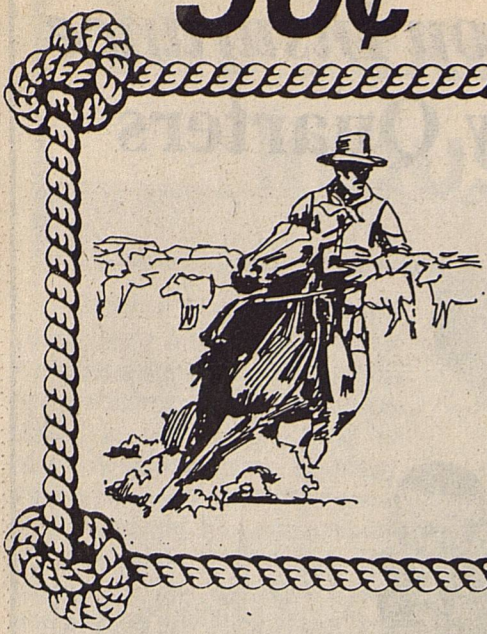


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Cowboy Country News



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Volume 2, Issue 41, Wednesday, June 19, 1996

New Permit Request Could Benefit Entire County

Sandy Land Under Ground Underground Water Conservation District presented a request to the Texas Natural Resources Commission in Austin Monday to modify the existing permitting regulations of operations at the Yoakum County Landfill.

Gary Walker, Landfill Supervisor, is asking TNRCC to allow the County to make two needed changes in the original permit, granted in 1991.

The landfill was originally permitted with a then conventional slope sided dump site for refuse from the county's two cities, Plains and Denver City. Sandy Land directors have requested Walker to seek a permit allowing two changes to the existing permit.

Walker is seeking changes allowing the County to construct a series of straight walled dump pits, approximately 20 to 25 feet wide and approximately the same depth.

The new pits, or trenches, will enable dumping of

trash from the county on extremely windy days. At the present time, with the extremely sloped shoulders of the existing dump pit, operations must cease on very windy days. TNRCC requires strict adherence to curtailing trash blowing from the dump area, making the County responsible for 'policing' adjacent areas.

Walker said personnel at the landfill monitor wind speeds daily, and common to West Texas, many days the landfill must shut down, to prevent scattering trash to adjoining land. "To date this year, we have been forced to shut down several dozen days because of high winds, when winds exceed thirty miles an hour. Plains only has one collection truck working daily, and this doesn't present much of a problem. We simply ask them to fill their truck and dump it the following day." He continued, "On the same depth."

Turn to Page 2, 'Permit'

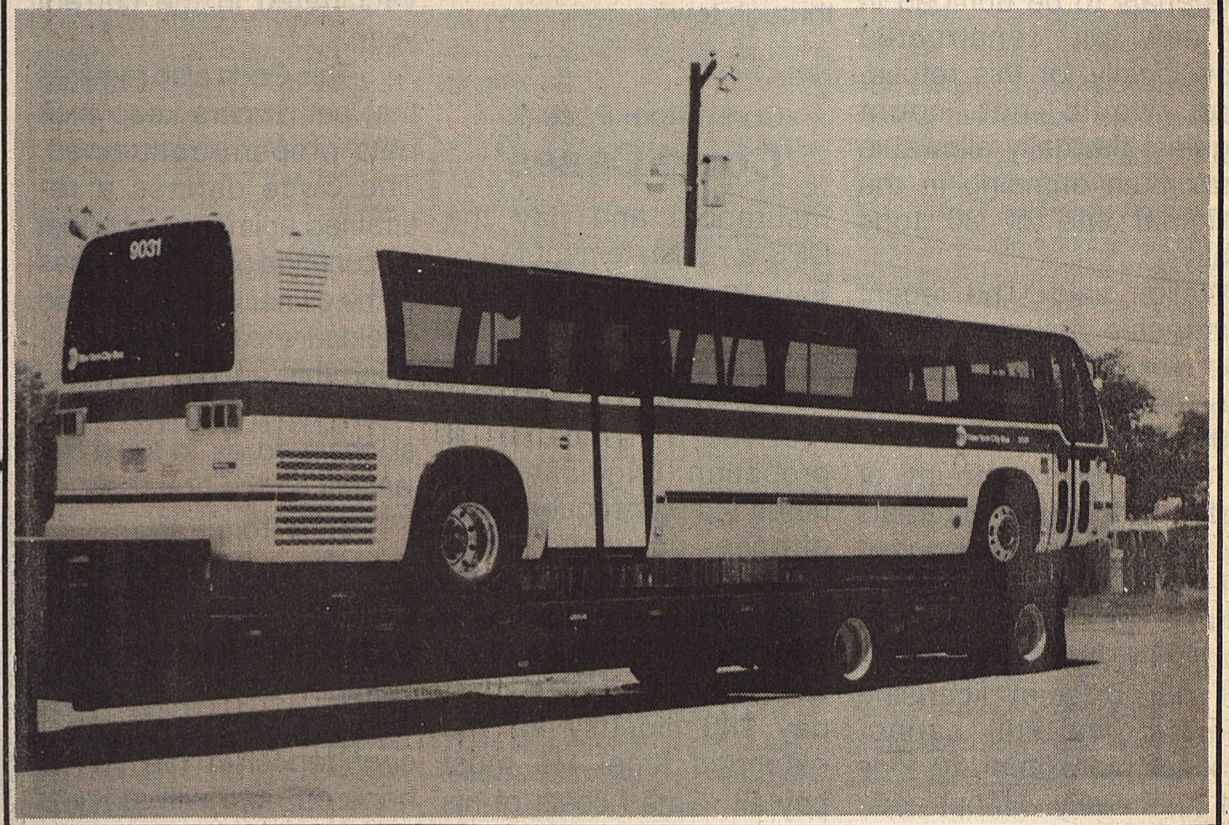
Relief Funds Established For Willett Family

Community residents, known for their generosity in helping neighbors facing painful experiences, have two opportunities to demonstrate this trait. Two separate monetary donation funds have been established here for the Jerry Willett family.

The Trustees of the Assembly of God Church have established a trust fund at the Yoakum County Federal Credit Union. Donations to the fund will be used for future college expenses of the four Willett children, daughters Shandy Lee and Misty DeAnn, sons Jerry Wayne and Chris Leon, and granddaughter Sierra Willett.

