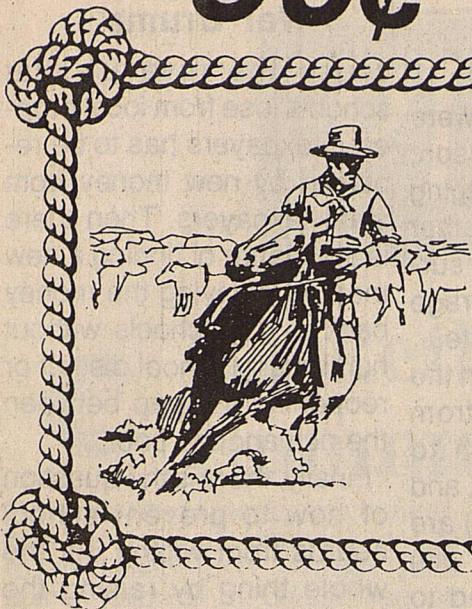


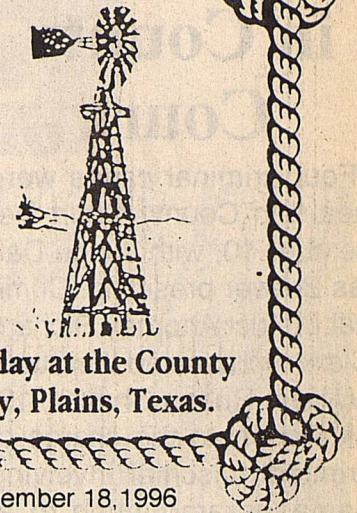
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Cowboy Country News



Published each Wednesday at the County
Seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas.

Volume III, Issue 16, Wednesday, December 18, 1996

'96 Crop pleasant surprise for many producers

There are very few if any cotton strippers running in the county, and the 1996 cotton harvest will very shortly be history. Except for a wet spell which settled in around Thanksgiving, Mother Nature has cooperated in providing very good harvest weather.

It was a very different story early in the growing season. Severe drought, searing heat and devastating hails destroyed several thousand acres of planted cotton, and many producers were experiencing gloomy outlooks for the season. Fortunately, irrigation and timely rains in many dryland growing areas resulted in a far better crop than expected.

The four county gins handling the crop all report in the same vein; "We are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel".

Darwin Robertson, Yoakum County Co-Op Gin, reported they have ginned some 26,400 bales, and expect to hit a total of 34,000 bales when they shut down. Tommy Harris at the privately owned Circle 12 Gin said they are winding down, and should finish some 7,200 bales. Marc Traweek at Tokio Co-Op reported 25,710 bales ginned, and expects to hit 40,000. Ron Craft at New Tex Gin said they have processed 35,000 bales, and should end up some with 41,000.

All reported the seasonal run has produced more cotton than anticipated earlier.

One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. He then became an itinerant preacher.

He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to college. He had no credentials but himself.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today He is the central figure of the human race.

All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that.....

One Solitary Life



We Wish All Our Readers The Most Wonderful Holiday Season Ever !

Cowboy Country News
Holly & Gary Dyer

County Court Meets

Yoakum County Commissioner's Court met Monday, December 16, and the following agenda items were discussed and acted on.

Bids for the purchase price of a 3/4 ton truck for the County Ag Extension Agent's use were reviewed. After considerable discussion, the Court accepted a bid from Mustang Country in Denver City for a new Ford F250 truck. The purchase price was \$27,805, less \$7000 for a 1993 truck. The bid was \$331 higher than one received from Smith Ford in Slaton, but because of a promised earlier delivery date, the Mustang bid was accepted. The truck is needed early in January for the busy Livestock Show season.

Bids for roof repairs on two county owned buildings were accepted. Twin Cities Roofing and Siding was awarded the job on the South Plains Helath Clinic, a \$2,061 project, and Custom Coating and Structures bid of \$21,300 was accepted on the Denver City Community Building. Bids on the Yoakum County Youth Center were tabled for one week.

Only one bid was received on a new track type loader to be used at the County Landfill. West Texas Equipmewnt, Lubbock, submitted a bid in the amount of \$181,898 for a new Caterpillar 963B loader, less \$43,100 trade in of an older 963B. for a difference of \$138,798. A five year warranty costing \$1958 was added to that price. The county will make a \$15,000 down payment, and a five year lease purchase payment plan at 5.9% interest will be initiated.

The Court approved a petition from Pinnacle Natural Gas Co. to construct and maintain a pipeline in portions of Precinct 2.

Treasurer Toni Jones delivered the Treasurer's Office quarterly investment report. Advertising for bids on purchase prices of gravel, hot and cold mix and asphalt for all precincts, and unleaded and premium unleaded and diesel fuel for all county departments for 1997 was approved.

Following the regular session, the Court entered into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and litigation.

On the down side, producers who haven't sold any of this year's crop scratching their heads, watching the roller coaster market prices, rising a few points one week, dropping off the next. A sampling of printed cotton marketing news at area gins and other sources serves as a reminder of the constant 'Bullish vs. Bearish' battle in cotton and other commodity marketing strategy.

Some analysts support the Bullish outlook, pointing out the world market price may have bottomed, world production may be much lower than earlier anticipated, slow and delayed shipments from some Asian suppliers may bring increased demand for US cotton, and indications the yarn market in Asia may

be strengthening.

The Bearish thinkers counter these suggestions by quoting other analysts expecting a larger US crop than expected, and an ending market supply of 5 million bales, saying there is no indication of improved domestic consumption, draw attention to the increased utilization of polyester, and indicators pointing to record production in the southern hemisphere, particularly Argentina and Australia.

There is no foolproof way of being absolutely certain whether the Bulls or Bears have the clearest crystal balls and producers have very valid reasons to carefully study marketing strategies and options.

Political war drums beating in Austin already?

Probably every newspaper in Texas has featured recent articles about the Legislative Session which convenes in Austin January 14, and the most commonly discussed issues and topics the Legislators will debate and act on; deregulation of electric utilities, changing the old Homestead Law to enable owners to borrow money on their home equity, more welfare and tort reform, and the really big issue, reducing the burden of property taxes used for school funding.

In the current issue of TEXAS MONTHLY magazine, a publication not exactly known for its conservative outlook on most anything, Executive Editor Paul Burka has a very good article on the issue, and the probable political clash between Governor George W. Bush, Republican, and Democrats Bob Bullock and Pete Laney, the Lt. Governor and House Speaker.

The Governor has been outspoken the entire year about his desire to find relief from the escalating weight of excessive property taxes, used to fund the public school system. When the Comptroller's office announced the state treasury would have a \$3 billion surplus at year's end, Bush said he wanted \$1 billion of it tabbed for reducing school taxes.

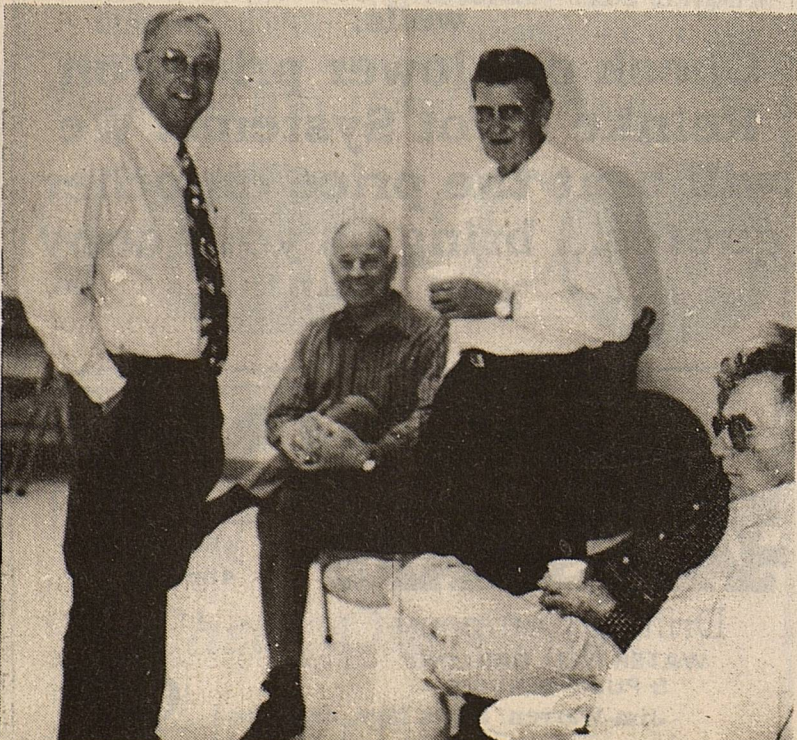
According to Burka, this did not sit well with either Bullock or Laney. He quotes Bullock as saying, "Somebody is going to pay less taxes, and somebody is going to pay more, and I want to know who the Governor thinks it should be". He reports Speaker Laney as miffed about Bush laying claim to the billion dollars; "You need to stop listening to your political advisers and start listening to your legislative advisers", he says Laney told the Governor.

The article does a very good job of examining the many different problems the lawmakers will face in proposed property tax reform. Burka says, "The state provides just 47 percent of the cost of running public schools; School Districts collectively have to come up with 53%.

"A new crisis looms in the distance: In a few years, maybe as soon as 2000, most school districts in the state will be taxing at the maximum rate allowed under the Texas Constitution and will be unable to raise more money.

"There is the matter of who gets it (relief), homeowners or businesses. There is the matter of who pays for it, be-

State Rep. Walker honored with reception



Gary Walker, David Turnbough, and Dennis Harrison, Barron Blair right foreground

Well over one hundred well wishers attended the reception December 11 honoring District 80 State Representative Gary Walker. Held in the Community Building, guests were present from both Plains and Denver City.

On hand from Austin was Laurie McAnally, Walker's Legislative Aide in his office there. Walker recently hired local Judy Addison to serve as his District Office Aide.

Walker will be in the House for the opening Session on January 14.

Turn to Page 2, 'War Drums'

Criminal cases heard in County Court

Four criminal cases were heard in County Court December 10, with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding. Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the State. William Ruben Chavez, 19, pled guilty to the charge of criminal mischief involving damages amounting to at least \$500, but less than \$1500. He was represented by Attorney Jerry Corbin. He received a 60 day jail sentence, suspended and probated 18 months, was fined \$250, must pay court costs of \$192, restitution of \$1183.50, and \$200 appointed attorney fees. He had already served 92 hours in jail. As a condition of community supervision, he must give a truthful statement in testifying about a March 9 incident, and three other causes were adjudicated.

Victor Joe Todd, 31, pled guilty to a charge of driving while license suspended. A 30 day jail sentence was probated 12 months, he was fined \$100, must pay \$157 court costs and reinstatement fee of \$50 to the DPS.

