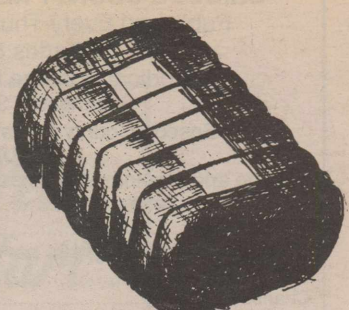


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Briscoe County News

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 1998

VOLUME 90 NUMBER 1

Former Silverton Resident Is New Extension Chief

James (Jim) Smith, currently director of the Travis County Cooperative Extension office in Austin, will become director of the Weld County (Colorado) office effective February 16. He is a graduate of Silverton High School and is the son of the late Vinson and Jerry Smith.

"I'm real excited," Smith, 55, said from his home in Austin. He said he has a friend who lived in Greeley a number of years ago who told him Weld would be just like going back to the Panhandle of Texas, where Smith was reared.

He admitted, however, that he might have to work on his accent.

"My wife told me when I went up there for the interviews to just slow down and try to talk English," Smith laughed.

Smith has an undergraduate degree in agricultural education from Texas Tech University and a master's in agricultural plant sciences from West Texas State. Prior to taking his present position in 1991, he was the agricultural agent in Amarillo. He started his career in extension in 1970 in Guymon, Oklahoma, then left extension to become co-owner of an International Harvester dealership in Guymon from 1975-80 before going back into extension work at Spearman.

He said there were several reasons for making the move north. His son, a recent graduate of the Colorado School of Mines, lives in the Erie area with his wife and new son, and Smith's only nephew, son of his late brother, Monty Smith, lives in Loveland.

"I'm one of those people who believes that an agent should move every few years. I need that renewal . . . to get recharged," Smith said.

"I'm locked in an urban situation here. You've got a big, strong agricultural base that is really appealing," Smith said. But at the same time, growth is a major issue in the area, he added.

"I have some experience with the area in Austin . . . perhaps I can share my experience with those issues," Smith said.

Happy Birthday-

- January 1--Jackie Mercer, at Rampley, Dane Roys
- January 2--Cade Holt
- January 3--Shawn Johnson, at Rampley, Luree Burson
- January 4--John Colby McCoy, W. Smith, Wendell Reed, Valeria Weaver, Able Asebedo, Jon Ivory, Gail Arnold
- January 5--Amy Fuston, Glenda May, Jack Sutton, Angie Aguilar
- January 6--Lindsey Sweet, Will Hester, Connie Netro, Todd Lowe
- January 7--Fred Brannon, Maynard Greeson, Rose Marie Trevino, Mark Hutsell

Owls Dominate 1997 Globe-News Six-Man Super Team Selections

Trey Wyatt was named Defensive Player of the Year and Coach Larry Mantle was chosen as Coach of the Year on the 1997 Globe-News Six-Man Super Team.

Wyatt, who was credited with 176 tackles including 67 solos, eight interceptions, five fumble recoveries and two blocked punts, was a leader of Silverton's defense. The fact that he put up a lot of these numbers while playing with a knee injury is even more impressive.

Wyatt was one of the anchors on a defense that improved throughout the season and keyed the Owls' playoff run. The Owls posted an 7-3 regular-season record and advanced to the playoffs via a coin flip. In the first two playoff games, the Owl defense held Jayton and Miami to a total

of 12 points.

Coach Mantle had his team playing some of its best football in the playoffs as the Owls advanced to the state quarterfinals before losing to eventual state champion Borden County. This was Coach Mantle's first year as Silverton's head football coach and this is his second selection as Six-Man Coach of the Year.

Named to the defensive first team along with Wyatt was Leland Wood, who led the Owls with 201 tackles, including 60 solos.

Among Silverton's trio on the first team is runningback Jeremy Holt, who led the Owls in rushing yards and receiving yards. The junior rushed for 1,328 yards and 26 touchdowns and collected 979 receiving yards with 13 touchdown catches. "For his size, he is a surprisingly powerful runningback," Coach Mantle said. "He can also be a very elusive runner. He runs great pass patterns and has great hands as a pass receiver."

Silverton players who were named to the second-team offense were Jack Cherry, quarterback, and Charlie Bomar, center.

Selected for the second-team defense were Chris Justice, lineman; Jared Francis, linebacker, and Andy Bullock, defensive back.

The other selections for the first-team offense were Josh Morris, Lazbuddie, quarterback; Courtney Frazier, Follett, and Marshall Flowers, Miami, runningbacks; Jason Thomas, Lazbuddie, lineman; Chris Smith, Lazbuddie, end; Joe Thomas, Follett, punter/kicker.

The other players named to the first-team defense were Blas Martinez, Lazbuddie, and Johnny Murray, Miami, linemen; Olin Gibson, Follett, and Toby Burgin, Groom, linebackers; Cameron Turner, Lazbuddie, defensive back.

Others named to the second-team offense included Adam St. Clair, Lazbuddie, Brice Foster, Lazbuddie, and Travis Thompson, Samnorwood, runningbacks; Evan Crowell, Groom, end; Josh Evenson, Groom, punter/kicker.

Also named to the second-team defense were Chris Olinger, Groom, lineman; Bradley Hale,

Caprock Jamboree Onstage Saturday Night

Caprock Jamboree, a monthly program of family entertainment, will be onstage beginning at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, December 3, at the Showbarn located five blocks south of the old jail in Silverton.

Entertainers this month will include the Polka Dots from Lubbock, Bill Henson-Janet Durham family from Amarillo, Doris Vardell, the Half Price Band and The Country Sounds.

As always, admission is free. Mesquite-grilled hamburgers will be served beginning at 5:30 p.m.

