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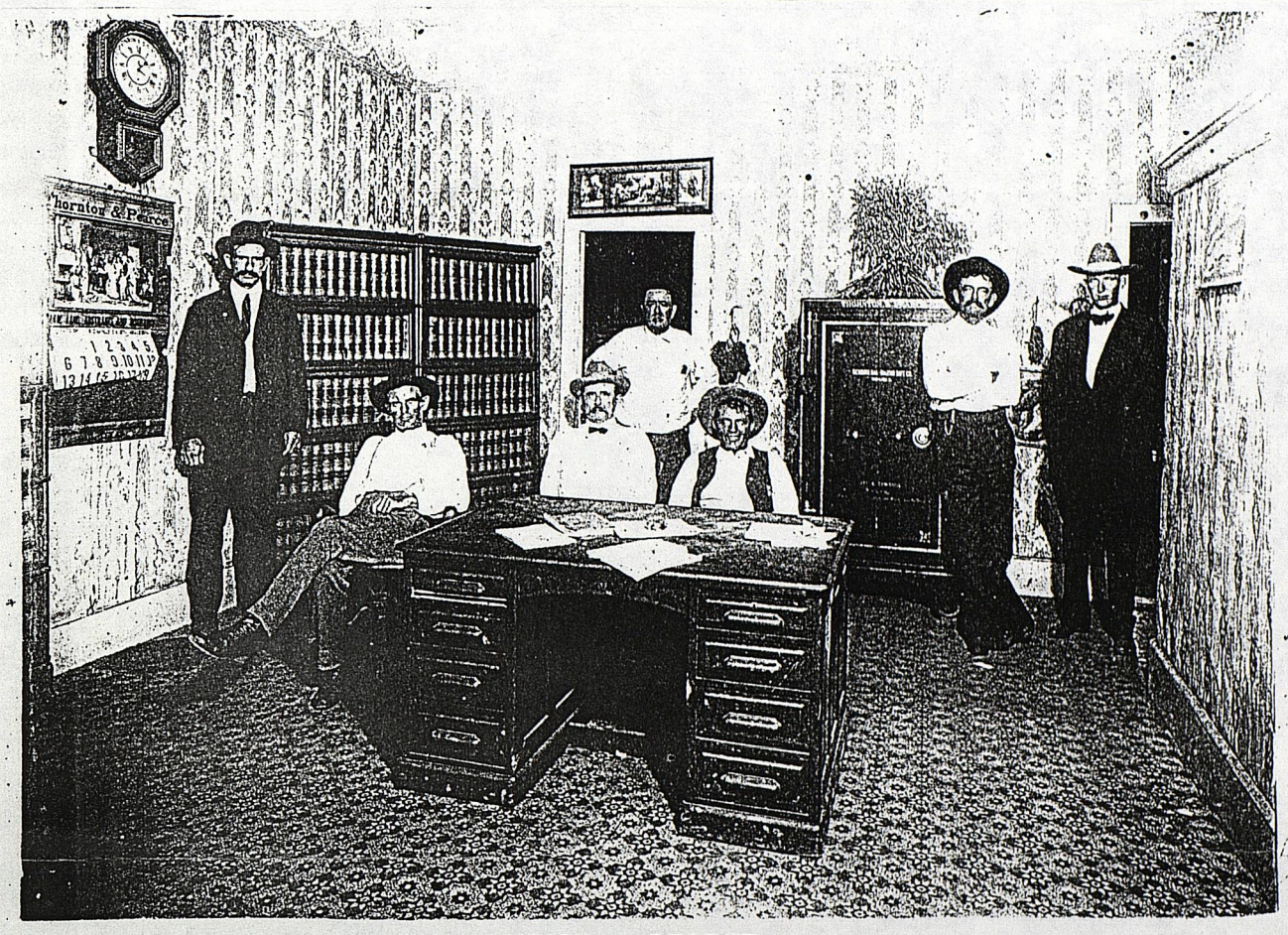


