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The Sonora Observer



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-- Serving Sonora and Sutton County --

Volume 1-- Number 36 August 8, 1991 Sonora, Texas 76950

Fire causes extensive damage

At 8:39 p.m. Monday evening the Sonora Volunteer Fire Department and the Sutton County EMS were dispatched to the Pool Well Service yard to the scene of an explosion. Upon arrival, Fire Chief Carl Teaff quickly had DPS, EMS, Sheriff's office and Police Department personnel block off Highway 277 to all traffic. The Fire Department did not know at first what they were facing and another explosion could have been disastrous to onlookers.

Fire fighters found one tank completely engulfed in flames and three other tanks in danger of catching on fire. A series of explosions could be heard and the flames seen in the distance from as far as 2 miles away. The cause of the fire was determined to be a pulling unit that rolled approximately 60 yards into a fuel island knocking over 2 gas pumps and sending a stream of fuel into the air. An electrical short then ignited the blaze. A fiberglass oil storage unit was engulfed and 3 tanks of fuel also caught fire. The largest tank, a 300 barrel tank, was filled with gasoline while the other 2 tanks, both 200 barrel tanks, were filled with diesel.

Units from the Eldorado Fire Department were also dispatched to come help at 9:30 p.m. While the Highway Department was asked to dam up the draw in case of a spill. Water trucks from Pool Co., Niblett's Oilfield Service, W.T.

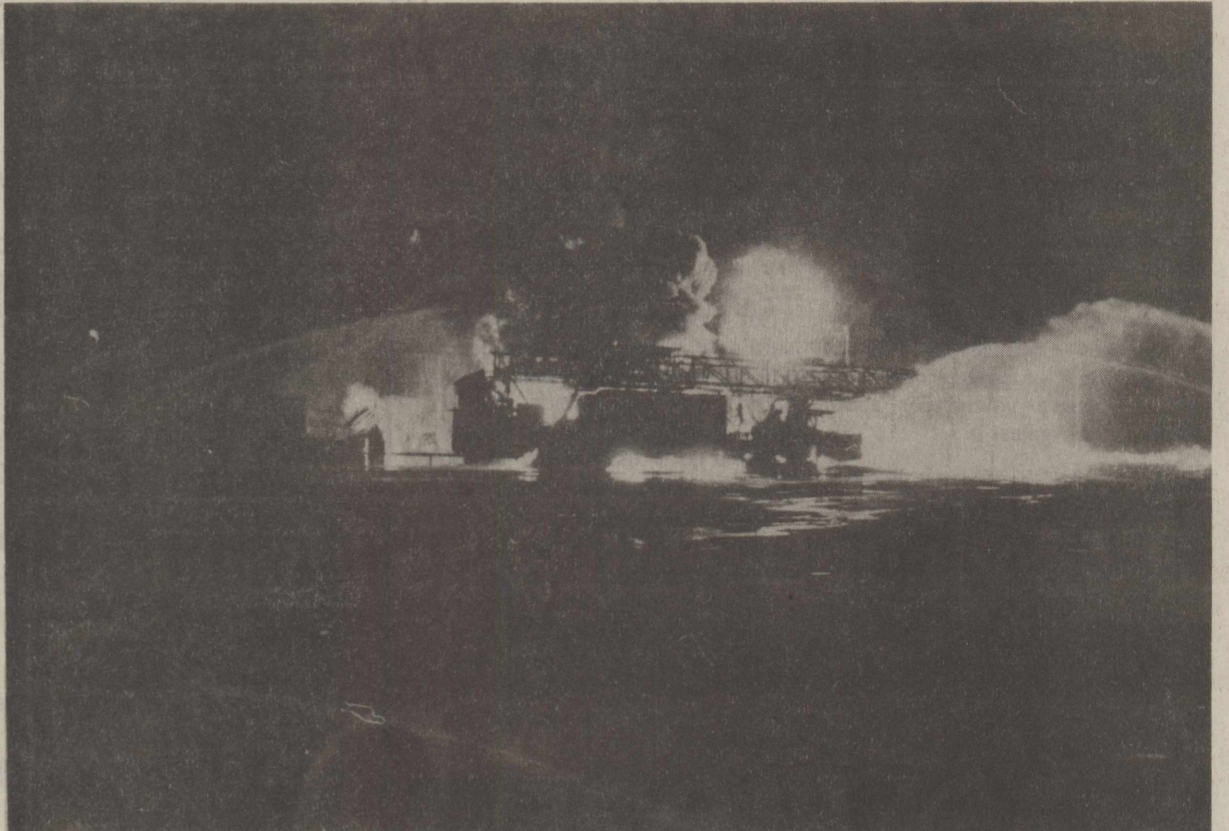
Construction, and Jimco all came to the scene to help provide water to extinguish the blaze. As one truck began to hose down the pulling unit, the others positioned themselves to help cool the tanks down. "We were real lucky the wind was blowing from the south," said Teaff. "If it had been from the north, the whole yard would have been a mess." It was believed at first that the fire was shooting out of safety valves, however, it was actually burning out of fuel hoses on top of the tank.

