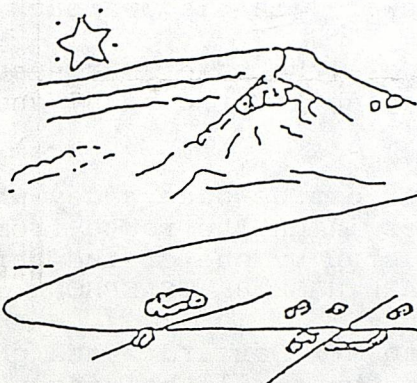


Third Annual Lighting of the Star



You are invited to attend the Third Annual Lighting of the Star on Gail Mountain.

A lighting ceremony and program will be at dark on November 29, 1996 at the Courthouse. The Museum and Courthouse will be open from 3:00 p.m. until after the program.

The program will consist of local music, a live nativity, Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, hayrides and refreshments.

BORDEN COUNTY WILL DO IT AGAIN!!

The SHINING STAR will be turned on at dark on the Friday night after Thanksgiving, Nov. 29, 1996.

The Committee for "LIGHTS FOR GAIL" has been working hard to give you a good time as you begin the Christmas Season. If you were not among the hundreds who attended the lighting ceremony either in 1994 or 1995, you have missed a very good time in our small town. Many who have moved away have come back for the first time in years. Try to come this year.

Each year we have had the time of visiting, both with friends and in the Museum. The music provided by local musicians has been great, children have enjoyed Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus and the hayrides, as well as the refreshments.

Last year many lights on the houses of Gail were added, so now as well as the SHINING STAR, the town is brighter every year. Also new last year was the live nativity, which will be a part of the celebration this year.

Come join us for the lighting of the star. for we have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship him. Mathew 2:2

DONATION BY

Your name

To have your name in the program we must have your list by November 22, 1996.

Bulbs @ \$5.00 per person per bulb per night.

Nights @ \$25.00 per person per night.

DATE

_____ x \$5.00
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Total bulbs \$ _____

Total nights \$ _____

To be fair to all please limit each bulb or night to one fo the following examples:
John Smith
Mr & Mrs John Smith
John Smith Family
If you want to list John, Jane, Joe & Julie Smith
Please list them on seperate lines.

TOTAL INCLOSED \$ _____

LIGHTS FOR GAIL
P. O. Box 312
Gail, TX 79738

Your donation is greatly appreciated.

Please note below if you wish to have the name listed above "In Honor of..."
"In Memory of..."

For example if you listed Joe Jones for a night, Note here that it is in menyory of.
or any special notation you wish.

As you plan your trip to Gail for the Lighting of the Star and the fun, remember that The Committee is again sponsoring a place for you to donate a toy or clothing that will be given to Buckner's Home. The home has 2 houses for children 12-17, 2 houses for children 6-12, and for the younger children and babies, anything will be welcome. The donation place will be in the Borden County Courthouse.

GAIL - SHORT ON PEOPLE, STORES, BUT HAS CATTLE, OIL - - and a PHONE

Table-topped Gail Mountain, a hunk of the Plains that has strayed off into the heart of Borden County, marks the site of one of the smallest county-seat towns in Texas. Gail has 45 residents, living mainly in silvery gray old houses that were built by the town's founders. Old Flat-Top, as the hill is popularly known, once looked down on a thriving little ranching center. There were hotels, there were general stores selling dry goods, groceries and hardware, there was even a barber shop. In 1914 things were going so well that the town decided to build

a new schoolhouse, a three story structure of native stone, for its 100 scholars. Things are a little different now.

The top story has been torn off the school building, which this fall opened its doors to 12 pupils and their teacher, Mrs. C. S. Harris, wife of Borden County's Judge-Superintendent. Students above the sixth grade ride the school bus to Snyder. There is no hotel, no general store, not even a barber shop.. A fellow who needs a haircut drives 30 miles east to Snyder or 30 miles west to Lamesa, unless he wants to look for a neighbor who's handy with the scissors.

Spread out along Highway 180, which serves as Gail's main street, are a handful of old unpainted frame store buildings, a rock building orso and some dwelling houses. South of the road, a little above the rest of town, are the Court House, a modern brick building erected in 1939, and the jail, built in 1893 of rock from Gail Mountain. Water from the town's one well is piped to the Court House. Any body who needs water and doesn't have a cistern of rainwater in his own back yard can carry it from there.

