

WEST TEXAS Country Trader

The West Texas Country Trader is a section of:

Thursday, June 10, 1993

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China's economic boom aids U.S. beef market

By MARGARET SCHERF

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — An economic boom in China is producing a significant new market for American beef, according to a study by the U.S. Meat Export Federation.

"The current economic boom and, more importantly, the growth in private enterprise and local autonomy, have opened the doors for exporting countries to market beef directly into China," Philip M. Seng, federation president, said Wednesday in announcing the findings at a board of directors meeting and foreign buyers conference.

In the late 1980s, discretionary income in China "was used largely to buy televisions, video recorders and basic home

appliances," Seng said. "Today, incomes are channeled into purchases of gold, cosmetics and food."

The study concluded that demand for high-quality beef in China's tourist and hotel and restaurant sector "will easily exceed the size of the Hong Kong and Taiwan markets by the end of the decade."

If the current rate of development continues, it said, export opportunities for such beef also will rise in the retail sector.

The study found that despite substantial domestic production, demand for imports stems from "the poor quality of domestic beef products and major deficiencies in China's infrastructure-distribution system."

"Demand for U.S. variety meat products in the general market will create a major export market for U.S. suppliers," the study said. "Though the size of the

Other Ag News:

Cattle: Ecstatic over year so far, feeder discusses market's seasonal dip, Pg. 3.

Wild over wildflowers: Floydda holds its annual Wildflower contest, Pg. 3

market is difficult to quantify at this early stage of development, variety meat exports to the People's Republic of China are sure to be large enough to have a significant impact on price in the United States."

Beef supplies in Inner Mongolia and Northern China probably will be exported north rather than shipped to urban centers in China's coastal region, the report said.

Thus, short- and medium-term markets for U.S. beef are expected to be concentrated in urban areas on or near China's coast.

In a test promotion, U.S. beef products were flown to Shanghai and given a super-market price of \$3.40 to \$3.90 per pound. Supplies of U.S. variety meats, such as honeycombed tripe and tendon, sold out quickly with 20 percent profit margins at the retail level.

Seng estimated an early market for U.S. beef in China of 150 million to 200 million consumers.

The study found that most major U.S. fast food restaurants have opened or are planning to open outlets in China. The federation predicted that the next wave will consist of family-style restaurants, such as low-end steak house chains.

U.S. is world's top producer, importer of beef and veal

By MARGARET SCHERF

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is the world's largest producer and importer of beef and veal, with most imports consisting of frozen boneless meat from grass-fed animals, the International Trade Commission says.

Beef from grass-fed animals, the commission said in a recent release, has different characteristics and uses than beef from grain-fed cattle, much of which is used for table beef.

Grain-fed beef is "typically marbled with fat, is more tender and has more flavor" than grass-fed beef, it said.

"Trade and industry sources report that the imported beef is closer in characteristics and uses to beef derived from domestic cull cows and bulls. The imported beef is often mixed with higher fat content trimmings from domestic grain-fed animals," it said.

A study of the U.S. beef and veal industry found that U.S. production of fresh, chilled or frozen beef and veal fell from a 1987 level of 24 billion pounds to 23.1 billion pounds in 1990, but rebounded slightly to 23.4 billion pounds by 1992.

It also found that from 1987 to 1991, U.S. consumption of beef and veal dropped from 25 billion pounds to 23.9 billion pounds, rising in 1992 to

24.1 billion pounds. About 6 percent of U.S. consumption was imported annually during the 1987-1992 period studied.

"The U.S. is the world's largest producer and importer of beef and veal; it is also a major exporter of those commodities," the release said.

Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Central America accounted for nearly all of the U.S. imports during the period.

Other findings included: —U.S. exports of beef and veal increased from the 1987 level of 441 million pounds valued at \$729 million to \$962 million pounds valued at \$2 billion in 1992.

Japan, Canada, the Republic of Korea and

Mexico were the largest U.S. export markets.

—Exports of live cattle and calves increased from 1987's level of 131,000 animals valued at \$105 million to 322,000 animals valued at \$193 million in 1992.

—U.S. imports of live cattle increased from the 1987 level of 1.2 million animals valued at \$421 mil-

lion to 2.1 million animals valued at \$978 million in 1990, before declining to 1.9 million animals valued at \$952 million in 1991.

Imports of live cattle were equal to about 3 percent of the animals slaughtered in the United States in 1987, increasing to 6 percent in 1990 and in 1991.

Want Ads Pay Dividends!

Centennial roping set

HALE CENTER — A Centennial Team Roping contest — coinciding with the city's 100th birthday, has been set for July 3 to benefit the Hale Center FFA.

It will be a 12x12 Round Robin tournament, \$100 per man/progressive after one

head. Buckles will go to the champion header and healer.

Pre-roping will be at 1 p.m. with books opening at 12:30 p.m., two head for \$10.

The arena is one block north and three blocks east of the Dairy Queen.

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AgReview



Calendar Ag News

June 12

CLOVIS ANNUAL CELEBRATION — Paul and Jackie Armstrong will host the event on their farm, 3½ miles west of Hart on FM 145, then three miles south. A slow race, parade and plowing contest will be held.

July 3

HALE CENTER CENTENNIAL ROPING — A Centennial Team Roping contest — coinciding with the city's 100th birthday — has been set for July 3 to benefit the Hale Center FFA. It will be a 15x15 Round Robin tournament, \$100 per man/progressive after one head.

Information is available from Brian Patterson or Danny Ivy. ing in pastures and rangeland may be aided by approval of Ally, a broadleaf herbicide.

July 3

HALE CENTER JULY FOURTH CENTENNIAL — A tractor show will be the highlight of Independence Day events, with a parade set at 10 a.m.

