

Interview Essay: Tracy Tucker

By Bailey Stiff



Bailey Stiff and Tracy Tucker

Throughout the years, a county has changed and shifted all with the passing years. The county has improved decade after decade involving new improvements. Mills County has seen dark days and it has seen days full of the modern times of happiness and light. A county grows up and grows old just like the children, now adults, that have been here since day one.

For my interview I interviewed Tracy Tucker; daughter of Max and Crystal Shephard. It has been an honor to be able to talk to her about the changes she has seen over the years; and to also talk about her past stories of her being born and raised here in Goldthwaite, and eventually raising a family and settling down here. Tracy has been living in Mills County for fifty-one years while raising two children. I asked her many different questions and she gave me her honest answers.

My first question was how had the county changed in the past years. She said in all honestly it really hasn't; many of the same aspects as there were then are now still apparent. The things she remembers most about Mills County is the small town atmosphere and being able to let her children play outside in the yard without her worrying the whole time; and also the skating rink. Back in the days, the teenagers had different hang out spots than the ones we have now. The old hangout spots included the frog pond in front of what is now Rancher's Roadhouse. They used to call that the drag. The skating rink was also very popular among that generation. To be

able to afford all the gas to ride around the drag, the teens needed a way to make money. Tracy made money by waiting tables at the local Wagon Wheel Cafe. To this day the restaurant is still around. Along with new additions: The Dollar Store, Dairy Queen, Subway, El Tapatio, and Mary's Tacos and Burgers. More stores means more opportunity for the newer generation of teenagers of Mills County.

Although Mills County has changed, there are still some things that have not changed. Tracy said Star, TX has never changed. Star looks the same now as it did fifty-one years ago. If you want a glimpse of small town U.S.A., Star is the epitome. The Goldthwaite High School has also had very small change. One thing Tracy wishes wouldn't of changed was the elementary school here in Goldthwaite, because that school had tons of memories for her and her children.

Mills County is the perfect place to raise a family because no matter where you go, you will know everyone and trust them. Safety is another big reason that Tracy chose to raise a family in Mills County. As long as you're out of the park by eleven o'clock, there aren't very many rules or things to be scared of.

All in all Mills County has changed throughout the years just as the people who inhabit it. The ways of making money have changed, the stores, and the hangout spots. Although many things have changed Mills County still possess the same qualities that originally made it the family-oriented town it is today.