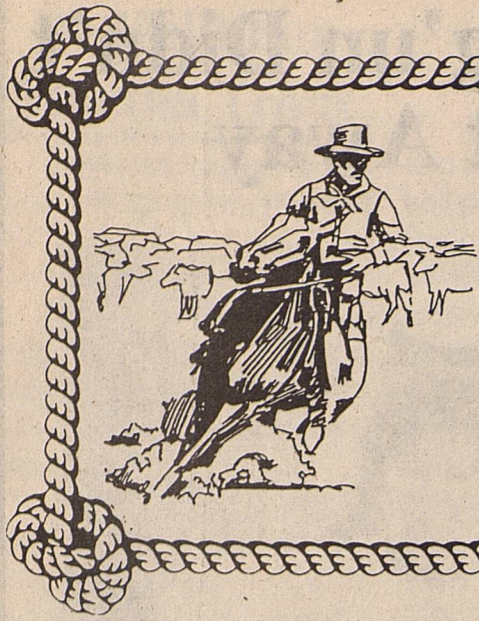


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Cowboy Country News



Published each Wednesday at the County
Seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas.

Volume 2, Issue 42, Wednesday, June 26, 1996

Plains Lions hear Watermelon Fest plans for Aug. 31



At the Plains Lions Club meeting Thursday, June 20, guest Speaker Kathy Adair described the major objectives and progress to date of the upcoming Watermelon Roundup scheduled for August 31. Adair, Country Extension Agent here, said one of her main goals the first year as an agent was to focus on projects which are family oriented, and described the Watermelon Roundup as a perfect example of an event for the entire family. She reported the citizens of both Plains and Denver

City have admirably responded to the Yoakum County Connection's request for volunteers for the watermelon festivities. A few of the planned events include a barbecued brisket and home made chili cook-off, games for both kids and adults, arts and crafts displays, and a wide array of food and refreshment booths.

Adair said since she became involved in the Roundup, she can see

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'Lions'

County Applies For Disaster Designation

Drought prompts county and state to request federal aid

County Judge Dallas Brewer recently wrote Governor George W. Bush, requesting the designation of Yoakum County as a disaster area. State Representative Gary Walker also made the same request of Governor Bush. The two officials were advised late last week the Governor had in turn contacted Dan Glickman, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, asking him to designate the County a disaster area, enabling eligible farmers and ranchers to receive low interest rate emergency loans.

Neither Judge Brewer or Representative Walker knew when Secretary Glickman's decision would be announced, but expressed their confidence he would favorably consider the Governor's request.

It will be sometime before the full extent of the monetary losses agricultural producers face are known, the result of the continuing drought, high, damaging winds and hail storms. Many cotton producers report they were able to get stands of cotton up on dry land acreage, but a great deal of the stressed plants are still continuing to suffer and die.

Mother Nature has apparently produced another of her infamous paradoxes for cotton growers. Marc

Turn To Page 2, 'Disaster'

Plains To Hold Summer School

The Plains schools will hold a summer school for Plains students July 8-Aug. 1, 1996. Ronnie Watkins, Jr. High Principal will be the summer school principal. Letters are being mailed to those invited to attend summer school. Due to a small enrollment, the summer school had been tentatively canceled. Renewed interest and larger requests from parents and students has caused administrators and the board to continue plans for a summer session. Parents and students who have not received invitations to summer school but would like to attend should contact the school office.

July 12, 1996 FINAL Date For Sign Up

We cannot stress it enough! July 12, 1996 is the final date to sign up in the 7-year Agriculture Market Transition Act (AMTA) Contract. There will not be any late filing provisions, nor will there be any sign up extensions. If you do not enter into a contract by July 12, 1996, you will not be able to participate in the Program Flexibility Contract for the next seven years. This includes the marketing loan assistance program.

The only exception to this is for any CRP Contracts that are still in effect. If your farm is **totally** in the Conservation Reserve Program, you will be given the opportunity to sign into the AMTA Program when the CRP contract expires.

Producers are urged to make an appointment with the FSA office. If undecided about entering into the contract, get more information from the office.

Gary Six of the local FSA office recently returned from a meeting on certain provisions of the new seven-year farm bill.

Producers are advised they may now follow up a wheat crop with either fruits or vegetables. For more information, contact the FSA office.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

'Gravy' Field nominated to Lea County Cowboy Hall Of Fame

Herschel Robert 'Gravy' Field wore a number of hats during his earthly span from 1874 to 1943 - cowboy, trail driver, rancher, store owner, postman. He was one of the earliest permanent ranchers in present day Bronco, was responsible for the community's name, and would eventually own or control over 100,000 acres of land in Yoakum and now Lea County, New Mexico.

Local Linda Powell will soon place 'Gravy's' name in nomination for a place in the Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame and Heritage Center.

He was born near Batesville, Arkansas, and left home at the tender age of 12, headed for the cattle country of Texas and New Mexico, and learned early on the rigors of being a working cowhand. He gained experience and knowledge of the cattle business while working on a number of ranches including the L-7 at Tucumcari, NM, the T-Fork in Wichita Falls County, the X-Bar and later the famed XIT ranch near Tascosa. It was there the young cowboy

earned his first nickname; One of his chores was gathering cow chips for the fires, and he became known as "B.S. Bob".

In 1896, he helped trail a herd of 3,000 XIT cattle to Cedar Creek, Montana. The next year, because of his experience, he was named trail boss on another drive to Montana, and this trip he decided to homestead a place there. The winters proved too severe to suit a southern young man, and he returned to Texas.

In 1899, Field would marry Pearl Barnes at Archer City, Texas, and the couple would have a son, Herbert Hollis. His wife Pearl died in 1908.

Prior to this, Field again got itchy feet, and headed west to Arizona. Seeing the land which now lies in Yoakum County and Lea County, he thought it the finest grass land he'd ever seen, and decided to put down roots. He took the wheels off the wagon carrying his wife and son, sank it into the sandy soil, and it eventually became a table in the first business in Yoakum County, a general store at present day Bronco.

