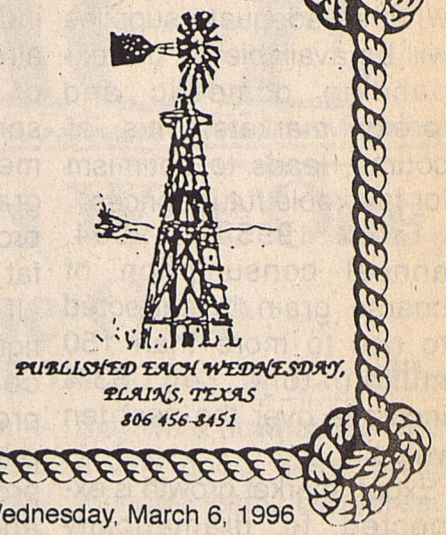


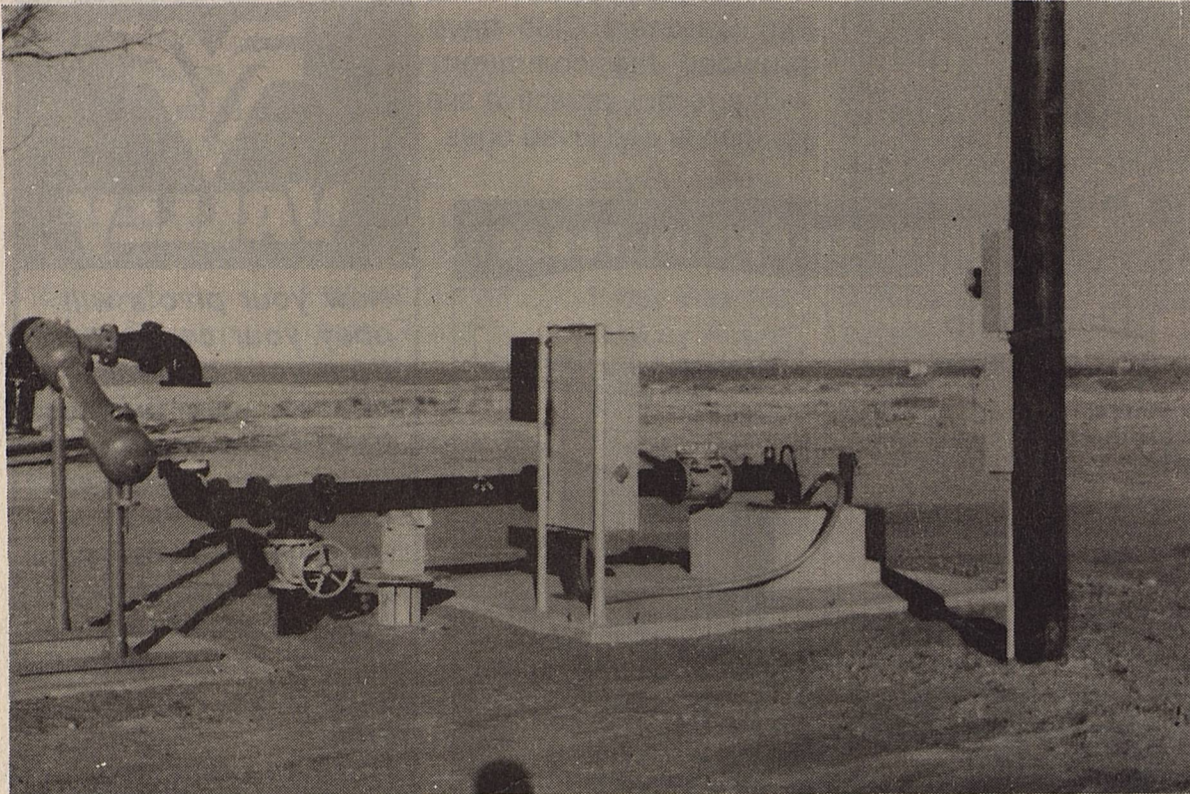
# Cowboy Country News



PUBLISHED EACH WEDNESDAY,  
PLAINS, TEXAS  
806 456-8451

Volume 2, Issue 26, Wednesday, March 6, 1996

## New Well To Be On Line This Month



According to City Administrator David Brunson, the town's water supply should be dramatically increased somewhere around March 22, when the new well west of town receives approval by the Texas National Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC).

"We don't anticipate any problems in TNRCC giving us a clean bill of health in

their chemical analysis. When we get word from them, all we have to do is tie the new well into the transmission line across the Highway," Brunson reported.

The new, third city well was drilled to a depth of 195 feet. When it starts pumping, it will be regulated to produce 450-500 gallons per minute, although capable of more production. The other

new well, drilled in 1995, plus the original well still in use, should ensure some 800 to 900 GPM of water entering the new storage tank.

Brunson and City officials are hopeful the dangerously low water levels residents experienced last summer will be a problem of the past when the new well is on line.

## Future For Milo Production, Other Grain Crops Looks Good

Will the scene depicted below, area grain warehouses and bins overflowing with grain sorghum, or milo, once again become familiar, even common place on our South Plains production area?

Probably not overnight, but the possibility exists the scene could possibly become common place during the next ten year growing season, according to the experts.

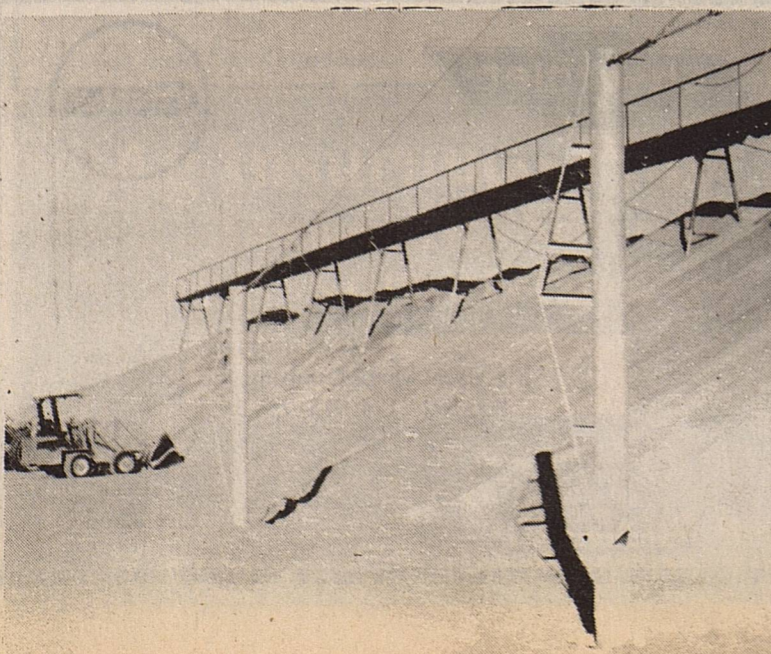
Jack Cobb, local producer and Director of the National Grain Sorghum Producers Association, attended two National

meetings in February which assessed the future of feed grain production in the U.S. Material for this article came from the two meetings.

One positive factor for projected increased milo production is the fact current feed grain stocks are down to 10% of the supply the world uses annually, a figure 25% less than normal usage.

At the US Feed Grains Council Meeting in San Antonio, attendees were told excess inventories of grain during the 80's are

Turn to page 2  
**'Milo Crop'**



## Election Update

The County Clerk's office reported Monday some 100 voters have cast early voting ballots for the March 12 primary election. This relatively light turn out of early voters is surprising, considering the large number of candidates running for Commissioner in Precincts 1 and 2. Early voting continues to 5 PM, March 8.

Plains City Hall reports incumbent has filed for re-election as a City Council member. Incumbent Mayor T.J. Miller has also filed for re-election, and Jose Ramirez has also filed for the Mayor position.

The P.I.S.D. Administration office Danny Bell, incumbent Board Trustee, District 3, has filed for re-election, and Brad Crump has filed for the Board seat in District 4.

Deadline for filing in both the City and School election is May 20.

# Vote!

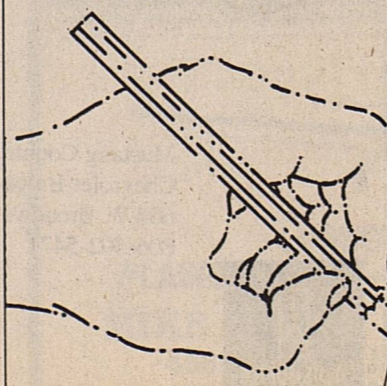
## Early Voting Ends On March 8

Voters anticipating being out of town on the March 12 Election Day, or simply want to beat the crowd on polling day, have a very few more days to cast their early votes. Friday, March 8 is the last day to cast early ballots in the Primaries.

