

Paw Print Press

Proudly Serving Itasca "The Big Little Town" since 1997

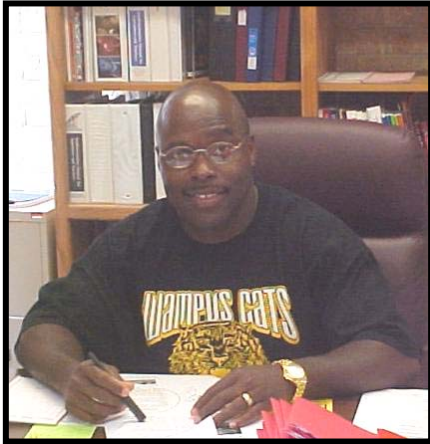
Itasca, Texas 76055

Vol. 2007 Issue #34

August 24, 2007

IHS Welcomes New Principal

Reporter Megan Goff



The new Itasca high school principal finally has time to sit down at his desk only to be greeted by a stack of papers that include both his schedule and the entire student body's schedule. As the school year draws near, incoming high school principal, Ricky Harris continues to become

familiar with his new school, his staff and many of the approximately 200 students he will guide toward their high school diplomas.

This is not the first time Harris, a 1992 graduate of Hillsboro High School, has been in charge. He served as the Hillsboro High School assistant principal before taking the job of Eagle Academy Principal.

Continued on page 3.

Homecoming 2007 to Honor Football Team of 1937

This year is the 70th anniversary of the awesome football team of 1937. This team was State Semi-Finalist and it is believed that that is the best of any Itasca team in its 101-year history. They scored 483 points to their opponents 31. The high school classes will be requested to design their floats honoring the Team of 1937. Members of the team will serve as the parade marshals. If you were on the team or know of someone, please get in touch with us as soon as possible.

We are already in touch with Cub Sanderson, Buddy Fields and Ollie Baker.

Homecoming Schedule September 21-22

Friday, September 21

2:30 p.m. Dedication of new downtown park

3:30 p.m. — Parade—Downtown

Following Parade – Open House- Citizens State Bank

7:30 p.m. — Football Game — Itasca vs. Wortham

During the game - 11:00 p.m. — Fellowship in ISD Cafeteria

Saturday, September 22

9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. — Coffee/Get Together ISD Cafeteria

11:30 a.m. — Barbeque Lunch in Cafeteria

1:00 p.m. — Business Meeting - Special Events Center

50-Year Honored Class — 1937

All Classes ending in 2s and 7s will be honored

All ex-students registered with the Ex-Students Association are receiving this issue of the *Paw Print Press*.

Paw Pals Receives Donation of Painting from Local Artist



Pictured painting a Texas Longhorn portrait is Lois Beeney, a long time resident of Hillsboro.

Beeney is a renowned artist with interest in landscapes and

Texas Longhorn cattle. She has graciously donated this beautiful picture valued at \$650 to Hill County Paw Pals, the group that organized to facilitate the installation of a county animal control program. Paw Pals will sell raffle tickets for this beautiful painting for \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. The painting will be framed in a wide embossed leather frame and can be viewed at Antique Village, 116 S. Covington Street (one block south of Court House). Drawing of the winning raffle ticket will be on November 4 at the close of Paw Pals' fourth Annual County-wide Garage Sale. One does not need to be present to win. For more information, please call Lana Crow during business hours at 582-8632.

Paw Print Press

Serving Itasca since 1997

**Chief Editor – Jessica Grindele

**Page 6 Editor – Devin Corbitt

**Feature Editor – Sarah Evans

**Page 4 Editors – Mary Maddox & Megan Goff

**Sports Editor – Nick Worth

**Page 5 Editors – Ashley Durham & Eva Mayberry

**Business Manager – GiGi Morgan

**Assistant Business Manager – Viddy Reyes

**Reporter – Marie Worth

**Cartoonist – Zech O'Rarden

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Deadline – Each Monday at noon

Churches of Itasca

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

Central Baptist Church

Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship 10:50 a.m.
 Sunday evening Bible Study 5:00-6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday evening Bible Study and Prayer 7:00 p.m.
 Ladies Bible Study Tuesday 10:30-12:00

First United Methodist Church

Come join us in our beautiful, historic sanctuary, where worship is a joyous celebration. Main at King St.
 Rev. Tom Wood, Pastor Worship 10:50 a.m.
 254-687-2475

Itasca Church of Christ

We all start out holding the hand of God. But he gave us free will; and desiring us to grow, he allows us to turn loose and wander off. Some have gone off so far that they have forgotten the way back to God.

