

The
SHAMROCK

MARCH 1950





CLARENDON, TEXAS

*In the heart of a land of progressive farms and ranches
this Texas town is an important Panhandle trade center*

Reflecting the vigorous growth of farming and ranching activities in the Texas Panhandle, Clarendon, Texas, has grown from a tiny prairie village, struggling for survival, into a thriving little city with a population of approximately 3,100 persons. Situated 55 miles southeast of Amarillo, Texas, Clarendon is the County Seat of Donley County and is the center of a prosperous and well-developed agricultural and ranching community.

The small city had its beginning some seventy years ago when a few ranchers, recognizing the value of the short grass that covered the rolling prairie and nourished herds of magnificent buffalo, began moving their hardy long-

horn cattle into the area. Among the first white men to establish permanent homes in the region was the late Colonel Charles Goodnight who moved a herd of cattle into the Palo Duro Canyon in 1876. Within a few years, Colonel Goodnight had extended his famous J-A Ranch to include more than 4,000,000 acres comprising a large part of what is now Donley County. Other ranchers soon followed and a number of ranches consisting of more than a million acres, as well as many smaller outfits, were firmly established by 1890.

The town of Clarendon itself was founded in 1878 on the banks of Carroll Creek near its junction with the Salt Fork of the Red

River. The first residents were farmers who settled in the community with the intention of establishing farms. Unaccustomed to the rigorous Panhandle climate and unfamiliar with the farming methods necessary to raise crops in that climate, many of these first settlers became discouraged and abandoned their newly acquired lands, however, and for the first few years the little community struggled desperately for survival.

The ranchers who were already established in the community, disliking the threat of encroachment on their range lands by these "nesters," looked with considerable disfavor on the early agricultural enterprises. Most of the ranchers expressed their doubts

that farming could survive in the Panhandle, and many of them stoutly maintained that to plow up and destroy good grass lands was to defy providence.

To the rough-riding cowboys who worked on the big ranches, the unfamiliar rules and ordinances conceived by the town fathers of the newly established town were particularly distasteful. To these fun-loving cowboys, the town soon became known as "Saints' Roost."

While the new community was struggling for its existence, another event took place which at first appeared likely to mean the end of the town but later proved to be an important factor in its salvation. This event was the coming of the railroad in 1887. Following the path of least resistance and generally sticking to the high ground, the railroad by-passed the early location of Clarendon by several miles. At this time many of the early residents gave up in disgust, left their land, and returned to where they came from. But those who remained moved the town, practically "lock, stock and barrel," to its present site on the

railroad. With the advent of the improved transportation provided by the railroad, more farmers and ranchers were attracted to the community. These later settlers, able to rely upon the experiences of their predecessors, were generally more successful in their agricultural operations.

Today, ranching and farming still form the basis of the economic activity of the region. No longer, however, are the two enterprises antagonistic to each other. Although still a major part of the community's activities, the big ranches, such as the J-A and the R-O no longer depend solely upon grass to fatten their cattle, but raise large amounts of feed crops to supplement the grass diet of their stock. The farmers also have progressed as the region has developed. Through the growing knowledge of scientific farming methods and the use of modern farm equipment they have reduced to a large extent many of the hazards brought about by the unpredictable Panhandle weather conditions. This harmonious blending of farming and ranching, rather than the exclusive depend-

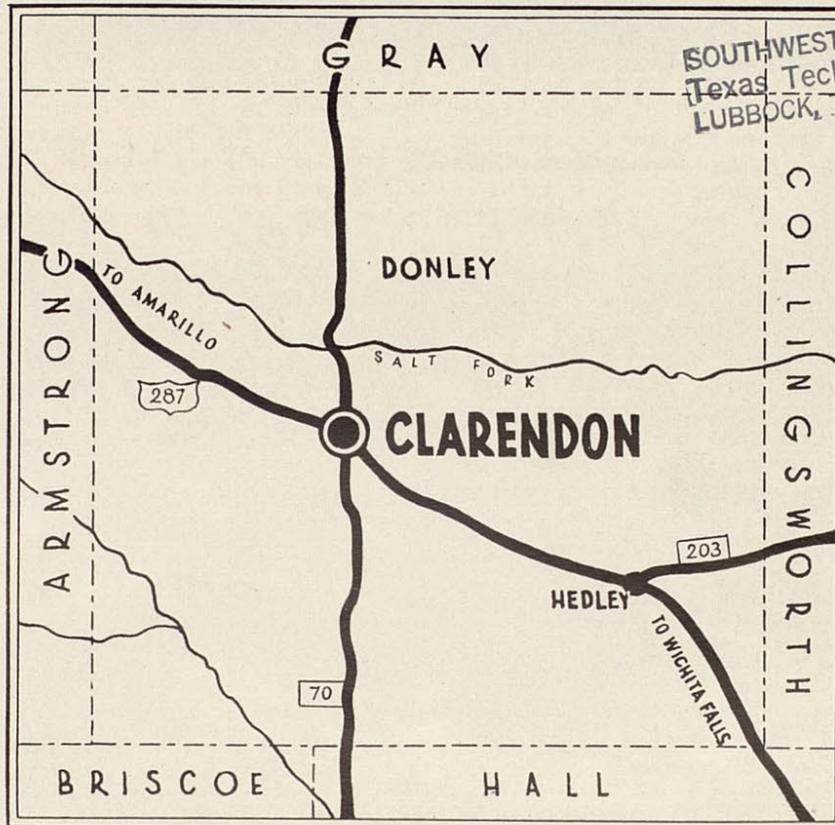
ence upon one or the other, has resulted in a healthy economy for the community as a whole.