Early voters, or those casting their vote on March 12, are urged to read the graphic below, with instructions on properly marking their ballots for the new fiber optic scanning system the Clerk's office will use the first time to tabulate all ballots. The new system was featured in last week's issue of CCN, and we urge all residents to vote this or next week!

## Voting with the new ballot.

Voters will use a new type of ballot in the next election. The new ballot is designed for the County's new vote tabulation system that optically scans, or "reads" your vote. To cast your ballot, you simply use the pencil provided at your polling place and darken the oval immediately to the left of your voting preference.



- George Wash
- Carter Braxton
- Thomas Jefferson
- John Adams (U.S.)
- \_\_\_\_\_
- United States Senator  
Senador de los Estados
- George Clymer (Col)
- Benjamin Franklin (S)
- John Witherspoon (Ma)
- Edward Rutledge (U.S.)
- \_\_\_\_\_
- United States Representative  
District 1  
(Representante 1  
Estados Unidos, Distrito Núm.
- Samuel Adams (Col)
- Josiah Bartlett (State)
- Lyman Hall (May)
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Railroad Commissioner  
(Comisionado de Ferrocarriles)
- Julius Caesar (Col)
- Luther Burbank (State)
- Winston Churchill (U)

## Credit Union 47th Annual Meeting

The 47th annual meeting of the Yoakum County Federal Credit Union was held February 24 in the school cafeteria. The large crowd of members enjoyed a ham and salad dinner. Sidney Pippen and his band provided the entertainment.

Three charter members were in attendance, and were honored with recognition of their 47 year membership. They were Pierre St. Romain, H.G. McDonnell and Sherm Tingle. Others receiving recognition for their services were Lola Bryan, who recently resigned as manger of the credit union, and past Directors Bo Stephens and Harry Richardson.

The present Board of Directors include Bill Adams, Arlon Alexander, Tommie Brown, Lattrell McDonnell, Kenneth Engle, Melvin Dearing and Owen Schneider.

The credit union would like

to thank the following individuals and merchants for donating door prizes for the event; Grandma Price Candle Co., Mae Barnett, Jimmie Rice, Texas Equip. Co., Gonzales Tire Service, Bayer Lumber, Jim Barron, Sellers Steak House, Willis Automotive, Lea County Electric, Marjorie's Coiffures, Eddins Walcher, Richardson Insurance, Yoakum Co. Library, Toni Jones, Bob's Grocery, Doug's Specialties, Mr. & Mrs. Pierre St. Romain, Plains Depot, Anderson Grain, Melissa Garcia, Anne's Mini-Mart, Dairy Queen, Ita Young, Yoakum Co. Co-Op Gin, Renaissance, Pay 'n Save, Mustang Country, Stacey Earnest, Grand Entry, Thriftway, Lanell's, Palace Drug, Higginbotham Bartlett Lumber, Liberty Young, Mackey McWhirter, Script Office Supply, Bea's Flowers, La Especial Bakery, and Tangle's.

## New Sprinkler System Enhances Local Cemetery

A February 15 meeting of the Plains Cemetery Association approved plans for installing an underground sprinkler irrigation system in Plot A, Block 2, or the N.E. quarter of the developed cemetery.

Those attending the meeting were L.J. and Virginia Sanders, Sit Jones, Jess Gass, Sandra Ellison, Margaret Box, Edna Chambliss, Alma Lynn McGinty, Ita Young, Dean Richardson, Mary Jo St. Romain, Wilma Powell, Burve Overton, Nellie Wauson, and Kent Welch

The work on the new watering system is

complete, and according to Cemetery Custodian Jess Gass, is performing perfectly.

Other improvements to the Cemetery include installing a permanent spot light to illuminate the National flag, enabling it to be flown day and night.

The Plains Dirt Gardeners Club, through their 'Operation Christmas Card' fund raising project the past few years, purchased a total of 47 grave markers to be placed on previously unmarked graves. 18 of the markers are currently in

Turn to page 2,  
**'Cemetery'**



Cont'd from page 1, **'Milo Crop'**

gone, and concern exists whether adequate supplies will be available for the expanding domestic and foreign markets. This, of course, leads to optimism for favorable future prices.

From 1995 to 2004, annual consumption of coarse grain is expected to rise to more than 150 million tons, an 83% increase over the past ten years.

Export market growth is expected to dramatically increase during the next decade, expanding to 126.8 million tons, up some 46% from the previous decade.

Large export demands from Mexico, Brazil, South Korea, Taiwan and other South American Countries are expected to boost sales of American coarse grains, while demand for feed grains here at home are expected to increase some 23% over the next ten years. Currently the Domestic demand for feed grains account for more than 75% of the US market, yet export sales will account for almost 40% of the projected decade's market growth.

The U.S. Feed Grains Council predicts "Exports will lead feed grains demand in the decade ahead. An example of this is illustrated by China. In 1992-93, that country exported 12 million metric tons of feed grains. It is projected they will IMPORT 17.6 mmt by the year 2004, a net change of 30mmt, or

30% of the world's grain trade.

Closer to home, the large and still growing dairy industry in New Mexico is already a major consumer of grain, particularly sorghum, or milo. Dairy men like milo as a feed grain for it's qualities in producing milk with a lower fat content.

If the increased demand figures and predictions are correct for increased production and favorable prices for milo, many local producers will be encouraged. Many farmers like milo as a cash crop, for it is cheaper to grow than cotton, with fewer inherent problems associated with 'King Cotton', and all producers recognize the value of rotating a high residue crop, such as milo, on cotton land.

**County Court Meets**

County Commissioners Court met Monday, March 4. The Court considered and discussed agenda items and took the following actions;

Appointed Debbie Adcock, Denver City, as alternate election Judge, precinct 305, replacing Olivia Robertson who is listed as a candidate in the March 12 election ballot.

James Adair was approved as the new County Juvenile Probation Officer effective March 1, 1996. Adair, who with his wife Kathy Adair, County Extension

Agent, recently moved here from Portales, NM.

Texas Alltel, Inc., was granted permission to lay and operate telephone communication lines under certain County roads.

Cindy Poole, District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service here, advised the Court additional funds are available from the Texas Forest Service for installing 'dry hydrants' on irrigation wells for use in fighting rural area fires. The previous approved limit for installing each 'dry hydrant' was raised from \$350 to \$500 per unit. There are a number of suitable wells around the County which can be utilized for the hydrants.

The Court approved hiring Lola Bryan as dispatcher in the Sheriff's Department. She will have the position and salary of a 3rd Deputy effective March 11.

A letter from District Judge Kelly G. Moore was read, approving appointment of Hazel Lowrey as County Auditor for a two-year period, and issuance and payment of a performance bond.

A resolution was adopted designating South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG) to continue maintaining its 911 communication addressing data bank. The system automatically logs and identifies callers using the emergency 911 number.

Advertising bids was approved for the purchase of a new haul truck for Precinct 4.

Cont'd from page 1, **'Cemetery'**

place, the others scheduled for installation in the near future. The Club is active in many other Cemetery improvement and beautification projects.

There are no plans for sprinkler lines to be laid in the original, or extreme northern portion of the Cemetery, because of the unknown precise locations of many grave sites. The extreme southern, undeveloped portion of the Cemetery could be irrigated in the future if more burial space is needed.

The Cemetery Association wishes to thank Commissioner Jim Barron and the Precinct 3 employees who furnished the labor for installing the watering system, which Association funds purchased.



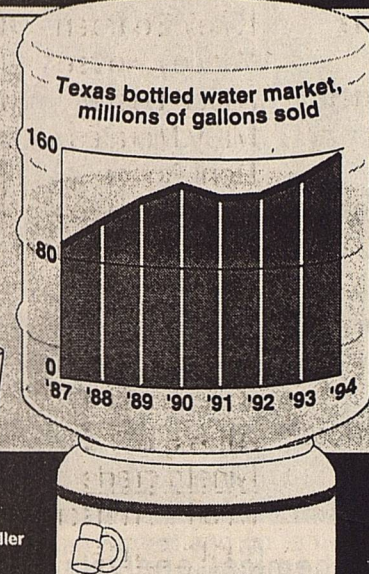
**JESS GASS, WHO HAS DONE AN OUTSTANDING JOB IN MAINTAINING LOCAL CEMETERY**

The work and contributions of the Cemetery Association and Dirt Gardners Club have provided the community with a restful, attractive site for friends and loved ones.

