

LOOKING BACK...

THROUGH THE PAGES OF THE MONITOR

∞ 1962 ∞

Cheryl Welch, Rebecca Tigert and Joan Vaughn, along with Alicia Hampton, homemaking instructor at Pewitt, attended the annual FHA state meeting in Dallas and Miss Vaughn was awarded a state degree ... Rebecca Jane Howard was preparing to celebrate another birthday ... Pam Tuck of Waco visited with Mr. and Mrs. Orville Waldon ... Sale of stock in the Naples Community Inn was past the half-way mark ... Fresh green onions were a nickel at Foster's Grocery in Naples.

∞ 1967 ∞

Dee Ann Thigpen was chosen as valedictorian of the 1967 Pewitt graduating class and Vicki Skelton was the salutatorian ... Little Miss Naples pageant entries included Terri Harte, Lori Forrest, Debbie Scarborough, Phairey Daniel, Lolette Smith, Cynthia Jolly, Cathy Tenbrook, Alice Barnes, Sherry Waits, Joy Lawings and Jane Ann Leeves ... Two young men held up the Sprouse Grocery in Omaha and walked away with about \$300 in cash and merchandise after holding the owners at gunpoint and forcing them to lie on the floor ... Men's walking shorts were \$3.99 a pair at Garrett's Department Store in Naples ... Center-cut porkchops were 59¢ a pound at the Netco store in Naples.

∞ 1972 ∞

Alicia Watson was celebrating a birthday and she didn't want to piddle around about it ... Brinda Peek was featured in the Cook Book Nook of The Monitor ... A pound can of coffee was 89¢ at the Netco store ... A 30-count package of diapers was \$1.50 at McKellar's Department Store in Omaha ... A 'young artists' show at Rocky Branch was to feature paintings of Perry and Terry Carlile, Donna Alford, Griffin Shaw and Dale Davenport.

∞ 1977 ∞

William Bryan Tefteller was born at the David Granberry Memorial Hospital ... Seeking the title of Miss Naples were Frankie Sue Clayton, Pam Johnson, Patty Griffin, Karen Hicks, Julie Elder, Holly Henderson, Pam Endsley and Nina Wright ... Chamber of Commerce officials were discussing the possibility of cable television for the Naples area ... T-bone steak was \$1.39 a pound at the Netco store ... A five-pound bag of flour was 49¢ at the Omaha Food Store ... A 20-ounce jar of grape jelly was 69¢ at Foster's Grocery in Naples.

∞ 1982 ∞

Kami Jo Tomberlain was valedictorian for the Pewitt graduating class and Richard Bird was salutatorian ... John Bird, band director at Pewitt for 16 years, was moving to direct the band at Queen City ... A half-gallon carton of buttermilk was 99¢ at the Omaha Food Store ... Dana Dale, Traci Riner, Lorita Shepard and Sondra Taylor were cheerleaders for Pewitt Junior High.

∞ 1987 ∞

Monica Dee Tenbrook was born to Linda and Tim Tenbrook at a Longview hospital ... "Burglar" with Whoopi Goldberg, was showing at Cinema IV in Mt. Pleasant ... A power outage in Naples and Omaha brought activity to a halt when a bulldozer pushed a tree into power lines between Omaha and DeKalb ... Golden ripe bananas were 33¢ a pound at Kwik-Stop in Naples.

∞ 1992 ∞

Jennifer Knight, a Pewitt senior, was awarded a full drama scholarship at Northeast Texas Community College ... Pewitt Special Olympics had a dumpster in Naples to collect aluminum cans to raise funds ... Fryer leg quarters were 39¢ a pound at Vinyard's Foods in Naples ... Chassidy Derrick and Kasi Kitchens were to compete in regional UIL competition at Commerce in accounting and keyboarding ... "Medicine Man" with Sean Connery, was showing at the Morris Theater in Daingerfield.

∞ 1997 ∞

Phillip Kelley and Tommy Knight were write-in candidates for the Pewitt School board ... Due to a lack of candidates, elections had been cancelled for the City of Omaha and for the Marietta School ... Pewitt athletes were to receive honors at the annual all-sports banquet ... Priced at \$9,250 was a Mazda Miata as the John Paul Jones Motors special of the week ... "Volcano" and "That Old Feeling" were showing at Cinema V in Mt. Pleasant, and "The Saint" and "The Empire Strikes Back" were features at the Morris Twin-Cinema in Daingerfield.

