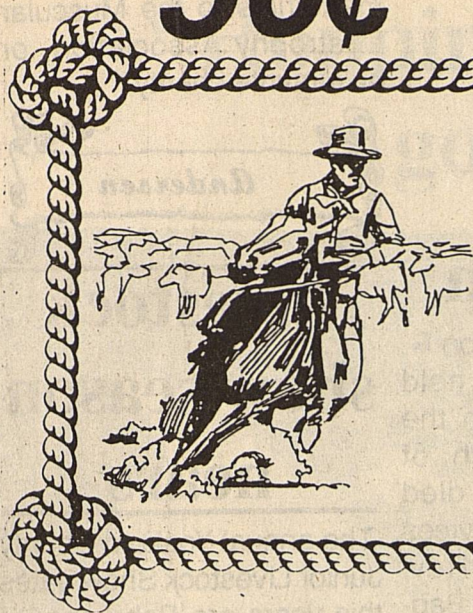
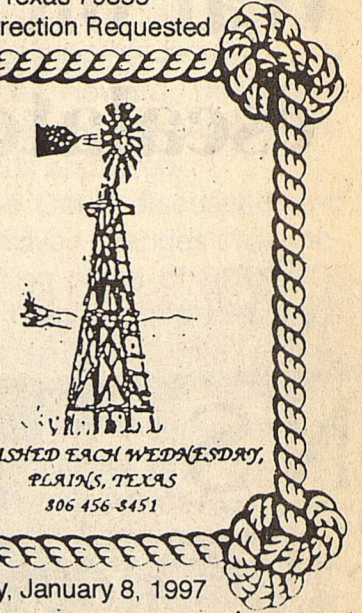


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Volume III, Issue 19, Wednesday, January 8, 1997

EPA hits new high for stupidity Or is it new LOW?

The following article appeared in the December, 1996 issue of "Grain Sorghum News", the monthly publication of the National Grain Sorghum Producers.

"Now that the election is over, the Environmental Protection Agency has been given the green light to go ahead and publish their recommendation on particulate matter for industry and agriculture.

"EPA will publish a proposed rule that will tighten the standard for secondarily formed - meaning man made or man responsible - air pollutants down to a 2.5 micron level or less, reports Dan Shaw, NGSP Washington Representative.

"The standard now in place is a 10 micron level. or a PM-10 This standard was adopted in 1987 in a mandatory review process which, by law, is to be repeated every 5 years.

"In 1992, the EPA recommended no changes and continued with the PM-10 requirement, but now the agency believes the technology is available to bring their regulating authority down to particles that measure at the level of PM-2.5.

"This concern literally is over specks of dust particles so tiny that 28 of the PM-2.5 particles could fit in the width of a human hair - the average human hair is 70 microns, Shaw said. This ruling will affect agriculture as well as manufacturing, construction and transportation. In fact, some fear the proposal will hurt everything from field plowing to feedlots to fertilizer use.

"Shaw said he asked an EPA official if this new ruling would affect western farmers who, by their field work, increase the blowing of dust. The EPA official said it was very possible, but no official monitoring of tillage practices has been done.

"This same contact did admit the new standard could affect ammonia emissions from feed lots and other animal containment areas and the use of fertilizer on farmlands.

"It could also cost the agricultural industry money to reduce the nitrous oxide emissions from farm tractors, since there is no exemption for off road equipment and all diesel emissions would come under the new regulation.

Agriculture and industries will have until January 31 to comment on the proposed rule. 'If you recall the voter reaction in the November election - the environmental community targeted Republican incumbents who, in the past, had voted to reduce environmental regulations and over 50 percent were defeated at the polls', Shaw said. 'This rule by EPA, if allowed to go unchecked, could be devastating for agriculture.'

For ag producers and business or industry involved in agriculture here on the South Plains, the implications of this astonishing bit of idiocy should be truly frightening. If the ruling is allowed to stand, every time a producer puts a piece of tillage equipment in the ground, or fires up a diesel tractor, every time a cotton gin cranks up, every time a fertilizer plant starts manufacturing, every time a truck dumps or loads milo at a grain elevator, the EPA, in it's infinite wisdom, could write citations for violating these standards.

'CONNECTION' to hold Annual Meeting

The 'Yoakum County Connection' will meet Thursday, January 9, at 7 p.m. in the Yoakum County Park Party House. This will be the organization's first annual meeting, at which four new Directors will be elected. Dues paying businesses and other organizations will be eligible to vote and complete the twelve person Board. 'Connection' was organized in early 1996 to improve the quality of life in the county through educational and special activities pertaining to the Arts.

Betty Switzer, Director of Community Development and Rural Services for the Texas Commission on the

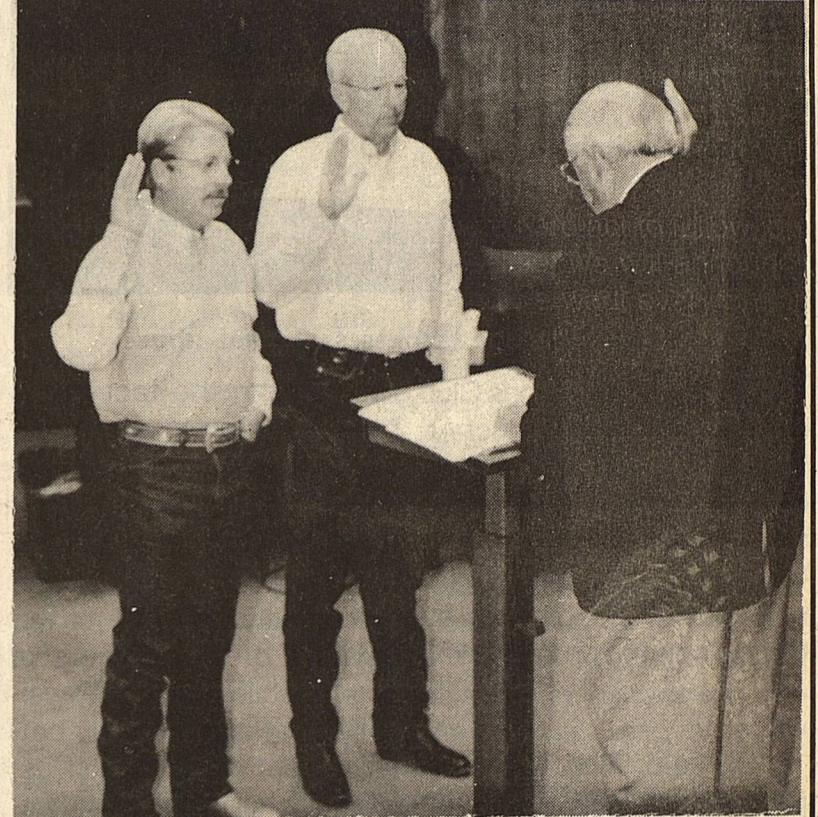
Arts, will be the Keynote Speaker. She has been on the Commission staff since 1984. She has also served as Assistant Director of the Texas Alliance for Education and the Arts, and on many civic and non-profit organizations. She has served as a panelist and guest speaker at many conferences and workshops on the local, state and national level.

