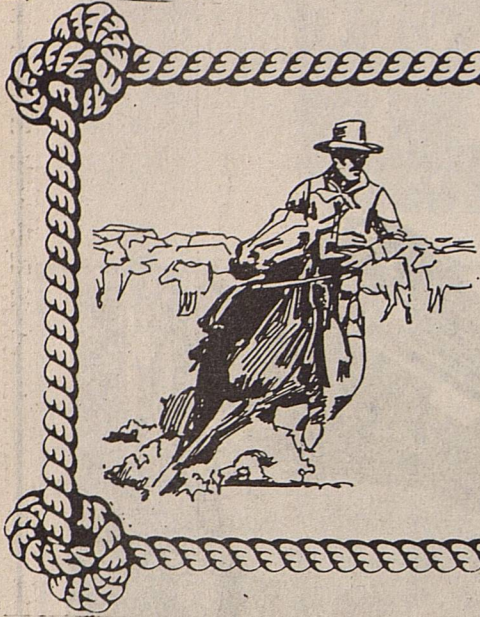


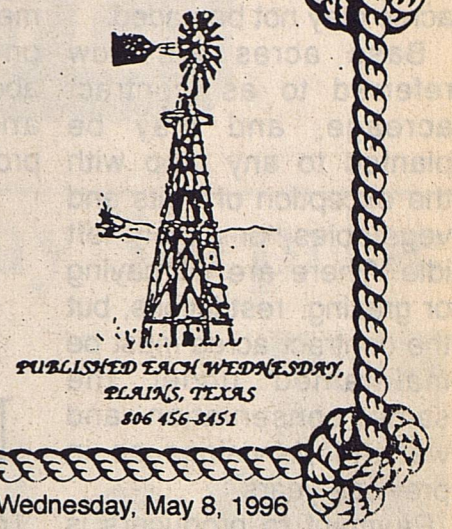
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# Cowboy Country News



Volume 2, Issue 34, Wednesday, May 8, 1996

## 1996 Conservation Farmer Of Year



Tracy and Darla Welch, prior to his being named Conservation Farmer of the Year by YCSWCD President Neal Newsom

Tracy Welch has been selected by the Yoakum County Soil and Water Conservation Board of Directors and the Plains Lions Club as the Conservation Farmer Of The Year. He has lived in Yoakum County thirty years, and has been farming nine years. Tracy and his wife Darla have three children, Hunter, Haley Beth and Holden. Tracy operates and manages about 1,600 acres of cropland, including 1250 acres irrigated and 70 acres dryland. He farms mostly cotton, with some milo and wheat. Last year he switched from 48 inch rows to 32 inch to increase production yields. He has traditionally

practiced minimum tillage of his crops, planting wheat in the rows to minimize wind erosion, followed by cotton planting. With the new 32 inch row spacing, he will go to a no-tillage operation. Tracy is also very conscious of the need for water conservation. All his center pivot irrigation systems are equipped with low pressure nozzle packages. Soil moisture is closely monitored, and only enough water is applied to the crop to fill the soil profile without runoff.

The YCSWCD Directors and the Lions Club extend their congratulations to Tracy.

## 'Right To Farm Act' Meeting Held Producers Ask Array of Questions

Some four dozen county producers attended a 'familiarization' meeting here Friday, hearing Gary Six, Executive Director, Farm Service Agency, explain the more pertinent points contained in the recently approved 1996 Farm Program, commonly referred to as 'The Right To Farm Act'. After Six touched on the more applicable aspects of the program for our area producers, he invited questions from the audience, and there were a great many.

One point he stressed on several occasions was the absolute necessity of producers meeting the signup deadline if they wish to enroll their acres in the Production Flexibility

Contract. Signup will start May 20 and end on July 12, 1996, and this is a one time opportunity, anyone missing the signup deadline will not be allowed to enroll acreage at a later date. The only exception to this applies to acreage coming out of the CRP at a later date. It may be signed up on a contract later.

The contract period begins in 1996, and ends in 2002. Farms with a planting history of wheat, cotton, milo, oats, barley, corn or rice in one of the past five years are eligible to enroll in the new program. The contract may be modified any of the seven years for

Turn to Page 2,  
**'Farm Meeting'**

## Last Rites For Homer Sudderth

Funeral services for Homer Sudderth, 81, will be held on Wednesday, May 8, at 10:00 a.m., in the Brownfield Funeral Home Memorial Chapel, with the Rev. Rick Doyle, Plains Methodist Church pastor officiating. Sudderth died May 5, 1996 after a lengthy illness, at Bernalillo, New Mexico. Interment will follow at the Terry County Memorial, Brownfield.

Mr. Sudderth was born on May 10, 1914 in May, TX. He served in the U.S. Army Calvary from 1935 to 1938. He married Shirley Nutt on October 12, 1938 in Brownfield. They moved to Yoakum County in 1944 and farmed for 35 years, moving to Plains in 1977. He worked for West Texas Gas Co for 5 years and retired in 1983. He was a 32 Degree Mason, served as Worshipful Master for 2 terms, and was past Worthy Patron of Eastern Star. He was a member of the Plains First United Methodist Church.

Homer is survived by his wife, Shirley; 2 daughters, Brenda Powell of Longmont, CO, and Annette Cooke of Rio Rancho, NM; a son, Randy Sudderth of Ft. Worth, TX; a sister, Yrma Townsend of Ritzville, WS; a brother, Rowe Sudderth of California; 5 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

## 'Yoakum County Watermelon Roundup'

The committee busy making plans for the first annual watermelon festival on August 31 announced at a meeting May 6 the official name for the event will be the "Yoakum County Watermelon Roundup". Over 70 names for the event were suggested, with the winner submitted by Liz Chandler of Plains, who wins a \$50 bond donated by Mary Jo St. Romain.

The first ever event is drawing support from both Denver City and Plains. The State Line Club is compiling a watermelon cookbook, and will hold a watermelon recipe contest at the festival. The Turner Club will hold a watermelon crafts show and judging at the event from 10 AM to 12 Noon.

