

Public Library

JUN 12 1987

Dallas, Texas

WILBARGER



COUNTY

©1986

WILBARGER COUNTY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
VERNON, TX

#83



HALL-ADERHOLT

During the difficult days in the 1920s, in a small farming town in Anderson County, Texas, my parents decided to move to Wilbarger County, settling approximately three miles east of Elliott, when I was only three years old.

In 1923 we moved to the Fargo Community where my baby sister was born in May. After one year my parents decided to move back to Elliott where I attended school and have lived ever since.

I'm the third child of five children born to Mr. and Mrs. C.H. Hall. In 1932 my mother died., I was only 14 years old. In March of 1933 our house burned. We left the farm and moved into a small rent house in Elliott. This was during the time of the Depression and the Dust Bowl days that I remember so well.

As kids we thought that every house in town was nicer than ours. We were just straight down poor, but so was everyone else. We just didn't realize it.

While attending school at Elliott, I met and married Morris Aderholt in 1935. He was the youngest of five children born to Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Aderholt Sr. They were old settlers of Wilbarger County, moving here in 1907 from Williamson County, Texas. His mother, Lucy Rainwater Aderholt, was originally from Kentucky, and his father was from Alabama.

Our first home was a small four-room house on the Aderholt farm where we lived for four years. In 1942 we bought and moved to our own farm four miles northeast of our first home. Our farm is the south boundary of Red River and the last house north in Wilbarger County.

In 1939 our only child, Glynn, was born. This is where he grew up. Graduating from Oklaunion High School in 1958, he then started farming with his dad. He married Francille Lucas in 1961. We now have two lovely grandchildren — Christi who is married, lives and works in Wichita Falls, and Ken who has had one year of college at South Plains College.

In 1962 my youngest brother died at the age of 40, leaving a wife and five small children. My daddy died in 1965 with a heart attack, and my oldest brother died in 1983 from complications of surgery. I have only two sisters living near Fort Worth. The oldest



Morris (Shorty) and Lucille Aderholt — Dec. 22, 1975.

is in bad health.

Morris' parents, three brothers and his only sister are deceased.

In 1962 I decided to take nurses training. After graduation I worked for two surgeons and have only done office work since. Morris has retired from farming. Ken has taken over the farming and is attending Vernon Regional Junior College at this time.

Morris and I are members of Elliott Baptist Church, a small church in a rural community where we attend regularly. It is the only church to which we ever belonged.

Lucille Hall Aderholt



LUCAS-ADERHOLT

Glynn Aderholt was the only child born to Charlie Morris and Lucille (Hall) Aderholt. They lived in a small house behind his grandparents' home (J.P. and Lucy Rainwater Aderholt) until he was three. His parents then bought a house and farm in the northern part of Elliott Community with its northern boundary being Red River. His early and teen years were spent helping with farm chores and hunting and fishing on the bottomland and river. Later he went into farming on his own. He graduated from Oklaunion School and regularly attends the school reunions. His hobbies are still hunting and fishing, sometimes with our son. They enjoy deer hunting in New Mexico.



Glynn and Francille Aderholt.

I, Francille Lucas Aderholt, was the eighth of nine children born to Henry D. and Sophie (Bildstein) Lucas. My parents owned a farm south of Elliott. When I was three, our house burned and we lost everything. Neighbors offered to let some of us stay in their homes



Ken Aderholt.

temporarily, but my parents kept us all together in a two-room house moved onto the property, using clothes, furniture and food brought in by the neighbors. A house was finally found and moved in from the oil field south of Electra.

In an 18-month period in 1947 and 1948 we lost three members of our family. My eldest brother, Elwood, was trying to get through a window of a burning apartment in Midland to rescue a little girl who was asleep in the building when the window fell shut on him. They both burned to death. Daddy died after a lengthy illness in a Dallas hospital, and my younger brother, Jerry, fell from a farm wagon just behind the tractor and the wagon wheel ran over him.

My mother kept the farm going with the help of the children and a lot of hard work on her part. As the older kids left home, the younger kids took over the helping.

When my older brother, Jack, graduated, he rented the farm until he died of a sudden massive heart attack in 1978. Mother rented the land out until it was sold in 1982. She died after a lengthy illness in the home of one of my sisters in Dallas at the age of 83.

The Bildstein family, my mother's family, and their descendants have traditionally had a reunion and egg hunt every Easter. My grandparents had it at their farm as long as they were able, then Mother had it at our home. Now my brothers and sisters with their families have a reunion on Padre Island every summer. My brother Farrell lives in Harlingen and makes all the arrangements.

I graduated from Oklaunion School and went to Dallas LVN school of nursing at Parkland Hospital. I worked at the Christ the King Hospital in Vernon until our children were born, then chose to stay at home to be a housewife and mother.

Glynn and I rode the same school bus and attended the same church all those years, but we didn't date until after he had graduated and I was half-way through my senior year. We were married two years later at the Bethel Baptist Church in Elliott. We lived in Vernon three months, then moved to Elliott where he farms.

We have two children, Christi Diane and Kenneth Mark. They both graduated from Vernon High School.

Christi went to VRJC, then moved to Wichita Falls to work at the State hospital where she is currently employed as a stenographer. She married Irless Gene Brooks from Paducah in 1984.

Ken attended South Plains College in Levelland on a track scholarship one year,

and is currently attending VRJC and helping his granddad farm.

We are lifetime residents of Wilbarger County and are members of the First Baptist Church in Vernon.

Francille Lucas Aderholt

BURNS MILLER ALBERRY

Richard Lee, a twin, was one of four sons born to Herman Alberry and Alice Joyce Mueller Alberry. He and his twin, Royal Lynn, were born on Oct. 8, 1957. David Alan was born April 26, 1959, and Jerome Benjamin on Dec. 19, 1961.

Richard was a paper boy for seven years in Monee, Ill. Also, he attended Cub Scouts, Webelos, and went on to Boy Scouts to earn the Order of the Arrow in Monee.

During his school years Richard worked for the family-owned business, Skyline Movers, Inc. At 18 years old he got a driver's license to drive "Big Rigs." For five years he drove moving vans prior to moving to Vernon in 1979.

Richard married Doris Bohn Alberry in October 1975. Two children were born to that marriage. Scott Lee was born on June 18, 1976, and Stephanie Marie on Feb. 19, 1978.

Richard married Linda Kelly in Vernon, Texas, in 1980. Kathleen Ann Burns Miller Alberry was born March 15, 1960, in Joliet, Ill., being the sixth child of seven children born to Marjorie Ann Keto Burns and Francis Alfred Burns. The seven are Suzanne Marie Burns Muir, RoseMarie Burns Brewster, Mary Frances Burns Rutkowski, Loretta Mae Burns, JulieAnn Burns, Kathleen Ann and Francis Steven Burns.

Kathleen was baptized and confirmed at the Mary Magdelene Church in Joliet, Ill. In 1978 Kathleen graduated from W.T. White High School in Dallas, Texas.

Kathleen married Robert Miller in 1978. One daughter, Marjorie Ann Miller, was born to that marriage.

Richard Lee and Kathleen Ann were married June 28, 1985, in Vernal, Utah, where Richard was stationed while he worked with Gene Durkee Oil Rigs. In October 1985 Richard and Kathleen moved back to Vernon, Texas.

Kathleen Ann Burns Miller Alberry

LEE-ALBERRY

Royal Lynn, a twin, was one of four sons born to Herman Robert and Alice Joyce Mueller Alberry. His brothers were his twin, Richard Lee, born on Oct. 8, 1957, David Alan who was born April 26, 1959, and Jerome Benjamin who was born Dec. 29, 1961.

Royal Lynn was baptized at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Joliet, Ill. Royal graduated from eighth grade and was confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church in Matteson, Ill.

Royal was a paper boy for seven years in Monee, Ill. Also he went to Cub Scouts, Webelos and Boy Scouts.

During his school years Royal worked for the family business, Skyline Movers, Inc., in University Park, Ill. At that time he earned a degree in furniture repair and touch-up from Star Chemical. He also took computer operation for Burroughs 9000 in Baltimore, Md., and for a time he ran a CR 9400 Burroughs computer for Skyline Movers, Inc.

In 1975 Royal graduated from Crete-



Archer second from left, middle row.

and moved to Wilbarger County from Limestone County. Their children were Bessie Lee, Nellie Isabelle, Edna Virginia and Melton Cornelius.

Judson died Jan. 23, 1900, leaving her with three small daughters and a son who was born in August of that same year. She was 31 years of age. What was supposed to have been a "land of promise" for this couple was turned into tough times for Mary. However, through prayer, perseverance and much hard work, her young children became self sufficient at an early age, finding themselves in a sparsely settled land with relatives and friends many miles away.

Through the years a lovely home was built and improvements were made. The farm was later operated by Nellie and her husband, Adron Flowers. At their death the farm was bought by Mary's grandson, Bill Flowers of Odell.

Mary Archer died May 9, 1957, at age 88. She is remembered today for her deep and abiding faith in God, her sense of humor, and love and devotion to her family. Many happy times were spent in her home with family and close friends. I, Helen Flowers Messick, am one of her grandchildren who along with the great-grandchildren would listen for hours to her stories of pioneer days, settling of the land, and the friendly Indians whom she greatly admired, more descriptive and colorful than a novel of early days.

She became a living symbol of strength, courage and determination to all who knew her.

Today she has seven living grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren and 10 great-great-grandchildren. *Helen Flowers Messick*



RAINWATER-ARNOLD

The Arnold family history in Wilbarger County begins in typical fashion — settlers come to open up this new, relatively virgin territory, they fight for survival on a hard scrabble farm, and their children marry the children of other settlers.

Robert B. Arnold came with his parents to our county from Missouri while still a young boy. He helped on the family farm until he was called into service in World War I, and



Back row L-R: Bobby Gene, Robert B., Elizabeth, hired hand Nathan; front row: Melvin Kenneth, Keith Benton, Martha Marie and Homer Chris Arnold.

he spent almost two years in France. When the war and the occupation were over in 1920, Mr. Arnold returned and rented the old Staley farm in the Oklaunion area.

Farming in those days was done by mule and horse, and lots and lots of manual labor. Hauling cotton to the gin, for example, was hardly the easy task it is today. Hitching a team to a wagon and traveling over poorly maintained roads at a snail's pace could take up to a day for one load. Mr. Arnold knew that there must be a better way, and when the opportunity arose, he became one of the first people in the county to buy a truck. It was a Ford model that could carry only two or three bales at a time, but it served him many years. He also used the truck to transport field hands — at that time almost all were black from as far away as Dallas.

Mr. Arnold brought joy to many lives through his many musical talents. Though he had no formal musical training, he possessed an unusual natural talent and was proficient on the guitar, mandolin, fiddle, banjo and harmonica. He could pick up almost any instrument and begin playing.

In 1924 Mr. Arnold met Elizabeth Rainwater. Like him she had been born elsewhere — in Taylor, Texas — and had moved as a child here in 1905 with her family to farm in the Elliott area. Elizabeth, like most of the children at that time, went to a one-room school long since vanished — El Reno — and, like the old story, literally had to walk six miles a day to attend. She married Mr. Arnold in 1926 and moved to his farm, which he had by then bought, where they lived in a two story, six-room home overlooking Red River.

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold had five children, all of whom were born at home with the assistance of Doctors M.J. and W.R. Moore. They were Bobby Gene, Keith Benton, Martha Marie, Melvin Kenneth and Homer Chris Arnold.

Bob Arnold, a teacher and farmer, became one of the longest tenured county judges in our history, being first elected in 1969 and serving through the publication of this book. He married Mary Frances Walker of Vernon, and had two children, Karen Smith of Houston and son Kim of Vernon.

Chris Arnold became a banker in Fort Worth, and later moved to Delaware where he became president of the Mastercard/Visa division for MBank Corporation. His name appears on many nation-wide solicitations.

Martha graduated from Hardin-Simmons and taught school in Midland before marrying Walter Holton, a prosperous oil man

there. They have three children: Robert, Tammy Smith and Van.

Tragedy struck the other two sons: Keith was killed in an accident in the construction of the old missile silo presently owned by the Northside school system, and Melvin suffocated in a motel room in El Paso because of a malfunctioning heater. Keith was the father of Carol Spears of Vernon and Keith Jr. of Dallas. Melvin left no descendants.

Robert Arnold passed away in 1963, while Mrs. Arnold still resides in Vernon.

The photograph is of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold, their children and their faithful old hired hand, Nathan, and dates from about 1939.

Elizabeth Rainwater Arnold

GOINS-ASHBY

Registration day was over. The student assistant was covering her typewriter when eight weary travelers arrived to register. They had come from Vancouver, Wash., to enroll at Wayland Baptist College. One of these students was Calvin Ashby. The student assistant was Elsie Goins.

Ten months later they were married and on their way to Oregon for the summer.

The fall found them in Plainview where Calvin was a student and Elsie a secretary. Calvin finished Wayland that summer, completing the first step in his dream of teaching. He also became a father while at Wayland.

Calvin, Elsie and Mike moved to Denton in 1949 where David was born and Calvin graduated from North Texas State University in 1950.

Superintendents said he was too young to teach high school; therefore, the dream was shelved while he worked for Dallas Railway Express and Vernon State Bank. Brenda was born during this time.

He often stopped by the county superintendent's office just to keep in touch. There he met Mr. Newsome looking for a sixth grade teacher. His dream became reality in



Calvin Ashby family — Phillip, Brenda, Calvin

from Grand Prairie but still feel that Vernon is "Hometown." There's a feeling of "belonging" on Paradise Street. Warren's sister, Betty Wright (Bill), his brother, James B. King and Emily (McCrary), Corinne's sister-in-law, Mrs. Keith Pigg (Houssels), and many friends live in Vernon. Kelly Arnold Pigg and Mary Miles (Kern) live in Wellington where he owns farms and she has an income tax office, teaches piano, and is a church organist.

Corinne and Warren were honored on their golden wedding anniversary with a beautiful reception July 14, 1985, by their families. They were assisted by the three daughters of her sisters (Katherine Banks and Virginia McGee, deceased 1956 and 1982), Beverly Thornburg, Judy Percival and Julia Stephens.

A cruise to Alaska closed this eventful summer of Corinne and Warren — making their fourth trip since retiring. They have visited Hawaii, the Holy Land and Oberammergau, Germany. This last was a return visit for Corinne since her Dad had sent four of the children to Europe in 1930.

*Mary Corinne Pigg King
and Warren Stokes King*

RAYBORN-KING

Travis Monroe King was born in Oklaunion, Texas, Dec. 14, 1906, to Hubert Metellus King and Georgia Baldrige King. His grandparents, Monroe and Sarah King, came from Holladay, Tenn., in 1889. This family settled in the area as farmers. Travis had a brother, William Paschal, and two sisters, Tina Adele and Georgia Ruby. Their mother died Jan. 31, 1918.

Travis graduated from Oklaunion High School in 1925. He became ill during his first year in Abilene Christian College, resulting in rheumatic fever. After a long period of recovery, he began farming with his father, and later bought land adjacent to his father's farm. His father died May 28, 1953.

