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Cowboy Country News

Published each Wednesday at the County Seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas.

Volume III, Issue 5, Wednesday, October 2, 1996

Ray Bearden's never been 'Let George' do it type citizen

It's doubtful if many men have served their community, their county, their church, so faithfully, for a longer time than Ray Bearden, a resident of the county since 1940.

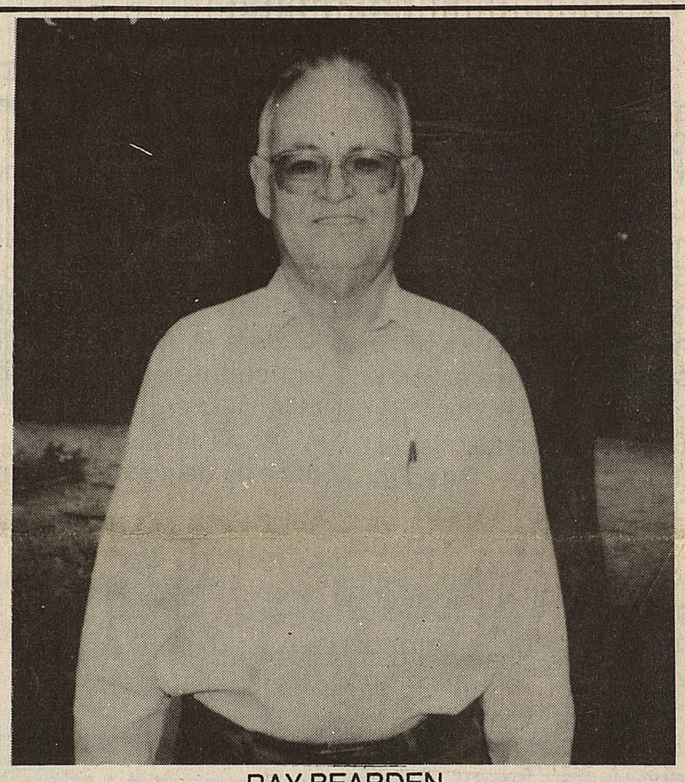
Less than a year later , following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Ray would become a member of the then called US Army Air Corps. Following basic and specialized training, he was assigned overseas, an enlisted man in the famed 8th Air Force, which flew so many devastating raids over occupied Europe and Nazi Germany. Ray was trained as a communication specialist, and had to learn to encrypt and send International Morse Code in his job.

Following his discharge from the service, he would marry then Joyce Clanahan in 1949. The couple are the parents of two children, son Ricky, and daughter Rhonda, and are proud of their six grandchildren.

The Beardens began farming on their own in 1950, and later purchased a quarter section of land a few miles west of Tokio. Their present home is located on that original site.

Nothing unusual so far, you say? True, for that age and time. What is unusual, and interesting, about Ray is the many hats he has worn in the community and county, selflessly serving his friends and neighbors.

He served as President of the Yoakum County Farm Bureau from 1956 until 1973. He was a member of the local Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation committee from 1962 until 1970.



RAY BEARDEN

He was a charter member of the Tokio Co-Op Gin in its organization in 1960, and served two years a member of the Board of Directors.

He was chosen as 'Farmer of the Year' in 1963 by the Plains Chamber of Commerce.

In 1985, he was honored with an award of merit from the local Soil and Water Conservation District for "Outstanding Accomplishments". That same year, he received the 'Outstanding Conservation Farmer' award from the same association and the Lion's Club.

He served two terms on the then called FHA Committee, now working

Turn to page 2,
'RAY BEARDEN'

Cowboys come from behind again, down 'Buffs 19-18

Costly injuries again hit team.

The Cowboys visited the hostile Petersburg Buffalo home turf Friday night, and got off to a scary start. In their first possession, the Buff defense stopped the, 'boys cold, and took possession of the ball on their 32 yard line. Five big running plays later, the Buffs got their first TD and a 7-0 lead.

Things continued to look grim for the Cowboys after the kickoff. On their third possession play, a fumble gave the ball again to the Buffs at the Cowboys 30 yard line. The Buffaloes managed to make the 5 yard line, where the defense stiffened, forcing a field goal attempt, good for a 10-0 lead with just over 3 minutes left in the first period.

With the ball again on the Cowboy 20, Eric Luna took a handoff from Abraham Garcia, and the up front blockers cleared a path for him to gain 36 big yards, but the Buff's regrouped, and stopped the drive cold, and Petersburg took the punt on their 9, and quickly moved it out to the 20 yard line. Marte Pierce made consecutive tackles on Buff runners for big losses, forcing a Buff punt.

PLAINS RUNNER SWARMED BY ANGRY BUFFS

Joe Luna took the kick and raced 57 big yards, with some great downfield blocking from his mates, and his TD put the Cowboys on the scoreboard 10-6 when the PAT kick failed, deep in the second quarter.

Plains again took possession, after great defensive efforts in the front line held the Buffs on their own 26. Garcia handed off to Adrian Rios, who then handed off to Joe Luna for a first down at the 42.

Garcia threw well from there to Jason Redman for another first, and a penalty and another run from Rios behind good blocking put the ball on the Buff four. Garcia again found an open Jason Redman in the end zone, putting the Cowboys up front 12-10.

Undaunted, Petersburg took the kickoff, and on their third possession play,

Turn to page 3,
'COWBOY GAME'

Crisis In Panhandle Milo Crop Averted

Combined efforts, forces thwart EPA stand on pesticide use

The following is based on an article by Jack Eberspacher, Executive Director, National Grain Sorghum Producers, in their publication, GRAIN SORGHUM NEWS.

The folly found in many Federal Bureaucracy policies was dramatically illustrated with the Environmental Protection Agency's involvement in an early September crisis in Texas High Plains grain sorghum production areas, primarily in Parmer County.

Jack Eberspacher reported devastating northern leaf blight disease was discovered in that county, and quickly spread to other areas, aided by cool, wet weather. The fungicide, Tilt, is the only known pesticide chemical to effectively control the disease.

Growers were unable to treat their sorghum crops, for Tilt is not labeled for use on sorghum, and growers in the area stood to lose their entire crop, valued at over $14 million. And that figure didn't include the potential impact on sorghum grown for seed production. About 90% of the U.S. seed sorghum is produced in this area, and results could be devastating to the entire sorghum industry.

National Grain Sorghum Producers (NGSP) association enlisted the aid of the Texas Ag Extension Service, and the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). TDA agreed to

Turn to page 2,
'MILO CRISIS'

Yoakum County's First Bale

Local producer Neal Newsom, left, and Darwin Robertson, Yoakum County Co-Op Gin Manager, are shown with the first bale of county gathered and ginned from the 1996 crop.

The bale was ginned about 7 p.m. last Monday, too late for us to get this photo in last week's edition of CCN. The cold, damp weather which moved into the South Plains area last Thursday evening has many cotton producers worried about effects on this years surprisingly very good crop.

County adopts resolution seeking portion of State Lottery sales.

The main item of business on Monday's agenda in Commissioner's Court was discussion of a resolution supporting a growing movement by counties and cities to recover a portion of each dollar in Texas Lottery sales.

State Senator Tom Haywood, Dem., Wichita Falls, is expected to introduce a bill when the Legislature convenes in January which would require the State Lottery Commission to refund five cents of each dollar to Texas cities and counties.

The proposal calls for four cents of the refund going to incorporated towns across the state, and one cent going to counties and unincorporated areas.

Following brief discussions, the Court unanimously approved the resolution. The formal document will be prepared and signed by court members later this week.

Judge Dallas Brewer, responding to a question, said he saw no reason any county would not wish to approve the resolution, adding, "I think it fair that our cities and counties, where lottery tickets are sold, get back a portion of the funds".

