

# REPORT

of Agent of South Eastern New Mexico Stock Growers' Association.

From February 24th to April 14th, 1894, Socorro and Lincoln Counties

On February 24th, 1894, "Slick" Miller, Allen Hightower and one other man, name unknown, gathered, near Paraje, Socorro County, New Mexico, 125 head of cattle, in the following brands:

J D G J D J S A G 9 9 9 9 5 5 5 A S L V A  
N X B W


These cattle were gathered to be taken to Gallo lake, and there delivered to Spence Brothers. The cattle were driven to the Gallinas Mountains, and were there turned loose on March 4th, to enable "Slick" Miller to appear at the Lincoln County Court. Miller went to White Oaks, and there learned that court would not convene at Lincoln until March 12th. He then got Jay Allen and returned to the Gallinas Mountains, to gather the stolen cattle. When he arrived there, he found that Oscar Hill had gathered 45 head of the stolen cattle, which he (Hill), had driven to Pinos Wells and delivered to Spence Brothers. Miller only found 39 head of the stolen cattle: These he drove to Pinos Wells and delivered to Spence Brothers March 9th. Jay Allen helped Miller to drive these cattle. Allen Hightower started to help drive, but when he got to the Gallinas he was taken sick with the mumps, and it was then that Allen took his place. For the stolen cattle turned in to Spence Brothers Miller received \$4.00 for some, and \$5.00 for others.

After this deal Miller returned to White Oaks, and went to Lincoln, to attend court. After being released from court, he

returned to White Oaks, and, having heard that Hill had taken 45 head of the cattle stolen by him (Miller), he said he wouldn't fool about trying to get them from Hill, but would make a new deal and gather another bunch.


On March 21st, "Slick" Miller and Wayne Wilson left White Oaks and rode to Red Lakes; here they changed horses, taking two W horses, which they rode to Ed Brown's Ranch, and there turned loose. "Slick" Miller was here taken sick with the mumps, and George Carter drove him to San Marcial in a hack. It was arranged however, that "Slick" Miller should meet Wilson and informant at the head of the Mal Pais, on the morning of March 28th. Wilson and informant were there, but Miller did not arrive until the morning of the 29th. The place of meeting was at the point of the Mal Pais that runs out from the town of Paraje, At this place Miller and party gathered up six head of horses, of the following description and brands:


One gray saddle horse, with overbit left ear, branded A G


One bay horse, no white on him, branded 

One bald faced gray horse, belonging to a Mexican boy who works for Dr. Blackington, branded J M

One sorrel horse branded G

One blue horse branded 

They also took up one roan horse, branded , and one bay horse branded J T B

The party then proceeded to gather cattle, and rounded up 78 head of cattle, principally branded J D G and J D, but took also a number in the following brands: J S A G 9999 555 A S L V  — N X W B and W These cattle were driven about six miles out in the sand hills, where informant held them, while Miller and Wilson went back and made another drive,

making up 114 head. These were started to Gallo Lake, but, at Apodaca's ranch, opposite Carthage, 25 more cattle were picked up, making the whole number stolen 139 head.

About ten o'clock on the morning of March 30th, the herd reached Charles Bruton's Ranch, at Mountain Station, and were there watered. They were then driven towards Gallo Lake. About 8 miles northwest of Red Lakes, the herd was overtaken by a man called "Jock," an employe of the W Ranch. When he was first seen, "Slick" Miller and Wilson drew their Winchesters, and said it would be best to kill him. I protested against this, and said I would not consent to anything of the kind; that it would be better to let the man come and take out anything he had in the herd: I was anxious to have the man go through the herd, so that he could afterwards verify my statements as to the cattle in the herd. "Slick" and Wilson yielded to my arguments, and the man rode up unmolested. He shook hands with Miller and Wilson, and Miller said: "I think I may have some of your cattle that have dropped in the herd. I wish you would go through the herd, and if you find any, cut them out, and cut out anything that belongs in this country." The man went through the herd, and cut out one W steer. He then rode along with us about half a mile. Wilson asked him not to say anything about the drive, and he promised that he would not.

