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Happy July 4th!

Cowboy Country News

Volume 2, Issue 43, Wednesday, July 3, 1996

Wes-Tex Meeting Held Here



Area county Directors hear report from Karie Preston.

Plains was the host city for the quarterly meeting of the Wes-Tex Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Board of Directors on Thursday, June 27. Wes-Tex RC&D represents 16 West Texas Counties, from Martin and Midland Counties to the south, to Hale, Floyd and Lamb to the north.

31 Directors, sponsors and employees of Wes-Tex attended the business meeting, following a tour of the recently remodeled Girl Scout Hut in Denver City. The Scout Hut renovation project was funded with grant funds obtained thru efforts of Wes-Tex RC & D, and with a great deal of volunteer labor and private donations from citizens of Denver City. Following the business session of the Board meeting, participants enjoyed a catered lunch in the Plains Community building.

Among Board members addressing the gathering were Wes - Tex President Billy Thetford of Hockley County, Executive Director Karie Preston, Cochran County, Secretary/Treasurer Jim Millsap of Yoakum County, Vice President Calloway Huffaker of Lynn County, and Mitch Grant of Lubbock County.

Directors at the meeting were asked to verbally report on current RC & D projects in their counties. The reports covered fund raising projects for dry hydrant installations in rural areas, ambulances for EMS service, Senior Citizen projects, work opportunities for citizens in

MHMR programs, the D.C. Scout Hut, and nature trails for urban areas.

Karie Preston reported the State Insurance Commission had recently approved the lowering of insurance premiums on rural properties in the proximity of the rural dry fire hydrants, up to a 10% reduction, but each company writing the policy has the option to lower the premiums. She advised contacting your insurance agent if you are a rural resident near one of the facilities.

Any individual or business firm can be a sponsor of Wes-Tex RC & D by paying sponsor dues of \$25, which will be used to offset normal operating costs of the association. RC & D is assisted by the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Service. The primary goal of the statewide association of county RC & D is to make full use of all local resources, develop funding for worthwhile community and area projects, and engage in activities promoting economic growth, city and county wide.

Plains city Mayor T. J. Miller welcomed the attendees of the meeting. Other Yoakum County residents attending included County Judge Dallas Brewer, Cindy Poole, NRCS, City Administrator David Brunson, Olivia Robertson and Emma Gonzales, Yoakum County Soil & Water Conservation District. The next quarterly meeting of Wes - Tex will be held in Stanton this coming September.

It's R&R Time Soon!

Rodeo, Old Settlers Reunion Starts August 1.

Plans are nearing final stages for the 43rd annual Plains Rodeo and Old Settler Reunion. The rodeo kicks off with the first performance at 8 PM Thursday, August 1, followed by shows both Friday and Saturday nights.

The Old Settlers Reunion, which always draws visitors from many far away states, is scheduled for Saturday, August 3 in Stanford Park. Volunteer cooks will slow cook and barbecue beef brisket for the big noon feed. Tickets for the meal, which includes barbecue and all the trimmings and coffee and iced tea are again \$5, and will include admission to the Saturday night Rodeo performance.

Three Rodeo Queen Candidates should be selling tickets for votes soon, and at the final Saturday night rodeo performance, a drawing will be held for a custom made western saddle. To date, Lindsey Six, representing the Plains Roping Club, is the only officially announced Queen Candidate, but the Lions and Chamber of Commerce candidates should be selected very soon.

The rodeo stock contractor is once more T-N-T Rodeo Company of Anson. Donna Bowers is once again the rodeo secretary, and the entry books will open on July 20th at 9 am, and close at 5 pm. Rodeo events include team roping, bareback and saddle bronc riding, bull riding, steer wrestling, ladies breakaway roping and barrel racing, and the roping club members will compete in ribbon roping.

Larry Murphree, Roping Club President, reported most details of the three day event have been

Turn to Page 2.

'R & R Time'

Shed Fire At Course Brings Grief To Golfers



At approximately 8:30 PM Wednesday, June 26, a group of local golfers were finishing play, returning to the County cart storage shed area, noticed smoke billowing from the south end of the line of storage sheds on the east side. By time they reached the sheds, a major fire was rapidly spreading thru the sheds containing dozens of members golf carts, clubs and other personal items.

