

The Bovina Blade

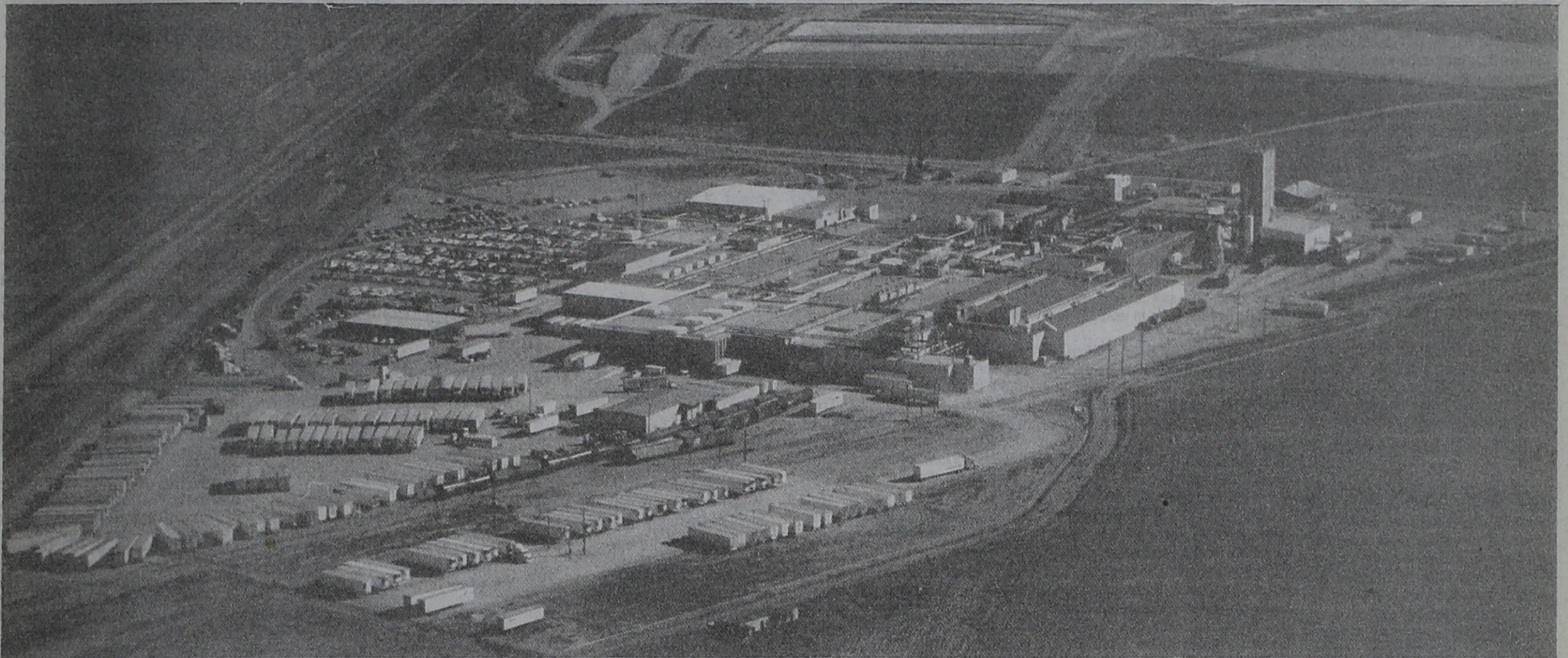
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30 PAGES + INSERTS



A Special 30th Anniversary Tribute to EXCEL



Excel Celebrates 30 Years

The Friona Division of Excel Corp. recently observed its 30th birthday, and a number of their friends and business associates are taking the opportunity to wish them "Happy Birthday" in this special edition of the Friona Star.

When the plant first opened in 1968, it became within its second week of operation the largest beef processing plant (in terms of numbers slaughtered) in the state of Texas. The numbers have grown steadily from that point. After getting up and running, Excel's predecessor, Missouri Beef Packers, slaughtered 3,500 cattle in only its second week of operation.

At the company's 30th birthday luncheon last month, Excel's Chief Executive Officer, Bill Buckner, told his audience that Excel currently processes 1.1 million cattle per year.

Buckner also pointed out that Excel:

*Spends \$850 million per year purchasing cattle that the plant slaughters.

*Has a current payroll of over \$40 million.

*Has around 1,900 employees, plus another 200 in private and general contractors on-site.

*Has over \$1 BILLION in sales per year out of its Friona plant, and

*Has spent \$33 million in investments in the past three years.

THANKS A MILLION, EXCEL!

What would Friona, Bovina, and the area as a whole be like today if we hadn't had our packing plant all these years?

Excel is not only the number one employer for Friona and Bovina residents, but we would be willing to bet that it's at or near the top employer for Hereford and Clovis as well.

The large meat-packing facility has not only provided a much-needed payroll here in the farming country of rural America, but it has helped our communities in many other ways as well.

Excel is the top tax-payer for both the Friona Independent School District and also of Parmer County. Residents of Hereford are still in shock over losing Holly Sugar Corp., which was one of that community's top-employers and one of their most solid taxpayers as well.

In addition, Excel has contributed to our communities in so many other ways. The plant has been a steady supporter of our schools by way of contributing to many of their clubs and organizations.

They have been staunch supporters of our Chambers of Commerce. In addition to paying for several Chamber memberships, in Friona, several Excel officials have served on the Chamber's board of directors. Current plant comptroller Carol Aistrup served two terms on the Friona C-C board.

Sadly, Ms Aistrup is about to leave Friona Excel, having received a promotion in the company which will take her to Excel headquarters in Wichita, where her family lives. Thanks, Carol, for being such a good friend and supporter and good luck in your new position.

Down through the years, Excel-related folks have taken lead roles in scouting, as well as United Way, church and many other community activities.

When Missouri Beef Packers held their Open House in late April of 1968, the Friona Star promoted the event with a multi-section 42-page issue complete with several pages that contained color. That was, and is, the largest single issue the Star has ever published.

In that 1968 issue, Santa Fe Railway participated with a full-page congratulatory advertisement. Several companies which MBP purchased machinery and goods from to accomplish their startup, likewise took out impressive advertisements to wish the new plant great success.

One of the reasons we recall the Santa Fe ad in particular is that our good friend and longtime Santa Fe agent J. C. Beck came into our office to deliver the "camera ready" advertisement. Shaking his head, Carlos told us "I couldn't believe it. They stopped the train to drop off your ad!" Of course, that was in the "glory days," when Santa Fe still ran passenger trains from Chicago and Los Angeles.

A big selling factor for our local group to the Missourians was that the Friona plant would be located on this major East-West railway connection.

You may find it hard to believe, but when the local Chamber group was beating the bushes for donations to purchase the land, there were some folks who doubted that the packing plant would really contribute that much to the local economy. If most of these folks hadn't already gone on to their great reward, we'd ask them "What do you think now?"

We shudder to think what our community would be without Excel. Many small communities would give anything to have an even smaller payroll. We think those who donated to the land fund years ago, have recouped their donations many times over.

Congrats, Excel! We're proud to have had you all these years. And thanks, millions!

BULL TOWN BULL-ETINS
By Bill Ellis



New Faces, New Courses Highlight New School Year

With many new teachers, two new principals, five new coaches, and a new administration building, Bovina ISD is ready to tackle the beginning of school August 13.

High school principal Wayne Erwin, has released a list of new courses that will be offered at Bovina High School this year.

According to Mr. Erwin the changes, prompted by the legislature's adoption of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skill (TEKS) program, will allow the school to offer several new electives and it redesigned some established programs.

Many students will find that the schedules they filled out last spring will have to be reworked because of the addition and deletion of courses offered.

These changes will be worked during the upcoming

'98 School Registration August 5-6

Registration for the 1998-99 school term is scheduled for August 5 & 6 at the high school library.

Hours for registration of grades Pre-K through eighth grade will be 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.; 1 p.m.-3 p.m.; and 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. both days.

High school students will register on the following schedule:

August 5-Seniors- 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.- Juniors-1 p.m.-3 p.m.; Juniors and seniors- 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

August 6-Sophomores-8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.; Freshman-1 p.m.-3 p.m.; Sophomores and Freshman-5 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

It is necessary to have parents sign all necessary paper work, pick up schedules for the new year, see the nurse about immunizations, and pick up free and reduced lunch applications.

Registracion Para Los Ninos De Pre-K Al Grado 12

Cuendo: El 5 Y 6 De Agosto.

Adonde: La Biblioteca de la Escuela Secundaria.

Horario: A las 8:30 a.m. hasta los 11:30 a.m. A las 1 p.m. hasta los 3 p.m. A las 5 p.m. hasta los 6:30 p.m.

Porque: Para que los padres puedan firmar todo los papeles necesario.

Para que los padres puedan recoger el itinerario para el nuevo ano.

Para ver si su hijo o hija tiene toda sus vacunas.

Para firmar y ayudar a llenar las formas de lonche.

pre-registration on August 5-6.

Any questions concerning the new courses or changes in the curriculum may be addressed by calling the high school principal, Wayne Erwin, at 238-1317.

New courses being offered during the 1998-99 school year are:

Agriculture
Introduction to Agriculture: This freshman and sophomore grade course introduces many of the follow-on AG courses and is a prerequisite for those courses.

Introduction to AG Mechanics: Includes safety, tool identification, carpentry, electricity, plumbing, concrete and fencing, gas and electric welding and fitting.

AG Structures-Power: Design, build and maintain

Cheerleader Camp Set For August 7

The Bovina High School cheerleaders will be hosting a one day cheerleading camp on Friday, August 7.

The cost is \$10 per child age 4 through the 6th grade.

For more information or to register call Sylvia DeLeon at 238-1619.

Athletic Physicals August 4

Bovina Medical Clinic will be doing athletic physicals on Tuesday, August 4 for all junior high and high school athletes.

The clinic would prefer appointments but walk-ins will be accepted. Their phone number is 806-238-1260.

structures; select and maintain AG power units.

Plant & Animal Science: Principles of animal and plant production. Includes nutrition, reproduction, health and management of domestic animals.

AG Marketing: Develops leadership skills, cooperation, employee relations and communications. Includes budgeting, record keeping, finance and careers.

Industrial Arts Courses

Small Engine Services: Function, diagnosis and service of small engines. Safety, use and maintenance of power equipment.

Mill & Cabinet Making: Design and construction of mill and cabinet work products. Use of hand and power tools.

Drivers Education

Drivers Ed will be offered during regular class hours this year. It will be, by nature, a small class and will include both academic and road experience.

Social Studies

The addition of a full-time social studies teacher will allow the school to offer a more diverse and expanded social studies program. This year, for example, both World History and World Geography will be offered.

Science Course

Geology, Meteorology and Oceanography: This new course involves the use of scientific methods in the study of the earth, its oceans and the weather involved.

Integrated Physics and Chemistry: This course replaces the old Physical Science and integrates physics and chemistry in the study of motion, waves, energy transformation, properties and changes of matter, and solution chemistry.

Math Courses

Mathematical Models and Applications: Follow-on to Algebra I. Students apply previously learned math knowledge in solving problems. Development of math methods to model and solve real-life applications (money, data, chance, patterns, music, design, and science.)

High School Band

This year, new high school students (freshmen) will be allowed to take band rather than the required keyboarding class.

Keyboarding will still be a requirement but may be accomplished at a later date. Erwin says, "We want to see our band grow in size and capability."

Football Players & Cross Country Report Date August 5

Bovina high school football practice will begin August 5. Players should report to the Field House at 5 p.m. to check out equipment and begin conditioning.

Practices will be every day at 6 p.m. Saturday practices will be scheduled also. Times will be announced.

Cross country runners will assist on August 5 and discuss scheduling and workouts with Coach Scroggins.



JAMAICA FESTIVAL...St. Ann's Catholic Church had a great crowd at their annual Jamaica last Sunday. There was music throughout the afternoon, along with many booths for games and food. The weather was mostly cloudy all day, a welcome relief from the heat. ron carr photo

Scooter's Scoops

By SCOOTER RUSSELL



We finally got enough rain to know that it can still do that, and the smell of rain is always nice.

Jimmy and I were at a grocery store in Clovis when heavy rains came for a few minutes and people walked to the windows and just watched. One young lady, who carried out groceries, was looking and Jimmy asked her if she knew what it was. She said, "Yes, my mother showed me pictures that were taken a long time ago!"

We understand Ann Lee Englant's condition has improved, but she is still in CCU at the Methodist Hospital. They have her on a respirator to assist her breathing, and perhaps by the weekend, she will be off of it and into a room. At one time, they had given her only a fifty-fifty chance to survive, so it was a close call.

Kenneth Estes, brother of Suzy Smith, came to Bovina and spent a short time recently. It won't be too long until Kenneth and Ophelia will be moving back to Bovina, and plan to manage an antique shop, according to Suzy.

Jack Rains has had visitors recently. His mother, Penny Rains of Post, Texas and his sister, Jim Lueder of Albuquerque were visiting. His mother went on to Albuquerque to be with his sister for awhile.

The O'Hair family reunion was held this week in Pampa. Artie Faye O'Hair, her son, Mike and his friend, Peggy, came Saturday night to Bovina and the family went to Pampa on Sunday to the reunion. Mike's daughter, Carla Faye, was also with them and they will spend a few days before returning to their home in Longview, Texas.

Artie Faye said the reunion was held at her late husband Fred's sister, Dora Mae's home in Pampa with sixty members of the family and friends attending. She had a great time and saw many people that she had not seen in years.

Lora Sikes, a former resident of Bovina for many years has suffered a stroke and is hospitalized at St. Mary's Hospital in Lubbock.

Lora and her husband, John, lived here many years and raised their children. John passed away several years ago.

All of the children in Pat Kunselman's family were together in recent weeks. His brother came from Pennsylvania. George and his wife, Ann, and their grandson, Jessie came from Hamilton; Bernard and Vella from Hamilton; and Pat's brother, James came from Erie, Pennsylvania.

While here, the family met Pat and Pat's son Artie and Tami and daughter, Jamie and her friend, Chuck, in Canyon and attended the production of "Texas."

Later the family drove to Ft. Sumner, New Mexico to see "Billy the Kid's" grave and the museum there. They went to Canyon and spent about an hour at the museum and really enjoyed that.

They then went to Canon City, Colorado to see another brother, Ralph and Kathy Kunselman and attended their daughter Kristy's wedding which was held at St. Michael's Catholic Church.

The family also spent time with their sister, Isabelle Gilbreath and her husband, Charlie in Bovina. At one time there were fourteen children in Pat's family.

Jim and I met with Joyce Kube and her daughters in Texico Sunday night for supper and had a good visit. Joyce's husband, David, works for the Clovis Fire Department and was at work Sunday. Their oldest daughter, Melissa was at camp.

We had a good visit with Joyce Harbison Kube, who grew up in Bovina and was editor of the *Blade* for awhile. We saw their cute baby, Emilee, for the first time. She is almost four months old.

Joyce was telling me about her mother, Kathryn Harbison. She spent about a week in the Muleshoe hospital and is now a patient in Lubbock St. Mary's hospital. Perhaps she will be out by the time the paper is out.

We understand Esther Steelman and brother Gary Morgan took more than twenty youngsters to Mexico for the First Baptist Church in Bovina. Perhaps when they return, they'll have us a story for the paper.

Lavonia Moody is back in the hospital, but we were unable to contact anyone to find out details. She lives in Plainview and was a former resident in Bovina and married to Weldon Moody. She has recently undergone surgery and has a serious case of diabetes. Our thoughts are with them.

I visited with Aaron Wiseman who is visiting with his grandmother, Jean Wiseman. Aaron and his mother, Debbie Wiseman, of Midland will be here for a short visit before returning to Midland.

Aaron is seventeen years old and said he had just graduated from high school this year and will perhaps go to a junior college in the Fall. Aaron's dad, Larry, lives in San Antonio.

Jean has returned home recently from a trip to Houston where she visited with her son, Michael and his wife and son.

Justin and Arlene Brozek and sons, Jake and Justus, are vacationing this week in Colorado and Kansas. They went sight seeing in Colorado Springs, Colorado; visited grandparents in Loveland, Colorado, and drove to Great Bend, Kansas and visited with Justin's folks.

BOVINA REFLECTIONS

...from the files of The Bovina Blade

40 Yrs. Ago--July 23, 1958
Mrs. Jack Jeter, Mrs. Virgie Adams and Mrs. Doris Lawlis of the Woman's Missionary Union of the First Baptist Church are attending a WMU encampment at Glorietta Baptist Assembly in New Mexico.

Visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leland Boyd last week were Mr. and Mrs. Howard Brawley of Glen Rose. They are Mrs. Boyd's parents.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Bedford Caldwell was the site of a chicken fry Saturday night of last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Pesch attended the Hughes Aaron reunion in Amarillo, Sunday at Thompson Park.

35 Yrs. Ago--July 25, 1963
Neil Moore, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Moore, was injured Thursday afternoon when he fell from the car in an attempt to catch the garage door and close it.

Scoops.....

Flossie Rhinehart has returned home recently from Glenrock, Wyoming, where she spent two months visiting with her daughter, Sandra, and her daughters, Kenda and Becky and their children.

Flossie said when she first went to Wyoming, it rained almost every day for a time but then became very hot. She said she always keeps up with Texas and how hot our weather was here.

Phyllis and Eddie Gayle Steelman are having a good time with Phyllis' brother and his wife, Wayne and Carmen Tucker from Titusville, Florida. They came on Thursday of last week and will stay until the first of August.

While here, they attended the Donaldson family reunion in Clovis at the Ned Hauk Park with about seventy-nine attending.

THINK ABOUT IT: All you really have to do if you want the world to beat a path to your doorstep, is lie down to take a nap. Have a good, rainy week...Scooter.

Miss Jeanie Ivy, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tony Ivy, received a severely cut on Friday afternoon in an accident at Bovina Dairy Freeze.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Ware and children and Mr. and Mrs. Erith Hawkins and boys visited Mr. and Mrs. Dick Martin and Kenda in Odessa over the weekend.

30 Yrs. Ago--July 24, 1968
Chuck Stallings, airplane spray pilot of Bovina, escaped serious injury Wednesday afternoon of last week when his plane crashed three miles north of Pleasant Hill.

Two representatives of the Bovina Volunteer Fire Department are in College Station this week attending the 39th annual Texas Firemen's Training School.

John H. Aldridge, 63, a Farmer County resident for the past 62 years and a prominent Farwell lawyer for many years, passed away at Farmer County Community Hospital in Friona early Sunday morning following a heart attack.

25 Yrs. Ago--July 25, 1973
Bryan Fillpot of Bovina competed in the regional AAU track meet at Waco Saturday in the 440-yard intermediate class.

20 Yrs. Ago--July 26, 1978
Farmer County farmers--especially cotton farmers--are facing serious, if not critical losses, from the chemical 2,4-D which has inadvertently invaded their fields, producing elongated leaves and prognosis of deformed bolls if the blight continues.

The Bovina All-Stars won their first game against the North Randall County All-Stars by a score of 8-7. Richard Shepard was the winning pitcher for the Bovina team.

Mike Read and Jim Rhodes, attended the 50th anniversary convention of the Texas Future Farmers of America in San Antonio. Read was awarded the Lone Star Farmer Degree.

15 Yrs. Ago--July 27, 1983
Two hogs were allegedly slaughtered and stolen from Lawrence Widner's farm last week. Three men were arrested and charged in the theft incident.

Gateway Produce has reopened for the summer on a limited basis.

It was stated that there are approximately 450 acres of potatoes in the Bovina area this year.

Debbie Ulibarri, the former Debbie Whitecotton, was a spring graduate from Texas Tech University. Her parents are Billy and Paula Whitecotton.

Roy Lee and Dorothy Stowers hosted the Radford family reunion over the weekend with about 40 members present. It was the first time in 30 years that the family had been together.

10 Yrs. Ago--July 27, 1988

The corn crop in Farmer County is looking better than it has been in years, thanks to better-than-average summer rainfall.

Funeral services for Herman Wallace Grissom, 65, of Farwell, a former resident, were held at the First Baptist Church in Farwell.

Workmen were busy at the Bovina School as central heating and refrigerated air conditioning is being installed this week.

Funeral services were held for John Gee, former Bovina resident for many years, who owned and operated Gee's Cleaners.

5 Yrs. Ago--July 31, 1993

The Bovina Independent School District received a clean bill of health recently from the Texas Education Agency as a follow-up the on-site review conducted by the T.E.A. last spring at the school.

The Bovina I.S.D. will remain accredited, and there will be no restrictions placed on the school, other than recommendations which the school is already implementing.

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

KPAN To Celebrate Golden Anniversary

KPAN AM/FM Radio in Hereford is celebrating fifty years of service to the area with an Open House from 3-6 p.m., Tuesday, August 4 at the KPAN studio, 218 E. Fifth Street in Hereford.

Journalists John Blake of Brownwood and Marshall Formby of Plainview established the station in 1948. Formby relocated to manage the station and supervise construction of the first studios, renovated from barracks transported from the army arsenal in Hooks, Texas, and sited on West Highway 60, about two miles from Hereford.

KPAN's sole owner in 1950 and sold half interest in the station to his nephew in 1956.

Following graduation from Texas Tech in 1949, Clint Formby helped construct and operate new stations in Tulia, Snyder and Colorado City. He returned to Hereford, August 20, 1951, as KPAN general manager. Formby's son, Chip, currently fills the position, sharing KPAN AM/FM ownership with his father.

KPAN's studios were virtually destroyed by fire in 1961. A smaller transmitter building was constructed at the site and erection of new studios and offices began at its current location. In 1965, KPAN was one of the first area stations to build a companion FM station.

KPAN has celebrated a number of broadcasting "firsts" and awards. It was the first Texas station to conceive DE Day, offering special training and financial resources for high school Distributive Education students.

The Texas Association of Broadcasters (TAB) twice named KPAN the state's Outstanding Radio Station and the state's Outstanding Radio Station in Support of Education. KPAN received more TAB awards in a ten-year period than any Texas radio or television station.

It was one of the first West Texas stations to inaugurate daily Spanish programming and music. KPAN's promotion of Good News Day received prominent national wire coverage and nationwide newspaper publicity. It is the only station to be featured on Texas Highways cover and was featured in the Dallas Morning News, AP releases, and area and national publications.

KPAN broadcasted live programs in 1997-98 to the British Broadcasting System, one of few stations in the Southwest to do so. It is one of two Texas stations retained by the same family ownership for the past fifty years.

Clint Formby was named TAB's 1979 Broadcaster of the Year and formerly chaired the National Association of Broadcasters, and served as national president of the Associated Press Broadcasters and of the Broadcast Education Association.

KPAN president and affectionately known as The Old Philosopher, Formby boasts the longest running consecutive broadcast by an individual in the United States.

The first airing of his program, "The Day by Day Philosopher," was October 11, 1955, and continues being broadcast six days a week, totaling 13,434 programs as of July 24.

