

Borden Citizen.

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Profiles/Jack Maguire

The Milk Man

Gail Borden, Jr., was the pioneer of modern food-processing.

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Though Gail Borden had many jobs—surveyor, newspaperman, inventor—he was usually broke.

His name was Gail Borden, Jr., and it is improbable that America shall see his like again. He had less than two years of schooling, yet the world honors him today for inventing condensed milk and perfecting the extraction and condensation of fresh fruit juices. By boiling beef and separating the "nutrutive portions" from the broth, then adding flour to the extract and baking it, he created a "meat biscuit" that required no refrigeration and was the forerunner of many of today's frozen foods. He was also the first to condense coffee.

Although lacking any formal education in mathematics and engineering, he became an expert surveyor and helped to plat the city of Houston. With no knowledge of journalism, he founded and published one of Texas's earliest and most important newspapers. On the side, he taught school, was a militia captain, served as collector of customs for the Republic of Texas, acted as Galveston city alderman, and was a friend and principal aide of Stephen F. Austin's. He was also in financial trouble most of his life.

Borden's name is a household word all over the world today because of the success of the last company he founded. The Borden Condensed Milk Co., with its headquarters in White Plains, New York, and its factory in Bastrop, Texas, went on to become the nation's largest producer and distributor of milk products. Today Borden, INC., is a conglomerate that produces a variety of foods and is involved in other businesses, and it owes its existence to its founder's success in finding a way to condense and preserve milk.

Borden was born November 9, 1801, in his parents' cabin in what then was an upstate New York wilderness. When the youngster was 13, the family moved to Kentucky. The next year his father decided to lay out a townsite, and he drafted young Gail to help survey it. They named the town Covington, today the second-largest city in the state.

After a couple of years in Kentucky, the senior Borden decided to move again, this time to Indiana. There Gail worked on the family farm, hunted and attended school for the first and only time. When he was 21, he left home to seek his fortune and went south to Amite County, Mississippi. There he taught school, was appointed county surveyor and, in 1828, took 16-year old Penelope Mercer as his bride.

In 1824, Gail's brother, Tom, had gone to Texas as one of Stephen F. Austin's colony of 300. Later his father and the rest of the family had joined him, and they urged Gail to move to Texas, too. He did, in 1829, receiving 4,428 acres as a land grant. Tom Borden, who was Austin's official surveyor took his brother on as his deputy, and this was the beginning of a career that was to earn Gail Borden a special niche in Texas history.

Trouble with Mexico was already brewing at this time, and in the fall of 1832 a convention was called at San Felipe to air the complaints of the settlers. Gail Borden was among the delegates who drafted resolutions asking the Mexican government to rescind an earlier decree

banning more Anglo settlers from Texas and that Texas be admitted to the Mexican confederation as a state separate from Coahuila. When these requests were denied, a second convention met in 1833, again with Borden as a delegate. This time, the Texans went ahead and wrote a new state constitution separating Coahuila and Texas, and Borden was one of the authors. This was the first of many constitutions Texas would have.

While Austin rushed off to Mexico City with the documents from the convention, he left the duties of running the settlement to Samuel M. Williams and Borden. It was while holding this post that Borden apparently decided that what Texas needed was a reputable newspaper. He also believed that such a publication would be profitable, and he was always looking for a good way to make money.

On October 10, 1835, the first issue of THE TELEGRAPH AND TEXAS REGISTER appeared as "the voice of the revolution." The paper continued publication for 40 years and printed the official copies of many treasured documents such as the Declaration of Independence from Mexico. It wasn't profitable, however, and Borden sold his interest in the paper two years after it was started.

Once Texas had revolted against Mexico and won, Sam Houston, in 1837, was installed as president of the new republic, and he appointed Borden collector of customs in Galveston. During that time, Borden also served as an agent for the Galveston City Co., the real estate syndicate that was developing that port. He also took the time to help survey and map the new town of Houston, which two brothers, John K. and A. C. Allen, dreamed of creating on Buffalo Bayou.

As busy as he was with affairs of state and surveying, however, Borden turned more and more to inventing. He dreamed of building a steamboat that didn't require a paddle wheel. After his wife died during a yellow fever epidemic, he tried to find a cure for that dreaded disease. For awhile, he practiced medicine, developing various panaceas for ills and working out elaborate diets to accompany them.

