

Borden Citizen.

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Floy Smith on her Mule.

miles away - were the York family, who had come from Mills County to Borden in July 1890, settling first at Durham, the only store and post office in the County. The Yorks obtained land on Gavitte and made a permanent settlement there. Permanent until now anyway - Yorks still live there. A wagon bed and dug out was their first home and as with most settlers, among the first concerns of the Yorks and the Locklears was schooling and religious training for their children.

There had to be six pupils in order to get aid from the state for a school. In the York family, Jim, Bell and Josie were ready for school and of the Locklears, Tennie, Ludie and Mamie, this made the necessary six. Brothers Jim and Oscar and Sister, Eliza were much too grown up to go to school with the girls. Mr. York and Mr. Locklear provided the school house, hauling lumber from Colorado City and Mrs. York was the teacher, receiving as pay vouchers of \$50.00 per month. Today our teachers spend years in study and training for their profession. Mrs. York had come from Mississippi at the age of eight years, in a wagon ferried across the Mississippi River, with her father, the Reverend Norman Weatherby and family. Rev. Weatherby was an itinerant Methodist Minister, school teacher and surveyor and was probably responsible for most of the education his daughter obtained.

The school house stood about a half mile North of the York home, near a small hill with one cedar tree - so naturally it was called Cedar Hill. The desks were a long board hinged to the wall with a bench, for the children to sit on. Mischievous Jim would often make an opportunity to pinch the girls as they crowded past him to take their place on the bench. Slates, slate pencils, and Blue Back Spellers were about all the supplies the children had available. Mrs. York taught two terms but baby Joe was born the next October, so Miss Belle Hull was employed to teach that term. Miss Hull was also the daughter of a minister. A Missionary Baptist who owned land in the Morris Community and often preached at the Fairview School in Southern Borden County. (For more about the Hull family, see Borden Citizen, Vol. V, No. 3, March, 1970.)

Other teachers were Scott Cotten, brother of J. B. Cotten and uncle of Dorothy Browne, who graciously "puts together" the Borden Citizen. Hardy Boyd, whose family settled in the York Community, Luther Crutchfield, a nephew of Mr. York, who had come down from Virginia, and a Mr. Hancock.

Dr. Prince taught for a time. He would spend the weekend with his family in Gail and "batch" during the week in a dug out near the school. His son, Arthur and Davis Shaw from the "49" country stayed with him to go to school. Aunt Ludie Clark tells how Dr. Prince would prop his feet on the desk and read his medical books, in which he was probably more interested than in alphabets and multiplication tables. The practice of medicine in thinly populated Borden County in the 1890's evidently did not pay very well.

A later teacher was Miss Stella McDaniels, sister of

THE GAVITTE SCHOOL

Today in Borden County a modern school bus pulls up to your door, the children climb in and ride in ease and comfort to the front door of an air conditioned, carpeted, model school. It was not always thus.

When the Locklear family settled at the crossing on Gavitte Creek in the spring of 1893, there was not a school of any kind for the children to attend. There was a school at Durham, but that was six miles away and much too far for the children to walk. The Locklears had left McCulloch County the previous year to escape a prolonged drought, but when they moved into the dugout on Gavitte, there was still drought and a blinding sandstorm blowing. They spent part of the summer of 1892 camped under a mesquite tree with only their wagons and a hack for shelter, but in the fall moved into a three room dug out owned by the widow Camp, who ran sheep in Borden and Scurry Counties. Now they had their own house and land. Their only near neighbors -two

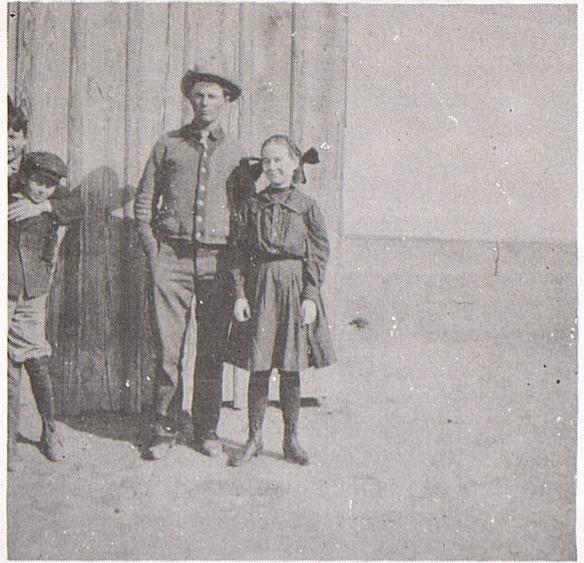


Left to right, back row, Charlie Ainsworth, Elzie Smith, Horace Carmichael, Olin Ainsworth, Lorin Robinett, Effie Smith, Fairy Hudspeth, Naudia Carmichael, Alice Robinett. Second Row, Annabel Ainsworth, Floy Smith, Eunice Smith and Roy Carmichael. Third row, Clyde Robinett, Roy Hudspeth, Tom Will Robinett and Hardie Ainsworth.

