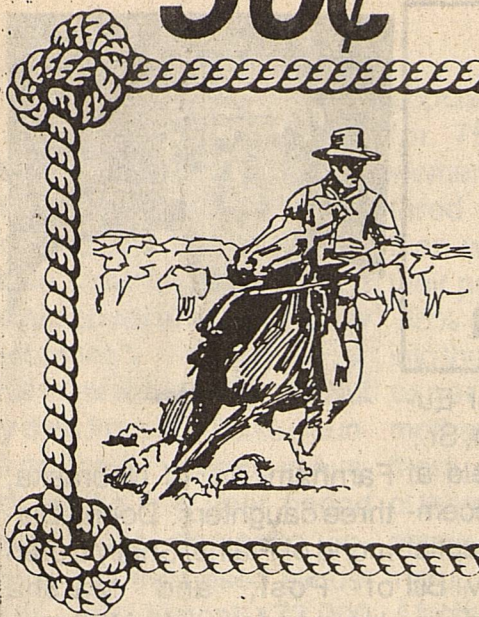


50¢

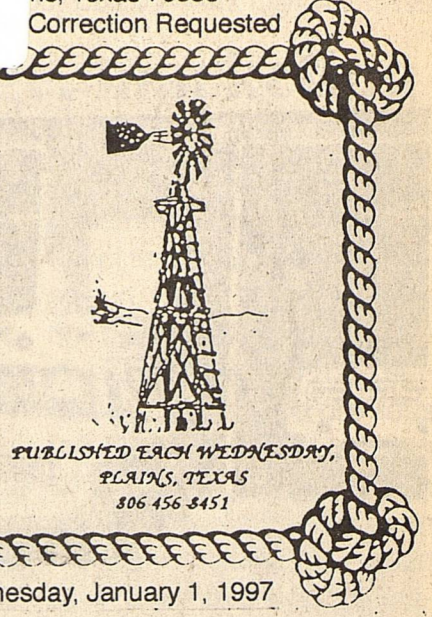
BULK RATE
US POSTAGE PD.
PLAINS, TX
PERMIT #21

BAZE, BOOKBINDING
514 W 7TH AVE
AMARILLO, TX 79101 0514

Cowboy Country News
P. O. Box 179
Plains, Texas 79355
Correction Requested



Cowboy Country News



Volume III, Issue 18, Wednesday, January 1, 1997

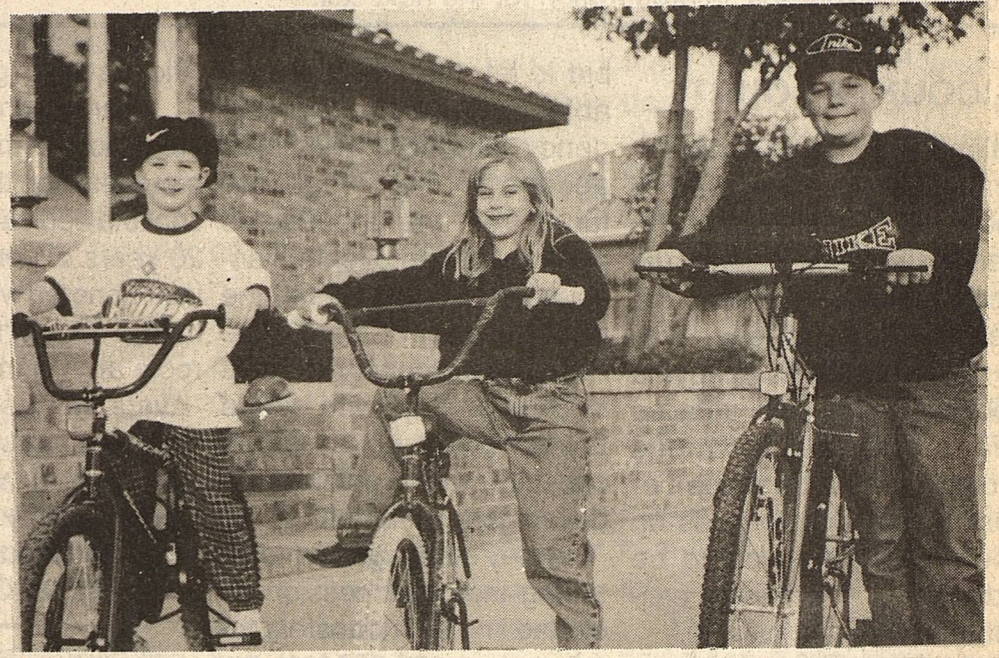
Here Are Some Of The Reasons Kids Love Christmas & Santa's Visit



Sometimes it's hard for Santa to stuff everything in his sleigh, but he managed to bring this Go-Cart to Justin Vasquez, 8, son of Paul & Gloria Vasquez.



Bethany Phipps, 9, from Welch, shown trying out her new Pogo Stick under her cousin Evan Cain's eye, while visiting family December 27.



Santa's sleigh, always crowded, was nearly overloaded with these new bikes belonging to, L-R, Chase Guetersloh, M'Leah McKenzie, & Rodney Guetersloh, proudly showing their new wheels.

Local Resident Dies In Fall Of Radio Tower

Eugene Farnham, 58, was killed Thursday afternoon, December 26, when the CB radio tower he was working on collapsed and fell to the ground. The accident occurred about 5 p.m., at the farm home of Rufus and Nell Brian on the stateline. It was reported Farnham was adding an extension to the top of the tower to extend its height to about fifty feet. He was attaching a guywire to the tower at about the height of 35 feet when the base of the aluminum tower collapsed. He was wearing a safety belt at the time of the collapse, and was unable to jump from the falling tower. Farnham was a veteran employee of the State Highway Department maintenance office here. He was a heavy equipment operator III and maintenance technician IV, with over 27 years service with the Department.

Domestic Violence... it hurts all of us

Costs amount to more than tax dollars
When you think of crime, what comes to mind first; Murder, armed robbery, arson, illegal drug marketing, burglary, youth gangs? All of these categories are major problems in our society, but what is the most prevalent form of criminal activity, the fastest growing segment of serious problems facing our legal and justice systems? Domestic violence wins that dubious distinction. Violent acts of physical and mental abuse occurring most often in the home, and most often committed by males against females, or children. Richard Clark, Criminal District Attorney, says some 30 to 40 percent of his entire case load is devoted to prosecuting domestic violence offenders. He reported the entire Judicial system is concerned with the escalating number of cases. He attributes the problem to three common factors, drug and alcohol abuse, the breakup of families, and the public's growing tolerance for violence, as witnessed in the movies, on TV and in literature. Clark said, "The offending male views violence as a way of controlling his women, whether they are wife, girl friend or daughter. Many males tend to show macho characteristics, and many Spanish speaking offenders go one step further, to the machismo level". Clark said Judges in Justice of Peace Courts and District Courts, and Criminal District Attorneys are all filing more protective orders against offenders. "We are telling these people, if you violate terms of the order, we will put you in jail. The old 80-20 rule can apply to family violence

Turn to Page 3, 'VIOLENCE'

County Court to avert pool closing in Denver City

In Monday's session of Commissioner's Court, Pct. Two Commissioner J. R. Slentz reported he had received a letter from Sanitarian Jimmy Tercero, with the South Plains Health District. The letter outlined serious problems with the County swimming pool in Moorehead park, Denver City, and advising Slentz the pool would not be allowed to open this summer if extensive structural and plumbing repairs were not made.