Hereford area residents tune in to KPAN for the latest weather report, crop market, storm warnings, hospital and funeral reports, school and senior citizen lunch menus, school and bus schedules for inclement days, and live coverage of local sports, UIL championships, spelling bees, stock shows, church services, crop tours, agriculture conventions, parades and political speeches.

It's been a golden fifty years of broadcasting for Hereford, KPAN, and the Old Philosopher, Clint Formby, who returns as morning announcer fifty years later to again open the station for an encore production of KPAN's first morning show.

Residents are asked to tune in to AM 860/FM 106.3 at 6:15 a.m. Tuesday, August 4, to hear Formby's live broadcast, including 1940's music, a report of the day's Trading Post and, of course, Formby's well loved "Day by Day Philosopher."

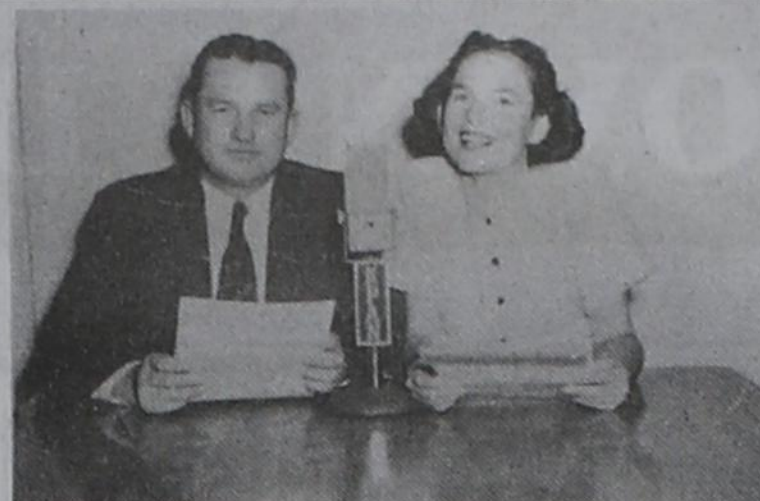


Clint Formby, painter and handyman, 1948

Blake and Formby originally planned the station for Canyon, but were swayed by Hereford's growth, publicity and aggressiveness. Formby's wife, Sharleen, suggested the "KPAN" all letters to represent the Texas Panhandle.

Clint Formby, nephew of Marshall Formby, commenced the regular broadcast ceremonies at 6:15 a.m. on August 4, 1948. A Texas Tech University student, Clint Formby assisted in the station's summer construction and announced until returning to classes that fall.

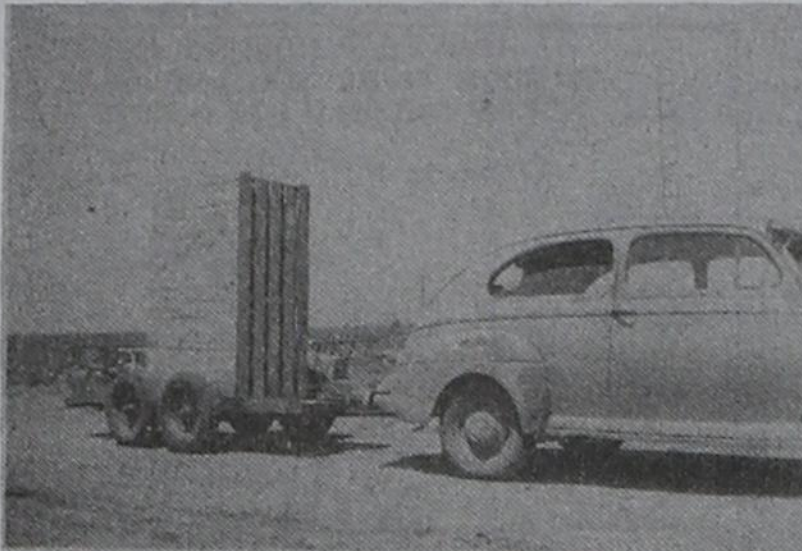
Marshall Formby, also a Texas Tech alumnus, became



Marshall and Sharleen Formby, 1948



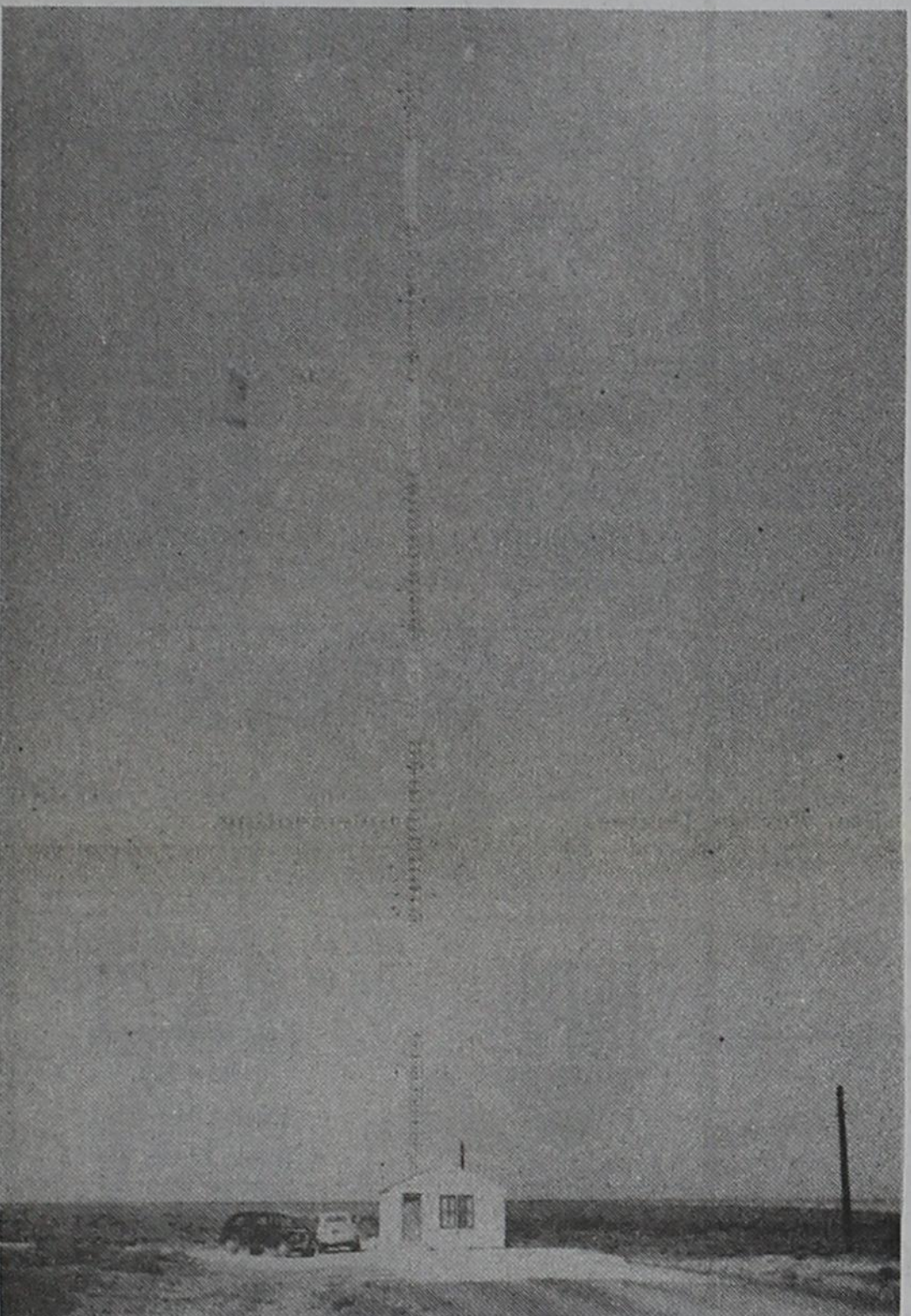
Original studio/transmitter housed in single army barracks, 1948



AM transmitter arriving at site after being unloaded at Hereford railroad depot, 1948



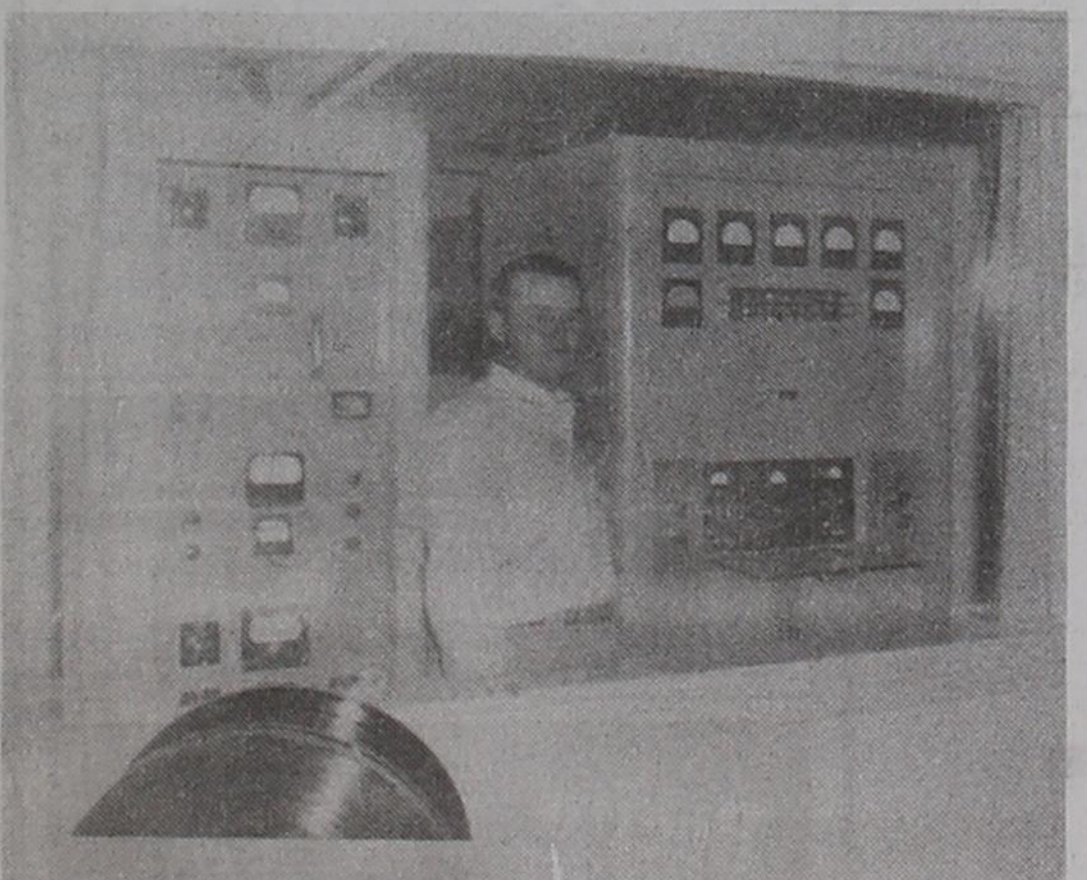
Aftermath of studio fire, 1961



Studios/transmitter, 1952



Clint Formby at KPAN microphone opening day (Aug. 4, 1948)



Marshall Formby with 1948 Gates AM transmitter

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FRIONA/BOVINA DEVOTIONAL PAGE

414

Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the book of I Samuel intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

SAMUEL AND SAUL

AT LONG LAST SAMUEL BRINGS SAUL BEFORE THE ASSEMBLED TRIBES OF ISRAEL TO ANOINT HIM KING, AS THE LORD HAS DIRECTED....

...AND SAMUEL PREPARES TO ANOINT SAUL WITH OIL...

NOW, EVEN AS THE LORD HAS COMMANDED ME TO DO, I BRING BEFORE YOU SAUL- CHOSEN BY GOD!

NOW, AMIDST CRIES OF "GOD SAVE THE KING," SAUL STANDS BEFORE ALL ISRAEL, HANDSOME, MODEST, TALLER BY A HEAD AND SHOULDER THAN ANY OTHER MAN. IN THIS, HIS GREATEST MOMENT-ALL OF WHICH HAS BEEN RECORDED IN I SAMUEL, CHAPTERS 8,9,10.

YE HAVE REJECTED THE LORD TO RULE OVER YOU AND HAVE ASKED INSTEAD FOR A KING!

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Rev. Waide Messer
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DEADLINE for classified advertising in Saturday's issue--Wednesday noon.

Check advertisement and report any error immediately. The Star is not responsible for error after ad has already run once.

All classified ads are CASH in ADVANCE. Only legal notices or continuous running ads will be billed. All other ads must be paid in full before they will be published.

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Alcoholics Anonymous meetings every Saturday and Monday, 8 p.m. at Union Congregational Church on North Euclid St. in Friona. tffc

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2 BR, 1 bath plus a junk house, 3 lots, near school.....\$22,000
 3 BR, 1 bath, 1 car, utility, front and back fenced yards.....\$35,900
 4 BR, 3 baths, 2 car, storage building, lots of new items.....\$80,000
 3 BR, 1-3/4 baths, 3 acre country home, barn, new roof.....\$95,500
 4 BR, 2 large baths, extremely clean, large lot, 2 C/P, storage, two story, quiet street, carpet cleaned.....SOLD.....\$66,000
 3 BR, 2 baths, permastone, large corner lot, near FHS, 1-car.....\$49,900
 3 BR, 2 bath, 2-car, fenced yard, built 1993, heat pump.....SOLD.....\$58,750
 9.5 acres w/country home, 1.5 miles to Bovina, on highway.....\$65,000
 3 BR, 1 bath, corner lot, new paint.....\$34,900
 2 Single Family residences, good rental property.....SOLD.....\$28,000
 2 BR, 1 bath, plus 2 story rental unit, corner lot.....\$42,000
 3 BR, 1 bath, 1-car, fenced, chain link fence.....MUST SEE.....\$35,900
 3 BR, 1 bath, 1-car, cellar, fenced.....SOLD.....\$39,900
 1.15 acres with 3 BR country home, 2 carport, 5 miles out.....\$35,000
 3 acres, 3 BR, 2 bath, 2 car, country home.....\$80,000
 3 BR, 2 bath, near high school, 3-car, basement.....SOLD.....\$64,900
 Small office/studio with 1/2 bath to be moved.....\$5,000
 3 BR, 2 baths, 2-car, 5 yrs. old, fenced yard.....SOLD.....\$64,000
 2-3 BR, 1 bath, metal shop, 2-car carport, nice & clean.....SOLD.....\$51,000
 298 acres with CRP, 2 wells, a real deal.....at \$400/Acre
 2 BR, 1 bath, 2 car C/P, Corner Lot.....\$25,000
 3 BR, 2 bath, 1-car, metal trim, Refri A/C, BEAUTY.....SOLD.....\$69,000
 2 BR, 1 bath with siding, corner lot, GOTTA SEE.....\$23,400

For All Your Construction Needs--
Call Terry Copley at 265-3427
 (just leave a message and I'll get back with you as soon as possible)
 I can build you a new:
 *Storage building *Covered patio
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If you need a metal, pitched roof on your flat-top building or old barn, just call.

FOR RENT
 FOR RENT....1 bedroom apartment. Call 250-3818.
 F-tfnc-7/31

FOR SALE
 FOR SALE....Maytag washer and dryer. Good condition. Call 250-3251.
 F-1tc-7/31

FOR SALE
 FOR SALE....1972 int. tractor CO 4070/10 speed/V8 Cummins/11x24 Bud wheels; 1973 Tempte grain trailer; good 1973 955 MM tractor w/duals; good CrustBuster drill 40 ft. 10" disk; Big 12 grain cart, 400 bu. long auger. Call (806) 265-3350.
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HELP WANTED

Need base, lead rhythm and steel guitar players for an upcoming band. Call 806-265-3499.
 F-3tp-7/17-7/24-7/31

Bovina I.S.D. is now accepting applications for Elementary School Special Education aide position. Must have High School diploma or G.E.D. Applications may be picked up from Darlene Miller in the Superintendent's office. Applications must be filed by August 4. Return to Darlene Miller. B-1tc-7/31

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Prairie Acres is seeking financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation under the Elderly and Persons With Disabilities Program. Grant funds will be used to purchase a standard 15 passenger van modified to provide stand-up entry for adult passengers, wheelchair lift and securement to be used to transport to be used to transport elderly and disabled adults to doctor's appointments, to hospitals, and on outings from 201 E. 15th, Friona, Texas. Copies of the grant proposal are available for inspection by the public at 201 E. 15th, Friona, Texas.

If requested in writing by August 11, 1998, a public hearing will be held by Prairie Acres, 201 E. 15th, Friona, Texas on August 11, 1998 at 7 p.m. to accept comments on the proposed continuation of elderly and disabled transportation services within Friona, Parmer County, Texas. Written comments on the proposed project may be submitted to 201 E. 15th, Friona, Texas 79035 prior to August 11, 1998.

Jo Blackwell
 Administrator

HELP WANTED

The Service Cafe at Excel Plant at Friona, Texas, has immediate openings for fun and energetic Managers, Supervisors, Cooks, Bakers and Cashiers. Call for an appointment (806)295-8259.
 F&B-2tc-7/24-7/31

REAL ESTATE

For Sale...3 Bedroom, 1 bath, house on 5 lots in Bovina. Call: 225-4004 B-3tc

FOR SALE....3 BR house, 203 Avenue A, Bovina, telephone (505) 742-1839.
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JULY 31 - AUGUST 6

PARENT TRAP PG
 1:30 - 4:15 - 7:05 - 9:35

SAVING PRIVATE RYAN R
 1:00 - 4:10 - 8:00

MAFIA PG-13
 2:00 - 4:00 - 7:20 - 9:20

THE MASK OF ZORRO PG-13
 1:15 - 4:10 - 7:00 - 9:40

THE NEGOTIATOR R
 1:15 - 4:00 - 7:00 - 9:40

ARMAGEDDON PG-13
 1:00 - 4:05 - 7:30

Adults: \$5 - Kids & Seniors: \$3
 Bargain Matinees: \$3
 Daily Matinees

Property Associates Realtors
 Appreciates All The Employees at Excel For their past business and offer our Congratulations on 30 great years in Parmer County.

We Look Forward To Working With You In The Future!

***NEW LISTING-Cheaper than rent 1BR-1bath near schools.\$16,000**
***NEW LISTING** Good investment, has renter already.....\$20,250
***NEW LISTING AFFORDABLE** 2 bedroom stucco.....\$28,750
***NEW LISTING** Two story 3BR needs work.....\$23,500
***NEW LISTING** Permastone 3BR, fenced yard.....\$26,500
***NEW LISTING-recently painted**, 3BR, 2bath,dbl garage.....\$55,500
***NEW LISTING-Magnificent Western Add.** Custom built.....\$235,000
***Just right for a couple, remodeled 2BR 1BA FHA Loan.....SOLD**
***NEW CARPET 3BR, 1BA w/vinyl siding.....SOLD**
***REMODELED 3BR, 2BA w/siding, close to schools.....SOLD**
***FHA FINANCED 3BR 1bath single car garage.....\$32,500**
***Close to high school, NEW PAINT, new AC, 3/2/2.....\$59,900**
***BIG TREES, new roof, large living area, 3BR/2bath.....\$59,900**
***LARGE 3/2/2 with sunroom by FHS-MAKE OFFER.....\$73,000**
***DRASTICALLY REDUCED**, landscape, storage, brick.....\$66,500
***ALMOST EVERYTHING NEW**, custom wood, true value.....\$87,000
***BED & BREAKFAST 4BR, 2bath, REDUCED AGAIN.....\$85,000**
***RAMBLING RANCH HOME**, den, gameroom, by FHS.....\$135,000
***WESTERN ADDN. 4BR 4 1/2 bath custom built.....\$159,000**
***LARGE RESIDENTIAL tract w/own well.....\$24,900**
***142 ACRES, dryland in CRP.....\$45,000**

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 Home: 250-2505 Home: 250-2505

Hwy. 60 & Main Phone 247-2745

3 BR, 2 BA, large living room with fireplace, dining room, kitchen, utility, double garage, large cellar, storage, extra nice...SOLD...\$85,000
 3 BR, 2 BA, kit., dining, LR, fireplace, dbl. garage, sprinkler system, storage, extra nice.....Reduced to \$79,900.....\$82,500
NEW LISTING--4 BR, 3 BA, 2 living areas w/fireplace, formal dining, kitchen, utility, new paint, new tile, new air conditioning.....\$78,000
 3 BR, 1-3/4 BA, den/family rm., near school.....SOLD.....\$68,000
 3 BR, 1-3/4 BA, 3 living areas, double garage.....SOLD.....\$65,000
 3 BR, 2 BA, living room, dining room, kitchen, utility, new paint, double garage, heat pump.....SOLD.....\$63,000
 3 BR, 1-3/4 BA, lots of storage, kitchen/den, living room, garage, nice location.....Reduced to \$57,900.....\$59,900
 3 BR, 2 BA, 3 living areas, 1 with fireplace, large kitchen, dining, utility, new carpet.....\$59,500
 3 BR, 1-3/4 BA, kitchen/dining/family room with fireplace, 2 car garage, storage building.....\$54,900
 3 BR, 2 BA, living room, kitchen, dining, double car garage with cellar.....Reduced to \$49,900.....\$53,900
 2 BR, 1 BA, LR, kit., dining room, garage.....SOLD.....\$30,000
 3 city lots, good location.....inside lots \$3,000/corner lot \$4,000
 Choice lots, Western Addition, 100' or 200' lots...CALL FOR PRICE
 3 lots on Washington.....\$7,500
 10.6 acres on south edge of town.....Call For Price
 210 acres irrigated land. Good area.....Call For Price

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ANDY HURST Home: 247-3123 JOHN MARS Home: 295-6155
HURST REAL ESTATE & INSURANCE
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Jerry Collier

Stop by and let us show you why Stevens 5-Star Car & Truck Center has the best car and truck buys in the Panhandle!!



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY wishes were shared at Prairie Acres last week with Howard and Minnie Kelso. The Kelsos, long time Bovina residents, were celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary with flowers, best wishes and a pretty anniversary cake. Howard is a resident at Prairie Acres.

Growers Cautioned

By Shawn Wade

"If it sounds too good to be true, then it probably is."

It may be an old saying but it is one that could protect cotton producers and prevent them from spending money they can't afford to waste on products that promise the moon but rarely deliver.

Dr. John Abernathy, Dean of the Texas Tech University College of Agriculture and Applied Economics, noted during a recent boll weevil management seminar sponsored by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. that High Plains cotton producers will soon be bombarded with a bevy of quick and easy cures for the boll weevil.

The boll weevil has rapidly developed into this area's most serious threat to profitable cotton production.

Abernathy notes that the best protection around is a healthy dose of skepticism and a reliance on verifiable scientific proof that the product in question can provide the results it claims.

Abernathy encourages cotton producers to contact their local county Extension agents or Integrated Pest Management Specialists to get a second opinion on the effectiveness of any new product. He also notes that by taking the extra time to find corroborating information a producer could prevent a costly waste of money and time.



