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# Cowboy Country News

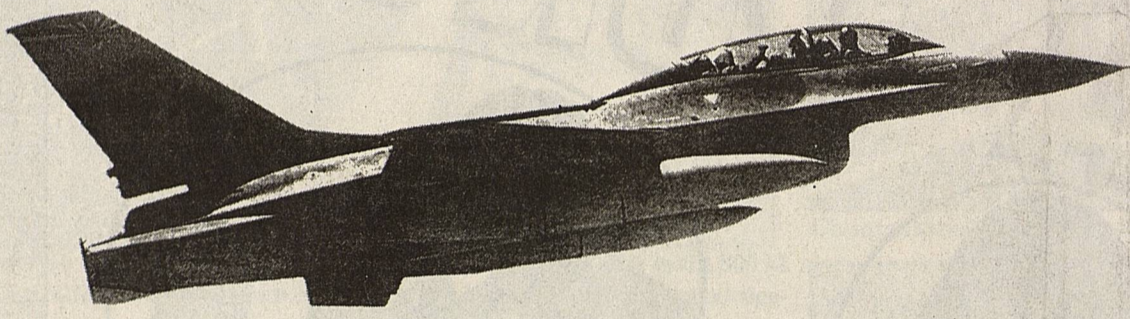
Published each Wednesday in the county seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas

Volume V, Issue 26, Wednesday Mar. 10, 1999



## Roaring thunder overhead

F-16's from Canon AFB daily cause eye and neck strain from searching the sky



Seldom does a weekday pass when Yoakum, Lea, and probably surrounding county residents fail to hear a deep throated roar from the heavens, gradually increasing in its intensity, and on the 'good days', the powerful sounds of jet engines overhead will tempt one to rush outside and try to spot the passing jet aircraft; Better make that plural, for usually one or more F-16 Fighting Falcons are utilizing our clear, southwestern skies for training missions, honing the skills of pilots in the sleek and swift aircraft.

If you are one of hundreds who regularly try to spot the high and fast flying jets, you already know it can be frustrating. They fly high, very high, and the officials at Canon AFB near Clovis are not saying exactly how high.

Recently we contacted Captain Chris Hemrick with the Public Affairs Office at Canon. He reported there are currently four squadrons of F-16's stationed at Canon. Each squadron normally has 20 operational F-16's. Captain Hemrick said one, Squadron 522, with their chosen nickname "The Fighting Fireballs", just recently returned from duty patrolling the 'No-Fly Zone

over Iraq in Operation Desert Fox.

Asked what type training missions the planes in our area are flying, the Captain said "They are practicing air to air and air to ground combat, using simulated air to air and air to ground missiles and bombs." He indicated there is a strong possibility one or more of the Canon F-16 Squadrons could be deployed to Desert Fox in the future.

The Fighting Falcon is an impressive warplane. The F-16 is built as a single seater, the most common configuration, but two seater craft are also in operation. They are powered by single Pratt and Whitney engines producing some 25,000 pounds of thrust, and can pass Mach 2 speeds, and reach 50,000 foot plus altitudes. The sleek, lethal looking Falcon is almost an airplane body propelled by a powerful engine. It is almost 50 feet in length, with a wing span of only 31 feet.

Almost like something from a science-fiction epic, the F-16 incorporates *voice-activated controls*. It has been given a vocabulary of several dozen commands it "recognizes" to activate certain controls. In effect, the pilot has certain capabilities to tell the plane what to do.

Captain Hemrick, asked why it is so seldom the flights leave visible contrails, explained "Fighters don't fly in what is called the contrail level, for that could lead to enemy detection. We train like we fight, so we don't fly in the level. The level is based on variables including moisture level, temperature and altitude. The planes could create contrails if we chose to fly in that level."

He said the average pilot age is 27, average rank is Captain, and they average 30 to 40 sorties in the area daily.

There should be little doubt in Yoakum County folks minds about the Fighting Falcon being a supersonic aircraft. In their missions over our area, it is quite common to hear that sharp BOOM when they pass through the sound barrier.

Four local golfers were playing the county course recently, and the planes from Canon were quite active that afternoon. One player said during their round, they were exposed to the sonic booms three times, "And every time I was in the process of putting. You talk about something messing with your concentration!"

## Local Ag students strike GOLD at Houston show

The Houston Livestock Show, second only to San Antonio's in size, number of animals and exhibitors, was a lucrative scene for a number of local FFA and 4-H students in the swine show there.

Joe Pierce, PHS agriculture instructor and FFA advisor, reported 16 students carried pigs to the preliminary "sift" judging at Brenham. Young exhibitors from across the state had 3,981 pigs at Brenham. From that mass of pork, only 660 show animals survived the sift and advanced to the Houston show. Ten of the Plains students made the short haul to Houston,

and their show pigs were already assured a place in the sale at the close of the judging.

Elizabeth Clanahan, a 4-H exhibitor, and daughter of Beth and N.C. Clanahan, picked up a hefty \$10,000 pay check when her Spotted Poland China pig was named Breed Champion. Blake Parrish, another 4-H'er, took reserve Champion honors and a \$7500 check with a Hampshire.

Other money winners included Mike Bell, FFA student, \$700 for an 8th place Hamp, Tanner and Chelsea Blount, FFA, both with a 12th place Cross and \$600 each, Staci Tuggle, FFA,

14th place Duroc and \$600, Lisa Parrish, FFA, 21st place Duroc and \$600, Scott Addison, 4-H, 30th place Hamp and \$600.

Former Plains students Kelton and Ashlee Mason also made it into the big time money lists; Kelton's pig was declared Grand Champion of the entire show, and sold for \$128,000. Under show rules, Kelton received \$25,000 of this, the balance set aside for scholarships for Houston area students. Younger sister Ashlee didn't fare too badly either, with a light weight Cross bringing \$3000. Considering PHS kids entering ten winning pigs in the show is phenomenal!

## County tax valuation firm paints drab picture for future funds

At a scarcely publicized yet well attended meeting in Plains Community Center Monday evening, officials of Thomas Y. Pickett Company told school, county, city officials and rank and file citizens, "Get prepared; Lean and mean times are not approaching, they are here."

What most everyone in the county has dreaded but anticipated was borne out in the two-plus hour presentation; the tax valuation of mineral interests in Yoakum County, the financial backbone furnishing tax money to operate our schools and county government, will be severely impacted if the Pickett Company's projection of a 40 to 45% decrease in valuations comes to pass.

