



THE PLAINS PRIDE

PLAINS, YOAKUM COUNTY, TEXAS

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 10

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1994

30¢

'94 summer volleyball camp draws 47 participants

The third annual Cowgirl Volleyball Camp was recently held May 31 thru June 3. Forty-one Plains girls attended this year's camp along with six girls from Andrews making a total of 47 participants.

The girls were taught various volleyball skills and strategies. Coaches

for this year's camp were Joyce Pierce and Charles Cain.

Concluding Friday's activities, each participant received a red, white, and blue tee shirt.

"We were very pleased with the girls attitude, hard work and their improvement during the week," stated coaches



FORTY SEVEN CAMPERS ATTEND PLAINS VOLLEYBALL CAMP, INCLUDING SIX GIRLS FROM ANDREWS.

Services held in Denver City for Michael Eric Kitto

Services for Michael Eric Kitto, nine-year-old son of John Kitto, new manager of Plains Pay-N-Save, and Lisa Kitto of Denver City were held at 2 p.m. Friday, May 27, 1994 in First Baptist Church with the Rev. Bob Webb, pastor, officiating.

Burial in Denver City Memorial Park was directed by Roger Pool Funeral Home of Seminole.

The child died Wednesday, May 25 in University Medical Center in Lubbock of injuries suffered in an auto accident the previous day.

He was born on July 21, 1984, in Lubbock. He was a third grade student in Denver City Schools and a member of the Cubs team in the Denver City

Little League baseball program. He also was a participant in the Little Dribblers basketball program and a player on its Mavericks team. He was a member of First Baptist Church.

Survivors other than his parents are a sister, Nicole Kitto of Denver City; and his grandparents, Ed and Joyce Nichols of Denver City and Mike and Beverly Kitto of Weatherford, Okla.

The body was at Roger Pool Funeral Home Memorial Chapel in Denver City from noon that day until time of services.

The family suggests memorials to the Little League or Little Dribblers programs or to a favorite charity.



ROSEGALLARDO presents coupons to Yoakum County Library for free ice cream cones, a childrens' summer reading program sponsored by the local library and Dairy Queen.

DQ promotes program, offering free ice cream cones

The Dairy Queen is again giving ice cream cones to all the readers in the Summer Reading Program at the Yoakum County Library this year, if the readers complete reading 12 books in their reading level.

There have been 167 children sign up for the reading program and more are expected.

Each will receive a colorful reading certificate signed by Governor Ann Richards and Yoakum County Judge Dallas Brewer.

The librarians hope for 200 or more to receive certificates. The program will be in progress until July 22.

Library personnel emphasize the importance of having a well rounded summer for your children. "A great summer can be enjoyed by all the children in our community. They can swim part of the day and read the other part of the day. What a fun time young kids can be in for, if they want to be a part of activities that keep everyone so busy."

Welfare Board elects officers

The Yoakum County Child Welfare Board met at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 24, 1994 at the Plains Library. Members present were Vernon Hise, Teresa Howard, Rose Kirkland, Melisa Rogers, Debbie Smith and Claudia Thompson. Also present was Child Protective Service case worker, Sally Flores.

New members, Vernon Hise and Claudia Thompson, were introduced and welcomed by the Board. After

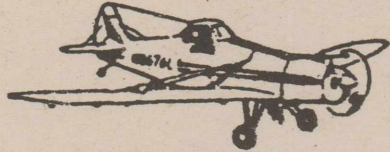
some discussion new officers were elected. The new officers are Teresa Howard, Chairman; Claudia Thompson, Vice-Chairman; Rose Kirkland, Secretary; Debbie Smith, Treasurer.

The Board will not meet during the summer months. The next meeting will be Sept. 27, 1994 at the Child Protective Service office in Denver City.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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B.J. Nicholson awarded \$100

Betty Jay (B.J. Miller) Nicholson, wife of Mark Nicholson of Columbia, Missouri and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T.J. Miller of Plains, has recently been announced as winner in design competition.

Indiana State University at Terre Haute, Indiana, announced the awarding of a first-place award, with a monetary prize of \$100 to Mrs. Nicholson.

