

Paw Print Press

Proudly Serving Itasca "The Big Little Town" since 1997

Itasca, Texas 76055

Vol. 2010 Issue #20

May 14, 2010

2010 Cinco de Mayo Royalty



Photos by Gloria Rodriguez

Miss Brianna Medina, daughter of Judy Medina and the late Eleazar "Elly" Medina was crowned Queen at the 20th Itasca Cinco de Mayo Celebration.

Amiya Wills, daughter of Rosie Willis, was crowned Cinco de Mayo Duchess and Jonathan Salas, son of Edna and Tony Salas, rounded out the royal court with the title of 2010-2011 Duke.

Kicking off the Saturday, May 1 festivities was Mrs. Kristi Sargent, (IHS Class of 1991). Sargent spoke to the young people attending the celebration on the importance of education and family. She is the daughter of Daniel and Susan Bason. She and her husband Kyle Sargent have two daughters, Chandley, 11, and Aidan, 6.

Sargent is the IISD Students Services Coordinator.

Citizens Vote "Yes" on \$6 Million School Bond Proposal

The residents of Itasca ISD voted, 172 for and 121 against, to pass the \$6 million bond proposal that will enable the elementary and high school to expand in order to serve the ever growing school body.

On the district's "to do" list are renovating the cafeteria, removing the old junior high and adding a new elementary addition in the area, eight high school classrooms, fine arts classrooms and relocating the bus facility in order to re-route drop off and pick up of middle school students.

The proposed improvements will start this summer and all areas will be completed by the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year.

2nd Grader #1 Fundraiser for "Paws for the Cause"

Reporter Devin Corbitt



Kaylei Cole, a second grader at Itasca Elementary School, was a great asset to the Itasca branch of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Teams. Kaylei raised \$340 in about two weeks before the team participated in the Race for the Cure, a three-mile walk to raise breast cancer awareness and honor those who survived, are battling, and have lost their

lives to breast cancer.

"I'm very proud of her," Kaylei's mother, Michelle Cole, said. "I'm glad she's willing to raise money for other people and not worry about it being for herself."

Kaylei arrived in Waco for the walk very early on Saturday, April 24. She walked the entire three miles by herself. Kaylei was also the team leader as far as raising money; she raised more than any other team member.

Mrs. Holli Malke, "Paws for the Cause" coordinator and Kaylei's second grade teacher, was very impressed with Kaylei's accomplishment.

"I'm very proud of the determination and hard work that Kaylei worked did for women that she didn't even know," Malke said. "She doesn't realize how many lives of families of survivors and soon-to-be survivors that she helped."

Benefit Street Dance Scheduled for Jacob Whitlock

"Total Strangers" Band

Friday – May 21 @ 8:00 p.m. during Chamber of Commerce BBQ Cook-off

All proceeds will go to the Whitlock Family! Jacob age 4 was diagnosed with Acute Leukemia.

He is at Cook's Children Hospital located in Fort Worth.

Churches of Itasca

Bethlehem Missionary Baptist W. Spurgeon 687-2800
Central Baptist Church 401 E. Monroe 687-2343
Church of Christ 200 N. Aquilla 687-2774
First Baptist Church 107 S. Lamar 687-2783
First Presbyterian Church 106 N. Lamar 687-2243
First United Methodist Main & King St. 687-2475
Loveview Baptist Church FM 2959 East of I-35
Second Baptist Church 120 W. Marrion 687-9134
Shiloh Community Church 254-582-0487
St. John Missionary Baptist 506 S. Weaver 687-2821
3rd Day Worship Center 107 E. Adams 214 564-2185
Itasca Nursing Home Sunday - 10:00 a.m.
 Everyone Welcome Monday Evening 6:00 p.m.

