

The PLAINSMAN

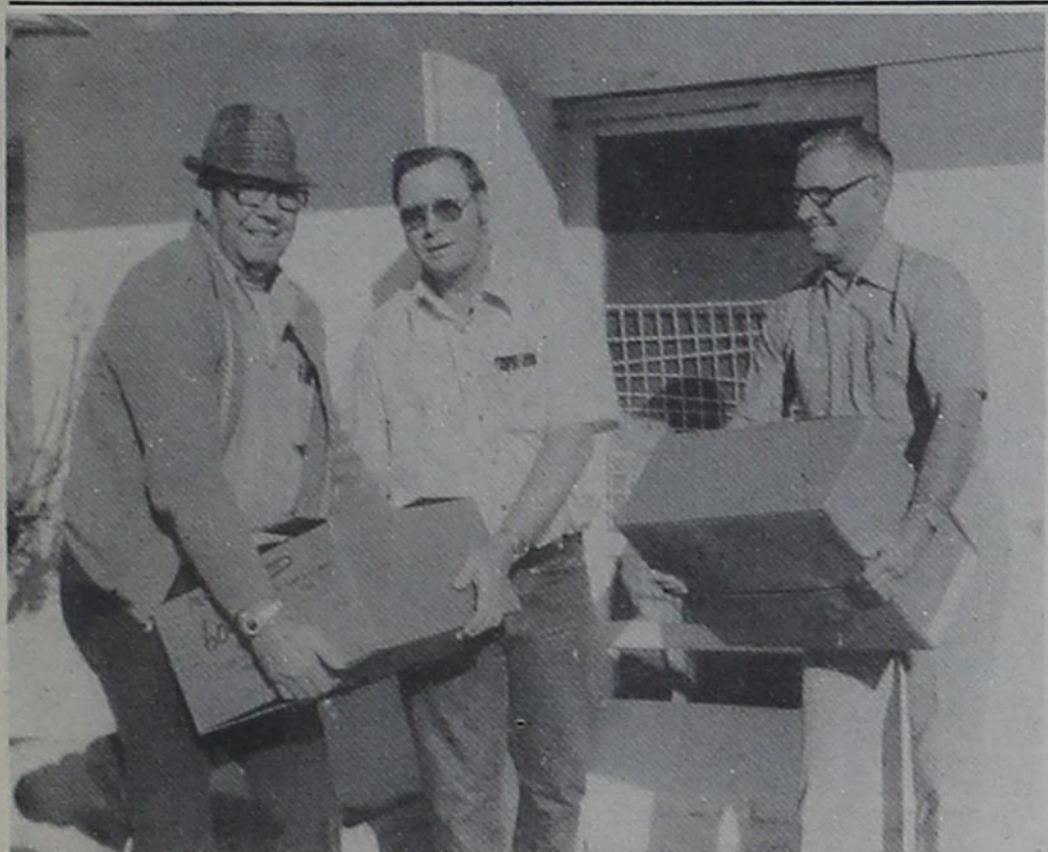


Formerly The Ropes Plainsman

TEXAS PRESS
MEMBER ASSOCIATION

Eight Pages Vol. 41, No. 29 - Thursday, December 16, 1976 Second Class Postage Paid at Wolfforth, Texas 79382 Ten Cents

Fire Protection, Autopsy Solutions Sought



LION'S GIFT—Representing the Ropesville Lion's Club, John Tiller, president and *En Exum* publicity chairman deliver 198 pounds of ham and 117 pounds of bacon to Girls Town. Accepting the annual Christmas gift is Marshall Cooper, Girls Town director.

Ropes Invitational Tournament Staged

Thursdays first round of games in the Ropes Invitational Tournament ended with Boys division: Meadow over Lubbock Estacado JV, 66-59. Freddie Hernandez had 25 points for Meadow, while Edwin Turner put in 26 for Estacado. Whiteface over Union 68-55, Johnny Feitz topped Whiteface with 18, and John Hopper had 28 for Union. New Deal over Dawson 51-41, Mark Bush was top point for New Deal with 29, while Jesse Kitchens had 17 for Dawson. Spade topped Ropes 71-58, Lynn Cowan had 30 points for Spade, and Chris Hobbs put in 17 for Ropes.

