

LOOKING BACK...

THROUGH THE PAGES OF THE MONITOR

1964

Loretta Griffin and four other members of the Jonquil Garden Club toured the Turtle Creek area and other springtime sites in Dallas ... A write-in campaign in the mayor's race failed at Omaha, and three city officials were re-elected to office ... A total of \$17,418 in delinquent taxes was owed to the Pewitt School district ... A ten-pound bag of red potatoes was 39¢ at Crump's Food Store in Omaha ... A two-pound bag of carrots was 15¢ at Fleming's Grocery in Naples ... Ground beef was 39¢ a pound at the Netco Store in Naples.

1965

Terri Harte, Cynthia Jolly, Brenda Jones, Cathi Tenbrook, Janie Tuck and Debbie Scarborough were members of the Naples Brownie Scout Troop 159 ... Wendell (Rat) Boozer had knee surgery at St. Michael's Hospital in Texarkana ... Sirloin steak was 85¢ a pound at Boozer's Food Store in Omaha ... Boys' jeans were \$2.77 a pair at McKellar's Department Store in Omaha.

1974

Ronnie Page, Ludy Cobb, Molly Towler, Barbara Mixon, Brinda Peek, Debbie Vaughan and Dorthy Morris were some of those attending the first practice for a women's softball team in Naples ... Chicken pot pies were 27¢ each at the Netco Store ... Voters in Naples, Marietta, Omaha and Bryans Mill were to go to the polls for a proposed consolidation move for Pewitt and Marietta schools ... At least four old buildings were being demolished in downtown Naples to create more parking space for business customers and employees.

1979

Berry Frost won a second term as mayor of Marietta ... Lettuce was 29¢ a head at Vingo Foods in Naples ... Christy Wright was honored on her seventh birthday with an Easter egg hunt party at the home of her parents, Brenda and Jesse Wright of Omaha ... John Jameson was elected mayor of Naples and voted in as city aldermen were J. L. Collier and Bill King.

1984

B. B. Brown was elected to his seventh term as mayor of Omaha ... Members of the First Baptist Church at Naples were to present a live portrayal of "The Last Supper" ... Round steak was \$1.59 a pound at Vingo Foods in Naples and fryers were selling for 69¢ a pound ... Jennifer Jones, a Pewitt student, showed a pen of broilers at the annual county junior livestock show.

1985

Local law officers were continuing to seek the identity of a man who robbed clerks at gunpoint at Wyninegar Pharmacy in Naples, and left with an undetermined amount of drugs ... Bananas were 25¢ a pound at Northeast Texas Foods in Omaha ... "Rainman" with Dustin Hoffman and Tom Cruise was showing at the Morris Theater in Daingerfield ... Chicken livers or gizzards were \$1.08 per pound at Kwik-Stop in Naples.

1994

Ryan Allen, a Pewitt athlete, had been named to the *Longview News-Journal's* "all-East Texas" baseball honor squad ... "Major League 2" and "Guarding Tess" were features at SouthSide Cinema in Mt. Pleasant ... A week end of rain was the cause of three auto accidents in the Naples-Omaha area but no serious injuries were sustained ... Easter services and programs were being planned by area churches for the special holiday time ... NVD members set a date for the first of three planned "mud bogs" at the Echo Valley Mudway on the Leon Cobb farm ... Heading for the state meet in high school powerlifting were Pewitt's Duane Hicks, Jason Boyd, Adam Nelson, Corey Hankins, Tracey Lamm and Kip Malone ... Cake mixes were 69¢ a box at Endsley's Food Store in Omaha ... A fish-fry was planned at the Morning Star Baptist Church of Naples.

