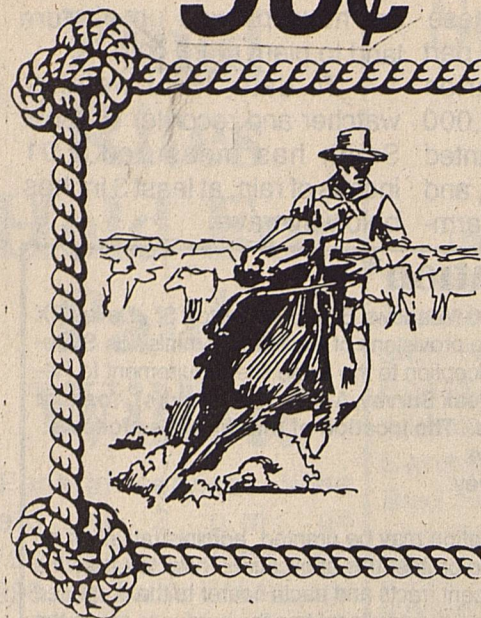


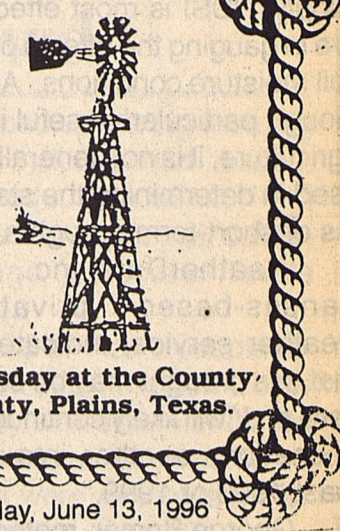
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# Cowboy Country News



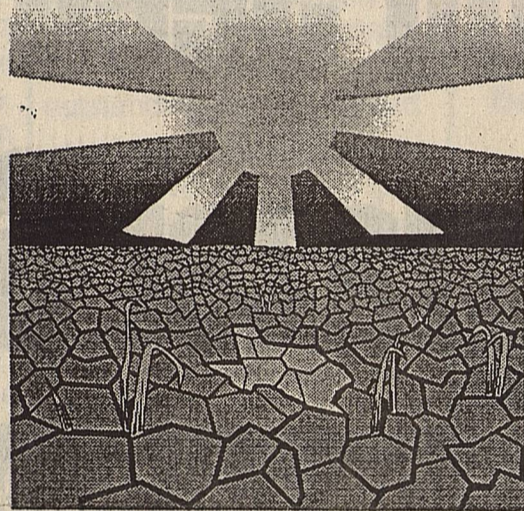
Published each Wednesday at the County Seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas.

Volume 2, Issue 40, Thursday, June 13, 1996

## Texas and the 1996 Drought

Texas is suffering through a drought that has the potential to be as damaging as any in the state's history. Though the severity of drought conditions vary by region, it is fair to say that every Texas farmer and rancher has been hurt by the lack of rain. To make matters worse, support for farmers and ranchers in these tough times is limited to emergency federal aid and a handful of educational and loan programs that are regulated by the state.

A drought of this magnitude has inevitable economic consequences. Earlier this year, agricultural economists at Texas A&M University predicted that Texas farmers and ranchers would pump nearly \$15 billion into the state's economy. Now these figures are being lowered, as a result of the drought's blistering of Texas' agricultural landscape. A May 1996 study by Texas A&M estimated that total agricultural value could fall by as much as \$2.4 billion unless the severity of the drought lessens. Producer losses at these levels could translate to a decline of about 0.5 percent of the expected 1996 Texas Gross State Product of \$527.2 billion. In terms of negative effects on the Texas economy overall, the drought would rate as roughly equal to the December 1994 peso devaluation which devastated border retail sales and slowed Texas exports to Mexico.



### How Bad Is It?

Average annual precipitation in the state varies from 8 inches in West Texas to more than 60 inches in the eastern part of the state. Severe drought conditions in East Texas would be considered a wet season in West Texas. While there is some degree of drought in at least one region of the state every year, Texas is now experiencing a drought across the entire state. (See Figure 1.)

Climatologists say that a drought is difficult to define because much depends on the normal climate of an area. Simple definitions such as a "prolonged and abnormal moisture deficiency" or a "worrisome lack of rain" have proved to be as effective as any.

The Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI), an index of meteorological drought that takes into account hydrologic factors such as precipitation, evaporation and soil moisture, showed in mid-May that all of the state's 10 climatic regions were in a stage of drought, ranging from moderate to extreme. The index, developed in 1965, is used extensively as a measure of drought for agricultural and water resource management. In measuring the lack of moisture

Turn to page 2, 'Texas Drought'

## Another Hat In Ring For County Clerk's Spot

Harry Richardson, Chairman of the Yoakum County Republican Party, announced Monday a six member party committee selected Deborah L. (Debbie) Rushing as their official candidate for County Clerk in the November General Election.

Richardson said, "It was a difficult decision to make, as we had two well qualified candidates interested in running for the office. Our final choice of Debbie was partly based on the fact she is, of course, well known in her hometown, Plains, and very well acquainted in Denver City also, having worked in the First National Bank, as well as with the Texas Children's Protective Service and the County Juvenile Probation office there."

Rushing currently serves as Administrative Assistant and office manager for State Representative Gary Walker here in Plains.

In an interview Tuesday, she said she was both very pleased and honored to be



chosen as the party's candidate. "I have tried to expand my organizational and public relations skills over the years, and these qualities and my experience should be very beneficial in the Clerk's office. I would welcome all the challenges the position presents. Obviously, I want and need the job and the associated benefits, but I would

not think of entering the race if I was not confident I can perform and effectively serve all the County residents."