In September 1942 I, Emma Jo Rayborn, from Archer County, came to Oklaunion to teach school. This was my first year and I taught business subjects for two years. I taught in Holliday, Texas, for one year. Travis and I married June 26, 1945. In 1947 I again taught in the Oklaunion School for three years.

Travis, a farmer-stockman, was always interested in community affairs. He became Democratic Election Judge in 1953 for Precinct 3, a position previously held by his father. He was a substitute rural route mail carrier out of the Oklaunion Post Office for a few years.

During the 1950s he became a member of the Santa Rosa Palomino Riding Club. He enjoyed being in the club, but after a few years, he decided to drop out in order to devote more time to farming.

We built our home on North Main Street in Oklaunion in 1963.

He and other interested people helped get Vernon water piped to Oklaunion. He was a partner with Clarence Rainwater and J.W. Overton in the operating of the Oklaunion Cottonseed Delinting Company until the plant was sold. At one time he was county commissioner of Precinct 4. He and area farmers bought the Rainwater-King Gin. They operated it until it was sold to the Farmers Co-op in Vernon. He was a member of the Wilbarger County ASC Committee for several years.



Taylor holding son Marvin, Charlie Taylor, Melvin, Walter Kirk, S.K. Kirk and Estelle Kirk at S.K.

Pampa, Texas, was the home of Kathryn and Dr. George A. Snell Jr., and it was here they raised their children, George A. Snell III, Donald King Snell and Sheryl Kay Snell Hollis. George practiced dentistry until his death March 20, 1970. Kathryn and children presently live in Amarillo.

James and Emily Mildred McCrary were married in Vernon where they have spent most of their married life. (McCrary-King story.)

Betty Jane King Wright

HUNT-KIRK

Samuel Kilmer Kirk was born in Pennsylvania. Because his parents died when he was young, Samuel lived with an uncle until he was 14 years old at which time he went to the Dwight L. Moody Institute in Chicago, Ill. At 21, he moved to Arkansas where he met Leah Elizabeth Hunt. Leah Elizabeth, born in Indiana, had moved with her parents to Hannibal, Mo., then to Scott County, Ark. Samuel and Leah Elizabeth were married in Arkansas, March 1, 1882. Samuel freighted goods for a living from Arkansas into Indian Territory.

In 1888 Samuel and Leah Elizabeth started to Wilbarger County, Texas, in a covered wagon with seven of their eight children. One son, Joseph Albert Kirk, died at the age of two in Arkansas. After traveling for a month, first on one side and then on the other side of the Red River, they stopped in Overbrook, Indian Territory. They settled there and farmed several places in the Indian Nation.

In December 1905 the S.K. Kirks moved to Wilbarger County from Ada, Indian Territory. They made their home near Elliott on the Mason farm.

They farmed for a time, then moved to Harrold, Texas, where they put in a grocery store. The house where they lived in Harrold is still standing after surviving a tornado in those early days that demolished a lumber yard next door to it. The house was built by Harvey C. Allen who married Lillie Belle Kirk, daughter of Samuel and Leah Elizabeth.

Approximately a year passed in the grocery business before they began longing for the farm again. They moved back to Elliott and purchased a farm one and one-half miles west of Elliott. They were very active in the Methodist Church in Elliott. Samuel

did part of the carpentry work for the church building. He was also active in the IOOF Lodge and Leah Elizabeth was active in the Rebecah Lodge.

In November 1925 the S.K. Kirks along with their daughter Florence Mae Kirk Cobb and her two children, Dudley Clyde and Iris Alyene, moved to Chillicothe, Texas, where the Kirks lived until their deaths.

The children of Samuel Kilmer and Leah Elizabeth Kirk were:

Sarah Alice Kirk — married Ernest E. Snodgrass.

Edgar Leroy Kirk — married Bertha Trisler.

Joseph Albert Kirk — died at age of two years.

Lillie Belle Kirk — married Harvey C. Allen.

Samuel Walter Kirk — married Eva Rainwater.

Peggy Ethel Kirk — married Charlie C. Cox.

Florence Mae Kirk — married Daniel Clower Cobb.

Estelle Leone Kirk — married Kyle Hammer.

Only two children are living at this time: Lillie Belle Kirk Allen of Austin, Texas, and Estelle Kirk Hammer of Chillicothe, Texas.

*Alyene Cobb Gatewood, Granddaughter,
Medrith Barnes Collins and
Suzanne Gatewood Logan,
Great-Granddaughters*

ASHLEY-KIRKSEY

Blanche Ashley was born near Henrietta, Texas, in 1918 to Abner C. Ashley and Grace Williams Ashley. She moved with her parents to Ralls, Texas, for about a year, then to Electra where Abner was working in the oilfield.

In 1925 Blanche moved with her parents to the South Vernon Oilfield, which was a "boom town" at the time, with small shanties supplementing company houses. An oil refinery was some 200 yards from the company home in which they lived, and one of her father's engine houses about 200 yards in the other direction, so the sounds of the oilfield were constant in those early years.

Some 200 children from the oilfield and farms of South Vernon attended South Vernon School where W.R. Newsom was principal. Blanche finished 10th grade here and graduated from Vernon High School in 1936, and then took a post-graduate class in 1937 while her sister, Oneta, finished. Then they both attended North Texas State College with three other oilfield friends — Doyce, Joyce and Daisy Merle Greer.

When she graduated from North Texas in June 1941, Blanche married C. Darwin



L to R, top: Abner, Coleman, Grace, Blanche; bottom: A.C. Jr., Dorothy Ruth and Oneta Ashley, 1926.

Julia Kohler, and my younger brothers, Edwin, Victor, Wallace and I moved to the Guyer Community located about 20 miles east of Vernon. Another brother, Alan, was born in February 1928 while we lived in Guyer. Alan died at age 14 with rheumatic fever.

In 1928 while attending Guyer School, I met a pretty young lady, Voncille Weathermon, (parents — Grayson and Mayme Weathermon). We attended school together for only part of the year. It was necessary in that time for us to pick cotton, milk cows and do many chores. Only after the cotton crop was in were we able to go to school. My teachers from Guyer were Wilma Cornahan (fifth grade) and N.A. Lipscomb (sixth and seventh grades).

After only a year at Guyer, Voncille moved on to the Barwise Community and she graduated from Electra High School in 1933. We stayed in touch and were married on Nov. 6, 1935, which was also Voncille's 22nd birthday.

Twin daughters, Vonnie Lou Kohler Hanner and Connie Ruth Kohler McGee, were born at our home in the County Line Community on Feb. 9, 1938. Our neighbors across the road were Leonard (Spurge) Bryant and his wife, Bosetta.

In 1947, we left Wilbarger County in order for me to pursue a career in commercial construction. After 38 years, I am still working in that same commercial construction business for Rogers-O'Brien Construction Company.

On August 31, 1949, we had another daughter, Sue Ann Kohler Lank. Sue Ann died from burns she suffered from an explosion in her home on Sept. 8, 1982.

We have eight grandchildren: Barry Hanner, 23; Mark McGee, 22; Scott McGee, 19; Tammy Lank, 15; Bran McGee, 13; Kristi Hanner, 13; Shane Hanner, 12; and Tiffany Lank, 4.

Barry and Mark are seniors at the University of Texas; Scott is a junior at SMU.

Voncille, Connie, Vonnie and I are charter members of St. Philip's United Methodist Church in Garland where we joined in 1956. Voncille, Connie and Vonnie all sing in the Chancel Choir and I am on the Board of Trustees. The church has been very supportive to us in the last three years since the death of Sue Ann and for the last year since Voncille suffered a stroke.

On Nov. 6, 1985, Voncille and I will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary with a reception at St. Philip's United Methodist Church given by some of the members.

Leo Kohler



ASTON-KOONTZ

Jimmy was born to Raymond and Lucille Rainwater Koontz Nov. 6, 1934, in Vernon. Jimmy has one brother, Trent Koontz of Altus. Jimmy was raised on a farm in the Oklaunion Community, graduating from Oklaunion School in 1953. He attended Midwestern University, Wichita Falls, two years. Lucille Koontz died April 9, 1969. Raymond married Margaret Ramsey Feb. 18, 1970. She died Oct. 20, 1985.

I was born to Roy and Opal Shores Aston Oct. 27, 1936, in Vernon. I have one brother, Roy Don Aston of Pasadena, Texas. I was raised in the Rock Crossing Community. My dad worked for Waggoner Estate. I graduated from Oklaunion School in 1955. My dad died July 6, 1985.



Jimmy, Carolyn, Beth Ann, Keith, Becky and Ken Koontz.

We began dating when I was a freshman and he a junior in high school. We dated for four years and married July 16, 1955.

When we married, Jimmy was working for Shorty Bourland at his service station in Oklaunion for \$37 per week. We lived in Oklaunion. In August, Jimmy went to work for Waggoner Estate. We moved to Rock Crossing. We had four children, all born in Vernon. We attended the Rock Crossing Baptist Church where Jimmy was ordained a deacon. He was song leader and I was pianist. In 1971 we moved to Oklaunion and began farming and drilling water wells. We attend First Baptist Church where Jimmy is a deacon, director of Preschool IV department and sings in the choir. I am director of Children's V and also sing in the choir.

Our children are: Kenneth Dwane Koontz, born Feb. 13, 1957. He graduated from Vernon Schools in 1975, attended VRJC and graduated from Midwestern University in 1980. He married Kim Whitsett of Mineral Wells, Jan. 5, 1980. They have one son, Dustin Allan, born Feb. 23, 1982, in Vernon. They moved to Nocona April 1983. Ken farms and Kim works in a bank. They attend Prairie Valley Baptist Church where Ken is deacon and youth teacher. Kim is pianist.

Becky Sue Koontz was born Feb. 18, 1959. She graduated from Vernon Schools in 1977. She attended VRJC and graduated from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Okla., in 1982. She married Chris Barker of Quanah, May 28, 1982. They have one daughter, Krista Lee, born July 13, 1985. They live in Vernon. Chris is controller for Wright's Packing plant. Becky works for Vernon Savings. They attend the First Baptist Church.

Beth Ann Koontz was born June 12, 1960. She graduated from Vernon Schools in 1978. She attended VRJC, graduating from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene in 1982. She lives in Arlington and works for the City of Arlington in the warrant division of Arlington Police Department. She attends the First Baptist Church of Arlington.

Keith Brent Koontz was born July 15, 1962. He graduated from Vernon Schools in 1980. He attended VRJC and graduated from Dallas Baptist University in Dallas in 1985. He is currently engaged in farming and water well drilling with his dad in Oklaunion. He attends the First Baptist Church of Vernon.

We have had a very good, happy life. The Lord has blessed in so many ways.

Carolyn Aston Koontz



PAYNE-KOONTZ

My dad's name was Clarence Elby Koontz. My mother's name was Lura Inez

Payne. They were married Nov. 23, 1905, at Belleville, Kan. They moved to a farm in Wilbarger County about five miles southeast of Vernon in 1910. They had ten children: Raymond, Cecil, Ruth, Fay, Ruby, Doris, Cleo, Carol, Wayne and June. Cecil died April 10, 1961. My dad died Dec. 25, 1961. My mother died Sept. 25, 1966. Wayne died Aug. 6, 1983.

Some of my childhood memories: Learning to "dog-paddle" in the pond on our farm; riding horses and bicycles; hoeing cotton in the sun and wishing the sun would go behind a cloud; looking forward to when it was time to go to the house; pulling cotton bolls on Dec. 20th, my birthday, and telling my dad it was cold. He said, "If you pull bolls like you were fighting fire, you'll stay warm." I remember waking up in the morning to the sound of hoes being filed by my dad. I remember my dad hauling water from the cotton gin; riding on top of a wagon load of cotton when I went with my dad to the gin; the time I went after the mail, bare-footed, and the hot sand burned my feet; digging potatoes in our garden; the good food we had to eat; my dad and some of the neighbor men playing dominoes; the big heating stove in the living room and bringing in wood and coal after school. I also remember shocking feed, but one farm job I never mastered was milking cows.

I remember playing with dolls with my sisters, the holiday dinners we used to have, especially at Christmas time, and when we'd have the Christmas tree; also, the Easter egg hunts.



Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Koontz, 50th wedding anniversary, 1955.

I remember eating at Grandpa and Grandma Koontz's house and playing with my cousins. The only time I remember seeing Grandpa Koontz, he had on black clothes, looked so tall and carried candy in his pocket for us kids. He had a patch over one eye.

I went to school at East Vernon School. I remember the plays that were presented there. Also, at Christmas time at the school, when Santa Claus came in and how scared I was, and the carbide lights in the building. Later, I rode the bus to the school in Vernon. I graduated in 1940.

I remember going to church services at our community school and later, my mother taking us to Sunday school and church at the First Baptist Church in Vernon. I was saved and baptized in this church.

I married J.W. Lee on Dec. 8, 1941. We had four children, Charles, Dean, Linda and David. Dean died of lung cancer Aug. 6, 1981. At this writing, (Oct. 26, 1985) we have

six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. We also have four step-grandchildren (although our oldest was killed in an accident in April of this year).

Cleo Fern Koontz Lee



RAINWATER-KOONTZ

This is the life history of Raymond G. and Lucille Rainwater Koontz. Raymond was born Sept. 26, 1906, to Clarence E. and Lura Payne Koontz. Clarence and Lura came to Wilbarger County in 1910 from Republic Co., Kan. They came on a train with all their belongings, including their horses, cows, and farm equipment. They settled in the Box Community. At the time of the move they had three children, Raymond, Cecil (died April 10, 1961), Ruth (Owen). The other children were born in Wilbarger County. They are Faye (McKee), Ruby (White), Doris (Haney), Cleo (Lee), Wayne (died Aug. 6, 1983), June (McDowell).

Lucille was born Sept. 6, 1904, to Miles and Ollie Cooper Rainwater. They came by covered wagon with all their belongings in 1905 from Temple, Okla. They crossed the river into Texas close to the Davidson bridge. Their children are Clarence, Helen (Stallings, Jackson), Lucille (died April 9, 1969), Bill (died Nov. 22, 1970), Loyd, Dorothy (Eure), J.T. (died May 26, 1982), and Betty (Parker).

Raymond graduated from Vernon Schools in 1927. He was president of his senior class and lettered in football and basketball.

Raymond's ancestors came from Virginia. His great-great-great-grandfather, John Koontz, helped organize a Baptist church in Shenandoah Co., Va., in 1772. He was an ordained Baptist preacher for 50 years at Mill Creek Baptist Church.



Raymond and Lucille Koontz, 1927.

Lucille graduated from Vernon Schools in 1924, received her teaching certificate from North Texas in Denton. She taught school at Box, Thompson and Oklaunion. Raymond and Lucille were married July 2, 1927, in Wilbarger County. Raymond worked at a bank in Oklaunion. In 1930 they moved to the farm north of Oklaunion. They had two sons, Trent and Jimmy. Trent married Patsy Wilkinson on Dec. 29, 1950. They live in Altus, Okla. They have three children, David, Douglas and Kami.