July 3

ANNUAL WEBB TRACTOR SHOW AND PLAYDAY — Donald and Sallie Webb will host a tractor play day 3 miles northeast of Amarillo on FM 136. A parade, tractor pull, slow race, wheat threshing and log sawing mwill be held. Also, a Baker fan demonstration, feed grinding and other activities.

July 10

LEVELLAND CELEBRATION & TRACTOR PARADE — A parade featuring tractors at 10 a.m. in the downtown area will highlight the day's festivities. For information, contact Preston Reeves.

July 17

SEAGRAVES DAYS — The Texas Plains Chapter of the Two-Cylinder Club will bring the sounds of the Old Poppin Johnnie to Seagraves residents celebrating their annual community event.

Market performance pleases Friona Industries

By GORDON ZEIGLER

AgReview Writer

AMARILLO — What the cattle price will do in the weeks ahead may be worrying some, but looking back over the past several months makes up for a lot of the anxiety of the moment for the head of Friona Industries.

"It's been tremendous," commented Raymond Brown, manager of a multi-location cattle feeding operation that includes Swisher County Cattle Company, Friona Feedyard, Springlake Feedyard and Randall County Feedyard.

"It has made my customers money, made good money over last six months and that is what we want, happy customers," Brown said.

Though he admits the bulls of the market may be gathering on the horizon, Brown expects the annual market dip to occur about now.

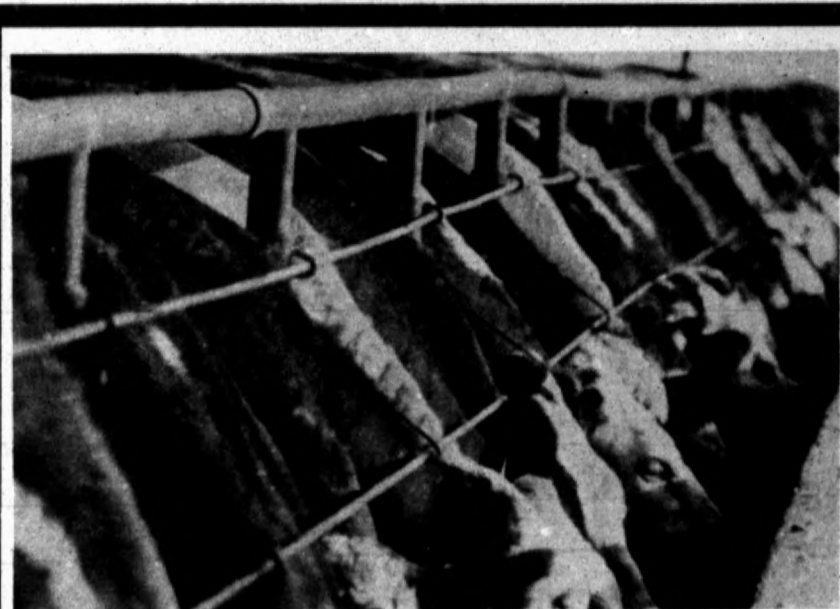
"It's historical," he said. "It always breaks this time of year. Cash cattle always top out in the spring, with numbers low and the demand good. Historically, we go down in the summer."

Cattle slaughtering operations are handling about 124 to 125 thousand daily nationwide, Brown estimates and a lot of the activity in late May was in preparation for anticipated Memorial Day beef volume.

Brown said he believes Panhandle feeders are current today and supplies are manageable.

"We are selling everything we can get our hands on, because everybody realizes it is going down, and the want to be sold before it goes down."

In mid-May, Brown said he was surprised by strength of sales despite price dips.



CATTLE SHINE IN 1993 — Though the cattle market is approaching its seasonal dip, cattlemen look back on an exceptional six months of business.

"Last week we had an 80 to 81 fat market," Brown said in an interview. "This week I anticipated 80 dollar cattle. It is 79 dollars and we have tremendously willing sellers at 79 for two reasons: they are making good money and they're bearish and think it is going down."

Brown is head of an operation that began with a single feedlot, Friona Feedyard. Other yards were added, and it has been known as Friona Industries since 1986.

Friona Industries at one point over a year ago announced an experimental program to produce prime beef for a highly specialized market niche in Japan, but Brown reports that was abandoned due to production problems.

"Last year we announced an experimental deal to see if we could

produce a high percentage of prime cattle," Brown said. "What happened is that it wouldn't meet their specifications."

What Friona attempted to do is feed out what were supposedly two homogeneous strains, but after one cycle it was discovered that, at best, the product was too diverse in grades.

"They wanted a very, very high prime," Brown said. "What they want is a very small range."

Japan's needs, in the meantime, will continue to be filled through selection at the packer level. For example, to acquire such a prime selection, only a small percentage of cattle processed on a single day by a packer would meet the criteria — forcing Japanese buyers to pick and choose, from numerous locations.

Beef industry watches the price drop

HOUSTON (AP) — Retail beef buyers may soon be paying less for meat, a trend the cattle industry is carefully watching.

Cattle prices had rose steadily in March and April, but lately they've been dropping, said Jim Gill, marketing director of the Texas Cattle Feeders Association.

"I think we are in the summer slide. The question is how low it will go," he said.

Gill said he is afraid that by the middle of the summer prices could sink near last year's levels. So far this year, prices have

been holding about 5 cents per pound over 1992 levels, he said.

The downward trend began during the third week of May with the first price decrease of more than 1 cent per pound since early April. That week also saw the largest volume of beef ever shipped in a single day.

In order to move so much beef, the price on heavyweight Choice carcasses was cut by a year-high 2.14 cents per pound.

The trend continued last week as slaughter-ready steers slipped from 78.5

to 79 cents per pound to 77 to 78 cents per pound.

But retail buyers will have to wait until they feel the savings. There often is a time lag for the cost cutting to be passed from wholesalers to consumers.

