

## HISTORY & FOLKLORE



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

**Audie Creel launches one to high school student Bruce Allen on the courthouse lawn in front of the LHS choir cake sale tent Saturday, Sept. 26. Somehow Audie's toss lacks some of that old zing it had when he played for the Panthers in 1940.**



**From Illustrated Press of Liberty County,**

**Thursday, June 6, 1963 –**

**Allie Charles, well-known school teacher in the Liberty and Ames area, is retiring July 1st after 22 years of service, including 12 years in Liberty Training School as a homemaking teacher and 10 years as Elementary Supervisor of Instruction in Liberty and Polk Counties. In the scene, she is being honored by her fellow teachers from over the county. L-R: her husband, Robert Charles; herself; Mrs. Ruby Johnson and her husband, T.L. Johnson.**

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**From Texas Illustrated, October 27, 1977 –**

**Bear Traps & Young Maidens**  
by Kevin Ladd

If I could go back in time and visit certain places, people, or time periods, my first stop would have to be the courtroom of Judge Lewis Buckner Hightower. He was district judge over a vast area encompassing several counties, including Liberty, Hardin and Chambers counties, serving from 1888 and 1918.

The greatest thing about Judge Hightower, or shall I make that the two greatest things, was that he ruled his court with side-splitting humor and even-handed justice. If he ruled that a man was guilty, people believed he was; if he ruled that he was not guilty, people believed that, too.

One fine story about Judge Hightower concerns an unusual criminal case. One hardy pioneer settler had a young daughter, who was in love with a young fellow from the community nearby. The father could not stand to be within sight of the suitor, who he believed was slipping around at night and visiting the daughter by way of her bedroom window.

The father decided to catch the boy one night and placed a bear trap outside her window. The suitor walked right into the trap, which snapped shut with a clash of metal and bone, and the old man filed charges bringing the whole affair before Judge Hightower.

The jurist sat there and listened as the prosecution belabored its evidence and then finished. Hightower then dismissed the case on these grounds, "If they're going to use bear traps for this purpose, they might even catch a judge."

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