

WEST TEXAS Country Trader



The West Texas Country Trader is a Supplement of:

Abernathy
Weekly Review
The Canyon News

The Castro County News
The Clarendon News

The Lorenzo
BEAUFORT
HEREFORD BRAND

Plainview Daily Herald
Ralls Reporter-News

The Slatonite
The Tulla Herald

Thursday, October 27, 1994

PUNKIN' HAS ITS DAY

FLOYDADA READY

fun-for-all planned Saturday

Fun run, games, trunk-or-treat, arts and crafts, more!

PUMPKIN
Capital U.S.A.

PUNKIN DAY
SEE FUN SCHEDULE
ON PAGE 2



Floydada's Mayor Hulon Carthel

Day of the Pumpkin enters its eighth year

By GORDON ZEIGLER

AgReview

FLOYDADA — Floydada is a Texas Panhandle town that has discovered a way to throw a day long Halloween event safe for kids and enjoyable for the whole family. It's called Punkin Days, a harvest party held the last weekend every October to herald Floydada's self-proclaimed status as Pumpkin Capital U.S.A.

If the crops and weather cooperate Saturday, this could

See PUNKIN, Page 3



PUMPKIN 'PEOPLE' — Floydada has put on its pumpkin finery as it prepares to welcome South Plains residents to Punkin Day Saturday.

A NEW LUBBOCK TRADITION: LOUISIANA!

Get a taste of Louisiana, Cajun Style!
Try Gardski's new Louisiana Chicken Sandwich.
A chicken breast lightly coated with a spicy cajun
breading, fried and served on a whole wheat bun.
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Be a part of the new tradition!

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RESTAURANT & BAR

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TRADER

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WANT TO SELL a billboard: I'm interested in purchasing billboards within 50 miles of Lubbock, Plainview and Amarillo. Call Canyon Outdoor, 806-655-7121 or 655-1373 after 6pm.

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1994 16' fish and ski boat, 70 h.p. Electric trolling motor, complete fish and ski pkg. Boat, motor and trailer, \$8,495. Anchor Marine, 4217 Canyon Dr. Amarillo, 353-9511.

1994 16x6 Gooseneck, slant nose. Extra nice trailer. \$3,250. Friskup Trailer Sales. 655-3341.

Wanted: A used hydraulic lift trailer with bucket. 655-7982, leave message.

Wanted: Milo stocks for cows. Canyon Happy area. 655-0839.

I would like to purchase a house for sale to be moved. 378-0222.

Dallas county, modest 3 BR brick 1-1/2 bath, 2 car garage on approximately 1-1/2 acres adjacent to excellent schools and major shopping. Consider trade for no less than 5 acres with large or double wide trailer

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2108 4th Avenue, Canyon, Texas. A 3 Bedroom, 2 bath Stucco house containing approximately 1520 sq. ft. Lot 2, Block 2.

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2 DUPLEXES (These two units must be sold as one unit): 406-408 22nd Street & 410-412 22nd Street Canyon, Texas. Each duplex is a 2 bedroom, 3/4 bath stucco unit on each side containing approximately 580 sq.ft. total Lot 12; Block 2.

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AgReview



South Plains

Ag News

Oct. 29

PUNKIN DAY in Floydada. For the eighth year in a row, the City of Floydada is rolling out the red carpet to fellow South Plains residents to enjoy a day of fun centering on traditional, and safe, Halloween activities. In addition, arts and crafts booths, games for all ages and a masquerade dance will be held.

Nov. 29-30, Dec. 1

AMARILLO FARM & RANCH SHOW at the Amarillo Civic from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Show to feature more than 725 booth spaces indoor with an additional 100 booths next door. Texas Wheat Producers Association, Panhandle Farm Management Symposium and others to meet at same time.

COUNTRY CALENDAR
SUBMIT ITEMS TO:
Editor, Country Trader
AgReview, P.O. Box
1240, Plainview Daily
Herald, Plainview, TX

1994 Floydada Punkin Days Schedule

Day	Time	Event
Friday		Local Merchants Dress in Costume
Saturday	8:30 a.m.	Race registration Decorated, prettiest, ugliest, small est, largest entries, bake show and poster contest entries
	9 a.m.	Arts and Crafts Circle Dot Ranch Wagon breakfast Antique farm implements Classic Cars Harley Davidson Show
	10 a.m.	Guest Weight of Trailer 5K Run Coca-Cola Fun Run
	11:30 a.m.	Fat Man's Race
	Noon	Lunch Break, Shopping