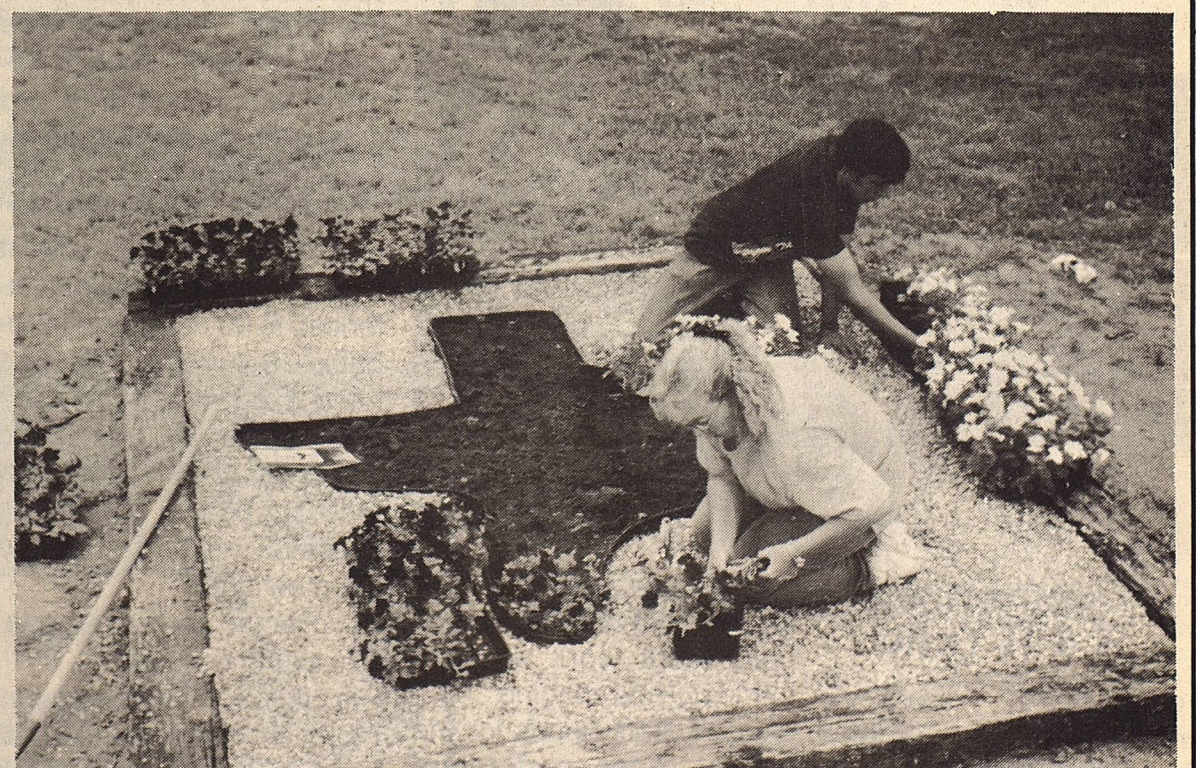
County Judge Dallas

Brewer was one of the foursome first discovering the fire. He called the Denver City Volunteer Fire Department, who responded very promptly. The other three golfers, Joe Esparza, Gary Lehnert and Leo Daniel, all of Denver City, were soon joined by a few more late playing golfers, who began cutting and breaking off locks on the shed doors, in a desperate effort to save as many carts and equipment as possible.

Judge Brewer said before the Fire Department could get the now large blaze under control "it looked and sounded like the fourth of July, with batteries exploding, cans under pressure going off, and the flames really lighting up the night". He reported the Fire Department and other volunteers forced the lock off one shed door, and just as the door was opened,

Turn to Page 2, 'Golf Fire'

Sprucing Up Of Courthouse Area Continues



Beverly Lowrey and part time Courthouse employee Eric Baker are pictured planting flowers in the recently built and installed large planter box on the southwest corner of the old Courthouse grounds. The bed, shaped like the State of Texas, was planted with petunias the color of the state flag. Lowrey said, "We had to substitute purple plants for the blue of the flag I wasn't able to find blue petunias".

The project is part of the general beautification efforts in the downtown business area. The Courthouse grounds will be the scene of the "Watermelon Round-Up" scheduled for August 31.

Continued From Pg. 1, 'GOLF FIRE'



the flames leaped high enough to drive everyone away.

According to Wiley Osborn, Yoakum County Golf Club Pro, and John Avara, Precinct 3 Commissioner who were at the fire scene, reported eight to ten carts were totally destroyed, with at least a dozen more damaged or seriously smoke damaged. They said the fire could have been much worse in terms of damage if the fire had started later at night or early Thursday morning. "If a number of golfers hadn't been present to discover the fire when they did, we could have lost all the sheds and all the carts in this row", Avara reported. The fire fighters and golfers succeeded in opening more than a dozen shed doors and saving thousands of dollars of golfing carts and equipment, and both Osborn and Avara had words of praise for the hard working fire department and volunteer golfers.

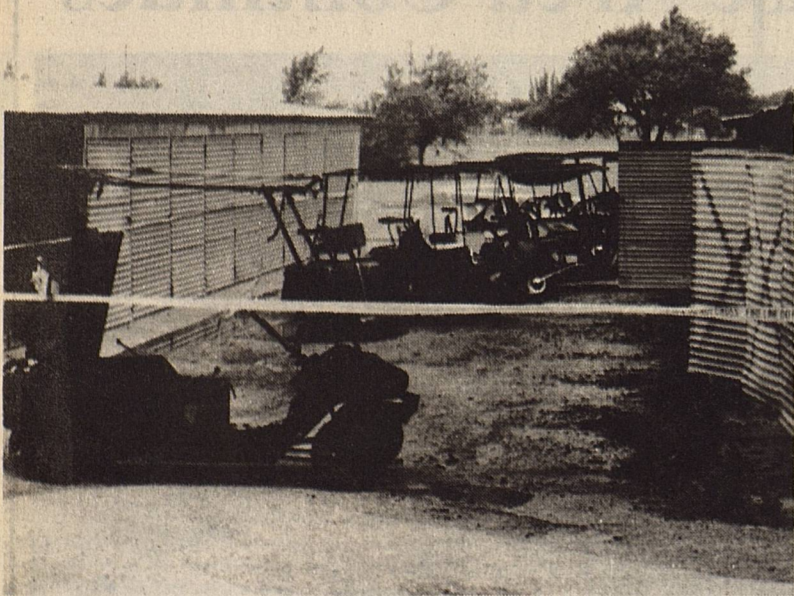
Osborn said, "We will do everything we can to help the members losing carts and equipment to continue golfing. I will loan out as many club sets as I can, and I will probably reduce

the normal cart rental fee to members who lost carts in the fire".

While the County does not provide insurance on property stored in the rented sheds, many members with destroyed carts and equipment may find financial relief if they have a Homeowner's Insurance Policy. One club member viewing the scene Thursday morning reported he had already contacted his insurance company agent, and his losses were covered on the policy.

Dave Tedford, with the Denver City Fire Department, investigated the fire scene Thursday morning. According to Commissioner Avara, Tedford found the blaze started in the second storage shed on the south end of the building. Apparently an electrical short in the battery powered golf cart stored there set off the costly fire.

Judge Brewer reported the State Fire Marshall's office in Austin had been notified of the fire, and the loss of the storage sheds, covered under the County's fire insurance policy. That office may send an investigator to the scene of the fire, causing some \$50 to \$60,000 damage.



Cont'd from Page 1, 'R & R Time'

completed. "We've announced our Queen Candidate, the saddle will be here for display very soon, and we will be able to announce which of several bands we've contacted for the nightly rodeo dances we've selected in the next few days. We hope the county residents will again contin-

ue to support this annual event, which so many volunteers work so hard planning and staging".

Adult tickets prices for the nightly rodeo performances are \$4, children under 12, \$3.

Last Rites For Shane Tuggle

Granbury: Services for Shane Tuggle, 23, of Granbury was at 2 p.m., Sunday, July 30, 1996 in Lakeside Baptist Church, with John Duncan officiating. Burial followed in Holly Hills Memorial Park under direction of Wiley Funeral Home.