Richard Earl Eickenhorst, aka Ricky, 46, pled guilty to assault. His 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. He was fined \$250, must pay appointed attorney fees of \$200, restitution in the amount of \$149.71, and \$157 court costs. He was ordered to attend weekly AA meetings, and successfully complete the Batterer's Intervention Program (BIPP). Another cause will be adjudicated upon completing the BIPP program. He was represented by Jerry Corbin.

Eliseo Perez Jr., 18, pled

guilty to evading detention. He was sentenced to 60 days in jail, suspended and probated 12 months, must pay \$157 court costs and two traffic tickets in JP Court. He must obtain Liability insurance, a valid inspection sticker, submit to monthly urinalysis at his expense, and perform 80 hours of community service.

'97 Advance AMTA program payments released

Yoakum County Committee Chairperson Tommy G. Box reported 1997 advance AMTA Farm Program Payments were mailed from the County office December 16. These payments were due producers who entered into a program contract with the local office and requested advance payments in December. Producers had an option of either taking the payments in December, January, or waiting until September and receiving their total contract payments.

Mr. Box stated the 1997 Advance Payments are paid based on the following rates and, unlike previous years payments, are not tied to market rates. 1997 rates are as follow; Wheat - \$0.305; Barley - \$.25; Oats - \$0.15; Corn - \$0.165; Grain Sorghum - \$0.195; Upland Cotton - \$0.037.

Box explained payments requested to be paid in December had to be requested no later than December 13, 1996 and payments requested to be paid by January 15, 1997 need to be requested no later than January 13. He explained that

several producers still had not requested any advance payments, and those producers would get their full payments September 30, 1997.

Box told CCN that any producer not receiving a payment should get in touch with the FSA office to determine if all signatures were received and all paper work has been completed.

Jane Parks Services Held

Memorial services for Corrine Jane Parks of Lewisville were held Monday Oct. 28 1:30 PM at the First Baptist Church of Lewisville. She died Thursday, Oct. 24 suddenly and unexpectedly.

Native of Houston, Mrs Parks attended Jefferson Davis High School and graduated from Baylor University in 1962 with a degree in English. She taught briefly at Aldine High School of Houston and Denton High School before becoming a homemaker and raising her family. Recently, she was the manager and receptionist for her husband's medical office and was a 33 year resident of Lewisville.

She is survived by her husband of 34 years, Dr. Weldon Parks of Lewisville and three daughters; Lisa Vaughn of Flower Mound, Carissa Parks of Lewisville and Anjanette Osborn of Clear Lake and three grandchildren. She is also survived by her mother-in-law Mary Lou Parks of Plains, TX.

Panhandle Pheasant Numbers Below Average

Hot on the heels of a mediocre 1995 pheasant season. West Texas pheasant hunters may be in for a disappointing 1996 season if Texas Parks and Wildlife Department survey figures are an indication of actual pheasant numbers. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department annual surveys the pheasant population in the Panhandle and South Plains by conducting roadside counts along 44 routes during late October and early November. Each route measure 20 miles in length and is driven from east to west at 20 mph and begun 15 minutes after sunrise.

Across the Panhandle District as a whole, the number of pheasants sighted along the 44 survey routes decreased by 31.6% compared to last year. The 1995 survey resulted in 9.8 birds per survey route, while 6.7 birds per route were observed in 1996. Pheasant numbers in 1996 are down by 55.2% compared to the 5-year average of 15 birds per route.

Although the highest pheasant numbers in the Panhandle District are usually recorded in the northern portion of the Panhandle, eight surveys conducted in Dallam, Sherman, Hansford, and Ochiltree counties produced an average of 20 birds per route, which is 44.4% decline compared to the 1995 figure of 36 birds/route. Other counties with respect-

About one out of every 170 working Americans is employed by the U.S. Postal Service.

able pheasant numbers were Deaf Smith and Hutchinson, with 4 survey lines averaging 10.5 birds/route. The other 8 Panhandle counties surveyed showed an average of only 2.8 birds per route.

Pheasant numbers in the South Plains region (from Parmer County, south to Cochran, east to Crosby, and north to Briscoe County) are usually higher in years with larger acreages planted to grain crops and smaller acreages planted to cotton. These conditions were met this year as a result of drought and hail damage to cotton, but pheasant numbers in the region remained low average. Based on 24 survey routes conducted in 12 South Plains counties, the 1996 survey resulted in 3.0 birds/route. This represents a 7% increase compared to the 1995 figures (2.9 birds/route). While a slight increase is evident and may be attributable to changes in cropping patterns, the 1996 count is still 61% below the 5-year average (7.7 birds/route) for the South Plains region.

The 16-day pheasant season begins Saturday, December 14 and concludes December 29. The daily bag limit is 3 cocks with a possession limit of 6 birds.

by John Hughes,
TPWD Wildlife Biologist

From Page 1,
'War Drums'

cause the revenue that schools lose from local property taxpayers has to be replaced by new money from state taxpayers. Then there is the matter of finding a new method of giving the money back to the schools without hurting any school district or reopening the gap between the rich and the poor.

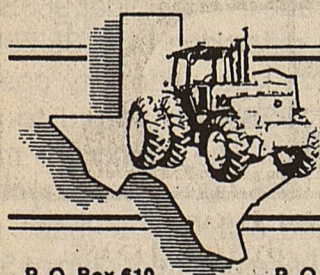
"Finally, there is the question of how to prevent school boards from wiping out the whole thing by raising the newly lowered property taxes.

"In other words, property tax relief is not just tax relief, something all politicians are for in principal. It includes a tax increase (to make up for the lost revenue) and a new school-finance formula (to distribute the money) - two of the most difficult and dangerous issues in Texas politics.

"And it includes restrictions on local school board's power to tax, something that will have far reaching effects on education for decades to come. Whether it passes or whether it fails, property tax relief will be the big issue in the next elections"

One thing is probably carved in stone - Whatever comes out of the legislative session will have some public support, but politicians, school superintendents, business supporters and lobbyists are not all going to be pleased or appeased.

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'PISD ACTIVITY PAGE'

Basketball Summary

7th Lady Wranglers; the younger Lady Wranglers took on their Sundown counterparts, and found the Roughettes too rough, falling 46-17. Arasley Luna led the scoring with 7 points, followed by Chelsi Wagnon, 6, Becky Coronel and Nancy Koncab 2 each.

8th Lady Wranglers; the 8th girls found Sundown a bit easier, winning 21-17. Lesli Rowe had 6 points, Tanya Vasquez and Kimbe Jones 4 each, followed by Kim Willis, Kari Guetersloh and Michaela Traweek, 2 each.

7th Wranglers; The younger boys lost a close contest with Sundown, 30-26. Moises Gonzales scored 12 points, while Jared Bell and Joseph Rodriguez had 6 each.

8th Wranglers; The 8th boys had a good effort and played tough defense while downing Sundown 37-24. Brett Squyres led the scoring with 11, followed by Adam Garcia with 6, and Dustin Six, Armando Luna and Kelsey Blundell 4 each.

Plains JV Tournament:

JV Cowgirls- The girls lost their first match to Seagraves 43-24. Tandi Jones led the scoring with 7, Anne Palmer had 5, Krystle Blundell and Kristen Gray 4 each. Patty Ruiz and Lisa Parrish 2 each. They roared back and downed Lovington, scoring 9 points in over time for a 34-26 victory. Palmer scored 11, Blundell 6, Maranda Box had 5, Gray, Jones and Parrish each had 4. They went up against a good Sands team next and fell 48-17. Gray, Ruiz and Parrish scored 3 each, Palmer Box and Jones had 2 each. They next lost a real squeaker to Lazbuddie, 29-28. Ruiz led the scoring with 8, Jessica Flores 6, Blundell and Parrish 4 each, Box 3, Gray 2, and Jones 1.

JV Cowboys; The young Cowboys routed Lazbuddie in their tourney opener, 71-26. Jason Redman had 18 points, Matt Morgan 12, and Fermin Luna 11 for the scoring leaders. They did not fare as well against Lamesa, falling 59-41. Redman again led the scoring with 16, and Luna had 8. They next came out on top of Lazbuddie 40-38. Mike Bell had 17 points, Will St. Romain 8, and Redman 8. The Cowboys were downed by Brownfield in their final match, 58-51. Luna had 11 points, Bell 10, and Redman 9. Their season record now stands at 9 and 4.

Farwell Tournament:

PHS Cowgirls- The Cowgirls opened the meet strong, beating Melrose 56-43. Kyley Bearden and Tessa St. Romain led the scoring with 12 each, followed by Sandi Warren and Kayla Redman with 8 each, Shyloh Winn and Lindsey Six 6, and Jolyne Burgess and Candace had 2 each. Redman had 10 rebounds, and Bearden had 7 assists. Farwell proved a bit tougher, and the girls dropped their second game 55-45. St. Romain had 18 points for top scoring honors, followed by Redman 9, Bearden 5, Winn 4, Warren 3, and Six and Burgess had 2 each. The Cowgirls fell to Texico in the final game 50-43. St. Romain and Redman led the scoring with 10 each, Bearden 8, Six 7, Winn 4, Warren 3, and Burgess 1. Coach Osborn said the girls played better in the tournament than in recent weeks, being more consistent and lowering the turnover numbers.

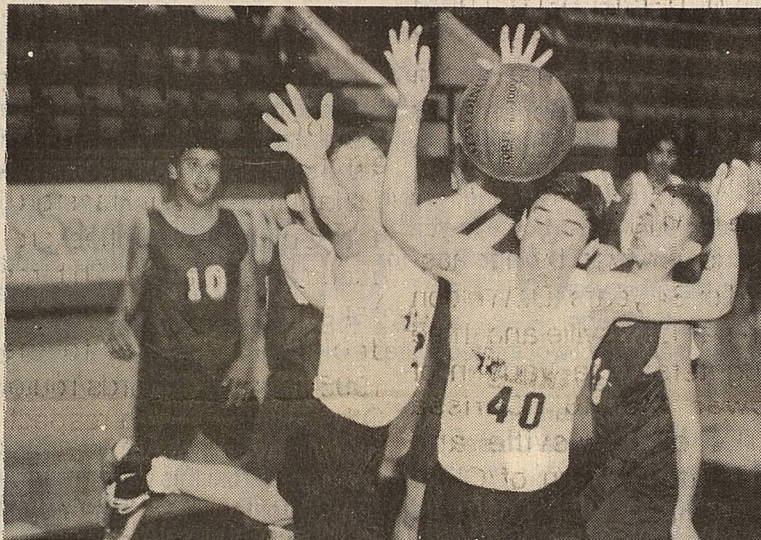
PHS Cowboys; The Cowboys took on Nazareth in their Tourney opener and fell 52-45. Joe Luna had 18 points, followed by Tanner Blount 14, Jamie Caballero 4, Shawn Cullins 3, Eric Estrada, Adam Dominguez and Chris Willett 2 each. They next downed Melrose 71-63. Blount had a hot hand and 33 points, followed by Luna 17, Travis Bennett 6, Estrada 5, David Flores 4, Caballero and Cullins 3 each. Bennett had 8 rebounds and 2 blocked shots, Blount had 9 steals, and he and Luna had 3 assists. The Cowboys lost the next contest at the buzzer, falling to Farwell 58-56. Bennett was top scorer with 15 points, Blount had 11, Estrada 8, Luna and Flores had 6, Willett 5, Cullins 3, Caballero 2. Bennett nabbed 11 rebounds, Luna had 9 steals, and Estrada made 4 of 5 field goals. Coach Williams said the Cowboys are playing better, and playing extremely well at times. Adam Dominguez will be out of action awhile with an ankle sprain. They next traveled to Lubbock Cooper, and fell to Lazbuddie 66-54, Blount had 16 points, Estrada 15, Caballero 10, Bennett 9, and Flores 4. Williams said the four games in five days has taken it's physical toll on the team.