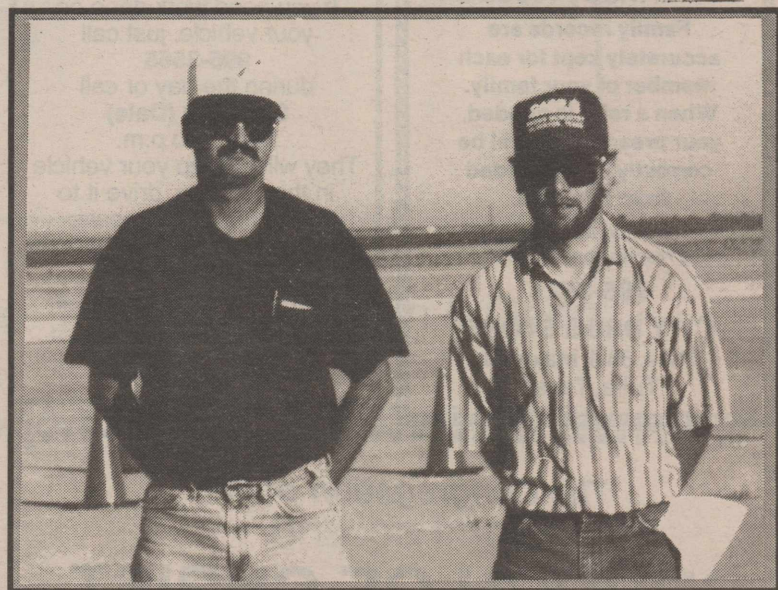
Bring a folding chair, if you have one, but if you don't bring a chair one will be provided for you.



Happy New Year, Folks!

Fire Department Won't Meet Thursday Night

Silverton Volunteer Fire Department won't have its regular meeting Thursday night due to the New Year holiday.



Wade Proctor and Darrell Reynolds of the Briscoe County Maintenance Section for the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Maintenance Office in Silverton, drove away with the two highest points in their section at the district Truck Rodeo held in October. TxDOT sponsors the Truck Rodeo annually to recognize the skills of TxDOT truck drivers and to showcase the pride they have in the safe operation and maintenance of TxDOT equipment. Drivers are scored on two different tests. First, they are tested on how well they can spot safety defects on equipment. Then, they drive through an obstacle course designed to simulate truck maneuvers encountered during a normal workday. This year Reynolds and Proctor received special awards at the Childress District Safety Awards Banquet held in Clarendon on November 21.

WEATHER

DECEMBER 24-HOUR READINGS			
DAY	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP.
1	56	32	
2	51	32	
3	42	32	.22
4	42	24	
5	56	20	
6	36	19	
7	39	26	T
8	46	31	.06
9	64	29	
10	56	27	
11	35	23	.04
12	29	14	
13	39	11	
14	52	11	
15	63	27	
16	71	29	
17	58	25	
18	63	24	
19	73	26	
20	65	28	
21	31	28	.98
22	36	27	
23	35	28	.20
24	33	28	.35
25	39	27	
26	31	19	T
27	35	18	
28	46	19	
29	40	19	
Total Dec. Precip.			1.85
Normal Dec. Precip.			.68
Total Dec. Snow			4"
Total Precip. Rec'd.			
Year to Date			30.90
Normal Precip. For Year to Date			21.21

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Charles R. Sarchet.....	Publisher
Mary Ann Sarchet.....	Editor

Obituaries

HOWARD AUTRY

Howard (Red) Autry of Pecan Plantation in Granbury, a retired executive sales manager for Smith International, died Wednesday, December 10, at the Lake Granbury Medical Center. He was 70.

Mr. Autry was born January 26, 1927 near Tioga to William Ennis and Marye Alma Tomberlin Autry. He was an army veteran of World War II and married Lessie Taylor on February 6, 1948 in Plainview. In the 45 years he worked for Smith International, the family lived in Odessa 25 years and in Denver, Colorado for 20 years. He retired in 1994 and moved to Pecan Plantation.

Survivors include his wife, Lessie Autry of Granbury; a son, Leslie Ennis Autry of Allen; two daughters, Carolyn Jeanette

Autry and Shirley Lynette Autry, both of Garland; three brothers, Kenneth Neil Autry of El Dorado, Kansas, W. E. Autry of Euphrata, Washington and Thomas Leonard Autry of San Antonio; two sisters, Anna Sparks of Bedford and Marjorie Fern Taylor of New Braunfels; three grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Celebration of Life services were conducted Friday, December 12, at Acton United Methodist Church with Rev. Bill Boyd officiating. Wiley Funeral Home in Granbury directed the services.

The family suggested that memorials be made to Acton United Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway, Granbury, Texas 76049 or Happy Hill Farm Children's Home, HC 51 Box 56, Granbury, Texas 76048.

LOIS MCKENNEY

Services for Lois I. McKenney were conducted at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, December 27, at the First Baptist Church with the Rev. Edwin Norris officiating.

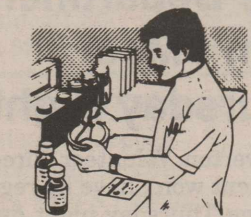
Burial was in the Silverton

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SUNDAY

Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
 Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Evening 8:00 p.m.

Windbreak Trees Are Now On Sale

Orders for windbreak trees are now being accepted at the Caprock Soil and Water Conservation office in Silverton.

Orders may be placed from now through March 4, 1998. Prices this year for potted evergreens will be \$2.50 each, with a minimum order of ten (10) trees. Deciduous trees are priced at \$1.50 each with a minimum order of twenty-five (25) trees.

Potted evergreen varieties available are Arizona Cyprus, Rocky Mountain Juniper, Eastern Red Cedar, Colorado Blue Spruce, Scotch Pine, Southwestern Pine, Ponderosa Pine and

Austrian Pine. Bareroot hardwood varieties available are Honey Locust, Russian Olive, Cottonwood, Pecan, Catalpa, Osage Orange, Native Plum, Nanking Cherry, Desert Willow, Poplar, Mulberry/Fruiting Green Ash, Bur Oak and Lacebark Elm.

