

LOOKING BACK...

THROUGH THE PAGES OF THE MONITOR

1962

Dinah Anthony and her family visited in Houston ... Enrollment at Pewitt High School had set a new record high ... Nearly 2,500 men, women and children filed past tables set up in Carver and Pewitt school cafeterias to receive a small sugar cube saturated with polio vaccine ... Sirloin steaks were 79¢ a pound at Boozer's Food Store in Omaha.

1967

Rhonda Hammonds had been elected president of the pep squad at James Bowie High School ... A quart of salad dressing was 49¢ at the Netco Store in Naples ... The Morris county land for 0.885 mile stretch of Highway 77 and the overpass in Naples brought the owners a total of \$36,700 ... Jimmy Brown of Omaha was the new president of the Brahma Booster Club ... Gena's Department Store in Omaha was celebrating its first anniversary.

1972

Dusty Rance Hawkins was born at Titus County Memorial Hospital in Mt. Pleasant and weighed 7 pound and 3 ounces ... Tina McCollum, three-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Arthur McCollum of Naples, was honored with a party at the Little Lambs Day Care Center on her birthday ... A meeting had been planned at the Naples Chamber of Commerce office to discuss proposed ambulance service for Naples and Omaha.

1977

Buddy Carlile put the finishing touches on lighting displays in preparation for the grand opening of a new Naples store ... Granberry Insurance Agency in Naples had been sold to a Daingerfield-based corporation by its owners, W.G. Granberry, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Falls and Kenneth Falls ... Plans to organize a volunteer fire department for the Rocky Branch area were to be discussed at the Rocky Branch community center ... Lettuce was 29¢ a head at Vingo Foods in Naples.

1982

Bill Watson, retiring postmaster, and M.V. Brock, retiring maintenance man, were honored with a dinner at the community room of the State Bank of Omaha ... Entered in the Junior Miss Naples contest were Jyl Traylor, Christy Wright, Katie Lindsay, Jamie Shew, Priscilla Johns, Connie Derrick, Jennifer Barnes, Kim Hall, Kristi Clubb and Tabitha Mullins ... Harry Vissering wanted to sell eight 2x4s for 96¢ each ... Pewitt's Brahmas opened football season with a 33-19 win over the Cooper Bulldogs.

1987

Rex Hawkins of Omaha was to assume the duties of president of the Brahma Booster Club ... As the pastor and congregation looked on, the Naples First Baptist Church building and planning committee members ceremoniously turned the first shovels of dirt for the start of construction of a new educational and administrative building ... A six-pack of Cokes was 99¢ at Northeast Texas Foods in Omaha.

1992

Jaime Robison, Rusty Johnson, Misty Dale, Amanda Boyd, Kasi Kitchens, Sherri Boyd, Amber Tasa, Jessica Kelly and mascot Chasity Echo Cason were the Pewitt varsity cheerleaders for football season ... Oakridge Baptist Church of Marietta has started a collection center in the fellowship hall of the church to help victims of Hurricane Andrew ... A five-pound bag of Gladiola Flour was only 89¢ at Vinyard's in Naples ... Split chicken breasts were \$1.29 at Kwik-Stop in Naples ... "Single White Female" was showing at Cinema IV in Mt. Pleasant.

1997

Kelsey Leanne Kumrow was celebrating her eighth birthday ... 68 students had enrolled for classes at the new Northwest Texas Community College Naples-Omaha Education Center housed in the former David Granberry Memorial Hospital ... Hunters were offered an opportunity to compete and "sight-in" their rifles at the Oakridge Baptist Church's annual turkey shoot. Proceeds were to go to church missions ... Boosting the Brahmas for the 1997-98 school year were varsity cheerleaders Erin Caraway, Candace Betts, Deidra Abston, Cassy Cook, Lisa Tomlinson, Kelly Svrcek, Mackenzie Shirey, Patricia Bosworth, Kamisha Sawyer and 'Buddy Bull' Brandon Waits ... Brandi Derrick was having a garage sale ... "Air Force One" and "G.I. Jane" were showing at Cinema IV in Mt. Pleasant.