* Toy Tractor Pull — All Day
* Pumpkin Jail — \$5 bribe to deputies to kidnap someone, then pay \$5 or Carve a Pumpkin to get out

1 p.m.	Entertainment under Pavilion Punkin' Days Auction
1:30 p.m.	Cow Pattie Bingo, \$1,000 pot Pumpkin seed spitting
2 p.m.	Games Begin, Pumpkin Drawing
2:20 p.m.	Carving Contest
2:40 p.m.	Pumpkin Toss
3 p.m.	Pumpkin Bowling
3:30 p.m.	Pumpkin Rolling Race
4 p.m.	Wheelbarrow Race
4:30 p.m.	Pumpkin Pie Relay
6 p.m.	Costume Contest at Floydada High School
6:15 to	
8:30 p.m.	Trunk or Treating
7 p.m.	1990 Study Club Carnival
8 p.m.	Four Seasons Dance Club Masquerade Ball

'Catch 22' situation for Cattlemen continues

On the surface, the September USDA 7-state Cattle on Feed report looked relatively favorable to cattle feeders.

September on feed numbers were down 5 percent, August cattle marketings up 3 percent and August feeder cattle placements down 4 percent.

All of that looks favorable until it is compared to previous years other than 1993.

For example, the September on feed number of 7.376 million head, with the exception of 1993, was the largest number on feed for September 1 since 1978.

It was also 4 percent larger than the September 1, 5 year on feed average.

August placements of 1.794 million head were 4 percent smaller than in August 1993.

But, these August placements were 7 percent larger than the 5 year average. Consequently, there should be plenty of fed cattle for this fall's markets.

Besides plenty of cattle on feed, heavier slaughter weights of fed cattle still plague the market. In the past few weeks fed steer and heifer slaughter weights have averaged 20 to 30 pounds above year ago slaughter weights. This has been a problem all year.

Given, that 25 million finished steers and heifers are market for slaughter each year, 30 additional pounds per each animal slaughtered would add 750 million pounds of beef to the annual domestic beef production.

Cattle feeders have been in a "Catch 22" situation all year. Packer buyers have demanded cattle finished to heavier weights or they discount the cattle. On the other hand, the heavier weights add more beef on the market and depress prices.

The only way fed cattle prices are going to recover to the \$70 per hundredweight (cwt.) levels to reduce the number of fed cattle available for marketing and reduce the slaughter weights.

With the larger and expanding beef cow herd, larger calf crops and expected declining feedgrain prices, cattle on feed numbers should be relatively large for the next two years. Seasonal price variations should still occur, but the overall year to year price for beef cattle and calves will likely be declining for the next two or three years.



LIVESTOCK MARKET UPDATE

Dr. Ernie Davis

As with most cattle cycles, once herd expansion exceeds current demand conditions, fed cattle and feeder cattle and calf prices are first affected.

Breeding cattle prices unusually lag this initial decline by 6 to 12 months. Unfortunately, once cattle prices begin declining it is usually two to three years before the beef cattle industry can begin reducing beef production and achieve some price increase rather than price decreases.

Just follow this scenario. Seventy-two percent of each year's calf crop is born the first 6 months (January-June) of the year.

Most of those calves are born in the January-April period. That means that most cows that will supply next year's (1995) calf crop are currently bred. Much of the cost of raising and breeding those cows has already been incurred, meaning economics dictates going ahead and calving them out. Those calves will be weaned in the fall of 1995.

Most will go to some growing or backgrounding phase for 4 to 5 months, arriving to feedlots in February and March 1996. After 120 to 180 days on feed, the bulk will be ready for slaughter during July and August 1996. This is to say, today's herd cows will be affecting the market nearly two years from now.

To decrease the beef supplies, i.e., the annual calf crop, the beef cow herds will need to be reduced. That requires larger culling rates, which means more beef production from the

See DAVIS, Page 4

Bears active, but cotton market improvements ahead

The October estimate of a record cotton crop is bearish to the market. However, substantial export commitments of 2.95 million bales were posted for the week ended Oct. 6.

These sales substantially improved prospects for this season's exports to reach the projected 7 million bales. Domestic use is looking strong at 11 million bales, the best since World War II.

Wet weather across the Delta and Southeast cotton regions during the week of Oct. 9 has delayed harvest operations. There is some concern that continued rain may cause yield and quality losses. If the weather clears up soon, only limited losses are likely.

Cotton stocks to increase

The U.S. cotton situation for this season is highlighted by prospects for carryover stocks of 4.9 million, up 39 percent from 3.5 million bales last season. The latest estimate puts stocks-to-use at 27 percent, only 2.5 points under the 29.5 percent target for the 1995/96 crop. The increase in supply is from a 270,000 bale upward revision in estimated production to 19.3 million and a 300,000 bale decrease in projected exports to 7.0 million.