Those early years along the Texas New Mexico border found cattle and cattle ranches the basis for the economy. Cowboys and cattlemen came to Field's Bronco store for basic goods, and when he was out in his pastures tending to his cattle, the shoppers would make their purchases, write them

down on a slip of paper, and leave it in a baking powder can.

In 1905, to demonstrate the need for a post office in the area, Field rode horseback to Portales, NM, a 150 mile roundtrip, picked up mail, and returned it to his store in Bronco for six months before officials okayed the Bronco Post Office.

In 1909 Field met Mabel Nancy Roberts, and her brother Elbert, who had

'squatted' on land just west of Bronco, prior to New Mexico allowing the filing of homestead claims. He and Mable would marry in 1910 at Plains. Field immediately left with a shipment of cattle to Kansas City, and Mable and his first son Herbert returned to Bronco to await the return of the bridegroom. He and Mabel would have

Turn to page 2,
'Cowboy'

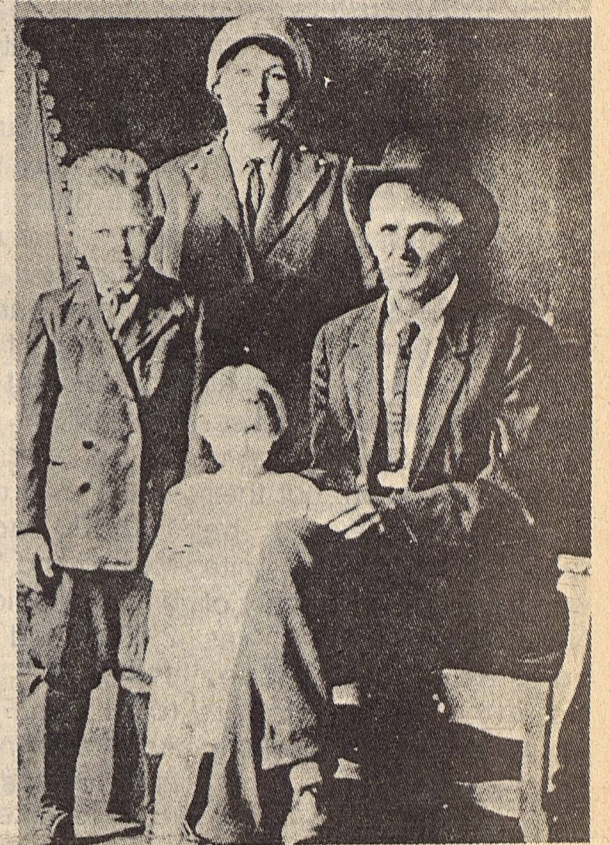
Weems Named New Elementary Principal

Kathy Weems, Pam Burgess
Hired As Teachers

In special called session on Thursday, September 20, 1996, the board voted to hire Don Weems from Ruidoso, New Mexico as the new principal for Plains Elementary. Weems has 25 years experience in education having started his career in Farwell, Texas. He has been employed by the Ruidoso school system for the past 21 years as an administrator. His most recent assignment was principal of Nob Hill Elementary School in Ruidoso. Weems has a distinguished record as a school administrator having held many leadership positions and won many accolades as a leader in New Mexico elementary education. He has served as president of the New Mexico State Elementary principals' association and also president of the New Mexico As-

sociation of School Administrators. He was named outstanding administrator in New Mexico in 87-88. Weems was interviewed by the Plains site-based committee and was their unanimous recommendation to the board. Superintendent Pete Simmons says, "Weems exhibits a tremendous enthusiasm for elementary education and will certainly be an asset to Plains ISD." We look forward to his coming. His wife, Kathy was also hired as a special education teacher. She too, has a M.Ed degree and 25 years successful experience in education.

The board also hired Plains resident Pam Burgess to teach special education. Mrs. Burgess has been employed on a temporary basis since January teaching business in the high school.



Mabel, Herbert, Gravy and Anita Field

Cont'd from Page 1, 'Disaster'

Traweek, Manager, Tokio CoOp Gin, reported optimistically he feels because of last September's rains, plus moisture in recent weeks, his production area could produce as many, if not more, bales of cotton than the 1995 crop. "We have standing crops on dryland acres which were not harvested last year. We are certainly needing more rain during the summer months, but it is entirely possible we can still have a good year".

It is another story in the western portion of the county. More than one hail storm has devastated large areas of irrigated cotton fields, and winds producing blowing sand and static electricity have taken other large areas out. B.G. and Ron Craft, New Tex Gin, have mixed reactions about the tough season to date. It appears, with a few timely rains, they could gin dryland cotton from acres which failed to produce in 1995, but they have also lost hundreds, even thousands of acres of irrigated production up and down the border area. They estimate their gin run could be as much as 30% less than last year's.

Darwin Robertson, Yoakum County CoOp, is more optimistic. "We have a number of customers with pretty good looking dry land cotton. While some of our people lost crops on irrigated areas recently, if we have any luck at all with moisture the rest of the summer, we could be facing a crop almost as good as last year's".

Insurance adjusters are busy looking at the damages, but their final tally of destroyed acres will be sometime in the future.

Cont'd from page 1, 'Cowboy'

three children, a daughter Anita in 1911, a son, Tyson Milton in 1916, and Robert Kight in 1924. Strangely enough, the three would all be born in the same house, the house would remain in its same location, but their birth place would be recorded differently; Anita was born in the Territory of New Mexico, Tyson was born in then Chavez County, while Robert would enter the world in now Lea County.

It is difficult to state with certainty how Field acquired the nickname 'Gravy'. One camp will tell you it was because he loved the staple food on most rural tables of that early era. It is also reported when folks would stop by

the Field ranch house, he would say, "Make some more gravy, we got company". One of his descendants grew up understanding the name came from his habit of spilling gravy on the front of his shirt at mealtimes.

In his later years, 'Gravy' would own or control over 100,000 acres of New Mexico and Texas land, his brand would be on over 2,000 head of cattle, and some 200 horses would roam the Field pastures. An interesting man, from a hard and fascinating era. (Editors note: Parts of this article courtesy of Sara Jane Field Shelton, Linda Powell, and "From Sod To 1986", the Yoakum County historical publication.)