Those attending the meeting are urged to offer suggestions and input. Linda Powell, furnishing information for this article, quoted Winston Churchill, "We make a living by what we get; We make a life by what we give".

First morning of New Year busy with swearing in ceremonies



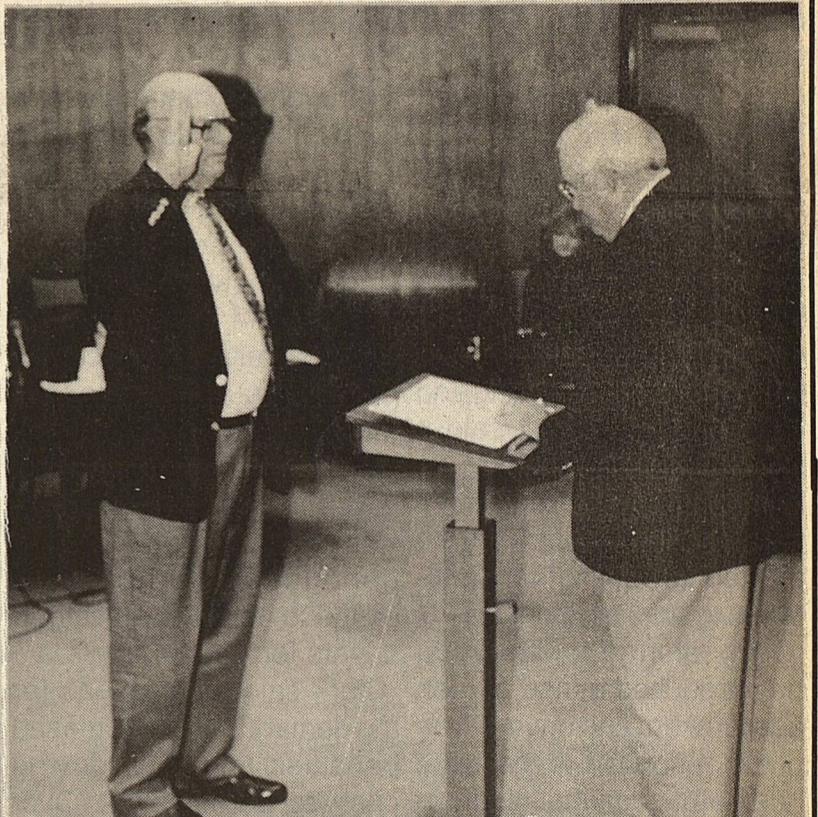
Tax Assessor/Collector Wanda Smith takes oath from Judge Dallas Brewer



New Pct 1. Commissioner Woody Lindsey and incumbent Jim Barron recite oath



Constables Jimmie Blount, Plains, and Olivia Robertson, Denver City, sworn in



Incumbent Sheriff Jim Rice sworn in for another Term of office By Judge Brewer

A new crop year underway New business opens

In the Old Testament Book of Ecclesiastes, it says there is "a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted". It could have added, a time to plow, in the eternal cycle of agriculture. Many producers are pulling breaking plows on their harvested acres, preparing for the planting season just months away. Some areas in the county are too dry for deep plowing, and many farmers are being forced to pre water. Local Weather recorder Hershell Smith reported he totalled up the precipitation falling here in town during 1996, and was mildly surprised to find it totalled 17.02 inches, compared to the normal County average of 16.2 inches.



LATE MODEL JOHN DEERE PULLS 'SWITCH' PLOW ON MCWHIRTER FARM WEST OF TOWN

Cherie Sanders last week completed the final details completing the purchase of former owner Linda Powell's "Renaissance Flower & Gift Shop". She opened the shop January 6 with a limited inventory, explaining "We wanted the store to be open as quickly as possible, although our purchasing inventory is very low. I plan to go to the Dallas market on January 9, and when I return with our initial new inventory, hope to please our new neighbors and customers in the same manner Linda Powell has done over the past years. She and her Mother-in-Law, Wilma Powell, have done a wonderful job serving their customers, and we will do our very best to continue this tradition."

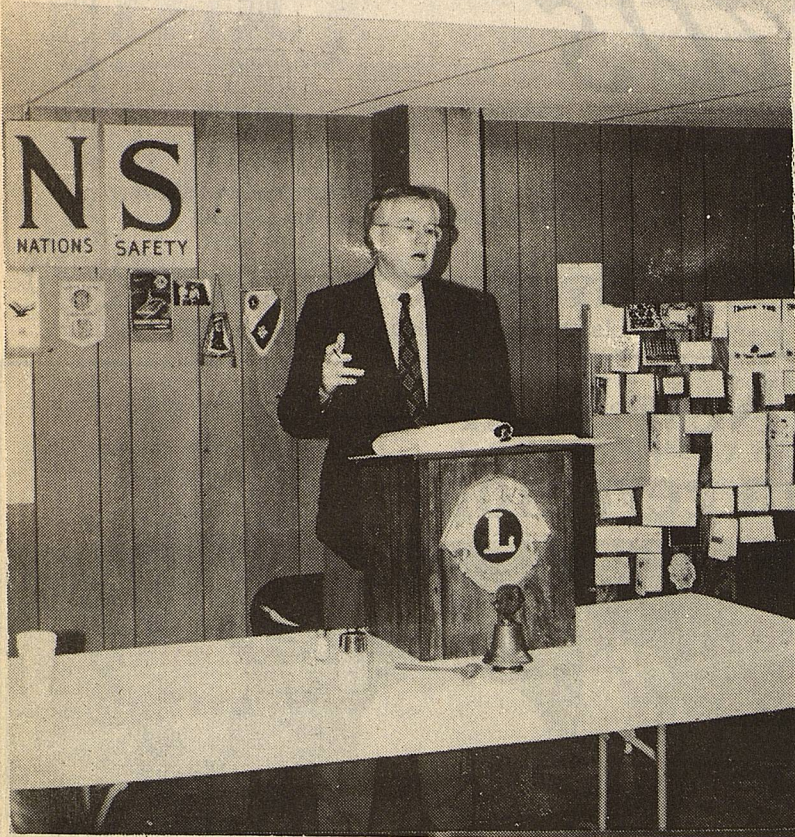
Cherie is married to David Sanders, the son of L.J. and Virginia Sanders, and they have moved into the old home of David's Grandparents, the late Baine and Pearl Price. Her parents are the L.R. Hinkle's of McKinney, Texas.

