

Plains Has Special Youth!

*The following E-Mail was recently sent to Jim Haynes, Superintendent of Plains I.S.D.

Recently I had a blow out about 12 miles east of Plains. A group of your students were on their way to a playoff game and stopped to help me change my tire. The pleasant young man said his dad's farm was close to where I had the flat. We were very close to a cotton gin. I wanted to let you know what caring and concerned citizens you have in your school. As an educator of 16 years, I know our youth are under appreciated. Reports of the shortcomings of today's youth are easily found but citations of commendation are rarely reported. I was really impressed by these helpful youth. I wish I could remember the young man's name but I'm hopeful you can figure it out by the location of his farm. Please make a note to pat this youth on the back and let his parent's know about this caring action. There were also two girls in the car that waited patiently for the young man to finish. Have a great day!

Sincerely,
Teresa Parks

School officials believe the three students in the message are Justin Bennett, Anne Palmer and Kristen Gray.

From Page 1, "Safe"

crew. Officials from Lea County Electric were asked to inspect the finished project, and gave it a clean bill of health

Mike Dreyspring, General Manager of Lea County Electric, told CCN the Cooperative did not anticipate any electric service outages related to a Y2K occurrence, but commended the bank's efforts to ensure their customers full service regardless of circumstances. He added a cautionary statement regarding backup generators: "Backup generators provide a necessary service to some residences and businesses. It is important, however, to ensure the generator is properly connected. Otherwise, personal injury, even a fatality, or property damage could occur. The generator must be isolated from the distribution electric utility. This is accomplished with an isolation switch, manual or automatic. Any individual desiring to install a backup generator should contact Lea County Electric to ensure its proper and safe connection."

County Hospital Ready For Y2K

Yoakum County Hospital in late 1998 began to prepare for the transition into the 21st century. An outside firm was hired to guide us through the necessary steps.

All of our equipment, from the heart monitor to the main computer system, has been tested and verified as Y2K compliant.

Should we have unforeseen shortages with utilities we will have our water storage tank full, and we have a generator with a greater capacity than we need to supply electricity. Commissioner J.R. Slenz will have enough diesel in storage to supply the generator for two weeks.

Critical supplies are in stock to more than adequately

handle any problem we can foresee.

Each department head has made contingency plans, and key managers will be at the hospital from 10:30 PM through midnight on December 31.

Business partners, suppliers and manufacturers have been contacted and where possible, their compliance documentation is on file.

Because of the extensive effort of Yoakum County Hospital and its employees, we feel confident quality healthcare will be available to you, even if there are serious external problems related to Y2K.

December 1835: Governor Henry Smith ordered Bowie to lead the Matamoros Expedition.

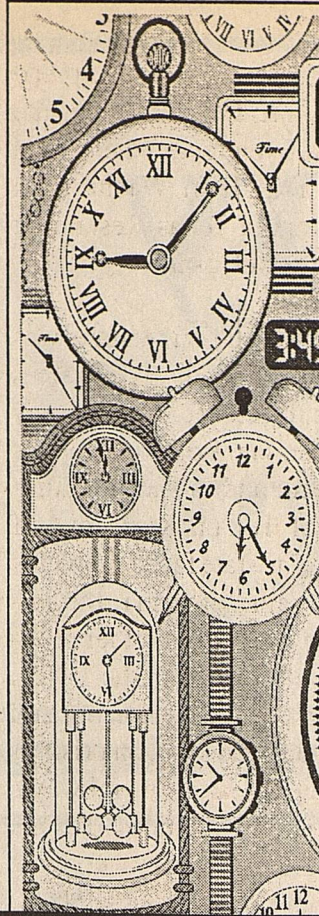
From Page 1, "Governor"

first name basis with his security people.

Tracy and other security personnel will accompany the governor to an island off the Florida coast for a Christmas holiday with his parents, former President and Mrs. George Bush, and his brother, Florida Governor Jeb Bush and his family.

Larry Murphree told CCN, "I'm glad Tracy persuaded me to buy a new suit."

December 1867: Fort established at the junction of the Concho and the North Concho Rivers. First called Camp Hatch, then Camp Kelley, and finally named Fort Concho in March 1868; abandoned June 20, 1889.



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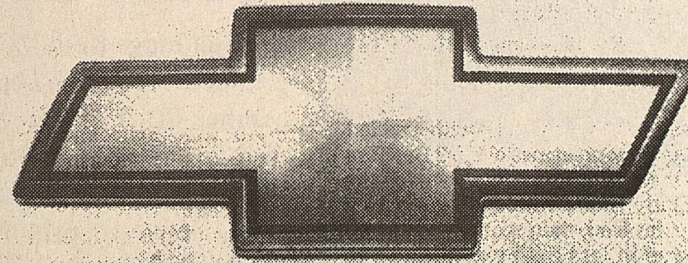
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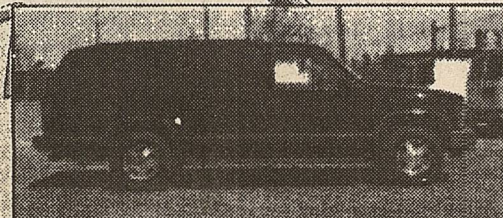
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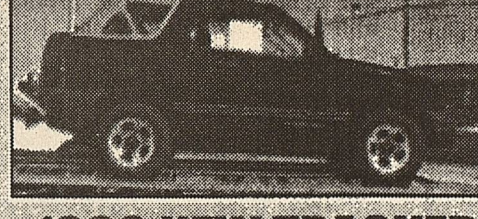
1999 NEW SUBURBAN



