

**TEXAS YOUNG FARMERS
TO NOTE 29th YEAR
IN ABILENE CONVENTION**

The Silverton Young Farmer Chapter will be participating in the observance of the 29th year of the organization in Texas at a convention January 20-22 in Abilene. Chapter representatives attending the annual meeting will include Calvin Shelton, Tobe Riddell, Clinton Dickerson, G. W. Chappell, Wayne Stephens and Advisor George Martin.

Members of the Silverton delegation will join other Young Farmer leaders from the 150 Texas chapters to hear speakers about agriculture and trade experiences, receive awards, and conduct business of the organization.

Texas Young Farmers are agriculturists under 36 years of age who operate local organizations with objectives of education, leadership, service, and recreation. Chapter educational programs center upon the current problems in modern agriculture. Members also work to develop their own leadership abilities, provide needed local community services, and sponsor recreational activities for the young farm families and others in the communities. Local sponsorship is through the agriculture departments of local schools.

In addition to observing its 29th year at the Abilene meeting, the Young Farmers will present awards to outstanding members and chapters in various categories and elect state officers for 1983.

**Wintertime
Hits Area**

Old Man Winter has made his presence felt in Silverton this week, with freezing rain and snow bringing hazardous conditions on the roads and underfoot.

The overnight low temperature in Silverton Tuesday night, as recorded by Fred Strange, was six degrees, by far the coldest this winter. The chill factor during the day Tuesday had been minus five degrees.

A light snow blanketed the area Tuesday evening, adding to the .45 of an inch of moisture received during the past week.

A head-on crash of two vehicles about halfway down the caprock on Highway 86 Sunday night was blamed on the icy highways. The Silverton Volunteer Ambulance Service transported two wreck victims to Swisher Memorial Hospital in Tullia as a result, and several other vehicles slid off into the ditches in the area of the caprock and elsewhere in the county that same night. Lawmen and highway department employees have spent many hours trying to make traveling safer for motorists in Briscoe County.

**SENIOR CITIZENS
CENTER HOSTESSES
FOR JANUARY**

- Monday, January 3-Madge Brooks
- Thursday, January 6-Ruby McWaters
- Friday, January 7-Pauline Benefield
- Monday, January 10-Susie Austry
- Thursday, January 13-Bertha Pavlicek
- Friday, January 14-Flo Fitzgerald
- Monday, January 17-LaNell Hill
- Thursday, January 20-Anne Bryant
- Friday, January 21-Monthly Luncheon
- Monday, January 24-Wilma Hunt
- Thursday, January 27-Ollie McMinn
- Friday, January 28-Kate Turner
- Monday, January 31-Georgia Allard

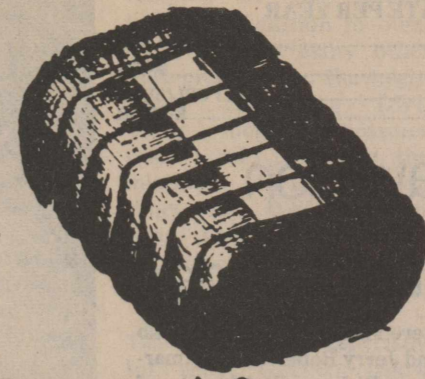
NEW ARRIVAL

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Holdaway of Amarillo are the parents of a baby girl, Cortney Lynne, born December 8 at 9:05 p.m. at Northwest Texas Hospital. She weighed six pounds fourteen ounces, and was twenty inches long.

She has one sister, Jamie Leigh, who is almost three. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert McPherson of Silverton and Mr. and Mrs. Haskell Holdaway of Amarillo. The great-grandmother is Mrs. Ova McPherson of Floydada.



Silverton: Home of Scenic Lake Mackenzie



Briscoe County News

VOLUME 74 NUMBER 52

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1982

**Silverton Leads In
Sales Tax Rebates**

Silverton is leading area communities in increases in retail sales for the year, according to a report of statewide sales tax rebates released by Comptroller Bob Bullock.

While expecting a rebate of \$934 this month, sales in Silverton are reported to be up nearly 12 percent from last year with sales taxes totaling \$21,097 for the year, Bullock said.

