



Join local insurance agency—

Randy and Betty Murphree will join the staff of Stamford Insurance Agency on May 4. Murphree has been with Rolling Plains PCA for the past ten years and Mrs. Murphree is a 6th grade teacher at Reynolds. Norris and Nancy Russel, owners of the agency, made the announcement this week.

Murphrees join staff at Stamford Insurance

Norris and Nancy Russell are pleased to announce the addition of Randy and Betty Murphree to Stamford Insurance Agency. The Murphrees are committed to the same quality, friendly service that is traditional with Stamford Insurance Agency.

Randy and Betty are native West Texans. Having grown up in Rotan, both are graduates of Rotan High School and West Texas State University.

Murphree has been employed with Rolling Plains Production Credit Association for the past ten years. Mrs. Murphree is currently teaching sixth grade at Reynolds Elementary. They are the parents of one son, Josh, a second grader.

Randy will join Stamford Insurance Agency on May 4.

The Russells and the Murphrees welcome you to come by and visit them.

Support Stamford...Shop at home

Stamford Insurance Agency celebrates 30 years

by CHANDRA MATHIS

In 1964, popular T.V. talk show host Ed Sullivan introduced the Beatles to the United States and Norris and Nancy Russell introduced their new business, Stamford Insurance Agency to the Big Country.

Thirty years has passed, and the agency now owned by Randy and Betty Murphree, has seen a great deal of changes, but the service is still top of the line.

Stamford Insurance Agency was started when an out of town insurance agency, Inland General Insurance Company of Fort Worth had previously purchased the Tayman Insurance Agency, one of the early agencies in Stamford.

About a year after purchasing the Tayman Agency, Inland General purchased Moreland Insurance Agency. This created some tension among the Tayman and Moreland Agencies.

Stamford Insurance Agency opened in a small spare office in the Oldsmobile Auto Company, 215 S. Wettersbee, with Motor Insurance Company as its only company.

Norris obtained his license and the agency was soon able to be appointed as agent for Floyd West Company and Beacon Insurance Company.

In 1965, when the Oldsmobile Company was incorporated into Trail Chevrolet, Stamford Insurance Agency moved to a small office building at 218 W. McHarg. This was its location until 1966 when Norris pur-



chased Watt's interest and moved the agency to a large office at 126 W. Hamilton. They then were representatives of Hartford Insurance Company.

In 1971, following the death of Jimmy Turner, the manager of the Inland General Insurance Company (The Tayman Agency), the Russells purchased the Tayman Agency and moved their offices to 112 W. McHarg. The company had now obtained Continental Insurance Company and Providence Washington Insurance Company. Then, with the purchase of a small agency owned by Bernard Buie, they acquired Plains Insurance Company.

Nancy Russell received her agent's license in 1974 and

became a full time agent for the company.

During this time the agency was operated with several secretaries and was able to employ Vicki Elkins in 1976 and Silvia Padron in 1979. Both are still a vital part of the agency.

In 1977, Stamford Insurance Agency was one of 35 agencies to become a Pioneer Agent by Allstate Insurance Company.

They moved to their current location at 112 N. Swenson in 1982.

In 1987, the Russell's sold the company to the Murphrees, a young couple who had grown up in nearby Rotan.

Randy, who holds a B.A.

degree in Finance and Marketing from West Texas State University (now West Texas A&M) had previously been employed at Rolling Plains Production Credit Association in Stamford.

Also a WTSU graduate, Betty teaches gifted and talented and 7th grade English.

The couple's son Josh, 15, works part-time with the agency.

The Murphrees continue to provide quality, reliable insurance from top-notch companies.

They invite you to come see them for all your home, health, farm commercial, life and car insurance needs.

And, wish them Happy 30th Birthday while you're there!

s
s
1
5

w
tly
dy
th

ie
s
i.
g

REA

Business of the Week

Sometimes important places are tucked away in places we overlook. To me that seems to be the case with this week's business. On the north side of the square here in Stamford, is an office with no great sign other than the doorway you can find Stamford Insurance Agency doing business as usual. Randy Murphree alone with son Josh are hard at work handling the Insurance Business of the many clients under their care.

Their company has forty years of history beginning in 1964 when it was owned by Norris and Nancy Russell. Through it's lifetime the agency has grown, as wise management held it together and moving in a strong direction. Though insurance business has changed greatly in forty years some companies were unable to survive while other grew and spread their wings to cover the many needs of the people.

It was 1987 when the Russells sold this company to the Murphrees, who had moved to Stamford years before from Rotan where they had been raised. His mom and dad were a farming family but Randy chose another direction when he went to West Texas State University. When he graduated he had his degree in Finance and Marketing and was off to the world of finance. His wife Betty also graduated from the same school as a teacher and together they make a great team and have for over thirty years.

Their son Josh graduated from Tarleton with his goal in Business Finance attained and has returned to join his family in their business here at home. That was back in January 2002 and it seems like a solid family business is in operation to me. Randy was with

P. C. A. for several years before they purchased their insurance company to become business owners.

When you walk into the office you're not shocked by meeting Randy or Josh but by two pretty ladies that make you feel welcome and comfortable. After an under-

standing of your insurance needs they will see to it that you can talk to the agent of your choice. Silvia Padron has over twenty years experience working with insurance rules and changes and can often help you with many of your questions. Pam Snow may not have a great many years behind her yet but she is learning fast and is a great asset now and for the future strength of this company.

In visiting with Randy I find a knowledgeable agent who is also a caring community leader, and a man who along with his wife, wants to see their town grow even as other towns seem to give up. Their insurance business is wide spread in the types and designs of coverage it offers and is proud to share their Mission Statement of "To protect the future of our neighbors, by providing them security *today!*" This is a strong statement to make and they are determined to live up to it.

When you do business with anyone, it is only common sense to deal with those who know what they are selling to you the customer. They have the background in ranching and farming and an understanding of what you are talking about and what you need to do, no matter what type of insurance, auto, home, barns and equipment, farm and ranch liability.

Yes, this home town family owned business is there hidden behind the small sign on the door, and even though you are greeted in an easy manner, be assured professionalism is surrounding you and your needs being met are the priority of everyone there. Drop by and check out what I have said, and while you are there, remember, there is no better place to do business no matter what for, than right here in Stamford.

Stamford is a town of great history just as this business is one of great integrity. Call Randy or Josh at 325-773-2754 or if you are in town, come by 109 E. McHarg Street to see how they can meet the important insurance needs in your life.

Buddy Baird