

Published by the Borden County Historical Committee - Fall, 1992

VOL. XXV, No. 1

THE FAMILY OF J. A. PETTY

One day last week, in the month of September, 1992, six of us met in Gail, to reminisce, see the wonderful Museum, go to the Cemetery, and visit the homestead of our mutual grandparents. Kenneth Bennett took time off to take us out to the old place, and we really appreciate it! He is a really nice person, as are all the "new" relatives I have met. Ophelia Dorwood Blackard also met with us for awhile and allowed us to use the old Dorward Drugstore to have our lunch in. She is special, too!

The homestead is where Rev. J. A. Petty and Mary Elizabeth Louder Petty (Granny) settled in Gail, in the late 1880's. They were my great, great, grandparents. Their son, John, and his family moved to the place, but I do not know what year. After Grandpa Petty died in 1904, Granny Petty lived with them about 11 or 12 years until she died in 1927. Prior to that, Granny had lived in town, to take care of her three little granddaughters. These were the Chandler girls, one being my grandmother, Esther. Their Mother, Sallie, had died in 1903.

Archie and Geneva, two of John's Children that I have met, are my third cousins. Going back to their old home brought back a lot of memories for them. Have had some wonderful visits with Geneva, and they are both great people!

Linda Beam is another relative I have found, who met with us. Her great, great grandmother, Martha Petty Murphy, and Granny Petty were kinfolks. She has been so helpful, finding out more about the Pettys for me. Have really enjoyed knowing her, she is a great friend!

Billie Johnson Rantz did not get to meet with us this time. The Petty's were her great grandparents. She has told me stories of her Dad, John Johnson, that I have enjoyed. He and my grandmother, Esther, were first cousins and grew up together. Billie knows so much about the history of Gail and the people. I have learned a lot from her. Our friendship has grown and she is special to me!

My Aunt, Dovie Chandler Patton came with me to our first meeting in Gail, last October, and got to meet her "new" relatives. She was born in Gail, and so enjoyed going back. We really had a good time. She died a few months ago, age 90. Her daughter, Billie Roberts came with me this time and enjoyed seeing and meeting everyone.

We all went to the Cemetery, where Archie did some maintenance work around our family plot. Such a unique Cemetery. I will go each time I come to Gail. I still have not seen everything in the Museum. I can't wait to go again. I just hope that the younger people in and around Gail will keep the town and school going and preserve the history and the few buildings left, like the drugstore. It is a special place to me. It is where my roots are, since I have three sets of Grandparents that lived in Gail, some being born there. The Pettys, The Harts and The Chandlers.

I'm looking forward to our next meeting in Gail, and seeing all my new found cousins and friends!

Ann Wagner
 Rt. 3, 2905 White Mill Rd., Roswell, N.M. 88201

BORDEN COUNTY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Borden County celebrated it's centennial birthday on Saturday, June 1, 1991. The highlight of the day was a pageant featuring Borden County's children in grades K - 12. The pageant depicted the settling of the county and life in the area during the early days. Mr. Pat Porter served as master of ceremonies for the pageant. Several awards were presented during the program. The "Youngest One" present was 3 month old Makenzie Caldwell; "Oldest Borden County Teacher" present was Tama Pratt Hollar Duval of Amarillo; "Traveling the farthest" was Ruthie Hollar Rickaway of Houston who traveled over 500 miles; "Oldest Person Present" was Pat Jones of Borden County; "Person who lived in Borden County longest" was May Stephens. C. C. Nunnally received an award for "Chairman of the Borden County Historical Society."

Approximately 450 people were served a barbeque lunch catered by Hens and Fens of Lubbock. After the meal a country and western band played while residents and visitors talked and enjoyed iced tea and cake. The cake, baked by Debbie Brummett, was Borden County's BIRTHDAY CAKE. The white cake trimmed in blue had several tiers with a horse inset in the base.

Everyone attending had an opportunity to visit, view pictures taken of the Bi-Centennial

Celebration in 1976, tour the museum or the Centennial Market before the final rodeo performance that evening.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY BORDEN COUNTY - 100 YEARS

The first Borden County Government was established in 1891. This area had been attached to Borden County before residents petitioned in February of 1891 to form their own government. An election was held in March of that year, and the County officials met for the first time on April 7, 1891. Construction soon began on a County Courthouse in Gail.

The County and town are both named after Gail Borden, who is perhaps best known as the inventor of the process to condense and can milk. It actually was Borden's involvement in the Texas effort to win independence from Mexico that caused a county to be named after him. Most West Texas Counties are named after prominent figures in the Texas Independence effort. Borden came to Texas with Stephen F. Austin and owned a printing press which was used to reproduce the Texas Declaration of Independence and other articles supporting the war effort. Borden was a surveyor by trade. He helped survey the city of Galveston and a town he named Borden located in Colorado County.

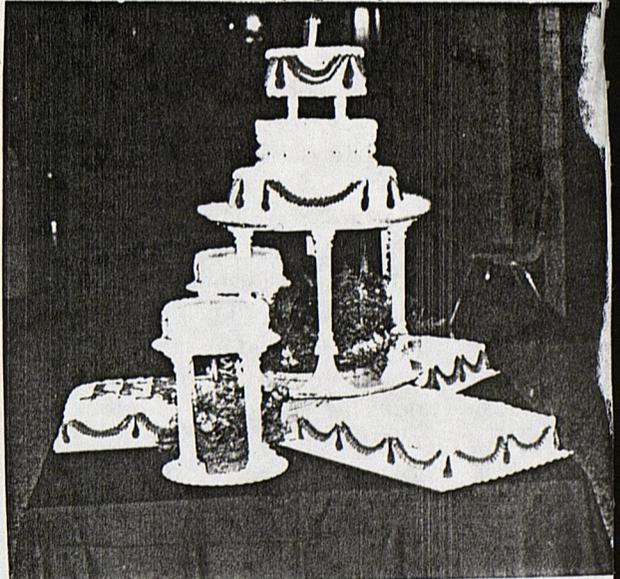
People came for the celebration from many places in Texas and several states. We truly hope you enjoyed Our 100th Birthday party.



Terri Buchanan registering Doris Rudd and Veda Menick Wooten



Above & below: PREPARING FOR THE PAGEANT



Sideview of cake-Baked by Debbi Brummett



Thanks to all the students for performing in the BIRTHDAY PAGEANT.



Sue Smith getting the stage ready. We thank the teachers and parents who helped.