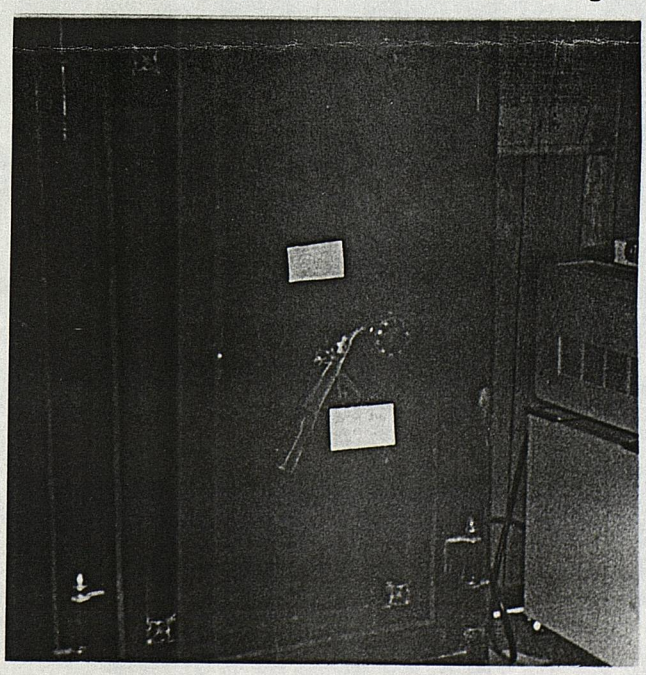
THORNTON & PEARCE

Picture donated by DORIS PEARCE BENNETT

This picture was probably made sometime between 1895 and 1915. The date in unknown and the only people that are identified at this time are L. A. Pearce who is standing in the door and J. Y. Everett, second from left.

Mr. M. J. Thornton was the first known Attorney who lived and worked in Gail. Mr. L. A. Pearce was the County Judge and both were very active in the real estate business during the boom years of Gail, and in the Abstract Business.

How much we wish the safe in the picture could talk. If you look closely, you will see that the safe in the picture below is the same as the one above. The saf now looks much older, as it should after about 100 years. The safe now sits in THE BORDEN COUNTY ABSTRACT COMPANY office in Gail, still holding real estate records as it always has done. If it could talk, we would have many stories of real estate sales, trades and exchanges of property.



Mr. Thomas G. Patterson, also an Attorney, and uncle of Bob Gray, owned and ran the Abstract Company until he sold his business to Miss Maggie Williams, in 1925. Also included in the Sale are the GOOD and CARROL books. The Bill of Sale also states that Miss Maggie Williams had leased The Borden County Abstract Company from him some time before and had retur ed it to him in November 1923. Also included was the was the stock forms, including all carbon copies of abstracts, together with furniture and fixtures belonging thereto, being one SAFE, and contents pertaining to the abstract business, 1 filing cabinet and all books.

MISS MAGGIE, as she was usually called, filed an Assumed Name foR DOING BUSINESS AS THE BORDEN COUNTY ABSTRACT COMPANY on March 2, 1925. Judge J. H. Hannabas took her oath on the form and Miss Maggie filed it as the County Clerk.

MISS MAGGIE WILLIAMS
in the Early 1900's

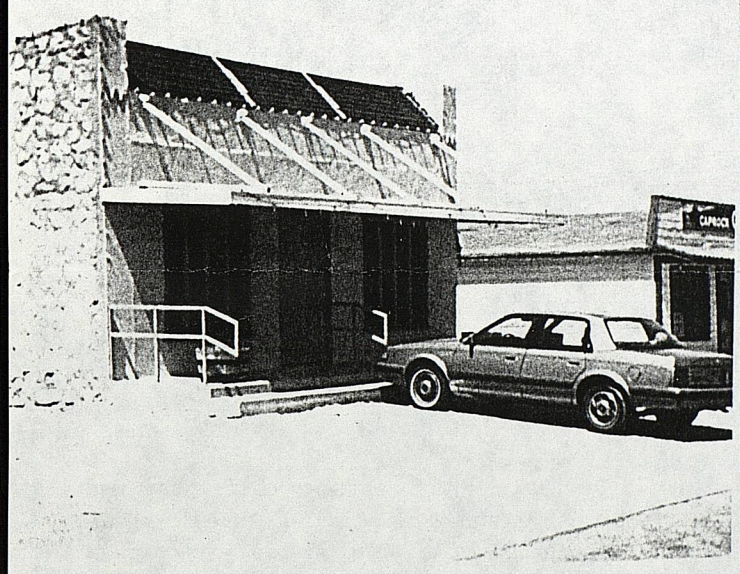
Margaret Mae (Miss Maggie) Williams was born in Alabama. She was reared in Hill Co. Texas. She was employed as a telephone operator before moving to to Borden County in 1908 with her parents. She was elected County and District Clerk in 1916 and served for 24 years. She operated the Abstract Company and served as Clerk for 15 of those years. She operated the Abstract Company until shortly before her death in 1966.

