

Cowboy Country News

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

Volume V1, Issue 27, March 22, 2000



Voter turnout in primary shows increase

Both Democrat and Republican party faithful were pleased when the recent trend of voter apathy in Yoakum County took a backseat to voter interest in last week's Primary Election. The Tax office here reported a total of 1,616 voters cast ballots in the election. There were 4,605 registered voters in the county prior to the the early voting and regular voting last Tuesday, a turnout of some 34.76 percent, the best showing in a number of years.

In local races, incumbent Jimmie Rice (D) defeated challenger Don Corzine (R) 743-451. Precinct 1 Commissioner Woody Lindsey (R) held off the challenge of Eddie Coker (R) 175-104. In the Democrat race for Tax Assessor/Collector, Betty Rivas outdistanced challenger Jeffrey Lowrey 727-228. Suann Parrish ran for the office on the Republican ticket and garnered 436 votes. Ty Erl Powell outdistanced Cody Flores 162-118 in the Democrat contest for Pct. 3 Commissioner. Republican Commissioner candidates Rex Swann and Terry Davis will face one another in a run-off election for the Republican slot in the Commissioner race. Swann had 51 votes to Davis' 41. Billy Ray Moore will remain democrat county chair, and Kathy Jones will head up the county republicans.

'La Nina' spawned drought grips Texas

On March 1, 2000, the Drought Preparedness Council issued a 12 page "Statewide Drought Situation Report". In all probability, no West Texan is unaware we are in the midst of a serious drought, but most may not be aware of the extent and severity of the problem.

Part of the sobering report reads, "There has been essentially no change in the potency of the current La Nina episode, marked by unusually cold sea-surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean. La Nina is believed to be the key contributor to the severe drought that ravages Texas and other parts of the southern and central U.S. Surface readings continue to be 1 degree celsius or more below normal throughout the region. Stronger than normal low-level easterly winds and reduced precipitation have persisted now for more than 20 months, qualifying this La Nina as the longest since mid-1980's".

"Patterns indicate La Nina may be in a mature stage, which indicates the condition may begin diminishing in a matter of months. Any deterioration of La Nina, however, will not come in time to bring a respite to drought conditions in Texas over the next 3 to 6 months. There is strong likelihood the approaching spring season, historically the wettest season in most of Texas, will fail to deliver enough rain to dent the drought significantly, much less break the drought."

The somber report continues, "Long range outlooks by the Climate Prediction Center indicate above normal rainfall is not in the offing here until late autumn 2000 at the earliest."

The report indicates mild to severe drought conditions exist in all ten of the state's climatic regions. Reservoir water storage at the end of February was 69.8% of the statewide conservation storage capacity, the lowest in 23 years.

Public water systems are also suffering. There are currently 71 public water systems on the Texas Natural Resource Commission, Drought Data Base, and all of them have imposed voluntary or mandatory water use restrictions to prevent customer outages. The Lower Colorado River Authority is predicting a drop in lake levels of approximately 16 feet by December 2000.

In the area centered around San Angelo there has been very little or no measurable rainfall in the last 90 days. Reservoirs on the upper Colorado and Concho Rivers, Spence, Twin Buttes, O.C. Fisher and O.H. Ivie, show water storage percentages of only 11%, 6%, 6% and 56% respectively.

The report outlines another frightening aspect of the drought. 1996 was a year of record numbers of wildland fires. The drought Index indicates 2000 is an even drier year than 1996. To date this year, 828 wildland fires have burned over 69,000 acres.

The cloud-seeding article on this page is an example of how some agricultural production areas are joining together to possibly assist Mother Nature produce more rain when cloud formations are right. It certainly couldn't hurt for all of us to cast our eyes skyward and ask for a little different type help, too.

County Court Cases Heard

March 15, 2000-In County Court with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding and Richard Clark representing the state; Dale Edward Crider pled true to the state's motion to revoke community supervision on a prior unlawfully carrying a weapon charge. He must serve 30 days in jail with credit for 16 days served; pay delinquent fees of \$120.00 fine and \$880.00 for Community Supervision fees and \$25.00 for Urinalysis fee.