The award was for her entry of campus improvement ideas in a recent design competition sponsored by Facilities Management and Interior Design, and funded by the office of University Advancement under the direction of Vice President Ed Pease. The contest was open to juniors and seniors within the Interior Design Department.



B.J. NICHOLSON

On May 7, Ms. Nicholson received an Interior Design degree from ISU.

Hurst-Sturges reunion held

The Hurst-Sturges Family Reunion was held Sunday May 29, 1994. Ty, Linda, Lebert, and Jo Lena Powell hosted the event at their home west of Plains, Texas. Forty friends and relatives were in attendance.

The oldest attending was Lois Hurst of Andrews, Texas who is 93, while Faith Daniels of Las Cruces, New Mexico was the youngest, at three years.

Other relatives attending were from Roswell, Tatum, Tularosa, and Estancia, New Mexico.

Those attending included Charles and Markey Sturges of Estancia, N.M., Frank, Nita, Jennifer, and Scot Sturges,

Mark, Kate, and Alma Daniels, Charleen, Trenton, and Parry Strain, and Janna and Brittani Wolley all of Roswell, N.M. Mary Gene and Joe Brooks of Tularosa, N.M. Paul Daniels and daughters, Erin, Lauren, Paige, and Faith of Las Cruces, N.M. Theta Stearns of Tatum, N.M. Roberta Nichols and Lois Hurst of Andrews, Texas.

Attending from Plains were Pete and Mary Jo St. Romain, Joe and Elouise, Becky and Tessa St. Romain, Wilma Powell, Ty, Linda, Lebert and Jo Lena Powell, Pat and Crip Henard, Chad Wall, Daniel Canada, and Jesse Gonzalez.

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Jones weds Montgomery

Shelle Paige Jones and Robert Roy Montgomery were united in marriage May 21, 1994, at Bethany Lutheran Church in Tulsa, Okla. Pastor Floyd Schoenhals officiated.

Shelle is the daughter of Jerry and Paulette Jones of Tulsa, Okla. Frances Fischer of Haskell, and Ray and Dorothy Jones of Brownfield, are the bride's grandparents. Mildred Jones of Plains is the bride's great grandmother.

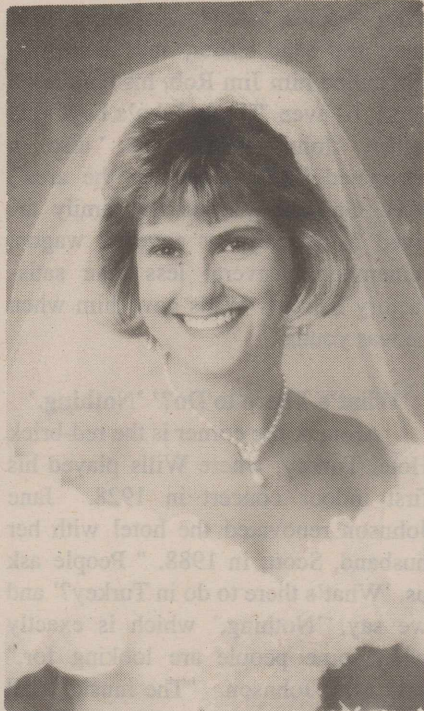
Robert Roy (Bobby) is the son of John and Mary McCormick of Fannin, and Bob and Carolyn Montgomery of Sherman. Mary Ann Murphy of Nederland, Gordon McCutchen of Lubbock, and Bob and Marion Montgomery of Sherman are the groom's grandparents.

Kristen Walton of Tulsa, was Matron of Honor. Bridesmaids were Debra Webb of Ft. Worth; Kimberly Montgomery, sister of the groom, of Austin; Tina Baddley of Tulsa; and Kristen McCullough of Ironton, Mo.

Jason Haedge of LaPorte was Best Man. Groomsmen were Jeff Raasch, Columbia, Mo.; Jeff Coble of Bryan; Jeff Jones, brother of the bride, of Tulsa; and Lee Berlet of College Station.

Ushers were Michael Grahmann, College Station; Dustin Heitschmidt, Bryson City, NC; Brian McCormick, brother of the groom, Fannin; and Chris Romine of The Woodlands.

