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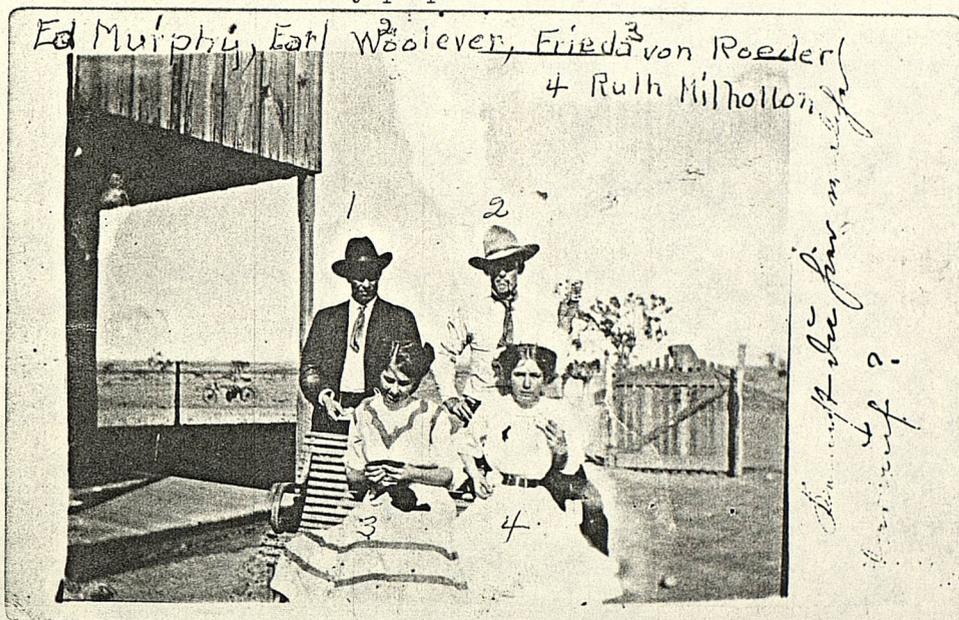
TALES OF LONG AGO

by Agnes von Roeder (Mrs. J. E.) Sorrells

At the request of a very treasured friend, I'm writing this for some of you that remember some of my good friends, these tales of long ago.

It's after 2 A. M. but if I don't write it down now it'll all be gone by the time I get up. So if anything I write upsets you, please blame it on the time of night, instead of my age.

There can't be many people around that remember the Milhollon family that used to live at



No. 1, Ed Murphy, No. 2, Earl Woolever,
No. 3, Frieda von Roeder, and No. 4, Ruth Milhollon

The writing on the side is written in German.

The Woolever family consisted of seven girls and three older brothers, Bud, Ernest and Earl. The girls were Mattie, Lizzie, Maude, Audrie, Pearl, Mabel and Winnie.

The Woolever girls, Milhollans, Ainsworths, Engles, Frieda and I, and a few others, had the name of "River Girls, being pretty tough", because we danced, rode horseback, etc. but we had fun!

Ruth Milhollon and Lizzie Woolever, I guess, were the biggest Tomboys, or "toughest". One day Sa, Milhollon was going on a cattle drive with some ranchers and a chuck wagon, to be gone for several days. He told his sisters to be sure not to bother the little white fillie he had in the lot, breaking for somebody, Irve would feed and attend to her. "She's a bad one", he said, "She'll kill you".

That, of course, was too great a challenge for Ruth and Lizzie. The next day, they decided to go swimming in Bull Creek's "Round Hole", so they came by for Frieda and me to go with them. I do not remember what Ruth was riding, but Lizzie was on the little white fillie. All went well till we got close to Bull Creek, when the little white fillie decided she didn't need Lizzie anymore; so she threw her off, pawed and jumped all over her, tearing her slip to shreds. (We just wore dresses to ride in, usually wide enough to cover our knees when we rode astride, "which was considered pretty rough", but not many of us were financially able to have or even borrow side saddles.) In about 1916 Mama helped me or probably did most, make a



Left to Right - Erna Ohlendorf, Nellie Smoot,
Garlan Ainsworth, Lizzie Woolever, Ruth Milhollon,
Iona Ainsworth, Liza Milhollon, Frieda von Roeder,
and Mattie Woolever.