A spokeswoman for the Houston-area Randall's supermarket chain said its stores had not yet seen any reductions in the price it has to pay for beef, but the stores are ready to pass any savings on to customers when they occur.

Feeder steers and heifers weaker last week

SAN ANGELO (AP) — Cattle auction weekly summary reported Friday, June 4. Receipts: 2600; last week: 6862; (this includes 2707 calves at last Monday's special); last year: 2712.

Compared with last week: feeder steers and

heifers weak. Slaughter cows and bulls steady. Stock cows and pairs steady. Trading fairly active, demand moderate. Quality average to mostly plain. Cattle carrying liberal fills. Supply included 40 calves, 30 yearlings, 20 slaughter cows and bulls, 10 stock cows and pairs.

This report compiled by the federal-state livestock market news service.

Feeder steers & steer calves

Medium and large frame no.1: few 200-300 lb 122.00-125.00; 300-400 lb 113.00-118.00; 400-500 lb 102.00-111.00; 500-600 lb 95.00-104.00; 600-700 lb

87.00-96.50, set 617 lb 98.00; 700-800 lb 81.50-86.50.

Medium and large frame no.1-2: 200-300 lb 113.00-123.00; 300-400 lb 100.00-113.00; 400-500 lb 88.00-102.00; 500-600 lb 84.00-95.00; 600-700 lb 77.00-87.00; 700-900 lb 74.00-81.50.

Feeder heifers & heifer calves:

Medium and large frame no.1: few 300-400 lb 99.00-102.00; 400-500 lb 89.00-100.00; 500-600 lb 82.00-92.00, 600-700 lb 80.00-89.00; few 700-800 lb 79.00-80.00.

Medium and large frame no.1-2: 300-400 lb

83.00-99.00; 400-500 lb 78.00-89.00; 500-600 lb 73.00-82.00; 600-700 lb 70.00-80.00; 700-900 lb including heiferettes, 68.00-77.00.

Slaughter cows: few breaking utility 2-3 48.00-53.50, utility & com-

See MARKETS, Page 9

South Plains
Ag News

Wheat aphid control

Wheat growers will have the option of using Lorsban 4E for controlling Russian wheat aphids as result of a recent EPA approval.

The approval comes just as concern is being expressed across the Texas wheat belt that weather is helping stimulate a rapid increase in the aphid in the Texas Panhandle.

The insecticide has been conditionally registered for control of aphids and grasshoppers. Registration covers 16 states including Texas. Lorsban 4E is a product of DowElanco.

Broadleaf herbicide

Weed control in the spring in pastures and rangeland may be aided by approval of Ally, a broadleaf herbicide.

The Environmental Protection Agency has approved the DuPont product — which is said to keep weeds like musk thistle and noxious weed from spreading in fields and reducing beef production.

Registered for use on pasture and rangeland for three years, Ally had been labeled for ground application only.

Weed control

Wheat farmers, especially those utilizing reduced tillage, have the option of using DuPont Finesse, which was recently authorized an expanded label by the EPA.

Wildflower show is one-of-a-kind Texas event

By **GORDON ZEIGLER**
AgReview Writer

FLOYDADA — In its annual celebration of the beauty of the West Texas wildflower, Floyd County's museum held its Trudy Taylor Memorial Wildflower Show in conjunction with the county's Old Settlers recently.

The event is one that for years has drawn a dedicated following of men, women and children, young and old alike. The tradition of waking up at the crack of dawn to gather flowers in canyons and along draws and highways — then selecting the perfect vase to display them in

— is one carried on for generation after generation among some Floyd County area families.

This year's overall winner was Myrtle Finley. She took home the show's prestigious Trudy Taylor Memorial Sweepstakes Award for exhibiting the highest number of blue ribbon entries.

Mrs. Finley was awarded the ribbon by Virginia Taylor, daughter of the late namesake of the show.

The show opens each year at 9 a.m. on Old Settlers day with the frail and beautiful blossoms remaining on display in the museum throughout the day.

Winners in the various divisions of the 1993 show included:

Miniatures: Myrtle Finley, first; Flora McNeill, second; and M.J. McNeill, third.



WINNING WILDFLOWERS — Myrtle Finley won the Trudy Taylor Memorial Sweepstakes Award for her entries in the 1993 Wildflower Show in Floydada.

Unusual Container: M.J. McNeill, first; Flora McNeill, second; Gladys Jones, third.

Antique Container: Flora McNeill, first; Laura Miller, second; M.J. McNeill, third;

Mens Division: Travis Jones, first; M.J. McNeill, second, W.H. Finley, third.

Youth: Rhonda Roberson, first;

Cienna Carthel and Jurabel Jones, second; and Erin Zeigler, third.

Miscellaneous Mixed: Erin Zeigler, first; Myrtle Finley, second; and Flora McNeill, third.

Old Fashioned: Myrtle Finley, first; Katy Zeigler, second; M.J. McNeill, third.

(The next show is set for Old Settlers Day in 1994)

NAFTA to have 'minimal' impact on U.S. farmer

By **MICHELLE MITTLESTADT**
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — American farmers should see only slight changes overall from the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement, but there could be a more dramatic shift for their Mexican counterparts, the Congressional Budget Office says.

"The overall effect on agriculture in the United States would be modest," CBO director Robert Reischauer wrote in the introduction of a recent report assessing the treaty's agri-

cultural implications.

Congressional analysts said NAFTA could help U.S. producers of grains, oilseeds and animal products, while hurting producers of some fruits and vegetables.

Sugar and citrus producers have been among the most vocal opponents of the agreement, contending that it would open U.S. markets to a flood of cheaper Mexican products.

Midwestern wheat growers, disgruntled over the 1988 trade agreement with Canada, also have threatened to

work against passage of the pact.

