

Borden

Citizen.

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CROSSING THE COLORADO RIVER

by Dorothy Browne

As the pioneers were crossing this wide expanse of country that became the United States of America, rivers were barriers to travel and exploring. Many ways of crossing the rivers have been devised. Many stories have been written about the crossings of the rivers, about wars that have been won by being able to cross a river or lost by not being able to get across. Horses usually could cross the rivers, wagons could get across fairly well at most crossings but our modern day cars would have a very hard time crossing the creeks and the rivers if it were not for our bridges.

In Borden County we have the Colorado River. The creeks in the western part of the county run together and form the river and it grows larger as it winds its way to the eastern side of the county. I wish I could go back and see the country as it was when the first people came to this county and reported water in all streams and in the river and grass that came to the stirrups of their horses.

Borden County was organized in 1891. The first thing the Commissioners' Court did was plan and build the Courthouse to house the officers of the county, but the building of roads and bridges took much of the Commissioners time in those first years.

In the Commissioners' Court Minutes of Borden County, Texas, Volume 1, Page 274, on August 12th, 1895, the Court contracted for two bridges to cross the Colorado River. At that time the cost of the two bridges was \$6,614.00. The bridges would be placed on the Colorado River, one being between Blocks 30 and 31 on what came to be known as the Old Big Spring Road and one on the river farther east between sections 82 and 92, close to where Lake J. B. Thomas is now located. The Court minutes do not say what material was used to make these bridges. I presume they were made mostly of wood with a few beams of steel.

It is ordered that this court contract for and cause to be built two bridges on the Colorado River in Borden County Texas, One to be located on Section 82 Block 25 near the Cor. of Sections 82 and 92 Block 25. One to be located on Block line between Block 30 and 31

It is ordered by the court that the proposition of the Perry Bridge Company for the construction of the two Colorado River bridges for the sum of Six thousand Six hundred and Sixty four \$6614.00 be and the same is hereby accepted and contract be entered into according to plans and specifications submitted.

HANDWRITTEN COMMISSIONER'S COURT MINUTES

The Commissioners' Court Minutes have many places where the court had to have the bridge on the Old Big Spring road repaired and replaced. Most years, along about May or June, after the spring rains, the Minutes show where they had the bridge or the approach to the bridge repaired.

