

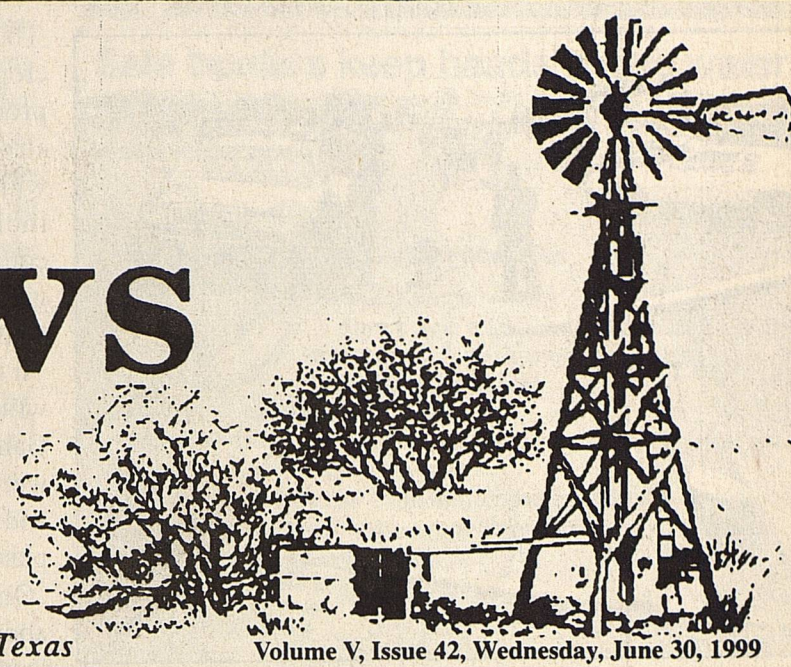
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Cowboy Country News



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

Volume V, Issue 42, Wednesday, June 30, 1999

LCEC completes conversion of electric system in city

No one ever told them it would be easy, or be accomplished overnight. When all the i's were dotted and t's crossed in the sales agreement between the City of Plains and Lea County Electric for the cooperative's purchase of the city electrical system on October 1, 1998, work began immediately to update the old distribution system.

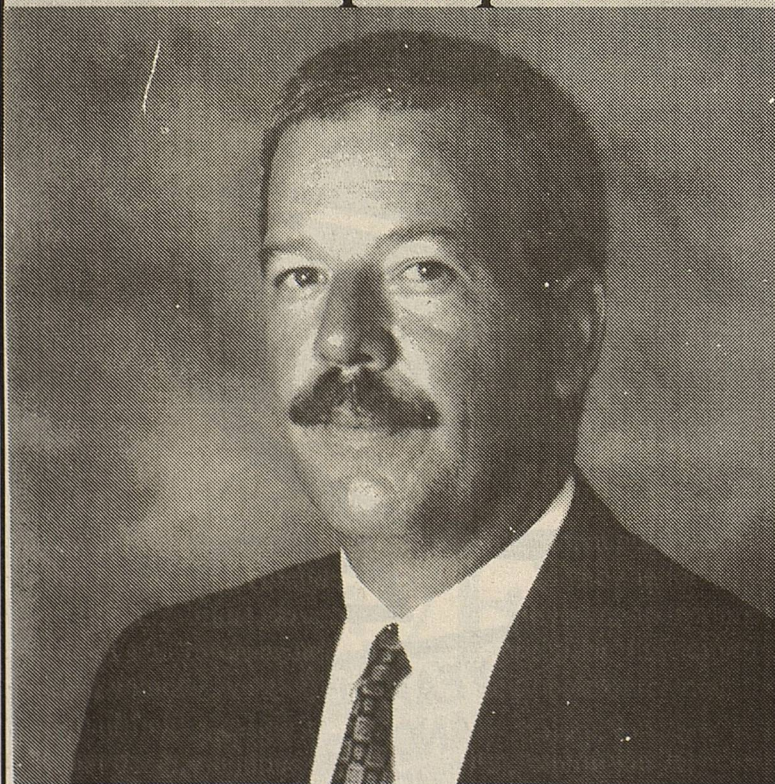
Line crews were brought in here from Lea County Electric's home office in Lovington, the Tatum office and the local service office. Almost two dozen men were involved in the large, difficult and often hazardous task. At one time this summer, eleven vehicles were utilized in a two city block area near the baseball field.

Converting, updating the archaic city system was no cheap project for the cooperative. In the little more than eight and one half months of work, involving thousands of manpower hours by the crews, the logistics of equipment used and replaced are impressive. The sale of the utility resulted in LCEC absorbing 837 former City of Plains electric poles. Over 10 miles of city power lines were retired or replaced. 112 new electric poles were installed by LCEC. 197 LCEC transformers were either upgraded or added.

Despite the size of the task, and delays caused by bad weather the line crews accomplished the conversion work in a relatively short period of time. Management officials of the cooperative expressed their pleasure with the pace of the work, and the fact no serious accidents occurred.

At some point in the future, Lea County Electric will have another project to complete here. The cooperative assisted Plains ISD by removing old utility poles at the site of the new baseball field. Prior to the start of next season, they will assist with installing a new lighting system for night games.

Judge Moore to handle Wiretap Requests



Judge Kelly G. Moore

Michael J. McCormick, Presiding Judge of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in Austin, has announced his appointment of District Judge Kelly G. Moore as the judge in the Ninth Administrative Judicial Region solely authorized to issue search warrants for the interception and use of wire, oral or electronic communications, commonly known as wiretaps.

In addition to his regular duties as judge of the 121st District Court covering Terry and Yoakum Counties, Judge

Moore will be responsible for considering requests from law enforcement in the 45 counties of the Ninth Administrative Judicial Region for authority to conduct wiretap investigations. By law, the Presiding Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals selects nine district judges in the state, one from each of the Administrative Judicial Regions, to consider the requests. Judge Moore has indicated that the number of applications is relatively small, and should not take substantial time away from the performance of his regular duties.

Plains ISD selects from within own ranks for two administrative posts

Trustees name Eddie Carter, Vernon Hise Junior High and Elementary School Principals

A pet theory found in many publications dealing with business personnel practices is, "When top management people are lost, the search for their replacements should begin within the organization. Those with all proper qualifications should be seriously considered before recruiting from other sources."