Central Baptist Church

Sunday School 9:45 Worship 10:50 a.m.
 Youth (7th - 12th grade) 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday Evening Worship 6:00-7:00 p.m.
 Tuesday - Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
 Wednesday Adult Bible Study and Prayer 7:00 p.m.
 Youth (7th-12th) 7:00 p.m. website - itascacbc.org

First United Methodist Church

401 E. Main St, Itasca, TX 254-687-2475
 E-mail: itascaumc@digitex.net
*Where Worship Is Joyous! Experience the energy of
 God's promise in a beautiful, historic sanctuary.*
 Sunday School 9:45 a.m.-10:30 (All ages)
 Sunday Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
 Refreshments between Sunday School & Church
 Services 10:30 a.m.
 Wednesday 5 - 6:00 p.m. - Youth Bible Study (all ages)
 Wednesday 6 p.m. - Youth Choir Practice (ages 11 up)

Itasca Church of Christ - 200 N. Aquilla St.

Are we taking a test without reading the book?
 That is exactly what many are doing when it comes to
 the Bible. They go by what they feel, think, or what
 others have told them, but have never read for
 themselves the complete book. This is the most
 important test you will ever take! Join us at the Itasca
 Church of Christ?

Sunday mornings - 9:45 a.m. - Bible classes-
 10:45 a.m. - Worship - 5:00 p.m. - worship
 Wednesday - 7 p.m. - Bible study All are welcome.

First Presbyterian Church

106 N. Lamar Itasca 254-687-2243
itascapfc@sbcglobal.net www.fpcitasca.org
 "In mission to and with the Presbyterian Childrens Home to
 spread the gospel of Jesus Christ."
 Sundays - 9:30-10:00 Fellowship in Barton Hall
 10 - 10:45 Sunday School 11 a.m. - Worship Service
 6 pm - Praise/Worship (Sanctuary)
 6:30-KFC/Hour of Power
 Tues. & Thurs. - 10 a.m. Exercise Class - Barton Hall
 Wed. 6:30 Vespers Service Chapel - 7:15 Choir practice
 ANGEL FOOD SITE

Second Missionary Baptist Church

120 W. Marrion St. Itasca TX 76055
 Rev. George Demmerritte Jr. (Pastor)
 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m.
 Wednesday Bible Study 5:30p.m.
 2BC*2 Youth Meeting 6:30 - 8:00pm Wednesday

Itasca Ministerial Alliance

No Meetings in June, July, August

Itasca Zoning Committee Meeting

2nd Monday of Month 6:00 p.m. - 136 N. Hill St.

Itasca City Council Meeting

Monday, May 24, 2010 - 6:00 p.m.

Itasca ISD School Board Meeting

Monday, May 17, 2010 7:00 p.m.

Itasca Depot Heritage and Education

Center Schedule



May 15 - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 Fingerprinting & ID
 Kits for children
 May 28 - Graduation - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 Everyone Welcome

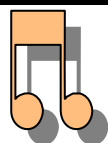
Child Identification Program

The Itasca ISD and the Itasca Police Department will
 host a child ID event on May 15, 2010 at the Itasca Depot
 Heritage and Education Center from 10:00 a. m. to 1:00
 p.m.

Parents of K-6th grade students are urged to bring their
 child/children to get registered for this free service to help
 protect them with a missing child. Please take a little time
 to help protect your child. Refreshments will be served.

Yard Sale: Weather permitting

304 East South Street
 Sat. May 15 8-5 Sun. May 16 9-4
 Furniture, dishes, baby stuff & more



Gospel Concert featuring Travis (Gene) Farquhar



& Steve Sawyer
 Special Events Center
 Saturday May 22, 2010 7:00 p.m.

***Fundraiser to benefit Class of '62 Scholarship
 Fund for IHS Graduates

***Silent Auction Table in addition to the music. Any
 donations for the auction please contact Nancy Shelton
 Nolen at 254 687-9236.

Presbyterian Youth Participate in 30 Hour Famine

By Diane Barnes, Pastor



The First Presbyterian Church of Itasca's youth group, Hour of Power, recently participated in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine. For several weeks, they spent their time together on Sunday evenings learning about what it's like to live in Ethiopia, where food and water are scarce. During this time, they donated money as

well as sought sponsors to sponsor them during their 30 Hour Famine fast.