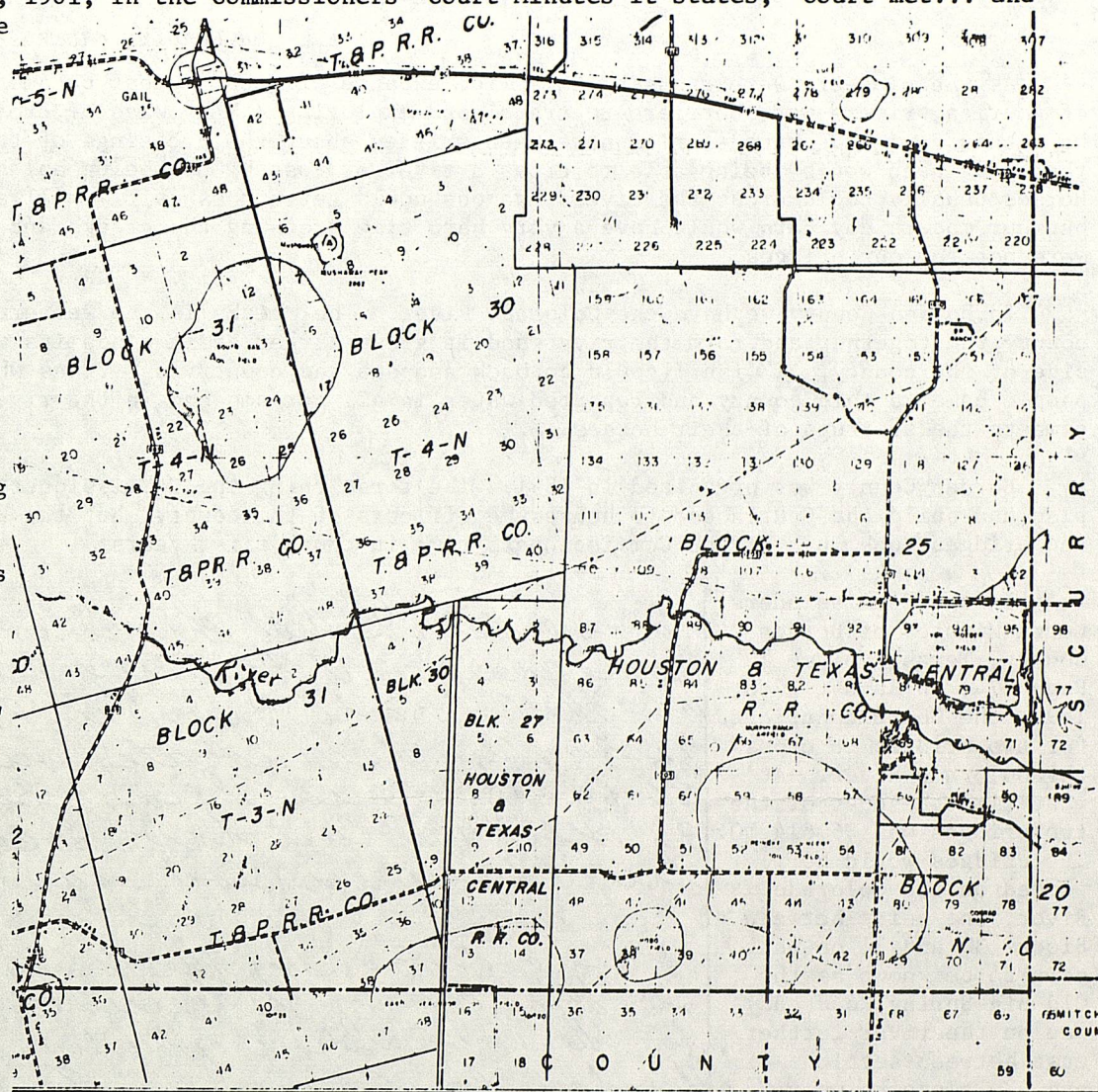
The Colorado River, in eastern Borden County, at least, has been a treacherous river. It can be a pretty, sunny, nice day along the river where you are and then you look up the river and see it coming down in a wall of water, washing everything away. All of the people with whom I have talked tell me that they have seen the river nearly as wide at one of these times that "the river came down" as it was when Lake J. B. Thomas was full. I stood on the banks of the river one day in the 1940's and watched it completely wash away a cotton crop in the river bottom, where I had been hoeing that morning.

Mr. John Gilmer Davis often told about one day riding his horse out on a knoll to "watch the river come down". It had been raining and having lived on the river for some time, he knew it would come down with a big rush of water. When he got to the top of the knoll, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Murphy were there along with Mr. Murphy's mother. There could have been others there also. As they were watching the river it spread wider and wider, ran faster and faster and

then they started watching the bridge on the river. It started moving slowly, at first just by inches, just barely moving, then it moved a little farther, then faster and faster it moved down the river and then it was breaking into pieces. The bridge had washed away! After they watched the bridge pieces go by and wash down the river, they turned to go home and found the water had surrounded the knoll and they were stranded. After watching the water for sometime, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Davis decided to cross the river and go to Mr. Murphy's home and bring back a door from the house. They used the door to float the others across, one at a time, and all were glad to be home after their experience.

On September 13, 1901, in the Commissioners' Court Minutes it states, "Court met... and after considering the bridge and the road question... went as a body to the river to investigate the condition of the bridge and decided as follows: It is ordered by the Court that a temporary crossing be made across the river and that J. A. Smith be authorized to hire such help and teams as are necessary to put a crossing on the river in a reasonably good condition and return his account to the Court for approval."

I do not know if the Commissioners' Court Minutes quoted above refer to the crossing on the Old Big Spring Road or on the crossing in the eastern part of the county between sections 82 and 92 but a temporary crossing was made on the river in the eastern part of the county about two miles from where the bridge



MAP OF A PORTION OF BORDEN COUNTY SHOWING LOCATIONS OF BRIDGES

washed away. The road was changed from where it crossed the river at the bridge and the temporary crossing was made between sections 80 and 81. No other bridge was built in the eastern part of the county and the temporary crossing became the "permanent" crossing. It has been improved and had work done on it but was always impassable when "the river came down".

