

Borden Citizen.

Published by The Borden County Historical Survey Committee - March, 1967
Vol. II No. 3

BORDEN COUNTY HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE

A new Committee has been appointed by C. C. Nunnally, County Judge. These are:

Mrs. Frank Miller, Chairman
Mrs. Ben Weathers, Secretary-Treasurer
Mrs. J. W. Holmes, Membership chairman
Mrs. V. L. Clark, Chairman of the Museum
Mrs. Rich Anderson, Chairman of Historical Markers
Mrs. Bert Dennis, Editor of Newsletter
Mrs. Allen Stephens
Mrs. George Gray

An organizational meeting was held January 17th, 1967. The committee voted unanimously to make John Ben Shepperd an honorary member of our Survey Committee and \$10.00 was sent to the Texas Historical Foundation. This gift will go toward setting up a fund to present an annual award in honor of Mr. Shepperd. The members of the local historical committee are grateful to Mr. Shepperd for his encouragement and assistance.

Meetings of this committee will be held the first Tuesday in each month at 2:00 P.M. at the Courthouse.

Mr. Charles Woodburn of Amarillo has been chosen as president of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee - the office recently vacated by Mr. Shepperd.



"GETTIN' THEIR GOATS"
GAIL, TEX.

3 DAY PICNICS AT GAIL

Ah, those lovely, peaceful days before World War I! Radio and television were unheard of. World shaking events were something you read about on the blackboard in front of Mr. Dorward's Drug Store. Automobiles were regarded with suspicion and you held your horses as they went by. Your newspaper was printed in Gail and your entertainment was produced locally.

Just who did organize those 3-day picnics? They were unusual productions and were held to celebrate the 4th of July. Great anticipation preceded these events - everyone in the county came and even Mr. Pete Thrane, the young banker from Snyder, was at one

gathering. Do you remember the brush arbors shading the tables loaded with food? And did anything ever taste as good as the lemonade, made in a washtub, with lemon rinds and a big chunk of ice floating on top? Remember how the children chanted: "Lemonade - made in the shade - - stirred with a spade - - the best lemonade that ever was made." And there was soda pop in bottles that really popped! Can't you just taste it - flavored by the wire loops on the stoppers?

Entertainment was varied and challenging. Most keenly competitive was the goat roping and the tournament riding - two sports which required much skill and horsemanship. For the benefit of the younger generation, the tournament ride (its origin goes back to the days of Knighthood in England) consisted of catching small rings suspended from arms extended over the course, on a long, smooth wooden lance or cue, while riding at full speed. It was a timed event and very few were skilled enough to catch all the rings. Ed Miller, on a smooth running horse named "Smoky" was often the winner. Tom Hudson was hard to beat in the goat-roping. Jim, Jess and Joe York, Sam and Rodway Keen, Lona Smoot, Martin Taylor and the Dillahuntys were others to reckon with.

For the younger and less skilled there were cigar, sack and potato races. Interscholastic sports were unknown, but each community had a baseball team to compete with one another when the occasion arose.

There was one form of 'imported' entertainment - it was "Booger Red's Wild West Show"! Here the young bucks were given a chance to prove their daring by riding broncs that had never been ridden. Jim Hopkins mounted a dun horse named "Schoolgirl". Next day, Dewey Everett decided that riding "Schoolgirl" and eating popcorn at the same time would impress the crowd - - or could it have been some particular young lady? He did finish the ride but he almost choked on that 5¢ bag of popcorn. How about Wilbur Schneider? He must have been there too!

Oh, yes, there was a dance platform under a tent (if my memory isn't playing tricks), where young couples could dance afternoons and evenings. I remember vividly seeing a very young cowboy dancing one afternoon in a shining new pair of chaps which were so stiff he couldn't bend his legs.

And the lovely young ladies! In this era before shorts and stretch pants they were dressed in their summer finery. Many a fine seam must have been sewn in anticipation of this occasion. They wore voile, muslin, lawn, and dotted swiss - trimmed with laces, ribbons and embroideries. I remember that one young lady blistered so badly from the July sun that you could see the pattern of dots on her skin - she was wearing dotted swiss. Their shoes were high topped and laced, but above them were real silk stockings with embroidered clock designs in contrasting colors - and some even had lace insets - and some had stripes running around the legs.

These are some of my memories of those three day picnics. Tell us about yours!

by EDNA MILLER

THE DURHAM CEMETERY

By Helen Jo Wicker Gray

The Durham Cemetery is situated on the old J. H. Wicker place east of Gail. Most of the headstones are of marble, one of granite, one of limestone and one of sandstone. There are three steel markers - the kind placed on a grave until the permanent stone is erected. Two of these have deteriorated, the names illegible but one can be identified. Names on two wooden markers are completely erased. The cemetery is well protected with a fence around it. The following names and dates are taken from the headstones in this cemetery. The first to be buried here was Hap Turney, a young cowboy, who was drowned in Bull Creek.

