

THE PLAINS PRIDE

PLAINS, YOAKUM COUNTY, TEXAS

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 12 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 1994 30¢



MAJOR LEAGUE ALL-STARS - Front row, Stanley Caballero, Jeremy Morphis, Tanner Hamm, Aaron Cain. Middle row, Brett Squyres, Gerry Rivas, Patrick McGinty, Adam Garcia, Colt Winn, Joshua Bell. Back row, Coach Steve Rivas, Eddy Gallegos, Coach Richard Garcia. Not pictured, Coby Carter. The All-Stars will compete in the District Tournament beginning July 4 in Denver City. Other teams competing will be Ropesville, Seagraves and Brownfield.

School Board Trustees hire Debra Hise

The Plains Independent School District Board of Trustees met in regular session on Monday, June 13, 1994 at 7:30 p.m. in the board room of the administration building.

Members present were Tim Addison, Stanley Ashburn, Danny Bell, Anna M. Gonzalez, Brad Palmer, Jerry Parrish and Gary Six.

Also present were Pete Simmons, superintendent; Eric Banfield, business manager; Arlon Alexander, counselor; Charley Chambless, elementary school principal; Don Hinkle, maintenance supervisor; Steven O'Quinn, Ronnie Watkins, Joel Haragan (principals for 1994-95); and Lauri Bruedigam and Chris, Honeywell, Lubbock, Texas

Invocation was given by Brad Palmer.

Action Items: The meeting was called to order by board president, Jerry Parrish.

Danny Bell moved and Ashburn seconded that the minutes of the regular meeting of May 9, 1994, and the called meeting of May 19, 1994, be approved.

Gary Six moved and Ashburn seconded that the monthly bills be paid as presented.

Gary Six moved and Tim Addison seconded that the action to purchase Meadow ISD's available WADA be rescinded.

Ashburn moved and Bell seconded that 50 WADA from the alternative school to be located at Meadow with Ropesville as the fiscal agent be purchased.

Tim Addison moved and Brad Palmer seconded that the remaining available WADA be purchased from Brownfield ISD.

Ms. Anna Gonzalez moved and Bell seconded that the test results from TAAS, ITBS, and NAPT be approved as presented.

Ashburn moved and Six seconded that Function 33 expenditure be amended by \$2,000.

Palmer moved and Addison seconded that requests for proposals for qualifications for a district wide energy conservation services program be solicited.

Administrative reports were given by Charley Chambless, Arlon Alexander and Pete Simmons.

The board entered into an executive session.

The board reconvened in regular session.

Bell moved and Addison seconded that Debra Hise be hired as a teacher for the 1994-95 school year subject to assignment.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by board president, Jerry Parrish.

Stray dogs and other animals on the increase in Plains

Reports of stray dogs and other animals have been on the increase at the Plains City Hall since the beginning of summer. Efforts to impound any and all unrestrained dogs and other animals have been stepped up by the City's animal control officer.

Citizens are encouraged to make sure that their pets are properly restrained. The Plains City Code defines a restrained animal as one that is "confined on the premises of the owner within a fenced enclosure capable of confining the animal; fastened or picketed by a lead, rope, or chain so as to keep the animal on the premises; under the control of a person by a leash; within a vehicle being driven or parked; or at heel and obedient to oral command."

This Code also requires that all dog owners acquire a City of Plains license certificate and tag to be attached to the collar of each dog owned. All dogs and cats over the age of four months must also be vaccinated against rabies and have a tag attached by a licensed veterinarian showing that the dog or cat has been vaccinated in the current year.

Unrestrained dogs that have a current City tag and proof of vaccination that are impounded by the animal con-

trol officer shall be held for three days. During this three day period, the owner may reclaim the dog by paying a \$5.00 per day impounding fee. Unrestrained dogs that do not have a current City tag and proof of vaccination shall be immediately and humanely destroyed.

During this season of vegetable and flower gardening, unrestrained dogs and other animals often become a nuisance to friends and neighbors. With a little care and control, pet owners can enjoy the company and companionship of their pet while those that choose not to have pets, can live without the nuisances caused by unrestrained animals.