Another fund has been established at Plains State Bank. Debbie Smith, an officer of the Bank, said this fund will be used to help defray the huge medical expenses the Willett's face, following the recent tragic wreck which took the life of Paula Willett, wife, mother and grandmother of the family.

More New York City Buses Pass Through But Not To N.Y.C. Just Yet



There are probably very few local residents who haven't seen at least one of dozens of brand spanking new blue and white buses, marked 'New York City Bus', being trucked through town.

Two of the new buses were recently parked at the local Dairy Queen. One of the truck drivers replied to our question by stating, "No, we're not hauling them to New York, they are going to Atlanta, Georgia, to be used during the Olympic Games."

The buses are being manufactured in Roswell, New Mexico, by Nova Bus, Incorporated, at the old Roswell Air Force Base, now deactivated and closed.

A spokesman for Nova, Paul Stephens, Manager of the Human Resources Department, told us in a telephone interview, "Nova will build some 100 new buses for the New York Transit Authority. These buses are being loaned to the City of Atlanta for the duration of the

Olympics." Stephens did not have the exact total of buses being furnished to Atlanta for the games. "I have heard other larger cities have new buses being built, which will also be loaned to Atlanta. I have heard well over 800 new and existing buses will be made available for the Olympic spectators and contestants."

That is indeed a lot of buses.

'New Look' For Courthouse Square



John Curry feeds elm limb into chipper

The County Courthouse complex has been receiving a much needed face lift this summer. John Curry and employees of County Precinct Three used motor graders and other equipment to scrape off large portions of surface build up of thatch and blown in dirt around the new Courthouse building, which was then reseeded to grass.

Curry also worked the grounds around the old

building and reseeded large areas of ground where the covering grass had deteriorated.

The stately old elm trees shading the grounds around the old building received a thorough pruning, removing hundreds of dead branches and limbs. This wood was then fed into the wood chipping machine which is used at the County Landfill. The chips will be utilized in

flower and shrub beds around the two buildings.

County Judge Dallas Brewer and Precinct 3 Commissioner Jim Barron commented the grounds are much more attractive now, and commended the work of Curry and other county employees.

The 'face lifting' will be complete when both the

Turn to Page 2, 'New Look'

County Criminal Court Cases Heard

The following Court cases were heard in Judge Dallas Brewer's County Criminal Court last Tuesday, June 11, too late for coverage in last week's issue of CCN.

Jason Thomas Wilson, 21, pled guilty to a charge of unlawfully carrying a weapon, an offense occurring October 14, 1995. He received a 180 day jail sentence, probated and deferred 12 months, was fined \$250, and must pay \$157.50 Court costs. He was represented by Attorney Johnny Roy Phillips.

Mary Lou Palacio, 49, pled guilty to an September, 1995 offense of driving while her license was suspended. She received a 180 day jail term, probated and deferred 180 days, was fined \$100, must pay \$157.50 Court costs, furnish the State proof of

Turn to Page 2, 'Court Cases'

Democrats Choose County Clerk Candidate

Julia Lemley To Be On November Ballot

Ty Earl Powell, Chairman of the County Democratic Party, announced Monday morning a committee consisting of Carolyn Culwell, Kathy Smiley, Earlene Freeman, Charlie Gillis, Loretta Watkins and himself selected Julia Lemley of Plains as their candidate of choice for the County Clerk's office in the November General Election. The other committee member, Sara Guetersloh, was unable to attend the meeting.

Lemley, a 19-year employee of the County, is now serving as interim County Clerk, appointed to the office by Commissioner's Court following Ruby Bruton's retirement June 1.

Others seeking the nod of the Democratic Committee were Pam Redman and Gale McDonnell of Plains, and Martha Harrell and Sue Holder of Denver City.



Lemley has been a resident of Plains since 1960. She is married to Nelton Lemley, and the couple have two children, Vickie Blundell of Plains, and Brian Lee, a Staff Sergeant in the US Marine Corps. In an interview

Turn to Page 2, 'Candidate'

Cont'd from Page 1, 'Permit'

other hand, Denver City has three collection trucks, and they must dump trash several times daily. If the winds are so high we are forced to close the gates, they have problems".

If approved by TNRC, the straight walled pits, built one a time as demand requires, will enable the landfill to accept waste disposal on all but the very highest of windy days.

Walker will also present a separate permit change, planned by the Sandy Land Board of Directors for some time, allowing construction of a type 4 fill permit. This permit would allow demolished materials to be dumped in a new pit constructed specifically for this refuse, and would not count against the daily allowable maximum dumping in the original site of 20 tons daily.

Walker said "The recent extensive hail damage in Denver City on home and business roofs, glass and other breakage, will create an immense amount of additional waste materials which have to be disposed of somewhere. Our present dump pit has plenty of capacity, but under terms of our original licensing permit, we still cannot accept more than 20 tons of trash daily without additional fees and penalties. If we can secure a Type 4 permit, we can handle all storm generated materials, plus any demolished building materials resulting from city or county structures which have to come down, as well as private property structures being destroyed." Another advantage to the Type 4 permit is the pit needs to be covered once a week, rather than daily.

He reported the normal change in permit process in Austin should be complete in ten day to two weeks.

Cont'd from Page 1, 'New Look'

annual Rodeo and Old Settlers Reunion and the planned "Watermelon Round-Up" rolls around in August.

An additional beautification project is planned for the Court house area. On the southwest corner in front of the old building, along Cowboy Way, Commissioner's Court will be asked to approve construction of a special 'Flower Bed'. An enclosed square will feature a large flower bed in the shape of the State of Texas. Flowers in red, white and blue will form the body of the state image. The 'Texas Flower Bed' will be visible to all traffic moving east and west through town.

Cont'd from Page 1, 'Court Cases'

Insurance, and pay the DPS a reinstatement fee of \$50 to \$100. She was represented by Attorney Brian Murray.