Before their marriage, Cherie was a college student at Southwestern University at San Marcos, and David attended Odessa Jr. College on a gymnastic scholarship, and then B.Y.U and the University of Texas.

David is an independent Stuntman, contracting with Hollywood and TV producers, and will continue his career, commuting by air to his stateside and international assignments. The Plains Chamber of Commerce and all residents welcome the Sanders to the community, and wish them well with Cherie's new venture and David's career.

Cherie said, "Linda Powell will be a hard act to follow, but we'll do our best. As soon as possible, we will announce the date of our grand opening, and we want every one in Plains to attend so we can meet you all".

War on D.W.I. to escalate in 1997



Richard Clark discusses alcohol abuse

At last Thursday's Lions Club meeting, Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark left little doubt in the member's minds the State of Texas and Yoakum County are very serious about stepping up efforts to combat drunken driving on our roads and highways.

Clark said "The two most prevalent case types my office handles are domestic, or family violence, and DWI cases". He felt those statistics would be borne out in most other counties around the state.

He referred to a questionnaire mailed by Gary Walker, State Representative for District 80, and the responses Walker received to the questionnaire, several of which referred to drinking and driving issues. Clark said it was a certainty bills would be introduced in the Legislative Session starting January 14 drafted to strengthen anti-drinking and driving laws.

Clark referred to one bill to be introduced aimed at teen age drinkers and drivers. The public response to the issue has been overwhelmingly in favor of a "Zero Tolerance" policy for teen drivers consuming alcohol. He indicated the idea is not meant to single teens out as the only alcohol abusing drivers, but is a step

recognizing the fact teens have a different mind set than adults; "Studies show all our young people tend to think they are immune to accidents, they are immortal, and are literally unaware of the severity of the dangers of driving while drinking. Physically, they are probably better drivers than most of us; With alcohol in their systems, they simply don't have the ability to cope with the impaired judgements alcohol can produce".

He reported other legislative bills to possibly be introduced include lowering the blood alcohol content level from the current .10 point level. He said extensive research at Texas A & M had proved severe mental and physical impairments from lesser amounts of levels. Stronger open containers in vehicles laws may be introduced, as well as possibly enabling unannounced traffic check points to be set up to screen drivers for alcohol levels.

Clark said the reasons for the demand for the increased penalties for drunk driving charges are simple - "Over 55% of the automobile accidents producing fatalities in Texas are alcohol related".

The message should be clear.

Final Services Held For Margaret Box

Funeral services were held for Margaret H. Box, 76, in the First Baptist Church here at 2 p.m. Tuesday with Pastor Ray Young officiating. She passed away January 4 in the Brownfield Regional Medical Center following a length illness.

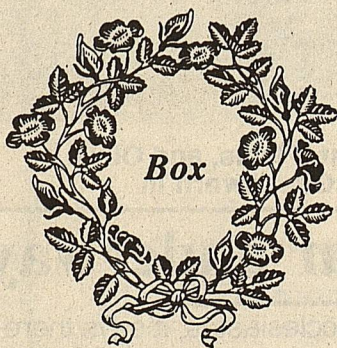
She was born on July 24, 1920, at Hollis Oklahoma. She married Tom Box on June 5, 1955, in Lubbock. He preceded her in death in 1993.

She graduated from Texas Tech and earned a Master's Degree in Education, and taught in Claune, Levelland and Lubbock elementary schools. She also served as a bank employee in Levelland and Lubbock. After moving to Plains, she served as a substitute teacher here for 30 years.

She served as an adult leader in the 4-H organization, organized the Staline Home Demonstration Club, and served as a state officer in the Home Demonstration Club. She was an active church member, and wrote news articles for the Brownfield and Plains newspapers.

She is survived by her son, Tommy Guy Box, and his wife Cindra; two brothers, Louis Hughes, Winter Park, Fla., and Glenn Hughes of Seminole; A sister, Carol Beth Box of Lovington, NM, and two granddaughters, Shawna and Maranda Box of Plains. She was preceded in death by two brothers, Randall and Dale Hughes.

Interment was in the Plains Cemetery.



Harrison final rites held

Services for Cleo Varie Harrison, 87, were held in Denver City Church of Christ Monday at 3 p.m., with Tommy Allison, Eastwood Church of Christ Minister in El Paso officiating. Skip Rogers, Denver City Church of Christ Minister, assisted. Interment followed in Denver City Memorial Park. She died Friday, January 3 in the Seminole Memorial Health Care Center.

She was born Jan. 31, 1909 in Erath County. She married W.C. Harrison Feb. 26, 1927, in Aspermont. He preceded her in death in 1990. She had lived in Denver City since 1940, and was a member of the Church of Christ.

She had worked for the Denver City School System. A son, W.C. Jr., died in 1986.

Survivors include a son, Dennis G. of Denver City; Three daughters, Lois Marie Reed of Abilene, Mary Alice Allison of El Paso, and Sharon Goodman of Midland; A sister, Tina Carter of Salinas, Cal.; 14 grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren, and a great-great grandchild.



Services held for Don R. Anderson

Funeral services for Don R. Anderson, 78, were held Monday, January 6 in the First Baptist Church of Perryton, Texas. He died January 3, 1997. Services were conducted by Rev. Chester O'Brien, retired Baptist minister, and Rev. Ted Latham, pastor of First Baptist, Perryton.

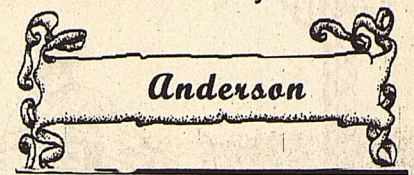
He was born in Panhandle, Texas October 14, 1918. He married Bell M. Wright on June 1, 1943, in Perryton, and she preceded him in death in 1989.

He was a retired Baptist Minister, and had pastored in Follett and Cactus, Texas, Cheyenne, Ok., Littleton, Colo., and Tightwad, Mo. He retired in 1985, when he was also Regional Manager for Franklin Life Insurance. He was a graduate of Howard Payne College, and the Southwestern Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. He lived in Lubbock until 1992 when he moved to Amarillo. He belonged to the First Baptist Church there.

He is survived by a daughter, Kayleen Canon, of Plains; A brother, Robert Anderson of Panhandle, a sister, Mary Sue Wood of Happy, and two grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Bryan Ander-

son. The family suggests memorials to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, or on'e favrite charity.



Livestock show season nears

The annual Yoakum County Junior Livestock Show dates this years are Bebruary 6,7 and 8. The show is sponsored by the Yoakum County Livestock Association, and exhibitors belong to either the FFA or 4-H youth organizations.

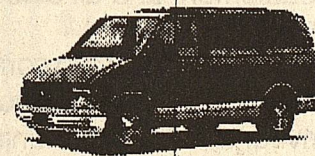
Animals eligible for the show include steers, heifers, swine, rabbits, lambs and meat goats. Association officers include Steve Bowlin, Kreg Keesee, Darwin Robertson and Jim Brown. Other Board members are Bill Anderson, Bruce Lester, Bobby McMillin, Kevin Gibson, Larry Mason, Mike Roberts and Wayne Sisson.