As farming and ranching activities in the entire region have developed and prospered, so also has the city of Clarendon progressed. Today, Clarendon is the trade center of a prosperous community. It is a city of established homes and businesses, of progressive schools, active churches, and all of the customary attributes of a modern western city.

To supply the steadily growing community with the goods and services it needs, stable business enterprises of many different kinds have been established. The three banks which serve Clarendon and the surrounding area exemplify the firm foundation upon which the community's trade and commerce is based. All three of these organizations have served their patrons for many years through peace and war, boom times and depression. Serving the farmers of the region in marketing their cotton are two modern gins. A grain elevator is now under construction and will be ready to serve the

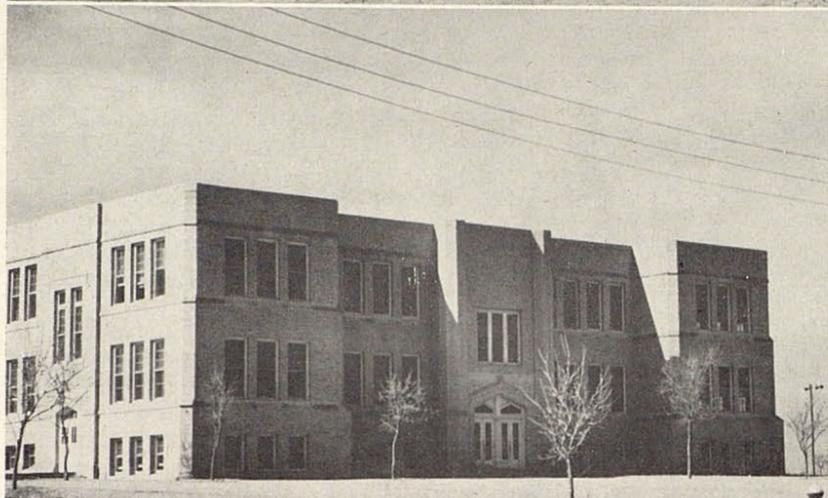
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Clarendon, Texas, County Seat of Donley County, is the center of a progressive farm and ranch community. Founded in 1878, the Panhandle city's development has kept pace with the continued progress of the surrounding area. It lies in the heart of a region of livestock, wheat, and cotton.





The two buildings at the-left accommodate the 550 students of the Elizabeth Stevens Ward elementary school and the Clarendon junior high school.



Clarendon's high school and junior college share this building. The building was formerly occupied by a Methodist college founded in 1898.

Donley County Courthouse

Clarendon City Hall





The buildings pictured on this page are typical of the fine church structures in Clarendon. Shown above are the Methodist and Presbyterian churches. The Baptist Church is pictured lower right. Other denominations represented in the community include Episcopal, Church of Christ, Catholic, Assembly of God, and Christian churches.

Continued from Page 3

wheat farmers by mid-summer of this year. Other business firms in the community include a large number of retail establishments. The residents of Clarendon and vicinity can buy their groceries in stores that utilize the progressive merchandising methods of the big city super markets, yet which retain the atmosphere of neighborly friendliness characteristic of the old-time country stores. Clarendon citizens may select their clothing in stores which offer for sale the same kinds of merchandise to be found in fashionable metropolitan shops at comparable prices. These and many other business firms such as hardware and furniture stores, a newspaper, theater, restaurants, hotels, and printing shop make the city of Clarendon a progressive center of trade and commerce.