She is married to Morris J. Rushing, a local ag producer, and the couple have three sons; Dan, a senior at Southwest University; Jay, a junior at Texas Tech; and Doug, a junior at PHS.

## County Court Meets

Yoakum County Commissioner's Court met Monday, June 10, to consider a very brief agenda.

The May tax report was examined and approved, showing tax receipts of \$19,910. The report was presented by Sheila Stephens of the Tax Assessor/Collector's office.

In a carry over matter from the last Court session, the Court approved a study determining valuation of all county buildings for insurance purposes with the Texas Association of Counties. 33 properties were valued at \$7,535,290, a dollar amount midway between the replacement cost and actual cash value of the properties.

All County bills and part time salaries were approved for payment.

Judge Brewer declared the Courthouse would be closed at noon Wednesday for the remainder of the day to allow all workers to attend the funeral of Paula Willett, and to honor the grieving family.

## DWI Cases Heard In County Criminal Court

County Judge Dallas Brewer heard six guilty pleas to charges of Driving While Intoxicated, presented by Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark.

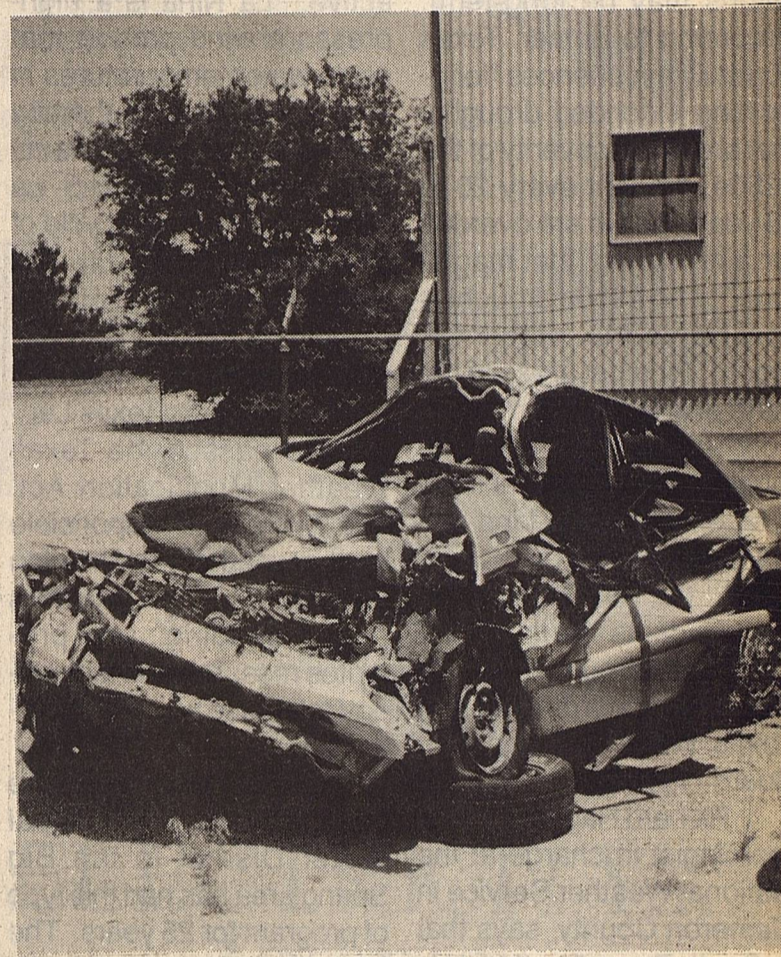
Lonnie Lee Hernandez, 18, received a 60 day jail term, suspended and probated 12 months. He was fined \$500, must pay \$227 Court costs, and will spend 72 hours in jail, with 18 hours credited. He must attend a Minor In Possession seminar in Lubbock, and his license will be suspended 90 days.

Kenneth Mark Hemmeline, 19, also pled guilty to a DWI offense, and received the same sentence as the previous defendant, but only received 9.5 hours credit on his 72 hour jail term.

Kristen Daun Martin, 25, received a similar DWI sentence. Her 72 hour jail sentence was credited with 13 hours. She must also perform 100 hours community service, supervised by the Community Supervision and

Turn to page 3, 'DWI Cases'

## Bad Wrecks Bring Death, Pain & Grief



Remains of St. Clair Auto

Two horrendous automobile wrecks on Friday, June 7, occurring less than one hour apart, took the lives of three people, and seriously injured four others.

Paula Willett, a long time Plains resident and secretary in the Criminal District Attorney's office, was pronounced dead at the scene of an accident on U.S. Highway 82 east of here, near the Johnson community intersection, while returning from a trip to Lubbock. Apparently the car, driven by her son Wayne, went out of control, overturned and flipped over. Ms. Willett, her daughter Shandy, and her young granddaughter Sierra were ejected from the vehicle. Both Shandy and Sierra re-

ceived serious injuries, the extent of which were not available at press time.

Less than 60 minutes later, a grinding head on crash on Highway 214 just north of Denver City instantly killed Bill Jim St. Clair, 67, and his 65 year old wife, Marlene Cooper St. Clair, both of Muleshoe. They were headed south on 214. An unidentified male driving a commercial maintenance truck, heading north, apparently veered across the center stripe directly into the path of the oncoming St. Clair auto. Volunteer Fire Department and EMS personnel were forced to use the 'Jaws of Life' to cut the St. Clairs' bodies from the demolished vehicle.

