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Watercolor of the Rose Mansion by Salado artist Ronnie Wells

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Fall 2003 Edition

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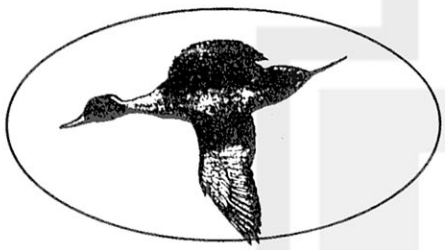

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Cover artist Ronnie Wells

Ronnie Wells
Artist

The cover of this edition of **Salado: A Jewel in the Crown of Texas** is by Salado artist Ronnie Wells. It is a reproduction of a watercolor of the Rose Mansion on Main Street. Wells Gallery is located on South Main Street, Salado, next to Stagecoach Inn. Phone is 947-0311 or visit his website at www.ronniewells.com.

Ronnie Wells moved his gallery from Georgetown to Salado. He moved to Salado with his wife, Patricia, who does the framing for his painting. An accomplished painter and sculptor, Wells has received much recognition in both aspects of his career.

Following are just a few of the many awards Wells has received, along with many one-man shows in both galleries and museum across the United States.

2001: Seven foot Bronze of Mallard Ducks installed at the National Headquarters of Ducks Unlimited in Memphis, Tennessee.

2000: Sculptor of the Year, Southeastern Wildlife Exposition, Charleston, S.C.

1999-2000: Overall Best of Show, Ruidoso, NM Art Festival.

1999: Sculptor of the Year, Mid-America Water Fowl Expo, Peoria, Ill.

1999: Commission: Seven Foot Mallard Bronze, Heritage Bank, Jonesboro, Ark.

1999: Best of Show Bronze Sculpture, National Ducks Unlimited Show.

1999: Best of Show Bronze Sculpture, Tulsa, Okla. Wildlife Show

1998: Best of Show Bronze Sculpture, National Ducks Unlimited Show.

1997: First Children's Book published by Acadian House Publishers.

1996: Best of Show Award, Bronze Sculpture, Southeastern Wildlife Expo.

1995: Artist of the Year, Louisiana Wildfowl Carvers and Collectors Show.

1994-95: Artist of the Year, North Carolina Wildlife and Sportsman's Show.

1993: Three Best of Show Awards, Kansas City Ducks Unlimited.

1993: Sculptor of the Year, World Wildlife Exposition, Gatlinburg, Tenn.

1992: Gulf Coast Conservation Stamp and Print Artist.

1991: Bronze Sculpture The Covey won Gold Award, Texas Ranger Hall of Fame.

1990-91: Texas State Sculptor, selected by the 71st Legislature, Austin, Tex.

1989: Best of Show, Metal Sculpture, Kansas City.

1989-94: Print Artist, National Wildlife Turkey Federation.

1989: Print Artist, Coastal Conservation Association.

1988: Bronze Sculpture, Evening Roost won Best in World, World Wildlife Sculpture and Bronze Championships in Georgia,

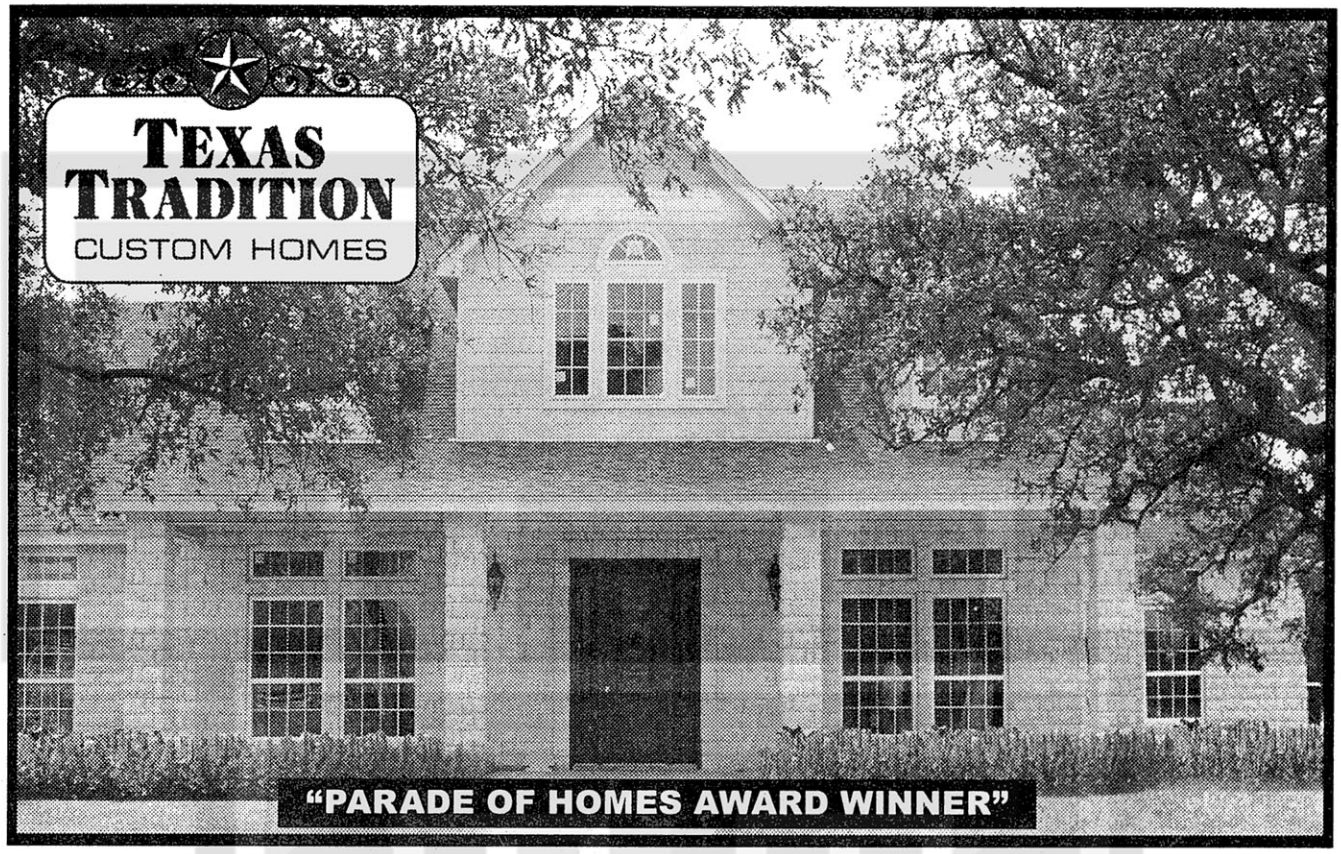
1987: Bronze Sculpture Intrusion won Best in World, World Wildlife Sculpture and Bronze Championships in Georgia.

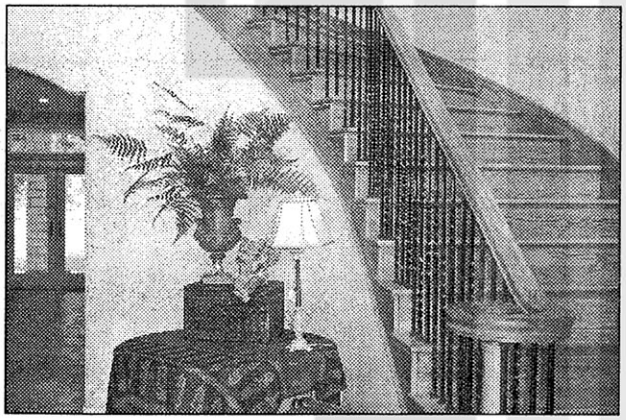
1987: Commissioned by Temple-Eastex to sculpt larger-than-life lumberjack to be placed on corporate grounds.

1985: Artist designed Texas Ducks Unlimited Sponsor Print.

1984: Texas Ducks Unlimited Artist of the Year.

1984: National Central Flyway Ducks Unlimited Artist of the Year.





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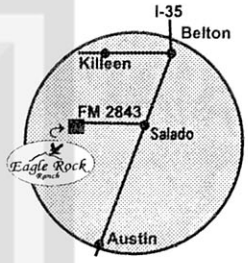

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Bridges across Salado Creek

For several years after the town was laid out, the citizens of Salado crossed the shallow creek by stepping from rock to rock, or on logs laid across the wider places. These logs were chained to the rocks and would sink down stream during freshets and be replaced when the flood subsided. But when in 1866 a dam was thrown across the stream at the lower end of the village, the water was backed up over the rocks. Then for a time "foot-logs" raised on legs standing in the water and chained to the rocks below were used; but they were narrow, rickety and unsafe, and pedestrians not infrequently tumbled off into the water. A general demand arose for a bridge. To meet this problem as well as others, it was decided to incorporate the village. Application for incorporation was made under the general law and the county court in January 1867, authorized and election for town officers. On February 23, Judge O.T. Tyler was elected mayor and a board of aldermen was chosen. These officials appointed the other officers, among the Colonel Thos. H. Jones as treasurer. The town officials first tried to raise funds for a bridge by voluntary donations, but finding they could not raise enough by this means, on December 3, 1868, they ordered an issue of bonds...

The bonds were purchased by the citizens of the town. With the proceeds and subscriptions amounting in all to some $2,500, the municipal authorities proceeded to build a wire cable suspension foot-bridge of substantial construction of unique design and graceful proportions. Two large galvanized rope-wire cables, anchored at each end in strongly built stone abutments, were carried over two double-turreted dressed-stone piers of towers. From these suspended cables wire cords extended down to catch and support the ends of sawed cedar cross bars or joists on which the plank floor was laid. It was one of the first of its kind in the Southwest and was designed, engineered and constructed entirely by home talent-Judge Tyler, Colonel Thos. H. Jones, Judge Wm. H. Garrett, Wm. A. Davis, John Hendrickson and others. It swung some twenty feet above the water and although it could be made to sway enough from side to side to frighten timid souls--especially groups of squealing girls when mischievous boys chose this method of teasing them--it served the people well for more than thirty years. After the county built a combination wagon and foot bridge a few yards upstream the suspension bridge gradually fell into disuse. In 1913 it was finally swept away when a cloud burst in the upper water-shed of Salado Creek sent down a terrific flood that carried away the county bridge as well. The latter was promptly rebuilt, only to be carried away again in the still greater flood of September 9 and 10, 1921. ***From "The History of Bell County" George W. Tyler, Third Edition***

It's rare to see the Main Street Bridge underwater.

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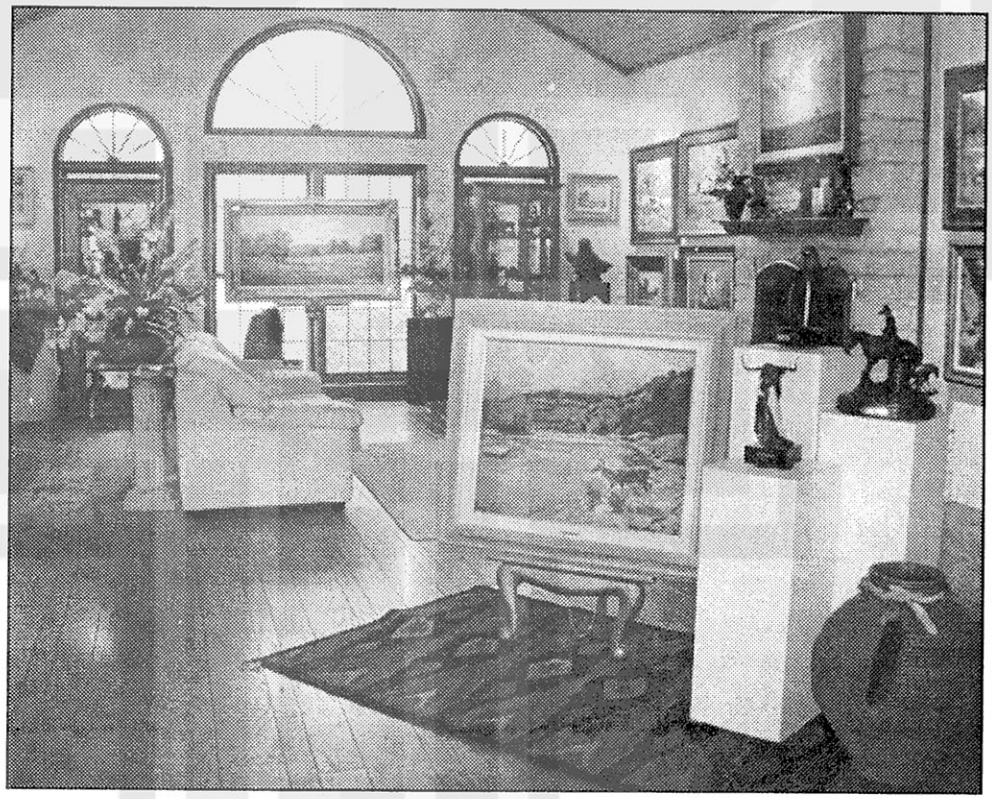

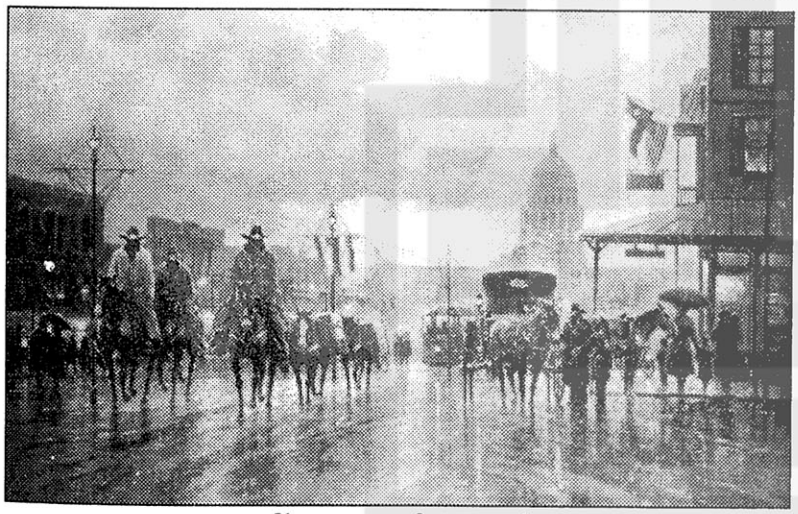

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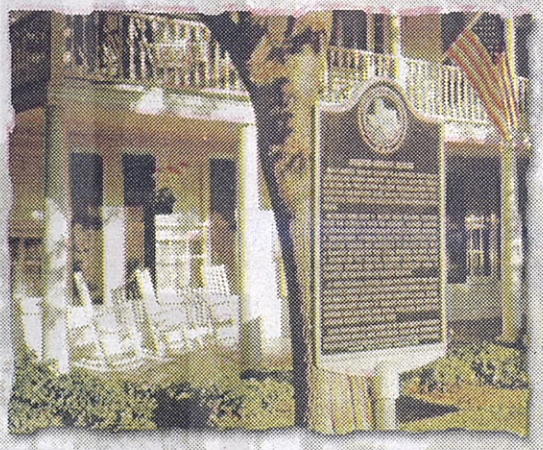

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A History of Salado

Village prospers due to high standards, formation of early college

You might say Salado was born out of disaster, for it was the financial Panic of 1819 that propelled large numbers to search for their Shangri-la in the West.