2002

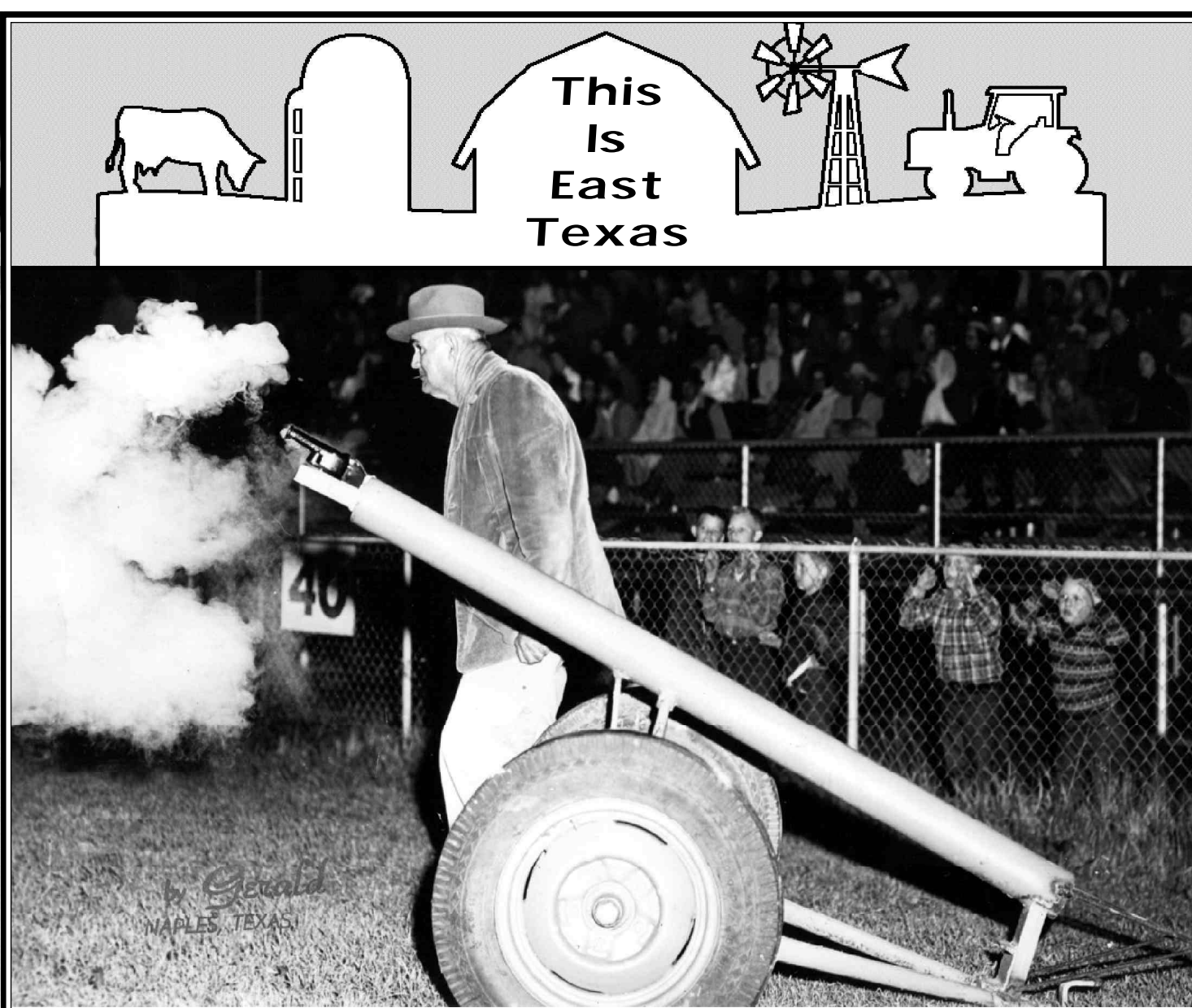
Deidra Shaddix, a Pewitt fifth grade student, was pictured looking at one of the new 2001-02 Pewitt School yearbooks that had just been received ... Jerome Elder had been honored with the Golden Trowel award, presented by the Belden Masonic Lodge at Naples ... "Like Mike" and "Goldmember" were features at the Morris Twin-Cinema in Daingerfield and showing at Cinema V were "Signs", "Spy Kids 2", "Blue Crush" and "FearDot.Com" ... Homecoming time was to be observed at Floyd Hill Church ... A "cousins reunion" was planned for the Roach and Tinsley family descendants ... Brooke Betts was staying busy during the last of the summer months attending stock shows and showing her prize animals.

2007

Brent Kiefer was a new ag teacher at Pewitt High School ... Big Bad Brad Caraway was making plans to host the Pit Rasslers state barbecue competition in Naples at the Melon Patch ... Sharon Thomas Moore was helping dispense school supplies to students during a Naples Chamber of Commerce program ... Pewitt's Brahmas were to play Teague in the football season opener ... Remington Perry shed some tears as his dad consoled the youngster on the first day of kindergarten classes ... "Hairspray" was held over for showing at the Morris Twin-Cinema and features at Cinema V included "Stardust", "Daddy Day Camp", "Balls of Fury" and "The Nanny Diaries" ... Pewitt's Lady Brahmas opened volleyball season with wins over James Bowie.

