

SUBURBAN TODAY

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Ten Cents

Southwestern Public Service Company To Receive 4-H Service Award June 4th

The Southwestern Public Service Company of Amarillo is being recognized for its longtime support of the 4-H program in Texas.

The electric service company will be awarded a special plaque from the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation during the opening assembly of the 1974 State 4-H Roundup at Texas A&M University June 4.

Accepting the award will be the

company president, Roy Tolk.

The company is one of 10 businesses, organizations and individuals to be cited for distinguished service to 4-H by the 4-H Foundation and the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, the parent organization of 4-H.

Since 1953 Southwestern Public Service has sponsored an Electric Camp for 4-H youth in Extension District 2 headquartered at Lubbock. Since 1960 this event has been held at Scott Able 4-H Camp near Cloudcroft, New Mexico. In 1964 the company began sponsoring a similar camp for the 4-H youth in Extension District 1 with headquarters in Amarillo.

The five-day camp is designed to provide training on electricity and its use. Those attending receive valuable leadership training which they can apply in their local clubs and other activities. Some 300 4-H youth and adults from the two Extension districts participate in the camp each year.

Southwestern Public Service also supports the 4-H program by providing rooms for local and area training meetings and workshops and by providing training materials for use by 4-H'ers in demonstrations and contests. The company has furnished judges for 4-H electric demonstrations on a district level and supports junior livestock shows throughout the High Plains.

Mrs. Varina Putman Citizen Of The Month

The Shallowater Lions Club has announced that Mrs. Varina Putman has been selected as the Outstanding Citizen for the month of June. Mrs. Putman will be honored with a reception at the Shallowater First State Bank on June 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Mrs. Putman taught twenty-six years in the Shallowater school system. She was hired to teach English in 1944 but, a few days before school opened she was asked to serve also as high school principal. It was war time and a man could not be found to take the job. She was promised that possibly a man could be found within a week to take the job. That week stretched into two years.

Mrs. Putman was always in close touch with the students, not only in the classroom but also in many activities such as sponsorship of classes and arranging many of the senior trips. The highlight of all trips was the one to Washington, D.C. by train. The 1947 and 1956 annuals were dedicated to her by the students.

Varina Boozer began her teaching career in Alabama at the age of sixteen. She attended the University of Alabama, Abilene Christian College, and received a Bachelor of Science degree from North Texas State University at Denton and Master of Education degree from Texas Tech University and taught in Alabama and Texas forty-six years, retiring in 1972.

Mrs. Putman might recall many interesting events, but one that



stands out is the time she paddled Walter Hutton and most of his school mates, especially the girls, were very angry because they thought one of their best basketball players might suffer an injury. David Hamblin, who is the Rev. Hamblin of Littlefield, used his very persuasive powers and had his paddling postponed.

Mrs. Putman was very civic minded. She always worked for the betterment of the community. For many years she directed the Lions Club Minstrels and "Womanless Weddings", and her senior classes prepared and served meals for the Lions Club and gin banquets as money making projects for the seniors.

After moving to Lubbock County she met and married Jerry Putman. Mr. Putman died in 1962. Mrs. Putman, her daughter, Sue Pair, and two granddaughters, Beverly and Maureen Pair live in Shallowater. Her main hobby now is collecting barbed wire. Asked why she became interested in barbed wire she answered, "I love history and there is no better way of studying history than by learning about barbed wire."

What Mrs. Putman remembers most about her long career is "The wonderful people I have worked with and the wonderful students that are now scattered to the four winds."