## New Farm Bill Allocates Cost Share Funds

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a new USDA cost-share program which combines the functions of the Great Plains Conservation Program (GPCP), Water Quality Incentives Program and the Agriculture Conservation Program (ACP). The program is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture, distributed through our local soil and water conservation district and administered by the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Ranchers and farmers can be allocated up to \$50,000 federal cost-share payments payable over a 5-10 year contract period (a maximum of \$10,000 may

be drawn annually). Items that may be cost-shared on are: planting unsuitable cropland to trees or grass, reseeding damaged or depleted rangeland, livestock water development, permanent fencing, brush control, tree windbreaks, strip cropping, water erosion control, or irrigation system reorganization and improvement.

The basic principles of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program are as follows. It is fully voluntary on the part of the individual rancher or farmer. A conservation plan, including a time schedule, is a prerequisite to participation. The rancher or

Turn to page 4, 'Farm Bill'

Cont'd from Page 1,  
**'Texas Drought'**  
 supply, PDSI is most effective in gauging the effects on soil moisture conditions. Although particularly useful in agriculture, it is not generally used in determining the status of short-term droughts. WeatherData Inc., a Kansas-based private weather service, indicates that this drought may be severe and "will likely continue, in one form or other, into at least 1998 or 1999."

George Bomar, meteorologist and director of the Weather Modification Program at the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC), agrees that the current conditions may be long-term. According to Bomar, Texas normally experiences "long-running extended droughts that are of the severity of the 1950s drought every 20 to 25 years, so we are overdue for a drought of that magnitude." The 1950s drought is considered the "drought of record" for most areas of the state and is used as a measure for water planning, much like the 100-year flood is a benchmark for land-use planners.

In the Rio Grande Valley, residents are into their fourth consecutive year of drought, according to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).

Richard Hagan, the meteorologist in charge at the National Weather Service in Cameron County, says that in South Texas "... this year will be recorded as having tied for the second driest first quarter since records have been kept. To make matters worse, history dictates that more than 80 percent of the time, if the first quarter of the year is dry, the rest of the year will be dry."

Robert Slattery, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Amarillo, reports that his region has received less than one inch of rain since October 31, 1995, and "it has been the driest six months on record even dating back to the Dust Bowl days of the 1930s."

Wayne Wyatt, High Plains Underground Water District, Lubbock, reports, "The High Plains area is just about as dry as it ever has been. Existing weather conditions are comparable to those of the 1950s, and are deteriorating every day that does not bring rain. Farmers in the region are irrigating as much as they can so that they can plant their crops, but the dry, windy conditions in the High Plains region are making it harder to get the soil to its proper

moisture levels. The good news is that the water levels in the Ogallala Aquifer, the water source that farmers in the region use to irrigate, are higher than expected. This can be attributed to the high levels of rainfall that the region received in late 1995 and to greater irrigation efficiency that helps eliminate water waste associated with wind drift, deep soil penetration and evaporation."

Some meteorologists speculate this drought could last a couple of years. These estimates are based on weather patterns and historical data that show all of the warning signs pointing to a long-term problem. For example, "La Nina" is currently active. La Nina is a high-pressure wind pattern that cools water temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean, thereby weakening storm systems that bring rain to the U.S. La Nina is the opposite cycle of El Nino, the more famous Gulf Stream weather pattern blamed for causing floods.

**Can we change the Weather?**  
 In 1967, the Texas Legislature passed the Texas Weather Modification Act. The TNRCC is responsible for the weather modification program, which permits "cloud seeding" and promotes research and technology related to weather modification.

On the local level, the Colorado River Municipal Water District in the Big Spring area has had this type of program for 25 years. The West Texas Weather Modification Association (WTWMA) has received a permit from TNRCC to begin a cloud seeding program in a seven-county area. WTWMA proposes to cover 5.2 million acres in the cloud seeding program at a cost of \$300,000 to \$400,000, or about 7 cents per acre.

TNRCC estimates that for every \$1 dollar invested in cloud seeding, there is a \$20 to \$25 return in production of the land. TNRCC also found that, contrary to popular belief, cloud seeding tends to prevent flash floods and heavy rains by producing gentle rains over a long period of time.

Some of the most interesting rain experiments took place on the dry West Texas plains in Post. The town was built in 1907 by C.W. Post, the millionaire New York cereal manufacturer who owned land in Post and lived there several months a year. In an effort to supply the 3,000-plus inhabitants with a steady supply of drinking water and irrigation water, Post pioneered a technique that he called

"rain battling." Having read that some of the major battles during the Napoleonic and Civil wars were followed by rain, Post speculated that the ear-shattering noise from exploding cannons was able to shake rain from the skies. The innovative businessman believed he could duplicate this phenomenon on his own ranch land.

In his attempts in 1910, Post tried tying sticks of dynamite to kites and exploding them at great heights. Next, he experimented with setting off dynamite charges along the edge of the Caprock escarpment, the highest point on his property.

In these rain battles, Post and his crews would fire off two pounds of dynamite every three minutes from 12 locations along the Caprock. The first episode lasted for one hour but yielded no rain. Undaunted, Post staged a bigger battle, and this time rain fell. In 1911, Post created a tumultuous event using 24,000 pounds of dynamite-eight times the previous amount. This battle reenactment produced a rainstorm that brought hail the size of "hen eggs."

Post staged a total of 21 of these rain battles at a cost of \$50,000. His attempts were about 40 percent effective. After his death in 1914, the family discontinued the rainmaking battles, calling them a waste of money.

With numerous counties being declared eligible for federal assistance programs, an agricultural drought is most evident in Texas at this time. Major agricultural losses are already occurring. Wheat production is expected to fall by 24 percent from 1995 levels. This would represent a loss in production value of more than \$71 million. Brooks Gunter, a Panhandle farmer, said that "because of the drought, the constant windstorms carry an extra wallop, clearing the land of the tender young wheat plants, sweeping away \$25,000 from a single field."

It is too early to tell how other crops will be affected, but if the wheat harvest is any indication to dryland farmers, this could be a serious "belt-tightening" year.