Turn to Page 4,  
**'Watermelon'**

## Runaway Driver Is Lucky



A young motorist from Dallas narrowly escaped disaster last Monday morning when he apparently fell asleep at the wheel of the 1986 Bronco he was driving. He was approaching Plains from the east, and veered off the highway to his right, struck a fence, pulled back on the highway, and evidently lost control of the

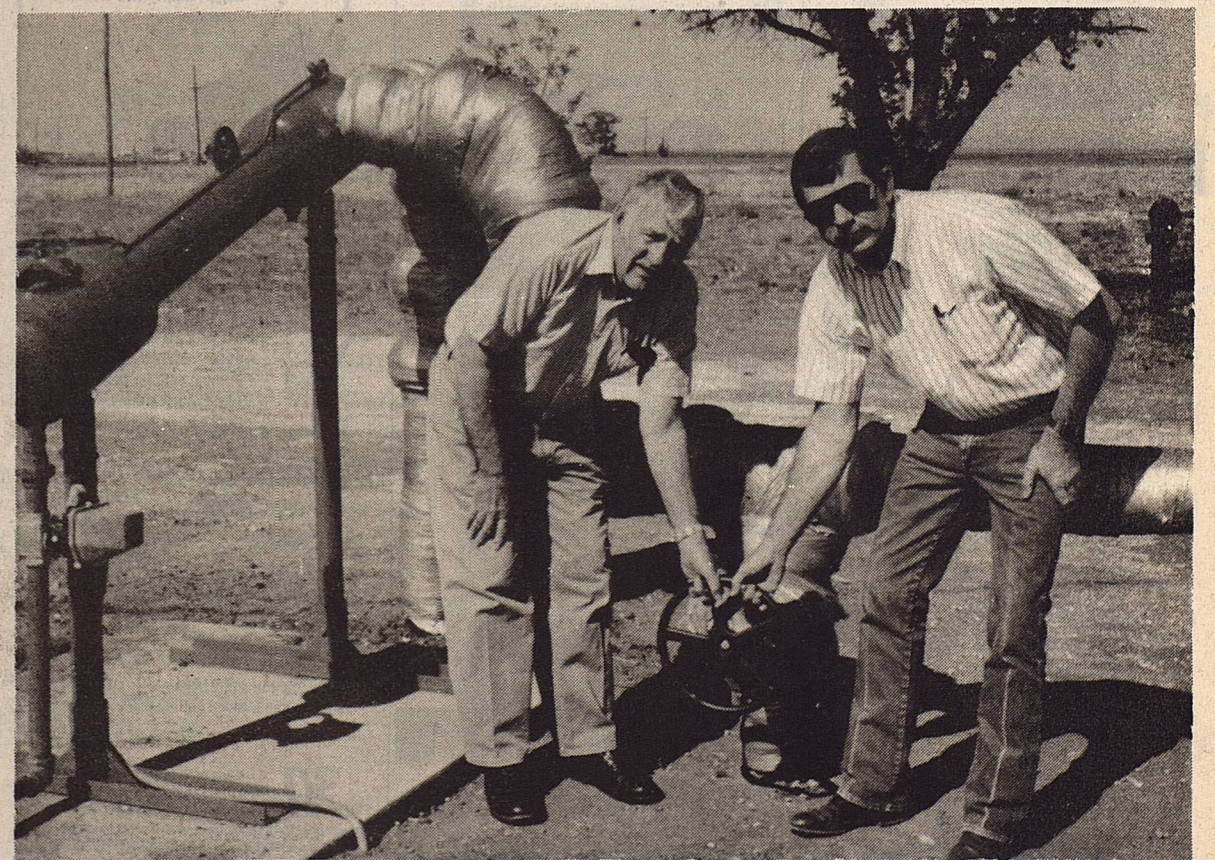
vehicle, skidding across the highway and overturned when he left the pavement. The Bronco came to rest on top of steel posts adjacent to a pasture gate, facing east, the direction from which he came.

Local EMS personnel and Volunteer Fire Department members were dispatched to the scene, and it was

necessary to use the 'Jaws of Life' to remove a portion of the passenger side door to extract the driver.

He was taken to the Saint Mary's-County Hospital for observation. It was learned he had turned 17 the day of the accident, and reportedly was running away from his home in Dallas, enroute to a California destination.

## New Water Well On Line City Water System To Be Automated Soon



Mayor T.J. Miller, Administrator David Brunson open valve on new city well to pump new supply of water to storage tank and city system.

Both residents and City staff members should have breathed a collective sigh of relief last week, when the City's newest water well was turned into the new storage tank. With the new well set to pump some 450 GPM; the other new well at the storage site, total storage capacity of 400,000 gallons of water, the City should be able to cope with the always heavier summer demand for water. Last summer, increased demand, and

problems with the wells caused the stored water to drop to a hazardous 20,000 gallon level.

The newest well, just west of town, is manually operational now. Mayor T.J. Miller and City Administrator David Brunson reported a new Radio Controlled Monitoring system should arrive shortly, and its installation should take three to four weeks.

The high tech, state of the art device will perform a

number of vital functions in the City's water storage and distribution system. A radio transmitter at each well and booster pump site will monitor the flow of each well, will record the amperage each electric pump is pulling, the number of gallons going into the distribution system and water pressure, gauge the water tower and main storage tank levels, and

Turn to Page 2,  
**'Water Well'**

Cont'd from Page 1, **'Farm Meeting'**

producers or shares, but acres may not be added.

Base acres are now referred to as 'contract acreage, and may be planted to any crop with the exception of fruits and vegetables, or simply left idle. There are no haying or grazing restrictions, but the contract acres must be maintained under the same conservation and wetland provisions as in previous years.

Payment to producers is computed at 85% of the contract acres for each enrolled crop. Payment amounts are limited to \$40,000 each 'person' per fiscal year.

The program applies no restrictions on the planting of peanuts on contract acreage, but provisions of the peanut program are still applicable.

All producers under the Production Flexibility Contract are required to continue to follow the Conservation Plan of Operations developed by the producer and NRCS with respect to any highly erodible land or wetlands on the farm.

Six advised the producers more information will continue to filter into the

local FSA office and will be made available to all producers. He is scheduled to attend a meeting for FSA Directors on May 21 to learn more about the lengthy, detailed and often confusing program.