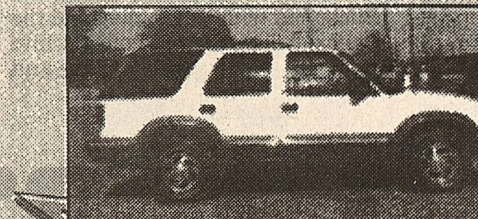
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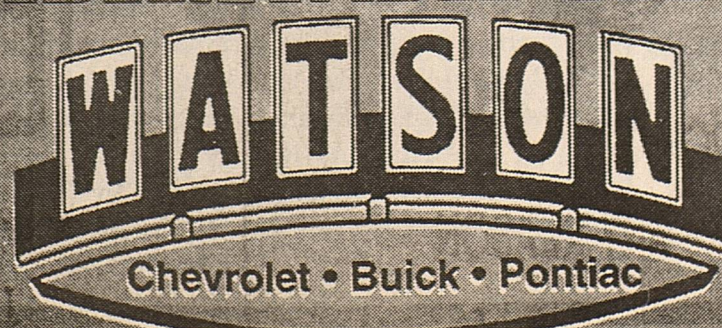
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From Page 1, "Epic"

lowed by refining, the transportation of oil, and finally, by the development of the Gulf Coast petrochemical complex. It created new industries and new sources of work. An old Texas saying of the early part of the century was that a city dweller was a farmer crossed with an automobile using oil.

In that sense, it is also difficult to overstate the importance of roads and the automobile to the making of modern Texas. Unlike other parts of the country, the development of our vast, sparsely populated state depended on the automobile rather than the railroad. The automobile brought increased economic development to most parts of the state. It fostered urbanization and even helped create the modern public education system by allowing school district consolidation and the slow fading of the one-room school house beginning in the 1920's. The autos ran on gasoline, and for gasoline, you started with oil.

Little wonder then that many of the vaguely remembered political issues of Texas up to mid century seem to have been about oil: the repeated Congressional skirmishes over the federal oil depletion allowance and the Tidelands controversy. And, of course, oil and gas were the sources great of wealth to the state's governments, building huge reserves that funded-and continue to fund-the public education system and major state universities. Oil and gas revenues brought new sources of revenue to state and local government and helped finance the rising tide of public services that erased the rural isolation of the 1800's.

Oil reshaped the urban geography of Texas as well. In the 19th century, Texas cities like Dallas and San Antonio were largely trade centers, drawing their wealth from dealing in the goods produced on the land and those needed by a growing population. As oil wealth and its importance progressed, this landscape was reshaped. The cities of the Gulf Coast-Beaumont, Port Arthur, and especially Houston-were largely built on oil and other mineral production. In the 1930's, Houston overtook San Antonio as the state's largest city. Cities sprang up across the state, no longer impossibly isolated by distance and geography, and at the heart of it was the emerging transportation system of the 20th century.

Big cities
During the century, everything but the difficulty of wringing a consistent living from the land changed. Economic depression and World War I took their toll on small farm operations in the early part of the century. The long drought and the Depression of the 1930's evicted still more Texans from the land. By 1933, only about a third of all Texans lived on farms. Within another generation, that percentage had dropped to less than 10 percent. As with the oil industry, more and more agriculture became involved in processing and distribution. Fewer people worked more and more land.

In the 1940's, the first glimpsers of what we now call the "new economy" became visible in Texas, driven by the de-

mands of world war. Urbanization, which started late in Texas, progressed much faster than the national norm beginning in this period. World War II helped create the technologically advanced petro-chemical complex on the Gulf Coast. It brought military operations, drawn by the state's temperate climate and abundant land, and the military was followed by the first high technology industries not related to oil production. An aircraft and aerospace industry grew up around Dallas.

Texans made a great contribution to the U.S. effort in World War II. With 5 percent of the nation's population, it provided 7 percent of the armed forces. More than 7 percent of the total killed in action came from Texas.

The war imposed many hardships on Texans at home, but these were burdens they shared with Americans everywhere. On the other hand, in Texas, as elsewhere, the war ended the Great Depression, taking many unemployed men out of the work force for military duty and spurring the economy with federal spending. The rising economy created by the war and conservative spending policies even pushed the state treasury into the black after the bleak years of the 1930's, an era remembered in the state's fiscal history as a "decade of deficits."

Toward a New Economy
If World War II began a new economic era, the 1950's and 1960's pushed the trend rapidly along. In a real sense, this era began in 1949, when the Legislature passed the Gilmer-Aikin school finance reforms, the foundation of our current public education system. The state also invested heavily in higher education in these years and was the beneficiary of powerful national political leaders like Sam Rayburn and Lyndon Johnson, who brought increased federal spending to the state.

