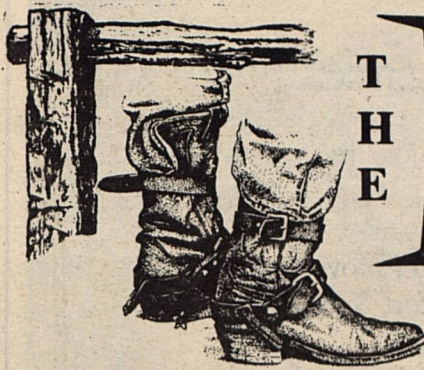


Plains Library  
Box 419  
Plains, TX. 79355



THE

# PLAINS RIDE

PLAINS, YOAKUM COUNTY, TEXAS

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 10

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1992

30¢

## Country Caravan Concert To Be Presented June 12

South Plains College's Country Caravan will present a concert Friday, June 12 in Stanford Park. Plains Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the 8:30 p.m. event.

Admission is free for the country music show which features the latest country music hits and classics. It features the talents of vocalists, dancers and musicians from the ranks of student and faculty at SPC.

## City To Upgrade Electric System

Construction of a completely upgraded electrical system serving the Plains School plant will soon be underway by the City of Plains Electric Department. This upgrade will include the installation of transformers, buried cable, new poles and upgrading of existing poles to accommodate a higher, more efficient primary voltage for this circuit.

The project will include the removal of overhead wires near the school buildings providing for a safer environment for school children and a more attractive school facility, an increase in primary voltage from 2400 volts to a more efficient 7200 volts, and the separation of this circuit from the remainder of the city-wide electrical system benefitting the entire city by stabilizing voltages system wide.

This project is the first phase of a long range plan to upgrade the entire city electrical system.

During the construction of this circuit, electrical service will be temporarily interrupted for short periods of time to various portions of the city. The City of Plains apologizes in advance for these temporary power outages.

## United Methodist Church Has Interim Pastor

Dr. Bruce Parks will be serving as interim pastor for United Methodist Church in Plains, beginning with services on Sunday, June 14.

Dr. and Mrs. Parks will be staying in Plains four days a week. "Although their home remains in Lubbock, we wish to extend a warm

Food booths will open at 7 p.m. so that persons may eat before the concert. Slated to be offered are hamburgers, Cokes, homemade ice cream and a bake sale.



HELEN POPE AND SUSAN HENRY

## Reading Club Underway Here

A large number of children are signing up for the Steven Kellogg illustrated "Discover the New World of Reading" Summer Reading Program at Yoakum County Library. The annual summer reading club is sponsored by the State of Texas.

Boys and girls who read 10 or more books will receive a certificate and token from the local Dairy Queen which can be exchanged for ice cream. This is the fourth year for their participation.

Helen Pope, District Supervisor, and Susan Henry, manager of the local DQ, are responsible for the extra treat for the young readers.

welcome and would like to make them feel a part of this community," relayed a spokesman for Methodist Church.

He will be serving the church here until January at which time the appointed pastor will graduate from Asbury Seminar in Kentucky.



COUNTRY CARAVAN TO PERFORM in Stanford Park in Plains on Friday, June 12 at 8:30 p.m. There is no admission charge. Concessions will be available.

## L.D. Hamm Services Conducted In Brownfield Methodist Church

Services were conducted May 26 in First United Methodist Church of Brownfield for L.D. Hamm Jr., 72, of Brownfield, former resident of Plains.

Officiating were the Rev. Bill Perkins, pastor of First United Methodist Church of Seagraves, and Homer Jones, retired Church of Christ minister. Burial was in Terry County Memorial Cemetery under direction of Brownfield Funeral Home.

Mr. Hamm died May 23 in Methodist Hospital in Lubbock after a brief illness.

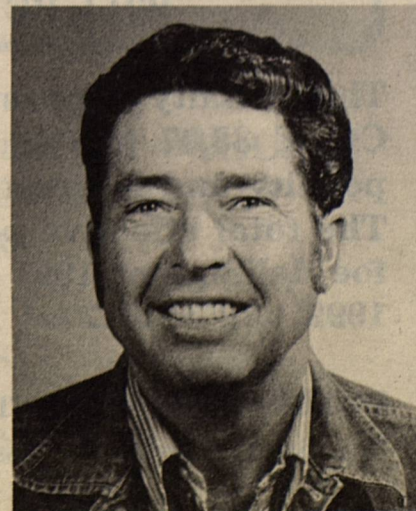
He was born March 12, 1920 in Muldrow, Ok. He moved with his parents to Wellman Community in Terry County in 1929 and was graduated from Wellman High School.

A farmer in Yoakum, Terry and Gaines Counties, he married Babe Jobe June 17, 1944. He was a World War II veteran of the Merchant Marines and a member of Wellman Methodist Church.