Commissioner Jim Barron agreed, but said indications point to resistance from large urban areas. He said larger cities like Dallas, San Antonio, Houston, would no doubt support the five cent rebate or refund from the sales, but in all probability resist giving counties the one cent portion.

It was reported $1,824,667 lottery sales were made in Yoakum County last year.

Turn to page 2,
'LOTTERY SALES'

From page 1,
'RAY BEARDEN'

with the Farm Services Administration office.

He was a Trustee on the School Board from 1967 until 1876, and served as Secretary of the Board two years. During his tenure, the track facility was completely modernized with a new surface, the swimming pool was built, new stadium lighting was installed, and the Resource Center was completed.

He is a Charter Board member of Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District, serving since its organization in 1989.

He served as Deacon in the Tokio Baptist Church from 1952 until 1994, and also played the church piano and organ. Ray said, "I was the only reason the church never had a real musician those days". The Bearden's now are members of First Baptist Church here.

There are few, if any in this community, who have given so freely of their time and energy to their friends and neighbors.

(Editor's note- Ray told us our mother, the late Blanche Dyer, drafted him into the Air Corps. She was Chief Draft Board Clerk in the County at the time, and Ray told us after his discharge, he regularly 'picked at Blanche for sending me off to war'. Shortly later, she would be forced to draft her own husband, the late Pete Dyer, to our knowledge the oldest draftee in the county. In late 1943, the stress and strain of the job overcame her, and she suffered what was then called a 'nervous breakdown', and was unable to return to the position. Those were very traumatic years for young and old.

From Page 1,
'MILO CRISIS'

issue a crisis exemption for Tilt so the crops could be treated, and informed the EPA of their plans.

EPA officials said the crisis exemption would be revoked, for no tolerance level for pesticide residue was established for sorghum. Citing the Food Quality Protection Act passed by Congress in August, EPA said they would not allow the exemption until regulations for the new law were written--maybe within a year or so.

NGSP hastily called on a host of State and U.S. legislators to help negate EPA's stance on the exemption. Among those cited for their assistance in convincing EPA to back down and allow the crisis exemption were Reps. Mac Thornberry, Larry Combest, Charles Stenholm, Kika De La Garza, Pat Roberts, and U.S. Senator Gramm and Hutchison.

That's not the entire story; While EPA reluctantly cleared the exemption, no tolerance level for food use has been established. Without a tolerance level for food use, growers who used the Tilt product will not be able to market their grain, even for use as livestock feed, since it would be considered contaminated by the Food and Drug Administration. Under this scenario, the grain the producers saved would have to be destroyed. Perfectly logical in 'governmentalese'.

According to NGSP, the EPA has assured them they will establish the mandatory tolerance level. They will be closely watched and monitored by the association, the TDA, product manufacturer, and the involved legislators to ensure the tolerance level is established.

From Page 1,
'LOTTERY SALES'

Under Sen. Haywood's plan, over $91,000 of those sales would be refunded to our county and two cities. If the county were allowed to claim one cent on those sales figures, it would generate approximately $9,100 in new funds, with Denver City and Plains sharing the balance, based on sales in each city.

Judge Brewer reported the Far West Texas County Judges and Commissioners Conference approved the resolution this weekend at their meeting in Lajitas.

FSA Committee Election

County FSA committees administer FSA farm programs at county and area levels. They are elected by eligible producers. The election of responsible agricultural producers is important to ALL farmers and ranchers. Programs administered by county FSA committees include; Commodity price support loans; establishment of allotments; yields and quotas; loans; incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities. The committees also hire County Executive Directors

Farm owners, operators, tenants and sharecroppers of legal age can vote, if they are eligible to take part in any FSA program.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Oct. 3-request nomination forms, begin nominations.

Oct 28-last day to file nominations.

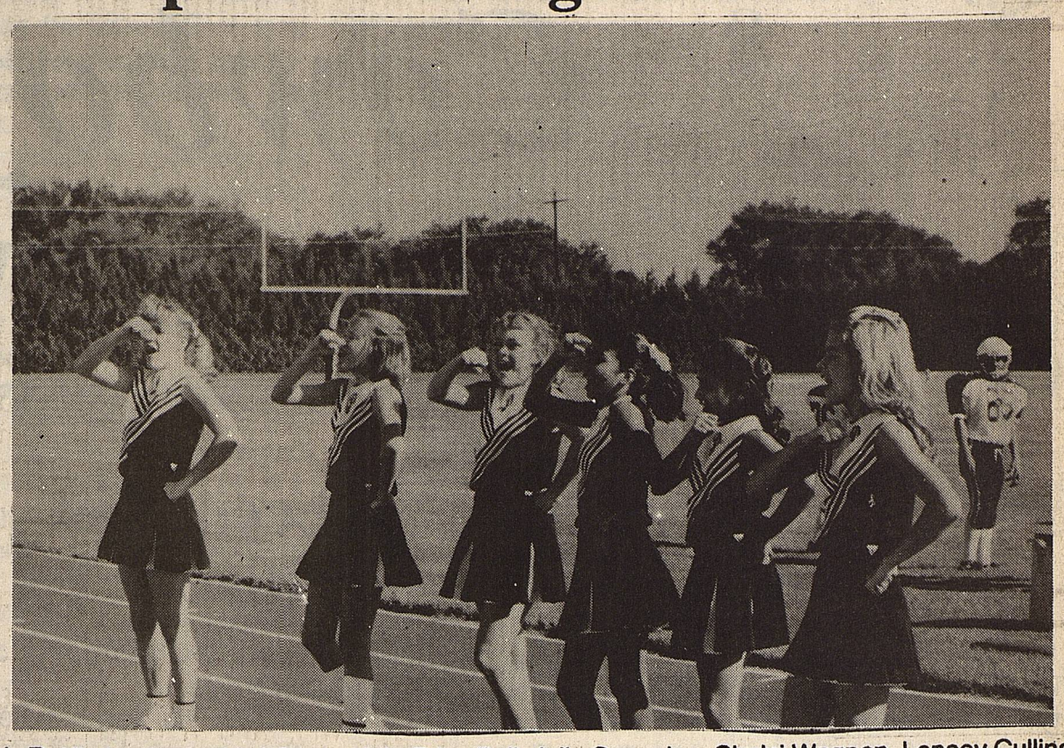
Nov. 18-Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

Dec. 2- Last day to return voted ballots.

Jan. 1- Committee members/alternates take office.

A petition form signed by the nominee is needed to nominate a farmer/candidate. A form including a statement that the candidate agrees to serve if elected.

Middle School Leaders Yelling Up A Storm Against 'Buffs'



L-R, Kimbe Jones, Kari Guetersloh, Erica Bell, Julie Gonzales, Chelsi Wagnon, Lensey Cullins

Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Director's Election

On October 3rd at 8:30 a.m. in the Plains Community Building, The Yoakum Soil and Water Conservation District will hold it's annual Director's Election. A new director will be elected for Zone 4 to replace Neal Newsom. The speaker for the election will be Bob Ensor, Assistant State Conservationist with the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

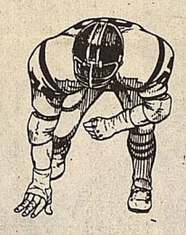
Conservation districts are locally organized, self-governed bodies chartered by the state. Through voluntary action and cooperation of landowners, the districts work to conserve land, water, forests, wildlife and related resources for the benefit of all.

District officials, who contribute their time and talents, plan and administer conservation activities within their districts. They work with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and landowners who signed cooperative agreements with the districts. Cooperators are eligible for NRCS assistance and planning in carrying out conservation projects.