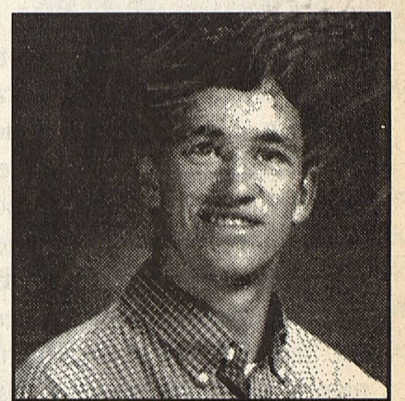
The company used an intricate Please Turn To Page 2, "Tax Valuations"

## PHS student third in family to attend Boys State

Josh Bell, a Junior at Plains High and the oldest son of Kathy and Danny Bell, was selected recently to be the Plains American Legion Post candidate to attend this years Boys State Convention in Austin.

Local post Commander Gary Dyer initially met with PHS Juniors, Bell, Kyle Sisson, Fermin Luna, and Jason Swann to advise them they, along with Chris Leggett, out of town at the San Antonio Stock Show, were finalist being considered as delegates to the prestigious event in June. A drawing was held between the boys present, with Leggett's name included in the sealed ballot, and Bell emerged as the winner, with Kyle Sisson as an alternate.

Of the many thousands of male Junior Class members in the state, only 1,008 will be chosen to attend the week long event, designed to make the candidates aware of, and engage, in civic and political activities, to prepare them for participation in



Josh Bell

our democratic process in their adult lives.

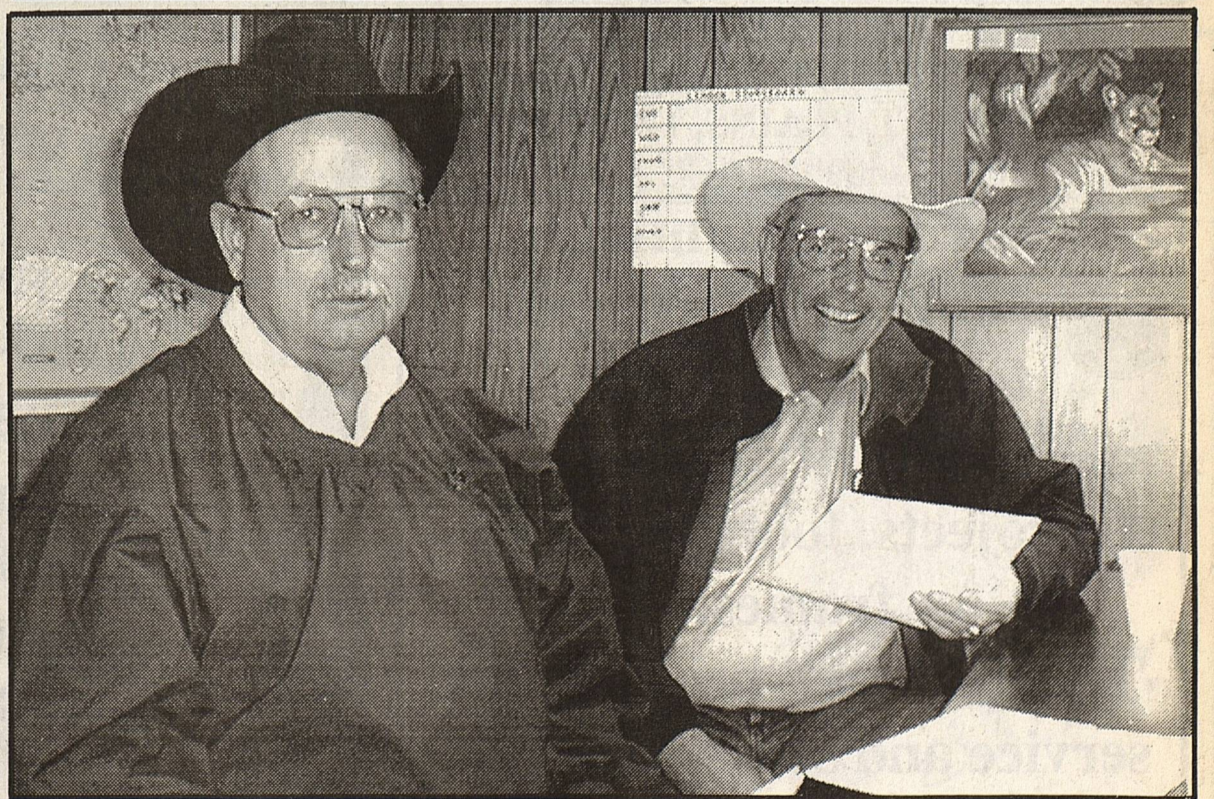
Josh Bell's selection this year is unique. His paternal grandfather, Gilbert Dan Bell, while a student at Meadow High School,

attended Boys State, as did Josh's father, Danny Bell.

The local Legion Post pays candidates tuition and travel expense to the meeting on the University of Texas Campus.

Josh's grandparents include Alfred and Faye Bearden, Helen Pope, Dan Bell, and great-grandmothers Odessa McDonnell and Geneva Bell.

## Lovington Livestock Auction changes hands, to be re-named



New auction business owners John Bissett and Dan Field

An Eastern New Mexico ag business fixture since 1969, the Lovington Livestock Auction will soon be offering its marketing services to West Texas and New Mexico farmers and ranchers under the name Lovington Auction Barn, or more briefly, the "L-A-B".

An announcement in Lovington last week revealed Jim Gray, Plains resident and farmer/stockman, had sold his interests in the auction business to Dan Field and John Bissett of Lovington, and Richard Griffith, Lubbock.

The livestock business, about three miles south on the Hobbs highway, was started by Leroy Sumruld in 1969. Sumruld sold the business to Mack Hendershot in 1975, and he then sold the business to Jim Gray in 1994.

According to an article in the *Lovington Leader*, Bissett has ranched, owned several business

enterprises, and will serve as new manager of the auction firm. Field is well known here, and has many ag interests in both New Mexico and Texas, and a number of other business interests. Bissett is quoted as saying, "We feel the business is a viable thing. We've had numerous dairies move into the country the last five years, and they replace about a third of their herds every year. We still have ranchers who have been here for generations, and they need a place to market their livestock. The nearest sale barn is 100 miles away in any direction from Lovington."

Sale days will continue to be on Friday, with the sale starting at 11 a.m. New Mexico time. L-A-B may be reached by phone at 505-396-5381.

**From Page One,  
"Tax Valuations"**

series of slide projections to explain how they base their valuations of oil and gas properties. The bottom line of the presentation translated to, "Current and projected prices of oil and gas will make it impossible for Yoakum County, and most of the so-called 'mineral rich' counties around the state, to maintain tax revenues they have been accustomed to in the past."

Attending the meeting were school officials and board members of both Denver City and Plains school districts, commissioner court members, many elected county officials, city council members from both cities, oil field business owners, and concerned citizens.