Cattle raisers are in even worse shape than farmers, because the drought has compounded their problems. Their pasture lands are in such poor condition, they have been unable to provide enough feed for their livestock. The rush to sell cattle is occurring during a period of oversupply so that producers face a loss with the currently low market prices. Moreover, ranchers in counties west and northwest of Fort Worth lost thousands of acres of pasture to grass fires fueled by high winds and dry conditions.

Livestock production had been expected to earn \$6.7 billion this year, more than one-third of all agricultural earnings in 1996. Texas A&M econo-

mists expect this number to decline by \$838 million or 12.5 percent.

Around the state, farmers are planting crops used to feed livestock on fields previously used for rice, cotton and other

crops. Market prices for these feed crops are high, due in part to the drought. In Wharton County, as many as 20,000 acres of rice fields were planted with corn or grain sorghum, and some Matagorda County farm-

ers have plowed up pasture land to plant more corn.

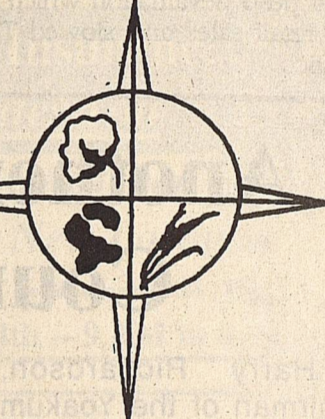
To date, local weather watcher and recorder Hershel Smith has measured 2.91 inches of rain, at least 3 inches below average.

**\*Notice of Application\***

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Applicant, E.B. Brooks, 210 Meadows Bldg 5646 Milton St., Dallas TX 75206, has made application for a spacing exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission State-wide Rule 37 (16 Tex. Admin. Code Section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to the lease line requirement to Re-Enter Well No. 1, Fouts, 400 Acres, Sec. 575, Blk. D. J.H Gibson/S. Peak Survey, A-571, West Field(s), Yoakum County, being 5 miles in a southwest direction from Plains, Texas. The location of this well is as follows:  
 1207' from the north line and 155' from the west line of lease.  
 1207' from the north line and 155' from the west line of survey.  
 Field rules for the West field are 250/500, 40/20 acres  
 PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Rule 37 (h) (2) (A), this application may be granted administratively if no protest to the application is received. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, E.B. Brooks, Jr Operator, at (214) 363-3432. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission at (512)463-6718.  
 IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, YOU MUST FILL OUT, SIGN AND MAIL OR DELIVER TO THE AUSTIN OFFICE OF THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS THE ENCLOSED NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST. A COPY OF THE INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST ALSO BE MAILED OR DELIVERED ON THE DATE TO APPLICANT AT THE ADDRESS SHOWN ABOVE. THIS INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE BY July 1, 1996. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, THE REQUESTED PERMIT WILL BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY, TO BE EFFECTIVE THE DAY FOLLOWING THE TERMINATION OF SUCH THREE-WEEK PERIOD

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## Final Rites Held For Paula Willett

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12, 1996, for Paula Willett, age 44. The services were held in the First Baptist Church of Plains, and were led by Reverend Ronnie Lunsford, Pastor of the First Assembly of God Church in Denver City.

She was born January 18, 1952, at Brownfield Texas, the daughter of Chris Humphrey and his wife Joan, the former Joan Mobley.

She was raised in Lovington, New Mexico, and graduated from high school at Bloomfield in that state. She married Jerry Willett on February 13, 1975, in Farmington, New Mexico. She was a secretary in the Criminal District Attorney office here, and had been an employee of the county since May of 1991.

She is survived by her husband Jerry; two daughters, Shandy Lee and Misty DeAnn Willett; two sons, Jerry Wayne Willett and Chris Leon Willett; her parents, Chris and Joan Humphrey; one brother, Joe Humphrey, all of Plains; A sister, Renece Sellers of Denver City, and one grand daughter, Sierra Willett of Plains

## School Board Meets, Salary Changes Announced

The Plains Independent School District Board of Trustees met in regular session Monday, June 10. Board members Tim Addison, Danny Bell, Dwayne Canada, Anna Gonzalez, Brad Palmer, Wayne Sisson and Randy Tuggle were present, along with Superintendent Pete Simmons, Eric Banfield, Steve O'Quinn and Keith Whitzel.

Minutes of the May 13 and May 24 meetings were approved, and monthly bills were approved for payment.

A bid from Hicks Heating and Air Conditioning, Denver City, was accepted for replacing all school facility air conditioning units 20 to 25 years old. A bid to upgrade the high school business computer lab was awarded to Dell Marketing L.P., of Austin.

The board accepted the TAAS Summary Report for 1996, and commended all students, teachers, parents and administrators for an outstanding job. The board voted not to participate in an alternative education program with other area schools.

A financial report was given by Eric Banfield, an administrative report was given by Steve O'Quinn, and Pete Simmons delivered a superintendents' report.

The Superintendents' recommendation to accept new salary schedules, which reflect a 5% increase for all administrators, auxiliary personnel, supervisors, secre-

taries, teachers, aids, and to make no changes in teacher coverage and benefits at this time.

Three new teachers, Gary Davis, Carmela Davis and David Williams were hired for the district. 1996-97 Salary schedules were set, with Plains teachers continuing to receive the state coverage and benefits of past years. Under the new state minimum schedule, this will mean an average 7% pay increase for Plains teachers.

## Cont'd from page 1, 'DWI Cases'

Corrections Department.

Roy Martinez Lucio, 45, received a 90 day jail sentence, probated 18 months. He was fined \$600, will pay \$227 Court costs, will be jailed for 72 hours with 11 hours credited. He must also attend twice monthly AA meetings.

