

THE

PLOW

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FiberMax Center for Discovery

VOLUME 20

ISSUE 3

FALL/WINTER
2021



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High Plains Water District newest partner helping to make the AgWorks literacy wing a reality

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Volunteering their time for nearly 17 years and amassing their own unique collection.

THE

PLOW

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FARM CHARM 2021

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Photo Taken by Mardi Birkelbach. Santa Claus visited the FiberMax Center for Discovery for Farm Charm Kids Christmas.

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The FiberMax Center for Discovery is a private nonprofit agricultural history and education center located in Lubbock, Texas / **Our Mission is to preserve the history of, tell the story of, and instill pride in American agriculture and values** / We are not supported by the city, county, nor are we a part of the Texas Tech System. We rely on memberships, donations, grants and event rental income to operate / **Thank you for your support.**

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*Chris and Todd were elected by the board in November to fill the remainder of two board terms recently vacated.

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Coordinator - Mardi Birkelbach

Kamri Carper

Jessica Dammers

Arlan Gentry

Molly Jacobs

Alvin Sheppard



CONTACT US

(806) 744-3786
(806) 744-1734 FAX

INFO@AGRICULTUREHISTORY.ORG
DIRECTOR@AGRICULTUREHISTORY.ORG

EDITORIAL

As 2021 comes to an end, and we focus on the holidays, we are grateful for our families, friends, and a bountiful harvest. We celebrate this year's cotton crop and are thankful for all the farmers, ginners, and associated businesses that keep our center going throughout the year. We enjoy sharing your stories and teaching visitors from across the country about the fuzzy white fiber that drives our economy.

While Covid-19 is not going away anytime soon, it has felt good to resume some level of normalcy with in-person events. Our facility is just a building if we don't have the opportunity to share it with our community and guests. Field trips, the tractor show, Holiday Harvest, and my personal favorite, Farm Charm, have brought a variety of people through these doors, all ages, shapes, and sizes.

While each has a different story and level of familiarity with agriculture, we all have something in common. Every person that walks through our doors eats and wears clothes, two things that aren't possible without agriculture, and more importantly the people in agriculture. The ones that rain or shine, work hard everyday even in the face of what might seem like insurmountable odds.

So this holiday season, let's all take a second to thank a farmer or rancher. Because of them, we have this facility, this unique collection of artifacts, and stories to share with the public. More importantly, because of them, we have full bellies and clothes on our backs. Because of their care for the land and resources, their attention to detail, and their adoption of new technology, we have a large and plentiful food supply, and only a small percentage of our income goes to feed our family in the country.

So thank you farmers and ranchers. Thank you to our members, readers, and supporters, and here's wishing each of you a blessed holiday season. See you in 2022!

Lacey Hoelting

thank you TO OUR QUARTERLY VOLUNTEERS

Joe Anthony	Allison Kendrick	South Plains Antique
Donna Chandler	Karolyn King	Tractor Association
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Elaine Johnson	Patsy Smith	Stanley Young
Jim Johnson	John Smith	

FAMILY LAND HERITAGE

EVITT FARMS: GROWING CROPS AND CHARACTER IN IDALOU

Story by Lacey Hoelting



Lubbock Pioneer Mitchell Evitt and second wife Lou who sold 160 acres of land to Gary's father Lucas in 1913.

Gary Evitt said he'd always heard his grandfather and several family members left Georgia following the devastation of the Civil War. Mitchell Alexander Evitt's Texas journey started in Stephenville with kinfolk, then he slowly made his way west through Comanche, Benjamin, and finally settling in the Idalou area in 1907, when Gary's dad Lucas was just nine years old.

There was plenty of land, good prices, and no signs of the boll weevil on the High Plains at that time. Mitchell purchased two sections of land. One Lubbock County section, purchased from J.W. and S.E. Dalton, still remains in the Evitt family, which qualified them to receive the Family Land Heritage Award from the Texas Department of Agriculture in 2012.

In 1907, the land was covered in native grasses, and Mitchell Evitt broke that grass with a mule and a moldboard one bottom plow. The Evitts grew cotton and grain sorghum and always had a few cows. In addition to farming, Mitchell was a circuit preacher, bringing the word by horseback to people in rural areas. Family stories said he was a small-statured man, but he rode a big black horse.

In 1913, Mitchell and wife Lou sold 160 acres to 21-year-old Lucas Stevens Evitt at a cost of 50 cents an acre, with a one dollar land payment due each January. Lucas would spend his life farming, a trade he taught his son Gary from a young age.

"I was maybe five when I remember sitting in his lap on the tractor, and it wasn't long before he said I fell asleep," said Gary. "He'd always tell me don't worry about things you can't control. Try to make a good crop, but just expect not everything is going to turn out right."

