THE PLOW

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FIBERMAX CENTER FOR DISCOVERY

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF THE “AG MUSEUM” IN LUBBOCK

VOLUME 20
ISSUE 1
JAN. - MAR. 2021

CELEBRATING MILESTONES
May will be 20 years since the nonprofit Ag Museum was started in Lubbock. Take a look back at the beginning.

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT
Leaving a Legacy of Giving, three generations of Taylors get us closer to making AgWorks a reality.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF THE “AG MUSEUM” IN LUBBOCK
A LOOK BACK AT CHARTER MEMBERS | 06 NEW DIRECTOR APPOINTMENTS

BENEFITS OF CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP | 07 SAVE THE DATE

A LEGACY OF GIVING: TAYLOR FAMILY

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

NEW FACES

POWER OF COOPERATION

TAKING THE SHOW ON THE ROAD

REMEMBERING THOSE SPECIAL TO US

KEEPING SHOP

2001 - 2021, TWENTY YEARS OF THE “AG MUSEUM”

May 2021 will be 20 years since our facility was established as a nonprofit museum on the South Plains.

FAMILY LAND HERITAGE Awardee: Harmon Farms

100 Years on the South Plains. Learn the history of one of Lubbock County’s Family Land Heritage Farms.

The FiberMax Center for Discovery is a private nonprofit museum 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.
THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

Joe Anthony
Lloyd Arthur
Vic Coker
Terry Hurst
Elaine Johnson
Jim Johnson
Allison Kendrick
Karolyn King
Linda King
Lee Leonard
Carl Pepper
Red Rivers
Cynthia Schneider
Patsy Smith
John Smith
Doug Stephens
Wanda Swart
Wayne Swart
Linda Taylor
Dan Taylor
Ray Thomas
Ralph Webb
Stanley Young
Andrew van Zielst

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EDITORIAL

After a year in quarantine, we are excited to bring you The Plow newsletter full of stories and activity. Like many, we are treating 2021 with “kid gloves” and cautious optimism.

This issue celebrates OLD and NEW. We welcomed two NEW employees and a NEW volunteer who has brought living history to our programming.

Spring has welcomed NEW visitors, and we are blessed to see the sweet faces of students, teachers, and parents, as school tours have come back to our facility.

This issue also looks at an OLD farm that has been in the same family for 100 years, and while 20 years is not very long, we look at how far our facility has come in the two decades since it was established as a nonprofit in May of 2001.

We are grateful for each person who reads this issue, each person that makes a donation or becomes a member, and each person that donates their time to make this place one-of-a-kind. In other words, we are celebrating all friends, OLD and NEW, and looking forward to catching up in person.

Sincerely,
Lacee Hoelting
May 2021 will mark 20 years since the nonprofit museum was formed. We hope you enjoy this walk down memory lane.

“From small beginnings, great things can grow, and certainly this is the case for the FiberMax Center for Discovery,” said David Langston, first museum board president, former Lubbock Mayor, and partner at Mullin, Hoard, and Brown, LLP.

While the collection was started in 1969, and Lubbock County managed an outdoor display in Shallowater, a planning committee began meeting in 2000 to discuss the possibilities of a permanent non-profit agricultural museum in Lubbock.

The committee led by David Langston, consisted of Stanley Young, Don Langston, Waylon Carroll, Vicki Davis Patschke, Don Abbe, Alton Brazell, Michael Peters, Coy Harris, Jim Shearer, Patti Jones, Curtis Griffith, Mark Brown, and Chris Winn. Many of these names can still be found on our current board of directors and membership roster.

“Everyone on the initial planning committee had a vision to preserve our agricultural heritage here on the South Plains. We felt we had an obligation to the pioneers that settled this area,” said David Langston.

The group worked with the City of Lubbock to find a site, compiled a list of exhibit needs and potential supporters, and the museum was incorporated and recognized as a business entity on May 17, 2001.

The committee started organizing a kickoff dinner for August 25, 2001. The American Windmill Museum was an integral part of the museum getting off the ground. Coy Harris offered their old building on the northern part of the property to house temporary exhibits and as a place to host the kickoff event.

The event’s goals were to cast vision, host a fun event for attendees, and convert those attendees into Charter members. Charter memberships were set at $200 for

The South Plains Antique Tractor Club members helped relocate restored tractors from a downtown county warehouse to the temporary museum at 1501 Canyon Lake Drive.
individuals and $500 for businesses. The committee's hard work along with good food and music courtesy of Kenny Maines, resulted in 146 charter memberships, all of which are listed on page 6. The event and committee also secured the first major gift to the museum, a pledge of $20,000.00 from Hurst Farm Supply.