Peggy Gilbreth Horton, 49, represented by Attorney Byron W. Hatchett, received 90 days in jail, probated 12 months. She was fined \$600, must pay \$227 Court costs, will serve 6 days in jail with 2 days credited, and must attend monthly AA meetings.

Roger Scott Brock, 23, pled guilty to a subsequent DWI offense. He received 90 days in jail, probated 18 months, was fined \$750, will pay \$235 Court costs, serve 30 days in jail, and must attend AA meetings.

On Tuesday, June 11, Michael Bishop, 27, pled true to a judgment revoking Community Supervision stemming from an assault offense occurring in June of 1993. He will be jailed 28 days, and must pay \$18 in Community Supervision fees.

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## D.C. Fly-In Draws Big Crowd

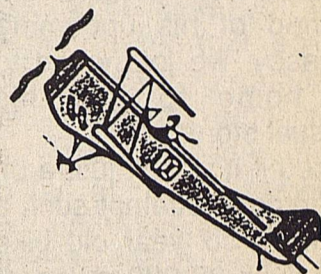
The annual Denver City Fly-In Breakfast at D.C. airport attracted some 66 pilots and 55 airplanes, and 238 hungry supporters and aviation buffs were fed a hearty morning meal.

Confederate Air Force pilots from Hobbs, NM landed four World War II vintage military training planes. A pilot from Hagerman, NM arrived in his home built aircraft, and local Neal Newsom demonstrated the capabilities of his kit-constructed gyro-copter for the large crowd.

A number of Denver City volunteers, including J.R. Slentz, Charley Wagner, Morris Baker, Jackie Watkins, Tommy Fryar and Jr. Bennett

whipped up the big morning feed, including ham, bacon, sausage, pancakes, fried and scrambled eggs, coffee, orange juice and Texas Toast.

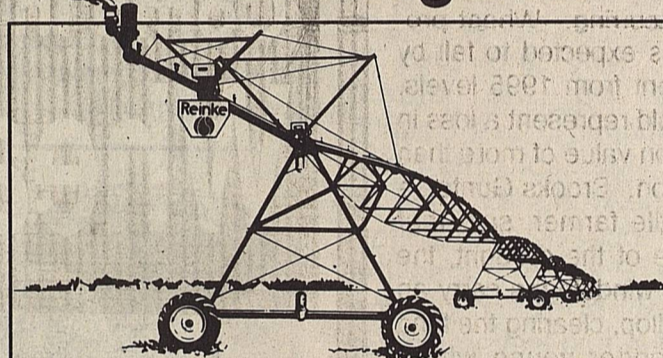
Other Plains people included Jack and Joe Cobb, Macky and Brad McWhirter. The entire Commissioners Court were also present for the annual event.



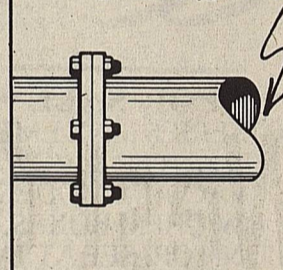
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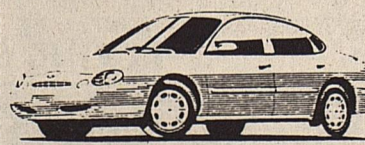
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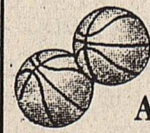
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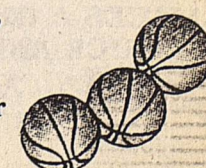
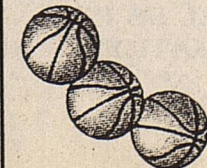
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## This Bike ride Supposed To Be Fun??

Picture this.... a 65 year old man, a six year old three speed Western Flyer bicycle, broiling hot weather stretching across the south from New Mexico to the Atlantic coast. Man, bike and weather are going to be companions for some 25 days and over 1,500 miles when W.H. 'Hop' Graham pedals out of his driveway in Lovington on June 16.

Hop is the guy at the Lovington Leader who prints this newspaper each week, and when we learned of his upcoming Odyssey, we journeyed to his home to get this unusual story.

Asked if it wasn't just a bit eccentric to attempt such a trip on a six year old bike with over 30,000 miles of use on its somewhat banged and skinned up body, he chuckled and said, "Hey, I'm not into this high tech, high dollar competitive biking. My wife Jeanne gave me the old Western Flyer for my birthday in 1990. She paid \$69.95 for it, and it was made in Taiwan, and all the other bike riders get hysterical when they see what I'm riding".

He admitted he could benefit from a couple of more gears, for hilly terrain, but he is confident he will make it to Brunswick, Georgia on or about July 10, and he fully intends to bring the old faithful Flyer home with him.

He has been 'seriously' riding since 1989. He is quick to point out he is not interested in any type of competitive events... no timed races, no big meets and contests. He just enjoys riding, being outdoors, seeing new territories, meeting new people. He has not missed a single day of riding since 1989, averaging 90 to 130 miles each week, which usually includes a round trip to Hobbs. "I would be glad to put a break in my riding if we should get a badly needed 14 or 15 inch snow this winter", he said.

He circulated news about his planned trip, hoping to find one or more companions for the long trek, but will have to settle for the company of two of his sons for a portion of the route. Son Hal of Lubbock will accompany him on part of the Texas trip, and another son, Andy, plans to join



him in Texarkana for a week to ten days, probably across Arkansas and Mississippi.

His route will take him from Lovington to the Atlantic Ocean on US Highway 82. His schedule calls for 50 to 60 miles of travel each day. Hop says this is easy to do, and gives him ample time to reach his destination, find a camping site, wash clothes, hopefully take a swim in stream or lake, and do some sight seeing.