In Mexico, the CBO report found, the yet-to-be-approved agreement could cause significant losses for corn producers.

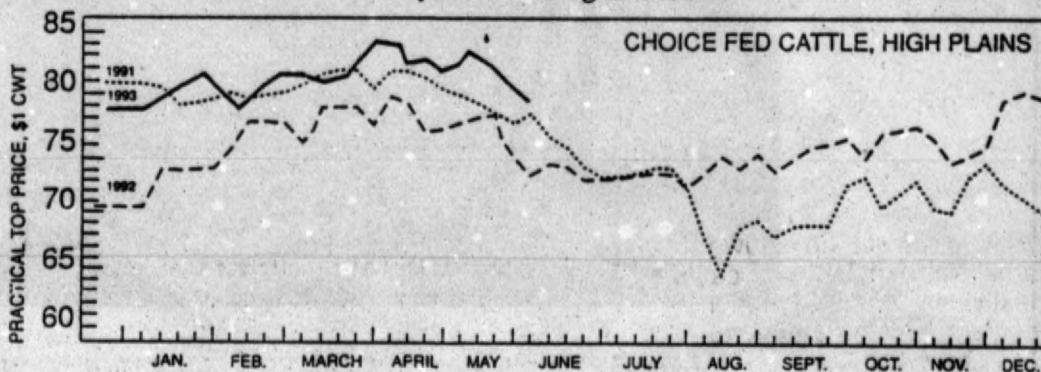
"U.S. competition, particularly in the production of corn, could contribute to a loss of jobs in Mexico and might encourage migration," the study's authors wrote.

"Ultimately, though, if NAFTA promotes overall economic growth in Mexico and new employment opportunities arise in sectors other than agriculture,

it could reduce migratory pressures on the U.S. border."

The CBO analysts also found that NAFTA could help Mexico's agricultural

sector through the transition. **See NAFTA, Page 6**



Courtesy Texas Cattle Feeders Association, Amarillo

Choice fed cattle, High Plains

The above report reflects market activity through May 28.

World cotton production doubles in 20 years

By **MARGARET SCHERF**
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — World cotton production has doubled in about 30 years, going from 45.1 million bales in 1960 to 95.2 million bales in the 1991-92 marketing year, agricultural economists say.

Most of the production growth has been achieved through better yields, with acreage increasing only slightly.

Average yields on a global basis increased from 277 pounds per acre in 1960 to an estimated 535 pounds for 1991. During the same period, harvested acres increased only from 79.3 million to 86 million.

Emerging as competitors for U.S. cotton exports in the 1980s were China, India, Pakistan, Australia, Paraguay and the nine French-speaking nations of West Africa,

according to a report in a recent edition of USDA's Farmlife magazine.

"The United States did, however, slightly increase its share of the world cotton market, averaging 27.5 percent for the decade, as exports by some other competitors decreased," said economist Carolyn Whitton of USDA's Economic Research Service.

No other country exports as much cotton as the United States, she said.

In the 1960s and '70s, about 40 percent of U.S. cotton production was exported. In the 1980s, that proportion rose to more than 50 percent, accounting for 6 percent of U.S. agricultural exports and earning the United States about \$2 billion per year.

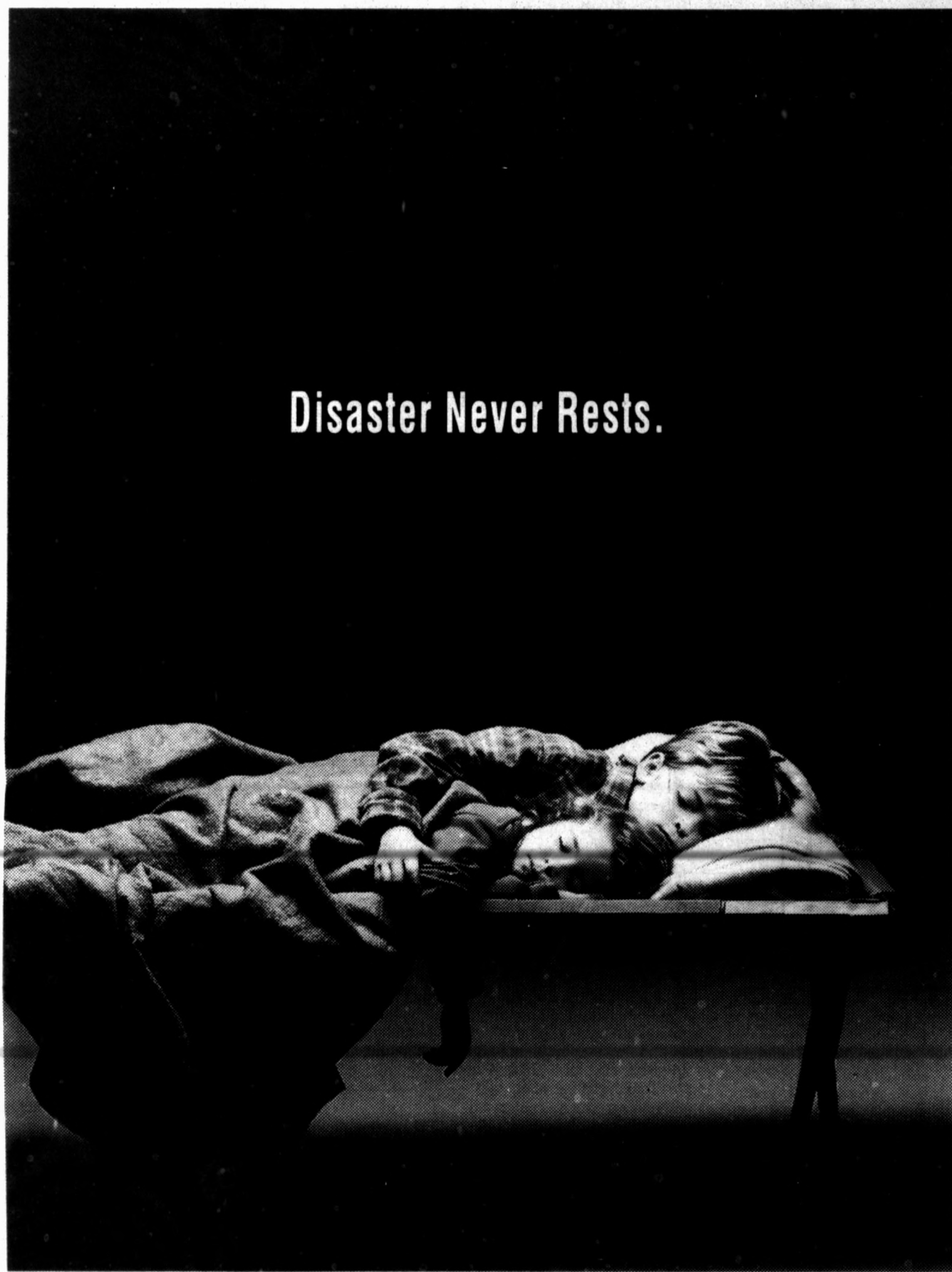
U.S. cotton prices have had to become more competitive to maintain market share in the face of the new competition, Whitton said.