The Arrow points to THE LITTLE WHITE FILLIE!!

the edge (or maybe about the middle) of where Lake J. B. Thomas is now. The oldest of the family that I knew was Sam, next to him was Irve, whom the men teased about being, "The Ugliest Man In West Texas". All I remember about Irve was what a beautiful melodic voice and rhythm he had for calling Square Dances! I hope when I get to dance in Heaven, he will be there to do the "Calling".

After Irve, there were Liza, who later married Tommy Engle, Ruth that married Martin Taylor and Angie who married Ed Hollar.

That whole family and the Woolevers (their closest neighbors), had the greatest Irish wit that anybody could ever wish for.

"riding habit" that I was very proud of. Wearing pants, (or slacks as they are called now) was really unladylike!

I did not see how the little white fillie kept from killing Lizzie, but she only had a few little scratches. When they had gotten her kind of quieted and the saddle back on straight, Lizzie got back on, and we went on to the Round Hole for our swim. Lizzie swimming in her torn slip and we in our under clothes. We did not have bathing suits.

When we got back to our house Lizzie hung her torn slip on our yard fence and told me not to tell anybody what had happened.

When Mama saw the slip, of course she asked about it. In tears I had to tell her. The secret did not go any further until Irve attended to the little white fillie - --even then, I don't think they told him much,



No. 1, Sam Milhollon, No. 2, Aaron Davis, and No. 3, Ed Murphy, with boxing gloves.

but he knew that Lizzie had been riding her ---- but everybody stayed HAPPY!!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Agnes von Roeder Sorrells wrote this article for our newsletter at the request of Edna Miller.

Agnes and her sister, Frieda von Roeder grew up speaking and



Agnes von Roeder and J. C. (Jim) Sorrells
This picture is signed, For Rosa Davis from Jim and Agnes. Rosa was the mother of Dorothy Browne.

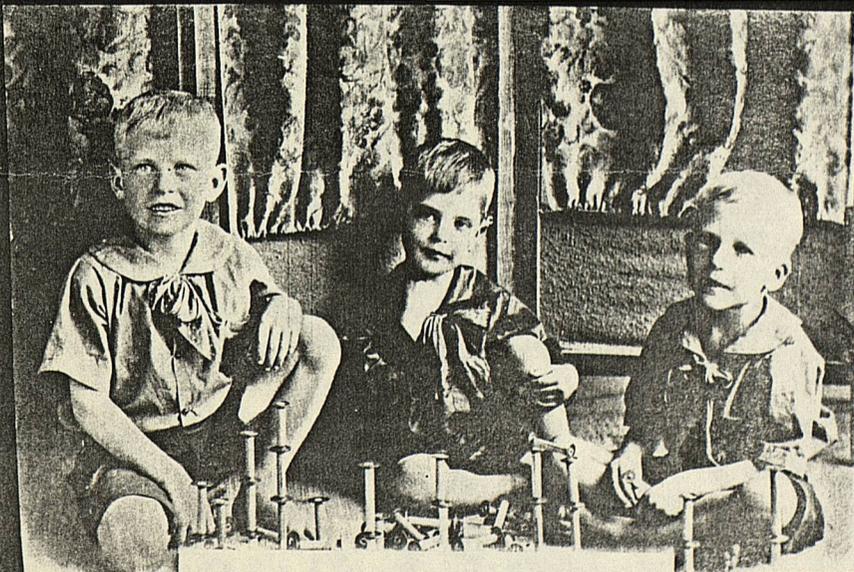


Mrs. C. J. (Nora Wiman) Smith and Frieda van Roeder Murphy

writing German. Frieda married Ed Murphy and their son, Brent still lives in Borden County, with his wife, Pat and son Michael. Their son, Ben, lives with his family in Snyder.

Agnes married J. E. (Jim) Sorrells and moved just over the County line into Scurry County, where she still lives.

We, the Editor of the Newsletter and the Historical Committee thank Agnes for this article, "Tales of Long Ago." Thanks.