Freshmen Cowboys; The youngest Cowboys had a rough time in last week's Seagraves Tournament. They lost to the Eagles in their opener 60-44. Colt Winn led the scoring with 11 points, Alex Luna had 9, Patrick McGinty and Josh Bell 6, Justin Bennett and Kyle Sisson 4, and Keith Jackson 2. They next fell to Tahoka 55-32. Bell had 14 points, Sisson and Jeremy Morphis 6 each, Winn 4, and Jackson 2. They lost a heartbreaker to Whiteface, getting edged 52-51. McGinty led the scoring with 14, Sisson 11, Bell 9, Bennett 7, Winn 4, Jackson and Chris Willis 3, and Salvador Granados 2.

Junior High Boys Action



Sergio Sandoval, 44, shoots, Patrick Brintle, 51, watches



Brett Squyres, left, Joel Gallegos, 40, battle for ball



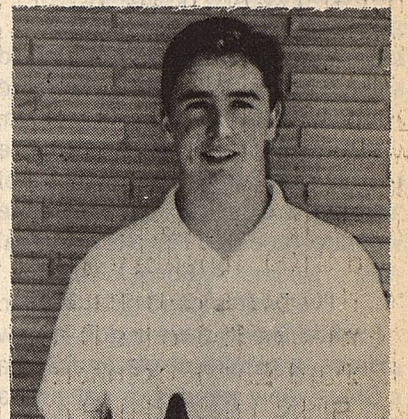
Justin Six, left, watches Kelsey Blundell with ball



Third grade classes of Margarita Avila, Willie Mae Engle and Phyllis House recently visited the Vince Hawthorne pecan orchard near the state line during harvest time. Vince and Michelle talked to the students about pecan production and harvest, and the classes watched the harvesters shaking the nuts from the trees. They were allowed to gather all the pecans they could pick up. The students greatly enjoyed the trip, and expressed their thanks to the Hawthornes for their hospitality.

PHS Student of the Week

This week's student of the week is Jacob Lester, a Senior, and the son of Bruce and Jan Lester. He was nominated by Mr. Canon, who said, "When I think of attributes for this honor, I think of incentive, self motivated initiative, and ambition. Jacob has shown these qualities in the classroom and on the football field. I believe he gives 110% every time he is called on."



In recent basketball action, Athletic Director Larry Mc Minn and Junior High Principal Ronnie Watkins had to put on their Zebra shirts when referees failed to show up at game time. They both made frequent trips to the scorers table to soak up a number of sodas.

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Mrs. May's Kindergarten Class

Dear Santa,
For Christmas, I would like to have a real snake and a real rabbit, water guns, a robot, a ball, cars, trucks and tractors, a lock and key, a wagon, a police car, an air plane, and some gold fish. I have been real good.

Love, Abe

I have been real good this year. I would like a cho-cho train that goes through a tunnel, a train station, and in my stocking I want some apples, nuts, and some candy. Thank you for all my stuff.

Love, Chris

This year for Christmas, I want a tumble doll, a baby that eats green stuff, a baby that has a backpack and she ets the stuff in it. I have been a good girl.

Love, Crystal

I would like a police motorcycle for Christmas this year. Also I want a little camera and a gun. Please bring a little bear for my sister. Thank you for everything.

Love, Saul

For Christmas this year I would like a tape player and some more tapes, a real camera with real film, some head phones, some more army men, a golf ball set, a hot wheel race car track, and a remote control race car. I love toys Santa!

Love, Wyatt

I've been a good girl this year. I would like to have a doll, a new dress, a picture of me and Santa Claus, new pencils, a cat and a puppy, a book, and a coloring book.

Love, Carmen

This year for Christmas, I want a real puppy, a doodle-bear, a barbie C-D rom, a box of chocolates, a Bugs Bunny stuffed animal, a Barbie with a red hat and red suit, an ocean-friend Barbie, a real little bitty baby kitty, a new stocking and two little baby puppies. I hope I've been good.

Love, Gretta

For Christmas this year I want a toy kitchen, a talking doll, and some new shoes. I love you Santa.

Love, Helena

I've been good. For Christmas I want the doll that eats and drinks, a walkman with headphones, a camera, a tumbling doll, a Hungry Hippo game, a Barbie playhouse and a car. I love you Santa.

Love, Mari

This year for Christmas I want a race car, a Batman Action Figure, a Cho-cho Train, the Mouse Trap game, a Robin Action Figure, Ape from Power Rangers, the Spider Man Arm toy that shoots out this stuff like a webb, and a Monopoly Jr. game. I love you Santa.

Love, Zachary

Mrs. McGinty's Kindergarten Class

Dear Santa,
I am 5 years old. I like to eat and open presents at Christmas time. I would like to have rollerblades and Power Ranger Zoo for Christmas.

Thank you, Zachary Ramon

I am 6 years old. I like to open presents at Christmas time. I would like to have a X-WING Fighter and Lights Saber for Christmas.

Thank you, Landon Earnest

I am boy 6 years old. I like to eat and play at Christmas time. I would like to have a Power Ranger or Christmas.

Thank you, Alejandro Lara

I am 5 years old. I like to open gifts at Christmas time. I would like to have a car and Buss Lightyear for Christmas.

Thank you, Alfred Martinez

I am almost 6 years old. I like to wrap presents and open presents at Christmas time. I would like to have a power ranger and beetle borgs stuff for Christmas.

Thank you, Holden Welch

I am 5 years old. Like to play Barbies at Christmas time. I would

like to have a dolly for Christmas. Thank you, Vanessa Martinez
I am 5 years old. I like to open presents at Christmas time. I would like to have a new house and talk-boy watch for Christmas.

Thank you, Kimber Williams
I am 5 years old. I like to go shopping and go play in the snow at Christmas time. I would like to have a Barbie and a teddy bear for Christmas.

Thank you, Norma Baca
I am 6 years old. I like to play outside at Christmas time. I would like to have a horse and Borbe for Christmas.

Thank you, Tina Unger
I am 5 years. I like to play with Barbies at Christmas time. I would like to have a Doll and Barbie for Christmas.

Thank you, Reyna Gallegos
I am 5 years old. I like to swim and play in the snow at Christmas time. I would like to have a dolly and a new skirt for Christmas.

Thank you, Elizabeth Cox
Mrs. Conway's Kindergarten Class

Dear Santa,
I am 5 years old. I like to open presents at Christmas time. I would like to have a rabbit and dog and jeep for Christmas.

Thank you, M Cabellero
I am five years old. I like to decorate my Christmas tree at Christmas time. I would like to have a bike and Go Cart for Christmas.

Thank you, Chris Gonzales
I am five years old. I like to decorate ornaments with my Mom at Christmas time. I would like to have a Doodle Bear and Wiggles & Giggles for Christmas.

Thank you, Jasmine Mares
I am six years old. I like to eat and sleep at Christmas time. I would like to have a train set and bike for Christmas.

Thank you, Abel Casillas
I am 5 years old. I like to decorate the Christmas Tree at Christmas time. I would like to have a Doodle Bear and Ice Skates for Christmas.

Thank you, Brianna Conway
PS: Oh, Santa can you work it out so that Uncle Frank and Aunt Virginia can come home to Grandma & Papa for the Christmas holiday. It's too hot in Phoenix Arz. There is no snow!

I am 5 years old. I like to decorate the Christmas Tree at Christmas time. I would like to have a bike and clothes for Christmas.

Thank you, Derek Garza
I am five year old. I like to decorate the house at Christmas time. I would like to have bike and puppy for Christmas.

Thank you, Skyler Sainz
I am 5 years old. I like to decorate the Christmas Tree and bake at Christmas time. I would like to have a doll and puppy for Christmas.

Thank you, Isamar Luna
I am five years old. I like to eat tamales and open presents at Christmas time. I would like to have a Barbie and clothes for Christmas.

Thank you, Mayra Velasquez
I am 5 years old. I like to bake Christmas cookies at Christmas time. I would like to have a bike and Sunday shoes size 10 for Christmas.

Thank you, Eva Unger
I am five years old. I like to go to bed and wait for Santa at Christmas time. I would like to have a Doodle Bear and baby doll for Christmas.

Thank you, Lydia Witzel

Letters To Santa Claus

Mrs. Davis's First Grade Class

Dear Santa,
how are you I am fine. I have been a good girl. I want a Barby and a tent for christmas.

Love, Marissa Melendez
How are you? I am fine. I have been a very good girl this year. How is Mrs. Claus, How are you'r reindeer? My Mom has been good. My Dad has be good. My Bother Johnathan has been good. My sister Whitney has been good. My Uncle's has been good. Erin has been good to. We have fun. I want a now bike a walke talk to.

Love, Lauren
How are you. I am fine Mrs. Santa Claus Haw are you? I am fine Santa Claus I want you to know that this is my favorite holiday of the year I want for Christmas is a computer and a computer disk.

I want a skydancer anda Ocean Barbie so for My brother a Batman and a Batmamsot.

How are you I am fine I have been a very good boy this year. I want power Rangers for Christmas. Jaun

I wish I can se all of yor fomle and i wot you to tel the elves to mach me a bick 15 speed bick Larry

How are you I am fine I have been a very good girl this year. I want for Christmas this year.

Thank you, Jacob
I love toys. Thank you Dear Ejna

How are you. I am fine I have been very good gild. I want for christmas is a Barbre.

Love, Amber
How are you. I am fine. I have been a very good boy this yea. I want a power SEO Mega Zard for christmas this year.