Districts have organized state-wide associations to carry on educational and research activities that will further the wise use of natural resources.

The National Association of Conservation Districts is the national voice of the district movement. NACD pools district experience and develops national policies. It maintains relations with other organizations and governmental agencies, publishes information about districts and works with leaders in religion, youth, agriculture, industry and other fields.

At all levels, the job is done by democratic action.



JV Cowboys Devour Buffs 36-0

The younger Cowboys had a great game against Visiting Petersburg last Thursday. Kyle Sisson had a big night, hitting Will St. Romain with 15 and 12 yard TD tosses, and found Vincent Delgado for another 8 yard score. David Luna scored a TD and 2 point conversion, and Fermin Luna also had a TD run and two pointer.

Coach David Williams credited the offensive line, eecially the play of Travis Bennett and Tony Lazos, and said St. Romain, Mike Bell, Chris Gonzales and Fermin Luna played very strong on defense.

The win improves the JV Cowboys record to 3 and 1, and they visit Whiteface next Thursday

* Employment * Opportunity

Lea County Electric Cooperative, Inc. currently has a position open as Consumer Relations for the Plains office.

The position requires a High School Diploma or equivalent with two (2) years experience in dealing with the public. Applicants should have strong basic skills in human relations, communication (written and verbal), and mathematics. Knowledge of personal computers, WORD PERFECT and EXCEL desirable.

Job functions include receptionist/cashier duties and consumer relations. Job description available upon request.

Applications are available from any of the Cooperative's offices (Plains, Tatum or Lovington). For further information or for submittal of an application, please contact:

Janette Faris, Manager,
Admin/Personnel Services;
18 W. Washington, P.O.Drawer
1447, Lovington, N.M., 88260
(505) 396-3631

*** NOTICE ***

Make plans to come to the Homecoming game against Whiteface a bit earlier. The parade of Duchesses, Queen Contestants, and the cornation of the Queen will start at 7:30 p.m., prior to the game. Be there, to show your support for these young ladies and their escorts, and boost the Cowboys!

OCTOBER 6 IS LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE ON NOV. 5

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'PISD ACTIVITY PAGE'

Joe Luna about to get banged on his pass route

scored on a 22 yard pass. The 2 point try was good, and the Cowboys were again down 18-12 at the halftime.

When the battle resumed, a stiff Cowboy defense, helped by a big tackle from Derek Brunson, stopped the Buffs cold, and the Cowboys took over the ball on the Petersburg 44. On their second play, Garcia, behind good line blocking, had time to hit Marte Pierce for a 44 yard TD pass. Coley Burgess' kick was good for the PAT, and the Cowboys had fought back for a 19-18 lead with just over 7 minutes left on the clock in the third period.

The final period featured some frantic offensive efforts by the Buffs, repeatedly stopped by an aroused Cowboy defense. The Cowboys were unable to score again in the tough contest, but they stymied every effort thrown at them by the Buffs, the entire defense holding tough, with big plays from both Willetts', both Brunsons', Redman, Burgess and Major Howard.

The gun would sound with another squeaker 19-18 win, and another costly night of injuries to the thinning squad.

Stephen Bitolas again suffered an injury to his banged up knee, and Eric Luna suffered a severe elbow dislocation. At this time it is uncertain what their status is for the remainder of the season.

The Cowboys meet the Whiteface Antelopes this Friday in the annual Homecoming game at 8 p.m.

Worried Cowboys Steven Bunch, Derek Brunson, Adam Garcia, Jason Redman, barely shown Adam Dominguez at halftime. They put it together, to come back and WIN!

7th Wranglers In Action vs Petersburg

Patrick Brintle about to block for Moises Gonzales

Servando Luna, 72, Patrick Brintle, Tanner Hamm,22, on pass play.

Volleyball Action Summary

PHS Varsity; Last week, the Cowgirls ran into a tough team from Lubbock Christian, and went down in defeat 4-15, 0-15. They bounced back Saturday, and in a well played game, trounced District foe Tahoka 17-15 and 15-3. Coach Horne said the girls "are pulling together as a team, and are having a really good time".

8th Wranglers; The Junior High girls went to levelland last week, and the 8th 'A' squad won handily, 1-9, 16-14. The 'B' girls had tougher going, winning the first match 15-11, then falling 3-15, 0-15.

7th Wranglers; Both the 'A' and 'B' squads had tough afternoons in Levelland. The 'A' bunch fell 3-15, 0-15, while the 'B' team fell 8-15, 1-5. On a positive note, Coach Lusk said "The scores do not reflect how well they played. They are improving in their fundamentals every game, and I am proud of each of them".

Volleyball a 'softy game'?

If you think volleyball is the sport of choice for wimps, better think again. Better yet, come watch the Cowgirl varsity and JV workout every afternoon. They WORK, and practice HARD, and aren't the least concerned their efforts produce lots of plain old sweat , and sore bodies.

Kassie Lowe rests huge sprained ankle.

Cowgirls doing their jump routine at practice session.

Cowgirl's "Buff The Floor" routine - pushing carpet wrapped 2x4's across gym floor

Annual Cross Country Meet Draws Big Field Again

Small number of team runners hurts PISD

The south side of Yoakum County Park was crowded Saturday a.m., with school school buses from dozens of area schools, and many hundreds of Junior High, Junior Varsity and Varsity boy and girl runners, and a large crowd of spectators.

Only one PISD group had the required number of five runners to qualify as a team, the Boys JV, and they did extremely well, finishing second to much larger Frenship, and ahead of Seminole in third place (see team photo). The JV Girls, with only four runners, also looked strong, with Wendy Hernandez in 3rd, Tanya Hernandez 7th, Cassie Dearing 8th, and Anne Palmer 24th. The young Junior High Boys, only four strong, had a great day, winning three medals, with Luis Hernandez 8th, Chris Estrada 9th, Greg Gonzales 10th, and Manuel Hernandez 16th. There were no JV Boys or Varsity Girls teams entered. The sole Cowboy runner, Jesus Hernandez, looked very good in the strong field, finishing 16th against tough competition

JV Team-David Luna, Felipe Reyna, Fermin Luna, Alex Luna, Vincent Delgado, Lee Tyson, Josh Bayer

Jr. High runners Greg Gonzales, Chris Estrada, Luis and Manuel Hernandez

West Texas seafood lovers please note;

Your delights could cost you more

West Texans, despite their proximity some 600 miles from salt water seas, have long been noted for their love of fresh sea food. True, not all folks love oysters, in any shape, form or fashion. On the other hand, their are shell fish aficionados who wildly wish those delectables could be found at every small grocery in the state, even hoping our venerable Dairy Queens' would make them a staple menu item.

Only one problem with dining out on our coastal waters aquatic bounty - it gets higher priced each year. And escalating prices may, for once, be attributed to supply and demand forces - in this case, a true, declining amount of the bounty from the sea.

Commercial fishing, long a main industry on the Texas Gulf Coast, has been in steady decline a number of years. Easily, shrimp fishing is the most important part of the industry, contributing 80% of the annual sea food catch. In the 1990's, shrimp catches have been the lowest in twenty years. A number of factors have contributed to the catch tonnage, including a decreased number of commercial shrimp boats, governmental restrictions including endangered species (all sea turtles) acts, requiring turtle release traps in the shrimpers nets, also releasing thousands of shrimp, according to the shrimpers.

Declining catches of finfish during the past twenty years have also been drastic. In 1974, red drum and spotted sea trout were the most popular catches in the commercial industry. Today, thanks partly to viral disease problems in the 70's and 80's, and over fishing, all sales of the two species were banned in 1981. They are reportedly now making a strong comeback in the Gulf waters.