Dr. Homer McDaniel, who came to Gail to practice medicine after the death of Dr. Prince in 1902 (See Borden Citizen, Vol. III, No. 4 and Vol. IV, No. 2.)

Aunt Ludie Locklear Clark tells some of her memories of those first school years. "We brought about 250 head of horses, 13 hogs and a few cows to Borden County. The hogs ate cockleburrs and died. We burned cactus for the cows to eat. The next spring it rained enough to make a garden. For our school lunches we usually had water cornbread and maybe a hard boiled egg.

"Mr. York had a horse powered syrup mill and we raised sprangle top cain on a patch North of the house. The mill had flat rollers and there was a tub with a cloth over it to catch the juice and strain it. It was hard work stripping the cane and getting it ready to run through the mill. The cane was slick and hard to handle. This job fell to the children. The boys had to haul wood to keep the fire going under the cooking vat with its tall chimney. There were three pans in which syrup was cooked. As the juice boiled, a green scum was formed. A dipper made of a bucket cut half in two lengthwise was used to skim the scum which was saved to make vinegar. The pummies (crushed cane stalks) were fed to the cattle and if they had soured, would make the cattle drunk. They also attracted swarms of green flies and yellow jackets. We filled a 50 gallon drum with syrup and helped Mr. York make his syrup for the use of the mill." So now they had syrup and usually managed to have milk and butter although the means might be a bit unorthodox. Once a brindled cow was lost from a herd being driven through the country. After a while Mr. Locklear decided he just as well get that cow up and milk her, which they did. A year or two later, a man rode by, claimed the cow and took her away with him.



Hardie Ainsworth and Eunice Smith with Olin Ainsworth and Roy Hudspeth edging themselves into the picture.

One day while the children were at school, one of those quick blizzards common to the 1880's & 90's blew in. Mrs. York would not let the girls start home but kept them at her home. However, Mr. and Mrs. Locklear had no way of knowing this, so set out afoot to see about them. In the driving wind and snow, Mr. Locklear lost his hat and was unable to find it, so Mrs. Locklear took off her apron and tied it over his head.

Soon other families began to move into the country and there were children to send to school. Aunt Ludie remembers the White boys, Bob and Walter. Will Johnson says that he boarded with the Yorks in 1894 and went to school. The year before, when he was six years old, he had walked three miles to school, alone most of the way. His mother had died when he was 5. He remembered the Jones and Ainsworth boys, the Whites, Cannons, Smiths and the Turner girls.

After 1902, the country was settled very rapidly. People came in to "take up" the school land which was opened for settlement. Those who did not get land of their own rented from others and helped make the crops and tend the cattle. Everyone worked hard and lived frugally but since they did not know they were poor, enjoyed their simple, hard life and made the most of what they had. Most of the new settlers with children to send to the Gavitte school now lived West of the school house, across Gavitte, and that present day dry creek was often a roaring torrent and difficult to cross in those days. So it was decided to move the school across the creek and nearer to the students. School was held one year in an old house on the "Baird Place" with Miss Sallie Fox, the beautiful red head who later married Dr. McDaniel, as teacher. The next year a new school was built on the corner of the Will Smith place. W. P. Smith, J. S. York, F. C. Ainsworth and Jack Baird were the neighbors who got together and built the school. Lovely Miss



Louis Fields
School Teacher 1911-1912

Mattie Harris was the first teacher in the new school building. Miss Eunice Smith of Snyder, daughter of W. P. Smith lists the following teachers after Miss Harris, who married D. Brownfield of Brownfield, Texas. Miss May Wilson of Vernon; Miss Willie Partlow, who married Bob White; Miss Clara Miller of Commerce; Miss Rosa Black of San Angelo; Louis Fields, who taught in 1912 (He had finished school in Gail in 1911. See Borden Citizen Vol. VII, No. 4 for Commencement Announcement.); Miss Velma Webb of Breckenridge, related to the Murphys; Miss Josie York; Miss Barnes and Miss Eula Stimson, who taught one pupil, Anabelle Drum in 1920. There may have been others and if so, we would like to know of them. We think this a remarkable list and are much indebted to Eunice and her extraordinary memory for it.