C Ortego
dir sant cloz I wot the red batte. Matthew

Mrs. Ramos's First Grade Class

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy this year. How do the elves make thetoys? How do the reindeers fly? For Christmas I would like to get a King Kong II, Cool Tolls, Cowboy shirt, Goosebump game, Dallas Cowboy cap, Cowboy hat, Go cart, and a shot gun.

Love, Trent Hawthorne
I have been a good boy this year. I would like to get a Dalmatian puppy, Nintendo 64, New Jordan shoes, a Play Station, Troy Aikman poster, and a gold, diamond ring. Thanks for the toys I got last year.

Love, Zachary Ramos
I have been a good girl this year. How do you make the reindeers fly? For Christmas I would like to get a vet barbie, head stand barbie, big pink play car, a new brown teddy bear, barbie and her horse, twin babies, born babies.

Love, Lauren Hise
I have been a very good girl this year. How do the elves make magic? For Christmas I would like to get twin burping babies, a swimming pool, bunk beds for my play dolls, and a stroller too.

Thanks Santa!
M'LEAH MC KINZIE
I have been good this year. For Christmas I would like to get the movie Space Jam (even though the stores don't have it yet), new Barbie shoes, and a barbie with a pretty blue dress.

Love, Maretta Trent
For Christmas I want a Nintendo 64, haunted highway, the vico James and the Giant Peach but, I found it in one of my mom's shopping bags. So I don't need you to bring it to me.

Love, Jacob Rivera
I habe been a very good little girl this year. How do the elves make their magic? how do they make so many toys? For Christmas I would like to get a black cat (that's my favorite color) Twin babies, and a black and red purse.

Love, Katie Winn
I have been a good boy this year. How do the reindeer fly? For Christmas I would like to get a Nintendo 64, a stuffed dog, mistletoe, Dr Dreadful MD Dominoes, the Original Wizard of Oz

book, Independence Day video. Thanks for the toys.

Love, Douglas Conway
I have been a good boy this year.(just qsk my grandma) How do your elves make such magic, and so many toys? How do your reindeer fly? FOR Christmas I would like to get a motorcycle bike, a super Nintendo game, Sega games, a real Dallas Cowboy helmet and a Deon Sanders jersey. Thanks for what you brought me last year.

Love, Elias Carrillo
I have been a very good boy this year. I only want a Nintendo 64 game from you. Thanks for the toys you brought me last year.

Love, Chris Loya
I have been a good boy this year. Thank you for the toys you brought me last year. This year I would like to get a horse, and videos to watch on my VCR.

Love, Jesus Becerra
I have a good girl this year. For Christmas I would like to get a swimming barbie, barbie and Callie, baby Callie, and barbie and her horse. Thanks!

Love, Rubi Castillo
Mrs. Morris' First Grade Class

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the Barbie car you brought to me last year.

Please bring me a Barbie house with tiny chairs and beds. I hope you have a merry Christmas!

Your friend, Flor Lara
Thank you for the good black jeans you brought me last year. I had to give them to a littler boy than me. I'm too big now. Please bring me some more black Pants. Make them size 10. I sure would like some new black boots too.

Thanks for your help, Santa.
Your friend, Isaak Unger
P.S. I'm tall.

Thank you for my tumble doll and my stroller. I shared them with my friends.

Please bring me a Barbie car for my Barbie this year. Thank you santa for the gifts. I hope you have a good Christmas.

Your friend, Joani Bell
I liked the chicken limbo, that you brought me lastyear. Chloe, my little sister, and I played with it many times. We slll like it! I wold like some chapstick for my lips, a big piture of Jesus, and a C.D. of Reba McIntire. I wold also like a 101 Dalmatian T-Shirt and the book. I'd also like a set of Gater golf if this is't too much.

Your friend, Chandra Carpenter
Mrs. Cobb's Second Grade Class

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would lid like a Superintendo, some new clothes, a watch, and a bike.

Love, Oscar Cordova
For Christmas I would like a trampoline.
Love, Landon Craft
For Christmas I would like a mountain bike and a trampoline.

Love, Henry Fehr
Dear Santa,
For christmas I would like a mountain bike, some new clothes, and a watch.

Love, John Fehr
For Christmas I would like a ninitedo, Barbie Computer ram, baby tumble surpise, magic castle, and a trampoline.

Love, Kimberly Gonzales
For Christmas I would like a mountain Bike.
Love, George Fehr
For Christmas I would like a Windows computer, a Ninitindo 64, and a bike.

Love, Scott Addison
For Christmas I would like a Game, and a TV and some clothes, a go-cart, computer and a trampoline.

Love, Callie Howell
For Christmas I would like a Barbie, Baby Head stand surprise, a Trampoline, and a ring.
Love, Lupito Quintana
For Christmas I would like a go-cart and a ninitendo 64.
Love, Justin Vasquez
For Christms I would like a arbie doll some new clothes, and a baby car.

Love, Cruselba Luna

For Christmas I would like a fast Go-cart, a Purse, a Computer and a Magic Castle.

Love, Kimberly Jackson
For Christmas I would like a train, Slinky dog, toy diesel truck, new tent, and a talking Buzz Light Year.

From, Justin Perry
Mrs. Doyle's Second Grade Class

Dear Santa,
I want a trampoline for Christmas. I want a Dallas cowboy chair. I want the movie Pinocohio. I want a Dallas cowboy jacket.

Love, Meghan
I would like some roller blades. And a trampoline too. I would love to see a reindeer! I love Christmas! I hope you drink the milk I leave you and eat the cookies too.

Love, Adriana Ponce
How are you? I am very happy. How are the elves? How is Miss Claus? How are the presents coming?

Love, Challie
How are you? Santa, I am all right. How are your elves? How is your wife? How is Roodof? I want toys please. That is a one wheel bicycle! Are you going to bring one of yore elf?

Love, chase
I want a trampoline and a stereo. And this is my favorite thing is a Barbie Shop and that's all that I want' Santa.

Love, Alice
How is it up there? I wonder what your riendeers names are? I would like a cowboy coat. I would like a soccerball. I would like a airdevil car!

Love, Colby Wilmeth
I want a tampline and. I want some roller blades. and I want a bike. and I want a dirt bike. and I want a Dallas Cowboy football suit.

Love, Stetson
This year I want 2 Barbies and a doll that eats a checkers game and a hug from you.

Love, Clarissa
I hope you are having a good time at the North Pole. I want a drum for Christmas. I want to see you at Christmas.

Love, D.J.
I want a tramoline for Christmas. I want a little model truck that is green. I want a bike for Christmas. I want a Sega for Christmas. I want a silver Buzz Light year for Christmas.

Love, Regina
I want a bike and an electric jeep that i can ride in. I want an electric tractor where I can ride in and a toy gun.

Santa I Love the toys that you bring. I want a t-shirt.
Love, Peter Wieke

How is it at the North Pole? I s it fun at the North Pole? I want a pair of roller blades, a watch, and drums.
Love, Dennis
Mrs. Cheatham's Second Grade Class

Dear Santa,
Do you have lots of toys. How much toys do you have? How much elfs are there?

What kind of toys do you have?
Santa Love,
Margaret Name
I want a trampling. I want a swming pool. I want a new toy for Christmas. I want a bord to write on. I Love my friends. I want a beebee gun.

Love, C.J. Stacy
I hope you come on Christmas night. I would like a barbie house and a bike for Christmas. I want to tell you something: Everything from you is special even if you don't bring me nothing I will still Love you. But I would like if you answer my questions!

Your friend, Angelica Mendoza
I hope you will bring me what I want for Christmas. but you don't know what I want for Christmas so I better write what I want and here it starts I want a trampaline, I want some clothes I wear size 6 and 7, and I want some new shoes I wear size 12, 13, and I want a teddybear so I can sleep with it. Merry Christmas to Santa Claus I love you Santa Claus I hope you bring me



all the stuff I want and for my babysister I want you Santa Claus to bring her a new bike, a kitten toy and a teddybear and some andy. I hope you bring her that, she will be very happy I Love you Santa Clause or my babysister Stacy.

Love, Erika, Stacy
I hope your doing fine. I want some stuff for Christmas. I want a little radio and a doll and a pen you can talk in. I want some candy to. I love you Mr. and Mrs. Claus. I've been nice but card of nice.

Love, Lisa Neufeld
I wonder how you could go all around the world so fast.

I want a Ice cream maker and a gymnastics Barbie. Thank you for all the toys you have given us in all these years. I realy hope you and Mrs. Claus are doing very well. I hope ou don't get a cold out there. Whats one of the elfs name?

Your friend, Araceli Mendoza
I what a toy horse and Wonder World and Barbies little gymnastis sister and my family.

Your friend, Desiraye
Mrs. House's Third Grade Class

Dear Santa,
My name ie Arnold Luna I am 10 years old. I live in Plains I want for Christmas a Sega and gameboy, a Dallas Cowboy jacket, a motreuce and a Robocop I am happy because I got all the things I wantad from Santa

Love, Arnold Luna
I want to thank you for all you have brought to my brother and me. We play with them a lot. They are fun. This year I want a nintendo 64 and a saddle . The next thing I want is some games for the nintendo 64. I'd like a new cotton planter too.

From youfriend, Blake
Thank you for all my present's that you gave me last year.

I would like a bike. I would like a doll. I would like a bubble gum shop and clothes and shoe's and also I want a new deck and also I would like waches.

Love, Cecilia
I want a big barbi. And a baby girl that eats and for my sister a big barbi. And for my mom a three. And for my Dad a new cap.

Love, Perla Acosta
Thank you for my Batman and Robin and my cross fire. I hope you buy me a Batman cave for my Batman and a Nintendo 64 with games with it. and around trampoline. Also, if you can buy me a rebound. Also a T.V. and a V.C.R. Also some Air Jordans.

Love, T. J. Cordova
My name is Ramiro Martinez. I am 8 years old. I live in Plains, Texas. For christmas I want a pair of nike shoes and a Bike. I have been a good boy.

Thank you, Ramiro Martinez
I want a Doodle Bear. I also want Scrunch n wear. Also a new blue 24" bike! Also finger nail fun. Also the movies Flipper and Pinocohio. The game Three Dirty Dwarves. Thank you for all the things you got me las year. Please give a bunch of food, and toys, and clothes. Alsoe new Swoops Shoes.

Love, Skylar Keesee
Thank you for the things that you brought me last year. I really liked them. This year I want a Nintendo 64 and I also want a new T.v. and some other things I want are some Chicago Bulls' frames and a football signed by all the Dallas Cowboys' players and a Dallas Cowboy watch. I want three more things! new Micheal Jordan shoes and s stereo, Dallas Cowboy swimming suit. I want you to bring the poor a lot of stuff.