**"TRY TO MAKE
A GOOD CROP,
BUT JUST
EXPECT NOT
EVERYTHING IS
GOING TO TURN
OUT RIGHT."**

The lessons continued as he learned to drive the family John Deere 70 and Farmall Super C. Gary started farming and grew his first crop in 1970 with a 1963 John Deere 4020. Gary and wife Ginny would eventually farm 3,000 acres including 200 of the acres bought by Mitchell Alexander Evitt in 1907.

Gary's philosophy on farming was simple and similar to his fathers. He said, "I can't control price. I can't control weather. I'll I can do is the best I can do and I'm going to try to make all I can make."

Active in the community and supportive of the Idalou 4-H and FFA programs, the Evitts spent 50 years farming, retiring in 2019. They raised their son Phil and daughter Stephanie



Left: Gary's first cotton crop in 1970
Below: Right Lucas Evitt with brother Albert who farmed in Littlefield.

This article series is a joint effort of the FiberMax CFD and the Lubbock County Historical Commission. To learn more about the historical commission, follow them on Facebook #historiclubbockcounty



to love the land as well, and while not farming themselves, the family still owns the farm purchased over 100 years ago.

Gary said he always told his kids, "Sometimes you want something, but how bad do you want it? Are you willing to work hard for it in order to succeed?" I'm sure his grandfather had the same thought as he hooked up his mules for the first time to turn that Lubbock County soil.

Congratulations to Evitt Farms on being a Family Land Heritage award winner and sharing a little bit of their story with us.



Gary and Ginny with their kids and grandchildren

"SOMETIMES YOU WANT SOMETHING, BUT HOW BAD DO YOU WANT IT? ARE YOU WILLING TO WORK HARD FOR IT IN ORDER TO SUCCEED?"

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

A FLOOD OF SUPPORT: HPWD NEWEST PARTNER IN MAKING THE AGWORKS WING A REALITY

Written by: Carmon McCain, Information/Education Supervisor, High Plains Water District



Since 2014, the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) has funded over \$1 million in research and demonstration projects within the district. These projects include topics such as rainwater harvesting, turf grass irrigation studies, treatment of brackish groundwater (Dockum Aquifer),

innovative scheduling for agricultural irrigation, and conservation education.

In 2014, the five-member HPWD Board of Directors adopted a policy which governs this process. The guidelines in this policy specify the requirements for submission of proposals each spring. A committee appointed by the president of the HPWD board reviews these proposals and formulates recommendations to the full board for approval.

"One of our staff members learned about the FiberMax Center for Discovery's plans to have a 'Water Works' exhibit in the new Agricultural Literacy wing. They encouraged Executive Director Lacee Hoelting to apply for grant funding," said HPWD General Manager Jason Coleman.

At their July 13 regular meeting, the HPWD Board of Directors unanimously approved \$172,275 in grant funding for the exhibit. Regular progress reports, a

"THE BOARD BELIEVES THAT THE 'WATER WORKS' EXHIBIT WILL PROVIDE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO TEACH YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER AND WATER CONSERVATION IN AGRICULTURE."

final report, and a presentation at a Water District Board meeting are required as part of the funding agreement.

"The Board believes that the 'Water Works' exhibit will provide a great opportunity to teach young people about the importance of water and water conservation in agriculture," said Coleman.

He added that the FiberMax Center for Discovery is a perfect venue for a water education exhibit.

"Each year, more than 20,000 people visit the FiberMax Center for Discovery. The 'water table' exhibit and surrounding area will provide information about groundwater stored in the Ogallala Aquifer and other area aquifers, water use, and ways to conserve it. HPWD is pleased to work with the Fibermax Center for Discovery's Executive Committee and Board of Directors on this exciting new exhibit," said Coleman.



WHAT IS WATER WORKS?