Worldwide, prospects for this season include larger production against smaller consumption and trade. Global, pro-



COTTON MARKET UPDATE

Dr. Carl Anderson

duction is projected at 87 million bales, a 10 million bale increase over last year. Consumption is estimated at 86.2 million, compared with 84.6 in 1993/94. World ending stocks of 30.2 million are up from 29.6 million last season.

Trade is expected to slow because of reduced use in several importing countries, especially Russia. The deficit gap in foreign production compared with consumption is projected to be only 7.5 million bales this year, a substantial decrease from 14.0 million deficit last season. The smaller deficit gap indicates less demand for U.S. exports.

Seasonal price changes likely

In most years, the market weakens in November as supplies peak for the season. After the start of the new year, the price tends to strengthen and top in June/July. The spot market changes have averaged about 8 cents per pound from the November low to the July high since 1986.

The seasonal tendencies suggest that you may wish to consider implementing a "storage" hedge over the next several months. May or July call options could be used in place of storing cotton if you have not priced your 1994 cotton. Even if you contracted your cotton, a storage hedge will keep you participating in any price rallies.

The market, in the short-term, appears to have more seasonal potential to go down than up. Also, the possibility of a preliminary announcement by November 1 of a low ARP or a higher ARP acreage set-aside for the 1995 crop will have some impact on the market.

Economic indications point to more foreign cotton production in 1995 and a much larger U.S. 1994 carryover than last season. As a result, expect somewhat lower prices for the 1995/96 crop than in 1994. The next crop reports will be Nov. 9.

(Dr. Carl Anderson, Cotton Marketing Specialist with the Texas A&M Extension Service, is an expert on the world cotton markets.)

Punkin, from Page 1

attract record crowds and record numbers of pumpkins — which traditionally are seen decorating yards, businesses and thoroughfares all over this town each year.

The number of pumpkin growers in Floyd County continues to increase in Floyd County with 38 individuals reportedly producing pumpkins this year in 93 different locations.

This year's festival will once again kick off on Friday when the downtown merchants dress in a variety of different costumes — each trying to outdo the other. Visitors also will enjoy a drive through Floydada neighborhoods to view homes decorated with fall and pumpkin themes.

Saturday morning kicks off with a 5K race and a fun run beginning at 8:30 a.m. Arts and crafts booths will be open for business beginning at 9 a.m. on the manicured lawn of the Courthouse. The booths feature home made items from all over the United States. It will afford area residents an opportunity for some early Christmas shopping.

Judging will begin under the pavilion at 9:30 a.m., on entries of the smallest pumpkin, the largest pumpkin, ugliest gourd, prettiest corn, best

painted pumpkin, best carved pumpkin and best pumpkin pie. Entries will be accepted from all over Texas.

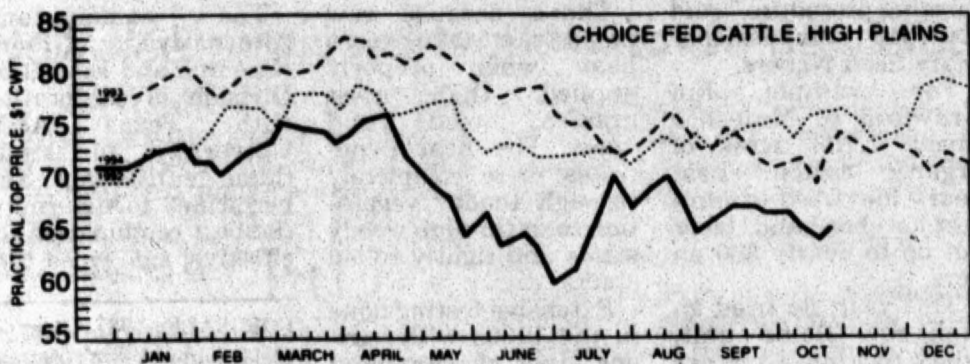
Smaller children can take part in special games including a pumpkin drawing contest, pumpkin rolling race, the great pumpkin toss and pumpkin bowling. Older youths can partake in a timed carving contest, seed spitting contest, wheelbarrow race and a pumpkin pie relay race.

The person who guesses the weight of the pumpkin piled in a trailer will win \$25 and prizes of \$200, \$300 and \$500 will be awarded to the winners of the Cow Patty Bingo.

Later in the day, children will be treated to a costume contest at Floydada High School then a safe "Trunk or Treating" around the walking path at the high school. This newer version of Trick or Treating was created to give children a safe version of the tradition in a protected environment.