At the Courthouse in Gail we have three "Texas Teacher's Daily Registers" from the Gavitt School. In 1925 the Register shows the pupils to be: Iva Drum (Now Iva Reeder of Gail); Azlee Drum (Mrs. Roy Reeder of Fluvanna); Rayolene Smith (Mrs. Jack Isaacs of Snyder) and Cleo Ainsworth, with Eula Faye Leslie the teacher.

Vivian Cary was the teacher in 1932-1933 with Homer C. York, Smith Eoff, Milton Strickland, Lee R. Strickland, Clyde

Mosley, Trueman Moseley, Truitt Moseley, Eleanor Ray Eoff, Geraldine Eoff, Otha J. Sharp and Lorene Stickland as pupils. The school year began on October 10, 1932 and ended April 28, 1933. The teacher received \$45.00 per month for teaching the eleven students, was provided with a desk and chair, a classroom library (5 Volumes), the room was provided with only 3 single desks and 2 double desks and Vivian Cary made a note that the "building should be repaired; more windows needed."

Ellen G. Pierce was the teacher for the 1933-1934 school year with Cleo Moseley, Clova Lee Moseley, Truman Moseley, Truitt Moseley, Clyde Moseley, Geraldine Eoff and Smith Eoff as students. School began on December 5, 1933 and closed April 13, 1934.

THE GAMES THEY PLAYED

Toys were more scarce than the necessities in early Borden County and the children as well as their elders "made do" with what was at hand. One of the favorite games was "Ante Over" or was it "Aunty Over" - who knows the origin of that one? Aunt Ludie made the ball she used by unraveling a worn out stocking and wrapping the thread around a small rock until the ball was large enough. Her doll was home made of rags and when she and her sisters "played house", sticks and bits of broken dishes supplied the few gaps left by their imagination.

Willie Mae Turner Thomas writes, "The older kids played Pop the Whip and Drop the Handkerchief but we little girls played on the hillside behind the school under a ledge of sand rock. We played house, would make pies and cakes out of red dirt and grind the white sand rock for icing. Don't know what we used for pans, probably imagination!! Maybe rocks or sticks.

Occasionally there would be a play party at someone's home. Everyone went and everyone played, little ones, too. We played Snap, Go in and Out the Windows, Drop the Handkerchief and Old Dan Tucker. One party I remember especially was at the Whites across the creek, three or four miles from us. They had two boys, young men, Bob and Walter, who were especially nice to the little girls.

Miss Josie York recalled playing Old Dan Tucker and the candy pullings where they made sorghum candy and had great fun pulling it, even to sometimes wrapping it around the boy's necks. She also vividly remembered the lemon drops which Mr. Smith always brought back when he went to Durham for the mail which came twice a week from Colorado City.

Eunice Smith tells of playing along the branch near the school, jumping from one big sand rock to another and jumping the little water holes and from the banks on stilts. I wonder how many youngsters today have ever walked on stilts or know how to make them.

They are great fun. She also tells about the time that the boys refused to let the girls go with them to the branch and afterwards, during the spelling match, Olin Ainsworth became very pale and ill. The girls were very upset but learned later that chewing tobacco was the cause of his ailment, and the girls were allowed to go along after that.

There were programs, put on by the pupils with recitations, pantomines, and many modes of entertainment before radio, television and motorcycles.

J. B. Cotten remembered the Gavitte School, although he often called it the York School. This is his remembrances as told to his daughter, Dorothy Browne: "Scott Cotten taught in the York School for three terms. This was the years of 1897, 1898 and 1899, I think. During the time that he taught in the York School, he lived in the York Home. One of these years, he received no money for teaching because the people had no money because times were so bad and the Yorks said that the least that they could do for him was to charge him nothing for boarding with them that year. The York Family were students, Josie, Bell, Jim and Jessie, also Ennis Ware who now lives in Seagraves, and Willie Johnson, some of the Turner family and Ford Cotten went one term."

J. B. Cotten was going to school at Bison during this time. T. R. Mauldin was his teacher one term. Some students were Henry Davis, Hugh Moore, the Binion Family, Sam, Katie and Johnny Bullock, Nettie and T. W. Cotten and Will and Bob Orson. (Will Orson was the father of Mrs. Bun Smith of Borden County).

