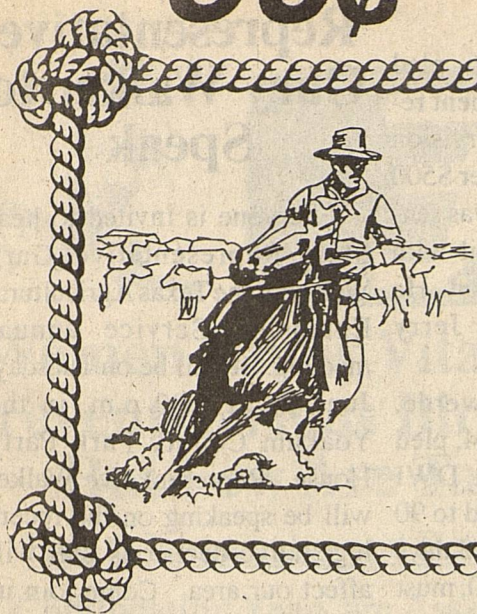


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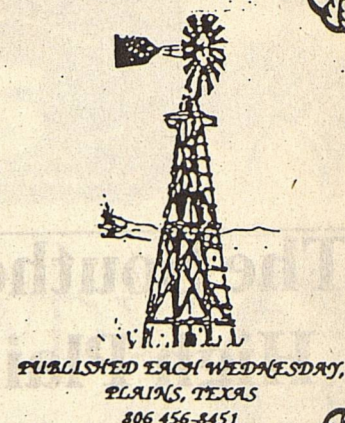
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PUBLISHED EACH WEDNESDAY,
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Volume 111, Issue 42, Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Area gears up to continue battle against boll weevil

The recently ended legislative session saw emergency cotton boll weevil legislation rushed through the House and Senate. The Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation will continue to carry out the program, but the Texas Department of Agriculture will play a larger role in setting new elections on assessments and eradication programs in regional weevil control zones. Yoakum County will be one of nineteen counties designated as the Southern High Plains Eradication Zone. Recently Texas Agriculture Commissioner Rick Perry appointed a cotton producer from each county to an advisory committee for the zone, and Don Parrish currently represents our county.

A news release from TDA dated June 13 contained the following: "Cotton farmers and land owners with cotton production are eligible to vote in an August 1 election that will determine whether a boll weevil eradication program should be initiated in the nineteen county Southern High Plains zone. In addition to initiating an eradication program, other issues in the election include approving a maximum assessment level and electing a board member from the zone to serve on the board of

directors of the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation. Producers who farm in the zone and who have grown cotton for at least seven years may place their names on the August 1 ballot for the board position. They must fill out a form and return it to TDA, Box 12847, Austin Tx 78711, or Fax it to 512-463-1104. The nominating forms are available at county extension offices, TDA at 512-463-7476 and the Foundation office in Abilene at 915-672-2800.

Don Parrish reported a recent meeting of the 19 appointed advisory committee members produced a number of recommendations to be made to Commissioner Perry. The following are some of the suggestions; Hold a referendum of growers and crop sharing landowners on a four year suppression program, noting it may be necessary to move into a full scale eradication program after the first two or three years of the suppression efforts; Recommend that the annual assessment would be \$6 per planted and harvested acre plus \$10 per bale, the acreage assessment due when cotton is harvested, the per bale assessment due 30 days after cotton leaves the gin; Growers would document their planted and harvested

acreage to the Foundation; Gins would be encouraged to participate in the collection process by allowing a per bale or per acre discount for reporting and paying. (TDA can write rules to allow gins to serve as collection points, and the Foundation would have to contract with gins to establish this procedure); Recommend a debt-borrowing authority proposition be added to referendum ballot so producers could vote on whether or not the zone could incur debt so the program could be carried out in 1997; Recommend to the Foundation they approve a contract with Plains Cotton Growers to carry out suppression activities in the zone so producers may vote on the issue during the referendum.

There will be a public meeting in Lamesa Thursday, June 19, at the Community Center. All county cotton producers have a serious stake in combatting the boll weevil, and are urged to attend this meeting. It is sponsored by the TDA.

USDA five year average figures show the 19 county eradication zone contains some 2,448,600 acres of cotton land, with an average 134,450 acres planted in Yoakum County.

Hospital designated as Basic Trauma Facility



Terry Bavousett, Charla Mitchell, Ed Rogers, Directors J.R. Slentz and Dennis Harrison

The Yoakum County Hospital was recently recognized by the Texas Department of Health as a Basic Trauma Facility in the State Trauma Service Area-B. Many of the hospital staff, administrators, Doctors and Hospital Board members were on hand Thursday morning when Terry Bavousett, EMS Program Administrator, presented Hospital Administrator Ed Rogers with a scroll commemorating the achievement.

He also read a letter from Dr. Patti J. Patterson, Texas Commissioner of Health, addressed to Rogers which read in part, "It is with great pleasure the Texas Department of Health designates Yoakum County Hospital as a Basic Trauma Facility. This designation is good for a three year period. Your hospital is to be commended for your hard work and perseverance in taking this step toward insuring quality trauma care for the patients in your area."

Mr. Bavousett said the 24 bed acute care hospital, which serves a population of some 7500, had 1137 trauma visits last year. He cited the efforts of Rogers, Joyce Tedford, RN and Trauma Coordinator, and Dr. Chris Cotton, Emergency Room Coordinator, and other staff members for their 18 month long project in seeking acceptance as a basic trauma facility.

Charla Mitchell, Regional Coordinator of trauma service area-B, also presented the hospital with a wall plaque citing the designation.

'Downburst winds', thunder storms hit area hard



Debris from demolished cart storage shed roofs scattered about course

A fast moving frontal system containing extremely high winds, rain and some hail ripped through much of the Southern High Plains late Saturday afternoon and night, creating considerable property and crop damage.

