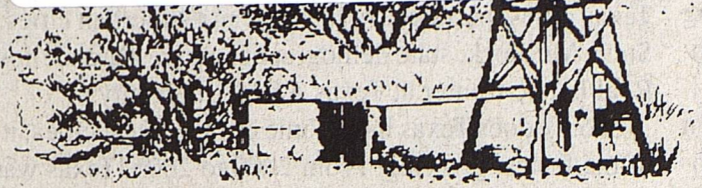


Cowboy Country News

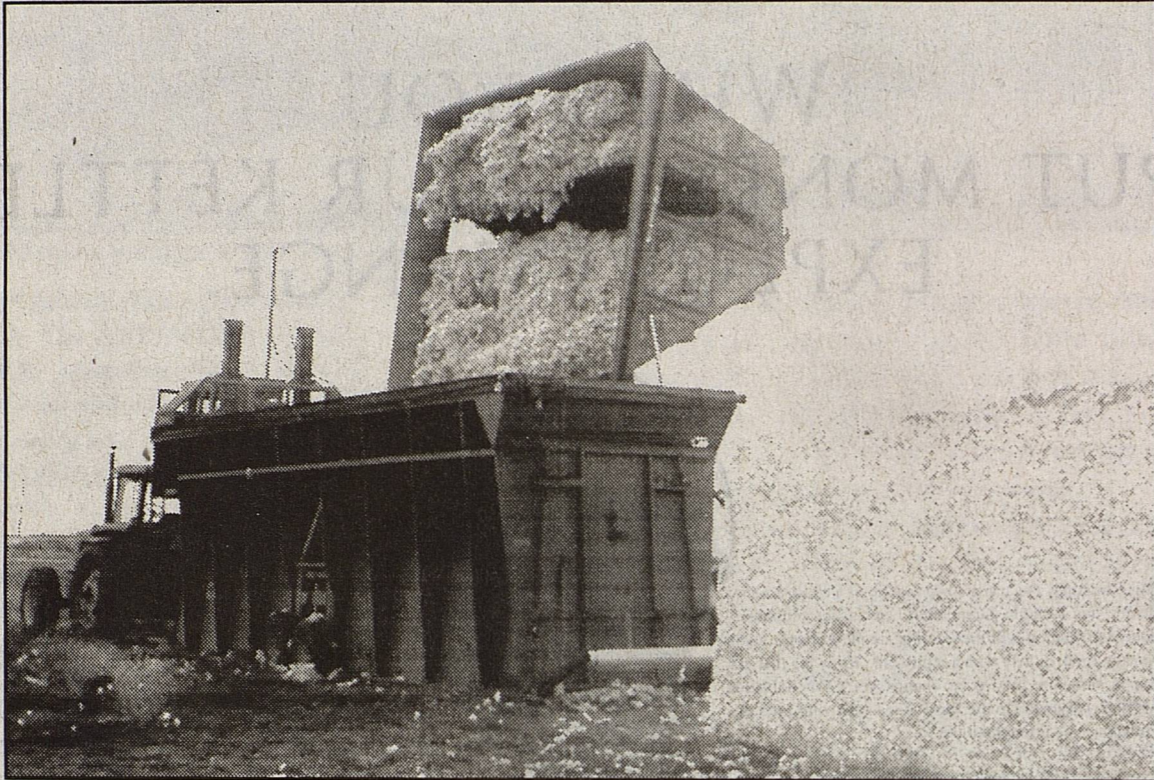
Published each Wednesday in the county seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas

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Volume XIII, Issue 13, November 29, 2006

2006 County Cotton Crop Pleasant Surprise To Many



FROM THE FIELD, THROUGH THE STRIPPER, INTO THE MODULE BUILDER.... TO THE GIN, THROUGH THE STANDS..... TO EMERGE AS A BALE READY FOR THE WAREHOUSE TRIP

"We won't set any production records for the county, or across the South Plains growing area, but it's beginning to look like it will be a very respectable cotton crop, considering some of the adversities out producers have faced this year", said Arlan Gentry, Texas Cooperative Extension Agent Ag this week.

Gentry said it might rank as remarkable the way the bale count continues to climb, considering some 56,000 acres of dry land cotton were written off earlier from hail and drought damage throughout the county. "The surviving 17,000 some odd acres of remaining dry land cotton have shown very respectful results."