His biggest concern about the trip is what he will learn about Highway 82 once he leaves Texas. "A real problem is a highway with no shoulders to ride on. I think 82 has shoulders across Texas, but I don't know about it from there on. If there's no shoulder, you have to ride on the road itself with the traffic, and I'm not at all wild about that".

The old Western Flyer is his "motor home", being a self contained travel vehicle. The gear on the bike shown in the above photo is everything he will carry on the trip - one change of clothing, a bedroll, and a container of Gatorade. At least once a week he will spend a night in a motel, "to sleep in a good bed, and do a good job of laundering my wardrobe". There will be one more item accompanying Hop, his lap top computer. He will keep a daily log, or diary, of his trip, and send the article back to his son John,

publisher of the Lovington Leader, who will report Hop's progress to the readers.

If this man cuts himself shaving, he bleeds printers ink. He has been involved with newspaper publishing and printing all his life. He first came to Lovington in 1958, when he acquired an interest in the paper there. His family in Farwell Texas at one time had interests in eight small town papers in the South Plains area. He would publish the Lovington Leader until 1987, when he passed that title to his son John, who continues to head up the oldest newspaper in Lea County, New Mexico. His wife Jeanne works for John as the Local News Editor, while Hop now does the actual printing of the Leader and several other smaller papers, including CNN. He also writes a regular weekly column, as well as special and feature articles.

An interesting 'young' biker. We plan to report some of the highlights of his long journey.

## Cont'd from page 1, 'Farm Bill'

farmer is encouraged to carry out his or her plan in the shortest time possible consistent with his or her resources. He or she is assured of cost sharing from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in establishing his or her conservation plan under a long-term contract. Under proper management, he or she may use the land established in vegetative cover under the contract for grazing or other uses.

If you would be interested in participating in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, or would like more information, call the Natural Resource Conservation Service at (806) 456-3703.

Participation in USDA and Soil and Water Conservation District activities and programs is available to all persons regardless of race, sex, religion, color, national origin, age or handicap.

## It Happened In Texas In June

JUNE 3, 1836 - Texas Rangers captured three merchant vessels loaded for supplies for Mexican Army, thus earning the title "Horse Marines".

JUNE 11, 1838 - First theater in Texas built in Houston

JUNE 21, 1845 - Texas Congress approved annexation by the United States.

JUNE 11, 1865 - State Treasury robbed of \$17,000 before outraged citizens drove off bandits.

JUNE 22, 1865 - General Phil Sheridan took command of Fort Brown (Brownsville)

## Lea County Electric Essay Contest Winners



Four finalists representing their home town high schools were recently honored by Lea County Electric of Lovington for essays submitted in an annual contest started by Cooperative Utility companies in 1978.

This year's first place award went to Lovington High Senior Shannon Dendy, who along with more than one thousand other high school students, will enjoy an expense paid 12 day trip to Washington D.C. Second place went to Robbie Rowland, a recent Seminole High graduate, who received \$200. Third place winner Camille Gandy, a Tatum High Senior, won \$125 for her essay, and Valerie Blair, a recent PHS graduate, received \$75 for her essay.

Plains students have won first place in the Essay Contest, and Lea County Electric has generously awarded competing student for their academic skills.



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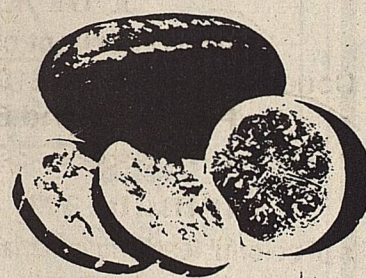
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# Femme Friends



## Yoakum County Art Association Meets

The Yoakum County Art Association met Tuesday, June 4, 1996 in the Old Courthouse Clubroom, with 15 members present.

President Inetta Teaff called the meeting to order. Minutes were read and approved. Jimmie Bayer gave a treasurers report. Linda Powell reported the painting of the Art Building could take place on July 17, 18 or 19 and would take approximately 30 gallons of paint. Motion was made to go ahead with project.

A demonstration in watercolor with techniques on painting aspens was given by Carol Skinner of Hobbs, NM.

Hostesses were Pat McNabb and Eileen Fillipp. Artist of the month is Willie Mae Engle.

Mary Jo St. Romain conducted the installation of New officers which are: Pres. Linda Powell, V.Pres. Yvonne Morgan, Treas. Jimmie Bayer, Sec./Rep. Eileen Fillipp, Prog. Chairman Marguerite Barron, Membership Mary Dale Forbus, Hostess Committee Betty Estep, Education Susie Powell & Ann Hartman, Photography Pat Altman, Scrap Book Wadonna Davis, Telephone Com. Wilma McDonnell & Sheila Stephens, Juried Show Inetta Teaff, Cards & Flowers Pat McNabb, Maintenance Helen Hunter.

Outgoing president Inetta Teaff was presented a Friendship quilt top from the

members as a token of appreciation of her service to the club. Each member made a square with their name on it then Jimmie Bayer put them together.

Inetta says she was very pleased and honored. She has been a member since 1978. Her favorites are pastels and oils.

## TSA MOGA Special Meeting

A called meeting of the Tsa Mo Ga Club was held on June 3, at 5:30 p.m. at the Library in Plains.

Wilma Powell, President, conducted the meeting. A vote by ballot was conducted, and the members voted unanimously to accept Mrs. Goldie Shofner and Mrs. Dee Renault into the Club. Other club business included: a discussion on the club's "Window Art Project" for the Plains Rodeo. Anyone who is interested in having rodeo art on their window's during that time, needs to contact Wilma Powell, Zareta Winn or Dolores Davis; also, discussed was the "Sweet Shop", a booth the Club will have at the Watermelon Roundup. It will feature cakes, pies, cookies, watermelon pickles and preserves, all prepared by the club's members.