Jose Luis Mendez, 25, received a revocation of probation originally rendered in a subsequent DWI offense occurring September 3, 1995. Mendez' Community Supervision was extended for a period of 18 months, and he must pay \$40 monthly for the extended time. He must pay all related costs of his length of stay in the Brownfield Regional Court Residential Treatment Center. Prior to entering CRTCC, he will spend ten consecutive days in County jail. He must perform 200 hours of community restitution service, pay an additional \$200 fee to his Court appointed Attorney Jerry Corbin, and prior to the end of the probationary period, must pay past due fines, supervision fees, lab fees totaling \$370.

City Pet Vaccination Slated

The City of Plains will sponsor a dog and cat vaccination clinic Saturday, June 22, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Plains City Hall. City personnel will also be available to issue city dog tags.

Plains City Code requires that all dog owners acquire a City of Plains license certificate and tag to be attached to the collar of each dog owned. All dogs and cats over the age of 4 months must also be vaccinated against rabies and have a tag attached by a licensed veterinarian showing that the dog or cat has been vaccinated in the current year.

This Code also requires that pet owners keep their pets properly restrained. The Code defines a restrained animal as one that is "confined on the premises of the owner within a fenced enclosure capable of confining that animal; fastened or picketed by a lead rope or chain so as to keep the animal on the premises; un-

Cont'd from Page 1, 'Candidate'

Monday, Lemley said, "I want to thank each member of the selection committee for their vote of confidence in me. I feel honored, and will strive to continue to serve the citizens of the County diligently and effectively if I am elected".

Ferguson Draws Boos

St. Louis: The platform prepared by the Democratic National Convention carries a plank endorsing woman suffrage. This plank was loudly opposed by a highly vocal minority, and a speech in opposition to it was made by Governor James E. Ferguson of Texas. While making his speech to the convention, the Texas governor was hissed by women in the galleries. The Texas News, June 10, 1917

Richardson Insurance In New Quarters



Dean & Harry at work in new office

Harry and Dean Richardson celebrated the completion of their new office building located at 301 Cowboy Way, with an Open House June 4. The property was recently purchased from Burve Overton, and the old family residence was removed for the new structure.

The couple have been in the insurance here since Harry received his agent's license in 1971. Some five dozen visitors enjoyed refreshments while touring the new quarters Friday.

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Notice of Application

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Applicant, E.B. Brooks, 210 Meadows Bldg 5646 Milton St., Dallas TX 75206, has made application for a spacing exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission State-wide Rule 37 (16 Tex. Admin. Code Section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to the lease line requirement to Re-Enter Well No. 1, Fouts, 400 Acres, Sec. 575, Blk. D. J.H Gibson/S. Peak Survey, A-571, West Field(s), Yoakum County, being 5 miles in a southwest direction from Plains, Texas. The location of this well is as follows: 1207' from the north line and 155' from the west line of lease. 1207' from the north line and 155' from the west line of survey.

Field rules for the West field are 250/500, 40/20 acres PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Rule 37 (h) (2) (A), this application may be granted administratively if no protest to the application is received. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, E.B. Brooks, Jr Operator, at (214) 363-3432. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission at (512)463-6718.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, YOU MUST FILL OUT, SIGN AND MAIL OR DELIVER TO THE AUSTIN OFFICE OF THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS THE ENCLOSED NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST. A COPY OF THE INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST ALSO BE MAILED OR DELIVERED ON THE DATE TO APPLICANT AT THE ADDRESS SHOWN ABOVE. THIS INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE BY July 1, 1996. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, THE REQUESTED PERMIT WILL BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY, TO BE EFFECTIVE THE DAY FOLLOWING THE TERMINATION OF SUCH THREE-WEEK PERIOD

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The Texas Beef Cattle Industry, 1996

Chance Thompson of the Texas Southwest Cattle Raisers' Association probably best summarized the current state of the Texas cattle industry by noting that he "can't remember when so many things were out of kilter at the same time." Drought, Mexican imports, overproduction, NAFTA, poor winter grazing, the high cost of feed and alleged anti-competitive concentration in the meat packing industry all have been cited as at least contributing to the current problems faced by Texas' cattle producers since late 1995.



This litany of woe is cited by nearly every rancher involved in the industry. But what is based on facts and what on perceptions? Because of the beef industry's importance to Texas' economy, it is crucial to disentangle true trends from happenstance so that Texans can chart the best course for this industry in the state. That is the primary purpose of this Special Industry Report from Comptroller John Sharp.

Industry Production and Overproduction:
The Texas economic landscape that people imagine is one dotted with oil pumps and flaring gas wells. The truth is the state's economy is much more diversified. In 1995, the total value of cash receipts for cattle and calf production in the state is estimated to have reached a record \$6.3 billion. This exceeds the estimated total value of natural gas produced (\$5.6 billion), but is somewhat less than the total value of oil production in the state (\$8.5 billion).

In addition, the beef cattle industry is by far the largest sector in the Texas agriculture industry. In 1994, revenues from cattle accounted for nearly one of every two dollars received in agriculture, or more specifically, 47.8 percent of all cash receipts. This not only greatly exceeds the share of total agricultural receipts generated by cotton, the state's second largest agricultural product, which accounts for 9.2 percent of all farm receipts, but even exceeds the value of all Texas crops combined (34.5 percent of all agricultural cash receipts).

The beef cattle industry is generally comprised of several components including ranchers or cattle producers, feed lots slaughter houses and other facilities such as auction yards. In 1995 there were 635 feedlots in Texas and 12 slaughter houses with at least 200 head capacity. The 5.5 million cattle marketed out of those feedlots in 1995 constitute the "fed

beef" portion of the industry. The remaining cattle marketed for beef are predominantly "cull cows" that are no longer used or needed to increase the size of herds. Such cattle are sent directly to slaughter facilities.

The cattle industry is not immune from cycles of high and low production. The inventory of cattle in Texas on January 1, 1995, stood at more than 15 million head, down slightly from 1994 levels, but still among the highest inventories since 1977. Cattle herds in Texas have been building since hitting a low point of less than 13 million head in 1990.

Nearly all agricultural commodities are subject to such cycles with the length of time between peaks and troughs of production controlled largely by the speed with which additional production can be brought in to the market and supply changes translated into price signals to the consumer. In the cattle industry, such cycles tend to occur over periods of eight to twelve years. By comparison, cycles in the hog industry tend to be considerably shorter, usually about four years in duration.