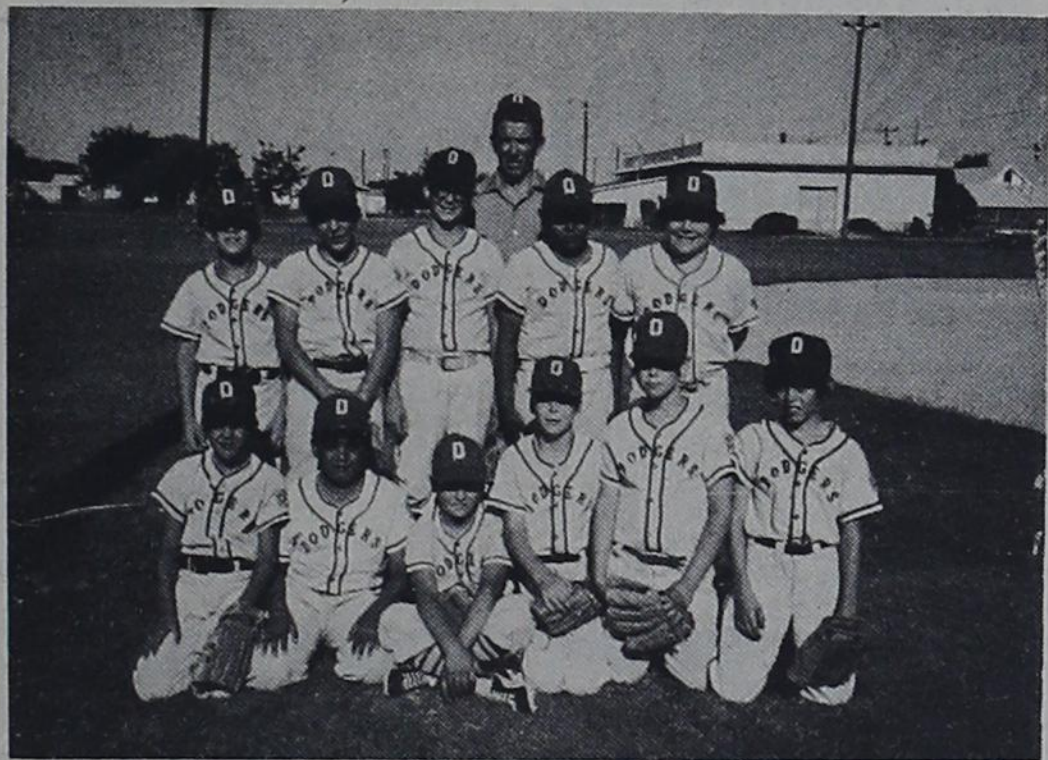
Commencement Held Last Thursday

The 1974 graduating class of Shallowater High School received their diplomas Thursday, May 23 at Commencement Exercises in the high school gymnasium.

Processional was played by Vicki Dunn. Invocation was given by Eddie McCollum and the address by Terry Saunders, class president.

Presentation of the class gift by Diane Jackson, and recognition of honor students by Charles Hohertz, High School Principal.

The Salutatory address was given by Sharon Williams and Valedictorian address by Hector Serna. Diplomas were handed out by Melvin Stewart, Donald Martin, members of the Board of Trustees, and Supt. of Schools, Weldon McCreary. Benediction by Danny Caddell.



DODGERS—Coach Roy Pool. Standing: Tracy Pool, Mark Craig, Scott Penny, Julian Olivarez, Kelly Blair. Sitting: Troy Lemmons, Yves Revilla, David Holleman, Jordon Cox, Tory McAuley, Steve Roberts.



GIANTS—Coaches, Herman Rojas and Rod Sanders. Standing: Roman Duenez, Gene Lostroh, Jay Paulson, Robert Sanders, Mark Jungman. Sitting: Woody Hamm, Leroy Gonzales, Brian Jungman, Alberto Longoria, Kit Bigham, Rufino Maldonado, Noe Salazar, and Joe Maldonado.

Season Tickets to Swimming Pool Go on Sale Here

This year, for the first time, you may purchase season tickets to the Shallowater Swimming Pool.

For children under 6 years of age, the price is \$25.00 for the season. Over 6 years of age is \$30.00 for the season.

Anyone interested in purchasing these tickets may contact Robert Cox.

Classroom Teachers Scholarship Goes To Sharon Williams

Sharon Williams, 1974 honor graduate of Shallowater High School, is the recipient of the annual Shallowater Classroom Teachers' Association scholarship.

Sharon is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Williams of Route 2, Box 246, Lubbock. She enrolled in the first grade in Shallowater, and during her twelve years, she has earned various honors, including membership in the National Honor Society, serving as secretary her junior year and president her senior year. Sharon also served on the student council, held class office, and participated in the "Learn and Live" television program and in various U.I.L. literary events. Sharon will matriculate at Wayland Baptist College for the fall term.

The \$200 CTA scholarship may

All Out Support Needed in Lubbock County Toward Brucellosis Eradication

by Alan J. Fires
Asst. County Extension Agent
Lubbock County

The support of all cattle producers in Lubbock County as well as those throughout the state is needed if the current brucellosis eradication program is to be effective, believes Alan J. Fires, assistant county agent for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

All breeding cattle two years of

age and over should now be tested for brucellosis when ownership of the cattle changes. Testing may be done on the ranch or farm or at an auction market. A test is good for 30 days if the animal is ear tagged and the owner has a test certificate.

Cooper 4-H Club Elects New Officers

The Cooper 4-H Club met on May 20th to elect officers for the coming year.

The new officers are: Diane Trimble, president; Kathy Black, Vice President; Laura Arnold, Secretary; Dale Schaffner, Treasurer; Kelly Killian, Reporter; Sky Trimble, Parliamentarian; Burney Jones and Darlene Swan, Recreation Leaders.

Adult leaders are Mr. and Mrs. Continued On Page Two

Fires points out that Texas leads the nation in the number of brucellosis infected herds. It has 26 per cent of all the infected herds in the United States. Oklahoma, Louisiana and Mississippi account for 37 per cent of the infected herds.

Testing programs are removing forward in other states and the action has been effective. According to Fires, 37 per cent of all the counties in the nation are now "modified-certified" brucellosis free and 63 per cent are "certified" free of infected cattle.

Shallowater VBS To Begin June 3rd At First Methodist

The First United Methodist Church has announced that Vacation Bible School will be June 3-7. Classes will begin each morning at 9 a.m. and dismiss at 11:30 a.m.

There will be classes for children from kindergarden through the 6th grade.

Everyone is invited to attend these classes.

Members of Troop 515 Take First Airplane Flight



FIRST FLIGHT—Left to right, Ray Seales, Tory McAuley, Buster Lamberson (Patrol Leader), and Randy McGarrett. Standing is Al Hardin, Chief Pilot and sitting in aircraft is Rick Reed, Pilot.

On Monday, four members of Troop 515 received their first flight in a Piper Cherokee, courtesy of Raider Aviation of Shallowater.

