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Cowboy Country News



SINCE AUGUST 31ST, 1994

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

Volume V, Issue 1, Wednesday Sept 9, 1998

3rd Annual Watermelon Round Up Issue

Here's the recipe for a successful event; Come up with a new, good idea; get a few key people to become involved developing the idea; get those people to branch out, getting others involved and enthused; hold committee meetings, general public meetings, ask for input and advice; dream up ways to broadly publicize the event over a large area; keep asking for volunteers to become involved, urge folks to tell their out of town friends and relations about what is planned.

This recipe was proven a sure fire winner again this weekend, when the Annual Watermelon Round Up proved to be a "Threepeat Smash Hit". Despite every effort to get an attendance count, Round Up workers and officials were again 'guessing' some 4,000 plus people attended the day long event.

The long awaited Round Up came off with very few glitches, except for getting a count of visitors at the registration booth. The Classic Car Show drew



The areas around both courthouses were jammed with crowds like this the entire day

a very large number of restored beauties, the first Steer Team Roping attracted over 500 teams, and the melon loving visitors downed almost 20,000 pounds of free watermelon slices. Every food and arts and crafts booth was filled, and the brisket/ chilli cook off attracted more contestants this year.

Yoakum County received some outstanding publicity from the 3rd Round Up, which was enhanced by a local grower, John Loewen, when he weighed-in his entry in the Big Melon Contest. The colossal Jubilee cross melon weighed an astounding 183.30 pounds, and will now claim the new Texas record. The old record was established in 1935. Loewen's kids did well in the contest also; Benny, 13, produced a 93 pound melon, and 9 year old Erika entered a melon weighing 84.9 pounds. Other winning entries included Keenan Clark, 52 pounds, and in the Senior Division, Joe Ancinec entered a 74.9 melon.

County approves modest tax hike

Like other governmental entities faced with drastically lower property tax valuations, Yoakum County Commissioners Court were forced to bite the bullet last week and increase the county property tax rate. Judge Dallas Brewer reported the new rate will be .48428 cents per hundred dollars of valuation, up from last years .42430 cents per hundred rate. The new county budget was approved using the new rate.

Judge Brewer said in order for county tax revenues to remain at last years rate, the effective tax rate would have had to be adopted, .49139 cents per hundred valuation. " Our revenues will be a bit lower this year, but there will be no reduction in the services the county provides out citizens. It is simply going to make us tighten our belts a bit more. I'm glad the court's decision was unanimous in keeping the tax rate below the effective rate."

In the interview, Judge Brewer said "I would like all the people of Yoakum County to be aware of the great job our maintenance man, Danny Steffens has done in improving the looks of the courthouse square. I think it looks better than it has in years. He has had the help of a few county jail trustys who have worked hard all summer. The entire area will really make a great impression on all our visitors at the Watermelon Round Up."

Grand Jury indicts nine

The Yoakum County Grand Jury convened on September 1 and returned criminal indictments against nine individuals. Those indicted, their offenses and bonds set by District Judge Kelly G. Moore included;

Alvin Wayne Sanders, unlawful possession of firearms by a felon, a 3rd degree felony, \$2500 bond.

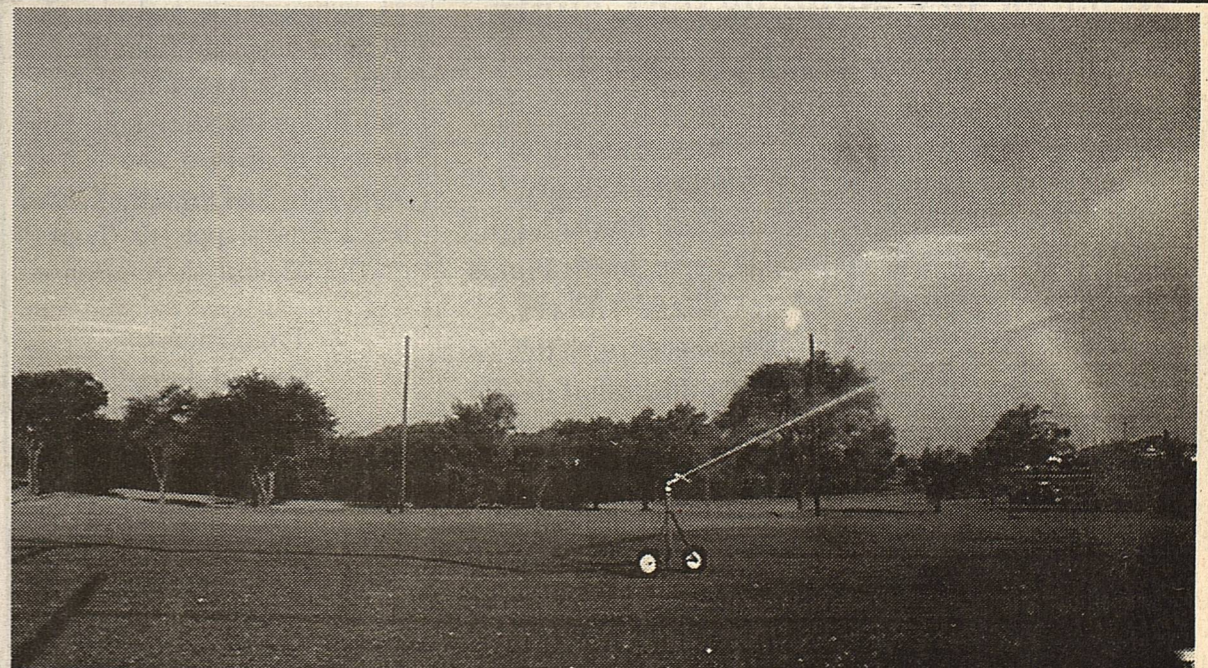
Greg Stanton, two indictments for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, 2nd degree felony, \$300 cash bond each; Two indictments for accident involving personal injury or death, 3rd degree felony, \$250 cash bond. Victims were Donna S. Follis and Don W. Mullins Jr.

Ricky Len Conkle, aggravated assault against family member with a deadly weapon, 2nd degree felony, \$2500 bond.

Isidro Conde Rodriguez, assault against public servant, 3rd degree felony, \$2500 bond. James Davies Long, forgery, 3rd degree felony, \$2500 bond. Agapito Garza 111, aka Pete Garza, 3 indictments; Unauthorized use of motor vehicle, state jail felony, \$1500 bond. Burglary of a habitation, 1st degree felony enhanced, \$6000 bond. Aggravated robbery, 1st degree felony enhanced, \$6000 bond. Victor Salazar Dominguez, DWI, 3rd or more, 3rd degree felony, \$2500 bond.