Although the exact timing of any particular peak or trough in the cycle often has a rationale all its own, one general rule of producer behavior underlies the cyclical process: the same behavior that is individually smart is also collectively disastrous. If prices are high, the appropriate response for any particular producer is to try to increase the amount produced. Collectively, such behavior on the part of all producers yields an oversupply of the commodity, resulting in declining prices and the "down side" of the cycle.

Such apparently is the case now. The real price of cattle, adjusted for inflation, has seen three peaks since 1970. Consequently, cattle inventories have also seen three peaks during this same period. Clearly the price-driven cyclical nature of the cattle industry is apparent. Moreover, it seems equally clear that some of the current concerns about the cattle market in Texas are the result of

economic cycles in cattle production. But, this is by no means the only influence on the state's cattle industry.

Effect of the Texas Drought on Cattle Returns

A reasonable response to oversupply is to hold cattle back from market until prices rebound. In late 1995 and early 1996, this is not a viable business strategy because of drought conditions. In short, the drought in Texas has substantially driven up the costs of maintaining cattle and in some cases made it impossible.

Dr. Ernest E. Davis at the Texas Agricultural Extension Service estimated that the \$1 per bushel increase in corn prices in the fall of 1995 translated into a \$10 per hundredweight decline in returns to cattle feeders on 500 pound calves. In addition, because there was no winter wheat for grazing stocker calves due to the drought, the return of calf production was reduced another \$6.50 per hundredweight during this period.

In early 1996, the price of corn rose an additional \$1 per bushel, further lowering returns to calf feeders. Ultimately, these increased costs probably induced feedlots to cut back their inventories, increasing the supply of calves in the market in April and May of 1996. This reduced calf prices by another \$5 per hundredweight. In total, based on these projections and estimated calf marketings, drought-related losses on feeder calf sales to Texas producers amounted to \$329.7 million from September 1995 to May 1996.

The effects of the drought also spilled over into other parts of the beef cattle industry. Dr. Davis estimated the additional supply from beef feeder operations would lower "cull cow" prices by \$5 per hundred weight. Based on an estimated slaughter of 200,000 head through May 1996, producers lost another \$90 million in this part of the market due to the drought.

Finally, the drought has required additional supplemental feeding because of the lack of range grass. From March 15 through May 31, 1996, supplemental hay and cottonseed meal cubes cost producers an estimated \$373.9 million which they would not have otherwise incurred with better weather conditions. In total, the 1995-96 Texas drought

had cost cattle producers an estimated \$793.6 million through May 1996.

A Break for the Consumer?

One source of concern whenever one sector of an industry is affected by over- or underproduction is how quickly the situation will correct itself. Clearly, the "liquidation" of cattle stocks over time will help bring supplies back into line with demand. If consumers increase their beef purchases, the situation will improve even faster.

The prime mechanism for accelerating this adjustment is retail prices. If declines in the prices faced by ranchers mirror what shoppers see at their retail meat counters, increases in consumer demand could help alleviate oversupply problems quickly. In the case of beef prices, this adjustment appears to be underway, but price changes on the retail side do not come close to matching those incurred by producers.

According to the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the average retail price per pound of six cuts of beef in early May 1996 are down 7.2 percent from average retail prices in 1993, the peak year for beef prices. This change, however, compares poorly to the 32.5 percent drop in the price per head of cattle received by Texas ranchers from 1993 to 1996.

But even a beef price drop at the wholesale level may not always spell gains for the consumer. In the case of McDonald's Big Mac, for example, the cost of beef is only one part of the selling cost. Declines in the cost of beef could well be offset by price increases of other ingredients, or simply retained as profits.

Packer Concentration

Against this backdrop of cyclical overproduction, changing international competition and drought, it is not surprising that the cattle industry is more sensitive than ever to concerns over other market problems. Recently, there have been growing complaints that the increasing concentration of market power into the hands of a relatively few meat packers has put cattle producers at even more of a financial disadvantage.

Alleged abuses of market power by meat packers have a significant legal and regulatory history. The Sherman Antitrust Act was passed in part due to ranchers' concerns over concentration. The virtual control of the market by five packing companies in the early 1900's led to the passage of the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921. Indeed, one study noted that "every major antitrust law has been the result of packer concentration."

At the heart of this controversy lies the fact that both the cattle producers and the packers maintain logical but diametrically

opposed interpretations of much of the same data. For example, as evidence of the anticompetitive gains from market concentration, producers cite the divergence of retail beef prices from those received by ranchers for cattle, the fact that the four largest packers accounted for 82 percent of steer and heifer slaughter in 1994 and that, as noted in a recent USDA report, packers' profits have grown in the last three years from a loss of \$3 per head to a profit of from \$8 to \$24 per head.

Further complicating this controversy are other changes in the nature of the beef market. Meat packers are "vertically integrating" through arrangements known as captive supplies—agreements with producers and feed lots to obtain cattle two or more weeks prior to slaughter. Packers maintain that these types of agreements and others help them manage beef quality in a marketplace in which consumers are increasingly quality conscious. Beef producers with such contracts cite increased financial stability, reduced risk, and the ability to attract loans from financial institutions as prime benefits.

On the other hand, increased reliance on such captive supplies has called into question the ability to establish rational beef prices outside of these arrangements. In noting that today less than 2 percent of fed cattle go through the "price discovery process" of open and competitive bidding, the USDA Advisory Committee on Agricultural Concentration termed the current price reporting system "a relic." Moreover, this same committee heard testimony that meat packers sometimes offer producers a higher market price on the condition that the higher price "not be reported." Not only does such behavior constitute price manipulation because it affects prices offered other sellers, but it is also very difficult to detect and verify.

Given this backdrop, it is not surprising that the USDA's Advisory Committee on Agricultural Concentration's prime recommendation is to increase the availability of data documenting cattle prices. The committee noted that captive supplies and other forms of vertical integration and coordination tend to thin market price reporting by reducing volumes on which reported prices are based and disadvantage suppliers who do not have packer arrangements. Moreover, the Committee urged Congress to increase legal and investigative resources to enforce key provisions of the Packers and

Stockyards Act against anti-competitive behavior.