Class reunion slated Aug. 6

Ex-students of Plains High School in the 1940s are invited to a social gathering following the Old Settlers Barbecue Saturday, Aug. 6 beginning at 2 p.m. Especially invited are members of the Class of '44.

Friends of the group are invited to drop by and visit after 3 p.m.

Refreshments will be served. Persons are urged to bring old photos and annuals, for reminiscing.

Linda Powell given recognition

Linda Powell was recently honored as the Yoakum County 4-H Outstanding Leader at the South Plains 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association Luncheon held in Levelland. Mrs. Powell has provided over 20 years service to the Yoakum County 4-H Club program.

4-H projects led by Mrs. Powell include that of Citizenship, Clothing, Archeology, Environmental Issues, Foods and Nutrition, and Leadership. The Powell family also hosted a Japanese foreign exchange student through 4-H.

Linda is married to Ty Earl Powell and they have two children, Lebert and Jo Lena, who were active 4-H members. She continues to work with 4-H youth throughout the county even though her children have passed the 4-H membership age.



LINDA POWELL



ELIZABETH RAMIREZ earns certificate and coupon for free ice cream.

Library boasts 208 summer readers

Summer finds Yoakum County Library a very popular place. Some 208 boys and girls have registered for the summer reading program whose theme is "Familiar Faces - Faraway Places".

Children from summer school have been visiting and using the library also.

Boys and girls who read at least 12 books earn a certificate from Texas State Library, signed by Judge Dallas Brewer and Governor Ann Richards. They also are given a coupon to be exchanged for ice cream at the local Dairy Queen.

If there are children who have not yet signed up for the summer reading program, it is not too late to get started.

The library was given a generous amount of Polaroid film by Larry Holder for the use of community enjoyment. The library also receives gifts of books and videos as memorials to loved ones.

Former pastor's services held

Services were held June 15 in Hawley United Methodist Church for the Rev. Robert Harmon Meixner, 83, of Hawley, former pastor of Plains United Methodist Church.

Officiating were the Revs. Darris Egger and Vernon O'Kelley. Interment was in Hawley Cemetery under the direction of Lawrence Funeral Home of Anson.

Rev. Meixner died June 13 in an Abilene hospital.

Born in Paint Rock, he graduated from Southwestern University in Georgetown, receiving bachelor and master's degrees. He married Margaret Avis Galbraith Aug. 11, 1940 in Georgetown.

He taught school in Haskell, Vanderbilt, Aransas Pass, Flower Bluff, Prairie Lee, Smiley and O'Brien and pastored churches in Avoca, Plains, Vega, Pampa, Roby, Claude, McLean and Hawley. He retired in 1976.

Survivors include his wife; four sons, Jack of Vernon, Harmon and Ralph, both of Lubbock and Moody of Keller; a daughter, Oneta Jo Eubanks of Stephenville; 13 grandchildren; a great-grandchild; and two sisters, Emma Cox of Eden and Alynn Bush of Fort Worth.

PHS honor rolls announced

Honor rolls for the sixth six weeks at Plains High School are announced by Supt. Pete Simmons.

FRESHMAN A - Sonia Avila, Kyley Bearden, Steven Bitolas, Yancey House, Jacob Lester, Kristy McClure, Mary Morales, Robin Squyres and Tessa St. Romain.

FRESHMAN A-1B - Kristi Guetersloh and Marte Pierce.

SOPHOMORE A - Valerie Blair, Jeremy Dearing, Heather McDonnell, Kirk Parrish, Brad Seaton and Joshua Traweek.

SOPHOMORE A-1B - Kiri Ancinec and Greg Salas.

JUNIOR A - Dusty Beckham, Victor Bernal, Jennifer Earnest, Stacey Jones, Ken McAdams, Brad McMinn, Shannon Ward and Ladd Winn.

JUNIOR A-1B - Joey Guerra.

SENIOR A - Shea Baucom, Heather Bowlin, Roseo Canales, Jennifer Cowart, Rhonda Cowart, Amy Crutcher, Jennifer Day, Emma Gonzales, Lenny Morrow, Jay Rushing, Shandy Willett and Brian Wilson.

SENIOR A-1B - Tracy Bearden, Gabriel Flores and Tammy Lowrey.

