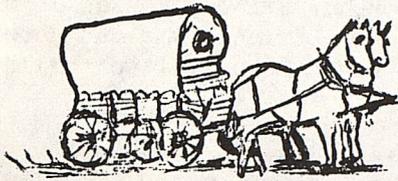


# Borden Citizen.

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REMEMBER  
BORDEN COUNTY'S  
BI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION DAYS  
MAY 29th and 30th  
See Article on Page Seven



1776

YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

1976

By Pauline Clark

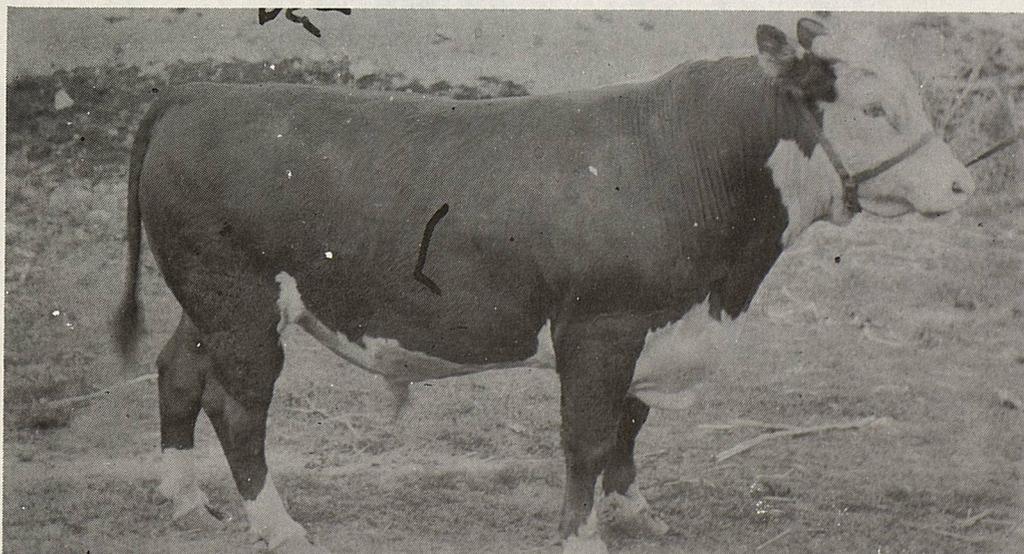
As plans for the Bi-Centennial Celebration in our nation and Borden County are shaping up, we thought it would be fitting to review a little history and happenings of our County and our County, before and after it was settled and organized.

History relates the Norwegians or some of their people from Scandinavia, were the first to come to this Continent. (That was, of course, besides the Indians, as there are many facts and signs that they were here first.) These Norwegians landed somewhere on the Northern part of the East Coast. Christopher Columbus, looking for a shorter route to Asia, discovered America; but landed on the West Indies Islands (Cuba, etc.).

Americus Vesputius, an Italian navigator (1451-1512) was really the first white man to discover the Continent of America, landing where some of the Southern states are now. Thus America was named for him. Ponce De Leon explored quite a bit of the Southern part of America while he was looking for "The Fountain of Youth".

This new found land drew our forefathers here from other Continents and the wealth of the nation derived from it. This was a land to be settled, owned, rented, seeded, built upon, played on and lived in. In the late 1800's as more and more of these young immigrants came from other countries, they began to migrate further in the Continent, some coming as far as Missouri. Independence, Missouri had begun to grow and it is said to be the first town of any consequence of the western frontier. It had become headquarters for the trail trade and the departing trailmen and caravans to other parts of the Continent. It is said there was only one trail out of Independence but it was the main route from which the great trails, Santa Fe, Oregon and California trails branched from. There are scars still visible on the trees, where these rugged pioneers cut branches to make roads and some of the old trails can still be seen. They usually traveled in groups, their wagons being pulled by mules, horses or oxen, bringing only the bare necessities, trunks, bedding, wooden boxes of food, some longhorn cattle, if they had any. They camped where there was water, eating off the land, rabbits, squirrels, berries and sometimes they might slaughter a beef and all share it. Some came by horseback, some on foot and others by train to Colorado City, Texas, after the railroads were built.

Many years before Borden County was organized in 1891, this country was inhabited by Apache and Comanche Indians, some three thousand having encamped near and around Mushaway Peak. Sam



REGISTERED HEREFORD BULL OWNED BY THE MITCHELLS

Keen told me there was a big campsite on Tobacco Creek. Their campsites are still visible all over the county and arrowheads and other artifacts can still be found. There are Indian Pictographs on hills close to the Colorado River. There were also settlers here, as indentations of old dugouts are scattered over the County, of course some of these were lived in after the County was organized. It is said that the Indians would sometimes steal the horses and murder the settlers.

