



O give me a home where the buffalo roam  
Where the deer and the antelope play,  
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word  
And the skies are not cloudy all day.  
John A. Lomax.

A Guide to  
The South Plains  
of Texas

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1981

A GUIDE TO THE SOUTH PLAINS OF TEXAS

COMPILED BY

THE TEXAS STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT, DIVISION NO. 5

LUBBOCK, TEXAS

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G. M. GARRETT

DIVISION ENGINEER

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November 1935

Gitt, Mrs. Carriewood Stephens



Dedicated  
to the memory of —  
Gale R. Johnston,  
pioneer road builder,  
whose vision of modern transportation was as wide  
as the horizon of these beautiful plains.

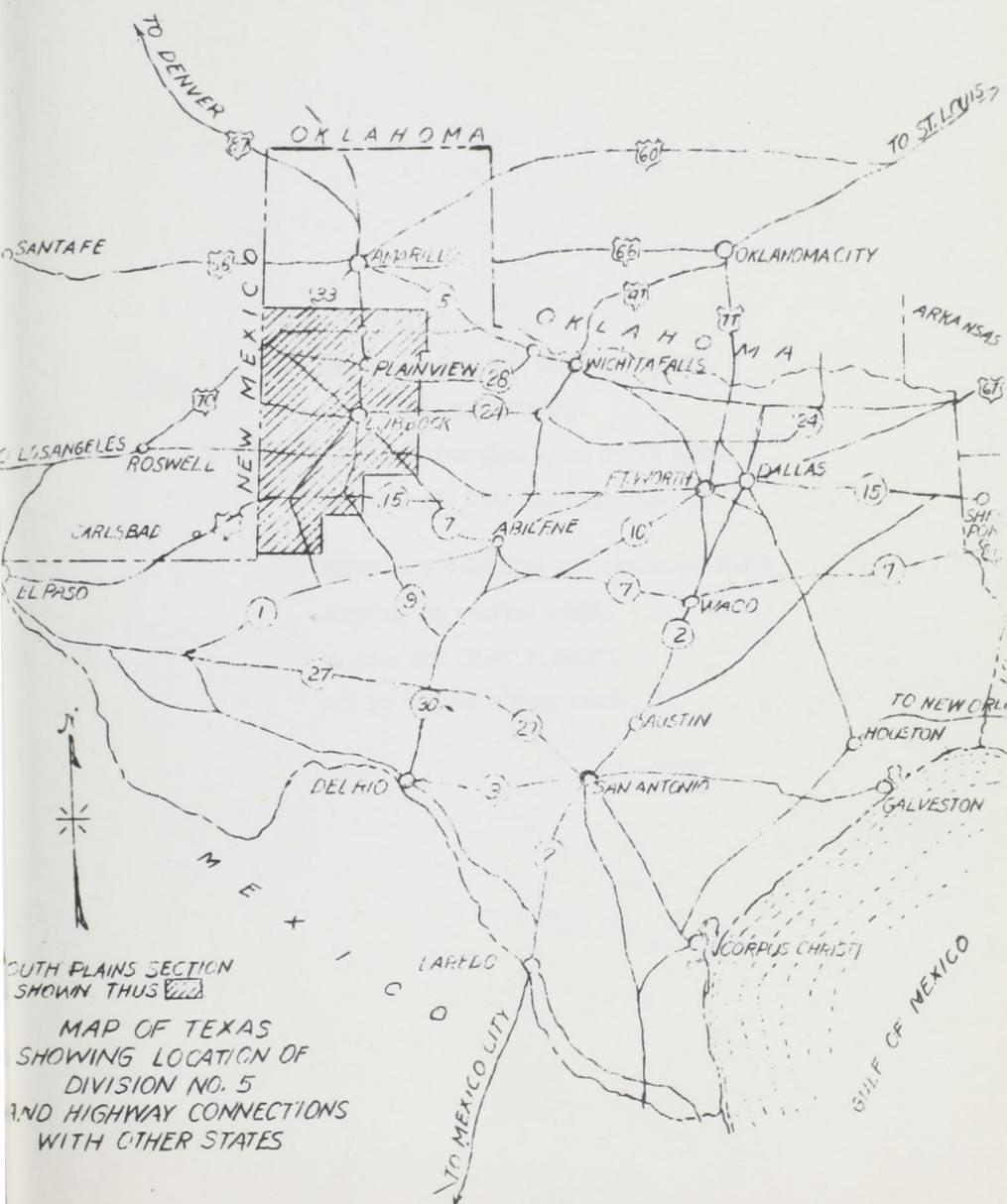
### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To all those who have aided in the preparation of this guide, we wish to express our grateful appreciation.

Advice, encouragement, suggestions, specific items of information including extracts from books, newspaper articles and photographs have been received from so many individuals the list would be too long to enumerate here.

Especial thanks are due Mrs. Bess Bigham Hubbard, the artist, Dr. W. C. Holden, Dr. Leroy T. Patton, Mr. A. H. Leidigh, and Dr. A. W. Evans of the Texas Technological College faculty, Miss Mary L. Cox of Plainview, Mr. R. B. Smith of Crosbyton, and Mr. Frank P. Hill of the Lynn County News.

Since this booklet has been expecially prepared as a contribution to the State's program of advertising the coming Centennial celebration, we shall appreciate having our attention called to any inaccuracies or omissions.



SOUTH PLAINS SECTION SHOWN THUS [hatched box]

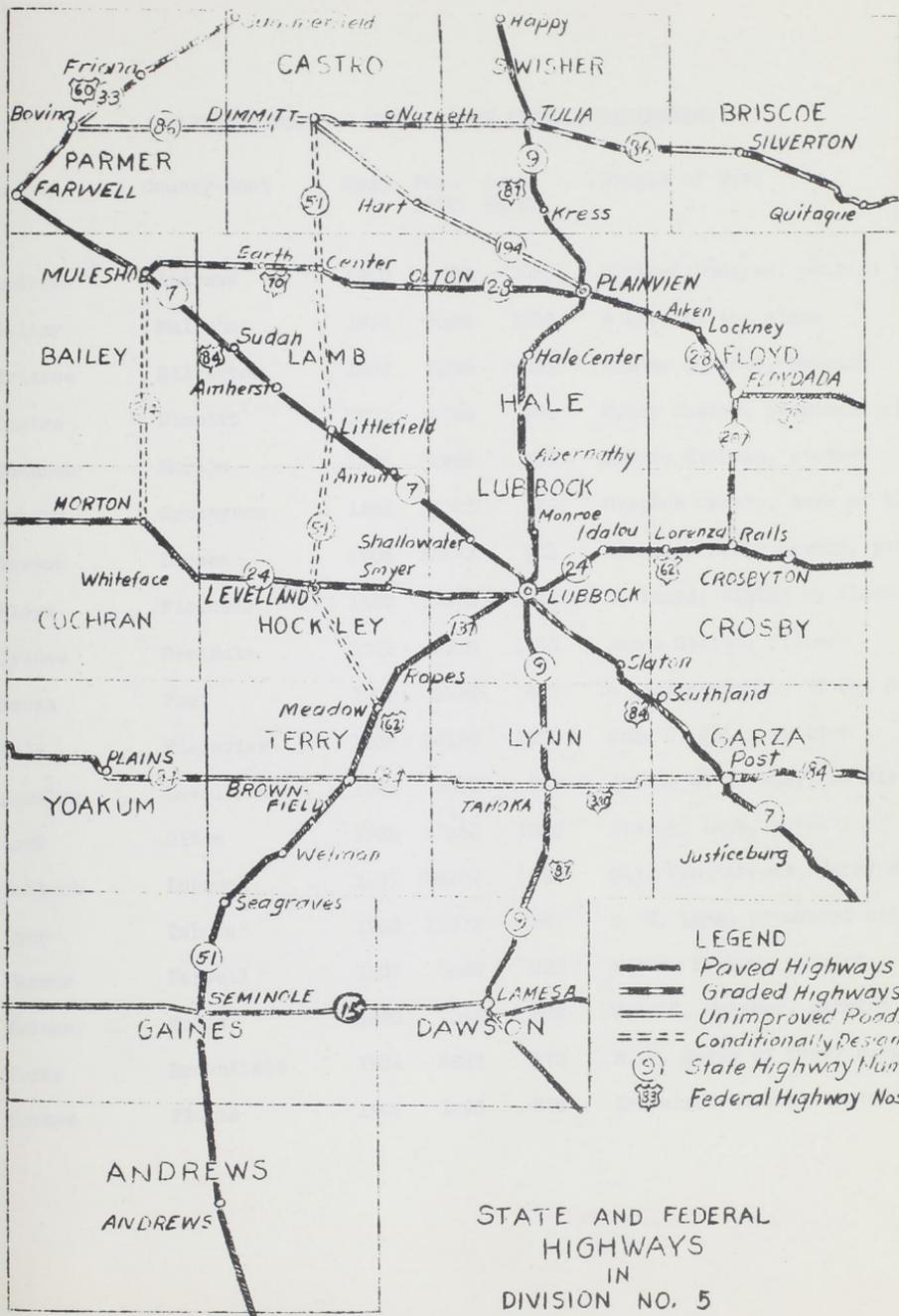
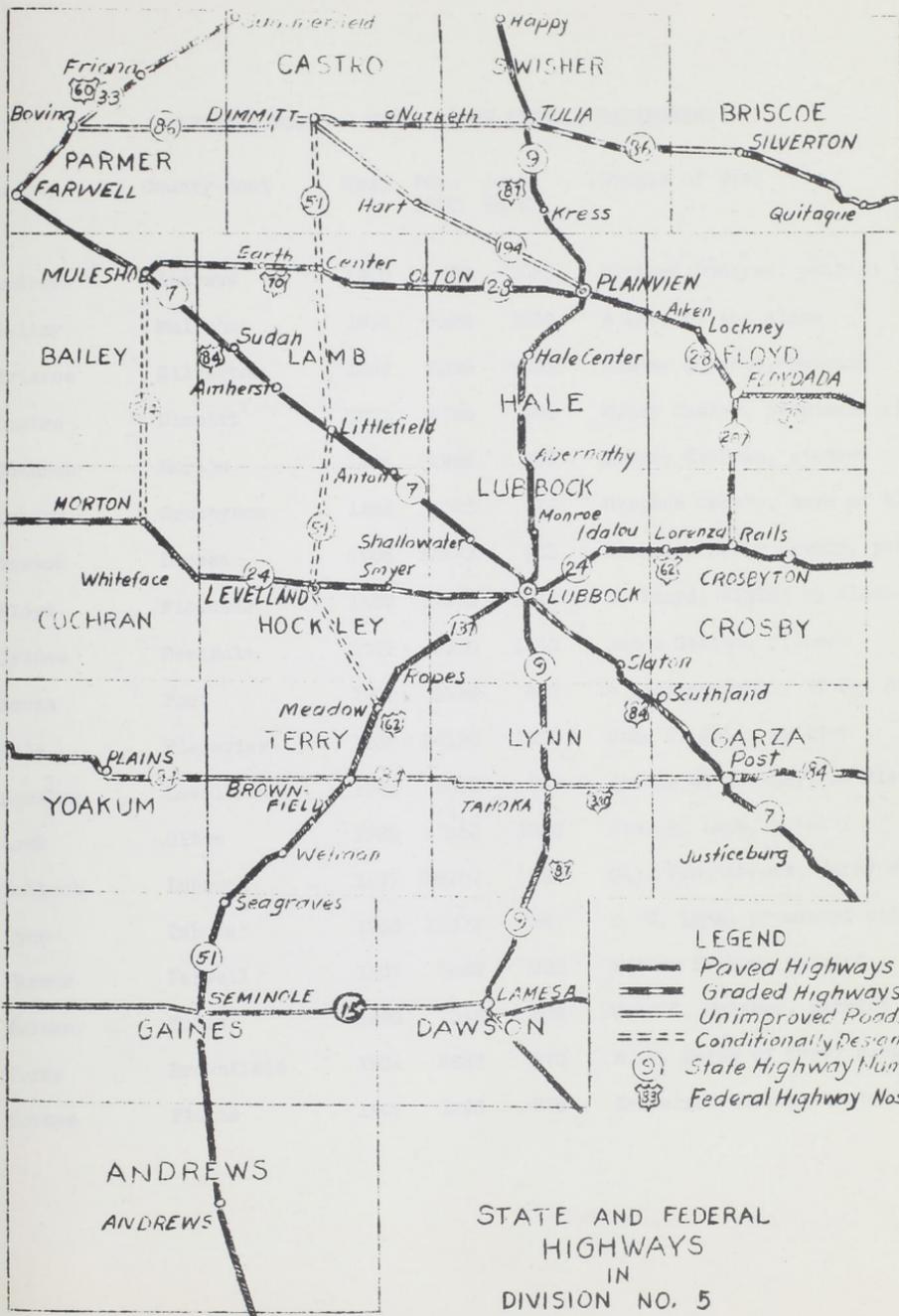
MAP OF TEXAS SHOWING LOCATION OF DIVISION NO. 5 AND HIGHWAY CONNECTIONS WITH OTHER STATES

WHERE LONG AGO THE INDIANS ROAMED  
AND CHASED THE BUFFALO,  
WHITE MEN NOW HAVE BUILT THEIR HOMES  
AND PLOW AND PLANT AND REAP AND SOW.

WHERE ONCE THEY RODE THE TRACKLESS PLAIN  
ASTRIDE THE SPANISH STEED,  
WE HAVE THE GREAT HIGHWAYS  
AND IN PURRING MOTORS SPEED.

----L. GOUGH

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DIVISION NO. 5 - TEXAS STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

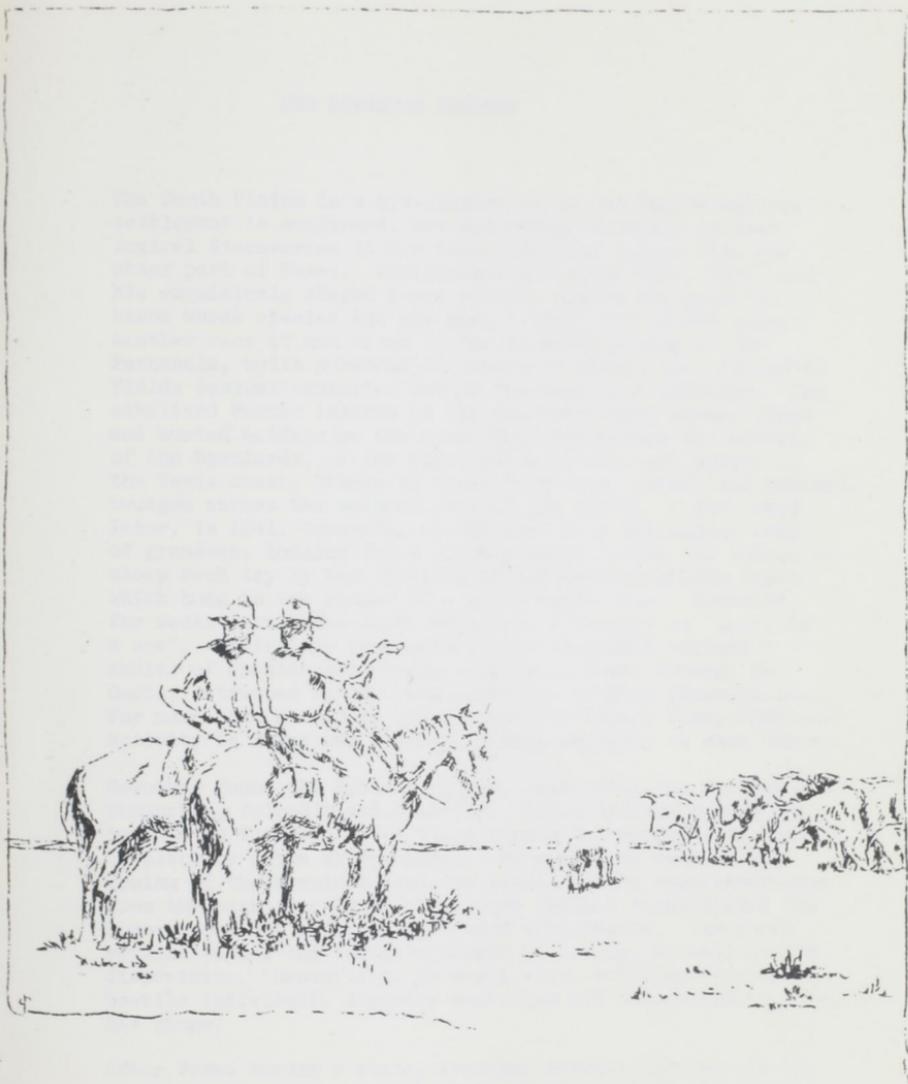
County	County Seat	Org.	Pop. 1930	Area Sq Mi	Origin of Name
Andrews	Andrews	1910	736	1565	Richard Andrews, patriot
Bailey	Muleshoe	1919	5186	1030	A hero of the Alamo
Briscoe	Silverton	1892	5590	903	Andrew Briscoe, patriot
Castro	Dimmitt	1891	4720	896	Henry Castro, prominent citizen
Cochran	Morton	1924	1963	869	Robert Cochran, pioneer
Crosby	Crosbyton	1886	11023	870	Stephen Crosby, hero of Alamo
Dawson	Lamesa	1905	13573	903	Nicholas Mosby Dawson, patriot
Floyd	Floydada	1890	12409	1011	D. Floyd, killed at Alamo
Gaines	Seminole	1905	2800	1540	James Gaines, pioneer
Garza	Post	1876	5586	870	a pioneer family of San Antonio
Hale	Plainview	1888	20189	1036	John C. Hale, patriot
Hockley	Levelland	1921	9298	867	George W. Hockley, soldier
Lamb	Olton	1908	17452	1022	Geo. A. Lamb, patriot
Lubbock	Lubbock	1891	39104	868	Col. T.S.Lubbock, Terry Ranger
Lynn	Tahoka	1903	12372	864	G. W. Lynn, prominent citizen
Parmer	Farwell	1907	5869	902	Martin Parmer, patriot
Swisher	Tulia	1890	7343	898	John G. Swisher, patriot
Terry	Brownfield	1904	8883	870	B. F. Terry of Terry Rangers
Yoakum	Plains	1909	1263	879	Henderson Yoakum, historian

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Knights of the Leather

## OUR ROMANTIC HISTORY

The South Plains is a new country so far as Anglo-American settlement is concerned, but according to recent archaeological discoveries it has been inhabited longer than any other part of Texas. Pleistocene Man lived here, fashioned his exquisitely shaped arrow points, hunted the gigantic bison whose species has now been extinct for 10,000 years. Another race of men lived in the Canadian valley of the Panhandle, built substantial houses of stone, and cultivated fields several centuries before the coming of Columbus. The civilized Pueblo Indians of the Southwest made summer camps and hunted buffalo on the Llano Estacado before the advent of the Spaniards. A few years after he was cast ashore on the Texas coast, Cabeza de Vaca, foot-sore, naked, and bronzed, trudged across the western part of the state. A few years later, in 1541, Coronado, at the head of a bedraggled army of grantees, looking for a country whose "ruler was lulled to sleep each day by the tinkling of innumerable golden bells which hung in the boughs of a giant apple tree," traveled for weeks across the Llano Estacado, a country as "level as a sea". During the remainder of the sixteenth century a series of Spanish explorers, ---Espejo, Sosa, Humana, and Onate, --tramped across long stretches of West Texas plains. For more than a century after Cabeza de Vaca's time, Spanish activity in Texas was confined almost entirely to West Texas.

Coronado found the Plains Indians, especially the Apaches and Comanches, friendly and peaceful. These Indians hunted the buffalo on foot and moved their scanty belongings from place to place by means of dog sleds. At some time between the coming of the Spaniards and the advent of the Anglo-Americans from the east into Texas the Plains Indians domesticated the horse which had migrated northward from Mexico. The horse revolutionized the Indian's manner of living, as well as his disposition. Henceforth, he was a wiry, stealthy, dreaded, hostile individual, doggedly resisting all encroachments into his range.

After Texas became a state, frontier defense against the Indians was the most vital domestic problem before the people. From 1848 to 1874, the frontier posts, for the most part, were inadequately manned. Throughout the period Indians frequently raided with impunity in spite of the presence of the Federal troops. State troops were called out time and

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again to assist in stopping depredations. Until 1874 the policy of the United States government towards the Indians seemed to be a negative one. The idea was to let the Indians run at large and simply prevent them from breaking into the settlements. In the summer of 1874 the Federal government changed its policy because of the aggressiveness of the Comanches and Kiowas. In a vigorous campaign in the fall of 1874 and the winter of 1874-75, the Plains tribes were conquered and sent to reservations in the Indian Territory.

The removal of the Indian menace eliminated the most serious obstacle to the settlement of West Texas. A lesser obstacle remained, --the buffalo. In 1871 some white man discovered that a buffalo's hide was worth three dollars and more. The news spread east and hunters poured into the buffalo country. By rail, wagon, horseback, and afoot they came, and the slaughter was on. Big 50's boomed, butcher knives were whetted, dullèd, and whetted again, the Plains stank, buzzards circled and grew fat, and freight wagons groaned under the stacks of dried hides. By 1878 the buffalo was gone, and the prairies were white with his bleaching bones. But not for long. The bone-hauler arrived, the bone business flourished, and then ended as abruptly as did the slaughter.

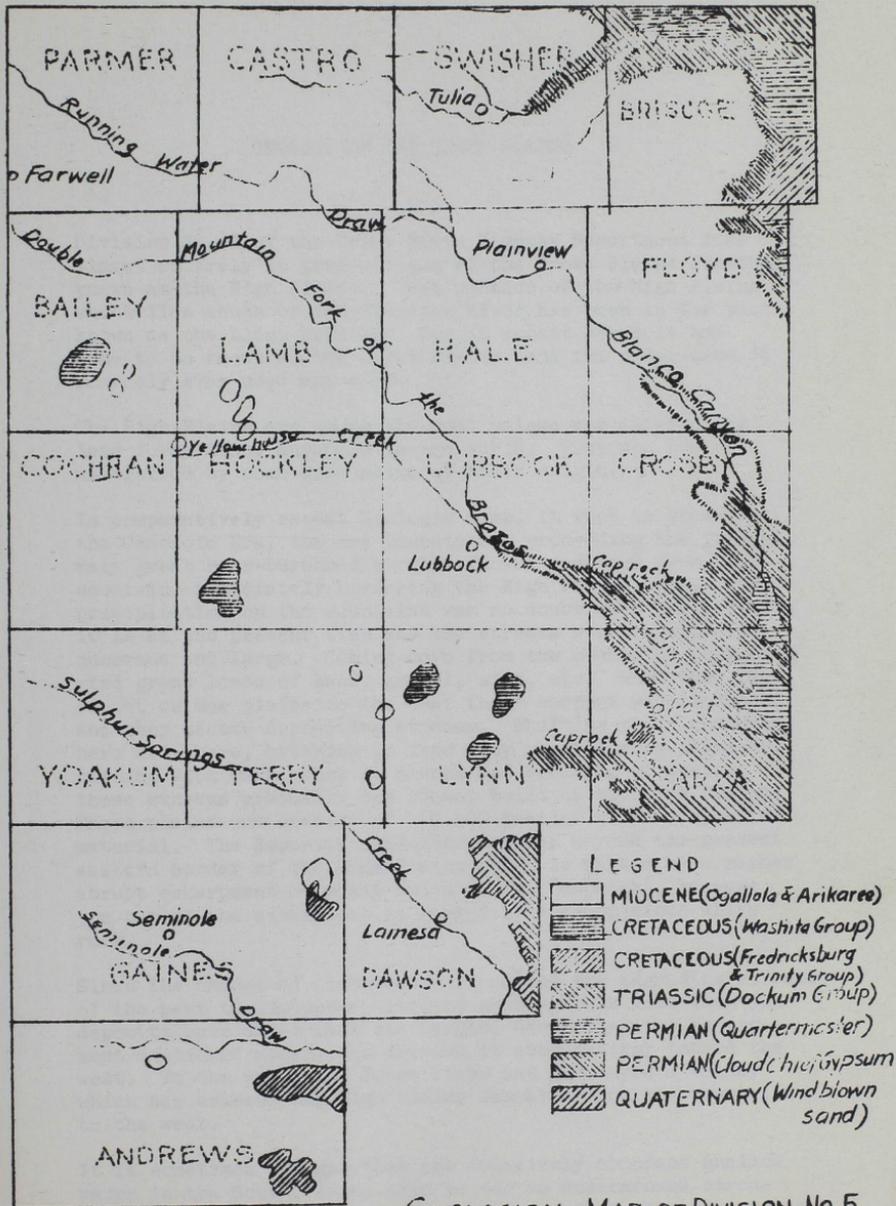
With the buffalo and the Indian removed from the Plains, way was made for the cattleman and his "knights of the leather". There were free ranges, drives up the trail to the railroad points in Kansas and to the Northwestern grazing regions, stampedes, drouths, floods, blizzards, die-ups, predatory animals, pests, profits, panics, losses, barb-wire, inclosed ranches, windmills, tanks, wire cutting wars, rustlers, controversies with sheepmen, and finally the nester. As things came to pass, the cattleman retired, stubbornly, to the by-places which were to arid, too rocky, too infertile, too rough, or too mountainous for agriculture.

The nester came, homesteaded on school lands, starved out, went back, came again and decided that what the country needed was railroads. Fifty, seventy-five or a hundred miles from a gin or a shipping point, he came to believe that his economic salvation rested in the building of railroads. His feverish desire for them became a graze. To stimulate their building he was willing to mortgage everything but his soul, and perhaps even that if he could have found an appraiser. When the railroads came he built towns, organized counties,

laid out a system of public roads, built schools, raised the price of his farm lands, and, later, sent his children to college. Before commercialized amusements, he provided his own. He danced, ran horseraces, drank strong liquor, played cards, went to camp meetings, got religion, became a prohibitionist, played "snap", frowned on dancing and horse racing, went to singing conventions and was happy. Then came the automobile, improved roads, and moving pictures with a corresponding change in the social standards and conventions. A short half-century saw the red man give way to the white, a wild prairie to a country of farms, schools, and towns, and Indian trails to railroads and paved highways.

Dr. W. C. Holden  
Texas Technological College

Camesa High School 11/2/21



GEOLOGICAL MAP OF DIVISION No.5

AS SHOWN BY U.S.G.S.

## GEOLOGY OF THE SOUTH PLAINS

Division No. 5 of the Texas State Highway Department lies almost entirely in that section of the Great Plains Province known as the High Plains. That portion of the High Plains which lies south of the Canadian River has been in the past known as the Llano Estacado, but in recent years it has come to be known as the South Plains, and the older name is scarcely ever used any more.

The High Plains are among the most unique and interesting land forms found anywhere in the world. They can best be understood by some discussion of their origin.

In comparatively recent Geologic time, in what is known as the Cenozoic Era, the era immediately preceding the present, many great over-burdened streams flowed eastward from the mountains immediately bordering the High Plains area. The precipitation on the mountains was no doubt much greater than it is at the present time and the streams were relatively numerous and large. Coming down from the mountains they carried great loads of sand, gravel, silt, etc. When they flowed out on the plains to the east their current was slackened and they became depositing streams. Shifting their channels here and there, breaking up into many anastomosing channels, uniting with each other at places and breaking up again, these streams gradually and slowly built up the High Plains. These plains now consist of 150-500 feet of stream-deposited material. The deposits extended once far beyond the present eastern border of the High Plains which is marked by a rather abrupt escarpment commonly known as the "caprock", because the top of the escarpment is marked by a conspicuous white rock.

Since the change of climate, which caused the aggrading streams of the past to disappear, streams heading back west into the deposits have eaten back its margin, developing the escarpment mentioned above, and driving it ever farther toward the west. To the west, the Pecos River has developed a valley which has severed the High Plains deposits from the mountains to the west.

It is sometimes thought that the relatively abundant shallow water in the South Plains area is due to underground circulation from the mountains of New Mexico. That this is incorrect

can readily be seen by considering the relation of the Pecos Valley to these deposits. This valley cuts entirely through the deposits in which the underground water is found so that none of this water could be derived from rainfall of the mountains. There is, however, a good but not an inexhaustible supply of ground water which is derived from the rainfall. A relatively large proportion of the rainfall goes into the ground as underground water because of the extreme flatness of the surface, the many undrained depressions commonly known as "lakes", and the nature of the underground material, which is in general extremely porous and permits the absorption of a large proportion of the water which falls on the surface.

One of the most interesting and unique features of the region is the many undrained depressions known as lakes. The majority of these lakes are circular or elliptical depressions having a depth of 10 to 15 feet below the surface of the surrounding country and having diameters ranging from a few hundred feet to half a mile or more. During the rainy season they are filled with water and add much to the beauty of the landscape. There are probably a number of causes for their origin. Original irregularities of deposition may account in part for some of them. Solution of underground material, especially that immediately underlying the surface may have been one of the causes. Differential compaction of the materials which make up the plains may have been a contributing factor as well as solution of deeper underlying strata such as the gypsum of the Permian beds may also have played a part in the origin.

Another unique feature of this region is the so-called "caliche" or cap rock. This is typically a white, impure, limestone generally rather soft and chalky, but in some places siliceous and quite hard. This rock is a secondary deposit being the result of deposition from ground water drawn to the surface by capillary action, deposition resulting from evaporation a short distance below the surface.

These plains were in prehistoric time the home of many forms of life now extinct or not now found in this part of the world. Here once roamed immense herds of elephants and mastodons, the many fossil remains of these being found everywhere. Many species of rhinoceros once made this region their home. Here once roamed camels of now extinct species. Giant wolves of a kind long since extinct hunted over this area. Here too once lived different genera and species of horses now extinct, including many of the small three-toed horses and others. It is perhaps not saying too much to state that it is doubtful if any other region of the world has a more romantic story to tell of the life of the past than does the South Plains region.

--Dr. Leroy T. Patton  
Texas Technological College

## LLANO ESTACADO

### ORIGIN OF THE WORDS "STAKED PLAINS"

The most widely prevalent error in the public mind is the one that the Llano Estacado, or "Staked Plains" received the last mentioned name because some alleged travelers across it, in order not to lose their way, placed stakes of wood at intervals along the route. Equally erroneous is another invented explanation that the tall stalks of the yuccas along the Western border resembled artificial stakes stuck in the ground. Both of these imaginary explanations were founded upon the theory, that no paths or roads were known across the country.

The Llano Estacado was a part of the New Mexico Province in Spanish Colonial days and not of the Texas Province as it then existed. Spanish citizens of New Mexico crossed its entire width many times in the eighteenth century.

The Llano Estacado and its continuations, the Edwards and the Stockton plateaus and the so-called Hill country, is a part of the High Plains of Texas. It is the western and higher border of the Great Eastward Coastal Slope from the Cordilleras to the Gulf, and this combined area constitutes one fifth of that of the Texas region.

The Llano Estacado was once called the Plains of Cibola by Coronado. It is presumable and probable that the name Llano Estacado was the first applied to the west side by the Spanish-New Mexico officials and map makers.

"The Staked Plains" were never "staked" in the manner popularly supposed, but this idea was probably derived from the resemblance of the words "Staked" and "Estacado", and it was some good guesser, like many who have filled our popular history with all kinds of wild explanations, who called them the "Staked Plains" (as all may sometimes do for convenience) upon the fanciful allegation that early travelers set up stakes at intervals to guide them across the monotonous and uninhabited wastes. "No." It was never named "Staked" on the above account nor because of the occurrence of yucca stalks which resemble "stakes," as some surmise.

This idea of travelers getting lost on the plains dates back to Coronado, nearly 400 years ago (1540). Coronado was not lost but just panic-stricken before he started. Even at that time there was no danger of any man being lost who had a sense of direction and knew how to follow a streamway course. Two well-meaning Indians from the Quivera or Cibola countries east of the Plains, tried honestly to lead him to their straw hut towns on the Colorado and the Arkansas, which they thought were the cities that he was seeking. One of the Indians was garroted for his good intentions.

Of course Estacado may mean "staked" in a certain sense, but the particular kind of "staked" that it meant was the stakes of a "stockade," a structure in which the stakes, or poles, or trees were planted close together vertically in the ground, so that they stood compactly against one another, just as many dwellings and forts of pioneers were built; just as the houses of old Fort Griffin town in the flat were built, and just as the Mexicans still build houses along the desert railroads to-day.

Owing to the general custom in Texas of "staking" (picketing) horses to a stake and of sticking stakes in surveying, the word "stockade", or its translation, as almost generally used by French, English and Spanish pioneers in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, seems to have vanished from our Southern vocabulary.

But why call the Llano Estacado the Stockaded Plains? The answer would be simple to you if you first approached them from the northwest, or Pecos-Tucumcari country, as the early Spaniards did.

From this direction, the northwestern corner of the high plains looms up like the bastion of a huge fortification, which to the Spaniards undoubtedly resembled a stockade or estacado, and in my opinion it was most probably this resemblance that gave the Plains their Spanish name.

The Llano Estacado ends to the northwest, in Quay County, New Mexico, in a great escarpment like the corner of a square table, which rises above and overlooks deeper valleys in which flow the Canadian River on the north and the Pecos on the west. This corner, bastionlike escarpment consists of a steep cornice or cap rock, which resembles a high, wavy stockade or fortification, and which surmounts a long slope

leading down to wide red bed valleys. The escarpment is unclimbable and impassable for many miles east and south of the corner and resembles a great fortification. It is from this resemblance that, in my opinion, the word estacado or stockaded was applied. Remember, however, that this is theory on my part, inasmuch as I have had no opportunity of actual research upon the subject.

Confirmatory of this theory that the word, "Estacado" meant "Stockaded" instead of "Staked", I sought an authoritative definition and was fortunate enough to find in the department of Archives at the University of Texas a "Diccionario de la Lengua Castellana" printed by the Royal Spanish Academy in 1732 which contained what I was seeking. The translations were made by J. Haggard Villansena of the department.

The original definitions followed by the translation are as follows:

"ESTACADA. sf. Term. de Fortificacion. Es un paralelismo de estacas calvadas contra la tierra, que se suele poner sobre el parapeto de la estrada estrada encubierta, y se ponen regularmente hasta quince en doce pies de terreno, para que por entre ellas no pueda passar un humbre.

"Translation. STOCKADE, feminine substantive. A fort, It is a parallel construction of stakes stuck in the ground, which is often placed on the parapet of the covert-way; they are placed regularly--sometimes fifteen in a stretch of twelve feet--in order to prevent the passage of a man between them.

"ESTACADA. La Obra y repara henho con estacas clavadas en la tierra, o ya sea para encorrarse y pertrecharse con ellas; como sucedia en las guerras y milicia antigua, o para cerrar los huertos, detener la corriente de las agua, y otras obras en que con saginas, tierra y estacas se forman reparos y defenas convenientos.

"Translation. STOCKADE. The work and construction of stakes stuck in the ground, either to be used as inclosures for protection: as was often done in military warfare in ancient times, or to inclose orchards, to check currents of water, or other channels. Earth and stakes form convenient defense."

Dr. Robert T. Hill  
Dallas News

## AGRICULTURE ON THE SOUTH PLAINS

This area, popularly known at the present time in farming circles as the South Plains of Texas, is one of the last important crop production areas of the United States that was settled and farmed. Almost all of the region is high level upland, except for some rough and rolling country in the eastern part of Floyd, Briscoe, and Crosby counties. The land is generally level or nearly so, intersected with a few canyons and draws and is almost all level enough for cultivation. The soils in general are deep and fertile, although there are two areas of deep sand, these being in Lamb and Bailey counties and along the western edge of the State. One of the specific peculiarities of the region is the immense number of rather large surface lakes. In many places there is one lake on nearly every section of land.

