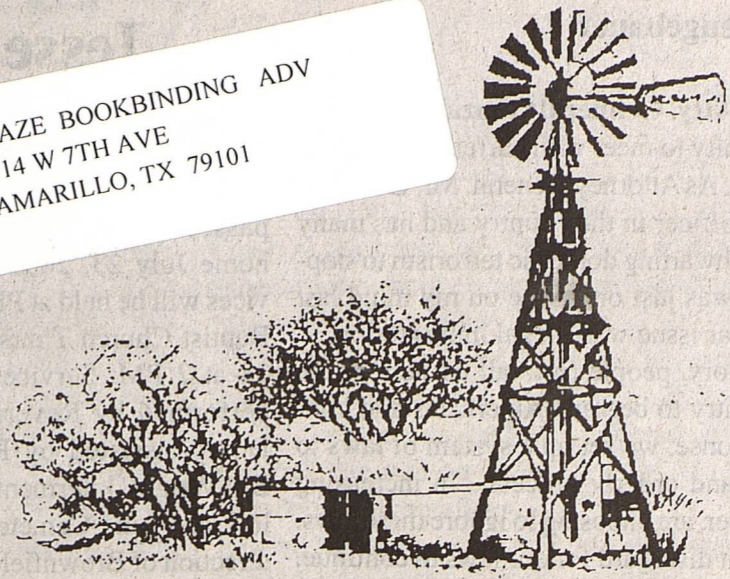


Cowboy Country News

Published each Wednesday in the county seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas

Volume XI, Issue 44, July 27, 2005

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Security Measure Taken At Courthouse



This photo shows the new sign in place at front of the east side of the courthouse and the walkway leading to a former entrance to the office of the County Clerk. Earlier this year, following a deadly shooting at the county courthouse in Tyler, most city and county officials reviewed security measures around their installations. Locally, county department heads met to review possible steps they could take to ensure a safer environment for both employees and courthouse customers and visitors. Law enforcement officials here agreed this public access should be closed to public use. All other access points to the courthouse will remain in use.

Lions Prep For Rodeo And Reunion

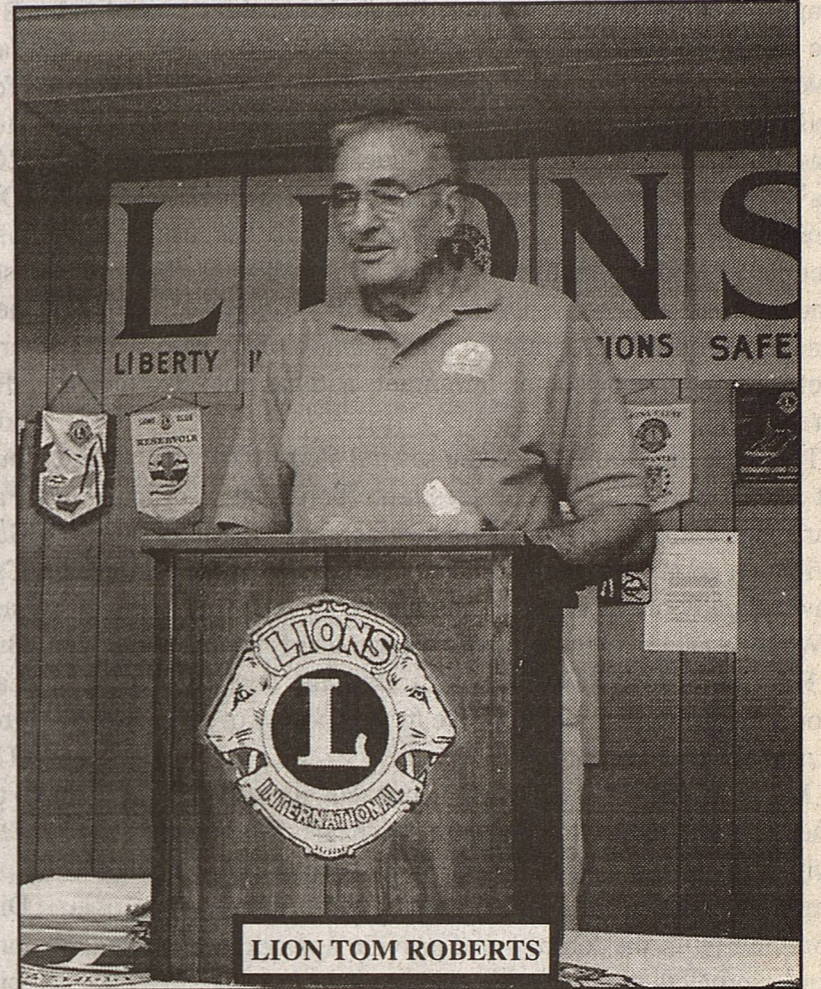
Plains Lions Club President Toni Jones had a brief and to the point message for clubmembers at their July 21 meeting - 'There will be plenty of work for all members at the upcoming annual Rodeo and Old Settlers Reunion.' The annual three day event features evening rodeo performances August 4, 5 and 6, a street parade Saturday morning, and the big barbecue lunch in Stanford Park noon Saturday.