Contributing to the spiritual and cultural life of the community are a number of fine churches and a modern, progressive school system. The attractive buildings which now accommodate the eight denominations represented by Clarendon's churches are a decided contrast to the first crude frame structure that served the early settlement as both school and

church. The town's school system consists of the Elizabeth Nixon Ward elementary school, a junior high school, a senior high school, a junior college, and a school for colored students. The entire school system has a combined enrollment of 872 students with 357 in the elementary grades, 193 in junior high, 138 in senior high, 100 in college, and 84 in the colored school.

Not only are the residents of Clarendon and its surrounding territory proud of the many

achievements of the community, they are also confident and hopeful of the future. Compared to other parts of America, the Panhandle of Texas is still an infant. But it is a husky, fast-growing infant, and its boosters are quick to point out that its economic growth and development so far are nothing compared to what is yet to come. And as the Panhandle continues to develop, the citizens of Clarendon are determined that their city will be a leader in that development.





Cowboy-Artist of the Southwest

For a number of years, readers of *The Shamrock* have been familiar with the excellent pen-and-ink drawings of western scenes which have illustrated various newspaper advertisements and stories appearing in the magazine. The man who has combined the skill of his hands with his unusually keen powers of observation to create these and many other fine drawings and paintings of western life is Harold Bugbee, the cowboy-artist of the Panhandle.

Bugbee is a tall, vigorous looking man of fifty. Wearing tradi-

tional boots and a ten-gallon hat, he is, in actions and appearance, a typical Westerner. Only his speech, which is a peculiar but pleasant combination of New England and Western accents, isn't quite typical; but a few minutes of conversation with him will quickly reassure his listeners that here is a true Westerner, for few men are as well versed in the customs, traditions and lore of the Southwest as Harold Bugbee.

For many years a resident of Clarendon, Texas — the Panhandle city featured in this issue of

The Shamrock—Bugbee has made it his life's work to preserve on canvas and paper scenes of the life and traditions of the West. His studio is the great outdoors and in that studio he has sketched cattle, horses, cowboys, and practically every form of wildlife native to the Southwest from jack rabbits to buffalo.

After making preliminary sketches of his subjects where he finds them, the artist prepares his finished drawings or paintings in his basement workshop. He is careful to point out that his work-

shop is not a studio and a casual survey of its furnishings bears out his contention. Actually, it is a continuation of his outdoor studio. Containing a wide assortment of miscellaneous samples of the outdoors, the room is filled with such items as deer and elk antlers of all sizes, guns of every description including an early model of the famous Sharp 40-calibre buffalo gun, a Sioux Indian headress, branding irons, saddles, harness, horseshoes and spurs, as well as hundreds of oil and pencil sketches.

The versatile western artist was born near Lexington, Mass., in 1900. But even during his New England childhood, he was fascinated by stories of the West and looked forward to the annual visit of his uncle, T. S. Bugbee, a pioneer rancher in the Panhandle.

"I was so sure that someday I would live in Texas that I practiced roping and riding on my father's farm near Lexington. When we moved to Texas in 1913, I could ride fairly well and had acquired some skill with a rope," Bugbee relates.

After coming to Texas, the Bugbee family acquired land near Clarendon and young Harold found his boyhood dreams rapidly coming true. He soon made himself at home in his new surroundings and immediately began to

learn as much of the ways and lore of the West as possible. In this search for knowledge, he was impelled by a tremendous curiosity—a curiosity that is still one of his outstanding characteristics. This curiosity has been an important factor in making him one of the foremost artists of the Southwest.

Early in his youth, he decided upon a career as an artist.

"I think I decided to be an artist," he explains, "when I found that I was usually more interested in how long a steer's horns were than how fat he was."

After finishing high school at Clarendon, he attended Texas A & M and Clarendon College and later enrolled in the Cummings School of Art at Des Moines, Iowa. In 1921 he completed his formal art training and returned to the Panhandle. Since that time he has devoted most of his time to studying, painting and sketching. In 1935, he married Katherine Patrick, a gracious and charming member of one of the pioneer families in Donley County.

