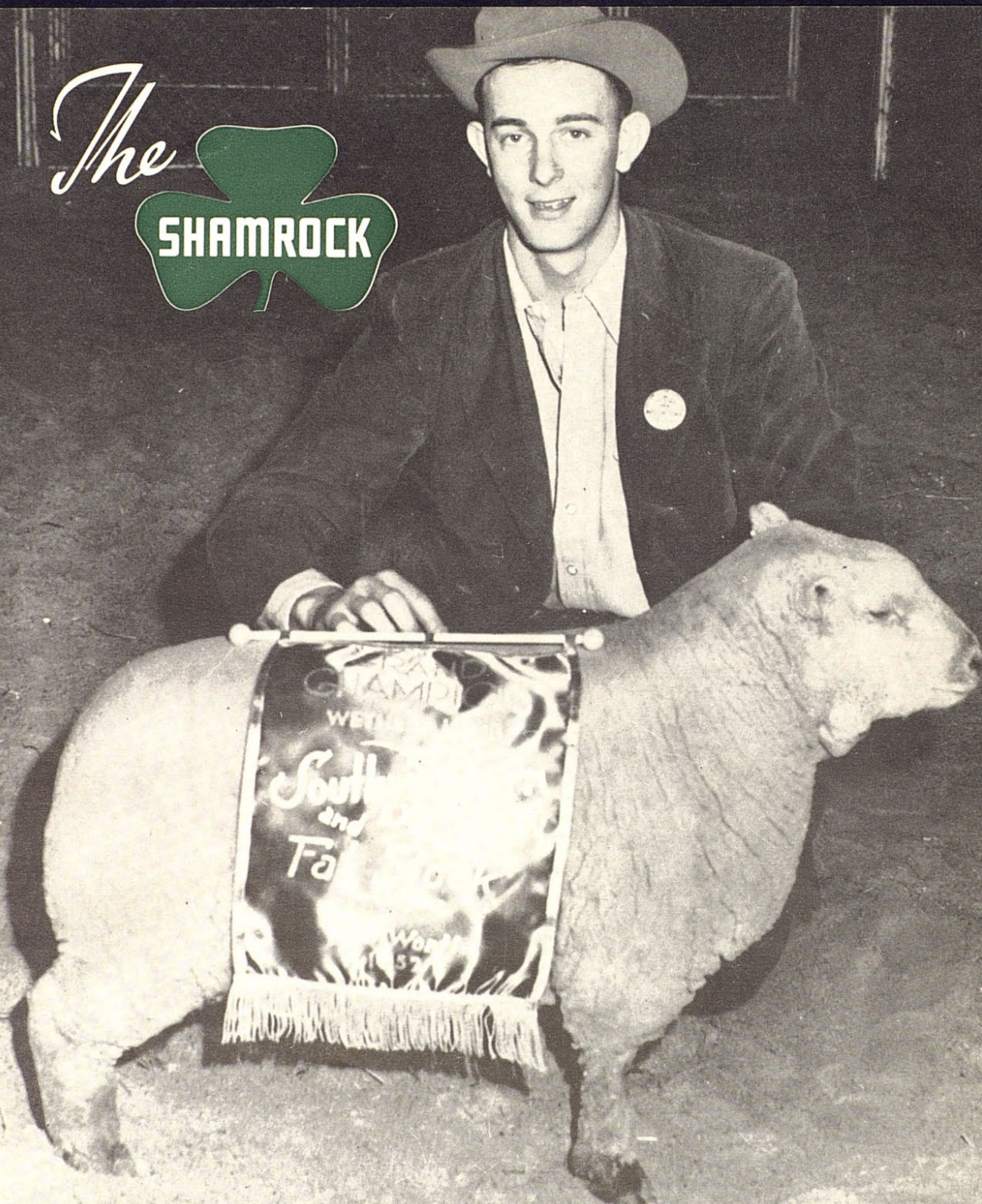


*The*  
**SHAMROCK**



MARCH — APRIL — 1952

## CASTRO COUNTY, TEXAS

Story Begins on Page 2





Dimmitt, Texas, business district.

# CASTRO COUNTY, TEXAS

The fertile plains of the Texas Panhandle produce a big share of the nation's beef and grain. One of the most productive regions in the big Panhandle food basket is Castro County, near the extreme western edge of the State.

Agricultural and business leaders in Castro County are justifiably proud of the development of their community. Since the County was organized in 1891, local farmers have developed a diversified type of agriculture; they have brought dependable supplies of irrigation water to much of the rich soil; and they have learned to combat wind and drouth. Progressive towns and community centers have been established. Good schools and churches, a well-equipped hospital, all-weather roads and many other advantages are now a part of the Castro County scene.