Six units from Sonora, 4 units from Eldorado, and 29 fire fighters managed to tame the flames and at 10:45 p.m. the fire was called officially out. However, the firemen stayed on the scene hosing down the tanks to cool them off until 12:45 a.m. This helped to prevent the tanks from reigniting due to the tremendous heat from the fire.

The SVFD was dispatched again to the Pool yard Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. to oversee the removing of the pulling unit from the scene. According to Teaff the unit was still full of fuel and there was still quite a bit of fuel on the ground. One spark could have caused another incident. Fortunately this did not happen.

Note: The cooperation of all personnel involved should be commended. The spirit of working together between the Highway

Department, Sonora Police Department, Sutton County Sheriff's department, Sonora Police Department, Sutton County Sheriff's department, EMS, the State Troopers, the Sonora and Eldorado fire departments and all of the oilfield companies was truly a sight to behold. Not one injury occurred during the ordeal. As I patiently waited about a mile down the road at a road block I couldn't help but become angry as I watched people try to get by. Then as to add insult to injury, I watched as a Fire Truck attempted to go to the scene and the curious sightseer's didn't move. Lights and sirens mean nothing to some people but I wonder how they would have felt if they were on the receiving end waiting for help and seeing it delayed like this. One person even got angry when asked to move, stating that he knew his rights. Do they? A fuel explosion of any kind is the most dangerous of all because the fuel moves not only upward but outward also. What if the only injury was a curious onlooker that got too close? Then what would we see? Possibly a law suit because they weren't warned of the danger? I once watched an ambulance in a large city ram a car in the rear end and move the vehicle to get to a heart attack victim. Is this what we want? Yes, there were no injuries this time, but what if there had been or better yet what about next time. Let's hope not!



The pulling unit & tanks fully engulfed in flames as firemen work from the outside in to extinguish the flames.

CWDT - Final weekend of 1991 season

The Covered Wagon Dinner Theater is approaching its final weekend of the season. If you didn't make it out last weekend, you missed Don Jones and Olin Murrell last Friday evening and even an unusual performance by the Wild Bunch as they made their singing debut.

Saturday evening, Sonora Gentry Locklin, a 94 year old storyteller, was a tremendous hit as she told stories relating back to the early

part of the century. Tim Henderson also delighted the audience with his music.

The final weekend will begin with Chet Halley as the storyteller and Julie Carpenter, well known fiddle player from San Angelo. This will certainly be a show you won't want to miss.

Saturday night local models will be modeling clothing from area stores. The Sutton County Queen Contestants will also be introduced.

There will be several storytellers and poets and should be a fun filled evening.