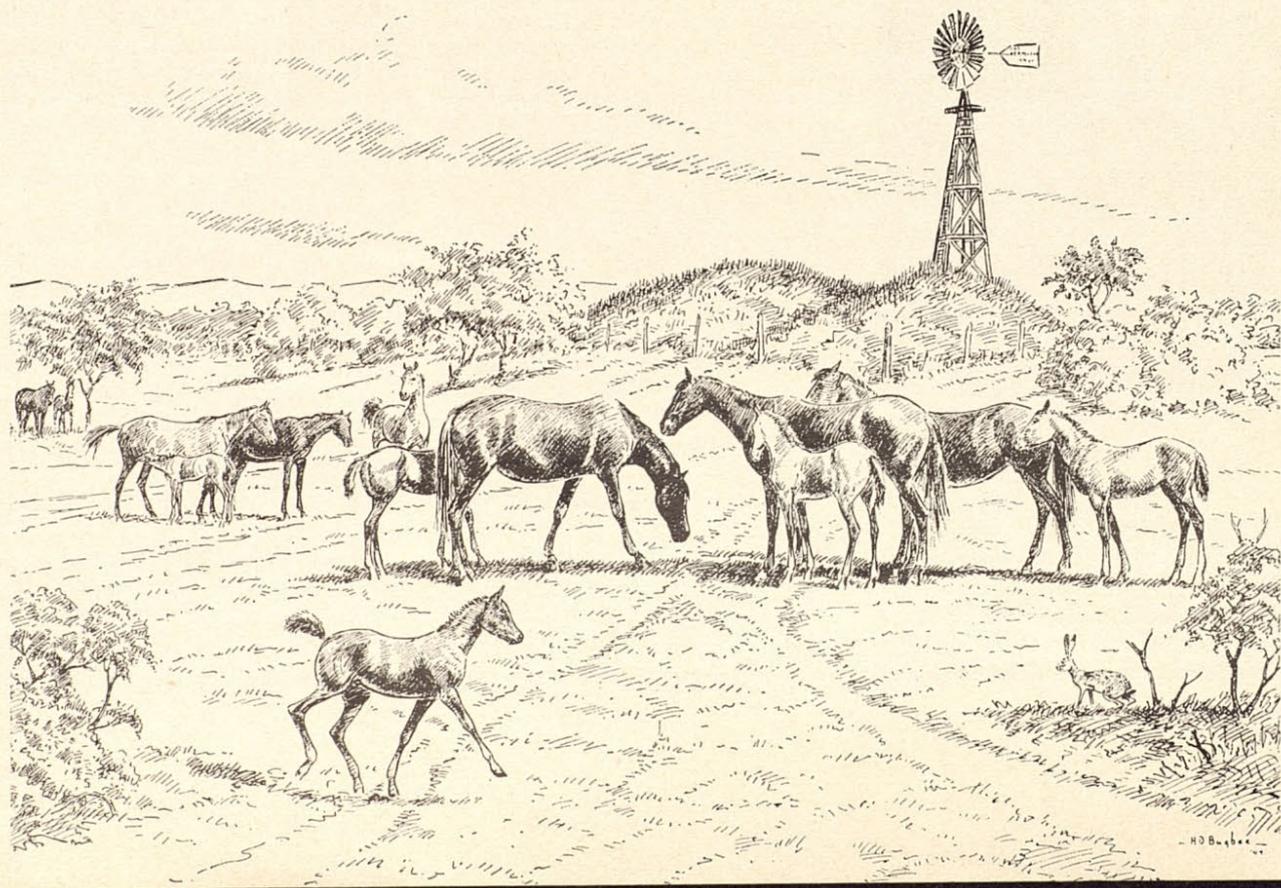
In addition to his drawing and painting, the artist has many other interests. He is a member of the Panhandle Plains Historical Society at Canyon, Texas, and has devoted much time and effort to the development of that institution. He also engages in extensive farm-