There were also herds of buffalo here. The Indians

and early settlers depended largely on them for their welfare; food, clothing and many things could be made from their hides. The Indians were living it up, making and using everything possible from the buffalo. We know that J. Wright Mobar in 1870 was killing the buffalo and we know he killed some on Bull Creek. He killed the only white buffalo in Scurry County. In 1876 the great buffalo slaughters had begun in Texas. This great slaughter lasted several years and as the buffalo went out, the cattle business came to West Texas. There were also grey Lobo wolves, but as the buffalo went, so did the wolves. Most of the Indians and buffalo were gone by the late 1880's but many of their bleached bones were still visible on the prairies for years to come. Some of the settlers hauled wagon loads of bones to Colorado City, Texas, the nearest trading town, and sold them and bought necessities for their families.

This is an excerpt of an article written by Arthur Prince, son of J. N. Prince who was the first doctor in Borden County. Dr. Prince came out here in 1889 and lived in a half dug out where the Key Ranch is now, later building the house where John Johnson lives.



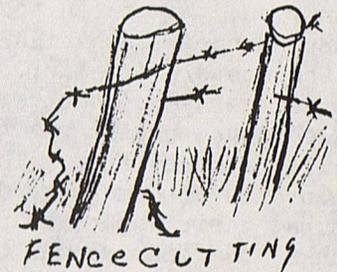
"The Indians and buffalo were just gone and this vast solitude was inhabited by Jack Rogers, Jack Alley, Jack Wilbourne, jack rabbits - some isolated ranches - and a smattering of cowboys, antelope, coyotes, and a few lobos, trillions of prairie dogs, a few panthers in the breaks, rattle snakes, tanlutas and lizards; also a few hardy characters drawn here by irresistible magnetism of a vast and vacant land, and who lived and camped so far apart that the only way they could have signaled each other would be a prairie fire at night.

"The land was pretty well littered with bones and the black horns of the buffalo, and the campfire fuel of the plains, which we call buffalo chips. In the course of time, we gathered a wagon bed full of the fine ebony horns and gave them away to all comers, and did not keep a single one."

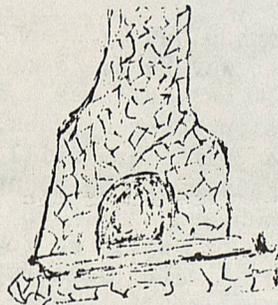
Jack Rogers, father of Aubrey Rogers, killed the last buffalo in what is now Borden County. The horns are in The Borden County Museum.

As time went on, more cattlemen from the overcrowded land in the eastern states came westward with their herds. There were few fences, some cattle stealing, however, most cattlemen were honest and broadminded, and helped each other get rid of the cow thieves. The sheep men were also rushing to this new country and there were some quarrels as cattle and sheep do not like to work on the same land. This problem called for fences, and caused some bloodshed. The big cattle companies, with large holdings, were coming out here and fencing the water holes, forcing the smaller ranchers to move on with their cattle.

The rush of the settlement, which began with a few herds of longhorn cattle being driven into the country in the 1890's continued until April 1891 when there was enough people to organize Borden County as a political unit. These pioneers worked together, forgetting to eat, forgetting their health and appearance, finding the days not long enough for all they were trying to accomplish, and striving many times under the most difficult conditions. There were homes to be built, dug outs to be dug; but there was great cooperation in all helping with the "House Raisings" and other work. Half of the dug out was in the ground, and sometimes there was lumber on the sides of the half above the ground, which was floored at times to make extra bedrooms. Some of the settlers were camped on Gavitt Creek, east of Gail, where they built a dug out. In 1968 a group of us went there to where the Locklears lived. We found the indent of the dug out, also found snuff jars which we are sure were used by Aunt Ludie (Locklear) Clark's mother. These treasures were carried back to Clovis, New Mexico. People were camped all along both sides of the creek, when they lived there.



When Borden County was organized in 1891, the settlement of Durham, about twelve miles southeast of Gail was "adopted", rather than officially declared to be the seat of government of the County. This was later changed to make Gail the official County seat.



Some well remembered names of early settlers were John K. and Jim D. Mitchell, who came to this county in 1886, and managed the huge spread of the "Square and Compass Ranch". This ranch was bordered on the south by the "Bush and Tiller Ranch" and manager of this spread was W. P. Coates, with his wife, Marianna and children.

John K. and Jim had the First Hereford Cattle shipped from Missouri by rail to Colorado City, Texas, and then drove them to Gail in 1900. There were only longhorn cattle here before then. Later the Mitchell boys bought several sections of land southwest of Gail. They kept these hereford cattle until 1910 and sold them to Bryan and John Williams and Ritch Miller. Some people have said that these were the best cattle ever in Borden County.