Gentry said Yoakum County was fortunate to receive timely rains earlier which many cotton producing areas did not. Many parts of the South Plains production area also suffered from untimely hail damage to lessen production, mainly to the north of us", Gentry related. Although most growers missed out on sufficient planting rains, fol-

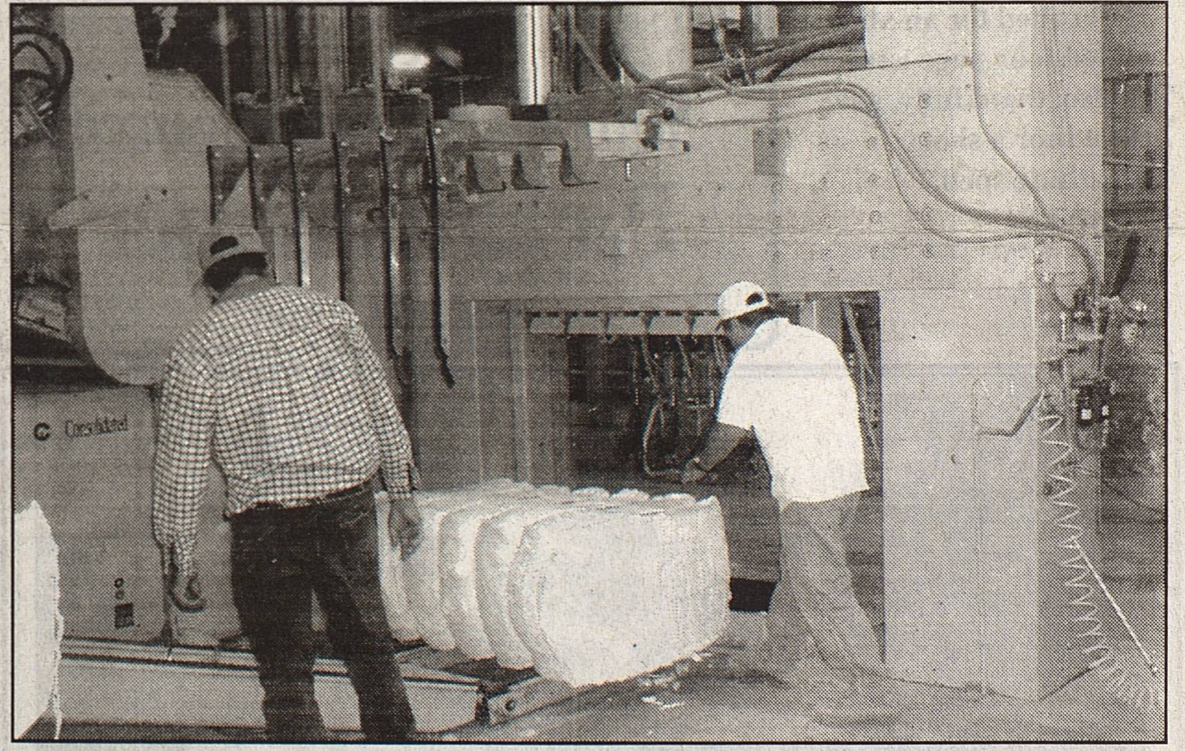
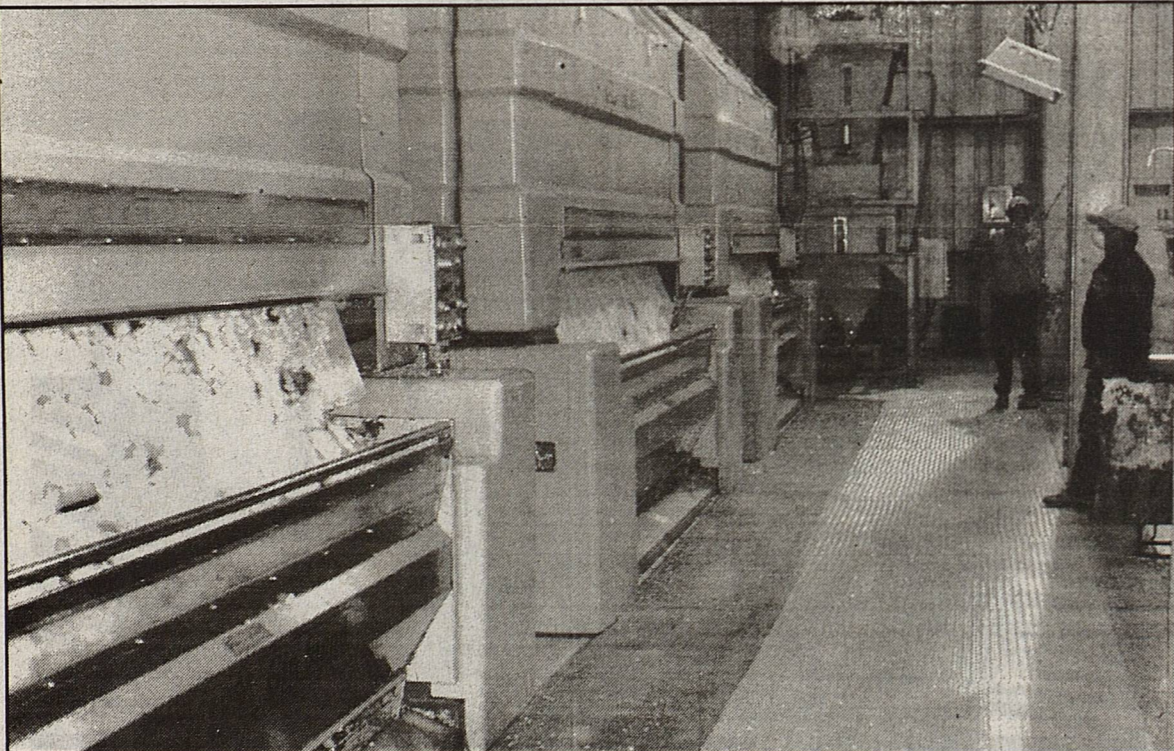
lowing precipitation in July and August did wonders for the crop.

