

WEST TEXAS Country Trader

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Abernathy
Weekly Review
The Canyon News

The Castro County News
The Clarendon News

The Lorenzo
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Plainview Daily Herald
Ralls Reporter-News

Thursday, April 21, 1994

The Slatonite
The Tulla Herald

Michigan troopers in standoff with flock of angry turkeys

IRON MOUNTAIN, Mich. (AP) — A gang of turkeys went for state troopers after causing a fender bender, forcing police to use pepper spray to break them up.

Two cars were forced to stop Friday to avoid the flock that was blocking a road near Iron Mountain in the state's Upper Peninsula. A third car ran into the rear of one of the stopped cars, state police said.

As Trooper Daryl Middleton spoke with a driver about the accident, five or six of the birds were "yelping, clucking and gobbling at him as they moved towards him in an intimidating manner," state police said in a news release.

IT GOT WORSE when Trooper Larry Gasperich started directing traffic around the cars. The birds converged on him, then became even more agitated when Gasperich swatted them with his hat.

That was when he whipped out his Macelike pepper spray and let loose.

"The suspects fled the scene on foot, running down the hill and into a wooded area.



Preplant watering

Gordon Zeigler/AgReview

Faced with a soil profile lacking in moisture at the beginning of the new crop year, many farmers are beginning to replenish the water by turning on center pivots or row watering their fields.

Land bank sees positive impact of last year's crops

By GORDON ZEIGLER
AgReview Writer

One local ag lender, Caprock-Plains Federal Land Bank Association, reports many positive developments in the economy related to last year's crop year.

Many of those positive aspects are reflected in the annual report, released to the membership at the annual meeting Saturday.

More good news comes in an end of year analysis by the FLBA's president, Mike Howell.

"We had a good year," began Howell. "On area farms the cotton crop was above average in both yield and grade."

Howell said as a result added incomes have been pumped into the local economy.

"Farms have made some money," he said. "Thus far we have seen lots of farm improvement activity, particularly in the area of center pivot equipment."

The land bank serves customers in Hale, Briscoe, Floyd, Motley and a portion of Hall

County in the Texas Panhandle.

Howell said that favorable activity has resulted in an increase in capital of the association from \$6.36 to \$6.5 million. Total income for the year was \$419,600. With expenses of \$246,000, the net income for the year totalled \$173,600.

Two land bank directors were re-elected to their terms Saturday. Place I will be served by Dean Turner, 54, a graduate of Flomot High School who has

been engaged in farming and ranching in Matador and Flomot since 1969. He serves on the board of the Rolling Plains PCA and is a former committee-man for the Motley County ASCS office.

Place II will be served again by Ronnie Hopper, 47, who has been engaged in farming in Floyd and Hale Counties for his entire career. He attended Petersburg High School and graduated from Texas Tech University with a

degree in agronomy. He is a producer delegate to the National Cotton Council and a producer representative of the Plains Cotton Growers.

Members also heard the new FLB automated delivery system has cut an average of seven days off loan closings over the past year.

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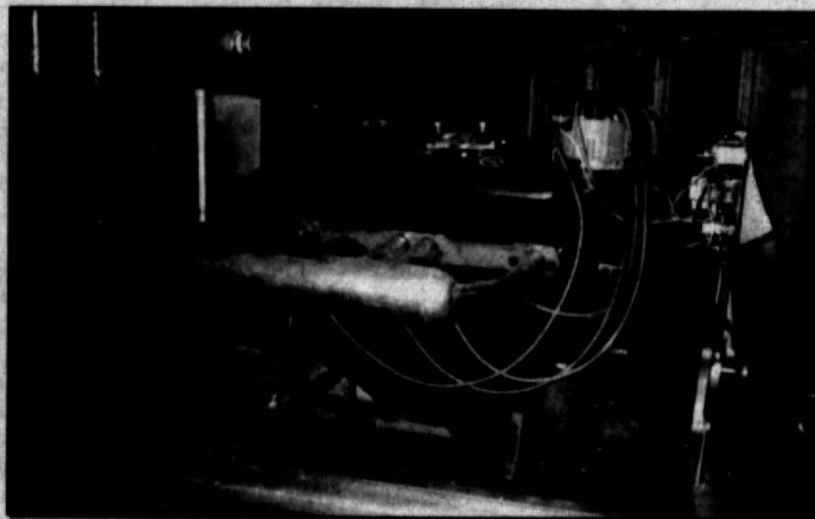
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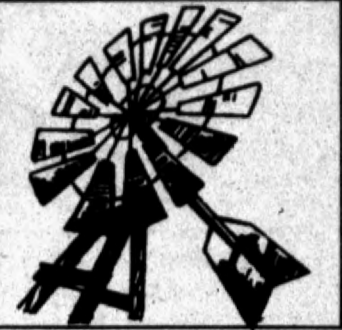
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AgReview



Many came to Texas on 'orphan train'

By SARAH WESTBROOK
The Odessa American

ODESSA — An old rag doll with eyes sewn on but no mouth is more than a keepsake for Odessan George Meason — it's a part of his heritage.

The doll symbolizes a faceless generation of former Orphan Train riders.

Meason was one of 150,000 children who were orphans during the immigration boom which began during the late 1800s in New York City. Through the Children's Aid Society of New York, the children were sent on trains to live with farming families in the country's West and Midwest. The society was created by Charles Loring Brace.

In 1916, Meason was less than 2 years old when he and his siblings were taken from their parents in Brooklyn, N.Y. He said he doesn't know why they were taken or much about his real parents.

After living in several foster homes, Meason was taken into the custody of the society at age 5. He and his siblings were sent to the Brace Farm School in New York for training in farming. Then Meason, his brother, Julius, and his three sisters rode a train to Whitewright, Texas.

Many children lost their identities through the process, Meason said. "When they put you on that train, they put Jewish boys in Catholic churches, they put Catholic kids in Protestant churches and mixed it up," he said.

"I didn't know for years I was German. People told me I was French," Meason said.