Survivors include his wife; two daughters, Betty Phillips of Burnet and Janie Searcy of Brownfield; a son,

Ace, of Plains; seven grandchildren; and three brothers, Robert and Jack, both of Wellman, and Dick of Colorado City.

Pallbearers were Scott Hamm, Jimmy Hamm, Leon Fails, Gary Hamm, Eric Phillips and Tray Field. Honorary pallbearers were Steve Hamm, Timmy Hamm and Gordon Kelsay.



L.D. HAMM



ATTEND EMS PROGRAM - front row, left to right, Trisha Garza, Ragan McGinty, Chelsea Wagnon; second row, Suzan Henry, Monica Lazos, Frank Garza and Kevin Lowrey.

## Life Saving Techniques Given For Youngsters

Kevin Lowrey, EMT instructor, and Susan Henry, EMT paramedic, presented a program of Life Saving Techniques for local youngsters Wednesday at Yoakum County Library.

They shared tips on what to do when an adult or child is choking and related information about careers in Emergency Medical Service, explaining the amount of training involved and other information.

The two are part of Plains' efficient volunteer ambulance service and are a credit to the community.

"We hope all of the kids attending the program will see the importance of helping others and finding out how important it is to live the quote of John

F. Kennedy, "Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country," states a library spokesman.

The program slated for this Wednesday will be given by a local Highway Patrolman.

Boys and girls are invited to attend the special programs given Wednesdays at Yoakum County Library in Plains.

**THE PLAINS PRIDE: The Plains Pride (USPS 757-130) is published weekly at 716 Main Street, Olton, Lamb County, TX 79064. Second Class Permit paid at Olton, TX 79064 POSTMASTER: send address changes to THE PLAINS PRIDE, P.O. BOX 774, OLTON, TX**

## Notice

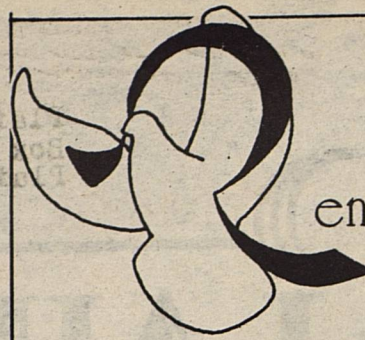
### TO ALL TAXPAYERS IN PLAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

If 1991 Property Taxes Are Not Paid Before July 1, 1992

**AN ADDITIONAL PENALTY OF 15% WILL BE ADDED**

This penalty is pursuant to TEX PROP CODE 33.07 and is in addition to the penalty and interest provided by 33.01. The total effective penalty and interest for delinquent 1991 taxes paid in July, 1992, will be 35.7%.

PLAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Wanda Ashburn, Tax Assessor-Collector



renaissance FLOWERS & GIFTS

456-3939  
M-F 10:00-5:30 Plains

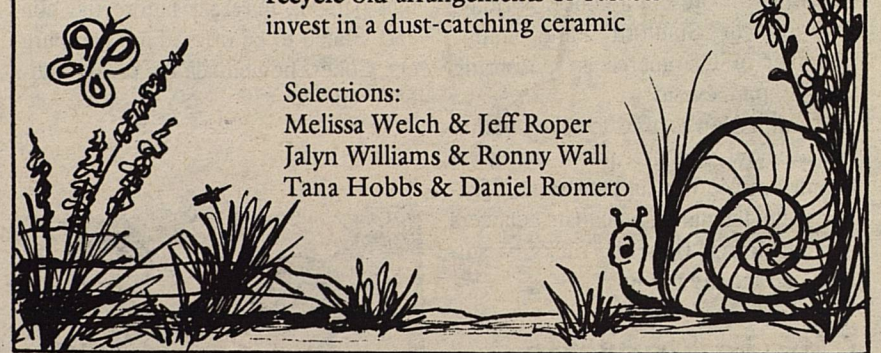
Summer snails...get moving to add to your comfort & enjoyment with  
applied pillows  
interesting silk & dried wall baskets  
silk and eucalyptus swags  
candles and rings

Be an environmentalist.....