The next highest increase was reported by Hale Center, which last month led the area with an increase of nearly 15 percent. This month, Hale Center is expecting a rebate of \$796 for total sales taxes this year of \$32,201, up 11.24 percent from the same period

in 1981. At the same time, Plainview's rebates will total \$972,410 with an expected rebate of \$54,036 this month. The total represents an increase in sales of 3.13 percent from a year ago.

The rebates, based on taxable sales in October reported to Bullock by the end of November, are part of \$42.1 million due to be sent to more than 970 cities in Texas this month.

The one percent local sales tax is collected by merchants along with the four percent state sales tax and refunded monthly to the cities in which the tax is collected. Other area cities due re-

bates, their total sales taxes for the year and the percentage of change from a year ago are:

Abernathy — \$1,710 this month, \$46,906 for the year, down 9.69 percent from the same period one year ago;
Edmonson—none, \$2,558, down 18.1 percent;
Floydada—\$4,962, \$94,212, up 2.43 percent;
Hart—\$1,458, \$15,710, up 0.54 percent;
Kress—none, \$10,134, up 0.23 percent;

Lockney—\$2,154, \$46,054, up 9.79 percent;
Olton—\$1,323, \$42,336, down 0.49 percent;
Petersburg—\$738, \$16,882, down 24.43 percent;
Tullia—\$7,480, \$120,642, down 3.04 percent;
Lubbock—\$722,212, \$11.1 million, up 11.2 percent;
Amarillo—\$651,032, \$9.4 million, up 11.82 percent;
Quitaque—none, \$14,236.36, up 8.71 percent;
Turkey—none, \$12,611.41, up 15.11 percent.

**Field Day to be Held
In Silverton January 6**

A field day stressing Rangeland Improvement and Prescribed Burning of Rangelands will be held in Silverton Thursday, January 6, according to John Crowell, District Conservationist with the Briscoe County Soil Conservation Service Office.

Farmers, ranchers and livestock producers are urged to meet at the First State Bank in Silverton at 9:00 a.m. for coffee and doughnuts and to begin the program.

Subjects to be discussed include Brush Control by Prescribed Burning, Control of Grass Fires with Fire Retardant Chemicals, Chemical Brush Control, Effects of Burning on Wildlife, and Supplemental Feeding of Livestock.

A free barbecue lunch will be served to those who attend the field day.

Following lunch there will be a demonstration of Fire Retardant Chemicals used to control grass fires which should be of special interest to Fire Department members. This will be followed by a tour of prescribed burning sites below the caprock. Safety precautions to be taken during a prescribed burn will be discussed at the sites of the planned burns.

Dan Caudle, Range Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service, and Gary Valentine, Wildlife Biologist with the Soil Conservation Service, will be in Silverton to help present the program.

Also present will be representatives from several livestock and chemical companies who will discuss new products available to livestock producers.

Everyone is encouraged to attend any or all of the field day sponsored by the Caprock Soil and Water Conservation District, the Briscoe County Extension Service, and the Texas Section, Society for Range Management.

**General Telephone
Promotes Bennett**

General Telephone Company has announced the promotion of Jimmy Bennett, Customer Services Manager in Hobbs, New Mexico, to Operations Manager for the Memphis, Texas area, according to Jerry Crowley, General Manager for the Western Division. This promotion will become effective immediately.

Bennett will be responsible for the supervision and coordination for the entire Memphis operation which covers 28 surrounding exchanges. Bennett began his career with General Telephone in September, 1960 in Brownfield, Texas in the supply department. He has held various management positions with the company in Texas locations of Brownfield, San Angelo and Brownwood. Bennett was district manager in Carlsbad, New Mexico before his promotion to division manager in Hobbs in October, 1977.

His wife, Jackie, and son, Coby, now reside in Hobbs but will join him in Memphis at the close of the school year.

**ARTHUR RAYMOND
BINGHAM**

Graveside services were at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday in the Silverton Cemetery for Arthur Raymond Bingham, 79, who died Friday. Burial arrangements were handled by Morrison Funeral Directors of Stratford.

