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# Cowboy Country News

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

Volume V, Issue 29, Wednesday Mar. 31, 1999



## Declining mineral tax values may not be utter doom and gloom for Plains ISD School officials keep wary eye focused on Austin

Plains School Superintendent James Haynes, Business Manager Eric Banfield, Board Trustees, teachers and other administrators are keeping a close eye on public education issues being mulled by the 76th Legislature. What the solons thrash out in school finance issues between now and the end of May will have a huge bearing on how the local district continues the education of our students.

When representatives of the Thomas Y. Pickett Company held a public meeting here earlier to announce their estimated drop in mineral valuations for tax purposes in Yoakum County, their estimates raised the specter of fear in both school and county officials. The Pickett people told the audience, "We anticipate a lowering of valuations ranging from 40 to 45%."

In a two session interview with Haynes and Banfield last week, a number of documents, charts, and graphs detailing possible scenarios of future financing for the district presented a bewildering number of dollar amounts the administrators and board must consider in planning a preliminary budget for the upcoming 1999-2000 operating budget. Banfield explained, "Following

the meeting with the Pickett company, we worked up charts showing what 42%, 45% and 48% loss in valuation would do to our budget thinking. None of the projections were encouraging." He then went on to explain legislation introduced and planned for this session may hold out rays of hope for the district.

"One of the items being worked on is raising the per student cap valuation amount from \$280,000 to \$300,000. Our current Weighted Average Daily Attendance (WADA) figure is 1,000 students. The law says we are now allowed \$280,000,000 in retained value. If the increase per student cap is raised to \$300,000, we will be allowed to retain \$300,000,000 in valuation."

He went on to explain, if the final July certified value is LESS than \$300 million, there would be no recapture of our district's "wealth" to comply with current "Robin Hood Law" provisions, sending part of our tax dollars to so called 'poor districts'. Conversely, if retained values are appreciably less than \$300 million, it would amount to less tax dollars available for the district's operating budget. Recently, word from Austin indicates the lawmakers are considering substantial ap-

propriations from the general revenue fund to offset tax dollar losses. In a recent phone conversation, Haynes said State Representative Gary Walker reported the House was considering a public education package of \$140 million, less than the earlier reported \$150 million the Senate was considering. The Superintendent told CCN, "If our final retained value is \$300 million, and the state appropriates either of these amounts of funds, the effect on our budget would be minimal, something we can live with. If this appropriation fails to pass, or is seriously less than these reported amounts, the impact on our operation could be severe."

Both officials are hopeful proposed legislative assistance will come to pass. Both the Senate and House must come up with an acceptable education relief package to offset the drastic drop in mineral valuations around the state.

Both men agreed there would have to be some budget adjustments and possible program reductions to meet the sure to follow budget restraints. Haynes said, "It's surely not a rosy picture, but depending on what happens between now and the end of May in Austin, it may not be as drastic as we originally feared."

## Lack of challengers cancels three elections

Legislation passed a few years ago allowing cancellation of governmental entity elections where announced candidates for office are unopposed has again saved local tax payers valuable dollars.

There will be no formal elections for Sandy Land Water District Directors, City of Plains Council Members, and Plains ISD Board of Trustees.

Incumbent Sandy Land Board Members David Turnbough, Darrell Barron and Don Parrish will return to office since no potential candidates filed for the election. Turnbough is the current President of the Board, Barron is Secretary, and Parrish is a Board Member. Board officer elections will be held in May. Terms of office will run four years.

The City of Plains will also skip a formal election. Earlier, Council Members Shane McKinzie and Bonnie Earnest chose to step down. The only candidates to declare for council positions, Arlon Alexander and Rick Ramos, will assume seats on the council in May.

The Plains ISD also faced the same scenario. Trustees Danny Bell, District 3, and Wayne Sisson, District 4 sought to return to office and drew no opponents.

This sensible provision by the legislature has saved Texans untold tax dollars since its inception. While smaller governmental elections do not utilize expensive electronic equipment, there is still expense in ballot preparation, and election workers, by law, must be paid

## Criminal Cases in County and District Court

In 121st Judicial District Court March 22, 1999, with Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding and with Richard Clark representing the state, Victor Salazar Dominguez a/k/a Victor S. Dominguez, 45, pled guilty to a DWI charge and was sentenced to serve 5 years in jail, pay court cost of \$246.25 and fined \$1,500. He was represented by Attorney Bill Helwig.

Marta Loya a/k/a Martha Loya, 37, pled guilty to possession of Marijuana five pounds or less but more than 4 ounces. She was sentenced to serve 2 years in jail, suspended and probated 5 years, pay court cost of \$246.25, pay attorney's fee of \$250, and pay \$140 restitution.

Turn To Page 2,  
"Crime Cases"