In November 2001, the committee hired the first paid employee, Don Abbe, a historian, author, and committee member, to serve as a quarter-time director. “My task was pretty straightforward, to open the facility on Friday and Saturday, keep it clean, at least as clean as a barn can be, and start developing a local presence. Alton Brazell was usually on hand to give advice and mow and trim the grounds,” said Abbe, who currently owns Grand Central Station Antiques in Lubbock.

In March of 2002, the museum had its first display booth at the Texas Cotton Ginners Show at the Civic Center and the first newsletter, Volume 1, went out, (this is Volume 20). The first official tour group was part of the Texas Association of Museums conference meeting in Lubbock that year, followed by a group of employees and customers from Buster’s Gin.

The museum opened its doors in the temporary location on May 17, 2002, and was only open Fridays and Saturdays, staffed by Don, committee members, and volunteers. A gift shop with hats and shirts was added later that summer, and the idea and museum continued to grow. “I am elated to see the progress that the museum has made in the first 20 years of its young life. What was a dream a short two decades ago is now a real, operating, world-class facility, a facility poised to continue to evolve and grow for many more decades,” said Don Abbe.

While this is just one page in the history of our facility, it’s an important milestone to reflect back on. From the early county leadership, donors, and volunteers who started the collection, to the men and women who established the non-profit museum, these milestones remind us to be grateful for the hard work and commitment of so many that have gotten us to where we are today.

Story by Lacee Hoelting

Alton Brazell was the heart behind the museum. You could always find him on a John Deere mower keeping the grounds at our first location.

Left: Sally and Don Abbe and Ginny Riggs. Middle: Early volunteers Travis & Shirley White. Bottom: David Langston, Dan Taylor and others work to create a room for pedal tractors.

**Charter Members**

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- American Wind Power Center
- Guy Warren Enterprises
- Adolph Hanslik Cotton Company
- King-Mesa Gin
- South Plains Antique Tractor Assn.
- Texas Tech University CASNR
- Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
- U-L-L Farms
- Western Implement

### Individuals:
- Don & Sally Abbe
- Ben & Gary Alexander
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- Keny & Lynzi Arnold
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- Donald & Anita Hancock
- Brad L. & Ann Michelle Harris
- Don L. & Barbara Harris
- Jarry & Nelda Harris
- Mitchell Harris in Honor of T.C.
- Harris, Sr.
- Lynn & Cindy Harrist in Honor of
- Baxter Harrist
- Chester & Cynthia Harth
- Charles R. Hedges
- Herbert F. & Patricia Higgs, Jr.
- Jack & Frankie Hoag
- Wayne & Rachel Huffaker
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- Richard & Toby Wetzel
- Leland & Barbara White
- Edmund & Beverly Wilke
- Billy & Ellenor Langston Wilkison
- Don & Neoma Williams & Rachel Wall
- Christopher Winn
- Stanley Young

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FIBERMAX CENTER FOR DISCOVERY
In November of 2020, the board of directors approved a new corporate membership level submitted by the membership committee and chaired by Mike Metzig.

A corporate membership costs $1,500.00 annually or will be included as part of an event sponsorship ($3,000.00 level or higher) at the annual gala, A Night for the Museum.

The corporate membership has some unique benefits like the option of a corporate Saturday with free admission for employees and families, and a 25 percent discount on rental fees.

We are working on adding this year’s corporate sponsors to our electronic donor panel and website, but we are so grateful for the support of these businesses year around.

If you would like to become a corporate member, or if you want to know more, please contact Lacee at (806)744-3786.
The Dale & Debbie Taylor Family recently made a donation to the AgWorks Children’s Wing through their sponsorship of the Animal Barn exhibit. The Animal Barn will invite visitors to discover the animal/producer partnership which creates many of the foods and products we use each day. Here, they will learn about pigs, sheeps, cows, and animal nutrition.

For many years, the Taylors have been committed to graciously giving back to our community, and their legacy of generosity will continue to make a positive impact on Lubbock residents. The family chose to sponsor the Animal Barn specifically, as it embodies two values their family is centered around, animal agriculture and philanthropy. Being involved in agriculture is nothing new for Dale Taylor. “I grew up on a farm down in central Texas,” said Dale, “All I knew growing up was farming. I love it.”
up was farming and ranching.”

He and wife, Debbie, have been long-time residents of Wolfforth, Texas. The family built a very successful chemical company and while doing so, raised registered shorthorn show cattle. After nearly thirty years in the registered business, the Taylors shifted into raising commercial cattle.

Their children Kacee and Carey grew up showing steers and heifers while being very active in 4-H and FFA. These activities became a family affair. Kacee even met her husband Jon, and Carey met his wife Kellyn, in the livestock industry.