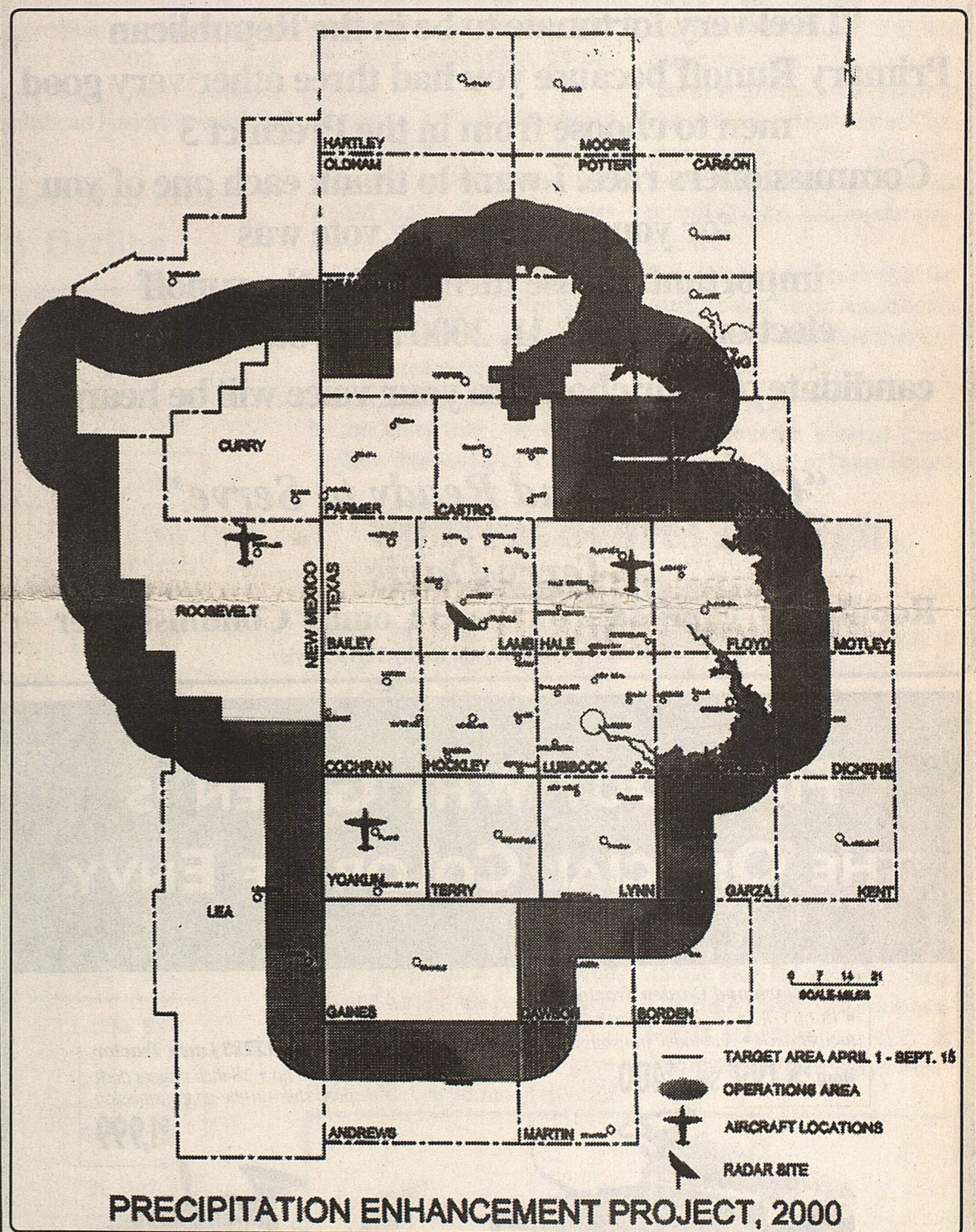
Maria Guadalupe Gonzalez pled guilty in a plea bargain to a driving while intoxicated cause. She was sentenced to serve 90 days in jail probated 18 months; pay court costs of \$225.25 and time payment fee of \$25.00 on plea day; pay a fine of \$600.00 and dismiss failure to appear. She must attend and successfully complete a DWI first offenders program, serve 24 hours of community service, attend AA meeting weekly, serve 10 days in jail with credit for 20 days time served. She was represented by Attorney Paul Mansur.

Annual Viticulture Field Day To Be Held

The Yoakum County Office of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service would like to invite any interested persons to attend a Viticulture Field Day on Thursday, March 30th at Hoss and Laverne Newsom's Vineyard located approximately 4.5 miles North of Plains on Highway 214.

The event will begin at 11:00 a.m. Topics to be addressed include: managing nematodes, wine research, soil sampling in vineyards, variety selection, pruning, and developing vineyards. Texas A&M University Specialists that will be on hand to address these issues include: Dr. Terry Wheeler, Dr. Dave Bender, Dr. George Ray McEachern, Dr. Vjay Reddy, and Dr. Tim Dodds. Caprock Winery will be helping sponsor a complimentary noon meal to all in attendance. Please RSVP by calling the Yoakum County Extension Office no later than March 28th. Two CEU's will be given to all private pesticide applicators in attendance. For more information contact Tadd Knight, County Extension Agent for Yoakum County at 456-2263.

"Prompting Mother Nature" program to start here April 1 Cloud seeding program to cover vast portion of High Plains



With another crop and grass growing season fast approaching, ag producers and ranchers are already anxiously watching the skies and monitoring present and long term weather forecasts with the eternal questions in mind - 'Will it rain soon? Will it rain enough? Will it rain throughout the production season?'

Very reasonable questions, very critical questions, considering the serious drought conditions facing the entire State of Texas and major portions of the agricultural production areas of the nation.

In our portion of the High Plains, other type eyes will soon be scanning the skies, electronic eyes in the form of Radar will be looking for nature made elements West Texans may be able to nudge just a bit to enhance chances of desperately needed precipitation.

Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District, a participating member of the High Plains Precipitation Enhancement Program (HPPEP) headquartered in Lubbock, is 'at battle stations' for the coming season to hopefully encourage Mother Nature to be more bountiful in rainfall over the area.

The HPPEP now has four Cessna 340 aircraft fully equipped to seed favorable cumulous clouds 'On Top', or 'At Base'. On top seeding is a method of flying over favorable building cloud systems and firing belly mounted flares which drift down and enhance rainfall. Base seeding is accomplished by the aircraft

flying under tall, forming cloud formations, and firing wing tip mounted acetone-iodide burners, which wind currents pull upwards, creating moisture and hopefully, eventual more rain. Gary Walker, Consultant for Sandy Land, told CCN the 'eye on the weather' will be a permanent radar site at Littlefield. A licensed meteorologist will monitor the site. When a possible moisture bearing cloud system is spotted on radar, the meteorologist will immediately phone HPPEP pilots stationed here, Plainview, Amarillo and Portales, New Mexico, advising them of the possible cloud targets. Walker said because of the big difference in an radar image of the storm clouds, and the actual 'eyeball' sighting, the ultimate decision to seed or not to seed the cloud is the pilot's call.

This is the second year of Sandy Land's participation in the vast enhancement area. Gaines County is now included in the enhancement district, making a total of seventeen Texas counties and parts of three New Mexico Counties in the program. Almost 12 million acres of land will be under the radar's watchful eye.

Walker will pilot the Cessna aircraft when cloud seeding appears favorable. He holds a commercial license with instrument clearance, and has received extensive safety training in this type flying. He said another pilot will hopefully be fully trained and certified for the program before the April 1 season starts. Seeding operations may extend to September 15.



The PHS Math/Science team shown here scored a big Sweepstakes win at a state meet in San Antonio this weekend. Shown seated are Amanda Garcia, Velvet Canada, Kristen Gray and Eric Nixon. Standing, Chris Hansen, Jill Gray, Liz Wilmeth, Annaliesa O'Quinn and Jordan Bean. Story on Page 4.

