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Cowboy Country News

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

Volume V, Issue 24, Wednesday Feb. 24, 1999



“To Pass or not to Pass” may not be option for school districts in the future

State Legislature addresses ‘Social Promotion’

The State Senate last week unanimously passed Senate Bill 1, which if approved by the House of Representatives, would halt promoting students solely at the discretion of school administrators, and on the students grade card results. The measure was sponsored by Senator Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo.

A summary of the lengthy bill was received by CCN from the Senate Research Center last Friday. The analysis states in part, “A significant number of students graduate from school without the reading ability to secure employment in an education-driven economy.... the deficient readers, as part of a less educated society, demand more of social services and are more likely to commit crimes. Our schools, required to intervene early in the reading performance of a student, could ensure a society educated with better

readers.” “SB 1 requires early reading intervention by schools. Schools would identify students who have proven to read poorly and establish an accelerated reading program for them. If a student continues to perform poorly, a placement committee would target specific academic needs of the student. As a final measure toward reading proficiency, the committee would retain the student in the students current grade level.”

The bill begins with the kindergarten class of 1999-2000, and the earliest retention would not occur until the 2002-2003 school year.

When the students reach the third grade, they would have to pass the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) test before promotion to fourth grade.

The same requirements would apply to fifth, sixth and eighth

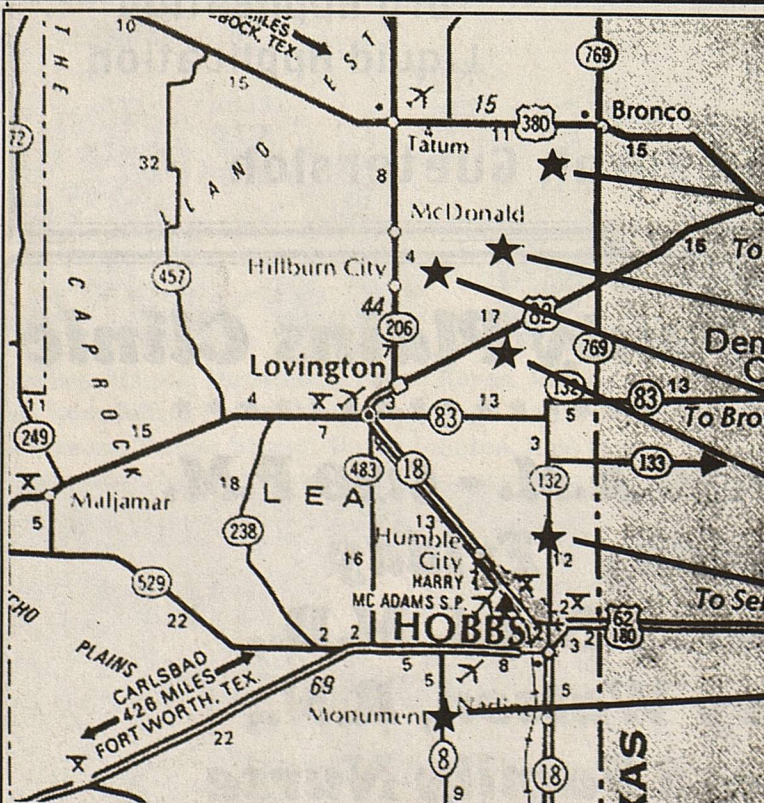
graders.

Plains ISD Superintendent James Haynes, in an interview Friday, told CCN “I think the bill has merit, and will be an effective tool for us to ensure students reading capabilities. Reading skills are the corner stone of the foundation of a sound educational program.”

Haynes said PISD is not one of the districts to abuse the custom of social promotion of it's students. “For example, last year we had 41 third grade students. Forty of those were promoted to the fourth grade, their promotions based on satisfactory report card grades. Passing TAAS was not a requirement for promotion. Of those students, 29 were required to take the TAAS exam, and 26 of those passed.” He explained some students in all grades may be exempt from taking TAAS, including special

Turn to Page 2
“Option for School”

Neighboring Lea County's vanished early settlements, schools revisited



Early Lea County
settlements and dates
of schools

- Murphy's Chapel, 1907-18
- Needmore, about 1907
- Plainview, 1906-29
- Southview, ? - 1928
- Knowles, 1905-32
- Monument, 1903-51

Following CCN's recent article on the old, long abandoned community of Midway, N.M., just over the stateline from present day New Tex, we had a number of calls and personal visits with locals expressing interest in the little known history of the early area, including neighboring Lea County, New Mexico. Our brief research indicates there are many of us lacking knowledge of the small communities, many with flourishing businesses and schools, which sprang up in far greater numbers in that county than here in our

Yoakum County during the late 1890's through the first few years of the 1900's

There were two principal reasons for the more prolific number of early settlers to the west of our state border; More abundant and accesible groundwater (then), and the national Homestead Laws applying to the states of Colorado, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Arizona, and New Mexico. When word spread east of both land and water being avail-