Those of us who have stayed close to God, or found our way back to God, are seeking our missing siblings to return to God to experience the fullness of life, and not mere existence.

Itasca Church of Christ 200 N. Aquilla
 Sunday: 9:45 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. 5 p.m. Wednesday: 6 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

Sunday Schedule

9:00 - 9:30 Praise & Worship (Sanctuary)
 Cross Roads Band
 9:15 - 9:45 Fellowship Time in Barton Hall
 9:45 - 10:30 Sunday School all Ages (Nursery - Seniors)
 10:50 - Praise and Worship - 11:00 - Worship Service
 "Hour of Power" - 7th - 12th grades
 Sunday evenings 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Barton Hall
 Exercise Classes- Senior Citizens Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m.
 Game Night - 3rd Tuesday Night - 6:00 p.m.
 Angel Food Ministry Host Site - 687-2243

Itasca Zoning Committee Meeting

2nd Monday of Month 5:30 p.m.
 Municipal Court Building 136 N. Hill St.

Itasca Ministerial Alliance Meeting

Saturday, September 8 9:00 a.m. - Bethlehem Baptist

Itasca City Council Meeting

Monday, September 17, 2007 6:00 p.m.
 Municipal Court Building 136 N. Hill St.

Itasca ISD School Board Meeting

September 10, 2007 7:00 p.m.
 IISD Administration Building - 123 N College St.

Chamber of Commerce Meeting

Monday, August 27, 2007 5:30 p.m.
 HILCO Operations Building E. Main St.

Volunteer Fire Department Meetings

2nd Monday of Month Business Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
 3rd Monday of Month Fire Training - 7:00 p.m.
 Fire Station Downtown Itasca

IISD Offers Season Football Pass & Special Event Center Reserve Seating Combo

Itasca ISD Season Athletic & SEC Reserve Seating Pass is on sale in the high school office.

The pass will allow one-person entry into all HOME high school and junior high athletic events (football & basketball) as well as reserving seating in the SEC (no reserve seating for football games) for band concerts, Spring Festival, UIL One Act Play Performance and any other school-sponsored event. The pass will not be honored at Graduation Ceremony 2008 or any event where an outside entertainer or presenter has been hired or the performance is being used as a fundraiser for an organization. The price for this 2007-2008 all seasons pass is \$75.

There are 126 seats (9 rows of 14 seats each) that are available for reservations, all located in the center section.

Mail in your check or bring it to the high school office with the attached form. Seats are assigned on a first come-first serve basis. Indicate lower seats, seats in the middle of the section or seats at the top of the section. If you are buying more than one ticket and would like them together indicate that also.

Come to the high school office to see a schematic.

Reserve Seating Passes

Name: _____
 Number of seats _____ @ \$75 each _____
 Location (Circle preference)
 Lower Middle Upper section
 Total enclosed \$ _____
 Make checks payable to Itasca ISD & mail to Itasca High School, 123 N College, Itasca, TX 76055.

New Sign Just in Time for 125th Anniversary

Photo by Bettve Lewis



The First United Methodist Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary on September 16, 2007 with a rededication service at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A reception will follow in the fellowship hall.

The sign committee of the church, (l to r) Bill Lewis, Elnorane Atkinson, Faye Marie Copeland and Jerry Onnen, worked hard to make sure the new church sign was delivered and installed before the celebration.

Everyone is urged to join in celebrating on this joyous occasion.