Pre-season cotton workshop slated

The Yoakum County Office of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service will be hosting a pre-season cotton production workshop on Tuesday, March 28th at the Plains Community Building. The meeting will kick-off at 8:00 a.m. with a complimentary breakfast for anyone wishing to attend and should conclude by 10:00 a.m. Topics for the program will include: early season insect management, fertility, and managing salinity. Sponsors for

the program will be Keith Watters with Paymaster/Delta Pine Company, Lyndi Probasco with Urban Labs, Jay Potter with Tetra Micronutrients, and Shon Overton with Agro Distribution. Two CEU's will be given to all private pesticide applicators in attendance. For more information contact Tadd Knight, County Extension Agent for Yoakum County at 456-2263.

**Early voting for
Republican Party
Precinct 3 County
Commissioner
Apr. 3 thru Apr. 11
at courthouse.
Election day
April 11**

MANY THANKS!
I would like to thank each and everyone who took the time to vote in the Primary Election. I am truly grateful for the support and the words of encouragement which I received. Your continued support in November will be greatly appreciated.
Sincerely,
Betty N. Rivas

**Democratic candidate for
Tax Collector/Assessor**

Pol. Adv. Paid For By Batty N. Rivas, P.O. Box 84, Denver City, Tx, 79355

THANK YOU!!

"I feel very fortunate to be in the Republican Primary Runoff because you had three other very good men to choose from in the Precinct 3 Commissioners race. I want to thank each one of you for your vote - every vote was important. Please turn out for the runoff election on April 11, 2000 and vote for the candidate of your choice, so your voice will be heard."

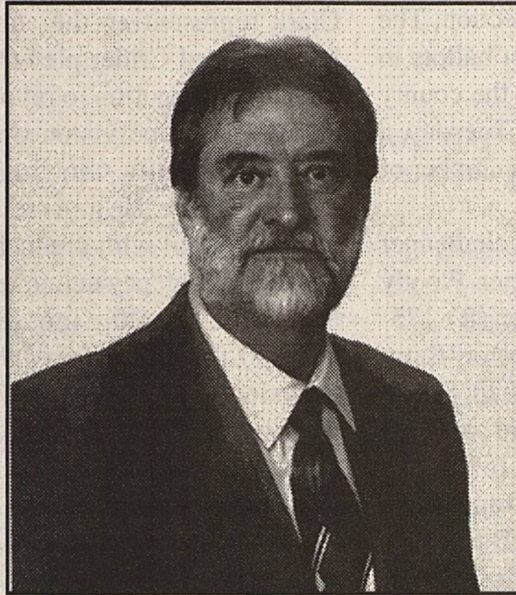
"Qualified and Ready to Serve"

Terry Davis

Republican candidate for Pct 3 County Commissioner

Political Advertisement paid for by Terry Davis

Rex Swann



"I would like to thank everyone for their support on March 14th and to ask for your continued support in the upcoming runoff election April 11th. Remember that every voice is counted and every vote can make a difference."

**Republican Candidate For
Yoakum County Commissioner**

Precinct 3

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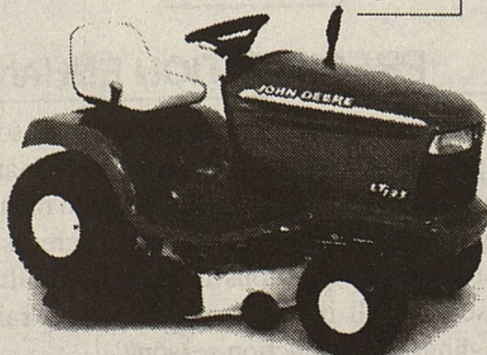
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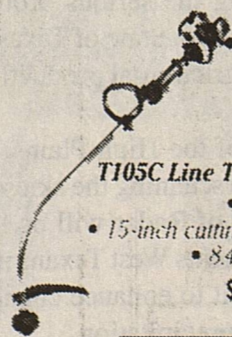
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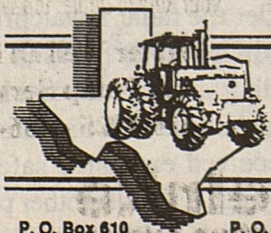


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Wildflower Hotline ready for calls

The search for the best wildflower locations along Texas highways is about to get easier. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will add wildflower location information to its hotline beginning March 17. The toll-free hotline, 800-452-9292, will provide callers with information on the best locations for wildflowers along the state's 79,000 mile highway system.

TxDOT's maintenance personnel around the state provide the update with help from cities, chambers of commerce and park officials. Predictions for this spring's crop of wildflowers are not as optimistic as they have been in recent seasons. "Because of the dry summer and fall season of 1999 it's likely this won't be one of the best wildflower seasons, but early blossoms have already been spotted around the state," said Herb Neimann, TxDOT's director of landscape design.

"Late blooming spring flowers could provide the roadsides

with more color than the early spring flowers depending on spring rain levels," Niemann said.

TxDOT maintenance personnel assist nature by sowing 60,000 pounds of wildflower seeds along state highways each year. Where there is no impact to motorists' safety, TxDOT may also delay mowing right-of-way in many areas to allow for growth and reseeding of wildflowers.

TxDOT's wildflower program not only helps state highways look good, but also reduces the cost of maintenance and labor by encouraging the growth of native species that need less mowing and care.

Another place to view wildflowers is in *Texas Highways'* April issue. A TxDOT publication, the annual wildflower issue features colorful photographs of bluebonnets, poppies, Indian paintbrushes and many more from around the state. The magazine hits newsstands this month.

2000 Texas GOP Primary Shatters Record

Susan Weddington, Republican Party of Texas Chairman, today announced that the previous record of 1,019,803 voters in a GOP primary had been shattered in the 2000 elections. With a few ballot boxes still to be counted, the 2000 Republican primary vote totals topped 1.14 million. Additionally, it appears that the Democrat turnout in the 2000 primary was the lowest for a presidential election year in decades.