Pickett company representatives stressed they base their valuation figures and appraisal figures according to standards set forth by state law. They reported they had already held, at request, similar explanatory meetings in several South Texas counties, and at least two other West Texas counties where they perform their appraisal functions. "There are a few counties whose valuation figures may be a little less than what we project for Yoakum County. Unfortunately, there are others whose drop in values will exceed yours."

As if prepared for the worst response from the concerned citizens in the audience, Mr. Johnny Martin, speaking for the Pickett group, said, "We want to start this meeting by telling you, we sincerely hope you will adhere to the old advice, it is NOT necessary to kill the messenger when he brings sad tidings."

With this confirmation of tough financial problems facing our many governmental entities, it is a certainty operating budget studies are already underway.

The Texas Legislature created Texas Technological College, now Texas Tech University, and required it to be located in west Texas.

February 10, 1923

**Boulter services held**

Funeral services for Mutt Boulter, 76, were held Wednesday at 11 a.m. in the Denver City Church of Christ, with the Reverend Skip Rodgers officiating. Burial followed at Denver City Memorial Park under direction of Ratliff Funeral Home. Mrs. Boulter died Monday morning in her home at Denver City.

She was born on November 29, 1922 in Delight, Arkansas. She married Buster Boulter on November 12, 1944 in Birmingham, Alabama. The couple owned and operated North Main grocery and Boulter Tire and Service in Denver City. She was a resident of Denver City since 1941, and she was a member of the Church of Christ.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Curtis and Douglas Dowdle, and a sister, Veda Holyfield.

She is survived by her husband; A son, Dale of Denver City; Two grandchildren, Jim Boulter of Temple, and Emily Boulter of Lubbock.

Pallbearers were Edgar Self, Johnny Sims, Clifford Kizer, Kent Smith, Bill Groves, Terrell Givens, Herman Whatley and Tom Matlock.

**County Court Cases Heard**

Thirteen criminal cases were heard in 121st. District Court March 3, 1999, with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding, and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark representing the state.

Micheal Perez Aguilar, 21, pled guilty to assault causing bodily injury. His 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 18 months. He must pay court costs of \$184.25 and successfully complete the Batterer's Treatment Program and counseling.

Carlos Gonzales, 17, pled

guilty to minor in consumption of alcohol beverage (third offense). A 30 day jail sentence was probated and suspended for 6 months. He must pay \$214.25 court costs and a \$500 fine. His drivers license was suspended for 180 days.

Jason Wayne Allen, 18, pled guilty to assault causing bodily injury. His 60 days jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. A fine of \$250.00 and court cost of \$214.25 will be made in time payments.

Donald Raydean Kelley, 27, pled true to assault causing bodily injury. He must serve 120 days in jail with credit for 79 days, time served. He was represented by Attorney Bill Helwig.

**JP Court**

The following is a summary of cases heard and bonds set in Justice of the Peace Court, Precinct 1, Judge Melba Crutcher presiding: Cases filed 52 traffic cases, 2 county court cases, 1 felony. Bonds set: 2 cases forgery financial instrument-\$5000 bond. Driving while license suspended-\$500 bond. 2 cases-Assault causing bodily injury-\$1500 bond. 2 cases-Motion to revoke probation-\$2500 bond. Aggravated assault causing bodily injury-\$40,000 bond. Possession of controlled substance-\$7500 bond. Evading arrest-\$2000 bond. Issuance of bad check-\$150 payoff. Theft by check-\$500 bond.

**Cowboy Baseball Summary**

Cowboys Vs. Frenship - The Cowboys took on a strong and experienced Frenship 3-A team last week and were downed 7-4. Adam Garcia and Josh Bell shared pitching duties. Getting hits at the plate were Adam, Jeremy Morphis, 2 each, and Josh and Aaron Cain, 2 each. The same four Cowboys accounted for the team's 4 runs.

Brownfield Tourney - The Cowboys opened against 3-A Brownfield and fell 11-5. Steven Bunch was on the mound, spelled by Garcia, and hitting was provided by Garcia, Morphis, Rivas, Squyres, 1 each, with Josh and Martinez getting 2 each. The second game against 3-A Roosevelt found the Cowboys on top 10-7. Gerry Rivas and Josh Bell shared mound duties. Aaron, Rivas, Alex Tarango and Patrick McGinty had one hit each, Morphis 2, and Bunch 3. The Cowboys were downed by an experienced Crane team 17-5. Garcia and Bell agains shared pitching duties. Adam had 2 hits, Morphis and Jared Bell each had hits, and Cain and Bunch had doubles. Coach Carter said he was extremely proud of the team's efforts in achieving a 3 and 3 record in their first season of play.



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### Junior High Track Results

Plains Junior High 7th and 8th graders competed in their first track action of the season in a practice meet here last Thursday. No official records of the meet were recorded, but the following photos and event placings record the action:

**7th & 8th Lady Wranglers:** (Moriah Traweek only 7th grade girl competing)

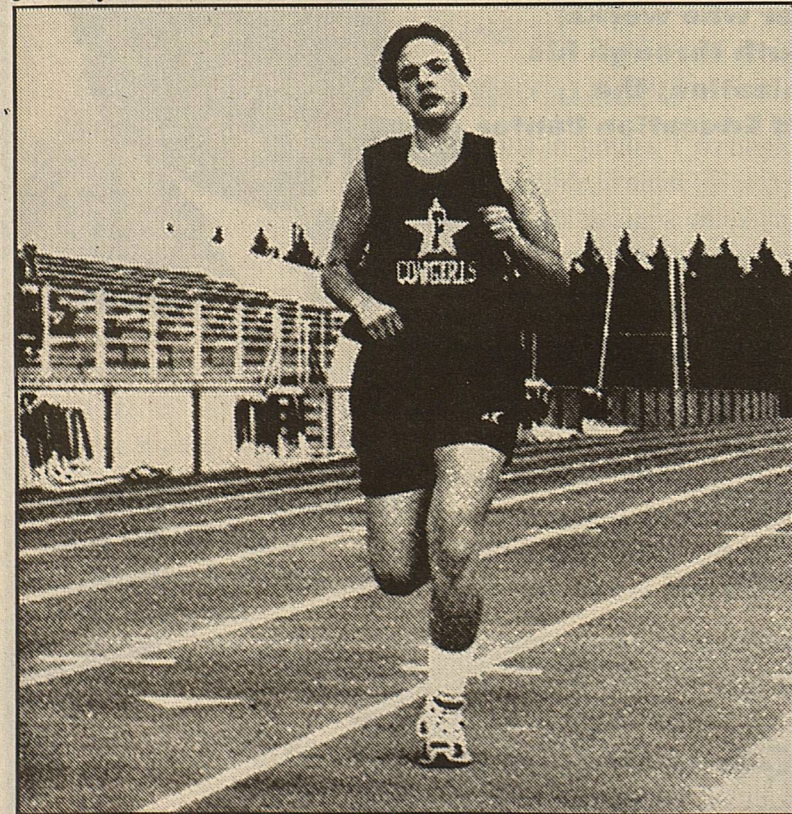
- Kayla Willis - 1st 800 M, 2nd 100 M, 1st 400 M, 5th Long Jump.
- Jessica Rodriguez - 3rd 100M, 2nd 400 M, 5th Triple Jump
- Mackenzie Winn - 2nd Long Jump, 2nd Triple Jump
- Joana Diaz - 1st 1600 M, 4th 100 Hurdles
- Moriah Traweek - 1st 200 M, 2nd 800 M. 2nd Discus
- Jill Gray - 1st 300 Hurdles, 2nd 100 Hurdles, 6th Long Jump.
- Kim Martinez - 3rd Discus
- Jessica Knight - 1st Shot Put, 5th Discus.