This is your last chance to come see the CWDT for this season Sonora so don't miss it! Tickets are on sale at the Sutton County Steakhouse, Devil's River Inn, Shot's #5, Ol' Sonora Trading Company, the Chamber of Commerce, Cavern's of Sonora, and the Sonora Observer. For more information call 387-5719, 387-2304 or 387-3105.



The aftermath of the fire. The pulling unit & several tanks were destroyed. Damage estimates could go as high as \$1 million.



Last day for Library hour. The kids prepare to celebrate with punch and cake.

Summer reading program ends

The Sutton County Library ended its Summer Reading Program on July 31st. 108 children signed-up for the program. After 8 weeks of extensive reading for prizes, 60 children were present for the party held for them. All participants receives certificates and 66 of them reached their goals and received a coupon from Dairy Queen for a banana split.

During the program the children were asked to join in the Bookmark contest, relating to the program theme "Camp-Wanna-Read." The children were their own judges for the contest. The three with the

most votes were presented with a free meal from Sonic.

1st Place- Amy Torres, 2nd Place- Kristen Hardgrave, 3rd Place Michael Castilleja. Other participants were: Candice Andrews, Jr. Odom, Adam Mendez, Misty Castilleja, Matthew Torres, Shalayne Hobbs, Adrian Mendez and Allison Montalvo.

The Library is asking that everyone that joined the program and reached their goals, come by to receive your certificate and coupon before August 31st. Congratulations to all and Thanks to Dairy Queen and Sonic.

Don't forget to

V
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T
E

Saturday
August 10

3 injured in one vehicle roll over

Three young men were taken to Hudspeth Memorial Hospital Sunday morning following a one vehicle roll over. The accident occurred at around 5:45 a.m. on Sawyer Road according to DPS Trooper Van Zandt.

The driver, Darrel Hugh Jones, 19, of Sonora, evidently left the road and then lost control of the 1981 Jeep he was driving. The vehicle then rolled one time. Jones and Billy Dellis, 18, were both wearing seat belts. A third passenger in the vehicle, Pete Perez, 17, of Sonora, suffered leg and back injuries and was transferred to Angelo Community Hospital by Sutton County EMS. Jones was also transferred to San Angelo by private vehicle for observation. Charges are pending at this time.



Sutton County Queen Contestants (see page 6 & 7).

Spotlight on Sutton County EMS

Barbara Stroud

Barbara Stroud, EMT, is a newly elected member of the Sutton County EMS, July 1991. She works for Television Enterprises and has lived in Sonora for eleven years. Barbara is married to Steve Stroud and has a daughter, Jenny. She is looking forward to her association with the organization.



EMS

Sutton County Queen Contestants



Cenisia Cauthorn

Sponsored by:
Sutton County Steakhouse & Devil's River Inn

Cenisia Cauthorn is the daughter of Dan & Sheila Cauthorn. She will be a junior at SHS where she plays basketball. Cenisia enjoys working with animals and drawing.

Her honors include All Star Basketball team at Hardin Simmons Super Camp.

"I have actively participated in helping my father and grandfather on our ranch. I feel as if I possess a good working knowledge of the cattle, horse, sheep and goat industry."

Cenisia is sponsored by the Sutton County Steakhouse and the Devil's River Inn.



Tana Churchill
Sutton County Queen
1990-1991

Tana Churchill, the reigning "Miss Sutton County", is the 18 year old daughter of Nelwyn and Todd Churchill. She will be a freshman at Texas Tech University this fall, majoring in Business Education.

Tana was crowned last year at the Sutton County Days Centennial Celebration. Throughout the year, she has attended many Sutton County functions including the Hunters Game Dinner, the Chamber of Commerce Banquet, and the Fourth of July Parade and Celebration. She will also participate in all activities for this years Sutton County Days celebration. This will include a style show at the Covered Wagon Dinner Theater, the Art Exhibit opening at the Depot, a style show at the Sutton County Steakhouse, a fajita supper at the Depot, box lunch at the courthouse, the reception for pioneer families at the Depot, three nights of rodeo and the dance, the Sutton County Days Parade and Barbecue, and the all day activities at Sutton County Days. There she will then crown the new "Miss Sutton County".