The United States was the world's leading cotton producer during the 1960s and '70s. But China went from third to first place in the 1980s, setting a single-country production record of 28.7 million bales in 1984. Its production has dropped somewhat since then.

Some countries expanded production specifically to increase exports, Whitton said.

Australia, for instance, exported virtually no cotton in the early 1960s, but in the 1980s sold 84 percent of its production on the world market.

"Others, like China and India, expanded production in the 1980s mainly to keep pace with soaring domestic demand," the report said. "Their exports grew, too, but still accounted for only about 6 percent of their production during the decade."



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NAFTA

From Page 3

tion to more modern and efficient operations. The agreement's impact depends on how it would be implemented — a caveat that holds for all aspects of the 2,000-page deal.

"If Mexico continues to eliminate supports for agriculture, unemployment and rural-to-urban migration could increase," the report said.

"NAFTA could lock in some of the changes made under Mexico's new development strategy and pave the way for additional reforms, but it could also contribute to transitional problems if losses from freer trade in agriculture precede gains from freer trade in other sectors."

U.S. producers shipped some \$4 billion in farm exports to Mexico last year — making it the fastest-growing export market for U.S. agriculture.

Of the \$2.5 billion imported from Mexico by the United States in 1991, \$1.2 billion was in fruits and vegetables. The United States, meanwhile, shipped \$157 million in fruits and vegetables to Mexico.

"The balance of trade in this category favors Mexico, but U.S. exports to Mexico are growing," the report said.

"We see a real opportunity, not just in our raw products going down there but in our products that are processed," Texas Agriculture Commissioner Rick Perry said Friday. "What we are seeing is there is a substantial buying power in Mexico. The opportunities are really extraordinary."

South Texas citrus growers initially expressed the greatest concern but their fears have largely been allayed, said Perry, who served on a committee that advised U.S. officials during the 14-month NAFTA negotiations.

"We think that even that industry can grow in Texas and prosper and I think we'll even see a substantial production going south as (Mexico) becomes more prosperous," Perry said.

To help Texas citrus growers and other South Texas producers make the transition, the Texas A&M Extension Service is preparing seminars for this fall.

"What's going to happen to the producers here in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas, they are going to have to do some business restructuring and decide if they are still going to be in fruits and vegetables or are they going to switch to cotton and grain or go into some other new vegetable," said Jeff Johnson, of the Texas A&M Research and Extension Service Center in Weslaco.

"There are so many alternatives out there," Johnson added. "We really don't know, honestly, what effect NAFTA is going to have on us and what crops are truly going to be affected."

Perry remains confident that Texas producers will adapt to whatever changes are made.

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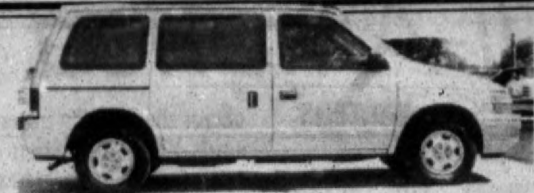
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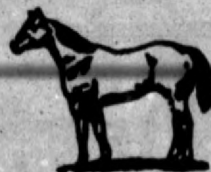
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All-America rose selections made for '93

By JAMES E. WALTERS
Herald Staff Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — Easier care and bright colors for the home landscape are features once again of the newest All-America Rose Selections.

But the surprise dimension this time is fragrance, an elusive trait for recent generations of our national flower's hybridizers.

Two of the three 1994 AARS winners — hybrid teas Secret and Midas Touch — have lots of it. The main appeal of the third, Caribbean, a grandiflora, is likely to be the abundant, orange-yellow, four-inch flowers. But it, too, has a slight scent.

"I think all of us need to get back to concentrating on fragrance as an important criterion," hybridizer Keith Zary, research director for the rose-selling giant, Jackson and Perkins, said in a telephone interview.

His Southern California team produced Caribbean and Midas Touch, the first yellow hybrid tea to win AARS honors in 19 years.

Asked what he liked best

about the 1994 winners, Zary said: "Probably their disease resistance and their fragrance. Those are two areas that rose breeders are working very hard on."

Each All-American is evaluated in test gardens across the country for two years. It takes about eight years from propagation until designation by AARS, a nonprofit organization whose members produce most of the nation's roses.

Announcements are not made until two years after selection to give growers time to produce sufficient plants for public sale. So the 1994 winners will be available by next spring in most of the country and somewhat earlier in warmer areas.

