

Rochester and Rule

Twin Cities News Rochester, Texas 79544 Thursday March 4, 1982



*Clarence Eugene &
Viola Allie Harrell
Tidwell*

by Marsha Whittemore

"I came from a very famous place," laughed C.E. 'Chunky' Tidwell. "It was in Collins County..a place called Possum Trot.

I was born there, April 27, 1912 to Jesse Warren Tidwell and Mary Emma Blankenship. In fact, I was the youngest of thirteen children.

My dad was born in Harris County, Georgia, January 5, 1866. My mother was born in Gurleyville, Alabama, February 5, 1894. My mother died Feb 6, 1936 and my dad April 3, 1936.

We always lived in big houses. We moved from Possum Trot north of Farmersville and built a six room house with rooms twenty ft. square and long hall.

The community was called Snow Hill. It had one church, grade school, grocery store, and a black smith shop. We'd cross a log over a creek going to school.

There was nine boys and four girls. My oldest sister, Zettie Romine, the second child is is eighty-four years old and lives in Aubry, Texas. She and I are the only ones left.

The preacher at Snow Hill Church would say when the Tidwell's were not there you could sure tell it. We took up fifteen seats.

Wash days it was my job to keep the thirty gallon wash pots filled and wood cut to keep them hot. My sisters washed on rub boards. I'd help hang them out on four long lines. It was a sight on wash days at our house.

Every morning my mother made 60 biscuits, fried 1/2 side of bacon, 1/2 ham and 50 eggs for breakfast. We'd kill and dress 8 chickens for dinner.

We boys got whippings every day, even on Sunday. We raised corn, didn't know what maize was until we moved to this country. One day were shucking corn; my brothers would throw corn at an old mule each time he stuck his head through a hole in the barn. My dad came along and stuck his head in and they hit him in the mouth.

Did you get a whipping?
"You bet," answered.

Chunky. "That's what kept him going. Whipping us boys."

In 1917 two brothers was in WWI for two years.

After they returned we moved to Haskell County December 1919. Dad and older brother drove the new car. The two brothers from the army rode on the freight train with the furniture and stock. Mother, me and the girls were on the passenger train. I was seven years old. Zettie had married to keep from coming to this country.

We settled three miles north of Haskell on the Taylor land. We bought 260 acres.

We built our house with six rooms. Twenty ft. Sq. each. We farmed this land from 1919 to 1939 when the farm was sold.

We had great times. When the wind would blow hard we'd take a buggy and tie sheets on it like a sail. The wind would blow us twenty-five miles and hour down the rode.

We weren't afraid of anything. We used to hook our bull up to the buggy and ride all over the pasture. We'd be laughing and rolling, never dreaming of danger.

One of the neighbor's bull got out. We saddle him with Dad's heavy saddle. He ran against the fence and the brother jumped off. The bull jump the fence.

My dad was on the back porch washing his face. Looking up, he seen the bull run by us, after him. He asked, "Did I see a bull go by with my saddle on?" We told him yes. He told us to eat breakfast. After we finished we went to saddle a horse to go get the saddle. He told us, "Nope, you walk down and bring it back." That was the longest, hottest half mile we ever walk. That saddle was heavy.

I met Viola in 1931 at a dance. She almost fell and I grabbed her. Had a hold ever since. We married two years later, November 8, 1933.

That night we married by the Presbyterian pastor. We had tried the Baptist, Methodist and we found the Presbyterian preacher was the only one home. If he hadn't been, we'd kept looking.

We moved from Haskell farm to NW of O'Brien where we bought a farm. After three years we moved to Center Point. Then back to Forester Community. Viola's birth place."

Viola Allie Harrell was born December 16, 1910 at Forester Community to William M. Harrell and Martha Lou Emma Robinson. William Harrell was born in Arkansas, moved to Eareth County where he married his wife Martha in Hico, Texas.

1902 moving to the unsettled land in Haskell County they settled near Old March, now Forester Community. In 1906 Old Marcy was moved to the railroad and became the present town of Rochester.

The Harrells had eight children, three boys and five girls. Five are still living. Bill in Rice Springs, Haskell, Jerry of Rule, Eudella Goode, Rochester, Minnie Holt and Viola of Haskell.