The Girls division ended with Seagraves over Meadow 62-30, Jacklin Bryant had 20 points for Seagraves, and Sandy Mason put in 10 points for Meadow. Whiteface over Union 67-41, Ginger Peden had 28 points for Whiteface, and Cathy McNeil had 29 for Union. New Deal over Dawson 49-42. Shari Teal topped New Deal with 26 points and Judy Bearden put in 20 for Dawson. Ropes topped Spade 56-54, Sherry Means had 29 points for Ropes while Vivian Thompson had 36 for Spade.

Friday's games in the Boys Division had Whiteface over Meadow 52 to 50. David Noles led Whiteface with 18 and Freddie Hernandez had 17 for Meadow. Lubbock Estacado Junior Varsity won over Union 61-58. Don Robinson led Estacado with 20 points and John Hopper put in 28 for Union. Ropes topped Dawson 77-60. Ropes was led by Gary Means 20 points and Dawson by Jesse Kitchens 21 points. Spade won over New Deal 64-54, Lynn Cowan led Spade with 37 points and Mark Bush was high for New Deal with 24.

Girls games had Seagraves over Whiteface 39-27. Jacklin Bryant led Seagraves with 17, and Lynette Joiner and Diane

Smith each had 10 for Whiteface. Meadow topped Union 48-40, Sandy Mason put in 22 for Meadow and Cathy McNeil put in 26 for Union. Dawson won over Spade 68-49. Vonne Hayes led Dawson with 23 and Vivian Thompson led Spade with 42 points. New Deal won over Ropes 48-46. Sherry Means led Ropes with 26 points.

Final Round of games were: Girls Consolation: Dawson over Meadow 48-38. Sylvia Cardona was high point for Dawson with 26 and Sandy Mason had 25 for Meadow.

Boys Consolation: Ropes over Estacado JV 68-57. Dicki Arant was high point for Ropes with 19 and Edwin Turner for Estacado with 23.

Girls Third Place: Whiteface over Ropes 45-41, Lynette Joiner was high point for Whiteface with 21 and Sherry Means had 21 for Ropes.

Boys Third Place: New Deal over Meadow 51-47, Rusty Abbee led New Deal with 22 and Martin Blair and Freddie Hernandez each had 14 for Meadow.

Girls Championship: Seagraves over New Deal 49-45, Brenda Langhenning put in 17 for Seagraves and Roxanne Schuler had 23 for New Deal.

Boys Championship: Spade won over Whiteface 67-43, Lynn Cowan led Spade with 39 points and Johnny Feitz had 15 for Whiteface.

Slow Down in Your Head

The Texas Safety Association has issued a request of Texas Motorists for the coming season: slow down for the holidays.

Slow down in "your head," as your attitude can drastically affect your driving safety. "Zipping" around to complete all the shopping and other holiday

Continued On Page Two

by Mary Alice Robbins
A possible interim solution for the problem of rural fire protection was okayed Monday by Lubbock County Commissioners Court—but the autopsy service dilemma appears to have reached another dead-end.

In what County Judge Rod Shaw termed a "stop gap" measure, commissioners agreed to indemnify the City of Lubbock's fire department if it goes past the city limits to fight a fire. The action followed recent demands by the Southern Residents and Land Owners Association that county officials remedy the fire call situation.

Shaw was authorized by commissioners to write a letter to the city council assuring the city

that the county will assume its liability for any accidents or injuries involving city firemen on runs made outside Lubbock.

"Even though we haven't arrived at an agreement on the fire call fee, we can relieve the city of any anxiety it has over its potential liability in the event it does make a rural fire call," Shaw said.

However, Commissioner Alton Brazell voiced strong skepticism about this remedy to the rural fire protection dilemma. According to Brazell, what the county really needs to do is "sit down with the city council and negotiate a contract."

Brazell said the city has pointed out its fire department is already stretched "pretty thin" just

trying to cover fire calls within the limits of Lubbock. He doesn't believe the issue will be solved until city and county officials settle on the amount of money the city should receive for making rural fire runs.

In other business Monday, commissioners learned that no one appears interested in performing autopsies for the county—including Texas Tech School of Medicine. Shaw told commissioners that Dr. Harry Sprote, head of the pathology department at the med school, turned thumbs down on the idea of his department performing autopsies. Sprote doesn't feel the pathology department has developed to the point where it can take time needed for teaching to conduct autopsies, the judge said.