LOYD, BRUCE AND GLEN ED MURPHY
Signed Greetings from the Murphys

ARLY 4,000 PEOPLE SEE LUB STOCK SHOW AT GAIL MONDAY

Steer, Exhibited by George Ledbetter, Sold for 21 Cents At Sale Following Show

Borden County's fourth annual Livestock Show was held at Gail, Texas, Monday night. The show was a success about midnight. A backdrop of people shaking hands until the 1943 show and a rousing cheer for the show's backers who staged an exposition that attracted 3,700 people from eight counties in this trade zone.

One high point of a show that had many exciting moments occurred Monday afternoon with the sale of the grand and reserve champion calves of the annual 4-H Club show.

A. C. Alexander of Snyder National Bank paid 21 cents per pound for the show's grand champion animal, an 850 pound steer exhibited by George Ledbetter. The 12-month-old animal was bred by Ed Murphy of Sonora.

Claude Hulbert of Lubbock paid 15 cents per pound for the reserve champion animal of the show, a 797 pound steer shown by Gerald Buchanan and bred by Wilson Brothers of Luther.

Results of the 4-H Club Livestock Show judging, as announced by County Agent B. J. Baskin of Dawson County and verified by Frank W. Medley, Borden County agent, follow:

Lightweight 4-H Club calves—Gerald Buchanan, first, also exhibitor of the reserve champion, first place winner with group of three calves and second and fifth in heavyweight calves; John Hays, second, fifth and sixth; Virginia Adams, third and Dale Burkett, seventh and eighth.

Heavyweight 4-H Club calves—George Ledbetter, first place winner of the show's grand champion animal; Buchanan, second; Virginia Adams, third; John Hays, fourth and sixth; George Ledbetter, fifth and seventh; Dale Burkett, eighth and ninth.

Lightweight 4-H Club calves—Gerald Buchanan, first place winner of the show's grand champion animal; Buchanan, second; Virginia Adams, third; John Hays, fourth and sixth; George Ledbetter, fifth and seventh; Dale Burkett, eighth and ninth.

attention from fans, and several incidents kept attendants breathless for brief moments.

Charley Miller, announced events, and these results, as verified by F. J. Cantrell and J. N. Long, timekeepers, and Jess Slaughter, rodeo director, follow:

World wide roping—100 yd. man field, former world's champion rodeo performer, first money of \$17.10 with the time of 16 seconds; Sonny Edwards, second money of \$11.40 with time of 16.1 seconds; and Charlie Creighton, third prize of \$4 with time of 17.3 seconds.

Borden County roping contest—Jess Slaughter Sr., first money of \$14.40 with time of 21 seconds; Weldon Miller, second prize of \$7.20 with time of 30.4 seconds; and Johnny Stovall, third money of \$3 with time of 35 seconds flat.

In the cutting horse contest, Frank Miller, riding Sand Bo, won first place money, W. C. Miller, riding Lady Fingers, second, and Coal Smith on Mohawk placed third.

Borden County 4-H Club roping contest—Slick Sheed, first money with time of 21.2 seconds; Weldon Miller, second with time of 27 seconds and Jess Slaughter Jr. third with time of 40 seconds.

In the amateur roping contest, which attracted the record number of 33 entries, E. P. Driver was first in 15 seconds flat, Homer Hart, second money winner with time of 18 seconds, and Ira Drum was third place money winner with time of 18.5 seconds.

As announcer for the livestock show, auctioneer and master of ceremonies for the all-day free entertainment program, W. W. Berzel turned in a good performance. Carnival attractions were found in conjunction with the festivities, and the Borden County 4-H Club girls sponsored booths vending soft drinks, hamburgers and confections.

Those who had a major part in making Borden County's fourth annual show the marked success it was included:

Frank W. Medley, county agent; Sheriff Sid Reeder; Jess Slaughter Sr., rodeo director; J. H. Beal Jr., assistant clerk; J. H. Beal Sr., L. E. Long and Allen Stephens, judges; F. J. Cantrell and J. N. York, timekeepers; E. T. Sealy, Olin Keen,

The Old Mesquites Ain't Out

We see some signs of returning spring —
The redbird's back and the sic' larks sing,
The ground's plowed up and the creeks
run clear.