By: Lacey Hoelting

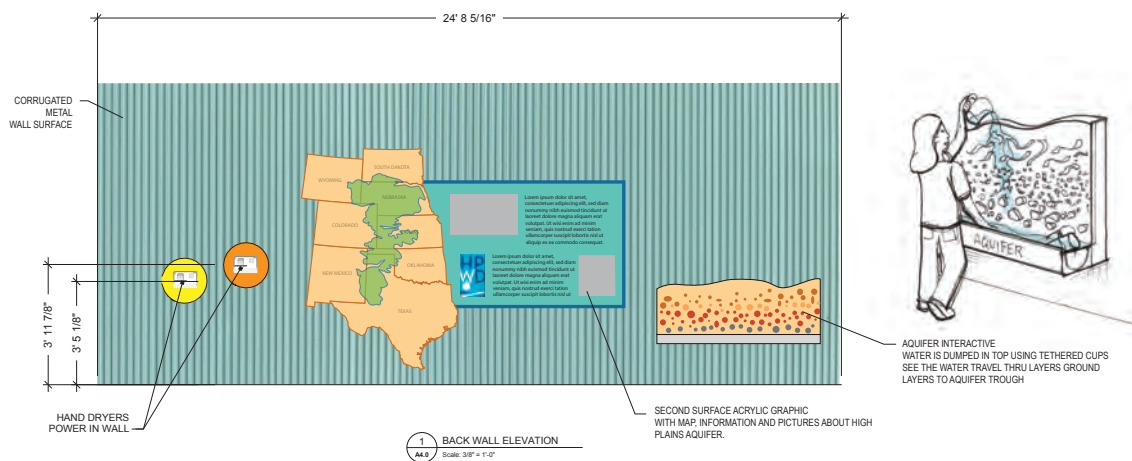
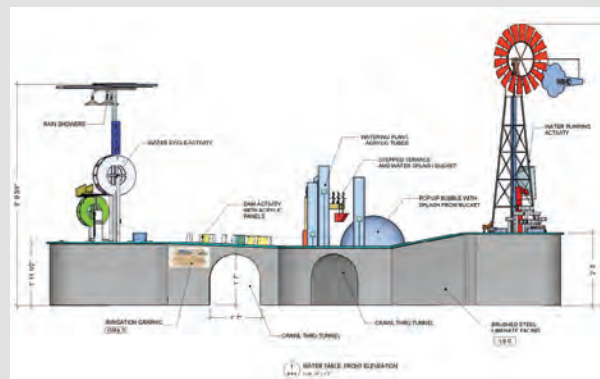
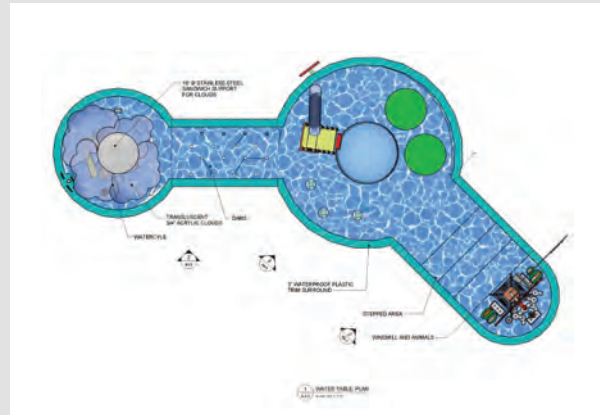
Water is and will continue to be a hot topic of conversation on the High Plains. In Water Works, visitors can discover how the water process plays a vital role in agriculture through the water table activity. They can route the fall of rain through dams and water plants through irrigation, learning how water supplies power and keep plants and animals hydrated. They can also pour water down a flat wall panel and watch it travel down through layers of "soil." HPWD will work with the FiberMax Center to finalize walls and layout of the space focusing on water conservation and regional water resources.

"High Plains Water District is more than a sponsor, they are a valuable partner and resource for the AgWorks wing. They are the experts on water conservation in our region, and will help us communicate key messages about water to our guests," said Lacey Hoelting, executive director.

Top: Water tables are a tried and true exhibit feature in children's museums. Each activity on this table will relate to agriculture and production.

Middle: Water Table Front Elevation

Bottom: HPWD will help direct content and messaging on the back wall of the water works exhibit.





Written by Mardi Birkelbach
Posed Santa Photos by Lacey Hoelting
Other Photos by Mardi Birkelbach

There is nothing like seeing the excitement on children's faces and the sparkle in their eyes as soon as they see Santa Claus. That was the case on Sunday, December 5, at the museum's 6th Farm Charm Kids Christmas. With the first Farm Charm being held in 2015, the annual event has gotten better each year. Unfortunately, there was no Farm Charm in 2020 due to Covid, so this year's record crowd was a pleasant surprise.

Families experienced the magic of Christmas at the center from 1-5 pm with many fun activities. As soon as they walked through the doors there were Santa's footprints leading them directly to him in the Alton Brazell Exhibit Hall. There, Santa Claus awaited their arrival, anxious to hear what they wanted for

Christmas. A big thank you to executive director, Lacey Hoelting and her daughter Hadlee, for being the photographers for the Santa pictures and to Kamri Carper for keeping everything and everyone organized.

In the Central Exhibit Hall, face painter, Silvia Rivera, offered over 60 different Christmas designs for the kids. There were many reindeer, Santa Claus', snowmen and even a grinch or two wandering around the facility. Also in the Central Exhibit Hall kids were making homemade snow globes with a barn, glittery snow, and a Christmas tree inside. Thank you to Elaine Johnson, Liz Patterson, Molly Jacobs, and 4-H volunteers for organizing this station and helping the kids. Thank you to Linda King, Stanley Young, and 4-H volunteers for helping handout hot chocolate and reindeer food snacks to the families. Kids were even able to watch a Christmas movie and color Christmas pictures in the Plains Cotton Growers Conference Room.