## Construction ahead of schedule at new water site

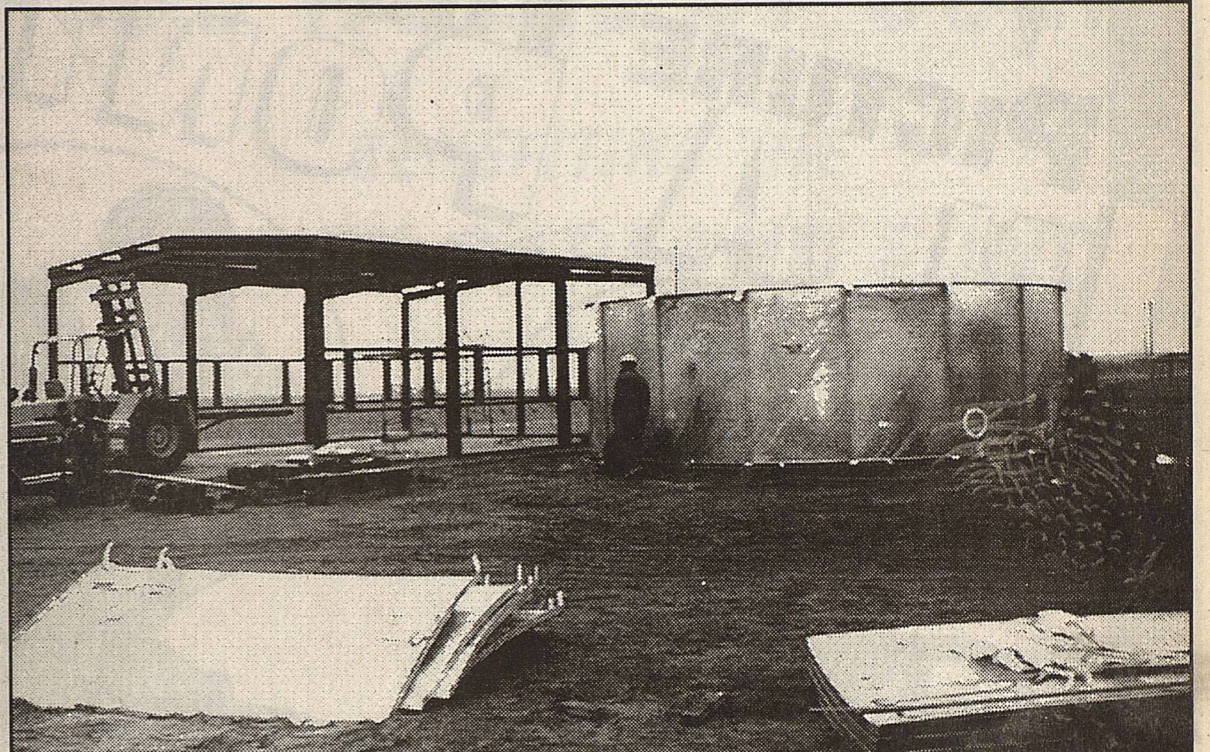


Photo taken prior to completion of constructing storage tank and pump station building

Work crews are ahead of schedule in construction of the water storage tank and pump station building at the site of the city's three new water wells. The foreman of the crew erecting the 24 foot tall, 100,000 gallon storage tank said last Thursday afternoon the tank should be ready to fill and test

for leaks by Friday afternoon. That process will also include disinfecting the bolted steel tank. The pump station building construction was also completed last week. City Administrator David Brunson said Friday pumps are to be delivered in the next few days for the station,

and some plumbing and electrical work must be completed. He said he expected all major work at the site to be completed about April 15. Brunson is still optimistic about having water flowing into the city distribution system around May 1.

## Conservation Seminar here attracts speakers addressing broad range of Ag topics



Audience hears Dr. Robert Lemon discuss peanut production in county

The annual Yoakum County Conservation Seminar held here March 24 drew a field of diverse and knowledgeable speakers covering a range of agricultural related topics ranging from peanut production to an update on mule deer in the county. The event is a cooperative effort of the Yoakum Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Sand Land Underground Water District, and the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. A large number of Agri-Business firms assist with sponsorship of the day long event.

Dr. Robert Lemon, representing Texas A & M, spoke on the growing number of area acres voted to peanut production. The major emphasis of his talk dealt with proper management of irrigation water. He cautioned the salinity of water in the area is best offset by use of LEPA systems, lessening the plants leaves to exposure the audience, and along with Philip Carter, Range Turn To Page 2, "Conservation Seminar"



From Page 1, "Conservation Seminar"

to the damaging high saline content. Duane Lucia, Area Biologist, and Jay Oyler, Game Warden with Texas Parks and Wildlife, spoke on the area mule deer herds. The current mule deer harvesting season will run for at least five years. They reported the herd numbers appear to be stable, but harvesting of the animals must continue to be closely monitored.

Kent Mills spoke on the expanding practice of using crop acres for furnishing forage for cattle in both winter and summer grazing. He said the practice is a possible alternative to sagging commodity prices, and also conserves irrigation water. Dr. Dan Krieg, a frequent

speaker in the county on cotton management practices, stressed producers utilizing 30 inch rows rather than the traditional 40 inch rows. He also said no appreciable increase in per acre yields have been noted in ultra-narrow row cotton versus 30 inch rows.

Dr. Robert Schubert made a follow up presentation on county peanut production with emphasis on proper varieties for our local soils and water. Both Virginia and Runner types are well suited, and he said physical qualities of both soil and water in the area are conducive to excellent production yields, with proper management techniques.

### County Issues and Needs to be Addressed at Futures Forum

Have you wondered what our local needs and issues will be as we move into the next century? How can county organizations find out what Yoakum County citizens see as our local needs, beginning in the year 2000? How can organizations partner with other groups to improve the quality of life for people in our county?

These are all questions that will be addressed at the upcoming Yoakum County Futures Forum planning process which will be held Thursday, April 8, 1999 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Plains High School Cafeteria.

The Yoakum County planning forum will be a part of a statewide Texas Community Futures Forum. Texans from all segments of the population will be working to prioritize needs and issues based on current and emerging trends.

The Texas Agricultural Extension Service will facilitate the partnering of county government, business and other groups to gather information through citizen forums about local needs and issues and then help organize action teams to address them. This is an ambitious undertaking. It also is

a unique opportunity for many groups to work together in meeting the needs of Texas in the 21st Century. These issues and needs will be shared by all partners in Yoakum County. The products and benefits of this process will be many. All of the items identified here locally will be posted and made available on the internet for county government, state agencies, and other organizations and groups to review and use in developing their own strategic plans. The information will help all groups to directly focus their activities and resources. And by working together, it will enable partnering groups to plan for individual, joint, or coordinated action effectively addressing the priority needs of Yoakum County citizens.

From Page 1, "Crime Cases"

tion to Texas Dept. of Public Safety, serve 120 hours of community service. She was represented by Attorney Bill Helwig.

Bobby Joe Clark, 26, pled guilty to criminal mischief \$1,500 or more but less than \$20,000. He was sentenced to adjudication of guilt deferred five years, pay a fine of \$1,500, pay \$236.25 court cost, pay \$1,650 restitution, and serve 36 hours in jail. He was represented by Attorney Bill Helwig.

Florinda Padilla Ramirez, 40,

pled guilty to delivery of controlled substance, to-wit-Methamphetamine and was sentenced to 2 years in jail suspended and probated 3 years; pay a fine of \$1,000, pay \$186.50 court cost, pay Attorney fee of \$250, and pay restitution fee of \$446.71. Defendant was represented by Attorney Bonnie Ericson.

