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# Cowboy Country News



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

Volume V, Issue 41, Wednesday, June 23, 1999

## “It’s Time To Step Down”

Lattrell McDonnell to retire June 30

15,452 days is quite a spell to stay on a pay roll. That is the number of days Librarian Lattrell McDonnell is credited with on county payroll records, showing her starting date of county employment March 1, 1957.

She told CCN last week her first job with the county was as a clerk in the Tax Office, under Bert Bartlett. Later, she would work for J.W. O. Alldredge in the County Clerk office.

In 1959, she transferred to the Yoakum County Library here,

and was trained by then Librarian Norelle Sloan. Upon Sloan’s retirement in 1967, Lattrell was appointed head Librarian, and has been in that position since. She has seen many changes in the public facility.

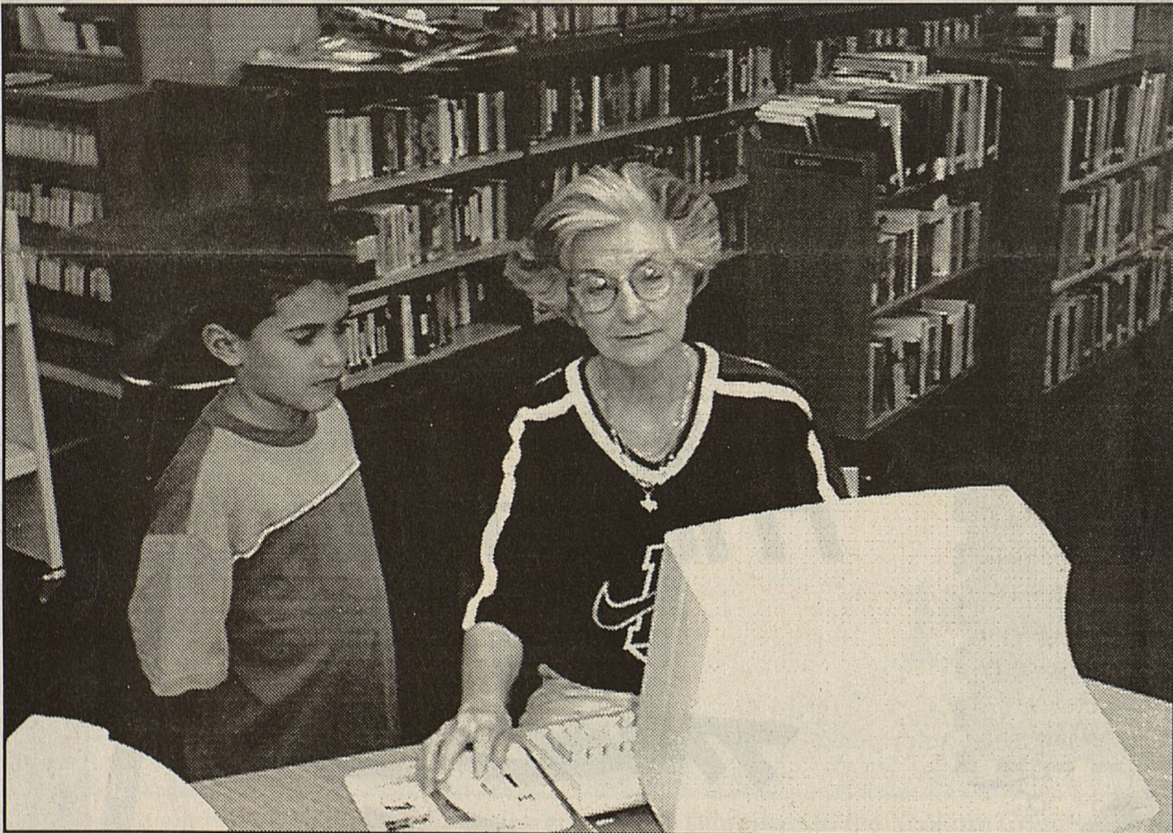
“During those years, we had about 12,000 books available to patrons. We would average checking in and out 40 to 70 books daily. Today, we have almost 36,000 books, videos and books on cassettes, and we will handle anywhere from 140 to 300 items every day.”

The library was expanded by

4,500 square feet in 1983, and has steadily expanded its patron services.

“Prior to 1985, we operated with a manual card system. I still wonder how we ever managed to keep up with our inventory of material. It was such time consuming by hand procedure,” McDonnell said.

Today, all materials are accounted for on a computerized system. Today’s library patron also benefits from computers for the public use, first installed in 1995 and 1996. Two computers enable patrons to



Lattrell McDonnell shows some of the internet wonders to young Zachary Guerra, 8.

find books and reference material, and two more have access to the internet, and are also used by many youngsters for electronic gaming.

“Our library has grown, expanded and improved in so many ways. Our younger children enjoys weekly Filmtime, we sponsor a summer reading program for youngsters, we regularly bring in guest authors to review their work for the public.”

She continued, “Our Heritage room is available for many types of meetings called for