CULLEN TOOMBS, 84, of Snyder passed away in May, 1991. He was a former Scurry County Commissioner. He was preceded in death by his son, Glenn Toombs, a former County Judge of Borden County. Survivors include his wife; a daughter, Gloria Turner of Fort Worth; a sister; a daughter-in-law, Mrs. Glenn Toombs of Fluvanna; and grandchildren, Mike, Patrick and Charlotte.

MODESTA GOOD STOKES, 74, died June 16, 1991. Modesta was born July 12, 1916 to Tom and Clara Good on the ranch that was homesteaded by Mr. Good. She grew up riding, roping and working cattle and enjoyed nothing more than the moon, sun and stars at the ranch. She is survived by her husband, Aubry Stokes and two children, Wade Simpson of Dallas and Modesta Williams of Midland. She is also survived by her brother Jeff of Roswell and three grandchildren.

EFFIE LEE TELCHIK, 76, passed away June 27, 1991 in Lubbock. Mrs. Telchik and her husband, A. B., moved to the Mesquite Community in Borden County in 1941 from Palo Pinto County. Among her survivors are her husband; a daughter, Frances Rhea of Amarillo; three sons, Buddy of Borden County, James of Lamesa and Kenneth of Arlington; 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

VANCE DAVIS, 85, of Big Spring, died July 5, 1991 in Big Spring. He was a former Sheriff and Deputy in Ft. Sumner, N.M. He had worked for Frank Beaver in Borden County for 12 years. He is survived by his wife, one son, and several step-children.

EUNICE YADON, 67, of Water Valley passed away July 2, 1991 in San Angelo. She was a teacher in the Borden County School for 22 years. Survivors include her husband, Russell T. Yadon, two sons, Dennis and Ted, and two grandchildren.

F. J. (DICK) CANTRELL, 84, died November 2, 1992 in Lubbock, Texas. He had been a Borden resident since the 1920's before moving to Lubbock in 1982. He was a stock farmer and office manager for the Borden County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service for 35 years. Among his survivors are two sons, Richard of Ohio and Tom P. of Albuquerque, N.M.; two sisters, Mary Sanders of Lubbock and Pauline Brigham of Luguna Hills, CA and five grandchildren. Burial was in Gail Cemetery.

FANNIE FARMER, 91, of O'Donnell passed away November 17, 1991. She moved to Borden County in 1932 and lived here until 1959. Survivors include E. L. "Shorty" Farmer, seven grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren.

JASPER A. (Jap) JONES, 88, died November 6, 1991 in Clovis, N.M. He had lived in Gail for 56 years before moving to Clovis last May. He was a service station operator. Among his survivors are his wife, Lorene; a daughter, Jealene Hodge of Clovis; two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

AUGREY ROGERS, 85, passed away December 13, 1991 in a Lubbock Hospital. He was born September 19, 1906 in Gail. He married Nettie Gray in 1932 in Big Spring. She died in 1976. He had been a service station attendant and a pumper. He was known for his wooden belt buckles and beautiful clocks. Survivors include a son, Roy of Nederland; two daughters, Barbara Johnson of Dumas and Aleta Nichols of Hemet, CA; a brother, Joe Rogers of Spring, Tx; two sisters, Lilly Johnson of Houston and LaNetta Rogers of Midland; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

ORVAL W. CATHEY, 75, of Gail died February 22, 1992 in a Big Spring Hospital. He was born in Gail, where he graduated from High School. He had been in the dry cleaning business in Cisco before returning to live in Gail. He was buried in Gail Cemetery.

WILSON WALKER, 50, of Lubbock, passed away March 14, 1992. He graduated from Borden County High School and lived and farmed in the Plains Community before moving to Lubbock. Survivors include his wife; a son, Mark, of Tulsa, OK; two daughters, Suzanne Kitten and Shannon Walker, both of Lubbock.

HOMER BEAL, 75, of Lamesa died March 19, 1992. He was born in Lubbock and lived much of his life in Borden County before moving to Lamesa in 1944. He was a rancher. Survivors include his wife, Emmie Lee; two sons, Skipper of Midland and Charlie of Abilene; a daughter, Lou Ann Mangeldorf of Dallas; a brother, Bob of Gail; 11 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

NELL GRAY, 97, of Snyder passed away February 6, 1992. Born April 22, 1894 in Indian Territory, Oklahoma, she married Carl Gray in 1911. She was a longtime resident of Borden County. Among her survivors are two daughters, Leta Lloyd and Lorena Gibson, both of Snyder; one sister, Louis Mae Smith of Lubbock; 11 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren.

THOMAS KEEN, 79, of Colorado City died April 3, 1992. Born December 6, 1912 in Gail, Mr. Keen married Opal Martin on May 1, 1930 in Tahoka. He was a retired construction worker. Mr. Keen was preceded in death by his son, Billy Bob Keen in 1985 and a grandson, Steve Beck, in 1991. Among his survivors are his wife; one brother, Woodson Keen of Odessa; a daughter, Sue Lawrence of Colorado City, 7 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

DOVIE (Chandler) PATTON, 90, of Carlsbad, N.M. passed away March 25, 1992. Mrs. Patton was born May 5, 1901 in Gail, where she grew up and graduated from High School. Her father, J. H. Chandler, owned and operated the Chandler General Store for many years. She moved to Carlsbad in 1931. Survivors include one daughter, Billie Roberts of Carlsbad; two brothers, Allen Chandler of El Paso and Joe Chandler of Houston; four grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

VERGIE HARDING, 81, died April 20, 1992 at her residence in Borden County. She married Pat Harding on May 4, 1929 in Big Spring. He preceded her in death on May 18, 1962. She was a long time resident of Borden County. Among her survivors are two daughters, Billie Harding of Vincent and Judy Brown of Big Spring; one son, Joe Pat of Borden County; three sisters; one brother; four grandchildren and several neices and nephews.

RALPH MARTIN, 76, passed away April 21, 1992 in a Lubbock hospital. He was born in Ballinger and married Waldine Coward on Jan. 20, 1940. He moved to Borden County in 1951. He was a farmer in the Plains Community. A son, Ronald, preceded him in death. Among his survivors are his wife; three daughters, Brenda Owen of Lubbock, Gloria Fannon of Floydada, and JoAnn Jones of Sudan; two sisters; 3 brothers; 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

J. PATTON (Pat) PORTER, 55, of Borden County, died in Midland, June 18, 1992 while at the airport to catch a plane to a speaking engagement. He was a humorist, public speaker and writer. He was a regional representative for Satellite T V Week, a viewing guide for owners of satellite dishes. He spoke at trade shows and dealer conventions nationwide. He was the moderator for the HAPPY BIRTHDAY BORDEN COUNTY CELEBRATION in 1991. He was raised in Borden County and graduated from Borden County High School in 1955. He is survived by his wife, Pat; two daughters, Kate of San Marcos and Samantha of Lubbock; his mother, Lela Porter of Borden County and one sister, ClaraJane Dyess of Borden County.