It was Stephen F. Austin, our capital's namesake, who brought the first families to Texas. But those who were left behind clamored for a chance to find their new homes beyond the western horizon.

Sterling C. Robertson gave them that chance. He obtained land grants from Mexico and offered homesteaders this new land in the Brazos River Valley 200 miles long and 100 miles wide and was originally termed the Nashville Colony and later called Robertson's Colony. By 1835 Robertson had imported more than 270 families and 100 single men and some 200 families came later. They came from Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee. Some 30 counties in Texas were carved out of this land grant.

But of those who came, relatively few chose Salado as their home. In fact, old records show that in 1850 only "57" whites settled along the 35- mile stretch of Salado Creek, about six per mile. The hundreds of bold, clear, bubbling springs on the Salado Creek at the crossing of the old military road, later the stage route which connected with the Butterfield Stage Line across the state and now Interstate 35, were well known long before the organization of the county. It had been a favorite camping place for the Tonkawa Indians for ages past.

So far as is known, the first white settler in what is now Salado was an old man, Archibald Willingham, who with his two sons--Jack and Wilson--and J.C. Ballard, was residing there as early as the fall of 1851. It is said that the Indians and these early settlers believed the spring water of Salado Creek to hold "special curative powers".

Colonel E. Sterling C. Robertson, the son of Sterling C. Robertson after serving in this father's Ranger Company and as assistant Postmaster General for the Republic of Texas, State Senator and secretary of the Senate moved to Salado and was married in 1852. He and his bride moved into the old Willingham cabin at first and later Robertson built a 22 room, Classic-Revival plantation which still stands today.

The Stagecoach Inn, once known as the Shady Villa, has had a long and important role inthe history of Salado. It has been a stopping place for travelers for years and a central part of the community.

Other stately homes were to follow, like that of Dr. B.D. McKie built in 1867. It consisted of 15 rooms, six fireplaces and 22 inch thick walls. There was also the grand Tyler House owned by Salado's first Mayor, Judge O.T. Tyler, and the Barton House built by Dr. Welborn Barton.

Today, these homes all bear Historical Markers and students of architecture still study these contributions to the field. Salado rests halfway between Waco and Austin and it became a natural rest stop for stagecoach lines. Obviously needed was an established town and something to ensure its future. At a "tent meeting" called October 8, 1859 to discuss the problem, Robertson donated 100 acres for a town and a college.

From this point on, the history of Salado is so intertwined with that of the college it is difficult to tell of one without telling of the other.

At the tent meeting a joint stock company was organized, the land surveyed into blocks, lots and streets by Colonel Hermon Aiken and Major A.J. Rose, some of the land was sold that fall and winter.

On February 8, 1860, the Texas Legislature passed an act incorporating Salado College for a period of twenty years. In the meantime a temporary school building had been erected and plans drawn for a stone building for the college. Families began moving into the new town at once and houses were being built...some of logs, some of local limestone and a few others of pine lumber hauled from hills near Bastrop. Cypress logs were hauled from Houston by slaves and hewn on the sites at Salado.

The village not only grew in quantity, but in quality. Many of the early families were people of education and refinement and all were appreciative of the value to their children of good schools and good society.

They were sober, honest, industrious and intelligent groups who gave their beautiful little town a reputation for a high character that was unsurpassed by any community of the state. The Salado residents were determined that their children be raised and educated in the best environment possible. This is exemplified by the resolution made by the Board of Trustees of Salado College at

See History, Page 23

History lives on in old cemetery

By Chris McGregor
Staff Writer

Four giant, solitary oaks lord over the middle of the property like celestial sentinels. Planted almost divinely in the center of the grounds, they seem to have their roots encircling every aspect of the cemetery, silently drawing in the unrecorded history of a nearly forgotten landmark.

The West Salado Cemetery, taken in and of itself, is a somewhat nondescript parcel of land, neat and well-maintained for the past decade, but hardly a vision to inspire awe. It is tucked caddy-corner between Country Boy's and Harold's Piano, easy to miss, almost as if it's playing hide-and-go-seek with the 21st century. Located scant yards from the interstate, thousands of motorists pass by the cemetery each day, but at 70 miles per hour the full breadth of its unassuming story passes like the white and yellow stripes of the highway, unheard and barely seen.

It is, however, important, because it is one of the few active black cemeteries in the area. A cursory glance around Salado shows that not much remains of the African-American culture that helped clear and settle the village many generations ago. A fact that is either unknown or conveniently forgotten, the history of the black community in Salado stretches back as far as that of the whites. Largely scattered by the time the Depression hit, at one point the number of blacks residing in Salado totalled between 150 and 200, a population only slightly less than that of the whites, and this stoic little cemetery seems to be one of the few remaining threads of their legacy. In private hands since 1991, when current owner and caretaker Earnest Wilkinson purchased the property, the one and four-fifths acre plot was originally deeded in 1879 by Colonel E.S.C. Robertson to the freedmen of Salado. In a diary entry dated Christmas day 1875, Robertson writes, "Went up after dinner to see John Sanders f.m.c. (freed man of color) about hiring a cook and wash woman. Will let me know tomorrow. The freed men want a piece of land for a school house and church-have promised it to them."

It would be another four years before the freedmen and women got their land. Common tradition tell us that the land was donated to the black community in town by Robertson, however there are other, more quietly whispered rumors that suggest otherwise, that the black community had raised the funds amongst themselves to purchase the land. The fact that four years had taken place between the time the land was promised and the time the land was deeded does cause pause. However, it is also commonly held that Colonel Robertson was a kind and benevolent man who treated all his neighbors, both white and black, with respect, so the particulars might never be resolved.

Obscured by a century of overgrowth, a roughly hewn headstone, worn down from years of neglect, reveals a barely legible last name and the date of death, 1888, for the unknown individual at rest below.
(Photo by Chris McGregor)

In any case, the land was deeded on the first day of the year, 1879, for the aforementioned use of school, church and graveyard purposes. Another persistent little rumor that cannot be verified, that the purchased land had been used as a burial site in antebellum times, is almost certainly true. In fact, the oldest legible headstone in the graveyard, that of Jozie Fulbright, is dated 1877, two years before the land was deeded. This suggests that the land had been used for burial for some time prior. The oldest area of the cemetery, the northwest corner, is home to many simple, unmarked stones, whose origins are unknown. But it is not unsafe to assume that these markers are contemporaneous with, or predate the Fulbright grave, given that slaves lacked the means of producing ornate headstones, and often times, as Earnest Wilkinson explained, they used whatever was at hand, which was generally a large stone, to mark a location of burial. Some unfortunate, anonymous souls never received a marker. According to Wilkinson, this practice continued into the 20th century.

Also said to be buried on the grounds of the West Salado Cemetery is a man named Mtesa Unction, a former slave who followed his master to Texas after the Confederate surrender at Appomattox, who is a story all his own. According to the book, **Tales of Old Salado**, by E.M. Hutchens, Unction worked on the grist mills and over the years his hands "became inlaid with minute steel splinters," eventually becoming magnetized, and on several occasions, he was called to the College to demonstrate the principals of magnetics to students in natural philosophy class. Also said to

See West Salado Cemetery, Page 24

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Salado has Historic Texas Cemetery

By MaryBelle Brown
President
Salado Cemetery Association

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) has designated Old Salado Grave Yard as a Historic Texas Cemetery. This section of Salado Cemetery has been referred to as the "Old Original" part of the cemetery; however, a search of old deed records reveal that the original name was "Old Salado Grave Yard."

The designation, reserved for cemeteries that are at least 50 years old and deemed worthy of preservation for their historic associations, means an "Affidavit of Designation for Cemetery purposes" has been issued to Salado Cemetery Association, Inc. and has been recorded in the Bell County Clerk's office.

"The designation is a tool that will increase public awareness of these important cultural resources. Such awareness and education are among the best ways to guarantee the preservation of a cemetery," said Larry Oaks, THC Executive Director.

Cemeteries hold valuable historical information. They are often the last reminders of early settlements' historic events, religious beliefs, lifestyles and geneaology. Teachers are using this resource in their classes on Texas and local history.

According to Oaks, "Historic cemeteries serve as directories of early residents and reflect the cultural influences that helped shape our state's communities. The Historic Texas Cemetery Designation program helps bring attention to these communities' treasures and the importance of their preservation."

While the Texas Cemetery Designation encourages cemetery preservation, this designation cannot guarantee that a historic cemetery will not be damaged or destroyed. Communities must support the efforts of THC and assist in the care of a community-owned cemetery. Urban expansion and vandalism often threaten historic cemeteries. In some rural areas, historic cemeteries are threatened by the absence of fencing, which allows cattle and other grazing animals to topple and disturb headstones in the cemeteries.

Sometimes, these cemeteries gradually disappear, one headstone at a time, others disappear overnight. Bulldozers have plowed over neglected cemeteries to clear land for development projects. Cemeteries have also been victims of vandalism and long-term deterioriation from forces of nature, such as weathering and uncontrolled vegetation.

The Historic Texas Cemetery designation was developed to address the destruction of historic cemeteries and the illegal removal of cemetery fixtures. Bell County Sheriff's Deputy Tom Brown coordinates Salado Citizens on Patrol (COPS) program and heads the committee for safety and security for Salado Cemetery. According to Brown, Penal Code 28.03 makes an offense under this section a state jail felony if the damage or destruction is inflicted on a place of human burial or a public monument.

Salado Cemetery is a community-owned cemetery and residents of the Village of Salado have done an outstanding job in maintenance and care of the the cemetery. Friends of Salado Cemetery is a well-organized group of people who have personal interest in or who have committed themselves to the preservation and beautification of the cemetery.

Temple Police Department honor guard fires off a 21-gun salute to the veterans buried in Salado Cemetery. Flags of adorn a veteran's headstone.

The Cemetery Association conducts an annual ceremony on the last Monday in May. The Memorial Day service is typically attended by more than 150 people each year. It features color guards from Ft. Hood and the Temple Police Department, soloists on trumpet and bagpipe and a roll call of veterans buried at the Cemetery and other area cemeteries.

The Texas Historical Commission is the state agency for historical preservation. The agency administers a variety of programs to preserve the archeaological, historic resources of the state of Texas. For more information, call 254-475-4167 or visit www.thc.state.tx.us.

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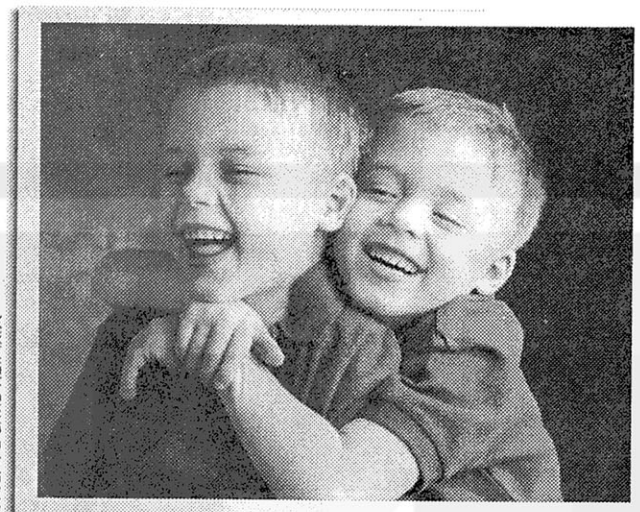

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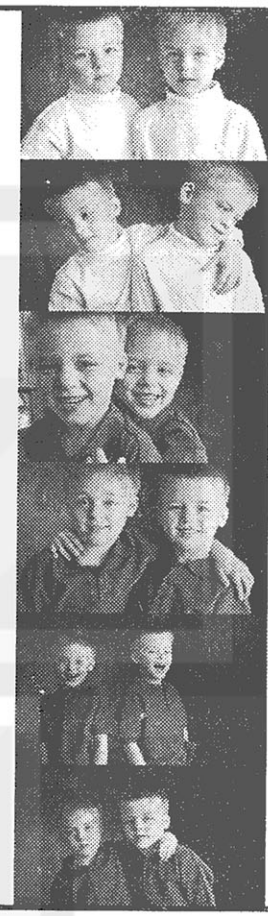

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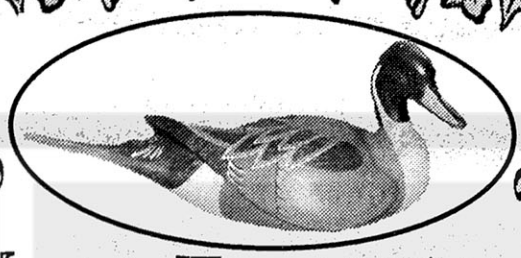

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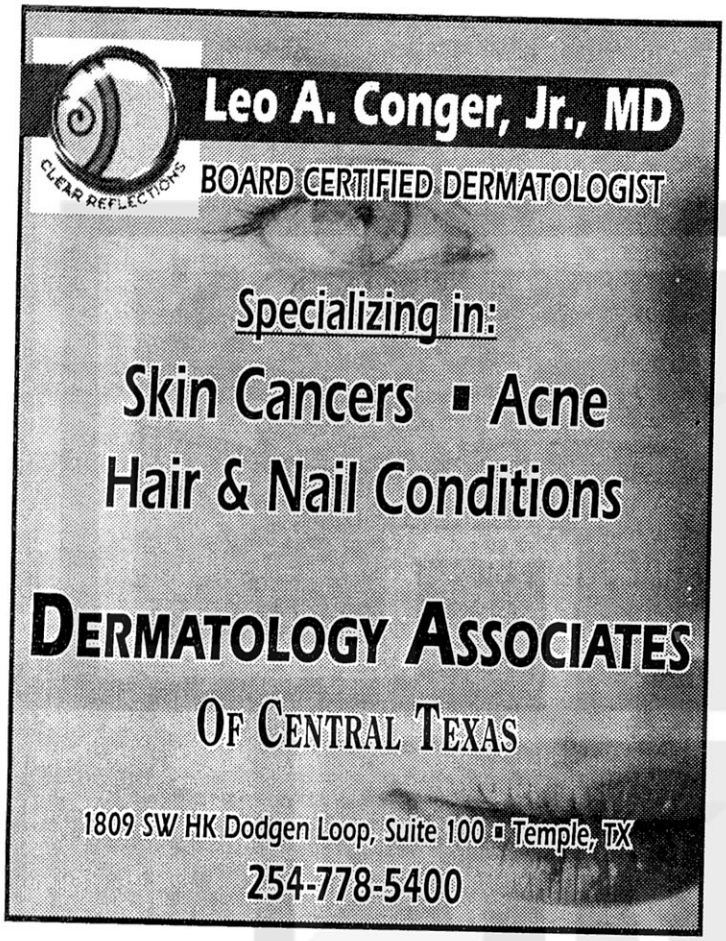

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History of Salado

CONTINUED FROM Page 9

a meeting held November 18, 1859. It read: "The said board urge upon the legislature the insertion of a clause inhibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors, the keeping of billiard saloons and ten pin alleys on the land donated by E. Sterling C. Robertson for college purposes and for as great a distance around the same as Practicable, in the act of incorporating the same."

The testimony of a soldier who passed through the town in July, 1869, may indicate something of the attitude of the people of Salado: "The village of Salado is particularly impressed upon my mind as being the first teetotal "sure enough" total abstinence village that I ever visited".

But in 1870, temperance was put to the test and as you might suspect, temperance was the victor.