Tana had this to say about being "Miss Sutton County", "I was so excited to be chosen 'Miss Sutton County' during our 100th Birthday Celebration. The people of Sonora are great! Our county has so much to offer and I am proud to be a part of it. I have enjoyed the year, and will always cherish the memories."



Monica Gonzalez

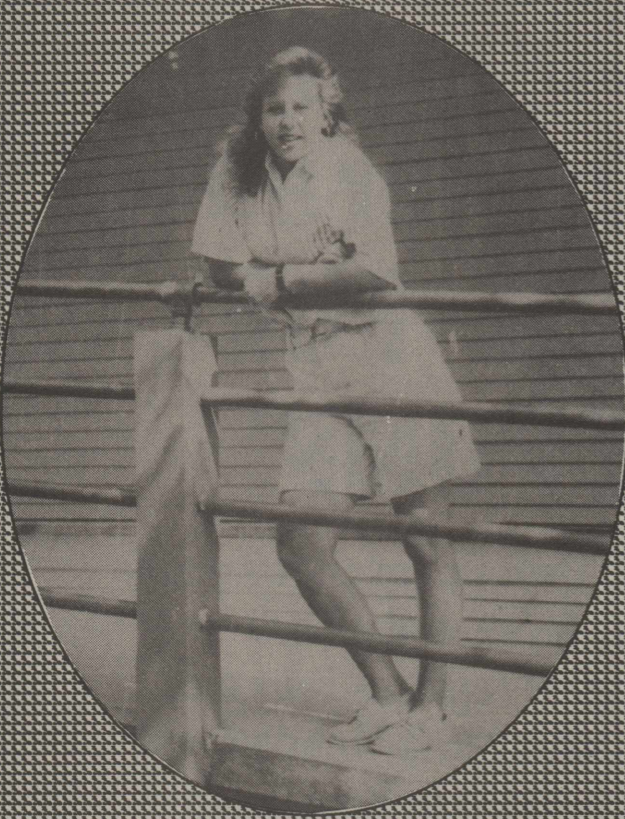
Sponsored by:
West Side Lions

Monica Gonzalez is the daughter of Primo & Nina Gonzalez. She will be a senior at SHS where she is varsity cheerleader, plays basketball, track, and is a member of the Spanish Club and GAA's. Her hobbies are skating and dancing.

Monica's honors include All-American Team, All-district Basketball in her junior year, and honorable mention in basketball and track her sophomore year.

"As Sutton County Queen, I will be representing 3 generations of Sutton County residents."

Monica is sponsored by the West Side Lions Club.



Dana Evans

Sponsored by:
Ladies Golf Auxilliary

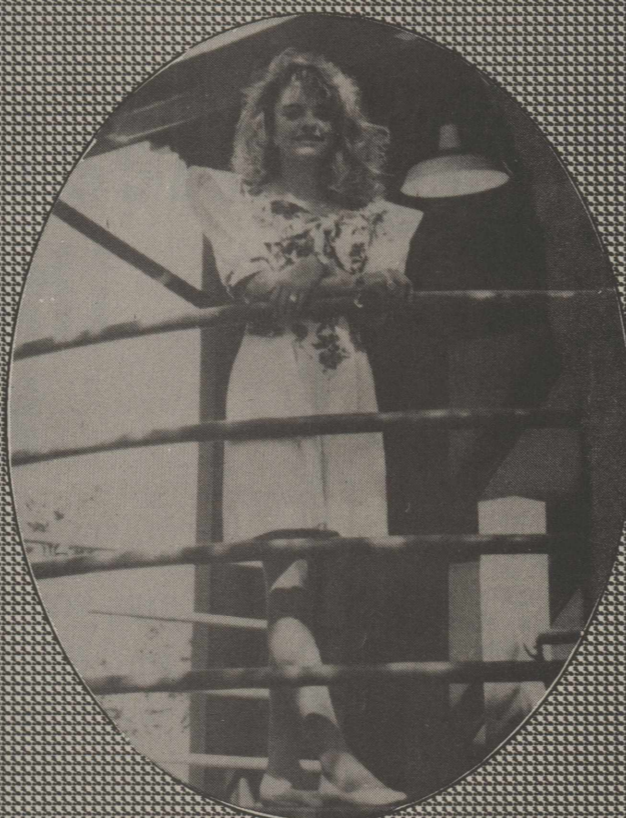
Dana Joann Evans is the daughter of Roy and Marlene Evans. She will be a senior at SHS. Dana enjoys spending time outside during the summer and likes to swim, ride her bike, and playing basketball, as well as other sports. She also likes to read and draw.