His first big-time invention, however, was his "terraqueous machine," a wagon equipped with a sail. The vehicle would travel on land or sea. Once in the water, the wheels worked as screws and were powered by the sail. The contraption worked on a couple of trials, but Borden abandoned it in favor of trying to invent new foods.

On one occasion he hosted a midnight supper at his Galveston home and served a menu consisting entirely of foods that he had condensed, extracted, or processed. One of Borden's biographers, Dr. Joe Frantz, in his book GAIL BORDEN: DAIRYMAN TO A NATION, reports that the host introduced his guests to the meal with these words: "There are articles on this table from which, if you knew what they were in their original condition, you would turn with loathing and horror. I have passed them, however, through certain processes by virtue of which they are delicious. Out of the offal of the kitchens and the streets, I have created..... a food for the poor which will cost almost nothing. I have transmuted even the dirt itself into delicacies."

After that explanation, few of the guests had any appetite. Their hunger totally disappeared, according to Dr. Frantz, when they discovered that the bread was made of finely ground bones and the bronze jelly was conducted from the horns and hooves of oxen. Even the custard was covered with a brown powder made of dried blood that had been burned to a crisp and pulverized.

Despite the reaction of his guests to this unappetizing feast, Borden continued his experiments with extracting and condensing food. Like most Texans, he knew that the Plains Indians had preserved buffalo, venison, and other meats by drying them as jerky. More sophisticated tribes pounded the dried meat into a powder and mixed it with pecan meal, fat, and sometimes berries. This rich nutritious mixture, when stuffed into the intestine of an animal, kept indefinitely.

Using the Indian concoction as a starting point, Borden developed his first commercially acceptable product, which he called "the meat biscuit." It was edible enough to cause the U. S. Army to place a trial order, and the product won a gold medal at a food exhibition in London. However, the Army decided against the meat biscuit as a regular ration, and it failed to catch on with consumers. Dejected and almost bankrupt, Borden gave up the idea of selling dried meat to the world and turned his attention to trying to condense milk.

His interest in trying to keep fresh milk for a long period began in 1851. Exactly what turned him in this direction isn't known. One story is that he placed a pan of milk on the stove one night to make a warm toddy before retiring. He forgot the milk and returned hours later to find that it had become a sticky white paste. He had accidentally made his first condensed milk.

The problem was that he had lost \$60,000 on his meat biscuit, and there were no funds to develop his new idea. Also, another inventor had patented a process for evaporating milk some years earlier, although he had never developed the idea beyond theory. Undaunted by these problems, Borden continued experimenting in his wife's kitchen, while trying to raise capital wherever he could.

During this period, Borden spent much of his time away from Galveston trying to get his patents approved in Washington and looking for financial support in New York. In 1858, during a chance meeting on a train bound for New York, Borden met Jeremiah Milbank, a successful

wholesale grocer and private banker. Milbank saw the commercial possibilities of Borden's idea and agreed to become a major investor.

Two years earlier, Borden had opened a small plant in Wolcottville, Connecticut, with capital furnished by another partner. By 1857, sales had reached a point where a second plant was opened at Burrville, five miles away. However, it was not until Norden met Milbank that the struggling New York Condensed Milk Co. had enough funds to buy the equipment it needed, to establish sources of raw milk, and to market the new product adequately. By 1861, a new factory had been built in Wassiac, New York, and Borden's condensed milk was on the market to stay. Within a year, Borden was producing more than 15,000 quarts a month. Within 12 months, he was producing that much in three days.

With his company now a success, Borden was ready to try his other ideas. In 1872, he was granted a patent for "Improvement in Concentrating and Preserving for use, Cider, and other Juices of Fruits." And long before the product was to be perfected by others, Borden hoped to produce a kind of instant coffee.

But Gail Borden was growing old. For a decade, he had been away from Texas most of the time, living in New York. In his adopted Texas, a county had been named for him. The county seat and principal town was named **GAIL**. Near the town, Borden had built a home, and he began returning to Texas to spend his winters there. It was in Texas, on January 11, 1874, that Gail Borden, Jr., died.

In August, 1984, I was on a Southwest Airlines airplane between Austin and Lubbock. I took their magazine from the back of the seat in front of me and I was surprised to find this article on **GAIL BORDEN**, written by Jack Maguire.