Bareroot shrubs available are Caragana, Cotonaster, Honey-suckle and Lilac.

There also are wildlife seeding packets available at \$75.00 per packet. These consist of the Quail and Pheasant, Deer, Turkey and Squirrel packets. Each packet has 100 seedlings contained in it. Caprock SWCD is a non-profit

organization whose sole concern is the conservation of natural resources. Caprock SWCD is in no way in competition with local nurseries. Trees are sold for wild-life and windbreak protection.

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Good Luck, Owls, Lady Owls

School Supplies
 Briscoe County News

EVANS, ROHDE & CRISWELL, Attorneys at Law
STEPHEN L. RHODE J. MICHAEL CRISWELL

The Silverton office is open and a lawyer will be present every Thursday from 1:00 until 5:00 p.m. and at other times by appointment. The principal office of the law firm is located in Tulia, Texas.

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SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

As another great year comes to a close, we'd like to extend our warm wishes and heartfelt thanks to all the good folks we've had the privilege to know and serve.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

LOOKING BACK

through the files of the
Briscoe County News

January 7, 1988--J. D. and Lois Nance, accompanied by Rex and Faith Redies, spent Christmas in Fort Worth with their children and grandchildren, Fares and Nanda Lahoud, Michael and Christopher and Dr. Rob Barrett . . . When the annual "Sing Out" was held in the fellowship hall of the Rock Creek Church of Christ on New Year's Eve, the group honored Bill and Lucy McDaniel with a surprise reception in observance of their fiftieth wedding anniversary . . . Mrs. Mary Martin was in Amarillo Wednesday of last week to have some medical tests run . . . Mrs. Charley (Fern) Holt has been a patient at St. Anthony's Hospital in Amarillo. She had the misfortune of breaking her hip in a fall on the ice at her home . . . Curtis D. Preston appointed as new Briscoe County Extension Agent . . . All the children and grandchildren of John and Maebelle Francis were home for the Christmas holidays . . . Vaughan family Christmas held this year in the home of Ronald, Annette and Delton Vaughan in Arlington . . .

January 5, 1978--The Owls won second place and the Owlettes won third place in the tournament played at Claude last weekend . . . Shower planned for the Buck Paynes, who lost their household furnishings, clothes, etc. in a fire which destroyed their home on Thursday night before Christmas . . . Light snow falls here New Year's Day . . . The four remaining daughters of the late Zemily and U. D. Brown and their families met at Lake Brownwood State Park during the Christmas holidays for a reunion . . . Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Lindsey were in Lubbock Tuesday morning when their daughter-in-law, Mrs. Don Smith, underwent surgery at Methodist Hospital . . . Ginning continuing in Briscoe County. Quitaque gins have reported that when they are finished, they will have turned out approximately 13,000 bales. The Silverton gins will have ginned approximately 11,000 bales each, and the rural gins will have turned out more than 11,000 bales also. This gives a total figure for cotton ginned in Briscoe County at near 47,000 bales . . . Mr. and Mrs. Frank Yeary will be honored January 8 from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. at a reception celebrating their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary . . .

January 4, 1968--Judge M. G. Moreland administered the oath of office when Fred Mercer was sworn in as Briscoe County Commissioner for Precinct Three. Mercer was appointed to fill the vacancy in the Commissioners' Court created by the resignation of A. D. Arnold on January 1 . . . Friday night, December 22, the anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Terry West and the birthday of

Donnie Perkins were celebrated in the Perkins home. Attending were Mr. and Mrs. West, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Smith and Lynn, Mr. and Mrs. Perkins and girls . . . Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Hutsell were in Dallas Monday to attend the Cotton Bowl game . . . Funeral services held for Mrs. Donna Jeanne Brooks, 31 . . . Owls win second place at Memphis Tournament . . . Lt. Robert W. Hughes is being transferred from the 1365th Photograph Squadron in Orlando, Florida to Anchorage, Alaska . . . Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Baird are parents of a daughter, Kori Lee . . . Mr. and Mrs. Datis Martin hosted a New Year dinner which was attended by Mr. and Mrs. Earl Cantwell, Mr. and Mrs. Elton Cantwell and family, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Arnold and family and Mrs. Bertha Self . . . Mrs. Joann Griffin and Katherine Ann are spending an extended visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Turner, while her husband, Jim, attends a school in Denver, Colorado . . .

January 2, 1958--Mr. and Mrs. H. Roy Brown, pioneer West Texas residents, were honored with an open house and reception on their golden wedding anniversary Sunday . . . Joe Brooks, who has been operating Joe's Conoco Station for a number of years, moved this week to the new Gulf Service Station east of the courthouse and has set up business at the new location . . . A check with the local gins early Wednesday gave a total of 5,698 bales of cotton ginned to date . . . Mr. and Mrs. J. W. McCracken and granddaughters, Waynelle and Joy Ann McCutchen, have returned from a ten-day trip to California . . . Work is making headway at the new Phillips "66" Service Station which is being erected just west of Simpson Chevrolet Company, at the intersection of Braidfoot and Lone Star streets . . . Miss Patsy Jean Crass is bride of John Vakey . . . Mrs. Henry McWaters was honored guest on December 22, her 74th birthday anniversary, at a dinner in the home of her son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Joe McWaters . . . Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Weaks and children and his mother, Mrs. Olga Weaks, visited relatives in Friona on Christmas Day . . . Mr. and Mrs. Roy Morris, Gretchen and Arnold were Christmas Eve Day dinner guests of Mrs. Morris' mother, Mrs. D. L. Young, and Mr. Young, in Amarillo . . . Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Grewe spent Christmas Day with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Cobb, in Quitaque . . . Mr. and Mrs. Albert Mallow and Becky spent Christmas Day in Plainview with his mother, Mrs. W. C. Mallow, and other relatives . . .