It seems that romance had been blooming with John K. and Miss Ella A. Coates, daughter of W. P. Coates. They were married by Judge Searcy on December 19, 1900 and reared a fine family. These people were very active in church, as well as community happenings, and their descendants

still are. Sterling and Gladys (Mitchell) Williams have certainly contributed a lot to making The Borden County Museum a success.

Some of the early day pastors in Borden County were The Rev. T. L. Adams, Rev. W. W. Werner, and Rev. Pruitt. There were also circuit riding preachers. The Rev. C. H. Kelly (We have his Bible in the Museum.) and Rev. Cal. C. Wright. Church was held in the old school house and later in the Courthouse. In 1901 the Union Church Building was completed. It burned May 16, 1936. There are now three churches in Gail, The Methodist, Baptist and Church of Christ.

After the County was organized, there was a need for schools. Back then the settlers grew up in pioneer environments, but from their very first beginnings, the pioneer mothers encouraged and taught their children the love of learning. Some of the children did not attend school after they were nine or ten years old, however, the age did not mar the education of those whose ambition was for higher learning. There was the old school at Gail, one at Durham and in dug outs and buildings scattered over the County. Many had to walk five or more miles to school. (I am sure that there were some that lived too far away from any of these to attend school, but were taught in homes.) We now have a wonderful school at Gail with buses transporting the children from all corners of the County.



THE BRUSH ARBOR, GAIL, TEXAS

Let us remember some of the events of the past in our County.

There were the "Three Day Picnics" each year. This was really a reunion under a Brush Arbor at Gail. The early settlers looked forward to this gathering as they did not see each other often, maybe not for the whole year. They visited, recalled old memories, sang, preached, had country music, lemonade, speech making and lots of food. The children

probably had candy and balloons from The Chandler Store.

Then there were the "Pie Suppers". Boxes were always wrapped in pretty paper and then covered with newspaper, so the beaux could not tell which was their sweethearts. To my thinking, I imagine some of the young ladies could not keep from winking or punching their beaux, as their box was auctioned off!

The dancers in the top of the old Courthouse with cowboys coming from as far away as New Mexico. Fiddlers were Max Dillahunty, Bill Large, George Clark, Quillie Spears and others and sometimes the dances lasted all night.

The picnics and fish fries under the Old Pecan Tree, close to Bull Creek will bring back fond memories to some. The baseball game in the 1930's, with the men dressed as women and women dressed as men. Some who participated in that were Blanche and Edith Bennett, Thelma Wilson, Clara Pearce, Ted Johnson, Roland Hamilton and Virgil Clark.

The first Band in Borden County School conducted by Mrs. Lillie (Cantrell) Harris. Some children played on tambourines, some had a tin pie plate in each hand and would hit these together, and some had two sticks, with Mrs. Harris at the piano. They really had rhythm!!

The quilting parties at different homes. Everyone bringing a dish of food. The ladies would sometimes quilt two quilts in a day. Some of these were at Thelma Wilsons home, also at Mrs. Altie Jacksons, Ila Bee Mitchells, Pauline Clarks, Mrs. L. A. Pearces, Gay Sealys and others.

Remember the skating parties in the basement of the Borden School and the birthday parties at Mrs. Sid Readers for Mrs. Bully Moore. Mrs. L. A. Pearce gave an apron birthday party for Mrs. Lucy Rogers. Mrs. A. M. Clayton gave all of the hostesses a linen handkerchief. Remember the first Easter egg hunt in 1901 at Union Community Church and the supper that was given in 1901-1902 and the first organ bought for the Church.

The "Women's Literary and Improvement Club" was organized in 1910. The group bought paint and Dr. Hannibass painted the Community Church by himself. Were you at one of the goat ropings at Dewey Everett's place, east of Gail in the 1930's?

The year 1917, when the flu was so bad, The Rev. S. B. Cox carried food and visited and helped in such ways as cutting wood for those families where everyone was ill.

In 1922, the ladies of the circuit tore rags and made two rugs for the parsonage. These rugs were hand loomed by Mrs. Henry Snyder, who had the only loom in the County and wove rugs for many Gail people.

In 1924 a supper was held at the Union Church and an oil stove was bought for the parsonage. The young people auctioned off a quilt and also put on a play to raise money to paint the church. Some of these young people were the Bennetts, Jenkins, Maxwells, Mitchells, Cantrells, Sealys, Rogers and Miriam Hanabass.



There were Baptisings in the creeks and tanks in the early days, and the Home Demonstration Club Meetings, our agents being Miss Edith Hughes and later Connie Crow. There were several clubs over the County, Plains, Murphy, Fairview, Glen Creek and Gail.