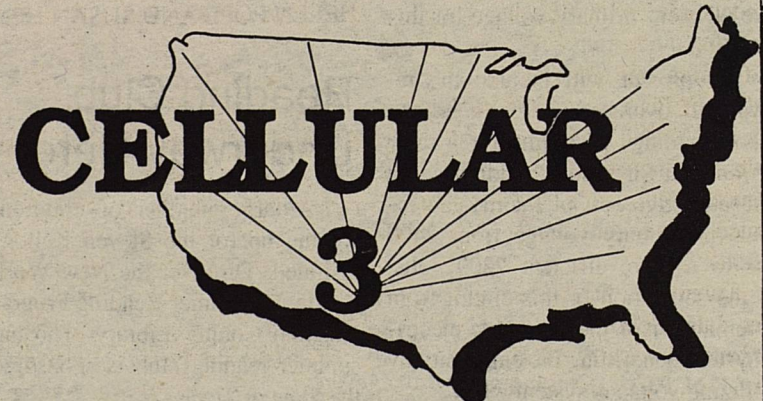
buy a green plant or send one to a friend or loved one  
recycle old arrangements or baskets  
invest in a dust-catching ceramic

Selections:

Melissa Welch & Jeff Roper  
Jalyn Williams & Ronny Wall  
Tana Hobbs & Daniel Romero



## As a Cellular 3 customer where can I use Cellular Communications?



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Texas RSA-3 Cellular Partnership, operating as Cellular 3. Rate structures may vary from system to system. While roaming within a particular system, the roamer will pay the applicable roaming rate for that system.



MRS. ROBERT SHANE McMINN

## Karen Cobb & Shane McMinn Recite Twin Ring Vows

Miss Karen Janiece Cobb and Robert Shane McMinn recited double ring wedding vows Saturday, May 30 in First Baptist Church.

The Rev. Glenn Harlin, former pastor, officiated. Vows were spoken before an altar lighted by 20-branch candelabras with cathedral tapers. Flanking the setting were spiral branch and votive tree candelabras. Tropical setting of ficus trees, ficus bushes and lily leaves and lavish bows of white satin and English tulle also adorned the chancel area. Bridal aisles were accented with bridal bows of English illusion.

Parents of the bride are Mr. and Mrs. Jack Cobb. The groom is son of Mr. and Mrs. Larry McMinn. Mr. and Mrs. H.N. Parks and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Cobb are grandparents of the bride. The groom is grandson of Barbara Walker of Plains and Robert Leatherwood of San Antonio.

Jeff Barron presented prelude music and played "Trumpet Voluntary" as the bridal party entered the sanctuary. "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" was the recessional.

Matt Swinnea of Littlefield and Kristi Cobb, sister of the bride, sang "To Me". Kemi Cobb, sister of the bride, sang "In This Very Room". The bride sang "The Gift" prior to the exchange of vows. Barron and flautist Jo Lena Powell played theme from "Ice Castles" as the mothers were seated.

Escorted by her father and given in marriage by her parents, the bride wore a white satin gown designed by her mother. It featured a bodice of lace appliques with portrait neckline lavishly encrusted with pearl beading. The elongated Basque waist was enhanced

with a large bustle bow in back. The straight skirt was pearl beaded and the hemline, trimmed in lace points, swept to a cathedral length train.

Multi-layers of bridal illusion, enhanced with pearls and lace formed a halo headpiece for her veil of bridal illusion. She carried a silk design of lavish ivy, stephanotis and gardenias.

For "something old" and "borrowed" she wore diamond earrings belonging to her paternal grandmother. Her attire was "new" and she wore the traditional blue garter, a gift from her maternal grandmother.

Kemi Cobb was her sister's maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Kristi Cobb, sister of the bride, Angie Parks of Lewisville, cousin of the bride, and Bertha Gonzales of San Angelo. They wore slim-lined knee length navy moire taffeta dresses fashioned with sweetheart necklines and short puffed sleeves. They carried silk bouquets of stephanotis, gardenias, roses and ivy in white and navy with large English tulle bows.

Robert King of Lubbock was best man. Groomsmen were Mickey McMinn of Lubbock and Brad McMinn, brothers of the groom, and Jim Baum of Deer Park. Guests were seated by Russell Warren of Dallas and Doug Warren of Littlefield, cousins of the bride. They wore navy blue tuxedos with white pleated shirts and navy bow ties and cummerbunds.

Stephen James Warren of Rockwall, cousin of the bride, was ring bearer. Keeping a family tradition, he carried a pillow embellished with lace and pearls from the wedding gown of Lela Warren, aunt of the bride. Fashioned by the bride's mother, it has

been carried in all family weddings.

Guests were registered by Jackie Nichols of Knott. Out of town guests attended from Denver City, Sunray, Lewisville, Temple and Hamilton.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held in fellowship hall. The bride's table was laid with white lace over white linen and was highlighted by an array of tropical foliage and English tulle. Designed by the bride's mother, the wedding cake featured five individually tiered layers. Punch was served from a crystal service.

Silk ivy adorned the navy laid groom's table which featured a chocolate cake draped with navy and white roses. Crystal and silver ap-

pointments were used for an assortment of fresh fruits.

Various hors d'oeuvres and finger foods, fresh shrimp and canapes were served from a buffet.