Love, Abel Ramos
Thanks for the sega and the lets go fishing game. I want a Nintendo 64 for my brother Clayton. I want a car and T.V. for my Mom and Dad. I want food for



L-R, Kathy Jones, Sandy Craft, Debbie Rushing and Judy Addison enjoy a bit of feminine visiting at the reception honoring State Representative Gary Walker. Kathy is the Administrative Aide in the Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District office, Debbie is Walker's former District office Aide, and Judy Addison assumed those duties and title here on December 2.

District Court criminal case heard

One criminal case was heard in the 121st Judicial District Court Monday, with Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding. Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the State against Juan Mejia, 20. Mejia was charged with possession of marijuana, and pled guilty to the charge. He received the following sentence; The guilty plea was adjudicated. He was sentenced to 5 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice system, suspended and probated 5 years. He was

fined \$2500, and must pay \$179.50 court costs, and \$17.50 restitution to the DPS. Another cause, engaging in organized criminal activity, was also adjudicated.

Mejia was represented by Attorney James D. Durham Jr.

We Need HELP!

The Community Food Baskets are to be delivered Saturday, Dec. 21. 29 local families have responded to our announcement, with over 125 family members needing help at Christmas. Volunteers are desperately needed to help in delivering food and toys to these families. If you can help us, be at the new Courthouse Saturday, 8am.....

We Need You!

Thank You

We want to express our appreciation for all of the food, prayers and kindness expressed in our behalf during the loss of our loved one. You really helped us through this difficult time.

The Durward Willis family

The Plains school board wishes to thank those in the community who have contributed suggestions for the criteria the board should use when selecting the school superintendent. Many ideas were given and many of them were very similar in content. The board will keep all of these things in mind as it proceeds in the selection process. Your concern and interest in our students and school is appreciated.

GED Raises Standards

Big changes are in store for tens of thousands of Texans who will try to earn General Education Development (GED) Certificates in 1997.

Tougher passing standards are going into effect, which could raise the failure rate in Texas. Some 57,800 Texans earned GED certificates in 1995, 11 % of those nationally receiving the certificates. The increasing gap between wages for workers with high school educations and those without has contributed to an increase in GED test takers in recent years. The number of Texans earning their GED certificates rose 46% over the last ten years.

In 1995, eight of ten Texans taking the exam passed. The passing rate could drop after January, when minimum standards are raised to earn the certificate. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) estimates as many as one third of last years test takers would have failed had they been graded under the new standards. TEA raised the test standards at the request of the GED Testing Service, part of the American Council on Education. The new requirements will put Texas on par with most other states administering the exam.

The GED program is self-supporting. TEA funds the program with the \$10 fee charged test takers. The GED test covers the fields of math, writing skills, social studies and the arts. According to the GED Testing Service, 64% of those tested in 1995 planned to continue their education, and estimates one in 20 first year college student is a GED graduate.

From Page 4, 'Santa Letters'

all the poor people. I want a dog and a house cat that's trained to use the bathroom in the litter box. I want a seesaw and another swingset and a T.V. and a V.C.R. I want a Barbie and a cow. I want a Mini Bear frame and plush Bear.

Love, Katie
I have been waiting for December all year long. And it finally came and I'm very happy. Well I better start my list now. I wish for a niece or nephew this year and a nintendo 64 too. I wish for a Merry Merry Christmas also.

Love, B. J. Lester
Thank you for my things I got last year and this year I want a Nintendo 64 and some games to play on it and a new watch that shows the date, the time, and the year and a light in it and some new clothes and shoes that are real cool and a box full of constructs deluxe and I hope I get what I wished for this year.

Love, Todd
What I want for Christmas is a gocart. And saga, clothes, shoes And a bunkbed that come with a desk, shelf. And I also want a puppy, rabbit fo Christmas.

Love, Priscilla
My name is Matt McKinzie. I am 11 yaers old I live in Plains. I have been a good boy. I want a gun for Christmas. I want a guitar and a dog.

Love, Matt McKinzie
I am thankful for what you brought last year. This year I want a talkboy Jr and a Mr bucket for my sister and a talkman and a Girl Talk and a T.v for us and a vcr for us and a new T.v for my cousin.

I wish my mom and dad would get married.
Love, Jessica Garza
I want a ball for Christmas and a play dinosur and a little christmas tree and a play car and some color Tiles and a play dog and a play cat and a play truck.

Love, Johnny Unger
Mrs. Avila's Third Grade Class
Dear Santa,
How are you? art a I want a Sega. I want a red bike. I hope you com get these.

Love, Tony
How are you? I want a doll I want . I hope I get what I want.

Love, Jonie
I want to many things for Chirisma. I want clothes and a kitchen litle. I alos want an easy bake and lig long books. I might want more thing but thats all for now. Hope you have a grate Chirisma.

Love, Olivia
I would like a few things for christmas. I want roll skates. I want a power wells. I want a bike. There

are a bunch of things that I want, for christmas.

Love, Mayra
How are you? I want a brike. I wan't a Space Jam toy. I want't drums. I want new shaes I want'a TV I hope you can get them.

Love, Raymond
I would like a few things for Christmass this year. I would like a remote control boat I would like new roller blades. I would like a cam corder. Thats all I want for Christmass..

Love, Casson
How are you. I want skates. I want some shoes.

Love, Jared
How are you, Santa? I want a red bike. I want a remote car. Here my list.

Love, Peter Neufeld
Here are a couple of things I would like for Christmas. I would like a mutator Racecar. I would also like a Batman Trivia Movie. I would like a Gak Maker. and thats a couple of things I would like for Christmas.

Love, Mark Morgan
Here are a few things I want for Christmas. I want some black and purple roller blades. I want a pink and white bike. I want my own tv in my room. I hope you have a Merry Christmas, Santa.

Love, Rose
How are you doing this year? I would like a few things for Christmas this year. I would like a walkman, a big teddy bear, and a coloring book. I hope you have a good Cristmas this year.

Love, Connie
How are you this year? What I want for Christmas is an ultimate' Mortal Kombat. I just want a few more things. I look forward to seeing you on Christmas.

Love, Andrew Duran
Santa I would like one of these things for Christmas, I would like a rickashay. If you don't know what that is try to get me a gocart. I would like one of those toys. Have a nice Christmas Santa.

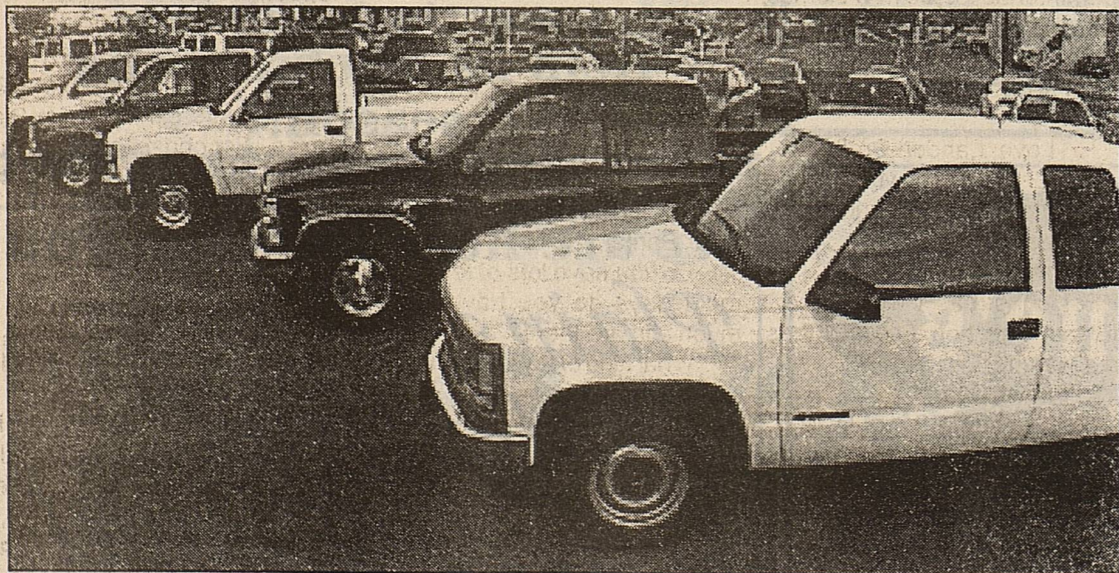
Love, Blake O'Quinn
Here are some things I would like for Christmas. I would like a collectors' series barbie. I would like some jewelry. And I would like some houseshoes. Oh and Santa you don't have to get all these things I want but please try.

Love, Allision
Mrs. Engle's Third Grade Class
Dear Santa,
I would like to have rollerblades, clothes and some shoes. It would like to have some Barbies. I would like to have Barbie clothes. One the Barbies I would like to have like five Barbies and I

Turn to Page 10, 'Santa Letters'

Santa Shops Here!

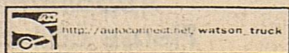
We've Made A List And Checked It Twice. There's No Mistake On These '97 Model Chevy Extended Cab Cheyenne Pick-Ups!



Santa says, "Buy one of these '97 models, or the last '96 model Chevy regular cab Cheyenne Pick-Up by December 24th and you can choose up to \$300 in add ons of your choice with each purchase!"



397-2411



1501 N. Grimes

You'd be amazed at what goes on inside our hospital.



You might not have realized it, but there's a great hospital right here in Denver City. Yoakum County Hospital. And we can help you with more than you probably imagined. Our services include ultrasound, labor and delivery, physical therapy, x-rays, and laparoscopic and endoscopic surgery. In addition, our lab meets national standards and testing standards. It's good to know that quality health care is available right in your hometown.

Yoakum County Hospital

412 Mustang Drive
Denver City, TX 79323
(806) 592-2121



Femme Friends



Tsa Mo Ga hosts Christmas Celebration

at Whitharrel, sang "Eyes of a child" and a medley of Christmas Carols. Tina George, an assistant Professor at South Plains College, performed her "Cousin Sis" comedy routine for the members and guests. She has performed in a number of states in country theme shows, and has appeared in several movies. She performed at this summer's Watermelon Round-Up here.

Wilma Powell was recognized for her cowboy Santa Claus ornament, which will be entered in the Federation of Womens Clubs Tree Ornament competition.

Club members also brought Christmas gifts to be distributed at Girl's Town, and annual Tsa MO Ga project for thirty years.

Tsa Mo Ga Club held its Christmas Celebration dinner meeting December 9 in the Community Building. The meal was served by the Social Committee members including Debbie Rushing, Billie Blundell, Betty Rushing,

Christene Henard, Dee Reneau, Judy Head and Goldie Shofner.

The invocation was delivered by Martha and Jack Palmer. Susan Meyer, Kindergarten and Music Teacher

Senior Citizen's Corner

A big "Thank You" goes to the Shell Employee's for some nice Turkey's for good eating during the Holiday's. The attendance is always great on Turkey Day, so watch the menus and come enjoy the Christmas Gift from these club members.