Oyster production, some 4.6 million pounds in 1994, is down significantly from earlier years. Contamination of many Coastal water areas has severely curbed the annual harvest. In 1987, some 11.7 million pounds of blue crab were harvested in Texas waters, while in 1994, only 5.1 million pounds crossed the scales.

All this does not bode well for West Texans visiting Lubbock's Lone Star Oyster Bar, Red Lobster, or any other specialty seafood restaurant, or in any other Texas locale. When you order a dozen on the half shell, a stuffed flounder, oysters Rockefeller, butterflied battered shrimp, whatever swims off our coast, better get a grip on your temper, and be free with your wallet.

Close Encounters

Most sightings of Unidentified Flying Object (UFOs) occur along the east and west coasts of the U.S., but Texas appears to be an active "flyover" state.

UFOs are moving objects in the sky—usually lights—not identified by the observer. Upon investigation, 9 out of 10 reported sightings turn out to be explainable and are classified as Identified Flying Objects.

The Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), a nonprofit organization based in Seguin, is one of the world's leading investigators of UFO sightings, suspected landing sites, crop circles, abduction reports and similar phenomena. MUFON's database lists 19 investigated UFO sightings in Texas between 1947 and 1994—3 percent of the U.S. total. Florida leads all other states with 104 sightings in that period.

In 1983, Texas' peak year, observers in four widely separate counties reported spotting UFOs. Overall, Central Texas has been the most active region.

MUFON officials estimate that only 1 percent of all UFO sightings are reported. In recent years, however, observers have shown less reluctance to come forward.

West Texas Officials Attend Conference on Rio Grande

The West Texas Judges and Commissioners Assn. held it's annual conference deep in the Big Bend at Lajitas September 26 thru 28. Attending from Yoakum County were Judge Dallas Brewer, Precinct 3 Commissioner Jim Barron, and Gary Walker, State Representative, Dist. 80.

The far west Texas association, representing some thirty counties spread over a huge area of the State, drew noted speakers from around Texas, representing a wide array of governmental interests and associations, including the Attorney General office, Texas Association of Counties, and the Texas Judges and Commissioners Assn.

Both Brewer and Walker feel the Far West Texas association plays an important role, allowing County Court officers in our sparsely populated area to discuss common problems of local government, and make their needs known in State agencies and to the Legislature in Austin.

Homecoming Dance Announced

The PHS Student Council will sponsor a homecoming dance following the Whiteface football game. The dance will start 'about' 10:30 p.m, until 1:00.M.

The dance is open to the entire community, and will be held at the PHS Tennis Court complex. Because of the court surface, tennis shoes should be worn, and dress is strictly casual.

Ticket prices for the dance are $3 single, $5 per couple. Come join us, dance away, and help our Student Council!

It Happened in Texas in October

Oct.2, 1935-First battle of revolution fought at Gonzales. Mexican troops sent to retrieve cannon from Texans. They say, "Come and get it".
Oct. 10, 1835-Stephen F. Austin appointed commander-in-chief of Texas volunteer army.
Oct. 17, 1835-Ranger force authorized to guard Texas frontier.
Oct.22, 1836-Sam Houston inaugurated as first President of Republic of Texas.
Oct 13, 1845-Texans ratified first State Constitution.
Oct.7, 1854-Fort Davis established on Limpia River. Abandoned 1861, reoccupied 1867. Served as point of departure for expeditions against Apache Indians until finally abandoned 1891.

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Tsa Mo Ga celebrates 100th birthday of TFWC

Attending the Chuckwagon supper were, Front, Elouise St. Romain, Mattie Field, Linda Powell, Crip Henard, Back, Wilma Powell and Mary Jo St. Romain

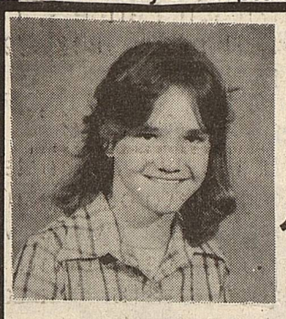
The Tsa Mo Ga Study Club commemorated the 100th Birthday of the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs on September 23, hosting a "Chuck Wagon Supper" at the Stanford Park. Almost 50 members, spouses and guest enjoyed barbecued chicken and sausage with all the trimmings.

Incoming new President Wilma Powell welcomed those attending. She cited the hundred year anniversary of TFWC, with which the Tsa Mo Ga club is affiliated. "The heart and soul of federation is found in the moral character of its members. Your character is your credential, and the heart of federation is not what happens to you but what happens in you."

The study club was organized in 1935, when 25 interested women met at the ranch home of the late Mrs. M.W. (Lillian) Luna. Sixteen years old at the time, Mary Jo Luna, now St. Romain, was one of the charter members, the only one still active in the club today.

The birthday celebration featured friends reminiscing about the earlier days of Yoakum County, which also had a birthday on September 21. The county was formally organized that day in 1907.

The gathering was co-hosted by Wilma Powell, Mary Jo and Elouise St. Romain. Joe St. Romain was the barbecue chef.



Happy Birthday, baby Shelly!
May you have at least 33 more.
We love you - Mom 'H', Dad 'G'

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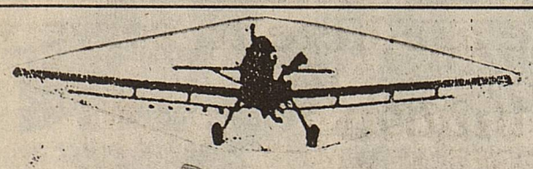

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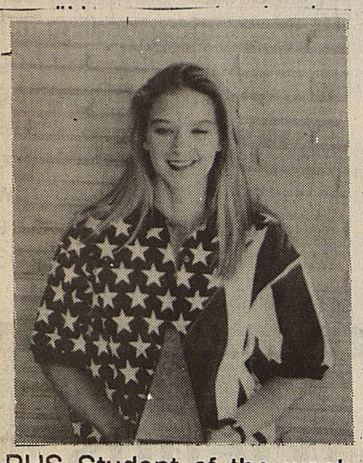
Femme Friends

Student of the Week



PHS Student of the week is Kristi Guetersloh, a Senior, and the daughter of Kay Swann and Kevin Guetersloh. She was nominated by Mrs. Pettigrew, who said " I got to know Kristi when she was a Freshman cheer leader and I was the sponsor.Now she is a Senior, and a beautiful young lady. I see lots of potential in her, and know what goals she sets for herself she can achieve.

About Subscriptions

Our computer subscription program automatically cuts out overdue subscriptions on the last day of each month. If you have questions, please call Holly Dyer; 456-8451.

Parkinson Partners To Rally Support

LUBBOCK, TEXAS—Parkinson Partners will meet Tuesday, Oct. 8, 1996 at 1:30 p.m. in the Neurology Research and Education Center at St. Mary of the Plains Hospital, 4102 24th St. Suite 501.

Parkinson Partners are two groups that meet simultaneously on the second Tuesday of every month. Parkinson patients meet together to discuss Parkinson's disease while family members and caregivers discuss issues related to caring for the Parkinson patient.

For more information about Parkinson's disease or Parkinson Partners, call Judy Ribble at (806) 796-2647.

Notice

All the old elementary school playground equipment, except swings, will be removed between October 14-18. The old equipment will be available, free, to groups or individuals, but you must arrange hauling to your location.

Alzheimer's Association To Sponsor Memory Walk/Run

LUBBOCK, TEXAS—The South Plains Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association will sponsor the 1996 Memory Walk/Run, Saturday, October 12, at Buddy Holly Park. Registration for the annual fund-raising event will be from 7:45 to 8:45 a.m., and the two-mile Walk/10K Run will begin at 9 a.m.