JOE LEMLEY, 71, of Sangelo died July 24, 1992. He was born April 15, 1921 in Borden County. His mother was the former, Josie York. Mr. Lemley ranched in Borden and Scurry Counties. He served as a Captian in the U. S. Army during World War II. Among his survivors are his wife of San Angelo; two sons, Alex Sears of San Angelo and Bob Sears of Wingate and 2 grandchildren.

BEULAH TELCHIK, 79, passed away August 5, 1992, in Lubbock. She married Oscar Telchik on September 5, 1933. He died on February 1, 1991. They were involved in farming for many years in the Plains Community of Borden County. Their survivors include two daughter, Daphene Minter of Draw and Nancy Edwards of Abilene; four brothers; two sisters; 3 grandchildren and 7 greats.

MARVIN MONK, 89, of Graham, died September 12, 1992. Mr. Monk was a former utility supervisor and was Justice of the Peace in Borden County. He moved to Graham in 1989. Survivors include his wife, Mary Zella; two sons, Larry of Tahoka and Steve of Graham; a daughter, Linda Koch of Dimmitt; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

DEWEY SAM LIVINGSTON, 91 died in Temple, Texas on July 3, 1990. He was born in Val Verde, Texas, on September 26, 1898 and was a barber in Temple for more than 60 years. He married Eva Cox on September 27, 1927, who survives him. Mr. Livingston was a member of the Immanuel Baptist Church in Temple and a subscriber to THE BORDEN CITIZEN for many years.

JOSIE HOWELL, 89, died July 19, 1991. She was born in Gail, Texas to Frank and Katie Good on July 27, 1901. She moved to the Kenna, NM community with her parents in 1912. She was a school teacher. She married William John Howell in Roswell May 20, 1928. The family home was on a ranch 27 miles NE of Kenna, where she was still living at the time of her death. She is survived by one son, Sammy; two grandchildren; a sister, Dorothy McDowell, all of Kenna. She was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; three brothers, William Hailey Good, Stanley Good and Bennie Good and a sister, Gertrude Good Crosby.

CORA SEALY, 89, of Slaton, passed away September 27, 1991. Born in Gail, she graduated from high school there and attended West Texas State University. She taught school in Gail, Fluvanna, and Slaton. Survivors include several neices and nephews including Bill, Bob and Don Sealy of Snyder.

BRANDON LYNN ADCOCK, 16, of Borden County died November 9, 1991 from injuries suffered in a car accident. He attended school at Borden County High School, where he was active in track, football, basketball and band. He was an honors student and a member of Future Farmers of America. Survivors include his parents, Randy and Verna Adcock, both graduates of Borden County High School; two sisters, Kristi Adcock and Hailey Adcock; his maternal grandmother, Tharon Todd of Lamesa and his paternal grandmother, Dottie Adcock of Ackerly.

GILMER DAVIS, passed away October 1, 1991 in Midland. He was born May 9, 1913 in Borden County, near Knapp. He married Ludy Niedecken on Nov. 28, 1938. He ranched and farmed in Borden County before moving to Midland where he was in the wholesale and retail grocery business. Among his survivors are his wife; two sons, Don and Arthur Davis of Midland; three daughters, Mareda Briggs, Karen Lann and Lajayne Davis, all of Midland; three brothers, Bethel Graham of Midland, Melton Davis of Lake Thomas, and Marshall Davis of Ireland; four sisters, Esther Peevyhouse of Midland, Mildred Skelton of Lake Thomas, Della Brooks of Loop and Lura Perry of Lake Thomas; and eight grand-children.

TAMA DUVALL, 88, of Amarillo died December 21, 1992. She was born in Borden County and taught school at Grape Creek School. She married Elmer Hollar in 1921 in Borden County. He died in 1941. She was buried in Gail Cemetery. Among her survivors are a son, Donald Hollar of Gladsen, Ala.; three daughters, Louise Murphy of Amarillo, Lois Patterson and Ruth Rickaway, both of Houston; two sisters, Mae Pratt Stephens of Borden County and Ruth Calcote of Arlington; 13 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

BETHEL GRAHAM, a retired farmer and cowboy, died January 31, 1992 in Midland. He was born

Aug. 23, 1905 in Howard County. He grew up in Borden County. He married Ernestine Westfall in 1924. The following year, they moved to the Greenwood Community. He was a charter member of the Greenwood Baptist Church and the Midland Farmers CO-Op Gin Assn., a school trustee and a Midland County Commissioner. He was preceded in death by his wife in 1984; his son, Ronald Graham in 1967; two brothers and three sisters. Survivors include his wife, Lou Whister Graham; two sons, Clayte Graham and Roy H. Graham, both of Greenwood; three daughters, Betty Burrow of Irving, Anna Beth Zachry of Greenwood and Joyce Lucas of Midland; two brothers, Marshall Davis of Hamilton and Melton Davis of Lake Thomas; four sisters, Mildred Skelton of Lake Thomas, Esther Peevyhouse of Midland, Della Brooks of Loop and Lura Perry of Lake Thomas; nineteen grandchildren and 35 great-grandchildren.

RACE HUMPHRIES, 88, of Balmorhea died February 3, 1992. He was a cowboy and rancher most of his life. He lived and worked on the Clayton-Johnson Ranch, west of Gail, for a number of years during the 1920's and 1930's. He married Bennie Glenn June in 1925. Mr. Humphries retired about 8 years ago after living on the V-H Ranch in Balmorhea since 1939. His son, Jack of lived in Balmorhea and cared for his father the last several years. Among his survivors are the son, Jack; a son, Donald R. Humphries of Godfrey, Ill; a Brother, Audie of Edcouch and a grandson, Larry, who worked on the Clayton ranch a few years ago.