Brewster County in West Texas, the state's largest, contains 6,208 Sq. Miles of land.

Cont'd from page 1, 'Lions'

evidence the work organizing the event has created a good feeling in the dozens of volunteer workers, is helping to develop leadership qualities in the youth taking part, and is building a sense of unity between Plains and Denver City residents.

She said much is being accomplished in the preliminary stages of the Watermelon Roundup, but there is plenty for additional volunteers to assist with. She urged all who want to take part in the community project to contact her, or any member of the Yoakum County Connection.

Twelve Lions members were present for the meeting, including L.J. Sanders, Jerry Morphis, Judy Head, Sherm Tingle, David Brunson, T.J. Miller, Gary Dyer, Pete St. Romain, Jim Barron, Johnnie Fitzgerald, Gary Walker, and Debbie Rushing.

Special guests were Adair, Lois Miller, Holly Dyer, Ted Welch, Mary Jo St. Romain, Drew Alsom, and Norman Head.

The next Lions meeting is scheduled for July 18.

It Happened In Texas In June

June 2, 1865: Gen. Kirley Smith surrendered the Trans-Mississippi forces of the Confederacy at Galveston
June 19, 1865: Union forces landed at Galveston to take up duties; Proclamation issued freeing all Negro slaves in Texas.
June 22, 1876: Mexican General Santa Ana died.
June 12, 1944: Big Bend National Park established.

County JP Court

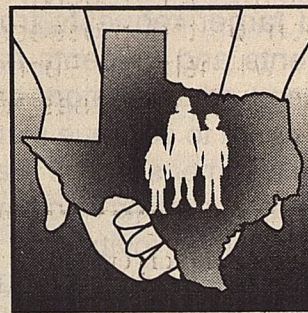
The following is a summary of cases heard in Justice of Peace Court, Precinct One with Judge Melba Crutcher presiding.

- 13 traffic
- 2 disorderly conduct
- 1 felony
- 1 emergency protective order
- Bonds set;
- (2 counts) disorderly conduct, \$140 fine each
- motion to revoke probation, held until hearing
- fugitive from justice, held until transported
- theft, \$1,500 bond
- motion to revoke probation, \$2,500 bond
- 2-assault causing bodily injury, family violence, \$1,500 bond each
- driving while intoxicated, \$1,000 bond
- fraud, obtaining worker's compensation, \$300 bond
- (3 counts) forgery, \$2,500 bond each
- aggravated robbery, \$25,000 bond
- indecency with a child, \$15,000 bond with conditions

This Big'un Didn't Get Away

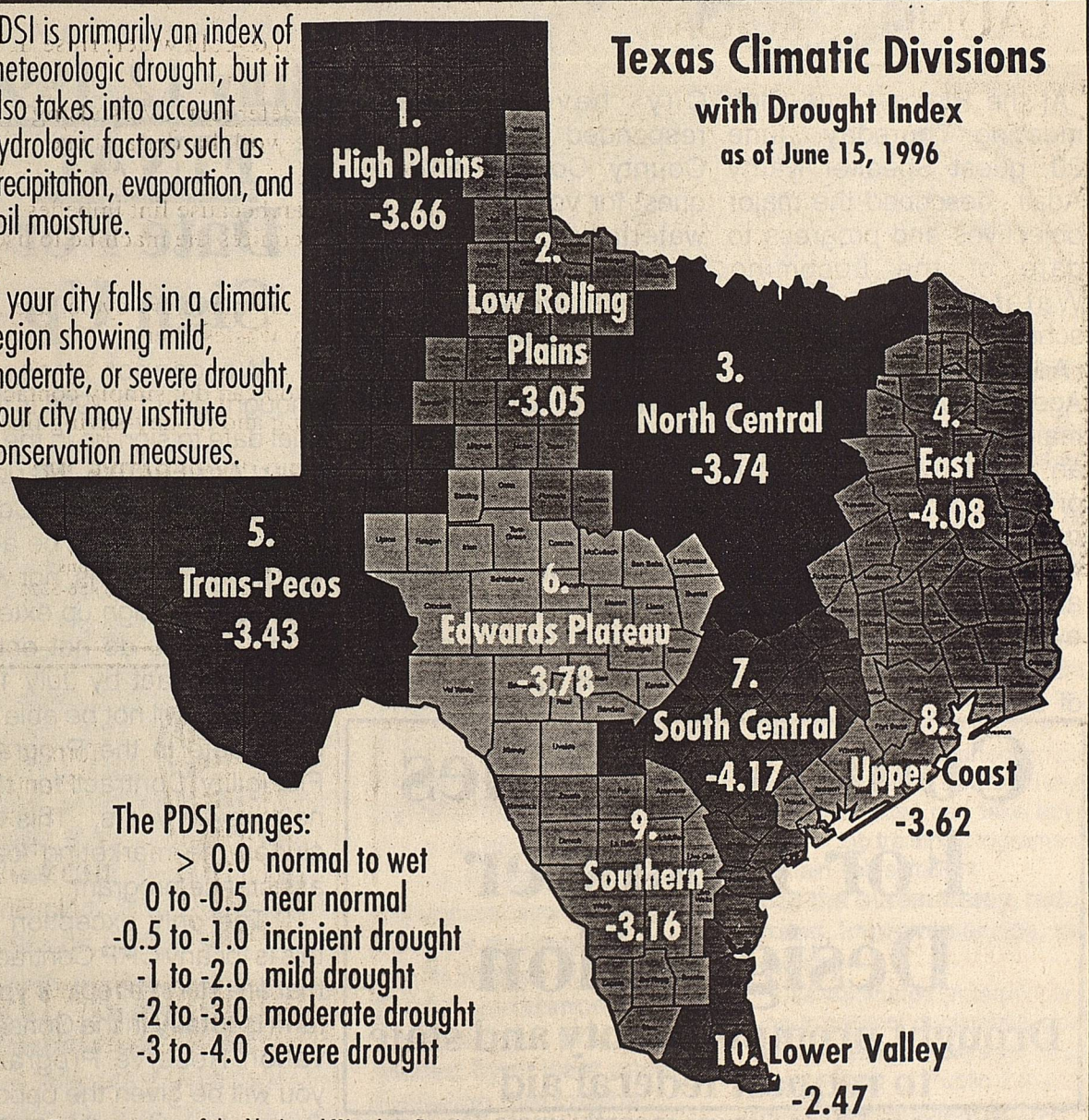


Jean Craft displays a very respectable 8lb. 14oz. bass caught on Lake Fork. Apparently the outcome of the friendly husband-wife competition did not set too well with Gayle. It was reported he cast the water rigged Carolina style. She said Gayle also caught a fairly nice bass, but the guide refused to weigh it, saying hers was a much nicer trophy fish.



