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Cowboy Country News



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

Volume VI, Issue 48, August 23, 2000

School Starts, Many New Faces At Plains I.S.D.

Following a long and thorough review of resumes, background checks and personal interviews, the PISD Board of Trustees and Administrators have filled six teaching positions in the system's three campuses. Superintendent Jim Haynes told CCN, "These people are definite assets to our personnel roster. The Board and I expect them to help us continue successfully in our quest for academic excellence in our three campuses."

Todd Davis will teach science in middle school, and have coaching duties with

high school football, 7th grade football, and probably work with the Jr. High girls basketball programs. He is a native of Jay Oklahoma, and attended college at several schools, and will graduate from LCU in December with a BS degree with major studies in biology and P.E.

He and his wife Tina have been married 11 years, and have two sons, Robert, 9, and Christopher 6.

Amber McWhirter will teach third grade students. She grew up in New Home, attended South Plains College and graduated from Texas Tech in 1998. She has a degree in ele-

mentary education with a specialty in English. She was employed by Sundown ISD for one year, teaching 6th grade reading and social studies, and 7th grade remedial reading.

She is married to Blake McWhirter, a PHS instructor and athletic director, and they have one son, 20 month old Payton.

Jill Rotunno will teach English in Plains High. She comes here from Houston Jr. High in Hobbs. She is a native of Dallas, and received her Bachelor degree in education from Dallas Baptist University, and her Masters in En-

glish from TCU in 1994. She also has 12 years teaching experience at South Oak Cliff and Grand Prairie. She will also serve as Sponsor of the PHS Cheerleaders.

Her husband Thomas is a teacher and coach at Brownfield Jr. High. They have one daughter, Claire, 4, who will be in Pre-K here.

Debbie Steffens is a native of Plains and will teach 3rd grade elementary students. She attended SPC, and graduated from UT Permian Basin in 1986. She had a double major, elementary education and anthropology.

She has over 13 years teaching

experience, including positions at Midland, Slaton, Tahoka, and Morton.

She is married to Danny Steffens, an employee of the county.

Tege Taylor has been hired as a literary coach in elementary, and will assist Kindergarten and 1st graders with reading. She grew up in Levelland, attended SPC, and graduated from Texas Tech in 1991, majoring in speech and English.

She was previously employed by Sundown ISD, and taught in elementary school there four years.

Her husband Brad is a DPS Trooper stationed here, and they

have a daughter, Kasidee, age 3.

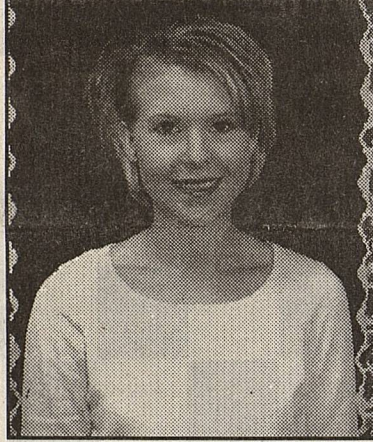
Georgann Weisgerber will serve as Assistant Director of the Cowboy Band. She is originally from Chicago, Illinois, and received a bachelor degree in music from the University of Wisconsin in 1986. She earned a masters degree from McNeese University, Lake Charles, La., where she also received her teacher certificate. Her instrument specialty is the trumpet.

She has some ten years teaching experience, including positions at Shallowater, Alpine, Greenwood, Buena Vista and Liberty.

Welcome to all these new faces!



Davis



McWhirter



Rotunno



Steffens



Taylor



Weisgerber

Annual picnic honors county employees years of service

The County Park between Plains and Denver City last Friday evening swarmed with both past and present county employees and their families enjoying a hamburger and homemade ice cream picnic. An estimated 136 people attended the annual event.

Twenty three employees were recognized for their years of county service. The awards and recipients included:

5 Year awards - (Chrome pen) Kenney Smith, Marcella Bell, Dennis Chamberlain, James Melendez.

10 Year awards - (Black pen) Elfida Rivas,

Anna Taylor, Dale Thompson, Tom Willis, Peggy Squyres, Jolene Welch, Vickee Faught. 15 Year Awards - (Gold pen) Carol Corzine, Nancy Dickson, John Matus, Serena Elmore, Alfred Martinez III, Sheila Ashburn, Lorraine Walker, Dolores Davis

20 Year awards - (engraved pocket knife or silver service tray) Jaynine Efird, Opal Roberts, Angel Perez.

A special 35 year award was presented to Yoakum County Hospital veteran employee Wilma Merideth, a Texas shaped gold pendant with a diamond in the center.



Wilma Merideth receives 35 year award from Hospital Administrator Ed Rogers

County Court crime cases

In the August 16 session of County Court, Judge Dallas Brewer presiding, guilty pleas were heard in four criminal cases. Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the State.

Ashley Hunnicut pled guilty to criminal mischief resulting in more than \$500 damage but less than \$1500. The defendant received an adjudication of guilt deferred sentence. A 60 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. The defendant must pay \$210 court costs, restitution totaling \$3,150, and serve 20 hours in jail.

Robert Garcia pled guilty to minor consuming alcohol, third enhanced charges. A 60 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. He must pay \$210 court costs and a \$250 fine. He must also attend weekly AA meetings, and complete the first offenders program.

Willie Dean Sims pled guilty to a first DWI charge, BT .116/.115. A 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. He was assessed a \$500 fine and \$225 court costs, must attend weekly AA meetings, complete the first offenders program, and

Turn to Page 2, 'Court'

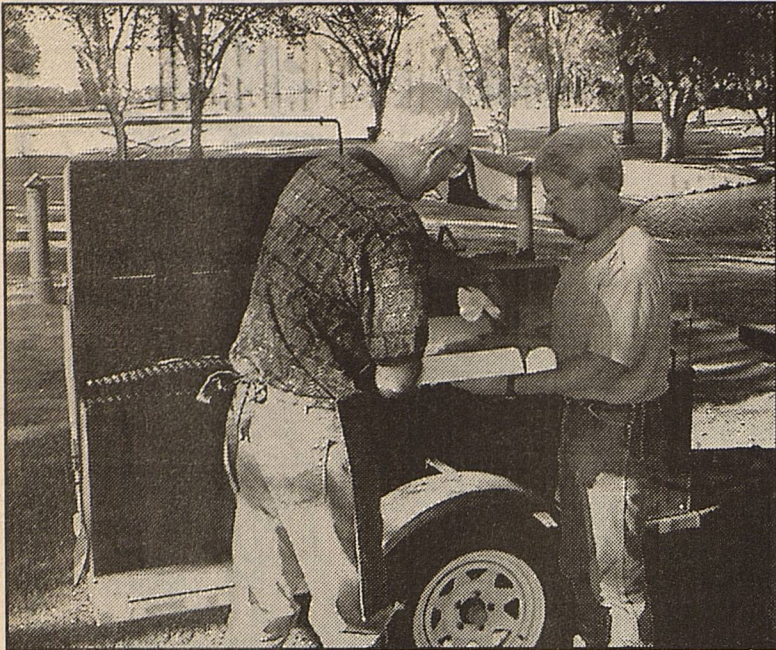
Texas-Oklahoma Watermelon Queen to visit Round Up



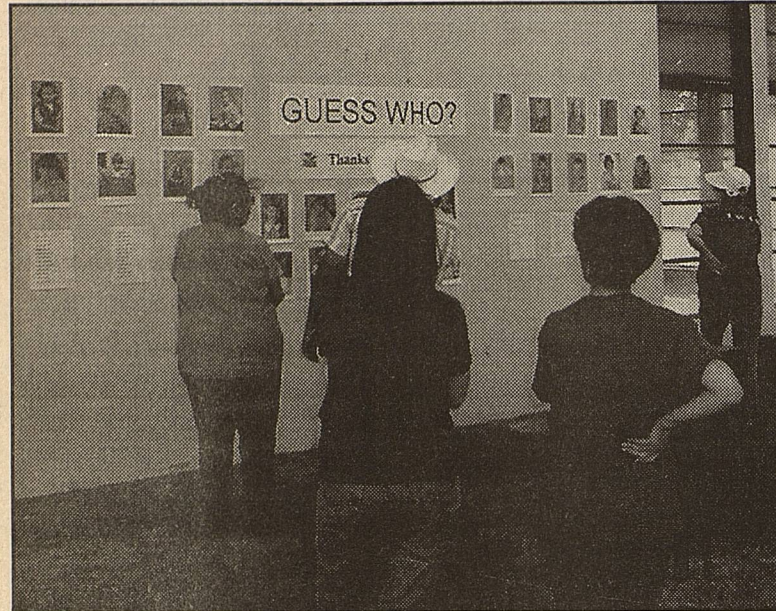
Sarah Williams was chosen as 2000 Queen to represent the Texas-Oklahoma Watermelon Association at the group's annual meeting in January of this year. She is the 18 year old daughter of Jeannine and Jim Williams of Uvalde, Texas. She will serve as spokesperson for the association for the year, and then will compete for the National Watermelon Queen at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina in February, 2001. She will attend Southwest Texas State in San Marcos.

Sarah will be visiting the crowd at the 5th annual Yoakum County Watermelon Round Up here on September 2. Her trip here was sponsored by Connie and Macky McWhirter, Bonnie and Eddie Earnest, Gerry and DeRoy Anderson, and Charlotte and Brad Palmer. The watermelon association's representative queen has been on hand for all the prior Round Ups.

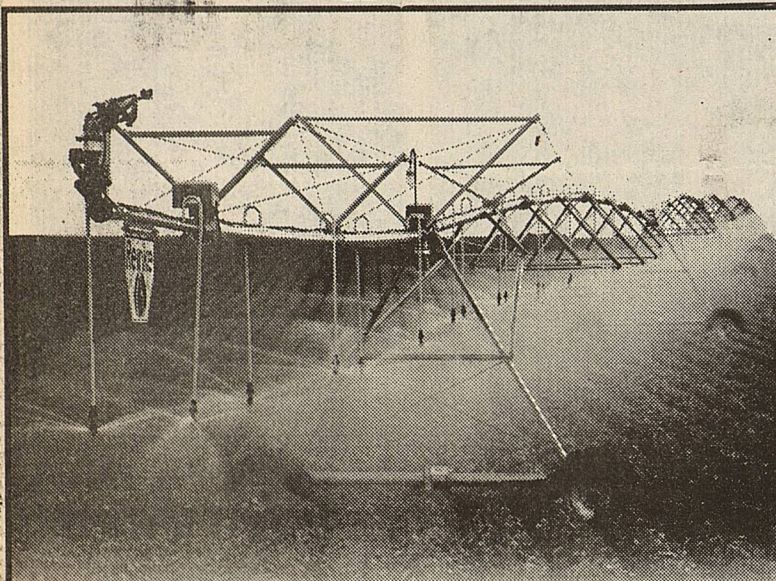
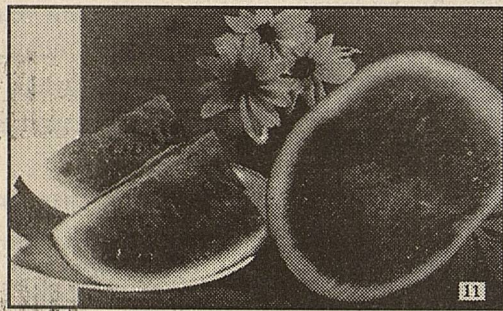
County Employee Picnic Scenes



A bipartisan effort - Democrat and Republican Commissioners burning hamburgers.



Employees ponder photos of employees taken when they were MUCH, MUCH younger than today.