Turn to Page 2, 'COUNTY COURT'

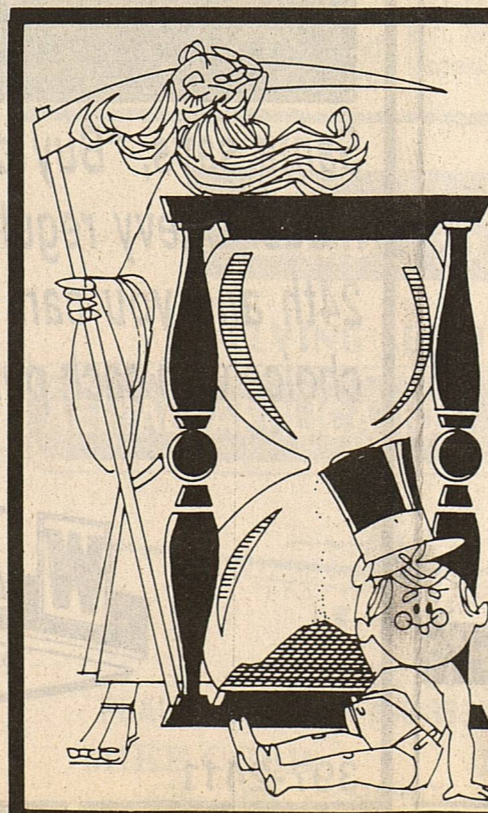
IRS tax ruling may be costly for many farmers

With farm income up 19 percent from the average of the last six years and fixed payments going to farmers as provided in the 1996 farm bill, the IRS recently decided farmers should pay more taxes. "Not taking into account that farm program payments have been reduced by more than 50 percent over the next seven years, IRS took it upon themselves to issue a new interpretation of an old tax law that has always allowed farmers to use various deferred pricing and payment of commodity sales as a means of transferring tax liability into the following tax year," said Dan Shaw, National Grain Sorghum Producers Washington Representative. The practice of deferring income taxes has been a common risk management tool for many farmers who want

to protect their farm income in a low income year. Other farmers are gambling a Republican controlled Congress will change the tax code and lower tax rates in 1997. IRS took both of the above situations into consideration and decided on a course of action that would cancel the tax deferral provision, and therefore make due the lion's share of these taxes in 1996. Shaw said in October, the IRS used a 1995 technical advice memorandum as authorization to treat deferred payments as income in the year that the contract to sell was signed - not when the actual income from the sale was received. Court cases in Washington and Iowa have recently upheld the IRS actions. This tax rate is 26% and payable in the 1996 tax year. The sale principal is still

subject to additional tax liability which may accrue in 1997 depending on the calculation of regular income taxes due then. These rulings were at the regional levels and not an IRS-wide ruling from the IRS Washington D.C. office. These are regional pursuits of cases against farmers, but these rulings are spreading to other regions and states, and IRS is going back three years in most cases," Shaw said. "We are extremely concerned about the interest, penalties and legal and accounting fees, not to mention the extra taxes, that will undoubtedly result from this recent interpretation". Deferred tax liability has been practiced by farmers for

Turn to Page 2, 'TAX RULING'



May each and every Reader, Subscriber, Friend and Neighbor Have a Bright, Happy, and Prosperous NEW YEAR!!!

Cowboy Country News

Holly and Gary Dyer





Fires are never good news, especially during the Christmas Holidays. The Plains Volunteer Fire Department responded to a call about noon Saturday, December 28. Fortunately, the blaze was a small grass fire about four miles west on U.S. 82, and the crew quickly had it under control. The photo shows the volunteers returning and servicing the department vehicles, in preparation for the next call.

From Page 1,
'COUNTY COURT'

Slentz said he had made a preliminary assessment of the repairs, and was of the opinion the most feasible and economical plan to keep the heavily used pool open was to raze the main building and replace it. He said detailed plans and specifications would have to be made before advertising for bids on the construction could be advertised. Preliminary estimates indicate a new building will cost \$50 to \$60 thousand dollars.

Slentz reported he thought Precinct Two employees could perform the repairs to the pool itself, and the extensive drainage and plumbing repairs. The entire project should cost some \$100 thousand, or less.

Following considerable discussion, and upon the advice of County Auditor Hazel Lowrey, the Court took no official action on the project, but advised Slentz to proceed with tearing the old building down. Sometime after the first of the year, when plans are complete, bids for the project will be advertised. When the

bid is let, the Court will be able to declare an emergency situation, and have access to the necessary funds from the unbudgeted permanent Improvement account. The Court agreed the pool is one of the more heavily used county facilities in Denver City, with Judge Brewer noting it is filled to capacity most every summer day in good weather.

The only other agenda items during the court session included line item transfers totaling almost \$6,000 from the general fund to cover departmental anticipated expenditures thru December 31, 1996.

County bills and part time salaries totaling \$52,742 were approved for payment. Pct. Four Commissioner Macky McWhirter asked approval to pre-pay Caterpillar Financial Services \$40,000, with surplus funds for this year from his precinct, which was approved.

Prior to adjourning the session, Judge Brewer noted this would be the final court appearance of Pct. One Commissioner John Avara, whose retirement becomes

official at midnight December 31. Avara expressed his appreciation to the other court members for their cooperation and dedication during his 20 years of service. He was later honored with a reception in the Courthouse coffee room at 11 a.m.

Avara will be replaced by Woody Lindsey upon his swearing in, with all other elected county officials, at 10 a.m. Wednesday, January 1 in the District Court room.

It happened in Texas - in January

- Jan. 14, 1818-Charles Lallemand arrived in Galveston to establish French colony in Texas.
- Jan. 25, 1839-Lone Star Flag adopted by 3rd Congress of Republic of Texas.
- Jan. 26, 1839-Homestead Act passed. Congress appropriated 3 leagues of land in each county to be set aside for establishing public school system.
- Jan. .2, 1856-Camp Cooper established on Clear Fork of Brazos River, Throckmorton County, to protect reservation Indians there.
- Jan. 21, 1861-Legislature convenes to debate secession from Union.
- Jan. 10, 1901-Lucas gusher blows in at Spindletop, setting off Texas oil boom

From Page 1,
'TAX RULING'

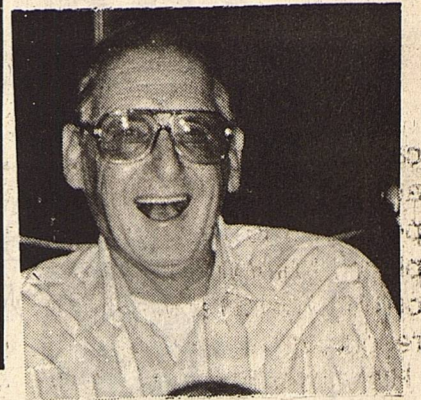
years, and has become a standard operation for farm management. The option's elimination is an injustice to those who have historically depended on this tax provision. Shaw added, "keep in mind, this is not a new law; It is an IRS interpretation of existing law and regulations".

Washington state potato farmers have just filed suit against IRS on this matter, and other challenges are bound to follow. If IRS prevails, it is very likely they will then try to eliminate the provisions that allow farmers to purchase inputs such as seed and fertilizer in one year to be used in crop production another year.

Various Congressional leaders are meeting with agricultural groups to work out legislation which would disallow the IRS interpretation. Shaw said "this matter will likely come to a head early in the 105th session of Congress" and urges all commodity groups to have their members immediately contact their respective Congressmen and Senators. He added, "Urban members of Congress, who don't understand farming and need more resources for social programs have different ideas; Therefore it is important we gather all the support we can as soon as possible".

Information for this article is from the December Issue of GRAIN SORGHUM NEWS, a publication of the National Grain Sorghum Producers Assn.