PDSI is primarily an index of meteorologic drought, but it also takes into account hydrologic factors such as precipitation, evaporation, and soil moisture.

If your city falls in a climatic region showing mild, moderate, or severe drought, your city may institute conservation measures.



The PDSI ranges:
 > 0.0 normal to wet
 0 to -0.5 near normal
 -0.5 to -1.0 incipient drought
 -1 to -2.0 mild drought
 -2 to -3.0 moderate drought
 -3 to -4.0 severe drought

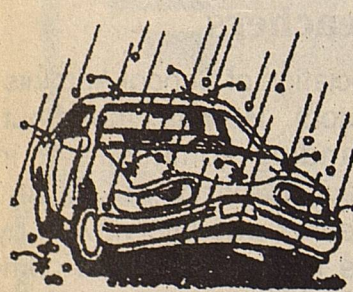
Data courtesy of the National Weather Service.

Updated 6/18/96

In a normal year, the average amount of annual rainfall varies across the state. This year, all of the state's 10 regions were in a stage of drought. If the drought continues, total agricultural value in Texas could fall as much as \$2.4 billion.

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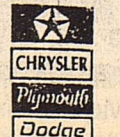
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Last Rites To Be Held For Martha Trout

Services for Martha Bell Trout, 83, long time resident of Plains, will be held at the First Baptist Church, Plains, at 2:00 PM Wednesday, June 26, 1996 with Rev. Bill Wright officiating. Interment will follow at the Plains Cemetery.

Mrs. Trout died June 24, 1996 after a lengthy illness. She will be placed in state at the First Baptist Church in Plains at 11:00 AM Wednesday.

She was born on October 7, 1912 at Irving, Kentucky where she was raised. She married Buell Sparks in 1930. He preceded her in death in 1941. She then married Joseph Callan Trout on October 3, 1942 in Covington, Kentucky then moved to Yoakum county in 1945. Mr. Trout preceded her in death July 9, 1983.

Mrs. Trout is survived by a stepson Roland Trout of Rotan, TX; 2 daughters Phyllis Addison, of Plains, TX and Shirley Tanner of Morton, TX; 3 sisters Retha Parker of Winchester, KY, Casetta Reese, and Cleona Parrott, both of Indiana; 7 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

High Plains Jr. Rodeo Results

At the Eunice, NM rodeo on June 6, 7, & 8th, Mike bell placed 4th in 13-15 Bull Riding. Kimberly Jackson won 10th place in the 8 and under Poles. Blake Parrish won 5th in the 8 and under Breakaway Roping. Keith Jackson won 3rd in Boys 13-15 Breakaway Roping and 9th in 13-15 Ribbon Roping. Marcey House won a 4th place in Girls 13-15 Ribbon Roping and a 9th in Girls 13-15 Breakaway Roping. Robin Squyres won 9th in Girls 16-19 Breakaway roping and Brett Squyres won 3rd in Boys 9-12 Ribbon Roping.

At Post, June 13, 14, & 15th Robin Squyres won 5th in the Girls Ribbon roping and a 9th place in Breakaway. Brett enjoyed his best rodeo of the year. He won 1st place in Boys Breakaway with a time of 2.935 seconds and 1st place in Steer stopping with a time of 4.401. He also placed 3rd in calf touching and 5th in Ribbon roping. Brett also won the coveted All-Around Buckle for the 9-12 boys age group at Post.

Next weeks rodeo is at Muleshoe, then one in Lovington, Colorado City, Earth and Big Spring.

Roping Club Tabs Lindsey Six As Rodeo Queen Candidate

The Plains Roping Club is the first of three organizations to announce their candidate to represent them as the 1996 Plains Rodeo Queen.

She is Lindsey Six, the daughter of Gary and Kathy Six, a Junior this coming school year at Plains High School.

The other two local service organizations to sponsor a candidate in the always spirited ticket selling contest for the August 1 thru August 3 annual Rodeo have yet to be selected. Both the Plains Lions Club and the Chamber of Commerce sponsor a Queen candidate each year. The winning candidate will be the lucky and hard working young lady who sells the most tickets to the annual Old Settler's Reunion and Rodeo, and each candidate will receive a portion of the proceeds, which will help the Roping Club defray expenses for the event.

Milo Prospects For County Look Good



Load of seed for Sellers Ag Supply, part of dwindling supply of Milo planting seed on the south plains.

The largest milo harvest in Yoakum County for a number of years is a realistic possibility, if Mother Nature will only cooperate for the remaining growing season.

Butch Mack, area manager of Anderson Grain facilities here, Tokio and New Tex, reports he sold out of DeKalb grain sorghum seed shortly after the devastating hail and high winds destroyed large areas of planted cotton. "Farmers are still planting milo now, and if we can catch a few more showers across the area, even more grain will be going in," Mack said.

Jered Sellers, owner of Sellers Ag Supply here and a grain merchant, echoed Macks' estimate of a large crop. He reported a very large volume of seed sales, and thinks as many as 80,000 county acres could be planted to the feed grain. Danny Bell, local producer and owner of State Line Insurance, who has been busy assessing the local cotton damage, agrees with Sellers estimated milo acres. Gary Six, Farm Service Agency, expects a much larger than normal crop of grain sorghum. "There are numbers of planters running right now, and we hear reports of a con-

siderable amount of cotton still dying out. If there is enough moisture, those acres will probably be planted to milo."