Jimmy married Carolyn Aston July 16, 1955. They live in Oklaunion. They have four children, Ken, Keith, Becky and Beth Ann.

Raymond was on the Oklaunion school board approximately 10 years. His son Jimmy was on the board when the school closed in 1968. Raymond and Lucille attended the Oklaunion Baptist Church. They moved to Vernon June 1960.

Lucille died April 9, 1969. Raymond mar-

ried Margaret Ramsey Feb. 18, 1970. She died Oct. 20, 1985. *Raymond Koontz*

KARCHER-KREBS

Before the turn of the century, on Sept. 26, 1898, I was born, Ella Marie Karcher, to Henry Chris Karcher and Anna Marie Wiederanders Karcher in Lincoln, Texas, where Pappa farmed. I was the youngest of four children, two brothers, Ludwig and Ernest, and one sister, Freida. At the age of three, I lost my mother with pneumonia. Two years later Pappa married Clara Weise, and the following year our family moved to Wilbarger County and continued to farm in the South Lockett Community. Our family grew and seven more children were added, three brothers and four sisters — Nora, Amanda, Esadore, Henry, Rosie, Gertrude and Monroe. I learned at an early age the responsibilities and satisfaction of work, as we all shared the chores of farm life. We were members of Zion Lutheran Church and I attended Zion Lutheran School. I experienced the loss of another loved one when my sister Freida died of typhoid fever at the age of 14 years.



Anna Graham, Ella Marie Krebs, Eddie Lou Graf and Chris Henry Krebs.

During World War I my brother Ernest joined the armed services, and I, then 18 years old, moved to Menard, Texas, where my brother Ludwig lived and was pastor of the Lutheran Church. There I went to work at the J.C. Wilhelm Ranch, where along with the rest of the staff, managed to keep life running smoothly and efficiently at the huge two-story ranch home. After the work of the day was completed, evenings were spent doing handwork and enjoying conversation with the other young ladies. Sundays after church we often picnicked along with the ranch cowboys, beside the San Saba River.

Edward Chris Krebs, the young man that I had grown up with in Vernon, later became my husband. Ed's parents were Chris Krebs and Eugenia Lehman Krebs. Ed had one brother, John, and a sister, Rosie. We were married on June 22, 1922, at the ranch where I had lived and worked for four years. My brother Ludwig performed the ceremony. We had our home built in Vernon at 4109 Wilbarger Street. We became members of St. Paul Lutheran Church where Ed's brother-in-law, J.A. Birnbaum was pastor. Ed worked as an auto mechanic and I was a homemaker, enjoying putting into our home the domestic skills I had learned growing up, such as gardening, canning, cooking, sewing and keeping our home.

On June 14, 1925, we were blessed with the birth of a daughter, Eddie Lou. Another daughter, Anna Marie, was born on Sept. 12, 1930. In 1934 Ed acquired a franchise to become a General Motors Automobile

sister Ruby Lucus McAmis Wilson, killed in a car accident in 1959; sister, Norma Lucus Klein, still a resident of Vernon; and a brother, Tommy Jordan, who died in infancy. Jerry's father, a carpenter, died in February 1960 and his mother died in August 1977.



Jerry Don and Becky Lucus.

Jerry Don and I made the decision to make Vernon our lifetime residence. We wanted to make our home and raise our two sons in a small town where love and friendship had always been so plentiful for both of us. Our first son, Randy Don, now of Tyler, married Jana Pugh from Dallas and has two daughters, Banner Michelle of Burkburnett and Jamie Dawn of Tyler. In January of 1986 they will have another bundle of joy. Our second son, Ronnie Dale, is still a resident of Vernon and is married to Jo Linda Lowry from Pampa.

Jerry Don started out our marriage as a plumber and later went into warehousing, working for Spann Automotive Warehouse for several years. He later worked for Wichita Sugar & Tobacco until its closing. He is presently employed by C & L Pen Co. of Vernon. He was an active member of the Lions Club for many years, taking special interest in the Kid League Park projects. He was a Little League coach for about eight years coaching our boys and many others. He has taken great pride in seeing ones that he coached go on to be outstanding high school athletes.

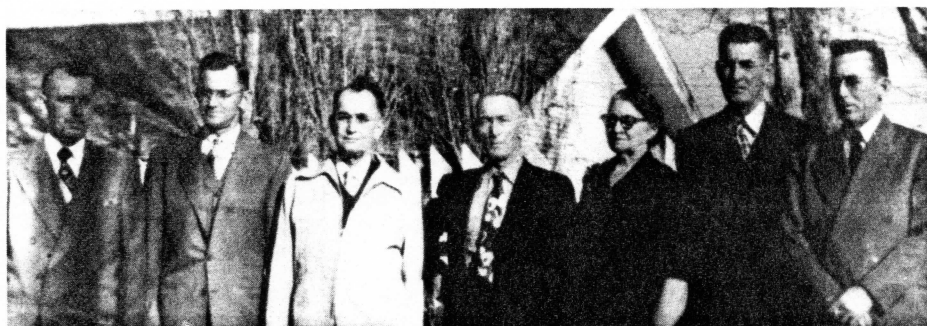
I began my business career in banking by working at the First State Bank for seven years until it was declared insolvent, and closed. After that I worked at the Waggoner National Bank for eight years, quitting in July 1979. I now work for the Celanese Corporation in the accounting department.

Jerry Don and I are members of the Calvary Baptist Church and we still enjoy our lives in Vernon very much. Our interests lie in traveling, attending sport events and spending time with loved ones and close friends.

Becky Lucus

✱ LUTTRELL

Mr. and Mrs. R.L. Luttrell (Ranza and Doretta) left their home in Williamson County in 1906 and came to Wilbarger County seeking "greener pastures" in which to rear their family of five boys, Edward Edgar, Ira Bryan, Alva Otis, Gilbert Cecil and James Roscoe. They bought 200 acres of land in the Elliott Community which they farmed for 44 years. The older boys attended the old Thompson School, and the entire family became active members of the Bethel Baptist Church. They suffered some hardships during their early years in Wilbarger County, including the loss of their only daughter who was stillborn Jan. 24, 1907, and is buried in the Harrold cemetery. There were



The R.L. Luttrell family.

lean years and good years, but they persevered and in 1923 were able to build their dream house ... a white frame with three bedrooms and even a bathroom! The following year they allowed themselves the luxury of buying a player piano, which is still in mint condition and owned now by a great-granddaughter, Michael Ann Luttrell Baker of Vernon.

Edward married Margaret Bennett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Bennett of Vernon, in 1915. They became the parents of one child, Edward E. Luttrell Jr.

Ira served overseas during World War I, and upon his return to the states he and Clara Pulliam were married in 1922. Their children are Lynn Bryan Luttrell of El Paso and Mrs. George White (Peggy) of Springfield, Va.

Otis married Lucy Haynes in 1921. To this union were born five children: Wayne (deceased); Mrs. Joe Strawn (Mary Nell) of Electra; Trent who resides in California; Maurice of Kansas, and James who lives in Arizona.

Cecil married Beulah Taylor of Austin in 1925. There were no children. He later married Mildred Higgins in 1946. She preceded him in death in 1985.

Roscoe married Wanda Rush of Grosvenor, Texas, in 1930. They have one son, Donald Ray, who lives in Midland.

The Luttrells were a close-knit family and after the boys left the "nest" to start homes of their own, they still gathered at the old homestead on all special occasions. This writer was a granddaughter-in-law of only five days when she made her first visit to one of these gatherings. It was frightening! There were approximately 25 Luttrells eyeballing the latest addition to the clan.

In 1950 Ranza and Doretta, both nearing the age of 80, decided to retire from active farming. They bought a home in Vernon where they still held "open house" for their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren for the next 12 years.

Ranza Luttrell died May 12, 1962, just a few months before they would have celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. Doretta Rainwater Luttrell died April 6, 1966.

Maurine Luttrell

✱ DALE-LUTTRELL

Edward Edgar Luttrell Jr. wore many hats in his community, ever interested in the growth and progress of Wilbarger County. His roots here were deep. His paternal grandparents, Ranza and Doretta (Rainwater) Luttrell, moved to this county in 1906 with their five children, Edward, Ira, Otis, Cecil and Roscoe. In 1915 Edward, the eldest, married Margaret Bennett, daughter of John and Mary (Eason) Bennett who had

moved to Wilbarger County in 1896.

Ed Jr. was born in Oklahoma Dec. 23, 1916. The family moved to Vernon the following year, and Ed Jr. graduated from Vernon High School in 1933. He attended Texas Tech and Oklahoma Baptist University. In 1941 he married Maurine Dale who was his strength and encourager.

In 1942 Ed volunteered to serve in the Army Air Corps and was in active service four years, retiring from the Air Force Reserve in 1966 as lieutenant colonel. Returning to Vernon at the end of World War II, Ed was elected sheriff of Wilbarger County, the youngest ever to serve in this capacity here. He served four terms.

Ed was always interested in sports and spent many hours at the Boys Club teaching boxing. An active member of Lions Club, he helped build the Kid League Baseball Park, coaching teams, hawking hot dogs and snow cones, chopping weeds, painting bleachers and fighting gophers. His favorite retort to his "injured" players was "It'll heal." So when he broke his leg sliding into second during an old-timers game, his team sent a card saying, "It'll heal, Coach!" Ed's children were both girls, but he taught them to play baseball and football and the manly art of boxing.



E. Ed Luttrell Jr.

After serving a term as county judge, Ed was appointed executive director of the Housing Authority of the City of Vernon. With Maurine as his secretary, he supervised land purchase, directed construction and managed the operation of the project for 17 years, retiring in 1982.

Another hat Ed enjoyed wearing was that of Civil Defense director. He was instrumental in organizing a Wilbarger County Weather

Watch team, a group of men who give many hours of their time with no recompense except the satisfaction of protecting their community during tornado seasons.

Ed spent many enjoyable hours working in his community with civic clubs, church and politics (even growing a full beard for the 1981 centennial which made him look like Uncle Jessie in "Dukes of Hazzard"). He was also a devoted family man and was very proud of their two daughters, Pat and Mike. Pat resides in Dallas and works for the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Mike is married to Lucky Baker, a letter carrier for the Vernon Post Office. They have two sons, Ed Chandler and Clayton Price; and it is a well-known fact that of all the hats Ed wore, that of being a grandfather was his favorite. Ed died Sept. 22, 1984.

Pat Luttrell and Mike Luttrell Baker

PULLIAM-LUTTRELL

In 1897 Mollie Brown and Edd Pulliam were married at Windom, Texas, and lived in that area until the boll weevils took over.

Six children were born: Naomi, who died at one year; Clara; the twins Otis and Odie; Clarence and Marvin.

One special memory was hog-killing day when the neighbors got together and spent the day butchering hogs. For dinner we had liver and for supper tenderloin and hot biscuits. The next day the sausage was ground and sacked. Lard was rendered in an open pot in the yard. The cracklings were carefully saved for crackling bread and making soap. Special care was taken to get the hams cured just right so there would be fried ham and red gravy for many months.

In 1907 the family moved to Wilbarger County and settled in the Elliott, Oklaunion and Harrold area. We attended school in the little two-room school at Harrold, and dear Dr. J.C. King was our doctor.

Our dad operated the dray wagon in Harrold for a number of years. Among the things hauled was soda pop from Vernon to Harrold, a two-day trip. It was this writer's special privilege to make the trip with Dad. We stayed in the wagon yard at night and took our meals at a boarding house at 25 cents a meal. The unpaved roads were often very muddy. There were no Cokes or Dr. Peppers, only the flavors. This writer was allowed to drink all the strawberry she liked.

In 1922 I married Ira Luttrell at Harrold in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Otis Luttrell. We went to live on the farm of J.W. Rainwater, Ira's granddad. Ira farmed and was connected with the Oklaunion school system for many years.

We attended the Oklaunion Baptist Church. I had the privilege of teaching a Sunday school class many years. I loved Woman's Missionary Union work and was elected church clerk several years. I compiled the church history.

Now as I come to the evening of life my dear family has been such a source of strength and comfort to me. They are Lynn and Betty Luttrell of El Paso, Texas, and Peggy and George White of Springfield, Va.

Our grandchildren are Bryan Luttrell of Portland, Ore., Dennis Luttrell of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Christy Lynn White of Falls Church, Va. Our pride and joy are two 'great grands,' Jennifer and Dallas Luttrell of Salt Lake City.

I am now the end of my generation, but

I am so grateful the Lord has let me live these 85 years.

Clara Pulliam Luttrell

LYNN

Griff Lynn was born in 1887 in Tarrant County, close to Mansfield, Texas. About 1900 his family moved to Nolan County, Texas, because it got too "crowded for them around Mansfield. Griff's mother had relatives in Oklahoma, around Lawton, so when Griff married his first wife, they moved to Roosevelt, Okla. They had two children and then tragedy came upon their family. His wife and one little boy died in the flu epidemic. Griff was left with a six-month-old boy, Leonard. He stayed in Oklahoma for a few years and ran a livery stable in Indianahoma, Okla. He came to Chillicothe sometime in the 1920s, married a second time and divorced. Then he met Martha Bohot.

Martha was born in Lee County, Texas, in 1912. She and her parents came to Hardeman and Wilbarger counties to pull cotton. After their marriage, they lived for a while in Wise County and then moved north of Vernon, first living on Mrs. Ammons' place and working for her. They later moved to Elwyn Bingham's farm, and Griff worked for Elwyn and Clois Bingham until he was in his early 80s. Griff and Martha had four children: Dorothy Halford of Medicine Mound, Grace McLaughlin of Vernon, Jerry Lou Schmoker of Vernon and Charles Lynn of Vernon.

Griff spent many years helping cook barbecue for the Doans picnic, and made son-of-a-gun stew and cooked beans for the picnic. He taught us how to make sourdough biscuits in a Dutch oven over a campfire. Griff was a lifelong member of the Texas Cowboy Reunion Association in Stamford, Texas. He entertained his children and grandchildren with stories about Indians and his life's experiences.

Martha also worked for Mrs. Ammons and the Bingham in the fields. Later she worked for Mrs. Grady Stowe, picking cantaloupes. Martha can be remembered for her hamburgers at Seth Boyd's place north of Vernon. She was a good cook, making bread and hot rolls, and always canned vegetables for the winter. In 1978 she entered the Wilbarger Expo and won several ribbons on her entries. The same year her entry in the Medicine Mound Chili Cookoff not only won first place on chili but first place on showmanship.

Griff died in 1977 at the age of 90. He was still active and in good health until he had a stroke. He had a good life even though he never learned to read or write because he only went to school one day, decided he didn't like it and never went back.

Martha died in 1979 after an 18 month battle with cancer. She was a resourceful woman from a Wendish family, always making sure everyone had plenty to eat. No matter who showed up at mealtime, there was always plenty of food for that person to eat. On Sunday Griff and Martha's house was always a popular place for relatives because they always knew they would get a good meal.