Apparently, The Plains ISD Board of Trustees agreed with this theory. In last Thursday's special called board meeting, Superintendent Jim Haynes recommended replacements for recently resigned Junior High Principal Ronnie Watkins and Elementary Principal Don Weems.

Haynes said following the meeting, "I had received resumes from a large number of applicants for the two positions. None of the applicants stood out more than two of our people, Eddie Carter and Vernon Hise. Vernon has been a great science teacher in the Middle School, and Eddie teaches science in High School.

"The Board agreed with my assessment; we know what these two men have accomplished, and more importantly, we know their ideas on what they intend to accomplish in the future."

He continued, "We know how they operate in the classroom, how the students react to them,

and we know how active they are in the classroom. That's a much firmer base to make an employment decision on, better than a prepared resume."

Hise has taught science in 5th and 6th grades here since 1994. He formerly taught at Matthews Jr. High in Lubbock for eight years. He is a gradu-



New Principals Eddie Carter and Vernon Hise

ate of Lubbock Christian University, and has received numerous awards for his classroom performance, including the "Beyond The Call" award from LCU. He received South Plains Impact Award and grant for creative teaching. He also trained at TEA Regional Center for Internet Accessing, and is the Plains ISD science and dictionary coach for UIL events. He has been active in the Child Welfare Board here, and currently serves as Chairman.

Carter joined the High School staff here in 1997. He holds a Bachelor Degree from New Mexico State, and received his Master in science teaching at New Mexico Tech. He currently teaches science, general and AP biology. He came here from the Lovington school system where he taught biology from 1987 to 1996. He was also head baseball coach there, and his teams won district honors, and were state runners up in 1993 and 1994. He served

as Plains High first ever baseball coach last year, and the Cowboys ended their first season with a winning record. He is a science team sponsor, the leader of the local FCA, and is Sunday School Superintendent at First Baptist.

Interviewed Thursday following the board meeting, both men described their families' reactions to the promotions in the same manner; "They were very excited about the new opportunities ahead for us."

Carter, 39, has two children in the Plains school system, daughter Caitlin, 10, and a 5th grader when school starts, and son Brock, 8, a 2nd grader. His wife Shelley, in the same board meeting, was hired as a science teacher in middle schools 5th and 6th grades, the position Hise vacated.

Hise, 37, and his wife Debra also have two children in the system. Son Brandon, 11, will be a 7th grader this fall, and daughter Lauren, 9, will be a 4th grader in elementary.

Both new principals said they had always had long term goals to become public school administrators. Hise said "I know I face some big challenges, but I am very excited about what can be accomplished here. I want enthusiasm and excitement in the kids, for that excitement and enthusiasm will rub off on their parents."

Carter expressed his "appreciation to Mr. Haynes and the Trustees for showing this confidence in us. I think we both feel improvements in a district with three campuses rated exemplary by TEA will be difficult, but it's something we will strive for."

In other personnel action, the board approved hiring Blake McWhirter for teaching assignments in Junior High, and coach of athletes in both Junior and Senior High school. McWhirter comes here from the Sun-down school district

Drought ? What Drought ?

Shortly after the first of the year, newspapers, periodicals and every other media form were reporting predictions from weather 'experts', including the National Weather Service, of a continuation of nation wide severe drought conditions, thanks to the return visit of "La Nina".

Not so on the High Plains of Texas and most of the rest of the state. Big rains starting in March have resulted in this predominantly agricultural area of the state being literally awash with precipitation. Unfortunately, the badly needed moisture has been accompanied by devastating hails storms and crop sear-

ing sand storms. To compound woes of cotton producers, a period of very cool days, and water logged fields have taken their toll on the '99 crop.

Reports of destroyed cotton vary from estimates ranging from 400,000 acres here on the Plains, to possibly one million acres.

A number of the immediate area gins were polled to determine their estimated acreage losses in their predominant trade areas. Three local gins told CCN, "It's still too early to come up with a close 'guesstimate', because some of the cotton is still suffering and even dying."

Turn to page 2, "Weather"

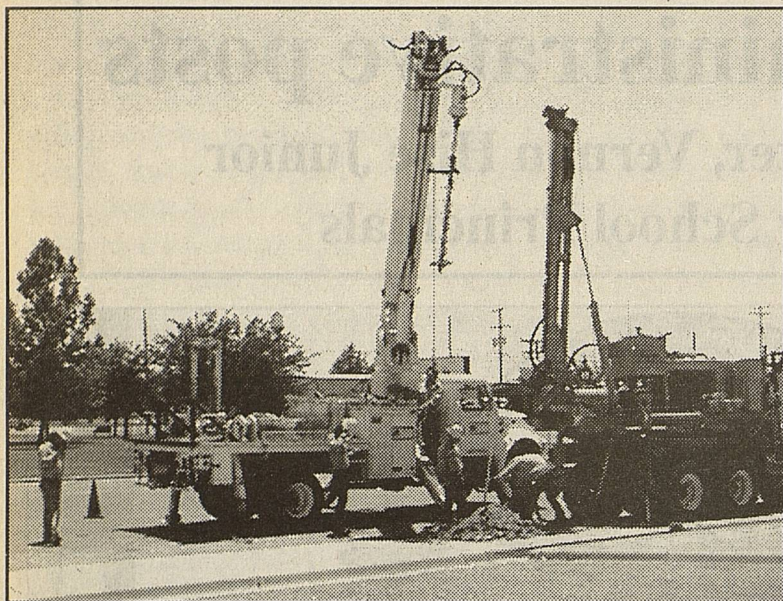
As of
8:30 a.m.
Monday,
June 28,
17.63 Inches
of rain
has been
recorded at
City Hall

This scene.....



Courthouse employees Debbie Rushing and Danny Steffens discuss uprooted light pole with DPS Troopers John Hardin and Robert Shugart

Led to this scene



Lea County line crews replacing two destroyed poles in front of courthouse

Courthouse employees arriving for work last Thursday morning found a messy surprise. During the previous night or early morning hours, a vehicle coming from the east on Cowboy Way at a high rate of speed climbed the curb in front of the courthouse and uprooted the center steel light pole. The force of the collision and the pole's flight through the air jerked electric wires attached to another pole on the east corner of the lot hard enough to crack its base, causing it to lean over the street. Lea County Electric personnel were on hand Friday to replace both poles. At the time of this article DPS Troopers on the scene had little to work with, but knew the culprit vehicle was red, and had to sustain damage.