2 We went on to about a quarter of a mile from the hay camps at Red Lakes, and there met Randolph Reynolds, riding with a man named Scott, who has some connection with the W outfit; he is, I understand, one of the owners. When we met them, "Slick" Miller had gone on to the hay camp. Reynolds and Scott did not look through the herd; they stopped and talked to Wilson, who told me he would engage their attention, and for me to push the cattle on, which I did. Scott and Reynolds rode on, and after they had

Scott

left "Slick" Miller returned, and shortly after Reynolds having left, <sup>Reynolds</sup> Scott came back and had quite a talk with Miller. Reynolds then went on to overtake Scott, and Miller came to the herd, and we kept on to the hay camps, where we got water for ourselves and horses, from the barrels. We then went on and got dinner, and then drove until we crossed the divide. Here we had supper, and then drove until about three o'clock in the morning, when we arrived at Gallo Lake, where we put the cattle in a pasture; but during the night they broke out and stampeded. The next day we succeeded in rounding up about 90 head, and Miller sent word to Spence Brothers, by a man of theirs who came in during the day, that the cattle were there for delivery. At Gallo Lake we found Oscar Hill's herd, being held by two Mexican boys. Hill was not there, he having gone to Pinos Wells. We also found at the Lake three rustlers, - two of them the Evans boys of Albuquerque, and a stranger who had a big white horse branded U T, belonging to Mr. Budd Wilkerson, of Roswell Post Office, New Mexico.

That night Mr. Charles Spence, Oscar Hill, one of Spence's men, and a man called "Jimmy the Tough," who works for Oscar Hill, came in. "Slick" Miller told Spence of our bad luck with the cattle, and Spence advised that he ("Slick") leave two of his men to round up the strayed cattle; that he, Spence, would leave a man to help, and that Spence and "Slick" would drive the 90 head to Pinos Wells. This was done. Spence and "Slick" drove the 90 head of cattle off, and informant, Wilson and one of Spence's men remained and hunted cattle until next day, and then started with nine head; but, on arriving at Pinos Wells, found that Spence's men had rounded up some more, enough to make in all 125 head, which were turned in to Spence Brothers, at Pinos Wells, on April 7th. Spence paid "Slick" Miller \$5.00 each for 49 head, and \$4.00 each for the

76 head; the total amount received by Miller was \$549.00; of this, \$410.00 was paid with a check on the bank at White Oaks, and the balance was paid in money. The check was made payable to E.E. Miller.

When the cattle were sold, Charles Spence said that, as there were so many cattle in the J D G and J D brands, it would be well to get up some kind of a bill of sale amongst ourselves; he, Spence, said "Sign anybody's name to it that you know is not in the country." So they got up a bill of sale,-- Charlie Spence wrote it himself, and "Slick" Miller signed the name of John Chamberlain to the bill of sale; I signed the name of "Tom Collins" as a witness, and Wayne Wilson signed his own name as a witness.

Spence said that he would not be there to receive the sheep, but John Chamberlain is a man who, with Tom Crow, killed a Mexican, near

Water Canon, last June; he ran away, but was arrested at Paris,

Texas, for selling whiskey to Indians, and sent to jail there.

Jack Herbert told me that Chamberlain had given the whole business away to the officers down in Texas.

After the cattle were turned in to Spence Brothers, they were branded by Spence Brothers, with the exception of 35 head, which were sold to a man named Stinson, a butcher at Cerillos. Among those sold to Stinson were the — N X; two of these, — one a cow and the other a steer, got away from the butcher, and Spence said he would brand them, but had not done so when informant left.

Some of the A S were also sold to the butcher. Also some of the B.

"Slick" traded the white horse branded A G to Spence, receiving another horse, and \$10.00 to boot.

Wilson traded the bay pony with the I brand, to Spence Brothers.

Oscar Hill got the blue horse branded H; also the

bay horse branded J T B.