The onions sprout and the rosebud's near;
And yet they's a point worth thinkin'
about —

We note that the old
mesquites ain't out!

The fancier trees are in full bloom
The grass is green and the willows bloom,
The colts kick up and the calves bend
down.

And spring's a-pear-ently come to town;
And yet they's a point worth thinkin'
about —

We note that the old
mesquites ain't out!

Well, it may be spring for all we know —
There ain't no ice and there ain't no
snow.

It looks like spring and it smells so, too

The calendar says it's plenty true —
And still they's a point worth thinkin'
about —

We note that the old
mesquites ain't out!

The Old Mesquites Ain't Out seems very appropriate at this time in Spring. One day is very warm and the next has the north wind blowing up a Norther.

On the left is a copy of a yellowed newspaper clipping brought in by Edna Miller. We started to try to type the writing but decided it was better to print the clipping and let you read it as best you can. It seems to tell of the 1942 Stockshow as the people were shaking hands until the 1943 show.

When Memorials are received to The Museum a card is immediately sent to the person or persons as requested by the person sending the Memorial. Send your Memorial gifts to Dorothy Browne, Box 23, Gail, Texas 79738. Your Memorial gifts will help with the expenses of the Museum. We hope to keep the Museum open several days a week this summer, same as last summer. We hope to have more people visit in 1987. Plan to come us this year and send a Memorial or gift.

ROY REEDER, 82, Died September 24, 1986. Roy was a lifelong resident of Borden County, having been born here, March 29, 1904. He was a member of the Borden County Historical Committee. Among his survivors are his wife, Azlee (Drum) Reeder, married November 16, 1933, also a member of the Historical Committee, a daughter, Barbara Preston of Snyder and a son, Weldon of Lovington, N.M.

LIDA MARLEY, 89, of Lamesa, Texas passed away in October, 1986. She lived in Borden County from 1937 to 1953. Among her survivors are six sons, J. T. of Globe, Arizona, A. R. of Calhan, Co., A. G. of Hobbs, N. M., Dan of Fresno, Ca., Ray of Franklin, Tenn, and two daughters, Crawford of Denton and Lola Swinney of Snyder.

ED RINEHART, 54, died in October in an Abilene hospital. He was a Borden County Commissioner at the time of his death and had been Commissioner for eight years. He was a veteran of the U. S. Navy, a member of the Borden County Cancer Society and a worked with the Livestock Assn. He is survived by his wife, Melba, three sons and his mother.

STELLA COOLEY, 59, passed away November 14, 1986. Stella married Weldon Cooley August 29, 1942 and moved to Borden County in 1952. Among her survivors are her husband of Borden County and five sons, Wayne of Rainier, Oregon, Joe and Gene of Borden County and Tommy and Teddy of Lamesa.

LENA MAY HOWELL, 81 died February 25, 1987 in Odessa. She married Dock Howell December 7, 1921 and they lived in Borden County several years. He passed away in 1985. She was buried in the Gail Cemetery. Among her survivors is Opal Smith of Gail, Texas.

JUANITA MAUDE HULL, 74, of Big Spring passed away February 22, 1987. She was born September 25, 1912 in Borden County. As she was growing up, she spent time on the "Roper Place" in Gail, and always enjoyed visiting Borden County. She married Floyd Hull on December 20, 1940. Among her survivors are her husband, Floyd, and one son, Buford of Big Spring, Texas.

MONROE COTTEN, died August 13, 1986 in Tooele, Utah. He was born in Borden County on May 16, 1908. He worked for the U.S. Government and helped to establish the first Baptist Church in Toole, Utah. Among his survivors are his wife, Mae, of Toole, two daughters of Utah and a cousin, Dorothy Browne of Gail, Texas.

BENNIE HUMPHRIES, passed away in December 1985 in Balmorhea, Texas. Among her survivors is her husband, Race, of Balmorhea.