**Keeping an eye on Texas**

**Texans gulp bottled water**

Sales of bottled water in Texas rose from 88.2 million gallons in 1987 to 154 million gallons in 1994, or about 8.4 gallons for every person in the state. Water sold in bottles may be gathered from natural springs as well as municipal water systems.



SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and International Bottled Water Association.

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**Who Takes Care Of You?**



Pauline Harlan, wife, & Betty Holland, daughter

The family of Leo Forrest Harlan would like to greatly encourage other families that have a loved one with a terminal illness, or perhaps needs medical assistance themselves, to contact Hospice Services, Inc. "We heard of Hospice Services, Inc., but never realized we would be able to utilize the services provided. Upon further investigation, we realized that Hospice Services was free to all terminally ill people who requested their services. You don't have to be a cancer patient. Any terminal illness will qualify you for the services of Hospice.

"Dad's Doctor recommended Hospice, so we contacted them, and their response was immediate. The Nurse came and assessed the situation, and ordered medical equipment such as a hospital bed, oxygen, and a shower chair. They supplied pain medication, and provided us with blue pads, diapers and supplies. All of these services were provided free of charge. Hospice immediately responded and became a great support for the family. They allowed us to focus on day to day care giving for dad, and took the financial worries away.

"How does one express to an organization what it meant to the family of Leo Harlan? The organization made a very sad situation easier to bear, with the loving care that the staff and volunteers showed for dad, mom, and the whole family!"

"Mere words could never express our appreciation to the Hospice Nurses, volunteers, social workers and to the many people who make contributions to Hospice Services Inc. in order to allow Hospice to continue their services.

"Our loved one is no longer with us, but he was taken care of and loved very well right up until the last minute. He was allowed to die with his family and friends around, at home with the love he needed. This was all he wished, and his wish was granted with the help of Hospice. Hospices was with him to the end, and they still continue to visit and console mom.

"May the Lord grant Hospice Services, Inc. many extra blessings for years to come. We appreciate all you did, great or small, for Leo Harlan."

The family of Leo Harlan, Seagraves, Texas

**Don't Wait ....**

**Call Hospice Services, Inc. today while they can make a difference in your life. 1-800-530-4591 or 806-592-2901.**

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# 'PISD ACTIVITY PAGE'

## PHS Honor Roll

Elementary	Junior High	High School
<b>All A's</b>	<b>All A's</b>	<b>All A's</b>
First Grade	Fifth Grade	Ninth Grade
Scott Addison	Sandra Gallegos	Maranda Box
Landon Craft	Krystal Gonzalez	Clint Burrus
Nicole Culwell	Jill Gray	Marcey House
Meghan Garcia	<b>Sixth Grade</b>	Tommie McNabb
Kimberly Jackson	Tanner Hamm	Lisa Parrish
Challie Johnson	Nathan Hays	<b>Tenth Grade</b>
Erika Loewen	Ky May	Vicki Bayer
Angelica Mendoza	Annaliesa O'Quinn	Heath Bowlin
Araceli Mendoza	Scott Tirrell	Shawna Box
Lisa Neufeld	Becky Wilmeth	Yvonne Gonzales
Adriana Ponce	<b>Seventh Grade</b>	Summer Howard
Lupita Quintana	Emily Blair	Lindsey Six
D.J. Robertson	Kelsey Blundell	Gideon Traweek
<b>Second Grade</b>	Aaron Cain	Sandi Warren
Olivia Barrientez	Lensey Cullins	<b>Eleventh Grade</b>
Stephen Cox	Chris Estrada	Sonia Avila
Michael Crump	Amanda Garcia	Kyley Bearden
Allison Friesen	Jason Gracia	Yancey House
Ben Hays	Kimberlee Jones	Jacob Lester
Rose Henderson	Ashlei Mason	Mary Morales
Skylar Keesee	<b>Eighth Grade</b>	Roni Ponce
B.J. Lester	Krystle Blundell	Robin Squyres
Adam McCravey	Candace Bowers	Tessa St. Romain
Mark Morgan	Velve Canada	<b>Twelfth Grade</b>
Blake O'Quinn	Christopher Cleveland	Valerie Blair
Katie Oswald	Jessica Flores	Jeremy Dearing
Blake Parrish	Kristen Gray	Kelly McGinty
Abel Ramos	Wendy Hernandez	<b>All A's &amp; 1 B</b>
Todd Williams	Fermin Luna	<b>Ninth grade</b>
<b>Third Grade</b>	Kelton Mason	Dustin Brunson
Amy Brintle	Laura Morales	<b>Tenth Grade</b>
Evan Cain	Nichole Newsom	Laura Flores
Aldo Fierro	Anne Palmer	Abraham Garcia
Cody Flores	Patty Ruiz	Dolly Gonzales
Mayra Flores	Kyle Sisson	Kassie Lowe
Breck Hamm	Jason Swann	Will St. Romain
Brandon Hise	Staci Tuggle	<b>Eleventh Grade</b>
Brant Huerta	<b>All A's &amp; 1 B</b>	Arthur Hernandez
Kerry Sisson	<b>Fifth Grade</b>	Darcia Humphrey
<b>Fourth Grade</b>	Chisum Deaton	Allen Ward
David Funk	Kayla Willis	<b>Twelfth Grade</b>
Trent May	Elizabeth Wilmeth	Stephanie Aguilar
Grady McNabb	<b>Sixth Grade</b>	Marie Moreno
Moriah Traweek	Jared Bell	Brad seaton
<b>All A's &amp; 1 B</b>	<b>Seventh Grade</b>	Josh Traweek
<b>First Grade</b>	Joel Gallegos	Steve Vasquez
Alice Curtis	Kari Guetersloh	
Jose Luis Gallegos	Adrienne Ramoz	
Mikayla Gomez	Donita Richardson	
Callie Howell	Lesli Rowe	
Shalisa Marcum	Lisa San Filippo	
<b>Second Grade</b>	Dustin Six	
Casson Curtis	Lexi Warren	
Alisha Wauson	Matt Willis	
<b>Third Grade</b>	<b>Eighth Grade</b>	
Ramiro Barrientez	Joshua Bell	
Kelby Johnson	Leticia Canon	
Daniela Lazos	Autumn Deaton	
<b>Fourth Grade</b>	Kelli Osborn	
Tony Gomez		
Helena Neufeld		
Nolan Newsom		
Manuela Villegas		



## 12-A All-District Selections Named

Four Plains Cowboys were named to the prestigious All-District list this week. Senior Chase Clanahan was singularly honored, being named Most Valuable Player, District 12-A. Others selected were Seniors Kirk Parrish and Ralph Ramirez, and Freshman Tanner Blount. Senior Johnny Don Davis achieved All-District Honorable Mention honors. Our congratulations on these outstanding achievements.

## 'Quiz Bowl' Finals Slated

The final rounds of the 2nd annual P.H.S. 'Quiz Bowl' is slated for 10 AM March 20 and 21 in the school auditorium.

The event will feature an elimination series pitting the Freshmen against the Sophomore team, and Juniors versus Seniors. Winners in these divisions will then compete, and the final round will pit the winning class against a team of faculty members.

The "mind stretching" contest is tough and interesting, and the student body and faculty 'cheering' sections provide an exciting and spirited contest. If you think you have an adequate or superior I.Q., you are urged to attend this event. Most of the verbal questions are real stumpers.

## Notice

The Plains School indoor pool will be open to the public on Monday's from 6:30 - 8:30 PM. (The pool will not be open during school holidays.)

## Student of the Week



Sandi Warren is this week's Student of the Week. She is a sophomore and is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Howard.

"She was nominated by Mrs. Banfield. "This student is not only bright and intelligent, but she enjoys learning. She is a pleasure to have in class. She knows what is expected of her, and always comes to class prepared."

"She participates well in class, is friendly, respectful, and works well with other students and teachers. She is an asset to any classroom. I feel she will do well in anything that she tries."



## Cowboys Win One, Lose One

### Playoff Action Ends With Loss To Klondike

The Bi-District Champion Cowboys continued their playoff campaign February 27 with a 47-42 win over Petersbrug in action at Levelland. They made a credible 56% of their field goal shots, and second effort attempts scored 14 points in the close game. Johnny Davis pulled down 8 rebounds, and Chase Clanahan had 6. Clanahan led the scoring with 20 points, followed by Jason Redman with 8, Tanner Blount and Davis 7 each, Jamie Caballero 3, and David Flores 2.

they were downed 82-59 by a very good, state ranked Klondike team. Dismal second and fourth quarters sealed the Cowboys fate, when they were out scored a total of 22 points. They could only manage 40% of their free throw attempts, but out rebounded Klondike, with Kirk Parrish pulling down 10. Kirk Parrish again scored 20 points, Parrish 13, Davis 10, Blount 7, Caballero 5, flores and Redman 2 each.