James Stephen Moore, 18, pled guilty to abandoning or endangering child. He was sentenced to deferred adjudication of guilt; 5 years community supervision; pay \$246.25 court cost, pay a fine of \$1,000 and pay \$250 Attorney fee. He must serve 120 hours community supervision, 10 days in jail, and remain under supervision of the Residential Treatment Center. He was represented by Attorney Warren New.

In County Court March 24, 1999, with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding and Richard Clark representing the State Micheal Levi Davis, 22, pled guilty to purchase/furnish alcohol to minor and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$250 and pay \$184.25 court cost.

Dale Edward Crider, 24, had his community supervision extended 20 days.

In last week's CCN, we failed to get the correct site of the Koncaba-Lowrey wedding. Services will be held at Ransom Canyon, Lubbock.

*I would like to thank everyone that offered his or her support and prayers during the loss of our beloved Kimberly. It was a great comfort to be surrounded by such loving and caring people. A special thanks for those who have given to the scholarship fund. Her memories and smile will live forever!*

Thanks again,  
Jan and Jarod Newland

## BILL HELWIG

Attorney at Law

Office 806-592-3536 Denver City, Tx Home 806-592-8442

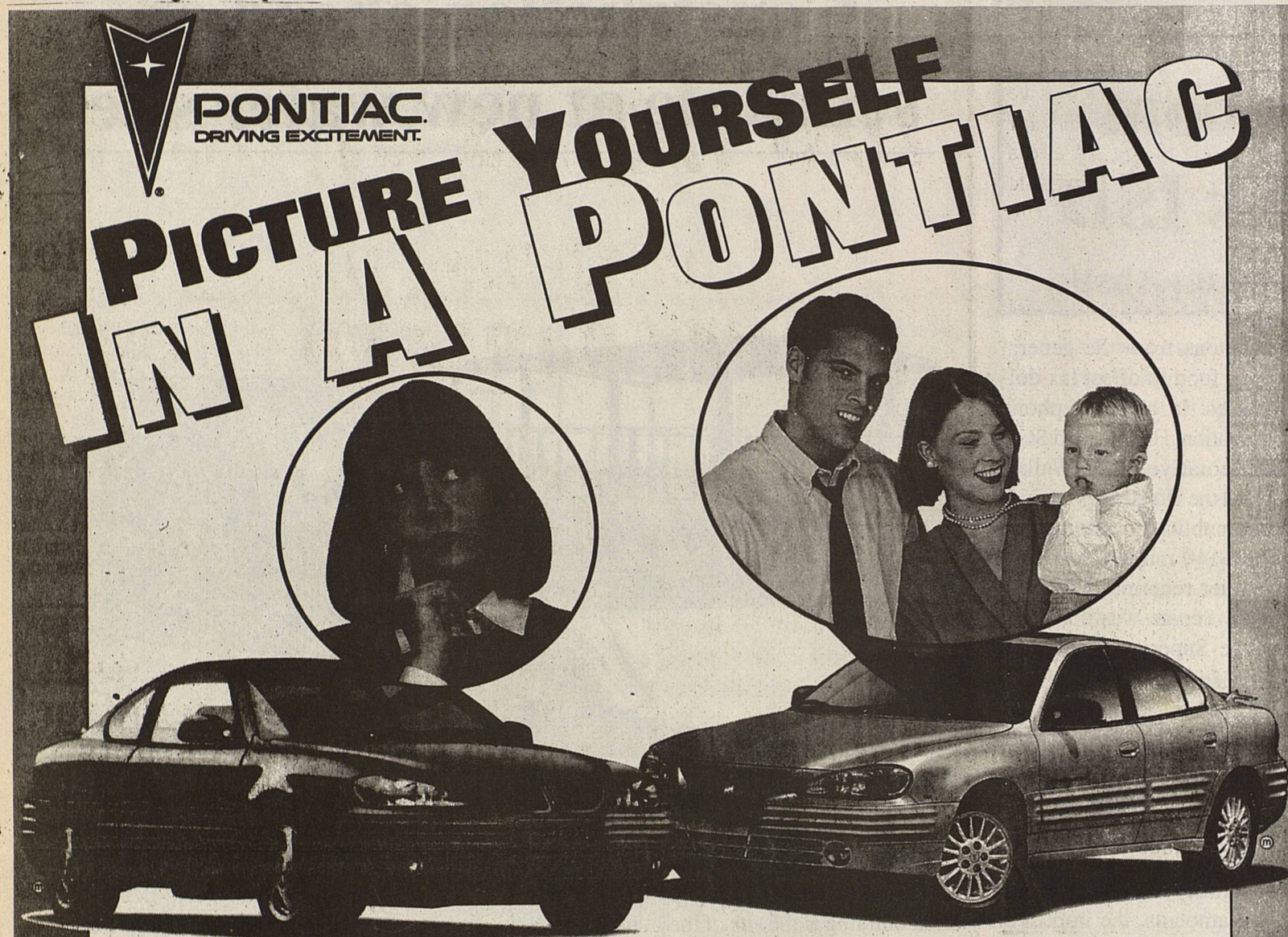
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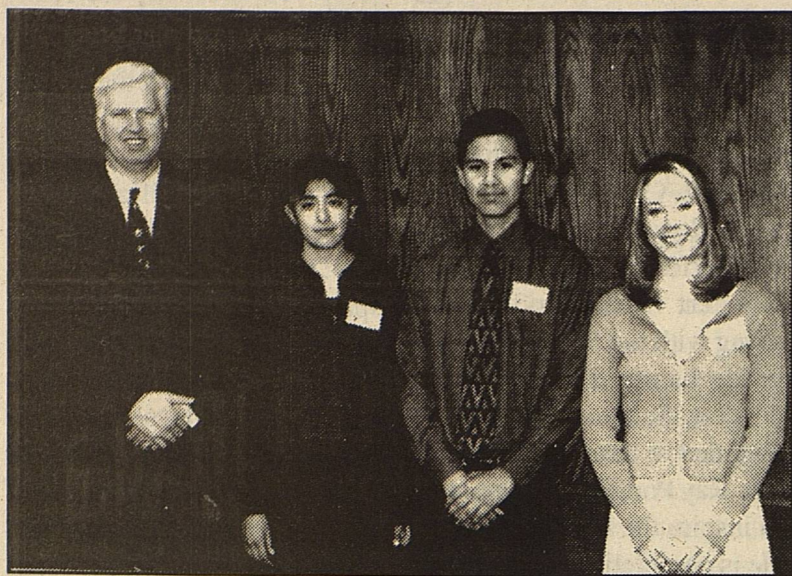