January 8, 1948--Funeral services were conducted at the First Baptist Church on Tuesday

afternoon of this week for Mrs. Minnie Clendenin Arnold, a resident of Silverton for 34 years, following an illness of a little better than five weeks . . . A transaction between Bill Long, previous owner of the local Magnolia Service Station, and the Weatherred Brothers, W. C. and W. D., became effective on December 24, whereby W. C. and W. D. Weatherred became the new owners of the station . . . Snow, which began falling here Tuesday night of last week, left a total of .27 of an inch of moisture . . . Betty and Bennie Gardner had as their guests Sunday, Jerry Simpson and C. G. McEwin, and Mildred Rodgers of Lockney . . . Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hoyt left Sunday for Seattle, Washington. Mr. Hoyt is a recruiting officer for the Navy. They have been visiting Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Anderson . . . Friday evening a group of friends met at the new home of Mr. and Mrs. Parker Rampley and surprised them with a housewarming. Acting hostesses were Mmes. D. H. Davis, Eual Newman and Clifford Allard . . . Mr. and Mrs. Roy Allard entertained a group of friends with a buffet dinner on New Year's Day . . . Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Gardner were entertained with a surprise farewell party Tuesday night, given by members of the Methodist Church . . . Ann Brown had a tonsillectomy at the Lockney Hospital last week . . .

January 6, 1938--WPA work starts on caprock Friday . . . Roy Bomar and Miss Elizabeth Ezzell, two of Silverton's most popular young people, with Mr. Moody Yarber of Amarillo and Miss Margaret Graham of Quitaque drove to Amarillo last Friday and were married in the last 15 minutes of the old year. Mr. and Mrs. Yarber will make their home in Amarillo. Mr. and Mrs. Bomar will make their home in Silverton where Mr. Bomar is employed at the Farmers Food Store . . . The country home of Bryant Strange, nine miles southwest of Silverton, was totally destroyed by fire Tuesday afternoon . . . Editor Roy Hahn wrote: "Roy Bomar, that wonderful combination of Clark Gable, Rudolph Valentino and Donald Duck, is finally out of circulation. Too bad gals. All we can do now though is to wait for a divorce. After all though there are other fish in the pond--what about little brother Bub? I believe that he would be pretty easy to catch off guard" . . . Mrs. R. L. McKenney had the following guests in her home last Sunday for a turkey dinner: Mr. and Mrs. E. Cochran of Tulia, Mr. and Mrs. Mac McKenney, Mr. and Mrs. Pack McKenney and Nora Mae Thompson and mother . . . H. C. Mercer was taken to the Plainview Sanitarium Tuesday afternoon . . . Miss Mavis Strick-

land left Sunday for Bovina where she teaches home economics in the school . . . Alvin Redin took his son, Harley, to Stephenville Sunday. He also took Hazel and Freddie Lee Elliston to Denton and Mrs. Gip Joiner to Stephenville where she will visit relatives . . . J. H. Burson was taken to the Lubbock Sanitarium last week, suffering from an attack of gallstones . . . George Seaney had the misfortune of getting his right leg broken last Saturday while riding on the running board of a car . . . Mr. and Mrs. Roy Allard and daughter, Jonnie, spent Christmas with relatives at Silverton . . . Noel Deavenport and Edward Edwards made a business trip to Silverton Monday evening . . . J. B. Russell and Orlin Stark made a trip to Wichita Falls over the weekend . . .

Win, Owls
and Lady Owls!

Happy Anniversary-

January 1--Mr. and Mrs. Norman Strange, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Weaks

January 2--Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Reed

January 6--Mr. and Mrs. Russell Bingham

Caprock Jamboree
will be on stage
Saturday at 7:00 p.m.
Briscoe County Show Barn
in Silverton

Mesquite-Grilled Hamburgers
Will be Served Beginning at 5:30 p.m.

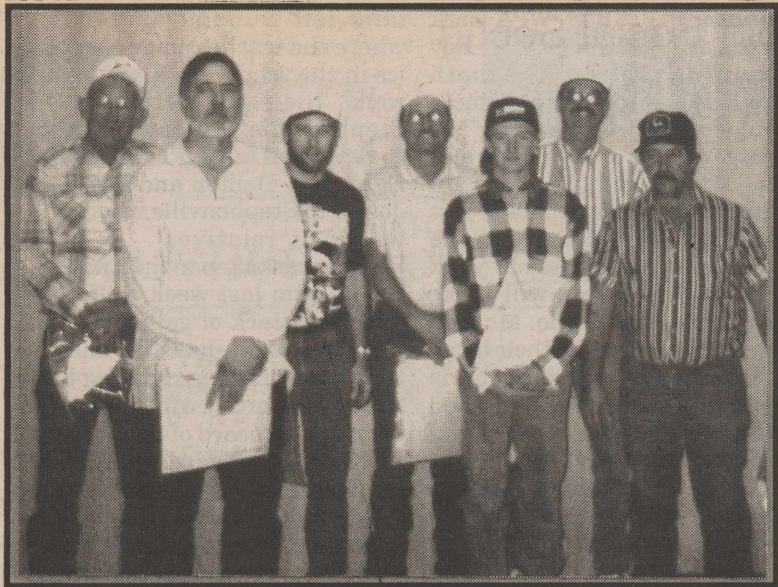
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The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) held its annual Safety Awards Banquet on November 21 at the Bairfield Activity Center in Clarendon. The banquet is held to recognize employees' efforts in operation of TxDOT vehicles and equipment and for having no work-related injuries for a period of one year. Members of the Briscoe County Maintenance Section who received awards were (left to right) Donald Fleming, David Warren, Darrell Reynolds, Lynn Smith, Jeff Smith, Wade Proctor and Johnny Tiffin.

Cotton News

from Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.

It appears some confusion has cropped up concerning the 1996 Upland Cotton Loan Program. Contrary to recent speculation the loan program for upland cotton is still non-recourse, good news for cotton producers.

Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. (PCG), in an attempt to clarify exactly how the 1996 loan program differs from years past, has contacted a variety of sources and confirmed how the two main changes to the program will impact producers putting their cotton into the Loan.

The first significant change was the removal of the eight-month loan extension after the initial 10-month loan period has ended. This change, implemented by the 1996 Farm Bill, means producers with cotton in the Loan will either have to forfeit the cotton held in collateral by the Commodity Credit Corporation or repay the loan at the end of the 10-month period.

The second change is that FSA County offices are no longer deducting the warehouse receiving charge, and accrued storage up

to loan inception, from the gross loan amount prior to issuing a check to a producer. This change will most likely manifest itself as a reduction in the amount of equity a producer has when selling the crop.

If a producer decides to surrender the cotton to the CCC at the end of the 10-month loan period the producer will be responsible for the receiving charges and any storage accrued prior to the cotton's entry into the CCC loan. Producers who forfeit their cotton to CCC will be billed by CCC for these charges.

All other loan mechanisms remain the same as they have been in years past. For bales sold prior to the maturity date of the loan, storage and warehouse charges will still "follow the cotton." Growers may, as mentioned earlier, see a reduction in the amount of their equity because of the receiving charges, not paid at the time the loan was made.

The upside of all this is that producers who do put their cotton in the Loan will receive a greater share of the gross loan proceeds than in previous years.

Plains Cotton Growers is encouraging Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) to prepare well in advance for some potential crises and emergencies that may arise in 1998.

The organization is asking TDA officials to do everything within their power to insure that three specific products are available for use on the 1998 cotton crop throughout the state and throughout the growing season.

Federal law requires that all pesticides used in agriculture must have full registration labeling but delegates authority to the states for emergency labeling in specific circumstances. To avoid crippling losses in 1998 in the event of aphid infestation outbreaks, PCG is asking TDA to prepare for emergency labeling of the product Furadan.

If a crisis arises, Furadan would be needed as early as April by neighbors in the southern part of the state and August through October on the High Plains.

Similarly, PCG is asking that other products, Confirm and Pi-

TELCOT[®] Report

A WEEKLY SUMMARY OF COTTON MARKETING NEWS

For the Week Ending December 26, 1997

New York cotton futures crept marginally higher most of the week, finding support from perceptions of strong export demand, a record high November mill use number and a firm U. S. stock market in the face of Asian economic weakness.

Traders anticipate another large weekly export sales estimate to be released on December 29 as relatively cheap U. S. cotton prices attract pent-up demand. Private estimates for weekly 1997-98 crop export sales in the upcoming USDA report range from 200,000 to 400,000 bales, including an expected 100,000 bales destined for Mexico. The department's previous report pegged net U. S. export sales for the week ended December 11 at 263,700 bales. Many in the industry believe the upcoming report will compare

favorably. USDA's export sales report has been delayed from its normal Thursday release because of the Christmas holiday.

Though economic turmoil in Asia still hangs over the market, as does the marketing of large U. S. supplies, confidence is growing that the recent surge in export sales will hold and cancellations will be absent. While Asian markets still are showing signs of weakness, U. S. markets have stabilized somewhat, easing concerns.

The cotton market also gained strength this week from news of loan approvals for Asia, which are expected to help stabilize the financial situation there. USDA's offer of a GSM-102 credit for South Korea to buy U. S. cotton appears to be keeping a floor under the market. The International Monetary Fund also was reported to have agreed to loan South Korea \$10 billion immediately, adding to the mildly bullish tone.

Although the loans to South Korea generally were considered to be a positive step in the right direction, some analysts feel the loans will not be a long-term cure for the Asian financial crisis. "It may be a band-aid on a hemorrhage," a trader said, voicing caution.

Meanwhile, cotton use by U. S. textile mills reached a record high for the month of November, according to the National Cotton Council (NCC). In its monthly cotton consumption report, the council reported U. S. textile mills in November used cotton on a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 11.56 million bales, up from a revised October figure of 11.45 million. Cotton analysts said the larger figure was a record for the month of November and reflected the strong U. S. economy heading into the Christmas holidays.

A council analyst said she was surprised by the increase, with the November report generally being lower than October's as holiday orders have been filled and mill use slows. However, she said more mill use did not directly imply better retail sales--a hot topic into the final days of the holiday shopping season. "The increase could be due to more exports rather than better retail sales," she said.

The NCC analyst also added that retail sales until November had not been as good as most analysts expected. However, economists have indicated that a growing number of shoppers wait until the final days of the season to load up on gifts. Therefore, many observers still perceive retail sales in the U. S. garment industry will be strong as last-minute holiday shopping takes place.

HALL COUNTY HOSPITAL HOME HEALTH SERVICE

HEALTH TIPS

High Blood Pressure or Hypertension is the leading cause of strokes and a major risk for heart disease.

LOSE WEIGHT if you are more than 10 percent above your ideal body weight. Even minor weight loss can help keep blood pressure down.



Hall County Hospital Home Health Service provides Personal Care, as well as Skilled Nursing Care. It is Medicare approved, and nurses are on call 24 hours a Day.

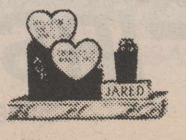
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BARRY LONG, Manager

Irrigation Conference Serves The Needs of Area Growers

Growers using irrigation to produce crops in the High Plains have been coming to the annual irrigation conference sponsored by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service for more than 25 years, says Leon New, agricultural engineer and the event's founder of Amarillo.

The 1998 conference is scheduled January 7 at the Amarillo Civic Center. "We've planned a day-long program packed with information and technology segments designed especially for today's producer," said New.

The event also features an industry trade show, where equipment and service suppliers will showcase their latest products. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. Participants can tour the trade show exhibits and enjoy free coffee and donuts, courtesy of the show's sponsors.