Congratulations Cowboys, on a good winning season and especially to Seniors Chase Clanahan, Johnny Davis and Kirk Parrish. The school and town are proud of you!

### 1996 Plains Cowboys Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Place	Time
Aug. 23	* Sudan	Away	TBA
Aug. 30	* New Deal	Home	TBA
Sept. 6	* Abernathy	Away	8:00
Sept. 13	* O'Donnell	Away	8:00
Sept. 20	* Wink	Home	8:00
Sept. 27	* Petersburg	Away	8:00
Oct. 4	** Whiteface	Home	8:00
Oct. 11	Shallowater	Home	7:30
Oct. 18	Seagraves	Away	7:30
Oct. 25	Sundown	Home	7:30
Nov. 1	Morton	Home	7:30
Nov. 8	Tahoka	Away	7:30

### 1996 High School Tennis Schedule

Feb. 26	D.C./Lamesa	Plains	4:00
Mar. 5	Hobbs	Hobbs	4:30
Mar. 19	Seagraves	Seagraves	4:00
Mar. 23	Seminole Tournament	Seminole	TBA
Mar. 26	Sundown	Plains	4:00
Mar. 29/30	Lubbock Tournament	Lubbock	TBA
April 2			
April 4/5	Brownfield Tournament	Brownfield	TBA
April 9-11	District Tennis JV/Varsity	Levelland	TBA
April 25-26	Regional Tennis		TBA
May 10-11	State Tennis	Austin	

### 1996 PHS Jr. High Tennis Schedule

Mar. 4	Levelland	Plains	4:00
Mar. 18	Meadow	Plains	4:00
Mar. 25	Anton/Whiteface	Levelland	4:00
April 1	Seagraves	Seagraves	4:00

## Now Open To Serve You Plains Memorial Chapel

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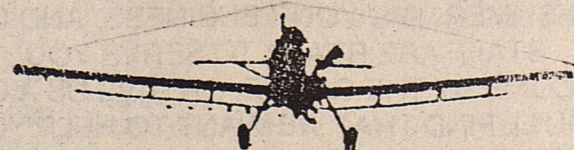


Tommy & Terry Thrash  
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## Two J-S

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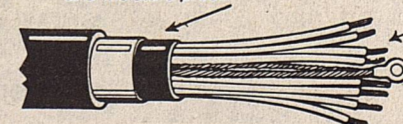
AERIAL APPLICATION SPECIALISTS



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PLAINS OFFICE --- 456-3580 OR 456-7436  
MIKE COBB JACK COBB  
456-7165 << HOME >> 456-7452  
456-7511 << MOBILE >> 456-7512

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All wire is pre-cut, pre-stripped and color-coded.

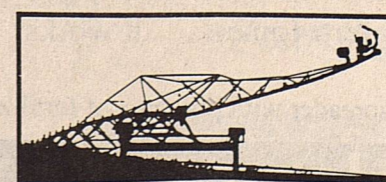
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15 amp fuses in the main control panel of their standard length systems, compared to 25 or 30 amp fuses required by other manufacturers.

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## County FFA, 4-H Youth Score Big In Houston Stock Show

It is a long, grueling experience for young livestock exhibitors showing animals in the large, back to back livestock shows at San Antonio, then Houston. Their animals, and their showmanship skills are tested against the best competition from around the state.

Our FFA and 4-H youth from Denver City did extremely well at both shows. Winners at San Antonio were reported last week, and the youngsters fared even better at the larger Houston show.

Some 4,200 pigs were 'double sifted' at the huge swine facility in Brenham, with only 660 pigs advancing to the Houston Show. Lambs were also 'sifted' at Rosenberg.

Plains FFA exhibitors Marcey House, Marte Pierce, Staci Tuggle and Tanner Blount all had animals qualifying for the Houston show and sale. Marcey's A.O.B. (all other breeds) steer won Reserve Champion honors, competing against 97 other animals. Her steer brought \$27,500 in the sale, with Marcey receiving \$15,000, the balance marked for education scholarships. Marte showed a 4th place Hampshire pig, Staci's Duroc won 20th place, and Tanner showed a 35th place Tadd Knight, County Extension Agent and 4-H Club Coordinator, reported a remarkable showing at Houston. Nine of thirteen 4-H youngsters survived the Brenham sift and got their pigs in the sale. They are Ricky Nevarez with a 3rd

place light cross, Justin Nevarez 3rd light York, Amanda Hiller 5th light Cross, Jennifer Hiller 7th Hwy Poland, Austin Keese 8th Heavy Hamp, Jessica Brown 8th light York, Ashlei Mason 16th heavy Cross, Ragan McGinty 25th middle Cross, and Jinger Hancock 34th heavy Cross.

1400 Lambs were sifted at Rosenberg, with 300 advancing to Houston, including Jinger Hancock's 15th place light finewool cross.

Young Austin Keese placed 13th in the large A.O.B. division of steers.

Knight said he was confident the County 4-H group had the highest percentage of show and sale winners of any County 4-H group.

Denver City FFA show results were unavailable at press time.

### \*Correction\*

Last week's reminder featured erroneous information about election of County Democratic Party Committee positions. The County Party Chairman and Precinct Chairmen failed to file for a spot on the March 12 election ballot. Following is a list of current Party office holders:

- County Chairman - Ty Earl Powell
- Pct. 1-1 - Kathey Smiley
- 2-2 - Earlene Freeman
- 3-3 - Sarah Guetersloh
- 3-5 - Loretta Watkins
- 4-4 - Carolyn Culwell
- 4-6 - Charlie Gillis

Write in votes are allowed for these or other individuals for these offices.

## Watermelon Festival

### Planned

Sunday, March 24 at 3:00 PM will be the next Yoakum County Connection meeting at the Denver City Community Building. Ann Carthel of Floydada, TX will discuss their Pumpkin Festival and give suggestions for the County Watermelon Festival planned for Labor Day weekend, August 31. Co-Chair Inetta Teaff of Plains and Chairman Ann Hartman of Denver City are working on the planned event to be held on the courthouse square in Plains.

The Feb. 22 meeting in plains with Mr. Peter F. Fox of Austin was well attended with 15 present. Completed cultural surveys done by community leaders were given to Mr. Fox, who is planning a community needs assessment report. Suggested County Economic development Youth/Senior Summer Art Activities and a Planned Leadership Creative Thinking Workshop were also discussed by the group. An organizational goal setting session will be held in March as

well. "If possible, plan to use existing facilities & programs," suggested Mr. Fox. "Yoakum County has numerous 'pluses' already in existence."

Yoakum County Connection hopes to connect people, organizations and ideas to enhance the quality of life in this west Texas county. Plains and Denver City Chamber of Commerce, city councils and Yoakum County Commissioners Court have endorsed formally and through resolution the group's efforts. Mr. Fox has interviewed personally county leaders and plans to continue his copious note-taking this next visit. If anyone deserves input or interview with Mr. Fox, please call Linda Powell or Ann Hartman. This is your home, community and county. Let us work for its betterment. "I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble" - Helen Keller

Linda Powell

## Seniors Invest In Stock Market

For the 4th consecutive year, seniors in Coach Edwin Brink's economic's class are participating in the stock market game sponsored by New Mexico State University.

This year there are six teams participating from PHS. Each team is given \$100,000 to start with and the object is to see how much money each team can make in a ten week period. Each week, teams receive a portfolio showing how their stocks fared. Teams are ranked according to the eq-

uity in their portfolio. The Plains teams compete in the Northwest Texas Region against over 100 other teams.

Coach Brink states that each year the students look forward to playing the game. They learn how to read a financial page, do research on stocks, and how to buy and sell stocks.

