

Valley Tribune

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Family Farmers Being Forced Off Their Farms

by Jack Anderson
 Jim Smith was forced off his farm last year. Thirty-nine years old now, he brought his family to the Texas Panhandle in 1970 to earn a living as a tenant farmer and he did pretty well for the first few years.
 Smith used irrigation farming methods to grow wheat and grain sorghum on 2½ sections of land. His neighbors remember him as a hard-working, efficient farmer who produced good crops. 1973 was an especially good year, with good weather and good prices for his grain. But two years later the bottom began to fall out.
 One of his wells was down during the critical summer months of 1975, so his crop wasn't as good as it had been before. In addition, the cost of things like natural gas for his well pumps and fertilizer and diesel fuel for his tractors was skyrocketing, while the price he was getting for his grain sorghum fell from \$5 a hundredweight the year before to between \$3.75 and \$3.50.
 Jim Smith had to pull in his horns and in 1976 he farmed only

one section. He had a good crop, but his costs kept going up and the price for his grain sorghum kept going down, to between \$3.15 and \$2.90 a hundredweight.
 Already burdened by debt he went under last year, forced to file for bankruptcy.
 TODAY, HE IS TRYING to support his wife and two teenage children — one of them only 1½ years away from college — by doing common labor at a farm goods store, hauling purchases to customers' trucks.
 Half the land he was farming is still lying unused, choked by head-high weeds. The owner hired a man to put in dryland wheat too much moisture and he gave up halfway through.
 Part of Jim Smith's problem, of course, was that he didn't own his land and couldn't put it up as collateral when he fell into debt.
 But land ownership doesn't offer much of a guarantee for farmers these days. Six other farmers in Smith's county went out of business last year and some of them owned their land. One landowner who is still hanging on had to re-finance his farm last year. He now owes \$300 an acre on 575 acres that he bought in 1953 for \$100 an acre.
 I have met with a lot of farmers and ranchers and businessmen in my Washington office this

year and they all say the same thing: the American farmer today is caught in the worst cost-price squeeze of modern times.
 They had high crop yields last year and rightfully expected to turn a good profit. But in bad times like these it isn't enough to be an efficient, hard-working farmer. Their projections for this year's crop, based on the new farm bill, show not only no profit but greater losses than last year.
 As a last resort, the farmer and rancher have turned to their elected representatives in Congress for help.
 I WANT TO HELP, so I have joined Senator Robert Dole, a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, to offer legislation that would provide higher target price incentives — up to parity levels — for farmers who reduce their production.
 The target price for wheat proposed in our bill, for example, would start at \$3 a bushel for a farmer who sets aside 20 percent of his land, and range up to \$5.04 a bushel for a 50 percent set-aside.
 The target price for corn would range from \$2.10 a bushel for a 10 percent set-aside to \$3.45 for a 50 percent set-aside, and the target price for Upland cotton would go from \$.54 a pound for a 20 percent set-aside to \$.84 a pound for a 50 percent set-aside.
 Our bill doesn't guarantee the farmer a profit, but it does give him a fair chance to earn more for his crop than he paid to plant and harvest it.
 As consumers who depend on bountiful harvests to provide our food at reasonable cost, we owe it to ourselves to give the thousands of Jim Smiths a chance.
 Jim Smith isn't his real name. I don't want to add embarrassment to everything else he's trying to cope with. But the problem is real, for him and many others. And it won't go away without positive, forceful action.
 Mr. and Mrs. Orval Cobb and Janice were guests for lunch Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Grewe in Silverton. They were met there by Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Cobb of Hale Center, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Cobb and family of Amarillo, and Mr. and Mrs. James Bussy of Petersburg.
 Mrs. Neva Hickey and Bailey Eddleman of Dimmitt spent Sunday and Sunday night with their sisters, Mrs. Ruby Cushmanberry and Mr. and Mrs. Murry Morrison and family. Mr. and Mrs. Bryant Eddleman of Silverton visited in the afternoon.
 Mr. and Mrs. Pete Blankenship were in Furr's in Plainview Saturday. They noticed Mary Ollie Persons and Amelia Johnson trying to make a telephone call to Quitaque to ask a neighbor to go to Amelia's home and disconnect her coffee maker. Amelia didn't get an answer and Pete told her to call "Roy's." She did and, of course, Roye drove to her home and disconnected the coffee pot. (Any time anyone in Quitaque is in need of help, Roye is called and he gets help or goes himself. That is a good neighbor.)