The festivities are a joint effort of the Plains Rodeo Association - an alliance of the Plains Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club and the Yoakum County Roping Club. The three entities have selected their choice of Rodeo Queen contestants; Desiraye Broome, a PHS junior, represents the Lions Club, Callie Howell, also a PHS junior, represents the Chamber, and Sky Sellers, a sophomore at Denver City High, represents the Roping Club. The girls are working hard selling fund raising \$1 tickets for chances to win a custom built western saddle or \$500 cash. Their efforts are a major source of funds to continue producing the rodeo and reunion.

Lions attending last weeks regular meeting heard Tom Roberts of Seminole give an update report on the Great Plains Lions Eye Bank, with headquarters at the Texas Tech University Health Science Center's Department of Ophthalmology in Lubbock. The eye bank was created in 1974, and exists to receive eyes from deceased donors, which are then donated as an often priceless gift to patients with serious vision problems.

Roberts told the Lions "It's not necessary for donors to have perfect eyes, as very few of us do. Some portion of the eye can be used, as a transplant for a needy patient, or in medical research." He said many people have aversions about their loved ones donating their eyes. He had Queen candidate Desiraye Broome read an actual letter from a donors's daughter explaining why she was now a dedicated believer in the program - her mothers donation allowed a young person to move from virtual blindness to good vision.

He also had praise for the Lions Club program of collecting



used prescription glasses. They are collected, then shipped to South America. Tom Roberts, age 82, reported he has been a Lions Club member 58 years, with a perfect meeting attendance record 57 of those years. He reported the program had recently shipped 4,000 pair to Mexico, and 6,000 to needy patients in

District, County Criminal Cases

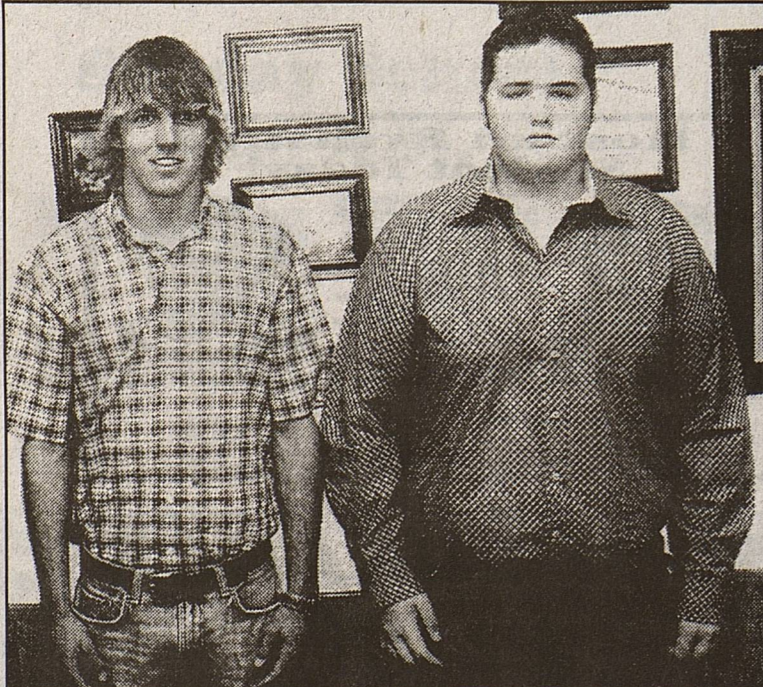
Six cases were heard in the July 19 session of 121st District Court, Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark representing the state. Jimmy Joe Fowler had community supervision revoked from a prior conviction of methamphetamine possession. He was sentenced to two years in State Jail with credit for 81 days jail time served. He must pay additional \$110 court costs as well as \$223 delinquent court costs. His attorney was Warren New.

Francisco L. Saenz pled true and conditions of supervision were modified to include paying additional court costs of \$60 plus \$223 delinquent costs, \$200 supervision fees, additional \$250 appointed attorney fees, and must complete the DWI repeat offender program within 180 days. George William Cleveland III pled guilty to forgery of financial instrument, a state jail felony. A two year sentence was suspended and probated five years. He must pay \$1000 fine and \$1040 restitution. He must pay \$450 appointed attorney fees. Two additional forgery causes were adjudicated. He will spend 180 days in jail or until space is available in the Ray Anderson Correction Facility at Brownfield where he will remain at least one month and no more than 24 months. Investigating officer was Lisa Switzer, CDA office, and Warren New was his attorney.