The next generation is carrying on the tradition of animal agriculture, participating in livestock shows, showing sheep. Granddaughter Brynlee won Grand Champion Market Lamb at the 2020 Houston Livestock Show, while their grandson Becton recently won Reserve Grand Champion Lamb at the 2021 San Angelo Livestock Show. Dale and Debbie attribute much of their, their children’s and their grandchildren’s successes to the experiences involved in animal agriculture.

Ultimately, Dale and Debbie want other children to have the opportunity to learn about agriculture, the industry they are so passionate about. The Taylor family began their involvement with the FiberMax Center for Discovery many years ago. “When our grandkids were younger, they loved to go out to the museum,” said Debbie.

The family hopes that the new children’s wing will generate more interest in agriculture and bridge the gap from farm to table.

The Taylor family believes in where the museum is heading in the future and feels it is a strong asset to the Lubbock community. In addition to the Animal Barn exhibit, they are sponsoring the Welcome Corral, at the entrance to the new wing. This flexible space is perfect for small groups, speakers, introductions for tour groups, and hands-on activities.

Here at the FiberMax Center for Discovery, we are thankful for the generous donors that are committed to the same creed of preserving the history of, telling the story of, and instilling pride in American Agriculture and values. From all of us at the FiberMax Center for Discovery, we would like to say thank you to the Taylor family.

Story by Jessica Dammers
“History is important. More than any other topic, it is about us. Whether one deems our present society wondrous or awful or both, history reveals how we got to this point.”

- JAMES W. LOEWEN

Historian & Author of *Lies My Teacher Told Me*

**VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT**

**CYNTHIA SCHNEIDER**

Cynthia Schneider is The FiberMax Center for Discovery’s newest volunteer. Cynthia Schneider, always brings character and light to the museum. Schneider was born in Lubbock and grew up on a farm in Cotton Center. After graduating from Abernathy High School, she attended McMurry University in Abilene for three semesters. She returned home to the South Plains and met her husband, Don.

They moved to Midland for the next 43 years, where they raised two children and got involved with living history in 1994. She now lives in Lubbock and has chosen to continue donating her time to preserving the history of the homestead.

Cynthia traveled the southwest putting on educational demonstrations focused on building and maintaining a farm house. While in character, Cynthia demonstrated how to churn butter, grind coffee beans, make soap, operate a washboard and carry out the daily chores on a turn of the century farm (1870-1915).

“A lot of people don’t think anything about what it took to do the day-to-day aspects of life.” Cynthia said, “If you can show them, specifically with children, then they take it with them forever.”

Living history has taken Cynthia many places. Her favorite places she’s travel to while in character include: Fort Stockton, Fort Davis, Fort McKavett, Fort Chadbourne and Fort Richardson. While traveling is great, her favorite aspect of living history was meeting so many people. She even worked with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. These once-in-a-lifetime experiences coupled with the opportunity to educate others about the past inspired Cynthia to continue donating her time.

When she moved back to Lubbock in 2020, Cynthia looked for ways to get involved in the community and continue her work with living history. By working with the Lubbock Heritage Society, she learned about the FiberMax Center for Discovery.
(Continued from previous pg)

Cynthia’s living history experience and storytelling ability make her a perfect fit for the center. She spends a lot of time preparing for school tours and brings history to life for the children.

“The kids are really good. They are excited to learn, and there are a lot of interactions,” Cynthia said.

Her passion for history and education is evident in every conversation. Cynthia understands the importance of preserving our past, and she enjoys her time at the FiberMax Center for Discovery. Cynthia stated, “There is such a wealth of knowledge here. Every time I walk through the, I find something I haven’t seen before. These are artifacts that I grew up around and that is special to me.”

We are glad to have Cynthia on our team and would like to say thank you for all that she has done and continues to do for the FiberMax Center for Discovery.

Story by Jessica Dammers & Photos by Kayla van Zielst

Cynthia has brought living history to spring school tours and has recruited others. Here, she and intern Breely grab a quick photo following a tour.

Congrats to Sarah Pena, the winner of our egg count challenge. Her guess of 126 was the closest to the count of 129 and she got a bag of goodies from Grace’s General Store.

Wine, Brews, and BBQ, a Kansas City Sanctioned Cookoff, was held on the FCFD grounds on April 9 & 10.

Volunteers and interns are ready to welcome school tour groups back to the FiberMax CFD. L to R: Lee Leonard, Red Rivers, Elaine Johnson, Jim Johnson, Breely Huguley, Jessica Dammers, & Cynthia Schneider.
NEW FACES

Here at the FiberMax Center for Discovery, one of the joys we have is being able to have part-time student workers that join us to work on developing professional skills such as photography, social media, writing, and speaking.