The picnics and outings on Flat Top Mountain and Mushaway Peak were enjoyed by old timers and the Wolf Hunts, The Ice Cream Suppers, the Fourth of July, 1939, and the picnic at our place, with a plank over the saw horses and a large crowd. There was the singing school, taught by Wilbur Wilson in 1939 in the School basement. Mr. Wilson was a member of the Stamps Quartet. The new songs then were "Farther Along" and "Turn Your Radio On". Oh yes, we had Quartets, the men were Alvin Jackson, bass, O. D. Jackson, Alto, Ted Johnson, Tenor and Vivian Clark, Soprano. The women's Quartet was Clara (Pearce) Johnson, bass, Lorene Jones, Alto, Ruth Hinshaw, Tenor, and Bennie Humphries, Soprano. Mr. Wilson also taught how to play musical instruments. We all had to perform at the end of the school.

The Fiftieth Anniversary of Borden County was celebrated May 4, 1941 close to the new show barn, (People all over the county donated to build the barn.) at the foot of Flat Top Mountain. Sam and Olin Keen, Bill Kincaid, L. A. Pearce, Aubrey Rogers and others dug the long pit and barbecued all night. Yes the Belles and Beaux of the early 90's had their day when Borden County turned back the pages to celebrate the Golden Anniversary and Founding of Borden County. Warren Berzett, Professor at Gail and Miss Juanita Parker were the overseers, Frank Medley was County Agent. There was a Big Parade up the main street of Gail featuring "School Days, 1900" with Mrs. D. Dorward, Mrs. C. T. Trammell, Mrs. Tom Good, Mrs. Jim York, Mrs. Bill Miller, Mrs. Cora Cole and Mrs. Howard Nelson.

A float of formal officials of Borden County were D. Dorward, A. J. Cantrell, Jim Dorward, J. S. Weatherford, Tom Good and C. E. Reeder. Typical Family of 1890, wearing costumes of those days were Mrs. Clyde DePauw, Mrs. Jim Parker, Mrs. E. J. Treadaway, Mrs. B. J. Boyd, Mrs. Dallas Vaughn, Mrs. Fred Henderson, Mrs. C. H. Cabool and Miss Thelma Parker.

The old hack which was used at one time to carry the mail to Gail was in the parade. In it were a trio of old timers, including Bill Kincaid and Callaway Johnson. There was a Typical West Texas Family in a 1913 Hupmobile. Other entertainment throughout the day was Little Wanda Minnick singing, "I Want to be a Cowboy's Sweetheart" and other songs. Also there was John Moore and Mamie (Moore) Smoot playing the fiddles. John Minnix, Bill Moore and Roddy Rogers had a western band. The barbecue, the red beans cooked in wash pots, the desserts and salads brought were all delicious. There was a dance that night in the 4-H barn.



It was April 26, 1953 we had The Dorward Day Homecoming, with over 1100 people here and over 900 pounds of beef barbecued, 175 pounds of red beans cooked, salads and desserts brought by different families. The recently organized Sheriff's Posse of thirty six men made its official appearance in assisting with the activities that day. Adella (Shaw) Drew and Zada Mae (Bills) Miller compiled a book on the Life of the D. Dorwards. There were many former pupils of Mrs. Dorward's present.

On August 14, 1966 Borden County and Gail celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the organization of Borden County with an Old Settlers Reunion. This was the day for the formal opening of the BORDEN COUNTY MUSEUM in the Dorward Drug Store building. Barbecue and all the trimmings were served at the lunch hour.

August 16, 1970 brought another Borden County Homecoming and the opening of the new building and permanent home for THE BORDEN COUNTY MUSEUM with an reenaction of the Land Rushes 1902-1904 which caused much excitement. The "Nesters" in a mule drawn wagon, with their red ribbon arm bands came in to throw out the cowboys, who were wearing blue ribbons and held the Courthouse door. The dedication of the Land Marker was given by Tom Bouchier. Our County Judge, C. C. Nunnally, gave a brief history of the Borden County Museum and Dr. W. C. Holden, former Dean of Texas Tech University, made the address for the dedication of the Museum. Brud Boren, Chairman of the Scurry County Historical Committee, gave the invocation. Mr. Dave Briggs of the Borden

County High School said the benediction. After the opening of the Museum, all were invited to The Borden County School (That we are all so proud of.) for refreshments.