## Lions Club Meeting

The Plains Lions Club met last Thursday at noon, with 16 members and seven special guests present. Guests included Philip Carter, Olivia Robertson, Neal Newsom and Linda Powell representing the Natural Resources Conservation Service office and the County Soil and Water Conservation District, Norman Head, Tracy and Darla Welch, and Kent and Donnell Welch.

The feature event of the meeting was the naming of Tracy Welch as Yoakum County Conservation Farmer of the Year (See article this page).

Philip Carter, Range Conservationist, brought a video entitled "All Things Are Connected". It depicted Native American peoples

attitude towards efforts by the Federal government to purchase tribal lands in the Puget Sound area of Washington state. It addressed the tribe's beliefs that the Mother Earth is sacred, and the sun, air, water and land are all connected, all equally important for all of us, wherever we live and whatever we do.

Harry Richardson announced the annual Texas Lions Camp for children 7 through 17 in Texas for diabetics who are insulin dependent will again be held in Kerrville. Please see Notice of Camp on page four of this issue for more information.

## Correction

In last week's article reporting the resignation agreement of Pete and Linda Simmons, a paragraph concerning voting read; "The vote on the original motion to accept the agreement passed, with Canada, Ashburn, Bell, Gonzalez and Palmer voting for".

It should have read "The vote on the original motion to accept the agreement passed, with Addison, Ashburn, Bell, Gonzalez and Palmer voting for".

We regret the error, and apologize for any embarrassment



Another scene of accident featured on page one, showing driver being removed to ambulance by local EMS, Law Enforcement and Firefighter personnel.

Cont'd from Page 1, **'Water Well'**

this and other data will be recorded in the computer at City Hall. Brunson said personnel will be able to immediately access any of the information to determine each wells performance, allowing rotational pumping of the wells to conserve both pumps and water levels. He said in order to determine water consumption in the past, employees had to first read all the city meters, then tabulate the usage of each customer. With the new system, consumption can be determined almost automatically in the City office, for any given period of time.

## Last Rites For Maye Weed

Funeral services for Maye Weed, 87, of plains were held at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 7, in the First Baptist Church of Plains, with the Rev. Bill Wright, pastor, and the Rev. Glenn Harland officiating. Interment was in the Yoakum County Cemetery under the direction of the Plains Memorial Chapel and the Connally Funeral Home of Seagraves. Visitation and

viewing took place in the newly opened Plains Memorial Chapel.

Mrs. Weed passed away Saturday, May 4, in the Hospital in Denver City.

She was born in Abilene on November 27, 1908. Her parents were Thomas M. Hobson and Annie E. Neill. She married M.S. Weed in Lubbock on March 17, 1928. They moved to Plains in 1963.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 1974, one brother, one sister, and one grandson.

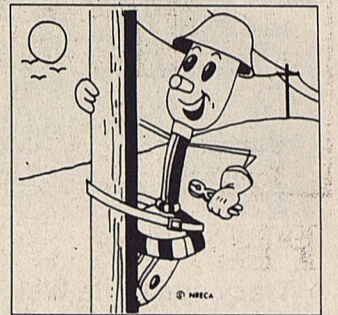
Mrs. Weed is remembered as an active member of the extension homemakers. She enjoyed crocheting as a hobby, and before she retired, she was a self-employed restaurant operator. She also was known as an accomplished seamstress for the public.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Plains and a lifelong Texan, living in Plains for 33 years.

She is survived by her daughter, Gwen Carter of Plains; a son, Don Weed of Lexington, NC; 3 sisters, Ruth Monk of Sarasota, FL, Louise Gillis of Lubbock, and Nelda Drake of San Angelo; 6 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

Pallbearers were her grandsons and great grandsons.

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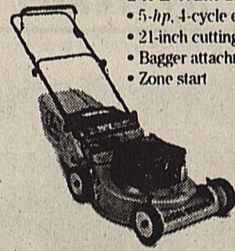
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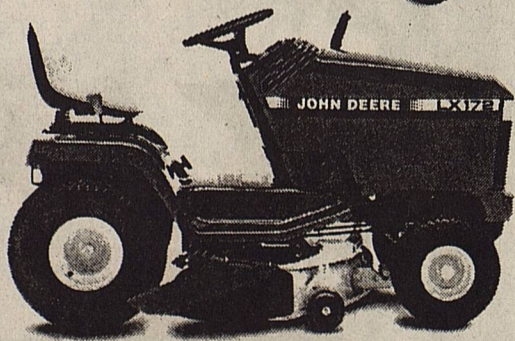
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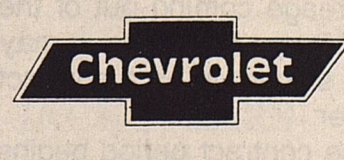
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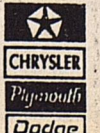
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# 'PISD ACTIVITY PAGE'

## U.I.L. Team Scores Well In Austin

The Plains High Number Sense Team and Calculator Applications Team both brought home Runner-Up trophies from the big State U.I.L. competition in Austin last Saturday. In Number Sense, Shawn Cullins finished 3rd, Shawna Box took 12th, and Yancey House was 15th for the second place win.

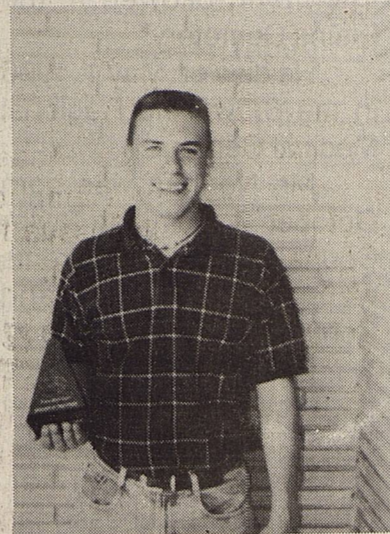
In Calculator Applications, Heath Bowlin was 2nd, Shawna Box 5th, and Tommie McNabb 15th for their Runner Up title.

While in Austin, the PHS team, coached by Richie Cullins and Brad Friesen, were hosted at a reception in State Representative Gary Walkers capitol office.