Harris in Charge

Continued from page 1

Harris earned a Bachelor of Science Degree at Abilene Christian University. He also played football at ACU. He went on to earn a Masters Degree in Education. He coached for 3 years at ACU and for 5 years in the metroplex.

Harris is very excited about being at IHS and is looking forward to a great year.

"I had heard of the academic success Itasca is known for and I was interested in the school," Harris said. "When the opportunity arose, I was more than happy to accept the position of high school principal. I educate by a quote 'Educating dreams into reality, one student at a time.'"

Harris and his wife Shalawn have been married for nine years. They have two children, a son Terry, 5, and a daughter Toni, 8 months. Mrs. Harris works as a nurse midwife at Parkland Hospital in Dallas.

Previous high school Principal Glenn Pittman took over as the district's superintendent upon the July 2007 retirement of Dr. E. Ray Freeman.

Deadline Set for Heritage Vol. II

Press Release

Organizers have set December 31, 2007 as the deadline for submitting articles for Hill County, Texas Heritage Book, Volume II. Finish your family and/or topical story and send it in soon. Stories should be mailed to Hill County Heritage Book Committee Vol. II, P.O. Box 555, Hillsboro, TX 76645 and postmarked by the deadline, December 31, 2007.

A Military Service section is being included in Volume II. Any person with Hill County ties who has served in the military may be featured in a biographical article which includes his or her full name, birthday and where born, parents, dates of service, rank, name of war, branch of service and unit, schooling, marriage, overseas duty and one photo in uniform, if available. Persons who were in the military during peacetime may also be included. The article may be up to 500 words at no charge.

Guidelines for writing family and topical (historical) stories may be found on Hill County Genealogical Society website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~txhceg>. Click on Heritage of Hill County, Texas Volume II to find directions. Or contact Roy Bessire, 254-666-3283, e-mail rcbess@aol.com or Richard Greenhill at 254-582-8912 for a brochure or information about the book.

Time is Running Out to Submit Name for Downtown Park on the Corner



The City and the Economic Development Committee are asking citizens to submit suggestions for a name for the new park located on the east corner of Main and Hill Sts. Place your suggestions in the box located in City Hall or see Sue Comer at the water department window. The deadline for submissions is September 1, 2007.

For Sale

Motor or cement mixer w/ electric motor - \$75.00
105 Beard St. 254-687-2345

Homecoming Information & Chit-Chat

Clip and Mail with Check

**BBQ Reservation
Homecoming 2007 Lunch
Saturday, September 22 - 11:30am
Itasca ISD Cafeteria**

Please reserve ____ plates at \$8.00 each.

Name: _____

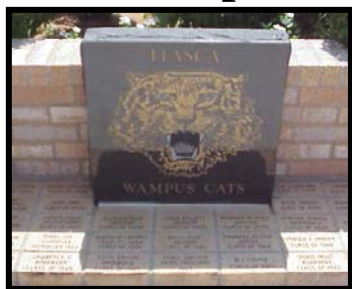
Address: _____

Address: _____

Please make check payable to: Itasca Ex-Student Association and mail to: PO Box 324; Itasca, TX 76055.

Reservations should be made no later than September 17.

Have You Purchased Your Wampus Cat Brick?



If you would like to purchase one or more Wampus Cat memorial bricks, please clip and mail the form below along with a \$50 check for each brick

you are purchasing. If you need further information please contact at Judy Offutt at 254-687-2302 (work), Matt Fehnel at 254-687-2331 ext 1132 (work) or Kelly Tinklenberg at 254-6872922 ext. 124 (work).

Itasca ISD Brick Reservation Form

Inscription is limited to 3 lines with 15 spaces on each line. One person's name per brick, please.

Clip and send completed form with a check to Kelly Tinklenberg, 123 N. College, Itasca, TX 76055.

A Tribute to Coach Wiley Grinnell A Maker of Men, from Boys

By Glen "Cub" Sanderson

A man, not much older than our oldest players, was held in high esteem and awe by all of the players. Coach Grinnell never raised his voice at us, but when he spoke, we heard every word he said. A couple times, on returning home from games, he had to admonish us on the bus by saying, "All right men, let's settle down!" that was it, you could hear a pin drop.