This was also the period when the modern Texas fiscal system was born. Texas imposed a sales tax in 1961, and federal spending became an increasingly prominent part of state and local finances. The oil and gas severance taxes and state royalty income also played an increasingly prominent role in paying for Texas government. In the meantime, the property tax, the key revenue source for most of the state's history, was left largely to cities, counties and school districts.

By 1970, the Texas economy was dynamic, growing and seemingly more diverse. During the 1970's, the Texas economy slipped into high gear, buoyed by rising oil prices and strong population and general economic growth. *Newsweek* anointed Texas a "superstate", and it began to look as though the future was as unlimited as the projected upward spiral of oil prices and the accumulation of oil wealth.

In this time, Texas chic was fashionable. The Cowboys became America's's Team. "Dallas" was a hit show on television. Country music became as synonymous with Texas as Nashville, and for a moment it appeared that Gilley's club in Pasadena might become a national cultural landmark. Tex-

Mex cooking began to spread across the U.S. and then the world. Even today, there is an Austin Grill in Washington D.C., and a Texas Restaurant in war torn Bosnia.

Oil Shock

In 1982, the superstate was shaken to its roots as oil prices began to fall and the economy began to sag. Real estate prices dropped; and increasing numbers of Texans were out of work. The state faced problems at the same time that the impact of growth and other problems left over from the 1970's were pressing the state to spend more-on education, on prisons, on mental health, on highways.

Texans lost fortunes. Texans wrung their hands over what economic shoe might fall next. State and local leaders debated methods of helping struggling industries and building a "new" Texas, more diverse and less dependent on oil and gas. Where a decade earlier writers had ruminated on what economically distressed areas like New York could learn from Texas, they now lectured Texans on what they could learn from New York...or California...or Japan.

Recovery and Expansion

Every illness has several possible cures, but the surest cure of all in this case turned out to be the simplest; the passage of time. During the late 1980's and early 1990's, the Texas economy righted itself. In a real sense, it diversified in an amazingly short time, as some industries receded in importance and others moved ahead. It became fashionable to say that Texas was becoming a "service based" economy. The financial markets slowly mended, although the Texas based bank became largely a thing of the past. In the meantime, new industries began to grow and to attract population from other states. Consumer confidence returned. The new high technology industry, built on the microprocessor chip, blossomed in Austin, Dallas, and Houston.

Increasingly free of the old trin-

ity of cattle, cotton and oil, the Texas economy began to grow more in line with the growth of the U.S. economy, and the state has been a major beneficiary of the nation's longest post World War II expansion. In 1990, probably not one Texan in a hundred had heard of the Internet. Today, the dreams of sudden wealth from an Internet IPO are much more real to the average Texan than dreams of wealth from a wildcat oil strike.

If the century began with the land, it ends with the people. Texas is now the nation's second largest state. It is highly urban. Its economy is diverse. Its workforce is increasingly skilled. It has many fine universities and, though Texans fret over it, a good public education system that can become better. Texans are a diverse mix of many cultures, ethnic and racial groups. Texas will soon be a state where no group is a clear

majority. The people, then, are the key to the state's future. They are its greatest source of wealth at the end of this century, and they are its greatest source of promise for the next century. Winston Churchill said that the "empires of the future will be empires of the mind." No state is better situated to realize the truth of that prediction than Texas.

From 'Fiscal Notes', monthly publication of the State Comptroller

100 Years Of Big Events In Texas

1900 - 1909



1901 The Spindletop strike. This monumental oil find near Beaumont kicked off Texas' oil industry, which becomes the biggest and more pervasive element of the state's economy.



1908 Rotary drill bit. Developed by Howard Hughes Sr., the rotary drill bit was a revolutionary step in oil production. The bit, which pulverized rock as it drilled, was more efficient than the "fishtail" bit, which scraped through rock and wore down quickly.

1910 - 1919



1914 Houston Ship Channel opens, allowing ocean-going ships access to Buffalo Bayou from the Gulf of Mexico. Today, the port is first in the United States for foreign water-borne commerce and second in total tonnage. In 1998, \$16.1 billion in imports and \$20.3 billion in exports passed through the port.

1920 - 1929



1926 Oil money from Santa Rita begins funding higher education. In 1923, oil was found on lands owned by the state. Proceeds went to the Permanent University Fund and then to the University of Texas and Texas A&M University. The money helped expand the higher education system and helped keep tuition low.



1928 The Milam Building, the first office structure built with air conditioning, opens in San Antonio. This leads, perhaps indirectly, to the skyscrapers that rise throughout Texas' major cities and throughout the Sunbelt, signalling a population and economic shift.

1930 - 1939



1930 A major oil discovery in East Texas makes Texas the top oil-producing state. The strike in Rusk unleashes a rush of drillers, and unlimited production rolls world oil markets. The Texas Railroad Commission steps in and for the first time regulates how much oil can be produced.



1932 Elmer Doolin begins making Fritos in San Antonio.



1933 Rural Electrification Act begins the task of bringing electricity to rural areas. The first hookups were in Bartlett, in Williamson County. When the program began, just 2 percent of the state's rural areas had electricity. Thirty some years later, 98 percent of the state's rural areas had electricity.