"The gins I have contacted mostly report classing grades have been excellent this year, which will help the producers loan values greatly. I guess one could consider 2006 as good; It certainly could have been much worse," Gentry said

Officials at Tokio Coop Gin were definitely upbeat in their annual report to CCN. This week they had ginned over 14,000 bales, adding, "Our Gin members are sky high. We're in a predominantly dryland production area, and so many of our acres failed, we are just thrilled with our run to date, and we are more confident by the day we will go over 21,000 bales. The last 822 bales we had reports on had qualities high enough for a 56 cent loan valuation, and we're happy with that"

Comments from Yoakum County Coop Gin matched Tokio's upbeat report. They are under no illusions of duplicating last years gin record of

Turn To Page 2, COTTON



District Court Session

Two criminal cases were heard in 121st District Court November 17, with Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark representing the State.

Jeremy Jason Gonzales faced motion to revoke supervision from a prior bail jumping and failure to appear cause, third degree felony. He was sentenced to two years in state prison with credit for 146 days jail time served. He must also pay additional \$65 court costs and delinquent court costs of \$36. Jimmy Hammons served as his attorney.

Jason Brandon Connolly pled true to orders modifying terms of supervision from a prior conviction on an aggravated assault with deadly weapon cause. He must pay additional \$95 court costs, will be under intensive supervision for one year, spend 36 hours in jail, will be placed on electronic monitoring device, undergo weekly urinalysis, and attend twice weekly narcotics meetings.

YCSWCD sets 2007 Water Quality Management Plan Program

The Yoakum Soil and Water Conservation District announced its participation in the 2007 Water Quality Management Plan Program at their regularly scheduled board meeting to provide cost share incentive program to agricultural producers in Yoakum County. The Water Quality Management Plan Program is a state program designed to address water quality protection for state water. This program includes protection of underground water sources.

The program includes a management plan that reflects practices that will be carried out and will meet the criteria to protect water quality. Those practices may include crop rotation and residue management, irrigation water management, irrigation systems, nutritional management and pest management, range seeding and live stock water as well as any additional decisions that producers are interested in on their farm lands and rangeland.

The district has oversight of the program on a local level and has an allocation of funds to provide as incentive for water quality practices. The district has opted to provide the cost share funds to qualified producers on a first come first serve basis, since funds are limited. Qualified producers are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible and before the deadline of April 30, 2007.

Ag producers interested in participation in the program may call or go by the local SWCD office or the USDA NRCS office in Plains, Texas.

Big Tobacco outspends Texas preventions by 137 -1 margin

In the money war to get Texans to smoke or to stop, big tobacco is trouncing prevention efforts, according to *Texas Medicine* magazine.

Tobacco companies spend more than \$960 million each year in Texas, while the state spent \$7 million on tobacco prevention programs in 2005. The Texas Medical Association (TMS) advocate more funding and new laws to reduce tobacco use among Texans, according to *Texas Medicine*, the society's official publication.

"Tobacco is the single most preventive cause of death and disease in Texas. The state only allocates 39 cents per Texan for tobacco prevention, and each year 60,000 Texas children become daily smokers," said Vince Fonseca, MD, who believes antismoking funding must increase. He says 24,000 Texans die from smoking-related illnesses each year, and 20 times that number suffer from at least one serious smoking related illness.

Dr. Fonseca said spending money to convince people not to smoke is a worthwhile investment. Recent studies back his argument. In 2000 Texas launched a pilot program funded by state savings as well. *Texas Medicine* says based on the estimated cost savings in the pilot program, \$21 was saved for every \$1 invested. If Texas implemented that type program statewide with the same results, nearly \$1.4 billion could be saved in five years.

"We can say to legislators, here's the numbers, you decide," said Eduardo Sanchez, MD, TMA member and former state health commissioner. "we could say, 'you have many hard choices to make, but here is one resulting in not only better health for your constituents, but overall savings for the state. The savings will exceed the investment made.'" Sanchez is now director of the Institute for Health Policy at the UT School of Public Health at

Houston. ded by tobacco companies in a lawsuit settlement. The money purchased programs urging young people not to take up smoking and urging adults to quit. The \$3 per capita bought a 5.1 percent drop in adult smoking rates, twice as much as in the general public. The number of high school student smokers was cut almost in half. One study estimates more than 163,000 adult smokers would have stopped if the pilot had occurred statewide.

"There's a reduction of youth and adult smokers twice the reduction seen in the rest of the state where there was no initiative," Dr. Fonseca said. "Remember, the overwhelming majority of replacement smokers are youths. If they get past the teen years and early adulthood without smoking chances are they'll never start."