Their children remember them with love and respect. *Jerry Lou Lynn Schmoker*

OWEN-LYNN

Charles and Marion Lynn married March 28, 1975, their families together, having four



Charles Augustus and Lueretta Colman Ashley.

mother and father to Chicago, Ill., for about a year.

In 1944 Gayle moved with her mother and father to Lincoln, Neb., where her father taught instrumental and vocal music in all grades for two years. In 1947 her mother also taught kindergarten there.

From 1947 through 1961 Gayle attended kindergarten through 12th grade in the Lincoln public schools where both her parents were employed as teachers, except for one year when her father took a position at the Chadron State Teachers College. Her younger sister, Carol, was born in Lincoln in 1951 and attended school there through fourth grade.

From the time she was nine years old, Gayle spent her summers with her parents at the National Music Camp at Interlochen, Mich., where her father was on the faculty and her mother was a staff member. She studied cello, orchestra and art there and in her final year in 1961 was chosen the outstanding high school musician for the summer and given a four-year scholarship to Peabody University in Baltimore, Md. After two years there, she transferred to the Juilliard School of Music in New York City to study cello with Zara Nelsova. She graduated with a performance degree in 1966.

After graduation from Juilliard, Gayle married Jack Masarie, a French hornist and graduate of Juilliard, and they moved to Detroit, Mich., where he played in the Detroit Symphony and she was first chair cellist in the Toledo Symphony. After two years in Detroit, they moved to Toledo where both played first chairs in the Toledo Symphony for six years. During this time they both earned master's degrees in music at Bowling Green State University.

In 1974 Gayle and Jack moved to Greensboro, N.C., where they both taught at the University of North Carolina and played in the Greensboro Symphony. They now have two daughters, Heidi Beth, nine, and Susannah, three and a half. Jack still teaches at the university while Gayle teaches for the city, and they both still play first chairs in the symphony.

Another Ashley, Charles J. (1773-1843), was a well known performer on the violoncello in England and carried on the Convent Garden oratorios with his brother, General Charles, who obtained some celebrity status as a violinist, according to the Dictionary of National Biography.

Gayle Anderson Masarie



GASTON-MASON

Alva Fenton Gaston, a long-time resident of Wilbarger County, was born June 8, 1872,

in Ironton, Mo., to Joseph Liman Gaston and Matilda Turner Gaston. He married Miss Cornelia Rainwater Oct. 29, 1902. She was the daughter of Joshua William Rainwater and Elizabeth Jane Weddle. Cornelia was born April 17, 1881, in Somerset, Ky. Alva and Cornelia moved to Wilbarger County in 1907 and settled in the Oklaunion Community. They were farmers in this area until their retirement when they moved to Vernon.

Their union was blessed with seven children, Louise Gaston Partlow, Ada Frances Gaston Mason, Effie Gaston Moon, Gayle Gaston Pirkle, Edgar Joseph Gaston, Myles Warren Gaston and Robert (Bob) Gaston.

After moving to Wilbarger County, the children attended school at Bugscuffle and Thompson. One of the teachers at Bug was Elihu Dockery. Ada and Louise had 4-H projects. Ada had gardening and Louise had chickens. The chickens got out and ate the garden, so end of projects. The school board at Thompson did let several of the older girls cook hot meals (red beans and cornbread) for the other students.

Ada Frances Gaston and Elliott Percy Mason, son of Albert Percy Mason and Pearl Taylor, were married March 2, 1927, in Vernon. They lived on the gin yard in Bugscuffle where Percy worked and did some farming. They were members of the Elliott Baptist Church. They have two children, Charles Lloyd Mason and Mary Nell Mason Vineyard. There are five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

They have several relatives still living in the Vernon area and enjoy visiting with them when they have the opportunity.

Ada Frances Gaston Mason

HARRIS-MASON

George Thomas Mason was born Nov. 11, 1926, at Martha, Okla., to Arthur Lee and Hazel Doughty Mason. He attended schools in Jackson County, Okla., and was valedictorian of his graduating class at Porter High School. He served in the Pacific during World War II, and is presently a member of the VFW. He has been an employee of West Texas Utilities Company since 1952.

Betty Jo Mason was born Dec. 18, 1931, at Dumas, Texas, to Curtis Esten and Florence Harris. She moved to Vernon with her parents in 1934. Betty attended school at Five-in-One, in Vernon where she was a member of the National Honor Society, and at Midwestern University. She has been employed by the Social Security Administration since 1966, starting first as a temporary employee.

George and Betty were married in Vernon and moved shortly afterward to Altus, Okla., where they lived on a farm. The house had no electricity. They used coal oil lamps and cooked on a coal oil stove, something not too uncommon then but certainly primitive by today's standards. They gave up farming and returned to Vernon soon after their first child was born. George began working for the City of Vernon at the City Power Plant.

They have lived at the same location on 15th Street for 31 years and have expanded the house to meet their needs. Both George and Betty have put in many hours as carpenters, painters and roofers as they added bedrooms, dens, carports, bath and workrooms to the original house.

The Masons have three children, Toni Lea of Vernon, Richard of Fredericksburg and



The Gaston family — (L to R) front: Gayle Pinkle, Louise Gaston, Louise Partlow, Effie Moon (sitting), Madeline Gaston, Ada Mason and Lois Gaston; back: Bill Pinkle, Bob Baston, Charles Partlow, Miles Gaston, Percy Mason and Edgar Gaston — 1966.

✧ GASTON-MOON

Alva Fenton Gaston was born and reared in Missouri and he came to Texas as a young man and lived in Williamson County.

Cornelia Rainwater was born in Kentucky in 1882, came to Texas by wagon train with her family in the early 1890s, and grew to womanhood in Williamson County, Texas.

Alva F. Gaston and Cornelia Rainwater were married in Taylor, Texas, in 1902. They moved to Wilbarger County in 1907.

The Gastons lived near Harrold, Texas, for a short time and then moved to a farm near Oklaunion, Texas, on Red River where their seven children grew up and attended schools. The family farm was sold in 1938 and Al and Nelia Gaston moved to Vernon, Texas, where they resided until Al's death in 1949. Nelia sold the family home at that time.

The Gaston family included: Louise (Mrs. Charles Partlow) who moved to California in 1933, after she worked several years at the Waggoner Refinery in Electra.

Ada, who married Percy Mason, later moved to Kress, Texas, and reared two children: Mary Nell and Charles Lloyd.

Edgar married Lois Waggoner and after several years of farming in the area, they moved their family to Lawton, Okla., where he was employed at Fort Sill. They had five children: Joseph, Betty Jane, Barbara, Don Lee and Reginald.

Bob (Robert) worked on a farm and as a fireman in Vernon and later moved with his wife, Velta, to Lawton, Okla., where he also worked at Fort Sill. They had no children.

Miles Warren enlisted in the Army. He met Madeline Howard in New Mexico where they married and lived in Tularosa, N.M., after the war. They reared two children: Ronald and Michael.

Effie Doretta went to California in 1940. She met and married James Moon, a Long Beach fireman. They resided there until he retired and moved to Minnesota. They had three children: Effie Rae, James Warren and Carol Gayle.

Nola Gayle married William Pirkle, an Air Force instructor (pilot) at the Vernon base. After the war they went to his hometown of Springfield, Mo., where they lived and reared four boys: Joe Bill, Charles, John and Mark. Bill taught school in Springfield and Bolivar, Mo.

Upon the death of Al Gaston, Nelia moved to Long Beach, Calif., and lived with her daughter, Louise, until her death in 1966. Al and Nelia had 16 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

The Gastons have several relatives who

still live in Wilbarger County. However, no Gastons reside there anymore.

The four Gaston girls are all living at this time: Louise Partlow in Long Beach, Calif.; Ada Mason in Kress, Texas; Effie Moon in Lakewood, Calif., and Gayle Pirkle in Lakewood, Calif.

The three brothers have all passed away: Miles in 1972, Edgar in 1977 and Bob in 1985.

Effie Doretta Gaston Moon

MOORE

I, Donna Merle Moore, am the youngest of three children born to Dr. Milton J. Moore and Stella Russell Moore. I was born and reared in Vernon as were my brother, Milton Russell Moore, and my sister, Peggy Jo Dorn.

My father came to Vernon with my mother in 1918 to establish his practice as a physician and surgeon. In 1921 he and his brother built the Moore Brothers Hospital.

My parents were married in 1917 and moved here from Carlton, Texas. My mother still lives in Vernon.

He kept us occupied with lessons in music, elocution; dance and anything else he considered beneficial educationally or culturally. He shared much with his family and it was a great loss to us when he died in his 47th year.

Russell graduated from Vernon High School when he was 13 years old. When he was only five, he slipped away from home to attend first grade classes. Father thought he would soon tire of school, but Russell liked school more than being without his friends, among whom were Warner Brock, T.W. Daniels and David Nowlin, who were in school. He was allowed to remain, and his grades were good enough for a double promotion more than once during those early years.

After high school he attended Southwestern University and Baylor Dental School, and served as a captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps before he returned to Vernon to practice until his premature death on May 11, 1955, at age 36.

Russell had three sons, who became doctors, and one daughter, Mary Sue Craft. Milton Joe Moore, an orthopedic doctor who practiced in Vernon for a time, is now in Orange, Texas. Robert Anthony Moore is a Dallas psychiatrist, and Edward Russell Moore is an anesthesiologist who lives in Connecticut.

Joe's son, Russell Emory Moore, is currently in pre-med school at Brown University in Providence, R.I. Three daughters are: Cheryl Ann, who attends University of Mallaga in Spain, Amy Jo and Sarah.



Dennis and Tony Raines and daughters, Gayla Sue, Kristi Diane, Abby Gayle.

Gayla was a very active member of FFA, receiving many awards. She was also a member of the Vernon High School choir. In 1984 she received her 12-year pin in Camp Fire. Gayla is a member of St. Paul Lutheran Youth League.

Our second daughter, Kristi Diane, born April 4, 1971, has attended Vernon schools and is a freshman at Vernon High School. Kristi plays flute and is a member of flag corps in the Vernon High School Band. She is an active member of FFA and enjoys sports. Kristi is a nine-year member of Camp Fire and a member of St. Paul Lutheran Youth League.

Abby Gayle, our youngest daughter, was born on Aug. 22, 1976. Abby is a fourth grade student at Shive Elementary School. Abby, like her sisters, is also a member of Camp Fire.

Dennis and Tony have lived in the Hinds Community, two miles north of Vernon, since March of 1968. Dennis enjoys working in the yard and his workshop behind the house.

Tony is an active member of the Vernon Junior Service League. She is active in all the girls' activities and is a faithful fan of the Vernon Lions football team.

Some of the best times we have spent together have been while remodeling our home and working on and spending time at our place at Lake Kemp.

Tony Graf Raines



BARNETT-RAINWATER

Johnnie Rainwater, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Rainwater, was born June 29, 1913, in Oklaunion, Texas. The family, including Compton, Johnnie, Eugene, Clois and Christine, resided in Oklaunion where the father was president of the mercantile store and farmed. Moving to Vernon in 1929, Johnnie graduated from Vernon High School in 1931. He worked for Bentz Printing Company, setting type, running a printing press and delivering the free weekly shopper to all rural mail boxes by motorcycle. Later he worked for the Vernon Daily Record as printing press operator. Employment with Montgomery Ward resulted in transfers to Roswell, N.M., in 1935, Durango, Colo., in 1937, La Junta, Colo., in 1938. In 1939 he returned to Vernon to enter the insurance agency with his father.

Johnnie joined the Navy in December 1941. His first tour of duty was on the Destroyer Broome, an old WW I four-stacker destroyer taken out of mothballs and re stored as an escort vessel for convoys of merchant ships and tankers taking war material to Europe. In July 1942 he came home and married Kay Barnett, a Vernon High School teacher. Other WW II tours in-



Kay and Johnnie Rainwater — 1975.

cluded two years on the admiral's staff, Island of Curaco in the Netherland West Indies, yeoman in charge of assembling a crew for a new ship in Philadelphia, CPO in charge of the repair crew on the diesel 250 ship Oahu operating in the Marshall Islands. After the war he returned to his family and business. In 1960 he bought his father's interest in the business and continued as sole owner until 1979 when he retired and sold the business to his son, Lane, a 1971 graduate of Baylor University with a major in insurance.

A daughter, Jerry Rainwater McLennan, was born Aug. 16, 1944. Lane was born Dec. 9, 1947. Jerry and husband, Mike McLennan, are Baylor graduates and reside on a ranch near Brenham, Texas, with their eight-year-old son, Bill. Mike, vice president of Zapata Offshore Drilling Company, and Jerry manage their quarter horse business. Lane lived in Waco where he was a teller at Citizens National Bank until returning to Vernon in 1973. Lane has two children, Kyle, 9, and Jill, 7. He resides in Vernon with his wife, Janice, and her two boys, Ben and Seth.

Kay, graduate of Deport High School, Paris Junior College, and North Texas University, came to Vernon in 1940 as a teacher. Active in First Baptist Church, Kay particularly enjoys Bible teaching. Travel to Europe and all parts of the United States bring fond memories to Kay and Johnnie. Restoring a turn-of-the-century house on the McLennan ranch is an enjoyable hobby.

Johnnie, a deacon since 1950, has been a Sunday school teacher, director of missions committee and building chairman of the New Life Mexican Mission.

He was president of Vernon Jaycess in 1947, active in Chamber of Commerce and Vernon Industrial Foundation, and was city Mayor in 1958 and 1960. The Rainwaters were foster parents to Anna Landani, an American Field Service exchange student from Italy. Anna graduated, returned to Italy, became a nurse and married Carlos Bandera. They have three children.

Kay Rainwater



ISELL-RAINWATER

My grandfather, Josiah Wilson Rainwater, moved from Waterloo, Ky., to Taylor, Texas, in December 1890, then moved to Oklaunion in 1907.

He was a soldier in the Civil War and was discharged as a captain. He served under General U.S. Grant in 1866. His occupations were varied. He was a farmer, postmaster, merchant, tax collector and a banker. In the course of these occupations he served as a school trustee and a deacon in the Baptist church. Of his nine children, six lived in

Wilbarger County, two in Williamson County and one in Wichita County.

He married Elizabeth Jane Weddle in 1866 and their nine children were: Martha Jane (Mrs. P.C. Rainwater), Lucy Isidore (Mrs. J.P. Aderholt), Miles, Doretta (Mrs. Rany Luttrell), Cornelia (Mrs. Al Gaston), Roscoe, Nancy Frances "Molly," (Mrs. C.M. Aderholt), Mary (Mrs. Charlie Aderholt) and Minnie (Mrs. John Brownlee).

Molly Rainwater Aderholt outlived her brothers and sisters and lived to be 106 at the time of her death in 1985.

Roscoe Rainwater was my father. I, Gene Rainwater, am the fourth of five children born to Roscoe and Gertrude Gaughron Rainwater. We were five of the 38 grandchildren of Josiah and Elizabeth. My brothers and sister are Compton, Cristine Lee, Johnie and Clois Rainwater.