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## Winners Named in Lea County Electric Youth Tour Contest



Mike Dreyspring, Linda Hernandez, Franco Cuevas, Lisa Parrish

Lovington, N.M. Winners of the 1999 Government-in-Action Youth Tour Contest sponsored by Lea County Electric Cooperative were announced this week by Mike Dreyspring, General Manager of the Cooperative. The high school students whose essays and subsequent interviews qualified them for all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. over June 17-29 are Lisa Parrish and Franco Cuevas. Parrish, 18, is the daughter of Jerry and Jan Parrish of Plains, Texas, and is a senior at Plains High School where she is president of the Student Council, and a member of the National Honor Society, cross-country track team, FCA and FHA. Lisa has been accepted for enrollment in Texas A&M University in the next fall session. Cuevas, 16, is the son of Martin and Maria Cuevas of Tatum, New Mexico, and is a junior at Tatum High School, where he is a member of the National Honor Society and a recipient of New Mexico State University's Award for Academic Achievement.

The Youth Tour winners were chosen after a round of interviews by a three-judge independent panel. The third place prize of \$200 was awarded to Linda Hernandez, a junior at Tatum High School. Parrish and Cuevas will join approximately 100 other students from New Mexico and Texas who have been selected as representatives of rural electric cooperatives through contests similar to the one sponsored by Lea County Electric. During the 13-day stay in the nation's capital, the winners will visit with congressmen and senators, and tour sites of historical significance including the Smithsonian, the Library of Congress and the Supreme Court. Around 1,400 students from rural electric cooperatives in thirty eight states will meet in Washington for the 36th National Rural Electric Youth Tour as guests of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. . . . . Texas Schooner Library captures Pelicano at Sisal, Yucatan. March 3, 1836

## Lowe's Announces Expansion

As a part of a corporate wide strategy to grow the Lowe's grocery empire, Lowe's announces the opening of it's 47th store in Perryton, Texas.

The former Thriftway building on Main Street has been completely remodeled and is the newest Lowe's grocery store.

Roger Lowe, Jr. chief operating officer, said the goals of the Lowe's as a company have always been to offer customers the best products at the best prices.

Employing 25 local people, Lowe's hopes to become an integral part of the Perryton community.

"In all of the communities we are in, customers consider Lowe's 'their' store. It's like a hometown store where people identify employees and rub shoulders with their neighbors," Lowe said. It's a feeling of community that not only supports the Lowe's stores in each market, but drives the company to be involved in the communities where their stores employ and serve local patrons."

Currently, the family-owned Lowe's grocery chain has a total of 46 stores West Texas to Eastern New Mexico.

Abiding by the same philosophy that Roger Lowe, Sr. had with the first Lowe's Marketplace in Olton, Texas, in 1964, the company strongly believes in serving the rural communities in the state.

"Not only do we serve big cities, but continue to serve the smaller communities when often many of the large retailers

are pulling out," said Lowe. As market and industry leaders, Lowe says his family's stores are "in for the long haul." The Lowe's company plans to continue growing, renovating and improving existing stores and bringing gas pump service to more of their stores.

## Services held for Errollene Brimberry

Funeral services for Errollene Brimberry, age 76, of Grapeland, Texas were held 2:00 P.M. Sunday, at Sunset Christian Church with Reverend Vance Dunn officiating. Burial followed in Davis Cemetery. Arrangements were un-

der the direction of Bailey & Foster, Grapeland. Mrs. Brimberry died Thursday evening at her residence. She was born on May 16, 1922 in Center to the late John Norris Scroggs and Annis Mae Lee Scroggs. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Barbara Wingo, two sisters Maydell Scroggs and Lera Scroggs Childress and one brother, Hervy Scroggs. Mrs. Brimberry was a member of Sunset Christian Church and a homemaker.

Survivors include her husband, Eldridge Lee Brimberry of Grapeland, five daughters, Norma Kay Durfee of Clarksville, Dolores McComb of Porter, Beverly Lord and Virginia Shine, both of Hous-

ton. Two sons, John Loyd Kilpatrick of Joaquin, and Jerry Brimberry of Atlanta, Ga., three sisters, Avis Lambert-Lout of Joaquin, Audrey Dyer of Plains, and Eva Melton of Center, three brothers, Wrotten Lee Scroggs of Haughton, La, Hilburn Scroggs and Joe Scroggs, both of Joaquin, twenty grandchildren, several great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers were Harvey King, John Kilpatrick, Mike Kilpatrick, Jeff McDonald, Jeff Marcus, David Shine, Jody McComb, and Johnny Richardson.