Al Hardin, chief pilot of Raider Aviation, gave the boys a briefing on aerodynamics, flight procedures and flight safety. Once the boys showed him a thorough understanding of the briefed items, Mr. Hardin arranged for Rick Reed, a pilot from Raider Aviation, to fly the boys two at a time for a tour above Shallowater.

Mr. Hardin has volunteered to be the troop's aviation counselor and will test the boys for the aviation merit badge when they are prepared. Skip Berry, Scoutmaster and instructor pilot himself, will see to it that the boys are further prepared prior to testing.

Good Substitute

There is no wholly satisfactory substitute for brains, but silence does pretty well.

—Missle, Red Bank, N.J.

The rarest of traits is sincerity.



Facts Based on Fantasies

It is interesting that the U.S. Department of Labor is now recognizing some of its data is subject to wholesale error.

And so, it is rushing to rectify this error in one area. In fact, it is rushing so much that by July 1, 1977, it is planned to have a more accurate measurement of the Consumer Price Index.

By that time, some three years hence, it expects to be able to set up the Consumer Price Index, or CPI, on the experience of 80 per cent of the people, instead of the present 55 per cent.

Furthermore, while the present 55 per cent is taken from the urban areas, the new index will include some rural non-farm consumers.

The significance of this decision can be largely overlooked unless it is understood that the CPI figures are now used in computing automatic raises for more than 5 million workers covered under union contracts calling for wage increases as the CPI goes up, as well as payments to 29 million Social Security recipients, 2 million retired military and Federal service employees and 600,000 postal workers.

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The Consumer Price Index on which increases in these payments is based currently only reflects data from 55 per cent of the population all located in urban areas, and thus reflects the higher prices that prevail in these areas.

Thus, as far as an index of the nation as a whole, the figures are quite erroneous, and result by the same token in erroneous wage levels.

But the most interesting aspect of this situation is that for the next three years these increases will be granted on figures that the Labor Department has already acknowledged are not representative of the country as a whole.

Thus, it appears quite likely that for the next three years inflation will be further fanned by wage and pension increases based on false information.

While it is ridiculous that it has taken until now for the Labor Department to acknowledge the error of its data, it is even more ridiculous that it will take over three years to correct the fallacies, especially as during these years millions will receive more money based on erroneous data.



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I want to thank everyone who worked for me and who voted for me in the Democratic Primary. A very special "thank you" to MARY TIPPS ARNOLD who has asked those who supported her in the 1st Primary to vote for me on June 1st.

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Pd. Pol. Ad., Pd. for by Connie Hopping Nicholson

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order and the opening prayer was given by Mrs. Cleo Vaughn.

First United Methodist Women Meet Monday

The women of First United Methodist Church met Monday, May 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the church parlor. Mrs. C.M. Thomas, president, called the meeting to

Mrs. R.R. Warren delivered the devotional for the evening and Mrs. M.J. Williamson gave the 4th and concluding chapter of Matthew.

Retha Crowther, Mrs. Warren and Mrs. Williamson gave a report on the study of Matthew.

Mrs. Bob Chandler gave the closing prayer.

Mrs. Crowther was hostess for the meeting. The group will meet next on June 10.

Cooper 4-H

Continued From Page One

Danny Pounds, Mr. and Mrs. Jas Swan, Jo Killian, Beth Arnold, Deana Johnson.

The next meeting will be held on June 24th at the elementary cafeteria. Method Demonstration will be presented.

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SUBURBAN TODAY

(Formerly The Sunday Citizen)

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Publication Service Company Publisher
Norman L. Williamson Managing Editor
Pat Cobb Shallowater News Editor
Mrs. Joe Mangum Wolforth News Editor

4-H Contest Winners Slated to Attend State Roundup Next Week at A & M

Exciting things happen during Roundup time in Texas, at least as far as some 1,800 4-H boys and girls are concerned.

4-H Roundup marks the occasion when district 4-H contest winners gather on the Texas A&M University campus to compete for top honors in some 30 different events. These range from livestock judging and public speaking to demonstrations on foods and nutrition and safety. Those who compete have been named winners in their respective counties and districts.

Texas 4-H Roundup, one of the oldest annual statewide 4-H events

in the nation, is slated for June 4-5, announces Dr. Don Stormer, state 4-H and youth leader for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, the parent organization of 4-H. The State 4-H Food Show on June 4 is held in conjunction with Roundup.

In addition to the throngs of youth, some 600 adults, including county Extension agents, 4-H leaders, friends of 4-H, mass media representatives, contest donors and members of the board of directors of the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation, will also be on hand. T. Louis Austin of Dallas, president of Texas Utilities Co., chairs the board.

Roundup activities will officially get underway with a general assembly at 5:30 p.m. on June 4 in J. Earl Rudder Center. Dean of Agriculture Dr. H.O. Kunkel will welcome the group. Special awards will be presented to 10 individuals, businesses and mass media representatives who have made outstanding contributions to 4-H. Winners of ten \$4,000 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Scholarships will also be announced.

Twenty-five outstanding 4-H leaders (two from each of the 13 Extension Service districts except one) will be recognized at a luncheon on June 5.

Contest and demonstration winners and donors will be honored at a special recognition program that evening at 8 p.m. in the Rudder Center.

According to Stormer, 4-H Roundup is the highlight of their 4-H year in Texas.