"While Viola and I lived at Forester Community, Dan and Travis came to live with us. A wreck on June 24, 1948 killed my sister, their mother, Edna Mae Burson and paralyzed their dad, Theo Burson. We moved into Haskell September 1953. The boys finished school. Travis went into the Air Force and Dan to the Army.

These were the best years of mine and Viola's lives having these two boys.

Came back to live with his dad until he passed away. Then went to Ft. Worth to work. Travis works for the Civil Services at Lubbock. He married Peggy Kennemore. They have two children, "our grandchildren.

Viola and Chunky Tidwell are members of East Side Baptist Church. She belongs to the Rebekah Lodge. She worked as a sales clerk for thirty-five years.

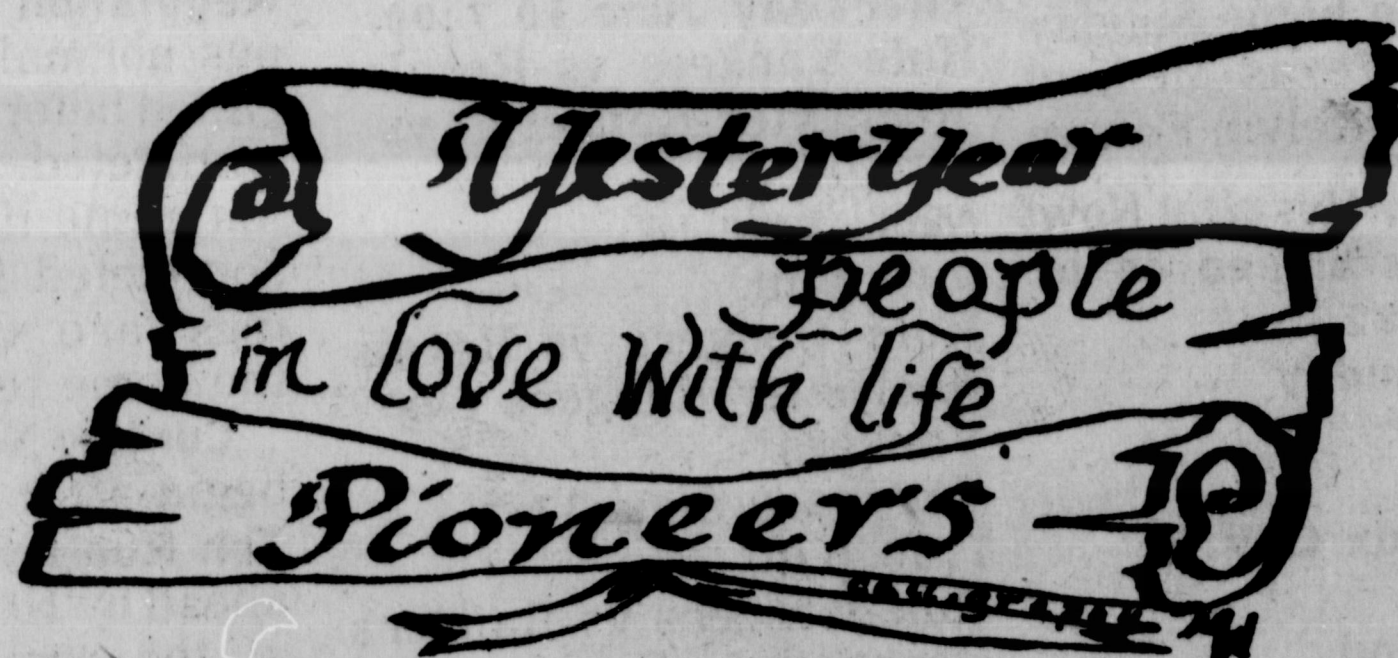
Chunky Tidwell farmed until he became Commissioner five years ago.

He's serving his second term in Precinct I. Member of the CAP board five years and Fair Association. "Viola and I enjoy our life together with all our friends. It's been forty-

eight years. We make mistakes but we believe in our God and love each other. That begins a family.