# 100 HOLES OF GOLF

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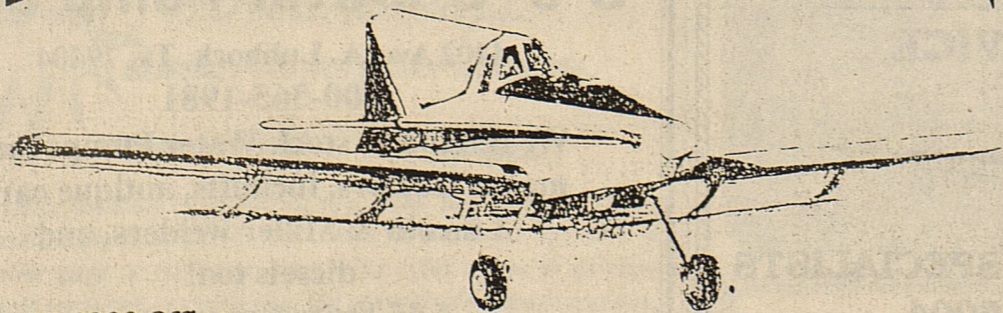
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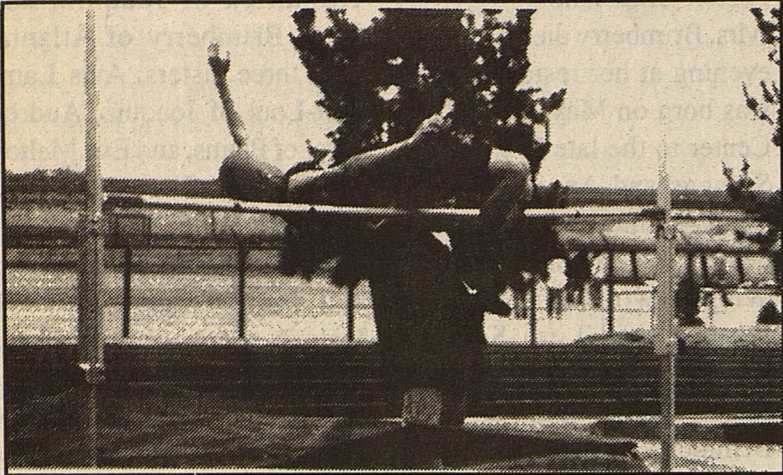
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## Junior High meet at Sundown



Chase Howell clears Five Feet



Mackenzie Winn and Best Jump of Season



Armando Ramirez, Larry Escobar & Trent May at start



Jessica Knight & 3rd Place Toss

## PISD Track & Field Results

\*\*\*\* Our plans were to feature photos of the PHS track meet in Seminole, but we had to attend a family funeral over the weekend.

### JUNIOR HIGH Sundown Meet:

**7th Lady Wranglers** - Only two 7th grade girls competed at Sundown, but managed to score 13 points. They were;

Kim Trent - 6th, 1600 M run.

Moriah Traweek, 4th place in 200 M, 400M, and 800M.

**8th Lady Wranglers** - Jill Gray, 100 hurdles, 4th, 19.67, 300 hurdles, 6th, 64.34.

Jessica Knight, shot put, 3rd, 24', Discus 4th, 65'5"

Kim Martinez, discus, 6th, 64'7.5"

Mackenzie Winn, Triple Jump 2nd, 29' 1.25", Long Jump 5th.

Kayla Willis, 3rd. 800 run, 3:00.17

Chelsey Blount, 5th 800, 3:01.62

Jessica Rodriguez, 2nd 200, 30.50, 4th 100, 14.30, 5th 400, 75.59

### 7th Wranglers

Richard Diaz 1st, 100 M, 12.11, 2nd 200 M, 26.24, 2nd 400 M.

Larry Escobar, 1st, 800 M, 2.36., 1st 1600 M, 6.05

Armando Ramirez 3rd, 1600 M, 6.08, 2400 M, 2nd, 9.33.

Trent May 4th 1600 M, 6.15, 3rd 2400 M, 9.39

Ryan Martinez 5th Shot put

The 7th boys scored 68 points.

### 8th Wranglers -

Arnold Cordova, Jonathan DeLa Rosa, Raul Casias, Nick Hayes, 1st, 400 Relay, 50.3. The same four runners were 3rd in the 1600 Relay, 4.16.

Raul/Casias, 3rd 800 M, 2.32

Jonathan DeLaRosa 5th 800 M, 2.35

Jose Ramirez 2nd 2400 M, 8:51, Chisum Deaton 3rd 9.07.

Jose Ramirez 1st 1600 M, 5.46, Chisum Deaton 3rd 5.51.

110 Hurdles- Nick Hayes 1st, 18.25, Chase Howell 3rd, 20.48

300 Hurdles, Arnold Cordova 3rd, 50.2

Chase Howell, 5th High Jump, 5'

The 8th boys scored 88 points.

### HIGH SCHOOL, Seminole meet..

**Cowgirls** - 300 M Hurdles - Kristen Gray 1st, 46.78

Shot Put - Kayla Redman, 2nd, 33' 1"

\$00 M Relay - 4th, 52.90 - Michaela Traweek, Anne Palmer, Krystle Blundell, Kristen Gray

3200 M - Amanda Garcia 5th, 14.31.37

800 M - Wendy Hernandez 5th, 2.47.64

1600 M - Wendy Hernandez 5th, 6.20.01

100 M - Michaela Traweek 5th, 13.36

200 M - Michaela Traweek 6th, 28.72

1600 M Relay - 6th, 4.39.97 - Anne Palmer, Krystle Blundell, Lisa Parrish, Kristen Gray

**Cowboys** -

**JV Cowboys** - 3200 M - Manuel Hernandez 1st, 11.52, Luis Hernandez 3rd, 11.55

1600 M - Luis Hernandez 3rd, 5.24, Manuel Hernandez 4th, 5.33

110 High Hurdles - Nathan Hayes 4th, 17.6

300 Hurdles -Nathan Hayes 4th, 46.6

**Cowboys** - 400 M Relay - 5th, 45.1, Tanner Blount, Moises Gonzales, Joseph Rodriguea, Jared Bell

1600 M. Relay - 4th, 3.42.9, Fermin Luna, David Granados, Moises Gonzales, Jared Bell

200 M - Moises Gonzales 4th, 23.8

400 M - Jared Bell 2nd, 53.1, David Granados 4th, 53.6

1600 M - Felipe Reyna 5th, 5.05.2

3200 M - Felipe Reyna 4th, 11.05.9

Shot Put - Dustin Brunson 6th, 42' 3"

Long Jump - Tanner Blount 5th, 19' .75"

## Cowboy Baseball

The Cowboys faced the Morton Indians on March 26 and came up with a convincing 12-8 victory to extend their season to 5 wins, 5 losses. Gerry Rivas and Steven Bunch shared pitching duties, with Rivas getting the win. All the Cowboys got hits at the plate, with Aaron Cain leading the hitting with 4, and Steven Bunch collected 3. Cain also had a home run, and four RBI's, while Josh Bell had three RBI's.

