

# 1955

Olton Chamber of Commerce offered a cash prize for the first bale of cotton to be ginned here again this year. The first bale will be ginned free of charge and the gin which gins it will pay 50 cents a pound for the lint cotton. Last year's bale was brought in by W.J. Boykin and T. J. Roberson, from their partnership farm on the Nell Crawford place 6 miles southeast of Olton. The farmers received a \$300 bonus from the Chamber of Commerce.

Sept. 15 -- First bale of cotton was brought to Farmers Gin Co. by Ford Lain and Jackie Baker and was thought to be the second in Lamb County. It was pulled by 10 hands over 30 acres of cotton to get 1860 pounds of seed cotton. The bail weighed 466 pounds and was Paymaster variety. It produced 840 pounds of seed. Luis Hair and Shorty Silcott operate the gin. Mr. Lain said the cotton was planted April 28 on a farm 8 miles north of Olton.

Oct. 6 -- Rain, measuring up to 4 inches has delayed cotton harvest. Only 69 bales had been processed by Olton gins as of Oct. 4. Dan Daniel of Circle Gin said that most of the cotton is alright since it hadn't opened up too much.

Oct. 13 -- The area's late planted cotton crop should begin being harvested soon. Olton gins had baled 382 bales as of Oct. 12. Cotton being ginned at this time is suffering on classification because of discoloration. Much of it is being classed strict low middling. Most of the cotton is being brought from north, northeast and east of Olton. Other cotton was planted later.

Oct. 20 -- Cotton harvest has gained momentum with a total of 1,549 bales having been processed. Grade are improving from strict low middling to middling. Staple was also improving.

Nov. 3 -- Cotton was more severely hurt than first anticipated by the killing freeze which hit here a week ago Sunday. Bale-an-acre cotton this year will be good, said Bub Holt. One ginner estimated that the Oct. 23 freeze may cause as much as 25 percent damage moneywise. Volume will not be hurt as much as grade, several gingers pointed out. A total of 6235 bales have been ginned, up from 3248 a week ago.

Nov. 10 -- A howling snowstorm swept in Monday and severely hampered the harvest of Olton's cotton crop. A total of 8,642 bales have been ginned. Gingers say that the snow, which was approximately two inches wouldn't hurt the cotton if farmers will wait until the cotton dries out before beginning to pull again. Most gingers expect the grades to drop off.

Nov. 17 -- Harvest of Olton's crop moved ahead at a good clip this week as farmers pressed stripping machines into use and good weather permitted uninterrupted field operations. Olton gins have processed a total of 12,412 bales as of Wednesday. One ginner stated that hand pulling was on the way out and from here on in will be done with machines.

Nov. 24 -- Cotton harvest, with machined pulled cotton flowing in at a near record pace, totals 19,868 bales weighed in. Most farmers say that the harvest is approximately three-fourths complete. The crop was a little off from last year maybe a third or more. Olton Co-Op Gin reported Wednesday morning that they were about 900 bales behind.

## 1955 continued

Dec. 8 -- Cotton harvest, at 29,824 bales, is nearly complete. Ginners estimate that at least 95% of the crop is harvested and is now bringing about 25 1/2 cents per pound.

Dec. 15 -- A survey of area gins - Circle, Thompson, Farmers. Straw-Burrow, Olton Co-Op and Smith ,revealed that a total of 31,937 bales had been weighed in.

Dec. 29 -- Gins are planning to shut down as harvest is coming to an end, with 32,579 bales weighed in.

## 1956

June 14 -- Cotton was looking good, but hail struck west of Circle. Heaviest hit was the Vance Estes place, H.B. Montgomery, Tom Beeson and Bub Holt. Insect infection was reported heavy and by mid-week farmers were spraying for thrip. It gives the impression that cotton has been hit by hail, said Jack Bristol of OFS.

Aug. 30 -- Harry Thomas brought in Olton's first bale of cotton Thursday, Aug. 23 to Smith Gin Co. It was said to be the earliest bale of cotton every to be ginned in Olton according to L.D. Smith. The bale was ginned from 1670 pounds of seed cotton and turned out 470 pounds of lint. Thomas said a dozen hands pulled over 20 acres to get the bale, which was Dunn-7 variety planted April 23. It graded "middling." Merchants contributed \$222 in cash and \$234 in merchandise as a premium for the first bale.

