plains contract on a 320 acre farm he had purchased. The crop-land needed 66 thousand feet of parallel terraces, and Allen built them all the first year of his contract. "We find parallel terraces much faster to work than regular contour terraces," Allen says. "Except for being slightly slower at planting time, we can work these two farms about as fast as flat land without terraces."

The Vandiveres keep a few head of cattle on their farms to graze small patches of grassland. Hybrid sudan is planted for supplemental grazing and for hay.

Working at odd times or when the weather keeps them out of the fields, the Vandiveres have become quite skilled as carpenters.

As might be expected, these two families are also busy in community and church activities. Wayne has served as ASC Community Committeeman for several years, and was elected to the County Committee over a year ago.

They are members of the First Baptist Church at O'Donnel, where Wayne is Sunday School Director. His wife, La Rue is coordinator for the preschool division and sings in the choir. Allen and his wife Mildred both teach in Sunday School and Allen also serves on the Board of Deacons.

When they aren't busy with farming, building, or church work the Vandiveres enjoy family fishing trips to Lake Whitney and other Texas lakes. Wayne admits to being partial to his own bed, however, "I'd like to travel a lot if I could be home every night," he laughed. Another favorite pastime for Wayne and LaRue is attending gospel singings at area towns.

Anyone visiting with the Vandiveres is sure to be impressed by their unassuming manner. Yet there is an unmistakable quality of dignity and confidence present as they go about their work. You know that here are people who love the land and are devoted to its care.

Dear Editor:

What preposterous assumptions were made at the recent Texas Constitutional Revision Commission hearing held at Lubbock!

With the latest revelations of skulduggery in the Watergate affair how can a public servant believe that the public will tolerate more centralization of power? Our present practice of electing our public officials assures the American citizen of a check and balance system unequalled by any other nation in the world. While it may be true that anyone can be elected regardless of his qualifications, this we know only too well, it is true that anyone can also be defeated. The citizens rights of dissent and skepticism are fortified by his right to vote for the people that serve him. This should not be taken away from him. While "politics" can become corrupt and dirty, the American democratic system is sound, and should be preserved -- and frequent election of public officials is the basic principle of that system.

Sincerely,
James E. Smith

Editorial

Having two college students and two teen-agers still at home, all four of whom enjoy having a house full of guests, I have had an opportunity of being "in" on a lot of friendly but sometimes heated discussions.

One which I always felt I was weak on (but never defeated) was the use of marijuana. "It's no worse than alcohol", the kids say. "MAY-BE", I say, "but it took 200 years to determine that tobacco was 'hazardous to your health'. Why start a habit you might regret? Besides IT IS ILLEGAL." And of course, this is the root of the discussion -- whether to legalize it or not.

It looks as if that is just what they are going to do. Legalize Marijuana.

Well, now we have some real ammunition. In the May 2, 1973 issue of the Borden Star we published an article accusing marijuana as the possible culprit of breaking down chromosomes. According to M.A. Stencher of the University of Utah Medical Center, this COULD mean that marijuana use is related to birth defects and cancer.

Granted, further study needs to be done. But as long as

there is the least possibility of marijuana being guilty, all legislation for legalization should be tabled and penalties for its use increased and enforced!

What really baffles and irritates me is the obscurity of the announcement. I doubt that you had read a thing about it. Unlike the use of DES in feed lots, or even the Watergate affair, the press did not feel it important enough for front page coverage. And we are talking about the health of our grandchildren!

Since the study doesn't seem to merit a Senate investigation or even daily coverage, I feel we must do our part to put it in its proper perspective. I therefore urge you to write Sen. John Tower and Congressman Omar Burlison in Washington as well as Gov. Dolph Briscoe, Congressman Renal Rosson, and Sen. Doc Blanchard in Austin. If you would like copies of the article printed in the Borden Star to support your letter, we will be happy to oblige.

Snyder Jr. Rodeo

The second annual Snyder Junior Rodeo, sponsored by the Scurry County Rodeo Association will be held Friday and Saturday, May 25 and 26 at the Snyder rodeo arena. It is approved by the American Junior Rodeo Association, and is also open to area residents.

There will be three age groups for both boys and girls: 8 through 12, 13 through 15, and 16 through 19. Awards will be given to all-around cowboy and cowgirl in each group.

Entry blanks and fees can be mailed to Sidney Johnson, 3611 Avenue X, Snyder, Texas, 79549. Information as to when contestants are to perform will be available Thursday, May 24. Just call Sidney Johnson at 915-573-3236 or 915-573-9731.

Bible School

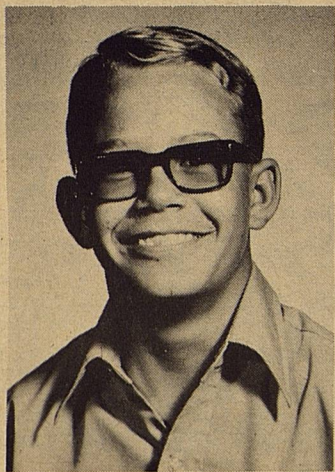
The First Baptist Church of Gail is sponsoring a Vacation Bible School for young people.

There will be classes for pre-schoolers, elementary and high school students. The classes will begin May 28 and continue through June 1 st. starting at 8:30 and ending at 11:30 a.m. each day. There will be Bible study and crafts. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Junior High Graduates



