

Paw Print Press

Proudly Serving Itasca "The Big Little Town" since 1997

Itasca, Texas 76055

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December 28, 2007

Itasca High Receives National Recognition

Reporter Ashley Durham
Some Information from U.S. News & World Report



When it was announced over the morning announcements that Itasca High was featured in *U.S. News & World Report* and on Channel 10 News as being one of the best high schools in the U.S. the student body just nodded and continued with their work. The teachers were very excited and proud but the students seem to take no notice. When questioned, they replied that they knew they had the best high school, but they were glad that the rest of the country now knows it, too.

Eleven Central Texas high schools were listed among the nation's best in a new *U.S. News & World Report* survey that analyzed enrollment and academic data from high schools around the country. A total of 18,790 schools were analyzed, but only 1,086 of the schools were identified as medal winners. The schools were picked based on performance on state tests, how well as how the disadvantaged students performed and whether the school provided college-level coursework.

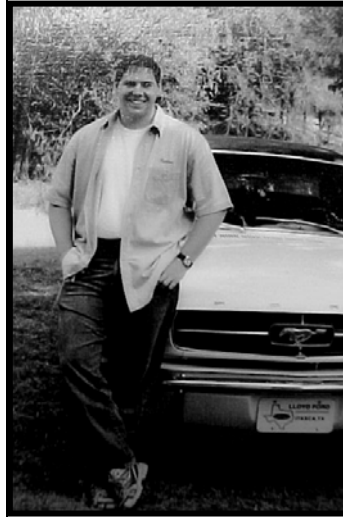
IHS was honored as a bronze medal school. A bronze medal school does not offer AP classes, or does not achieve a college readiness index of at least 20, (according to their criteria) but they do successfully meet other two key performance indicator criteria. The survey did not take into account that students graduate from IHS with 27-30 college credit hours. It only grades on the AP classes.

Last year during the study, Itasca had 203 students enrolled with 42.4% labeled as minority and 58.1% labeled as disadvantaged.

"We are very honored by this achievement," Superintendent Glenn Pittman said. "We would like to thank all the teachers, staff members, parents and student for helping us achieve this."

IHS Grad & Friends Establish AliveCampain.org in Support of Friend

Reporter Devin Corbitt
Information from Waco Tribune Heald,
Marquita Lloyd & Nathan Lloyd



On November 3, four Baylor University students were eating dinner with a friend when he revealed to his friends that he had been seriously considering suicide. Kyle Ferguson, Justin Brown, Steve Zimmerman, and Nathan Lloyd, Itasca graduate of 2005 (pictured above), spent the rest of their dinner offering reasons for living and encouragement to the friend whose identity

they meticulously kept secret.

On the way back to their homes, Lloyd, Ferguson, Brown and Zimmerman decided to do something to encourage their friend. They wanted to give him the support he needed. Many ideas were considered, but by the time they arrived at home, they had a plan.

The four college students set up a Facebook.com page called the Alive Campaign, which focused on suicide awareness. They pledged that if they hit their goal of 250,000 online members, they would take a 4300-mile biking trip. The journey would take them from Waco, Texas to Anchorage, Alaska this summer. Andi Nakasone will record the whole trip on film.

Lloyd, Ferguson, Brown, and Zimmerman launched the Facebook page on November 4. By 10:45 that night, it had 100 members. The site quickly grew. It had 5,000 members by 12:46 a.m. on November 6 and 10,000 members by 3 p.m. on November 10. The website reached the 250,000 goal as of 7:15 p.m. on November 17. It currently has over 300,000 members.

On the site, people bring encouragement and hope to others who may be contemplating suicide. Many times, they do not even know the person they are encouraging. People around the world have offered advice on suicide prevention, training tips, suggested routes to take to Alaska, and much more.

Continued page 3.

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: Praise and Worship 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School 9:45 Worship 10:50 a.m.

R.A.'s & G.A.'s (1st-6th) - Youth (7th-12th) 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Evening Worship 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Tuesday - Ladies' Bible Study 10:45-12:15 p.m.

Wednesday - Supper 6:00 p.m. (\$2.00 ea. w/\$10.00 max/family) Adult Bible Study and Prayer 7:00 p.m.

Youth (7th-12th) 7:00 - Kids' Choir 7:00 p.m.

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

The emptiest, loneliest thing in the world is a Birth - Life - Death without ever hearing the gospel, and no one ever praying.