I truly was interested in the article and commend the **SOUTHWEST AIRLINES MAGAZINE** for printing articles about men of History. When I wrote the magazine they graciously gave me permission to print their article in **THE BORDEN CITIZEN** even though I dispute the part about Gail Borden building a home near Gail.

The State of Texas Historical Marker placed in front of the Borden County Courthouse reads:

BORDEN COUNTY
ORIGINALLY A PART OF BEXAR DISTRICT
CREATED ORGANIZED
AUGUST 21, 1876 MARCH 17, 1891
NAMED IN HONOR OF
GAIL BORDEN
1801-1874
PIONEER SURVEYOR, NEWSPAPER EDITOR, AND INVENTOR OF THE
PROCESS OF CONDENSING MILK
GAIL, COUNTY SEAT
Placed in 1936

I ask the readers of **THE BORDEN CITIZEN** to think about the stories you were told when you were a child and if you were told anything about Gail Borden living in Borden County, write and tell us.

DOCK HOWELL, 93, of Gail died February 8, 1985. Services were in the First Baptist Church in Gail with burial at the Gail Cemetery. He had lived in the Gail and O'Donnell area since 1902. Survivors include his wife, three sons and four daughters. One of the daughters is Opal Smith of Gail.

OLLIE STEWART, 76, passed away in Snyder in January, 1985. Survivors include two sisters, Mrs. Clara Drum of Faith, South Dakato and Mrs. James Beckham of Snyder and a brother, Norman "Slick" Sneed of Gail.

LEROY SUMMERS, 68, of Carlsbad, New Mex. died November 1, 1984. He had lived and worked on ranches in Borden County and always stopped by to visit when in Gail. He stopped by in October and had breakfast at the cafe and then visited in the Courthouse. His Grandfather, Grandpa Smoot, laid the stone for the OLD JAIL here. He also gave dances at the old barn that burned recently.

WILLIAM J. HESTER, of El Paso died four days later. He was another Grandson of John Henry "Grandpa" Smoot.

EARL CARY, 82, of Snyder passed away in November, 1984. Cary, a native of Gail, was a retired grocer and apartment house owner in Snyder. Survivors include two daughters, a son, two sisters and two brothers.

The Milk Man

I found the article on Gail Borden, Jr., ["The Milk Man"] in the August issue very interesting. I agree with most of the information in the piece, but I do dispute some of it. The people who now live in Borden County have never been aware of any home that Borden built near here. We believe that he lived long enough to know a county was named for him, and he may have made a trip to see the land, but he did not build a home near here.

As a member of the Historical Committee of Borden County and editor of our historical newspaper, the *Borden Citizen*, I commend you on the article.

Dorothy Browne
County & District Clerk, Borden
County
Gail, Texas ▲

Southwest Airlines Magazine welcomes letters to the editor. Subject matter should deal exclusively with material published in the magazine, and we reserve the right to edit for space and content. Mail should be addressed to Southwest Airlines Magazine, 11911 Radium, San Antonio, Texas 78216-2790.

JERRY B. CLAYTON, 83, died July 9, 1984 in a Lubbock hospital. Mr. Clayton first came to Borden County at the age of 12 to live on the ranch R. M. Clayton and W. D. Johnson had acquired. He worked as a cowboy and ranchman all his life. In 1945, Clayton bought the original portion of the Clayton-Johnson Ranch, which is still owned by his two daughters, Jere Hubbard of Midland and Barbara Anderson of Gail. He is also survived by his wife, Daisy and six grandchildren.

PEARL CATHEY KEEN, 91, of Snyder passed away January 8, 1984 at her home in Snyder. Mrs. Keen was a former postmaster at the Gail Postoffice. Burial was in Gail Cemetery.

RUTH TAYLOR, of Hico, formerly of Gail died January 7, 1984. She was preceded in death by her husband, Martin Taylor in March of 1982. The couple were married in Gail on December 4, 1913. Mrs. Taylor is survived by two daughters, Doris Rudd of Gail and Darlene Keeter of Hico.

VERNON CREIGHTON, 76, of Borden County died January 28, 1984 in the Lamesa Hospital. Mr. Creighton was born in Borden County in 1907. He and Mrs. Creighton lived most of their married lives in Borden County. Survivors include his wife, four daughters, Verna Fay Ogden, Jean Taylor and Peggy Westbrook, all of Gail, June Durham of Lubbock and a son, J. O. "Bo" of Paris.