He was taken in by a preacher and his wife in Whitewright. One of his sisters also was raised in Whitewright. Another sister grew up in Bailey, Texas, and he said he's not sure where the other sister was raised. Julius was sent to live with a family near Sulfur Springs.

"When we got off the train there in Whitewright and they started to put my brother, Julius, back on the train, we were clutching each other and wouldn't let go," Meason said. "They finally yanked him away from me and we were both crying, and I was saying, 'Don't take him, don't take him.'"

After living in several towns, Meason's foster family moved to the Oak Cliff section of Dallas when he was a teen-ager. It was then that Meason found some information about his brother.

"There was a family that lived

in the house right next door to us. I was out mowing the yard," Meason said. "The lady just kept staring and looking at me. About a day or two later, she asked me if I had a brother, and my mother said yes. And she said, 'Does he live outside of Sulphur Springs on a farm?' and my mother said yes. And she said, 'Is his name Julius?' and (my mother) said yes," Meason recalls. "And she said she had lived right across from him."

Fifteen years after they were separated, Meason went to visit his brother.

Meason and his family later moved to rural Arkansas. After Meason completed high school, he was informed by his parents that he would join the Civilian Conservation Corps. The corps was a work camp established in 1933 as a part of the New Deal to help unemployed citizens.

"They said, 'Well, you're gonna go to the three 'C' camp in the morning, bright and early. You're going to Fayetteville and you're gonna be shipped out.'"

"I said, 'Didn't I have a choice to say anything?' And they said, 'No.'"

While in the CCC, Meason worked in forestry and farming programs.

Life at home became difficult for Meason. "I hardly ever went home because every time it was 'You got any money?' I don't know where they thought I was gonna get a lot of money. After 18 months, Meason was discharged from the corps.

Meason and his wife, Audie, came to Odessa in the late 1930s from Bailey, Texas, looking for work.

He said he was asked once if he liked his foster parents. "I said, 'They gave me a home when I was just a kid. But when you're a kid and you're growing out from under people who don't have any children ... you get to be a burden and an expense to them, and they realize that they made a mistake,'" Meason said.

Although Meason had an unsteady relationship with the parents who raised him, he and his wife took care of them in their later years until they died.

"The hardest part of it was the way that they were using me. It got back to the same old grind," he said.

Four years ago, Meason saw his brother for the last time and relived the time they were separated as children. "The last time I saw Julius alive, we had been to a meeting up in Arkansas. When I

left there, it was in reverse," Meason said.

"Julius was holding onto me, trying to keep me from coming home. We had our crying sessions that time just as we did the last time when we were pulled apart. And I never got to see my brother alive after that."

Meason's sisters — Elizabeth, Carolyn and Anna — are still alive.

He said about 300 to 500 Orphan Train riders are still alive. They attend annual meetings for the Orphan Train Heritage Society of America in eight states. Meason and his wife will attend a meeting this weekend in Waxahachie.

"We were never in the history books," he said. "They took (the orphans) out to the farming areas so that the farmer could put them to work just like the white man did with the slave. Some of them were taken because (they were loved), but there was more of them that were white slaves more than they were being loved by the people that took them."

Several years passed before Meason told his wife about his upbringing, in part because the orphans were never encouraged to share their experiences.

South Plains

Ag News

May 28

FLOYD COUNTY OLD SETTLERS — Day of celebrating and fun, plus a parade including antique tractors.

June 11

ARMSTRONG FARM TRACTOR PLAYDAY — Paul and Jackie Armstrong of Amarillo will host their annual tractor show on their farm 3 1/2 miles west of Hart on FM 145, then three miles south. A slow race, parade and plowing contest will be held.

July 9

LEVELLAND CELEBRATION AND TRACTOR PARADE — Parade and celebration including old tractors. For information contact Preston Reeves.

Haunt of 'Dr. Pepper' fades into history

c.1994 N.Y. Times News Service

RURAL RETREAT, Va. — In a brick pharmacy in this hollow of the Blue Ridge Mountains, a former Confederate surgeon named Dr. Charles T. Pepper dispensed patent medicines in what was then fast becoming the "Cabbage Capital of the World."

At least that's how the people of this hamlet saw it. Local legend says that Dr. Pepper also spent time mixing mountain herbs, roots and seltzer into a fizzy brew, which his assistant later mass-produced.

The assistant, Wade Morrison, moved to Texas and went on to fame and fortune as the creator of a best-selling American soft drink. Dr. Pepper went on to fame, but no fortune, as the brew's namesake.

And the pharmacy? Despite its brush with greatness, it never became a tourist draw. Instead, while electronic cash registers and computerized gas pumps infested small-town America, Rural Retreat Drug Store remained for more than 100 years an oasis where clerks read mail to unschooled neighbors, remembered birthdays and filled prescriptions on credit until a customer's Social Security check arrived.

Friday night, the pharmacy's rusty screen door screeched shut for the last time. The owners drewled "uncle," yielding to super-

stores and mail order catalogues.

"Nowadays, if you're not big business, you're not in business," said W. Baynard Barton 3d, Rural Retreat's last pharmacist.

The nearest competitor is a dozen miles away. But the 995 residents of Rural Retreat will miss more than the convenience of a drugstore that was a gentle stroll away from Econo-wash, the laundromat that doubles as a public library.

Sixty-nine-year-old Nettie Sage, for example, can't make out the labels on her medicines. So the folks at the drugstore put her pills in different-colored bottles.

Mrs. Sage says that over the years all she's had to do was call up and say she was "out of the blue ones," and the druggist would know she needed her "easin' pills," as she calls painkillers.

Walter Wynn, a retired farmer known to everyone as Chubeye, has routinely brought in his mail, proudly presenting it to the pharmacy manager, Shirley Hawthorne.

"Got somethin' here to read Shirl," he'd say. And she would leave her post to give him the latest news from his older brother in Maryland.

The pharmacy's owners, the Counts family of Wytheville, about 11 miles north of here, say they were selling just 55 prescriptions a day and figured they needed 80 to stay afloat.

"This place hasn't paid its bills in some time," said Barton, the pharmacist.