We are pleased to introduce to you Jessica Dammers and Breely Huguley. Jessica and Breely have been with the museum for a little over a month and have already wholeheartedly jumped in ready to learn. Next time you visit, make sure and introduce yourself and get to know them.

Hello everyone,

Hello everyone, my name is Jessica Dammers. I grew up in Stephenville, Texas where I was actively involved in many 4-H and FFA activities.

After graduating high school, I attended Frank Phillips College, where I was a member of the Livestock Judging Team and served as the Student Government Association’s Communications Officer. My experiences in these youth programs sparked a passion for agriculture.

I am currently a Junior at Texas Tech University studying agricultural communications. This allows me to pursue my passion for agriculture while learning various communication skills to advocate for the industry.

I am thankful for the opportunity to put these skills to use while working at the FiberMax Center for Discovery! I look forward to meeting each of you.

Jessica Dammers

Hi,

I am Breely Huguley, and I was born and raised in the small farming-community of Olton, Texas.

In high school, I was involved in my local FFA chapter where I served as chapter president my junior year and secretary my senior year. I also competed in various competitions such as ag issues and cotton judging.

I am a freshman at Texas Tech University studying agricultural communications. My family is heavily involved in agriculture and that is what has driven me to follow in their footsteps.

It is such an honor to be given this opportunity, and I cannot wait to learn and grow here at the FiberMax Center for Discovery.

Breely Huguley
Do you know what this item is? It was a recently donated to the FiberMax Center for Discovery and is a unique find. Take a look into the background of the picture for a clue. The answer will be revealed in the next newsletter.

**WHAT IS THAT?**

Do you know what this item is? It was a recently donated to the FiberMax Center for Discovery and is a unique find. Take a look into the background of the picture for a clue. The answer will be revealed in the next newsletter.

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**DON'T MISS PARTY ON THE PRAIRIE AT DAN AND LINDA TAYLOR'S APRIL 24**

When: Saturday April 24, 2021 at 6:00 pm

Where: Dan and Linda Taylor’s barn, 19301 County Road 1240, Wolfforth, Texas.

If you need assistance reaching the venue, contact Dan Taylor at (806) 777-2669 for directions.

Why: Come and join us for an evening of good food, good friends, and a good old fashioned barn dance with live music by the HOT Texas Band!

How to RSVP by April 20:
- Online - https://one.bidpal.net/partyontheprairie
- By Phone - (806) 744-3786
- By Email - info@agriculturehistory.org

$30 for members
$40 for non-members
Option to purchase membership for discount.

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$30 for members
$40 for non-members
Option to purchase membership for discount.
To my dad, this story shows how the Lord works in mysterious ways. For many years, the tractor club has been a strong supporter of the museum of agriculture. For example, each year they refurbish an older tractor to raffle and give the proceeds to the museum.

In 2018, the tractor club was looking to acquire a tractor for the raffle. My dad knew Dan Taylor had a 420 John Deere for sale at $3500. Dad contacted Rodney Randolph, president of the tractor club at that time, informing him he had a tractor for Rodney to look at and see if it would work for the raffle. Rodney wanted to know where the tractor was located, but dad played coy and would not tell him.

He did this because the tractor belonged to Dan Taylor, so he did not want the tractor club to feel obligated to buy the tractor because of who owned it.

At that time, Dan did not know the tractor club was looking for a tractor. Dad and Rodney went to see the tractor. As Dan and Rodney talked about the tractor being purchased by the tractor club, Dan lowered the price to $3,000. Rodney told Dan the purchase was approved. At that time, Dan and his wife, Linda, readily donated the tractor to the club.

Dad sold raffle tickets that year and happened to sell the winning ticket. J.T. Drake, a long time museum volunteer from Ropesville, happened to buy the ticket that won.

J.T. not only greeted visitors in his role as a museum volunteer, he also worked to keep the museum area neat by mowing the lawn around the buildings every Thursday until his health forced him to retire. J.T. donated the tractor back to the museum at an approximate value of $5,000. In 2018, the raffle proceeds donated to the museum from the club were $9,000.

At this time, the tractor continues to be on display in the museum. It is a very popular exhibit with visitors. The tractor club raffle funds were used to place a stairway and handrails so children can walk up to sit on the tractor and have their picture taken.

This is just one example of how people in agriculture in the Lubbock area help to make this part of Texas a true representation of the Friendly State.
On March 25, a team of staff and volunteers journeyed 108 miles to Stanton, Texas, to partake in an Ag Day event as part of National Ag Week.

More than 160 students and teachers rotated through 8 stations with 20 minutes at each station.

The FiberMax Center for Discovery’s booth touched on the past, present and future of agriculture. The history portion began with a lesson in chores such as making butter, grinding coffee, and doing laundry with a washtub and lye soap.