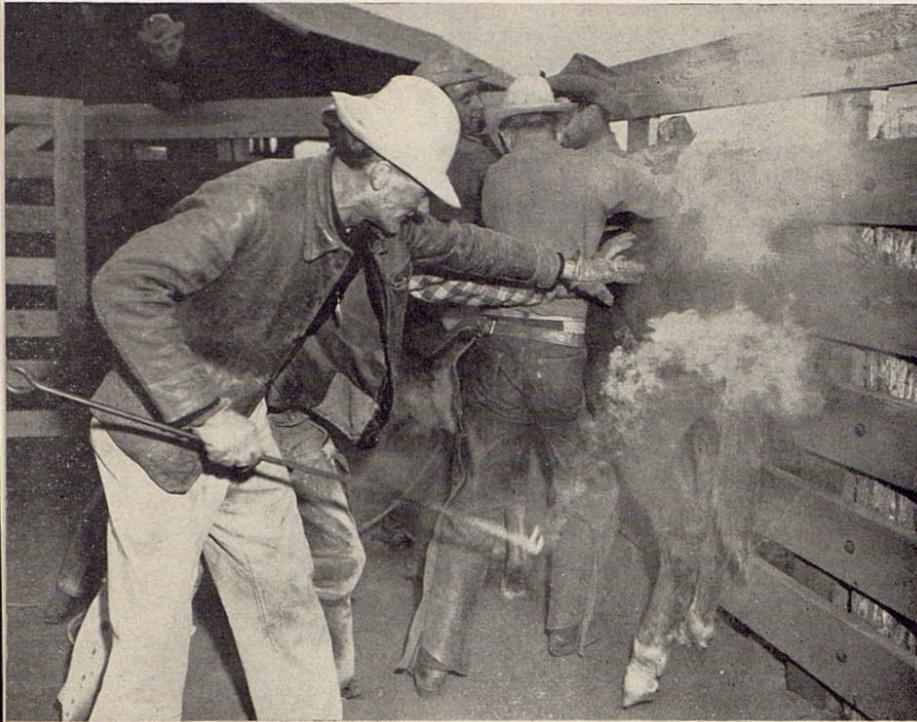
ing and ranching, assisting in the management of the Bugbee family ranch.

His reputation as an artist, however, has made his works well-known to art collectors and critics throughout the United States. His services as an illustrator for books and magazines are in constant demand and many of his paintings and drawings hang in a number of well-known art collections. Those who have read books by J. Evetts Haley, noted Southwest author and historian and a frequent contributor to *The Shamrock* magazine, will recall the Bugbee illustrations in many of those books.

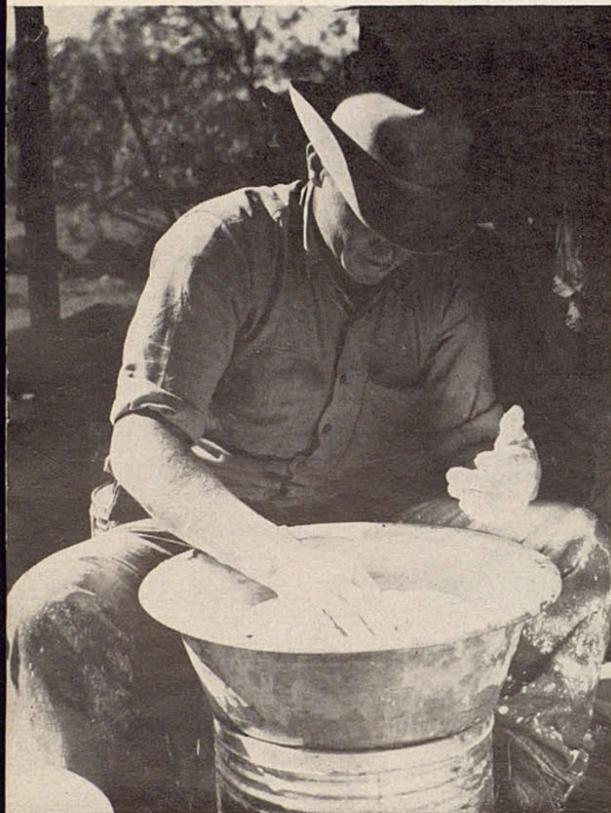
Shamrock readers will also recognize the drawing below, a print of which was mailed to all *Shamrock* subscribers last December as a Christmas Greeting. This scene was made from sketches which the artist made on the J-A Ranch.

Bugbee is pictured on the opposite page at work on his most recent major project, an oil painting portraying another scene on the J-A Ranch. This painting, "*The Slick Ear*," shows cowboys rounding up a yearling which was missed during the previous roundup. Such an animal, carrying no brand or ear-mark is called a "slick ear".





These pictures show familiar ranch scenes around Donley County. Veteran cowhand Boy Blackwell (above) applies the famous J-A Brand to the rump of a colt. Cowboy Johnny Cavett (below) pinch hits as camp cook at a J-A cow camp.



Farm and Ranch

For the first few years after Clarendon was established, the agricultural possibilities of the surrounding region were slow to be developed. As late as 1900, more than 20 years after the town was founded, only a very small per cent of the region's fertile land was under cultivation. Most of the residents were ranchers who cared very little about developing the rich farmland. The young sons of one of these early ranchers, however, are credited with raising one of the first crops in Donley County. Many years ago, these two boys, Walter and Crockett Taylor, both of whom still live in Clarendon, discovered some strange "wooly" looking seeds in a crate of eggs their father, Henry Taylor, had bought in Fort Worth. The boys planted the seeds to find out what they were and, according to the story, raised the first cotton crop in Donley County.