Advisors to the young exhibitors are Geoff Cooper, Denver City FFA, Joe Pierce, Plains FFA, and Tadd Knight, county 4-H. For more information about the event, contact any board member or advisor.

Other livestock show dates around the state include Fort Worth, Jan. 28-Feb. 1; El Paso, Jan. 31-Feb. 4; San Antonio, Feb. 10-15, Houston, Feb. 20-Mar. 1, and San Angelo, Mar. 5-8.

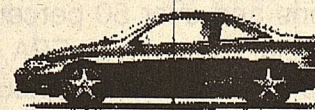
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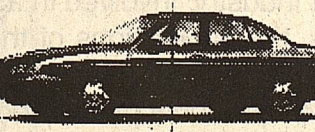
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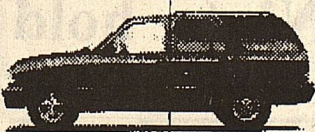
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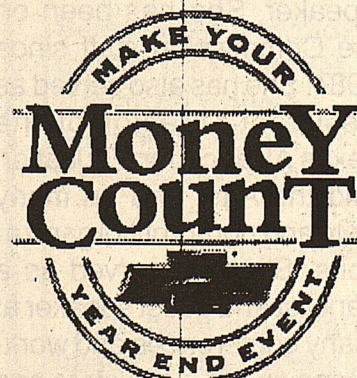
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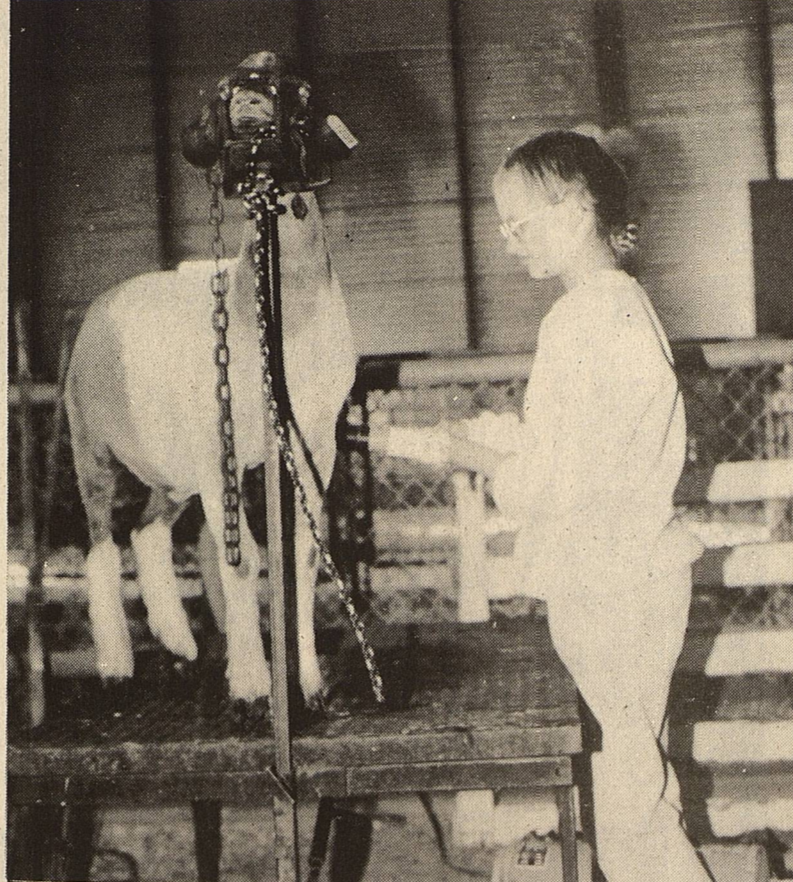
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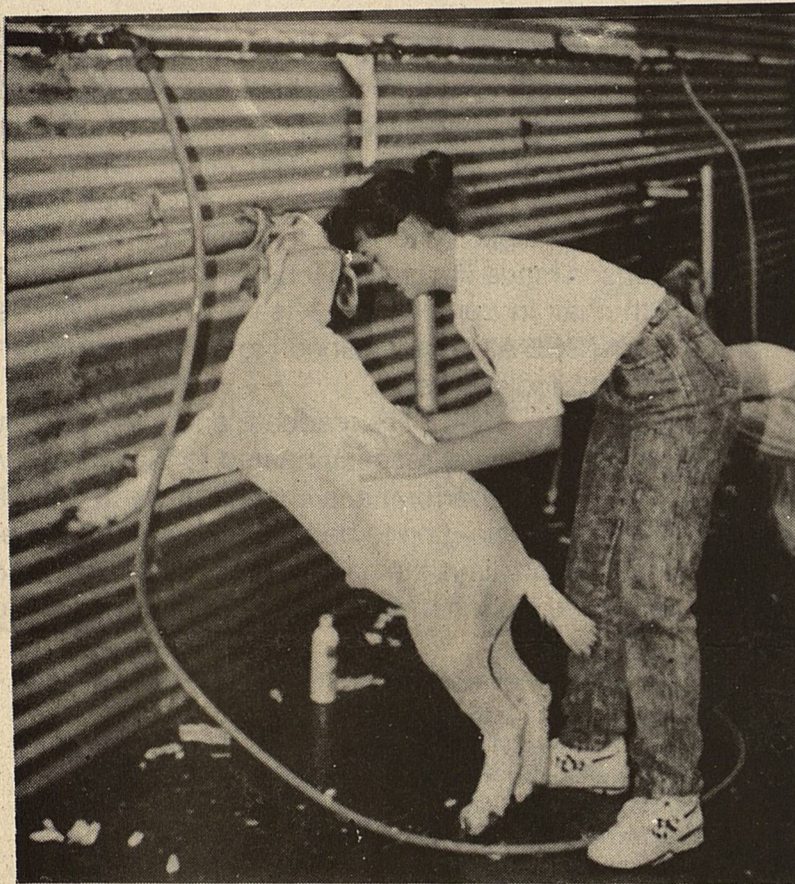
"Hoppin and Cloppin Classic" goat & rabbit show



Megan Allsup is amused, Cody Mayes looks doubtful about his rabbit



Ragan McGinty blow dries her unhappy goat



Dawn Garland scrubs down her goat



Waiting to show, Tommie McNabb plays Sol Rabbit Show Results

Best of Best - Tommie McNabb
Best of Best Opposite - Tristan Seago
Best of Breed (BOB) - Callie Howell; **Best of Opposite (BOO)** - Callie Howell; BOB - Casey Mayes; BOO - Tara Price; BOB - Joshua Shoemake BOO - Erin Webb; BOB - Chisum Deaton; BOO - Sterling Deaton; BOB - Colby Dill; BOO - Matt Thomason; BOB - Truman Seago; BOO - Truman Seago; BOB - Reba Underwood; BOO - Reba Underwood; BOB - Joshua Shoemake; BOO - Shaun Webb; BOB - Tommie McNabb; BOO - Alecia Bearden;
Jr. Showmanship - Erin Webb
Sr. Showmanship - Casey Mayes
 Following are the results of the goat show, sanctioned by the Jr. Meat Goat Assn.:
GRAND CHAMPION - Hollie Wyatt, Spur. **RESERVE CHAMPION** - Mackenzie Gregory, Lamesa. **SR. SHOWMANSHIP** - Cody Wells, Stanton. **JR. SHOWMANSHIP** - Mackenzie Gregory, Lamesa.