My Grandfather, Mr. John Gilmer Davis, had a section of land on the north side of the river and one on the south side of the river. He ran sheep on the land that was south of the river and sent his children over on their horses to herd the sheep during the day. At night they placed the sheep in sheds and would return to their home on the north side of the river. Often they would go to the river and "the river had come down" and was too deep to cross. Mr. Davis decided to do something about this and built a most ingenious device to cross the river.

The trolley, as it was called, was built with the help of his sons and was on a cable that was hooked to a post on the north side and to a tree on the south side of the river. It was built a little like a large sized box with a pulley ahead of the box and one behind the box on the cable. Inside the car or box were places for two people to sit with their feet hanging loose. With this, the Davis children could leave their horses in the pens and cross the river to the north side and home.

One time, in 1925, Mildred Davis, now Mrs. J. C. Skelton, was coming home from Big Spring with Mr. Ed Murphy in his truck. When they got to the river, it had risen and they could not cross in his truck. Mr. Murphy asked Mildred if she knew how to make the trolley work. She told him that she did know, that you just pulled the car over to that side of the river and sat down in it. After they were seated, he asked her, "How do you make it go?" She told him

"You just pull yourself along by using your hands on the cable."

The trolley was a gathering place for the teenagers of the community. The pictures we have of it show the young people there.

Mildred Davis Skelton, when asked recently, what it was like to ride the trolley, said, "It was fun!" There was a sparkle in her eyes as she remembered. Then she told of the great feeling of pulling yourself along, get the trolley to moving fast and have the water nearly slapping the bottom of the car.

Ruth Weathers remembers riding it. When asked about it she said, "It was more like riding a ski life than any other thing I can describe. I enjoyed riding it."

The trolley was built about 1920 and was in use until about 1935. The County had a concrete crossing built in 1935 and in placing the crossing they had to take the cable loose. After this concrete crossing was built, when the river would come down, they still had to take teams down to the river and bring the people across, leaving their cars on the south side. A bridge was built in 1950, which was used until the water in Lake J. B. Thomas covered the road and bridge. The bridge was then

dynamited to keep boats from running into it. During the last fifteen years or so, a small road has been used, in dry times, to cross the river, the lake not having enough water in it to cover this part of the lake bottom. But when the river "comes down" the small road in the lake bottom is as impassable as it was some 80 years ago.



THE DAVIS KIDS POSING UNDER THE GRAPE ARBOR. The Davis home was known for having plenty of corn, black eye peas, grapes, peaches and watermelons.



MONROE GRANT & MILDRED DAVIS WITH THE TROLLEY IN THE BACKGROUND



ROSA VIRGINIA DAVIS AND ROY STEWART RIDING THE TROLLEY



MR. AND MRS. JOHN GILMER DAVIS
Note the windcharger in the background.

J. C. (SLIM) SKELTON

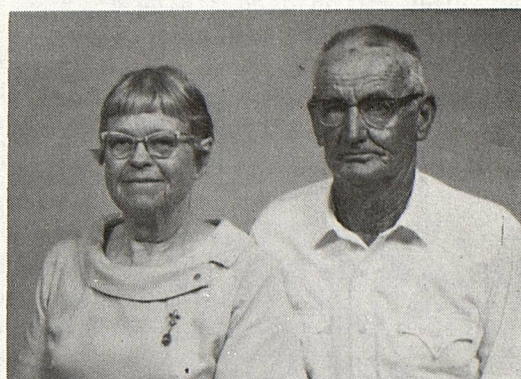
Copied from the WEST TEXAS LIVESTOCK WEEKLY Aug. 26, 1971

IRA, TEXAS -- J. C. "Slim" Skelton used to break broncs for \$45 a month plus \$1 per head per year of the horses age. One of the best deals he ever had was an unbroken 14 year-old horse on the J. T. McElroy ranch near Crane in the 1920's. He rode him 10-12 saddles and got him gentle enough to go into the boss' string. That earned him \$14.

His first job away from home was on the Matador Ranch, Motley County, about 1920. His father had bought a place in that County, so Skelton went to the Matador as free neighbor help, then stayed to go on the payroll.