Wolfforth Area News

DePanion Signed To Play At Grayson County Junior College

Franship's Jay DePanion heads a list of four basketball recruits signed by Grayson County Junior College by coach Buddy Travis.

DePanion, a 6-1 guard averaged 20.4 points per game his senior year and was named to All-State and player of the year on the All-South Plains Class AA teams. He will be playing in the Coaches All Star game set in Houston in August.

Methodist Bible School

Wolfforth United Methodist Church will hold Bible School next week starting Monday, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Gift Tea

Miss Vicki Young, bride-elect of Wayne Keeling, was honored with a gift team Sunday in the home of Mrs. H.L. McPherson.

Special guests were Mrs. C.P. Young Jr. and Mrs. Jack Keeling, mothers of the engaged couple, and Mrs. Jewell Moore.

The couple plans to exchange nuptial vows July 6 in First United Methodist Church.

Lingerie Shower Honors Miss Teana Brooke

A lingerie shower honored Miss Teana Brooke, bride-elect of Mike Wright, Saturday in the home of Mrs. Ralph Black.

Special guests were Mrs. Grady Brooke and Mrs. Lois Wright,

mothers of the engaged couple.

Miss Brooke and Wright plan to wed June 1 in First Baptist Church.

Local Items

Rev. Richard Pittman, pastor of Wolfforth United Methodist Church, will leave Sunday night for Amarillo to attend the annual meeting of the Northwest Texas Conference of Methodist Churches.

Mr. and Mrs. James Vardy will leave Tuesday to attend the Northwest Texas Conference of Methodist Churches.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Mangum spent the Memorial Day weekend in Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Defined

Platform: Something a candidate stands on before election and falls down on afterward.

—Courier, Portsmouth

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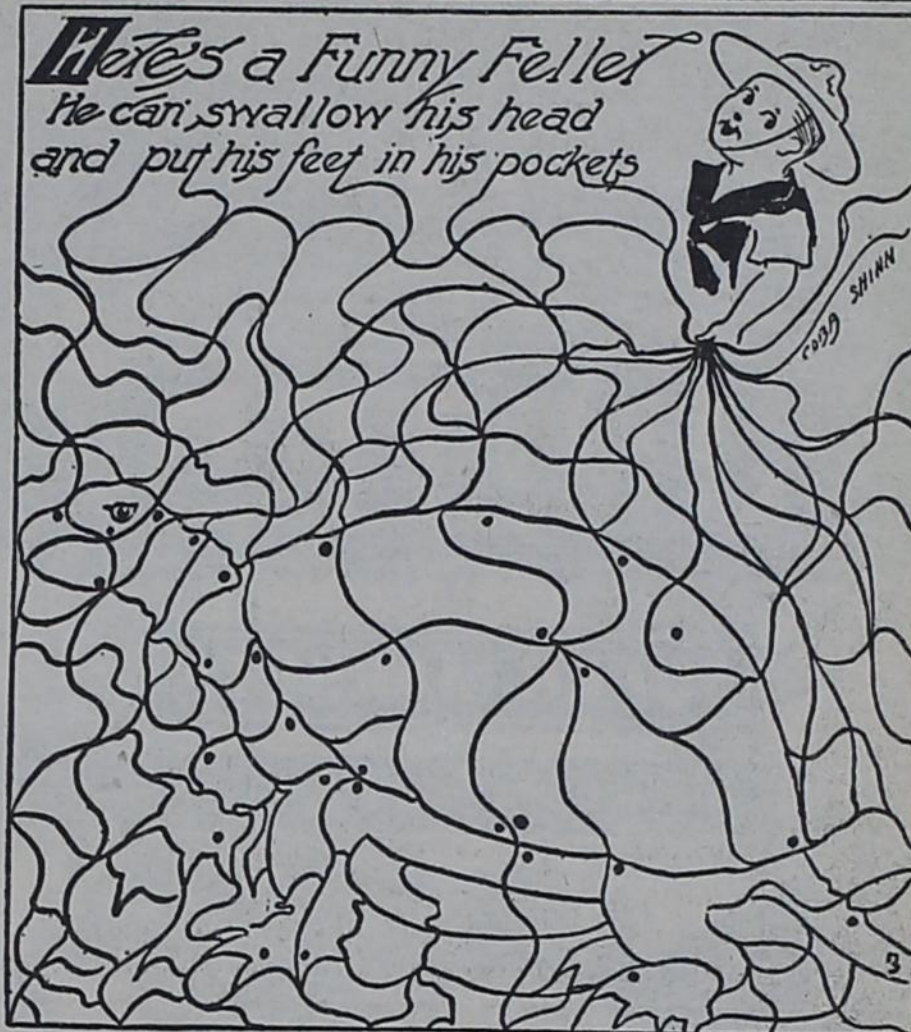
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By Uncle Cobb Shinn

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New Federal Legislation on Minimum Wages to Raise Farm Rates to \$ 1.60

Recently enacted federal legislation raised the minimum wage for farm workers who are covered from the present \$1.30 to \$1.60 an hour, effective May 1.

The minimum will increase to \$1.80 on January 1, 1975; to \$2 on January 1, 1976; to \$2.20 on January 1, 1977; and to \$2.30 on January 1, 1978.

