

Cowboy Country News

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Weevil eradication referendum passes by wide margin

The recent vote by cotton producers and land owners with cotton acreage to establish the five county Western High Plains Boll Weevil Eradication Zone passed by a 79 - 21% margin, surprising even some of the most ardent supporters of the program. Lindy Paton, Executive Director of the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation headquartered in Abilene, said in a press release, "Growers in the area have done a tremendous job putting this plan together, and this is a positive vote for the program and the economy of the western high Plains."

Local producer Don Parrish was also elected a Director of the Eradication Foundation. "This vote is proof we've all been affected by the weevil. We knew we had a problem, and this plan addresses farmer's concerns, and is one they can trust," Parrish stated.

The actual initiation of the program is contingent on obtaining financing and state or federal cost-share funding. In a Monday interview with State Representative Gary Walker, whose District 80 contains four of the new zone's counties, he said, "I think the producers realized we must have a weevil eradication program of some kind, or face up to the reality of no longer raising cotton in Texas."

Referring to widely reported plans of State Senator Robert Duncan, R, Lubbock, and State Representative Rob Junnell, D, San Angelo, to make a push in the legislature this January to seek funding for a statewide bollweevil eradication program, Walker said "I think chances of getting funding are very good. We may not get all needed to start and complete the program from just this one budget cycle. There are always more 'needs' introduced in the legislative session than funds are available for. It's possible funding will have to be addressed in the following session." He explained the funding issue may be settled without an actual separate bill being introduced. The eradication funds could come from money already in appropriations for the 1999-2000 biennium.

-----please turn to page 4, "Boll Weevil"

Indictments handed down

The Yoakum County Grand Jury, convened December 14, 1998, returned the following true bills of indictment:

James Stephen Moore, indicted for criminal negligence in abandoning or endangering a child, a state jail felony. Bond was set at \$1500. He was indicted on the same offence in another cause, and same bond was set.

David Charles Mendenhall was indicted for forgery, a state jail felony. His bond was also \$1500.

Leonardo Villegas was indicted for tampering with a witness, a state jail felony, resulting in a \$7500 bond.

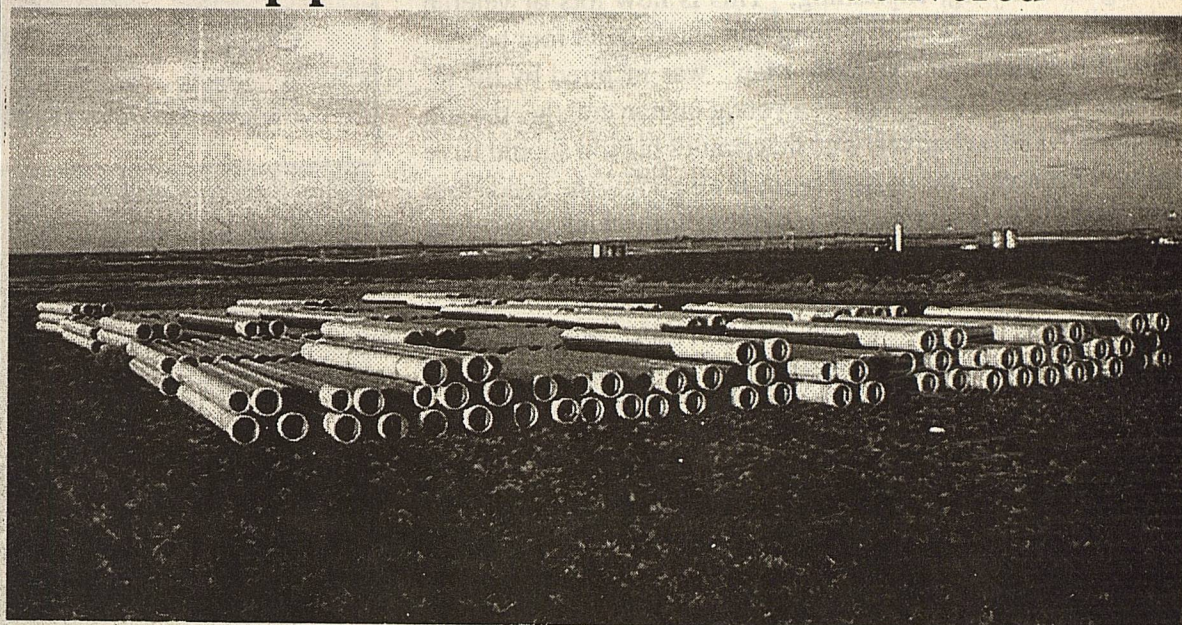
Merced Loya Jr. was indicted for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, state jail felony, and \$1500 bond was set. He was also indicted for burglary of a habitation, a second degree felony, and bond was \$3000.

Modesto Hierro was indicted for kidnapping, a third degree felony, and bond was set at \$2500.

Guillermo Borunda was indicted for forgery of governmental records, a third degree felony, and bond was \$2500.

Jose Luis Valdez Jr. was indicted for the same forgery of governmental records, and his bond was also set at \$2500.

City awards final bid for new water project PVC pipe for transmission line delivered



LOTS OF PVC ! This photo shows just half of ten semi-trailer loads of 12 inch PVC water pipe unloaded last week on city land just west of town. Almost 20,000 feet of the transmission pipe is ready for the installation phase of the city water project. The pipe looks deceptively light - wall thickness is almost one inch, and each 20 foot joint weighs 400 pounds.

In a regular meeting last Monday, the Plains City Council awarded a low bid for the construction of a new water storage tank at the site of the city's three new wells to Rhode Construction of Lubbock.