Tommie Brown to be honored

Tommie Brown will be honored with a retirement party Wednesday, June 29. The event has been set for 5 p.m. in Heritage Room of Yoakum County Library.

Refreshments will be served. An invitation is extended to all friends and relatives.

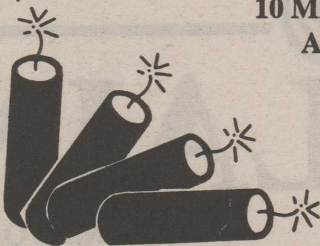
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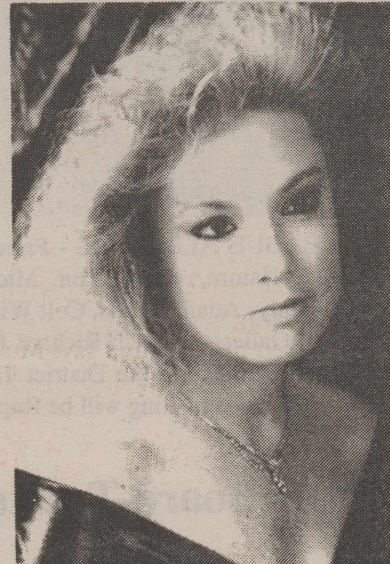
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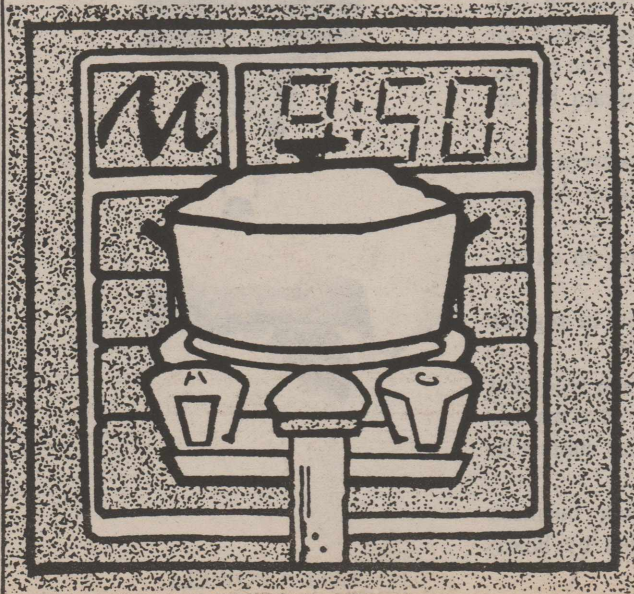
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BURVE & BILL OVERTON

Kitchen Korner

"April 30, 1934 was a bright, sunny day. A nice day for two very shy people by the name of Bill Overton and Burve Clegg to travel to Ft. Worth and begin their married life," says Mrs. Overton, Plains Pride cook of the week.

Looking back over the years, she says, "It was the midst of the Depression and most people we knew, cooked on wood stoves, washed clothes on a rub board, dried them on a clothes line as there was no electricity or running water. A large part of our food was raised, harvested and canned each year.

"We raised a few cattle and farmed with horses and mules," she explains. "One of the things I remember about the cattle was, that I vaccinated the calves while Bill held them. I think we still have that vaccinating needle!"

"Joan and James' birth increased our family and we moved to West Texas in 1944 ending up at Plains in 1949 after living in Memphis and near San Angelo a short time."

Mrs. Overton has a favorite little tidbit of information given to her by her friend, Ita Young, that she shares along with a few of her select recipes that she says are served often in her kitchen.

BANANA NUT BREAD

- 3 c sugar
- 1 c salad oil
- 4 eggs, well-beaten
- 3 1/2 c flour
- 1 1/2 t salt
- 1 t soda
- 1 3/4 c mashed ripe bananas
- 1/2 c chopped nuts

Combine sugar, oil and eggs and beat until completely mixed. Combine dry ingredients and add along with ba-

nanas, mixing well. Add nuts. Pour in greased and floured pans and bake 45 minutes to an hour in 350 degree oven. Cool before removing from pans.

