

# HELOTES ECHO

VOL. IV--NO. 7

HELOTES, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS — 10 CENTS PER COPY

JULY, 1969



A familiar sight in Helotes is a trail ride heading out from Floore's Country Store on its way to San Geronimo and Bandera. A July 4th trail ride was the latest. Shown here are the Bandera Regulars, who came through earlier.

## 'No Salary' For Utility Manager Here

Mayor Jack Nottingham has made the announcement that he will accept the managership of the Grey Forest Utilities offered to him by the Grey Forest city council. At the same time, however, he said he has rejected the offer of a part-time salary of \$250 per month.

"Until such a time as the gas company is operating in the black," he added, he intends to serve without remuneration. At that time, he said, the City of Grey Forest officials can reconsider the matter of a salary for the managership.

Mayor Nottingham, who was active in the formation and development of the company, said at a recent council meeting that the future of the company is very bright and that new connections are being made at a satisfactory pace.

## Public Invited To Scenic Loop Auction Sales

Two fund-raising events are scheduled by the Scenic Loop Playground Club of which Jerry Adams is president. Both will take place at the Clubhouse in Grey Forest just off Park Drive.

On Saturday, July 12, a breakfast and combination rummage sale and auction will be open to the public. The sale begins at 7:30 a.m. Pancakes and sausage will be served also as long as someone is hungry enough for them. At 2 p.m. certain of the nicer items will be auctioned to the highest bidder, according to advance publicity.

And on Saturday, August 2, the regular quarterly meeting at 7 p.m. will feature an old-fashioned box supper. Ladies and girls are asked to bring supper in a box. Ed Faust and Allen Fischer, as competing auctioneers, will award the boxes to the highest bidders.

July 25

## Museum Benefit To Be at Logan's

A Tamalada and dance to benefit the Helotes Stagecoach Museum will be held beginning at 8 p.m. Friday, July 25, at Logan's Playground. Dancing will be on the pavilion and a live combo will play.

Logan's is located nine miles above Helotes on Highway 16—near San Geronimo. Donation for

the dance will be one dollar per person and plenty of food will be available, including tamales. The public is invited.

The proceeds will be used by the Helotes Historical Society to help open the Stagecoach Museum on Scenic Loop Road on a regular basis.

Final plans will be discussed at the regular meeting of the Historical Society to be held at 7 p.m., Wednesday, July 16, at the Museum. Anyone wishing to help is invited to attend, Mrs. Frank Logan, president has announced. A nominating committee will be chosen to select a slate of officers to be installed at the August meeting.

## Car Wash Is Latest

Just about the newest business in town is the Car Wash Center, a self-service do-it-yourself method of washing and polishing automobiles. A three-bay coin-operated system, there are bill changing facilities, a vacuum cleaner service, and synthetic chamois—Nu-Shami—to list a few touches.

The business, located on the Park Plaza, is open from sun-up every day until midnight. It is owned by Walter Bennett.

## Four Elected By Fire Dept.

Newly elected officers of the Helotes Area Volunteer Fire Department took office July 1 at a Board of Directors meeting—held the first Tuesday of each month. A social hour followed.

Results of elections at the annual general meeting held May 9 were announced by Charles Laenger, Sr., spokesman for the nominating committee. Rev. C. L. Bohls gave the invocation.

Those re-elected were Edwin L. Faust as vice president and Henry Schaub as treasurer. Elected to replace Lawrence L. Hansen, Sr. and LeRoy Hargett on the board were Martin Terry and Howard Schott.

## Local Citizens Hear Tribute To Archbishop

Present to hear former Governor John Connally and other notables honor retiring Archbishop Robert E. Lucey at the recent testimonial dinner in San Antonio were several from Helotes.

Some of these were Col. and Mrs. Carl Crane, Mrs. Howard Schott, Mrs. Frank Castello, and Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel Trevino as well as Rev. Louis Travalter, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church here. A message praising the Archbishop's accomplishments was also read from former President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Archbishop Francis Furey is due to arrive in San Antonio early in August to be head of the local Roman Catholic archdiocese. This is the first change in the office in more than a quarter of a century when Archbishop Lucey followed the late Archbishop Arthur J. Drossaerts as head of the episcopal see here.