Won't you join us for worship at the Itasca Church of Christ, 200 N. Aquilla? We meet on Sunday mornings at 9:45 and 10:45 am, and 5:00 pm, and on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. Live the fullness of Life that GOD intended. Itasca Church of Christ 200 N. Aquilla

First Presbyterian Church

Sunday Schedule

9:00 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 6:00 p.m.

Municipal Court Building 136 N. Hill St.

Itasca Ministerial Alliance Meeting

Saturday, January 5 - 9:00 a.m.

Itasca City Council Meeting

Monday, January 21, 2007 6:00 p.m.

Municipal Court Building 136 N. Hill St.

Itasca ISD School Board Meeting

January 14, 2007 7:00 p.m.

IISD Administration Building - 123 N College St.

Chamber of Commerce Meeting

Monday, January 7, 2008 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

Chamber Banquet Date Set

Award Nominations Requested

The Itasca Chamber of Commerce will hold its 23rd Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet on Monday, January 28, 2008. The Banquet will be held in the Itasca ISD cafeteria. The silent auction and refreshments will begin at 6:00 p.m. with dinner being served at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10.00 (\$12.00 at the door) each and can be bought from any Chamber director or at Citizens State Bank (Lance Meinzer), Itasca High School (Barbara Petrash), HILCO (Bob Wilson, Itasca Floral & Gift or Itasca Café (Clay Dean Hamilton), or at the Itasca Nursing Home (Diane Taylor).

The Chamber is urging citizens to mail their ideas for awards to be presented and their nominations for those awards. This is everyone's chance to have a say in the Citizen of the Year, Community Service and all other awards presented.

Suggestions can be mailed to Itasca Chamber of Commerce, P. O. Box 205, Itasca, TX 76055 or given to any of the Chamber directors listed.

School Vacation

December 21 - January 7

Drive Carefully Our Children are at Play

Water Fees, Fines Increase

Council members passed a City Ordinance at the November meeting raising the late fine for a water bill to \$10.00 from the previous \$5.00 charge. This increase is effective with the bills mailed out on December 30, due January 10. Also included in the Ordinance were increases in deposits, reconnect fees and a special fee for reconnect after hours and on holidays.

Germer Brothers Take Doe, 9 Pointer during Season



Nine-year-old Harley Germer shot his first deer in Hamilton County on November 18. He was very excited. Harley attends school at Itasca Elementary.



Eleven-year-old Hunter Germer proudly displays the rack on his deer. Hunter took the trophy in Hamilton County on December 1.

Nathan Lloyd urges Everyone to Get Involve

Continued from page 1

They have now established their program as a non-profit organization. They hope to have t-shirts and other gear on sale soon. Donations are welcomed on their website, AliveCampain.org, or by mail.

Even amid all the stress of preparing for the trip, the men are thrilled to see a difference being made in the lives of people around them, as well as a tremendous improvement in the friend that initiated the whole journey.

“He’s doing a lot better. I’d be lying if I said we weren’t keeping an eye on him, but he’s reassessing what’s going on and he is a lot better,” Lloyd said.

November Itasca Police Blotter

- 11-24 – Civil family matter – 400 blk. S. Hill St.
- 11-24 – Information – 800 blk. E. Adams St.
- 11-24 – Assisted DPS (3-car accident) – I-35W mm 3
- 11-25 – Verbal disturbance – 100 blk. W. Wilkerson St.
- 11-25 – Assisted other agency (HCSO)–I-35W mm 2
- 11-25 – Criminal mischief (driving in yard) – 700 blk. E. Adams St.
- 11-25 – Assisted other agency (HCSO)–I-35W mm 5
- 11-25 – Stranded motorist – I-35W mm 2
- 11-26 – Theft of service – 300 blk. W. Main St.
- 11-26 – Criminal trespass warning served (white/male 18) – 100 blk. S. Aquilla St.
- 11-26 – Burglary of a building – 100 blk. N. College St.
- 11-27 – Criminal trespass warning issued (black/male 51) – 700 blk. E. Main St.
- 11-28 – Criminal trespass warning (white/male 20) – 800 blk. Loom St.
- 11-29 – Gas drive off – 200 blk. N. Hill St.
- 11-29 – Assisted citizen – 500 blk. S. Files St.
- 11-29 – Report of possible fire – 200 blk. N. Wesley St.
- 11-29 – Assisted EMS – 600 blk. S. Hill St.
- 11-29 – Burglar alarm – 900 blk. S. Hill St.
- 11-29 – Criminal mischief – Citation issued (Hispanic/male 25) – 700 blk. E. Main St.
- 11-29 – Minor accident – 1200 blk. S. Files St.
- 11-29 – Open door – 100 blk. N. College St.
- 11-29 – Complaint of assault – 4 Citations issued (white/female 23), (white/female 18), (black/female), (black/male) – 100 blk. S. Park St.
- 11-30 – Civil matter – 500 blk. S. Files St.
- 11-30 – Animal complaint (loose dog)– 800 blk. Loom St.
- 11-30 – 911 hang-up calls – 200 blk. N. Hill St.
- 11-30 – Loud noise complaint – 300 blk. N. Aquilla St.
- 11-30 – Welfare check – 700 blk. E. Main St.
- 11-30 – Suspicious person – 100 blk. Circle Dr.
- 11-30 – Burglary of building – 100 blk. W. Main St.
- 11-30 – Open door – 100 blk. W. Main St.