In 1951 there was no winner; some years, only one is selected. Scoring is based on bud and flower form, vigor, hardiness, growth habit, disease resistance, foliage and fragrance.

"The 1994 winners offer classic rose form in a variety of colors that will appeal to a broad range of rose lovers," said AARS President Robert

DeMayo.

"For the traditionalists, we have a fragrant, soft-pink hybrid tea. The more adventuresome will enjoy the warm-orange grandiflora and the radiant-yellow hybrid tea. All three offer continuous color on tall, lush bushes."

Secret, from Conard-Pyle Co. of West Grove, Pa., was hybridized by Daniel Tracy. The offspring of Pristine and Friendship, it has an upright, bushy, freely branched habit and grows 4 to 4½ feet high. The fully double flowers are 4½ inches across with a strong, spicy, fruity scent and long, erect stems, making it an excellent cut flower. Foliage is medium green.

Caribbean is upright, well branched and slightly taller. It was hybridized by Wilhelm Kordes from Mercedes and an unnamed seedling. Foliage is medium green.

Midas Touch, the offspring of Brandy and Friesensöhne, was hybridized by Jack Christensen. It is the tallest of the three, about 5 feet, upright and well branched with dark-green foliage. Fragrance is medium musk.

All three have performed very well during testing in my garden but my personal favorite is Caribbean. I admire its tropical-sunset displays and the way the flowers hold after cutting.

Zary was asked what he sees in the future for roses.

"Long term, everybody is looking at the effects of biotechnology," he said. "Once you start moving foreign genes from outside

the rose genus into roses you've opened up a whole series of possibilities that actually defy imagination.

"Who knows what we can put into roses and get expression in the plant.

Corn research funds approved

SAN ANTONIO — The Texas Corn Producers Board has approved major funding for corn research to enhance the value of corn on international markets at a recent meeting in conjunction with the Corn Classic Convention.

Plainview's Neal Burnett commented on the success of the classic, and the business conducted there.

"I felt like the Corn Classic was a huge success and certainly benefited the farmers of Texas, and also the Texas Corn Producers Board by allowing our (the TCPB's) directors and staff to meet farmers from all over Texas and the nation," stated TCPB director and

Corn Classic Chairman Burnett.

As part of the TCPB's promotional campaign, the board sponsored a booth at the convention trade show displaying the uses of corn in Texas. The booth also gave samples of different corn food items including tamales and corn chips. The booth was attended by over 2,000 farmers, agriculture related businesses, and food processors.

At the Texas Corn Producers Board meeting, over \$156,000 was approved for research funding. This

funding included studies for more practical irrigation and fertilizer practices, aflatoxin prevention, Northern Corn Leaf Blight and Southern Rust control, mite and corn borer control, and corn density studies.

Chairman of the Board Bert Williams, a farmer from Farwell, Texas stated, "The TCPB is proud of the advances being made by the research we are funding. This is Texas corn farmer's money and we are doing our best to make growing corn more profitable."

Shorthorn field day on Saturday

WOLFFORTH — The statewide field day for the Texas Shorthorn Association will be Saturday at the T Bar T Shorthorn Farm, Wolfforth. Hosting the event which will begin at 9:30 a.m. will be Dale and Debbie Taylor and chil-

dren. Guests will view cattle between 10 a.m. and noon. Lunch will be courtesy of the Taylors. A judging contest is planned for 1 p.m. with the annual meeting of the Texas Shorthorn Association set for 2 p.m. Four directors

and officers will be elected. The 1993-94 Texas Shorthorn Lassie Queen will be crowned.

For additional information about the field day or Shorthorn cattle contact Texas Shorthorn Association at 285-2121.

Lamb County to offer spring canner clinic

LITTLEFIELD — As canning season nears, the Texas A&M Extension service plans canner test clinics in Littlefield, Olton and Sudan to allow housewives to check out home canning equipment.

Dial gauges on the pressure canner should be checked annually, the Extension Service indicates. If the gauge is not registering correctly, food may be either under or over processed.

The schedule is as follows:

■ June 14: Ag Center, Littlefield, 4 to 6 p.m.

■ June 22: First National Bank, Sudan, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

■ June 28: Ag Center, Olton, 2 to 4 p.m.

Angelo Bohannon, Lamb County Extension Agent Home Economics, will be

conducting the test which takes just a few minutes. The entire canner will be checked thoroughly for any repairs that might be needed.

More information is available by calling 385-4004.

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U.S. ginning charges decreased in 1991-92

Average charges for ginning cotton during the 1991-92 season (Aug. 1-July 31) ranged from \$34.19 per bale in Tennessee to \$57.33 per bale in New Mexico, according to a recent issue of the Agriculture Department's "Farm-line" magazine.

The U.S. average was \$42.61 for ginning and wrapping a 480-pound bale. This was \$1.07 below the average charge for the pre-

vious year.

Data on ginning charges are collected by USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) in an annual mail survey. The survey does not cover extra long staple (ELS) cotton, which accounts for about 3 percent of U.S. cotton and requires a different type of ginning equipment.

"The lower average ginning charge reflects sharply larger cotton production in

recent years, and efforts by the industry to share the benefits of higher gin volumes," says ERS economist Edward H. Glade Jr.

Average charges declined in seven states and increased in seven during 1991-92. Mississippi had the largest decline, \$1.81 per bale, and North Carolina the biggest increase, \$1.25 per bale.

The wrapping material used for most cotton bales is woven polypropylene, a petroleum product, Glade says. Small amounts of burlap, jute and cotton materials are also used for wrapping the bales.

A total of 1,500 cotton gins operated in the 14 primary cotton producing states during 1991-92. This was a decrease of 33 gins from the previous year, Glade says. (Outside the primary cotton states, three gins were operating in Florida, one in Virginia, and one in Kansas.)