The storm apparently caused more harm in Denver City than Plains, with reports of a number of roofs being destroyed and some frontal glass damage. The

ominous looking dark cloud system passed over the County golf course around 4 p.m and ripped off the metal covering a number of golf cart sheds. The debris was scattered hundreds of yards from the rows of sheds, and part of the metal ripped up the putting surface on the number two green. A number of large trees were also uprooted and destroyed.

There were reports of some

damaging hail around the county, apparently most occurring in the northwest portion of the county. An irrigation pivot system belonging to Chris Blundell was flipped upside down in the storm.

No exact figures were available at press time about the number of acres of cotton damaged or destroyed in the storm, and rainfall reports ranged from just a trace to almost two inches.

Criminal cases heard in County Court

Seven criminal cases were heard in County Court June 11, with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding. Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the State.

Bobby Trevino, 20, had terms of his community supervision modified, including extending the period of supervision 14 additional months to allow time for completion of the Life Challenge of Amarillo, Inc. He must pay \$40 per month each month he is not in Life Challenge, and his semi-automatic pistol was forfeited. He was represented by Attorney Charles Mais.

Jose Reynaldo Salazar, 37, pled guilty to a charge of assault causing bodily injury. He received a sixty day jail sentence, suspended and probated 12 months. He was fined \$500, must pay \$157 Court costs, and successfully complete the Batterer's Intervention Prevention Program (BIPP) in Dallas at his expense.

Anthony Joseph Cavazos, a.k.a. Tony Cavazos, 31, also pled guilty to assault causing bodily injury. He received adjudication of guilt, deferred, his 60 day jail sentence was suspended

Turn to page 2,
"CRIME CASES"

The 75th Session.... How our local Representative views the recent 140 days of grueling state business in Austin

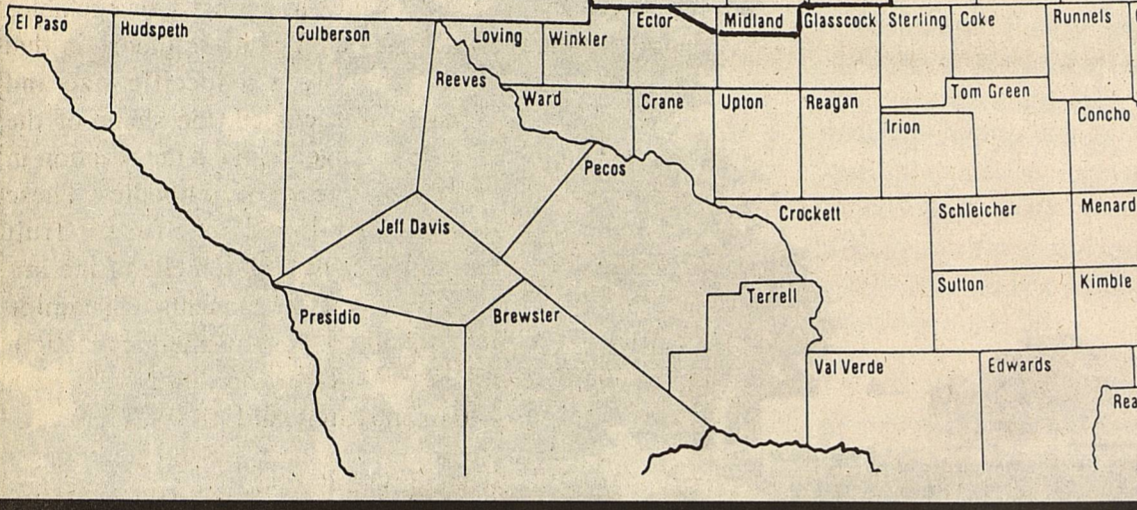
District 80 State Representative Gary Walker returned home on June 4, following the close of the 75th Texas Legislative Session, which began January 14, one hundred forty statutory days of long and arduous debate, review, study, arguing and compromise on 5,727 submitted bills affecting the lives of all Texans. When the smoke of political battle and debate had cleared, some 1,502 bills had cleared the House and Senate, while a few of the more important issues would be decided in a Constitutional Amendment election this coming November.

In an exclusive interview last Thursday, Walker spoke candidly of his experiences and views of the session was, "I think it would rate about an 8 on a scale of 1 to 10, not because all people were pleased with our work, but because we addressed and acted on issues which affected the people of my district. We passed an emergency Boll Weevil bill, with very limited time left on the calendar, which I feel will eventually lead to a full and comprehensive state wide effort to effectively control this destructive pest which can destroy our cotton industry on the High Plains, and the entire state. I am also especially proud we successfully passed Senate Bill 1, the so called Water Bill, which sets in place regulations which will help ensure Texas will be able to conserve and preserve one of our most precious assets, our groundwater." Asked what he considered the most significant accomplishments were in the session affecting our 80th District, Walker said, "Number one, we didn't lose ground in our efforts to protect our agricultural interests. All of the measures calling for new or additional taxes on farm and ranch supplies and fuels, chemicals, fertilizer and other essential expenditures for production were defeated. I also feel good about the defeat of HB 4, the so called Property Tax and School Finance Bill. I could not support the House version of the bill primarily because it called for the removal of all businesses from our county tax rolls, with their taxes going directly to Austin instead of remaining part of our county tax base. This would have had a drastic effect on county school districts such as Plains, Denver City, Andrews, Seminole, Levelland and others in my district. Instead of local districts receiving tax benefits from these businesses, the tax dollars would

Turn to page 5, "75th LEGISLATIVE SESSION"

The Southern High Plains Boll Weevil Eradication Zone

Dallam	Sherman	Hansford	Ochiltree	Lipscomb
Hartley	Moore	Hutchinson	Roberts	Hemphill
Oldham	Potter	Carson	Gray	Wheeler
Deaf Smith	Randall	Armstrong	Donley	Collingsworth
Parmer	Castro	Swisher	Briscoe	Hall
Bailey	Lamb	Hale	Floyd	Motley
Cochran	Hockley	Lubbock	Crosby	Dickens
Yoakum	Terry	Lynn	Garza	Kent
Gaines	Dawson	Borden	Scurry	Fisher
Andrews	Martin	Howard	Mitchell	Nolan



County declares emergency to repair office in Denver City

Following Sheriff Jim Rice's report of storm damage to his departments office building in Denver City, Commissioners Court Monday declared an emergency, allowing repair work to start immediately. Last Saturdays fierce rain and wind storm ripped a large part of the building's roof away, and every office sustained heavy damage to equipment, supplies, carpeting, furniture and air conditioner. The damages will run into thousands of dollars, and the building is virtually unusable. The County insurance company will be asked to send an adjuster immediately to examine the damaged building, and all of the storm damaged county property at the local golf course.