WILLIAM MURRAY "Red" JACKSON, 72, of Snyder passed away September 3, 1992. He was born in Borden County. He married Buena Bentley in 1943 in Lamesa. He owned and operated a service station in Union until 1982. Survivors include his wife; a son, Bill of Snyder; two daughters, Marie Winder and Murray Anne Ray, both of Phoenix; a brother, Lewis, of Big Spring; five grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

STERLING WILLIAMS, 87, died August 6, 1992 in Snyder. Born in Hillsboro, Mr. Williams came to Borden County at an early age, where he grew up and went to school. He married Gladys Mitchell on December 15, 1935 in Big Spring. Mr. Williams served two years as County Attorney and four years as County Judge of Scurry County. He was elected to the Texas Legislature in 1944 and served for eight years. In 1952, he was the first judge of the 132nd Judicial Court to be elected by the people of the district. He took office in 1953 and served until he retired in April, 1970. Prior to being elected to political office, Mr. Williams was a practicing attorney and was active in ranching. He owned and operated the Borden County Abstract Company for many years. Survivors include his wife, Gladys; one son, Roger Williams of Snyder; one daughter, Betty Beaver of Gail; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

LETTERS FROM THE PENS OF OUR READERS

Please find check for my renewal for the paper. Am always glad to get it and read all the news. Always several I knew. Congratulations on your intention of celebrating the County's Birthday this year. A few OLD TIMERS will remember my parents and family who lived in and near Gail before moving on to Dawson County, before that County was organized.

Mary D. Mullins Cary, Colorado City.

I know it is past time for me to pay my dues. I do so enjoy the paper and reading about the old settlers of long ago. Don't you know they would turn over in their graves, if they could see and hear the things that go on in the world today. I wish all of you out in West Texas could see the beautiful flowers down this way, especially the bluebonnets, also the dewberries are getting ripe, that means cobblers. Don't guess I will get to make it to the Borden County Birthday Party. Sure wish I could though. I suppose my cousins will be there. Sibyl Gilmore and Sylvia Prescott. God Bless.

Maurine Kelly

Enclosed please find obituary. We lost our mother on July 19, 1991, JOSIE GOOD HOWELL. She did enjoy receiving the Historical Society's Newsletter. Could you please put her obituary in your next letter.

Sam Howell, Elida, NM

Please accept my donation for subscriptions for my Aunt and Uncle, Arch Petty and Geneva Adams. I have moved recently in Lubbock. I was surprised to meet two lovely ladies when I moved to this apartment complex who cherish Gail and it's history as much as I do. They are Gae Ludecke and Mary Sanders. Because of our Gail backgrounds, it was almost as if we had known each other forever.

Patsy Buzbee, Lubbock, Texas.

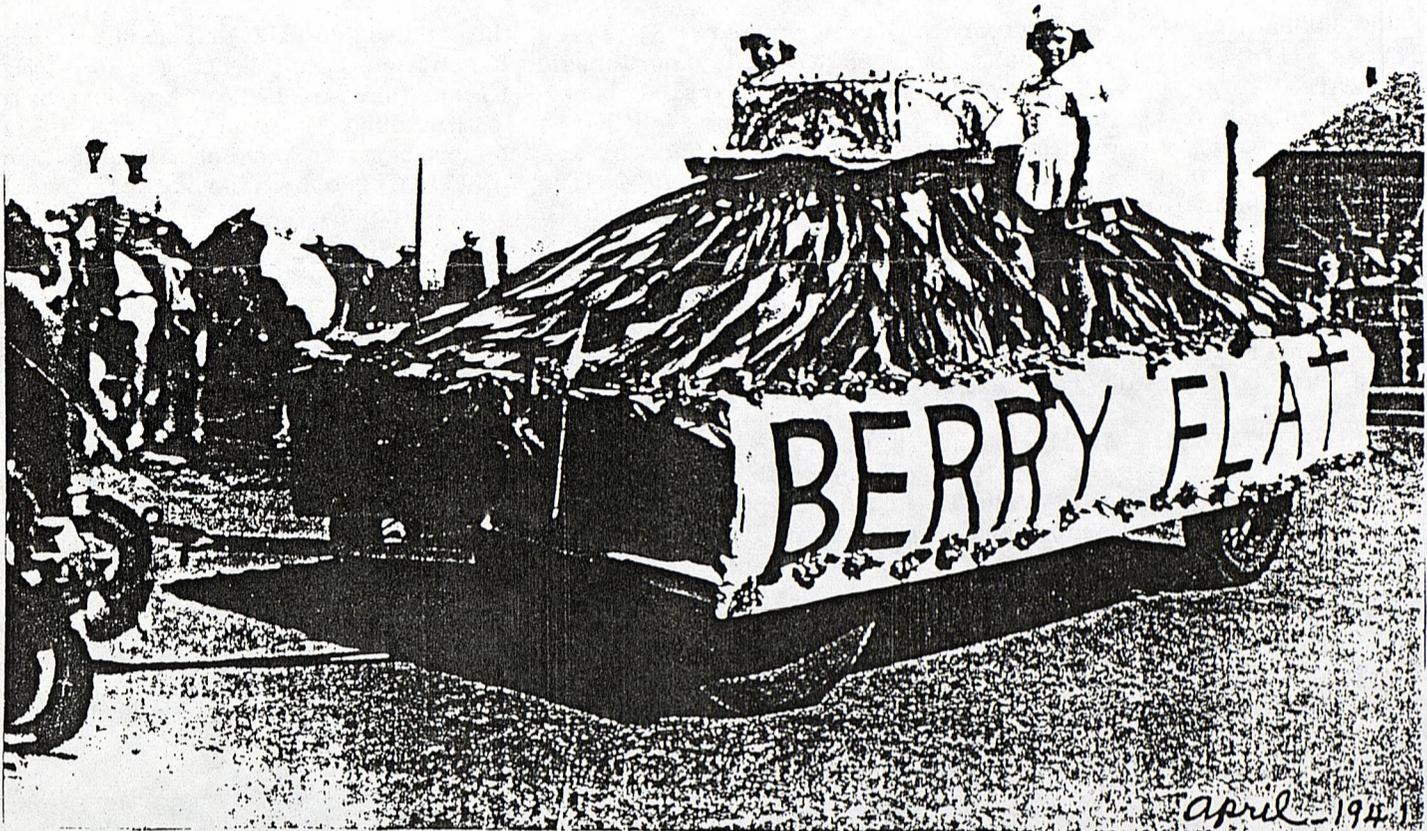
I can not address this to any certain person, because I do not know who is President, but I need some information. Some years ago my daughter, Connie Srate and myself, Opal Austin, attended an Old Settlers Reunion. At that time a Mrs. Williams was Head of the Historical Society. I visited with her at length. We spoke of my mother's sister, Effie, who had married a man named Petty. I think his first name was Johnny. The family of Douglas Whaley Newby, wife, Emma White Newby had five daughters and two sons. Our mother was Jessie, the youngest daughter. She was the only one who did not marry in Gail. She was 17 or 18 when her family, parents, herself and brothers, moved to the Territory of New Mexico in about 1900. She married Foley Griggs in 1903. We are trying to get in touch with those from the Newby family. Does anyone there know how we could find any descendent of Effie and Johnny Petty? I thought they had a son by the name of John Petty who lived in Abilene. He came to Tucumcari to visit our mother (she was then the last living Aunt) in 1965. At Christmas he sent a card but she had passed away at Thanksgiving, 1965. So I wrote him to tell him of our mother's death. He answered my letter, but there is no John Petty listed in the Abilene telephone directory at this time. Of course we would not know the names of the daughters of Effie and Johnny. If Mrs. Williams or someone else there happens to know about this family, I would appreciate getting the information.