From the largest - Sam Baker or Bunky Davis - to the smallest - Buddy Fields at 135 lbs. or myself at 140 lbs. (almost) - they would have gone through Hell or High Water for Coach Grinnell.

He never criticized, just explained what he wanted done and taught us how to do just that. He did say though, at the end of a play, whether in a game or practice, he did not want to see one man standing!

"Average only two and one half yards per play and you will win every game," was his philosophy. He was so right, we did, and we won.

Thank you, God, for Coach Grinnell.

Cub Sanderson, Right Guard #67 1937

**Note from editor - Cub said in his letter to remember those hard working cheerleaders because they were his inspiration. If you know of any of the cheerleaders please get in touch with us - bptrash@itasca.k12.tx.us

Story from IHS 1930s

By Joanna Barnes Fields Class of 1942

As I (Joanna Barnes) was sitting in the back row in the General Business Class at Itasca High School when a good looking young football player who was sitting on the front row, turned around, looked at me and "winked". To this very day, I remember that "wink" and how embarrassed I was, blushing all the time. Time passed by, and now I am in the 10th grade and I began to notice him more and more as we met while passing from class to class.

Then it happened - he asked me for a date and I agreed. On that first date, we doubled dated with Elmo Kemp, another IHS young man. I never dated another young man from our first date since Buddy was one of the nicest young men I ever dated and too, I had more fun with him than any guy I ever dated.

Although I was very young, I "fell for this guy." We dated several months, when he asked me to marry him and I replied "yes." My dear husband tells it a little differently. He says I answered him "yes and thank you."

I remained in school, graduated in 1942. We had an apartment in the home of Mrs. Vernon. WWII had begun and with Buddy's lame leg (the one he broke playing football), he knew he could not "march", therefore he joined the U.S. Navy and was stationed in Corpus Christi, California and Guam where spent the duration of the War. God bless America and God bless Itasca, TX.

More stories next week - Send us yours!

Open Letter to All Itascans

Dear Ex-Students, Veterans and Itasca Supporters:

This is a request for help in completing the Veterans Memorial Park, which is situated on the northwest corner of Hill and Main Streets in Itasca. Below is a picture of the park, which shows the beautiful magnolia trees in bloom against the side of the Curry Building and part of the monuments. As you can see this space is quite attractive and will be even more so when completed.

This project has been funded by the Veterans Memorial Fund, Ricky Wiginton Family and Bill Wiginton Landscaping Company. Bill has done a fabulous job, from planning to planting large trees.

We need your continued help to complete this beautiful addition to our town. You will be proud of your participation, as this will be one of the finest Veterans Memorial sites in the State.

**Please send your contribution to:
Itasca Veterans Memorial Fund
C/o Clay Dean Hamilton
131 West Main St.
Itasca, TX 76055**

**Thank You, The Veterans Memorial Committee
Clay Dean Hamilton, Grover Kemp, Mary Freeland,
Elaine Heald, James Sumner & David Heald**



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Itasca ISD will hold a public meeting at 7:00 PM 08/27/2007 in Itasca ISD Superintendent's Office Itasca, TX. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$1.170050 /\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	\$0.109860 /\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)
Approved by Local Voters	

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	% (increase) or	-6.603000% (decrease)
Debt service	% (increase) or	-0.847460% (decrease)
Total expenditures	% (increase) or	-6.422000% (decrease)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value

(as calculated under section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$236,832,907	\$289,884,746
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$4,416,730	\$5,988,610
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$110,005,477	\$141,854,369
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$4,235,440	\$5,243,730

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.

** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.

*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness:* \$2,700,000

***Outstanding principal**

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	<u>Maintenance & Operations</u>	<u>Interest & Sinking Fund</u>	<u>* Total</u>	<u>Local Revenue Per Student</u>	<u>State Revenue Per Student</u>
Last Year's Rate	\$1.500000	\$0.089400*	\$1.589400	\$2,624	\$7,036
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$1.102240	\$0.113240*	\$1.215480	\$2,627	\$7,402
Proposed Rate	\$1.170050	\$0.109860*	\$1.279910	\$2,657	\$7,327

* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.