Rochester and Rule

Rochester Texas 79544 Thursday June 10, 1982



*Jone Maude Rogers
Shied*

I first came to Haskell County in 1914 with my parents, John Pembleton, Rogers and Martha Ann Chrisner," said Mrs. Shied.

I was born, the oldest of eleven children, half way between Franklin and Hern, Texas on November 25, 1890.

I remember we lived in a two story house when I was between five and six. We had moved into Hern and my daddy was helping to put in land in the bottom fields where the Big Brazos and little Brazos met.

There was a big flood. My dad worked three days Junction City, Lumber Company. He and many

others worked three days and nights building boats. They would put them in the edge of the water and would go down picking up the black families who were caught in trees when they were washed from their homes. Some had been in the trees for three days.

The two rivers overflowed and covered all the fields.

I would ride on a train about nine miles and take my dad his clean clothes and pick up his dirty ones. This was my one big thing.

They were putting in new land with state labor. I remember the convicts

wore stripes. I wasn't afraid, I'd talk to them and they'd talk to me. But I knew my dad was close by.

At Hern there were three big railroads, The Houston Texas Central, International Great Northern and a Spur we rode from home.

Because of these railroad crossings being in town, my younger brother, Ben and I went to a pay school. I was nine and he was seven. Our parents did not want us crossing so many tracks. This was in 1899.

My brother was accidentally shot at home one day by another boy.

My parents could never get over losing him, so my grandmother sent for my mother's brother.

He had wanted to move to Hill County. He went out and found a place for all of us and we moved.

I went to school at Bowman Grove in Hill County. Then we moved to Hamilton County. Daddy farmed and did carpentry work.

I was twenty-three when

my grandmother died at the Age of 96 years old. My mother had told me when I was ten I could help take care of her. I was thrilled to death.

We never sassed our grandmother. Every Sunday morning I went with my mother to the Baptist Church and every Sunday evening I went to the Methodist with my grandmother. Both were wonderful women.

I had seven brothers and three sisters who are still living. Mrs. Nettie Crabtree of Van Horn, Flossie Frazier of Rule, Lillian Beam of Haskell.

My brother Presley was the first Haskell County boy to be killed in WWI.

In 1916 I nursed a woman and her daughter who had been burned real bad. They died after two years. I cared for sick folks for twelve years in Brisco County.

I met Mr. Sheid when he owned a feed store in Sagerton. He would take a group to Stamford to see the show.

One night he asked me to go along. I married Rector Nix Sheid March 17, 1918. He had three children that became my children. The oldest daughter was nine. She is Alma Lucille Wood of Wellington, Melba Edith Lodon I lost five years ago, and my son Melton Nix of Gordon, Texas.

I never had any of my own but I could never have loved them any more than I do these children of mine.

I have four grandchildren, four great grandchildren and five great-great grandchildren.

Mr. Sheid was the son of William and Elizabeth Rector Sheid. I loved all his family.

We were married forty-one years. I never not once seen him mad. Nor did the men that worked with him. We were married in Rochester, where I worked. He moved away to Vera, Texas then to Silverton for twelve years.

We moved back to Sagerton. Mr. Sheid built gins and elevators. He passed away in 1959.

In 1961, Mrs. Sheid moved into Rule, Texas. Now at the age of 92 years old, she is known to be the oldest working lady in Rule.

She still cares for the sick and those who need her.

She is a christian and for 51 years a member of the Church of Christ of Rule. In 1934 Mrs. Sheid, while living in the country, would walk two miles to Sagerton to catch a train and come to church at Rule.

"God means so much to me," said Mrs. Sheid. "Everything good comes from above and I know it. I thank him everyday not once but dozens of times for his goodness and care of me.

I have good health, so many friends".

The Lavon Beakley's gave Mrs. Sheid her 80th birth day party with a promise if she was still around, they would give her 90th party.

In 1980 the Beakley's gave to Mrs. Sheid her 90th birthday party with the promise if--- they were still around on her 100th they would give her birthday party again.

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Twin Cities News Rochester, Texas 79544 Thursday March 11, 1982



Shores Franklin & Willie Mae Goode Turner

By Marsha Whittemore

... "This is where I was born in Haskell County. Will be eighty-five years ago this March 18, 1903. I never did anything outstanding, just raised my children and farmed my life time," said S.F. Turner of Rochester.