There is a \$7 registration fee which includes a catered lunch. Private, commercial and non-commercial chemical applicators completing the day's program are eligible to receive 2.5 continuing education units (CEUs).

At the 9:30 a.m. opening session, speakers will begin addressing topics featuring well and pump performance. A presentation using micro-videography will demonstrate how this technology is helping to pin-point problems never before seen, making solutions easier to define.

C. E. Williams, manager of the Panhandle Groundwater District from White Deer, will address many of the key issues that affect area growers. He will discuss the specifics of the newly-enacted Texas Water Plan, and S. B. 1, regarding rules compliance and conservation strategies focused on future needs versus supply.

"We strive to offer growers timely information that impacts production for the coming year," New said. "Each year, we showcase proven technologies or help with clear-cut analyses of any new rules and regulations they need to know."

According to New, water application and the scheduling of irrigation is getting easier, due in part to some "space-age" technology using global satellite communication. "This is our third year to devote at least part of the program to precision agriculture, or site specific production," he said.

Through the use of yield monitors and site mapping, several growers in the area are at the forefront in employing the new technology. A producer panel, composed of Clay Cogburn, Cogburn Brothers of Happy, Tom and Ellis Moore of Sunray, and Karl Johnson of Morse will share their real-world experiences at 11:00 a.m.

Two extension agronomists, Travis Miller from College Station and Brent Bean of Amarillo, will discuss irrigated soybean production in the region, and the suitability of Roundup Ready

crops for weed control, respectively. Carl Patrick, extension entomologist of Amarillo will brief growers on the latest insect control techniques.

"We've accumulated three years of field test data on 23 corn hybrids, and can show that all Bt corn doesn't perform the same," said Patrick, who also plans to update growers on issues related to Gaucho seed-treated sorghums.

Moderators for the day-long program segments include county extension agents Jim Allison of Amarillo, Robert Harris from Dumas, Dennis Newton of Hereford, and Seth Ralston from Hartley.

For more information, contact Leon New, Extension agricultural engineer and irrigation specialist, or Regina Linder at 806-359-5401, or any county agricultural agent.

Winter Weather Driving Tips Given

Treacherous winter conditions can make travel along Texas roads a dangerous proposition. The Texas Department of Public Safety urges motorists to pay attention to changing weather conditions and prepare for the winter driving season.

"We urge motorists to use extreme caution when driving under winter weather conditions. Slow down," said Col. Dudley Thomas, director of DPS. "Wear your seat belts and drive carefully. When it's snowy or icy, it's always best to avoid travel if at all possible."

Stranded motorists should call the DPS helpline at 1-800-525-5555 for assistance from a DPS Trooper.

For current road conditions, it's best to watch your local news reports, or look up the Texas Department of Public Transportation's website at: <http://www.dot.state.tx.us>.

Winter driving tips include:

- Wear your seat belt, and make sure your children are buckled up.

- Remember that ice forms first on bridges, overpasses and shady areas. If you hit a patch of ice, stay off your brakes and decelerate slowly, holding the car steady as you go over the ice.

- Speed is the main problem with driving on ice. Adjust your speed to fit the weather conditions. Keep a safe distance from the car in front of you.

- If your car goes into a skid, take your foot off the gas pedal but don't hit the brake. Steer gently in the direction you want the front of the car to go. As the car straightens out, you will be able to regain traction and control.

- Check your car battery before cold weather sets in. Battery power dips in cold weather.

- Keep blankets, a first-aid kit, flares, jumper cables, tire chains, a flashlight, ice scraper and

Top Five Myths About Social Security

by Mary Jane Shanes
Social Security Manager
Plainview, Texas

A program as broad and as important as Social Security is bound to generate many different perspectives. These perspectives have resulted in myths and misleading beliefs about the program. Below are five of the most common myths about Social Security.

"Social Security won't be there when I need it!"

First you must ask yourself, "When will you need it?" Social Security is more than retirement benefits. It's there for you today if you become disabled or if you die leaving a young family. It will be there for you tomorrow when you retire.

The real question isn't "Will it be there when I need it?" but instead "What kind of Social Security program will be there?" Steps will assuredly be taken within the next five to ten years to change Social Security. In one form or another, Social Security will always be there when needed.

"Social Security is only a retirement program."

Of the 44 million beneficiaries, only 27 million receive retirement benefits. The other 17 million receive disability, survivor or dependents benefits.

Non-retirement benefits are critical because today's 20-year-old has a three-in-ten chance of becoming disabled, and a two-in-ten chance of dying, before reaching retirement.

"Social Security funds are nothing but worthless IOUs!"

By law, all Social Security money is invested in Treasury bonds, similar to bonds purchased by millions of other investors.

People who hold treasury bonds in their portfolios generally consider them among the safest of their investments. It's odd that similar bonds held by Social Security are considered "worthless."

It is true that when Social Security has to redeem the bulk of its bond holdings in the next century to help meet anticipated expenses, the government will have to somehow raise the money to make good on its obligations to the trust funds.

But if we reach that point (assuming no changes are made to Social Security by then . . . which is an unlikely assumption), Social Security's trust funds will be holding roughly 20 percent of all the government's debt. In other words, in the highly unlikely event that the government defaults on its obligations, the non-

gloves in your car. Take a food supply of candy bars or dried fruit in case you become stranded.

- Keep the gasoline level as high as possible to prevent water condensation in the tank.

- Check the automobile's motor oil, transmission fluid, ignition system, lights, heater, cooling system and wipers.

payment of Social Security benefits will be only one part of a much larger economic calamity.

"As a personal investment plan, Social Security is a raw deal!"

Social Security isn't really about deals and personal investment schemes.

The word, "social," in Social Security, means something. It means that social objectives, such as raising the standard of living for lower income workers, and keeping the elderly out of poverty, are important elements of Social Security.

And one of the reasons Social Security has remained popular is because it combines these social goals with a degree of individual equity. The benefit you get is based on the money you pay in . . . the more you pay in, the higher your benefit will be.