From Page 1. COTTON

Texas Dominates Big-City America

some 56,000 bales, but they should tally well over 20,000. They are keeping their gin yard full with modules, and ginned cotton continues to produce good analysis samples. The gin added a new gin stand this year, has increased production from 500 to some 700-800 bales per 24 hours. This greatly speeds up getting quality reports back to our producers."

Ron Craft at New Tex Gin on the stateline was equally upbeat and optimistic. "We consider this to be a very good production year. That makes it more in perspective than last year's 'phenomenal' year. To date we have ginned about 20,000 bales, and have set our goal at 50,000 bales. That's the difference between GOOD this year and Phenomenal last year, when we ginned almost 67,000 bales." Cotton quality remains good, and Craft expects to wind up ginning in January, as the bulk of his customers crop is already off the stalk. Some 8,000 to 10,000 bales of his customers crops came from production in New Mexico.

Most all producers, ginners, producers ag-business people have seen much worse years than 2006..

The Holiday with the closing of Schools, the Courthouse and City Hall called for an abbreviated four page issue. It also, thankfully, gave the editor a short breathing spell. THANKS!

Everything is bigger in Texas, including the cities. At least according to recent US Census Bureau Population Estimates. Three Texas cities made the bureau's list of the country's top ten most populated metros for 2005.

Houston ranked fourth with a population of more than two million, San Antonio came in seventh with almost 1.3 million, and Dallas ranked ninth with more than 1.2 million. "The post-2000 period has clearly turned into a period of rapid growth for Texas cities, particularly its large and suburban cities," said Dr. Steve Murdock, state demographer and research fellow with the Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University. Not only does Texas have some of the largest cities, it has some of the fastest growing. From 2000 to 2005, Texas was the only state to have more than one city among the fastest growing in America, and it had four. San Antonio, up more than 105,000 since 2000, ranked fourth; Fort Worth, up 82,700, ranked fifth; Houston, up nearly 60,000, ranked seventh, and El Paso, up 35,000 ranked tenth. Only Los Angeles, 3.8 million, Phoenix, 1.5 million, and New York, 8.1 million, added more new residents than San Antonio and Fort Worth.

Of the more than 1,200 Texas cities and towns covered in the Census Bureau's 2005 report, 70 percent showed growth in the previous five years, with some smaller towns showing impressive numbers; Hutto had 492 percent growth between 2000 and 2005, and Dallas area towns of Fate and Little Elm grew by 406 and 365 percent, respectively. At the other end of the spectrum, Wichita Falls population dropped by nearly 4,400, Beaumont by 1,900, and Pecos with 1,250.

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PLAINS JUNIOR HIGH BASKETBALL SCHEDULE 2006-2007 (Revised 10-18-06)

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME	TEAMS
Thur, Nov 16	Seagraves	Home	5:00	7 th /8 th G-B
Mon, Nov 20	Sundown	Away	5:00	7 th /8 th G-B
Mon, Nov 27	O'Donnell	Home	5:00	7 th /8 th G-B
Mon, Dec 4	Morton	Home	5:00	7 th /8 th G-B
Mon, Dec 11	Whiteface	Away	5:00	7 th /8 th G-B
Thur, Jan 11	Seagraves	Away	5:00	7 th /8 th G-B
Sat, Jan 13	Plains Tourney	Home	TBA	7 th /8 th G-B
Mon, Jan 15	Sundown	Home	5:00	7 th /8 th G-B
Thu & Sat, Jan 18 & 20	Seagraves Tourney	Away	TBA	7 th /8 th G-B
Mon, Jan 22	O'Donnell	Away	5:00	7 th /8 th G-B
Mon, Jan 29	Morton	Away	5:00	7 th /8 th G-B
Mon, Feb 5	Whiteface	Home	5:00	7 th /8 th G-B

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Millions of peaches

A variety of poor weather conditions hurt the state's peach crop in 2006. In July, production for 2006 was forecast at 6.4 million pounds, down 63 percent from 2005 production of 17.5 million pounds.

Total production (millions of pounds)



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<p>Monday HIST 1302-544 History of U.S. Since 1876 6:00 - 9:00 pm</p> <p>Monday / Wednesday SPCH 1321-541 Business and Professional Speech 1:00 - 2:15 pm</p> <p>ENGL 1302-545 Composition II 4:00 - 5:15 pm</p> <p>Wednesday GOVT 2302-542 American Government, Functions 6:00 - 9:00 pm</p> <p>Monday / Wednesday / Friday MATH 0315-541 Beginning Algebra 2:30 - 3:45 pm</p>	<p>Tuesday *MATH 1314-545 College Algebra 6:00 - 9:00 PM</p> <p>*SOCW 2361-541 Intro to Social Work 6:00 - 9:00 PM</p> <p>Tuesday / Thursday READ 0320-541 College Learning Strategies II 1:00 - 2:15 pm</p> <p>*ENGL 0302-541 Developmental English 2:30 - 3:45 PM</p> <p>*ARTS 1301-541 Art Appreciation 2:30 - 3:45 PM</p> <p>*MATH 0320-541 Intermediate Algebra 2:30 - 3:45 PM</p> <p>Thursday ENGL 1301-541 Composition I 6:00 - 9:00 pm</p>
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*Locations will choose one class offered at this day and time (varies upon location)
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 For distance education information, contact 806-894-9611, extension 2340.