∞ 2002 ∞

Holly Huddleston Kumrow was a part-time staff member and darkroom photo assistant at *The Monitor* ... Opened in 1994 as Endsley's Food Store at Omaha and later changed to Brahma Foods under new ownership, the business was to be auctioned to the highest bidder ... Connie Vissering had moved her Phone Booth business to a location west of Naples just off Highway 67 ... The Naples and Omaha area had good cable television service with the Classic Cable company and serviceman David Alford ... "Ice Age" and "Clockstoppers" were being screened at the Morris Twin-Cinema and showing at Cinema V were "The Rookie", "The Scorpion King" and "High Crimes" ... Five members of coach Danny McCray's Lady Brahmas track team were headed for regional competition ... First-grader Dylan Moore was the 1,300th member to receive his library card at the Naples Public Library.

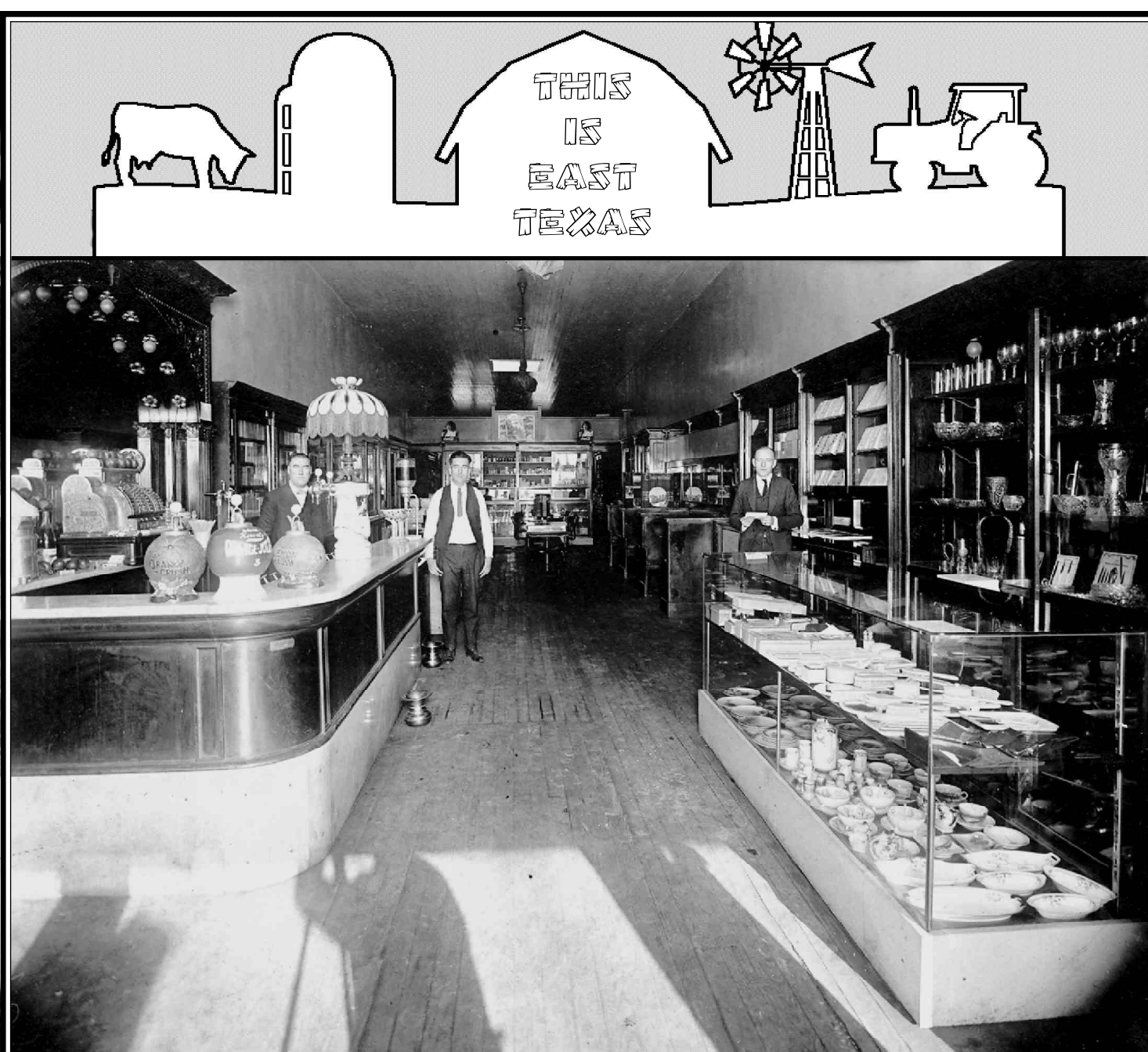
∞ 2007 ∞

Joyce Heard was pictured with a 'trash blower' as she helped in a city-wide clean-up effort for downtown Naples ... Brent Kiefer was hired as a new agriculture teacher at Pewitt High School ... Rabies vaccination clinics were planned in Morris County ... "TMNT" and "Wild Hogs" were showing at the Morris Twin-Cinema and features at Cinema V included "Next", "Shooters", "Disturbia" and "Kickin' It Old School" ... Jamie Beasley's 'Fast & Furious' girls softball team won a tournament championship at Hobo Jungle in Texarkana. The team scored 38 runs in four games while allowing only six ... Kent Stacks was honored as "fireman of the year" at the Naples Volunteer Fire Department's annual awards night banquet ... Liberty Baptist Church youth planned a baked potato supper to raise funds and Pleasant Hill Baptist Church youth planned a chicken spaghetti luncheon.