Round Table Group Of Baptist Women Meet

The ROUND TABLE GROUP of Quitaque Baptist Women met Monday morning in the home of Miss Gladys Stroup. A book report, "Hand on My Shoulder," was presented by Miss Mary Ollie Persons. This is a book on missions in New Mexico. Mrs. Lillian White brought the Call to Prayer for missionaries who had birthdays that day. A special prayer for missionaries was given by each of the following ladies: Mrs. Orlin Stark, Mrs. O. R. Stark, Jr., and Mrs. Leon McCracken. Mrs. White led the closing prayer.
 Refreshments of doughnuts and coffee were served by the hostess, Miss Stroup.
 Roger Evans of Slaton visited in the Tim Bone home Sunday. He came to meet the new young miss, Heather Diane Bone, who is one week of age. Roger flew down in a helicopter. He is an instructor for Helicopter.
 Those visiting in the Jack Cheatham home over the weekend were Mr. and Mrs. Robin Harmon, Robbie and Tracy of Friona, and Miss Eva Cheatham of Wayland Baptist College, Plainview.
 The Robin Harmons also visited his parents, the R. J. Harmons.
 Susan Hamilton, small daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roland Hamilton, spent a short time in Central Plains Hospital in Plainview last week. She had minor surgery, according to her parents, but is recovering in fine condition. The Hamiltons have recently moved to Plainview from Quitaque.
 Mrs. Daisy Tower of Dallas vis-

NOTICE!

There will be a parents' meeting at 3:30 Monday, March 6, at Valley School Cafeteria for planning of the Booster Club Athletic Banquet. Please come and help get this on the way!
 Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Powell were in Childress Saturday where they visited her brother, Johnnie Williams, who had surgery Thursday in the Childress General Hospital.
 Mrs. Bernice Morgan is in Childress to be with her sister, Mrs. Hulsey, who has been in the Childress Hospital for several weeks.
 Mrs. Audra Foster of Memphis spent Friday night in the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Powell and accompanied them to Childress Saturday to visit her brother, a patient in Childress General Hospital.
 Johnnie Powell of Shamrock visited with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Powell, in Turkey Sunday.
 Mr. and Mrs. Sonny Mullin of Levelland visited in Turkey Sunday with relatives and attended the open house for Beth Mills' Glad Rags Sunday afternoon.
 Mr. and Mrs. Bill Peery of Childress visited in Turkey Sunday with his brother, Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Peery, and with his mother, Mrs. Sam Peery.
 Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lacy were in Mineral Wells on Monday to attend the funeral service for her cousin. They returned by way of Dallas to visit with their daughter, Mrs. Barbara Maupin.
 James Fuston, and daughter,

ited in Turkey and Quitaque with friends and relatives over the weekend. Her relatives in Turkey were Mrs. Frankie Bell and Ralph Meacham and in Quitaque she visited the Chandlers.
 Mrs. T. W. Bell, jr., of Turkey has been in Clarendon with her mother, Mrs. Beverly, who has been ill.
TURKEY STUDENT NAMED TO WHO'S WHO
 M'Liss Meyer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Meyer of Turkey, has been named to Who's Who Among American Junior Colleges.
 Miss Meyer is currently a sophomore at Clarendon College where she is following general academic studies. She is a 1976 graduate of Valley High School.
 Guy Smith is a patient in Doctors Hospital at Plainview following surgery Tuesday morning this week. His wife Pauline has been at his bedside and Mr. and Mrs. Buster Chadwick and children of Quitaque and Guy Paul Smith of Dallas has been with their father this week while he underwent surgery.
 Susan Mullin of Canyon spent last week in Turkey visiting with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mullin and in the home of her father, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Mullin.
 Mr. and Mrs. Clark Johnson of Lubbock visited in Turkey with his brother, Mr. and Mrs. George Johnson Monday night.
 Mr. and Mrs. Rod Hill of Wellington visited with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Hill in Turkey over the weekend.
 Lana and his mother, Mrs. Alice Fuston were in Panhandle Saturday to attend the livestock show in which Mike and Leisa Fuston, children of Mr. and Mrs. Denny Fuston were showing their prize livestock. Jack House was also present to see his grandchildren exhibit their winners. Mike had a grand champion first place winner.