A large proportion of the eastern counties in this district is in cultivation. The farms are large and well adapted to the use of the most modern machinery. Whereas only about one-fifth of the land in the State of Texas is in crops, Hale and Lubbock counties in this area have two-thirds or more of the land in crops. There are very few counties in Texas that have more of their land in cultivation. But in this same area there is one county, Andrews, which has only about two-thirds of one per cent in cultivation, the balance being in ranch land.

There are very great differences between farms and farming in this part of West Texas and those of other regions of Texas. One great difference is the comparatively small amount of money that has to be spent for feed. This is because the farmers here grow most of their own feed at home.

The State of Texas spends \$5,000,000.00 or more per annum for fertilizers, but the farmers in this division of the State spend almost nothing for fertilizers. Most of the farming in this division of the West is called dry farming, the methods of cultivation and tillage being planned to make the greatest possible use of the comparatively limited rainfall which averages approximately 20 inches per annum throughout the area with somewhat lighter precipitation to the West. Approximately three-fourths of the rainfall is received during the five months which constitute the grow-

ing season. In truth more rainfall is received during the actual growing season of the spring and summer here than in much of the part of the State where the total rainfall is twice as great. This tends to explain the high crop production on the plains.

The farms here are large and easily cultivated; the cotton farms average from 80 to 100 acres large than in Central Texas. In the Northeastern part of the district cotton and the grain sorghums give way to wheat. These wheat farms are coming to be about 500 to 640 acres in size in Swisher, Floyd, and Briscoe counties. General farming is also very common and in addition there are dairy farms, grain farms, and large and small cattle ranches.

The chief salable crop of the district throughout the southern and eastern parts is cotton. The census of 1930 shows the crop of Lamb as 50,495 bales, Lubbock as 44,691 bales, and Dawson as 33,978 bales. Usually Lamb and Lubbock counties rank high in cotton production among the counties of Texas and among the highest cotton production counties in the United States. In 1932 Lubbock County produced 94,921 bales of cotton, making it the second greatest cotton producing county in Texas and the fourth in the United States. Another west Texas county, Jones, was the highest producer in Texas in that year.

While cotton is the greatest money crop of this division, its successful production as a business proposition is dependent on the second most important crop in this region, which is sorghum. There are several kinds of sorghums. They are grown extensively in every county; furnishing rough feed, grain, hay, and pasture, thus making it possible for all other farm operations to go forward. Lamb and Farmer counties ordinarily plant 100,000 acres each in the grain sorghum crops. There is also a large acreage of sorghum grown for silage, hay, and fodder. Hale, Lubbock, and Crosby counties each plant from 60,000 to 75,000 acres or more for forage. The total of all these sorghum crops runs as high as 150,000 acres per county. The presence of this abundant amount of feed, which amounts usually to over two tons per acre, makes it possible for the farmer to finance his own production of money crops. This is well illustrated by the fact that besides the grain raised on the sorghum crops, there was in Lamb County, as shown in the 1930 census, four acres of sorghum crops for every cow, steer, calf, horse, and mule in the country. The grain sorghums also constitute a very valuable money crop and are the backbone of an extensive hog and cattle feeding industry.

The most highly specialized agricultural crop in this region is sudan grass seed. A very large proportion of all of the sudan grass seed produced in the world is produced in this district. Parmer County grows 8,000 acres of sudan per annum and Bailey, Lamb, and Castro also produce large amounts. This seed is exported all over the world. Much sudan is also grown throughout the area particularly for pasture.

One of the other crops grown is wheat. It constitutes the chief money crop of the northern part of the area. The wheat produced is the hard red winter; usually it is very high in protein and commands an excellent market.

An important method of marketing surplus sorghum grain is through the feeding of hogs for the Los Angeles, California, market. Eleven of the nineteen counties in the region have over 5,000 hogs each.

There are large numbers of good dairy cattle in the region and a special dairy show is held each spring in Plainview, but this part of Texas is still the home of the Hereford. This region has been one of the greatest cattle producing regions in the past. Under ordinary conditions, it probably supported in any year from one-fourth to one-half a million cattle. In recent years, since many of the big ranches have been cut up, there are still from 12,000 to 25,000 head of cattle in each county. Each year, hundreds of car loads of cattle and calves are shipped to the pastures and feed lots of the corn belt. On account of the availability of the sorghum grain a great deal of steer feeding has been carried on during the past few years. This year, from 35,000 to 40,000 head of steers will be fed, over half of these being in large feed lots operated by some five or six companies; the balance being fed out in smaller lots by farmers.

The poultry business in the Southwest is colossal. Chickens are produced on practically all farms. Some counties in this region total nearly 200,000 head of poultry per county. The handling of the produce constitutes a large industry and many of the great firms of the United States have produce houses in this territory.

In general the South and the Southwest is not outstanding in the dairy industry. It is significant that the Northwestern part of Texas produces about one-half or more of

all of the factory-made butter churned in the great State of Texas. The cities of Lubbock and Plainview are large centers for the production of butter, Lubbock alone churns annually over one-fourth of all the butter made in Texas. Approximately twenty-four creameries use cream produced in this district, eight of these are located some distance away, but seven are located in the district and nine are in nearby territory. Aside from the abundance of home grown feed and its influence on the dairy business, perhaps the cooler climate and the abundance of cold well water from the windmills are the factors that contribute to the high quality of the cream and butter produced. There are a total of 291 cream buying stations in this district, 33 of these are in Hale County. Seven counties have 20 or more each.

In point of cream sales, these counties outrank all others in Texas; Hale in 1930 being the county selling more cream than any other county in the State as reported by the census.

This part of Texas is overlaid with an abundant supply of water and each farm secures a supply for domestic and livestock use by means of the ever present windmill and pump. This equipment is efficient because there is scarcely a day without some wind.

Although the region is one of dry farming, there is a certain amount of irrigation practiced. Two of the 19 counties in this district contain more than 100 irrigation wells each, these being Hale and Floyd. Sixty irrigation wells are to be found in one small corner of Bailey County near Muleshoe. There is a total of 372 irrigation wells in the 19 counties. All kinds of power is used; some of the large wells produce over 1,000 gallons of water per minute. Those wells are found through the territory stretching from above Tulia to Lubbock and from Muleshoe to Lockney. They extend seventy-five miles each way north and south and east and west. Cotton and alfalfa are the most important crops irrigated but some truck crops, particularly potatoes, onions, tomatoes, and a number of minor crops are irrigated. A great deal of the irrigation, as practiced, is known as supplemental irrigation, particular attention being paid to putting water on the ground in the late winter in which type general farm crops are frequently grown.

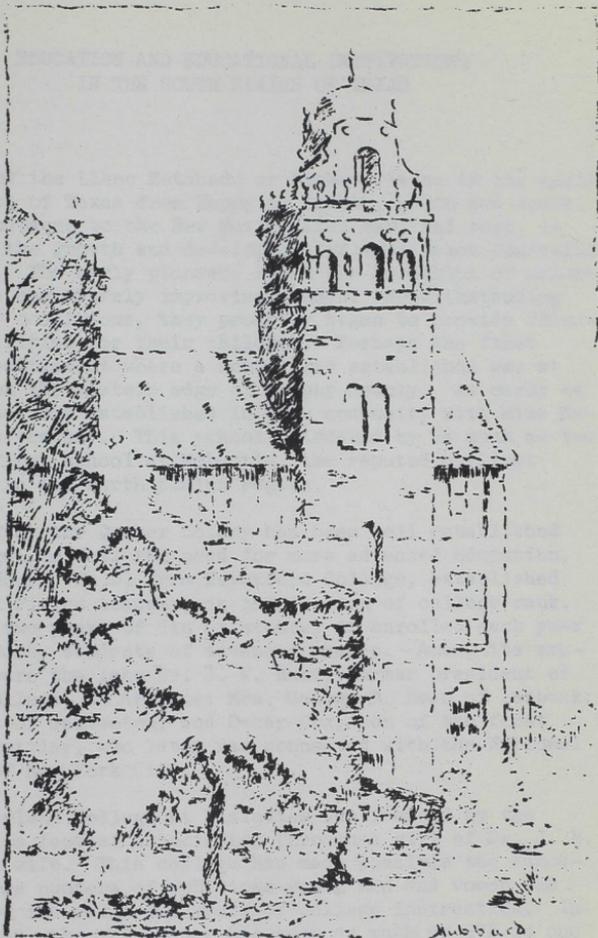
The large farms and the level land make this a region of large agricultural implements. The census of 1930 reports 5,500 tractors, 50,000 mules, and 72,000 horses in the district. In the cotton producing region in the southern part, there are

more horses and mules and fewer tractors, whereas in the northeastern part where there is less cotton and more wheat, there is a tendency to place less dependence on draft animals and more dependence on tractors.

Agriculture in the division is well served. Every county has a county agricultural agent. There are 27 high schools teaching Vocational Agriculture and more are being called for. Texas Technological College at Lubbock has a complete Agricultural Division in its organization and outranks many of the Agricultural Colleges of the nation.

A. H. Leidigh  
Texas Technological College

Lamesa High School Library



Tech Tower

Camea High School Library

EDUCATION AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS  
IN THE SOUTH PLAINS OF TEXAS

That part of the Llano Estacado or Staked Plains in the north-western part of Texas from Happy to Lamesa, north and south, and from Quitaque to the New Mexico line east and west, is typical of the growth and development of West Texas education in general. The early pioneers faced the hardships of nature in dug-outs and crudely improvised homes. Notwithstanding these early conditions, they promptly began to provide educational facilities for their children. Perhaps the first permanent settlement where a school was established was at Estacado, on the western edge of Crosby County. As early as 1880 a school was established in this community with Miss Emma Anson as teacher. This school antedated by as much as two years the first school at Mobeotie, the reputed earliest settlement in the north plains region.

In 1890, after the Quaker colony had been well established and had begun to feel the need for more advanced education, Dr. J. H. Moore, Ph.D. from Haverford College, established the Central Plains Academy, an institution of college rank. During the two years of its existence, it enrolled each year thirty to forty students of advanced grades. Among its student-body were the late Dr. J. W. Hunt, former president of McMurray College, at Abilene; Mrs. George R. Bean of Lubbock; Waldo Lewis of Galveston; and Oscar Cox, son of the first permanent settler, who later was connected with the National City Bank of New York City.

In 1908, Wayland College at Plainview was founded by the Staked Plains Baptist Association through a gift of Dr. J. H. Wayland and wife. This college has made possible the education of large numbers of ambitious young men and women who secured from its walls two years of college instruction. In its peak days, the attendance has been as much as 275 in one year. The college has a campus of 30 acres. The administration building is a four story building costing approximately \$150,000. There is also a girls' dormitory and a gymnasium on the campus as well as a library of approximately 4,000 volumes. It is in a thriving condition at the present time and offers two years of standard junior college work.

In 1910, Seth Ward College was established in Plainview. The buildings and grounds were taken over from the Nazarene Church,

which had established Central Plains College, and placed under the control of the Northwest Texas Methodist Conference. It immediately increased its enrollment and during the six or seven years of its existence, afforded acceptable college opportunities for large numbers of young men and women in this portion of the State. After a fire which practically destroyed all the buildings on the campus, it was discontinued.

In 1924, the Texas Technological College was located at Lubbock. A Legislature some years before had authorized a West Texas Agriculture College which was located at Abilene but was subsequently abolished before the construction of buildings was begun. The name was changed to Texas Technological College and the aims and purposes were enlarged. Stated in the language of the act creating the college, it "should be a coeducational college of the first-class, giving thorough instruction in technology, manufacturing, engineering branches- agriculture, home economics and also complete courses in 'arts and sciences, physical, social, political, pure and applied,' such as are taught in colleges of the first-class leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Literature, Bachelor of Technology, and other degrees given by colleges of the first-class." During the first year of its existence, the enrollment reached 1,043, and 345 more were enrolled for the first summer session. During the long session of 1934-35, the enrollment reached 2,684 and 1,956 during the summer session. In addition to this there were enrolled during the year, 1,403 extension and correspondence students, making a grand total of 6,043 receiving instruction from the college during the year. At the present writing six foreign countries, thirty states, and the District of Columbia are now the homes of its 1938 graduates.

From the early days of the first settlers, elementary schools typical of a frontier country were provided for the education of the children. As the country grew and prospered, trading posts, villages and towns grew in population and public schools were established. During the past ten years, there has been a phenomenal growth both in the size and number of schools established in this section. In each county there is one or more first class accredited high schools. In a large number of these are to be found all the modern courses and student organizations as in other schools of the southwest. The typical high school of this region offers, in addition to the usual high school courses in English, mathematics, history, and science, suitable courses in home economics,

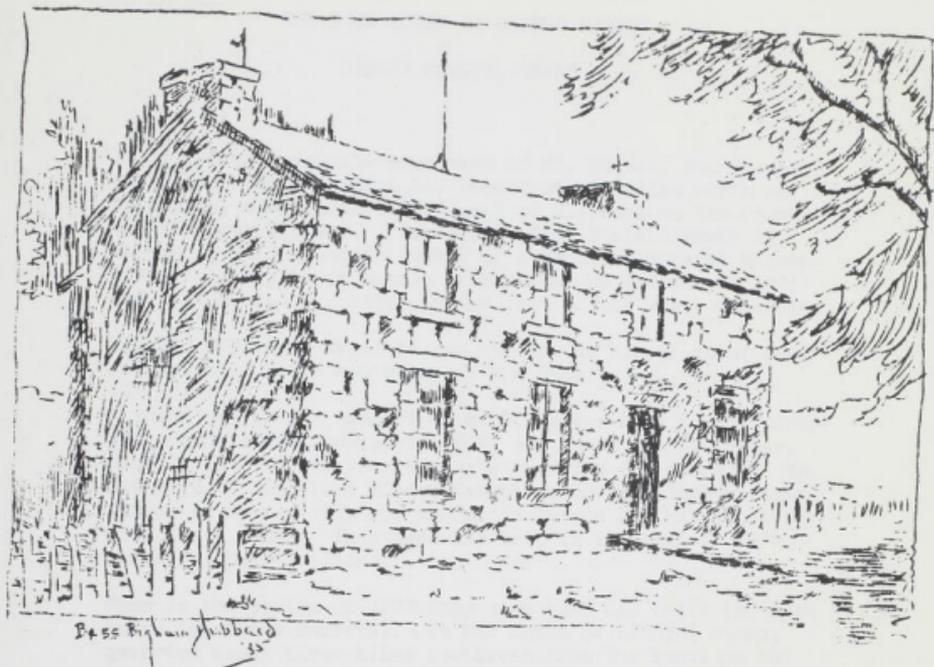
agriculture, commercial subjects, art, music and physical education. Particularly strong and modern are numerous departments in Vocational Agriculture and Vocational Home Economics offered in most of the high schools in this area.

During the past ten years, there has been a decided trend in school consolidation. Recent statistics show that in Lamb County there are 74 busses which transport a larger numbers of pupils attending consolidated schools than in any other county in the United States.

As is common in newly settled regions, the school organization, course of study, buildings and equipment are thoroughly modern. In Lubbock County, there is not a single wooden school building in the county schools; neither is there a single one-teacher school.

In some of the counties, such as Dawson and Dickens, well planned consolidated schools not only hold the students living in the country, but attract students from the surrounding villages and towns by the richness and variety of their curriculum offerings. Commodious brick or stone buildings furnish wholesome surroundings in the rural and town schools, while large, up-to-date elementary and high school buildings are to be found in the larger towns such as Seagraves, Lovelland, Sudan, Olton, Tulia, Post, Littlefield, Lamesa, Plainview and Lubbock. Taken as a whole, the schools of this region compare very favorably with like schools in any part of the country.

--Dr. A. W. Evans  
Texas Technological College



Hacienda Gloria 1877

## THE ROCK HOUSE ON BLANCO CANYON

### CROSBY COUNTY, TEXAS

It is located one mile northeast of Mt. Blanco, the mountain that this canyon derives its name from, 10 miles north of Crosbyton, and 18 miles southeast of Floydada on the Crosbyton-Floydada highway. (Accessible from State Highway 24.) It was at this mountain that a detachment of General Mackenzie's soldiers had a battle with Commanche Indians in 1874 and they buried a soldier at the foot of the white mountain.

The Old Mackenzie Trail passes out on the Plains about one and one-half miles southwest of the Rock House.

A young man by the name of Chas. P. Tasker came to Fort Griffin, Shackelford County, in 1876, and there met my father, Hank Smith. He was looking for a location for a ranch. My father told him about Blanco Canyon so he bargained with my father to make a trip out to Blanco Canyon and make a location for a ranch. They made the trip in the fall in 1876 and made their location.

Then in the spring of 1877 they came back and built the Rock House (Hacienda Gorieta). It was built of natural stone, quarried about three miles southwest from the house on the edge of the plains and hauled to the site and there dressed and the refuse burned into lime with which was made the mortar for laying the stones. The mortar to-day is practically as hard as rock.

The walls of the house are 22 inches thick. The outside dimensions of the house are as follows: 40 feet long, 19 feet wide and 18 feet high. There are two rooms downstairs and three rooms upstairs, four fire places, two upstairs and two downstairs in the west and east end of the house. The ledges over and under the windows and doors are sand rock hauled from the Silver Falls, 12 miles down the canyon.

These ledges are 4 feet long, 10 inches thick and 12 inches wide, well dressed. The lumber sills and joists are made of 2x10's. In the first flooring 6-inch material was used on 2x4 rafters, and 4-inch laths and shingles. All the lumber is full measurement and the nails used were square and made of iron.

The house sets to the southeast to give a better view of the canyon. The lumber was hauled from Fort Worth by Ox wagons and mules. They would haul buffalo hides down and haul lumber back.

Young Tasker was a spend-thrift and "blowed" all his money and part of my father's and left the country. My father came in possession of the Rock House in the winter of 1877 and moved my mother out of the fall of 1878 and she was appointed postmistress in 1879 and served here until 1916 when the office was discontinued.

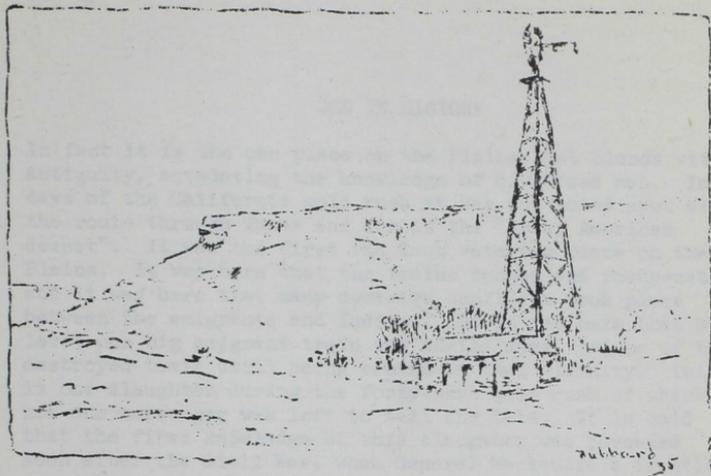
The first postoffice west of Fort Griffin was at the Rock House. The mail came from Ft. Griffin until the Texas and Pacific Railroad built into Colorado City in Mitchell County, then the mail came from there to Mt. Blanco, then on to Estacado, the Quaker Colony, established by Paris Cox, 20 miles west of the Rock House.

My father dug the first well and broke out the first farm at Estacado that was ever put on the Plains.

Southwest of the Rock House there is a white formation in the hills that contains several kinds of pre-historic animals, such as the mastadon, 3-toed horse, big turtles and several others.

The Hank Smith Memorial Park is near the Rock House where the West Texas Old Settlers Reunion is held each year in August where hundreds of pioneers gather to live again the building of the west.

-- R. B. Smith  
Crosbyton, Texas



#### THE STORY OF THE FAMOUS OLD YELLOW HOUSE RANCH

Go on the Indian reservation and ask the decrepit warrior what place he most distinctly and dearly remembers during the days of his wild, free nomadic life on the Plains, and he will say, in Spanish: "Casa Amarilla".

Ask the Mexican veteran, who carried on a clandestine commercial relationship with the Indians when the Staked Plains was the borderland between Santa Fe and the settlements in central and eastern Texas, what was the most noted spot and the principal rendezvous of the Indians in the days when he traded them guns and ammunition for hides, furs, and ponies, and he will say: "Las Casas Amarillas".

Ask the old buffalo hunter to name the greatest slaughtering locality, the most noted spot during that last tragic area in American gam-slaying history, he will say: "The Yellow Houses".

Ask the old cow-puncher to name the one ranch he thinks most entitled to fame and distinction, and nine times out of ten he will say: "The Yellow House Ranch".

## OLD IN HISTORY

In fact it is the one place on the Plains that blends with antiquity, antedating the knowledge of civilized man. In days of the California gold rush it was one noted spot along the route through Texas and across the "great American desert". It was the first and last watering place on the Plains. It was here that the trains camped and recuperated, and it was here that many decisive conflicts took place between the emigrants and Indians, and it was here that at least one big emigrant train was annihilated, relics of the destroyed train still being common in that vicinity. This is one slaughter during the forty-nine gold rush of which not one messenger was left to tell the tale. It is said that the first knowledge of this slaughter was revealed soon after the Civil War, when General Mackenzie's frontier command discovered the skeletons and relics. From this the conclusion has been drawn that it was the last emigrant outfit to cross the Plains during the gold-fever rush.

But the name, "Yellow Houses" is derived from a fact that antedates the knowledge of man, that furnishes material for the archaeologist. This one finds the monumental evidence of primitive man's abode. Here for a considerable distance a mountain is crowned with a high ledge of soft yellow stone, and in this stone ledge are numerous excavations, unmistakably once used as dwelling places--crude but substantial homes and fortresses combined.

The prehistoric man departed and left not a bone or relic of his existence save the deserted hole homes in the hillside. In the moon-lit valley beyond, the Indian danced the scalp dance and indulged in the wild orgies of victory and went his destined way. Then for a brief period the Federal soldiers flashed upon the scene and hurried along the grass trampled trail of the fleeing red man, and then for awhile all was silent, desolate, undisturbed save by the thunderous tread of drifting buffalo herds, the velvet step of the antelope and the howling of wolves at night. Then came the rugged hide hunters, who, without mercy, and dead to romance, stained the grass with gore, marked the prairie with carcasses, obliterated the Indian's greatest, most cherished and most sacred inheritance--the buffalo. The wolf reveled in the feast of food left rotting on the prairie; the antelope timidly watched and wondered from afar, and ignorantly,

innocently awaited a fate longer delayed but little less complete and merciless than that of his contemporary, the buffalo. Their work complete, the hunters went, leaving tons of bleaching bone as evidence of their destructive invasion, and once more the great, wild empire of territory was silent, desolate--more silent, more desolate than ever before.

And now in 1882 entered modern commercialism. The Texas Legislature traded a lot of unsuspecting gentlemen from Chicago three million acres of "otherwise unappropriated public domain" for a three million-dollar capitol, and there was great rejoicing throughout the state, not especially because Texas was to have a three-million dollar capitol, but because we had buncoed a lot of "Yanks" good and proper. The war was over, but sectional bitterness was still rampant. The moral of this story is that he who laughs last, laughs best. The three-million acres of land is now worth, at a conservative estimate, fifty million dollars, whereas the capitol building has never increased in value nor produced a dollar in revenue. After taking first choice of all public domain not otherwise appropriated, the Capitol Syndicate proceeded to put under fence the largest body of land that has ever been so enclosed in the history of the world. One hundred and fifty thousand head of cattle were placed in this pasture, and the Yellow House became the principal division headquarters of the biggest cattle ranch in the world. Building material was hauled from the nearest railroad point, a distance of two hundred miles, and to good homes, numerous barns and outhouses built. These buildings now nestle among big, beautiful trees, and at the foot of the mountain, just back of them stands the highest windmill tower in the world. In order to get the full propelling force of the wind, this tower stands above the top of the mountain, the total height of the tower and windmill being above one hundred and thirty feet, but the well from which this mill pumps water is only forty feet deep. A few years ago the Capitol Syndicate decided to go out of the land and cattle business, and placed their property on the market. The first purchaser of land in any considerable quantity was the late Major George W. Littlefield, of Austin, Texas. He was given first choice of three hundred thousand acres off the entire tract. He chose the Yellow House Division.

It was as manager of this ranch after its acquisition by Major Littlefield, that J. P. (Phelps) White made the reputation of being the greatest breeder, herd improver and ranch manager the West has ever known.

Destiny and circumstances have ever thus far crowned this locality with unusual enduring elements of fame.

And now, the Santa Fe Railroad, in the construction of its final link in its line from the Pacific Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico, penetrates the heart of this Yellow House country, and as a fitting monument to their distinguished careers Major Littlefield and Phelps White, through the medium first of Arthur P. Duggan, and lastly more largely through the Yellow House Land Company, have taken up the biggest and perhaps the most unique and meriterius agricultural development scheme and West has ever known.

A contrast. A story of evelution. Not so many years ago a goldfield-bound emigrant suffered and famished for drink, striving to reach his goal, the springs along the Yellow House Canyon, never dreaming that but a few feet below the surface he trod there was an ocean of the purest and best water. With a little digging the buffalo hunter could have provided himself with a well and an abundance of water in the heart of the range, but, through ignorance, he was forced to camp in the less desirable country along the Yellow House Canyon.

As is common with all noted frontier places, comedy, pathos, romance and mystery mingle with the history of this noted locality. Some distance from the headquarters are a number of graves, all of them showing to have been there for many years. No slab or tombstone inscription tells their story. One is left to observe and ponder. Maybe this one was killed by a falling horse or an infuriated animal. Maybe the decayed bones of Bill are there because Jim got his gun first. Maybe this one sickened and died, ministered to only by the rough hands and kind hearts of his cowboy companions. The graves give up no secrets, and the stories remain untold.

But in this vicinity are graves surrounded by greater mystery than those found in this little prairie cemetery. Some years ago a stranger appeared at the ranch and asked permission to dig for buried treasure. He was laughingly told to dig away, but cautioned to fill up the holes when he got through. The man did his digging and went his way. Sometime after his departure it was found that he had filled them with much apparent indifference, and at everyone of the holes were found human bones. At every place he had dug into a human

grave. All of his work had been done with precision, nothing at random. It was a much-talked-of-mystery for awhile, but that was all that ever came of it. During the discussion a good many people remembered how divers men with considerable money about their persons had mysteriously disappeared years ago, having been last heard of in this vicinity. But no one could remember the names of the lost people, nor the locality from whence they came, which made detective work ineffectual and left a large missing link in the weird history.

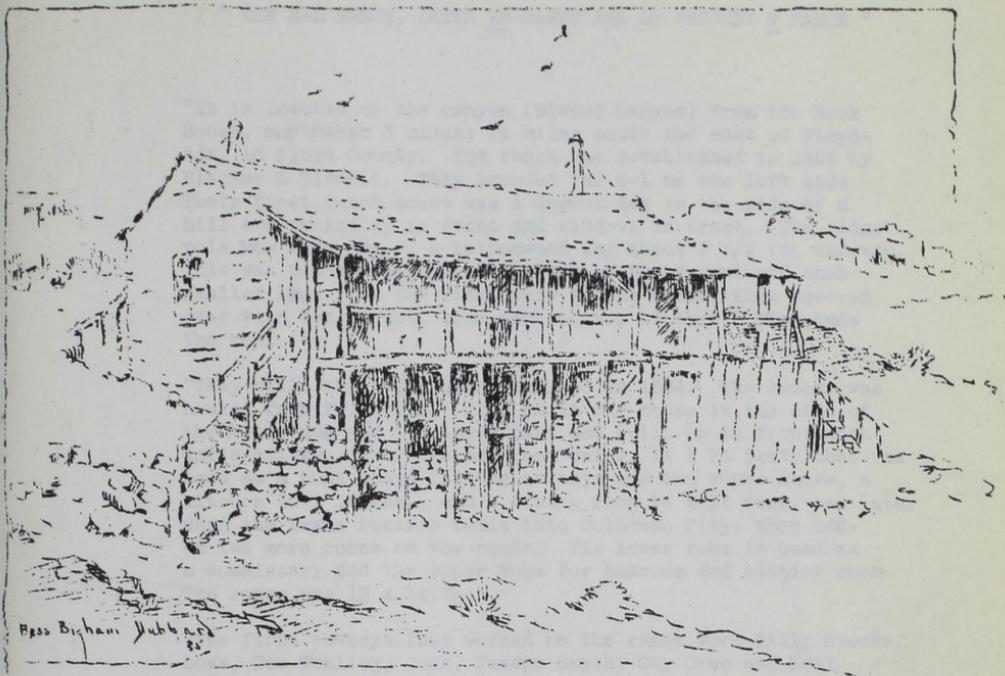
Like the prehistoric cave dweller, the Indian and the buffalo hunter, the big cattleman had his day and is rapidly passing on. A few intrepid "nesters" came and tried farming. With poor equipment in the way of teams and tools they met with indifferent success, but blazed the way for the real farmer, "the man with the hoe".

The big ranch, originally surveyed by the old Spanish system into Leagues, has been subdivided into Labors--tracts of 177.1 acres each. There are about 1500 of these tracts suitable for farm homes, and they are rapidly being purchased by wide awake, progressive farmers, and converted into prosperous cotton and stock farms.

The old Yellow House headquarters was destroyed by fire a few years ago, and in its place is a modern home. The famous windmill is no more. It was blown down during a windstorm in 1926.

--Amarillo News, September 21, 1925  
--Lamb County News, April 11, 1935

Camesa High School Library



Headquarters of the  
I Ranch.

" THE H-L RANCH, LATER TM RANCH AND AT PRESENT T RANCH "

"It is located up the canyon (Blanco Canyon) from the Rock House, northwest 3 miles; 14 miles south and east of Floydada, in Floyd County. The ranch was established in 1882 by Blacker & Tisdell. They branded the H-L on the left side. Their first ranch house was a dugout dug in the side of a hill and rocked up in front and windows in front. The ridge pole was made out of a cottonwood log about 2 1/2 ft. through. This was placed through the center of the dugout and then smaller logs from the ridge pole to the banks, then covered over with bear grass, then dirt on top of that. That made the roof.

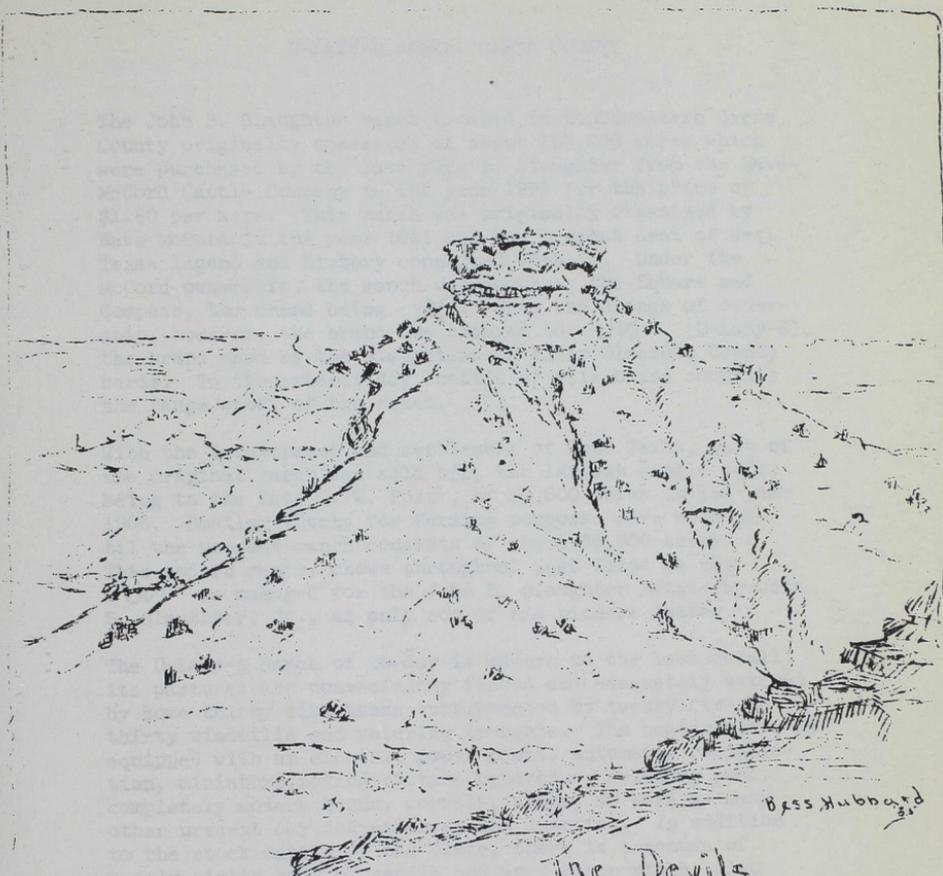
"They built the ranch house in 1883 or 1884. The lumber was hauled from Ft. Worth. They built the house in the side of the hill, dug out the lower part and built up in front with dobie bricks. There is one room below, 14 x 24 feet, that was used as a bunk house for the cowboys and two rooms above, a kitchen 10 x 14 feet, and a dining room 14 x 14 feet, and later when the Texas Pacific built into Colorado City, they added two more rooms on the south. The lower room is used as a commissary and the upper room for bedroom and sitting room. The rooms are 12 x 14 feet.

"The first cowboys that worked on the ranch were Billy Sweeks, boss, Tom Tealing, cook, Passon Smyth, Guy Orme and Keal Overhulls, cowboys. John Brady was outside man for the F F outfit and made the H-L Ranch his headquarters.

"In 1891 Blacker sold his interest in the ranch to Thomas Montgomery and the ranch was run under the TM brand until Tisdell died in about 1905. Then Montgomery bought out his widow's interest and has been running the ranch in the T brand ever since.

"Thomas Montgomery is in his 89th year. He is an old Confederate soldier and is still pretty active in his ranch business. He is at present making his home in the old ranch house."

-- R. B. Smith



Bess Hubbard

The Devils  
Breakfast  
Table

## U-LAZY-S RANCH, GARZA COUNTY

The John B. Slaughter ranch located in Southwestern Garza County originally consisted of about 150,000 acres which were purchased by the late John B. Slaughter from the Nave-McCord Cattle Company in the year 1901 for the price of \$1.60 per acre. This ranch was originally organized by Nave McCord in the year 1881 and has a great deal of West Texas legend and history connected with it. Under the McCord ownership, the ranch was known as the Square and Compass, the brand being ~~XX~~. Upon the change of ownership, however, the brand was changed to US (U-Lazy-S), the brand used by the Slaughters on their Glascock County herds. To the present day, cattle of this brand comprise the range stock of the ranch.

With the development and settlement of West Texas, part of the original ranch was sold off, the largest single sale, being to the late C. W. Post, of 50,000 acres in the year 1906. Smaller tracts for farming purposes were sold until the present ranch consists of about 80,000 acres. This modern ranch, known throughout West Texas as the US is managed for the John B. Slaughter Estate by John B. Slaughter, Jr., an only son of his pioneer father.