Many Borden County Pioneer names may never go down as great names on the pages of American History but it is Pioneers like these, and many, many more, who have made Borden County a great place to live!! The Parkers, Scarletts, Derricks, Davidsons, Catheys, Marleys, Jeeters, Lanham, Weatherfords, Trammells, Stokes, Milhollans, Lodsons, Bennetts, Maxwells, Reeder, Jacksons, Keens, Goods, Wassons, Murphys, Yorks, Everetts, Grays, Wickers, Hollars, Adams, Cash, Hart, Snyders, Mungers, Abneys, Hannabass, Bouchiers, Smoot, Pratts, Treadaways, Orsons, Hutchersons, Doyle, Chandlers, Pettys, Leakes, Searcys, Bloomfields, Yellotts, Mullins, Mauldins, Blankenships, Whartons, Bradens, McArthurs, Stradleys, Joplins, Newbys, Berrys, Browns, Jollys, Dows, Kincaids, Howes, Beals, Morrows, Princes, Rogers, Hopkins, Elaytons, Johnsons, Dillahunty, Davis, Williams, Spears, Smiths, Thortons, Shaws, Mitchells, Dorwards, Loves, Moores, Cottens, Pearces, Clarks, Taylors, Wassons, Beddells, Hinshaws, Minnicks, Nelson, Evans, Millers, and Nunnallys and more.

The chief aim of the Borden County Historical Society is to bring true history of past events and conditions that existed before and after the County was organized together and put it in writing. History gradually fades away if it is not in writing. We know that Pioneer Happenings are often the County's most interesting histories. We are striving to preserve our local history before it is too late. We need your help, so please send us your memoirs.

Happiness, kindness, and tidings of good will are what we wish you on this Holy and Happy Holiday. We send you our best through this little message to show our appreciation for your support, letters and just being our friends. The Borden County Historical Society and The Borden County Museum Committee.

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## BASKET BALL TEAM 1919-1920

By Vivian Clark

When I played basketball at Gail, the court was outside where the parking area is now. The court was on the dirt and it had lots of gravel. Boy, did we get skinned up! I do not remember what kind of suits we wore. I think each player made his own suit or had it done at home. Some just cut off a pair of blue jeans, a little above the knees.



One lady said to her daughter, "Don't look, come on, this is ridiculous."

We played against Fluvanna, Berry Flat, and Mesquite. Our coach was the School Principal, Robert E. Lee. One time when we went to play Mesquite, we went in Naymon Everett's Model T, a strip down, no top. One of the teachers, Miss Valentine Crawford, (Who later married Roy Pearce.) drove the car and then refereed the game. I remember we used eight gallons of gas on the trip!

TOP ROW: VIVIAN CLARK & ROY REEDER. BOTTOM ROW: NAYMON EVERETT, MAURICE DORWARD AND VIRGIL CLARK

Naymon Everett, Maurice Dorward and Virgil Clark. The boys on the Fluvanna team were Slats Blythe, Red Ely, Mack Stavely, Arless and Clifford Haynes. Roy Reeder gave us these names, thank you, Roy.

Wallace (Bugles) Rains gave us these names of the Berry Flat and Mesquite players. Wallace Rains, Thurman and Asa Jones, Jim Lamb, Dick Tune, Leaner Simpson, Charles and Wayne Stephens, Stanton and Hershell Johnson, Marian Thigpen and Henry Deglitz. Their coach was Bishop Brown.

Some of the Mesquite players were Wade and Lee Christopher, J. D. Fairley, Jim Pratt, Bud Smith, Johnnie Gray, George and Daly Music. "Bugles" said they came to Gail in a wagon to play basketball. He was a great hand to hurrah. Said he just flat talked Gail out of one game!

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## MUSHAWAY TO BE FEATURED IN PERMIAN PUBLICATION

At the October 11th, 1975, meeting of the Permian Historical Society, held on the beautiful new campus of Midland College, one of the speakers was Edna Clark Miller, Chairman of the Borden County Historical Committee. Her subject was "Mushaway Peak". Mrs. Miller has done extensive research on the history of Mushaway and surrounding area, and her paper was received with much interest by members of the Society. This history of Mushaway Peak will be included in the year-book published by the Permian Historical Society.

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## THE O'DONNELL MUSEUM

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by Pauline Clark

Vivian and I spent a most enjoyable day October 29, 1975, in O'Donnell, Texas. Our mission, as usual, was to gather material for "The Borden Citizen", the newspaper published quarterly by

The Borden County Historical Survey Committee. Naymon Everett's Barber Shop was our first stop. We had hardly gotten in the door when Naymon puts on his hat and sweater and steers us across the street to "The O'Donnell Museum", housed in the A. J. Warren building, a landmark itself. The Museum had its formal opening July 4, 1975, with 300 in attendance. Especially attractive was the wrought iron work over the two display windows in the building. The work of art was created by David Gary and it also provides protection for the building. Over one window, the artist depicted the different eras, the earth, Indians, etc. The other window had old tools, wrenches, pliers, plows, etc., welded to the ironwork. Once inside the Museum, we could hardly believe our neighbors had amassed so many things, in such a short time. We of Borden County Congratulate you!