But then many a down-home pharmacy seems to be going the way of spittoons and scratch cooking.

After staying stable through the 1980s, the number of independent pharmacies nationwide dropped from 40,000 to about 39,000 in the last two years, according to the National Association of Retail Druggists.

Todd T. Dankmyer, the group's spokesman, attributed the decline to the restrictions that insurance companies have imposed on the pharmacies that policyholders can use; to drug manufacturers' price breaks for large vendors, and to the growing popularity of mail-order drugs.

"The insurance companies cherry-pick their pharmacies, and the small towns lose," Dankmyer said. A packing box in the back of the Rural Retreat Drug Store brims with mugs painted with the names Earl, Cecil, Kermit, Emil, Ernest and the rest of the gang that used to sip coffee around the pot-bellied stove, whittling and swapping lies.

"No rules, just so they didn't talk ugly when there were women in here," recalled Rebecca F. Heldreth, whose father, Johnny Frye, owned the store for more than 40 years.

Frye turned the plank-

floored shop at the corner of Main Street and Railroad Avenue into what is known in these parts as a "jot 'em down store": if an item was on a customer's shopping list, he probably stocked it.

Frye, who was also the town's Greyhound Bus agent, worked in the store for at least 11 hours every weekday, except for the times he took off to sing at a customer's funeral.

"He called all the children 'George,' whether they were boys or girls," said his granddaughter, Dianne H. Jonas, who used to help out after school.

Mrs. Heldreth, who owns the building, figures that a general store opened on the ground floor around 1835. The town boomed when the railroad came through in 1856. James A. Ball, the historian for Dr. Pepper/Seven-Up Companies Inc., the Dallas firm that produces the soft drink, said Dr. Pepper bought the store around 1872 and turned it into a thriving pharmacy.

Friday, Josie Gordon, a retired garment maker who grew up on a nearby farm, watched as workers removed the store's counters. At age 71, she fears that she will outlive not only the drug store but also her hometown.

"If Williams Superette closes," she said, "we'll bury Rural Retreat and not put no flowers on it."

US has new apple varieties

By MARGARET SCHERF
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ag Department scientists are releasing three new Golden Delicious dwarf apple trees that will be bred for future commercial varieties.

"Although an ideal size for home gardeners, these new dwarf trees require more crossbreeding for fruit flavor and other desirable characteristics," said Miklos Faust of the Agricultural Research Service Vegetable Laboratory in Beltsville, Md.

He said dwarf trees' advantages include easier pruning, spraying and harvesting. They also are more productive because the extra carbohydrates normally expended on vegetative growth goes instead into making the fruit.

And because of fewer branches, sunlight, which is responsible for photosynthesis, more readily penetrates a dwarf tree than a normal size tree.

"These are genetic dwarfs, meaning that the dwarfing occurs in the tops of the trees rather than in the roots as is normally the case with dwarf trees," Faust said. "Their compact size comes from the short distance between nodes."

The nodes are the places along a tree branch from which

leaves grow. The distance between nodes is called internodes.

The three new releases, which as yet have no names, have the following characteristics:

US B1 — Grows to 5 feet, making it the smallest of the three trees. Keeps forming internodes and new leaves until very late fall. Bears fair-quality fruit.

US B2 — Reaches about 7 feet. Golden Delicious fruit retains green color for a long time and matures in late October.

US B3 — Grows to about 10 feet, making it the largest of the new introductions. Its later-ripening, medium-quality fruit has a woody taste.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Agriculture Department field offices of the future are being examined at focus group studies in eight states through this week.

The aim is to provide the department information about improving customer service and determining technology requirements for field offices.

The focus groups are meeting in California, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oregon, Texas and Vermont.

Four focus groups are formed at each location and represent current and potential USDA

customers, agriculture support groups and department employees.

WASHINGTON (AP) — There were 5.56 billion eggs produced in the United States during February, up 2 percent from the number produced in the same month of 1993.

Laying hens totaled 289 million on March 1, compared with 282 million a year earlier.

The rate of lay per day averaged 69.6 eggs per 100 layers, up fractionally from last year's 69.4 eggs per 100 layers.

Woman beat cancer, but lost to shark

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A woman authorities believe was killed by a great white shark had recently won her battle against leukemia, her friends and co-workers say.

Friends identified the mutilated body of a 25-year-old woman found floating off a popular surfing spot as that of Michelle Von Emster of Ocean Beach.

"What happened is really a shame because she had a lot of tough-going in her life," said Denise Knox, owner of the stationery and office supply store where Von Emster worked as a clerk. "What she told us was that she had been in remission the past two years from leukemia."

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Onions to be sweet, plentiful this year

By ELLIOTT MINOR

Associated Press Writer

VIDALIA, Ga. (AP) — Farmers are preparing to harvest Georgia's largest crop of sweet-tasting Vidalia onions.

In Vidalia, the southeast Georgia town of 11,000 that gave the famous onions their name, convenience stores are already selling onions that ripened early. By the end of the month, farmers will be shipping onions all over the United States.

The crop has been spared from the usual perils — freezing temperatures, high winds and diseases — and the Georgia Agricultural Statistics Service rates it as 100 percent good. Growers planted a record 10,768 acres this year, up 2,468 acres from last year.

Growers claim Vidalias are the sweetest onions in the world because of the low-sulfur soil in the growing area. By state law, onions can be labeled as

Vidalias only if they come from a designated 13 counties and portions of seven others.

Vidalias are Georgia's official state vegetable. All 235 growers and packers have to be registered with the state Department of Agriculture.

"They are the original sweet onion," said Shirley Manchester, manager of the Vidalia Onion Committee, a promotional group. "You don't have onion breath. They're the onion for lovers."

Hundreds of farm workers will gather in the fields this week as

the harvest moves into full swing. A blade pulled by a tractor loosens the soil, then the workers pull the onions and clip the roots and tops.

"I think we're going to have a good quality crop and average yields," said Toombs County grower R.T. Stanley, who started with five acres in '84.

