

# Borden

# Citizen.

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Bess (Sowell) Terry, former resident of Borden County, pictured wearing a hat from Mrs. Berry's Millinery Shop. Bess, whose mother was Dixie Rebecca Kincaid, was a niece of Hugh Kincaid who built a hotel at Gail. Her niece, Loudella Ness, has been a valuable contributor to the BORDEN CITIZEN.

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into Big Spring. One of the hacks was loaded in Big Spring the day before for the trip the next day. Albert Wright, who lived in the Luther community also helped with the Mail.

They hauled everything from drummers (salesmen), passengers and merchandise of every kind - even some brown and white jugs of whiskey. Near town, two miles south, there was a family - the Rileigh Jeter's - who would load the hack with big watermelons in the fall.

Mrs. J. H. (Mollie) Berry owned and operated Mrs. Berry's Millinery Shop. It was located on the northwest corner of the square where the Texaco Station is now. Mrs. Berry made a trip to Dallas twice a year for training in making and trimming hats. While in Dallas she would buy all of her supplies for the ensuing season. These consisted of braids; wire; ribbons, both narrow and wide and of velvet and silk; flowers - all kinds and colors; malines, chiffons and laces - both black and white. These supplies were shipped to Big Spring in big wooden boxes and were hauled in freight wagons to Gail by Mr. Berry. There was also a dress making shop in the building. The furniture consisted of an old fashioned lounge, sewing machine, a few cane bottomed chairs and a counter that extended from front to back on the north side with show cases to display hat pins, buckles, candy, etc. Miss Mary Leake and Miss Lula Cathey were employed, and you could hear the most beautiful singing of Ballads and Sacred songs as they went about their work. In the back of the shop there were some small tables for serving ice cream. The ice was hauled from Big Spring. Youngsters turned the crank on the old fashioned freezer and the ice cream was sold for five cents a bowl.

MRS. BERRY'S MILLINERY SHOP  
Just before the turn of the century when Borden County was organized, Gail was already a thriving community. A teeming cowtown before it was selected as county seat, new businesses were springing up every day. One of these was Mrs. Berry's Millinery Shop. The J. H. (Jim) Berry family left Joplin, Mo., on a cattle drive in the spring of 1894 - their destination being West Texas. They were joined in Coleman County, Texas, by the J. C. (Bud) Mullins family. The covered wagon caravan arrived in Gail, Borden County, on December 20th, 1894. The two families first settled six miles west of Gail on the old Lamesa Highway. Later both families moved into Gail, then the Mullin family moved near the Dawson-Borden County line.

In the year 1905, J. H. Berry took the contract to deliver the mail from Big Spring to Gail. Horace and Henry Hale had the contract from Gail to Tahoka. The line consisted of three white topped hacks pulled by little Spanish Mules. The mail hack would leave from Big Spring in the morning and arrive late in the afternoon in Gail. There were relay stations where they stopped and changed mules, the half-way station being at the Cross set Ranch (the parents of Mrs. J. C. - Hattie - Dorward.) The hack that left Gail would be in Big Spring that night, One Day Service!!! Charlie Berry, son of J. H. Berry, drove on the north end

Nora (Berry) Nelson recalls her mother making the most beautiful dresses and hats to match for Mrs. R. N. Miller who lived on a ranch northeast of Gail. Miss Ludie Locklear (Clark) remembers visiting with her sister, Eliza Locklear Clayton, and brother-in-law Ab Clayton, who lived about eight miles east of Gail. Paul Dilla-hunty had loaned Ludie a horse to ride while here. When she came into town a must stop was the Millinery Shop. There she must have seen that beautiful brown wide-brimmed straw hat with the big striped ribbon on one side - and casually mentioned it to her sister, for her brother-in-law sold a load of wood to Mrs. Berry for two dollars and bought it for her. That horse must have been stepping high and proud as he carried Ludie to Church the next Sunday!

There were several saloons in Gail when Mrs. Berry opened her shop. One of these was just down the street. The proprietor was heard to say - "Now boys, watch your language and carry on as quiet as possible for there is a lady in business a few doors up the street. While you are in here you will have to respect her." There was never any misbehaviour. It was said that when the women and children walked in front of the saloons they would turn their heads and get off the sidewalk into the street so they couldn't see what was going on inside. (The ornate gold leaf mirror that hung over the bar in one of the saloons later hung in the W. K. Clark home. Edna Miller has it now.)

The Millinery Shop was a meeting place for ladies to visit after they had finished their shopping and while waiting for their husbands to attend to their business. Bet that road to their homes - from all over the county - seemed a lot shorter as they chatted along their ways.

Written by Pauline Clark. Material gathered from Nora (Berry) Nelson, Ludie (Locklear) Clark, and others.

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Our hearts are saddened to report we have lost 11 of our "all time great" citizens since our last issue. All were old timers who helped make Borden County History.