Mr. Bingham was born in Beedy. He had been a Stratford resident since 1966. Prior to that he lived in Silverton. He was a Methodist.

Survivors include his wife, Etna, of the home; four sons, Rex Tillery of Stratford, Arna Bingham of Oakland, California, Z. Q. Bingham of Dumas and Frankie Bingham of Kansas City, Missouri; two daughters, Merriman Sims of Kansas City, Missouri, and Gerene McGowen of Springlake; three brothers, Curtis Bingham of Silverton, and Ben Bingham of Greenville; three sisters, Ellie Hall of Jayton, Essie Hopkins and Viola Hopkins, both of Chillicothe; 30 grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Ollie McMinn of Silverton and her sister, Mrs. Lottie Owens of Quitaque enjoyed Christmas dinner with the Melvin Watkins family at Canyon.



JIMMY BENNETT

Mr. and Mrs. Perry Brunson, Brandi, Bradley and Lacy were guests of his parents, the James Brunsons, in Quitaque Sunday. Other guests included Mr. and Mrs. David Brunson, Derek and Dustin, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Maupin, Melissa and Amy, Donnie Brunson, all of Quitaque, and Mrs. Betty James of Navasota.

Visitors in the H. A. Cagle home in Quitaque Christmas were Sammy and Corey Johnston, McCamey, Mr. and Mrs. David Johnston, Dedra and Dara, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Edwards, Tammy and Neal, all of Silverton.

Guests in the H. G. Boyles home in Quitaque for Christmas were Bob Boyles and a friend from Canyon, and Mr. and Mrs. Freeman Tate of Silverton.

Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Cowell and Mr. and Mrs. Dwain Henderson, Wayne and Zane enjoyed Christmas dinner with their daughter and sister, Janie Snider and family, in Amarillo. Mr. and Mrs. Cowell have four daughters and three sons, and all but one son were present.

**Names Received Too Late
For Christmas Greeting Page**

The names of several local residents were turned in too late to be included on the Christmas Greeting Page. They donated to the fund to buy a new ambulance for Silverton, and also wish sea-

son's greetings to their friends in lieu of sending Christmas cards locally. They are Mr. and Mrs. Dock Peugh, Ware and Sylvia Fogerson and Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Reid.



Anthony Kingery, President of the Silverton Volunteer Ambulance Service, accepted delivery of a brand-new 1982-

model ambulance last week. This will replace the Ford ambulance now in service as soon as the radios can be

moved into the new unit. —Briscoe County News Photo

**It Came Upon
A Midnight Clear**

So say Texas grade crossing accident statistics: 91% of 1981 grade crossing accidents occurred in dry, clear weather and a significant number occurred at night. With this reminder, the railroads of Texas, Texas Safety Association and Operation Lifesaver join in sending their best to all Texans for a safe, happy

holiday season. "But it's really up to vehicle drivers," says James P. Bearden, TSA Vice President for Railroad Safety. "Only the vehicle driver has any options. A train can't leave the tracks to avoid an auto; trains take a minimum of 1/2 of a mile to stop while a vehicle needs only yards."

Bearden reminds us that a few simple precautions can keep the holidays safe and happy for every family in Texas. "Make a resolution to remember caution at crossings. Take a minute to look, listen and live whenever you approach a crossing, even if it's one you pass every day. Be sure you can hear and see clearly. And especially important during this time of 'good cheer': don't mix alcohol and driving. If you drink, let someone else drive. Your safe return home is the best gift you can give your loved ones."

**Briscoe, Swisher
Top Area Voters**

Voters in Briscoe and Swisher counties led Plainview-area counties to the polls during the November general election, with greater than 60 percent of the registered voters in those counties casting ballots, according to a report by Secretary of State David Dean.

In an analysis of the 1982 general election released December 15, Dean indicated that 957 Briscoe County voters, more than 63 percent of the registered voters in the county, went to the polls November 2. In neighboring Swisher County, 2,910, or nearly 62 percent of the registered voters there, cast ballots.