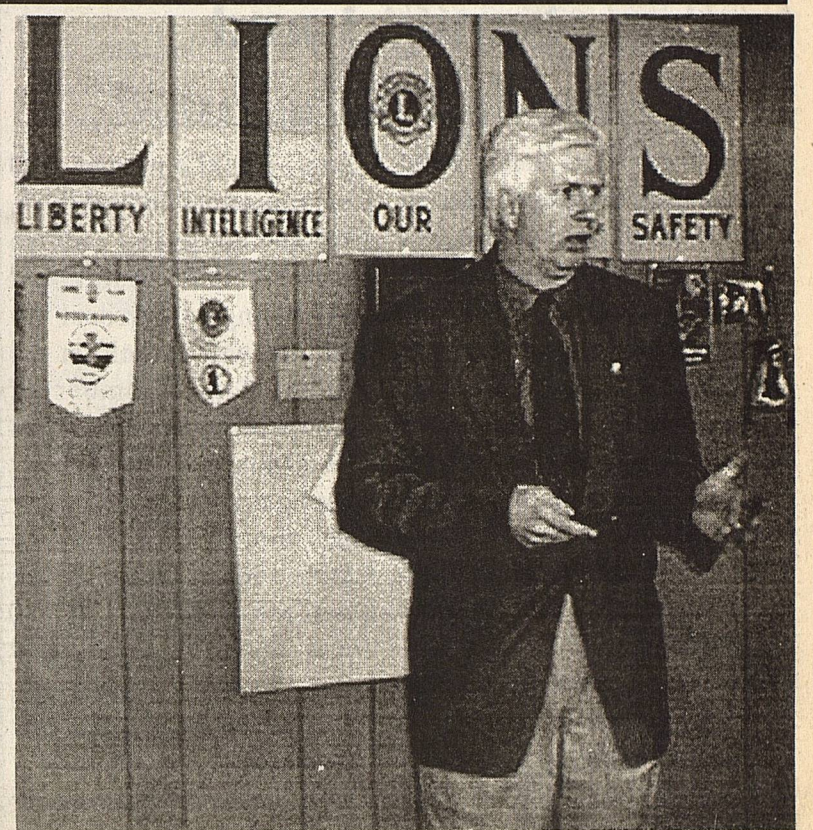
Turn to Page 2 "Lea County"

Lea County Electric prepares for possible Y2 K woes

During the next few months, the media will be bombarding the public with the upcoming, already crisis labeled “Millenium Bug”, more simply known as Y2K, when computer systems throughout the world fail, being unable to recognize the four digit symbol for the year 2000. The doomsday seers say the world will collapse with electronic calamities affecting everything from banking, food distribution, all governmental offices, all forms of transportation, the stock market, health care, safety features, and more basically, the daily supply of water, electric power and heating fuel.

Last Thursday at the regular meeting of the Plains Lions Club, Mike Dreyspring, General Manager of Lea County Electric Cooperative, told the club and a number of guests the Cooperative is equally concerned about the approaching Y2K problem. The Cooperative has been involved in a massive self-examination of all phases of it's operation to ensure the Year 2000 is not doomsday for it's many customers, including all of Plains and most of Yoakum County.

Dreyspring said there are four main areas an electric utility such as Lea County could experience computer problems on and after January 1, 2000; Inside the operation in hardware and software utilized in day to day operations such as accounting, billing, and payroll. Outside problem areas could include electric relays, and switches on electric relays, and switches on



Mike Dreyspring gestures to audience during Year 2000 presentation

computer problems could occur with the utilities, enabling each company's Cooperative's supplier of technicians to be instantly aware of any operating problems.

In addition, LCEC, SPS and all other utilities must send regular assessment reports of their computer compliance steps and progress to the National Electric Reliability Council, as well as operating reports to state power agencies.

Dreyspring concluded, “Lea County Electric is convinced we will have done everything possible to ensure delivery of power through the pending Y2K period.” He also reported Lea County plans additional public meetings here and in Lovington well prior to January 1, outlining additional steps taken to hopefully make Y2K a ‘Non Event.’

Yoakum County Credit Union celebrates 50th Anniversary



The school cafeteria was packed with hungry credit union members and balloons. Please turn to Page Four for complete credit union article

Naomi Goodman honored with retirement reception



Naomi Goodman, shown here with son David, a shy granddaughter Kaylea, and husband Ray, was special guest at a retirement party in the courthouse last Friday. Goodman, who had been serving as acting District Clerk until January 1 of this year, recently announced her retirement from the office after more than ten years service. A large group of well wishers including many out of town friends attended the party.

Sandy Land Election Scheduled

Members of the Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District board of directors met in regular session Friday, February 12, 1999. The Board called for a Board of Directors election to be held Saturday, May 1, 1999, for the purpose of electing three (3) board directors at-large. Applications for place on the ballot is open and will be received until 5:00 p.m. March 17, 1999. Applications for filing for place on the board can be picked up at the Sandy Land UWCD office. Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at 1012 Avenue F, Plains, Texas, between the

hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. beginning on April 14, 1999 and continuing through April 27, 1999. Additional early voting by personal appearance will be held at the Denver City Chamber of Commerce, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Applications for ballot by mail should be mailed to Kathy Jones, Early Voting Clerk, at P.O. Box 130, Plains, Texas 79355. April 13, 1999 is the last day to receive applications for early voting ballots by mail. Questions can be answered at 806-456-2155.