ENGLISH PEA SALAD

- 2 #2 cans of peas, well drained
- 3 eggs, hard-boiled and chopped
- 1/3 c sweet relish
- 1/2 c Miracle Whip salad dressing

Mix all together and place in refrigerator an hour or so for flavors to blend.

ANGEL FLAKE BISCUITS

- 1 cake yeast or 1 pkg dry yeast
- 2 T lukewarm water
- 1 c shortening
- 5 c flour
- 1 t soda
- 4 T sugar
- 1 t salt
- 2 c buttermilk
- 3 t baking powder

Mix dry ingredients and cut in shortening. Dissolve yeast in warm water and mix in buttermilk. Add dry ingredients to yeast mixture.

Roll dough about 1/2 inch thick and bake at 400 degrees for 20 minutes.

This is a large recipe and can be kept in the refrigerator for future use.

"Now that I know that my life is almost spent, my get up and go has got up and went. When I was young my shoes were red and I could kick my heels right up over my head. Then when I was older, my shoes were blue. I could dance the whole night through.

But now that I am old, my shoes are black. I walk to the Post Office and puff my way back. I don't mind when I think, with a grin, of all the places my get up and go has been."

Girl Scout Camp set for July 8-9

Girls of all ages are invited to participate in Girl Scout Day/Twilight Camps this summer. One of several camps in the South Plains is the Tumbleweed Camp July 8-9 in Yoakum County Park.

Theme of the camps will be "Texas Pride". Fees will include a patch and tee shirt. For registration and fee information, contact Tanya McDowell or Kelly Winton at 592-2859 and 592-2454, respectively.

Look Who's New

Rolin and Michelle Adams would like to announce the arrival of a daughter, born at 7:05 p.m. May 26 in Brownfield Regional Hospital. The little miss weighed seven pounds six ounces and measured 18 and a half inches long. She has been named Brittany Morgan. She has two sisters, Nichole Loya, six, and Crista, 20 months, and a brother, Christopher Loya, four. Grandparents are Eunice Sullivan of Hereford and the late Toney Hogan of Plains; Frank and Cindy Adams of Leeciester, NC and Dink and Gerry Ridge of Valiant, Okla. Irene Sullivan of Mayflower, Ark. is her great-grandmother.



KIMBERLY, GRANT AND SCOTTY BROWNING, following graduation ceremonies at Lackland Air Force Base.

Browning family now in California

Airman Scott Browning and his wife, Kimberly, and son, Grant, are now living in California. They left June 14 for Vandenburg Air Force Base.

Browning completed technical training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio where he was named Outstanding Airman during basic training. He finished at the top of his class in technical training.

The family plans to be at Vandenburg for one year.

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On July 1, 1994, telephone customers may start dialing the area code on all long distance calls, no matter if you are calling in-state or out-of-state.

In other words, you must dial 1+ or 0+ the area code and the remaining seven digits for any long distance call. Local dialing procedures will not be affected.

ALLTEL will phase in the new dialing procedures to allow customers the necessary time to make any needed changes. Some areas around the nation have already converted to the new dialing pattern.

Again, according to current plans, you may start dialing the area code on all long distance calls beginning July 1, 1994. The dialing change will become mandatory on or near January 1, 1995.

This dialing change is the result of a new area code plan, being implemented nationwide, which will increase the number pool of available area codes and will allow telephone companies across the nation to meet the rapid population and telephone usage growth for years to come.



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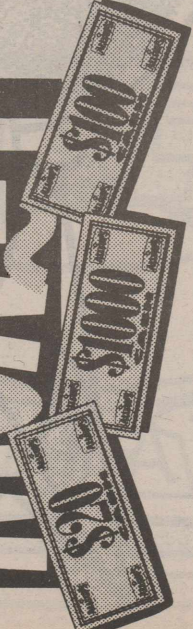
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BASEBALL

Baseball season for T-Ball and minor league play began May 21. New this year for the minor league is a pitching machine purchased by New-Tex Gin.

The T-ball league Rangers played the Bad News Bears. In minor league play, the Rangers defeated the Cubs, 7-6. Red Sox whipped the Rangers in major league play 24-7. Gerry Rivas and Patrick McGinty pitched for the winners. Rangers' pitchers were Tyrel Tyson, Brett Squyres and Stanley Caballero.