Dana's honors include High ranking girl for the past three years, awards in Physical Science, Biology, and English III. She placed on the All district and Academic All district for the past 2 years. She received the basketball award and was All-Around Best Girl Athlete.

"Being Miss Sutton County gives you a chance to work with people and participate in more community events."

Many younger kids also look up to you and strive to do just as well in their lives. So therefore you must work hard and have determination to succeed."

Dana is sponsored by the Ladies Golf Auxiliary.



Hollye Michele Gryder

Sponsored by:
Sutton County National Bank

Hollye Michele Gryder is the daughter of M.R. & Paula Gryder. Hollye will be a Senior at Sonora High School where she is active in the Spanish Club, Band and twirling.

She enjoys listening to music, fixing hair, watching movies, playing the bass clarinet and being with her friends.

Hollye has been a Halloween Queen candidate, Jr. Varsity Cheerleader, Sophomore Class Vice President, Student Council, Lions Club Queen Candidate, and she qualified for the State Solo & Ensemble Contest in her Sophomore & Junior years.

"Although I have lived in Sonora for only three years, I have enjoyed the atmosphere and friendliness of a small town. I would like to represent Sutton County to show my appreciation to the people of the town I've come to think of as 'home'."

Hollye is sponsored by Sutton County National Bank.



Lindsay Beth Wentworth

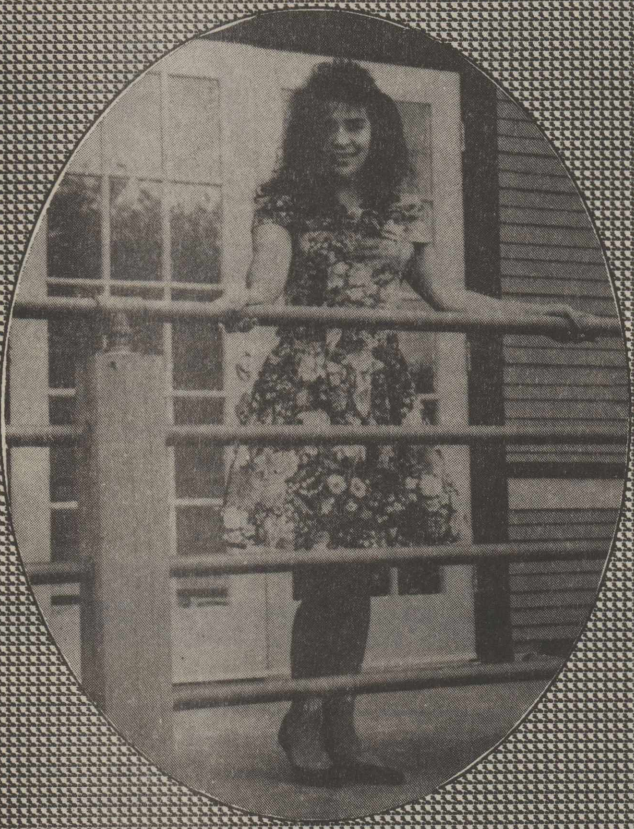
Sponsored by:
Sears Catalog Store

Lindsay Beth Wentworth is the daughter of Daryl & Carol Lowder and Brad Wentworth. She will be a senior at SHS where she is active in Drama, One Act Play, Spanish Club, Flag Corps, and serves as a Flag Corp captain. One year, PAL, reading, dancing and learning about marine mammals.