MEMBER 2006

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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JP Court Summary

The following is a summary of cases heard and bonds set in Pct. 1 Justice of Peace Court. Judge Melba Crutcher presidig.

Cases filed:
 66 traffic case
 2 felonies
 1 D.U.I by Minor

Bonds Set:
 3 Motion to revoke probation
 2 Terroristic Threat
 Violation of protective order- \$2500
 3 Driving, license suspended- \$500

Interference with emergency call- \$2000
 Assault, bodily injury, family violence- \$2500, protective order, 48 hour detention
 Injury, child, elderly, disabled, w/intent for injury- \$25,000
 Motion to revoke probation- Andrews county, refused
 Aggravated sexual asault to child- \$40,000
 Bond forfeiture/ possession controlled substance- \$5000 cash
 Possession of drug paraphernalia- \$500

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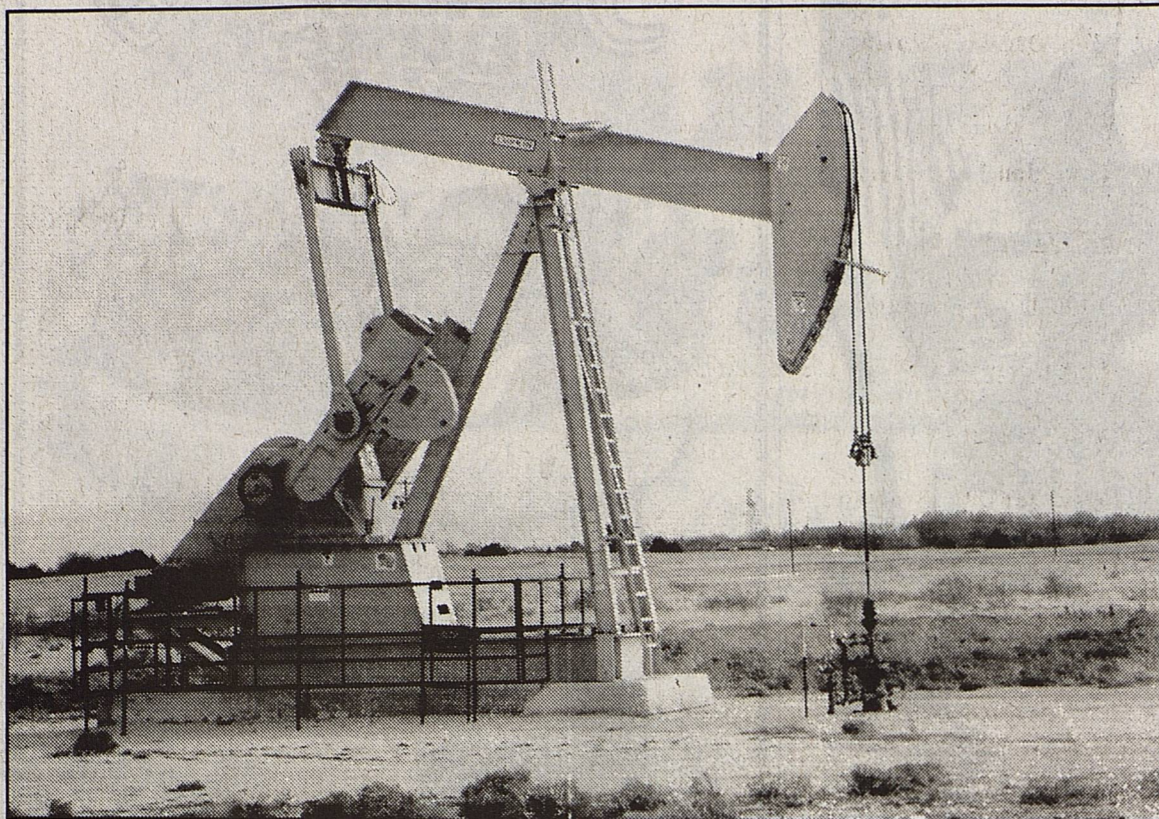
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Modern pumpjack with town and watertower in background

**** Editors Note - On November 18, The LOVINGTON LEADER printed its annual salute to the oil and gas industry of their county and the State of New Mexico, a 64 page gem of skilled news items supported by a wealth of advertising from those people and firms supporting the huge industry of that state.**

Perhaps folks who have recently been marooned on a lonely island are not aware of it, but our own Yoakum County is caught up in that same feverish boom - the entire State of Texas is involved in the return of the Golden Days of King Petroleum. A casual drive about Yoakum and neighboring Lea County will give testimony to these busy times - trailer and RV space is full, help-wanted ads fill area newspapers and radio spots, hundreds of commuting oil industry workers stream into Denver City from neighboring towns. The oft repeated oil field prayer has come back in vogue - "Oh Lord, just give me one more oil boom and I PROMISE not to fluff this one off!" (Well, that's close enough).