NORVAL GRANT CUNNINGHAM, passed away April 23, 1984. in a Lubbock hospital. Mr. Cunningham moved to Borden County with his family in 1952, where he worked for the Muleshoe Ranch. Among his survivors are his wife, Christene, a daughter, Wanda Smith of Gail and two sons, Kenneth of Devol, Okla. and Ricky of Ranger.

PRESTON SHARP, 94, of Gail, died April 27, 1984 at Snyder Memorial Hospital. Mr. Sharp moved to Borden County in 1943. Among his survivors is a son, Sidney C. (Buddy) Sharp of Gail.

PATSY FEE, 55, died in Colorado City on August 26, 1984. She was born in Fluvanna. She is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Jones of Fluvanna and one son, James H. Aaron, III, also of Fluvanna.

J. W. GRAY, 54, died August 27, 1984 at Lake J. B. Thomas. His wife, Mary Ruth Bryant Gray, granddaughter of John Gilmer Davis, survives him. Also one son and three daughters.

TATIA COLVIN, 18, of Big Spring passed away September 17, 1984 in Lubbock, Texas. She is survived by her mother and father, a brother and sister. She is also survived by her grandparents, Joe and Sybil Gilmore. Joe and Sybil have worked many hours for the Borden County Museum and Historial Committee.

JOHN JOHNSON, 87, of Crosbyton was buried in Gail Cemetery on February 8, 1984. He was born in Jacksboro and moved to Gail in 1897. He married Flossie Everett on Dec. 29, 1922. Survivors include his wife, 2 daughter, Margaret Thompson of Crosbyton and Bill Rantz of Abernathy and one son, Dan "Toby" Johnson of Dumas.

W. P. "Park" HAMILTON, 69, was buried in Snyder on August 17th, 1984. Mr. Hamilton was born in Borden County and lived all his life in Borden and Scurry Counties. Survivors include his wife, Elnora of Snyder, four sons, Lee of Snyder, Gary of Monahans, Douglas of Odessa and Joe Howard of Dublin, a daughter, Sherry Howard of Dallas, a brother, Hoy of Snyder.

MRS CARL GRAY CELEBRATES 90th BIRTHDAY

Mrs. Carl Gray celebrated her 90th birthday on Easter Sunday, April 22, at her home in Snyder. A reception was given by her daughters, Lorena Cole and Leta Lloyd. Nellie Gray, who is affectionally called "Cahatchie" was born April 22, 1894 in Indian Territory, Oklahoma. Her parents were E. A. and G. W. Smoot. She was the oldest daughter of a family of eight children. A sister, Louie May Smith lives in Lubbock, Texas.

Mrs. Gray, along with her family, moved to Scurry County when she was twelve years old. She and Carl Gray were married December 24, 1911, by Rev. S. C. Shipley sitting in a buggy on the prairie near Vincent. They farmed and ranched in Borden County. She and her sister-in-law, Ora Gray reminisce about pulling cows out of the bog and of driving cattle two miles to a well and hand drawing water for them during the drought of 1917. She recalls her father hauling a bunch of chickens to Big Spring for her one time, which sold for \$49.50, and of taking 50 cents more out of his pocket and gave her saying, "Here, daughter, I want you to have \$50.00 for those chickens. It was about 1927 when Mr. and Mrs. Gray purchased their first registered cattle. Through the years many young calves were sold to young people as 4-H and F F A projects. It was in 1933 that they left the "ol stomping grounds" and moves to Scurry County to put down roots. It was there that the registered cattle occupied their main interest until retirement. Mr. Gray passed away May 14, 1972.

Mrs. Gray remains active caring for her home, flowers and a garden. Many friends and relatives registered and helped her celebrate the very important occasion.

Everyone has a story to tell. Write yours. Send it to us. We will be glad to receive it and will be glad to use it. Sometimes we have to edit them just a bit but we want to hear what you remember about your life in Borden County. Make it a paragraph in a letter or write a full article and send it along to P. O. Box 23, Gail, Texas 79738.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SMOOT FAMILY

AND ALSO HOW I love GAIL.

by Jean Schome

The first William Smute was born in Scotland or England, was of Dutch origin, and in 1633 was in London where he was a member of the Boatwright Guild, and agreed to perform 50 days of work in Virginia for Colonel Thomas Burbage. He sailed from England and settled at Hampton, York, now Elizabeth City. In 1642 William Smute was granted 400 acres of land in the County of York near the head of Tymber Creek on the north side of the Charles River. He later appeared as a Boatwright establishing a position in the community constructing many of the watercrafts used by the early settlers. William Smute was granted 600 pounds of tobacco for his participation in one of the early Indian Wars. All of this proved male Descendants who maintain the position today of "Gentlemen", are eligible to membership in the Society of Colonial Wars in America.