Clustered together on the north side of the highway are the chief business houses: two cafes, the post office, the Borden County Abstract Company and, the real center of life in Gail, Dave Dorward's drugstore.

Of course, just about everybody gets down to the post office once a day when Mrs. Gene Skeen, postmaster, puts up the mail that comes in on the route from Big Spring. Folks drop in at the cafe once in a while and stop by one of the three filling stations for gas or groceries. BUT MR. DORWARD HAS THE TELEPHONE.

When there's sickness in the family, somebody goes to Mr. Dorward's and phones. If there's oil or cattle business to be transacted, the phone will be ringing at Mr. Dorward's. Waiting to get a call through, or just stopping by for a visit, people sit around the butane stove in the drugstore and talk about the crops and the weather or the chances for making a well out of the newest wildcat. Kids come in, pick out a barof candy or an ice cream stick and leave the money in the cash register if Mr. Dorward is busy with the phone or working on his books at the old roll-top desk.

Mr. Dorward, who has been in the drugstore business at the same location since 1901, came to Gail, in 1892. Only J. H. Smoot, who arrived before the County was organized in 1891, has been there longer. A registered pharmacist, Mr. Dorward still has a sign labeling one corner of his store as the pharmacy, and a few bottles on his shelves. But he hasn't rolled a pill since Gail's last physician, Dr. J.W. Hannabass, died in 1927. In the late 1890's, Mr. Dorward recalls, Gail was big enough to support three resident doctors. The town developed rapidly until, in the years just before World War I, the population numbered several hundred. The history of Gail, as Mr. Dorward remembers it, has been a peaceful one. "We've always got along with each other," he says, "never had the quarrels and bloodshed that were so often a part of the development of the west."

People in Gail still get along with each other. The Gail Community Club has monthly meetings in the school house, with lots of suppers and parties. And nearly everybody goes to one of the churches-sometimes to two oreven all three of them. The Baptists and Methodists have services once a month. The Church of Christ has Sunday School but no regular church service. There are not many places to go in Gail, or many things to do, but for most of the 45 residents, 30 miles is close enough to movies and night clubs. And if that means being 30 miles from a hardware store or a doctor, too - well, the road is good, and there's always the telephone at Mr. Dorward's.

WRITTEN BY CORRESPONDENT JANE GILMORE

PUBLISHED in THE ABILENE, TEXAS, REPORTER-NEWS December 25, 1949

We truly enjoy getting letters from any of you. We need any family histories or stories that you can send to be published. If you have not paid your subscription to THE BORDEN CITIZEN lately, please send your \$3.00 to THE BORDEN CITIZEN, P. O. BOX 71, GAIL, TX 79738. You may also send memorials to the same address for your loved one,, these being for THE BORDEN COUNTY MUSEUM. Names will be published in the newsletter and a memorial card will be sent to the family. Let us hear from you, please.

A birthday party was given for EDNA MILLER in the Borden County Showbarn on Jan. 5, 1996. The lady was celebrating with Jody Nix playing dance tunes and it is rumored that this wonderful lady of ninety danced every dance.

The children of Burl and Virginia Belew hosted a 50th anniversary celebration for their parents on Sunday, January 21, 1996 in the Community Center in Fluvanna. Congratulations to these two nice people.

Letter from Bobbie (Jeter) Lawson - Enclosed is a donation. I thank those who keep alive the history and spirit of those early pioneers who settled Gail and Borden County area in the early 1890's and at the turn of the century. My husband and I visited Gail and the museum there in August (1994). Saw my Granddad Jeter's old brand there. X J on the left side. We searched the old part of the cemetery for my Great Aunt Leather Dow's grave but didn't find it. We visited my Uncle Dawson Jeter in Lamesa. He is the only surviving child of the Riley Jeter family.

Write us a letter or the story of your family. We need them! Also, pictures.

WALDON SUMMERS, 75, died Christmas Day, 1995. He was buried in Woodville, Miss. Survived by his wife, Mary, three sisters, Marsaline Whitcomb of Columbus, TX, Wilma Clarkson of Refugio, TX and Mae Gardenhire of Junction, TX and numerous nephews and neices.