Jim Johnson welcomed families in his decorated McCormick Farmall 300 tractor at the front of the museum. He had a trailer attached and shuttled guests down to the Ropesville House for hot chocolate. Thank you to Patsy and John Smith and their daughter and her husband for their hospitality at the Ropesville House. They



Above Left: John and Patsy Smith are dedicated volunteers that give Ropesville House tours to visitors at events and school tours.

Above Right: The FiberMax staff has been good this year and grabbed a quick pic with Santa, L to R: Kamri, Lacee, Jessica, Molly, and Mardi.

Far Left: Jim Johnson was in charge of tractor rides, spreading joy with his McCormick Farmall 300.

Left: Liz Patterson and Elaine Johnson take a quick pic in between helping kids make snow globes.

had the Ropesville House decked with Christmas decorations making it feel very welcoming and reminiscent of a 1930s holiday.

In addition to Santa, Miss Texas Teen Jaida Jolley volunteered her time to welcome guests and help direct kids and families to the various activities. Grace's General Store was also open for guests to get some of their Christmas shopping done.

This event would not have been possible without our volunteers and the generous donations received each year through the Giving Tuesday West Texas campaign. This event brings a lot of joy to our staff and really kicks off the holiday season.



Kids received the cutest Christmas themed designs courtesy of Silvia Rivera.

SPOTTED

at the FiberMax Center for Discovery

01 Ray Thomas and Dan Taylor catch up while their wives shop at Holiday Harvest.

02 Center staff take a quick pic with U.S. Senator Roger Marshall of Kansas. The Senator, a physician and 5th generation farmer, requested a tour of the facility while in Lubbock for an event.

03 Santa Claus, also known as Stanley Young or Mother Young, carries on an interesting conversation with interns Kamri Carper and Molly Jacobs.

04 Lee Leonard celebrated his birthday with cake and ice cream with center staff

05 Lacey grabs a quick pic and a "Guns Up" with Governor Abbott who made an appearance at the FiberMax Center on October 1 to announce the creation of a new Leprino Foods plant in Lubbock. A leader in mozzarella cheese production, the new plant will bring 600 new jobs and nearly \$870 million in capital investment.

06 Molly Jacobs and Mardi Birkelbach helping get the tree decorated in the central exhibit hall.

07 Sammy Jones-Dodson shows off the AIA award given to the Lubbock Heritage Society for preservation of the Underwood Pullman Train Car. The group met at the FiberMax Center in September.

08 Kamri Carper, Lacey Hoelting, Mardi Birkelbach, and Jessica Dammers stop to take a selfie while clearing and cleaning up weeds at the Shallowater warehouse.



FRESH FACES AT THE FIBERMAX CENTER FOR DISCOVERY



MARDI BIRKELBACH

Hello everyone,

My name is Mardi Birkelbach and I was born and raised in Littlefield, Texas. Growing up, I was actively involved in 4-H and FFA doing various speaking events, cotton judging, sewing, amongst others. Between this, spending many hours at the farm with my dad, and working at my family's irrigation pump business I adopted a strong passion for agriculture.

After graduating from Littlefield High School in 2018, I attended Texas Tech University where I graduated with my bachelors of science degree in agricultural communications in May 2021. While in college I taught tap, ballet, and jazz at The Dance Gallery in Lubbock and with the spare time I have now I still teach a couple of classes.

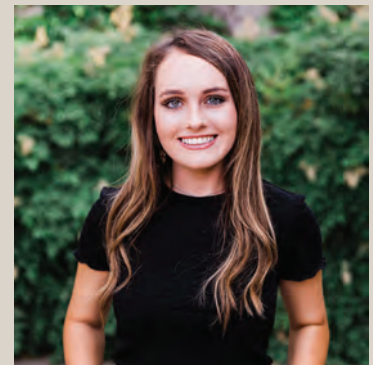
I am so grateful to have this opportunity to continue advocating agriculture and sharing my love for it with others. I am excited to be the new communications and events coordinator and a part of the team at the FiberMax Center for Discovery. I look forward to working with and getting to know each of you.

Hey everyone,

My name is Kamri Carper and I am from Roscoe, Texas. I attended Highland High School from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Throughout high school I was an active member of the FFA, 4-H, and many sports teams.

After graduating high school, I began college at Texas Tech University studying Agricultural Communications. The agriculture programs I have been involved in have developed my love and passion for agriculture. I am currently a junior and will graduate in May of 2023.

I am blessed and honored to have the opportunity to further my career here at the FiberMax Center for Discovery and I look forward to meeting you all.



KAMRI CARPER



MOLLY JACOBS

Hey everyone!

My name is Molly Jacobs and I am from Montgomery, Texas. I was homeschooled on my family ranch until 8th grade, before attending and graduating from Legacy Preparatory Christian Academy. I was active in 4-H and competed in reined cow horse and Stock Horse of Texas.