Moriah Traweek, black uniform, was just nipped at the wire in the 800 M run.. Girl to right in white T-shirt is sister Michaela offering encouragement



Jill Gray soars in the long jump



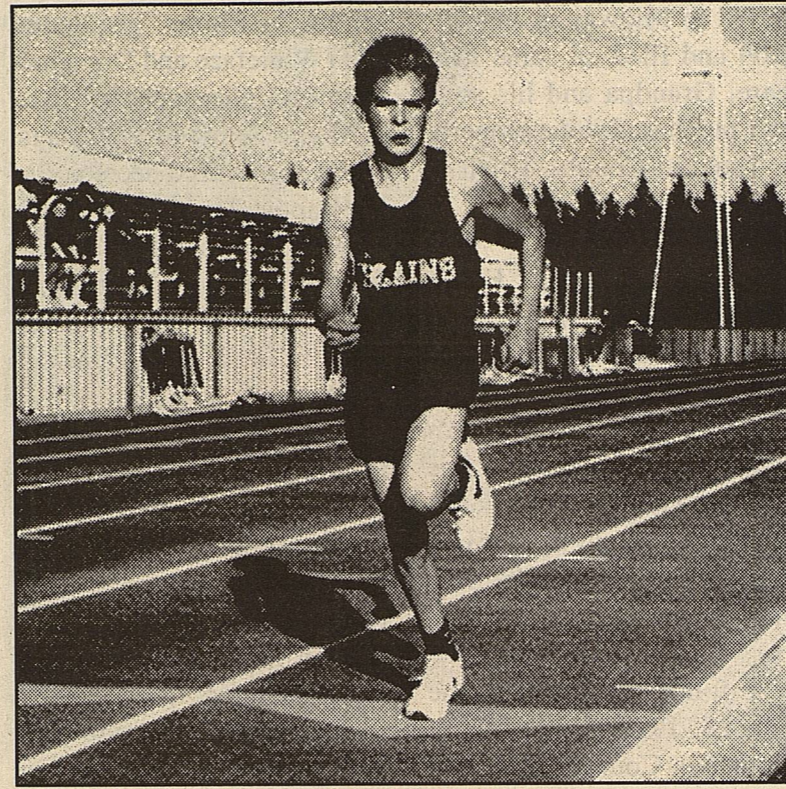
Kayla Willis, shown winning 800 M run, had a very impressive day



Arnold Cordova shown starting relay event

### 7th & 8th Wranglers:

- 7th Boys:
  - 2400 M - 1st Armando Ramirez, 2nd Trent May, 3rd Larry Escobar
  - 4th Zachary Broome
  - 1600 M - 1st Larry Escobar, 2nd Trent May, 3rd Armando Ramirez
  - 110 Hurdles - 3rd Joseph Martionez
  - Shot Put - 4th Ryan Martinez
  - Discus - 6th Ryan Martinez
- 8th Boys:
  - 2400 M - 1st Jose Ramirez, 2nd Chisum Deaton
  - 800 Relay - Arnold Cordova, Jonathan DeLa Rosa, Raul Casias, Nick Hayes 2nd
  - 800 M - 4th Jonathan DeLa Rosa, 5th Raul Casias, 6th Arnold Cordova
  - 110 Hurdles - 1st Nick Hayes
  - 1600 M - 1st Jose Ramirez, 2nd Chisum Deaton
  - 1600 M Relay - 2nd, Nick Hayes, Arnold Cordova, Jonathan DeLa Rosa, Raul Casio



Chisum Deaton ran very well for 2nd in 800 M run.

### Cowboy track meet at Wink

Following are individual results from last Friday's track meet at Wink:

- Shot Put - Dustin Brunson 1st, 44' 5.5"
- Discus - Dustin Brunson 5th, 110' 1.75"
- 3200 M Run - Felipe Reyna 3rd, 11:14
- 1600 M Run - Felipe Reyna 2nd, 4:59
- 800 M Run - Jeffrey Lollar 4th, 2:15.2
- 100 Dash - Joseph Rodriguez 6th, 11.6
- 400 Dash - David Granados 4th, 53. Jared Bell 6th, 53.9.
- 400 Relay - Joseph Rodriguez, Moises Gonzales, David Granados, Jared Bell 4th, 45.9
- 1600 Relay - Joseph Rodriguez, David Granados, Moises Gonzales, Jared Bell 4th, 3:44.6
- Junior Varsity
  - 3200 M Run - Manuel Hernandez 1st, 12:17
  - 1600 M Run - Manuel Hernandez 1st, 5:40
  - Shot Put - Chris Gscheidle 1st, 36' 5.25"

### Outstanding Athlete



Coach McAdams selected David Granados as this week's Cowboy track athlete of the week. He did an outstanding job in the 400 Dash, 1600 Relay, and 400 Relay

### Financial Aid discussion scheduled

Johnny Brown, with project LEARN, will return to the PHS campus on March 24. He has assistance in helping parents of college bound students ob-

tain financial aid for their education. For more information about Mr. Brown's program and assistance, contact Arlon Alexander, PHS Counselor.

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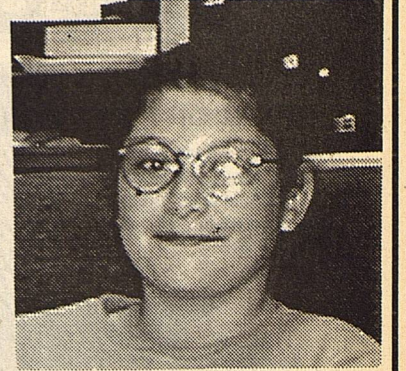
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### Reading efforts bring honors and rewards

Elementary students in Accelerated Reading have set goals to earn 8,000 points in the program. The three young ladies shown here have already earned 200 points, and were named honorary Principals of the Day recently.