Last year, approximately 145,000 acres in Donley County was under cultivation. Of this acreage, 60,000 acres was planted to sor-

ghum crops, 30,000 acres to wheat and 45,000 acres to cotton. The cotton crop in 1949 amounted to approximately 25,000 bales—one of the largest crops in the history of the county. The 30,000 acres of wheat land produced an average of about 14 bushels of wheat per acre. In addition to sorghum crops, wheat and cotton, alfalfa, tame grasses, and similar crops are also important products of the county's agricultural activities.

In the past few years, farmers in the community have shown an increasing interest in irrigation projects. At present there are six irrigation wells in Donley County irrigating about 700 acres of land.

The abundance of feed crops and pasture land makes Donley County an ideal location for the dairy industry. There are now 16 Grade "A" dairy farms in the County.

Proud of the agricultural achievements of the community, Donley County citizens take an active part in the continued development of the region. A com-



Jack Moreman (right) and Jimmie Lynn (left) show Fat Stock Show Grand and Reserve Champion lambs.



The Grand Champion pig at the Clarendon Show was this fine Hampshire pig entered by James Bagget.

mittee of 12 persons supervise the organized fairs, stock shows, and other exhibits designed to promote good farming methods in the area. Two of the most outstanding of these activities are the two-day County Fair, held in Clarendon each fall, and the 4-H Club Fat Stock Show in the spring.

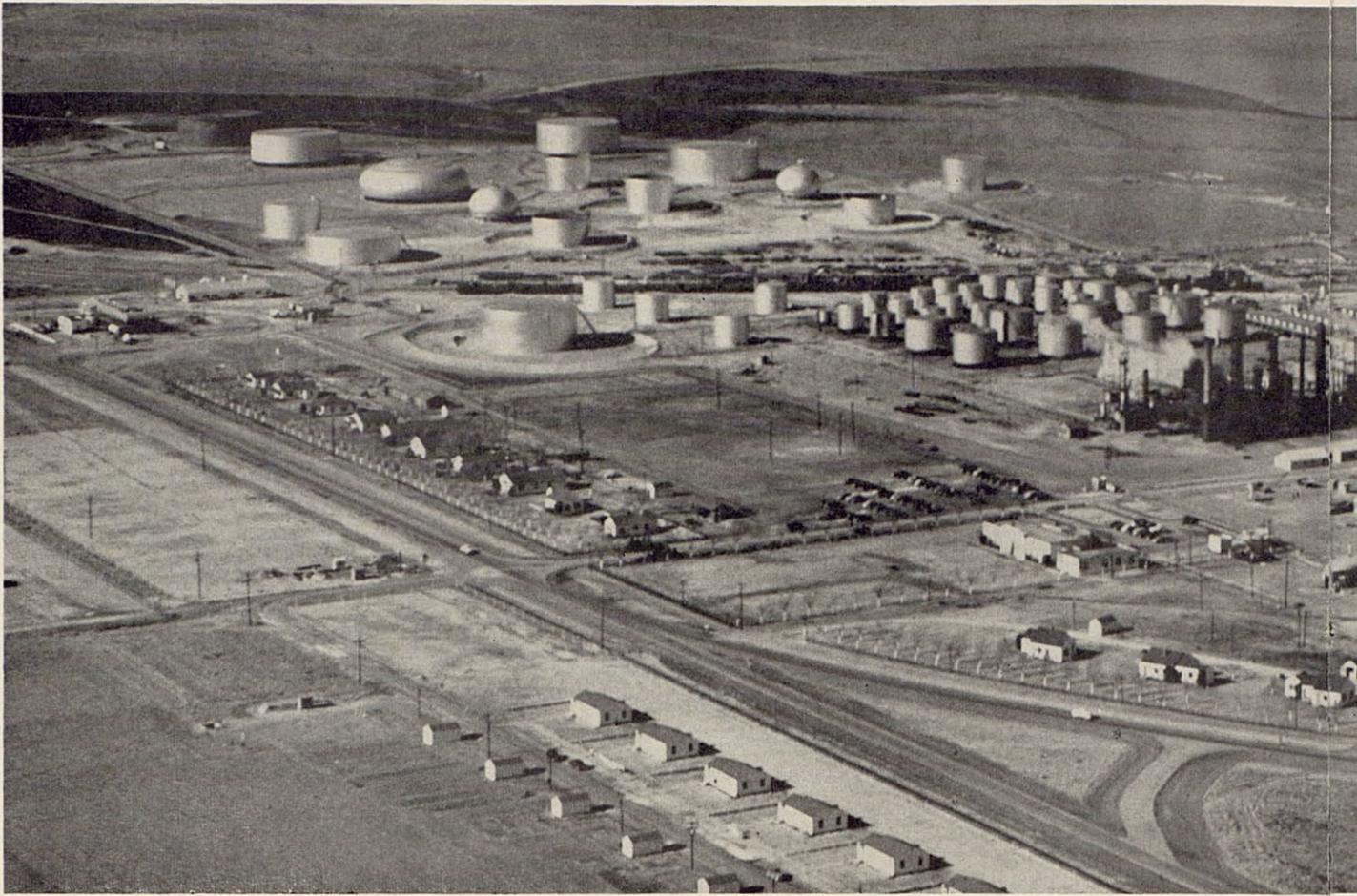
The County's 4-H clubs are among the most active organizations in the community and are participated in by 145 boys from 9 years of age up. The pictures above and to the right depict some of the activities engaged in by these boys.