The dinner was held July 1 in the convention center and about 1400 attended.

## Sheriff Bill Hauck Lauded by Optimists

Local citizens gathered July 2 in the Helotes School cafeteria to hear the Greater Helotes Optimists Club honor Bexar County Sheriff W. B. (Bill) Hauck for his devotion to law and order and his continuing service to the

area. Acting President Edwin L. Faust read the citation on the plaque—which Sheriff Hauck said would be hung in his County Courthouse office.

In his response, Sheriff Hauck said that much progress is being made in law enforcement. He noted that the area expects to have a helicopter in service in the near future at very little added expense.

Ranking officers of the Optimists were special guests. A movie on crime control was shown.

**WATCH  
MAN ON MOON**  
2:21 A.M.  
E.D.T.  
Monday,  
July 21, 1969

## Empressario Castro Led Thousands To Frontier Here

HOW DO YOU HAPPEN TO BE IN TEXAS? — For those whose ancestors were from Alsace and Lorraine, the answer could be in the story of Castro's Colony. One of the few migrations to Texas which succeeded during the 1800's it was the only one composed of Alsatian immigrants.

Henry Castro, for service rendered to the Republic of Texas, dating 1836-1845, was given two grants of land to be colonized. One was on the Rio Grande commencing nearly opposite Camargo and running to Salt Lake (Salt Lake) opposite Dolores below Laredo. This was never settled because of the impending Mexican War.

But the other was west of San Antonio—including portions of country now composing Medina, Uvalde, Frio, Atascosa, Bexar, McMullen, LaSalle, and Zavala Counties. The contract with the Government was fully complied

on this.

When Henry Castro brought his first colonists to the City of San Antonio in February, 1843, no settlement existed west of San Pedro Creek to the Rio Grande.

He had published in Europe pamphlets telling of the many opportunities here. If the Empressario was not successful for himself, he brought happiness to thousands, as Ron. Sam Houston, Thos. J. Rusk, David Kaufman and Daniel Webster testified to him in a letter in 1851.

In 27 ships, he imported 5,200 people. Lists of ships, immigrants, age, profession, etc., are in the Secretary of State's office. Contracts were by ship and at the colonist's own expense.

On Sept. 1, 1844, Henry Castro left San Antonio with colonists and established Castroville, 25 miles west of San Antonio. It was the unanimous consent of colonists to name the town Castroville.

Inhabitants who chose to settle

Vandenberg later moved to New Fountain, and other towns sprung up.

Cost of the journey was one consideration. The average cost of the trip was \$30 per person from Europe to the Gulf of Mexico exclusive of provisions on sailing vessels. But that wasn't the complete story. Transportation was at the enormous rate of \$3.50 per hundred pounds. Too much to bring supplies along. Sheds were constructed at Galveston and rations furnished after 1844.

The immigrants generally arrived destitute, so at least salt, lye, and coffee had to be furnished the first year. Besides, they had to get agricultural implements, seed, and animals. Some stopped off in San Antonio and didn't manage to claim their new land. But many others were helped by Castro. This was a loss to the Empressario but a great benefit to the country and the people.

As Empressario, Castro was

entitled to keep one-half of the land. Left in his holdings in 1850, however, were only 38,400 acres of land.

It was 163 miles from Indianola to Castroville by road measured by the viameter. Oldtimers here still can recall tales passed down in their families of adventures on that trail. Principal cities from which their ancestors emigrated included Mulhouse, Colmar, Cernai, Breton, Rouffach, Straumbourg, Sappelshaus, Witte-sheim, and Obereuzen.

Antwerp was the best port to sail from, it is said.

Land with water and pecan trees sold for \$2.50 to \$7 per acre. The land granted by the State to the colonists was of almost no value to them. Nineteen twentieths sold theirs to speculators for a trifle. On the extreme frontier, there were too many wild Indians. But the town lots given by Castro with a 20 to 40-acre farm lot enabled colonists

to settle in towns and have enough land to cultivate.