An added incentive for milo production is the current excellent 'board price', the amount a farmer receives when he sells his harvested grain. At press time, the board price is over \$8.00 per hundredweight, a record high. In all probability the price will come down as harvesting starts, but producers should still benefit from a good selling price, due to the reported shortage of corn and other feed grains.

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- Keep lint screen clean because lint impedes the flow of air and requires the machine to use more energy.
- If your dryer has an automatic dry cycle, use it; overdrying merely wastes energy.

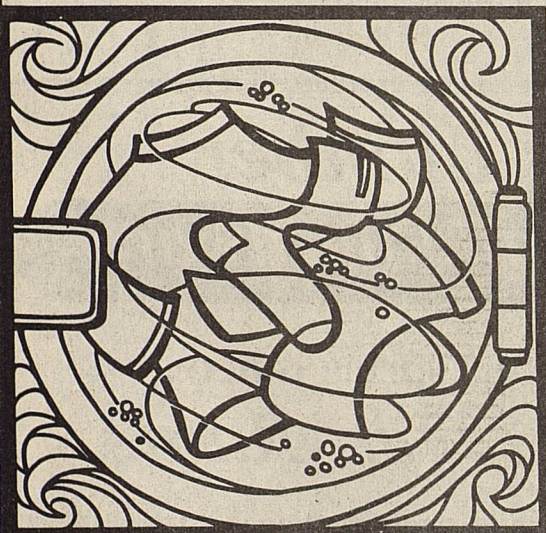
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Drought Relief Information Tour Set for West Texas.

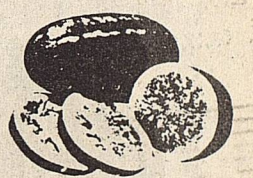
The office of State Representative Gary Walker, Dist. 80, announced today West Texas Senators and House Members will hold a Drought Relief Information Tour beginning July 8th in Abilene. The tour will continue in San Angelo on July

16th, Lubbock on July 24th, Amarillo on July 31st, and Midland-Odessa on August 22nd.

The tour will focus on the current drought situation, what can be expected in the future, and, most importantly, what types of assistance and programs are

available. State and federal agency officials will be on hand to answer questions.

More information will be made available prior to each meeting.



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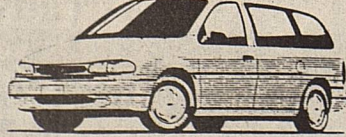
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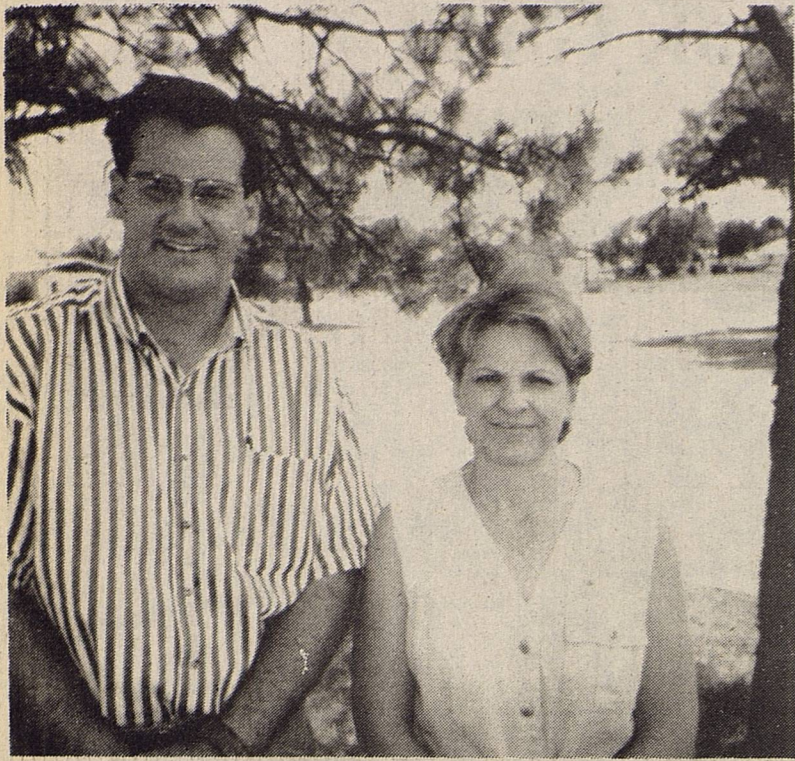
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Wesley Foundation At SPC



Officers Rick Doyle and Debbie Rushing

South Plains College, Levelland, has a new college and campus ministry, the South Plains Wesley Foundation. The Foundation is a ministry of the Northwest Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, open to college students and faculty members of all denominations. Tuesday of each week the Foundation offers those attending a noon time home cooked meal for a bargain priced \$1, and the meetings normally feature an area guest speaker. Wednesday night Bible study is held each week at 9 p.m. The learning and fellowship event is for those knowing nothing about the Bible, something about the Bible, or a great deal about the Bible.

From time to time the Foundation will take group road trips, offer retreats, and other activities for students seeking inexpensive get away from the campus grind.

Local Board members and officers of the Wesley Foundation include Reverend Rick Doyle, pastor, First United Methodist in Plains who serves as Vice Pres., Debbie Rushing of Plains, Secretary, Board members Elaine Valle and Kenny Smith of Denver City, and Reverend James Willborn, Pastor, First United Methodist, Denver City.

For more information about the Foundation, contact any of these members, or call Chris Criswell at (806) 894-6159

District Court Case Heard

One criminal court case was held here Monday, June 24. 121st Judicial District Judge Kelly G. Moore presided, and the State was represented by Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark.

David R. Zuniga, charged with forgery, received a two year state jail sentence, suspended and probated four years. He was fined \$1,000, must pay Court costs of \$181.50 on September 24, pay \$250 in Court appointed Attorney fees, and pay \$380 restitution to Sonia Orozco.