ETHEL OWEN CRANFILL, of Dallas passed away there on March 14, 1986. Among her survivors are two daughters, Norine Cranfill and Patricia Ann Cook and one son, Britton E. Cranfill.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM

J. Schomer, neice of Eugene Smoot, made a donation in his memory.

Tin Type pictures of Malphy Moore Seigler, 1860-1949 and William Michael Seigler, 1853-1935 were donated to the Borden County Museum by Modene Baker. These pictures would have been reproduced in this BORDEN CITIZEN but we were unable to make good reproductions of them. Mr. and Mrs. Seigler purchased land in Borden County soon after the turn of the century and it remains in the ownership of their heirs to the present date. Donated 8-29-86.

A baby slip and some button-type bloomers have been loaned by the J. B. Cotten Family.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of W. M. "Uncle Bill" Stephens
by Mr. and Mrs. James Herring
Whitt, Texas

In Memory of Faye Everett
by Barbara and Rich Anderson

by Dorothy and Bert Dennis

In Memory of Dorothy Flo Roberts
by Billie Jane and Hilbert Rantz
Abernathy, Texas

by Bessie Orson Smith

By Billie Jane and Hilbert Rantz

In Memory of Borden Gray
by Mrs. Sid Reeder

In Memory of Faye and Dewey Everett
by Ira and Ruby Drum
Ft. Sumner, New Mexico

In Memory of P. C. "Pinck" Mitchell
by Dorothy Browne

In Memory of Bernice Whitmire
by Edna Miller

In Memory of Etta Dunbar
by Edna Miller

I REMEMBER WHEN COTTON PICKING WAS A FAMILY AFFAIR

by Leta Gray Lloyd

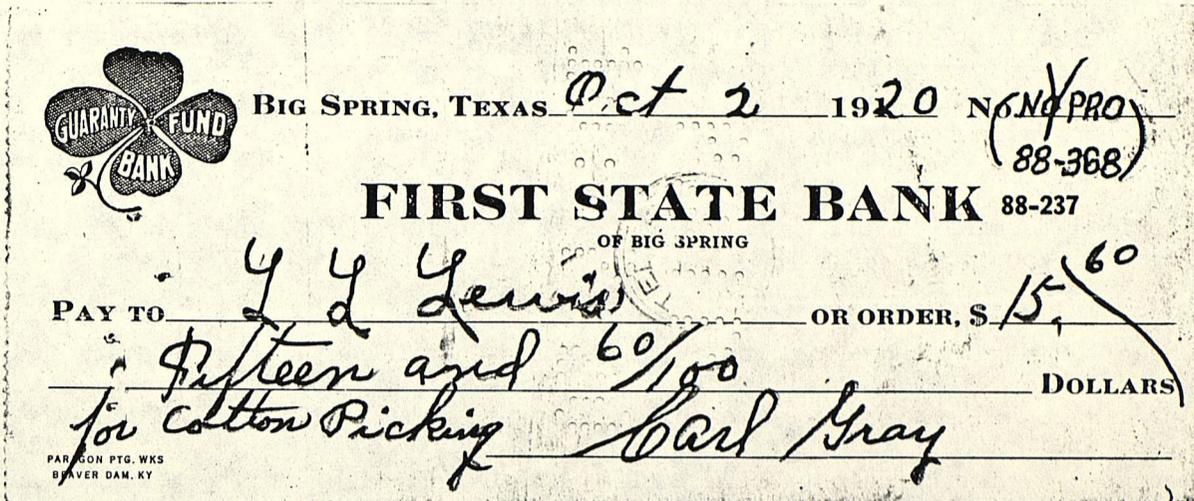
In my days as a cotton picker, farming was a vastly different business than it is now. My daddy, Carl Gray, thought it was great when he acquired his first two-row planter. He felt lucky if the weather cooperated, and harvesting was done and his land listed by the last of January. May was looked forward to, as the cotton could be planted and children were allowed to "shed their long-handles" and go barefoot. After the cotton was up, a slide, sometimes called a "go-devil" or a "wigggle-tail cultivator", was used to clear the weeds in the row.

