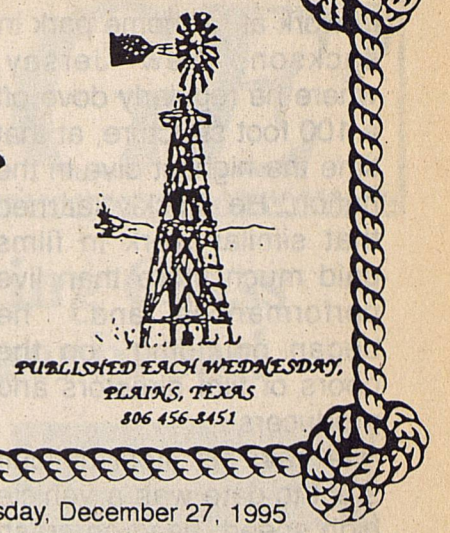


COWBOY COUNTRY NEWS



Volume 2, Issue 16, Wednesday, December 27, 1995

Stunting For Hollywood Not All Fun & Games

Watch any action, adventure movie on the big screen or your television, and you are going to see a spectacular, possibly dangerous stunt scene, say, an auto chase or crash, a fall from a tall building, some guy getting blown up or on fire. Stunts are so commonplace in these types of films they are often taken for granted by viewers, but not by the professionals performing the stunt.

David Sanders, visiting his his parents L.J. and Virginia Sanders over the Christmas holidays, told us the life of a stuntman is not all glitz and Hollywood glamour, but is often plain hard work.

The 40 year old stuntman said he earned his first paycheck for screen work in 1978 in the film "She Came To The Valley", performing a horse back fall and another fall off a cliff. To date he has appeared in 54 films, either as a stuntman, stunt coordinator, or second unit Director. David feels good about his current success in the field, but maintains he has certainly paid his dues, in earlier years performing for small fees, with long waits between paychecks.

He and his wife live in Houston, where he maintains an office, commuting to whatever part of the

country where he is contracted to perform in the shooting of a film. He said this year he spent a month in South Carolina, and several months in Austin while filming three movies.

Wife Cherie, obviously proud of David's hard-earned success, still has mixed emotions about the demanding and dangerous profession, likening it to being married to a police officer, feeling some apprehension each time he leaves on a job.

Asked how important athletic ability is to a stuntman, David said, "In my case, I could not have gotten in and remained in the profession without a strong athletic background".

While a student at Odessa Junior college in the seventies, he was a member of the college gymnastics team, for a number of years the National Champion of Junior College Gymnastics, where David earned All American honors for his gymnastic talents. After moving to Austin, he met a number of University of Texas divers and gymnasts who encouraged and helped him learn to dive. He said "We dove off of every bridge, dam and cliff we could find", learning techniques which led him

Turn to page 2,
'Stuntman'

New District Conservationist Named For County

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has named Cindy Poole the new District Conservationist for Yoakum County. In a telephone interview yesterday, Mrs. Poole said she hopes to be on the job here by February 5. She replaces Mario Avila, recently promoted to the same position in Tahoka.



Cindy Poole

Poole is currently the Soil Conservationist at Portales, N.M., for Roosevelt County. She has almost eleven years conservation service, 7 1/2 at Portales. She started her government service career at Clarendon as Range Conservationist, and served as Area clerk at Pampa.

She applied for the District Conservationist position here when Avila's transfer

Turn to page 2,
'Cindy Poole'

Cowboys Honored With Spots On All State, All District Football Teams

Ten varsity Cowboy players earned positions on both the prestigious All State and All District teams last week.

Senior Joe Luna was named to The Associated Press First Team as a Defensive Back, and Senior Chase Clanahan was named to the Honorable Mention team as an offensive lineman.

Joe Luna also made All District First Team as a wide receiver and Defensive Back, while Clanahan made both teams as an offense and defense lineman. Other Cowboys named to the All District First Teams included Ralph Ramirez as quarterback and secondary player, Josh Traweek, running back, Kirk Parrish, Defensive End, and Wayne Willett, Linebacker.

Second Team Cowboys honored included Arthur Hernandez, Center, Coley



Front Row, L-R; Arthur Hernandez, Eric Ramos, Josh Traweek, Joe Luna, Chris Payne.
Back Row, L-R; Kirk Parrish, Chase Clanahan, Coley Burgess, Ralph Ramirez. (Wayne Willett Not present for photo)

Burgess, offensive guard and defensive lineman, Kirk Parrish, Offensive Tackle, Chris Payne, Wide Receiver, and Eric Ramos, Linebacker.

Congratulations to all these players who worked so hard the entire long season.

Just How Important Is Ag Industry To The County?

It is no secret or startling news item reporting the large monetary value of agriculture in Yoakum County. Agriculture and the petroleum industry have always been the back bone of the area dollar structure which sustains us all.

With the continuing decline in oil related economic interests in the county, reported by most of the major producing companies operating in this part of the Permian Basin, the vital role agriculture plays in supporting the economic lifeline of Yoakum County becomes more important each year.

Because of a dramatic increase in irrigated, commodity producing acreage in

the County, a diversification in crop production, steering away from the traditional backbone crops of cotton and grain sorghum, and vastly improved individual farming procedures and practices, the future of agriculture's tremendously important role in all our individual lives and pursuits becomes more dominant each year.

In an effort to fairly accurately gauge the Ag-Industry's role in our local population's dollar supply, we contacted a number of US Department of Agriculture offices, the local Texas Ag Extension Service, other government agencies, area gins and commodity buyers/traders to gauge the Ag dollars generated here. The following figures and charts, we stress, are best estimated amounts only at this time. It will be months before final exact dollar figures are available, but this data appears to be reasonably accurate at this time.