Statewide, 49.5 percent of the registered voters, almost 3.2 million, voted in an election which included virtually every major statewide office and state and congressional representatives. Dean noted in an introduction that participation in the November election was 34 percent higher than the 1978 gubernatorial race when 47 percent of the voters went to the polls.

In the 1981 constitutional amendment election, only 12.2 percent of the registered voters in the state cast ballots and only 24 percent of the voters participated in the May primary.

Traditionally less than 50 percent of the state's registered voters vote in non-presidential elections, the secretary said. In only two area counties, Floyd and Lamb, did less than 50 percent of the voters participate in the election. In Floyd County, 45.9 percent, or 2,157 persons voted, while in

Lamb County, 40.5 percent or 3,641 voters went to the polls.

Some 7,576 Hale County voters, or 53.4 percent of those registered, went to the polls.

In Castro County, 54.5 percent, or 2,541 voters, cast ballots.

West Texas' major population centers, Lubbock and Potter counties, also drew more than 50 percent of their voters to the polling booths. In Lubbock, 18,704 persons, or 52.8 percent of those registered, voted; in Potter County, 18,704, or 52.8 percent.

The Texas electorate considers itself "overwhelmingly conservative," noted Dean in an accompanying post-election survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted under the supervision of Dr. Linda Golden of The University of Texas.

In that survey 68.1 percent of those polled said they considered themselves political conservatives. That is consistent with prior elections, said Dean, with about 70 percent of those polled following the May primary election and the 1981 constitutional amendment election terming themselves conservatives.

The study also found that those persons who voted in the November election were slightly more educated than those who did not. Some 70 percent of the voters said they had at least some college education, while 68 percent of the nonvoters, 485 of those polled, had some college level education.

In addition, the study found, those who voted in the November election tended to be older than those who did

not vote. Nearly 50 percent of the voters were over age 45 while 70 percent of the non-voters were younger than 45. Also, about 81 percent of those sampled were white, while 10 percent were black, 8 percent Hispanic and 1 percent "other."

About 33 percent of the voters reported that their annual income was greater than \$40,000 compared to 30.5 percent of the non-voters. Some 35.5 percent of the voters and 33.3 percent of the non-voters had incomes between \$20,000 and \$40,000, while 10.8 percent of the voters and 17.7 percent of the non-voters reported incomes of \$10,000 or less.

A plurality, 43.4 percent of the voters and 42.6 percent of the non-voters, identified themselves as Democrats, while about 36 percent of the voters and 32 percent of the non-voters said they were Republicans. About a quarter of those questioned identified themselves as "other."

Based on questions in the survey dealing with changes in election procedures, Dean said the next session of the Texas legislature should consider election law reforms which could increase voter turnout and decrease the cost of elections. Those suggested reforms call for:

- *Consolidation of all state and local elections on Saturdays;
- *Holding all local elections on a few specified dates;
- *Prohibiting the personal use of unspent campaign funds by political candidates and office holders;
- *Requiring office holders who have more than one year remaining in their term of

office to resign before running for any other office;

*Electing state judges without regard to political affiliation or on a non-partisan basis;

*Allowing initiative and referendum;

*Holding presidential preference elections the same day as regular primary elections;

*Holding primaries for each political party in one location in each precinct;

*Requiring the Secretary of State to distribute written summaries of proposed constitutional amendments to all registered voters;

*Holding constitutional amendment elections only in conjunction with either gubernatorial or presidential elections;

*Requiring a 25 percent minimum voter turnout in constitutional amendment elections in order to pass any proposed amendments.

Langdon Reagan underwent a tonsillectomy at Central Plains Hospital in Plainview last week. After he returned home and was recuperating, he came down with the flu and was sick during Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sarchet enjoyed having their grandson, Brandon, visit with them from Friday of week before last until Thursday of last week. On Thursday, they joined his parents and brother, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Sarchet and Jordan of Lubbock, and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hill, Brad and Brian of Tullia in the home of Mrs. J. M. Hill in Tullia, for the family Christmas.

Mrs. Hill had hosted her Christmas dinner the previous Sunday.