Opal Griggs, Tucumcari, NM.

Thank you for sending my letter around. I have had good response. Made the acquaintance by telephone of a first cousin and a second cousin (I think she is) through these contacts. I hope to some day meet these people. I had good luck by sending letters to the Editors of 3 publications in Colorado. It has been very exciting to me. Thank you very much.

OPAL GRIGGS AUSTIN, Tucumcari, NM (Ed. Note: The letter on Page 5 that reads it came from Opal Griggs, should have read Opal Griggs Austin.)

Harlin and Nellie Williams who have lived in Borden County for many years displayed the original picture of the BIRTHDAY CAKE in 1941 at our 100th BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR BORDEN COUNTY. Thanks!!



Borden County's 50th Anniversary - 1941

The Berry Flat Community had this giant cake baked for the Borden County 50th anniversary celebration.

The Teeter's bakery of O'Donnell, Texas baked the cake.

The ingredients are as follows.

Cake	Icing
24 doz. eggs	20 lbs. white fudge
40 lbs. sugar	10 lbs. butter
60 lbs. flour	50 lbs. powdered sugar
6 gals milk	1 lb. salt
30 lbs. butter	1 qt. vanilla
8 lbs. baking powder	
1 gal. vanilla	

The trailer belonged to H. W. Scott, the father of Nellie Williams.

It is thought the girls are Juanita Lang and Ann Adams

By - Harlin + Nellie Williams

From: The Borden Historical Society
Gail, Texas 79738

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

To:

Nonprofit Organization
U. S. Postage
P A I D
Permit #2
Gail, Texas

Southwest Collection
Box 4090 Tech Station
Lubbock, Texas 79409

DEC 06 1993

THE JETERS AND THE SMITHS

by Bobbie Jeter Lawson



(Scalper) Jim Smith

After the Civil War, the Jeter family and the Smith family moved west in covered wagons to east Texas, and then on to Borden County, Texas by the 1890's.

Great-grandpa J. N. Hopkins (Mother's maternal grandfather) was born in Missouri. His father had returned to his native Ireland (to claim an inheritance) before J. N. was born, and was never heard of again. J. N. Hopkins served in the Union forces during the Civil War. He operated a ferry on the Mississippi River.

He married and lost three wives in succession, each of them leaving one child. My great-grandmother was the last of these, and my grandmother, Lillie Lee, was left behind by her. Lillie Lee's mother died of tuberculosis. J. N. married his fourth wife, moved to Gail, Texas, and had four more children.



Lillie Smith

J. N. was Justice of the Peace in Gail. He studied his "Stetson" law book, but did not go on to become a lawyer. There is quite a bit about J. N. Hopkins in the Museum at Gail, Texas. There is information in the Museum about his trading one hundred mustangs (horses) for the old Kincaid Hotel.

Gail was a thriving little town just before and at the turn of the century. Ranchers and cowboys pretty well ran the town until about 1900 when there was a land boom that brought settlers to buy school lands there.

It was during this period of Gail's prosperity that our folks lived in Gail and had happy memories of the old Union Church they all attended, and the 2-story schoolhouse, and the old-time blacksmith shop that Scalper Jim (Mother's Dad) owned and operated.

Some of Mother's reminiscences were of the wonderful Christmas gatherings at the church, picnics on Gail Mountain, the old Dorwood Drugstore, the millinery shop, and of watching her dad as he worked before the flaming forge in his blacksmith shop.

During this period, between 1900 and 1912, cowboys still came to town on Saturday nights, at Christmastime, and on 4th of July, etc. They went "rip-roarin" on their horses, up and down the main street, whooping and hollering and shooting their guns. I think they must have had something to drink-ha!

Mother's family moved away from Gail in a covered wagon in 1912 to homestead near Lovington, New Mexico. They lived in a square adobe house with a pitched roof.

They moved back to Texas about 1919. Jim and Lillie Smith are buried in the little cemetery at Vealmoor, Texas.



'Scalper' Jim Smith Family - Lovington, New Mexico

JIM SMITH
1872-1946

LILLIE SMITH
1878-1947



William Riley Jeter



Ida Scott Jeter

The Jeters (Daddy's family) must have moved away from Gail soon after the turn of the century, settled in Dawson County, and remained there.

My grandfather, Riley Jeter and his five boys farmed. Riley was a successful and good farmer. He also, during the next thirty years, acquired ranches and lots of cattle. He was an excellent stockman. Riley's brand was XJ on the left side.

Riley was an ambitious man, and he vowed that he would die a millionaire. He almost became one - was offered three-quarters of a million for his holdings. He shipped cattle to Kansas City and Abilene, owned land in Abilene, farms and ranches in Dawson County and the surrounding area.

Riley cared nothing about fine clothes and fancy houses, but he loved cattle and cotton and property, and he loved to make money.

Folks joked with him (when he was a wealthy man) about the fact that he used binder twine for a belt and baling wire to fasten his gates. Well, the depression came, and with it, the drought, and after 1930, Riley lost most of his earthly possessions.

Riley and Ida Jeter's graves are in the Lamesa cemetery marked:

WILLIAM RILEY JETER
1866-1939

IDA SCOTT JETER
1870-1940



Leather & Lorenzo Dow



Lou Smith

Mother of "Scalper" Jim Smith & Jess Smith
GAIL

Gail, Borden County, Texas, was a thriving little frontier town just before and at the turn of the century. Real people lived there - the Dorwoods, old Doc Prince, J. N. Hopkins, Scalper Jim Smith, the Jeters, Chandlers and countless other families whose lives and deeds will live forever in the museum there and in the hearts and minds of all of us whose ancestors dwelt there.

My Great Aunt, Leather Dow, daughter of Lou and Charley Smith, was married in Gail about 1900. As she and Grandma Smith sewed her wedding dress, a drop of blood oozed from a needle prick on her hand and dropped on the soft, white fabric of her dress. She perceived it as an omen, and she remarked that she would be buried in

OLD GAIL

If time could turn again to Gail
In times of "use to be"
If we could walk again upon
the streets of memory.

We'd meet in Dorwood's Drugstore
and sip a sasparilla
say hi to Myrtle Hopkins
who carries her umbrella.