Itasca PD October Report

Arrests

- 1 Felony
- 3 Misdemeanor
- 1 Class “C”

Cases Filed

- 1 District Attorney
- 3 County Attorney
- 1 Justice of the Peace

111 Calls for Service

- 1 (1998 Plymouth Neon) Forfeited to PD
- \$95 & \$2,000 Forfeited to PD

- 267 - Moving Citations 116 - Non-moving 80 - Warnings
- 2 - Minor in possession/Alcohol 1- Trash/Nuisance
- 3 - Possession of Drug paraphernalia
- 1 - Open Container

Senior Spotlight – Eva Wills

Reporter Eva Mayberry – Cartoonist Zech O’Rarden



If you ever walk down the Itasca High School hall and happen to hear “Don’t Hate, I do me,” there is no doubt that it is 18-year-old Eva Wills also known as “Pooh” or “Big Bird” by her many friends.

Eva is daughter to Maria and Stanley Johnson. She has an older sister, Rosie-20, and a younger brother,

Stanley, a sophomore at Itasca High. She is also a very proud aunt to 2-year-old Amiyah Wills, with whom she loves to spend as much time as possible. Eva and Amiyah have a dog together which Amiyah named Toto.

Eva said that her parents and her best friends, Amber and GiGi, have made a huge impact in her life. They have shown her the steps to take to get on the right path. She attends church in Hillsboro where she sings in the choir and is the praise dance director.

On days where she isn’t spending time playing with Amiyah or at church, she enjoys watching her favorite football team, the Texas Longhorns.

Eva loves sports. During high school, she participated in basketball and in track. She was also a member of the Itasca Marching Band.

“I’m going to miss all the great teachers and my friends,” Eva said. “Being her at Itasca High is cool. I have grown to admire Mrs. Cranfill, Mr. Pittman and Mr. Harris a lot. They are my role models. I would like to be like anyone of them”

Eva believes the younger generations (9th, 10th & 11th graders) need some advice and she is just the one to give it to them.

“Keep your head up. Don’t worry about what people have to say, just be yourself.”



Senior Spotlight Jeremy Patterson

Reporter Mary Maddox – Cartoonist Zech O’Rarden



“Quiet, kind, and respectful,” are three words that describe Jeremy Ryan Patterson. He is also a hard working person both in and out of the classroom.

Jeremy enrolled at Itasca High School his junior year. He played football this year and is

working on his skills with the discus in anticipation of the track season in the spring. Jeremy is also looking forward to baseball season.

He is ready to graduate but unlike many of his classmates who are undecided on college and a career, Jeremy has a plan. He is looking forward to attending the University of Houston and majoring in Chemical Engineering. He believes that will be a stable occupation where he can make “lots of money and buy a house on the coast.”

Jeremy’s supportive parents are Scott Patterson and Shanna Patterson. He has one sister Chase, who will graduate in 2013, and three stepbrothers Nathaniel, 13, Clark, 19, and Brandon, 23, who has made a big difference in Jeremy’s life. His Aunt Kandace Douglas has also influenced Jeremy in some very positive ways.

Living in a small town and going to a small school has been a big adjustment from Arlington High, but Jeremy is happy to say that it has been a very positive experience.

“Everyone is nice at Itasca High and it is a plus to know everyone in the school. The teachers are nice also, especially Mrs. Anderson, my favorite.”

His advice to the underclassmen is to think before you speak, and make good choices.

“Bad things happen in the many, good things happen in the few but, bad things happen so good ones can too.”