He learned right away that ranch work wasn't all on horseback; the ratio of windmill fixing and fence building to cowpunching was somewhat akin to the ratio of pounds of feed to pounds of gain. As a youngster he was often sent out to batch camps to help the older cowboys do whatever had to be done. The Matador pastures were huge. He recalls that the Red Lake pasture contained about 320 sections and 13 windmills. It took three days to ride the fence.

*Mildred Davis Skelton and
J. C. "Slim" Skelton*



In the winter the cowboys carried an extra cinch ring and watched out for mavericks missed in the fall works. When they roped and tied it on the spot, built fire, heated the ring and ran the Matador's V Bar on it, earmarking a crop to the right. They hadn't started vaccinating regularly then.

He can recall doctoring more screwworms on one place in one day than the entire State of Texas reported in the first six months this year, a claim many cowboys can make.

After six years with Matador, he quit working steady and went to day working instead. The pay was better if a man could stay employed most of the time. He had three horses; ranches would pay him \$5 a day for his labor and the use of the horses, throwing in a gallon of oats for each horse. During that time the regular cowboys were starting at about \$25.00 a month, and top pay was \$35-40 "from can till can't". He knew one hand who had been on a big ranch 25 years and still drew only \$45 running a wagon.

After he married at Crane he decided it was time to retire from breaking horses. "If a horse came unbuckled with me I would still ride him", he says, "but I stopped going around hunting for broncs to ride. Oilfield wages looked good, and he quit cowboying, for awhile. He found oilfield pay considerable higher but job tenure less certain. One day when he and another man were cleaning a big steel tank they struck a pocket of gas. Fellow workers dragged them out unconscious. The other man died. Skelton eventually received a \$750 settlement, part of which went to his lawyer. He decided there was much good to be said for ranch work.

He worked a year and a half on Charlie Miller's ranch near Pecos, spent some time on the McElroy ranch near Deming, N.M., and drifted back here to the Snyder area where Mrs. Skelton had come from. He did ranch work, farmed some and stayed out of the oilfield.

About 25 years ago he saw that a great many ranches were doing a lot of fence building. Not only were they replacing old fences that had seen their day but they were cutting big pastures into little ones for easier handling and to allow better grazing rotation. Skelton had had a liberal education in the art of building fences, so he began contracting fencing jobs. He started out with a set of posthole diggers, a crowbar, some pinchers and a Chevrolet car with a small trailer to haul wire. Today, he and his son, Richard Odell Skelton, each keep crews busy most of the time. Instead of the hand diggers and crowbars which sometimes were known to require two or three hours for the digging of one hole, they use the power takeoff on a tractor and average a posthole every three minutes. When they run into rock, they use a jackhammer.

Skelton has built fence from Texas to South Dakota. Once he went to Van Horn to build nine miles of fence for one ranch and wound up building 25 miles for several ranches before he could get away. Some of the work comes from replacing old fences, but a large part comes from cross fencing of big pastures. "Cowboys are getting scarce nowadays, and the ranchers keep cutting those big pastures up." He tries to avoid ranch work anymore. "Once in awhile I'll be on a ranch and they'll jump me out to help them. If I can spare the time I'll help them get the cattle into a corral, but that's where it ends." He's not interested in the foot work.

For the last several years he has led the singing at the annual Cowboy Reunion in Stamford. He says he was always good at calling cattle to feed; this is just a little variation. Like many cowboys who have had a roping accident, Skelton is missing a good part of two fingers; however, the loss didn't come during his cowboy time. They were pinched off one day when he was helping a friend use a pile driver at Lake Thomas.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was written and printed in 1971. Since that time the son, Richard Odell Skelton was killed in an accident. Mr. Skelton has retired from fencing and is living at Lake J. B. Thomas with his wife, Mildred.)

WILLIE MAY (TURNER) THOMAS, 88, passed away January 12, 1983. She was the mother of Mrs. Nedra Barry of Phoenix, Arizona.

Word has been received that MRS. HAZEL HINDS AND MRS. VIOLA MAGUIRE, both of Albuquerque, New Mexico passed away sometime ago.

R. B. WILLS, SR., 86, of Post, Texas died in December, 1982. He had been a long time resident of Borden County before moving to Post and was buried in the Fluvanna Cemetery. Mr. Wills moved to Borden County in 1903. Among his survivors is his wife, one son and two daughters.