Many children missed the first semester of school to help harvest the year's crop. In my family, Mother made the cotton sacks which took several days, using a Singer Treadle Sewing Machine that was purchased from Francis Abney about 1921 and which she still uses. Some of the men desired a longer sack than the ones to be had at a store. We labored through long, hot days when it seemed the big, fluffy white bolls opened as fast as we picked. The long, heavy-filled sacks we lugged behind us were pulled on bent backs to the scales near a wagon for weighing and emptying. The men were generally courteous and emptied the women's and children's sacks. If memory serves me right, it took about 1500 lbs. of picked cotton to make a ginned bale. Daddy would then haul it to Big Springs to be ginned. Often times the seeds were "caught" and carried home to be planted another year or to be used as winter feed for the cows. A trip to the gin meant we would have candy, apples, and sweet 'taters when he returned.

Not only did Mother make the sacks and pick cotton alongside Aunt Ora and others, but she and Grandma cooked hot meals for the mid-day meal, often taking the meal to the field packed in a washtub. There was never a time that chicken and dumplings, or fried chicken and cream gravy, red beans, baked sweet potatoes, cornbread, and thick teacakes made with butter tasted so good.

Picking cotton meant sore backs, sore shoulders where the pulling-strap rested, and some times sore dispositions!

I recall the fall of 1920 when Daddy had a bountiful-looking cotton crop. He came to Snyder and hired four young men, named Holly and Leverett Lewis, Clark Light, and a cousin of the Lewis boys, to pick cotton. The second day of work there came a hail storm that beat the cotton and leaves into the ground leaving only the stems sticking up like match sticks in a row.



Back in those days we picked cotton out of the open boll; in later years the whole boll was pulled, which was faster. Now modern-day cotton strippers gather enough cotton to produce a bale within an hour. Our family did well to pick a bale in a week, with maybe some help from the neighbor boys.

I recall our oldest son, Carl Ray Lloys, telling my husband several years back, that "a cotton farmer has to be almost be a scientist to be a modern-day farmer".



Van L. York and Betty Beaver, Co-Chairpersons of the Borden County Historical Committee. Picture taken at Reunion, 1986.

COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION APPOINTED

County Judge Van York, on behalf of the Commissioners' Court of Borden County, has announced the official appointment of members to the County Historical Committee.

The County Commission is the agency charged with the responsibility of surveying, marking and preserving the County's heritage, and is to be engaged in numerous activities and projects recommended by the Commissioners' Court and the Texas Historical Commission.

Mrs. Warren Beaver and Mr. Van York will be Co-chairmen of the group. Other members are Mrs. Dorothy Browne, Mrs. Marge Toombs, Mr. Larry Smith, Mr. C. C. Nunnally, Mrs. C. C. Nunnally, Mrs. Norman Sneed, Mr. Doug Isaacs, Mrs. Rube Smith, Mr. Bill Phinizy, Mrs. Bill Phinizy, Mr. Mike Toombs, Mr. Joel Dennis, Mrs. Edna Miller, Mr. Ralph Miller, Mr. Buster Taylor, Mrs. Borden Gray, Sr., Mr. Vivian Clark, Mrs. Vivian Clark, Mrs. Ruth Weathers, Mrs. Joe Gilmore, Mrs. Doris Rudd, Mrs. Bill Stephens, Mr. Aubrey Rogers, Mrs. Roy Reeder, Mrs. Oscar Telchik, Mrs. Frances Bennett, Mrs. Bert Dennis and Mrs. Irene Creighton.

The 64th Legislature amended the statute which authorizes the appointment of county historical commissions and in so doing, broadened the scope of activities and responsibilities of the group.

IN addition to the activities outlined in the statute, the county commission is to develop local history as a scholarly resource as well as a tourist attraction. Borden County has a unique heritage of which every citizen should be justly proud and all citizens are asked to support the goals and objectives of the county historical commission.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Copies from the February 11, 1987 issue of THE BORDEN STAR.)

FROM THE NEW CO-CHAIRPERSONS

The year 1991 will be another big year in the history of Borden County.