Primping Up The Town



Linda Wall, Pat Altman, Soni Stephens admire flowers in front of Appraisal Office

If you haven't noticed the dozens and dozens of large white barrels in front of most all the local business buildings, you just haven't been paying attention.

The white barrels will soon be planted with a wide variety of colorful flowers, a project intended to 'dress up the town' for both the Rodeo and Old Settlers Reunion August 1, 2, and 3, and the Watermelon Roundup August 31.

The barrels were donated to the project by Jack Cobb and David Guetersloh, respective owners of Two J's and G&B Aerial Application firms here. Pat Altman, Laverne Newsom, Mike Bell and Amber

Easter furnished their labor to cut the barrels in half and distribute them to the business sites.

Hershel Smith County Precinct 3 employee, carried sand and gravel in his loader to the barrels and filled them. Some of the barrels have already been planted with flowers. Other business owners are waiting for a shipment of plants ordered for the project from Bev's Nursery owner Beverly Lowrey.

The project is an excellent way to brighten up the town, and offer out of town visitors to the two big August events a refreshing look at the community.

Renaissance
flowers & gifts
M-F 456-3939 10-5:30

New table runners (casual & formal)
Dreamsicles > All Angel Items
Pictures > 1/3 off SALE
Figurines > One Week Only
Independence Day means you and I can go, do, and think as we want. For this we are thankful & thoughtful.

Happy July 4th, America!
We're sprucing up! Thanks! Laverne Newsom & Pat Altman for fixing barrels for flowers. Selections: Juhree Stowe & Greg Cornan

6-30-96
T G B
It's Payback Time!

Happy 40th Birthday!
from Your Wife

Keeping an eye on Texas
Nothing but net
The Top 10 earners for the National Basketball Association include three players for Texas teams. The list does not include the season's Most Valuable Player Michael Jordan, shooting guard for the Chicago Bulls.

Top 10 NBA earners for the 95-96 season:	Salary*
1. Patrick Ewing (New York Knicks)	\$18,724,000
2. Clyde Drexler (Houston Rockets)	9,810,000
3. David Robinson (San Antonio Spurs)	7,700,000
4. Chris Webber (Washington Bullets)	7,000,000
5. Joe Dumars (Detroit Pistons)	6,881,000
6. Danny Manning (Phoenix Suns)	6,833,000
7. A.C. Green (Phoenix Suns)	6,473,000
8. Shaquille O'Neal (Orlando Magic)	5,700,000
9. Derrick Coleman (Philadelphia 76ers)	5,476,000
10. Sean Elliott (San Antonio Spurs)	5,333,000

*Figures represent players' contract salary averages, and do not include income from product endorsements or other ventures.
SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and The Dallas Morning News.

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Femme Friends



DOUBLETS

What can one make of a story that seems to be told twice or even three times—a literary phenomenon called a doublet. For example, a patriarch goes to a foreign land, pretends his wife is his sister, and nearly loses her. But the deception is discovered, and he is sent away wealthier. This story occurs three times in Genesis—twice for Abraham and once for Isaac—and has caused readers to ask: Did the same basic events simply occur twice or three times or are these different versions of the same story coming from different sources?

From
"Who's Who In The Bible"

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Senior Citizen Corner

These hot days make news hard to make for Senior people. We are too busy staying cool.

The Pool players are the only busy people I can think of. On June 14, Billie O'Neal brought home a nice trophy for first place in 9 ball. Yesterday home tournament was well attended.

Smokey Altman has been laid up at home for several days. We all miss him and wish him a speedy recovery.

Mildred Rawls will be home by the weekend from a weeks vacation in cool Colorado. I envy her for we use to begin to get ready for a month up there about this time of year.

A few more storms and Denver City will have a new cover.

Events to Remember:
Line Dancing on Mon., Wed., & Fri. at 9:45 a.m.

Pool and games Mon. at 6:30 p.m.

Fund raiser supper Thurs at 5:30 to 7 p.m. Spaghetti, all you can eat! This will be the last fund raiser supper for a couple of months, so come enjoy the evening with friends.

See you next week,
Smitty

The Yoakum County Ladies Golf Association would like to take this opportunity to thank the following for helping us out at the Mammy Yoakum Golf Tournament, held Saturday, June 22, 1996:

Billy Don Guetersloh, Danny Bell, Morris Rushing, Jim Brown, Bob Blundell, Michael Cobb, and Loya Harrison.

The time and work each of you put into the tournament was very much appreciated. You helped make it a big success.

Michelle Devon Lowe and Bret Alan Baker were united in marriage with a double ring ceremony at the First Baptist Church in Plains, TX on Saturday, June 8, 1996 at 4:00 p.m., officiated by Rev. Bill Wright.

Michelle was given in marriage by her father Joel Lowe of Plains.

Her candlelight color dress, covered with pearls and sequins, had a V-neck, long sleeves with a pouf at the shoulders, and a straight fitted floor-length skirt. The train was detachable and decorated with a large bow. She carried a bouquet of fresh bridal white and white roses, with English ivy and leptospartum.

The bride's attendants were Maid of Honor Daphne Lowe of Lubbock, sister of the bride; Kassie Lowe of Plains, also a sister of the bride; Jenny Bowen Hicks of Iowa City, Iowa; and Vee Ann Fitzgerald of Lubbock. They wore sleeveless and above the knee deep purple iridescent taffeta dresses with a cape which came around at the waist with a bow in front, and ankle length in back. They carried arm bouquets of bridal white and pink roses and white leptospartum flowers tied with cream and pink bows.

The Best Man was Tommy Brown of Odessa, TX. Groomsmen were Justin Baker of Lubbock, and Matt Baker of Odessa, both brothers of the groom, and Travis Olson of Houston, TX.

Joani Bell and Jaaron Bell of Plains, cousins of the bride, was Flower Girl and Ring Bearer. Candlelighters were Jared Bell and Kelly Bowers of Plains, also cousins to the bride.