Presiding at the party tables were Vonda Fitzgerald of Lubbock, Jackie Nichols of Knott, Carol Warren of Rockwall, Sara Moreno of Lubbock, Johnnie Green and Shirley Bunch.

Following a wedding trip to Colorado, the couple is at home in Clute where the groom is employed as an engineer with Amoco Chemical. The bride is a coach/teacher in Brazosport I.S.D. Both bride and groom are 1988 graduates of Plains High School with degrees from Texas Tech University.

### Holly Dyer BeutiControl Cosmetics Image Consultant

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592-8067



RECEIVE SAFETY AWARDS - Travis Jones and Buster Kennedy, second and third from left, received jackets as safety awards in ceremonies May 21. Recognized for accident-free duties in 1991, the two were cited for their records by Terry Beeler, Alltel vice president; Robert Williams, operations supervisor and Ken Barnes, manager-operations.

1/2 PRICE SUNGLASSES

\$1.50 to \$4.00

EVAPORATIVE COOLER PUMP

\$8.99 EACH

GARDEN GLOVES \$1.59 PAIR

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LYNN McELROY & MICHELLE WHITE

### August Wedding Planned

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin White of Lubbock announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Michelle, to Lynn McElroy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Maxie McElroy.

Wedding vows will be exchanged in a 1 p.m. ceremony Saturday, Aug. 22 in First Baptist Church.

Miss White is a graduate of Brownfield High School. She attended South Plains College and Methodist School of Nursing. She is employed with Methodist Hospital.

The prospective bridegroom graduated from Plains High School and attended West Texas State University. He served four years in the US Air Force and is employed with West Texas Lighting Co. of Lubbock.

Following their marriage, the couple plans to live in Amarillo and attend West Texas State University.

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**GOTTA PEPSI-COLA**  
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OVER  
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WIN  
UP TO  
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**PLAY EASY MONEY**

**FREE FOOD FREE GAS**

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PRICES EFFECTIVE JUNE 10-13, 1992  
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

PLAINS

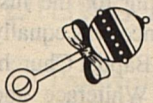
**ALLSUP'S**  
\$50.00 WORTH OF GASOLINE FREE!  
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IF YOU PURCHASE A NEW VEHICLE  
BEFORE AUGUST 8, 1992, YOU  
WILL RECEIVE \$50.00 WORTH OF  
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OF ALLSUP'S

### Shower To Fete Miss Tana Hobbs

Miss Tana Hobbs, bride-elect of Daniel Romero, will be honored with a bridal shower Saturday, June 20 in the home of Jo Ann Barron.

Friends and relatives are invited to call from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Gift selections are at Jerri's Boutique, Renaissance Flowers and Gifts and Bayer Lumber.



A New  
Baby!!

Brent and Shawna Weatherford of Corcoran, Ca. announce the arrival of a son born at 1:40 p.m. May 23 in Hanford Community Hospital in Hanford, Ca. Weighing eight pounds six ounces, he has been named Justin Alan. Grandparents are Kenny and Lawanda Weatherford of Waukena, Ca. and Ron and Barbara DeVore. Great-grandparents are Clifford and Geneva Dawes of Waukena, Ellie Weatherford of Lemoore, Ca.; Mae Weaver of Clovis, NM and Betty DeVore of New Philadelphia, Ohio.

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**\$299** Hungr-Buster,® Fries, and 32-oz. Coke® in a Souvenir DQ® Fiesta Texas Cup.  
 On sale at Dairy Queen June 1-14, 1992

A PRIZE ON EVERY DQ® FIESTA TEXAS CUP! JUST PEEL AND WIN!

**SWEEPSTAKES**

No purchase necessary. See "Official Rules" on display for details. Game ends August 1, 1992. ©Reg. U.S. Pat & Tm. Off. Am. D.Q. Corp. \*TM Reg. U.S. Pat & Tm. Tx. D.Q. Op. Coun. ©Tx. D.Q. Op. Coun.

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**NO PURCHASE NECESSARY**  
See Store For Complete Rules And Odds