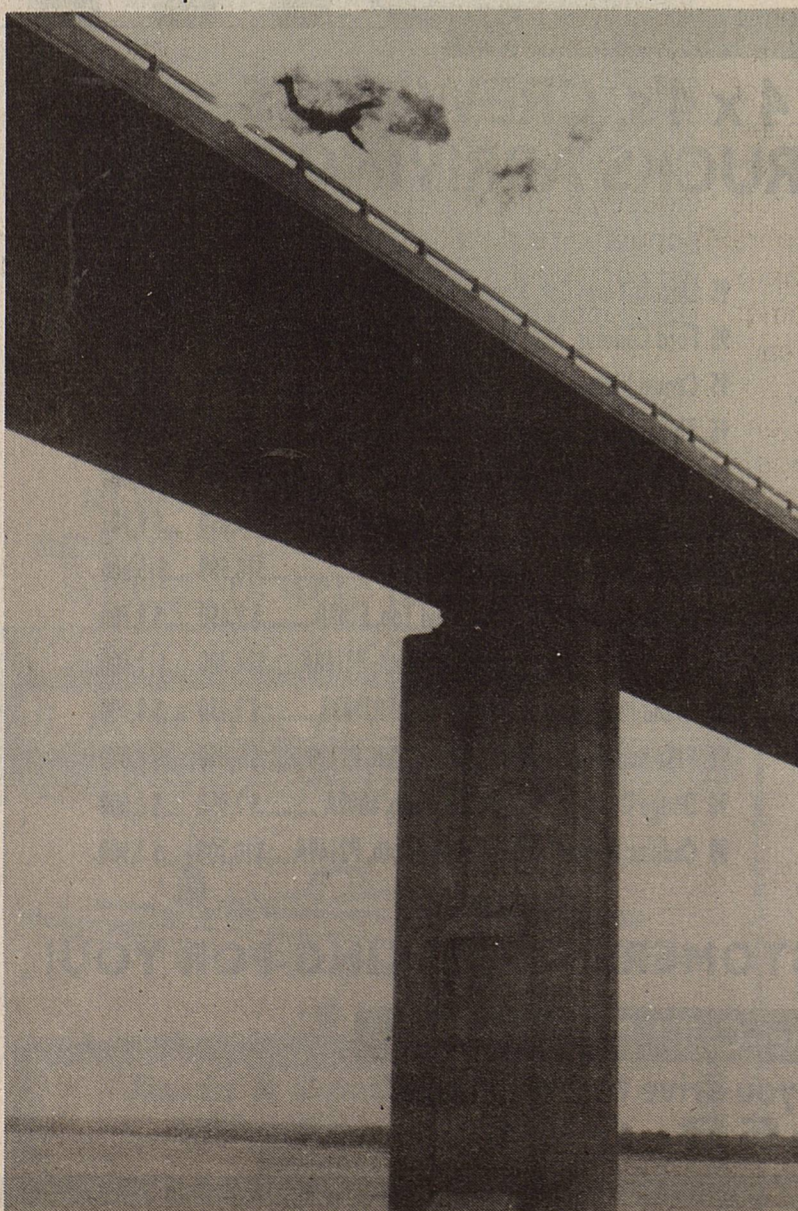
Almost \$71,000,000 in Ag related products, services and commodities will be generated in Yoakum County by the end of the year. This is a bold, dramatic increase in monetary value over the previous year's figure of \$45 million. What accounts for this huge gain in Ag related income?

Perhaps one of the year's largest dollar gaining commodities was cotton; Because of an excellent current price per bale and local production much better than previously estimated, the value of the 1995 County cotton crop is set at almost \$40 million, compared to 1994's figure of \$25 million.

The number two commodity, grain sorghum, increased in production from less than \$1 million last year, to a surprising \$9 million plus value, attributed to many acres of abandoned cotton land being planted to sorghum, and a strong market price because of a general shortage of feed and cereal grains. One surprising crop value reported was over \$1 million cash receipts for county produced pecans. Another near \$1 million was generated from cash receipts for watermelons and vegetables, including chili, peppers and potatoes. Money received from peanut production was down compared to 1994, due primarily to adverse weather during the growing season.

Over \$6 million in government funds were received by county land owners for set aside acreage in

Turn to page 2,
'Agriculture'



Blown off bridge, afire, into water 80 feet below

Don't Forget!

The Next Issue of CCN will be published one day later because of the New Year Holiday!

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Neighbors, Subscribers &
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Thank You For A Very
Good 1995 !!
We Appreciate Everyone
Of You, And We Wish
All The Very Best In
1996, Health, Wealth, &
Happiness !!

The Cowboy Country News Staff

Cont'd from page 1, 'Stuntman'

to work at a theme park in Jackson, New Jersey, where he regularly dove off a 100 foot structure, at that time the highest dive in the nation. He quickly learned that similar work in films paid much more than live performances, and he began pounding on the doors of film directors and producers.

He said his most difficult stunt to date was a vehicle high speed, head-on crash in the film "Cadillac Ranch". Three cameras recorded the crash, which had to occur in a ten foot stretch of road. He reported the impact occurred within one foot of the center of the allotted space.

He considers his most dangerous stunt getting blown off an 80 feet tall bridge, clothing afire, to fall in the water below. He thinks the most spectacular work he performed, from an audience stand point, was driving a Ford Bronco chasing the star, Charlie Sheen in the film, "The Chase".

One of his most recent stunts was filmed in Waco in "Action, USA". Playing the part of 'Lucky', he reaches his demise by being knocked thru a tenth floor window, to apparently crash on the top of a parked car. He actually fell into a 12 foot thick 30 by 40 foot airbag.



David Sanders worked with.

Sanders said he has yet to be seriously injured in the scores of stunts he has performed before the cameras. "There is a great difference in the terms 'daredevils' and professional stunt people. A daredevil is prone to attempt things with the odds stacked against him. A good stunt person will very carefully study the variables which can get you hurt, find situations in which the odds are in your favor, then make a decision to go or no go".

A member of the Screen Actors Guild and American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, Sanders is now eligible for pension, medical and life insurance benefits, things not available in his early years. Asked if he had any regrets about his choice of professions, he said he wished he had remained in college long enough to get a degree, but loves his work. He related getting established in the elite stunt field takes a great deal of time and perseverance to reach the point of making a decent living. He described the profession as a "Who You Know Business; The more influential people you know, the more your telephone will ring, and the more dollars will get in your pocket". He feels he is currently about the number two rated professional video and screen stuntman working out of Texas.

David regularly adds to his income with stunt work for industrial firms and larger law firms. Industry is using stunts in video safety films, while lawyers often hire stuntmen to re-enact accidents in a safe manner for use in civil litigation

Legal Notice

Plains ISD invites interested parties to make proposals to provide property/general liability and auto coverage to meet the insurance needs of the District. Proposals will be received until 2:00 P.M., January 17, 1996 at the Business Office. Two copies of the proposal should be submitted. Proposals should be delivered to Eric Banfield, Business Manager, Plains ISD, 1000 10th Street, Box 479, Plains, Texas 79355. For questions or to request a copy of the RFP, please contact The Business Office at 806-456-7483.

Plains ISD reserves the right to contact with the vendor that represents the best value to the district.

cases. In one safety training film, he was required to be run over in the water by a high speed outboard motorboat. He said only a special prop guard on the motor kept him from being chewed up, and he summed up the experience simply as "Real scary".

Asked what her feelings were about David's profession, his mother Virginia admitted during his earlier years, breaking into the business, both she and L.J. carried a large load of worries. "We have learned how to cope with it, and fully accept his choice of work. We know he enjoys it, and we are happy he has succeeded, and can do well in something he really wants to do."

I had a preconceived mental image of David before we met and talked; He would be a very large, muscular guy with a gravelly voice, possibly a heavy gray beard, boisterous, loud mouthed, ego cloaked and soaked. I could not have been more inaccurate. He is five feet, ten inches tall, a slim 165 pounds. His physical appearance is not spectacular, but his performance in his chosen profession is.

It sounds like a tough job which someone has to do, and I am glad it is David.