I married Georgia Isbell and our home is in Fort Worth. Our son, David, the father of our one granddaughter, Celeste, resides in Elgin, Texas. Our other son, Paul, lives in Dallas.

Gene Rainwater



MILLER-RAINWATER

Kenneth Rainwater is the oldest child of Loyd and Mattie Lee Rowden Rainwater, born on May 17, 1935, in Vernon, Texas. He has two sisters, Linda Appleton and Mary Dean Bradshaw, who both live in Abilene. Kenneth attended Harrold School and graduated in 1953. He has lived all of his life in Wilbarger County. He married La Rue Miller on June 22, 1961, in Frederick, Okla. La Rue started school in Electra, but came to Harrold during her seventh-grade year. She graduated in 1961 as valedictorian of her class.

Soon after they were married, they moved to Harrold and lived in the house that the Harrold Post Office now occupies. On March 29, 1962, their first child, Rhonda, was born in Electra. Rhonda was the first grandchild on the Miller side and also on the Rainwater side. She was also the first great-grandchild of Daddy Shave and Fat Mama Rowden. Seventeen months later Rhonda had a brother named Mark, born on Sept. 8, 1963, in Electra.

In September 1966 Kenneth and La Rue moved to Harrold after the completion of their new house. They still live in the same house.

Rhonda and Mark started school and graduated from Harrold School. Rhonda was valedictorian of her class in 1980. Mark ranked in the top five of his graduating class in 1982. Both children won many honors while in high school. Rhonda was selected all-district in basketball, went to regional in tennis two years and was voted Best Actress in the district one-act play. She also competed in prose reading. Mark was voted all-district in football and basketball and went to regional in tennis. Mark was voted Best Actor in the one-act play in district and regional competition and made All-Star Cast at the state level his senior year. Mark also competed in persuasive speaking and went to state while in high school. Mark was selected all-state in football his senior year.

After graduation Rhonda attended ACU in Abilene. She graduated in 1984 and still lives in Abilene. Rhonda teaches math and coaches girls volleyball at Merkel High School. Mark is a senior at ACU and is majoring in business.

Kenneth and La Rue attend the Southside

Church of Christ in Electra. Kenneth is manager of Harrold Grain Company and farms. He fishes in his spare time. La Rue works at Harrold School as bookkeeper-tax collector and works part time as a clerk at the Harrold Post Office. Both are members of the Harrold Booster Club where La Rue is secretary-treasurer.

La Rue Miller Rainwater



ROWDEN-RAINWATER

Loyd Rainwater was born at Oklaunion, son of Miles and Ollie Rainwater who came to Wilbarger County in 1907 from Taylor County. They farmed near Oklaunion until 1919, when they moved to Vernon.

Loyd attended school at Thompson and Vernon. He married Mattie Lee Rowden, daughter of L.Q. and Pearl Rowden. They came to Wilbarger County from Van Zandt County in 1917.

Mattie Lee attended school at Box, Bourland and Oklaunion.

They farmed at Oklaunion from 1934 to 1942 and moved to a farm at Elliott.

Their children are Kenneth Rainwater of Harrold, Linda Appleton and Mary Dean Bradshaw of Abilene. They graduated from Harrold.

The Rainwaters are members of the Church of Christ.

Loyd Rainwater

BLEDSOE-RAMSEY

Deborah Anne Bledsoe and Harvey Stephen Ransey met in the summer of 1972 in Vernon. They began dating and love grew. The Bledsoe family moved to Alva, Okla., in late August of that same year. Much of their communication was by telephone and several trips to Alva by Stephen. In the summer of 1973 Stephen gave Debbie an engagement ring and formally asked her father for her hand in marriage. The wedding date was set for June 21, 1974. A hectic year of preparation followed. Debbie graduated from Alva High School in May. The family took a vacation to come to Vernon, Texas, for the wedding. It was performed at Wilbarger Street Church of Christ before many friends from Alva, Okla., and many friends and relatives from Vernon.

Debbie and Stephen have two children. Damaris Renee was born Nov. 25, 1978. Heath Stephen arrived on June 14, 1983. Both children were born in Wichita Falls. Damaris is now in first grade at Hawkins. Heath is an active two-year-old and keeps his Mom busy.

Harvey Stephen was born Feb. 26, 1952, in Vernon. He is the son and only child of Henry and Edna Ramsey of Route 2, Vernon. He played football in high school. He also won several awards in F.F.A. He graduated in 1970 at Lockett High School. His class was the last graduated from Lockett. They consolidated with Vernon schools. Stephen attended East Texas State college and later ACU in Abilene. He worked for Haliburton in Wichita Falls two years. He engaged in farming with his father at Lockett and is now working for Osborne's in Vernon.

Debbie attended Vernon schools and then moved to Alva, Okla., for her junior and senior years. She graduated there in May 1974. She was active in school choirs. She took piano lessons from Mrs. A. Hingst. She was a member of a trio singing group in school at Alva. She was also elected

Third child, George Edward, attended Terrell Military Academy and Texas University and graduated from Cumberland, Tenn., Law School. He flew over 50 missions in B-17 bombers in World War II. He married Barbara Covert from Peekskill, N.Y., and became chief of Allstate Insurance for a five-state area, based in Atlanta. Their only child, William Edward, is in Atlanta with Allstate.

James Jay, the youngest, attended Hawkins, Lutheran School, Vernon High, Vanderbilt and graduated from Tulane Medical School. He married Ann Henderson in Wichita, Kan., October 1944, interned at Scott and White and returned to Vernon in September 1945, where he continues in the general practice of medicine. During his senior year at Tulane, he contracted tuberculosis and spent six months in bed. Graduating with the next class, he later spent two years in bed but was one of the first streptomycin cures. Due to his T.B. he saw no active military service.

Dr. Slaughenhop is a 32nd degree Mason, a member of the Royal Order of Jesters, a charter member of the Texas Academy of General Practice (now Family Practice). He delivered more than 1,200 babies in Wilbarger County, is a past warden of Grace Episcopal Church, served on the legislative committee of the T.M.A. and since his retirement from surgery and O.B. continues to practice from his office in the M and S Clinic. He has been a courtesy member of the staff of Bethania Hospital in Wichita Falls for many years and served his terms as chief of staff at Christ the King and Wilbarger General hospitals.

His wife, Ann, was born and raised in Wichita, Kan., attended Newcomb College in New Orleans, is a past president of Musicians Club, secretary and treasurer of the Red River Valley Museum and organist at Grace Episcopal Church for over 32 years.

They have two children, James Curtis of Vernon and Mary of Wichita Falls, and one grandchild.

Jamie Slaughenhop



ADERHOLT-SMITH

Joseph Walter Aderholt was born in Taylor, Williamson County, Texas, on Nov. 11, 1893. He was the first of five children born to John Pinkney Aderholt (1871-1946) and his wife Lucy Isadore Rainwater (1872-1963). In 1907 he moved with his family to Wilbarger County, Texas, where he joined the Baptist Church in 1912.

After completing high school Walter moved to Waco, McLennan County, Texas, where he was apprenticed as a pharmacist. April 1, 1915, he married Dollie Annie Nichols (1891-1975), the youngest of 10 children of John Tyler Nichols (1844-1917) and his wife Frances Jane Freeman (1844-1926).

In 1917 Walter and his wife moved to Dallas, Texas, where he attended Baylor School of Pharmacy until the school was moved to Waco. He was employed by the Wholesale Drug Company in Dallas and later earned his pharmaceutical license which he retained actively until his death.

June 5, 1917, he registered for the World War I draft, but was never called to active duty. Through the Depression years he made several moves throughout Texas and Oklahoma because of the hard times. He was the father of two children, Frances Lucy and Jack Winston.

Frances, now Mrs. R.G. Smith of Richard-

son, Texas, attended school one year in "Bug," and spent some wonderful times in the summers visiting grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins with her family in Elliott, Oklahoma and Vernon. Now much interested in genealogy — she was pianist at First Baptist Church of Richardson for seven years, has served on the board of the Richardson Symphony, Community Concerts and Dallas Hospital Auxiliaries, is a past member of Richardson Woman's Club and member and past president of the Volunteer Auxiliary of Richardson Medical Center. She has one son, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Dr. Jack Aderholt graduated from Vernon High School in 1939, attended Baylor School of Dentistry, and now resides and offices in Pasadena, Harris County, Texas. A board member of Humana Southmore Hospital and Baywood Country Club, he and his wife Evelyn are members of First Baptist Church where he has taught Sunday school. He is a life member of Optimist International and is on the Boys' Harbor board of directors, donating his services to the boys there for a number of years. He has three sons and one grandson. He is a veteran of World War II.

Walter Aderholt was a charter member of the Optimist Club in Sherman, Texas, while living there. He has served as Master in the Weslaco, Texas, Masonic Lodge, is a 32nd degree and Knight Templar Mason, past master, past high priest, past thrice illustrious master and past commander, and has served as worthy patron of the Eastern Star in Weslaco.

Joseph Walter Aderholt died Nov. 29, 1982, in Pasadena, and is buried in Restland Cemetery, Dallas, Texas, beside his wife Anna.

Frances Lucy Aderholt Smith

ALLEN-SMITH

Willie Lamar Smith was born in Ripley, Miss., on July 22, 1889. He moved with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Zachariah H. Smith, to Tillman County, Okla., and settled just east of Frederick. They were participants in the last Oklahoma Land Rush.

Bessie Lee was born Feb. 22, 1893, in Blue Mound, Kan. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. John A. Allen, who also came from Blue Mound, Kan., to participate in the drawing of land allotments in Oklahoma. John Allen was a pharmacist.

Willie and Bessie were married in Frederick, Okla., on May 29, 1911. They lived there and farmed their family land until 1925. The land in Oklahoma joined Indian reservation land and was separated only by a creek where the Indians would often bring their livestock and set up camps.



Willie L. and Bessie Smith.

sity majoring in education. Grady Douglas is a sophomore in Vernon High School.

Stephanie Jean Stowe



LUTTRELL-STRAWN

Alva Otis Luttrell lived in Wilbarger County for 45 years. He was born May 30, 1899, in Waterloo, Texas, in Williamson County to Ranza Lee Luttrell and Doretta Rainwater. The Ranza L. Luttrell family came to Wilbarger County in 1906 and settled south of Red River in the fertile valley.

Otis Luttrell attended school in Elliott and Thompson schools, later going to Draughon's Business School. He then went to work in the Oklaunion State Bank. That bank closed, and he went to work at the Harrold State Bank. While working at the bank, he married Lucy Haynes, Oct. 1, 1921. She was the daughter of Henry H. Haynes and Sina Corder. She was born Oct. 23, 1901. She moved with the family to Wilbarger County in 1907 and attended school at County Line, after which she went on to Canyon Teachers College. They had five children: Wayne Luttrell, born Sept. 11, 1922, and married to Marguerite Belamey Sept. 2, 1953. They had two children, Lisa Luttrell Sabo and Todd Luttrell. Wayne died Oct. 22, 1970; Mary Nell Luttrell Strawn, born Sept. 30, 1924, and married to Joseph W. Strawn July 13, 1946. They have two children, Mike Strawn and Delores Strawn McDaniel; Trent Luttrell, born Feb. 9, 1927, and married to Luzelle Dolberry June 6, 1947. They had three children, Karen Luttrell Niccoli, Daryle Wayne Luttrell and Christopher Luttrell. Luzelle passed away Aug. 12, 1982; Cecil M. Luttrell, born July 3, 1930, and married to Ileen Mauder July 9, 1950. They have five children: Sharron Luttrell Pace, Alan Luttrell, Vicki Luttrell Anderson, Curtis Luttrell and Gordon Luttrell; and James C. Luttrell born May 29, 1934, and married to Martha Johnson Sept. 18, 1954. They have two children, Treasa Luttrell Rowan and James Keith Luttrell.



C.M. Luttrell, Wayne Luttrell, Mary Nell Luttrell Strawn, James C. Luttrell and Trent Luttrell.

Otis and Lucy have 14 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Otis Luttrell engaged in farming after leaving the bank. Nearing the close of "The Great Depression" he and his family left the farm and moved back to Harrold; he worked for Wilbarger County. In the early 1940s he became bookkeeper for The Harrison King Implement Co. which closed; after which he commuted to Vernon and worked in the bookkeeping department for the Boy Scout garment factory. Later, after World War II, he moved with his wife and youngest son, James, and sold real estate. In the fall of 1950 he became very ill and passed from

this life June 4, 1951; Lucy, his wife, passed away Dec. 11, 1984.

This Luttrell family attend the Church of Christ.

Mary Nell Luttrell Strawn

STREIT

In 1882 my great-great-grandparents, Christian and Anna Streit, immigrated to this country from Switzerland to avoid compulsory military service for their sons, and settled on Section 98, Block 14, H&TC Ry Co Surveys, which is located approximately one mile SW of Vernon Center South. They brought with them their six sons, Charles, Fred, Albert, Alex, Godfrey and Rudolph. Fred was my great grandfather. In 1885 Fred and his wife, Rosina (Guggisberg) built an adobe house on Section 18, Block 9, H&TC Ry Co Surveys, which is located one and a half miles south of Zion Lutheran Church. He and his brothers acquired many acres of land in this area, and it soon became known as the Streit settlement.

Many items from the Streit settlers have been placed in the Red River Museum, along with a complete history of the family. Born to Fred and Rosina were seven sons, Fred Jr., George, Karl, John, Albert, Oscar, Ernest and two daughters, Margaret and Emma. Emma is the only surviving member.

George was my grandfather, and was born in the adobe house on Dec. 2, 1886. The adobe house is still standing, and I now own and farm this land. Most of the land acquired by the brothers is still in the family and farmed by their sons, grandsons or great-grandsons.

My mother's family, the Fluhmans, came to this county in the early 1900s, and also settled in the southwest part of the county. Some of the first oil discovered in the 1920s was on this land, and became and is still known as the Fluhman Field.

In 1959 I graduated from Vernon High School and entered Texas Tech. While attending Tech, I became a partner in a window covering manufacturing firm. In 1963 I moved to Albuquerque to manage our office there. In April 1964 I entered the Army, and returned to Albuquerque in March 1965. I continued in business and in 1967, through this business, met Mary who was an interior decorator and also a Texas Tech graduate. We were married in 1968 and moved to Oklahoma City in December, where I took over management of several firms my company had purchased. In 1976 I sold my interest in the corporation, and devoted my time to the Army Reserve unit I had been active in since moving to Oklahoma City.

During my Army Reserve career I attended OCS, and at present hold the rank of lieutenant colonel. During the period from 1968 to 1981, Mary continued her education and received her master's in education, while also bearing two daughters, Stephanie in 1971 and Michaela in 1976. In 1981 we moved back to Vernon to take over the farming operation from my father, Ernest.

Since moving, I have continued the farming operation, and Mary is employed as a second-grade teacher in the Vernon School system.

I am very proud of my pioneer linkage in Wilbarger County, and my wife, Mary, and I hope that our daughters will be just as proud and continue to enhance this heritage.