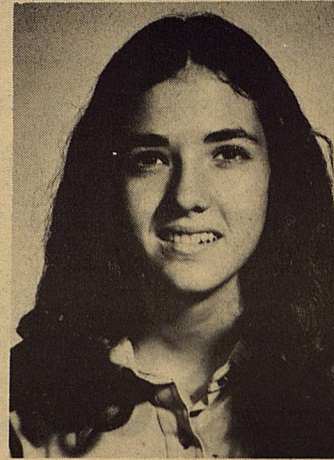
VASIY BENAVIDEZ



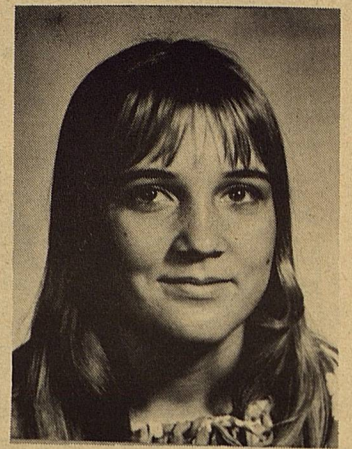
GENE WESLEY COOLEY



PETE GONZALES



GAY ANN GRIFFIN



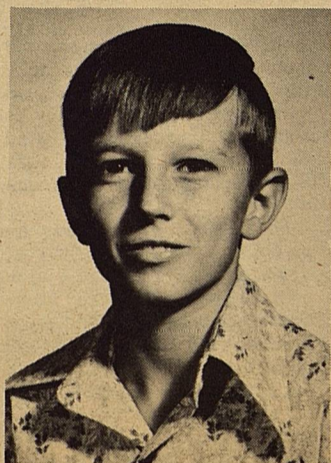
SUE ANN HANCOCK



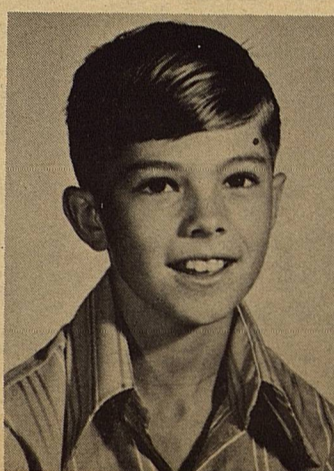
TRICIA GALE JACKSON



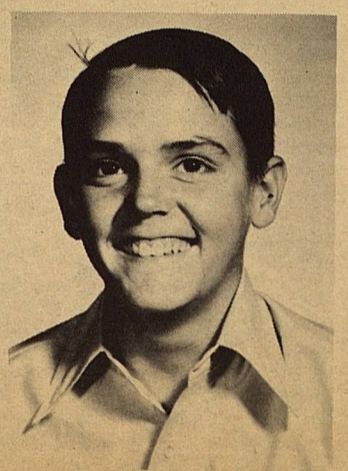
ELIZABETH LEDBETTER



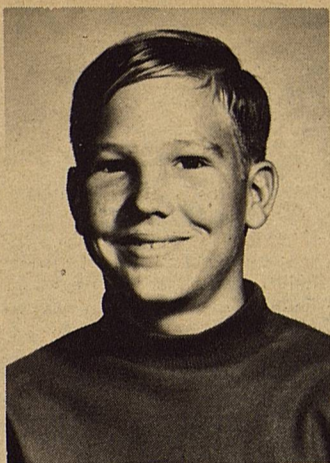
JACKIE LYNN LOCKHART



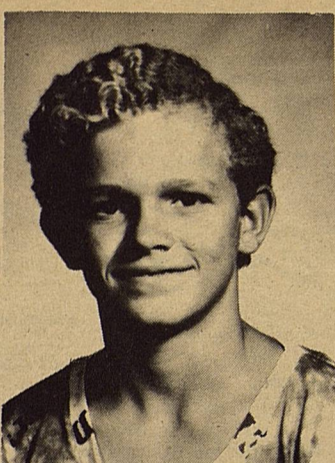
BOB HAL McLEROY



EDDIE FRANK PARKS



TOMMY GENE PATTERSON



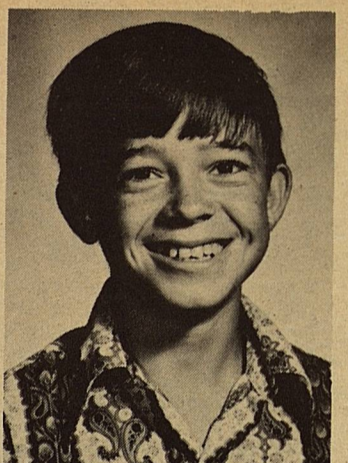
LARRY EDWARD SIMER



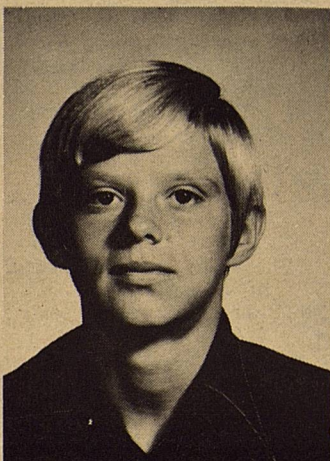
KRISTY LeMA YE SMITH



RICHARD ALLEN SMITH



BEN ANDREW THOMPSON



DARIN TUCKER



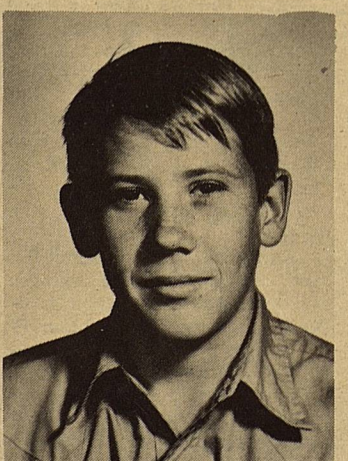
KATHY SUE UNDERWOOD



DANA JILL WESTBROOK



MARIA GUADELUPE VIDAL



JOE DON ZANT

Borden County School News



ROMPER ROOM PARTICIPANTS

Romper Room Board Minutes

Sixteen excited children attended Borden County Schools, Friday, May 18, for a Romper Room Day.

Through recent years, this event has become an annual occasion for the Homemaking I class. The purpose of this project was to study and analyze the development of children between the ages of three and five.

The preschoolers were entertained with activities such as stories, songs, and games directed by the Homemaking students. Refreshments were then served to Dana Gray, Brice and Ray Lynn Key, Eddie Pylant, Julie Ridenour, Mindy Williams, Stephanie Haegelin, Carl and Wayne Daugherty, Bradley Tucker, Mickey Burkett, John Stephens, Garry Smith, Vance Self, Leigh and Leddie Doyle.

Members of the Home Economics I class who were in charge of Romper Room are Donelle Jones, Philena Farmer, Cindy Beaver, Bica Baeza, Mary Ledbetter, Wanda Johnson, Deidre Tucker, and Debbie Herring.

Swim Party

A swimming party for the seventh and eighth grade classes was sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. Ross Westbrook, Mr. & Mrs. James McLeroy, Mr. & Mrs. Rusty Yadon and Mrs. Rube Smith, Friday May 18, after school.

The group of 42 students left Gail as soon as school was dismissed. They arrived in Big Spring around 4:45 P.M. and swam at the Holiday Inn pool, had supper at Furr's Cafeteria, then played miniature golf. The buses arrived back in Gail about 10:45 P.M.