Sterling Williams, Miss Maggie's nephew, went to work for her in 1927. While working in the Abstract Company, he studied law and passed the State Bar Exam, thus becoming the third Attorney to practice in Borden County.

Joseph Robinson, also MIss Maggie's nephew worked for her in the Abstract business. M. J. Browning worked for her for many years and Doris Melba Pearce Bennett worked for 3 years, and also Mrs. Temp Browning.

Dorothy Dennis and Gladys Williams worked in the office and they were the ones who transcribed the old books into the present ones that fit better in the old safe.

After MIss Maggie moved to Snyder, she drove to Gail to work. In later years Zelda Mitchell worked one summer and drove her car for her. Nell Murphy Bailey, Eva Zay James and Comelle drove for her many times, as well as working for her.



BORDEN COUNTY ABSTRACT COMPANY
as it looks today

Gladys Williams worked in the Abstract officefor many years, first for Miss Maggie for many years. She started when all the records were typed, using several carbons so you would have extra copies. During the last years of her work, she had a good copy machine that made the business much easier, as she could copy each paper out of the records in a few minutes to place in an Abstract.

Betty Beaver, the daughter of Sterling and Gladys Williams, has worked at different times in the business. Several years ago she became the owner.

Helping Betty Beaver in the business these last years have been Joyce Kincheloe and Dorothy Browne, who is now runs it. We still wish the safe could tell us all the wild tales it has heard these many years.

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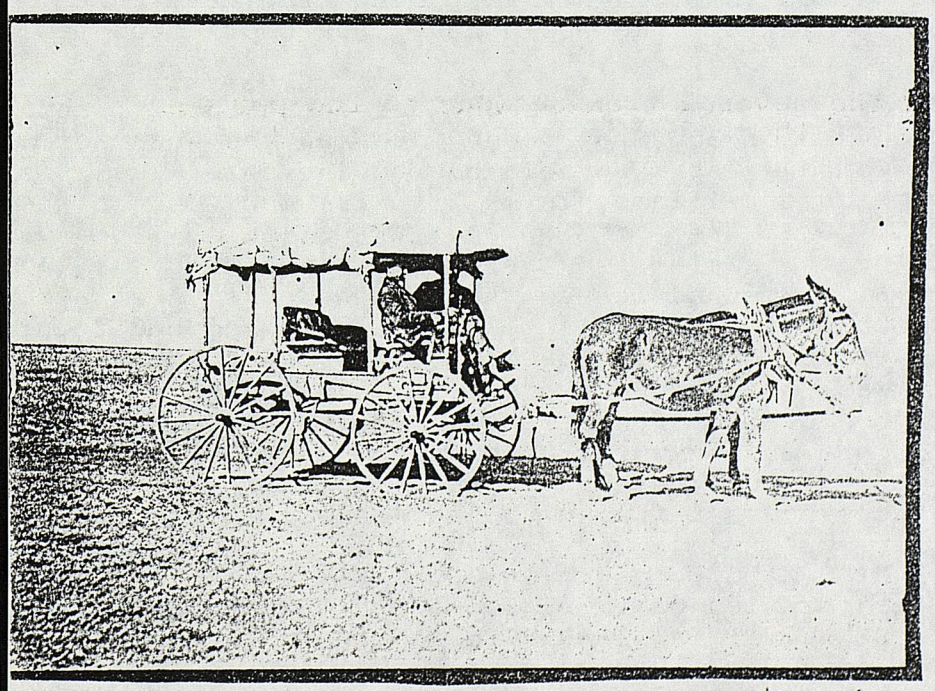

C. M. RECTOR, GAIL, TEXAS - MAIL ROUTE
Thanks, NANCY BURKS, Granbury, TX

If you know the names of the men in the picture of THORNTON & PEARCE, let us hear from you.