Games played May 24 included the Rockies and Bad News Bears in T-ball. The Black Attack fell to the Rangers 8-15 in minor league play. The Cowboys came from behind in the last inning to win 15-14 in the major league game between the Cowboys and Red Sox. Cowboy pitchers were Joshua Bell, Coby Carter and Adam Garcia. Jeremy Morphis threw for the Red Sox.

Play May 26 found the Rockies and Rangers meeting in T-ball. In minor league, the Cubs took on the Black Attack. In major league, action was rained out.

Memorial Day action pitted the Bad News Bears and Rockies in T-ball and Rangers and Black Attack in minor league with the Rangers winning 12-9. In major league, the Cowboys whipped the Red Sox 17-11.

Rangers and Rockies began the matches on May 31. Minor league found the Cubs defeating Black Attack 24-10. In major league, the Red Sox beat the Rangers 24-5. Patrick McGinty was winning pitcher. Pitching for the Rangers were Brett Squyres and Stanley Caballero. Eddy Gallegos hit a grand slam home run over left field fence for the Sox.

Bad News Bears and Rangers played in T-ball action June 2. In minor league, Rangers remained undefeated with a 17-15 win over the Cubs. In major league play, the Cowboys topped the Rangers 26-5. Adam Garcia and Coby Carter pitched for the Cowboys. Ranger pitchers were Tyrel Tyson, Stanley Caballero and Brett Squyres.

Monday, June 6 play found the Rockies battling the Rangers in T-Ball. In minor league action, the Clubs defeated the Black Attack, 18-12. In major league play, the Cowboys defeated the Rangers, 22-9. Adam Garcia, winning pitcher, went the length while Brett Squyres struck out 12 in going the distance for the Rangers.

Tuesday, June 7, T-Ball players were the Rockies and Bad News Bears. The Rangers whipped the Black Attack, 12-7, in minor league play. In the majors, Cowboys walloped the Red Sox, 14-1. Joshua Bell pitched for the Cowboys; Jerry Morphis for the Red Sox.

Thursday's action pitted the Bad News Bears against the Rangers in T-Ball. Minor league Rangers suffered their first defeat, 20-10, at the hands of the Cubs. In major league play, the Red Sox whipped the Rangers 17-7. Stanley Caballero struck out 10 in a losing effort

for the Rangers. Patrick McGinty and Gerry Rivas combined for the win.

June 13 action at the ball park saw the Bad News Bears and Rangers in T-ball. Minor league Rangers won 23-21 over the Cubs. Major league Rangers fell to the Red Sox 28-9. Colt Winn and Patrick McGinty combined for the win. Losing pitchers were Stanley Caballero, Brett Squyres and Tyrel Tyson.

Rangers and Rockies met in T-ball play June 14. The Cubs defeated the Black Attack 16-4 in minor league. Major league Rangers ended their season with a 20-7 loss to the Cowboys. Adam Garcia pitched for the Cowboys. Brett Squyres, Stanley Caballero and Joseph Rodriguez combined for the Rangers.

June 16 play pitted the Rockies and Bad News Bears in T-ball. In minor league, the Rangers stopped the Black Attack 29-19. Major leaguers wrapped up their season with the Red Sox handing the Cowboys their first defeat, 14-5. Jeremy Morphis was winning pitcher and Joshua Bell pitched for the losing team.

Following action, Little League president Brad Palmer expressed thanks to all the youngsters who competed and to the coaches for their time and efforts. He also thanked officers, Byron Morgan and Freddie Ramos, vice presidents, and Peggy Squyres, secretary/treasurer. Palmer also expressed appreciation to the City of Plains and Precinct 4 Commissioner Macky McWhirter and his staff for their support of the baseball program.

Trophies were presented to all 12-year-old players who finished their last year in Little League.

