

## **TOM CORLEY - GRHS Class of 1950**

At the young age of 16, Tom Corley left Pine Bluff, Arkansas and a less than desirable home life and moved to the Glen Rose area. With the help of a half-brother, Doug, he was able to get a job, with room and board, working on Mr. and Mrs. Young's dairy farm near the Fairplay community. His job consisted of maintaining fences, milking cows, and making milk deliveries. He enrolled in Glen Rose High School as a sophomore and attended school along with fulfilling his job responsibilities. While attending Glen Rose, he met the love of his life, Jo Ann Warford, who he married in December 1951. After his graduation in 1950, Tom worked for Coca Cola bottling company and National Lead Corporation for a short time before going to work for Alcoa at Bauxite, where he was employed until he retired.

As an outsider, having been accepted into the close knit area gave Tom Corley a great sense of community pride and the willingness to give back. During his adult life, Tom mentored many young men. He was a Boy Scout Troop leader and also coached the Glen Rose Little League team for several years. Tom was an avid Glen Rose sports fan. He and Jo Ann were always active with Booster Club activities and fund raisers and would volunteer for anything, including concession stand duty. Tom was the announcer for Beaver football for several years and was very instrumental in organizing the community neighborhood watch program and the Glen Rose Volunteer Fire Department. He farmed and ranched on family land inherited from Jo Ann's ancestors, the Carpenter family. Some of the Glen Rose School site is part of this original homestead.

Tom and Jo Ann Corley raised two sons, Tommy and Bobby. They were blessed with two grandchildren, Natalie and Waylon, and one great granddaughter, Nicole, all of whom also graduated from Glen Rose High School.