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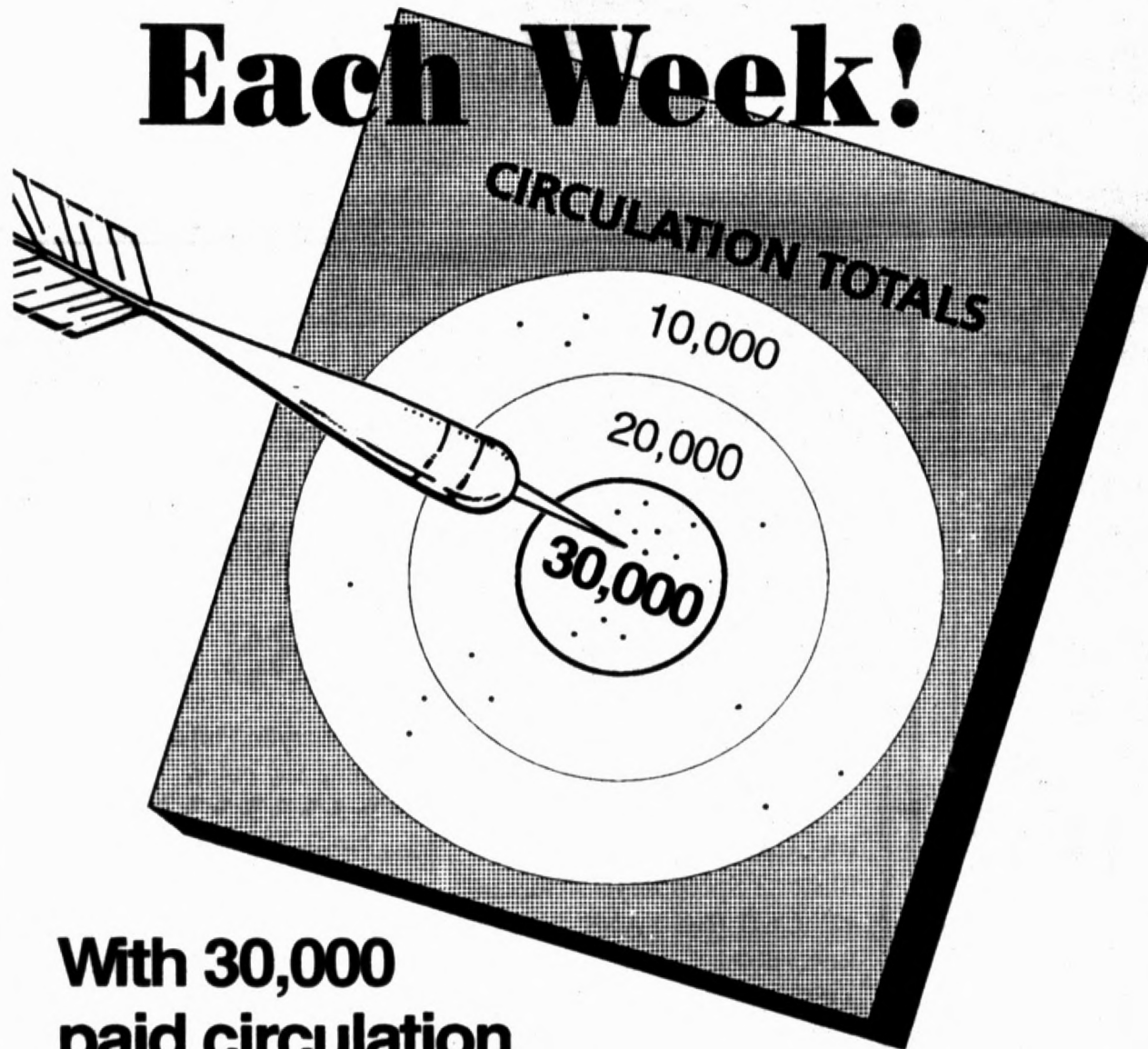
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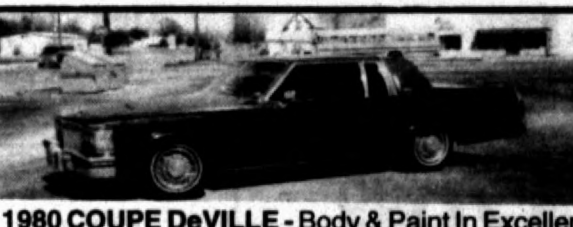
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Computers soon to print letters via xerox machines

Seeking to promote plateless printing, Xerox Corp. is expected to announce Tuesday that it has developed software to link computer terminals and scanners with high-speed copiers, regardless of location or manufacturer.

The company said the system, which it is calling the Document Services Platform, will be available to others in the field, including competitors.

"In the past, the systems have been closed, and they have not taken off," Colin O'Brien, a Xerox vice president, said. "This system is open, so our competitors can connect as well. This is the way the whole computer world is going."

The effort to substitute digital documents for printing plates is an attack on the offset printing industry, for which Xerox estimates the worldwide market is \$93 billion a year.

Instead of simply copying a page at a time, new machines developed by Xerox and others can receive data files describing

many pages over telephone lines, then print, collate and bind documents the size of books at speeds of up to 135 pages a minute.

One of the early targets is the market for textbooks, which often contain material not needed for a particular course. With access to a data base containing multiple texts and a Xerox-type printer on hand, college bookstores could customize texts and print just enough for the students enrolled in the course.

"The warehouse goes away," O'Brien said. With the ability to print locally, bookstores would not have to stock extra books. McGraw-Hill Inc. has had such a system since 1989 for its texts, but Xerox officials said it had not been adopted by other publishers because it was proprietary.

Offset printing requires metal plates and wet ink to put an impression on a page. Offset presses have to be carefully adjusted before they can be started.