The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	<u>Last Year</u>	<u>This Year</u>
Average Market Value of Residences	\$67,688	\$73,362
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$51,012	\$55,851
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.589400	\$1.279910
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$810.78	\$714.84
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes	\$0.00	\$-95.94

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.252100. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.252100.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$120,000
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$0

Recent Deaths



Davis, Helyn Held - Born December 5, 1905, in Tyler, TX and passed away June 23, 2007, at Twin Lakes Care Center in San Augustine, TX at age 101. Helyn was an inspiration to all who knew and loved her. She was a devoted student of scripture and a gifted storyteller. She was active in her church wherever she lived and taught Sunday school. She loved to sing, and her magnificent contralto voice continued strong for many years. She enjoyed expressing her artistic flair through drawing, painting, decoupage, china painting, and crocheting. After her husband, Floyd Andrew Davis, passed away in 1955, she became a beauty operator, owned her own shop in Austin, TX, and provided a home for her three children. She was preceded in death by her parents, John A. and Annie Hardie Held; sisters Emilie Held Byars, Elisabeth Held Davis, and Deanie Held Johnson; brother John A. Held, Jr.; and son Donald Floyd Davis.

She is survived by her brothers McDonald Watkins Held and wife Beverly and Colbert Colgate Held and wife Milly; son James Edward Davis and wife Carol; daughter Ann Stuftt and husband Roger; daughters-in-law Gayle Hysaw and Corinne Starr; grandchildren James Donald Davis and wife Melody, Lisa Michele Greenwell and husband Jeff, Erin Davis Pickens and husband Ken, Erika Davis-Noble and husband Cecil, Devin Andrew Davis and wife Diana, James Gregory Davis and wife Tianna, and Rachel Davis; great-grandchildren Sean Davis and fiancée Keri Vidrine, Stephen Davis and wife Jubilee, Erin Davis, Greg Davis, Dana Davis, Alex Greenwell, Samantha Greenwell, Dara Davis, and Skylar Noble; great-great-grandchildren Simon Davis, Susannah Davis, Austen Davis, and Halle Davis; and numerous nephews, nieces, grandnephews, and grandnieces. Helyn was buried next to her husband in Myrtle Cemetery in Ennis, TX.



Wright, Loys Eugene -- Loys Eugene Wright, 90, passed away, August 7, 2007 in River Oaks. A graveside service was held August 10 at the Itasca Cemetery, Itasca.

Loys was born September 2, 1916, in Itasca. He graduated from Itasca High School in 1935, and married Sara Margaret Fields in 1937. They came to Fort Worth in 1944. He had been a member of River Oaks Baptist Church since 1948, where he was a deacon for many years. Loys was a dedicated Christian, a family man, a mentor for many, and a kind man who was always doing for others. He was a Mason for 52 years at River Oaks Lodge 1311 and he retired from General Dynamics in 1981, after 38 years of service, where he was a flight line mechanic. Loys loved airplanes.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Sara, February 9, 2002. Survivors: Nieces, Sara Riley and her husband, Don, of Fort Worth, Jan Flatt and her husband, David, of Dallas, Kelby Luther and her husband, John, of London, England; nephews, Steve Wilson and his wife, Louise, of Keller, Bob Wilson of Itasca and Scott Riley of Fort Worth; sisters-in-law, Nell Wilson of Itasca and Janie Mitchell of Fort Worth; and many more nieces, nephews and extended family.



Johnson, Jackie James - Jackie James "Tony" Johnson, 83, of Itasca, passed away August 14, 2007 in Itasca. He was born September 3, 1923 in Hill County; he was the son of Jim and Stella Johnson. He grew up in Bynum and attended the Nazarene Church with his family. He worked many years at General Dynamics and retired from Bell Helicopter in Ft. Worth. He entered the United States Army in March 1943 where he trained at Camp White, Oregon. He went overseas in November 1943 serving his country with the Army Engineers in England, France and Belgium, finishing his military service with the 3rd Army in Germany in 1947. He returned home to marry Dorothy Marie on July 18, 1947. Jackie was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and

friend to many.