Of course, they also raised money with the Purple Potty, which you probably saw moving around town to many peoples' lawns! We want to thank our community for their participation in this!

The goal for the youth was to raise \$720, which would feed two children for one year. They surpassed that goal! Total money raised for world hunger was \$2,430.60! And, during the worship service on Sunday, May 2, it was announced that because of matching grants awarded to World Vision, the funds collected will feed 10 times more children!

If you are a high school student, we invite you to join our youth group on Sunday evenings at 6:30 (or come at 6:00 for Praise and Worship time also). On June 13, we will begin another session of Purity Classes.

Younger children are invited to join us on Sunday evenings, too, at the same time for KFC (Kids for Christ).

We want to thank our wonderful young people and the wonderful people of our church and community who followed Jesus' calling to "feed my sheep".

Garage & Bake Sale Fundraiser

May 15 8:00 a.m. – 5:00p.m.

Front yard of parsonage

102 S. Lamar (beside car wash.)

Entire church has donated items to sell to raise money to support the youth in going to church camp.

All items will be reasonably priced to sell quick.

Love offerings are accepted. All proceeds go to the FBC youth camp fund.

Please come out and support your local youth in going to church camp.

Angel Food News

Press Release

If you haven't purchased Angel Food lately (or maybe never), you need to take a look at all of the new things available! In the beginning, there was the "box" of food – a great deal, lots of food for only \$30. There were also "specials" but you had to purchase a box in order to get the specials. Not anymore. You can order one or all and anything in between! And there are more choices than ever to choose from!

There are:

***Convenience Meals, which are perfect for seniors and those living with diabetes.

***There is also an Allergen-Free Food Box, which is great for kids and adults!

***Premium Seafood Variety Box – 6.4 lbs. of seafood for only \$35.00.

***Just 4 Me After School Boxes – perfect for after school snacks or anytime. One box has snacks such as mini corn dogs, pizza, mini moon pies, etc. The other is the "healthy" snacks – fruits and veggies.

***Premium Fresh Fruit and Veggie Box – May is Nation Salad Month! Why not celebrate with one of these boxes?

There are also great boxes for those who like to grill during the summer:

***6.4 lb. Assorted Meat Grill Box

***4 lb. Steak Box

***12 ct. Gourmet-Flavored Chicken Breast Box

***There is also a box called "4 for 4 Family Meals" – 4 complete meals with all you need for a family of 4.

***And, a brand new item – Bit O' Blessing Box! If a regular box is just too much food for you – or you need something less expensive – this box is great for you!

Order online at www.angelfoodministries.com or call Judy Offutt or Lynnette Payne at 687-2302. Orders are also taken at the church on the second Tuesday of each month.

~Parents night out~ \$10.00/child~

Who: All children 3 and up

What: Babysitting fundraiser

When: May 22, 2010 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Where: First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

Why: To support the youth in raising funds for church camp

How: By God's Grace!

Nachos, snacks & a drink will be provided for your child.

Itasca City Council February Meeting

The Itasca City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, February 16, 2010 in the Council Chambers, 136 N. Hill St., Itasca, Texas. Mayor Matthew Fehnel called the meeting to order. Council members present were James Bouldin, Susie Davis, Denis Heyse and John Laird. Also present were City Administrator Mark Gropp and City Attorney Stephanie Johnson. Council Member Doug Farquhar were absent.

Motions were made and passed to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2010 meeting and to approve the payment of bills. Monthly department and committee reports were given by Chief Randy Kline (Fire Department), Chief John Griscavage (Police), Wayne Upchurch (Water/Sewer Operations), Chris Barnes (Planning and Zoning, Office of Code Enforcement and Building Standards Commission). The Council voted to re-scheduled a meeting for Building Standards Commission to Wednesday, February 17, 2010.