From Page 1

"Option for School"

education students and those with English as a Second Language requirement.

Haynes said the bill is a remedial measure, an attempt to make all students better readers. Plains ISD has already instituted an Accelerated Reading Program in the elementary school, featured in recent issues of CCN. The Superintendent said the \$203 million earmarked for funding SB1 over the next two years will be used primarily for training teachers to become better reading instructors, for new reading programs, new and better equipment and supplies to better test students reading skills, remediation and extended year classes.

The first students who could be denied promotion to the next grade would be third graders in 2003. Parents could appeal the students retention to a committee comprised of the school principal, a teacher, and a parent. If the committee agreed it best to pass the student, the school would still be required to continue remedial instruction. SB 1 reflects the goal of Governor George W. Bush to have all Texas public and charter school students reading proficiently at their proper grade and age levels.

CCN will report progress of SB1 in the House of Representatives

J P Court Summary

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

Cases filed: 38 Traffic cases, 3 Issuance of bad check cases, 1 small-claims case, 1 Texas Parks and Wildlife case. Bonds set; Porole violation-held until hearing. 2 cases-Motion to revoke probation-held until hearing. Injury to a child-\$10,000 bond. Driving while intoxicated-\$1000 bond. Forgery on financial instrument-\$2500 bond. Driving while intoxicated-\$1000 bond. Unauthorized use of vehicle-\$5000 bond. Assault causing bodily injury-\$1500 bond. Theft by check-\$500 bond.

From Page 1 "Lea County"

able, homesteaders, or "nesters", swarmed into the western states, and a surprising large number of them staked out claims in what is now Lea County.

It was an odd arrangement, in a tough environment. New Mexico had yet to achieve statehood, and was thus unsurveyed. Early settlers had no courthouse to record their claims to the soil, so they simply "squatted" on their allotted 320 acres per person for the required five years. During the large influx of "nesters" to the area, Lea County did not exist - it's southern half was then part of Eddy County, the northern portion was Chavez County.

The earliest recorded settlement in present day Lea County appears on the map today as Monument, a few miles southwest of present day Hobbs. Founded in July, 1900, by James M. Cook, an early Hat Ranch employee, the community would thrive, supporting a number of businesses, a newspaper, and a very busy saloon, so riddled with bullet holes in it's wooden walls by bored cowhands it was called the "Pepperbox".

Locals traveling to nearby Hobbs probably don't realize when they whiz thru the barely recognizable community just north of Hobbs today they are passing the second oldest community in Lea County, founded in 1903. Knowles flourished, eventually supporting a school with over 200 students, a newspaper, two story bank, milinery shop, mercantiles, and of course, the ever present saloons.

Locals with "any appreciable seasoning" are familiar with Lea County's Prairieview Community, but how many know of Plainview, a small community in Lea County almost due west of

Prairieview? Plainview was founded in 1907 by one Alfred Wiggins. Supposedly, the settlement was called Rat, for a windmill belonging to a Bud Ratliff. The town boomed, and at one time a dozen or so business firms flourished there, including it's newspaper, The Plainview Herald. And it did herald it's community; A 1912 issue spouted, "Why not come to Plainview while you can? You can live out half a section that is valuable as gold, make money while you are here, sell a good home and go into business if you choose, or live like a Lord on your land. No sickness, no doctor bills, no land notes, no mortgages, no interest or taxes to worry you." Unfortunately, when portions of Eddy and Chaves County were split to form Lea County, Plainview began it's eventual slide to oblivion.

On the drive from Plains to Lovington today, about 8 miles west of the stateline and a short distance south of the highway once flourished the community of Southview. Little is known of it's history except at one time it had at least one mercantile, a functioning school, and it ceased to exist about 1926.

Ever hear of Murphy's Chapel, located a few miles west of the stateline and probably three to four miles south of present day Bronco community? Founded by claim staker James M. Murphy in 1907, it was later the site of a mercantile store ran by John B. Harris. It would support a post office and a one room school before it's decline. Mrs. Mattie Field Of Bronco is probably well versed in this community's history.

*Most of the material for this article comes from the excellent work by author Lynn C. Mauldin, "Lea County New Mexico - A Pictorial History" published by the Donning Co. in 1997.

Producer Oriented Conservation Seminar

The Yoakum Soil and Water Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service will co-sponsor a Conservation Seminar on March 24. Philip Carter, NRCS Range Manager Specialist, said "We hope to make this another 'producers meeting,' addressing their needs."

Topics scheduled for discussion include cotton and peanut management, composting, wildlife management, sprinkler irrigation systems, and the

yoakum County mule deer season.