There were 16 members of the club present at the meeting. The next meeting of the club will be on July 1, at 5:30 p.m. at the Plains Library.

## Youth Center Summer Schedule

### Extra Activities (Grades 7-12)

Saturday, June 15: Pool Tournament, 8:30-11:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 22: Swimming Party, County Pool, 8-11:00 p.m.

Friday, July 12: Volleyball Tournament, 8:30-11:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 20: Swimming Party, County Pool, 8-11p.m.

Friday, August 9: Swimming

### Regular Hours

Friday nights

(grades 7-12), 7:30-12 p.m.

Saturday afternoon (grades

3-6), 2:30-6:30 p.m.

Saturday nights

(grades 7-12), 7:30-12 p.m.

Sunday afternoons

(grades 7-12), 2-5 p.m.

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## Phi Theta Kappa Chapter Receives Special Commendation



Plains College's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa recently received special commendation as a Three-Star Chapter during the Texas Regional Phi Theta Kappa Convention. The commendation recognizes the chapter's successful attainment of goals as presented in PTK's Five-Star Chapter Development Program. The chapter's achievements were also recognized in the 1996 Awards Tabloid distributed during PTK's 78th International Convention this spring in Washington, D.C. From left are chapter officers Jill Anderson, secretary, from Levelland; Jorge Alvidrez, executive committee member from Lubbock; Dana Smith, executive committee member from Levelland; Dickie Gipson, vice president from Sudan; Austin Crawley, president from Levelland; Jay Rushing, member from Plains.

Our condolences and prayers to the entire Willett family.  
Gary & Holly Dyer



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Fr. Glen Rosendale

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It has been one year since husband & father Clyde Trout passed away. Without your kindness & help the loss would have been much harder to bear. God bless each of you, and Thank You!

Ila, Rodney, Cote & Barbara Trout

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Yoakum County Art Association is looking for new members - join now!  
Old members - start painting and crafts

Yoakum Co. Art Assoc. Show/Sale  
August 1, 2, 3 in conjunction with Old Settler's Rodeo & Reunion

## Darlene's Dress Shop

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# From The Hack



It's amazing how a bureaucratic move, with the stroke of a pen, can change the time difference from point A to point B. At 70 miles per, the bride and I actually made it to the site of her family clan reunion, deep in the piney woods of East Texas, in record time. Lest any of her kin misunderstand, the fact we made it home even much faster should not be construed as us anxious to escape them or the environment. We just wanted to get home to our own lumpy security pillows, and 600 miles away from those rotten, stinking gaming boats on the Red River at Shreveport. I wish a mini Jap sub would sneak up that muddy river and deep six all of them. Do not bring the subject up again, please.

The annual gathering of the bride's Scruggs family went well. Once again, I was amazed at how those folks down there are aging. It must be something to do with the sulfur tasting water they daily endure. There are exceptions to the down hill trend, of course... some of the prettiest young nieces, anywhere USA, and some of the cutest babies. And some great home kitchen cooks, even though I didn't see a plate of enchiladas or chalupas the entire visit.

We stayed with the grumpy, irregular brother in law and his very nice wife. Bro-Law said he would take me and a cousin to Lufkin Friday morning to play golf at the Country

Club. I was really expecting great things. Perhaps my disillusionment started when I learned we would go in my car, on my gas, and I had to pay his green fee.

Most of you, I am sure, have been in deep East Texas, where the average tree count is about half a million per acre. On this stupid golf course, the number is at least twice that. I knocked bark off Pin Oaks, chopped limbs off Magnolias, and actually felled one young sapling pine, and my three distantly related (by marriage only) companions, instead of yelling 'Fore', chorused 'Timber!'

I did hear an interesting, and emphatically declared TRUE tale, from one of the clan, reportedly originating from a local Doctor, told about one of his fellow Dr's.

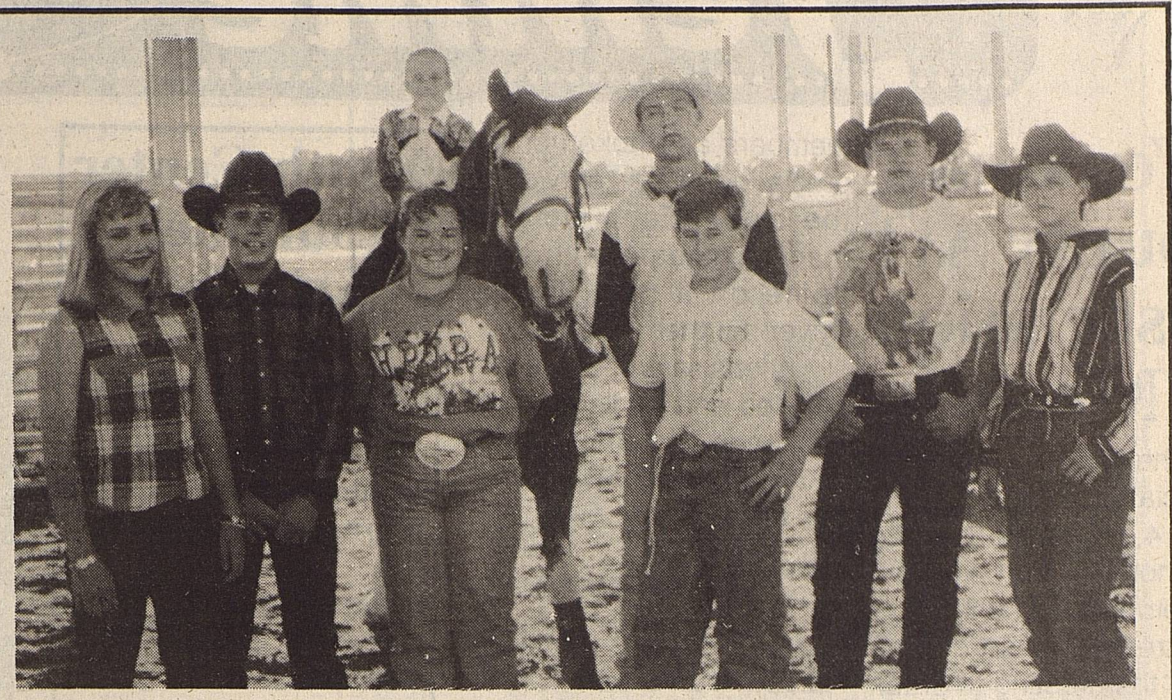
Seems this Doc and his eight year old daughter went shopping in Shreveport, and unfortunately, he ran over a young cat crossing the road. The little girl was aghast, screaming bloody murder. Her Dr. dad backed up, grimaced at the mashed cat, but knew he had to do something to calm his offspring. He looked in his trunk, and found an empty Neiman-Marcus shopping bag. He gingerly picked the dripping and still oozing cat up by the tail and put in the bag, back in the trunk, assuring his little girl he would say prayers over it at home and give it a decent burial.