It seems that things were going well in Salado. The town was flourishing; the College was growing and peace and contentment were a way of life. But the people of Salado were no different than people anywhere, and as often happens, they became complacent and while they were enjoying the good life without the evils of whiskey, those persons representing whiskey were playing politics.

Before you could say "cheers," the entire Bell County, including Salado, was declared "WET" and before their astonished eyes the man with the saloon had come.

The city fathers talked, pleaded and demanded that the saloon keeper take his den of iniquity elsewhere but to no avail. And unfortunately the young men in town were drawn like moth to a flame, mostly out of curiosity.

See Story, Page 25

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West Salado Cemetery given its just distinction

Continued from Page 10

have enormous physical strength, Unction "carried in his arms up the stairway the College chapel's first organ," according to Hutchens. Sadly, it will likely never be known where this character was laid to rest.

Wilkinson, in addition to his duties as caretaker, also has a strong historical connection to the cemetery. His grandfather, the patriarch of his family, Finn Wilkinson, was a native born Texas slave who became free after the Civil War. His master was one Melville Wilkinson, who is said to have donated land after the war to all of his slaves. This again, is a matter of debate, but however he obtained his land, Finn settled in Salado and several generations of his descendants have been reared here as well. Finn was yet another interesting man whose unique life is rarely mentioned when the history of old Salado is discussed.

Wilkinson family funeral circa 1914. (courtesy of the the Bell County Museum)

Standing six feet tall and possessing considerable intellect, Finn could read and write, unusual for a man of slave derivation. He was also a cowboy who participated in many drives, keeping the spirits of the other cowhands high with his affability and lighthearted sense of humor. Finn, however, never forgot slavery. He would take a turn to the serious when explaining to his children and grandchildren about "the peculiar institution" of slavery. He explained that one particularly diabolical and popular method employed by slave traders was to throw a feast a short distance from the ship. Shortly thereafter, another celebration would be thrown, this time a little bit closer to the ship than the last. Finally, a third would be held, this time however, in the ship itself. Once safely on board, the ship would set sail with its unsuspecting passengers in tow, who were now trapped and resigned to their unenviable fate. Finn was also a stonemason, and it is said that his mark of F.F. can be read on some of the older graves.

Once the land for the cemetery had been legally acquired, two churches and a school were erected, of which no traces remain. For such a small community, the presence of two churches is indicative of the importance religion played in the community. One church was Baptist, the other Methodist; however, no clear congregational lines were ever drawn, and most folks attended both regularly. The school served children grades one through six only, the high schoolers attending Harris High School in Belton. Because, up until relative recent history, central Texas was an overwhelmingly agriculture area, children did not attend school until early November, their hands being needed more for farming than scholarly pursuits.

During the 1920's, approximately 18 children attended the school, with teachers using textbooks donated from nearby Salado College. But again, no buildings remain.

Unfortunately, when times got tough in Salado, as happened in other communities, most of the black families moved off to the cities or other towns such as Taylorsville, where they sought better job opportunities and less discrimination. The South has a long memory, and the humiliation of the Civil War had yet to part itself from public consciousness, and Salado was no different.

Efforts to recognize and renovate the cemetery, which is still an ongoing process, did not get off the ground until the mid 80's when a group of Saladoans developed an interest in its history. The Salado Historical Society, through the efforts of Fred and Dale Springer and the late Thelma Fletcher, exhaustively researched the existing records, including deeds, diary entries and oral histories, and then submitted their findings to the Texas Historical Society. Work done by the Bell County Historical Commission also helped to bring attention to the cemetery. Finally, on May 5, 1991, the West Salado Cemetery was designated with an historical marker, which stands outside the cemetery to this day.

It is a testament to many things, among them a family's link with its past, and of the hard work done by a small group of Saladoans to bring an overlooked cemetery its rightful distinction. But what it doesn't speak aloud is something that is heard only in the soul, how as generations pass and memories are buried like caskets, we, like magnets, are drawn to our history for the sake of our future.

Story of Salado

CONTINUED FROM Page 23

According to popular legend, when all attempts to close the saloon failed, six women who met weekly in a Mother's Prayer Meeting, met, prayed and decided on a plan to close the saloon. They knew the man had a legal right to a Saloon in Salado, but they also knew that if he couldn't get any customers he would have to leave.

They worked in sets of two, each set working a shift. Two at a time, from daylight to midnight, they sat in the saloon with their knitting. No man or boy came in to buy a drink as long as they were here. After one day's vigil, the saloon-keeper closed his doors and there hasn't been another such den in Salado since.

Enrollment in Salado College reached its peak in 1861 when Texas entered the Civil War. Salado's involvement in the war was limited, although the people of Salado did spend much of the war procuring supplies for the Confederate Army and Captain R.B. Halley organized the Salado Mounted Troops, which later joined the first contingency of Confederate soldiers from Bell County, at his home in Salado.

Perhaps the only time alcohol was prevalent in Salado was during the Civil War when Alexander's Distillery, which bears a historical marker, was reopened by Governor Francis R. Lubbock to produce alcohol strictly for medicinal purposes for wounded Confederate soldiers.

After the war, Salado did not feel the sharp pains of reconstruction. The economy was improving and there were eight mills on

See Historic Salado, Page 27

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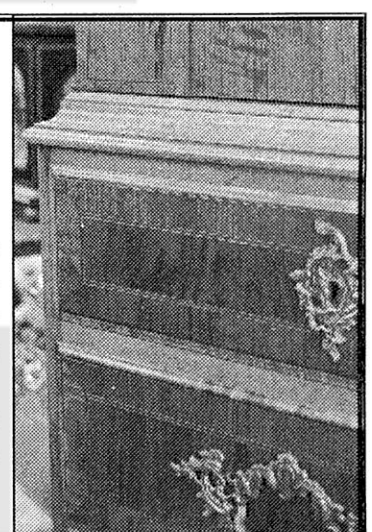

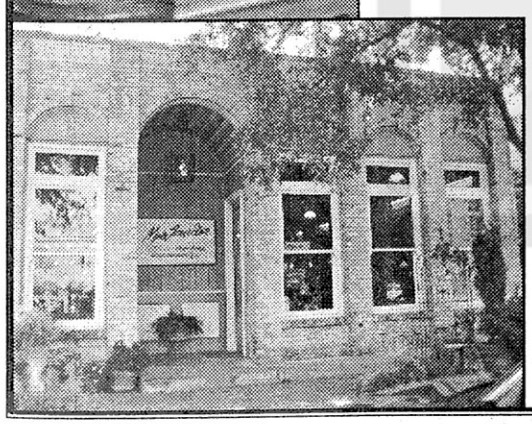

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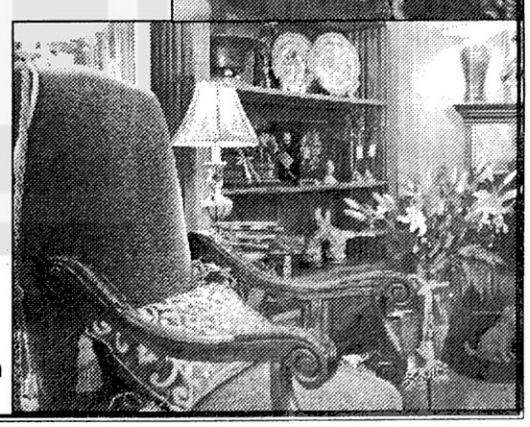


Traveling across the Frontier

The following recounts a tale by early Salado settler Col. Herman Aiken in his Fireside Tales. Felda Davis Shanklin in Salado, Texas Its History and People, tells the story as this:

He wrote about his experiences as a surveyor in what he called his Fireside Tales. He usually traveled alone and in 1846 was going form the Brazos Settlement to Austin through country which abounded in game and was a popular hunting ground for savages. That night he reached the "strongly picketed in" house of Capt. Morrill. All was dark and silent until he hailed. The Captain inquired, "Who's there?"

When he learned who the visitor was, the captain let him inside, saying, "The woods are alive with Indians." The colonel rode on to Austin the next day.

Later, he left Austin to examine the country on the San Gabriel, Salado and Little Rivers. He rode into a severe norther and tried to make it into Bryant's Station, but just before reaching there he ran into a Comanche camp near Little River. In his saddle bags he carried several land patents from the Austin Land Office, each with a seal attached with blue ribbons.

Having a good horse and himself well dressed, he asked to see the Chief to whom he mentioned his friends Gen. Sam Houston and Dr. Burleson, who were also friends of the Indians. Beings impressed, the chief finally ordered him to go.

Colonel Aiken rose leisurely away until some timber concealed him. When he put spurs to his horse and rose as fast as possible to the river. It was swollen, but the horse swam it in the nick of time because by then the colonel heard the yells behind him. However, he reached Bryant's Station safely.

IN 1848, he left Caldwell on a prospecting trip to the headwaters of the Leon River. At the end of 25 days, he was 140 miles from home and out of food. He started home and on the second day he realized he as being flanked by two Indians. Hiding in a ravine, he loaded his gun, ate the last crumbs in his wallet then bravely rode on.

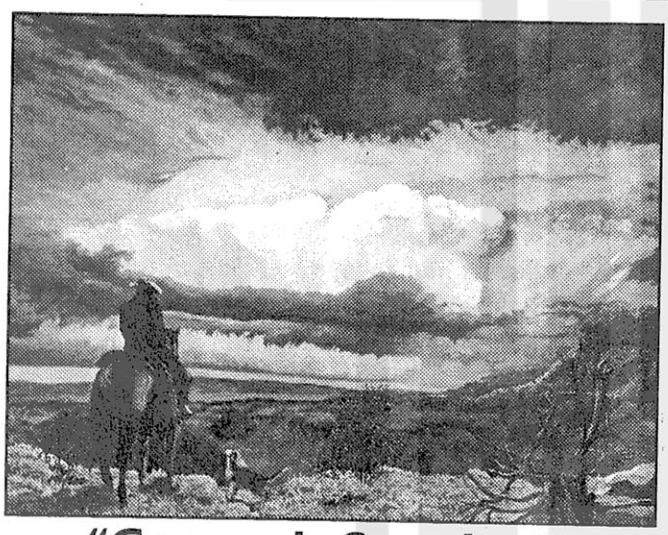
Suddenly he was confronted by a nearly naked warrior who was richly painted and had a head-dress of feathers and a rifle cocked across his horse. He sat but 50 yards away. The Colonel wheeled his horse and drew both pistols on the Indian now within 15 steps. The savage realized his predicament and pleaded for his life, claiming to be a peaceful Tonkawa. Colonel Aiken made him promise never to harm the white people, gave him some tobacco and sent him on his way.

He still had a savage-infested section of the country to ride through. However, he safely reached high ground beyond Cedar Creek where he saw several groups of Indians out on the prairie. One group passed close by as he lay hidden in a ravine.

He camped that night, hungry, thirsty, tired and sick, but continued his trip the next day until he arrived at Moses Griffin's home on Little River, where he rested up and filled up with food.

Finally, he reached home alive, to the surprise of all, as he had been reported killed by the Tonkawas!

He wrote, "My dress was in ribbons, my pants torn off above the knees, each leg tied up with a pocket handkerchief; hat 'all-a-come-down' and a beard of 4 weeks. It was difficult to know to what tribe I belonged.'



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Historic Salado

CONTINUED FROM Page 25

Salado Creek. Well-known was the Davis Mill which had wool carding machinery and machinery for grinding grain and ginning cotton. The Historical Marker states that Davis never charged a widow for grinding her corn into meal.

Salado was prospering and the College had an average enrollment of 250 students. The first circulating library was formed at that College as well as the state's first two literary societies. It is not surprising that Salado was often called the "Athens of Texas".

The Salado Hotel, built by Thomas Jefferson Eubanks in 1860, played an important economic role with such clientele as Stephen F. Austin, General Sam Houston, General Robert. E. Lee, Quantro and Lt. Colonel George Custer. The inn was originally called The Salado Hotel, but later was changed to the Lone Star Hotel, Shady Villa and finally was called the Stagecoach Inn, the name it bears today.

The news of Salado's prosperity was far-reaching and entire families were moving in...

Like George Washington Baines and his family, Baines, who taught at Salado College, was a Baptist circuit rider whose great grandson Lyndon Baines Johnson would become President of the United States.

Like Major A. J. Rose who was paramount in organizing the first Grange and Grange Store and who would become Grand Master of the Masons and President of the Texas A&M Board of Directors.

See Village History, Page 30

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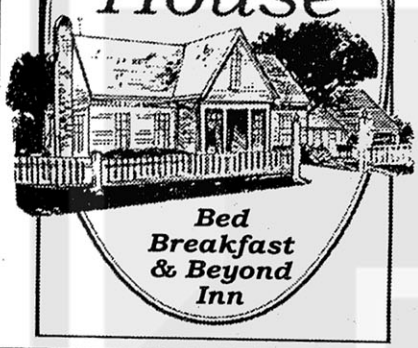

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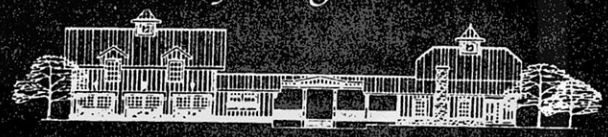

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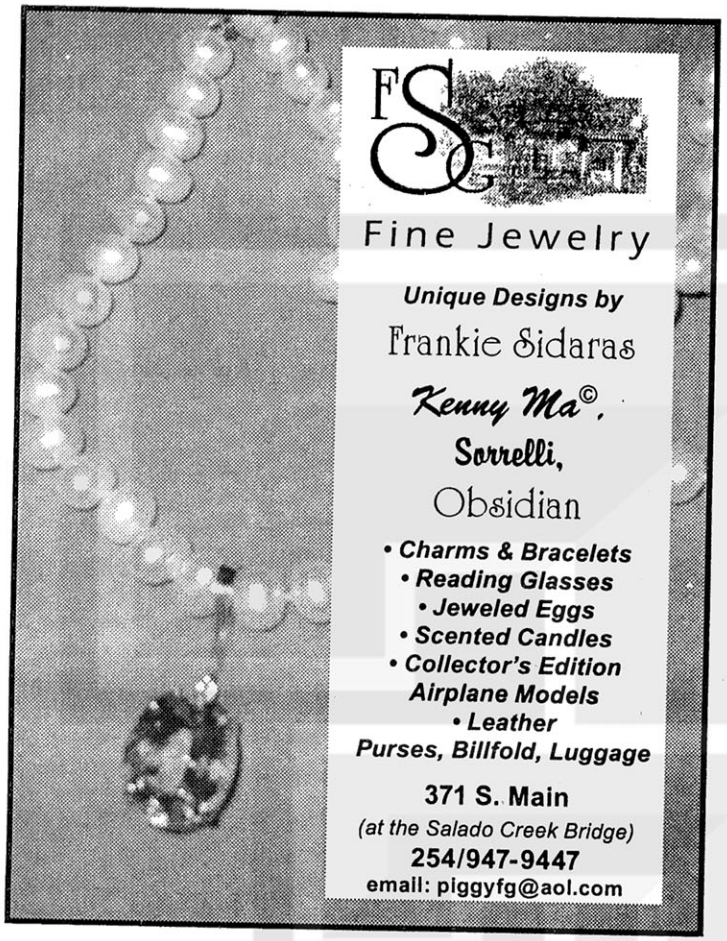

Village History

CONTINUED FROM Page 27

In 1867, the town of Salado was duly incorporated with Judge O. T. Tyler elected Mayor and today Salado might well have been another Austin or Dallas. But just as depression had spawned its early growth, the Panic of 1873 changed Salado's destiny. Lack of financing caused the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railroad to stop before it started.