Individuals are encouraged to solicit sponsors for the Walk. Those raising $25 or more will receive a T-shirt. Door prizes and special prizes for top fund-raisers will be awarded.

The registration fee for the Run is $10 per person. First, Second, and Third place medals will be awarded to winning runners.

Participants can either mail their completed registration forms and monies raised to the South Plains Chapter office or bring them to registration the day of the Walk/Run.

The South Plains Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association serves Lubbock and her 18 surrounding counties. Funds raised from the Memory Walk/Run will be used to purchase educational materials including books, videotapes and pamphlets, about Alzheimer's Disease.

"Because of the generous support of the Lubbock and surrounding communities, we are able to provide these educational items at no charge to families affected by Alzheimer's Disease," said South Plains Chapter Executive Director Kim Armbruster.

"In addition, we offer four caregiver support groups in the area and provide a sitter service for patients to enable caregivers and family to attend support groups," Armbruster added.

For more information about the South Plains Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association or the 1996 Memory Walk/Run, call (806) 799-4708.

Library Filmtime

Sixteen pre-school youngsters attended filmtime September 25. They enjoyed songs, games, two movies, and heard a book read. Those attending included Kevin John Gass, Darien Gonzales, Jacob Brink, Joseph Williams, Courtney Bryam, Rhaemi Stall, Hunter Welch, Kelsey Curry, Isaac Doyle, Troy Don Parrish, Jaston Brink, Denise Tarango, Sabrina Byram, Rhaela Stall, Haley Welch, and Sean Curry.

Women's Protective Services Open House

Your are cordially invited to attend an Open House, sponsored by Women's Protective Services on Friday, October 11, from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. at our office, located at 412 W, Fifth Street, Denver City.

October is Domestic Violence Month in Texas and across the nation.

Refreshments will be served, and we look forward to seeing you there.

'There is time for work, time for love. That leaves no other time'.

New Arrival

Jason & Traci Scarbrough announce the arrival of their daughter, Madeline Ann.

She joined her parents Tuesday, September 17, 1996, at 9:44 p.m. She weighed an even 11 pounds, and measured 21 3/4 inches long.

Her proud grandparents are John and Reta Nance of Granbury, and Danny and Neva Scarbrough, of Jacksboro.

Her great grandparents are Woddy and Wilma Splawn, Granbury, and L.C. and Eureka Scarbrough of Quanah.

HOWDY!

By: *Kathy Adair*

Clean it up!!

Most housecleaning work is done in the kitchen and the bathroom, and working from the cleanest to the dirtiest areas is the best way to clean these rooms. For example, in the bathroom clean the mirror first, then the sink, toilet, tub/shower and finally the floor. In the kitchen, clean the sink and countertops, range and stove top, and then the floor.

Did you know that a clean base grille and condenser coils can make your refrigerator work easier? A dirty base grille prevents air circulation, making the motor work harder. Simply remove the grille and clean it. Dirty condenser coils prevent air transfer, again straining the motor. Clean the coils frequently.

If you have not used the hot water in your home or vacation residence for two weeks or more, turn on all hot water faucets and let them rum for several minutes before using any electrical appliance connected to the hot water system (washing machine, dishwasher, etc.). Hydrogen gas can be produced in the water heater when hot water has not been used for two weeks or more, and may accumulate in the heater and water pipes. The gas can explode if exposed to heat or a flame. Running the hot water will exhaust the gas to eliminate potential explosion hazards.

Kathy Adair, CEA-FCS
Yoakum County

Thank You

How can we begin to say thank you to all of the wonderful people of Plains? You opened your hearts to our needs by staying up nights, sending cards, calling and visiting. The food, flowers and work it took to make the services an extra special tribute, and the outpouring of love extended to our families was tremendous. May God bless you all.

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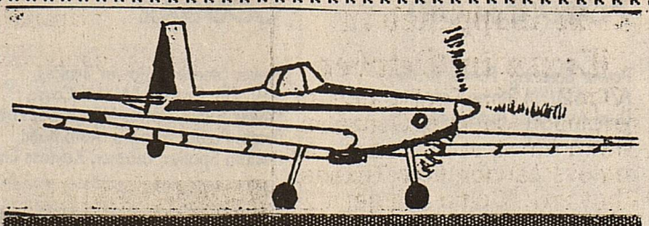
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Half Full or Half Empty?

Public perceptions often don't jibe with economic indicators

In early 1996, opinion polls found many Americans anxious about their economic future. Many feared losing their jobs, having to hold more than one job to make ends meet or to own a home, or seeing their living standards decline. Longer-term worries included inadequate savings to send children to college, retire comfortably or care for elderly parents; the growing share of household income taken by taxes; and the size of the budget deficit and national debt.

At the same time, government statistics showed continuing job growth, low inflation and unemployment and other signs of economic health. Texas' leading economic indicators were generally more positive than the nation's, yet Texans surveyed by the Harte-Hanks Texas Poll in February expressed many economic concerns.

More recent surveys indicate that U.S. consumers have regained some of the confidence that was fading earlier in the year. In June and July 1996, The Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index for the West South Central region, which include Texas, reached its highest level since 1984.

Nevertheless, a large segment of the population remains apprehensive. Many observers blame the news media for bombarding the public with stores about "middle class" layoffs, stagnant wages and other problems. Others suggest that the most commonly used indicators of economic output, wage growth, unemployment and inflation fail to describe the true state of the economy.

Texas state of mind: A *Dallas Morning News* poll in March 1996 found Texans troubled by the specter of a recession like that of the mid-1980s, when the economy relied heavily on oil and gas, real estate and trade with Mexico. This unease, the newspaper's editorial board said, was due in large part to a failure to recognize how diversified Texas' economy and trading partners have become. In general, this diversification should help facilitate future growth and insulate most Texans from downturns that might occur in one or two sectors.

The Comptroller's Index of Leading Texas Economic Indicators has improved somewhat in the past year and continues to point to moderately strong growth in the near future. While Texas' growth is expected to ease over the next several years, it should continue to outpace the nation's growth.

Comptroller John Sharp's 1994 *Forces of Change* report predicted that Texas will remain highly competitive in the global economy, provided that the state develops a well-educated, technically proficient work force. Texas workers, however, will have to adjust to continual changes in the job market. For example, *Forces* noted that between now and 2025, "the average Texas worker will probably be employed by at least five different companies and hold 10 or more different positions before retiring."

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data indicate that during 1991-1993, more than 4.5 million workers lost jobs they had held for three years or longer. In Texas, 286 mass layoffs in 1995 alone led to permanent or temporary job losses for more than 76,000 workers, according to BLS.

Average real wages in Texas and the U.S. have remained essentially flat since the late 1970s. Adjusted for inflation and expressed in 1983-84 dollars, the 1995 average nonfarm wage of $17,780 per worker in Texas was only 1 percent higher than the state's average wage in 1975. Recent government reports indicate, however, that real wages have begun to grow again nationally over the past year.

Wage stagnation and the income gap are largely a function of educational levels. Labor demand has shifted away from goods-producing industries that traditionally provided high-wage jobs for low-skilled workers, toward a service economy in which the high-wage occupations tend to require college graduates.

Cheer up: Many analysts argue that compared to previous generations, Americans today have more reasons to be confident of future prosperity.

A study by the Council of Economic Advisers disputes the widely held view that all the well-paying positions are being lost to downsizing and that the only growth is in low-paying "hamburger-flipping" jobs. From 1994 to 1996, the study notes, almost 40 percent of net new jobs were in high-paying service sectors like accounting, finance and software; also, most new positions were full-time.