## Cowboy Band Continues Winning Tradition

At District Contest in the fall, the Cowboy Band had top ratings in all areas. The band continues to work toward the District UIL Contest on April 14, at Sundown. On May 16, they will perform the annual Spring Concert in the Auditorium along with the 5th, 6th and 7th grade bands. Following the concert, Scholarships will be awarded to deserving seniors. Mr. Ray Portillo has continued to inspire the band to success. He is completing his first year as Plains band director. He graduated from Texas Tech University where he served as drum major. He taught for two years in Jayton before coming to Plains. The band boosters thank Mr. Portillo for his inter-

est and dedication not only to the band but to all the young people of our community.

Help us support our winning band and Mr. Portillo by coming to the UIL practice concert at 7:30 p.m. on April 5th. A spaghetti dinner will be served in the cafeteria by the band boosters preceding the concert. Food will be served from 5:45 to 7:00 at a cost of \$6.00 a plate. The menu consists of spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, desert and drink. The proceeds will be used for band scholarships and band needs. **DON'T FORGET TO COME OUT AND SUPPORT OUR BAND AND ENJOY A DELICIOUS MEAL.**

## PHS GOLF NEWS

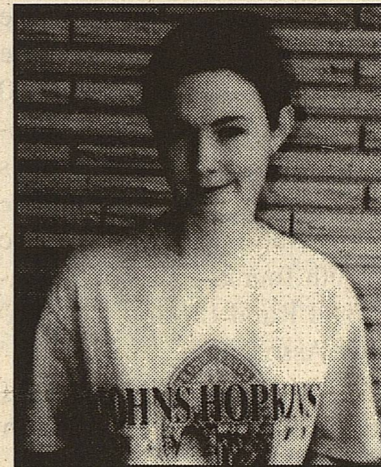
The Plains Cowboys finished in 5th Place at the Sundown Invitational Golf Tournament on Wednesday, March 24th.

Kelsey Blundell was the 2nd Place individual with a 75.

Other results included:

Josh Bell	89	Post	304
Justin Bennett	90	Sundown	331
Dustin Six	93	O'Donnell	333
Keith Jackson	97	Tahoka	346
		Plains	347

## Student of the Week



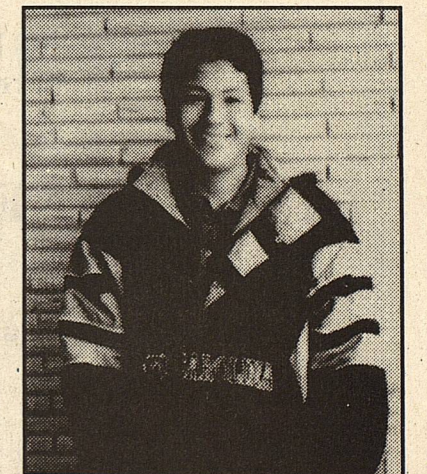
Student of the week is Tommie McNabb a senior at Plains High School and the daughter of Mr. & Mrs, Darryl McNabb.

She was nominated by Mrs. Lusk who said, "She is a young lady who works hard everyday. She tries to achieved all she can out of everything she does. She believes in the saying, "Education is not received it is achieved."

Second student is Servando Luna a freshman at Plains High School and the son of Mr. &

Mrs. Fernando Luna.

Servando was nominated by Mr. Carter who said, "When Aristotle was asked how much more educated men were superior to those uneducated, he said, 'As much as the living are to the dead'. He is always hard at work in my class preparing for his future. He wants to bring quality to his life, and so he is making an investment in himself. For this young man education is a matter of pride and self esteem."



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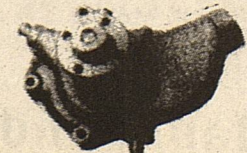
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# Lifelines & Styles

## Local Judge Attends Seminar

Judge Melba Crutcher was certified at the recent 20 hour Justice of the Peace Seminar held February 28 through March 3, 1999, in San Antonio. The seminar was sponsored by the Texas Justice Court Training Center, headquarters at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. The seminar is one of five held for elected Justices of the Peace so they can fulfill their Continuing Judicial Education Require-

ments. The seminar addressed topics such as Judicial Ethics, Effective Communication, Traffic Laws, Inquests, Family Violence, Clerkless Courts, Ex Parte Communication, The Internet and Your Court, Ruling on Negligence Cases, Probable Cause Search and Arrest Warrants, Alcohol and Tobacco Laws, Juvenile Law: School and Criminal Issues, Evictions, Hearsay, and Deed Restrictions.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Kathy Clark and the DCISD Even Start program deserve a big round of applause for bringing to Yoakum County Ron Johnson and his common sense messages for old and young. The cooperative effort between Texas Mental Health Association, Plains and Denver City Schools and area Churches, Criminal District Attorney's office was appreciated and shows potential for future county wide events and programs. We, as adults, need to be reminded of our responsibility to youth and the fact our future health and well being as communities requires commitment and resolve to give a little of our talents towards making our corner of Texas a place where children become responsible and caring citizens. Example is truly the best way to learn life skills. Be an example for someone today.

Sincerely,  
Linda Powell

Yoakum County Connection Chair

## Senior Citizens Corner

This week we are happy to see Shirley Watson back for lunch. "Turkey Day" was big news. New people were Ethel and Jim Doty and Nita Shelton, visitors of Margaret McPherson. As Dean would have said in "Checker Board News" the fat wives relatives are here. Welcome to each. Also a new lunch recipient is Kate Harris.

The "42" Tournament was well attended. Winning for the men were Billy Hunt and Therman Myers. Winning ladies were Bertie Smith and Johnnie Akin. The play off for overall winner was Wednesday. The men won again by a small margin- 2 points to be exact. Better luck next time. Free lunch tickets to the winners and \$2 off "anything of your choice" at the Dairy Queen for over all winners. I sort of hope they get a bit of indigestion on all those free eats-the men that is.

Our wishes are for a Happy Easter to everyone. Good Friday was once garden planting time back in farm days a long time ago.