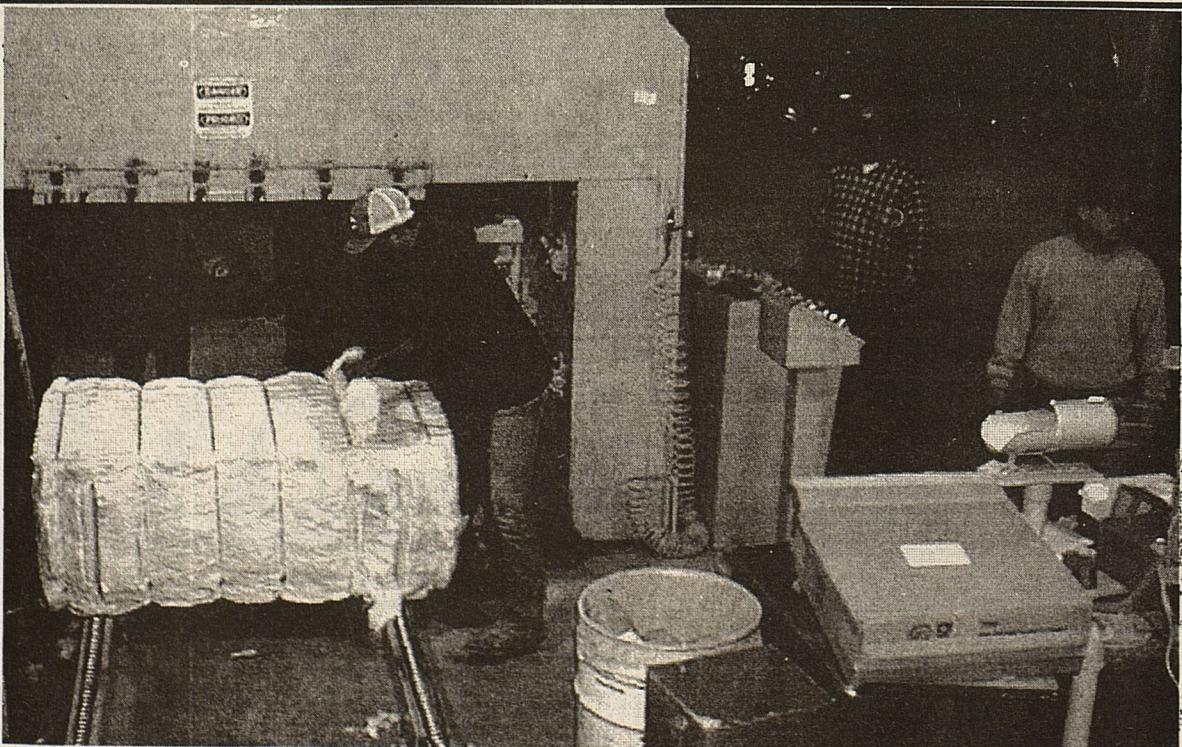
The bid amount of \$156,899 includes construction and materials for the 100,000 gallon bolted steel tank, all related pipe, valves, two centrifugal pumps, a metal pump station building, and installation of a SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) sys-

tem.

City Administrator David Brunson said initial dirt work at the site must be completed before actual construction of the tank begins. A tentative start date for this phase of the extensive project is set for January 15.

When the long planned water project is finished, probably this spring, the city should have some 750 gallons of additional water per minute available for residential and business use.

'98 Cotton Harvest makes last gasp



New Tex Gin employees Felipe Velazquez, Martin Villareal and Lee David de la Rosa watch last bale of cotton from 1998 emerge from press last week.

Three of the five immediate area cotton gins have completed their ginning run for 1998. Despite much adversity throughout the growing and harvest season, some of the gins did remarkably well.

The one gin with a rather glum run, Circle 12, realistically didn't have much chance to set any ginning records this year. Located in a predominantly dryland cotton area, in a year of devastating drought, Circle 12 managed to produce only 3,487 bales of cotton.

On the stateline, mostly irrigated production, New Tex Gin fared much better. When their machinery stopped running last week, they had produced a total of 31,538 bales.

Tokio CO OP Gin, located in another large dryland production area, finished their season run around Thanksgiving, with a total of 12,529 bales.

Closer to town, Yoakum County CO OP had a bale count of 21,716 bales last Friday. The gin will shut down until January 4, to allow two producers to

finish harvesting their remaining crops.

Ross Hilburn at Sun Cot Gin reported 29,800 bales had been ginned last Friday, and anticipated they would add approximately 700 more bales by shut-down.

While setting no production records, and with weak selling prices, one cotton producer showed a bit of optimism, saying, "Yeah, it sure wasn't great, but it could have been much worse."

Criminal Cases heard in County Court

In County Court December 16, 1998 Alfredo Lopez Morales, 32, pled true to the state's motion to revoke community supervision resulting from assault causing bodily injury cause. He will serve 60 days in jail with credit for 22 served. Luis Alberto Villegas, 19, pled true to the state's motion to revoke community supervision resulting from a DWI-1st offense. He will serve 14 days in jail with credit for six served. He also pled guilty to another DWI-Sub charge. He is to serve 180 days in jail, suspended and probated 24 months. He was fined \$750, must pay \$199.25 court costs, attend AA meetings, install and maintain the interlock device for 24 months, successfully complete the DWI repeat offenders program and serve 80 hours of community service.

Novis Carl Brock Reynolds, 18, pled guilty to criminal mischief \$500 or more, but less than \$1500. He was sentenced to 180 days in jail, suspended and probated 24 months. He must pay a fine of \$500 and \$184.25 court costs and must serve 80 hours community service.

David Laureles, 28, pled guilty to assault causing bodily injury. He was sentenced to 60 days in jail, suspended and probated 12 months, must pay a fine of \$150 and \$214.25 court costs. He must successfully complete the batterer's program.

Victor Gonzales Bernal, 44, pled guilty to vehicle involved in an accident. He must serve 180 days in jail with credit for 178 served and pay \$214.25 court costs. He was represented by Attorney Bill Helwig.

Cassandra Garcia, 19, pled guilty to terroristic threat. She was sentenced to 60 days in jail, suspended and probated 12 months. She must pay \$184.25 court costs and successfully complete a batterer's treatment program, serve 24 hours community service.

In County Court last week, Ricky Len Conkle, 30, pled guilty to aggravated assault against a family member. He was sentenced to five years in prison, suspended and probated five years. He was fined \$1000, must pay \$246 court costs, and \$327 restitution to Yoakum County Hospital. He will spend 30 days in jail with credit for

22 days served, must successfully complete the batterer's treatment program, and obtain anger management counseling, and serve 160 hours community service. He was represented by Attorney Terrell Thompson.

Michael Zane Zeigler, 33, pled true to motion to revoke community supervision resulting from a controlled substance cause. He was sentenced to five years in prison, with credit 309 days served. He was represented by Attorney Warren New.