Seated; Yancey House; Back, L-R; Shawn Cullins, Shawna Box, Heath Bowlin, Gary Walker, Tommie McNabb, Paula & Richie Cullins, Brad & Donna Friesen.

## Student of the Week



"This week's student of the week is one who possesses many admirable qualities. This student has a great attitude and a congenial personality. He is dependable, hard working, and extremely respectful to his peers as well as to adults. The thing I really appreciate about him is his willingness to participate in class discussions. I believe this student has the characteristics and potential to achieve whatever goals he sets for himself." These were the comments from Mrs. Robertson who nominated Marte Pierce as her choice for Student of the Week.

Marte Pierce is a junior and is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Joe Pierce.

## Birthday Surprise



Back row-Jacob Rivera, Vanessa Garcia, Gary Walker, Britnie Duran, Cody Mayes, Maria Andazola. Front- Ryan Crump, Chandra Crump, Marissa Melendez, Maretta Trent, Curtis Arteaga.

Members of Anne McGinty's Kindergarten class extended a special invitation to State Representative Gary Walker to pay them a visit last week. Upon arriving, the youngsters surprised him with a special birthday card they had crafted, and toasted his birthday with a song. Walker reviewed some of their work, and gave them a brief talk on the importance of study, citizenship and Texas history.

## PHS 1st In State Industrial Technology Meet

The talented group of PHS students who exhibited their projects in the final State Competition at Waco May 4 & 5 earned a host of individual honors, and finished first in total points in their division. They finished second in the Quality Index. Instructor Robert Canon was extremely proud of their skills and talents. Individual standings included: Cosme Casillas - 3rd; Pat Tirrell - 2nd & 3rd; Josh Traweek - 2nd & (2) 3rds; Lee Tyson - (2) 1st; Lee David Hernandez (2) 1st; Valerie Blair (4) 1st; Heath Johnson - 2nd, (2) 1st, and (2) Best in State; Edward Escobar - 2nd, (3) 1st, and (2) Best in State; Steve Vasquez (2) 2nd, (3) 1st, and (1) Best in State.

The students projects will be on display in the Industrial Technology classroom this week for public viewing.

## Junior Rodeo'ers Off & Running

The High Plains Junior Rodeo Association season got under way April 20 at Odessa. There are currently eight Plains youngsters competing in the 365 member association. Robert Knight, Jamey Garland and Mike Bell compete in riding events, Brett Squyres and Keith Jackson compete in four roping events, and Marcey House, Kimberly Jones and Kimberly Jackson run calves and ties goats. The association is divided into divisions according to ages, from 8 and under to 19 years. In the Odessa competition, Robin Squyres won 3rd in breakaway roping, Kimberly Jackson won 6th in goat tying and 9th in pole bending. Brett Squyres won 2nd in steer stopping, 3rd in calf house, Kimberly Jones touching, and 7th in breakaway roping. The second event of the year was held at Lubbock

April 27 and 28. Brett had a 1st place in steer stopping, 1st in ribbon roping, and 4th in breakaway roping. Keith Jackson won 2nd in ribbon roping. Robin had a 7th place in breakaway roping.

The next HPJRA Rodeo is scheduled for May 4 and 5 at Roosevelt High School.

## JP Court

The following is a summary of cases heard in Justice of Peace Court, Precinct One, with Judge Melba Crutcher presiding: 68 traffic and 1 felony Bonds set:

- 3-Driving while license suspended, \$500 bond
- 2-Driving while intoxicated, \$1,000 bond
- 2-Assault causes bodily injury, family violence, \$1,500 bond
- Fail to maintain proof of financial responsibility, \$500 bond
- 2-Assault causing bodily injury, \$1,500 bond
- Motion to revoke probation, held until hearing

In last week's PISD Honor Roll Lists, we missed listing Nichole Newsom in the 8th grade all-A's section. We regret the omission.

## PHS TRACKSTERS IN WARM-UP MEET FOR STATE

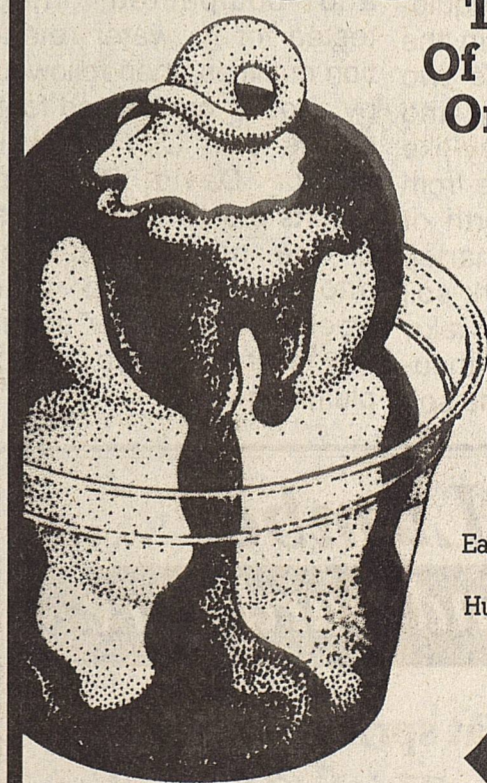
Senior Ralph Ramirez and Freshman Kayla Redman competed in a State Qualifiers meet in Abilene May 3. Both fared well in competition against many larger schools.

Ralph scored a third place finish in the 800 meter run. Kayla took 8th place in the shot put, but more importantly, threw as well as two of the higher rated 1-A regional girls she will face in Austin.

Kayla will appear in the championship meet in Austin Saturday morning at 10 AM, and Ralph will run in the 1600 after the girls run which starts at 2:50 PM.