Turn To Page 2, "Grand Jury"

PISD, County collaborate to transform old softball park into "Field Of Dreams"



It doesn't take a great deal of imagination to visualize what was an old, abandoned softball field for many years to what will soon be a gem for Plains High athletes to practice their baseball skills. Last week school employees finished smoothing the dirt on the playing field, then seeded the entire area to a special blend of grasses designed to create a fast growing cover for the first game. A large 'water cannon', shown here, is being used to keep the soil damp to germinate the rye, creeping red fescue and regular fescue seed.

Precinct 3 and 4 employees have been busy with trucks, loaders, dozers and graders, doing the dirt work for the new ball park, and have cleared the entire area of brush and weeds behind the field, leaving only the larger, attractive trees. Either rye or wheat will probably be drilled in the cleared area as a temporary holding cover.

PISD Superintendent James Haynes reported the new 3-2A baseball District action will start on March 16, 1999. The Plains Cowboy baseballers will compete against Coahoma, Tahoka, Hale Center, Morton, Post and Olton, and other non-district teams.

With Yoakum County and the entire South Plains still in the grip of the drought, it is probably difficult to imagine very heavy rains inundating the new facility. Haynes said the county crews have built up berms, or dikes, around the outside of the playing area to divert any flood water to newly deepened ditches and culverts and away from the field.

The new facility promises to be an excellent location for an umpire to cry, "Play Ball" this spring.

SOMEONE GOOFED! We made the trip to Abernathy last Friday night, shot a full roll of football action. On Saturday, we shot three more rolls of all the Round Up action. When they were developed Sunday, two rolls were absolutely blank, and we have no explanation for it. We do apologize to the Cowboys and Band, and those at the Round Up who expected to see themselves today!

Happy Birthday To Us!



With this issue, we are starting our 5th year of publishing CCN

We want to express a very BIG and very SINCERE THANK YOU to each and every reader, subscriber & advertiser.

Only your support keeps us in business!

Gary & Holly Dyer

Lions honor Sherm Tingle

During last Thursday's meeting of the Plains Lions Club, member Judy Head displayed a certificate honoring one of the two remaining charter members of the club, Sherman Tingle. He, with Lion Pierre St. Romain, were among the original members helping form the club here in 1956.

The framed certificate, along with a 'Beanie Baby' in the form of a Lion, will be sent to Mr. Tingle at his new residence in the Baptist Memorial High Rise complex in San Angelo. Tingle, now 87, was born in Yoakum County, and was a long time resident of Plains.

The certificate read;

"The Lions Club of Plains, Texas officially declares Thursday, September 3, 1998

Sherm Tingle Day

in recognition of his charter membership, his fifty plus years as a Lion, the lessons he has taught us, and the contributions he has made in his home town."

The certificate was signed by Lion Club President David Bunch, First Vice-President Vaughn Culwell, and Club Treasurer Harry Richardson.

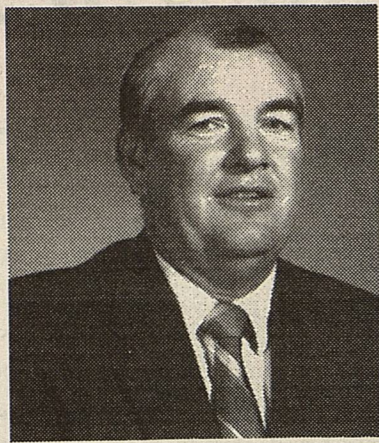
The project honoring Mr. Tingle was a joint effort of Lion Judy Head and Vaughn Culwell.

Larry McMinn recognized

PHS Football Coach Larry McMinn was spotlighted in the current issue of Top Of Texas Football. He was named a member of the publication's "Hall Of Fame", a feature since 1978.

McMinn joins 85 previous Hall Of Fame candidates, including both high school and college players and coaches.

The article in the publication is reproduced here; "Larry McMinn began his coaching career in 1968 at Ballinger. He spent four years at Ballinger Junior High before moving up to Idalou High for one year. In 1973, he came to Dimmitt as Defensive coordinator. In 1976 he moved to Plains High and has remained there since that time. McMinn has had the pleasure to coach many great athletes. Also, he has coached all three of his sons, Mickey, Shane and Brad. But the greatest pleasure he has had in coaching comes from getting the average players to perform at their optimum level. By doing this, he believes his players learn that



hard work and a great attitude not only win football games but will help them win in the game of life.

"I have had some great assistant coaches to help me and I have had some great head coaches as my mentors. Without their help, we would not have achieved the success that our football teams in Plains have achieved," said McMinn.

Coach McMinn is truly a native West Texan. He grew up in Hale Center. His grandfather moved to Hale County in a covered wagon, and was the first to break prairie grassland to farm land."

Final Services Held For Long Time Resident Mary Lee Swann

Services for Mary Lee Swann, 79, of Plains were held at 3:00 P.M. Tuesday in the First Baptist Church of Plains, with Rev. Bill Wright, pastor, officiating, assisted by Ray Young, pastor of the Church of Christ. Burial was in the Yoakum County Cemetery under the direction of Englund's Funeral Service of Slaton.

Mrs. Swann died Saturday, September 5, 1998, in Methodist Hospital in Lubbock. She was born June 13, 1919, in Lindale, Texas. She attended and graduated from Slaton Schools. She was a bookkeeper and worked for Harry Stokes Ford Motor Company in Slaton from 1936 until 1945. She Married Garland Swann in Slaton,

March 24, 1945. They lived in California before moving to the Wilson area in 1946 where they farmed. In 1950 they moved to the Plains area where they continued to farm. She was a member of the First Baptist Church and the TSA MO GA Study Club.

Survivors include her husband, Garland, of the home; two sons, Harold Lee of Plano and Rex of Plains; two daughters, Gay Kelly of Midland and Kay Swann of Plains; eight grandchildren.

The family received friends at Englund's Monday evening, and Mrs. Swann's body lay in state at First Baptist Church from 10:00 A.M. until service time.

Cowboys Downed By Antelopes 14-12 in Season Opener

The PHS '98 Cowboys had a rocky start to their season last Friday in Abernathy. They received the kick off on their 35, and after gaining one first down, were forced to punt. With a 15 yard pass completion and a penalty against the Cowboys, the Lopes used two short runs to cross the goal line, and the PAT put them up 7-0.

The Cowboys roared right back. Alan Garcia took the kick off at the 15 and following his blockers started right, and well down field made a good cut to his left, going 85 yards for the TD. The PAT failed, and the scoreboard read 7-6.

Both teams traded offensive punches with negative results, until in the second period. Plains advanced the ball to the Abernathy 33, then bogged down on a fourth down effort. The Lopes took advantage of a Cowboy penalty and a couple of good runs, and from the 22 yard line, a pass completion and the point after kick put them in front 14-6.