For the present and future of agriculture, students made a beaded bracelet with each different color bead representing a different aspect of food and fiber production, like planting, harvesting, water, soil, and the people who make it all possible.

The presentation concluded with the students taking an up-close look at a 1947 Farmall M followed by a brief discussion on how implements and technology have changed throughout history.

This last year has limited the amount of school interactions that the museum has had, and this outing truly brought joy to everyone involved. Activities like these are funded through youth programming donations collected through the Giving Tuesday West Texas each November.

We are looking forward to once again interacting with students and sharing agriculture with them. If you are interested in scheduling a school tour please call the museum at 806-744-3786.

### April is Membership Month

BECOME A MEMBERS IN THE MONTH OF APRIL AND YOU COULD WIN A $100 GIFT CARD COURTESY OF AGTEXAS.

1. Eligibility to win the gift card requires placing membership between April 1 and 30, 2021.
2. Two $100 Visa gift cards will be drawn from all of the paid entries for new members.
3. You must be a minimum of 18 years of age and only one entry per person.
4. Must be a paid new membership to be eligible.
5. Memberships that expired prior to 2019 can enter as a new member.
6. Any level of membership qualifies for the drawing.
7. Winners will be drawn and notified no later than May 10th, 2021.
Memorials and Honorariums
REMEMBERING THOSE SPECIAL TO US

DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF

Barbara Adams by Lloyd Arthur Family
Layne Adams by Lloyd Arthur Family
Matt Adams by Bill & Linda Adams
Matt Adams by Vic & Judy Coker
Matt Adams by Plains Cotton Growers
Chriss Addison by Plains Cotton Growers
B. L. & Billie Anderson by Kristofer
& Katie Verett
Jerry Bartlett by Steve & Gayle Trowbridge
Sanford Boardman by Plains Cotton Growers
Sanford Boardman by Jaylayne & Tracy
Birkelbach
Randy Brightbill by Cotton Center Farmers
Co-op Gin
Jordan Brown by Woolam Gin
Sammie L. Burchard by Jaylayne & Tracy
Birkelbach
Glen D. Burgett by Hurst Farm Supply
Glen D. Burgett by South Plains Valley
Barbara Burleson by Dan & Linda Taylor
Barbara Burleson by Larry and Linda King
Stephen Bryant by South Plains Valley
Jim Byrd by Steve & Gayle Trowbridge
William Clements by Larry & Michelle Carter
Jimmie Royston by Vic & Judy Coker
Jimmie Davis by Vic & Judy Coker
Tony Dill by Bill & Linda Adams
Eugene Droemer by Texas Star Coop Gin
Tony Dill by Mary (Whistler) Owen
Alois Duesterhaus by Red Rivers
Alois Duesterhaus by Larry & Linda King
Ray Ehlers by Texas Star Coop Gin
Dwayne Ferguson by Dan & Linda Taylor
Dwayne Ferguson by Larry & Michelle Carter
Fred Finck by Doyle & Cindy Bukkemper
Harold Flournoy by Dan & Linda Taylor
Harold Flournoy by South Plains Valley
David Fritz by Hurst Farm Supply
Wanema Frye by Hurst Farm Supply