Trunk or treating will begin at 6:15 p.m. Cars belonging to volunteers screened by the Punkin' Day Committee will be parked along the walkway with trunk lids open.

More information on Punkin' Days is available from Punkin' Day Chairman Roxanne Cummings at 983-3035.



Courtesy Texas Cattle Feeders Association, Amarillo

Choice fed cattle, High Plains

The above report reflects market activity through Oct. 20.

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Dangerous Don

Let's Hear it for the Queen

Howdy, neighbors!

Awesome Ann sent ole Dangerous by "Barfields" the other afternoon to pick up a gallon of one percent milk.

Bubba Barfield, the proprietor, had the TV tuned to one of those weird talk shows. Opal Windmill, I think it was.

The show was about the British royal family. Boys and girls, those royalty-types are just fallin' apart. The wives of the Princes are behavin' themselves in a scandalous manner. Those two Prince fellows may not be as pure as the freshly-fallen snow themselves.

At the same time, according to this program, the British public is becoming "quite fed-up, thank you" with this whole assortment of non-tax-payin' royal leeches. It is even bein' suggested, perish the thought, that these royals start payin' taxes, just like the peasants!

More radical elements are going so far as to suggest that this whole King and Queen, Prince and Princess business has had its day and that the throne should be dissolved forthwith.

You probably realize that bein' a king or a queen is one of the best jobs a person can get. It looks to me like one of those cushy jobs that ole Dangerous just might like. I coulda had it too, except for an improbable accident of birth (daddy was a cotton-pickin' cotton farmer devoid of royal blood). Apparently, Elizabeth is quite fond of the royal job herself, and all of this scandalous and reckless "dissolving of the monarchy" talk is makin' her Queenness as nervous as all git-out.

Bubba Barfield is one of the most sensible people I know.

He opined, after watchin' all of this royal palaver, "Well, Dangerous, that just goes to prove that havin' more money than you can even spend still doesn't guarantee happiness. I guess money can't buy happiness."



My less than thoughtful response was: "Reckon not, Bubba; but then, happiness won't buy money either."

As I started home in my pickup, I got to ponderin' this whole royalty thing carefully.

I thought: At least the Queen knows who she is. She doesn't suffer from an "identity crisis."

I think who I would have really liked to have been is a country/western singer like ole Ernest Tubb or Porter Wagoner. Can't carry a tune though. Come to think of it, that hasn't stopped some of them.

Reckon I'll just have to be satisfied with talkin' to a few million nice folks on the radio everyday and bein' thankful that some of 'em are kind enough to treat this little column gently. But, don't you think for a minute that doin' what I do frees me from "crisis" in my life. Heck, when I try to be serious, people laugh. And when I try to be funny, people take me seriously!

Brace up, Queen baby! We've got kids! We understand!

Ya'll come see us, ya hear?

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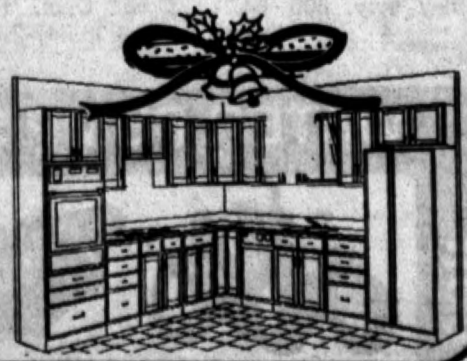
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Fishing fair for few fall anglers willing to wet a hook

AUSTIN — The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department issued the following fishing report for West Texas last week:

ARROWHEAD: Water fairly clear, low, 72 degrees, black bass fair, white bass good, crappie

excellent in 8-10 feet up to two and a half pounds, 60 pound catfish on shrimp and stink baits.

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water muddy, 6 feet low, 68 degrees, black bass fair, white bass good to excellent at

the discharge cove on small spoons and spinners, hybrid stripers fair, crappie good on jigs in 5 to 50 feet, catfish poor.

GRANBURY: Water off-colored, normal, 76 degrees, black bass good up to 4 1/2 pounds on

chartreuse spinners, striped bass fair on shad like lures fished deep, crappie good in trees 18 to 24 feet down, catfish good 14 to 20 feet.

GREENBELT: Water clear, 9 feet low, 69 degrees, black bass 8 to 10 per catch, crappie

picking up, walleye slow, catfish good on shrimp and worms.

KEMP: Water clear, low, black bass fair, stripers fair, crappie no report available, catfish good.