Shaw also read a letter from Dr. Philip E. Duvall, new president of the Lubbock-Crosby-Garza County Medical Society, noting that no private pathologist in Lubbock is interested in performing the autopsy service on an interim basis until a permanent solution to the problem can be found.

Duvall reminded county officials in his letter that the medical society officially endorsed a medical examiner system for the county in 1974. "That still represents the official position of the Tri-County Medical Society," Duvall stated.

According to Shaw, the county paid about \$22,000 for approximately 200 autopsies last year. "All indications in the past are that a medical examiner would cost two-three times that much," he added.

Basketball Tourney Slated at Reese

The Reese Air Force Base "Christmas Classic" high school basketball tournament, scheduled Thursday-Saturday, will draw 15 teams from across the state into the three days of competition.

Olympic style opening ceremonies featuring most of the participating teams are scheduled for 9:15 a.m. Thursday. National Colors will be presented by the Reese AFB color guard, with music provided by the Dunbar High School marching band.

At 12:30 p.m. Thursday, the Dunbar Panthers will challenge the El Paso Andress Eagles, defending champions of last year's President's Trophy Division of the tournament. Dunbar, considered by many to be a potential challenger for the state AAA title this year, copped the championship of the Brownfield Tournament last weekend.

Thursday's final game will begin at 9:30 p.m. and will pit the winner of the Dunbar-Andress game against the winner of the Roswell-Seminole game.

Cager action begins again at 9 a.m. Friday and at 1 p.m. Saturday. All games will be played in the Reese AFB gymnasium. Admission prices, which are good all day, are \$2 for adults and \$1 for students and military.

SBA Loans to Farmers Reportedly "In the Mill"

Farmers and their lenders will eventually have a new source of loans and loan guarantees—the Small Business Administration (SBA). "But don't count on getting a SBA direct farm loan or farm loan guarantee in the near future," says Dr. Wayne Hayenga.

The economist for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service notes that there are a few "red tape" details to be overcome before the agency can help farmers.

"Currently the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) is the only large agency serving farmers' large financial needs. But this agency does not presently provide financing for farm partnerships—even family operations—and limits the number of loans per borrower. The SBA does not have these restrictions and will assume some of the discarded clients," says Hayenga.

However, there is a bill now in Congress to eliminate these FmHA failings. This creates a possible overlap in the paperwork and organization of loans to be granted to farmers between the two agencies, notes the economist.

Hayenga says the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the SBA are currently working on an understanding to minimize overlaps. Once this agreement is reached, SBA is expected to publish proposed regulations for its farm lending, invite public comment, and then publish the final regulations—a process that could take several months.

The SBA has already set up a few guidelines by which to finance the U.S. farmer. It has set \$275,000 in annual gross sales as the upper limit for farm businesses it would finance. Also, farmers will have to compete with other small business for the agency's lendings, adds Hayenga.

In addition to making direct loans with its own funds, the SBA also makes 90 per cent guarantees of loans by commercial banks and other private lenders. The limit for SBA-guaranteed loans has been increased from \$350,000 while direct loans continue at a

\$350,000 limit. The maximum interest rate for guaranteed loans is 10 per cent.

Any businessman desiring a SBA-guaranteed loan must start with his own banker or other private lender, points out Hayenga. The lender then applies for the guarantee.

Direct loans by SBA require a turnaround by two banks, after which the small businessman can apply for a loan at a regional SBA office.

Swine Flu Clinic Slated Friday

There will be a Swine Flu Clinic Friday, December 17, 6 to 8 p.m. in the Senior Citizen's Building located at 1202 Houston, Levelland.

This clinic is for chronically ill children ages 3-17 and adults ages 18-24 to get their second dose of vaccine. Two doses 4 weeks apart are needed for full protection against the Swine Flu for this age group.

Vaccine will be available for anyone 18 and older, and for chronically ill children who have a statement from their private physician.

Douglas B. Black, M.D., Acting Director for the South Plains Health Department will be on hand for anyone having questions about the vaccine.

Finals Underway At Texas Tech

Students at Texas Tech University are facing a week of final examinations, but the pressures accompanying them are belied by the aura of the holiday season.