County Court Meets

In Commissioner's Court Monday, Tadd Knight, County Ag Extension Agent, outlined the results of the recent Jr. Rabbit and Goat Show held here Saturday.

Eddins Walcher's bid was accepted for unleaded and premium unleaded gasoline, and diesel to be used by all County departments in 1997. Their price for unleaded was .7630, premium unleaded .8430, and diesel .7600 per gallon. West Texas Gas will be the alternate provider.

Five different company's bids were accepted for road materials. R.E. James Co. was awarded the gravel bid, Kerr Construction will furnish hot mix, Seminole Sales and Leasing was awarded the cold mix bid, Bridges Asphalt Products will supply MC-30 type asphalt, and Koch Materials will furnish other types of asphalt.

Treasurer Toni Jones reported an ending account balance for November of \$5,148,349. The Court adopted the 1997 calendar year schedule of

Holidays. Officials who were sworn into office January 1, and Teresa Howard, Treasurer's Office, had their performance bonds approved.

The Court discussed and approved changes in the operating plans of PEBSCO, the financial and insurance firm which handles some county employee retirement funds and insurance. The changes will provide more security for those funds.

Although the number of acres planted to cotton in Texas were far from record levels in 1996, the state's yields will reach an all-time record of 517 pounds per acre. The previous record was set in 1987 with a state average of 506 pounds per acre. Analysts also predict High Plains production will average approximately 590 pounds per acre, much higher than the 560 pound record set in 1993.

The High Plains cotton crop is the miracle story of the year. In fact, the 1996-97 crop year was full of excitement as it began with the most serious drought since the Dust Bowl days and ended with record breaking yields. Some producers who escaped major weather damage or were able to replant in time posted record-setting yields, some as high as three or more bales to the acre. Consequently, South Plains production probably will top the three million bale mark this year on fewer acres than was planted in 1995 due to the high yields on irrigated acres coupled with dryland yields as high as a bale and a half to the acre.

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Welcome Aboard!



Lea County Electric Cooperative, Inc. is pleased to announce the addition of Mary Ward to the Plains Office. Mary is working in the area of customer relations and looks forward to working with our many Plains friends and customers.

Mary, a long time resident of Plains, is married to Randy Ward. They are the proud parents of two sons; Shannon, age 20, a PHS graduate, and Allen, a PHS Senior. Mary enjoys working with crafts, fishing, water skiing, and is involved and supports activities in the Plains schools

It is Mary's desire to provide friendly and efficient service for the people of Plains, and to become a convenient source of information for Cooperative customers.

Lea County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Michael A. Dreyspring, General Manager

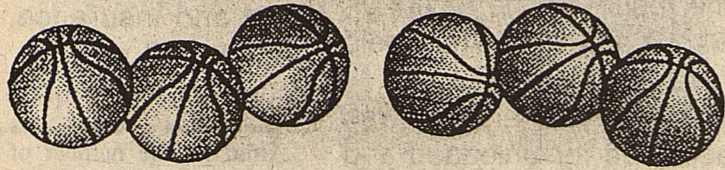
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'PISD ACTIVITY PAGE'

PHS Basketball Recap



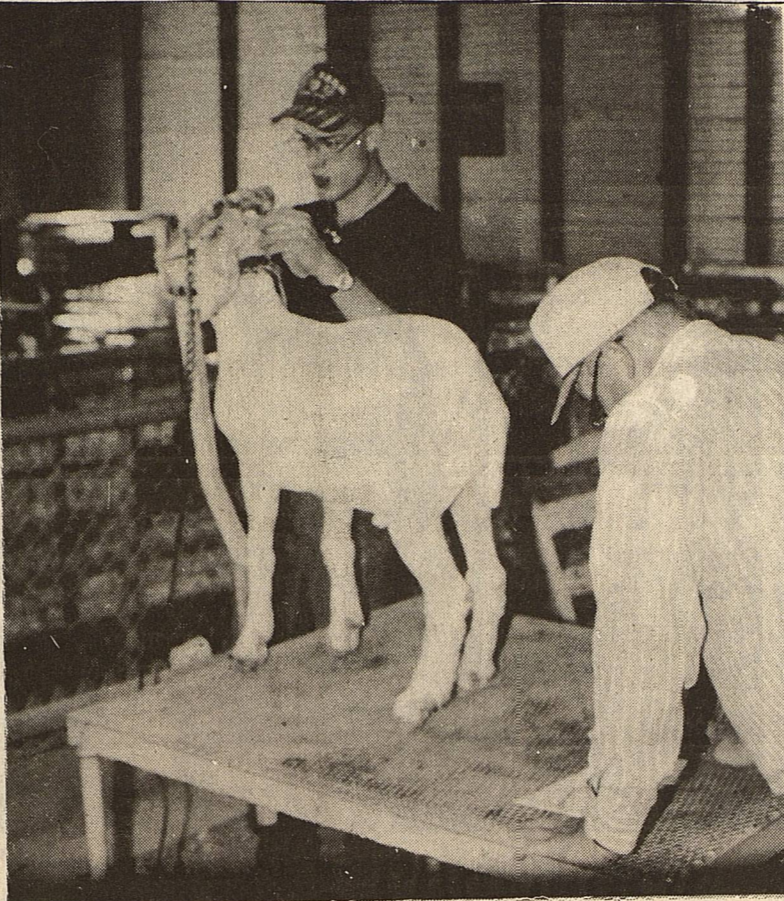
PHS Cowgirls; Both the Cowgirls and Cowboy basketball teams stayed active over the Christmas and New Year holidays. On Dec. 30, the Cowgirls were defeated by the Whitharral Lady Panthers 52-30. They could only manage 24% success in their field goal attempts, but out rebounded their opponent 27-24. Kayla Redman managed 6 points, Kyley Bearden and Tessa St Romain scored 5, Sandi Warren and Jolyne Burgess 4 each, and Candace Bowers, Kelli Osborn and Lindsey Six 2 each. The girls next competed in the Klondike Tournament January 2, 3 and 4, and brought the Consolation Trophy home, winning two of their three games. They lost their opener to Sands in a squeaker, 60-59. Kayla scored 16 points, Tessa had 14, Sandi 11, Lindsey 9, Kelli 5, Kyley and Candace 2 each. Kayla led the rebounding with 13. They next humbled Wink 67-37, with Tessa leading the scoring with 18, followed by Kayla with 17, Lindsey 7, Kyley and Candace 6 each, Kelli 5, Sandi 4, Jolyne and Shyloh Winn 2 each. Kayla again led the rebounding with 11 grabs. The Cowgirls stopped Southland 72-51 to win Consolation, and Kayla had 19 points and had 14 rebounds. Sandi had 13, followed by Shyloh with 11, Tessa 8, Jolyne 7, Kelli and Lindsey 4 each, and Candace 2.

