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The Abilene Reporter-News
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With First Frost Cometh 'The Thang'

HASKELL (RNS) — When the frost is on the pumpkin, The Thang is on the prowl.

That's been the story in recent years with that beef-eating beast which has roamed these parts since 1958, lunching on livestock and scaring the bejabbers out of night pedestrians.

Nobody knows why the Haskell Rascal likes to prowl when the nights turn cool, but old-timers here say the Varmint, believed to be a mountain lion or cougar, will be getting hungry again soon. They also believe "The Thang" spends its summers in the Kiowa Peak area west of here.

Some Scoff

There are, it must be admitted, some who don't believe the Varmint - sighting stories at all. But this always has been "game" country and the county was the scene of several of the largest buffalo slaughters in West Texas in the 1870's and 1880's. After the buffaloes were skinned for their hides, the meat and bones were left, luring wild animals from hundreds of miles away.

A glance at a part of the History of Haskell County written by the late R. E. Sherrill, respected historian here, furnishes ample support for Varmint-believers.

Mr. Sherrill, discussing cougars, mountain lions, and panthers relates an incident on Sept. 15, 1888:

T. A. Caperton and William Callender found four-year-old mare killed. They rolled a big stone down in the gulch where they supposed an animal might be lurking. When it ran out, they shot and killed it but it gave a most frightful scream. "It measured eight feet from tip to tip and weighed about 200 pounds."

On another occasion, in November of 1891, Jim Fields, his father and brothers were herding on the Clear Fork of the Brazos in rugged country southeast of here, when the dogs treed something. While Jim was under the tree looking, the others shot, as the animal jumped almost upon Fields, so close that he punched it off with his gun and then shot. Stepping back, Fields shot again and killed it. The animal proved to be a "large cougar," measuring nine feet from tip to tip.

Third Incident

A third incident on Paint Creek, south of town, on the August Kleiber place is described vividly, climaxing with a commentary on the habits of the large prowlers, "They make a noise at night that is very much like a child crying, and this sometimes deceives the unguarded."

The Varmint - prone read such accounts, put one and one together and believe it is possible a "descendant" of one of these early 9 . footers still lurks in the brakes, particularly south and east of here.

The only 100 per cent true believers are those who report having seen "The Thang." If the past foretells the future, somebody else soon will report a sighting and become one more 100 per center.

FRED OWNBY
. . . he took the job

EUGENE (RED) WILLIAMS
. . . he didn't say why

Constable Hires Impact Marshal

Fred Ownby is resigning his job as Impact city marshal to become a deputy constable here Monday, Constable Eugene (Red) Williams said Friday.

Ownby, who replaced Pete Bearden as the Impact marshal in June of 1963, also is a former Taylor County deputy sheriff. He is replacing Jack Tidwell as deputy constable.

Tidwell, formerly police chief at Stamford, had held the position here over a year, and is leaving due to a "mutual agreement" with Williams, the constable said.

However, Tidwell said Williams had "requested" his resignation and had given him no reason for doing so.

Williams said that at present Ownby will make the same salary as Tidwell, $3,900 a year. When Ownby became the Impact marshal, Impact Mayor Dallas Perkins said his salary was $400 a month.

Tidwell said he has not yet found other employment.

Impact City Secretary Mrs. Dallas Perkins said Friday that it was "indefinite" whether Ownby will be replaced.

"Probably not," she added.

Henry Thompson has been assisting Ownby for several months, Mrs. Perkins said, and will continue to work.

ANN BEAN
. . . student choice

Miss Bean Named Queen at Winters

WINTERS (RNS)— Ann Bean, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Phil Bean, was crowned Winters High School Homecoming Queen at halftime of the Winters-Stamford football game here Friday night.

She was escorted by Ronald Kraatz and was crowned by Ex-Student Assn. President B. B. Bedford. She was presented a bouquet of red roses from the Rev. Roy Crawford, a member of the first graduating class of the school. Words of welcome to the exes were spoken by Mayor Harvey Dale Jones, class of 1931.

Runners-up for the title were Shirley Lindsey, June Puckett and Elaine Beard. Decision was by student balloting.

A meal was served in the school cafeteria Friday evening to those attending the homecoming. Following the game, a fellowship period was to be held in the cafeteria with ex-student officers to be elected.

Ballinger Studies New High School

BALLINGER — A committee has been named to study whether a new high school plant is needed here.

Named to the survey group by the board of trustees of Ballinger schools were Bob Northington, Wylie Harn and Alvin Spreen.

School Board Secretary Foy Farmer said the board also has authorized closing the school tax office on Saturdays beginning Dec. 5.

SPEAKING OF WEST TEXAS:

Fund to Aid Paint Creek Family

HASKELL (RNS) — A group of Paint Creek citizens has started a fund to help ease the financial burden of couple whose son lies paralyzed in a Dallas hospital from a football injury.

Abe Turner Jr., cashier of the Haskell National Bank here, has been named custodian of the fund to assist Mr. and Mrs. Allen Isbell of Paint Creek.

Their son, Danny, a Paint Creek High School junior, was gravely injured in the Paint Creek-Ira football game Oct. 15.