Cont'd from page 1, 'Cindy Poole'

was announced. Asked if her application was the result of her desire for promotion, she stated, "Only partly. We have wanted to return to Texas a long time now." She was born in Fort Worth, and her husband Jerry's family live in Quanah.

She graduated from high school in Albuquerque, and earned degrees in both Range Science and Animal Science from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces.

Her husband Jerry will retire from his position in the

Continued from Page 1, 'Ag Industry'

the CRP program, and producers receiving other government funds.

The following chart shows cash receipts for

County Cash Receipts in \$ Thousands

Commodity	Estimated	Estimated
	1994	1995
Wheat	89	1,059
Hay	1,490	1,632
Sorghum	620	9,263
Cotton	24,910	39,810
Cottonseed	4,120	5,543
Peanuts	2,760	2,187
Vegetables	1,000	380
Watermelon	498	578
Grapes	25	27
Milk	652	650
Breeder Cattle - Dairy	100	100
Breeder Cattle - Beef	430	232
Calves - Beef	700	875
Calves - Dairy	100	100
Stocker Cattle - VA	1,125	696
Goats	103	97
Hogs	11	43
Mohair	81	81
Horses	101	101
Hunting	2	2
X Animals	500	200
Subtotal	39,417	64,670
Govpmt (CRP)	2,701	2,617
Other Govpmt	3,083	3,467
Total w/Gov't	45,201	70,754

Reserve Officers Training about the producers of Corps at Eastern New Yoakum County, and the Soil Mexico prior to their move and Water Conservation here. They have two daughters, Audra, 13, and Gretta, 4.

She related she is looking forward to the move and her promotion. "I have heard a great deal of good things

county commodities in 1994, 1995, and estimated income from the projected 1996 production.

County Criminal Court

William B. Matta, 48, appeared before Judge Dallas Brewer's Criminal Court December 20 on a subsequent charge of DWI. He was represented by Attorney Jimmy Hammons, and the State was represented by Richard Clark, Criminal District Attorney.

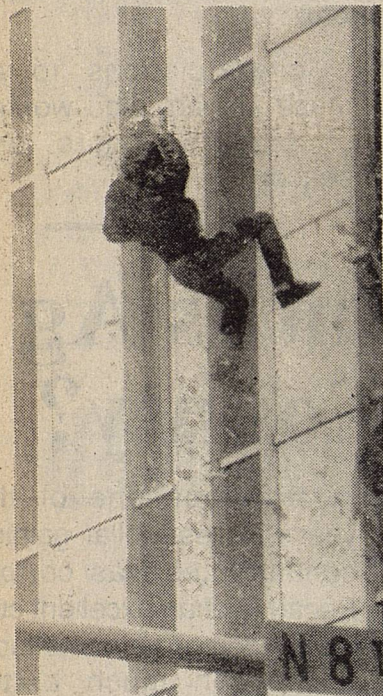
Matta pled guilty to the charge. He was assessed a 18 month probated jail term, fined \$750, ordered to pay \$227 in Court costs.

He will serve 30 days in the County jail, have his driver's license suspended 90 days, and will attend AA meetings each month

The following excerpts are taken from an extended description of a Texas steer recently published in the Sherman Patriot:

"The Texas steer is armed with horns at one end and heels at the other end, and when he swings himself in a circle heels and horns, horns and heels are promiscuously distributed.

"...He can keep seven small boys and one washerwoman, with all her equipments, flying in the air at one and the same time, and then find time to look for other game. His resources, like his leavings, are boundless. The Texas News, Dec. 15, 1878



Quick trip to the ground from ten stories high

Since his 1978 initial debut as a professional stuntman, David has met and worked with scores of noted actors and actresses. He reported Loni Anderson was a delight to work with, friendly and cheerful yet completely professional. He said Robert Duval, starring in the soon to be released "Stars Fell On Henrietta", filmed here in Texas, was not only an excellent actor, but entertaining and very friendly. He described Glenn Ford, whom he worked with in "Final Verdict" as "one of the original good old boys and an excellent actor", and Chuck Norris of Karate and Kung Fu fame as a super nice guy.

David believes actor Brian Dennehy is one of his favorites, describing him as willing to candidly talk to all cast members and working crew, and capable of telling fascinating stories of his earlier football playing days, and tales of old movies and Hollywood stars he knows and has

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93 Toyota Camry LE, Sunroof, One Owner, 3049A ...\$15,950\$14,700	95 Ford Contour, Auto, Cassette, P2188.....\$13,950\$12,700
95 Cougar, V-8, Moon Roof, Exec. Pkg., P2153\$16,800\$15,900	95 Crown Victoria, V-8, All Power, P2179.....\$19,575\$18,600
89 Signature Town Car, Roof, 44k, 6017B\$11,950\$10,300	95 Thunderbird, V-8, White, Blue Cloth, P2178.....\$15,900\$14,800
95 Taurus, 3.8 V-6, Power Equip. Pkg. 20K, P2181\$15,475\$13,900	95 Mustang LX, V-6, Automatic, 15K, P2166.....\$16,800\$15,400
94 Explorer, 4 Dr., 4 x 4, Power, Automatic\$18,500\$16,700	94 Ranger S-Cab, 4 Cyl., 5 Speed, Cassette, P2189...\$11,650 ...\$ 9,902
94 Tempo GL, 4 Dr., 5 Speed, Tilt, Cruise, 35K\$ 6,950\$ 6,400	93 Buick Roadmaster, Cloth, 47K, Gray.....\$18,500\$15,600
95 F150 XLT, Flareside, 302, AOD, 37K, Red, 2224B.\$14,850\$13,300	93 Buick Century, V-6, Auto, Vinyl Top, 5208A.....\$ 9,650\$ 8,700
94 Silverado Ext. Cab, Power Windows, P2164A\$15,950 ...\$13,800	92 Lincoln Town Car, Gray, Gray Cloth, P2168A.....\$14,300\$11,600
87 Motorhome, 27' Jamboree with Gen. 43K, 2221A.\$16,000\$14,800	91 Grand Marquis, Metallic Red, Nice! P2183B.....\$ 9,950\$ 8,900
93 Silverado, Ext. Cab, 350, Bright Red, 34K, P2191...\$17,450\$15,900	91 F150 Super Cab, 6 Cyl., 5 Speed, Red, P2190.....\$ 9,850\$ 8,800
92 F150 S-Cab, 4 x 4, 302, 5 Speed, 82K\$12,950\$11,400	90 Dodge Dynasty, Maroon, V-6, Auto, 6009A\$ 7,950\$ 6,600
93 Lincoln Cartier, Sunfire Red, Leather, 6026A\$21,950\$19,600	89 Cadillac Sedan DeVille, Taupe, Cloth, P2149A.....\$10,700 ...\$ 7,900
96 F150 Super Cab, V-8, Automatic, 3055A\$18,900\$17,600	

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'PISD ACTIVITY PAGE'

P.I.S.D. Basketball Summary

Basketball action was very limited last week, with only the Junior High Wrangler teams seeing action.