Castro County citizens are not content, however, with resting on impressive past



achievements. Almost universally confident of the future, they believe they have only begun to develop the productive resources of their community. Evidence of this optimistic spirit is apparent throughout the County. In Hart, in Nazareth, and in Dimmitt — the three leading towns in the area—new houses, new business buildings, new churches, and new civic enterprises are visible demonstrations of this confident spirit. And on farms and ranches, fine new homes attest further to Castro County citizen's faith in the future.

Dimmitt is the county seat of Castro County. It is a town of approximately 2,000 persons. The town has excellent school facilities, fine churches, progressive stores and shops, four

Although wheat and grain sorghums are the principal crops in Castro County, the soil and climate, together with an abundant supply of irrigation water, make possible wide diversification of farming, as the photographs on these pages indicate. Haskell Benson is pictured at right during onion harvest on his Castro County farm. Below, Mr. and Mrs. Buford Hayden display some of the produce from their farm.







These two shorthorn bulls are among the prize-winning animals raised by Leo Witkowski on his Castro County farm. The two bulls pictured here won the Junior and Grand Champion awards, respectively at the 1952 San Antonio Livestock Exposition.

grain elevators, a cotton gin, and other commendable civic and commercial enterprises.

Dimmitt citizens are particularly proud of their schools—another sure sign of progress and of hope in the future. The community is presently constructing a new grade school building and gymnasium which is scheduled for completion by September 1 at a cost of more than a half million dollars.

The local citizens are ardent supporters of school activities which range from athletics to dramatics and music. Because of this strong community support, the Dimmitt school system, headed by School Superintendent R. S. Vestal, has won outstanding recognition for many of its activities. In recent State basketball competition, both the boys' and girls' teams were State Champions in their divisions. The Dimmitt girls' team has won the State Championship for three years in a row. The girls were National Champions in their division for two consecutive years. In football, Dimmitt High School has won the District Championship in the Class A Division for the past two years. John Blaine, Coach of these fine teams, has been associated with the Dimmitt school system in one capacity or another for 17 years.

Although Dimmitt citizens are justifiably proud of the athletic achievements of their school, they are no less proud of other outstand-

ing school activities. The Dimmitt Band is one of the best in the State and provides excellent music training for many Dimmitt youngsters. Band Director Paul Jordan has won State-wide recognition for his work with the group and was recently elected President of the Plains Band Association, a group made up of Band Directors in 26 counties. The Dimmitt school system has also developed an outstanding speech and dramatics

Most famous of Leo Witkowski's prize winning shorthorns is Darlington Red Knight who recently won his 16th Grand Championship.







Grand Champion group of six bulls at the 1952 Amarillo Fat Stock Show are these registered animals raised by C. J. Mapes & Son, Castro County Hereford breeders.

program. This department, headed by James W. Bates, provides speech training for Dimmitt pupils from the fifth grade through high school.

Other Castro County communities are equally as progressive. Hart, 18 miles southeast of Dimmitt, is a growing community in the center of a thriving farm district. Near the eastern edge of the County, the town of Nazareth is an important trade and cultural center for a large and prosperous area. Founded in 1902 by a group of Catholic settlers, the community had one of the first Catholic churches in the Panhandle. Though not the largest, the Catholic church at Nazareth today is considered to be one of the most beautiful church edifices in the Panhandle.

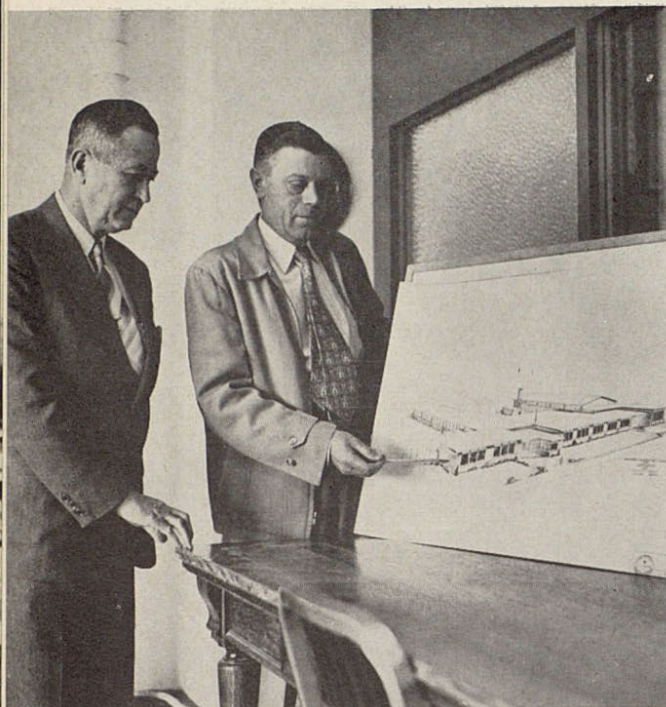
The early history of Castro County was similar to that of many other Panhandle areas. The first settlers were ranchers who came into the area to graze their cattle on the short prairie

grass that covered the flat Panhandle soil like a carpet.