When the railroad did finally come, it came no closer than Holland, about 10 miles to the east and Salado's shadows began to lengthen. Its population dropped from 900 in 1882 to 400 by 1914 and about 200 in the late 1960's.

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In the late 1880's, the College became Thomas Arnold High School, based on the British system of academics. It was organized and headed by Dr. Samuel J. Jones, a graduate of Vanderbilt University and formerly a member of the faculty of the University of Texas. Appropriately, the high school produced a Rhodes Scholar.

While in the Army, Mr. Dion Van Bibber and his wife Ruth, lived in Temple and would relax on the banks of Salado Creek on Sundays. They looked longingly at the sagging Shady Villa Inn and could visualize a tea room by the highway.

Ruth's banker advised her against investing in the ramshackle

See Salado's Story, Page 30

Salado Galleries

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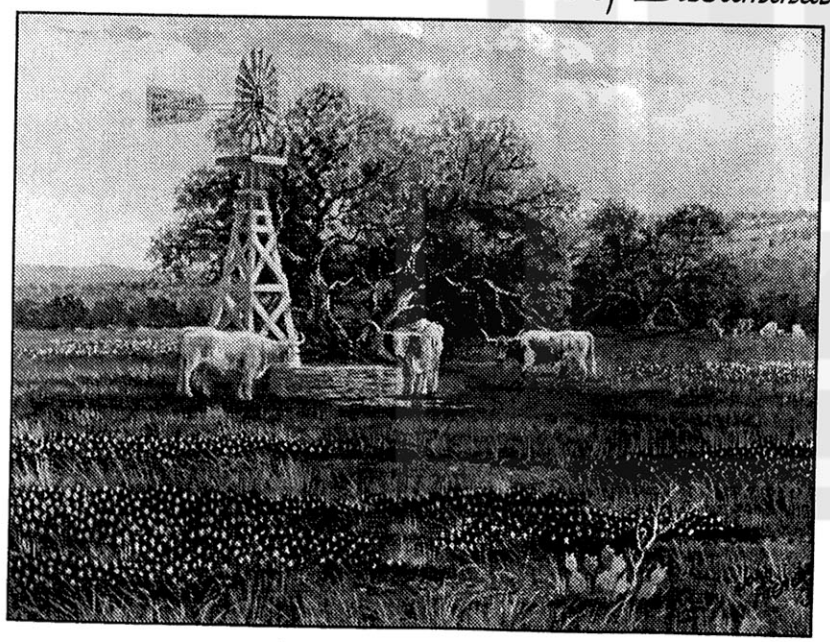

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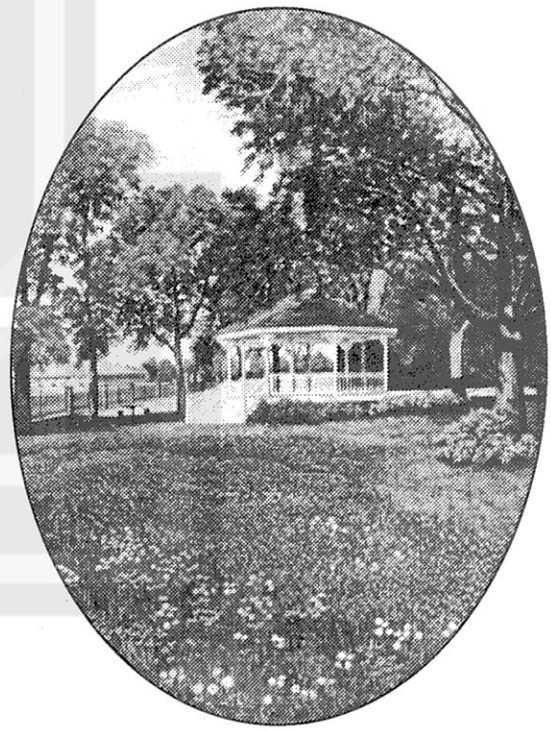

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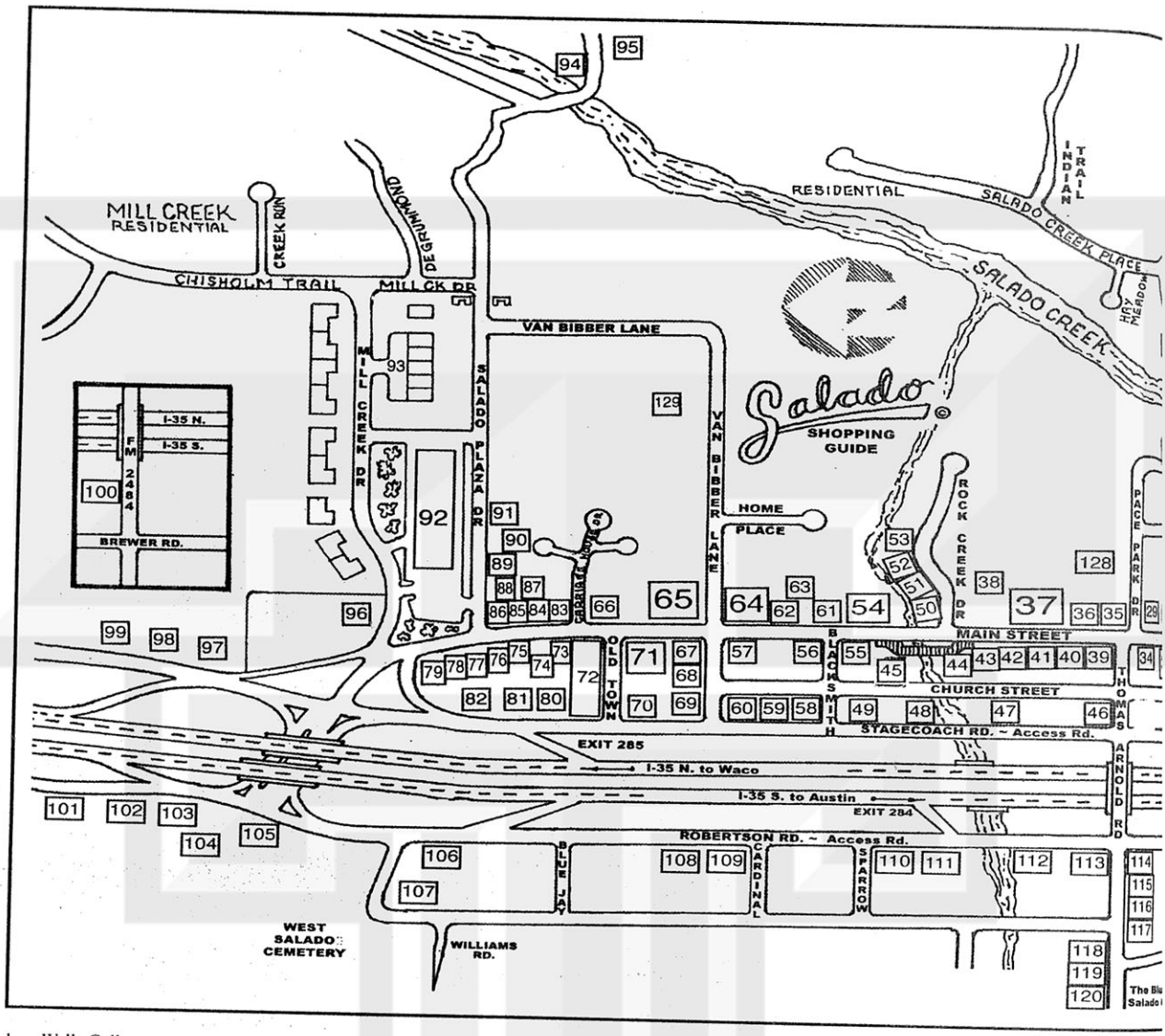

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16. The Baines House B&B 254/947-5260
18. Inn on the Creek B&B 254/947-5554
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26. **CREEKSIDE CENTER**
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56. The Village Steakhouse 254/947-3663
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60. The Village of Salado 254/947-5060
62. Thomas Kinkade at RMK Gallery 254/947-4400
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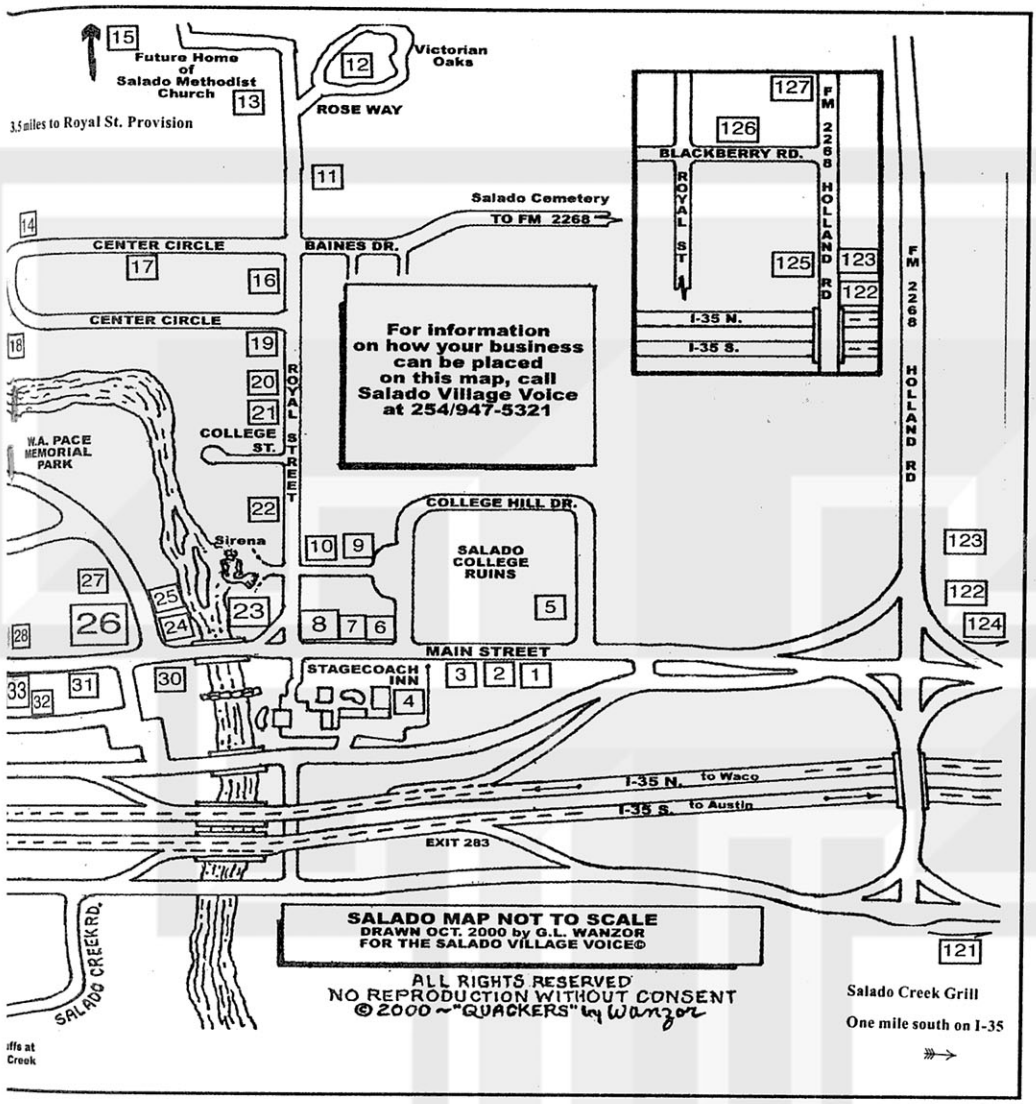
    - Historical Society



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Dermatology Associates	254/778-5400
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Janelle's	254/947-3584
Railroad & Pioneer Museum	254/298-5172
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Salado's Story

CONTINUED FROM Page 30

old building but she persisted. That was in 1943 and soon the idea of a tea room had expanded to a dining room and within two years the Stagecoach Inn was among the top 13 restaurants on the Duncan Hines and gourmet lists. The Stagecoach Inn has been named a favorite restaurant and historic inn by Texas Highways readers.

An underground river flows under Stagecoach Inn feeding the big spring on Salado Creek. The underground river flows beneath a cave which was designed by the military at Fort Hood as a bomb shelter during World War II. Popular legend says the cave was used by bandit Sam Bass, as a hideout and also by frontiersmen a protection for Indian raids. Other historians refute the claims, stating that the cave was discovered after the Civil War when digging wells.

As you stroll through Salado today, remember that Salado Creek was designated as Texas' first Natural Landmark by the Texas Historical Society. This award was given only to natural landmarks that are identified with the broad cultural, political, economic, military or social history of Texas. Salado Creek met all this criteria.

Salado Creek was also the site of the first suspension bridge built in Texas and you can still see signs of active commerce by the wagon wheel impression in certain areas along the creek bed. Remember, too, that there were many great cattle drives from 1866 to 1885 as Salado was situated on a feeder trail of the famous

See Tale of Salado, Page 37

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Salado College founded by leaders who wanted best for their children

The need of a high class school in Bell County had been felt for some time. In the fall of 1859, a tent meeting attended by prominent men from all over the county was held at the Salado Springs to discuss the matter. They succeeded in organizing the Salado College Joint Stock Company. Colonel Robertson donated 100 acres of land, including the two fine springs, the hill on the south side of the creek suitable for the college building, part of the wooded valley and some land north of the creek.

Stock in the company at $100 per share to the amount of $5,000 was soon subscribed.

Seven trustees, Col. Herman Aiken, John I. Blair, Dr. Carrol Kendrick, A.J. Dallas, Col. E.S.C. Robertson, W.D. Eastland, and G.W. Shanklin, were chosen by the stockholders. Colonel Robertson was made President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Board and gave the school a deed to the land dated October 16, 1859.

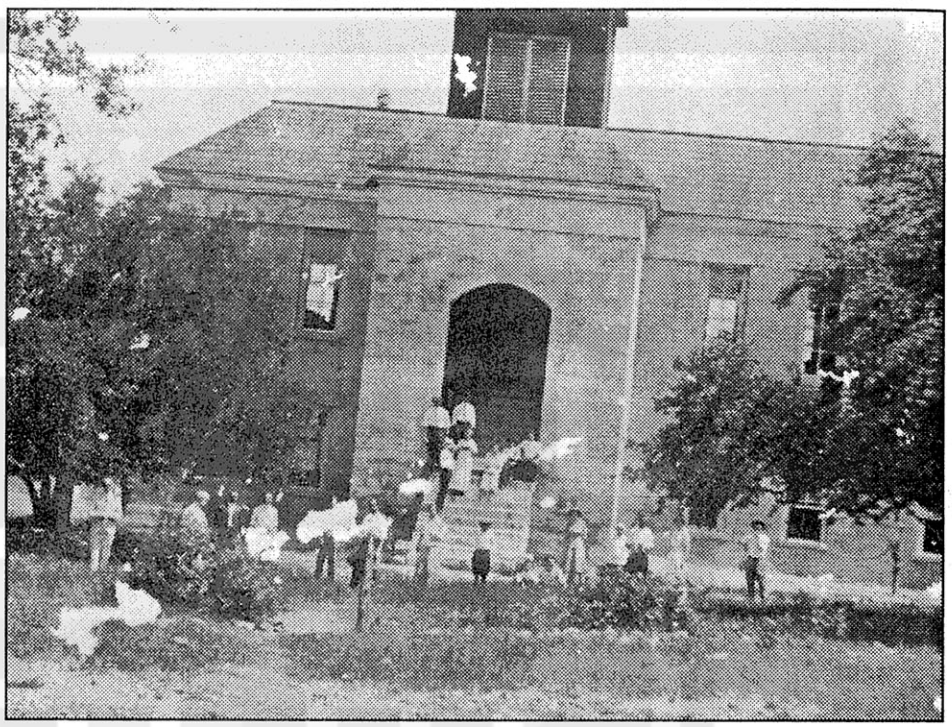
The land was soon surveyed and laid out in blocks, lots and streets. Revenue from the sale of lots was a great help to the colleges as families soon began moving to Salado.