MICHEL RODRIGUEZ and PETER GOMEZ.... Mariano and Maria Rodriguez of Friona announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Michel, to Peter Gomez, Jr., son of Pedro and Eileen Gomez of Friona. The couple will exchange wedding vows Saturday, August 29 at 4:30 p.m. in Templo Bautista Church of Friona. Both the bride-elect and the prospective bridegroom are graduates of Friona High School. She is attending Amarillo College working on a degree in social work. He is currently employed by Excel Friona.

Lone Star Tumblers

*Tumbling *Trampoline *Double Mini

Fall Registration: Wednesday, August 5
From 4 -7 at the Friona Community Center.

Recreational & Competitive Classes.

Ages 2 yrs. & up; Beginner to Advanced

For more information, contact Sharon Snead
(806) 894-8678

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Washington, D.C., 20510
Ph. (202) 224-2932;
Lubbock: (806) 743-7533

*Cong. Larry Combest
511 Longworth Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C., 20515
Ph. (202) 225-4005

*Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison
283 Senate Russell Building
Washington D.C., 20510
Ph. (202) 224-5922

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presented by
MulePlex Production Co.

August 7-10, 1998
8:30 p.m.

Muleshoe Heritage Center
West American Blvd. • Muleshoe, TX

Tickets \$10.00 at gate
or \$8.00 in advance. \$5.00
Children Ages 10 and Under
GROUP RATES AVAILABLE

For Information Call 806/272-5612

BEANS & CORNBREAD DINNER
each evening at 6:30 p.m.
served by the
Muleshoe Heritage Foundation
ADULTS \$4.00 • CHILDREN 10
AND UNDER \$2.50 (per plate)

While in Muleshoe, enjoy our
fine shopping, dining and
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Rebates as high as
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30 YEARS IN PARMER COUNTY
AND FOR YOUR TRUCK AND
AUTO BUSINESS.
WE APPRECIATE YOU ALL!!**

'97 Chev Lumina.....\$193 mo* 4-Door, Tilt, Cruise, PW, PL \$12,700	'97 Olds Achieva.....\$167 mo* 4-Door, Red, Auto-PW, PL, PW,TL, & Cruise \$10,995	'97 Chev Cavalier.....\$167 mo* 4-Door, Red, Loaded Nice \$10,995	
	4-Door, Auto Air, AM/FM Cassette \$8,995	'97 Pontiac Grand AM.....\$217 mo* Low Miles, 4-Door, Loaded \$11,995	'97 Chev Cavalier\$181 mo* Convertible, Red \$11,900

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We are happy to announce that Ronnie McLellan has joined our work force and will be our sprinkler service man, including all electrical work.

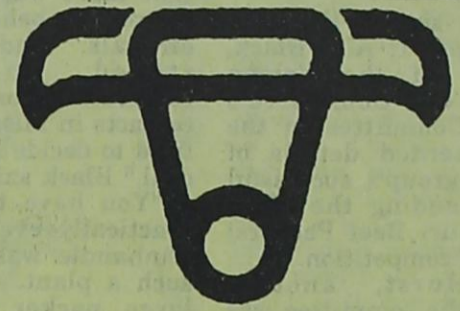
For sprinkler sales, parts and maintenance

Call Stevick Sales & Service
(806) 250-3110
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Your local Zimmatic Representative



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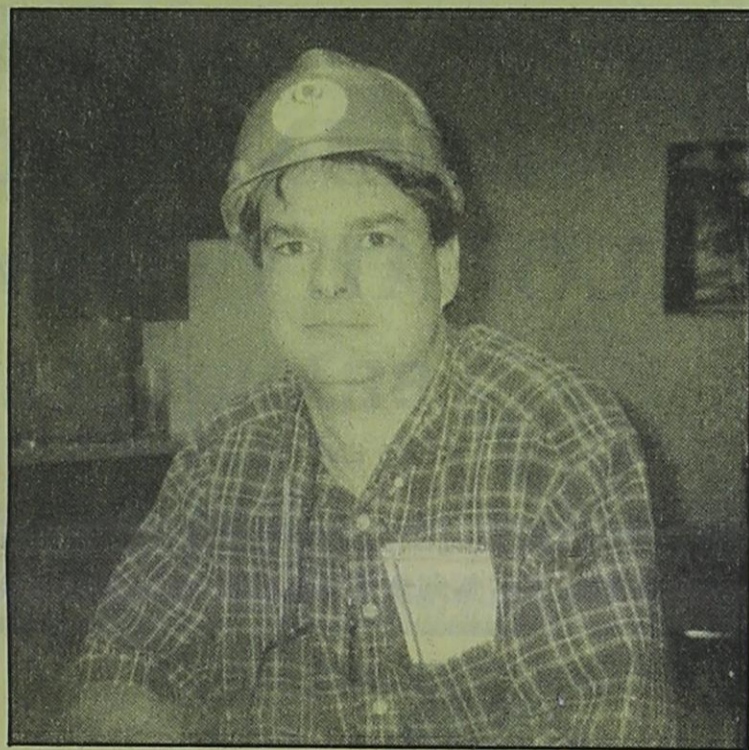
CORPORATION

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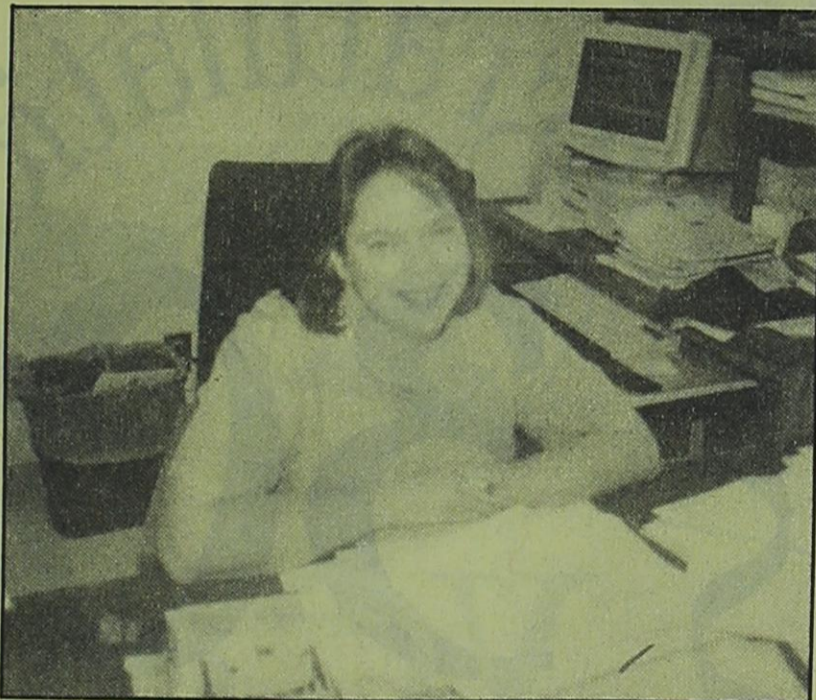
30TH ANNIVERSARY

Would like to thank the
people of Friona/Bovina &
Parmer County for. . .

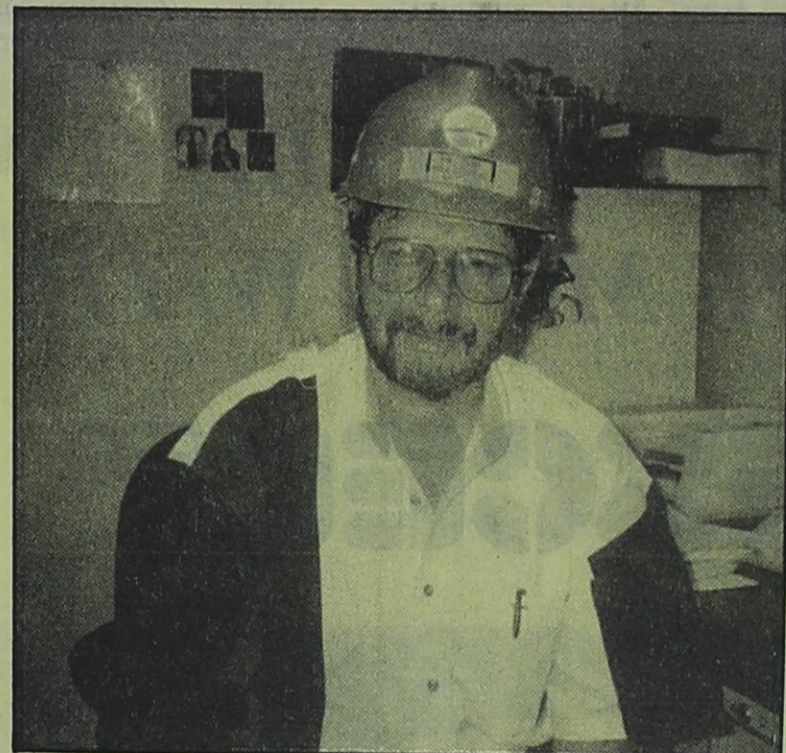
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- *Outstanding Citizens
- *& Supportive Leadership



SCOTT ENTZ
EXCEL Plant Manager



CAROL AISTRUP
Comptroller



HECTOR VILLARREAL, Slaughter Supervisor, is the only employee who has been with the plant since the first day of operation in 1968.



We look forward to many more good years in this area.

AT LUNCHEON

A. L. Black Recalls Details Of Securing Packing Plant

by **BILL ELLIS**

During a special luncheon at Excel June 1, A.L. Black, a member of the Friona Chamber of Commerce's Industrial Committee in the 1960s, presented details of the Friona group's successful efforts in landing the plant (then Missouri Beef Packers) against stiff competition.

Andy Hurst, another member of the committee was also in attendance, as were Clydie Black and Winifred Hurst. The third committee member, Dr. Lloyd Shackelford, was unable to attend due to a prior scheduled vacation trip.

"Dr. Shackelford was a major cog in the drive. He was attending a dental conference in Dallas and ran across a dental friend who was connected to Missouri Beef Packers and told Lloyd about their success. Lloyd told his friend about the growing cattle-feeding industry in and around Friona," Black told the audience.

Missouri Beef Packers had been established in Rock Port, Missouri, in the early 1960s, and had grown into a successful independent beef packer. Under the leadership of likeable Eugene Frye, MBP was already considering expanding.

Dr. Shackelford's friend visited Friona, was given a tour of the area's blossoming beef feedlots, and soon afterward, a dialogue was begun between the Friona group and those at MBP.

Dr. Shackelford and Hurst were "coffee buddies," and the dentist began to share the packing plant possibility with his friend, who was an owner of Parmer County Implement Company. Before long, they contacted Black, who had years of experience in the cattle business, and asked his advice.

"We decided to get an appointment to meet with the board of directors of MBP.

After the meeting we felt that there was some genuine interest on behalf of the MBP officials. Andy and "Doc" stayed in constant communication with their contacts in Missouri, while we tried to decide how to strike a deal," Black said.

"You have to realize that practically every city in the Panhandle was interested in such a plant. (There was no large packer operating at that time. Hereford, also heavy into cattle feeding, was a big competitor). And, Amarillo had the attitude that if anything good wanted to come to the Panhandle, it should come there," he added.

"We told the MBP officials that we would provide the land, if they would guarantee to start construction on a plant within 90 days," Black explained. The Missourians gave a verbal "okay" to the deal.

"We priced the land at the plant site with its owner, and it came to \$96,000. This offer was good for 30 days, and we had to raise all of the money by that time. We visited such folks as Southwestern Public Service, Santa Fe Railway and Energas and asked for their financial support.

"Within about two weeks, we had raised \$106,000, and felt we had ourselves a deal," Black said. He told about some of the good-natured arm-twisting that he and the other men did on local residents and businesses, in the most successful short-term fund-raising drive the local area has ever seen.

On the day the local group met with MBP officials and their attorney to draw up and sign the contract, it was down to the signing point when a phone call from one of their officials told them they couldn't sign the contract for 30 days, due to the fact that MBP was going into a "new offering" with its stock, and they would have to re-do their application with

considerable cost involved.

Although that took the wind out of the Friona group's sails momentarily, Black said he was still optimistic. After thinking a few minutes, Black said he took a check out of his pocket and made it out to MBP for \$10,000.

"I told their representative: 'Here's my check. I'll be back here in 30 days to sign the contract. If I'm not, the \$10,000 is yours,' (then, after a short pause), I asked the rep 'I'd like to have your check for the same amount, in case you don't show up. He scratched his head a minute and then gave it to me," the longtime cattleman told the audience.

After the 30-day period, the two parties signed contracts, and the announcement of the Missouri company's plans to expand to Friona was made on April 28, 1967.

Special guests included members of the Friona City Council including Mayor Clarence Monroe and City Manager Paula Wilson, County Judge Bonnie Clayton and other Parmer County officials, members of the Friona Chamber of Commerce and that organization's Ambassadors, among others.

Excel's Friona plant manager, Scott Entz, welcomed those attending. He spoke of the plant's community involvement, and the fact that Excel and the local community had worked together for their common good throughout its existence.

Excel's CEO, Bill Buckner, pointed out how Excel had grown from the commitment of a small independent packer to one of the largest in the world.

"Excel's capital investments over the past five years has been over \$33 million, which is almost ten times the amount of money it cost to build the original (Continued on Page 3)



MEETING BUCKNER....Andy Hurst, left, and A.L. Black, right, members of the Friona Chamber of Commerce's industrial committee that brought the packing plant to Friona in the 1960s, met current C.E.O. of Excel, Bill Buckner, during a luncheon last month celebrating the plant's 30th anniversary locally. Dr. Lloyd Shackelford was also a member of the Chamber committee.

Congratulations!

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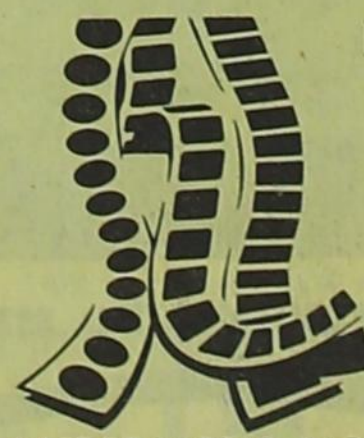
Shag Truck Driver - Hector Larrea

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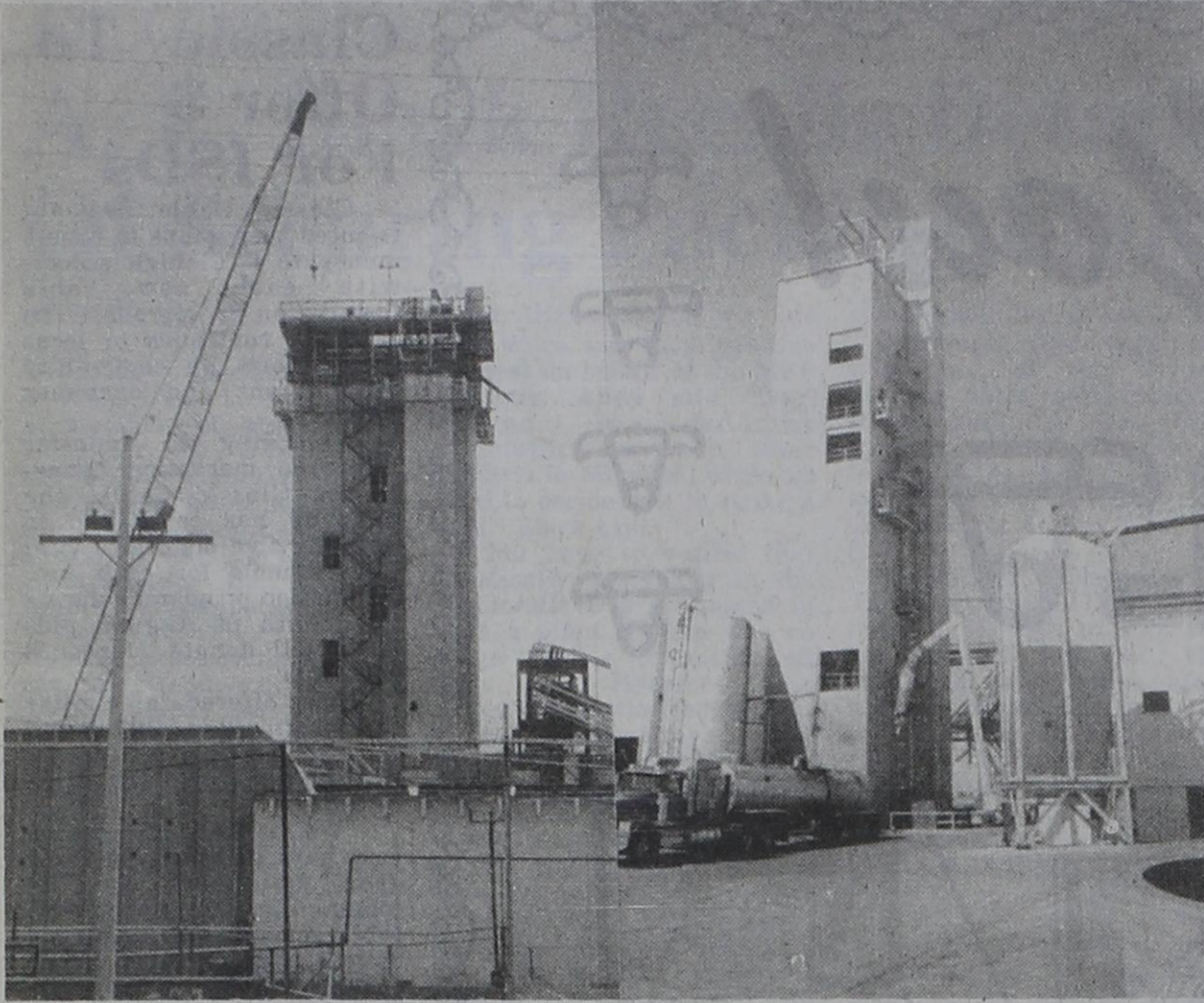


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It has been a pleasure working with you.
We wish you continued success.

soon to be known as

Corporate EXPRESS



MILLING TOWER...Excel's high-rise milling tower is shown (left) while it was under construction, and right, as it appears today. The 147-foot high tower, which is as high as a seven-story building, is used for bone grinding operations, and was completed in late 1996, and was part of a \$15 million expansion program at Excel.

Friona Star photos



WHERE TO SIT...The cafeteria at Excel fills up quickly during meal break, giving workers a chance to catch their breath before the next "shift."

(ron carr photo)

Amarillo Will Host Coin Show

Golden Spread Coin Club, Inc. will sponsor their annual Coin and Collectors Show, August 8-9 in the North Meeting Room Amarillo Civic Center, Third and Buchanan, downtown Amarillo.

"Admission is free and there is something for everyone so bring the whole family," said a spokesman. There will be 108 dealer tables from all over the country offering coins, paper money, gold, silver, stamps, knives, jewelry, sport and non-sport cards, collector toys, books, records, watches, Indian artifacts, gems, antiques, crafts, Nascar and everything collectible except for real guns (they will be across the hall at a gun show).

Hours of the show are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, August 8 and 9 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, August 9. Free hourly prizes will be given. You will be given the opportunity to buy tickets on gold pieces to be given away on Sunday at 5 p.m. Come to buy, sell, trade or just ask questions from Coin Club members concerning coins and their meanings.

Golden Spread Coin Club, Inc., is a non-profit organization with their main emphasis on numismatic education. Part of the proceeds from the show will go to the Raymond Bates Scholarship Fund at West Texas A&M University at Canyon and for numismatic literature for the libraries in Amarillo and Canyon.

The club meets the first Monday of the month in the Presidents Room, Nations Bank, downtown at 7 p.m. The public is invited. For additional information on bourse tables or the club call (806) 655-3006.

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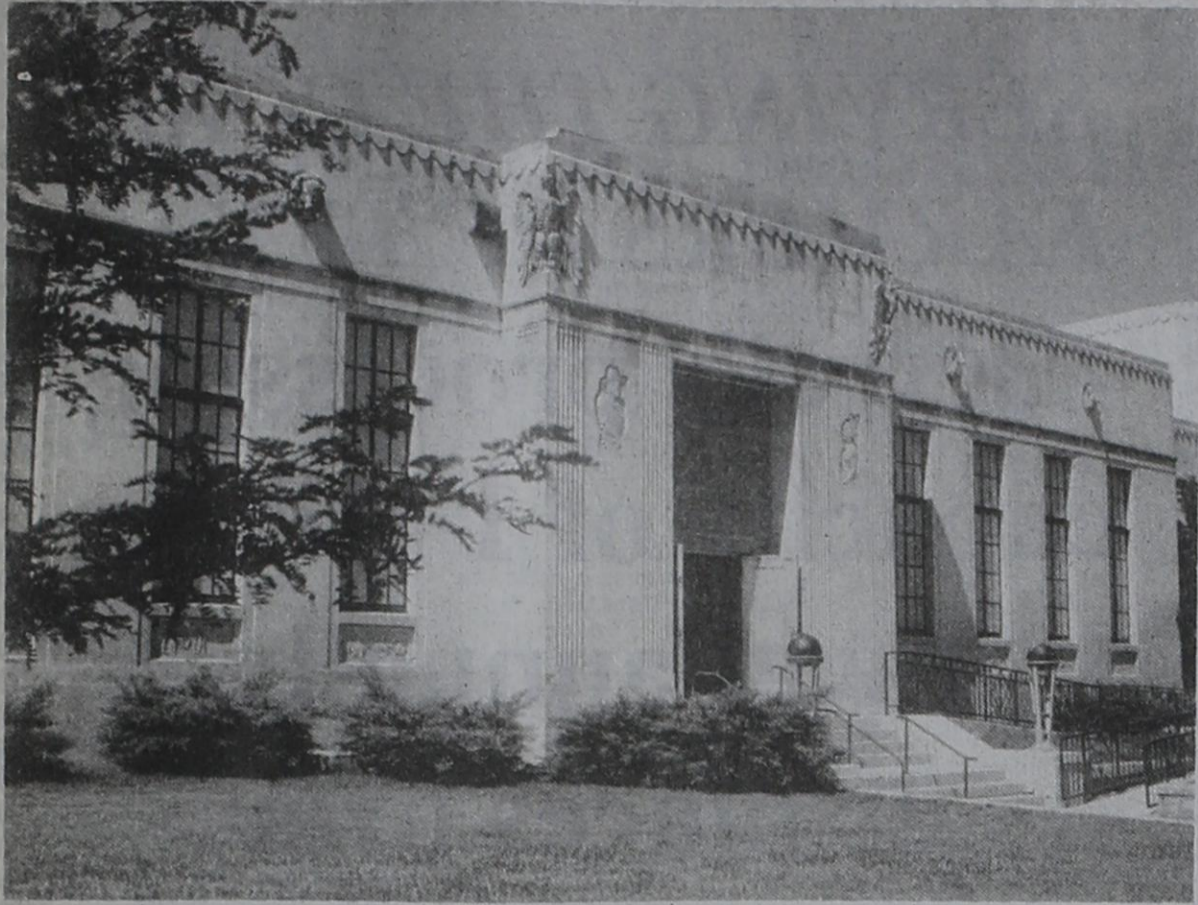
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Front entrance to the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, which bears a State Antiquities Landmark designation awarded in 1983 for its unique Art Deco architectural style.