HENRY CLIFFORD VAUGHN, 67, died January 18, 1983. He was a resident of Gail and a retired mechanic. Survivors include his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Vaughn of Gail, one sister and four brothers, one of the brothers being Charles Vaughn who lives in Borden County. He is also survived by a son and two daughters.

W. S. (WILLIE) WILLIAMS, 80, of Houston was buried in Snyder with services held on March 9, 1983. Mr. Williams lived in Gail for years before moving to Houston. Survivors include his brother, Sterling Williams, of Snyder, Texas.

AUBREY STEWART, 74, was buried in Snyder March 10, 1983. He made his home in Snyder and was the brother-in-law of the Borden County Sheriff, Mr. Norman Sneed. Mr. Stewart is survived by his wife, Ollie, of Snyder.

DICK JONES, born June 17, 1898 and a resident of Borden County since the late 1940's, passed away January 29, 1983. He was a longtime supporter of Borden County and its activities. He is survived by his daughter, Fannie Lee Flint of Borden County, three grandchildren and other relatives.

M. E. BOREN, 87, of Lamesa, was buried January 21, 1983 in Lamesa, Texas. Among his survivors are Mrs. W. F. Mathis and Mrs. Virgie Wills of the Fluvanna Community.

CHARLIE BLEY, 73, of Snyder was buried April 29, 1983 in the Fluvanna Cemetery. Mr. Bley was born in the Fluvanna Community in 1909 and recently moved to Snyder. Survivors include his wife and two daughters of Snyder, Texas.

E. C. BROWNING, 75, was buried May 13, 1983 in Snyder. He was a retired stock farmer and had lived most of his life in Scurry and Borden Counties. Survivors include his wife and two sons, Bobby Joe of Texline and Vernon E., of Snyder.

CLAUDE M. HODNETT, 66, farmer in the Vincent Community and owner of Sportman's Paradise Store at Lake J. B. Thomas for 12 years, died May 20, 1983 in Big Spring. Among his survivors are his wife, Edith and one daughter, Mrs. Jerri Beth Hodnett of Odessa.

AVIS POYNER, 70, passed away at her home May 27th, 1983. She had made her home at Lake J. B. Thomas since 1969, when she retired from a career of nursing. Among her survivors is her husband of Lake Thomas.

RUBY BROOKS, 69, died in Big Spring on May 23rd, 1983. Mrs. Brooks was born in Ira and lived at Lake J. B. Thomas for many years. She taught Sunday School classes at the Knapp Baptist Church. Her survivors include her husband, one daughter and two sons.

BILLY JOE FLINT, of Gail was killed in an automobile accident on October 29, 1982. He was the owner of Flint's Construction Company of Gail. Among his survivors is his wife, Fannie Lee Flint and Billy Joe Flint, Jr. of Gail, Texas.

J. E. (JIM) SORRELLS, 88, of the Knapp Community died April 19th, 1983. The Fisher County native married Agnes von Roeder of Borden County on January 1, 1922. Although he lived in Scurry County for 86 years, he was always interested in Gail and Borden County and our activities and was a supporter of the Borden County Museum. He was buried in the Ira Cemetery and is survived by his wife, Agnes, two daughters, Ellen Tucker of Meadow and Lucille Sterling of Vincent, four sisters, one brother and other relatives.

MEMORIALS TO THE MUSEUM

IN MEMORY OF:

DEWEY EVERETT

by Ila Ruth Newton of Snyder
Mr. and Mrs. H. N. Zant of Vealmoor
Mr. and Mrs. Max von Roeder of Snyder

MARTIN TAYLOR

by John and Peggy Dennis of Gail

CORA MAE HUDSON

by John and Peggy Dennis of Gail

J. L. McNIEL

BY Martin Reinecke, Sioux Falls, S.D.