They had the privilege of sitting at the desk and taking on some of the duties of "part time Principal Don Weems".

Shown top to botom are, Angelica Mendoza, Lauren Davis, and Chandra Carpenter



### Power Lifting Meet Results

In a recent Power Lifting meet at Sundown, Plains Cowboy team members had good performances.

Dustin Brunson, 198 pound class, managed a squat lift of 340 pounds, bench pressed 280 pounds, and a dead lift of 430 pounds, a total of 1,050 pounds, for 2nd place in his class.

Fabian Garza, 181 pound class, had a 300 pound squat, 170 bench and 280 pound dead lift,

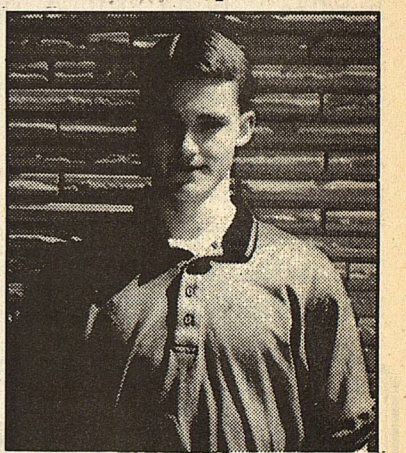
750 total pounds, for 10th place. David Granados, 148 pound class, did a 330 pound squat, 245 bench, and 365 dead lift, 940 pounds total, and 2nd in his class.

Mike Guerra, 148 pound class, managed a 260 pound squat, 180 bench, and 345 dead lift, 785 total pounds, 7th in his class.

Coach Brink reported all the lifters improved from their previous weeks competition.

### Student of the Week

Student of the week is Kyle Sisson, a junior and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Sisson. He was nominated by Mr. Portillo who said, "Two words describe this student, loyalty and dedication. Kyle is loyal to the programs he participates in. Whether it is football, basketball, academics, theatre or band. He is also dedicated to each one; always striving for the highest seems to be on his agenda. Not settling for the average, but willing to go above and beyond to meet a high standard of excellence is what this student demonstrates to those around him. Not only is he able to work with his peers, but he also has a gift for working with youth. He is definitely a role model, not only for the school, but for the community as well."



Kyle Sisson

Plains Elementary student Abigail Hernandez name was not available to CCN for last weeks edition of Honor Rolls. She was an All A student

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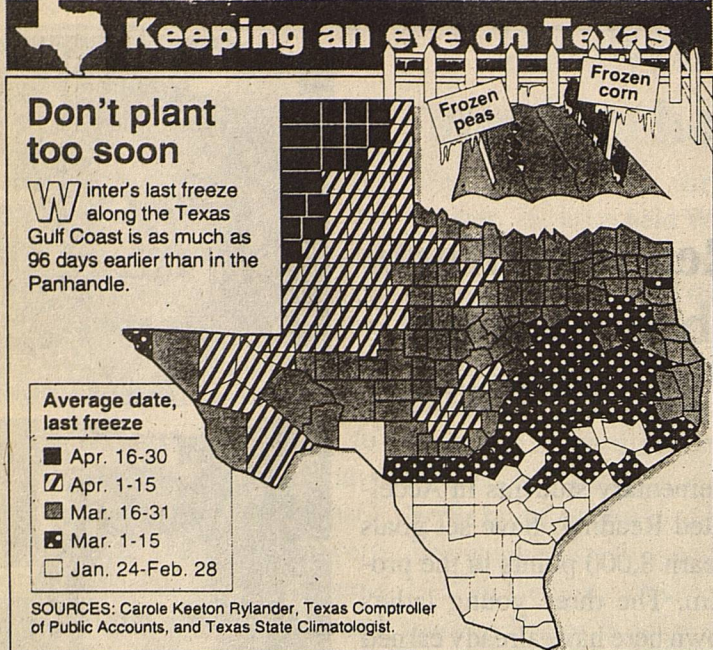
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**PHS Math/Science team win again**

Competing against nine area schools, the Plains Math/Science team won all five UIL events and took the Sweepstakes trophy again. A new feature of the meet, "Top Gun" awards, were given in each grade level to the highest point producer. Kristen Gray won the trophy in the Junior class division, and Tommie McNabb took the Senior trophy. Individual results in Number Sense (NS), Math (M), Calculator (C), Science (S) and Computer Science (CS) include: **Frosh:** Annaliesa O'Quinn, 2nd NS, 2nd M, 1st C, 6th S. **Soph:** Amanda Garcia 3rd NS, 9th M, 7th C, 17th S, Nicole Haynes 7th NS, 7th M, 6th C, 16th S, Leslie Rowe 9th NS, 13th M, 9th C, 12th S. **Lensey Cullins** 9th NS, 15th M, 13th C, 19th S. **Juniors:** Kristen Gray, 1st in NS, M, C, S, 2nd computer science. Jason Swann 6th NS, 10th M, 9th C, 4th S. **Velvet Canada** 5th NS, 12th M, 7th C, 15th S, 4th Comp. sci. **Kyle Sisson** 3rd Comp. Sci., Wendy Hernandez 5th Comp. Sci. **Seniors:** Tommie McNabb, 5th NS, 2nd M, 1st in C and S. **Maranda Box**, 5th 5th NS, 6th M, 5th C.

**Cowgirl track at Tahoka**

Coach Haragan said she was well pleased with the girls great effort in a cold and very windy meet at Tahokalast Saturday. Individual results included:  
**First Place:** Kristen Gray, 300 hurdles, 48.92 Elizabeth Clanahan, Shot, 29' 9.5"  
**Second Place:** Michaela Traweek, 200 dash, 28.30. Amanda Garcia, 1600 Run, 6:20.42  
**Third Place:** 400 Relay-Traweek, Anne Palmer, Krystle Blundell, Gray, 54.10. 800 Run-

Cassie Dearing, 2:47.30. Michaela Traweek, 100 dash, 13.64.  
**Fourth Place:** 1600 Relay, Palmer, Blundell, Wendy Hernandez, Gray 4:42.78. 800 Run- Wendy, 2:50.14. 400 Dash, Wendy, 72.43  
**Sixth Place-** 800 Relay, Kari Guetersloh, Blundell, Lisa Parrish, Palmer, 2:04.38. 400 Dash, Lisa 71.49. 1600 Run, Lensey Cullins 6:38.56  
**Seventh Place-** 1600 Run, Cassie 6:45.66. Roxy Fuentes, Discus, 68' 4", Shot 25' 9". 200 Dash, Kari, 30.41.