Carolers roam the corridors at night, doors are decorated with Christmas cards and Santa Clauses, stairways are adorned with streamers of greenery and lobbies are graced with Christmas trees, some 13 feet high.

Christmas activities planned by dormitories for their residents include tree trimming parties, ski fashion shows, decorating contests between wings in the dorms, mixers and formals.

Ornaments Created by Lubbock Resident

by Mary Alice Robbins

When Victor Johnson decides he wants a new ornament for his Christmas tree, he doesn't go to the store and buy one. Instead, he utilizes his skills as a professional glass blower and creates his own ornament.

"Most of the ornaments on our trees are ones I made," he said.

Johnson, who has spent the past 38 years in the scientific glass blowing field, currently serves as glass working shop supervisor in the chemistry department at Texas Tech University. He spent three years in apprenticeship under a professional glass blower in Dayton, Ohio, to learn the skills of the craft.

Several years ago, Johnson decided to channel his skill into a more creative vein, and creating glass miniatures and Christmas decorations became a hobby. "I wanted to see if I could do it," he explained.

His first attempt at making a Christmas tree ornament was a small mushroom made in two parts, with the cap stuck on the stem. Today, the glass blower still amuses himself by making mushroom ornaments—but the newer ones are made all in one piece.

A variety of other tree decorations also are created by

the hobbyist. "You just let your mind wander, get an idea and see if you can make that shape," Johnson said.

The result of his "mind wanderings" has been a wide range of beautiful and unusual decorations in all shapes and sizes. Tree top ornaments are the fun ones to make, Johnson noted, because they can be fashioned in any shape.

Although most glass ornaments are made from lead soda glass, Johnson uses the borosilicate glass utilized for scientific purposes because that's what he

has "handy." Borosilicate glass is a little sturdier than art glasses, he said, and can withstand heating and cooling with less chance of breakage.

Sometimes, Johnson uses cobalt blue glass in making his ornaments. In the heating process, the glass loses some of its blue coloring. After blowing the ornament to the desired shape, Johnson pours a silvering solution inside the decoration to give it a metallic luster. The silver shining through the blue glass creates a strikingly beautiful effect.

Ropes Basketball Report

Ropes 8th grade boys topped Lubbock Christian Junior High Dec. 13 with a score of 30-26. Gene Valentine scored 16 points for Ropes and Mims of Lubbock Christian scored 11.

Ropes 8th grade girls beat Lubbock Christian 27-24 on Dec. 13. Ropes' Debbie Chaney scored 12 points and Jeffreys of Lubbock Christian scored 14.

Ropes 7th grade boys topped Lubbock Christian 24-18 also on Dec. 13. Ricky Guzman of Ropes had 10 points for Ropes and

Pectol scored 6 for Lubbock Christian.

Ropes 7th grade girls also won over Lubbock Christian on Dec. 13 by a score of 27-7. Gerrie Stephenson put in 10 for Ropes and Sherri Spelce scored 3 for Lubbock Christian.

In the Ropes Tournament, Dec. 9, Ropes varsity boys lost to Spade 58-71. Chris Hobbs scored 17 for Ropes and Lynn Cowan of Spade scored 30.

Ropes varsity girls topped Spade 56-54 in the tournament, also on Dec. 9. Sherry Means scored 29 points for Ropes while Vivian Thompson of Spade put in 36.

The next day of tournament play saw Ropes over Dawson 77-60. Gary Means put in 20 for Ropes and Jesse Kitchens scored 21 for Dawson.

Ropes varsity girls lost to New Deal Dec. 10 in tournament play by 46-48. Sherry Means scored 26 for Ropes and R. Schuler and S. Kveton each scored 18 for New Deal.

Ropes varsity boys won 68-57 over Estacado Junior Varsity Dec. 11. Dicki Arant scored 19 for Ropes and Edwin Turner scored 23 for Estacado.

Ropes varsity girls lost to Whiteface 45-41 Dec. 11. Sherry Means had 21 points for Ropes and Lynette Joiner had 21 for Whiteface.

Dec. 7, Ropes varsity boys topped Meadow 77-56, with Randy Melton scoring 27 for

Watson's to Mark 50th Anniversary



A reception will be held in honor of the fiftieth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Allen T. Watson on Dec. 19 from 2 to 5 p.m., in the couple's home.