Services held for Eugene Farnham



Funeral services for Eugene "Footsie" Farnham, Sr., 58, of Plains, were held at 2:00 P.M., Monday, December 30, 1996, at First Baptist Church of Plains. Rev. Bill Wright, pastor, officiated. Interment was in Plains Cemetery under direction of Connally Funeral Home; the body lay in state at the Plains Memorial Chapel in Plains.

Mr. Farnham passed away Thursday, December 26, 1996, in rural Yoakum County as the result of an accident.

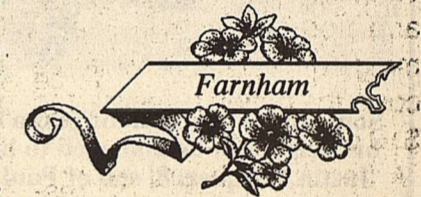
He was born October 3, 1938, in Bath, Maine, to Dean H. Farnham and the former Loraine Dealing. He moved to Plains and Texas in 1958 from Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. On March 6, 1993, he married Carole Veazie in Plains.

"Footsie" had worked for the Texas Highway Department for 27 years in Plains. He was also a member of the Plains Volunteer Fire Department. He enjoyed being a CB operator, and his "handle" was "Codfish." He had been a member of the National Guard.

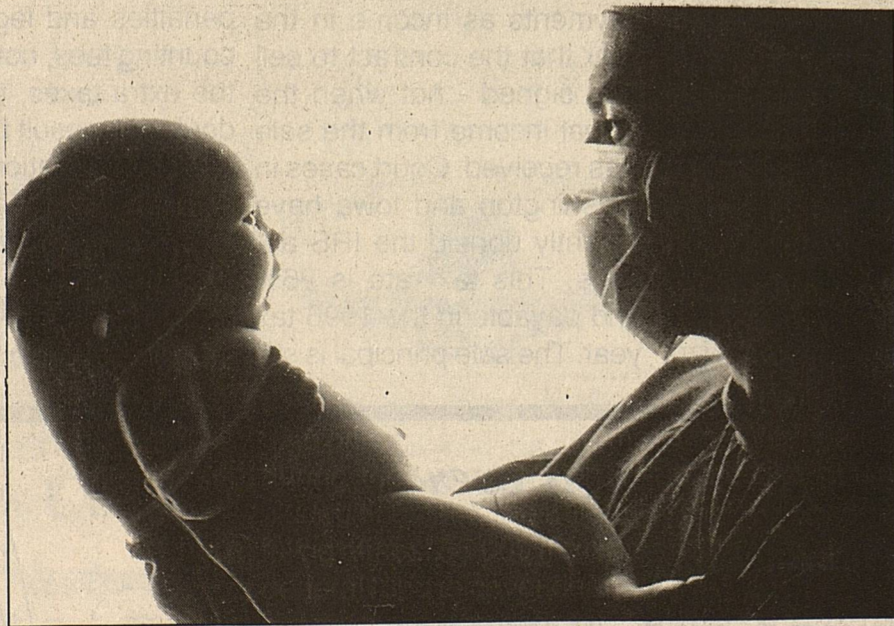
Mr. Farnham is survived by his wife of the family home; a son, Eugene A.

Farnham, Jr., of Nebraska; three daughters: Donna Diamond of Plains, Shelly Duran of Post, and Marsha Hernandez of Midland. There are also two stepsons: Frank Wright, Jr. of Hawaii; Howard Wright of Portland, Maine; and two stepdaughters: Peggy Bouchei of Kissimmee, Florida, and Cindy Gregoire of Louiston, Maine. Other survivors include his sisters: Diane Laughman of Mountain Prairie, Ohio; Darien Saucie of Topshon, Maine; Leslie of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Jane Deloucky of Pine Post, Florida; seven grandchildren, and four step-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were: L.C. Moore, Elbert Estep, Gene Phillips, James Wright, Chow Jiminez, and David Huerta. Honorary Pallbearers were the other employees of the local Highway Department and James Diamond.



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.

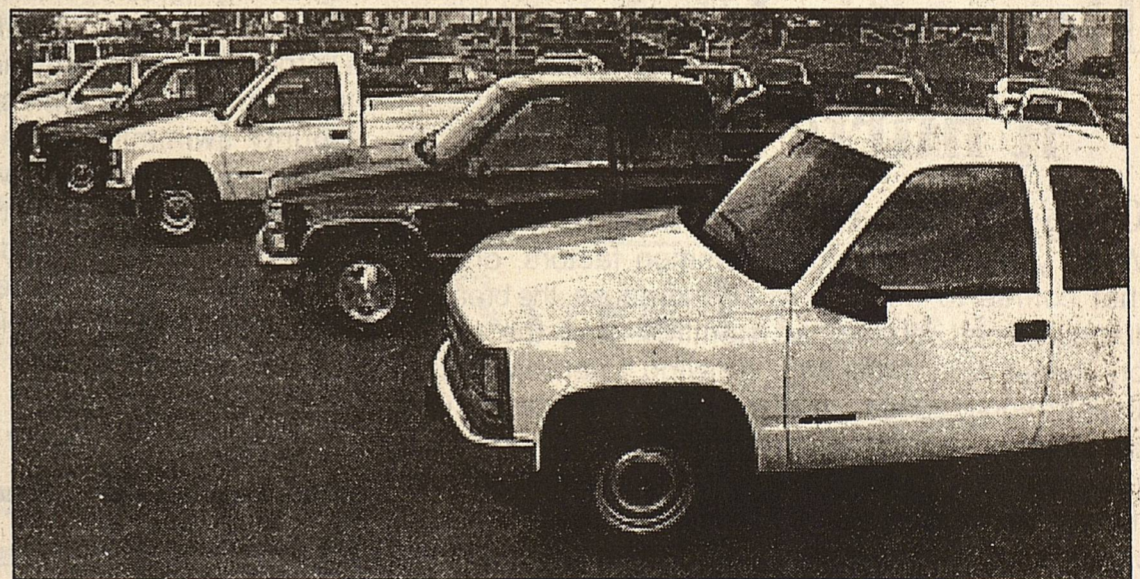
Yoakum County Hospital

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



Santa Shops Here!

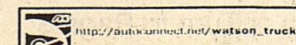
We've Made A List And Checked It Twice. There's No Mistake On These '97 Model Chevy Extended Cab Cheyenne Pick-Ups!



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

From Page 1, 'VIOLENCE'

cases; 80% of our problems are caused by 20% of the people, and the trend has placed tremendous demand on our physical and monetary resources".

His view is further borne out by data from the Texas Council on Family Violence in Austin. In the five year period since 1991, domestic violence has increased almost 30%, with almost 173,000 incidents reported in 1995. There is no way to estimate the number of cases of violent abuse not reported to authorities. At the end of that year, almost 30,000 victims were housed in protective sites.

In 92% of all domestic violence incidents, these crimes are committed by men against women, and 36% of all women murdered in this state were killed by their intimate male partners.

A report from the U.S. Surgeon General's office estimates two to four million women are physically abused annually, and almost 613,000 of these victims are from Texas. Medical expenses, police and court costs, shelters and foster care, sick leave absenteeism and non-productivity stemming from domestic violence costs the nation an estimated \$10 billion annually.

A frequently heard expression concerning abused and battered women is, "Why do they put up with it, why don't they just leave" the abuser. Facts show leaving the abusive situation does not guarantee safety for battered women and their children. Abusive men often escalate violence to recapture their women and children. Divorced or separated women compose 7% of the U.S.

population, yet they account for 75% of all battered women, and report being battered 14 times more often than women still living with their partners.

45% of lawbreakers getting into the criminal justice system experienced seeing their mothers abused by their fathers, and almost one fourth of them experienced physical abuse when they were growing up.