Flower girl was Ashley Klintworth of Madisonville. Ring bearer was



MRS. ROBERT MONTGOMERY

Ronnie Lee McCormick, nephew of the groom of Center Point.

Readers were Elizabeth Ivey and Jane Ivey, sisters of the groom. Guest book attendants were Kelly Chaffin of College Station, and Ursula Richards of Austin, cousins of the bride.

The wedding reception was held at Marriot Southern Hills in Tulsa.

Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery will make their home in College Station following their honeymoon.

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1986 Plains graduate writes for New York Times newspaper

(EDITOR'S NOTE:) Randy Kennedy, 1986 PHS graduate is a writer for the New York Times. He is the son of Buster and Linda Kennedy of Plains and brother of Paul Kennedy of Lubbock. He attended San Angelo State College two years, transferring to the University of Texas. He worked for the University of Texas Newspaper and did some writing for the UT paper. After his graduation from UT he moved to New York and began his career with the New York Times. Randy visited Texas and attended the Bob Wills Festival in Turkey. The following article is reprinted in its entirety for the people of Plains, who may not subscribe to the New York Times. His feature was about his outing at Turkey, during the Bob Wills Festival.)

A Country Music Mecca in the Texas Outback

-By Randy Kennedy

Turkey, Tex., May 1

For 363 days of the year, this dusty West Texas hamlet is home to a handful of farmers who go about the difficult business of trying to pull peanuts and sweet potatoes from land that gets too little rain.

But on the last weekend in April for the last 23 years, it has also assumed another identity as the unlikely site of a Woodstock, of sorts, for serious fans of country-and-western music.

On these weekends, the population of Turkey swells from around 500 to often more than 15,000 as devotees come from around the world to immerse themselves in the music of Bob Wills, the band leader and composer who invented western swing, a peculiar hybrid of folk fiddle music, big band and Dixieland jazz that is at the root of modern country music.

Wills, once the country's most successful band leader, was born in East Texas, but he spent his childhood and early adult life in Turkey, playing his fiddle at local dances. The town has guarded his legacy fiercely since his death in 1975, erecting a marble monument to him and establishing a museum of memorabilia and photos. The offices of its city hall, public library and justice of the peace are in the museum building, paid for by the museum's foundation. In tourist brochures, the town bills itself as the "home of Bob Wills and a lot of other fine folks!"

A World-Class Festival

But the height of its devotion is the two-day festival, which has become a mecca for western swing aficionados, drawing many from the surrounding countryside and Oklahoma but also attracting people from as far away as California, Massachusetts, Oregon, Japan and Australia. Two fans travel from Brussels every year.

They come primarily to hear the few surviving members of Wills protean band, the Texas Playboys, who regroup to perform many of their songs

that have become country music standards, like "San Antonio Rose," "Faded Love," "Deep Water" and "Milk Cow Blues."

The influence of the band's style has been widely felt. Bing Crosby's recording of "San Antonio Rose" reached No. 7 on the pop charts in 1940, and in 1970, Merle Haggard recorded a tribute album, taking one of Wills more big-band-sounding numbers, "Cherokee Maiden," to No. 1 on the country charts.

Rich Kienzle, a country music historian, wrote in his liner notes for a two-disk set of Playboys songs released by Rhino Records in 1991 that "indeed, the entire honky-tonk idiom, including the music of Hank Thompson, George Strait and Clint Black, of its sound to Bob Wills."

After many years in which the popularity of Wills music waned as country pursued a more pop-oriented course, it has recently experienced an upswing with the release late last year of a postage stamp in his honor and another homage, "Tribute to the Music of Bob Wills" (Liberty), by the western swing band Asleep at the Wheel, featuring Garth Brooks, Dolly Parton, Lyle Lovett and Willie Nelson. Asleep at the Wheel won a Grammy in March for its version of Wills instrumental "Red Wing."