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VEHICLES

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1—Pr. Front Fenders & Brackets to fit 7140 Case IH, M.F.W.D.
1—1980 John Deere 4640 Diesel Tractor, Quad Range Wts.
1—1980 John Deere 4440 Diesel Tractor, Quad Range Wts.
1—1975 IHC 1086 Diesel Tractor, 4 sp. h/v, Wts., 3850 hrs.
1—Farrall 450 Gas Tractor w/Frt. Blade & Rear Backhoe, A.H.
1—Farrall 450 Tractor w/Wide Frt., PTO, 2 pt. hitch
1—1974 John Deere 4430 Diesel Tractor (needs major repair)
1—Allis Chalmers 7080 Diesel Tractor (no motor)
1—1984 John Deere 4020 Diesel Tractor w/Cab
COMBINE, MODULE BUILDER, STRIPPER BOWL BUGGY—
1—1981 Allis Chalmers N-7 Diesel Combine, 30.5x32 Frt. Tires, 12.4x24 Rear Tires, SN 2487
1—Allis Chalmers 8 row 40" Corn Header w/Corn Saver
1—Allis Chalmers 28' Platform Grain Header, #327
1—CMC 30' Cotton Module Builder, Hyd. driven
2—John Deere 283 Tractor Mt. Cotton Strippers
1—2 Wheel Header Trailer
1—Big 12 Model 12C Bowl Buggy 12,000 lb.
TRUCKS, GRAIN CARTS—
1—1971 Chevy T.A. Grain Truck w/4 sp., V-8 20' Dump Bed
1—1969 Ford T.A. Grain Truck w/Dump Bed
1—1970 Chevy T.A. Grain Truck (was dropped on elevator lift)
1—1989 GMC T.A. Truck Tractor, 5 sp-2sp, V8
1—1968 IH T.A. Truck Tractor, 5 sp, V8, Saddle Tanks
1—1981 Freightliner Cabover T.A. Truck Tractor, 10 sp, 220 Cummins
1—32' T.A. Flat Trailer
1—32' T.A. Hopper Bottom Grain Trailer w/wood sides
2—1 Big 12, 1 P&W Grain Carts
LIVESTOCK & HAY EQUIPMENT, 2 WAY RADIOS—
1—4 Bale Round Bale Feeder Trailer
2—W&W Cattle Working Chutes
4—Stock Tanks, 3-7 FL, 1-8 FL
2—Round Bale Hay Rings
1—1/2 Round Squeeze Chute w/curved lead in chute
1—20' Lead up Chute
1—Palpatting Divider Gate
30—Portable 16' Stock Panels
1—Bearcat #1280 Portable P.T.O. Grinder/Mixer/Hay Feed
1—Heston #10 Stackhand
2—Standard Mobile 2 Way Radios
1—Standard Hand Held 2 Way Radio
EQUIPMENT, PLOW MAKE-UP—
1—Landall 13 Shank V-Ripper w/D.G.W.
1—Doral 9 Shank Interrow Ripper Plow
2—8 Row Lilliston Rolling Cultivators, 1 4x8 Bar
2—John Deere 8 Row 40" Maxicage Planters w/insecticide Boxes
1—John Deere 71 6 Row Flex Planter w/Roller
16—John Deere 71 Flex Planter Row Units
1—IH 510 Grain Drill 16x10" D.T.
2—Tye 6 Row 3 Pt. Grain Drill
2—4 Row D.T. Grain Drills (1 converted to 3 pt.)
2—21' Kawasoe Tandem Disc w/D.G.W.
1—18' Miller Offset Disc w/D.G.W.
1—14' John Deere Offset Disc (V.G.)
2—14' IH 37 Tandem Disc
1—21' Kraus Offset Disc (for parts)
1—21' R.O.C. Chisel Plow, trip, 4x4 Bar, G.W.
1—21' Stubble Mutch Plow, trip, 4x4 Bar
1—8 Row Cultivator Double 4x4 Bar, w/John Deere Cultivator Gangs
2—John Deere 400 8 Row Rotary Hoe
1—John Deere 6 Row Rotary Hoe
1—Noble 45' Field Cultivator
1—John Deere 6 Row Rolling Cultivator
1—8 Row Red Weeder on D.D.B.
1—28' Serrmons Land Floot
1—12' Eversman Land Floot
1—64' Stratford Land Plane
1—8 Row R.O.C. Disc Lister w/Hyd. Markers, D.G.W. Drags
1—5 Bottom Oliver R/O Breaking Plow
1—4 Bottom John Deere R/O Breaking Plow
2—G184 Caldwell 4 Row Shredders
2—John Deere 1408 4 Row, 3 Pt. Shredders
1—Brillon 4 Row D.T. Shredder
1—7 Shank V-Ripper
1—2 Row 3 Pt. Shredder
1—Howard 3 Pt., 80" Rotovator
1—Reynolds 484 Plowing Scraper
1—Eversman 6-1/2 yd. Earth Mover