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The picture on the left was sent to Joyce Herridge, Co. Clerk, with a letter. " A few years ago I bought an old box of pictures. I have displayed the enclosed picture in my home.. Recently my family and I took a trip to New Mexico and we came through Gail. I thought of the old picture and thought it should be sent home to Gail. Frankly, I was never sure that Gail was a real place! It was nice to find that you are a real community with a beautiful Courthouse. I have some more pictures with the name of "RECTOR" on them. "
READERS: If you know any RECTORS TELL THEM ABOUT THIS or write us.

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT

STATE OF TEXAS)
BORDEN COUNTY) We, the undersigned hereby enter into the following agreement: each and every one of the state and county aforesaid, witnesseth:

(1) The said parties have agreed, and by these presents do agree, to associate themselves as copartners for the purpose of obtaining and keeping a supply of water by building a water tank on a certain tract or tracts of land known and described as Two-acre Blocks Nos 87 & 88, each being 931/3 X 104 yards in size, in the Town of Gail, Borden County, Texas, which said partnership shall continue from the date of these presents for and during the full end and term of 25 years.

(2) The name, style and title of such partnership shall be "THE GAIL WATER SUPPLY COMPANY."

(3) For the purposes aforesaid the following named persons have upon the day of the date hereof put into said partnership as Capitol Stock the amounts that appears opposite each his name to wit: -

1	A. J. Wilbourn	$10.00	17	L. M. Reed -	10.00
2	T. P. Skinner	10.00			
3	T. D. Love	25.00	18	R. F. Nevels	15.00
4	J. N. Prince	25.00	19	Jim Smith	5.00
5	J. W. Wharton	15.00	20	R. J. McNeil	5.00
6	E. C. Moore	10.00		C. A. Joplin	5.00
7	D. G Kincaid	10.00		V. Harry	10.00
8	J. A. Petty	10.00		Lamar McNeil	5.00
9	M. P. Donaldson	10.00		J. W. Askew	5.00
10	W. R. Jeter	10.00		S. J. Jackson	25.00
11	J. P. Taylor	5.00			
12	F. E. Andrews	25.oo		W. K. Clark	5.00
13	J. M. Searcy	10.00		W. H. McClouch	10.00
14	J. W. Chandler	5.00		S. E. Skinner	5.00
15	C. W. Simpson	25.00		T. C. Holensworth	5.00
16	J. W. Wilbourn	25.00			

(4) The above amounts if paid in money must be paid cash to the secretary of said company; but anyone so desiring can pay his capitol stock or any part of it, with labor; provided, he work subject to orders of the foreman, and work (8) eight hours per day and at the rate pf $1.25 per day for each hand; and at the rate of $1.25 per day for each scraper team.

(5) And it is further agreedbetween said parties as follows: That no one's capitol stock shall ever exceed 25% od the entire amount subscribed and paid in.
(6) That thereis elected of the bonafide members and by the bona fide members of said partnership onr chairman, who shall preside over all meetings or consultations of said partnership; a secretary-treasurer to keep accts. and hold the common funds and undivided profits, shall be chosen the same way as the Chairman; There shall be, when necessary one Foreman or manager whose duty it shall be to superintend all work subject to orders of the Copartnership; said Foreman or Manager to be elected as the Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer- and may or may not be a bona fide member of said partnership.

(7) That each person's franchise in voting shall be one vote for each five dollars paid into said capitol stock.

(8) That in all matters respecting the several transactions of the partnership and the management of the business thereof, the express wish and opinion of a majority of the voters shall govern and be binding upon the whole of said parties to these agreements.

(9) Any shareholder may vote by proxy.

(10) Any article in this agreement may be amended or abolished at any regular meeting by a majority vote of the copartnership.

(11) Shareholders may dispose of their interest pr any part thereof at any time to a member or members of the copartnership, but to no one else except by the consent of a majority of the copartnership.
12 A board of Directors shall be elected whose duties it shall be to design and plan out all improvements or repairs and enstruct the forman what is desired to be performed.

