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Texas Agricultural Sales Gain 48%

Sales of agricultural products in Texas amounted to \$8.3 billion in 1979, according to the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce. The total is based on preliminary results of the 1979 Census of Agriculture, which counted 194,461 farms and ranches in the State, with average sales of \$42,923; an average size of 709 acres; and average value of land and buildings of \$275,000.

Comparison with totals from the last previous census (1974) should be made with caution because of significant improvements in data collection procedures in 1979. Bureau officials believe that the improvements in data collection had a much greater effect on the count of farms than on measures of agricultural production. The improvements are discussed further below.

Fuel Costs Double

While Texas agricultural product sales climbed 48 percent from \$5.6 billion in 1974, farmers' expenses also grew. For example, feed purchased for livestock and poultry was up from \$1.3 to \$1.8 billion in 1979; hired labor from \$300.7 to \$409.3 million; gasoline and other petroleum products from \$226.3 to \$414.1 million in 1979. The total energy cost for Texas farms and ranches amounted to \$597 million. The market value of all machinery and equipment went up 70 percent from \$2.7 to \$4.7 billion four years later.

Sorghums placed second in acreage, with 4.5 million acres producing 206.3 million bushels. Hay was the third ranking crop with 3.1 million acres yielding 5.1 million tons. Other crops were wheat, 2.7 million acres; corn, 1.3 million acres; soybeans, 721,400 acres; and rice, 598,100 acres.

Other measures of Texas farms and ranches also portrayed gains as the average value of land and buildings per acre climbed from \$243 to \$384; total cropland went from 36.5 to 40.2 million acres; and irrigated land from 6.6 to 7 million acres in 1978.

Additional facets of Texas farms and ranches as depicted in the 1979 Census of Agriculture include the following:

- Eighty-nine percent or 173,023 of the 194,461 farms and ranches were operated by individuals or families, 17,047 by partnerships, and 2,847 by corporations, of which 2,435 were family held.
- Eighty-six percent of the operators owned all or part of the farms and ranches they operated, with 109,980 fully owned, 56,894 partly owned, and 27,047 operated by tenants.
- Farming or ranching

Big Crowd Attends Rotary's Annual Pancake Supper

Eagle Lake Rotarians served delicious pancakes and coffee to a large crowd at the club's annual Pancake Supper held in the Community Center on Tuesday evening of last week.

Donald Obenaus, chairman of the event, extended thanks to all who assisted in the event, former members who assisted in cooking, the Boy Scouts in serving and clean-up and for the entertainment during the event.

Proceeds from the supper will go to the club's scholarship fund which provides funds for annual two-year scholarships to Wharton County Junior College for worthy Rice High School seniors.

Daughter Born For Bobby Charles Semora Family

Bobby Charles and Mary Semora of Eagle Lake happily announce the arrival of a daughter born Feb. 18, 1981 at 2:19 a.m. in the Eagle Lake Community Hospital.

The little lady who has been named Carrie Lynn weighed six pounds eleven ounces at birth and was 20 inches long.

She is being welcomed by a brother, Michael, 12; and grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Semora of Eagle Lake and Mrs. Mary Marling of Wallis. Great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Vince Gallia of Wallis.

Free Pizza

Mrs. Coby Shorter is taking a free pizza at the Eagle Lake Dairy Deli, where you get the finest pizza in town including delicious pizza. Clip this out and present at the Dairy Deli for your free pizza not later than Mar. 10, 1981.

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17,000-Foot Drilling Site Near Columbus

Oil and gas tests slated in this area include a 12,000 foot northeast of Rock Island, another northeast of Sheridan and a 17,000 foot test is scheduled to be drilled near the townsite of Columbus.

The deep test 2.6 miles northwest of Columbus will be the Cities Services Co. No. 1 Youens "B" on a 822 acre lease in J. Tumlison Survey.

The well is projected to a maximum depth of 17,000 feet.

Champion Petroleum of Corpus Christi will drill the No. 1 Barta Unit, a 4,900 foot test, 7.5 miles northeast of Sheridan in the Phillip Bugler Survey.

A 12,000 foot wildcat five miles northeast of Rock Island will be the No. 1 Kleinmann Unit to be drilled by Perkins Oil of Wichita Falls on a 820 acre lease in the J. E. Hester Survey.