1940 - 1949



1940 Bob Wills releases *San Antonio Rose*, which makes him a national musical figure. He had first learned frontier fiddle music from his father and grandfather, but he also learned blues and jazz from black playmates and coworkers in the cotton fields of East and West Texas. He played fiddle music with



the heat of blues and the swing of jazz; his new music could as properly have been called western jazz as western swing.



1941-45 WWII: The need for synthetics fuels the growth of the petrochemical industry along the Texas Gulf Coast and the defense contracting industry.



1940s Texas becomes more urban than rural during the decade.



1949 Gilmer-Aikin School Finance Legislation to improve public education is passed. 4,500 school districts were consolidated into 2,900 more efficient administrative units. State equalization funding supplemented local taxes. Further, higher salaries attracted teachers to the classroom and encouraged the study of education among prospective teachers. School staffs were augmented by education specialists. State funding became dependent on attendance, thus providing an incentive to increase attendance.

1950 - 1959



1950 The Supreme Court ordered the acceptance of Heman Sweatt, an African American who was qualified to attend the law school at the University of Texas, but who was denied admission because of his race. This was the beginning of judicial acceptance of the idea that racially separate treatment in education is inherently unequal.



Early 1950s Cotton harvesting switches from hand-picked to machines, which increases the speed and efficiency of the harvest.



1952 *Viva Zapata!* filmed in Texas, is considered the beginning of the modern film industry in the state. It was followed by *Giant* (1956), John Wayne's *The Alamo* (1960), *Hud* (1963), and *Bonnie and Clyde* (1967). The film industry has spent \$1.7 billion in Texas in the past 10 years.



1956 Congress initiates construction of the interstate highway system, funded by 90 percent federal money and 10 percent state money. By March 31, 1989, Texas had completed 3,234 miles of interstate highways and its share of the system was nearly complete. The Texas portion of the interstate system was longer than any other state's. By 1990, the entire Texas highway system (interstate, state, farm to market and U.S. highways) comprised more than 72,000 miles of highways.



1958 Texas Instruments engineer Jack Kilby invents the integrated circuit, leading to miniaturization of electronics. A seminal event on Texas' road to becoming a high-tech oriented economy. Texas becomes the biggest producer of computer chips in the country.

More 'BIG' Events Following Page

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1960 - 1969



1961 Houston chosen as location of NASA's manned spacecraft center. NASA denies high-ranking Texans such as LBJ or those in Congress have anything to do with it. The federal government has appropriated more than \$61 billion for the center, which is home base for America's astronauts.

1961 Texas begins collecting a state sales tax.

1961 John Tower, a Republican, chosen to replace LBJ in a special election. Begins move toward two-party system in the state.

1963 JFK assassinated in Dallas; LBJ becomes president.

1964 LBJ elected to full-term presidency, which cements a leading position for Texas in the national political structure.

1965 Legislature creates the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, reflecting the state's increasing emphasis on higher education.

1965 Astrodome opens. The "8th Wonder of the World" reflects the bigger-than-life, can-do attitude of Texas. At the same time, the Houston Colt 45s name is changed to the Astros, reflecting the import of the space program to the city and state.

Mid-1960s The Mexican government started its *maquiladora* program in the mid-1960s as part of its Border Industrialization Program, an effort to attract foreign investment and jobs to the northern border region. Today, about 3,300 *maquiladoras* employ about 1.2 million people in Mexico.

1966 Katherine Anne Porter wins Pulitzer Prize for her collected short stories. On the basis of international reputation, inclusion in major anthologies and the respect indicated by academic criticism, Katherine Anne Porter must be judged the most acclaimed Texas literary artist.

Late 1960s The birth of feed lots transformed High Plains cattle ranching. Not only did feed lots provide a new market for Texas cattle ranchers, but a market for the state's grain production. According to Texas A&M research, feed lots add an annual value of \$2 billion to the state's cattle production.

1968 First heart transplant performed in Houston by Dr. Denton Cooley, which helps establish Houston as a major center for medical research.

1968 Elvin Hayes and Lew Alcindor match up in basketball battle in Astrodome. Now basketball tournaments such as the NCAA's Final Four are routinely played in giant stadiums.

1969 First words from the moon are received in Houston.

1970 - 1979



1971 Southwest Airlines founded. The airline took transportation to another level in Texas, making possible day trips between cities. Peanut production booms.



1971 Lambert Wilkes of College Station, working with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and Cotton Inc. (a research division of the National Cotton Council), devise the concept of harvesting cotton by module. The module made it easier and more efficient to transport cotton.



1972 First Internet connection in Texas made at the University of Texas at Austin.



1973 OPEC oil embargo jump starts Texas oil industry, unleashing decade of growth.

1974 Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport opens.

1980 - 1989



1982-84 Compaq starts up in Houston, Dell in Austin. By 1998, the companies are fighting it out to be the biggest personal computer maker in the world.



Mid to late 1980s Oil glut and S&L crisis. The crisis reverberated throughout the Texas economy. Fortunes were lost, bankruptcy became commonplace. "For Lease" signs sprouted on see-through office buildings and out-of-state owners gobbled up major Texas banking corporations. Cheap office rent, however, enabled many entrepreneurs to start companies cheaply, helping lead to the economic boom of the 1990s.