Coach Osborn said it was a great tournament for the girls and just what was needed to prepare for District play. He said the girls all picked their game up a notch, and had words of high praise for Kaylae Redman's performance at the post position.

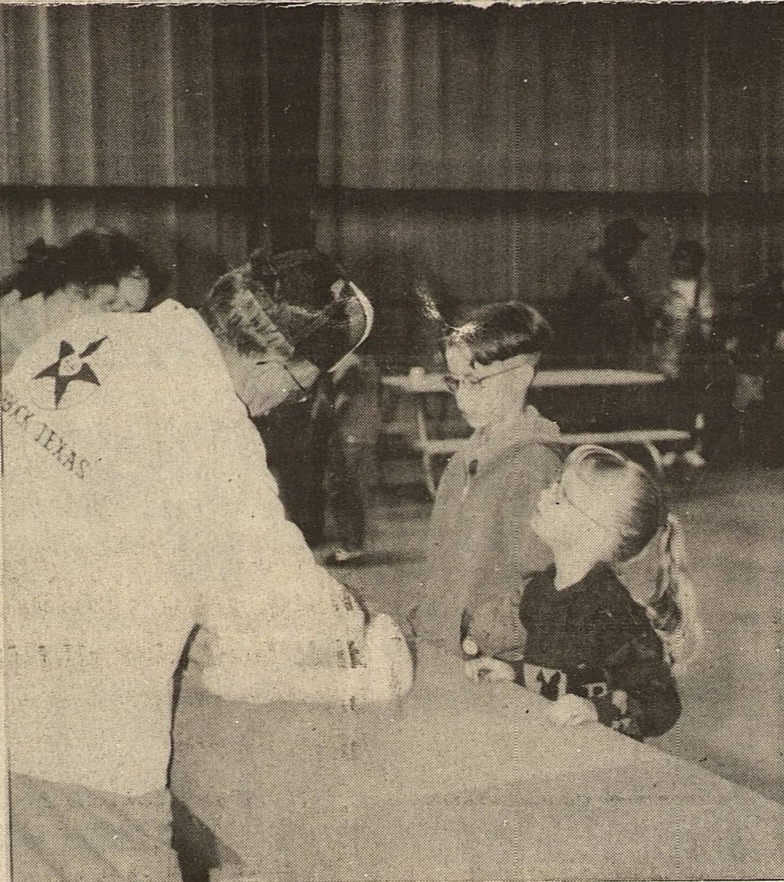
PHS Cowboys; The Cowboys had better luck against Whitharral, handily winning 66-37. Coach Williams said they were a bit rusty following Christmas, but out rebounded their opponents 58-36. Jason Redman scored 16 points, Shawn Cullins had 15, Tanner Blount 14, Jamie Caballero 10, Eric Estrada 6, Travis Bennett and Will St Romain 2 each. Redman led the rebounding with 14 grabs.

The Cowbys won the First Place Plaque at the Klondike Tournament. They first downed Sands 61-54, with Blount leading the scoring with 19 points, and led the rebounding with 9, and also had 6 steals. Redman had 12 points, Bennett 8, Estrada and Matt Morgan 6 each, Cullins 5, Caballero 3, Chris Willett and Estrada 1 each. Their next victim was Wink, falling 57-41. Blount had 25 points, Estrada and Redman 10 each, Caballero 5, Willett 4, Cullins 2, and David Flores 1. The Cowboys wrapped up the Championship by downing Grady 57-41. Blount scored 22 points, Redman had 18, Estrada 6, Willett, Bennett, Cullins and Flores 4 each. Basketball District play started Monday night, and those games will be reported in next week's edition.

Go, Cowgirls, Cowboys!

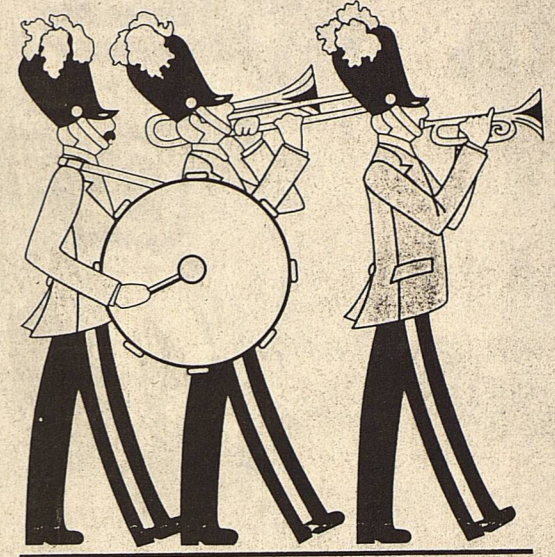


Jamey Garland gives his goat a clipping, Kenneth McGinty works on show records



Chase and Callie Howell make sure the Rabbit Judge does it right

PHS Band Briefs



In December, Junior Matt Morgan competed in Class 4A and 5A

TMEA All State Band tryouts, held at Frenship High School. Matt qualified for second chair in trumpet in the 4A and 5A All Region Honor Band. The Honor Band will perform at Monterey High School on January 25. Matt also qualified for the Area All State tryouts to be held in Odessa on January 11.

Also in December, five Cowboy Band members competed in the ATSSB State Band tryouts held at Brownfield High School. Tony Lazos made 5th chair in trumpet, and qualified for the Area All State trouts which will be held at Sundown, January 11. Isaac Gonzalez made 5th chair in baritone, Roy San Filippo received 6th chair in French horn, Derek Brunson made 7th chair in tuba, and Patrick McGinty made 20th chair in trumpet. Tony, Isaac and Roy will perform in the ATSSB All Region concert to be held January 18 at Brownfield Middle School.

Jason Robertson, 1996 PHS graduate and a former Cowboy Band member, was recently named to the College All State Band, and will perform in a concert at the Texas Music Educators Association to be held in San Antonio February 12-15. Jason plays the bass trombone, and is the son of Jim and Alice Robertson. He attends South Plains College in Levelland.