Mark Edwin Barron, 57, agreed on the state's order modifying supervision resulting from a marijuana delivery cause. His community supervision shall be extended 12 months. He must pay an additional \$40 per month supervision fee. He will be confined in the Lubbock County Community Corrections Facility for up to 24 months, and must perform at least 200 hours community service.

Once again,
MERRY
CHRISTMAS,
HAPPY NEW
YEAR

County attorney turns novelist

By his own admission, lawyers often speak and write in strange tongues, as far as laymen are concerned. Warren New, practicing attorney in Denver City, told Plains Lions Club members last week the law profession often demands the strange use of language, but he has taken a giant step in establishing the fact he can not only converse sensibly in plain, everyday English, he can also put these plain vanilla words on paper.

New, guest speaker at last Thursday's Lions meeting, recently completed a novel entitled "Workin Man" It is actually his second completed book, but he did not publish his first effort. He grew up in Denver City in years the oil and gas industry was a vibrant giant in local industry and the economy. He described how he worked summers as a college student on a variety of workover rigs, or, pulling units. "Denver City has always been a blue collar town. All young men worked. It was simply expected, and absolutely necessary in most cases. Manual labor in the oil patch has always been hard, and often dangerous." He alluded to the fact many area men who experienced labor in the oil industry wear badges of testimony to the hazards of working around moving, heavy equipment; He held up his hand, thumb hidden, with only three fingers showing, explaining, "This is how lots of veteran roustabouts, roughnecks and pulling unit hands order four beers."

New said the theme of "Workin Man" was inspired by his labors in the 'patch'. It is the tale of a young man in college, the son of a well to do Dallas banker, who determines his son should have a taste of what the world of hard work is all about, and sends him to West Texas to seek summer employment with an uncle. He goes to work, no different than the other "Workin Men" at his side. The book has a romantic side, also, when the young man finds a young lady to his liking; New said, "Like in most cases, she actually finds him, but he is too inexperienced to realize it... just like a lot of us."

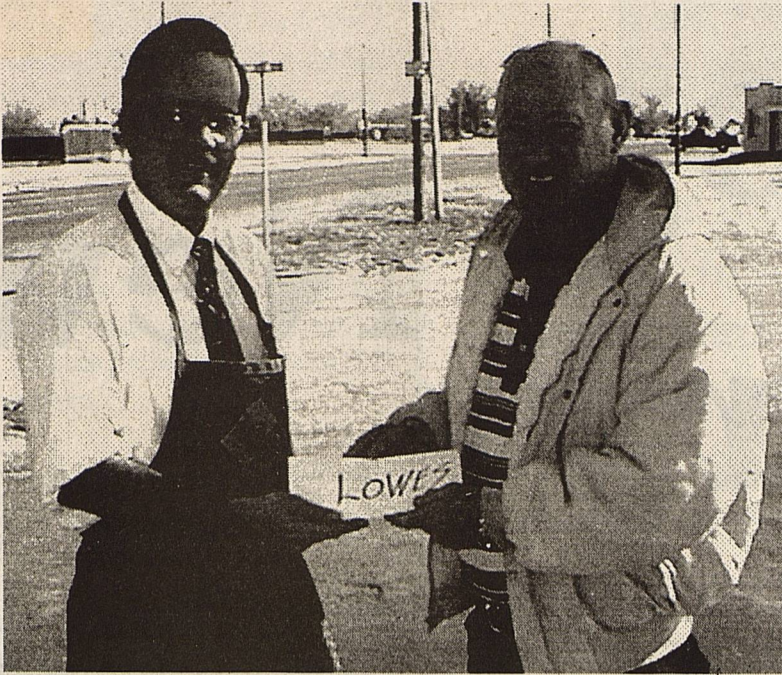
The lawyer turned writer said he wanted his tale to be a recreation of what he recalls about labor and life in the Texas oil fields. "I wanted it to be technically accurate about the work, I wanted the characters to speak and sound like real working people, but I didn't want them all to sound like the old 'Oil Field Trash' phrase. I also tried to inject a Christian theme in the book. I know many oil field people are rough, tough and gruff, but some of the most faithful Christians I know are from oil field backgrounds."

New said he hopes the work conveys the lifestyle of many workers and their families, their paycheck to paycheck existence, and their dogged determination to make it all work. He said the book took three and half years to complete, most of it at night. He admits he enjoys writing, despite it being very hard work.

New displayed copies of his book, the cover depicting a potentially disastrous oil field fire. The back cover is a photo of a pulling unit crew and rig, loaned to New by Dennis Harrison, veteran Denver City "Workin Man" and business man, owner of Harrison Well Service, Inc.

New is selling copies of his book for \$8, tax included.

Local coach wins big bucks



Local Lowes Market Manager John Kitto is shown presenting PISD Coach Everitt McAdams a check for \$2500. McAdams signed up for a recent contest, sponsored by Lowes and Affiliated Foods, Inc., in their participation in their annual "National Brands" promotion. Coach McAdams entry netted him \$2500, the second prize in the contest. McAdams said "The money certainly helped with our sons college tuition and room rent, and we really appreciate both sponsors."

Sandy Land Accepting Applications for Loans

The Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District is accepting applications from producers wishing to obtain low interest agricultural water conservation loans to purchase new or used center pivot irrigation systems and sprinkler packages.

Loans are limited to 80 percent of the purchase price of the above-ground, recoverable equipment of the new center pivot system and 75% on used equipment and/or sprinkler packages. Center pivot irrigation systems purchased after October 1, 1998, are also eligible for this program. The cost of the non-recoverable portions of the system shall not be included in the loan. The due date for all annual payments will be February 15 with a seven (7) year payout for new systems and a five (5) year payout on used systems and/or sprinkler packages.

To apply for a loan, borrower/applicant must complete a loan application, a financial statement with a cash flow and debt summary, provide three (3) credit references, a waiver of ownership if the landowner is not the borrower/applicants, have an irrigation dealer contract, and pay a non-refundable application fee of \$50. Also, a notarized lease agreement will

be required between tenant and landowner or a buyout agreement from the landowner to the District for the term of the loan. Loan packets are available from the District's office located at 1012 Avenue F, Plains, Texas.