MEREDITH: Water clear, normal, 66

degrees, black bass poor, small mouth good on rocky points on minnows and jigs, white bass good on slabs and minnows. Walleye fair, but improving in 12-20 feet of water on jigs and

See Fishing, Pg. 5

Flame cultivator, once common on Plains, making comeback

Many people have an old flame from years ago still burning in their hearts. Now some Texas agricultural producers are rekindling one old flame in particular: propane flame cultivation to clear fields of cotton, vineyards and row crops.

"We see this new interest in a proven technology as a key growth market for propane sales," said Jim Nugent, chairman of the Texas Railroad

Commission. The Railroad Commission regulates the Texas oil and gas industry.

Before chemical weed-killers were in widespread use, many farmers relied on propane-powered flame machines to control weeds in row crops.

Harry Garretson, propane dealer in Hale Center, said that in 1964, 21 farmers around that town used high-clearance tractors equipped with flame cul-

tivators.

"They kept us running from sunup to sundown supplying propane na service," he said.

But competition from inexpensive chemical weeding agents that became widely available in the 1960s caused the demise of the technique.

Garretson said he knew it was the beginning of the end for propane flame weeding when he saw a farmer spraying anew product called Treflan on his

crops.

Propane was then selling for 10 to 15 cents a gallon.

"It was just too expensive to compete with the new, cheaper chemicals," Garretson said.

Now that many farmers face strict environmental protection guidelines and rising production costs, propane flame cultivation is again a practical option.

"We saw a need for more uses for this environmentally friendly farming procedure," said Railroad Commissioner Mary Scott Nabers.

For example, Jim Crawford of Muleshoe farms 1,200 acres of organic cotton. Last year, his weed control cost for "hoe hand" labor got up to nearly \$80 an acre.

This year, he tried an eight-row flame unit, which cost him \$3.50 per acre, per application. Learning to use the unit effectively took

some trial and error, but it paid off — some of his cotton this year should produce more than two bales per acre.

How do farmers like Mr. Crawford avoid harming their crops?

A row of special burners mounted across a tractor tool bar directs a blast of heat at the base of the plants. The high temperatures cause delicate plant cells to rupture, destroying weeds without injury to cultivated crops.

That's because row crops can take more heat (when properly applied) than most grasses, weeds and vines. The heat penetrates more completely through tender vegetation than through woody stems and tightly rolled stalks.

Extensive testing done in the 1960s with various kinds of equipment

and crops still yields valuable information.

Besides cotton, crops on which flame weeding has been used successfully include corn, grain sorghum, soybeans and potatoes.

The best time to flame cultivate is while weeds are small, and damp conditions after rain or irrigation are ideal for treatment. But, naturally, many farmers want to know more about flame weeding before committing to it.

The commission's Alternative Fuels Research and Education Division is cooperating with Texas A&M University to study flame cultivation and herbicides to determine the best combination for effective, safe weed con-

FOR SALE: 1987 Chevrolet 4X4 Suburban V-8; air front and rear; electric windows; tilt; FM stereo-cassette. See at 600 Railroad Avenue, Slaton, Texas.

DAVIS, From Pg 2

additional cow slaughter. This can delay the recovery in cattle prices into the third year. So, expect relatively lower cattle and calf prices for the next 2 to 3 years.

Cattle feeding statistics:

On Feed: Cattle and calves on feed Sept. 1, 1994, in the 7 Quarterly States totaled 7.38 million head, down 5 percent from Sept. 1, 1993 (Table 1), but up 6 percent from 1992. Texas had 2.24 million head of cattle and calves on feed, down 5 percent from a year ago.

Placements: August feedlot placements in the 7 States totaled 1.79 million head, down 4 percent from 1993, but 9 percent above 1992. September placements into Texas feedlots totaled 490 thousand head, down 11 percent from last year.

(Dr. Ernie Davis, Livestock Marketing Specialist with the Texas A&M Extension Service, is an authority on the cattle markets).

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1980-1986 Fullsize Pickups (Shaded)	\$98 ⁰⁰
1980-1986 Fullsize Pickups (Tinted)	\$92 ⁰⁰
1987-1993 Fullsize Pickups (Shaded)	\$98 ⁰⁰
1987-1993 Fullsize Pickups (Tinted)	\$92 ⁰⁰
Ford Ranger & Bronco II (Shaded)	\$98 ⁰⁰

Dodge Pickups

1974-1993 Fullsize Pickups (Shaded)	\$125 ⁰⁰
1974-1993 Fullsize Pickups (Tinted)	\$100 ⁰⁰

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Donna Williams/Plainview Daily Herald

Pumpkins are a family tradition

Louis Pyle (right) joins son Robert and grandson Adam in an inspection of their home grown pumpkins and gourds which went on sale on their farm near Floydada in preparation for the city's annual Punkin Days Celebration. The Pyles report a good crop this year, including popular varieties like the huge Howdens, Big Macs and Atlantic Giants. They also sell various gourds, several varieties of squash, peppers and shocks of corn for seasonal decorating — one of their favorite secondary cash crops.