Invited speakers include; Scott McCoy from Austin, Dr. Dan Frieg from Lubbock, Robert Lemmons from College Station, Dale Rollins from San Angelo, Kent Mills from Snyder, Duane Lucia from Lubbock, Scott Simpson from Morton, Jerry Funck from Lubbock, Dr. Mike Schubert from Lubbock.

Registration starts at 7:45 a.m. at the Community Building, and

lunch will be served. RESERVATIONS ARE MANDATORY, BY CALLING 806-456-3703 NO LATER THAN MARCH 1.

John B. Connally, Jr. born in Wilson County (Governor 1963-1969); died June 14, 1993, in Houston. After lying in state in the House Chamber, he was buried in the State Cemetery on June 17, 1993.

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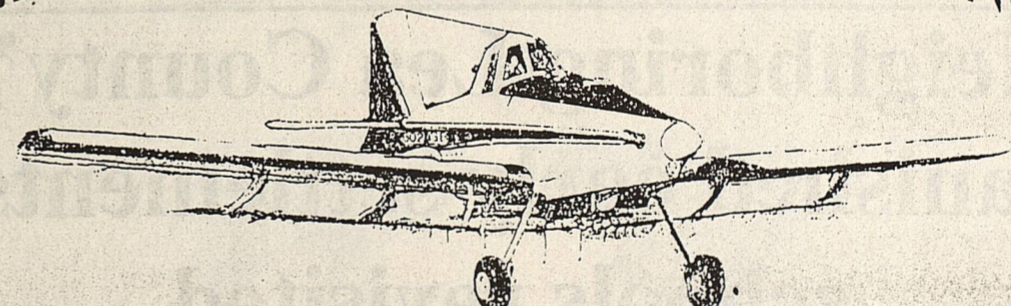
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1999 Cowboy Baseball Team



L-R seated, Manuel Hernandez, Luis Hernandez, Luis Delgado. Kneeling, Chris McGinty, Vincent Delgado, Patrick McGinty, Aaron Cain. Jeremy Morphis, Joseph Rodriguez, Tanner Hamm, Flavio Martinez. Back Row, Asst. Coach Charles Cain, Adam Garcia, Brett Squyres, Steven Bunch, Jared Bell, Sergio Sandoval, Josh Bell, Chris Willis, Alex Tarango, Gerry Rivas, Head Coach Eddie Carter. Not present, Eddy Gallegos, Colt Winn, David Granados, Tanner Blount.

1999 Cowgirl Track Team



Kneeling, L-R, Cassie Dearing, Chelsi Wagnon, Ratti Ruiz, Lisa Parrish. Middle Row, Roxie Fuentes, Amanda Gonzales, Juanita Rodriguez, Wendy Hernandez, Anne Palmer, Kari Guetersloh. Back Row, Elizabeth Clanahan, Kim Willis, Michaela Traweek, Kristen Gray, Kayla Redman. Not present, Jolyne Burgess, Krystle Blundell, Lensey Cullins.

1999 Cowboy Track Team



Kneeling, Manuel Hernandez, Felipe Reyna, Ramon Lozano, Nathan Hayes, Joseph Rodriguez. Back Row, Jeffrey Lollar, David Granados, Chris Willis, Jared Bell, Steven Bunch, Dustin Brunson. Not Present, Tanner Blount, Skyler Johnson, Ross Rogers, Chris Gscheidle.

1999 COWGIRL TRACK TEAM

Seniors

Jolyne Burgess
Cassie Dearing
Lisa Parrish
Kayla Redman
Juanita Rodriguez

Sprinter, high jumper, weights
Distance, Middle distance
Middle distance, sprinter
Weights
Distance

Juniors

Krystle Blundell
Kristen Gray
Wendy Hernandez
Anne Palmer
Patty Ruiz

Middle distance, sprinter
Hurdles, sprinter
Distance, middle distance, jumper
Sprinter, jumper
Sprinter, jumper

Sophomores

Lensey Cullins
Roxie Fuentes
Amanda Garcia
Kari Guetersloh
Michaela Traweek
Kim Willis

Distance
Weights
Distance
Sprinter, jumper
Sprinter
Weights

Freshmen

Elizabeth Clanahan
Chelsi Wagnon

Weights
Hurdles

Coaches: Linda Haragan-Michell Lusk
Managers: Elva Ruiz-Arasely Luna

1999 COWBOY TRACK TEAM

Seniors

Dustin Brunson
Steven Bunch
Tanner Blount

Shot-Discus
Shot-Discus
Relays-Sprints-Jumper

Juniors

Joshua Bell
Chris Willis
Felipe Reyna
David Granados

Shot-Discus
400
3200-1600 Distance
400, Relays

Sophomores

Luis Hernandez
Ramon Lozano
Skyler Johnson
Ross Rogers
Chris Gscheidle

3200-1600
400-800
Shot-Discus
Shot-Discus
Shot-Discus

Freshmen

Jospeh Rodriguez
Jared Bell
Manuel Hernandez
Jeffrey Lollar
Nathan Hays
Chris McGinty

Sprints-Relays
Sprints-Relays
3200-1600
800-1600
110-300 Hurdles
Shot-Discus

Head Coach Everett McAdams
Assistant Coaches Larry McMinn, Edwin Brink

1999 PHS Quiz Bowl

The very competitive and spirited Quiz Bowl kicks off at 10 am. March 2, in the auditorium. The public is invited to watch the 'brainy' battle between the high school classes.