Loans will be secured by a first lien on the equipment for the purchase money security interest. The borrow/applicant will be required to secure and keep in force natural disaster insurance on the system throughout the term of the loan and provide proof of insurance to the District annually. Land on which the new center pivot system is to be installed must be located within the Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District (Yoakum County). For more information, contact the Sandy Land UWCD office at 806/456-2155.

December In Texas:
 Dec. 5, 1835 - Siege of Bexar began, led by Ben Milam.
 Dec. 5, 1835 - Texans took San Antonio, Gen. Martin Cos signed terms of capitulation.
 Dec. 10, 1842 - Houston ordered archives of Land Office removed from Austin, leading to 'Archives War'.
 Dec. 23, 1862 - Federal troops occupied Inianola.
 Dec. 24, 1863. William Quantrill shot up the city of Sherman in drunken spree.

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JP Court Summary

December 18, 1998 - The following is a summary of cases heard and bonds set in Justice of the Peace Court, Precinct 1, Judge Melba Crutcher presiding: Cases filed - 35 traffic cases, 1 small claims case, 5 cases filed by Yoakum County Sanitarian, 4 issuance of bad check cases, 105 civil tax cases. Bonds set - motion to revoke probation - held until hearing, 2 cases assault causing bodily injury - \$1500 bond, driving while intoxicated - \$1500 bond, 2 cases driving while license

suspended - \$500 bond, aggravated assault on Peace Officer with a deadly weapon - \$7500 bond, resisting arrest - \$1500 bond, sexual assault - \$10,000 bond, 2 cases driving while intoxicated - \$1000 bond, purchase/furnish alcohol to minor - \$500 bond, indecent exposure/bond forfeiture - \$600 cash bond, terroristic threat/bond forfeiture - \$750 cash bond, burglary of a habitation - \$3000 bond, unauthorized use of vehicle - \$1500 bond.

New attorney's open house draws area welcomers

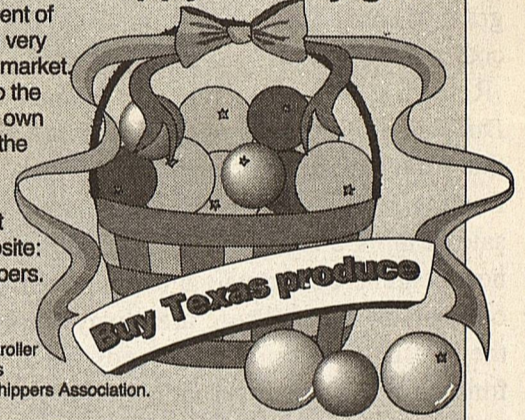


Bill Helwig, new practicing attorney in Denver City and Yoakum County, is shown, (left) at an open house he and his wife Debbie hosted last Thursday in his Denver City office on Main Street. To Helwig's left is his wife Debbie's father, Gene Carter, Dennis Harrison, Red Berry, and Kathy Clark, back to camera

Keeping an eye on Texas

Texas citrus makes snappy holiday gift

Grapefruit make up 75 percent of Texas' citrus crop and the very best are picked for the gift fruit market. Some orchards allow visitors to the Rio Grande Valley to pick their own fruit. For more information call the Texas Gift Package Shippers Association 956/581-8632, or TexaSweat Citrus Marketing at 956/580-8004 or visit their website: www.texasweet.com/gifts/shippers.



SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Texas Valley Citrus Committee, and Texas Gift Package Shippers Association.

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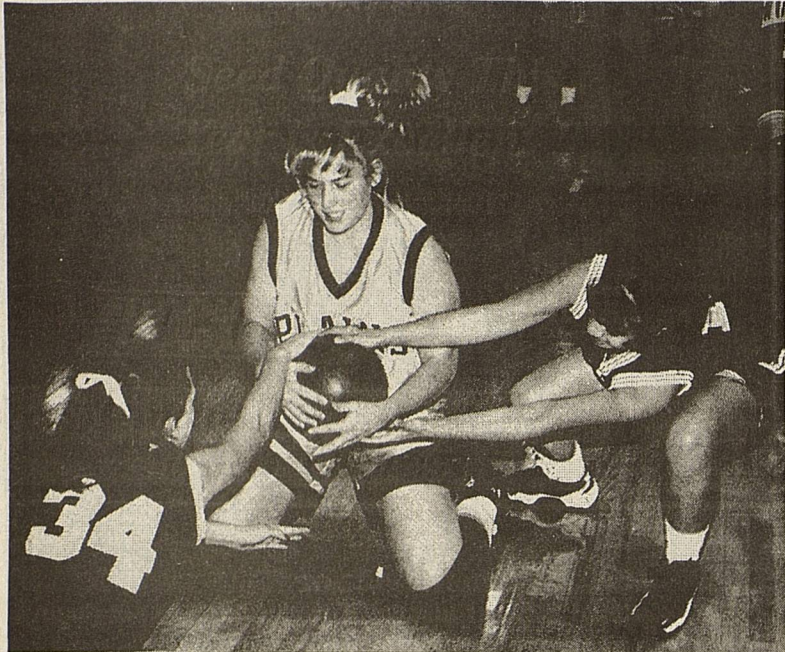
PISD Basketball Recap

* Because of the Christmas Holiday schedule, all basketball results were not available at our print time.

Junior High:

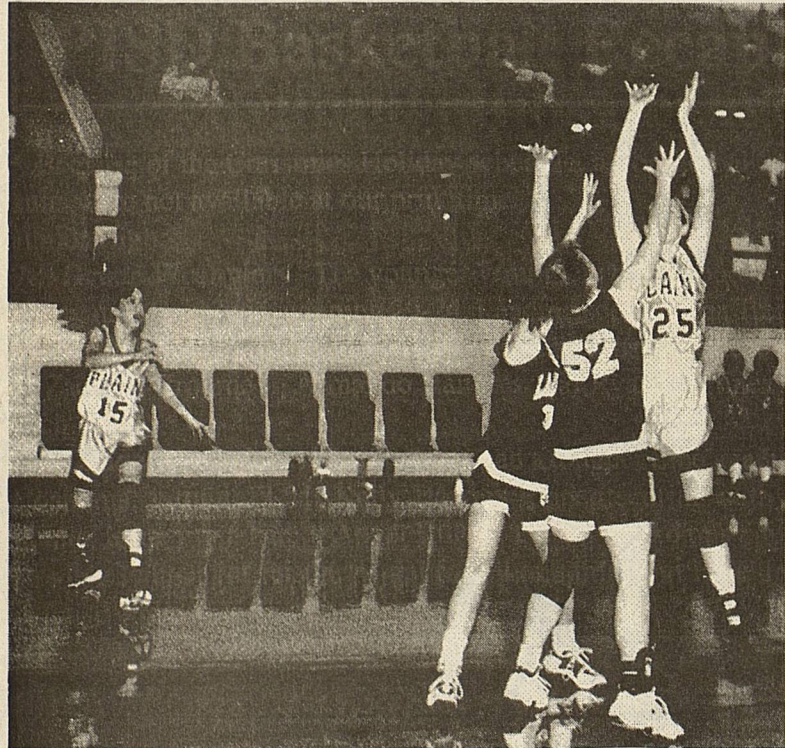
7th Grade Wranglers - The younger Wranglers had a good outing against Coahoma, winning 29-24. Leading scoring was Trent May with 9 points, followed by Richard Diaz 7, Arnold Cordova 5, Zachary Broome 4, Armando Ramirez and Ryan Martinez 2 each.

8th Grade Wranglers - The 8th boys had a tougher time against Coahoma, falling 37-21. Kelly Bowers topped scoring with 7 points, Rene Luna had 5. Angel Ruiz 4. Coach McAdams cited Bradley Palmer for hustle, Angel for rebounding, and Rebe for defensive play.



JV Cowgirl Kim Willis seems to be saying, "I got it first, and I'm keeping this ball!"

JV Cowgirls - The "Black" team fell to Coahoma 16-27, despite hard efforts and good defense. Coach Haragan said they are steadily improving. Julie Gonzales had 9 points, Elizabeth Clanahan 5, Ashley Gonzalez 2. Ashley also had 2 steals, Julie and Arasley Luna each had 6 rebounds.

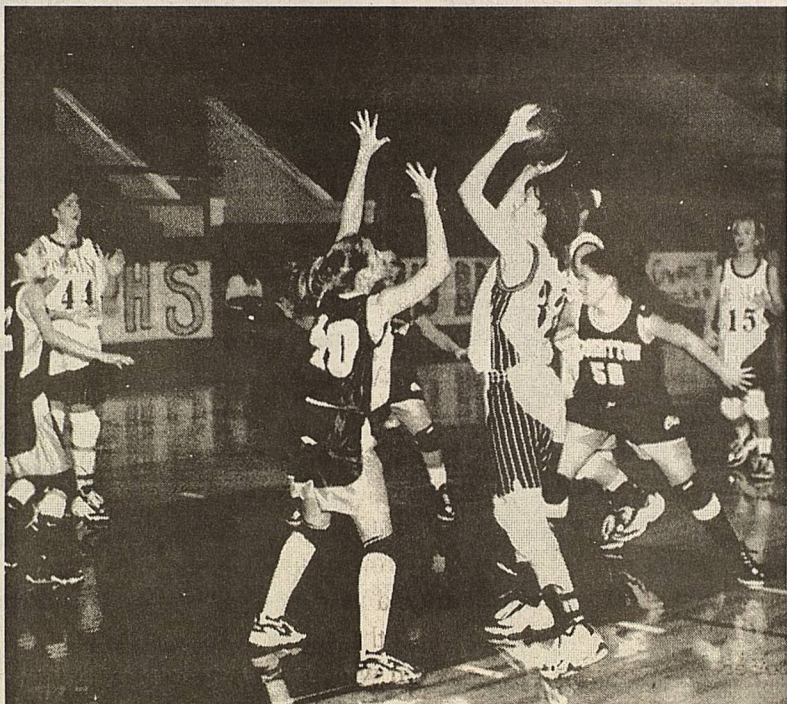


Annaliesa O'Quinn shoots, Michaela Traweek hustles up to help

Varsity Cowgirls - The Cowgirls had a good outing against Crosbyton, winning a good game 53-48. Kimberly Newland had the hot hand and scored 26 points, Kayla Redman had 13, Candace Bowers 8, and Tanya Vasquez 6. Kayla pulled down 14 rebounds, and Kristen Gray had 4 steals, Kimberly 7.



Kayla Redman lays in two points



Candace Bowers ready to shoot, Kim Newland, Anne Palmer coming up

Varsity Cowboys - The Cowboys dominated district foe Sundown 73-48. Tanner Blount led the scoring with 22 points, followed by Fermin Luna 16, Adam Garcia 12, Josh Bell 7, Joel Gallegos and Jared Bell 4 each, Justin Bennett, Patrick McGinty, Kyle Sisson and Alex Tarango 2 each. Eddy Gallegos had 8 rebounds, Josh Bell 7, and Tanner had 5 steals.

The Cowboys also Manhandled the Crosbyton Chieftains 76-43. Tanner made 24 points, Adam 17, Eddy 14, Justin, Jared and Joel 4 each, Patrick 3, and Colt Winn, Fermin and Josh 2 each. Jared grabbed 9 rebounds, Tanner had 8, and 7 steals.



Tanner Makes neat layup

Plains one-act play cast selected for 1999 season

Twenty-three Plains High School students have been selected for the 1999 UIL One-Act Play entry. A record number forty students auditioned for the opportunity to represent PHS in the world's largest theatre competition.

Director Gary Davis has selected "The Rimers of Eldritch" by Lanford Wilson as this spring's entry into the UIL competition. Over 1,000 schools compete annually in the one-act play competition in Texas. Almost 200 of those schools will compete in Conference AA. Plains has been the alternate to the state meet in Austin for the past two seasons. In 1997, "Riders to the Sea" placed third at the regional meet and in 1998, "Assassins" placed third at the same level. Region 1 representative, Stinnett-West Texas HS won the AA state competition both years with "I Pagliacci" and "Gianni Schicci".