PHS student to attend Medical Leadership Forum in Houston



Jessica Nicole Newsom, the daughter of Neal and Janice Newsom, and a Senior when school starts, will join a select group of outstanding high school juniors and seniors July 4, attending eleven days of the National Youth Leadership Forum in Houston. Nicole was selected because of her outstanding academic achievements and her interest in the medical profession.

The eleven days of discovery for the students include visits to some of America's most prominent and technologically advanced medical institutions, including the UT Medical Branch, Galveston, UT School of Medicine, Houston, Texas

From Page 1,
"Weather"

The local FSA Office and area crop insurance agencies report producers are replanting destroyed cotton fields with a wide variety of commodities, including milo, oil and confectionary type sunflowers, guar, hay grazer and blackeye peas.

At the time this article is being written, many fields in Yoakum, Gaines and Terry are still too wet for tractors to be working, and the window of time for late planting is closing rapidly.

One positive aspect of the abundance of moisture is any dryland crop has a very good chance of producing large yields this year.

Crop planting alternative



This John Deere tractor and twelve row planter were busy Monday morning just east and north of Tokio planting sunflowers on hailed out cotton acreage

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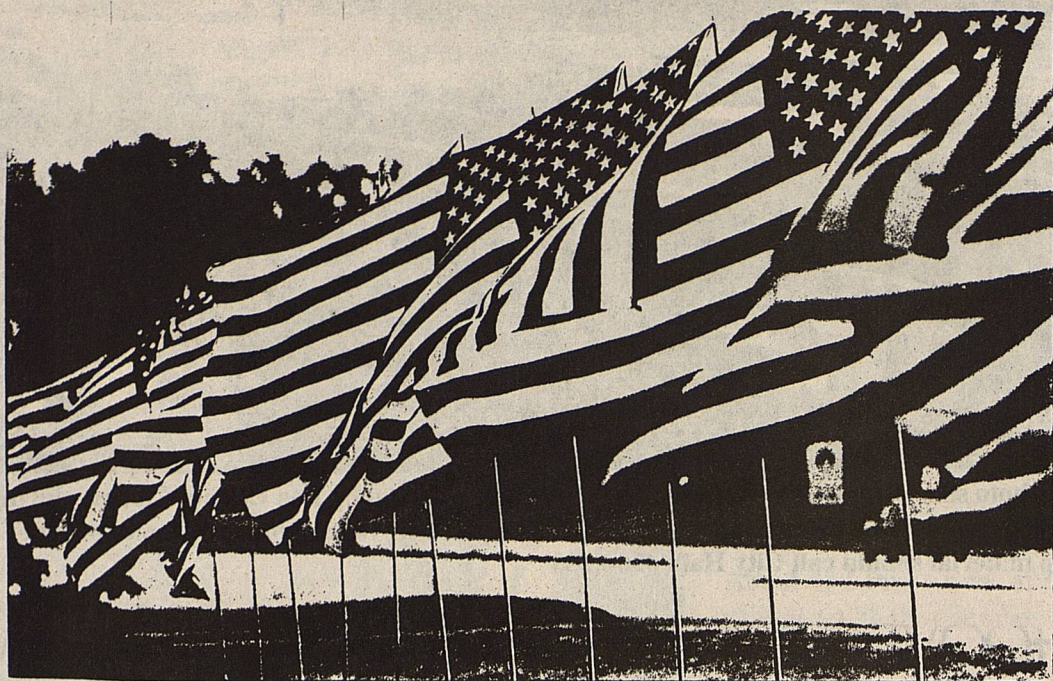
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Foundation starts mapping fields in Weevil Eradication Zones

Using state of the art technology provided by Global Positioning Satellites (GPS), the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation has begun an extensive mapping process of all cotton fields in the Western High Plains Eradication Zone (WHP).

"The mapping phase provides us with the precision we need as we begin the eradication process," said WHP Assistant Zone Manager Michael Hester. "We use the same GPS satellites that the U.S. military employs to give us unparalleled accuracy that is so vital in the program." Hester stated. "The other critical element is working with cotton growers to gather information relative to establishing communication lines identifying field locations, acreage, and point of contacts. Grower participation, cooperation and understanding is vital to a successful eradication effort in the zone. Having access to fields, we are able to efficiently set and check boll weevil traps and this will further enhance the effectiveness of the program," Hester said.

"Precise mapping helps cotton growers by allowing very accurate applications of Malathion ULV, the only insecticide used by the Foundation and the same insecticide that many communities use when spraying for pesky mosquitoes. The ULV stands for ultra low volume and it is applied at 12 ounces per acre," said Program Director Osama El-Lissy. After many years of research and development, the U.S.D.A. and various technical experts confirm that Malathion ULV is the most effective tool in eradicating the boll weevil, specifically a purified form called Fyfanon ULV," added El-Lissy.

"This is a growers program and it is led by growers. We look forward to doing the best possible job for our producers in the zone," El-Lissy commented.

Successful boll weevil eradication has already been completed in Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina and Virginia. The states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Tennessee are currently implementing boll weevil eradication efforts.

Comptroller shuts down business of Republic of Texas member

State Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander, who earlier this year declared war on tax cheats, has padlocked a dry cleaning business in Waxahachie run by a Republic of Texas member who owes more than \$100,000 in state sales taxes.

John Parsons, the owner of Globe Laundry and Cleaning, has refused to pay taxes, citing his membership in the Republic of Texas, a group that believes the U.S. illegally annexed the State of Texas. He owes \$126,872 in sales taxes, penalties and interest.

Since taking office, Rylander has vowed to be more aggressive in pursuing tax cheats. "Tax cheating in Texas will not be tolerated," she said. "These folks keep ripping off hardworking, law abiding citizens."

The closure brings to 26 the number of businesses the

Comptroller has padlocked since taking office in January. A recent closure was a Houston tile and carpet company with a tax debt of more than \$9 million whose nine locations were seized. The owner had operated at more than 39 locations, moving frequently and changing business names to avoid filing and paying taxes.