Tuggle died Monday, June 24, 1996, in California.

He was born Jan. 28, 1973, in Lubbock. He graduated from Amarillo High School, and he was a corporal in the U.S. Marines. He attended Levelland, Plains and Midland schools. He was a member of Bell Avenue Baptist Church in Amarillo.

Survivors include his parents, Danny & Mary Lois Tuggle of Granbury; a brother, Steven Wade of Granbury; and his grandparents, Dorris and Louise Tuggle of Plains and Dockie Hulse of Brownwood.

County Criminal Court Cases

Four criminal cases were heard in County Court last week, with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding. Criminal District Attorney represented the State.

Jesus Manuel Perez, 40, charged with felony DWI, enhanced once, entered a plea bargain. He was placed on ten years community supervision, with confinement in a S.A.F.P.F. Criminal Justice Institution for not less than 6 months or more than 1 year. He was also fined \$1,000, must pay \$249.50 Court costs, and \$250 in appointed Attorney fees. He faces 180 days in jail or until placed in the S.A.F.P.F. facility. His driver's license is suspended 18 months, and a deep lung monitoring must be installed in any vehicle driven with 30 days after release.

Fancisco Lozano Jr., 53, also faced a subsequent DWI charge. He pled guilty, and was sentenced to one year in jail, probated 18 months. He must pay a \$750 fine, \$227 Court costs, and spend 30 days in jail with 1 day credit. He must face evaluation with Lubbock Regional Council on drug and alcohol abuse and attend AA meetings twice each month. Theresa Lennette Hicks, 37, pled guilty to a subsequent DWI offense. She was sentenced to 90 days in jail, probated 18 months. She was fined \$750, must pay \$227 Court costs, and will spend 30 days in jail. She also must face out patient counseling and evaluation, and attend AA meetings.

Ramiro Barrera Acosta, 37, also pled guilty to DWI. His 60 day jail sentence was probated 12 months. He was fined \$500, must pay \$235 Court costs, and must spend 3 days in jail.

Recertification Course Schedule

Currently accredited recertification courses are listed below. Some of the courses have registration fees, and space may be severely limited.

Please contact your local Texas Agricultural Extension Service (the Texas A&M University System) for additional courses in your area.

* July 27, 1996 at Abilene, Tx. This course is worth 5.00 credits. Sponsored by CTN Educational Services; contact Tommy Kezar at (512) 288-8288. Subjects: Law and Regulations (1.00 credit) and General (4.00 credits).

* Sept. 12, 1996 at Amarillo, Tx. This course is worth up to 8.00 credits. Sponsored by High Sierra Education Services; contact Larry Franke at (210) 620-4440. Subjects: Integrated Pest Management (1.00 credit), Laws and Regulations (1.00 credit) and General (6.00 credits).

Non-Insured Crop Reporting Date Important To Area Producers

Plains, Tx. 7/1/96: Farmers who produce non-insurable crops should visit their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office now to verify deadlines and report acres to be eligible for the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP).

The acreage reporting date in Yoakum County for all crops is August 15, 1996.

"In the past, when producers of crops normally not reported to FSA suffered a loss, producers often reported what they planted after the fact," Gary Six said. "Now producers must report acreage and prior production by a specific date. Also, to be eligible for NAP payments, a producer must report a loss within 15 days of when the loss becomes apparent."

To be eligible for NAP, producers should: 1) come to the Yoakum County FSA office to file an acreage report on all NAP crops, and 2)

establish their historic crop yield to obtain the maximum NAP coverage.

The NAP can provide protection for crops that are not eligible for federal crop insurance. Eligible crops are commercial crops grown for food and fiber.

NAP operates at no cost to producers, but payments are made only when an area-wide disaster occurs and individual crop losses are in excess of 50 percent of the individual's approved yield. Losses are paid at 60 percent of the crop's average market price.

Eligible crops, planted after the deadline must be reported to the Farm Service Agency at the Yoakum County Office within 15 days of planting to become eligible.

Producers with any questions about this program should contact the FSA office.

C of C Meets

Queen Candidate Named

The Plains Chamber of Commerce met Tuesday morning in the Cowboy Restaurant, with 12 members present. Member Carolyn Culwell introduced special guest Dacia Humphrey, selected recently to represent the Chamber as their candi-

date for the 1996 Rodeo Queen. Sixteen-year-old Darcia is the daughter of Joe and Freda Humphrey of Plains. She will be a Senior this fall.

The Chamber voted to purchase plastic 'Gift Bags' and ball point pens, to be distributed at the Watermelon Round-Up August 31. Members were asked to contact prospective food and drink booth operators for the big

event.

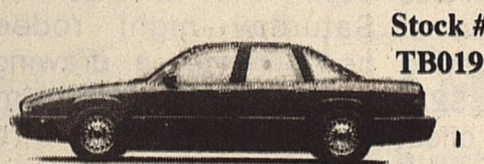
Attending the meeting were David Brunson, David Bunch, Vaughn and Carolyn Culwell, Toni Jones, Gary and Holly Dyer, Kenneth McGinty, T.J. Miller, Mary Jo St. Romain, Ty Earl Powell, and Dolores Davis. The next Chamber meeting has been changed to July 30, to make first plans for its role in the annual Rodeo.