Ushers were Mike McKaskle of Lubbock, and cousins of the bride Josh Bell and Ace Williams of Plains, and Devin Lowe of Lubbock.

Attendants for the Guest Book were Candace Bowers of Plains and Joelle Lowe of Lubbock, both cousins of the bride.

Musicians were pianist Gail Smith, Flutist Ashley Smith and Monica Smith all of Morton, Trum-peters Byron and Matt Morgan and Eric Estrada of Plains, and guitarist Jeff Eads of Odessa. Patrick Hamilton of Plains was the vocalist.

A reception was held in the Plains Community Center. The bride's table was in the corner underneath off-white tulle net draped from the ceiling and tied onto two gold pillars in front of and at each side of the table. The pillars were decorated with greenery and roses

Lowe - Baker Wed



winding around them. The table was decorated with cream colored lace tablecloths which were layered and brass tableware.

Judy and Vee Ann Fitzgerald made the white three-tiered cake with off-white icing and pink accents. It was decorated with two white and iridescent pink wedding bells along with fresh roses. Underneath the cake was a fountain of water with a light to accent. Four 8-inch cakes surrounded the main cake decorated with arrangements of fresh bridal white roses and greenery.

The groom's table was in the opposite corner covered by off-white lace tablecloths, with brass tableware and an arrangement of fresh bridal white roses and baby's breath as accents. The cake, also made by Judy and Vee Ann Fitzgerald, was chocolate with chocolate icing with a golf emblem in the center. In the center of the emblem were two golf clubs, topped with a real golf ball embossed with 'Bret Baker' on it.

A separate table was set up with brisket, sauce, potato salad and bread.

Servers for the reception were Leslie Patton of Grand Prairie, TX, Brandy Gayle, Rena McElroy, both of Lubbock, Candace Bowers of Plains. Other house party members were Kay Swann, Jan Parrish, Jan Lester and Karen Williams, all of Plains, and Leann Lewis of Denver City. The D.J. was Max from Hison Mobile D.J's.

The couple plan to reside in Odessa after a trip to the Ciboney Resort in Ocho Rios, Jamaica.

Michelle is the daughter of

Joel and Debra Lowe of Plains. Her grandparents are Alfred and Faye Bearden and Jack and Cora Lowe, all of Plains. She is a graduate of Plains High School and Texas Tech University. She is employed at Lauro B. Cavasos elementary School in Odessa as a Special Education Teacher.

Bret is the son of Gene and Janet Baker of Odessa. His grandparents are Menyoun McWhorter and Eldon and Elsie Baker, all of Chickasha, OK. He is a graduate of Odessa Permian High School in Odessa and attended Texas Tech. His is employed at Primary Medical Clinic in Odessa.

Out of town guests were Norris & Judy Decoteau and Gerald & Ashley Van Beek, all of Baton Rouge, LA; John & Diane Lowe of Denton, TX; Bob & Sandra Hinkle of Dallas; Bill & Jenny Hicks of Iowa City, IA; Menyoun McWhorter, Eldon & Elsie Baker, Evelyn & Joey Morgan, all of Chickasha, OK; and Travis Olson of Houston, TX.

Thank You!

THANKS to all who helped make my birthday party very special! Your presence, the cards, the food, the friendships. Sheila, our children and their spouses, along with grand-kids, even Ty, Linda, and Wilma Powell, who "conned" me!

Many Thanks,
Bo Stephens

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Church of Christ
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From The Hack



Most every dyed in the wool sports fan would love to attend the upcoming Olympic Games in Atlanta. Problem is, tickets for the average, run of the mill fan are already sold out.

But wait; if you still desperately want to attend the games, there's a way. The Atlanta Committee for the games is advertising "Patron Packages, which include two tickets to every session, a few more freebies, all for only \$50,000. Too rich for your blood? A real bargain basement "Olympic Spirit" package may be purchased for just \$22,500. Almost too good a bargain to be true, isn't it.

On the subject of sports, be sure to check out the graphic on page four of this issue, listing the salaries of the top paid ten players in the National Basketball Association. This year's MVP Michael Jordan is not listed, of course... not enough space on the graphic for all those numbers. I recently spied an article in one of those lurid tabloids you see waiting in cashier checkout lines about the Chicago Bulls

Dennis Rodman... said after the Bulls won the big NBA championship, he demanded a raise..... claimed he needed the money for a skin graft..... he needed some new, non tattooed skin on his buttocks, where he planned to spell out 'Madonna' in big bold type.

Remember the recent article in this weekly about our friend 'Hop' Graham, now pedaling furiously on his ancient Western Flyer bike, enroute to Brunswick, Georgia, from his home in Lovington? He has been sending in daily reports of his progress to the Lovington Leader, via his lap top computer and telephone lines. What do you do on a terminally long 1500 mile bike ride? Why, you count road kill, of course. That, and peel off the highway for extra wide trucks, fend off hostile dogs resenting his trespassing on their rural turf, sip gallons of gatorade in the late June heat while bucking what Hop describes as an eternal east head wind, and pray the next town on the map

hasn't been moved further away. He's on US 82, all the way to the coast, and by Wednesday, when most of you read this, he should be in the Magnolia, Arkansas area, on day eleven of his planned 25 day journey. I must agree with the young man in Wichita Falls, who according to his daily column, asked, "Why in the world would you want to do this?"

You've all read the quote, "The only difference between men and boys is the price of their toys". I confess, it dawned on me the other day, this astute observation definitely applies to yours truly. A couple of weeks ago, I ordered a couple of new golf clubs, guaranteed, according to the sales catalog, to add many needed yards to my shots, eliminate my abominable slice, lower my stratosphere high score, and guarantee I would come home from the course with my "friends" cash money in my pocket.

It seemed eons, if not an eternity, for the magic clubs to finally arrive by UPS. I dashed into the house and began to feverishly tear into the long box. I faintly

heard the bride mutter, "Come on Dyer, calm down... you're drooling on your shirt".

I got the two magic weapons out of the stubborn box, panted, "See you in an hour or so... I'm gonna run down to the course and hit some practice balls". I hear her mutter under her breath, "Please do, Please do".