Open House Held

The Borden Home Economics classes held an open house Thursday May 17, from 9:00 till 10:30 a.m. in the Homemaking Department.

Each class had some of the work they had done on display. The eighth grade exhibited various craft projects, and aprons they had made during their sewing unit.

The ninth grade displayed clothing they had made and articles for their "Romper Room", which was held Friday morning.

Exhibits by the tenth grade were crochet, candles and articles used in the baby unit.

The eleventh grade displayed the furniture they had refinished. They had pictures of each before and after, also notes describing the steps taken in the refinishing. They also provided the refreshments of coffee, punch, cake and cookies.

The open house brought out approximately forty guests to view the various projects. The Home Economics classes appreciate the support of the Borden County residents.



MRS. RAY HERRING and Mrs. CLAY enjoy visiting with Mrs. Mickey McMeans at the OPEN HOUSE.

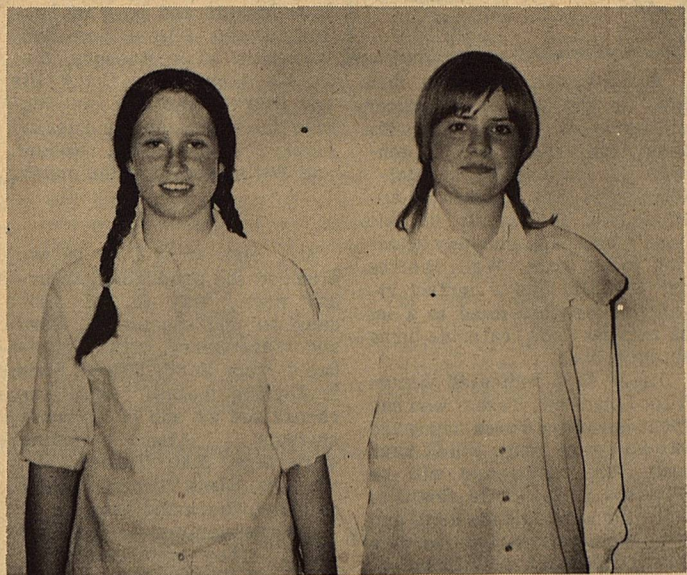
Field Trip

The eighth grade class of Borden Junior High School left Gail Wednesday afternoon, May 16, enroute to Big Spring for a field trip to the Big Spring Herald.

The group learned how information is gathered and printed as they were guided through the offices, the news room, the press room, the circulation department, and the studio by a news reporter.

After the tour of the newspaper, the class visited the Heritage Museum where the theme

High School Twirlers



MARTHA ANDERSON TRICIA JACKSON
COYOTE MARCHING BAND TWIRLERS

Borden High School twirlers for the 1973-74 school year were elected Wednesday, May 9th.

Twirlers chosen were Tricia Jackson, Freshman, and Martha Anderson, 8th grader. These

girls will go to Cisco twirling camp this summer and perform in pep rallies, half-time shows at football games, and Interscholastic League twirling contests next year.

Drum major for the band will be Kem Lockhart, a Junior.

of the current exhibit is the oil industry. They also enjoyed the display of western art.

Following the tours the group enjoyed refreshments at the Dairy Queen and returned to school.

Class Party

The sixth grade of Borden Junior High School enjoyed a class party Saturday afternoon. The party was sponsored by several mothers of the sixth graders.

The class, with the sponsors, traveled to Big Spring where they swam at Holiday Inn, shopped at T G & Y, and ate at Denny's Restaurant.

Those attending the party were Penny Thompson, Lisa McLeroy, Rhesa Wolf, Sylvia Skelton, Blane Dyess, Perry Smith, Travis Rinehart, Ray Don Underwood, Brent Rhoton, Sid Westbrook, Barney Cockrum; also attending were Gena McLeroy and Jym Rinehart.

INVITATION

Everyone is invited to a reception for the graduating eighth grade class Friday night following the graduation exercises. The reception will be held in the Posse building and refreshments will be served.

Club Meets

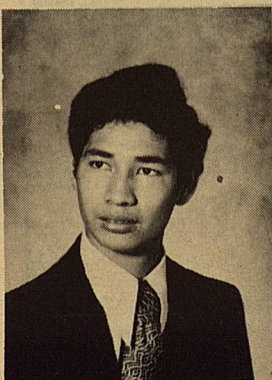
The Borden County 4-H Club met on May 21, 1973. Dorothy Browne was there to tell about the new 4-H center being built in Brownwood. We also, elected senior and junior officers for the coming year.

The new senior officers are; President---FRANK FARMER-- Vice President--MELISA TAYLOR, Secretary-Treasurer---CLAUDIA SWANN, Reporter--RHONDA PATTERSON.

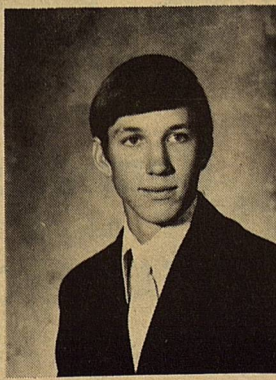
The Junior officers are as follows: President---PERRY SMITH, Vice-President-----RICHARD LONG, Treasurer---MARTHA ANDERSON, Reporter LISA HENSLEY

The club also elected two delegates to go as club representatives. They are Gay Griffin and Janice Browne. Last, the club chose the eight club members to go to the Leadership camp in Leveland, Texas. They were, Gay Griffin, Kristy Smith Sue Hancock, Dana Westbrook, Patrick Toombs, Eurdist Rinehart, Wendell Stroup, and Frank Farmer.