We are all happy to see Velda Dorothy back at the Center after an illness. There is always an empty chair waiting for visitors, so come in any day visit and enjoy a good meal.

Reba Baker is in the Local Hospital. Darlene Clevenger able to be back for lunch on Tuesday.

The Senior of the mo. is Wanda Black. Congratulations! There were several December Birthday's.

Our Bus stood out good in the Christmas Parade pictures, even if it did not win. Thanks to Jennie and the little boys who helped her. See you next week Smitty.

New arrival makes it in time to see Santa Claus (If he can stay awake long enough)



Macky Brock McWhirter and grandmother Connie McWhirter enjoying last week's reception for Gary Walker.

Proudly holding her first grandson last week in the Community Center, Connie McWhirter was asked if she and Macky were going to be able to keep the baby overnight. "No", she said. "His mom and dad have to take him home in time to be in Church tonight to rehearse for their Christmas program. He's going to play Jesus". This brought a few chuckles from friends, one asking, "Come on, Connie, we know he's your first, but isn't he just a little young to play that role"? "Oh, no", she exclaimed in embarrassment. "I mean he's rehearsing to play BABY Jesus"! We hope he got his lines down pat. Congratulations to the equally proud parents, Brad and Darinda McWhirter.

Letters to Santa from Library Filmtime pre-schoolers

Dear Santa, I want a barbie for Christmas and a bike in I want a little cat. Oh, thank you for all the toys for Christmas. Gaby Velasquez

Thank you for all my present that you gave me last year. I will tell you what I want this year- a bicke. I want a deck, I want barbes and a bubble gum shop and moves Also I would like close and shoes and book. also all the toy. love, Cecilia Lorena Bonilla

Thank you for all the toys you gave me last year. OH for christmas I want a barbie and a little horse for the barbie in I want a little bear in I want a car for the babie and the horse. Magra Velasquez.

Thank you for all my toys you gave me for last year. For Christmas I a ball, cars, little horses and people, color book, crayon, a face of you and a little bear in a little

monkey. love, Jose Velasquez.

Thank you for all my present that you gave me last year. I want a play dog and a play cat, a barbie and move's and dish's. I want doll's and book's and puzzles. Love, Eveth

All I want for christmas is a nintendo 64 and some roller blades size 6 boy size. Sincerely, Jose Ramirez.

All I want is a Nintendo 64. Sincerely, Mario Bonilla. PS. please give it to me. PS, write back to box 543, plains

I would like you to bring me a wagon and doll that says mommy, ugly duckling book and cartoon. I will be 3 on December 23. Danyalla Brooke Wilson.

I have been a good boy. I need an airplane and a bike my size. I will leave you something to eat & drink. have a safe trip. Love, Adam Nixon.



"Noel, Noel"

To our many friends in Yoakum County,
Merry Christmas
and a wonderful
New Year!