After graduation, I began attending Texas Tech University and pursued a degree in Animal Science before switching to Agricultural Communications in 2020. I was a member of the Texas Tech Ranch Horse Team for 3 years where I showed my love for agriculture. I am currently a junior and plan to graduate in May of 2023.

I am so excited to grow my knowledge of agriculture here at the FiberMax Center for Discovery and am so blessed to be a part of this amazing team.

A NIGHT FOR THE MUSEUM 2021: CELEBRATING AGRICULTURE TOGETHER AND IN-PERSON

Written by Jessica Dammers

Photos by Kyler Hardegree

MEMBERS, SUPPORTERS, AND VOLUNTEERS OF THE FIBERMAX CENTER FOR DISCOVERY PACKED THE LUBBOCK MEMORIAL CIVIC CENTER ON AUGUST 31, 2021.

The center hosted its annual signature gala, A Night for the Museum. In 2020, we shifted the event to a virtual platform due to Covid, but nothing is better than having a room full of people all supporting the same cause. The atmosphere of the event and the smiles seen on everyone's faces encapsulates the value of being able to be together, something we will not take for granted after 2020.

A virtual option was still available for those who could not attend, but it was evident our supporters were ready to reconnect with approximately 131 tables being sold. Together, we kicked off the night with a social hour and tunes from the Lone Prairie Band.

The 2021 silent auction broke the record for sales by nearly \$4,000, generating \$20,923 worth of funds to support the museum. Supporters were able to browse 108 auction items in person and online, all of which were generously donated by businesses and individuals across the state. These items included a 14K Egyptian Turquoise necklace donated by Thacker Jewelry, a beautiful Starry Night painting donated by Laura Lewis, a windmill made out of railroad ties, along with several gift cards and packages.

Michelle Miller, better known as the "Farm Babe," spoke on how she went from working in fashion on Rodeo Drive and buying into mainstream misconceptions about food production to an advocate for agriculture. With over 200,000 social media followers, Miller has built a platform to tell agriculture's story and explained how one post can shift the audience's perspective of agriculture. Agricultural advocacy is a mission we stand with at the FiberMax Center for Discovery. The entire evening flowed smoothly with Texas Tech University's Chancellor Emeritus Kent Hance as emcee. No stranger to agriculture, the Dimmitt native offered some great anecdotes and made everyone feel welcome.

Lacee Hoelting, Executive Director of the FiberMax Center for Discovery shared updates on the Center and shared how her own two daughters take every opportunity to donate their change to raise

funds for the AgWorks Children's Wing, hoping to inspire an evening of giving.

All of this was highlighted by an excellent meal as Jeana's Feedbag offered appetizers, sides, dessert, and prime rib from Raider Red Meats. The Texas Tech Wool Judging class along with local 4-H and FFA members volunteered to help serve the meal and greet guests.

The evening concluded with the drawing of three winners in the gun raffle sponsored by Ag Texas. Raffle sales raised another \$10,700 for the center. Congratulations to this year's shotgun, rifle, and handgun winners.

2021 retained many elements of the 2020 virtual event, like the three-day virtual scavenger hunt, where winners were drawn each day for three coolers. Sponsors spotlight videos also aired across all of our social media platforms to highlight our \$3,000 and above sponsors.

This year's event raised nearly \$148,000 and we would like to thank our Title Sponsor, Samuel Jackson Inc., Program Sponsor, Hurst Farm Supply, Media Sponsors, Ramar Communications and Fox 34 News, and everyone that supported the event. Each table, ticket, auction, and raffle purchase helps us continue operating, while promoting and preserving the history of agriculture on the South Plains.



A full house gathers to support the museum.



Michelle Miller, Farm Babe, shares a few words.

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Continued on page 14

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 PYCO
 Quarterway Cotton Growers (3 Tables)
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 West Texas A&M University
 Western Bank
 Wellington State Bank
 Western Equipment
 WesTex Co-op Gin
 Willingham Southwest Gin (2 Tables)
 Windstar, Inc.
 Woolam Gin
 Larry Work & Nathan Boardman
 Ricky Yantis and Others
 Stanley Young
 Ag Texas Farm Credit
 ASCO
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 High Cotton Creations
 Clay and Lacey Hoelting
 Homestead Cotton Co.
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Browsing the silent auction tables.



The Lone Prairie Band playing great music.