The Bison School and the York school often competed against each other. One baseball game, J. B. remembered very well. He was a very small boy and up to bat for Bison. The boy who was pitching for the York school was a very large boy. J. B. was having a very hard time hitting the ball and there was Scott, J. B.'s older brother and teacher for York School, telling the big pitcher to really bear down and put that ball right in there and strike him out!! By the way, the York school won. J. B. also remembered that the Bison school won the spelling Bee held the same day.



Eunice Smith and
Velma Webb, Teacher



Eula Stimson
Teacher in 1916



The Children of Sam and Susie Jones
Oakie, Earnest, Byron and Seb
Myrtle and Annie Bell

Uncle Sam got to scuffling in the next room. It made my head hurt worse. Aunt Susie could not get them to stop. So she got the broom and swept them out the door. We sure grieved when they left us to go to Treadway.

I last visited my Uncle Hugh Kincaid and family and Gail in 1912. Uncle Hugh took me to visit the Joneses. In 1912 I also visited my cousin Bennie (Sowell) and O. K. Yantis on the 49 ranch. My grandmother Betty Kincaid was there. In 1935 I visited my sister, Rena Anderson (She was born in Gail) at Lamesa, Texas. She took me to see Aunt Susie and Uncle Sam Jones. He was bedfast and blind. When we went in, I said, "Hello, Uncle Sam". Aunt Susie asked him if he knew who I was, and he said, "It's one of the Turner girls, must be Willie May. Her voice is so much like her mothers." Can you imagine - remembering that voice - after 36 years. My mother died in 1899.

As I remember the school, it was a one room, frame building with homemade wooden benches. A table for the older pupils use and a black board. A big wood burning, heating stove - the big boys chopped the wood - a cedar water bucket and tin dipper. Two boys would put the big bucket on a pole and carry water from Mr. Yorks home well, a short distance, across a gully or draw. The two teachers I remember were Scott Cotten (He later taught in Wayland College, was a Baptist Minister and Missionary to Cuba.) and Luther Crutchfield. (He passed away in Roswell, New Mexico a few years ago. My sister Lizzie Walker visited him in the hospital.)

Pupils were the children of J. S. and Katie York, Josie, Bell, Jim, Jessie, Susie and Joe. Myrtle, Oakie, Seb, Byron, Ernest and Annie Bell Jones, the children of Sam and Susie Jones. The Ainsworths, Ira, Joe, Eugene, Hardy, Charlie and Edna. The Johnsons, Willie and Fred, John and Charley Smith and the Wares, Della and Stella (Twins) and Claude. Also Roxie Baird and Effie and Elza Smith and the children of W. S. and Fannie Turner, Crawford, Lizzie, Minnie, Rena, Willie May and Letty. Others, at times, I do not recall their names.

We carried our lunches in buckets, lard or syrup. Most of the children drove rigs of some kind or rode saddle horses. Several of them walked. The Turner kids did, one and one half miles. In very bad weather, Papa took us in the hack and came and got us. My sister, Lizzie, did not go to school much. She was cook and housekeeper after Mama died. Crawford quit early, went to work on other ranches. We thought he was a whiz. He could recite the multiplication table, backwards and forward. Papa wanted him to stay in school. Minnie was next in line and what a wonderful guide and caretaker of we little ones. She had us play "Eyes and No Eyes" on our way home from school, using our eyes to find the most beautiful wild flowers and pretty rocks. When the old North wind blew, we would line up behind her, for a wind break, sometimes putting our cold hands under her coat to keep them warm.

In the lower grades we studied reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic. Older ones also had history, grammar

GAVITTE CREEK OR YORK SCHOOL

One of the "Turner Girls" sent us this account of life in Borden County and the Gavitte School.

I am Willie May (Turner) Thomas, born to William S. and (Fanny) Frances Emily Turner (Nee Kincaid) at Durham, Texas on February 24, 1894. Then my father had a small ranch seven miles East of Durham, 14 miles to Gail on Gavitte Creek. On the North of us was 7L Ranch. On South Luther Crutchfield had one/half section, I believe. He was our school teacher for a year or two. Then came J. S. York and his wife, Katie and their children, Josie, Jim, Jessie, Bell, Susie and Joe. Mr. York bought our ranch in 1905 and we moved to New Mexico. But the Sam Jones family lived on our ranch and helped Papa with the stock and farm. They were just like our own family. We kids played together most every night after the work was done while the older ones sat and talked.

Aunt Susie Jones was just like a mother to us after our mother died. We called on her for everything especially sewing and when we were sick. I remember one night, I was sick and had a terrible headache. My brother, Crawford, and



Miss May Wilson
Teacher

and geography.