Although livestock activities in the County supported a modest prosperity for a number of years, the population remained sparse until after World War I when farming activities began to increase. Castro County residents were few and far between in 1891 when the County was established. Many old timers hint that to meet population requirements necessary for establishment of the County a number of saddle horses were registered as voters. In 1906, while Lamb and Bailey counties were still annexed to Castro for administrative and judicial purposes, less than 170 votes were cast—and every eligible voter voted!

Shortly after the first World War, farming activities in Castro County began to increase rapidly. More and more of the fertile grass lands were broken up. Until 1920, it is estimated that





Floyd Reynolds, Dimmitt business man, and T. E. Harrison, School Board Secretary, look over plans for new grade school.

not more than an average of 50 acres per section was under cultivation. Within a few years, more than half the land in the County was producing some kind of crop, primarily wheat.

During this second phase of Castro County's development, the town of Hart got the boost it needed to make it mushroom into the progres-

sive little city that it now is. Named after W. T. Hart, who was the first Postmaster in the community, the town consisted of little more than a post office and school house until 1928 when the Fort Worth and Denver Railroad was built through the area. Shortly after that, grain elevators and other commercial enterprises put in their appearance. Stores and shops were established, the population increased rapidly, and the town soon became a flourishing trade center.

The depression years of the 'thirties were dark days for Castro County. Depending primarily on farming for their livelihood, residents of the area were first struck a staggering blow when farm prices dropped far below production costs. Then, for the next few years, prolonged drouth wiped out crop after crop.

During these dark depression days, while a few farmers were forced by drouth and low farm prices to abandon their farms, most managed to stick it out. Many of the prosperous farmers in Castro County today were among those who, not too many years ago, bore the brunt of market collapse, dust storms, and crop failures.

While Castro County is still primarily an agricultural area, farming activities have progressed considerably in the past 10 years. During this period, the County has developed from a dry land farming region, with wheat the principal crop, to an important irrigated farming region with increasingly greater diversification of crops. At present about 418,516 acres in the county are under cultivation while 127,749 acres are still in native grass.

Most of the large irrigation wells in the

Plains Memorial Hospital at Dimmitt





The Catholic Church at Nazareth is noted for its beauty throughout the Panhandle.



LEFT—One of the newest church edifices in Castro County is that of the Methodist Church in Dimmitt.



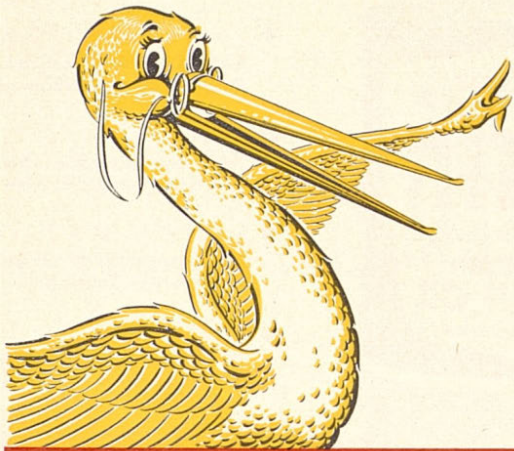
RIGHT—Rapidly outgrowing this building, the Dimmitt Church of Christ is planning a new structure.



LEFT—This attractive structure, consisting of auditorium and educational building, is the home of the Baptist Church in Dimmitt. Another fine Dimmitt Church—the Assembly of God—is not pictured here due to lack of a suitable photograph.





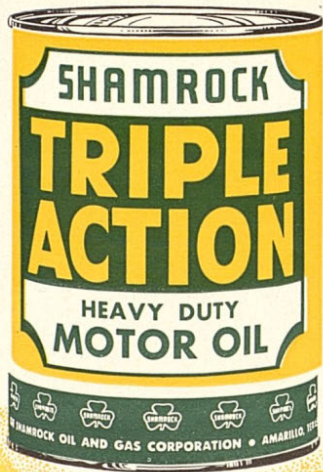


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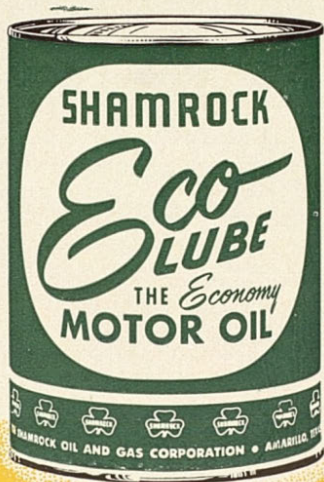
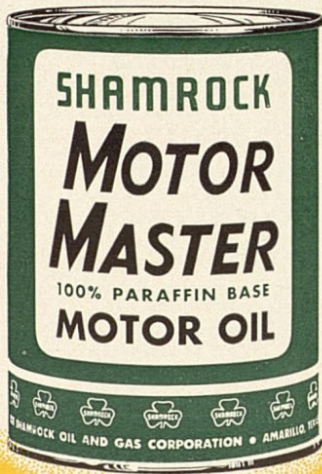
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## FACTS ABOUT SHAMROCK