Don Thornberry pockets first prize as officials pass on to Robert Koen who showed second place calf in light steer division. Calves belonging to Thornberry also won the heavy division and the Grand Champion ribbon.

THE COVER

J. A. Scofield, District Agent of the Texas A & M Extension Service, looks over one of the fat calves at the 1950 Clarendon Fat Stock Show. The calf he is judging is being shown by Chauncey Hommel of Clarendon. The annual show is one of the highlights of 4-H Club activities in the region.





Shamrock Serves the

Through its extensive system of distributors and dealers, the Shamrock Oil and Gas Corporation supplies high quality petroleum products to customers in parts of five Southwestern states.

To service these dealers and distributors, Shamrock maintains the McKee Gasoline Plant and Refinery and the Sunray Gasoline Plant near the neighboring Panhandle communities of Dumas and Sunray, Texas. The company also operates a Blending Plant near Liberal, Kansas, and owns a joint interest in a products pipeline from its McKee Plant near Dumas to a terminal at La Junta, Colorado. The Liberal Blending Plant and the products pipeline to La Junta

are designed to serve Shamrock's customers in its outlying territories in Kansas and Colorado with maximum efficiency.

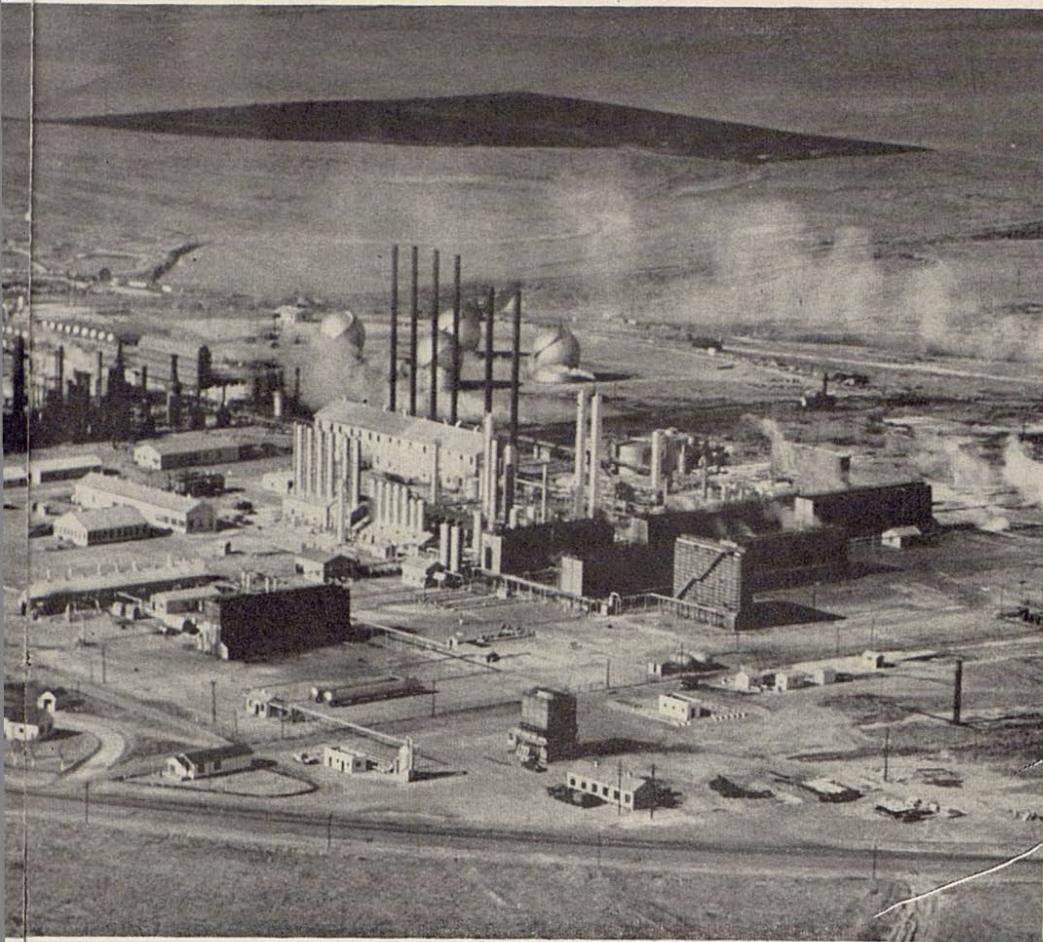
In addition to these processing facilities, Shamrock also produces oil and gas from wells located in the Panhandle of Texas. Approximately 475 miles of pipelines bring the crude oil and natural gas from the wells to the McKee and Sunray Plants for processing.