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Plains Lions membership soars

At last Thursday's Lions Club Directors breakfast meeting, club first vice-president Butch Mack turned in applications for membership in the club from ten individuals from Plains and Denver City. Mack was the chief recruiter in the membership drive.

Applying and being accepted for membership were Darrell Barron, Terry Davis, Wayne House, Jerry Howard, Kathy Jones, Bruce and Jan Lester, Lisa Switzer, Tim Willis and Ray Young.

Club President Debbie Rushing said she was elated at the jump in membership numbers. "We still have plenty of room, and plenty of work, for more new faces, and if you are interested in joining the Plains Lions, see any of our members."

The club meets for a noon meal at the Scout Hut the first Thursday of each month, and for breakfast at Johnnie's Restaurant each third Thursday at 7 A.M.

From Page 1, 'Court' - serve 72 hours in jail, with credit for 11 1/2 hours served, and perform 24 hours community services.

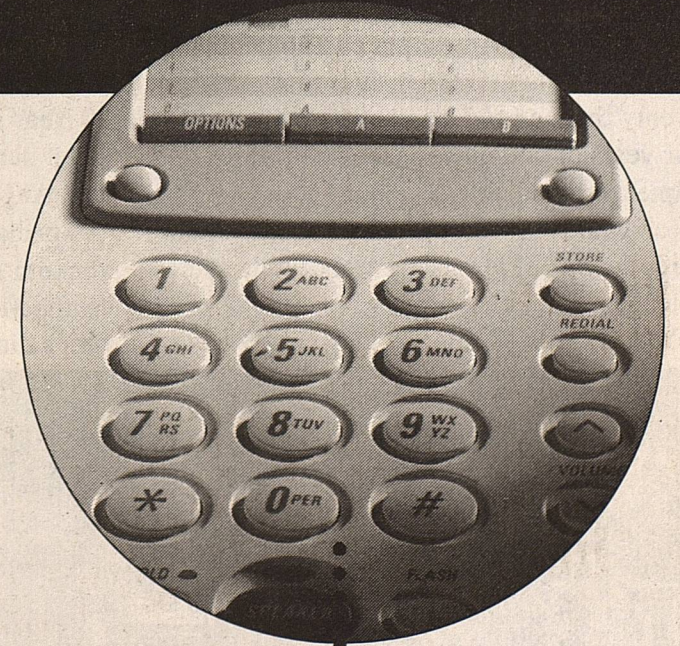
Hector De Los Santos pled guilty to a first DWI charge, open container. He was fined \$500, assessed court costs of \$225. He will spend six days in jail, with credit for one day served. He must also attend weekly AA meetings, complete the first offenders program and serve 24 hours community service.

* NOTICE * of Vote on Tax Rate

The Yoakum County Commissioners Court conducted a public hearing on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of Yoakum County by 8 (eight) percent on August 16, 2000 at 5:00 P.M. The Yoakum County Commissioners Court is scheduled to vote on the tax rate that will result in that tax increase at a public meeting to be held on August 30, 2000, from 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M at the District Courtroom in the Courthouse at Plains.

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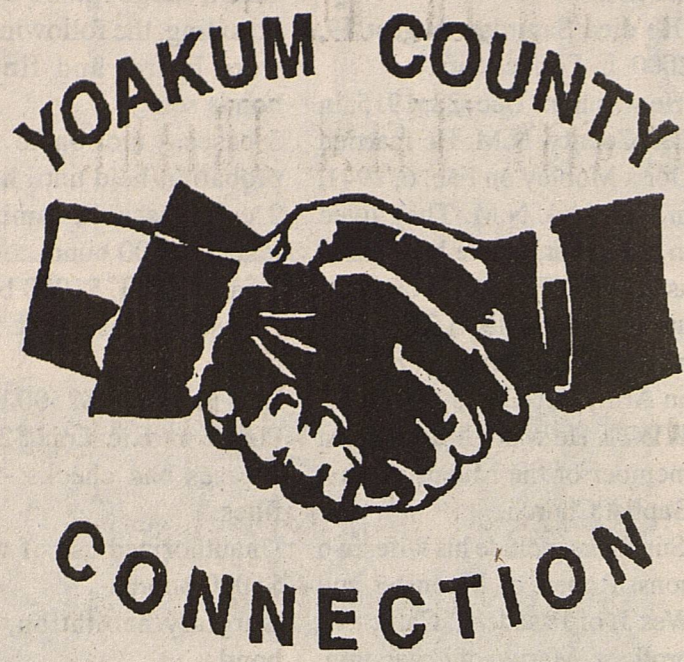
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Watermelon Round Up

9 am - 6 pm, Saturday, September 2,
on the Courthouse Square,
Plains, Texas

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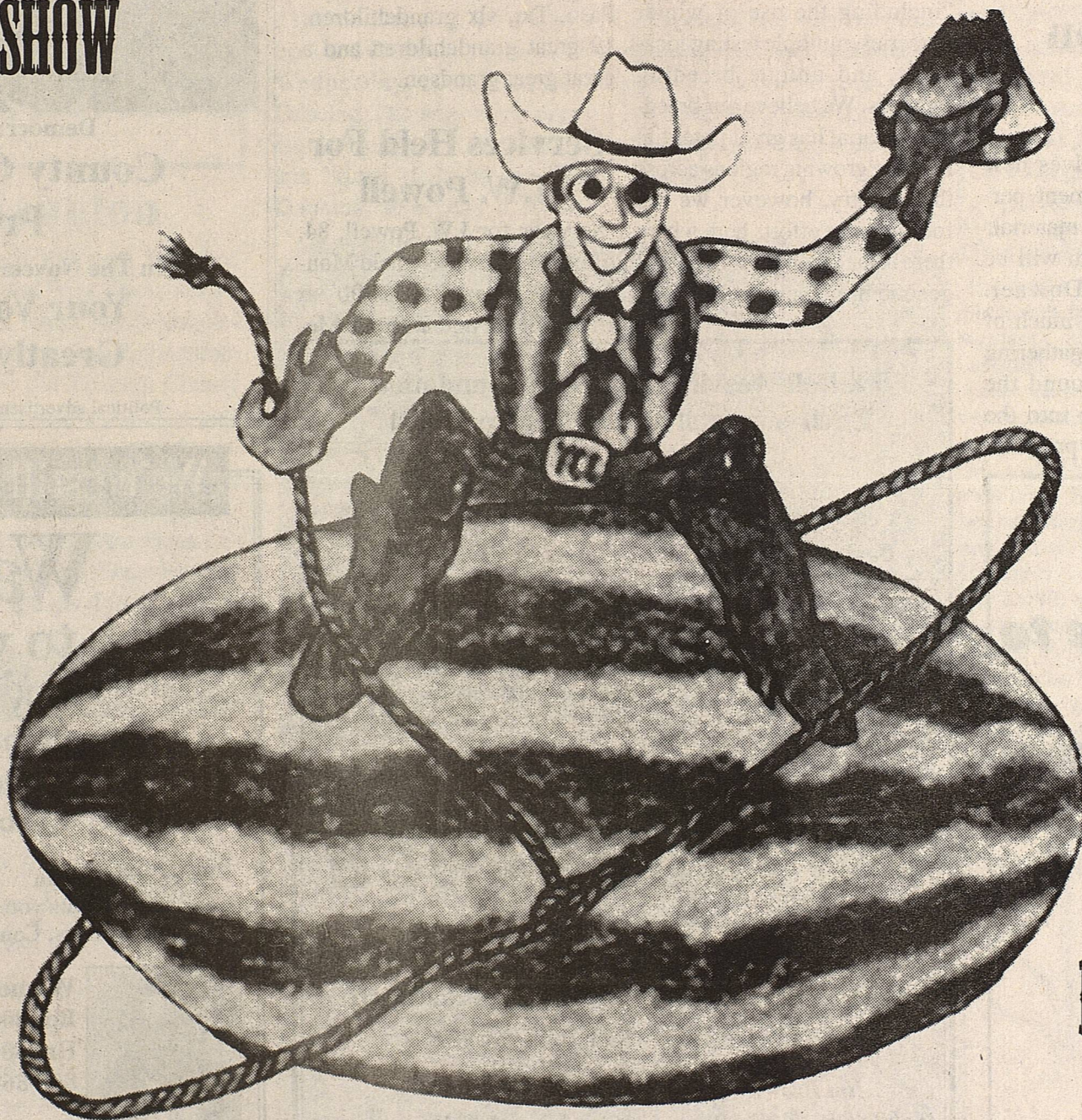
TEAM ROPING

GAMES & RIDES

DANCERS

FUN RUN

HORSE SHOES



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PETTING ZOO

CHILI/BRISKET COOKOFF

GYMNASTS

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COMMERCIAL EXHIBITS

BIG MELON CONTEST

VOLLEYBALL

DUNKING BOOTH

SEED SPITTING CONTEST

COW PATTY BINGO

BRISKET AUCTION

Bring your family and friends
and **JOIN US!**



USDA Reminds Producers and Importers of Upcoming Pork Referendum

Washington, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is reminding pork producers and importers of their opportunity to vote August 18 - September 21, 2000, on the continuation of the Pork Checkoff Program.

Producers who have owned and sold one or more pigs or hogs at any time from August 18, 1999, through August 17, 2000, are eligible to vote, as are those persons who have imported pigs, hogs, pork, or pork products during this same period.

The final referendum rules provide for in person voting September 19-21 at Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices and absentee voting August 18 through September 21. Producers can request absentee ballots from FSA county offices either in person, by mail, facsimile, or by telephone beginning August 1. Absentee ballots will be available beginning August 18.

Importers can vote by mail August 18 through September 21 and may request mail bal-

lots from the FSA headquarters office in Washington, D.C., beginning August 1 from USDA, FSA, Operations Review and Analysis Staff, Attn: William A. Brown, P.O. Box 44366, Washington, D.C. 20026-4366. Importers may also pick up the voting materials in person at USDA, FSA, Operations Review and Analysis Staff, Room 2741, South Agriculture Building, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C., or may request voting materials by facsimile at 202-690-3354 or telephone at 202-720-6833. Importer ballots will not be available until August 18. When requesting a ballot, eligible importers will be required to submit a U.S. Customs Service Form 7501 showing that they paid the pork assessment during the representative period.

The final referendum rules appeared in the July 13, 2000, Federal Register. They can be viewed at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/mpb/pork/pkrefrule.htm>.

AFD Announces Cotton Research Expansion

Associated Farmers Delinting, of Littlefield, Texas announced today the expansion of its cotton breeding program for the high plains. AFD, one of only a few remaining independent custom delinters on the plains also proprietor of the oldest continuously operated cotton breeding program in the area.

The expansion involves new investments in equipment, personnel, and breeding material. Leading the program will be Charles Pat 'Bo' Downer. Downer has devoted much of the past 6 months to gathering germplasm from around the world to incorporate into the breeding plan. The program

will now turn it's attention to crossing these foreign varieties with AFD's germplasm, selecting, and evaluating new varieties, adapted to the unique growing environments on the plains. "We're testing advanced lines in over 15 environments this year, with locations in all major cotton growing areas," said Downer. He continued that "AFD varieties are under evaluation from the Northern High Plains to the Concho Valley, and from Eastern New Mexico, to the Rolling Plains." The breeding program will concentrate on developing varieties adapted to new farming technologies, and changing environments.

"This is a natural move for us," said Terry Thrash, a former Plains resident, and vice president of AFD. "It will give us the opportunity to provide growers with more profitable planting seed alternatives. We're off to an excellent start this season and grower support is encouraging." The announcement comes on the heels of AFD's limited release of 3 new conventional cotton varieties. AFD 2050, AFD 2051 and AFD C2525.