"Rimers of Eldritch" is a mystery play. The mystery is, who he is, who murdered him and what were the circumstances around the killing. To solve this, the playwright looks at the

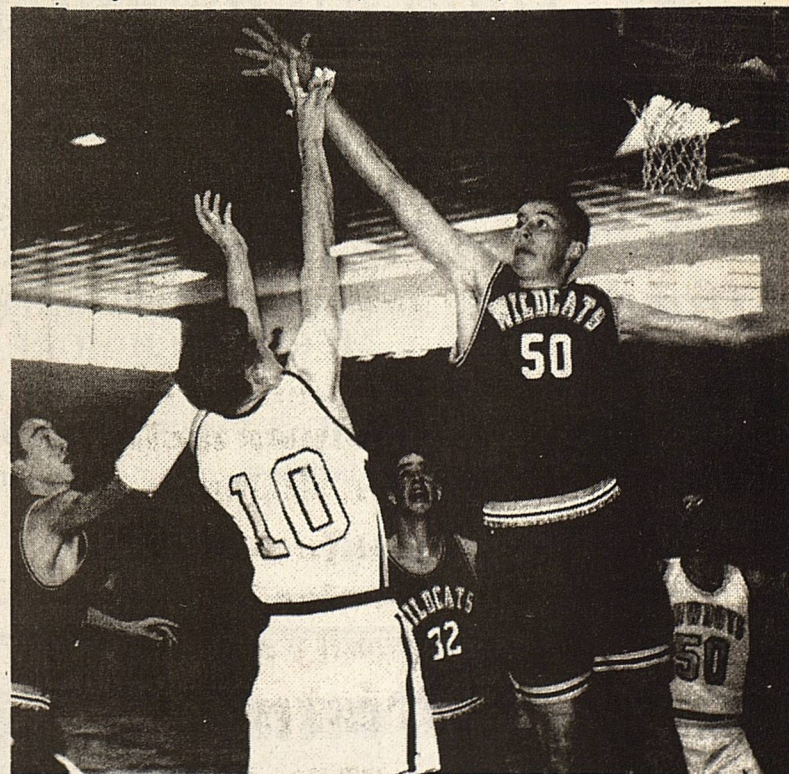
outsides and insides of a tiny, Middle Western town. He looks at a middle-age woman who falls in love with the man who comes to work in her cafe. He looks at a coarse, nasty woman who privately mistreats her senile mother, who is obsessed with visions of Eldritch being evil and headed for blood-spilling. He looks at a tender relationship between a young man and a dreamy, crippled girl. But Wilson sees far more than this. He is grasping the very fabric of middle America with its capability for viciousness and cruelty. In the end, the true portrait of Eldritch is exposed.

The cast includes: seniors Clint Burrus, Lisa Parrish, Juanita Rodriguez, Maranda Box and Jennifer Lollar; juniors Jeremy Morphis, Patty Ruiz, Autumn Deaton, Kyle Sisson, and Jason Swann; sophomores Dustin Six, Lisa San Filippo, Chris Gschiedle, Emily Blair, Nicole Haynes, Lensey Cullins, Taylor Gray, Lesli Rowe, Ross Rogers and Lexi Warren; and freshmen Annaliesa O'Quinn, Elizabeth Clanahan and Tanner Hamm.

More basketball action



Kelsey Blundell flies for 2, Dustin Six, Chris Willis move in



Aaron Cain arches shot over defender

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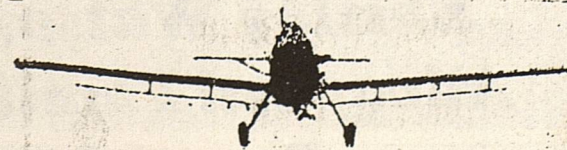
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**From Page 1,
"Boll Weevil"**

Don Parrish also reported a related eradication project is being undertaken in neighboring Lea County, New Mexico, where approximately 16,000 acres of cotton are being farmed, the majority of it by Texas producers from Gaines and Yoakum County. There is a movement underway there to form, with the blessing of the New Mexico Agricultural Department, another boll weevil eradication zone. Parrish said a committee of cotton producers and/or land-owners has already been formed, chaired by Larry Parker of Hobbs. "They are going through the process we did here in Yoakum, Terry, Lynn, Gaines and Andrews counties when we formed the WHP Zone. They will have to vote on a referendum, like we did. We are certainly hoping they are successful. It will be another effective tool eliminating the weevil." Parrish said hopefully the New Mexico legislature will pass

cost-share funding for the eradication zone, and added, "there's a good possibility more federal funds through the Department of Agriculture may become available if two adjoining states are fighting the boll weevil." He explained neither the Weevil Eradication Foundation nor the Western High Plains Eradication Zone are setting any type precedent in asking the state to assist in an agriculture effort, citing the legislatures appropriating funds in the past for the control of brucellosis in cattle, eradication of the screw worm, and precipitation enhancement to fight drought. He said the Western High Plains Zone will need some \$18 to \$20 million to fund the eradication program through 2000. "We fully realize the eradication effort has to be statewide, and we are certainly not seeking nor expecting any preferential treatment here on the South Plains, over any of the other state eradication zones."

**SPC slates
medical
courses**

Classes in Certified Nurse Aide and Phlebotomy begin January 25, 1999, at South Plains College in Levelland. Classes end March 8. The 80 hour course in Certified Nurse Aide will meet 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in the SPC Technical Arts Building, room 112. Clinical instruction will meet 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. for three Saturdays at a location to be arranged. A total of 56 classroom hours and 24 hours of clinical instruction are included. Tuition is \$250, plus a state exam fee of \$64.75. Instructors are Karen Cox Daniel, L.V.N., and Phillip Bray, L.V.N. The State of Texas Certified Nurse Aide Competency Exam is required on completion of the course.