In Texas, recent developments in a slightly different part of the cattle slaughter business have also highlighted the packer concentration issue. All of the recent research on packer concentration by the USDA has centered on the "steer and heifer" market and the slaughter of fed beef as opposed to the smaller "bull and cow" market.

In 1996, IBP, the largest of the national beef packing companies, began steps to purchase the packing operation of the Calhoun plant in Palestine, Texas. IBP proposed to not only keep the plant in operation, but to increase its size and employment. This plant, however, did not process fed beef, the source of most of IBP's other operations, but slaughtered cows and bulls raised on area ranches.

Many local producers saw IBP's efforts in Palestine as an attempt to extend their dominance in the fed beef market into the "cow-killing" side of the cattle business. Agricultural associations sought out the help of the U.S. Justice Department to block this sale under federal anti-trust regulations, but Justice declined to pursue the matter. Subsequently, Texas Attorney General Dan Morales filed for a temporary restraining order on IBP's purchase of this plant until the state had the opportunity to examine the impacts of the sale on the Texas cattle market. Following a hearing on May 13, 1996, the request for a temporary restraining order was denied.

Findings and Summary

The cattle industry is one of Texas' major economic sectors and every effort should be made to ensure it remains a strong and vital part of our economy. Unfortunately, at the present time, the industry is in the throes of a wrenching price slide. While the industry's problems are exacerbated by the current Texas drought, it is unlikely that the current ill-health of the cattle industry in Texas can be fully attributed to Mexican imports or to NAFTA.

But there remains strong concern about the concentration of market power into the hands of a relatively few meat packing companies. The Comptroller's Office concurs with the USDA in their assessment that better data on price transactions are needed to monitor this problem and that Congress should allocate additional resources towards ensuring that competition remains the driving influence in the cattle industry.

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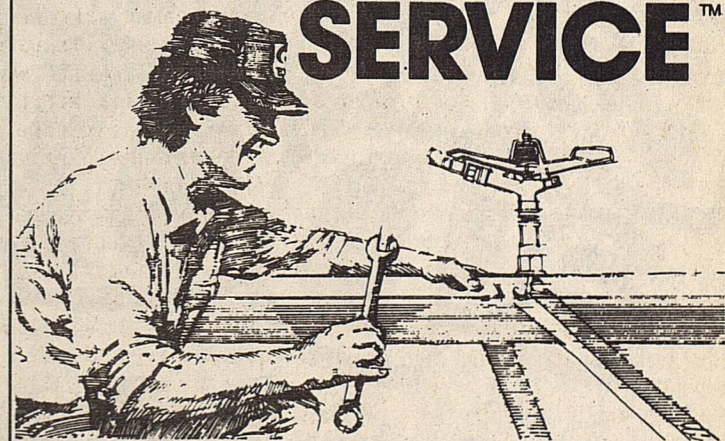
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Stress & Strain On Water Supply

An article in the June 17 issue of the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal outlined the plight of the huge Ogallala Aquifer, the source of all county irrigation water, and water for use by all residents and businesses.

The continuing two year drought has spurred more irrigation well drilling throughout our Southern High Plains area.

As of June 15, seventy-one water well drilling permits have been issued by Sandy Land Underground Water District here, the governmental entity monitoring and regulating our invaluable ground water resources in the County. Fifty-four of the new wells have been completed and logged, according to Kathy Jones, Sandy Land Administrative Assistant.

Additionally, \$657,000

has been made available to County Ag Producers for purchasing new, more efficient center pivot systems. Farmers can obtain these funds in the form of 7-year loans, currently at 6.05% interest, with 20% down on the invoice price. Jones reports only one loan in the amount above was used to modify and improve an older system. Twenty-three County producers have taken advantage of the lending program, purchasing both quarter mile and half-mile systems.

The Ogallala Aquifer, stretching from our area to South Dakota, is the source of a huge supply of water, but increased demands, and the ongoing drought conditions with no recharging from rain-fall, are putting serious pressure on the storage system.

Scruggs Siblings At East Texas Reunion



Brothers and sisters, Back row, L-R: Joe Scruggs, Chuck Scruggs, Hilburn Scruggs. Front: Avis Lambert, Holly Dyer, Eva Melton, Errolene Brimberry.

South Plains College Events Schedule

Registration for the second summer term at South Plains College in Levelland is scheduled July 11.

Registration is scheduled 2-6 p.m. in the SPC Women's Gym.

Classes begin July 15 and end Aug. 15.

Late registration will be 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and 5:30-6:30 p.m. July 15 & 16. A \$15 late registration fee and \$5 add/drop fee will be charged.

Courses will be offered during the second summer term in such areas as accounting, biology, chemistry, English, general business, government, history, law enforcement technology, microcomputing, mathematics, physical education, psychology, reading, sociology, Spanish and speech communication.

To obtain a 1996 summer class schedule, contact the SPC Office of Admissions and Records at 894-9611, ext. 2374 or 2375.

New student orientation for students planning to enroll this fall at South Plains College begins July 17 and is scheduled according to major.

Students will pre-register for fall classes during orientation.

New Student orientation is required of all incoming freshman and transfer students who made unsatisfactory progress at their last college attended, according to Andrea Rangel, registrar.

Orientation sessions are designed to help provide the skills necessary for college success and to help students make the transition to college life. Sessions will include information on scholarships, financial aid, housing, improvement of basic college skills, and other information.

Students who plan to enroll at SPC this fall should return a completed application for admission and transcripts from their high school and each college attended, noted Rangel. Applications for admission can be obtained by contacting the Office of Admissions and

Records at 806-894-9611, ext. 2374 or 2395.

Students should also contact the SPC Guidance and Counseling Office for an orientation date if they have not yet done so at 894-9611, ext. 2366.

Fall registration at South Plains College in Levelland begins Aug. 22.

Registration on the SPC Levelland campus, located at 1401 S. College Avenue in Levelland, will be 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-4 p.m. Aug. 22 starting in the Women's Gym. For a registration permit, contact the SPC Office of Admissions and Records at 894-9611, ext. 2374 or 2375.

Evening registration on the SPC Levelland campus will be 4-6:30 p.m. Aug. 22 in the Women's Gym. A registration permit is not required. Financial Aid Award Day has been scheduled 9-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-6:30 p.m. Aug. 21 and is designated for pre-registered students receiving financial aid only.