BRISCOE COUNTY NEWS
(SECD-065280)

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY AT SILVERTON, TEXAS 79257
BY CHARLES AND MARY ANN SARCHET
SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT SILVERTON, TEXAS 79257
POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO BRISCOE COUNTY NEWS,
BOX 130, SILVERTON, TEXAS 79257

SUBSCRIPTION RATE PER YEAR

Briscoe and Adjoining Counties\$7.50
Elsewhere\$8.50
CHARLES R. SARCHETPUBLISHER
MARY ANN SARCHETEDITOR

Pennington-Davidson Vows Exchanged

Miss Angelina Rebecca (Becky) Pennington and Chief Billyburl Davidson exchanged wedding vows at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon on December 19 at the First Baptist Church in Dumas. Rev. Ed Rogers performed the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Pennington of Dumas. The bridegroom is the son of Mrs. Rue Davidson of Amarillo and Jim Davidson of Silverton.

Wedding music was provided by Mrs. Lindsey Hammock of Dumas, pianist; Mike O'Hern of Dallas and Penny Pennington of Canyon, sister of the bride, who sang a duet.

Attending her sister as maid of honor was Penny Pennington. Matron of honor was Mrs. Rickey Strickland of Dumas, another sister of the bride. Miss Gena Davidson of Amarillo, sister of the bridegroom, was bridesmaid.

Best man was Terry Freeman of Amarillo. Groomsman

were Mark Brown of Amarillo and Jerry Robertson of Amarillo. Rickey Strickland of Dumas, Brian Colbert and Alan Tharp, both of Amarillo, seated the guests.

A reception was held following the ceremony in the fellowship hall of the church. Hostesses for the reception were Cindy Tripp, Jaquita Cato, Mrs. Roy Flores, all of Dumas, and Brenda Henderson, Lubbock.

Following a wedding trip to Santa Fe, New Mexico, the couple is at home in Amarillo.

Both are students at West Texas State University. The groom is employed by Western Sales and Testing, Inc. of Amarillo.

Hand Baird injured his leg in a fall at his home Monday night. It was thought he may have broken his leg, but doctors in Amarillo advised him to stay at home because of the icy roads.



MRS. CHIEF DAVIDSON



MR. AND MRS. VICTOR GLEN HASTELEY

Newly-Married Couple At Home In Plainview

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond McJimsey of Silverton and Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Hasteley of Plainview announce the marriage of their children, Tandy Yvone and Victor Glen.

Vows were exchanged in a simple double-ring ceremony on December 15, at 6:30 p.m. at the Boswell Heights Baptist Church in Plainview. Rev. Terry Owens, pastor, performed the marriage service.

The groom is a graduate of Plainview High School. The bride has been attending secretarial school at Wayland Baptist University.

The couple is now at home in Plainview, where he is employed by Hasteley Machine & Construction Company.

Couple To Be Honored

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Crass of Plainview, former Silverton residents, will be honored at a reception hosted by their children, on the occasion of their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

The reception will be held from 2:30 until 4:00 on the afternoon of Sunday, January 9, at the Garland Street Church of Christ in Plainview. All friends and relatives of the couple are invited to attend. No invitations are being mailed locally.

AS A MAN THINKETH
Gerald Beasley
"QUICK, AND POWERFUL"
Better than owning a Bible is reading it. Better than just reading it is letting it speak to us. Better than even this is believing it. Obeying and living it is best of all!

Said one, "I have read many books, but the Bible reads me."
"for the word of God is quick and powerful (living, and active), and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Heb. 4:12).

Prisoner of war Howard Rutledge, thankful for a "bowl of sewer greens," talked of how he had neglected spiritual matters when he had lived in Tulsa. Just to think "about one memorized verse could have made a whole day bearable... I did remember a verse portion, 'Thy word have I hid in my heart.' How I wished I had really worked to hide God's Word in my heart..."

WATKINS

PRODUCTS
BRISCOE COUNTY NEWS

Annual Renfro Family Christmas Held In Vernon

Mr. and Mrs. Berton Hughes attended the annual Renfro Family Christmas Party on Friday and Saturday, December 17-18, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Gillespie and Gayle Renfro in Vernon.

A delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings was served at 6:00 p.m. Friday. Gayle Renfro played Santa Claus, something he has done for many years. One pleasant surprise during the party was the unexpected arrival of Mrs.

Gillespie's son, Ron Overmyer, from Los Angeles, California.

All the children of the late Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Renfro were present for the festive occasion. They included Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Hall, Memphis; R. L. Renfro, Fort Worth; and the host family, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Gillespie, Gayle Renfro, Vernon, and Ron Overmyer, Los Angeles.

Mr. and Mrs. Berton Hughes left Tuesday afternoon for Roscoe to spend Christmas with their son and family, Rev. and Mrs. Randy Hughes, Amy and Matt.

Mrs. Roy Mack (Lois) Walker fell three weeks ago and broke her left arm. She was in St. Anthony's Hospital for two days, but returned home in time to enjoy Christmas with her family.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor:

Thanks so much for your articles regarding various blood drives during 1982. Your support, cooperation, and influence were deeply appreciated and are desperately needed in the future.

Without your valuable assistance our small efforts of supplying area hospitals with needed blood components would fall far short.

Also desperately needed are the faithful donors who help solicit through your enthusiastic announcements and stories.

I've enclosed a special thank you to them which I hope you can print for us. If this is too costly for you, we'll understand. Otherwise we would be most grateful for another helping hand.

Thanks again for finding a place in your heart and a spot in your newspaper for these priceless community blood drives and huge acts of love and understanding.

Sincerely,
Bobby Thomas
Community Relations
Coffee Memorial
Blood Center

Dickersons Enjoy Christmas Reunion

All the descendants of the late Elbert and Avie Dickerson were present at the home of Edwin and Carrie Dell Dickerson on Christmas Day.

They include Sharon and Randy Marshall, Austin; Bruce and Patti Slaughter, Kermit; David and Rhonda

Hunter, Ross and Greg, Midland; Mike and Leila Jo Holloway, Jamie and Courtney, John and Debbie Welch, all of Amarillo.

Attending from Silverton were Bryant and Ruby Lee Eddleman, Jerry and Jaleta Baird, Kerry and Kori, Robert and Betty McPherson and Bobby, Clinton Dickerson, and the host couple, Edwin and Carrie Dell Dickerson.

Attends Son's Wedding Sunday

Mrs. Ollie McMinn went to Lubbock Saturday for a visit with her grandchildren, Mr. and Mrs. Richie Hubbard, Brian and Brent. At 3:00 p.m. Sunday, she attended the wedding of her son, Travis McMinn, and Mrs. Linda Willis in Brownfield. Wedding

vows were exchanged at the convalescent home where the bride's mother resides.

The wedding ceremony was read by Rev. Glenn Riddell, a Baptist minister from Lub-

bock and a classmate of the groom when they attended Howard Payne College.

Mrs. Ollie McMinn made enough punch to be served to all residents of the home and they were also served wedding cake after witnessing the ceremony.

The newly-married couple will make their home in Lubbock.

Mrs. Ollie McMinn returned home after the wedding.

ADVANCE NOTICE
Jones Dept. Store
STORE WIDE
JANUARY
CLEARANCE SALE

To Begin On
Thursday, January 6th
9:00 a.m.

WAIT FOR US!
Jones Dept. Store
SILVERTON, TEXAS 79257

HAPPY NEW YEAR

As the old year comes to an end, we look forward to peace and happiness in the New Year!

Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative

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WATKINS

PRODUCTS
BRISCOE COUNTY NEWS

HELLO 1983

Welcoming the New Year with best wishes for a successful 1983!

Central Plains Savings Association

PLAINVIEW 2804 OLTON RD. TULSA (HOME OFFICE) 200 N. MAXWELL. WALKER CENTER 707 MAIN. SILVERTON 416 MAIN. DUMMITT - 216 N. BROADWAY

ALLSUP'S CONVENIENCE STORES

OPEN NEW YEARS

WE HAVE YOUR HOLIDAY NEEDS
★ ICE ★ SNACKS ★ SOFT DRINKS ★ PARTY DIPS ★ CHIPS ★ MIXERS ★ FRESH COOKED FOODS ★ MONEY ORDERS ★ BREAD ★ FRESH PRODUCE ★ MILK AND A COMPLETE LINE OF BATTERIES, FILM AND FLASH CUBES!