The Historical Commission plans to have another book relating to the history of Borden County for sale by that time. We plan to use the book, "THE FIRST ONE HUNDRED YEARS", that was compiled for the Bi-Centennial, as a base. There is so much of the history of our County that lies tucked away and covered by the cob-webs of many years, in the memory of many of you. Events and hap-

penings that will never be known to our younger generations unless they are shaken loose and put into articles for a book such as we are planning.

1991... Four Years... Seems like a long time? Not really!! Now is the time for you to begin sending letters and articles. Some of them will be used in THE BORDEN CITIZEN and in the new book as well.

The following is just a partial list of early Borden County families that we would like some information on: Coffee, Dodson, Spears, Hollar, Hale and Jolly, Spindle, Fritz, Snider, Christopher, Hart and Brown. We would like for you to tell us where your family came from, how they arrived in Borden County and where they settled. Fill in with stories of schools, friends, how Christmas was spent; anything that will help us to know more about the beginning of this great county. Remember that history is being made today, too, so be sure to tell about present generations, who they are and where they live.

We of the Historical Commission and THE BORDEN CITIZEN look forward to and will truly appreciate hearing from each of you.

LETTERS FROM THE PENS OF OUR READERS

Thank you so much for sending the paper to me. I really enjoy reading it. It does take me back in time. I never lived in Gail but visited several times with my cousin, Sybil Gilmore, who lives there. I think I am overdue with my payment. Thanks. Maurine Kelly, Coahoma, Texas.

Please find enclosed my subscription to THE BORDEN CITIZEN. I also want to tell you how I enjoy this paper. In the one I just received was the picture of the old store at Durham. I was born on the middle of the 4 section ranch - just six miles north of this store in 1907. We went there for our groceries and mail. IN 1970 you had on the front page of this paper a picture of the store and my father was standing in the front of it at the door. He was J. K. (Jake) Scoggin. He was County Commissioner for awhile of Borden County.... "Jake's Tank" was just a little ways from our house. I hear it is still there and not far from the big house that is still there and Mrs. York told me they were living in it now. I visited (when I was small with my mother and father) in this house. My son Earl and I visited Gail and the Museum in August 1970. I would like to go to the reunion (1986) but my health is not good, so I will just have to hear all about it. I have some pictures I would like to send to the Museum later, that I think they would like to have. (EDITOR'S NOTE: We would like to have the pictures.) Mrs. Maurine Elam, Wichita Falls, Texas.

A chance meeting with Mrs. Burl Belew of Fluvanna was like meeting an old friend. She knew as many of the people I knew when my family lived in Gail. My Dad was sent to Gail by the Methodist Conference in 1916 and we moved to Sweetwater, Texas, the last day of June, 1920. He died in Sept. 1947. My sister Lila died in Oct. 1949 and my mother died in June 1953. I was the baby of the family of Rev. S. B. Cox. I am 79 years of age and my writing is getting shaky and hard to read.. Mrs. Belew sent me three copies of THE BORDEN CITIZEN AND I'm still enjoying them. So glad about the Museum. My husband Norman "Punch" Weatherby is related to the Yorks. He and Joe York are first cousins. Joe's mother was a sister to my husband's father. Norman was 92 years of age on May 19th of this year. I wish I had known of your paper before this summer. Please enter my subscription and keep up the good work.

Please find enclosed a check for the paper. I lived in Borden County off and on from 1923 till 1939 when I moved to Balmorhea. I worked for R. M. Clayton and Johnson and A.M. Clayton and Johnson. I have been out here forty seven years. I would have come to the reunion but I was in the hospital. It's been hard on me to lose my wife but I am doing pretty good. Thank you for the paper. I'll close.
Race Humphries, Balmorhea, Texas.

Please send your family histories, your letters and articles. We need these to be able to publish the complete history of Borden County by 1991. Send your correspondence to Betty Beaver, Box 5, Gail, Texas 79738 or Van L. York, Box 157, Gail, Texas 79738.

Please send your money to renew your subscriptions to THE BORDEN CITIZEN to Dorothy Browne, Editor, Box 23, Gail, Texas 79738. The subscription price is \$3.00 and if you have not renewed lately, please do so now. Thank you.

Borden Citizen.

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