"We expected to use every resource available," said Downer, "including the use of winter nurseries, multiple testing locations, and unique breeding methods. We believe our breeding material has great potential in many growing regions across the country, however we are focusing our efforts here where there is the greatest potential for genetic improvement."

Services Held For Ruth Williams Mabry

Ruth Williams Mabry, 96, of El Paso died Thursday, August 3, 2000. Funeral services were held in Hartshorne, Oklahoma, Monday, August 14, 2000. Burial was in McAlester, Oklahoma.

Ruth was born July 3, 1904 in Dalhart, Texas, to Peter Hardy and Nannie Akers Williams. She married Alfred G. Mabry on August 31, 1924, in San Angelo, Texas. They ranched in Alpine and Plains, Texas, and in Hartshorne, Oklahoma.

Ruth was a charter member of Tsa Mo Ga Federated Club, organized in 1935. Served as club president 1939-1941. She was an Honorary Member of Tsa Mo Ga Club. Ruth held membership in the Hartshorne Methodist Church, Order of the Eastern Star, Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of the Confederacy and Women's Federated Study Club.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 1977 and her parents.

Survivors include a son, Dr. A.J. Mabry, Seminole, Tx., a daughter Mabeth Moreland, El Paso, Tx., six grandchildren; 19 great grandchildren and a great great grandson.

Services Held For J.W. Powell

Services for J.W. Powell, 84, of Denver City were held Monday, August 21, 2000 at Brownfield Funeral Home Me-

morial Chapel with the Rev. Bill Wright officiating.

Burial was at Plains Cemetery in Plains.

He died Saturday August 19, 2000, in Denver City.

He was born Dec. 22, 1915, in Lea County, N.M. He married Doris Mobley on Feb. 6, 1941, in Carlsbad, N.M. They lived in Muenster, where he worked as an independent oil operator until retiring in 1995. They then moved to Denver City. He was an Army Air Corps veteran of WW11. He was a Mason and a member of the Muenster First Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife; two sons, Robert of Muenster and Wes J. of Pasadena, Calif.; two brothers, Marvin of Lovington, N.M., and Norman of Hobbs, N.M.; and two sisters, Rosie Lawson of Big Spring and Lawanda Ellis of Hobbs.

JP COURT

In Pct. 1 Justice of Peace Court, Judge Melba Crutcher presiding, the following cases were heard, and fines and bonds set:

3 cases - motion to revoke probation-held until hearing.
2 cases assault, family violence, \$1500 bond.
3 cases DWI, \$1000 bond.
2 cases harassment, \$1000 bond

Bail jumping, \$2500 bond.
Public intoxication, \$200 fine
9 cases bad checks - \$3965 fines.

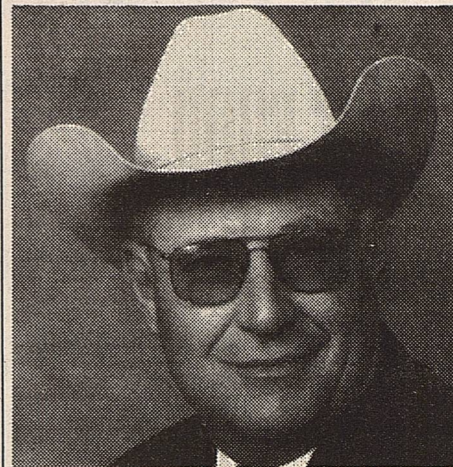
Unauthorized use of vehicle, \$5000 bond.

Burglary/habitation, \$7500 bond.

Theft, \$500-\$1500, \$2500 cash bond.

Aggravated assault, held until transported.

Ty Earl Powell



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48th Lowrey Reunion

The Lowrey Family Reunion was held this past Saturday, August 13, 2000. The Lowrey's from the West Texas Area--Plains, Denver City, Brownfield, Alred, Tokio, and Seminole--and as far as Hereford, Wolfforth, Hobbs, and Livingston, Texas gathered at the club room of the old Yoakum County Courthouse in Plains. Family members brought food for potluck lunch. There were approximately 50 people in attendance. Carl and Marie Lowrey hosted a hamburger cookout at their residence on Saturday night for the family. The Lowrey's began gathering for the reunion in 1952 at the old American Legion Hall in Plains, Texas. This was the 48th year for the Lowrey Reunion. As always, the Lowrey's enjoyed good food, games, and family.

Card of Thanks

THANK YOU!!!

The family of T.A. Elmore wishes to extend their heartfelt thanks to all of their friends and relatives for the compassion, prayers, food, donations, flowers, calls, and cards. Your kindness was a comfort to us in our time of sorrow.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Plains, Texas

Wee Care

Come Join The Fun
First Baptist Church
Begins Tuesday, September 5th
For more information call
Kathy Haynes 456-6661 or the
church office 456-3661.

Senior Citizens Corner

Here I come one more time. This weeks column will be dedicated to Estelle Childress. She was a good neighbor, member of First Baptist Church. She was a faithful worker of the Pink Ladies, was also a regular at the Senior Citizens. She will be missed by all. Our condolences to each of her family members.

Yesterday, Wednesday, was pool tournament here in Denver City. Winners in men 8 ball were; 1st Pete Arenivas, 2nd Cookie Blancet. Winners in women 8 ball were; 1st June Hanneman, Jean Poage. Winners in men 9 ball were; 1st Pete Arenivas, 2nd Sparky Sparks. Winners in women 9 ball were; 1st Shirley Blancet, 2nd Rae.

Activities; Livingston Hearing Aid will be here Monday Aug. 21-Line Dancing 10-11 am., pool and Games 6:30 pm. till ?? Wednesday 10-11 am Line Dancing. Thursday is Memorial Home Health B/P 10:30-11:30 am. Friday 10-11:30 am. Line Dancing. Everyday 8:30 am-

3:00 pm., sometimes a little later is games, walking in the hall and visiting. That's my and Layne's reason for coming, he plays dominoes, visits, and I do crafts and visit. Then there is the noon meal, which we all enjoy. We have a great bunch of cooks, so everyone come on down and join in the fun and visiting. The more the merrier.

Glad to have Thelma back with us as she has been sick and we all miss her smiling face.

Don't forget the bus runs each morning to pick up the ones that don't have a car or just don't drive for one reason or another.

Gayle Ballou will be here the 23rd so if anyone needs help with insurance he is here to help out.

Anne Holland is very busy this morning. The blood pressure is girls are here, everyone is in line to get their pressure taken. That's all until next week, Wanda B.

Engagement Announced



David and Jerri Lollar of Tokio announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer, to Drew Blessing, son of Andy and Carol Blessing of Abilene. The bride elect is a 1999 graduate of Plains High School and attended Hardin-Simmons University this past year. The groom elect is a 1996 graduate of Abilene High

School and is currently enrolled at Hardin-Simmons University as a Physical Education Major and is employed by Cats Gym of Abilene. The couple will exchange vows on September 9, 2000 at 2:00 in the afternoon at First Baptist Church in Plains. All friends are invited.

Yoakum County Even Start Family Literacy Program

Families together-The best way to learn! Services Provided:
*English as a second language classes*ABE/GED preparation classes*Citizenship classes*Life skills/Work skills/Computer training*Early childhood education*Home visits*Parenting information. **A Family Who Qualifies:***Has a child age 7 or younger*Has at least one parent who does not have a GED or high school diploma*Parent must be 17 years or older.

Yoakum County Even Start Registration

*August 28th Through August 31st*8:00 am. to 12:00 pm.*The Learning Center, 600 N. Soland, Denver City (North side of Kelley Elementary School)*Bring 1. Your social security card 2. Shot records for children not enrolled in school*Even start classes will begin on September 5th at 8:00 am.!*Questions? Call 592-5977*Enrollment is limited, so register on these dates or call to let us know your plans.

Even Start del Condado Yoakum Registraciones
*agosto 28 hasta agosto 31*8:00am. hasta las 12:00 pm. *The Learning Center-600 N. Soland-Denver City *Favor de traer: 1. Su tarjeta de seguro social 2. Tarjetas de vacunas de los niños que ahun no estan la escuela *Las clases de Even Start comienzan el 5 de septiembre a las 8:00 am. Preguntas? llamen al 592-5977

The Learning Center
600 N. Soland
Denver City, Texas 79323
(806) 592-5977

Think
Watermelon
Round Up
5

Plains Police Academy Graduate Announced

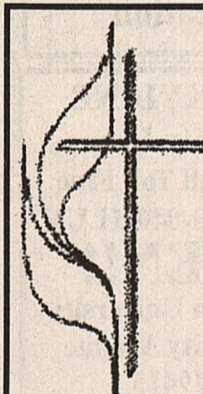
Jose Ramos from Plains graduated this month from the Night Basic Academy offered by SPC in Levelland.

Ramos was among 22 area residents who successfully completed day and evening police academies toward their goal of becoming peace officers in Texas. Through the academies, they have completed Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) requirements and will take the state licensing exam.

Everett McDaniel from Sundown and Douglas "Pecos" Hagler from Clarendon received Outstanding Achievement Awards. Both served as

class president of their academies.

About 250 family, friends and law enforcement staff attended SPC's 2000 Police Academy Graduation earlier this month. Larry Nichols, in his first year as academy director and chairman of the Professional Services and Energy Department, served as moderator. "This is a demanding program, both academically and physically. The students took firearms training, drivers training, studied the mechanics of arrest and mock accident investigations. It takes family support as well as individual effort to successfully complete this program," he said.



**First United Methodist
Church of Plains
Invites you to Worship!**

Sunday School 9:45 am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Evening Worship 6:30 pm
Evening Study 7:00 pm
Thursday Afternoon Study 5:15 pm

Yoakum County Plains Clinic

Jo Lena Wall PA-C

Will see Minor Emergencies, Chronic medical problems, Immunizations

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From The Hack

Received the following brilliant observations via e-mail recently;

MONEY -

It can buy a house but not a home.

It can buy a bed but not sleep.

It can buy a clock but not time.

It can buy a book but not knowledge.

It can buy you a position but not respect.

It can buy you medicine but not good health.

It can buy you blood but not life.

It can buy you sex but not love.

So, you see, money isn't everything. I tell you all this because I am your friend, and as your friend, I want to take away your pain and suffering, so send me all your money and I will suffer for you. A truer friend than me you'll never find. **CASH ONLY PLEASE.**

Ha... you thought this was going to be one of those sappy, sticky sweet letters, didn't you.

Politics. Political conventions. Speeches, bands, balloons floating down, crazed delegates in ridiculous hats screaming adoration of their choices. Media in a feeding frenzy, trying to capture the most bizarre, the latest stunning accusation or political promise.

Every time the Presidential election year rolls around, it seems to get a bit worse. Unfortunately, things will only intensify among the two parties between now and November.

I confess, I haven't turned into a couch potato covering every moment of the wild happenings in the two convention cities. As for all the interminable speeches by both parties lead-off hit men and women, through the vice presidential candidates, and the two Big Guys themselves, I feel very fortunate that 'Millionaire' show and 'The West Wing' were available.

I am encouraged in one manner; Both the Democrats and Republicans seem bored-sighted in on Social Security. As a recipient going on seven years, I want to assure all you younger ones, the only two advantages of growing old which come to my mind are Social Security and Medicare.

One obvious benefit of course is the monthly check deposited monthly for the Bride and I. The other is the medical benefits from Medicare, which when called into play always end up about 28 percent short of your hospital bill. But it's better than a sharp stick in the eye.

I have reviewed both parties promises for improving the program. This scares the stuff out of me. True, it may not be perfect, and something needs to insure it will be available for generations to come, but if it's not seriously broken, don't try to seriously fix it.