A report was received from City Administrator Mark Gropp regarding the evaluation of proposals from engineering firms in connection with the Engineering Request for Proposals Process relating to the Texas Department of Rural affairs CDBG 2010 Grant for wastewater improvements. Mr. Gropp reported the scoring committee met and had scored the proposals using the Texas Department of Rural Affairs scoring criteria. Three proposals were received from Oller Engineering Inc., Beach Sulak Partners, and Eprotec/Hibbs and Todd. The City Administrator's recommendation in connection with the Engineering Request for Proposals Process relating to the Texas Department of Rural Affairs CDBG 2010 Grant for wastewater improvements was considered. Based on the scoring the City Administrator Mark Gropp recommended the city contract with Oller Engineering, Inc. and the Council agreed.

The agenda item to consider and possibly take action on the award of a Letter of Agreement for Professional Engineering Services relating to the Texas Department of Rural Affairs CDBG 2010 Grant for wastewater improvements was discussed. A motion was made and passed to approve authorizing the City Administrator to negotiate the price and sign the Letter of Agreement for Professional Engineering Services with Oller Engineering, Inc.

Mayor Matthew Fehnel opened the meeting at 6:16 p.m. to hold a public hearing for Rio Motors located at 700 S. Hill Street, more specially known as legal description-Sunset Block 2 Lot 14-16, for a Chapter 11 Junk Vehicle Ordinance violation to determine whether the vehicles at that location should be abated in accordance with the Junked Vehicle Ordinance outlined in Chapter 11 of the City of Itasca Code of Ordinances. Larry Shrum presented information pertaining to his business located at 700 S. Hill Street, which included violation letters, Chapter 11 Junked Vehicles Ordinance, building permit applications from 2005 to 2007, information on their temporary tags, and provided a copy of his Independent Motor Vehicle Dealer license. The Mayor asked if there was any other information pertaining to the public hearing. Mr. Shrum informed the Council that he had no further information. The public hearing was closed at 6:26 p.m.

The Council discussed what action should be taken as a result of the public hearing in regards to whether the vehicles located at 700 S. Hill Street, more specially known as legal description-Sunset Block 2 Lot 14-16, should be abated in accordance with the Junked Vehicle Ordinance outlined in Chapter 11 of the City of Itasca Code of Ordinances. The Mayor and City Administrator read the August 8, 2005 City Council Meeting minutes which stated the business can not be a dismantling place, all vehicles within that property must be running and for sale. They also reviewed the September 19, 2005 minutes which stated the Council agreed that they would not tolerate the property becoming a nuisance and looking like a junkyard or wrecking yard in anyway. Mayor expressed that Mr. Shrum's business is not in compliance with minutes approved in 2005 and current City of Itasca Code of Ordinances. City Administrator stated that the car lots license is not the proper license to have for non-running vehicles or more specific junk vehicles. A motion to declare the business in violation of the Junk Vehicle Ordinance and that the said owner has 30 days to abate was made and passed by the council.

City Administrator Mark Gropp stated he would have all information from Engineering Firm at March 15, 2010 meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Itasca City Council March Meeting

The Itasca City Council met in a regular session on March 15, 2010 in the Council Chambers. Mayor Matthew Fehnel called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. Present were Council members James Bouldin, Susie Davis, Denis Heyse, Doug Farquhar, and John Laird.

Motions were made and passed to approve the minutes of the February 2010 meeting and to approve the payment of bills. Monthly department and committee reports were given by Officer Ted Walton (Police), Mayor Matt Fehnel (Water/Sewer Operations), Chris Barnes (Planning and Zoning, Office of Code Enforcement and Building Standards Commission) and Randy Kline (Fire) who formally gave his resignation effective immediately. The Council and Administrator thanked him for his time and service.

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Senior Sponsor Spotlights

Mrs. Brenda Swilley



Mrs. Brenda Swilley has taught at Itasca High School for 21 years. Mrs. Swilley is one of the most popular and dearly loved teachers in the high school. This year, she teaches Chemistry, Physics, and Anatomy and Physiology. She is the Science Club

sponsor and cheerleader sponsor as well as a senior sponsor.