A frightening aspect of domestic violence, along with its growth rate, is the damage it does to those abused and other family members. Damage done to the battered is not solely physical; The very thought of continued abuse produces mental and emotional scars which can last lifetimes.

One program being used to combat the growth of family violence is the Batterer's Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP), a joint effort of the South Plains Women's Protective Services, and Mental Health and Mental Resources organizations. Attending and successfully completing BIPP is often used in County and District Court as a requirement of deferred jail sentencing and probation. Criminal District Attorney Clark thinks BIPP is an important tool in reducing domestic violence. He also favors tougher sentencing whenever possible. He said family violence often leads to more than a battered woman; The one murder case pending in his files is a direct result of a domestic violence occurrence.

He said Peace Officers detest responding to family violence scenes. "There is almost always alcohol or illegal drugs involved, and when you add the other ingredient, they have a very volatile situation to deal with".

'Mountain Men' were early explorers of far west

one of the most colorful, resourceful and fearless characters from our early American history was the mountain man, more specifically, the beaver trappers. They were among the first whitemen to see the sprawling west in the very early 1800's, and great numbers of them sought beaver in the mountainous area of the Rio Grande River in what was then part of Spain's territories in now New Mexico and southern Colorado. Paul Horgan describes these men in "GREAT RIVER-The Rio Grande in North American History";

"The mountain man was almost Indian-colored from exposure to weather. His hair hung upon his shoulders and he was bearded. His clothes were of buckskin, fringed at the seams. The jacket sometimes reached to his knees, and he wore moccasins of deer or buffalo leather. His leather belt held two flintlock pistols, his knife for skinning or scalping, and his shingling hatchet. Over one shoulder hung his bullet pouch, over the other his powder horn. Attached to these were his bullet mould, barrel wiper and an awl for working leather. He clanked when he moved, for he also carried five or six traps, and his rifle, the handmade Hawken from St. Louis with a 36 inch barrel. Peering out from under his low crowned hat of rough wool, he was an American original, as hard as the hardest thing that could happen to him, short of death.

"Alone, or with a companion or small party, he packed his supplies on two horses, and riding a third, left Taos for the mountains in the autumn. He was wary of Indians, grizzly bears and other trapping parties. Nobody could stake a claim on hunting country, and every trapper party competed against every other. He sought the wildest country he could where he would be most free from rivalry. "If two worked as a pair, they looked for a concealed place to make camp, near beaver water. If they worked a mountain lake or slow flowing stream, they set to work hacking out a cottonwood canoe. When they were sure of beavers, they laid traps two or three inches underwater on the slope of the shore, and a little removed, fixed a pole in deep mud and chained the trap to it. They dipped a twig in castorium, the beaver's own secretion that would be his bait, and hung the twig between the open jaws of the trap, about four inches out of the water.

"Drawn by the scent at night, the beaver would raise his muzzle to inhale, his hindquarters went lower in the water and the trap seized him. In the morn-



ing, the trappers coasted by their traps and removed their drowned catch.

"All through the winter fast months the men worked, moving from one beaver site to another, fording streams filled with ice. A trap weighed about five pounds plus its five foot chain and a full grown beaver weighed 30 to 40 pounds. The catch was an awkward burden to carry to camp for skinning. The pelt was removed, and stretched on a willow frame, the flesh they cooked by hanging before a fire, the broad flat tail liked best of all.

As the men's pile of pelts grew through the season, a trapper could take about 400 pelts, if they weren't destroyed by animals, or stolen by Indians. If he could secret them from the Mexican authorities and get them to market, probably in St. Louis, they would be worth about \$2000.

"For over three decades the trapping trade flourished and at it's height, Abiquiu on the Chama River and Taos on the Rio Grande had an annual trade worth \$200,000"

By the 1850's demand for beaver fur ceased, with imports of silk from China becoming the material of choice for hats. The mountain man also ceased to exist.

Top 20 enterprises

Ranked by total revenue, 1994

Organization	Revenue in billions
1 General Motors	\$155.0
2 Ford Motor	128.4
3 Exxon	101.5
4 STATE OF CALIFORNIA	89.8
5 Wal-Mart Stores	83.4
6 AT&T	75.1
7 STATE OF NEW YORK	66.6
8 General Electric	64.7
9 IBM	64.1
10 Mobil	59.6
11 Sears Roebuck	54.6
12 Philip Morris	53.8
13 Chrysler	52.2
14 NEW YORK CITY	39.5
15 State Farm Group	38.9
16 STATE OF TEXAS	38.0
17 Prudential Insurance	36.9
18 E. I. DuPont de Nemours	35.0
19 Kmart	34.3
20 Texaco	33.8

With the state's revenue of \$38 billion, Texas' government is the 16th largest enterprise in the U.S.

Milo acreage, marketing forecast for 1997

Record high sorghum and feedgrain prices over the past twelve months have left an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of U.S. sorghum producers. Never before in history have sorghum producers been offered so much for their product.

Market advisors and analysts throughout the industry were touting that a new era in agriculture was dawning. Prices for grain would be defined by a new, higher trading range as we neared the 21st century. Unfortunately, this grandiose scenario collapsed faster than it was constructed.

A massive effort by not only U.S. producers but world producers as well to increase acres and subsequently production was the main cause for sorghum prices to crumble so quickly.

It is estimated that U.S. corn production will rise by 26 percent, while sorghum production is estimated to rise a whopping 78 percent over 1995 levels. This, coupled with a two billion bushel increase in world corn production, a 25 percent increase in world feedgrain carryovers and larger competing feed supplies explains clearly why the 1996-97 outlook is so much different.

It appears that the trend towards increased acres is continuing. Southern Hemisphere winter wheat crops are presently being harvested with several countries, Australia and Argentina in particular, estimating record or near record production. Spring crops south of the equator are now being planted, with Brazil and Argentina expected to increase acreage based to record levels. This should be closely paralleled by large acreage bases in the United States and other Northern Hemisphere regions next spring.

In the United States in particular, two changes in

government policy will greatly affect feedgrain planted acreage in 1997. The new farm bill passed last year implements a program void of set-asides. Under the previous farm bills that U.S. producers are so familiar with, there would have very likely been a 5 percent set-aside based upon the current supply/demand situation in feedgrains. This 5 percent set-aside would have idled between 3 million and 4 million acres of corn, sorghum and barley base. Without it, it is obvious the producer will plant these acres to crop.

It is also becoming apparent that the modifications for the 1997 CRP program will pass, mostly intact. The changes proposed in the CRP, if passed, disqualify between 3 million and 7 million acres from re-entry. Of this, we project 1 million to 2 million of these acres will be planted to feedgrains.

Combining the two acreages, we expect that the new farm program will increase planted acres for feedgrains by 4 million to 6 million over the old program.

The philosophy of the new farm bill is to allow growers to produce as much as they desire, while the USDA tries to keep traditional demand lines intact and expand demand in growing markets, thus reducing any increased supplies that may arise because of aggressive planting. In theory this makes sense; however, the marketplace has yet to prove its validity in real market situations.

So how does one approach marketing the 1997 sorghum crop that is only a few months from planting? The only prudent approach each year is to have a disciplined marketing plan that utilizes a combination of forward contracting, futures and options strategies.

By Jack Robinson, Nov. issue of Grain Sorghum News

December Special!

10% off during December on our complete line of irrigation supplies! We offer complete pump service, pulling, setting, & repair - New Simmons, Berkley, Goulds, Sunbelt, Grundfos, American Turbine.

All types water well drilling, irrigation, domestic, livestock, test wells.

Check our lower prices on Reinke Pivot Systems. We will beat the price on other quotes... bring us your copy and see!



456-4925, 456-3845.