In April, Rylander personally padlocked a Waco convenience store whose owner operated 19 outlets in Texas and is accused of defrauding Texas of more than \$5 million in motor fuel taxes,

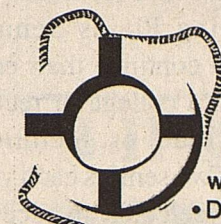
Parsons, the 'Republic' member, has been delinquent on his taxes since 1995. When his sales tax permit was suspended in 1997, the case was referred to the Attorney General's office, and a judgement was entered against him in 1998. The judgement was not paid.

Comptroller Rylander said, "I hope my actions today send a very loud and strong message. Tax fraud in Texas, under my administration, will not be tolerated"

Keeping an eye on Texas

Safe boaters keep heads above water

About 600,000 boats are registered in Texas. In 1998, 54 fatalities occurred on Texas waterways, and alcohol played a part in an estimated 50 percent of all boating accidents.



Boating safety tips

- Avoid alcohol.
- Always wear a life jacket (children under 13 must wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket).
- Don't overload your boat.
- Operate at a safe speed.
- Before you borrow or rent a personal watercraft, learn how to operate the vessel and know the rules of the waterway.
- Always have a passenger serve as a lookout in addition to the operator.
- Watch out for low water areas or submerged object.
- Enroll in a boater education class.

SOURCES: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, (www.window.state.tx.us), and Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Bacterial Blight in cotton

By Phillip Kidd, IPM Update

Recent storms and wet conditions have promoted the development of bacterial blight in many cotton fields. The pathogen causing this 'wet weather blight' infects cotton at injury points, such as where hail or blowing sand has damaged the plant, and the pathogen needs moisture to survive and spread. It is usually more prevalent on older leaves, and infected leaves will have purple spots on them. Since this is a bacterial disease, fungicides will probably not alleviate the problem. The best treatment for the bacterial blight is dry, hot weather, which the area crop can certainly use. If the current hot, dry weather pattern continues, this problem should take care of itself. It may be advisable to plow infested fields, as aeration and drying of the soil is not favorable for this disease.

Earning bucks the old fashion way... with work




Lowe's parking lot was a busy scene recently, when youth members of Sacred Heart Catholic Church set up their car washing operation to raise donations for their youth programs

Liberty Buried

New Braunfels - The Sunday closing feature of regulations for saloons passed by the legislature became effective here today. For the first time in history, saloons closed on Sunday. To mark the occasion, "Liberty was placed in a coffin, given a fancy funeral, and led by a brass band, was placed in her grave outside the city

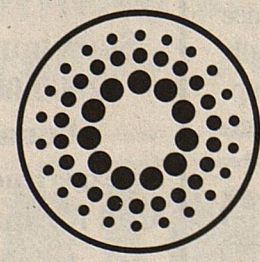
The Texas News, May, 1909

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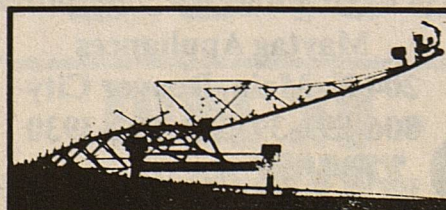
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American Legion Closes Post Here

In the annual meeting of Plains' American Legion Post 585, June 24, the members voted to cease operations as of July 1, 1999.

Post Commander Gary Dyer said, "This decision by the remaining members was made with mixed emotions. I don't think any member wanted to disband the Post, but the majority agreed it was necessary. The Post here is like most of those in small communities around the country. Alteration has taken its toll on all of them."

The Plains Post's membership had dwindled to 15 members, and financing Post activities has become more difficult each year. Annual dues were \$20.00 with the Post only retaining \$2.50 of the amount.

The members attending the meeting voted unanimously to donate all Post funds for graduating Plains Seniors who will continue their education in a college or recognized trade or technical school. Two seniors each year will be reelected to receive \$500 scholarships. A committee made up of two Plains High School officials and one ex-Legion member will make the student selections. Lifetime Legion member Johnnie Fitzgerald will first serve as the ex-Post representative.

Attending the final meeting, in addition to Dyer and Fitzgerald were D.C. 'Hoss' Newsom, Buster Graham, Bud Forbus, James Wauson, 'Pep' Turner, Bob Blundell, and Jerome Head.

PHS Student Named to Drum and Bugle Corps

Chris McGinty, 15 year old son of Alton and Sheri McGinty and a Sophomore with the Plains High School Cowboy Band, has been invited to join the Legend of Texas Drum and Bugle Corps. Directed by Scott Puryear of Lubbock. Chris joins other students from Gallup, Albuquerque, and Roswell, New Mexico, and El Paso, San Antonio, Houston, Longview and Lubbock, Texas.

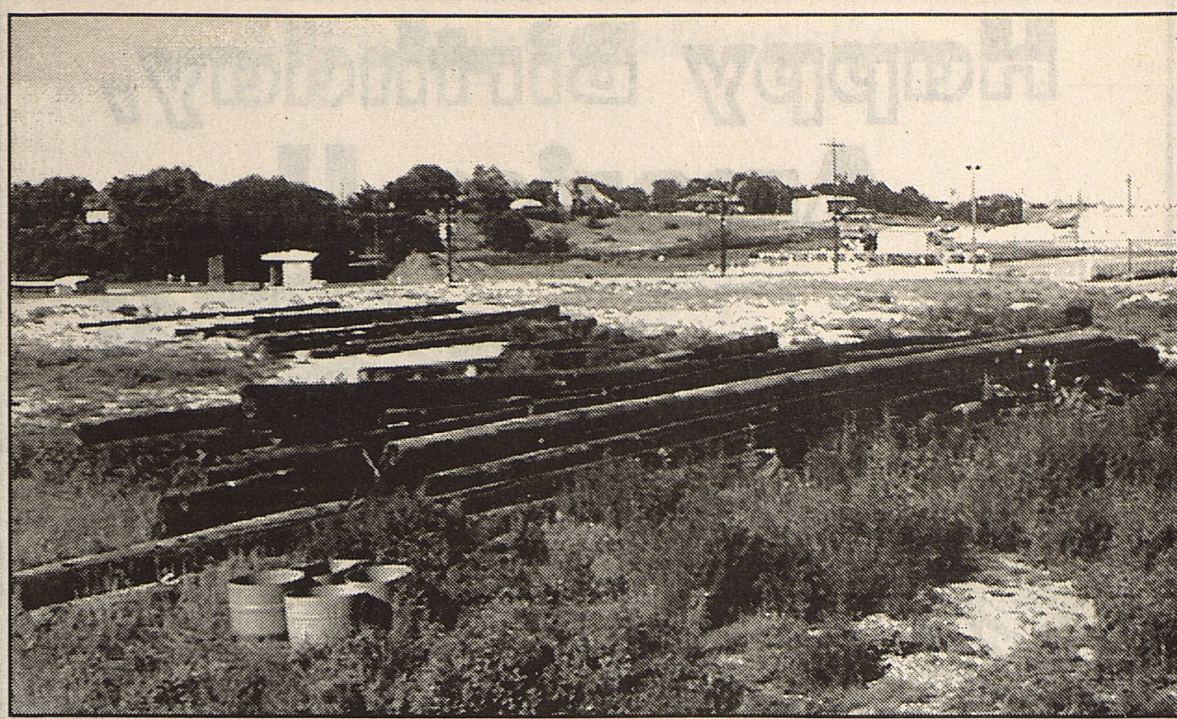
The Legend of Texas Drum and Bugle Corps begins National Tour and Competition this weekend by marching in the Fourth on Broadway Parade in Lubbock. Competition and exhibition performances continue across the nation and ends with final competition in New Jersey in August.

