

## June Roberts, looking back at Mills County

By Brynne McCasland

Over the past few days, I have had the privilege to interview June Roberts of Mills County. While interviewing her, I have learned a variety of interesting facts about her life throughout Mullin and Goldthwaite, Texas.

June attended school in Duren from grades 1-3, Prairie for grades 4-7, then finally attended Mullin for grades 8-12. She lived in Mullin during World War II and graduated school from Mullin High School with a class of 25 in 1945. Mullin was one of the first schools in the county to have a gymnasium.

An interesting fact she described to me was that before graduation a few of the men in her class got enlisted to attend the war.

When June was in high school the things they did to have fun were to have class parties at different peoples' houses, play parlor games, go to the show, and mostly just visit with friends and family.

June had mentioned that anywhere she wanted to go she had to walk because she didn't have a car to transport her like most teenagers today.

For June's senior trip she got to travel in a cattle truck down to see the State Capitol in Austin. After viewing the Capitol they went up and set up their campsites and ended up camping out and spending the night. Also, for their prom, they were able to have it in a hotel in Brownwood.

After graduation, she was offered a job by W.P. Duren at the Locker Plant in Goldthwaite.

As a side note, our family reunion is held in Mullin at the old Duren Hotel.

College was not an option for June after graduation due to her family's lack of money.

June reflected on the numerous differences in how Mills County was in the 40's, than how it is currently. Having lived in the same house for over 50 years, Mrs. Roberts has lived through and witnessed many changes throughout the years.

First, back then they didn't have electricity or technology in rural areas while today we have electricity and outstanding use of technology. She described how people had more interaction

with each other, as opposed to the technology-driven world we currently live in. Most families during that time were lucky to have one phone for communication whereas today almost every member of the family has a cell phone of some sort.

Second, people had to mostly walk everywhere they went. Owning a car was a privilege that only the wealthy of the day could afford, while today families own multiple cars.

Third, it was more common to get married at a younger age than is accepted in our society today.

Additionally, according to Mrs. Roberts, back then there was more of a variety of stores than there is now. For example, the Pigley Wigley, Loy Long, Leel Long, and Fraziers. Goldthwaite now has a Schwartz and two dollar stores. In the 40's, they had three dealerships: Ford, Chevy and Dodge. We now have Hoffpauir and Hill Country Ford.

As you can tell, a lot has changed over this period of time. It seems strange to me that there would be more stores back then but I guess that just shows how places change through the years. If you live in Goldthwaite now you have to travel 30 to 40 miles to get the stuff you need, as to where in the 40's you had everything you needed in town. It's amazing to see the changes of Mills County and how things back then used to be.

## **Author Bio**

Hi, my name is Brynne McCasland. I am a senior at Goldthwaite High School.

One of the classes I am currently taking right now is Career Prep. Taking that class has prepared me for going off to college.

While being a full time student, I also have a job and have been working extremely hard to save money for college. I plan on attending Hardin Simmons University to pursue a degree in nursing. I then plan on extending my knowledge to receive a Master's Degree to become a nurse practitioner.

I have taken numerous college courses already, making A's in all.

I think I deserve this scholarship because I have worked extremely hard serving and volunteering in community service projects. While being in the National Honor Society and a representative of Student Council, I have participated in numerous community events including Cindy Hayes Food Drive, Carter's Blood Drive, Hats Off For Cancer, Read With Me, Face Painting, Valentines Dinner Date with the Elders, Fight For Leukemia and Santa Fest.

I would like to be considered for this scholarship to help defray some of the expenses associated with college. I would love to alleviate some of the financial burdens put on my parents.

Receiving this scholarship is not only a desire but a necessity: without any aid helping to pay for college, I will have to come up with \$30,000 a year for schooling on my own. Along with college expenses, my parents will be paying for two surgeries before sending me off to college, one surgery for my mother and one major surgery for my brother.

I also think I deserve this scholarship because I'm a hard worker and dedicated person. I hope to represent the values which I have gained from this wonderful community and if given this scholarship I would strive to work hard in everything I do.

I thank you for your attention and for considering me for this scholarship.