We always had a garden in spring and summer. In the fall, Papa dug a hole and buried our sweet potatoes which kept all winter. We stored pumpkins, cushaw and citrus (pie melons) in the barn. Dried and shelled our own beans and black eyed peas, had our own milk, butter, chickens and eggs. The fall was also hog killing time. Papa cured and smoked the hams and salt pork and made sausage, made hogs head cheese or souse and rendered our own lard. We bought some groceries, necessities, at Gail, Durham and Fluvanna, which was called Light at that time, the name was changed just before we left in 1905. Twice a year Papa went to Snyder (20 miles) to sell cotton, steers and lay in supplies of coffee, sugar, flour, meal, etc. and dry goods. Sometimes Papa and brother would take wagons to Colorado City for supplies (50 miles). I remember one time making syrup at Mr. Yorks, he had some kind of machine that ground the cane, he hitched a horse to it and went round and round with the juice pouring into a boiling vat. I do not know how they finished it up, only skinned it, all that foam. We raised our own cane, of course.

I can not remember much about Church. Sometimes at the School house, sometimes at Durham, nothing regular, sometimes camp meetings.

We lived on Gavitte Creek when my mother died of childbirth, her 9th child, a boy who died also, on July 19th, 1899. They were buried at Gail the next day. Dr. Prince was her doctor, he came in a one horse buggy. Grandma (Betty Allen) Kincaid and Aunt Susie Jones were also with her. Lucy Kincaid (Rogers) came and made the dress she was buried in. My Grandfathers name was David Greer Kincaid. He and Uncle Jim (Lucy, Bell, Jim and Wills) father were brothers.

The following story of the Gavitte School and incidents relating to her life on Gavitte are told by Eunice Smith, who was born there. (Note: Eunice spells it GAVITT.)

My dad and a few of the neighbors had built a little one room house in the corner of our pasture and called it Gavitt School. It was about a quarter of a mile North of our home (The old home place.) but on cold mornings it seemed surely not less than five miles. It was always my Mother's good fortune to keep the teachers as we were so near the school. I shall attempt to give the names of some of our pupils. Hardie, Charlie, Olin, Edna and Annabel Ainsworth, Joe York, Nora Canon, Elzie, Effie, Eunice and Floy Smith, Hubert, Horace, Naudia, Roy, Eula and Bula Carmichael, Alice, Lorin, Clyde, Tom Will Robinett, Fairy and Roy Hudspeth. The above are the ones who stayed and endured the sand storms and all the good and bad that came along.

Here follows a list of some who came but did not stay for long. The Godwins, related to Bessie Taylor Martin, The Carvers, Celina Sanders, Sam Clements, Rossie, Ruby and Carden Baird, Myrtle, Mary and Mandy Gainer and the Horton family. One family who stayed only about four years who lent quite a bit of talent and prestige to our Gavitt school was the McCains, Arlie, Carrie, Homer and Trudy. Arlie is about the only one of his family left. He owns a lumber yard in Tyler and ranches, raising black angus. I shall never forget how brilliant we thought he was in school. The teacher gave us from Friday evening until Monday to be able to recite "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere". So as he walked home from school Friday, he was able to recite every word of it by the time he got home. When Monday came, the teacher called on Arlie first, and he gave every word of it without any help or corrections, whatever. Then when the teacher called on the rest of us, we could give the title and did add that it was one of Longfellow's Poems. (Mostly just to make conversation.) With that, she informed us that she did not think we needed to try further to learn it as school would be out in another month and that just would not give us enough time to learn it. And, oh, my, were we glad to hear those words!!

Papa thought my oldest sister and I were bound to take music. We first had an organ, but my sister wanted a piano. (I did not really care.) We got the piano immediately and it is still in our home today. So while we were in the Gavitt School, we knew we were going each Saturday to Fluvanna to take our music lesson. A Miss Fisher and Miss Effie Dietz were our teachers, and on real cold Saturdays, Mama would heat a rock for our feet, then we would stop by for Edna Ainsworth, as she too was taking piano. My sister was talented but not me. She would practice, at Mama's insistence, then when she would get through, I would take my turn and play it by ear. So I soon learned that I had no hidden talent as one of my teachers told my parents that they were wasting their money on me. The thing Edna and I enjoyed most was eating (There was no place to eat in Fluvanna.) and Papa would always have our cheese and crackers and stick candy for dessert ready for us as soon as we finished our lesson and got in the hack to come home. So we did like that part of taking music.