Ray Portillo, Cowboy Band Director, credits Chris' achievements this year to his being selected to this elite group. These include Outstanding Freshman Bandman, First Chair Baritone All Region Honor Band, and Third Chair Baritone All State Band. This was in competition with all Class 1A, 2A, and 3A division schools.

J P Court

June 25, 1999 - The following is a summary of cases heard and bonds set in Justice of the Peace Court, Precinct One, with Judge Melba Crutcher presiding.

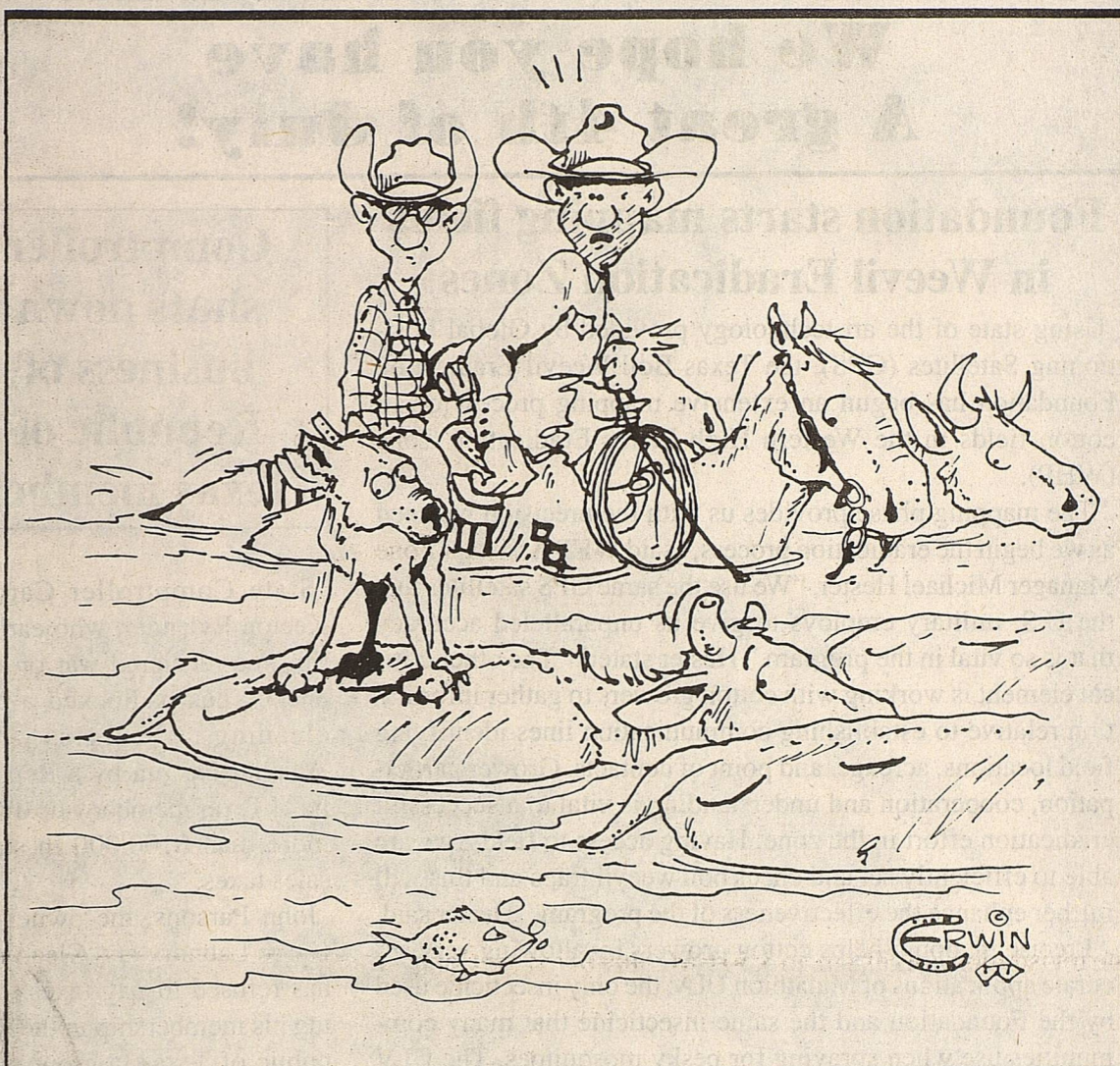
Cases filed: 51 traffic-2 felony-3 class C juvenile misdemeanors-3 cases filed by Yoakum County Sanitarian. Bonds set: Assault causing bodily injury - \$2000 bond. Burglary of a habitation - \$5000 bond. Military desertion-No bond-held until extradited. Driving while license suspended - \$500 bond. Terroristic threat - \$500 bond. Assault causing bodily injury - \$500 bond. Fugitive from justice - \$20,000 bond. Fugitive from justice - \$10,000 bond. Criminal Mischief over \$1500/under \$20,000 - \$1500 bond. Terroristic threat - \$500 bond. Tampering with Government Records - \$1500 bond.



