



Curtis and Christine Scott of San Angelo review bound archives of the Brownfield News while researching the lives of late General Telephone Company of the Southwest employees. Scott has compiled more than 2,500 obituaries.

## Researcher, editor honors former coworkers

By JOSIE MUSICO  
Staff Writer

Curtis Scott just found the perfect way to honor more than 2,500 of his closest friends.

The San Angelo native compiled a 700-page book memorializing the lives of former telephone company employees through copies of their obituaries, then immediately began work on another one.

"It's a good way to honor their memories," he said.

Scott, known to his friends as "Scotty," received the idea for the project about two years while he was serving as president of the Concho Valley Telephone Pioneers Club, an organization whose members were currently employed by or had worked in the past for General Telephone Company of the Southwest or any of its predecessor companies.

He recognized many of the names on the membership list as former coworkers from his days at GTCSW, and wondered what had become of them since. Of the names he was less familiar with, he wished to learn who they were and put faces with their names.

"I was sitting there one day and got the idea of finding out what happened to all the members," he said.

Scott asked around to find out where the late employees had been living at the time of their deaths, then made some trips to locate their obituaries. Funeral homes were a frequent destination, as was the office of the *Brownfield News* with its hardback-bound archives organized by year and dating back decades.

While currently working on the second volume of the book, he plans to make upcoming trips to Brownwood, Texarkana, Bryan/College Station and Broken Arrow, Okla., which, like Brownfield, were once home to GTCSW branches.

The now-completed first volume begins with the 1924 obituary of Jerry Rust, a forward-thinking Colorado City businessman who purchased GTCSW's San Angelo company when it had about 70 customers, then established its network in nearly a dozen other towns.

The first book continues through 2010 in chronological order of the employees' deaths.

Scott, who himself worked as a switchman for the company beginning when he was 17, learned some interesting facts about for-

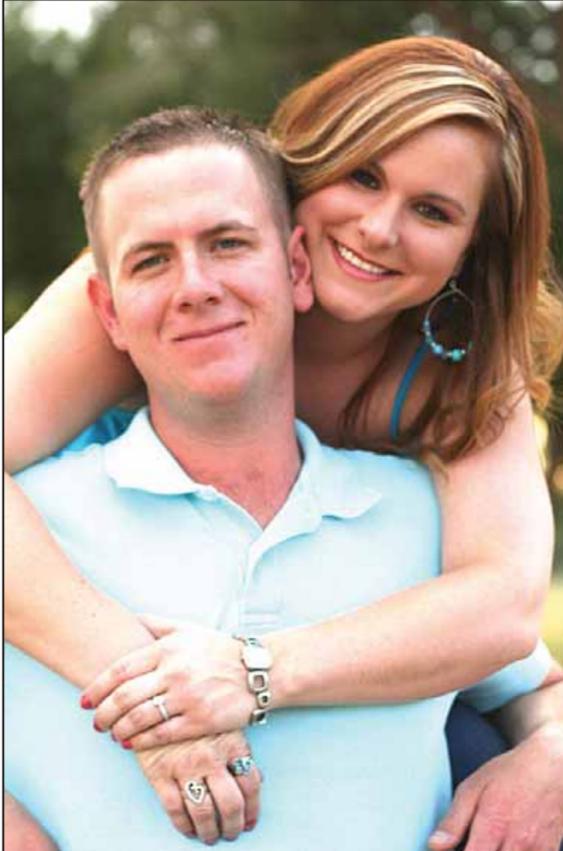
mer coworkers while poring through their obituaries. For instance, some had military experience they had never discussed on the job.

The process sometimes grew heartening, though, when he came across names of those he had considered close friends, but to whom he realized he would never have a chance to say goodbye.

"Sometimes when I was working on the book I would tear up because I had fond memories of that person, but they were dead," he said.

The second volume will begin in 2010 where the first one ended. Scott has no plans to retire from the research, and instead hopes to continue until the very day his own obituary can be added.

"I plan to add year accumulation of death as long as I can be alive," he said.