"The larger cotton crops of the past few years have helped moderate the long-term decline in gin numbers," Glade says.

Texas had the largest decline (22) in number of gins in 1991-92. North Carolina and South Carolina

had increases in their gin numbers.

In 1991-92, the average volume per gin climbed to 11,372 bales, up 16 percent from a year earlier. Volumes for the season varied from a high of 20,953 bales per gin in California to 3,000 in New Mexico.

Machine-picked cotton accounted for 79 percent of the 1991-92 crop, up from 73 percent a year earlier. Machine-stripping was used on the remaining 21 percent. Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico, which primarily use machine-stripping, had lower production in 1991-92, which reduced the share for that method of harvesting.

Machine stripping removes all the cotton at once, stripping everything off the plant. This method results in more leaves, stems and other "trash" in the cotton. Although picking is usually done twice during the harvest season, it is sometimes only done once, depending on the weather.

"Modules are being used more than ever as a method of temporary cotton storage," Glade says. A record 63 percent of the 1991-92 cotton crop was ginned from modules. The remain-

ing 37 percent was ginned from traditional trailers.

Six years earlier, in 1985-86, just 39 percent of the crop was ginned from modules, and 61 percent was ginned from trailers. Use of modules in 1991-92 ranged from 83 percent in Texas and 82 percent in California to 11 percent in South Carolina.

Module-making machines have been available since the late 1970's. Some of the machines are owned by gins, and some by producers.

"Modules can extend the ginning season," Glade says, "whereas if a producer uses trailers they could all be full, waiting on the gin to catch up." But modules can just be left in the fields, covered with tarps, until the gin is ready for the cotton.

"Seed cotton," the term for cotton that has not been ginned, weighs two or three times as much as ginned cotton, because of seeds and other material mixed in with it. The cotton that goes into a 480-pound bale

usually contains about 800 pounds of seed.

In 1991-92, it took 1,466 pounds (U.S. average) of machine-picked seed cotton to produce a 480-pound bale, and 2,185 pounds of machine-stripped seed cotton to make up a bale.

Charges for the four primary cotton warehouse services changed only slightly in 1991-92, Glade says. U.S. average charges were \$2.88 per bale for receiving, \$7.77 per bale for compressing to universal density, \$1.80 per bale per month for storage and \$5.92 per bale for out-handling.

"After ginning, cotton bales are usually moved directly to local warehouses for storage and the other services necessary for marketing," Glade says.

The economist adds that more than two-thirds of U.S. gins now have universal density compression equipment, making traditional warehouse compression unnecessary.

MARKETS

From Page 2

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Market News

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LOCATION: 426 Ash - Plainview, Texas

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PARTIAL LISTING

- 1-1975 Travel Trailer, 28' Self Contained, T.A.
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- 1-Artic Circle 4000 C.F.M. Eva. Cooler - 2-Sp.
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INSPECTION DATE: Friday, June 11, 10:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.

NOTE: This Sale Will Be Held Inside. Please Be On Time For This Sale. Bring Your Own Checkbook. Lunch Will Be Available.

TERMS & CONDITIONS: Cash Day Of Sale. All items Sold As-Is, Where-Is, Without Warranty. We Act Only As Commission Agents. All Announcements Made At Auction Supersede Any Printed Or Oral Statements Made Prior.

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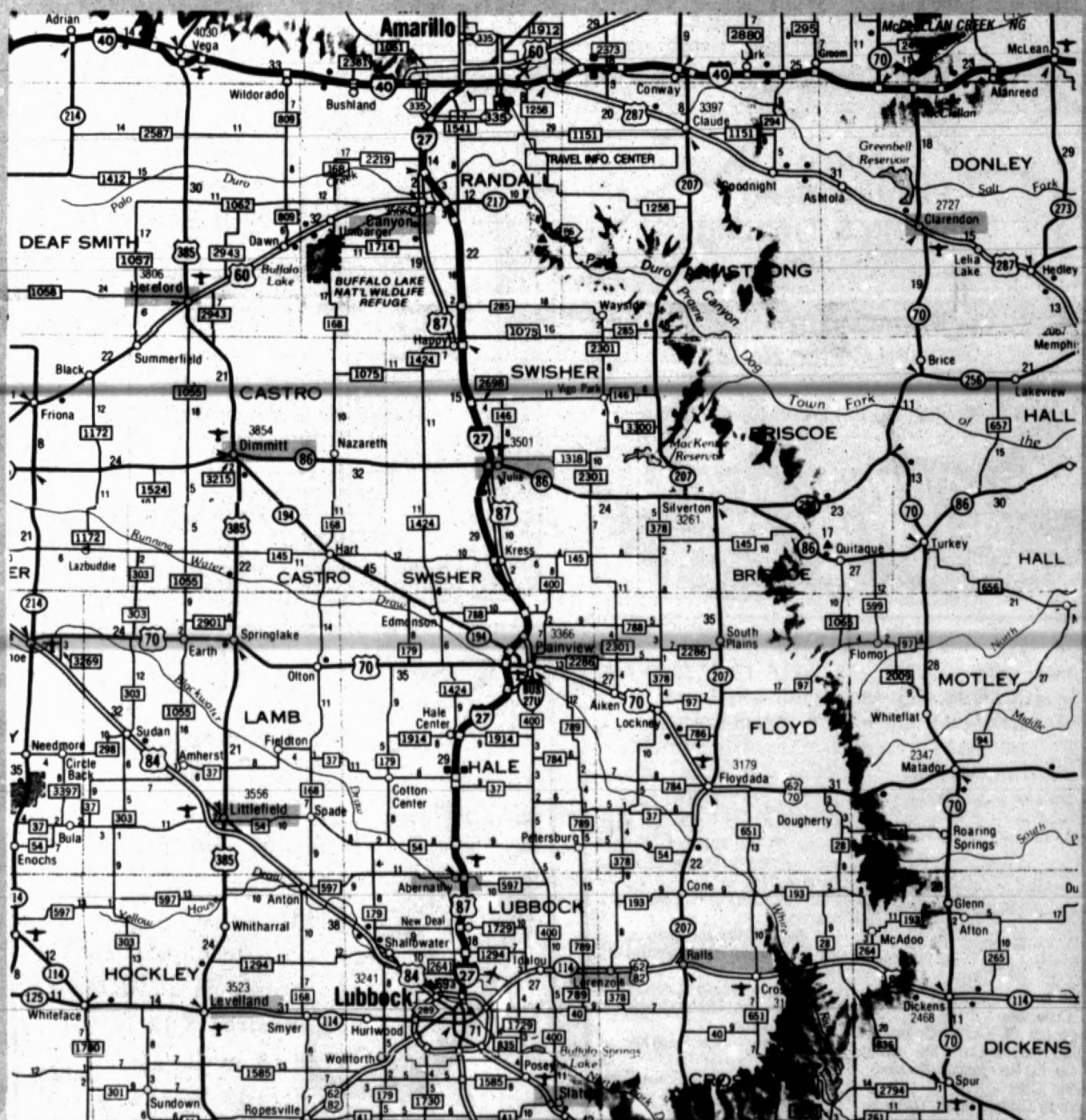
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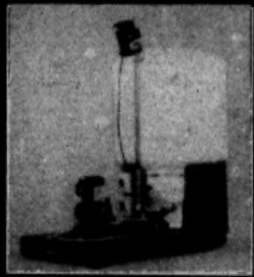
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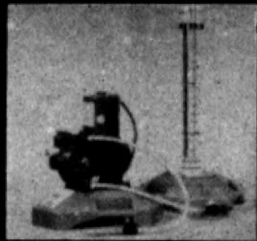
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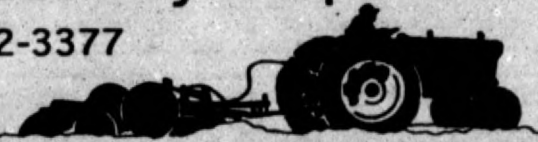