The differential in minimum wage for agriculture and non-agriculture is wiped out by 1978. The newly enacted amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act do not change the exemption of agriculture from overtime requirements or the '500 man-day' test for coverage of agricultural employers.

Farmers should examine his records to determine whether he hired as much as 500 man-days of agricultural labor in any quarter of 1973. If so, the farmer is obligated to pay at least the minimum wage to all labor in 1974.

Covered farm employers need to keep the new minimum wage

requirements in mind in recruiting workers for this summer.

Also effective May 1, certain domestic service workers were covered by the minimum wage law for the first time. In general, such a worker is covered if employed for a total of more than eight hours in a work week, even if the employment occurs in more than one household.

However, domestic workers are not covered if employed on a casual basis for babysitting or companionship services for individuals who, because of age or infirmity, are unable to care for themselves."

The minimum rate for newly covered domestic workers is \$1.90 an hour. It will increase to \$2.00 on January 1, 1975; to \$2.20 on January 1, 1976; and to \$2.30 on January 1, 1977.

For non-agriculture employees covered before 1966, the minimum wage increased from the present \$1.60 to \$2.00 an hour on May 1. Next January 1 it will go up to \$2.10, and a year later, to \$2.30.

Feedgrain Supplies Are Up, Sorghum Prices Head Down

Sorghum producers in the United States can expect feedgrain supplies to increase during the next months, thus bringing prices down. Of course, much of the outcome depends on the world feedgrain situation and the weather, says a grain marketing specialist for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

"We are now moving into the transition period between grain crops, so the market will tend to overreact to any news, good or bad," points out Roland Smith. "Producers will want to keep abreast of the situation, since the way they market their 1974 crop will have a sizeable impact on their income. Current indications are that a sorghum price of around \$3.50 per hundredweight can be expected during the coming season."

According to Smith, the prospect for increased supplies and lower prices is brought on by a record feedgrain crop in the making and uncertain demand factors. He expects both domestic and export buyers to stay out of the market for a while to see where the price will stabilize. This will result in sluggish forward contracting for the new sorghum crop through early summer.

"Although sorghum production will be down slightly this year with about a one per cent decrease in planted acres, corn acreage is expected to increase a whopping 10 per cent. This will set the stage for the feedgrain market," contends the Texas A&M University System specialist.

Any change in fuel and fertilizer supplies could also have a measured effect on the feedgrain market, adds Smith.

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SPORTS

by Joe Kelly

It's almost June and, around the South Plains that means that football is uppermost on everyone's mind. If it isn't, it should be. The All America game is now only three weeks away and there's nothing bigger for sports fans in this area.

Lubbock and the South Plains have done an outstanding job of supporting the event. Indeed, the game probably would be just a memory now if this area had not rallied behind it and turned out in record numbers. The game was headed for the junkyard, based on attendance in Buffalo, N.Y. and Atlanta, Ga.

Coach J.T. King, a member of the American Football Coaches Assn., didn't believe all the dire things about the future of the game. He thought that this area, in all probability, would get behind the event and make it a success. He was right. He received ready support from the Lions Clubs of the South Plains and from Texas Tech. As a result, the game had the backing it needed, with all the paraphernalia needed to finance the effort and to publicize it, to say nothing of the all important selling of tickets.

A massive tornado cast doubts on that first game. Stadium lights were twisted and broken off. Temporary lights had to be jury-rigged. The city suffered massive damage. It was the worst possible timing to have a game of this magnitude here.

But the pride of this area wouldn't let the game die a noble death. A record crowd turned out on a hot June night to see stars of the past year perform. The players, possibly impressed with the spirit of the people and certainly awed by the tornado damage that stood starkly for all to see, gave an all out effort. As a result, fans saw a great game.

And so it has gone each year. For each of the four years the game has been played here, crowds in excess of 40,000 have viewed the stars. ABC has brought its cameras here and the publicity has been terrific. The game has been a success in every sense of the word.

The treatment of visiting players, coaches, press and everyone connected with the game has been tremendous. As a result, officials have gone away singing the praises of this area. The game has found a home. If it's a love affair, it's one of the most exuberant in history. From an ordinary event, the game has become a solid success and a summer highlight.

Thus, the proposal that the game be moved to Philadelphia as part of its observance of the 1976 celebration hardly caused too much of a fear ripple here. You don't gamble that fans will support a game for one year after four years of success. Coaches are not big, dumb oxen, contrary to the opinions of some. They are smart, like foxes.

When you have a good thing going, you stay with it, and Lubbock and the South Plains are a good thing. This area has bailed the AFCA out of trouble and that group isn't about to discard what appears to be a sure thing for a highly speculative gamble.

I see no reason why the game won't be another hit this year. Attending the game has become the thing to do and besides, fans have been rewarded with some outstanding football. And this year's game seems to be no exception.

Maybe some of the players' names aren't household words around here, but they were chosen because they were football players. That means that when kickoff comes, fans can sit back and expect to see a football game. And with Joe Barnes and Kenneth Wallace of Tech involved, there will be more than the usual amount of interest. So, buy your tickets now for the June 22 game. You'll be glad you did.

From all appearances Tech has ended its basketball recruiting with three new players in the fold. This is under the authorized allotment and there is some grumbling around town that the Raiders fell a little short of what it takes to be a contender.