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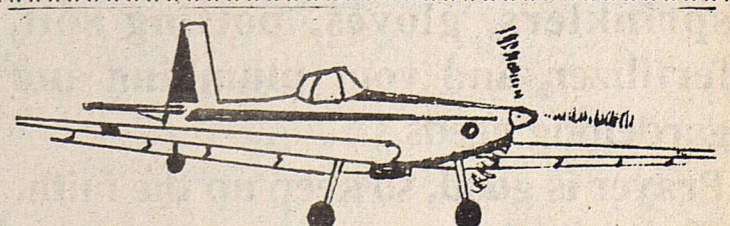
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Cont'd from Page 1,  
**'Watermelon'**



Extension Agents Tadd Knight and Kathy Adair, and committee chair Ann Hartman visited elementary schools in both towns, and passed out watermelon seed to 3rd through 6th grade students. The youngsters were encouraged to enter the largest melon growing contest and compete for the first prize \$250 and savings bond. The same prize is offered Seniors 65 and over, and a \$500 bond

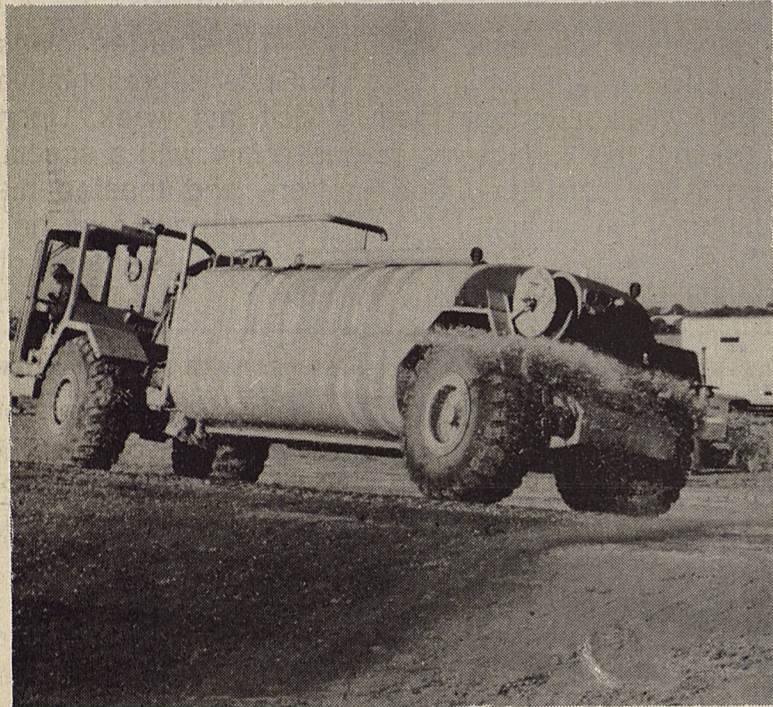
will go to the open class largest melon. Seed for the youngsters was donated by Hartman Farms.

Plains Dairy Queen is donating buckets for vine plantings and decorative purposes. Donor funds are urgently needed to help promote the festival.

It was announced at the meeting more local food booths are needed in the event. Booths are available for \$25 to any individual, family, church or civic group, and anyone needing a food booth should contact Betty Estep at 456-4424.

The festival committee will meet again at 8:30 AM, May 16 in the old Courthouse Clubroom. The public and anyone desiring to volunteer to help in the event are urged to attend this meeting.

## Water Treatment Plant Work Shows Progress



The dry soil at the treatment site must be kept wet to work it.

Dirt work continues at the City waste water disposal plant just north of town. West Texas Paving equipment operators are in the process of lining the two new, huge holding and treating pits with clay-like dirt, hauled to the site from a farm six miles north of town owned by Charley Ellis. The heavy, dark soil is from an old playa lake bed. Some 18 to 20 thousand cubic yards of the soil

will be used in lining the pits. One foot of the clay is laid and compacted, then tested for its water retention qualities, then followed by another compacted foot of the dirt. City Administrator David Brunson reports the dirt work phase of the project will last another three to four weeks, followed by about that much time for pipe and plumbing work.

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## Last Rites For Albert N. (Andy) Norman, Jr.

Funeral services for Albert N. (Andy) Norman, 79, of Brownfield, were held on Saturday, May 4, at the Brownfield Funeral Home Memorial Chapel with the Rev. Rick Doyle, pastor of the First United Methodist Church, Plains, officiating. Interment followed in the Plains Cemetery.

He died on May 1, 1996 in the Brownfield Regional Medical Center.

Mr. Norman was born October 7, 1916 at Taylor County, Texas. His parents were Albert Norman and Cornelia Carter.

He married Othell Price on December 19, 1970 at Clovis, NM.

He was a farmer, rancher and business man in Lynn County in the 40's and 50's. He attended John Tarleton College and served in the army Air Corp in WWII. He was an Eagle Scout, a 32 Degree Mason and a member of the Plains Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Joyce Millsap on Jan. 30, 1982.

He is survived by his wife; a son, Jim Norman of Hamilton, TX; his Mother, Cornelia Norman of Clarksville, TX; a sister, Virginia Humphries of Annona, TX; 3 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

## County Court Meets

County Commissioners Court met Monday, May 6, to discuss and act on a brief agenda. Commissioner Barron nominated Mary Ellen Rodriguez to replace retiring Ty Earl Powell as board member at the Plains Youth Center.

Exxon Corporation owner of the property in Denver City where the School System's baseball field is located, offered to renew the expired lease on the property for a rent free three year term. The agreement, between the County, Exxon and Denver City I.S.D., was unanimously approved.

A total of six requests for Soil Conservation variance requests for rural fire guards, water sheds and water erosion control were approved.

Only one bid, from Mustang Country, Denver City, for the purchase of two new 'police package' cars for the Sheriff's Department was received. The bid was for two new 1996 Chevrolet Caprice automobiles meeting all required specifications, with a total price of \$42,236, less \$13,600 for trade-in of two 1993 Chevrolet's, for a net difference of \$28,636. Sheriff Rice reported the two on hand vehicles were the only two in the entire area. The bid was approved.