Some of the first settlers of Helotes farmlands were direct descendants of these immigrants. A sentimental journey back to Indianola or Galveston and through the towns leading to Castroville can be rewarding. There is the reunion each August—St. Louis' Day—in Castroville. It is August 24 this year. And Old Indianola Days are celebrated by several groups.

Since the first homes were so often built of native limestone and were well-built, too, it is possible to recapture the spirit of those first years in Texas even though they were some century and a quarter ago. And for the most awe-inspiring glimpse, nothing beats a sidetrip to QUINN, the town that was sacked by the Indians in 1845—and still remembers. It remains a monument to the Alsatians who came to Texas with Castro.

# HELOTES ECHO

"Ye shall know the Truth."

July 11, 1969

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## Artist Teaches Ceramics Here

Mrs. Roy Shoaf is one of a growing number of artists here who are helping others enjoy learning. She does oil painting as well but she is especially interested in ceramics.

A member of the Helotes Art Guild, Mary Shoaf has two classes in ceramics for adults in progress. She will also offer a six-weeks course for teen-agers beginning Tuesday, July 15. Classes are once a week from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays. The \$10 fee will cover tuition and all supplies.

The adult classes are scheduled on Monday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and on Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Fees for this are one dollar per class and all supplies except greenware are included.

For details, call Mrs. Shoaf, MY 5-8040.

## Person- to- Person

L/Cpl Darnell D. Michel of USMC serving in Viet Nam received the air medal award recently.

His courage and devotion to duty in face of hazardous flying conditions were in keeping with the highest tradition of the United States Naval Service, according to the citation.

Cpl. Michel is now crew chief of his squadron. He is a 1965 graduate of John Marshall High School.

Dr. and Mrs. R. Lewis Scott of Hartford City, Indiana recently visited along with their teen-age

son and daughter in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Anderson. Bonnie Anderson, who was home during their visit is now attending a University of Arizona extension program in Guadalajara, Mexico. There she is spending six weeks studying Spanish and Art.

Dr. Louise Harvasty, Leon Valley, attended the 54th annual convention of the Texas State Chiropractic Association, held recently at the Gunter Hotel in San Antonio. Some 700 doctors of chiropractic attended.

Dr. Harvasty has served on

numerous committees for the TSCA.

PFC Robert Chivers, U. S. Army, was home on leave for two weeks recently from Fort Eustis, Va., where he is attending schools for diesel motors engineering. His mother, Mrs. Carrie L. Chivers, who resides in Portland, was at the airport in San Antonio to greet him when he arrived. Among relatives he visited in this area for a few days were his father, Claude A. Chivers and his sisters, Mrs. Betty Ramsey and Mrs. Joyce Faust.

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Come.

### SPECIAL NOTICE

Anyone wishing to contribute rummage for Altar Society sale to be August 2-3 should call Mrs. Zoeller, MY 5-3448 before bringing items to the Little House at corner Bandera & Highway 1560. To make arrangements to have items picked-up, call Mrs. Lobert, MY 5-3431 or Mrs. Zoeller.