HAP W. TURNEY
Born November 21, 1872
Died October 20, 1892

ODESSA MAY RODGERS
Born May 4, 1899
Died November 18, 1909

EDITH E. DAVIS
1907-1912

MAY M., wife of J. G. DAVIS
Born Dec. 25, 1875
Died August 2, 1910
(May was the daughter of Frank G. and Henry Bullard Hill)

LILLIE H. SELMAN
Born July 9, 1884
Died July 29, 1911
(Daughter of Frank G. and Henry Bullard Hill)

FRANK G. HILL
Born Jan. 26, 1850
Died Jan. 22, 1900

MOTHER (wife of Frank G. Hill)
HENRY BULLARD HILL
Born Feb. 12, 1851
Died July 2, 1920

There are two weathered board markers in or adjacent to the Hill family plot and are probably graves of children.

ISA BULA
Daughter of James A. and Isa D. Jones
Born March 1, 1905
Died September 15, 1905

H. SIMPSON
Born September 25, 1888
Died April 26, 1914

JAMES LUNSFORD SELLARS
Born May 23, 1841
Died December 6, 1909
(Father of Elitha G. Sellars Wicker, who was Mrs. J. H. Wicker)

PENELOPE ANN WICKER
Born September 4, 1819
Died April 3, 1910
(Mother of Joseph Henry and Eugene Forrest Wicker, who came to Borden County in 1901).

RUDOLPH TELCHIK, 93, died January 29, 1967 and was buried at Dodson Prairie, Strawn, Texas. Mr. Telchik was a farmer and rancher who purchased the J. D. Farely place on the plains in 1925. Mr. Telchik is survived by four sons and one daughter - two of the sons, Oscar and A. B., live in Borden County.

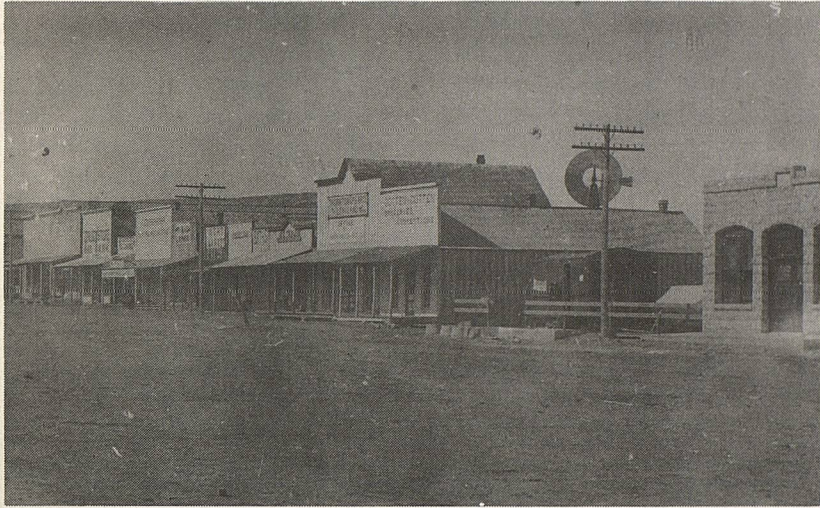
OSCAR F. BOYD, 97, died January 31, 1967 and was buried in the Stiles Cemetery near Big Lake. Mr. Boyd came to Borden County in the fall of 1879 with H. D. (Nick) Beal and they worked cattle together for many years. Bob Beal now owns a watch which Mr. Beal gave to Mr. Boyd in those early years and the inscription on the watch reads 'Many times I've carried this on night watch. I'd take it and stand my guard - then wake up Nick and he would carry it on his guard'. Mr. Boyd moved to Reagan County and is survived by his wife, Lillie, of San Angelo; two sons and a daughter of Big Lake.

WAT WEATHERS, 63, a rancher near Hamilton, died February 3, 1967 and was buried in Snyder. A native of Coke County, Mr. Weathers came to Borden County with his parents, the late Jim and Cora Weathers and his late brother, Alfred, in 1903. Another brother, Ben, preceded Wat in death only 5 months ago. Wat is survived by his wife and one son of Hamilton; a sister, Mrs. Harley Smith of Snyder; and an aunt, Miss Minnie Weathers of Robert Lee.

MRS. JULIA HODGES died February 16, 1967 and was buried at Archie, Missouri. She is survived by her husband, Ivan, and four children - one of whom, Mrs. Beno Hendricks, lives in Borden County.