Itasca VFD October Report

	City	County
Assist EMS	2	
Barn/Shed		1
Grass/Brush		3
LZ Setup	2	
MVC		1
Residence	2	1
Trash Fire	1	
Utility		1 gas leak
Total calls YTD	88	Total Man Hrs 70 hrs, 31 mins
Total mileage 173		Mutual Aid Given – 3 Received - 2

Do You Have a Dog that Chases and Kills Livestock or Fowl

Press Release

Pet ownership requires responsibility. Several Texas laws exist that encourages this responsibility. The most frequently violated law is the Texas Rabies Control Act (Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 826) which requires all pet owners to vaccinate (and keep current) their pets against the deadly rabies virus after four months of age or face Class C Misdemeanor violations—carries up to a \$300 fine. Another law that is frequently violated in our county is the abandonment of dogs and cats. This vile act is included with animal cruelty laws and becomes a Penal Code 42.09 violation, which is a Class A Misdemeanor with fines up to \$4,000 fines and/or year in jail. Another law is the regulation of dogs dangerous to animals, (Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 822, Subchapter B). This law specifies that in all counties, the owner or keeper of a dog that is known to chase or kill livestock, domestic animals, or fowl may not allow the dog to run at large. The owner who allows his dog to run free is in violation and can be punished with a fine not to exceed \$100.

The majority of households within Hill County (60%) are located in areas without local (city) law enforcement and/or animal control. Therefore, the burden falls on the Sheriff Office to enforce these existing animal control laws. It is your civic duty to report violations of Texas law. If you live outside city areas where local law enforcement is not available and you need to report a violation, call the Hill County Sheriff Office at 582-5313—they are employed to serve and protect.

Pet ownership is a serious responsibility. Over 28,239 pets live within Hill County households. Because 60% of households are outside areas without basic animal control, over 16,943 household pets are in areas that are not regulated. Statistics shows that up to 70% of pets living in Texas remain unvaccinated or not current for the deadly rabies virus. These unvaccinated pets live with our families and are in contact with our children! These figures do not include the hundreds of “homeless strays” in our county. Another alarming note is that our county allows “packs” of dogs to run at will which is dangerous. Are we waiting for another “Lillian” incident to occur? Lillian Stiles was the 76 year old lady who was attacked and torn apart alive to her premature death by a pack of “stray” dogs. Hill County needs to take a proactive approach to its ever worsening pet overpopulation issue by establishing basic animal control—a necessary core service. Community leaders and representatives must embrace proactive measures and prioritize the hazard of pet overpopulation towards correction (the word proactive is the key word in the last three sentences). The implicit facts remains that pet overpopulation will not correct itself.

To become part of correcting pet overpopulation in our county, call (254) 580-0679, email hcpawpals@yahoo.com, visit www.hcpawpals.org, or write Paw Pals, PO Box 1533, Hillsboro, Texas 76645. Paw Pals next public meeting is scheduled January 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the Bullock Room of Hill College cafeteria.

Wampus Cats & Lady Cats Basketball

January

4	* Keene	Away	JV, V	4:00
8	* Rio Vista	Home	JV, V	4:00
11	* Dublin	Away	JV, V	4:00
15	* Grandview	Away	JV, V	4:00
18	* Hico	Home	JV, V	4:00
22	* Maypearl	Away	JV, V	4:00
25			* OPEN DATE	
29	* KEENE	Home	JV, V	4:00

February

1	* Rio Vista	Away	JV, V	4:00
5	(*) Dublin	Home	JV, V	4:00

* District Games () Parents Night

Junior High Basketball

January

10	Dublin	7B, 8B	Away	5:00
	Dublin	7G, 8G	Home	5:00
12	Godley Tournament	7B, 8B		TBA
	Meridian Tournament	7G, 8G		TBA
17	Keene	7B, 8B	Away	5:00
	Keene	7G, 8G	Home	5:00
24	Rio Vista	7B, 8B	Home	5:00
	Rio Vista	7G, 8G	Away	5:00
31	Grandview	7B, 8B	Away	5:00
	Grandview	7G, 8G	Home	5:00

Support the Cats

Wear your Gold Shirt to all the games

Students get in free with the “Go for the Gold” shirt on.