<p>HOMOGENIZED <b>ALLSUP'S MILK</b> GALLON</p>	<p><b>\$1.99</b></p>	<p>ALL FLAVORS <b>DORITOS® CHIPS</b> 6 OZ. PKG.</p>	<p><b>99¢</b></p>	<p>ALLSUP'S <b>CORN DOGS</b></p>	<p><b>289¢</b></p>	<p>DUBUQUE <b>FRANKS</b> 12 OZ. PKG.</p>	<p><b>59¢</b></p>	<p>DUBUQUE <b>BOLOGNA</b> 12 OZ. PKG.</p>	<p><b>79¢</b></p>	<p>SHURFINE GRADE A <b>LARGE EGGS</b> DOZEN</p>	<p><b>59¢</b></p>	<p>EACH <b>SAUSAGE, EGG &amp; BISCUIT</b></p>	<p><b>79¢</b></p>	<p>10 OZ. SIZE ALL FLAVORS <b>OCEAN SPRAY DRINKS</b></p>	<p><b>69¢</b></p>	<p><b>STOCK UP ON SAVINGS!</b></p>	<p>5 LB. BAG <b>SHURFINE FLOUR</b></p>	<p><b>79¢</b></p>	<p>32 OZ. BTL. SHURFINE <b>TOMATO KETCHUP</b></p>	<p><b>89¢</b></p>	<p>HERSHEY'S, KRACKEL SKOR, REESE'S, MOUNDS, SYMPHONY, BAR NONE, TWIZZLERS, MR. GOODBAR <b>CANDY BARS</b></p>	<p><b>3 \$1</b> FOR</p>	<p>20-16 OZ. PKG. HEFTY <b>PLASTIC CUPS</b></p>	<p><b>89¢</b></p>	<p>6 1/4 OZ. CAN <b>SHURFINE TUNA</b></p>	<p><b>59¢</b></p>
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 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

You can enter as often as you like, but each entry must be on a separate completed entry form found on either the game tickets or in Allsup's Grocery Ads.

**OR**

Be one of  
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**FREE GAS**  
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 (\*8 Gallons a week for 52 weeks)

## Dedication Ceremonies Held For Tokio School Marker

Dedication ceremonies were held May 3 for a historical marker for Tokio School. Approximately 150 persons attended.

Introduction was by James Turner, president of the board of directors of Tokio Community Center. Master of Ceremonies was Joe Burlison and opening prayer was led by Rev. Cletus Caswell. Guest speaker was Rep. Jim Rudd. Unveiling the marker was Reg and Bitsy Martin and Jess and Rita Mae Snodgrass.

Sharon Turner, secretary/treasurer for the board of directors of Tokio Community Center directed the presentation of gifts to Mr. Ray Bearden, representing the Tokio First Baptist Church; Mrs. Harriet Flache of Terry County Museum; and Terrell Thomas of Girls Town USA. Benediction was given by Rev. Cletus Caswell.

Refreshments and fellowship immediately followed in Tokio First Baptist Church.

The official Texas Historical Marker reads: "Tokio School. Early classes in the Tokio area were held in the ranch house of the J Cross Ranch near the turn of the century. In 1911, a school building was constructed near the center of town (about 300 feet N), and classes were relocated. Larger school buildings later were erected. Once due to fire and twice due to changing space needs. The school facilities continued to serve the community's educational as well as religious and civic needs until 1941 when Tokio School was consolidated with Brownfield Independent School District. (1991)."

Some opposition arose when the proposal came in 1911 to move the school from J Cross Ranch to the present site nearer the center of the community. It was moved and later burned. A second one-room building was constructed on the same site.

Mrs. Bessie Ware applied for a post office in 1912. She used dresser drawers for the mail and usually had five or six letters a day. When the Postmaster General asked for a name to be submitted, she sent in two double names and Tokio. The name Tokio was accepted.

By 1919, Tokio School needed more room for both school and community activities and a two-room building was erected with a mobile partition between the two rooms. When raised, it provided ample space for an auditorium. It became a busy center of the community throughout the year, housing not only school but also religious and other community gatherings.

Students were kept busy during school terms with lesson assignments in addition to Friday afternoon spelling and arithmetic matches, working on interscholastic league events and night programs. Box suppers and pie suppers were important events to raise money to purchase library books and playground equipment. At the end of school, there were always two nights

of entertainment; elementary the first night and high school, the next.

In 1925, enrollment reached about 120, calling for another building. The fourth and last school, a six-room red brick building was erected.

According to school records, in 1937 Tokio was classified as a three-year unaccredited high school. In 1939, Tokio sent its high school students to Brownfield and in 1941, the school district was consolidated with Brownfield ISD.

Tokio's first store, just as the school, was located on the J Cross Ranch, approximately one mile north of the present site of Tokio. Through the years, there have been numerous other stores in the little community. S.E. Maroney built a big grocery store and bought cream and eggs. The only phone in the community was in his store. Later Carl Johnson and Dee Sink operated grocery stores in this building. In the 1970s, Deroy and Gerry Anderson had a filling station, hardware and seed store there. James Earl and Edith Sherrin ran the store about two years. Clyde and Ila Trout operated the hardware store until they moved two miles west of Tokio in 1976.

When Tokio was moved south, the Jim Caseys ran a grocery store. Mrs. Walter Casey ran a dry goods store in a building just east of the Casey store in the mid 1930s. It sat east of the present-day Tokio Cafe building.