Material for the following section of CCN originally appeared in the LEADER's oil and gas issue, and is stolen with their full knowledge and consent. We are extremely grateful.

By W. H. (Hop) Graham:

" You know their reputation - and if you're old enough you have seen it with your own eyes. Oil towns are dirty, messy and dangerous, because the business that drives them

is dirty, messy and dangerous. Vestiges of the days this was totally true are still around. You can see it in rusty iron buildings where the galvanized zinc has worn off. Junky vacant lots piled high with old iron of every description. Heavy bodied men - and only men - whose business it was to lift and swing the tremendous weights in the oil patch, duck the whipping cable, and survive the fumes of welding, diesel and gases that come out of the holes they are punching into the bowels of Mother Earth.

Those images are disappearing. The oil field still earns its reputation as a difficult, demanding, and sometimes dangerous place to work, but those have become relative, not absolute terms as new and better equipment move out the old iron, and the men clean up themselves and the workplace into a vastly better environment.

The towns and cities in the oil patch are undergoing renewal, too. Many are bright and shiny candidates for " America's Best" lists in magazines. Others are coming up fast with community re-dos including sanitized approaches, better lighting, and that look of civic involvement you can see everywhere.

Best of all, the cities and towns in the oil patch are ALIVE. The rush to stimulate old produc-

tion and find new reserves has generated a veritable tidal wave of heavy and light trucks, drilling and workover rigs, and exploratory and service vehicles of all descriptions.

Add to this the personal activity as employees and their families pursue work-related driving and exercise their new found freedom out of the house with a big jump in disposable income, and you have a startling increase in road and street traffic in the Permian Basin.

No one can fail to notice the uptick. It's a vital part of the heart beat of the revived and stimulated oilfield economy. We're going places and doing things - night and day.

Restaurants are busy. Convenience stores and fuel line stations are teeming with activity. The brief visit of \$3 gasoline made for animated conversation, but it didn't slow anything down. We had too much to do.

Construction is booming. The loud cry is for more housing. Builders are responding to the demand with tract and single unit projects of all kinds. New subdivisions - very demanding in terms of regulations and front-end costs today - are popping up.

Commercial construction is not far behind, with the bulk of it aimed at the suddenly expanded demand for more and better working facilities for those serving the industry driving the local economy. Try to line up a contractor for a building or remodeling project in the Permian Basin today and be prepared to get in line. Competitive bidding has taken a holiday; most contractors are booked months into the future and don't have to fight for plenty of business. The cities and towns of the Permian Basin are vibrant and alive, and it's all because record oil prices, dragging natural gas up the ladder with it, appear to have come for a long, long stay."

Life In The Oilfield.....

A Woman's Perspective... by Debi Feltman

The LEADER's Debi Feltman, a regular contributor to its pages, did not need to do much research on her following article. Her husband Jimmy is a well seasoned oil patch hand, a tool pusher with McVay Drilling Co. of Hobbs, NM.

" The young wife knows the money is good. Her husband may not have a college degree but he has a high paying job.

He comes home tired and dirty. Only the dirt is different. It smells like petroleum, diesel, sweat.

She hopes she has his dinner ready because he will be hungry. He wonders if she took the time to make him a decent lunch because he'll remember her in a good way if she did.

He starts at the bottom, a lead tong hand. There is no glory or glamour. He does what he's told or the driller will tell him where to go and how to get there.

He comes home with a sack of filthy clothes that no woman wants washed in her machine. If she has a machine. That may come later. Right now the need is rent and food, heat and a vehicle.

On his day off the young roughneck finds a washing machine so he doesn't have to go out with stiff, crumpled up dirty 'greasers'. They may still feel dirty but they're stiff, like a cadaver.

Time has gone by. He got a promotion. He can now work the motors - a motorman. He's not on the bottom, but he's far from the top. A little encouragement from this wife and the man will learn, grow, and appreciate his fellow workers, and Thank God.

The rides are long. The days (or nights) are longer. The weeks turn into months and month into years.

He's learned a lot to get to be a derrick man. He took ---- from others no man should have to take, but sucked it up and and did it for a paycheck

and a future. There was no turning back or his family would suffer.

Now his pay is more. He climbs 90 feet to his post when it's time to move that pipe. He does other jobs his woman doesn't know about and he doesn't have the vocabulary she can understand to tell her.

More time. He may not look as young as he did. His skin is weathered now. The sun, the wind, the cold have taken their toll. But he still feeds his family. And she is still standing beside him when many nights she didn't want to.

With a little gray behind the temples he proudly accepts the position of driller. He has to find men - three of them - to fill the places he had in the past. He has to get them to work safely. They may have a family at home.

I hope he had a good teacher. His hands are going to need him to be intelligent, not haughty.

Year after year after year. He hates his job one minute and is OK with it the next. It's too late now to start a new career. His career is in front of him. He lives and breathes oilfield. That's what he knows.