Dorothy Hughes, coordinator of the game, says that with the market in a prolonged bull run, interest in the stock market game and how it operates is at an all-time high as each year more students from more schools enter the competition.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Named To Girls State

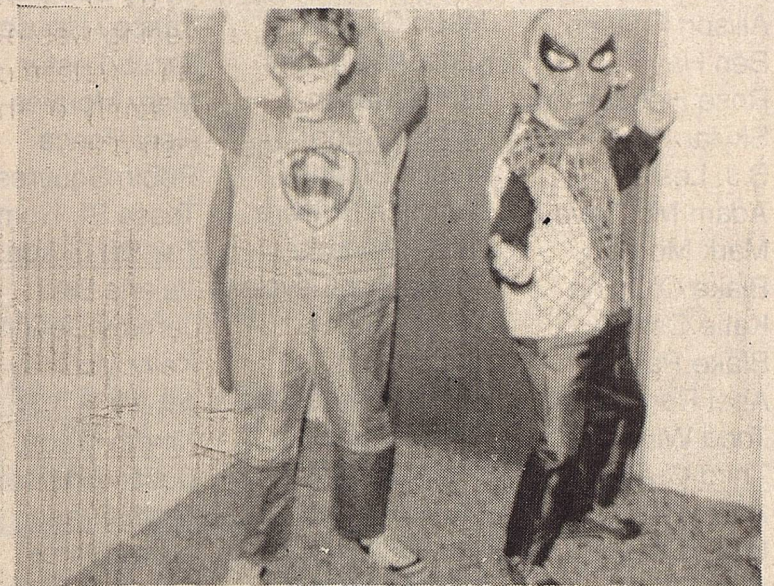
The local Forrest W. McCargo American Legion Auxiliary has selected PHS Junior Tessa St. Romain as their delegate to the annual Texas Bluebonnet Girls State June 11th to 21st at Texas Lutheran College, Seguin, Texas.



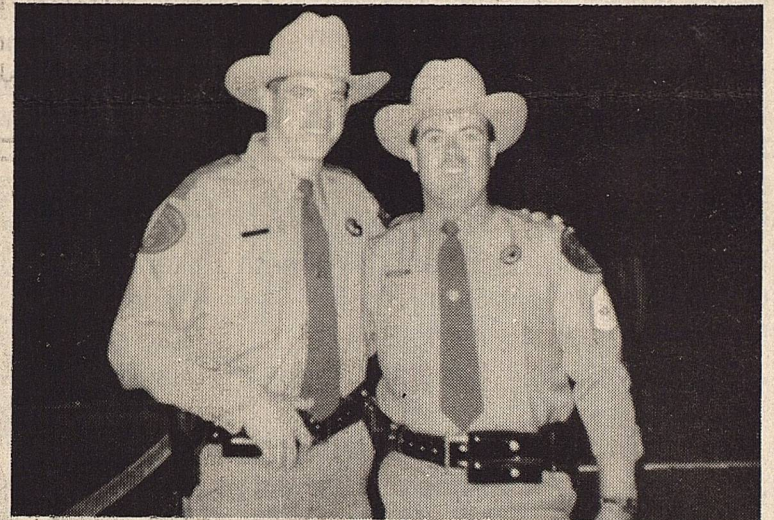
The purpose of American Legion Auxiliary Bluebonnet Girls State is to educate our young women in the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship. Its purpose is to awaken within the youth of our nation a sincere conviction that a well-informed, intelligent, participating citizenry is most vitally needed to protect and preserve our American institutions and our American democracy.

The maximum number of delegates this year will be to Seguin, Texas.

## THEN.....



## AND NOW.



In 1984, Tracy Murphree and Nicky Hanna were resplendent in their Halloween costumes. Best friends from kindergarten days to graduation from PHS, they both now wear the uniforms of the Texas Department of Public Safety. Tracy, the son of Larry and Ruth Murphree, is a DPS Sergeant stationed at Pecos. Nick, son of Buddy and Lee Hanna, a recent DPS graduate, is a trooper stationed at Eastland.

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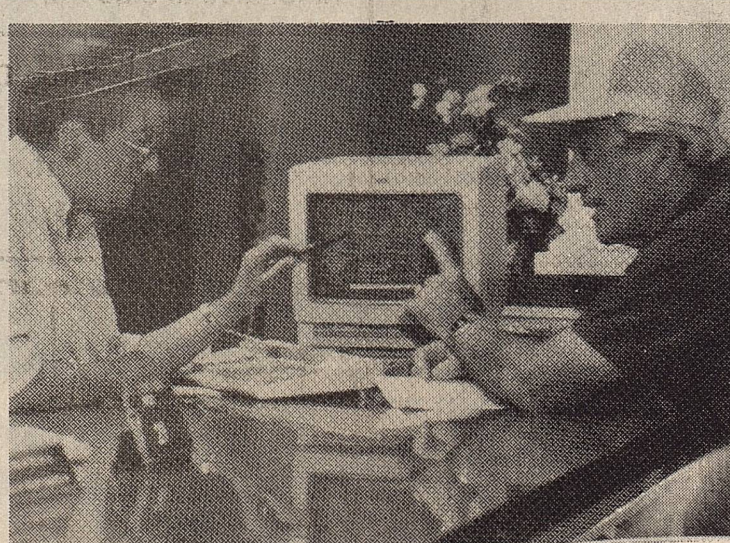
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# Femme Friends Page

## Tsa Mo Ga Club Enjoys Zig Zigar's Leadership Program

"Top Performance" on Leadership was the theme of the Tsa Mo Ga meeting February 26, 1996.

Ann McGinty, program coordinator, presented Linda Simmons and Kindergarten children dressed in Patriotic Costumes, representing the USA and Texas Flags. The pledge to the US Flag was repeated. The children sang "50 Stars and 13 Stripes are on our Flag." Amber Friesen sang "Yankee Doodle." The Texas pledge was led by Katie Winn with the group singing "Texas, Our Texas and the Eyes of Texas." Choral readings about the Bluebonnets and the state bird, the mockingbird. Everyone was a little more proud of our beautiful state and country.

Linda Simmons reviewed "Thumb-Nail Sketches of Zig Zigar's "Top Performance". Ziglar teaches you the qualities of good leadership-knowing how to channel people's energies and stimulate their desire to excel. Points of interest were focused on 'How to Develop excellence in Yourself and Others.' The children also helped to present and emphasize points of interest, with amusing anecdotes and vivid illustrations.

Hostesses were Billie Blundell and Ann Graham. A patriotic theme was used to decorate the club room. An enjoyable evening was expressed by all. Welcomed guests were family of the Kindergarten children.



Anne McGinty, Linda Simmons with, L-R, Trent Hawthorne, Ernesto Mendoza, Amber Friesen, Lauren Hise, Lauren Davis



Linda Simmons with, L-R, Zachary Ramos, Jacob Garza, Joani Bell, Rubi Castillo, Kati Winn

## Hazel B. Dawson

Funeral services for Hazel B. Dawson, 67, of Denver City, were held March 5 in the Church of God in Denver City, with Rev. Bill Dawson of Breckenridge officiating. Interment was in the Seagraves Cemetery under the direction of Connally Funeral Home of Seagraves.

Mrs. Dawson passed away Saturday, March 2 at her home in Denver City, Texas. She had been under the care of Hospice.

She was born in Parkdale, Arkansas on September 3, 1928 to Fred Morley and the former Genette Cunningham. She was married to Hulen Dawson on February 16, 1944 in Parkdale, Arkansas. They moved to Texas in 1963 and to Denver City in

1971. She was a homemaker.

She is survived by her husband of the family home, three sons: James Dawson of Post, Rev. Bill Dawson of Breckenridge and Jimmy Dawson of Denver City; three daughters, Alta Weir of Denver City, Flora Dawson of Lovington and Nellie Glover of Walden, Arkansas. There are 14 grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren.

## Library Filmtime

Nineteen children attended Filmtime on February 28. The sang songs, played games watched a movie and heard a book read.

Those attending were: Troy Parrish, Kevin John Gass, Kelsey Curry, Alfredo Martinez, Kimber Williams, Jacob Brink, Ashley Hainer, Landon Earnest, Mackinzie Arellano, Sherman Gressett, Gretta Poole, Isaac Doyle, Taylor Banfield, Elizabeth Cox, Jaston Brink, Charity Hainer, Dakota Earnest, Danyalla Wilson, and Berkleigh Gressett.