Swilley was born in Gatesville and went to school in Copperas Cove. In high school, her favorite class was biology, which led to her teaching career. She was also one of the first girls involved in the Ag program.

About the senior class, Mrs. Swilley says, "They are unique, enjoyable at times, and there is never a dull moment." The senior class will miss her dearly, even though they may not ever learn to shut the orifice on their anterior cranial surface.



Mrs. Joy Anderson



Mrs. Joy Anderson has taught at Itasca High School for five years. She has taught Spanish I, II and III, and this year she is teaching World Geography, World History, Government and Economics. Mrs.

Anderson grew up in Papua, New Guinea and graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington with a degree in Political Science and a minor in Spanish. She now resides in Hillsboro with her husband and their two youngest daughters. She and her husband have four children.

To the 2010 Seniors she says: "I love you! I've really enjoyed this year with the seniors."



Mr. Nathan Morrill



One of this year's most colorful senior sponsors is Coach Nathan Morrill. This is his first year teaching at Itasca, but before coming to Itasca he taught at Little Elm High School and Llano High School for a total of four years. Morrill teaches English II, English II Honors and English IV. He also coaches

baseball and football.

Morrill earned his teaching degree at Stephen F. Austin in Nacogdoches, Texas. He is currently dating Casie Davison, who is a teacher in Hillsboro. They have been together since November.

To all graduating students, Coach Morrill has these words, "I'll miss the senior class because they were all so full of life and I wish them the best as they tackle life's many adventures."



Mrs. Susan Corbitt



Mrs. Susan Corbitt has been working for the Itasca school district for eight years subbing and working as a library aide. In 2008, she became the head librarian. She has been married to her husband, Alan, for almost 20 years. They have two children, Devin (Class of 2010) and David

(Class of 2013).

Mrs. Corbitt obtained a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Maryland and is currently working on her Master's Degree at Texas Women's University. She has lived in Itasca for 16 years, and has watched this class grow up since they were in Kindergarten.

"I have enjoyed watching the senior class grow and (most of them) mature. I look forward to seeing the wonderful things they will accomplish in their lives."



April 2010 Police Blotter

4-1 – Major accident – Assisted in rescuing driver of vehicle – Hwy 81 north of FM 2959
4-1 – Answered 911 call – 3 females in physical altercation – (B/F 51, B/F 31, B/F 34) One arrest for assault – 800 blk. Weave St.
4-2 – Report of phone harassment – Warning issued on phone – 200 blk. S. Lamar St.
4-3 – Assisted IVFD and surrounding fire departments with structure fire – 800 blk. Weave St.
4-3 – Report of reckless driver (motorcycle) – 300 blk. S. Hill St.
4-3 – Assisted stranded motorist – I-35W mm 12
4-3 – Citizen complaint (Disturbance) – Two males fighting – 400 blk. S. Lamar St.
4-4 – Citizen complaint (loud music) – 800 blk. S. Wesley St.
4-6 – Repo information reported – E. Main St.
4-6 – Citizen complaint (loud music) – Monroe & Main Sts.
4-7 – Citizen complaint (Disturbance) – Domestic dispute (Citation for assault by threat issued) B/M 47 – 600 blk. E. Adams St.
4-7 – Citizen complaint (Animal) – Pit bull came on property & killed pet rabbit – 800 blk. Shuttle St.
4-8 – Citizen complaint (Phone Harassment) – 700 blk. Central St.
4-9 – Assisted stranded motorist – I-35W mm 10
4-9 – Complaint (Disturbance) – Two people arguing in Exxon Parking lot – 1200 blk. S. Files St.
4-11 – Complaint (Disturbance argument) Arrest for Assault Family Violence – B/M 27 – 800 blk. E. Adams St.
4-11 – Complaint (Suspicious activity) – Male drinking and driving in his yard erratically (Verbal warning issued) – 300 blk. W. Main St.
4-11 – Traffic stop (Report of possible DWI) – Assisted DPS with DWI (W/M 58) – I-35W northbound mm 9
4-12 – Took possession of found property (Wallet) – 100 blk. N. Hill St.
4-12 – Citizen complaint (Assault by throwing rock) – H/M 34 – 200 blk. S. Lamar St.
4-14 – Felony warrants served (Injury to a Child) W/F 20 & W/M 19 – 500 blk. S. Wall St.
4-15 – Repo information reported – 300 W. Henderson St.
4-15 – Assisted Code Enforcement (Put Police Line tape on burnt structure) – 100 blk. Minnie Dr.
4-16 – Traffic stop (Speeding) – Arrest for outstanding warrants (Child Support - McLennan County) B/M 35 – I-35W northbound mm 9
4-17 – Citizen complaint (Unauthorized use of vehicle) – W. South St.
4-18 – 911 Hang up call – (telephone trouble) – 400 blk. S. College St.