Wrong number? Some observers believe that the official statistics used to describe economic conditions are unreliable or subject to misinterpretation.

Among individual indicators, the employment rate, inflation rate and gross domestic product (GDP) have probably received the most scrutiny.

Many Texans remain anxious about what the future holds for them financially. To examine the gap between how the economy is performing and how it is perceived, Comptroller John Sharp asked participants whether the nation's economic indicators and other gauges of progress present an accurate picture of Texans' everyday lives. Below are some excerts of the comments received.

"I do not believe the economy is in as good shape as they would have us believe. I hear very clearly when it is announced that 500 to thousands of employees have lost their jobs, but I have a problem finding out where are all the new jobs the government says are out there."

"Unemployment is worse now than it has been, I think, because government officials have encouraged most of it. Many companies have been regulated out of existence and small businesses can't get started because of unnecessary rules and permits."

"I see outrageous personal debt (home mortgages, auto loans, furniture/major appliance loans, credit card loans, etc.). I see massive corporate downsizing at all levels of industry and business and layoffs of experienced senior personnel in favor of inexperienced, less expensive personnel. I see rapacious behavior in every corporate sector. I do not consider a 2 to 3 percent 'growth rate' growth at all, but stagnation."

"If we expect progress in the future of our economy, we must get back to the good old basics of reading, writing, mathematics, real-true history (not remanufactured), geography and memory exercises."

Windbreak Trees

A West Texas nursery is planting conservation throughout two-thirds of the state, while also lending a helping hand to High Plains producers.

For the last 18 years the Texas Forest Service (TFS) West Texas Nursery (WTN) has grown windbreak seedlings, evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs, for landowners from the coast of Corpus Christi to Texline in the Panhandle. The WTN's primary objective is to produce and sell quality seedlings at a price that landowners can afford, enabling them to plant large quantities of trees to establish multiple row windbreaks.

Windbreaks are trees and shrubs systematically planted adjacent to fields, homesteads, or feedlots as a barrier to reduce or redirect the wind. They create permanent, natural protection and habitat for wildlife, reduce erosion and increase land value and aesthetics.

Annually, the WTN grows approximately 200,000 evergreens of eight different species in its two irrigated greenhouses and about 400,000 bare-root seedlings in its eight-acre field nursery. The trees are grown from seed collected by the nursery staff.

Each year the seedlings are sold and delivered through 93 participating Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) around the state; one of which is the Yoakum SWCD in Plains, Texas. The date of delivery, beginning in January.

But the WTN's service does not halt at production. Nursery staff members also assist High Plains producers by taking conservation from the greenhouse to the field. Upon request of a High Plain landowner, the TFS WTN will meet with the landowner, discuss the protection needs and design a windbreak plan according to those needs. Landowners willing to follow the guidelines listed within their plan are then personally assisted by the TFS in planting the windbreak. (Qualifying landowners must own at least 160 acres.)

The TFS supplies a tree planter, which plants 400 to 500 seedlings per hour, and a fabric layer, rolling out a UV synthetic fabric over the seedlings. The fabric conserves moisture and reduces weeds.

The TFS assists in planting field, livestock, homestead and wildlife windbreaks and living snow fences. In 1995 the TFS assisted High Plains landowners in planting 14 miles of windbreaks.

Producers, be it the farmer or rancher, interested in windbreak protection can begin ordering seedling this fall for the 1997 planting season at participating SWCDs. For more information or for assistance in planting a multiple row windbreak contact the Yoakum SWCD at 456-3703 in Plains, Texas.

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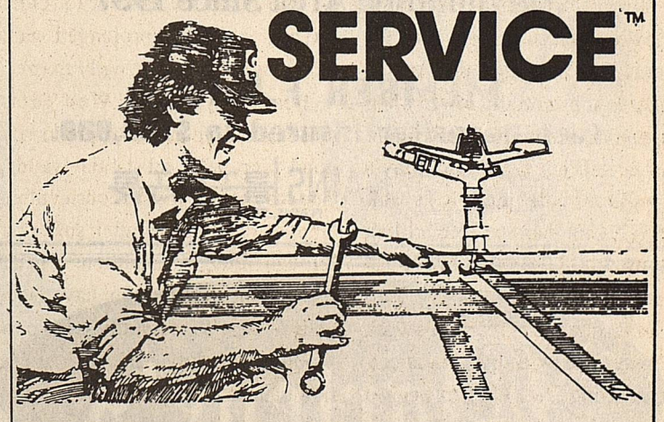

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Farmer-Stockman Show boasts largest outdoor working farm

The fourth annual Farmer-Stockman Show is scheduled for October 8-10 in Lubbock. The largest outdoor working farm and ranch show in the southwestern United States, boast 800 acres of show site with 54 acres of stationary exhibits and 600 acres of crops for field demonstrations. Crops to be harvested during the show are corn, cotton and alfalfa.

In addition to the many field demonstrations, the exhibit field will be covered with the latest in agricultural technology. Companies will exhibit tractors, combines, cotton stripers, tillage equipment, spraying equipment, irrigation equipment, seed, chemicals, fertilizers, livestock equipment, trucks, trailers, and many more services and products.

It's no wonder the most commonly heard comment from first time visitors is , "I can't believe how big this show is! I need more than one day to see it all!"

The busy three day schedule will include a variety of activities for the entire family. For producers, field demonstrations exhibit modern machinery in harvesting, tillage, and hay handling. Livestock demonstrations have been expanded this year and live cattle handling demonstrations, horse training sessions, cutting horse demonstrations, and current topic seminars.

A new section of the show will address wildlife issues with relation to agriculture. Wildlife may not be a household name, but the Farmer-Stockman Show is hoping to change that perception. A new wildlife exhibit and presentation area will be featured at the show in Lubbock.

"This year, we have concentrated on including wildlife programs and exhibits to improve the show and hopefully to appeal to another audience, " said Monica Hightower, show manager.

Four wildlife related programs will be presented by Texas Parks and Wildlife personnel.

Several wildlife-related exhibitors and other programs will be presented in the wildlife exhibit tent during the three-day show.

The popular Family Living area has expanded programs on food safety, quilting and fashion shows. Crafters and antique exhibits are available for a unique shopping opportunity.

A trip down memory land will also be at the show with the antique tractor and equipment exhibits. Over 60 individual exhibits will participate in this event, and many of the tractors can be seen running in the parade scheduled for 11:21 a.m. daily.

Continuing education courses are also offered during the show. Two programs will allow producers to receive CEU credits for attending. The first course, Cotton Plant Mapping, is scheduled daily at 10:30 a.m. And, the afternoon course at 2 p.m. daily is Tex-A-Syst-a rural well water assessment program.

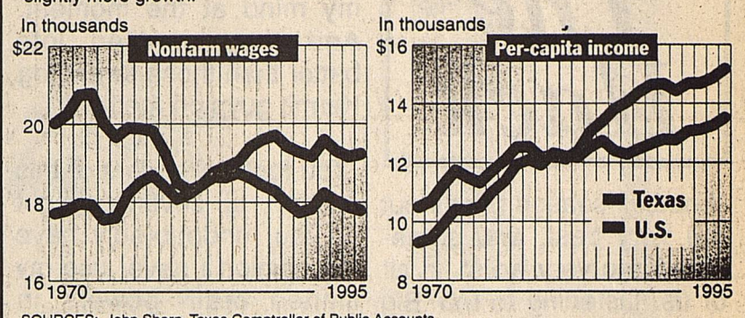
The Farmer-Stockman Show is 1.5 miles east of Loop 289 on East 50th Street. Show hours 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. Admission charge is $5 per person, 18 or younger free.

The next Homecoming Queen is in this group!