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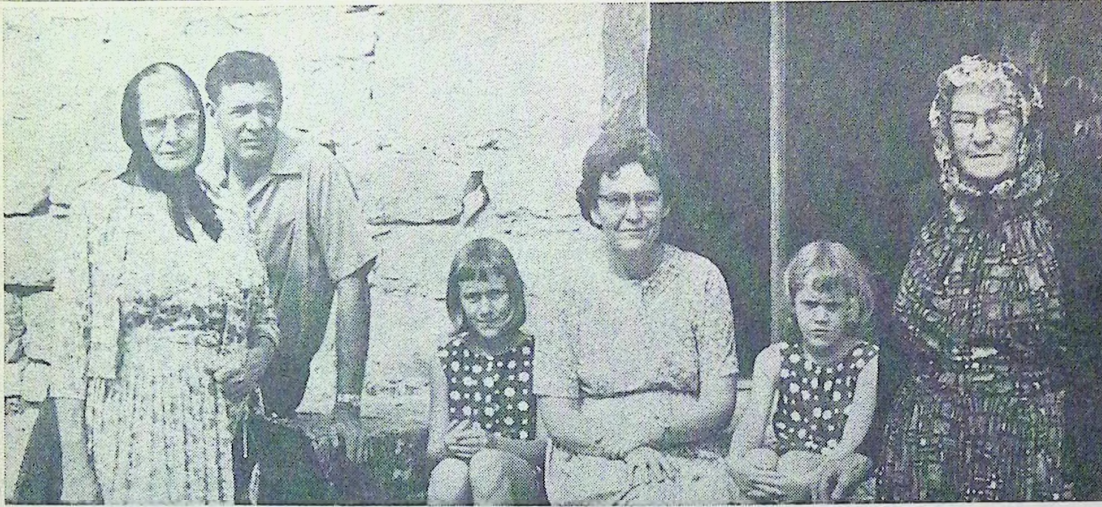
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After touring the newly opened Helotes Stagecoach Museum, six direct descendants of the first owner and builder of the landmark—pause on the steps. They are Mrs. Laura Marnoch Davis, daughter of Gabriel Marnoch, Sr., at far left, and her sister, Mrs. Margaret Marnoch Biering, far right. Second from left is Mrs. Biering's son, Vernon Biering. The little girl seated to the left of her mother, Mrs. Anita Marnoch Campbell—daughter of Gabriel, Jr.—is Ann Marie Campbell, 8, and to the right is Carol Campbell, 6. Recent visitors, not shown, are

the son of Gabriel, Jr., Gabriel Marnoch, III, and his four children Michael Gabriel, and Stephen, and Ann and Maureen Marnoch. The father of Gabriel, Sr., built the former stagecoach step as a home in 1851. Mrs. Biering was married in the home fifty years ago in what is now the library. The mansion was sold by Mrs. Gabriel Marnoch, Sr., and has been loaned by the present owners to the Helotes Historical Society to use as a museum.

#### Person-to-Person

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. David C. Blevins IV who were married at a wedding mass at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, June 14 at Our Lady of Guadalupe here with the Rev. Louis Trawalter officiating. The bride is the former Margaret Ann Rothrock of Helotes and Mr. Blevins is from Harlingen.

\* \* \*

Jack Miller—of the well-known Scenic Loop clan—is working for the Post Office department of the University of Texas Teaching Hospital.

#### ARTHUR M. KLEYPAS

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## Texans Believe In Keeping Cool

Nearly two-thirds of the homes in Texas have some type of air conditioning to rank the State first in number of homes with comfort cooling, according to Mr. Tommy Terrell, co-owner of Terrell Bros.

Terrell said 2,082,000 families in the State, or 63.3 percent, now live in houses or apartments cooled by room air conditioners or central systems.

"Our latest Carrier market reports show 1,352,000 homes have one or more units while 730,000 others have whole-house systems," he noted.

Terrell said the number of Texas homes with air conditioning has about doubled in the past five years.

Home air conditioning is now a \$1.9 billion annual business and the industry's largest market by far, he said. Nearly 21 million U.S. homes, or 34.3 percent, now have some type of air conditioning. Last year alone, about 3 million room units and 850,000 central systems were installed in houses and apartments.

### Rains Total 20 Inches Here

Rainfall for the first six months of this year totalled 20 inches in Helotes. In 1968, a rainy June—with 6.90 inches here—brought the total rainfall to 26.7 at this time last year.

Rainfall for the months so far in 1969 are: January, 1.4 inches; February, 3.1; March, 2.7; April, 3.8; May, 6.15, and June, 2.85 inches.

OV 4-2451 OV 4-1385

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## Two Eating Spots Open

Helotes can be surer of taking care of its many visitors than it has been. Added to the growing reputation of the community as a place to find good food—are two new eating places, each opened by couples well known here.