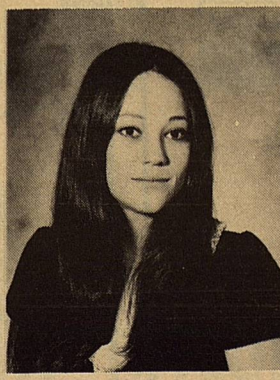
Fluvanna Seniors



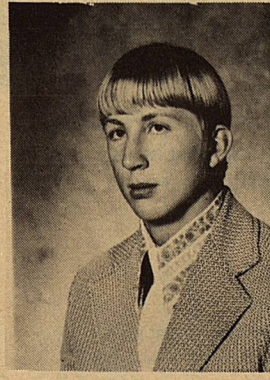
JOE BILANO



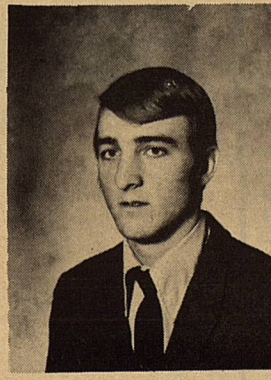
RICHARD GILL



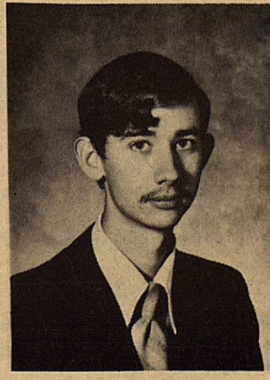
VICKI JONES



STEVE BEAVER



LARRY WHITE



STEVE DAUGHERTY

The SENIOR CLASS of FLUVANNA HIGH SCHOOL held it's Commence Exercises Tuesday evening, May 22. CONGRATULATIONS!

Jere's Gottings

Parents are prone to turn blue in the face and sputter all kinds of threats when the kids aren't doing well in school. In some cases, the deficiency is due to lack of aptitude, but, for most, the kid hasn't been applying any attention to his texts. Well, it turns out that Jr. has a perfect right to close his mind to a lot of current texts (calculus being an exception).

There is a dedicated woman from Longview, Texas, who has spent ten years researching and watchdogging texts which have been, are being and will be proposed to the State Board of Education. She needs help, and is advising all parents to take a searching look at their children's textbooks. Many poor and even subliminal texts have been accepted by the State, but it has not been due to Mrs. Gabler's ineffectiveness. She has been there each time with a critique but she can't do it alone.

A major concern for the dauntless lady - and any of us who have proofread a recent text is the philosophy prevalent in social studies. There seems to be a concerted effort to divide the children from their parents.

Mrs. Gabler points a finger to a series which has not been approved by the State Board but is being used (illegally) as a pilot program in several schools across Texas at least. "Man, A Course of Study" is the series. It is written by psychologists rather than educators, who are "not interested in knowledge but only in changing child behavior".

Another baddy is Allyn and Bacon's "The People Make a Nation", Volumes I and II. Here is a quote; "Write a speech of persuasion in which you use selected details to convince your parents to increase your allowance; to give permission to stay out late at night; to have friends at home when nobody else is home; to allow you to wear any type of clothing to school". Well now, no wonder we have the teen age rebels they have been carefully taught.

Wonder what the objection is to teaching children to respect and please their parents and to help them to advance themselves? One series teaches kiddos how to apply for welfare. And don't think that lesson has gone unheeded. I know of college kids from affluent families who are applying for and receiving food stamps.

So let's direct our red and blue faces to the State Board of Education. Investigate what your Jr. is issued as a text. If it is not good education, speak to your local school board and follow up with a letter to the State Board. Few of the folks sitting on local boards bother to read what we are paying for. And I for one turn blue thinking about the damage being done to generations of future leaders and opinion molders.

Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go.

Roamin's Round Town

Travis Walker of Paris, Tex. has been visiting friends and relatives in Gail this past week. Vivian and Pauline Clark, Joe and Sibyl Gilmore of Gail, Dick and Bonnie Cornett of Hobbs, New Mexico, Robert and Sara Mennix and boys of Lake Tomas and Milton and Ruby Woodward of Justiceburg, met at the home of Bud, Willie and Rita Cornett at Lake Thomas for a musical on Tuesday night. Vivian, Joe, Robert, and Willie provided the music.

GRADUATE

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Turner attended the graduation, Saturday night, May 19, of their daughter and son-in-law, Dana and Zane Curry. They graduated from North Texas State in Denton, Texas. Dana was recognized as one of the honor students. Also attending were Mrs. J.M. Turner, Mr. and Mrs. Blane Turner and their children, Brick and Kim.

Congratulations! to Dana and Zane. They were 1968 graduates of Borden High School.

On May 5th Randy George received his degree in Animal Science at the commencement service of A.&M. University. Attending were Mr. and Mrs. Bob Ludecke and Lisa. Randy will start working on his Masters degree at the beginning of the 1973 fall semester and become manager of the Swine Center at the A.&M. University.

Mr. & Mrs. Ira Hagins, Randy & Leslie, Gail, Mr. & Mrs. Steve Cole, Irving, and Mr. & Mrs. Freddie Hagins Midland attended a house warming for Mr. & Mrs. Danny Hagins who have purchased a new home in Midland.

Visiting Mr. and Mrs. Dennis McHenry and Diane last week were Mrs. Gerald Hilley, Jeff and Cheryl of Boaz, Alabama; Mr. and Mrs. Douce Garrard of Lubbock; and Mike McHenry. The group toured Carlsbad Caverns during their visit. Mile who is in the Air Force, has finished his schooling in Denver, Colorado and will be stationed in Orlando, Florida at McCoy Air Force Base.

John and Katherine Stephens had as visitors in their home, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Hess of Snyder; and Mrs. Marie Teeter and Mrs. Thurman Wells of O'Donnell.

DEAN'S LIST

Debra Jones has been named to the Dean's List for the spring semester at Angelo State University. Debra also made the Dean's List for the fall semester and plans to continue her studies at Angelo State.

Mr. & Mrs. H. H. Shortes of North Pole, Alaska are visiting this week with John & Jackie Shortes in Gail. This is the first time John has seen his parents in six years. Other visitors of the Shortes over the week-end were John's Grandfather H.G. Shortes, Big Spring Mr. & Mrs. Dale Suunt and family, Laredo, Bus Cornett and family, Vic Cornett and family all of Lamesa.

Ken Don Jones is home for the summer. Ken Don attended Baylor University this past year and will transfer to Texas Tech.

Mrs. Martha Thompson and daughter Dorothy LaFern and Mrs. Mattie Crook spent Mother's Day week-end with relatives at Corpus.

O'Donnell Baccalaureate Today

O'DONNELL (Special) Ralph Odom, pastor of First United Methodist Church, will deliver the address at the O'Donnell High School Baccalaureate Service at 8 p.m. today in the high school auditorium.

A former Lubbock mayor, Dr. James H. Granberry, will be the speaker at the commencement exercises Thursday, also at 8 p.m. in the auditorium.

The valedictorian is Pamela Sue Allen with a grade point average of 93.16. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Allen of Rt. 2, O'Donnell.