Presentation of Homecoming Duchesses, and the crowning of the 1996 PHS Homecoming Queen ceremonies will start at 7:30 pm prior to the Whiteface game. Pictured above are, front, Sonia Avila, Sr. Queen candidate, Bridget Bernal, Sr. candidate, Patricia Ruiz, Fr. Duchess, Back, L-R, Kristi Guetersloh, Sr. candidate, Jolyne Burgess, Soph Duchess, and Lindsey Six, Jr. Duchess.

Real wages stagnate

Adjusted for inflation, average nonfarm wages per worker have remained essentially flat since the late 1970s in both Texas and the U.S. Per-capita income—including wages and nonwage income such as unemployment and workers' compensation benefits, government transfer payments and interest and dividend payments—shows slightly more growth.



SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, U.S. Bureau of of Labor Statistics and U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. NOTE: Based on 1983-84 dollars.

TELCOT Report ©

A WEEKLY SUMMARY OF COTTON MARKETING NEWS

For the Week Ending September 24, 1996

A decline in domestic mill use barely caused a ripple in the market as it ended mostly higher this week, fueled by a combination of inopportune weather events and world-wide production worries.

The cotton market appeared to be virtually unaffected by USDA's latest consumption report which revealed a second consecutive month-to-month decline in domestic mill use. Despite a slight decrease, the August report was considered by some analysts to be neutral. In fact, one market observer said the report was almost a non-event as lower domestic mill use figures were expected.

According to the National Cotton Council (NCC), U.S. textile mills in August used cotton on a seasonally adjusted annualized rate of 10.7 million bales. Slower business for mills and lower retail sales were cited for the decline. Although the August number is substantially lower when compared to the revised July figure of 10.8 million bales and May's 11.1 million bale rate, it is still slightly higher than the 10.6 million bales used by U.S. mills in August of last year.

Cotton futures rose early this week on an estimate made by a major cotton marketing firm. The firm pegged U.S. cotton production at 17.1 million bales, considerably lower than USDA's most recent production figure of 17.9 million bales. The reduction was attributed to losses caused by Hurricane Fran in the Carolinas and delayed crop maturation in West Texas. Despite the market's reaction to the company's estimate, many analysts disagree with the number. In fact, some in the industry feel the crop is coming off better than expected.

At the same time, market attention was drawn to West Texas once again as observers watch closely for weather developments, particularly low night-time temperatures, at a time when warm weather is needed for proper crop maturation.

"A few nights with temperatures around 64 degrees are not bad," said James Leser, a Texas agricultural extension entomologist based in Lubbock. "That temperature would run about 15 heat units, which is enough to keep the cotton crop from shutting down." Below-normal heat unit accumulation is the most serious obstacle the cotton crop faces at this time of the year. However, cotton market observers will be on the lookout for other threats, including prolonged wet, cloudy weather and an early freeze.

It is widely believed West Texas still has the potential to produce a good crop with substantial yields. The crop has received a considerable amount of moisture after suffering through drought conditions earlier this season, and farmers have been able to deal successfully with pest problems. Luckily, insect pressure is now decreasing as the cotton crop matures. Aphid populations, which were a major concern to producers last month, now are declining. Consequently, problems with sticky cotton attributed to aphids now have diminished. Growers reported concern over bollworms and boll weevils also is weakening on the Texas Plains.

According to USDA, Texas crop conditions for the week ending September 22 improved with only 19 percent of the state's cotton in poor to very poor condition, 26 percent fair and 55 percent good to excellent. Oklahoma cotton conditions fell again as the continued cold, wet weather and insect pressures take their toll on the crop. Twenty-one percent of Oklahoma's cotton was reported to be in very poor to poor condition, 25 percent fair and 73 percent good to excellent.

Outside the U.S., raw cotton exports by Pakistan are expected to fall in 1996-97 based on the fear the disease and pest plagued crop could have a lower output. Last year, Pakistan exported approximately 1.8 million bales; however, a leading cotton exporter in that country now believes Pakistan may export less than 1.5 million bales in 1996-97.

Meanwhile, USDA announced export sales of 1996-97 U.S. cotton increased a net 123,500 bales in the week ended September 19, down from the previous week's figure of 151,600 bales. Featured buyers were Japan, South Korea and China. Additionally, export sales of 1997-98 U.S. cotton increased a net 10,000 bales.

On the spot cotton scene, sales of 1996-97 cotton on TELCOT for the five trading days ended September 26 totaled 5,277 bales, up from the previous week's figure of 3,985 bales. Average daily prices received by producers on the electronic marketing system ranged from 63.05 to 69.41 cents per pound.

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From The Hack

Football season brings out the very best, and sometimes, the very worst, in all of us. Listening to the 'Big Ed Talk Show' Wednesday AM, I heard a caller tell Ed, "I just heard the Tech quarterback Zebby Lethridge is leaving the team". Ed bit for it, and said, "Oh? What's he gonna do?" The caller said, "Well, after the Georgia game, with all his throwing problems, they say he's going to Iraq. He thinks he can overthrow Saddam Hussein".

I recall some of the miseries of high school football. Playing in the backfield, I was an amazing athelete; not very tall, but real slow, and not real heavy, but pretty clumsy. In practice one afternoon, I made an amazing carry of the ball against our defense, and made what I considered a good 23 inch gain. Our defensive cannon fodder consisted of four freshmen, five eighth graders, the water boy, and a girl, 170 pounds, complete with a beard and gravely voice, who had somehow convinced our coach she could help in the practice sessions by "kicking our wimpy butts".

After my big gain, our detested assistant coach screamed "Dyer, you were tippy-toeing thru the line like a Disney Cartoon Duck". I instantly hated him more, and besides, I wasn't about to let that deep voiced, bearded girl hit me again while I ran full speed.

All my memories of high school football aren't bad. One year, playing Kermit, I was somehow knocked off the field, right into the midst of our four luscious cheer leaders, two who lay on the ground under me, squeling. I lay there so long, coach panted, "how bad you hurt"?

I wasn't hurt , I just wasn't all red hot to get up and go back to action. The old axiom "girls are softer than boys" was vividly impressed on my mind at the moment. And they smelled lots better than those sweathog Kermit guys on the field.

.....

You faithful readers of this column, all seven or eight of you, undoubtedly have the opinion I never use my limited brain powers in anything constructive, anything serious. Not So, not so at all.

I have been involved in some very deep scientific research on our back yard deck the last few days. You are no doubt aware we in this hamlet have a current, minor problem with a number of flies. I say minor, in that to my knowledge no cattle or humans have been actually carried off by the swarms... yet.

Taking a brief break from my despised computer the other afternoon, I went to the deck to relax. You know, it's rather hard to relax when your are swinging swatters with both hands, and the bride is furiously shooting fly spray in clouds. Now, this is factual; No embelishments of any kind, I swear. In exactly 11 minutes, we counted 126 dead flies, all from my furious swatting, and I'm not half as accurate or fast in my "tarnished golden" years. Later that afternoon, with higher temperatures, I fulfilled the death wishes of another 138 flies in just 10 minutes. When I finally gave up and retreated indoors, the flies were just as thick as before the carnage began.

I put the pencil to it. Our back yard covers about 7500 square feet. I had mashed an average 12.3 flies every minute, and the numbers seemingly were undiminished. That indicates, had I continued swinging the swatter nine hours, I should have killed 6,642 flies in nine hours of hard swatting. Allowing for misses, that indicates a permanent population at least ten fold more than the fatalities, over 66,000 in my 7500 square foot area.

The section of land our City occupies contains 27,918,400 Sq. ft., and you know what THAT means? We've got, count 'em, 1,843,614,400,000 flies enjoying home sweet home here, at any given moment. That's almost as long a number as our national debt.