Lindsay's honors include National Honor Society, Honorable mention at State One Act Play, and the Sophomore English award.

"Having moved to Sonora from a larger city, I have learned to appreciate the sense of closeness, almost "family" a smaller community gives you. I am honored to have been chosen as a candidate for Miss Sutton County and would feel privileged to represent the merchants, business people and many close friends I have made here in the last five years. I am outgoing and enthusiastic and really enjoy meeting people. I feel these traits would serve me well in representing Sutton County."

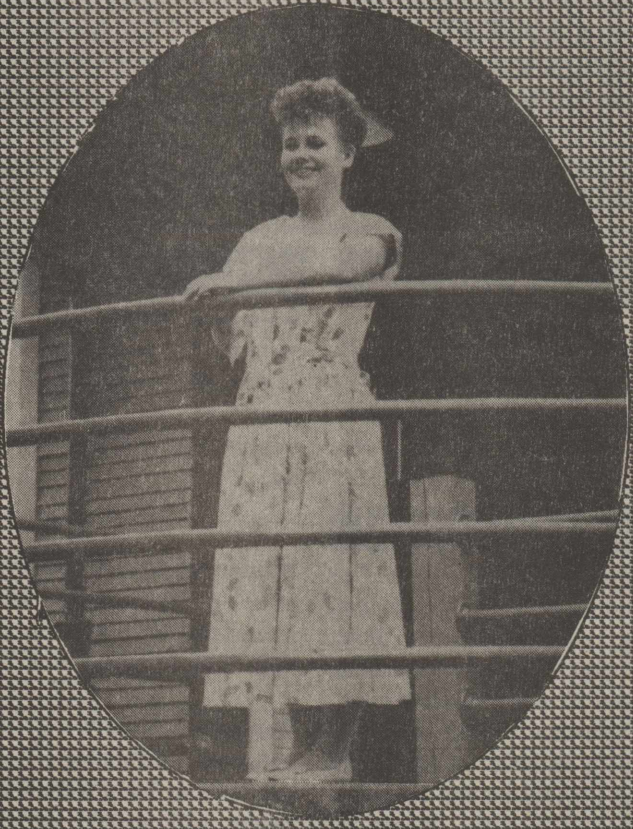
Lindsay is sponsored by Sears.



Michelle Lozano

Sponsored by:
First National Bank

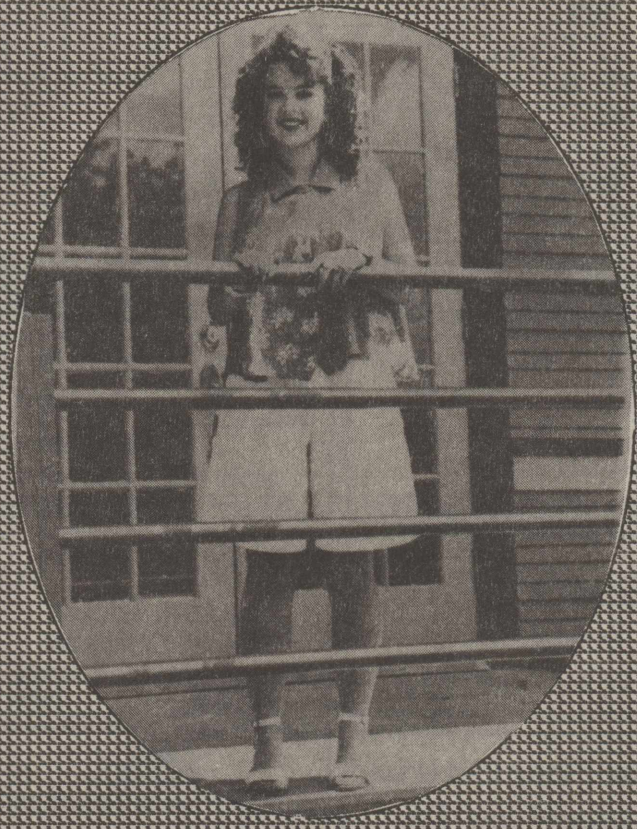
Michelle Lozano, is the daughter of Israel and Juanita Lozano. She will be a senior at Sonora High School where she is on the basketball team and is a varsity cheerleader. Michelle likes to ride around, listen to music, watch movies, and spend time with her boyfriend and friends. "I lived here all my life. The people here are caring and kind and give support to each other when they need it. It would be a great honor to be Miss Sutton County." Michelle is sponsored by the First National Bank.