∞ 2012 ∞

Shelly Claybrook's **Texas Blooms** was honored as the business of the year at the Naples Chamber of Commerce Banquet ... "21 Jump Street" and "Mirror Mirror" were showing at the Morris Twin-Cinema and features at Cinema VI included "The Three Stooges", "Hunger Games", "Think Like A Man" and "The Lucky One" ... Nick Bennington was presented with a scholarship to the University of Arkansas at Monticello and Kathleen was all grins ... Members of the Pewitt graduating class of 1962 were planning a reunion at Big Daddy's Rear of the Steer in October ... Donna Blackerby was into the quilting mode in her spare time and she made Morris Craig one that featured the fronts of Pewitt t-shirts ... Taking a 3-0 win over New Boston was the Pewitt baseball team of Brahmans ... Members of the Bar Nun Cowboy Church had planned a "cowboy breakfast" and trail ride ... Ray Richey helped the Naples Library raise funds at the Naples Chamber of Commerce Banquet when he served as an auctioneer and kept folks bidding on items offered.

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



It was Leeves Drug Store from the late 1900s until the mid 1950s and it was operated by the late E. J. and Marion Leeves, the parents of Dr. James S. Leeves and Dr. Jerry Leeves. Mr. Leeves, standing at the right, also served as the pharmacist for the Naples business. Clifford and Mildred Wyninegar purchased the business from the Leeves family and later moved Wyninegar's Pharmacy to another location in town. The Leeves building has been the home of The Monitor since 1974. Other businesses that called the Leeves building home were W. W. Parker Appliance & TV Repair and Buddy Carlile Electrical. *O&Y photo*

This Week In Texas History

By Barte Haile

The charmed life of a frontier lawman

A Texan for three years and a Ranger for less than one, Jeff Milton survived his baptism of gunfire on Apr. 25, 1881 just as he would many other brushes with death in the years to come.

When the wife of Florida governor John Milton gave birth soon after secession, the pleased papa named the baby Jeff Davis in honor of the Confederate president. The elder Milton died in the closing days of the war, proud of the fact that his beloved Tallahassee along with Austin, Texas were the only southern capitals not to fall to the Yankees.

Young Jeff hung around the ruins of the family plantation until 1877, when he moved to Texas to live with a married sister. The teenager worked for his brother-in-law in a general store at Navasota before deciding relatives do not make the best bosses.

Bidding his kin farewell, Jeff took a job as an armed overseer on a prison farm near Huntsville. His maturity, self-discipline and courage caught the eye of a Texas Ranger looking for fresh recruits.

Any red-blooded American male in the 1870's would have given his right arm to join the ranks of the famous frontier fighters, and Jeff Milton was no exception. The 19 year old accepted the invitation on the spot.

But months of mundane duty convinced Milton that the life of a Texas Ranger was not all it was cracked up to be. Bored and saddle-sore, he yearned for a little excitement to break the monotony.

Milton got his wish one spring afternoon in Colorado City. The three-man patrol had no sooner arrived in the West Texas town than the tell-tale sound of six-shooters attracted the trio to a local saloon.

Milton stood back as his more experienced comrades attempted to disarm a couple of feuding ranchers. Instead of surrendering his weapon, one of the combatants suddenly fired on the lawmen. His hand moving faster than his mind, the rookie Ranger drew his .45 and killed the crazed cattleman.

Completing his three-year enlistment, Milton served as a deputy sheriff in Murphysville, today called Alpine, before wandering farther west. In 1884 in Socorro County, New Mexico, his law enforcement career as well as his life nearly came to a sudden and bloody end.

Milton and a cowboy companion were ambushed by three Mexican bandits, who made the fatal mistake of missing the mark with their opening volley. Only after the bushwhackers lay dead in the desert did Milton notice the bullet hole in his leg. He casually disinfected the wound with turpentine and continued his journey.

Milton finished the dangerous decade by chasing Apaches for outnumbered pioneers in Arizona and illegal aliens from Mexico for the U.S. government. By 1890 he seemed to be settling down as a foreman on a horse ranch outside Tucson.

But he again pulled up his shallow roots and spent the next four years as a hired gun with the South Pacific railroad. Since El Paso was a regular stop, he got on good enough terms with the mayor to finagle an appointment as chief of police in 1894.