Gilberto Garza pled guilty to forgery of government instrument, a third degree felony. He was sentenced to 8 years in state prison with credit for 245 days jail time. He must pay \$353 court costs. Jimmy Hammons was his attorney, and investigating officer was Lupe Garcia, Denver City Police.

Francisco Saenz pled true to modifying terms of supervision from a prior third or more DWI cause. He must pay additional \$60 court costs, \$223 delinquent court costs and \$200 delinquent supervision fees. He must also complete the DWI repeat offender program within 180 days. Warren New was his attorney.

Claranaldo Matthew Davila pled guilty to forgery, financial instrument, state jail felony enhanced to third degree felony punishment. A ten year state prison sentence was suspended and probated ten years. He was



Board members of Yoakum Soil and Water Conservation District recently awarded \$2000 college scholarships to Plains High graduate Evan Cain and Denver City High graduate Zach Stroud. Evan is the son of Charles and Beth Ann Cain. He will be going to Texas Tech this fall, and his major is undecided. Zach is the son of Glen and Charlotte Stroud. He is planning on a degree in mechanical engineering. Yoakum SWCD is proud to invest in the future of Evan and Zach and wishes them the best.



Work crews of the local Texas Department of Transportation maintenance office completed six miles of needed improvements to FM 1622 on July 20, widening the well traveled road running from Yoakum County Gin on US 82 to its intersection with US 83 west of Denver City. Maintenance Supervisor Carlos Howell said this was the first time local crews had performed an actual widening of an existing road. The outer edge of the road was scraped off, and then extended on each side, then the entire road received a new seal coating of asphalt and gravel. He said the remainder of the highway project will be finished sometime in September.

Routine agenda in Commissioners Court

In the July 25 session of Commissioners Court, Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark requested approval to purchase a new copier for his office. After discussion, the court agreed to approve the request provided the low price of \$12,000 met state bid requirements.

Head Librarian Pat McNabb sought approval to purchase new book shelving for both county libraries. She reported the low pro-

posal was 'a little less than \$12,000'. The request was approved.

Expanded meal deliveries here by drivers of the senior citizens bus led to discussion of raising the driver salary by \$8,000, allowing two people to assemble and deliver the meals. Sheriff Corzine reported recently some of his staff had been helping deliver the meals. The court authorized the additional

\$8,000 be paid from contingency funds.

Following discussion, \$2,464 from the equipment line item was approved for the complete updating of the five county Mental Health Retardation telephone system.

A request for Spanish language software for the Learning Center was approved. The \$3000 system would service ten user units.

Randy's Round Up....

**Congressman Randy Neugebauer
82nd Cong. District**

Talking Immigration With Atty. General Gonzales

Last week I had the opportunity to meet with current U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales. As Attorney General, Mr. Gonzales is the head law enforcement officer in the country and has many responsibilities ranging from thwarting domestic terrorism to stopping drug dealers. But there was just one issue on my mind last week during our meeting. That issue was illegal immigration.

Throughout our nation's history, people from all corners of the globe have come to this country to become Americans and contribute to our society. In response, we set up a system of laws to make immigration a secure and orderly process. In increasing number of immigrants, however, are choosing to ignore these laws.

We cannot permit this blatant disregard for our laws to continue. When illegal immigrants evade the law to get into the United States, it means that the very first thing they do on American soil is commit a crime. By letting so many get away with this crime, we are not sending a good message to newcomers who are trying to enter the country legally. In addition to telling immigrants there are no consequences for disrespecting the law, we are also putting further burdens on our already strained health care and public education system.

We need to address this problem in a fair way, encouraging those wishing to come to America to follow the law. President Bush has proposed what he is calling a "guest worker" program. Some have said his proposal grants amnesty to illegal immigrants already here. I oppose granting amnesty, not only because it awards people who have already broken the law, but because history has shown it does not work. During the 1980's Congress instituted a one-time amnesty program for immigrants already here. That did not stem the tide of illegal immigrants and has not fixed the program.

This year the House has taken several steps to beef up security at all our borders. This includes more border patrol officers and larger detention space. If the Senate approves these measures, it will be a good start, but is still only part of the puzzle. Enforcing laws already on the books is another good step.

Whatever steps we take should work towards the following goal - Rewarding those who want to follow the law, eventually become Americans, and contribute to the success of our country.