Gary B. Streit

Lockett Baptist Church

Mr. and Mrs. F.S. Lockett, Wilma Lockett, J.B. Lockett, Clint Lockett, Lester Lockett, Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Barker, Bruce Barker, Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Martin, C.H. Cato, Opal Roberson, W.H. Wenzel and Mrs. J.W. Morehead met in February 1924 at the Lockett School House to organize a Missionary Baptist Church. Frank McNair was elected moderator and C.H. Cato Church Clerk. A.J. Barker and F.S. Lockett, ordained deacons, were accepted as active deacons of the Church. The Church was named "First Baptist Church of Lockett."

March 24, 1924 Reverend Frank McNair was called as pastor for half-time. He was changed to full-time pastor February 1, 1925. In March of 1924 a building program was begun. This building completed in early 1925, included the present sanctuary with Sunday School class rooms across the north end and two large rooms in the south end of the basement. Dedication services were held May 24, 1925 with between 1000 and 1500 people from throughout the association in attendance.

The baptistry which was under the floor of the pulpit was moved to the present location in 1942. The late Miss Ina Westbrook painted the scene that hangs over the baptistry.

From 111 resident members in 1935, the church had grown to 175 members in 1943 with a Sunday School enrollment of 161. Because of continued growth and lack of space the basement was enlarged in 1945 and the choir loft in 1948.

H.W. Wenzel, Guy Chennault, John Boyd, Hunter



Lockett Baptist Church — 1924

Hobson and Clois Cato, were ordained as deacons October 17, 1948.

A building fund for a parsonage begun in 1946, resulted in a two bedroom modern parsonage completed in 1950 and remodeled in 1970.

Under the leadership of Reverend Ed Burkett, an educational building was begun in the summer of 1970 by moving a Church building from Medicine Mound and remodeling it. This building burned in December before it was completed, also damaging the Sanctuary. After cleaning the debris a new building was begun and was dedicated in 1972. J.E. Lockett was the builder, Delmar McBeath was pastor at the time of completion.

October 20, 1974, Glenn Cato, W.R. Duncan, Marvin James and Stanley Williams were ordained as deacons.

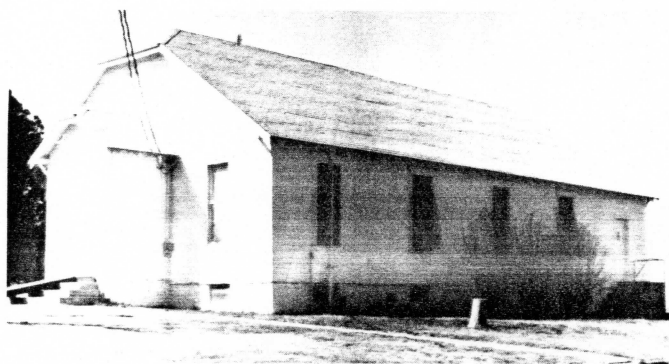
Many fine men of God have led this church. They are Reverend Frank McNair 1924-1934, Reverend D.E. Hogan 1935-1936. Dr. C.V. Edwards 1936-1940, Reverend G.W. Thomas 1941-1943, Reverend Jack Daniels 1944-1945, Reverend C.L. Withrow 1945-1948, Reverend J.W. Hardin 1948, Reverend J.C. Wade 1949-1951, Reverend Homer Thompson 1951-1956, Reverend Joe Serratt 1956-1958, Reverend Mack Turner 1958-1968, Reverend Buster Reeves 1969, Reverend Ed Burkett 1970-1972, Reverend Delmar McBeath 1972-1975, Reverend Bob Cavitt 1975-1976, Reverend B.R. Medlin 1977-1980, Reverend Jack Clopp 1980-1985, and the present pastor, Reverend James Dawson.

Present deacons serving the church are: Glenn Cato, Marvin James, Morgan Price, Hunter Hobson, Stanley Williams, Homer Custer and T.E. Blalock.

Lockett Baptist Church members from story still living: Clint Lockett, Lester Lockett, Mrs. W.L. Martin, Guy Chennault, John Boyd, Hunter Hobson, Clois Cato, Glenn Cato, W.R. Duncan, Marvin James, Stanley Williams, Reverend J.W. Hardin, Reverend J.C. Wade, Reverend Homer Thompson, Reverend Mack Turner, Reverend Buster Reeves, Reverend Ed Burkett, Reverend Delmar McBeath, Reverend Bob Cavitt, Reverend B.R. Medlin, Reverend Jack Clopp, Reverend James Dawson, Homer Custer and T.E. Blalock.

Idalou Cato, Helen Lewis

Bethel Baptist Church



Bethel Baptist Church

Bethel Baptist Church was organized in Elliott, Texas in 1906. The young church met in the Elliott School until their new sanctuary was built. The dedicatory service was held in 1907, led by Rev. J.L. Walker who served as District Missionary for the Red-Fork Association at the time.

Always mission conscious, the members contributed regularly to Buckner Orphans Home. Eggs and other farm produce was gathered from the members and sent to the home. A letter dated November 1, 1915 from a spokesman for the Orphans Home, wrote thanking the Ladies Missionary Group for their \$40.00 offering and the \$10.00 sent by the church to purchase a milk cow. The cow was to be named "Bethel" in honor of their generosity.

The original Church Facility was used until 1940, when the present building was built on the property. The labor for the construction was provided by the members under the direction of Erwin and Gilbert Schoppa, Building Contractors. They were residents of the Elliott community. Other people in the community also contributed equipment and labor used in the construction.

A list of Charter Members is not available because the original Church records were destroyed in a fire, but some early members and their families were: Ranzy Luttrell, J.P. Aderholt, C.G. Stallings, J.W. Rainwater, P.C. Rainwater, Al Gaston, C.B. Mason, Everett Yerby, Dora Lucas, Webb Lucas, Sophie Lucas, R.J. Lemon, George Lemon, Mattie Moore, Miles Rainwater, C.V. Ford, W.F. Birch, Walter Kirk, Ada Grisham and Mrs. Ted Lee.

There are presently 51 resident members. Mrs. Orva Cook has the longest continuous membership.

In the fifties an outdoor recreation area was developed adjacent to the church. A basketball-volleyball court, picnic area and children's play area has provided many hours of enjoyment for the people of the church and community.

In January 1966, a new pastor's home was completed on property directly across from the church. Construction, planning and labor was done by the church members.

Because of the destroyed records a list of pastors and their years of service can not be completed. This list has been compiled from the memories of various members: Rev. Crim, Rev. Morgan, Rev. E.M. Clemment, Rev. Warren, Rev. Powell, Rev. Skinner, Rev. Cox, Rev. Clairence F. Brown (served for the longest with 7 years as pastor), Rev. B.F. Smith, Rev. John Stout, Rev. O.L. Bryant, Rev. Porter Arnold, Rev. John Williams (served twice), Rev. Carl Day, Rev. Joe Shaver, Rev. Merle Stephens, Rev. Dan Terry, Rev. Harold Bostwich, Rev. Carl Smith, Rev. Roy Moody, Rev. Lawrence Cox, Rev. Jack Brown, Rev. Joe Strange, Rev. Weldon Barnard, Rev. Ken Lyles, Rev. Lenard Brothers, Rev. Tom Reedy, Rev. Clifton Dove (served only 4 months until the Lord took him home) and Rev. Raymond R. Jones who is the present pastor.

The ministry of the church covers the farming area around Elliott and extends to both Harrold and Oklaunion as there are no remaining churches in those communities.

This history is submitted as a cooperative effort of the members of Bethel Baptist Church.

Vernon Lodge No. 655, A. F. & A. M.



STATED MEETINGS - SECOND AND FOURTH THURSDAYS

Vernon, Texas 76384

Many of the earliest citizens of Vernon were members of the Order of Freemasons and sought to begin a lodge of their own at the earliest opportunity. A petition to the Grand Lodge of Texas for a charter was signed by Josiah Phillips, J.A. Creager, and S.K. Montgomery. The petition was granted by the Grand Lodge of Texas at Houston, and the lodge received a charter dated December 15, 1887.



The earliest meetings were held in rented space. For some years they occupied the second story of a building at the northeast corner of Texas and Main Streets. The lodge purchased property and a new brick two-story building was completed in 1926 at 1421 Main Street. The second story was used by the lodge while the first floor was leased to the West Texas Utilities Company for many years. In 1981 this building was sold to the utilities company and a new one-story building was purchased at 1717 Marshall. After renovations this building was dedicated January 10, 1982.

Vernon has been the center of much Masonic activity through the years. In addition to Vernon Lodge No. 655, Vernon has been the home of Vernon Commandery No. 33, Knights Templar; Vernon Chapter No. 192, Royal Arch Masons; Vernon Council No. 130, Royal and Select Masters; and Vernon Chapter No. 424, Order of the Eastern Star.

The list of Past Masters of Vernon Lodge No. 655 includes many of our citizens who have served in leadership capacities in our city, county, state and nation.

The following have served as Worshipful Master of Vernon Lodge No. 655: 1888, Josiah Phillips; 1889, M.H. Kester; 1890-91, W.L. Saye; 1892, L.C. Heare; 1893, S.W. Lomax; 1894, T.J. Youngblood; 1895, E.T. Murchison; 1896, S.E. Hatchett; 1897, B.J. Parker; 1898, J.S. Wood; 1899, Charles A. Mason; 1900, Wm. Crutchfield; 1901, Ben H. Kelly; 1902, T.M. Holt; 1903, J.B. Tolbert; 1904, R.W. Hix; 1905, J.C. Haney; 1906, L.K. Johnson; 1907, E.L. Witty; 1908, T.J. Youngblood; 1909, J.F. Holt; 1910, R.A. Kelly; 1911, W.D. Berry; 1912, L.E. Kester; 1913, H.W. Norwood; 1914, T.J. Youngblood; 1915, L.G. Hawkins; 1916, R.H. Nichols; 1917, Daniel Bond; 1918, S.F. Holmes; 1919, D.P. Sink, Jr.; 1920, E.L. Witty;

1921, R.H. Bratton; 1922, E.M. Haney; 1923, Dee H. Norwood; 1924, J.N. Fulcher; 1925, W.F. Magee; 1926, L.E. Kester; 1927, L.E. Kester; 1928, J.W. Leak; 1929, T.L. O'Steen; 1930, H.B. Mason; 1931, H.C. Thompson; 1932, W.H. Huggins; 1933, A.K. Thorn; 1934, L.E. Kester; 1935, M.G. Poteet; 1936, J.A. Harrington; 1937, D.B. Potts; 1938, T.L. O'Steen; 1939, T.L. O'Steen; 1940, J.E. Foster; 1941, J.E. Foster; 1942, F.P. Dalmasso; 1943, R.C. Rainwater; 1944, K.M. Moore; 1945, Quincy Wilson, Jr.; 1946, Alvin Cadenhead; 1947, W.F. Baber; 1948, Don Palmer; 1949, Eddie W. Jones; 1950, B.K. Norwood; 1951, Henry Scott; 1952, E.H. Odom; 1953, E. Frank Handley; 1954, Robert B. Anderson; 1955, W.F. Lance; 1956, Clyde Crisp; 1957, R. Marvin Taylor; 1958, Victor Robinson; 1959, J.W. Jackson, Jr.; 1960, Jack E. Hightower; 1961, Marion Smith; 1962, Frank Sims; 1963, Raymond Wimple; 1964, L.H. Wall; 1965, Clinton Russell; 1966, Beryl Massingill; 1967, Felix Taylor; 1968, Walter C. Taylor; 1969, Jimmie Chilton; 1970, T.L. McBride; 1971, Fred Priest; 1972, T.W. Daniel; 1973, Clarence Grimes; 1974, Kirk Hammer; 1975, Troy Brown; 1976, Phil Tarant; 1977, Dan Barnett; 1978, Glen Kinnibrough; 1979, A.D. Morgan, Jr.; 1980, Eldon Shoemaker; 1981, Wayne Wilcox; 1982, Fred Porter; 1983, Tommy Roberts; 1984, Richard Yeager; 1985, Jackie E. White; 1986, Alvin O. "Toby" Doherty.

Vernon Lodge meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month.

The present officers (1985/86) are: Worshipful Master: Alvin (Toby) Doherty; Senior Warden: Jerry Reeves; Junior Warden: Steve Morcom; Senior Deacon: Mike Morris, Junior Deacon: Ronnie Jones; Senior Stewart: Leroy King; Junior Stewart: Scott Martin; Secretary: Dan Barnett; Treasurer: R. Marvin Taylor; Chaplain: Joe Strange.

Vernon Chapter No. 424 Order of the Eastern Star

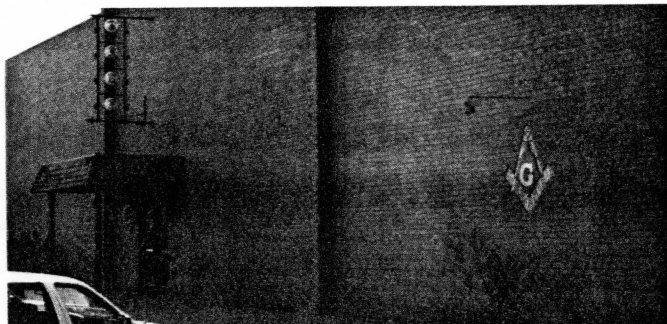
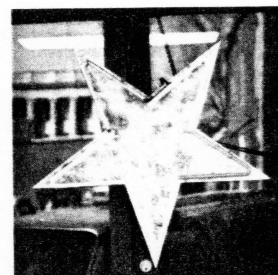
In 1898 an Eastern Star Chapter, Vernon 118, was organized. It demised after only three years. In 1908 another Chapter was organized under the name of E.T. Murchison. It started with a membership of 46. The first Worthy Matron was Ida B. Dodson and the Worthy Patron was W.D. Berry. The name of the organization was changed to Vernon Chapter # 424 in 1924 and has operated under that number ever since. There have been 73 different women to serve as Worthy Matrons and 31 different men to serve as Worthy Patrons. During the years 22 more Past Matrons and 7 Past Patrons have affiliated with the Chapter. The present Worthy Matron is Shirley Nichols and the Worthy Patron T.L. McBride.

Crowell Chapter affiliated with Vernon in 1975. The present membership is 206.

In Dec. 1981 the Eastern Star held their first meeting in the new Masonic building at 1717 Marshall, which was dedicated in Jan. 1982.

The membership in an Eastern Star is composed of Master Masons and their wives, mothers, daughters, widows, sisters and granddaughters. It is based on the belief of a Supreme Being. Its lessons are scriptural, and its teachings moral. The five star points are each taken from, and named for, a heroine of the Bible: Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha and Electa.

Rob Morris, a Master Mason in Oxford, Miss. in 1849 became interested in the idea that female relatives should share some of the benefits of that Fraternal Order. He became the organizer of the Order of the Eastern Star after spending many years discussing plans and theories with a few Masons and their wives. The first Grand Chapter was organized in Michigan in 1867. The membership now numbers almost three million in over thirteen thousand chapters which encircle the earth.



CITY OFFICIALS

Five aldermen served on the city council with the mayor until 1916 when the present mayor-commission form under a home rule charter was adopted and four commissioners were elected as council members with the mayor.