MR. AND MRS. BUD CORNETT

by John and Peggy Dennis of Gail

MRS. OPHELIA COFF

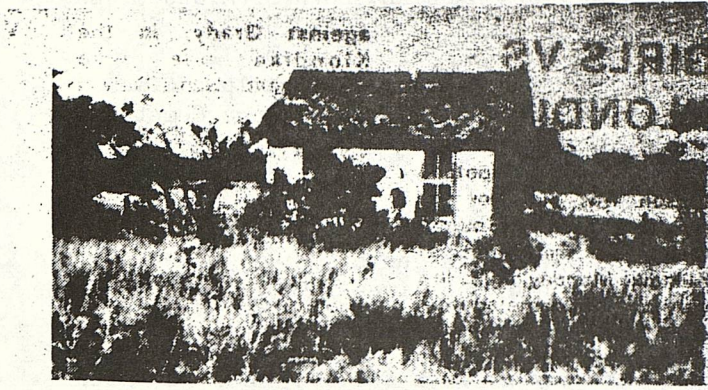
by Margaret G. Noble

J. L. McNEIL

by Mr. and Mrs. Martin J. Reinecke

JIM SORRELLS

by Leonard & Violet Voges & Family of
Snyder
Edna Miller of Gail



The Fairview School house, pictured above, was built in 1890. It is located 16 miles south of Gail near the Borden and Howard County Line. Individuals in the surrounding area donated the money to raise the one room school house.

The Borden County Historical Committee has received several inquiries regarding making the Fairview School House our project for a historical marker. It will take work and money. Anyone interested is asked to send their money to the Borden County Historical Committee, P. O. Box 23, Gail, Texas 79738.

Dear Friends,

Again, I would like to appeal to former school-mates, teachers, old-timers, or anyone interested in Fairview School to make a donation for the purpose of erecting a historical marker. Sincerely, Leta Gray Lloyd

Dear Neighbor,

I think it a very good idea to try to preserve the Fairview School house for history. Why not include the cemetery? It is in the same enclosure as the school house.

The Historical Paper has had some good writeups about both the cemetery and schoolhouse. Sincerely, Edna Buchanan



RICH ANDERSON was recognized for his outstanding service as past Chairman of the Board of Overseers of the Ranching Heritage Center in Lubbock Saturday May 24th. Presenting the award, acting Chairman Bo Brown, commended Anderson for his successful campaign to raise \$2,000,000 for the center during his two year tenure. Anderson still holds a seat on the Executive Board as a member of the Endowment Committee.

Interesting and often unusual highlights of Texas history can be found on more than 8,000 historical markers that dot the state. These markers are the result of a joint local-state program. Markers are initiated, researched and funded by County Historical Commissions, and are approved and written at the Texas Historical Commission in Austin.....

In 1962 the placement of official historical Medallion building markers began under the auspices of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee, forerunner of the Texas Historical Commission.

These markers are awarded to structures worthy of preservation because of their historical, cultural and or architectural value. Structures receiving the building markers are afforded a measure of protection from demolition and are known as Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks. Currently there are about 2,000 of these building markers in Texas....

The Texas Historical Commission's Research Department directs all marker processing, and encourages counties to place appropriate markers to promote preservation, education and tourism. The department requires that a standard application form be submitted for any potential marker, along with a detailed documentation of the marker subject. In researching markers, local historians are encouraged to use historic photographs, oral histories and regional history sources.

BORDEN COUNTY BECENTENNIAL MEMORIAL PARK

The Borden County Bicentennial Park is being built with the money made from the Bicentennial Celebration held in Gail in 1976.

The Borden County Bicentennial Memorial Park Committee has been working to get started on the park. The land was obtained from Mr. Mardes Clayton and is surrounded with a chain link fence. In the design concept for the park, it will have eight single tables, one double table, a barbeque pit, shelters for some of the tables and fruitless mulberry trees scattered throughout. Some native mesquites have been preserved. There will be two trap fields for use by Borden County Citizens.

Several work days have been held. The shooting Sports Club worked April 16th with grubbing hoes and work gloves. They grubbed the small mesquite trees and picked up rocks and limbs. One day work was done on placing the covers on the table shades, the frames having built earlier. A patio is being built under one shade area so as to house a barbeque pit. A drip irrigation system is now in the process of being installed to water the fruitless mulberry trees in the part.

The park should be able to be used this summer. If you are in Gail, stop and visit the park. It is immediately north of the Showbarn and Exhibit (Posse) Building.

LETTERS FROM THE PENS OF OUR READERS

Yes, friend, I too am one of the elite. I was born and lived in Borden County until my early teens when we moved to Fisher County. I am the youngest of the Petty Family, Geneva, (Now Mrs. Russell P. Adams for almost 40 years). When I read the CITIZEN I can easily regress to being "that youngest Petty kid". Please renew my subscription to THE CITIZEN.

