



Honey, I'm home!

By *Jay Blinderman*
Staff Writer

The gift was one of practicality, but turned out to be the beginning of a business that would be passed on to four generations.

In 1888, Z.S. Weaver and his wife Florence were given 10 hives of bees as a wedding present. Sugar was expensive and in short supply, so the Weavers, who lived nine miles south of Navasota in Lynn Grove, would use the honey produced by the bees as a sweetener.

Back then, Navasota was called "The Land of Milk and Honey." That title has faded into history, but one of the industries that helped the city to earn the name continues to thrive in the area.

The Weavers' ten hives grew to 500, and with the growth in the number of bees came a surplus of honey which would be sold to

customers in Houston and eventually Dallas.

"The 1900's were a boom time for beekeeping," says Roy Weaver Jr., whose great-grandfather started the business.

Weaver said his great-grandfather would load barrels of honey on a wagon and drive to Houston. Once there, a spigot would be driven into the barrels and the Weaver honey would be sold to anyone who brought their own container.

When the railroad came through Navasota, honey was sent to Dallas and sold in the same manner as it had been sold in Houston.

The Weaver family has kept bees in the Lynn Grove area since the first hives were placed in 1888. One area, named "sunset" has produced bees for the family since 1890. Sunset, which is five miles from the eldest Weaver's home, was so named because whenever he returned from the