"I am extremely gratified by the record numbers of Texans who chose to vote in the Republican Primary. The tremendous participation in our primary clearly shows that the majority of voters believe Republican leadership is working for Texas," said Weddington. "With over 1.14 million Texans participating in our elections, there can no longer be any doubt that the Republican Party is the emerging majority party in Texas."

The previous record in a Republican primary was set in the 1996 presidential election

cycle with 1,019,803 voters. With 99% of the ballots counted, over 1.14 million voters participated in the 2000 Republican primary. Conversely, Democrat vote totals have fallen sharply over the last decade. In the last 12 years the Democrat Party has lost more than half its base, from 1.7 million voters in 1998 to 780,000+ voters in 2000. Attached is a chart depicting Republican Party growth and Democrat decline.

"Republican voters have made their choices and we are now uniting behind our GOP candidates as we prepare for the November general election. Our compassionate, conservative and diverse candidates are eager to take our positive vision for the future to all the citizens of Texas in all regions of our state," said Weddington.

"In 1998, Texas voters elected a record number of Republican leaders. In 2000, we will be asking Texas voters to put more Republican leaders to work for Texas."

Republican Party Growth and Democrat Party Decline

Year	Race	Republican Primary Vote	Democrat Primary Vote
1972	Pres/Gov	114,007	2,192,903
1974	Governor	69,101	1,521,306
1976	President	356,307	1,529,168
1978	Governor	158,403	1,812,896
1980	President	526,769	1,377,767
1982	Governor	265,794	1,318,663
1984	President	336,814	1,463,449
1986	Governor	544,719	1,096,552
1988	President	1,014,956	1,767,045
1990	Governor	855,231	1,487,260
1992	President	797,146	1,482,075
1994	Governor	557,340	1,036,944
1996	President	1,019,803	921,256
1998	Governor	596,839	664,532
2000	President	1,147,000+	780,000+

2000 totals are with 99% of the ballots tabulated.

Congress Considering Measure To Punish Employers Who Provide Health Care Insurance

In a stunning proposal that should go directly into the "No Good Deed Goes Unpunished" Hall of Fame, the United States Congress is currently considering taking punitive measures against those businesses that provide their employees with health insurance.

That's right. Congress is actually considering legislation that would increase the financial exposure for those small and large businesses that offer health care coverage to their employees. Never mind that the cost of health insurance has increased 25 % since 1995. Forget that more than 26 % of all Texans currently go without health insurance of any kind. Ignore the fact that out of control costs are forcing small employers to reduce health care benefits, increase co-pays or eliminate health insurance for their employees all together.

Congress, in its zeal to punish health insurers, is considering measures in the House that would make health insurers and employers liable for medical malpractice lawsuits. The so called Dingell-Norwood measure under consideration is an absolute recipe for an explosion in liability claims brought by predatory trial lawyers.

Follow this scenario: 1. These

Congressional proposals, if passed, will make it possible for trial lawyers to blame health plans for every unfavorable medical outcome. 2. Health plans, in turn, will be influenced to cover unnecessary services that do not benefit patients, in order to avoid costly litigation. 3. Employers, confronted with unaffordable health care costs, will be forced to reduce or eliminate coverage for employees. 4. Employers will increasingly find themselves liable in the same lawsuit against the health insurer. That's not just wrong, it will exacerbate our current health care problems.

The government should be helping small business owners, not opening the door even wider for trial lawyers who just can't seem to get enough meat off the bones of Texas business, driving up the cost of health care even more.

Texas business owners should rise to the occasion and let Congress know, in no uncertain terms, that Americans will not tolerate higher health care premiums.

Bill Hammond, President of the Austin based Texas Association of Business and Chambers of Commerce

March 4, 1836.
Sam Houston elected Commander in Chief of Texas Forces.

Squyres Scores In High School Rodeo

Brett Squyres, a junior at Plains High School, competed in the first Region II High School Rodeo of the 2000 spring season. It was held in Ft. Stockton at the Pecos County Coliseum on March 4th & 5th. In the Saturday rodeo Brett placed 4th with a 12.2 second run in the tie down calf roping. Sunday he won 2nd place in the calf roping with a 10.9 second run and he and his partner won 4th in the team roping with a run of 8.1 seconds. This gave Brett 16 more points in the calf

roping and an extra 7 points in the team roping. The top ten in points will qualify for the Texas State Finals in Abilene this June. The Finals showcase the top 100 contestants in each event in Texas High School rodeos. There are 10 regions in Texas. Region II stretches from Plains to Del Rio. Brett will return to Ft. Stockton on the 25th & 26th for the next rodeo. The High Plains Jr. Rodeo season is scheduled to start at Andrews on April 8th & 9th.

Republican Party County Convention Saturday, April 1, Denver City Bank in Denver City. Delegates will be elected to the State Convention in Houston June 15 thru 17, 2000

To the voters of Precinct 3:

"I would like to say "Thank You" to all my supporters in the March 14th Democratic Primary. It has been a very humbling and most enjoyable experience to carry on the campaign and visit with everyone. I commend Cody Flores for running a very clean campaign and the support he received.

I am looking forward to continuing my efforts and most certainly will appreciate your continued support."