ALLSUPS MILK
1 gal. \$2.11

BORDEN'S ASSORTED PARTY DIPS
2 8 OZ. CTNS. 99¢

Shurfresh Am. Sing. CHEESE
16 Sli. 99¢

BORDEN'S EGG NOG
QT. 99¢

ALLSUP'S COOKED FOOD SPECIAL
BURRITOS
2/\$1.00

REFRESHING COCA-COLA
2 Liter \$1.29

ALLSUPS BREAD
2/99¢

BORDEN'S ASSORTED ICE CREAM
1/2 GAL. HD. CTN. \$1.59

Shurfine Blackeyes
Corn Swt. Peas 3/\$1

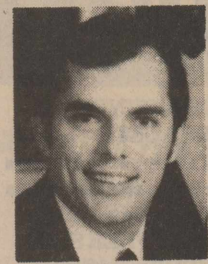


Julia Couch recently presented a check for \$47.00 to Anthony Kingery, President of the Silverton Volunteer

Ambulance Service. The money represented the Seventh Grade's donation to the Ambulance Service in lieu of

exchanging gifts at the Class Christmas Party. —Briscoe County News Photo

Senator Bill Sarpalius



Reports



1983 FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE

AUSTIN — Benjamin Franklin was the first person in the U.S. to suggest promoting the economic stability of agriculture, and the nation's welfare, through a sound system of crop insurance. This program was designed, in Franklin's words, to "prevent much poverty and distress."

However, it was not until the Federal Crop Insurance Act of 1980 that this plan was given the legislative means to allow for widespread availability. The program has been improved yearly since then, with crop insurance currently available on 28 crops in virtually every agricultural producing county in the U. S. For 1983, the Federal Crop

Insurance Corporation (FCIC) is once again proposing several new changes that, we feel, will enhance the attractiveness of the program.

The Individual Yield Coverage Program (IYCP) is a system by which top producers can establish their own yields; thereby making increased insurance available to them. For 1983, (spring planted crops) the producer will use a revised yield formula that is felt to better reflect the true production capabilities of top producers.

There will also be various policy revisions for 1983. Three of these will specifically deal with corn, soybeans and cotton. Among the most significant changes in the revised corn policy is the elimination of the proviso for the reduction of coverage when acreage is unharvested. Also, a replanting provision was added to cover the actual cost of replanting a corn crop up to a maximum of \$20 per acre when in the best interests of FCIC. The 50% coverage penalty was eliminated for cases when the damaged corn acreage is planted with another insurable crop that will be harvested the same year.

The soybean policy, too, was revised to eliminate the coverage penalty for not harvesting and to limit the replanting payment to the actual cost of replanting up to a maximum of \$20 per acre.

Of major significance to insured cotton producers will be the increase in coverage levels brought about by changing the stage guarantees.

FCIC eliminated the reduction in guarantee on cotton for unharvested acreage and combined the second and third stage guarantees. The first stage guarantee was increased to 60%. Coverage was established at 100% of the full guarantee for both the second and third stages.

FCIC has revised its definition for the first stage of cotton. The first stage now ends "after blooms are shed or 50 days after the final planting date, whichever comes first."

This definition should satisfy the growers' complaint that they must keep poor cotton stands until the blossoms are shed regardless of the time lapse from the planting date. Other measures being established include a Late Planting Agreement Option which will allow coverage to be extended up to a maximum of 20 days after the final planting date. The policies are also being rewritten in layman's terms and the FCIC has developed simplified methods of processing documents: all to provide a faster and better service to the farmer.

We feel that crop insurance is a worthwhile program that deserves the attention of both governmental representatives and producers. If they work together to improve this system, the entire nation will greatly benefit. We would like to hear your opinions on federal crop insurance. Please write Senator Bill Sarpalius, Box 12068, State Capitol, Austin, Texas 78711.