Quiz Bowl Teams:

Seniors, Black Team-Maranda Box, Clint Burrus, Tommie McNabb. Gold Team-Dustin Brunson, Cosme Casillas, Lisa Parrish.

Juniors, Black Team-Kristen Gray, Anne Palmer, Jason Swann. Gold Team-Josh Bell, Wendy Hernandez, Kyle Sisson.

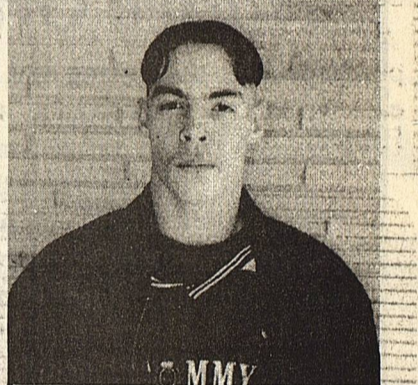
Sophomores, Black Team-Aaron Cain, Eddie Gallegos, Dustin Six. Gold Team-Nicole Haynes, Lesli Rowe, Lexi Warren.

Freshman, Black Team-Jared Bell, Annaliessa O'Quinn, Becky Wilmeth. Gold Team-Tanner Hamm, Jarod Newland, Scott Tirrell.

1999 Class Favorites Announced

PHS favorites were announced last week. They include; Seniors-Dustin Brunson, Lisa Parrish. Juniors-Joshua Bell, Linda Castillo. Sophomores-Adam Garcia, Kari Guttersloh. Freshmen-Jared Bell, Allison Butler.

PHS Student of the Week



Student of the Week is Vincent Delgado, a Senior, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Delgado. He was nominated by Mrs. Pettigrew, who said, "Vincent is a student with a positive attitude and a willingness to do more than asked of him. He comes in early every morning, a smile on his face, and looks for jobs to do, and takes care of things without being asked."

PHS 1999 Golf Schedule

Feb. 26, 1999-Denver City-Boys & Girls
Mar. 3, 1999-Friona-Girls
Mar. 10, 1999-Friona-Boys
Mar. 17, 1999-Big Spring-Boys
Mar. 23, 1999-Sundown-Girls
Mar. 24, 1999-Sundown-Boys
Mar. 31, 1999-Big Spring-Boys & Girls (District)
Apr. 7, 1999-Yoakum County-Boys & Girls (District)
Apr. 15, 1999-Gaines County-Boys & Girls (District)

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Published Weekly each Wednesday at 1205 Copeland Ave., PO Box 179, Plains, Tx 79355
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Subscription price in Zip Code 793 \$15 annually
Other Zip Codes \$18 annually
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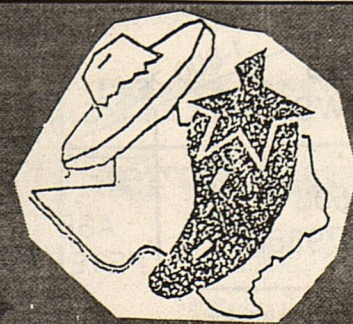
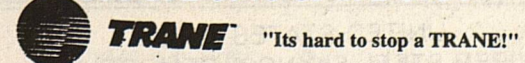


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Credit Union's 50th Anniversary

On November 30, 1949, a group of local residents met to thrash out all the details and requirements of organizing a county wide credit union. It was probably no easy task, for most county residents had no true idea what a 'credit union' was. A Mr. G.B. Reed, representing the then called National Credit Union League, helped explain the credit union philosophy of a member owned and operated financial institution, licensed by an agency of the Federal Banking System, and created to promote the habit of savings in its membership, and a source of low interest credit for worthwhile purposes. Attending that meeting were J.W.O. Alldredge, Perry Anthony, D.L. (Dave) Blevins, John Camp, Roy Fitzgerald,



Vivian Rice and some of the many donated door prizes

W.J. Hale, Woodrow Houston, L.B. Johnston Sr., Ray Lackey, John McKee, E.L. Naugle, W.M. (Bill) Overton, T.W. Reed, W.A. Reese, J.R. Robertson, P.W. (Pierre) St. Romain, and S.L. (Sherm) Tingle). That fledgling institution has

evening, and now serves some 865 active members, and has \$2 million in assets.

The anniversary event drew almost 200 members in the school cafeteria. Entertainment before dinner was provided by the Denver City High School "Show Choir", directed by Shayne Childers and accompanied by pianist Jack Harmon. Choir members included Tanya Johnson, Priscilla Cruz, Charisse Pipes, Anthony Rivas, Robert Render, Brian Boyer and Tommie Render. Dinner music was provided by Brad McWhirter and his guitar.