Sincerely,

Ty Earl Powell

Democratic Candidate for Pct. 3 Commissioner
Pol. Adv. Paid For By Ty Earl Powell

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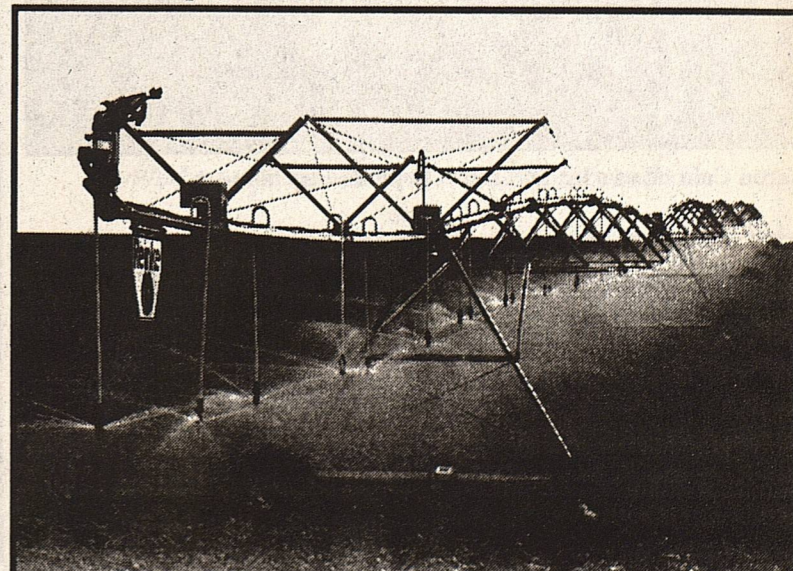
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Cowboys in district baseball action

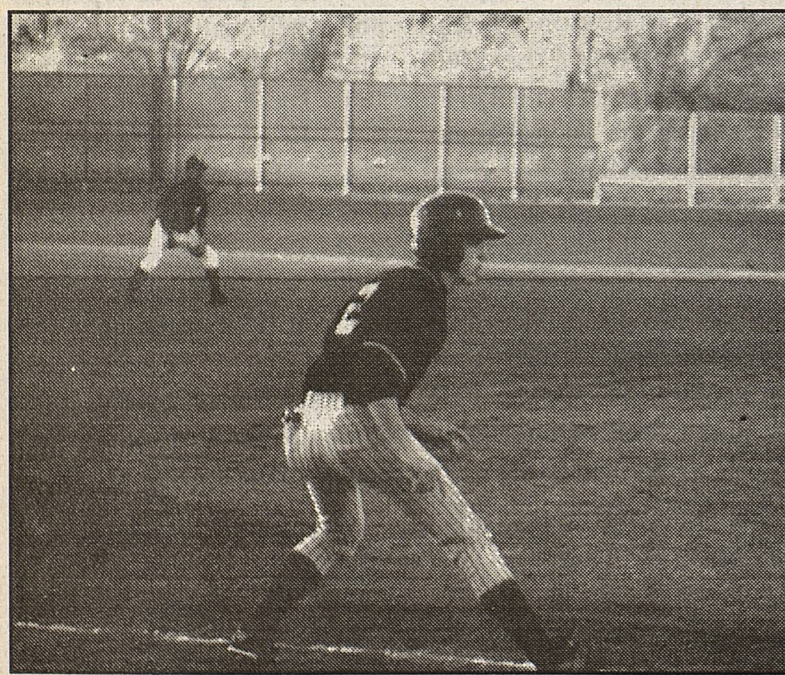


Jared Bell delivers first Cowboy pitch against Tahoka.

The Cowboys opened district baseball action against a good Coahoma team March 14 and were downed 13-3. Coach Carter said Coahoma's team is better than last year's, and their pitcher, White, is possible pro ranks material. Aaron Cain and Jerry Rivas managed 2 hits each, while Colt Winn, Adam Garcia and Miguel Coronado had 1 each. Rivas, Winn and Garcia scored the Cowboy runs. On March 17, The Cowboys faced district foe Tahoka and fell to the Bulldogs 15-7. Jeremy Morphis, Rivas, Josh Bell, Brett Squyres and Coronado accounted for all the Cowboy hits, and Rivas had 2 RBI's.



Miguel Coronado rounds third, Coach Carter urges him on.



Aaron Cain takes a lead off third, hoping to get home.

Math/Science Team Wins Sweepstakes At San Antonio

Feeling confident from the success experienced already this year, the Plains High School Math and Science team traveled to San Antonio over Spring Break to compete in the Texas Math and Science Coaches Association State Meet held on the campus of the University of Texas at San Antonio. The students who attended included Kristen Gray, Velvet Canada, Amanda Garcia, Eric Nixon, Annaliesa O'Quinn, Chris Hansen, Jill Gray, Jordan Bean, and Liz Wilmeth. Also making the trip were sponsors Brad Friesen, Donna Friesen, and Richie Cullins.

At San Antonio, most of the strongest UIL teams in Texas gather to compete. The contest pressure at this meet is rivaled only by the UIL State meet in Austin. The students from Plains handled this pressure very well and had some outstanding individual and team accomplishments. The Number Sense team, Calculator team, and Math team finished in first place. The Science team ran into a combination of a difficult test and some strong science teams and finished in sixth place. After all the points were tallied, Plains won the AA Sweepstakes award with a total of 2552 points through the four contests. Seymour was the closest competitor with 2022 points. There were 25 AA schools at the meet.

Since the meet is so large, students were competing by grade level and school classification. In Number Sense, Jill Gray finished 5th in the 9th grade group, Amanda Garcia was 5th, and Eric Nixon was 10th. In the seniors, Velvet Canada was 17th, Kristen Gray was 1st. Her score of 346 was the top AA score in number sense and broke the Plains record for the San Antonio meet. The previous record was the 1989 score of 337 by Lance Morrow. The

Number Sense team had a total of 818 points.

In Calculator, in the freshman division, Jill Gray was 1st, Liz Wilmeth was 4th, and Jordan Bean was 11th. In the sophomores, Annaliesa O'Quinn was 6th. In the juniors, Amanda Garcia was 10th. In the seniors, Velvet Canada was 9th. Kristen Gray was 1st with a score of 317, which was the highest AA score at the meet. The Calculator team had a total of 1043 points.

In Mathematics, in the 9th grade, Jill Gray was 1st and Jordan Bean was 4th. In the 10th grade, Annaliesa O'Quinn was 16th and Chris Hansen was 20th. In the 11th grade, Eric Nixon was 14th. In the 12th grade, Kristen Gray was 1st with a score of 220 which was the highest A-AAA score at the meet. The math team had a total of 428 points.