We'll see, won't we?

School started Monday, and in all probability many teachers were faced with these responses to questions about the big event:

1st graders - I'VE LEARNED I LIKE IT WHEN I CAN RAISE MY HAND AND GO TO THE BATHROOM WHEN I NEED TO.

I LIKE SCHOOL CAUSE MOST OF THE TIME WE DO GOOD STUFF, AND I DON'T GET SPANKED IF I DON'T.

I LIKE IT CAUSE THE THINGS THEY PUT ON THE TRAY TO EAT AT LUNCH YOU DON'T HAVE TO EAT ALL OF ' CAUSE MOST OF IT IS YUCK STUFF

IT'S OK SOMETIMES WHEN THEY DON'T MAKE ME CRY AFTER I DO SOMETHING BAD OR STUPID, YOU KNOW?

IT'S BEST WHEN I GET OUT OF SCHOOL IN THE AFTERNOON CAUSE I DON'T HAVE TO GO UNTIL THE MORNING, IF I GET UP.

I GUESS I'M NOT LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE, BUT I LIKE IT BEST WHEN THEY CAN TELL US WE CAN GO HOME OR TO THE BATHROOM.

We have out of town company coming for a two day visit some two weeks hence, and the Bride has me on the verge of a nervous and physical breakdown.

The moment I get up and away from the computer to take a brief break, she tells me to help her re-arrange the furniture, dust the baseboards, defrost the fridge and freezer, burn the gunk off her

three cast iron skillets, fill in the nail holes in the walls, lift the couch so she can vacuum there, rearrange the closets, scrape and dissolve that slimy stuff on the shower walls, paint anything that's not moving.

I protested and told her if she

didn't ease up, I would go on a hunger strike. You can guess what she replied; " Good! Only one mouth to feed - mine."

Lots of folks can't understand how we ran out of oil here in the USA. That's a no-brainer. We forgot to check the oil because

of geography - Most of the oil is in Texas and Oklahoma, and all the dipsticks are in Washington D.C.

Next time a telemarketer calls on the phone, tell him or her you work for the same company, and they can't sell to employees.

Drip Irrigation Management Field Day

Brad Palmer Farm

(4.5 miles North of New Tex Gin)

August 28, 2000

10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

Lunch will be served at 12:00 p.m.

Improvements in irrigation water use efficiencies and in overall management practices in production agriculture are vital to the sustainability in the area. One method to improve irrigation efficiencies and more precise control over management is through sub-surface drip irrigation.

Amos Dror the agronomist for Netafim USA will discuss the techniques necessary to maximize profits in cotton production. Included in this field day will be a discussion of varieties, planting dates, irrigation scheduling, fertility, and pest control. Amos Dror has developed a reputation in West Texas for improving cotton yield with his management techniques. Lunch will be served at noon with a short program about the advantages of sub-surface drip irrigation and how it works.

* PUBLIC NOTICE *

The Network Management Division of Lubbock Regional Mental Health Mental Retardation Center is currently seeking to expand its network of Outreach, Screening, Assessment & Referral (OSAR) providers in the area of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention, intervention, and treatment services. Eligible applicants must possess credentials in one of the following areas and must be willing to travel within the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (TCADA) 1b region:

- * Licensed chemical dependency counselor (LCDC),
- * Licensed professional counselor (LPC),
- * Licensed master social worker (LMSW, LMSW-ACP) or
- * Licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT)

Minimum qualifications and enrollment applications may be obtained by submitting a formal letter of interest to:

Beth A. Moore, Contracts Management Director
Lubbock Regional MHMR Center
P.O. Box 2828
Lubbock, TX 79408-2828

Letters of interest must include at a minimum: name, address, and daytime telephone number of the potential provider. There is no deadline to request membership into the network for the areas listed above; applications may be requested at any time.

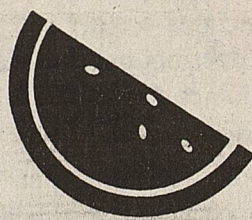
* NO FAXED LETTERS OF INTEREST WILL BE ACCEPTED *

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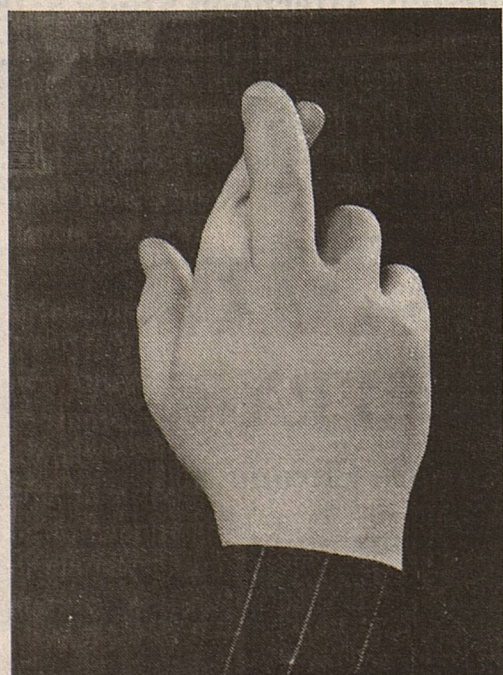


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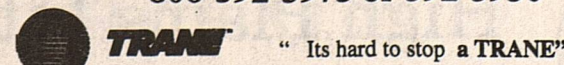
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FIFTH ANNUAL

WATERMELON ROUND-UP



2000 Watermelon Round-Up Activities

6:30 pm Friday, September 1, 2000
Brisket & Chili meat passed out to cooks

8:00 am Saturday, September 2, 2000
Until 8:45 Register for Fun Run - NW of Old Courthouse

Brisket Cook-Off starts - Stanford Park
Chili Cook-Off starts - Stanford Park

9:00 am Watermelon Weigh-In - Pioneer Park by City Hall

Fun Run starts - NW of old Courthouse
Toddler Run Starts - NW of Old Courthouse

Alltel Volleyball Tournament - Methodist Church Court, Ave. G

Boot Toss - Front of New Courthouse
Classic Car Show starts - Front of school

Pony rides/Space Walk/Gyrosphere/Ladder Climb/ Train Ride - Front of New Courthouse

Books open for Team Roping - Plains Rodeo Arena

10:00 am Petting Zoo - NE of New Courthouse
Team Roping - Plains Rodeo Arena

11:00 am Watermelon Rolling Contest - Front of New Courthouse
Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest - Front of New Courthouse

1:00 pm Watermelon Awards & Recognition Ceremony - Stage

Dunking Booth - Front of New Courthouse (5 chances for \$1)

Hay Hop - Front of New Courthouse

Hourseshoe Pitching Contest - Pioneer Park by City Hall

2:00 pm Balloon Toss - Front of New Courthouse

3:00 pm Cow-Patty Bingo - Front of New Courthouse

Watermelon Eating Contest - Front of New Courthouse

Chili Cook-Off Judging - Gazebo/Stanford Park

Brisket Cook-Off Judging - Gazebo/Stanford Park

4:00 pm Brisket Cook-Off & Chili Cook-Off Winners Announced - Stage

Car Show Awards - Stage

Brisket Auction - Stage

Turner Club Quilt Auction - Stage

5:30 pm Final Announcements - Stage

Entertainment on stage all day.

Listen for announcer to give time or check for posted times at stage area.

Port-a-Potties between Library & Old Courthouse, Car Show, Rodeo Arena, and City Hall

Saturday, September 2, 2000

Plains, Texas

Yoakum County, Texas

home of the most delicious watermelons you've ever tasted!



From the Yoakum County Connection

Change is in the air. Not only are we in a new millennium, a new century, a new season, a new mindset, but Yoakum County Connection has a new executive director, Tonya Patton. Tonya has worked hard to complete a successful Summer Youth Arts Program that involved hundreds of county youngsters. This is funded (at least in part) from the monies made at this festival. Texas Commission on the Arts, Yoakum County Agricultural Extension Service, Texas Rural Communities and individual donors deserve credit also.

Our Yoakum County Watermelon Round-Up Chair Jeannette Head has, for the third year, organized, cajoled, and threatened us. Once again, we have evolved from a lazy hodgepodge of competing ideas and committees into a smoothly run festival. A big thanks to Jeannette an committee chairs and members. As Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has."

In our five years of Watermelon Round-Up, we have changed our perceptions of what is possible in Yoakum County, what visitors think about our county and what we can do to have fun on Labor Day Weekend. And it's a fact, Yoakum County watermelon are the sweetest in the world! By thinking BIG and using our constants of good, talented and energetic people, we lefted ourselves out of the ordinary and can enjoy the possibility of new beginnings.

Linda Powell
Yoakum County Connection
Chair

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
A Hearty
Welcome 
to the
5th Annual Watermelon
Round-up!
The City of Plains
Mayor, City Council & Employees
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Ty Earl Powell

For Commissioner
Precinct 3

ELECTION:

Tuesday, November 7

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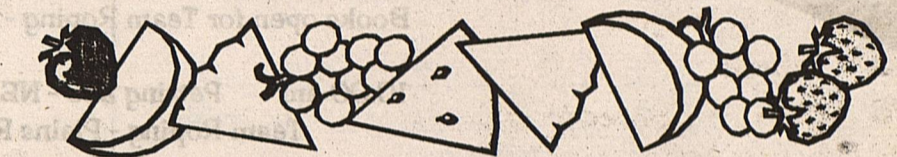
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5th Annual Watermelon Round-up!



Fields of Green

The ingredients for a delicious watermelon begin at the farm, where the right mix of weather, water and vigilant care are needed to produce top-quality watermelons. Producers generally grow watermelon in rows, 8-12 feet apart, in raised beds 4-12 inches high composed of fertilized sand or sandy loam. Sheets of plastic cover the beds to hold in solid nutrients and water and keep out weeds.

Tiny watermelon plants from a transplant nursery are implanted in the beds and their roots easily take hold and are widely spaced to allow for quick growth. Honeybees must pollinate the yellow watermelon blossom. Even the sterile, seedless watermelon requires pollination in order to fruit. In a month, a vine may spread to as much as 6-8 feet. Within 60 days, the vine produces its first watermelons and the crop is ready to harvest within 90 days. The first watermelons to mature are called the "crown set" because they are closest to the root. Other melons farther down the vine will ripen later and growers may harvest their watermelon fields several times before the crop is in.



The rind of a watermelon is deceptively hardy looking, but is actually quite fragile. That's why watermelons are still picked by hand from the field. Before picking, watermelon producers look for a pale or buttery yellow spot on the bottom, indicating ripeness. Watermelons are passed hand-to-hand from the field to trucks, which take the melons to packing sheds, where they are sorted and hand-packed into trucks, crated into bins or placed in cartons for shipment to their destinations.



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Thank you, Volunteers!

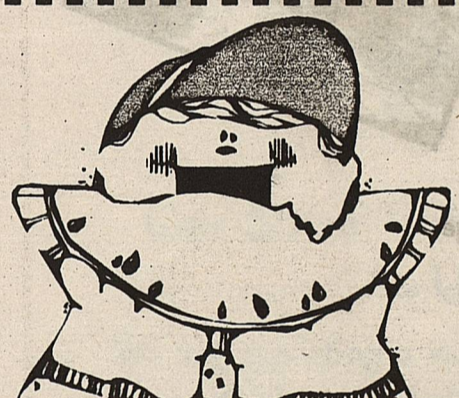
You work above and beyond the call of duty. The Yoakum County Watermelon Round-Up would not be celebrating its fifth year without all of the hard work that you do. Your dedication is what has made us grow. I personally appreciate all that you do to make my job easier. Thank you for caring about your community and county.