4-22 – Assisted DPS (Minor accident – no injuries) – Hwy. 81 & HCR 4138
4-23 – Citizen complaint (Burn ban violation – Inside city limits) – 200 blk. N. Wesley St.
4-23 – Citizen complaint (Loud music) – 100 blk. E. Adams St.
4-25 – 911 Call (Woman screaming at injured possum) – 500 blk. E. Wilkerson St.
4-25 – Citizen complaint (Loud music) – 400 blk. N. Hill St.
4-26 – Report of possible break in (Residence doors open) – 400 blk. E. Main St.
4-29 – Welfare concern – 600 blk. E. Marrion St.
4-29 – Report of failure to obey school crossing sign – N. Files & E. North Sts.
4-30 – Citizen report (Stolen bicycle – Orange w/Black design) – 200 blk. S. Wesley St.

March City Council

Continued from page 4

The City Administrator updated the City Council on the letter of agreement between the City of Itasca and Oller Engineering Inc, for Professional Engineering Services relating to the Texas Department of Rural Affairs CDBG 2010 grant for wastewater improvements, The City Administrator stated the contract is currently in Gandolf's office awaiting time tables and signatures, once completed the contract will be given to the City Attorney for review. An update from City Administrator regarding city street repairs was presented to the Council. The City Administrator discussed current streets being corrected and the process of laying the asphalt which would eliminate weather damage. The City Administrator addressed the Council to discuss and consider possible improvements of city streets.

The City Administrator explained road projects he would like to start next year which included asphaltting south College St where previous sewer work had been done, and the connection of Grayson to Spurgeon and Milford Rd. The City Administrator explained how all these projects would be completed with a top coat and sealant to prevent from weather damage.

City Administrator explained the budget and reviewed areas which were over budget; he explained with the purchase of new police cars and equipment each police officer would be assigned a vehicle which they would be responsible for, and the two remaining older vehicles would be used for the step program. The budget was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

2010 Area Qualifier Lady Cats Softball Team

Collage by Mariah Pennington



2010 Bi-District Qualifier Wampus Cat Baseball Team



Brenda Jordon

Remember When . . . “Train Nostalgia”

Columnist Carl Sweeney



I wonder how many of you miss the old time trains as much I do. I loved the mournful sound of the steam whistle. It raised goose bumps when it came through the Chambers Creek bottom, when we were on a fishing trip there, especially at night. This one was the old IG&N in that area. I have a VCR tape that plays all the sounds of the old trains. Remember the Chuff-Chuff-Chuff that started off real slow then became faster as the train picked up speed and then the sound of the clacking of the wheels on the rail joints. A person has to hear it to really appreciate the nostalgia.



Then there was the caboose. It was the command center of the train. It was red with a raised part on top so the engineer and the conductor could see far down the track. Also there was a small “porch” on back with a decorative railing. Today there are no cabooses on the trains since they have such modern communication and there is no train mail delivery, they are no longer needed. It sure looks strange now when a train passes and there is no caboose, just the end of a box car or coal car.