The reception is being given by the couple's five children: Leslie Watson of Lubbock; J.W. Watson of Plainview; Mrs. Robert Small of Hobbs, N.M.; Mrs. Charlie

Halford of Wichita Falls; and Gerald Watson of Lawton, Okla.

The couple have 17 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Watson moved to Ropesville in 1936 from Farmersville. They met when they were 11 years old, while attending school.

Ropes. Freddy Hernandez scored 22 for Meadow.

Ropes varsity girls won over Meadow in a district game on Dec. 7. The score was 52-50, and Sherry Means scored 31 for

Ropes, while Lori Curtis scored 20 for Meadow.

Ropes junior varsity boys topped Meadow Dec. 7 by 55-49. Joel Flowers scored 19 points for Ropes and Wren Howard scored 9 for Meadow.

Ropes Menu

Monday, December 20

Fried Chicken /Gravy
Green Beans
Tossed Salad
Rice Krispies Cookies
Roll/Butter/Milk

Tuesday, December 21

Hamburgers
Hamburger Salad
Pork & Beans
Buttered Spinach
Potato Chips-Orange Juice
Cake-Chocolate Icing
Milk

Slow Down . . .

Continued From Page One

chores may seem a necessity, but it can also make you distracted behind the wheel and more likely to have an accident.

Slow down your speed. Holiday traffic is heavier and frequently accompanied by bad weather conditions. Slower speeds can give you the extra time you need to avoid a collision.

Slow down your consumption of alcoholic beverages if you are going to be driving.

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Cindy Cowart Honored at Snyder



Miss Cindy Cowart, bride-elect of Barry Blalock was honored recently with a bridal coffee in the fellowship hall of Colonial Hill Baptist Church in Snyder.

The honoree's chosen colors of red and white were carried out in decorations with the serving table

laid with a lovely white lace cloth, centered with a beautiful red candle arrangement surrounded with red and white carnations, enhanced with a pair of white doves. The arrangement was later presented to the bride as a gift from the hostess.

Cinnamon rolls, hot sausage balls and coffee were served from lovely silver appointments to the approximately 115 guests which registered.

Lovely carnation corsages were presented to the honoree, her mother, Mrs. Jack Cowart, the future groom's mother, Mrs. Aubrey Blalock, and the future groom's grandmother, Mrs. T.E. Blalock, both of Snyder.

The hostess gift was a complete set of Faberware cooking service.

The couple plan to marry January 8, 1977, in the First Baptist Church of Shallowater.

Baptist Cantata

The choir of the First Baptist Church in Shallowater will present their Christmas Cantata, "Night of Miracles" by John W. Peterson, Sunday night, Dec. 19, at 7:00 p.m.

The cantata is under the direction of music director Aaron

Crawford and the public is cordially invited to attend.

Soloists will be Theronne Baker, Bob Johnson and Garland Boozer and Wana Beth Cook. The narrator will be Joh Anglin.

Prior to the adult choir presenting the "Night of Miracles" the Angel Choir, grades 1-4, directed by Mrs. Theronne Baker will present a play, entitled "One Night at a Christmas Party." Members of the cast

include Tanya Armes, Treca Ellis, Missy Styles, Brad Arnold, Ellen Masten, Trenton Chandler, Linda Shropshire, Anna Masten, Jana Moore, Denise Adams, Veronica Oliver, Wayne Barnes, Brad Crawford, Shariss Burgett, La Rail Wilson, Billy Ferguson, Sherri Wiley, Angie Medlock, Steffeny Wolski, Johnna Pointer, Kari White, Carole Masten, Shannon Campbell and Thomas Bloodworth.