Guests in the home of Rev. and Mrs. Elroy Wisian, jr., over the weekend were his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elroy Wisian, Sr. of Stinnett. They were present to attend their son's first services as the new pastor of the Turkey United Methodist Church this past Sunday. The First Baptist Church dismissed their church services on Sunday night for their church members to attend the Methodist Sunday night service to welcome Rev. and Mrs. Wisian and Carla after their misfortune that happened at their first attendance at their local church Sunday, January 29.
VALLEY MENUS
March 6-10
MONDAY
 Tamales with Cheese, Diced Carrots, Sweet Peas, Bread Sticks, Apricots, ½ Pint Milk
TUESDAY
 Turkey, Dressing, Green Beans, Sweet Potatoes, Hot Roll, Butter, Applesauce, ½ Pint Milk
WEDNESDAY
 Bean Chalupas with Taco Sauce, Mixed Greens, Whole Tomatoes, Loaf Bread, ½ Pint Milk
THURSDAY
 Hamburger on Bun, Lettuce, Tomato, Pickles, Whole White Potatoes, Pears, ½ Pint Milk
FRIDAY
 Frito Chili Pie, Seasoned Corn, Celery and Carrot Sticks, Cinnamon Roll, ½ Pint Milk

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CHOICE SIRLOIN STEAK	lb.	\$1.59	TEXAS RUBY RED GRAPEFRUIT	3 lbs.	49¢
CHOICE T-BONE STEAK	lb.	\$1.79	CRISP LETTUCE	lb.	29¢

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Hill Scores Points At Farmers' Rally

From under the brim of a farm strike cap, the speaker belted out a stream of pro-strike rhetoric as a cheering crowd of 1,000 yelled its support.

The speaker, John Hill, scored some points at Friday's Rio Grande Valley rally, a strike leader said after the rally.

Attorney General Hill, seeking to retire Governor Dolph Briscoe, told the American Agriculture Movement representatives what they wanted to hear — the evils of corporate farming and the virtues of the family farm.

"If we lose the family farmer, we'll lose the flavor of that kind of living. That would be disas-

trous," Hill told the football stadium audience.

There's little doubt Hill won the support of many of the protesting farmers here. One problem may be that many of them, perhaps half, are from out of state and will not vote in Texas' gubernatorial contest.

But Fred Lundgren, a strike organizer from Austin, said he was impressed by Hill's brief talk in the chilly weather.

"Until now, I was concerned John Hill was using American Agriculture as a political soap box. But now, after hearing him, I really believe the man is sincere and devoted in his efforts to help us," Lundgren said.

Hill said some things that might hurt his campaign in the Valley, Lundgren said. The candidate

complained that the takeover of family farms by "big cartels and big corporations" would send prices "through the ceiling."

Corporate farms control a large portion of the valley's agriculture. One of those corporate farmers, Wayne Showers of McAllen, told a television reporter that big farms are the most effective way to feed America. Two persons on the farm, Showers said, can feed 98 non-farmers.

It is the family farmer that strike leaders are trying to reach in the valley. But at Friday's rally, only about 50 farmers got to their feet when Valley producers were asked to stand and identify themselves.

Lundgren said he realizes the movement has a long way to go in the area. American Agriculture Movement is asking farmers here to cut their crops by 50 per cent.

has attended a trip before is invited to attend.

NEW ARRIVAL
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Beck of Turkey are the parents of a new baby daughter, LeAnn Renee, born Thursday, February 23, in Hall County Hospital in Memphis. She weighed 8 lbs. 3 ozs. This is the first child for the Becks.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Beck, Flomot, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Cagle, Quitaque, and Mr. and Mrs. Trent Crosby, Lubbock.

Great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Roy Smith, Quitaque, Tom Beck of Turkey and Mrs. J. M. Buckelew, Quitaque.