At Naymon's insistence, our next stop was at his home where we had a nice visit with his wife, Moody, viewed the pictures taken on their 50th Wedding Anniversary in September, saw their little granddaughter whom we had never seen and had a delicious lunch of goulash, hot cornbread, salad, jelly, butter and tea. It was certainly refreshing... but we had to hurry on as there was more interviewing with Wallace and Stella Rains (About the Borden County Basketball Teams of the 1920s) Naymon, being a member of the Gail Team and not wanting to miss anything, went with us. There was certainly a lot of "Do you Remember Whens" and "Tall Tales". It was late in the afternoon that we visited Shorty and Bonnie Kingston. (Shorty had just gotten out of the hospital.) Indeed, it was a Good Day!

#### GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Rains of O'Donnell, Texas celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on June 8, 1975 at the O'Donnell Community Center with about two hundred in attendance. The Rains were married June 9, 1925 in Tahoka, Texas. They first lived in the Berry Flat Community in Borden County and later moved to O'Donnell, where they now reside. Hosting the affair were their children, R. T. Rains of Monahans and Maudie Rains of Midland, Texas, their six grand-children and five great grand-children.

#### BORDEN COUNTY MUSEUM

A recent trip to South Dakota resulted in some valuable and interesting additions to the Borden County Museum. The travelers were Edna Clark Miller, Willie Russell and their sister, Johnie Proffitt. Their acquisitions were a wooden washing machine of the early 1900's, a hand operated corn planter, a sickle grinder and a water pump. These articles were donated by Buck Burdine, a native of Borden County, who now ranches in South Dakota. They came from a sod house on the Burdine Ranch, which was built by an early Dakota Pioneer.

Edna and Bill also visited with the Bill Millers (Winnie Chandler) in Rapid City and with Jon Stovall at Hermosa, South Sakota where they collected a roll of very unusual woven wire, no barbs. A very generous gift of money was sent to the Museum by Weldon (Jim) Miller, Grandson and namesake of J. W. Chandler, proprietor of Gail's Blue Front Store. Jim, also a native of Borden County, is a well known rodeo announcer and real estate dealer in Rapid City.

The Tom Bouchiers of Post have made a generous donation to the Borden County Historical Society and Museum.

Leta (Gray) Lloyd was given us an old trap. Another recent gift to the Borden County Museum was from Mrs. Effie McKee, wife of our beloved Commissioner, the late Carl McKee. The gifts are a corn sheller, small hammer used for opening crates, a tobacco cutter and chaps. The Wallace Rains have loaned a platter, 1903, that belonged to Mrs. R. I. (Helen) Rains. This platter was mostly used to keep butter firm, wrapped in a damp cloth. Also a cheese thermometer used to test home made cheese. It took about six weeks for the cheese to cure.

Generous donations to The Borden County Historical Society have been received from Mrs. H. N. Zant and Mrs. Lela Porter, both of Vealmoor, Texas.

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L. L. (Leonard) Petty, 78, a former resident of Borden County passed away October 7, 1975 in Abilene, Texas. He married Lorene Pearce, daughter of the late L. A. Pearce of Gail.

Allen Stephens, 79, a retired early day rancher, died November 7, 1975 in a Lubbock Hospital. He married Opal Carey of Snyder in 1929. Survivors include his wife, two sons, Mike of Gail and Edward of Fort Worth, a daughter, Mrs. Rube (Sue) Smith of Gail. Burial was in Gail Cemetary. He was a member of the Borden County Museum Committee.

Mrs. Alfred Beavers (Ruth Ship), of Fluvanna passed away November 7, 1975 in Snyder Hospital. Burial was November 9th in Snyder.

John L. Whitmire, 76, Borden County Rancher, passed away November 11, 1975 in a Big Spring Hospital. He came out to this part of the country in 1917 on a cattle drive to Big Spring, Texas. He is survived by his wife, Bernice (Thorp), a son, John L. Whitmire III, and a granddaughter, Tama Jean.

Mrs. Robert Long, 63, who lived in Borden County in the 1930's, passed away October 24, 1975 in Slaton, Texas. She is survived by her husband and two sons and two daughters.

Mrs. Anna McKeown Fisher, 86, Hobbs, New Mexico, died October 26, 1975. She is survived by her husband Jack L. Fisher and two daughters. They owned and lived on the Lamb Place in Borden County in the late thirties.

Mrs. Ronald (Evelyn Elam) Allison, granddaughter of J. K. Jake Scoggin and daughter of Maurine (Scoggin) Elam of Wichita Falls, Texas, died April 30, 1975.