Figuring a Fun Meal from the Golden Arches would cheer his darling up, he whipped into a McDonald's. When young daughter made a dash for the playground area, he quickly grabbed the bagged, greasy cat from his trunk, furtively eyed the parking lot, and deposited the folded bag between two adjacent cars

A few minutes later, dad and daughter were chomping away on gourmet junk food, when he glanced out the window to see a very large girthed, heavy, heavy black lady waddling towards the restaurant. She suddenly stopped, eying the Neiman-Marcus sack. Seemed her eyes lit up, and she hastily looked around the deserted lot, snatched the bag up, and came into the restaurant. Uneasily, the Doc watched her order a heavy on the cholesterol meal, and retreat to a booth. She took a bite or two, eyeballed the surroundings, picked the shopping bag up and peeked inside.

The Doctor said at that precise moment all Hell broke loose. She emitted a blood curdling scream, and promptly fell out in the aisle. A true professional, the Doctor told his little girl to remain calm, and rushed to assist the large, inert body. He screamed for a call to 911, and administered to her as best he could. When they promptly arrived, she was pronounced in shock, still unconscious. The two EM's, with the help of four cooks, two diners, the bus-boy and assistant manager were able to hoist her onto a stretcher. Thoughtfully, a nearby diner saw the shopping bag, said, "This belongs to her", and placed it on her ample chest as they struggled towards the door.

# Junior Rodeo Results



L-R: Kimberlee Jones, Brett Squyres, Marcey House, Kimberly Jackson (on horse), Jamey Garland, Keith Jackson, Mike Bell and Robin Squyres, not pictured is Robert Knight.

In the High Plains Junior Rodeo at Andrews May 24, 25 and 26, Keith Jackson was 7th in Boys 13-15 break-away, 8th in Ribbon Roping. Kimberly Jackson was 7th in 8 and under Pole Bending, and 8th in goat tying. Brett Squyres took 2nd in the 9-12 boys calf touching.

At Portales May 30, 31 and June 1, Kimberly Jackson won 4th in Poles, Blake Parrish was 6th in 8 and under poles and 10th in barrels. Marcey House took 9th in the 13-15 poles, 7th in break-away roping, and 6th in ribbon roping. Keith Jackson was 8th in break-away roping, Robin Squyres won 7th place in girls 16-19 ribbon roping, and Brett Squyres was 3rd in calf touching, 3rd in steer stopping, and took 10th in ribbon roping.

The Doc said they were only partly thru the portals when her eyes fluttered open, and she saw the now starting to stain shopping bag on her bosom. She again screamed, flung her ample arms wildly, knocking three of her body carriers loose, causing the others to drop her with a loud 'whoomp'.

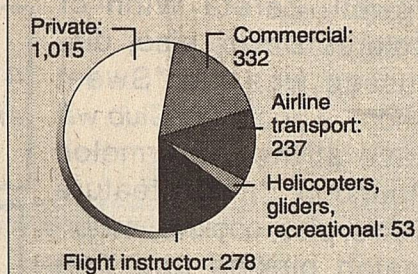
The culprit Doctor later told his friend it just wasn't his day. He finally calmed his once again scared daughter by telling her the lady had just learned she'd won the Louisiana Lottery, and was overcome with joy.

## Keeping an eye on Texas

### Women pilot Texas skies

More than 1,600 Texas women are among 24,549 female pilots in the U.S. who are licensed to fly private, commercial or air transport planes, helicopters, gliders and recreational aircraft, and work as flight instructors.

#### Licensed women pilots and flight instructors in Texas as of December 31, 1995



#### Some FAA requirements for licensed pilots:

**Private:** 17 years old, 40 hours flight time. May carry passengers or cargo but not for compensation.  
**Commercial:** 18 years old, 250 hours flight time. May command aircraft carrying passengers or cargo for compensation.  
**Airline transport:** 23 years old, 1,750 hours flight time, instrument rating and commercial license. May command aircraft carrying passengers or cargo for compensation.

SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and Federal Aviation Agency

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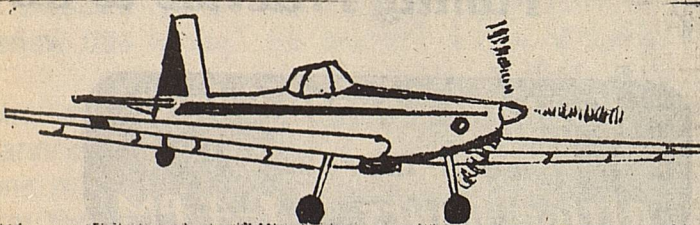
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