Anagrams (Scrambled words)

Rearrange The Letters:

Dormitory: Dirty Room

George Bush: He Bugs Gore

The Morse Code: Here Come Dots

Animosity: Is No Amity

Election Results: Lies - Let's Recount

Snooze Alarms: Alas! No More Z 'S

A Decimal Point: Im A Dot In Place

Mother-In-Law: Woman Hitler

October City Council Meeting

The Itasca City Council met in a regular session on Monday, October 15, 2007 in the Council Chambers, 126 N. Hill, Itasca, Texas. Mayor Matthew Fehnel called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Council members present were James Bouldin, Susie Davis, Steve Solis, Harvey Wilson and John Laird; City Administrator Mark Gropp and City Attorney Stephanie Johnson.

The minutes for September 17, 2007 meeting and the bills were approved for payment by unanimous vote.

In the department reports, Fire Chief Chris Shuffield reported that the volunteers had made a profit of approximately \$1800 from the Bull Riding Fund Raiser.

Wayne Upchurch's reported that the water and sewer operations was running smooth. Susie Davis gave the Planning and Zoning Committee report and she informed the council that Doug Farquhar was interested in becoming a member of the committee. The meeting time has changed from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Officer Albert Sanchez explained the police report and Mayor Fehnel gave the Office of Code Enforcement report.

Rick Holden, representative for Atmos, asked the Council to take action on Atmos Energy Corporation's request on the Statement of Intent to Increase Gas Utility Rates. The increase will be \$1.57 per month for a residential customer and \$9.21 per month for commercial customers. Holden requested that the City take final action on the Statement of Intent before October 25, 2007 by passing an approval ordinance or by taking no action and allowing the request to be approved by operation of law. A motion to approve and accept Resolution #101507 to suspend the filing was made; unanimous vote.

City Attorney Stephanie Johnson explained a revised ordinance on peddlers with the recommended corrections. Mayor Fehnel read the ordinance. A motion to accept reading, approve and adopt the ordinance was made, waiving the second and third reading; passed; unanimous vote.

The City Secretary gave an update regarding the changing of the General Election Date to another authorized uniform election date. The state election division was contacted, they explained there is no law open right now for a governing body of a political subdivision to change the date on which it holds its general election for officers. The city will not be able to change the date until a new law is open.

The General Law Handbook for Mayors and Council members was distributed. The Council discussed an increase in water deposits, late notice, and after hour charges for reconnect. A motion was made to set a: \$100 water deposit, \$10 late notice, \$50 during hours reconnection fee, and \$100 after hours reconnection fee; passed: unanimous vote.

During the Mayor, Council and City Administrator discussion and reports, the City Administrator announced that the Open House is scheduled for December 10, 2007. The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

October IISD Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees of the Itasca Independent School District met in regular session on Monday, October 8, 2007, in the Itasca ISD Administration Building at 7:00 P.M., President Marquita Lloyd presiding. Board member present were Marquita Lloyd, Claude Garrett, Donny Faries, Nancy Bowman, Susan Bason, and Kevin Cordell. Kevin Lightsey was absent.

Administration present were Glenn Pittman, Superintendent, Rickie Harris, High School Principal, Larry Mynarcik, Middle School Principal, Karon Farquhar, Elementary Principal, Barry Durham, Finance Director and Norma Merkel, Secretary.

Motions were made and passed to approve the minutes from the previous board meeting and to approve the bills and financial report.

Motions were made and passed to accept the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) district report and to approve submission to TEA for an elementary class size waiver for the fall semester for one section of kindergarten.

Substitute teachers approved and added to the 2007-2008 list were Mary Henson, Bonnie Rhoades and Melinda Routh. The board entered executive session at 7:20 p.m., returned to open session at 7:56 p.m., and promptly adjourned.

Called October 15 Meeting

The Board of Trustees of the Itasca Independent School District met in called session on Monday, October 15, 2007 in the Itasca ISD Administration Building at 7:00 P.M., President Marquita Lloyd presiding. Present were Marquita Lloyd, Kevin Lightsey, Donny Faries, Nancy Bowman and Kevin Cordell. Claude Garrett and Susan Bason were absent. Administration present were Glenn Pittman and Norma Merkel.

Motions were made and passed to set the 2007-08 tax rate for maintenance and operations at \$1.14224 and to set the 2007-08 tax rate for interest and sinking at \$.10986. The total tax rate for 2007-08 is \$1.25210.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

Desperately Needed

Used Inexpensive Scooter Lift

Call 254-687-2425 or 817-821-6834

Buescher Alto saxophone

For Sale - \$200 - Good Condition

Plays Well - Comes with Hard Case - 254-687-2862

Do You Remember...?—"The Front Porch"

Columnist Carl Sweeney

Photo of Sarah Catherine Turner Sweeney from Carl Sweeney



There was a time-not that long ago, when the porch was a much-used part of our lives. The porch had many functions in our daily activities. It was used for social gatherings, relaxing, or working on projects. Great grandma had her spinning wheel there and used it on the porch during good weather. Usually the porch was equipped with cane bottom chairs, a swing and a couple of comfortable chairs for the elders. It was in the swing that young couples did their "courting." Swallows built their mud nests on the ceiling out of the weather.