This man also knows one other thing. He knows there is a God and in his time he'll be where he's supposed to be doing what he's grown mature enough to do.

Now their children are grown and they have grandchildren. The money is good. The money was always good and now it's better. It's a restless journey, that some days seemed to take forever and other days seem as if time went way too fast.

Now he is a tool pusher. His wife still not sure why the name is as such except that he

spends a lot of time driving. He makes sure tools and supplies are at the rig for the drillers and crews he oversees. He still takes his lunch but now it goes in a much larger bag for several shifts or even several days. The wife sees him a lot less but loves him a lot more. Time has a way of doing that.

He'll get days off eventually and when he's caught up on his sleep then they may get to do something special. He's older, and their love is solid so he can go fishing.

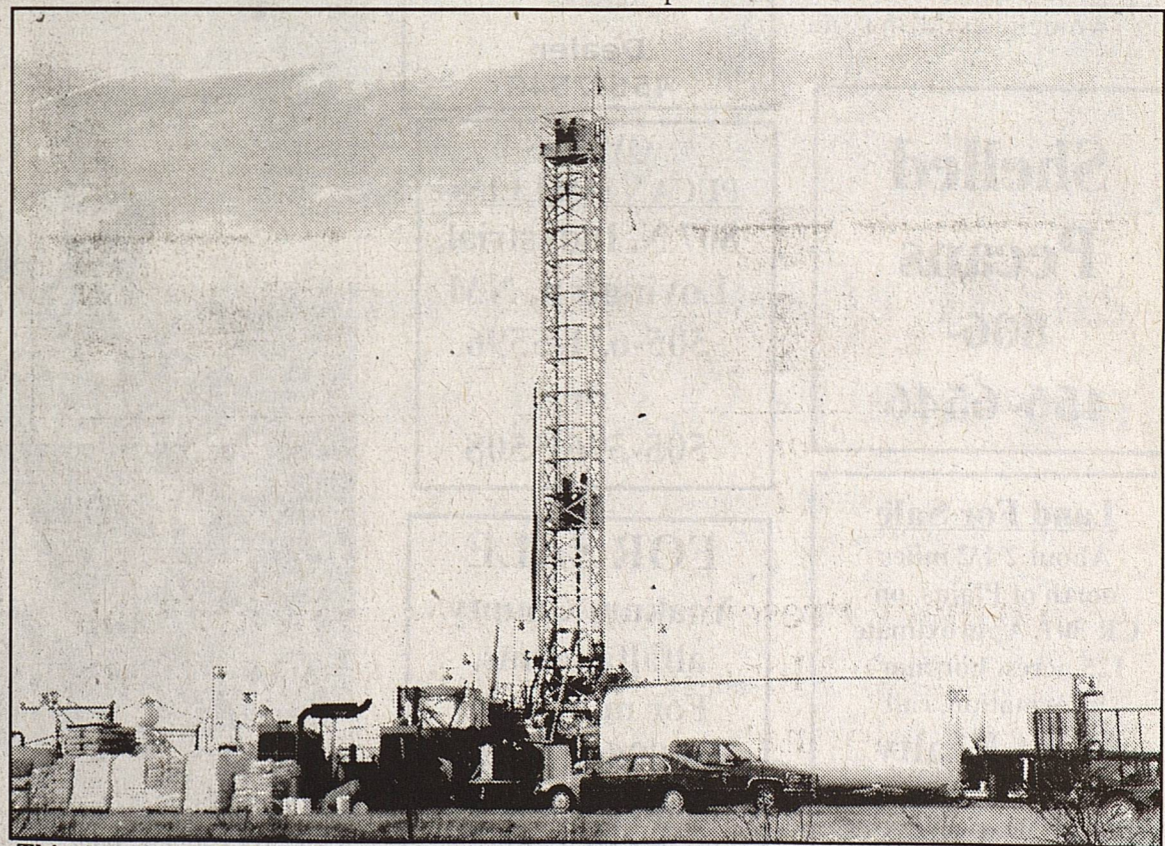
There were good times and bad times. There were marriages, divorces and deaths. There were good choices and bad. The oil field paid their way. It paid for the house, the vehicles, the clothing, the furniture, their children and grandchildren's education. The oilfield has been known to support the local drug dealer but it has also supported the local church. Good and evil are sometimes close companions.

He phones his wife more often just to tell her he's thinking of her. He has a nice home in town but at the rig it's a trailer with satellite TV.

He's an oilfield man. No more, no less. He is part of the lifeblood of this county and he's not going anywhere. The price of gasoline is still cheaper than a good gallon of milk - for now.

The foundation for life for this county has been the man (and his wife) in the oilfield, drilling side or servicing side. From the cradle to the grave, for some.

" Papa, did you cry for me? Come to my house," said his granddaughter. The voyage has been worth it.