Museum Has Sunday Schedule

Beginning June 7, the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon began Summer Sundays, which will continue through August 30. The Summer Sundays will allow free admission to the Museum each Sunday for all visitors.

In order to assure that all local and area citizens have access to the Museum, the Summer Sundays is one of the programs that will allow free admission. Other programs that will not have an admission charge will be special community events, such as the Victorian Christmas Open House, Museum Day and other days to be announced.

Members of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society and members of the Museum Auxiliary will be admitted during all public hours without an admission charge. Membership in the Society is available on a variety of levels. For more information on membership, call the Museum at 806/651-

2244. In order to provide educational access, school children visiting the Museum with their reserved school groups, scholars using the Research Center or collections, and West Texas A&M University students, faculty and staff will be admitted free of charge.

The decision to institute an admission charge resulted from thoughtful and concerned deliberation by both the Board of Trustees of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society and a specially appointed task force comprised of area and community representatives.

"After an in-depth independent review of the initial proposal for admission made by the Non-Profit Services Center of Amarillo Area Foundation, members of the task force determined that the implementation of an admission charge would be an act of prudent stewardship by the Society on behalf of

the PPHM's regional constituency.

All decisions made by the task force and the PPHS Board of Trustees were based on a primary concern to sustain for future generations the standards of service and excellence enjoyed by previous generations of museum visitors, stated W.A. Attebury, past president of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society.

Beginning June 1, the Museum's admission charge was set at \$4.00 for adults, \$3.00 for adults 65 and over, \$4.00 for children 12 years of age and over, \$1.00 for children ages 4-11, and children age three and under will be admitted free. Groups of 20 or more will be charged \$3.00.

Summer hours at the Museum are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 1-6 p.m. The Museum is located on the campus of West Texas A&M University at 2401 Fourth Avenue in Canyon.



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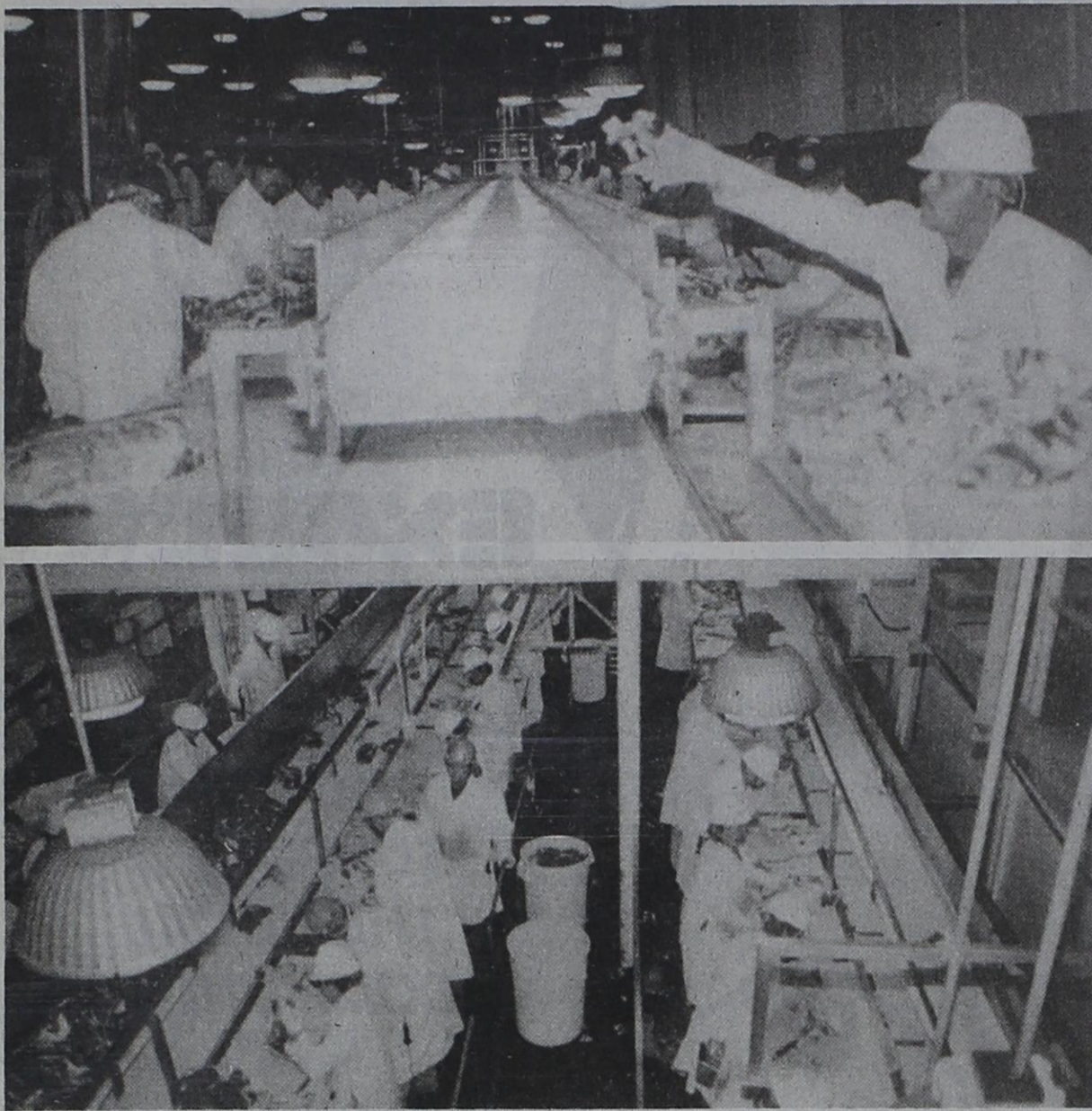
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FABRICATION AREA....The Fabrication department is one of the additions to the original Friona plant, being added in the summer of 1978. Workers are shown (top photo) at ground level, and below, in an overhead view.

Lubbock District TXDOT Will Be Receiving Highway Funds

Texas will receive nearly \$1.9 billion a year in federal highway funding under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21), signed this week by President Clinton. For the last six years, Texas has received a \$1.1 billion annual average that resulted from the 1991 federal bill. And, some of that money will find its way into the district coffers for maintenance and construction of West Texas Highways. In fact, the last authorization bill (ISTEA) netted the Lubbock District

\$120 million in federal funds for highway construction. The infusion of federal dollars, on the average of \$19 million each year during the last six years--provided funding for highway upgrades in the 17 counties served by the Lubbock District. The district also receives about \$17 million a year in state funds. The Lubbock District will also receive \$12.3 million for an East/West Freeway project from Memphis Avenue to University Avenue, and \$7.2 million goes to the

construction of Texas Tech University Boulevard (relocation of Indiana Avenue). "The Lubbock District is excited about the increase in the rate of return for our tax dollars," said Carl Utley, district engineer for TxDOT's Lubbock District. "With this authorization bill, we've reduced the amount of dollars that Texas is donating to the federal government which should, in turn, mean more dollars for the Lubbock District."

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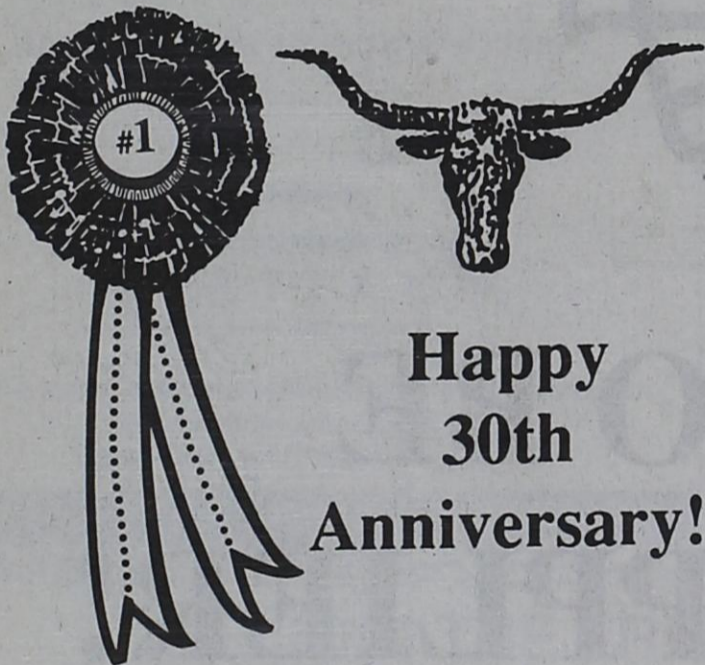


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Bataan Death March Survivors Are Backing Reparations Bill

(Editor's note: Alfred Haws was raised in the Friona area. He is the brother of Gladys Wilson. He attended school at the old Lakeview School (southeast of Friona), and also lived at Lazbuddie, Melrose and Center, N.M.)

By MICHAEL MORRISON
Six County Star
Staff Writer

In one short week, Clovis lost two of its veterans who were survivors of the Bataan Death March, Harold Knighton and Dick Malone.

The number of those survivors grows less, but there are still some in the Clovis area. After all, the original Bataan Death Marchers came more often from New Mexico, and Curry and Roosevelt counties in particular, than from any other part of the country.

And although New Mexicans made up a larger contingent of Japanese prisoners of war than probably servicemen from any other state, only one New Mexico congressman has signed on as co-sponsor of a resolution by U.S. Rep. William O. Lipinski, D-Ill.--Rep. Joe Skeen of the 2nd District.

The resolution urges the Japanese government to extend a formal apology for its aggression and to pay reparations to American prisoners of war and other victims of Japanese war crimes.

New Mexico Congressman Steve Schiff has not signed, nor has freshman Representative Bill Redmond.

"We've heard very little about this," said Redmond's press secretary Jennifer Bennett. "It's a resolution, not a bill, which means it's not binding."

She added Redmond recognizes that large numbers of New Mexicans were among those prisoners "and that's one reason he chose to be on the Veterans' Affairs Committee."

However, at this point, she said, "This has not been brought to our attention by our constituents. If it comes to a point where it is, then he will absolutely take a look at it (the resolution)."

Despite the fifty years of national alliance between Japan and the United States, and the decades-long interdependence of the two economies, the survivors of the Death March remember.

And people who weren't there take note.

Rick Madera, commander of the Disabled American Veterans post in Clovis, emphasized that the National Guardsmen of Curry and Roosevelt counties were in the Death March.

His own great-uncle, Madera said, was there, too.

However, Madera said, stories on Bataan survivors are tough to come by because "they just don't want to remember it."

One who would discuss it is Alfred Haws of Clovis. He was born in Oklahoma in 1917, but "I lived in and around Clovis since '32. I really grew up right here."

He was called into the service before Pearl Harbor. "I was pulled in on the one-year draft," he said, and was trained at Fort Bliss. He then was assigned to Battery G of the 200th Coast Artillery.

"I was put on detached service...to a 75 mm half-track outfit" in the Philippines. "We had four guns and a service crew to supply them guns. I was with that group all during the fighting."

Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked on Dec. 7, 1941. But it was Dec. 8 in the Philippines. "We were deployed out a ways and kept on alert," Haws said, adding, "We didn't have any ammunition the day the war started."

The fighting was fierce.

"We deployed pretty well all over the island. Our 75 half-tracks were right up at the north end of Luzon. And then as the Japanese landed on the north end, we were pushed back and everybody retreated to Bataan. That's where everybody surrendered."

And that's where one of the most infamous incidents of World War II began.

"We made that Bataan Death March," Haws said.

A listener commented that Haws made that statement matter-of-factly. Did he ever mind, as so many Death March survivors did, talking about it?

"Outside of no water on the march...." He paused, and went on, "The first day out on the march, I was pulled out of line and I carried a Jap's back pack. When they stopped for a rest, he sat there with a revolver, cocking it and uncocking it right at my stomach. Finally he turned me loose, pulled another guy out of line. I don't know whether the guy lived or died. You can't tell. They killed a lot of them that way. I got back in line and made it all the way into the prison camp."

"It wasn't that easy," he said. "We only had food about once, a little bit of dried rice once, and water once."

As to how long the prisoners had to endure that hardship, Haws said, "I don't recall any more. I was hot and dry. Most everybody was urinating blood...from lack of water."

Haws said he backs the Lipinski resolution. "I'd like to see it pushed. Of course it means some money to me."

He said there is a suit against Japan "for \$22,000 apiece to all of us. We never got any compensation of any kind for what we went through. I lost my right arm because of that, too."

As a prisoner, he was

eventually transported to Japan where he was, contrary to the Geneva Convention, put to work in a steel mill. He lost his arm "by one of our own bombs, shrapnel," when U.S. planes bombed Japan.

Haws sacrificed more than an arm in that war against Japan: "I lost a brother over there, too, and my wife lost two brothers. They murdered 'em."

He clarified that verb: "I said murdered. My brother and her...brother died in the prison camp--starvation, no medicine, no nothing. That's the same as murder as far as I'm concerned."

His other brother-in-law, he said was put in a cave with other prisoners. They had gasoline poured over them and were set on fire. "Whoever run out was bayoneted....Some ugly things happened, a lot of them that have never come out."

Haws is concerned that contemporary generations know what happened. "We're all getting that age now. We're about ready to die off."

Another survivor living in Clovis is Lee Roach. "I was on most of it," he said. "I got to ride a little ways on a truck...but not too far. But I didn't walk all the way. It was enough to know what it was all about."

"The main thing was food and water," he said. "You didn't get any of that. That's

what hurt, out in that tropical heat, no water and nothing to eat for probably two to three days. The walking wasn't all that bad. It was the groceries you didn't get."

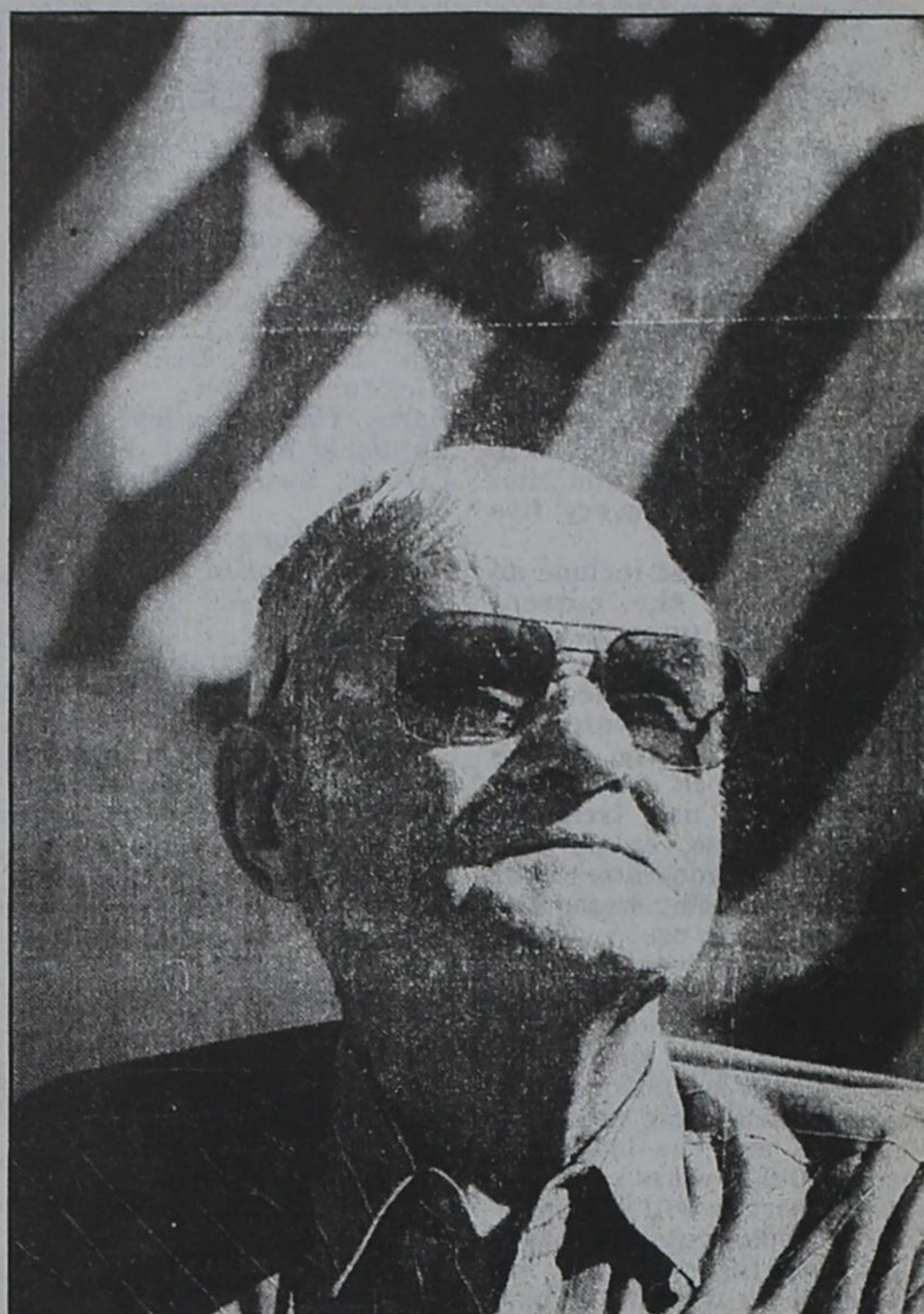
He said he wasn't too familiar with the Lipinski resolution, but he had heard that for two or three years something was being worked on. "But I didn't think it would happen."

He does think, though, it would be a good idea, "if they'd pay. But I never did think it'd get much out of them, it's been so long."

He was a prisoner about 3-1/2 years, but he isn't holding a grudge against the Japanese. He's even bought their automotive products. "I've had two or three pickups."

Friends and relatives sometimes wonder about that, he said. "I said, 'Well, let me tell ya. These here pickups weren't made by the people who give me all that static.' And then I said, 'Everywhere I parked this little pickup, there ain't any grease under where I park it, either.' I think they learned the Americans a few things on gas mileage and things like that."

He said he had no bitterness. "Not for the people now. I did back there when I was in the prison camp, but not the people now. I think it's a different bunch."



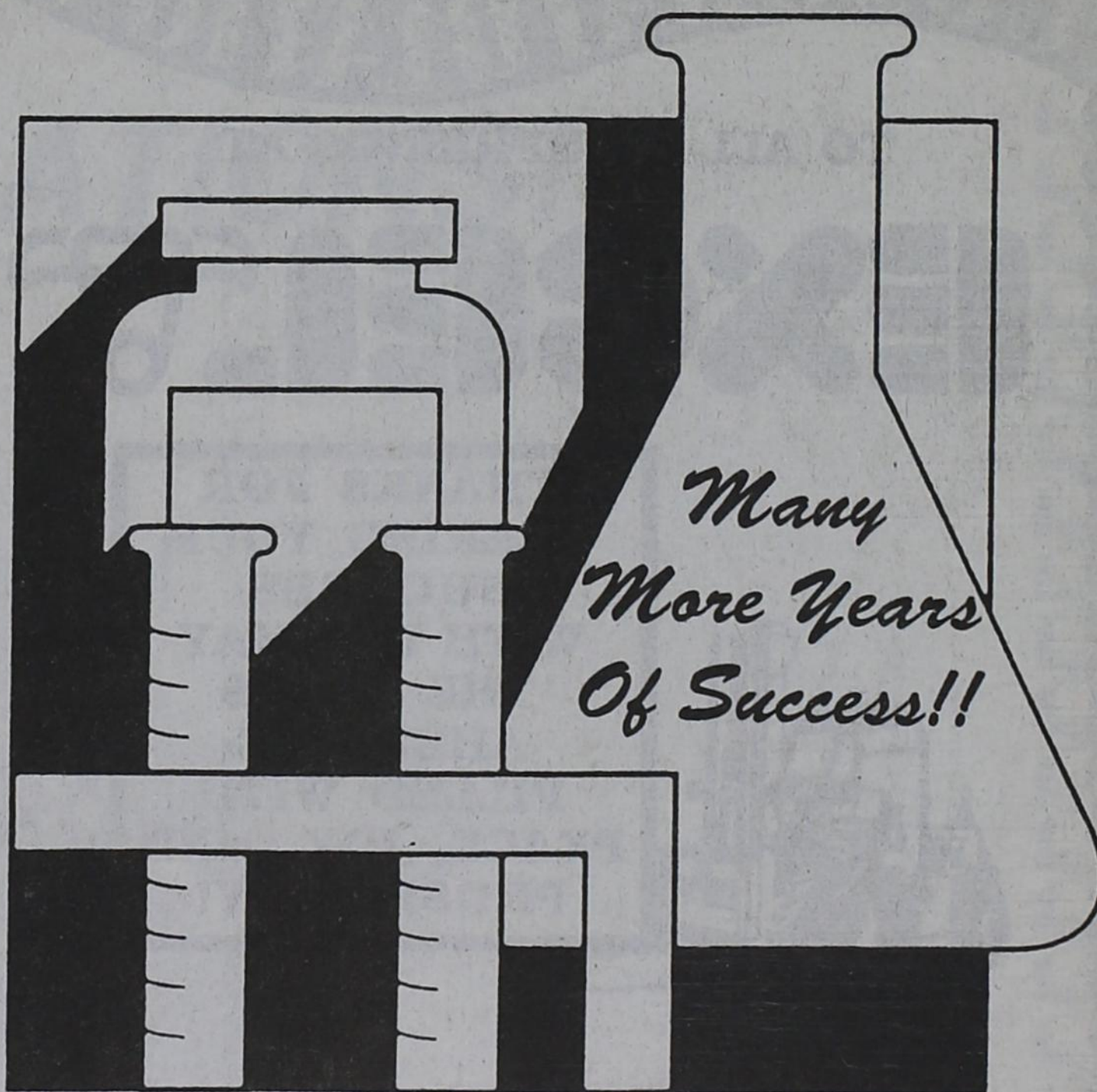
ALFRED HAWS of Clovis, a World War II prisoner of war who survived the Bataan Death March, is among several World War II POWs trying to rally support in Congress to seek reparations from the Japanese government for the treatment they received as prisoners of war. Haws is the brother of Friona's Gladys Wilson and attended Texas schools at Lakeview (east of Friona) and Lazbuddie; and Center and Melrose, N.M.

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Senate Bill Impacts Texas Water Resource Management

(Reprinted From the CROSS SECTION, A monthly publication of the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District.)

An act passed during the 75th Texas Legislative Session (Senate Bill 1) requires that water management plans be developed for each county in the state before September 1, 2000 and that plans be updated every five years, thereafter.

The plan must include an evaluation of the current water reserves (ground water and surface water) in each county, the historic and projected use of water by every town or city in the county, livestock water use, mining water use, irrigated agriculture use, steam and electric power generator water use, manufacturing water use, and rural water use.