The SPC Lubbock campus, located at 1302 Main in Lubbock, will schedule registration Aug. 21 for returning students who have enrolled in the spring or summer 1996 semesters. Returning student registration is 9 a.m.-noon (last names L-Z), 3-6 p.m. (A-K) and 6-7 p.m. (A-Z).

New student registration on the SPC Lubbock campus is Aug. 22, from 9 a.m.-noon for last names L-Z, and 3-6 p.m. for A-K. Open registration on the Lubbock campus is 6-7 p.m., Aug. 22.

Open registration for SPC courses offered at Reese Air Force Base is Aug. 19-20. Enrollment is 4:30-7 p.m. Aug. 19 and 5:30-7:30 p.m. Aug. 20 in Building 920 (Consolidated Base Personnel Offices), room 130. SPC offers four 11-week sessions on the base.

To obtain a fall 1996 schedule of classes listing course information at all three campuses, contact the SPC Office of Admissions and Records in Levelland at 894-9611, ext. 2374 or 2375.

New Restaurant Slated To Open Here

The Lalo Ortiz family, formerly of Muleshoe, plans the opening of "Lalito's Mexican Restaurant" here Friday, June 21. The new eatery is located on the east side of the building where Plains Depot is located, on Cowboy Way.

Mr. Ortiz is no stranger to a restaurant kitchen. For the past twelve years, he has cooked for the original Leal's Restaurant in Muleshoe. There are other Leal's Mexican Food Restaurants in Clovis, Plainview and Lubbock. The Leal family has assisted Ortiz with his business venture here. Lalo expressed his appreciation to the Leal's for their help and his 12 year association with them.

The Ortiz family invites Plains and all County residents to visit them for some very good Mexican food.

It Happened In Texas In June

JUNE 24, 1860- Lt. Wm Echols left San Antonio with camel train to reconnoiter the portion of W. Texas lying between the San Antonio to El Paso road, the Rio Grande and Pecos river-20 camels, 25 pack mules were in the train.

JUNE 27, 1874-Battle between the buffalo hunters and Indians at Adobe Walls, north of Amarillo.

JUNE 28, 1919-19th Amendment to US Constitution, guaranteeing women the right to vote in federal elections, ratified by Texas Legislature.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor,

The following article in the Wednesday, June 5 issue of the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal caught my eye;

GTE makes changes in Tahoka
GTE telephone customers in Tahoka will soon dial four less digits when calling O'Donnell, Lubbock, Brownfield and Lamesa. And customers calling from these communities to Tahoka will also deal with less button pressing.

Starting June 12, these telephone calls will no longer be long-distance calls. Rather, customers will dial the local seven-digit numbers, without the area code.

On June 26, the local-calling extension will also affect calls to and from Tahoka and Post.

After June 28, customers calling between Anton and Shallowater will also be making local calls.

Telephone service subscribers of Plains, Denver City and Higginbotham have been enjoying this service for some thirty years. It took almost a year to persuade then General Telephone Co. to agree to the toll free idea; the REA had to step in to help us out. Many thousands of dollars have been saved since the change.

Pierre St.Romain (Ed. Note) Mr. St.Romain is the retired former owner of Romain Telephone Co., now evolved to our Texas ALLTEL operation.



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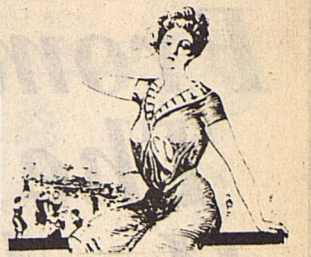
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Femme Friends



County 4-H'ers Compete



"From Vine to Rind It's Watermelon Time"
Jinger Hancock and Sarah Jones won 3rd place in the State 4-H Horticulture Preparation and Use Contest. Their 12 minute presentation was on watermelon promotion and preparation.

Jinger Hancock and Sarah Jones from Denver City won third place in the State 4-H Horticulture Preparation and Use contest. This was one of over 30 contests held during the Texas State 4-H Roundup on the Texas A&M University Campus in College Station. Over 3,000 4-H'ers from across the state participated in this week-long activity.

The 4-H'ers placed 2nd at the District 4-H Roundup Contest which allowed them to advance to state with their 12 minute presentation on watermelon preparation and

promotion. The district competition was held in Levelland on May 4, 1996. There were a total of five Yoakum County 4-H'ers who presented talks on various subjects.

Casey Mayes and Jeremy Horn placed first in the Horticulture Preparation and Use contest on the Junior 2 level.

Tara Price placed second in the Poultry contest in the Junior 1 division.

Only senior level first and second places are eligible to advance to State Roundup.

Senior Citizens Corner

The Center is busy as usual, but still there's not much news. These hot days tend to slow old people up.

Recent visitors were a trio of Norwest people, also Chris Flippin, Truett House and George Crittenden. Visitors are always Welcome.

It was like old times to see Ester Holland grabbing a couple of lunches. She and Margaret Adams were doing some quilting.

On Monday of last week we celebrated June birthdays, anniversaries, and Senior of the Month.

The Senior of the Month was Billie O'Neal, and the only anniversary was Marcene and Claude Beattie. Their wedding was special to all of us. They were married right here at the Center and have been coming each day since. Congratulations to all!

Dates to remember:

Line Dancing every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9:45 AM

Wed. - Pool Tournament at 10:00 AM

Thurs. - Miracle Ear at 9:15 AM; Gail Ballor 11:30 AM

Lunch everyday at 11:30 AM. Come bring a friend and enjoy a day with us.

See you next week, Smitty

Thought For The Day
Responding to God's call is the beginning of a lifelong treasure hunt.
Karen Young

Thank You!

The family of Homer Sudderth would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to our friends and relatives for the gifts of food, cards, phone calls, visits, flowers, and memorial contributions.

Special thanks to Rev. Rick Doyle for his assistance and the "special service", the Masonic Lodge for the Graveside service, and the members of Challis Baptist Church in Brownfield for the funeral dinner.

Sincere appreciation to Hospice of Boulder County, Colorado, Sandia Hospice of Albuquerque, NM, and Hospice of Yoakum County.