Drilling Company
WATER WELL DRILLING & PUMP SERVICE

Jim Warren, Sales Mgr. 456-7444



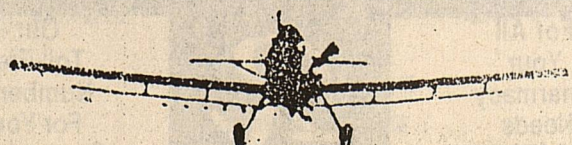
Cowboy Country News
P.O. Box 179
Plains, TX 79355
Office 806-456-8451
Fax 806-456-2010

Published each Wednesday, Plains, Texas
by Holly and Gary Dyer. Subscription Rate \$15.00 per year.
Call for Advertising Rates.

Two J-S

FLYING SERVICE

AERIAL APPLICATION SPECIALISTS

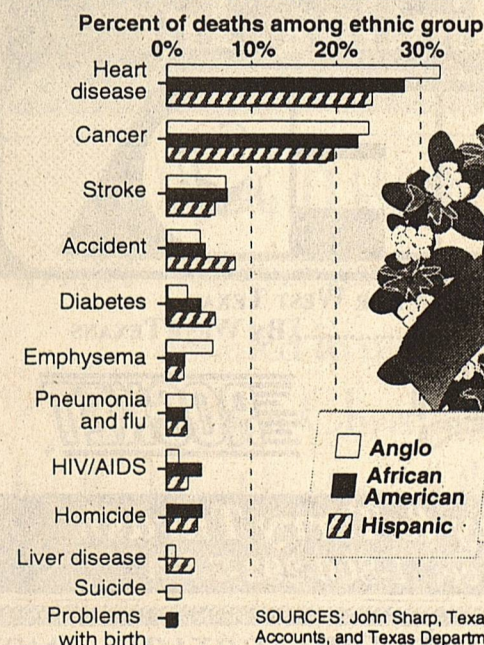


LUBBOCK 793-5004
PLAINS OFFICE --- 456-3580 OR 456-7436
MIKE COBB JACK COBB
456-7165 << HOME >> 456-7452
456-7511 << MOBILE >> 456-7512

Keeping an eye on Texas

Heart disease leading cause of death

More than 41,000 Texans died of heart disease in 1994.



SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, and Texas Department of Health.



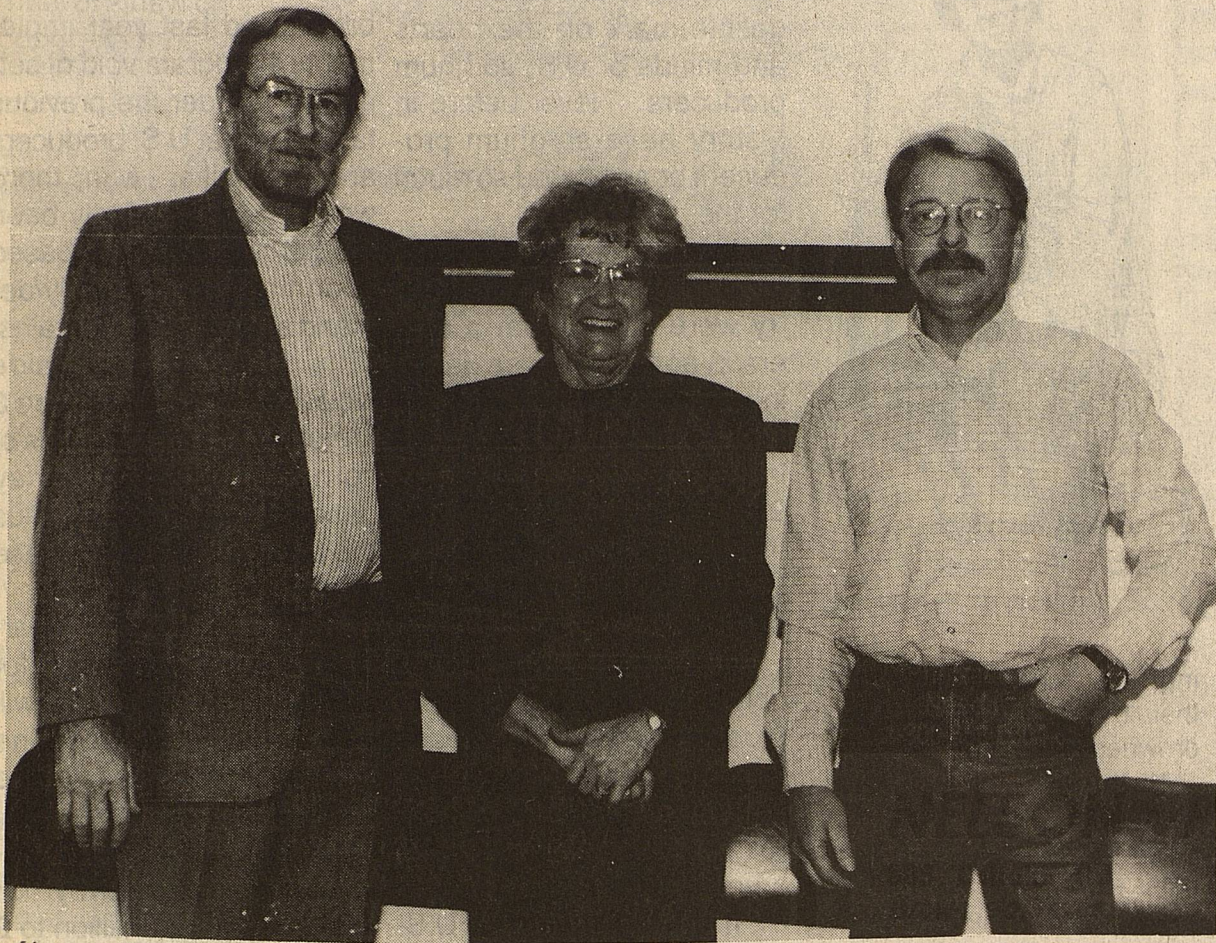
Insurance Plus

Announces Good Rates Available For Crop Hail, Many Basic And Specialty Crops...Coverage Available On Irrigation Systems and Farm Equipment

James F. (Jim) Brown

Off. 456-2788 Fax 456-2792
Home 592-3490 Mobile 456-7365

Retiring Commissioner has plans, thoughts of past twenty years.



L-R, Retiring Commissioner Avara, Mary Ann Avara, and Woody Lindsey, New Precinct 1 Commissioner as of January 1, 1997.

Retiring Precinct 1 County Commissioner John Avara says, "Twenty years in the job is enough, but they were among the very best twenty years of my life"

Avara and his wife Mary Ann came to Yoakum County in 1964, from the small community of East Afton in Dickens County. The Avara's were lifetime farmers until he retired from that vocation in 1985.

The couple have three children, son Rex of Amarillo, Jeff of Carrolton, and daughter Stacey of Hobbs, NM. The three have given John and Mary Ann eight grandchildren.

Avara said he had no specific plans after his official retirement at midnight, December 31, but was certain there would be time and plans for some travel, fishing and golf.

Asked what he considered some of the highlights of his twenty years in county government service, he said "A number of events come to

mind, but I suppose one of the more important I recall was the County's decision to keep the Hospital here

The addition of the new nine holes at the County Golf Course was another major project which I am proud of. I would have to stress again the last 20 years have been thoroughly enjoyable for me, a real learning experience. Like any other life experience, there were a few rough spots, but over all, it's been great, and I've been fortunate to work with so many fine people in this county".

Asked what he considered one of the major problems facing Yoakum County residents and elected officials, he said "Without a doubt it is hoping our tax revenues can stay up enough in the future years to maintain the county in the manner the people need and deserve. Like everyone else, I would like to see some alternative source of tax revenues other than

the petroleum industry".