My dad Henry B. came from Red River County and my mother Bertha Maeola Bristow came from Bell County. The Turner and Bristow families first settled in Jones County in early years before the 1900's.

Then my dad and mother's families moved to Haskell County. The Bristows had seven boys and one girl, my mother.

My mother and dad married April 13, 1902 in Haskell County where I was born on a farm between Rochester and O'Brien.

I was the middle of three boys James of Edinburg and the late H.B. Turner. Five sisters Eula Turner of Donna, Juanita (Neat) Vevel of Haskell, Vista Wisenbaker of Donna, Bernice Chambers of Al-

amo, Sylvia Mudd Renton, Washington.

"My parents moved to Haskell County in 1912 to Ballew Community which had a school and church," said Willie Mae Goode. I was born in Decatur, Wise County, March 15, 1910 to

James Lavey and Mollie Z. Sanders. The first school I went to was at McConnel.

We were neighbors to S.F.'s family. I could see him come out his gate and I would know if he was going to town or coming to see me," laughed Willie Turner.

We married in my mother's home by a Baptist preacher, Rev. L.E. Frazier about 4:30 in the afternoon. Doc Wrenford and his wife stood up for us.

The service lasted a whole hour. He hadn't planned it so he talked to us as he went along.

We had a big reception. Lots of pies and cakes. The only thing I really remember was one bunch on one side crying and my bunch on the other side crying," said Mrs. Turner. "Willie Mae and I first

moved to the Hester's place for two years. We moved to the valley after our second child was born. We went to Donna then to Edinburg in 1932.

In 1933 we started back for a visit when Billy Dale, our first son, was sixteen months old. He took sick at Beeville. We put him in the hospital and he died of diphtheria at 1:00 a.m. on December 26, 1933. We had to bury him there. It was our 7th anniversary.

We came back in 1938 and in 1944 we moved to the homeplace where we lived and raised our children until 1975 when I retired."

Turner children gave to them an oil painting of the homeplace that hangs in their living room.

Willie and I had eleven children, seven girls and four boys, Loveta Strickland of Rochester, Mazine Russell of Brownwood. Her husband Ed, a Baptist Minister and son of Mrs. Erma Russell of Haskell, passed away in July 1980. Francis Meier of Old Glory, Frankie Simkins of Big Springs, Mollie Lee of Breckenridge, Jean Meier of Sagerton, Ann Wright of Canadian. Billy Dale, S.F. Jr. of Monahans, Glen B. died at five months old and Kenneth Ray of Haskell.

We have seventeen grandchildren. One grand son, Gary Strickland died in May, 1981. We have twelve great-grandchildren.

Our first child begin in 1935 and we had thirty-seven years of school. All of them went to Rochester. "said S.F. "My mother had thirty-six years of school.

The Turner children loved sports. They were outstanding basketball and football players. One's team went to state. Three were chosen for Halloween Queen in one year. Three class favorites.

They loved having parties and their home was a place all the kids could come. Slumber parties were the best. They would tell stories, hang sheets up and make all kinds of images behind it and in front of a light. There were plenty of birthday

S.F. Turner won the prize for the 1st bale of cotton in 1950. He is known for raising the best watermelons. "The wife and I would set on the back porch at night. The kids would come up thinking they were stealing watermelons. We could hear them laughing and just giggling."

I still have some of these men come up and say "You shore raised good watermelons," laughed S.F.

Mr. and Mrs. Turner are members of the Methodist Church. S.F. has served on the board of steward. He was a song leader for ten to twelve years. Superintendent of the Sunday School Class.

He and his close friend, the late Gene Bittick attend singings and provided a place in Rochester that singers could gather monthly.

"My dad was a great hand to attend all singings and so was my mother. We would attend every one. All day singings and dinner on the ground," said S.F.

Their children gave to them their 50th celebration in 1976. This coming Christmas will be their 56th Anniversary.

"We've done lots of funny things. Had good times and bad.

Never did any thing outstanding. Just raised my kids and farmed all my life time."