I may have slightly exceeded the speed limit enroute to the County links. I skidded to a halt at the club house, ran inside, demanded a large bag of range balls, and actually ran to the practice area. I very carefully did my warm-up, limber-up exercises for maybe eight seconds, then, trembling with anticipation, teed up a ball, and whacked that sucker right down the middle, an astonishing long distance for my aging body and talents. Ahhhh, Heaven on earth! I hit that driver and

companion 3 wood so well it reminded me vaguely of a some time back pleasure derived from another sport the Bride and I enjoyed participating in. I actually hit two big bags of balls, and returned home at a much slower pace, day dreaming of how sweet it was going to be Saturday, hearing those gasps of praise for my straight, long shots, from that miserable group of cheating thieves I frequently play with, how pleasant it would be to count their money after future matches.

Saturday comes. I am at the number one tee box, and here comes my bunch, all of them wearing masks and carrying guns, hoping to once again fleece me of hard earned cash. We draw for partners. I decide to play from the championship red tees. I waggle my new Magic Wand driver, take dead aim down the fairway,

make a slow, careful backswing, and then just knock sparks off the poor ball, which sizzles away, and promptly shatters the windshield of an approaching golf cart on the adjoining fairway. My cruel playing partners have several ugly comments about me, my ancestry, and that "Cheap K-Mart stick".

Red faced, along with other areas of my anatomy, I tee up my Mulligan shot, take dead aim, unleash a swing which sounds like a passing jet, and kill grave yard dead an innocent Mallard duck which had the misfortune to be paddling around in the little lake ahead and to the left of the tee box.

I ended up shooting 97, lost 19 bucks, and I hate the game and everyone stupid enough to play it. I'm not too fond of the two new clubs, either.

Diverting Texans from Welfare

- * Help teens stay in school and become self-sufficient.
- * Increase literacy.
- * Provide one-time emergency cash payments to qualified recipients to reduce ongoing dependence on AFDC.
- * Boost federal funding for substance abuse treatment and mental health treatment.

- * Create a guaranteed prepaid tuition plan to help families meet rising college costs and to provide scholarships to needy Texans.
- * Set up a statewide system of adult learning labs for public assistance recipients.

Keeping Texans from returning to public assistance

- * Establish a Work First program to move AFDC recipients to paying jobs.

- * Exempt welfare recipients with children under the age of one from work requirements.

- * Allow working families to retain limited income support, health care and child care assistance to give them more time to become self-sufficient.

- * Increase public awareness of the Earned Income Tax Credit.

- * Grant communities more local control over job training and work force development programs.

Helping those disabled Texans on welfare leave the rolls behind for good

- * Transfer Texans with disabilities who now receive AFDC to federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) programs.

- * Encourage supported employment programs so that Texans with disabilities can take advantage of job training programs and remain self-sufficient.

Cut the bureaucracy, reduce fraud, improve service, save money

- * Use automated fingerprint imaging to prevent duplication of benefits, an electronic system that the Department of Public Safety will soon have in place anyway for new driver's license.
- * Increase local flexibility of health and human services providers.
- * Streamline the state's health and human services and mental health and mental retardation bureaucracies.

- * Expedite payments to child care providers.
- * Expand to use of electronic benefits transfer (EBT) technology to reduce welfare fraud and improve efficiency.

".....we acknowledge that the government can't solve every problem, and that even the most successful public programs can't substitute for the nurturing influence of a stable family. But all Texans have a common interest in helping those in need become contributing, self-supporting citizens."

"--"A partnership for Independence," John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

A PARTNERSHIP for INDEPENDENCE

Public Assistance Reform Options

It is becoming increasingly obvious that something is radically wrong with our public welfare program. Even the President has been critical. In a recent message to Congress, calling for new laws to meet the situation, he said:

'Public welfare must be more than a salvage operation, picking up the debris from the wreckage of human lives. Its emphasis must be directed increasingly toward prevention and rehabilitation.'

Those words, it's safe to say, convey the conviction of many Texans. In fact, the most surprising thing about them is that they were written in 1962 and that the president they referred to was John F. Kennedy.

Thirty-three years later, Texans survey the unsettling system of government assistance that has sprung into being since that time and see programs that often miss their targets and policies that miss the point. Tales of fraud and abuse abound. Rules and regulations discourage self-reliance. Welfare becomes a treadmill with no "off" switch as temporary relief turns into permanent despair. Taxpayers, already fed up with the inefficiency of the system, are now asked to support growing numbers of children whose healthy parents fail to live up to their obligations.

Even the word itself has acquired lurid connotations. More often than not, "welfare" is neither "well" nor "fair".

Recognizing this challenge, Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock, asked Comptroller John Sharp to put together a series of proposals for streamlining the state's public assistance efforts and for finding new and better ways to provide vital services to the neediest among us.

Our recommendations

draw on exemplary practices in other states, on federal welfare reform proposals and on the informed views of a broad range of concerned Texans. They set forth solutions unique to Texas that, taken together, will significantly retool public assistance. They seek not just to reform welfare's checkbook but to reform welfare's rulebook as well, so that public assistance recipients are encouraged to make smart decisions about their daily lives--and, like the rest of us, be required to live with the consequences of those decisions.

Our reform package was designed to be at least revenue-neutral. Some proposals will cost money, but others will save a substantial amount if enacted as proposed--\$406.8 million over the next five years. Together, they provide a broad array of options for legislative leaders to consider.

A Partnership for Independence lays out a comprehensive package of proposals to reform our system of public assistance in Texas. Each of the proposals is guided by at least one of the following five criteria:

Enforcing personal responsibility, preserving the family

- * Limit Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) to a total of 24 months.
- * Require mothers who receive AFDC and choose to have additional children to identify the father as a condition for receiving further benefits.
- * Strengthen child support enforcement efforts to collect money owed and help move families off welfare.
- * Require non-custodial parents to attend job training and education classes, where appropriate.
- * Make medical support available to eligible families.
- * Remove rules and regulations that discourage marriage for low-income couples and tear down other current barriers to family preservation.

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