The Millinery Shop display
attracts the passing ladies
and Jim Smith passes on the street
and tells about his babies.

Then hurries to his blacksmith shop
and stokes the burning embers
and people hurry on the street
in golden mid-September.

And times are good and neighborhood
exemplifies perfection
and all in sweet accord await
Gail's very first election.

Miss Minnie teaches at the school.
Doc Prince makes his rounds.
Men gather on the sidewalk.
The mail hack brings the mail.

J.N. Hopkins reads his law book.
The sheriff keeps his jail.
Cowboys come to town again
and all await the mail.

All this has faded in the mist
A picture perfect scene
but hearts relive and minds recall
and "Old Gail" lives again.

B.J.L.



Uncle Jess Smith and Wife
Brother of Leather Dow & Scalper Jim Smith

that dress within a year. Before her first anniversary, she was dead and buried in the Gail Cemetery. She still lies there. Aunt Leather's husband, Lorenzo Dow, went on to become a well-known newspaper man. But he ever returned to the grave of Leather Dow to cherish the memory of a lovely girl whose blood dropped onto the soft white cloth of her wedding dress.

My mother and father, Hattie Smith and Charley Jeter, were both born at Gail in 1901 and 1896. Mother told volumes of stories of the wonderful people of Gail and of watching her Dad as he worked before the flaming forge of his blacksmith shop.

She told of one Christmas just after Gail's and her own father's terrible bout with typhoid fever. There was no money to buy gifts to take to the community Christmas tree in the old Union Church - so my grandmother told her two or three oldest children (girls) that she would wrap her own beautiful old plates, painted with lovely pictures of Victorian ladies and that no one would know that the children didn't receive new Christmas gifts. Lillie Hopkins Smith carried out her plan - and if the girls had kept their beautiful painted plates, their descendants would own priceless antiques today.

But price was not important then and not important now! The only gifts worth giving or receiving are ones of the heart - usually never tangible.

Old Gail and the people who lived there were rich in the things that make people **really** rich. And time spent there was not wasted. Dear people and events will last forever.

*OMEN: a prophetic sign (American Heritage Dictionary)

NOTE FROM BOBBIE JETER LAWSON: My 2 sets of grandparents, the Jeters and the Scalper Jim Smiths lived at Gail during the 1890's. The last one of the Smith children, Emma Rita (Tea), passed away in July, 1992. Dawson Jeter of Lamesa is the only surviving child of the Riley Jeter family. My parents, Charley Jeter and Hattie Smith Jeter, journeyed on west from Gaines County, Texas in a covered wagon in 1934. Their destination, during times of drought and sandstorms and depression, was a homestead at the foot of Cook's Peak in Southern New Mex. We were no doubt, one of the last pioneer families to claim homestead land in New Mexico.

I was 3 years old at the time of their wagon trek and mother baked my birthday cake in a dutch oven while enroute. She cooked all our meals on the campfire. She fried potatoes and cooked beans in a syrup bucket at night over the embers of the fire. My Dad lived 20 years in NM. He died in 1954, still living on their ranch and they never forgot GAIL.

GAIL

A little town in Texas
Underneath the Cap
My very heart lies buried there
'A dot upon the map.'

But great upon my memory
A spot upon my heart
Reserved forever
On the page of history.

Those passed beyond who ruled the past
But left a golden story,
My thanks to those who carry on
And keep alive the glory.

Of Old Gail's past and men
Who fraught with peril, kept on trying
And fainted not, a future wrought
And left us with the story.

B.J.L.

D. R. (Buck) BURDINE, 79, of Bison, South Dakota, passed away on May 6, 1992. He was born in Borden County in 1913 and grew up here. He and his family moved to South Dakota in 1946. Survivors include his wife, Mattie Vena; a son, Delbert; a daughter, Lillian Elkin; three grandsons, a great grand-daughter.

LOUIE MAE SMITH, 91, of Lubbock, Texas died November 23, 1992. She was born in Indian Territory, Oklahoma, to the late G. W. and Arnelia Smoot. As a young girl she lived with her parents in Borden County in the Durham Community and attended Durham School. They lived on the Bob Gray Ranch where her father farmed for Mr. Gray. They moved to the Wellborn farm southwest of Snyder in 1906. She married Norvin M. Smith Sr. on Feb. 2, 1921 in Snyder. She lived in the Luther Community before moving to Lubbock in 1965. Survivors include two sons, Howard Smith of Falls Church, Va. and Norvin Smith, Jr. of Lubbock; two neices, Leta Lloyd and Lorena Gibson, both of Snyder; four grandchildren and two great grand-children.

LA NETTA ROGERS, 79, of Midland passed away December 15, 1992 in Midland. She was born March 13, 1993 in Borden County. She was buried in the Gail Cemetery. Among her survivors is a sister, Lillie Johnson of Houston; a brother, Joe Rogers of Spring, Tex.; and many neices and nephews.

DOUG ODOM, 77, of Fluvanna died March 1, 1993. He was born in Borden County and had lived in Fluvanna most of his life. Burial was in Fluvanna Cemetery. Survivors include a daughter, Marrietta Keys of Helmet, CA.; a sister, Ruby Gooby, of Escondido, Ca.; and a niece, Carolyn Lewis of Gail.

V. E. LEWIS, 74, of Big Spring passed away April 13, 1993. Among his survivors is a sister that wrote the following: "I do love reading your paper. It takes me back in time. My brother V. E., sure enjoyed getting the paper too. He and I always liked western stories." Mr. Lewis is survived by his wife and his sister, Maurine Kelly, & others.

BERT MASSINGILL, 90, died April 20, 1993 at his home in Vealmoor. Born in Hamilton County, he was a farmer and rancher in Borden County. He was a former Borden County Commissioner. His first wife, Leona Ford, preceded him in death. Survivors include his wife, Bevie; two sons, Billy of Lubbock and James of Big Spring; three daughters, Jamie Perkins of Midland; Oteka Hunt of Odessa and Leola Green of Vealmoor.

ANN MILLER CARPENTER, 49, passed away April 27, 1993 at her residence in San Angelo. She was born May 17, 1943 in Snyder, Texas, the only child of Morris and Willena Miller, longtime ranch families of Borden County, Texas. She attended school through her freshman year in Fluvanna, Texas. She was an accomplished artist, teacher and writer. She is survived by her parents; her husband, Tom; two daughters, Cara Willena and Julie Ann; one grandson, Kyle Morris, and a host of friends and relatives.