Everett & Willie Riggins

7/12/84

Berryhill

By Marsha Whittemore

...My grandfather Graville Radar was born in Tennessee and came to Texas in 1887. Moving his family to Texas in 1890 settling in Georgetown. In 1896 my mother Louisa LuLu Radar married my father George Riggins, "said Willie Berryhill of Haskell.

Willie Mae was the youngest of five children, three sons, Hubert Riggins of Rochester, the late Ralph Riggins of Seymour and Gordon Riggins of Kermit. One sister Minnie Lee of Clovis, New Mexico.

Willie, born October 13, 1906 was nine months old when her father died in July 1907. In the fall that year the family moved to O'Brien in Haskell County living the next two years at her grandfather's, Graville Radar. Then

moving to Rochester in 1909 where they made their home.

In 1913 my mother married J.E. Bean and they had two sons, Wylie Bean of Plains and Wilson Bean of Rochester. Mr. Bean died in March of 1916 four months before Wilson was born. My mother moved back to farm my grandad's land until August 1918 and the drought forced us to load our wagons and leave for Oklahoma, where we picked cotton. It took us a month from O'Brien to Prague, Oklahoma. We children walked most of the way beside the covered wagons. We ran and played along the way," said Willie, we stayed there until 1922. My school days were at Rochester, O'Brien.

Willie and her family returned to O'Brien and then moved to east of

Rochester working for Uncle Joe Hester.

"I met James Everett, the son of the John Berryhill, in December of 1923. I was sitting on top of a bale of cotton as we had just came from the field," laughed Willie, "We married the next November 14, 1924 on Everett's birthday. He never celebrated his birthday again without me."

We spent our first night in the old Tarley Hotel. We married on Friday and Monday morning we were out pulling cotton. We lived at Rochester and O'Brien until we came to Haskell in November 1973.

Everett and I have six lovely children, three boys and three girls. Elerene Barton Bell of O'Donnell has three sons, Jimmy, Jerry and Monty. Their father Amos Barton pas-

sed away in 1962. She and her husband Bill Bell have one son, Clark.

Claudia and her husband Don Hindsley are missionaries for the Church of Christ. They have two sons and one daughter. Moving to France and Africa they returned in 1973 to San Angelo. They are now in the Virgin Islands but call San Angelo home.

Billy and wife Carolyn live in Amarillo. They have one son John and two daughters Cindy and Yvonne.

Mrs. Johnnie Caskey and husband Wally have two daughters. They now live in Laredo. Wally has made his career in military life.

Lynn and wife Patricia have one daughter Valeria. They live in Rome, Texas.

Buford and his wife Cheryl have three daughters, two are twins.

We celebrated our Golden Anniversary in 1974 and the Lord took him the 2nd of February 1982. Everett and I had a good life. Besides our children we have now nineteen (19) grandchildren and five (5) great-grandchildren.

The Everett Berryhill were faithful and active members of the Church Christ in Rochester where he was an elder. Willie now an active member Haskell Church of Christ. A member of the Experienced Citizens Center helping every one, any way she can.

Willie, with her deep conviction in God, serves others with all humility



2/28/1982

Anita Florene Lewis Sorrells

By Marsha Whittemore

"We moved to Haskell County in 1909. I came with my father, James Van Buren Lewis and my mother Rachel Hassline Hill Lewis. My mother was called 'Tinie' for short."

"They were born in Alabama and in 1870 they moved to East Texas with a covered wagon train. My father, who was born in 1859, was eleven years old at that time. In his wagon alone were ten people, two adults, seven children, one baby."

In this same wagon train was my mother, said Mrs. Sorrells, "only she was two years old then. My dad would laugh many times and say, she had an older brother about four, he and his brothers would pick on, but he never paid to much attention to the little girl that one day would become his wife."

"My mother and dad's families moved from East Texas to Bell County where they grew up. They were married in 1889. I

was born February 21, 1906 in Bell County," said Mrs. Sorrells, "sixteen years later."

"In 1909 my whole family moved to Haskell County. We came on a train, my three brothers, Albert, Roy and Oscar Lewis, and one sister Lena. We settled near Weinert where I attended the country school, Dennis Chapel, through the sixth grade. Then I started at Weinert school and finished in 1925."