After extracting the liquid products such as butane and propane from the natural gas, Shamrock sells large quantities of residue gas to pipeline companies who transport this economical and efficient fuel to industrial areas in various parts of the United States. Residue

gas is also sold directly to carbon black plants and other industrial users in the Panhandle.

During the past year, Shamrock initiated a multi-million dollar expansion and improvement program to make certain that its customers get finished petroleum products of the very highest quality. Part of this expansion program has already been completed, and other units will be put into operation within the next few months.

With the best possible producing, processing, and distributing facilities, the hundreds of Shamrock employees, dealers, and distributors are able to provide Shamrock customers with high grade petroleum products at the lowest possible cost.



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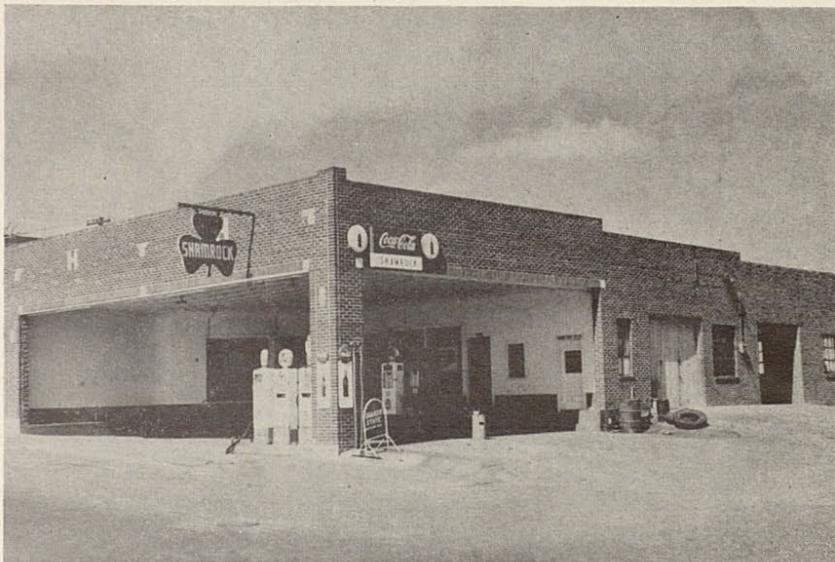
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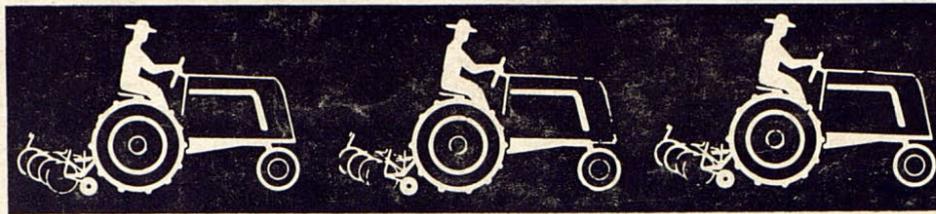
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Patterson Service Station, Shamrock dealer in Clarendon, is pictured below. Lee Holland is the Shamrock bulk distributor in Clarendon.



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