In Science, Jill Gray was 12th, Annaliesa O'Quinn was 19th, Eric Nixon was 4th, and Kristen Gray was 5th. Eric was 4th on the chemistry section and 2nd on the physics section. Kristen was 4th on the chemistry section and 3rd on the physics section. The Science team had a total of 194 points.

Topgun awards are also given at the meet. "Topgun" refers to the students who had success in all four contests. Jill Gray won the 9th grade Topgun award. Jordan Bean was the 13th overall 9th grader and Liz Wilmeth was 18th. In the sophomores, Annaliesa O'Quinn was 7th and Chris Hansen was 31st. In the juniors, Eric Nixon was 10th, and Amanda Garcia was 15th. In the seniors, Velvet Canada was 24th. At the senior level, scholarships are given to the top 6. Kristen Gray was awarded a \$1,000.00 scholarship for being named as the senior first place AA Topgun student.

Harlem Entertainers Scheduled In Denver City

Denver City's First Baptist Church will host an appearance by the *Harlem Entertainers*, a famed group of basketball wizards including a number of players who are ex-*Harlem Globetrotters*. "Wizard" Washington gained his basketball comedy expertise as a *Globetrotter*, and founded the *Harlem Entertainers* in 1964.

The talented group will take on a Denver City team at 7:30 P.M., Monday, March 27 in the Denver City High School Gym. The game is a fund-raiser for First Baptist Church Youth. Ticket prices are \$5.00 for students, \$7.00 for adults. For more information on the fun evening, contact the First Baptist Church, 806-592-3130.

Cowgirls in track action at Wink

The Cowgirl Track Team took third place in a meet at Wink on March 10. Individual performances included:

- 300 Hurdles- Kristen Gray 1st, 48.72
- 200 Meters - Michaela Traweek 1st, 27.49
- 400 Relay 2nd- 54.09 - Michaela, Anne Palmer, Kristen, Krystle Blundell
- 800 Relay 2nd- 1:57.13- Michaela, Jessica Rodriguez, Kayla Willis, Krystle.
- 1600 Relay 2nd - 4:38.68- Krystle, Jessica, Kayla, Kristen
- 800 Meter run- 4th Wendy Hernandez, 2:48.02
- Shot- 5th- Elizabeth Clanahan, 27' 1/2"
- 800 Meters -5th, Chelsea Blount 2:53.16
- 100 Hurdles- 5th- Jill Gray, 21.04
- 100 Meters-5th-Jessica
- 200 Meters-5th- Kayla Willis 30.52
- 1600 M. Run-5th- Wendy, 6:38.47
- Discus- 5th- Elizabeth Clanahan 65' 1"
- 400 Meters-6th- Chelsea 72.82
- 300 Hurdles- 6th- Jill Gray 60.60
- 200 Meters- 6th- Mackenzie Winn 30.57



Adam Garcia, #1, trots home for first run, #4 Jeremy Morphis goes to batters box.



Unidentified Cowboy makes good contact, but it went foul.

Student of the Week

PHS student of the week is Ashley Gonzalez a sophomore and the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Abel Gonzalez. Ashley was nominated by Mrs. O'Quinn who said, "Ashley is curious, bouncy, bubbly and has a great attitude. She is interested in what's going on in class and asks questions which elicits thoughts from others in class. This student assumes a big leadership roll in band and is an example of how dynamite comes in small packages. Student of the week was unavailable Monday for photo."

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Demolition Derby To Assist Women's Protective Services

Women's Protective Services of Lubbock will join the I-27 SPEEDWORLD in presenting the Benefit Demolition Derby on Friday, March 31, 2000, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the I-27 SPEEDWORLD, located on I-27 and 1585, formerly West Texas Speedway. The purpose of this event is to raise money for Women's Protective Services through Demolition Derby ticket sales, generate publicity about the services available to victims of domestic violence through Women's Protective Services, and recruit donors and volunteers. Advance tickets are available from Women's Protective Services, and will be available at the gate the night of the Demolition Derby. Adult tickets for the Demolition Derby will be \$6.00, tickets for children ages 10-13 will be \$2.00 and children age 9 and under will be admitted free to this event. WPS is counting on your support to make the Demolition Derby a successful spring fundraiser. All of the proceeds from the Demolition Derby ticket

sales and WPS/I-27 Speedworld embroidered cap sales (courtesy of Outerwear) will go to WPS.

The night will be filled with great excitement with the following schedule of events: Car racing, Bomber class, Bomber junior class, the Outlaw Modifides and the finale will be the Demolition Derby. This outstanding line up is sure to generate thrills and chills for the entire audience.

Come out and join the excitement and help I-27 Speedworld start the 2000 Race Season with a bang. WPS needs your support to make this fund-raiser successful.

The mission of Women's Protective Services of Lubbock, Inc. is to create an environment of empowerment for women, children and families and to eliminate family violence.

For additional Demolition Derby information, or to purchase tickets or a WPS/I-27 Speedworld embroidered cap (courtesy of Outerwear), call Kelly, at (806) 748-5292.