At a November meeting, Dr. Kendrick offered several resolutions concerning the college which were adopted. The resolutions asked that the trustees apply to the legislature for an act incorporating Salado College; that a clause be inserted prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors, the keeping of billiard saloons or ten-pin alleys on the college land; and that the college be open to pupils of all religious denominations, but never become sectarian in its character.

On February 8, 1860, Salado College was incorporated by the Legislature for twenty years with full powers to maintain the institution, grant diplomas, confer degrees and perform other corporate functions.

A temporary wooden building was erected and school began February 20, 1860, with the Rev. Levi Tenney, a Presbyterian minister, as principal.

A severe winter has slowed down building both for the school and new residents, so many of the teachers lived in tents temporarily. Sixty students were enrolled the first term.



The bell tower and entrance to Salado College can be seen in this old photograph

Plans had already been made for a two-story stone building on the brow of the hill. On July 4, 1860, the cornerstone, the first in that part of Texas, was laid with a Masonic ceremony. Visitors came from as far away as Waco and Austin and hospitable Salado citizens served a barbecue. A great sale of lots occurred and many more families moved to Salado to educate their children. Attendance at the school gradually increased until there were over 300, including primary grades....

There were two interesting societies in old Salado College. They were literary societies organized for older students.

The Euphradian Society was promoted by Prof. J.L. Smith and Capt. A.J. Harries in 1866. Boys studied parliamentary law and improved in debate and public speaking by practice. Meetings were held weekly and officers changed monthly. Two leaders were appointed by the president who chose sides and all members took part in the debate. Speeches were limited to a few minutes.

The society made an impression upon the general tone and morale of the school as well as on the progress and development of the students. At each commencement, some able speaker was invited to address the assembled student body.

The other society, organized by the ladies, had Mrs. Kate Alma Orgain as historian and some accurate records were kept.

Mesdames Orgain and Lucius Davis, and Misses Letitia Barbee and Sallie Young, all college teachers, wished to form a reading club for the college young ladies and those of the town interested in such a club.

Their first meeting was held in the palatial home of Mrs. E.S.C. Robertson, Mrs. Orgain was the first president. They met weekly in some home and listened as a member read aloud from the selected author. A circulating library was formed, perhaps the first in Texas under ladies' supervision. A room at the college was soon assigned them where they kept their accumulating library.

One of the first books read was **David Copperfield** and a play by Dickens was given in 1876.

This society was called "The Amasovaurian." It was really a coined word, made by coining amo (Latin - I love) and savour

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Salado's Story

CONTINUED FROM Page 35

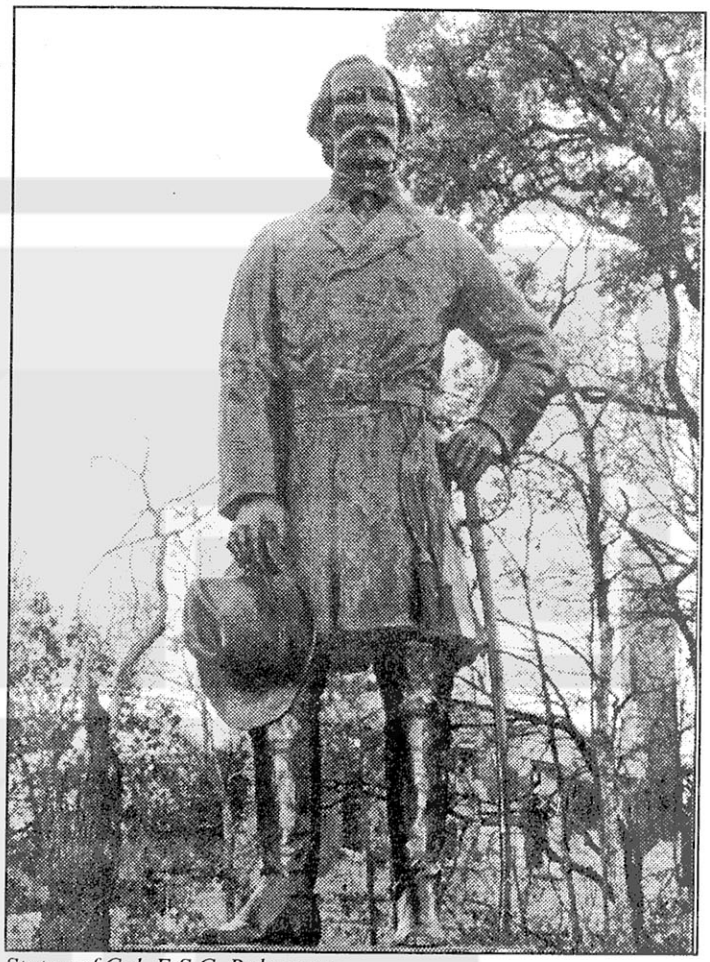
Chisholm Trail. At Salado, the giant herd came right through the heart of town and crossed the Salado Creek at the big boiling spring, just below the present highway bridge.

Salado was located in the center of the route of the Santa Fe Expedition and much traveled military road where soldiers marched and wagon trains hauled supplies to various forts throughout the state.

But with all the activities that took place in and around Salado, it was not in the cards for the little village to grow into a sprawling metropolis, even though it had all the prerequisites...eternal spring-fed Salado Creek, good farm land, an educational level far superior to its neighboring towns and hardworking, industrious townspeople. The fact remained, the railroads and industries passed by Salado.

It is ironic, but because Salado did not grow, it remained a small village until a revitalization beginning in the 1960's. As it continues to grow today, Saladoans want to keep the historic nature of the village. Today, the little Texas village is more attractive to travelers and big-city dwellers. Some say it is sad that Salado never reached great proportions as a major city, but the really sad thing is that all those people screaming past on IH-35 and in supersonic jets overhead cannot take the time to stop and enjoy Salado and its people. We think you'll be glad you did.

From "Salado" pamphlet 1972



Statue of Col. E.S.C. Robertson

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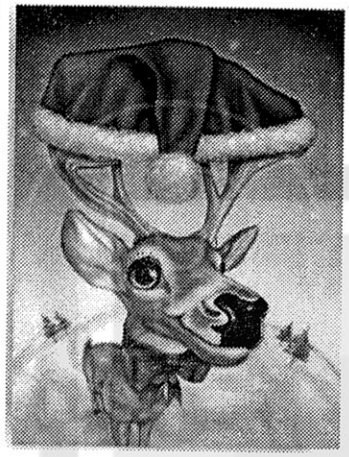

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Salado College

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 36

(French - to know) together, meaning "Love of Knowing."

This society is said by Mrs. Tyler to have accomplished much in elevating the standard of womanly refinement and literary culture both in the college and in the community.

The Salado College Band was a famous musical organization of the 70's. It played at the State Fair in Austin several times, for inaugural balls, at the Bell and Lampasas County fairs and on other occasions.

The first college bell was the regular old-fashioned hand affair, but in 1866 the citizens bought a real college bell for $200. It was hung in a scaffolding on the roof of the college building and had a rope hanging over the side roof and down the south wall to the ground.

For years, this bell also summoned town people to Sunday School, prayer meeting and all public gatherings held in the college chapel.

That first small college bell was later given to the new public school building. When the annex to the college was completed in 1871, a large imposing belfry was erected over the main south entrance and Dr. W.R. Alexander gave the college a new and larger bell.

In the first fire in 1901, the new bell was partially melted and fell and broke into fragments, many of which were collected for souvenirs, as were the metal keys of the piano.

For the new building, Maj. A.J. Rose donated a bell which withstood the fire of 1902, but not the one in 1924. There was no fire department in Salado and the citizens were helpless. They could not rebuild the college the last time it burned.

The expense of building the annex put the college in debt to the contractor who threatened foreclosure. Again Colonel Robertson saved the situation by buying the property in 1877 and Salado College continued as usual until his death in 1879. However, in 1880, the 20-year charter expired. In 1882, a new organization which bought from the Robertson heirs the seven acres of land on which the college building stood, was formed and the institution continued as Salado College until 1885.

From 1885 to 1890, the property was controlled by the board of trustees of the local public school and operated as a public free school.

Salado College had been like a magnet, drawing many of the best people of the state who desired to educate their children in a cultural and religious atmosphere.

Advanced subjects offered were elocution, philosophy, chemistry, political economy, mathematics, surveying, history, English, science and the classics. Latin and Greek were emphasized in the curriculum and art and music were taught by private teachers in the building.

The trustees announced that "Only the best teachers will be hired, and students will be prepared alike for advanced studies in the ancient and modern languages, mathematics, etc., and for the use of the humble primer, cutting off all necessity for going or sending abroad for thorough education."

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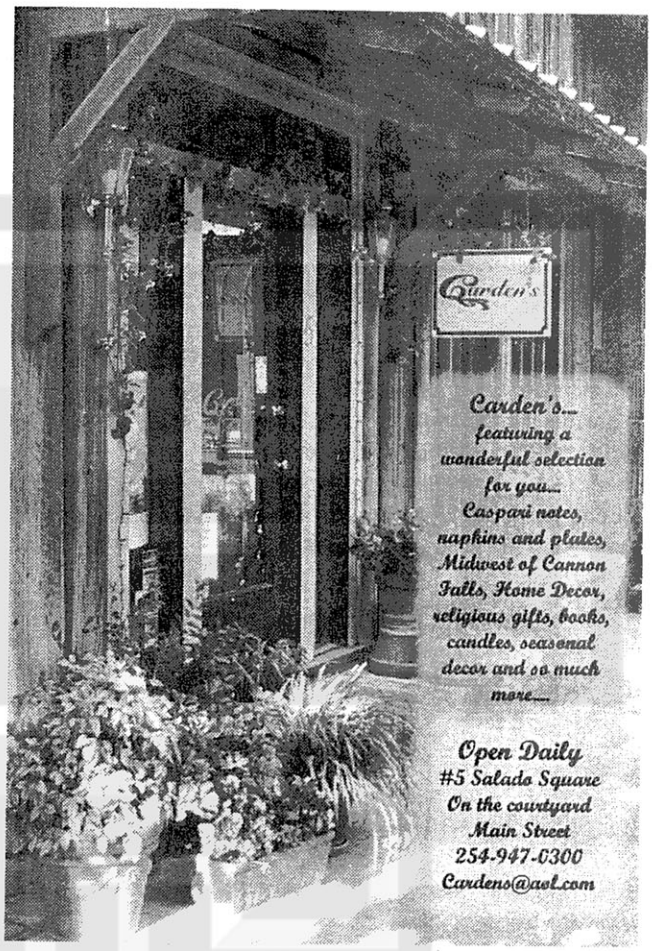

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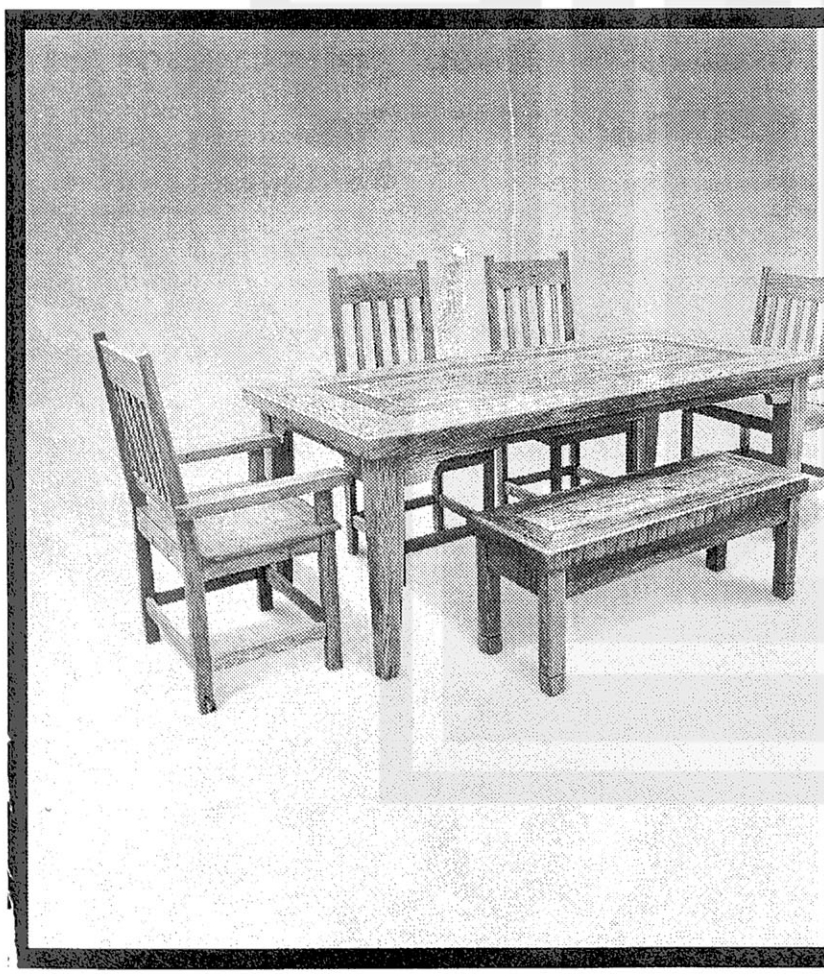

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42nd Gathering of Clans Nov. 9-11

An exciting line-up of special events will be available Nov. 9-11 in Salado for the 42nd annual Gathering of the Scottish Clans and Highland Games, one of the longest running Scottish festivals of North America.

Americans of Scottish descent have descended on Salado by the thousands every November since 1961 for a family weekend to hear bagpipers, see Highland dancers, compete in Highland athletic events and visit with their kilted kinsmen representing more than 50 Scottish clans.

This year the gathering will offer children's games, a storytelling contest, a bonny knees contest and a tug-of-war between Clan Gunn and Clan MacKay.

Nearly all the gathering activities will be at the Robertson Ranch, directly across I-35 from downtown Salado, where there is plenty of free parking. However, on Nov. 9, both the Ceilidh (kaylee) at 3 p.m., and the Tattoo at 7 p.m. will be on College Hill in Salado.

The weekend will begin 9 a.m. Nov. 9 with the John Ambrose, Jr. Memorial Scottish Scramble golf tournament at Mill Creek, followed at 10 a.m. with a day-long genealogy workshop in the Scots Clan Hall of the Central Texas Area Museum. A finger-tip supper is also planned in the Scots Clan Hall at 6 p.m.

The schedule Nov. 10 will begin 9 a.m. at the Robertson Ranch with individual Highland dancing, piping and drumming competition, Highland games and gathering of the clans. A Scottish storytelling contest will begin at 10 a.m. in the hospitality tent in the clan area, followed by the bonny knees contest, to be judged by Liz Carpenter and George Sutherland.