An arrangement was talked about, with Spence Brothers, to bring another lot of cattle or sheep in. Spence said he would have to wait about two months, before making final arrangements about the cattle, as he was going to Clayton, to try and fix the Inspector at that point, and he thought he would have no difficulty in getting him, but he would take sheep at any time, and allow fifty cents a head. He said a German, living at Belin, names Schola, had the best sheep, and he would prefer them. Spence said that the man's herders were all right; that he had got them fixed so that we would have no trouble about getting the sheep. Charlie Spence said that he would not be there to receive the sheep, but that his brother Frank would be there all the time he was away.

Spence advised Miller to have nothing more to do with Wilson, and said he was afraid of Wilson. Wilson has gone in with George Sly, at White Oaks. They are going to make a round up, but not at present.

On our return to White Oaks, "Slick" got drunk, and went to gambling. Wilson was very much dissatisfied, and said that "Slick" was talking too much, and would get us all into trouble. Sly was to go out and help us round up the horses mentioned later on, but did not show up.

We were at White Oaks three days. When we were leaving there, "Slick" Miller went into the butcher shop of John Owens, and stole a white-handled six shooter, a forty-four calibre, and a butcher knife. After we got off, he laughed about how he had got the best of Owens.

At White Oaks, a man called "Doc," whose name I do not know, joined us. This man "Doc" was at Spence's ranch when we got there.

He, and another man named "Happy Jack," who was working for Spence, said that the entire herd of about 1,000 head, which were to be out, in the sand. They were driven off the trail and shot. This started by Spence Brothers from Seven Lakes, to the Cherokee Strip, was about two and one-half miles out from Griego's. The horses on the 20th of April, were stolen cattle, and had been rustled that were shot were branded; one, a sorrel about 3 years old; another a sorrel about two years old. About 12 miles farther on, we rustle the last lot that Oscar Hill put in from Gallo Lake.

We left White Oaks April 9th, and went to a place near Red Lakes, and rounded up some horses, which were driven into the Mal Gap. That day we got dinner with some sheep herders, in the Pais corral. One roan horse had a bell, which Miller took off.

We got four saddle horses, branded R L on the hip. We then rounded up, in all, 52 head, but that night we lost all but 37 head.

These were driven to the river, above San Marcial, to the house and corral of a man named Maximilliano Griego, who is in with the outfit. His house is on the west side of the river, below San Antonio. Griego was not there, but his family were there, and the woman gave us permission to pen the horses, While we were there the saddle horse brands were picked over. The R L was picked into B D, and the 10 into an R B, and the HP into HB.

We left Griego's ranch on April 11th, with 33 head of stolen horses, in the following brands:

Q SLY R L H  
HP RW J 10 XK

The animal with the 10 brand on was a bay mare, about 15 hands high.

The animal branded J on left hip was a gray horse, which also had S T 8 on right shoulder.

One animal branded HP on left shoulder was a sorrel mare.

Two saddle horses, branded R L, were, one a roan, the other a blue.

The morning we left Griego's ranch, two of the mares gave out, in the sand. They were driven off the trail and shot. This was about two and one-half miles out from Griego's. The mares that were shot were branded; one, a sorrel about 3 years old; another a sorrel about two years old. About 12 miles farther on, we shot a brown yearling, of the same brand.

The next place we stopped at was a spring near Puertocito Gap.

That day we got dinner with some sheep herders, in the gap. I left the party on the morning of the 13th of April, beyond the Point of Rocks, about 25 miles from Clemens Ranch.

We next came to Al. Clemens' horse ranch, twenty miles southwest of Magdalena; this was on the morning of April 12th.

We did not take the horses to the house, but left them at the back of the pasture. "Slick" Miller said that Al. Clemens had no use for a man that would steal, and it would not be well to show up the horses here.

We found a young man about 20 years old, at the ranch, - I do not know his name, - and two boys whom I knew very well, and who knew me, and called me by name; one was Mr. Thorpe's boy, who thought Ed Brown had given him away, about the 17 O brand burnt lives at Kelly.

Here we got something to eat, and "Slick" Miller sent me back to the horses. He remained, had a horse an interest with "Slick" Miller in the cattle, being in the shod, and got some bread and came on.