7th Girl Wranglers;
The 7th and 8th grade girls traveled to Sundown last Monday afternoon with mixed results. The 7th grade girls lost a close 20-16 contest in the opening contest. Elva Ruiz led the scoring with 10 points. Lesli Rowe and Adrienne Ramoz both had 2, and Kari Guetersloh and Frances Cordova scored 1 each.

8th Girl Wranglers;
The 8th grade girls fared no better than their younger teammates, losing to a good Sundown team 54-16. Kristen Gray had 6 points, Anne Palmer and Kelli Osborn 3 each, Candace Bowers 2, Shay Allsup and Krystle Blundell had 1 each.

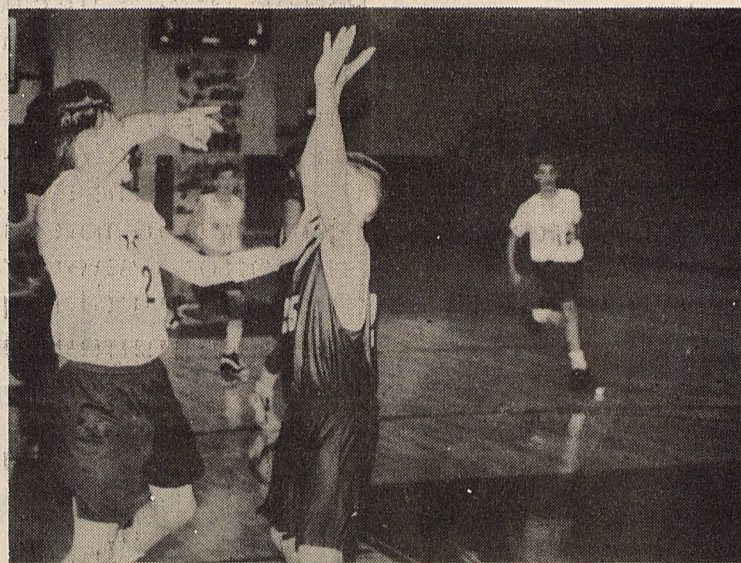
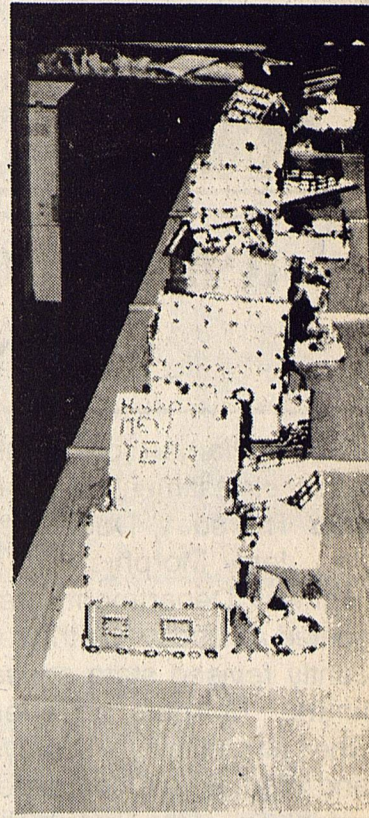
7th & 8th Girls 'B' Team;
The two grades combined forces on their 'B' Team, and scored a convincing 33-11 win over a Sundown 'B' team. Elizabeth Casillas and Laura Morales led the scoring with 8 points each, followed by Tanya Vasquez 6, Kimbe Jones 4, Staci Tuggle 3, and Angie Longoria and Ashlei Mason

New National Honor Society Inductees

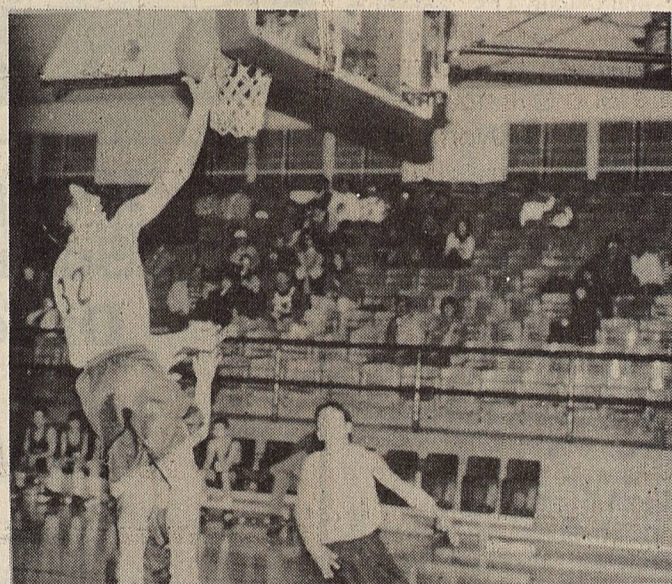
Nineteen PHS students were inducted into the National Honor Society in ceremonies held December 13. The present officers of the Society spoke on requirements and criteria of the prestigious academic and citizenship organization. Jeremy Dearing, Pres. spoke on the subject of leadership. Secretary Kyle Bearden addressed the subject of service to others, and Reporter Mary Morales spoke on the importance of character, and Valerie Blair discussed scholarship. The Honor Society,

Homemaking Class Does Gingerbread

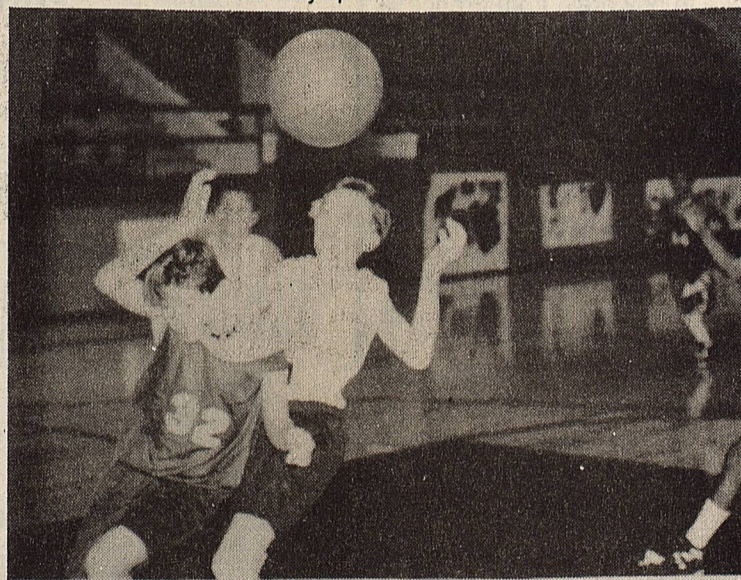
Mrs. Deaton's 8th grade Homemaking Class recently completed a gingerbread making project. They learned to make the tasty item, then practiced their art talents by decorating and constructing Christmas theme gingerbread houses. Their talented work was displayed last week at the County Library. Students involved in the project included Velvet Canada, Beth Perry, Leticia Canon, Laura Martinez, Patty Ruiz, Jessica Flores, Wendy Hernandez, Laura Morales, Nicole Newsom, America Hernandez, Angie Longoria, Edward Escobar, Chisum Deaton, and Autumn Deaton.