We met many hardships, droughts and some serious illnesses but we did not realize we were having a hard time. Transportation, I guess, was about the most inconvenient thing and that did not bother us too much as we traveled only when necessary in those days. I remember when my Grandmother Milligan died about 1908. Mr. Pack Wolfe of Snyder, a good friend of my dad, brought the message to us along in the night. He waited until Mama could get ready to go back as he went and Papa stayed with us as we had no real close neighbors. Mama was routed from Snyder as follows: She took the R, S & P and backed into Roscoe, Texas, then the T & P and went into Fort Worth. Then took the Fort Worth and Denver into Amarillo. (This sounds like our mail service today.) Then, when she came home, I do not know how she got out of Amarillo but she rode what they called a hack, this called for changing horses on the way and when she reached Gail in Borden County, she had yet to get on to our home. Our Methodist Minister, Rev. J. W. Childers saw the plight Mama was in and took her to their home in Gail. Rev. Childers wife was Edna Clark, sister of Uncle Mike Clark of Snyder and Rev. O. P. Clark who preached in Gail many times. After they had lunch, Rev. Childers brought Mama home in his buggy and when we saw our Mama get out of that buggy we were one happy family. It seemed she had been gone for a month. It was probably about 10 days.

BURIED TREASURE IN BORDEN COUNTY?

WHO WAS THE MONEY HUNTER?

It was in Borden County years ago. I should judge about in the year 1901 or in 1898. My sister and I were spending the day with an elderly aunt and uncle who had come to West Texas with my parents and settled on a claim on Willow Creek, four miles South of where my parents lived. They were a good Christian couple and had the reputation of being kind to strangers. A stranger was now staying with them. He gave the name of Smith and claimed to be an explorer, etc. Well, it sometimes takes children to find out when and what, as it did in this case.

Sister and I were sitting on the bank of the creek, just below the house and we looked across the creek - there walked the guy or Mr. Smith as he called himself. He had something in his hand which had a wheel thing turning around on the end of it. He at once placed it in a container he had, and came to where we were and told us positively not to tell anyone that he had anything. Well, we never promised him we would not tell our parents when we went home that evening, so that's the first thing we did. Told Dad and Mother what we had seen.

The next day he came to my father and told his story. Whether true or false, I do not know. He said he was from an Eastern State and as a small lad fell in with some strangers going West to Texas. He said they were not honest men but robbed people that were going on the Old Trails West. They heard that a rich load of money was passing down a trail in far West Texas. These men robbed it and as they were surrounded by the law, buried the money on a creek bank, where two hills were nearby. He said they were caught later and sent to prison. Being just a young boy, he outlived the others so came West to look for the money. He told Father the plot or description of the place was buried on a creek in a bottle. Well, Father and we two children searched for it on Willow and Wildcat Creek.

We believe he found what he was looking for as we found an old copper kettle on the banks of Willow Creek with a deep hole close by, and now perhaps his part of the mystery was solved. I must say that he disappeared like he came. Where to we do not know - and was his name Smith? He had lovely manners and was kind to my father's Aunt and Uncle. He kept clean but never told them when he left, just disappeared like he came. He told them he was going to Colorado City, Texas and would be back - but he never returned. So where he went or who he was -no one ever knew.

by Josie Billahunty

MISS BOBBIE JO BRIGGS, 17, of Gail was fatally injured July 13, 1973 in Gail when her horse fell on her. She was a member of the Borden County Museum Committee and was very active in all phases of work. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Briggs and a sister, Billie, survive.

MRS. WYATT DAVIDSON, Hereford, passed away August 29, 1973. Survivors are three daughters and two sons. Also two brothers, Earl Wilson of Snyder and Bird Wilson of McKinney, Texas.

MRS. DEWEY (NINA SORRELS) ENGLE, 67, passed away August 29, 1973. Her husband preceded her in death May 19, 1973. She is survived by two sons and two daughters and four brothers.

MRS. HARLEY (LENA WEATHERS) SMITH, died in Snyder August 29, 1973. Her husband and a son survive. Lena was the daughter of the late J. L. Weathers, early Borden County pioneers.

MEMORIALS TO MUSEUM

Memorials were given to the Museum by The Vernon Creightons of O'Donnell, The Maurice Dorwards of Clifton, Texas and The Bert Dennis Family of Gail in memory of Olin Keen.

In memory of Cora (Cranfill) Coates a memorial has been made by Mrs. Ethel Smith of Seminole and one by The Vernon Creightons of O'Donnell.