Barbara Gilliam by Cody & Lauren Bessent
Anita Hancock by Dan & Linda Taylor
Donald Hardy by Hurst Farm Supply Inc.
Billy Harkey by Stanley Young
Billy Harkey by Mary L. Livermore Foundation
Arden Hawkins by Vic & Judy Coker
Charles Heffington by Plains Cotton Growers
Wilhelmina Huizer by Vic & Judy Coker
Rachel Hunter by James & Zoe Phillips
Willie Jack Ivey by Larry & Linda King
Willie Jack Ivey by Larry & Michelle Carter
Harla James by Larry & Linda King
Travis Jones by Plains Cotton Growers
Travis Jones by Steve & Gayle Trowbridge
Mike Kauffman by Larry & Linda King
Mike Kauffman by Dan & Linda Taylor
Robert “Bob” Lacy by Texas Agribusiness Insurance
Harold Landrum by Vic & Judy Coker
H. B. “Buck” Lemons by South Plains Antique Tractor Association
Mike McCasland by Dan & Linda Taylor
Ralph & Billye McLaughlin by Verett Farms Inc.
Joe Leach by Kirby Family
Royce Long by Lloyd Arthur Family
Mitchell Wayne Majors by Calvary Baptist Church
Joyce McNabb by Dan & Linda Taylor
Joyce McNabb by Hurst Farm Supply
Joyce McNabb by Danny Gregg
Charles Moore by Shyrlie Hill
Van Mraz by Red Rivers
Judith Kay Summers Myers by Tracy & Jaylayne Birkelbach
Phil Neinast by Vic & Judy Coker
Mike Nettles by Plains Cotton Growers
Mike Nettles by Texas Agribusiness Insurance
Daphane Nunnally by the Jimmy Clark Family
Melvin & Jan Parkinson by Larry & Michelle Carter
Jean Pepper by Dan & Linda Taylor
Jean Pepper by Woolam Gin
Jean Pepper by Plains Cotton Growers
Lucille Pickering by Dan & Linda Taylor
Lucille Pickering by Stanley Young
Bill Pigg by Steve & Gayle Trowbridge
Bill Pigg by Hurst Farm Supply
Charles Prater by Red Rivers
Weldon Preston by Dan & Linda Taylor
Weldon Preston by Texas Agribusiness Insurance
Glynn Price by Plains Cotton Growers
Ray Joe Riley by Plains Cotton Growers
Maxine Robinson by Stanley Young
Geneva Kahlich Rüssel by Doyle & Cindy Buxkemper
William “Bill” Schraeder by Doyle & Cindy Buxkemper
William “Bill” Schraeder by Drury & Tara Buxkemper
Robert Schroeder by Tracy & Jaylayne Birkelbach
Lee Shepard by Stanley Young
Ed Smith by Plains Cotton Growers
Duane Snell by Glen & Velda Phipps
Emerson Tucker by Plains Cotton Growers
Kenneth Thurmond Sr. by Tinsley Gin
Kenneth Thurmond by Jaylayne & Tracy Birkelbach
Walter Verkamp by Dan & Linda Taylor
Walter Verkamp by The Goedel Family
Walter Verkamp by Miles Financial Services
Walter Verkamp by Hurley & Quinn Law Firm
Walter Verkamp by Ray & Donna Thomas
Walter Verkamp by Stanley Young
Walter Verkamp by South Plains Antique Tractor Association
Walter Verkamp by Mary (Whistler) Owen
Walter Verkamp by Wade & Beverly Wiley
Walter Verkamp by Ute & Loretta Becton
Walter Verkamp by Wayne & Debbie Youngblood
Walter Verkamp by Randy & Mary Huseman
Walter Verkamp by Charles & Cindy Huffman
Walter Verkamp by Calvin & Sandra Lemon
Walter Verkamp by Hurst Farm Supply
Walter Verkamp by Paul & Vicki Faulkner
Walter Verkamp by Rynn & Jane Truett
Walter Verkamp by Fritz & Kleta Gerner
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Walter Verkamp by Gregory Lefils
Walter Verkamp by Christina Kaderka
Walter Verkamp by Vista Bank
Walter Verkamp by Wade & Beverly Wiley
Walter Verkamp by Bill & Linda Adams
Walter Verkamp by Vic & Judy Coker
Charles Wade by Stanley Young
Charles & Annette Forgay Wade by Dan & Linda Taylor
Charles & Annette Forgay Wade by Larry & Linda King
Gerald Ward by Dan & Linda Taylor
Dewey & Margie Wells by Kristofer & Katie Verett
Barbara White by Stanley Young
Barbara White by Mike & Tina Wright
Barbara White by Dan & Linda Taylor
Barbara White by City Bank
Barbara White by Lynn County Soil Conservation Trust
Janie Willingham by Plains Cotton Growers
Janie Willingham by Texas Agribusiness Insurance
Wayne Worley by Hurst Farm Supply
Mary Jane Buerkle by Barry & Lindy Evans
Ron Chandler by Vic & Judy Coker
Gene & Ramona McLaughlin by Steve & Patricia Verett
Steve Moffett by Vic & Judy Coker
Dwayne & Carolyn Moses by Kristofer & Katie Verett
Dan & Linda Taylor by Brad & Davon Cook
Dan & Linda Taylor by Darrell Taylor
Bart & Tami Roye by Verett Farms Inc
Eddie & Nancille Verett by Kristofer & Katie Verett
Bob & Betty Wideman by Steve & Patricia Verett
Jeanette Wilson by Kristofer & Katie Verett
Larry & Patti Work by Kristofer & Katie Verett

For the convenience of our members and readers, we have memorial and honorarium forms available to print online. You can pay and submit through our website or print and mail with payment to:
FiberMax Center for Discovery
1121 Canyon Lake Drive
Lubbock, TX 79403
www.agriculturehistory.org/donate
Harmon Farms is the 2020 honoree of the Texas Department of Agriculture’s Family Land Heritage (FHL) program. Begun in 1974, FHL is a recognition program that honors families who have owned and operated a continuous agricultural operation for 100 years or more. The recognition commemorates the families who have passed down their proud Texas legacy from generation to generation.