Teams and their sponsors and coaches were Rangers, Anderson Grain, Brad Crump; Rockies, New-Tex Gin, Vernon Hise; and Bad News Bears, Sellers Ag Supply, Billy Dan

Curtis, T-Ball. Rangers, Farm Bureau, David Huerta; Black Attack, Texas Equipment, Sherry Cleveland; and Cubs, Pay-n-Save Grocery, Brad Palmer, Minor League. Rangers, West Texas Gas, Newell Squyres; Cowboys, Stateline Insurance, Charles Cain; and Red Sox, Willis Auto, Steve Rivas, Major League. Yoakum County Co-op Gin was also noted as an important sponsor.

All-Stars, named following the final major league game, were Eddy Gallegos, Stanley Caballero, Jeremy Morphis, Tanner Hamm, Aaron Cain, Brett Squyres, Gerry Rivas, Patrick McGinty, Adam Garcia, Colt Winn, Joshua Bell and Coby Carter. Richard Garcia will be the coach with Steve Rivas and Newell Squyres assisting.

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Charley Chambless lists elementary honor rolls

Plains Elementary School honor rolls for the sixth six weeks period are announced by Charley Chambless, principal.

FIRST GRADE - Evan Cain, Jamie Covarrubias, Aldo Fierro, Cody Flores, Breck Hamm, Brandon Hise, Daniela Lazos, Daniel Parker and Kerry Sisson.

SECOND GRADE - Austin Keese, Marshall May, Nolan New-som, Moriah Traweek and April Wil-meth.

THIRD GRADE - Chelsea Blount,

Elda Fierro, Sandra Gallegos, Krystal Gonzalez, Jill Gray, Isamari Guzman, Kimberly Martinez, Bradley Palmer, Catrina Reyna, Amanda Rogers, Chisum Seals, Ryan Swann, Kayla Willis, Elizabeth Wilmeth and Mackenzie Winn.

FOURTH GRADE - Tanner Hamm, Christopher Tirrell and Becky Wilmeth.

FIFTH GRADE - Aaron Cain, Lensey Cullins, Joel Gallegos, Lesli Rowe and Dustin Six.

SIXTH GRADE - Elizabeth An-cinec, Velvet Canada, Kristen Gray,

Wendy Hernandez, Christopher Leggett, Fermin Luna, Kelton Mason, Laura Morales, Anne Palmer, Patricia Ruiz and Jason Swann.

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TEXAS NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR WASTE DISPOSAL PERMIT AMENDMENT

CITY OF PLAINS, P.O. Box 550, Plains, Texas 79355 has applied to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (Commission) for an amendment to Permit No. 10114-01 to authorize an increase in the disposal volume from 90,000 gallons per day average of 40 acres of farmland to 160,000 gallons per day average in the final phase of a minimum of 77 acres of farmland. The proposed amendment is also authorizing a variance to buffer zone requirements under 30 TAC Section 309.13 (e)(1)(B). The permit authorizes disposal of treated domestic wastewater effluent from the wastewater treatment facility by evaporation and irrigation. Application rates for the irrigated land in the existing permit shall not exceed 4.5 acre-feet/acre/year. Application rates in the proposed permit shall not exceed 2.3 acre-feet/acre/year. No discharge of pollutants into the waters of the State is authorized by this permit.

The wastewater treatment facility and disposal site (i.e. Plains Sewage Treatment Plant) are approximately one mile east of State Highway 214 and 1.5 miles north of U.S. Highway 380 in Yoakum County, Texas. They are located in the drainage area of the Colorado River Below Lake J.B. Thomas in Segment No. 1412 of the Colorado River Basin.

The Executive Director of the Commission has prepared a draft permit based on the application submitted by the applicant and other information presently available.

Legal Authority: Section 26.028 of the Texas Water Code and 30 TAC Chapter 305 of the Rules of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission.

This Application is subject to a Commission resolution adopted August 18, 1993, which directs the Commission's Executive Director to act on behalf of the Commission and issue final approval of certain permit matters. The Executive Director will issue this permit unless one or more persons file written protests and/or a request for a hearing within 30 days after publication of this notice.