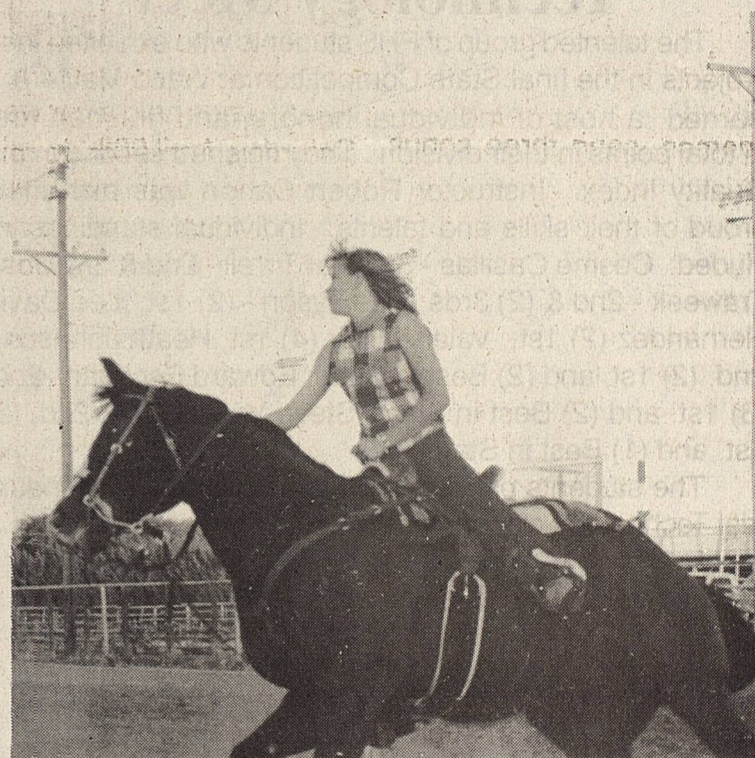
## 4-H Playday Scenes



Kimberly Jackson didn't break any speed records, but the barrels stayed up!



Evan Cain about to rope his calf.



Kimberlee Jones rounds 1st pole in Pole Bending Event.



## Texas Lions Camp Camper Guide Lines and Information

**WHO:** Children with Diabetes, 7 through 17, within the State of Texas. ONLY DIABETICS WHO ARE INSULIN DEPENDENT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSIGNMENT.

**WHAT:** A summer camp for fun and learning; teaching children that they can live happy, normal lives by following good health practices.

**WHERE:** Both sessions are held at the Texas Lions Camp in Kerrville.

**HOW:** Camper applications are submitted to the Camp by local Lions Club members, parents, Diabetes Association, doctors, and medical societies.

**GOALS:** The major goal is to assist the child with diabetes in achieving maturity in a healthy, productive manner. A major objective is to teach children and adolescents more about themselves and their diabetes. In addition, the parents' program aids the entire family in understanding diabetes.

**COST:** free to eligible campers. Sponsored by and paid for by the Lions of Texas.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Camper's parents, not Lions, are asked to bring camper to the Camp and also to pick up camper at closing. All campers must be accompanied to and from camp by an adult.

**Session 1:** July 29, to Aug. 7, 1996 (7-12 year olds) Deadline: May 29, 1996

**Session 2:** Aug. 11, to Aug. 17, 1996 (13-17 year olds) Deadline: June 11, 1996

Applications must be received sixty (60) days before the session date giving time for processing and notifying all parties concerned.

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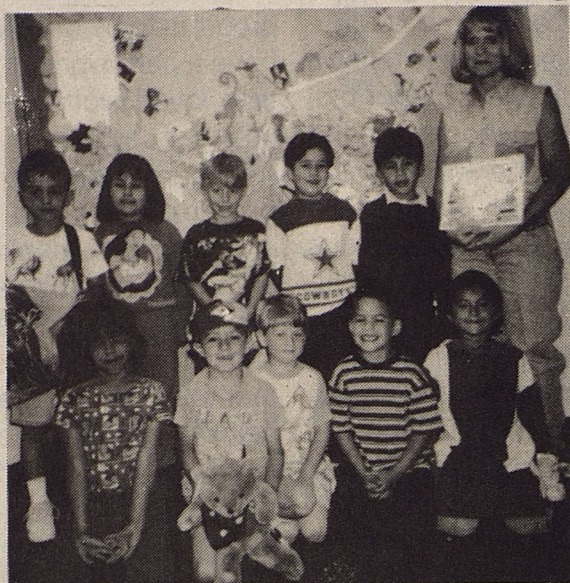


# Femme Friends



## Ready...Set...Read!

Summer reading Program Begins May 28



The annual Summer Reading Program, sponsored by the Library, kicks off May 28, and will end July 26. The program is designed to encourage and improve reading skills of Kindergarten through 6th grade. At the conclusion of the program, prizes will be drawn for the competitors who read ten books, and for having ten books read to them.]

Tanna May, PISD Kindergarten teacher, recently brought her students to the library to learn about the

summer program, and how reading skills can enrich their lives.

Dairy Queen will again donate ice cream cones to the students completing the program, and they will also receive certificates of achievement signed by Governor George W. Bush, County Judge Dallas Brewer, and State Librarian Robert S. Martin.

Students from all school grade levels are encouraged to use the library resources this summer.

### Library Filmtime

Nineteen children attended Filmtime on May 1, 1996. They played two games, sang three songs, watched two movies and heard a book read. They talked about the end of the year Filmtime Party which will be on May 22nd. Children with a summer birthday will have a combination birthday party before Filmtime lets out for the summer.

Children attending were: Troy Parrish, Elizabeth Cox, Rhaela Stall, Brett Hawthorne, Kevin John Gass, Dakota Earnest, Holden Welch, Morgan Willis, Ashley Hainer, Lexus Jimenez, Kelsey Curry, Alfredo Martinez, Rhaemi Stall, Jacob Brink, Isaac Doyle, Landon Earnest, Brandon Craft, Kimber Williams, and Charity Hainer.



### FCA Flash

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes held a car wash Saturday, April 20th, to raise money for a sophomore High School student of Ozona, Texas named Bobbie Bryson.

Bobbie has recently been diagnosed with leukemia and the local FCA decided to show their support in her battle against the disease. The funds will be used to help with the high cost of medical fees she will be faced with. The car wash brought in an amazing \$1,107.00.

Without all of your support, donations, and help this would not have been possible. We would like to thank all of the community for contributing.

Thanks,  
Kassie Lowe,  
Sec/Reporter

## TSA MO GA Members At TFWC Convention

Mary Jo St. Romain, Zareta and Valerie Winn, representing the Tsa Mo Ga Study Club, attended the 99th Texas Federation of Women's Clubs State Convention in Austin April 24 through 27.