New rice promises higher worldwide yields

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new breed of rice with yields as much as 25 percent greater than other strains could help feed millions more people using the limited amount land available for rice cultivation, an international research group says.

Organization said. The organization, based in Los Banos, Philippines, says the rice should be available to farmers in five years.

However, the new rice must be further developed for resistance to pests and disease, and to meet local growing conditions and tastes, the International Rice Research

Scientists were able to increase the number of grains per panicle — or seed cluster — from the current 100 to about 200 or 250. The plants have fewer tillers, or stems, from 25 to about eight.

FISH, from Pg. 4

night crawlers, catfish good on worms and punchbait.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 72 degrees, black bass fair to 41/2 pounds, many small ones, crappie good on minnows off docks, catfish excellent averaging 3 to 4 pounds on chicken liver, most caught off docks.

O.H.IVIE: Water clear, 82 degrees; largemouth bass very good on topwaters and cranks around pondweed and algae, keeper sizes in same areas but deeper and using plastic worms; smallmouth bass fair mixed with largemouth bass on same baits; crappie slow; white bass fair on cranks, spoon and Roadrunners chasing shad on surface; wall-eye slow, catfish fair. Channel cats on rod and reel over baited

holes or on trotline in 3-8 feet of water on **NORTH SABINE LAKE:** Water rough, high tide, fishing over-all good, especially for redfish and speckled trout on variety of baits in protected covers where birds are working, flounder good on shrimp and minnows, drum and sheepshead poor, high tides have boosted fishing off side of road, few fishermen, but good catches.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Water rough, redfish fair along ship channels, speckled trout good across reefs, flounder excellent near bridge and some along channel on shrimp and mud minnows, lots of big croaker and drum.

GALVESTON: Water clear, few reds, excellent croaker and whiting, sheepshead fair, black drum good, jackfish and mackerel coming through in the mornings.

FREEMONT: No report, few fishermen.

PORT ISABEL: Water choppy, redfish good, blackdrum excellent some oversized, flounder good, speckled trout good, sand trout and whiting excellent, mangrove snapper excellent at night near end of pier.

EAST MATAGORDA: Water clear, limits of redfish, flounder, trout being caught. High success for most fishermen.

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Many convenience stores carry cigarette papers which can be used for rolling 'joints,' while other types of drug paraphernalia are readily available in record stores and 'head' shops.

LSD hallucinations, commonly referred to as 'tripping,' can range from disorientation or disassociation from reality to extreme psychosis. Delayed effects, or 'flashbacks' can occur when use has ceased.

Crack, a highly addictive form of cocaine, is usually sold in small amounts that are easily affordable to young children.

Doctors will tell you that cocaine use can ulcerate the mucous membrane of the nose. Translation: Cocaine will eat away your nose.

It's not always easy to tell if your child is using drugs. Changes in behavior, loss of appetite, lack of interest in favorite activities, depression or hostility may indicate drug use.

Heroin produces a euphoric feeling, followed by drowsiness, nausea and vomiting. Tolerance to the drug builds quickly, requiring an addict to use increasing amounts of the drug to get 'high.' An overdose may result, causing convulsions, coma or death.

Possession of common items such as eye droppers, film canisters, or butane lighters may signal a child is using drugs.

A crack 'rush' can be felt in as little as ten seconds, but crack's negative effects can last for years.

Abuse of prescription drugs can lead to a host of dangerous psychological and physiological side effects, even death.

Marijuana has many names, such as 'reefer,' 'pot,' 'dope,' 'herb' and 'weed.' It has also been called the 'gateway' to harder drugs, as users are at a substantially higher risk of going on to use cocaine and other illegal drugs.

Cocaine use increases the heart rate and elevates blood pressure, which can cause cardiac arrest or respiratory failure.

Sold in tablet form or soaked into small bits of blotter paper or sugar cubes, LSD's small size packs a big wallop to the body's central nervous system.

Powdered heroin is melted in aluminum foil, a spoon or the bottom of a soda can, so that it can be injected directly into the bloodstream. And because users often share needles, they also share deadly diseases such as hepatitis and AIDS.