"I remember the first car I ever rode in. I was four and my mother had been real sick. The doctor drove out to see her and when he was leaving he gave all us kids a ride."

"When I was in the fifth and sixth grade," said Mrs. Sorrells, "we would have terrible sand storms. Our school was dismissed three days because it was too dark to read. Many times we put a lamp on the table to read. My mother would cook meals and cover them with a cloth until we

ate. They don't have them now as they. They farm different now," she said.

Earl Sorrells November 5, 1933. His family had moved to Jones County in 1920 before moving to Haskell County. He was born September 31, 1913 to Jesse Ezekiel Sorrells and Ina Mae McElroy Sorrells. There were three brothers Loyd, Clyde and W.E. Slim Sorrells. Two sisters, Mrs. Marie Brothers of Rule and the late Mrs. Villie Lou Thompson."

"We married at my brother's Oscar house. After everyone left Oscar, his wife, Earl and I went to the picture show. It was a Sunday evening and the show was open. We seen 'SOS Iceberg' and we laugh so many times about us all going to the show right after we were married."

"We moved to Knox County and lived on the League Ranch in 1935, and moved west of Rule in 1948 then moved to town in fall of 1950."

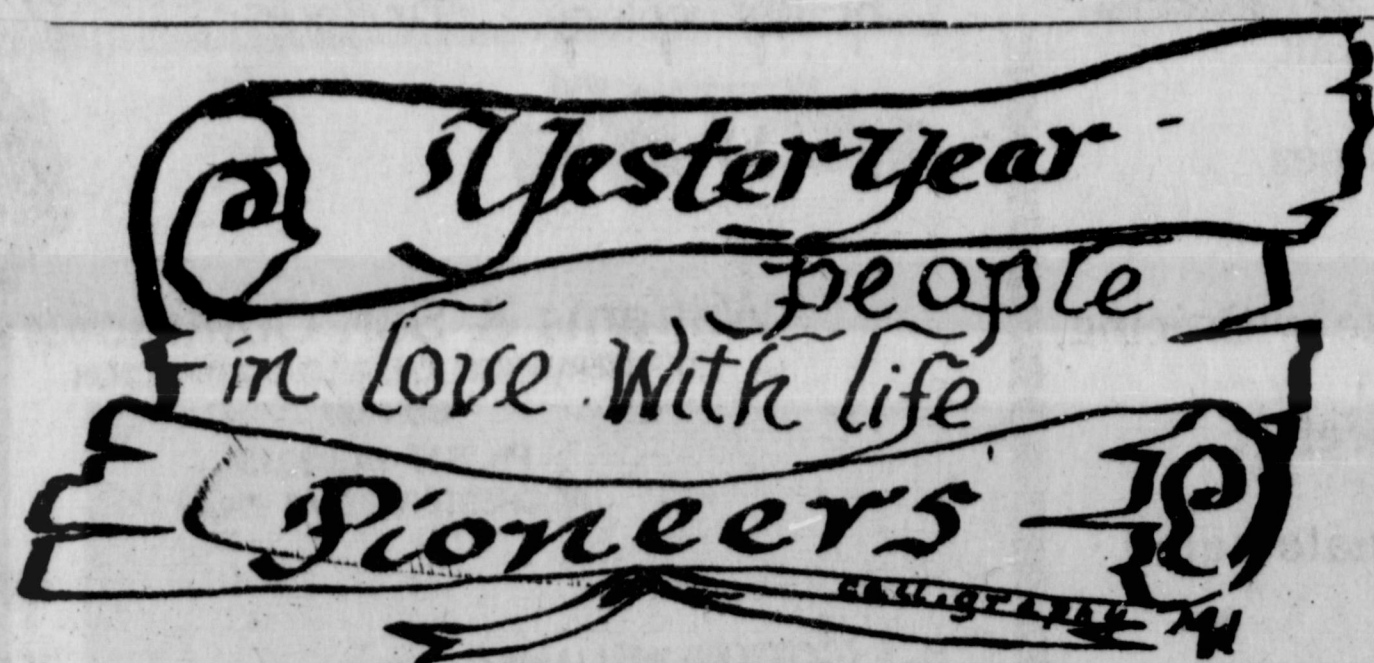
"Earl and I had two sons. Jesse James 'Jimmy' our oldest. He was born at Weinert. He died from an oil field accident September 7, 1959, three months after he came out of the services."