RUBY DRUM, 84, passed away December 23, 1995 in Fort Sumner, NM. Born Oct. 1, 1911 in Fluvanna to John and Anolia Bley, she attended Fluvanna Schools and married Ira Ardis Drum Aug. 17, 1932. The couple made their home on a ranch north of Ft. Sumner in 1946. She was preceded in death by her husband on May 15, 1990 and by 12 brothers and sisters. Survivors include a daughter, Theresa Dell Drum of Ft. Sumner and a host of nephews and neices.

EVA MURPHY, 80, passed away sometime in 1995 or 1996. She was born in Robston, TX and married Loyd Murphy in 1936 in Borden County. She had lived in Borden County before moving to Grady, NM in 1952. Survivors include Nell Bailey of Pampa and Linda Beam of Lamesa, her daughters, & three brothers two sisters, 3 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and numerous nephews and neices.

CLARA S. DRUM, 89, died in December, 1995 in Belle Fourche, S.D. Born June 8, 1906 in Wingate, TX, she spent her early years in Fluvanna. She married W. R. "Bill" Drum of Fluvanna in 1926. They moved to South Dakota in 1950. She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Zearl and Shirley Drum, a sister, Eura Sneed Beckham of Snyder, a brother, Norman D. "Slick" Sneed of Gail, 3 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

R. L. "BUDDY" DRUM, 60, died January 4, 1996 after receiving injuries in an oil-field accident 3 miles E. of Fluvanna. A life-long resident of Fluvanna, he was the owner of Dunn Transport Services. He was named Scurry County's outstanding young farmer in 1960. He married Margaret Trevey in 1935. Survivors include his , a son, Max of Fluvanna, his mother, also of Fluvanna a brother Don of Snyder and two grandchildren.

A. W. "DOC" MINNICK, 79, died March 20, 1996 at his home in Lubbock. He served as a corporal with the 9th Infantry Division during World War II and received a Purple Heart. He was preceded in death by a brother, Vernon Minnick. Survivors include his wife, Pat and three sons, Gene, Skeet and Wayne Minnick, a daughter, Gail Smiley, all of Lubbock. He is also survived by 2 sisters, Verdina Wooten of Lubbock and Wanda Bradley of Midland, four brothers, A. G. of Abilene, A. H. of Lubbock, Alvah and John, both of Big Spring, 5 grandchildren, and 2 greats.

BLANCHE WILSON, 91, of Snyder passed away March 17, 1996. Born June 24, 1904 in Gail, she attended West Texas State College in Canyon and Southwest Texas State College in San Marcos. She then taught school in Borden County and Snyder. She married Earl Fleet Wilson in 1935, and he died in 1984. Survivors, include 2 sister, Gladys Williams and Oleota Mitchell, both of Snyder, 3 sisters-in-law, Mary Mitchell of Lubbock, Ethel Lynn Mitchell of Lamesa and Illa B. Mitchell of Seminole; and several neices and nephews. Four brothers preceded her in death.

MARY D. CARY, 92, died March 30, 1996 in Abilene. She was the daughter of J. W. C. Mullins and Mary Elizabeth Baker Mullins who lived in Gail. Mrs. Mullins is buried in the Gail Cemetery and several of her baby girls and boys. Survivors include her daughter, Margaret Billingsley of Abilene, a son, Audra Cary of Midland four grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and many friends.

WAYNE KEY, 51, of Snyder passed away April 2, 1996. Born in Snyder, he was a rancher in Borden County and was a part owner of Key Brothers Implement Co. and Ezell-Key Grain Co. Survivors include his wife, Susan of Snyder, 3 daughters, Kris Glass of Hermleigh, Kayla Moreland and Jennifer Kime of Snyder, 2 sons, Monty Key of Seminole and Brett Kime of Snyder, his mother, Opal Key of Snyder and 4 brothers Weldon and Leroy Key, both of Snyder, Jimmy Joe Key of Lubbock and Roland Key of Gail and six grandchildren.

VICTOR L. HALL, 70, of Fort Worth passed away March 31, 1996. He and his wife owned the Gail Cafe from 1980 to 1989. He served in the Navy in World War II. He was preceded in death by one son, Carey Hall. Survivors include his wife, one son, Charles Hall, 2 daughters, Vickie Coles and Janice Wentworth, 3 brothers, one sister and eight grandchildren.