Congressional Hispanic Conference
My talk with Attorney Gen. Gonzales occurred following his meeting with the Congressional Hispanic Conference (CHC), which I recently jopined. The CHC is a group of lawmakers who work to develop policies of importance to the entire Hispanic community. In the future I will provide updates on new legislation or projects the CHC supports.

---- Randy

Services for Jesse Snodgrass

Jesse Hugh Snodgrass, 87, passed away at his Lubbock home July 23, 2005. His services will be held at Plains First Baptist Church Thursday, July 28 at 2 PM. Services will be performed by Reverend Rick Doyle, assisted by Reverend Bill Wright. Interment will follow at Plains Cemetery under direction of Brownfield Funeral Home.

Mr. Snodgrass was born August 16, 1917 in Tokio, Texas. He graduated from Tokio High School in 1934. He married Rita Cheek January 11, 1936 in Brownfield. He spent his life farming and ranching in the Tokio area. He worked for Shiner Oil Company 1985 to 2002. He was a former Oddfellow and was a member of Plains First United Methodist Church. His grandsons and nephews will serve as pallbearers.

He is survived by his wife; a son, J. Carter Snodgrass of Lubbock; 3 daughters, Roberta Patterson, Lubbock, Della Saich (Gordon), Placeville, Cal., Rita Goodsell (Gary), Dallas; 2 sisters Dorothy Jones, Brownfield, and Delores Hays, Lancaster; 10 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren.

The family will receive friends 5 to 5:30 PM at Brownfield Funeral Home, and wish to say a special thank you to Dr. Dinena, Trinia, Betty, DeeAnn and Shirley of Nurse Care Hospice of Lubbock.

Services for Patsy Bates

Funeral services for Patsy Bates, 72, were held Tuesday, July 26 at 2 PM in the Assembly of God Church of Plains. Interment followed in Plains Cemetery under direction of Ratliff Funeral Home of Denver City.

She was born June 10, 1933 in Brownfield. She married Lindel Bates on June 23, 1995 in Lovington, NM after being preceded in death by two previous husbands, Bruce Hill and Jim Sims. She was also preceded in death by a daughter, Cathy Jo, as well as two brothers and three sisters.

She is survived by her husband Lindel of Plains; two daughters, Teresa Stroup of Plains and Sonya Smith of Albuquerque, NM; two step-daughters, Pam Bilbrey of Lubbock and Beverly Snicker of Sterling City; five sisters, Oma Jean Richey, Doris Kennedy, Georgia Rice, Peggy Russell and Jimmie Blount; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

FROM PAGE 1, COURT CASES

fined \$2500, must pay \$313 court costs, restitution of \$767 to Lonnie Folmar and \$525 appointed attorney fees. Bill Helwig was his attorney and Lt. Charlie Higgs, D.C. Police was investigating officer.

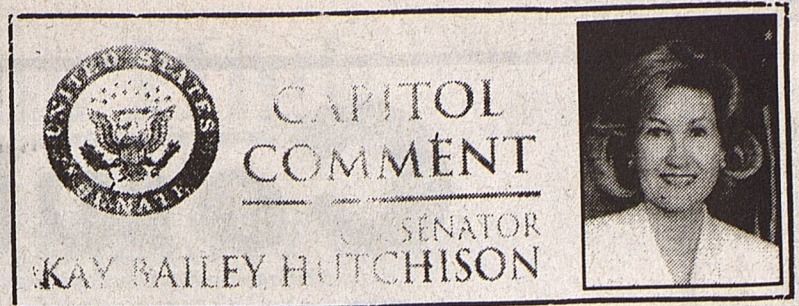
Esmeralda Rose Ochoa pled guilty to forgery of financial instrument, state jail felony. A two year state jail sentence was suspended and probated five years. She must pay \$268 court costs, \$350 appointed attorney fees and \$25 time payment fee. She will serve 200 hours community service. Attorney was Bill Helwig, and Eddie Bishop, D.C. Police, was investigating officer.

In the July 20 session of County Court, Judge Dallas Brewer presided and CDA Richard Clark represented the state.

Mary Crider Connally pled true to the motion to revoke supervision from a marijuana possession conviction. She was sentenced to 29 days in jail with 29 days served credit.

Juan Jose Veliz pled guilty to unlawfully carrying a weapon. He was fined \$100 and must pay \$256 court costs, and forfeit a Jennings J-22 pistol. Patricia Valdez, D.C. Police, was investigating officer.

Gamaliel Martinez pled true to revoke supervision from a prior DWI cause. A 53 day jail sentence had already been served. He must pay \$500 delinquent fine and \$550 supervision fees on plea day.



We came close to losing the Texas Longhorn.....