Sincerely,
Jeannette Head
Chairman
Yoakum County Watermelon Round-Up

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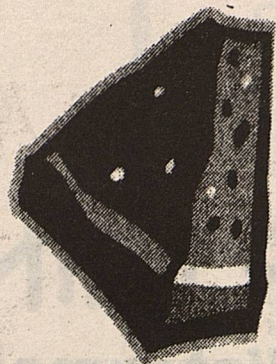
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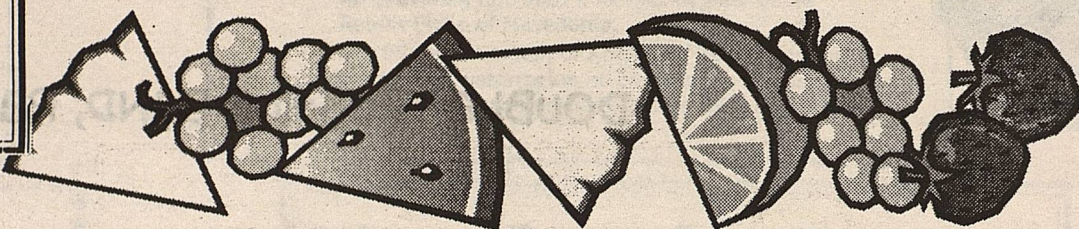
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Top Producing Watermelon States 1999

STATE	POUNDS PRODUCED	ACRES HARVESTED	DOLLAR VALUE
Florida	215,959,400	35,000	72,450,000
Texas	153,022,660	37,200	29,611,000
California	130,007,559	14,700	62,578,000
Georgia	100,266,864	25,000	24,375,000
Arizona	65,569,387	7,500	17,853,000
Indiana	34,759,180	6,500	11,154,000
North Carolina	26,552,722	8,900	6,713,000
Missouri	26,161,939	5,300	4,452,000
South Carolina	25,400,939	9,500	8,275,000
Delaware	22,110,129	2,500	9,675,000
Oklahoma	13,883,104	7,500	4,928,000
Maryland	12,217,132	2,700	6,534,000
Alabama	7,054,674	5,200	2,264,000
Arkansas	5,676,647	2,400	2,070,000
Louisiana	4,730,539	2,300	1,541,000
Mississippi	4,278,053	3,200	1,206,000



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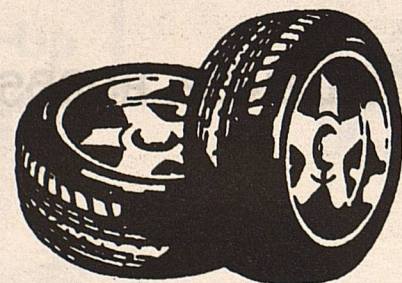
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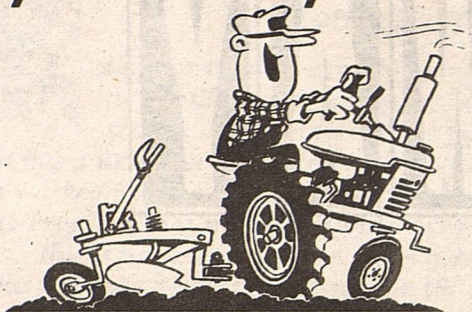
Kumho

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We are looking forward to a wonderful September 2, 2000 -

WATERMELON ROUND-UP #5

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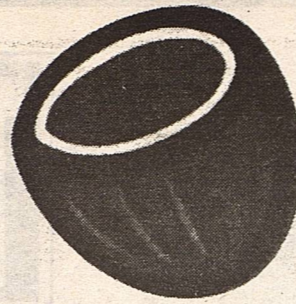
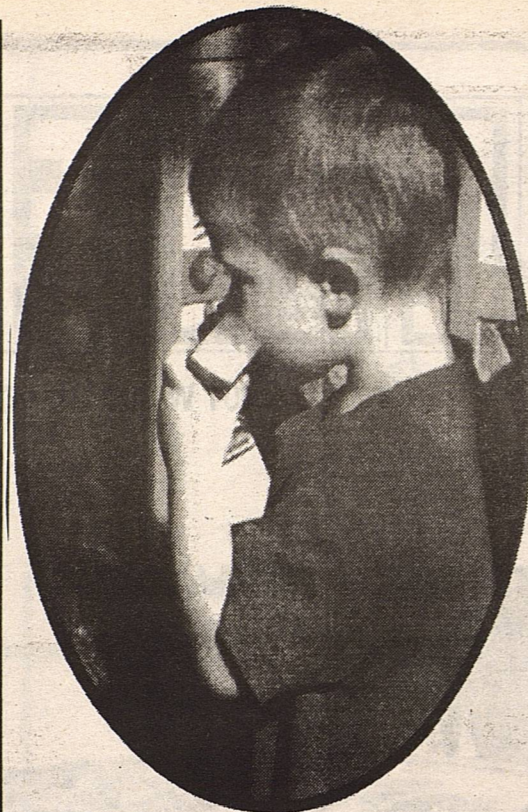
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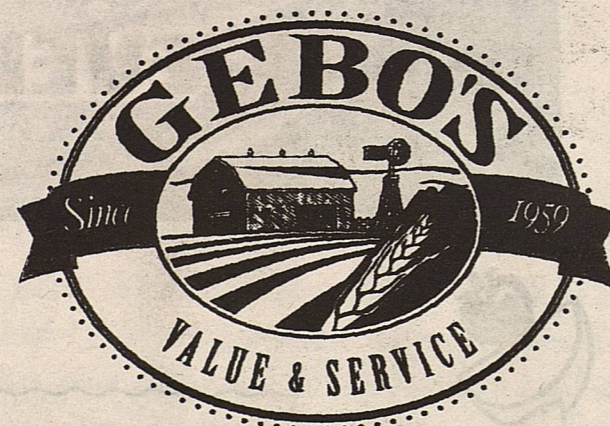
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5th Annual Watermelon Round-up

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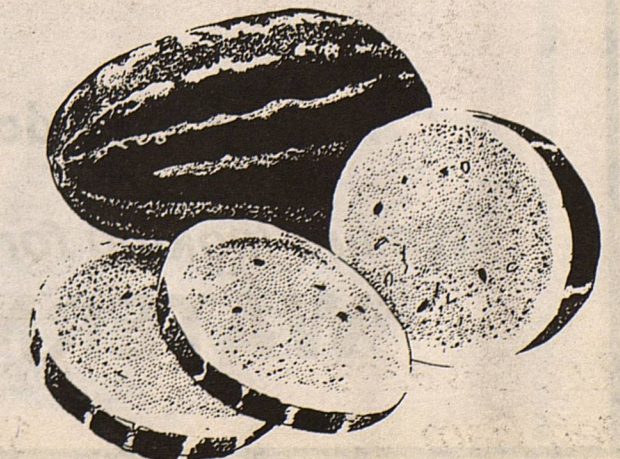
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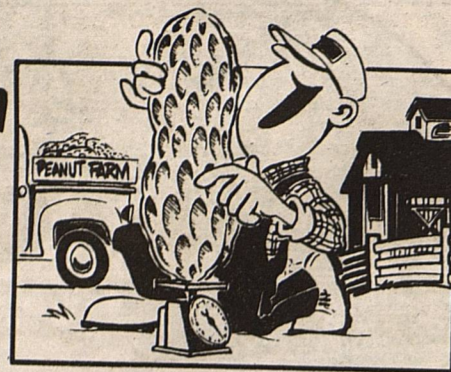
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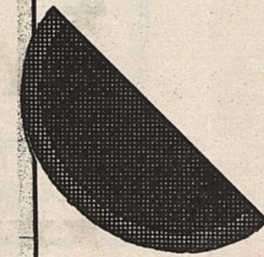
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Fun Facts

Throughout the years, watermelon has found itself in many pickles, jams, and other interesting situations. Here is a list of fun facts you many not have known about watermelons:

- Watermelon is grown in over 96 countries worldwide.
- In China and Japan watermelon is a popular gift to bring a host.
- In Israel and Egypt, the sweet taste of watermelon is often paired with the salty taste of feta cheese.
- Watermelon is 92% water.
- Watermelon's official name is Citrullus lanatus of the botanical family Cucurbitaceae and is related to cucumbers, pumpkins and squash.
- By weight, watermelon is the most-consumed melon in the U.S., followed by cantaloupe and honeydew.
- Early explorers used watermelons as canteens.
- The first cookbook published in the United States in 1796 contained a recipe for watermelon rind pickles.
- Food Historian John Martin Taylor says that early Greek settlers brought the method of pickling watermelon with them to Charleston, South Carolina.
- A watermelon was once thrown at Roman Governor Demosthenes during a political debate. Placing the watermelon upon his head, he thanked the thrower for providing him with a helmet to wear as he fought Philip of Macedonia.
- In 1990, Bill Carson, of Arrington, Tennessee, grew the largest watermelon at 262 pounds that is still on the record books according to the 1998 edition of



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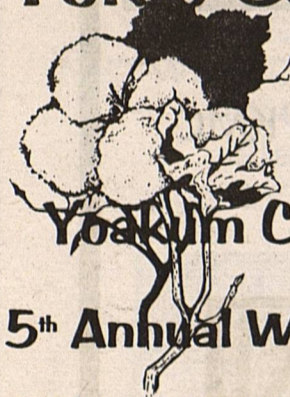
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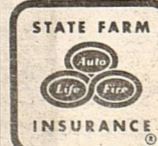
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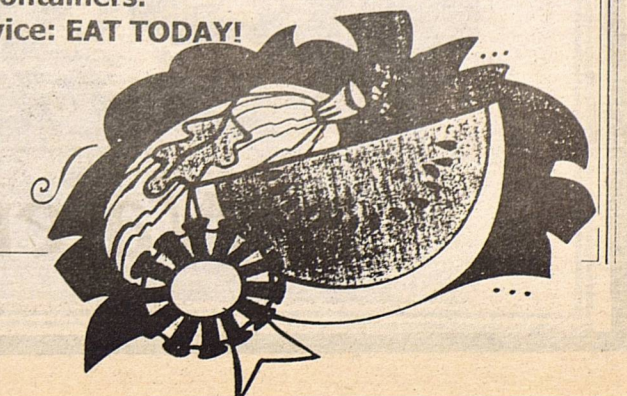
Jeff Lowrey
Mobile 456-7869
Home 456-3195

HOW TO SELECT A WATERMELON:

- Choose a watermelon symmetrical in shape without dents bruises and cuts.
- Thump, if you must (listen for dull hollow sound).
- Turn watermelon over. The underside should be yellow with a healthy sheen to the rind.
- Lift the watermelon. It should be heavy for its size.

HOW TO STORE AND PREPARE A WATERMELON:

- Store watermelon in refrigerator for up to two weeks for best sweetness and flavor.
- Clean outside of watermelon with cool water before cutting as you would any fruit.
- Cover cut surface of watermelon loosely with plastic wrap to prevent flesh from becoming mushy.
- Store chunks of watermelon flesh in covered plastic containers.
- Best advice: EAT TODAY!