Schedule - Jan. 13-18

- Mon. -Basketball-Shallowater-7,8,9 Boys - Here 5pm
- Basketball-Shallowater- 7,8 Girls - There 5 pm
- Tues- Basketball - Seagraves-Jv & V Giiirls & Boys Here 5 pm.
- Thurs- Basketball- Plains Junior High Tournament
- Fri- Basketball - Sundown- JV & V Girls & Boys Here 5pm.
- Sat - UIL Math/Science meet - So. Plains College
- Basketball - Jr. High Tournament continues

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Femme Friends



Sixty First anniversary celebrated by Williams'

Mr. and Mrs. James F. Williams celebrated sixty one years of marriage on New Year's Day, 1997.

James and Nita Williams were married January 1, 1936, in Hillsboro, Texas.

Attending the small family gathering on New Year's day to help the Williams celebrate were their son, James Howard and wife Stell and three grandchildren, daughter Jean and her husband Jerry Patterson, and the couple's cousin, Kathryn Freese, visiting from Hill County, Texas.

James said they not only got to celebrate their long marriage, but celebrated the first day of the New Year "by feasting on blackeye peas, tamales and all sorts of other good things".

Senior Citizen Corner

Jan. 2, 1997 Already!! How many resolutions were made -- and how many will be broken. I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Years Holiday.

There seems to be an epidemic of illness going around. Billy Hunt has had surgery, and is up and out and doing great. Edith Clements had surgery and is doing real well.

Our condolences to the family of J.T. Mitchell who passed away and was buried at Childress. He was recuperating from an operation, and doing fine. I know from experience how wrong things can go so quickly. Sonny Richards lost a sister also.

Some of our Seniors who were out of town over the Holidays: The Hannan's visited Arkansas, Louise Green in Hobbs, Jay Noble a week down in Big D way, Ross and

Vennis Shook with their kids, Fay Bishop with her kids, me too, I visited family in Kent Co.

We have something new in the Press, a column by the new editor. It's interesting and gives the tabloid a lift. Lets hope he keeps it going on and on.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Mon. Line Dancing at 10:00 a.m. and Pool/Games at 6:30 p.m.

Tues. Generation B/P at 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Wed. Line Dancing at 10:00 a.m.

Fri. Line Dancing at 10:00 a.m.

Lunch each day at 11:30 a.m. All Seniors are urged to come enjoy a good meal, a walk in the hall, some dominoes or pool. A great New Years Resolution would be to come in each day. Welcome! See you next week, Smitty

Who Was Junias ?

In Paul's letter to the Romans, the name JUNIAS appears for the only time in the Bible. Near the end of the letter, Paul sends greetings to Andronicus and Junias, "my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners; they are men of note among the apostles, and they were in Christ before me" (Romans 16:7).

Since the name Junias is otherwise unknown, Bible scholars have suggested that Junias is actually Junia, a Jewish woman and possibly the wife of Andronicus. If so, she would be the only female apostle named in the New Testament. The masculine name Junias may have been created by medieval copyists as a means of explaining this unimaginable occurrence. From: *Who's Who In The Bible*, 1994

Chand Ancinec Pinned as Registered Nurse

Chand Dee Ancinec, 23, of Lubbock, graduated as a registered nurse from the Associate Degree Nursing Program at South Plains College, Levelland, on December 12, 1996.

Chand is the daughter of Gregg and Rheanell Ancinec, Levelland, Granddaughter of Joe and Laverne Ancinec, Plains and Niece of Brad and Vicki Ancinec and Gail and Jerry Holley, also of Plains.

The Pinning Ceremony proved to be a very emotional end of two years of grueling work and study for the 20 graduates. Each graduate who spoke stressed how difficult it was to say good-bye, remembering how they had worked so hard. Elbow-to-elbow, through laughs and tears, feeling they had become a family.

While fulfilling her prerequisites at SPC in 1993-1994, Ms. Ancinec was on the Dean's List several times. A member of Phi Theta Kappa, and received the Helen Jones Foundation Scholarship each semester in 1994-1995.

Chand had a special surprise as her nursing education came to a close, her high GPA earned her a \$2,000.00 gift from the State of Texas.

Her future plans are to work as a nurse for a while, and work toward a bachelor's degree in biology, then "pray real hard to get into medical school and become a Cardiologist."



Chand Ancinec

Our first new subscriber in 1997 is former resident and PHS graduate Geoff Gentry. He now lives in San Antonio. Thanks, Geoff!

Happy New Year!

Believe It or Not . . .

EASTER PAGEANT Time Is Here

Rehearsals begin **Wednesday, January 8 at 8:00 P.M. in Fellowship Hall of First Baptist.**

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to tell our community about the Risen Savior.

If you have a question, please contact Patrick Hamilton at 456-3661.

LET ALL HEAVEN REJOICE!!

Dear Dyers'

I am enclosing my check for another year. Doesn't seem possible that its time, once again to say, we hope our friends from the South Plains had a Merry Christmas, and we wish everyone a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year. We enjoy the paper and would like to see everyone, but not possible, so again, THANKS!

Sincerely
Bill and Sue Russell

Thought For The Week

Remember, Ginger Rogers did everything Fred Astaire did, but she did it backwards and in high heels.

Faith Whittlesey

Phones Can Help Take Chill Out of Winter

The holidays are over and the chilly winter months are just ahead. So when the temperatures plunge and the weather gets nasty, let the telephone help you stay warm, cozy, and most importantly, indoors.

During this nippy time of the year, your telephone can be an effective tool for reducing winter stress and for tackling daily tasks more efficiently and comfortably. ALLTEL offers the following suggestions on how the telephone can help you and your family stay warmer during the cold months ahead"

* Before you embark on a road trip, call the local authorities to check traffic and road conditions. Selecting the best travel routes is safer and can save you valuable time.

* Call to verify arrival times before picking up relative or friends at airport, bus, or train terminals.

* Call frequently to check on elderly friends or relatives. Also, check with local pharmacies and grocery stores to see if they offer delivery service to homebound customers.

* Call to check on store

hours. Some stores may close early during the winter months, so a quick phone call may save you unnecessary exposure to the harsh, winter winds.

* When the weather is bad and traveling dangerous, consider shopping by phone.

* Customer Calling features like Call Waiting and Three-Way Calling are available in many areas and can really come in handy when battling the colder weather. No one wants to hear a busy signal when they're stranded on a cold, dark highway. With call waiting, whoever is on the phone at home will know when someone is trying to call. A brief tone signals there is an incoming call. Three-way calling lets you add a third party to an existing conversation. That means you and your friends can take care of business without going outside.

The telephone can definitely be a valuable resource during the winter season. Use it effectively, and you may have time for the more enjoyable winter moments, like cozying up in front of a roaring fire or calling old friends.