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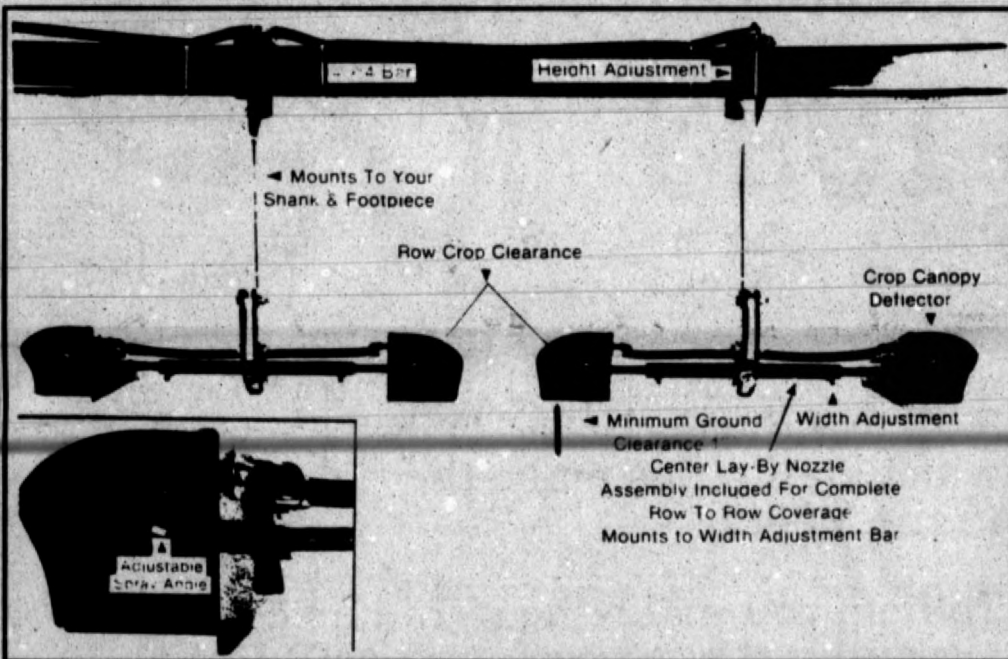


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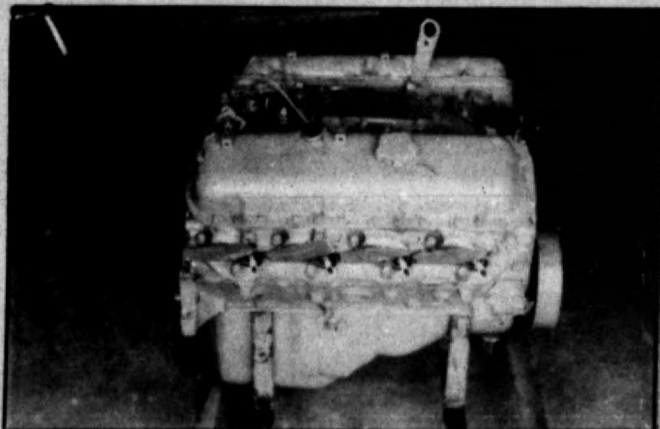
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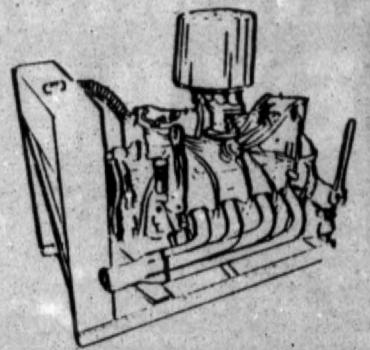
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