This photo shows a portion of old city electric Poles removed by Lea County Electric during the conversion process. The poles are available to the public. Anyone needing the poles or other scrap material should call City Hall, 456-2288

HOOVES & HORNS

BY A.W. ERWIN



"He's been like that ever since he saw the snake scene on Lonesome Dove."

Lea County Electric Receives Safety Award

Mike Dreyspring, General Manager of Lea County Electric, was recently presented a check in the amount of \$2,441.23 from Mike Fletcher, President of the New Mexico Rural Electric Self Insurers Fund. LCEC tied for third place in 1998 for the lowest percentage of accident claims among all New Mexico rural

electric cooperatives. The award was presented at the Annual Meeting of the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association in Taos earlier this month. The New Mexico Rural Electric Self Insurer's Fund was formed in 1987 to provide a low cost means for rural electric cooperatives to insure themselves against workplace accident claims. Each year the fund honors the three cooperatives with the lowest accident rates as determined by the ratio of a cooperative's incurred losses to its worker's compensation premium. The size of the cash award is dependent on the cooperative's contributions to the fund.

According to Dreyspring, "While this recognition is certainly important to us, and we are happy to receive the funds on behalf of our employees, the real benefits which arise from the Cooperative's emphasis on job safety are realized daily when all of our employees return home safely."

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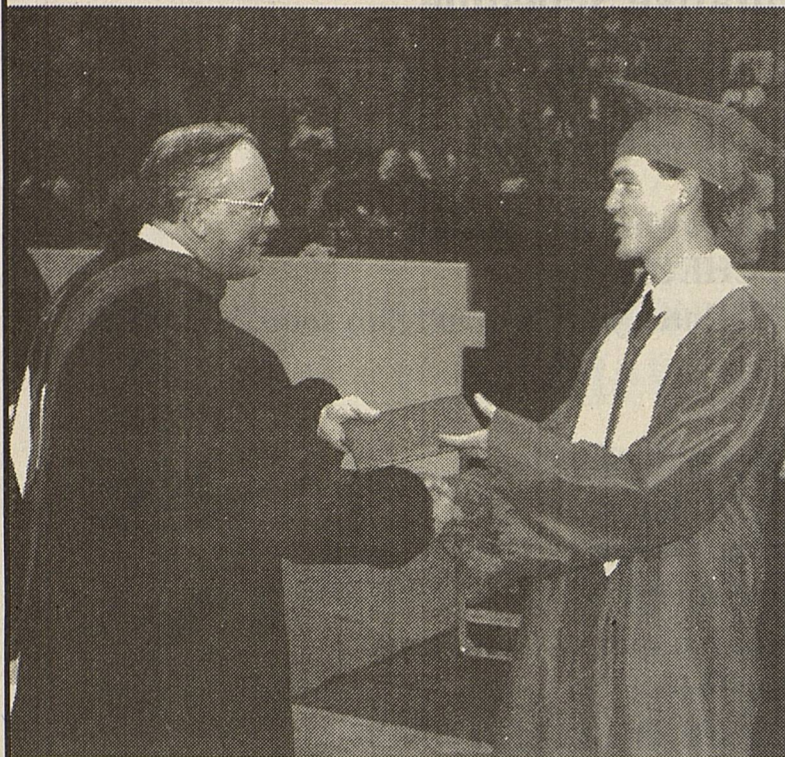
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Lifelines & Styles

McAdams Receives Diploma



RHEMA Bible Training Center 1999 commencement exercises were held Friday, May 21, in the Tulsa, Oklahoma Convention Center. Lacy McAdams carried a 4.0 for the two year's completion of the RHEMA Bible College. He is shown receiving his diploma from Kenneth Hagin Jr.

SPC Summer Registration July 5

A wide range of courses such as Microbiology, Bass Guitar, Introduction to Computers, Criminal Investigation and Coed Weight Training will be offered during the second summer term at South Plains College's Levelland campus.

Registration is 3-6 P.M. July 5 in the Women's Gym. More than 60 college courses will be offered.

"Taking a course during the second summer term is an excellent opportunity to get additional college credits prior to the fall semester," said Andrea Rangel, registrar and dean of admissions.

Late registration is 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 P.M. July 6-7 in the Counseling Center and 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. both days in the Admissions and Records Office in the Administration Building.

A late fee of \$15 and an add/drop fee of \$5 will be charged during late registration.

Classes begin July 6 and end August 5.

Courses are offered in accounting, anthropology, biology, chemistry, commercial music, computer information systems, English, government, history, law enforcement, math, music, physical education, psychology, reading, sociology Spanish and speech communication.

Summer 1999 class schedules are available, listing courses offered and other information.

To obtain a class schedule or find out more information, contact the SPC Office of Admissions and Records at 806-894-9611, ext. 2374 or 2375.

Because of the July 4th Holiday the Chamber of Commerce will meet at Johnnie's. 7 a.m. Thursday, July 1,

ACU student from Plains named to Dean's List

Shawna Box of Plains was named to the Dean's Honor Roll for the spring 1999 semester at Abilene Christian University.

Box is the daughter of Tommy and Cindra Box and a 1998 graduate of Plains High School. She is a freshman math major at ACU.

To make the Honor Roll, a student must complete at least 12 semester hours for grades and earn a 3.45 or higher grade point average.

About 150 miles west of the Dallas/Fort Worth area, ACU is affiliated with the churches of Christ and has enrollment of more than 4,600 students.

Senior Citizens Corner

"Turkey Day" on Tuesday was, as usual, a full house. Visiting for lunch were Lupe Saeing, Gerald and June Sugars, Brandy Bennett. Also Sara Narried, Virginia Bernatt and Florence Bookout. Its good to see new faces, so please come back again.

The Ladies "42" Tournament was won by Inez Turner and Gladys Thomason. We are still hoping more Ladies will come join the Tournament.

Ed and Elsie have returned from a long tour.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the Belle family on the passing of J.T. I could always expect a big hug and "Hows Smitty" when I met J.T. He

was one special friend to me.

Louise Green has had surgery, but is home, and doing well. The report is that Ireta Davis may be released from the hospital soon. I'm sure home will look like Heaven to her-she has had such a long time in the Hospital.