J&B Coffee
 James Avery
 Jeana's Feedbag
 Josh Abbott - *Austin, TX*
 John Russell Thomasson Studio
 Kendra Scott - *Midland, TX*
 Lacee Hoelting
 Laura Lewis - *Mason, TX*
 Leather Lace & Grace - *Dublin, TX*
 Little Busters Toys Plush Animals
 Lubbock Electric
 Lyntegar Electric
 Matt Rush
 Mighty Wash
 Module Trucking Systems
 Nat Brusiloff
 Nothing Bundt Cakes

Oriental Trading Company - *Omaha, NE*
 Our Stuff - *Levelland, TX*
 Overton Hotel
 Piper Lubbock
 Raider Red Meats
 Red Rivers
 Reign Fine Gifts
 Rusty's BugStop - *Levelland, TX*
 Sassie Rose Boutique - *Lazbuddie, TX*
 Southwest Aqua Sports
 Steel Grace - *Olton, TX*
 Stuffology - *Crosbyton*
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 Teddy Jacks
 Thacker Jewelry
 The Confectionary Bake Shop - *Olton, TX*
 The Cookie Jar
 The Pie Bar
 The Spa by Sheena
 Total Wine & More
 Trapped! Escape Room
 Tule Creek Outfitters
 Tumbleweed and Sage - *Wolfforth, T*
 United Supermarkets
 W.D. Wilkins
 Wild Plum Cakes and Sweets - *Olton, TX*
 Woods Boot City
 Your Shop - *Levelland, TX*

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 Felicia Fillingim
 Lisa Gentry
 Hunter Harris
 Allison Kendrick
 Linda King
 James Pendergrass
 Judy D'Mello Stout
 Cheryl Swinburn
 Jerry Fletcher
 Anwen Pope
 FFA & 4-H Volunteers
 District 2 4-H Council
 Frenship FFA
 Idalou FFA
 Lubbock Cooper FFA
 Sands FFA

STAFF

Kamri Carper
 Jessica Dammers
 Arlan Gentry
 Lacee Hoelting
 Molly Jacobs
 Alvin Sheppard
 Kayla van Zielst

What IS That?

Do you know what tool number 17 is? Come to the museum to find it! This is just one of the many neat tools we have displayed in the tool shed in the Alton Brazell Exhibit Hall.



LAST ISSUE'S ANSWER



The object that was found by Cary Collins in a field east of Acuff was a step used to get on a buggy or wagon back in the day. Were you correct?



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



WAYNE & WANDA SWART



Wayne and Wanda in front of the original Waylon Jennings sign that welcomed visitors into Littlefield, Texas.

ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FOR
17
YEARS

AMASSING THEIR OWN UNIQUE COLLECTION

For almost 20 years, Wayne and Wanda Swart have dedicated their time and energy to volunteering at the FiberMax Center for Discovery. The Swarts were both born and raised in Sudan, Texas, and met in the summer of 1953. After Wayne was involved in an incident with a tractor that left him in a walking cast, an Air Force buddy and he took to the big streets of Amherst to drive around.

"He was driving my car since I was on crutches and we were dragging main street in Amherst," said Wayne. "We had a friend named Jackie and I told Gerald, 'Why don't you call Jackie and see if she wants to ride around with us and see if she has a roommate.'"

Jackie agreed to ride around with the boys and brought her roommate, Wanda with her. Wanda and Jackie worked together at the Amherst hospital.

"We drove to Littlefield that night and I bet she didn't say three words to me the whole time," Wayne said.

Wayne said that he and Wanda finally warmed up to each other later that night and never dated anyone else after that day and married a little over a year later. In 67 years of marriage, the couple has had three children and seven grandchildren.

The Swarts farmed cotton and grain from 1955 to 2000. The farm, just 2 miles from Sudan's main street, has quickly become a museum in its own right. Their home for the last 65 years is a combination of three different church buildings. In 2000, Wayne partnered with an old friend who owned a sign booth inside a Lubbock bowling alley. Their first purchase was a Pontiac dealership sign in pristine condition. They then worked out a deal where Wayne would find two signs, give one to his partner to sell and keep the other one.

"We bought that sign and some more and he put that in his booth and sold it for \$1100," said Wayne. "So anyway, that got me interested. After that, we were both buying signs. If I could find two alike, I'd let him put one in his shop and I'd keep the other one. So that's the way we worked it, that helped me accumulate without having a lot of money in it. That's kind of the way it got started, I just kept looking and finding, bringing home."

Wayne and Wanda started collecting anything they found interesting, including street signs, tools, farm equipment, corn husk dolls, toy tractors, thermometers, traffic lights, records, phones, neon signs, and are still collecting today. The majority of the Swart's collection is from Littlefield and the surrounding areas.

The Swarts are members of the South Plains Antique Tractor Association, where they volunteer with the Annual Tractor Show every October. They own the raffle tractor from 2016, a 1956

“THE SWARTS ARE SOME OF THE KINDEST PEOPLE I’VE EVER MET. WHETHER YOU’VE JUST MET THEM OR KNOWN THEM FOR YEARS, THEY MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE PART OF THEIR FAMILY, WHICH MAKES THEM WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS.”

John Deere 420. Wayne has owned several antique tractors over the years, including a 1941 hand-cranked John Deere V. Between 2004 and 2005, Angela Beasley, the museum’s then director, traveled to Sudan and gave a presentation at the Senior Citizens Center, on the American Museum of Agriculture, where Wayne and Wanda served on the board. When Beasley finished her presentation and began to head to her car, Wayne approached her and told her that he might like to be a volunteer. Beasley encouraged him and the rest is history.