The salutatorian is Connie Gale Kizer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Kizer of Rt. 5

Tahoka. Miss Kizer has an average of 90.12.

Highest ranking boy is Robby Wayne Vestal with a GPA of 89.28. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Vestal of Rt. 2, O'Donnell.



ALLEN

KIZER

Museum News



GRAHAM HOME DEMONSTRATION CLUB OF POST

Seven members of the Graham Home Demonstration Club of Post were on a tour of interesting places around the country side. They stopped by the Borden Co. Museum where

refreshments of coffee, and coke and cookies were served to the following: Jewell Parrish, Nona Lusk, Lucille Bush, Viva Davis, Pearl Wallace, Louise Robinson and Iva Edwards.

FISHING

COLEMAN RANCH

On Highway 80 8 1/2 Mi. West of Gail

23 Mi. East of Lamesa

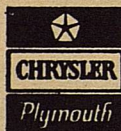
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Coyote Hunting

Both the Senate and the House of Representatives have passed a bill which would permit taking of predatory animals by aircraft.

State Rep. Renal B. Rosson of Snyder, co-sponsor of the House companion bill, reported that the House passed the Senate-approved measure last week and now needs only the Governor's signature to make it final.

Rep. Rosson said the bill became necessary because of federal restrictions put on the use of poisons and cyanide guns in controlling coyotes, bobcats and other predatory animals which have caused serious losses to sheep and cattle men in Texas. Rosson noted that the opposition stemmed from persons who did not understand the damage that such predators could inflict and had brought on the federal laws, but Texas legislators had worked to rectify some of the inequities.

Under the bill, the Parks and Wildlife Department may issue permits for predatory animal control by the use of aircraft if the Department finds that the action is necessary to protect land, water, wildlife, livestock, domestic animals, human life or crops. The permit shall specify the number of predatory animals and the types that may be taken and the area in which it is allowed.

An applicant for a permit must file an affidavit stating the reason why a permit should be issued, and specify the number and type of animals to be taken and the location. The application, costing \$5, will be valid for one year or sooner if the number of predators listed is taken. Permits may also be renewed.

Obituaries

O. D. ENGLE

O. D. Engle, a retired Texas and Pacific Railway engineer died Saturday night at a local hospital, in Big Springs.

Services were held at 4:30 p.m. Monday at Nalley-Pickle Rosewood Chapel with burial in Mount Olive Cemetery.

Survivors include his wife, Nina; two sons, Clifford Engle, Houston; Howard Engle, Adrean; two daughters, Miss Lucille Engle, Big Spring; Mrs. Lanell Morris, Big Spring; and five grandchildren.

MRS. NANCY TAYLOR

Funeral services for Mrs. Nancy Elizabeth Taylor, 84, were conducted at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the First United Methodist Church of Tahoka. Mrs. Taylor was a former Lubbock resident who was also an early day resident of Lynn County.

Survivors are: three daughters, including Mrs. Weldon Hancock of Route One, O'Donnell; two sons; three sisters, 15 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Farewell Dinner

Sunday, May 20, a farewell dinner was given for Brother Crawford, pastor of the Gail Baptist Church. The youth department brought special music. Kristy Smith and Steve McMeans accompanied them on the guitars and Jo Ann Martin played the piano. A gift was presented to Brother Crawford. The gift was an engraved tray, coffee service and love offering. Lunch was served to about 60 people.

More Locals

Stephanie Stephens', daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Stephens, guest Thursday night was Lindy Doyle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Doyle of Gail.

Visiting Dee and Willie Burrus Sunday, were her brother and niece, Toad Monroe and Lora of Sweetwater.

Mrs. Gussie Williams, Tahoka, visited Sunday with her daughter and family Mr. & Mrs. Pat Hensley and attended Lesa's piano recital.

Mr. and Mrs. John F. Cox visited in the home of Billie and Dotty Wills Sunday and attended church services with them.

Mrs. Leon Autry visited with her mother Mrs. Jointer of Abilene, Sunday.

Mrs. Sam Armstrong is visiting in the Max von Roeder home west of Snyder.

Mrs. T. J. Sterling is visiting with relatives at Lubbock. Mr. and Mrs. Wright Huddleston visited Wednesday with her sister Mrs. Bama Clark Murphy at Colorado City.

Mrs. Ruth Weathers visited the Internal Revenue Tax Office at Big Spring, Monday in the interest of the Borden Co. Museum at Gail, a non-profit organization.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Franklin and two children were weekend visitors of the lady's parents at Jayton.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Smith of Waco and Alan Smith of Snyder were Saturday night guest of Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Ezell at Lubbock.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hood and even were week-end fisherman at Lake Spence, Robert Lee over the week-end with a small catch to report.

Glyn Ed Murphy of Breckenridge visited Saturday with his mother Mrs. W. Ed Murphy of Lake Thomas area.

Joe Don Zant is recovering at home after a short stay in a local hospital.

Mr. Murle Cox of Ajo, Arizona, is on vacation and is visiting in Gail with his brother and nephew, Don and Rex Cox.

Miss Suzanne Cotten of Lubbock is spending this week with Dorothy and Janice Browne.

Mrs. Sid Reeder visited in the home of her daughter, Mrs. Sidney Wilcox the past weekend. Mindy Wilcox came home with her Grandmother to spend the week visiting.

Mr. and Mrs. Norval Cunningham spent the weekend in Lubbock. They were visiting with Mr. Cunningham's brother who recently underwent surgery, at Methodist Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Ricky Cunningham of Burkburnett visited Sunday with the Larry Smith's.

CLUB MEETS

The Gail Homemakers club met last Saturday for the last meeting of the year until September. This meeting honored the members' families. Ice-cream and cake were served. The group enjoyed a poem written and read by Wanda Smith entitled, "The Week after Christmas in Gail." Then the men played dominoes while the women visited.

HOSPITALIZED

Mrs. Bert Massingill has recently undergone surgery and is in Room 330, Saint Mary's Catholic Hospital, Lubbock, Texas.

Ira Hagins recieved treatment at Methodists Hospital in Lubbock last week. His recent heart attack has left him with 60% damage to the left side and 40% damage to the right side of his heart.