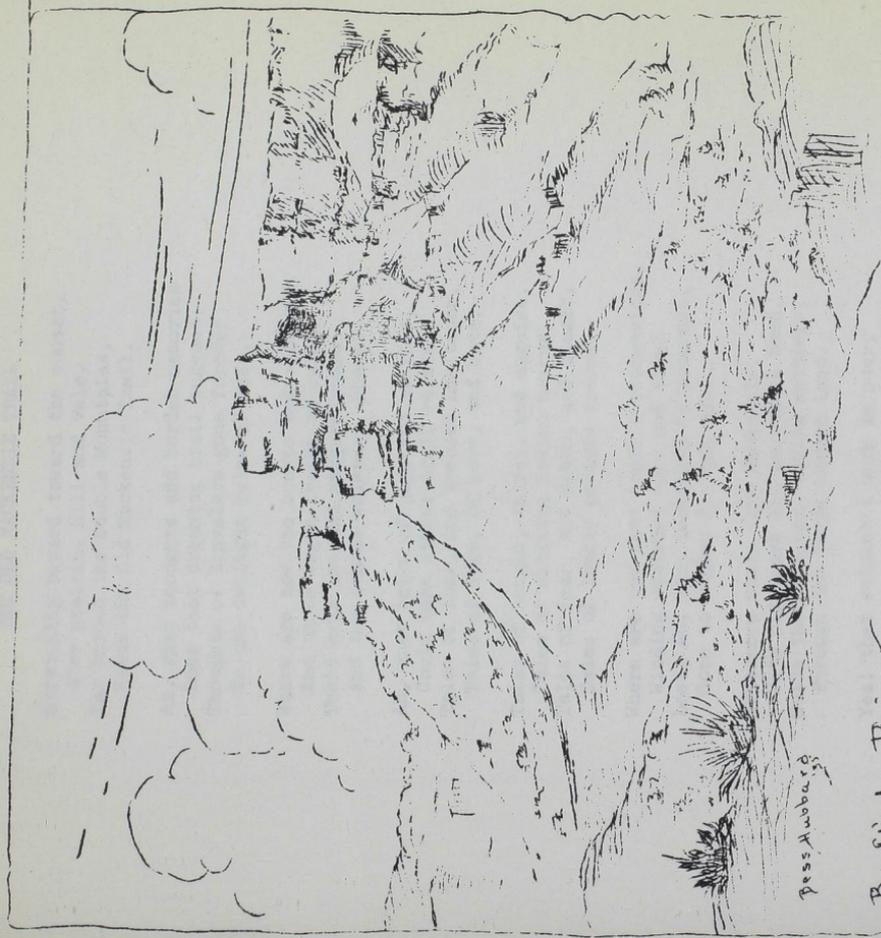
The U-Lazy-S Ranch of to-day is modern to the last detail; its pastures are conveniently fenced and adequately watered by some thirty dirt tanks supplemented by twenty-five to thirty windmills and watering troughs. The headquarters is equipped with an electric power plant, automatic refrigeration, miniature moving picture apparatus, swimming pool, completely modern barns, corrals, shops, as well as many other present day conveniences and luxuries. In addition to the stock cattle of the place, there is a remuda of nearly eighty head of saddle and work horse stock, also there is a sizeable herd of Cattalo, an animal which is a cross between the buffalo and cattle, and a considerable number of deer. The headquarters improvements are picturesquely situated about three-fourths mile southeast of the old Square and Compass headquarters which was an early day landmark in this country.

Points of natural interest on the ranch are many. The most outstanding are, however, the Devils Breakfast Table, an erosion remnant resembling a huge table, and

named from the fact that a herd of Buffalo were killed here when they were driven off the Cap Rock by a band of pioneer hunters.

A visitor at this ranch may obtain a vivid insight to the methods of West Texas ranching as it was carried on in the 80's or 90's, and at the same time see the most modern of ranch improvements in use.





Bess Hubbard

Buffalo Point.

## THE OLD MACKENZIE TRAIL

Stretching onward toward the sunset,  
O'er prairie, hill and vale,  
Far beyond the Double Mountains,  
Winds the Old Mackenzie Trail.

Ah, what thoughts and border memories  
Does that dreaming trail suggest;  
Thoughts of travelers gone forever  
To the twilight relms of rest.

Where are now the scouts and soldiers,  
And those wagon-trains of care,  
Those grim men and haggard women,  
And the echoes whisper, -Where?

Ah, what tales of joys and sorrows,  
Could that silent trail relate;  
Tales of loss, and wrecked ambitions,  
Tales of Hope, of love, and hate;

Tales of hunger, thirst, and anguish,  
Tales of skulking Indian braves,  
Tales of fear, and death, and danger,  
Tales of lonely prairie graves.

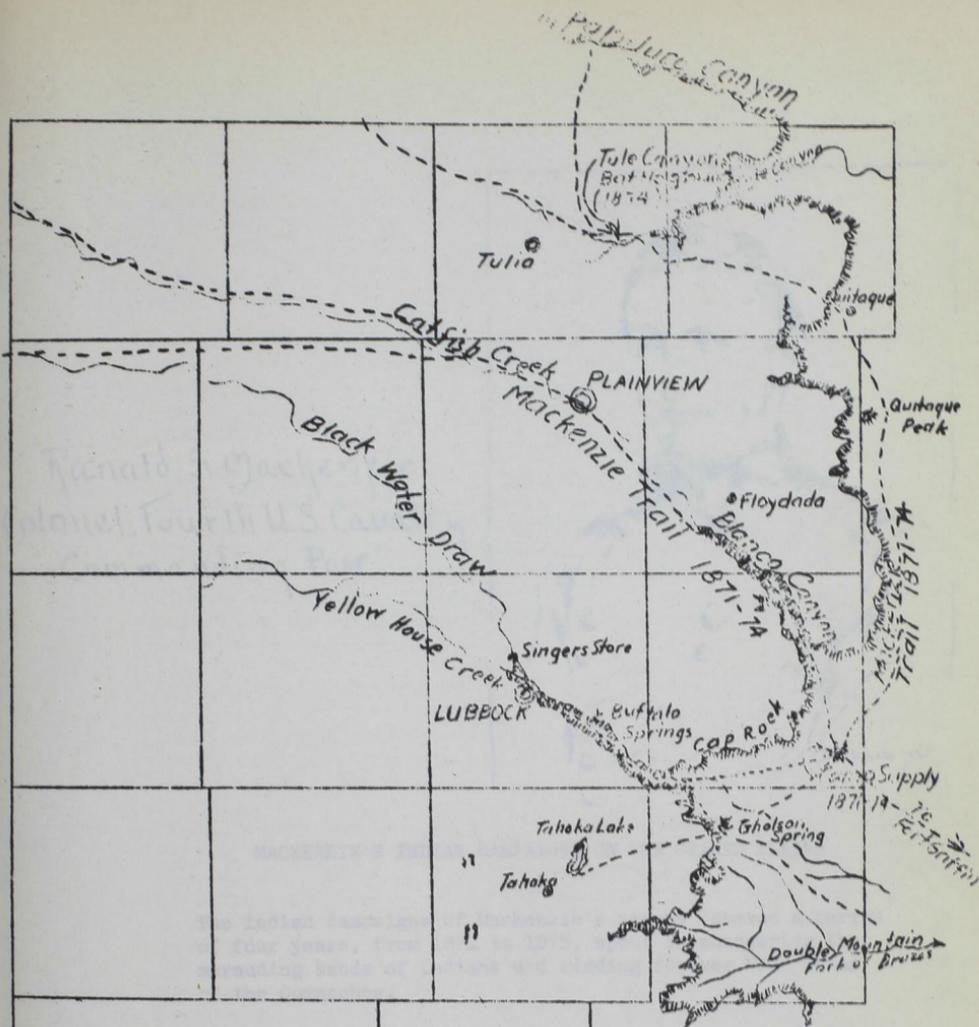
Where are now that trail's processions,  
Winding westward sure and slow?  
Lost! Ah, yes; destroyed by progress,  
Gone to realms of long ago.

Nevermore shall bold Mackenzie,  
With his brave and dauntless band,  
Guide the restless, roving settlers,  
Through the Texas border land.

Yes! that soldier's work is over,  
And the dim trail rests at last;  
But his name and trail still lead us  
Through the borders of the past.

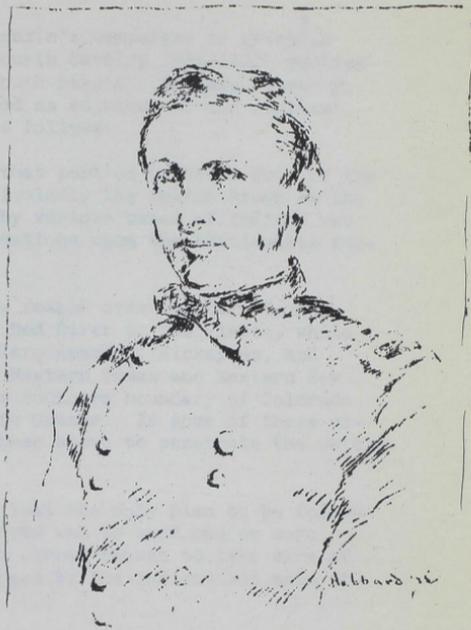
---William Lawrence Chittenden





✳ Mackenzie Trail

Ranald S. Mackenzie  
Colonel, Fourth U. S. Cavalry  
Commanding Post



#### MACKENZIE'S INDIAN CAMPAIGNS ON THE STAKED PLAINS

The Indian campaigns of Mackenzie's troops covered a period of four years, from 1871 to 1875, spent in conquering the marauding bands of Indians and ridding forever West Texas of the Comanches.

General Ranold S. Mackenzie was placed in command of the First Regiment of the Fourth U. S. Cavalry in 1870. He had graduated from West Point, and his record in the Civil War service had demonstrated his capacity for command, quick decision and action seasoned with good judgment and common sense. This distinguished young officer was brought to the attention of General Grant through whose influence General Mackenzie received the appointment.

During the two years prior to that time, the regiment had been engaged principally in an effort to keep peace and to prevent depredations and killings by both Indians and outlaws.

An authentic account of Mackenzie's campaigns is given in brief in a "History of the Fourth Cavalry 1855-1930" published in 1930, in Fort Meade, South Dakota. Captain Joseph H. Dorst, who for sometime served as adjutant of the regiment under Mackenzie, is quoted as follows:

"At that time (1871) all of that portion of Texas West of the one-hundredth meridian, particularly the region known as the Staked Plains, was over-run by various bands of Indians who were constantly making depredations upon the settlements further east.

"The Cheyennes and Araphahoes roamed over northern Texas, Kansas and Colorado from the Red River to the Platte, while the Comanches, Kiowas, Mescalero Apaches, Kickapoos, and Lipans had actual control of Western Texas and Eastern New Mexico, and wandered from the southern boundary of Colorado to many miles south of the Rio Grande. In some of these expeditions, the Indians have been known to penetrate the settlements to the Gulf of Mexico.

"General Mackenzie concluded that the only plan to be followed to bring the Indians to terms was to send one or more large columns of troops, each strong enough to take care of itself, into the country occupied by the Indians and make it untenable for them.

"Accordingly, in the summer of 1871, he conducted an expedition to the Staked Plains. He considered his expedition very unsuccessful, as he was not able to surprise any large party of Indians and only a few were killed. Still, the experience gained and the knowledge obtained of the topography of the country were of the greatest value to him subsequently. In this campaign, during an affair with a few Indians, Mackenzie became concerned about the safety of a daring young officer who had gone well to the front, and while ordering him back he was himself shot in the leg with an arrow."

Captain R. G. Carter, Retired, also an adjutant of Mackenzie's command, and author of "On the Border with Mackenzie," gives the date of this incident as October 15, 1871, in Blanco Canyon, about eighteen miles from its mouth, while in command of an expedition to the Texas Panhandle and Staked Plains in pursuit of Quannah Parker, Chief of the Qua-ha-das band of his (Comanche) tribe." Captain Carter writes that the marauding bands of Indians on the Staked Plains were under command of Chief Quannah Parker, and this band, the Qua-ha-das, was



Quannah Parker  
Principal Chief  
of the

Northern Band of Comanche Indians—  
(Qua-ha-dos)

known as the wildest and most savage of all the Comanche tribes. Captain Carter was also wounded at Blanco Canyon, October 10, 1871.

Captain Dorst further wrote: "In the summer and fall of 1872, he again conducted a similar expedition to the Staked Plains, and in September surprised a large camp on McClellan's Creek, defeated the Indians with considerable loss and captured over one hundred women and children. He and his command were congratulated upon the success in general orders from the War Department.

"In the spring of 1873, Mackenzie's headquarters were transferred from northern Texas, where they had been for two years, to Fort Clark, about twenty miles from the Rio Grande. He at once set to work to ascertain the location of the principal Indian camps in Mexico, and this accomplished, he crossed the Rio Grande one evening in May, made a forced march during the night, attacked the Indians at daylight, destroyed their camp, which was only four or five miles from a Mexican town, and then, encumbered with his wounded, forty captured women and children, and two hundred captured horses, he succeeded in regaining the north bank of the Rio Grande before sunrise the following morning, his men having had no rest for nearly forty hours."

The Legislature met in call session and by a joint resolution thanked General Mackenzie and his men for their work. Mackenzie's audacity in taking the United States troops into Mexico caused some disturbance and much correspondence between the two governments, but in time the matter was amicably adjusted.

Captain Dorst is further quoted: "In 1874, many of the Comanches, Kiowas and Cheyennes on their reservations in the Indian Territory, became discontented and joined the renegades who lived habitually on the Staked Plains. Columns of troops from New Mexico, Kansas, Indian Territory and Texas were sent out to punish them, and Mackenzie was placed in command of the two columns from Texas. One he commanded personally and the other was under General Buell, Lieutenant-Colonel of the Eleventh Infantry.

"Mackenzie's command had a skirmish with a war party of several hundred Indians during the night of the 26th and morning of the 27th of September." This skirmish took place near the head of Tule Canyon, east of the present site of Tulia.

"At daylight on the morning of the 28th, after a night march of about forty miles, he attacked their main camp and killing or capturing nearly two thousand horses. (This battle took place in the Palo Duro Canyon, where some six hundred Indian warriors with their families and horses with supplies for the winter which they had brought from the Reservations in the Indian Territory, were reposing in peaceful quarters under the command of Lone Wolf, Chief of the Kiowa tribe.)

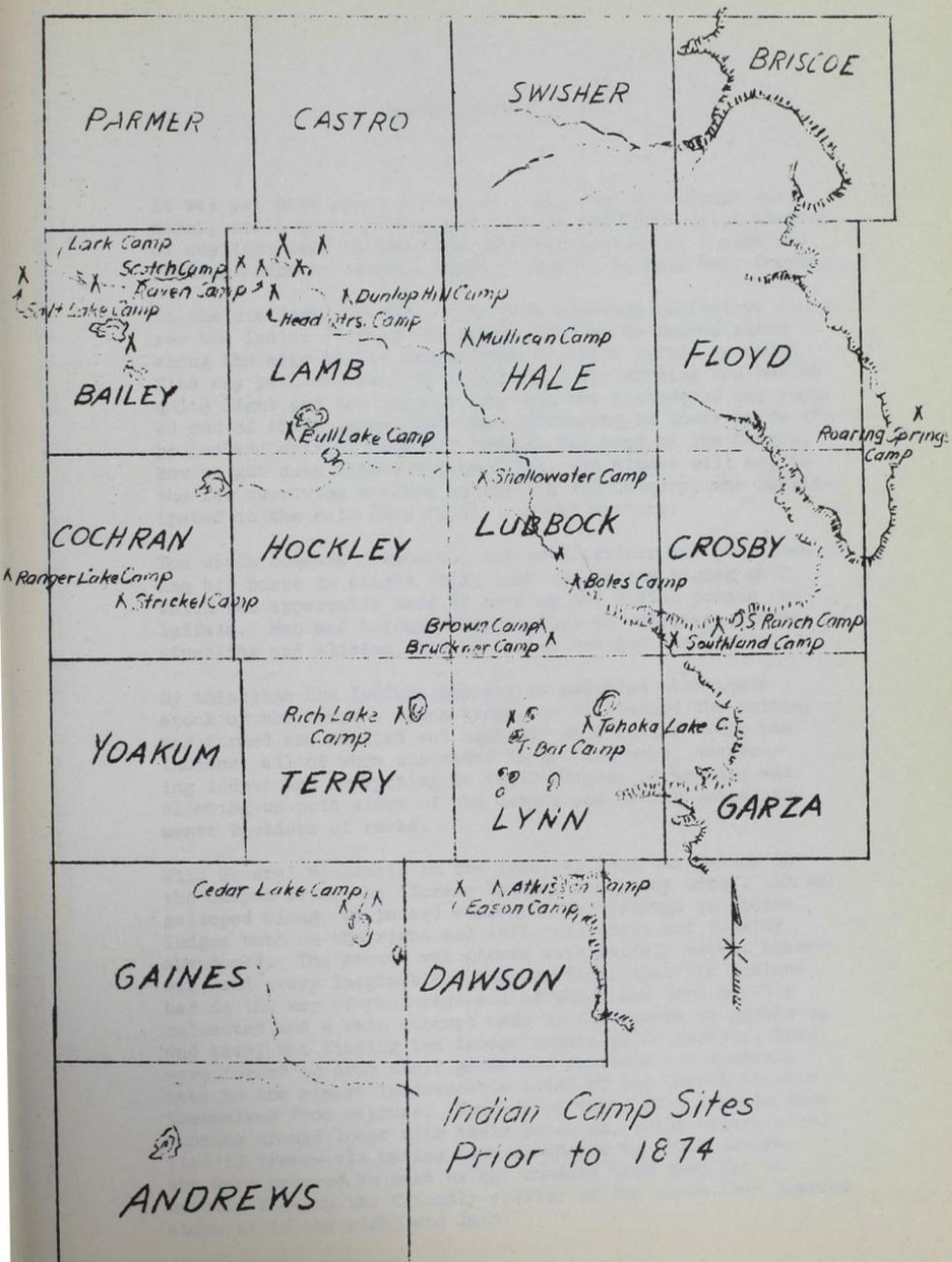
"The next day, after selecting such of the captured horses as were needed for the use of the command, one thousand four hundred fifty horses were shot to keep them from falling again in the hands of the Indians." These horses were driven back to the Tule Canyon in the night of September 28th, where their disposal was made. The spot for many years was called "Horse Bones" by the early settlers, for the bones of the horses bleached in the sun for some twenty years, when they were picked up by the early settlers and hauled to Amarillo where they were sold to be ground into fertilizer. (The sale of bones was for several years the only means of securing money to buy their needed supplies.)

Several other small engagements took place in November and December of that year (1874), after which the troops returned to their posts. The Battle in Palo Duro Canyon was the decisive battle, for with all their winter's supplies destroyed and their horses all killed, there was nothing the Indians could do but return to their Reservations.

In 1875, the Fourth Cavalry was ordered to take station in the Indian Territory with headquarters at Fort Sill. Mackenzie also commanded the troops at the Cheyenne Agency.

General Mackenzie retired from Active Service March 24, 1884. He died at New Brighton, Staten Island, New York, January 19, 1889, at the age of forty-nine years.

Mary L. Cox  
Plainview, Texas



## HORSE BONES

It was yet dark about 4 o'clock a. m. when we resumed our march, still going North, and just as the first faint streaks of daylight came in the East we suddenly came to a wide and yawning chasm or canyon, which proved to be Palo Duro Canyon.

In the dim light of dawn, away down hundreds of feet we could see the Indian "tepees" or lodges, and as we had to march along the edge of the canyon some distance before we could find any path or trail to descend by, the morning had become quite light and the Indians, who had now discovered us, rushed out of their lodges and began gathering in their herds of ponies and driving them off towards the head of the Canyon. How we got down into the Canyon was, and always will be, to the few surviving members of the old 4th Cavalry, who participated in the Palo Duro fight, a great mystery.

The whole command dismounted and each officer and man, leading his horse in single file, took the narrow zigzag path, which was apparently used by nothing but Indian ponies and buffalo. Men and horses slipping down the steepest places, stumbling and sliding, one by one we reached the bottom.

By this time the Indians nearest us had fled with their stock up the Canyon. Each troop, as it reached the bottom, was formed and mounted and sent off at a gallop after the Indians, all of whom succeeded in getting away, abandoning lodges and everything in their flight, scrambling and climbing up both sides of the Canyon and hiding behind immense boulders of rocks.

With General Mackenzie in the lead, we took the gallop up the Canyon after the fleeing Indians and poney herds. As we galloped along, we passed village after village of Indian lodges both on the right and left, all empty and totally abandoned. The ground was strewn with buffalo robes, blankets, and every imaginable thing, in fact, that the Indians had in the way of property--all of which had been hastily collected and a vain attempt made by the squaws to gather up and save, but finding the troops coming up so rapidly, they were forced to drop their goods and chattels and suddenly take to the almost inaccessible sides of the Canyon to save themselves from capture. Numbers of their pack animals were running around loose with their packs on, while others stood tied to trees--all having been abandoned by their owners, who were pressed so hard by our command that they had to hastily flee to the friendly shelter of the rocks that towered above us to the right and left.

One portion of the command continued up the Canyon at a gallop for about 2 miles, with the object of overhauling the bucks who had run off the pony herds, when we met Colonel Beaumont with his troop returning and driving before them a large number of ponies which they had captured. In fact Beaumont had rounded up almost the entire herd. "H" and "L" troops were halted, formed line and now waited for orders.

While waiting mounted and calmly taking in the surroundings, the Indians who had succeeded in safely placing themselves behind the immense breastwork of rocks, some 800 or 1000 feet above us, opened fire upon us and in a very few minutes made it so hot and galling that we were forced to fall back--Indians being so thoroughly protected in their position that we could do nothing with so many captured horses on our hands.

At a time when the fire was the hottest, one of the men said on seeing that the command was nearly surrounded, "How will we ever get out of here"? General Mackenzie on hearing him said, "I brought you in, I will take you out." Most of the men did not question when he led, we knew we could depend on his care and guidance.

About noon the General saw a movement among the Indians on top of the bluff, and surmised that they were going to try and block the way by which the command had entered. He ordered Captain Gunther to take his company to clear the way and hold it until the command came out. It was a race between that company the Indians, but in favor of the former, as the Indians would first have to cross a deep branch of the Canyon. The Company reached the top first without opposition, the Indians evidently not caring to attack the company in that position.

The command, after destroying all the camps and contents and capturing all the ponies, ceased fighting as the Indians offered no further resistance.

In order to hold the large number of ponies captured, the command commenced to withdraw from the Canyon, which was finally vacated between 3 and 4 o'clock p. m. The whole command now assembled, with the immense herd of captured ponies, on the high prairie ("Staked Plains"). A "hollow square" or huge parallelogram was formed as follows: One troop in line of battle rode in advance; on either side

marched two troops in column of twos; and one troop, in line, rode in rear. In the center of this huge hollow square the captured herd of about 2000 was driven along. One troop marched in rear of all as rear guard. It was a living corral and our march was nearly 20 miles.

We marched rapidly until nearly 1 a. m. on the 29th when we came in sight of the welcome light of the campfires of our infantry guarding our wagon supply train. The noise made by the command on its approach alarmed the inmates of the Supply Camp at the Tule Canyon and the Infantry guard opened fire from their outposts, believing it to be in the darkness a large body of Indians. Lieut. Miller rode forward and informed the camp guard of its mistake.

The captured ponies were at once driven into the corral formed by the wagons, and a strong guard placed over them. Our horses were unsaddled, staked out and fed a full ration of corn, which the poor animals sorely needed.

After getting a cup of coffee, all rolled up in their blankets and "turned in". In view of what we had gone through --thirty-four hours in the saddle, riding over seventy miles, and having two or three hours fighting and hard work generally, "Mother Earth" was as welcome as any soft feather bed.

On September 29th reveille was late. The men had their first meal in over 48 hours. Immediately after breakfast a detail was made to shoot the captured ponies, which, owing to the great number, it was found impossible to take along and properly guard them, or to take them into the nearest military post--the nearest being nearly two hundred miles away. The Indians would follow us and be upon us every night in an effort to stampede and recapture them. Experience had been our lesson. The number, as has been stated, was variously estimated at from 1500 to 2200. The "Tonk" (friendly Indian guides) were permitted to select the best. Numbers of them were young and handsome, and it seemed a pity to be compelled to kill them, but there was no other alternative. It was the surest method of crippling the Indians and compelling them to go into and stay upon their reservations, which they had fled from. Many were the best race ponies they had and many pesos had been wagered upon them. Some were used to replace those which had died on the march or been wounded in the fight. It was a heavy blow. They were such valuable property that they were held in higher

esteem than their squaws. It took most of one day, with one troop, to pile these bodies up on the plains. Their bones were there--on the "Tex" Rogers ranch for many years --an enigma to the average Texas boy who looked upon them with wondering eyes.

Lured by the buffalo trails, George F. DeQuary had ventured out on the plains with a herd of merchandise in 1847. Canyon to the last hole of a square "boxed" stone house, he arranged his goods, and started writing a manuscript. They were slow in coming for the hunters were leaving the range, and not many cowboys had yet appeared. Besides, two military trails crossed at this junction, one from Fort Griffin to Fort Sumner, New Mexico, and the other from Fort Stockton to Fort Elliott. Few people wanted the Fort Stockton-Fort Elliott road, but since the cattle heads went out the Mackenzie trail to Fort Sumner, and the cowboys congregated to Singer's business. With the country being filled up with cattle, the prospect was fair for a great trade in the future--and such as that DeQuary, a Frenchman, soon came in and put up a store of his hundred pounds of baggage. Neither of them had any livestock except a pair of mules and a cow. They wanted their goods from Fort Griffin and Fort Worth.

-----Captain Robert G. Carter  
"ON THE BORDER WITH MACKENZIE"  
--an Extract

DeQuary didn't stay long. There was not enough business for two stores, and he could not compete with Singer. He might sell his goods cheap, but he just didn't know how to get along with frontier people. Singer's house became known far and wide as Old Man Singer's Store.

"When the cowboys pushed up the George with their cattle, he was there. When the round eye drove to a close and jangling spurs struck again from the floor of his store, Old Man Singer was in his glory. Jack boards were rattled out, and rolls thrown upon the floor, and when night came the old man left the cowboys in charge and went home. Until far in the morning the old game of poker held forth in earnest. When money was gone, a cowboy reached up and pulled down a box of stick candy or a plug of tobacco from a shelf, 'swallowed the pot', and the game went on. Another went broke, and another, and soon came a pair of California pants to be laid against a couple of shirts. Singer appeared

## OLD MAN SINGER'S STORE

G. W. Singer's store was located on the headwaters of Yellow House Creek about three miles above where Lubbock now stands.

Lured by the buffalo trade, George W. Singer had ventured out on the Plains with a wagon load of lumber and a wagon load of merchandise in 1879. He went up Yellow House Canyon to the last hole of living water, and there built a square "boxed" store house with his lumber, unpacked his goods, and started waiting on customers. They were slow in coming, for the hunters were leaving the range, and not many cowboys had as yet arrived. However, two military trails crossed at this waterhold, one from Fort Griffin to Fort Sumner, New Mexico, and the other from Fort Stockton to Fort Elliott. Few people traveled the Fort Stockton-Fort Elliott road, but quite a few cattle herds went out the Mackenzie trail to Fort Sumner, and the cowboys contributed to Singer's business. With the country below filling up with cattle, the prospect bid fair for a brisk trade in the future--so much so that DeQuazy, a Frenchman, soon came in and put up a store within a hundred yards of Singer's. Neither of them had any livestock except a freighting outfit each. They hauled their goods from Fort Griffin and Fort Worth.

DeQuazy didn't stay long. There was not enough business for two stores, and he could not compete with Singer. He might sell his goods cheaper, but he just didn't know how to get along with frontier people. Singer's house became known far and wide as Old Man Singer's Store.

"When the cowboys pushed up the Canyon with their cattle, he was there. When the round ups drew to a close and jingling spurs struck music from the floor of his store, Old Man Singer was in his glory. Pack horses were hobbled out, bed rolls thrown upon the floor, and when night came the old man left the cowboys in charge and went home. Until far far in the morning the old game of poker held forth in earnest. When money was gone, a cowboy reached up and pulled down a box of stick candy or a plug of tobacco from a shelf, "sweetened the pot", and the game went on. Another went broke, and another, and down came a pair of California Pants to be bet against a couple of shirts. Singer appeared

in the morning after the struggle was over. Never did a padlock fasten his door, and never was his confidence betrayed to the loss of a cent by these men who gambled in zest, but would have shot at a word." (Haley's XIT Ranch)

The store was burned in 1886. A demented Mexican had set it afire one day while Singer was away. Singer returned just as the Mexican was fleeing from the building. He killed the Mexican, but was unable to save the store. Singer then hauled lumber from Colorado City and built another store about half a mile down the Canyon from his old site.

--Dr. W. C. Holden  
"ROLLIE BURNS"

Approximately one-half mile north of the point where State Highway No. 7 crosses the head of Yellow House Canyon, three miles northwest of Lubbock, can be seen a concrete marker which bears the following inscription:

SITE OF G. W. SINGER'S STORE  
1877-1886

"Old man Singer catered first to the Buffalo Hunters and then to the cattlemen. He became the first postmaster in Lubbock County in 1884.

Two military trails crossed here, one from Ft. Griffin to Ft. Sumner and one from Ft. Stockton to Ft. Elliott. Aside from Estacado this was the only store on the South Plains for several years."  
R. C. Burns.

This marker donated by the South Plains Monument Company and erected by the Plains Museum Society.

" LETTER OF LONG AGO DESCRIBES LIVING CONDITIONS  
IN DAYS OF FIRST SETTLERS "

"Emma, Texas  
March 30, 1893

"Dear Annie:

"You may notice from the heading of this letter we have a new post office. No, we have not moved, but the county seat was moved from Estacado to a section near the center of the county. Ab and Geo. Benedict owned the section. The new town is called Emma in honor of the sweetheart of Giny Hume, one of the promoters of the town.

"The court house was torn down and moved, then put up in its original shape. A man by the name of Cousineau did the carpenter work.

"George has just gotten in from Amarillo with a load of freight for Stringfellow and Hume. When he left I cooked up a half of flour sack of biscuit and as many tea cakes. You might think the bread would not be fit to eat, but when it is split open and fried brown in hot bacon grease, it is fine.

"He made the trip to the railroad allright but the second night on his way back, his horses got away and he spent the next day hunting them afoot. He found them ten miles from the camp. The next day it began raining so he had to leave his trail wagon and bring only one wagon load in. He was home two weeks before it was dry enough to go for his other wagon. When he got it, nothing had been taken. We have known of freight wagons being left for a month at a time and nothing taken.

"Frank went up trail to Amarillo with the IOA's. They drove 2,000 head of cattle. Nine men went with the herd. He said there were herds of cattle around Amarillo as far as you could see in every direction waiting to be shipped. Every few hours a train load of cattle would pull out and the boys would begin loading **another**.

"Cowboys work every day and one-third of the night for \$25.00 or \$30.00 per month. The company furnishes the horses, chuck and rope. The cowboys furnish the saddles and bedding. Frank just now read this and said to tell you the cowboys also furnished the 'gray backs'.

"Last summer we went to a picnic at Uncle Hank Smith's in Blanco Canyon. They have five children and lived here when there were Indians and buffalo. Their youngest son, Bob, is the first white child born in Crosby County. The Smith's hospitality is known far and wide. There are few people who come to this country that do not stay all night with them or at least eat dinner.

"It was a fine picnic. After a bountiful dinner near the creek every one went to the rock house. Some danced and others sat around and talked.

"I had to go home in the hack with my two children. Jessie Dean went as far as Emma with us. It was dark when we got there, and the children and I drove the nine miles after dark. The horses kept the road and stopped at the only fence. There was nothing to hurt us and the night was warm and pleasant. I love to drive at night and hear the harness jingle and the wheels rattle as the cow ponies trot mile after mile on these level prairie roads.

"Last winter just at night some people moving to Lubbock drove up. They stayed the night with us and next morning there was a deep snow on the ground and was still snowing. They stayed with us three weeks. The children played tiddley winks and other games, and the men hunted rabbits in the snow and played dominees. The two women and I served. We made up a bolt of gray flannel underwear for the children and shirts for the men. The children did not like the wool garments, but they kept warmer. I went to Emma the other day and bought some dry goods for summer. Am making cross-barred lawn for our summer dresses. Have a bolt of domestic for our petticoats and other underthings. I am making Mary's dress with five ruffles on the bottom and whipping the lace on by hand. She has a white leghorn hat with a wreath of forget-me-nots and a wide ribbon to hang down the back. Her slippers are ox-blood

"I wait so long to write, my letters are rather long. You may look for us this summer. We will go to Colorado City in a wagon and then go to weatherford on the train.

Love, Margaret"

## SHANTIES AND DUGOUTS

"Oh, the hinges are of leather, and the windows  
have no glass,  
And the board roof lets the howling blizzard in --  
And I hear the hungry coyote as he slinks up  
through the grass  
Round the little old sod shanty on my claim."

Early-day home builders in the Southwest were disciples of the doctrine that necessity is the mother of invention. They applied it by utilizing available materials for building the home.

The absence of trees in many sections caused them to utilize other materials. Lumber and brick were out of the question--they cost money and the labor and expense of transporting them made them prohibitive.

Occasionally a sod house was built in Texas, but they were more popular in Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska and the Dakotas. They were built from strips of earth held together by the grass roots.

The counterpart of the sod house was the abode house. The abode house was very popular, and still is in use in many sections of New Mexico, West and Southwest Texas. The blocks are moulded from a sticky soil into which has been tramped straw or grass to help hold it together. An abode house is cool in summer and warm in winter.

There was, of course, the dugout. They are warm but not a very attractive place to live. Often the dugout was used in a modified form and called a half-dugout, due to the fact that the lower portion of it was down in the ground and the upper half had walls of logs, rock or abode blocks. Sometimes a portion of the house would be dug back in the side of a bank and the other end constructed above the ground.

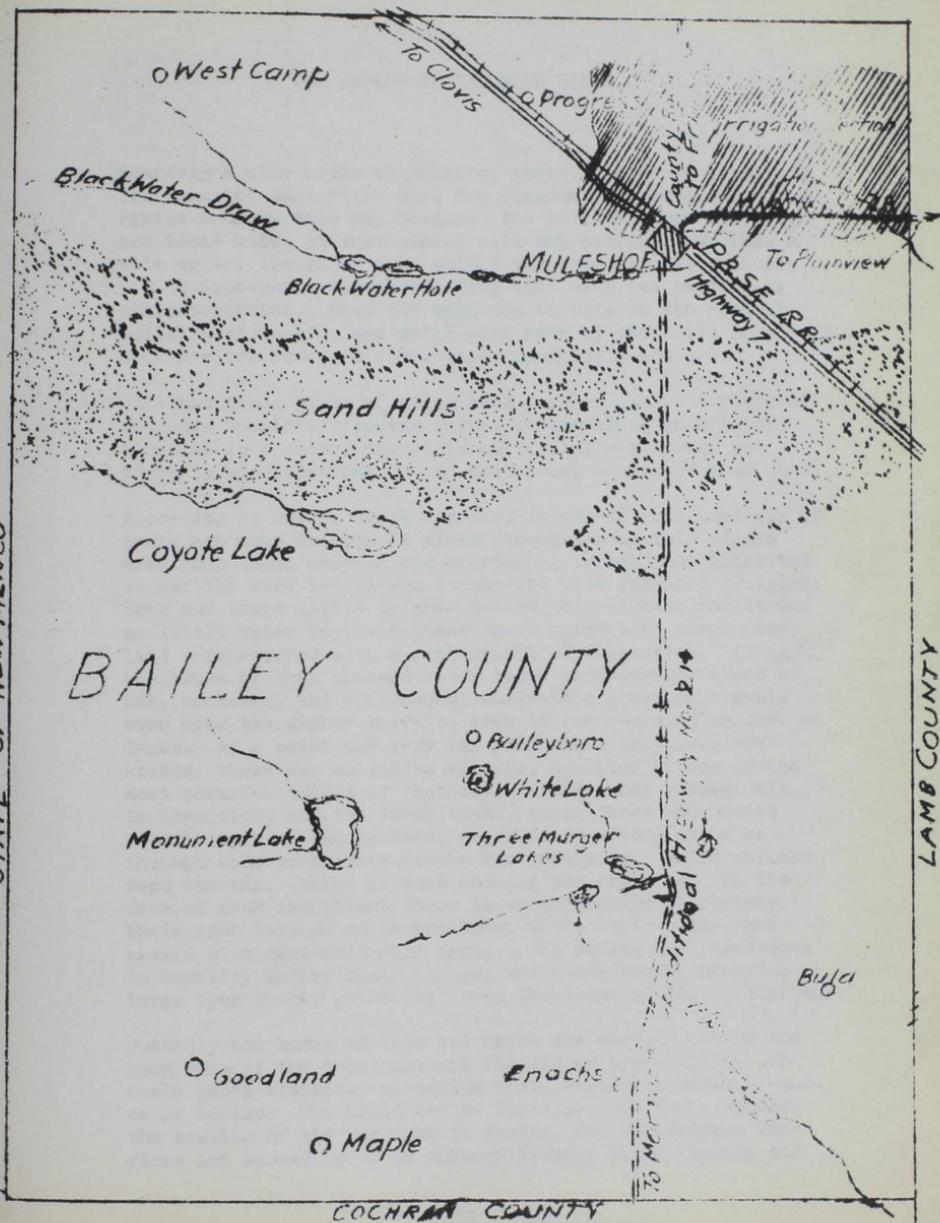
Such a house is not very attractive from the outside but they did provide a comfortable place to live. At the expense of no little amount of work on the part of the women many of these early-day half dugouts were very presentable on the inside. If they had a window or two they were in the aristocratic class. Doubly so if they had lumber for a floor. In such a house you generally found the walls plastered and whitewashed.