Following the official opening of the games at noon, clans Gunn and MacKay will battle in a tug-of-war on the athletic field. There will be a Scottish ceilidh (Gaelic for party) at 3 p.m. on College Hill with music by "America's Celt" Red McWilliams, the Texas Gaelic Choir and other dancers and pipers. The annual tattoo featuring all the bands in the pipe band competition will be held at 5:30 p.m. People are encouraged to bring a blanket or folding chairs for all events on College Hill.

The day will close with a Tartan Ball at 8 p.m. in the Longhorn Room of the Stagecoach Inn.

Activities Nov. 11 will begin at 9 a.m. with a church service and kirking of the tartans in the Longhorn Room at the Stagecoach, followed by athletic demonstrations, drumming contest and pipe band contest. A large group of pipe bands will compete in the band competition, including St. Thomas' Epsicopal School Pipes and Drums of Houston, the former world champion juvenile band and host band for the gathering.

For more information about any of the events or to order tickets in advance, contact Central Texas Area Museum, P.O. Box 36, Salado, TX, 76571, telephone (254) 947-5232.

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Guide to Dining in Salado

Ambrosia Tea Room- Located inside the Salado Haus Gift Shop on Main St., Ambrosia specializes in gourmet tea and sandwiches. In addition, Ambrosia offers fresh soups and salads in a setting featuring antique furnishings and memorabilia. Also serving choice desserts, along with tea-related gifts and books. Price range is reasonable. Hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues.-Sat. Phone: 947-3733.

Browning's Courtyard Cafe- Situated at number four, Salado Square, in the heart of Salado's shopping district, Browning's is comfortably secluded in a courtyard setting, and is neighbors with Salado mainstays such as Magnolia's and CIO. The atmosphere is casual, and the menu features deli-style sandwiches, fresh soups and salads, as well as homemade desserts and daily lunch specials. Price range is reasonable for a full meal. Hours: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sun.-Fri.; 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat. (note: Browning's stops serving 15 minutes before closing time). Phone: 947-8666.

Cowboys Bar-B-Q- In business for over 30 years, Cowboys is conveniently located on the service road off of South I-35. Good for lunch or dinner, Cowboys offers brisket, sausage, ribs, chicken, ham and turkey all prepared slowly over a mesquite fire. A wide-range of side dishes and desserts are also available. Family meal packages offered as well. Price range is reasonable. Hours: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon.-Sat. Now open on Sunday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Phone: 947-5700.

Inn on the Creek- A Salado tradition since 1987, the Inn on the Creek offers fine-dining by candlelight on Fri. and Sat. evenings in a historic Victorian home. Price of meal includes appetizer, soup/salad, main course and dessert, all homemade. One seating a night, beginning at 7:30 p.m., although most guests choose to arrive early for a drink on the large porches overlooking the rolling creek. The Inn on the Creek is known for its creative cuisine and elegant setting, and most recipes are house creations. Specialties include the cheesecake appetizers, black angus beef tenderloin, prime rib and even lobster, all served with a multitude of gourmet sides. Each menu is designed with a complimentary motif, but is set in advance, so call ahead. Accommodations can be made for special diets, such as vegetarians, if requested in advance. Dinner is served by reservation only. Group or corporate dinners can be arranged for weeknights. The Inn is also a popular setting for weddings and receptions, and has won many awards since opening more than 15 years ago. Atmosphere is dress/casual. Price is approximately $32 for the four-course meal. Phone: 947-5554. Website: www.inncreek.com

Johnny's Steaks & Bar-Be-Que- Also on Thomas Arnold Road, Johnny's has gained a reputation for its variety of tasty and well-priced specials, such as all-you-can-eat catfish, and mesquite grilled sirloin steak packages. Portions are large and prices are reasonable. Unpretentious, down-home Texas atmosphere with country music on the stereo and Southwestern decor throughout. Available for catering. Closed Sunday. Phone: 947-4663.

Le Beffroy Bed and Breakfast Inn and Belgian Restaurant- When owners Eric and Dominique Deprez opened Le Beffroy in December 2002, they wanted to create the first authentic European establishment operating in Salado. Le Beffroy mingles atmosphere and history along with Old World dishes, all in a comfortable dining atmosphere. Le Beffroy can also host weddings, business meetings and other engagements. Price range is moderate to moderate/expensive. Reservations are encouraged. Phone: 947-7177. E-mail: eric_deprez_dalne@hotmail.com.

Salado Creek Grill- Located just south of Salado on Interstate 35, Salado Creek Grill offers lunch and dinner specials, as well as free steak dinner drawings every Friday. To-go orders welcome. Hours: 6 a.m.-10 p.m. seven days a week. Phone: 947-5220.

The Salado Mansion- Built in 1857, the Tyler House is home to The Salado Mansion, a Tex-Mex restaurant perched on a hill overlooking Main Street. The Mansion has achieved popularity with visitors and locals alike with its traditional style southwestern foods, including their unique homemade salsa. The Mansion has a spacious covered outdoor patio, allowing diners the enjoyment of warm spring days with protection from the occasional rain shower. Portions are large, and the menu boasts diverse fare, from nachos and fajitas, to pot roast and grilled steaks. Atmosphere is casual and lively. The Mansion serves quick, inexpensive lunches Mon.-Fri., and has a full-service bar. Private rooms for parties. Handicapped accessible. Internet capabilities for business meetings, and also available for catering. Hours: 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sun.-Thurs.; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri.-Sat. Phone: 947-5157. Website: www.salado-mansion.com.

The Stagecoach Inn- An institution since the 1800s, whatever name it's gone by in its lengthy history, the Stagecoach Inn remains probably the most famous attraction in Salado. Its food has been ranked as some of the best in Texas, and its down-home selections and atmosphere have remained unchanged. Waitresses still recite the menu, and the hushpuppies are still cooked from scratch. Banana fritters close out meals with a Texas flavor. Serving lunch and dinner, with daily fresh-cooked specials. A recently completed upstairs bar opens at 4 p.m. Prices are reasonable to moderate. Hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. (lunch); 5 p.m.-9 p.m. (dinner). Open daily. Phone: 947-9400.

Subway/Big Olaf's- Fresh sandwiches, hot or cold. Bread baked daily. Bif Olaf's serves burgers, ice cream, shakes, malts and coffees. Located on Main St. Hours: 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Mon.-Sat.; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sun. Phone: 947-5593.

Uncommon Grounds Cafe- A new addition to the scene, Uncommon Grounds serves gourmet deli-style sandwiches, top-of-the-line coffees, homemade pastries, Blue Bell ice cream, and even tosses in weekly Italian specials. Owned by David Apichino and his wife, Cynthia, who is an award-winning chef, Uncommon Grounds offers reasonably priced, quality fare in a friendly relaxing environment. Conveniently located on Main St. Open for breakfast and lunch. Phone: 947-3354.

Village Steakhouse- Located at 302 N. Main St. in a quaint setting that was formerly a private residence, the Village Steakhouse opened as a restaurant serving what Texans tend to like most: steak and potatoes. Menu selections include 16 oz. ribeyes and sirloins, 8 oz. fillets, chicken fried steak, fried shrimp, 1/2 lb. hamburgers, catfish and vegetable dishes. Price range is reasonable, with outdoor patio and indoor dining. Also open for breakfast. Lunch hours: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Mon.-Sat., 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sun. Dinner hours: 4 p.m.-9 p.m. Mon.-Sun.

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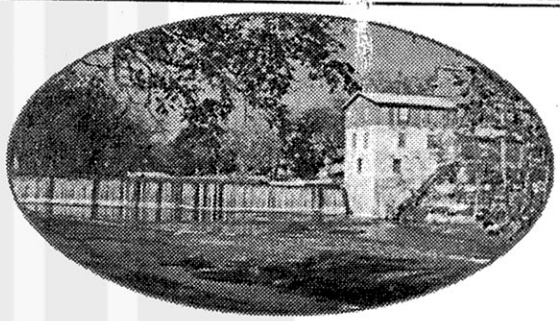

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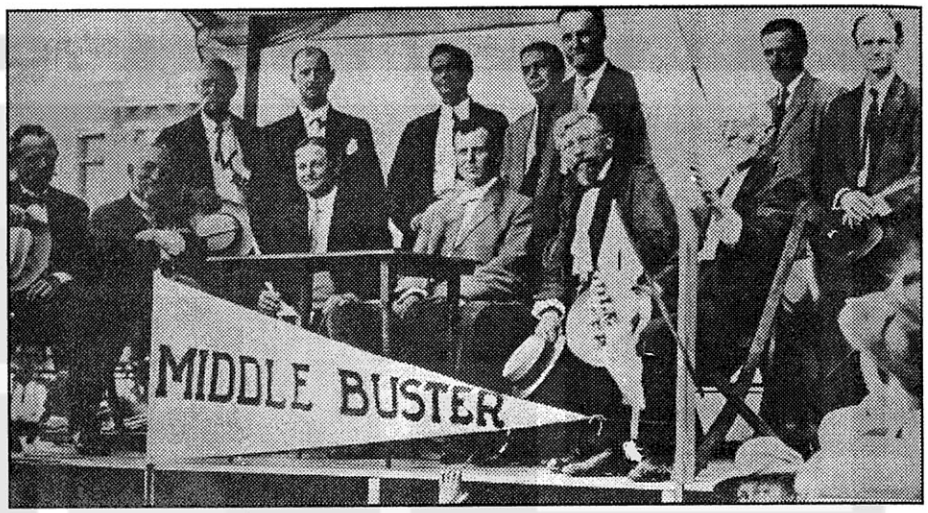
The little engine that couldn't

By Chris McGregor
Staff Writer



Cajoled by a cheering throng, Salado and Belton business leaders, along with railroad representatives, appear confident enough at a rally for the Middlebuster. Prominent Saladoan George Tyler is seated second from right, hat in in hand. (Photo courtesy of the Railroad and Heritage Museum, Temple)

Anyone with the good sense of a stump knows that war, in its fashion, has a peculiar way of disrupting even the most princely of aspirations. Take Salado for instance, and in particular, Salado around the outbreak of that historical melee, World War I.

The roses, to paraphrase the poet, were not fattening on the vine for the small community. The old Austin to Waco stageline, its heyday a thing of memory, had removed with it much of the traffic and esteem garnered some decades before. Gone were the cattle drives, the days when the great bovine herds fed, watered, and hooved their way down what is now Main Street on the trail to Abilene and the northern stockyards.

And that same path, the old military road, which had heard in its day the pounding of Union drums after the capitulation of Southern rebels, a presence that perturbed locals to the point of Judge George W. Tyler writing that "for a time there was no law but military law," was now itself in disuse.

Dignitaries no longer made pilgrimages to the Shady Villa, as Sam Houston once had, and the oft-romanticized college closed for good in 1885. The grand old building, the physical embodiment of what boastful Saladoan's pointed to when they dubbed their village the "Athens of Texas," had burned to the ground twice already, in 1901 and '02, and would flame-up again in the 20s, never to be rebuilt, the same skeleton the town was becoming.

In short, a shadow hung over the once lustrous pall of Salado. Times were bleak, and bleaker still, if future prospects be guaged. "Basically, the town leaders were scared to death Salado would die," said Fred Springer, long-time Salado resident and railroad authority-in-residence.

There seemed only one course of action, only one contrivance of gallant enough import, which of course, was to somehow finagle a railroad to come through Salado. Bartlett and Holland had one, and the Gulf Coast and Santa Fe literally put Temple on the map. By 1910, Temple was no longer derisively known as "Ratsville" but rather, enjoyed a bustling economy with a population exceeding 10,000.

Salado's was no more than a few hundred, and that brass ring Temple waved looked mighty tempting. It just so happened that little Salado had a big brother on its side, for Belton, the county seat, still bristled over losing its prominence amongst Central Texas towns, especially to Temple, and Belton's pockets ran much deeper than Salado's. And it was precisely that, the lure of big money, that enticed railroad investors to lay track.

Then came a gentleman of uncertain origins by the name of Col. L.E. Walker, and things got interesting. He was president of the proposed Quanah, Seymour, Dublin and Rockport Railway Company, and in him rested Salado's iron horse salvation. At the time, Rockport was tussling with its neighbors, Aransas Pass and Corpus Christi, for the designation of deep water port, which, if and when applied, would translate into oceans of money. The other three towns in the company name, Seymour, Quanah and Dublin, lay in opposing corners of the state, and this rail line intended on connecting all of them. In so doing, it would criss-cross the heart of Texas, hence its rather burly sobriquet, "Middlebuster."

So where does Salado enter the equation? Tyler writes in his definitive **History of Bell County** that the "charter did not call for the line to run through Belton but...Belton businessmen did not intend to be left off the line." The Belton Commercial Club, counting Tyler as one of its hard-charging members, invited Walker to come and meet with them, which he did, and shortly thereafter an agreement was established, one that, had it reached fruition, would have forever altered the development and history of Salado.

Walker agreed to not only bring the line through Belton, but to actually headquarter the company there, and build a hospital. All locals had to do was raise a paltry hundred

See Middlebuster...Page 56

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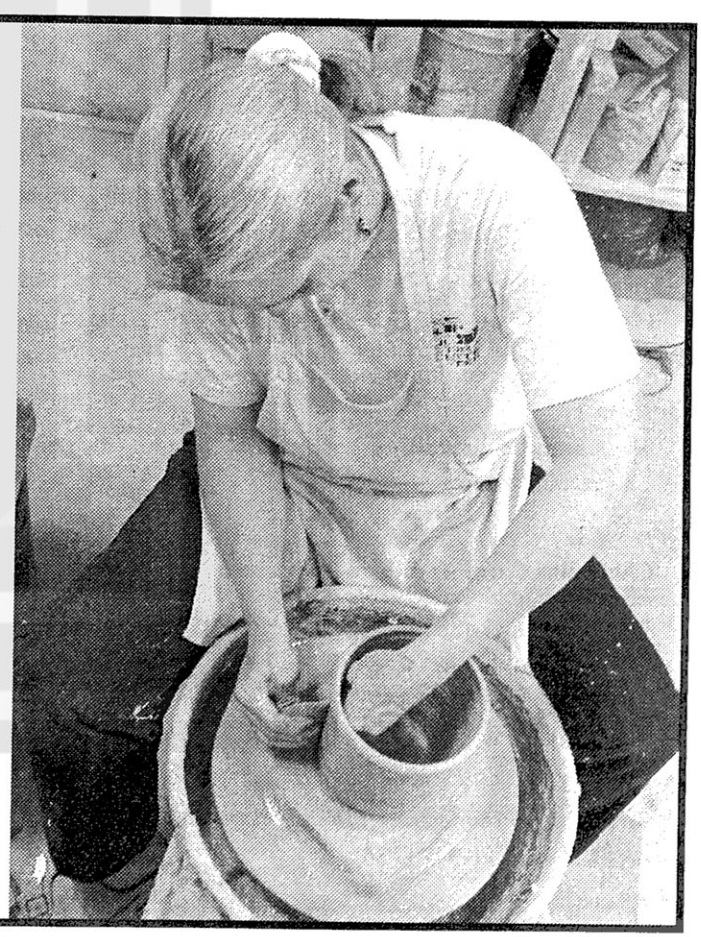

Village of Salado Calendar of Events

September 5

Salado Lions Club Lasagna Supper, preceding first home football game, 5:15-gametime at SIS.