**We Get Letters**

Hi Gary,  
 Thanks for the excellent article in the Feb. 3, 1999 issue of CCN, concerning Midway, NM. After reading the firsthand account as written by Frank Sudduth, I could not go to sleep that night! I was reminiscing about happenings that my dad Walter Earl Anderson had related about Midway, NM. Grandpa William Maitland Anderson and his eight motherless children moved to Midway in January 1909 and filed on some land there. Grandpa and his sons later purchased some property in Yoakum County which is still in possession of some of the Anderson family.

You mentioned that Frank Sudduth was Lee Roy McCravey's uncle (by marriage on his dad's side of the family). Are you aware that Lynn Mauldin is also related to Lee Roy? Lynn's mother, Eddie Ruth Fort Mauldin, and Lee Roy are first cousins (on Lee Roy's Mom's side of the family).

The follow up article in the Feb. 24, 1999 issue of CCN about Lea County's vanished early settlements was equally good. You chose a wonderful source; I will agree that Lynn Mauldin does excellent work. I just returned from a visit in Kerrville with Aunt Gracie Rushing who will be 96 years young on June 17. She is doing fine. She sends her regards. She was busy playing Bingo on the third day that I stopped by the Alpine Terrace Retirement Village where she resides; so I did not stay long. Until next time, Anna Beth Anderson Ward (Mrs J.W.)

**Services for Muriel Zo Wilson**

Memorial services were held in Mount Selmon for Muriel Zo Snodgrass Wilson, age 61, on Friday in Mount Selmon Baptist Church with Rev. Harold Small officiating.

Arrangements were under the direction of Boren-Conner Funeral Home of Jacksonville.

Muriel Zo died Wednesday February 24th in Jacksonville. She was born in Tokio, attended school in Plains, graduated from Whiteface and Draughn's Business College. She had lived in Mount Selmon for 30 years. She was a retired secretary of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Jacksonville, with 19 years of service. She was preceded in death by her father, Arvel "Toad" Snodgrass in 1990.

Survivors include her husband, James Wilson of Mount Selmon; mother, Marie Snodgrass of Lehman; sons and daughter-in-law, Danny and Karen Wilson of Edom; Jay Wilson and Troy Wilson of Mount Selmon; daughters and son-in-law, Karen and Jerry Sprayberry of Jacksonville and Karla Wilson of Mount Selmon; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; sisters, Zona Roulain of Whiteface and Zada Caue of Ackerly; brother, W.B. Snodgrass of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma; several nieces and nephews.

Muriel Zo was the granddaughter of the late Joe and Cretia Cheek and Hugh and Dolores Snodgrass.

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**Yoakum County Plains Clinic**

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**Monday - Friday**

**Dr. Larry Boyd, M.D.,**

**Shirley Watson, R.N.,**

**Advanced Family Nurse**

**Practitioner**

**Family Practice - Minor Emergencies**

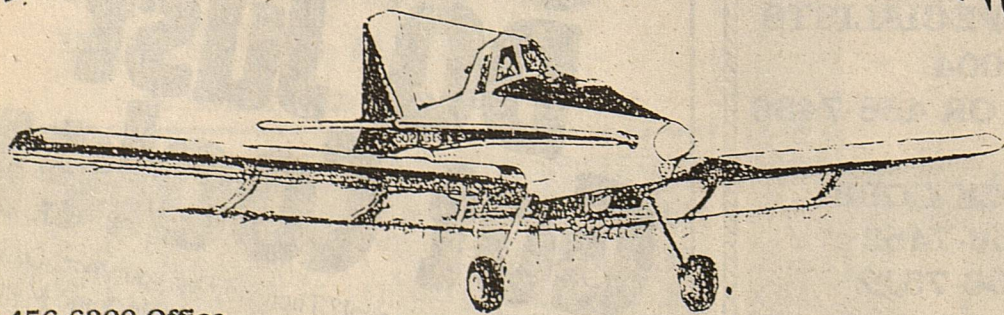
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**Dry Application  
 Liquid Application**

**David and Sarah Guetersloh**

**Ron Johnson**

Inspiration speaker who works with parents and youth through his non-profit organization, the National Family Life and Education Center



**FOR MEN ONLY**

Monday, March 22, 1999

**Hamburger Supper**

5:30-6:45 P.M.

Intermediate Cafeteria

1001 N. Ave. F

Denver City

**Ron Speaks to Men**

7:00-8:00 P.M.

J. W. Jones Auditorium

Denver City

**FOR WOMEN ONLY**

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

**Hamburger Supper**

5:30-6:45 P.M.

Plains School Cafeteria

North side of Plains Elementary

Plains

**Ron Speaks to Women**

7:00-8:00 P.M.

Plains HS Auditorium

Plains

**Speaker and Hamburger Suppers Sponsored By**

Mental Health Association in TX Family Focus



Yoakum County Even Start



Plains Schools



Denver City Schools



Yoakum County Criminal District Attorney's Office



# Lifelines & Styles

## Senior Citizens Corner

The Birthday Celebration was well attended. Visitors for the day were Catherine Spivey, Vanetla Cochran and Red Powell. Last weeks visitors included Vernelle Bange and Willie and Madge McCulin. Its always nice to see new faces, so the door is always open to new people.

The 'Garage Sale' is open every day. Come by and browse. Also useful articles you no longer need can be used. The exercise equipment is in the sale room, so it would be a great opportunity to shop and get in a daily workout at the same time.

Plan to try your luck at the 'Domino Tournament'. It's fun! See you next week, Smitty

## FFA Says Thank You!

The Plains FFA students wish to thank the following people who donated pigs for the club sausage sale; Arlon Alexander, N.C. Clanahan, Chris Chambliss, Jack Cobb, James Haynes, Steven O'Quinn, Don Parrish, Darrell Sellers, Ronnie Watkins, and Dan Weems.