The Shamrock Oil and Gas Corporation will be 23 years old this summer. Home offices are located in the First National Bank Building in Amarillo, Texas. Oil and gas production is in the north Texas Panhandle and Shamrock's manufacturing plants are located a few miles northeast of Dumas, Texas. The Shamrock family consists of 600 employees and over 5,000 stockholders who own the 1,345,570 shares of outstanding common stock which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

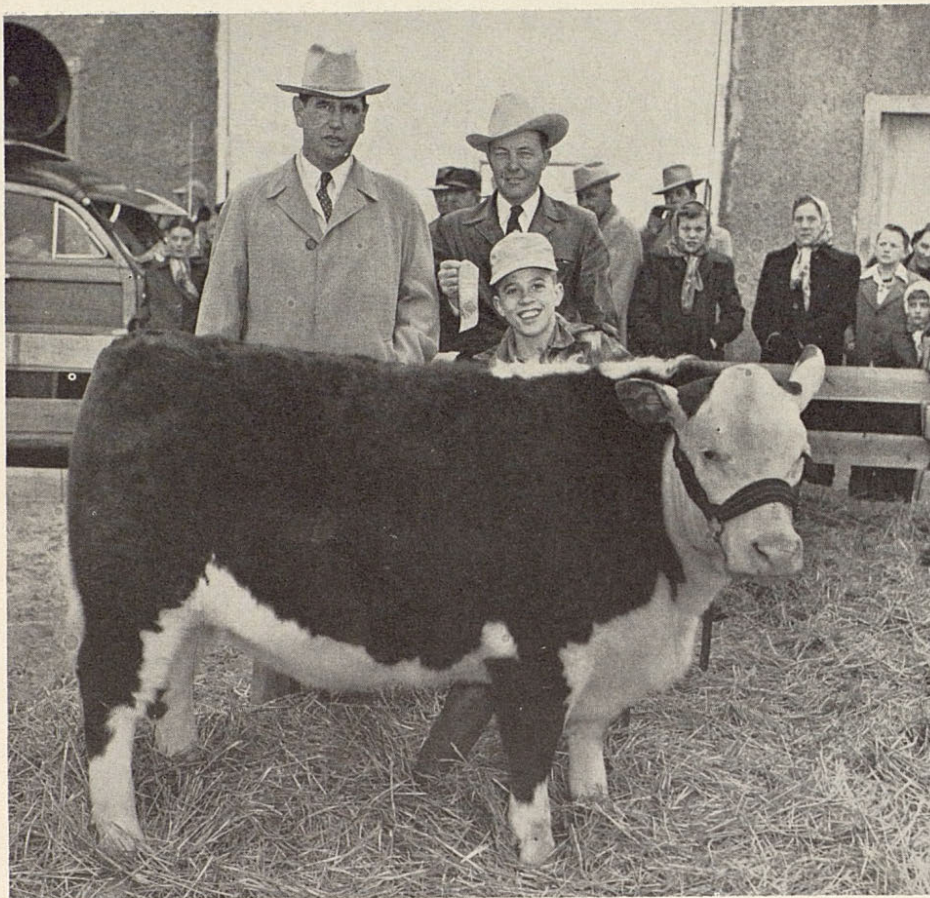
Since its beginning in 1929, Shamrock has had a steady growth, particularly since the war. During this six year period \$30,000,000 have been invested in field, plant and marketing improvements making a total investment of \$41,000,000.

Shamrock gasolines, motor oils, greases, industrial oils, kerosene and diesel fuel are sold by 350 branded distributors and dealers located throughout parts of five states comprising the Texas Panhandle, northeastern New Mexico, Oklahoma Panhandle, southwestern Kansas and eastern Colorado.

Products are supplied to Shamrock outlets from four distribution points—the McKee Plants near Dumas; products terminals at La Junta and Denver, Colorado, supplied by a jointly-owned pipe line from the Texas Panhandle plants; a gasoline blending plant and distribution terminal at Liberal, Kansas.