2012

Deryl May was honored by the Pewitt Education Foundation for his past years of service to the PEF and to the Pewitt Alumni Association ... Taylor Heard captured the top prize at a Tex Ritter singing competition at Carthage, Texas ... A total of 1,057 students attended first-day classes at Pewitt School and broke the old 1,027 mark of 1974 ... Built in 1948, the David Granberry Memorial Hospital was closed in 1990. It was being demolished for a building site for the Naples Church of Christ ... "Ice Age" and "Step Up" were showing at the Morris Twin-Cinema ... A total of 14 new teachers at Pewitt School welcomed students on the first day of classes and the group include Deidra Derrick ... Glenn Menzel advertised his tree-cutting service in the local area ... Miguel Larsen was a candidate for Morris County Sheriff ... Juanita Carpenter made team photos of the Pewitt Lady Brahmas volleyball squads.



B-O-O-M!

That's what football fans heard every time the Pewitt Brahmas scored a touchdown back in the late 1950s and during the 1960s until the UIL outlawed such equipment at high school football games. That's the late Florence M. (Doc) Smith who built the home-made cannon. It used blank shotgun shells to produce the "boom" and the heavy dose of smoke. Smith was a regular on the sidelines of Pewitt football games and also drove the "football bus" to the out of town games. The cannon was rigged with a trailer hitch so that he could pull the apparatus to Brahma games. Football season begins Friday when the Bulls host the Sabine Cardinals at Brahma Stadium.

Photo By Gerald Hampton

This Week In Texas History

By Barte Haile

What it was like to cross Texas by wagon train

A government wagon train forded the Red River on August 23, 1857, and began the long, hard trip across the Lone Star State.

Ever wonder what it was like to travel in Texas in those hot and dangerous days before cars, trains, planes and — heaven forbid! — air conditioning?

While most voyagers were too busy staying alive to record their impressions for posterity, a member of an 1850s odyssey kept an unusually detailed daily log that provides a rare first-hand account.

The men-only caravan under the leadership of Col. James B. Leach was 53 days out of Memphis, when it rolled into Texas on that summer day more than a century and a half ago. The job of the construction crew was to improve the road from El Paso to Fort Yuma, but first they had to get there.

Their first night under the Lone Star stars was spent nine miles southwest of Preston, a Grayson County hamlet dismissed by the anonymous commentator as "a place of but little note." (Old Preston, as it is now called, lies in a watery grave under Lake Texoma.) Three days later, they passed through Gainesville, the only town on the itinerary.

The next day, the expedition encountered "several antelope, the first we have met with. A few hot headed Nimrods gave chase to them but they might as well have chased the North Wind." Camp was pitched that evening at Head of Elm, soon to be renamed Saint Jo, in the brand-new county of Montague.

Following the trail blazed in 1849 by Gen. Randolph B. Marcy, Col. Leach and his men saw their first rattlesnake on August 30 and on the 31st finally came face-to-face with honest-to-goodness Indians. The rattler was killed, but the red men, a couple of Caddo and a like number of Delaware, could not have been friendlier and were allowed to live.

The next noon, the wagon train reached Fort Belknap on a hill overlooking the Brazos River and a short hop from the future town of Graham. Refreshed by two days of military hospitality, the gadabouts abandoned Marcy's trail for a more southerly course.

The long-distance sighting of Comanches clearly unnerved the chronicler. Conceding the fact that the Indians on their reservation were "at present at peace with the U.S.," he added ominously, "But little reliance is placed in the good faith of these savages. Certainly a more villainous and treacherous looking set have not often been seen."

After four days of complaints about "a severe and obstinate case of inflammation of the bow(e)ls and stomach," Col. Leach awoke too sick to travel on September 6. The highlight of the day off was the discharge of a man "for idleness and insubordination." "He will tomorrow commence his solitary march back to the States," explained the expedition reporter, who seemed to forget Texas was no longer a foreign country.

Though still under the weather the next morning, Leach refused to let his illness impede their progress and gave the order to break camp. He spent the following week flat on his back without once relinquishing command.

The subject of the longest entry in the journal was "a village of prairie dogs" seen on September 11. "The active little denizens of this populous settlement were out of sight in an instant. During the day we passed through a number of these towns and invariably found the little folk living therein retreating at a moment's warning to their burrows where they are altogether safe from attack."

By the time the wagon train pulled into Fort Chadbourne, halfway between modern Abilene and San Angelo, on September 12, Col. Leach was sinking fast. He agreed to stay behind under the care of the post physician and to catch up as soon as he was back on his feet.

During the colonel's absence, "an incident rather laughable" occurred. Everyone had turned in for the night, when without warning the sentries test-fired their muskets.

"One person, from whom nothing else could have been expected, sought a safe hiding place in the tall bear grass. He was speedily joined by another, a great tall strapping booby, who tremblingly asked in a whisper, 'Do you think we shall be safe here?'"