1988 George H. W. Bush elected president.

1990 - 1999

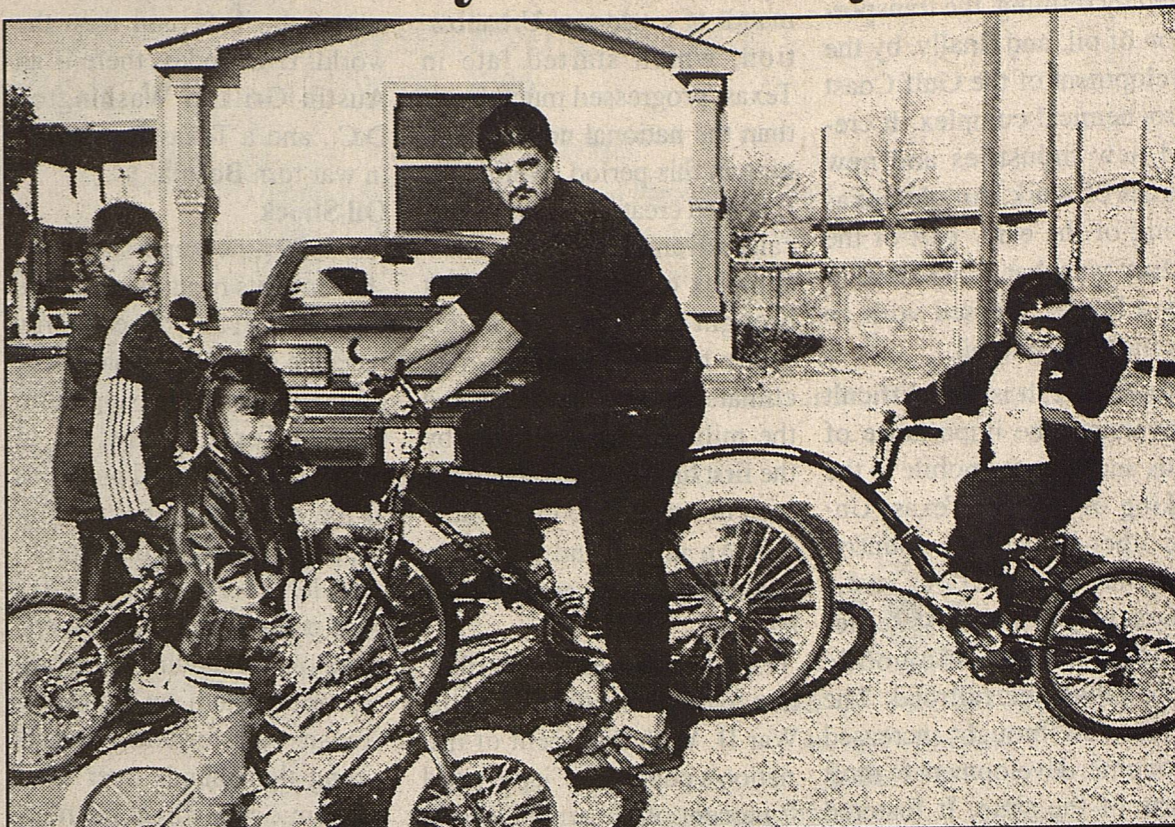


1994 NAFTA. The North American Free Trade Agreement increases the amount of trade between Mexico and the United States. Mexico has become the U.S.'s second biggest trading partner (behind Canada). U.S. exports to Mexico have increased 13.8 percent and imports from Mexico are up 18.5 percent.



1995 High-tech surpasses oil and gas as state's biggest employer. This shift highlights the change from the oil-based economy of the 20th century to the information-based economy of the 21st century.

Santa's Toy Visit Pretty Neat!



This family & friends Christmas bikes almost made a parade! Danielle Barbosa, foreground, Elias Carrillo, Rocky Moya and daughter Rochelle Moya. Rochelle told CCN, "My daddy bought me this bike!", but it looks like dad is enjoying it too.



Joe Williams was just trying his stuff on his new bike. Asked if it was a Christmas present, Joe told us, "No, Santa Claus brought me it!"

JP Court Cases

The following is a summary of cases heard and bonds set in Pct. 1 Justice of Peace Court, Judge Melba Crutcher presiding. 52 traffic cases, two consumption of alcohol by minor, one public intoxication. Bonds set: Unlawfully carrying weapon - \$1500 bond Possession drug paraphenalia

\$200 fine
Four DWI - \$1000 bonds
Criminal Trespass - \$500 Bond
Theft - \$1000 bond
Motion for surety on DWI - \$2000 bond.
Fleeing Peace Officers - \$2000 bond
Two purchase or furnish alcohol to minor - \$500 bond
Bond forfeiture, burglary - \$1000 bond
Failure to appear - \$10,000
Driving while license suspended - \$500 bond.
Public intoxication - \$250 fine

Job Shadow Event Scheduled

Whether Punxsutawney Phill sees his shadow or not, thousands of workers from all walks of life are sure to see their shadows on Groundhog Day, February 2nd, during the third annual National Groundhog Job Shadow Day. Throughout the South Plains an estimated 1,200 students will spend one day shadowing doctors, architects, mechanics, teachers, government employees and workers from many other professions in order to experience the workplace firsthand.