Sometimes during the summer months a framework of post covered with brush or grass gave a porch effect and added to the comforts of the early-day settlers.

Many of the present day ranches with modern homes and conveniences had their origin in half dugouts years ago.

---The Cattleman  
Nov. 1935

STATE OF NEW MEXICO



## THE LEGEND OF THE SAND HILLS

Scarcely a mile south of Muleshoe there is clearly visible a low range of Sand Hills that run diagonally across the South Plains country into New Mexico. The hills are not very high and their width in most places will not average more than a mile or so, though at some points the sand gradually slopes off to impregnate the surrounding soil with its particular characteristics. Real old maps now on file in the capitol building at Austin, and which were made by the early Spandiards, show a river once ran where these sand hills now are.

Just how these piles of silty sand came to take the place of the once beautiful flowing river, transforming an area of paradise into one of desert is not definitely known, yet there is more than one legend that seeks to answer that query.

According to one of these legends, it was several hundreds of years ago that the placid river flowed across this virgin area then known only to the aboriginal tribes that inhabited it and the wild beasts who roamed its wide extended prairies. Here and there little islands dotted this stream, for it was no little water way, and these small patches of surrounded land were covered with a rank growth of vegetation. Along the banks of this unnamed river there were scrubby trees of oak, hackberry and cottonwood, while tall grass that would even hide the mighty buffalo, grew in the surrounding lowlands. At a point not very far from where this town now stands, there was an Indian village, occupied by one of the most powerful tribes of that day. Within that village all is commotion, and the inhabitants, their faces and bodies weirdly painted and adorned, are running wildly about as through some great catastrophe was impending. Weird shrieks rend the air. There is much moaning and groaning. On the face of each inhabitant there is an expression of anxiety. Their eyes take on an insane look, while their bodies are racked with contortions of agony. The squaws are bowed down in humility before their tepees, while the braves hurry to a large open space, gathering about the lodge of their chieftan.

Suddenly the human shrieks and cries are drowned out by the boom boom of the tom-toms, and the Indian braves throw off their gaudy blankets, revealing their strangely painted, muscular bodies. The cries become shriller, the noise louder, the beating of the tom-toms is faster. The red-skinned warriors now worked up to an unknown frenzy, begin leaping and

running about a circle in the center of which sit the chiefs around a little fire of peculiar color. They wave their arms wildly, gesticulating in a peculiar way. Their heads jerk and nod in every direction as though their necks were entirely loose in their sockets. Eventually their disconcerted cries drift into harmony and the barbarous chant is heard more distinctly. "Ah-ya, ah-ya," they cry in their native dialect, 'great is Manawak, mighty man of medicine. Manawak brings victory to his people for many moons, makes them mightiest of all tribes."

Faster and faster they leap about the circle. The tom-toms continue their undiminished booming with increasing cadence. Exhausted braves fall out one by one while others leap in to take their places. About the behind them the squaws still bowed down with their faces to the ground keep up their moaning, while the weird dance of the enchanted circle continues.

From above, the Great Spirit looks down upon his red-skinned children and is mightily grieved, for he realizes his creatures have gone astray, and he is a jealous Spirit. Some of the braves are wearing wolves heads on their shoulders, but somewhere in the tribe is a member who, outwardly like the rest, wears the heart of a wolf. He is a bad medicine man and has deliberately deceived his fellow tribesmen, making them believe he was the cause of all their victories and prosperity; and he must be punished.

The Indian braves and their squaws have long ago sensed something was wrong. Childlike in the simplicity of their faith in the tribal medicine man who posed as a representative of the Great Spirit, yet they realized some mighty tragedy was impending. Several hours ago they looked off toward the south where the horizon seemed to be filled with a murky red atmosphere of an angry threatening nature. In the experience of their oldest members they had never before seen such a phenomenon. Slowly but surely it was approaching their village. The entire tribe was aroused and anxious. All the leading braves had gathered about the tent of their young chief to inquire the cause of such peculiar appearance. But the young chieftan could tell them nothing. In his few years he had never seen such before. Then they turned to their medicine man--the earthly representative of the Great Spirit--but he either could not or would not enlighten them. Sinful and selfish as he was, perhaps he would rather his people should perish than to reveal to them his own hypocrisy.

The atmosphere grew thick and murky. The sun was bedimmed and turned red with an ominous foreboding. Great clouds, the like of which they had never before seen, were drawing near. There was a strange silence passing over the plains causing the shrieks and cries of the bewildered dancers to penetrate more keenly the deadening atmosphere which was rapidly becoming surcharged with an unknown danger. Looking off into the surrounding prairies it could be seen that all wild animal life had deserted it. The river took on a strangely colored hue. The birds, that a little while ago were singing sweetly in the bushes growing alongside the stream, had forsaken their nests and fledglings and flown away to safety. Still the atmosphere grew denser. The ominous red clouds were drawing nearer. As far as the eye could penetrate toward the south there seemed to be a convergence of the agitated elements toward the spot where the Indian village lay.

#### THE DEVASTATION

Suddenly and with a mighty roar the storm was upon them. A red darkness enveloped them and the air was filled with stinging, blinding and suffocating sand. The Indians, realizing their blasted hopes, broke up the dance and fled for their lives. The squaws fell flat upon the ground where they had been kneeling and covered their heads with their blankets. The cries of helpless children and little paposes were soon stifled in the onslaught of the maddening holocaust. The wind, now sweeping with hurrican force, uprooted the teepee stakes and swept the buffalo hides and conical shaped wigwams before them with unabated vigor. Here and there the sand began to lodge and drift. Small mounds were visible where suffocated indians lay, and the sand had already begun to sift over them their final entombment. The mounds grew larger with greater rapidity as the beginning obstructions increased, until finally there were great hills of sand.

Throughout that entire day and for a week afterward the sand kept coming, the wind ever blowing it onward with a ferocious and unabating hot breath. Where it all came from no one will ever know. As far as the eye could see all this once beautiful valley of paradise had been turned into a barren desert of desolation. Not a sound was heard but the onrushing roar of the storm. Not a thing was moving now, for it had all been anchored by the sand. The river was fast filling up. Where once it flowed a beautiful stream of crystal, now it was but a muddy channel. Its edges once distinctly marked by green grass and growing bushes, were now indiscernable. Not an In-

dian Wigwam remained. Manawak, the medicine man, had long ago paid the penalty of deception with his own life, the same punishment taking along with him thousands of tribal innocents who believed in his lies. There was only a handful of the hardiest of the braves who escaped in some miraculous manner. Fortunate in finding a sheltered place in the midst of a dense growth of low trees they covered their heads with their blankets, shook off the sand as it enveloped them, tramping it beneath their feet, keeping themselves above the growing mound, until at last when the storm had abated, they were sitting in the top-most branches of the trees which had protected them.

Strong as were the hearts of these few braves as they looked out upon this scene of desolation after the storm had passed, there was a distinct quiver in their voices as they lifted them in supplication to the Great Spirit who had somehow and for some unknown reason singled them out from all the thousands of other tribesmen and had saved their lives. Scarcely anything of their former land was recognizable as they scrambled from their places of refuge and looked about them. The happy Indian village which had once been their homes was entirely wiped out. Not a single pony of their vast herds was visible, nor was there any animal to be seen over this vast plain.

As far as their swollen eyes could see it was a vast Sahara void of any living thing. The river was now only a ridge of sand, and the fecund hunting grounds along either side of the once mighty stream were entirely denuded of life and vegetation. Sadly they turned their backs upon the place they once called home. Minds torn with the anguish of disaster, their bodies emaciated from the lashings of the storm, weakened from hunger, and their tongues swollen from thirst, they dragged their weakened limbs across the wide barren waste of sand toward some unknown place where they might recuperate their strength and continue their allotted earthly existence under the fear and worship of the Great Spirit who had proven to them his omnipotence, at the same time revealing the selfish deception of one of their own race.

#### THE TRANSFORMATION

Many, many moons rolled by. Time passed on in numerous seasons, and the great Spirit who holds no eternal grievance against his children relented that he had wrought such a devastation, and he said to himself, "My punishment is sufficient, I will again change this land, making it once more what it used to be."

A new race of people began slowly drifting across this devastated area. Their faces were much paler than those of the former inhabitants. They brought with them their wives and children, some horses and a few head of cattle. It was in the springtime and the grass grew tall and succulent in the valley spots among the sand hills, while here and there were little pools of cool, sweet water nestling beneath the overhanging branches of the few scraggy bushes that had sprung up into growth since the great holocaust. But as the herds increased, these little pools proved insufficient to slack the thirst of both man and beast. The Great Spirit whispered to the men to dig, and they dug in the shallow places where the water had been standing, and lo, they were rewarded with still more water which came up to meet their spades with refreshing coolness.

As the herds continued to increase and more water was required, the shallow wells were dug deeper and deeper, and with each deepening, the flow of water became greater and greater. At length the entire land became filled with mighty herds of long horned animals, great tanks contrived to hold large quantities of water, and mechanical arrangements of huge fans were set over the wells to lessen the labor of man who sought to utilize the wind for lifting the cool nectar of nature to slack the thirst of the thousands of animals who came at the noon time to drink.

Time rolled on again, and the pale faces conceived the idea of using the water from these wells to assist nature in the growing of their small gardens from whence came the vegetables for their own living, and little ditches were run out from the great tanks which carried the water in little rivulets down the rows where were planted a few potatoes, onions, beans and sweet corn. The effect was magical. The rootlets of these plants seem to dig their tiny feet deeper into the soft sandy loam, sucking up the water while the heads of the plants were lifted, and, spreading out their leaves in a dark, rich green, began to grow by leaps and bounds, eventually producing luxuriantly.

Again the Great Spirit whispered to these new settlers, and he said, "If you will dig yet deeper you will find more water, yea even greater than you can possibly imagine." So the pale faced people sent some of their folks again into the east where civilization was greater, and they brought back with them huge machines capable of digging into the ground, and so it was done. As these great machines bit their way into the lose rich soil they found it even so as the Great Spirit had whispered,

for they finally went down to a depth where the water became so abundant it could not be kept down, but as they brought up the drill it followed closely after it, some of it even so eager to escape its underground confinement that it slipped past the great rod of iron and hurried ahead of it toward the surface. And man was elated. He clapped his hands for joy. The women folks and children too, were made happy, and they together said, "Now will we enjoy all the blessings that was once ours beyond the fringe of civilization.

So they brought forth their plows and horses, and planted larger gardens of greater variety than were ever planted before. Fields of many acres were laid out and planted to the crops they once raised in the eastern land from whence they came. Fruit bearing trees, and trees of shade, and many vines of grapes and berries of different sorts were planted. A great contrivance that ran with a circular motion, was let down into the newly dug well, and a machine which drank a fluid called "gasoline" and which belched forth smoke and fire was hooked onto it, and when the man gave the word, behold the water leaped forth from the deep new well in a mighty gushing stream, so great that big ditches, some them three feet wide, were necessary to carry it away from the well which was like a veritable artesian oasis in this desert of sand. The men were busy with their shovels and spades directing the water onto the fast growing crops of food planted for man and for beasts, and they were exceedingly happy.

So they sent word back into the civilization from whence they came telling their former friends and neighbors of the wonderful country they had discovered, and they too came hither and dug wells, and gathered great harvests, and built happy homes and had great herds of animals grazing about and growing big and fat for the markets to which they would eventually be driven where they would be sold for much money that would buy still other things needed for the comfort and happiness of these hardy pale faces who had braved the desert and conquered it. And the Great Spirit when he saw all that had been accomplished, he was pleased within himself, and he said, "Truly, it is well that I relented, for these new people are a happy lot, and I will give them still greater blessings."

More years rolled by and the day came when a lone Indian mounted upon a little pony passed through this land of

transformation. Some cowboys caring for a bunch of cattle saw him in the distance, sitting astride his pony on the peak of a sandhill. Even in those days strangers were uncommon in this new country, and their curiosity was so aroused that they went to see whom he might be. As they approached they discovered the new visitor was of another race and another age. He sat his pony like a statue, as his piercing eyes swept the country round about. The mantle of age had fallen about his shoulders and his face was furrowed with the plows of time. "How," he said to the men who came to see him, and they returned his salutation.

Slowly the conversation began, for the old Indian was busy with his innermost thoughts, and seemed to be trying to reconstruct a vision now hazy to his mind. At length he said to the cowboys: "My children, this was once a land of paradise where dwelt my people a mighty tribe, and on the very spot where we now stand there once ran a great river of sparkling pure water, while alongside its banks there grew sweet grass and many fragrant bushes. Dashing through its liquid freshness there were many fish, and the buffalo and other wild animals came at evening to slake their thirst. But my people displeased the Great Spirit and in his anger he filled up the beautiful river and covered over all the rich grasses with a blanket of sand until none could remain here and live. Save but a few, all my people were destroyed in the great storm of sand that swept over this land. Though the country has changed greatly since that day, there are still some marks of remembrance, and I fancy I can recall the spot where sat my tepee, and where my squaw and papooses lie buried by the hand of the Great Spirit himself. In those days I was a young chieftan of my tribe. I am now a broken old man, having lived many moons more than is my allotted time, and I have come back once more to see the spot that was once so dear to my people before I too shall go on to the happy hunting ground where the Great Spirit lives forever. You have dug holes for water that my people knew not how to dig, though we knew it was there. The mighty river of my boyhood days still flows beneath these hills of sand, and if you will dig deeper yet it will come to the surface in the laughing gladness of a little child and its face shall beam and smile again as it once did when I was young."

The aged Indian ceased to speak. Apparently his vision was completed and his message had been finished. Without

lifting his head, his knees nudged the sides of his pony and he moved away into the distance while the cowboys sat on their horses and wondered about the strange old chief who had returned to see and to tell. Not many days afterward the naked pony was seen mingling among the horses of the ranchers, and the people became apprehensive that some danger might have befallen the aged chief. They sought for him, and at length came upon the trail of the pony as it led into the herd. Back-tracking it they finally came upon the old chief who was peacefully reclining against a small hackberry tree that grew in a swale between some sandhills. His eyes were closed and there was an expression of peace on his bronzed face as his own spirit had crossed over the great divide into the happy hunting grounds where the Great Spirit dwells eternally.

Returning to their homes, the cowboys sent word to their neighbors, and gathering up spades and shovels they all came back to the spot where the ancient chieftan reclined. A grave was soon dug in the mellow sand and the body of the ancient warrior gently lowered into it. Alongside him was buried his blanket, his old bow, well worn at the grip from years of usage, and his quiver of arrows, for that was all he had. The hackberry tree, beneath which he died became his living tombstone, and for many years afterwards, people used to point to that spot between the sand hills, calling attention of new-comers to the tips of the branches just visible at a distance above the surrounding sand mounds, and they would tell the story of the old Indian who well knew the early history of the Sand Hills. As if to completely blot out the past, and as a sign that the Great Spirit had entirely relented from the scourge he once sent upon this primitive people, several years ago a bolt of lightning struck the tree which marked the grave of the aged red skin, and to-day its location is not accurately known, though it is said there are a few old citizens still living in these parts who can vividly rehearse the story he told, and they can point in the neighborhood of the spot where the old Indian lies buried.

Like some ancient prophet of medieval times foretelling the story of a new generation, the words of the old Indian told those cowboys many years ago have come true, and the blessings heaped upon the present generation of people dwelling in the rich valley of Agua Negra are abundant proof of the

Spirit's complete forgiveness for that ancient sacrilege. The river still flows beneath the Sand Hills, and will doubtless continue so forever. But here and there its bosom has been punctured by numerous drills, and great wells, some of them yielding as much as 2,000 gallons of water per minute, are giving up a copious supply of pure water that brings forth prodigious crops of great wealth to the hundreds of happy homes nestling peacefully in this western vale of Eden.

In this year of 1933 the work of reconstruction has only just begun. Since the day when that great typhoon of sand swept across this section of the Llano Estacado completely inundating the ancient river, mighty changes have transpired. Great battles were fought and the State of Texas came into being. Time passed on and the County of Bailey was organized. Then the town of Muleshoe, named after one of the early ranches of this section, sprang up. The fame of fertility of soil, healthful climate and abundance of pure water in this area went abroad, and home-yearning people began coming here to carve out for themselves and their families little tracts of land they might call their own, and they builded for themselves delightful little monarchies wherein father became the king, mother the queen, and the children were little princes and princesses, ruling over 160 acres of luxuriantly growing crops, where the cattle, hogs, horses and chickens they raised were their obedient subjects, while the wheat, cotton and sorghum crops they sold added to the wealth of their kingdom, bringing the things desired to consummate the happiness of the regal family.

To-day the Blackwater valley is rapidly filling up with a happy and prosperous people, for the value of irrigation has long been proven, and more than 100 irrigation wells are lifting the sparkling nectar from the sunken river onto the green crops for a luxuriant harvest. As the valley proper is filled up, new settlers reach out into the edge of the Sand Hills to find desirable locations. It is but a matter of a few years now until these hills also will be subdued for the water lies beneath them in a never-failing supply, just as the old Indian said. Just a few crops of vegetation turned beneath the soil of these hills adds the necessary humus to make it lie quiet beneath the winds that sweep across these prairies in the springtime. All the natural salts and other elements required for fertility are there in abundance, and when touched by the moist fingers

of water, the planted seedlets quickly spring into being and growth. These Sand Hills are especially adapted to the growth of orchards and vineyards, and the day will yet come, and not so far away, when they will be beautiful and fragrant with the blossoms of springtime, growing purple and red with the rich fruitage of fall--and the Great Spirit will then have entirely forgotten his early jealousy and will be perfectly happy.

--Jess Mitchell



### THREE NOTABLE LANDMARKS IN LYNN COUNTY

Tahoka Lake, Double Lakes, and Mooars' Draw, all in Lynn County and known to the Anglo-American scarcely more than sixty years, remind one that the South Plains of Texas has an interesting history.

For fully four hundred years--no one knows how much longer--each site, with its fresh water springs, has been an oasis in the desert of waterless plains for man and beast.

#### TAHOKA LAKE

Tahoka Lake, about seven miles northeast of the town of Tahoka, is possibly the most noted of the three landmarks. Just what "Tahoka" means is not definitely known. Old timers say it means "clear", "Clear water", "deep", "deep water", and even "alkali water", but from whence these definitions came they cannot explain. Many tribes of Indians consulted at Haskell Institute and at Oklahoma agencies deny knowledge of the word or its meaning. Edmond J. Gardner of Valliant, Oklahoma, suggests that the name is a combination of two Choctaw words "Taha" and "Oka" meaning "the water is all gone." Once there was a Choctaw chief named Tahoka, and the lake was either named for him, or by combining the two Indian words, it seems.

At Tahoka Lake, the Indian camped, first as a hunter, and later as a fugitive from the white settler down state. Here the Spaniard found water for a dry throat. Here the New Mexico Indian herded his sheep. Here the U. S. soldier, the Texas Ranger, and the buffalo hunter made "wet camp". Here the pioneer cattleman, opening up the country to settlement, found water for his stock. And, here the trail driver and the freighter found a convenient stopping place.

Graves on the hilltops, arrow heads and broken pottery indicate a favorite Indian camping ground. Nobody knows how long since the Indian discovered this retreat. It is known that the Comanche trail from the Canadian River country to the Mexican border passed the lake. The Apache of the West received his last Plains water here before going down the caprock. A well-beaten Indian trail was recognizable in the '70's from Yellowhouse River to Tahoka Lake, west to

Double Lakes, Sulphur Draw, and across the Texas border to Ranger Lake, Four Lakes, Mescalero Springs, and on to the Pecos. Tahoka Lake was a favorite meeting place of the Comanche and the New Mexico traders and other Indians from that territory following the raids made on Texas settlements by Comanches, who traded their loot beside the cool waters of the springs to the New Mexicans. Who knows what thievery and murder was the result of plans laid around the shores of this historic lake?

A number of historians claim that Coronado, who crossed over into Texas in 1541 in his search for Quivira, went down the Brazos, possibly as far as the Double Mountain region. Here Coronado sent his main army, under Captain Arellano, back to New Mexico. They took a directly westward course across the Plains; and, no doubt, being guided by Indians, they followed the old Indian trail by the Tahoka and Double Lakes.

Nearly a hundred years later, the Spanish were getting well established in New Mexico--opening up missions and carrying on trade with the Indians. Down on the headwaters of the Colorado, in Texas, the Spanish found the friendly Jumano Indians. In 1629, Fathers Salas and Lopez, with a few soldiers, left the Santa Fe country for the Colorado to work among these Jumanos. Historians differ on the route taken by these Spaniards, but at least two old maps show their trail across the Plains from the Pecos at about Fort Sumner by way of Portales Lake, down the Yellowhouse Draw to the Lubbock area, south across the plains to Tahoka Lake, and on to the Colorado River headwaters in Borden County. Again in 1632, other friars made the same trip; and for the next fifty years, until the Pueblo Rebellion in 1680, New Mexican traders visited this region regularly. In 1650 and again in 1654, important military and trading expeditions from Santa Fe, the first under Captains Hermando Martin and Diego del Castillo, the latter under Diego del Guadalupe, visited the Jumanos and went on down the Colorado to the land of the Tejas Indians.

For the next two hundred years we find little account of white man's visitation to this section of the Plains. Old timers tell us New Mexican sheepherders frequented Tahoka Lake with their herds in the 1860's.

During the '70's numerous scouting expeditions by Texas Rangers on the Indian trail came to Tahoka Lake, several being from Camp Cooper, six miles above Fort Griffin.

Soldiers from both Fort Griffin and Fort Concho likewise followed the depredating Indians to the springs.

Just when the Fort Concho-Fort Sumner military trail by Tahoka Lake was established, this writer does not know; but for years, possible as far back as the Civil War, soldiers traveled almost the identical route followed by the Spanish over two hundred years previously.

Because of its abundant spring water, Tahoka Lake was a favorite buffalo hunting ground in the '70's, such hunters as John and Wright Mooar, Jim Harvey, the Causey brothers, John R. Cook and our own F. M. Sherrod, Tahoka, hunting in its surrounding territory.

The first ranch on the lower South Plains was located at Tahoka Lake in 1879 or 1880 by Shaw and McDonald, Sheep-raisers. Runis of their old dugout and rock corrals may be detected now at the north springs. They were followed in a few years by F. G. Oxshire, cattle ranchman and later by Col. C. C. Slaughter, who at one time controlled more than two million acres of land in this section. The old house at the north springs was built by him as his north headquarters, known as Tahoka Lake Ranch.

When the railroad built to Colorado in 1883, the main freight road to the North Plains came by Tahoka Lake. Supplies for the Capitol Syndicate's 3,000,000 acre XIT were hauled by here, as were those for Col. Charles Goodnight and the Adairs, the T-Anchor, the LIT, and other famous large ranches to the north. After establishment of Lubbock, freight and hack lines were by Tahoka Lake to Gail and on to Colorado, and later from Tahoka to Big Springs.

Today, only a few sections of grass remain around this lake, the bed of which covers nearly two sections of land.

Too, the lake is interesting geologically--formed as a result of some great sinking-in of the earth's surface long ago. Evidence of the great Cretaceous sea which covered Texas millions of years ago may be seen. Though fed by constantly running fresh water springs, the bed of the lake remains dry a greater portion of the time. The white sand of its bed is potash, common salt, epsom salt, mica, and a number of other salts and minerals to be found in several similar plains lakes.

## DOUBLE LAKES

Many things that have been said of Tahoka Lake, historically, likewise apply to Double Lakes, similar twin lakes about ten miles to the west of Tahoka Lake and just south of T-Bar Ranch headquarters.

Just who originally named these lakes is not known, but Col. Jasper Hayes and his party, who made the first surveys in this section in 1878, give first official recognition to the landmark.

Thou the fresh water supply at Double Lakes was not so generous, the springs afforded some water for Indians, hunters, early ranchmen, and even for the Spanish, possibly, though there seems to be no definite proof of Spanish visitation. Possibly the Mexican shepherds and hunters visited the spot frequently. In the '70's thousands of buffalo were killed around its shores by the previously mentioned hunters, as well as by many minor hunting outfits.

Of some historical significance, however, is the expedition of Company "A", 10th U.S. Colored Cavalry, under the command of Capt. Nicholas Nolan and Lieutenant Chas. L. Cooper, both white, composed of forty men and officers and accompanied by twenty-one buffalo hunters, which experienced trying hardships near the Double Lakes springs during the hot, dry summer of 1877.

Indians had been giving considerable trouble among the settlements, and orders were issued from Washington for forces from Fort Concho to take up the Indian trail. Hence, Company "A" joined on Bull Creek by the party of buffalo hunters, who had lost stock to the Indians followed a band of renegades to Double Lakes. The trail led off to the west and northwest. After resting at the lakes a day or two, the expedition forces filled their canteens with water, mounted their horses in high spirits, and again took the trail, little realizing what hardships were in wait for them.

The first day they consumed what water they had brought and began looking for other Lake springs. For 96 hours the party wandered over the plains of Lynn, Terry, Hockley, and Cochran Counties, without water, mad and famishing from thirst, before again finding their way back to Double Lakes. Four soldiers and a hunter died of thirst. Their mounts, fine cavalry horses, died, as did many of the pack mules; and, the

men, crazed by the suffocating heat and dry throats, cut the arteries of dying horses and drank with relish the rapidly coagulating blood. "I know but two other places (in history) where accounts as vivid as those you recount are to be found" writes J. Frank Dobie, noted Texas writer, author of "Coronado's Children" and other books on the Southwest, in regard to an article on the expedition by this writer.

The haggard party quenched its thirst at Double Lakes and was administered to by a relief expedition which had been sent out from Fort Concho headed by Capt. Lee. Here the party remained five or six days to recuperate before returning to the Fort, not a single Indian having been killed or captured.

It was also from Double Lakes that the last Indian fight on the Plains originated. That was in 1879.

A bunch of Comanche Indians escaped from the reservation at Fort Sill and came down into Texas on a raiding expedition. In Crosby County they stole some horses from John and Will Slaughter, ranchers. Slaughters gathered up a bunch of ranchmen and cowhands and hit the Indian trail. In the mouth of Yellowhouse Canyon, the Indians killed two men who were driving a herd of burros to Colorado, then took out across the Plains by Tahoka Lake to Double Lakes. Here the posse found them, after a hunt of a few days, filling up their buffalo skin water bags and preparing to make camp. The cowboys attacked. The Indians grabbed their equipment and headed south. The running fight lasted for several hours in the sandhills to the south, and then the cowboys were forced to return to Double Lakes for water and the Indians escaped. None of the white men were killed. Jack Alley, one of the founders of Tahoka town, and a pioneer Plains ranchman, was in the party that fought the Indians.

The next winter Double Lakes was visited by Capt. G. W. Arrington and his Texas Rangers from Camp Roberts on the trail of the Indians.

In 1883, Boyd and Frank Porter drove a small herd of cattle from Parker County out to Double Lakes to establish one of the very first cattle ranches located entirely on the Plains.

The next year, they were bought out by the Tahoka Cattle Company, controlled by Cass O. Edwards, better known as the T-Bar. Mr. Edwards still owns this 110-section ranch, which has been under the same management for fifty-one years, and is probably the oldest ranch on the Plains controlled by one man so long. Headquarters of the ranch are to the north end of the lakes, near the historic springs.

The University of Texas made a geological survey of Double Lakes in 1921, the results of which form Bulletin No. 2234, September 8, 1922, of the U. of T., in which it is stated: "We believe this source is the most promising potash supply in the United States so far reported". Several hundred test wells were put down in the lake, and the brine was found to contain potassium chloride, sodium chloride, magnesium chloride, calcium sulphate, and sodium sulphate.

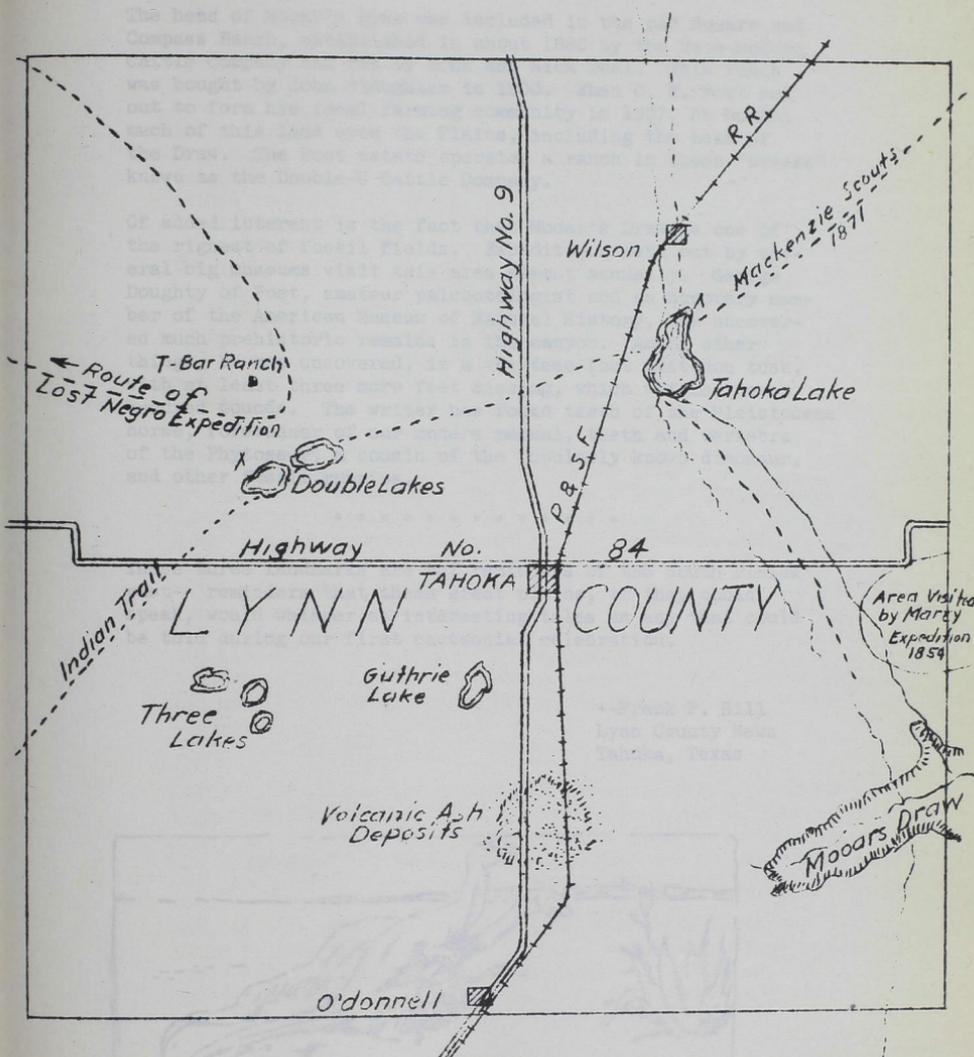
#### MOOAR'S DRAW

Double Mountain Canyon, known locally as Mooar's Draw, has its head in the southeast portion of Lynn County and proceeds eastward through Garza County, water having eaten out this chasm back nearly twenty miles from the edge of the caprock. This is one of the heads of the great Brazos.

North of the canyon is Grassland, Lynn County's first post-office established in about 1890 and named for Enos L. Seeds, now a millionaire Philadelphia building contractor, who was a surveyor under Capt. Hayes when working in this county in 1878. When these surveyors started upon the Plains, they met John and Wright Mooar, deans of Texas Plains buffalo hunting, camped on this headwater of Texas' biggest river. The surveyors officially named the headwaters Mooar's Draw.

It is not unlikely that this was another watering place on the Spanish trail from New Mexico to the headwaters of the Colorado. Just a few miles south of here rainwater drains to Bull Creek, Indian Canyon, and Wet and Dry Tobaccos, all headwaters of the Colorado.

Mooar's Draw was likewise a favorite Indian camping ground. Many teepee poles, pottery, corn grinders, etc., found here are proof the territory was more or less permanent residence of the Redman.



The head of Mooar's Draw was included in the old Square and Compass Ranch, established in about 1880 by the Nave-McCord Cattle Company and run by John and Nick Beal. This ranch was bought by John Slaughter in 1900. When C. W. Post set out to form his ideal farming community in 1907, he bought much of this land upon the Plains, including the head of the Draw. The Post estate operates a ranch in these "breaks" known as the Double-U Cattle Company.

Of added interest is the fact that Mooar's Draw is one of the richest of fossil fields. Expeditions sent out by several big museums visit this area almost annually. George Doughty of Post, amateur paleontologist and an honorary member of the American Museum of Natural History, has uncovered much prehistoric remains in the canyon. Among other things, he has uncovered, is a thirteen foot mastodon tusk, with at least three more feet missing, which weighed seven hundred pounds. The writer has found teeth of the Pleistocene horse, forerunner of our modern mammal, teeth and vertebra of the Phytosaur, a cousin of the popularly known dinosaur, and other fossil remains.

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These three landmarks are but reminders of the South Plains' past-- reminders that these great plains, if they could speak, would whisper as interesting tales as any that could be told during our first centennial celebration.

--Frank P. Hill  
Lynn County News  
Tahoka, Texas



## DESCRIPTIONS OF SOUTH PLAINS CITIES AND TOWNS

ABERNATHY - (For Monroe Abernathy) "Where King Cotton Shakes Hands with Queen Wheat" is the site of the Texas Utilities Company (Tuco) generating plant, and has two gins, two grain elevators, flour mill, and cheese plant. This region boasts many herds of fine dairy cattle, and many of the farms have large numbers of sheep of which twenty thousand were fed for market in 1934. A city water system was installed in 1935, and a large gymnasium has been added to the school which has an enrollment of 400. There are five churches, one hotel and two tourist camps.