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Examples:



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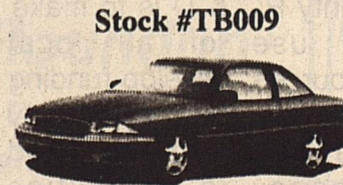
\$21,655.00 MSRP
 - 1,960.00 WATSON DISCOUNT *
 - 750.00 FACTORY REBATE
\$18,945.00 TOTAL
 (Plus Tax, Title & License)



Stock # TB038

Buick Century

\$19,273.00 MSRP
 - 950.00 WATSON DISCOUNT *
 - 1,500.00 FACTORY REBATE
\$16,823.00 TOTAL
 (Plus Tax, Title & License)



Stock #TB009

Buick Skylark

\$17,423.00 MSRP
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* Dealer Discount May Include Adjustments For Minor Hail Damage

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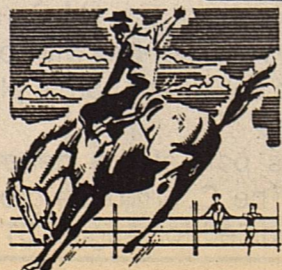
24-HR. ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

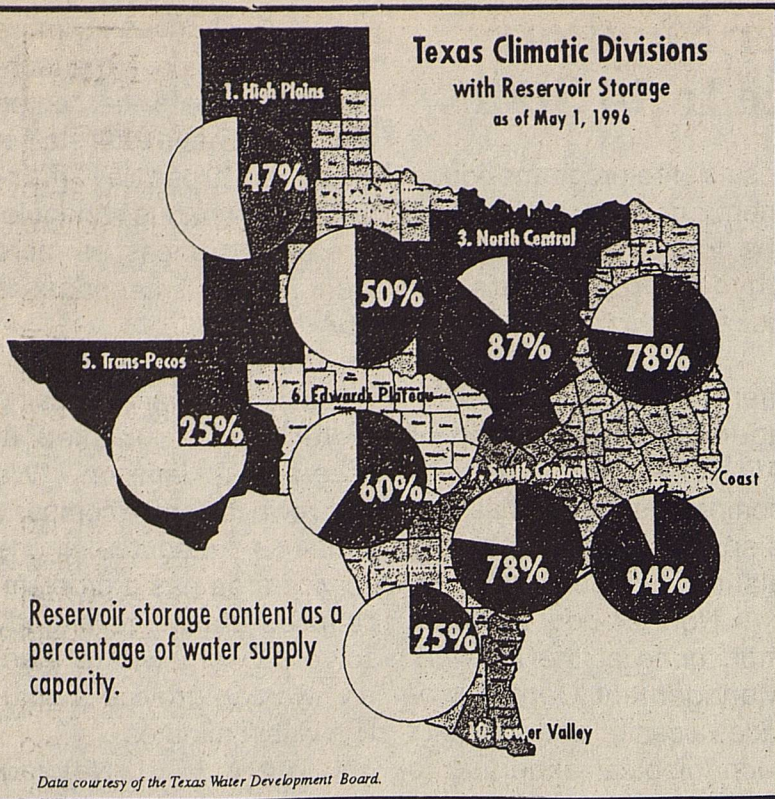
WATSON

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AUSTIN: Texas farmers in 1931 planted 1,500,000 fewer acres in cotton than in the previous year, and many predict that the acreage in 1932 will decline another 1,500,000 acres. This reduction in cotton acreage has come about not because of any state or federal law, but because cotton is now priced so low that it does not pay to grow it except on the very best land. The total value of all Texas crops declined from \$585,422,000 in 1929 to \$306,872,000 in 1931. There can be no doubt that the farmer knows the meaning of depression well. *The Texas News, November 15, 1932*

Have A Bang Up July 4th!