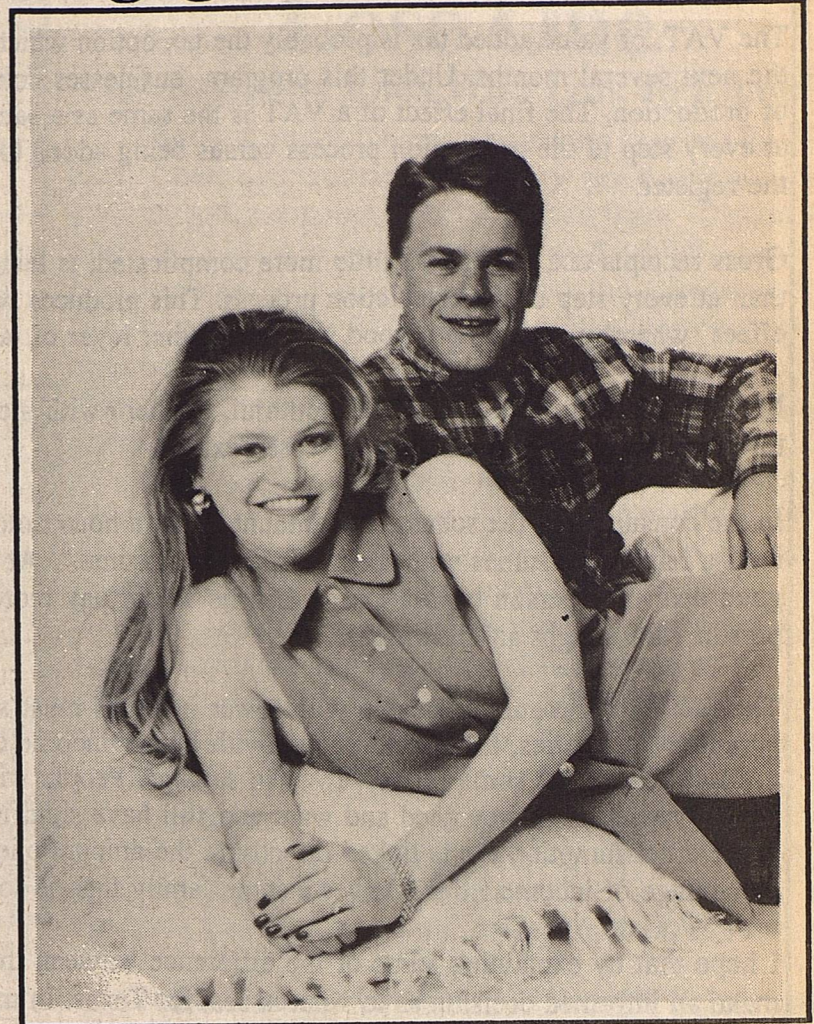
## Shower Dates

March 23rd - Heather Bowlin  
Place: Jo Ann Barron  
Time: 9:30 to 11:00 AM  
March 24 - Michelle Lowe  
Place: Judy Fitzgerald  
Time: 2:00 to 3:30 PM  
April 13 - Scotty Raines  
Place: Karen Bearden  
Time: 2:00 to 3:30 PM

## Secretary Needed

Call State Line Ins.  
For Appointment.  
**456-3521**

## Lowe, Baker Engagement Announced



Mr. and Mrs. Joel Lowe announce the engagement of their daughter, Michelle Devon, to Mr. Bret Alan Baker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Baker of Odessa.

The bride-elect is a 1991 graduate of Plains High School, and a 1995 graduate of Texas Tech University.

The future groom is a 1989 graduate of Odessa Permian High School, attended Texas Tech, and is assistant golf professional at Ratliff Ranch Golf Links in Odessa. The couple will marry Saturday, June 8 at First Baptist Church in Plains.

## Renaissance

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Amy Firls & Scotty Rains  
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# 'Walker, Texas Rep'

Friends, lately, there has been much talk about taxes. All types of taxes; property taxes, school taxes, flat taxes etc... I would like to take the time to explain some of the tax options that the Governor is looking at for the great state of Texas.

Consumption taxes, simply put, are any taxes linked to the amount of goods and services that a tax payer consumes. Consumption taxes are among the most common type of taxes, along with taxes based on property value and income. Sales tax, currently at 8.25 percent, is an example of a consumption tax.

The VAT, or value added tax is probably the tax option which will receive the most debate over the next several months. Under this program, businesses could be assessed a tax at each stage of production. The final effect of a VAT is the same as a sales tax, except that the tax is levied at every step of the production process versus being added to the price paid by the consumer at the register.

Gross receipts tax, although a little more complicated, is levied on a firms gross revenue rather than at every step of the production process. This produces what economist call the "cascading effect" whereby each time a good is sold, another layer of tax is imposed.

Now, I know this is an awful big mouthful, but bear with me and I will explain a little more as to how this affects you and me in West Texas.

In the consumption tax scheme the amount of tax a household pays is based on how much of an item a family consumes with their "disposable income." At first glance this might seem like a good deal. If a person buys a Lexus then he would pay more tax on that luxury vehicle than a person who bought an Oldsmobile.

The fact of the matter is people with lower incomes must spend most of their income just to purchase necessities. In general people with higher income can manage to buy what they need and even put some money away in savings. People with very high income can purchase virtually what ever they need and want and still have significant amounts of money leftover. Since a consumption tax is linked directly to the amount one purchases, it takes a much higher percentage of income from a lower income family than it does from a higher income person.

I hope that by explaining some of the difference between these tax programs, together we can make an informed decision as to what is best for Texas. In my next column I will explore some alternatives to a state consumption tax.

Once again, if you have any questions, comments or suggestions for me as we work through the interim feel free to call me. After all, that is why I am here.

Gary L. Walker, State Representative, District 80

February 27, 1996

The Yoakum County Commissioners Court:

Jim Barron  
John Avara  
Bob Thurston  
Macky McWhirter  
Dallas Brewer-County Judge

Dear Sirs:

The members and staff of Yoakum County Golf Club, especially the Board of Directors, would like to formally thank the Yoakum County Commissioners Court for the recent improvements made to the pro shop. We, as a club, appreciate the time and effort put forth on your part to make this project a reality, especially in this period of economic uncertainty. The golf course draws many visitors from around the area and the impression the course makes will be a positive one thanks to your help.

The club would also like to personally congratulate Precinct 1 Commissioner John Avara upon his upcoming retirement and extend a debt of gratitude for all his assistance over the years and for his attendance at numerous golf functions and board meetings.

Please feel free to come and visit the "New Pro Shop" when your schedule permits.

Sincerely,

*Bruce Fletcher*  
Bruce Fletcher

*Brad Cochran*  
Brad Cochran

*Wiley Osborne*  
Wiley Osborne

*Jim Risley*  
Jim Risley

*Theresa Young*  
Theresa Young

*Doug Brown*  
Doug Brown

*J. R. DeLosSantos*  
J. R. DeLosSantos

## The Longhorns: It Took Tough Men To Handle These Tough Cattle.

provocation - the hiss of a rattler, a cowboy's sneeze at night, a nearby yelping coyote, all could and did start the heard running. Dobie wrote, "STOMPEDE was the old Texian word, and no cattle in history had such a disposition to stampede as the Longhorn".

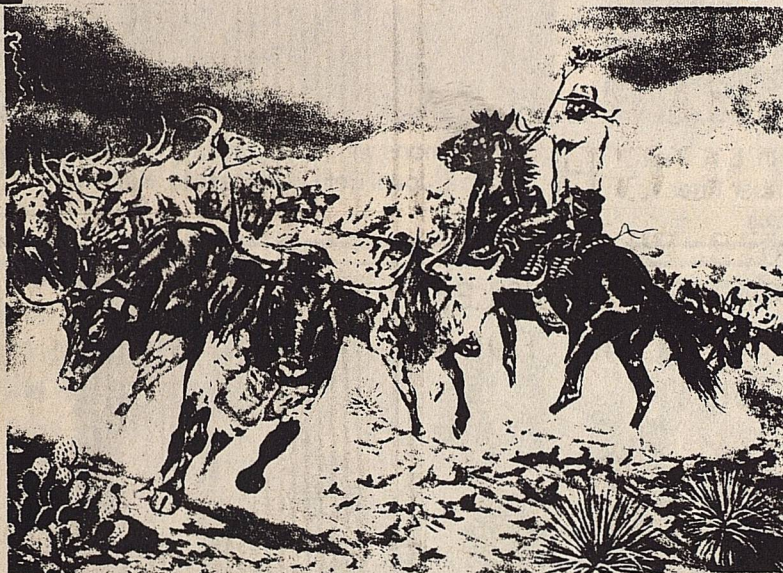
One herd took off on a panic run when a tobacco shred from a Comboy's pouch stuck in a steer's eye. Two drovers were killed in the stampede, many others injured, and 400 of the herd's 4,000 cattle were destroyed. In 1876, one of the worst recorded runs occurred near the Brazos River, when over 2,000 steers plunged into a deep gully.

Charles Goodnight, famed cattleman who first ranched in the Palo Duro Canyon area, recalled the tremendous heat generated by the running animals, when Cowboys running their horses on the lee side of the herd "almost had their faces blistered by the heat". On a hot night, a running steer could lose 40 pounds weight running 10 miles.

The successful and lucrative cattle drives actually led to the demise of the Longhorn. Word spread of the profits, eastern and foreign investors began to buy up Texas ranches and import Hereford, Angus and other European breeds of cattle. Public taste for the more tender beef from these breeds increased their numbers. Smaller, cross fenced ranches replaced open range lands, further diminishing Longhorn numbers.