Geneva (Petty) Adams, Abilene, Texas

I enjoy the paper very much and always learn of incidents that it seems I should have heard about. I am the daughter of the late Frank Good and neice of Tom Good, also the neice of the late Will Bedell and granddaughter of Ada Bedell, neice of Cora Dorward of Gail and Dorothy Wasson of Big Spring. There are many Mullins graves in the Gail Cemetery. I still correspond with Mary (Mullins) Carey of Colorado City. She is the last of the Children. Charlie passed away not long ago, in the Key Community from a heart attack. JOSIE G. HOWELL, Elida, New Mex.

I have just finished reading THE CITIZEN. I enjoyed it very much... I saw the name Lorene Clark Vanvender. I am sure she is the girl who gave me my first reading lessons on the old bench on the north side of the old Puerto Red School House. Many years ago. I also know Vandevenders in Clovis. GEORGIA GRIGGS OWEN, McAlister, New Mexico

I wish to thank you for my copy of THE CITIZEN... I have copies of "OUTSTANDING MEMBERS: PRINCE FAMILY 1600-1900". James N. Prince 1860-1902 is included in this book.

MISS LOUISE M. PRINCE, 27 McKinley Street, Bangor, Me. 04401

Hi there, I received my paper... enjoyed catching up on the news... I am going to write about my life living in Gail and Borden County. I started to school at 6 in Gail. So I have meant to write before now. So will get to it as soon in 1983, I hope. Yes I am Eddie Smith (Jenkins). My brothers John L., Ned and Bud have all passed on. (EDITOR'S NOTE: We hope you are getting this written. We need your stories.) MRS EDDIE JENKINS, ATHENS, TEXAS

I have enjoyed reading the BORDEN CITIZEN this last year, especially the story and pictures of the old Smoot place. I am a great-granddaughter of John Henry and being that he died in 1952, while I was a teenager, I do have fond memories of him. ... He would get on the train and come west to visit my mother and me - he must have been in his 80's. The stories about the rattlers sure spook me, if I ever get down that way again, I'll sure watch my step. My Dad, Willie Hester, told about him and Grandpa going into the dugout that was used for the kitchen, and as they entered they washed up in the basins on a shelf inside the door. Daddy had finished and going on into the kitchen, when Grandpa started hollering and dancing all over the place. There was a rattler between the basins. Keep up the good work, I'm looking forward to this next years editions.

PAULINE ADKINS, EL PASO, TEXAS

I am sending a check for the BORDEN CITIZEN. I enjoy each issue. I remember hearing my father and mother talk about so many names you mention. They loved Borden County and the people in Gail and Borden County. MRS. LORAIN SEIGLER ANDERSON, DALLAS, TEXAS

I enjoyed the paper very much and I am passing it out for my friends to read. I am enclosing my subscription. MRS. MAURINE ELAM, WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS

Thanks everyone for the historical news of Borden Co. Enclosed is a memorial check for my father. Wallace Rains 1904-1981 and my brother, R. T. Rains 1926-1982. Wallace really loved the Borden County people having spent his entire life in the area. MAUDIE RAINS

Don't know when I paid last. If this is not enough, let me know. MRS. W. F. JOHNSON, LAMESA, TX.

I read and sincerely enjoyed EVERY WORD of your FALL, 1982.. publication. I am enclosing a token of my enjoyment. I have known the Gray Family all of my life and request that you pass my kindest regards on to them. WILLIAM T. (BILL) LONG, ABILENE, TEXAS

I, (we, I share with other members of the family) enjoy the BORDEN CITIZEN. There are names familiar in hearing my grandparents talking of the early days... I am wondering if any of the "Old Timers" knew or recall the John H. Tiller or J. L. Pettit names. Mary Pettitt and John H. Tiller were married in Borden County, Feb. 10, 1895. PEARL LINDSEY