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Round-Up Time

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Each year at this time, West Texas Boys' Ranch of San Angelo holds a roundup. If you have a animal you want to donate, you may deliver it to the ranch or you may contact them and they will pick it up. You might have a horse and saddle your children have outgrown and such gifts would be greatly appreciated. The personnel at the Ranch invite each of you to visit the ranch and see how it is operated - and you might do this at the same time you give your donation. If you wish you may give money and it can be made in the form of a memorial. The memorials may be given at any time of the year. The following Borden Cpunty citizens have contributed so far

this year: Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Newton, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Beaver, Mr. and Mrs. T.L. Griffin, II, Mr. and Mrs. James E. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Don Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Rich Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Dennis, Becky Miller, and Cody Newton.

The motto for the ranch is DON'T BRAND A BOY - BUILD A MAN and with your help that is just what they are doing. It will do your heart good to visit these boys at the ranch - and remember - all your gifts are tax deductible!

You may send your donation to Bert Dennis, Wagon Boss for 1973, Box 97, Gail, Texas. 79738, or West Texas Boys Ranch, P.O. Box 3568, San Angelo, Texas, 76901.

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Wins First Rustlers ride Kansas plains

The Western Texas College men's Rodeo team finished its 1972-73 season by bringing home the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association's South west Regional championship. WTC won seven first places out of ten rodeos.

Mike Cathey, a member of the WTC team and son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Cathey of Big Spring, was named all-around cowboy for the region. He piled up 553.5 points in NIRA competition. Tutt Garnett of WTC has second with 535.5 spoins.

This is the first time in the history of the NIRA that a two-year college has captured the championship, Van Rigby, WTC rodeo advisor, said. The WTC team had 1854 1/2 points. These points are from the best five rodeos for the year. Second place winner was Tarleton State with 1604. The top two teams and the top two individuals in each event are qualified to participate in the national college finals rodeo in Bozeman, Montana, June 19-23.

Final official records for the season showed several WTC students earning first and second place honors in regional standings. First and second place standings were:

Bareback riding - Perry Lee, Tarleton State, first, 367 1/2 points; Mike Cathey, WTC, second, 227 1/2 points.

Saddle bronc riding - Johnny Gass, WTC, second, 447 points; Mark McCloy, Texas Tech, first, 455 points.

Bull riding - Cathey, first 287 points; Ronnie Hedges, Tarleton State, second, 271.5

Calf roping - Tutt Garnett, WTC, first, 308.5 points; Bobby Campbell, ENM, second, 264 points.

Ribbon roping - Good, first, 350 points; Tooter Waites, Tarleton State, second, 177 points.

Steer wrestling - Jim Fuller, WTC, first, 360 points; Joe Anderson, WTC, second, 201.

The WTC team earned 370 points at the New Mexico State rodeo in Las Cruces to take first place honors in the final rodeo of the season. Tarleton was second with 361 1/2 points and ENMU was third with 195 points.

of system is being used. I hear motorcycles are pretty effective. They drive them in pastures and just run the cattle until they're worn out. In some cases, he said, "they've driven trucks right up to feed lots and hauled away truck loads of cattle right out of the lot."

George Thompson, Abilene, director of the associations's livestock division, said the looting of feedlots had tapered off since operators began posting a security guard at night, much in the manner of the old time trail bosses.

Rustlers have relatively easy going in Kansas because the state has no brand law.

Thompson said, "if they get a couple of miles down the road there's no way of proving the stock is stolen. Kansas farmers have always opposed a brand law because it is expensive. Every time you want to move a herd from one pasture to another you have to pay an inspector. But I think this might change their minds. There's a lot of talk now about calling for a brand law.

World cattle numbers climb

The world cattle numbers climbed 1.6% to 1.3 billion in 1972. Largest increases were in the U.S., Argentina, Australia, and the enlarged European community, according to a USDA statistical report. Cattle numbers in the USSR also increased but at a slower rate than in previous year because of adverse weather.

The world hog numbers were down slightly to 680.6 million head from 682.2 million head. The USSR and the U.S. showed the largest declines. In the USSR hog numbers fell from 71.4 million to 66.5, down about 7%. The reduction can be attributed to the poor conditions in the USSR during 1972 USDA said.

Sheep numbers were up to

1,052 million head, up to 1.5 percent in 1973. This is the first increase in world sheep numbers since 1969. It is due primarily to higher world wool prices, which doubled in 1972. The largest increases were in Australia and Argentina.

Leader Chosen

Janice Browne has been invited to serve on the staff to conduct the District 2 4-H Teen Leader Workshop at the South Plains College in Levelland, June 19-21.

The purpose of this workshop is to train 4-H teen leaders.

Janice has served on the District and Texas 4-H Councils and has attended this type camp for three years and now upon graduation from high school she will be eligible to serve on the staff to train other leaders.

one out of every 20 students who apply for admission to veterinary college can be accepted. Admission standards are very high and competition is keen.

Young people who are considering veterinary medicine for a career should make every effort to excel in biological and physical sciences in high school, advises Dr. Van Kruiningen, University of Connecticut. Presently, he said, it is very difficult for anyone with less than the highest high school and pre-vet college grades to gain admission to veterinary schools.

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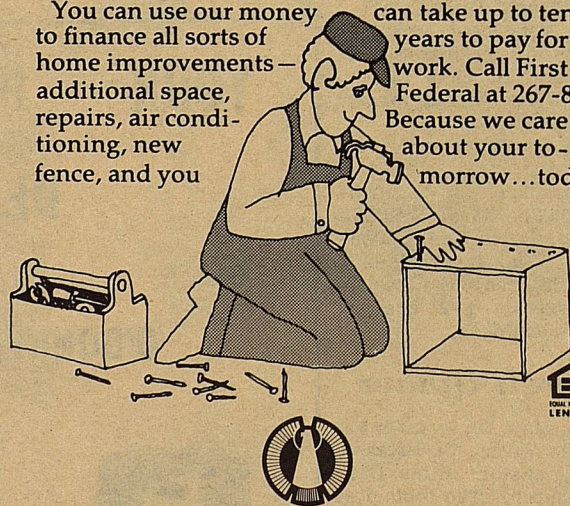
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Toombs Presents Testimony

(Ed. note; the following is the complete text of Judge Toombs presentation to the Constitution Revision Committee Hearing held in Lubbock.)

TESTIMONY FOR THE TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION COMMISSION

For the benefit of the members of the Texas Constitutional Revision Commission and hopefully the citizens of Texas, I would like to relate to each of you, for what it's worth, a few thoughts of my own regarding constitutional revision.