1999

Era Lou Collins and Hellen Catlett won awards at an art show for their paintings ... A total of \$2,000 was raised by the annual Naples-Omaha Lions Follies at the club's Hee-Haw show ... A 12-pack of Coke was \$3.99 at Brahma Foods in Omaha ... Verna Moos' Special Olympics athletes won top awards at area track meets ... Awards were displayed at the Texas High School Football Hall of Fame for the 1998 state champion Pewitt Brahmas ... A 1994 Ford Taurus was on sale for \$6,750 as the John Paul Jones Motors special of the week ... "Cruel Intentions" was showing at the Morris Twin-Cinema and "Doug's First Movie" was screening at Cinema V in Mt. Pleasant.

2004

Lloyd Heard, president of the Naples Chamber of Commerce, presented the Naples Citizen of the Year award to Morris Craig at the annual chamber banquet while Marilyn Williams and John Whitecotton were Omaha's Citizens of the Year award recipients ... "Starsky & Hutch" and "Barber Shop 2" were features at the Morris Twin-Cinema and movies at Cinema V included "Hidalgo", "Secret Window", "Scooby Doo 2", "Passion of the Christ" and "Dawn of the Dead" ... Some new books and bookmarks were presented to the Pewitt Elementary School by the Belden Masonic Lodge ... A silent auction, at the annual chamber of commerce banquet, generated more than \$2,000 for the Naples Public Library.

2008

Ethna Culver was to be honored at a surprise birthday party ... Barbara Harrison, dressed with a Dr. Seuss hat, read "Cat in the Hat" and other Dr. Seuss books to Pewitt Elementary students ... A fourth annual helicopter landing zone school was planned at Marietta ... "Taken" and "Hotel for Dogs" were showing at the Morris Twin-Cinema and features at Cinema V included "Knowing" and "12 Rounds" ... Cheerleaders had been picked for the next year's sports seasons and the group included Kiersten and Meaghen Wiley, daughters of Beth.

2014

Dave Henson of Katy, Texas, was listed as The Monitor's hometown newspaper honoree ... Hannah Vissering portrayed Julie Andrews at the Pewitt Elementary Wax Museum ... Mel Herron's Lady Brahmas won another track meet during the early season ... The Rev. Jesse Biles of the Shady Grove Church as Cason was to be the guest speaker at a Pine Bluff anniversary for Rev. and Sis. Roy Miles ... Pewitt's senior class was hosting a fund-raising meal time at El Chico's in Mt. Pleasant ... An early Easter event was planned at the Liberty Baptist Church at Naples ... A ribbon cutting and open house time was set for the new Blue Light Cafe in Naples ... Berry Isensee, grandson of Virginia Fleming of Naples, was the subject of the Wandering the World feature in The Monitor ... Glen Menzel offered tree service in the local wilderness.



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



This is the third of a series of old Naples Barber Shop photos that were borrowed from a scrapbook of the late E. E. Shirey. Moving to Naples from Pittsburg, Mr. Shirey, left, bought the barber shop business in 1946. He sold a part interest in the business in 1952 to Sam (Bub) Hicks, right, then completed the sale later when he worked part time at the post office where he retired in 1979. This photo was made in 1960. Working with Mr. Shirey and Mr. Hicks at that time was O. J. Maxey, center. The only customer we have been able to identify was the youngster in the chair of Mr. Hicks and you might recognize him as now being the owner of the Rear of the Steer restaurant at Omaha. Yep!! That's Ernest Paul Pewitt. We would like to know the names of the other two boys getting a haircut. If you know them, give us a call. Monitor Photo

This Week In Texas History

By Barte Haile

Hundreds of Texans owed lives to U.S. politician

The fact that Waddy Thompson had been a private citizen for two weeks did not keep him from asking Santa Anna for one more favor of on Mar. 23, 1844.

Texans naively presumed their neighbors in New Mexico would jump at the chance to join the Lone Star Republic. So, in the summer of 1841, President Mirabeau Lamar sent more than 300 soldiers, merchants and miscellaneous adventurers to deliver an engraved invitation and to stake Texas' claim to the lucrative Santa Fe Trail trade.