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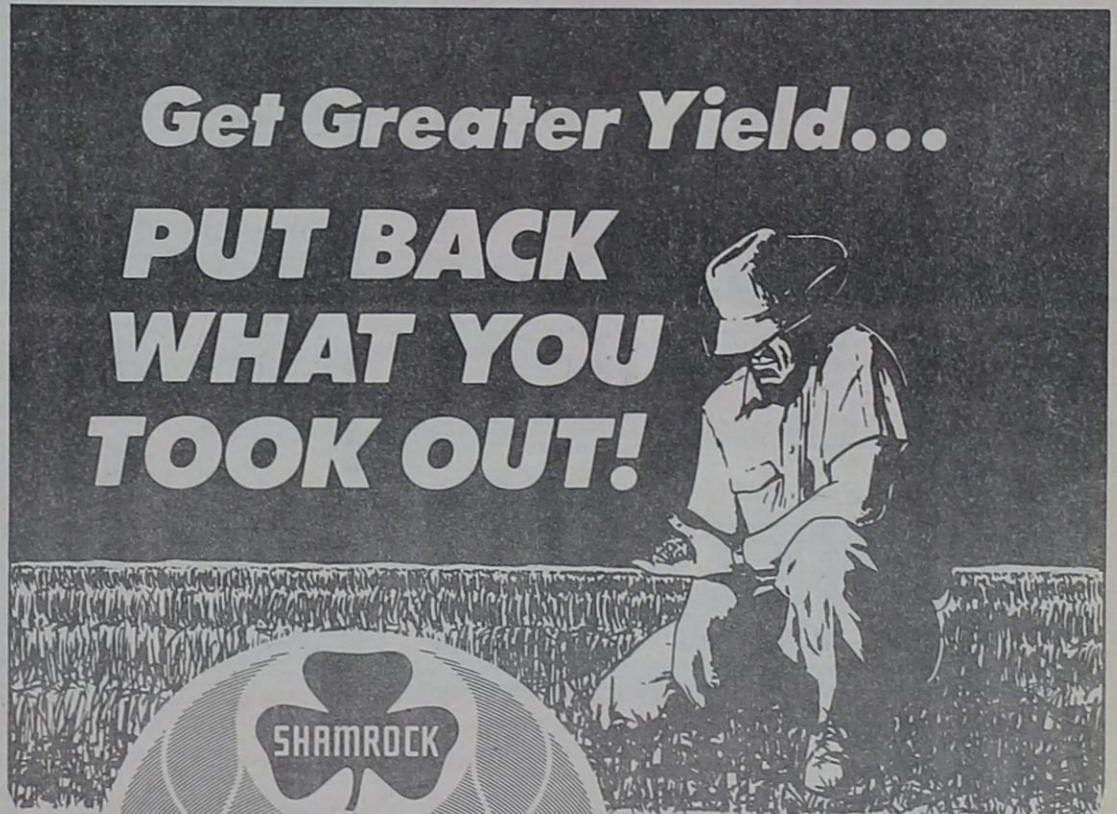
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"Never Too Late," Claim Ice Show Duo

If you're in your early twenties but feel perhaps you've left it a mite too late to succeed as an Ice Show star—here's encouraging news from the adagio team of Dan Henry and Lisa Illsley, appearing with Ice America in Fair Park Coliseum Jan. 9-10.

Dan was a ripe 23 before deciding to make the professional plunge with then 19-year-old Lisa. Prior to this, his skating interest was confined to public skating sessions while attending San Francisco State University where he obtained a history degree.

The couple, who both hail from Santa Rosa, Calif., first composed as a pair in the Pacific Coast and then the National Championships. Initial recognition came when

they were selected as the official U.S. entry in the 1975 World Professional Competition in Spain.

"It was tough slugging," Dan now admits. "But we emerged from the competitions with a definite satisfaction from maintaining our confidence even though the going had been rough."

Before turning professional, Dan and Lisa excelled in "straight pairs." They have since concentrated on the more difficult adagio routine.

"Straight pair skating is the style which is used in amateur competitions," Dan said. "Unlike adagio, it has quick and precise movements. Adagio skating is illegal in the amateur world."

Adagio is ballet on ice, meaning that the "lift" is held in the air for a longer period of time. As the lithe and attractive Lisa puts it, "We use many of the moves taught in classical ballet, particularly the beautiful arm movements."

The petite blonde skater continues, "When we first started working on an adagio routine our initial practice was on a dance floor before trying out on the ice. Because of the motion of the skates, the initial attempt can be very frightening."

Lisa spends much of her spare time working to obtain a private pilot's license. She also has a great love for music but regrets she finds few chances to play the piano while on the road.



Dan Henry and Lisa Illsley will be appearing with Ice America in the Lubbock Fair Park Coliseum Jan. 9-10, 1977. The couple was selected as the official U.S. entry in the 1975 World Professional Competition in Spain.