THE SHAMROCK OIL AND GAS CORPORATION  
AMARILLO, TEXAS



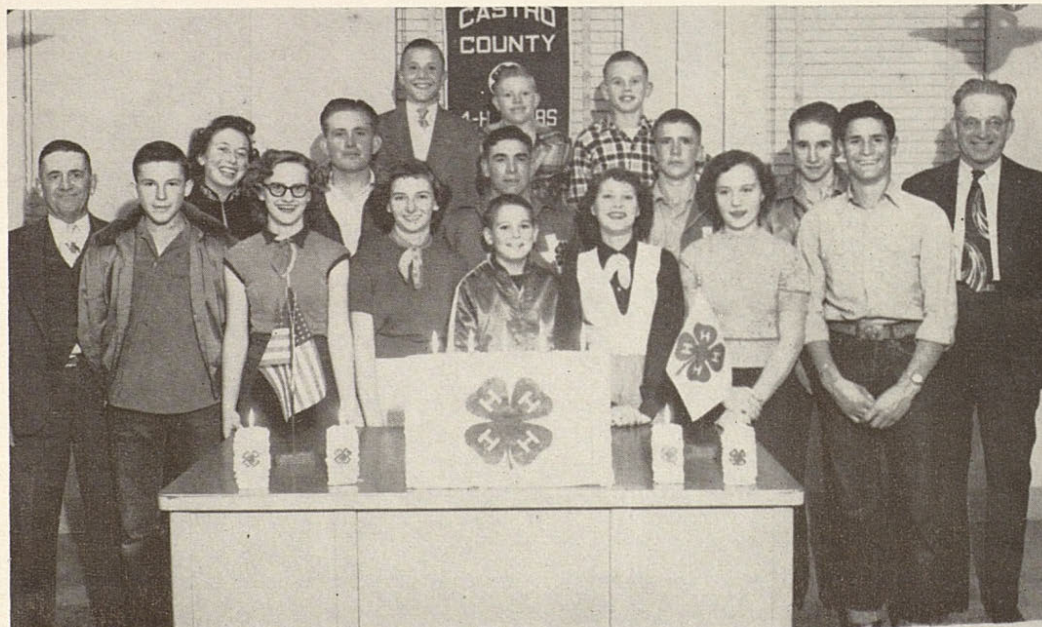


## Castro County Earn Recognition Outstanding Achievement



Tom Acker, Castro County 4-H  
at the Hereford Fat Stock Show  
calf. J. P. Smith, left, was j  
Conkwright, holding ribbon, v  
winning calf.

LOWER LEFT—About 500 Cast  
Club activities. The group pic  
Acker and Frank Huseman, ar  
from the seven boys' and seven  
Castro County 4-H Club Council





# ty Youth nition For Achievement

ty 4-H Club boy, is pictured here  
k Show with his Grand Champion  
was judge of the show. Colby  
bon, was breeder of the prize-



ABOVE—Members of the Dimmitt F.F.A. Chapter prepare ground near new school building to set out trees. Left to right, Edd McLeroy, County Agent; Joe Paul Weatherford, Gerald Alldridge, Clark Dobbs, Don Conard, and J. O. Seale, F.F.A. Advisor.

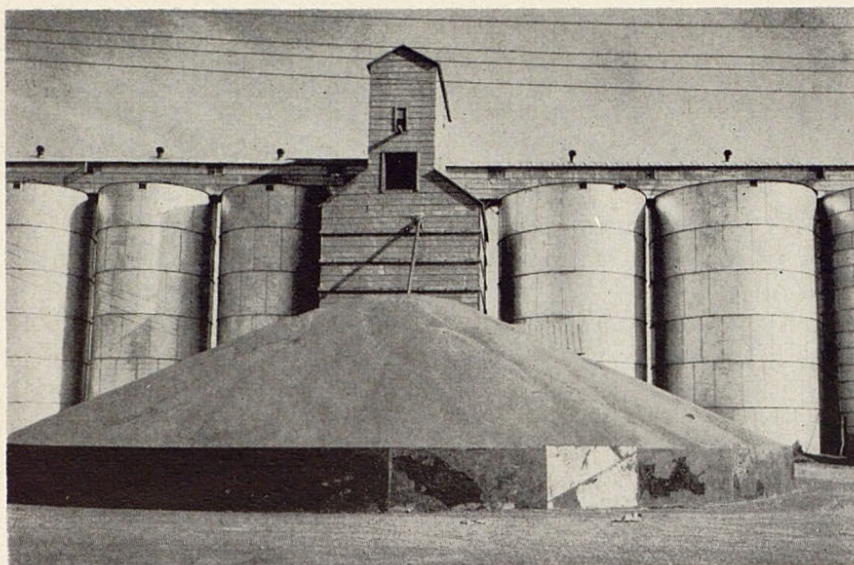
Castro County boys and girls take part in 4-H  
up pictured here with their adult leaders, Jacob  
an, are the club presidents and elected delegates  
seven girls' clubs in the County. They make up the  
Council.



LEFT—Besides capturing the State Girls' Basketball Cham-  
pionship for the third consecutive time, the Dimmitt Bobbies  
turned in a perfect season: 36 games won and none lost.  
BELOW—No less proficient than the girls, the Dimmitt Bob-  
cats were also State Champions in their division this year  
and also had a perfect season with 36 wins, no losses. Both  
teams are coached by veteran coach John Blaine.