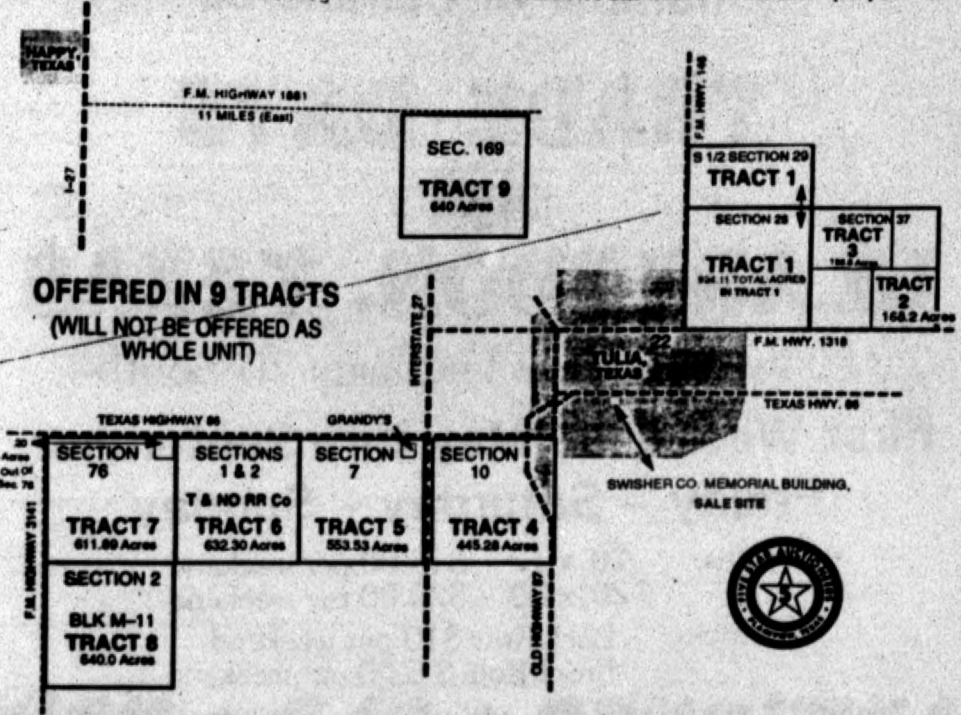
- 2—8 Row x 30' Bed Rollers
1—14' Roller on 2" Pipe Frame w/3 Pt.
3—4 Row Hoems, 2 D.T., 1 3 Pt.
1—Hyd. Plow Mover, pulls behind Pick-up
2—10' Sections R.O.C. Spider Mulchers
1—4 Row Rolling Cultivator, D.D.B.
4—D.D.B. Toolbars, w/assorted parts
1—John Deere 8' All Hyd. Blade (near new)
2—7' All Angle Big Ox Blades, 1 All Hyd.
2—3 Ft. Post Hole Diggers
2—Bally Int. Rope Wick Applicators
8—40' Knife Heads
2—Section Harrows, 1-2, 1-3 Sect.
8—Lilliston Rolling Cultivator Gangs
1—Pr. Wyle Sprayer Seats
1—Pr. 18.5x38 Tractor Tires
15—Lilliston Cultivator Frt. Spider Row Units
1—8 Row Eversman Bed Shaper Att.
1—Pr. 2-1/4" Bar Gauge Wheels
1—5 Row D.T. Stalk Cutter
1—3 Bottom Lister on 2-1/4" Bar
5—Ripper Shanks & Points
1—2 to 3 Pt. Hitch Adapter
2—25' R.R. Irons
7—18' Bullet Drags
1—Lot Shanks, Sweeps, Clamps, Etc.
1—Pr. Great Plains Drill Hyd. Markers
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1—1986 Olds Firenza 2 Dr. Car w/4 Cyl., 5 sp.
1—1979 VW Bus Van, 4 Cyl., 4 sp., 9 passenger
1—14' T.A. Open Top Stock Trailer
3—16' T.A. Heavy Duty Utility Trailers (new)
2—2 Wheel Pickup Bed Trailers, 1 w/Topper
2—1 S-10 Pickup Topper for L.W.B., 1-Dodge Dakota S.W.B. Pickup Topper
1—6x10' Dump Bed S.A. Trailer
WATER TRAILER, TANKS—
1—1000 Gal. Water Tank on 4 Wheel J.D. Chassis
2—3,000 Gal. Poly Storage Tanks
1—1500 Gal. Poly Storage Tank
1—500 Gal. Propane Tank
1—300 Gal. Liquid Tank
1—82 Gal. Pickup Butane System
IRRIGATION ENGINES & EQUIPMENT—
1—448 IH Well Engine
4—800 MM Well Engine
1—HD 605 MM Well Engine
1—John Deere 6414T Diesel Irrigation Engine
1—Isuzu 6881 90 h.p. Diesel Ir. Engine
1—Ford 300 Irig. Eng. w/Map.
1—Johnson 5 to 6 Gear Head
1—1000 Gal. Booster Pump, Motor, Tank (needs repair)
1—7' Waterman Sarge Valve (needs repair)
6—Joins 6"x30"x27' Gated Pipe
80—Joins 6"x80' Gated Pipe
80—Joins 7"x80' Gated Pipe
15-12" Hydrants
15-10" & 12" Rear Taps
150—Joins 6"x40' Gated Pipe
20—Assorted Hydrants
3—3" Submersible Pumps, 1 ph. and 3 ph.
1—Dobbs 15 h.p. Floating Lake Pump
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1—Wheelbarrow
1—Pick-up Bed Tool Box
2—Shop Welders
1—Lot Approx. 2000' Highway Guard Rail
1—Lot Approx. 100 Shs. Used Sheet Iron
1—Lot 407 1-1/4" & 2" Structural Pipe
10—32' Angle Iron Trusses
1—Pickup Bed Gas Tank
1—Porch Swing
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Note: Representation of year, make, model and condition of merchandise listed above is believed to be correct, but is not guaranteed to be correct. Any announcement Sale Day takes precedence over any other announcement written or otherwise.

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MANNER OF AUCTION: Each Tract will be offered by the Dollar X Acres in each Tract to obtain Total Price.

Information obtained herein is believed to be true; however, any mistakes or corrections will be made Sale Day with Any Announcement Sale Day Taking Precedence. Seller will have 30 minutes to Accept or Reject Any or All Bids.

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Lead risk now seen in well water

By JOHN H. CUSHMAN

c. N.Y. Times

WASHINGTON — The Environmental Protection Agency Monday advised hundreds of thousands of people who drink from private wells to switch temporarily to bottled water and to test for possible lead contamination from pumps installed in the past year.

Citing new experimental data, the agency recommended that millions of other households with older pumps should also have the tests done while continuing to use well water.

The agency said the pumps in question, which are submerged in the wells and contain components made of lead alloys, were more likely to cause pollution when they were new.

Scientists and lawyers working for the environmental groups whose research prompted the government's action said that most of the 450,000 submersible pumps sold last year contained lead. They said that 30 million people might drink water from wells equipped with submersible pumps made of lead alloys.

Consuming even very small amounts of lead can cause irreversible brain damage, intellectual and developmental problems, and other ailments, especially in fetuses or young children. Lead poisoning is widely regarded as the most serious environmental problem facing children in this country.

Two environmental groups and the California Attorney General filed lawsuits Monday in a state court against four major manufacturers of submersible pumps with parts cast from lead-based brass and bronze, after detailed laboratory tests found that very high levels of lead can leach from the pumps into water, especially in the first month or so of use. The federal agency's warning was based on these tests.