Witness our signatures this the 12 day of January February, 1894.

J A Petty J. N. Prince T D Love

W R Jeter	J. W. Wharton	S. J. Jackson
J M Searcy	W K Clark	T. C. Holingsworth
T. E. Andrews	C. A. Joplin	A. J. Wilbourn
R. F. Nevels	R. J. McNeil	J. S. Petty
M P Donaldson	J. W. Chandler	C. W. Simpson
D. G. Kincaid		

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WATER - A very important commodity, of which Gail has never had an abundance. We do not know if the above contract was ever used. We do not know if they tried to build a tank on these City Blocks, in the West part of Gail, close to Gail Mountain. We do not know if they tried to get water there. BUT we do know that Gail was five times the size of Lubbock, Texas, in the time between 1900 and 1910 The two reasons Gail did not stay the booming town of this era was the railroad did not come to Gail and the constant water problem. Today we have a good water system, but the water comes from up on the Plains and is piped about 25 miles to Gail.

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LETA LLOYD, 83, of Snyder, died October 23, 1996 in a Lubbock Hospital. She was born in Big Spring and married Raymond Lloyd March 30, 1912. He died in 1980 She was a friend of Borden County and is survived by three daughters, Eltine Vine of Coleman, and Dorthy Beaty and Pat Cornett of Snyder. She is also survived by five sons, Billye Joe, of Dalhart, Jerry of Gooding, Idaho, Keith of Colorado City and Jimmie Don and Weldon of Snyder; a sister, Lorena Gibson of Snyder; 29 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren and 7 great greats.

J. E. NANCE, SR., of Tahoka passed away October 26, 1996. He was born May 8, 1902 in Sanger. Married Leota Alleen Knight in 1926 in Lamesa. He was a member of the Flying Farmers Organization and First Baptist Church. Survivors include 2 children, J. E., Jr. of Tahoka and Bill of Plainview; 2 daughters, Nancy Page of Hunts and Carole Kincer of Lubbock; a sister; 11 grandchildren and 13 greats.

ALBERT STONE, 77, of Post passed away October 29, 1996. He was born in Garza Co. He was a U. S. Navy Veteran of World War II. Survivors include his wife; two sons, Jerry and Danny, both of Gail; a daughter, Barbara Tatum of Post; 2 brother 6 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

MILDRED SKELTON, 91, died November 8, 1996 in Snyder. She was born on March 18, 1905 in Borden County. She married James Clifford Skelton in 1928. She lived much of her life in Borden County near where Lake J. B. Thomas is now located. Survivors include a daughter, May Shaffer of Borden County; a son, John Skelton of Arkansas; 3 sisters, Della Brooks of Loop, Esther Peevyhouse of Midland, and Lura Perry of Borden County. A brother, Melton Davis of Lake Thomas and seven grandchildren and 15 greats, and 6 great-greats also survive. She was the sister of the mother of Dorothy Browne, the compiler of this newsletter.

IRENE HART, 72, of Gail, passed away December 17, 1996. She was born May 11, 1924 in Fluvanna and married J. D. Hart in 1944 in Tahoka. Survivors include her husband, J. D. Hart of Gail; 4 sons, Ronnie of Post, Sidney of Gail, Kenneth of Ruidoso, N.M. and Jay of Munday. She is also survived by three sisters, Leona Ford of Snyder,Modina Farmer of Post and Marie Flippens of California; 3 brothers Bedford Sullenger of Snyder, J. T. Sullenger ofDermott, and Paul Sullenger of Kermit; 13 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

WALTER BOLDEN, 71 od Gail died December 25, 1996 in Lubbock. He was born Sept. 15, 1925 in Guail. He married Mattie Tutwiler in Amarillo. He is survived by 6 sons, 8 daughters, 3 brothers, 2 sisters, 16 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. He and his wife,Mattie, had lived several years in Gail.

A. W. "BILLY" SPEARS, died January 7, 1997 in Amarillo. He was born December 9, 1904. Burial was in Gail Cemetery. Billy was one of the early day Spears family who had a big part in Gail.