DEE PYLANT, 82, died June 24, 1993 at his residence near Fluvanna. Mr. Pylant and his wife, Viola Ball Pylant, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Dec. 31, 1992. A longtime resident of the Fluvanna Community, he was a farmer/rancher and a former Fluvanna School Board member. Survivors include his wife; two sons, Rex of Fluvanna and Billy of Snyder; one daughter, Betty Wink of Marathon; one brother, J. O. of Corona, Ca.; two sisters, Mamie Lemons of Fluvanna and Stella Kelly of California.

LILLIE JOHNSON, 89, passed away July 12, 1993 in Arvada, Colorado while visiting her daughter, LaNell Dean. Burial was in Midland where she had lived for many years before moving to Houston to be near her son, Tucker Johnson. Tucker preceded her in death. She was born in Borden County and married James C. Johnson in Gail in 1921. Among her survivors is a brother, Joe of Spring, Texas and many relatives and friends.

RICHARD LEE SPEARS, 80, of San Leon, Texas died July 13, 1993 at his home. Burial was in Houston National Cemetery. He was born in Gail, was a construction worker, member of IUOF Local 450 and VFW 8566. He married Margaret Hicks on June 2, 1941. Among his survivors are his wife; two sons, Richard Lee Spears, Jr., of Las Vegas, Nevada, and Aquilla Tobias Spears of San Leon; a daughter, May Spears Nolen of San Antonio; two brothers, Aquilla Willis Spears of Amarillo, and Robert Odell Spears of California; three sisters, Vie Moore of Monahans, Ruth Thompson of Crowell, and Lois Carroll of Abilene; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

NOVA JAMES, 84, of Snyder passed away in a Midland Hospital on July 28, 1993. Born in Clay County, she married Clifford W. James on Feb. 2, 1930 in Southland. He died in 1961. She and her husband lived in Borden County, farming on von Roeder land, for many years. She was a nurse at Cogdell Hospital in Snyder for 20 years. She was preceded in death by a son, Jacky Wayne, in 1990. Survivors include a son, Bobby of Midland; a sister, and a brother.

FRANK MEDLEY, SR., 86, of Lubbock died September 1, 1993. Burial was in Bonham, Fannin County, where he was born. He was a County Agent in Borden County and in Dawson County before moving to Lubbock in 1953. He married Ruth Loach in 1932 in Texarkana. He is survived by his wife; a son, Dr. Frank W. Medley, Jr., of Morgantown, W. VA.; two daughters, Martha S. Chisum of Lubbock and Dorothy King of Abilene; a sister, 7 grandchildren & 10 greats.

HUBERT WALKER, 76, of Arthur City, Texas passed away August 15, 1993. He was a rancher and farmer and was a former Commissioner of Borden County. Among his survivors are two sons, Travis of Hugo, OK, and David of Dallas; three grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

MRS. GENE D. SKEEN, 89, of Lubbock, died July 11, 1993. Mrs. Skeen was a longtime resident of Gail and was Postmaster here for many years. She was buried in the Gail Cemetery.

WILL TREDWAY, 82, of O'Donnell passed away August 19, 1993. He was born June 1, 1911 in Borden County. He attended O'Donnell schools and Texas Tech University. He married Nodia Bownds on Aug. 31, 1938 in Houston. Survivors include his wife; a son, Ellis Edd of Austin; and two grandchildren.

JERRY EDWARD MORGAN, 35, of Seminary, Miss. passed away August 15, 1993. After graduating from school in Miss. he went into the oil field seismograph field, working in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Colorado and Mississippi. While working in Texas he married Janice Browne of Gail. They lived in Borden County for several years. Among his survivors are his wife; two daughters, Jennifer Rose and Jerrica Dell; one son, Jonathan Melton; his mother, Donice Mooney and step-father Van Dale Mooney; all of Seminary; his Mother-in-law, Dorothy Browne, Sister-in-law, Joyce Kincheloe and family, all of Gail.

CAROL ANN EATON, 50, of Borden County died August 25, 1993 in a Midland Hospital. She was born March 19, 1943 in Lamesa. She married Jerry Eaton on November 9, 1978 in Hereford. Carol and her husband lived and farmed in the Plains Community. She is survived by her husband, Jerry; a stepson, Jerry B. of El Paso; two stepdaughters, Cheryl S. of Honolulu, HA, and Jeanne C. of Ruidoso, NM; her mother, Mamie Lamb of Levelland; and 5 grandchildren.

W. D. (Dub) EVERETT, 69, of Snyder passed away August 23, 1993 in Cogdell Hospital in Snyder. He was born June 15, 1924 in O'Donnell. He lived in Borden County as a child and continued to have ranching and other interests in the County after moving to Snyder. He married Lou Maule March 12, 1944 in Snyder. He was a past president of the Little League Association, a U. S. Navy Veteran of World War II and a member of the First Baptist Church. Among his survivors are his wife; a son, Jimmy D. of Snyder; two daughters, Bennie Kumar of Midland and Vanette Everett of Snyder; three brothers, Jeff Everett of Snyder, Donnie Everett of Lubbock, and Roland Hamilton of Lamesa; a sister, Dewey Faye Miller of Borden County and three grandchildren.

MAX L. PERRY, 67, of Lake Thomas passed away October 5, 1993 in a Lubbock Hospital. He was born Nov. 4, 1925 in Hutchison, Mo. He married Lura Davis on Dec. 15, 1945. in Fallon, Nev. After serving in the U S Navy during World War II, he worked in Howard County at Webb Air Force Base. Survivors include his wife, Lura, Lake Thomas; one son, Glen Perry of Vealmoor; one daughter, Linda Stanford of Big Spring, and two grandsons.

AUBRY (Aub) STOKES, 86, Old Time Borden County Rancher, died September 20, 1993 at a Midland Hospital. He was born Aug. 1, 1907 in Snyder. He married Mildred Harless in 1923. She preceded him in death in Nov. 1960. He married Modesta Good in 1970. She died June 16, 1991. He had ranched all his life. Aub really loved ranching and dealing with cattle and horses. Among his survivors are one step-daughter, Modesta Williams of Midland; three step-children, and three nieces. "Rich" Anderson concluded a eulogy at Aub's funeral by saying, "The cattle are rounded up and turned into water, the horses are unsaddled and let out to grass, the roundup is over and we will see 'Aub' at the big one later."

LETTERS FROM THE PENS OF OUR READERS

I was delighted to receive your winter 1993 edition. Before, I did not know you existed. My roots are deeply imbedded in Borden County, both paternally and maternally. My Granddad, John Henry Whitaker, and his four sons were near Gail around the turn of the century. My maternal grandfather, Hugh Kincaid, had the first hotel in Gail, The Kincaid Hotel. I am proud to say that I own two lots in Gail, and they are NOT for sale! Oh yes, my Aunt Viola Kincaid was the first white child born in Borden County.