Comparing water use to water reserves, a determination has to be made as to whether or not the water supplies will be adequate to meet the near time needs (0-30 years) and the long-term needs (30-50 years.) If the water reserves will not meet future needs, water management strategies must be developed to determine how future water needs will be met or, in the alternative, what economic and social effect will occur as a result of not meeting these needs.

Towns and cities are also required to develop drought management plans. Failure to comply with the provisions of Senate Bill 1 will result in the loss of low interest loans and grants for water supply development by non-participating entities.

If the work is not done at the local level, the Texas Water Development Board will make their own evaluation for non-participating entities. Their plan will include recommendations to the legislature as to what needs to be done to assure that long term water supplies will be available to meet the needs of the residents of the non-participating entities of the areas.

The legislature concluded that water planning could best be accomplished on a

regional level. They, therefore, directed the TWDB to divide the state into regional planning areas.

Region "O" includes the following counties: Bailey, Briscoe, Castro, Crosby, Cochran, Dawson, Deaf Smith, Dickens, Floyd, Gaines, Garza, Hale, Hockley, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Farmer, Swisher, Terry, and Yoakum.

Armstrong, Potter, and Randall Counties are included in Region "A." The High Plains Water District will have a representative attending planning meetings in both regions.

The legislature also concluded that the responsibility for directing the planning effort needed to be placed with leaders in the region with varied water interests. They identified 11 water interest groups and directed the TWDB to solicit recommendations from residents in the area as to whom they would like to represent them in the planning effort of each interest group.

The individuals nominated and appointed for each of the interest groups are as follows: Dr. Lloyd Urban of Lubbock, public sector; Judge Dallas Brewer of Plains, county governments; Bruce Blalack of Lubbock, Ches Carthel of Plainview, and Mayor Bob Josseland of Hereford, municipalities; Steve Perry of Lubbock, industries; Dr. John Abernathy of Lubbock, S.M. True Jr. of Plainview, Johnny Anzaldua of Lamesa, and Delaine Baucum of Seminole, agriculture; Jim Steiert of Hereford, environmental issues; Don McElroy of Muleshoe, small businesses; Bill Harbin of Floydada, electric generating utilities; John Garland of Waco, river authorities; A. Wayne Wyatt of Lubbock and Kent Satterwhite of Sanford, water districts; and Henry Rieff of Cotton Center, water utilities.

The legislation appropriated funds to help pay for the planning effort. They provided a method that matching grants (75% state, 25% local) could be used to pay for the planning effort.

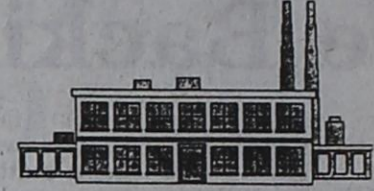
Water Use In Texas By Category



Irrigation 72%



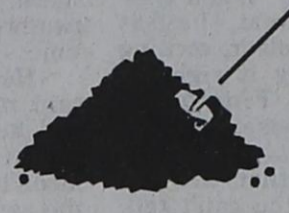
Municipalities 21%



Manufacturing 3%



Livestock 2%



Mining 1%



Steam-Electric Generation 1%

SOURCE: Texas Water Facts, TWDB

The Region "O" planning group has met twice. They have adopted a set of by-laws, adopted a new name for the planning area, the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group, appointed Jerry Webster of Tahoka, Harold "Bo" Brown of Lubbock, and Lee Arrington of Brownfield to the planning group, elected officers, and begun the planning process. Officers are A. Wayne Wyatt, Chairman; Lee Arrington, Vice-Chairman; and Ches Carthel, Secretary.

Public meetings will be conducted to receive comments as to what should be included in the long term water management plan, especially as to what scenarios should be considered if the current water supplies do not appear adequate to meet long term needs. When each region completes their planning efforts, the TWDB will merge all of the regional plans into a state-wide plan scheduled for completion by September 1, 2001.

Please direct any written suggestions or comments you have to A. Wayne Wyatt, Chairman of the Llano Estacado Planning Group, 2930 Avenue Q, Lubbock, Texas 79405-1499.

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CHOW TIME....An Excel worker places his order during lunchbreak at the plant. Service Cafe of Hereford has the hot food concession at the plant.

Plateau Wireless Has Expanded Service Area

Plateau Wireless, serving Eastern New Mexico and areas of West Texas and the Texas Panhandle, has announced an expanded wireless phone coverage area, adding almost 25,000 square miles to its existing service territory.

"Plateau Wireless now offers customers more than 150,000 square miles of home coverage for one low monthly rate," said Jeff Harlow, director of marketing. "The expanded wireless phone coverage area will be available with Plateau's Advantage Price Plans, that now include the Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Taos and Gallup, New Mexico areas."

"The Advantage Plans are price plan options that offer significant cost savings to both individuals and businesses who travel in New Mexico, West Texas and the Texas Panhandle areas."

To go along with the expanded coverage area, Plateau is changing its look, with a new image to reflect more closely its geographic region and service philosophy.

"Plateau Wireless has always been recognized for the highest quality technology and great, hometown service," Harlow said. "The new look reflects a long-standing commitment to provide our customers high quality, affordable wireless phone services. So when customers see trucks with the new Plateau Wireless logo on the side, and hear our slogan: 'People you know, communications you trust,' they can be confident we're still the same company, and that they will continue to deal with local people they know and trust."

Plateau Wireless is a partnership of wireless phone providers headquartered in Clovis, New Mexico. Partners include: Mid Plains Rural Telephone, Tulia, Texas; West Texas Rural Telephone, Hereford; South Plains Telephone, Lubbock; ENMR• Plateau Telecommunications, Clovis; Roosevelt County Rural Telephone Cooperative, Portales; and Five Area Telephone Cooperative, Muleshoe.

Symphony Announces Auditions

The Amarillo Symphony has several musician vacancies for the 1998-99 season. The Symphony employs approximately 85 professional musicians each year.

The Symphony annually presents seven subscription concerts, three Randel Chamber Orchestra performances, the Palo Duro Canyon Pops, a concert on Labor Day at the Discovery Center and extensive educational concerts. The exact number of players participating varies each concert according to the repertoire performed.

Positions open for the upcoming season in the wind and brass sections are second trombone, principal tuba and third flute. Positions open in the string section are fifth chair first violin, ninth chair first violin, fifth chair viola and other section chairs in both the first and second violins and in the cello section.

Anyone interested in part-time employment as a substitute musician or any orchestral instrument may also audition at this time.

Symphony musicians are admitted by audition only. James Setapen, the Symphony's music director and conductor and the principal players of the orchestra from related sections judge auditions.

The orchestra personnel manager, Margaret Scales-Peacock, coordinates auditions. Auditions include three to five minutes from a solo of the applicant's choice as well as several standard orchestral excerpts chosen by the Symphony.

Most applicants should prepare the first movement of a standard concerto as the solo. Copies of the required orchestral excerpts may be obtained from the Symphony office.

Auditions for all vacancies are scheduled for Saturday, August 29. If an applicant is not available for this date, another audition date may be set. For more information contact Margaret Scales-Peacock at (806)376-8782.

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AILING HOME HEALTH-CARE SYSTEM

Many Texans, especially those on Medicare, are aware that our home health-care system is in crisis. Dozens of Texas home health-care agencies have closed their doors in recent weeks. This has left many ill, home-bound patients scrambling to get proper care. People in rural areas have been particularly hard hit.

My diagnosis: this situation is a result of over-zealously applied federal law and misinterpretation by federal regulators who imposed extreme, retroactive cuts in Medicare payments (upwards of 60 percent), while failing to implement a fairer system called for by Congress last year. This has forced many providers out of the business.

The 1997 Balanced Budget Act mandated changes in the way Medicare (in this case, the Health Care Finance Administration, or HCFA) pays for and delivers health care services to the nation's seniors. Congress directed HCFA to implement a payment system that would let providers know, up front, what their payment would be for a particular service and allow them to plan accordingly.

But instead of carrying out that mandate, HCFA rewrote the rule-book on how home health-care providers are compensated in a way that left many bankrupt. The revised payment system, rather than allowing them to plan, penalizes the most cost-effective providers. This is government policy at its counterproductive worst. And it is the opposite outcome intended by Congress.

Such a situation just won't do. The housebound patients involved are our most vulnerable citizens. I am a long-time supporter of home health care because it not only allows people the dignity and comfort of staying in their homes, with familiar faces around them, while receiving needed medical care. But it also saves the Medicare system money in the long run. Home health care costs only a fraction of what it costs to care for ailing individuals in a nursing home or other institutional setting.

On July 16, I co-sponsored a bill, S.2323, that will restore common sense to the home health-care payment system.

And I have asked Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala to speed implementation of the payment system Congress originally intended. And I am working to overcome whatever snarls HCFA claims are to blame.

Congress earlier this year stopped the imposition of a surety bond requirement for the industry. This would have put countless small providers — those with little capital backing behind them — out of business.

In addition, I sponsored a bill to delay implementation of a HCFA rule that would have restricted access to home-care services to patients who need regular blood testing.

Few question the need for the home health-care system to move to a more sensible payment system. But I do not believe the transition should put thousands of good home-care providers — and their patients — at risk. 7.22.98

"Texas" Musical Presents Work Of Cowboy Artist

The paintings of cowboy artist Robert Pummill are being featured in the 1998 souvenir program of the musical drama "Texas." "Texas" opened its 33rd season on June 10 and plays nightly except Sunday at 8:30 p.m. through August 22 in Palo Duro Canyon State Bank near Canyon and Amarillo.

Pummill's western art depicts the cattle industry and transportation during the time period ranging from 1840 to 1900, the same time setting for the story line of "Texas." Several of Pummill's paintings portray historical accounts of Charles Goodnight's adventures.

Goodnight, an early Texas Panhandle cattle baron, is showcased in the finale of "Texas." Pummill's painting, April 6, 1866, shows Goodnight's chuck-wagon (supposedly the first ever) drawn by oxen. Another painting entitled, "Scattering Goodnight's Herd," depicts a Goodnight cattle drive gone wild because of a buffalo stampede.

Pummill was inducted into the Cowboy Artists of America in 1984. All "Texas" artists are chosen from that organization's membership. Pummill considers his induction into that elite cowboy artist group, and being selected to paint a piece for the 175th Anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail, as career highlights.

"Subject matter is usually the result of one's interests or lifestyle. My choice of western subject matter is the result of a lifelong fascination

with the life of the cowboy and the drama of the opening and development of the American West," Pummill said.

Pummill lives in Kerrville, Texas, and his work is featured in art galleries across the west.

"Texas" annually selects a cowboy artist's work to enhance the western tones

projected in the outdoor drama's script. As audience members reflect on their Palo Duro Canyon experience, the western scenes scattered throughout the souvenir program are vivid reminders of the culture upon which "Texas" is based.

"Texas" is the best attended outdoor drama in the nation and annually attracts audience members

from around the world. History comes to life through the efforts of a 140-member cast and crew. Singing, dancing, acting and astounding special effects create an unforgettable evening beneath the Texas stars.

For ticket information call (806)655-2181 or visit our web-site at www.texas-musicaldrama.com.



THE MUSICAL DRAMA, "TEXAS" is presenting the work of cowboy artist, Robert Pummill, during the 1998 season. "On The Sixes" (above) is among the display. "TEXAS" is playing nightly, except for Sundays, in Palo Duro Canyon near Amarillo, through August 22. For ticket information, call (806)655-2181. www.texasmusicaldrama.com

EXCEL



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Anniversary

WE ARE PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR FIRM AND WISH YOU ANOTHER 30 YEARS OF EQUAL SUCCESS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

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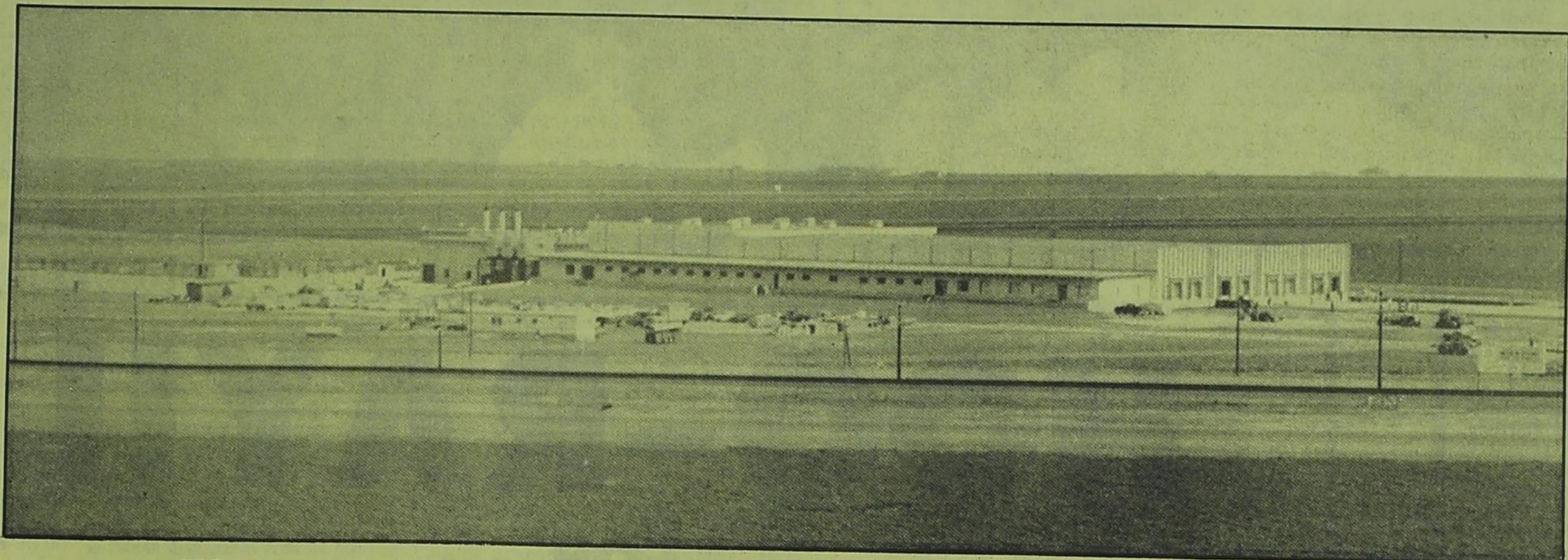
EXCEL

WE ARE PROUD TO BE ABLE TO SERVE YOUR FIRM AND WISH YOU EQUAL SUCCESS IN THE NEXT 30 YEARS.

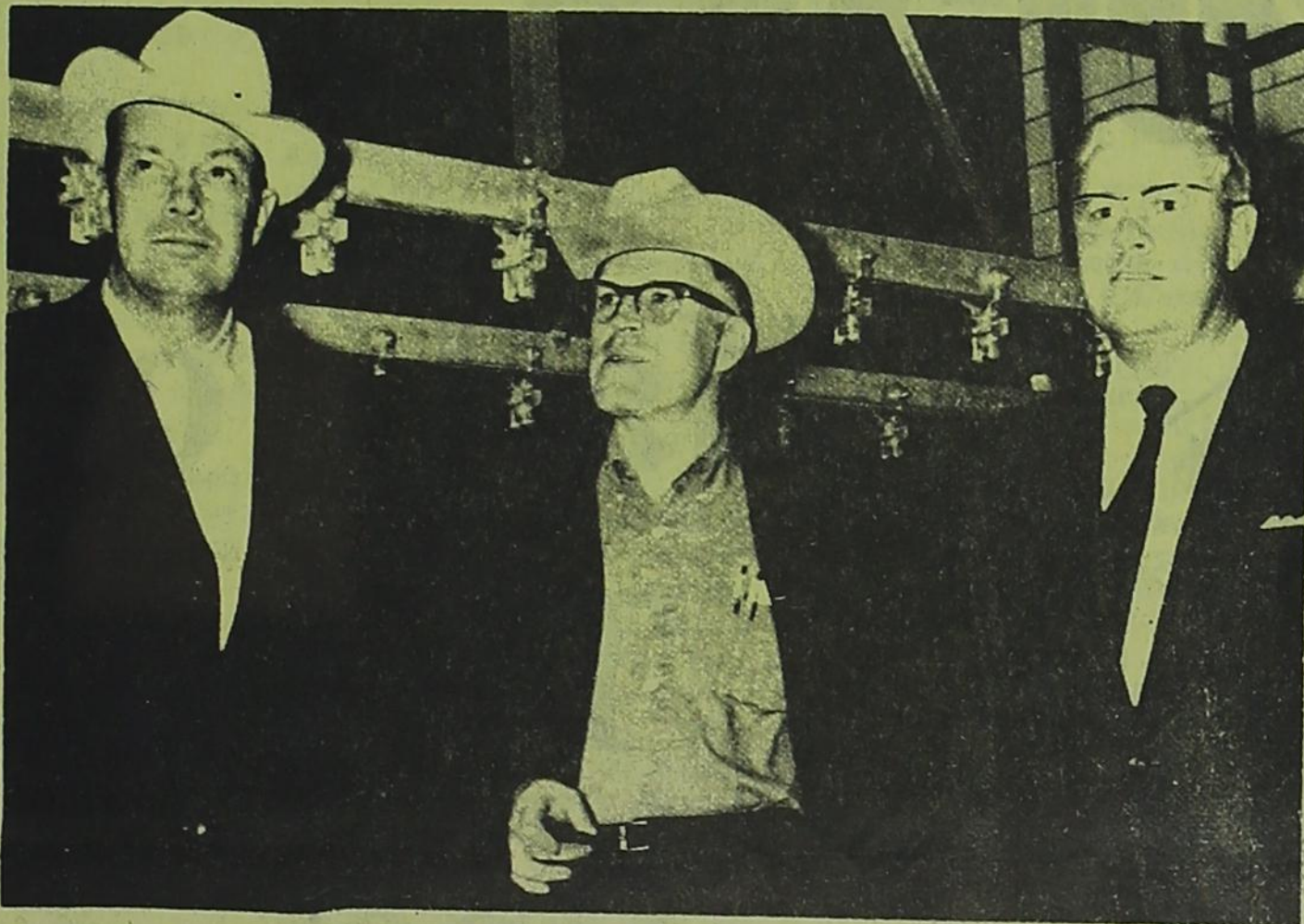
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REMEMBER WHEN



The "New" EXCEL (MBP) Plant In 1968



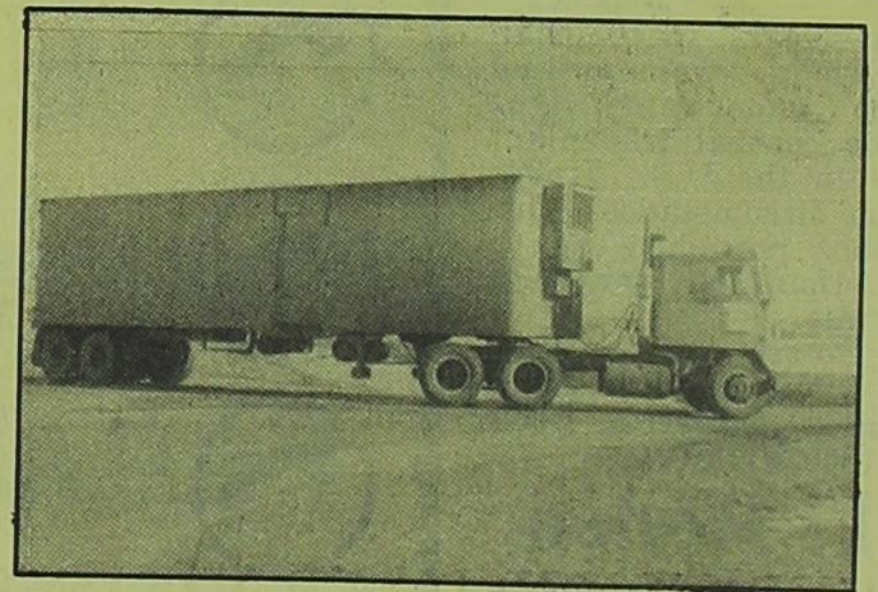
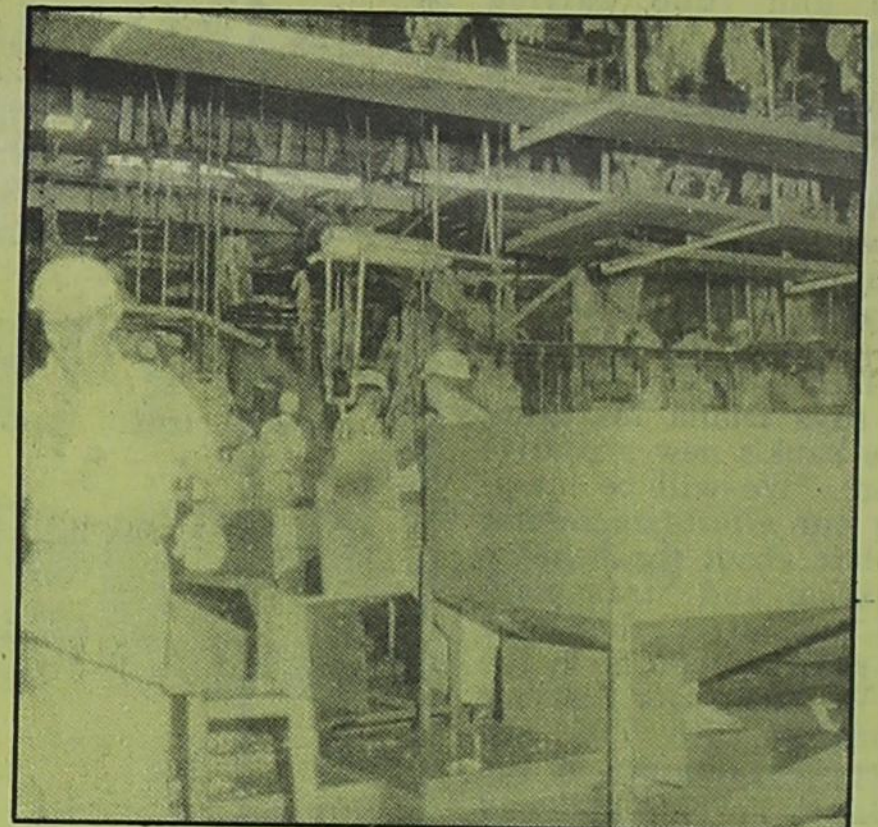
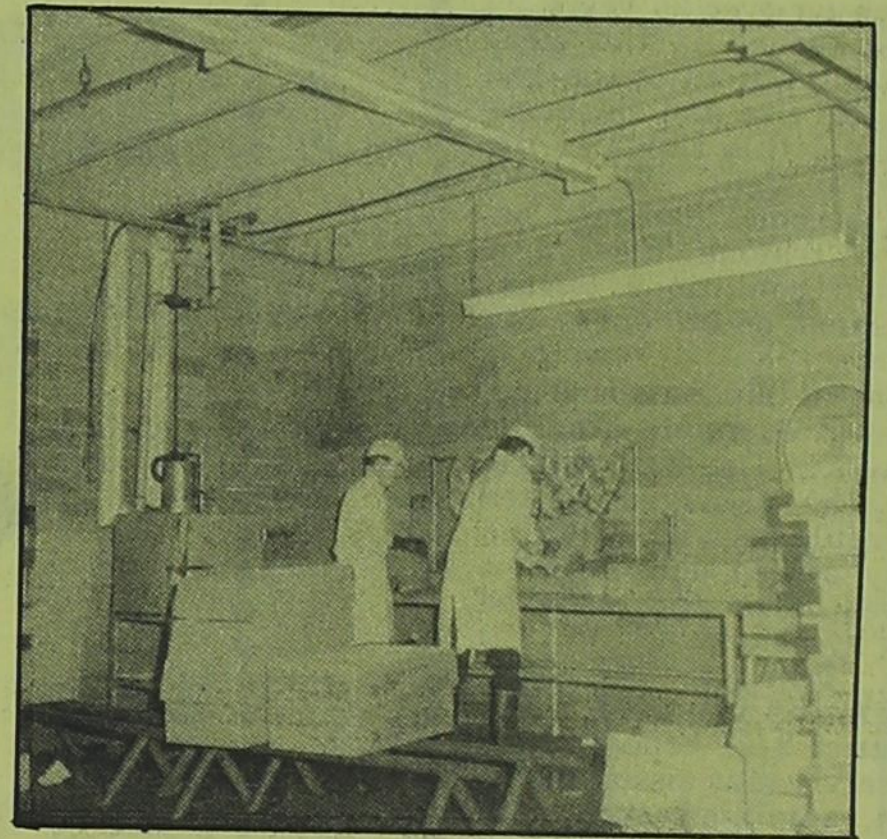
KEY MEN...Three men who played a vital role in landing Excel (Missouri Beef) for Friona are shown above as they were among the first group to tour the plant. From the left are A.L. Black, Andy Hurst and Dr. Shackelford. (Bill Ellis photo)