Credit Union Manager Vivian Rice expressed her appreciation for the very large crowd, many

from out of town.

Merchants and supporters from both county communities donated over two tables of door prizes.

One of the special attendees at the 'Golden Anniversary' of the credit union was Pierre (Pete) St. Romain, the sole remaining member of it's original Board of Directors. Manager Vivian Rice told CCN, "I hope and know we will have Pete with us for our next anniversary meeting."

Dirt Gardeners Meet

The Plains Dirt Gardeners met February 17 in the home of Dean Richardson. The program on design and workshop was

presented by Dean. She had several beautiful flower arrangements from fresh flowers and foliage as well as silk flowers.

Those attending were Ita Young, Ruby Sellers, Mary Lou Parks, Chris Edwards, Debbie Morphis, Kay Canon, Jackie Willis, and Dean Richardson.

Freemasonry began in Texas when several Masons, including Stephen F. Austin, met at San Felipe de Austin to consider petitioning the Grand Lodge of Mexico to organize a lodge in Texas. February 11, 1828

Davy Crockett and the Tennessee volunteers arrived at the Alamo. February 8, 1836

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Lifelines & Styles

College of the Southwest presents Broadway Musical

For their spring production, the Theatre Department of College of the Southwest will present the hit musical extravaganza *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. The acclaimed Broadway play will be performed at the CSW campus on March 4-7 and March 10-14.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat is the contemporary adaptation of the Biblical account of Joseph, a man betrayed by jealous brothers and sold into slavery. Joseph wins the favor of Pharaoh and eventually saves the very individuals who have betrayed him. Joseph, set to upbeat tunes and lively dance, includes a wide variety of music ranging from calypso, French adagio, Roaring Twenties, Broadway show tunes, and much more! Audiences are guaranteed to leave CSW's Mabee Center singing and dancing!

Glynesse Floyd, Director of CSW's Theatre Department, will direct *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and Sheila Thornton will assist. Choreographing the dance numbers is long time friend of CSW, Karen Salb. Randy Cook is stage manager and has constructed the set, one which is most memorable.

Production dates are March 4-7 and March 10-14, with evening performances scheduled for 8:00 p.m. On Sunday, March 7 and Sunday, March 14, the only performances will be 2:00 p.m. matinees.

Tickets are \$8 for the first two rows of seats, \$10 for all other seats. These may be purchased at Music World beginning February 23. Due to expected capacity crowds, all seats are reserved, and patrons are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance.

Senior Citizens Corner

The free cholesterol screening has been rescheduled and will be held on March 4, at the Center, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Be sure and come in for the valuable service.

The Pool Tournament on Wednesday was well attended. Marylynn won first place in 8 ball, and Billie O won in 9 ball. First place winners for the men was Pete and Therman won the 8 ball. The Pool players seem to have a great time. Why not come join us?

We are looking forward to the "42" Tournament. Its fun also.

Some of our regular people are still home bound with the "Bug". Maybe everyone will soon be back.

Our sympathy to the family of Earl Dolloff. His services were Monday.

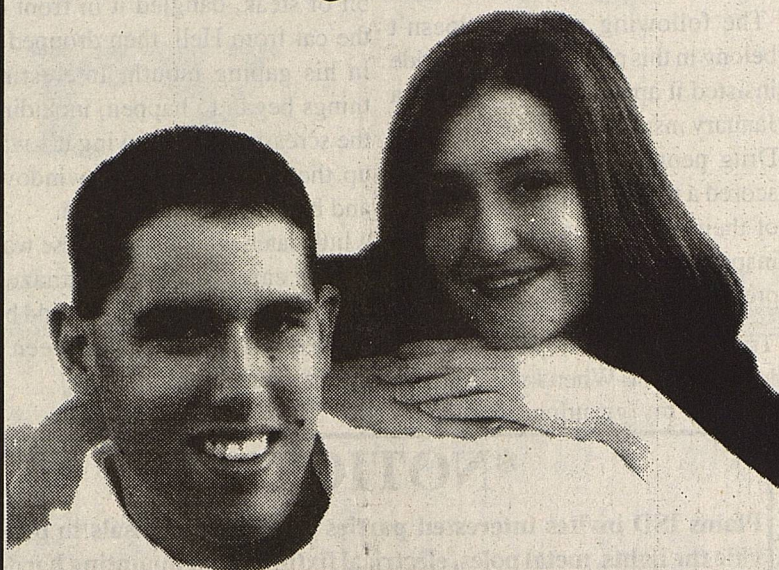
Wednesday is "Turkey Day". As Mr. Food says umm!! good!! Be sure and register for the day.

Did you get a Rose or a box of candy for Valentine? I'm sure you had a nice day.

See you next week,
Smitty

Activities:
Wednesday-Line dancing 10 am. Tatum Pool Tournament 1:00 pm. MST
Thursday-Memorial Health B/P 10:30 am., Gail Ballou Ins. 11:00 am.
Friday-Line dancing 10:00 am.