That afternoon we got to the Point of Rocks, and killed a cow for meat. While we were in camp here, "Slick" Miller said that he proposed that we should hold up and rob the buckboard that carries the mail to Patterson's Ranch. This thing frightened me, and I thought it was getting too hot for me, and I thought I had better leave them, and, besides, I was satisfied that my instructions would not require me to go any farther with the outfit; but

While we were at White Oaks, "Slick" Miller gave an order on Oscar Hill, in favor of Bud. Merritt, a saloon keeper at White Oaks, for \$40.00, to be paid out of the money that Hill got from go back to Al. Clemens' horse ranch and stay there until I got

better. He said he would go over to Jim Cooper's; that he thought Cooper would put him onto something good. That he would sell the horses, at Cooper's, if he could make a deal; if not, he would go on to Arizona, - probably to Phoenix, where he would meet John Kinney, who had a livery stable there, with whom he could make a deal, and that then he would see if he could make a raise of a lot of cattle to run back into the Rio Grande, and that he would write to me, at Silver City, in about two weeks.

I left the party on the morning of the 13th of April, beyond the Point of Rocks, about 25 miles from Clemens Ranch. I did not go to Clemens Ranch, but rode directly across country to Magdalena, about 40 miles, and there got Mr. Charles Tingley to write a letter for me to the Secretary of the Stock Association at Fort Stanton. Oscar Hill "Jimmy the Tough."

Then, in obedience to instructions, I reported to the Attorney of the Association, at Las Cruces, on April 22nd.

In conversation with "Slick" Miller, he told me that he thought Ed Brown had given him away, about the L V brand burnt into 17 0, which were mentioned in my former report. Brown had an interest with "Slick" Miller in these cattle, being in the steal, but "Slick" Borrowed \$250.00 from Mr. Noah Ellis, on the cattle, and gave Ellis a power of Attorney to handle them. "Slick" refused to "whack up" with Brown, who was left out, and Brown was mad about it. "Slick" said that last year, when Brown was doing the business for the firm, and was disposing of the cattle that "Slick" stole, that Brown did not whack up square with him, and that is why he beat Brown on the 17 0 cattle. on the Grand

Jury no While we were at White Oaks, "Slick" Miller gave an order on Oscar Hill, in favor of Bud. Merritt, a Saloon keeper at White Oaks, for \$40.00, to be paid out of the money that Hill got from

the 45 head of cattle he stole from "Slick" Miller, out of the 125 San Marcial is entirely in sympathy with these cattle thieves, and head that "Slick Miller" stole from the river. I do not know whether the order was paid, as Hill had not returned when we left White Oaks.

The following are the names of some of the parties with whom I came in contact, on this trip, who are actively engaged with the cattle stealing parties:

Charlie Spence.	"Slick" Miller.
Walter Roberts.	Lam. Brennan.
Will Henley.	Charles Henley.
"Sandy" Hightower	Allen Hightower
"Squatty" Robinson.	"Shorty"
Elmer Gadlis	--- Latham (works for W )
Oscar Hill	"Jimmy the Tough."
Clark Hurst	Frank Wilson
Wayne Wilson	"Happy Jack"
W.D.Lincoln	Ed Brown
Marion Hill	Randolph Reynolds
Green Scott	George Carter
Sam Chisum	Jack Best
Jack Herbert.	

Also, Frank Johnson, who has a place about 15 miles from San Marcial Frank Johnson come to me and told me to look out, that they were after us, meaning the party that I was with; that there was a good deal of feeling about us, but that we need not be much alarmed, even if we got caught. He said that they could not do anything with us in Socorro County. He said that he, himself, was on the Grand Jury not long ago, in Socorro County, and told me how he prevented indictments from being brought against some of our friends who were charged with cattle stealing. The whole community out about

San Marcial is entirely in sympathy with these cattle thieves, and I have recommendations to quite a number of them, and was told that I could go and stop with them, and be entirely safe, and could get pointers, they understanding that I was "all right," and a member of the outfit.

1894

Statement

No. 2

Tom Collins