Each porch had one or more screen doors from the house, most of them were equipped with a coil spring to keep the screen door closed. As kids, we didn't take time to close the door gently, most of the time we exited on the run allowing the door to slam. The slap of the door seemed to irritate our parents. I cannot count the number of times I have heard, "Junior don't slam the screen door!" I guess all parents then said the same thing, that old screen door is one of the memories of that time.

A person could get close to nature during a thunderstorm, especially at night when the lightning played about, but if there was a blowing rain, we had to go into the house. Also at night, we could sit on the screened porch and watch the "lightening" bugs, and listen to the call of the Whippoorwill, and other night creatures, and to experience the fresh pleasant smell of new-mown hay. Quite often, we caught the "lightening" bugs and put them in jars to watch them light up.

When we lived in tenant houses, there was usually only one porch, we utilized it the best we could. It was there that we ate our watermelons, so as not to mess up the house.

When grandma Sweeney died in 1935, we moved to the "home place." Here we had three porches, one was screened, it was on the northeast, there was another on the southeast and one on the west, we used the one that was most comfortable at the time, each one also had a screen door.

When T.V. came along in the early 50's we turned our T.V. toward the outside in a window and watched it from the porch. This was done because we had no air-conditioning and it was cooler outside.

In recent years there was a song about the porch, I think it said, "I can't believe I'm out here on the porch just a swinging."

My maternal grandfather Curlee was a section-foreman for the Katy railroad. He and his family lived in what was called a section house furnished by the railroad. It had two porches, one was screened and one faced the railroad, which was just a few yards away. We would sit on the porch and watch the trains go by. The engineer would ring the bell and blow the lonesome steam whistle, and he, the conductor, fireman and brakeman would all wave at us. In those days, there were passenger trains. When they came by all the people riding the train would wave at us. The only passenger trains we have now are the AM Tracks ones. Maybe they should be called "off track" because they derail so much. Speaking of the Katy Railroad, I have had several relatives that worked for them, a grandfather, three uncles, a brother-in-law, a nephew and a great nephew who is currently an engineer. I always wondered why they call the guy that drives the trains an engineer.

In those days, the trains got instructions for telegraphers, and from the depot agent handing the conductor a message on a wire with a handle. There was a telegraph station just south of Hillsboro near grandpa's section house, There were a couple of men I remember who worked there in the 1930s. They were a Mr. Nowlin and Mr. Sly, along with my uncle Robert D. Curlee. Mannie Turner on the mountain had a large house with big porches all around. We



often met there on Sunday afternoon, caught up on family gossip and planned the week's work. The afternoon was not complete unless Otis England played his fiddle.

Now with the fast pace we live in with ringing cell phones, automobiles running around like sugar ants, TV and other noises, it makes one long for the nostalgia of an old fashioned porch to sit, relax and slow down and enjoy a few of the simple pleasures. I have heard recently that some people are including porches in their house plans again.

Paw Print Press
123 N. College
Itasca, Texas 76055

Wampus Cats of the Week

Mighty Cats Basketball



The Wampus Cats had lost only one game going into district play. They won one tournament and came in second at the other. They felt ready for the “real games” in district play.

The Featured Fav 5 this week are senior #23 Tralyn Harden, sophomore #12 Desmond Guy, junior #3 De’Veon Mayberry, junior #5 Mikey Marshall and senior #13 Terrey Brumbalow.

The Cats are a team and they are in this for the big win. Each of the eight varsity players, 4 seniors, 3 juniors and 1 sophomore, are giving 110% each game.

The Cats are competing in the Godley Tournament this weekend (December 27 – 29) and play in the Bruceville Eddy Tournament on December 31. Their next district game is in Keene on January 4.

Special of the Week



Lloyd Ford and I would like to wish all of my fans and their customers a fun and safe New Year’s celebration.”

Clearance!!!

**New 2007 Focus SE
 Loaded, Automatic, Safety Pkg.**



34 M.P.G. Hwy.

2 to choose from!

\$14,325!!! (+TTL) after rebates

Lloyd Ford – Proud Supporter of the Wampus Cats