If you wish to request a public hearing, you must submit your request in writing. You must state (1) your name, mailing address and daytime phone number; (2) the permit number or other recognizable reference to this application; (3) the statement "I/we request a public hearing;" (4) a brief description of how you, or the persons you represent, would be adversely affected by the granting of the application; (5) a description of the location of your property relative to the applicant's operations; and (6) your proposed adjustment to the application/permit which would satisfy your concerns and cause you to withdraw your request for hearing. If one or more protests and/or request for hearing are filed, the Executive Director will not issue the permit and will forward the application to the Office of Hearings Examiners where a hearing may be held. Commission public hearings are evidentiary legal proceedings similar to civil court non-jury trials. Although general comments from the public may be submitted either in writing prior to the hearing, or orally at the start of the hearing, the law requires that the Commission's decision about whether to approve or deny the application be based on evidence and testimony submitted during the public hearing, presented under oath and subject to cross-examination by the other parties. Public comments are not evidence and cannot be the basis for the Commission's ultimate decision. In the event a hearing is held, the Office of Hearings Examiners will submit a recommendation to the Commission for final decision.

If no protests or requests for hearing are filed, the Executive Director will sign the permit 30 days after publication of this notice or thereafter. If you wish to appeal a permit issued by the Executive Director, you may do so by filing a written Motion for Reconsideration with the Chief Clerk of the Commission no later than 20 days after the date the Executive Director signs the permit.

Requests for a public hearing on this application should be submitted in writing to Chief Clerk's Office, Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711, Telephone (512) 463-7908. Information regarding hearing procedures may be obtained by contacting Kerry D. Sullivan, Assistant Chief Hearings Examiner at the same address or by telephone at (512) 463-7875. Information concerning any technical aspect of this application can be obtained by writing Melinda A. Williams, Wastewater Permits Section, at the same address or by telephone at (512) 463-8201.

Issued this 14th day of June, 1994.

Gloria A Vasquez, Chief Clerk
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission

Son's family is found after years of searching

EDITOR'S NOTE: Gary Six has a new grandfather and an extended family that he was unaware even existed. The discovery reads like a made-for-TV mystery soap, but a gathering of the Sixes and Bristows recently in Plains proved that once again truth can be stranger than fiction. Gary's mother furnished the following information about the new found family member, J.V. Bristow. The poem that follows, was one we came across just this week and thought it would be nice to share with the families.

Here's the story...

Elmer Six, Gary's father, was about two and a half years old when his father, J.V. "Josh" Bristow left home in San Angelo to try to find work.

"It was the Depression and jobs were hard to get," Bristow recalls.

But when he returned home, he found that his wife, Reva Mae and her parents, who lived nearby, had left town. No one could tell Bristow where his family had gone and the difficult times of the Depression prevented Bristow from searching. All he had left of his married life was a tinted photograph of his small son, Elmer V. Bristow.

While living and working in Hobbs, NM in 1932, Bristow was served with divorce papers from his wife's lawyer. He had no choice but to comply.

"I had no money because of the Depression and I couldn't go back to San Angelo."

Years passed and Bristow made a new life for himself with a new wife and children. But he couldn't forget the son who had been taken from him. On a visit in Denton in the 1950s, Bristow saw an old friend who was Reva Mae's cousin. He learned she had married a man named Six but had no idea where Reva Mae and Elmer were.

Through the years, Bristow checked as he could on the whereabouts of his first family. He wasn't sure what he needed to do to search further.

A year ago, Bristow married again. When he told his wife about his missing son, she joined in his effort. A daughter, Patsy Shaw, also added her support.

Knowing how important it was to him and how time was wearing thin, the Shaws decided to take matters into their own hands and help find Patsy's half-brother. When the Bristows took a vacation out of town, the Shaws went to San Angelo and began checking court records.

They also went to the church where J.V. and Reva Mae had been married. After asking about an Elmer V. Bristow or Elmer V. Six, one of the church secretaries said she had gone to school with an Elmer Six. The search was on.



ELMER SIX

(photo taken Oct. 1990)

Within one day, they had found an affidavit of Elmer's birth, which listed his stepfather, John Innis Six, as his father. On the affidavit, Elmer was listed as Elmer Vernard Six. The Shaws also found J.V. and Reva Mae's marriage certificate and divorce decree.

They were further directed by people at the courthouse to contact Cooper Funeral Home in Kermit, where the Sixes had lived. The Shaws spoke with one of the Cooper family, who told them something that Bristow had already suspected: Elmer was dead. He had succumbed to cancer in 1991.