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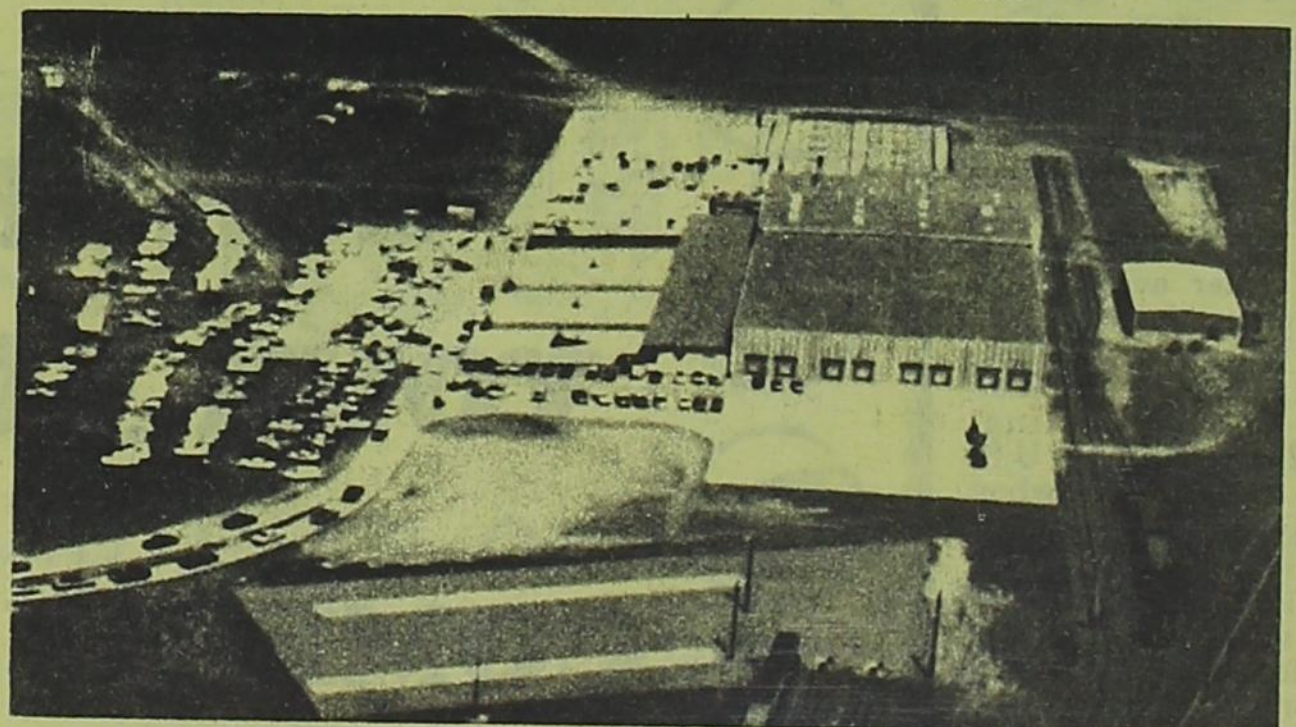
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Congratulations

EXCEL

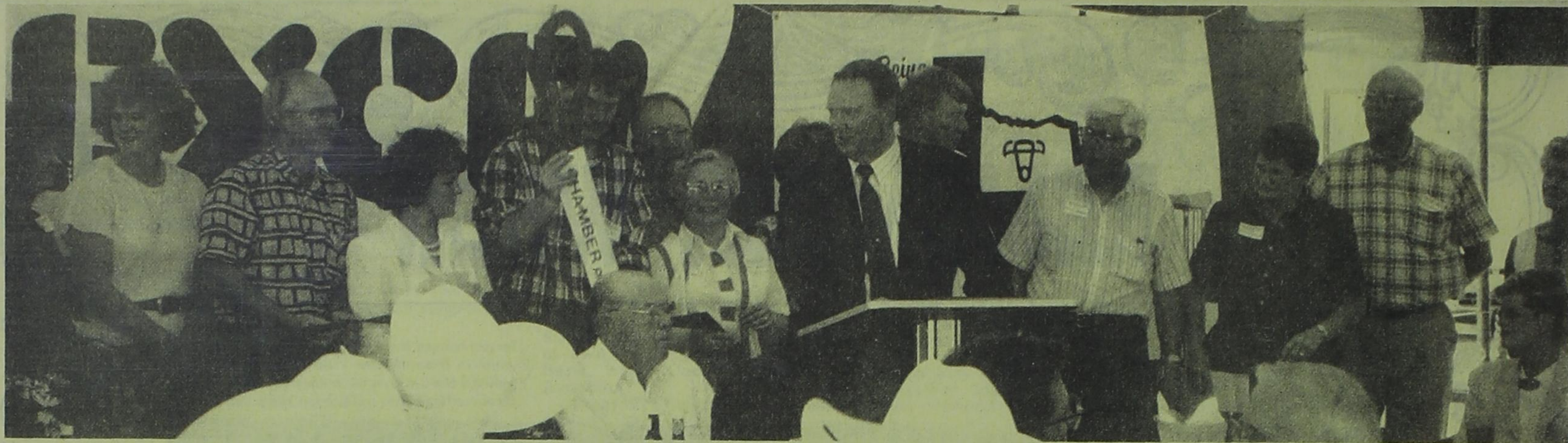
On Your



MBP's new Friona, Texas plant, operations started May, 1968.

FRIONA STAR

The Bovina Blade



EXCEL HONORED...Robert Neelley, center, representing the Friona Chamber of Commerce, made a special presentation to Excel at a recent luncheon.

Area Lions Upgrade Eye Program

The Lions Eye Bank of District 2-T One, Amarillo's only eye bank, has recently become a member of the non-profit eye and tissue banking network, TBI/Tissue Banks International. The Lions of District 2T-1 has supported eye banking and eye donation for over 25 years.

The cornea is the clear tissue at the front of the eye. About the size and thickness of a dime, this tissue is the window of sight. When the cornea becomes damaged because of trauma, disease or inherited conditions, visual impairment or blindness can result.

Corneal blindness is one of the few irreversible kinds of blindness. The surgeon removes the damaged cornea and replaces it with a healthy cornea donated by a deceased donor and retrieved by the eye bank.

In joining the TBI network, the Lions Eye Bank of District 2-T1 benefits from such services as tissue distribution, administrative management, and public information and fund raising assistance.

TBI's national network also provides tissue from its other eye banks to meet local needs when insufficient amounts of issue are recovered locally.

"Our ultimate objective is to virtually eliminate patient waiting lists for corneal transplant surgery in this area," says Diana Martinez, the eye bank's new executive director. "We will be intensifying our efforts to inform the public about the benefits of donation and transplantation and strengthen our tissue recovery efforts in the area. We anticipate that our relationship with TBI will enhance the services of the Eye Bank to patients and their surgeons," Ms. Martinez said.

Last year, more than 40,000 men, women and children underwent sight restoring corneal transplant surgery in the U.S. Under optimum circumstances, this transplant procedure has a higher than 90 per cent success rate.

For more information, contact Diana Martinez, Lions Eye Bank of District 2-T1, phone (806)359-5101.

XIT Rodeo, Reunion Set

The 62nd Annual XIT Rodeo & Reunion is in its final stages of preparation. This Texas size celebration takes place August 6-8.

Events this year also include a Junior Rodeo on August 1. Other events taking place during the week are the XIT Queen's Contest, Pony Express, Amateur Jackpot Barrel Racing, Amateur Team Roping U.S. #s 7, 9 and 11, Cowboy Bronc Riding and Kid's Calf Scramble.

Some added features of the rodeo will be the Nickel Scramble for kids and Crawl for Cash for the adults.

The PRCA Rodeo performance each evening is followed by a dance featuring Redneck The Band on Thursday, Exile on Friday and The Great Divide on Saturday. There is also a free stew feed on Thursday, a free watermelon feed on Friday and a free BBQ on Saturday with enough BBQ to feed 20,000 people.

One of the Panhandle's best parades is Saturday morning beginning at 10:30 a.m. This is a fantastic event that you won't want to miss.

HOO-RAY!!

FOR

EXCEL



Hail To The Beef Chiefs!

**WE APPRECIATE YOUR
BUSINESS AND
YOUR SUPPORT IN THE
LOCAL COMMUNITY.**

**CONGRATULATIONS ON
YOUR 30th ANNIVERSARY!!**

COME BY AND SEE US TODAY!!

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1010 Columbia Ave. At Highway 60 • 250-5555 • Friona, Texas



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Larry W
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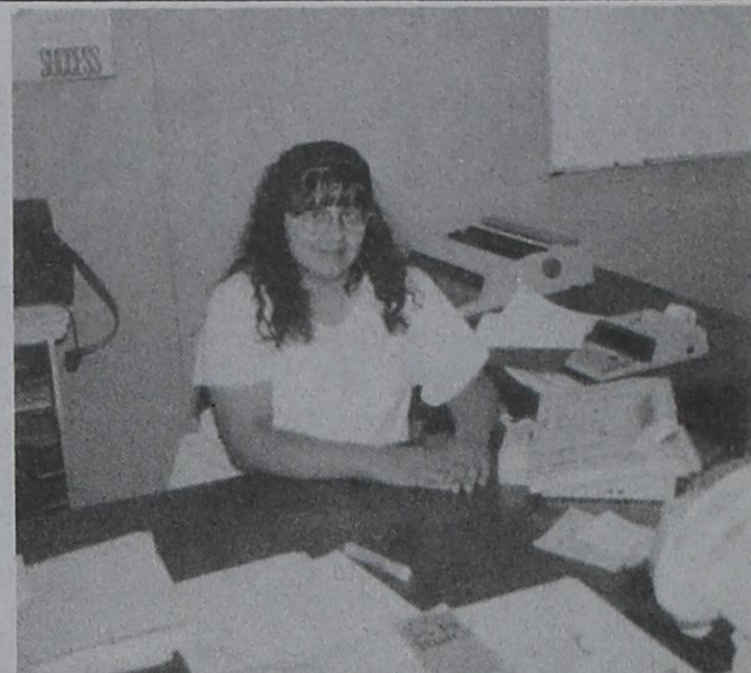
Friona's Excel Plant Is Like Its Own Exchange For WTRT

By JIM STEIERT
The Excel beef packing plant at Friona, operating on the Parmer exchange, has been much like a "tenth exchange" for its dial tone supplier, West Texas Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc., for the past 30 years.
Larry Watts of WTRT's Installation and Repair crew is the Cooperative's primary contact with Excel, and he's backed-up by I&R crewman Tony Wilcox.
Watts handles many of the day-to-day telephone service tasks and concerns at the Excel plant that are

common to any other exchange on the WTRT system--telephone installation, maintenance and repair, and troubleshooting as necessary.
Carol Aistrup, controller at Friona's Excel plant, says good communication lines are vital to the everyday business operations of this giant among area employment and agri-industry.
Many of the management decisions in Friona hinge on consultation with Cargill corporate offices in Wichita, Kansas, and information including prices, sales orders and shipping information

flows over numerous data lines between Wichita and the Friona plant.
Friona's Excel plant is served by a total of 30 lines from WTRT and 28 dial tones.
Installation and repair personnel from WTRT installed a state-of-the-art Nor-Tel Option II phone system with voice-mail capability--similar to the system in the Cooperative's own offices at Hereford, in the Friona plant last year. This allowed the Friona plant to take advantage of the best of both worlds--new phone sets, but the ability to use old single-line instruments as well.
The plant also has 200 extensions and 200 direct-inward-dial lines that allow direct conversation from one phone set to another within the plant. That capability came about with the addition of a digital switch at the plant on the part of the Cooperative.
The digital switch features a battery backup--just as is present in the central offices on all of the Cooperative's nine exchanges.
A digital loop carrier was also installed by WTRT, allowing for 24 incoming digital lines. This loop provides redundancy to maintain service in case of problems with another line.
Only recently, WTRT was involved in the upgrading of the computer network within the Excel plant to a Category 5 system, allowing far more rapid data handling by computers--100 megabits versus the old Category 3 system, that ran at only 10.
That's something like the speed difference between a high-performance race car and a mule-drawn cart. Cooperative personnel hand-lead the Category 5 wiring.
The Excel plant now has video conferencing circuitry in-house, as well, and the Cooperative's phone room within the plant has been relocated to the administration building for environmental

control and security.
Mike Harris, installation and repair foreman with WTRT, says the Excel plant "handles as many subscribers as some of the smaller central offices on the WTRT system. There are more extensions in the Excel plant than in our Summerfield central office."
Watts is normally on-call for problems at the Friona plant 24 hours-a-day.
"We deal with the same concerns as any other central office. Heat, cold and moisture--even backhoes and trenching equipment cutting cables, can cause the same trouble here as anywhere else. We stay ready to get the problem fixed and the service back up-and-running just as quickly as possible," says Watts.



LUPE PENA is one of the "operators" at the Excel plant. Excel has 30 separate lines, with 28 "dial tones," and is almost like a separate "exchange" for West Texas Rural Telephone Cooperative, which supplies rural telephone service for Parmer, Deaf Smith and Castro Counties. (ron carr)

Beef Products Shine At Houston Expo June 28-30

More than 30,000 restaurant, hotel and supermarket buyers from the United States, Mexico and South America saw the spotlight shine on new beef products at the Southwest Foodservice Expo and Southwest Supermarket & Convenience Store Expo June 28-30 in Houston.

The highlight on new beef products at this major show was made possible by the \$1 per head beef checkoff program through the Texas Beef Council (TBC).

TBC's beef exhibit at the expo was an early step in changing the beef industry's focus from commodity beef products to branded beef products. The industry's goal is to introduce these products to key foodservice and retail decision makers so beef better meets consumer requirements for convenience while also adding value to beef sales.

TBC joined Sysco, Alliant Foodservice and Freedman Food Service, all distributors of beef products to hotels/restaurants/institutions, to provide new beef marketing ideas to the expo attendees. This show, sponsored by the Texas Restaurant Association, is the third largest foodservice trade show in North America and the largest in the Southwest U.S.

"There is no better time to get

foodservice distributors thinking about new beef products than at this show," says beef producer Danny Evans of Sulphur Springs, chairman of TBC's domestic marketing committee. "We had 30,000 of the most influential food professionals in North and South America see the new beef products."

TBC also took advantage of the show to highlight food-service recipes featuring chuck and round cuts. These two cuts have fallen 23 and 20 per cent, respectively, in value over the last five years. Another focus of the industry in the coming months will be to build the value of these two cuts.

In conjunction with Freedman Food Service and the Texas Chefs Association, TBC also co-sponsored a culinary event called the Southwest Beef Cookoff. Seven finalist chefs created their best beef dishes using chuck and round cuts.

"With foodservice accounting for more than 50% of the consumer's food dollar, restaurant operators can move a huge amount of chuck and round if they have ideas on how to get these cuts on their menus," Evans said. "This show helped beef producers get meal concepts to them through checkoff-produced recipes and the highly popular chefs' competition."



Happy Birthday
EXCEL

30 Years In Parmer County



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SALUTING
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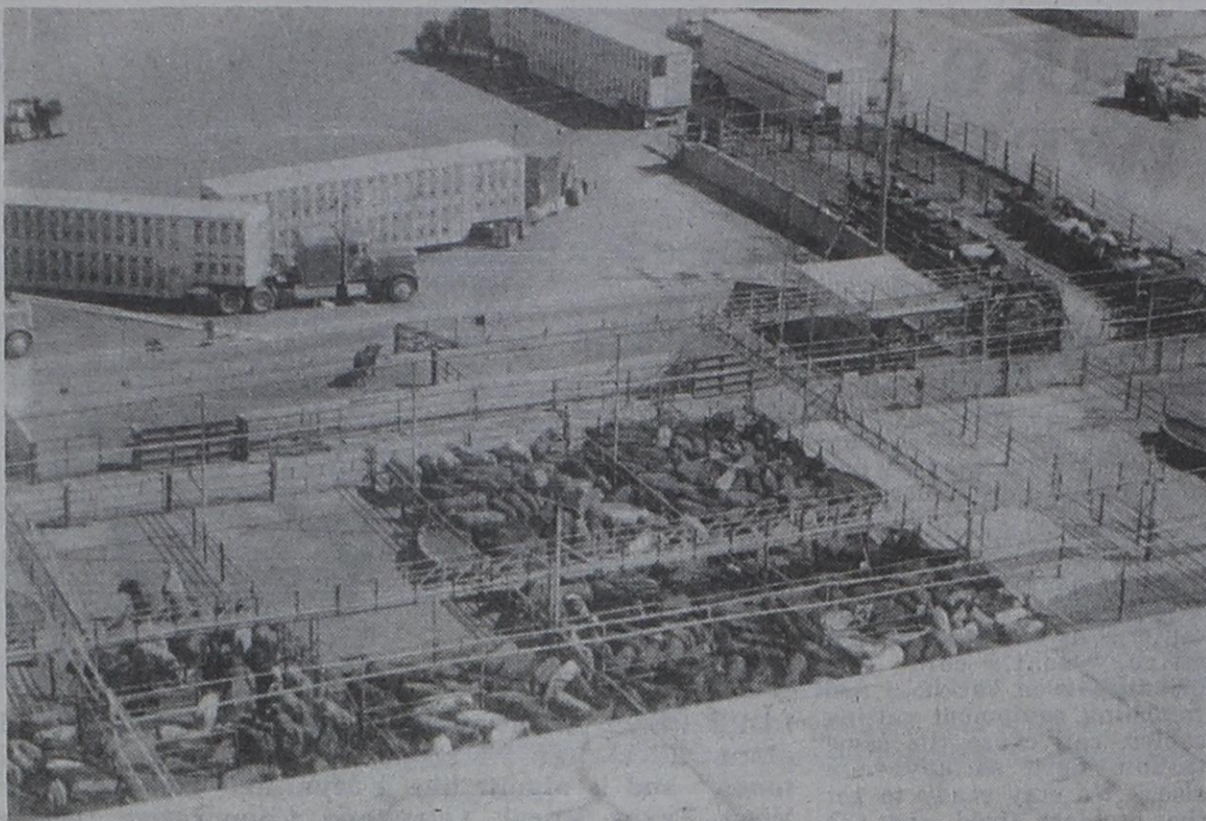
FOR 30 SUCCESSFUL
YEARS IN FRIONA!

BEST WISHES FOR THE NEXT 30 YEARS!

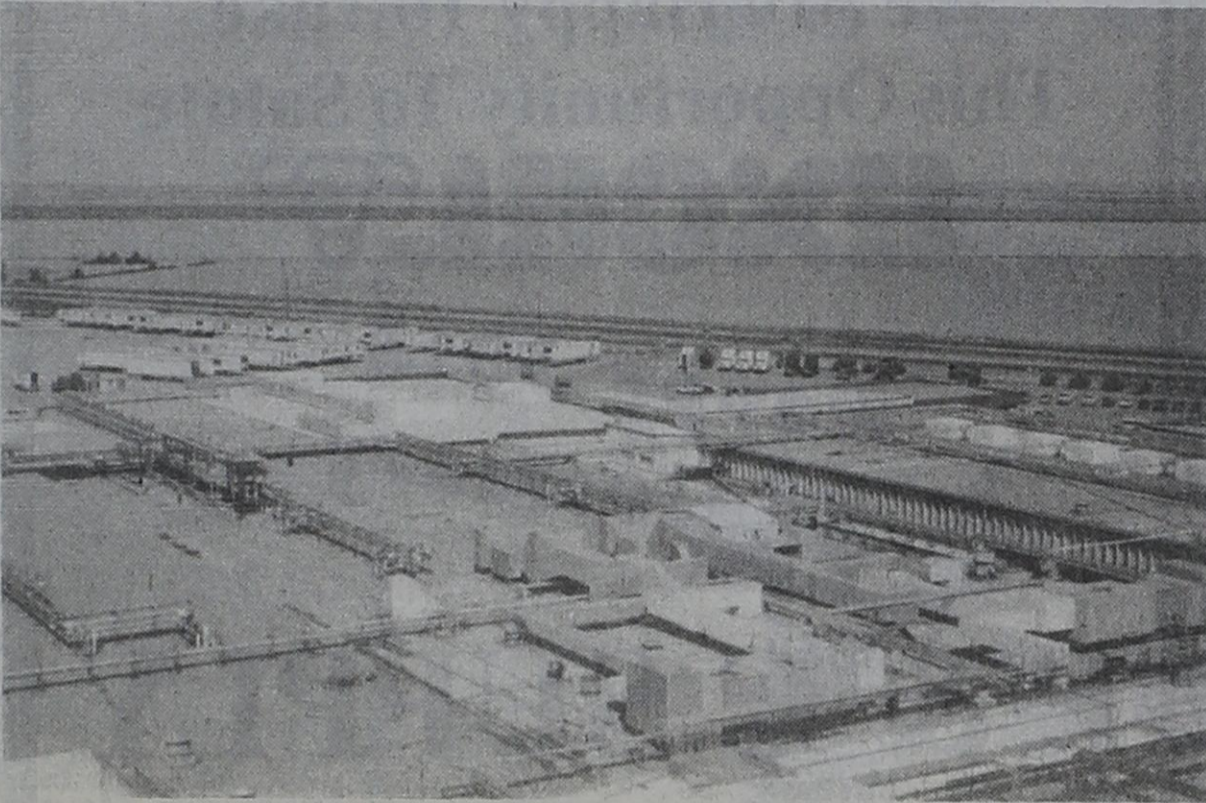
HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY

AND BEST OF LUCK IN THE
FUTURE!