Following half time, the Cowboy defense stopped the Lopes on the 22, but their offense

From Page 1, "Grand Jury"

Miguel A. Soto, aka Miguel Soto Balluelos and 16 other aka's, tampering with or fabricating physical evidence, 3rd degree felony enhanced, \$10,000 bond; Possession of cocaine, 2nd degree felony enhanced, \$10,000 bond.

Jorge Loya Blanco, tampering with physical evidence, 3rd degree felony, \$2500 bond; Possession of cocaine, 2nd degree felony, \$3000 bond.

sputtered, and Armando Luna was roughed while punting on the 4th down. The penalty The penalty sparked the offensive unit. Good blocking by the line led to good ground gains by Adrian Rios and Josh Bell to the 18 yard line, where quarterback Tanner carried the ball across the goal line for the Cowboys final score. The running play, which would have tied the game, failed.

Both teams could not generate much offense in the remainder of the contest, and fumbles and penalties hurt both.

The Cowboys face the always tough Sudan Hornets at home this Friday.

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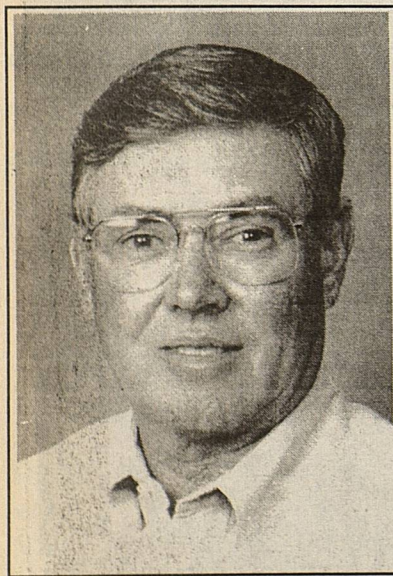
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Vaughn Culwell

Republican Candidate for County Commissioner, Precinct 4



50 yr. resident of Yoakum County *
 Graduate Plains High *
 1 1/2 yrs. South Plains College * 32 yrs. business experience as farm equipment dealer with stores in Plains & Denver City *
 Member Plains First Baptist Church, Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, Yoakum County Connection

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Fine Arts Club first meeting of season

The Plains Fine Arts Club held their first meeting for the 1998-1999 year on Thursday, September 3. The club met in the home of Mrs. Carolyn Culwell. Co-hostesses were Frankie Walker and Mrs. Dolores Davis. Members and their spouses were served hamburgers with all the trimmings along with homemade ice cream and brownies for dessert. The club was entertained by Mr. Gary Davis. His ventriloquism act was truly a crowd pleaser.

Members present at the meeting included Judi Addison, Beth Ann Cain, Carolyn Culwell, Dolores Davis, Sandra Ellison, Judy Fitzgerald, Donna Friesen, Debra Hise, Paula McMinn, Marther Palmer, Melissa Roper, Frankie Walker, Peggy Welch, and Sonya Young.

Guests included Gary and Carmella Davis, Tim Addison, Vaughn Culwell, Jack Palmer, and Ray Young.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, October 1 st.

To Ensure Safe Infant Sleep Practices

Because infants spend much of their time sleeping, several precautions should be taken to ensure their safety while asleep in the crib.

Because September has been named Baby Safety Month by the Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association, Methodist Children's Hospital is spreading the word about safe infant sleep practices. Parents and care takers are urged to keep these safety tips in mind when placing an infant to sleep.

*Only a fitted crib sheet, mattress pad and/or water-proof pad should be used between the sleeping baby and the crib mattress.

*Quilts, comforters and blankets should never be placed under a baby.

*Pillows and plush toys should be used only for decoration and should be removed from the crib while baby is sleeping.

*Infants should always be placed on a firm mattress in a

crib which meets current federal and ASTM voluntary safety standards.

*Baby should never be placed to sleep on soft surfaces such as pillows, soft cushions, adult beds or other surfaces not specifically designed for infant sleep.

*Do not overheat the baby. The temperature in the room should feel comfortable to you. Another important safety measure is putting infants to sleep on their backs to reduce their risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Also known as crib death, SIDS is the leading cause of death in infants between 1 month and 1 year of age, according to the National Institutes of Health.

"Studies show that the chances of SIDS have been reduced by almost half when infants sleep on their backs," said pediatrician Ray Farmer, M.D., a member of Covenant Health System's St. Mary Medical Group.



Jeannette Head, Chairman of this years Watermelon Round Up, promoted the big event right up to the final moment. She is shown here displaying T-Shirts at last week's Lions Club meeting

Senior Citizens Corner

An important date to remember is the Garage Sale on Friday September 11. Everyone is urged to participate. If you have anything to donate to the sale, bring it early in the week, and on sale day, come early with a pocket full of dimes.

Visiting this week for lunch were; Marianne Williams, Geneve Gordy, Emma Ivy back after an absence with illness, Ella Mae Black. We all wish the best for Loy. Opal Jefferson's sister and her husband from Andrews.

Wednesday Thelma had a table full of surprise visitors at lunch time. Her son Terry, an uncle and aunt, Dimple and Harrison Juillian, Becky Todd, and also sharing the visit with them were Elaine and Walt Schneider and Ed Hicks.

We older drivers are prone to blame driving accidents on the young generation and vice versa. Well, last week I learned a new one. After driving a car

for over 70 years I decided to join the young ones and put the blame on the right one. I believe a lady is a "Red Neck" if she lets her dome light kill two batteries completely dead before she sees the light. No offense meant ladies!

Lets hope everyone has a safe and sound Labor Day, and come by our booth at the Watermelon Round Up.

See you next week,
Smitty

'TAAS, Teams' exam registration

Individuals who are no longer in a Texas public school and who wish to register to retake the exit level TAAS test, and all individuals who wish to take the TEAMS test, may pick up a registration packet at any high school campus, district central office, or education service center. The test registration form must be completed and returned in the pre-addressed envelope and must be received in Iowa City, Iowa, no later than 5:00 p.m., September 25, 1998.

Thank you our dear friends for your many acts of kindness and sympathy, May God bless each of you.

*James G. Williams
and Family*

Garage Sale

Bikes, clothes, Bedspreads, Curtains, Appliances, Lamps, Etc.
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Texas Welfare Rolls Drop By More Than 100,000

On July 1, TWC and the Texas Department of Human Services (DHS) released new estimates showing more than 100,000 Texas families have left the welfare rolls since state welfare reform began in 1995.

"I am pleased to announce that 103,203 Texas families have left the welfare rolls since we implemented welfare reform in September 1995," said TWC Chair Diane Rath. "Our strategic state reform law combined with a strong state economy is producing impressive results."

"This dramatic decrease is a 39 percent drop over the past two-

and-a-half years," said David Herndon, chair of DHS. "There are 275,546 fewer Texans on welfare today than there were in 1995."

"While these numbers show our tremendous progress, there is still work to be done," Rath stated. "Self sufficiency is not gained overnight and we will continue to help people on welfare make positive changes through finding work."