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Frenship School Lunch Menu

Monday, December 20

- Salmon Loaf
- French Fries
- Broccoli Spears
- Hot Roll
- Chocolate Cake
- Milk

Tuesday, December 21

- Sliced Ham/Pineapple
- Candied Yams/Marshmallows
- Green Beans
- Hot Roll/Butter
- Cherry Cobbler
- Milk

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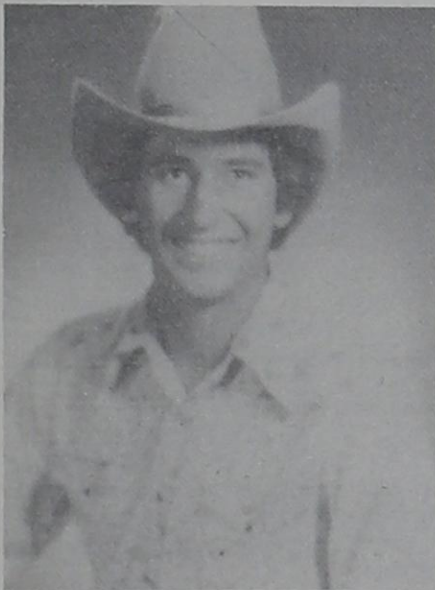
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"Extension Update"

by Georgia Doherty
Plan Early for Retirement

Hurray! Your retirement, or possibly your parent's or grandparent's retirement, is almost here, but are you ready for it?

Retirement is a major step for most people—and making a smooth transition from full-time working to satisfying retirement takes thoughtful planning and preparation.

Consider these five points in planning for retirement.

First is income. Financial preparations for the future may be the easiest part of your plans. Ask yourself these questions:

•What will my income be when I retire?

•What will my money needs be when I retire?

•Are my legal affairs in order and checked by an appropriate authority?

Then consider your health. You will take into retirement a state of health that you have been contributing to all your life. Ask yourself these questions:

•Do you exercise daily according to capability?

•Do you get adequate rest each day?

•Are you aware of the essential ingredients in maintaining sound mental health?

Next consider where you will live. There are many possible options for living arrangements in retirement. Approximately one-fourth to one-third of retirement income is spent on housing. Investigate the variety of living

arrangements available before you retire. Then ask yourself these questions:

•Will you continue to live where you are?

•Will you move into a smaller place or a low maintenance condominium?

•What will your neighborhood be like in 10-15 years?

•Will you move to a new location?

•Are the medical services and other facilities you desire available in the place you've decided to live?

•Have you tested the new location to be sure you will enjoy it?

•Are activities that interest you available in that location?

An additional, and important, consideration will be the people in your life when you retire. You may be home eight to ten hours more each day now. How will this affect your relationship with your spouse? For many couples this is a time of closer and enhanced relationship. Other family ties are a source of personal satisfaction and affection. Both old and new friends provide significant social relationships. Ask yourself these questions:

•What changes do you expect to take place in your family life and social relationships prior to retirement?

•How can you maintain contact with members of your family and your friends?

•Have you and your spouse discussed the options for engaging in meaningful activities? What are they?

•What efforts are you making toward initiating new friendships?

And last, but maybe the most

important, how will you spend your time? Planning how to invest your time after retirement may be as important as planning for the investment of money—if less tangible.

Many studies support the notion that the individual should continue to be active in retirement. Non-activity and non-use can, in the long run, result in deterioration of the mind and body. The activities you select should be acknowledged by you as being worth your time. They should provide both mental and physical stimulation and satisfaction. Ask yourself these questions:

•What leisure pursuits do you enjoy now?

•Will they add to your pleasure during retirement years?

•Can you enjoy them even more after retirement? Or maybe even convert them into a part-time business if you care to?

•Do you feel a need to develop new activities and interests?

If, during your retirement, you expect to grow—and all people need to grow—you will want to plan to develop new skills, learn new hobbies, make new friends, gain new knowledge.

These things planned for will give meaning, significance and vitality to your retirement years. It's up to you.

What we don't know is more important than that we think we know.

Trail Blazers

The pioneers who blazed the roads now have descendants who burn them up.

—Tribune, Chicago.