Mrs. Attie Jackson passed away January 8, 1969, in Snyder. She spent 61 of her 90 years in Borden Co. coming from Comanche Co. in 1906. She was married to W. M. Jackson in 1900. He passed away in 1939. She is survived by 3 sons, Murray, O. D. and Lewie Jackson.

Frank Miller, 67, passed away Dec. 26, 1968. He was born 10 miles northeast of Gail on the Miller ranch, where he spent most of his life. He was 3 when the famous land rush took place and his father brought 151 participants home to be fed. He was married in 1924 to Edna Clark, granddaughter of W. K. Clark, Borden and Garza Co. Sheriff at the time of the land rush. Mrs. Miller is the chairman of the Borden County Historical Survey Committee.

Charlie Engle, whose family played an important part in the early history of our county, passed away Jan. 23, 1969. He is survived by his wife, the former Margie Coates, also a prominent Borden Co. family, 1 son and 1 daughter.

Horace Carmichael of the Fluvanna Community passed away in Snyder in January of this year after a long illness.

Mrs. J. Y. Everett passed away at the age of 95 and was buried in O'Donnell on Feb. 10, 1969. She was the wife of an early day Sheriff of this county who passed away Feb. 13, 1952.

J. M. Hunnicutt, 91, died March 2, 1969. A retired farmer & rancher, he moved to the Fluvanna Community in 1910. He is survived by his wife, 2 daughters & 2 sons.

Fred Miller, 80, passed away Feb. 4, 1969. He moved to Borden County in 1934. His wife is Glen Carey. They were married in 1911. The Carey family were residents of Borden Co. in the early 1900's.

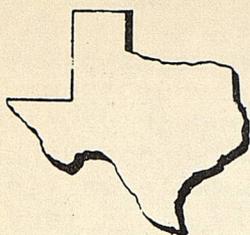
Charlie Berry, an old time Borden Co. cowboy, died at the age of 86 on March 1, 1969. He came to Borden County in 1894 on a cattle drive from Joplin, Mo. He is survived by 3 sisters and 1 brother.

Zhel Singleton passed away Jan. 12, 1969, in Lubbock. She was born in Borden Co. March 12, 1920. Her parents are Mr. & Mrs. Bert Fritz of O'Donnell.

Mary Seigler passed away Oct. 19, 1968, in Dallas. She came to Borden Co. as a young bride. Her brother was drowned on the 49 ranch in 1947.

Mrs. Exa D. Christopher, 88, passed away Jan 13, 1969, in Amarillo. The Christophers lived at the Godwin ranch several years. Her parents, the G.B. Derricks, were the last family to operate a hotel in Gail. She was a sister of Mrs. Roy Everett of O'Donnell.

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# Tolbert's Texas

## If You're Tired of Crowds And Traffic Come to Gail

By FRANK X. TOLBERT

MUCHAKOOAGO PEAK is the most striking landmark around Gail, Texas, the cow town capital of Borden County. This is a triangular shaped butte with a crown of scalloped boulders and it is about 3 miles southeast of the town. Gail Mountain, a 3,000-foot-high mesa, crowds in closer to the town just to the west.

When I drove into Gail last Saturday about 11 a.m. the buttes and mesas were rising into 60-degree, golden sunshine, but the village was almost deserted. Jym's cafe had a sign "Sorry, Closed," and the Gail Grocery Store was closed and the abstract company, too, and all the offices in the courthouse were locked. Even the little 1894 jail, with a historical medallion on it, seemed empty. And the only inhabitant in sight was the fellow at the Texaco station.

BORDEN AND adjoining Dawson County contain the fountains of the Colorado River. But mostly Borden is rugged rangelands and there are only about 900 people in

the county's 914 square miles. The nomenclature of Borden is interesting. The county was named for one of the most remarkable personalities of the Republic of Texas, Gail Borden Jr., the innovator of condensed milk and the founder of the Borden Co.

Old Gail was certainly never in Borden County, for this territory was still under Comanche domination when he died in 1874 at Bordenville, far down the Colorado River near Houston.

Muchakooago Peak is said to mean Much Buzzard Manure Peak, by one authority on the Comanche language, although the agglutinated phrase is probably a sample of the Mexican-Indian lingo spoken between the Comanches and Mexican traders, or Comancheros.

"THE WAR OF the Ribbons" happened in Borden County in 1902. This was when a bunch of farmers came in to try and get claims to buy state "school lands." Ranchers already in residence were also trying to buy the newly opened state lands. The sher-

The Dallas Morning News

# Showcase

Wednesday, Jan. 15, 1969 \*\*\*\*\* 19 A

iff disarmed all the contestants and made the farmers wear one color of ribbons and the ranchers ribbons of another hue. The only fights were with fists.

### Ranchers Won Out

You can see that ranchers won out. For the county is still almost all cow range except for some plains acreage above the caprock in the northwest corner.

SLUG

ANYWAY, if you're tired of crowds and traffic come to Gail, the capital of Borden, on a weekend morning. This is a relaxed town where the rare prisoners in the ancient jail, if they're in on charges not too

serious, work by day as dishwashers at Jym's Cafe and lock themselves in at night.