That was the year that so much seemed to be happening in Borden County. During these three years the two hotels - The Wilbourn (also owned at other times by Hale & Stokes) and the Kincaid (also known as Hopkins and Johnson) were both doing a booming business. Mr. Chandler doubled the size of his General Merchandise Store - with a double archway connecting the two departments. Shelves were lined with beautiful and fashionable materials, patterns, laces and ribbons. Showcases along the middle aisle also displayed attractive merchandise. Miss Hattie Whittington and Dick Winfre were moved out from Fort Smith, Arkansas to clerk in the store.

Down the street, Mr. Dodson operated a large General Merchandise Store. Mr. Dorward's Drug Store was enlarged and Mr. Williams opened a Photographer's Studio - - this was just a tent, but he did a thriving business. Best of all for the ladies was Mrs. Berry's Millinery Shop. Mrs. Berry went to market in Chicago that year and the hats she brought back drew the ladies from all over the county into her shop. The Barber Shop had to hire an extra barber, who was Mr. Chandler's nephew, Harvey Chandler - much to the delight of the local young ladies as Harvey was a handsome young bachelor! The Borden Citizen, local newspaper, was enlarged to take care of advertising and the society news. Peachtree Jones, the Editor, had to hire Miss Verda Layton of Abilene as a typesetter and while here she resided at the Stokes Hotel. Real estate was on the boom and an outstanding dealer was M. J. Thornton - he, too, had to import a secretary and stenographer - Miss Lillie Fields from Runnels County (later she was married to the County Clerk, Rodway Keen). About this time, the Gail Bank was organized with Rich Miller as President and J. D. Brown, Cashier. Ewel Adkinson opened a Blacksmith Shop and had all the business he could handle.



There was a Cotten & Cotten Grocery and Confectionary - T. W. Cotten bought half interest in this store from John C. Howe in 1906 - in 1907 J. B. Cotten, Jr. bought Mr. Howe's half interest and the store became known as Cotten & Cotten. (Ed. note: J. B. Cotten is an attorney at the present time and lives in Seagraves and is the father of Dorothy Brown, Deputy Clerk for Borden County).

Everyday was special for the folks of Borden County and each resident looked forward to coming into town to shop and visit old friends. I just can't remember which year it was, but 1906, 1907 or 1908 - whichever - THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS!

By Ethel Morrow Everett

FROM THE PENS OF OUR READERS:

GAIL BORDEN, for whom our County is named, was the first Texan to be baptized in the Gulf of Mexico. Borden was deacon and Sunday school superintendent of the First Baptist Church in Galveston for twenty years.

MRS. M. C. OVERTON of Lubbock has given a photograph of Dr. Overton to our Museum and she writes: Dr. Overton made many trips through Gail in a buggy in the early 1900s. He recalled with amusement that when he stayed in the Hotel in Gail, the owner always gave him the same room on the second floor and he would lie in bed and look at the stars through the cracks in the ceiling. I never ceased to be amazed at the way a man - Dr. Overton - who was reared in the East could become so accustomed to the West, its modes of travel, etc; and always when we went on a vacation to other parts of the nation, he remarked as he came upon the Caprock, "This is the most beautiful country I've seen since we left home."

ARTHUR PRINCE of Abilene: Along in the early 1890s we had a citizen in Borden County known as 'Dutchman' Charlie Brown. I think he might have been one of those who went to Sierra Blanca, but am not sure. Anyway, I remember that Tom Polk advertised him in a matrimonial magazine and there was much fun and teasing when the mail hack from Big Spring began to bring him bundles of letters in answer to the ad. About 1903 another Charlie Brown came cow-boying - he worked for L. S. Munger, Frances Abney, John and J. K. Mitchell. Later on he worked for the Longs and was on the last large cattle drive (5,000 head) out of the County. He later lived in Post City and Abilene and became a deputy U. S. Marshall. Mr. Brown died last year.

A friendly, bow-legged cowboy hung around our town a while,
A friendly, little bow-legged bantam is exactly what he was,
To hear him talk and see him smile, us kids would gather round,
and got some information the grown-ups hadn't found.
Our eyes stuck out on stems one day when to us he did confide
That he was Windy Billy of "The Cowboys' Christmas Ball"
Just who he was, or where he went, never did we know.

FRANK P. HILL, Editor of The Lynn County News: My father, E. I. Hill, was district attorney and tried many cases in Gail from 1919-1923.