Wedding Announced



Emily Diane Tingle and Michael Richard Nicolaou will be married March 13, 1999, at College Hills Baptist Church in San Angelo, Texas.

Parents of the engaged couple are the Rev. and Mrs Eddie Tingle of Miles and Mr. and Mrs Peter Nicolaou of El Paso. Emily is the granddaughter of Jim and Mae Barnett and the late Bertie and Sherm Tingle.

Emily is a graduate of Miles High School and received a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1998 from San Angelo State University.

Michael is a graduate of Coronado High School in El Paso and is a candidate for May graduation from Angelo State University, with a bachelor's degree in business administration.

SPC Senior Sneak Preview Set March 4

High school seniors from nearly 80 area high schools on the South Plains will get a sample of college life March 4 at South Plains College's annual Senior Sneak Preview.

"These students will have the opportunity to explore future careers, talk to faculty and students on campus and begin planning their future," explained Wendy Esch, coordinator of new student relations at SPC. "This is an excellent opportunity for them to investigate what college is all about."

For parents who join Sneak Preview, a special information packed session is scheduled for them, including topics on admissions, housing, tuition and fees, financial aid, academic transfer courses and other tips. Activities begin with registration and refreshments at noon in Texan Dome, a general assembly and introduction to the day's activities at 1 p.m., advisement sessions in both technical and academic areas at 1:30 p.m., just for parents workshop at 2:30 p.m., college information fair, SPC club fair, housing tours, entertainment and a cultural diversity event beginning at 3 p.m.

During the advisement session, students will choose one career exploration session to attend and have the opportunity to talk with faculty and students in those areas, discuss career choices, possible majors and prerequisites, visit program areas and tour labs and facilities. Career areas include Allied Health, Behavioral Sciences, Business Administration, Communications, Creative Arts, Fine Arts, Industrial Technology, Mathematics, Physical Education, Professional Services, Sciences and Social Sciences.

A special session for undecided majors is also scheduled.

Door prizes will be given away during the assembly, and entertainment will be provided during the day by the SPC Touring Ensemble, Texan Cheerleaders, Terrible Tex, Jazz Band and music ensembles from SPC's Creative Arts Department.

Parking will be reserved in the lot located south of the SPC Track Stadium.

For more information on SPC's 1999 Senior Sneak Preview, contact Wendy Esch, coordinator of new student relations, at 806-894-9611, ext. 2213.



Accelerated Readers, Kneeling-L-R-Ryan Crump, John Tyson, Rubi Castillo. Back Row-L-R-Juan Lara, Cody Mayes, Amber Friesen, Holden Welch.



Independent Readers, Left Side -Kneeling L-R-Victoria Valverde, Ignacio Lozano, Justin Gonzales. Back L-R-Alejandro Lara, Ernesto Calderon, Hector Luna. Super Readers, Right Side-Kneeling-Brandon Craft, Colby Ortega. Back L-R John Tyson, Juan Lara, Yesica Calderon.

Filmtime

There were 19 children in attendance February 10, 1999. They were: Karla Powell, Whitney Davis, Clayton Gass, Kristie Lopez, Sam Melendez, Halee Lowery, Marina Corales, Bailey Winn, Mateo Ramoz, Hermen Sawatzky, Autumn Friesen, Johnathan Davis, Haley Welch, Matthew Ramos, Colby Bearden, Adrania Corales, Ashley Sellers, Jacob Neufeld, Jacob Sawatzky. The children played a game, sang four songs, read a book, and watched two movies. This week we celebrated two birthdays. Halee Lowery turned 2 and Jacob Neufeld turned 4. The children enjoyed a party of punch and white donuts.



Halee Lowery



Jacob Neufeld

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Public Notice City of Plains

Texas Community Development Program

The City of Plains will hold a public hearing at 5:05 p.m. on February 22, 1999 at City Hall, 601 11th, Plains, Texas, in regard to the submission of an application to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs for a Texas Community Development Program (TCDP) grant. The purpose of this meeting is to allow citizens an opportunity to discuss the citizens participation plan, the development of local housing and community development needs, the amount of TCDP funding available, all eligible TCDP activities and the use of past TCDP funds. The City encourages citizens to participate in the development of this TCDP application and to make their views known at this public hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views known at this public hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting should contact City Hall for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact City Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. For further information, contact David Brunson at the City Hall 806-456-2288.

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From The Hack

I read recently the Texas Farm Bureau had declared February 9th "Food Check-Out Day", marking the fortieth day of the year, the length of time the average American earns enough money to pay for his or her food supply for the entire year. Sounds incredible, doesn't it? The article further stated in contrast, most people around the

world spend most of their disposable personal income on food and shelter, while Americans, on average, only spend 10.7% of their personal income on food.

Very impressive, but I think the math is flawed. Obviously the Bureau researchers haven't coughed up the dough for a few 10 ounce filets at Lubbock's 50 Yardline Restaurant lately. Add a few more days labor for that - a bit more if your Bride, like mine, must have a few snorts of Blackberry Wine with the beef.