Kathy Cooke

Sponsored by:
Food Center

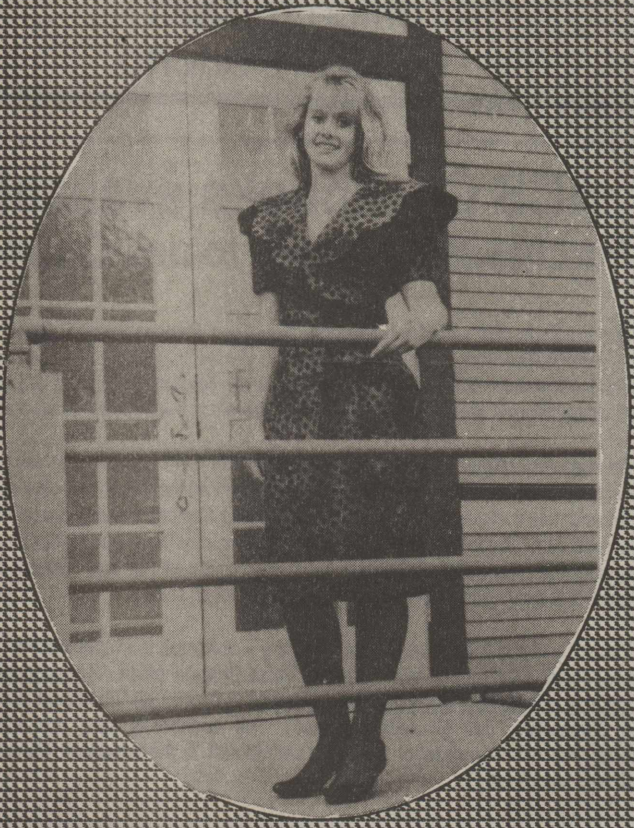
Kathy Cooke, is the daughter of Mike and Vickie Cooke. She will be a junior at SHS where she is a varsity cheerleader and a member of the National Honor Society. "Having lived in Sonora all my life, I have seen the advantages of a small community. The sharing and closeness of the people in Sutton County would help me to reach out to my peers and those a bit older while campaigning and learning more every day." Kathy is sponsored by Food Center.



Tammy Fisher

Sponsored by:
Downtown Lions Club

Tammy Fisher is the daughter of Glen and Linda Fisher. She will be a senior at SHS. Tammy is involved in 4-H club activities, and has held offices in the junior and senior 4-H clubs, president of Girls Athletic Association, and received the 4-H County Home Economics Award. Tammy enjoys visiting with friends, working with and showing polled Hereford cattle, and traveling. "I would be honored to work with the proud and great population of Sutton County to promote our culture and our area's industries as well as to help bring our community a little closer together." Tammy is sponsored by the Downtown Lions Club.