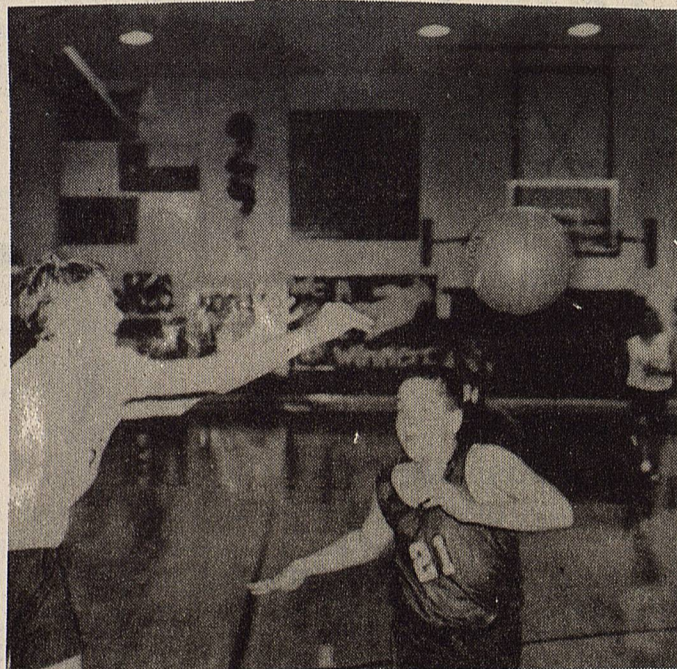
Put Hand In His Face & Shoot!



This Layup Shot Went In



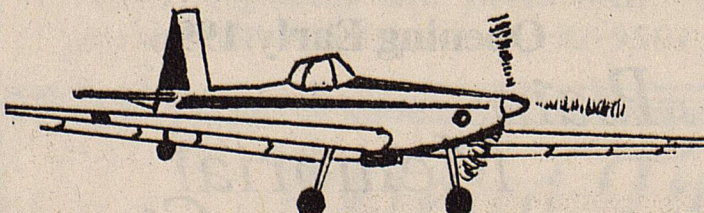
Out Of My Way, It's Mine!



A Hot Pass On The Way

The photos here and in the next column were taken at last Mondays games here against Sundown, while the Girl Wranglers were playing there.

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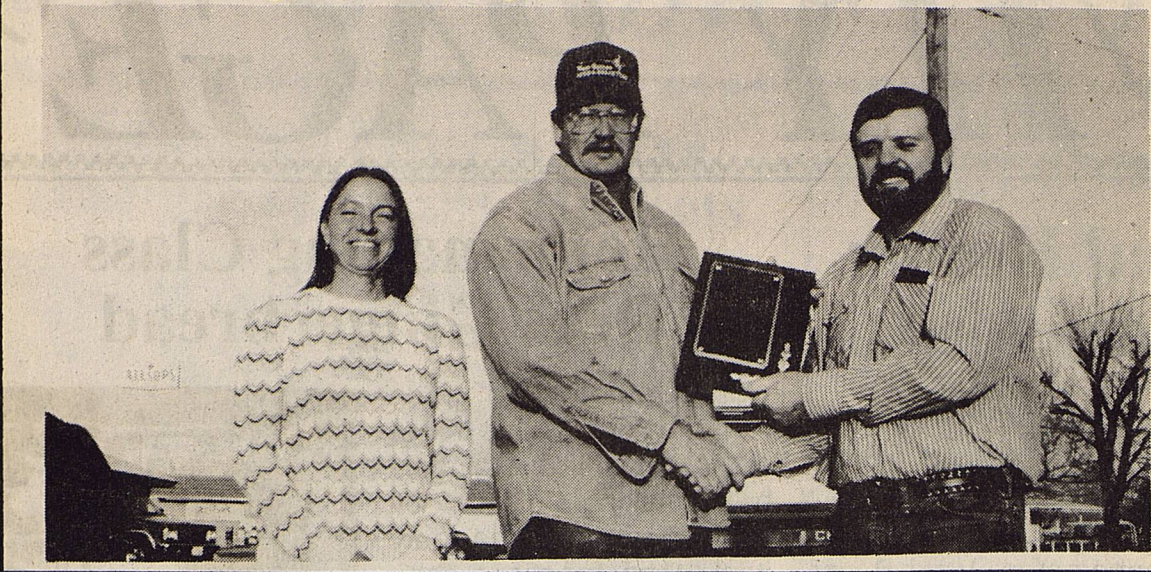
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Bruce Lester is shown receiving a commemorative plaque from Farm Service Agency County Committee members Edith Tuggle and Tommy Guy Box. The presentation was honoring Lester's expiring three year term on the committee.



Lions Meet, Plan 50th Anniversary

The Plains Lions Club held their last meeting of the year Thursday, December 21. Jerry Morphis, State Highway Department, presented an update on the recently revised state speed limits. Morphis believes when all preliminary surveys and studies are complete, virtually all of the State highways in Yoakum County, with the exception of some Farm To Market routes, will be posted for 70 MPH daytime speeds, 65 MPH nights, with truck limits remaining at 60 MPH.

Club President Rick Doyle discussed tentative plans for a catered banquet in observance of the local clubs 50th Anniversary on February 15. There are two current members of the Club who are charter members of the organization, Pierre St. Romain and Sherm Tingle.

The Anniversary celebration will probably be held in the new Community Build-

ing, and arrangements are being made to secure a guest speaker and food catering source.

Alma Lynn McGinty was recognized at the meeting, and presented with a Christmas gift in honor of her many years in serving lunch to the Club at their bi-weekly meetings.

Special guests at the meeting were Jeremy Dearing, PHS Senior and recent All-State Track honoree, David Young, engineer for the City, and Judy and Norman Head, owners of Plains Memorial Chapel, which is slated to open in January.

Members present included Sherm Tingle, Pierre St. Romain, Gary Walker, Milton Bayer, Jack Cobb, Gary Dyer, Debbie Rushing, Jerry Morphis, Allen Bell, Harry Richardson, Rick Doyle, David Brunson, David Bunch, and Melvin Dearing.

Spain Buys 30 Million Bushels Of U.S. Sorghum

Spain and other countries from the European Union are on a buying spree and what they're buying is U.S. sorghum, with the result that sorghum prices are going up. In some places sorghum is trading at a premium to corn.

NGSP has learned from a grain trader involved in the sale that more than 30 million bushels have already been purchased at a premium of 15 cents per bushel, an increase of \$4.5 million.

Reuters news service reports that prices in Kansas are at a 12-year high, up 35 percent in the past year and 16 percent in the past month.