In the early 20th Century, only a handful of true Longhorns existed, most of these kept by ranchers for sentiment.

Today, their numbers and quality have once again dramatically increased.



In 1865, after the Civil War, some 5 to 6 million Longhorn cattle roamed south and south west Texas. They were the descendants of Spanish Andalusian and Criollo cattle introduced in Mexico by the Conquistador gold seekers and explorers, which eventually reached what is now Texas. In the early and mid 1800's, many of these cattle began to breed with Texas settlers European cattle, particularly the English Longhorn.

When thousands of Confederate veterans returned to Texas after the war, many of them gathered large herds of the unmarked cattle and began branding them.

The Longhorn was an ornery, multi-colored large bovine, with huge horns spreading 4 to 7 feet. Considered mature at

about ten, they averaged some 1,200 pounds.

At the time, a Longhorn steer was worth \$4 in Texas, if the owner could find a buyer with \$4. The same steer was worth about \$40 in meat packing cities like Chicago and Cincinnati.

In 1867, when the Kansas - Pacific established a railroad at Abilene, Kansas, the Texas herders quickly realized a much shorter route to the markets of the north and east.

The first of the long, dangerous and now, highly publicized cattle drives to Kansas and other points began.

Historian J. Frank Dobie, in his classic book "The Texas Longhorn", reported between 1867 and 1890, over 10 million head were driven north along the Chisholm and other trails to the waiting railroad cattle cars.

Most of the drives took four to six months to cover from 1,000 to 1,500 dusty, dangerous miles, much thru Plains Indian country. The Texas drovers were normally paid about \$30 per month, for daily long hours in the saddle, under brutal conditions and perils. The colorful back-ground for the romanticized American Cowboy was born on these drives.

For the most part, the drives were lucrative for the herd owners. Trail expenses ran about \$1 per head, and the cattle brought \$35 to \$45 at the railheads. The larger the heard, the greater the profits. Most drives averaged about 2,000 head, but the largest heard recorded left Texas in 1869 with over 15,000 head.

One of the greatest dangers facing the drovers was the Longhorns bad habit of stampeding at the slightest



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## R.R. COMMISSION LIMITS OIL PRODUCTION

**Tyler, June 1.** Thousands of new wells are now being drilled in the vast East Texas oil field, and it seems oil is everywhere. Interest began centering in the area in October, 1930, when C.M. (Dad) Joiner brought in a well in Rusk County. Dozens, then hundreds of wells followed, and high percentages of them found oil.

Reason, never certain of itself in an oil boom, took flight in January when another wildcat well, the Lathrop near Longview, proved to be a gusher. The field has expanded until it now includes Gregg, Rusk, Upshur, Smith and Cherokee counties, and its production to this time justifies the statement that the field is the biggest in the world.

**Austin, July 14.** The legislature met in special session today to study the problem of limiting production in the vast East Texas oil field. The Governor and many major oil companies believe production is essential, but many independent operators oppose any kind of restriction.

Conditions in the field are threatening to get out of hand. The average price of oil in the field is sixteen cents per barrel, and some producers are getting less than ten cents per barrel. Governor Ross Sterling believes that these low prices do not justify the vast production, and that a valuable resource is being wasted.

**Tyler, August 15.** Governor Ross Sterling today declared martial law in Gregg, Upshur, Smith and Rusk counties and ordered all oil wells shut down until the Railroad Commission can conduct hearings and issue the proper proration orders. The recent session of the legislature recently passed an act providing for proration and authorizing the use of the militia if needed.

**Tyler, October 1.** The East Texas oil field was reopened on September 5, and 225 barrels per day

was set for the allowable for each well. The allowable has since been reduced to 185 barrels per well.

The proration orders have not been well received by some operators, and there are rumors that a good deal of oil is being produced in violation of the orders. Oil produced in this fashion is called 'hot oil'.

(Note: these events led later to the establishing of setting the number of days per month each well could be pumped).  
From the Texas News, October 10, 1931

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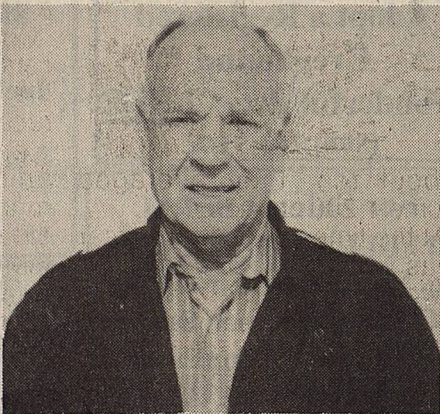
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that seem hard to find!*

## A VOTE FOR DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE DAVID TURNBOUGH

FOR COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT ONE, IS A VOTE FOR RESPONSIBLE, CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP FOR YOAKUM COUNTY

PRIMARY ELECTION MARCH 12

EARLY VOTING FEB. 21 THRU MARCH 8



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## Wayne Williams Candidate For Commissioner, Precinct 2

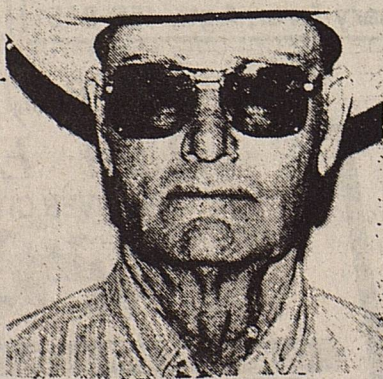
Williams served in the U.S. Army two years as a surveyor and forward observer. He also worked in Farmington as a pipe fitter for two years.

The remainder of his adult life has been spent in Yoakum County, working as a farmer, rancher, rodeo stock contractor and cattle buyer. In addition, he and his wife, Clara Ellen, owned and operated the Broadway Inn Restaurant in Denver City.

He has served on numerous county boards. Currently, he is engaged in farming and ranching in Yoakum County.

Wayne and Clara Ellen are members of the Bethel Baptist Church. They have four sons, two daughters-in-law, and two grandsons.

Williams is asking the voters of Yoakum County to support him in the Primary Election March 12, 1996. He pledges to



work for the continued good of Precinct Two and all of Yoakum County.

(Pol. adv. paid for by Wayne Williams)

**Please Vote For**  
**J.R. ( JIM ) LONG**  
Candidate For Yoakum County  
**Commissioner,**  
**Precinct Two**  
Democrat Primary, March 12, 1996



The Jim Long Family

*Your Candidate With Fair Judgement For Solid Management*

(Pol. Adv. paid for by J.R. (Jim) Long)

## NOTICE OF ELECTION

The Republican Primary is March 12, 1996. County precincts 303 and 404 will vote in the Plains Community Center. Precincts 101, 202, 305, and 406 will vote at the Fireman's Hall, 4th and Ave. C in Denver City.

All registered voters may vote in the primary of their choice. The Republican primary will feature the Presidential and State races. Local Republican candidates include Woody Lindsey for Commissioner, Pct. 1, Mack Bradley, Raymond Gilstrap and Doug Payne for Commissioner, Pct. 2, Kelly G. Moore for District Judge, and Gary Walker for State Representative.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Don't Forget....**  
**VOTE**  
**MARCH 12**  
\*\*\*\*\*

## FOR COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2

**ELECT**

*Doug Payne*

**"No Payne - No Gain"**  
Political Ad Paid For By Doug Payne

**I WISH TO THANK EACH AND ALL FOR PAST SUPPORT WHILE SERVING AS YOUR COMMISSIONER. YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN THE MARCH 12 ELECTION WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. I LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING YOU AS EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY AS POSSIBLE.**

*Jim Barron*

**DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE, COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3**

Political ad paid for by Jim Barron

## ★ Election Notice ★

The Plains Independent School District Board of Trustees hereby gives notice of a regular election to be held on May 4, 1996, for the purpose of electing two Trustees (District 3 and District 4) for full three-year terms. Sign-up to file application for a place on the ballot will begin February 19th and end on March 20th. Applications may be filed at the Plains ISD Administration office. Absentee voting by personal appearance will begin on April 15, 1996, and continue through April 30th, 1996, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on each day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or an official state holiday. Absentee voting in person will be conducted at Plains ISD Administration office, 1000 10th Street, Plains, Texas. Application for absentee ballots by mail should be mailed to Gail Holley, Plains ISD, PO Box 479, Plains, Texas, 79355. The polling place for all districts will be the lobby of the Plains School Auditorium from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the day of election.