A letter was recently received from the Texas Department of

Transportation approving a request for a cable fence to be installed at the entrance to a little league ball park just off Highway 214 near the Shell Plant. The State will furnish the cable and posts, and Precinct Two employees will install the fence.

J P Court Cases Heard

The following is a summary of cases heard, and bonds and fines set in Justice of Peace Court, Presiding One, with Judge Melba Crutcher presiding.

45 traffic cases, 9 minors in possession of alcoholic beverages, one miner consuming alcohol, one making alcoholic beverage available to a miner, one public intoxication.

Bonds and fines; DWI, first-\$1,000 Bond, Failure to appear on original charge of Marijuana-\$25,000 Bond, Failure to appear on original charge of engaging in organized crime, \$50,000 Bond, Possession of Marijuana, \$500 Bond. Possession of Controlled substance, \$2,500 Bond. Injury to a child-grand jury indictment \$5,000 Bond. Assault causing bodily injury-\$2,000 Bond. Probation violation-no bond. No drivers license-\$92.00-Fine. DWI-no bond. Assault causing bodily injury-\$1,500-Bond.

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From page 1,
"CRIME CASES"
and probated, he was fined \$150, and must pay \$157 Court costs, and complete the BIPP at his expense. His attorney was Jerry Corbin.
Raymond Rodriguez Moreno, a.k.a. Ray Moreno, Rod Moreno, 42, pled guilty to a first offense DWI charge. He was sentenced to 161 days in jail, with credit for 161 days served in the Yoakum and Lubbock County jails. He was fined \$500 and must pay \$227 Court costs. He was represented by Attorney Phillip Wischkaemper.
Jorge Garcia, 30, pled guilty to a second offense DWI charge, with an open container. He received a 6 day jail sentence with credit for 3 days served, and is to be released to the U.S. Border Patrol after his jail time is

served.
Jose Perez Jimenez, 36, pled true to the state's judgement revoking community supervision for criminal mischief over \$500 but less than \$1500. He was sentenced to 30 days in jail with credit for 32 days served. He was represented by Jerry Corbin.
Bernardo Aguirre Valverde, a.k.a. Barnet Valverde, 44, pled guilty to a subsequent DWI charge. He was sentenced to 90 days in jail with credit for 3 days served. He was fined \$750, must pay \$227 Court costs, will have his drivers license suspended 180 days, and a driving while license suspended cause was adjudicated. He was represented by Attorney Ruth Cantrell.

Representative Gary Walker to Speak

Everyone is invited to hear State Representative Gary Walker at the Texas Agricultural Extension Service annual meeting. It will be on Tuesday, June 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the Yoakum County Park Party House. Representative Walker will be speaking on the recent legislative decisions that will affect our area. Come join us for homemade ice cream, a great speaker and to find out the latest happenings with the Extension Service!

June 22, 1865- Gen. Phillip Sheridan took command of Fort Brown, now Brownsville.

AUCTION FRIDAY, JUNE 20 10:00 A.M.

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Location: Denver City (Yoakum Co.) From Intersection Hwy. 214 & Hwy. 83, North on Hwy. 214, .5 Miles to Shell Oil Co. Lot
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City of Denver City- Denver City School - Yoakum County
10% Buyers Premium Except On Rolling Stock

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Equipment: '80 JD Tractor W/JD Shredder, Ford Backhoe (doesn't run), '74 Ford 800 Cab Over Truck W/ 1500 C. Asphalt Distributor, Tulsa Winch Mounted On Headache Rack, Ditch Witch W/Trailer, '65 Hobbs Float Trailer W/ Wooden Deck, FMC Sewer Jett, White Fork Lift, Hyster Fork Lift (salvage), Elec. Pipe Threader on Stand, Trailer Air Compressor (salvage), Ingersol Rand Air Compressor, FMC Tire Changer, Delco Steam Cleaner, Bennet Gasoline Pumps, 12 Volt Trash Pump, FMC Chemical Sprayer (good), Floor Jack, Hook-up Aerator
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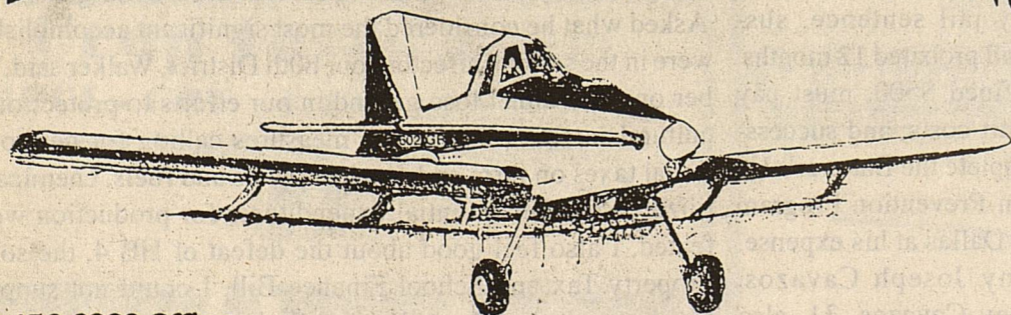
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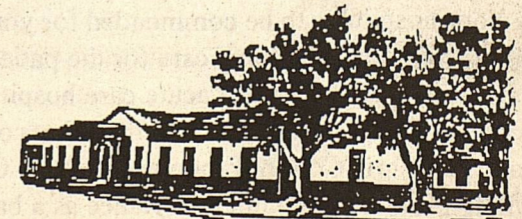
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Liquid Application

David and Sarah Guetersloh

An open letter to my friends in Yoakum County;
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Femme Friends



Women Know Vitamins Can Prevent Serious Birth Defects, But Few Are Taking It

Health Knowledge and Behavior During Childbearing Years are Assessed in Major Opinion Poll

White Plains, N.Y., June 10—A new nationwide survey shows that while more American women of child bearing age have heard of folic acid, a B vitamin that can greatly reduce their risk of having a baby with serious birth defects of the brain and spine, the proportion of women actually taking the multivitamin on a daily basis remains low.