I guess the average Texas citizen's chief sin is failure to inform himself about the nature of the constitutional liberties which each of us enjoy and value highly. Many Texas citizens today are unaware that the Texas Constitution needs anything changed about it. Most of them know about the Federal Constitution, but ask the average Texan about his constitution and you will see that bewildered look of blankness. By the time you complete your constitutional revision the average citizen will be either knowledgeable or thoroughly confused; so, here I am beginning some of the confusion.

Beginning with Article 3, Section 4 --- Election and term of members of House of Representatives, 4 year terms for House members.

Article 3, Section 5 -- Meetings; Order of Business - The Legislature shall meet in regular or continued session, just as the Congress of the United States does, in fact. There should also be a limit to the number of House members. Now is a good time to limit any additional places.

Article 3, Section 6 -- Senators should also be elected for 6 years instead of 4.

Article 3, Section 24 -- Compensation and Expenses of members of Legislature; Legislature should be allowed to set a yearly salary equal to a District Judgeship and raise their salary when necessary with two-thirds majority of each house. Pay all actual expenses, mileage, office staff salaries and all other expenses that may be incurred while in office that is a part of the Legislature's responsibility. All limits as to staff salaries and office expenses shall be set by the Legislature during their regular session.

Article 3, Section 26A -- Counties with more than seven representatives; The House of Representatives should be limited to a total membership. Now is a good time to start. Representatives can now be apportioned so as to eliminate any additional members by giving surplus population to other contiguous county or counties.

TAXES

Article 3, Section 4B -- Taxes; restrictions on levy; The Legislature should not be allowed to levy taxes or any other financial burden that may be injurious to other taxing entities whereby counties, cities, etc. would have to pass it on to the people. If there is a bill proposing a law that governmental entities perform some service to the public the Legislature should furnish the means of financing the project. The Legislature should give the same right to governmental entities as they are required to do for the people.

Article 3, Section 52B -- Should apply to all counties in

Texas on a permissive basis. Article 3, Section 56 -- Local and Special Laws; Shall not impose any law that would increase the financial burden of any governmental entity without first the consent of the entity's governmental bodies.

Article 5 -- Judicial Department of the Constitution; Much publicity has been given to a revision of Article 5 by a Task Force headed up by your illustrious Commission Chairman, Justice Calvert. No doubt you have heard and will hear more on this as time goes on. I only wish to reply to the portion regarding Chief Justice Calvert's Task Force which would, from its recommendations, eliminate the Court of Criminal Appeals. I believe the Courts of Civil Appeals should be given criminal and civil jurisdiction and leave the Court of Criminal Appeals to handle cases with criminal jurisdiction and the Supreme Court to handle appeals from that court as it now does.

I firmly believe all Judges must be elected by the majority of the people's vote. For what little democracy and civil rights each of us have left, we should treasure, and this means; preserve the election process so you and I can pass judgment upon all policy makers including judges. I would not vote for any type of merit selection. I don't believe we need to revert back to the "king and his court".

Article 5, Section 15 -- County Courts need to be retained as presently exist under the article.

Article 5, Section 16 -- The County Court jurisdiction should be increased on civil jurisdiction up to \$5,000.00 in Civil cases. I see no reason why this court could not handle suits for the recovery of land also. The County Court should be allowed to have original jurisdiction in all suits on behalf of all governmental entities for delinquent tax suits up to \$5,000 plus penalty and interest. Since the State as a whole is virtually out of the ad valorem tax business and since local governmental entities have a much better grass roots concept than District Courts the suits would fit very well in County Court Jurisdiction thus relieving District Courts of some of their case loads. The District Courts claim they are so crowded now

it is almost impossible to get to trial and most taxpayers know this. In my estimation County Courts are like the guillotine - quick. District Courts are like a gut shot - slow and painfully expensive.

DIVISION OF COUNTIES

Article 5, Section 17 -- Division of counties into precincts, etc. This article could stand a few revisions. County Commissioners should be elected county wide, but serve in the precinct in which he lives and each precinct shall have equal population by voter registration. There should be only one Justice of the Peace in each county and elected on a county wide basis. In counties of excessive population additional Justice Courts may be required; as may be determined by the County Commissioners Court of said county. Constables should serve by appointment only at the discretion of the Commissioners Court.

COUNTY CLERKS

Article 5, Section 20 -- County Clerk; This office should be made appointive by the County Commissioners Court. This would enable to secure more qualified help as County Clerks. Appointment will be for four years and reaffirmed every four years. This will keep political pressure out of the clerk's offices.

Article 5, Section 21 -- In counties where there isn't a County Attorney the District Attorney shall serve as advisor to the County Commissioners Court and meet with them in each court session as a part of his regular duties.

Article 5, Section 22 - Changing Jurisdiction of County Court; The Legislature shall not have the power, by local or general law, to increase, diminish or change the civil and criminal jurisdiction of County Courts without the consent of the County Commissioners Court and only then the County Judge may call an election of the registered voters of the area concerned. In other words a local election shall be called as to the recommended changes and the State shall bear the cost of said election.

SHERIFFS

Article 5, Sec. 23 - Sheriffs; This office no longer needed as an elective office. This office should be appointed by the Commissioners Court upon

certain professional qualifications now required in law enforcement officers. Our Sheriff's being elected as they are now doesn't constitute the best qualified person, only popularity. It is my belief the Commissioners Court should do this since they are the ones who make policy decisions and not the Sheriff. He shall be appointed for a term of four years and shall be reaffirmed every four years by the Commissioners Court. Get him out from under the political pressure of voters influence.

Article 6, Sec. 2 - No person shall be able to vote in any county election unless he or she lives in said county for as long as 90 days prior to said election. He or she must show evidence of a county address and residence before established voter registration with the County Clerk.

Article 8, Sec. 9 - The maximum county ad valorem tax rate should be raised from the present 80¢ per one hundred dollar assessed value to \$1.00 per one hundred dollar assessed value; and this should have no effect to the present 15¢ special road tax and the 30¢ farm to market and flood control tax. This would give the county a rate of \$1.00 over the present 80¢ levy.

Article 8, Sec. 14 - Assessor and Collector of Taxes; There shall be only one tax assessor-collector of taxes of all governmental entities in any one given county and he shall be appointed by the County Commissioners Court with proper qualifications in accounting, etc. His or her appointment shall be reaffirmed every four years by the Commissioners Court

and these shall not be any dual offices such as we have now in a Sheriff and Tax Assessor. These shall have separate and distinct offices with prescribe duties by the Taxing Authorities, Commissioners Court, and the Legislature.