Bob Whitaker, Abilene, Texas

I did not know THE BORDEN CITIZEN existed until lately and was pleasantly surprised. I will help with it in any way I can. I will write a story about my great-grandparents soon. They settled in the area in 1900.

Pam Wilson Gass, Big Spring, Texas

I would like to subscribe to THE BORDEN CITIZEN. I am a descendent of Whaley Douglas Newby and Emma White Newby who purchased Gail's First Hotel from F. A. and W. R. Clark. One of the five daughters of Whaley & Emma, Lula, was my great grand-mother. She married James Nathan Stradley on 24 Feb. 1897 in Gail. They all later moved to Puerto, NM.

Douglas H. Williams, Jr.

I am enclosing a check for my subscription. I enjoy the news very much. My father and Mother, J. B. and Anolia Bley moved to Borden Co. in 1901. They bought land on the east side and lived there several years. They bought land on the Scurry-Borden Co. line. They build their house a few hundred yards over in Scurry Co. I was born there. I married Ira Drum in 1932 and we lived in Borden County 10 years. Ira passed away in 1990.

Ruby Drum

Enclosed find check for the Newsletter. I really enjoy reading it. I never lived in Borden Co. but lived in Fluvanna until I was 14. My grandparents, Joel and Laura Jones Black lived there. I enjoy hearing about people my parents knew also. My parents were Jack and Nora Black Williams. My dad owned the blacksmith shop in Fluvanna for years.

Frances McKee, Escondido, Ca.

My grandparents lived for many years at Gail. They were known as Uncle Dick and Aunt Lucy Cathey. They are buried in Gail Cemetery as are several Uncles, Aunts, & Cousins. My parents

were married at Gail in 1903. They later moved to Lynn Co. near O'Donnell. TX and are buried there. In fact, I was born at Gail. Delivered by a Dr. Hannabass. Please find check enclosed.
Imogene Taylor, Portales, NM

Enclosed please find check. Borden County is such a special place for my family. My Dad, Naymon Everett, and his family lived in Borden County in the early 1900's. I enjoy reading the letters about the early days in Gail. I spent a lot of time as a small girl "vacationing" in Gail with my Aunt Flossie (Mrs. John Johnson). We slept outside in the summertime - drank from a cool cistern - had a "outside" bathroom - took a bath in a #2 wash tub in their big kitchen or in the tank beside their house. I loved it! One of my favorite stories told on my Daddy as a small boy, was when the circus came to Gail and Granddaddy Everett gave Daddy 50¢ to go to the circus. He took the 50¢ in his little hand and got to the main street in Gail where the circus parade was in full swing with the elephants, clowns and pretty girls all marching down the street! Daddy watched it with his eyes bugged out and when it was all over, asked a man behind him who took the money for the circus and the man said "I do", so Daddy gave him his 50¢ and went home thinking he had seen the circus. I think Uncle Dewey told this story on him. Daddy passed away in 1976 and my mother, Moody Everett, is living in Tahoka Care Center. Her health is fair, but she can still remember all the old stories and enjoys hearing from the people in Gail. Another funny story about Mother and Daddy - Daddy had gone on one of his "all day trips" to explore in Borden County and when he got home, Mother asked him where he had been and he replied "Oh, I spent the day with Vivian and Pauline". That was a little hard to explain to Mother, that Vivian was the husband of Pauline, not two ladies! Not long after that, Mother and Daddy and Vivian and Pauline became close friends and worked closely together at the Museum. Looking forward to another BORDEN CITIZEN.

Nancy Gayle Mott, O'Donnell, Tex

Thanks so much to the person who mailed me the last BORDEN CITIZEN. I read every word and thoroughly enjoyed it all. I am not a native of Borden County. I transferred to Gail ASCS office in Feb, 1963 and worked under F. J. "Dick" Cantrell until he retired. I retired there in 1974. I met so many very wonderful people while I lived there and I will never forget them and the many happy years James and I spent there. Thanks and God Bless All.

Cloda Wilson, Comanche, Tex.

Thanks for mailing THE BORDEN CITIZEN. I always enjoy stopping in Gail. Visiting the Museum and going to the Cemetery, My grandmother, Mary Baker Mullins, is buried there. Also my mother, Annie May Mullins, was born in 1897 in Gail. So you can see why Gail is so special to me. Thanks again.

DORIS BURLESON, Lamesa, Texas

It was good to get a CITIZEN again. It was quite an eye opener to see the picture of James Carol and Elba Tennessee Hudson Johnson right on the front page. Let me explain. They are my grandparents. Their youngest daughter, Edna, was my grandmother. Lee Johnson who submitted their picture is the daughter of their son, Will, and is hence my second cousin. Although I do not remember meeting Lee as a small child, I'm told by her sister Jean Prather that they played with me when I was about 3 or so and my parents and grandparents visited James Carol and Tennie at their home near Fluvanna. We had a Bradley Family Reunion in Roswell, NM July 4, 1992, Jean & Bob Prather came from Plainview to meet her NM cousins. Enclosed is a small memorial to the memory of James David McKnight, son of Cliff McKnight, who was the son of Julia Burt Hudson and David Andrew McKnight. Julia Burt was a sister to Tennie Hudson Johnson and David remembered so many stories of my great grandparents. He passed away Nov. 29, 1992, at Ft. Sam Houston VA Hospital and was buried in Fluvanna. JO Dean Bradley James, Tyrone, OK

RECENT HAPPENINGS: Pat and Odyne Jones celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary with a party on May 23rd, 1993, at the Fluvanna Community Center.

Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Minnick of Big Spring celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on April 24th in Gail at Joyce's Cafe. They were married in Gail on April 27, 1943.

Mrs. Mary E. Cathey was named a "Smart Cookie" in a contest sponsored by Crisco to name some of the best scratch-making cookie bakers. She lives in Gail and is the mother of Buster Taylor.

On July 14, 1993 John R. "Rich" Anderson of the Muleshoe Ranch Co., was honored with the national Cattlemen's Assn. 1993 Environmental Stewardship Award in Washington, D. C.

Please send cards, letters and \$3.00 dues to Dorothy Browne, THE BORDEN CITIZEN, Box 23, Gail.

From: The Borden Historical Society
Gail, Texas 79738

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

To:

Nonprofit Organization U. S. Postage P A I D Permit #2 Gail, Texas
--

Southwest Collection
Box 4090 Tech Station
Lubbock, Texas 79409