Jackie enjoyed fishing, camping and boating with his family. Almost everyone in Itasca knew when he drove through town, pulling his boat and travel trailer, whether or not he had caught the "big one" on this camping trip to Lake Whitney. After retiring from Bell, Jackie became the neighborhood handyman and mechanic, always eager to help anyone tear down and rebuild whatever had broken. Jackie was a lifetime member of Veteran's of Foreign War and took great pride in his service to his country. Jackie was preceded in death by his parents, 4 sisters, 3 brothers. He said an earthly good-bye to his beloved wife Dorothy of 54 years on September 11, 2001. He is once again feasting on her chicken fried steak, gravy and mashed potatoes and coconut pie, reunited in eternity forever.

Survivors include daughters & sons-in-law, Brenda & Bobby Moser of Arlington, Sandra & Wayne Bordner of Ft. Worth, Karla & Kevin Lightsey of Itasca; 3 granddaughters, Brandi Moser of Arlington, Brittany DeAnda & husband, David of Riverside, CA, Kaleigh Lightsey of Itasca and one grandson, Kayd Lightsey of Itasca; sister, Frances Craig of Hillsboro; brother, Fred Johnson & wife, Nita of Peoria; sister-in-law, Lillie Johnson of Hillsboro; and numerous nieces and nephews. Graveside services were at the Itasca Cemetery with Rev. Wade Taylor officiating.

Do You Remember...?—"Itasca Football – The Early Years"

Columnist Carl Sweeney - Photo & Information from *The Item*



The Itasca school has been involved with football for over a hundred years. Our first team was in 1902 with only twelve players and a coach, Mack Denton. There is not much information available about teams in the interim until 1921. It had been three or four years since they had attempted to establish a team, but in 1921 Mr. Jim Ince of Itasca offered to coach a team free of charge. That year they played Hubbard, Milford, West Station, Covington (twice) and Cleburne. They won some and lost some. When they played Milford they experienced something new, the forward pass.

Some of the players on the 1921 team were Joe Davis, John Patton, Neil Kinard, Roy Burks, Virgil Gilliland and mascot Sid Pruitt. It was said that Virgil Gilliland was the best running back that Itasca has ever had. Be that as it may, Wendell Jordon gained over 2,000 yards one year as a half back.

Itasca had some really good teams in the 1920's. They called it the Golden Era. The 1922 team was also part of the Golden Era. J. W. Winstead was coach and John Patton assisted. Some of the players during that time were R. J. Green and Preacher Calloway. Others were Sid Pruitt, Rudolph Shelton, Bryan Wilson, Harsh Ince and Aaron Timinens was mascot in 1922.

In 1925 the team's coach was listed as Sid Pruitt. Sid must have a busy boy, I have accounts where he was mascot, coach, and player. Some 1923 players were Weeks Winn, Virgil Gilliland, Audie Adwell, Gerald Pruitt, Buster Moore, Rotan Sumner was mascot. Rotan later played for Itasca.

In 1925 Mr. W. C. "Heinie" Wier came to Itasca as a coach. He proved to be one of Itasca's best coaches. We continued our winning ways with him. In 1974 at Homecoming, Mr. Wier along with members of these teams including 1925 were honored. They were R. J. Green, Sid Pruitt, Rotan Sumner, Weeks Wynn, Gerald Pruitt, Odel Davis, Ocie Gilliland, John Patton, Parham "Preacher" Calloway, Joe Davis, Morris "Took" Gilliland, and Rudy Shelton.

The 1928 team coach was a Mr. Hill and some of the players were Clay Chiles, Olin Webb, Howard Upchurch, Timmins, and Loyal Puckett. Olin Webb played only part of the season that year because he was injured in a motorcycle accident. Not much information except they beat Walnut Springs by a score of 104 to 0.