“The museum is good at educating young kids on school tours,” said Wanda. “Even in the city of Lubbock, there are children who don’t know anything about where their food comes from. They think the food just comes from the store.”

Helping with school tours and getting to meet people from around the world is one of the Swart’s favorite things about volunteering at the FiberMax Center for Discovery.

“The Swarts are some of the kindest people I’ve ever met. Whether you’ve just met them or known them for years, they make you feel like part of their family, which makes them wonderful volunteers,” said Lacey Hoelting, center director. The FiberMax Center for Discovery is grateful to know the Swart’s and would like to thank them for their 17 years of time and service invested in our facility.

Wirtten by Molly Jacobs and Kamri Carper
Photos by Molly Jacobs



Wayne and Wanda displayed their own tool collection inspired by our Alton Brazell exhibit here at the FCFD.



The Swart’s backyard is decorated with dozens of signs, some mounted onto the fence.



Wayne has transformed a shed into his “antique shop”, which houses a large number of his collections.



The Swarts have several pieces of farm equipment displayed in their front yard, including this John Deere one-row stripper.

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

REMEMBERING THOSE SPECIAL TO US

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Ms. Norma Appling by Plains Cotton Growers
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Gerald McCathern by Laura Morgan
James Craig Merritt by Calvin & Sandra Lemon
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R. B. Martin by Calvin & Sandra Lemon
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Frank B. Sehon by Texas Star Coop Gin
Frank B. Sehon by South Plains Valley
Frank B. Sehon by Doyle & Cynthia Buxkemper
Sharon Shipley by David & Ronda Langston
Mozell Smith by Stanley Young
Mozell Smith by Denny & Mary Belew
Ronnie Dale Smith by Tracy & Jaylayne Birkelbach
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J. L. Talley by Margaret & Dale Gladden
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David Taylor by Bobby & Joyce McNabb
David Taylor by Bill & Linda Adams
David Taylor by Randy & Jana Bessire
David Taylor by Brady & Janet Mimms
Rose Marie Page Walker Farm 14 by Kimberly Elmer
John Gordon Wilkerson, Jr. by Plains Cotton Growers
Joan Nell Young by Hurst Farm Supply

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Red Rivers by Jerry N. Nislar
Stanley Young by Dan & Linda Taylor

For the convenience of our members and readers, we have memoiral and honorarium forms available to print online. You can pay and submit thorough our website or print and mail payment to:

FiberMax Center for Discovery
1121 Canyon Lake Drive
Lubbock, TX 79403

www.agriculturehistory.org/donate

NEW FOR 2022: FAMILY NIGHTS SPONSORED BY H-E-B

Through a generous grant from H-E-B, the FiberMax Center will have family nights the first Tuesday of each month starting February 1. From 5:30-7:30, anyone can come visit the Center with no admission fee. We'll have snacks and a different hands-on activity or craft geared toward children each month. Be sure to follow us on social media to get the details each month and be sure to read the next edition of The Plow to learn how H-E-B is partnering with FCFD to promote agriculture education.

FREE ADMISSION

**DIFFERENT HANDS-ON
ACTIVITY EACH MONTH**

REFRESHMENTS

**5:30 - 7:30 PM
AFTER WORK AND STILL
HOME IN TIME FOR DINNER**

DOOR PRIZES



2022 DATES:



FEBRUARY 1, 2022

MARCH 1, 2022

APRIL 5, 2022

MAY 3, 2022

JUNE 7, 2022

JULY 5, 2022

AUGUST 2, 2022

SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

OCTOBER 4, 2022

NOVEMBER 1, 2022

DECEMBER 6, 2022

PICKERING PHILANTHROPY HONORED BY LOCAL FUNDRAISING GROUP

Written by Lacey Hoelting

Photos by Tonja Hagy-Valdine



Jenea Pickering Stone accepts the award from Mayor Dan Pope

On November 10, the Lubbock Association of Fundraising Professionals recognized groups and individuals who have given of their time and treasure during a National Philanthropy Day celebration held at the Louise Hopkins Underwood Center for the Arts. Among the awardees, the R.H. Pickering Foundation was named as Outstanding Philanthropic Foundation.

The Pickerings were nominated by the FiberMax Center for Discovery and have been

instrumental in funding the history of irrigation and water pump exhibits in the central hall. Beyond sponsorship, the Pickerings and their company Simflo have been a true partner to our nonprofit, providing industry expertise, and even fabricating pumps for the exhibit. Each year they bring their employees and families out to the FiberMax Center for the company Christmas party, and both Troy and Chad Pickering have served on our board of directors.