AMHERST - "The Pick of the Plains" has a population of 1,100 and an elevation 3,560 feet. Cotton and various feeding materials are raised.

ANDREWS - the county seat of Andrews, was organized in 1910. Since that time, the county has increased in population from 87 to 1,000. Cattle raising has always been the principal occupation. Recently, oil has been discovered, and they now have at least twenty-five producing wells, and a number of wildcat wells are being drilled within the county. The wild animal life consists principally of prairie chickens, mexican quail, ravens, hawks, mexican eagles, and dog owls. At this time, the quail are protected by a five year game law, prohibiting their slaughter. The average elevation is 2,600 feet above sea level. In general, the surface is level, broken only by draws and there are no rivers or creeks in the county.

ANTON - "The Town with a Purpose" was named for J. F. Anton, Superintendent of this division of the Santa Fe Railway at the time of settlement. The population is 511, and the elevation is 3,550 feet. Cotton and feed are marketed here.

BLEDSOE - terminal of a branch line of the Panhandle and Santa Fe Railway, is located on the line between Texas and New Mexico. It is surrounded by excellent ranch and farm country. There is good hunting in seasons. The town was named in honor of a Santa Fe Railway official.

BOVINA - is near the center of Parmer County, just eleven miles northeast of Farwell, and was at one time the largest original cattle shipping point in the world. Here also was one of the ranch divisions of the great XIT ranch, which has now been broken up into farms and ranches, where not only high grade cattle are produced from small select herds, but where there are annually produced enormous crops of wheat, corn, the sorghum cereals and much cotton. Its slogan is "Nothing Knocks on Bovina but Prosperity".

The Spanish Flag, the first unfurled on Texas soil, was carried into Texas at a point near Bovina, where the Mackenzie Trail later crossed, just fifty years after Columbus discovered America, for it was then that Coronado and his men came onto the Great Plains of Texas, which they described as a place where they were never out of sight of the buffalo.

"In the fall of 1898, J. J. Hagerman was building what is now the Pecos Valley Branch of the Santa Fe. This line crossed the XIT Ranch in a southwesterly direction from Amarillo, and Hereford, Farwell, Texico, and other towns sprang up along the new trail of steel. About mid-way across the ranch a switch was put in and a little town started up. Cowmen shipped in cotton seed to be used for food, and in unloading it a little was invariably spilled along the track. When the switch was put in the XIT had a bunch of high grade Hereford bulls just arrived from Missouri. The right of way was unfenced and the bulls gathered at the switch to eat their fill of spilled cotton seed. Then lazily content they often lay down upon the tract to chew their cuds. When the train came to every bull held his ground with aristocratic mien. To avoid a wreck the engineer was forced to stop, while the brakeman climbed off with a prod pole and chased the bulls away. The switch had not been named, and the conductor reported his shipments at this division point as so many cars to or from "Bull Town". However appropriate the name, it was too vulgar for railroad men, and upon their maps they wrote "Bovina". Bovina became known for a short while as a New Mexico and West Texas cow town and was reputed to be the largest inland shipping point for cattle in the world. Bovina became the headquarters of division number eight of the XIT Ranch. This division was formed, ten years after the other divisions were made, by cutting off land from Spring Lake." From the XIT Ranch by J. Everts Hanley.

BRONCHO - (Named for the wild riders of the West) is located on the line of Texas and New Mexico, just two miles east

of the old Pueblo Springs in eastern New Mexico where the Indians watered before the white men came to the Plains. Water is now being pumped by windmill from three to four feet beneath the surface. Here is the actual beginning of Sulphur Draw and the Colorado River. Buffalo grazing with Hereford cattle may occasionally be seen on the ranches near Broncho. It has tourist camps and accommodations for the public traveling to the scenic attractions of mountainous New Mexico.

**BROWNFIELD** - "The Greatest Corn Market in West Texas" is named for A. M. Brownfield, pioneer ranchman. It is the county seat of Terry. The W. R. Hearst feeding pens are located here. Nearly 10,000 head of steers are shipped in from Old Mexico each year to be fed on the products of the local farms. The monthly payroll is about \$1,700.00 More than a million bushels of corn are produced in Terry County annually. Several alkali lakes near Brownfield are worthwhile visiting, and a lovely park of 120 acres on Lost Draw, northwest of the city, is soon to be built by the Public Works Administration.

**CROSBYTON** - county seat of Crosby, has a population of 1,500. Agriculture is the principal industry. Cotton, wheat and grains are grown in abundance. The noted "Rock House", erected in 1877 by Hank Smith, is located eleven miles north. The West Texas Old Settlers hold their reunion each year in August at the Hank Smith Memorial Park. Silver Falls Lake, in beautiful Blanco Canyon, three miles east of the city, on State Highway 24, offers recreation for the tourist.

**DIMMITT** - county seat of Castro, was headquarters for a division of the great XIT Ranch, and part of the 5,000,000 acres of Capitol Reservation Lands. Wheat, grain sorghum and forage crops are grown extensively. A greater part of the area of this county is devoted to the ranching and swine industries.

**FARWELL** - the county seat of Parmer, is on the Texas-New Mexico state line at the junctions of States Highways Nos. 7 and 33. The town was named after the Farwell family of Chicago, who some fifty years ago erected the State Capitol in Ausitn in consideration of a patent by the State to them

of three million acres of land, at that time the largest ranch in the world. Farwell is the gateway to New Mexico and Arizona, and only a few hours' drive from the Carlsbad Caverns, Las Vegas, Santa Fe, Taos and Albuquerque. It has a population of slightly over one thousand and is surrounded by an attractive countryside, and is in the center of one of the best farming sections in West Texas, already well-developed, but with many thousands of acres of land still open for settlement at attractive prices and on easy terms. Farwell has splendid railroad facilities, being the junction of the two main lines of the Santa Fe Railroad, one extending from Chicago and Kansas City through Farwell to the Pacific Coast, and the other from Los Angeles through Farwell and the heart of Texas to Houston and Galveston.

FLOYDADA - derived its name from the combination of the names "Floyd" and "Ada", the man and wife on whose land the townsite was platted in 1890. It is a shipping center for grain, cotton, feed, poultry, and butter. Floyd County, of which Floydada is the county seat, is mostly level prairie with the exception of the eastern portion through which cuts the escarpment called the Cap Rock. In Blanco Canyon, so-called because of the white cliffs of cap rock which form its outer walls, is situated the Floydada Country Club and historic Cochran's Peak, mentioned in Mackenzie's record of his foray against the Comanche Indians in 1874. Twenty one miles northeast of Floydada in surroundings of wild scenic beauty are located Quitaque Falls, and the Fort Worth and Denver railroad tunnels. Those tunnels are 300 and 900 feet long, and are the only ones in Texas.

HALE CENTER - center of Hale County, has a population of 1,007, and an altitude of 3,468 feet. Wheat, cotton sorghum grains and alfalfa are grown. There is plenty of shallow water for irrigation purposes. The Eworth monument marking the site of the first home and postoffice in Hale County is located here. Hale Center is the home of J. Frank Norfleet, rancher-detective, who made a 30,000 mile transcontinental chase in 1919 to capture a gang of international swindlers.

HAPPY - It is said that this town was named for an Irishman called Happy Jack who ran a stage coach stand near the present site in the early days.

JUSTICEBURG - is a village located on State Highway No. 7 between the towns of Snyder and Post. Here the Santa Fe trains, of the

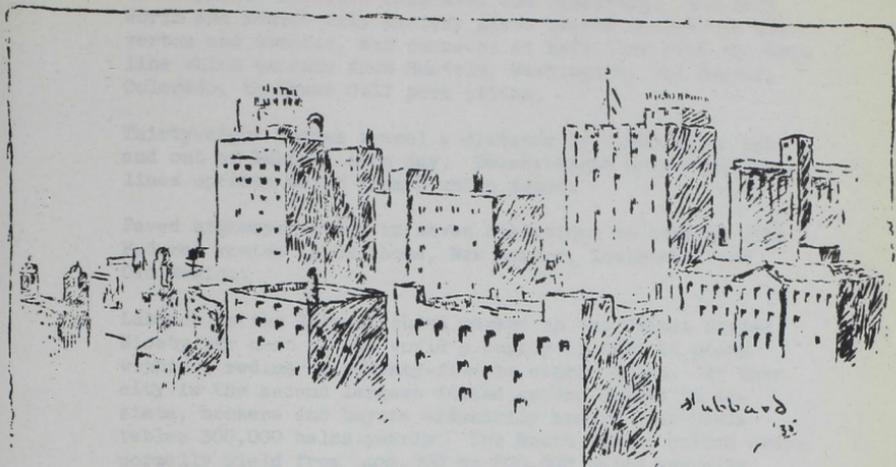
the Grand Canyon Line, stop to take on water. Its chief attraction is the Justiceburg Recreational Club Lake which was incorporated in 1929. The lake was constructed in 1910 as a water reservoir for the Panhandle and Santa Fe Railway Company, and was stocked with fish in 1912 or 1913. The Club has a lease from the railway company on the lake and grounds which include approximately 640 acres. The lake and property come up to the highway. The depth of the lake is about forty feet. There is good bass, crappie and perch fishing. There are eight cottages owned by the Club. Fishing privilege on private lake may be secured on payment of \$1.00 per day per person.

LAMESA - (From La Mesa, Spanish, meaning table or level) - "Where Texans are Texans" - is almost entirely supported by agriculture. The principal crops are cotton, corn and grain sorghums. There are 903 square miles in Dawson County, 95% of which is tillable, and 85% is in cultivation. The trade territory of the county seat, Lamesa, comprises 1,600 square miles, and there are eighty-five retail stores. Recreations include the City Park, State Park, Golf Course, two theaters, and prairie chicken and quail hunting in season.

LEHMAN - named in honor of a Santa Fe official, is now enjoying considerable oil activity in the way of leasing of land with a fair prospect for drilling soon to begin.

LEVELLAND - "The Heart of the Plains" - was originally surveyed and platted by the late C. W. Post, cereal manufacturer and rancher, and the town was known as Hockley City long before the tide of immigration reached this section. Hockley County, of which Levelland is the county seat, showed the largest percentage of growth in population and agricultural development of any county in the nation during the years from 1920 to 1930; and in 1931, it was placed second in the state for feeding operations. Its fertile, sandy loam soil which requires a minimum of moisture, and spring-like climate during the summer and early fall are conducive to a large production of vegetables including melons.

LITTLEFIELD - "The Pulse of the Plains" - was named for Major George W. Littlefield. Lamb County, of which Littlefield is the county seat, has extensive grain and sorghum acreage. The soil is particularly adapted to vegetable, berry and fruit production. Swine, poultry and cattle raising are also among the chief industries. Historic Yellow House Ranch and scenic Bull Lake are located respectively 12 and 14 miles southwest of Littlefield.



LUBBOCK, county seat of Lubbock, better known as "The Hub of the Plains", was organized at a special election March 10, 1891, and named for Colonel Thomas S. Lubbock of the Confederate Army's Terry Rangers.

As the center of one of the richest agricultural sections in Texas, this "hub has a trade territory extending as far west as Roswell and Carlsbad, and northwest to Clovis, in New Mexico; north to Tulia and Dimmitt, northeast to Matador and Paducah, east to Spur, Aspermont, and Guthrie, and south to the main line of the Texas and Pacific railroad.

There are over 200 wholesale, manufacturing and jobbing concerns. Twenty-five or more articles are made and distributed for use in the surrounding territory.

The town itself has a population of around 26,000. The 1390 census showed 20,512. Since then, there have been gains of 1,000 or more a year.

Lubbock has two railroads--the Santa Fe with a main line to Clovis, other New Mexico points, and California, from Sweetwater, Temple and Gulf ports including Houston, Galveston and New Orleans, together with four branch lines

to Amarillo, Bledsoe, Seagraves and Crosbyton. The Fort Worth and Denver City Railway gives branch outlets to Silvertown and Dimmitt, and connects at Estelline with the main line which extends from Seattle, Washington, via Denver, Colorado, to Texas Gulf port cities.

Thirty-eight busses travel a distance of 7,250 miles into and out of Lubbock each day. Twenty-eight motor freight lines operate daily from a union depot.

Paved highways extend in seven directions to connect with Federal routes in Oklahoma, New Mexico, Louisiana, and Old Mexico.

Lubbock is the largest seed market in the United States. Ninety per cent of the world's supply of seed is grown within a radius of seventy-five to eighty miles. As this city is the second largest inland cotton market in the state, brokers and buyers ordinarily handle over their tables 300,000 bales yearly. The South Plains cotton crops normally yield from 400,000 to 500,000 bales annually. The grain sorghum industry is the largest of any area in the state and nation. A normal acreage of 1,500,000 to 2,000,000 is grown each year and hundreds of cars of seeds and heads are shipped from Lubbock. Sixty thousand head of cattle, one hundred thousand sheep and fifty thousand hogs are fed within this sector during the feeding season, winter and early spring.

Historically, Lubbock County has a large place in West Texas history. The first permanent settlement on the cap rock was at Estacado, in the northeastern part of Lubbock County, where Paris Cox and his colony of Quakers the South Plains' first farmers, settled in 1880. This was five or six years before any other settlement was made on the cap rock.

The famous Singer Store which catered to the buffalo hunters and early settlers was located three miles northwest of Lubbock at the head of Yellow House Canyon. The Nicolette, Lubbock's first hotel, built in 1891, still stands at the corner of Broadway and Avenue H on State Highway No. 7.

Buffalo Springs, one of the few springs on top of the cap rock, is located five miles southeast of Lubbock. Fishermen, oarsmen, swimmers, campers, hikers and climbers find this scenic spot in Yellow House Canyon very attractive.

Mackenzie State Park, named in honor of the picturesque Plains Indian fighter of the 1870's, is located just east of Lubbock in the Yellow House Canyon through which a fork of the Brazos River flows. It comprises approximately 580 acres and is immediately adjacent to State Highways Nos. 9 and 24. When completed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1937, this park will contain excellent amusement and recreational facilities. Surveys and landscaping activities are under way. Meadowbrook Golf Course will be enlarged and improved; camping cabins will be erected and an open-air theater, bath house and swimming pool will be constructed. At present, the park contains much natural beauty and is a favorite haunt of Lubbockites as well as citizens of adjoining cities and towns.

Texas Technological College, the third largest state institution in Texas, is located two miles west of the civic center of Lubbock at the junctions of State Highways Nos. 7, 137, 24, and College Avenue. Its campus of 2,000 acres, reputed to be the largest in the world, is beautifully landscaped with a well-planned and definite system of driveways, parking places, and lawns about its sixteen buildings of pure Spanish Renaissance architecture which are valued at more than three million dollars. Funds have recently been allotted for the construction and equipment of a museum building. Much interest is taken in the growing of Chinese Elms on 320 acres of the campus, and 1,688 acres of the grounds are cultivated by the Division of Agriculture of the College.

From an enrollment of 1,379 students the first year, 1925, the attendance has increased to over 5,633 students annually of all classifications. Practically all of these students are residents of Texas. The faculty numbers 128.

The Lubbock High School building of Northern Italian Renaissance architecture, built at a cost of over a half million dollars, is one of the most beautiful in the Southwest.

The municipal airport building is valued at \$30,000. The landing field of 640 acres, five miles north of Lubbock, is adjacent to State Highway No. 9.

Lubbock has two large hospitals, five modern theaters, and two daily newspapers: the Morning Avalanche and the Evening Journal. There are four weekly publications: the High School's Western World, the College's Toreador, the Lubbock Herald and the South Plains Farmer.



Pear view of Lubbocks  
first Hotel  
Nicolette Hotel  
1891

MONROE - (For Monroe Abernathy) is located on State Highway No. 9, eleven miles from Lubbock, and has two gins and ten business houses.

MORTON, county seat of Cochran County, the newest county in the state, was named in honor of Morton J. Smith, principal promoter, and its history reads like a fiction story. In 1924, the entire county was a cow pasture owned by Colonel C. C. Slaughter, a picturesque cattle baron. The old ranch headquarters were located nearby.

Morton is located on State Highway No. 24, twenty miles from the Texas-New Mexico state line.

The town has four churches with an aggregate membership of approximately one thousand, a fully accredited high school and grammar school with an enrollment of 600, five auto and general repair shops, three wholesale gas and oil stations, numerous service stations, thirteen stores, one hotel, one steam laundry, two large gin plants, one grist feed mill, an electric plant, telephone exchange and a water works system under contract. A modern theater is under construction. The principal sports are golfing and small game hunting in season.

The ruins of several old adobe houses may be seen within the city limits.



MULESHOE - (A cow brand used by the famous Muleshoe Ranch) "Abundance of Shallow Water". Altitude 3,790 feet. Population 1,250. Near Muleshoe, the county seat of Bailey, there are 150,000 acres of shallow water land adapted to economic irrigation. All kinds of truck crops, cotton, wheat, oats, small grain and sudan grasses are grown. This town is the granary of West Texas, and the largest shipping point of sudan grass in the world. The principal scenic attraction visible at this point is the low range of sand hills that run diagonally across the South Plains country into New Mexico. Early Spanish maps show a river once ran where these sand hills are.

OLTON, the county seat of Lamb, is an inland town serving as a trade center for the northeastern part of the county. The population is about 500.

PLAINS, county seat of Yoakum, is named for its elevation, 3600 feet, and the distance from which it can be seen. Sulphur Draw, headwaters of the Colorado River, with its over present indications of both sulphur and oil, runs through Plains. This town is the last stand for prairie chicken hunters. The first four days of September each year is open season. A sod house, built in 1903, can be seen from State Highway No. 84, one mile north of Plains.

PLAINVIEW, county seat of Hale, is the country which has been described by an official of the U. S. Department of Agriculture as "The Model of Diversification for the Southwest". The Plainview territory differs from most farming areas in that cotton and wheat are both grown in large quantities successfully and profitably. Rapid strides are taking place in the development of the dairy farming industry. Civilization has followed water, and centralized where it abounds. Plainview was one of the first developed communities on the South Plains of Texas. Its verdant prairies and its shallow water made it a place where life was easily and comparatively comfortably sustained. Only within the last twenty years has its shallow water been utilized to its full value - in irrigated farming. Plainview is a good place to live - with practically all churches represented, an excellent public school system, a junior college, two business colleges, a modern hospital and clinic. The famous old Mackenzie Trail" crosses the southwest corner of the Court Yard Square, and it has been the dream of the citizenship that someday a monument would be placed at this spot to mark this famous old trail.



POST -- Gateway to the Plains -- is named for C. W. Post, the cereal manufacturer, who modeled and built the town. Garza County, of which Post is the county seat, has three geological sections: the low plains, breaks and high plains. It offers the greatest diversified farming section in West Texas, as well as excellent advantages in the cattle raising industry. The principal crops are cotton and small grains. The Postex Cotton Mills, manufacturers of the famous Garza brand sheets and pillow cases, are located here. The main line of the Santa Fe Railway, and a system of busses and motor trucks serve the town. South Lake, outside the city limit on State Highway No. 7, and Two Draw Lake, one mile north, afford splendid game fishing and recreational opportunities. The Post Memorial Boy Scout Camp, owned by the scouts of the South Plains Area Council, is located at the old headquarters of the Curry Comb Ranch, about two and one-half miles southwest of the town. Post has six churches, two civic clubs, three modern hotels, three tourist camps, two school with an enrollment of 646, a Country Club and Golf Course. State Highway Nos. 7 and 84 intersect within the city limits.

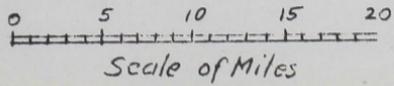
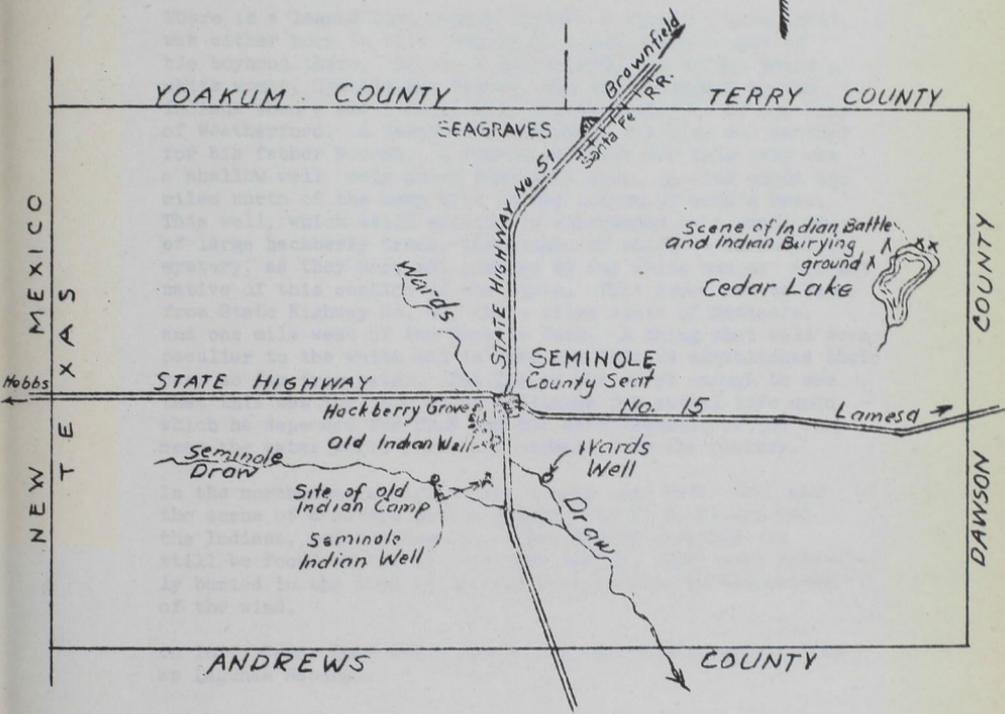
QUITAJUE - is located about six miles below the Cap Rock on State Highway No. 86, in Briscoe County. It has a population of about 1,000. A most striking view of the ledges of the cap rock formation may be obtained from this point. The "Old Lost Mine", operated during the 70's by Mexicans who were later killed by the Indians, is located one and three-fourths miles west and one mile north of the town. Tests show small amounts of gold, silver, copper and lead. Beautiful Lingus Falls, southwest of Quitajue, near the Floyd County Line, may be reached by country road.

RALLS - was named for John R. Ralls who came to this country from Ryan, Oklahoma, and settled here in 1911. Slogan: "Where Wheat and Cotton Meet". Population: 1,689. Thirty miles from Lubbock and nine miles from Crosbyton. Ralls' trade territory extends over a distance of 350 square miles and includes eleven communities. In 1933, Ralls ginned and shipped 32,000 bales of cotton, and in 1930 shipped 90 cars of wheat. There are 72 business firms. Historic points near Ralls include: Emma, once the county seat of Crosby County, is located three miles south; and Estacado, the first frontier settlement on the Plains, colonized by Quakers from Indiana, in 1880, is 15 miles northwest of Ralls.

ROPEVILLE - twenty miles from Lubbock on State Highway No. 137, has a population of 600. It is located in one of the best farming sections of the South Plains. The most outstanding Federal resettlement project in all rural Texas, known as the Ropesville Rural Industrial Community, is underway near here. A total of 144 miles of terraces, 24 feet wide and 21 inches high have been run on 6,100 acres of land. The terraces range in length from one-fifth mile to ten miles. They force the water to sink into the soil instead of running into the semi-dry surface lakes. One hundred families will be settled on this project. Dwellings, windmills, and other improvements are being built on each unit of sixty acres.

SEAGRAVES - "The Heart of a Fertile Tri-County Farming and Ranching District" - is located sixty-five miles southwest of Lubbock on a direct route to Carlsbad and El Paso. During favorable years, excellent fruit crops are grown. On the large cattle and horse ranches is found the prairie chicken, a native habitant. Points of interest are the Old Blythe Post Office, Stage Coach Headquarters, and Cedar Lake which contains mineral deposits but no water.

# GAINES MAP OF COUNTY



SEMINOLE (For Seminole Indians) is the county seat of Gaines County. It covers an area of one square mile and has a population of 600. The altitude is 3,300 feet. Agriculture and stock raising are the principal industries. Sixty per cent of Gaines County is under lease by Major Oil Companies. Only ten per cent of the county is in cultivation. The remainder is used for cattle grazing.

A large permanent Indian camp of the Seminole Indian tribe was located about four miles south of the present location of the town of Seminole. A few relics may still be found on the site of this camp; although, a greater part of them has been taken away.

There is a legend that Quanah Parker, a famous Indian chief, was either born in this camp or at least spent a part of his boyhood there. He was a half-breed, his mother being a white woman, Cynthia Ann Parker, who was kidnapped by the Indians when a small child near the present site of the City of Weatherford. A Texas town was named for him, and another for his father Nocona. A source of water for this camp was a shallow well, only about four feet deep, located about two miles north of the camp site in the bottom of Ward's Draw. This well, which still exists, is surrounded by a small grove of large hackberry trees, the origin of which is shrouded in mystery, as they were not planted by any white man or are not native of this section of the state. This grove can be seen from State Highway No. 51, three miles south of Seminole, and one mile west of the Wayside Park. A thing that will seem peculiar to the white man is that the Indians established their camp so far from water. The Indian was smart enough to see that this was the only water available for animal life upon which he depended for food and the establishment of the camp near the water would drive all animals from the country.

In the northeastern part of the county near Cedar Lake was the scene of a severe battle between the U. S. Troops and the Indians, and the remains of the Indian skeletons can still be found on the site of this battle. They were evidently buried in the sand hills, but were exposed by the action of the wind.

In 1874, Cedar Lake was known to the men of Mackenzie's army as Lagunas Sabinas.

**SHAFTER LAKE** - Years ago, Andrews County was inhabited by the Seminole Indians and General W. R. Shafter was sent there to exterminate them. He established his camp on a large salt lake which bears his name. This lake covers something like 2,500 acres of land, and has no water in it except when there is an excessive amount of rain. When the water evaporates, it leaves a coat of salt covering the bottom of the lake sometimes as much as three or four inches in thickness. This salt analyzes 95% pure. Stockmen used this salt both for their cattle and preserving their meat. This is where the thirsty soldiers in pursuit of the Indians drank the salty alkali water and twenty or more died, in the early eighties. The town of Shafter Lake was started in 1907, and had a good early growth with perhaps a thousand or more people. It had a good newspaper that at one time was a daily, also a good school building built on the bank of Shafter Lake, but now it does not even have a store or a school. Shafter Lake is located eight miles northwest of the town of Andrews. It can be reached by traveling six miles west from Highway No. 51 at Andrews, thence five miles north via of an old trail. A new country road has just been completed from Highway No. 51, about one mile south of Smackover, to Shafter Lake, for the use of oil field traffic and consolidated school busses. On the trail route, it is interesting to see the "mud mines" where clay is mined, sacked and hauled to the oil wells for use in "mudding off water and gas pockets".

**SILVERTON**, is the county seat of Briscoe which was created from Bexar County in 1892. It's slogan is "Home of Diversification". Wheat, cotton, cream, poultry, hogs, wool, sheep, beef cattle and feed crops are the salable products. Silverton is the northern terminus of a branch of the Fort Worth & Denver. Scenic points worthwhile visiting when near this town are: Tule Canyon, Little Red River Breaks, Schott Cap on Clarendon Road, and the Narrows which is a freak of nature.

**SLATON**, named for O. L. Slaton, banker and prominent citizen, is known as the "Santa Fe Center". It is the division point of the railroad extending north to Amarillo; northwest to Clovis, New Mexico, northeast to Tulsa, Oklahoma, southeast to Sweetwater, and southwest to Presidio on the Rio Grande River, a distance of 1,200 miles. The Santa Fe Shops and a Harvey House are located here, and the company has an excellent golf course for its employees. The principal scenic attraction is the Yellow House Canyon. An excellent panoramic view may be obtained from a point on the country road three miles north of Slaton.

SUDAN - Before the town was organized, the first successful crop made was sudan grass; hence, the selection of the name Sudan. Elevation 3,565 feet. Population 1,200. Area: one square mile. Located on State Highway No. 7 and P. & S. F. R. R., in Lamb County. Cotton and feed crops are raised.

TAHOKA - Indian word meaning "the water is all gone", or "deep water", or "clear water". Slogan: "The Heart of the South Plains". Population 2,000. County seat of Lynn, one of Texas' leading cotton counties. Extensive feed-cropsfarming, cattle, hog and poultry raising. Served by Santa Fe Railroad, also bus and truck lines. State Highways 9 and 84 connect with all cities to the north, south, east and west. Tahoka has fifty hotel rooms, three tourist camps, seven churches and three schools.

Valuable deposits of volcanic ash, Fuller's Earth, and potash are found nearby. Tahoka Lake, which will soon be converted into a state park, is a point of interest historically and geographically, since it was on one of the Spanish trails from Santa Fe to central West Texas, and was visited by the Padres and Spanish Conquistadores 300 years ago. It was a prominent Indian retreat, buffalo watering place, and favorite headquarters of buffalo hunters in the 1870's. Later it was headquarters of Col. C. C. Slaughter's Tahoka Lake Ranch. Double Lakes was the site of the last Indian fight on the plains, a fight between cowboys headed by John and Will Slaughter, and a bunch of Comanche Indian renegades from Oklahoma reservation, in 1879. Its springs saved the so-called "Lost Nigger Expedition" from complete annihilation by King Sol during the hot, dry summer of 1877, when a company of 40 negro soldiers from Fort Concho became lost on the prairies and four of their number famished from thirst. T-Bar Ranch, one of the few remaining old-time ranches, 110 sections in area, has been under management of the same man, Cass O. Edwards, for 52 years. East of Tahoka, adjacent to State Highway No 84, is the area visited by Capt. R. B. Marcy's Expedition from Fort Smith, Arkansas, in 1854. Marcy reported that the Llano Estacado was worthless for all purposes of human habitation, "except it might be used for a penal colony"; and, "that is was destitute of soil, timber, water, game, and everything else that can sustain or make life tolerable".

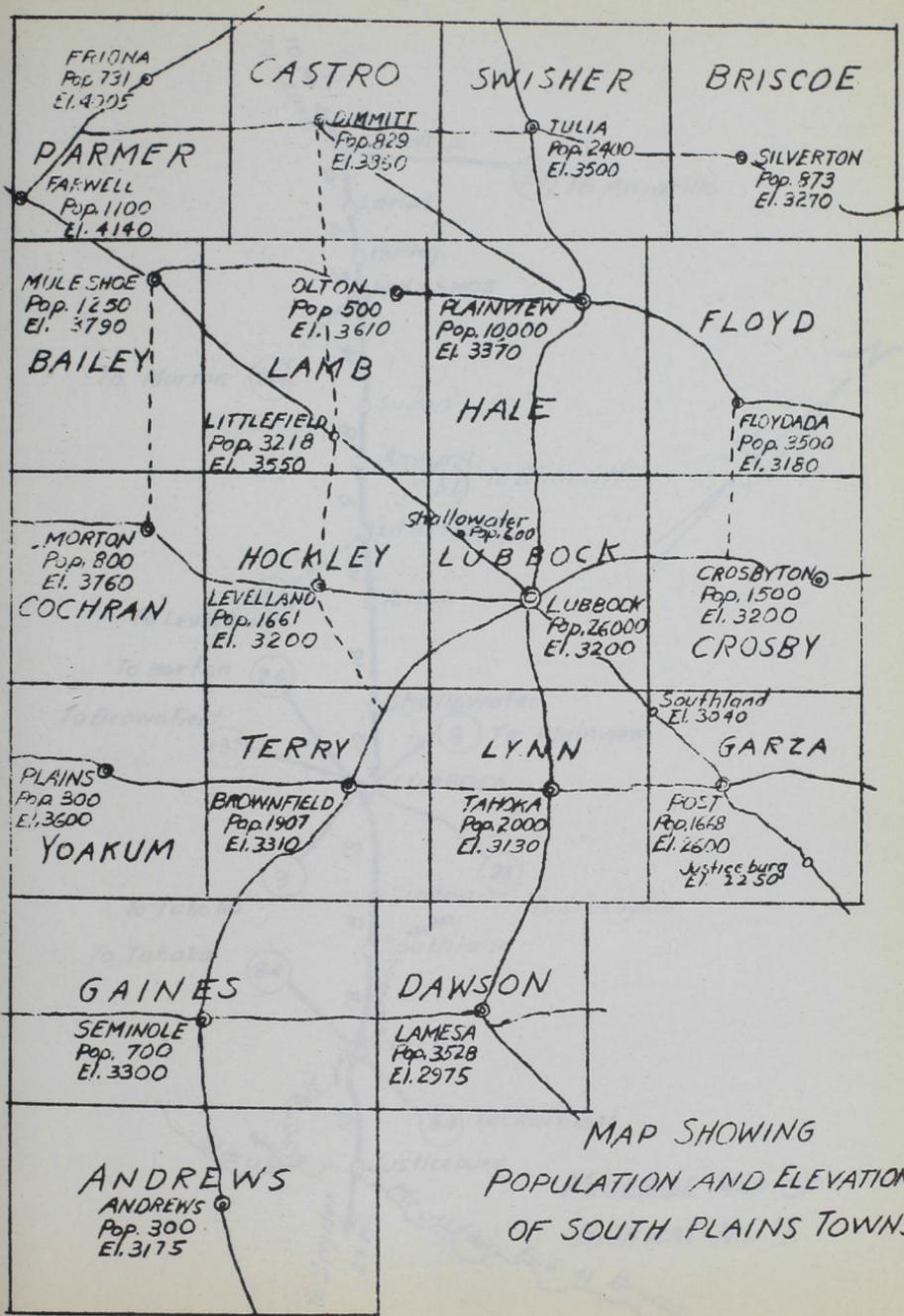


TULLIA - "Nothing Knocks Here but Opportunity" - is the county seat of Swisher, the second largest wheat production county in Texas. The surface is very level, being broken only by Tule Creek which traverses it from west to east. When the town made application for a post office, the name was spelled Tulie for Tulia grass. The government officials interpreted it as Tulia so the town is known by the latter name.

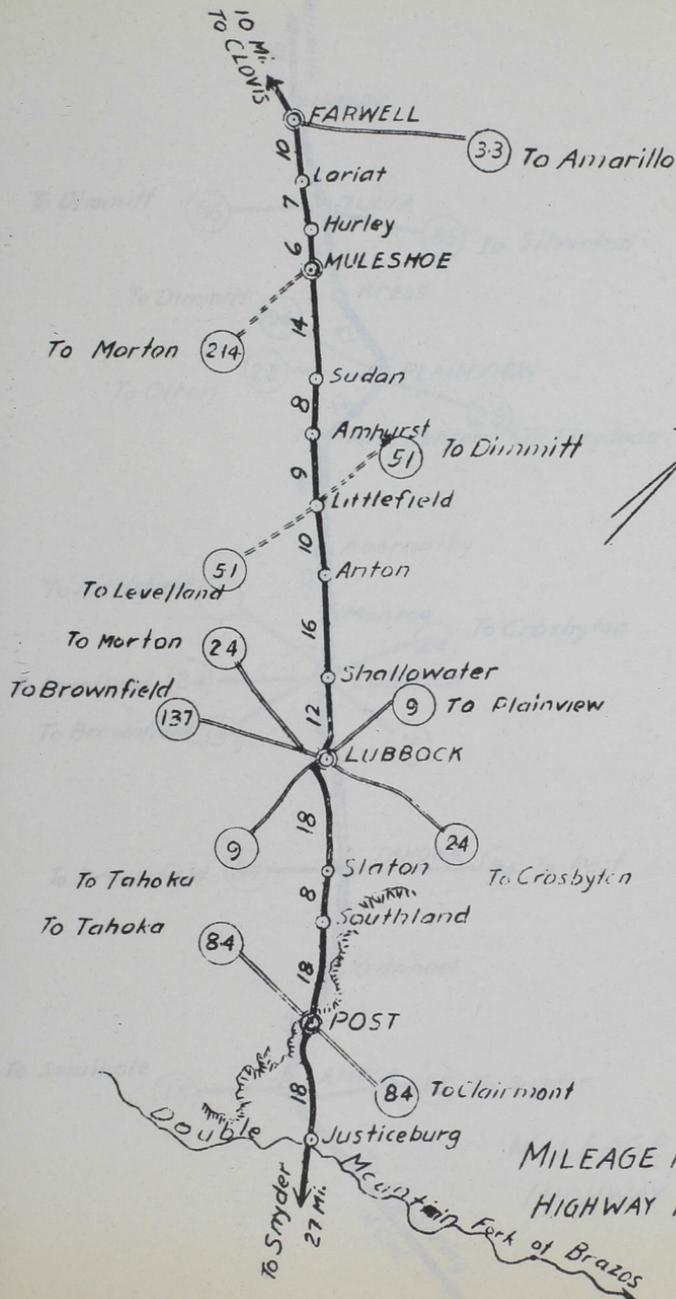
WHITE FACE - (named for Hereford Cattle) is located on the Santa Fe railroad and has a paved spur to State Highway No. 24. The town is surrounded by rich farming country. It has a consolidated high school, two gin plants, and several stores.