But the Mexican army was waiting for the trespassers. Tricked into surrendering by a snake in their own grass, the so-called Pioneers were disarmed, shackled and force-marched hundreds of miles into the interior of Mexico.

The capture of the Santa Fe Expedition caused an outraged uproar not only in Texas but throughout the United States as well. Newspapers, state legislatures and public rallies put maximum pressure on the federal government to take swift and effective action.

Secretary of State Daniel Webster instructed his minister to tell the Mexicans in no uncertain terms that Washington expected the immediate release of every American and humane treatment of the Texans. When the request was ignored, President John Tyler appointed an ex-congressman as a special envoy to intercede on the prisoners' behalf.

Waddy Thompson, Jr. of South Carolina was the best man for the job. During his three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, the Whig had tirelessly championed the Texas cause. He overcame foot-dragging by President Andrew Jackson and the opposition of New England fanatics, led by former White House occupant John Quincy Adams, to obtain diplomatic recognition for the new nation 11 months after the Battle of San Jacinto.

Thompson was hardly surprised by his chilly reception in Mexico City. Relations between the two countries had been strained since Texas independence, and over the years he had said a lot of harsh things about his hosts.

But the unwelcome foreigner warmed Santa Anna and his cabinet right up by speaking to them in Spanish at their first meeting. He had gone to the trouble of learning the language, something unheard of for a U.S. diplomat in those days.

Thompson made such a good impression on Santa Anna that the dictator agreed to face-to-face talks about the Santa Fe prisoners. The two must have hit it off because in a matter of weeks every American was homeward bound. Freedom for those captives with Texas addresses took much longer, but in time they too were released.

In September 1842, Mexican troops struck San Antonio for the second time in six months. They massacred a small force

commanded by Nicholas Dawson and seized three dozen civilians as human trophies before scurrying back across the border.

Upward of 500 Texans gave chase, but the raiders beat them to the Rio Grande. Most turned back, but the rest kept going and fought a Christmas Day battle with Mexican regulars in the border town of Mier. Running low on food, water and ammunition, 176 capitulated in the mistaken belief they would be treated as prisoners-of-war.

Their captors went back on their word — if, in fact, it was ever given — and orders from on high were issued for their execution as bandits. As soon as Waddy Thompson learned of the imminent mass murder, he hurried to the office of the foreign minister.

The official, running the show in Santa Anna's absence, refused to hear him out. "They are not American citizens, and you have no right to interpose on their behalf."

"They are human beings and prisoners-of-war!" Thompson retorted. "It is the right and duty of all nations to see that Mexico does not violate the principles and usages of civilized warfare."

But the foreign minister would not budge. "Then, sir, shoot them as soon as you choose," said Thompson rising to his feet. "But let me tell you that if you do you will at once involve a much more powerful enemy than Texas."

His parting words changed history and saved lives. The death decree was amended to spare nine out of every ten Texans. The condemned were selected by lot with the unlucky drawing infamous black beans.

Thompson spent his last 14 months in Mexico City lobbying for better conditions for the Mier prisoners and negotiating for their eventual release. Two weeks after submitting his resignation, he paid a final call on Santa Anna.

After exchanging pleasantries, Thompson asked "The Napoleon of the West" what he planned to do with the 36 Texans kidnapped in San Antonio a year and a half earlier. "Do you intend to keep them always?"

The persuasive southerner gradually wore down Santa Anna, until he finally asked for the names of the prisoners the visitor wanted freed.

"All of them," Thompson answered. "How can I distinguish between men, all strangers to me personally, whose cases are in all respects the same, and why should you?"

A few days later, Waddy Thompson left Mexico with 36 very happy and very grateful Texans.

<-) ***Texas Entertainers: Lone Stars in Profile, Barte Haile's brand-new book, now ready for immediate shipment! Get your copy by mailing a check for \$26.30 to Barte Haile, P.O. Box 130011, Spring, TX 77393.



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