Only 32 percent of women ages 18-45 take daily multivitamin containing folic acid. Among women who were pregnant in the two years preceding the survey, only 23 percent reported taking a daily multivitamin before pregnancy began.

"Seven out of ten women begin to take folic acid too late to reduce their risk of having a baby with a neural tube defect such as spina bifida or anencephaly," said Dr. Jennifer L. Howse, president of March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, which commissioned the survey. "In order to be effective in preventing these birth defects, folic acid must be consumed before pregnancy and during the early months of pregnancy. Much remains to be done to ensure that more women get folic acid at the critical time and in the right amount to improve their chances of having a healthy baby."

Awareness of folic acid jumped 14 percentage points over the two-year period, from 52 percent of women in 1995 to 66 percent in 1997. Awareness

of the U.S. Public Health Service recommendation that all women capable of having a baby consume 400 micrograms of folic acid daily to prevent neural tube defects rose from 15 percent in 1995 to 22 percent in 1997. Specific knowledge of the health benefits of folic acid nearly doubled: whereas only 9 percent of women knew in 1995 that folic acid can prevent birth defects, this figure rose to 16 percent in 1997.

Asked in 1995 and 1997 to name a food that is a good source of folic acid, about half of all women who had heard of folic acid were unable to do so. However, in 1997, 16 percent who had heard of folic acid correctly named orange juice as a good source, up from just 6 percent in 1995.

Although nearly all women agree that it is important for a woman that is planning to have a child to see her doctor before she is pregnant, only 27 percent of the women who have had a pregnancy say they actually made a visit to the doctor prior to conceiving.

Bridal Shower
Honoring Miss Lori Pace
Bride-elect of Josh
Traweek, Saturday June
21, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. in
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cal Merchants.

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Disabled Placards Available At County Tax Offices

The first of the permanently disabled person placards that were issued in 1992 will begin to expire on June 30. The Yoakum County Tax Office reminds citizens that they must obtain new placards to remain in compliance with state and federal laws.

Permanently disabled person placards are hung from a vehicle's rear view mirror and entitle the holder to certain parking privileges. Placards may also be displayed in any vehicle used by or for the transportation of a disabled person.

"State law requires that permanently disabled person placards be renewed after five years," said Wanda Smith, Yoakum County Tax Assessor-Collector. "We started issuing placards in July 1992 under the direction of state lawmakers and the Texas Department of Transportation. Five years later, the first wave of these placards holders must get replacements. Citizens should pay close attention to the expiration date because there won't be any renewal notices for placards."

Placards renewals will be processed through the Yoakum County Tax Collector. Citizens are asked to take their expired placards to the Tax office, where they will complete a form and pay a statutory \$5.00 fee per card. Permanently disabled Texans may obtain up to two placards; they also have the option of getting one placard and one set of disabled person license plates.

Approximately 800,000 permanently disabled placards have been issued statewide since 1992. First-time applicants for permanently disabled person placards or license plates have to meet certain eligibility requirements; their application must also bear the signature of a licensed Texas physician or optometrist. The County Tax Assessor-Collectors issue placards locally to bearer of a placard is available only through the County Tax Offices.

Questions about permanently disabled person placards should be referred to the Yoakum County Tax Office. Call 456-2825 or 592-2331

County Students Named To SPC Honor List

Levelland—Ten students from Yoakum County have been named to the Dean's Honor List for the spring 1997 semester at South Plains College.

Dean's List members are Denver City Jason Matus, Amy Williams, and Amber Riker, and Plains residents Emma Tobar, Cleve Bearden, Ken McAdams, Jeremy Dearing, Valerie Blair, Gale McDonnell, and Lisa Duran.

"We would like to commend these students for their hard work in achieving and maintaining an excellent grade point average," said Dr. Gary McDaniel, SPC president. "This shows the effort and dedication they are making toward their college studies."

During a time like this we realize how much our friends really mean to us.... Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered by the family of Bob Lester

"A New Lady Raider"

Jordan Michelle Warren announces the arrival of her sister, Tatum Bailey Warren. She weighed 7 and 1/2 pounds and was 21 inches long. She was born June 10, at 12:53 a.m. at Lubbock's Methodist Hospital. Tatum is the daughter of Doug and Michelle Warren of Littlefield.

The baby's grandparents are Elaine Furr of Eunice, NM and Jim and Lela Warren of Plains. She is the great-granddaughter of James and Jerry Warren and Mary Lou Parks all of Plains. The baby is named in honor of her great-great grandfather, the late James Bailey Ricketts, father of Jerry Warren.



HOWDY!

By: *Kathy Adair*



Allergic Reactions To Raw Fruits And Vegetables

The best part of tending a garden is the fresh fruit and vegetables it produces. There is nothing better than a vine ripened tomato. Even though eating fresh fruits and vegetables is recommended, sometimes they can cause allergic reaction. Why is it that a person can eat cooked fruit and vegetables without experiencing allergic reactions, but when eating the same fruits and vegetables raw an allergic reaction is triggered? The basic theory is that allergenic molecules are almost always a specific size and shape. When a food is cooked or processed, the shape of the molecule is changed so that it no longer triggers the reaction in which the allergen stimulates the release of antibodies. These antibodies called immunoglobulin E are specific for fruit molecule. These antibodies attach or link up to cells of the immune system causing a release of the components (histamine and other chemical substance) that produces an allergic reaction. The fact that the cooked food counterpart no longer triggers a reaction is reported most frequently in regards to fruits and vegetables. Some can be dangerous and even life-threatening. So you suspect you know that a certain food causes you a specific allergic symptom, check with your family physician or allergist about any type of allergic reaction that you may be experiencing.