Tokio Baptist Church was organized in 1914. Prior to that, Baptists, Methodists, Nazarenes and Church of Christ worshipped in the school building, taking turns with services. A 32'x50' building was erected by the Baptists in 1929, then updated in 1932 during the Depression. One of the leaders was John Romans.

History records that when the church building was finished, the school used the building for a few days to have classes. Some of the church members objected. Mr. Romans rose and said, "So you are like the old lady who had always borrowed someone's wash pot to wash clothes. Finally she got one of her own. Someone wanted to borrow it and she said, 'I neither lend nor borrow now.'" The building was used by the school.

Mr. and Mrs. H.L. Ware were charter members of the church. It is now a very modern church facility.

A Nazarene Church was built in the mid 1930s. It was across the road northeast of Tokio Grocery Store.

A group of people met in the Tokio Gin meeting room in 1988 and voted to give the Tokio School building and land to Ormal Pippin. The land was originally granted to the school by his father, J.T. Pippin. The community had decided it could not afford to repair the building for use as a community center.

Those attending were Jimmy and Sherlyn Sherrin, Sharon Turner, Tommy Elmore, Jet and Gay Wilmeth, Pat Curtis, Reg and Bitsy Martin,

Clyde and Ila Trout and Ray and Dorothy Jones.

The group decided to have a historical marker placed near the highway east of the former Tokio Post Office to signify where Tokio was and when it was established.

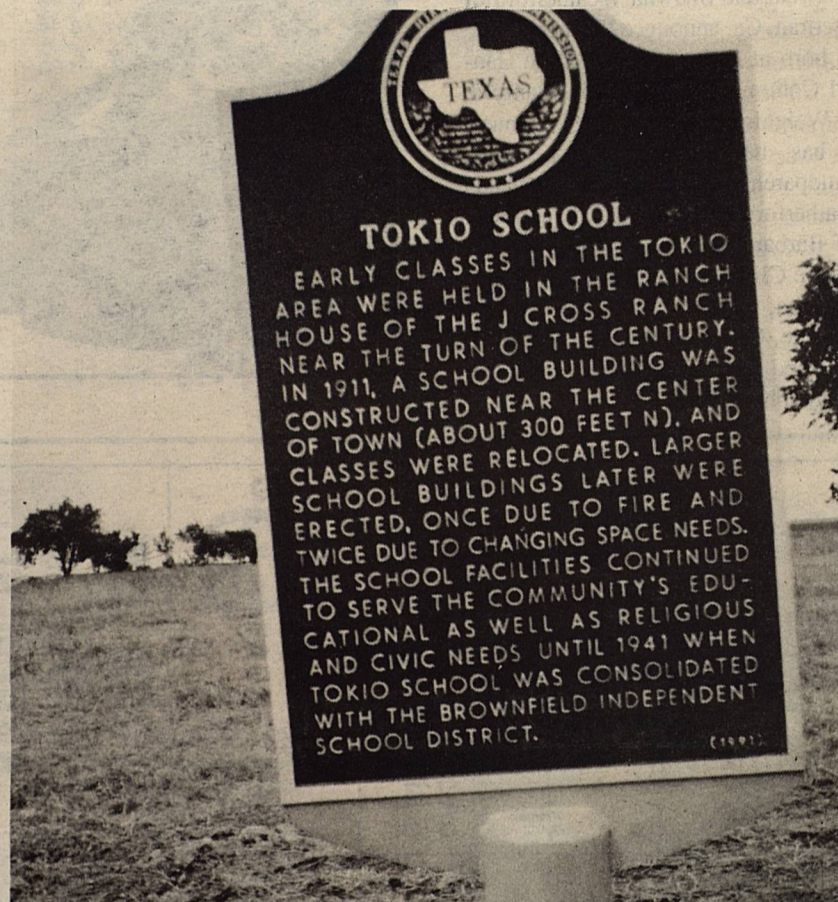
Tokio now has only a post office. There is talk of converting it to a community post office operated by a postal trained contractor. In the fall of 1989, bids were taken by the postal department to manage a Tokio Post Office. Clyde and Ila Trout got the contract and moved the post office to their hardware store two miles west of Tokio. Rita Mae Snodgrass continues

to deliver mail on the route. Velma Dearing is substitute.