Herndon concluded, "We are succeeding in our goal; to make welfare a temporary hand-up instead of a lifelong hand-out."

PISD school menu

Thursday-Breakfast: Assorted cereal, Graham crackers, Breakfast burritos, Fruit punch, Milk

Lunch: Fish w/tartar sauce, Cole-slaw, Macaroni & cheese, Baked beans, Peaches, Milk

Friday-Breakfast: Assorted cereal, Graham crackers, Biscuit & gravy, Power alley bars, Orange/pine-apple juice, Milk

Lunch: Fried chicken, Creamed potatoes w/gravy, Green beans, Hot rolls, Fruit/marshmallows, Milk

Activities

Thursday: Football-Scrimmage Sudan-7th-There-5:00 pm. Football-Scrimmage-Sudan-8th-There. Football-Sudan-JV-There-7:30 pm.

Friday: Football-Sudan-V-Here-8:00 pm. Volleyball-Lamesa Tournament-JV. Volleyball-Andrews Tournament-V.

Saturday: Cross country-Morton-JH/JV/V-9:00 am. Vol-leyball-Tournaments continue.

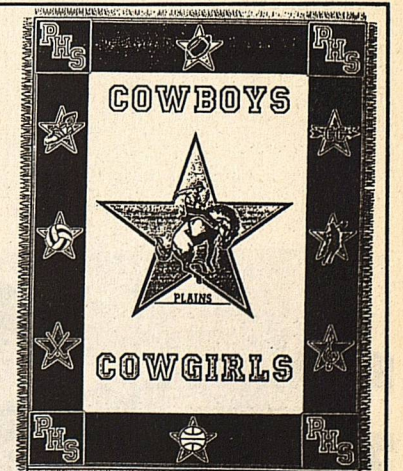
*You are invited to a "Padding Shower" honoring
Mrs. Dore Walker
nee Donetta Young.
Saturday, September 19, 1998, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
in the home of Mrs. Vaughn Culwell
1002 First Street, Plains, Texas.
Solecations: Nelson's, Brownfield Paper's Plains, and Dillards*

Big Boy Arrives !

Steve & Raecene are the proud parents of Jack Wilburn Randall, who arrived August 13. He weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz., and was 20 inches long. He was welcomed home by sister Hallie and brother Mark. Proud grandparents are Olivia Robertson, Lubbock, and Charlie & Donna Robertson, Lubbock, and Royce and Sue Randall, Plains.

ONLY A FEW LEFT!

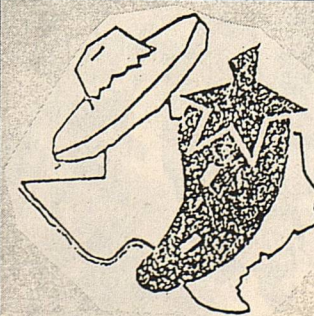
Last chance to get your FHA Afghan! Contact Mrs. Deaton, home 456-2131, or any FHA member, \$42 each.



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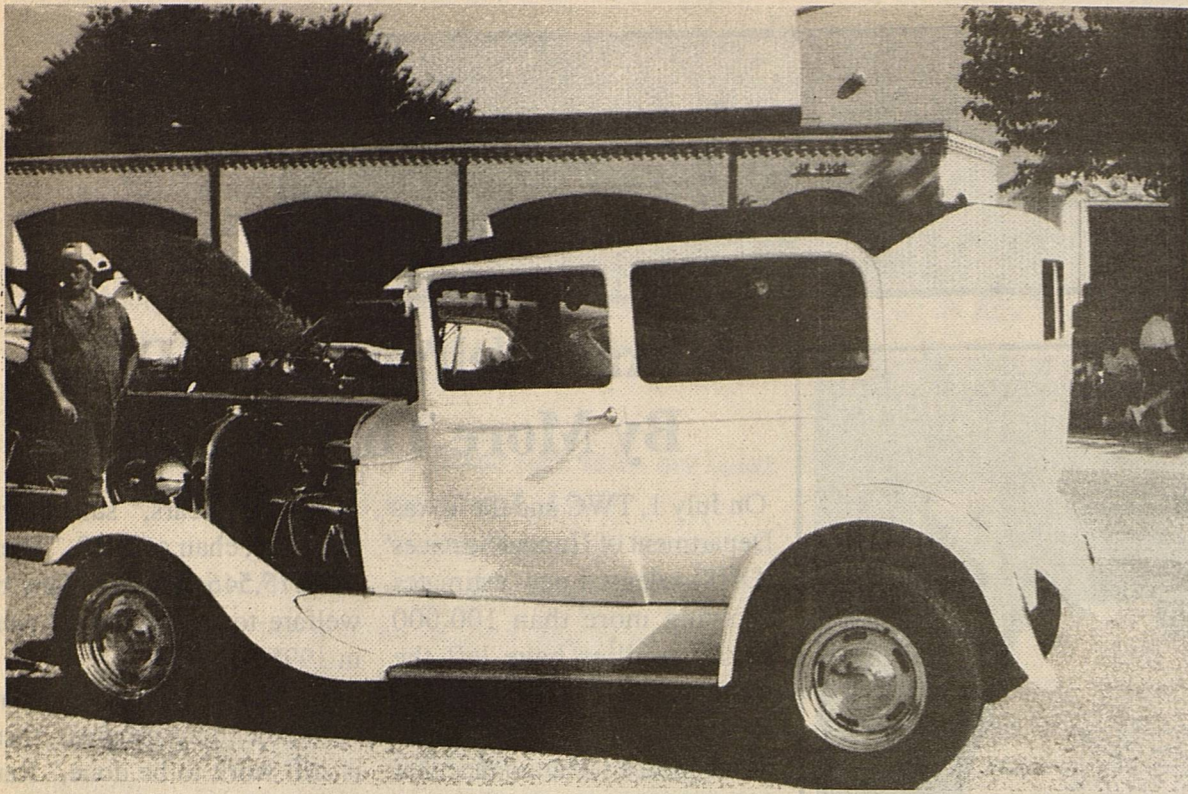
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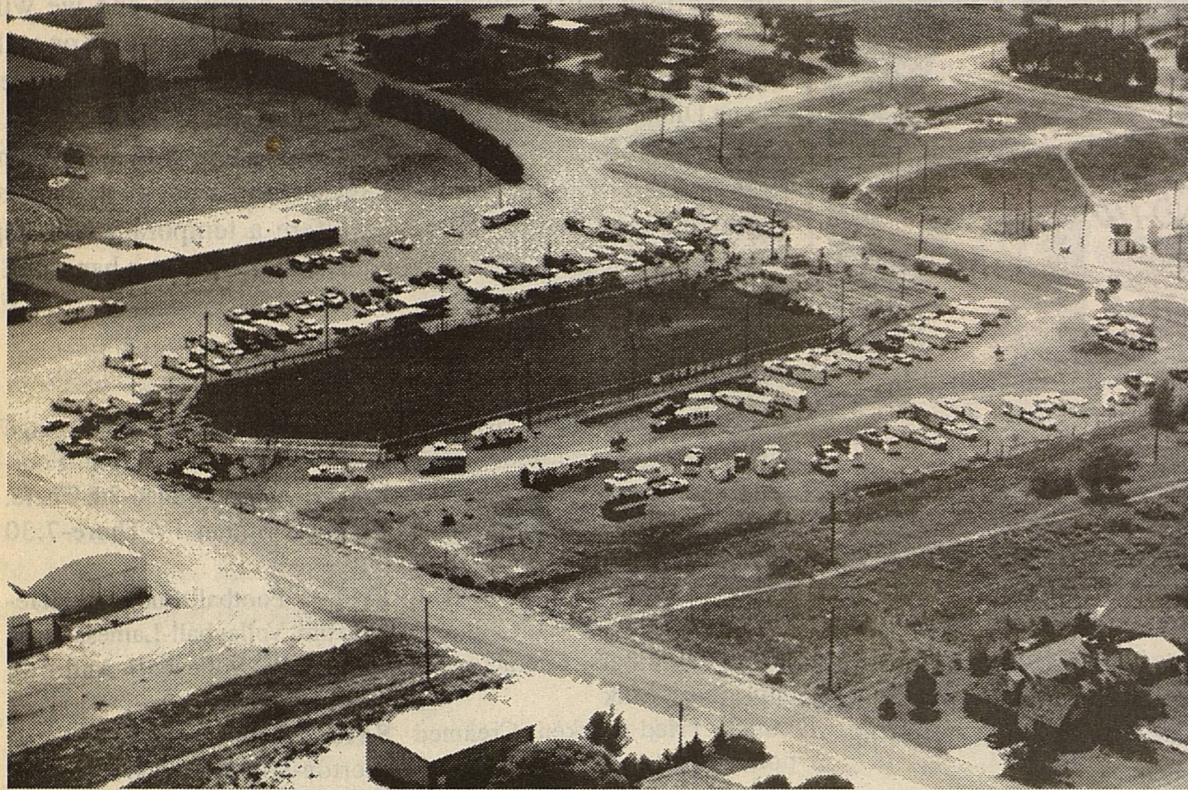