Senior Citizens Corner

On Wednesday Tommy Hicks, wife Julie and Tommy III visited, and Tommy did a discussion on Tax discounts for Senior Citizens. The talk was helpful and appreciated. We need all the help available. Thanks Tommy. Then today (Thursday) was "Cinco De Mayo" day a bit late but really nice. Those who missed the Celebration are the big losers.

The persons representing SPAG were Pete Lara, Rod Muysoundt, Sue Smith, Fred Stephens, and Joann Solana. Pete Lara, Program Specialist, practiced his Spanish, greeted guests and assisted in the "Mexican Bingo Game."

Rod Muysoundt gave a presentation on food preparation. Sue Smith visited, and reminded us she would be moving shortly and we would have a New Director.

Fred Stephens brought as guest City Manager Stan David, but I do not know his SPAG title.

Joann Solana, secretary,

seemed to be their "GIRL FRIDAY", doing lots of the work.

We had Mexican Music by some of our local youths. A Mexican "Hat Dance" that was really cute. Those youngsters were the stars of the whole show. THANKS!

Our dining room was decorated in Traditional Mexican style. Thanks to all who helped and to the greeting committee.

Some of the visitors (I did not get names of many), were Mayor Reinert and wife, Editor Bowman, Velda Dorthy's family, Inacia Saveria, and many more.

Thanks for coming and the door is open for another visit.

Our condolences to Becky Cryder on the death of her mom.

Activities June 16 thru 20; Monday; Line dance (:30, Pool/Games 6:30 p.m. Lovington, Hearing Aid 10:30 a.m. Wednesday; line dancing 9:30 a.m., Pool Tournament 10:00 a.m., Medical Arts B/P check 11:00 - 11:30 a.m., Thursday; Miracle Ear 10:00 - Noon, Gail Ballou 11:00 a.m., Friday; Line dancing 9:30 a.m., Site Council 10:00 a.m. Lunch every day at 11:30 a.m.

A big THANK YOU to all who helped make our week a bit special. Smitty

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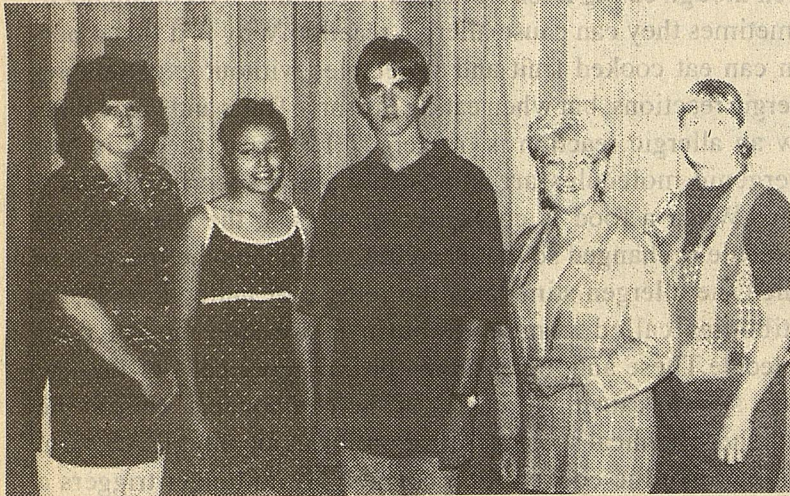
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Yoakum County Democratic Club Meeting

The Yoakum County Democratic Club met Thursday, June 12th at 5:30 p.m. at the Yoakum County Park in the Party Room. Special guests were Rita Leija of Denver City and Spencer Deaton of Plains. These 2 graduating seniors won \$200.00 savings accounts at the Yoakum County Federal Credit Union. The prizes were awarded at parties following graduation in Plains and Denver City. The Youth Projects Committee invited the family, teachers, and friends of these 2 seniors to attend the meeting. Other activities addressed at the meeting include the July 4th celebration, the Old Settlers Reunion and the Watermelon Festival. Homemade ice cream, cookies, and punch were served at the meeting. The Youth Projects Committee includes Olivia Robertson, Pam Redman, Rick and Nancy Dickson, Ty Earl Powell and Linda Lowrey. Officers of the club are Billy Ray Moore, Chair; Linda Lowrey, Vice Chair; Olivia Robertson, Reporter; Mary Ellen Rodriguez, Secretary; and Ty Earl Powell, County Chair.



Pam Redman, Rita Leija, Spencer Deaton, Olivia Robertson and Nancy Dickson

City to Conduct annual pet vaccination clinic

The City of Plains will sponsor a dog and cat vaccination clinic Saturday, June 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Plains City Hall. City personnel will also be available to issue city dog tags.

Plains City Code 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 4 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.

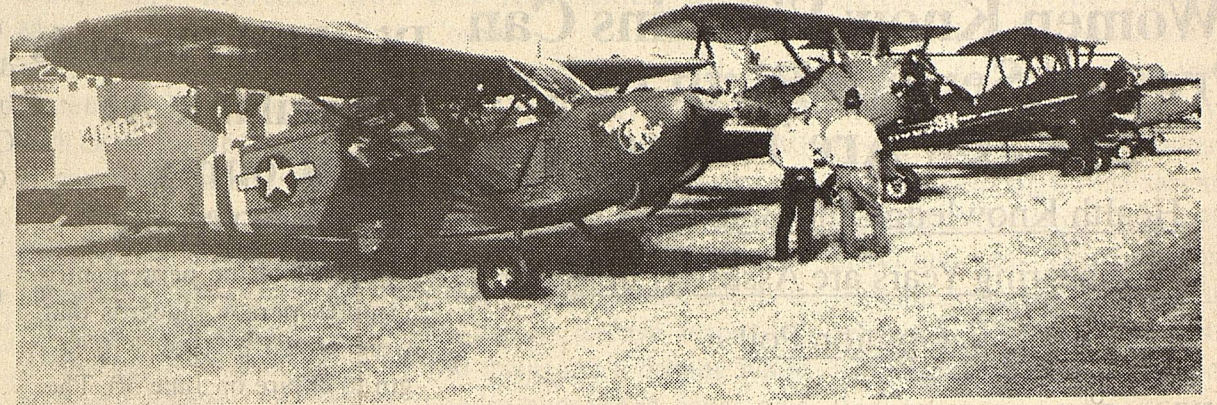
This code also requires that pet owners keep their pets properly restrained. The Code defines a restrained animal as one that is "confined on the premises of the owner within a fenced enclosure capable of confining the animal; fastened or picketed by a lead, rope, or chain so as to keep the animal on 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."