With humble beginnings as a machine shop in 1941, Clarence Simmons and Raymond Pickering eventually developed their own line of vertical turbine pumps, growing the company into a premier manufacturer. Today, Simflo manufactures over 75 different pump models, as well as countless replacement parts and accessories. They are one of the last privately held vertical turbine manufacturers in the industry.

With all their success, the family and the company continue to give back to their community, and we thank them for their support and congratulate them on their recent recognition during National Philanthropy Day.

WE THANK THE R.H. PICKERING FOUNDATION FOR THEIR SUPPORT



L to R: Jenea Pickering Stone, Clay Pickering, Lugene Pickering, David Pickering, Dorothy Pickering, Jay Pickering, FCFD Director Lacey Hoelting, Andi Pickering, and Chad Pickering, were all on hand to receive the Outstanding Foundation award.



Mardi Birkelbach, Dan Taylor, Lacey Hoelting and Curtis Griffith (not pictured) all attended the Nov. 10 reception to congratulate the Pickerings. Pictured with Jay Pickering.

HOLIDAY HARVEST REVIEW

Story and Photos by Mardi Birkelbach

The museum hosted its 4th Holiday Harvest on November 14. With Christmas right around the corner, this event was perfect for people to come out and get all of their shopping done in one place. With Christmas music playing in the background you could feel the holiday cheer in the air.

20 vendors attended the event to sell their products ranging from clothing, candles, jewelry, handmade leather goods, dried flower arrangements, home decor, and more. Due to Covid, we were not able to have Holiday Harvest last year, so it was nice to bring it back and see everyone get together again. The doors for the event were open from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. for guests to shop and tour the museum. Grace's General Store was also open to the public and displayed many new Christmas items. This event brought in about 120 people including vendors, staff, and shoppers.

Admission was free in hopes to draw people to the museum and for them to do more business with the vendors. The travelling coffee truck, Treble Clef Coffee had a booth set up selling their speciality holiday cappuccinos and Adelphos Cellars were offering wine tastings of their white and red wines for guests to enjoy while shopping.

We would like to give a big thank you to all of our vendors, shoppers, and everyone who helped make this event possible. We are excited to have Holiday Harvest again next year!



Defaid Emporium had a large booth set up selling a wide variety of goods.



Hoot-N-Annie Pecan Company out of Shallowater, Texas offered many different flavors of pecans to shoppers.



Brady Evans, owner of Defaid Emporium, always helps customers with a smile on her face.



Many unique agriculture canvases and prints were sold by Kortney Kulhanek, owner of Photography By Kortney.

NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING YOUR ANNUAL SUPPORT OF OUR FACILITY

**denotes new membership*

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of Agricultural Sciences and Natural
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CREW BOSS

Todd Straley

TOP HAND

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Jimmy & Rita Clark
Stan & Karolyn King
J. B. & Jeanie Lemon
Melvin & Tina Macha
Joel & Sallye Tankersley
Woolam Gin

SUPPORTER

Bill and Linda Adams
Nathan & Mary Jane Buerkle
Jeremy Brown
Mark & Jana Brown
Kenny Earman
Charles & Carolyn Edmonds
Aden Frick
Bart Greer
Preston & Shelley Huguley

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Steve Scott
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AGWORKS WING

Mark & Jana Brown

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

John Kiouis by Red Rivers

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Gary Aycock

Gary Beach
Mardi Birkelbach
Gary Boren
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Bobbie Butler
Yessica Cavazos
Joey Chavez
Amy Clark
Kalin Clark
Scott & Cindy Cooksey
Billy & Belinda Copeland
Jason Corley
Dusty Cornelius
Chance Crossland
Marty Davis
David Davis
Kenneth Dierschke
Clay Donnell
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RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE AT AGRICULTUREHISTORY.ORG/ABOUT/MEMBERSHIP

Membership Benefits include:

Membership Level recognized in The Plow • Quarterly newsletter • Free meals at annual meeting
Special event invitations • Discounts on facility rentals • Discounts at Grace's General Store
Recognition on museum displays (Sod Buster level and up)

(benefits subject to membership level)

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 Christopher Johnson
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 Lacy Jones
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 Allison Maxwell
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Earnie Gandy
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GENERAL FUND

Michael Paschel



Night harvest by Molly Jacobs

SAVE THE DATE

DEC 23	FIBERMAX CENTER FOR DISCOVERY WILL CLOSE AT 1 PM
DEC 24	FIBERMAX CENTER FOR DISCOVERY CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS
DEC 25	FIBERMAX CENTER FOR DISCOVERY CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS
JAN 1	FIBERMAX CENTER FOR DISCOVERY CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS
FEB 1	OUR 1ST FAMILY NIGHT BY H-E-B FROM 5:30 PM TO 7:30 PM

JAN 22	CHILI FEED AND ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING FROM 11:00 AM TO 1:00 PM
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Tractor show entries parked on display for the annual South Plains Antique Tractor Association show that took place at the FiberMax Center for Discovery in October.



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