As one example, a baby-boomer born in 1949 who has average wages will pay about \$58,000 in Social Security taxes before retirement. He or she will collect \$1,900 per month beginning at age 66 and will recover all taxes paid in about 30 months. Factoring in interest that could have been earned on the taxes paid, the "investment" is recovered in about 13 years, with a life expectancy of two to four years beyond that point.

"Social Security is poorly man-

aged!"

Out of every dollar collected in Social Security taxes, less than two pennies is used to cover administrative expenses. All the rest is directed into benefit payments or into the reserve trust funds.

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CAPITOL COMMENT

U.S. SENATOR
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON



**TEXANS WEIGH IN ON
CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM**

In large margins, Texans strongly support reforming federal campaign finance laws by imposing limits on a broad range of contributions. My annual questionnaire, which your newspaper published last August, asked Texans to tell me how they feel about the ongoing campaign finance reform debate.

Of those who responded, 87 percent favor stricter limits on contributions from non-citizen permanent U.S. residents; 86 percent favor stricter limits on labor unions' contributions and 71 percent said they support imposing stricter limits on contributions by individuals.

Asked if you think there should be limits on the amount of money individuals or organizations can spend to support or oppose candidates or specific issues, 74 percent of Texans answered yes. But only 22 percent of you favor government funding of campaigns.

Here are some of your comments on this perplexing issue:

From Arcadia: "Individual contributions should be unlimited because restricting them would be a limit on free speech. I am against government funding of any campaigns."

From Lake Jackson: "No contributions should be allowed by any entity except a (sing ular) qualified voter. Contributions should only be acceptable from an individual's current personal earnings or savings. Corporations, foreign countries, labor unions, trade associations, etc. are not voters and should be prohibited from giving financial support to anyone or any party. The U.S. Constitution is clear about qualifications to vote, and the same should apply to contributors to political campaigns."

From Aledo: "We are not even enforcing our current laws. Deregulate individual contributions, but require full, immediate disclosure. Forbid business and political action committee (PAC) contributions, including unions."

From Port Isabel: "There should be a clear-cut cap on campaign contributions to level the playing field. Special interests should not be allowed to influence government this way. Capping contributions would allow them to represent us, not whoever has the most money. Right now, when money talks, government listens."

From Vernon: "I think non-citizen permanent residents should not be allowed to contribute toward campaigns. If they are not willing to become legal citizens, they should not have a say in any area of government...The buying of candidates needs to be stopped. Candidates need to focus on what is best for the United States instead of pleasing special interest groups."

From San Antonio: "The cost of campaigns should be borne by the candidate entirely, but with free TV and radio time. That way the candidates would not be influenced by corporate interests."

From Hurst: "There shouldn't be any limits on spending or donations, but we should require contributions and expenditures to be reported within three days on a web site, so everyone will know where support comes from."

From Blanco: "Public campaign finance is a misuse of tax dollars. If you're not a U.S. citizen, you have no right to participate. The whole system is out of control."

From Garland: "It's simple. Increase the limit on what an individual can donate (either individually or through a PAC or corporation) to \$5,000 for any legitimate candidate or party. All congressional candidates should be required to raise 75 percent of their funds within their home state. On the income tax returns, people could select \$10, \$25 or write in up to \$100 for support of presidential and senatorial races."

From El Paso: "I believe in total freedom for all people. Anyone from any country should be able to donate or vote."

Congress will take up campaign finance reform next spring. I have introduced a bill designed to remedy the most significant shortcomings in federal campaign finance laws.

These new rules would help return control of federal campaigns and elections to individual voters. My bill:

- * Limits to \$250,000 the amount a Senate candidate may reimburse a candidate for loans the candidate makes to his or her own campaign.
- * Requires at least 60 percent of a Senate candidate's campaign funds to come from individual residents of his or her home state.
- * Curtails the congressional franking privilege for mass mailings during election years.
- * Limits PAC contributions to the same level as allowed for individuals; indexes this uniform limit to the rate of inflation.
- * Prohibits contributions from non-U.S. citizens.

These are clear, workable reforms designed to encourage greater political participation while curbing the abuses that are undermining public confidence.

Nylon was first introduced to the public in 1938. Research chemists made this elastic material by combining water, air, and a by-product of coal.

**1998 Revue is Seeking
Talented 4-H Members**

Provided by Calley Payne
County Extension Agent

The search is on for talented 4-H members who enjoy dancing, singing, performing or playing an instrument. If this describes you, the 4-H Talent Revue Committee for the 1998 National Association of County Agricultural Agents has a great opportunity for you at their national meeting in San Antonio during July 25-27, 1998.

One of the highlights of this meeting will feature 4-H talent in revue on Monday evening July 27. 4-H members from the Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas are invited to enter. This event will give 4-H members an opportunity to perform before a national audience of over 2,000 people.

The revue planning committee is now beginning its search for talent. Any 4-H member from the region may apply. Application will be by VHS videotape. An act should be limited to five minutes.

**Comings and
Goings**

Spending the Christmas holidays with Clifton and Joy Stodghill and Bonnie May were Bryan, Mary, Matt and Nick Garner, Andrea Garcia and Will Carson, all of Amarillo; Donna Majors, Lubbock; Brent and Carol Easterling, Atlanta, Georgia, and Rae Easterling, Salt Springs, Florida.

"The family suggests that memorial contributions be made to the American Heart Association." When people want to honor a loved one and fight heart disease.



1-800-AHA-USA1

This space provided as a public service.
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Individuals or groups may apply. Application forms and instructions for entering are available from Dennis Newton, NACAA 4-H Talent Revue Chairman, Deaf Smith County Extension Office, P. O. Box 953, Hereford, Texas 79045, phone 806-364-3573, or from your local extension agent.