"My second by, Derrell Wayne, was born in Knox County. We didn't have hospitals then and your baby was born at home. He lives at Rule with his wife and their children," said Mrs. Sorrells, "He and Doyle, Slim's son, work at the Texaco."

My husband worked many years as a farmer and he run a wrecking yard. After he died in 1972 I stayed home then in November 22, 1979, I moved to Leisure Lodge."

Mrs. Anita Sorrells has been very active in her church, the Primitive Baptist, and attends every meeting she can. She enjoys reading, quilting and has hand painted many baby quilts.

She enjoys life and thanks God each day for the fullness of it.



Isla Norrid Corley

By Marsha Whitemore

"I was born April 24, 1907 on a farm in Mills County Texas. The second child of John W. Norrid and Vena Roe Norrid. My mother, two brothers, and a sister died before I reached school age," said Isla Corley. "My father and I lived with mother's parents in Comanche, Texas."

"In Comanche I attended school and graduated from Comanche High School. I graduated in 1930 from Simmons College, now known as Hardin Simmons University."

"In September of 1930 I came to Rochester to teach a roomful of lively, mischievous, and lovable sixth graders." Isla and her grandmother Roe had an apartment in the R.H.

"Our landlady, the neighbors, my fellow teachers and pupils showered us with kindness."

"The depression of the 1930's changed the schools drastically. The teachers were paid in scrip. The schools could not supply any teaching aids, playground equipment, or first aid kits. One year the pupils had to skimp on the use of chalk in order to make the supply last until May," said Mrs. Corley.

"The depression did not kill the children's energy, enthusiasm, or willingness to learn."

"Not even the lack of bleachers at the ball field, stifled the enthusiasm. No

spectators ever enjoyed sports more than the parents, teachers and other fans running up and down the sidelines at the football games. Track meets and literary contests were equally popular; not even real sandstorms of those days kept the parents and fans at home. The pupils always brought home an admirable share of trophies. In later years the pupils who stayed in the area and those who went away were still winners."

When Isla returned to the Rochester system in 1939 many customs and rules had changed. Lady teachers no longer wore dress hats to school. The rule requiring single teachers to sign a contract that stated they would have no social engagements on evenings preceding school days (except on Sunday evenings) was no longer mentioned.

"I married Watson Wyley 'Bud' Corley in 1938. Bud's parents, Ely and Amanda Miller Corley, their ten children came to this area in their butcher knife wagon and one buggy. The Miller family also came in a butcher knife wagon. They all were vivacious happy people who accepted things they could not change and loved life. The grandmother Miller lived to 101 years of age and was spunky even though she became blind. One night when men folks were late the women got scared. Granny Miller invited them to her room. They found her, in her blindness, getting a bed slat to 'clobber' the intruder."