FOUR BIG ISSUES

AUSTIN — Thousands of bills will be presented before the Texas Legislature in the upcoming 68th Session. Many of these will be old ideas brought up for further examination, while some measures will be totally new. Out of all of these will arise a few big issues that could affect virtually every Texan. Because of this, these issues will receive a great amount of attention.

As all of the bills to be presented have not yet been written and filed, we cannot tell exactly what new big issues may surface. How-

ever, by looking at the past session and the current statewide attitudes we see four issues that are sure to be big.

WATER — Texas problems with water development has been brought before the public many times in the last few years. We do not have to tell you folks in the Panhandle and South Plains about the rapidly reducing ground water resources. It is our hope that the non-agricultural producing areas of the state can now realize this crisis situation and will help us act to resolve it. Possible water development measures include state financing of conservation equipment, implementation of a statewide water plan, and the regulation of water rights.

STATE TAXES — Texas is fortunate to have a tradition of being able to provide quality services while maintaining an extremely low tax base. Sadly, this is changing. Due to increased population and industrialization in Texas, for the first time in many years our projected spending levels are higher than our expected revenues. This means we have to do one of two things: either increase taxes to raise revenue or decrease spending to fit our current inflows.

DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED — As you may know, this is an area

that we have been working on for almost two years now. Growing concern in Texas over this long overlooked problem will undoubtedly result in a re-vamping of the current laws. In addition to ours, there will be many other bills presented to the Legislature concerning DWI. These include measures that would increase the minimum fines and jail times for DWI, prohibit open containers of alcohol in automobiles, and raise the legal drinking age to 21.

TEACHER SALARIES — Teacher salaries, especially for those teachers below college level, are currently too low to attract and maintain the large number of qualified people needed. If

these salaries are not raised by the Legislature in this session, teacher shortages or increased local school district taxing are likely to result.

There are many other issues currently facing Texas that will probably receive much attention in the next session. These include the insanity defense, blue laws, pari-mutuel betting, highway funding, and trucking regulations.

These are only a few of the problems that are to be dealt with in the short 140 days of the session. Because they are so large and affect such a great number of people, knowing your opinions on these matters is essential if we are to represent the 31st District properly.

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We would like to thank all of you who sent cards and visited us while Hand was in the hospital and since he has been home. Thanks, also, to those who have brought food to us. A special thanks to the Silvertown Volunteer Ambulance Service for taking us to the hospital when the weather was so bad. We would also like to thank all those who helped to help with the children. Hand and Vici Baird

I would like to thank my secret granddaughter for the lovely cards and gifts for Thanksgiving and Christmas. **Zelda Dudley**

We would like to express our many thanks and appreciation for the prayers, visits, gifts, cards, flowers and calls during Richie's recent stay in the hospital in Plainview and in Amarillo.

A very special thanks to Aunt Theta, Sherry Delano and Aunt Lou who helped keep Staci for us. May God bless each of you. **The Fred Hills**

I would like to say thank you for the many nice things that have been done for me throughout the year. Thanks to the Senior Citizens for the many plates you have sent, to the Haylake Club and the Baptist Church for the fruit. Thanks to all the others who have come by and done nice things for me. **Hassie Arnold**

Roy Mack and I would like to thank each of you who have been so nice to us since I had my accident. For your every act of kindness we want you to know we appreciate it. For the many calls, cards and food we are so grateful to each of you. **Thank you, Roy Mack and Lois**

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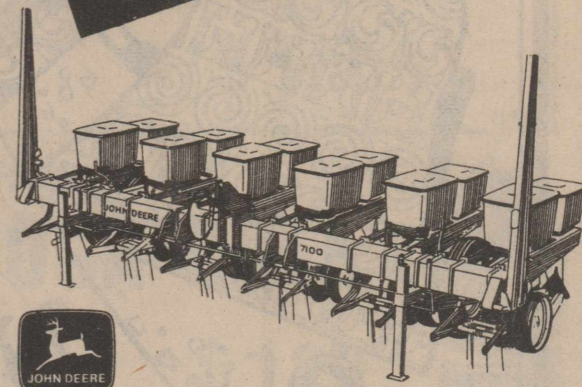
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