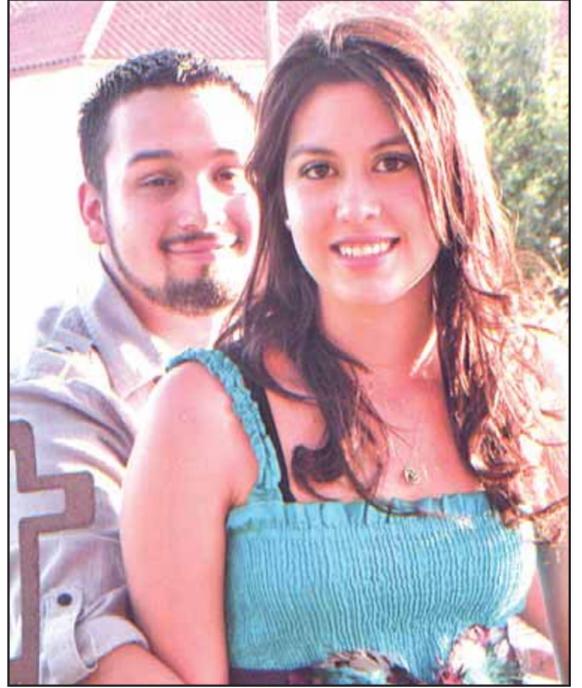


Mr. and Mrs. Dean Key of Lubbock are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Stephanie DeAnn Key to Joel Phillip Drake. Phillip is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joel Drake of Meadow. The bride elect is a 2007 graduate of Frenship High School and a 2007 graduate of Lubbock Cosmetology College. She works at Michelle's Salon in Lubbock. The future bridegroom is a 2003 graduate of Meadow High School and a 2009 graduate of Texas Tech University where he earned a degree in History. He works as an Outside Operations Manager at CHS in Ropesville. The couple will marry on October 20 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Lubbock.

### Bridal Selections

Alyssa Silva & Justin Rios  
Kelsey Salmon & Kent Moore  
Melissa Zepeda & Eric Morin • Holly Isaacs & Tyler Britten  
Kayla Dawson & John Pierce • Destiny Creech & David Richins  
Terri Gonzales & Tim Ball

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Joe and Estella Silva of Brownfield announce the upcoming marriage of their daughter, Alyssa Silva, to Brian Rios, the son of Rudy Rios and Tracy Whitehead. The couple are both 2010 graduates of Brownfield High School. The bride-elect is currently employed at Pizza Hut. The groom-to-be is employed at United Supermarket. The couple will exchange wedding vows Saturday, October 13, 2012 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Brownfield with Father Gerald Leatham officiating.

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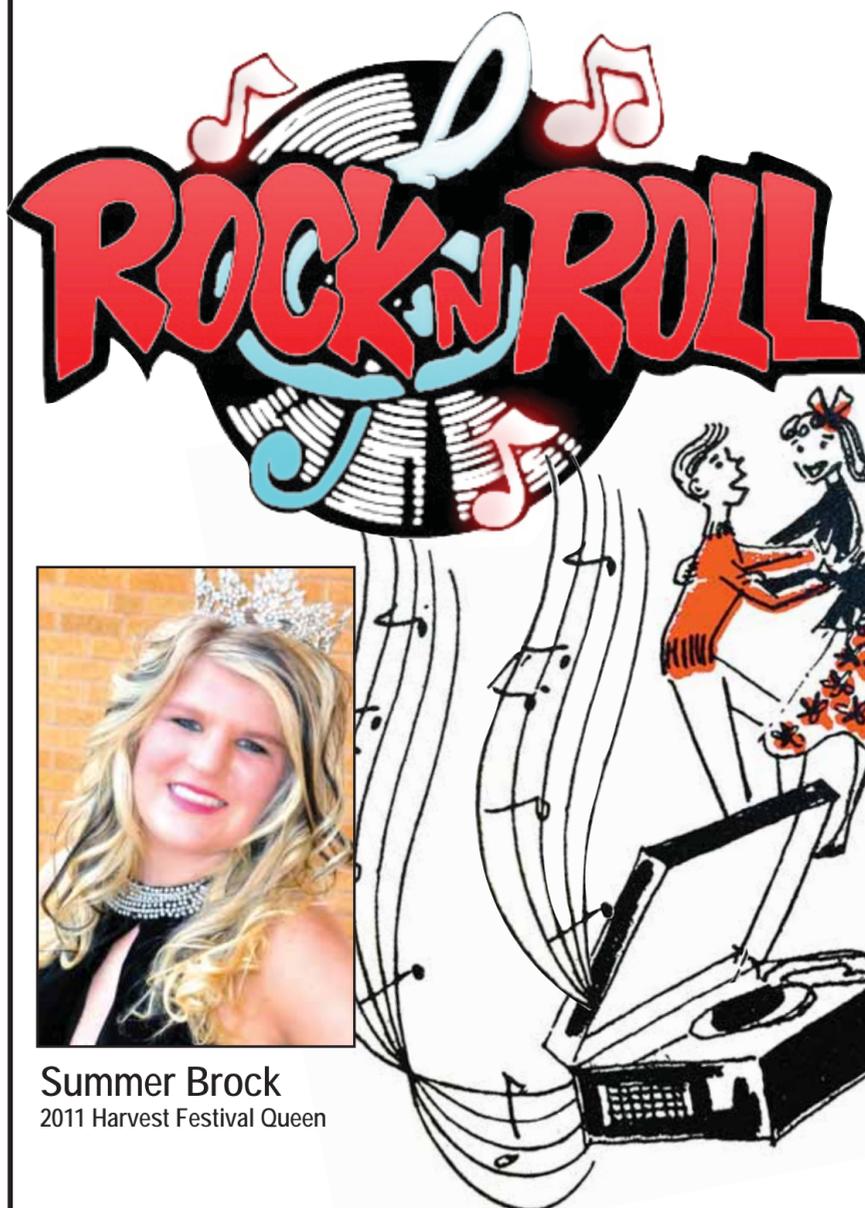
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