Unrestrained dogs that have a current City tag and proof of vaccination that are impounded by the animal control officer shall be held for 3 days.

During the 3 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

Denver City hosts another successful 'Fly In Breakfast'



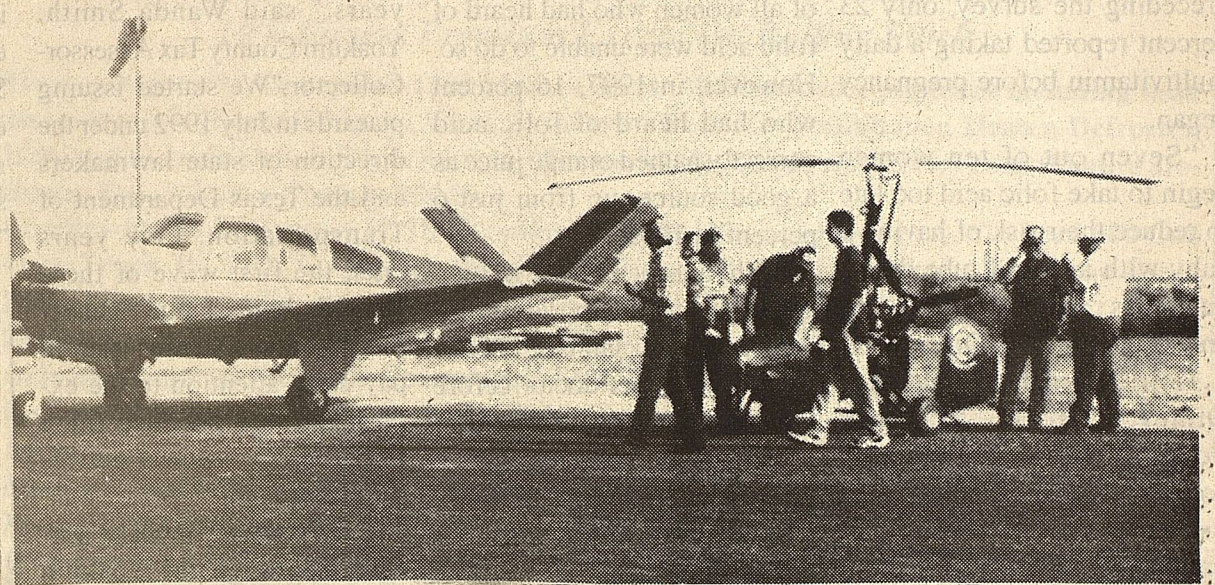
World War II observation plane and three two-seater training aircraft

The Denver City Airport Board hosted another very successful 'Fly In Breakfast' Saturday morning, with some 80 visiting aviation enthusiasts bringing in 55 aircraft for the event. The Board started the annual event with the first Fly-In in 1985, and it has grown each year since in attracting aviation fans from local areas and out of state flyers.

Volunteers start cooking a great breakfast early to meet the arriving flyers and local guests, a meal of ham, bacon, sausage, scrambled and fried eggs, pancakes, coffee and juices. This year the Board volunteers served 284 guests.

J.R. Slentz, one of the Board volunteers, said "The fly-in is funded by the profit we make from selling aviation fuel to local and visiting pilots, and to induce the out of towners to return each year, we sell them fuel when they come to the event for \$1.00 per gallon, a loss to us, but it helps bring them back, and these planes are really a drawing card for our local people."

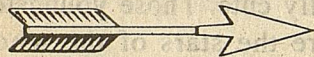
Some of the more interesting aircraft at the fly-in this year included a one seater helicopter flown by Neal Newsom of Plains, a tiny little one seater airplane with a lower wing below the cockpit and another mounted aft and above the pilot, and four vintage WW II training and combat observation aircraft flown by Hobbs, New Mexico pilots



Neal Newsom's tiny helicopter drew curious viewers

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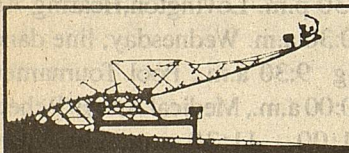
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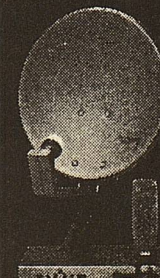
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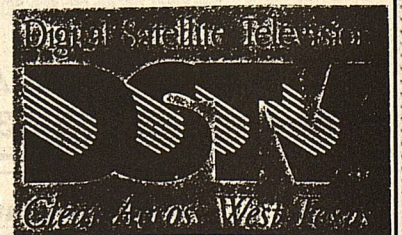
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From page 1, '75th LEGISLATIVE SESSION'

have gone to Austin, to be distributed at the State's will, not by my district's counties. I agree, property tax payers are entitled to more relief than the passed version of the bill spells out, but if the measure is approved in the Constitutional Amendment election vote in November, Texas homeowners will receive a \$10,000 increase in their homestead exemptions, and based on statewide averages, a home owner will see a decrease in their homestead taxes of about 15%, which is significant."