JEAN SCHOMER, 81 of Early, Texas passed away January 15, 1997 in a Brownwood Hospital. She was born June 12, 1915 in Gail, the daughter of William and Gertrude Hester. She had lived in Brown County for 32 years, moving from West Texas Survivors include four sons, J. L. Dyer of Deer Park, Ray Dyer of Wallis, Jerry Taylor of Tempe, AZ, and Jackie Taylor of White Oak; 2 daughters, Kay White and Paula Ruder of Brownwood; a stepdaughter, Donna Schomer; a brother, Roy Hester of Abilene; 3 sisters, Pauline Powell of Dallas, Lucille Cantwell of Columbia. Mo and Gladys Lewis of Dallas; 19 grandchildren , 22 greats and one great-great.

ANNIE JANE McLEROY, died in her sleepon February 17, 1997. She married James McLeroy on September 1, 1956, in Paris, Texas. He preceded her in death on September 20, 1996. Ann, along with her family, moved to Gail, Texas in March, 1966. She taught second grade at Gail from 1969 until her retirement in 1990. Her husband was the Superintendent of Schools in Gail during this time. They

God hath not promised
Skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways
All our lives through;
God hath not promised
Sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow,
Peace without pain.

But God hath promised
Strength for the day,
Rest for the labor,
Light for the way.
Grace for the trials,
Help from above,
Unfailing sympathy,
Undying love.....

moved to Commerce in 1990. Ann loved children and never ran out of time for them. Her pride in life were the many children she taught and whose lives she touched, her own children and her ten grandchildren. Survivors include two sons, Jim of Sulphur Springs and Bob of Cumbie; 2 daughters, Lisa LIngo of Mesquite and Gena McKee of Rockwall, a sister, two brothers and ten grandchildren.

C. D. "PAT" JONES, 96, a life-long resident of Fluvanna, died February 23, 1997 in the Snyder Hospital. Services were held in Fluvanna and he was buried in the Fluvanna Cemetery. Born March 21, 1900 in the Jumbo Community, Mr. Jones married Odyne Beaver on May 20, 1923 in Fluvanna. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Patsy Fee, in 1984. Survivors include his wife of 73 years; a grandson, James H. Aaron of Fluvanna; a sister and brother-in law, Matty and Bryan Stine of Wicgita Falls; and 4 nephews, Don Jones, Wallace Jones, Bill Jones and James Beaver, all of Fluvanna.

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NOTES FROM THE PENS OF OUR READERS:

I always enjoy the Historical News Letter. It was sad to read about so many friends passing away. Saluda Wills Arnett

Enclosed is a check. Please, keep sending the "Borden Citizen." Mrs. J. D.Mitchel

Just want you to know, I always enjoy the BORDEN CITIZEN and I know a lot of hard work goes into preparing it and getting it mailed. I know because I used to do it. I.m sending my check for ten more years. I may not live that long but I want to enjoy the History as long as I am here. Good luck to all who send it. I spent 32 years in Gail and I still miss it. Sibyl Gilmore, Big Spring, Tx.

I'm not sure how often the newsletters are sent out. I sure don't want to miss one. Here is my new address. Nancy Edwards, Abilene, Texas.

Thanks, We really enjoyed reading the news letter. Keep up the good work. Mickey & Joanne Sterling, Ira, Texas.

Thanks for the reminder in the newsletter. I would like to pay for two years. Please keep putting a reminder in the newsletter and the address. Wilma Reynolds

The BORDEN CITIZEN was such a pleasure to me this edition. The article on GAIL brought back many memories of my childhood. Just a wonderful place to remember. I am enclosing a donation for the Citizen and to purchase LIGHTS FOR GAIL for my parents. I wish I could attend this year, but it is not possible. Best Wishes. Patsy Petty Buzbee, Lubbock, Texas

TO KENNETH BENNETT: I received your letter requesting a copy of the obituary of my grandfather, A. W. "Quilly" Spears. I have enclosed one. I appreciate the information you wrote about my grandfather. It's always interesting to hear some of the things that happened in his earlier years. Thanks, Bobby J. Pulliam