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Welcome To The **Lavender Patch**

We are open at last, and anxious to meet all our new neighbors! The **LAVENDER PATCH** inventory is low at the moment, but Not For Long! We go to market in Dallas Jan. 9.

While we rebuild the inventory following Linda's sale, and our purchase of the business, we sincerely hope you will come in, do a bit of browsing, and let us meet you! We will make every effort to serve and please you in the same manner Linda Powell did for so very long.

Your new neighbor.... Cherie Sanders

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From The Hack

For Peggy Jo: Local Polly Rushing reports he is in a real quandry about his Black Lab Dog, 'Roger' Rushing. You know, the very smart canine who understands cellular phones, and is working on getting his driver's license so Polly won't have to work so hard driving him around in their new Ford pickup. Roger finally became accustomed to the new truck, and is rapidly learning to use the electric window and door lock buttons, Polly says, but he is having serious problems getting broken into the sixteen inch tires and wheels, compared to the old fifteen inchers. "Roger's doing the best he can, trying to service the bigger things every morning, but he just kinda runs outta, uh, steam before he gets his job done. I don't know, he's just kinda sorrowful looking time he comes to that last bigger tire and realizes he ain't performing up to his usual standards. He seems pretty frustrated. I been considering giving him more water every day, or getting a bigger dog, or trading off for one of them little bitty 'ol Nissan's with them little bitty tires and wheels. But dang, I hate to get a Jap truck, or change dogs again. I may just get him a bigger bladder transplant." Hi, Peggy!

It's really not too often you find a preacher who will tell you something truly humorous. I guess they are all afraid

of being sued by their deacons, elders or Sunday School Teachers, Congregations, whatever.

Monday, in the First Baptist office, I walked in, and Bro. Bill Wright screamed to Secretary Paula McMinn, "Seal all the records and files, don't tell him anything, lock the drawers, nothing gets out of here without my approval, and I want to read it at least three times!" It's real warming to get a hearty welcome the first of the New Year.

It is also amazing how the "cockles of one's heart" warm when they realize your mission is not mercenary, will not cost them a dime, much less a cent, will not report anything derogatory... when this became apparent, I was invited to sit down for tea, a few leftover cookies and crumpets, and invited to read copies of his last seven sermons.

I advised him I simply didn't have time, and conversationally asked how he took the Cowboy's defeat Sunday by the Jaguars.

Bro. Bill said, "I didn't watch it at all after I heard Jerry Jones was moving the team". Astonished, I bit like a starving dog, and gasped, "What? Moving where?"

That was his moment, "Yeah, they're moving them to Huntsville, Texas.... One player at a time!"

He proceeded to laugh so hard at this I feared if he neared the Baptistry he would be immersed and never come up. I have to admit... a very good point.

A local youngster, barely five years old, and with a short memory span, witnessed Monday's snow, and told his momma, "Hey, It's raining Christmas cotton".

Dearly Departed Morticians foresee a 'tomb boom' as senior numbers begin to swell

Say what you will about the much-maligned funeral business, it is a growth industry.

The aging Baby Boomers, now starting to enter their 50s, offer the industry tremendous potential. The annual number of deaths in the U.S. should rise 44 percent by 2030, according to the Census Bureau.

The funeral industry enjoys several advantages over other business enterprises. It is stable, recession-resistant and as predictable as, well, taxes. Neither obsolete technology nor stiff competition offer much of an economic concern. The customers usually don't shop around for prices.

The Texas funeral industry, composed primarily of small, independent establishments, will be responsible for interring about 144,000 of the departed in 1997, grossing almost \$706 million in the process, according to the Texas Funeral Service Commission (TFSC). About 1,230 funeral homes employed more than 8,000 Texans in 1995, according to TFSC.

Funeral directors—named the top managerial job in the country in 1996 by a corporate demographic group—have excellent employment opportunities through 2005, according to federal studies.

A survey by the National Funeral Directors Association shows that funeral directors who were owner-managers in 1994 earned an average \$62,500 a year; mid-level managers averaged \$44,060.

While funeral director may be among the top managerial job in the country, industry insiders say beginning salaries are low (averaging \$25,000 a year), and the stress level is high due to

long, irregular hours.

Business veterans point out that overhead costs are high due to the required late-model limousines and funeral coaches (costing more than \$60,000 each), rooms for casket displays and round-the-clock staffing.

The industry operates under a number of state and federal regulations. In addition to TFSC, which issues licenses and inspects funeral homes, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) oversees competitive practices, and the Texas Department of Banking manages prepaid funeral contracts.

The average funeral in Texas costs about \$4,900, but can run as low as \$2,000 or more than \$10,000. Caskets, made from materials ranging from wood to precious metals, are priced from \$500 to more than \$5,000; cremations containers go from \$100 to more than \$1,000.

The costs of funeral services have long been a source of controversy, causing the federal government to step in.

Mortuaries now are required by the FTC to offer a general price list, an itemized statement of final arrangement choices and embalming, cash advance and cremation information. Called the Funeral Rule, the regulation became effective in 1984 after FTC concluded that the emotional trauma of bereavement, the lack of information and time pressures "place the consumer at an enormous disadvantage in making funeral arrangements."

In general, the rule makes it easier for a consumer to select only those goods and services needed and to pay only for those selected. The mortuary is allowed to charge a profes-

sional fee for the time spent helping plan the funeral and obtaining required permits, including the death certificate.

The purchase of a funeral is the third-largest single consumer expenditure—after a home and a car, according to the FTC. Close to half of all consumers have never arranged a funeral before, while another quarter have done so only once.

In 2001, almost 152,000 Texans will die, an increase of 16 percent over the number of deaths in 1992, according to TFSC projections.

Prepaid funeral contracts continue to be popular; the number of Texas doubled over the last decade. The state Department of Banking monitors more than \$1.4 billion in trust for pre-

paid funerals. Funeral arrangements can be made and paid for in advance to offer individuals control over the cost and nature of funeral services desired.

The average cost for a prepaid funeral in 1995 was \$2,343, compared to the \$4,900 average for all funerals, according to TFSC.

Interestingly, the lower-cost practice of cremation has not caught on in Texas. In fact, Texans have the lowest rate of cremations in the U.S., reports the Texas Funeral Directors Association, but that may be changing. Over the last five years, cremations have grown from 3 percent to 5 percent of dispositions in Texas, compared to a national average of about 20 percent.

Keeping an eye on Texas

Retiree attractions

As one of the top ten states competing for migrating senior citizens, Texas attracts retirees with affordable housing and low costs of living, absence of a state income tax, and a relatively mild climate.

Favorite retirement destinations

Low cost of living, Mild climate, Affordable housing, Low taxes

SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and Charles F. Longino, Jr., Retirement Migration in America.

Because of bad weather, the Chamber of Commerce meeting has been postponed until 7am, Friday!

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