For those of us who love Texas history, nothing is more sobering than pausing to consider how close we often come to losing parts of our heritage. This is why I worked hard to secure National Historic Trail designation for El Camino Real de los Tejas, the network of trails traversing Texas from Louisiana to Mexico. It could easily have been lost if we did not take steps to protect it.

Throughout our history, Texans have had to act to preserve our historical heritage. The best example of this is the Alamo, which was on the verge of being sold to a group of Easterners who wanted to build a hotel on the site. Clara Driscoll stepped in to help at the last moment to buy the property. She, Adina de Zavala and the Daughters of The Republic of Texas preserved the Alamo for all of us.

Another Texas icon, the longhorn steer, also came perilously close to extinction in the early 20th century. After Columbus discovered the New World, the Spanish brought their long horned Andalusian cattle to the West Indies, but it was not until 1521 that six or seven of them were brought ashore in Mexico. Longhorns first arrived in Texas when Coronado headed north with 500 head of cattle on his fruitless search for El Dorado. Many of his cattle scattered and formed wild herds which multiplied in Texas. By the 1800's, Mexican cattle ranchers and the first cowboys - known as vaqueros - were herding hundreds of thousands of animals in an area north of the Rio Grande, but generally south of San Antonio and the major mission settlements.

After Moses Austin secured rights for Anglo settlers to come to Texas, the newcomers brought many northern European breeds to Texas where they bred with the longhorns. This produced the Texas Longhorn, larger and heavier than his Mexican cousin but still retaining the qualities which allowed him to cover long distances, thrive on poor forage and adapt to extreme heat and cold.

Their endurance and hardiness allowed them to multiply in Texas. As many as ten million Longhorns roamed our state, and their most valuable product was not beef, but hides and tallow (the rendered fat used to make candles, soap and lubricants). This changed with the advent of the Gold Rush in California. Several Texas cattlemen drove herds all the way to California to provide the prospectors with fresh beef. Others drove cattle to Missouri, while some cattlemen near the coast took advantage of steamships to generate profits by shipping cattle to New Orleans.

But the heyday of the cattle drives would wait until after the Civil War when beef overtook pork as America's favorite meat. Entrepreneur Joseph G. McCoy almost single handedly revolutionized the Texas Cattle industry when he grasped that the railroads allow fast shipment of cattle to the booming industrial cities of the northeast. He commissioned Jesse Chisholm to mark the famous Chisholm Trail to make it easier to drive cattle north

to railheads he constructed to expedite transportation. In 1867, O.W. Wheeler and his partners bought 2,400 steers in San Antonio and made the first trip up the trail. By 1871, 35,000 cattle made the long trip up the Chisholm Trail and the numbers of cattle driven climbed each year. By the time an 1885 Kansas quarantine law banning Texas steers killed the trail drives, more than five million cattle and one million mustang horses made the trip.

With the end of the drives, which put a premium on the longhorn's ability to walk long distances and endure hardships, other breeds which matured earlier and put on weight faster began to grow more popular. Soon the once numerous longhorns were reduced to small scattered herds.

Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge Forest Ranger William Drummond was inspired by the preservation of the American Bison at the national park. The buffalo, which once numbered over 60 million, had been reduced to less than 1000 by the turn of the century. Charles Goodnight, who made his fortune with Texas Longhorns, was one of the key figures introducing 15 bison to the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Reserve in 1907. In 1927, with the support of many Texas cattlemen, 30 head of longhorns were introduced to the park as well. Today the park maintains a herd of 525 bison and 300 longhorns.

Over time, other cattlemen began raising longhorns, often using animals descended from the Wichita herd. By 1964, the Texas Longhorn Breeders Association of America was founded in Fort Worth to help promote the breed. Today, the association reports more than a quarter million registered Texas longhorns are being raised throughout the country.

When I see a Texas Longhorn, I see a vital part of Texas' colorful history and am grateful for the forward thinking individuals who took action in the 1920's to save this living part of Texas' proud past from extinction. Part of my goal as an elected official is to save other parts of Texas' heritage as well

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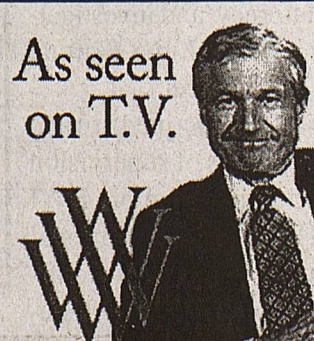
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New Baby Girl!



Proud parents of Aubrie Kallan Bearden are Bruce and Kasandra Bearden. She was born at 5:39 PM on June 30, 2005, and was 20 3/4 inches long and weighed 7 pounds 8 ounces.