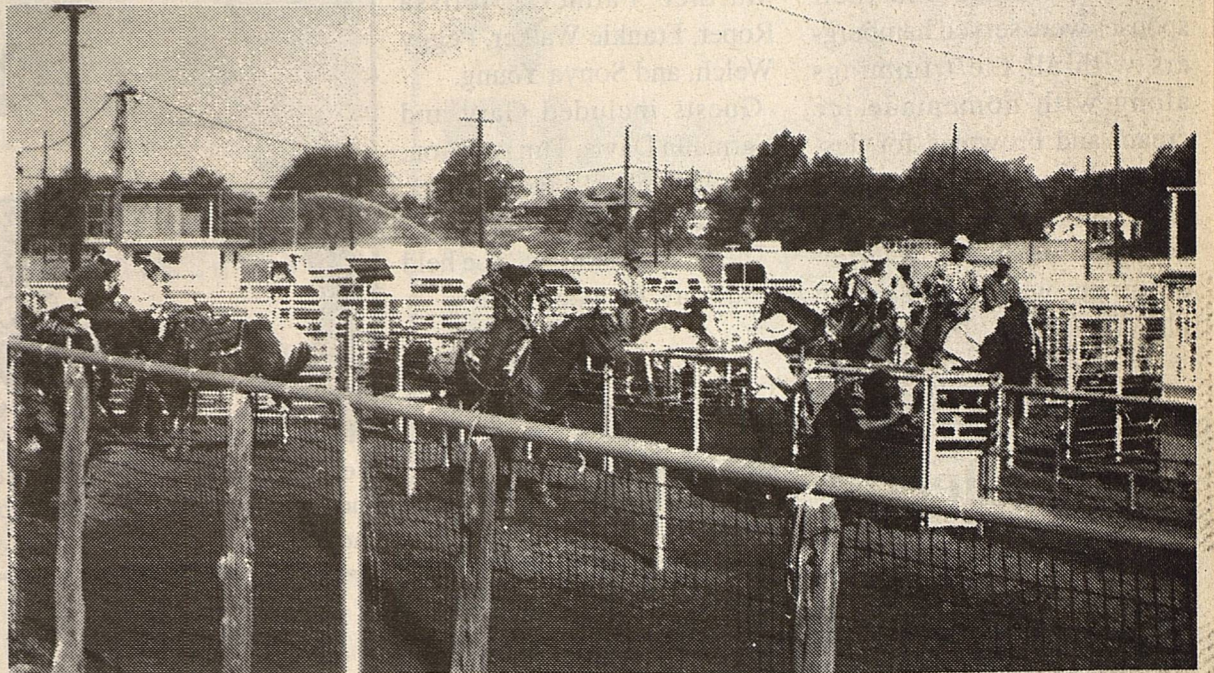
The street in front of school was crammed with classy restorations.



The winning brisket cooking contestants, L-R, Jan Lester, Jackie Allen, Bruce Lester.



The rodeo arena was almost surrounded by pickups & horse trailers.



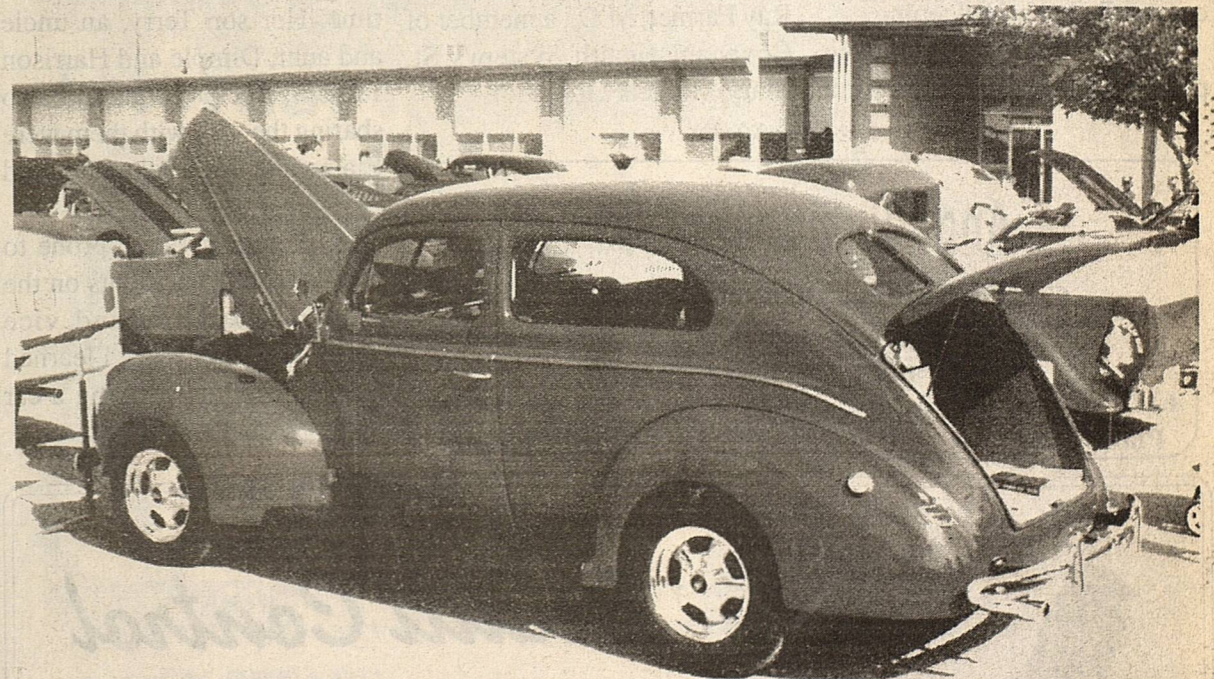
The rodeo arena was swarming with high dollar roping horses