Deborah 'Debbie' L. Rushing, Republican Candidate for Yoakum Co. Clerk

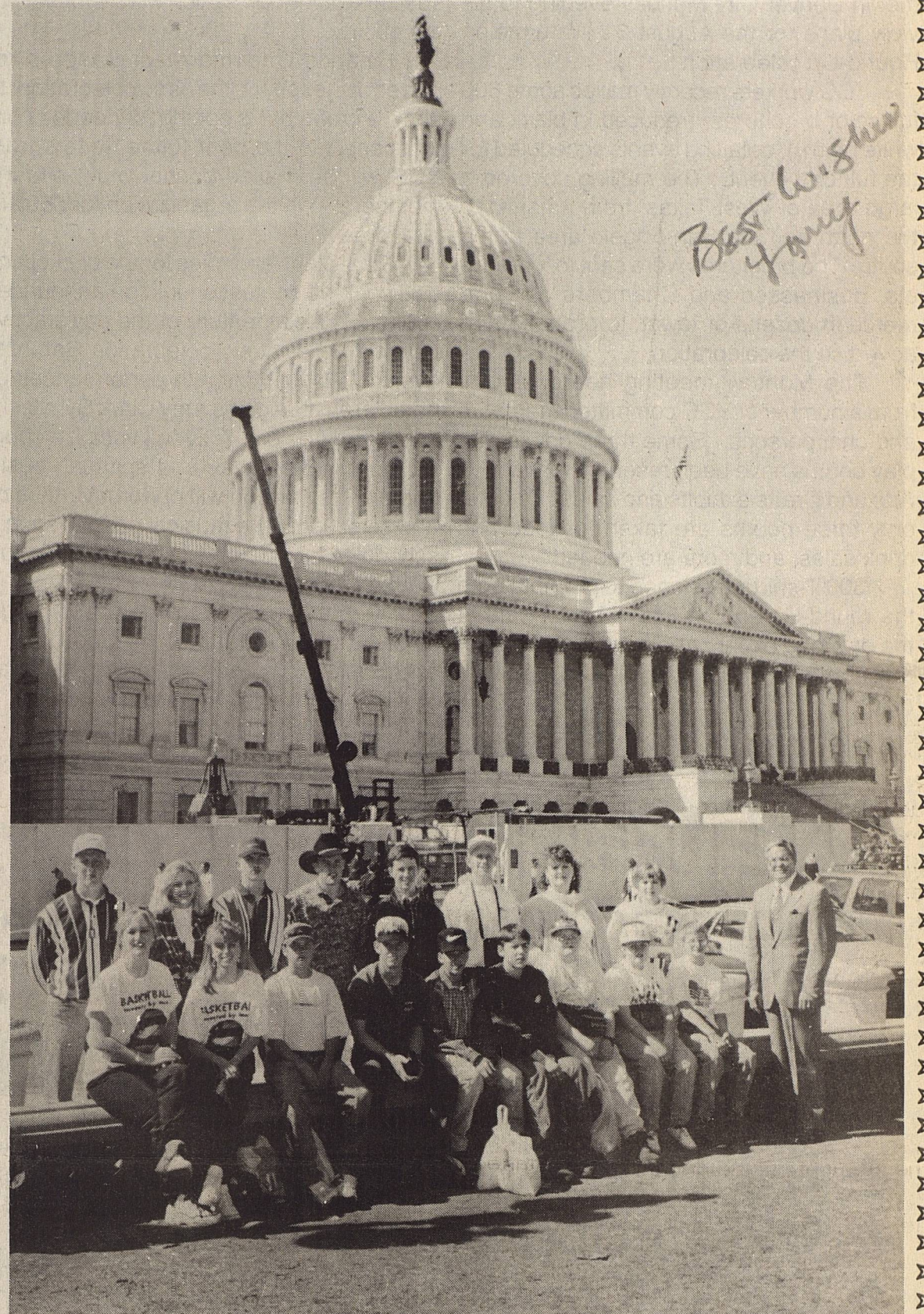
County Court Meets

The Yoakum County Commissioner's Court met Monday, July 1, to consider an abbreviated agenda. Among the items discussed and acted on was approval to advertise for bids for the sale of one used 1981 GMC diesel haul truck from Precinct 1. Bids must be received by July 19.

The Court also approved an easement adjoining County Road 409 in Precinct 4. The 40' by 2500' easement lies between sections 433 and 384.

Gary Walker addressed the Court on the County Landfill. He recently received permission from the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission to temporarily store construction and demolished C & D material in an area of the landfill, until TNRCC issues a permit for a C & D waste dump series of pits. The approved pits will enable the Landfill to receive materials such as shingles, glass, etc., associated with recent devastating storms. Walker reported the Denver City storm will generate some 700 tons of C & D material. Without the expected permit for the new type of dumping area, the material would count against the landfills current 20 ton daily maximum of trash. The Court commended Walker for his efforts in securing the new permit, which will save taxpayer dollars.

A Timely Photo For Our Independence Day Issue!



WHAT BETTER TIME TO FEATURE A PHOTOGRAPH OF PLAINS YOUNGSTERS, IN FRONT OF THE CAPITOL BUILDING FOR THE 4TH OF JULY ISSUE OF OUR NEWSPAPER! WE REPORTED THE DETAILS OF THE MARCH TRIP TO THE CAPITOL CITY IN A MUCH EARLIER ISSUE, BUT COULD NOT FIT THE LARGE PHOTO IN THAT ISSUE. PICTURED ARE, FRONT, L-R, TANDI JONES, KRISTLE BLUNDELL, JUSTIN BENNETT, BRETT SQUYRES, TAYLOR GRAY, ROSS ROGERS, ELIZABETH WILMETH, MANDI ROGERS, AND ERIC NIXON. BACK ROW, STEVEN BUNCH, JENNIFER LOLLAR, DUSTIN BRUNSON, MIKE BELL, BEN HOLLAND, AND TRIP COORDINATORS AND SPONSORS MARY WILMETH AND MALISSA DORSETT. STATE REPRESENTATIVE LARRY COMBEST AT RIGHT.

BUICK **Chevrolet** **Geo**

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Redwine Brothers Construction

Former resident Brad Redwine and son Gerald are currently doing construction work here. Brad, a former Production Mgr. for Morgan Portable Buildings of Eastland, has been a contractor since 1977, and his skills include framing, drywall, tape & bed, ceramic tile, plumbing and roofing. You may contact Brad thru Buddy or Janelle Brantly. He is staying in his travel trailer at the Alan Bell's, next to the D.G. **FREE ESTIMATES ON ALL JOBS!**

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Have A Happy 4th of July

The Jack Spears Family, and Employees Of - **JACK SPEARS DRILLING CO.**

Yoakum County Connection Off & Running on Watermelon Round-Up Plans

Almost three dozen Plains and Denver City residents, united in the recently organized Yoakum County Connection (YCC) met in Denver City Monday evening to review plans for the August 31 Watermelon Round-Up celebration.

YCC workers recently mailed some 600 full color brochures, (reduced in black and white below), detailing events scheduled for the full day event. The mailing covered a large area of West Texas, from Amarillo to the north and the San Angelo area to the south. The brochures were sent to individuals, businesses and Chambers of Commerce in dozens of towns to promote and advertise the celebration.

The Monday meeting heard reports from a number of YCC committee members and chairpersons. Some three dozen display booths have been reserved for various Arts and Crafts exhibits and sales. To date, only three booths are taken for food and drink sales, and more are needed.

300 T-shirts, designed to promote both the round-up and YCC, will be for sale at the day long event. Another 100 shirts promoting the 5K Fun Run will also be available.

The State Line FCE ladies are conduct-

ing a watermelon recipe contest, and the entry deadline for submitting recipes is August 5th. The recipes will be compiled in a special Cook Book, which will be for sale to the public.

Finance Chairman L.J. Sanders reported he expects the first celebration to show a profit, but is hoping for needed contributions. In the near future, letters from YCC will be mailed county wide, offering membership in the organization for \$50 annual dues.

Final plans and rules for the brisket and chili cook-off contest should be announced soon. A special feature of the day's activities will be a music celebration Saturday evening, August 31, with performances by noted area musicians Amy Clark Synatzske and Jack Harmon. Amy will vocalize country, opera, Broadway and spiritual music, and pianist Harmon will perform various piano selection. The musical performance is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in the Plains School Auditorium.

YCC urges all county residents to get involved in the Watermelon Round-Up. It is an excellent method of bringing public attention to our area, and raise funds for future needed community projects.

Network Center Monitors Telephone Service In 14 States

Little Rock, AR: In a move to provide one of the most responsive communications service networks in the nation, ALLTEL has taken the initiative to proactively establish a centralized Network Management Center. This technologically advanced center, located in Hudson, Ohio, monitors service to more than 1.6 million telephone users in 14 states--the entire ALLTEL telephone operations area.

"The beauty of this system," noted ALLTEL Network Management Center Director Bob Hamilton, "is that we have the capability to identify and resolve potential trouble areas before they affect customers' service."

The center's team of senior network analysts and support staff can spot communication trouble across town or across the nation long before it has disrupted service to the customer. ALLTEL actually detects problems as they develop,

resets or re-programs equipment if needed, and notifies the local repair teams if physical repairs are required.