Paternal grandparents are Jerry and Rhonda Dion, and maternal grandparents are Javier and Toni Soto, Dallas, and Carmen Snyder. Great grandparents include paternal, Ray and Joyce Bearden, and maternal, Pete and Becky Feemster, and Harry and Leveta Campfield.

(Editors Note: We sincerely apologize for running this announcement in last week's edition, referring to Aubrie Kallan as a BOY!)

Two county Sew-Fun mini camp scheduled

The Yoakum and Gaines County Cooperative Extension offices will sponsor a SEW-FUN mini camp from 9 AM to 3 PM Friday, July 29 in the Yoakum County Extension Service meeting room.

Participants are requested to register by calling the Extension office, 806-456-2263 no later than Thursday, July 23 in order for the office to arrange for

enough supplies.

The project of the camp will be constructing bibs for the nursing home, plus a pillow and a fabric design project for each participant to take home. Those attending the SEW-FUN Camp are asked to bring a regular size bath towel, and a sack lunch -- drinks and snacks will be provided.

The family of Vicente Loya would like to thank each of you for your food, cards, flowers and financial assistance during our time of loss. Your visits and support are greatly appreciated!

God Bless!

The Loya Family

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Saturday, August 20th, Dallas, Texas

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Seniors Corner

BY JUNE HANNEMAN

How old are you? Have you noticed, no matter how old you are, other people your age look so much older? We don't age on the inside so sometimes we feel trapped in an old body, don't we? When attending a high school class reunion a lady asked, "This can't be my class! Everyone looks so old!" She bent down to a grey haired man and asked, "What year did you graduate?" He said, 1958. She said, "Well this is my class then". The man said, "Oh, is it? What did you teach." We are used to measuring our age by birth dates, but if we could number the days we have left we would appreciate each day more, wouldn't we? We'd be less tempted to procrastinate about those important decisions we need to make.

Florence Nigteingale, the great nurse we've all about in our history books, ministered to countless people many years. When she was 56 she began experiencing some problems with her heart. Convinced she was dying, she went to bed and remained there until her death at 90! What a loss - both to her and the world. I like to remember the story of the little boy who wrote his uncle on his 60th birthday, "Dear Uncle John, I hope you live all your life. Regardless how old we are or how long we have left to live, the joy comes from making every moment count.

Emma Silvas came to visit one day to assure us the folks at the police station are there to help us anyway they can. She explained how the 9-1-1 number works by giving them the address of the person dialing so you can tell them your need. She also explained if there is no voice response they will send someone to that address to check it out. We appreciate Emma and our police department for all the things they do for us.

Diana Simmons, LVN Nurse Educator from Covenant Community Services, also made a visit. She spent the lunch hour explaining the mobile dental and mammogram services available through their people. She sent material home with each explaining in detail about each topic.

Jessica Brown, Jayne Brown and Kathy Hartin were new names appearing on the visitor sheet this week, and we were happy to see Wanda Moose for lunch one day. It was nice to see Shirley accompany David Bruton another day, and Lorraine Klamm from North Dakota came as a guest of June Hanneman one day. We welcome each of you.

We all offer our condolences to the family of Raymond Singletery. He was a vital part of our senior center family many years. He served on our board from 1984 through 1989. We shall miss him.

Have you wondered why it sometimes takes so long to accomplish some of the things that need to be done in our lives? This may enlighten you somewhat. Entitled "Whose job is it anyway?", it's a story about four people named EVERYbody, SOMEbody, ANYbody and NObody. There was an important job to be done and EVERYone was asked to do it. ANYbody could have done it, but NObody did it. SOMEbody got angry, because it was EVERYbody's job. EVERYbody thought ANYbody could do it, but NObody realized EVERYbody wouldn't do it. It ended that EVERYbody blames SOMEbody when NObody did what ANYbody could have done. Thought for the day - 'A leading authority is anyone who has guessed right more than once'.

The most important thing in life is learning the basic difference between a problem and a mere inconvenience. One requires your attention, the other your patience.

Vacation Bible School



**Saturday, July 30
9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Hillside Church of Christ
Age 3 to 5th Grade**

Parents please join us at 12:30 pm for an open house and hot dogs.

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We Get Letters.....

Some two weeks ago I received a phone call from Donald Todd, A.K.A. to many as 'Scrap Iron' Todd, a long ago graduate of PHS recognized here for his athletic abilities, and later in the college and pro-football ranks as both an outstanding player and later as a coach and recruiter for the college level. I did an article on Don a number of years ago, using material from old Cowboy yearbooks and testimonies of many friends, and newspaper articles about his playing and coaching at the college level, very interesting reading.

He has been receiving CCN many years now, the gift of an old friend, also now living out of state. Don asked me to send his mother the paper, as she frequently mentions Plains to him when they talk. He told me he had read of The Bride's passing, and extended his sympathies.

