

Echoes from the Past:

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Energy). A job which lasted for 40 years.

Later on, after his military service, he was offered a full basketball scholarship to West Texas State, (now W.T. A&M), in Canyon, by coach Metz LaFollette. He didn't take it.

Melvin Kinnison was born in Lamesa in 1938, to Rayman and Lucille Kinnison. He started school in Lamesa and then they moved to Seagraves in 1950 where he graduated from high school in 1956.

Jessie's family, Jesse James and Doris (Morgan) Hobbs moved to Seagraves the same year as the Kinnisons, but the families weren't

acquainted.

Jessie and Melvin were only two grades apart in a small school, and Jessie was in the same grade with Melvin's brother, Freddie, but she and Melvin didn't know each other until after he graduated. Jessie had taken a job at Mr. Procter's drug store. Melvin came in for a soda and she waited on him. They soon began dating and they dated for about three years.

Jessie said her parents were protective of her and so she didn't get around very much. She and Melvin dated through her senior year. She said her parents thought Melvin was great, and anything she wanted to do with Melvin was okay. She said her parents liked

him better than she did at first.

They were married August 15, 1959.

Jessie was born in Talco, in east Texas. She started school in Bogata. After the third grade they moved to Jolintown and they were truly out in the country. They had an outdoor toilet. From there they moved to Seagraves when Jessie was in the fifth grade. She graduated from Seagraves in 1958.

After high school she went to work for J.B. Cotton as a legal secretary, and worked there until January of 1962. At this point, they were married, Melvin was in the military and their first baby was born.

Melvin was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1961, after they had just bought a house full of furniture. His recruiter was his uncle. He was sent to Ft. Ord California where he underwent basic training. He said everything was uphill. "We never ran downhill!" They left there for Ft. Eustis, Va. into a whole new experience.

Jessie had been saving up her paychecks and had a little money put away for their trip. Melvin came home and got her and they headed for their new home in Virginia. Somewhere in the Smoky Mountains the brakes went out on the car and it took all of her money to fix it. They arrived in Williamsburg, Va and happened to stop at the Elco Lodge to see if they had anything to rent. This is where they met the first of five couples who were in the same circumstance as they were. They would become fast friends from that day until the present. They stay in touch, and get together at least once a year every year.

Bob and Evelyn Miller saw the look on their faces and their license plate reading, Texas, and knew they were in need of a friend. They told Melvin and Jessie, "We have a two bedroom apartment. Why don't you stay with us for a few days until you get established." This lasted for six months.

They were in the same boat. They were in the Army, and down to no money. Jessie went out and got a job at a law firm, but couldn't get her first paycheck for two weeks. Melvin said, "For two weeks we lived on combread made with water and beans." Another couple had joined them and they were all tired of drinking only water, so they decided to pool their money and buy sodas. Between them they had just enough money to buy a six pack of Pepsi and pay the deposit on the bottles.

They never ate out. They played gin rummy and crazy eight, and never had an argument or a fuss. Jessie said, "In spite of circumstances we still managed to laugh and have fun."

When he was discharged in August of 1963 the Kinnisons came back to Seagraves and Melvin got his old job back. Jessie went back to work for Mr. Cotton until 1967. Their second child was born.

Melvin and Jessie have two children, Shane and Shawnda. Shane is a Baptist minister. He

and his wife, Stephanie (Kelso) live in Gresham, Oregon. They have two sons, Sheldon who lives in Waxahachie, and Stetson who is a junior at Barlo High School in Gresham.

Shawnda is married to Joe Martin, (grandson of Freda and Malcom Martin) and they live in Sudan. They have two sons, Christopher who graduated from Texas Tech. He is married to Kaitlyn (Horan). They live in Dallas where he works for a public relations company. Their other son, Cannon is a freshman at W.T. A&M at Canyon. Jessie calls him a "blue eyed, handsome man."

The Kinnisons are very proud of their four "wonderful grandsons." Melvin always said his grandsons were "beautiful." Someone told him, "girls are beautiful, boys are handsome." Melvin said, "My grandsons are beautiful!"

Before they had children Jessie thought she wanted to be a stay-at-home mom, but it didn't take long to decide she really didn't. In 1967 she got a call from Don Sellers, manager of Pioneer Natural Gas Co. and she worked for them until 1969. At this time they moved to Slaton. She transferred to the Lubbock office and drove back and forth until 1977.