Valley



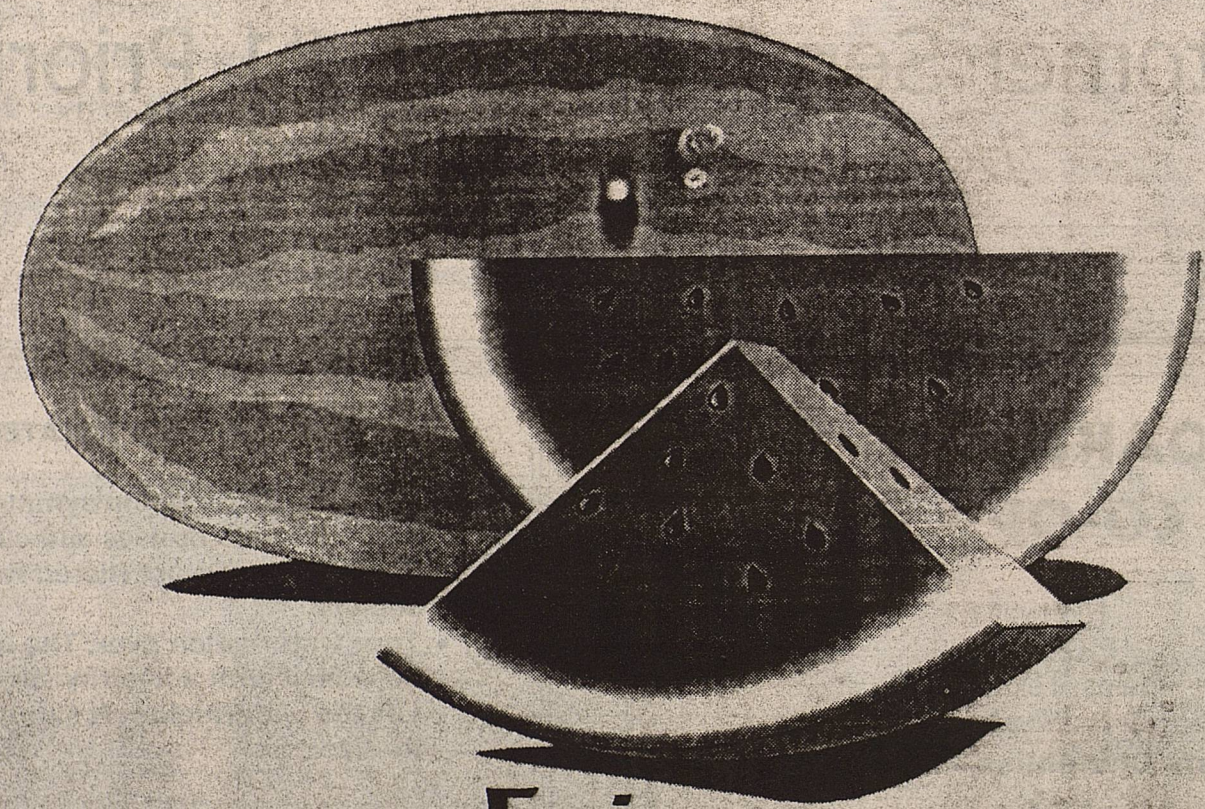
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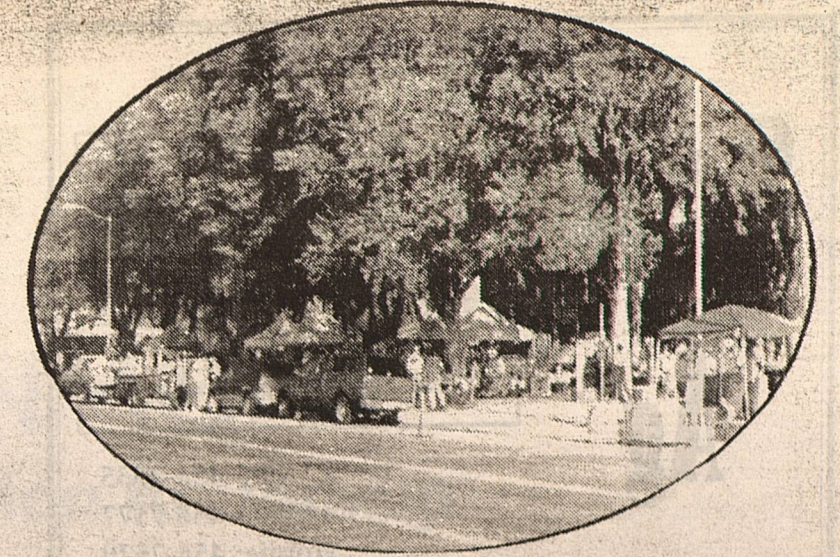


Enjoy
Family, Food and Fun
at the
5th Annual
Watermelon Round-up!

Best Wishes
for a
Successful
Watermelon Round-up



Compliments
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Yoakum County Sheriff
Jimmy Rice



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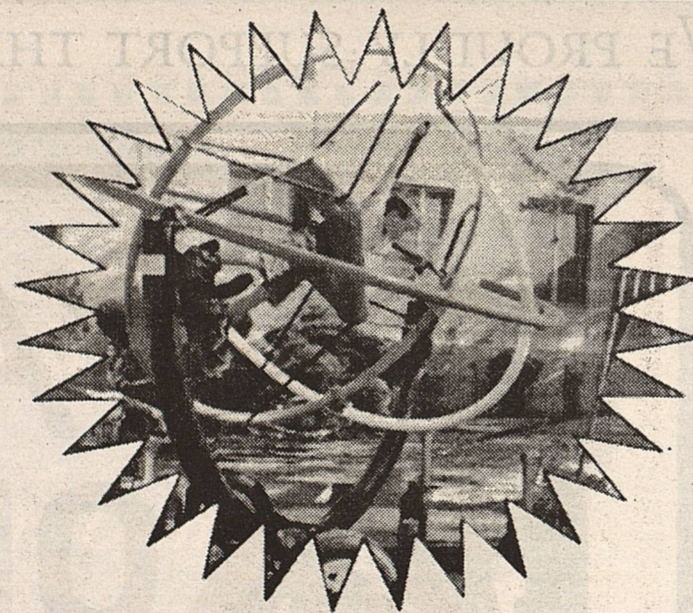
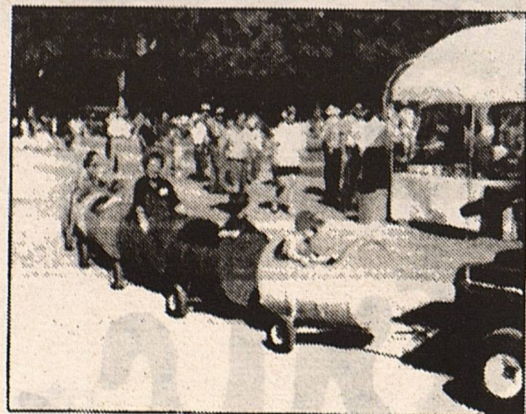
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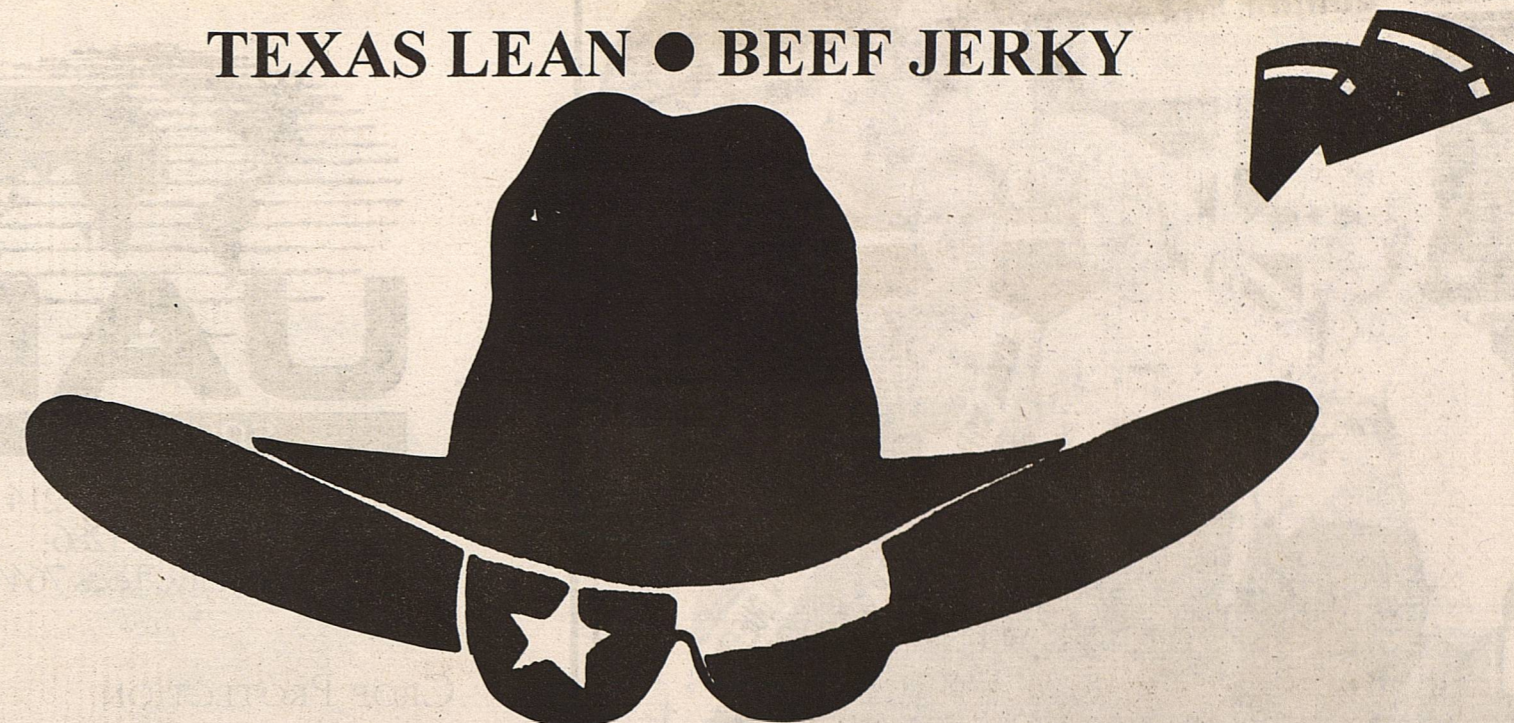
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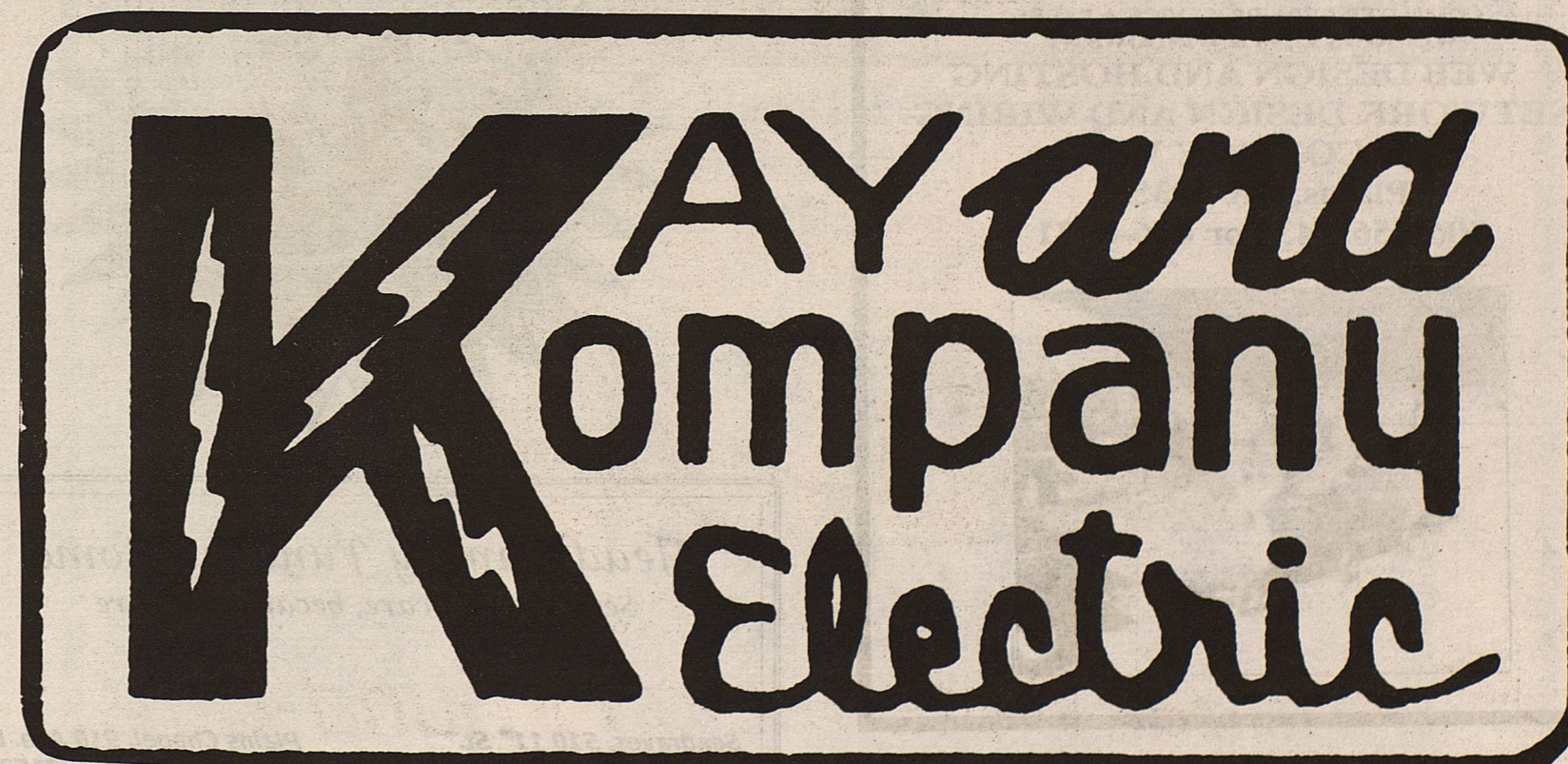