A shortage of barley in the EU has caused livestock feeders to look elsewhere for grain supplies. The EU slashed the import tariff on sorghum by 47 percent at the end of November to allow for the importation of more grain to make up for the tight supplies of EU-grown barley.

Livestock feeders in Spain are familiar with U.S. sorghum because of the years of work done by the National Grain Sorghum Producers and the U.S. Feed Grains Council, beginning in the 1970's.

Feeding trials were set up in Spain to show the nutritional value of U.S. sorghum, with the result that Spain signed an agreement with the United States to purchase several hundred metric tons of sorghum each year.

In 1986, as GATT negotiations were being held, Spain's contract to buy U.S. sorghum was one of the topics under discussion.

When Spain joined the European Union, the EU wanted the contract thrown out so Spain would have to buy grain from France, a member of the EU.

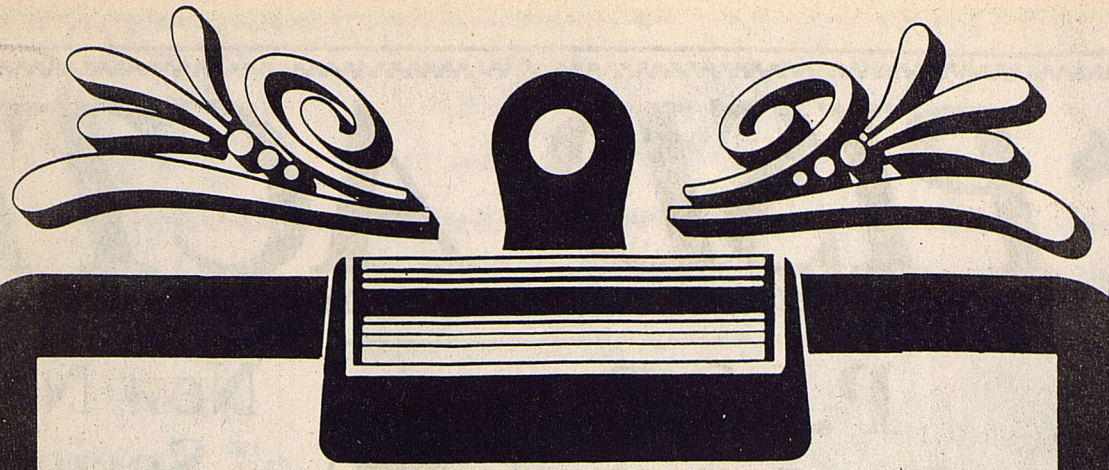
Fortunately for U.S. sorghum growers, NGSP had a well-respected and knowledgeable representative on hand during the negotiations.

Although the negotiations were still done behind closed doors, the agricultural representatives were consulted before final decisions were made.

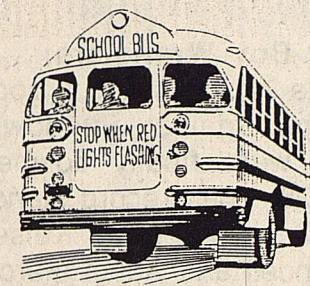
"This was an extremely important event for U.S. farmers," he said. "Never before had agriculture even been considered in any of the negotiations."

As a result, the final agreement called for Spain to buy 300,000 metric tons of U.S. sorghum each year even though the EU placed a tariff on the imports.

Texas Grain News



We Sincerely Hope The New Year Will Bring Each Of You Peace, Happiness, Good Health and Prosperity



**Plains Independent School District
Board of Trustees, Administrators,
Faculty and Staff**

January Marketing Workshops To Help Cotton Farmers Cope

LUBBOCK: The new federal farm bill appears to be heading toward more flexibility for farmers to respond to the market as they decide what crops to plant, says an agricultural economist and management specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. But that means farmers must become more skilled in using available marketing tools, he says.

"This new flexibility will likely result in more price variability," says Dr. Jackie Smith, professor and Extension Service economist at Lubbock. "This increased price variability and the likelihood that deficiency payments will be discontinued will force farmers to become more familiar with the available price risk management tools."

"A cotton farmer can take advantage of profitable pricing opportunities only if he is prepared to evaluate the various alternatives," Smith said.

To help farmers be prepared to evaluate alternative pricing opportunities, the Extension Service will hold a series of one-day, in-depth, introductory cotton marketing workshops in January.

The workshops will be held at four sites: January 23, Post; January 24, Big Spring; January 25, Plainview, and January 26, Levelland.

Dr. Carl Anderson, professor and extension cotton marketing specialist from College Station, and Smith will be the instructors. Topics will include introduction to futures, localizing the futures basis, introduction to options, estimating costs of production, comparison of pricing alternatives, developing a marketing plan, cotton situation and outlook and an overview of current farm bill provisions.

Each workshop will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 5 p.m. The registration fee is \$30 and includes an extensive set of materials. Spouses are encouraged to attend; each husband and wife will pay only one \$30 fee. Registration should be made in advance with local county extension agents. A workshop at any site will be cancelled if 10 paid registrations haven't been made by January 12. Additional information may be obtained from county extension agents or by telephoning Smith at Lubbock (806) 746-6101.

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Femme Friends Page

Hospice, Pay 'n Save Distribute Fruit Baskets



L-R: John Kitto, Dianne Woods, Candi Seaton, Amy Horne, Dean Richardson

Last week three local patients being ministered to by Hospice, Inc. volunteers received festive Holiday baskets of fresh fruit.

Hospice volunteers Amy Horne and Dianne Woods, Denver City, and Dean Richardson and Candi Seaton, Plains, delivered

the baskets of fruit, which were generously donated by John Kitto, Mgr., and Lowe's local Pay 'n Save Grocery.

To learn more about the many services offered by Hospice, Inc., contact any of the ladies listed here.

From Your Library

Everyone is urged to use our County Library. It is funded by you, the taxpayers of the County. We have a broad selection of books, videos, periodicals, audio books and reference materials for your use.

With the approaching end of 1995 and the New Year, our thoughts are on two men who are no longer with us, both wonderful supporters of the County Libraries, Paul Cobb and Clyde Trout. They were both instrumental in starting our facilities, expanding and improving them. We have many other people who help us keep our library updated and working for our patrons. Your library staff will keep their memories of Paul and Clyde alive, and we sincerely thank each and every library supporter in Yoakum County. Happy New Year!