Melvin took a management job at Earth, and Jessie went to work for the Springlake/Earth School System as a teacher's aide and secretary. They stayed there until Melvin got the District Manager job in Seminole. They moved here in 1985. Jessie substituted at Seminole Elementary for one year, but she wanted a full time job. She went to work for Texas Agricultural Service in 1986. She worked there until she retired in 2003.

Both of their children were born in Seminole with Dr. Kolberg as the attending physician. Melvin was in the army when Shane was born, and his birth cost them \$15.00. If he had been born at the base hospital it would have been free.

Melvin got into coaching. He coached Little Dribblers, both boys and girls, in Seagraves, Slaton and

Earth. He continued to coach even after his kids got too old to play in Little Dribblers. He also refereed. He refereed junior high and under games.

He, also, got into golf and he still plays every day. Jessie used to crochet, but now, she likes to spend time with her computer and her skype. She also likes to read.

Both of Jessie's parents are now deceased. Her father died in 1974 and her mother, in 1996.

Melvin's father died in 1983. His mother still lives here in Seminole. She is recovering from a serious fall.

Jessie was reared in a family of five children, she had one sister and three brothers. She is the only one surviving. Her youngest brother, Darrell Hobbs, worked for the Seminole Police Department. He was shot while on duty in a standoff on 11th Street. He survived the shooting, but has since died.

Because of her father's illness and her mother having to work, Jessie became a sort-of substitute mother to the kids. Melvin said she could cook a full course meal when she was 12-years-old.

Melvin's family had seven children, four boys and three girls. They are all still living.

Jessie related an incident in the life of Melvin's family. "They were moving from Lamesa to Seagraves in a 1935, two door Chevy sedan, they had just bought. They were bringing home a featherbed mattress which they tied on top of the car. It started raining. They stopped the car, had the kids get

out and put the mattress inside the car. Then they all got back in and proceeded to Seagraves. Can you picture a family of nine people and a wet feather mattress in a two door sedan?"

Melvin said when he was a teenager it wasn't hard to find a job around Seagraves. Irrigation was just getting its start in farming and they were always looking for someone to move pipe. He said he made pretty good pay for a teenager.

Melvin enjoyed working for SPS. He went to work for them in 1957, and retired in 1997. He said, "I worked with a lot of wonderful people in Gaines County, in both Seagraves and Seminole, who are now deceased." He named a number of those people. "Horace Taylor, Lynn Moss, Bob Steveson, Lefty Faulkner, Tom Wynn, Charlie Bledsoe, Bob Whippo, Wayne Thomas, Frank Middleton, Eugene Yocom, J. D. Brannon, Otis Finch, Willie Homer, Ed. Homer, Lonnie Howell, Red Sims, Malcom Martin, and Walter Elliston.

He wanted to give a word of praise for the men and women who through, "good hearted, honest, hard work made SPS what it is today."

He is proud his company never served alcohol at company parties. He said it was great to have 400 people at a Christmas party and no one got drunk, and there was no fussing and fighting going on.

The Kinnisons are members of the South Seminole Baptist Church.

SEDC: From Page 1

-- available in five different flavors -- customers will be able to personalize their pizzas to their desires, with "more toppings and choices than other (pizza) places currently offer," according to Griffin.

"It's comparable to the Subway (sandwich) concept, where you have the choice to put whatever you want on your pizza," said Griffin. "It is going to be a unique experience."

Seminole City Administrator and interim SEDC Director Tommy Phillips stated the business is planning on opening "around the first week of March."

The SEDC, which was founded in 2002, works under a 4B corporation status as defined by the Development Corporation Act of 1979.

Under the Act, cities across the state of Texas were allowed to establish a corporation to administer the sales and use tax funds, and city voters must approve this special, dedicated tax at an election held for that purpose.

The SEDC operates on funding provided by a 1/2 percent of all sales tax allocations received by the City of Seminole from the Texas Comptroller's Office.

According to the Texas Comptroller's Office, 4B corporations may use funding for the recruitment and/or development of manufacturing and industrial facilities; research and development facilities; recycling facilities; distribution centers; small warehouse facilities and distribution centers; military facilities; primary job training facilities; corporate headquarter facilities; job training classes; career centers; telephone call centers; business infrastructure; airport facilities; and operation of commuter rail, light rail or commuter buses.