Mrs. Homer (Ella Morrow) Huey, 71, of Fort Worth, Texas, died September 16, 1975. Survivors include three sisters, Sammie Dent of Lubbock, Ina (Lura) Elkins of Corpus Christi and Ann Grif-fith of Fort Worth, Texas. She was named Homer after Dr. Homer McDaniel, early Borden County doctor, who delivered her.

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## MEMORIALS TO BORDEN COUNTY MUSEUM

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The Borden County Museum has received in memory of Leonard Petty memorial gifts from Vivian and Pauline Clark of Gail and from Sterling and Gladys Williams of Snyder, Texas.

In memory of Allen Stephens the Museum has received memorial gifts from: John and Kathryn Stephens, Steve, Carolyn, Stephanie and John; Steve, Pam and Shayne Hess; The Dorward Methodist Church of Gail; Moore Insurance Company, O'Donnell, Texas; Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Lloyd, Herm-leigh, Texas; Larry and Wanda Smith of Gail; Martin & Ruth Taylor of Hico and Doris Rudd and Family of Gail and Darlene and Dick Keeter and Family of Hico; Gail Friends; Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Porter of Vealmoor; Vivian and Pauline Clark of Gail, Texas; Bill and Sadie Ludecke, O'Donnell; and Jess and Jean Everett of Snyder, Texas.

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## BI-CENTENNIAL IN BORDEN COUNTY

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Much work and planning has been done for the Borden County Bi-Centennial Celebration to be held on May 29th and 30th, 1976, starting each day at 10:00 A. M. There have been several meetings of the Borden County Committee and many meetings of the individual committees.

The Bi-Centennial Arts and Crafts Committee is in the process of constructing a quilt. This quilt will consist of 76 squares designed by Marilyn McPhaul depicting Borden County's History, past and present. These squares have been handworked by the ladies of Borden County and will be set together with calico and quilted by the quilt committee, consisting of Mrs. McPhaul, Barbara Farmer and Christene Ledbetter, along with other Borden County ladies. This quilt is to be given away at a drawing at the May Bi-Centennial Celebration. Tickets will be on sale for \$1.00 each beginning December 15th, 1975. Mrs. Karen Key, Gail, Texas 79738 will be in charge of ticket sales. Tickets will also be available from other Arts and Crafts Committee Members.

The Arts and Crafts Committee will also be in charge of having an old-fashioned Country Store on the first day of the celebration. They are requesting that all ladies in Borden County and any others interested donate items to be sold in the County Store. (Hand work, home canned goods, or anything appropriate.) Dorothy Dennis, Gail, is the Chairman for the Arts and Crafts Committee.

Medallions are being designed and ordered to be sold for collector's items. These medallions are being designed to depict on one side the heritage of our Nation and on the other side Borden County's heritage. Purchasing information on these medallions will be available at a later date.

As a part of the Bi-Centennial Celebration there is a proposed project for the reconstruction of the "Old Gail Main Street" store fronts. There will be entertainment and games for old and young. A Cookbook is being sponsored by the Gail Future Homemaking girls and a parade is planned. Church Services will be held on Sunday morning at 10:00 A. M. to be followed by a barbecue dinner and in the afternoon will be an Old-Fashioned Wild West Show.

The Bi-Centennial Program Committee plans at this time to compile a book of Borden County History comprised of pictures, stories and histories of Borden County Families. Due to lack of personel and time, we will be unable to do this work without everyones cooperation. We will include in our book all pictures and write-ups we receive. These books will be on sale on Sat-urday May the 29th with souvenir programs of our Bi-Centennial Celebration. If you have ever lived in Borden County and would like to be included, please send us a History of when you lived here, why you came here, why you left and a list of all members of your family. Pictures will be catalogued and returned to you if you will put your name and address on the back. Send your histories and articles of interest to Box 56, Gail, Texas 79738.

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## LETTERS FROM THE PENS OF OUR READERS

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MEMORIES BY LAURA PAGE WELLS. Does anyone around Gail remember the Ed Page family that share cropped two years on the W. M. Jackson Farm? He was kin to the notorious Indian Warriar, Quannah Parker and that is what he named his oldest son. His oldest daughter was named Pocahuntas. My dad never liked to live longer than two years on any place, so after our two years on the Jackson farm, we moved to New Mexico, the land of Enchantment. I have very pleasant memories of our life at the Jackson farm. I had my first year of schooling under Miss Irene Hutcheson. I remember that Vivian and Virgil Clark owned a bicycle, the first I had ever seen. One of the boys would ride it halfway to school and leave it for the other one, who walked till he got to the bicycle. We other children thought they were rich to own a bicycle. What a pleasant surprise to answer my door one morning and see Vivian and his wife, Pauline. I had not seen him for 58 years. We had a very nice visit. I remember we children would find a long piece of barb wire and twist rabbits out of their holes on rainy days but one time we pulled out a snake. Does Borden County still have rattle snakes? I remember mother and dad going to Snyder in the wagon to get a supply of groceries one time. My sister Clifford told me to go to the hen house and get some eggs and she would bake a cake. When I got there, there was a big snake near the nest. I climbed on the top rail of the fence and yelled for help. After a few minutes, Clifford came to see what was wrong. My brother, Quannah chopped the snake's head off. The body burst and several eggs rolled