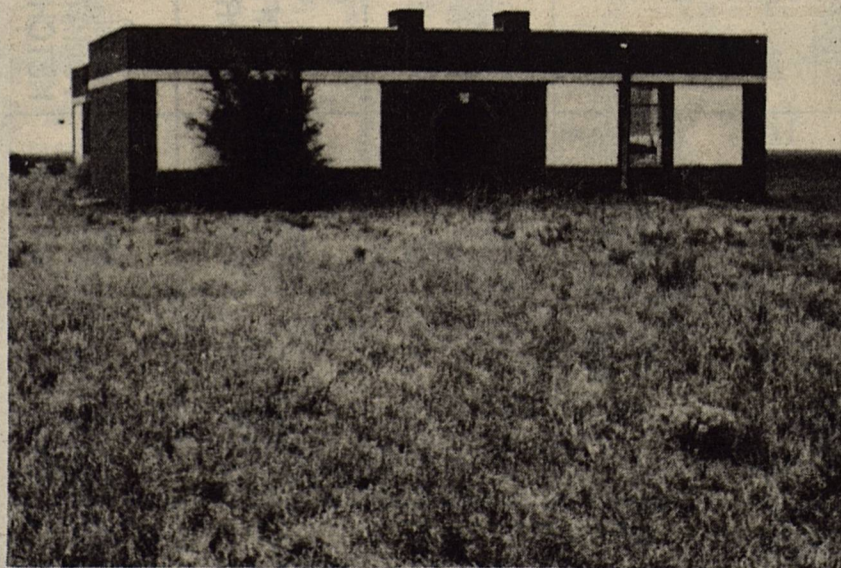
The highway department moved the highway signs to near the Trout store in late December 1989 or early January 1990. There was so much protest, they were moved back the next day.

The brick school building is for sale.

During the dedication ceremonies, Sharon Turner made presentations of the remaining funds of Tokio Community Center. After paying for the historical marker, the balance was equally divided between Tokio Baptist Church, Girls Town USA of Whiteface and Terry County Museum.



TOKIO SCHOOL MARKER



TOKIO SCHOOL BUILDING

### NOTICE

HOUSE FOR SALE - 403 4th St. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, utility, kitchen and living room. Attached garage. Owner will finance with good credit rating. Call 915-784-6390. 9/4tc

FOR RENT - 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Huge garage. Call 456-3751. 10/1tc  
FOR SALE or TRADE - 20 FOOT Cabin Cruiser Gulf Stream Glastron. Call 456-3751. 10/2tc



## Plains Independent School District

'Home of the Cowboys & Cowgirls'

### Volleyball Camp Draws 26 Girls

Twenty-six girls from fourth through ninth grades attended the annual Plains Cowgirl Summer Volleyball Camp last week. Directors were Charles Cain and Joyce Pierce.

Theme of the camp was "As true of anything in life, you will get out of it exactly what you put into it". The girls responded with enthusiasm and sincerity.

Campers participated in an intensive, well planned program of fundamentals. Mental strategies were stressed throughout.

The girls enjoyed playing sand volleyball on the newly constructed sand courts.

Participating were Kyle Bearden, Kristi Guetersloh, Robin Squyres, Heather McDowell, Amanda Koncaba, Kristy McClure, Kassie Lowe, Lyndi Rowe, Sonja Avila, Sandy Warren, Wendy Beckham and Tandi Jones.

Also Lisa Parrish, Marcey House, Cassandra Dearing, Vicki Bayer, Laura

Flores, Velvet Canada, Donetta Richardson, Tanya Vasquez, Tanya Hernandez, Kimbi Jones, Kim Willis, Christina Barrientes, Lexy Warren and Leslie Rowe.



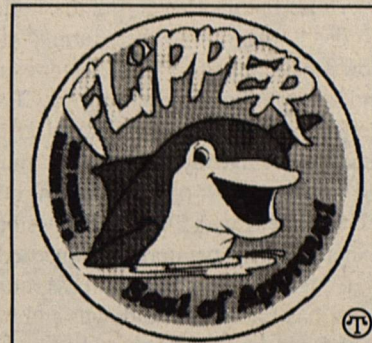
VOLLEYBALL CAMPERS

### Amy Crutcher Participates In Annual Leadership Event

Amy Crutcher recently represented Plains High School in the annual Hugh O'Brian Youth Foundation, Texas Panhandle Leadership Seminar. She and more than 80 other young leaders from as many high schools throughout North Texas attended the seminar in Amarillo April 24-26.

HOBY seminars bring together a select group of high school sophomores so that they can interact with groups of distinguished leaders in business, government, education and the professions to discuss present and future issues. The goal is to provide the young people with a unique forum for learning about American incentive system and democratic process and for broadening their understanding of their own leadership potential and quest for self development.

The Hugh O'Brian Youth Foundation was established by the actor Hugh O'Brian following a visit to Africa where he was inspired by a meeting with Dr. Albert Schweitzer.



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### Art Instruction Classes Slated

Jimmie Bayer will teach painting classes for youngsters eight years and older during June. Classes will be each Tuesday and Wednesday and Thursday and Friday mornings and are limited to four.

Cost is \$17 each which covers supplies.