Mayors

James R. Tolbert	1889-1890
R.S. Kelly	1890-1892
M.E. Smith	1892-1894
George Anderson	1894-1897
J.S. Massie	1897-1898
J.A. Lucky	1898-1902
S.P. Huff	1902-1903
R.W. Hall	1903-1908
L.P. Bonner	1908-1912
I.S. Sewell	1912-1916
L.P. Bonner	1916-1918
Harry Mason	1918-1926
H.D. Hockersmith	1926-1938
J.V. Owen	1938-1944
W.N. Martin	1944-1946
M.L. Sharp	1946-1948
Fay Eggleston	1948-1952
Fred Roetschke	1952-1956
W.D. Curtis	1956-1958
Johnie Rainwater	1958-1960
John Naylor	1960-1962
J.R. Wright	1962-1966
A.F. Winston	1966-1969
H.D.W. Naylor	1969-1982
Roy Dickey Jr.	1982-1984
George E. Maxon Jr.	1984-Present

Aldermen

S.W. Mabry	1889-1890
Joe Schmidt	1889
John R. Wood	1889-1890
George Langley	1889-1892
R.T. Johnson	1889-1890
W.L. Saye	1890-1891
G.F. Watson	1889-1891
R.F. Jones	1890-1892
W.B. Gardiner	1890-1892
John White	1891-1892
B.K. Wood	1891-1892
J.H. Houssels	1892-1894
G.M. Purvis	1892-1894
J.W. Abbott	1892-1893
W.M. Crutchfield	1892-1895
L.C. Heare	1892
A.P. Miller	1892-1893
J.S. Massie	1893-1897
John White	1893-1894
S.W. Mabry	1894-1900
Mr. Gilliland	1894-1895
B.K. Wood	1894-1896
W.H. Evans	1895-1899
W.C. McDavid	1895-1896
Tom Hope	1896-1898
W.E. Naylor	1896-1898
J.E. Lutz	1897-1899
Bismarck Houssels	1898-1904
Mr. McConnell	1898-1900
J.H. Pendleton	1899-1901
W.O. Anderson	1899-1903
J.E. Lutz	1900-1908
B.J. Parker	1900-1904
L.J. Massie	1901-1903
W.H. Evans	1903-1908
T.M. Holt	1903-1905

A.M. Hiatt	1904-1906
J.M. Batchelor	1904-1908
J.A. White	1905-1907
W.G. McDonald	1906-1908
C.P. Smith	1907-1909
T.M. Holt	1908-1909
L.C. Eakle	1908-1911
J.E. Peel	1908-1910
A.H. Murchison	1908-1910
W.J. Penton	1909-1912
T.J. McGill	1909-1911
L.H. Stalcup	1910-1912
N.L. Wiseman	1910-1912
I.S. Sewell	1911-1912
R.D. Shive	1911-1915
Clois Green	1912-1915
J.D. Summerour	1912-1916
U.S. Davis	1912-1914
W.H. Huggins	1912-1916
J.M. Underwood	1914-1916
J.A. Puckett	1915-1916
A.T. Boger	1915-1916

Commissioners, Place 1

M.G. Neathery	1916-1920
J.M. Napier	1920-1922
J.H. Pendleton	1922-1926
S.A. Castlebury	1926-1930
Will I. Stephens	1930-1932
S.A. White	1932-1936
W.W. Jones	1936-1942
M.L. Sharp	1942-1944
B.W. Williams	1944-1946
Ray Grimes	1946-1948
Herbert Hill	1948-1952
John Naylor	1952-1954
O.A. Rader	1954-1956
Denzil Hollars	1956-1958
Glen Stitt	1958-1962
J.B. Taylor	1962-1966
Ray Renfro	1966-1978
R. Marvin Taylor	1978-1982
Sherry Spears	1982-1984
John Liles	1984-Present

Commissioners, Place 2

J.P. King	1916-1920
J.D. Key	1920-1922
E.B. Owen	1922-1924
R.D. Shive	1924-1926
W.O. Smith	1926-1932
C.H. Ratliff	1932-1936
H.C. Thompson	1936-1944
Chester Ross	1944-1948
Earl Bristo	1948-1952
Chester Ross	1952-1954
M.P. Pybus	1954-1958
L.W. "Roy" Brazil	1958-1966
Clarence Graf	1966-Present

Commissioners, Place 3

Harper Reed	1916-1919
T.A. King	1919-1920
Luther Webb	1920-1921
W.M. Blackwood	1921-1923
W.W. Bennett	1923-1925
B. Daniel	1925-1926
Lon Byars	1926-1929
B. Daniel	1929-1936
J.V. Owen	1936-1938
George Robinson	1938-1943
Guy Self	1943-1949
John Rasor	1949-1951

J.G. McCarroll	1951-1955
J.K. Freese	1955-1961
J.R. Hamilton	1961-1965
John Naylor	1965-1966
H.D.W. Naylor	1966-1969
Roy Norsworthy	1969-1974
Ben Boston	1974-1983
Jud Byars	1983-Present

Commissioners, Place 4

E.L. Witty	1916-1920
C.M. Ladd	1920-1921
E.M. Rogers	1921-1927
A.J. Carpenter	1927-1933
R.J. Byars	1933-1943
J.O. Rouse	1943-1946
Fred Roetschke	1946-1951
R. Marvin Taylor	1951-1955
C.H. Woods	1955-1961
Earnest Rogers	1961-1971
W.H. Frith	1971-1985
Jackie Burk	1985-Present

City Secretaries

John Brown	1889-1890
A. Clark McKinney	1890-1892
A.M. Hiatt	1892-1896
John Scott	1896-1898
C.F. Lanter	1898-1899
L.C. Eakle	1899-1906
R.B. Sherrill	1906-1910
S.H. "Buddy" Hall	1910-1914
T.P. Lisman	1914-1916
S.H. Hall	1916-1955
T.W. Daniel	1955-1980
Paul Hawkins	1980-Present

City Attorneys

H.C. Thompson	1889-1890
Mike Smith	1890-1892
D.W. Tracy	1892-1894
W.D. Berry	1894-1896
R.S. Houssels	1896-1898
Ray Johnson	1898-1899
Harry Mason	1899-1901
L.P. Bonner	1901-1902
J.S. Cook	1902-1912
W.N. Stokes	1912-1916
Harry Mason	1916-1918
J.S. Cook	1918-1943
M.G. Poteet	1943-1963
Warren Pruitt	1963-1982
Doug Jeffrey	1982-Present

Salaries set in 1897 for the city officials in-



Fletcher Bright at watering trough.

#83

GUYER AND THOMPSON

Guyer, a few miles from Elliott, is now considered part of the Elliott Community. The school, named for Henry and Jess Guyer who gave land for the school, was annexed in 1927 to Harrold.

One mile north and two and a half miles west from Elliott was located the Thompson School, named for W.L. Thompson, landowner. Mildred Rowden was one of the school's two teachers in 1933. Trustees serving together at one time were Carl L. Wiederanders, Will I. Stephens, Frank Tom-su and E.C. "Jim" Long. A few of the students were Clarence Rainwater, Earl King, Mae Moore, Gaston and Hancock children, W.T. Belew and, of course, others. J.L. Miller was principal in 1931-32, perhaps longer.



Thompson School seventh grade of 1912 — students include Howard Aderholt, Ira Luttrell, Jack Lane, Bill Reed, Hattie Cox, Esta Aderholt, Eva Rainwater and Viola Lane.

The Thompson schoolhouse was moved to Oklaunion and used as the cafeteria there sometime after 1936 when Thompson was combined with Oklaunion. That was not the end of the school building for it is presently an addition to the Quincy Couch home in that area. All that remains of the Thompson school today is the old teacherage, now the home of Les and Louise Benson, in the grove of trees beside U.S. 70 about four miles north of Oklaunion.

OKLAUNION

Much of the history known of the town of Oklaunion which got its start in the mid-1880s has been available through papers of Zelma King, the Oklaunion postmaster from 1971 to 1983. Her husband, Paschal "Pack" King is a grandson of Monroe King, pioneer stock man and wheat farmer who came in 1889 and who was father to nine children, J. Mont King, Dr. J.C. King, E.S. King, Mrs. Emma Ralston, Mrs. Mary Boyd, Dr. T.A. King, Hugh King, Roy King and Ulys King who have also made their contributions to the county's growth.

When the Fort Worth and Denver City Railway came from Harrold on to Oklaunion, settlers came, too. In 1888 the railway had established a right-of-way at the townsite with hopes of another railroad coming from Dodge City, Kan. The road had been staked out through Doans Crossing and was to meander down the Fort Griffin and Dodge



J.P. "Pink" Aderholt and Lucy Rainwater on their wedding day, 1890.

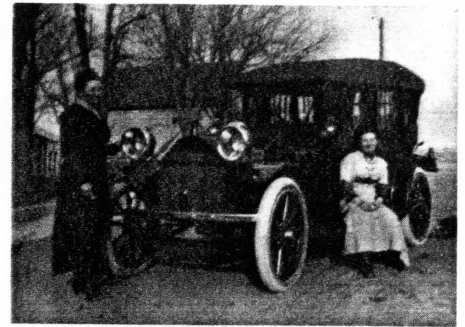
(appointed), Sept. 28, 1937; Zelma S. King, April 3, 1971; Gladys Gribble, March 31, 1984.

Buckskin Joe moved on to Navajo, Greer County (the disputed land claimed by both Texas and Oklahoma that is now a part of Oklahoma), but others came and remained.

A Baptist church was organized in 1908, and other denominations shared its building. A two-story hotel was one of the landmarks presided over by a Mr. Tucker. P.M. Morris operated a branch hardware store from Harrold.

The first school teacher was a Prof. Dunning, who was well liked, it was said. The First Guaranty Bank was the first bank organized, and the King Bank and Mercan-

tile Company owned by Monroe King and serving as a bank, dry goods store and grocery store all rolled into one, erected the first brick building.



The Fletcher sisters of Oklaunion.

City cattle trail which crossed Red River at that point. The plan was abandoned.

The small community was first called Mayflower Valley, a name given by Mrs. Ed Summerour whose husband owned land south of the townsite. However, "Buckskin Joe" Works, who was living in a half dugout in the community, became a real estate promoter with an idea of making his town as lively as Harrold. He dreamed of the Frisco Railroad from Oklahoma uniting there with the Fort Worth and Denver. So he renamed the village "Oklaunion." But hoped-for intersecting of the two railroads later occurred at Vernon.

Buckskin Joe earned his own nickname from the gray buckskin cap which he wore as he led a large number of mule and horse-drawn wagons carrying land prospectors making the run on the Cherokee Strip in Indian Territory after the proclamation of President Benjamin Harris.

Application for establishment of a post office was made April 23, 1889, by Epaminondas Brooks who became the first postmaster on May 20, 1889. The population of Oklaunion at that time was listed as 65, with 200 or more to be supplied with mail through the new office.

On Nov. 21, 1904, the post office was closed. In less than four years, however, another application was filed on May 2, 1908, requesting the post office be opened. C.J. Farrell, Vernon postmaster, and John H. Brownlee, proposed Oklaunion postmaster, submitted the petition which stated that the town's population was 25 persons and the office would serve 150 within its area. It was again established on Jan. 28, 1909.

Postmasters and their appointments following Brooks were:

Chesley A. King, Dec. 13, 1889; Mary E. Green, Jan. 31, 1894; James R. Green, July 22, 1897; Edwin F. Havis, May 14, 1898; Isaac M. Smith, Jan. 19, 1899; Henry H. Wright, Sept. 24, 1900; Charles R. Staley, July 8, 1901; Almeda J. Butler, Jan. 20, 1902; Walter H. Snow, Oct. 9, 1903; G.T. Newton, May 7, 1904-Nov. 21, 1904; John H. Brownlee, Jan. 28, 1909; Clay Brite, April 17, 1915; Pearl Brite (acting), July 29, 1936; Newton Woolard (acting), July 29, 1937 and

(NEW SERIES—JANUARY 1, 1884.)

(LOCATION PAPER)

Post Office Department,
OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

23rd April, 1889

Sub: Before the Postmaster General decides upon the application for the establishment of a post office at
Oklaunion
County of Waller State of Texas

It will be necessary for you to carefully answer the subjoined questions, get a notary public to certify to the correctness of the answers, and return the location paper to the Department addressed to me. If the site selected for the proposed office should not be on any mail route now under contract, only a "Special Office" can be established there, to be supplied with mail from some convenient point on the nearest mail route by a special carrier, for which service a sum equal to two-thirds of the amount of the salary of the postmaster at such office will be paid.

You should inform the contractor, or person performing service for him, of this application, and require him to execute the enclosed certificate as to the practicability of supplying the proposed office with mail, and return the same to the Department.

Very respectfully,
A.E. Thomson
First Assistant Postmaster General.

To Mr. Epaminondas Brooks
Care of the Postmaster of Harrold, who will please forward to him.

STATEMENT.

The proposed office to be called Oklaunion P.O.

Select a short name for the proposed office, which, when written, will not resemble the name of any other post office in the State.

It will be situated in the S.W. quarter of Section Grant to W.B. Jordan Range East of Wall, in the County of Waller, State of Texas.

It will be on main route No. 2, being the route from St. Louis to Denver, Col. on which the mail is now carried 2 times a day.

The contractor's name is F.K. North & Denver City R.R. Co.

Will it be directly on this route?—Yes

If not, how far from, and on which side of it?—Yes

How much will it increase the travel of the mail one way each trip?—none

Where will the mail leave the present route to supply the proposed office?—Yes

Where intersect the route again?—Yes

What post office will be left out by this change?—none

If not on any route, is a "Special Office" wanted?—Yes To be supplied from

The name of the nearest office to the proposed one, on the same route, is Harrold its distance is 7 miles in a S. E. direction from the proposed office.

The name of the nearest office on the same route, on the other side, is Vernon its distance is 8 miles in a Westerly direction from the proposed office.

The name of the nearest office to the proposed one, not on this route, is Harrold distance by the most direct road 7 miles in a South direction from the proposed office.

The name of the most prominent river near it is Red river

The name of the nearest creek is Dugan

The proposed office will be 2 miles from said river, on the South side of it, and will be 1/2 mile from said nearest creek, on the East side of it.

The name of the nearest railroad is St. Louis & Denver City

If on the line of or near a railroad, on which side will the office be located? how far from the track and what is, or will be, the name of the station?—Yes North side 100 feet dist. Oklaunion

What will be the distance from the proposed site to the nearest flag station?—Yes 100 feet dist.

State name of station: Oklaunion

What will be the distance from the proposed site to the nearest station at which mail trains make regular stops?—Yes 7 miles

State name of station: Harrold

If the proposed office is located where it can be supplied from a crane or flag station, or located over 50 miles from the station, will it be a village, state the number of inhabitants?—Yes 65 at present

Also, the population to be supplied by the proposed office,—Yes 200 or more

Give a description of the land from a map, showing the position of the proposed new office, with neighboring rivers, creeks, and other landmarks, post offices, divisions of villages near it, will be useful, and is therefore desired.