Have a Happy Easter Holiday,  
Smitty

## Thank You!

Our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the kind words, prayers, cards, flowers and other acts of kindness on the passing of Bud's mother, Tillie Johnson. We are truly blessed to live in such a caring community.

Bud and Mary Dale Forbus

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## Smith-McDonnell Feted with Bridal Shower



Jenette Smith, bride-elect of Brandon McDonnell was honored with a bridal shower Saturday, March 6 in the parlor of First Baptist Church in Plains. Out of town guests included Janice Smith of Flower Mound, mother of the future bride, Heather McDonnell of Azle, sister of the groom, and Amy Jones of Stephenville. The hostesses' gift was a king-size bedding ensemble. Hostesses included Judi Addison, Joan Barron, Cynthia Blair, Beth Cain, Kay Cannon, Janelle Cobb, Melba Crutcher, Dolores Davis, Dianne Gray, Teresa Howard, Loma Jones, Toni Jones, Shari McCravey, Sheri McGinty, Connie McWhirter, Lois Miller, Helen Perkins, Susie Powell, Sue Randall, Pam Redman, and Darla Welch.

## Summer Youth Program

The Yoakum County Connection Summer Youth Program committee was introduced to the new director Tonya Lowery Patton of Plains at the March 22 meeting which took place at the Denver City Youth Center. Patton graduated from Texas Tech with a degree in Sociology and a double minor in Family Studies and Substance Abuse in 1996. In addition to experience in the business world, Patton has worked in Lubbock County as a Juvenile Probation Officer. She and her husband Shannon have moved back to Plains with their 16 month old daughter Makenzie to farm.

Representing Mental Health Mental Resources was Tim Brower and Derrel Levy. Hazel Lowrey, county auditor, was also present as was Bobbie Payne, Plains Youth Center director, Elva Lozano, DCISD teacher and former co-chair and

and Gloria Dominguez, muralist. Also present were Linda Powell and Billie McDonnell. Discussion of the previous two year's program followed and suggestions for improvement. Tanya stated she wanted to make sure all the parents knew about the free or reduced cost summer workshops offered for cultural enrichment and safe supervision to county youngsters. She has instructors coming from all over the region this year with a variety of talents they are willing to teach kids. A matching grant proposal will be sent to Texas Commission on the Arts as soon as instructors are finalized. "At risk youth will be encouraged to attend," stated Brower. "If anyone has not seen the murals in the youth centers, please go by", stated Lozano. Dominguez has agreed to supervise both Plains and Denver City murals this summer.

"We are pleased to have Tonya on board for this summer" states Connection chair Powell. "She is a Yoakum County born and raised young lady with credentials for dealing with youth and giving us professional direction and enthusiasm."

by Linda Powell

## "THANKS"

I want to say a big "THANK YOU" for all the visitors, calls, flowers and cards I received during my stay in Lubbock. I have now returned to the Clinic. We have resumed our normal clinic hours and look forward to serving you again.

Shirley Watson RNAFNP  
Plains Clinic

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## Filmtime

There were 14 children attending Filmtime March 3, 1999. Those in attendance were: Karla Powell, Clayton Gass, Matthew Friesen, Johnathan Davis, Marina Corrales, Abraham Peters, Sam Melendez, Merrit Crump, Colby Bearden, Jasmine Riveria, Whitney Davis, Darien Squyres, Nancy Peters. The children played 2 games, sang 3 songs, heard 2 stories, and watched 2 movies.

We celebrated Sammy Melendez' 5th birthday. His mom brought punch, cupcakes, and napkins decorated with



Batman on them. We also talked about having our Easter Egg Hunt and party next week.

## TSA MO GA has Public Affairs "Workshop"

Tsa Mo Ga Club met March 22, for a Public Affairs Awareness Workshop. Judy Head, president, presided for the business meeting.

Mattie Field, Coordinator, told the members, "The purpose of Public Affairs Special Projects Program is to raise members awareness regarding veteran's affairs, the need to vote, historic preservation, and to encourage them to actively participate in all related activities."

Zartea Winn spoke on Club projects. Tsa Mo Ga club and American Legion Auxiliary members give Christmas Gifts to the VA Hospital in Big Spring each year. Honor was given to Ola Layton, Marine Corps Women's Reserve, and Tammy Lowery, serving aboard the USS Dwight Eisenhower.

Toni Jones spoke on Crime Prevention awareness for women, youth, and young children in our country. Carolyn Culwell gave recommenda-

tions for club/community "Safety" awareness about safe driving for seniors, bicycles, in-line skates and skateboard, and vehicle accident prevention and safety.

Mary Jo St. Romain spoke on "Which Way Forward For Women," a program where club and community members come together to discuss the competing choices and conflicting demands affecting the lives of contemporary women.

Wilma Powell, Federation Counselor, reminded members to attend the Caprock District Convention, Saturday, March 27th, 9:00 a.m. Holiday Inn Lubbock Plaza. Library Books, Special Projects for Youth are to be delivered to the Grove Library in Lubbock. Next meeting, April 12, 1999 is a special Federation Day Program. Keynote address will be given by Loretta Tekell, Caprock District President. Other special guest will be Tejas Study Club members, Denver City.



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# From The Hack

As most of you know, we traveled to East Texas over the weekend to bury the Bride's sister, Errolene. It was a good, sad funeral. Lest you think I have committed an Oxymoron, let me explain.

To my knowledge, all funerals, for the principals involved and attending are sad. What was 'good' about Errolene's passing was, both families saying goodbye to her, and while suffering, fully realized HER suffering was ended.

In the funeral home chapel the day before Sunday's services, while her body lay in state, it was not possible to miss her visitor's comments. A brother said, a smile on his face, "This is the easiest I have seen my sister look in years." One of her loving sisters patted her, and said, "She looks happy, and I know it's because she has just seen momma, daddy, Lera and

Hervy." Now, don't think I am being maudlin about the two families. While waiting outside the small rural church for the immediate family to arrive with the body, the other family party was gathered under the towering oak and pine trees. A stranger passing through might have thought a family reunion was taking place.