In addition, 4B corporations may also fund retail business incentives (if city population is less than 20,000); sports and athletic facilities; entertainment, tourist and convention facilities; public parks and related open space improvements; affordable housing; and water supply and conservation programs (with special voter approval).

Local News Briefs

Lions Pancake Supper Slated for Friday PM

The Seminole Lions Club will be hosting their annual "Charlie Ray Memorial Pancake Supper" on Friday, Feb. 1, at the Seminole Elementary School cafeteria.

Ticket prices for the fund raiser is set for \$7 for adults and \$4 for students. Children under the age of 6, will eat free.

Tickets for the meal can be purchased from any active member of the Seminole Lions Club, or by contacting the Seminole Area Chamber of Commerce, 111 S.E. Ave. B.

The supper, which is an "all you can eat" event, will be held from 4 to 7 p.m.

In addition to the pancake fund raiser, club members are also hosting a fund raising raffle.

In the raffle, local residents will have the opportunity to win a gift certificate to Anna's Day Spa and a tailgate barbecue pit from Anderson Welding.

Tickets are \$2 a piece and can be purchased from any Seminole Lions Club member.

Proceeds from the fund raisers will be used by the local club to fund various charitable contributions conducted by the club on an annual basis.

The Seminole Lions Club meets every Tuesday, at 12-noon, at the First Presbyterian Church's Fellowship Hall, located in the 200 block of S.W. Ave. C.

Persons interested about the Seminole Lions Club, or becoming an active member, are encouraged to attend a meeting.

Library to Host Nail Stamping Evening Feb. 12

Do you have a nail stamping kit and you can't get it to work?

Come learn some simple techniques and learn how to make pretty nails art.

Gaines County Library is offering a Nail Art/Stamping Class on Tuesday, Feb.12, from 6 to 8 p.m.

When you come to the Main Branch of the Library and learn how to stamp you need to bring your Stamping Kit—with rubber stamper, scraper and discs, 100-percent Acetone nail polish remover, cotton round cosmetic pads, cotton cosmetic applicators, 2 different nail polish colors and fast drying top coat.

Suggested Stamping Polishes to bring are any Sally Henson Insta-Dry, Pure Ice: Outrageous, or Silver Mercedes. Some suggestions for Fast Dry Top Coats are Seche Vite, NYC fast drying, or Sally Henson Insta-Dry.

You can usually find these supplies at Wal-Mart, Dollar General, Family Dollar, or Target.

Gaines County Library's Main Branch is located at 704 Hobbs Highway in Seminole. Hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information please call (432) 758-4007.

Orders for Windbreak Trees Still Ongoing

The Gaines County Soil and Water Conservation District is sponsoring a windbreak tree project in cooperation with the Texas Forest Service for 2012/2013.

You may place your order for trees in person at the Gaines County USDA/FSA Service Center located at 1301 South Main. Payment

must be made when your order is placed.

This year's evergreen trees are: Afghanistan Pine, Austrian Pine, Pinyon Pine, Oriental Arborvitae, Lacebark Elm, Four Wing Saltbush, and Italian Stone Pine, Desert Willow. Evergreens are sold in multiples of 30 seedlings.

Hardwood Species available include: American Plum, Black Cherry, Green Ash, Hackberry, Honey locust, Bur oak, Chinkapin Oak, Post Oak, Shumard Oak, Osage Orange, Pecan, Red Mulberry, Redbud, Sand Plum, Aromatic Sumac, Smooth Sumac. Hardwoods are sold in multiples of 25 seedlings.

Delivery of the seedlings is scheduled for Thursday, February 28, 2013. All orders will need to be placed by noon on Wednesday, February 20, 2013.

Windbreak trees provide a variety of benefits ranging from controlling wind erosion in fields to decorating around homes.

For more information please contact the Gaines County Soil and Water Conservation District located at 1301 S. Main in the USDA/FSA Service Center or call 758-3722, extension 3.

Have a news brief you need publicized or announced?

Let us help!!!

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or come by 406 S. Main St.

between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

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The Seminole Sentinel

406 S. Main 758-3667