At midday on September 18, "Col. Leach rejoined the train much improved in health" and was welcomed four afternoons later by the worst storm of the journey. "Wind, rain and hail of great severity overtook us (and) such was the quantity of water which fell in the space of one hour that it converted the road into a quagmire. A norther in the meantime came sweeping down upon us, which rendered our situation exceedingly disagreeable."

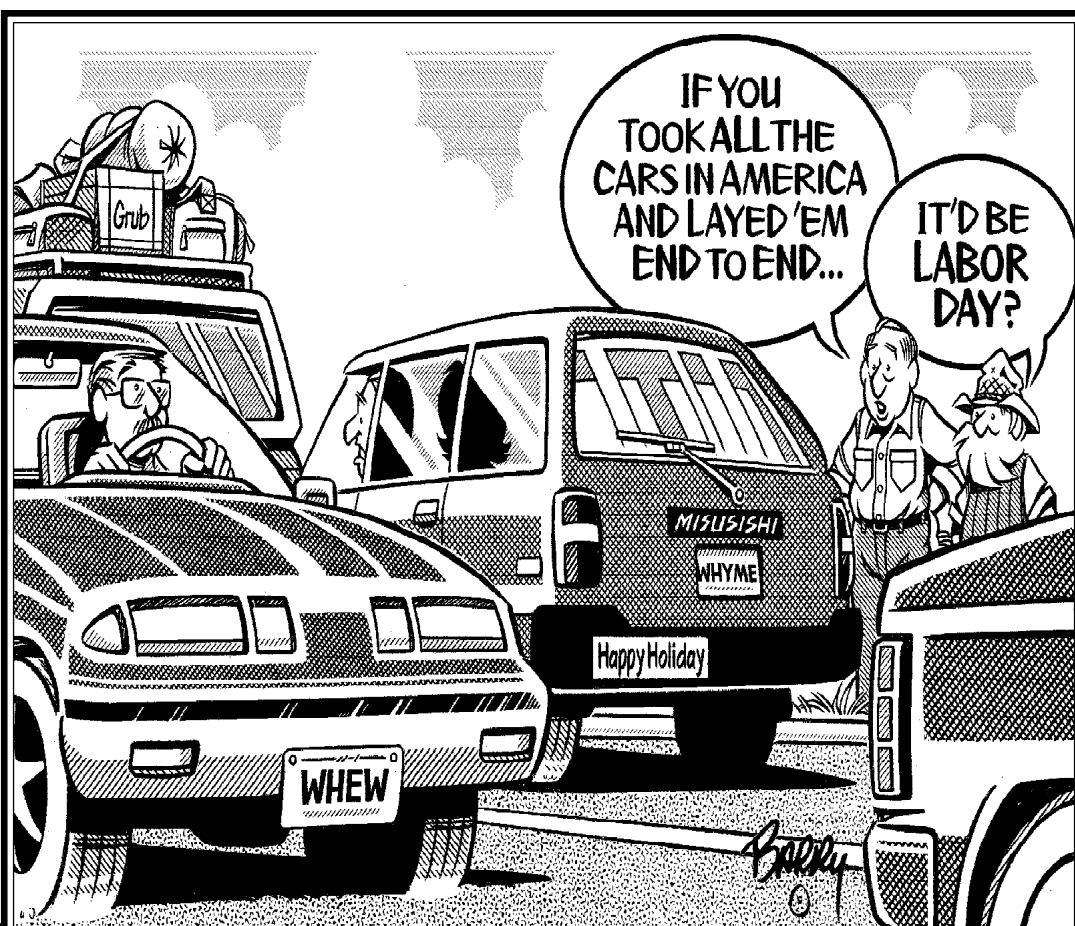
The wagons crossed the Pecos on September 30 and tracked the river downstream for two days before turning due west toward the Davis Mountains. Fort Davis was a sight for sore eyes on October 8 after a difficult week in some of the roughest and driest country in Texas.

The week-long trek to the Rio Grande tested the endurance of man and beast, but the leisurely pace of the last leg along the great river let both catch their breath. The Leach wagon train entered El Paso on October 22 completing the "waltz" across Texas in 62 days.

The rugged bunch covered 824 miles in 56 travel days for an average of slightly under 15 miles. And this was accomplished without the loss of a single life in spite of the man-eating reputation of the Lone Star frontier.

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"Unforgettable Texans," Barte's latest book, is in stock and ready to ship! Order your autographed copy today by mailing a check for \$28.80 to "Barte Haile," P.O. Box 130011, Spring, TX 77389.



MEN'S CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Meetings are at 6:45 a.m., on Wednesdays at the fellowship hall of the First United Methodist Church in Naples.

All area men are invited to attend. Guest speakers are featured each week

The Monitor

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