Ross Hilburns cooking team hoped for a 'Threepeat' in the brisket cookoff. They were disappointed.



"The Rubies". Betty Estep, Jean Patterson, Ineta Teaff



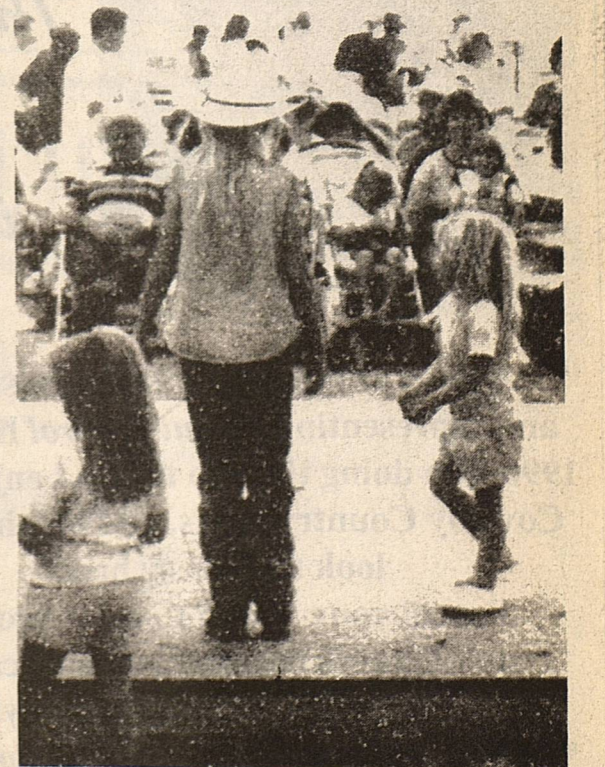
Another immaculate, bright red Ford.



These guys waiting their turn in the melon eating contest thought the girls competing were highly amusing. The girls had their payback when the boys contest started.

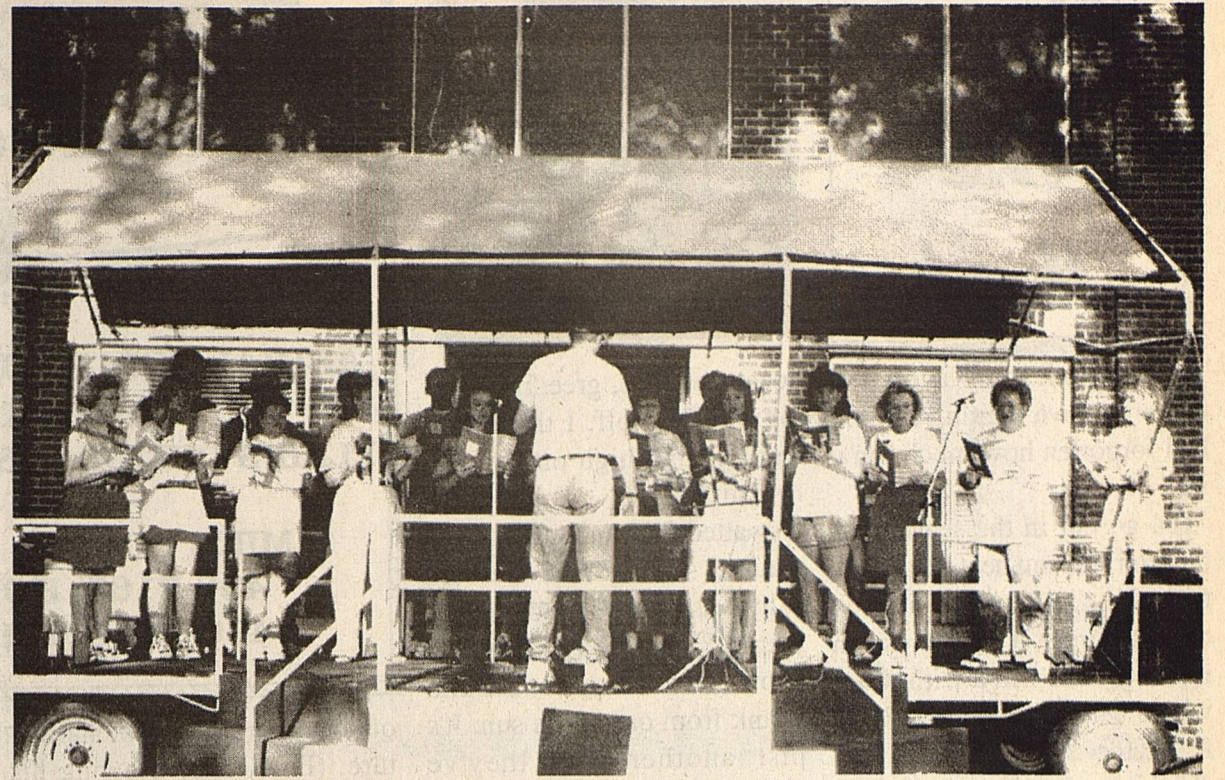
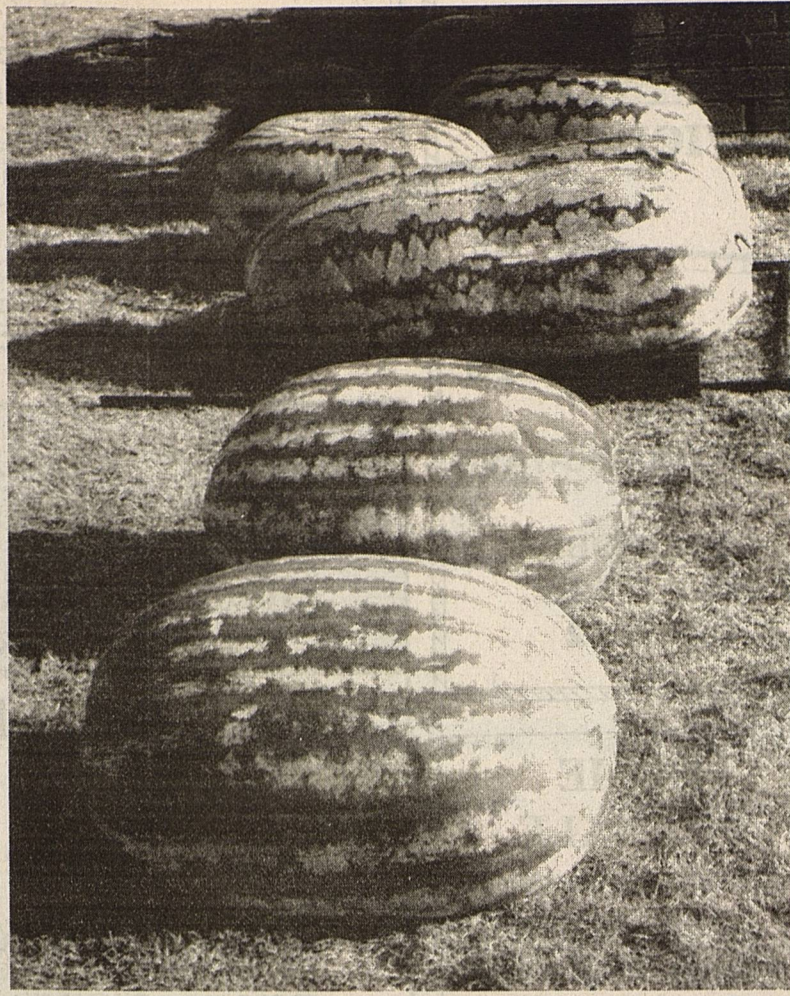