On a June night in 1895, Milton and a Texas Ranger waited in the darkness for George Scarborough to lure a wanted man back across the border from his Mexican hideout. At the last second, the fugitive sensed the set-up and shot wildly at his false friend.

Milton put a slug in the center of the outlaw's chest but that only made him mad. Scarborough duplicated the feat at point-blank range, and this time the bad man stayed down.

Leaving El Paso, Milton and Scarborough went into business for themselves as small-time bounty hunters. But a big-time battle with a gang of rustlers in 1898 persuaded the pair to dissolve their partnership.

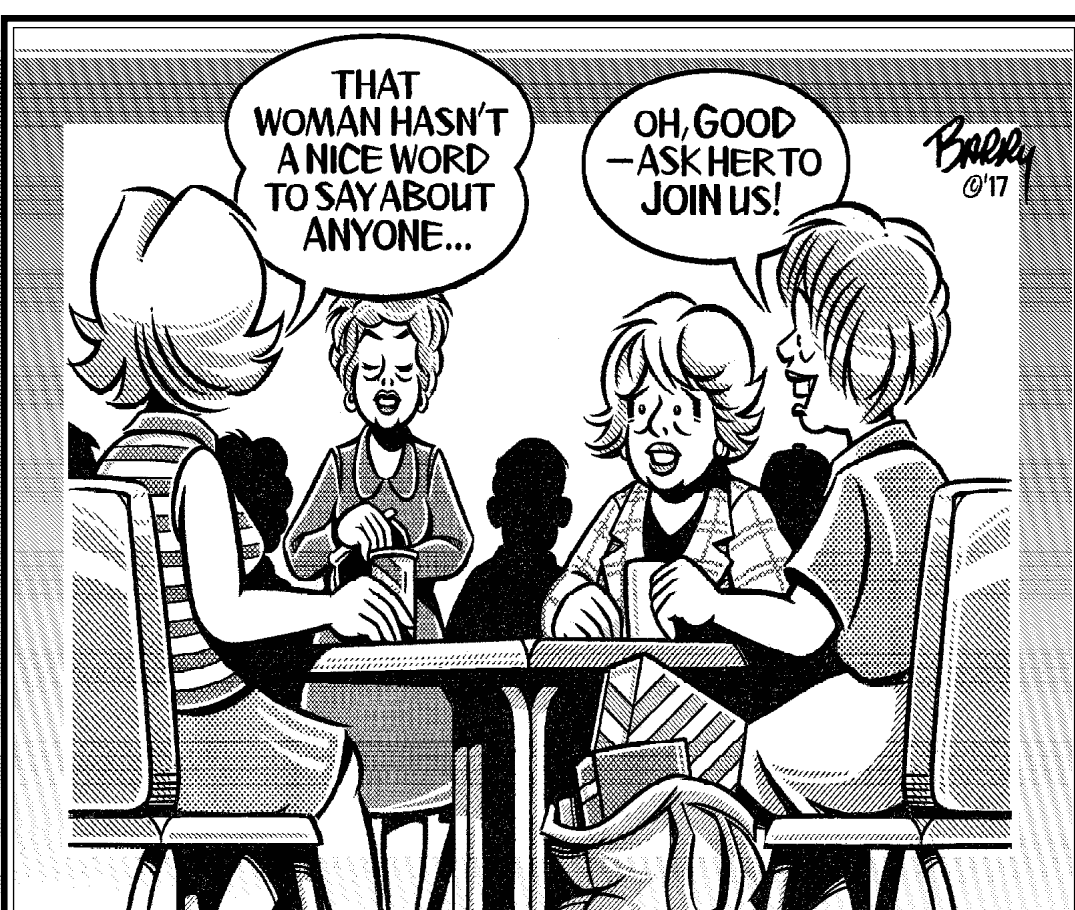
The centennial year found Milton earning a living as a railway guard for Wells Fargo. As the train pulled into an isolated station, he opened the door of the express car for a breath of fresh air and caught a bullet in his left arm.

Though seriously wounded, he returned fire with a shotgun, closed the door and hid the keys to the strongbox before losing consciousness. The frustrated train robbers rode away with nothing to show for their trouble, and Milton was hospitalized for several months as doctors struggled to save the maimed limb.

Since a middle-aged gunfighter with a crippled arm had an alarmingly short life expectancy, Milton tried his good hand at prospecting for gold and later for oil. Finding neither, he went to work in 1904 for the Immigration Service plugging the international dike with Mexico.

In his last known gunfight, Jeff Milton ran down a bank robber in Tombstone, Arizona in 1917. Having changed with the times, his means of transportation had four wheels instead of four legs, but it still took a six-gun to get the job done.

Barte's three books and ten "Best of This Week in Texas History" column collections are available for purchase at bartehaile.com.



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