People circulated, greeting those long unseen with shouts of joy, hugging, patting, all that good stuff. Eventually, as with all such gatherings, the males moved a bit apart from the females, and carried on their banter, including a few ritual jokes. The female members circled the wagon, and chatted about who knows what... probably about how all the men had aged since the last get-together.

A bit later, inside the sanctuary, the pastor based his message on the 23rd Psalm, Errolene's favorite. I doubt there was a soul attending who didn't know she was at last "Lying Down In Green Pastures", where she had wanted to rest so long. Tears were plentiful of course, but many of them were shed with a great sense of relief on many hearts. Especially ours.

Air Force One is flying across the country with the President and his staff on board. Bill Clinton looks out the window and says to Al Gore, "You know I could throw a \$100 dollar bill out the window right now and make someone a very happy person." Al replies, "Yeah, well I could throw (10) \$10 dollar bills out the window and make 10 people very happy." Hillary Clinton interrupts and says "I could throw (100) \$1 dollar bill out the window and make 100 people happy." Chelsea Clinton overhearing all of this, rolls her eyes and says, "I could throw all three of you out the window and please the whole damn country."

More Stupid Headlines:  
 "Infertility Unlikely To Be Passed On"  
 "Study Finds Sex, Pregnancy Linked"  
 "Alcohol Ads Promote Drinking"  
 "Teen Age Girls Often Have Babies Fathered By Men"  
 "Low Wages Often Said Key To Poverty"

## JP Court Summary


March 26, 1999-The following is a summary of cases heard and bonds set in Justice of the Peace Court, Precinct 1,

Judge Melba Crutcher presiding: Cases filed-104 traffic cases, 6 consumption of alcohol beverage by a minor, 4 cases filed by Yoakum County Sanitarian, 1 felony. Bonds set: Driving while intoxicated-\$1000 bond. Failed to maintain financial responsibility-\$400 bond. Terroristic threat-\$1,000 bond. Driving while intoxicated-\$1,000 bond. Motion to revoke probation-held until hearing. Driving while license suspended-\$2,500 bond. Assault causing bodily injury-\$1,500 bond. Failure to appear-\$1,500 bond. Bond forfeiture-\$500 bond. 2 cases-Assault family violence-\$1,000 bond. Fugitive from justice-\$5,000 bond. Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon-\$10,000 bond.

### \*Public Notice\*

**City of Plains Texas Community Development Program**  
 City of Plains is giving notice of the city's intent to submit a Community Development Fund application for a grant from the Texas Community Development Program. The grant application request is \$194,850.00 for water system improvements in the City of Plains. The application is available for review at City Hall during regular business hours.

The Plains Athletic Booster Club will meet Tuesday, April 6, 1999 at the Water District Office. The meeting is planned for 5:30 p.m., and President Pam Redman, urges all parents to attend. Purpose of the meeting is to plan the 1999 Athletic Banquet and elect new officers for the 1999-2000 school year.




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## Walker, Texas Rep

By State Representative Gary Walker, Dist. 80

### Half Way

We have now made it halfway through the session, and have yet to do any serious damage to the state of Texas.

We heard more contentious legislation in Land and Resource Management this Monday. As chairman of this committee, I'm learning a lot about the problems that municipalities face. I'm more grateful than ever to live in West Texas. The bill we heard dealt with the access fees that cities charge telecommunications companies. Of course, the companies think the cities are being unfair, and the cities say they are not. We took testimony from morning into the evening, but it was never boring! I appreciate all of those who waited so long to testify.

More bills are coming to the House floor. One of them, regarding detention for juveniles accused of firearms violations, was postponed last week and set again this week after many of us in rural areas voiced our concerns that a juvenile driving dad's pickup truck with a rifle on the rack might be detained. It came back to the floor on Wednesday. We voted it out after amendments were put on the bill to take care of our concerns.

The House Committee on Urban Affairs voted out my bill that would allow cities with a population of 200 or under to hire people who are related to elected officials. Natural Resources kicked out my water district election bill and also a bill I carried for the Water Well Drillers Board.

Our first Local and Consent Calendar was on the floor Thursday. Local and Consent bills are those that generally make small changes in the law that everyone can agree on. They come in groups of 30 or more, and the entire package of bills is approved by voice vote. It is possible to register a "no" vote if you wish, or five legislators can get together and knock the bill off the calendar, forcing it to be sent to the regular calendar for debate.

As bills are passed out committee, a copy of the bill is sent to my office. The stack of bills in my mailbox is getting higher each day. We've set fifteen bills for hearing in Land and Resource Management next week, so my committee will be contributing to the flow of paper. Even on the computer age, progress is marked by a trial of paper.

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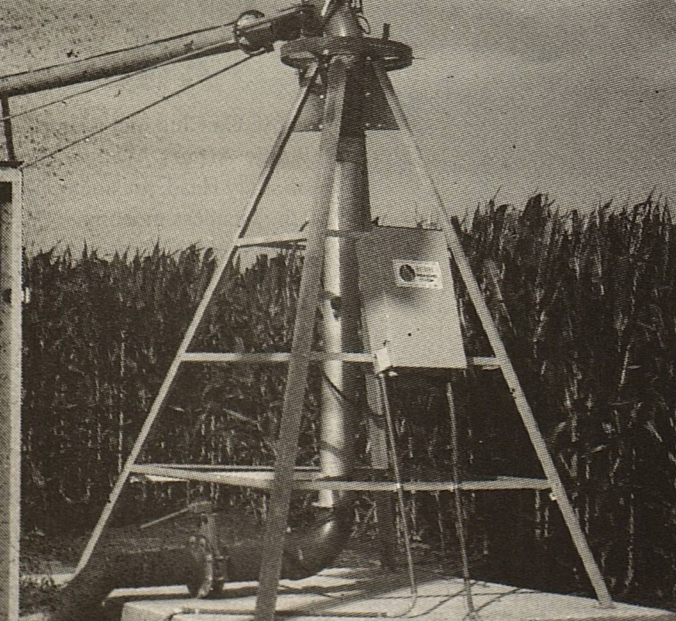
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