Prior to the establishment of the Network Management Center, each of ALLTEL's local telephone companies' personnel was dispatched when trouble alarms were detected.

Now, 24-hour technical monitoring at the Network Management Center provides a centralized source of technological expertise to support over 600 digital central offices and associated networks with much less dispatching of local telephone company personnel. The result is quicker, more efficient response to customer needs.

The technology also enables the center to identify trends and patterns in breakdowns, letting the staff intervene and restore non-hardware problems without sending a repair person to the site. Customers reap the benefits of fewer repair costs and more streamlined operations for ALLTEL.

"Although with today's technology, equipment failures are minimal, we essentially work around the clock to prevent problems from ever affecting our customers," Hamilton said. "Prior to the Network Management Center, we had to wait for customers to call and inform us their service had been affected. Now we know at a glance that it has--or, more often, that it's about to."

ALLTEL invested more than \$6.5 million in the technology to create the center, which requires a total staff of more than 80 people to maintain its continuous schedule. The center processes more than 700,000 messages a day.

"Now we know the service status in every switching center in all our markets at once," said Hamilton. "We also have the entire company to use as a resource. If one service area has a problem, chances are we've already solved it somewhere else, and we can provide a solution within minutes."

The ALLTEL Network Management Center is always upgrading and reprogramming its hardware and software, and training staff members to keep up with the latest technological advances. This continuous growth keeps ALLTEL's customer service among the best in the nation, maintaining the highest standards of rapid response and service excellence.

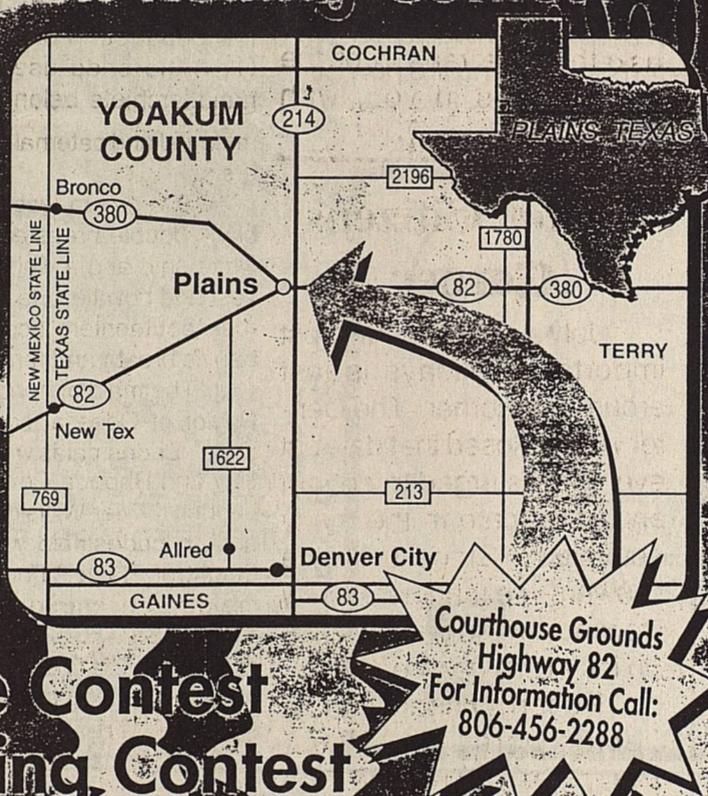
In 1939, a minor America author completed a 300 page novel, *GADSBY*. The book contained over 50,000 words, none containing the letter 'E', the most used letter in the English language. The effort took 165 days, and the strain was too much. The author Ernest Vincent Wright died the day of publication. Following his death, *GADSBY* became popular with collectors, and today they can bring over \$1,000.

YOAKUM COUNTY

Watermelon Round-Up

FAMILY FUN DAY • LABOR DAY WEEKEND • AUGUST 31, 1996 9AM-6PM

- ▲ Arts & Crafts Show
- ▲ Brisket Chili Cook-Off
- ▲ Cow Patty Bingo
- ▲ Melon Rolling Contest
- ▲ 5K Run
- ▲ 1M Fun Run
- ▲ Live Entertainment
- ▲ Old Tractor Exhibit
- ▲ Classic Car Show
- ▲ Watermelon Olympics
- ▲ Melon Eating Contest
- ▲ Seed Spitting Contest
- ▲ Watermelon Recipes
- ▲ Style Show
- ▲ Costume Contest
- ▲ The Great Melon Growing Contest



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Already 20% off

Now an extra 10% off on Summer items and western jeans. Get ready for *The Rodeo!*

Wholesale prices on all Remaining Fall Items.

Laundry & Dry Cleaning Now accepted for Delivery to Brownfield on Monday, returning here each Thursday PM

Brownfield Hwy. (456-7112) Plains, TX



Femme Friends



HOWDY!

By: *Kathy Adair*



ENJOYING SUMMER DAYS WITH FAMILY

Memories of eating popsicles, running through the sprinkler, and picking wild strawberries fill my mind of summer days. These simple, spontaneous, close to home activities are cherished most.

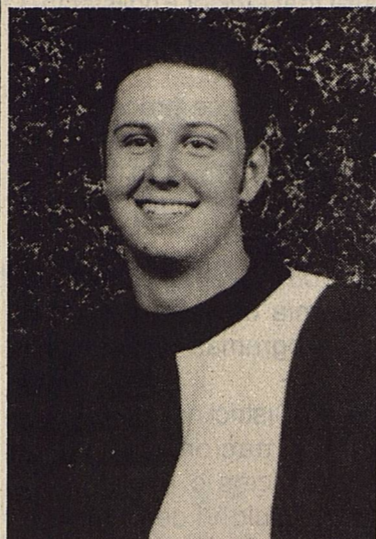
Would you like to have more memorable days than hectic days this summer? Slowing down your busy pace involves loosening up on routines, and making choices about structured activities. Ask each family member what they enjoy about summer. Then plan summer activities that reflect your family's interests. Be sure and leave plenty of unplanned time for just hanging out with your family around home.