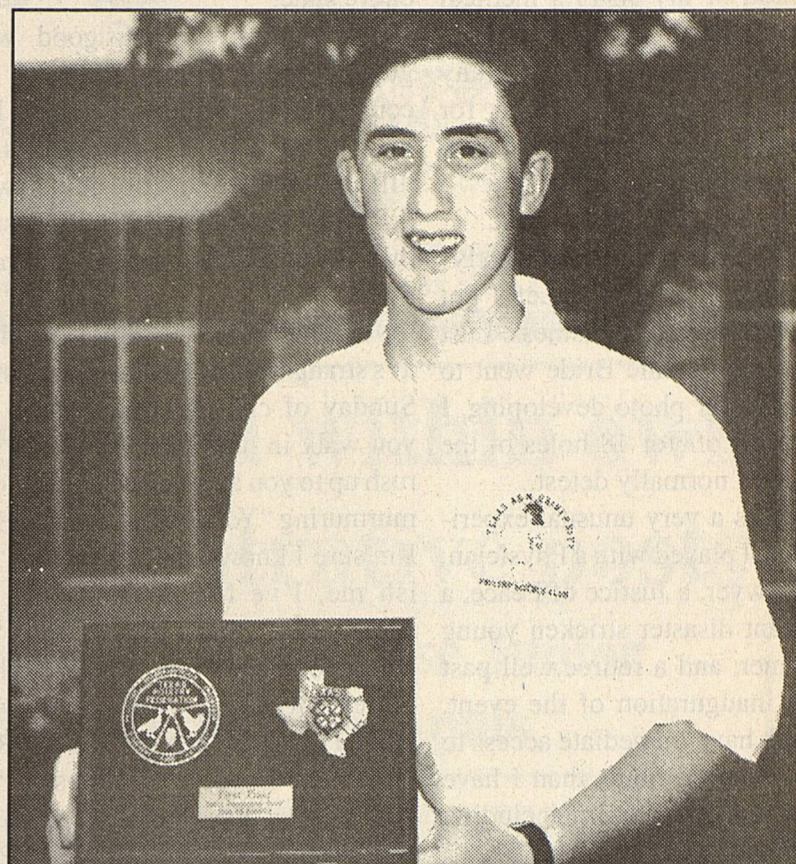
The 'Pie Bake Sale' is Friday, July 1. Everyone is urged to bring pies or buy a bunch for the Holiday. This is a fund raiser and we are hoping for lots and lots of pies and help.

The garage sale goes on. Come browse anyway.

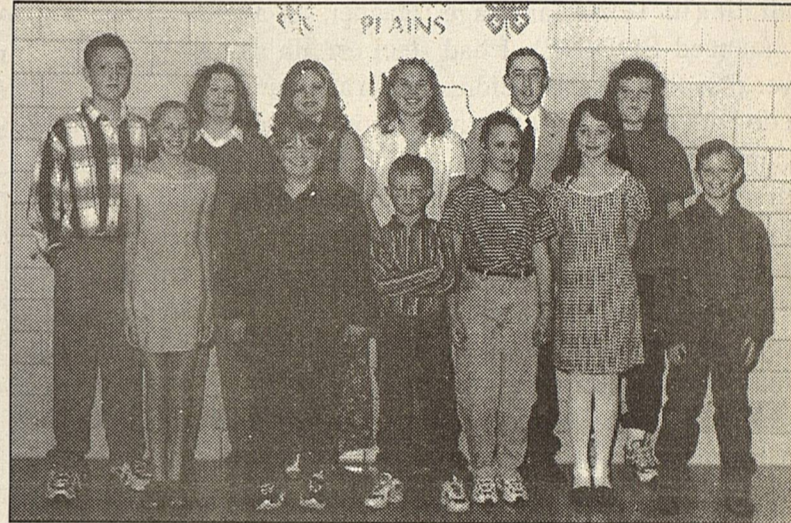
"Have a safe and happy Holiday the 4th!

See you next week, Smitty

4-H Roundup Held



County 4-H member Jeremy Horn is shown with his first place award in the recent 4-H Roundup. Jeremy competed in Poultry Method Demonstration against 4-H members from across the state in his win.



County 4-H youth who competed in the District Roundup at Levelland include-Back Row L-R Jordan Bean, Lisa San Flippo, Sharla Vantine, Elizabeth Clanahan, Jeremy Horn, Shandi Sellers. Front Row L-R Ashley Vantine, Becky Wilmeth, Stetson Sellers, Ragan McGinty, Sara Horn, Cody Mayes.

The 53rd annual Texas 4-H Roundup was held on the campus of Texas A&M June 7-11, 1999. More than 1,500 volunteers and over 2,000 4-H members took part in public speaking and judging contests, leadership development programs, educational rallies and community service efforts. The Texas 4-H program currently has more than 11,000 members.

The Texas 4-H Foundation, in coordination with 30 donors from across the state, recognized 148 4-H youth with approximately \$985,000 in college scholarships.



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From The Hack

In last week's column we talked of my sister's medical problems. I repeat, the entire family appreciates the many kind wishes and thoughts for her recovery. She is now home, and seems to be doing fine.

OK, enough of the mealy-mouth nice stuff. Let's get down to serious business. Last Saturday, while Bride went to Hobbs for photo developing, I slipped off for 18 holes of the game I normally detest.

It was a very unusual experience. I played with a Physician, a Lawyer, a Justice of Peace, a carent disaster stricken young farmer, and a retiree, well past his inauguration of the event. Each have immediate access to more liquid funds than I have liquid soap, and I'm including the young farmer.

The Physician is a small sized guy, who's served as our family Doctor many years, Doctor Bodindr (in Texas language pronounced BODINE). I had never played with him before, not do I intend to play with him again. Any much younger guy, with much more money, much more golf talent than I, should be handicapped higher than he is. I am very fortunate to now have a dollar, bearing his name, reminding me of my big win. He still has about a jillion dollars of Bride and my money for visits.

The above mentioned Attorney and JP do not have to be named. Being from Denver City, it is

well known they are in collusion to beat Plains golfers, male, female, even those physically handicapped. On second thought, I had better hint at their identity, lest another attorney sue me for slander; figure it out, he's the JP in the southern part of the county, the lawyer is the oldest living practicing lawyer in the county, quite possibly the entire state.