Picture at left shows wheat piled on the ground near a Hart grain elevator when a recent bumper harvest overloaded available storage facilities in the County.

County have been put into operation since the end of World War II, although some irrigation farming has been carried on in the area for many years. At present, there are about 1,150 wells irrigating approximately 170,000 acres of Castro County farm land. The water is pumped from a depth varying from 65 to 140 feet.

Increased irrigation activities since about 1945 have been responsible for much of the change in Castro County agriculture. With an abundant supply of water to aid them in their farming operations, farmers in the area have been able to increase average yields of existing crops and, at the same time, to develop the production of new crops in the area. In the future, agricultural leaders in the region expect to see the agricultural picture change even more. For example, considerable experimental work has already been done on the production of irrigated garden-type crops—onions, potatoes, peas, and others.

The steadily growing trend toward greater crop diversification in the County has moved wheat—for many years the main crop—back into a second place position. At the same time, the production of grain sorghums has become increasingly important. In 1950, the grain sorghum acreage in Castro County exceeded wheat acreage for the first time. The trend continued in 1951 when 200,000 acres were planted to grain sorghum while wheat acreage had fallen from over 200,000 acres in 1949 to about 185,-

000 acres last year. In the fall of 1951, only 150,000 acres were planted to wheat. The declining importance of wheat production has been brought about partly because of drouth and partly because of green bug and other insect infestation.

While wheat production has declined somewhat in the past two or three years, production of other crops has increased, keeping the total level of farm income in the county high. One of the most significant recent developments has been the production of substantial cotton crops in 1950 and again in 1951. Although some cotton was grown in Castro County as far back as 1928, most farmers and agricultural experts have felt that the area was too far north and the normal growing season too short to make cotton production practical. In 1950, about 115 farmers planted a total of 9,000 acres to cotton with satisfactory results. Last year, the cotton acreage was increased to about 45,000 acres with an estimated yield of 25 to 30 thousand bales. Production of various kinds of legumes and irrigated pasture grasses has also increased during the past few years, particularly in connection with soil conservation measures. Farm leaders anticipate an even greater diversification of agriculture in the County within the next few years as additional crops are proved adaptable to the area and as marketing problems in connection with many of these new crops are worked out.

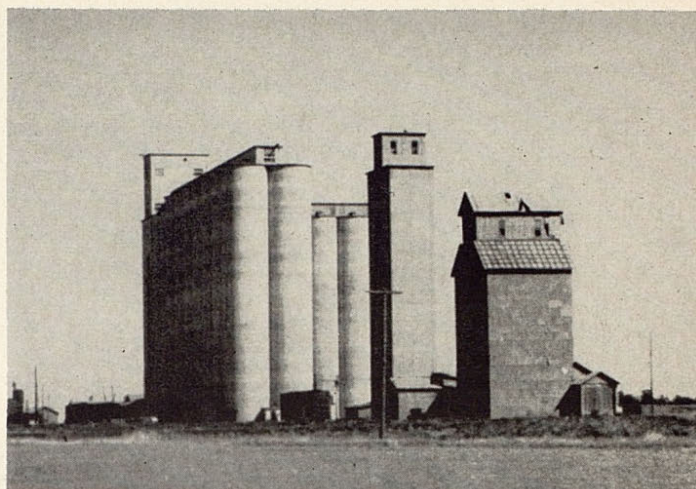
Although Castro County got its start as a



cattle country, livestock production during the 'twenties and 'thirties was a comparatively insignificant part of the county's agricultural activities. Since 1940, however, the production of livestock has made a rapid comeback, although on an altogether different basis than in earlier days. Instead of range-fed Longhorns, modern breeds of beef cattle such as Herefords and Angus are fattened for market on Castro County farms. Wheat pasture, locally grown feed crops, alfalfa, irrigated pastures, and native grass provide abundant feed to produce more cattle on less acreage than would have been possible 30 or 40 years ago.

Among Castro County beef producers are many farmers and ranchers who raise registered livestock. Registered beef cattle breeders include C. J. Mapes, George and Elvis Burch, H. D. Robbins, H. C. Baird, Wes Anthony, Sam and Bruce Hunter, Noel Gollehon, and Tom Draper. As elsewhere in the Panhandle, sleek black Angus cattle are growing in popularity among stock raisers. Registered Angus breeders include Lyle Blanton, Joe Hastings, Mrs. Frank Dorris, and Roy Smith.