The South Plains Tech Prep and School To Careers Partnership has teamed with the South Plains Workforce, Lubbock Chamber of Commerce, South Plains area chambers of commerce and school districts, as well as the LISD Adopt a School program to implement the Groundhog Job Shadow Day in the South Plains area for

the second year in a row. Students will spend a full day at a local business in a career field of their choice. They will receive a first hand look at the real world and how to prepare for their future professions. Lubbock and surrounding area businesses are looking forward to Job Shadow Day, with over 100 businesses already committed to participating. No company is too big or small to serve as a workplace host. By serving as a host, businesses will enable students to spend time in the workplace, providing an up close look at what a "real job" is like and

how the skills they learned in school could be put into action. Lubbock Chamber of Commerce President Eddie McBride expressed his desire that area businesses get involved with the event. "As part of the community's attempts to satisfy workforce development issues, Groundhog Job Shadow Day is an important program that is of great benefit to employers and our youth

as future employees. I encourage our business community to embrace this program to take advantage of the outstanding opportunities it offers our students. Plains ISD Superintendent James Haynes said a number of Plains High School students took part in the job shadowing program last year, and a larger number of students are expected to participate this year.

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Tax Assessor/Collector Wanda Smith to retire December, 2000

County Tax Assessor/Collector Wanda Smith furnished CCN the following statement last week:

To the voters of Yoakum County;

After 27 years of service, it is time for me to step down as your tax assessor/collector. I am sincerely grateful for the trust and confidence you have placed in me these many years. I wish to take this opportunity to publicly thank my loyal staff: Dorothy Johnson, 21 years. Sheila Stephens, 21

years, Betty Rivas, 21 years, Sheila Ashburn, 16 years, Pam Redman, 1 year, Myrna White (retired), 16 years, and Betty Rushing (part-time), 6 years. You have made my job a pleasure even through the rough times.

To my friends and co-workers, thank you for making these 27 years rewarding, fulfilling and enjoyable.

Yoakum County, it has been my pleasure and honor serving as your tax assessor/collector. *Wanda Smith*

Services held for Bill Frank Hayes

Funeral services were held for Bill Frank Hayes, 69, at Wright Colonial Funeral Home Chapel in Snyder at 2 P.M. Monday, December 27. The services were conducted by Reverend Charles Day, Pastor of Avenue D Baptist Church, Snyder.

He passed away at Covenant Lakeside Hospital in Lubbock on December 23, 1999.

Mr. Hayes was born February 3, 1930, in Barstow, Texas. He married Loyce Strickland November 14, 1969, in Midland, Texas. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, and was a member of the Avenue D Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife; A son, Bud, of Midland; Three daughters, Paula Lytle of Midland, Pam Henshaw of Snyder, and Debra Davis of Snyder; eight grandchildren, eight great grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Hayes was a brother of former Plains resident Jack Hayes.

Water Development Board Approves \$500,000

Conservation Loan To Sandy Land

The Texas Water Development Board today approved a \$500,000 loan from the Agricultural Water Conservation Loan Program (AWCLP) to Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District (UWCD). This is the district's eleventh loan through the AWCLP since 1992. Using AWCLP loan proceeds, Sandy Land UWCD has made 175 individual loans to irrigators.

Sandy Land UWCD will use the funds to make low interest loans to area farmers for the purchase and installation of more efficient agricultural water conservation equipment, including high efficiency sprinkler systems, underground pipelines, tail water pits, flow meters and low pressure drip irrigation systems. Sandy Land UWCD is located in the city of Plains. Its area includes all of Yoakum County covering approximately 95,000 acres are irrigated through 709 center pivot sprinkler systems.

Lovington landmark aglow again



A long running Christmas tradition in neighboring Lovington, New Mexico, is lighting of the festive lights on the old house located at 5th Street and Avenue A. Some of the bright decorations are animated, a large, flashing sign at the top of the house spells out Merry Christmas, and holiday music can be heard over a PA system. Jack Danglade, now deceased, started the tradition of decorating the house, and it has been a holiday tradition for 45 years.

Betty Rivas announces for Tax Assessor/Collector

To The Voters Of Yoakum County;

I would like to announce my candidacy for Yoakum County Tax Assessor/Collector, subject to the March Democratic Primary Election.

I am a life-long resident of Yoakum County. My husband, Navor, is employed by Altura Energy, Ltd.

I have two sons, Navor E., graduate of Texas Tech, and

Eric, who is attending New Mexico State University.

We are members of the First Assembly of God Church. I am a graduate of Denver City High School, and have 22 years of working experience in the tax office.

Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
Betty Rivas

Your Attention Please !

Effective January 5, CCN will put into effect new rate schedules for certain services. These charges are necessary because of recent increases in our printing costs, and we hope you will understand the necessity.

Funeral Notices - No Charge

Thank You's From Family Deaths - No Charge

Other Thank You's - \$3 per column inch

Shower Announcements - \$3 per column inch

Birth Announcements - \$3 per column inch

Wedding Reports - \$3 per column inch all reports over 10 column inches, including photo.

Family reunion - \$3 per column inch all over 10 col. inches

Birthday Congratulations - \$3 per column inch (All persons celebrating 70 and over free!)

