

Garden Club travels to Mabank

by Dixie Taylor
It was a "Victorian" day for the garden club ladies on the first Wednesday of the month, March 5th. The gardeners traveled to Mabank to have lunch at "The Victorian Lady Tea Room."

With the first day of spring coming this month, activity planner Dixie Taylor presented a short program on "Bluebirds and Bluebonnets," these being a Texas and "Victorian" era springtime favorite.

Doing research for the program I learned many things

about what was fashionable among the Victorian era ladies. Much to my surprise, a lady's wealth was measured by the stuffed bird (the bluebird being one of them) and feathers that was attached to her hats.

An interesting fact about the bluebird is, the annual Audubon bird count in the State of Texas reveals there are more bluebirds in the Wills Point area than anywhere else in the state. The Texas State Legislature declared Wills Point the "Bluebird Capital of Texas" on Feb-

ruary 7, 1995. Each April since 1993 Wills Point has hosted a "Bluebird Festival."

Facts about the bluebonnet: It was adopted as the official "State Flower" by the Texas Legislature in 1901. Did you know they are great fertilizers? Their roots produce pure, clean, natural fertilizers rich in nitrogen and can yield 100 pounds of nitrogen per acre. This is great for tomatoes so if you have bluebonnets on your property you might consider planting your tomatoes near them.

Dixie gave each garden club member a box of Wildflower Seed mix which contained a mixture of seventeen different kinds of wildflower seeds and also a book on "Bluebirds in Texas."

Those who traveled to Mabank were Carol Bridges, Jean Dean, Lou Gossett, Martha Hardwick, Doris Langston, Pat McBride, Wanda McCreary, Linda Owen, Jannie Parker, Bobbie Sparks, Anna Mae Williams, Mary Williams, Murlene Wommack and Dixie Taylor.

★ Xtreme

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at the Xtreme 26-yard line, and the 2-point conversion was good to take a 25-0 lead.

The Bullets capitalized again after a fumble recovery in Xtreme territory and converted their second first half field goal to take a 28-0 halftime lead.

In the second half, with the exception of three interceptions returns for touchdowns, the Bullets' only other score came after once again taking over in Xtreme territory and converting their 3rd field goal.

Defensive Coordinator Gary Craig was pleased with the defensive performance considering the unit was on the field far too long with their back to the wall.

Cornerback Chris Nealy missed his second consecutive game with an ankle injury, and Defensive End Flem Kindle was not available until the 3rd quarter.

Xtreme owners Larry Anding and Gary Craig feel their team will rebound as the Xtreme started the 2003 season with a 3-3 record and went undefeated until they eventually lost in the league championship game.

The Xtreme will host the East Texas Wolves Saturday, March 15, at Brownsboro High School Stadium. The Xtreme hold an 8-0 record against the Wolves. Kickoff time is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

Five generations



Five generations under one Bridges. Right: Patricia Bridges of Chandler. Left: Marilyn Alford of Lubbock. Top: James Bullard of Lubbock. Middle: Tiffany and Braxton McKinny of Lubbock.

Area Obituaries

J.L. 'Jim' Shaffer Sr.

Graveside memorial services for Jimmy Lloyd "Jim" Shaffer Sr., 64, Chandler, were held at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Williams Cemetery, New Chapel Hill. Arrangements were with Hilliard Funeral Home, Van.

Mr. Shaffer died March 9, 2008, in Tyler.

He was born December 27, 1943, in Dallas to Austin and Lois Shaffer and had lived in the area all of his life, and worked as a brick mason.

He was preceded in death by his father, Austin Shaffer, and son, Jerry Shaffer.

Survivors are his daughter, Debra West, Wilburton, Okla.; son, Jim Shaffer Jr.; mother, Lois Williams, New Chapel Hill; sisters, Diane Tippit, Tyler, and Nancy Powell, Red Springs; seven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.



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Dr. Harold Smitson (left) and Richard Vasquez with new low-radiation CT heart scanner.

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Perhaps the most exciting advancement is the new low-radiation CT heart scanner. It allows doctors to see

a three-dimensional image of the heart with four times the data previously available.

According to Dr. Smitson, "It allows us to do specialized studies, it's quicker, and we can more accurately diagnose whether somebody who comes in with chest pain really has coronary artery disease."

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Writers' Corner

If you have a poem, song lyrics or a short story and you would like to share it with the readers of *The Statesman* now is your chance.

Email or mail us your submission and look for it in an upcoming issue of *The Statesman*.

DON'T LET THE FIRE GO OUT

Don't let the fire go out
That's been burning down in your heart.
Stir it up and give it out
To those who need a new start.

You've been walking with the Lord,
Your face is all aglow.
Share the joy that you have now
With us, just let it flow.

Let God direct your pathway,
Let Him lead all the way.
When people laugh at what you do,
Pay no heed to what they say.

You are in God's hand so take your stand,
Don't let satan put the fire out.
Walk right in and take the land;
This is what revival's about.

Revival has started, let it burn bright,
You've got the victory; stand up and shout.
Forever keep that flame burning,
Just don't let the fire go out.

Song written by Thomas Howard

MORNING PEACE

The glowing orb rising slowly making gold,
A path across the silvery, shimmering lake,
A lone fisherman enters the stream of gold.
The early morning peacefulness
Complemented by the distant drone of the boat.

The hum-m-m-m sound of the tiny birds as they dart
To and fro from feeder to tree,
And suspend themselves in front of me,
Out of reach of hands or camera.
Their little twitters and peeps
Broadcast their knowledge as
They study me, the huge object
Too close to their feeder.

Soon they lose their fear of me.
They, too, feel the peace.

by Mariana Neff Pankratz

THERE IS A HEAVENLY GARDEN

Sometimes God picks the flower
That is still in full bloom;
Sometimes the rosebud's chosen
That we feel He's picked too soon.
Sometimes the flower is fading,
With petals floating down,
But God knows the perfect time
To gather flowers from the ground.
There is a heavenly garden
In which God takes great pleasure,
Because He's placed within it
The loved ones that we treasure.
He walks among the blossoms,
Giving them eternal rest,
And I know that it must please Him,
Because He chose our very best.

Submitted by Otis Rainwater

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Our focus is worshipping and praising God. As revealed in His word, we strive to encourage, pray, study, and bring others the Grace and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Teaching the Gospel, reaching out to save the lost and working in the fields we pray to never become weary of doing good. We sing God's praises and reach out to those in need as we too, seek spiritual growth through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Sunday Bible Study 9:30am

Sunday Evening Worship ... 6:00pm

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am

Sunday Children's Church 6:00pm

Wednesday Evening Service 7:00pm

Elders: Lowell Daughtry • Doug Wilson

To the community,

I will be closing Slim Clippins on 3-26-08 in order to pursue another career path. I have enjoyed the past 2 1/2 years I spent in business here. This change is bitter-sweet but necessary. I love you all and appreciate the business. Take care, and God Bless!

- Leslie Adair