Production of dairy cattle is still another phase of the county's present livestock activities. Two farmers who have won many honors for Castro County with their prize-winning Milking Shorthorns are Leo Witkowski and Bobby Warren. One of Witkowski's Shorthorn bulls, Darlington Red Knight, won his 16th Grand Championship last year. Other Castro County farmers who have won honors with dairy show cattle include Frank Huseman, Harry Rothwell, and



Dimmitt Wheatgrowers, Inc., is one of four elevators in Dimmitt and one of eight in the County. Castro County grain storage amounts to about four million bushels.

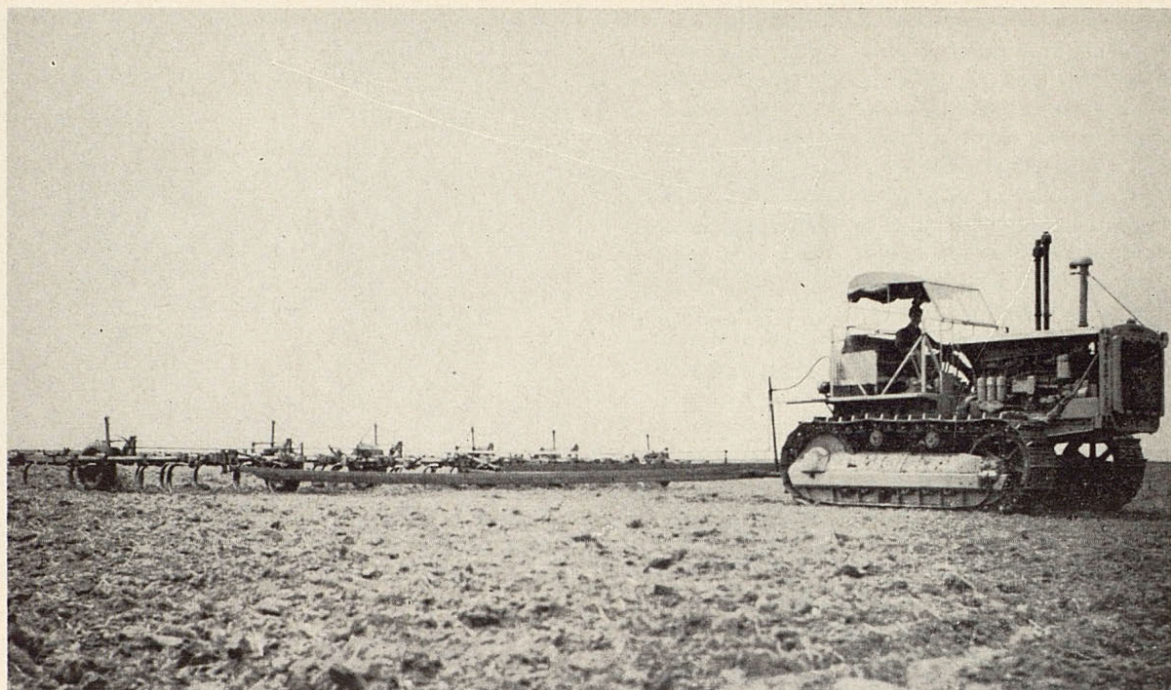
Martin Fulchur. Dairying activities have steadily grown in popularity in the past few years. Last year, about 50 farmers were producing Grade "A" milk, while some 50 others were selling ungraded milk.

The modern and progressive farmers of Castro County haven't forgotten about the damage done to their land during the disastrous drouth of the 'thirties. Determined to prevent such destructive conditions again, they have made great strides in the development of effective soil conservation practices. Such measures as stubble mulch tillage, legume programs,

Cotton gin at Dimmitt showing bales of cotton in the foreground







With modern power machinery, Castro County farmers cultivate large acreages rapidly and efficiently.

These cattle are being fattened on irrigated pasture on a Castro County farm.





bench leveling, contour tillage and subsoil tillage give farmers today much more protection against wind erosion than they had a few years ago. Also, modern farmers have power-operated machinery especially designed to help them combat blowing conditions.

A large part of the agricultural progress of the County can be credited to the cooperative spirit of the farmers themselves. This cooperation is reflected in the strong support and the excellent service of such farm organizations as the County Extension Service, the Farm Bureau, and the Soil Conservation Service.

Castro County Farm Agent, Edd McLeroy, heads the County Extension Service. Well supported by farmers of the area, the extension service provides technical assistance and services to farmers and ranchers. Mrs. Robin Vann, County Home Demonstration Agent, also works through the extension service. Home Demonstration units throughout the County are made up of farm women who work together for home and community improvement.

An important function of the County Agent's office is the sponsorship of 4-H Club activities. With an unusually high percentage of the County's farm boys and girls taking part in this work, Castro County 4-H Clubs have established an enviable record of achievement. At nearly every fair and exhibit in which they have entered projects, Castro County 4-H boys and girls have come away with some of the top prizes. At the Hereford Fat Stock Show this year they won awards for the Grand Champion calf, Grand and Reserve Champion lambs, and Grand Champion pig. They also won first place for their parade float at the Hereford show. At the Fort Worth Fat Stock Show, Castro County boys showed the Grand Champion lamb and the Reserve Champion barrow, while at the Amarillo Fat Stock Show, the Grand Champion pen of three barrows and the Grand Champion litter of pigs were all shown by Castro County 4-H Club members. At all of these shows they also won a number of first and second awards.