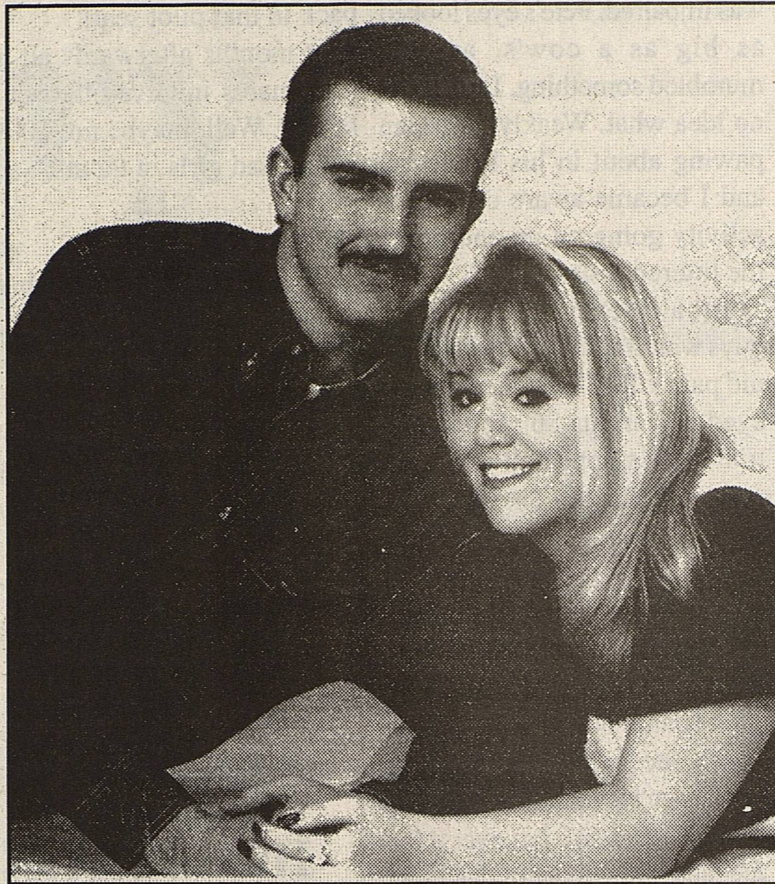
Great sausage is now on sale by the club. To place an order, contact any FFA student.

Joe Pierce, FFA advisor, would also like to thank Morris Rushing and Bruce Lester for their outstanding job of cooking for the FFA Show Team at Brenham.

## Filmtime

There were ten children attending Filmtime March 3, 1999. They were; Karla Powell, Clayton Gass, Matthew Ramos, Bailey Winn, Yvonne Valverde, Dakota Earnest, Haley Welch, Colby Bearden, Merrit Crump, Jasmine Riveria. The children played three games, sang three songs, heard a story, and watched two movies.

## Wedding Announcement



Gene and Pat Johnson of Plains are proud to announce the approaching marriage of their son Heath Johnson to Lisa Boyd daughter of Larry and Lovelene Boyd of Meadow.

The couple will marry March 27, 1999 in Immanuel Baptist Church of Brownfield, Tx., at 4:30 P.M.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Meadow High School. The future groom is a graduate of Plains High School.

Please come and join us for this wonderful occasion. A reception will follow.

## Music Accomplishment

Kaci Willis, daughter of Joetta and Ricky Willis of Brownfield, earned a 1 Superior Rating in voice-Solo at the recent U.I.L. Regional Competition in Lubbock.

She will advance to State Competition in Waco this spring.

Kaci is the Granddaughter of James and Jerry Warren, and the neice of Jim and Lela Warren and Joe and Joyce Pierce.



## Thanks!

To the people of Plains and Denver City.

I would like to thank you for your prayers, cards, food and all your acts of kindness.

I Love You,  
Florence Bookout

*Wedding Shower  
for  
Daphne Lowe  
bride-elect of Mike McKaskle  
Saturday, March 13, 1999  
10:00a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
In the home of Mrs.  
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## SWCD Poster, Essay Winners Announced

The Yoakum Soil and Water Conservation District is pleased to announce the winners of their annual Conservation Poster and Essay Contests. The Poster Contest was open to boys and girls under the age of 12. The Themes for the contest were "In the Children's Hands" and "Wonders of Wildlife". Those three posters were forwarded to the regional office in Temple, Texas for judging.

### Poster Contest

1st Place - Brandon Hise, 6th grade student at Plains Jr. High School, son of Vernon & Debra Hise. 2nd Place - Matthew Hilburn, 2nd grade student at Denver City Elementary, son of Ross & Kelly Hilburn. 3rd Place - Abel Ramos, 5th grade student at Plains Jr. High School, son of Freddie and Evette Ramos.

### Essay Contest

The Essay Contest was open to boys and girls 18 years old or under. The top three winners received a \$50.00 Savings Bond each and their essays were forwarded to the regional office in Temple, Texas for judging. The essays were to be 300 words or less and the theme was "Soil and Water Conservation". The top three winners were: Isaac Trevino, Senior at Plains High School, husband of Ofelia Trevino. Clint Burrus, Senior at Plains High School, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Burrus. Maranda Box, Senior at Plains High School, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Box.

### Dear friends,

*Words are so inadequate to tell you how very blessed we feel by your love during these sad days.*

*The many acts of kindness and concern shown to us is overwhelming. The visits, the food, the phone calls, the trips to the hospital to sit with us during Buddy's illness. Your presence as we laid him to rest. For all the ways you told us you care, we thank you.*

*We so appreciate the many prayers you prayed for him..and for us. Please continue to pray for us. We need your support in prayer more than I can tell you.*

*With our love and gratitude,  
The Buddy Brantley Family*

*Janelle, Hattie B., Richey and Lea and Family, Lynn and Rhonda and girls, Randy and Susie and boys, Sonny and Jo Ann and family.*

## A Very Thoughtless Deed

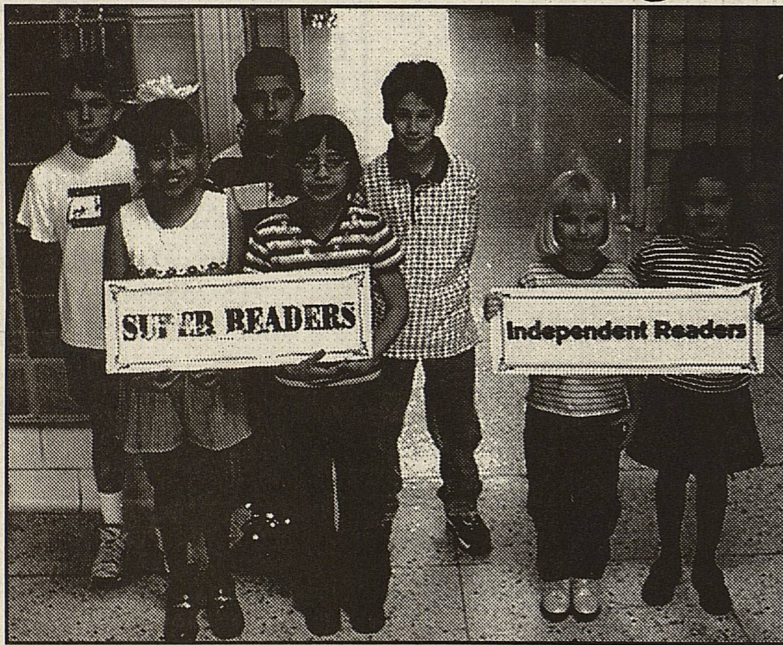
Sometime around Valentine's Day, a very cruel hearted person, or persons, vandalized a grave site in the Plains Cemetery. A set of wind chimes marking the resting place of the late Lee Tyson was stolen.