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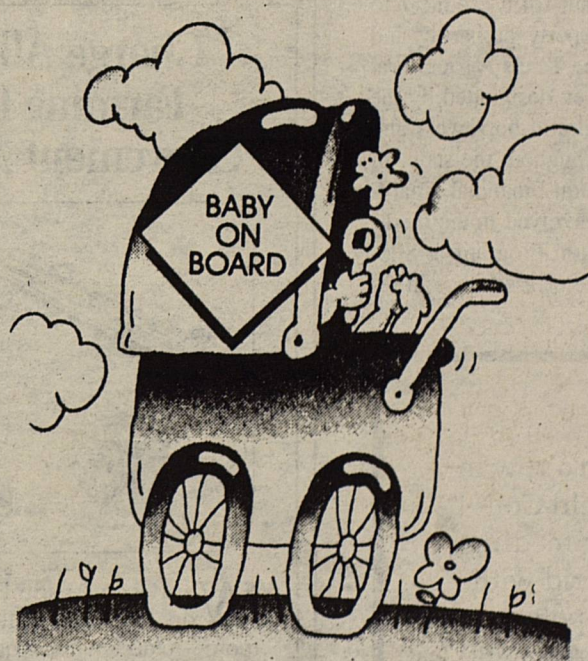
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## An Income Problem Is Portrayed In The FmHA Delinquency Notices says Texas Farmers Union

Joe Rankin, President of Texas Farmers Union, said that an ominous signal about the rural economy is being sent to the nation with the delivery of 37,311 (3,967 in Texas) notices to delinquent Farmers Home Administration borrowers, beginning in June.

FmHA began the notification process last week after a one-and-a-half year hiatus from loan restructuring caused by congressional reforms in the agency's operations.

The TFU President questions the agency's timing in sending the notices now, saying "This is the busiest time of year for farmers". "Now, they're faced with a 60-day deadline to put together a plan for their loan restructuring".

"Even more problematic is the fact that the 37,311 delinquent borrowers represent fully a fourth of all FmHA borrowers," the farm leader said. "That tells me that we have a serious income problem in the farm sector and in rural America. While a credit problem definitely exists, it exists because THERE'S NO PROFITABILITY FOR THESE FARM FAMILY OPERATIONS," he said.

Those families receiving the notices may be able to restructure their loans in order to hang on to their farms, while others may face foreclosure. "I don't know what could give us a clearer example of the fact that our country's federal farm policy simply is not working," Rankin said.

FmHA became the object of criticism in recent years when investigators found out the agency had forgiven multi-million dollar agribusiness loans while declaring a number of smaller farm borrowers ineligible for such treatment. The TFU President said, "Inefficient agribusinesses got expensive writedowns while efficient family operators got squeezed."

Congress then hurried to pass reforms which forced the agency to write new regulations limiting writedowns and buyouts to \$300,000 and limiting the number of times a borrower could be eligible for restructuring.

"This whole process is just devastating to farm families and their communities. We're seeing a net loss of over 31,000 farmers a year as farm income continues to drop. The continued mismanagement of our federal farm programs must stop or the trend won't end," the TFU President said.

"If a producer receives a notice of delinquency from FmHA and does not respond by submitting an application for restructuring, FmHA will start the process of foreclosure. Therefore, it is imperative that producers respond to these notices because there is nothing to be gained and much to be lost by ignoring the FmHA notices," Rankin said.

The TFU President continued, "It is also very important for a producer to take advantage of all resources available to assist in properly preparing and submitting his or her application for loan restructuring. The Texas Agricultural Loan Mediation Program at Texas Tech University has been designated by the Governor's Office and certified by USDA to assist agricultural borrowers and lenders in resolving delinquent and distressed situations throughout the state. In this role they have arranged with the Texas Tech Agricultural Financial Analysis Project to furnish financial analysts to assist producers involved in the mediation process. Producers should call the Ag Loan Mediation Program at 806-742-1949 to get additional information regarding this source of assistance in responding to a notice of delinquency from FmHA."



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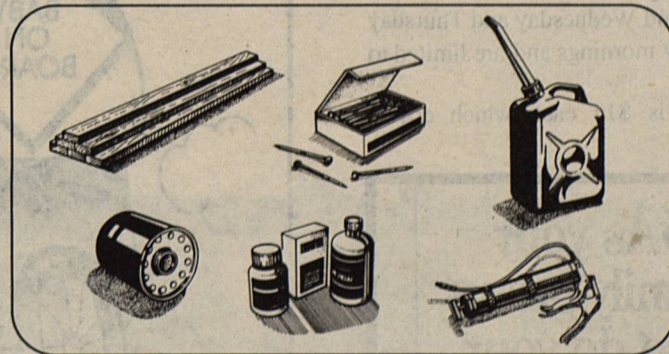
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