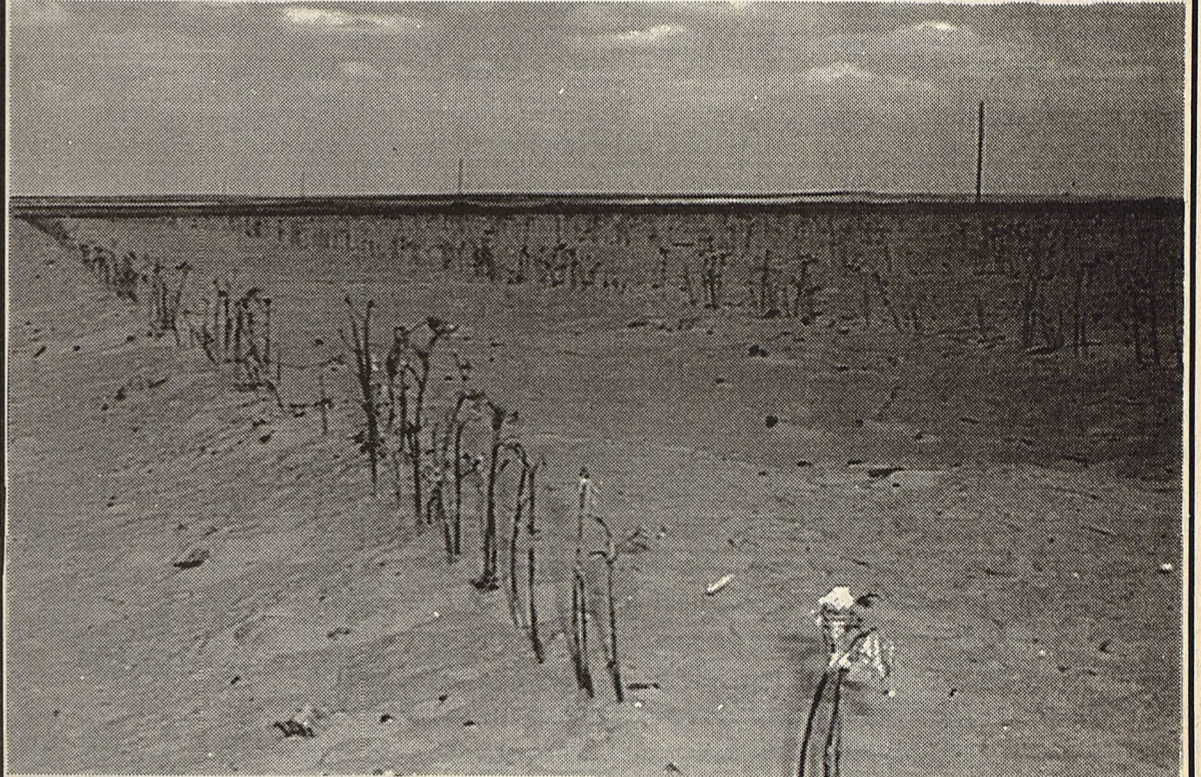
non-profit events, and we serve as a deposit site for a number of civic and school functions. Our association with the West Texas Library System means we can borrow hard to find books and reference material from virtually any library across the country, even some foreign nations. I am also very proud of the time and work we have spent on our literacy programs over the years, helping people with their reading and writing skills.”

Lattrell said she was a bit apprehensive about her pending retirement. “I have been in the li-

brary so long, I know I will miss it very much. I know it’s time to step down, and there are things I want to do, including some travel, but I also know I will miss the contact with all our patrons. I love people, and the library has been a perfect environment for that.”

She added, “I am so grateful for all the support we have had all these years from all our judges and commissioners. They have been an immense help in our library’s growth and improvements.”

## Ground Level Shot of Devastation



This photo depicts the remains of a field of irrigated cotton some three miles North of Tokio, and is typical of a huge number of cotton acres on the High Plains destroyed by recent hail storms.

An exact count of the acreage is not yet known, and many producers report some surviving fields are showing signs of disease from too much moisture and unusually cold weather.

## Pace of Watermelon Round Up planning stepped up

4th Annual Yoakum County Watermelon Round Up General Chair Jeannette Head was a busy person last Thursday. She addressed the noon Lions Club and brought them up to speed on plans for the September 4 fun event. That evening, she chaired a meeting of 16 volunteers working on many committees involved in staging another successful Round Up.

Newly designed caps touting the big event are available for sale at many locations, and new Round Up theme T-Shirt will be available July 1. New brochures detailing the event were designed by Renaissance Productions and mailed recently.

Head said all the advertising space had been sold in a 32 page Tabloid featuring scenes from last year’s Round Up, which will be printed later. She said she was very pleased with companies and individuals response to advertising in this year’s issue, considering recent events in the area economy.

All available food booths have been rented, and some arts and crafts display booths are still available.

James Altman reported musical entertainment would again be an all day feature, and would include an outstanding champion junior fiddler. This year a professional announcer will be on

hand in the stage area to keep the crowd informed of the day long activities. A treat for youngsters will be a miniature “Train” to ride, pulled by a golf cart.

Games for the young and not so young will be featured throughout the day, last year successful volleyball tournament will be repeated, and the Classic Car Show shows signs of attracting even more exhibitors. A horseshoe pitching tournament will be a new feature this year, and will offer hefty cash prizes.

Hershel Smith has volunteered to cut and bale straw hay bales to be used for seating around the stage area. In the near future, large billboard signs will go on display just out of Wolfforth and in Hobbs, NM.

A publicity committee has been assigned a number of television and radio stations to contact to arrange for interviews about the festival, and Cub Scouts will place signs promoting the Round Up and colored by area youngsters will be placed in business windows.

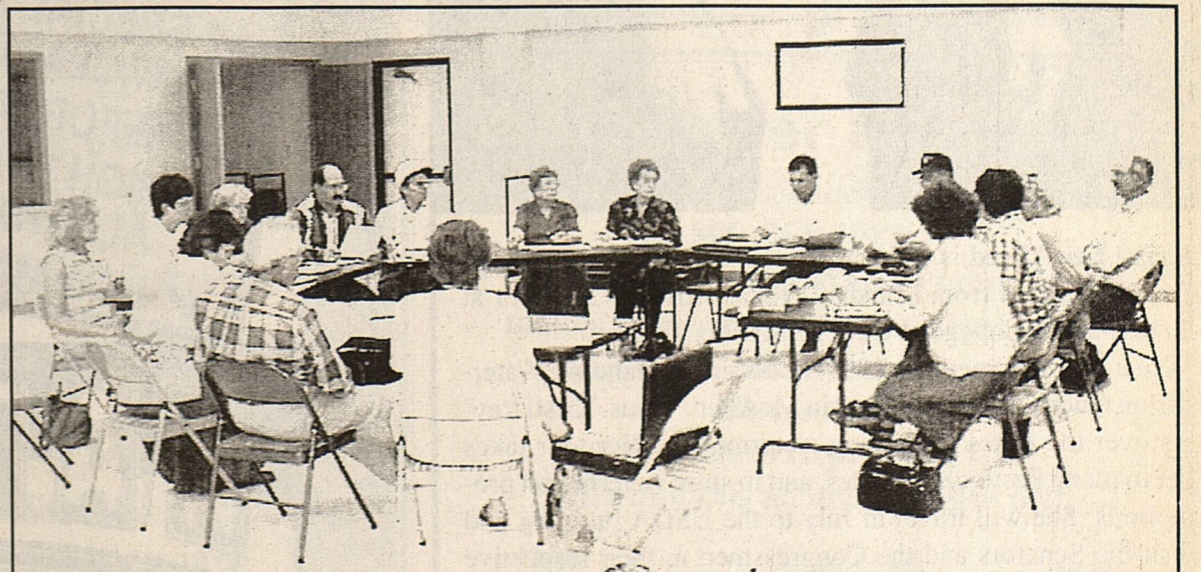
A tremendous amount of volunteer work and effort is required to stage the Round Up, and Head reminds county residents, “We can find a job for you if you’d like to make our fourth Round Up another success.”