The chimes commemorated the young man's love of music. His mother, Tami Tyson, recently told CCN, "We just can't understand how someone could be so heartless, and this act has really hurt our entire family."

It is hoped the guilty party will realize the cruelty of this senseless act, and restore the symbol of love.

The Plains Junior High Class of 2003 recently conducted a fund raising raffle which produced \$200 for class activities. Top sales persons were (1) Kelly Bowers, (2) Manuel Ramos, (3) Liz Wilmeth. A prize drawing from raffle tickets was held recently, won by six year old Daenna Ramirez, who bought the winning ticket for her brother, Jose Ramirez.

## Accelerated Reading



Super Readers-Front Row-Britanie Duran, Delight Asebedo  
Back Row-Justen Henry, Sergio Olivas Larry Caballero  
Independent Readers-Emily Davis & Hannah Crump

## Watermelon Round Up 'Logo Contest' Announced

The Yoakum County Connection has announced it's county wide logo art design contest for students in Plains and Denver City schools.

Three contest categories of art designs will be judged; a logo design for the 4th annual Watermelon Round Up T-Shirts; a T-Shirt logo for the annual Fun Run for all age groups, and a T-Shirt logo for the age 5 and under Toddler Run.

Students in grades 1 through 12 are eligible to enter the contest, and art designs must be submitted no later than April 15. Size of the three logo designs should be no larger than 11" x 14".

Contest entries may be turned into City Hall in Plains, and to David Mitchell in Denver City. Answers to questions about the art contest may be obtained by calling 456-3566 or 456-4424.



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## From The Hack

I read an amusing, and probably semi-accurate accounting of a columnist's harrowing flight on one of those "twin-engine puddle jumpers in a recent issue of the A-J.

Ha. What does he know I don't know? I took a flight in my sophomore year of high school I'll put up against about anything, except a real crash and burn tale.

My dad, Pete, was working for the US government in Mexico in 1948, in the program to eradicate hoof and mouth disease in that country's cattle. My mother, Blanche, and I lived in Mexico City where I went to high school. One holiday, I forget which, I took a train to visit Pete in the Gulf Coast town of Quatzequalcos. He'd arranged for us to fly from there back to Mexico City on a government DC-3 carrying other government employees and supplies. I thought this pretty neat, since at the time I'd only been on one

other plane in all my tender years.

We took off around noon in the good old dependable but incredibly slow DC-3. A male flight guy passed out some box lunches about the time we crossed from the coastal plains into a mountainous area, and the air grew more turbulent. Several of the men on board were working, and a few had typewriters on their laps, while some munched out of the box lunches.

I unbuckled and made my way to the lavatory, locked myself in, and engrossed in one of life's necessities, suddenly realized

I was about to die, for the plane just fell like a bowling ball, straight down. It felt like at least a 38 minute horrifying drop; Actually, it was only about a 12 to 15 second horrifying drop, but it was enough to drive me to my knees, both my arms up to my elbows immersed in the flush in the air only facility, my chin bleeding where I'd banged it on the rim.

We finally hit bottom... well, we didn't hit anything, we just quit falling rather abruptly. I staggered back to my seat, and the aircraft looked like a war zone. One guys head was bleeding badly from a typewriter which fell on him when the DC-3 bottomed out. I saw a guy with the

contents of his box lunch strewn all over his bald head. Baggage, papers were scattered every where, and I could hear a dozen voices making a noise like 'OOOOOO, OOOOOO, OOOOooohhh', then another not very nice sound, at least three men throwing up violently. I dove in my seat, buckled up so tight circulation to my legs was impaired. Pete's eyes looked as big as a cow's, and he mumbled something. I still have no idea what. Weakly he began pawing about in his briefcase, and I became aware of similar activity going on up and down the littered aisles.

Virtually everyone of those guys was digging around for liquid pain killer. I watched goggle eyed as various 86 proof sedative bottles appeared and were up ended. I looked at Pete, and he shook his head no, and panted, "Not enough for both of us", and upended the jug again. About that time, the cockpit doors opened, and one of the pilots came out, also a bit green about the gills. "Pretty tough fall, wasn't it men?" he asked as best he could. We fell over 9,000 feet until we got out of that down draft." Then, he saw all those up turned medicinal bottles, heard all

that gurgle-gurgling, and shouted, "Hey, you guys can't drink that stuff here, this is a government plane! It's against the law!"

ment plane, you can't drink on it, it's against the law!" One of the burlier passengers took another gurgle, and growled, "Yeah, and so's murder, but we're gonna have one less you get your skinny rump back in that pilot seat!"

For months afterwards all my nightmares involved the act of falling. Well, maybe not 100%. A few had girls in them

..... You're very young if... you think popcorn has always been cooked in a microwave; You don't know who shot J.R., much less who he was; You thought stamps had always been about 32 cents; There has always, always been MTV and Jay Leno. What generation gap?

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## Walker, Texas Rep

By State Representative Gary Walker, Dist. 80

### Movement of Legislation

We're starting to see additional movement of legislation through committees. The emergency appropriations legislation that includes boll weevil funding has moved through the Senate and arrived in the House. House Appropriations will hear the bill this week. Hopefully, it will be ready for action on the floor of the House soon.

Other bills are arriving in my office, ready for the Calendars Committee to put them on the calendar for the floor debate. The first bill that Land and Resource Management kicked out has also arrived. Even though I did not author the bill, it feels pretty good to be the chairman of the committee that approved it. We all have a part to play in the process.

My first bill, relating to school bus speed limits, was voted out of the House Transportation Committee unanimously. I'm hopeful that allowing school buses to travel at the posted speed limit on their way to and from extracurricular events will keep these students in classes longer.

The social promotion bill has passed the Senate, and testimony has been taken on the bill in the House Public Education Committee. The severance tax relief for oil and gas producers remains in the House Ways and Means Committee. Many of us

have been working the membership of the House, trying to get the necessary votes for immediate effect once the bill arrives on the House floor. Immediate effect requires 2/3 of the membership to vote 'yes', or 100 votes.

Over in the House Agriculture Committee, Representative Swinford has been taking preliminary testimony on a state agricultural policy. He has a big job ahead of him, and I'm grateful to him for his hard work.

Governor Bush stopped by my office this week to say "hello". No matter how many times you see him walking around the capitol, it's always a thrill to see the governor. I know the folks from my district who were visiting my office at the time were excited, too.

We had lots of visitors this week. Some of the towns represented were Plains, Balmorhea, Brownfield, Meadow, Ropesville, Levelland, Denver City, and Pecos.

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