SPORTS

by Joe Kelly

T.J. Patterson quoted me last week—accurately—but let me expand on his statement and expound on the situation. There was hardly enough room to comment on many things and the crowd was one.

The crowd, or lack of it, for the Baylor game was downright shocking. If it was because of economics, that people just could not afford to attend, that's different. But if it was indifference, then Tech, Lubbock and West Texas is in trouble.

Bob Nash and J.T. King were talking before the game as I came along. Bob made some remark that I missed, but I heard J.T. say, softly, "we'll be lucky to have 38,000 here today. And we'll have to have a big sale today to go that high."

Nash shook his head and remarked that "didn't they know that this (Baylor) was the BIGGEST game in Tech history?"

I asked Jake if he wasn't kidding? Certainly there would be more than 50,000 fans on hand, wouldn't there?

"I'll say it again. We'll have to have a big sale to have 38,000," he declared softly.

It was easy to see that Jake was displeased, even though you couldn't tell it by the tone of voice. It was a look about him as he recited facts.

"I'll tell you something else," he asserted. "If we don't have 15,000 or more at the Bluebonnet Bowl game, the only way we'd be invited to another bowl is if we were 11-0."

And if you think Jake is whistling Dixie, forget it. Bowls are big money and they depend on ticket sales. Bowls will go to the schools that bring crowds with them.

Do you remember a few years ago when West Virginia, I think it was, played in the Sugar Bowl. New Orleans businesses were mad about the lack of support and the lack of out-of-town money spent.

It led to the famous joke: "West Virginia fans came to town with a \$10 bill and the 10 Commandments—and they didn't break either one."

That may be funny to tell at smokers, stag parties and other events, but it accurately reflects what bowls think. Nebraska, Tech's Bluebonnet Bowl foe, attracted some 15,000 Nebraskans to Hawaii this year. Now, THAT's support.

So Houston beat Tech and so Tech isn't in the Cotton Bowl. The Baylor game was for the co-championship of the league, something the Raiders never had succeeded in accomplishing in 16 prior campaigns.

All this year's team—picked about fifth or sixth in pre-season polls—did win 10 of 11 games, scare the pants off a fine Houston team in a tremendous closing rush, beat UT, A&M and Arkansas in the same season and win a co-championship.

Steve Sloan had his contract extended to 10 years the other day and we congratulate Dr. Mackey and others for this move. We also congratulate Steve on accepting it and hope that his association here will be a long and happy one.

But, in view of the crowd for the Baylor game, we would have had doubts had we been Sloan. We still haven't arrived as major college fans in West Texas. We give lip service. And I'll bet that a lot of folks waving red Sunday morning weren't at the Baylor game.

Speaking of support and bowls, Tech is encouraging anyone and everyone going to the Bluebonnet Bowl to buy tickets through Tech. We, for instance, are buying tickets for our daughter, who lives in Houston. This helps the Tech representation.

The Tech folks, by getting tickets here, will all be in the same area and this also will give more support for the Raiders. And, if you've never been in the AstroDome, just being there will be a thrill.

A good friend died last week. R.B. McAlister was a sports fan to the day he died. I caught a fleeting glimpse of him one afternoon waiting for the elevator at Jones Stadium. He tried never to miss a game and he was particularly avid when it came to baseball.

A few weeks back he called me. He suggested I come out and we'd just sit and talk about sports in general, players and teams and folks we knew. My schedule made it impossible and he understood. But I would have liked that. Mr. Mac will be missed.

Gerald Myers may think he doesn't have a good team, but this road trip didn't indicate it. The Raiders beat a couple of fair country clubs, on the road, and we know something more about this season's club.

One basketball expert said Sunday he wasn't sure but what Tech didn't have a better team than it had a year ago. It has experience. It has strong guard play. And, as he pointed out, Mike Russell can do more things than Rick Bullock could.

The Raiders, despite losing Russell and Ron Phenix, and having four fouls on Grant Dukes, still beat Wyoming rather handily—at Laramie. That takes a bit of doing, because the Cowboys are rugged. And the 5-0 record is better than a year ago at this time.

They have a week to get ready for the Indiana tournament, and Miami or Ohio, their first round foe, while host Indiana, defending national champions, are facing Utah State. A strong showing there would boost their national rating, which so far this year has been zero.

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