Man Who Bought Gun In Weimar Shooting Arrested

Weimar police recently arrested a suspect who allegedly purchased a pistol for an illegal alien who is believed to have bought the weapon in the Feb. 4 shooting death of Gary Wayne Kuns of Weimar.

Weimar Police Chief Ken Hollan said Juan Manuel Garza of Weimar was charged with the unlawful transfer of a firearm. Garza was placed in the county jail in lieu of \$3,000 bond.

He is accused of purchasing a .380 caliber semi-automatic pistol last December at Beyer's Sporting Goods store in Weimar. Hollan said Garza bought the gun for Bartol Salas Gutierrez who was prohibited from purchasing the pistol because he is an illegal alien.

Gutierrez faces murder charges in the shooting death of Kuns at George's Recreation Center in Weimar.

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(1-15-18)

Pres. Reagan Awards Medal Of Honor To El Campo Man

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, March 3, 1963, has awarded in the name of the Congress the Medal of Honor to Master Sergeant Roy P. Benavides, United States Army, Retired, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty: (the presentation was made to Benavides, a resident of El Campo last week).

On May 2, 1968, Master Sergeant (then Staff Sergeant) Roy P. Benavides distinguished himself by a series of daring and extremely valorous actions while assigned to Detachment B-66, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, Republic of Vietnam.

On the morning of May 7, 1968, a 13-man Special Forces Reconnaissance Team was inserted by helicopters in a dense jungle area west of Loc Nhai, Vietnam to gather intelligence information about confirmed large-scale enemy activity. This area was controlled and routinely patrolled by the North Vietnamese Army. After a short period of time on the ground, the team met heavy enemy resistance, and requested emergency extraction.

Three helicopters attempted extraction, but were unable to land due to intense enemy small arms and anti-aircraft fire. Sgt. Benavides was at the Forward Operating Base in Loc Nhai monitoring the operation by radio when these helicopters returned to off-load wounded crewmembers and to assess aircraft damage. Sgt. Benavides voluntarily boarded a returning aircraft to assist in another extraction attempt.

Realizing that all the team members were either dead or wounded and unable to move to the pickup zone, he directed the aircraft to a nearby clearing where he jumped from the hovering helicopter, and ran approximately 75 meters under withering small arms fire to the crippled team. Prior to reaching the team's position, he was wounded in his right leg, face, and head.

Despite these painful injuries, he took charge, repositioning the team members and directing their fire to facilitate the landing of an extraction aircraft, and the loading of wounded and dead team members. He then threw smoke canisters to direct the aircraft to the team's positions.

Despite his severe wounds and under intense enemy fire, he carried and dragged half of the wounded team members to the awaiting aircraft. He then provided protective fire by running alongside the aircraft as it moved to pick up the remaining team members.

As the enemy's fire intensified, he hurried to recover the body and the classified documents on the dead team leader. When he reached the team leader's body, Sgt. Benavides was severely wounded by small arms fire in the abdomen and grenade fragments in his back.

At nearly the same moment, the aircraft pilot was mortally wounded, and his helicopter crashed. Although in extremely critical condition due to his multiple wounds, Sgt. Benavides secured the classified documents and made his way back to the wreckage, where he aided the wounded out of the overturned aircraft, and gathered the stunned survivors into a defensive perimeter.

Under increasing enemy automatic weapons and grenade fire, he moved around the perimeter distributing water and ammunition to his weary men, reinserting in them a will to live and fight.

Facing a build-up of enemy opposition with a beleaguered team, Sgt. Benavides mustered his strength, and began calling in tactical air strikes and directing the fire from supporting gunships, to suppress the enemy's fire and so permit another extraction attempt. He was wounded again in his thigh by small arms fire while administering first aid to a wounded team member just before another extraction helicopter was able to land.

His indomitable spirit kept him going as he began to ferry his comrades to the craft.

On his second trip with the wounded, he was clubbed from behind by an enemy soldier. In the ensuing hand-to-hand combat, he sustained additional wounds to his head and arms before killing his adversary. He then continued under devastating fire to carry the wounded to the helicopter.

Upon reaching the aircraft, he spotted and killed two enemy soldiers who were rushing the craft from an angle that prevented the aircraft door gunner from firing upon them.

With little strength remaining, he made one last trip to the perimeter to ensure that all classified material had been collected or destroyed, and to bring in the remaining wounded. Only then, in extremely serious condition from numerous wounds and loss of blood, did he allow himself to be pulled into the extraction aircraft.