In 1646 William Smoot forsook his allegiance as a subject of Virginia to that of a tenant or subject of Lord Baltimore. In 1647 William Smute was granted by his Lordship's Land Office a patent for 300 acres of land on the Potomac River and was later granted an additional 400 acres. It is believed that William Smute died in 1670. We have records of his children down through 1715 as they moved south to the Carolinas, Georgia and Alabama where he located records of the parents of John Henry Smoot in 1820.

John Henry Smoot was born in 1856, Camden, Quachita County, Ark. and first came to Texas on trail drives. He married Phebe Jane Nichols in Mena, Polk Co., Ark. but moved shortly thereafter to 13 miles south of Comanche, Tex. where they stayed for 6 years living in a dug out near the Leon River. There today stands the sandstone marker of one of their daughters who died in infancy. In 1880, when the barb wire cutting was going on, he was fenced off from water and soon moved to Baylor County near Seymour, Texas living close to the Braxos river, leaving there and moving to Borden County in 1890 where he homesteaded a section of land near the base of Mushaway Peak. I understand that a favorite pastime in early years was to spend the day climbing to the top of this peak.

John Henry Smoot was one of 12 children born to George W. Smoot and Elizabeth Jane Thorn, both of whom are buried in Harris Chapel Cemetery just outside of Lindale, Smith County, Texas. John Henry Smoot and his wife, Phoebe Jane had 12 children of which my mother Gertrude was one. She was the second recorded baby born in Borden County and I was the 100th. John Henry was a mason and built most of the cisterns and chimneys in Borden County for many years. My father was William J. (Bill) Hester who with his family came to Texas around the 1900's from Reform, Alabama, where they had several acres of land, with slaves. Some of this land is still in the Hester family, dating back to 1830.

My mother, Gertrude, passed away in 1918 and Bill Hester remarried when we went back to Gail in 1921 from Electra, Tex. I remember we left Electra in a car but we reached Rule and Dad traded for a pair of horses and a covered wagon. The trip was fun but long and hot. We would walk behind the wagon until we got tired and then ride in the wagon. We camped along the way where there was water for the horses. The roads were rough and the creek beds were steep. We arrived late at the Union, Texas, Church. We made our bed in the church. My Uncle Clarence Hester and my brother, W. J., were sleeping outside when they came running. Seems they made their bed in an ant bed.

While staying with Grandpa William Reed Hester, who lived on Bull Creek, we were going down in the half dugout for breakfast when we saw the biggest rattlesnake I have ever seen. It was right at the foot of the stairs when Grandpa shot it with his shotgun. I can still remember that big wood stove and those hot biscuits, eggs and fried potatoes for breakfast, red beans and fried potatoes for lunch, corn bread and sweet milk for supper. When watermelons were in season, nearly everyone stopped to eat Grandpa's melons and carried some home with them.

It was not unusual for people going through Gail to stop and camp on Bull Creek. After they fed and watered their stock and fixed supper, they would come sit on the Hester porch. Everyone would visit and tell ghost stories. At the time, I was sure they were all true. Now I know they were told just for entertainment. My step-mother would play the piano and we would sing. Grandpa Smoot really loved to sing and he had a good voice. I also remember the lillies at his house and how sweet they would smell, long before you reached the house.

I started to school in Snyder and one of my teachers was Loraine Pierce, the daughter of Judge Pierce of Gail. While living in Snyder we went to Gail often and I would always get excited when I could see the Peak in the distance for I knew I would soon be home. Although both my parents and grandparents and other relatives are gone, Gail is still my home. When I go back now, we visit the museum and the cemetery and see so many gravestones made by Grandpa Smoot. We drive out to the gate of the old Smoot Place, it looks great on the outside and they say it has been redone on the inside and we could see the big red barn. They say the barn has burned but I can remember skating and dancing in it. I can remember the barn there in 1931 so feel sure it was built in 1930.