Marijuana can impair or reduce short-term memory, comprehension, concentration and coordination. It may also produce paranoia and dependence.

With devices like this ' bong' or water pipe, users often inhale marijuana smoke deeply and hold it in their lungs as long as possible for maximum effect. Which makes it even more damaging to the lungs and pulmonary system.

Often referred to as 'magic' mushrooms or 'shrooms,' psilocybin's hallucinogenic effects are similar to that of LSD.

Introduce your nine year old to drugs.

Nine years old isn't too young for kids to learn about drugs. The question is, who will teach them? Show your kids this ad. Tell them about the dangers. Let them see what drugs and drug paraphernalia look like. Because if you don't, someone else will. **Partnership for a Drug-Free America**

If you would like to get a copy of the free booklet "Growing Up Drug Free: A Parent's Guide To Prevention," just call 1-800-624-0100. In the Washington, D.C. area, call 202-785-1161.

As result of bin busting corn year:

When harvest-a-plenty becomes a headache

By BARNABY J. FEDER
c.1994 N.Y. Times

DWIGHT, Ill. — When David Rothermel recently lined up his rumbling combine with his first eight rows of corn in his field at Dwight, Ill., he smiled wistfully at a visitor's suggestion that the season's finish line was in sight.

"There's still a lot that can happen," he cautioned as he lowered the the churning teeth of the cutting head on the bright red Case International combine into the corn.

It was almost six months since Rothermel began planting here at the northernmost part of his 2,900-acre farm, spreading more than 26,000 corn seeds an acre into soil that was slightly damper and colder than he would have liked. Since then, insects like the corn borer and weeds like Canadian thistle, foxtail and velvetleaf have taken their toll. The rains have come too fitfully in some months and too often in others.

Still, nature has been relatively kind and what remains is a huge crop, perhaps a record for

Rothermel, 40. And he is not the only farmer headed toward bin-busting yields. The Agriculture Department recently raised its crop forecast for a fourth consecutive month, to 9.6 billion bushels of corn and 2.5 billion bushels of soybeans — both records.

The bumper crop has sent prices plunging, leaving Rothermel worried about his profits and feeling he needs every bushel just to meet his goal of \$750,000 in revenues. "The problem with this business is that you can end up with a wage cut when you are producing more than ever," Rothermel said.

Indeed, the crop from a small field of corn Rothermel harvested about 40 miles away in Elliott, Ill., had to be sold to a local grain dealer at \$1.98 a bushel because there was no place to store the corn. "It's impossible to make money at that price," Rothermel said.

The challenge now is partly a race to bring home this year's crop before severe weather arrives. But the harvest is more than a flat-out

sprint. Farmers also worry about harvesting in ways that minimize waste and damage to the grain, timing the harvest to match efficient storage, marketing and shipping schemes, and — not least — preparing fields for next year's crops.

Large commercial operations like Rothermel's, which account for most of the nation's output, usually have the advantage of better equipment and more help from consultants or other outside experts. But they also have so many more acres to work that they are forced to harvest in conditions that smaller farmers can often avoid.

Rothermel has already harvested about 1,000 acres of soybeans, with yields ranging from a disappointing 42 to 45 bushels — right about the state average — to more than 60 bushels from his land in Fairmount, Ill.

Another 480 acres that Rothermel planted in seed corn has already been hand-harvested by the companies that will clean, grade and then sell the corn kernels to

farmers preparing for next year's planting. The carefully irrigated seed corn yielded more than 80 bushels an acre. That is about half of a respectable yield for the commercial corn varieties that end up in animal feed but a terrific result for a seed crop. Because the seed companies included multipliers in their contracts to compensate Rothermel for growing a low-yielding crop, he is being credited

with topping 300 bushels an acre.

In a sense, though, Rothermel's harvest began in earnest at Dwight on Oct. 11. His stretch run will take him across 1,400 acres of commercial and food-grade corn. If he is lucky, he will finish by mid-November.

So far, there has been no hint of the unusually wet conditions that kept him in the combine until just two days before

Christmas two years ago and disrupted preparations for the 1993 crop. But Rothermel pushes himself as though delays could be around the corner, putting aside church, family events and the paperwork that has piled up on his desk.

"Tricia started junior high basketball this year," he said last week, referring to the eldest of his two daughters. "I haven't made it to a game yet."

Making fresh fruit even better for you

WASHINGTON (AP) — Carrots have twice as much vitamin A today as they did years ago, which means they are doubly good for you, the Agriculture Department says.

For the past 30 years, department scientists have tinkered with domestically grown produce, developing new varieties that resist disease and pests, breeding to produce more attractive and better-tasting fruits, nuts and vegetables, and increasing nutrient content so the "good-for-you's" pack twice the punch.