Here are a few ideas to keep on hand to spur your imagination:

- Blankets on the lawn can provide the center for many activities. An instant picnic, laying on your back relaxing while your toddlers play with toys, a place to enjoy stories or listen to the evening sounds.
- Tents become forts. A great camping trip can take place in your own backyard.
- Play games. Infants and toddlers love to play with balls, and bubbles. Preschoolers enjoy hide-and-seek, Frisbee, and t-ball. Think of outdoor games you played as a child. Build an obstacle course. Get neighbors involved in a giant game of cops-and-robbers, or team children and parents up for a mini-scamper hunt.
- Play with water. Sprinklers, swimming pools, water balloons, washing the car, watering the plants -- anything to be in or near the water.
- Spontaneous gatherings. Invite neighbors over to share a meal. Each family brings their own food or something to share. Keep it simple and focus on conversation and good company.
- Take a walk or fly a kite.
- Make a sidewalk chalk picture.

It is easy to let our sense of urgency about an over-scheduled life prevent us from taking some time to enjoy our children. This summer let yourself relax and enjoy the lazy days of summer!

Local Honored By SPC



Cleave Bearden, son of Neal and Alice Bearden of Plains and Sherry Smith of Houston has been named to the Dean's Honor List for the Spring 1996 semester at South Plains College.

He was selected as Who's Who among American College students.

Thought For the Week

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.

Senior Citizens Corner

July 4--one of our most important Holidays is just around the corner. The Center will be closed that day, but everyone is urged to get out and participate in the many activities. Since the nice showers, we can hear a few fire crackers go bang. A nice Holiday to everyone!

Recent visitors at the Center were: Mr. & Mrs. Ryan, Chas Bengel, Wayne & Bertie Couch, and Sandra's daughter. Also June Hannanan and Smokey Altman have been at the Center a time or two. Welcome all visitors and urge you to come back anytime.

Dates to remember: Wed., July 3, Line Dancing, 9:45 a.m. and Blood Pressure check at 11 a.m. Fri., July 5, Line Dancing, 9:45 a.m. and Gale Ballow at 11 a.m.

Our tables are looking really festive, thanks to Vickie and Wanda's effort.

A big wish for a safe and happy 4th of July holiday.

See you next week, Smitty

Pierce - Fillingim United

Darcy Lee Pierce and Troy Brandon Fillingim were united in marriage on Saturday, June 15, 1996 at 7:00 p.m. in the First United Methodist Church in Plains, Texas. Rev. Rick Doyle, Pastor, officiated the double ring ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Joe & Joyce Pierce of Plains. Grandparents of the bride are James & Jerry Warren and Gilbert & Lela Fay Pierce and the late Elsie Pierce of Plains.

The groom is the son of Steve and G.G. Fillingim of New Home. Grandparents of the groom are Mr. & Mrs. J.R. Fillingim and Mr. & Mrs. Gene McKae of Lubbock.

The bride escorted by her father choose an elegant gown of white Italian satin by the designers of Venus Bridal Gowns. The off the shoulder gown had a soft V-neckline with long sleeves. All were richly embellished with imported Alecon lace. The soft basque waistline allowed the full ball gown to fall gracefully to the floor and sweep into a semi-cathedral train. Appliques of beaded Alecon lace cascaded from the waistline down the sides and back. The hemline was also finished with beaded Alecon lace. To compliment her ensemble she chose a crown of Alecon lace finished with a soft pouff and fingertip veiling.

The bride carried a European Bouquet holding Casablanca Lilies, white and Lady Di Roses accented with Queen Anne's Lace and Lisianthus with touches of greenery throughout the bouquet. For "Something Old," the bride used two lace handkerchiefs belonging to her maternal and paternal grandmothers.

The groom was attired in a black double breasted tuxedo a white shirt and a white brocaded vest and bow tie. He had a white rose boutonniere accented with baby's breath and fern.

The maid of honor was Laci Naylor of Odessa, cousin of the bride. Bridesmaids were Jennifer Day and Rhonda Cowart, both of Lubbock, Tyler Willis of Brownfield and Jr. bridesmaid was Chelsea Blount of Plains. For her bridesmaids she chose cadet blue shantung dresses from the House of Bianchi. The floor length straight sheath dress featured an off the shoulder portrait collar overlaid with white imported Venice lace. The Jr. bridesmaid wore a cotton floral print tea length dress, styled like the bridesmaids dresses.

They carried loose hand tied arm bouquets filled with lilies, roses, cornflowers, Queen Anne's lace and were accented with sheer white ribbon.

The best man was Scott Fillingim of Lubbock, brother of the groom. Groomsmen were Marte Pierce of Plains, Blaine Fillingim of New Home, Casey Rowlin of Meadow and Blake Fillingim of New Home. The groom's attendants wore black single breasted tuxedos. Their cummerbunds and bow ties were cadet blue complimenting the bridesmaids dresses.

The flower girl was Jordan Warren of Littlefield. She wore a cotton floral print tea length dress. The short puffed sleeves and hemline of the full gathered skirt were edged with white Venice lace and



accented with white silk tea roses. She carried a white basket embellished with white silk roses and ribbon filled with white rose petals.

Guests were greeted and registered by Amy Naylor of Lubbock, cousin of the bride. The registry table featured a white gazebo that was given to the bride by her maternal grandmother. It was intertwined with star gazer lilies, English ivy and white sheer ribbon. The couples picture was displayed by a white orchid along with the brides registry book.

Prelude selections were played as guests were seated and Kaci Willis and Blake Fillingim lit the candles. Kaci Willis wore a dress that matched the Jr. bridesmaid and flower girls.

The parents and their sons lit the family tapers as Jamie Hillhouse sang "Wind Beneath My Wings." After the mothers were seated, Brad McWhirter sang "Just Look At You Girl." Other special music included "I Cross My Heart" and "The Lord's Prayer" also sung by McWhirter.

The couple exchanged vows under a large brass archway, built by the brides' father. The archway was flanked by two brass arched candelabras on either side holding white tapers. The altar, archway and pews were adorned with cascading English ivy and baby's breath.