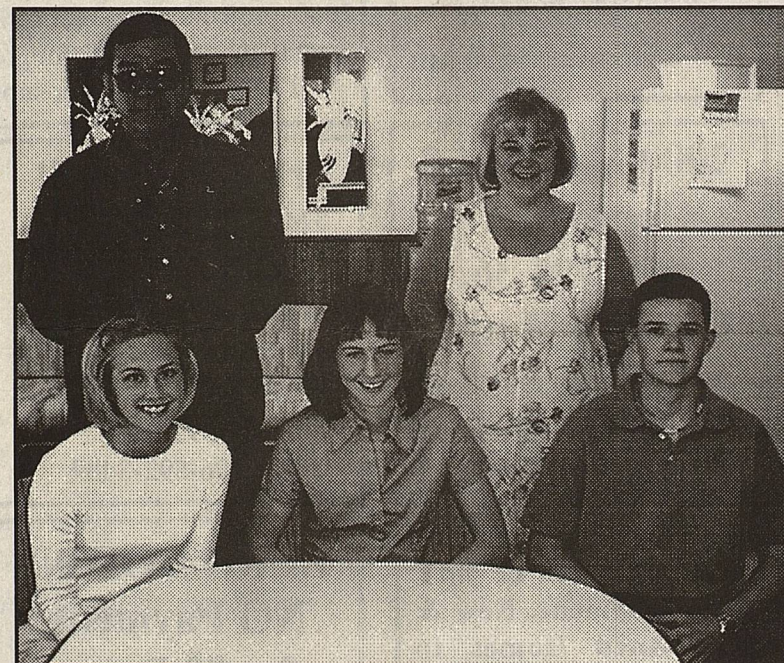
Associate Degree Nursing Entrance Test

A pre-entrance exam for South Plains College's fall associate degree nursing class in Levelland will be April 7. The test will be administered at 1 p.m. in the nursing computer lab in the SPC Technical Arts Building. Fee is \$20. The test is among requirements for entrance into SPC's two year registered nurse training program. To sign up for the exam or find out more information, contact the SPC Counseling Office at 894-9611, ext. 2366 or 2368.

YCSWCD Announces Poster & Essay Contest Winners



The Yoakum Soil and Water Conservation District is pleased to announce the winners of their annual Conservation Poster and Essay Contests. The Poster Contest was open to boys and girls under the age of 12 in Plains Middle School. The themes for the contest were "In the Children's Hands" & "Community Waters". These three posters were forwarded to the regional office in Temple, Texas for judging. 1st place-Nancy Lozano, daughter of Mrs. and Mrs. Ignacio Lozano. 2nd place-Reagan Haynes, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Haynes. 3rd place-Steven Dominguez, son of Ms. Ernestine Dominguez.



The Conservation Essay Contest was open to boys and girls 18 years old or under in Plains High School. The top three winners received a \$50.00 Savings Bond each and their essays were forwarded to the regional office in Temple, Texas for judging. The essay theme was "Soil and Water Conservation". The top three winners were: 1st place-Anne Palmer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Brad Palmer. 2nd place-Kristen Gray, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Gray. 3rd place-Jason Swann, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rex Swann.

Card Of Thanks

A sincere thank you to our friends for all the prayers, cards, love, gifts and acts of kindness shown during our time of sorrow at the loss of our loved one.

Nelton and Julia Lemley,
Juanita Chavez and Family

Sellers Describes Turkey Trip To TSA MO GA Club

Jered Sellers, owner of Sellers Ag Supply here, graphically described his 1999 trip to earthquake ravaged Turkey at TSA MO GA's meeting last week. He and nine other members of the Texas Baptist Mens Association joined with the Red Cross in preparing meals for 40 to 50 thousand Turkey refugees living in tent cities following a massive nation wide earthquake.

Sellers gave a slide presentation of his trip, vividly portraying devastation and miserable conditions, thousands of Turks endured for months. By necessity, meals for the hungry were kept basic but nutritious-rice

and broth served in containers salvaged from destroyed dwellings.

The majority of the quake refugees were practicing Muslims, but didn't hesitate to express their gratitude to the laboring Baptist men coming to their assistance.

Club members were reminded of the Caprock District Convention to be held at Lubbock Holiday Inn March 25. The club's March 27th meeting theme is "Which Way Forward For Women", with guest speaker Jennifer Holcomb of Lubbock's Women's Protective Service.



The Journey

For the joy set before Him,
He walked on toward the cross
First Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir
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From The Hack

Waiting patiently in the check-out line at the library last week while Pat McNabb delivered a verbal and very lengthy recipe for Rum Cake to a patron (the only ingredient I can remember is Pat's exhortation, "and be very generous, very liberal with the rum or your husband won't like it!") I scanned through a periodical, something called *Outside*, a magazine for macho types who consider sliding down a three mile long icy mountain with a 67 degree slope to be sheer fun. I chanced upon a readers written question to *Outside*, "I've heard snakes have hip bones. Is this for real?" My first thought of the questioner was, you idiot! How can they have hip bones when they don't have hips? I was wrong. It seems a few tropical snakes have remnant hip bones left from some 100 million years earlier when they were lizards. A few serpents like pythons and boas have tiny, stubby

things on their bellies which were once part of their hip bones. The article reported the male snakes "tickle" their female mating partners with the little stubs, much to the females delight. Now, you know the rest of the story.

One more burning issue - Bet none of you hairy macho males knew Roses also have Hips. Yep, look it up if you doubt my word.

Waiting for the Primary Election results to be posted on the board at the Courthouse last Tuesday evening afforded a great opportunity to get a glimpse of human nature in the raw. A number of candidates were in the crowd, all valiantly trying to appear serenely calm, cool and collected, all failing miserably. I approached one commissioner hopeful from behind and quietly asked, "Are you nervous?"

He leaped straight up in the air about four feet, making a sound like 'GGAAACCK!', came back down shaking, sweat on his lip glistening, and gasped, "Who, ME nervous?" When he shook my hand I thought I was grasping a wet but dead carp.

"Not anything to be nervous about," he assured me, trying to control a spastic tic of his mouth, "It's just a job, for cry-

ing out loud!", his eyes darting back and forth to the tally board like a ping pong ball. The he almost smothered a sob as he moaned, "Oh God, why don't they hurry up with the stupid count!"

Consider this... if the experience was tough on the winners, how'd you like to put on the shoes of the losers? My congratulations and sympathies to both categories.

* Stolen from Stephen Henry & Levelland News Press: One day God looked down on Earth and saw all the evil going on. He dispatched an Angel to earth to check it out.