## County to receive ‘Tobacco’ money

In Monday’s session of Commissioners Court, a resolution was passed authorizing the law firm of Allison, Bass and Associates to handle accounting of funds generated by last years state law suit against the tobacco industry. Portions of the multi-billion dollar settlement have been apportioned for all 254 counties in the state.

On January 7 this year, Yoakum County received a check for \$155,170 in settlement funds for 1998. Each county’s share of the settlement is based on the amount of money the county spends for local health care. Judge Brewer said the amount of money the county will receive in 1999 and 2000 has not been determined yet, but in all probability will be less than the 1998 payment. The county will pay the law firm \$775 this year and another \$775 in 2000 for their services.

To ease public apprehension, Precipitation Enhancement officials announced recently there has been no cloud seeding to enhance rainfall since June 12, and none is planned for the area in the immediate future



Round Up volunteers at planning meeting included, clockwise from center, Jeannette Head, L.J. Sanders, Linda Powell, Melba Crutcher, Toni Jones, Carolyn Culwell, Bill Helwig, Melvin Dearing, Wilma Powell, Mary Jo St. Romain, David Brunson, James Altman, Travis Jones, Karen Williams, Cindra Box and Wadonna Davis.

## New minister welcomed into community



"I truly believe God played a major role in sending us to work and serve in Plains," new resident and Pastor of First United Methodist Church Tom Carter told CCN Friday.

The 49 year old minister and his 49 year old wife Rhonda are attempting to end the trials of a move to a new community, meet their new neighbors, settle in, and become contributors to the community.

Carter and wife Rhonda echoed their sentiments about the relocation to Plains. "We're ecstatic! When we were going through the district selection process, we were asked, 'tell us how you would envision your ideal first full fledged church assignment.'

He told the officials, after much thought, "I see myself working in a small, rural community, hopefully with a church membership of some 120 to 150 members. Hopefully, my ministry would be within two hours drive of Lubbock, because of family there in medical care." His wife Rhonda is a Regis-

tered X-Ray Technician with some 20 years experience. She said she will probably, after a "get familiar session", try to find employment in the medical field, or possibly the school system.

Tom attended three years at Texas Tech, and is currently working on his bachelor degree at Lubbock Christian University with a major in Organizational Management.

Tom is a relative newcomer to the ministry. "For years, I played the role of the Prodigal Son. It was a long, tough process for me to accept the message I'd received to accept God and his wishes, but I finally listened, and here we are."

He said, "We are so happy to be here in Plains, near my family in Lovington, and near enough to Lubbock to visit both our friends and family there."

Asked about his goals in his new position here, he said "I want us to be more active in our outreach programs, I would love to see a stronger, more active Christian youth program, not just in

our denomination, but in all the community churches. I would like for all of us to work together to promote the work of Jesus and forego much of our denominational thinking."

Reverend Carter added, "Please tell the entire community we are so pleased and excited to be here. We want to serve, and become a part of this community. Our front door is always open for all - we may not have all the answers, but we are available

At press time, Tom has conducted two Sunday services at the church. They also assisted in conducting a day long Vacation Bible School last Saturday, attended by over two dozen local youngsters.



These youngsters worked hard for two hours last Saturday morning. They rode their bikes around Stanford Park to earn pledges and donations for St. Jude's Childrens Hospital. Shown are Natalie Butler, Stephanie Addison, Kimber Williams, Chris and Scott Addison

## 1999 Texas & Oklahoma Watermelon Queen Kristi Lee Allred



Kristi Lee Allred is the 21 year old daughter of Kathy and Dr. John Allred from Marshall, Texas. Kristi is a Senior at Texas A& M College at College Station, Texas.

Kristi was crowned the 1999 Texas and Oklahoma Watermelon Queen in January 1999 in McAllen, Texas. Kristi travels over the states promoting watermelons. Her tour takes her to many Festivals, Parades, and in store watermelon promotions. She will travel in July to the USDA building and visit the Senators and the Congressmen in their respective offices.

Kristi will be on hand for the 4th Annual Watermelon Round Up here September 4, 1999.

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## Lions name new officers



In their June 17 meeting, new Lions Club officers for the coming year were sworn into office. Vaughn Culwell, center, will serve as 'Boss Lion', or President of the club. He replaces outgoing President David Bunch. Harry Richardson, far left, remains in office as Secretary-Treasurer. T.J. Miller, next in photo, assumes the title of "Lion Tamer", replacing Pierre St. Romain who stepped down after many years service. Debbie Rushing will serve as the new First Vice-President, and David Brunson, far right, will handle duties of the "Tail Twister".

During the meeting, plans were discussed for the clubs role in the upcoming Old Settlers Reunion and Rodeo. The club will again handle the concession stand and parking during the three nights of the rodeo.

## Prize Winning T-Shirt Design



This is the winning Round Up T-Shirt design recently submitted to the Yoakum County Connection. The design was the creation of Denver City Junior High Student Jennifer Sturdivant, under direction of art instructor David Mitchell. The shirts go on sale in July.

## First skirmish in "Boll Weevil War" begins here

Darrell Dusek, Zone Manager with the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation office here, reported Friday the local office is fully staffed, the extensive computer equipment is on line and operating, and field personnel are busy mapping cotton fields in the Yoakum County district. Seasonal field personnel will be hired soon, and hundreds of weevil traps will soon be in place to monitor the costly insect pest. The Weevil War has begun.

Recently, Dusek mailed a letter to all individual crop consultants working in the zone. The self explanatory letter is reproduced here;

"As the Boll Weevil Program gets started in your area, I would like to keep you informed of the activities you will be seeing out in the fields. Mapping has already begun and will continue until completed. Each Field Unit Supervisor will be mapping their own work unit, which will consist of approximately 40,000 acres.

Seasonal employees will begin working the week of June 20. After training, these employees will start to deploy

traps around the perimeter of each cotton field at the rate of one trap per 40 acres of cotton. These traps will be inspected once a week and the weevil count and date of inspection will be written on each trap. Feel free to go to any of these traps in your area and look at the information that is written on them.