It seems that the main product hauled now is coal from Montana and Wyoming, to fuel the electric generators. When we see all the coal trains coming through makes one wonder what will happen when excessive global population uses up all of our natural resources such as coal, gas, and timber. I have no doubt that this will happen, then we will be in the cold and the dark, and that will be the demise of our planet as we know it. We talk about global warming, but our biggest threat is or will be excessive population. You can put just so many cows in a pasture.

Itasca owes its existence to the MK&T or “Katy” railroad as it is usually called. When the Katy came through around 1880 towns sprang up all along the tracks. The existing towns that were missed withered away when the railroads were built. They dug pits for the extra dirt for the right of way or roadbeds. Those pits then filled with water furnishing fishing holes. One I remember is south of Hillsboro. We called it the “Ballast Pits.” It can still be seen on I-35 just before coming to the Willie Nelson Road. The Katy furnished a living for several of my relatives. My grandfather R.C. Curlee was section foreman out of Hillsboro for 35 years. Two uncles, a brother-in-law and a nephew all worked for the Katy railroad.

I wonder how many Hillsboro people remember the old two story telegraph station just south of town. It was called, “HighLow,” and Mr. Nowlin and Mr. Sly worked there along with one of my uncles. I am sure many remember back during the 1930’s and the great depression when so many of our men rode the trains to all parts of the country looking for work. I can see them now on top of the boxcars or looking out of the open doors to the cars. Then there were the hobos, but that is another railroad story.

Years ago up until about 1949 Highway 81 from Fort Worth to Waco came through the middle of Itasca. It turned west at the light, crossed the railroad tracks, and then turned back south in front of the Westside Garage, then went by the Itasca Cemetery and south to Hillsboro and beyond. About a mile south of Itasca where the highway paralleled the railroad there was a creek that ran under the railroad and the highway bridge. During extreme rain, the water got over the highway bridge and traffic had to wait for the water to go down before crossing the bridge. I heard Ernest Whitfield, (who lived nearby) tell of an incident once when this happened. There was a Greyhound bus stopped and the people were out looking at the water, when a “sissy” looking guy with an English accent exclaimed “Wheah” did it rain? (meaning where)

It was here about 200 feet from the railroad that Tom and Aunt Rose Whitfield built their home. I guess they built it there because they did not want a muddy road from the house to the highway, which was just across the tracks. There was something funny about this location also. The cattle pasture was along the railroad, and when the train came through, the cattle ran along with the train as though they were playing a game. It was funny to see the cows running along with udders flopping from side to side. There were other things connected with the trains such as when the depot agent handed the conductor instruction on a wire contraption with a handle. Also those of us who sold milk or cream, put the cans on the depot platform to be picked up. There were many bales of cotton loaded from the long platform, and the corn and oat crops were also hauled by train. These are some of the fond memories that we who are older remember with fondness when we hear an old train whistle blow.

***Editor’s note – Last week we made a couple of typos. The chamber pot or “slop jar” could be stored in a “combinet” not a cabinet and the doctor with the Presbyterian Children’s Home was Dr. McLean. Dr. McClain was a doctor in Itasca.

Paw Print Press
123 N. College
Itasca, Texas 76055

Wampus Cats of the Week

Itascans Spread Wampus Cat Hospitality

Photo by Gloria Rodriguez



Recently at the 20th Annual Itasca Cinco de Mayo celebration Virginia and Chalo Cavazos gave Art (the lead singer of Grupo Vida aka The Electric Cowboys) a true Itasca and Wampus Cat welcome by presenting him a souvenir of his visit to Itasca, a black and gold WAMPUS CAT shirt!

Special of the Week



"Instead of the Big Little Town, we should be nicknamed, the Friendliest Little Town."

**2006 Escape XLS
Loaded, Automatic**



**One Owner!
\$9,985**

Lloyd Ford – Proud Supporter of the Wampus Cats