Poppcock! It might be impressive to point to five or six recruits, but if the players Tech signed are able to contribute immediately, Tech has had a good recruiting season. It's far better to have players recruited capable of playing, than to recruit several who will do no more than take up room on the bench. That's the type of situation that leads to trouble.

In Gerald Myers and George Davidson, Tech has the coaches to develop players and you can rest assured that the Raiders will be contenders. Polk Robison used to take men you never heard of and make basketball players of them. Gerald and George have essentially the same ability. Tech will compete and have a team worth of respect.

It's a long time to the basketball season and there will be a lot of work done this summer. Come fall, when workouts start in earnest, I have no fears about the Raiders' basketball fortunes. They'll be representative and they'll be fighting for the title.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. had an article recently on chiggers, a little beast that fortunately doesn't abound here, but which thrives not too far away. If you do any camping on fishing trips, or go on picnics, there's a good chance you'll make their acquaintance.

Chiggers can drive you crazy with their itch and many people don't know what to do to ease the problem. The P&W Dept. says that some relief has been gained by taking a hot bath in a weak solution of ammonia water, or a weak solution of pine oil, bleach or Lysol water.

Years ago, when I was in the infantry at Fort Meade, Md., we went on an overnight exercise. Saturday morning, when we returned to camp, many of us were itching like mad. Even a shower and generous use of Army lye soap did nothing to relieve the itching.

I had a pass and, when I got home to Washington, I called our family doctor. He gave me a remedy that stopped the itching completely. So, should you be bothered, here is what he suggested. It's a little tedious, but believe me, it works.

First, draw a tub of lukewarm water, pour salt liberally in it, stir it up and then get in and soak thoroughly. Just before you get out, take a stiff bristle brush—like a woman's fingernail brush—and brush every place that itches, or where you see a telltale reddish spot.

When you get out of the tub, pat yourself dry with a towel, don't rub. Then us a mixture of flowers of sulfa and common table salt, putting this liberally on every itch or welt. Put your clothes on and go about your business, free of that itching that can drive you crazy.



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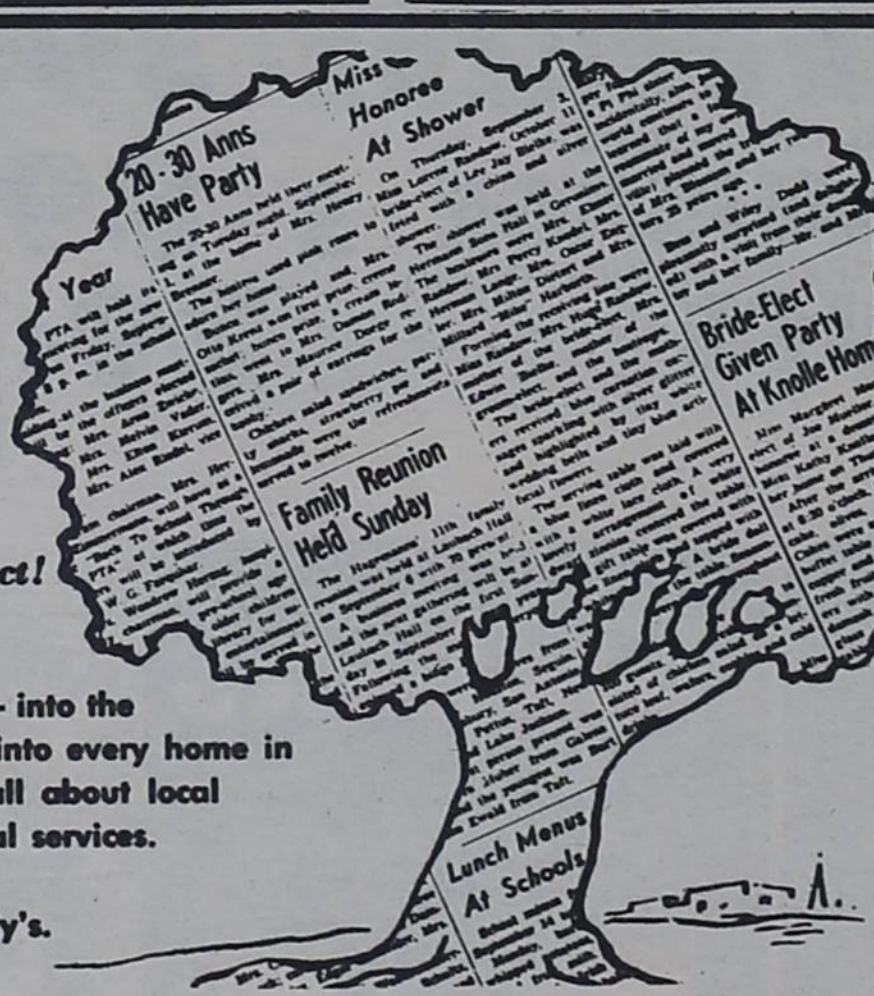
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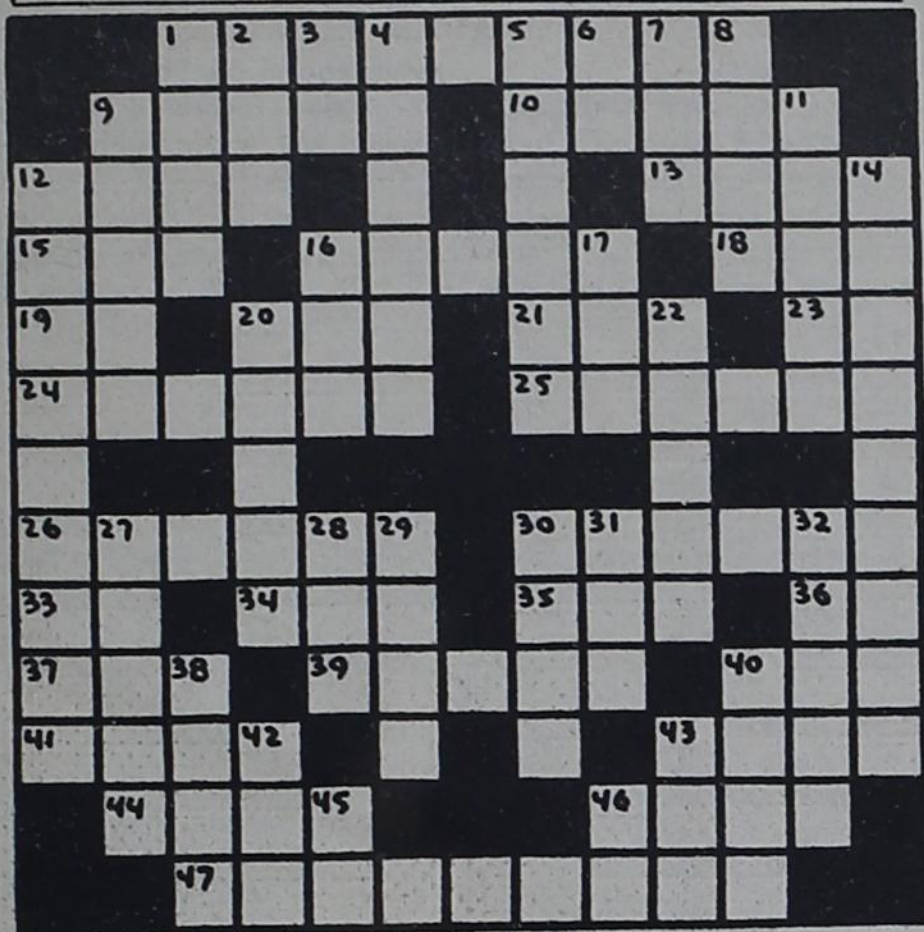
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CROSSWORD ~ ~ ~ By A. C. Gordon