Borden County

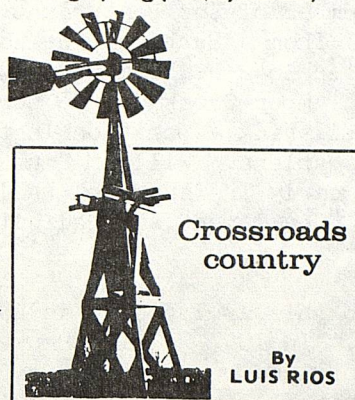
Residents face future together

Big Spring (Texas) Herald,

GAIL — History and time have chiseled a ruggedness and sense of community in this isolated town that sits four miles southeast of Muchaway Peak and serves as the Borden County seat.

"The people in this town believe in each other," said County Judge Van York, who comes from a family who settled the county almost 100 years ago. "They sure hold together and are very independent. They believe in looking after themselves."

The county and the county seat were named after a distinguished Texan, surveyor and inventor Gail Borden. Ironically, Borden never



lived in — or even near — the county that adopted his name.

Although the population in Gail

dropped from 1,500 in 1918-20 to 140, the county had a population of 870 in 1980, according to the 1980 census.

Borden County lacks many of the services routine in other counties. It has a post office, but no doctors, lawyers, railroads, hotels, bus lines or jails.

The ranching and farming families in the county have been there for decades and some for almost a century. "In other counties, the land is traded or sold," York said. "But here it remains with one family. All the ranchers have their roots here."

"At one time Gail was pretty good-sized. But most of it is gone

now," he said.

Perhaps in response to the thin population, a strong community feeling exists among the residents, York said. The proposal to site a low-level nuclear waste dump in the county united its residents in opposition.

People here fought the installation of the dump site, York said. He said Borden County citizens were probably the most organized group in West Texas fighting such an installation.

"The biggest utility we have is the school," York said. "It pulls everyone together. In the 4-H and county program we are the No. 1 school in enrollment in the state of Texas. Eighty-five percent of the kids are in 4-H."

"We may also have one of the higher number of people who vote in the county. It just shows our concern and involvement," he said.

The treasure of Borden County through the years has been the consolidated county school, York said. All the county's students go to school in Gail. Once, 26 community schools dotted the county, according to a historical account.

While strength is a trademark of Borden County citizens, those feelings have not always been unified or cordial. A 1902 land rush raised havoc between two factions, the Blue Ribbons and the Red Ribbons, or Nesters. The quarreling began after the state opened the land to public domain.

The intense fight that followed became the "War of the Colored Ribbons." The ranchers wore blue ribbons and the settlers red ones to distinguish between the two warring factions, according to one report.

Historical accounts say Borden County Sheriff W.K. Clark disarmed the men three days before the filing dates for land claims. But the move didn't help much; men still had fistfights all the way to the filing window.

The Hand Hewn Rock Jail, which rests adjacent to the courthouse, was built in 1896. The large picture windows of the courtroom have the witness stand facing an ominous jail, which is no longer used. The windows of the jailhouse are reinforced by three sets of bars and the floor is solid concrete.

"The jail is exactly the way it should be," York said. "We just left it like that."

The current courthouse was built during the Franklin Roosevelt era and was a WPA (Works Progress Administration) project. The first courthouse was a one-room schoolhouse, which was built shortly after the county was formed in 1891. A two-story building later served as the courthouse until the current one was constructed in 1939.

Gail was born from one family's generosity. The family was the Wilbourns, who donated land to the county for the "Town Square" in April 14, 1892. Gail sits on the town square and is the center point of Borden County.

J.I. Wilbourn and L.E. Wilbourn donated the land for the streets, alleys, graveyard, public school, churches, public square and other buildings. Since that day the town square has represented Gail.

The area has no underground water system, and water has to be pumped over the Cap Rock from Dawson County. The water travels a course of 27 miles and is mostly used by the school, York said.

Much of the history of Gail and Borden County is kept on record at the county museum. The museum keeps a detailed written history and also a pictorial account of the county residents and businesses. A museum group publishes a leaflet, the *Borden Citizen*, on the history of Borden County.