Young gymnasts soared thru the air throughout the day.

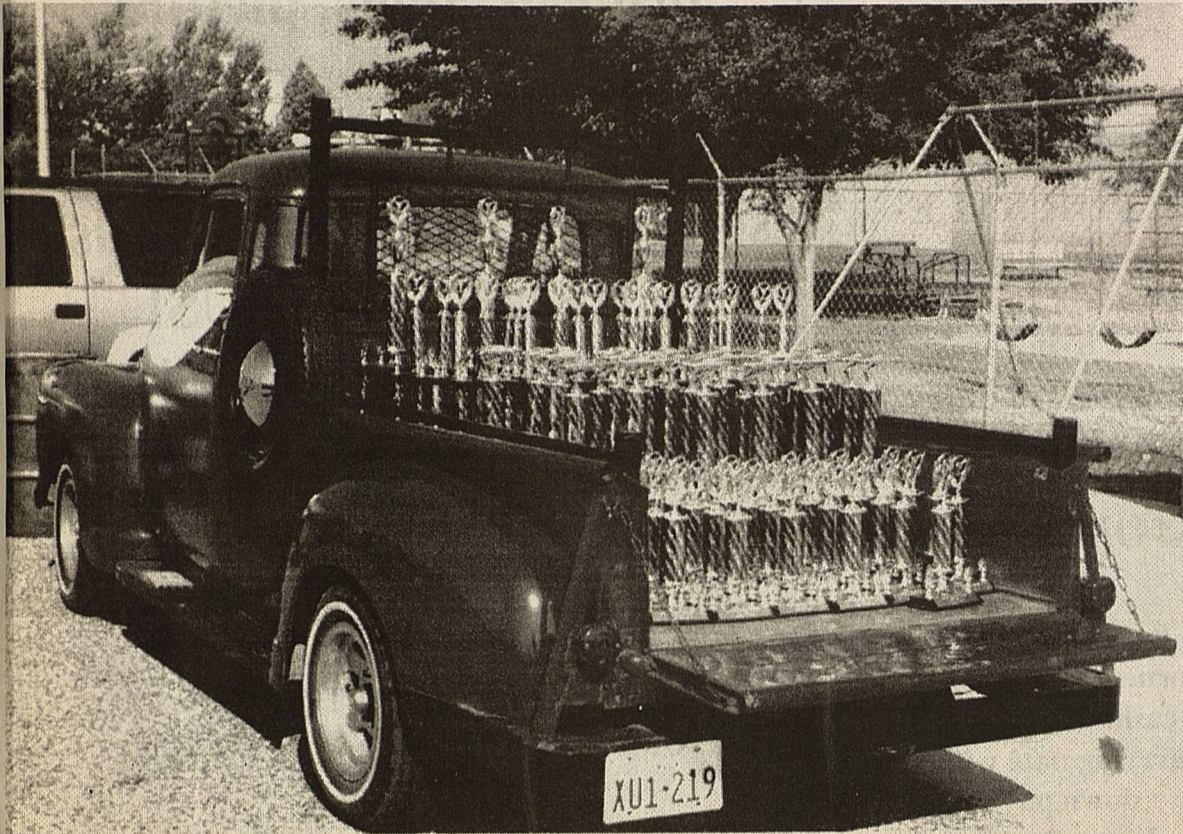


The day long live music drew young ladies to the stage to do a little solo dancing

These five melons weighed a total of 591 pounds. The middle melon weighed in at 183.30 pounds, a new state record.