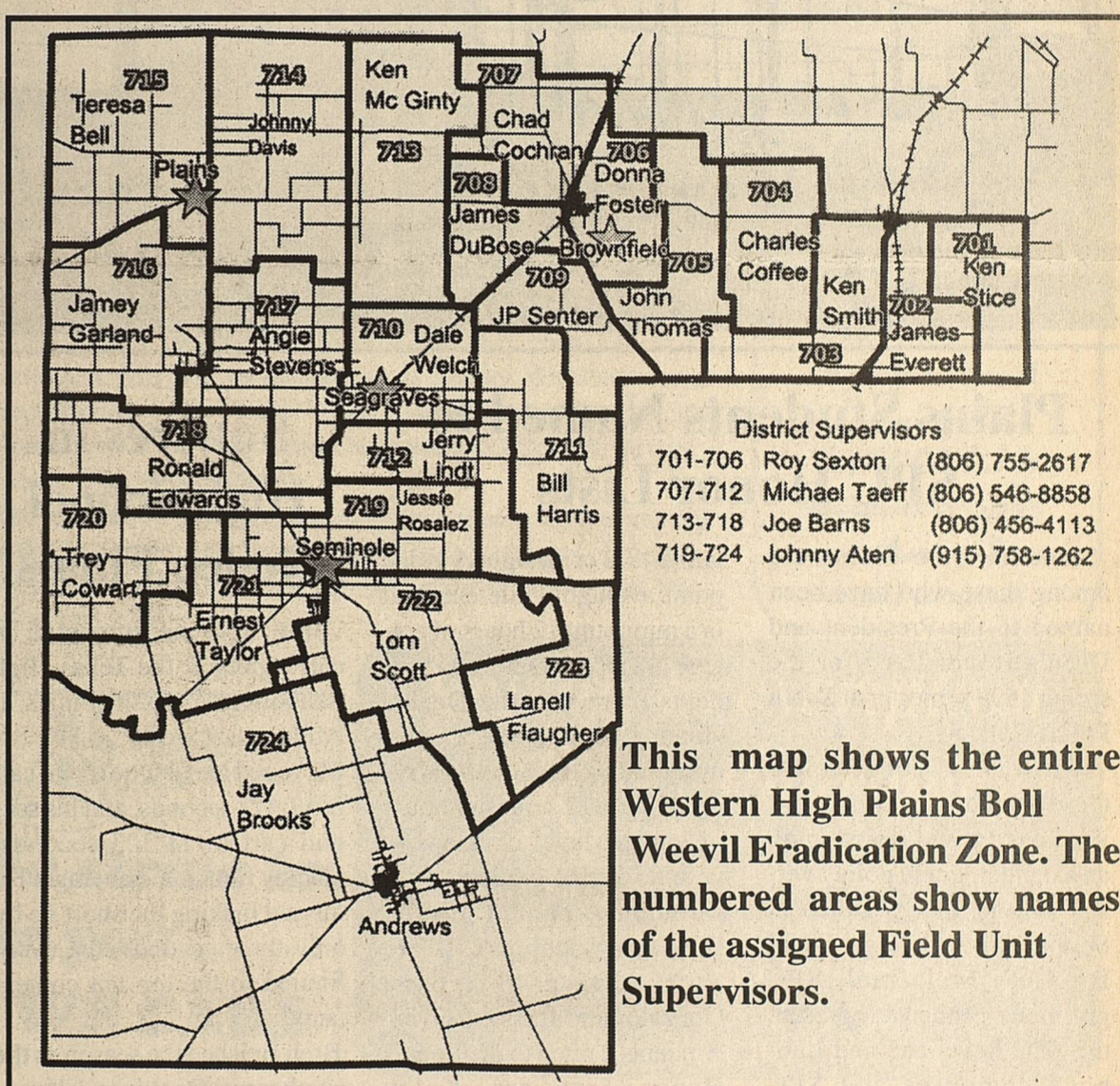
As to not interfere with any other traps that may currently be placed in any field, we will place our traps away from existing traps. If you choose, you may pull up your traps and use the information that is written on the Foundation's traps. Our traps will remain in each field until there is no longer any hostable cotton remaining.

Diapause treatment will begin when cotton has reached the early open boll stage. If you have any questions concerning our trapping, please call me or any district supervisor or field unit supervisor in your area. Attached is a map showing the supervisors and their respective units."

Sincerely,  
Darrell Dusek


The current list of employees working out of the local office include;

- Plains Office**  
Darrell Dusek-Zone Manager  
Michael Hester Asst. Zone Manager  
John Land-Computer Tech.  
Josh Helms-Environ. Mont. Spec.  
Sheila Hooker-Zone Secretary  
Lisa Crutcher-Zone Data Clerk  
Jim Atwood-Zone Veh. Saf. Off.
- District Office (at Plains)**  
Joe Barnes-Dist. Supervisor  
Debbie Steffens-Field Clerk  
Teresa Bell-Field Unit Supervisor  
Johnny Don Davis-Field Unit Supervisor  
Jamey Garland-Field Unit Supervisor  
Kenneth McGinty-Field Unit Supervisor  
Angela Stevens-Field Unit Supervisor  
Ronald Edwards-Field Unit Supervisor  
Barney Tobar-Mechanic



This map shows the entire Western High Plains Boll Weevil Eradication Zone. The numbered areas show names of the assigned Field Unit Supervisors.