All political ads \$3 per column inch paid UP Front.

not be a major concern for the continuation of the state's efforts.

"The board is working to develop a plan to make sure we have the proper structure and staff to provide a smooth transition as we begin year 200 program operations," Anderson said.

El-Lissy joined the TBWEF in 1994 as program director after helping lead the successful eradication program in Arizona from 1986-1991 and served as interim director of the foundation in 1997. He was instrumental in developing and organizing the Texas program, the largest and most diverse eradication program in U.S. history.

"We are sorry to see Osama leave but understand his decision," Anderson said. "He will have a greater role in eradication efforts nationwide but will still be available to our program, so the overall effort will benefit."

Senior Citizens Corner

This week has been rather slow here at the Center. Everyone is getting ready for Christmas. Next week will be slow also. Folks will have a chance at "Turkey and Dressing" in case they missed out at Christmas.

A BIG THANKS to Rita Hannaman for making the Christmas Party special. She played the piano and the ones who attended sang Christmas Carols. There was plenty of food, fun and games. 34 registered at the party.

Here at the Center we hope Santa did not miss anyone and many good wishes for a Happy Healthy New Year. Just maybe the Y2K Bug will stay away.

See you next week,
Smitty

El-Lissy To Change Roles

Osama El-Lissy, program director for the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation, will take on a national role in the effort to eradicate cotton's No. 1 pest.

Already sought out by programs throughout the United States for his expertise, El-Lissy will become the national boll weevil eradication coordinator for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, The USDA agency charged with supporting the nation's eradication programs.

He will assume his new duties Jan. 1, but will remain in Texas for several weeks to help prepare for the first full season phase in the state's five newest zones, the Western High Plains, the Northwest Plains, the Permian Basin, the Northern Rolling Plains and the El Paso/Trans Pecos, all of which completed a fall diapause program this year.

El-Lissy stressed that his new role should not be a cause of

concern for Texas cotton producers.

"Nothing will change," he said. "The program will continue just as it has."

He said zone personnel are well versed in program protocols, and the foundation's regularly scheduled training before programs resume activity in the spring will help ensure the program's success.

El-Lissy will continue to be available to consult with the Texas program whenever he is needed, said Lindy Patton, executive director of the foundation.

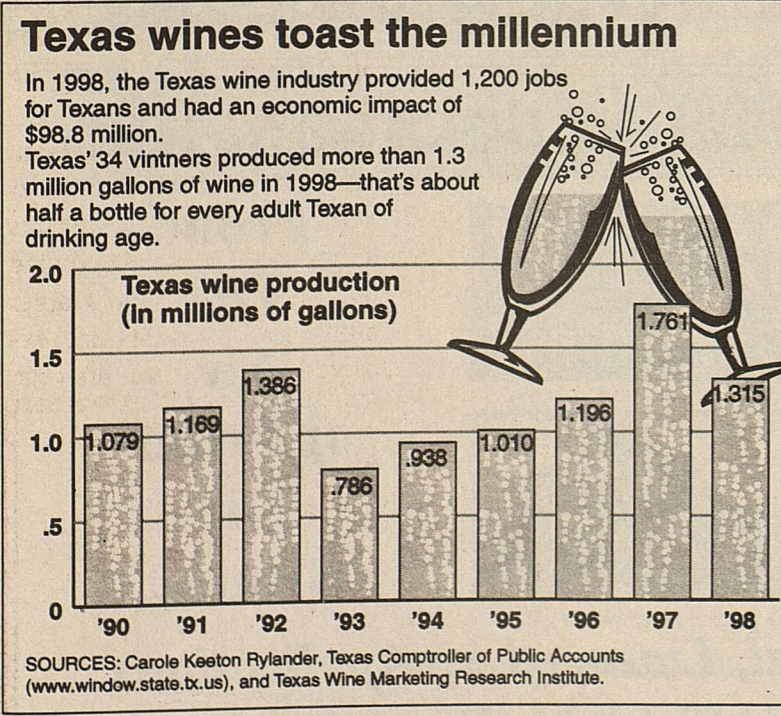
"We will be forever grateful for the hard work and dedication Osama has provided this state's eradication program," Patton said. "He continues to be committed to the program and fortunately will still be in a position to do whatever is necessary to help the program succeed."

Woody Anderson, chairman of the foundation board, also reassured growers the change would

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From The Hack

I panicked, really panicked, and confessed, "Well, I only spent one hundred twenty one dollars on you, and I forgot the tax.... I gotta go back and get you something else."

She shrieked, "Oh no, no, you dolt, you don't do Christmas by dollars, you do it by love. Who in the world cares if you spent \$17.17 less than I did on you. By the way, did you notice Walgreen's in Hobbs have mini-Teddy Bears on for \$15.29, plus tax? That should make us come out about even."

On the subject of Christmas; The Holiday has been memorable for us in quite memorable ways. The Bride and I had only been betrothed a few months when our first Christmas rolled around. She tells this story, which I continue to vehemently deny.

That first Christmas Eve we settled down in bed, eagerly awaiting Santa Claus - Which means to say, we still had kids in the house then, frantically hoping we had all the toys and stuff assembled right. I finally drifted off to sleep.