The local club returned home with several awards for their annual projects, including an Honorable Mention and First Place for their club yearbook. They also won awards for programs and projects in the Arts, Conservation, Education, Home Life and Texas Heritage fields. Awards were earned for Leadership, gifts to the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and the VA Hospital in Big Spring.

The TFWC 100th Anniversary Convention will be held May 1, 1997 in Waco. Mary Ellen (Minnie) Simmang, Giddings, TX was installed as President at this year's meeting.

## Senior Citizens Corner

We need to say a Big Thank You to our Cable Co. for the spot on TV. Turn on Channel 19 and view the menus and activities all through the day.

The report is that last Monday night was rather busy with pool games, dominoes and card games. These special nights are every Monday at 6:30 PM and are just for a fun night out. So come on down!

Activities coming up: Thursday - May 9, Tatum Pool Tournament, 10 AM MST; Friday - May 10, Line Dancing 9:45 AM

If as many as six Seniors wish to attend, a bus will be available to take them to Lubbock to a Senior Service Conference on "Fraud against the Elderly", which will be held at U.M.C. at 9 AM to 4 PM. If you are interested, we need to know.

Reba Baker is home from the hospital.

Mary Terrell is still at Seminole Hospital. We wish all our sick people a fast recovery.

The menu next week sounds good. Come enjoy a good meal and lots of companionship.

The work rooms are busy, and the hall is a busy place with people walking in comfort, out of the wind.

We urge all to attend the Center. It's a great place to be.

See you next week,  
Smitty



## Thank You For 26 Years

### Roger & Ann Harvey Reminisce

We retired from the Plains Schools a little more than eighteen years ago. We are aware we still have many friends who reside in the School District, but for those who do not know us, I probably should make a rather informal introduction. We are the Harveys - Roger and Ann. We were associated with the Plains Independent Schools for 26 years. We made our debut in the fall of 1951.

This story should begin as most stories should -- at the beginning.

Ann and I, along with our daughter Norma, spent the night at the late Judge Bean's Courts. We were extended the courtesy of spending the night and allowed to pay for our lodging the next morning. I found Judge Bean to be a very

warm and cordial man. After the usual conversation, he asked about my profession. He became quite inquisitive when I told him we were in the teaching profession. He insisted we pay a visit to Mr. James A. Ellis - the Superintendent of the Plains Schools. Mr. Ellis suggested we get our letters of application as early as convenient. I was particularly interested in the principalship of the Junior High School. Ann was interested in the Second Grade. We immediately sent in our letters of interest -- I mean of real interest. During the summer Mr. Ellis paid us a visit on the Campus where we were working toward our master degrees at West

Turn to Page 6,  
**'26 Years'**

**The Fine Arts Club Sacred Music Festival has been rescheduled for 7:30 PM, Thursday, May 23, in the First United Methodist Church.**

## Attend the Church of Your Choice!

Assembly Of God  
Pastor Erral Hainer

Church of Christ  
Ray Young

First Baptist Church  
Pastor Bill Wright

Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
Fr. Glen Rosendale

First United Methodist Church  
Pastor Rick Doyle

Templo Bautista Nueva Vision  
Pastor Jose Rodriguez

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Cont'd from Page 5,  
**'26 Years'**

Texas State Teachers College.

(Ann Recalls, "When Roger said Plains was the place he wanted to live, I thought he had lost his mind. We were just getting our Masters' degrees and I was hoping to live in a place somewhat larger and not beyond the sand dunes of Muleshoe or Tokio.

Now I shall be forever grateful, we were allowed to move to Plains. Everyone really took care of us and our girls. Nothing will ever compare to the cooperation and help our school parents gave us. The Plains community is the greatest.")

He extended us an invitation to become a part of the faculty. We were delighted about that possibility. We were certainly surprised to know a few days later Mr. Ellis and wife had moved to Lubbock to become a part of some law firm. The Plains Common School District suddenly was without the leadership of a superintendent. We were advised of this unusual turn of events and decided the only alternative for us was to pay a visit to every member of the board of trustees and visit we did! Mr. Paul Cobb and his wife Louise lived on a farm in a north or north easterly direction from town. The twins, Jack and Joe, were mere boys.

Mr. P.M. (Matt) Williams was living out on the Williams Ranch. We were pleasantly surprised when we found Mr. Bain Price and his wife had company that night. L.J. Sanders was visiting a young lady that evening. The young lady later became his wife, Virginia. We were not very well acquainted with L.J., but I knew his dad, Pete, very well. We had played baseball together in years past.

Mr. A.B. Carpenter became Mr. A.B.C. His daughter Carol, was in H.S. I am not sure how she was classified. The other members

of the board were Morris Lowe, Ty Field, and Rusty McGinty. There is a possibility that Rusty might have been elected a few years later. Alma Lynn probably would know. We owe a debt of gratitude to these early board members. We appreciate the faithfulness and dedication on the other members who served during our association with the Plains Schools.

Mr. G.D. Kennedy became the newly elected Superintendent. Mr. Ellis was gracious enough to give Mr. Kennedy the information he had received on us as prospective teachers. Mr. Kennedy paid us a surprise visit at our house at Abernathy. After a short acquaintance he assured us he would recommend us. This was a dream come true for us. He and I were together as administrators for 23 years--until his retirement. There was never a cross word spoken between us.

Ann and Virginia became good friends and co-laborers.

I began as principal of the Jr. High Building and later became the principal of the new Elementary School. This was the real fun position. The pupils still loved and respected their teachers and the principal. One day I went into a second grade class, Mrs. Mabel Bacon's class. The teacher and pupils were having a birthday party. The little girl who was having the birthday was in the process of kissing the teacher as I walked into the room. The little girl immediately came to me and exclaimed, "Here is one for you, Mr. Harvey." Oh! for the joy of being a part of such a school system where free admission of love could be expressed unashamed.

Ann devoted most of her time as first grade teacher, but was employed her first year or two as a second grade teacher. Mrs. Thelma Ellis was our other second grade teacher.