Rushed that night to Baylor Hospital in Dallas, Danny is almost completely paralyzed from the neck down with a compressed vertebra. In recent days, some movement has been noted in his wrists, arms, and left leg.

With hope for his full recovery after much therapy and a lengthy stay in Dallas, the group established the fund. Those accepting contributions are: Pat Morrison, superintendent of Paint Creek School; Mrs. Ray Perry, R. V. Earles, H. B. Montgomery, Homer Lirenged, Mrs. Vernon Howard, Ira Coleman, and Gene Overton, all of Paint Creek.

T&P Train Ruling Expected Monday

Reporter-News Austin Bureau

AUSTIN — A decision is expected Monday on the Texas and Pacific Railroad proposal to discontinue two passenger trains between Fort Worth and El Paso, via Abilene.

Transcripts on hearings in which West Texas protested discontinuance of passenger trains No. 21 and No. 22 were given to the Texas Railroad Commission in October, but no decision had been reached by Friday and a member of the commission office staff said the decision probably will be received by Monday.

In October, hearings were held in Fort Worth, Big Spring, Odessa, and El Paso with C. F. Bouldin acting as the commission's hearing officer.

Baird to Host Latin Youths

BAIRD — Baptist young people of Latin American churches in Baptist District 17 will meet Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the Baptist Mission here.

Arnold Hefty of Colorado City will be principal speaker, according to Phil Ortiz, Hardin-Simmons junior from Del Rio, who is president of the group.

Other officers include: Sammy Hernandez Jr., H-SU freshman from McAllen, vice president; Martha Reyna, Sweetwater, secretary; George Mota, H-SU junior, San Antonio, music director, and Dora Gonzales, H-SU sophomore from Del Rio, and Betty Ozuna, Haskell, pianists.

Reserve Colonel Gambrell Retires

SWEETWATER — After 22 years' service, Lt. Col. Newton R. Gambrell of Snyder retired from the U. S. Army's Active Reserve Nov. 5.

The Snyder chiropractor has been serving as the executive officer of the 4226th Infantry Regiment (Reinforced Training) here the past four years.

Colonel Gambrell has driven each week from Snyder to Sweetwater for 10 years to attend Army Reserve training assemblies, without pay.

In 1942 he volunteered for service in World War II, remained on active duty until 1946, was separated from active service as a captain, was recalled to active duty in 1951, served 17 months, was promoted to major in 1953 and served as a Army Reserve mobilization designee for five years. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 1959 and assigned as executive officer of the 4226th Infantry Regiment.

A practicing chiropractor in Snyder since 1952, he previously practiced in Oklahoma City and Colorado City.

Retrial Granted

BRECKENRIDGE (RNS) — J. N. Browning of Breckenridge was granted a new drunk driving trial in 90th District Court here Friday on a motion claiming that evidence was introduced into jury deliberations which was not produced during testimony.

The new trial is tentatively set for Dec. 14. Eight witnesses were heard at the hearing of the motion Friday. Browning was ruled guilty by the jury Nov. 2 and assessed a three-day jail sentence and a $50 fine.

"Double-Plunge"

Lady Marlene

Dare to be bare! Fashion's most provocative bra...plunging front and back borders in Nylon lace and Lycra®. Cups lightly contoured with "Dacron"® "88" Fiberfill and gently underwired for perfect support. Wide-set adjustable stretch straps for freedom and comfort. A cup 32 to 36. B and C cups 32 to 38. Black or White. $6.95

Not Illustrated: Matching "Double-Plunge" longline with concealed 2" waistband. B cup 32 to 38. C cup 32 to 40. $10.95

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100% NYLON; ELASTIC: NYLON, LYCRA® SPANDEX
LYCRA—DUPONT'S REG. T.M. FOR ITS SPANDEX FIBER
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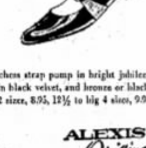
NEWLY ARRIVED:

For the fashion minded little misses and the Holidays ahead. (Grandmothers make a mental note for Christmas giving) Of course they're Alexis Originals and ours alone in Abilene.



The little Duchess strap pump in bright jubilee red patent. Also in black velvet, and bronze or black patent. 8½ to 12 sizes, 8.95, 12½ to big 4 sizes, 9.95

ALEXIS Originals

An exciting little gillie tie to take her many places. Here now in bright luscious red leather. Also in cordo brown. 8½ to 12 sizes, 8.95. 12½ to big 4, sizes, 9.95 and big 4½ to 7 sizes, 10.95.

THE QUILTED NIGHTS ARE HERE

What woman of us doesn't relish the impact of the season's latest party creations . . . precisely, the lack of a cascade of richly quilted crepe. It's just everything sophisticated! Add it to your holiday life. This minute. Left, acetate and rayon crepe, stitch quilted by Mr. Mort . . . . . long strapless style, pink . . . 50.00, short version, maize . . . 45.00. Right, a costume of black laminated quilting . . . glowing acetate peau, accented with pink velvet bow belt, soft white blouse . . . 50.00. collection size 5-15.

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