Sept. 27 -- Six gins in the Olton area reported 3,615 bales ginned, setting the record for the most cotton ginned during the month of September. R.A. Williams of Texas Employment Commission here described the worker situation as critical. He had 28 orders for 631 hands through today. Elvis Hatley of Olton Producers Co-Op Assn. reported that he had requisitions for enough hands to fill the bill, adding that there had been some difficulty in recruiting hands below the border. The cotton is mostly light spot to white cotton with a good staple varying from 15/16 to an inch and one thirty-second.

Oct. 18 -- Hail, rain and fog hampered the gathering of cotton in the area. The six area gins reported a total of 15,181 bales by early afternoon Wednesday. One ginner estimated that 35% of the crop had been processed. The average yield was more than a bale to the acre with good grades. He said most of the cotton has been grading as good as light spot and selling for 30 to 31 cents a pounds. The need for harvest hands is about 90% filled and could be completely filled if housing was available.

Nov. 8 -- With cotton harvest considered 70% complete, 27,691 bales have been ginned through Wednesday morning. Grades were continuing to be very good. A considerable amount of stripper cotton was reported to have come in during the week.

Nov. 15 -- Bales weighed in as of Wednesday night totaled 32,515 according to local gins. Harvest is winding down as hands begin an exodus and machine pulling got underway.

## 1956 continued

Nov. 22 -- Total bales weighed in Nov. 21 hit 36,453. The majority of the cotton now coming in is stripper cotton with only a few exceptions. It is estimated that harvest is about 90% complete.

Nov. 29 -- Cotton harvest is all but over as a total of 39,952 bales had been weighed in. This year's crop is said to have been one of the best, highest grade and staple cotton ever grown here. Lamb Count was told that there would be no cut in cotton acres for 1957 and possible could be a small increase.

## 1957

Sept. 19 -- Harry Thomas brought in the first bale of cotton for the season, his second first bale in as many seasons. Thomas brought in 1830 pounds of seed cotton and got 465 pounds of lint cotton from it. Some 15 hands pulled the cotton for a premium of \$4 per hundred for the first bale. The cotton was planted May 25 and water one time about the middle of June. This year's first bale was almost a month later than last year.

Oct. 3 -- Only 189 bales of cotton have been processed at the five local gins. Last year at this date, a total of 7,119 bales of cotton had been processed, but in 1955, only 69 bales had been brought in. Warm, day weather and plenty of sunshine is needed to get the harvest in full swing in 10 days to 2 weeks.

Oct. 10 -- Weatherman predicts late freeze and cotton harvest lagged because of the weather. Farm labor is drifting in for the harvest but the weather has kept them out of the field. Olton had about 1.10 inches of moisture last week and received drizzle, fog and cloudiness since. Only 369 bales of cotton have been brought in thus far. The cotton that has been graded appears to be excellent - white and staple runs from 15/16 to an inch. Olton Co-Op Gin ran an ad stating that they had installed the latest improved moss lint cleaners to give farmers a better grade, staple turnout.

Oct. 24 -- An accumulation of 4.32 inches of rain this month has damaged the cotton crop. Only a total of 1,271 bales have been brought in to the six area gins. Grades are strict low middling with extra good staples at 31/32, inch and better.

Oct 31 -- A freeze hit the South Plains and some estimates placed cotton damage as much as 50% while optimistic circles set it at 20 and 25 percent. Only 2,773 bales had been weighed in at local gins, compared to last year's 23,895. There is reported to be plenty of hands to gather the cotton, but it is estimated that a bigger percentage of the crop will probably be gathered by machines this year.

Nov. 7 -- Lamb County was told they could expect a cut in the cotton allotment for the year of 1958 at about 1 1/2%. Protests were being made by Plains Cotton Growers as well as Rep. George Mahon of the 19th District.

Nov. 21 -- Snow began falling here early Thursday morning, further complicating the harvest problem across the territory. For the eighth consecutive weekend, rain fell across the South Plains. The six gins serving Olton had ginned 7,107 bales of cotton at press time. One farmer predicted that one-third of the crop is out.

## 1957 continued

Nov. 26 -- Cotton harvest has been grinding slowly this week after a 3 1/2 inch snow last Thursday brought it to a virtual halt. Bracero labor has been rapidly ebbing from the country as a result of the weather. Machine harvesting seems imminent.