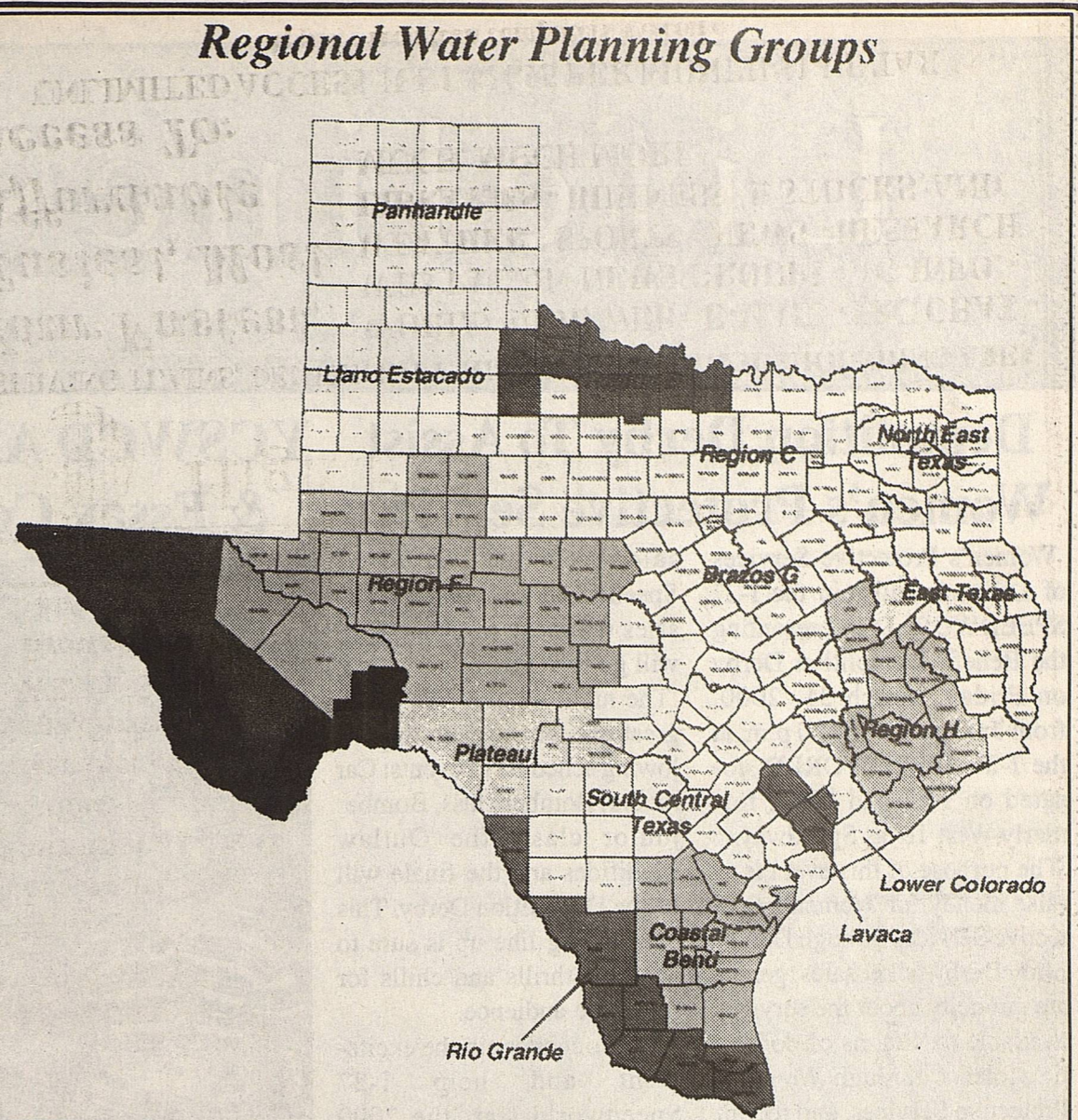
The Angel returned and told God "It's bad news. 95 % of the people are evil, and 5 % are good."

Disturbed, God sent another Angel down to verify the first report. Same results.. 95 % evil, 5 % good people.

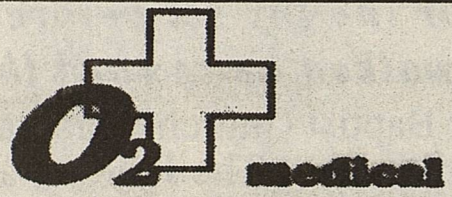
God decided to send an E-Mail to the 5 % good people to encourage and strengthen them. You know what the E-Mail said? Oh, you didn't get one either?

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* More water and drought data from the Texas Water Development Board related to Page One;
* 1994 - 16.46 million acre feet of water supplies were used in the state, with agricultural usage claiming 67%, municipal and industrial use claiming 33%. In 2050, projected use is 18.35 million acre feet, agricultural use pegged at 46%, municipal and industrial use 54%
* 1994's water use came from 43% surface sources, groundwater accounted for 57%. In 2050, projections call for 69% surface water to meet demands, 31% from groundwater.
* In 1994, groundwater supplied 15% of municipal use, 5% for industry, and 80% for agriculture. Year 2050 projections change to 30% municipal use, 11% industrial use, and 59% for agriculture.
* In year 2000, groundwater and surface water used for municipal purposes will be some 4,083,052 acre feet. By 2010, demand will increase to 4,475,210 acre feet.
* In 2000, rural water demands will be some 852,149 acre feet from groundwater and surface supplies. Demand in 2010 will increase to 958,697 acre feet.



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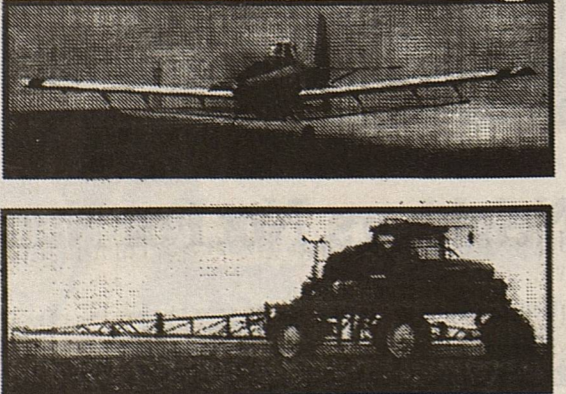
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