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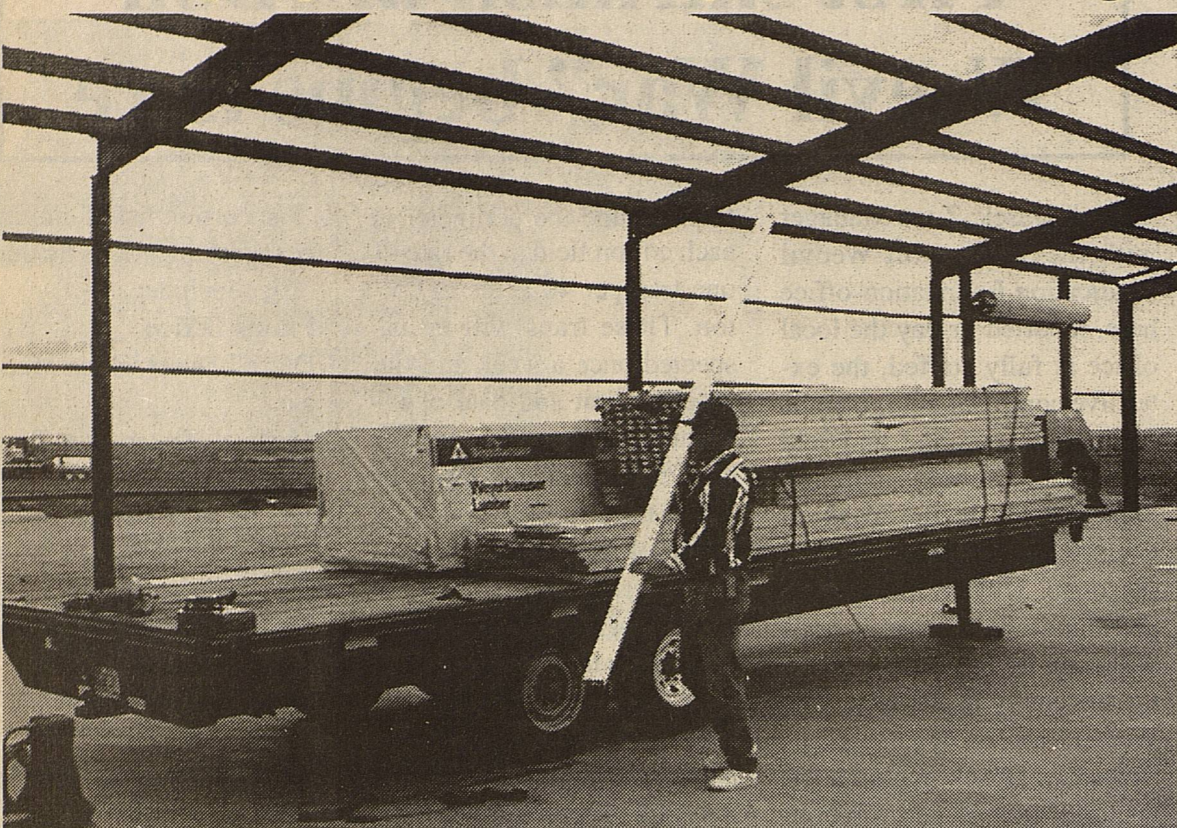
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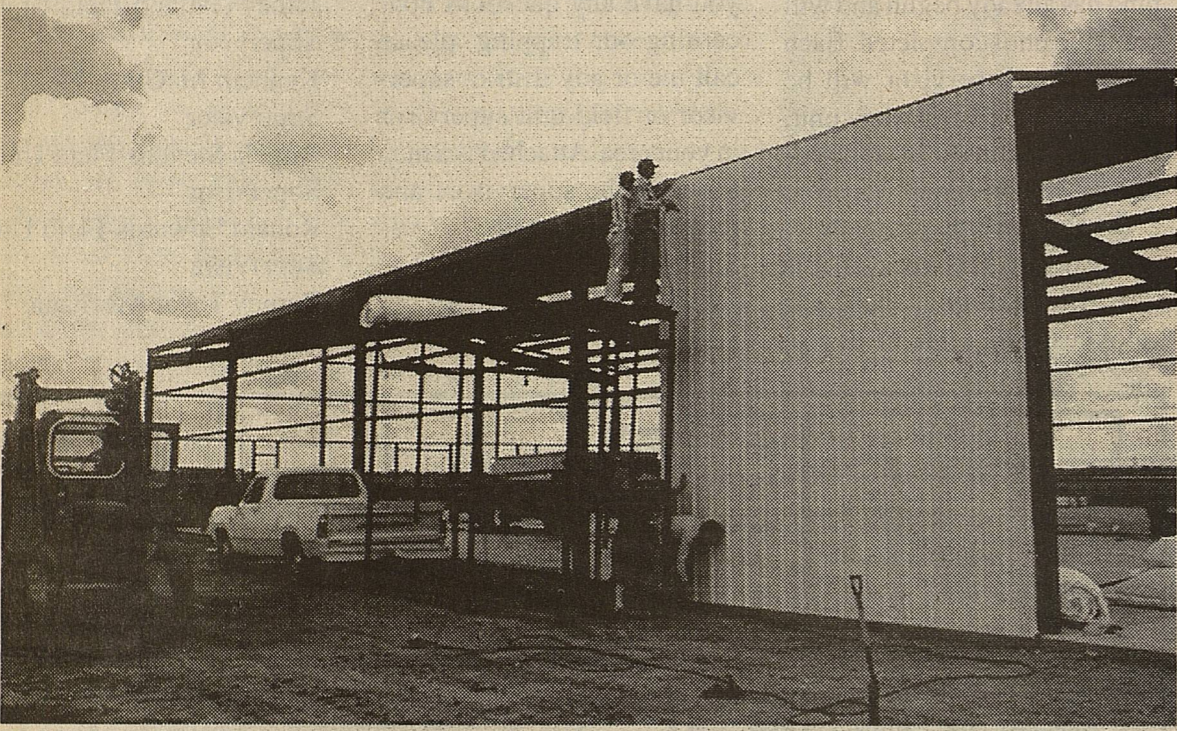
\* Mention this ad and get 10% off!



## Work progresses on Sandy Land building



Gary Walker, Sandy Land Underground Water District Consultant, is seen in photo above unloading materials for the new 5000 square foot building at the airport. Some of the space will be used to house an airplane used in the Precipitation Enhancement Program, and about 2000 square feet will be leased to the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation as office space for some 17 permanent eradication personnel. Walker said the target date for completing the building is August 1, provided electrical and air conditioning contractors are available in time. In the bottom photo, workers are shown laying insulation in the standing walls.



## Plains Students Named to SPC Honor Lists

Students from Plains are among those who have been named to the President and Dean's Honor Lists for the spring 1999 semester at South Plains College.

"We want to congratulate these students for their work in achieving and maintaining an excellent grade point average during their studies at South Plains College," said Dr. Gary McDaniel, SPC president. Students represent the SPC Levelland and Lubbock campuses and SPC Reese Center.

Students named to the President's Honor List main-

tain a 4.00 or straight A grade point average while enrolled in a minimum 12 hours of college level coursework. Students named to the Dean's Honor List maintain a minimum 3.25 GPA while carrying at least 12 semester hours of college level coursework with no failing grades.