The history of the Harmon Farms is part of the fabric of the Texas story, woven in Lubbock County. In 1920, James R. Harmon, leaving his farm in Lamar County due to the boll weevil infestation, moved to 160 acres three miles southeast of Idalou. He purchased the farm from G. H. Selke for $8,350.

James, his wife Alberta, sons James, Newton, Ralph and Phillip, daughters Margaret and Catherine and his father W. H. moved to Idalou by train the end of December 1920.

In the fall of 1926 J. R. Harmon bought 140 acres near the home place but died January 7, 1927 at the age of 54. His widow, children and his father planted the first-ever crop on the new farm.

At age 12, son Ralph left school and took over the farming. J. R.’s father passed away 5 months later at age 85. J. R.’s widow Alberta inherited the original quarter section. J. R.’s children received their father’s share of their grandfather’s estate and Alberta used that inheritance to purchase the northeast adjoining 160 acres, making the farm a full half section.

In 1928 Alberta conveyed ownership of the northeast quarter of Section 12 to her minor children Ralph, Phillip, Julia Margaret and Catherine. Newton had
died from a livestock accident in 1922 at age 14. In the mid-1920s, before his father died, oldest son James had moved to California.

Ralph Harmon continued farming on the homestead. He purchased the first tractor in 1935, a John Deere with steel wheels. Ralph married Faye Fondren from the Estacado community in 1939 and they lived on the homeplace. Their sons, D. Mack and Rodney, were the third generation of Harmons on the farm. Ralph drilled the first irrigation well on the north quarter in 1946.

After Alberta’s death in 1966, the estate passed to her sons. Mack Harmon acquired the original 160 acres in 1997 and continues to raise cotton on the land purchased by his grandfather in 1920. Mack’s son Scott Harmon now owns the northeast corner of Section 12 – the farm Alberta Harmon deeded to her children in 1928.

Mack Harmon, his son Scott Harmon and wife Amanda and grandson Guy Harmon – the fourth and fifth generations – operate Harmon Farms. From the original 160 acres farmed in Lubbock County in 1920, Harmon Farms has grown to an extensive farming and cattle operation and has marked a centennial anniversary of continuous family farming.

Begun in 1974, the Family Land Heritage Program honors families who have owned and operated a continuous agricultural operation for 100 years or more. Harmon Farms is one of six awardees in Lubbock County. The other awardees are listed below with the year the farm was established and the year they received the award in parenthesis.

Alexander-Williams Farm, 1903 (2003)
B & W Farm, 1900 (2000)
Ute Becton Farm, 1898 (2004)
Caldwell Estate, 1901 (2001)
Evitt Farms, 1907 (2012)
Mr. Patschke keeps watch over the counter and merchandise. Top image, Caldwell General Store, one of the first in Lubbock along with the first mail coach.

AN OLD MANNEQUIN FINDS A NEW JOB AND A NEW LOOK IN BRAZELL HALL

A “mom & pop” store is a colloquial prose for a small, family-owned, independent business. In the 18th and 19th century these stores were also called drug stores or general stores and sold everything from groceries and fabric to toys and tools. People were expanding across the country during this time and frequently founded new communities. It was not uncommon for each developing town to have a store offering general merchandise that could be purchased for daily life.

It is our pleasure to introduce to you Mr. Patschke, the general store keeper in the Davis & Patschke Mercantile located in the Alton Brazell Exhibit Hall at the FiberMax Center for Discovery. Mr. Patschke’s outfit was curated by museum volunteers Jim and Elaine Johnson using items that belonged to members of their family along with new additions sewn by Elaine.

A few outfit details include:
- Derby hat donated by Texas Tech
- Wool shirt, vest and trousers belonging to Leslie Fielding Johnson who is Jim Johnson’s grandfather
- Pocket watch belonging to R.O. Kelly who is Elaine Johnson’s grandfather
- Glasses belonging to Fielding Johnson who is Jim Johnson’s grandfather

You may also note the sleeve protectors that were sewn by Elaine, which were used to keep the storekeeper’s shirt cuffs clean in a time where laundering was not done on a daily basis, as we do today. A pair of these really adds to the image of the general store clerk.

If you think you recognize Mr. Patschke, he used to be wearing Stonewall Jeans and a 100% Cotton tee shirt in our old Bayer exhibit, but we love his new look and the creativity of our volunteers.

On your next visit, be sure to stop by and introduce yourself to Mr. Patschke and take a look around his store!

Story and Photo by Kayla van Zielst
NEW APPOINTMENTS FOR FIBERM A X CFD DIRECTOR

On behalf of the Fibermax Center for Discovery Board of Directors, please join us in congratulating our executive director, Lacee Hoelting, on her recent appointment to the Lubbock ISD Agri-STEM Advisory Committee and the Lubbock County Historical Commission (LCHC).