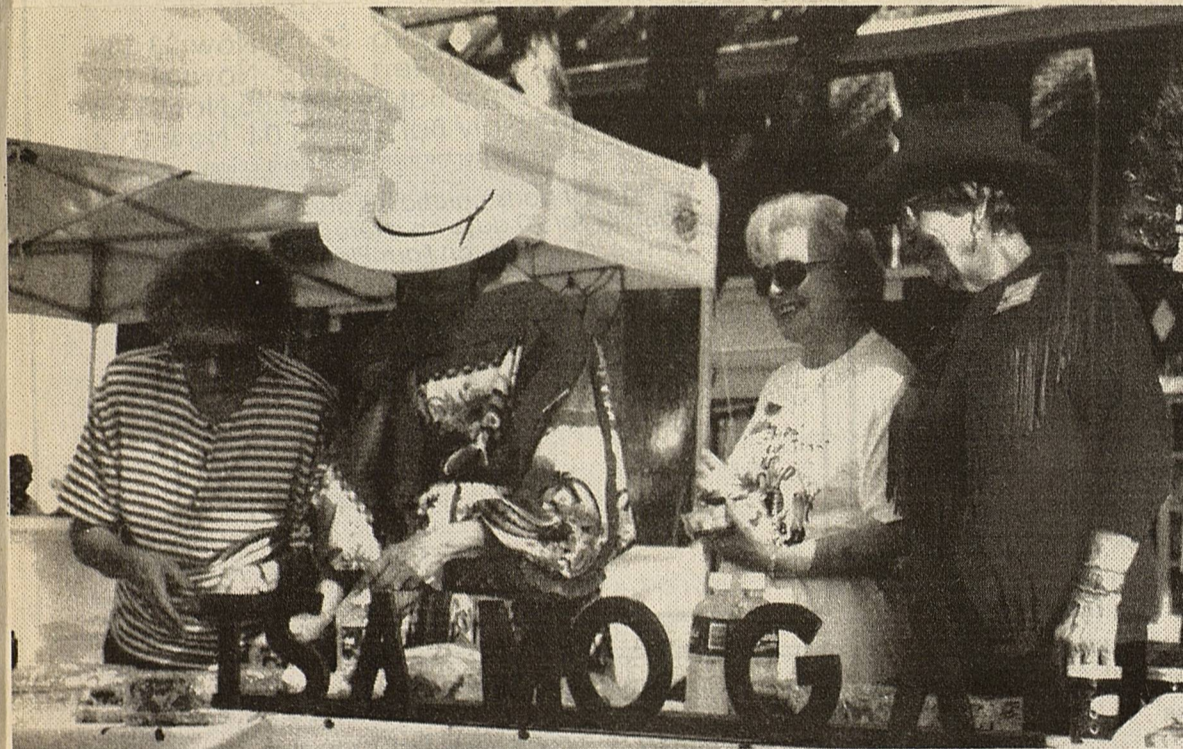
The First Baptist Choir gave another stirring performance



An entire pickup load of trophies were awarded in the Classic Car Show



Aerial view of Round Up courtesy Ron Craft & Jack Cobb.



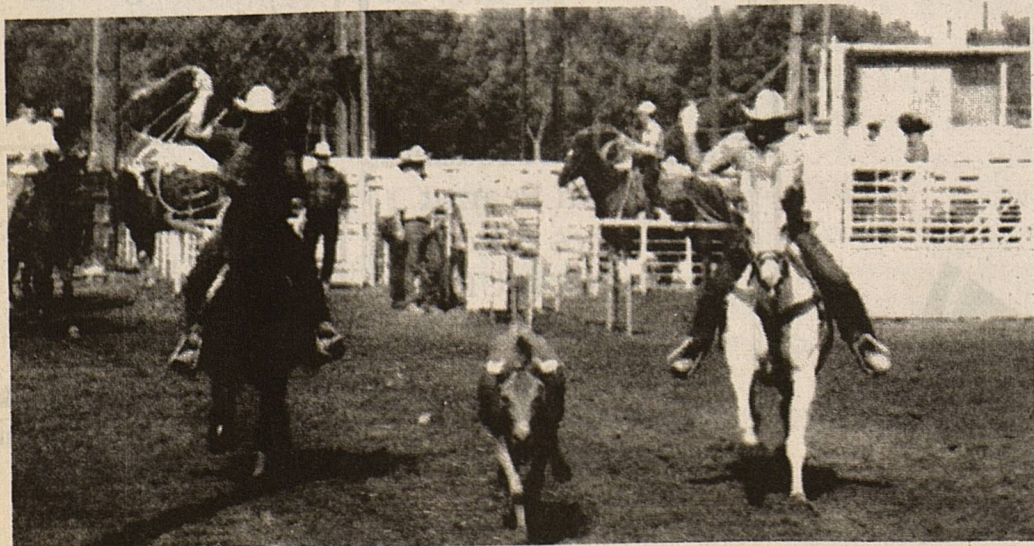
Tsa Mo Ga ladies Betty Rushing, Sara Jane Shelton, Holly Dyer, Wilma Powell



Rachel Goldman, '98 Tx-Ok Watermelon Queen, and Holly Brown, '96 Tx Ok Queen, and '97 National Watermelon Queen. Note admiring look from young lad at left.



The 'No Name Band' from Plains, Melba Crutcher, Brad McWhirter, Michael Earnest, and Wayne Sisson.



A roping team thunders after a steer



Happiness & joy is lots of straw, and a smaller guy to toss it on

From The Hack



After a very lengthy layoff, I've taken up dove hunting again. I had forgotten how much fun it is.

You go out in the searing afternoon sun and heat, to a stock tank. You know what a stock tank is, surely. It's a depression in the ground filled with water where cattle drink. It is also a fly factory.

Why is it a fly factory, you ask? Well, the flies like the cattle, first of all, but they just go crazy over the cow plop the cows plop in abundance on the ground.

Being an old, cagey dove hunter, I knew all this, so I had the bride liberally douse me down with half a can of OFF before I departed the house. I also put on my camouflage pants, shirt and cap, and asked her if she could see me. She mumbled something containing the word 'idiot', so I departed to secure the ingredients for a giant dove fry.

I hunkered up in a brushy spot near the tank. Not three minutes later, I felt something on my hands and neck. It was flies,

dozens of flies, greedily sucking the OFF off. I think they were getting high on the useless stuff.

I swatted flies and waited, and waited, staring into the sun. Why was I staring into the sun, you ask? Why, because any fool knows dove always come into a tank from out of the sun. It's just another way they've learned to torment you over the centuries, making hunters peer into the glaring sun.

Here is another rule all experienced dove hunters are aware of; 99.97 percent of all the dove in the world do not come in to water until the sun is just almost non-existent, but 99.98 percent of dove hunters sally forth to their waterholes at least three hours prior to this time, so they can enjoy squinting into the sun, worrying whether their camouflage clothing is really making them invisible, swatting swarming flies, and almost afraid to move to open something cold and foamy from the cooler. I did say 'almost afraid'.

Another rule of the dove hunt is, the birds know not to approach the tank unless (A) the hunter is occupied in taking care

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of something of a personal nature, (B) Noisily blowing his nose, or (C) digging another something cold and foamy from the cooler. In all of the above situations, his shotgun will be propped up some distance away when the first bird flutters in hoping for a drink.

In my very own experiences, the first dove I am theoretically able to shoot at is demented. I am crouched there, watching him speedily approach, then he starts to jink and dart erratically, flying even faster, straight at me like a small but lethal Cruise Missile, and the closer he gets, the more certain I am he is deliberately charging me, maybe a Kamikaze dove, and it is very unnerving, to the point when I get the courage to defend myself by shooting at him, he zooms over my head, probably laughing. It's a tough sport

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I want to express my deepest appreciation for your wonderful help and cheerful attitude in making this years Watermelon Round Up such a roaring success!

Without your help we could not do this year after year. You have all made this year an enjoyable experience for me and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

THANK YOU!

*Jeannette Head
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