

Hickman family reunion held

The descendants of Ed and Malindy (Herron) Hickman, early residents of Coke County, held their reunion at The Pearl on the Concho in San Angelo, Texas, on June 29, 2019. The first reunion was held in Bronte in 1938. The gatherings were postponed during World War II but have been held every year since that time. A total of 86 descendants and one guest gathered at the 2019 reunion.

Those attending were Gerald Sandusky of Bronte; Jimmy and Paula Snyder of Dumas; Camille Sandusky of Kerrville; Nancy Davee of San Angelo; David and Necie Hickman of Midland; Gina and H.L. Brooks of Blackwell; Johnny and Jake Hickman of Midland; Anna and Jackson Fitzgerald and Kanen Henderson of Sonora; John, Denise, Saxon, Korbin, and Clara Hickman of San Antonio; KY, Elissa, Rylee, and Jaycie Hickman of Midland; Betty Hickman of Fort Stockton; Terry and Vivian Hickman of Fort Stockton; Jeremy, Desi, Elizabeth, and Alyssa Hickman of Kerrville; J.J. Hickman of Midland; David, Holly, Ryan,

Carson, and Cade Jones of Kerrville; Grant and Shawndi Hickman of Lubbock; Austin Hickman of Monahans; AnnaBella Hickman of Lucedale, Mississippi; Dean Percifull of Robert Lee; Donnie Thompson of Bronte; Kara, Bogdan, Everett, and Evan Stanei of Fort Worth; Jon, Christie, Blakely, and Ryder Thompson of Midlothian; Scott and Davy Thompson of Fort Worth; Theresa and John Underwood of Midland; Kristi, Russell, Hadley, and Whitney Stalvey of Midland; Kim, Kyle, Kelton, Kenna, and Kate Ellis of Brownwood; Laura, Cane, and Garrett Smith of Midland; Mike Percifull of San Angelo; Joe Percifull of Devine; Anthony Percifull of Midland; Patty and Taylor Percifull of Robert Lee; Kellye and Buck Duncan of Robert Lee; Kelsy, Lance, and Charlotte Millican of Robert Lee; Pat Percifull of Robert Lee; Amy and Tom Guinn of Mason; Dustin, Kayla, Nolan, and Karsyn Ford of Seguin; Jencie and Carson Ford, and guest Brenda Jacobs of San Angelo.

Ed Hickman moved to Bronte at the age of 11 in 1897.



Stolen! A tip received by Crime Stoppers in San Angelo paid off recently. This travel trailer was stolen but recovered west of Bronte on Wednesday, July 3, 2019, by Coke County Sheriff Wayne McCutchen and Chief Deputy Brandon Neal.

Malinday Herron became a resident of Coke County in 1900. They were married in Bronte on November 26, 1905, and made their home in various communities in Coke County throughout their lives. They lost

their first child Edna at 11 months, but went on to raise four daughters, Ruth Sandusky, Georgia Higginbotham, Willie Foreman, and Lee Richards, and three sons, Ed Hickman, Johnnie Hickman, and Freddy Wayne

(Pete) Hickman. The Hickman Family continues to share their love and togetherness that Ed and Malindy instilled in each of their children, who in turn taught each of their descendants the importance of God, family, and country.

the goal is all the same: more people visiting the town, moving to town, or both. We want a better economy that provides more jobs. We want more businesses in town to serve our needs. We want a local government providing better services, more efficiently, at a minimum cost. These goals require more spending and new investment in town. On that, we can all agree.

I'm reminded every year during the TCR that not everyone cares about a rodeo. That's a fairly shocking theory to 10 year old James, who could not have imagined such a mindset. But it's true. All of our towns have key events that are very important to the community, but the specific topic may not appeal to all of us. Many West Texas communities have a thriving hunting economy and yet, not everyone in the town is an avid hunter. Some community leaders couldn't hit the broad side of a barn with a shotgun. High school football can be a prominent part of a community's ecosystem and be a positive economic driver. Not everyone in town loves football.

That's not to say that any of these opinions are right or wrong. We all have our own tastes and preferences. But as I've grown over the years, I've learned the importance of support for events. It's not about supporting the underlying event as much as it's about supporting the community that benefits from that event. A man may not care about a rodeo, but the Texas Cowboy Reunion will drive thousands of visitors into town over a four day period and boost the economy like no other four-day period in the year.

You don't even have to know the difference between a shotgun and a rifle to recognize that your hunting economy should be supported.

I recently heard a story from my friend Jim Astin about the late Gene Swenson, who was president of the Swenson Ranch and president of the Texas Cowboy Reunion. One late evening at the TCR, Jim saw Gene walk up to the ticket window, purchase a ticket to the dance, and walk off in the opposite direction of the dance pavilion. Jim knew that Gene Swenson didn't dance. Then it hit him. Gene was making a statement and a show of support. Even if Gene couldn't care less about late-night dancing himself, the dance was an important part of the TCR.

Gene was going to invest in its success by purchasing his ticket.

People notice when we invest in events and when we show up to them, whether or not they're our particular cup of tea. We all have a lot of demands on our time and our money, so it's easy to pass on attending an event when we're tired. It's easy to pass on buying a ticket when we've got other things to purchase. But sometimes, it's important to remember the big picture. People notice when we support events and it encourages them to do the same. Community leaders backing an event, especially a new one that's just starting out, give it more validity. Remember that our community is better because of that event. Remember that it's bringing new people and

new money to town. Even if we're not the target audience for that event, we're the target audience for the economic boost that the event brings to our town. May we all take a page from Gene Swenson, and make a point to invest in the bigger

picture, our community's success.

James Decker is a lawyer, farmer, and mayor in Stamford, and the creator of the forthcoming "West of '98" podcast and website. He may be contacted through Facebook at facebook.com/james.decker.

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