Asked if he considered any of the thousands of introduced bills "frivolous", Walker responded, "Of course. There are always members presenting bills which they realistically know cannot be passed, whether as a special interest gesture for certain members of their district or whatever. The built-in safeguard of reviewing bills in committees prior to introduction normally weeds out proposals which are not realistic or do-able."

Because House Bill 4 was of such special interest to voters in Walker's 80th District, we asked if plain old politics, Democrats versus Republicans, liberals versus conservatives, played a significant role in HB 4's failure, and he said, "No, I think it was a matter of basic philosophy. Both sides agreed property tax relief was overdue, yet continued adequate funding for our public schools was of paramount importance. The House Bill would have transferred taxes on businesses to the state, which the Senate disagreed with. I could not support the House version either, because of that provision. I can assure you, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor and the Select Committee spent many long, tough hours in debate over this bill, trying to reach a compromise, which didn't materialize. I am sure the issue will surface again in the next session."

Walker served on the prestigious Appropriations Committee. He was one of only three 'sophomore' term representatives to serve as a Vice-Chairman of a committee, that of Natural Resources. He was also tabbed to serve as a conferee on the House-Senate Conference Committee studying the important 'Water Bill'.

The Water Bill contains provisions vitally important to water thirsty West Texas and the Agricultural industry. The bill contains provisions which by the year 2001 should help Texans maintain an adequate supply of water for all users. Walker said one of the more important provisions of the bill allows more local water districts to be established. He said, "I think it is critical that local districts are established to govern and regulate their precious ground water assets, and not allow water rules for individuals to come from Austin. If local districts, like our local Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District, can show Austin we know what we are doing, we are taking all the steps to conserve and preserve our water, that our producers and users are aware of and practicing the latest in conservation measures, we can control our destiny with our groundwater. It makes better sense to me than having measures mandated from Austin for West Texans." Asked if he supported any legislation which failed to pass, Walker said, "Yes I did. I was sorry the bill introduced calling for mandatory notification of parents when young, unmarried teen girls request an abortion was defeated. This does not mean I am in favor of abortion rights. I simply think it would have called for more parental involvement, involvement which initially could possibly have prevented the situation, and involvement which could benefit the young girl and her unborn. I was also sorry to see the "Same Sex Marriage Prevention Bill" defeated. It may be controversial, but I just can't get ready for that type situation."

On the matter of upcoming election policies, Walker said he thinks House Speaker Pete Laney will retain his speakers position in the 76th Legislative Session. He also thinks present Lieutenant Governor Bob Bullock's decision to not run for re-election "Opens a new can of worms in Texas politics. Present Comptroller John Sharp has already formally announced his intentions to run for the office. I think it is a distinct possibility Governor George W. Bush will be considered by the Republican party as a candidate for the Presidency or Vice-Presidency. It's already being rumored State Agriculture Commissioner Rick Perry is coveting the Lieutenant Governors office, and retired baseball great Nolan Ryan is already being mentioned as a prime candidate for the Ag Commissioner's job. The upcoming election year could be very interesting". He then added, "You can definitely quote me, "Yes, I will be a candidate for re-election as State Representative of District 80."

Asked why he thought the earlier, 74th Legislative Session seemed to generate more positive public opinion than this 75th session, Walker said, "I feel one factor was the 74th dealt with a

number of smaller, yet still important issues, like tort reform, juvenile crime and justice system issues while this session's main focus was on tax relief. When HB 4 failed to pass, public perception was, the whole session was a flop. That's not true, of course. In the 74th session, Governor Bush detailed a number of issues which needed remedying, and we pretty well dealt with most of them. This year, everyone was zeroed in on property tax reform and school funding, and when the House bill failed to clear the conference committee, the media and the public saw the session as a failure, which I think is an oversimplification. In the few days since I returned from Austin, visiting with constituents around the district, I am seeing more people with positive attitudes about the session, but it wasn't a washout, either. We will be able to better evaluate the session after the November election allowing the voters to express their opinions on the various constitutional amendments originating in the 75th session."

A meeting will be held at noon, Wednesday, June 18 to discuss issues concerning plans for the new Boll Weevil Eradication Program. A catered meal will be served in the community building. All county producers and owners of cotton land are urged to attend. This event will outline some of the topics to be discussed at the regional public meeting in Lamesa on June 19, to discuss ongoing plans for eradication efforts. The Lamesa event is sponsored by the Texas Department of Agriculture

Rig Count

Houston - The number of oil and gas rigs operating nationwide jumped by 27 this week to 988, Baker Hughes Inc, said Friday.

There were 781 rigs operating in the United States during the same week last year.

Of the rigs running this week, 580 were exploring for natural gas and 404 for oil. Four rigs were listed as miscellaneous.

Houston-based Baker Hughes has kept track of the count since 1940. The tally peaked at 4,500 in December of 1981 during the oil boom. It dropped to a record low of 596 in the summer of 1993, exceeding the previous low of 663 in 1986. The rig count represents the

Young artists create mural in Youth Center



Shown adding final touches to mural are Luis Escobar, Tanya Hernandez, Laura Hernandez, and Sharla Vantine.

Art instructor Bob McClellan of Morton got them started, but said "The kids did all the work, and it's good work", when Plains youths completed a large, 27 by 8 foot mural in the Youth Center here last week. The full color work depicts common scenes of activities at the center, and the project was sponsored by the Yoakum County Connection, part of its summer projects for youths program. Taking part in the painting were Gabriela Velasquez, 9, Elva Velasquez, 12, Jamie Covarrubias, 10, Daniella Lazos, 9, Luis Escobar, 14, Tanya Hernandez, 17, Laura Flores, 17, and Sharla Vantine, 14.