A correct map of the locality might be furnished by the county surveyor, but this must be without expense to the Department.

And with a view to be correct and true, according to the best of my knowledge and belief, this

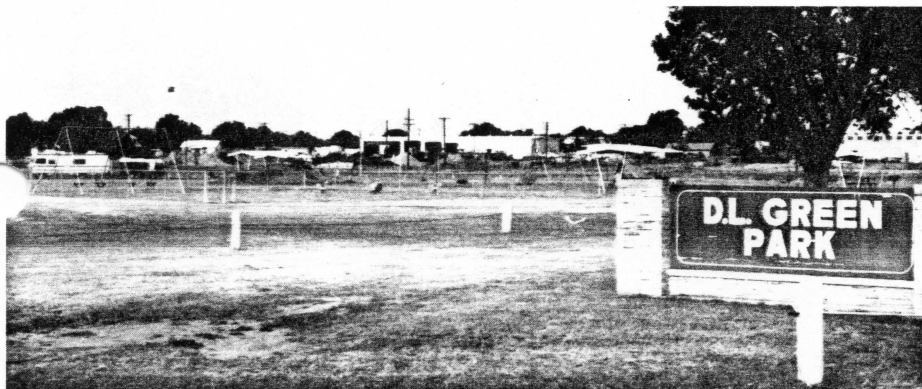
I certify that I have examined the foregoing statement, and that it is correct and true, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

May 1889
Epaminondas Brooks

Location paper for Oklaunion post office, 1889.



Mr. Rogers, Clyde Roberts, Clarence Rainwater, Bass King, Mildred Rowden, L.D. Humphreys, Roy Wadlow, Kay Robinson and Dee Lyons are in the group by a loaded freight car in Oklaunion.



D.L. Green Park in east Vernon, 1986.

Families were scarce in the early days. Several of the big wheat raisers "batched," sending for their families later. Schools were not needed for there were few children, scattered far apart. After the advent of cotton, however, the population increased perceptibly, and the little red schoolhouse came into its own. The first school was noted to be in 1892.

Mr. Abbott operated the first general merchandise store in Oklaunion. In 1897 Lon Byars moved in from the farm to school his children. Ike M. Smith built an impressive two-story brick home on a high point on his farm. (That house, now owned by the daughters of Paul and Margaret Ramsey, stands as a familiar landmark of Oklaunion.)

The memory of D.L. Green, who tilled acres of farm land in the area, has been honored by the naming of a park on the eastern edge of Vernon.

Ira Luttrell, who moved there in 1906, once recalled a time when the town had six or eight gas stations, three cafes, an automobile dealer, hotel and several general merchandise stores.

The town of Oklaunion was incorporated



D.L. Green family, June 16, 1918 — from left, seated, Sumrow, Clois, "Papa" D.L.; standing, George, Nona, Jim, Myrt, Regena, Cora, "Mama" Green and A.D. Green.

on June 6, 1928, and Harry Simmonds was elected city mayor in July. An article in the Vernon Daily Record of July 11, 1928, told the story.

"Harry Simmonds was selected mayor at Oklaunion, receiving 49 of 52 votes cast, at an election held in that city Wednesday.

"Others elected, and votes received were the following: C.B. Boyd, city marshal, 24, and those elected alderman were Rex Boyd, 32, Roscoe Rainwater, 29, Roy King, 21,



Oklaunion Gin.



Mr. and Mrs. D.L. Green and Sumrow at farm home.

C.V. Stephens, 29, and J.K. Campbell, 50.

"There was no official ballot in the election. Each voter named his candidate for the office.

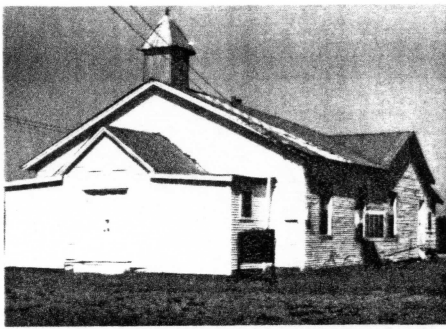
"Oklaunion, having a population of little more than 400, voted 45 to 0 in favor of incorporation five weeks ago."

The town had a one-room schoolhouse until 1910, when a brick building was erected in the northwest part of town. The schools remained active until combining with Vernon schools in 1967.

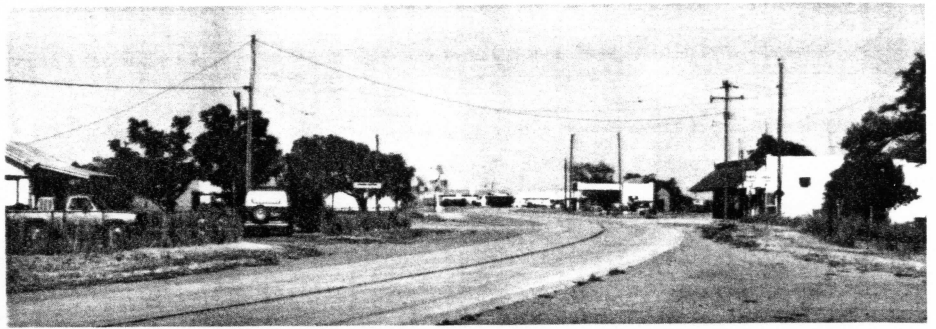
Knox Kinard was serving as superintendent of the Oklaunion Independent School in 1931-32, and Glenn Allison was in that position in 1949. Of course, there were others, and these men served other years. However, the full tenure dates were not made available in the limited research. In 1944 there were 14 seniors in the graduating class. The Oklaunion High School yearbook was called "The Cardinal."

Mrs. Othello McCallen was perhaps the first teacher in the Washington Carver School for black children in Oklaunion. The one-teacher school was maintained for six-month terms next to the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, both on land given by Hugh King. The value of the school was set at \$200 in the late 1930s. When it closed in 1952, there were two teachers and about 50 students in all grades. Services are still conducted by the church in the building which was used first, according to some, as the schoolhouse.

Going into the 1980s, according to the 1980 Federal census, the Harrold-Oklaunion division of Wilbarger County had a population total of 744. Oklaunion had a cotton gin, two grain elevators and a combination grocery, gas and restaurant business. Wheat



Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church in Oklaunion, 1986.



Downtown Oklaunion, post office on the right, 1986.



Old school "restrooms," one for boys and one for girls.

and cotton on surrounding farms make the town's economy. The Oklaunion Baptist Church was disbanded on Nov. 28, 1984, leaving only the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church as an organized house of worship.

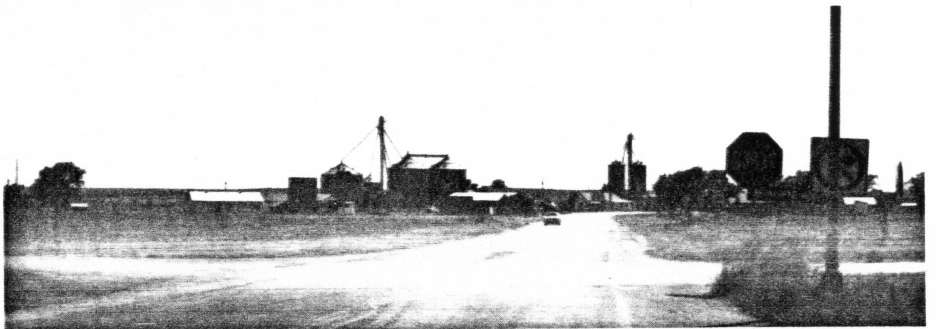
The town has a fire truck, and a community center is located at the post office building. Water is purchased from Vernon, and there is no sewer system.

Another landmark, a \$1 billion-plus one, has been added near the small community some nine miles east of Vernon at the divergence of U.S. 287, going southeast to Wichita Falls, with U.S. 183 and U.S. 70, going north to Frederick, Okla.

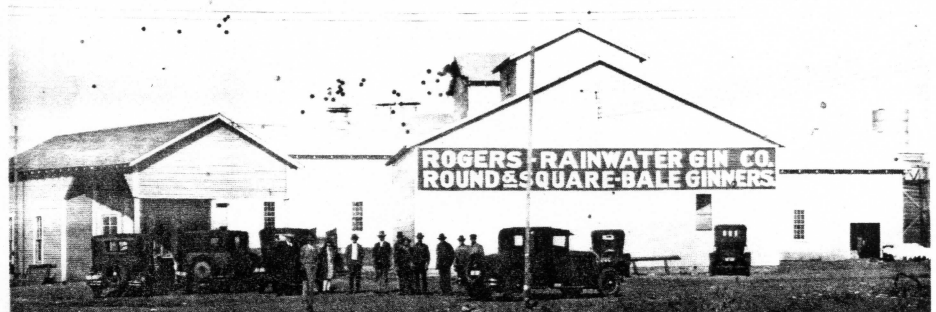
West Texas Utilities Company purchased a 1,937-acre tract about three and one-half miles southwest of Oklaunion on which construction of a coal-fired generating electrical plant began in 1982. A spur from the Fort Worth and Denver, or Burlington Northern Railroad, was built for transporting coal to the plant which is scheduled for completion in 1986.

Zelma King described the present-day Oklaunion, "We're a sleepy little town made up of people who have retired or work in other places."

Other communities in the eastern side of Wilbarger County included Kingola, which was started as a station after the Frisco railroad built its track across lands of J.P. King lying in a valley to the south of Pease River. In 1901 public scales were installed for the use of shippers, the railroad company built a switch for loading of cars, and maintained an empty boxcar for use as a depot.



Frederick highway into Oklaunion, gin on the left.



Rogers-Rainwater Gin in Oklaunion.



Frank Bildstein, German immigrant, homesteader in Elliott community.



Cotton-picking time, scales on end of wagon tongue.

King, an early settler of this valley, named the station. A cotton gin was built and operated for several years. The gin was burned and never rebuilt. Only the switch remained of the once busy place, and perhaps even that has disappeared by now.

Ronda near Beaver Creek in the southeast corner of the county can be located by its cemetery, founded in 1881 and now all that remains to designate the community. There was a store run by Alfred Bailey who also served the community as postmaster for the



Mack Byars and farm animals on Byars homeplace.

the beginning of any new machine, the first self-propelled combines were quite primitive compared to today's air-conditioned cabs and electronics.

As a side item — 1935 was the first year rubber-tired tractors were used by farmers here. Seems like everybody with F-20 or F-30 Farmall steel wheel tractors wanted them changed to rubber tires immediately. All tractors used less fuel to plow with and extended the life of the tractor on rubber tires.

After most farmers got their wheat and oats bundled by the 12th of June, it was time for operators of threshing machines to start up over the area. A successful threshing machine operator had to be everything a farmer was plus a lot more. He was the one responsible to get the steam or gasoline thresher engine in shape for the season, plus getting the thresher in shape. When it came to finding help to work, it took four or five fellows called "pitchers" to pitch bundles with a pitchfork to drivers on the bundle wagons. Generally the number of bundle wagons to keep a thresher busy was determined by the size of thresher and engine. So a thresher with a 32-inch cylinder took about 10 bundle wagons.

By the time a thresher operator got his crew together, counting the engineer, thresher man, pitchers, waterboy, bundle wagon drivers and cookshack cook, he had a crew of about 18 to 20 men. Hauling grain away from the thresher to town or the granary was mostly the farmer's responsibility.

Using 1926 for a typical year when wheat was worth \$1.18 a bushel and oats 65 cents

a bushel, thresher operators charged 12 cents a bushel for wheat threshing and five cents for oats. On about all the threshers there was a weighing device on top of the thresher that weighed the grain and kept account of the bushels as it was threshed.

Nearly all threshers had a cookshack or small house on wheels pulled by a two-horse team from one farmer's crop to another. It was where all the workers had their breakfast, dinner and supper meals as part of their pay from the thresher operator. A worker was free to choose the best place he could find for sleeping under the stars each night. It wasn't really all that romantic because a worker had his breakfast down by sunup, ready to start the day's work.

Some of the thresher operators in this area at one time or another were Dave Melton on Beaver Creek, Joe and Bob Moore at Oklaunion, Sol Fields at Harrold, Sam Kelly Sr. and John Showers at Harrold, John Clynch at Guyer, Ott Brown and Ernest Brown at Harrold, Charlie Mason at Harrold, Press Vaughn and Charlie Schuman at Elliott. There were about three other early-day thresher people whose names are hard to recall. Only about two of the operators used steam for power.

One of the gratifying satisfactions about the amount of labor it took to harvest a crop was the amount of employment it gave for anybody who wanted to work. Another was the straw piles that spared many farmers of having to feed cattle much in the winter. You could tell how well the thresher was set to save the grain by how close to the ground the cattle cleaned the straw off the following winter.



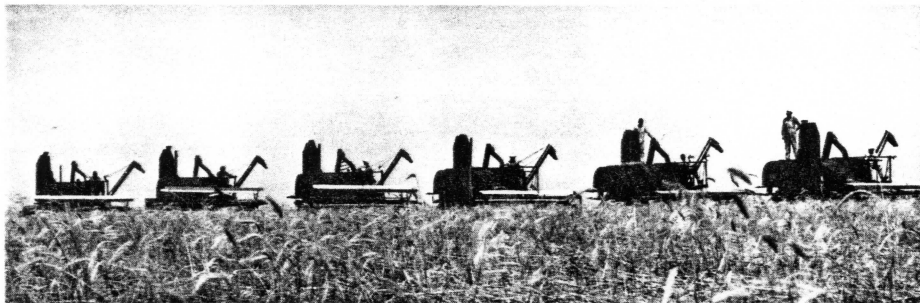
Harvesters of the 1980s.

On some years like 1931, 1932 and 1937, when the wheat had a lot of straw, it was a sight to behold to see all the large straw piles (haystacks) over the countryside. If the number seven had any magic about it, then it would seem like 1937, 1947, 1957, 1967 and 1977 all produced bumper crops of wheat.

In our experience about how slow new innovations have seemed to happen in agriculture, then it is the grain auger that we seem to take so for granted now. Before 1947 moving grain was just a matter of getting a scoop and getting busy. Now we may have to feed the auger in the granary with a scoop, but that is not like scooping all the way into the conveyance.

There is an old saying that goes, "Be not the first to try the new nor the last to lay the old aside." That seems to justify farmers' reluctance to experiment or try something new. All along some farmers had their own blacksmith shop to repair wagons and plows. Some had Delco generating plants for house electricity, also some had carbide plants that made gas for house lights. The earliest windmills to pump water left a lot to be desired; that is why some folks were so hesitant to get one.

What is very unique to understand now is to travel through North Texas and Southern Oklahoma farm country and know where nice farm houses and barns used to be and not even a tree, post or anything can be seen to indicate it. A lot of places now only have a few pieces of rusty iron or broken pieces of rusty iron or brick to tell where the places were. —Written by Sam Kelly Jr.



Wheat field.



J.W. and Elizabeth Weddle Rainwater and family at the old Will Stephens home near Elliott, Jan. 11, 1916.