Dec. 5 -- Sunshine accelerated the cotton harvest and at noon Thursday, 12,160 bales had been weighed in. Most farmers are using machine stripping at this time. One man estimated that there would be 30,000 bales ginned this year.

Dec. 26 -- A total of 25,614 bales of cotton had been weighed in by noon Friday at the area gins. It was predicted that harvest would be over by Christmas, but bad weather has hampered field operations.

## 1958

Aug. 28 -- Drexel Lawson brought in Lamb County's first bale of cotton to Olton Co-Op Gin Aug. 27. The bale weighed 455 pounds and he was paid \$227.50 for the cotton, \$30 for the seed and \$268 in cash and merchandize certificates.

Oct. 2 -- Harvest resumed over the area after a few drizzling clouds moved in to stay and the area received over an inch of moisture. A total of 1,9334 bales had been ginned in the area and grading was higher than average, from 75 to 80% white and other at 50-50 white. Laborers were expected to be in high demand after a couple of dry-weather days. Braceros have been arriving in the area by bus and truck loads during the past two weeks and several hundred are still expected to arrive.

Oct. 9 -- A check with the gins in the area - Olton Co-Op Gin, Smith Gin, Farmers Gin, Straw-Burrow Gin, Circle Gin and Thompson Gin - revealed that a total of 7,743 bales had been ginned. Grades thus far have been approximately 75 to 90% white.

Oct. 30 -- Cotton harvest is said to be 20 to 25% over, with a total of 15,013 bales weighed in. Cotton seed went into the government loan Wednesday. Price per ton until the loan was \$36. Loan price, for the first week, is \$43.50. Prices will be given to the gins each Monday and will be good for that week.

Nov. 13 -- More than 27,000 bales of cotton have been ginned in the Olton area. It is predicted that this year's crop will exceed the bumper crop of 1956. It is estimated that harvest is 50% complete. Mechanical strippers were moving at full pace.

Nov. 20 -- This year's cotton crop has been better in price and production than any harvest in the history of Olton farming, according to several "old timers." Bale count was at 31,971 with the harvest 80 to 90% complete.

Dec. 4 -- Cotton harvest should be finished in Olton area by next week. A total of 40,249 bales have been ginned thus far and most farmers are just "mopping up" at this date.

## 1958 continued

Dec. 11 -- Olton's bale count now stands at 41,645, which is believed to be an all time high for Olton. Olton Co-Op Gin broke its unofficial world record for a two-battery gin. The record, set in 1956, was 20,647 bales, which was exceeded Dec. 2. The gin's total now stands at 21,933 bales.

Dec. 25 -- Olton area completed a \$6 million cotton crop, with a total of 43,222 bales ginned by local gins. Estimates of bale revenue was \$140, making the farmers revenue about \$6,051,080 from cotton.

## 1959

Sept. 24 -- Harvest got underway very slow here with only 100 bales of cotton ginned at this time. With dry weather, cotton harvest should be in full swing by the middle of October.

Oct. 8 -- Olton's ginning total crept above the thousand bale mark with a promise of frenzied activity during the next week, if dry weather holds. Hands are still needed. Farmers have encountered a shortage.

Oct. 15 -- Harvest had begun in earnest this week as the weather was clear and maturing conditions appeared good. A total of 1,887 bales had been ginned at press time.

Oct. 29 -- Many farmers have already defoliated and cotton strippers have begun to roll. A total of 6,532 bales of cotton had been weighed in. Grades have been good running from strict middling to strict middling light spot. A shortage of hands was reported due to the fact that the cotton was damaged this summer by hail.

Nov. 19 -- Harvest peaked this week and gins were rolling around the clock as the cotton bale total reached 16,532. Grades continued good in spite of the fact that most of the harvesting was being done by machine.

Dec. 5 -- Bales weighed in at the six gin companies serving the Olton area came to 28,844 Wednesday night. Some observers placed the harvest at least 85 percent complete. Prices ranged from 25 to 28 cents.

Dec. 24 -- Olton area's cotton harvest - short by 10,000 over last year -- is now over. Last Friday afternoon, the six gins serving the area reported a total of 33,632. At this time last year the figure was 43,222 bales.