Application deadline will be March 1, 1998. Tapes should be submitted to the address above. Members chosen to participate must be available during July 25-27, 1998, for travel and rehearsal time. Expenses will be paid for each act.

**Silverton School
Lunch Menu**

Monday, Jan. 5--Chili Dog,

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- Area Rugs
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Wednesday, Jan. 7--Ham Slice, Macaroni & Cheese, Broccoli, Blackeyed Peas, Hot Rolls, Milk, Cherry Dessert

Thursday, Jan. 8--Steak Fingers, Gravy, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Hot Rolls, Milk, Honey and Butter

Friday, Jan. 9--Hamburger with Cheese, French Fries, Salad, Milk, Cookie

**Silverton School
Activities**

Jan. 2--Hart, here, 4:00 p.m.
Jan. 5--Hedley Junior High, there, 6:00 p.m.

Jan. 6--Paducah, there, 4:00 p.m.; Interpretation of ASVAB results, Junior Class, 9:45 a.m.

Jan. 8--School Board Meeting
Jan. 8-9-10--Lazbuddie JV Tournament; Hoot-Out Tournament

**LIGHTHOUSE
ASSEMBLY OF GOD**

SUNDAY:
 Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.
 WEDNESDAY:
 Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

**SILVERTON
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Ted Kingery, Minister

SUNDAY:
 Sunday School.....9:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship.....10:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.
 WEDNESDAY:
 Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Jess Craig Little, Pastor

SUNDAY:
 Library Opens.....9:15 a.m.
 Bible Study/S.S.....10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.
 Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.
 SECOND & FOURTH
 TUESDAYS:
 Baptist Women.....9:30 a.m.
 WEDNESDAY:
 Library Opens.....6:30 p.m.
 Bible Study/Prayer.....7:00 p.m.

**SILVERTON UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

Jay Stinson, Pastor

SUNDAY:
 Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
 Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.
 Evening Service.....6:00 p.m.
 SECOND SUNDAY:
 Praise & Worship.....6:00 p.m.
 TUESDAY:
 Unit. Meth. Women.....9:30 a.m.
 WEDNESDAY:
 Choir Practice.....5:00 p.m.
 In-home Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

**NEW FELLOWSHIP
BAPTIST MISSION**

SUNDAY:
 Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.
 Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.
 Training Union.....5:00 p.m.
 Evening Service.....6:00 p.m.
 WEDNESDAY:
 Choir Rehearsal.....7:00 p.m.
 Prayer Service.....8:00 p.m.

**OUR LADY OF LORETO
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Father Ed Graff, Pastor

SUNDAY:
 Mass.....9:00 a.m.
 WEDNESDAY:
 Doctrina Class.....4:30-5:30 p.m.
 Junior & Senior
 High.....4:30-5:30 p.m.

**ROCK CREEK
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

SUNDAY:
 Worship Service.....10:30 a.m.
 Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.
 WEDNESDAY:
 Worship Service.....7:30 p.m.

*The New Year
Should Start
A New
Chapter
In Our Lives*

A brand new year is here at last;
 Twelve months that lie ahead.
 Will they be wasted, like the past,
 Or wisely spent instead?
 Those worthy resolutions made
 Describe your future plan;
 So follow them before they fade,
 And do the best you can.
 To start with, you must learn to share:
 For instance, making sure,
 That clothes which you no longer wear
 Are given to the poor.
 Your House of Worship where you pray
 Will keep your goals in sight,
 And show you there's no better way
 To start the new year right.
 - Gloria Nowak

Well begun is half done.
 - Plato

"Create in me a
 clean heart,
 O God; and renew a
 right spirit within me."
 - Psalm 51:10

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Briscoe County News

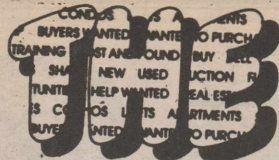
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FOR SALE: Kenmore sewing machine in cabinet. 823-2509. 1-1tc

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FOR SALE: Sofa, Health Rider, Firm Flex, Ab Roller. 823-2426. 50-5tc

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10 to 25% off Selected Items

Dec. 29 - Jan. 5

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HAY FOR SALE: Round bales, \$40. Square bales in barn, \$3. Gerald Smith, 823-2486 or 847-2217. 50-3tc

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ALCOHOLICS Anonymous and Al-Anon Meetings, Tuesdays, 8:00 p.m., 111 N. Wall St. (1 block north of courthouse), Floydada. 1-806-983-3635. 16-tnc

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LOST & FOUND

REWARD: LOST: Two Black Cows and One Steer, weighing about 400 lbs. Branded C on left hip. Leo Comer, 823-2217. 1-1tc

CARD OF THANKS

We would like to send out a special "thank you" to the Silverton Fire Department for coming out and helping fight the fire on our CRP. We were close to losing our home and if it hadn't been for all the help, we would have. It is so nice to live in such a caring community.

Thank you,
The Larry Price Family

Thanks to the Senior Citizens for the groceries they brought me.
Elzora Gallington

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New Year's Eve Dance to Live Band

No one under 21 unless with legal guardian

Kitchen will be open all night

Kelly Kirk Dunbar
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

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The family of Roy Younger wishes to express its heartfelt thanks to the wonderful people of Briscoe County. We appreciate all your visits, phone calls, cards, flowers, food, donations to the local charities, and most of all the prayers during the time Daddy was ill and since his passing.

Again thank you very much.
Lou Younger

Lexier McCutchen, John and Allan

Doug and Jeanetta Bradford and Lance

Lyndall and Lydia Couch, Lyndon and LaShawn

Robert and Lisa Gragson and Cortney

Cynthia Younger, Trenton, Tyra, Martin and Meranda

Thank you so much for the telephone calls, cards and the beautiful poinsettia in the death of my aunt, Oda Birchfield.

A special thanks to Ted and LaVern for taking me to Matador. I appreciate your concern very much.

Sylvia Fogerson

Go Owls & Lady Owls!

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