The laboratory found

lead contamination coming from these four pump models: the F.E. Myers Co.'s Predator II; Aermotor Pumps Inc.'s model LR5857; Goulds Pumps Inc.'s model 10EJ054, and Sta-Rite Industries' Signature 2000.

Other companies also make pumps containing lead, and most suppliers make some lead-free models. Two companies that were sued Monday, Goulds Pump and Sta-Rite, both announced that they would stop selling lead-based pumps in California and would provide alternative products in California soon.

The environmental groups urged all pump manufacturers to recall all their lead-based products nationwide, and urged Congress to address the problem in the Safe Drinking Water Act, which is scheduled to be debated this week in the Senate.

People who do not know if their water supplies are affected should probably have their water tested if they do not pay water bills to a public water system, the groups advised. Public water systems are already tested by law.

The lawsuit, seeking a ban on new sales of the pumps and a refund of the purchase price so that the pumps can be replaced by lead-free brands, was filed under California's strict law governing toxic pollution, and would not directly affect residents of other states.

The environmental groups said that lead-free stainless steel pumps were safe and were readily available. The Federal agency said its advice did not apply to households using pumps that were known to be lead-free.

"I don't want to put the children of this country at risk," said the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Carol M. Browner, explaining the unusually quick response to a study conducted outside the agency.

"One out of six children in this country are at risk of lead exposure, from a variety of sources," she said. "This is preventable. It doesn't have to happen."

Among the most common sources of lead exposure are old paint and lead plumbing, but there are many other possible sources, and even tiny amounts of lead in the water can cause damage when combined with other sources.

Recent medical research has found no known safe level for lead exposure.

The environmental agency considers 15 parts per billion of lead in water to violate health standards in public water supplies. Water drawn directly from the pumps that were tested contained lead concentrations at levels of hundreds or even thousands of parts per billion. The tests did not measure the concentration of lead in water running out of taps in households equipped with the pumps.

At the concentrations found in the laboratory tests, a child drinking several glasses of water a day for a month could easily accumulate dangerous levels of lead in the blood and body tissues.

Contaminated water from a pump would be diluted in a well or a storage tank, but it is impossible to say exactly how much dilution would occur. The researchers suggested that even after dilution in a typical well, the lead levels might still exceed 15 parts per billion.

That would depend on how and when the water is run, the researchers said. But their study found that the pumps were "likely to contribute a significant amount of lead to the water supply of a home served by a well."

The laboratory study was conducted by the University of North Carolina's environmental laboratory in

Asheville.

The laboratory previously detected high levels of lead in water drawn from wells, but it had always assumed that this was because relatively acidic untreated water from wells was drawing the lead out of solder and other sources of lead in residential plumbing.

The North Carolina study was the first known publication of results from controlled laboratory tests examining how lead leaches from submersible water pumps.

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Fiber optic network spreads cross the Midwest

By MARTIN ROSENBERG
c. 1994 Kansas City Star

OMAHA, Neb. — US West crews, furrowing through Omaha's back yards, last week (APRIL 11) began installing delicate glass fiber that in a few months will pulsate with video and retail offerings.

More than 2,500 residential customers soon will be able to order movies on demand, shop, play interactive games and do much more. By the end of the summer, 60,000 homes will be able to plug in.

It's hardly a picture of a short-circuited information highway.

Yes, a few gigantic deals between telephone and cable industry giants have crashed recently. But US West and Time Warner Inc. are proceeding to build the country's first multimedia networks that eventually will reach Kansas City.

With little fanfare, the rewiring of America has begun.

"When the Industrial Revolution was taking place, no one knew it was taking place on the first day," said Richard D. McCormick, US West chairman, during a recent interview in Denver, where the company is based.

Soon, US West will take the information revolution to other cities in its 14-state network, installing systems in Denver, Minneapolis, Portland and Boise.

Starting next year, US West plans to add 500,000 homes a year through the rest of the decade.

Ultimately, Kansas City will benefit, since Time Warner is half-owner of American Cablevision, the city's largest cable operator.

"We'll be in some cities faster than others," said Tom Pardun, president of US West's Multimedia Group and formerly with Sprint Corp.

But whatever the pace, US West seems well out front in deploying multimedia networks. How did it get there?

"Their strategy is well articulated and well thought out," said Howard Anderson, president of the Yankee Group in Boston. "They are not like the old regional Bell operating companies."

US West has been preparing for the new multimedia age for years, developing strategies to capitalize on new technologies.

In the United Kingdom, US West and another Denver company, Tele-

Communications Inc., plan to build a system of phone and video services for 3.3 million homes through 24 franchises. TCI is the largest cable company in the United States.

US West has long courted executive talent from outside the staid, regulated telephone world to better prepare for change. Of the top 44 officials directly under McCormick, almost half came from outside the phone industry. Some have connections with Kansas City, either by birth or through career moves.

Today, strategic planners are in daily touch with a wide variety of companies — including Sprint — that are playing a role in developing new information services.

"No one can do it alone," Pardun said. "We'll do it with many dozens of companies as we evolve this thing."

In charge of coordinating the company's evolving strategy is Charles M. Lillis, a native of Kansas City, Kan., who each month has contact with 30 to 40 companies.

"Nearly every telephone company, most cable companies, some entertainment companies and most software companies are basically all talking to each other," said Lillis, executive vice president and chief plan-

ning officer.

Companies are searching out potential business alliances or acquisitions.

While building its network, US West — like other regulated phone companies — is eager to win more regulatory freedoms.

But US West has decided not to hold up its network investment, totaling \$750 million over the next two years, until those freedoms are realized.

"In our case, we haven't put it to regulators as a quid pro quo," McCormick said. "The marketplace is going to develop before all regulatory structures are set to handle it."

In contrast, Southwestern Bell has struggled for years in Missouri and Kansas to convince regulators and legislators it must have regulatory freedom before it will fully invest in new technologies.

That raises the question: Is US West gambling by erecting an expensive multimedia network before its appeal with consumers has been proven, and before regulators have loosened restrictions on phone companies?