ANDREWS  
ANDREWS  
Pop 300  
EL 375

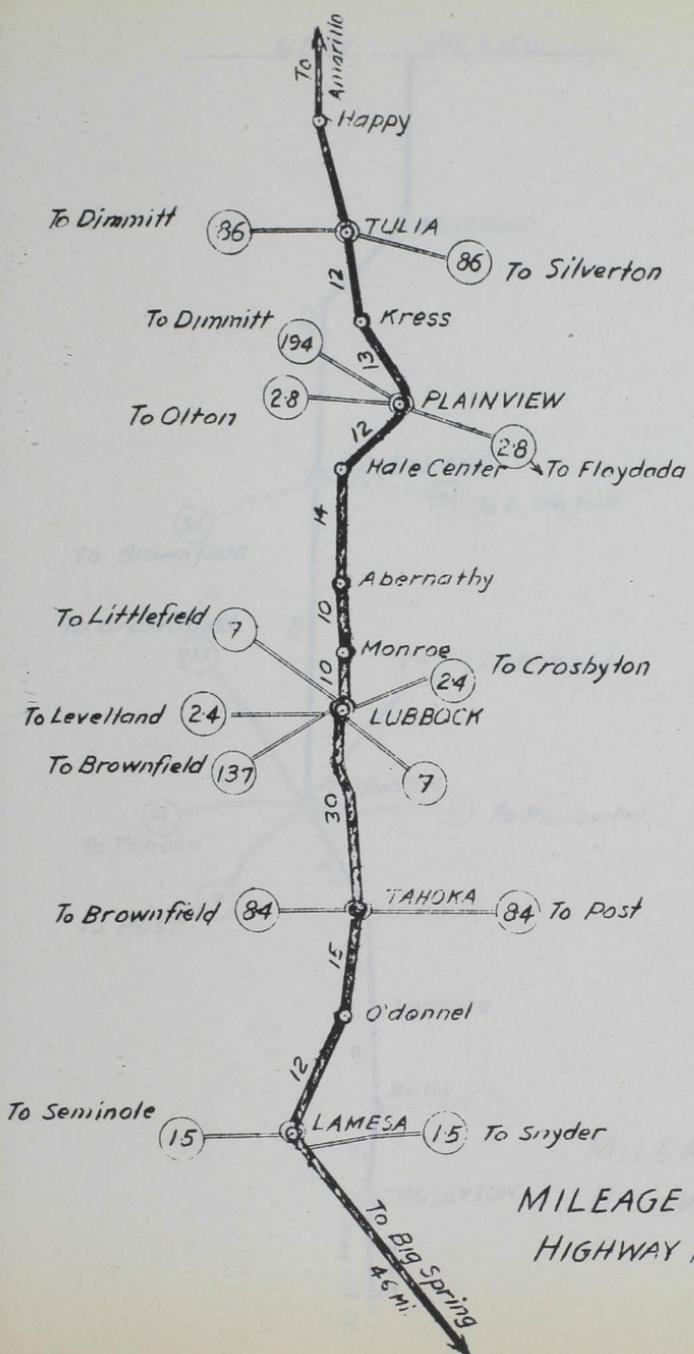
MAP SHOWING  
POPULATION AND ELEVATIONS  
OF SOUTH PLAINS TOWNS



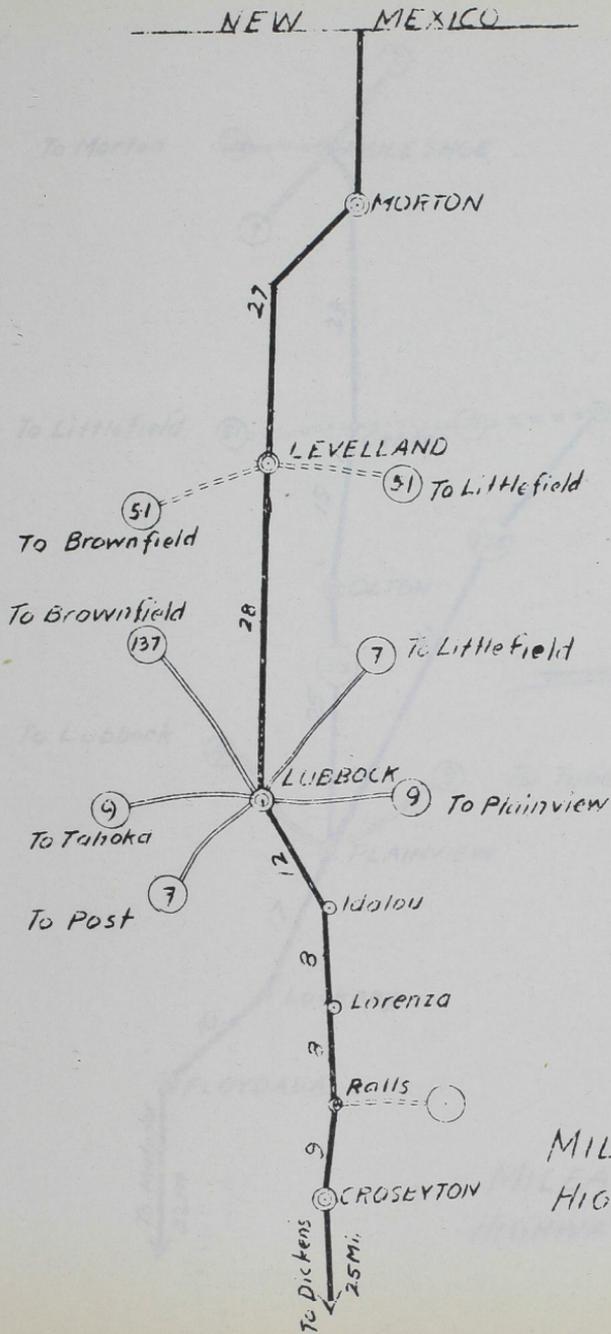
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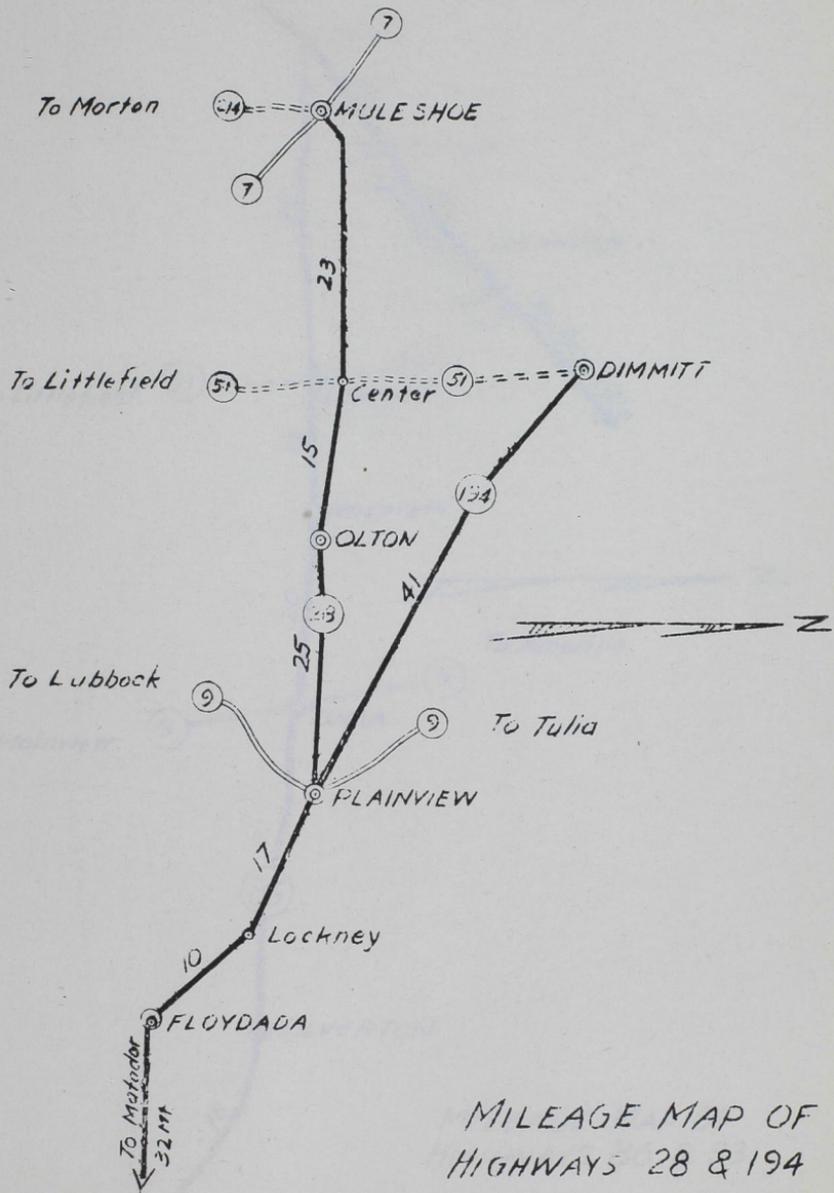
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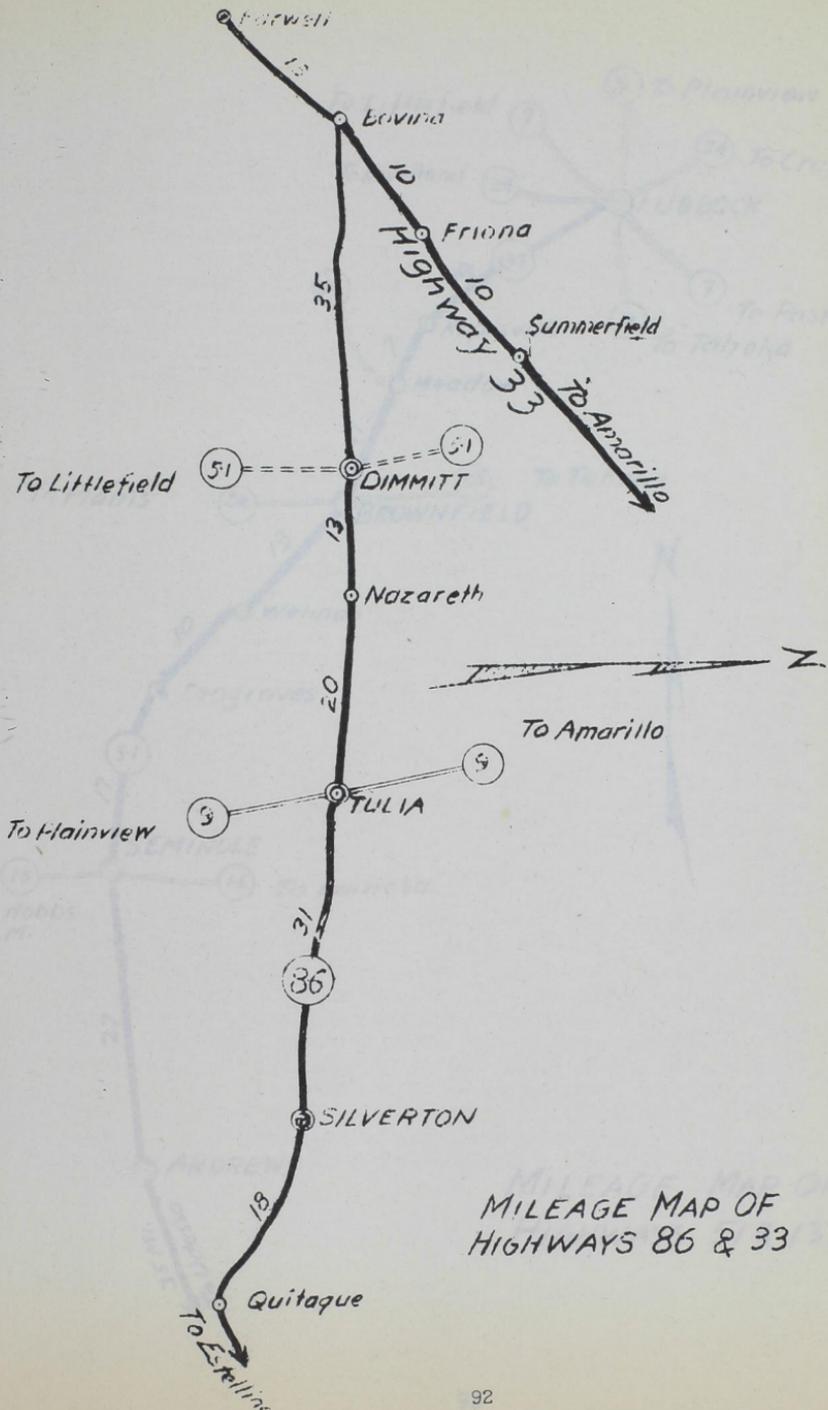
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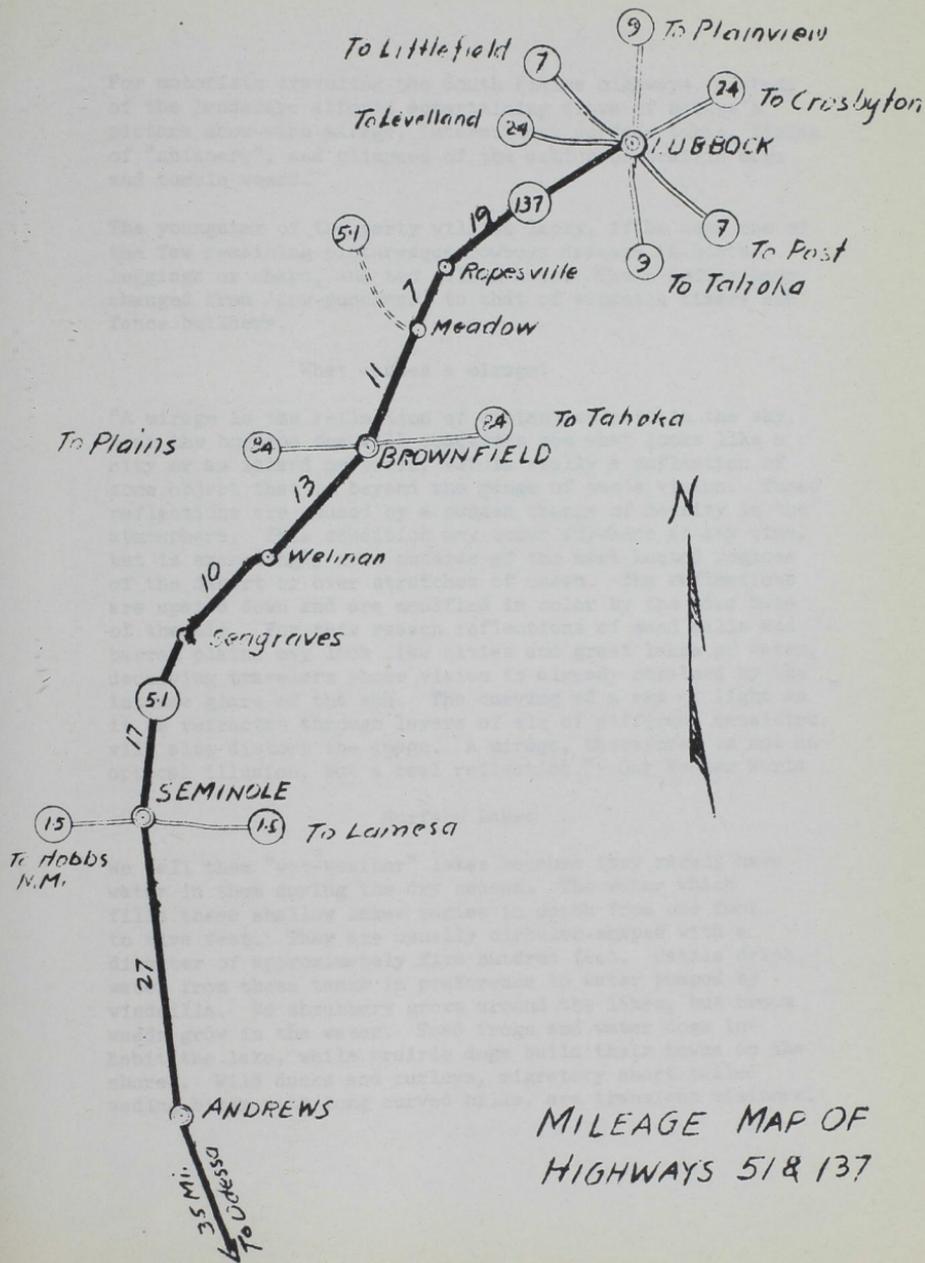
MILEAGE MAP OF  
HIGHWAY No. 24



MILEAGE MAP OF  
HIGHWAYS 28 & 194



MILEAGE MAP OF  
HIGHWAYS 86 & 33



## ROADSIDE DIVERTISSMENT

For motorists traveling the South Plains highways, a study of the landscape affords entertaining views of nature's picture show--the mirage, intermittent surface lakes, fields of "shinnery", and glimpses of the antics of prairie dogs and tumble weeds.

The youngster of the party will be lucky, if he sees one of the few remaining picturesque cowboys dressed in boots, leggings or chaps, and ten gallon hats. Their duties have changed from 'cow-punchers' to that of windmill fixers and fence builders.

What causes a mirage?

"A mirage is the reflection of distant objects in the sky. Near the horizon one will sometimes see what looks like a city or an island or trees, but is really a reflection of some object that is beyond the range of one's vision. These reflections are caused by a sudden change of density in the atmosphere. This condition may occur anywhere at any time, but is exceedingly rare outside of the most heated regions of the desert or over stretches of ocean. The reflections are upside down and are modified in color by the blue haze of the air. For this reason reflections of sand hills and barren plains may look like cities and great lakes of water, deceiving travelers whose vision is already strained by the intense glare of the sun. The curving of a ray of light as it is refracted through layers of air of different densities will also distort the image. A mirage, therefore, is not an optical illusion, but a real reflection."--Our Wonder World

### Surface Lakes

We call them "wet-weather" lakes because they rarely have water in them during the dry season. The water which fills these shallow lakes varies in depth from one foot to five feet. They are usually circular-shaped with a diameter of approximately five hundred feet. Cattle drink water from these tanks in preference to water pumped by windmills. No shrubbery grows around the lakes, but broom weeds grow in the water. Toad frogs and water dogs inhabit the lake, while prairie dogs build their towns on the shores. Wild ducks and curlews, migratory short-tailed wading birds with long curved bills, are transient visitors.

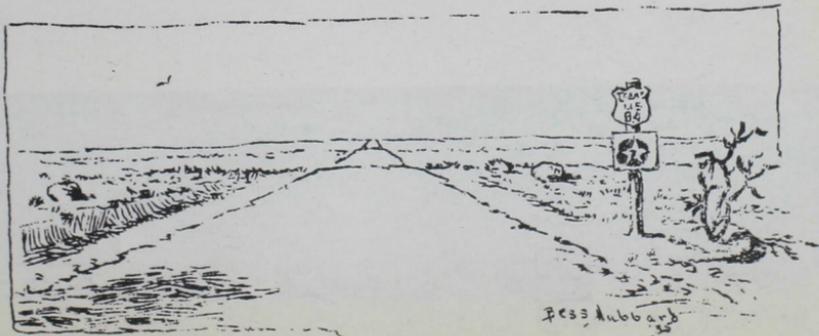
"Prairie dogs are small burrowing animals of the rodent family. They probably derive their name from the barking sound they make when disturbed, as in no other way do they resemble any of the canine family. In parts of the country, they are called "Picket Pins" due to their appearance when setting on their haunches as they resemble stakes for tying horses. They congregate together into towns, which in some cases, cover several acres. They destroy considerable grass and their burrows are a menace to a running horse as well as havens for rabbits, small prairie owls and rattlesnakes. Contrary to the popular belief, prairie dogs object very strongly to the rattlesnakes' moving in on them.

#### "Shinnery"

"On the sandy land, a species of oak known locally as "shinnery" grows. This brush is of no value to man or beast other than a source of fuel which is afforded by the roots. It has many of the characteristics of the oak tree, except size, growing only a few feet high. The leaves are similar to those of the oak and the bush bears acorns. Some of the early settlers referred to this section as the country of the "Little Oaks". This "Shinnery" is the natural haven of prairie chickens.

#### "Tumble Weeds"

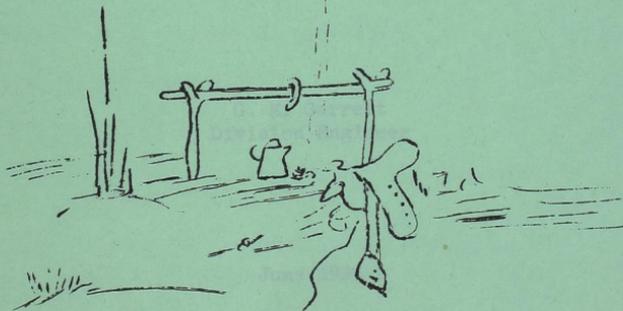
"Another plant, which grows spherical in shape and from three to six feet in diameter, that came with the civilization of the land is known by several names: "Russian Thistle", "New Ground Weeds" and "Tumble Weeds". The last name is most descriptive of the plant, because the plant, after frost, becomes brittle and the stem breaks near the ground at the slightest disturbance, and being very light tumbles in the wind. They travel rapidly in high winds and upon striking fences, stack up until a ramp is built over which the following weeds pass. At a distance, these weeds traveling in the wind resemble a herd of wild horses running over the prairie."





THE  
SOUTH PLAINS  
OF  
TEXAS

HISTORICAL SKETCHES



THE SOUTH PLAINS OF TEXAS

HISTORICAL SKETCHES

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COLLECTED BY

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June 1936	

## HISTORIC OLD ESTACADO

The Texas part of the Staked Plains consists of about twenty-five thousand square miles, or about the same area as the state of New Virginia, and slightly smaller than North Carolina. This vast region was first explored before 1849. This region was cleared of Indians by 1870, the western reservation organized by General Miles in 1874-1875, leaving Indians that had to their reservation. They were the only Indians that were left in 1875, and by the latter date the buffalo had been exterminated from the plains of Texas.

After the buffalo was exterminated the Staked Plains country was soon occupied by a few small ranches. One of the first was Black Blazer in 1877, which was the first of the 1877 cattle and horse ranches in South Texas, forming a cattle ranch, and becoming the first outfit in the entire Staked Plains region. Several cowboys settled about this same time in Palo Verde County. A ranch camp was established at Mount Elmore in 1878. Crosby County was first settled in 1878.

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## HISTORIC OLD ESTACADO

The Texas part of the Staked Plains consists of about twenty-five thousand square miles, or about the same area as the state of West Virginia, and slightly smaller than South Carolina. This vast region was little explored before 1870. This region was cleared of Indians by 1875, the various campaigns organized by General Miles in 1874-1875, having driven them back to their reservations. Then came the buffalo hunters from 1874 to 1877, and by the latter date the buffalo had been exterminated from the plains of Texas.

After the buffalo and Indian were gone, the plains country was soon occupied by cattlemen. H. C. (Uncle Hank) Smith came to Blanco Canyon in the fall of 1876, and during the summer of 1877 built the famous rock house at Mount Blanco, founding a cattle ranch, and becoming the first settler in the entire Staked Plains region. Colonel Goodnight settled about this same time in Palo Duro Canyon. A ranger camp was established at Mount Blanco in 1879. Crosby County was now safe for settlers.

The pioneer farmers of the now productive Staked Plains of Texas were the Quakers. A colony of North Carolina Quakers had migrated to Indiana. These were anxious to move to some suitable unoccupied country and establish a Quaker colony where they would be unmolested in their religious belief and where very cheap land could be had. One of these Indiana Quakers, Paris Cox by name, acted as treasurer for his brethren and bought in 1877 and 1878 fifty thousand acres of land in northwest Crosby County at twenty-five cents per acre.

Paris Cox came from his Indiana home in 1878 to see this land. While there he contracted with Uncle Hank Smith to sink a well and to plant a small crop to see how the land would produce. Water was found at sixty-five feet and in the fall of 1879 Uncle Hank was able to send to the Quakers samples of grain and vegetables grown by him on the plains in the summer of 1879. In the fall of 1879, the families of Paris Cox, Mr. Hayworth, Mr. Stubbs, and Mr. Spray came from their Indiana homes and settled on this land. Paris Cox built a small sod house; the other three families lived in tents. The winter was a severe one, the spring windy and dry. In April 1880, the three families left Paris Cox and returned to Indiana.

Paris Cox stayed and planted a crop. It was during this summer of 1880 that Doctor William Hunt, father of J. W. Hunt, who is

now president of McMurry College at Abilene, (Dr. Hunt has been claimed by death since this article was written) visited Crosby County. In a letter dated at Estacado, April 27, 1882, Dr. William Hunt says:

"I visited the colony (Estacado) in August and September 1880. The first crops ever planted on the Staked Plains were then growing. I saw...corn, oats, millet, sorghum, melons, Irish Potatoes, (fair) sweet potatoes, and garden vegetables... all did well."

The files of the Census Office at Washington show the following persons living at the present site of Estacado in June 1880; Paris Cox, his wife, Mary C. Cox, their two sons, Charles A. and Oscar L. Cox, and a farm hand employed by Cox, named George Corskadon. These five people then comprised the Colony that Paris Cox had hoped to make a success. The entire county showed a population of fifty-three.

Hearing of the good crops of the summer of 1880, other Quakers came in the fall of 1880, and by the summer of 1882 there were ten families in Cox's Quaker colony. A town was started and called Marietta, so named in honor of the wife of Paris Cox who was named Mary. When the county was organized in 1886, this name was changed from Marietta to Estacado, there being another post office in Texas named Marietta. The colony continued to grow, and by 1889 there were about one hundred twenty-five people in this Quaker settlement, and by 1890 the census showed the colony had 200 residents. The Quakers were successful farmers and prospered, raising feed stuff for ranchers. Most of them built dugouts, then sod houses, and later, as they became more prosperous and when lumber could be had at Colorado City only one hundred twenty-five miles distant, they built small houses of lumber.

The Texas and Pacific Railroad reached Colorado, Texas, in 1883; thereafter, Estacado and Mount Blanco post offices received their mail daily by stage from this point. Estacado was located out on the high rolling prairie of the Llano Estacado over one hundred miles from the nearest railway point. All supplies after 1883 were hauled from Colorado City until the Fort Worth and Denver City Railroad reached Amarillo in 1887, when some of the settlers began to trade at Amarillo instead of at Colorado City. The distance from Estacado to Amarillo was about the same as that to Colorado City.

Colonel R. P. Smythe gives us a good description of Estacado as it was in 1887 upon his arrival there from Colorado City.

"The one hotel, run by George H. Hunt, was a story and a half, about fourteen by twenty-eight feet, lined with adobe. Built to this on the west side was a one-story addition for a kitchen and dining room. This last had for a floor the caked earth; the roof was of canvas; the sides so open that the howling blizzard had free entrance. These slight defects G. M. soon remedied and gave us good accommodations and set as bounteous a table as could be set so far from the markets.

Across the street from the hotel was the general merchandise store of "Uncle" Charley Holmes, who was also the postmaster. The mail was brought from Colorado City three times (?) a week in a one-horse buckboard.....About two hundred yards west from the hotel there was a new building in which Hume and Stringfellow were opening up a stock of general merchandise, and across the street from Hume and Stringfellow was a two-room office building occupied by Judge Swink, the new (and first) county judge. About two hundred yards east from Uncle Charley Holmes' store was a half dug-out occupied by the only legal light on the plains, E. D. Covington (Covington was later county judge at Emma).... These five buildings with the church building might be said to constitute the town of Estacado. Surrounding the town were the farms of the Quakers, who without any question were the first settlers to attempt farming on the great Llano Estacado.

This was the first town on the Llano Estacado, the county seat of Crosby County from its organization in 1886 until Emma was made the county seat in 1891, and was probably the only Quaker colony ever established in Texas. Mobeetie near Fort Elliott, and Tascosa near the northwest corner of the Texas Panhandle were probably both started before Estacado, but these were on the "North Plains", and not on the Llano Estacado. By 1888 these Quakers were farming twenty-three farms totaling more than twelve hundred acres. The Estacado Quakers were the pioneers in Plains farming, and paved the way for the great agricultural development that has come to the Llano Estacado within the last fifteen years.

Until the court house was built in 1888, the officers had their offices in dug-outs and shacks. The lumber for the court house was hauled from Colorado City, one hundred twenty-five miles distant. The first court house Crosby County had cost eight thousand dollars. The county at the time issued bonds to the amount of ten thousand dollars, part of the bond money being used for the first county jail built on the Plains. To show their contempt for the coming of the law to this wild country and to antagonize the religious Quakers who were largely responsible for the organization of the county, the cowboys played poker in open daylight on the piles of lumber intended for the new court house. The first grand jury warned law violators, and the next

one returned indictments. Thereafter there was little worse than cowboys' poker games, and the officers usually paid little attention to cowboy amusement, though gambling was a violation of the law. The county early gained the reputation of being law abiding and peaceful.

Not only were the Quakers the first to demonstrate that the Llano Estacado could be successfully farmed, but were also pioneers in the field of education in all this vast plains country of Texas. So far as is known, the first school ever taught on the Staked Plains of Texas was the one taught by Miss Emma Hunt at Estacado in the fall and winter of 1882. Crosby County now boasts of several well-equipped high schools built of brick, and modern brick school buildings are to be found in the country districts of the South Plains. Then the first school house on the plains, according to Dr. J. W. Hunt, "was a dug-out with dirt roof and dirt floor. The school was raised to the high school class two years later (1884) and opened for work in the little Quaker Church which was seated with patented school desks and Miss Elva Lewis was superintendent and Miss Emma Hunt was principal. This school was continued, according to my best recollection, until 1890, when Prof. Jesse H. Moore became superintendent of a church (Quaker) institution of learning known as Central Plains Academy, which at that time did two years of college work.... This school closed its doors in the spring of 1893 when the Quaker settlement disintegrated and scattered to the ends of the earth." The first students in the school organized in Crosby County or on the Staked Plains were Charlie and Oscar Cox, sons of Paris Cox, John and Lizzie Hadley, and Winiford and Nora Hunt. The children of Hank C. Smith later stayed at Estacado and attended school there, but at that time his oldest child, George, was too young to attend. These six children comprised the first student body ever assembled in that part of the state of Texas. By 1888 this number had increased to 32 pupils taught by two teachers at a salary of \$35.00 per month. This district had a special school tax of fifteen cents.

The first newspaper founded and published in all this expanse of territory known as the Llano Estacado or Staked Plains was the "Crosby County News," founded by Judge John W. Murray at Estacado in 1886. The paper was a seven column all home print paper. It depended for its advertising support upon Colorado City and Amarillo, both places being over one hundred miles distant from Estacado. The paper was the pioneer booster of the Plains. Each week several hundred extra copies were printed and mailed to all parts of the United States. The cattlemen objected to this, fearing that the glowing accounts of the agricultural possibilities

of the country would attract farmers and end the range. This paper was later owned and published by the J. W. Hunts and sold by him to a man who moved the press and files to Plainview. This man carelessly lost or destroyed these files, thus destroying some of the most valuable and earliest sources of Crosby county history.

The Quakers continued to prosper until the county seat was moved in 1891 from Estacado to Emma. After this the Quakers scattered; some returning to their former homes in Indiana and North Carolina (to which state they had formerly moved from Indiana), others to California, Colorado, and Kansas, while some remained in northwest Texas and took part in the great development there that was to follow. By 1893 all the Quakers except one or two families had left the site of this former Quaker Colony. The Quakers left Estacado; some of their places were taken by others, but Estacado never recovered from the blow which the removal of the county seat in 1891 and the resulting departure of the Quakers gave to it. When in 1910 the Crosbyton and South Plains Railroad was built from Lubbock to Crosbyton, it missed Estacado by about nine miles. All that remains of Estacado today is two small general merchandise stores, two churches, and a five room brick school building and fewer than a half-dozen residences. The surrounding country is one vast expanse of farms. The Quakers had departed, but they had demonstrated that the Llano Estacado could be successfully farmed. They were the pioneer farmers of what is now the rich agricultural South Plains country.

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Lamesa High School Library

## SOUTH PLAINS FIRST ROAD MARKED WITH BONES OF BUFFALO

The first road ever to be laid out on the Llano Estacado, or staked plains of Texas, was laid out by H. C. Smith and Charlie Howse between Mt. Blanco and Estacado in 1879, according to Bog Smith, son of the late "Uncle Hank" Smith.

There was always grave danger of being lost out on the wide expanse of Plains country where there were no hills, trees or rocks to guide the traveler. The danger was extremely great should one happen to get caught out in a blinding snowstorm on the Plains.

So in 1879, the year Paris Cox and a few of his Quakers first settled at Estacado, Mr. Smith decided to lay off a road from his home to the Quaker settlement. This was done in the following fashion:

Taking Charlie Howse, his assistant with him, they started out one morning in an ox wagon. They gathered buffalo bones which were scattered all over the Plains and the Canyon, as they went, and coming out on top of the caprock near Mt. Blanco, they made a pile of the bones which were easily visible for several miles in clear weather. Then they traveled another mile in a westerly direction, picking up bones as they went, and made another mound of about the same height.

This process was repeated until they reached Estacado and thus a well marked road was established between the two communities.

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## TWO-BUCKLE RANCH

One of the most historic and picturesque ranches on the Llano Estacado, or Staked Plains of Texas, was the Two-Buckle Ranch, situated in and on both sides of Blanco Canyon. It comprised two hundred sections of land and was owned by the Kentucky Cattle Raising Company, with headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky.

Many of the ranches in the early days of West Texas were owned by corporations in the east and middle west, and without exception, they went to the wall because they knew nothing of ranching and its many peculiarities. Such was the history of the Kentucky Cattle Raising Company.

The company was organized in 1883 at Louisville, with the following officials: C. M. Tillford, resident manager; H. J. Tillford, president; James S. Pertle, vice-president; Robt. J. Tillford, secretary; and John T. Viley, resident secretary and weather observer.