The Dorward dry goods store has been a fixture of downtown Gail since the turn of the century. The Kincaid Hotel stood across from where the museum now stands. Other firsts in the county include the first county doctor, James N. Price, who came on Sept. 28, 1891; the "Blue Front Store" (mercantile) owned by J.W. Chandler in the early 1900s; the Wilbourn Ranch House, which later became the Wilbourn House; the Hale Hotel; and finally the Stokes House.

Gail, which out-of-towners call "the area between Snyder and Lamesa," has re-established its identity since demonstrating its grit in dealing with the low-level nuclear disposal dilemma.

But while outsiders now know of Borden County's pluck, it's nothing new to Borden County residents. It's always been here.

We hope you find the articles in this newsletter interesting. If you do, write us a letter. Mr. Jack Maguire said that Gail Borden built his home near here. Borden County was created and named in 1876. Let us know what you think about Gail Borden living near here.

We, the editor and members of the Committee are sorry that this is the first newsletter in a long while. We have some material to keep it printing and we hope to get it back on a regular schedule. Please help us. Send your material to be printed.

We are also hoping to have the Museum open each Saturday and Sunday after^{noon} this summer. If you are by this way, stop and see the Museum. Come by the Courthouse on weekdays and we will show you through.

Always enjoy the BORDEN CITIZEN. Mrs. P. C. Mitchell, Lubbock

You folks of the Borden Historical Society are doing something that all our communities should have been doing for some time, namely, collecting personal and biographical data of the earlier residents. Certainly I do not know any of them, but did get to know the von Roeder that maintained a grocery store in Snyder in about 1932. I came through there with a friend, trying to find out where the land was that my father owned out there somewhere. This kind man, had his wife prepare a dinner in the rear of the store, and then with 3 rifles we drove over the prairie and shot jackrabbits and saw what he thought might be the land.....Please find check to extend my much appreciated subscription. I am still going to write up a bit of history on the Borden County Reineike Field and send it to you. M. Reinecke, Sioux Falls, S.D.

Please keep my paper coming. I like it very much. Homer Skeen, Portales, N. Mex.

I like the paper very much, keep it coming. I have been gone from Gail 60, years. Like to read about Borden County when I was a boy. Mays Jenkins, Roswell, New Mex.

We have recently received a copy of the Dec., 1983, issue of the newsletter. We found it so interesting. It included the names of my husband's Grandparents in the list of Borden County Pioneers being honored with a Plaque. He is the son of Edgar L. Hicks and Connie Mae Maxwell. Connie's Mother and Father were Guy and Ollie Maxwell. He still has a number of relatives in the area that he has not seen since early childhood. We would like to subscribe to the newsletter and have been told my husband's grandparents names have been added to the list of pioneers. Their names were L. A. Hicks and Annie Sturdivant.... We would be interested to know if there are any members of the Sturdivant, Hicks or Maxwell families still in the area.

Mrs. Norman L. Hicks, Box 1041, Jal, New Mexico

Can't remember when I sent last check.. Don and I always enjoy the "West Texas" Gail news. Penny Hollar, Gadsden, Alabama.

Thanks to you, my grandmother, Lorene (Pierce) Petty and I enjoy Gails history and present news. Enclosed is our renewal and a great big thank you for making the effort to put out this information. Jan Ainsworth.

Enclosed find check for renewal.. Always look forward to the next issue to see if there are any names or articles that I might remember hearing my parents talk about. I have been lucky enough to visit the museum twice.....My parents were married in Gail, in 1911 and both their parents lived there for many years. My father was Walter M. Hill, his parents were Frank G. and Henri Bullard Hill and my mother was Iver Lee Hester and her parents were William and Lucinda Hester. Iver Lee Hill Morgan, Sunnyvale, Calif.

I enjoy reading your paper even tho I have never lived in Borden County. My husband and his family lived in Borden County until 1918. His parents were Bob and Rosa Hurley. They had two girls and two boys. Mrs. L. E. Hurley, Wilson, Okla.

Please find check enclosed to keep the "Borden Citizen" coming. We enjoy it so very much. As close as we are to Borden County, we claim it "as home." Ruby Allred, Ackerly, Texas

I enjoy your fine paper We came to the Tredway Community late (1914) but made many good friends in Borden County. Frank Jones doed not want his subscription to lapse either. W. Mitchell Jones, Canyon, Texas

Am enclosing check....All of you are doing a great job.. to keep our heritage and history alive. We enjoy the paper. Mr. and Mrs. Buck Burdine, Bison, S.D.