Reproduced with the permission of Mr. Tolbert. Thanks, Mr. Tolbert. We hope you enjoyed your visit to Gail as much as we enjoyed your article.

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Bennie Edwards, 33 year old farmer from O'Donnell, was honored as the Star Young Farmer of Texas at the Young Farmers of Texas convention held in Dallas on January 3-4. Some of Bennie's activities are in Borden County and was also considered when he was selected for this award. He farms some cotton land up on the plains and also owns the old Smoot section southeast of Gail. He has restored the old Smoot home and the barn which was the scene of many of the early day dances in this county. Congratulations, Bennie.

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### FROM THE PENS OF OUR READERS:

GEORGE MAHON  
19TH DIST., TEXAS

MEMBER OF  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

January 1, 1969

Mrs. Edna Miller  
Chairman  
Borden County Historical Society  
Gail, Texas 79783

Dear Mrs. Miller:

I have read with a great deal of interest the December issue of the BORDEN CITIZEN. Congratulations are certainly in order for the award which has been received from the Texas State Historical Survey Committee and Texas Historical Foundation. Congratulations.

This letter is being dictated to a machine on January 1, but it will not be transcribed until tomorrow. It seems perfectly appropriate that the Congressman should be mindful of Borden County, one of the least populous counties in the District, on the first day of the new year!

Best wishes to all.

Cordially,

George Mahon

Sammie Morrow Dent, Post, Texas....I do enjoy reading about my friends that I used to know ... of course so many have passed away...Edna Miller was just a baby when my sister Ethel & I stayed with her family and went to school one year...My family moved from Gail to Post in 1908.

Mrs. Zettie Richards, Portales, New Mex. ...Send me newsletter for another year... I went to school there (my first) several years ago...I still cherish the memory of living there...My mother, brother, sister & also grandparents and uncles are buried there (the Cathey's)...

David Dennis, Carrizo Springs,.. I wish to express my congratulations to the historical society for winning second place for Best Newsletter - 1968..If I can ever help in any way, please ask ... I am very interested in preserving Borden County history. ..

We wish to express our appreciation of Mr. Mahon's interest and recognition of our efforts, and of his concern for the good of our county.

Mrs. W. K. Crawley, Lamesa ...The mailman brings many pieces of interesting material but he leaves nothing from which I get more enjoyment than your "County Citizen"... My father W. D. Howsley of Throckmorton drove cattle through your county during the 1800's...I came through there in our first car, a second hand Ford Coupe in 1914.... I had flat fixed at the "blacksmith shop"...while waiting for that and being a lover of nature I saw for the first time "Uncle Bim's lady friend, Madame Zander" outlined on your part of the Caprock...Have been through there many many times since 1925 and always stop to say hello to "Madame Zander" of the long ago funnies.....I loved Prince family history especially her "Big Chest"...my father sold "coffins" at Throckmorton when I was a young lady and we made those "big chests" from the big wooden boxes they were shipped in. .. We padded and covered them inside and out and called them "Hope Chests"...one day we found a nice size diamond in one!...Oh yes, when I married we called the chests "quilt boxes" and I have mine and some of the quilts and tops pieced in 1900-1912..

J. N. Hopkins, Dallas... Always enjoy your news letter ... keeps me in touch with my old friends what few there are left ... there was one death that you did not mention in your new letter ... It was Alpha Jeter... she was born in Borden Co. and lived there till she was grown then moved to New Mexico and then to Big Spring. She was my niece... I believe she died in about July 1968 ... Your story about the fly by night doctor was fine and every word the truth...I can remember all three of these women and the incident in full...There is a lot more to this story but I think it will be better to drop it.... Just a line about my relatives - I say my 71st birthday in Oct. - I am the youngest of five... Mother had five children in 10 years - Grace is the oldest and we are all still moving along on our own power...

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The Borden County Historical Survey Committee meets monthly in the Court House in Gail on the first Thursday at 1:30 P. M. At the March meeting we discussed plans and established goals for the coming year. We hope to complete work for the Mushaway Peak marker soon and also want to be a "Quota Buster" county. Memberships in the State Historical Society go toward this. If you would like to help us reach this goal send your check in the amount of \$5.00 made to the Texas Historical Foundation to Mrs. Ben Weathers, Star Route, Ira, Texas, 79527. Any contribution you would like to make to the Museum should be sent to Mrs. Pauline Clark, Gail, Texas, 79738.

Your response to the Newsletter has been very good since our new year started in September, but if you have not renewed your subscription it should be sent to Mrs. Sybil Holmes, Box 137, Gail, Texas, 79738. The rate is \$3.00 yearly. We regret that we are not able to acknowledge every letter we receive, but they are all read and appreciated and filed. So please continue writing us. We need your family histories and memoirs of Borden County. These all help us in our work toward compiling the history of our county.

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From: Borden County Historical Society  
Gail, Texas 79738

To:

SOUTHWEST COLLECTION  
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LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409

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