ALPHA RHO CHI HAS VALENTINE PARTY

The Alpha Rho Chi held their first annual "Valentine Party" February 11. Celia Guest was elected Chapter Sweetheart for 1978. Celia was presented a "Heart Pendant" by the officers and "Flowers" from the sorority.

Our regular meeting was held Thursday, February 23. Linda Bell was in charge of the program on "Exercise."

During the business meeting it was brought up that we should send an entrant to Shamrock for the "Miss Irish Rose Pageant." After several names were given it was decided that Laura Fuston should represent Turkey. Also, during the meeting members were chosen to head different committees, for the "Bob Wills Queen Contest."

NEW ARRIVAL

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Hawkins of Turkey are the proud parents of a big boy born Monday morning at 2:32 in the Hall County Hospital in Memphis, Texas. He weighed 8 lbs. 10 ozs. and measured 21 inches. He was named Clayton Taylor.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Willie Hawkins, Jr. of Turkey and Mr. and Mrs. James Bow of Mesquite.

Great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Latham of Estelline, and W. T. Hawkins of Turkey.

GIRL SCOUTS TO OBSERVE ANNIVERSARY

The Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., the largest volunteer organization for girls in the world, will celebrate their 66th Anniversary with March 12 through March 18, according to Mrs. Buster Owens, Littlefield, President, Caprock Girl Scout Council. Over two and a half million girls across the country will participate in activities celebrating the occasion.

On a more local level, area Girl Scouts are also planning celebration activities. A reunion luncheon for former Girl Scouts will be noon, March 10 at the Caprock Council Center. Also Caprock Girl Scouts will celebrate with a backpacking trip in southeastern New Mexico, March 19 through the 23. Any Cadette, Senior, or Adult who

AMERICAN AGRICULTURE MEETING TO BE HELD AT FLOMOT

An American Agriculture Meeting will be held in the Flomot Community Center Monday, March 6, at 7:30 p. m. All Farmers and Landlords are urged to attend.

The Gaston Owens were in Amarillo on business Friday. They stopped back by the Melvin Watkins at Canyon to see their new home. The Owens were unable to attend the open house recently due to the bad weather and roads. The Watkins built the house from the ground up themselves. It is a marbelized effect white brick and very pretty.

The Owens were in Plainview Saturday on business and visited Mrs. Olive Owens in Heritage Home and the Bill Ebbs, having dinner at Furr's Cafeteria with the Ebbs Saturday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. James Starkey and boys of Plainview spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Woods, in Quitaque.

Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Farley and Dennis, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wellman, and April Farley drove to Tulla Saturday night. They met April's parents, the Larry Farleys of Amarillo, at the El Camino for supper and a short visit. April had spent the week in Quitaque visiting. Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Farley and Dennis and Mrs. D. C. Duck were in Amarillo the weekend before and April returned to Quitaque with them. Mr. Duck remained in Dumas to spend a vacation with the Joe Kings.

April returned home with her parents.

Visitors in the A. B. Ramsey home over the weekend were Mr. and Mrs. Gary Jameson, Kevin and Michelle, Claytonville; Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Ramsey, Bryan, Amy and Kayla, Silverton, and Jana Boyles.

Mr. and Mrs. Durwood Lewis of Amarillo were guests in the Glenn Ramsey home Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Brunson and Cindy of Canadian; Mr. and Mrs. George Brunson, Kress; Mr. and Mrs. Jack Logan and Laura, Denver City; Mr. and Mrs. Doug Brunson, Mary Brunson, Lisa Knighton, Kevin Donnell, all of Amarillo; Mr. and Mrs. Pery Brunson, Bradley and Brandl, Silverton, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Maupin, Melissa and Amy of Quitaque were visitors in the James Brunson home over the weekend.

Visitors in the home of Mrs. Floye McCracken over the weekend were Mr. and Mrs. Stewart McCracken, Tulla; Ronnie McCracken, Lubbock; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Thurman Davis, Lockney; Mrs. Maudine Richmond, Turkey; Mrs. Thetis Rogers and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Carter, Quitaque.

Mrs. James May visited her mother, Mrs. Jewel Lutts, and her sister, Mrs. Ed Whitehorn, in Hereford. She got to meet a new great-niece, Tabitha Jean, two-we-

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