A Memorial was made in memory of Mrs. Harley (Lena Weathers) Smith by Doris and Taylor Rudd, The Martin Taylors, The Ernest Turners, Darlene Holley and family.

In memory of Clyde Miller the J. C. Brinkers of Hudsonville, Michigan have given to the Museum.

The Bobby Burrus Family of Miles, Texas have made a memorial to the Museum in memory of Miss Bobbie Jo Briggs.

T. V. PROGRAM

The T. V. Program, "Issues and Answers", was presented on Chanell 4, Monahans-Big Spring, on Sunday August 12, 1973 from 5:30 to 6:30 P. M., and featured interviews with representatives from 15 of the Permian Basin Museums Institute. Interesting artifacts were shown and much history was reviewed. The Program was hosted by Don Scott of KVOM-TV and was monitored by Dr. Roger M. Olien of the University of Texas of the Permian Basin. Museums' representatives from Odessa, Midland, Pecos, Alpine, Colorado City, Big Spring, Borden County, Fort Davis, Sand Hills State Park, Lamesa, Seagraves and McCamey were interviewed.

The tale of the Willow Springs Massacre, a story reflecting much area history, was told by

Prof. Elton Miles and Prof. Earl Elam of Sul Ross University, who showed wagon hubs, cow bells and implements discovered near Willow Springs by the late Judge Hayes of Monahans when he was a young cowboy riding across the sandhills. These articles were from the remains of a train of about 40 wagons which had been attacked and burned by Indians at this watering place, and the travelers apparently massacred.

Mrs. Edith Grissom of the Monahans State Park gave interesting information about the glistening white dunes which stretch for some 80 miles across West Texas and often have moisture just below the surface.

Mrs. Nancy McKinley of Midland, displayed a rare running iron, reminiscent of the days of the open range, and Edna Miller, in pioneer costume, told of Borden County history and displayed the rare cork-reducer from the Dorward Drug Store display in the Borden County Museum. Pauline and Vivian Clark were in the studio audience at KMOM-TV.

The museum is still receiving many items. One of these is the spurs of Ben Weathers given by Ruth Weathers. The C. E. Reeder family has given a straight edge razor and an old paper pertaining to Borden County. The Roy Reeder family has given an old fan, an iron that was heated by a wind charger and old paper clippings. Indian Artifacts have been received from the Race Humphries of Balmorhea and Mr. Haley of Comanche Trails Museum of Kermit. A collection of items have been received that belong to Lillie (Cantrell) Harris and an old set of wire stretchers from Buddy Sharp. We wish to thank each and all for these.

THE BORDEN COUNTY MUSEUM, along with the other 21 Museums of the Permian Basin Museum Institute, will have another special tour. Visitation and Promotion on October 11, 12, 13 and 14, 1973 from 9 A. M. to 6 P. M. each day. We are expecting you.

Mr. York Murphy and daughter, Dana Jo of San Angelo, Texas made an outstanding contribution to the Borden County Museum when they visited there recently. York and his family, wishing to place a memorial in honor of his parents and grandparents who were Borden County Pioneers suggested a Plaque to read:

"DEDICATED TO EARLY PIONEERS"

1891 - 1921

His contribution was made to have the names of Mr. and Mrs. Joe and Martha Murphy, Murphy Community, Mr. and Mrs. Alex and Belle York Murphy, Durham and Murphy Communities and Mr. and Mrs. Joe S. and Katy York, J Ranch.

The Plaque will have space for the names of other Borden County Pioneers who lived here in the first 30 years, 1891-1921, which will be added as contributions to the Museum are made in their honor.

Some of the visitors to the Museum have been The Alvin Kincaids of Cisco (Hugh Kincaid's Son); Mrs. James R. Scope, Saginaw, Mrs. Thema Stewardson, Santa Ana, (Hugh Kincaid's Daughters); Ruth (Pratt) Calcote, Abilene; Jealene Hodge; York Murphy and Dana Jo, San Angelo; The Sterling Bearden, Stephenville, Texas; The Norman Clarks, Corpus Christi; Ruby Benson, Fluvanna; Izora Milliken, Prague, Oklahoma; Ray and Lucille (Smoot) Cantwell, Tucson, Ariz.; The U. S. Powells, Big Spring; Eva (Angel) Windsor and Vera (Angel) Walls, Fort Worth; The Glendon Peels (James 'Jeff' Griffen, grandfather of Mr. Peel homesteaded here in 1902 and is buried in Gail Cemetery); Ollie Ellis Moore (Daughter of Billie and Bertie(Clark) Moore) of Fort Stockton; Inez (Weatherford) Williams, Midland; Woodson, Billie Bob, Opal and Tom Keen; Alice Askins, Snyder; Pearl (Cathey) Keen, Snyder; Lillie (Rogers) Johnson, Midland; Attie (Rogers) Martin, Chico; Leroy Summers of Willcox, Arizona; The Albert Lambs; Mrs. Nell (Hale) Simpson and daughter, Mrs. George Hays of Midland.