Neither have they purchased a few dozen jumbo shrimp, or lobster tails. A brief shopping tour for those delights will keep you laboring a few more days. And it is quite obvious the researchers haven't purchased a few hot

dogs and glasses of beer at the Rangers baseball stadium. Try that for, say, four people, and you'll have to bust your hump at least another forty eight hours.

If you really want to add some labor time to your food requirements, eat something, no, eat **ANYTHING** at a large, busy airport dining facility. That will definitely add some overtime to your labors.

The following probably doesn't belong in this column, but the Bride insisted it appear somewhere. In a January inspection by the Food and Drug people, Lalito's Restaurant scored a perfect 100 on cleanliness of their eatery. The guy doing the inspecting said even he was impressed.

True story, and I hope the SPCA doesn't read it. When I was a growing kid, my grandparents had a

Siamese cat which was certifiably insane. The thing would circle the dining table when we ate, growling for food, and if he was truly hungry and irritable, he would occasionally dig his claws in whoever was handiest. My grandad called him, among other things, the cat from Hell.

Once the beast clawed grandad, and while my grandmother was in the kitchen, he carefully chopped up a fiery jalapeno, wrapped it in a bit of steak, dangled it in front of the cat from Hell, then dropped it in his gaping mouth. Interesting things began to happen, including the screaming cat clawing it's way up the drapes over two windows and breaking a prized lamp. A little later, when the Siamese was finally captured, I was amazed what peace and tranquility could be attained with a .38 slug between a pair of satanic eyes



Walker, Texas Rep

By State Representative Gary Walker, Dist. 80

Beginnings and Fine - Tunings

Bills are being referred to committees, and committees are beginning to hear them. My committee, Land and Resource Management, got started bright and early at 8 a.m. on President's Day. I think that some of the people in attendance would rather have had the day off, but we don't recognize state and national holidays when we're in session, with the exception of Good Friday and Easter. In fact, the last day of session falls on Memorial Day.

We've spent a lot of time this week answering questions about legislation, and fine tuning some of our own. That's what is so great about this process. Someone has a good idea, and legislation is drafted to address that idea. But once the bill is out there, and everyone has a look at it, someone else will come up to show us how the bill won't do what it's meant to do. Sometimes someone will come up to show how a little work on an existing bill will make it a great bill. Proposed legislation is always in transition, throughout the entire process. Once a bill has been fine tuned to everyone's satisfaction, and it arrives on the House floor, someone may attach an amendment that may change the entire character of the bill. It's an inter-

esting process, and it takes a lot of vigilance. I am grateful to those constituents who call my office to let me know what bills to watch for, and what bills can be tweaked to help them. You can call my Austin office at (512) 463-0678, or fax me at (512) 463-1966.

One of my bills, regarding the speed limit that school buses can travel en route to extracurricular events, will be heard on Tuesday. I'm looking forward to it, and also to the input of the Transportation Committee members who will hear it.

This week we honored the military on the floor of the House. It's great to see all those folks who have sacrificed, and continue to sacrifice, on behalf of our country.

The boll weevil bill is being heard this week in a Senate subcommittee. I'm excited that something may actually be done to help our farmers fight off this pest. It's a good time for state action, as the drought has decimated the numbers of boll weevils that need to be dealt with. I guess that's one thing that the drought has done for farmers. Or as the wise man once said, "There's no great loss without some small gain."

School Board election slated

The Plains Independent School District Board of Trustees has called a school board election for Saturday, May 1, 1999 for the expiring terms of Danny Ball (District # 3) and Wayne Sisson (District # 4). Persons wanting to file for a place on the ballot may do so at the school superintendent's office beginning February 15th and ending on March 12th. Early voting by personal appearance starts on Wednesday, April 14th, and ends on Tuesday, April 27th.

NOTICE

Plains ISD invites interested parties to make proposals to provide the lights, metal poles, electrical fixtures, and mounting hardware for the illumination of a high school baseball field. The proposal is for the purchase of the equipment. The District will provide the installation. Proposals will be accepted until 2 p.m., February 26, 1999 at the Business Office. Proposals should be addressed to James Haynes, Superintendent, Plains ISD, 1000 10th st., Box 479, Plains, Texas 79355. For questions or other information please contact Keith Whitzel at 806-456-7401.

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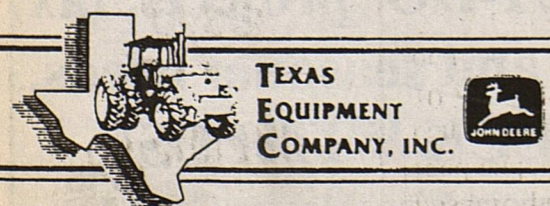
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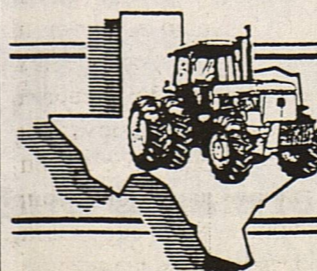
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