BROTHERS IN CONFLICT

Brother against brother—the conflict is as ancient as humanity. In the Bible it is often conflict between an elder and a younger brother, with the younger coming out ahead. It was the younger Abel who surpassed the elder Cain in offering a sacrifice pleasing to God. Cain seemed to recoup by killing Abel, but he was promptly driven away by the Lord and forced to yield his dominance to a still younger brother, Seth. Isaac was the heir to God's promise to Abraham, though his elder brother, Ishmael, was legally the son of Sarah rather than the surrogate mother, Hagar. Jacob used trickery to get the birthright and blessings due his elder twin, Esau. Joseph's elder brothers hated him so much they sold him into slavery, but he rose to become lord of Egypt, in a position to hold his brothers' lives in his hands.

Who's Who In The Bible

Arnold - Lusk United In Marriage



Michell Annette Arnold and Stephen Carl Lusk were married on June 22 at the First Baptist Church of Rule, Texas, officiated by John Greeson.

Mr. and Mrs. Rickie C. Arnold of Rule are the bride's parents. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Binns of Dallas and Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Joe Lusk of Rule.

Michelle Little of Bluff Dale was matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Jennifer Curry of Hale Center, Doris Kear of Perryton, Holly Huckaby of Midland, Denise Campbell of Amarillo, the bride's sister, and Shannon Kittley of Rule, the bridegroom's sister.

Jason Tanner of Rule was best man. Groomsmen were Philip Manske of Sagerton, Ronnie Wendebor, Ray Don Campbell, Robert Saffell, and the bridegroom's brother-in-law Rob Kittle, all of Rule.

Jay Beakley of Old Glory, Brian Manske, Michael Manske, and Greg

Teichelman, all of Sagerton were ushers.

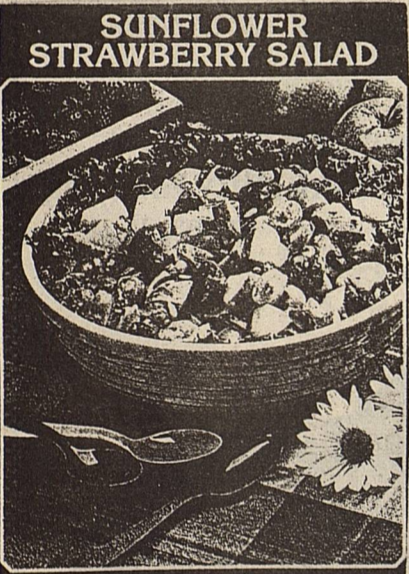
The bridegroom's niece Samantha Kittley was the flower girl, and his nephew Will Kittley was the ring bearer. Nephew to the bridegroom Trey Kittley and Johnathan Hisey were candle lighters. They are all of Rule.

Singers for the event were Lesli Rowe, Emily Blair, Lexi Warren, Dawn Garland, and Michaela Traweck, all of Plains.

The bride graduated from Hale Center High School and Texas Tech University with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She is employed by the plains Independent School District.

The bridegroom graduated from Rule High School and Western Texas College with an associate's degree in criminal justice. He is attending Texas State Technical College in Sweetwater.

The couple will live in Plains after a wedding trip to Walt Disney World in Florida.



2 cups sliced fresh strawberries

SUNFLOWER STRAWBERRY SALAD
1 medium apple, diced
1 cup seedless green grapes, halved
1/2 cup thinly sliced celery
1/4 cup raisins
1/2 cup strawberry yogurt
2 Tbsp. sunflower seeds
Lettuce leaves, optional
In a large bowl, combine strawberries, apple, grapes, celery and raisins. Stir in the yogurt. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour. Add sunflower seeds and toss; serve on lettuce leaves if desired. Yield: 6 servings.

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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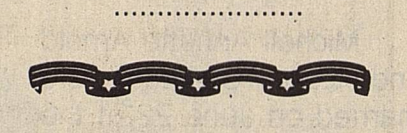
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From The Hack



I celebrated Father's Day by taking the bride out for lunch, after working on this rag that AM. What did you do, dad? Apparently a huge majority of area families had the same idea the bride did. We had to take film to develop in Hobbs, and every restaurant we considered and passed was crammed packed with families honoring patriarchs of the clan. The line seemed shorter at Furr's, compared to Western Sizzling, the Golden Corral, and the Chinese Kitchen. Still had to stumble along in line with all the old geezers (Bride shushed me by saying, "Shut your mouth, you're as old as most of them"), and families with seemingly hundreds of babies, all of them fretful, yowling after Church services, telling the world they had rather be at home in their beds, or needed a bottom changing. It was quite apparent the women folk were enjoying Father's Day... you could almost read their minds as they beamed, while shuffling along in the mo-

lasses slow line. "I don't have to cook for this slob, and I don't have to ask him to help with dishes, which he never does anyway!" I did get calls from some of our offsprings wishing me well, and unbelievably, none of them asked for money after saying "Happy Father's Day, Dad". There have been much worse days. Bride did grant me the privilege of a long nap that afternoon, which was thoughtfully uninterrupted, after I disconnected all the phones while she was in the powder room. And I did get to scan some of the US Open Golf Championship, and see the Chicago Bulls (BOO! Dennis Rodman) come back and down Seattle. All in all, it wasn't a bad Father's Day. And, the frugal fare at Furr's only cost me \$16.94. It was better than getting a stupid tie... which would have been charged to me, anyway.



Heard another TRUE tale at the Bride's recent family reunion a few weeks ago. One of her nephews said his boss wanted to take some business associates to an important Houston Oiler football game in the Astrodome. Well ahead of time, he ordered and received six choice tickets for the game, still weeks away. He put them in an envelope and stored them in his dresser drawer.

In the meantime, one of his young grandsons called and reported some 'real chicken feathers' for a school project. He went to a friend's farm, caught a dominicker rooster, and plucked a handful of feathers from the highly irate fowl.

He gave the feathers to his wife, told her to put them away for the grandson's pending visit.

The Oiler game rolled around, and the guy gathered up his business buddies and drove to the Astrodome. They went to the booth to present their tickets, and he handed the attendant the

envelope containing the ducks, and the guy reached in it, pulled out a handful of grey, black and white feathers.