out on the ground. Some did not break the shells. We gathered up the unbroken eggs, washed them and used them in the cake. It was a very good cake and noone died from eating it.

We have had our 61st Wedding Anniversary and are still able to look after ourselves and each other. We often think of the good people of Gail and would like to visit there again. RUTH HARRISON, wife of C. S. Harrison, a teacher in the Borden School in the 1950's.

My copy of BORDEN CITIZEN VOL X NO. 3 arrived this morning and I am very much interested in the article about TEXAS CATTLE BRANDS that covers so much Southwestern United States History, and I do not want to miss the other articles to follow on the same subject. My best wishes for further success with the publication... LOUISE M. PRINCE

Since you have asked for contributions from the "backroads of our memories", I will try to write up a happening at Grape Creek School when I was quite small - in the second grade if I remember correctly. Lorene Pearce Petty was our teacher in this one room, one teacher school with grades from beginners into high school. (How did she ever do it?) The occurrence concerns the recreation for the Grape Creek school during recess and the noon hour. You see, the Country schools then did not have all that expensive play ground equipment that schools can not get along without today. But we were fortunate at Grape Creek School to have a creek running a few yards from the school. (I never knew it to even have one grape vine on it.) The year must have been about 1918. The First World War was going "great guns" at the time. So our recreation was understandable taken from what we heard talked about all around us. How we hated "Kaiser Bill"! It seems that Grape Creek had a double bend fairly close together, leaving a "no-man's land" between the two portions of the creek bed. That was where the war was being fought. The older pupils were the soldiers, while we smaller ones stayed safely behind the Creek bluffs making ammunition. What was the ammunition? Mud balls, reinforced with small stones and gravel!! The bigger boys would get up on top of the bluffs and chunk mud balls at the enemy. One side was the Germans and the other represented the Allies. Of course, there were casualties, but no one ever seriously injured. When it seemed that we were just getting started good, the bell would ring calling us back to the school and more serious studies. Who were these valorous soldiers? Alvin and Wilma Jackson; Jack, Lilly, May, Aubrey and Tillman Rogers; Vivian and Virgil Clerk; my sister Edith and myself. (Hope I have not left anyone out.) RUTH (BENNETT) ALLISON

There has been a good deal in the paper about Durham. I was born in 1907 just six miles from Durham and I remember so well going to Sunday School and Church there also. We got groceries and our mail at a store there. We also visited the Wickers there often. I like to read about Durham and Gail for I remember so much about these places, also Fluvanna. My Dad was County Commissioner of Borden County a few years. Mr. Joe York owns the ranch where I was born. In the near future I plan to visit the museum again and bring some of dad's things for the museum. (J. K. Scoggin) MAURINE (SCOGGIN) ELAM

I was through Gail in July, 1975. I was so happy to see the place my mother went to school. Her family came from Johnston county to Borden County and Gail, where she went to school through the ninth grade. Her name was Jessie B. Newby. She was an excellent speller. I am sure she must have entered those spelling bee matches they mention in the Borden Citizen. Her father was Douglas Whaley Newby. Her mother was Emma (White) Newby. She was a mid-wife.. and often went out and took care of the sick. The Newby family was large, Julie, Buelah, Lula, Effie, Jessie and also Hubert and Edd Newby, who were younger and I am not sure if they were born in Borden County. Jessie was the youngest girl and was not married in Gail as the other girls were...I think Jessie was about 18 years old when they left Gail and she married Foley Griggs in Puerto, New Mexico. Many of the people mentioned in the Borden Citizen came on and settled in the Norton Valley or on the plains..... Mrs. Georgie (Griggs) OWEN

If you find errors in typing, spelling or punctuation, you need to blame Dorothy Browne but any words of thanks or praise need to be directed to Pauline Clark and Edna Miller for their untiring efforts in behalf of our Museum and THE BORDEN CITIZEN. They spend many hours working on the articles. Send \$3.00 for your yearly subscription to Pauline Clark, Gail, Texas 79738. Send your articles and memoirs to Pauline or to Edna Miller, Route 1, Fluvanna, Texas 79517.

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