I am wondering if you may be able to help me in my search for the names of my Great Grand Parents. The last name is Spears. She died JUne 11, 1914 at age 88 and is buried in Gail. I am not sure about him. His initials were W. G. and he died in 1877 but I do not know where. My grandfather was Aquilla Brown Spears and in the 1910 and 1920 census he was in Borden Co. He had a grocery store. If possible I would like the names of the brothers and sisters of Aquilla also. There were 10 childrenm one was Jerome Curtis. DIXIE SPEARS READ, Portland, OR. (NOTE: We sent the addresses of the two above to each other. Hope they can share information about the Spears Family. Send info to the paper, if you can help these people and we will send it on. Thanks)

I would like to light up the Star one night in memory of the AMBROSE TENNESSEE LOCKLEAR Family. His wife was Mollie L. Allison. Son James Anderson Locklear married Mary Bennett there. Daughter Ludie Locklear married George A. Clark there. That was in the late 1800's and early 1900. My husband and I came to Gail one year researching. We loved the Museum and the kindness of everyone there. Your countryside is beautiful. Mary Louise Simons, Beaumont, TX.

Thank you very much for sending the latest issue of the CITIZEN. The old issues I in my Mother's things have helped in researching our family. The last issue included the passing of Ealdon Summers, who was the son of Ora Belle Smoot, daughter of John Henry Smoot who built the jail and the vault in the original Courthouse. My Grandmother Gertrude Smoot was the 2nd child born in Borden County and my mother, Winnie Jean Hester the 100th, both being born at the old Smoot place SE of Gail. I hope to gather the material about John Henry Smoot and share it with you for the CITIZEN. Paula Ruder, Brownwood, TX.

York's JY Ranch inducted into Family Land Heritage Program

Agriculture Commissioner Rick Perry honors Barbara York and Judge Van L. York, along with their granddaughter, Kaitlin York, of York's J Y Ranch in Borden County. The ranch has been operated by the family for 100 years or more and was inducted into the Texas Department of Agriculture's Family Land Heritage Program in a January 24th Ceremony in Austin.

This is a distinct honor to the family and to the early day people who came to Borden County when times were hard and stayed when the times and conditions got worse.

Congratulations!

***** ***** *****

FROM THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS, THE SDN COLUMN by Roy McQueen.
Somehow our paths had never crossed. But thanks to a family style spread one Sunday at Billy Ray's Rusty Spur Cafe, we got tomeet an interesting couple from Fluvanna. We had an opportunity to know their fathers. We once gave Bill Herring a ride back to Dermott from Stinson's Drug. And the late Thurber Swan was one of Scurry County's most colorful characters. Our dining partners were Ray and Gwen Herring. We learned that Ray graduated from Fluvanna High School, although he spent his early days at a three-room school house in the Mt. Olive Community of Dawson County. We learned that Ray had graduated from Texas Tech after returning from the Korean War where he served two years in the 82nd Airborn Division.

Ray told us he taught vocational agriculture for five years. The questions he asked about the newspaper business told of his interest in writing. Ray finally revealed that in 1993 he had written a book about the Mt. Olive School, calling it "The End of an Era". The work is an account of Ray's memories, starting in 1935, ofhis eight years at the school. Ray can remember his first day at school: "I never thoughtof myself as being ignorantm but guess what? The summation of my book learning on day one of my school was that I coundn't read a word, but get this, I could count all the way to seven."

Adandy story occurred in Ray's 8th grade year when skunks started going under the school house. "We boys were delighted-a chance for us trappers to practice wilderness skills. We set traps and could hardly wait to get back to the school in the morning...Skunks were trapped in two different holes leading under the building. Teachers were yelling at the kids to stay back, way back. Most of them were eager to do this except for a couple of John Wayne types - Henneth Wristen and Virgil Herring. Kenneth grabed the trap chains and pulled them out into open territory. Virgil ran to the wood pile and grabed the ax and proceeded to beat them into submission. All was well, except for the odor. The teacher dismissed school for the day. School dismiss! "Oh I loved that lady," recalled Ray.

We have some stories we have not used but send yours! If you have not paid lately send $3.00 for a year to Dorothy Browne, Box 23, Gail, Texas 79738.

rom: The Borden Historical Society
Gail, Texas 79738

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