

HISTORY & FOLKLORE



GLENN PRATER
Portrait drawing by Wiley Smith

From The Liberty Gazette, January 13, 1972 -

Good Scout Glenn R. Prater

"A Scout is trustworthy...loyal...helpful...friendly...courteous...kind." And if these are the qualifications for being a Scout, then Glenn R. Prater of Dayton has fulfilled a lifetime dream. For it was the boyhood dream of the young boy from Bowie, Texas, to be a Boy Scout, and since his small town did not have a troop, he waited until he was married and had his own son before he joined the Scouts.

The Dayton Postmaster was a native of Bowie and received his formal high school education there. In 1942, he joined the Air Force. After a four-year stretch as a bombardier on B-29s, Prater was discharged from the Air

Force with the commission of a first lieutenant.

In 1946, the civic-minded Daytonite joined the Texas Highway Patrol and was stationed in Dayton. The times for highway patrolmen in those days were not so easy as it is for the expanding force of today, as Prater recalled having worked 27 wrecks in one day on his route.

It was in 1956 that Prater became the postmaster in Dayton, following his marriage to his wife, Vivian, in 1950. Their only son, Carey, was born in 1956.

Being very much interested in the Dayton community, Prater joined the Rotary Club and was a member for 10 years. He also served as a lieutenant, captain and then assistant chief for the Dayton Fire Department over a period of 12 years.

Prater began his work with the Boy Scouts in January of 1967, after the post office employees began working a five-day workweek for the first time since his employment there. It was then that he found he had a little spare time on his hands and began his work as Scoutmaster for Troop 64 in Dayton.

"The Scoutmaster is the backbone of the whole scouting operation," Prater commented, "you have to give the boys their motivation." Prater was the backbone for this troop for three years and since then has been appointed as a district commissioner for the last two years. If Prater had his way, he would still be a Scoutmaster. "The Scoutmaster comes more in contact with the boys while the commissioner is in close contact with the area Scoutmaster," Prater explained. "The district commissioner is a go-between between the Scoutmasters and the District Committee."

In his role as Scoutmaster, Prater has had much training and experience. In 1967 he attended a one-week training course in New Mexico for Scoutmasters and in 1968 he attended a training course for Scoutmasters called the Woodbatch Training Center, what Prater described as a "college course for Scoutmasters."

One of his greatest accomplishments was his traveling to the Seventh National Scout Jamboree in Faragut, Idaho, in 1969. There he and six area Scouts met with some 37,000 other Scouts from

across the nation for fellowship and exchange of ideas.

The purpose of Boy Scouting, according to the district commissioner, is to "stress citizenship training, character development and personal fitness." Prater added that his main goal for each of his Scouts had been just that, and also explained that at times Scouts thought maybe he was pushing them too hard. "Sometimes they hated to see me coming," he added jokingly.

The humble Scout leader was all smiles at the recent Eagle Court of Honor, where four area youths were installed as Eagle Scouts, including his own son. And there was much reason for his happy expression, as each of the four boys stated in their acknowledgements that they would not have made the rank of the Eagle if it had not been for the help and guidance of Mr. Prater.

"I feel well rewarded," Prater explained, "in that the boys thanked me. Knowing that you had something to do with their accomplishments is quite rewarding."

The Scouting enthusiast is sometimes disheartened with the fact that the public acceptance of Scouting is not what it should be, and often times some of the Scouts drop out of their troop or post before they reach the rank of Eagle Scout.

"Training in Scouting is training that you can't get anywhere else," Prater explained. "We need a lot more support of it. The people need to see that Scouting is more than tying knots and building fires."

Prater cited a quotation that was printed on the program at the Eagle Scout initiation that pretty well summed up his feeling about Scouting and what the Boy Scouts of America are doing for the world today. The quotation reads, "It is the purpose of the Boy Scouts of America to provide for boys an effective program designed to build desirable qualities of character, to train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship and to develop in them personal fitness, thus to help in the development of American citizens..."

So a lifetime dream has become a reality - Glenn Prater is truly a Scout, a pioneer in the building of men and future citizens of the community, the state, and the nation.

From Illustrated Press of Liberty County, Thursday, October 1, 1970

CORN MEAL DITTLINGER 29¢
5-LB. BAG

PINTO BEANS 33¢
2-LB. BAG

GREEN BEANS 4/\$1.
303 CAN

FRESH FRYERS 29¢
CENTER CUT

PORK CHOPS 79¢
LB.

PORK CHOPS 59¢
END CUT

PORK STEAK 59¢
LB.

BBQ LINKS 59¢
LB.

BANANAS 9¢
WHITE

POTATOES 49¢
8-LB. BAG

TOMATOES 19¢
LB.

BELL PEPPERS 19¢
LB.

LEMONS 39¢
DOZ.

TIDE 69¢
GIANT SIZE

FOLGER'S COFFEE 79¢
LB. CAN

SHORTENING 59¢
3-LB. CAN

APPLE BUTTER 27¢
BAMA 10-OZ. GLASS

ROOT BEER 39¢
1/2 GAL.

SAUSAGE 10¢
CAN

GLADIOLA 49¢
FLOUR

A.R.G. RICE 59¢
5-LB. BAG

MACARONI 2/33¢
SKINNER SPAGHETTI or BOX

COFFEE MATE 25¢
3-OZ. JAR

TOM. SAUCE 3/35¢
DEL MONTE

DILL PICKLES 54¢
QT.

C.S. CORN 4/\$1.
DEL MONTE 303 CAN

IVORY LIQUID 49¢
DENTLER SAND, SPREAD or SALAD

DRESSING 29¢
PT.

PEACHES 29¢
HUNT'S NO. 2-1/2 CAN

TUNA 39¢
CAN

JELLO 10¢
ASSORTED FLAVORS

THURS., FRI., SAT. & MON.

MAJORS

SUPERETTE 600 HIGHWAY 90
LIBERTY, TEXAS

Burial & Cremation services for all faiths

Military funerals

Preplanning

Monuments

Grief Support

Serving the families of our community for over 80 years.

Pace-Stancil

FUNERAL HOME AND CEMETERY

Cleveland
(281) 592-2641
303 E. Crockett Street
Cleveland, TX 77327

Dayton
(936) 258-5300
1304 N. Cleveland - Hwy. 321
Dayton, TX 77535

Coldspring
(936) 653-2641
14250 Hwy 150 West
Coldspring, TX 77331

POTETZ HOME CENTER

LIBERTY & CLEVELAND EST. 1964

LIBERTY
2516 N. Main St.
936-336-5717
Mon-Sat 7-7 • Sun 8-5

CLEVELAND
401 N. Washington
281-592-8777
Mon-Sat 7-6 • Sun 8-5

GAZETTE WEBSITE:

LIBERTYGAZETTE.COM