"Still, we were amazed," said Patsy. "Everything just seemed to fall together. In one day we knew Elmer's name, where he had lived, and that he had died."

As the Bristows made their way back from vacation, they stopped in to the San Angelo courthouse on a whim. The people they talked to were not as helpful as those who had spoken to the Shaws, and they came home with no information.

They were hardly prepared for all the information the Shaws had for them. In the meantime, the Shaws had spoken to Tommy Thompson, a former school superintendent in Kermit, who had told them more about Elmer.

Elmer had been a teacher, principal and eventually a school superintendent in Petersburg. He had been an excellent student and athlete, going on to Sul Ross University and even playing football alongside "Bonanza" actor Dan Blocker.

Bristow's sadness at learning his son was already dead was eclipsed by his joy at solving the mysteries surrounding Elmer's life. Elmer had two half-sisters, Joanne and Johnnie. His stepfather had treated him well. He had a wife, Patsy, and several sons and daughters.

Now Bristow had grandchildren and great-grandchildren he hadn't known about. His son was gone, but he had a whole new family waiting to be discovered.

Patsy Shaw and Elmer's sister Joanne spoke, and Joanne said she would reveal the news about the Bristows to Elmer's widow. After getting an enthusiastic go-ahead from her children, Patsy Six contacted Patsy Shaw.

The two families have been nearly inseparable since. After an initial meeting in Odessa, a larger reunion was arranged in Plains. The Sixes and Bristows - 41 people in all - gathered in the old courthouse in Plains for barbecue and good times.



J.V. BRISTOW, holding old photograph of two-year-old son, Elmer Vernard Bristow, later to be known as Elmer V. Six, now deceased. The photo was the only article that remained with him after his wife and son moved from their home in San Angelo, while Bristow was away, looking for work during the Depression.

Bristow said he was overwhelmed at the greeting he received from the Sixes. "He hasn't touched the ground yet," said Alice Bristow. Within minutes, he was "Granddaddy" to everyone. "There were no strangers there," said Bristow's son Wayne.

"It was just delightful," said Patsy Six. "We were just so surprised at the similarities between Josh and Elmer's mannerisms. They had the same interests - they both like to fish, to sing."

One particular song apparently remained in Elmer's memory from babyhood. Patsy Shaw described a lullaby her father used to sing to her, the other Bristow children and the grandchildren. The tune of the lullaby is the hymn "In The Name of Jesus", but the words were nonsense syllables made up by Bristow.

The Six family was stunned to hear the song. Elmer Six had sung the same lullaby to his children and grandchildren. "They said they never heard Elmer's mother sing it," said Patsy Shaw, so Elmer must have remembered it from when he was very little."

According to Alice Bristow, "The Sixes all said having him around them was just like having part of their daddy back. They said it has taken 10 years off their mother's age."

"It's taken 20 years off mine!" Bristow quipped. In fact, the Sixes were thrilled to know they have an 86-year-old blood relative; because Elmer and his mother both died in their 60s, the Six children did not expect to have long life spans themselves.

The Bristows have continued to learn more about Elmer from Six family members and acquaintances. "Everyone I talked to on the phone - you could just hear it when I mentioned Elmer's name - they just lit up. They really thought a lot of him."

If I Had A Wish...

~ Author Unknown

If I were granted any wish, I'll tell you what I'd do...

I'd wish my kids were small again, for just a month or two;

To hear their squeals of laughter, to watch them while they play,

And when they ask me to join in, I'd not say, "Not today".

To hug again their chubby frame, to kiss away their tears,

And cherish childhood innocence that's washed away the years;

Then when it's story time again, I'd stay a little longer;

To answer questions, sing the songs, so memories would be stronger.

But time is callous - wishes, myths; yet God in all his wisdom,

Has given me another chance before I join his kingdom;

The face may not be just the same, the name is changed, 'tis true,

But yet the smile that radiates, reminds me so of you.

God must have known that Grandpa would need a chance or two,

For many little happy things he hadn't time to do;

So God gave love to Grandpas to equal that or more;

That, in effect, embraces those little lives of yore.