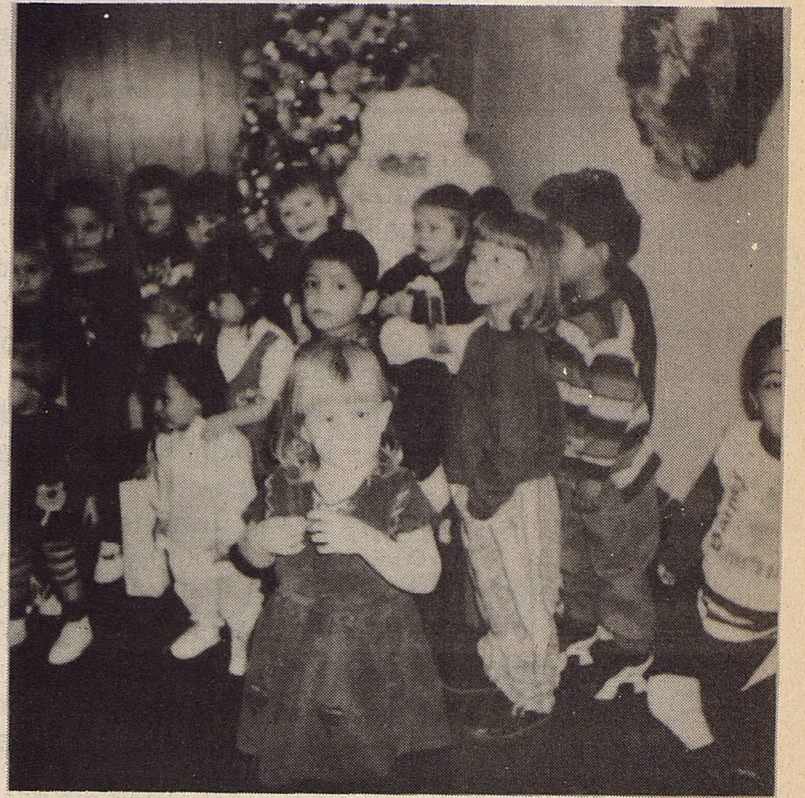
Lattrell McDonnell,
Librarian

Filmtime Youngsters Letters Mailed To Santa.

The pre-school youngsters attending the Library Filmtime Christmas party last week turned in the Christmas wish letters to Santa Claus on Wednesday, December 20, the date we publish CCN.

Because of the time element, we couldn't print the letters before Christmas Day, so we rushed the letters off to the North Pole to make sure St. Nick had their letters in time for his trip south. He received letters from;

Kevin John Gass, Katelynn Young, Raegan Young, Lydia Whitzel, Holden Welch, Haley Welch, Jasmine Mares, Rhaela Stall, Hannah Crump, Michael Mendoza, Hugo Mendoza, Jacob Brink, Landon Earnest, Shelby Williams, Danyalla Wilson, Lexus Jimenez, Dustin Altman, Zachary Ramon, Cody Friesen, Ashley Hainer, Marina Martinez, Troy Parrish, Taylor Banfield, Shylo Duran, Jasmine Whitzel, Hunter Welch, Kelsey Curry, Alfredo Martinez, Rhaemi Stall, Merrit Crump, Angel Mendoza, Brandon Craft, Jaston Brink, Dakota Earnest, Colleen Williams, Arnold Cordova, Kristine Lopez, Blaine Altman, Courtney McWilliams, Autumn Friesen, Charity Hainer, Emily Davis and Elijah Hinkle.



Pre-schoolers & Santa at Library

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We Hope Your Holidays Have Been Cheerful And Bright!

The following individuals and families generously made donations to our annual "Operation Christmas Card", which made funds available for placing headstones in the Plains Cemetery.

Lattrell & Duane McDonnell

Lois & T.J. Miller

Janelle & Buddy Brantley

Dorothy & Ray Jones

Harry, Dean & Donita Richardson

Florence Bookout

Sit Jones

Keith & Staci Earnest

Mrs. Murrell Thompson

Dan, Linda & Chad Wall

Ita Young

Beulah Graham

Burve Overton

Edna Chambliss

Jim & Nona O'Neal

Irene Jones

Roger & Ann Harvey

Kenneth & Willie Mae Engle

Melvin, Dawn, Jeremy & Cassadra Dearing

Marvin & Terry Dearing family

William & Helen Worsham

Carl & Marie Lowrey



Dolores Davis

Mary Jo & Pierre St. Romain

Margaret Box

Sallye Shoemaker

Faye Nelms

Rhuey Edwards

Sarah & Homer Shelton

Don & Pat Hinkle

Marjorie, Raymond & Marlie Diaz

Alton & Roma Lee Elmore

Redell Cogburn

Alma Lynn McGinty

Roy & Jeanie Edwards

Bud & Mary Dale Forbus

Mr & Mrs Travis Jones

Mrs. L.D. Hamm

Jerome Head Family

Velma Dearing

Leon & Thelma Lee Cheatham

Bob & Wilma McDonnell

Randy, Edith & Staci Tuggle

Your support is sincerely appreciated.

The Plains Dirt Gardeners

Happy New Year!

We need to remind our readers and contributors again, we have a deadline for both news articles and ads. We fully realize events occurring on the weekend can't be reported to us until the next Monday, but please, the earlier the better! Because of our scheduled printing time each Tuesday, we cannot be responsible for including your articles and ads if not received by NOON, each FRIDAY, unless an event occurs on the weekend. We will do our best to get late news in, but WE MAKE NO PROMISES. Thanks for your help.

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Catholic Church
Fr. Glen Rosendale

Templo Bautista
Nueva Vision
Pastor Jose Rodriguez

From The Hack



Boy, am I ticked off. I assume the stinking Postal Service screwed up again and didn't get my many letters to Santa in time. I didn't have a single reindeer on my roof, nor a thing I asked for under my tree. Talk about injustice.

Now all we can look forward to this Holiday Season is New Year celebrations and promises.

The Table Of Wisdom group has been laboring on this subject for sometime now. They are very serious about their pledges, too.

Morris Rushing recently vowed to refrain from referring to me as his #~!^ father in law if I would leave him out of this column. He's never serious about anything. Bob Blundell says he vows to send us nothing but true, verifiable golf scores from his new abode on Lake Travis after the first of the year. Yeah. Ho Ho.

Mike Blount swears he will report the fact in our first 1996 edition both his two young sons are better steer ropers than Daddy.

James Altman just swears he will continue to swear.

'Sodie' Hobbs vows to continue sharpening knives at the table, and continue his habit of remaining silent until he can add something absolutely worthless.

Barry Green swears he will continue to make coffee for this bunch, only under company orders.

and knowing full well he may crack under the pressure at any moment.

I took the Bride to Hobbs last Saturday for some last minute shopping, afraid St. Nick might miss her like he did me.

We lunched at the Chinese Kitchen on Bender where the old Hobo Joe's was once located. Very good Chinese Buffet, or, if you chose, you can order from a very extensive menu. Trying to make the decision of which choice, I perused the fare, including some of the items we were familiar with, including Chow Mein, Sweet & Sour Pork, Moo Goo Gai Pan, and then an entree just leaped out at me.....

It was rather untastily titled "Pu-Pu Platter". I swear. Go and look up on the wall where all the dishes are displayed in vivid color, and there it is, "Pu-Pu Platter". Ok, I won't pursue this any further. But just in case any of you doubting Thomas'es don't believe me, go over there, and please, someone order it...for some perverted reason, I am dying to know what type of Pu-Pu they put on your Platter.