I notice by the BORDEN CITIZEN that you are accepting memorials for the Borden County Museum. Mr. J. L. McNiel farmed the land which he rented from my father on which the Reniecke Wildcat became the discovery well. This man "Mr. McNiel" as his son-in-law, Mr. Koonce always referred to him, was a soft spoken, kindly gentleman that I won't forget. So as a memorial to Mr. McNiel, I'm sending you this check. I didn't get to Texas in 1982 and it looks like I won't make it, but 1983 is coming... Another letter from Mr. Reinecke states: I told the ladies in the Museum several years ago that I would write up a short history covering the quarter of land on which the Reinecke discovery well came in during 1949. I have not forgotten but it seems one gets busier after retirement than one was before that time. The picture of the Smoot Barn, built in 1937 is like many in my country, northern South Dakota... in the summer we had much the same fun in the hay loft. MARTIN REINECKE, SIOUX FALLS, S. DAKOTA

Thank you so much for the CITIZEN. I enjoy reading the letter from my friends. After I fell and broke my hip, Mert Jones and his wife, Ruby lived in Borden County and they always took me with them to Gail and we had such a good time and I have not forgotten. Since they are gone

and I do not drive my car, I have been spending some time with my daughter, Rosanell and her husband, Mack Greenhaw at Dallas. While there a man asked me if I had been to Gail lately. I said no. When they brought me home, they took me to Gail and it made me real happy and they had a good time. When my father, Bob Craft and his wife, Linnie Hoy lived, we went to Gail quiteoften. We enjoyed picking up the pretty rock on the mountain. I remember the friends of long ago.
OLA STAVELY, SNYDER, TEXAS

I am sure I am behind on my subscription. Thanks for sending the paper. I do enjoy it very much.
MRS. JNO. H. WILLIAMS, ABILENE, TEXAS

Please change my address. Thank you very much and if and when there is another get-together of old timers, maybe I will get to be there. RUTH LIVINGSTON, COLEMAN, TEXAS

Kind People: I used to live in Gail. Both my girls was born there. Cleo, the oldest, died with a heart attack at the breakfast table on Jan 11th, 1983. She lived in Harbor City, Calif. Her husband has been ill and she had been caring for him. We were going through her things and mine, and we found the enclosed articles. (THANKS!!) I felt if you did not have any of this for the BORDEN CITIZEN, you would like it. I am still working ever day over 80, feel real well. I love the paper. MARY JANE MOORE, TORRANCE, CALIF.

... I am Mary Cantrell Sanders sister, and perhaps you remember that Mary, my sister La Deanne and I visited in Gail awhile in 1981. It was a joy to be there and see a few people whom I had not seen in a long time. While there I made some snapshots of the old Post Office, the Dorward Drug Store Building and the Courthouse and the pictures were good... When I was there last year, my two sisters, Mary and La Deanne and brother Dick Cantrell drove down to Old Durham.- At least what was once Durham, the community where we lived from 1908 to 1923, when my parents moved to Gail after my dad, A. J. Cantrell, was elected to the office of Tax Assessor. It was such a nostalgic experience to drive down that old, old road of one mile which used to cut straight through the Durham Community and find no signs of where any of the homes once stood. I could not keep from feeling very sad, to stand out in that old fenced in lane and realize that there is NO physical evidence that we, or no one else had ever inhbited that area which was once such a delightful rural community. The homes once fronting the "Old Durham Lane" were:The Alex Murphy home and the little store, the Cantrell home, a house where the Lee Grants lived for a time, then the old school house - all of these on the North side of the road. Then the Joe Wicker rent house - a few hundred yards South of the road, where the Mangums lived. In the "old" days that lane continued West to the Church and the Gene Wicker home on the south side of the road, the Conover house on North Side, continuing on toward the Grays home, the "Old Fudge House", eventually entering the Gail-Snyder road. Although you can not see any remains of the homes, I am glad that the land still exists, and is fenced that one mile, because it brings back many vivid memories of those happy days we lived at Durham from November 1908 to February 1923. As long as I live, I hope the lane will be open. Maybe there are a few other people who once lived at Durham that would like to take a ride down that lane of memories. I would like to hear from anyone who has memories of the lane and Durham.
Pauline Cantrell Brigham, Laguna Hills, Calif.

We need your stories and your memories. We especially need stories that are long enough to be the lead articles for "YOUR" BORDEN CITIZEN. Please send the stories or articles and your letters to Edna Miller, Route 1, Fluvanna, Texas 79517 or to Dorothy Browne, Box 23, Gail, Texas 79738. Remember this is your paper and we need your help to make it better.

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