- ACROSS**
- 1 - Devices used in popular sport
 - 9 - A gaited horse
 - 10 - Begins a voyage
 - 12 - Beast of burden
 - 13 - Thick liquid
 - 15 - Noah's vessel
 - 16 - Varnish ingredient
 - 18 - Pale
 - 19 - In reference to
 - 20 - In favor of
 - 21 - To harden
 - 23 - Musical note
 - 24 - Robin Hood's "bullets"
 - 25 - Tormentor
 - 26 - Thrower
 - 30 - To span
 - 33 - Preposition
 - 34 - Watery expanse
 - 35 - Aquatic propelling device
 - 36 - Division of the Bible (abb.)
 - 37 - Louse egg
 - 39 - Make lines on
 - 40 - Three-fifths of "Haiti"

- 41 - Pause
- 43 - Powder
- 44 - Sudden break
- 46 - Personal (abb.)
- 47 - Big winner in bridge (two wds.)

- DOWN**
- 1 - Refuse stubbornly
 - 2 - Playing card
 - 3 - Compass point
 - 4 - Mistakes



- 5 - Aid
- 6 - Musical note
- 7 - A cover
- 8 - Tardy
- 9 - More refined
- 11 - To be frugal
- 12 - Long-distance races
- 14 - Full of zeal
- 16 - Noisy dispute
- 17 - Born
- 20 - Young equines
- 22 - Tropical swinish looking animal
- 27 - Segments
- 28 - College degree (plural)
- 29 - To speed
- 30 - Dull person
- 31 - Girl's name
- 32 - Destinations
- 38 - Chinese association
- 40 - Damage
- 42 - Equality
- 43 - Beverage
- 45 - Parent
- 46 - Plural (abb.)



People once believed that wearing their coats inside out would ward off evil!