A reception and dance was held in the Plains Community Building following the ceremony. The bride's portrait, posing in her grand dad's cotton field, was displayed on a brass easel at the entrance. The entire building was transformed into a scenic garden as English ivy cascaded from the top of white lattice screens providing a background behind the bride and grooms table. Three 60" round tables were layered with white satin moree cloths. The outer tables were then layered with cadet blue cloths. The bride's cake served as the centerpiece which consisted of four individual cakes placed on clear columns at varied heights. The all white cake had a basket weave design with a fresh

spring floral arrangement on top of each layer. The flowers consisted of lilies, Lady Di roses, freesia and corn flowers. English ivy and tea lights were sprayed throughout the four levels complementing the floral arrangements. Silver and crystal appointments were used on the brides table. Serving at the brides table were Jo Lena Wall and Monica Flores.

The groom's table featured three brass Verde candle holders with glass globes that were intertwined with English ivy and lace. The three layered chocolate cake also had a basket weave design and was draped with chocolate covered strawberries. Gold appointments were used on the groom's table along with a Precious Moments porcelain figurine given to the couple from special friends. Serving at the groom's table were Kara Askew, Brook Fillingim, and Kristen Hatchett.

A 60" round table covered with a floor length white cloth was laden with a large fruit cascade, tiered with carved watermelon and canteloupe baskets. This sculpture served as the centerpiece from which hors d'oeuvres and wedding punch were served. Peach geraniums in white wicker baskets were scattered on tables with floor length white cloths which added to the entire garden scene.

Darcy is a 1993 graduate of Plains High School and is attending South Plains College where she plans to enter nursing school in the spring.

Troy is a 1994 graduate of New Home High School. He is carrying on the family tradition of cotton farming.

Following a honeymoon trip to Negril, Jamaica, the couple will reside in New Home.



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From The Hack



Our intrepid bicycling friend from Lovington, 65 year old Hop Graham, should be somewhere in the state of Alabama if you read this Wednesday. His daily column and progress report, sent daily from his lap top computer over phone lines to the Lovington Leader makes interesting reading..... I am still among the doubting Thomas ranks, however..... I still question if the man had all his faculties operating when he planned this 1500 mile bike trip. A portion of one of his daily transcript reads, "Taking stock of how things have gone so far, I would say, first, that it is a bigger job than I expected. Andy and I consume most of the day just traveling. I was thinking half to two thirds of the day when planning this trip. But looking at the positive side, the rewards are far greater than I had ever imagined they could be. People have absolutely welcomed us with open arms. We are overwhelmed with the hospitality shown us. It's everywhere". On a less positive side, Hop reported a couple days ago his son Andy, who joined him in Texarkana for the 1,500 mile trip, had to drop out at Winona, Mississippi. He was experiencing pain and numbness in his wrists and hands. The father-son duo changed handle bars, but the malady persisted. Andy consulted Physicians for two opinions, and both times was told he should quit the trip, before serious and permanent nerve damage occurred.

years, it will be a shame if he doesn't feel up to reaching his final destination Brunswick, Georgia.

Had a novel experience while attending the monthly Chamber of Commerce meeting Tuesday morning. The group gathered at the new Cowboy Restaurant, which as you know specializes in Mexican food. I made the mistake of ordering a Mexican style omelet. Yes, I did read on the menu it contained onions and Jalapeno peppers. No, I did not read the peppers were the Ala Purgatory variety. Pretty tasty, at first. Then I became aware my vision seemed blurry. My first thought was, gasp, cataracts. Nothing that serious. My head was sweating so profusely the stuff was running into my eyes. My sweat was even hot! I consumed the ice water of four other members, and the dregs of three cups of cold coffee.

Chamber member Toni Jones exhibited a cruel streak I wasn't aware she possessed. She laughed hysterically at my discomfort. It was apparent all the others at the meeting also found this amusing, save David Bunch, who had foolishly ordered the same plate of cruel and unusual punishment. When the meeting was finally over and we lined up with the cashier, I saw two waitresses armed with large mops hard at work where Bunch and I sat, swabbing up at least a gallon or so of still steaming sweat.

Graham's report of this event reflected his disappointment at losing his companion, and he sounded pretty down in the mouth. As enthused as he was when planning the trip, something he had wanted to do so many

We needn't go into details about the remainder of the day for the two of us.

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Plains Independent School District ofrece programas vocacionales en Agricultura, Economia de Casa, y Artes Industriales. La admision a estos programas se basa en necesidad, interes, e habilidad. Es norma de Plains Independent School District no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, en sus programas, servicios o actividades vocacionales, tal como lo requieren el Titulo VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, segun enmienda; el Titulo IX de las Enmiendas en la Educacion, de 1972, y la Seccion 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitacion de 1973, segun enmienda. De Plains Independent School District tomara las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso de la lengua ingles no sea un obstaculo para la admision y participacion en todas las programas educativos y vocacionales. Para informacion sobre sus derechos o procedimientos para quejas, comuniquese con el Coordinador del Titulo IX y el Coordinador de la Seccion 504, Pete Simmons, Plains I.S.D., P.O. Box 479, Plains, TX, 79355, o telephono 806-456-7401.

Daughter Of Former Resident To Dance In Olympics



Amanda Suzanne Looney, 17, the daughter of Plains High, and is the brother of Sara Guetersloh. Amanda has been studying dance eleven years. She was one of some 13,000 performers auditioning for roles in the Olympic programs. She is a member of the Gwinnett Dance Ensemble. Her father Dennis is a former resident of Plains.

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Keeping an eye on Texas

Drought snuffs 4th of July bang

The Texas fireworks industry grosses more than \$50 million a year, employing approximately 15,000. Due to increased fire hazards because of the drought, consumer aerial fireworks in 36 counties have been banned. The ban does not affect public fireworks displays.

Counties affected by fireworks ban:

Aransas	Gray	Oldham	Victoria
Archer	Guadalupe	Randall	Walker
Armstrong	Harris	Reeves	Wharton
Austin	Hemphill	San Jacinto	Winkler
Bee	Henderson	Uvalde	
Brazoria	Houston		
Crockett	Howard		
Deaf Smith	Hutchinson		
El Paso	Jackson		
Ellis	Jeff Davis		
Foard	Martin		
Fort Bend	Matagorda		
Galveston	Midland		

SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Texas Pyrotechnic Association and Office of the Governor.

Corsicana was the first Texas city to be supplied with natural gas.

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