Sgt. Benavides' gallant choice to join voluntarily his comrades who were in critical straits, to expose himself constantly to withering enemy fire, and his refusal to be stopped despite numerous severe wounds, saved the lives of at least eight men. His fearless personal leadership, tenacious devotion to duty, and extremely valorous actions in the face of overwhelming odds were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect the utmost credit on him and the United States Army.

El Campo Leader-News.

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THANK YOU!!

Members of the Eagle Lake Lions Club extend their thanks to the citizens of this community for their kind and generous support of the Map and Broom Sale held last Thursday.

Your purchase will help the Eagle Lake Lions to sponsor many worthy community projects; and we will support the fine work being done on at the Lighthouses for the Blind.

Once again, thank you one and all.

Eagle Lake Lions Club

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\$500 CASH BONUS

ON ANY '81 CITATION OR CHEVETTE

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Highlights From The History Of Lissie United Meth. Church

Highlights of the historical events of the Lissie United Methodist Church were held at the building on May 15 with the Rev. Joe Anderson presiding in the morning and the Rev. F. E. Hester, retired Pastor, minister, presiding in the evening. The congregation observed the 75th anniversary of its founding last Sunday, March 1st, 1906, in another article in this issue.

In 1906 Robert Campbell invited Rev. J. W. Jones, Evangelical minister from Iowa, to hold a revival in a three week week long period. Some of the city people united with the Methodist Church at that time.

From this meeting the Lissie Evangelical United Brethren Church was born. On March 5, 1906, the Evangelical Church was organized with 12 members. The church was organized with Robert Campbell, Sunday School; Charles Jennings, St. Sup't; Mrs. Robert Campbell, Secretary; Ruth D. Dittmar, Treasurer; March 1911, S.S. organized; and S. Sincilar, Church organist.

Rev. Ernest Schuman of Houston church preached Lissie occasionally until 1912. Rev. George Gausy, who succeeded the first pastor, Rev. Ernest Schuman, on October, Rev. Gausy, a Dave Thomas headed lumber to build a parsonage on lots next to the present church. A small abandoned Methodist Church was purchased and moved to its present church site. Mr. Elmer Corder and Dr. Thomas were married by Rev. Gausy, his first marriage performed in Lissie Second Church Bldg.

In 1924 the second church was built and dedicated on March 16, 1924. Trustees were: V. A. Hayden, A. H. Anderson and J. M. Clouston. With donated labor the building cost \$2000. In 1929, in 1979 an altar set was dedicated in memory of Agnes Adkins from his family.

In 1940 the parsonage built in 1906 came in for its share of attention when it was enlarged and modernized.

In 1946 the Brethren Church and the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, became the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

In 1949, the building of the present church began with the demolishing of the old one which combined

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Many Attend Lissie Church's 75th Anniversary Last Sun.

A large gathering of members of the Lissie United Methodist Church, former members, families and friends attended the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary celebration held last Sunday, March 1st. The event marked the 75th year since the founding of the church on March 5, 1906 as the Evangelical Church with thirteen charter members. They were: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jennings, Nettie Hayden Herring, Mettie Hayden Poole, Mr. and Mrs. Gay Hollis, Eva Basing Steeters, May Banning Monac, Olive Hayden McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Banning, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Campbell, Ruth Thomas Powers, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Thomas, Sr. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hough Sr., and Esther Thomas. Mr. and Mrs. Sanderman, Mrs. Sanderman is the last surviving charter member and she was guest of honor for the occasion. She was presented with a beautiful corsage and members of her family presented flowers in the chancel of the church in honor of being the only living charter member.

Bishop Crutfield Speaks

An impressive worship service opened the day's activities. Jerrid Higgins and Ja'Nettie Etheridge provided a prelude of piano and organ selections to open the service. The call to worship was given by a former minister, the Rev. Robert O. Tupper, now minister of Trinity United Methodist Church in Purcell, Oklahoma.

Announcements and recognition of guests was made by the Rev. William S. Covillion, pastor of the Lissie United Methodist Church, and Mrs. Dan (Maryann) Gertson, member of the Lissie Women of the Church, held one of the commemorative plates which the ladies of the church are selling on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Lissie Church.