I left the restaurant in such jolly good spirits after reading this ridiculous menu item I let the Bride buy a new, all wool coat, actually made in the USA. Incredible.

- Cup Butter
- 1/2 cup Cocoa
- 2 Lg. eggs
- Lemon juice
- Tsp. baking soda
- Brown sugar
- Tblsp. Sugared Nuts
- Cup dried fruit.

"Before you start, sample rum for quality, then select large mixing bowl. Check rum quality again, for it must be just right. To be absolutely sure, pour glass of rum, sip until finished, then to be 100% certain, repeat. With electric mixer, beat 1 cup buerrer in the large fluffy bowl. Add teaspoon sugar and beat agin. Drink another cup rum to ensure quality. Add 2 arge leggs, 2 cups fried druit and beat till high. If druit gets stuck in beaters, pru it loose with a screw driver. Samople rum again. Sift three cups salt pepper, it don't matter, and sample rum again for quilty control. Sift 1/2 pint lemon juice, folde in chopped butter and strained nuts. Add babblespoon brown thugar or what ever color you like or fined. Mix well. Grease oven and turn cake pan 350 gredees. Now pour whole mess into the boven and cake. Check rum agine anf bo to ged".

Sounds like a real tasty cake to me. But Dorothy, I don't have the courage to show this to the bride. I'm afraid I'll come home some day and find her dancing around the kitchen dressed like a pirate, chanting, "Yo Ho Ho and a bottle of rum".

Forget someone on your Christmas gift list? Heard on the CBS tube Sunday morning there is still an ample supply of 'Janet Reno Swimsuit Calendars' available.

Slower Economic Growth For Texas

AUSTIN: "The Texas economy will continue to grow in early 1996, but at a slower pace than we've seen in 1995," State Comptroller John Sharp says.

"The latest *Index of Leading Texas Economic Indicators* predicts slow to moderate growth during the next six months," Sharp said.

Sharp said the latest *Index of Leading Texas Economic Indicators* is at 124.9, an increase of 1.8 percent compared to one year ago. By comparison, the U.S. *Index of Leading Economic Indicators* is at 100.7, down 1.6 percent compared to one year ago and 4.5 percent lower than the previous month.

The *Texas Stock Index* is the strongest of the economic indicators. The overall stock value of Texas-based businesses is 24.4 percent higher than October 1994, a sign of investor confidence in Texas companies.

Demand for Texas homes remains steady. The number of new home construction permits is up 14.7 percent compared to this time last year. Texans are taking advantage of relatively low mortgage interest rates.

New businesses continue to arrive in Texas. Business incorporations in October were up 3 percent compared to the same month last year.

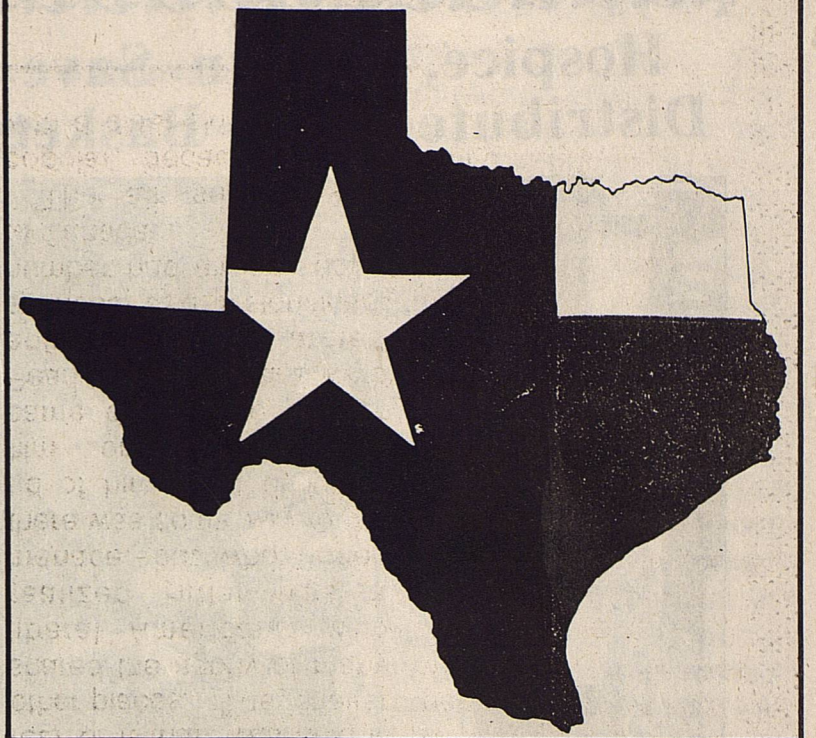
Unemployment claims increased by 4.7 percent compared to one year ago. The Texas unemployment rate grew by 0.2 percent in October, the first increase in unemployment in 35 months.

As the national economy cools, low demand for products and rising inventories may force Texas manufacturers to slow production in the coming months.

Texas oil was \$15.42 per barrel in October, down 1.2 percent compared to the same period last year and down 3.4 percent compared to the previous month. Mild weather means low demand for oil.

Happy New Year!

Texan's Attitudes About WW II



In T.R. Fehrenbach's great book, "LONE STAR - A History of Texas and the Texans", he writes of the prevailing attitude of Texans immediately prior to our involvement in the nearing World War II;

"The coming of crisis in Europe in 1939 showed that President Roosevelt's cautious policy of American commitment enjoyed huge support in Texas.

"Texans were the most belligerent people in the United States toward Germany and Japan. Texan interventionism far outran even that of the south.

"The crisis of world democratic states in the 1930's and early 1940's - their inability to react to totalitarian aggression effectively - was simply not reflected in Texas. Instinctively, apparently, Texans sensed Nazi Germany as an enemy, and once the enemy was defined, they believed it should be destroyed.

"Unpalatable as it might be to some Americans, had Texas directed foreign policy, Adolf Hitler would have arrived at Valhalla earlier. A majority of all classes in Texas believed that eventually Hitler must be destroyed. They held the same hot anger, yet clear awareness toward the defiance of Japan.

"There is no evidence that Texans liked war; there is evidence that they apparently had much less fear of it than was held in other places. They never shared the agony of many liberal Americans, who realized Hitler was a menace, but who hoped there was some way to get rid of him short of killing him. Long before the war came out of the sun at Pearl Harbor, Texans were enlisting in the armed services, and a significant number had already gone to Canada.

"The air service was popular, because Texas, with a clear-skied climate,

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Speaking of menu items and food, we received a Christmas letter from one of our favorites in East Texas, dear Aunt Dorothy. She has been reading in this column about my Bride's affection for Blackberry Wine Cake, or at least the feature ingredient of same. Obviously concerned over our expenditures for the wine, she offered the following advice and recipe for an alternative; "Dear Gary, It appears your bride is having a problem with blackberry wine, and the scores of cakes she is supposedly making with it. May I suggest you give her this recipe as a possible alternative to her affection for the grape?;

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