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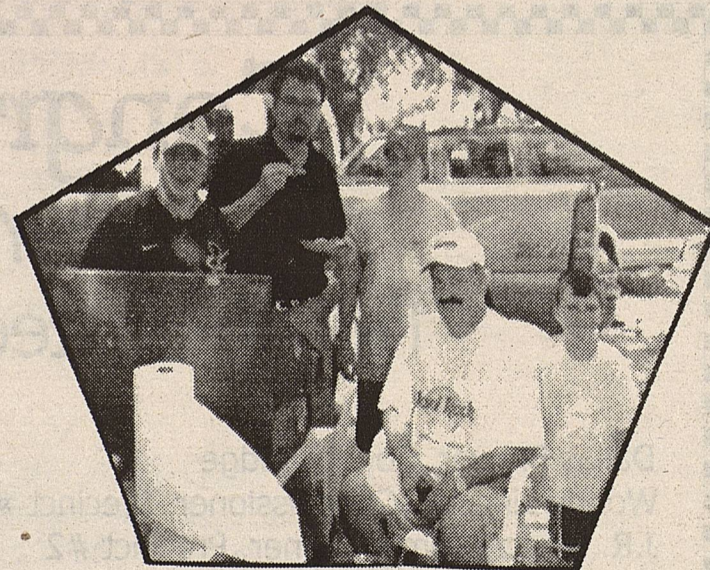
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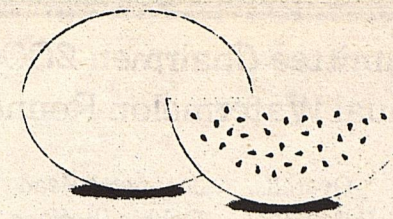
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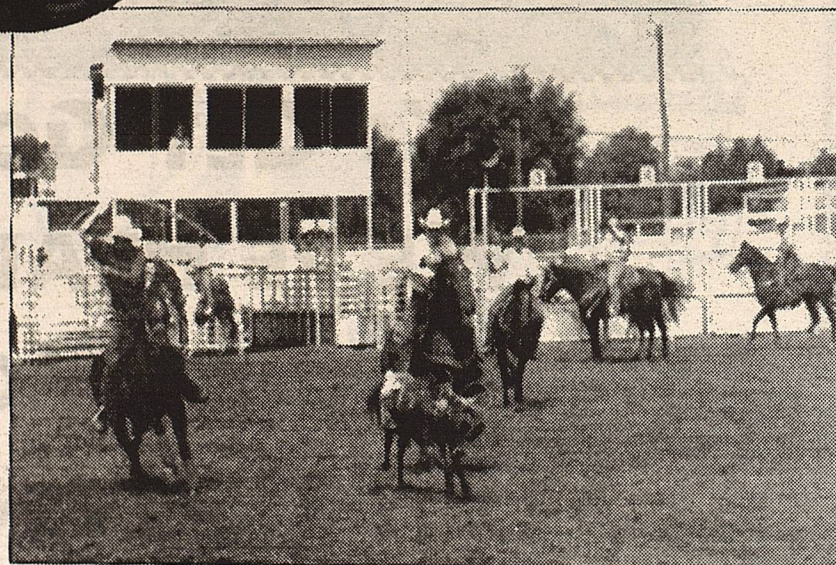
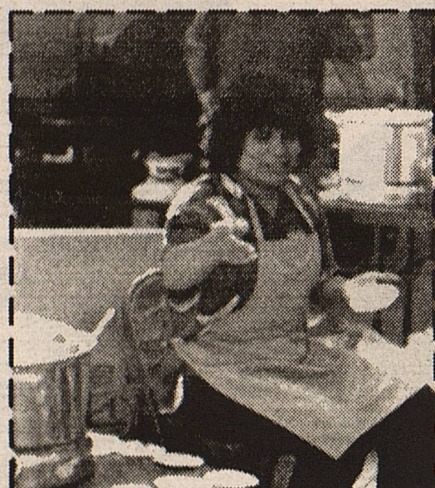
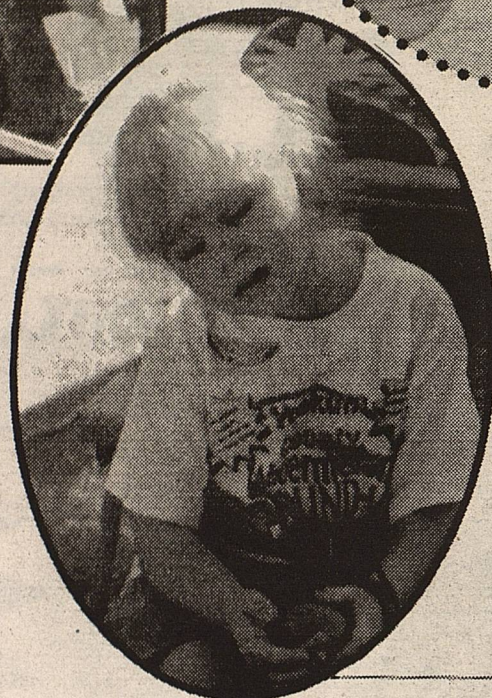
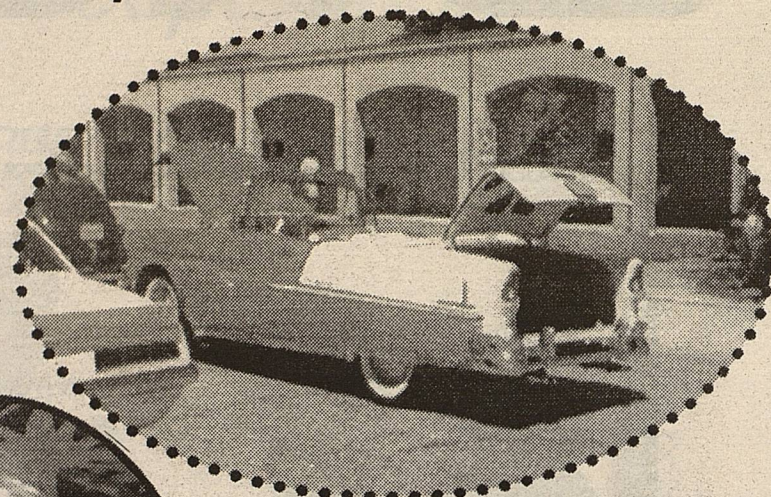


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YOAKUM COUNTY CONNECTION SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM 2000

The 2000 Yoakum County Connection Summer Youth Art Program was a true success in every sense of the word. There were 325 Yoakum County Kids participating in the various art classes. I do have to say it was a little overwhelming having 34 kids making pizzas and over 30 kids participating in Balloon Art. However, we all had a great time and most importantly, the kids walked away learning a little something new.

A very big special thanks to my sister, **Tracy Lowrey**, who helped with classes for the whole month of June. She was there for classes she was not even teaching. A special thanks to **Darla Welch** and **Denise Maltby** for volunteering for Balloon Art while I was unavailable. Thanks to **Tara Price**, instructor for Balloon Art, for being a young adult and putting forth her all. Also, I would like to thank **Idalia Garza** and **Lubbock Regional Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse** for providing Project Pride. Thanks to Yoakum County and **JoBeth Cromer**, extension agent, for helping with Tie Dye, Snack Attack, and Microwave Munchies. **Margaret Williams** is truly an inspiration for the arts. Margaret enjoys her clay and helps influence the children of Yoakum County to do the same. I would like to thank **LeAnn Romines**, art teacher in Denver City, for teaching Watercolor. She is great with the students and spends extended hours to devote to her profession of teaching. Thanks to **Lance Scott**, police officer from Levelland, who took time out of his busy schedule to teach Cartoon Art for the YCC program. Also, I would like to recognize **Tanya Vasquez** for being the paid assistant for the 2000 Summer Youth Art Program. Last, but certainly not least, thanks to my husband, **Shannon**, and my daughter, **Makenzie**, for supporting and understanding the importance of the time I give to this program. They sacrificed many meals, many bedtime stories, and my absence for the month of June.