Students named to the President's honor List are Vicki Bayer, Yvonne Gonzales and Kassie Lowe. Students named to the Dean's Honor List are Kyley Bearden, Laura Flores, Casey Forbus and Lyndi Rowe.

## Squyres in High School Rodeo Finals

Brett Squyres competed in calf roping at the Texas High School Rodeo Assn. Finals at Abilene last week.

He roped his first tie down calf in 12.477 seconds, and his second calf in 11.303 seconds, placing him in the average. He missed making the short go by only three seconds, the event limited to the top ten contestants.

Brett finished the season as the number two Rookie in calf roping in the state, and was number 20 overall in the state.

## Grand Jury Returns Indictments

The Grand Jurors returned true bills of indictment on the following causes.

Edbardo Hernandez Munguia, A/K/A Eduardo Perez Hernandez, was indicted in two causes, 1) possession of marijuana: 200 pounds or less but more than 50 pounds, 2nd degree felony, 2) violation of controlled substance tax, third degree felony, bonds totaling \$50,000.

Michael Dean Martin, indicted on five causes of forgery, state jail felony. Bonds totaling \$11,500.

Novis Carl Brock, A/K/A Bubba Reynolds, indicted on six burglaries, state jail felony, three engaging in organized criminal activity, third degree felony, one criminal mischief, state jail felony, bonds totaling \$15,000.

Jackie Truett Holmes, 111, A/K/A Trey Holmes, indicted on three causes of burglary, state jail felony, three causes of engaging in organized criminal ac-

tivity, third degree felony, one case of criminal mischief bonds totaling \$17,500.

Tyree Lynn Duke A/K/A, Tyree Duke, indicted on four causes of burglary, state jail felony, three causes of engaging in organized criminal activity, third degree felony, one criminal mischief state jail felony. Bonds totaling \$6,000. Christopher Brit Marion, A/K/A/ Chris Marion, three causes of burglary, state jail felony, bonds totaling \$12,000.

Damien Michael Humble, indicted on one burglary and one engaging in organized criminal activity, third degree felony. Bonds totaling \$6,000.

Ronald J. Power A/K/A Ronnie Power, indicted for burglary and engaging in organized criminal activity. Bonds totaling \$6,000.

All bonds for felony indictments are set by Kelly G. Moore. The State was represented by Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark.

## LCEC Sends Capital Credit Notices

Lea County Electric Cooperative has recently mailed annual Capital Credit Allocation Notices to each of its members. The purpose of the notice is to inform the Cooperative's members of their allocation or share of capital credits earned in 1998. This amount represents the member's share of the Cooperative's margins earned over and above expenses for the preceding fiscal year. The credit is held by the Cooperative to insure its financial stability and reduce the need to finance debt until such time as the Cooperative's board of trustees approves its return to the members.

Members are reminded that if they reached the age of sixty six during 1998, they are eligible to receive those monies allocated to them on their Capital Credit Allocation Notice by stopping by any one of the Cooperative's offices in Lovington, Tatum or Plains, Texas, filling out a request form and providing proof of age. For more information, contact the Cooperative at 800-510-5232, or 396-3631.

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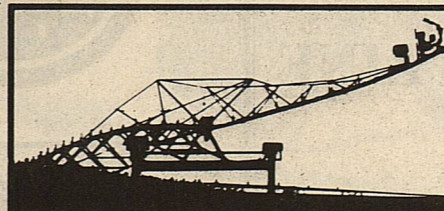
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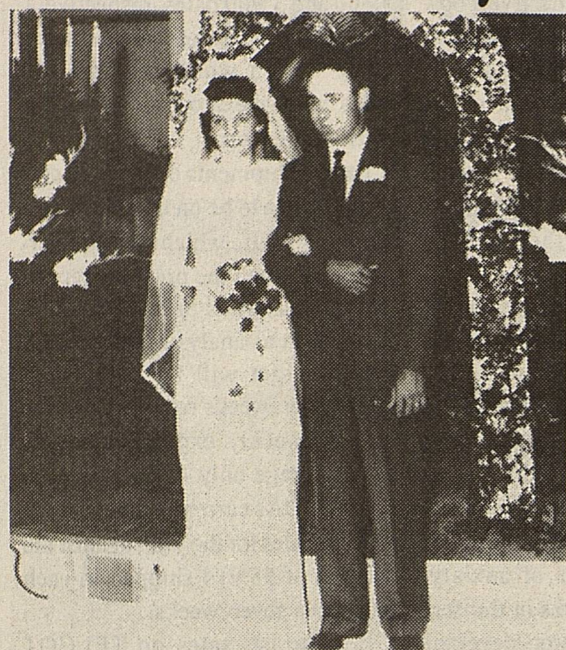
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# Lifelines & Styles

## Bearden's To Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary



1949



1999

Ray Bearden married Joyce Clanahan June 26th, 1949, at Plains Baptist Church, Plains, Texas. Their children and grandchildren will be honoring them with a reception June 26th, 1999 from 2:00 until 5:00 p.m. at Plains Baptist Fellowship Hall, Plains, Texas.

They have lived on the farm in Yoakum County for fifty years where they still reside. Mrs. Bearden was born in Yoakum County. They have been in the farming business since they married, except for the time they spent at West Texas College at Canyon, Texas.

Ray has been involved in County Committees and school boards since 1953, and is presently a charter member of Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District since its onset in 1989. Ray is a Deacon in Plains Baptist Church.

They have two children and six grandchildren.

Their son Ricky and wife Karen of Plains are in the farming business. He is on the Executive Board of Cotton Inc. and serves as Agriculture Committee Chairman. He is also on the Plains Cotton Growers Executive Board. Rickey also serves as a Deacon at Plains Baptist Church and is involved in the boll weevil eradication program.

Their daughter Rhonda Dion and husband Jerry reside in Lubbock, Texas. She is a barber at Lindsey's Salon and Day Spa. Jerry is employed at Nabisco.

Their oldest grandson, Tracy is serving as Youth Minister at Sunray Baptist Church in Sunray, Texas for the summer. He will attend Wayland Baptist University this fall.

Bruce and Kasandra Bearden were recently married and live in Lubbock. Bruce is Youth Minister at New Horizon Baptist Church and his wife Kasandra is a Licensed Vocational Nurse at University Medical Center. They are both graduates of South Plains College.