Asked his thoughts about Woody Lindsey, the winner of the election to take Avara's place January 1, he said, "I am very well pleased with Woody's election. I know him well, and know he will work hard at the Commissioner's job, and I know he will always think first of the County's people in the decisions he has to make. I think the voters made a good choice."

Avara added, "I would just like to stress again, the past 20 years have been a great experience for me, but for my wife Mary Ann as well".

Texas Tomorrow Fund Sets New College Tuition Contract Rates

(Austin)--State Comptroller John Sharp announced that the Texas Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board has set new rates for parents and grandparents interested in purchasing prepaid college tuition contracts during *Texas Tomorrow Fund's* next enrollment period beginning November 18.

The *Texas Tomorrow Fund*, proposed by Sharp last year and approved by state lawmakers during the 1995 legislative session, allows families to lock in the costs of their children's future college tuition.

Sharp said the board determined that a prepaid tuition contract paid in a lump sum today for a Class of 2019 graduate will cost \$9,652.98. The new rate, which is about 16 percent higher than last year's reflects in part the rise of required fees at the state's public four-year universities.

In addition, Sharp said tuition and required fees rose 7 percent in Texas last year, making the *Texas Tomorrow Fund* even more important.

"When Sir Isaac Newton said that what goes up must come down, he obviously wasn't talking about college costs," Sharp said. "That's why this plan makes so much sense. It's a great way to beat tuition inflation."

The Comptroller noted that the *Texas Tomorrow Fund's* new rates cover more credit hours, with the four-year-public university plan expanded from 120 hours to 128 hours.

"Since our debut enrollment period last spring, more than 10,000 parents and

grandparents have contacted us to see about enrolling their children or grandchildren in the program," Comptroller John Sharp said. "They will be receiving information pamphlets and application forms within the next few weeks--in plenty of time for the next enrollment deadline."

Sharp said the *Texas Tomorrow Fund's* second sign-up period will run from November 18 of this year through February 18, 1997. During the program's first enrollment, more than 41,000 families took advantage of the pay-now, learn-later program.

In addition to the changes voted by the board, Sharp said, legislation recently passed by the U.S. Congress has clarified federal income tax issues relating to the *Texas Tomorrow Fund*, giving families who join the prepaid tuition plan tax deferments until their children or grandchildren enroll in college.

TELCOT REPORT

December 26, 1996

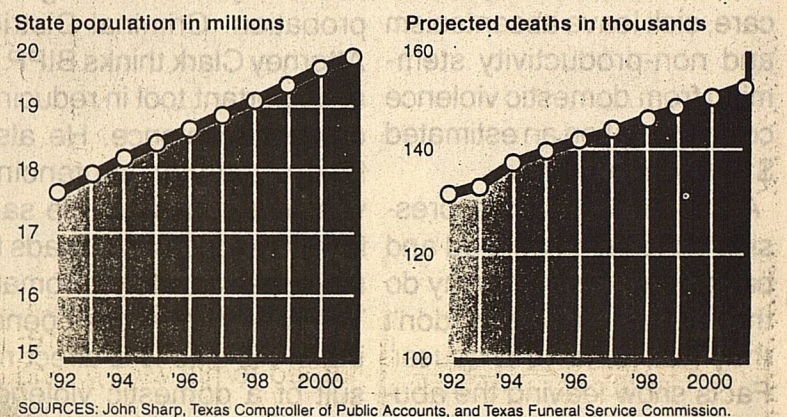
USDA's weekly U.S. export sales report was somewhat disappointing to most market observers as it was 17 percent below the previous week's figure, reflecting slow pre-holiday sales. USDA reported export sales of 1996-97 U.S. cotton increased a net 86,300 bales in the week ending December 19.

Closer to home, cotton stripping in the Rolling Plains of Texas is about 65 percent complete and is expected to run into late January in many areas. Some gins in the region are expected to continue operating into March, however, the majority of the output should be achieved by late January or early February. Harvesting now is virtually complete on the High Plains despite the fact that producers got off to a slow start this season. According to one analyst, even though many High Plains cotton fields still are dotted with modules waiting to be ginned, only a handful of gins will run into the new year.

Spot cotton sales were slow but steady this week due to the Christmas holiday. Sales on TELCOT for the four trading days ended December 26 totaled 42,388 bales, down from the previous week's figure of 73,285 bales. Average daily prices received by producers on the electronic marketing system ranged from 63.64 to 65.15 cents per pound.

Mortality outlook

As Texans age, projections are that the number of deaths will increase 16 percent from 1992 to 2001, outpacing projected population growth of 12.5 percent.



SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, and Texas Funeral Service Commission.

During McGinnis' Year-end Clearance Sale, Get
3.9% APR * Up To 60 MOS.
 On S-10, LUMINA, CAVALIER
ASTRO VAN (W.A.C.) !!
Limited time special financing ends
January 13th
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year!
 from
McGinnis Chevrolet
 and
Joe Ruiz, Sales Rep.
1-800-725-6261

Lalitos
FOR GREAT
MEXICAN FOOD
 Starting Sept. 29, we
 will close 3 pm
Sunday and reopen
Tuesday at 11 am
 806-456-2233

Brownfield Hwy. (456-7112) Plains, TX
Plains Depot
 Laundry & Dry Cleaning NOW accepted for
 Delivery to Brownfield on Monday,
 returning here each Thursday - PM
Fall Is In The Air.
Check Our Cooler
Weather Selections!

Keeping an eye on Texas
Retirees: Headin' to Texas
 Texas lures retirees with its relatively low cost of living, low taxes, and natural amenities. From 1985-90, the state posted a net gain of more than 8,000 retirees, most of whom settled in East Texas, the Hill Country, the Rio Grande Valley, and the Mountain West.

FROM: Top states of origin, 1985-90
TO: Favorite destinations

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

State Line
Insurance
 Multi-Peril Crop ** Crop Hail
Danny Bell
 Office-456-3521 Home-456-6325
 Mobile-456-7517

Your Business Is Appreciated

For All Your Pharmacy Needs
 1-800-658-9604

Rx

Our Toll-Free Number Is For Your Convenience

NELSON PERSCRIPTION Pharmacy
 805 Tahoka Rd.
 Brownfield, Texas

Associated Farmers Delinting, Inc.
AFD
 THE COTTON BRED FOR WEST TEXAS
By WEST TEXANS
EXPLORER **ROCKET**
Tommy & Terry Thrash
 office: 1-800-292-7333

G. B. AERIAL APPLICATION, INC.

David & Sarah Guetersloh
 Office/Home 456-6300
 Mobile Phones:
 David - 456-7536 Sarah - 456-7974



Femme Friends



HOWDY!

By: *Kathy Adair*



HOT BUTTON:

Newspapers and television news reports have been filled with information on air bags and children. Increased public awareness is crucial in preventing serious injury or even death as a result of air bags. The most important and immediate message is that children age 12 and under should always ride in the back seat, buckled up either in an appropriate child restraint or the lap/shoulder restraint system in the vehicle.

Drivers, particularly those who are short-statured, should wear safety belts with their seats pushed as far back as practical to still safely operate the vehicle. Short-statured drivers may find that pedal extenders are a viable option. The pedal extenders allow the driver to sit farther back.

The National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association can provide additional information on pedal extenders. The association represents members throughout the nation and Canada, as well as internationally, that provide the pedal extensions and may be reached at (800) 833-0427 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST.

The Passenger Safety Project with Texas Agricultural Extension Service reminds all of us that it is critical that the public understands that improved technology is only part of the air bag solution.