Next thing I know, Bride is pounding me on the head and shoulders, shrieking, "Wake up, Wake Up, you idiot, you're killing me!"

It seems I was dreaming Santa was on the roof of our poorly constructed house,

tromping about with all those tiny deer, and I was screaming in my dream, 'get your fat butt and all those varmints off the roof, the shingles won't even turn water now!', all the while kicking the Bride in her right thigh I blamed this episode on her first venture in brewing egg-nog, positive she forgot the egg stuff.

If you by chance read a few of the articles in this paper, have watched TV the last 19 months, are vaguely aware of what radio and TV news shows are talking about more and more, it's Y2K and impending doom. But it's not phasing the bride a great deal. She claims the only thing she is fretful about having should disaster strike is food, water, warmth, and makeup. To date, we have laid in an extra two gallons of bottled water, a box of wooden matches, 48 rolls of toilet tissue, and three kits of Beauty Control Makeup, valued at \$149.50 each. She reasons, "We can always borrow a little water, start a fire in the backyard if we're freezing, and you know what the necessity paper is for, but I have absolutely no assurance I'll be able to get my makeup in a timely manner if this mess hits us hard."

Now that Christmas has again come and gone, I have a confession to make. I'm glad.

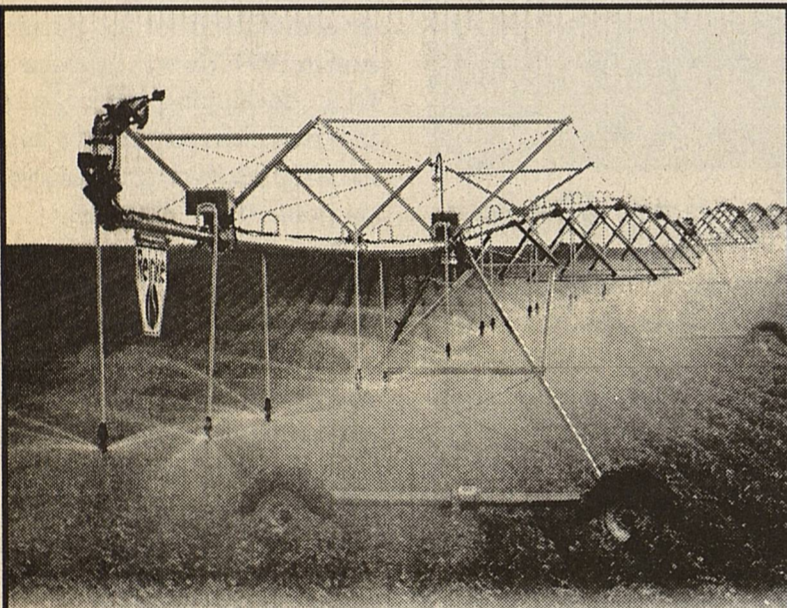
Yes, that's a selfish attitude, I will admit, but the Yule season around our house usually... no, always, produces chaos, and this year was no different. It led off with this conversation between the Bride and I:

I innocently asked, after all the shopping was done, finished, history, "How many gifts did you get me?"

"Four", she answered. I was immediately chagrined, embarrassed.

I confessed, "I only have three for you." I immediately felt poorly, and asked, again very innocently, "How much money did you spend on me?"

Wrong question. She immediately said, "Oh, you're always concerned about bucks! It's not important at all, it's the gift thought that counts!" A pause, and she added, "I spent one hundred thirty eight dollars and 17 cents on you, tax included, Mr. Nosey!"



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One of my regular routines for the paper on Christmas day, weather permitting, is cruising the streets of our hamlet, trying to take photos of kids outdoors with new gifts. The assignment this year was a bit tough - the weather was cold, dreary, and kiddos outside were few and far between. I managed to take the shot of Joe


Williams and his bike, spent another fruitless 20 minutes cruising the deserted streets.

About ready to pack it in, ahead of me a few blocks I spotted a small figure in the street pushing something. I sped up, pulled up to a little girl, energetically pushing a baby buggy filled with two dolls. I stopped by her, gave her

my cheesiest smile and asked, "May I take your picture for the newspaper?"

"No," she said, continuing to push her charges, "They're cold and have a fever, I gotta get them in the warm."
Beautiful.

Y2K Y2K Y2K Y2K Y2K Y2K Y2K



Y2K Meeting

Got Questions About Y2K?

Mike Dreyspring
General Manager

This will be our last meeting on
Thursday, Dec. 30th at 7:30 p.m.
(Mountain Standard Time) at
Gann Cafeteria
500 W. Jefferson - Lovington

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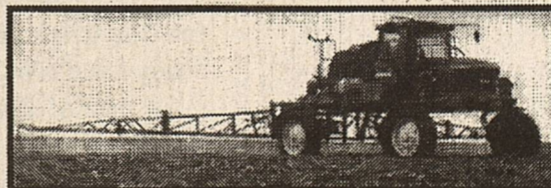
We will be open
Friday, Dec. 31st
Lovington ~ 7:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Tatum and Plains ~ 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Our offices will be CLOSED Monday, Jan. 3rd
to observe the New Year Holiday.

For more information call:
Lea County Electric Cooperative at
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