Article 8, Sec. 16 - The article should be repealed. No dual offices of Sheriff and Tax Assessor-Collector. There is not any parallel here.

Article 8, Sec. 18, 19, 20 - The Legislature should establish a State wide, 100% appraisal so as to get uniformity in property appraisal. This could be handled under the State Comptroller or Tax Commissioner which he is sometimes called

Article 16, Sec. 23 - Regulation of livestock; There has been some talk about new brand laws. We are satisfied like it now is.

TREASURER

Article 16, Sec. 44 - County Treasurer and County Surveyor; These two offices no longer need to be elective as they are not policy making bodies. I suggest these offices be appointive by the Commissioners

Court on a four year term to be reaffirmed every four years by the County Commissioners Court. This is another office that needs to get out from under the political influence of the voting public as anyone can get elected but what about qualifications. Sometime people vote for the unqualified personality, not the qualified. WHO BETTER can determine qualified office holders than the five member Commissioners Court who are answerable to the public through the ballot box.

Article 16, Sec. 50, 51 - Homestead exemption; Rural

con't on page 8



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con't from page 7
 Homestead exemptions for rural homesteads shall not exceed 200 acres, urban homesteads not in excess of \$5,000 evaluation without reference to improvements. (The 200 acre exemption may be reasonable, if so the urban \$10,000 as amended isn't. Since land has gone up in value due to inflation I see no reason why the urban dweller shouldn't be given the same percentage in exemption. Land prices have risen some since 1869.) Some adjustment needed here.

The above has been a number of recommended constitutional changes for what it is worth. SUMMARY

I would now like to give the Commission a brief summary of major problems facing county government.

It first begins with revenue. Counties are called upon to provide more services and as the cost of these continues to increase many counties are concerned that their traditional sources of revenue will soon become inadequate. This problem is common to county government in all sections of Texas. This is why Commissioners Courts scream to high heaven when the Legislature passes a law that adds another burden to our already inadequate tax revenue. Our District Judges are good at giving raises to their personnel such as Court Reporters, Probation Officers, and County Auditors without consulting with the Commissioners Court whether the money is available or not. This is why the Commissioners Court must control all the salaries they have to budget; for, with local tax money. With the combination of the above plus the declining population, low property values in non-oil-producing areas, and a lack of industrialization has created a revenue shortage in many a rural county. Other counties have lost tax revenue through condemnation either on the basins of man-made lakes, like J.B. Thomas in my county or for right of way for interstate highways.

AD VALOREM

Most counties are dependent for revenue upon the ad valorem property tax, but many county officials like myself believe that property tax has been virtually exhausted as a revenue source. This is why I ask the Constitutional Revisional Commission to consider that counties be allowed to pick up the State share of their current phase out of the State ad valorem tax.

Another problem which will become more apparent is the need for land use controls. The Commissioners Court need this authority for some type of control to establish minimum criteria for whatever use the landowner decides to make of his lands. This is far more serious in and around unincorporated areas near large metropolitan centers such as Lubbock.

The third problem of general concern is the status of county officials other than members of the Commissioners Court. I urge as pointed out in some of my prior remarks, the elimination of certain county and district offices and changing them from elective to appointive. Those to be eliminated should be hide and animal inspectors, public weighers, county school superintendents and the auditor.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS

Other suggestions for the improving of county government that you might consider when drafting revisions to the constitution not already mentioned

are: 1. The creation of a County Board of Equalization to free the Commissioners Court from political pressure. 2. Revising the minimum foundation program for schools under Article 7, to eliminate or change that portion of the economic index that uses county assessed valuation in the formula, to avoid a loss of state funds when the valuation is increased. 3. Counties should be authorized to budget on a fiscal year beginning October 1. 4. As I said, County Commissioners should be allowed to run at large, while requiring candidates to file by precinct. 5. Giving the County Judge veto power over the Commissioners Court. Also, in relation to the office of County Judge and his qualifications, I firmly believe that a County Judge doesn't have to be a member of the State Bar (which I note that 18 members of this Commission are) to be a competent Judge. Matters of probate, juvenile offenses, etc. are of great concern to me as a judge and I feel well qualified to pass judgment on any and every matter that comes before me as County Judge regardless whether I am an attorney or not. It's not that big a deal. Sure, you need to work hard to find some of the solutions but anyone who is as dedicated as I am to County Government and the grass roots concept can damn well fill the bill and I don't care what anyone says. Judges need to be knowledgeable not only in the law but in local concept. Having been a former peace officer I have come to the conclusion

that Judges need to see the victims also. Remember this when you look at Article 5 of the Constitution.

In closing I must say the lack of wisdom by the average Texan may be permitting the State Judiciary to exercise vast powers through constitutional revision. It has long been my opinion that the germ of dissolution of our State and County government is in the Constitution of the State Judiciary. Some times an irresponsible body, working like gravity by night and day, gaining a little today and little tomorrow, and advancing its noiseless steps like a thief, over the field of jurisdiction, such as Justice Calvert's Task Force of the Revision of Article V, until all power will be taken away from the cities, and counties making the State government one consolidation.

We do not need a liberty killing monster of power (Big State Government) but we need today, most of all, self-government in line with the need of the average individual, not government-over-man but liberty of-man.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to appear before this Honorable Body and may I thank each of you for your dedication to the people of Texas. GLENN TOOMBS COUNTY JUDGE BORDEN COUNTY

One who uses a half truth to convince an opponent has told the greatest lie of all.

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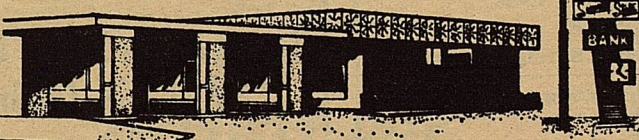
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Weather

WEATHER AT THE COUNTY SEAT

By K. T. REDDELL

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TUESDAY	70	41	.02
WEDNESDAY	84	50	0
THURSDAY	81	49	0
FRIDAY	91	58	0
SATURDAY	100	66	Trace
SUNDAY	92	66	0

Farm Reports Due

The Agriculture Department announced plans for a new reporting system designed to give farmers and the public faster official word of export deals like last year's controversial record grain sales to the Soviet Union. Under the proposal, private grain traders would make confidential

weekly reports of export sales of grains and soybeans. The information, submitted about three weeks after each sale, would be compiled in weekly government reports on the total sales volume for each crop.

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