Another Castro County youth group whose work is similar in many respects to the 4-H Clubs is the Future Farmers of America Chapter. J. O. Seale, Vocational Agriculture teacher at the High School, is the advisor for this group. The F.F.A. work includes livestock and crop projects and stresses leadership activities. In connection with leadership work, the Castro

## Shamrock Dealers In Castro County

### HART

Hart's Shamrock Service  
L. J. Rice

### DIMMITT

Dimmitt Consumers, Inc.  
Floyd Reynolds

### NAZARETH

Kleman Service Station  
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March - April - 1952

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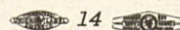
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and  
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
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AMARILLO, TEXAS







Pictured above are members of the Castro County Farm Bureau Chorus who recently won top honors in the State-Wide Community Festival at Houston. Bottom row, left to right—Ray Bearden, Director; Raneal Ivey, Mrs. J. E. Burch, Mrs. M. L. Simpson, Mrs. Neal Gallehon, Yvonne Bearden, Mrs. Talmadge Buckmaster, Mrs. Milton Sharp, Mrs. Freeman Curtis, Mrs. Bruce Hunter, Mrs. Gene Ivey, Mrs. Ted Wood (holding trophy). Top row—Roger Buckmaster, Jesse Burch, Noel Gollehon, Gene Ivey Milton Sharp, Bennie Gollehon, Don Houston.

County F.F.A. Chapter has for a number of years won high honors with its judging teams in regional contests.

PHOTO CREDITS—Cover by Skeet Richardson, Fort Worth, Texas. Photos top of page 3 and bottom of page 12, Southwestern Crop and Stock, Lubbock, Texas. Page 4, top photo by Zintgraff, San Antonio. Page 10 and lower photo page 4, Southwestern Public Service Co. Page 8, Murry Watts, Amarillo. Page 8, top photo, W. H. Patton, Hereford, Texas. Bottom photo, page 9, Farren Broadstreet, Dimmitt. Page 14, top, Arrow Arts Studio, Houston. Photos on pages 2 and 11, bottom pictures on pages 3 and 6 by J. C. Ayres, Dimmitt.

### This Month's Cover



Joe Percy Hart of Hart, Texas, is one of the many Castro County 4-H Club boys and girls who have won outstanding honors in 4-H Club competition throughout the Southwest. He is pictured here at the 1952 Fort Worth Fat Stock Show with his Grand Champion lamb.





# *New Brands for Shamrock Motor Oils*

**Shamrock's four performance-tested motor  
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are now on display at your local dealer**

Shamrock motor oils—four performance-proven brands identified by attractive new brand names and containers—are on display at your local dealers now. Full-color illustrations of Shamrock's new oil cans designs are reproduced in the folder enclosed with this issue of *The Shamrock*. Motor oil bearing any of these four new brands will provide your automobile engine with dependable lubrication and protection.

For more than twenty years, The Shamrock Oil and Gas Corporation has marketed motor oil and lubricants. As advancements have been made in the automotive industry, Shamrock has kept pace with lubrication recommendations of all automotive manufacturers.

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dispersion agent, and high viscosity index, Shamrock Triple Action Motor Oil provides the best possible lubrication service under the most adverse operating conditions.

**SHAMROCK PENN PREMIUM MOTOR OIL** is a 100% pure Pennsylvania oil with approved additives. It is refined from top quality Bradford-Allegheny crude oil, the finest crude in the world. Additives incorporated into Shamrock Penn include a mild detergent, an antioxidant, a dispersion agent, and other important qualities designed to meet the tough demands of the modern motoring public. Like Shamrock Triple Action Heavy Duty Motor Oil, Shamrock Penn is recommended for superior lubrication in any type engine.

**SHAMROCK MOTOR MASTER MOTOR OIL** is the newly adopted brand name for "Shamrock Motor Oil." This product is a non-detergent oil refined from top quality 100% pure paraffin base Mid-Continent crude oils. Shamrock Motor Master Motor Oil is manufactured to exacting standards to insure superior service. It is recommended for any type internal combustion engine not requiring a detergent oil.

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- SHAMROCK MOTOR MASTER MOTOR OIL is the newly adopted brand name for "Shamrock Motor Oil". Recommended for superior lubrication in any type internal combustion engine not requiring a detergent oil.
- SHAMROCK ECO LUBE is a competitive economy product of quality worthy of the Shamrock brand name. Recommended for lubrication where economy is important.

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