September

St. Stephen Women's Society meeting. Program by Laura Snyder on religous education programs.

September 11

Central Texas Poetry Prose Reading 7 p.m. - Readings, 9 p.m. - Open mic.

September 13-14

Fright Trail Auditions 3 p.m. at Tablerock's backstage room.

September 15

Eleventh Annual Thomas Arnold Elem. PTO Golf Tournament, 1 p.m. at Mill Creek. Deadline for entry is Sept. 8. For info, call Kathlyn Smith at 947-8239.

September 20

Bell County Jamboree event, for specifics call 254-939-8560, or visit www.allcentex.com/jamboree.

September 20-21

Tablerock's Fantasy Faire & Shakespeare Festival $5 adults, $3 children

Sept. 20, 21, 27, 28

A Midsummer Night's Dream 8:15 p.m., $10 adults, $5 children.

September 22

PALS presents First Annual Salado Wine Tasting Festival 6 p.m. at Tenroc Ranch. For info call Fran Harris, 947-3429.

September 27

Chisholm Trail ABWA Style Show, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Celebration Center. 947-9000 for info.

October 2

6th Annual Storytelling Festival 1st through 4th grade, $1 per person. 10 a.m.

October 4-5

Christmas Carol Auditions 2 p.m.

October 10-11

Christmas in October, sponsored by the Salado Chamber of Commerce Ladies Auxiliary. Free admission, Salado Civic Center. Call 947-5040 for information.

October 10-12

First annual teddy bear making class and retreat at the Baines House. Call 947-8885.

October 11

Salado Education Foundation's Chisholm Trail Cattleman's Ball at Tenroc Ranch, benefitting Salado schools. Call 947-5479.

October 17-19

Second annual Titanic Texas Weekend: Gathering for anyone interested in the Titanic. For info: willingham@vvm.com, or www.encyclopedia-titanica.org.

Oct. 25, 31, Nov. 1

Fright Trail Nights at Tablerock 7-11 p.m., $5 adults, $3 children under 12.

November 22

Empty Bowl Project benefiting Salado Family Relief Fund, 1-6 p.m. at SIS auditorium. Call 947-5321 for info.

December 2

Mill Creek Community Association annual Christmas Party at Creekside Restaurant. Happy hour, 6-7 p.m., dinner 7 p.m. Call 947-3901 for info.

December 4

Christmas Parade

Dec. 5-7 & 12-14

Annual Christmas Stroll

December 5,6, 12, 13

Tablerock's *A Christmas Carol* 7 p.m., $5 adults and $3 children.

Salado Church Services

• Salado United Methodist Church; Thomas Arnold Rd. and Church St. Sunday services at 8, 9 and 11 a.m. 947-5482.

• First Baptist Church of Salado; Main St. at the Creek. Sunday services at 8:45 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday prayer service at 6:15 p.m. 947-5465 or www.fbcsalado.org.

• Salado Church of Christ; I-35 at Blacksmith Rd. Sunday services at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. 947-5421.

• St. Stephen Catholic Church; 601 FM 2268. Saturday mass given at 5:30 p.m., Sunday mass at 8 a.m. (Spanish), 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Wednesday mass at 6 p.m. 947-8037.

• Presbyterian Church of Salado; 105 Salado Plaza Dr. Sunday service held at 10 a.m. 947-8106 or www.presbsalado.org.

• Grace Baptist Church; two miles west of I-35 on FM 2484. Sunday service held at 11 a.m. Wednesday praise and prayer service at 7 p.m.

• St. Joseph's Episcopal Chapel; behind Fletcher's Book Store on Main St. Holy Eucharist given at 5 p.m. Sat., 9:30 a.m. Sunday and Tuesday. 939-1033.

Church service times may change seasonally.

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"The Sermon on the Mount"

August 3 (*Communion*) – **Matthew 4:12-17**
"The Kingdom of God is at hand!"

August 10 – Matthew 4:18-22
"Calling the disciples"

August 17 – Matthew 4:23-5:2
"The Sermon on the Mount"

August 24 – Matthew 5:3-12
"The Beatitudes: a new ethic for living"

August 31 (*Labor Day weekend*) – **Matthew 5:13-16**
"Salt and light discipleship"

September 7 (*Communion*) – **Matthew 5:17-20**
"Righteousness"

September 14 – Matthew 5:21-48
"Murder, lust, adultery, divorce, oaths, and revenge"

September 21 – Matthew 6:1-4
"Sacrificial living"

September 28 – Matthew 6:5-15
"Prayer"

October 5 (*World Communion Sunday*) – **Matthew 6:16-18**
"Fasting"

October 12 – Matthew 6:19-24
"Possessions"

October 19 – Matthew 6:25-34
"Anxiety"

October 26 (*Reformation Sunday*) – **Matthew 7:1-6**
"Judgment"

November 2 (*Communion*) – **Matthew 7:7-12**
"True relations"

November 9 – Matthew 7:13-23
"False relations"

November 16 – Matthew 7:24-29
"Conclusion: foolish and wise life builders"

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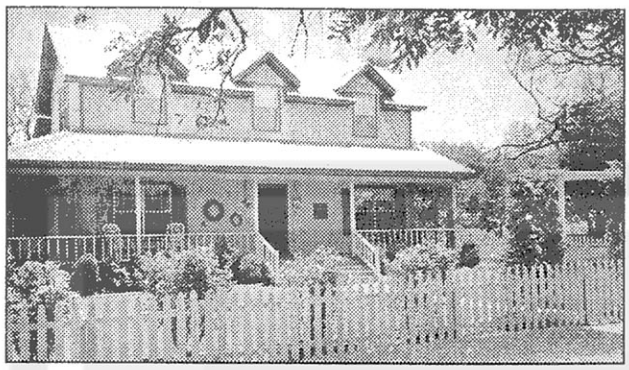

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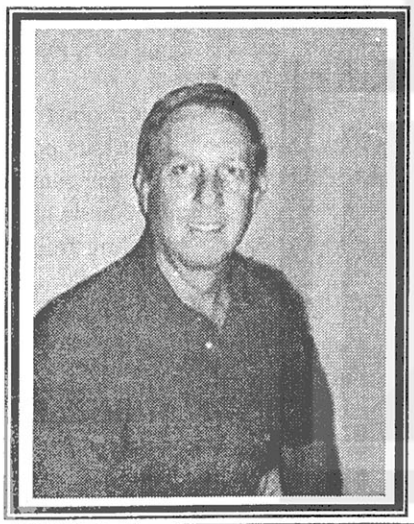

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Salado's Haunted History

By Chris McGregor
Staff Writer

Teetering between belief and disbelief, tales of hauntings and the undead tend to meet with skeptical ambivalence in modern times, the tug-of-war between the mind and the preternatural gut leaving most people somewhere in the blurry gray middle.

It was around the fall season when the pre-Christian Celts believed that on one day, November 1 (their New Year's Day), the veil between living and dead was temporarily parted, spurring anxious spirits to reclaim life in the body of some luckless villager. Not desiring this odious end, on New Year's Eve the villagers would do their best to drive the spirits away, using loud noises and donning menacing costumes.

It seemed to work for them, so the practice continued, although by the time Irish immigrants brought the holiday to America some 160 years ago, it was more a way for the urban poor to celebrate and blow off steam, not, as some might say, a ritual invoking demons and devils.

Through commercialism or otherwise, some lingering aspects of this ancient rite remain with us. Maybe some of us want to believe in ghosts, or have had an experience. Or perhaps these stories are a way to coax young children into saying their prayers at night. For whatever reason, Halloween gives us cause to indulge our fancies, to toil in the shadows for a night.

Strange things happen on Halloween. A creaking staircase is suddenly a spirit's solemn footsteps; a stiff breeze through a ruffled curtain becomes a departed soul's forlorn visage, vanishing plaintively to come again with the wind's next big push.

Salado, with its many historic homes, seems an ideal stomping ground for a restless ghost or two. Some of the old homes are now bed and breakfasts, while others have remained private residences. So, one would think, each home would have its share of hair-raising incidents. Well, yes and no.

Rob Petro, who along with wife Suzanne, is owner and proprietor of the Inn at Salado, says he's had many guests stay at the circa 1870's home who arrive with notions of visitations, almost willing something to happen. Several times, he says, guests have come to the morning breakfast table adamantly declaring they've heard footsteps during the night. The fact that the Inn's coffee maker stays on 24 hours a day, and when the water heats a distinctive thumping can be heard, resembling what could be mistaken as footsteps, tends not to dissuade them.

On another occasion, Petro says a couple swore to seeing a painted Indian riding on a horse down Main Street in the middle of the night. Petro made no mention of libations, but this is likely the first sighting of its kind in Salado.

In short, people believe what they want to believe. Petro, like most others in town, claims to never have experienced anything unusual himself.

Other homes follow along the same lines. Lynn and Suzi Epps, along with Sue Whistler, own the historic Inn on the Creek and have heard their share of tall-tales, but again, all are unsubstantiated. Same with the Twelve Oaks Mansion, the Levi Tenney House, built on an Indian camground, and the Barton House, home of The Range restaurant. Formerly, the Barton House was home of the Royal Emporium, owned by Robert and Doris Denman.

In their many years in the house, the Denman's, who don't attest to the paranormal, say that nothing truly strange took place there, other than the occasional bump or creak. But, as Robert says, "old houses make strange noises."

True enough, but all is not lost for ghost-chasers hunting the unexplained in Salado.

The Rose Mansion has an encyclopedia of sightings, many coming from guests with no knowledge of its reputation. The home was built by Major Archibald Rose in the 1870's, and was the residence of the Rose family for a hundred years. The wife of Major Rose, a woman named Sallie, is reputed to be the dominant presence. A second floor room in the Main House bears her name, and this is where most of the sightings occur.

In light of this, longtime innkeeper and hostess Kay Kelley places journals in the room for guests to report on whatever they happen to experience.

Interestingly enough, it is not Sallie, but rather, Beatrice, one of the Major's daughters, that is predominantly cited from an old family photograph, as being the spirit-in-residence.

In an entry dated June 9, 1994, a guest wrote, "We are here for the Schneider family reunion. We've had a lovely time here except Aunt Eunice saw a ghost." Apparently not a judgemental family, the entry went on to state, "we all like Aunt Eunice anyway."

Writing on August, 6, 1994, another guest listed her favorite things about the Rose Mansion: "rocking chairs on porches, the hammock, the dogs, the breakfast, and the ghost in Sallie's Room."

Kay also says the figure of a woman, robed in either a white or green gown has been seen in various points in the house. To her knowledge, no one has ever complained of being frightened in its presence, though. Guests have spoken afterwards of feeling a warm aura emanating from the presence, not at all threatening, but rather, maternal. Maybe the old girl makes her periodic apperances to ensure all's-well in the Rose home. Nothing sinister to it, according to Kelley, just a spirit stopping in for a few hello's.

So it is that the green fields of Gettysburg have their war-weary apparitions, not willing to trudge off the battlefield that covers their bones. Sleepy Hollow has its bloodthirsty Hessian, the Headless Horseman. And Salado, we have a demure Victorian gal with a habit of nosiness, and a handful of noisy old houses. Not exactly bone-chilling, but then again, it's all in good fun, and, afterall, things that go unseen can sometimes cast the longest shadow.

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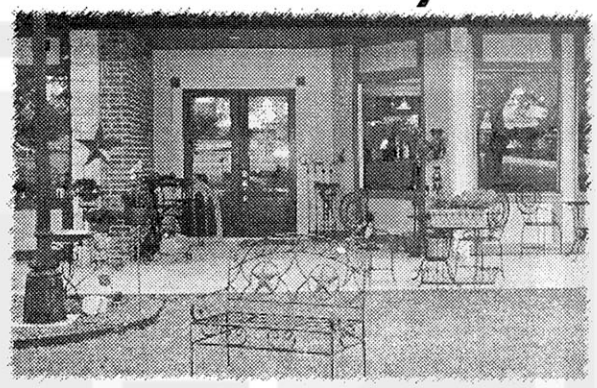

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Search for Gold in Stagecoach Cave

By Chris McGregor
Staff Writer

Rumors tend to hang around like old hound dogs in a place like Texas. Not long after invention, they can be seen to sprout limbs; growing arms, legs and a personality, and then assume to take on a life of their own. They age, too, from infancy to gray hair and walking sticks, through generations of whispers and prognostications, and they never seem to totally die out in that clever, inviolable slipperiness that immortal things have.

They come mostly from by-gone eras, from less-hurried folks with less-hurried lives. The best of them predate the automobile, telephone and light bulb: it seems you don't need electricity to run a rumor.

Gold, and rumors of it, have long been the Muse for those seeking riches. Back a few centuries ago, when the natives of what is now West Texas were confronted with Cabeza de Vaca and his conquistadors, they concocted the tale of the Seven Cities of Cibola, a fabled kingdom where even the streets themselves were said to be gilded in pure gold. Of course, no such paradise existed, the natives just wanted to be rid of their Spanish guests.

Call it a rumor of necessity. This fabrication, however, was not to be the last of its kind in Texas, as it resurfaced about 75 years ago in the Village of Salado.

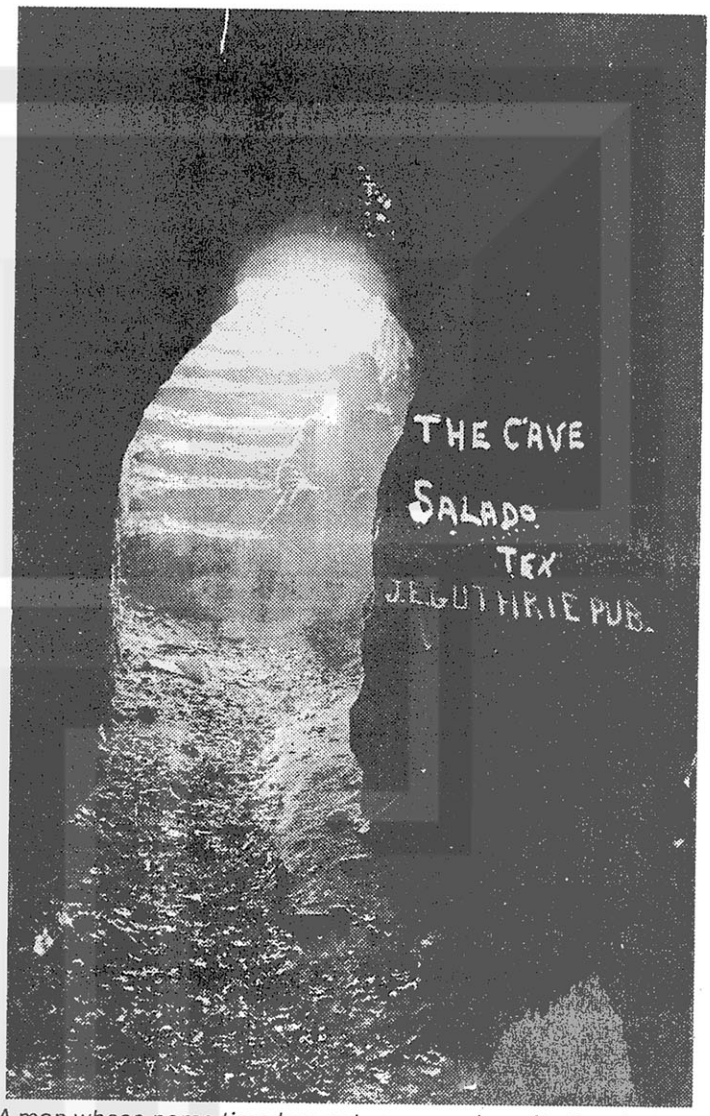
In part due to man's · l for gold and his willingness to scour the world and all i· four corners to find it, Salado has her own Cibola story.