FIRST BANK
BOVINA 



HOLDING PENS...Cattle are shown in the holding pens at Excel, as they await slaughter. A steady stream of trucks come and go into the plant west of Friona on a daily basis. Some bring live cattle which are unloaded, and others are loaded with frozen beef, bound for meat counters across the country.
(ron carr photo)



VIEW FROM THE TOP...A portion of the Excel plant is seen from overhead, along with the parking area, looking north. The photo is from the top of the seven-story tower at Excel.
(ron carr photo)



EXCEL
CORPORATION

THANK YOU!

NORTHLINE CONSTRUCTION



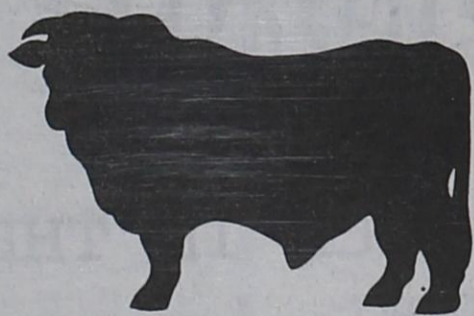
DON MILLER
(806) 356-0086
Amarillo, Texas



THANK YOU!

EXCEL

We are proud to be a business associate of EXCEL Beef Packing Plant located in Friona, Texas for the past 30 years. We wish you the best for many more successful years in the beef industry.



Deaf Smith Electric Cooperative, Inc.
First & Whittier Streets P.O. Box 753 Hereford, TX
Phone: (806) 364-1166 FAX: (806) 364-5481



TEXAS BEARING COMPANY

Amarillo • Hereford • Lubbock

Saluting
EXCEL



**FOR 30
SUCCESSFUL
YEARS IN
FRIONA!**



Thank You



PLAQUE PRESENTED....Robert Neelley, right, presented a plaque to Excel manager Scott Entz. The plaque reads: "In appreciation for 30 years of outstanding support to the citizens and businesses of the Friona area. Friona Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture."

How To Apply For Excel Jobs

Excel currently employs approximately 1,950 management, hourly management, and production employees.

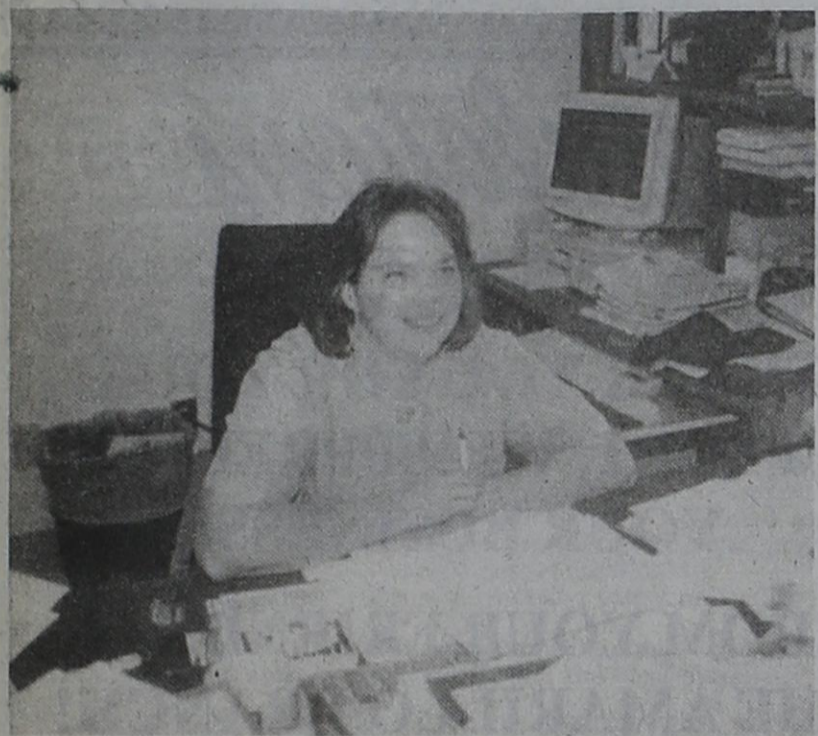
Applications for employment are not made at the Excel plant in Friona. You apply at Texas Employment Commission in Hereford, 403 W. 7th, 806-364-8600, or the New Mexico Department of Labor, 1601 Sutter Place, Clovis. Their number is 505-762-4571

A representative from the Excel plant personally interviews each scheduled applicant.

In addition to a tuition reimbursement program, the company offers paid vacation and holidays; a medical, dental, and prescription drug plan; disability and life insurance plan; pension and 401 (K) plan; and a QUICK START PAY PROGRAM.



LUNCH GUESTS....Among a number of local officials attending the lunch marking Excel's 30th anniversary were (l-r) Bill and Marilyn Stovell, Clarence Monroe and Paula Wilson. Stovell is head of Hi-Pro's Animal Health department, Monroe is mayor of Friona and Mrs. Wilson is city manager.



CAROL AISTRUP
Plant Comptroller



TRISH PETERSON
Senior Accountant

City Lauds Excel In Proclamation

The City of Friona presented a plaque to the Excel Corp. in recognition of the plant's 30 years of service locally, at the recent luncheon.

The proclamation reads as follows:
By executive order of the Honorable Clarence Monroe, Mayor of the City of Friona, Texas is hereby proclaimed:
WHEREAS, the Excel Friona is celebrating its thirty year anniversary;

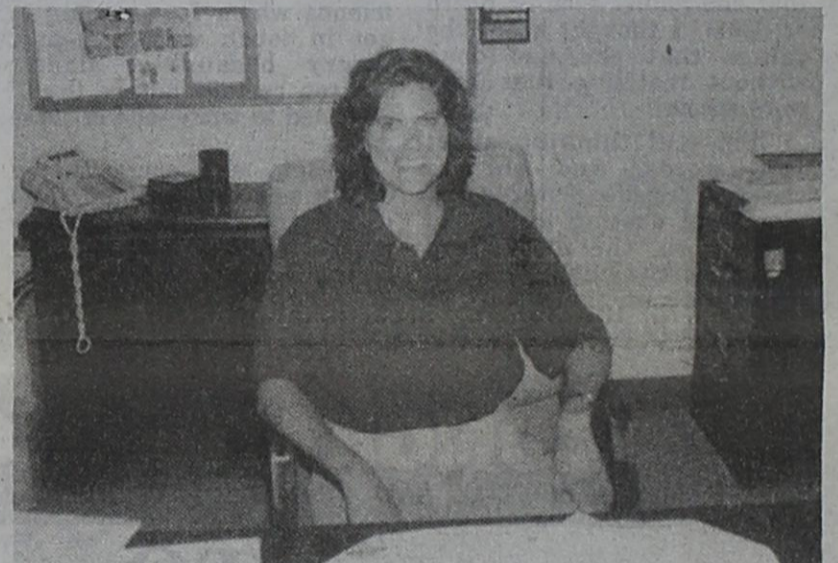
WHEREAS, Friona Excel Corporation has been a vital part of the economy of the City of Friona for thirty years;

WHEREAS, the City of Friona recognizes the many contributions that Friona Excel Corporation makes in civic and community affairs.

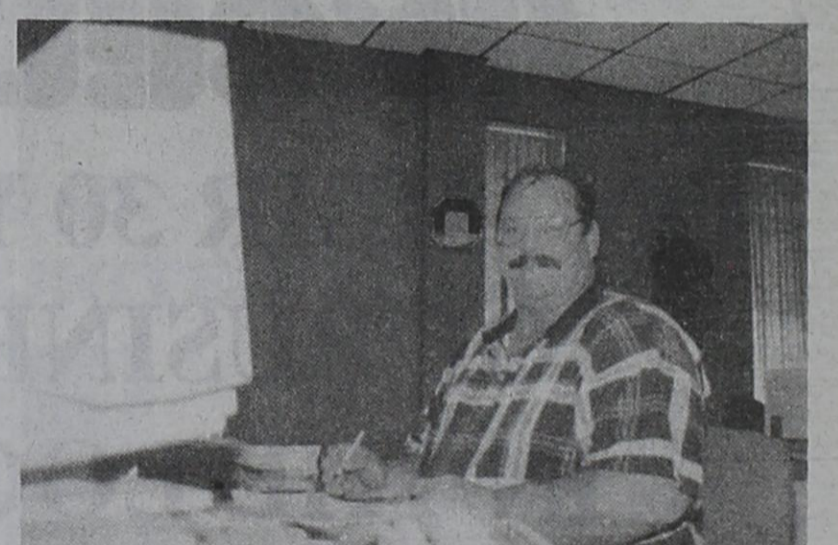
NOW, THEREFORE, I Clarence Monroe, Mayor of the City of Friona, Texas do hereby proclaim the week of May 18-23 as "Excel Week."

Let all within the reach of this proclamation heed its direction.

Clarence Monroe
His Honor, the Mayor of the City of Friona, Texas



MARGARET ROBINSON
Human Resource Mgr.



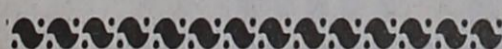
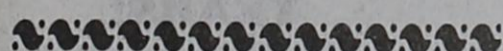
TOM RANDOLPH
Shipping Superintendent

BEST WISHES



ON YOUR
30th
ANNIVERSARY
IN FRIONA

WE WISH YOU
SUCCESS IN THE FUTURE!



Mandy's Restaurant

West Fifth Street (next to Golf Course)
Phone 250-9009

Summer Arts & Crafts Festival Set In Amarillo

The second annual Amarillo Summer Arts and Crafts Festival will be held August 1 and 2 in the main exhibit hall of the Amarillo Civic Center.

Artists and crafters from throughout the Southwest will be on hand with original art and handcrafted items. Hours for the show are Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. There is no admission charge.

Mel Prather, organizer for the two-day event, said the upcoming festival would feature a number of new-

comers as well as some familiar faces. "First-time exhibitors will offer items such as hand-thrown pottery, grandmother shirts, Emu oils and lotions, gourmet flavored coffee, hardwood replicas of trucks and tractors and rocking horses," Prather said.

Also new are those with wood dolls, decorated bird houses, original clothing, jewelry, growth charts, hair bow holders, fan pulls wood wreaths, floral arrangements, children's furniture, chair fountains, wood signs, house numbers, wind chimes, quilts, pillows, stuffed animals, hand-carved wood crosses, barbed wire wreaths, calligraphy, decorated jar lids and country crafts.

Returning exhibitors will offer a wide assortment of items ranging from framed prints to jewelry. They'll also have religious carvings, silver jewelry, clothing, fireplace screens, quilts and baby quilts, vests, wood shelves and cabinets, ceramics, fountains, angels, weather stations, tole painting, short sets, decorated jar lids and canister sets.

Memorial Roping Set August 1-2

The Spicer Gripp Memorial Roping competition will be held August 1 and August 2 at the Circle A Arena, eight miles west of Hereford on FM 1058.

This year's event promises to be very exciting, as world class ropers will be competing in three events. The open calf roping will be held on August 1 starting at 10 a.m. The invitational team roping, a new event this year, will be held on August 2 at 10 a.m.

The top twenty team ropers in the world, including ten world champions, are expected at the competition. The invitational steer roping will begin at 1 p.m. August 2.

The Hereford VFW will host an introduction of the calf ropers at the VFW hall on Friday, July 31st immediately following the EMILIO concert. The VFW will also host the introduction of team ropers and steer ropers, along with a meal on Saturday, August 1 at 8 p.m.

A special match roping between two Hereford residents, Rody Wilson and Monty Lewis, will be held at intermission of the steer roping competition.

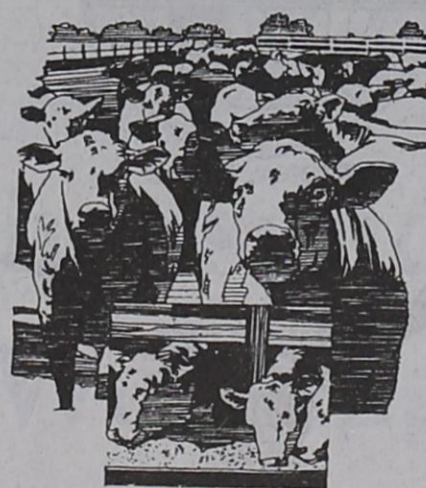
Admission to the ropings will be \$5.00 with children under 12 free. Proceeds from this event will go to the scholarship program at West Texas A&M University, and to a fund to build an outdoor special events center for Hereford. Everyone is invited to attend this special event.

WE ARE HAPPY TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SALUTE

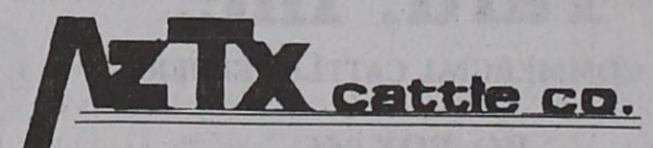


ON THEIR
30th ANNIVERSARY!

- FARWELL FEEDYARD
- HEREFORD FEEDYARD
- DIMMITT FEEDYARD



"The Cattle Feedin' Folks"



(806) 364-8871
HEREFORD, TX

"Live Your Life Now" Warns L.A. Writer

(Editor's note: the following is being reprinted from the Los Angeles Times.)

A STORY TO LIVE BY
By ANN WELLS

My brother-in-law opened the bottom drawer of my sister's bureau and lifted out a tissue-wrapped package. "This," he said, "is not a slip. This is lingerie." He discarded the tissue and handed me the slip.

It was exquisite; silk, handmade and trimmed with a cobweb of lace. The price tag with an astronomical figure on it was still attached. "Jan bought this the first time we went to New York, at least eight or nine years ago. She never wore it. She was saving it for a special occasion."

Well, I guess this is the occasion." He took the slip from me and put it on the bed with the other clothes we were taking to the mortician.

His hands lingered on the soft material for a moment, then he slammed the drawer shut and turned to me. "Don't ever save anything for a special occasion. Every day you're alive is a special occasion."

I remembered those words through the funeral and the days that followed when I helped him and my niece attend to all the sad chores that follow an unexpected death.

I thought about them on the plane returning to California from the Midwestern town where my sister's family lives. I thought about all the things that she hadn't seen or heard or done. I thought about the things that she had done without realizing that they were special.

I'm still thinking about this words, and they've changed my life. I'm reading more and dusting less. I'm sitting on the deck and admiring the view without fussing about the weeds in

the garden. I'm spending more time with my family and friends and less time in the committee meetings.

Whenever possible, life should be a pattern of experience to savor, not endure. I'm trying to recognize these moments now and cherish them.

I'm not "saving" anything; we use our good china and crystal for every special event—such as losing a pound, getting the sink unstopped, the first camellia blossom.

I wear my good blazer to the market if I feel like it. My theory is if I look prosperous, I can shell out \$28.49 for one small bag of groceries without wincing. I'm not saving my good perfume for special parties; clerks in hardware stores and tellers in banks have noses that function as well as my party-going friends.

"Someday" and "one of these days" are losing their grip on my vocabulary. If it's worth seeing or hearing or doing, I want to see and hear and do it now. I'm not sure what my sister would have done had she known that she wouldn't be here for the tomorrow we all take for granted.

I think she would have called family members and friends to apologize and mend fences for past squabbles. I like to think she would have gone out for a Chinese dinner, her favorite food. I'm guessing—I'll never know.

It's those little things left undone that would make me angry if I knew that my hours were limited. Angry because I put off seeing good friends whom I was going to get in touch with—someday. Angry because I hadn't written certain letters that I intended to write—one of these days.

Angry and sorry that I didn't tell my husband and daughter often enough how much I truly love them. I'm trying very hard not to put off, hold back, or save

anything that would add laughter and luster to our lives. And every morning when I open my eyes, I tell myself that it is special.

Every day, every minute, every breath, truly is...a gift from God.

If you've received this it is because someone cares for you and it means there is probably at least someone for whom you care.

If you're too busy to take the few minutes that it would take right now to forward this to five people, would it be the first time you didn't do that little thing that would make a difference in your relationships? I can tell you it certainly won't be the last.

I don't have to make up silly stories about people being hit by buses or crushed by falling disco balls for not sending this letter on.

You've seen the result of this neglect in your own relationships that you have allowed to fade, dissolve, and fall into disrepair. Take this opportunity to set a new trend.

Take a few minutes to send this to a few people you care about, just to let them know that you're thinking of them. It's even better if they're not the people you already correspond with every week.

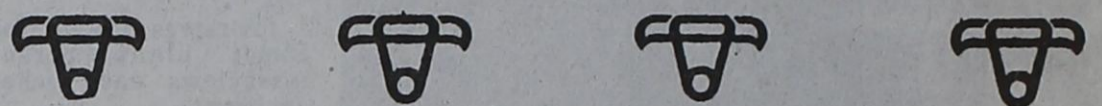
The more people that you send this to, the better luck you will have. And the better you'll get reaching out to those you care about. Here's the deal: forward this letter to at least five different people; within one hour of reading it.

Do it, and reap what you sow: luck in love, people who care for you, and that warm glowy feeling that comes from loving others. Don't do it, and suffer the consequences of being alone, wrapped up in your own affairs, and being too busy to do the things you actually care about. May love litter your life with blessings! Just send it!

Cryovac congratulates

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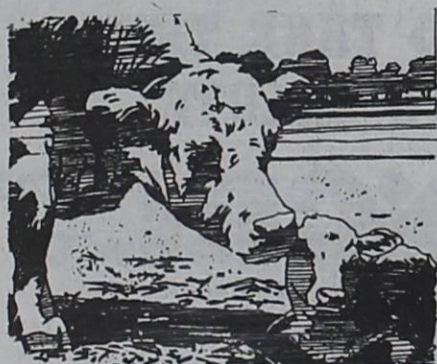


CONGRATULATIONS!

TO

EXCEL

ON THEIR 30 YEARS
OF BUSINESS
IN THE LOCAL
COMMUNITY!

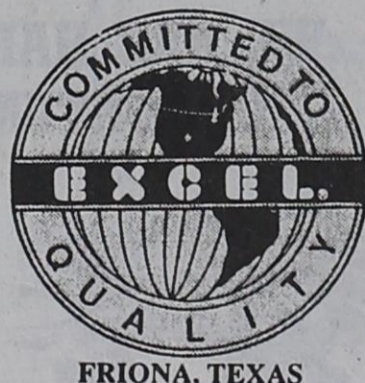


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AND WISH YOU
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YEARS!

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EXCEL PRAISED...At the recent 30th anniversary luncheon hosted by Excel, County Judge Bonnie Clayton read a resolution thanking the packing plant for its major role as a county employer and industry. Scott Entz accepted the resolution on behalf of the plant.

Excel Is Lauded In County Resolution

At the luncheon marking the 30th anniversary of the Excel Corp. and its forerunners, the Parmer County Commissioners Court read a special resolution it had passed.

The resolution read as follows:
Parmer County being rich in land, beef, grain, water and friendly, independent citizens, needed to expand on these resources and programs; and

WHEREAS, persons dedicated, committed and keenly aware of the bountiful abundance of Parmer County saw a vision toward the enhancement of the local economy; and

WHEREAS, these persons understanding the necessity of programs and growth worked tirelessly to procure a beef slaughtering plant; and

WHEREAS, in the spring of 1968 Missouri Beef Packers placed the largest single-chain slaughter facility in the world into operation in Parmer County, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Missouri Beef Packers merged, expanded and progressed with the demands of the times into the vital, state-of-the-art, Excel Beef Processing Plant of 1998; and

WHEREAS, Excel Friona is celebrating thirty (30) years in Parmer County; and

WHEREAS, Excel Friona is an immediate asset to Parmer County and the entire region, surpassing the most optimistic of visions.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Commissioner's Court of Parmer County, Texas:

That in an expression of appreciation, congratulations and support to Excel Friona on thirty (30) progressive years, Parmer County hereby declares the week of May 18-23, 1998, as "Excel Week in Parmer County."

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 11th day of May, 1998.
Bonnie J. Clayton
Parmer County Judge

Colleen Stover
County Clerk Deputy

Mandatory Beef Checkoff Program Is Challenged

Livestock markets nationwide recently received petitions requesting a referendum on the \$1-per-head checkoff. The Livestock Marketing Association, which is encouraging auction markets to support the petition effort, has a year to collect the estimated 117,000 producer signatures needed to force a referendum.

"I cannot understand why anyone wants to terminate the beef checkoff," said Bob Sims, president of the Texas Cattle Feeders Association. "Checkoff-funded programs are our first and only line of defense, plus the only way we have of being proactive in the marketplace."

However, Sims can understand why some cattlemen might question some of the programs funded with checkoff dollars. "Any time you have programs that are approved by independent cattlemen, you can expect disagreement. It's just like selling fed cattle to a packer—we all have our independent ideas on how to sell cattle. Why should we expect to agree on every program approved by state beef councils or the Cattlemen's Beef Board?"

Sims understands independent thinking. However, he says the checkoff is one of the best examples he knows of how independent thinkers like cattlemen can come together and develop plans and programs to benefit their industry. "Make no mistake about it—the checkoff is governed and controlled by the cattlemen who pay the money to make it happen."

Here's how it works. State beef councils (45 in all) collect the \$1-per-head when cattle are sold. More than 600 cattlemen serve on state beef councils boards. Each state has the option of keeping up to 50 cents of each dollar it collects to use for in-state beef promotion and education efforts. The rest goes to the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board for national programs.

The Cattlemen's Beef Board is governed by 111 producers who are designated

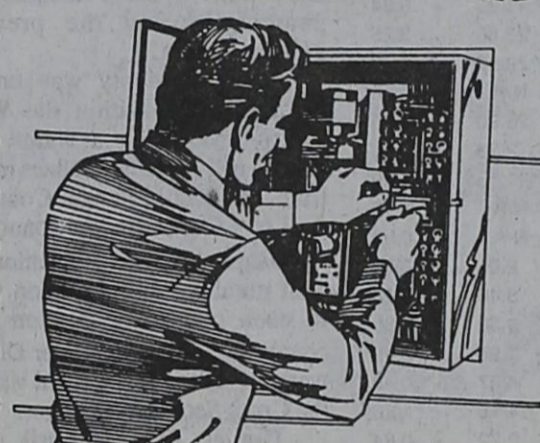
by the 45 state beef council boards to represent the states at the national level. But it doesn't stop there.