EGYPT NEWS

(Mrs. B. H. Tolliver)

Mr. and Mrs. George Krenk Jr. returned home Tuesday last week from San Antonio where they attended the Mini 11th Airborne Reunion. They were guests of their daughter, Mary Lou, while they were there.

Stephen Pauly spent Sunday in Palacios.

Mr. and Mrs. Reagan Helms and small son, Matthew, of Houston were Sunday guests of their grandfather, F. B. Duncan.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Dittmar, Jr. attended the Fat Stock Show in Houston last Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Abel spent the past week in San Antonio.

Mrs. Clara Marrs of Houston visited with Egypt friends last Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Howell and children of Victoria were guests of their cousins, the Gordon and Allen Peikert families, Sunday.

Patent in Hospital

Friends of Mrs. L. B. Britton, former resident of this area, regret to know that she is a patient in Gulf Coast Hospital for treatment.

Mr. and Mrs. George H. Northington returned home last week from several days' stay with Mr. and Mrs. Roy Smith in Boerne.

New Arrival

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rutledge are receiving congratulations since the arrival of a little granddaughter, Brooke Lynn Baez, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frankie Baez, of Missouri City. Mrs. Rutledge is spending this week with the Baezs.

Mack Wade Drumgoole spent Saturday with friends in Chesterfield.

Mrs. Sawilow Allen and O'Farrell Pauly attended the Symphony at Jones' Hall in Houston Saturday evening.

Elizabeth Krenke of El Campo was at home for the weekend.

Mrs. Milton Johnson and children of Louise spent Saturday afternoon with her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Peikert.

Michael Hershby and son, Jeffrey, of Austin were Sunday visitors with their mother and grandmother, Mrs. Olive D. Hershby.

Donna Fisher has been confined to her home for the past week with chicken pox.

Mr. and Mrs. Heyne Drumgoole and children, Dena Shas and Mack Wade, attended the Fat Stock Show in Houston Sunday.

Beloved Blesley Wishes

Beloved Blesley wishes to Allen Peikert who celebrated his birthday Sunday, March 1st.

demons, like the threats that bound Gulliver, the importance of good words and our strength in God. The size of the Lissie Church may not be as impressive as those in big cities but it has more the less seen forth comers' missions in the presence of our beloved children.

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\$12.00 - 90 min. session

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SUNDAY: 10-12 Noon

STARTS 1st week in April (2nd last week in June)

Man Who Bought Gun In Weimar Shooting Arrested

Weimar police recently arrested a suspect who allegedly purchased a pistol for an illegal alien who is believed to have bought the weapon in the Feb. 4 shooting death of Gary Wayne Kuns of Weimar.

Weimar Police Chief Ken Hollan said Juan Manuel Garza of Weimar was charged with the unlawful transfer of a firearm. Garza was placed in the county jail in lieu of \$3,000 bond.

He is accused of purchasing a .380 caliber semi-automatic pistol last December at Beyer's Sporting Goods store in Weimar. Hollan said Garza bought the gun for Bartol Salas Gutierrez who was prohibited from purchasing the pistol because he is an illegal alien.

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Adult Religious Education Course In Sealy Starts Mar. 5

An Adult Religious Education Course will be held at the Immaculate Conception Educational Center in Sealy and interested citizens in the area are invited to attend. The course will be on the New Testament of the Bible and will be given by Father C. H. Gray, the same priest who gave the course on the Old Testament of the Bible in Sealy this past fall.

The course will be held on Thursdays for six consecutive weeks from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. beginning this Thursday, Mar. 5th.

There is no registration fee and all adults are invited. The course is being sponsored by several Catholic churches in the area including Eagle Lake churches and the pastor, the Rev. Father Tom Hanus, says, "it would be a very good thing to do during this season of Lent."

Escapee From Mich. Prison Arrested In Weimar

Weimar police recently checked on two youths who were suspicious looking, and one of the two turned out to be an escapee from the Michigan state prison. The pair had been seen by several citizens on Interstate 10 and they reportedly spent the night under the FM 155 bridge on IH-10. The two were checked for looking into mailboxes around the city of Weimar.

Police Chief Ken Hollan and Deputy Sheriff Charles Smith stopped the pair who were identified as Robert Laverne Whitney, 18, and Timothy Edward Rader, 19. At the time they reportedly were walking back and forth in front of Hill Bank & Trust Co. in Weimar.