Retired for many years now, but the victim of serious medical problems, he and his wife live in the town of Simonton, in Fort Bend County, southeast of Houston.

A few days ago I received a small box in the mail. It contained a check from Don for his mother's subscription, and a golf cap with the logo 'Bent T Farm' on the front, the name of the place where he and family live.

He also enclosed this brief message to me I want to share with the town:

"Gary,

Just a note to say thanks for taking care of the subscription for Mom. I know she'll enjoy it. Also enjoyed visiting with you on the phone and also enjoy your paper. As I told you, I have nothing but the greatest memories, treasures and friendships that were all founded in that fine little town where I grew up.

I wouldn't trade those years there for anyone else's in any other place I've ever been, and I have wandered all over this state and many others, coaching and recruiting young men.

There's just no place like it and someday I hope my health will allow me to travel enough to come back home there again.

Keep up the good work, and keep the faith!

Sincerely, Don Todd."

The Davis Family Is Growing!

Todd & Tina, along with Robert & Christopher, have welcomed two new children into their family !!

You are invited to a **SHOWER** honoring

Amelia & Gregory

**Saturday, July 30, 2005, 7:00 PM
at the Fellowship Hall of
Hillside Church of Christ**

Bring the whole family and enjoy meeting

**Amelia, age 6, and
Gregory, age 2 1/2**

Selections at Target -

Gift cards very welcome!

Laura Mendez Morales

**fund at
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Thank you for your prayers and support in this time of need!

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From The Hack

From an ex-Marine buddy:
I don't know whether or not you happened to watch the memorial services following President Ronald Reagan's passing, but if you did, you probably noticed on the ABC video coverage of the event both Bill and Hilary Clinton nodding off more than one occasion. President Reagan, who never missed an opportunity for a good one-liner, raised his head out of the casket and said... "well, I see the Clinton's are finally sleeping together again!"

A couple had been debating the purchase of a new vehicle for weeks. He wanted a pickup, of course, and she wanted a fast little sports-like car she could zip around town in. He would have settled for a beat up older truck, but everything she liked was way out of their price range. "Look!" she demanded. "I want something that goes from 0 to 200 in just seconds, or less! My birthday is coming up, and you could surprise me, you know" For her birthday, he brought her a brand new bathroom scale.

His services were very brief and to the point.

Some of the latest in bumper stickers;

Wife and dog missing.
Reward for dog

river carries no cash.
He's Married

I'm hung like Einstein
and smart as a horse

Jesus is coming.
Look Real Busy!

Can't Feed 'Em?
Don't Breed 'Em

I'm not an alcoholic
I'M DRUNK
Alcoholics go to meetings

I child proofed my house
But they STILL get in

The shortest sentence- I Am
The longest- I do

Gun Control Means
Using Both Hands

4 out of 3 people
have trouble with fractions

Where the Hell is
EASY STREET?

Guns Don't Kill People
Drivers with cellphones do

CAT ...
The Other White Meat

Work Harder!
Millions on welfare
need your help!

The following sounds like my golf game, but even more so like our local Pro:

A golfer whacked his tee shot into the woods, hit a few trees, finally proceeded to hit across the fairway and into more woods. Banging about, he finally escaped from the trees but into the sand trap. He then noticed the club pro had been watching all this. He yelled at the Pro, "What club should I use now?"

The Pro yelled back, "I don't have a clue. What game are you playing?"

Courtesy Stephen Henry, Levelland News-Press;
If you consider the fact there has been an average of 180,000 of our troops in the Iraq Theater during the last 22 months, there has been a firearm death rate of 60 per 100,000 in Iraq.

About The New Electronic Sign

Personnel at City Hall have graciously agreed to assist the Chamber of Commerce by taking orders for advertising on the new sign in Pioneer Park.

NO TELEPHONE ORDERS will be accepted. An order form is available at City Hall, and the following information must be written on the form; Date, Name, Address, Phone #, Dates for the ad to run. The message must be written on the form with a maximum of 14 spaces per line of type. Three message frames is maximum length of ad, for a maximum total of 42 spaces per frame. Maximum time for ad to run is one week (seven days). Cost of each ad is \$15. **ALL ADS MUST BE PAID FOR IN ADVANCE AT TIME OF TURNING IN AD ORDER.**

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The firearm death rate in Washington, D.C. is 80.8 per 100,000. This means you are 25 percent more likely to be shot and killed in our nation's capitol, which has some of the strictest gun control laws in the nation, than you are in Iraq.
Conclusion - we should immediately pull out of Washington, D.C.