Come on City Hall, forget the sewer plant, forget painting the water tower. Buy us 8 or 9 more insect sprayers, run 'em round the clock. Those numbers are scary.

And besides, the Bride is having the very devil of a time trying to keep the black pests out of her blackberry wine glass.

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Here we go on football again. Last Thursday, shooting film of the 7th and 8th grade game against the Petersburg Buff's, I was a bit intrigued by one of the refs, working the sidelines where I was working. Now, this gentleman made me look like a 30 year old. I realize that is a bit difficult for you to swallow, but really, this man almost looked Biblical, like maybe one of the main characters out of Genesis, or maybe First Kings.

My curiosity got the better of me, and since he was male, (dumb as I am, I KNOW better to ask a fem her age) I trotted up to him at the halftime whistle, camera in hand, and said, " Ref, sir, can I ask you a question?" It was obvious when he retreated a step or two, glancing suspiciously at the camera, he was apprehensive. He then stopped, grinned, and said, "Sure.... thought for a moment you were carrying a weapon, maybe one of those rabid hometown fans I've been exposed to a few times".

I told him I was from our rag newspaper, and in the most polite manner I could think of, asked his age, in a round about way. He didn't hesitate a bit, and said "I'm 76, gonna be 77 in a few months". I was a bit stunned, and said something to the effect, "That's remarkable, still running up and down the field, still doing a good job. What keeps you going at this job"?

He grinned, and said, "Job? This ain't work, this is fun. How old are you, son"?

I told him, and he snorted, "Well, you're just 12 years behind me... why are you still acting a fool, trotting up and down these sidelines, taking pictures of little boys playing a big boys game? We like it, that's why. And I hate sitting home watching Oprah Winfrey". Pretty good answer. Pretty good man.

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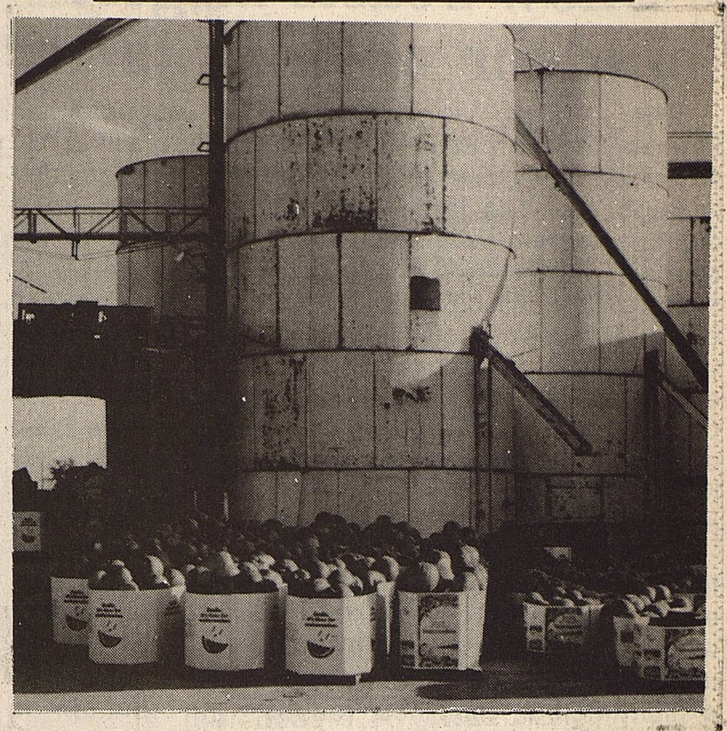
Great Pumpkin Time Not Long Off



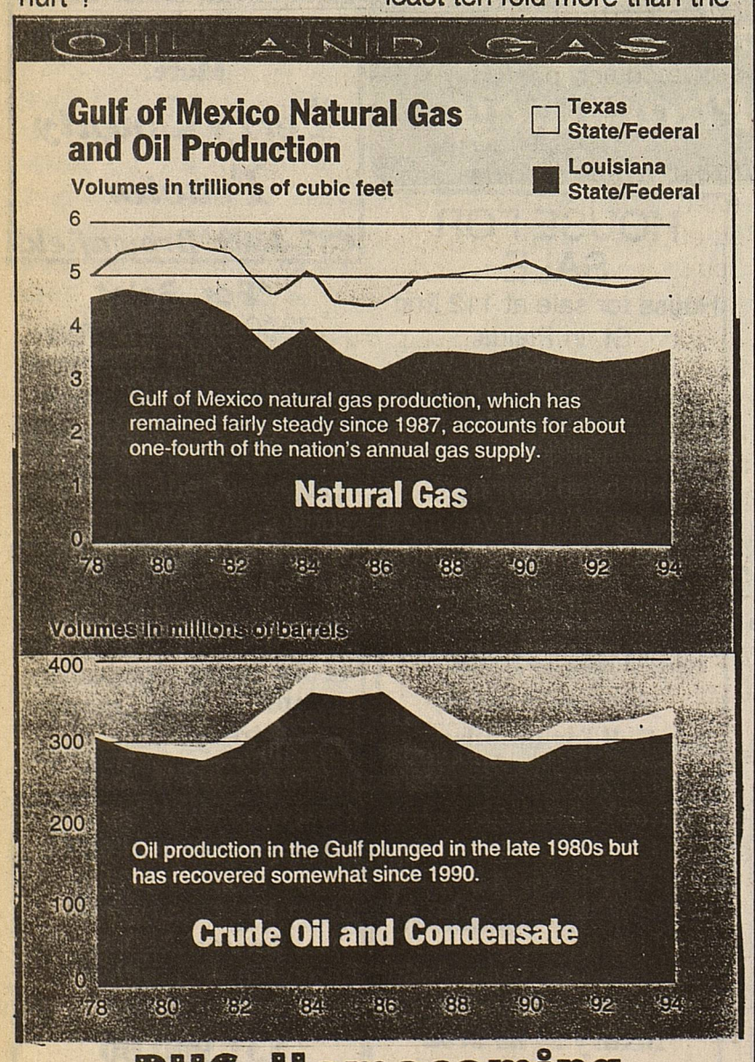
These bins of pumpkins from Macky McWhirter's farm, pictured at the Anderson Produce shipping facility here, are ready to be shipped across the land, ready to make hundreds of youngsters Jack O' Lanterns for "Spook Day" in October.

Congratulations, Neal Newsom!

Good farming practices allowed you to gin the FIRST BALE OF COTTON IN YOAKUM COUNTY.

AG INSURANCE PLUS

& James F. (Jim) Brown



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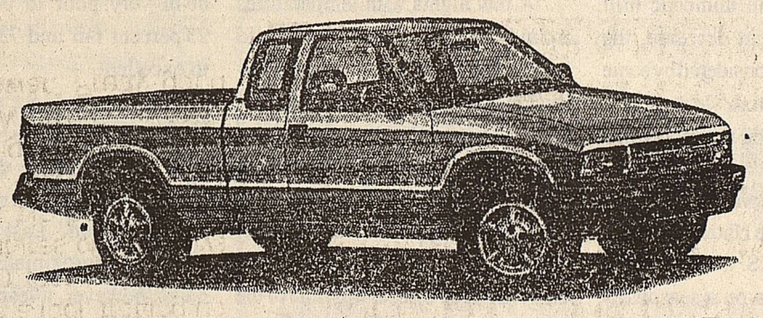

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Light Stellar Blue Metallic Body with Navy deluxe cloth trim.
Factory Options include:
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S-10 Pickup
Stock #TT168
Dark Metallic Cherry Red with Grey Deluxe cloth trim.
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