The Board of Directors, Management
and Entire Staff of
**Lea County
Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**
'Owned by those we serve'

~~~~~  
**The Courthouse Employees of  
YOAKUM COUNTY**  
Invite Everyone to join us for  
**Christmas Open House**  
Friday, December 20, 10 a.m until 2  
p.m at the Courthouse.  
Help us celebrate the  
season!

## Renaissance

flowers & gifts

M-F 456-3939 10-5:30

**Half price sale on everything in shop EXCEPT candles & plants.. All silver, copper, brass, pewter, tapes, CDs, metal, straw, wooden baskets, Xmas & everyday cards, dried arrangements, etc.... LAST CHANCE FOR BARGAINS!**

*Congratulations to door prize winners Lisa Duran & Sara Guetersloh!*

*May your Holiday Season be warm, bright, happy...*

MERRY CHRISTMAS  
& HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## Happy 16th Birthday Mike Bell!

We love you -  
Mom, Dad &  
Erica

**Computer Problems?**

Perhaps I can help. Memory upgrade, install software. Knowledge of most Microsoft programs & products, computer diagnostics, cleaning, whatever you need. **GOTTA PROBLEM?** Give me a call 456-7133

**'Good enough to eat, & come back for more!'**

A new, unique cookbook experience, with great recipes, great moments from earlier years, tips, anecdotes about a better life. 334 pages of enjoyment! Just \$25 plus tax.

Call Jennola Maple,  
806-456-4945  
You'll be glad you did!

## Darlene's Dress Shop

**Thanks for six GREAT years. Please visit us December 21, our last day open... you'll be glad you did!!**

**Refreshments served, and again, thanks for your patronage.**

Darlene's - BeautiControl Cosmetics  
110 N. Main 592-9524 Denver City, TX

We are here to serve you

## Plains Memorial Chapel

Norman & Judy Head, Owners

910 Ave. E PO Box 40  
(Across from old Courthouse) 806-456-2152

**Larry C. Boyd, M.D.**

Family Practice & OB

**Yoakum County Clinic**  
Each Thursday  
**Office Hours 1-4 PM**

Appointments are preferred!  
Please call 456-6365 or 592-9501

**Have the  
Happiest  
Holidays  
Ever!**

*Lowe's*  
**Pay n Save**  
The John Kitto family  
and each and every  
employee

*Thank You, friends & customers,  
for our good year! May you have a*

**Merry Christmas  
and a Great New Year**

*Seller's Ag Supply*  
*Jered,  
Jana &  
Ashley*

*This Is The Reason For  
The Eternal Season*

*Wishing You  
All The Joys  
Of The  
Christmas Season*

**TEXAS  
EQUIPMENT  
COMPANY, INC.**

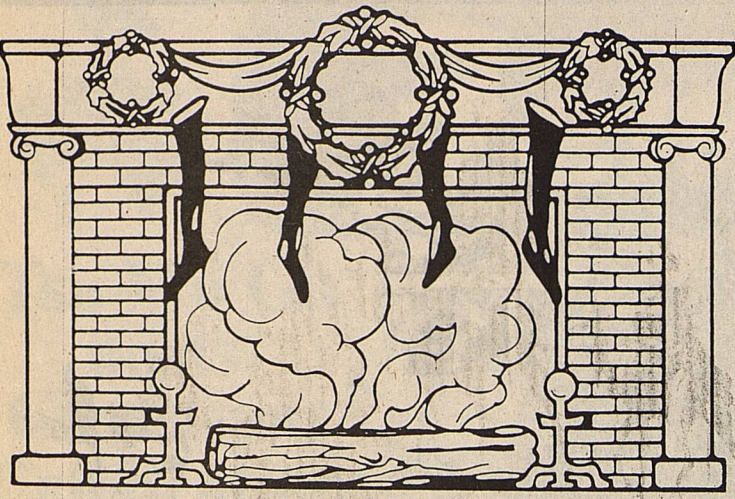
P. O. Box 610 Plains, TX 79355    P. O. Box 790 Seminole, TX 79360    P. O. Box 272 Pecos, TX 79772

**Peace On Earth**

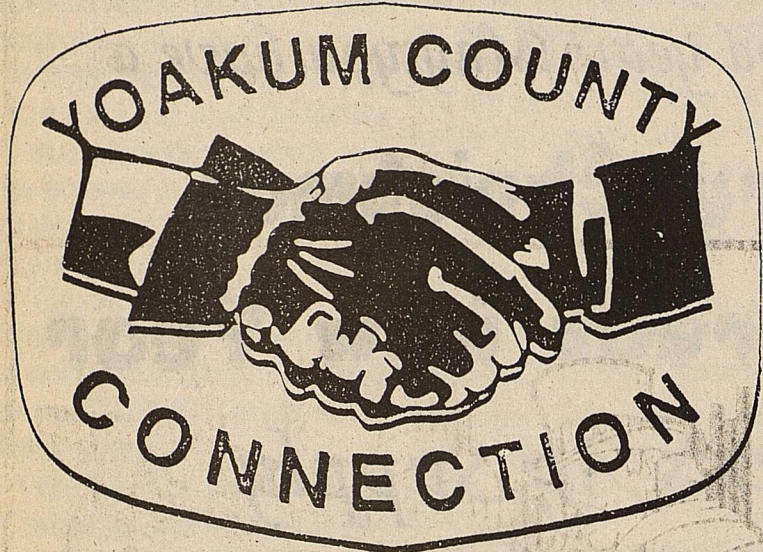
**The "No Ties Guys" at  
Sundown State Bank**

*wish all our Valued Customers in  
Yoakum County a very  
Merry Christmas, and your  
best year ever in 1997!*

Box 548, Sundown Tx, 79372 (806) 229-2111    Box 1621, Levelland, Tx, 79336 (806) 894-7799 Member FDIC    Box 1032, Brownfield, Tx, 79316 (806) 637-7712



Yoakum County Connection wishes you a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year, and challenges you to be involved in community affairs during 1997!



To all our area friends & customers,  
**We Wish You The Happiest Holiday Season Ever!**

**Lovington Livestock Market, Inc.**  
The Jim Gray Family



We hope you enjoy the warmth of the season!

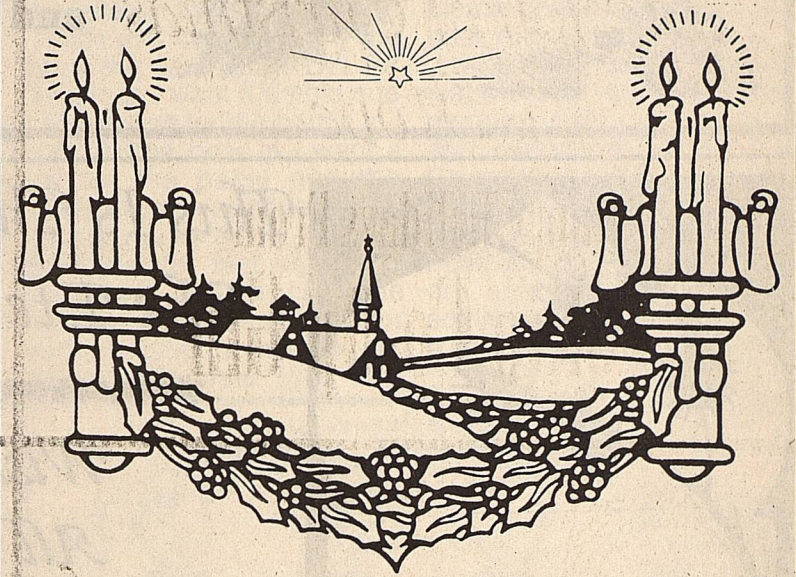
Judge Dallas Brewer  
John Avara, Pct. 1  
J.R. Slentz, Pct. 2  
Jim Barron, Pct. 3  
Macky McWhirter, Pct 4  
Woody Lindsey,  
Commissioner elect, Pct. 1

Yoakum County  
Commissioner's Court



**Happy Holidays!**

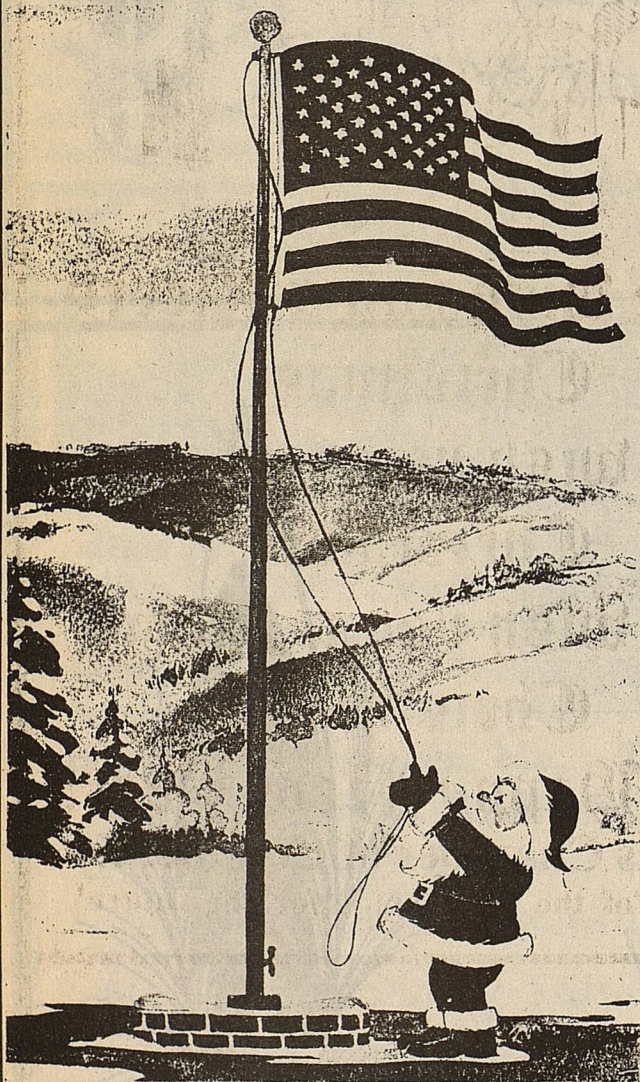
From the Directors and Staff of the Yoakum County Golf Club  
Join us, and enjoy play on one of the best and most affordable courses in the State!



Have A Merry, Merry Christmas, And A Wonderful, Wonderful New Year!

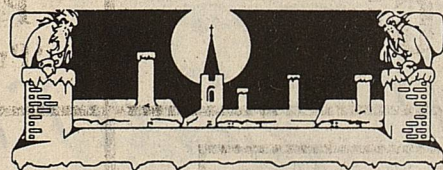
**Darlene's**

Denver City



**Christmas**  
is a journey of the heart, bringing peace and happiness to all

**Ag Insurance Plus**  
Jim, Jamie, Jessica and Justin Brown



**SEASON'S GREETINGS**



During the holidays, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve you and want to offer our very best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

**ALTEL**

Making Communications Simple



May You & Yours enjoy all the Wonders of the Holidays

**Harrison Well Service**

Dennis & Sue Ann Harrison



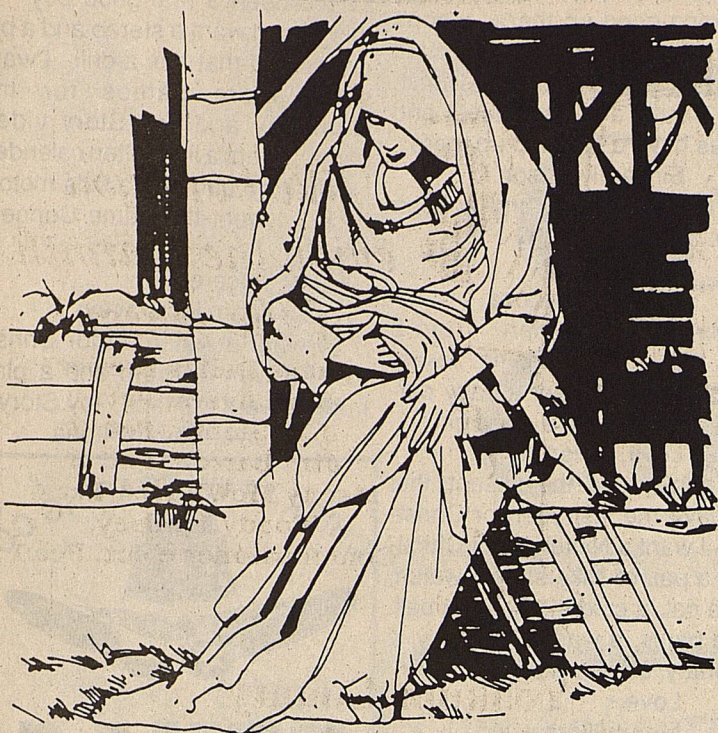
"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."  
St. Luke, 2,7.

May your joys in the Holiday Season Be Great

**STATE LINE INSURANCE**

Danny, Kathy and Children





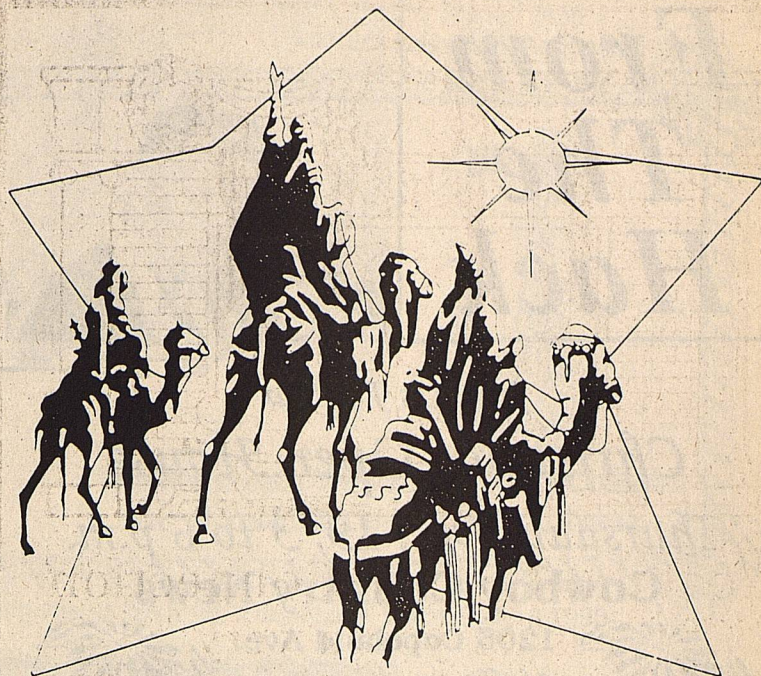
*The Joy of Christmas  
is Hope*

Happy Holidays From  
**Tokio Co-Op Gin**



*"Hark, the Herald Angels sing"*

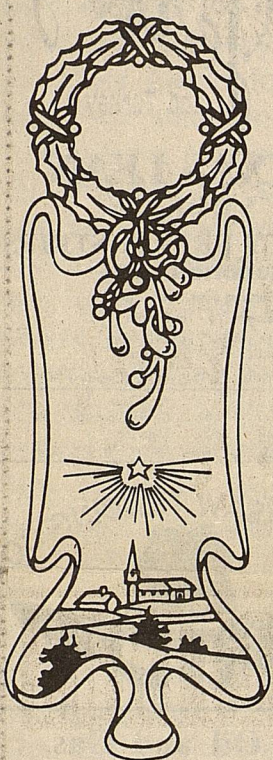
*To Each and all,  
may your Holiday  
Season be the  
brightest ever!*  
The City of Plains  
Council & Staff



**The Happiest Holiday  
Season Ever To All Our  
Friends And  
Valued Customers**

*New Tex Gin*

THE  
CRAFT  
FAMILIES



*'How special  
is the joy of  
wishing joy  
to others'*

Debbie Rushing,  
Yoakum County Clerk



*Season's  
Greetings!*

Each Director and every employee  
**Yoakum County  
Co-Op Gin**



*"We wish you a Merry  
Christmas,  
We wish you a Merry  
Christmas,  
We wish you a Merry  
Christmas,  
& a Happy New Year!*  
Plains Chamber of Commerce  
'Proud of the past, plans for the future'



*May your Christmas be full  
of Holiday surprises*

**'The Kountry Klipper'**  
Max, Pat, Heath & Heather

*Happy Holidays*



*We hope you enjoy the warmth  
and joys of the season!*  
**Plains State Bank**

Member FDIC



**Merry  
Christmas!**

Circle 12 Gin  
Tommy Harris, Manager



**From Each Of Us,  
To Each Of You,  
Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year**

Plains Lions Club



"WE SERVE"

# From The Hack



Join Us For Our  
**Christmas Open House**  
Thursday, Dec. 19, 3 to 6 p.m.  
**Cowboy Country News**  
1205 Copeland Ave.  
Holly & Gary Dyer

I don't know what prompted me to recall this incident. Maybe because I watched a TV news segment featuring IBM.

A number of years ago, I boarded a plane in Lubbock for Las Vegas. Don't ask me why the Bride consented to my solo trip... it had to be a very weak moment on her part. Like most Vegas bound Southwest flights, it was crowded, and the only seat at the extreme tail section of the plane I could find ( my only place to sit on a jet - you ever see one go in tail first?) - was next to an extremely well dressed gentleman, the whole nine yards of expensive suit, tie, and alligator shoes so well shined they blinded you. He smelled of money.

I cinched up my seat belt as tight as I could stand, grabbed an inflight magazine, and pretended to unconcernedly read as we roared up and away, while silently, furiously, devoutly praying for the safety of all on board, especially me, as fast as I thought the Good Lord could decipher. A few minutes later, my elbow neighbor and I exchanged glances. He probably weighed in about 330, Italian suit and all. He said chattily, "I watched you looking for a seat back here in the aft section...you like to sit near where they pour the drinks?"

I was offended at first, but decided it would be better to say yes than defend my theory of no tail first crashes,

so I grinned and nodded. I introduced myself, and he said he was Mason Avery. I asked what his profession was, and he said in an educated, well modulated voice, "I'm Executive Vice President of I.B.M."

Wow! I was sitting next to one of those real shakers and movers, the kind of guy the Wall Street Journal writes about! At that time, the Stew came by, asked what we were drinking, and he told her "Chivas on the rocks, and bring my friend here one too" Well, who am I to turn down hospitality? I asked, "How's Big Blue stock doing on the exchange", trying to appear worldly knowledgeable about big business.

Mason chuckled, said, "Oh, not that IBM... I'm with "Individual Belly Mattresses". We're a specialty sleep goods company"

I was of, course a bit disappointed, but also a bit intrigued. "What kinda company is that?", I asked, my English much improved by the Scotch we sipped.

He launched into his spiel. It was fascinating; "We are a company who believe hefty people need to sleep well too, and we manufacture specialty mattresses to fit all sizes and shapes of male and female bellies". Dumbly, I asked why. "Why? Why, because no two bellies are exactly alike", he answered. Millions of people prefer sleeping on their stomachs, and we feel, why penalize them with a flat mattress. We

create mattresses with comfortable, exact dimension depressions in the surface to comfortably accomodate virtually any size or shape belly, including, of course, the belly button, with or without lint"