A couple of issues back, tongue firmly in my cheek, I declared my allegiance to Kinky Friedman in his independent run for our Governor. This idea must be catching. I just read in The Texas Press Messenger the Kinkster was one of the featured speakers at the 126th summer convention of the Texas Press Association. In an article in the July issue of the Association's monthly *MESSENGER*, he reportedly kept the audience guffawing in a noon luncheon appearance.

Some of his tastier tidbits; 'You can lead a politician to water but you can make him drink'.

'The joke is the Texas Legislature'.

'Texas is the only state with a law that says if you vote in either primary you can't sign a petition to get an independent on the ballot, so I ask you not to vote. Save yourself for Kinky!'

'I contend musicians can better run this state than politicians. In fact beauticians can better run this state!'

'We're dead last in high school kids getting to college. We're 50th. We've been plunged into a race with Mississippi for the bottom, and we're winning!'

'I will sign anything but bad legislation.'

'Money may buy you a fine dog, but only love will make him wag his tail.'

'We're 49th in funding public education and first in executions. As Dr. Phil would say, "How's that working for you"'

'I support gay marriage. I think they have every right to be just as miserable as the rest of us.'

I still say he's a shoe in!

Plains High School Registration

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2005

Seniors 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Juniors 1-3 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2005

Sophomores 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Freshmen 1-3 p.m.



A bit of Canadian humor - a road sign supposedly in British Columbia

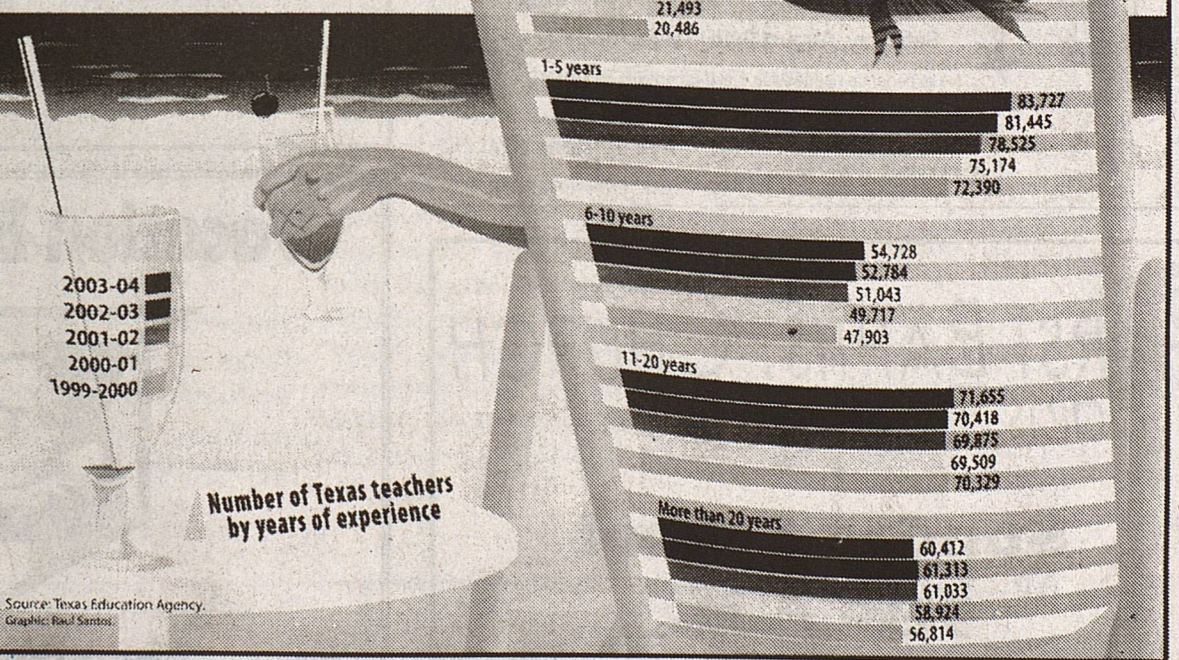
Texas at a Glance

Reading, Writing, Retirement

Texas teachers are taking a well-deserved break this summer. Some breaks will last longer than others—many of the most experienced teachers will retire.

Texas has seen its percentage of teachers with more than 20 years of experience drop from 21.2 percent in the 1999-2000 school year to 20.9 percent in 2003-04. The percentage of teachers with 11 to 20 years of experience has also dropped, from 26.2 percent in 1999-2000 to 24.8 percent in 2003-04, according to the Texas Education Agency.

The percentage of new teachers also is down, from 7.6 percent to 6.5 percent. The state has seen increases in the number of teachers with between one and 10 years of experience.



Source: Texas Education Agency, Graphics: Paul Santoni

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