The company bought their land in Crosby county in 1884 and moved here in the same year. They fenced their entire range, making it into two pastures, they being of about equal size. The dividing line ran east and west about one mile south of Tillford Falls, now known as 20-foot falls. The south pasture was about ten miles wide, and ran west to within about three miles of Emma, or about six miles west of present Crosbyton.

Crosbyton is located in what was the north pasture, which comprised the entire area from about three miles south of the city to the boundary of the Hank Smith Ranch about ten miles north. One block, belonging to the Eastland County Schools was cut out of the western edge of the plot.

The company continued to bring cattle in during 1884 and 1885, and in 1886 rendered for taxes 13,500 head of cattle and 130 saddle horses. This is the only figures available on the amount of cattle this company had. They continued to increase their stock until 1890, when the price of beef slumped and the company, facing bankruptcy, began to reduce their stock. In 1893, they were ready to go out of business, and contracted to sell the remainder of their herd to White & Swearinger, at Childress. The contract called for approximately 10,000 head, to be delivered, but because of rustlers who were extremely active around 1890, the number delivered fell somewhat short of this.

The Tillrods were distillers and not cattlemen. They manufactured the "Bell of Nelson, Old Fashioned Hand Made Sour Mash Whiskey", with their distillery located at Louisville. After the cattle were sold off the ranch none of the Tillfords ever returned to Crosby county but David Frantz, a big stockholder in the company and the owner of a tanning factory in Louisville, made several more trips endeavoring to dispose of their large land holdings.

When the ranch had just started in 1884, the company contracted with H. C. Smith to break out 40 acres of land on the ranch, this farm being located on what is now the W. T. Dunn farm south of the city. Mr. Smith was short of horses at the time, and his contract with Denkel Bros. & Co., a subsidiary of the Two-Buckle, stated that they were to furnish him one horse, Mr. Smith had three yokes of oxen but did not use them in breaking this land. He received \$200 for this job. This was the first farm in the immediate territory around Crosbyton.

John and Joe Smydt operated the farm and built big surface tanks for the Two-Buckle. One of these lakes still remains in the lower pasture just on top of the cap. There are two in Crawfish Draw, but neither of these hold water.

Dewey's Lake was on this ranch, but went out sometime in the 80's the exact date being forgotten. Just above the bridge on the old highway two creeks merge, one from Crawfish and the other from the main canyon. These two creeks kept eating away the banks of the lake until finally they ate through and drained the entire basin. In 1879 there was a ranger camp stationed on the north side of the lake, named Camp Roberts, and under command of Capt. Harrington. The company remained here for two or three years as a protection against the Indians.

Two houses were built on the ranch by the company, the main house, or "headquarters" still standing, just below Silver Falls and overlooking White River. The house was built in 1885, of native sand rock quarried from Silver Falls. The lumber was hauled from Colorado City, and the house was built at a cost of approximately \$4,000. Another house, called the "Stag House" was built for the cowboys about one-half mile west of Camp Roberts on the north side of Dewey's Lake. It has two rooms and two shed rooms. This house was not torn down until the ranch came into possession of Julian Bassett and the Coonsley Brothers in 1903.

A man named Bond was killed when the rock for the main house was being blasted at Silver Falls. He was buried about one-half mile west of the ranch house, and his grave has since been marked with a cement curb.

During the years that the company was operating several attempts were made to sell or colonize their holdings. In 1887, the company had laid off a townsite two miles north of Dewey's Lake, and had named it Mt. Ulrick. A large part of the land in this section of the canyon is flat and is rich land suitable for cultivation. Tillford endeavored to interest four or five hundred families of Scotchmen from Edinburgh, Scotland, who wanted to migrate to America, to settle in this town, but for some reason, the project fell through and Mt. Ulrick never had an inhabitant.

Another attempt was made to lay out a townsite on their property close to Mt. Ulrick in 1890, when Estacado and Emma were quarreling over the county seat. This townsite, the name of which is forgotten, was entered in the county seat election of that year, but received only the votes of the cowboys and managers living on the Two-Buckle Ranch. It too, was doomed never to have an inhabitant.

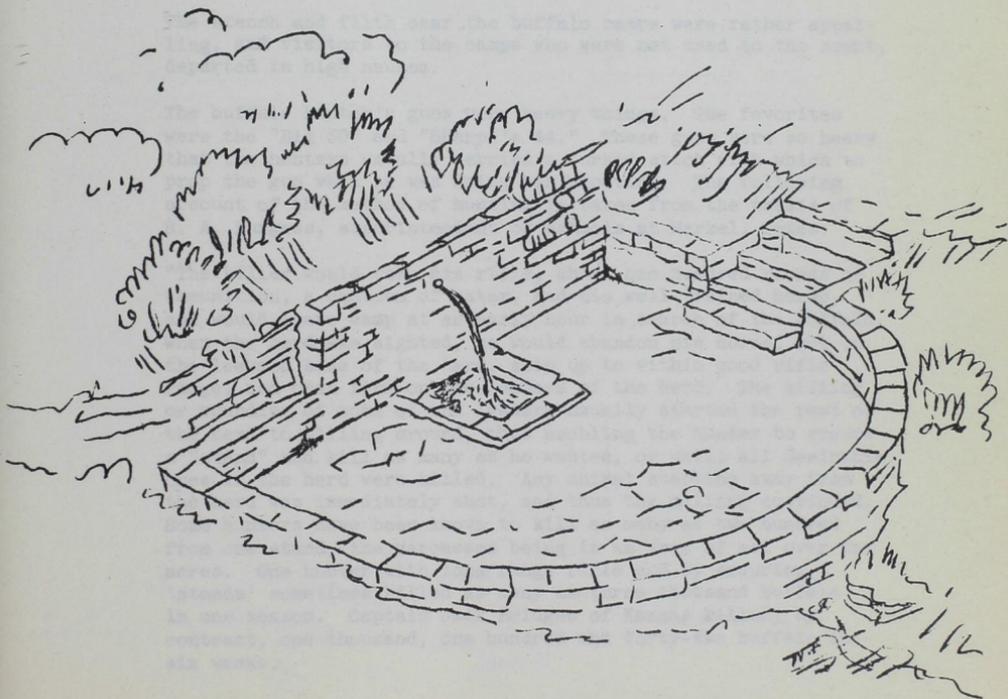
When the ranch was first established a negro named Oscar Denton and his wife were brought out with them to do the cooking. Soon after their arrival a baby was born to the couple, and it being the first colored child ever seen by many inhabitants of the Plains, created quite a bit of excitement. People for miles around hitched the team to their wagon and took the whole family over to see the child.

The ranch remained idle for several years after the cattle were sold off in 1893. In 1898 it was leased to the Carolitos Ranch of Chahuahua cattle mostly steers. Their horns were so big that the ends had to be knocked off to get them into the cattle cars when they were shipped to market at Kansas City the next year. The cattle had been in pasture near Pecos and were driven through to the ranch in 1898, fattened, and sent to market in 1899.

The next year, 1900, the lower pasture was sold to Hudson and Shultz, and Shultz sold his interest in 1909 to his partner, A. W. Hudson. Hudson within the next few years sold off practically all the Plains ranch to farmers and remained in charge until it was taken over by the present owners, the Morgan Jones estate and leased to Frank Corn, the present manager. The ranch is now known as the Half Circle S. The north pasture, of approximately 100 sections, was purchased

by Coonsley Brothers in 1902--and named the --N--. They immediately set to work improving the ranch, and started what was ultimately to be a 10,000 acre farm just north of the present site of Crosbyton. They sold much of the Plains land to farmers and small ranchers, and in 1908 laid out the townsite of Crosbyton. They remained a vital part of the city for many years, operating the first general merchandise store and at one time operating the Crosbyton Review, with Judge J. W. Burton as editor. They sold the last of their holdings only a few years ago to G. M. McKee of this city, who was their last agent in the City of Crosbyton.

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## BUFFALO HUNTER WAS MILESTONE IN HISTORY OF PLAINS

It was a dirty business, but the buffalo hunter will always remain as a glamorous figure in the history of Crosby county and the Plains. Just 60 years ago millions of buffalo roamed the prairies now dotted with thousands of farms, paved highways and thriving towns and cities. The story of the buffalo hunting party is an interesting one.

The years 1875 and 1876 saw the greatest slaughter in Crosby county. Hundreds of "camps" dotted the plains and the breaks just below the caprock. Each camp was composed of from five to eleven men, one or more "good shots" who did the killing, skinners who followed the killers in a wagon, and a cook, who not only did the cooking but in his spare time, "pegged out" the hides near the camp.

The stench and filth near the buffalo camps were rather appalling, and visitors to the camps who were not used to the scent, departed in high nausea.

The buffalo hunter's guns were heavy things. The favorites were the "Big 50" and "Sharpe's 44." These guns were so heavy that the hunters usually carried a forked stick with which to prop the gun when he was doing his shooting. The following account of the method of hunting is taken from the thesis of R. A. Burgess, superintendent of schools at Merkel, Texas:

"The killer would take his rifle, about one hundred rounds of ammunition, a canteen of water, and his well-trained horse, and would leave camp at an early hour in search of the buffalo. When the herd was sighted, he would abandon his horse, get on the leeward side of the herd, slip up to within good rifle range, and open fire on the leaders of the herd. The killing or wounding of some of the leaders usually started the rest of the herd to milling around, thus enabling the hunter to secure a "stand" and kill as many as he wanted, or until all desirable ones in the herd were killed. Any animal starting away from the herd was immediately shot, and thus the milling continued. Some hunters have been known to kill as many as two hundred from one stand, the carcasses being in an area of not over ten acres. One hunter with long range rifle and by securing 'stands' sometimes killed as many as three thousand buffalo in one season. Captain Jack Bridges of Kansas killed, by contract, one thousand, one hundred and forty-two buffalo in six weeks.

"As soon as the hunter had killed all he could or wanted of a given herd, the skimmers appeared on the scene with wagon and team, not only to haul the hides to camp, but to help pull the hides from the carcass. Skimmers often became expert enough to skin as many as twenty-five buffalo per day, receiving usually about twenty-five cents per hide delivered in camp. The cook, and at idle times the others, would 'peg out' the hides on the ground to dry. To prevent worms from ruining the green hides the inside of the hides were poisoned. After poisoning and drying, the hides were stacked in camp to await hauling to market.

"In northwest Texas most of the hides were sold to representatives of eastern firms at Fort Griffin. From Fort Griffin the hides were hauled to Dennison and when the railroad reached Fort Worth in 1876 to Fort Worth. Usually about two hundred hides weighing a total of about five tons, were loaded on a wagon, and from one hundred to one hundred and fifty hides on a "trailer" attached to the main wagon. To this load was hitched a team of 12 oxen. It was no uncommon sight to see a train of twenty such teams making its way across the country from Fort Griffin to Fort Worth."

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## SPADE AND RENDERBROOK RANCHES

During the early 70's Captain Renderbrook, United States Army Officer, stationed at Fort Concho, was killed by the Indians near a spring in Mitchell County. This spring was later named for Captain Renderbrook. In later years J. Taylor Barr set up ranch headquarters at this spring consisting of one house. This house was built of chittum poles and had two rooms, with no floor, thatched roof and a wind break on the north side made of a stack of buffalo and cow hides. In the fall of 1882 D. H. and J. W. Snyder, who had purchased the ranch, made further improvements. It was during this time that Mr. Geo. B. Root started working for the ranch under Foreman Jno. Frank Yearwood, now of Georgetown, Texas. In 1883 a lumber bunk house was built and in 1901 a rock house was built.

Mr. Snyder retained the **F** brand for one year. After buying cattle from Mr. Andy Long of Sweetwater he used the **S** brand. This ranch consisted of approximately 150,000 acres. He stocked this ranch with high grade short-horn cattle and put it on a self-sustaining basis. It was about this time that the Texas & Pacific Railroad was built through the country, and about the time the first barbed wire fences were built in Texas. Up to this time the country from the Texas & Pacific Railroad to the Canadian River was an open range of Buffalo grass and Gramma grass. The use of the barbed wire made it possible for the cattlemen to control their great herds of cattle that were brought into this country. The losses in winter were greatly reduced by having the cattle under fence.

During the year 1883 Snyder Brothers, realizing the possibilities of the cattle business, made a trip to the South Plains of Texas and invested in another 128,000 acre ranch. This ranch was stocked with the same grade of cattle as the Renderbrook Ranch, and the same brand retained. They continued in the cattle business in Mitchell County until the year 1889 at which time the ranch was sold to Colonel Issac L. Ellwood of DeKalb, Illinois. Mr. W. T. Carpenter was manager of the ranch for Mr. Ellwood from 1889 to 1891. Mr. D. N. Arnett was manager from 1891 to 1912, and Mr. O. F. Jones has been manager since that date. Colonel Ellwood and J. F. Glidden were inventors of the barbed wire with factories located in DeKalb, Illinois. The large quantity of

wire shipped to Texas caused Colonel Ellwood to realize the possibilities of the cattle business in Texas. In 1889, on one of his prospective trips to Texas, he purchased the well-known Renderbrook Ranch and established the  brand. The  brand is known from the Canadian border to the Rio Grande.

Colonel Ellwood was so pleased with his purchase of the Renderbrook Ranch that he, with his son, W. L. Ellwood, decided to make further investments in the Lone Star State. With a desire to know how the barbed wire was fulfilling its purpose, he came to the South Plains. He realized the future of this country, and in June, 1891, he made another trade with Snyder Brothers and purchased their holdings, consisting of 128,000 acres of land located in what is now Lubbock, Hale, Hockley and Lamb Counties. Snyder Brothers at this time moved the  brand to Sherman County, on Coldwater Creek. This location is 125 miles northwest of Amarillo, and all supplies for the ranch at that time were freighted from Liberal, Kansas. Mr. Ellwood stocked the ranch with cattle purchased where he could make a good buy and continued the  brand. He distinguished the two ranches by calling the ranch located on the South Plains "The Spade Ranch." Colonel Ellwood, with the pioneer spirit and looking well into the future, saw the great possibilities of the South Plains as a cow country. He knew that this vast body of land, with its waving coat of Gramma grass and underlaid with an inexhaustible supply of water, could be developed and made profitable.

With his various interests in the North, one of which was the barbed wire factory at DeKalb, Illinois, his time was well occupied with his business there, so after his purchase of this ranch he appointed his son, W. L. Ellwood, manager of his Texas holdings. The task assigned to Mr. W. L. Ellwood was the improving and stocking of his ranch. His father told him of his faith in the development of the country, and that he knew there would be no financial loss in this investment, and advised him to make all improvements permanent.

The materials had to be hauled a great distance, yet the very best that could be obtained was placed upon the ranch. The headquarters were made complete in every way; water was piped into the house, bath, hot and cold water, carbide lighting system was installed, and other conveniences to be had in that day. The barns were built to take care of the feed which was raised for the saddle horses. Corrals and dipping vats were constructed. All the outside fences were of six wires, and the inside ones were of five wires. The wells and windmills and water troughs were made permanent fixtures.

Colonel Ellwood knew that he had found the ideal country. In speaking of its future to his son, he said, "I may not live to see it, but you will. Some day this country will be solidly farmed and bringing from forty to fifty dollars per acre." With all this in mind, he decided to block up a body of land while there was such a large expanse of territory from which to choose.

Mr. W. L. Ellwood made this ranch his home, and under the advice and directions of his father, added first one choice tract of land and then another to their already large acreage. The last purchase was made in 1906. At that time 12 leagues were bought from the Lake-Tomb Cattle Company. After this purchase they possessed a tract of land eight to twelve miles wide and about fifty-four miles long, approximately two hundred seventy-two thousand acres of choice land in this district.

Mr. W. L. Ellwood was in charge of these ranch properties until his death on December 28, 1933. His brother, E. P. Ellwood, and Mr. W. F. Eisenberg were appointed Executors of his Estate, his interests going to his children, Mrs. F. H. Cahppell, New London, Connecticut, and Mrs. R. L. Kenney, Somersville, Connecticut. Mr. J. Frank Norfleet, one of Texas' greatest detectives, the man who ran down and threw together the biggest herd of bunco swindlers that was ever put into one bull pen at a single instance, was inherited with the South Plains ranch. He stayed with Mr. Ellwood until 1906. From 1891 to 1906 Mr. Geo. Arnett was also connected with supervision of the Spade Ranch. In 1906 Arnett Brothers, Tom and Bass, took over the ranch supervision for Mr. Ellwood. Tom Arnett is still with the Estate and will be found at the Spade Headquarters showing every courtesy in his usual way to all visitors.

In the early days, before barbed wire was put into use, the cold winters and strong winds caused the cattle to drift into the break sand rough country to the south. This caused a great deal of expense during the summer months driving the cattle back to their home range.

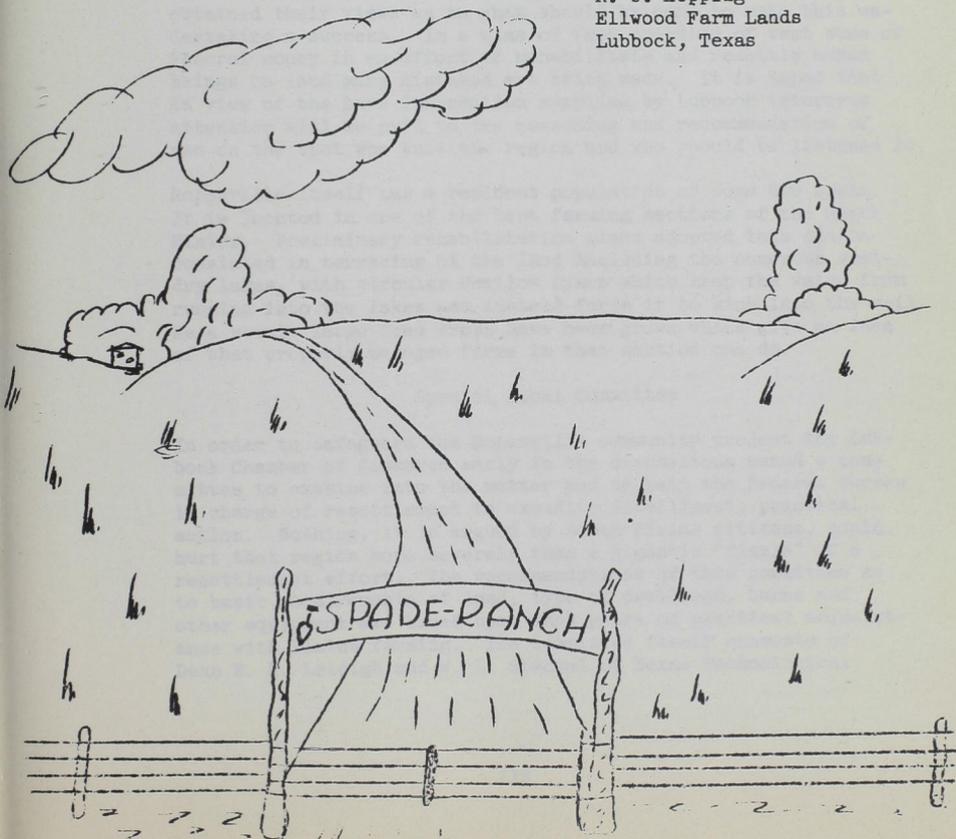
The barbed wire did not do away with the roundups, but did save loss of cattle and expense for the ranches. We still have the roundup and chuck wagon. There are still 100,000 acres of grazing land and 8,000 head of cattle bearing the Spade brand. Any visitor at the ranch would enjoy the roundup with its chuck wagon and remuda, cowboys with their mounts, the system in which everyone works and knows and

does his part. The cook with his sour-dough biscuits and "son-of-a-gun" is the center of attraction when he yells, "Chuck, come and get it."

Three paved highways cross this ranch, being Highway No. 9, No. 137, No. 7, and another, Highway No. 24, is in the process of being paved.

Mr. Isaac L. Ellwood did not live to see the full development of our country. One hundred seventy thousand acres have been sold and cut up into 160 and 320 acre tracts and are now being successfully cultivated.

R. C. Hopping  
Ellwood Farm Lands  
Lubbock, Texas



## ROPEVILLE RURAL INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITY

One of the outstanding Federal resettlement projects in all of rural Texas is underway in Hockley County on the South Plains of Northwest Texas about twenty miles from Lubbock. It is known as Ropesville Rural Industrial Community. Ever since there was a possibility of the South Plains obtaining such a project it received the immediate careful attention of agricultural and industrial leaders on the South Plains, of economists and agricultural experts of Texas Technological College, of the Lubbock Agricultural experiment station and the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce under direction of A. B. Davis, manager.

During a recent visit to the South Plains region the writer discussed this community project with several leading citizens and obtained their views as to what should be done to make this undertaking a success. In a time of free spending of vast sums of Federal money in an effort to rehabilitate and resettle human beings on land many mistakes are being made. It is hoped that in view of the base information supplied by Lubbock interests attention will be paid to the reasoning and recommendation of men on the spot who know the region and who should be listened to.

Ropesville itself has a resident population of some 600 souls. It is located in one of the best farming sections of the South Plains. Preliminary rehabilitation plans adopted this season consisted in terracing of the land including the numerous semi-dry lakes, with circular shallow dykes which keep the water from running into the lakes and instead force it to sink into the soil. As a result large feed crops have been grown which give an idea of what properly managed farms in that section can do.

### Special Local Committee

In order to safeguard the Ropesville community project the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce early in the discussions named a committee to examine into the matter and to help the Federal forces in charge of resettlement to expedite intelligent, practical action. Nothing, it is argued by South Plains citizens, could hurt that region more severely than a gigantic "fizzle" of a resettlement effort. The recommendations of this committee as to basic requirements of land, type of dwellings, barns and other equipment are based upon many years of practical acquaintance with Plains farming. The committee itself consists of Dean E. H. Leidigh and W. L. Stangel of Texas Technological

College; Don L. Jones, superintendent of the Lubbock agricultural experiment substatio; P. T. Montfort, county agent and former rural electrification engineer of the Texas Power & Light Company; Judge R. C. Hopping, colonization agent for the Ellwood interests, all practical men.

This committee has no land to sell. It is not interested, the writer was assured, in anything except the success of the colonization project so that a demonstration would result which could be pointed to as in every way as workable. The committee's recommendations were "sold" to the directors of Texas Rural Communities, Inc., at Austin. This board acknowledged the working basis submitted to it as vastly more complete, thorough and practicable than for similar projects under way or proposed elsewhere in Texas.

#### 100 Families on Project

The project at first was to embody 4,100.9 acres of good agricultural land at a reasonable price capable of supporting a family on each block of forty acres. There would be 100 families settled on the project.

For a time Federal officials tinkered with the idea of making the South Plains resettlement project an irrigated undertaking. This was frowned on by the South Plains committee which doubts if in all the region 100 families with sufficient irrigation experience could be trusted with such a setup. It was held, however, that most South Plains farmers have sufficient acquaintance with irrigations to confine it successfully to two or three acres on each tract as a garden project.

It appears that officials of FERA and the Texas Relief Commission originally had in mind an approximate total cost of improvements per unit of \$4,500 for residence, barn, poultry house, a grand total first cost to the homesteader of \$5,500, a sum which the South Plains committee feels is prohibitive. There are hundreds of fairly improved farms in Northwest Texas of 160 acres which can be bought for \$4,000, the committee reports. There would be little interest in a forty-acre farm at a cost of \$5,500, they believe. They want to hold down the cost of improvements in line with that of the average settler on the South Plains.

#### Increase to 60 acres as Unit

After the special committee had gone more fully into the whole subject it recommended to the Federal officials a minimum of Sixty acres to each farm unit in the Ropesville project, realizing that there should be sufficient land on which to raise

feed for the livestock and food for the family as well as cotton as a cash crop. That meant that another 2,000 acres would have to be purchased, making the project 6,100 acres in all. It was believed that regardless of whatever may be done there should be no departure from the original idea of having the colony consist of a minimum of 100 families, chiefly to keep down the prorated overhead cost. The committee still feels that it would be better to have as many as 200 to 300 units in this resettlement project than several such projects composed of fifty to sixty units each.

Quite recently, however, the writer is advised, following the change of administration from the old FERA to the present Federal resettlement administration the planners are proposing thirty-three units instead of 100, and each of these thirty-three units to consist of 120 acres. The proposal brought a storm of protest, some of it the well-known brand peculiar to plainsmen when they feel their section is misunderstood.

It is well to remember that those best acquainted with the peculiarities of a region know more about it than those far removed. Any planning program can be strengthened by those who impartially contribute basic facts and sound deductions.

#### Smaller Units Feasible

"We have got dozens of farms of sixty acres or so in this section," said one of my informants, "which have made a lot better showing than farms of 120 acres. As far as that is concerned the 120-acre unit proposed by the Federal planners is not far from the average-sized farm of this section which manifestly requires no special planning to make an average success. The real need is to point the way to better farming, a more rounded-out agriculture for the South Plains, one which does not embrace too much land, just enough, but well tilled, with crop rotation, big family garden, orchard, poultry, cellar for storing food of every kind."

It is pointed out that if a success is made on a sixty-acre unit as a community project of 100 families all working under the general direction of a skilled planner, the large land companies which still control thousands of acres, such as the Ellwoods, the Yellowhouse Land Company, the Slaughters and many others, will follow suit and put on successful colonization programs of their own. That section of Texas needs development. It is in reality one of the best agricultural areas in the Southwest. Statistics will prove that assertion.

There are five resettlement projects in Texas in process of completion by the Federal resettlement administration. V. R. Smitham is in charge of State headquarters in Dallas. These projects are located respectively at Woodlake in Trinity County, Wichita Falls in Wichita County, Mexia in Limestone County, Nacogdoches in Nacogdoches County and Ropesville in Hockley County. The projects embrace many types of planning, some patterned after the village type of communal farms found in Europe, others on lines of collective or group farming in which equipment and a certain proportion of buildings are shared in common and families work the tract with all the others, and the products of the whole project are sold collectively. The Ropesville project on the South Plains, however, is to be operated on strictly indigenous American lines, provided that the Federal planning administration will incorporate some of the suggestions of the South Plains special committee named by the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce.

As stated in the first of these articles on resettlement in Texas a group of Northwest Texas agricultural and industrial leaders, long familiar with the region and its particular problems of climate, soils, markets, type of feasible farming and general management, differs with the regional organization in some essentials, especially as to size and minimum number of farm units composing the Ropesville project. The committee's suggestions are made in an effort to be helpful and to avoid costly mistakes which so often enter into large projects conducted at public expense and which if improperly set up would do a region more harm than good.

#### To Encourage Private Enterprise

The Lubbock committee takes the position that under Federal resettlement and rehabilitation the primary purpose, as outlined in the President's statement, the purpose of the new deal is to encourage private capital to be put to work. When this group saw the first announcement of Texas resettlement projects in The Dallas News of Feb. 4, 1934, it immediately shaped plans for a workable basis. It welcomed the idea that once the way was pointed out by Federal planning, private capital would follow and the whole region would benefit.

These advisers now recommend a basic minimum of sixty acres to each farm family and a minimum of at least 100 families for the Ropesville project. They went so far as through their own planning experts from Texas Technological College, the Lubbock experiment station, county agents and others to establish a working basis for feed requirements in terms of acres. Their plan, submitted to the State body at first and

later to the Federal regional agency, suggests that each family be provided with two head of work stock, one cow, one sow, fifty hens, with sufficient flexibility by which some families could have two cows or two sows and 100 hens, or other variations. Twenty acres of cotton was set as a base for that cash crop. Under intensive farming methods the committee decided that forty acres under such a plan would pay, but thirty acres as a unit was considered doubtful. Later, however, sixty-acre minimum units were recommended to insure success.

#### Crop-Acreage Schedule

Further proposals submitted show the following requirements:

Two mules, 2 bundles sorgo heads daily, 3 acres; 9,600 pounds of milo heads, 5.5 acres, milo.

One cow, 2,400 pounds milo heads. 1 acre milo; two bundles of sorgo daily, 1 acre sorgo.

Two meat hogs, 4 to 6 pounds grain per pound of pork, 2 acres milo.

In addition the mules and cows require two acres of sudan grass for grazing.

There also would be a garden. The homestead would occupy about three acres. There would be eight or ten acres of commercial vegetables and chicken feed. Certain families might want to raise chickens on a larger scale or specialize in some cash crop which would necessitate changes in acreage. Three acres near the house would be irrigated by a windmill. Some families with irrigation experience might increase this acreage.

#### Income Budget Estimate

Using twenty acres of cotton as the original base for the forty-acre project the income was estimated at \$500 from the source, half a bale an acre at 10c a pound. This figure was held to be conservative and allows nothing for the seed.

Income from three acres of vegetables were set down at \$777, or \$259 an acre. Additional cash income for the family would amount to about \$470 a year for such labor as picking cotton for others, canning, curing meat and other income sources. Thus the grand total income a year could be estimated at some \$1,747, which, after allowing for a fair budget of living costs to be paid for things the farm is not capable of producing, would leave a safety margin of around \$937 annually per family.

On a basis of sixty acres, the committee's adjusted land settlement program, there, of course, would be a larger cash income from the increased cotton acreage or from other cash crops.

The South Plains wants settlers. The region like all of Texas, needs more population. As the farming region becomes more densely populated the cities will draw off their percentage as time goes on. As cities grow more food will be needed to feed the population. South Plains people feel that smaller farms, rather than larger ones, are desirable. They believe the Federal Government has a great opportunity to set up a shining example of efficient farm units in the Ropesville Rural Industrial Community, now in process of construction. Well-managed small farms of sixty acres, with just enough improvements, though comfortable and adequate in the main, can become a success, the Lubbock committee believes, and through that success will attract similar enterprises backed by local private capital. The region would benefit greatly from the extension of such enterprises within safe limits.

Since the Ropesville project will have its community center for the encouragement of canning, weaving and leather-working industries, there might be developed other sources of income not now foreseen.

#### Improvements Cost Small

It also was proposed by the South Plains committee that the cost of improvements be held as low as possible so that the family would be certain to be able to repay capital and interest without hardship. It was explained that Northwest Texas is largely settled by young, hardy, pioneer families, who will buy 160 acres and live comfortably, although total value of all improvements will not exceed \$1,500. As these families master the difficulties of farming in a new region or under new conditions they in time will build well-constructed houses with modern conveniences.

The committee feels it unwise to launch a Federal community project where the improvements are too far above the general level of the surrounding farms.

--Victor H. Schoffelmayer  
Dallas News  
October 1935

## INDIANS ON THE SOUTH PLAINS

None of the early explorers reported finding Indians living on the plains section of Texas. Coronado did find a few wretched huts occupied on what we think was the Canadian River. We know that the Comanches, Apaches, Kiowas, and other prairie Indians crossed and recrossed the plains following the enormous herds of buffalo in the season migrations.

Only recently has there been discovered evidence of permanent camp sites of what is believed to have been a tribe of prehistoric Indians that lived on the Plains at a time possibly a thousand years ago and likely were absorbed into some of the plains tribes we know as Comanches, or were exterminated by them when that warlike tribe came south about five hundred years ago from their home on the Yellowstone.

Camp sites where thousands of Indians lived are still to be found among the sand hills where the outlines of the great camps are still to be seen, as well as the many fire pits, the thousands of flint implements and stones used for tanning, flat rocks on which they ground their beans, and tons of fragmentary bones worn by the action of the sands fill the camp site and change the contour with each sandstorm hiding some from view and exposing others.

There are three kinds of camp sites to be found over this section. Those enormous camps among the sand hills, with evidence of permanent habitation, where it is thought the Indians lived in tents made from buffalo hides. Those camp sites found along the canyon where small camps that might accommodate a few hundred Indians, then the camp sites on the flat prairies usually near Lake basins where only a few camp fires indicate these may have been the summer camps used while hunting buffalo.

Trails crossing the plains from east to west are located and numbered beginning at the southernmost definitely located trail, near Post, and trail number three passes through the city of Lubbock and a small camp has been located within the city limits just south of the fair grounds.

The northernmost trail crosses Hale County merging with one through Lubbock, at a point about fifty miles to the north-

west, where some of the most interesting and largest camp sites are to be found.

The trails have been thoroughly worked and the camps occurring every twenty miles or so have been located over the entire plains section.

Thirty-five camp sites of importance have been located many of which are in the sand hills where they form a series of large camps covering approximately ten miles wide and twenty miles long, almost continuously, and in the most desolate and undesirable section of the plains. From these camp sites has been collected and catalogued thousands of rare specimens of flint arrow points, various grinding stones and implements not yet classified, as well as fragments of pottery dating back to a thousand years and up to only a few hundred years back, some of which is doubtless of Pueblo manufacture and which is thought to have been traded to these Indians by the western tribes.

All the material from which the flint arrow heads has been carried into the country and it is possible to trace the origin by the material, which indicates a very limited area covered by these Indians.

Much of the flint was obtained from the north and is of the high grade Alabates, flint with streaks of red and white shading to pink and various colors creating a very pleasing color contrast and worked into the most delicate symmetrical points imaginable, many of them not more than half an inch long.

The designs are well represented in side-notched-top-notched narrow "V" pattern and are not to be surpassed in workmanship anywhere.

Other material from which these delicate points were made in the blue grey flint common to the south a hundred miles, and the Translucent Obsidian from New Mexico.

No evidence of houses or shelter has been found and only a few burials. Many of the camps are fifty miles or more from a known water supply, yet these camps show to have been occupied by thousands of Indians over a long period. At Cedar Lake in Gaines County is a very large camp where traditions among the Comanches says Quannah Parker, the famous chief, was born to Cynthia Ann, his white captive mother. But there is no tradition current that indicates who the Indians were or where they went---those who occupied the great sand hill camps and left thousands upon thousands of delicate arrow points.

-- C. H. Park  
Lubbock, Texas

## INDUSTRY IN SOUTH PLAINS SECTION

The South Plains section is composed of the following nineteen counties: Andrews, Bailey, Briscoe, Castro, Cochran, Crosby, Dawson, Floyd, Gaines, Garza, Hale, Hockley, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Parmer, Swisher, Terry and Yoakum.

Agriculture and ranching are the two main industries of the section, the former of the two being somewhat of a recent development. With the rapid development of agriculture and ranching in the South Plains, there have been many special industries coming to the front to take care of the increased production.

Throughout the South Plains there can be found such business enterprises as gins, cotton compresses, bottling works, ice and electric plants, grain elevators, feed grinding, cotton mills and cotton seed oil mills. The northern part of this section is adapted to wheat growing and much economic gain is derived each year from the production of this grain. The southern part of the South Plains section is devoted to the growing of cotton and feed crops, with much recent development of oil fields in Gaines, Andrews and Terry Counties. The future outlook for a splendid oil field in these counties has caused much development in the towns of Andrews, Seminole, Brownfield, Plains and Lamesa.

Lubbock, the hub of the plains, is the industrial and metropolis center of the South Plains. There is varied activity among the 23,800 people of this city. Among the leading industries are found creameries, feed mills, cotton oil, grain and feed establishments, poultry and egg, packing plants, cotton compresses and headquarters of utilities companies with their local plants. The city is well fixed for transportation facilities, having the services of the Fort Worth & Denver and the Santa Fe Railroads. U. S. Highways 62, 82, 84 and 87 together with State Highway 24 provide an outlet in all directions for motor transportation.

The second most important industrial center of the South Plains is found at Plainview, 46 miles north of Lubbock. The population of this city is 8,834 and among the active industries are found mills and elevators for wheat production, feed establishments and cotton oil mills. The Ft.

Worth & Denver and the Santa Fe Railroads furnish rail transportation in and out the city while U. S. Highways 62, 70 and 87 together with State Highway 194 furnish motor outlets to the nearby towns.