HOOD WILLS, 84, of Quanah, died May 27, 1996. Mr. Wills was the brother of Juanita Hunnicutt and Virgil Wills. He was a retired county extension agent and school teacher. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Award in 1966 from the National County Agents Assn. Survivors include his wife, Clem Wills, two daughters Martha Hammond and Mary Fielder, two other sisters, Saluda Arnett of Burleson and Olive Berry of Ozona, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

EDNA LORENE PETTY, 96, of Lubbock passed away August 17, 1996. She married Leonard Lee Petty in Gail in 1923 after teaching school in and around Gail. Survivors include a daughter, Patsy Petty Buzbee of Lubbock and Dr. Preston D.

Petty of Odessa, a brother, Delmo M. Pearce of Austin; a sister, Doris Melba Pearce Bennett of Snyder, 2 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

ELMER ASKINS, 85, of Big Spring, died June 23, 1996. He was born in Gail on July 2, 1910. He served in the U. S. Army during World War II. He worked for Taylor Electric, Banner Creamery and Cabot Corp. He also worked as a cowboy most of his life. Survivors include his wife, Zola, one daughter, Andrea Lynn Ingram of Plainview, one brother, Emmett of Snyder, a sister, Thadene Harless of Snyder and two grandchildren.

JAMES ED McLEROY, of Commerce, TX, passed away September 20, 1996. He was the Superintendent of Borden County ISD in Gail from 1966 until his retirement in May, 1990. He graduated from Commerce High School in 1948; served his nation in the navy as a top turret gunner aboard a B-26, logging over 800 hours in the skies of Korea; married the former Ann Mabry in 1956; received his Masters Degree in Education in 1961 from East Texas State University. Survivors include his wife; two sons, Jimof Sulphur Springs and Bob of Cumby; two daughters, Lisa Lingo of Mesquite and Gena McGee of Rowlett; and a sister, Faye Quattlebaum of Garland and ten grandchildren.

PAT N. HENSLEY, 75, of Borden County, died February 13, 1996. He was born in Draw. He attended school in Draw and Texas Tech University. He married Jo Williams May 18, 1941 in Draw and they moved to Borden County in 1957 from Lynn County. He served in the U. S. Army during W.W. II where he was a member of the 158 Regimental Combat Team. He had been a member of the school board, a member of the Borden Co. Tax Review Board, ASC Committee Chairman and on the FHA Board. His survivors include his wife, Jo, three sons, Rusty of Rockwall, Kenny and Randy of Borden County and a daughter, Lesa Enlow of Wichita Falls, a brother, Zan of Lubbock, ten grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

W. W. "Bill" STAGGS, 91, passed away May 2, 1996. Burial was in Gail Cemetery. He was born Feb. 2, 1905 in Baird. He married Alda Harrison in 1932 in Abilene. They moved to Borden County in 1944. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of O'Donnell and was a retired farmer. Survivors include his wife; two sons, W. D. "Bill" of Hobbs, NM and Jerry of Ackerly; a daughter, Mary Lynn Williams of Borden County, 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

MARVIN PAUL DUPUY, 73, of Snyder died April 18, 1996. He was born Oct. 18 in Gorman. He was a member of the Ira Masobic Lodge. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II. He, his wife and children were residents of Borden County before moving to Snyder in 1965. Three infant children preceded him in death. Survivors include his wife; 2 daughters, Sue Burnett of Plainview and Paula Brown of Snyder; two sisters, Ellen Winkles of Abilene and Ernestine Sittern of Oregon, a brother, Herman Henry of Washington; 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Ron Lovell, 47, of Midland passed away May 12, 1996. He was a former resident of Lake Thomas and graduated from Borden County High School in 1966. He married Neit Higgins on Nov. 25, 1967. They moved to Midland in 1976 and was employed by Certified Lab. Survivors include his wife; a son, Ryan of Midland; 2 daughters, Nikki Riggs of Midland and Neely Pace of Fort Worth; his mother, Lillian Lovell of Midland; his grandmother, Vera Belyeu of Cross Plains and 3 grandsons.

Living means opportunities for Christ, and dying - well, that's better. Because the Lord has given me life in all its fullness, life to me is a blessing, not a curse; and death is gain, not loss.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS AND YOUR FAMILY HISTORIES. PLEASE LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

From: The Borden Historical Society
Gail, Texas 79738

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