More than 730 vari-

eties of vegetables, fruits and grains have been re-engineered since the 1980s.

USDA's Agricultural Research journal says that among other feats, agency scientists have doubled the carotene in Bugs Bunny's favorite fare since 1950, to 140 parts per million, which means carrots are a better source than ever for

vitamin A.

"For example, our scientists are credited with saving the strawberry industry in Midwestern states in the 1950s by introducing varieties resistant to several races of red stele, a root-rotting fungus that was devastating the crop," said Howard Brooks, Ag Research Service.

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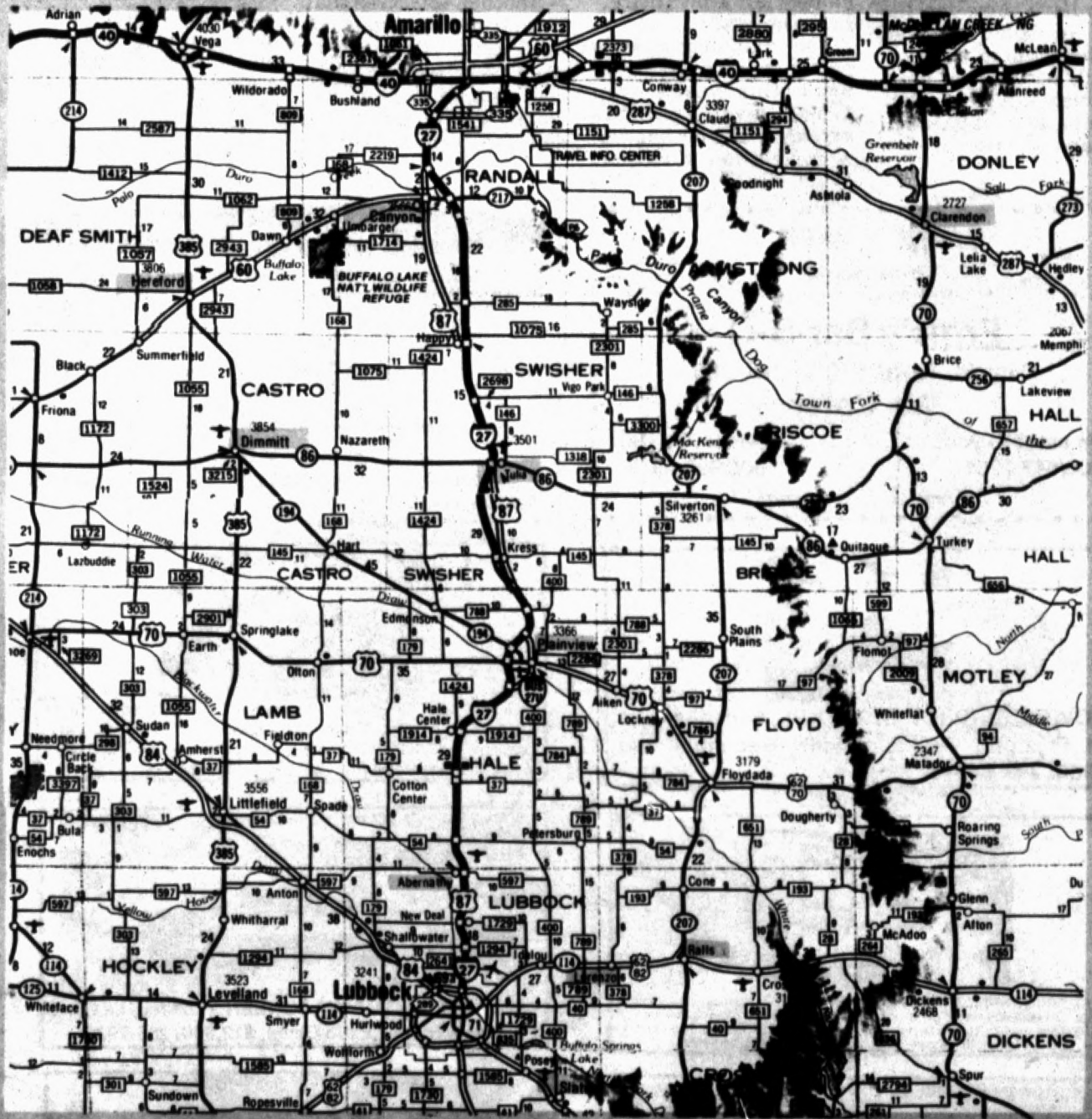
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