Long associated with tales of hidden treasure and undiscovered mines, Salado, and especially the Creek, have seen myriads of tall-tales, and scores of men, prickly as cactus, combing its banks in search of a rumor. There's the one about Spanish gold at the headwaters of the Creek just south of town. There are rumors of buried treasure just east of town, and there's also talk about gold in the large cave near the Stagecoach Inn.

Closed now, in the 1930's the cave was something of a playground, according to Elaine Ory, who was born in Salado in 1927 and has spent much of her life here.

It had a large tree inside, with a trunk fit for climbing and limbs constructed purely for swinging. Entire families would spend afternoons there, and had been for some time. In those days, Elaine says, it was possible to drop an apple in the spring located in the cave, then rush hurriedly to where Sirena now stands and watch as the apple popped up out of nowhere. Because the Creek was spring-fed and very fresh, it was safe to eat the fruit afterwards. "It would be one cold apple though," Ory says.

Subsequently, through years of use and little maintenance, the cave was eventually reclaimed by nature. There came to be much overgrowth and litter in the cave, and the proprietor



A man whose name time has not preserved awaits the photographer's flash at the mouth of the Stagecoach cave, sometime in the early 20th century. Is he simply idling away an afternoon, or is he speculating on the whereabouts of outlaw gold?. For years, talk of treasure in Salado has been widely circulated, with the cave below the Stagecoach Inn as the bullseye. To this date, people still search, but no one has confessed to hitting the target. (Photo courtesy of the collection of Dr. Doug Willingham)

at that time (then known as the Shady Villa), lamented that it was no longer safe, and he couldn't allow visitors to enter it any longer.

This was a big blow to the townsfolk. But it was also the Great Depression, and people had very little money, especially for clearing out a cave. It was then that Elaine's grandfather, an enterprising man, struck upon a notion to rid the cave of its debris, without costing the town a dime.

"He knew that people were interested in treasure hunt-

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Stagecoach Cave From 54

ing," Ory explained. "So he went to Austin to speak with a lady he knew."

Elaine's grandfather asked the lady to write an inquiring letter to another man, whom Ory terms as a "man of means," concerning rumors of a cave containing gold in the Salado area. In the hopes the man would take an interest in the story, the letter was sent and the town waited for him to show up.

They wouldn't have to wait long. Some days later the gentleman arrived at the steps of the Shady Villa, not disclosing his purpose or the letter he had been sent.

"He, my grandfather, and the proprietor then went to sit together on the veranda at the Shady Villa to talk for awhile," Ory said.

What exactly the men discussed isn't known, but before nightfall an agreement was reached that the "man of means" would have permission to clear out the cave.

"Another good thing to happen is that the gentleman hired local boys to haul out the dirt in buckets," said Ory. "Times were tough then, so any work the boys could find during summer was welcome."

The excavation got underway the next day, with buckets upon buckets of debris being removed from the cave. The work was difficult and time-consuming, but the man remained optimistic.

"I suppose he really thought something was down there," Ory mused.

But no man's patience is infinite, and after a few more days of fruitless labor, the project was abandoned. Elaine suspects the boys who worked underground were a trifle spooked by the rumbling cars passing overhead on old highway 81.

She says she's not sure if anything was unearthed, other than trash or litter, but the cave was clean, and that was treasure enough for the kids in town.

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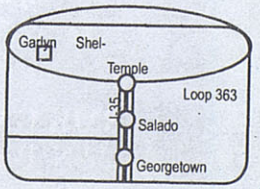


Salado Village Voice has had the longest lifespan

While the *Salado Village Voice* is not the first newspaper in Salado, it has had the longest life-span, since being founded in 1979.

When historian Dayton Kelley published the first edition of the *Salado Village Voice* on February 17, 1979, it was the first time in more than 100 years that the village had a newspaper.

The first newspaper known to be published in the village was the *Salado Newsletter*. Published by E.W. Billings, the first edition came out on August 25, 1874. Only one copy of the newspaper exists at the newspaper collection of the University of Texas at Austin.

The Grange published another newspaper, *The Texas Farmer* in Salado, but it was later moved to Dallas.

Reference to a third Salado newspaper has been found on a letterhead in the Rose Papers at the University of Texas at Austin. The *Salado Sentinel* was published by A.S. Hornbeck. No copies of the *Salado Sentinel* are known to exist today.

Salado Village Voice founder Dayton Kelley was a native of Bell County, a journalist and a historian. He taught journalism at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor for 12 years before accepting a position as Director of the Texas Collection at Baylor University in Waco. When plans were being made to erect the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame in Waco, Kelley was employed as director.

During his years at the helm of the *Salado Village Voice*, the newspaper emphasized the history of the village and the area. Kelley later founded the *Morgan's Point Mariner* and the *Bell County Independent.*

After Dayton passed away, his sons Dennis and Bill ran the *Salado Village Voice*, selling it to the Fleischer family in 1988.

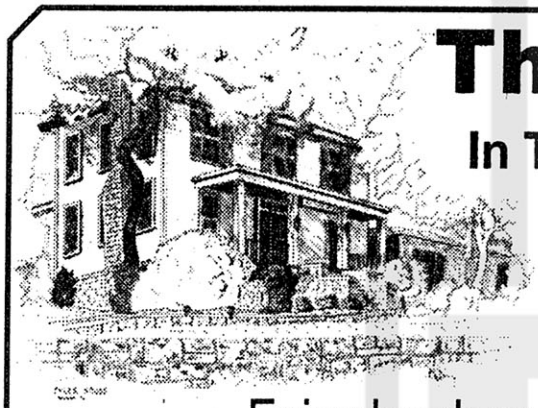
In the mid-80s, Salado had two newspapers. But, just like Dallas, San Antonio and Houston, Salado proved to be too small to support two competing newspapers. Ken Clapp, executive director to Gov. Dolph Briscoe, opened the *Salado Post-Dispatch* in the Vickrey-Berry house. The *Post-Dispatch*, though short-lived, is well-remembered by many in Salado.

Since the Fleischer family purchased the newspaper, a week has not passed that the newspaper has not published. Columnist Ken Clapp can also brag about not missing an issue of the newspaper since he began writing his political commentary "Off the Record" for the *Salado Village Voice* in 1988. Clapp has made the -30- deadline more than 700 times.

Tim and Marilyn Fleischer purchased the newspaper outright in the early 1990s. In 1992, the Fleischers purchased Centex Press from David Hoster. Centex Press is a web offset newspaper printing company in Belton with which the Salado Village Voice contracted for printing since its inception in 1979.

Salado Village Voice also publishes the seasonal **Salado: A Jewel in the Crown of Texas** magazine. "Our **Jewel** magazine is extremely popular with visitors, residents and passersby," Marilyn said. "It is distributed alongside our newspaper, as well as in the rooms of the Stagecoach Inn and many bed and breakfast inns. It is also utilized by the Chamber of Commerce and real estate companies as an information source."

The newspaper staff includes Tim and Marilyn, political writer Ken Clapp, composition Judy Shumate, writer Chris McGregor, and Schuyler Kuykendall, office assistant.



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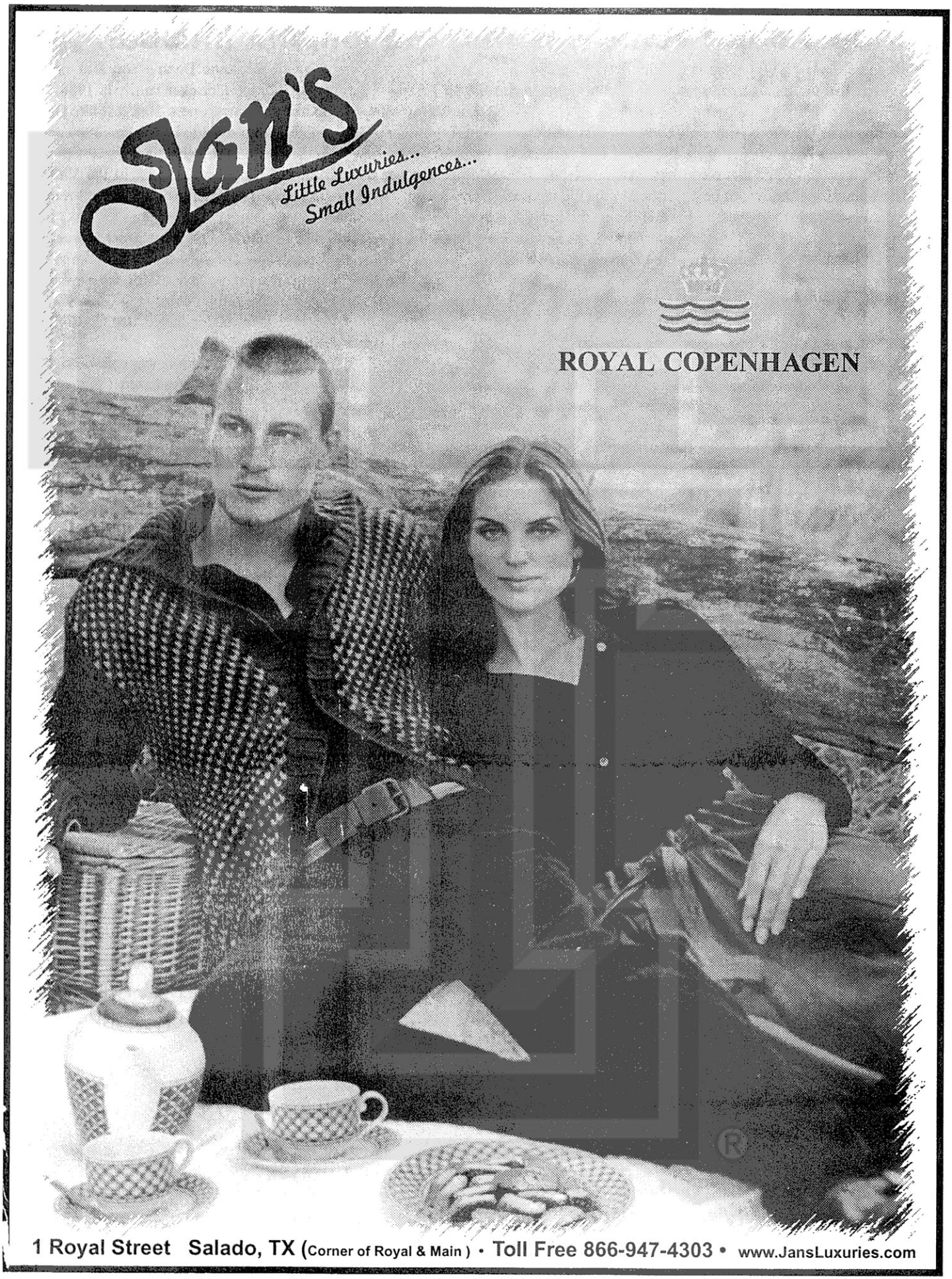
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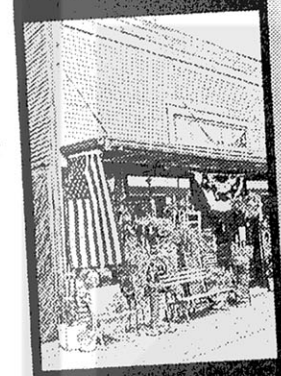

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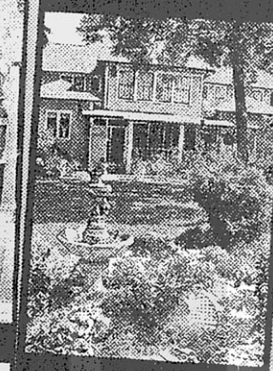

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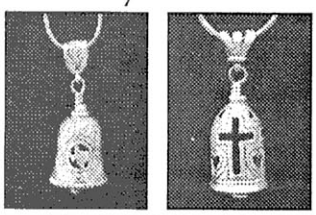

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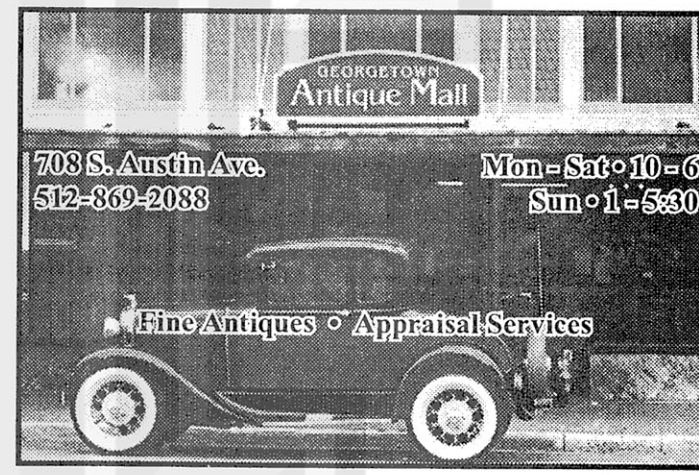

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SUBMITTER: Terry Ross Entrop

WHITE, Mrs. Mary Lou , died 1967, age 42
JACKSON, Robert, died 1967
JACKSON, Emma Lee, died 1965
POWERS, Hudson, 1876-1955
KNIGHT, Tina Mae, 1902-1963
ROBINSON, Mrs. Joe, 1868-1952
ROBERTSON, H., 1877-1969
LANKFORD, Robert, 1848-1883
LANKFORD, Roy, Inf., 1891
BURDITTE, Charlie, 1873-1941
POLLARD, Goeorge, -1966
WILSON, Indiana, 1869-1932
WILSON, Willie B., 1896-1919
WILSON, Robert, 1891-1918
BUSBY, Emerson, Texas Pvt. , 521 Engrs, 5-3-1943
THOMAS, Lillie, died 1965
WILKINSON, Mattie, 1851-1919
SMITH, Waidey B., husband of Emma SMITH, 1871-1896
BURDITTE, Lowell B., Texas Pvft, 29 (R)M Rgt WWII, 1918-1942
BURDITTE, Ruby Gladys, 1931-1948
BURDITTE, Mr. Gene, died 1966, age 75

#67

Graves Survey Summary

Cemetery: W. Salado, Bell Co.

Date:

Time:

Vol NO: I
Page No: 3
Cem No: 67

Survey Team Roster

1. R Sprott
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☐ Photos | ☐ Biographical file | ☐ Unit File.

Graves Survey Totals

Marked Confederate	0
Marked Union.	0
Able-Bodied Men	1
I.D. Confederate.	0
I.D. Union	0
Total Confederate	0
Total Union.	0
Non-Veteran.	1
Total Graves Surveyed.	1
Total Veterans	0
Bell Co. Companies	0

Confederate Graves Survey

☐ Confederate ☐ Able Bodied Cemetery: W. Salado. Bell Co

Name	Born	Died	'61	Type	Cond.	Unit — Remarks
Lankford, Robert L	1848	1883				

Marker Type: FS: Flat Stone. FM: Flat Metal. SS: Standing Stone. SM: Standing Metal. VA: Vet Adm. O: Other
Condition: G: Good. Weathered. B: Broken. L: Laid Down. I: Illegible