Kyley Bearden is a graduate of South Plains College and will attend Angelo State University this fall.

Lisa Dion is a graduate of Monterey High School in Lubbock and is employed at K-Mart. Mindy Dion is a Junior at New Home High School and Clifton Bearden is also a Junior at New Home High School.

Mrs. Bearden says the 50 years have flown by and go faster each year. God has blessed our family.

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. Dream dreams that really inspire you, and you will be surprised just how far those desires will carry you. And remember: everyone has the opportunity to live their dreams.

Mrs. Latrell McDonnell  
Librarian for the  
Yoakum County Library  
will be honored  
with a  
Retirement Reception  
on Wednesday, June 30, 1999  
from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
in the Heritage Room  
at the Yoakum County Library  
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## Fine Arts Department to Stage Summer Musical "Oklahoma"

The South Plains College Fine Arts Department will stage the Rogers and Hammerstein musical "Oklahoma!" July 7 - 11 as its 1999 summer musical production in the Theatre for the Performing Arts.

The musical will be presented at 8 p.m. July 7 - 10 and 2 p.m. July 11. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$4 for students. Tickets are available by contacting the SPC Theatre Box Office at 806-894-9611, ext. 2266.

A recognized landmark in the evolution of the American musical theatre, "Oklahoma!" was the initial collaboration between Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II. Together, Rodgers and Hammerstein wrote nine Broadway shows.

Set in a Western Indian territory just after the turn of the century, the high spirited rivalry between the local farmers and cowboys provides the colorful background against which Curly McLain, a handsome cowboy, and Laurey Williams, a winsome farm girl, play out their love story. Love's journey for these two headstrong romantics is as bumpy as a surrey ride down a country road.

Audrey Duncan, a vocal performance major at Texas Tech University from North Richland Hills, has been cast in the role of Laurey. Duncan has appeared in a number of Tech productions. Mark Garner of Lubbock plays opposite Duncan as Curley. Garner has appeared in the Lubbock Community Theatre's productions of "Mame" and "Bye, Bye, Birdie".

Other principals include Lyndi Rowe as Aunt Eller, Laurey's aunt who lives with her. Rowe, a sophomore theatre arts major at SPC from Plains, has appeared in SPC productions of "Hello Dolly" and "Oliver". Chris Bohannon of Lubbock plays the menacing farmhand Jud Fry. Bohannon is a vocal performance major at Texas Tech.

Kelly Broome Bohannon of Lubbock will play Ado Annie. Ms. Bohannon has appeared in the lead role of the Lubbock Community Theatre's production of "Annie Get Your Gun," and in "Bye, Bye, Birdie." Most recently she performed in three musical productions staged by the Forestburgh Playhouse in up state New York.

Matt Coday, a freshman physical education major at SPC from Levelland, will play the rambunctious cowboy Will Parker who wants to marry Ado Annie. Coday has appeared in the musical drama "Texas" in Palo Duro Canyon and in the SPC production of "The Music Man."

The production is being presented through special arrangement with The Rogers and Hammerstein Theatre Library. For additional information, contact the SPC theatre program at 894-9611, ext. 2266.

## Congratulations



Blake Dominguez



Bryson Dominguez

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Parents - Jerry  
Dominguez & Chandy.

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# From The Hack

I have never been overly fond of hospitals. I have been present in too many over the years to have happy thoughts of all visits. Never yet, however, have I visited a hospital to check on friend or loved one have I failed to come away with a sense of admiration and respect for those countless people who do such mighty jobs in saving or healing our people.

My baby sister (She hates this description, asking why I can't call her 'younger' sister) Dana, after suffering a series of serious migraine headaches, recently experienced one which sent her to Covenant Hospital's emergency entrance facility.

It wasn't exactly the news she wanted when the Doctor on duty ordered a 'Cat Scan' of her entire cranium area. It was not exactly the news she was hoping for when he brought the results to her room and announced "We've found a possible brain tumor on the side of your head."

Many folks, maybe most, would have reacted with tears, shouts of panic or disbelief, pleas for a second opinion, pleas for heavenly intervention. It was reported Dana asked the Doc, "Tell me, are you handing me a death sentence?"

His not exactly 100% reassuring reply was, "I just can't be absolutely sure, until we get in there, and see for sure what we have to remove and repair." On following reflection, how much more could he have said and predicted?

This verdict was delivered Saturday morning, with the surgical procedure scheduled early Sunday morning.

Now, here is the really neat part of this story;

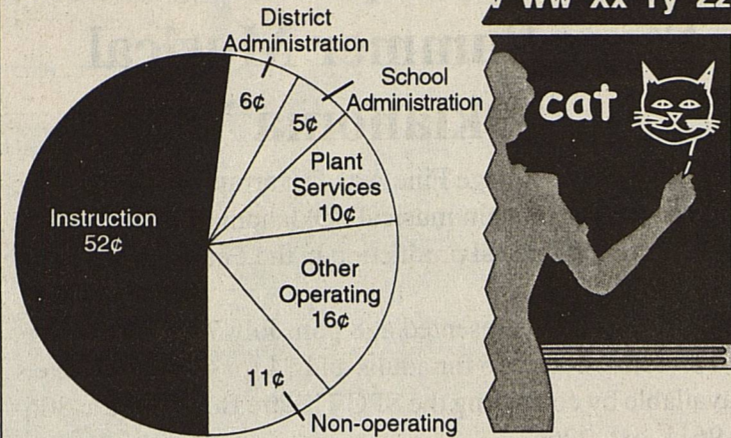
When Bride and I got the first call from Dana very early last Saturday morning, we knew we would need some special help, for we were as scared as baby sister. I talked to Brother Bill before the men's breakfast services at First Baptist that morn-

## Keeping an eye on Texas

### Only 52¢ of every education \$1 goes to classroom instruction

Of the \$21 billion in total annual educational expenditures in Texas, only about half is actually spent on classroom instruction. The rest pays for district and school administration; plant services such as maintenance and security; other operating expenditures such as transportation, food services, and extracurricular activities; and non-operating expenditures such as debt service and facilities.

#### 1997-98 Budgeted Expenditures (per education dollar)



SOURCES: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (www.window.state.tx.us), and Texas Education Agency.

ing. We made calls to family, and a few friends in the town before we left for Lubbock.