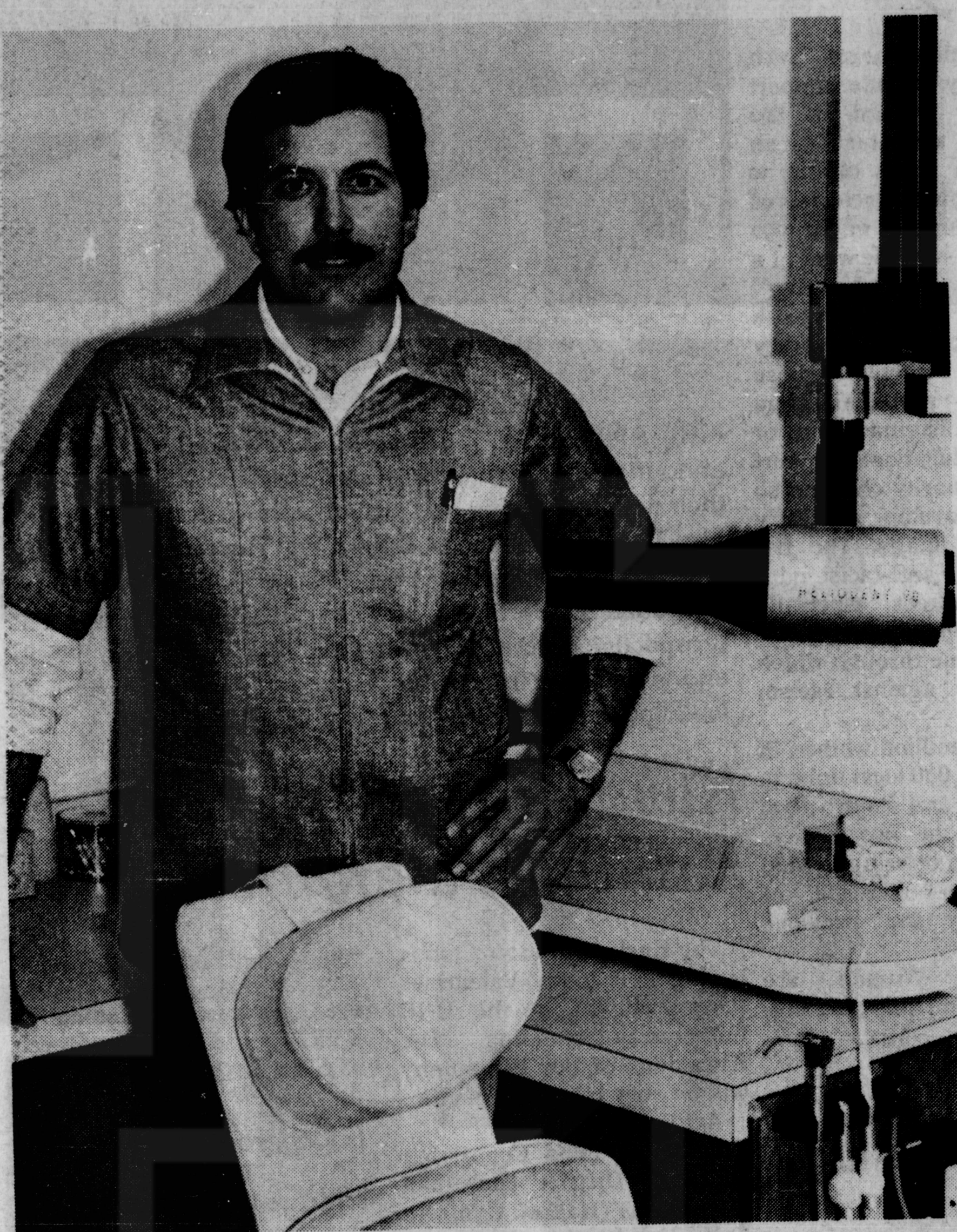
Only three of the ten children are living. Ruth Underwood, Hudson Corley and Lucyle Collins.

By cooking for Bud while I was in summer school, Bud's mother and my sister-in-law made it possible for me to return to Hardin Simmons University and earn various certifications and another degree. His humor and encouragement added much to the pupils projects," said Mrs. Corley."

Bud passed away in 1964, afterwards his sister Zeola and niece Jan came to stay much of the time. They filled lonely hours."

Isla Corley accepted a position as a teacher in the pilot special education program for small schools. Jan went with her to O'Brien. After eight pleasant years at O'Brien Jan graduated as a special education pupil and Isla retired after forty-one years of teaching. In 1980 Mrs. Corley attend the 50th Anniversary of her class at Hardin Simmons University and was honored. Now is Board member of Haskell Training Center.

"Jan's working at Haskell County Training Center, a conversational Spanish Class for both of us, and several hobbies keep us busy and happy," said Mrs. Isla Corley, "God has been very good to us, so many blessing."



OPEN HOUSE

2/4/82

Staff Photo by Don Comedy

Dr. Eddie Harris will hold an Open House at his new dental clinic this Sunday from two to four in the afternoon. Dr. Harris, a graduate of Haskell High School, has returned to Haskell after receiving his DDS and will practice full time dentistry at the completely new facility. The clinic is located at South First and Avenue F.

Greenwood home. Money was scarce but kindness abounded.