Mr. and Mrs. Corbin U. Terry, who also have Handy Burger Cafe in Leon Valley, now operate Cactus Jack's Steak Loft.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Poteete, who also have the Hickory Hut—here and at Colonies North—have opened Burger Hut, filling a need for a breakfast spot as well as for those who love short orders. If you haven't tried these new places on the Helotes Park Plaza—just drop on by.

## Seneca Indians Outswim Foes

Seneca Swim Team—which won the trophy at the Northwest YMCA June 21 over eight other teams—has plans to compete at New Braunfels, Corpus Christi, and Fort Hood, Texas.

The Seneca Country Club swimming group took 205

points at the YMCA meet to 171 for Fort Hood and 169 for Fort Sam Houston. Other teams participating were San Antonio Aquatic Club, Military Aqua Brats, Northeast Swim Club, Northwest YMCA, Colonies North, and New Braunfels.

The Seneca team also did well at the Junior Olympics at Lackland recently.

The three coaches are Sam Kinman, a junior at Trinity University, Gretchen Kuhn, a student at Rice University, and Amy

Orth, a senior at Holmes High School.

Seneca Swim Team also won the Country Club League championship in 1964, '65, and '66. In 1967, they moved to the Swimming Development League and won the championship for that, too. Last year, the Indians—as this team numbering same 65 members is called—became a "B" Aquatic Club. In their Leon Valley home pool, the team works out Tuesday through Saturday. Refreshments are sold following sessions, and the proceeds go for equipment.

In the recent competitions there were several outstanding swimmers. Becki Orth came in first in the breaststroke at YMCA in June. She also was first in the 500-yard freestyle at the South Texas Junior Olympics.

Taking first in the YMCA medley relay were Carol Comontofski, Cindy Benson, Kathy Ackerman, and Kay Kunz. Winners in the freestyle relay for 8 year-olds and under were Terri West, Laurie Thomsen, Lenore Jackson and Sandy Simms.

## Horse Show Is Success

The first Hill Country Horse Show with ten events—originally scheduled as an attraction for the Festival—was held at the Helotes Horse Resort arena on May 18. Mrs. A. A. (Roberta) Gauthier was show chairman and the Saddle Tramps riding club sponsored it.

There were about 180 horses in the show, with Dr. William Rowe as ringmaster. Horses came from Pearsall, Boerne and many other places in the Hill Country. Some 160 horses were judged.

H. O. Bordelon brought his Peruvian Paso horses to be shown.

Morris Whitney, who judged the show, said that it was the best class of halter horses he had ever seen or judged. He was impressed, he said, by the group of mares.

An event not usually seen here was the Ladies' Western Pleasure which had about a dozen entries.

There were ten events including barrel racing. Charlie Moss was master of ceremonies and the Lone Star Brewery contributed its sound truck. Food and concessions were manned by several groups including a hot dog sale by the Boy Scouts.

This show will be incorporated as a regular part of the Helotes Spring Festival next year.

## Grey Forest Favors Tax

By a margin of more than two to one, residents of the City of Grey Forest have voted in favor of a local one per cent sales tax. There were 49 votes cast for the tax with 21 votes against it at the special election held June 28 at the City Hall.

Election officials included Mrs. H. L. Stappenbeck and Mrs. Edwin Faust.

## J. B. Passmore

Funeral services were held July 7 for J. B. Passmore, Jr., of Route 15 here, who died July 5 at the age of 46. Mr. Passmore was principal of Colonies North Elementary School in this district. Last rites were held from West Avenue Church of Christ, of which he was a member.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Nellie Merle Passmore, Helotes; daughters, Mrs. Sharon Robert-

son, Abilene, and Miss Kathy Passmore, here. He is survived also by his sisters, Mrs. Ed Sullivan, Morton, Texas; Mrs. Agnes Shakespear, Levelland; Mrs. J. B. Lilljedahl, Houston, and Mrs. Herman Rawls, Denton, Texas.

Pallbearers were John M. Bryant, James L. Carson, Philip Schuback, Homer W. Smith, Hobart Kanatzar, and Dan R. Sapp.

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Sat., July 26--Terry Yarbrough

Sat., Aug. 2--Jim Reeves

Sat., Aug. 9--Dale Keith

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