A 42 hour course in Phlebotomy will meet 7-9 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for four weeks in the Technical Arts Building, room 101. Required clinicals are scheduled 8-10 a.m. Monday through Thursday for three

weeks, followed by optional classes 10 a.m. - noon at a location to be arranged. Cost is \$250 and instructors are Deborah Langwell, certified phlebotomist, and Jowana Beauchamp. Students taking either course

must provide proof of immunization for MMR, Tetanus and have a current TB test. Class enrollment is limited. To obtain registration materials, contact the SPC Office of Continuing and Distance Education in Levelland

Spreading Holiday Cheer



Twenty-one area family's Christmas Holiday will be a little brighter this year, thanks to the generosity of locals who donated food and cash for children's toys. The annual event, chaired by Toni Jones, delivered food bundles of staple groceries, canned goods and a turkey, plus at least one toy for each child in the family last Saturday morning. The group of volunteers above braved cold weather to deliver the Christmas gifts. Shown L-R, front row, Dene Rafferty, Pam Redman, Linda Lozano, Julia Lemley, Nelton Lemley, David Bunch, Elijah Hinkle, Don Hinkle, Carolyn and Vaughn Culwell. Middle row, Jeannette and Jerome Head, Irma Garcia, Shyann, Ashley and Sharla Vantine, Toni Jones, David Brunson, Harry Richardson. Not pictured, L.J. Sanders and Gary Dyer

Ribbon cutting at new Extension Office



A ribbon cutting ceremony and open house was held at the brand new Extension Service office last Friday. A large crowd of well wishers visited the modern six room office. Shown in the ribbon ceremony are, front, L-R, Extension Agent Kathy Adair, Judge Dallas Brewer, Extension Secretary Joni Hancock, Commissioner Jim Barron, Extension Agent Tadd Knight, Vicki Blundell, Carolyn Culwell. Back row, Mary Ward, Mary Jo St. Romain, Harry Richardson, former commissioner Bob Thurston, Johnnie Fitzgerald, Mayor T. J. Miller and Vaughn Culwell.

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806-456-9021 Dain Mobile

Dry Application
Liquid Application

David and Sarah Guetersloh

Lifelines & Styles

Library Filmtime



There were 16 children in attendance for the December 16 Christmas party. They were; Clayton Gass, Brittny Roper, Riley Earnest, Whitney Davis, Johnathan Davis, Dakota Earnest, Haley Welch, Sam Melendez, Autumn Friesen, Merrit Crump, Matthew Ramos, Mesa Davis, Britnie Duran, Lexus Jimenez, Emilia Gallegos, Kristie Lopez. They heard a Christmas story and watched two Christmas movies. The children received pictures to color and lots of goodies. Santa got stuck in China with the needs of those desperately poor children and did not get to the party. He did send Christmas sacks by his helpers. All the little one's that couldn't make it this year were really missed.

Dear Santa,
This is what I want for Christmas. I want my teeth fixed, a vamaqa yo-yo, a CD player, Beaine Babies, blue glow in the dark finger nail polish, and real fingernails, and La Newborn Moments doll.

S.C. when you get to my house their will be milk and cookies waiting for you!

Love,
Britnie Duram

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl this year. I would like for you to bring me oopsi daisy a barbie movie box and dress up clothes. I will leave you something good to eat.

Love,
Dakota Earnest 5

Dear Santa,
This is what I want for Christmas. I want back oven, barbie, and a little computer.

S.C. when you get to my house their will be milk and cookies waiting for you!

Love,
Lexus Jimenez

Dear Santa,
This is what I want for Christmas. vacuum clener, back oven, Barbie, and a cabbage Patch Kids newborn doll with a Stroller.

S.C. when you get to my house their will be milk and cookies waiting for you!

Love,
Kristie Lopez

Dear Santa,
I have tried to be a good girl. For Christmas please bring me a swimming baby, baby beds, Gameboy, rings and a Beanie Baby with a plastic cover on the tag. We hope you have a safe trip and we will leave you a snack.

Love,
Haley Welch
Age 4

Dear Santa,
I would like all of the Beanie Babys like curley or flip and Snip and NaNook or Peace and Maple or Libearty and Nip or Pinky and Quackers or Roary and Righty or Spot and Sparkie or Todd.

Love,
Emilia

Dear Santa,
I try real hard to be good. Please bring me a horsey.

Love,
Clayton Gass

TSA MO GA Celebrates Christmas

TSA MO GA Club met December 14, 1998 at the ranch home of Mattie Field. Grandson, Tray Field, welcomed all arrivals with a winning smile for the "Christmas Holiday Happenings". Sarah Jane Shelton, co-hostess, greeted and registered members, husbands and guest. Members deposited their Monetary Christmas Gift in a large "Green Christmas Ornament" for the club project "Friends of the Plains Library". A Christmas Buffet Dinner was served by hostesses, Mattie Field, Sarah Jane and Homer Shelton to club members, husbands and guest Billie and Bob Blundell, Sarah K. Burrus, Carolyn and Vaughn Culwell, Dolores Davis, Judy and Norman Head, Crip Henard, Toni and Gary Jones, Latrell and Bob McDonnell, Ann and Ken McGinty, Connie and Mackey McWhirter, Wilma Powell, Debbie and Morris Rushing, Betty and Polly Rushing, Mary Jo and Pierre St. Romain, Zareta and Billy Winn and Valeria Winn. Guest were Helen Thompson, Gary Davis, Glenda Field, Kacy Henard,

Clint Burrus, Bertha Salgado, Ty and Linda Powell, Traysa Field, Tray Field and Nadia D'Angelo of Ontario, Canada. Program "Sharing The Holiday Spirit", Sarah K. Burrus, program coordinator introduced Gary Davis, PHS Teacher, Yearbook Sponsor, Director of One-Act Play and Performing Artist Ventriloquist, his friend Leroy. Gary and Leroy shared the holiday spirit with humor-song-making much laughter for his audience. Leroy captured the ladies with his flirting eyes and expressions.

Judy Head, club President established the first ever Tsa Mo Ga Sensational Awards. Various gifts were given as symbols of member's contributions to TSA MO GA and Federation.

Debbie Rushing had the "Sit Jones" Scholarship gift-eight unseen, to be auctioned. Norman Head, highest bidder, won a Christmas China Egg Ornament, purchased in the historical town of Salado, Texas. Hostesses wish to each, "May the true Spirit of Christmas, bring you Peace and Happiness".

Senior Citizens Corner

This will be another short week. Everyone will be home for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The "Turkey and Dressing" day was a big success. There were many visitors and I did not get a list of names. But Thanks to all for taking the time to share the meal with us. Another year is winding down and since this will be my last column this year. I'd like to say to all "THANKS" for reading and to our Newspapers for publishing. I have been at this for about 14 years, and its a thrill to hear an old friend say "I read your first one and I'm still reading."

Manuel and Ella Hernandez's son was with them on Monday. Zelma Boone is unable to be at the center due to illness. We are all missing a lot of good hugs and wish her a fast recovery. Lenore Matus is being missed also.