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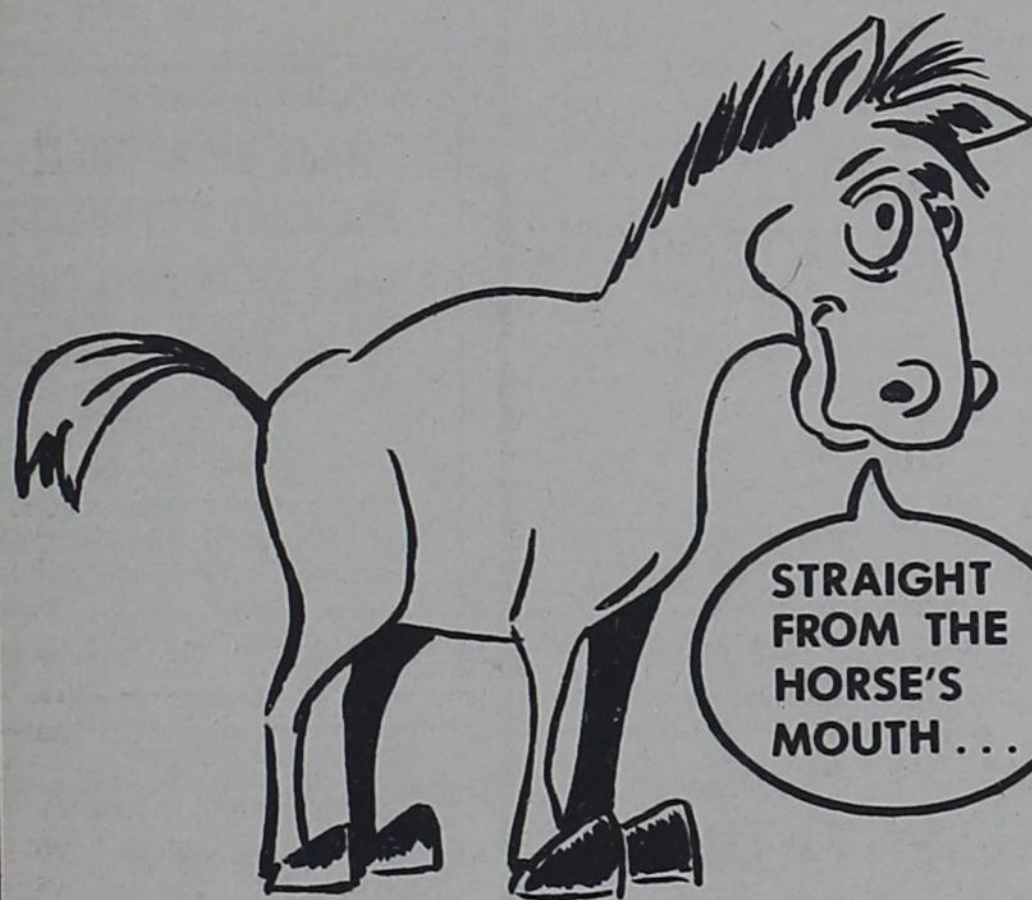
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Grape Production on High Plains Continues to Show Great Promise

Preliminary research results indicate that commercial grape production may have considerable promise in the Lubbock plains area.

Field trials by the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station show that yields of several cultivars (cultivated varieties) of grapes topped 13,000 pounds per acre in 1972 and 16,000 in 1973.

Two to five-year-old vines of 238 cultivars of wine, table and juice type grapes are being evaluated in the Abernathy vicinity to gauge

yield, quality and adaptability to plains conditions.

Grape quality, so far, has been good, especially for wine potential. Sugar levels have hit as high as 32 per cent, and 21 per cent is considered a minimum for wine making. However, research is not complete enough to recommend wine varieties.

Siebel 9110 (Verdelet), Golden Muscat, 23-4 and Niagara have shown promise as fresh market or juice types.

Dr. W.N. Lipe, TAES research-

er at the Texas A&M University Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Lubbock, says grape feasibility studies for the plains began in 1968 with the planting of a vineyard east of Abernathy.

Although grapes have been grown in this region for many years in home plantings, recent developments in the industry—the wine industry in particular—have enhanced chances for a commercial grape business for the Texas plains, Lipe pointed out.

"Favorable climatic, soil, biological and economic considerations indicate that the plains and far West Texas are the most likely areas of the state for this industry," he said.

Also, cool nights and relatively low heat in late August and September favor good quality for win production. Low rainfall during July and August encourages sugar accumulation in grapes.

Lipe said French Columbard, Meyers 16-20, Refosco, 259077 and Favat 51 have come up with extremely high sugar levels, with some samples reaching 32 per cent.

The researcher emphasized that the plains area is free from cotton

root rot and Pierce's disease. These maladies, along with downy mildew, are real trouble makers for grapes in the more humid section of the state.

Summing up, Lipe said grape production potential appears to be excellent for the Lubbock region, and continued research "promises to be very fruitful."

However, he recommended caution in choosing varieties for commercial production. Selections should be based on proven performance records and such records are still unavailable.

Concern Shown Over Falling Farm Prices

Texas Farm Bureau President J.T. (Red) Woodson has expressed strong concern over rapidly declining farm prices.

"Together with steadily increasing production costs, the disastrous drop in farm prices since mid-winter has caught farmers and ranchers in a deadly cost-price squeeze," the farm leader said.

The Farm Bureau president said a number of factors were responsible for the decrease in farm prices, including government intervention, food boycotts, truckers' strike, increased crop yields around the world, and increased plantings in the U.S.

Woodson said farm prices for eight major commodities are down an average of 27 percent from 1974 highs. He pointed out that production costs are up 16 percent in the past year.

The farm leader said that Farm Bureau, which has 2.3 million members nationally including 152,000 in Texas, would be pushing strongly to keep world markets open to U.S. farmers and to prohibit price-depressing government-held food reserves.

"It's about time that prices came down more in retail markets," Woodson said. "We have seen some retail price declines, but not in keeping with the actual drop in farm prices."

Woodson said statistics released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture show the dramatic decline in major farm commodities from 1974 highs. These include: wheat, down 43 percent; corn off 22 percent; soybeans, decreased 20 percent; hogs, down 37 percent; feed beef cattle, off 18 percent; eggs, off 43 percent; broilers, down 9 percent; and cotton down 25 percent.



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