The national board sets program priorities based on the recommendations of various industry committees with a combined membership of more than 1,600 cattlemen, dairymen, importers, packers, purveyors and retailers designated by state councils and various cattlemen's and agriculture organizations. Some of these organizations include the Farm Bureau, Farmers Union, National Live Stock Producers Association, National Milk Producers Federation and the Livestock Marketing Association. "Every group with a vested interest in the cattle business and its success or failure has a seat at the table. Nobody is excluded and all voices have a chance to be heard," Sims says.



COMPANY HONORED...Franske Irrigation, Inc. of Farwell, Texas was honored in Omaha, Nebraska during Valmont Irrigation's Regional Sales Meeting. Pictured are: (left to right) Doug Dale, territory manager, Valmont Irrigation; Ralph Franse, Franse Irrigation, Inc., and Joe Goecke, Valmont Irrigation.

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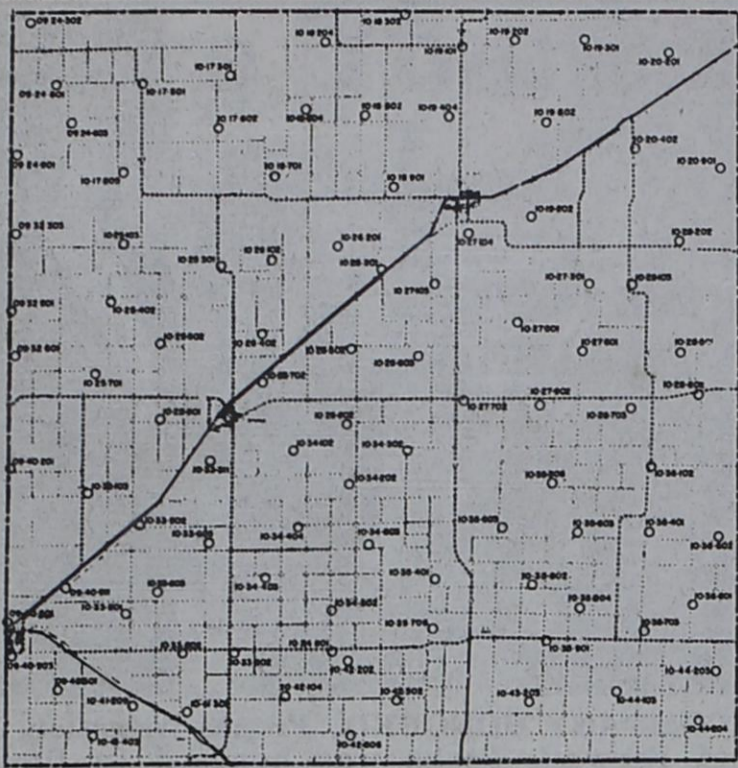


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Water Level Decreases

A news release from the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District in Lubbock reported that annual depth-to-water measurements showed a 2.09 feet decrease in Parmer County ground water levels.

Measurements were taken in 97 privately owned wells in the observation network maintained by the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District in its 546,603 acre service area within the county. This represents a decrease of 171,360 acre-feet of water in storage in the Ogallala Aquifer last year in Parmer County.

Ground water levels within Parmer County declined 2.15 feet annually during the 10-year period from 1988 to 1998. An average annual decline of 2.79 feet was recorded during the five-year period from 1993 to 1998.

Ground water levels in the Ogallala Aquifer within the 6.8 million acre Water District service area declined an average of 0.34 of a foot from January 1997 to January 1998. This is 1.15 feet less decline than the 1.49 foot annual decline recorded for 1996.

A network of 1,209 privately-owned observation wells is used to determine the annual change in the quantity of water in storage in the Ogallala Aquifer within the High Plains Water District. The depth-to-water measurements are taken in January and February each year to allow water levels to stabilize from pumping during the previous growing season.

Parmer County was one of eight counties within the Water District recording a water level decline in 1997. The declines ranged from 2.09 feet in Parmer County to 0.12 of a foot in Bailey County.

Maps showing the location and well number of observation wells in each county or portion of a county served by the Water District were published in the April issue of the Cross Section newsletter.

Copies of the April 1998 Cross Section are available by contacting the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1, 2930 Avenue Q, Lubbock 79405-1499 or call (806)762-0181. The High Plains Water District's web site is www.hpwd.com.

Well Number	Depth to Water Below Land Surface In Feet				Total Change In Water Levels In Feet		
	1988	1993	1997	1998	1988 to 1998	1993 to 1998	1997 to 1998
09-24-302	288.04	288.77	291.31	290.98	- 2.94	- 2.21	+ 0.33
09-24-601	334.35	338.75	334.86	340.90	- 6.55	- 2.15	- 6.04
09-24-603	N/A	N/A	316.59	316.09	N/A	N/A	+ 0.50
09-24-901	292.68	299.83	304.37	301.75	- 9.07	- 1.92	+ 2.62
09-32-303	333.59	334.67	329.28	329.27	+ 4.32	+ 5.40	+ 0.01
09-32-501	356.79	368.35	373.65	379.77	- 22.98	- 11.42	- 6.12
09-32-601	324.87	326.85	336.73	339.01	- 14.14	- 12.16	- 2.28
09-40-201	320.36	325.41	337.48	336.64	- 16.28	- 11.23	+ 0.84
09-40-801	271.70	285.88	305.23	308.48	- 36.78	- 22.60	- 3.25
09-40-903	279.15	294.86	320.72	324.08	- 44.93	- 29.22	- 3.36
09-40-911	N/A	N/A	360.90	365.58	N/A	N/A	- 4.68
09-48-301	254.32	269.15	290.12	295.05	- 40.73	- 25.90	- 4.93
10-17-301	194.78	196.80	198.57	199.13	- 4.35	- 2.33	- 0.56
10-17-501	260.11	258.49	259.37	259.62	+ 0.49	- 1.13	- 0.25
10-17-602	190.24	N/A	190.30	191.45	- 1.21	N/A	- 1.15
10-17-805	N/A	N/A	226.36	225.44	N/A	N/A	+ 0.92
10-18-204	307.02	303.42	301.40	301.41	+ 5.61	+ 2.01	- 0.01
10-18-302	245.99	248.30	252.04	251.76	- 5.77	- 3.46	+ 0.28
10-18-504	280.62	279.89	279.85	279.29	+ 1.33	+ 0.60	+ 0.56
10-18-602	304.12	302.25	300.80	300.31	+ 3.81	+ 1.94	+ 0.49
10-18-701	250.32	245.30	240.79	240.33	+ 9.99	+ 4.97	+ 0.46
10-18-901	266.48	267.86	280.76	282.04	- 15.56	- 14.18	- 1.28
10-19-101	292.62	293.31	295.19	296.03	- 3.41	- 2.72	- 0.84
10-19-202	314.43	319.06	323.40	323.95	- 9.52	- 4.89	- 0.55
10-19-301	278.05	277.52	281.40	281.60	- 3.55	- 4.08	- 0.20
10-19-404	242.48	248.30	255.14	255.50	- 13.02	- 7.20	- 0.36
10-19-602	278.44	287.08	297.47	300.69	- 22.25	- 13.61	- 3.22
10-19-802	234.14	239.05	246.38	248.36	- 14.22	- 9.31	- 1.98
10-20-201	192.62	194.73	196.28	196.88	- 4.26	- 2.15	- 0.60
10-20-402	253.47	257.52	264.67	264.80	- 11.33	- 7.28	- 0.13
10-20-901	203.92	207.39	213.65	215.01	- 11.09	- 7.62	- 1.36
10-25-103	N/A	N/A	248.46	248.15	N/A	N/A	+ 0.31
10-25-301	303.27	302.10	299.95	299.65	+ 3.62	+ 2.45	+ 0.30
10-25-402	265.18	264.35	263.88	263.83	+ 1.35	+ 0.52	+ 0.05
10-25-502	184.19	191.26	195.23	196.28	- 12.09	- 5.02	- 1.05
10-25-701	295.07	306.72	321.21	321.72	- 26.65	- 15.00	- 0.51
10-25-801	256.32	260.08	265.60	267.42	- 11.10	- 7.34	- 1.82
10-26-102	293.77	289.45	287.38	287.27	+ 6.50	+ 2.18	+ 0.11
10-26-201	290.70	291.82	292.84	293.83	- 3.13	- 2.01	- 0.99
10-26-301	374.31	379.30	384.30	386.12	- 11.81	- 6.82	- 1.82
10-26-402	323.09	332.35	330.67	330.10	- 7.01	+ 2.25	+ 0.57
10-26-502	355.98	363.84	377.28	380.95	- 24.97	- 17.11	- 3.67
10-26-603	341.78	355.21	376.74	379.08	- 37.30	- 23.87	- 2.34
10-26-702	245.01	262.26	262.99	264.51	- 19.50	- 2.25	- 1.52
10-26-802	265.62	277.46	294.25	297.92	- 32.30	- 20.46	- 3.67
10-27-104	N/A	306.37	314.70	317.25	N/A	- 10.88	- 2.55
10-27-105	N/A	N/A	399.04	403.15	N/A	N/A	- 4.11
10-27-301	353.27	360.14	366.23	367.95	- 14.68	- 7.81	- 1.72
10-27-501	398.72	410.49	431.02	433.14	- 34.42	- 22.65	- 2.12
10-27-601	369.38	378.95	399.56	401.10	- 31.72	- 22.15	- 1.54
10-27-702	305.24	317.05	339.04	343.34	- 38.10	- 26.29	- 4.30
10-27-902	N/A	N/A	330.29	332.17	N/A	N/A	- 1.88
10-28-103	N/A	360.55	369.50	377.80	N/A	- 17.25	- 8.30
10-28-202	324.54	332.90	342.24	344.44	- 19.90	- 11.54	- 2.20
10-28-501	359.68	370.17	386.86	389.24	- 29.56	- 19.07	- 2.38
10-28-703	293.41	305.95	316.80	321.11	- 27.70	- 15.16	- 4.31
10-28-802	N/A	340.99	353.15	357.26	N/A	- 16.27	- 4.11
10-33-103	326.74	341.81	361.97	366.37	- 39.63	- 24.56	- 4.40
10-33-311	N/A	291.66	312.29	320.72	N/A	- 29.06	- 8.43
10-33-502	345.32	362.62	387.98	391.38	- 46.06	- 28.76	- 3.40
10-33-605	N/A	N/A	369.24	372.57	N/A	N/A	- 3.33
10-33-801	282.69	302.26	324.82	328.49	- 45.80	- 26.23	- 3.67
10-33-802	256.49	272.51	296.11	299.89	- 43.40	- 27.38	- 3.78
10-33-803	314.35	336.13	356.64	361.52	- 47.17	- 25.39	- 4.88
10-33-902	249.58	266.45	286.42	289.08	- 39.50	- 22.63	- 2.66
10-34-102	259.77	268.41	285.81	288.69	- 28.92	- 20.28	- 2.88
10-34-202	293.14	305.35	325.10	328.88	- 35.74	- 23.53	- 3.78
10-34-302	253.34	264.74	280.10	283.07	- 29.73	- 18.33	- 2.97
10-34-403	323.33	328.81	349.78	353.73	- 30.40	- 24.92	- 3.95
10-34-404	N/A	336.85	358.83	363.48	N/A	- 26.63	- 4.65
10-34-603	279.55	290.66	306.28	309.59	- 30.04	- 18.93	- 3.31
10-34-801	257.36	270.69	284.32	285.97	- 28.61	- 15.28	- 1.65
10-34-802	282.31	295.46	311.21	312.81	- 30.50	- 17.35	- 1.60
10-35-306	N/A	250.70	261.90	263.88	N/A	- 13.18	- 1.98
10-35-401	291.59	306.10	314.28	317.24	- 25.65	- 11.14	- 2.96
10-35-503	N/A	N/A	290.48	292.08	N/A	N/A	- 1.60
10-35-603	236.76	248.20	266.81	269.91	- 33.15	- 21.71	- 3.10
10-35-706	N/A	N/A	291.13	291.99	N/A	N/A	- 0.86
10-35-802	279.22	291.16	308.83	310.51	- 31.29	- 19.35	- 1.68
10-35-901	292.12	300.55	311.65	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
10-35-904	N/A	N/A	320.73	323.17	N/A	N/A	- 2.44
10-36-102	249.15	257.10	266.31	266.97	- 17.82	- 9.87	- 0.66
10-36-401	209.89	219.79	235.15	237.89	- 28.00	- 18.10	- 2.74
10-36-602	246.35	256.02	274.00	277.57	- 31.22	- 21.55	- 3.57
10-36-703	N/A	276.80	297.37	298.93	N/A	- 22.13	- 1.56
10-36-801	237.20	249.05	264.63	264.79	- 27.59	- 15.74	- 0.16
10-41-209	231.43	248.03	278.65	281.89	- 50.46	- 33.86	- 3.24
10-41-301	222.58	239.82	271.17	277.44	- 54.86	- 37.62	- 6.27
10-41-403	205.53	216.75	231.73	235.10	- 29.57	- 18.35	- 3.37
10-42-104	212.10	227.40	252.63	252.63	- 40.53	- 25.23	+ 0.00
10-42-202	242.52	252.78	268.38	268.38	- 25.86	- 15.60	+ 0.00
10-42-302	210.60	221.90	239.67	239.67	- 29.07	- 17.77	+ 0.00
10-42-506	199.00	216.05	238.56	238.56	- 39.56	- 22.51	+ 0.00
10-43-203	240.12	254.80	281.44	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
10-44-103	N/A	N/A	279.64	287.79	N/A	N/A	- 8.15
10-44-203	247.66	259.45	277.32	279.08	- 31.42	- 19.63	- 1.76
10-44-204	N/A	252.80	269.33	270.65	N/A	- 17.85	- 1.32

NOTE: N/A Denotes data not available

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Out Here

By RON CARR

EXCEL, TEXAS Pop. 2,001

ERGONOMICS: an applied science concerned with the characteristics of people that need to be considered in designing and arranging things that they use in order that people and things will interact most effectively and safely-called also human engineering.

And human engineers were once known as efficiency experts. They were the outsiders who entered the private mess of your business and for a fee, told you how to be more efficient.

Not that most small business people care anyway. I am pretty comfortable with the mess around my desk.

Excel-Friona is not a small business. James Rudd, my plant tour guide this week, has worked in safety and ergonomics at Excel for ten years.

Safety and ergonomics become top priority at Excel-Friona when you have 2,000 employees, half of whom use knives on the job. When you have half of the others working near machines and boilers and heat and coolers and trucks.

When you process 1 million head of cattle a year, 4,200 per day, 330 per hour, and the finished product has to be safe for human consumption all across America, James Rudd's job takes on a higher respect.

At least for this writer it does. I have been out to Excel on numerous occasions the past three years, mostly taking pictures of ribbon cuttings for the cafeteria and the bank branch. Or pictures of the scholarship winners that Cargill and Excel so generously award year after year.

Last Tuesday, James Rudd drew the short straw and was assigned to give me a tour inside the plant.

I was full of confidence when I arrived with my camera bag. That confidence began to subside when

James laid out a pile of gear for me to wear. Safety gear, don't you see.

There was a hard hat, high top rubber boots, shields on each side of my eyeglasses, a white doctor-looking frock, and a small plastic bag with disposable earplugs.

The last item he handed me was a hairnet. I laughed as I put it on. Couldn't help but thank James for believing that I had enough hair to warrant a net for it.

Outfitted in my garb, he led the way past the security gate, across the entrance road, and into the largest cooler I had ever seen. A couple of hundred thousand square feet of sides of beef hanging silently in the cold sterile space, waiting to be trimmed into steaks or hamburger.

Sooner or later this meat would enter one of the several hundred trucks outside and be shipped to faraway places and end up in a shopping cart and on a backyard grill in places like Mudflap, Tennessee.

We left the silence of the cooler for the frenetic pace of the fabrication department. To get there we climbed some short ladders and stairs and traversed several catwalks.

We paused for a few minutes in the sorting and shipping department where Tom Randolph and his box people route the various cuts of meat that has been packed for shipping.

Excel-Friona uses 50,000 to 60,000 boxes every day. That would be 1,250,000 boxes every month. I shoulda' been a box salesman.

I could write an entire column on the action in the fabrication department. These are the men and women who work on the "disassembly line", preparing the different cuts of meat as it whizzes by on conveyors. For the first time on James' tour, I remembered the earplugs.

Around a corner and across another catwalk were the hamburger people. Massive machines with plastic bag tubes being filled continuously with future patties.

The next portion of our tour took in the nitty gritty of the operation. They call it the slaughter department. Hector Villarreal, the only current employee who has worked at Excel-Friona since the day it opened 30 years ago, is the slaughter manager.

It is also referred to as the "kill floor". The port of entry for the cattle that are processed so ergonomically. After the daily slaughter process of some 4,400 cattle, the kill floor is shut down about midnight, and a cleaning crew takes over until around 5 a.m.

I am not sure what I expected to find but I can vouch that the entire kill floor processing area was much more orderly and clean than I expected.

Out back, James pointed to a serpentine chute that lead the cattle from the holding pens into the plant. The smooth curved design was invented, James said, by a Colorado professor that specializes in cow behavior.

I didn't ask him how one chooses cow behavior as a career.

We went to the top of the 147-foot feed mill tower that Excel built in 1997. It is the tallest building in Parmer County. The little two-man elevator creaked and groaned it's way to the top.

From the lofty vantage point, I had a view of the cattle holding pens that always seem to be full, the shag trucks always on the move jockeying trailers to be filled while the truck drivers kill time over at the security office.

We were looking down on the second largest town in Parmer County: Excel, Texas Pop: 2001.

The afternoon after my tour, I went back to Excel to take pictures of Excel management presenting

checks to the Friona EMS for \$50,000 toward a new ambulance and \$5,000 to the Friona PD toward the purchase of a new drug dog. These stories will be in next week's paper.

We have been working on this special Excel edition for several weeks. Excel has been working for Parmer County for 30-years now.

James Rudd is back working on ways to make the people of Excel safer and more efficient.

Thanks Excel. As the ads say, congratulations, thank you, we appreciate you, and hey James, thanks for the tour.



TOURING EXCEL, TEXAS.....Excel safety and ergonomics specialist James Rudd, left, prepares to guide editor Ron Carr on a photographic safari of the Excel plant. See Out Here for a visit to Excel, Texas. photo by Rachel Burleson

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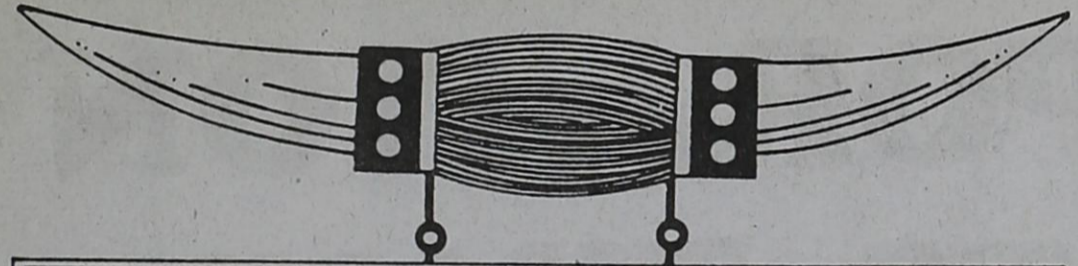


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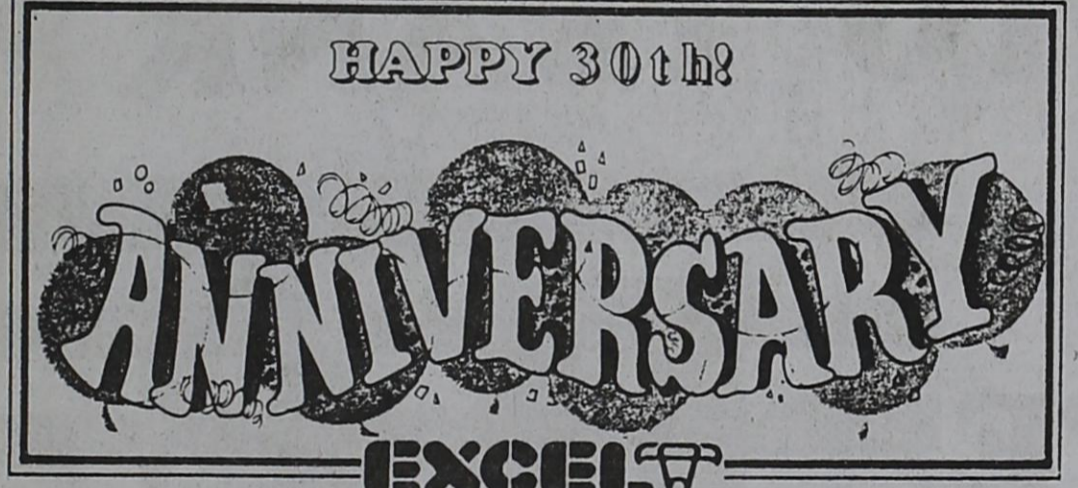
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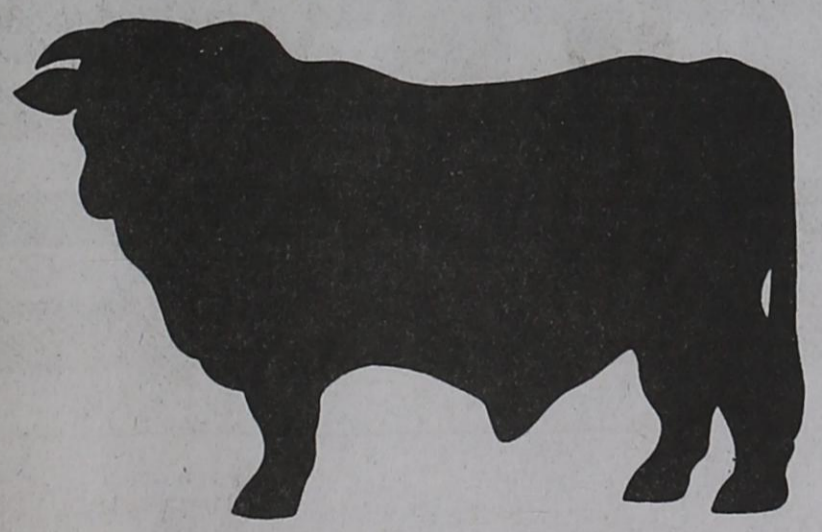
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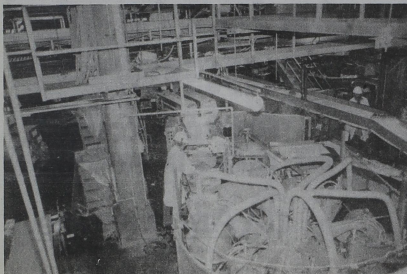


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TRIMMING AND SWEEPING...One of the massive beef carcass coolers at the Excel plant where workers trim and inspect the sides of beef before they are sent to the fabrication process. ron carr photo



END OF A LINE....Excel workers are operating the Cryovac vacuum sealing machine which is fed by an electronic dual in-feed line. Trimmed meat arrives here and is heat sealed in plastic bags prior to being boxed. ron carr photo

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


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