Dr. Sandy Fortenberry, Chair of the LCHC, “welcomes Lacee as she begins her two-year appointment. Lacee brings a wealth of agricultural knowledge to LCHC and will be a valuable resource of us in our efforts to preserve and educate about our local heritage.”

Zach Brady of the LISD Agri STEM Advisory Committee states that, “Lacee is an important member of our LISD Agri STEM Advisory Committee. She is always ready to help with her strong network of industry contacts and is a trusted thought partner for me as we work to improve the Agriculture Education offerings at LISD.”

The FiberMax Center for Discovery is proud of Lacee and looks forward to the difference she will make in our community.

LCHC held their quarterly meeting at the FiberMax CFD in April. Pictured L to R: Lacee Hoelting, Carolyn Sowell, Gretchen Scott, Peter Lavy, Don Abbe, Cameron Saffell and John White.

Story by Kayla van Zielst & Photo by Sandy Fortenberry
NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS
THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR MUSEUM
*denotes new membership

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Becknell Wholesale Co.
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Capital Farm Credit
City Bank
Fox 34 News
Gicon Pumps & Equipment
Happy State Bank
Hurst Farm Supply, Inc.
Lubbock County Expo Center
Lee Lewis Construction, Inc.
Lone Star State Bank
Lynetgar Electric Cooperative Inc.
Massey Irrigation/ Ronnie & Toni DuBois
Mullin, Hoard, & Brown LLP
Samuel Jackson Inc.
Select Milk Producers
South Plains Valley Irrigation Inc.
TCT Equipment
Texas Farm Bureau
United Supermarkets
* FIND THE BENEFITS OF THIS NEW LEVEL ON PAGE 6

SOD BUSTER
Arvana Gin Co.
Tracy & Jaylayne Birkelbach
Buster’s Gin, LLC
Lon & Gertrude Miller
New Home Co-op Gin
Owens Co-op Gin
Street Community Gin/
Barry Street
Texas Farm Bureau*
Vardeman Farms
West Texas Running Club
Mike & Mary Wischkaemper

CREW BOSS
Doyle & Cindy Buxkemper
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Jeff & Shavonne George
Scott Gilbreath*
Curtis & Sue Griffith
Regan & Cherie Holt
Dewey Hukill*
Terry & Sheri Hurst
Massey Irrigation, Inc.
Myrick Land & Cattle Co.
John Neudorf
South Plains Electric Cooperative
Texas Star Co-op Gin

TOP HAND
Joe Anthony
Caprock Metal Works
Delmon & Dolly Ellison
Prentice Fred
Benny & Judy Gray
Thomas & Delinda Hicklen
Julie & Shawn Holladay
Paul & Melissa Hunter
Scott & Erica Irlebeck
Burk & Bernie Lattimore
Rusty Lawson
Josh McKinnon*
Jeff & Kristi Payne
James & Sandra
Pendergrass
Paul & Gayle Schacht
Kenneth & Candy Schoppa
Jack Sides
Dan & Reeda Cay Smith
Martin & Robin Stoerner
TOP HAND CONTINUED
Thomas Farms
Doug & Theresa Whitney
Mike & Tina Wright

SUPPORTER
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Ambrosia Catering
H. Allen Anderson
James Belk
Larry & Dana Bryant
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Rob Hood

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WWW.AGRICULTUREHISTORY.ORG/ABOUT/MEMBERSHIP
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Andrea Johnson
Carla & Phil Johnson
Zach & Lindsay Lemon
Gene Linn
Zandra Luttrell
Jack & Kathi Lyons
Tim & Jill McDonald
Gary McKenzie
Lynda McNutt*
Matlack Farms
Bailey Mayo
Gary Murphy
Emily Newcome*
Alan & Jere Newton
Michael Patschke
Mignon Plyler*
Jim Rice
Darrell Richards*
Red Rivers
John & Patsy Smith
Larry & Becky Smith
Tommy Spittzer
Sheila Stephens
Doug Stephenson

Jim & Doris Stewart
Tanner Swaringen
Philip Thornton
Tinsley Gin
Steve & Gayle
Trowbridge
Gregory Upton
Wayne Upton
Dicky Wallace
Ralph & Karolyn Webb
Ted & Kathy Young
Maarten & Katy Van Zielst
W. D. “Buzz” Vardeman

“Man - Despite his artistic pretensions, his sophistication, and his many accomplishments - owes his existence to a six inch layer of topsoil and the fact that it rains”

-Unknown

Photo by Andrew van Zielst

Directed Gifts

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Marvin & Tommye Cepica
Barry & Lindy Evans
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THANKFUL FOR VOLUNTEERS AND IN-PERSON SCHOOL TOURS.

Photo by Kayla van Zielst