Everyone wishes a nice, safe Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

See you next year,
Smitty

Jim & Nona O'Neal also contributed to Operation Christmas Card

Dirt Gardeners Meeting

The Plains Dirt Gardeners held their regular meeting December 16. The program on house plants was presented by Dean Richardson. We want to thank everyone for making Operation Christmas Card a success again this year. Those present at the meeting were Debbie Morphis, Kay Canon, Ita Young, Jackie Willis, Ruby Sellers, and Dean Richardson.

Hazardous Household Wastes

OVEN CLEANERS
corrosive & toxic
Alternative: baking soda, water, and steel wool pads.

TOILET CLEANERS
corrosive, toxic, irritant
Alternatives: toilet brush & baking soda; mild detergent

DRAIN CLEANER
corrosive & toxic
Alternatives: plunger or snake; flush with boiling water, 1/4 cup baking soda, and 2oz. vinegar

LAUNDRY BLEACH
corrosive & toxic
Alternatives: 1/2 cup white vinegar, baking soda or borax

Operation Christmas Card

The 1998 Operation Christmas Card enjoyed great support from area residents again this year. The Plains Dirt Gardeners, sponsors of the program, will use funds donated by donors to beautify and improve the Plains Cemetery. The 'Gardeners' wish to express their thanks to the following donors;

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
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From The Hack

I made a vow not to use the phrase this Holiday Season. I lied. I have broken it. I uttered it again, and several times, last Saturday in Lubbock.

"BAH HUMBUG!". This Grinch Who Stole Christmas attitude was prompted by our visit to "The Mall Which Appalls" Saturday.

Lest you naively believe the rumor West Texas, particularly the South Plains, is sparsely inhabited by folks, you should try to find a parking space on that humongous lot just six days before Christmas. By roughly judging the number of cars on all that asphalt, and doing some extrapolation, I rapidly calculated the equivalent population of Houston and the DFW Metroplex combined comes up some 46,289 souls short of those in a short driving distance of The Mall Of Horrors.

Bride and I entered the thing from the north, traversed every single lane of parking spaces on the west side (5,267, count 'em) to no avail, moved to the opposite side (4,189 parking slots), all full. The only way I finally managed to park the Blazer was spotting some AARP Charter Member, a geezer much older than this geezer, trying to fit a 42 foot motor home in the

ONLY vacancy. I ran over to him and in my cheeriest pre-Christmas spirit told him, "Sir, there's a \$850 city fine for parking RV's over 20 feet long in the mall area..... and if you'll go to another site immediately, I will not use my cell phone to call a cop, and I promise faithfully to write you and your lovely wife up glowingly in the next issue of 'Modern Maturity' magazine.

No problem whatsoever. He pulled out and I burned rubber getting in his spot before someone even greedier found it. I cannot help it if snowbirds from Minnesota mistakenly identified me as the Executive VP of AARP, and editor of their magazine.

Any port in a storm, they used to tell us in the Navy

Texas Lt. Governor-elect Rick Perry and his recent opponent John Sharp were both freshmen (Fish) at Texas A&M in 1969, and both were in the Corps of Cadets. The Corps Commander at the time was Hector Gutierrez, Jr. Recently Lt. Governor-elect Perry named Gutierrez his liaison to the 31 State Senators, a posi-

tion formerly held by the Lt. Governors Chief of Staff. Perry said recently Gutierrez is likely to be his only staff member who ever made him do push-ups.

..... Don't blame me... G.W. Cleveland told me this: "Saw a bumper sticker I liked the other day... said, next time I see Bill Clinton I want it to be on a milk carton."

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A Great Big & Sincere Thank You!!

To The following committee members of the Western High Plains Boll Weevil Eradication Zone for your hard work and dedicated efforts in making the recent Eradication Referendum a success: Tony Dill, Mike Kelly, Shelby Elam, Chuck Rowland, Michael Todd, Dennis Banta, Kenny Heathington, Larry Moore Tracy Welch, and Ricky Bearden. Special thanks also to Don Parrish, newly elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation. Your efforts succeeded in passing this landmark program for the benefit of all area cotton producers and land owners, and we thank you!

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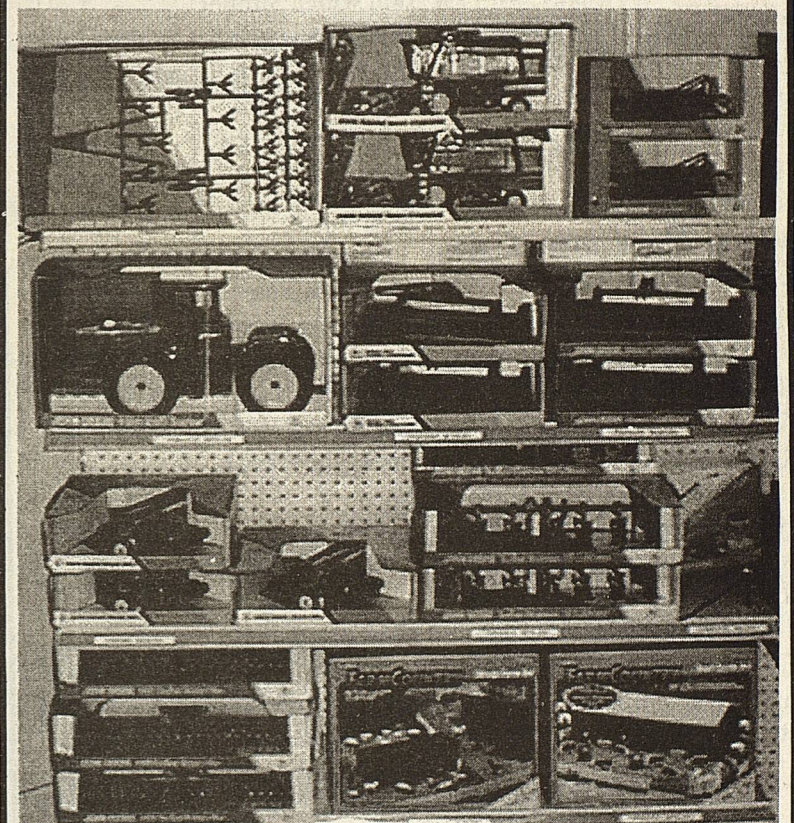
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