This three-man drilling rig now working just south of County Airport

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union has an ambitious program. It favors strict enforcement of prohibition laws, frowns on carnivals, bathing girl reviews and the use of tobacco and coffee THE TEXAS NEWS Oct., 1919

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On The Calendar

Annual food & toy drive now underway.
Tree Lighting, Santa's visit Nov. 29.
'Roast' for Judge Brewer - more later.
Courthouse closed noon 12-22 to 12-27
CNN will publish abbreviated issue on December 27. Happy Holidays!

From The Hack

Why is it hordes of people like me over-do Thanksgiving every year? I refer, of course, to over eating - stuffing, and not the dead bird on the platter - gluttony, with a big capital G - scarfing down, with a capital S.D. Come on, please don't tell me I'm the only one with a skinny belly which stretches to about half the size of a Navy blimp I saw in San Francisco years ago.

Did I do it again this holiday, first celebrated with people wearing funny looking hats making buddies of even stranger looking guys who actually planted corn and fish in the same hole in the ground, you ask? Does a pig squeal and grunt? Of Course I Did! Louder than any pig, too, about four that PM when I actually thought something was trying to blast a hole in my navel in order to escape the inner darkness.

As always, I did manage to survive. Painfully. When my discomfort finally eased to the almost bearable state, I paused in thought of the many things I was thankful for. Actually, this was Round Two of my gratitude period. I had already covered most of the thoughts suggested to me and a hundred or so other faithful in a recent church session by my big ol' male friend. You might say my second 'Thank You' session was a bit more frivolous:

I found myself mildly thankful I semi-learned to play golf so many years ago. I emphasize semi-learned. If I had REALLY learned I would now be retired from the Seniors Tour, tons of cash in the bank, lovely, fawning women cuddling me

warmly, softly, sponsors calling for my endorsements of waffle irons, cold and cough medicines of wonder, pills guaranteed to foil constipation, and now and then golf balls capable of warp speeds while reaching New Jersey with my awesome drives.

If I had REALLY learned golf, I would have a Mercedes in my garage, an Escalade in the driveway, and a Lexus at Boltron's being serviced the very first time.

If I had REALLY learned to play golf, I would not be greeted upon arrival at the local golf clubhouse thusly:

' Shhh.. here he comes. Pretend to be nice to him until we collect.'

' Hey, Dyer, meet Joe Blow, he has a 22 handicap, you can kick his butt !'

' OK, guys, let's keep it friendly today. By the way, how much can you afford to lose, Gary ??'

' Today's my wife's birthday, and the last thing she said to me when I left was, ' Be generous today, honey', so I'll tell you what I'm gonna do... I'll give you 4 on the front and 4 on the back, OK, Dyer?'

The recent election melee reminds me of the late Adlai Stevenson's run for the presidency. A feverish supporter came up to him and gushed, "Governor, you are going to win because every thinking person in America is going to vote for you!"

Stevenson then calmly replied, " Oh, but that won't be enough! You know, to win, you have to have a majority of the votes!"

Cowgirl-Cowboy Action VS Wellman-Union



Desiraye Broome vs TALL girl



Zach Ramos moves the ball



Landon Craft goes high for shot

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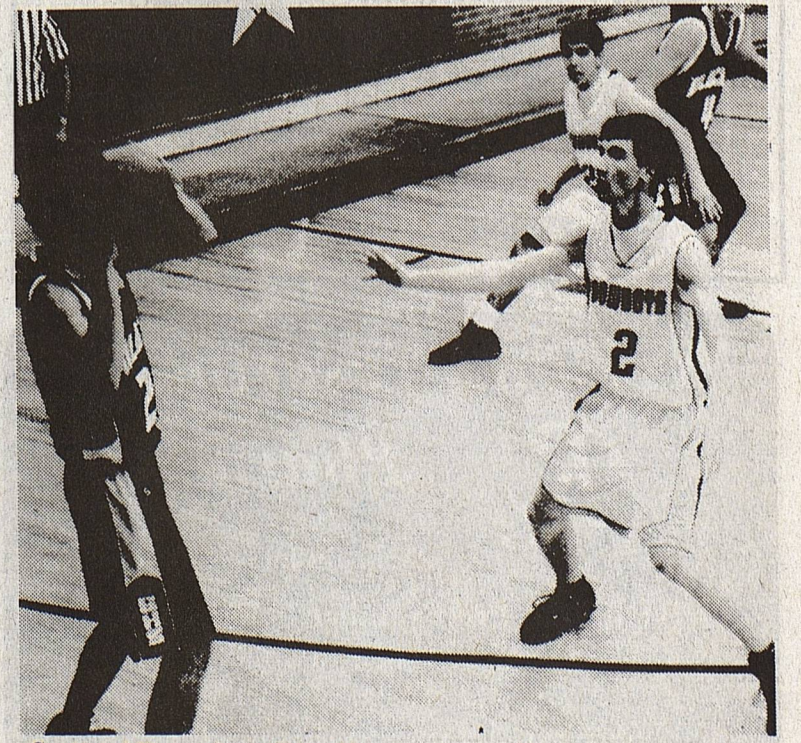
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Marie Bahr shoots



Rudy Gonzales works inside



Scott Addison plays 'D' - Photos courtesy Karen Williams

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