The most important actions will always be those taken by the individual such as making sure that all passengers are correctly buckled up, seats are pushed back and kids are buckled up in the back seat. For more information contact Passenger Safety Project, telephone (409) 845-3850.

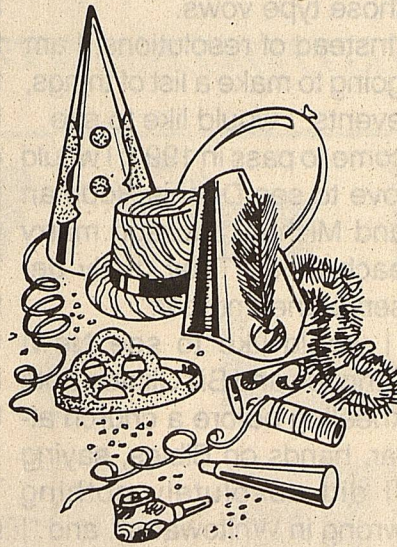
Celebrating the New Year around the globe

The custom of celebrating the arrival of the New Year is observed around the globe, but not necessarily on the same date.

The celebrations vary greatly from country to country, and have for centuries. In ancient Rome, people gave each other branches of sacred trees. Ancient Persians gave New Year's gifts of eggs, symbolizing productiveness. In early day Britain, the rulers asked their subjects for gifts, including jewelry and gold, and English husbands gave their wives small sums of money.

Many American colonists celebrated the new year by firing guns in the air, and held open house for visitors.

Today, customs and celebrations continue to differ. In Belgium, children write New Year messages on decorated paper, and the Chinese celebrate for four straight days. The traditional Jewish celebration occurs in either September or October, and Vietnamese celebrate the day (Tet) between January 21 and February 19.



Some Muslims of North Africa celebrate the new year by lighting bonfires, which they leap over to purify themselves from evil. In other African communities, all fires are extinguished the last day of the year so new ones may be kindled on New Year's Day.

In the United States, it is customary for many to go to New Year Eve parties, throw confetti, blow horns and sing Auld Lang Syne at midnight, and shout "Happy New Year!" to friends and family, and toast one another with drinks. It would appear we have the more civilized customs.



Manicurist program begins at SPC

Levelland - A new program to train manicurists begins January 13 at South Plains College.

Registration for the 12 month program is scheduled for 5 pm January 6 in SPC's Cosmetology Bldg. adjoining the Student Center. Classes will meet 5:30-9:30pm Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Tuition is \$750, which does not include textbooks and supplies.

Class size is limited to 15 students. Instructor will be Rene' Sullivan, an SPC graduate with 22 years experience as a cosmetologist. She also teaches cosmetology at Lubbock High School. The program includes 600 hours of instruction and will include instruction on the application of artificial nails, both sculptured and tips, proper nail preparation, nail diseases and other information. Students completing the program will receive a certificate of proficiency, and be eligible to take the state board exam for licensure as a manicurist in Texas.

"Many people cannot attend classes during the day, and this is a great program for

someone who wants to learn a new skill, and make good money", she said. For more information, call 806-894-9611, Ext. 2340.

New at the Library

- FICTION:
- Airframe-Michael Crichton
 - Ride Against the Wind-Terrel Bowers
 - Fallen Man-Tony Hillerman
 - Say You Love Me-Johanna Lindsey
 - 'M' Is For Malice-Sue Grafton
 - My Gal Sunday-Mary Higgins Clark
 - Silent Honor-Danielle Steel
 - Desperation-Stephen King
 - Marching to Valhalla-Michael Blake
 - This Noble Land-James Michener
 - Mr. Tucker-Gary Paulson
 - Lily White-Susan Isaac
 - Rosenhaven-Cather Coulter
 - Runaway Jury-John Grisham
 - Trail of Secrets-Eileen Goudge
 - 2 Alone-Sandra Brown
- NON FICTION:
- Rich Grass & Sweet Water Ranch Life-John Lincoln
 - SSN Strategies of Submarine Warfare-Tom Clancy
 - Forever Erma-Erma Bombeck
 - Outrage-Vince Bugliosi
 - American Tragedy-Lawrence Schiller
 - Jimmy Carter-Kenneth Morris
 - Waylon-Waylon Jennings
 - Sudden Exposure-Susan Dunlap
 - Staying Safe on Dates-Donna Chalet
 - In Contempt-Christopher Darden
 - Everyone is Entitled To My Opinion-David Brinkley

Novel Published by Tatum Resident

Nearby Tatum, New Mexico is the home of new fiction writer C. H. Peaden, 84 year old examiner and missionary, an artist and playwright.

His recent work, "Always Tomorrow, or the Philosophy of Hope", was published by Morris Publishing Co., Kearny, Nebraska, and just received by the author. He has already had an autograph session in Tatum on December 20, and plans another here in Plains at the Library January 9 from 1 P.M. to 4 P.M.

"Always Tomorrow" is the story of a Cherokee Indian girl who marries an

army major, Clay, sent to Vietnam, declared dead. The Major's body is returned to his widow, and buried in Oklahoma. The heroine, Maggie, learns of the mistake, and discovers Clay is hospitalized in Hawaii, wounded and suffering amnesia.

Author Peaden says the theme of the story is "always tomorrow, always hope", and he was inspired by his own Cherokee blood and personal experience. The novel bears out his belief in strong faith, and always thinking of tomorrow.

Happy New Year!

The Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District is once again sponsoring an essay writing contest for senior students at Plains and Denver City High Schools. All senior students are eligible to enter the essay contest. Contest winners from each school will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for 1st Place and a \$500 scholarship for 2nd Place to the college(s) of their choice. (A minimum of ten (10) essays must be submitted before a second place scholarship is awarded.)

The topic of the essay should relate to an evaluation of the water situation in our area and contain proposals for future conservation of that water. The criteria for the contest is:

1. A minimum of 1000 words.
2. Typed and double spaced with parenthetical footnotes.
3. References must accompany paper in the form of a bibliography page. Reference material may be acquired from the Sandy Land U.W.C.D. office located in Plains.
4. Cover sheet containing: student's name, essay title, local high school, and date
5. The essays are due no later than **April 16, 1997.**

Winners last year consisted of: Valerie Blair and Kelly McGinty from Plains and Josh Smith and Johnathan Mock from Denver City.

For further information, please contact the District office at (806) 456-2155.



The cost of comfort

Despite having residential rates below the national average, high electricity usage in Texas summers means relatively expensive household bills, compared to average bills in other highly populated states.

1994 10 largest states	Average monthly household bill	State ranking*
Texas	\$87	2*
Florida	\$82	6
Georgia	\$73	18
New Jersey	\$72	19
New York	\$70	20
Pennsylvania	\$70	21
Ohio	\$68	23
Illinois	\$66	25
California	\$60	35
Michigan	\$49	45
U.S. average	\$69	

SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, and U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Thought For The Week

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth, and the earth was without form, and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called night, and the evening and the morning were the first day.

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

Hicks MAYTAG
 Carpet Appliances Heating & Air Conditioning
It's Hard To Stop A Trane
 204 n. Main, Denver City
 806-592-3973 or 592-3930

A hearty THANK YOU
 to each and everyone who generously donated to our annual Operation Christmas Card, for the beautification of the cemetery!
The Plains Dirt Gardners

'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!

From The Hack



The Bride and I had a rather calm, sedate but nice Christmas this year. I suppose the only half way excitement we experienced was Christmas Eve, when my all male team of Jay and Doug Rushing, their pig farmer dad and myself soundly thrashed Daughters Shari, Debbie, the Bride and Shari's companion Rick in our annual two games of Trivia Pursuit. This proves for the 19th consecutive time Debbie cannot win, and male cunning, deviousness and old fox slyness will win out over youth and good looks everytime.