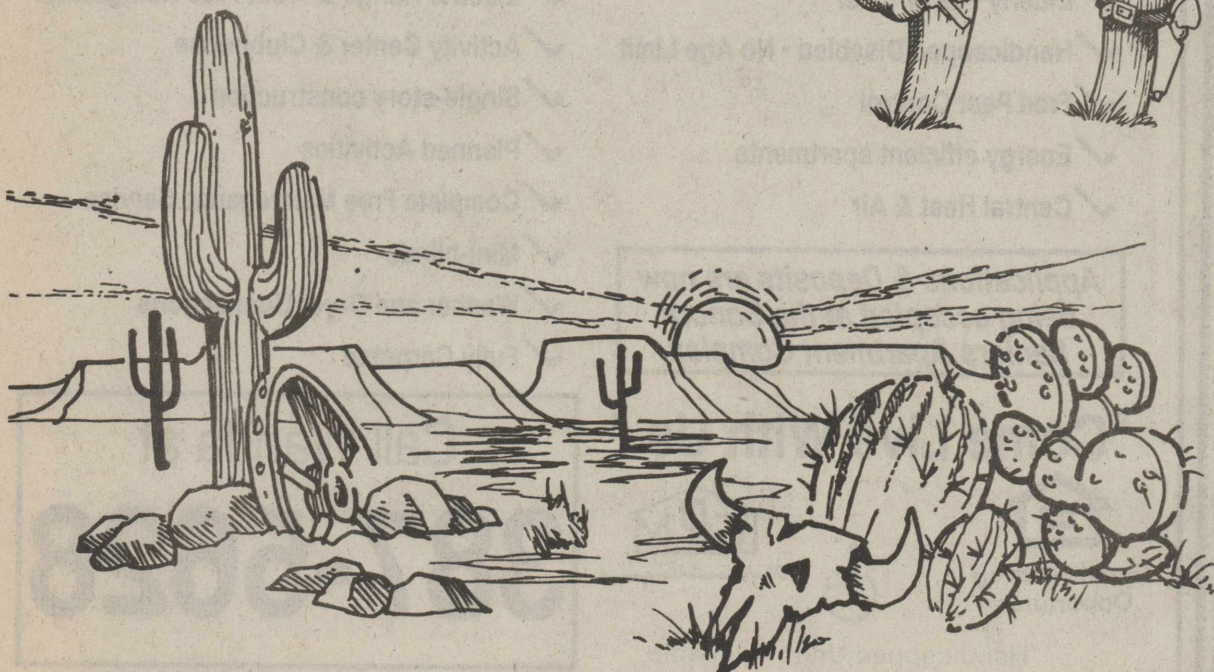
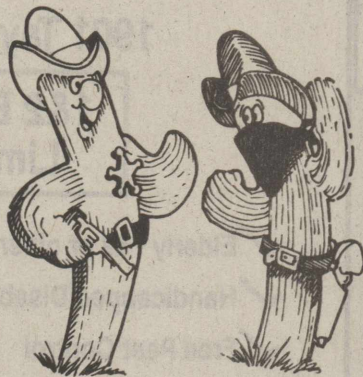
Whitney Condra

Sponsored by:
AmWest Savings

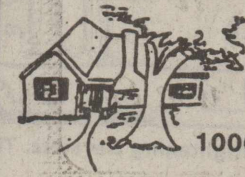
Whitney Condra is the daughter of Jimmy & Diana Condra. She will be a junior at SHS where she is active in basketball and tennis, Spanish Club, GAA's, National Honor Society, and FCA. Whitney's hobbies include basketball, tennis, and water-skiing. Whitney has received the Algebra I Award, Algebra II Award, Highest Ranking Sophomore Girl, and All district basketball. Other honors include, JV cheerleader, Halloween

Queen, Freshman Class favorite, Freshman class vice-president, sophomore class secretary and freshman Homecoming Duchess.

"I feel I could best represent Sutton County by being the channel through which the future possibilities and the existing assets of our county are made known to the rest of the state and nation." Whitney is sponsored by AmWest Savings.



If you know of an upcoming newsworthy event, please call 387-5719 or bring it by The Sonora Observer at 114 W. Concho. Information can also be mailed to Box 247, Sonora



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