About half way between Lubbock and Plainview, the little city of Abernathy with a population of about 1,000 marks the beginning of the wheat production area which extends northward. The Texas Utility Company has a fine Tuco Power Plant in this town which has been an asset in the building up of this section. Other industries in Abernathy are Cheese Plant, flour mill and grain elevators.

To the south of Lubbock on U. S. Highway 87, Lamesa with a population of 3,538 and Tahoka with a population of 1,620 are in the cotton and feed producing area. In Lamesa the egg and milk drying plant offers a very unusual type of industry. Other industries are feed mill and cotton oil mill.

Southeast of Lubbock on U. S. Highway 84 the towns of Slaton and Post with populations of 3,786 and 1,668 respectively are small industrial centers for their trade areas. The Santa Fe shops at Slaton provide an industry which has aided much in the growth of the town. Other industries found in these towns are cotton oil mill and textile mill.

Brownfield, southwest of Lubbock about 40 miles, has a population of about 2,000 and is located in a good farming center, with industries such as feed and grist mills, cotton gins and broom factory.

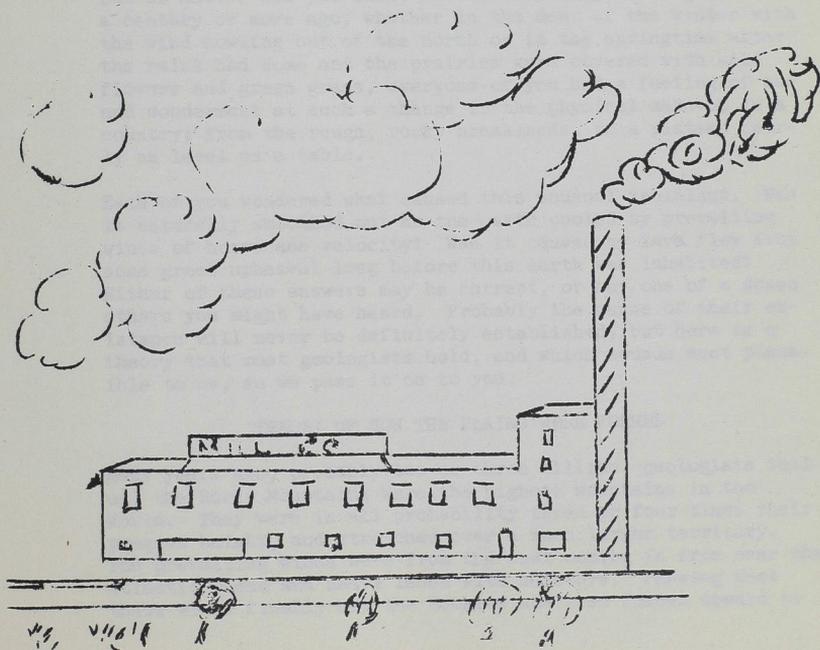
On U.S. Highway 84, extending northwest from Lubbock, the town of Littlefield with a population of about 3,500 finds active industries in packing, cotton compress, and broom factory.

About 26 miles north of Plainview, the town of Tulia with a population of approximately 2,200 is in a very good farming area.

Other important trading centers within the South Plains area are Ralls, Floydada, Levelland, Crosbyton, and Lorenzo. In these towns, industries such as feed mills, cotton mills, cotton compresses, small flour mills and elevators are found intermittently.

The industrial future outlook of the South Plains is very promising, and with future development along the lines of agriculture and ranching, manufacturing industries which normally follow such growths will take forward steps in the major industrial activities of this section.

B. F. Condray, Jr.  
Texas Technological College



## SPANISH EXPLORERS, INDIAN WARS, BUFFALO SLAUGHTER

### IN CROSBY COUNTY HISTORY

Do you remember the time when you came up over the edge of the Caprock, and viewed for the first time this great panorama of level plains, stretching as far as the eye could reach, to the dusty horizon turned misty in the distance. In recent years you may have come along a paved highway and topped the cap in a modern car with hardly a visible sign of effort; fifteen years ago you probably came in the old tin lizzie and had to turn your car around and go up in reverse to get to the top of the steep and somewhat rugged hill road. If you were among the few who came thirty or more years ago, you came in the covered wagon, through a nearly tractless breakland to the foot of the cap, with great bewilderment as to how you would ever get your possessions to the top.

But no matter how you came, whether recently, or a quarter of a century or more ago, whether in the dead of the winter with the wind howling out of the north or in the springtime after the rains had come and the prairies were covered with wild flowers and green grass, everyone of you had a feeling of awe and wonderment at such a change in the physical make-up in a country; from the rough, rocky breaklands, to a plateau nearly as level as a table.

Each of you wondered what caused this unusual tableland. Was it naturally smoothed out as the earth cooled by prevailing winds of hurricane velocity? Was it caused by lava flow from some great upheaval long before this earth was inhabited? Either of these answers may be correct, or any one of a dozen others you might have heard. Probably the cause of their existence will never be definitely established, but here is a theory that most geologists hold, and which sounds most plausible to us, so we pass it on to you.

#### THEORY OF HOW THE PLAINS WERE FORMED

Many years ago, probably two or three million, geologists tell us, the Rocky Mountains were the highest mountains in the World. They were in all probability three or four times their present height, and stretched over a much larger territory. The prevailing winds were from the east coming in from over the Atlantic Ocean and heavy laden with moisture. Passing west these winds finally hit the Rockies and were forced upward to

pass over. Now rain is caused by the warm moist air of the upper strata striking the colder air above. Thus the rains were practically continuous in these mountains, with an average rainfall of four to five hundred inches.

Naturally, such a torrent washed away the sides of the mountains and the dirt and rock were carried down with the water to form slow, soil laden rivers on their way to the Mississippi and the Gulf. As the rivers came out on more level ground, the dirt and rock were deposited in the river bed and kept building up until that bed was filled. The river then sought a new course and the process was repeated over the over again until finally the whole interior of America, from northern Canada to the Gulf, and east to the Mississippi was one vast tableland, traversed by great, sluggish rivers of which Blanco Canyon in Crosby, Yellowhouse in Lubbock and Palo Duro to the north, are all that remain on sections of the Great Plains.

Then the mountains were washed away so that the rain was not as heavy, the prevailing winds changed and nature set in to undo what she had just completed. Erosion began on the outer edges of the great plain. Water and wind has put back the plateau until now the edge of the Llano Estacado is six hundred or more miles from the Gulf and a thousand or more from the Mississippi. And still the erosion continues. In the fringe of counties just off the caprock, evidence still stands that they were once a part of the Plains. There is Double Mountain to the east and Flat Top in Scurry County besides many less noticeable hills each of which has a level, and soil where it has not been washed away, very similar to the Plains formation. Within a few more million years, unless measures are taken to prevent it, these great Plains will be no more, so say the geologists.

Then came the Mastodons, the great reptile like greater of a million years ago, the elephants, the three-toed horse; remains of all of which geological expeditions have found in the breaks and canyons of Crosby County. Then finally, perhaps a thousand, possibly several thousand years ago, the buffalo, or more correctly, the American Bison, made their appearance on the Great Plains and in the breaks that surrounded them. They thrived well in this semi-arid country, and being unmolested, grew in volume rapidly, until millions upon millions of them inhabited the Plains as far north as Canada. Other wild life made its appearance but not in as great a number. Large herds of antelope dotted the pampa, turkeys were found in the Canyon and breaklands, and fish were abundant in the streams. There were also wolves, wild cats, mountain lions, and smaller carnivorous animals in large numbers.

## INDIANS HERE ABOUT 500 YEARS AGO

What a happy hunting ground for the Indians who first made their appearance in this section, as near as can be estimated, about 500 years ago. Out toward the western line of the state there is evidence of a civilization much older than this, with a people at least kin to the Aztecs of Mexico, building homes and villages there more than a thousand years ago. In Palo Duro Canyon to the north there is also evidence of Indian habitation before the time of the Plains tribes. These plains tribes, who were a Nomadic type, left no pueblos, or towns, from which to judge the age of their civilization. They followed upon the trail of the buffalo, which furnished his meat, his clothes, and even the tents under which he lived. They followed in the wake of the great herds, killing only that which they needed, and living in ease had it not been for the long, cold winters. The Comanches dominated this section of the prairies.

But this state of affairs could not last forever. What surprise the Indians camped on Blanco Canyon must have felt when they spied one day a regiment of Spanish soldiers, headed by the searcher for the Cities of Gold, Coronado, accompanied by priests and a large party of Indian warriors, come down off the Plains and head up the canyon, then cross over to the edge of the caprock and follow it to the north. For this is the route, as definitely as it is possible to establish, that Coronado followed on his famous search for the seven Cities of Cibola. Coronado left what is now Sonora, Mexico, passing near what is now the site of El Paso, and up the Rio Grande to the seven cities of the Santa Fe region. Here he heard of the rich quivira, and passing down the Pecos River, he crossed the "Buffalo Plains" to the headwaters of the Brazos. Then turning north, he crossed the Panhandle on up to the Quivira, or northern Kansas. As near as can be gathered out of Coronado's descriptions after his return to Mexico, he crossed the Plains from west to east in the vicinity of what is now Crosby County.

What happened on these great plains for the next two hundred and fifty years will in all probability forever remain a mystery. There is no account of any other Spanish explorer coming east of the Santa Fe region. In all probability, however, other explorers, wandering into the great unknown region of western America, drifted onto the Staked Plains but did not travel far because of fear of getting lost in the great, trackless region, where landmarks were a thing unknown.

During these two hundred and fifty years, however, a new country had grown up on the eastern coast of the American continent, had thrived, and finally waged war on its mother country and gaining freedom, had established the United States of America. Many of these new people were a restless and frontier type, and were forever pushing west and south to settle new lands. Texas, claimed by Spain because of the explorations of Coronado and other Spaniards, was slow to feel the colonization by United States citizens, but even the fact that this state belonged to another country did not stop them. Thousands of Americans migrated to south and east Texas to settle under Spanish grants and finally, despairing of the treatment received from the tyrant rulers of Mexico, revolted, and by 1836 had gained their freedom. Then came the Republic of Texas, and later annexation, and the hardy people continued to push westward into the trackless, unknown Indian lands of West Texas.

#### EXPLORING PARTIES START TREK TO WEST TEXAS

The exploring party is always the forerunner of civilization. Such was the case in West Texas. Among the parties that skirted the Llano Estacado in the early days were: Albert Pike in 1831, starting from Fort Smith, Arkansas; the Santa Fe Expedition, which foolishly started out with a small party of men from Austin in 1841 to take New Mexico from the Spaniards; the "49'ers" of California gold rush days, some of whom used the route along the northern rim of the Staked Plains to Santa Fe, others across the upper branches of the Brazos to Big Spring and on to El Paso; Col. R. B. Marcy of the United States Army who led three expeditions into northwest Texas from 1849 to 1854 and skirted the edge of the caprock on each trip.

None of these early expeditions actually crossed the Plains. Most of them shunned them, because through their conversations with the Indians they learned as in March's report that the Plains was a "barren mesa extending from the Canadian to near the confluence of the Pecos and the Rio Grande, four hundred miles wide, elevation 2450 feet. Animals shun it, even the Indians dare not cross it except in two or three places where they find a few small ponds of water." Remember Col. Marcy made this report only a little more than 75 years ago.

For lack of space, we must skip much of the history dealing with the exploration of this section. Suffice it to say that even as late as 1875, just one year before the Plains was divided into counties by special act of the Legislature, and Uncle Hank Smith came to settle in Blanco Canyon, the "Texas Almanac" had the following to say: "The Llano Estacado is almost an unexplored region, but little known at present, the tramping ground of the wild Indian and the Buffalo."

## INDIAN RAIDS AND EFFORTS TO SUBDUED THE TRIBES

Probably the greatest drawback to the settlement of Western Texas and the Plains, besides the question of water, was the Indian. At first a mild and peaceful people, they became incensed at the white man, because he was slowly pushing him from the country that he had for centuries regarded as his own. The stories of Indian raids in Central Texas both before and after the Civil War are known to practically everyone. Slowly the Indians were pushed back until by 1870 only the vast expanses of the Plains and the breaks surrounding were all that were left that he could in reality call his own. But even this was not to be left to him. The cattlemen pushed westward driving the Indians before them, and the Indians retaliated in Indian raids and scalping parties. Plans were made and one attempt made to place them on reservations, but it was not until this year, 1870, that the United States government took definite steps to control them.

## GOVERNMENT PLANS TO CORRAL INDIANS OF PLAINS

Many of the bands were placed on a large reservation near what is now the Big Spring country, but they merely awaited the chance to escape and go on plundering expeditions through West Texas. The practice of granting hunting passes to Indians was also followed, but these were often abused, the Indians stealing, raiding and murdering while out with the permits.

Says Mr. Burges: "In 1870, such a plundering band stole and escaped with one hundred and twenty-five head of cattle from a ranch just west of Fort Griffin. Colonel MacKenzie with about five hundred men, infantry and cavalry, gave pursuit from Fort Griffin up the Mackenzie Indian trail, up Salt Fork of the Brazos, and north of Double Mountain near the mouth of Blanco Canyon, the Comanches stampeded and stole about fifty of the army horses. Ten men, under Captian Carter, pursued the Indians, and were led into a set trap in Blanco Canyon, near Mount Blanco. Here Mackenzie brought up his main body of troupes and the "Battle of Mt. Blanco" followed. After fierce fighting the Indians were dislodged from Mount Blanco, and the canyon walls, and disappeared upon the Llano Estacado. MacKenzie gave chase, was much bewildered and delayed by the Comanche's skill in throwing pursuers off

the trail but overtook the Indians on the Plains near what is now Abernathy. An awful storm and "norther" coming up right at nightfall when the soldiers had overtaken the Indians prevented an attack. The Indians escaped during the night.

"MacKenzie retraced his steps down the canyon by Mt. Blanco where the rock house now stands, on down the Salt Fork of the Brazos, White River, past Double Mountain, and after much suffering from the snow, arrived at Fort Griffin. He thus established the MacKinzie trail leading from Fort Griffin northwest up the Salt Fork, and up Blanco Canyon to Mt. Blanco. It was along this trail that Hank Smith, in 1876, went to establish the first ranch and settlement of the Plains.

By 1874 the Indian raids had become so numerous that the Government decided that strenuous measures were necessary to curb them. It was in this year that the great buffalo slaughter began, just 62 year ago. The Plains were simply covered with millions of these large shaggy animals, usually going in great herds which took from two to three days to pass. The size of these herds have been estimated at from small herds of a few thousand to as many as a million in one herd. The buffalo was life itself to the Indians. He could not live without them, for they furnished his food, his clothing and shelter. With the beginning of the great slaughter, they took up arms to prevent it. They raided the buffalo camps, the ranch headquarters and some went far enough east to attack small settlements.

Indians attacked a pay train enroute from Fort Sill to Fort Dodge, they raided an army supply train near Jacksboro and murdered the escorts, a large band attacked Adobe Walls, a buffalo hunters settlement on the Canadian River, but after four days of heavy fighting were repulsed. These raids and many other smaller ones led to the concerted effort to put all Indians on reservations that began in 1874 and saw its successful termination in 1875.

Four columns of troupes were to converge upon the Texas Panhandle, and surround and conquer the Indians, according to an order from General Sheridan, who commanded the Military division of the Missouri which included most of the United States east of the Rockies, and west of the Mississippi.

Mr. Burgess' account of the campaign is as follows:

"General Nelson A. Miles was to march south from Fort Dodge with nine hundred troops; Major Price was to march east from

Fort Bascom, New Mexico, with two hundred and fifty men; Lieutenant Colonel Davidson was to go west from Fort Sill; while General Mackenzie, with six hundred seventy men, was to go northwest from Fort Griffin, along the Mackenzie Trail. Buell and Neil were to be kept near the reservations in Indian Territory. Gen. Miles and Gen Mackenzie were both experienced Indian fighters.

"Gen. Miles marched from Fort Dodge south to the now abandoned Adobe Walls. He then marched down the Canadian River to Antelope Hills and there took the Indians trail toward the Plains. He followed the Indians to the mouth of the Palo Duro Canyon, and while climbing the caprock was, on August 30, 1874, attacked by the Indians in ambush. The Indians were defeated in this battle of Tule Canyon, and were followed up Tule Canyon out upon the Plains. While Miles was waiting for his Supply train, the Indians escaped in a southwesterly direction.

"Miles was well supplied with good horses and equipment for cold weather campaigning. Wherever Indians were heard of, Miles gave chase. All during the winter of 1874-75, even when the mercury was below zero the Indians were harrassed and chased about, their horses killed, and their camp equipment destroyed. Grey Beard, who had retreated to the Pecos with his Cheyennes, accepted Miles' demand for surrender, and came afoot in the snow.

"Before the battle of Tule Canyon, Mackenzie with our six hundred men had moved northwest up the Mackenzie Trail, and had established a supply camp in Blanco Canyon, near Mt. Blanco, the present site of Hank Smith's house.

#### MACKENZIE DEFEATS INDIANS AT TULE CANYON BATTLE

"On September 26, 1874, Mackenzie started from Anderson's supply camp for Tule Canyon in search of the Indians whom he knew to be in that region. On the way his scouts were attacked by the Indians, but when the main body of troops came up the small band of Indians retreated. Mackenzie sent Sergeant John B. Charlton with two Indian guides on ahead to locate the Indian camp. The Indians were found encamped in Palo Duro Canyon about twenty-five miles from the mouth of Tule Canyon, where Miles about a month before from the mouth of Tule Canyon, where Miles about a month before had defeated them. Mackenzie put his men in motion and at daybreak, September 28, 1874, marched in single file down the fifteen hundred foot wall of the Palo Duro Canyon to attack the Indians in their camp. The Indians of course knew Mackenzie was near, but were taken by surprise.

"When the troops were about two-thirds of the way down the canyon wall, they were discovered by the Indians. Immediately from every

rock and cedar bush, the thin line of troops was fired upon. The troops came down the narrow trail as rapidly as possible, and for the whole day the fight was on. The Indians held their ground while their squaws found an exit from the deep canyon five miles distant. Near sunset, the Indians had begun to retreat toward the head of the canyon, and found their way out of the canyon at the five mile exit. The troops followed for a short distance on the Plains but being exhausted, returned to burn the tepees. MacKenzie had lost two killed and wounded. The Indians losses were not known, as they always carried away their dead and wounded. The Indians had left two thousand two hundred ponies. The troops could not keep this number of ponies from escaping, and to keep them from again falling into the hands of the Indians, they were driven upon the plains and near Tule Canyon were shot.

"During these campaigns of 1874-75, about 25 engagements were fought, and twenty of these were in northwest Texas. The Indians were chased into their own, what they had heretofore thought to be inaccessible haunts. They were given no rest. They retreated to reservations and threw themselves upon the mercy of the United States. The Plains country thus was cleared of Indians. There were few raids after 1875, and these were of a minor character merely stealing expeditions."

The soldiers, after the successful Indian campaign had ended, were withdrawn from Crosby County and this immediate section, but in 1879 a detachment of Texas Rangers from Fort Griffin were moved to Anderson's Camp, near Mt. Blanco, to break up Apache raids from New Mexico. After chasing one band clear across the Plains, through the sand hills of the western border section of Texas on into New Mexico, there were no more Indian raids.

#### GREAT BUFFALO SLAUGHTER BEGINS ON PLAINS IN 1874

A history of Crosby County would not be complete without at least a short sketch of the great buffalo slaughter which began in 1874, saw its most prolific years in 1875-76, and terminated in 1877. In 1874 literally millions of buffalo were killed on the Llano Estacado, and Crosby county furnished its share of these. Several large camps were located over the county, and other less permanent camps were scattered over the Plains and farmers plowing in their fields, even to this day, plow up many bones of what was once the mightiest buffalo herds of the World.

The slaughter of the great buffalo herds had begun in Kansas and Colorado on the northern plains in 1872, and as the animals were killed out in that section the hunters drifted toward the Llano Estacado, to be joined by many new hunters from this section.

The corralling of the Indians in 1875 left the range free for the buffalo hunters. Each hunting party consisted of from five to eleven men, having one or more "good shots", who did the killing, skinners who followed the killers with wagon and team, and a cook, who besides cooking, "pegged out" hides in camp.

The hides were carried by ox and mule wagons to Fort Worth where they were shipped north to the leather markets of the world. Parts of the buffalo meat were said to be unusually good, and a large amount of cured meats were sent east to the settlements of Texas and nearby states, and to army camps, where they brought a good price. But for the most part the carcasses of the animals, after they were skinned were left lying on the prairie to be devoured by the coyote and the buzzard.

By the latter part of 1877 most of the buffalo on the Staked Plains and the breaklands beneath the cap had been killed. But one other business was left for the great number of men who were in the business. The bleached bones of the great animals that literally covered the prairies were good fertilizer, and brought a good price at the nearest market. The business of gathering up these bones and taking them via ox wagon to Fort Worth, and as the railroad built westward to Colorado City continued in diminishing degree for several years after the guns of the hunters had been silenced forever.

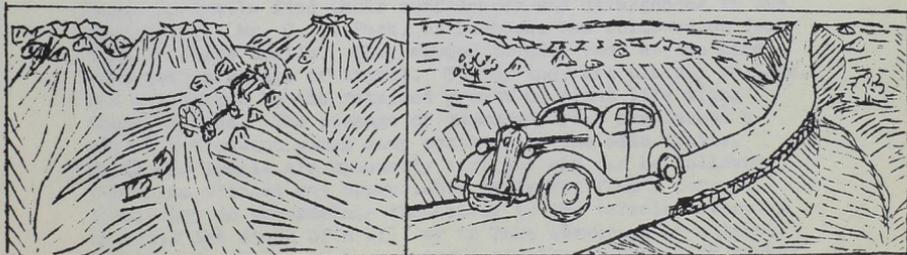
The passing of the buffalo from the Plains of Texas marked the end of an era and the beginning of another in this section of the country. The way was opened for the cattlemen, for with the Indian now gone, and with little danger of his returning since the buffalo, his commissary, had been annihilated, the country was ideal for ranchmen. With verdant grass, with sufficient water holes for great numbers of cattle, the cattleman was not long in driving his herds to the Llano Estacado and the canyons and breaks that surround it.

Crosby County remained a cattle country for many years. It started in 1876 when Crosby County's and the South Plains' first permanent settler, H. C. (Uncle Hank) Smith, came up Blanco Canyon from Fort Griffin and started the construction of the rock house, which after sixty years, still stands as a monument to the Father of the Plains. It has not yet ended, for in the canyons and breaks of the country, many sections

are still devoted exclusively to ranching, and because of the nature of the land, it will, for the most part, probably be left to the rancher for all times. But the great change from ranching to farming saw its beginning shortly before 1910, when with the establishment of the present towns of the county, and the building of the Crosbyton-South Plains Railway, agriculture came into its own. Of course, farming was tried before this time, even by the Quakers, as early as 1880, but until 1910 ranching was predominant.

This brings us to what one might call the "modern history" of the county, from the "modern history" of the county, from the day when the white man first became a permanent settler. The story of "Uncle Hank" Smith and how he came to be the first settler on the South Plains; of the Estacado Quater settlement, and the formation of the county; of Emma, once a thriving town of the old west with a population of four hundred or more, of the founding of Crosbyton, and of its early dreams and aspirations.

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A SURVEY OF THE SAND HILL CAMP SITES  
OF LAMB AND BAILEY COUNTIES

The camp sites under consideration are located in the sand dune area in Lamb and Bailey Counties. This sand hill formation extends from New Mexico eastward through Bailey County and almost to the eastern edge of Lamb County. Its shape is, roughly, that of a tongue, with its roots in New Mexico and its end between the towns of Littlefield and Olton. The sand is continually occupying new territory, and since the prevailing winds are from the west, the area to the east of the sand hills is slowly being sacrificed to the shifting dunes.

Geologists estimate the origin of this peculiar formation as being in the Ice Age or shortly thereafter. An extremely loose top-soil, combined with sand brought by winds from the Pecos Valley in New Mexico, has made this region what it is to-day. Vegetation is limited to a few hackberry trees, sage and bear-grass. Near the water-holes, willow sprouts and cottonwood trees grow. While water is shallow throughout most of the region, it seldom appears at the surface. A branch of the Yellow House Canyon runs through the sand hills. It is along the bed of this old canyon that the water holes, and for the most part, the camp sites lie. A casual observer will not note the presence of the old stream bed, but once a person is notified of its existence, he can trace the canyon with little difficulty. The caliche rim of the valley is frequently visible along the dunes. A ridge of this white rock sometimes appears in an uninterrupted streak several yards in length along the sides or near the top of a dune. The distance of the camp sites from this canyon is seldom more than a fourth of a mile.

Numerous trails find their confluences and divergences in the sand hills. Mr. C. H. Park, of Lubbock, has followed on foot many of these trails. They appear to have been at one time important highways of travel. To-day they are plainly visible, and are marked by the retarded growth of plant life along their courses. The passage of numerous feet has caused a slight depression along many portions of the main trails. While the trails are unusually straight and can be followed for miles without any appreciable deviation from a compass line, they do accommodate themselves to the terrain, swerving to avoid the crest of a hill or to take advantage of a level stretch of country, yet pursuing a straight course with marked accuracy. Sometimes a footpath will run close to the peak of

a hill, from which point of vantage a traveller could scan the country about him for friends, enemies, or game. Mr. Park has followed one of these trails from a point forty miles east of Lubbock through the sand hills and into New Mexico. It is extremely unlikely that there were originally cattle trails, since many arrow points and pot remnants are found along them. However, the yield of artifacts is not as prolific along the trails as it is at the camp sites.

There are eight of these sites which have been named. Several others have been located, but as yet no names have been assigned them. Those which have names have received their titles because of some geographic or biotic characteristic. Killdeer Camp received its name because of the large number of birds of that name which were seen nearby at one time. Headquarters Camp was so designated because of its proximity to the headquarters of the Halsell Ranch.

The individual sites are located in basins surrounded by the dunes. These "blowed-out" places, as they are referred to locally, are circular in shape.

The floor of the basin is seldom more than two acres in extent, while the dunes sometimes rise to a height of thirty or forty feet. Hard soil, packed and burned to a depth of from six to twelve inches, forms the floor of a basin where a camp existed. Hackberry trees are sometimes formed in the bowl-shaped basins. A steady, prevailing wind tends to carry the sand into the basins, whereas an unusually strong wind, one that is usually accompanied by a sandstorm, tends to sweep out the site. The air currents set up by a violent wind remove the sand from the floor, exposing the artifacts left by the former inhabitants. After a sandstorm, the finding of arrow points, pot sherds, and other objects is comparatively easy. The shifting of the sands is continually exposing and covering the clues left by the race or races, which occupied the region.

This same shifting eliminates stratigraphy as a key to determining the relative ages of the artifacts found. Fortunately, there is a preponderance of decorated pottery remnants, to which we may turn in an endeavor to determine something of the nature of the people who lived in the sand hills.

Several collections of pot sherds and arrow heads were made before the souvenir-hunters, picnickers, and passers-by invaded the camp locations and removed a great mass of the material. While the supply of artifacts now lying about the sites is by no means abundant, the industrious seeker can find flint points, knives, and scrapers and pot sherds.

A study was made of a collection of pot sherds belonging to Mr. Park. This group was picked at random, and according to the owner, is representative of the types found in the area under discussion. Two hundred and twenty-six pieces made up this group, specimens from all the sand hill sites being present.

The classification was based upon the groupings set forth by the Laboratory of Anthropology at Santa Fe, New Mexico. Two hundred and six of the sherds were definitely of Pueblo origin. Dr. H. P. Mera, a member of the staff of the Laboratory of Anthropology has been instrumental in working out the sequence of Pueblo pottery of the Southwest. In a letter to the writer, Dr. Mera gave a list of the Pueblo types noted in the Park collection. Only twenty of the sherds in the collection fell outside the Pueblo group, and these we classified as local types. The six types noted by Dr. Mera were, briefly, Chupadero Black-on-White, Lincoln Black-on-Red, El Paso Polychrome, Corona Ribbed-Ribbed, Puaray Glaze-Polychrome, and Cicuye Glaze-Polychrome. The makers of these types of pottery lived in the southern and eastern portions of what is now New Mexico. These types appeared in the fourth Pueblo period, a few specimens going back to the Third Pueblo period, the dates of which have been fixed at 900-1300 A. D. The Fourth Pueblo period's dates are 1300-1700 A. D. Thus it seems that the sand hill people were coexistent with the people of the pueblo country who lived in pre-historic times.

The Chupadero Black-on-White sherds constituted over fifty per cent of the pottery types studied. The makers of this type lived in the pueblo area closest to the sand hills. Therefore we may safely say that the sand hill area saw its greatest number of inhabitants between 1300 and 1700 A. D.

There are two acceptable explanations for the appearances of these intrusive wares in West Texas. The first of these lies in the possibility that the pueblo peoples used the sand hill locations merely as seasonal camp grounds, occupying them only when they came to the plains to hunt buffalo. A small number of pots, bowls, or ollas could have been brought along, broken, and left.

The second explanation is based on the hypothesis that the sand hills were occupied by peoples who resided there permanently. These people could have traded for the pots, giving to the pueblos in exchange flint, meat, and hides.

No sherds of the distinctive Panhandle culture pottery have been found. In the light of recent finds along the Canadian River, it seems that the Panhandle Culture people antedate the people of the sand hills.

The estimate of the age of occupation which we have made does not exclude the possibility that this region has been occupied at other times. We cannot definitely bind the period of habitation by the dates 1300-1700. We can only say that the sand hill sites were occupied for a time during this 400 year period.

Although no writer has ever mentioned any Indian tribe as occupying the sand hill country, it has been proved that the sand hills have been invaded in historic times. Mr. Park and Mr. W. G. McMillan uncovered a buffalo hide shield near a trail in the dunes. This was presumably a burial, and accompanying the shield were several hundred trade beads and a Civil War model bayonet. Whether transients or permanent inhabitants were responsible for this burial is not known.

Flint objects form a bountiful portion of the artifacts found. Arrow-points, knives, scrapers, and drills have been found. Numerous flint chippings can be found, showing the industry and artistry of the Indians. The mass of flint is from the Alabates quarries on the Canadian River. This flint is usually a rusty red color, frequently banded. The other types are a grey chert and the translucent obsidian from the west.

Several Folsom points have been picked up at the sites. These can readily be distinguished by a smooth groove on the side, running from tip to barb. This groove, chipped transversely, was for the purpose of allowing a wounded animal to bleed freely.

The points made from the Alabates flint are small and delicately made, showing fine workmanship and care. Though commonly referred to as "bird points", their penetrating power is much greater than that of larger types. These small points are usually flat on one side, slightly convex on the other, and possess distinct barbs.

One type of point, seldom found anywhere, possesses only one barb. The other edge of the head is perfectly straight. Whether the worker was interrupted after completing one shoulder of the barb, or whether he intended to make this peculiar type is not known.

Other flint artifacts found are knives and scrapers. These last are usually small, capable only of being grasped by a thumb and forefinger. The cutting edge is semi-circular in shape, usually very sharp, while the base is straight and thick. These were used to scrape hair off of hides in the process of dressing the hides.

The knives range in size from four to ten inches in length. Many of them have four cutting edges. These are about an inch across at the widest place, which is the center, and taper to sharp points and the ends. The two blades of the knife do not have the same pitch. That is to say they are not in the same plane. The blades appear to have been twisted so that they have the shape of the two-bladed propeller.

If bone implements existed, they have become shattered, for none of these has been found. Ornaments, too, are sadly lacking. Beads, both bone and trade, have been found. One small amulet of obsidian, apparently a frog, was found recently.

Since caliche is the only native rock of the region, we know that the mano stones and metates were brought in to the sand hills. These can be seen in any of the various sites.

No signs of shelters, either temporary or permanent, can be found to-day. This leaves a wide field for speculation as to the type of structure erected at the sand hill sites. At one time or other, people to the north, the west, and the south of the sand hills has houses of stone, or mud, or both; but no trace of rock or crumbled mud walls can be found here. The absence of rock is easily explained by the fact that rock suitable for building purposes would have had to be imported. Buffalo hide shelters, or dug-outs, or a combination of the two, provide acceptable solutions to the question. The conical tepee might have been used.

Why the Indians occupied the sand hills is a question upon to discussion. The Indian is noted for his ability to pick and his preference for locations appealing to his aesthetic senses. Yet he has seldom been known to sacrifice convenience to this taste for the beautiful. It would be absurd, as well as bold, for us to say that the sand hill region could satisfy the aesthetic tastes of man, for rarely will one find a more desolate and unpleasant area.

The inhabitants could hardly have chosen the country for its military advantages, for the sites are practically

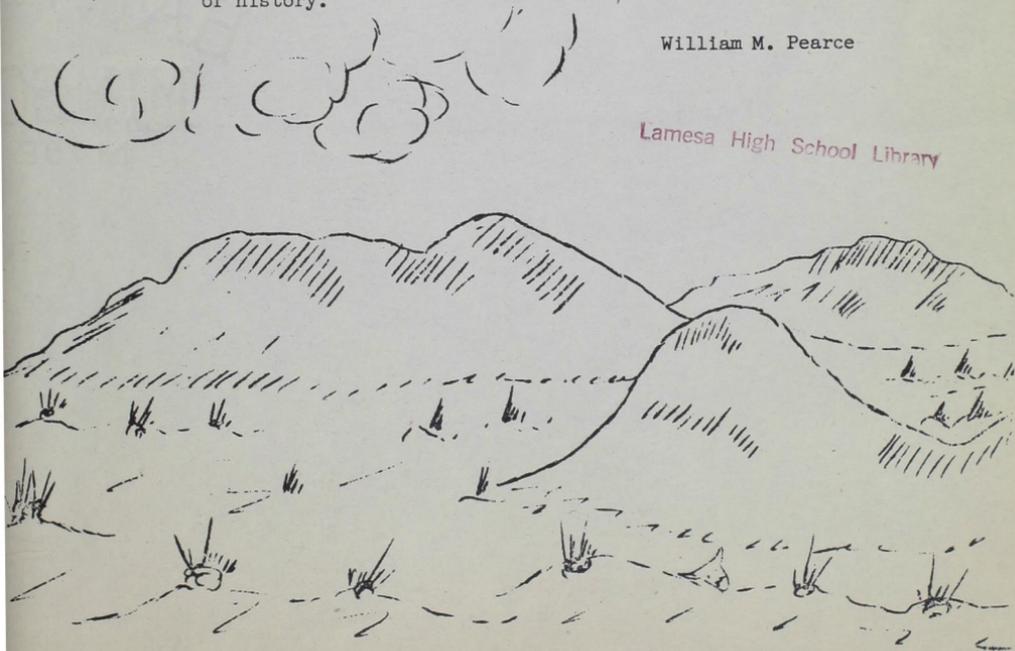
indefensible as far as nature is concerned. Yet the very isolation of the camps, their remoteness with regard to other inhabited regions, might have been the best safeguard against attack.

Reasons for the abandonment of the sites is not known. This opens a new field of speculation, dangerous, certainly, yet enticing. There is a legend that the sand hill country was once a well-watered region, inhabited by a happy and prosperous people. Because of some sin committed by the people, the region was visited by a terrific sandstorm. Few of the Indians escaped being smothered by the sand. Most of the people were buried alive, and according to the legend, each dune covers the body of one who once lived in this happy land. Legends usually have a historical source, yet they become distorted through the years and cannot be trusted.

Perhaps future investigation in this region and its periphery will uncover the many secrets of the sand hills. As long as doubt and mystery surround the sand hill camp sites, the investigations carried on will belong to the field of archaeology. When the facts are revealed, they will become a part of history.

William M. Pearce

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