For example, as of today, US West cannot supply any of the programming that it will carry over its network.

The risk is not as large as many suspect, US West answers.

To be successful, multimedia network operators do not have to get consumers to spend vastly more on entertainment, news, education or shopping. The new networks only have to change consumer habits and "redivide the pie" of current spending, US West executives said.

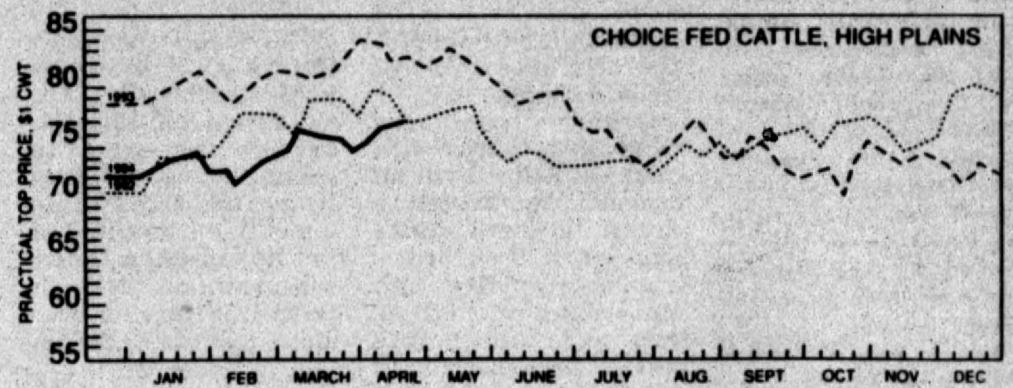
"There will a lot of replacement of dollars people already spend through other means,"

said James M. Osterhoff, US West executive vice president and chief financial officer. "We don't have to rely on people spending a whole lot more than before."

Retailers' catalog sales, for instance, are about \$50 billion a year. If catalogs are no longer printed but instead available over interactive networks, network operators such as US West could

tap 4 to 5 percent of sales or \$2 billion a year.

Likewise, consumers will not necessarily spend billions more on video rentals. They simply will stop visiting the local video store and instead order their preferred movie with a signal sent over US West lines to a movie studio or video provider.



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The above report reflects market activity through Apr. 15.

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Supreme Court to consider ban on gun toting near U.S. schools

By LINDA GREENHOUSE
c. 1994 N.Y. Times

WASHINGTON — In a case with implications for an array of federal gun control measures, the Supreme Court agreed Monday to decide whether Congress has the constitutional authority to ban the possession of guns near school buildings.

The case is an appeal by the Clinton administration from a federal appellate court ruling that invalidated the Gun Free School Zones Act of 1990, which makes it a federal crime to possess firearms within 1,000 feet of a school.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in New Orleans, ruled that Congress had failed to specify that it had the power to enact the law as part of its authority to regulate interstate commerce.

The appellate court also suggested more broadly that because the law intruded into realms of traditional state control over education and gun ownership, it might be unconstitutional even if its sponsors had included language invoking Congressional authority over interstate commerce.

The Supreme Court has given such a broad interpretation to the power of Congress to regulate interstate commerce that it is highly unusual for a federal law to be struck down on commerce clause grounds.

The law at issue in this case, *United States v. Lopez*, No. 93-1260, is unusual, however.

Unlike other federal laws that regulate firearms transactions at the point of sale by licensing dealers or, as in the case of the new Brady law, by imposing a five-day waiting period on purchases, the Gun Free School Zones Act makes the offense one of simple possession.

In his opinion declaring the law unconstitutional, Judge William Garwood of the 5th Circuit gave this description of the statute's scope:

"The Gun Free School Zones Act extends to criminalize any person's carrying of any unloaded shotgun, in an unlocked pickup truck gun rack, while driving on a county road that at one turn happens to come within 950 feet of the boundary of the grounds of a one-room church kindergarten located on the other side of a river, even during the summer when the kindergarten is not in session."

The federal courts are split over the law's constitutionality; most recently, a federal appellate court panel in San Francisco upheld

it. There are a growing number of contradictory district court rulings as well.

In response to the 5th Circuit ruling, the Senate has passed an amended version of the law, stating explicitly that gun possession near school buildings affects interstate commerce. A similar amendment is awaiting action in the House. But under the 5th Circuit's analysis, it is not clear whether the amendment would suffice to make the law constitutional.

Other measures pending in Congress as part of the overall crime bill might also be found deficient under the 5th Circuit's approach, although those measures include explicit statements about the interstate commerce rationale. The proposals include a ban on ownership of assault weapons and on gun ownership by children.

The Brady law, which took effect on March 1, does not include an interstate commerce statement but it appears to be safe from constitutional challenge even under the appellate court's approach.

The law was enacted as an amendment to an earlier federal law, the Gun Control Act of 1968, which does include such a statement, and which the 5th Circuit cited with approval in its opinion striking down the 1990 law.

Regulation of firearms sales, as opposed to simple possession, has generally been regarded by the courts as having a direct link to interstate commerce.

The appellate court decision overturned the conviction of a man who, as a high school senior in San Antonio, Texas, had carried a

concealed pistol and five .38-caliber cartridges into the school, intending to use the gun in a gang war. School officials found the gun because of an anonymous tip.

The student, Alfonso Lopez Jr., was convicted of violating the Gun Free School Zones Act and sentenced to six months in prison. The U.S. District Court had earlier rejected his constitutional challenge to the law.

The Senate sponsor of the law, Sen. Herb Kohl, said Monday that more than 200,000 children bring guns to school every day. "Congress tried to do something about it, and I'm hopeful the Court will insure our authority to legislate in this area," said Kohl, D-Wis.

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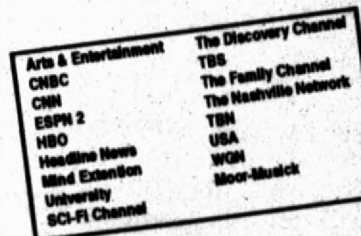
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