

Cadets Hold Banquet

By Timna Rutledge
Staff Writer

FRUITVALE—The Bravo 6th Texas Unit of ALERT Cadets held their annual Christmas Banquet Friday, December 8, at the Fruitvale Community Hall, and honored special guests Cora Fugate and State Representative Dan Flynn.

Flynn praised the efforts of the ALERT Cadets to help those in need, such as Fugate, an Edom resident.

About 30 father-son cadet teams helped paint the elderly widow's house a beige color, which had previously been peeling a dark, aqua-green paint.

Proud of her house, Fugate declared, "They took me under their wing. I can't say enough about the group. They were the quietest. I never heard anybody say a loud word or, 'I don't want to do it.' They were just as nice as they could be. I'm so thankful they painted my house."

Encouraging the cadets to stay the course, Flynn shared the most meaningful Bible verse to him this past legislative session, which is written in the Bible in his desk, on the House floor, in Austin, "It's Galatians 6:9, and it says, 'Let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.'"

ALERT Cadets is the companion program of the Air Land Emergency Resource Team (ALERT).

The primary focus of the cadets is to "Turn the hearts of the

fathers to the sons, and hearts of the sons to the fathers, based on Malachi 4:6," said ALERT Cadet Commanding Officer Major Roger D. Farr.

Fathers and sons between the ages of 8-17 join together in the ALERT cadets and work on scripture memory, Bible study and evangelism skills, adventure skills, practical home-life skills, physical training, character training, and service projects.

Farr explained, "It's kind of like Boy Scouts, but all the things we do here are focused on a young man's relationship with Christ. We don't get into Indian lore, rather, we have more of a focus on scripture."

Some of the adventure skills in which the unit has participated include, rock climbing and camping.

Some of the unit's members, including Fruitvale resident Dwight Brimer, helped in the clean up effort in New Orleans, after Hurricane Katrina.

The unit's leader, Lieutenant Randal McDonald, said, "There was a lot of chain saw work. They cut down trees that fell on people's homes."

The unit usually meets the second Saturday of each month in various members' homes, and is currently looking for another service project to perform, with a focus on widows and orphans.

Anyone who wants to suggest a service project or learn more about the cadets, should call McDonald, at 903-963-7550.

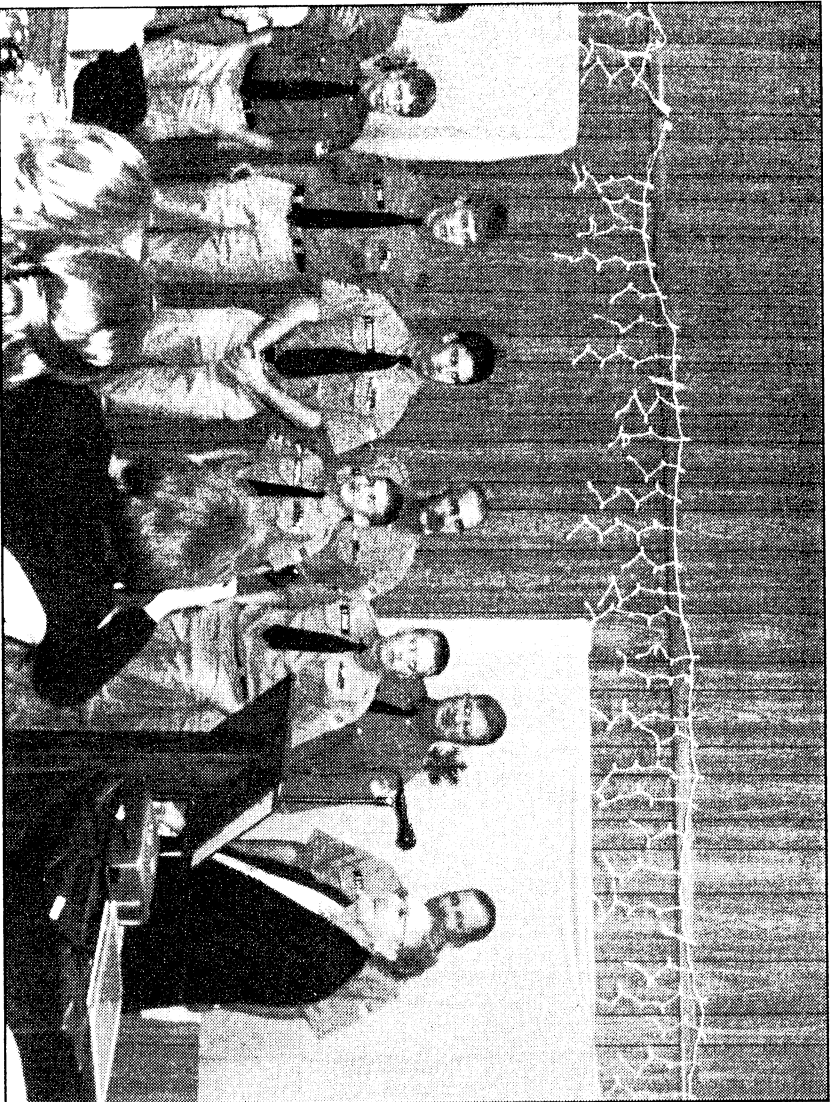


Photo by Timna Rutledge

ALERT cadets within the Bravo 6th Texas Unit, painted elderly widow Cora Fugate's house in Edom, as their most recent service project. Fugate expressed her gratitude at the unit's December 8, Christmas banquet in Fruitvale. Front row left to right are, Nathaniel Craig, Brandon Craig, Nelson Fitzgerald, Jonathan Fitzgerald, and Blane Brimer. Back row left to right are, Lt. Robert Fitzgerald, Dwight Brimer, Lt. Scott Lyles, and Cora Fugate.