MUSEUM RECEIVES TREASURED DONATION

The Coleman Family of Ackerly have generously donated a number of show cases to the Borden County Museum. The show cases are beautiful antique wood and glass, and have displayed merchandise of all seasons and fashions for the past half century or more in the Coleman Mercantile Store in Ackerly, Texas. Owned and operated by Mr. V. J. Coleman's mother and his sister. "Mama was quite a lady" said Mr. Coleman, "besides being a good merchant - she was quite handy with the hammer and saw - she did all the repairs and re-modeling on these cases."

The Ackerly Store was one of the last in this area to close its doors. With the large shopping centers and modern modes of transportation there has ceased to be a need for the old fashioned mercantile stores. Television and other entertainment has eliminated the need for a place for neighbors to meet, exchange recipes and swap milch (milk) cows. Mrs. Vivian Clark, Chairman of the Borden County Museum and the Historical Society members sincerely thank Mr. V. J. Coleman,

son, Dudley Coleman and their families for their interest in the museum and their generous gift.

The Borden County Museum will hold open house October 11, 12, 13 and 14, 9 A. M. to 6 P. M.
YOU ALL COME.

Descendants of the late Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Bennett of Gail had a reunion at Lake Hubbard, August 17-19, 1973. All of the Bennett Children were present with some of their families. The children are Edith Clark, Blanche Hamilton, Ruth Allison, Marie Elliott, Willis and Milton Bennett.

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Schwalbe, Stanton, Texas visited the Borden County Museum in August. The Schwalbes are members of the Martin County Historical Society and are currently custodians of the museum, housed in the old jail in Stanton. They came to collect ideas and information on our Museum since they were told that Borden County Museum was one of the "best".

While here, Mr. Schwalbe related his experiences the first time he was ever through Gail. In August 1909, he, his father and others left Ozona driving 321 head of horses and mules. There were 288 mules and the rest horses, he said, the mule business was on a boom at that time. He remembered, though he was just a young button, going through Itan, Vincent, Gail and Emma. Since then he has tried to remember exactly where Emma, Texas was located but has been unable to locate it on the map or anyone who knew. It was somewhere between Gail and Floydada, he said.

His father had sold the horses and mules to Mr. W. L. Boerner, who was in the sheep business near Floydada, Texas. Mr. Boerner thought it would be profitable to buy the mules and hold them over until spring, then take them to Alabama and surrounding states and peddle them out to the farmers. A drouth hit the country about this time and it turned out not so profitable. In fact, people just up and left the country, some leaving their belongings behind. "When we reached Mr. Boerner's place," said Mr. Schwalbe, "We were out of grub, so we went into Floydada to replenish our chuck wagon. From there we decided to go back through Lubbock, which was 'just a little burg the main street was one big sand bed, the team almost didn't pull the chuck wagon through it.'" We wish Mr. and Mrs. Schwalbe lots of luck with the Martin County Museum Project.

The Borden County Museum Committee is fixing a display of Fossils and Artifacts for the October 11, 12, 13 and 14 Open House at the Museum. Won't you bring or send us yours? We take loans or gifts. Please bring your collection to anyone in the Courthouse or contact Pauline Clark or Sibyl Gilmore, Gail, Texas.

NOTICE: We would like for each family that wishes to make a display of some of their Family Heirlooms to bring them and display them in our new showcases and have them in the Museum in time for our big Open House which is October 11, 12, 13 and 14, 1973. If you can not make a display, we invite you to come to the Open House.

With this our September issue we begin our ninth year of publication of the "Borden Citizen". If you have not sent in your dues of \$3.00 per year, will you please do so. Send them to Mrs. J. W. Holmes, Gail, Texas. You may send Memorial gifts to Mrs. Vivian Clark, Gail, Texas 79738.

Mrs. Pauline Clark of Gail, representing Borden County Museum, has been invited to serve on the Executive Board of the Permian Basin Museums Institute.

Borden Citizen.

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