Camping in the Rain

The fans that descend on the Texas Panhandle to hear the music year after year have been largely oblivious to the winds of popularity. This year, despite persistent rain that threatened to cancel the event, some 10,000 people took up residence in tents and campers around the town on Friday and Saturday to hear the music and indulge in its rural trappings: two nighttime barn dances, a fiddle competition, a morning parade and scores of impromptu concerts by amateur guitarists and fiddlers who gathered to compete for the night air.

Nine surviving members of the Texas Playboy band, including the legendary rhythm guitarist Eldon Shamblin, stormed through more than 30 of the barn dances and then performed the next afternoon for a crowd that filled a football field. Besides the staples, the band revived some of the rarer tunes that Wills recorded, including "Spanish Two-Step," whose melody he later arranged backward to form "San Antonio Rose."

The music was played in a swatch of the country that has changed little from the days when Wills music was becoming popular with poor, hard-working farm families who wanted to dance to forget their troubles. Turkey, so called because wild turkeys once flocked to a nearby river, sits on table-flat plains that are dotted at great distances with tiny farm towns just like it, with names that reflect the landscape and its severity: Levelland, Lamesa, Brownfield, Shallowater, Needmore.

On Turkey's Main Street, one of the town's few paved roads, there is

Ham's Barbershop, one of its oldest businesses, where Wills worked as a barber as a young man. Gathered in the museum, alongside one of Wills worn fiddles, are townspeople who knew the band leader, and some who still called him Jim Rob, his childhood name, or even "Uncle John's boy" (his father, John Wills, was also a renowned fiddle player in the area.) V.H. Gafford, 78, whose family arrived in Turkey by covered wagon, remembered several less than satisfactory haircuts Wills gave him when he was young.

'What's There to Do?' 'Nothing.'

Around the corner is the red-brick Hotel Turkey, where Wills played his first indoor concert in 1928. Jane Johnson renovated the hotel with her husband, Scott, in 1988. "People ask us, 'What's there to do in Turkey?' and we say, 'Nothing,' which is exactly what some people are looking for," said Mrs. Johnson. "The music is all about fun and enjoying life a safe distance away from the world."

Charles R. Townsend, the author of "San Antonio Rose: The Life and Music of Bob Wills" (University of Illinois Press, 1976), attributed the enduring appeal of Wills music to the same factors that first made it popular.

"All Bob Wills ever wanted to do was play good dance music," said Mr. Townsend, who served as the festival's master of ceremonies each year. "It was impossible for him to play a sad song. Even when he tried he couldn't do it."

His band was the first to combine several disparate but related strains of

popular music, sometimes in one song, accented by Wills trademark minstrel show asides. In "When It's Honey-suckle Time in the Valley," recorded in 1942, the band ventured seamlessly from tandem fiddles to smooth big-band horns to rambunctious Dixieland jazz, Mr. Townsend said.

But at its base, Wills western swing has remained popular because of its rhythm. "As Ernest Tubb once said, Bob Wills is important because Bob Wills put the beat in country music," Mr. Townsend said.

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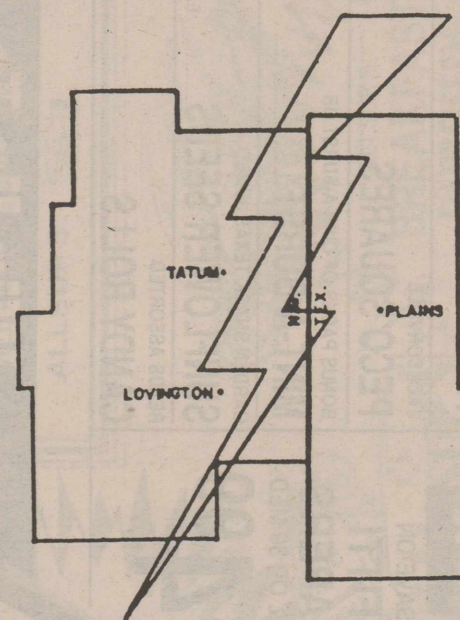
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FUTURE ENERGY SOURCES

The future for alternate energy sources looks promising. The search goes on for ways to develop energy sources that are clean, renewable, inexpensive and dependable. In the meantime, we'll continue to explore likely sites for new supplies of petroleum and natural gas.

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