Bride and I opened our gifts while we were alone. I had no desire to let anyone know how little I spent this year. She surprised me with a very original golf type shirt.. it was inscribed, "I wanted to come with stupid here, but didn't have the guts... his bride". I also got another golf theme gift. It's a larger than real golf ball, and when you swing at it and miss, a rather comon occurrence in my game, it emits a loud noise remarkably similar to a braying jackass, and emits a very loathsome odor. I had one package left, and it seemed heavy enough to really be something good. I eagerly ripped it open, to find it was filled with pea gravel, probably stolen from Precinct Three's yard, and a sweet note, which read, "Just a reminder, sweetie chops, you forgot our Anniversary last May. Your loving Bride".

Good old grandson Doug brought me a CD game to put on my new computer called "Close Combat" a remarkably vivid series of games about battles following the D-Day invasion of Nazi held France in June of 1943. He showed me how I could make myself Company Commander, and move my G.I.s about on the battlefield against the Ger-

mans, and made it look simple to kickthe Nazis all over the place. As soon as I took command and the control board, I suffered 97% G.I. Casualties, lost 13 miles of ground to the enemy, and every vehicle under my command..... TWICE. I have not played since. That convinced me I would have been a lousy troop commander.

I did have one memorable and rather warming experience over the Christmas days. Gloria Vasquez, mother of Justin Vasquez shown on front page with his new Go-Cart, told me the youngster was really excited about the season. He said, "See, mom, we wrote those letters to Santa Claus in school, and that guy put them all in the paper. There really is a Santa Claus, isn't there!"

With the Yuletide now history, we have New Year's Eve and Day looming, complete with at least 87 football bowl games, and hordes of parades. The Bride has absolutely, positively forbidden me to make even one New Year's resolution this time around. She is somewhat of a doubting Thomas about my resolve and integrity when it comes to making those type vows.

Instead of resolutions, I am going to make a list of things, events, I would like to see come to pass in 1997; I would love to see Dennis Rodman and Michael Jackson marry each other. They really deserve one another.

I would like to see Newt Gingrich and Bill Clinton both kneeling before a church altar, hands on Bibles, saying "I did absolutely nothing wrong in Whitewater", and "I did absolutley nothing unethical or immoral in any of my book deals or my series of college lectures".

I would love to see the Dallas Cowboy's Michael Irvin vow to be humble for at least 15 days during the year.

I would like to see the State Legislature do something positive and beneficial to all about property tax relief. This may prove more difficult than all my other wishes

I would love to meet the idiot in California who thought up the study of 'Ebonics' as an alternative language for

blacks in our schools. I could then tell him, "It's a real pleasure meeting someone who could convey such an assinine idea".

I would love to experience an entire year in which I did not hear criticism and ridicule of ALL coaches, school teachers, administrators, preachers, county officials, school trustees, doctors, newspaper editors, tax administrators, and state legislators, from those who know less about these fields than the above. For those of superior intelligence who wish to criticize, let'er rip. Another impossible dream, I fear.

It would be very interesting to watch a Larry King interview in which he failed to interrupt his guest at least 18 times.

I would like to see Texas Tech win the Big 12 Football Conference next year. I would also like to see Ice In Hades if I ever experience it.

It would be wonderful if I experienced Seagraves, Sundown and the other dreaded 'S' Team fall in disgrace in next years football competition against our Cowboys.

It would also be extremely nice if our readers could absolutely believe every word I write in this column, and more especially, if dear Bride continues to be healthy and wise.. we've given up on the wealthy bit.

Happy New Year !!

CHICKASAW TRADING CO.

TEXAS LEAN SMOKED TURKEY BREST STRIPS

Beef Jerky
...and Turkey

TEXAS LEAN SMOKED TURKEY BREST 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 500g	24%	Protein 13g	

Iron 4%

CHICKASAW TRADING CO.

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

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

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

ELECTRICITY... Today's Way to Live

Today's family is always on the go. So it's good to know that while you're away, electricity is there to help with the cooking, the dishes, and the laundry. You can count on it all day long. And at night, too, for security lighting to keep your home and your family safe. Electricity... it's today's way to live.

Lea County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

"Owned By Those We Serve"
Michael A. Dreysspring, General Manager
Lovington Tatum Plains
(505) 396-3631 (505) 398-2233 (806) 456-3322
1-800-510-5232

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

TPWD and TADCS Respond to Feral Hog Invasion

The Russians are coming! Well, they may not be true Russian Wild Boars, but these feral hogs that have recently spread throughout the Rolling Plains are just as sporting and every body as menacing as their European cousins. And by the way, they are no longer "coming" -- they are already here, Feral hogs can be found in every county in the Rolling Plains and have recently made their way up the Caprock Escarpment into the High Plains (Lynn, Terry, and Moore counties and probably others).

A quick historical check reveals that the feral hog expansion in the Rolling Plains originated in the 1970's from a small population of feral hogs in Knox, Haskell, Jones, Throckmorton, and Shackelford counties. This population gradually expanded westward and northward up the extensive network of rivers and creeks found throughout the Rolling Plains. This natural expansion has been supplemented by numerous releases by private landowners of feral hogs that were trapped and translocated for hunting purposes.

Although feral hogs are prized by some as a sporthunting challenge, a source of income, and excellent fare, there are also several negative factors associated with them. Feral hogs have been shown to harbor diseases transferable to livestock, as well as humans. They can cause problems for agricultural producers such as livestock depredation, crop depredation, extensive rooting in fields, and damage to feeders, watering facilities, and fences. Additional problems may include direct and indirect impacts to native wildlife, although little is known about the extent of these effects. Feral hogs are very opportunistic and prey upon deer fawns, small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, eggs and young of ground-nesting birds, and a variety of invertebrates (worms, grasshoppers, beetles). But more importantly, feral hogs are in direct competition with deer, turkeys, quail, furbearers, and numerous nongame birds for fruit and other native foods. Hogs consume large quantities of acorns, hackberries, plums, soapberries, and chittamwood fruit and may be affecting the nutrition and survival of some native wildlife species.

Because little is known about the impacts that are resulting from the rapid expansion of feral hogs throughout the

Rolling Plains, the Texas Parks & Wildlife (TPWD) in cooperation with the Texas Animal Damage Control Service (TADCS), initiated a research project on feral hogs in September 1996 to help answer some of these concerns. The study will continue for at least two years and focus on diet, reproduction, condition, and disease of feral hogs in the Rolling Plains. Most wild hog populations in Texas have exhibited a relatively low occurrence of disease, but each specimen in this study will be checked for brucellosis, toxoplasmosis, pseudorabies, trichinosis, and exposure to bubonic plague and Lyme disease.

One of the greatest obstacles of the feral hog study is obtaining an adequate number of hogs each season. This may seem surprising considering the large number of hogs in the region; however, TPWD biologists have a limited amount of time each month to devote to this study because of numerous other ongoing projects. TADCS is taking a considerable number of feral hogs as part of their normal service to landowners of managing wildlife damage. The number of feral hogs taken in one day of aerial gunning would take weeks to collect while hunting on the ground. The collection of feral hogs through the TADCS program is not only more efficient, but the food content samples are unbiased compared to taking hogs from the ground over bait or in green fields.

Whether you consider them as a blessing or a curse, feral hogs will continue to increase for some time in numbers and distribution throughout the Rolling Plains. However, TPWD and TADCS are working to minimize the impacts of the "invasion" by learning more about feral hog food habits, reproduction, and disease, and by managing hog numbers in areas where damage is already occurring.

by Calvin Richardson
Wildlife Biologist, TPWD



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