We had only two principals at the beginning of the first few years there. Mr. Wayne Coffman came with Mr. Kennedy as High School principal. Mr. Coffman, after a few years, returned to a larger school as principal.

The Plains Schools were about to experience an unprecedented growth. A new Elementary building was being built to accommodate the first four grades. We did not have Kindergarten until several years later. The Junior High building became the home for the fifth through the eighth grades. This growth with new building necessitated another principal for the Junior High School.

Additional rooms and building were needed for the extra growth of pupils especially in the first eight grades, Elementary and Junior High. The new auditorium was of great interest to the district. The Junior High building was being renovated to accommodate more classrooms. The Elementary at first consisted of eight classrooms, new office space with a comfortable teachers lounge, a large play room for P.E. classes and the new and spacious cafeteria. A few years later eight more classrooms were added on the north wing.

We began to take advantage of some enrichment programs under the leadership of Mr. Roy Dodd--a new Olympic size swimming pool, a media center, more gyms. All office desks and furniture in all buildings were sold at an auction and replaced with new items.

May I insert some more

important highlights of the years from 1951 - 77. This was the span for our association with the Plains Schools. Perhaps you noticed I referred to our school as the Plains Common School. This was the correct title in 1951. Later this title was changed to Plains Independent Schools. This was authorized under the leadership of Mr. G.D. Kennedy and the school board. We moved from eleven grades in high school to twelve grades.

There were many interesting events during our stay with you. There were many new teachers and administrators employed in 1951. We were treated to a well attended and fun filled excitement at the Luna Ranch that first year. Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Coffman were called to a meeting at Ropesville for U.I.L. election of officers for the upcoming year. Mr. Kennedy suggested I give the response to our welcome. I was about as nervous as a tree full of owls. In that response I remember stating that in most instances of our moving into a new situation and meeting many new friends we are filled with some apprehensions and perhaps some regrets. This is my regret in moving to Plains. "The only regret I have after 16 years of previous teaching I am just now getting to be a part of such a wonderful people. We do appreciate the kindness extended to us at this first reception."

Academics were always stressed there, but we had some outstanding athletic events. I believe our volleyball girls teams won more district, regional, and state tournaments than any other time in the history of the school. Our boys team placed second in the State tournament at Austin under the coaching of the one and only Rip Sewell.

Some things happened which we had no control--a snow storm that paralyzed our activities for a few days. We had damaging hail storms and a fierce tornado that destroyed buildings and caused considerable damage to our building program at the school plant.

Some of us well remember the silly Negro minstrel staged in the auditorium. Some of those fellows acted with hilarity. Our big, jolly Dr. Bill who was in the middle of the whole thing was at his best. Some of the other characters were Odus Walser, Punk Culwell, Johnnie Fitzgerald and myself. Here is a hint of some of the conversation between Johnnie and me. He was Rowdy and I was Sugar Daddy.

His greeting was, "How are you doing Sugar Daddy?"

My reply, "I'm not feeling so good."

"Well, what's the matter?"

"I'm got myself a headache."

"Why man don't you know what to do for a headache? I just go home to my wife. She takes care of me in the most unusual way. She hugs me and kisses me and squeezes me and that headache leaves me."

My reply, "That is such a good idea. What time will your wife be at home?" (Conversation closed)

I must apologize to Melba for this behavior!

My wife, Ann, spent most of her time as first grade teacher during our tenure; however, she was called to serve in other capacities. She was asked to initiate our Kindergarten Class, but she returned to her first love the first grade. She was an excellent teacher of reading. She felt there was a real challenge in first grade teaching and enjoyed the pay off with

those little ones.

As I stated previously my first assignment was that of Junior High principal, but I was given my choice to take the place with the Elementary school. It was a real joy to enroll some of the greatest kids in the state of Texas in Kindergarten to fourth grade. I am still of the opinion the best public relation program to be offered was to have a hard working teacher who loved working with the younger children.

Many thanks to the pupils, teachers, and parents and a special thanks to the grand parents who gave your support to our program. Our special thanks to those board members who gave so unselfishly of their time. Many thanks to those secretaries who so gallantly gave the extras which made for a more enjoyable place to serve.

I am not about to forget those fellows who spent long and many hours as board members to give us all a direction. May your tribe increase.

Thanks and many thanks for permitting us to serve you for 26 years. May God richly bless you.

With your permission, I would like to become serious in closing. It is commendable for a teacher to help children to learn. It is better to help children to want to learn.

Very sincerely yours,  
Roger and Ann Harvey

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

**\*EDITORS NOTE\***  
Roger and Ann Harvey had an important role in this community over a quarter of a century. We felt it appropriate to devote this much space to their story. The couple will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on May 19 in Amarillo, which we shall report. The article is reprinted as submitted.

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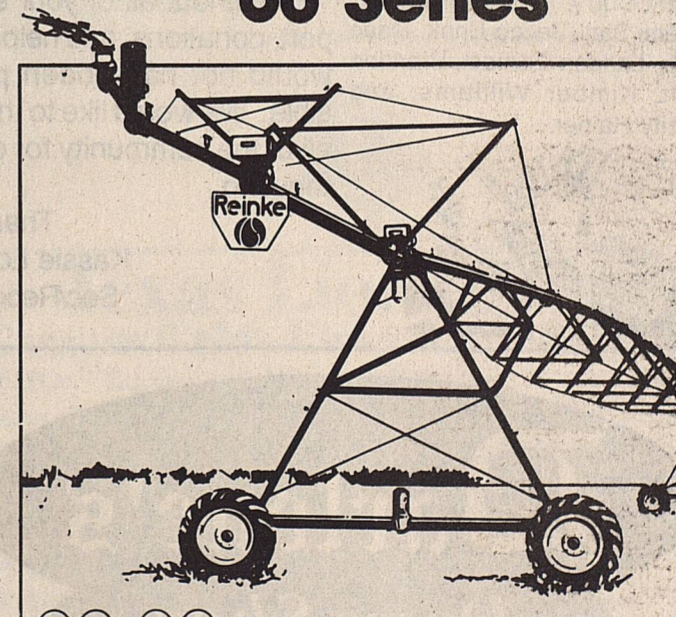
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