Police check on the computer indicated that Whitney was wanted as an escapee from a Michigan prison. He was jailed and held for Michigan officers.

He and Rader were hitchhiking on their way to California but Whitney's trip will be interrupted by some more time in the Michigan prison.

Contributions were also made during the event to a special Commemorative Fund. No specific plans have been made at this time for use of these contributions.

The program for the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary carried pictures of the three churches in Lissie. The first was built in 1906 and remained in use through 1924. Another building followed in 1924 until 1949 and the present building was erected in 1949 and remains in use today.

Mrs. B. D. (Ruth) Anderson prepared a history of the Lissie Church in a book entitled, "With God." The original book of history of the church is being amended and brought up to date. Highlights of the history may be found in another article in this issue.

SHERIDAN NEWS

By Velma Kutzer
(234-3988)

Byron James Dupre Baptized

Byron James Dupre, son of Warren and Janet Dupre, was baptized on February 22nd at the First United Methodist Church in Hallettsville. The ceremony was officiated by the Rev. Gary Langston.

Lara Dupre recited the Apostles Creed perfectly and received a lovely cross to carry with her for her special presentation.

Attending the baptism service were B.J.'s grandparents, Warren and Audrey Dupre, and Curtis and Elaine Hartman from Houston. Also attending was B.J.'s Aunt Natalie and Uncle Wayne Dupre.

After the baptism the family and Rev. Langston were treated to dinner at the Country Kitchen by B.J.'s Grandparents Dupre, and later was presented with a Children's Bible by his Grandparents Hartman.

New Store Opening

The Three Sisters Variety Store announces its first opening Sat. morning, Mar. 7th at 9 o'clock. Beatrice Botard, Leatrice Hainold and Marilyn Murphy invite every-

Levee Surveying

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- Getting the most out of your equipment
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Lester Herman, 47, Dies In Sleep Friday Morning

Lester Herman, 47, a lifelong resident of the Lissie and Eagle Lake areas, died in his sleep early Friday morning, Feb. 27th bringing great sadness to his many relatives and friends in the area.

Mr. Herman had been associated with the sales division of Harpool Seed Co. and had been commuting from his home here to Houston daily. He attended school in Eagle Lake, and served a tour of duty with the United States Army. He was born on Nov. 11, 1933 in Lissie, Texas the son of Rudolph and Hertha Hartman Herman. He and Sally Bowman Cope were united in marriage in Eagle Lake on Aug. 31, 1974 in Eagle Lake.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Sally Herman of Eagle Lake; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Herman of Lissie; two daughters, Mrs. Mechelle Bubala of Garwood and Mary Cope of Eagle Lake; two sons, Russell Herman and Brandon Cope, both of Eagle Lake; also a sister, Mrs. Genevieve Harshburger of Pennsylvania; two brothers, Alton (Butch) Herman of Eagle Lake and Rudy

Six Salvation Army Workers Are Injured In Van Accident On FM 155

Six Salvation Army workers, all from Victoria, were transferred to a Victoria hospital. Condition of the five more seriously injured was not known early this week.

Highway Patrolman Gary Eden of Columbus station was the investigating officer.

Trucks Collide On IH10

Earlier Friday morning, at around 4:00 a.m. Trooper Eden investigated the collision of two trucks on IH-10, 13 1/2 miles east of Columbus. A truck driven by Robert Heck of Houston reportedly slammed into the rear of a slower-moving truck driven by Donald Thomas of Vidor. A passenger in Thomas' truck was Alan Carter, 26, of Houston, a hitchhiker and he was the most seriously injured and was transferred later from Columbus Hospital to John Sealy Hospital in Galveston.

Trooper Eden was still investigating the truck collision and this week had not filed charges in the wreck.

Ceremony For Sgt. Bengyidez Most Impressive

(By Cong. J. F. Pickle)

A humble man from Texas was formally recognized as a genuine American hero last week at an event. President Reagan awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor to Army Sergeant Roy P. Benavides of El Campo at an elaborate ceremony in the huge courtyard inside the Pentagon. Although El Campo is no longer in the Tenth Congressional District, I shared some hometown pride with the Benavides family.

The ceremony was one of the most colorful and impressive that Washington has witnessed in years. The Pentagon's massive concrete walls were camouflaged by thousands of employees, soldiers and banners. Troops

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