We enjoy your publication very much. Vernon reads everything he can find about the history of the West. He knows many of you and we sometimes visit the Joe Gilmores. HIs folks lived in the Luther Community. Vernon and Josephine Lewis, Big Spring, Texas

Please send me the paper for another year. Mrs. Fred Taylor, Portales, New Mex

Enclosed is check....I do enjoy reading about the old timers. I was born in Borden County and went to school at Gail. I doubt that there are many in Gail that I remember, have been gone from there since the early 20's. I'm the only one living of the W. A. Sealy family. My twin sister, Nora Sealy Hicks passed away in 1981. Cora Sealy.

Enclosed is check..... Am always glad to receive each edition and learn the news of old timers. Mary D. Cary, Colorado City, Texas.

We really enjoy the Borden Citizen. Look forward to it. Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Wright, Sierra Blanca.

We enjoy reading the BORDEN CITIZEN, remembering hearing about things of interest from my parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Munger. Dr. and Mrs. Edwin Middleton

....Both my husband's family and my family were Borden County residents for many years. We wish you all who work with the Historical Society and the Museum a very good year. Ross, Chrystine and Ruth Hinshaw, Gallup, New Mex.

I did enjoy the Morris Miller story very much. Bob Sealy, Snyder, Texas

HONORING THE BORDEN COUNTY PIONEERS

In the last issue of THE BORDEN CITIZEN, published Fall, 1983, a list of the pioneers to that time were listed. Since that time the following have been honored by their names being placed on the plaque:

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Pearce
by Children

Joe and Ella Roper
by Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Hull

W. M. "Will" and Attie Jackson
1874-1939 1878-1969
by Katie, Lewis, O.D., & Murray
Jackson

Rosa Virginia Davis Cotten
by Children

Bob & Hettie (Kincaid) Whitaker
by children
Bob Whitaker & Ruth Livingston

W. L. (Ozona Bill) Miller
by Morris & Willena Miller

W. Ed & Frieda Murphy
1887-1957 1890-1982
by Their Children

Herman & Alma Sneed
by Slick, H.D., Clara, Olie, Eura
& Madaruth

Frank & Bessie Lamb
by Their Family

J. B. and Anolia Bley
by The Bley Family

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Hicks
by Their Children

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Wills
by Their Children

Waldon Wills
by Sisters and Brothers

Mr. and Mrs. John Truss, Sr.
by Ruth, Joe, Sam & John, Jr.

If you desire more information about this plaque and how to have your loved one's name listed on it, please contact Barbara York, Box 157, Gail, Texas 79738

MUSEUM MEMORIALS

In memory of WES WESTON
by Slick and Bonnie Sneed,
Gail, Texas
by Mrs. J. E. (Agnes) Sorrells
Snyder, Texas

In Memory of Ruth Taylor
by Mrs. Vernon Crieghton

Memorials may be sent to Dorothy Browne, Gail, Texas 79738. Memorial cards will be sent.

In Memory of R. B. and Naudie Wills
by Mrs. George Miller
Post, Texas

In Memory of Jerry Clayton
by Slick and Bonnie Sneed
Gail, Texas

In Memory of Park Hamilton
by Hoy & Vera Hamilton
Snyder, Texas

THINGS MOST PEOPLE LIKE ABOUT COUNTRY LIVING

Overalls. Holsteins lined up for milking. Mailboxes with the flag up. Real front porches with real swings on them. New-cut alfalfa. Roads that jog around big, old cottonwoods. Dogs that wait for the schoolbus. Country stores that still sell cheese by the hunk and bologna by the slice. Clover. Fourth grade boys at the county fair in new cowboy boots. Pick-ups parked around country churches on Sunday morning. Syrup buckets. Club calves. Stone fences. A tree full of roosting guineas as the sun goes down. Lone elms left standing in the middle of fields. Buttermilk. Feed sacks made of real burlap. Mesquite log fires. Baling wire. A drink of well water from a galvanized bucket that hangs down from a squealing pulley. Cornbread. Big biscuits. Low water crossings over rocky creeks. The smell of cottonseed meal. Yucca in bloom. Windmills. Well worn harness. Brown wrapping paper. Red bandanas. Kerosene lanterns. Spurs. Tin cups. Demin. Silos. Nails. Roasting ears. Wood stoves.

Borden Citizen.

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