All seven people were speechless for a moment. The guy realized his wife must have put the kid's feathers in his drawer where the tickets were stored. His big wheel business friends were a bit antsy, realizing they were about to miss the big game which was a complete sell out.

The guy frantically began an explanation of what happened to the ticket taker, who was having difficulties controlling his hysterical laughter as the feathers floated around the office.

The frantic guy offered to pay for the phone call if Mr. Ticket Man would call his home and have his wife read the ticket numbers off to him,

to prove he had bought and I thought I'd heard it all, but this tops everything. This is so weird and stupid I gotta believe you, and I'm gonna give you six passes." All's well that ends well, I guess.

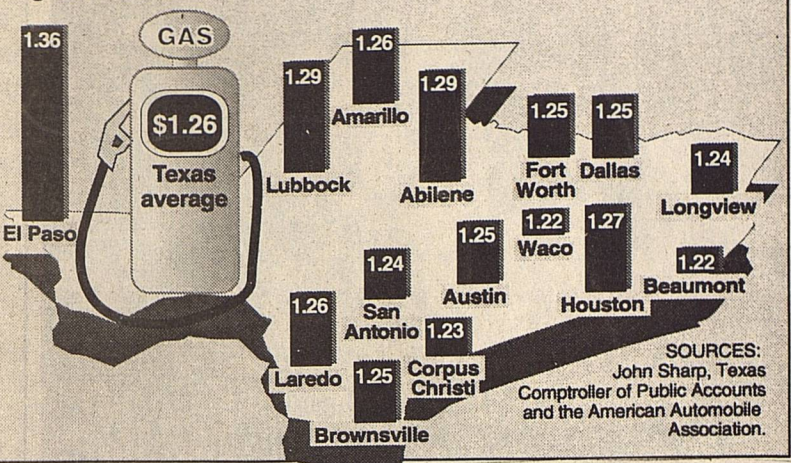
The guy finally managed to stop laughing long enough to giggle, "Mister, I've been doing this job eight years,

and I thought I'd heard it all, but this tops everything. This is so weird and stupid I gotta believe you, and I'm gonna give you six passes." All's well that ends well, I guess.

Keeping an eye on Texas

West Texans pay at the pump

Texans paid an average of \$1.26 for a gallon of self-serve regular unleaded gasoline on Memorial Day weekend—a 7.7 percent jump over 1995's average in May of \$1.17. Prices in West Texas were among the highest in the state.



SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and the American Automobile Association.

The Oldest Living Thing

For many years a 4,600-year-old bristlecone pine in California, Methuselah, was thought to be the oldest living thing in North America. Today there is a challenger for the title.

The claimant is the box huckleberry (*Gaylussacia brachycera*), a low evergreen shrub that bears a mass of pink flowers in spring. A single specimen of this sprawling plant grows for more than a mile along a slope beside the Juniata River in Pennsylvania. The plant is estimated to be an incredible 13,000 years old. When it began growing, Asia and North America were connected by a land bridge and

mammoths roamed the earth.

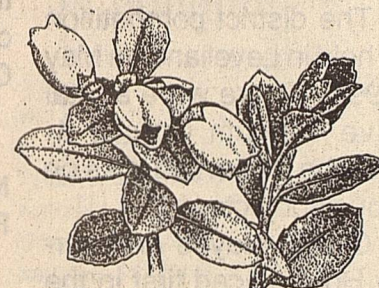
The plant was discovered in 1920. Botanists are certain it is just one plant because, although the box huckleberry produces abundant fruit, the plants cannot fertilize themselves. Seedlings grow

only when fertilization occurs between two different plants.

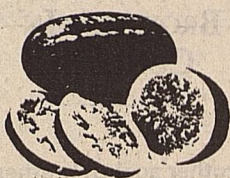
The shrub, the rarest of the huckleberries, spreads by means of runners that creep along under the ground at the rate of six inches a year. Knowing its rate of growth enables botanists to determine the age of the plant.

Another box huckleberry in Pennsylvania covers eight acres. Its age is estimated at a mere 1,200 years. Other colonies of the plant have been found in Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia.

But Methuselah does retain at least one title: the oldest living tree in North America.



The box huckleberry in bloom



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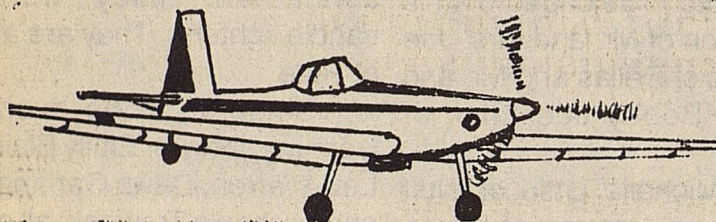
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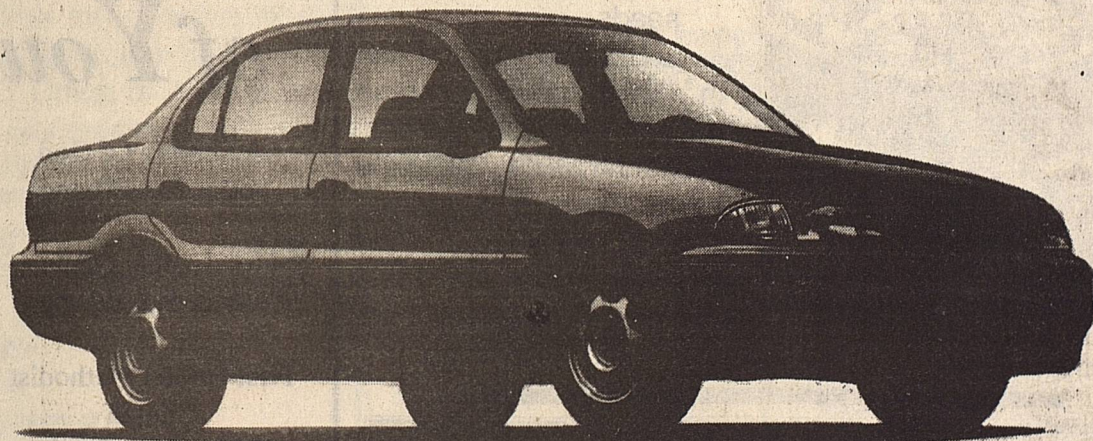
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