More storm damage scenes from golf course



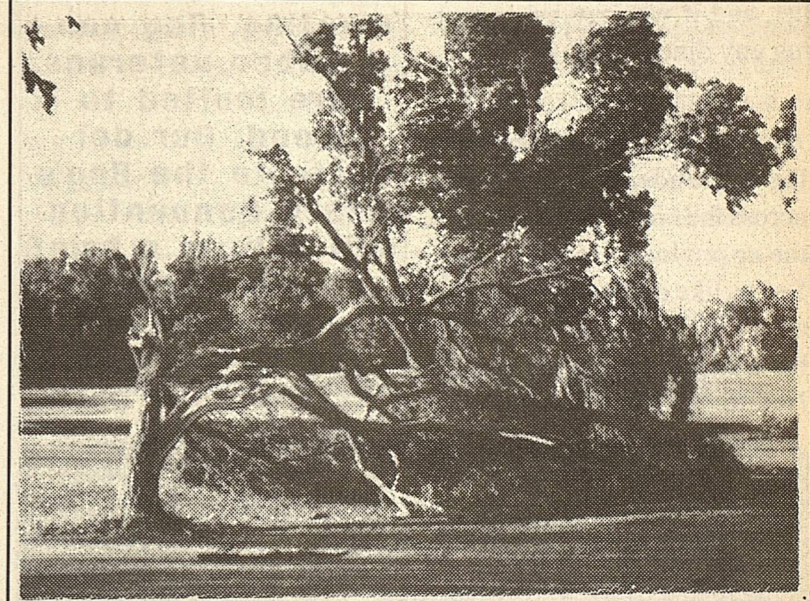
number of rigs actively exploring for oil and natural gas.

Of the major oil and gas-producing states, Texas gained the most with seven rigs. Louisiana followed with four more, while Wyoming and Pennsylvania each added three.

Oklahoma was up by two. North Dakota and Colorado each added one rig.

New Mexico had four fewer rigs, while Kansas was down by one.

California, Michigan and Ohio were unchanged.



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From The Hack

I happened across a few tidbits of information on one of the many news sources on the internet which illustrate all too frequent moments of idiocy in governmental agencies. One article read, "Last November, as a growing trend to manage school curricula, the New York Legislature required public school students 8 and over to receive formal instructions in the Irish Potato Famine of the 1840's. New Jersey already has the potato study requirement."

Why don't they make the kids study something serious and meaningful, like maybe the mating habits of the great horned owl, or include questions about sheep wool on the TAAS tests?

Another article detailed how the Dept. of the Interior failed to remove several plant and wildlife species from the endangered species list, despite evidence from scientists and biologists proving they do not exist. The government resists removing them, saying it costs \$37,000 to remove each name, but meanwhile has added hundreds of new ones in the last few years. Hmhmhm - I wonder, if it costs \$37,000 bucks to erase a name, how much did it cost to put it on the list? I would like to see the entire list, but my house may not be big enough to hold it. I wonder if the Do-DO bird is on the list, and if we may be protecting any dinosaurs?

I'm getting a bit fed up with these thunderstorms ripping across the area, and I suspicion the ag producers feel the same. Seems like every time we write about what a great start we have for the crop year, Mother Nature deals us a low blow in

the form of hail or sand blowing winds causing damage to some of the fledgling cotton crop.

Bride and I were outdoors Monday afternoon, watching the building clouds, when she announced, "Hurry, let's go cover the tomato plants." We furiously covered the things, already in wire baskets, with black plastic garbage bags, tied down with nylon cord, black electric tape and Super Glue, moments before the furious winds hit. Panting from our exertions, we sat on the deck, me sipping Kool-Aid, the Bride into the Blackberry Wine, and went into hysterics when the furious winds ripped the garbage bags off, and even pulled some of the baskets out of the ground. I was so stunned, so shocked, I promptly threw up my Kool-Aid, but the Bride calmly announced, "Don't worry, I'll run down to East Texas every week and get you some GOOD tomatoes, do a little visiting with the family, and be back by Tuesday every week."

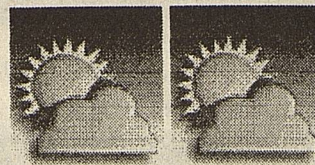
I have put this on the calculator, and figure we are looking at \$26.40 per pound tomatoes." She said, "Bon Appetite."

* NOTICE *

The local American Legion Post will hold its annual meeting Thursday, June 19, 7:00 p.m., at Chris Blundell's Barn on airport Road. All members are urged to be there for a barbecue meal, election of officers, and a brief business meeting. Any non-member veterans are invited to attend. Our delegate to the Boy's State Convention will deliver a brief address about his experiences at the convention. PLEASE JOIN US!

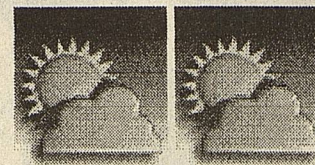
USA TODAY Four Day Forecast

WEDNESDAY THURSDAY



90s 90s

FRIDAY SATURDAY



90s 90s

Wednesday: Partly cloudy, periods of sunshine, high of 87, overnight low 62.

Thursday: Partly cloudy, periods of sunshine, high of 91, overnight low 66.

Friday: Partly cloudy, periods of sunshine, high of 94, overnight low 68.

Saturday: Partly cloudy, periods of sunshine, high of 91, overnight low 65.

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Sealed bids will be accepted in the office of James Haynes, Superintendent, Plains ISD, 1000 10th Street, until 1:00 p.m., Monday, July 7, 1997. Bids will be opened and read at that time. Information can be obtained by contacting Eric Banfield, Plains ISD, Box 479, Plains, Tx 79355 or calling 806-456-7483.

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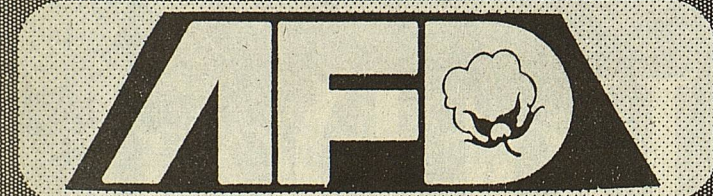
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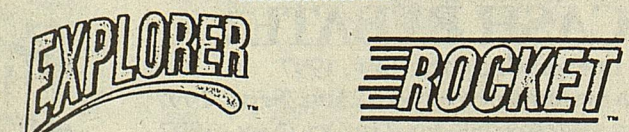
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