I allowed Mason to buy us another drink. I asked how they came up with the correct belly dimensions to fit all those millions of potential customers, and he smiled at my ignorance. "Simple. We hire nothing but obese people. No one under 250 pounds is even considered for employment. Since we have well over 7 thousand workers, we are assured of an endless supply of belly configurations. Once each week, all employees are cat scanned, so to speak, and their exact weight and stomach dimensions are computerized for the manufacturing division". I was so entranced I managed to out fumble Mason again for the drinks, the last before Albuquerque. He was really warming to his story, " It's a fascinating business. I've sold to bellies displacing as much as a cubic yard of mattress area. We do have problems, I admit, with the really obese... we do not ever use the wordfat...there have been problems. We had an order recently for a lady who tipped in at 680, stark naked, of course. We offered to build her a mattress, but only if we could hire someone to exactly duplicate her configurations. The only applicant we had, sadly enough, was so obese she could not be lifted from her bed to come to work for her measuring, and I simply refuse to put someone on the payroll for lying in bed while we try to tug and push tape measures about her. Ridiculous. We lost the sale, by the way. Pity."

I was so impressed I pushed the envelope and offered to buy him a drink when we landed in Albuquerque. The perfect gentleman, Mason said, "I hate to decline, but have to immediately change planes.. perhaps another flight. I'm bound for Salt Lake. Had an urgent call from a Mormon farmer who originally weighed 428 pounds until he had an accident. Seems he got part of his belly caught in some part of a grain combine, and it chewed a good portion of it off. He can only sleep on his stomach, and the surgery has left him very tender. I intend to visit him, do some measuring, then dip him into a large vat of plaster of Paris to get an

exact mold of his belly, and create the perfect sleep environment for him. Should be about nine grand in the deal for us". Fascinated, we shook hands and I saw him departing down the corridor. Waiting to take off again for Sin City, I got to wondering, Did I really hear all that story right? Could it have been the Scotch working overtime on me?

## From Page 5, 'Santa Letters'

would some perfume.

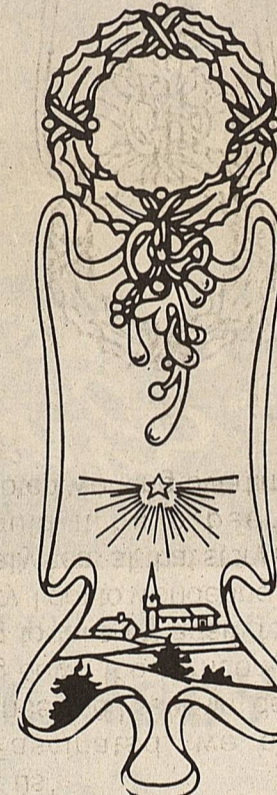
Love, Josey Cordova  
I want a game for my Sega. I want a remote control car. I want my cousin to live in Morton. The thing I want most of all is I want my Gandfather and Uncle back alive. I want a remote control airplane.

Sincerely, Leo Johnson  
I want a big bear, a doll, a cat. I also want a ballerina dress and a pair of shoes to go with the ballerina dress. I want a play deer, a play white wolf, a pair of shoes and a pretty dress for Christmas.

Love, Justina  
Thank you for the other presents that you give me last year. For Christmas I want a bike, Barbie a little house for the Barbie, and I also want a little horse for the Barbie, and I want a coloring book and some crayons so I can color in the book. I want some little dishes so I can play with them. Oh and I want a little car for the Barbie.

Sincerely, Gabriela Velasquez  
I have been helping around the house. Things in school are going great since I don't lay my head down on my desk and have been

exact mold of his belly, and create the perfect sleep environment for him. Should be about nine grand in the deal for us". Fascinated, we shook hands and I saw him departing down the corridor. Waiting to take off again for Sin City, I got to wondering, Did I really hear all that story right? Could it have been the Scotch working overtime on me?



## We Need HELP!

The Community Food Baskets are to be delivered Saturday, Dec. 21. 29 local families have responded to our announcement, with over 125 family members needing help at Christmas. Volunteers are desperately needed to help in delivering food and toys to these families. If you can help us, be at the new Courthouse Saturday, 8am.....

### We Need You!

Massey Ferguson, Kubota, Bush Hog Shredders, Lilliston Peanut Combines & Rolling Cultivators, UFT & Lorenz Minimum Tillage Equipment, Baker disc & Switch Plows, & Much More.

**Terry County Tractor**  
637-4569 Brownfield

going to bed early. I hope things are going good up there. I hope the Elves are working hard. I want my Grampa to get better this Christmas. That's all I care about and help us have a safe trip up there.

Sincerely, Jason  
I want a tractor and a Sega game.

Sincerely, Manuel Mendoza  
My name is Helen. I am 8 years old. I live in Plains, Texas. For Christmas I want a baby carriage. I have been a good girl.

Love, Helen  
Thank you for the presents that you gave me last year for Christmas. I want a Nintendo for Christmas, a pair of Nike shoes, watch, a little cat, a coloring book, a ball, some pants, a wagon, a candy, a dictionary, oh and a sega.

Love, Mary Villereal Jr.  
I would like some books and a wagon for Christmas. I would also like some shoes and a good trip to Mexico for Christmas. I want a play dolphing to play sea and a ball.

Sincerely, Maribel Mendias  
I want a cat or dog because I thing they are cute. I will take good care of them. Then I want two horses one black one and one white one.

Sincerely, Nichole Loya  
My name is Michael Crump. I am nine years old. I have two pigs and my brother has one. I like animals. My teacher is Mrs. Engle. I have one brother. He is a nuisance, his name is Ryan Crump, and his is six years old.

Sincerely, Michael Crump  
My name is Sarah. I like singing Christmas songs. I would like a big key board, a radio, a pair of shiny shoes an a dress. Is it fun going through the sky.

Love, Sarah  
I hope you bring me a gift on December 25, 1996. I want a Lego fort. Lego mine, Lego jail, Lego bank and some camping gear.

Sincerely, Ben Hays  
My name is Lena and I am nine years old.

I want for Christmas a nice big doll that can cry and talk I also want some candies.

Sincerely, Lena Fehr  
I have been a real good boy this year. I want a stereo and a big erecter set that has a drill. I want some more games for my Gameboy and Toy Story video game. I want a little kitten calender. I want a go cart and a kids motorcycle. I want the game Connect Four.

Sincerely, Adam McCravey  
I want a watergun for Christmas. I want a drum and a play truck. I want the tape, Toy Story. Love, Sammy Luna

CHICKASAW TRADING CO.

TEXAS

LEAN

Beef Jerky

...and Turkey

**TEXAS LEAN SMOKED TURKEY BREAD STRIPS**

**NUTRITION FACTS**  
Serving Size 1 oz. (28g)  
Calories - 70 \* Fat Calories - 5  
\* Percent Daily Values (DV) are based on 2,000 calorie diet.

| Amount/Serving | %DV* | Amount/Serving   | %DV* |
|----------------|------|------------------|------|
| Total Fat 1g   | 1%   | Total Carb. 1g   | 1%   |
| Sat. Fat 0g    | 0%   | Dietary Fiber 0g | 0%   |
| Cholest. 70mg  | 23%  | Sugar 1g         |      |
| Sodium 580g    | 24%  | Protein 13g      |      |
| Iron 4%        |      |                  |      |

CHICKASAW TRADING CO.

### Notice of Application for Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well Permit.

Energy Development Corporation, 12500 Northborough, #250, Houston, Texas 77067, has applied to the Railroad Commission of Texas to dispose of produced salt water or other oil and gas waste by well injection into a porous formation not productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to dispose of oil and gas waste into the Wolfcamp Cleveland "A", Well Number 3. The proposed disposal well is located 11 miles SW from Plains in the Kristen (Devonian) Field, in Yoakum County. The waste water will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 7380 to 10590 feet. LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Underground Injection Control Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, Drawer 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas, 78711 (Telephone 512-445-1373).

## BAYER LUMBER & HARDWARE

### WINTER SPECIALS

|                                         |            |
|-----------------------------------------|------------|
| Select Split Cowhide Gloves             | \$3.49 pr. |
| Cotton Liner Gloves                     | .99 pr.    |
| Miniature Knives                        | .99 ea.    |
| Folding Scissors                        | 1.99 ea.   |
| Swiss Style Pocket Knives, Asst. Colors | 1.25 ea.   |

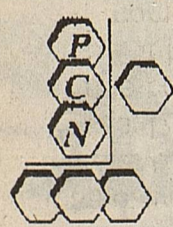
✓ Check out our new knife selections.

We have pipe insulation, wall insulation, electric heaters, pipe heating cables, and heat lamps for your winter needs.

\*Be sure to plug in your heat tapes before you need them.\*

**BAYER LUMBER & HARDWARE**

1018 AVE. E  
PLAINS, Tx 79355  
(806) 456-6044



## PLATEAU CELLULAR NETWORK

### Christmas Promotion

Beginning November 15 and continuing through December 31, PLATEAU CELLULAR NETWORK will be waiving activation fees, plus giving a one time \$25 airtime credit for all new activations which will be reflected on the January bill. This is a total customer savings of \$50 !!

Please contact Jill Durham at

The Plains Depot

902 Brownfield Rd. 806-456-7112

### W. E. (Red) BERRY

#### Real Estate

DENVER CITY, TX.

W. E. BERRY, BROKER -- 210 N. MAIN  
Res. 915-758-5200 - Off. 806- 592-3523

Specialist in Residential, Commercial

Farm & Ranch Properties

Gary Dyer  
456-8451

Olivia Robertson  
592-2786

### \*For Sale\*

2 BR house, could be 3, 1 bath, large backyard. See at 1103 17th St. Plains. Call 456-7110 after 6 pm

### \* Help Wanted\*

Full Time Only. Pickup application at

#### Uncle's

#### Convenience Store

### House For Sale

2 BR (could be 3), 2 BA, 4 outbuildings, on 11.48 acres, irrigation water & pipe, many trees! call 806-456-4945