Dana had her surgical procedure early Sunday morning. Roughly three hours or so later, the group of family and friends had about exhausted rational conversation on every subject from Kosovo to the new hot item, "Ten Commandments In The Schools".

I am happy to report, Dana is well, and well on her way to a rapid recovery. Her problem was NOT a brain tumor. The Surgeon told us he removed an abcess item from her brain, something non-malignant, not thought to be life threatening, something which could have developed over the years from sinus infections or other common maladies.

I talked to my sister late Sunday evening, and she was completely lucid, up-beat, pleased and happy. If I had not seen her ready for the surgery, I would have suspicioned she was on the Llano Chardonay or something.

In our conversation, we talked of a subject we don't refer to frequently enough, our love for one another. I am thrilled she is going to be A-1 OK. We actually got a bit weepy-peepy during the talk.

A special point she wanted me to mention - Dana was amazed at the 'best wishes calls and cards' she'd received from Plains folks. She told me, "I

know that's from you guys calling your different church people, and they have been just super in letting me hear from them."

From our two houses, we thank all of you for your help, support and prayers!

Classified Ads which we DIDN'T run;

'Our experienced mom will take care of you child. Fenced yard, meals and smacks included.'

'3 year old teacher needed for pre-school. Experience preferred.'

'Pullets starting to lay Betty Clayton, 624-1836.'

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# TELCOT<sup>®</sup> Report

## A WEEKLY SUMMARY OF COTTON MARKETING NEWS

For the Week Ended June 17

Crop concerns in West Texas momentarily drove the cotton market higher this week before speculative selling pushed futures prices lower once again. Even a supportive weekly export sales report was not enough to rally the market higher.

Heavy rain, strong winds and varying sizes of hail battered crops on the High and Rolling Plains of Texas on June 11. According to a report from Plains Cotton Growers (PCG), "as many as 771,000 acres of cotton, some for the second and third times, were severely damaged, and over half are expected to be diverted to crops other than cotton." PCG also noted, "preliminary reports from the Texas Agricultural Extension Service in the most heavily impacted areas indicated almost 435,000 acres of cotton completely destroyed."

A true appraisal of cotton damage in the area will be difficult because conditions caused by the storm vary from complete disaster to slight improvement. Additionally, the situation will become precarious for surviving cotton if fields dry out quickly and winds increase. Blowing dirt at this stage of crop development could cause more damage to an already fragile crop. On a more positive note, however, moisture levels over most of the region are among the highest in several years. If favorable weather conditions occur, there is a possibility of record

yields on remaining acreage.

Overall, prospects for Texas cotton remain bright as the majority of the state's crop is in good to excellent shape. The cotton harvest now is getting underway in South Texas, and many producers expect a good crop. However, some areas of the state still are recovering and hopes are they will be able to grow through their problems and make it to harvest without further damage or hardship.

Cotton crops in other portions of the country are in good condition, although there are some minor problems in the Southeast and on the West Coast. Market observers are closely monitoring the dry conditions in Georgia and other southeastern states, but the situation has not yet become a source of anxiety. Also, cool temperatures in California have delayed cotton development, but expectations of warmer weather have alleviated concerns. At the moment, there are few major crop concerns in the U.S., and a satisfactory crop is expected.

Meanwhile, USDA's weekly export sales report was mildly supportive to the market but did not cause a substantial price move to the upside. The department reported net export sales of 1998-99 crop cotton in the week ended June 10 totaled 26,000 bales, a figure relatively unchanged from the previous week's sales of 27,400 bales. Turkey was the larg-

est buyer of U.S. cotton with purchases totaling 10,000 bales. Taiwan and Malaysia completed the list of top buyers with acquisitions of 4,300 and 3,900 bales, respectively. Net new-crop sales for the same week were a whopping 220,300 bales with Mexico accounting for most of the total.

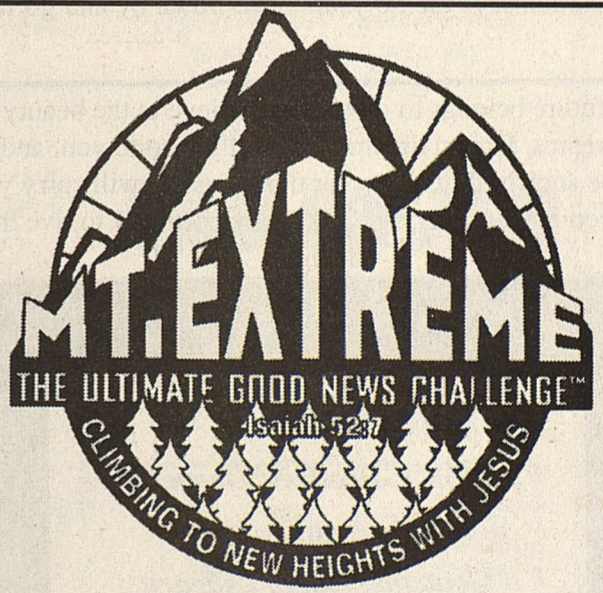
Export shipments of 1998-99 cotton continue to be on track despite a shipping figure which was two percent lower than the previous report. The decrease was of no concern to the market as analysts feel USDA's export target will be easily met. With seven weeks remaining in the season, weekly export shipments must average only 49,900 bales to reach USDA's current estimate of 3.9 million bales for the year, against the average of 55,914 shipped in each of the last seven weeks.

In contrast, sales on TELCOT were not as healthy as they have been in previous weeks due to a plunge in cotton futures prices which resulted in a lack of interest in spot cotton. In the five trading days ended June 17, sales on the electronic marketing system totaled only 167 bales, versus 3,213 the prior week. Average daily prices received by producers utilizing TELCOT ranged from 36.16 to 43.33 cents per pound, versus a range of 43.26 to 45.57 the previous week.

### \*BID NOTICE\*

Plains ISD invites interested parties to make proposals for the purchase of Athletic Supplies for the 1999-2000 school year, including football, basketball, volleyball, track, baseball, and medical, until 1:00 P.M., June 25, 1999 at the Administration Office. Proposals should be addressed to James Haynes, Superintendent, School Athletic Supplies Proposal, Plains ISD, 1000 10th Street, Box 479, Plains, Texas 79355. For questions or other information, please contact David Williams at 806-456-7445.

Plains I.S.D. reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals, to waive all technicalities, and to contract with the vendor that represents the best value to the district.



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