WILLIE McCULLOCH: My father, the late W. H. McCulloch, his wife and two children, moved from Milam County to Borden County when I was a month old - late 1889 and helped organize the

County, He was the first Commissioner of the Gail District, was a stock farmer and operated a section about 3 miles SW of Gail. He moved to Henderson County in 1896.

MRS. MARCUS SNYDER (the former ISLA BESS LOONEY): My father, Judge Robert Hunter Looney, owned a ranch south of Gail. (Ed. note: this ranch is now owned by Morris Miller of Medina and his two sisters). In 1912, soon after my marriage to Marcus Snyder, we lived on the Looney Ranch and ran cattle there. My father and family lived in Colorado City, where I was born. After organization of Mitchell County, my father was appointed the first Judge of the county and later was elected to the office of Judge - in his later years he became Mayor of Colorado City.

DAVE BOATMAN of Lubbock: My great-great grandmother, Sarah Elizabeth Crouch Hull was an early settler in southern Borden County, as well as some of her children. Her grave is located at the Fairview School next to that of her daughter-in-law, Lucy Caroline Kirkwood Hull and a great-grand daughter, Lucy Palmyra Hull, who died in 1899 at the age of 3 months. Two of Sarah's sons were Missionary Baptist preachers and it is my understanding that they held services at the present Fairview school and served the Morris Community and southern Borden County. They both served in the Civil War after their family moved to Texas from Illinois in 1855.

L. P. SKINNER of Silsbee: It has always been my understanding that my father assisted in the formation of the County. I was born in Gail, March 1893. I have a copy of a newspaper printed in Gail in 1892 in which the editor mentioned the great influx of people settling in Borden County - some 350. I don't believe that they stayed.

ETHEL MORROW EVERETT: A. W. Angel was a well driller and drilled the first water wells in Borden County. The Angels had 7 children, four of which were born here and delivered by Dr. Hannabass. I wonder how many people remember the winter of 1907 when Prof. T. R. Mauldin wanted to institute a program, similar to the literary society, to be held at the Courthouse each Friday night. He took orders for the original old blue back speller and had a spelling match every Friday - from beginners to the oldest inhabitants - everyone was eligible to enter and so many came that there would be a double line the length of the Courtroom. Grand Pa Petty and Brother Jolly would always be the last ones standing. . . . Curls must have been the rage in 1903 and 1904. At the old Gail school building, sitting at first desks behind the old pot bellied stove were Clara Sanders (Mrs. Tom Good) with the most beautiful black curly hair - - and Katie Willis (the late Mrs. Jim York) who had lovely brown curly hair and brown eyes - - and Ella Russell (Mrs. Hardin Dodson) who had ringlets all over her lovely head.

MEMORIALS AND GIFTS MADE TO BORDEN COUNTY MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MRS. M. B. KINCAID has sent a memorial in memory of her husband, the late MARC BRYAN KINCAID, who was born in Borden County March 14, 1896.

L. S. MUNGER of Abilene has sent a donation to the Historical Society.

ETHEL MORROW EVERETT and MRS. JOSIE YORK LEMLEY have sent in their \$5.00 to the Texas Historical Foundation.

EDITORIAL

The Survey Committee has selected the name, THE BORDEN CITIZEN, as the official title of this historical newsletter. The name has been reprinted from an old 1901 copy of Borden County's newspaper. This newsletter is printed four times a year - September, December, March and June. We are primarily interested in publishing historical happenings in Borden County and encourage you to send us items and pictures of interest. If, in the future, we have enough financial backing and you, the readers so wish, we may include a section concerning the latest happenings, stories of interesting people and their activities. Please send in your \$3.00 subscription to the newsletter to Mrs. J. W. Holmes, Gail, Texas 79738. If you wish to make a donation to the Museum, send it to Mrs. Vivian Clark, Gail, Texas 79738. Don't forget to help us with a \$5.00 donation to the Texas Historical Foundation. This parent organization makes all this research possible and all money given in the name of Borden County will be spent locally on markers etc. The Foundation has made it possible for Texans (since 1964) to erect 3,000 Historical Markers; establish 234 museums with 65 in planning stages; 950 historical structures have been restored or preserved and 220 Texas cities have 'Historical Markers in City' signs at their city limits to alert the public - - and do you realize that over \$15,000,000 in increased revenue to the state has been realized from this effort? If you are interested in helping Borden County become a 'Quota Buster County', please send your check for \$5.00, made out to Texas Historical Foundation to Mrs. Ben Weathers, Star Route, Ira, Texas 79527.

From: The Borden County Historical Society
Gail, Texas 79738

SWEST COLLECTION
Texas Tech University,
LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409
TO:

<p>BULK RATE U. S. POSTAGE 25/8c PAID Gail, Texas Permit No. 1</p>
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