## ELECT

**J. R. SLENTZ**

43 Year Resident Of Yoakum County

32 Yr. Business Owner in County



**'Let An Experienced Businessman Assist You In The Business Of Your County'**

**VOTE DEMOCRATIC**  
**VOTE J. R. SLENTZ**  
**Commissioner, Precinct 2**

Paid for by committee to elect J.R. Slentz

# From The Hack



"the popularity of air travel continues to soar", so started an article I read recently. Probably true, but not for every John and Jane. There are plenty of folks right here in our Hamlet who have never boarded an aircraft, and will be quick to tell you, they have no intention of doing so.

I have kissing kin (by marriage) who think planes are flying coffins, and a bulldozer couldn't push them aboard a jet. One's a brother in law in East Texas, almost as ancient as I. He won't even ride an elevator, and has lots of qualms about escalators. No, it's not the irregular one. THAT one has flown a few times, and has never forgiven his wife for forcing him on the plane with a concealed handgun in his ribs.

What is it about planes that strikes terror in the hearts of grown men and women? I suppose a thousand shrinks have explored this phenomena, but I've yet to hear an entirely plausible explanation.

Way, way back, I flew a great deal as an 'Airdale' in the Navy, stateside and all over the Pacific. I could get on a plane, and after doing any of the duties I was assigned, relax and sleep like a baby.

Today, in my 'Golden Years' (the stupidest description I have ever heard or read for increasingly old, grey years), I can still do the same when the Bride and I occasionally fly. I can, that is, if she will allow us to get to the airport at least two hours early, and leave me in the bar while she shops for grandkids tee shirts. Believe me, this is great pre-flight therapy. With very limited funds, I am trying to find a lobbyist who will trot the halls of Congress, demanding passage of a law prohibiting

ANYONE with the slightest fear of flying from boarding a plane 100% sober. Think of it; Think of it again. Those refusing to partake of strong drink could sign a release, absolving the airlines of responsibility for their personal terror.

A guy could stand at the counter, shove a breath analyzer in your mouth, and either say, "OK, buddy, you're ready", or, "Sorry, Mam, better go back for another belt or two, and the next flight". It would increase airport revenues, ease inflight tensions, boost airlines bottom line figures.

It's bewildering me how old everyone is getting. I see someone at the Post Office or grocery store, and they have all aged tremendously.

In Pecos not too long ago, where I went to high school, I saw a number of classmates, and man, they are getting ancient!

In Lubbock a few weeks ago, I stumbled across an old buddy I was in the Navy with, and it was shocking to realize the guy was on the verge of decrepancy. It just boggles me to think the world is getting historical all around me, ready to enter the archives.

This A.M. I was thinking of these lofty puzzles, when the Bride reminded me I forgot to carry out the trash two days running. She also found the keys I had lost a week ago. She supplied me with the names of seven people I had forgotten in three days. She reminded me I had introduced her as 'Maggie' to a couple not long ago. I'm still trying to recall Maggie. She brought up the episode in Church where I dropped a Master Card receipt in the plate, instead of a check. The matter of me introducing the guest speaker at a meeting as Mr. Smithson John, instead

of John Smith, was mentioned. And to add the final insult, she gleefully recalled the incident, when preparing for a shower, I stripped off my socks, dumped them in the commode and flushed them bye-bye.

What does all this #\*^@~! have to do with getting old?

Here's hope for all fiction writers, especially yours truly; Joan Collins, the former actress-model, a very successful love story novelist, is now \$1.3 million richer. Seems her former publisher, Random House, sued for recovery of that amount of an advance payment on a novel she was composing for them, following the successful publishing of other books.

Trouble was, the new, proposed novel stunk up the scene so bad Random House refused to pay. Now, a New York State Supreme Court Justice has ruled she will get the money regardless - it was specified in the original contract.

This makes my future life much more bearable and optimistic. I have tried fiction writing (No, No, not "The Hack"), and it is beyond me. With this incentive, I may try again. If I can get some idiot publishing company to grant me just half a mill advance on a book, sight unseen as her's was, I will submit what I consider a masterpiece, get my advance, then send them jibberish about Mary Poppins having an affair with Santa Claus..... or maybe an uncompleted manuscript about national politicians who don't lie.

**Sober As A Judge**  
The judge reprimanding Patrick, said, "You've been brought here for drinking." "Okay. Let's get started," Patrick replied.

# The Last Battle Of The Civil War

When the young State of Texas cast it's lot to join the Confederacy in early 1861, thousands of it's young men rushed to volunteer to join 'Johnny Reb' units in the four years of blood letting. The State had no military force to defend against Indian attacks, the incessant bandit raids from Mexico across the Rio Grande, or other perils. It was a dangerous, intolerable situation. In 1863, the Confederate government persuaded one John S. Ford to raise a strong cavalry force to campaign up and down the Rio. This was the same 'Old Rip Ford' who so effectively led Texas Ranger forces against the Comanches in the late 40's and 50's, who led his Ranger forces to so many remarkable feats in the Mexican War.

On April 1, 1861, a Mexican named Ochoa came out against Confederate county officials on the border between Brownsville and Laredo, and his forces hanged a county judge near Zapata. Ford sent his Texas cavalry after him, killing 20 of his followers. This little engagement technically was the first battle in the war between the States. While addressed as 'Colonel', he had no true status as a Confederate officer, and received very little assistance from the Confederate government, or the State. His small force was undermanned, ill supplied, but was a dangerous fighting force.

In 1864, the Federal XIII Army Corps landed on the coast, captured Brownsville and much of the Rio Grande Valley. Comprised of veteran Iowa and Illinois troops and two Negro regiments, their ominous presence enabled Ford to campaign in San Antonio for more volunteers to combat the Yank threat. In 30 days, his now labeled 'Cavalry of the West' recruited 1300 men. With other scattered units, Ford could count some 1800 men. The Federals numbered 6,479, with 12 field cannon and 16 heavy guns.

Ford took to the field in March of 1864, first in the area of Laredo. Short of supplies and forage for his horses, Ford was forced to scatter his command into smaller groups, and a series of small but bitter fights against union garrisons along the Rio began to slowly drive the invading Yanks south. His men seized baled cotton where they found it, sold it across the river for food and supplies. The dead and

retreating Union forces arms and ammunition were seized and used.

By June 21, now some 30 miles north of Brownsville, Ford had miraculously rolled the enemy back almost 200 miles. He knew he must capture both Brownsville and Fort Brown. He gathered his forces just outside the city, fearful of the Union's heavy artillery. The town remained strangely quiet. A reconnaissance discovered the Federals had withdrawn.

Ford ordered a pursuit of the blueclads, and saw the fleeing Yanks reach the Gulf, and splash across Boca Chica to Brazos Island. They would later embark all but 1000 troops.

Following the almost incredible victory, Ford's forces stayed on garrison duty in the Brownsville area, a bee hive of feverish activity and intrigue on both sides of the river because of the civil war and fight against French troops in Mexico. A truce had been declared between Ford's men and the Union troops now at Palo Alto. These forces were built up over several months. A young, inexperienced Colonel T.H. Barrett, asked his commanding General for permission to demonstrate against Ford's forces and was refused. Foolishly, he ignored this, and ordered his regiment to march to Palmito Hill. They were fired upon by Ford's pickets, who dispatched riders to Brownsville. Ford was furious at the breach of truce. He ordered his troops mounted up. Confederate General Slaughter was panicked; he wanted to order a general retreat. Ford coldly told him, "You can retreat and go to hell if you want to. These are my men and I am going to fight!" His columns reached Palmito Hill four hours later, where the fighting continued. Artillery was

brought up, with deadly effect on the Yanks. Ford, mounted before his troops, shouted, "Men, we have whipped the enemy in all previous fights. We Can do it again. CHARGE!"

The exhausted Union forces fought, but finally broke, retreating slowly at first, then in full flight. Ford's men relentlessly pursued for over seven miles, leaving a trail of wounded and dead blue clad troops. They pursued till the Federals began to splash across to Brazos Island, when Ford ordered a cease fire. A few of his men were wounded, with none dead. Union forces lost almost 500 dead, wounded and captured in the huge victory.

A few days later, Ford received a Union flag of truce, and a message informing him that General Robert E. Lee had surrendered at Appomatox on April 9, 1865. It was now May 16. At first Ford cursed violently, then began to laugh. The last battle of the Civil War was over.

One of the great ironies of that epic four year bloodletting was the quirk of fate which saw one man, Old Rip Ford, involved in the very first, and very last fight in the conflict.

(Material for this article from T.R. Fehrenback's "LONE STAR")

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The week of March 11-15 will be the spring break holiday for Plains schools.  
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