We will conclude our early years of Itasca Football with the 1929 teams. The coach was Howard Wade. The mascot was Hollis Davis and Loyal Puckett was manager. I have no information on their record at this time. Some of the players were Cleddy Crouch, Took Gilliland, Wayne Evans, Toby Burks, Ralph Bailey, Joe Bush, Jack Martin, Armin "Beans" Curlee, Jim Moon Cowan and Ray Leatherwood who went on to play in Les Brown's Band of Renown. Also playing were John R. Sanderson, Laman Meador, J. T. Whitfield, who played for A & M during their good years in the mid thirties, Audaree Blissit, Clay Chiles, and others.

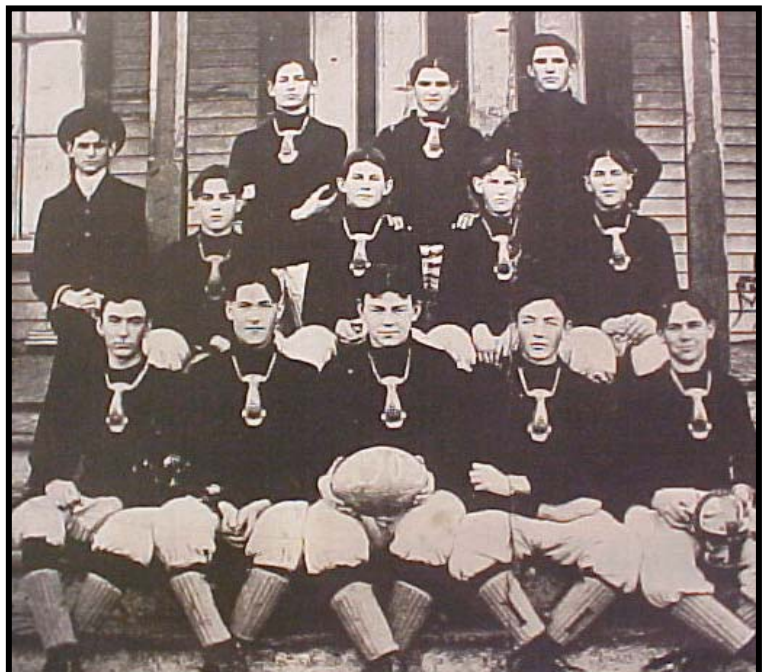
Travis "Toby" Burks was credited with naming the "Wampus Cats." One night after a hard fought game, he made the statement "We were really Wampus Cats tonight!" At that moment, everyone knew we had a name for our team. Not too long after that Toby was killed in an accident. I remember that his jersey hung in the "Bath House" trophy rooms. I have no idea where it is today.

We have had many versions of the Wampus Cat logos over the years. I personally prefer the black and gold one we had at one time. The one we have now does not have our school colors and looks like a lion, not a Wampus Cat back. The next column will be on subsequent years of football.

In conclusion, I thought our young folks might like to know a "yell" as we called it back then:

Hoky, Poky, Flipity Flop
Where's Itasca?
We're at the Top
Can You Beat Us
I Guess Not!
Itasca High School
Flipity flop

Pictured right is the team of 1902.



Paw Print Press
123 N. College
Itasca, Texas 76055

Quilt Raffle

A Wampus Cat quilt is being raffled. The winner will be announced during the Homecoming Business Meeting at the Special Events Center on September 22.

Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Buy a chance to win this beautiful quilt at the bank, or by mailing the following form and money to: Itasca Ex-Students Association; PO Box 324; Itasca, TX 76055

Quilt Raffle:

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Number of Tickets: _____

The quilt was made and donated to the Ex-Students Association by Jan Calfee wife of Jim Calfee, Class of 1950 for the express purpose of raising money for the scholarship fund.



The quilt is on display at Citizens State Bank in downtown Itasca. Tickets are also on sale at the bank. Stop by after the parade and support the Ex-Students Association Scholarship Fund by buying some tickets.