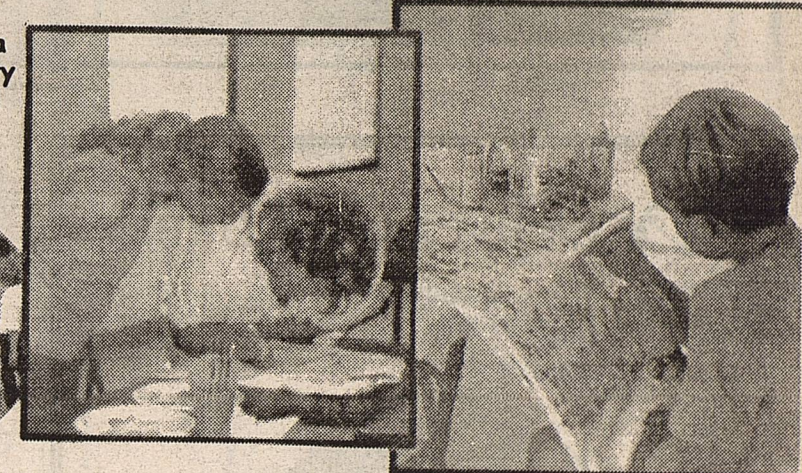
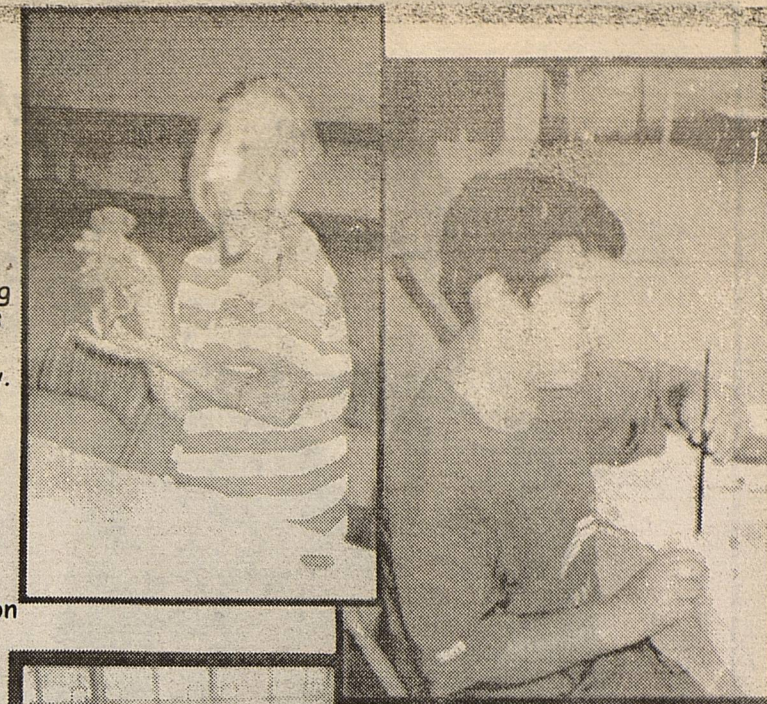
To all of you who participated in the YCC Summer Youth Art Program: THANKS FOR A OUTSTANDING JOB!!!!!!!

This program would not be possible without the help from **TEXAS RURAL COMMUNITIES** and **TEXAS COMMISSION ON THE ARTS**. These organizations provide grants which allow the Connection to offer the classes to the youth of Yoakum County. Thanks to TRC and TCA for supporting Yoakum County and the Connection's Summer Youth Art Program.

Thanks to the following donors to the YCC Summer Youth Art Program: **Altura Oil, Inc.**, **Ty & Linda Powell**, **Yoakum County Extension Service**, **Andrews County Extension Service**, **Tracy Lowrey**, **Lea County Electric**, **Lowe's Pay-N-Save** and **Thriftway**.



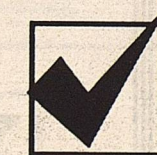
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2000 Watermelon Queen

Sarah Williams is the 2000 Texas-Oklahoma Watermelon Queen. She is the 18 year old daughter of Jeannine and Jim Williams of Uvalde, Texas. She will be attending Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos.

Sarah, a spokesperson for the Watermelon Association for the next year, will compete for the national title in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina in February 2001. Meanwhile, she will be doing in-store watermelon promotions, parades and festivals like ours here in Yoakum County.

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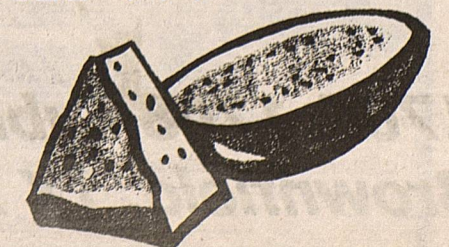
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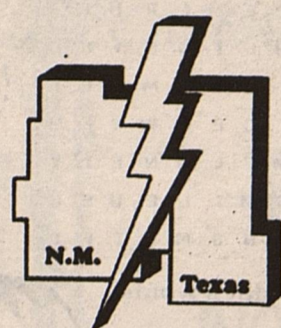
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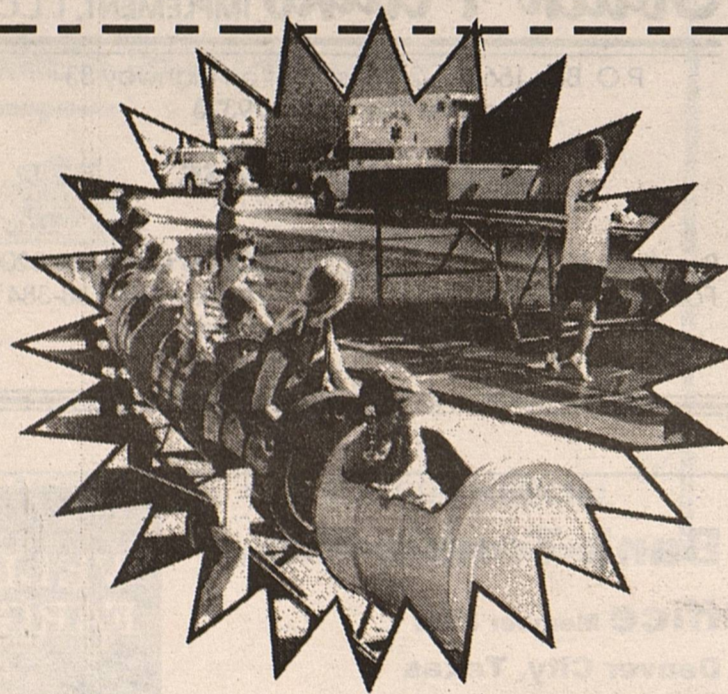
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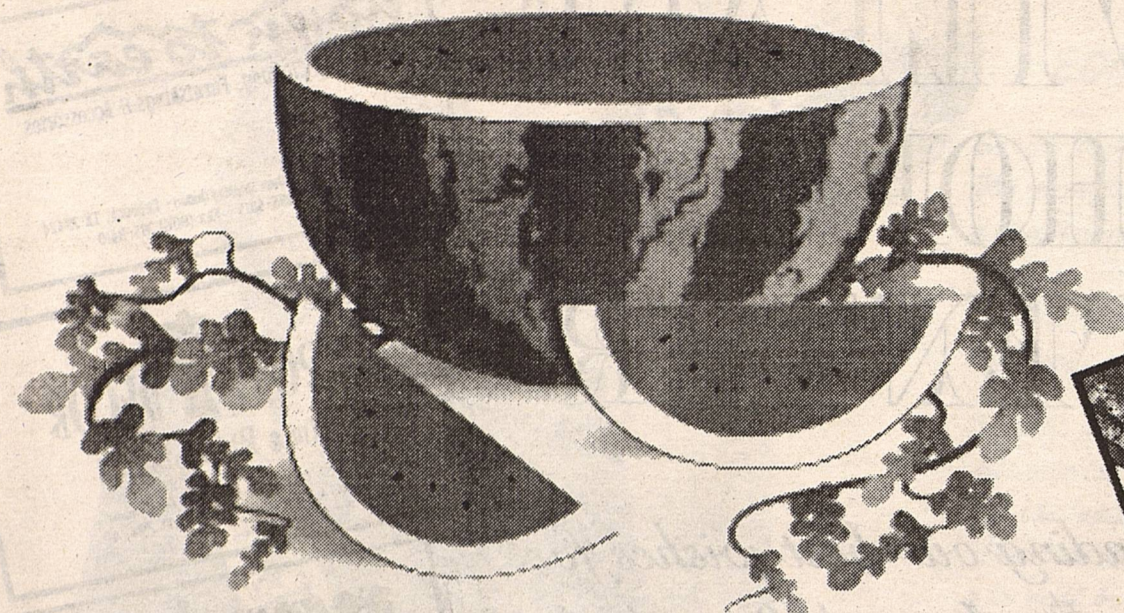
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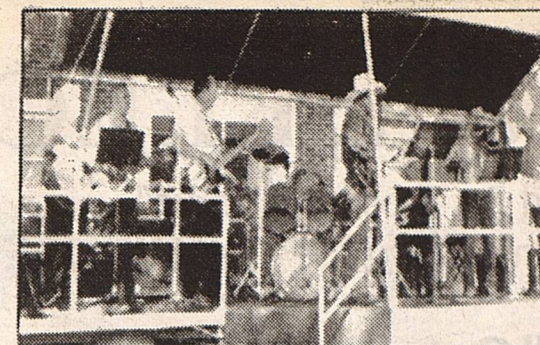
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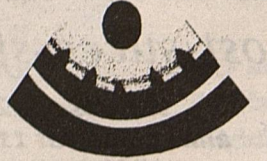
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Manager

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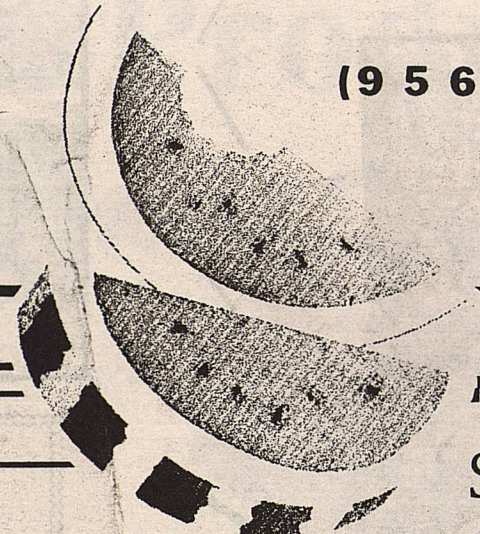
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HELP ELECT



REX SWANN
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Yoakum County
Commissioner
Precinct 3

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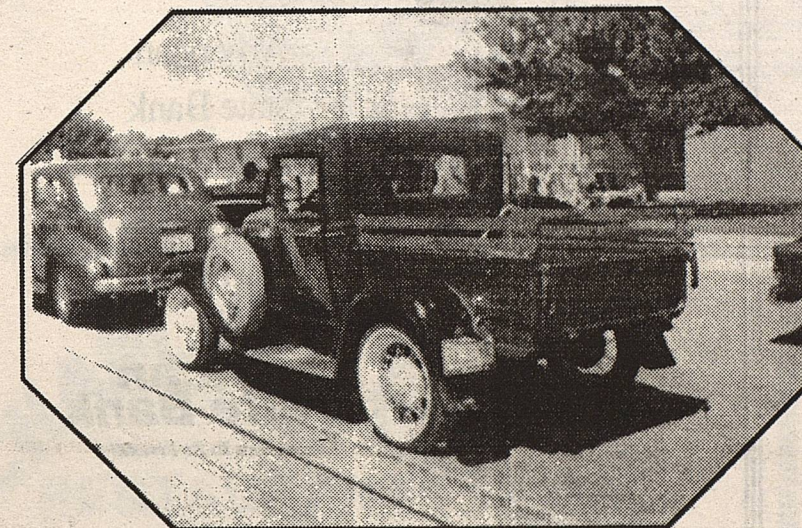
☆☆☆ ===== ☆☆☆

ELECT
BETTY RIVAS
for
Yoakum County Tax Collector

Early Voting:
October 23rd - November 3rd
General Election: November 7th

Pol. Adv. Paid for by Betty Rivas
Box 84 • Denver City, TX 79323

☆☆☆ ===== ☆☆☆



Car Show Will Be a Success As Usual

We are expecting a wonderful car show this year. We have already had several inquiries and a lot of interest. Last year we had entries from all over the area. Some entries came from as far away as Del Rio while there was the usual support from the Plains area. The proud owners of these beautiful cars and trucks came from all over to support the show during the Fourth Annual Watermelon Round-up.

This year we will have at least twenty classes with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies. There will also be the specialty trophies. The show will again be in front of the Plains schools, and we are really looking forward to seeing you.

Terry & Wadonna Davis

Lalitos



Wishing this year's
ROUND-UP
a most successful event!!!!

We close at 2:00 p.m. Sunday
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