Try as hard as we did, us good guys from the county Capitol could only fleece them for one measly buck. It is extremely difficult to fleece attorneys, doctors, and JP's, skilled as they are at fleecing the rest of us.

It's strange to me, you miss one Sunday of church, and when you walk in next time, people rush up to you and shake hands, murmuring "You look familiar, I'm sure I know you, but foolish me, I've forgotten your name." Or, "Oh, I'm so glad the rumor I heard isn't true, We understood you folks had moved to Rhode Island." Or, "Praise the Lord, your illness didn't prove fatal after all!"

Bride and I attended our Sunday School class, which proved very enlightening. Trying to clarify a point presented by the teacher, an attendee, whom I feel certain would wish to remain anonymous, remarked, "I know all true Christians look forward to the day when they can see Jesus in Heaven. But I doubt there is a married couple in this room who, on their wedding night, were ready right at that momemnt to see him. Do you agree?"

A lady in the class said hesitantly, "Well, I suppose you may be right, but I'm not at all sure what you mean."

Idiot that I am, I blurted out, "I can guarantee you, there's not one man in this room who doesn't understand and agrees 100%."

Classmate Melba Crutcher, you know, Judge Crutcher, the other nice JP, laughed so hysterically the instructor asked me to leave the room and stay in the kitchen until class was over.

Judge Crutcher certainly knew what I so foolishly referred to.

I have been accused, falsely, it seems to me, of picking on women in this column. To belay such falsities, read these comments by smart gals:

"You see a lot of smart guys with dumb women, but hardly ever a smart woman with a dumb guy" - Erica Jong.

"Never lend your car to anyone to whom you have given birth" - Erma Bombeck

"I think... therefore I'm single" - Liza Winstead

"When women are depressed they eat or go shopping. Men invade another country." - Elayne Boosler

"Behind every successful man is a surprised woman" - Maryon Pearson

"I never married. There was no need. I have three pets which answer the purpose of a husband. A dog which growls each morning, a parrot which curses all afternoon, and a cat which comes home late at night" - Marie Corelli

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Lovington Chamber Of Commerce 4th of July Celebration Saturday, July 3, 1999 Tentative Schedule

- 7:00 - 7:30 am - Registration: Fun Run
- 7:30 - 8:30 - Fun Run
- 8:30 - Flag raising ceremony
Fishing Derby begins following flag raising.
- 9:30 - OUTHOUSE RACE CHECK-IN
- 10:00 - OUTHOUSE RACE (Enter your 3-man team soon. \$30.00 per team)
- 10:30 - Sidewalk Chalk Art
- 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Food Booths Open
- 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Cow Chip Bingo
- 12:00 - Fly over - combination Air Force, Color Guard
- 1:00 p.m. - Lizard Sand Sculpturing
- 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. - Bingo (Knights of Columbus)
- 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Water Polo
- 3:00 p.m. - WORLD'S GREATEST LIZARD RACE
- 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Nifty 50's activities
Jitterbug, Twist, Hula Hoop, and Lip Sync
- Contest
- 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Cow Chip Bingo
- 9:15 p.m. - Fireworks Display



OTHER EVENTS INCLUDE:
Egg Toss - Dunking Booth - Hula Hoop Race
Tug-of-War - 3-Legged Race



****ALL EVENTS WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, JULY 3RD..AT THE CHAPARRAL PARK****

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TELCOT Report

For the Week Ended June 24

A WEEKLY SUMMARY OF COTTON MARKETING NEWS

After a week of market declines, continuing interest in Texas crop woes coupled with the release of key reports from both the Census Bureau and USDA boosted the market higher on Thursday.

The Census Bureau reported slightly better consumption figures for the month of May with mill use annualized to 10.287 million bales, according to the National Cotton Council (NCC). The annualized figure was in line with most expectations but still was supportive to the futures market. Though some observers had hoped for an improvement, the figure still indicates the U.S. will reach USDA's consumption projection of 10.5 million bales for the 1998-99 season.

USDA's weekly export sales data also helped boost trade as the department's report showed net old-crop sales of 43,900 bales for the week ended June 17, a considerable increase from the previous week's 26,000 bales. Mexico, a major U.S. trade partner, was the largest buyer of U.S. cotton with purchases totaling 14,700 bales. Turkey and South Korea followed with acquisitions of 14,400 and 11,000 bales, respectively. Net new-crop sales also were

impressive at 104,000 bales. Major buyers of 1999-00 crop U.S. cotton included Japan, South Korea and Indonesia.

Additionally, export shipments of old-crop cotton reached 54,300 bales for the week, an improvement from the previous week and more than the average amount needed to reach USDA's export estimate. In fact, the U.S. now has shipped more than 92 percent of the USDA projection of 4.1 million bales for 1998-99.

Spot cotton sales experienced a surge this week as well. In the five trading days ended June 24, sales on TELCOT totaled 16,866 bales, a significant increase from the prior week's sales of only 167 bales.

In other news, market concern about the West Texas cotton crop remains strong. According to final results of a survey conducted by the Texas Agriculture Extension Service in Lubbock, the area's cotton acreage lost to the severe hailstorm on June 11 has risen slightly. Complete crop losses in 12 High Plains counties now total 432,500 acres, up slightly from the preliminary estimate of 424,500. The end result of the agency's survey is that as many

as 771,500 acres of cotton, some for the second and third times, were severely damaged, and more than half now are expected to be planted to crops other than cotton.

The extension service expects approximately 30,000 acres to be replanted to cotton. However, if fields do not dry out sufficiently in the next few weeks, it will be too late in the season to plant cotton, and an alternate crop will be substituted. Insurance planting dates already have passed, and the risks for any cotton now planted are much higher because crops will see a much shorter growing season. Cotton growers are looking forward to the recovery process and are trying to maintain a positive attitude despite the crop destruction.

"We've got some horrid looking stuff on some acres, but we've got 3.0 million acres, most of which got better rainfall than in the past few years," Roger Haldenby, vice president of operations at Plains Cotton Growers, said. "Some acres far up north have seedling disease, poor quality cotton, but we're generally blessed with a good-looking crop. There's good news with the bad news," he added.



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