



Willie Williams (Willie Wou), Yard man  
Oct., 1975, Lisle Gin



Lonnie Martin working at Lisle Gin,  
Engine and fired Boiler 1935



"Waitin' At The Gin"

© 1984











# Mrs. Ola Mae Lisle

continued from page 1

As with working mothers of the eighties, Mrs. Lisle was very concerned with finding quality care for the children. "I looked for about a year before finding someone I was satisfied with. I could not concentrate at the gin thinking that the children were not being properly cared for and happy with who they were staying with. I tried 12 to 15 women and none of them worked out. The children would call me up and tell me all kinds of things that had happened. I finally had to have the phone taken out," she laughs.

Finally, Mrs. Addie Frazier came into their lives and met Mrs. Lisle's standards. "She needed a job, and I needed her. She was a good Christian woman and the children loved her. She stayed for 16 years."

While there were times her children wished she could stay at home with them, Emma Jean, Helen, June and James A., Jr., grew up knowing their mother had to work. They, too, worked at the gin as soon as they were old enough, from scooping

seed to office paper work.

This busy life was not without its humorous moments.

Mrs. Lisle laughs easily as she recalls incidents involving one aspect of farming we no longer have to contend with—teams of horses and mules and the unique situations inherent in dealing with them.

"There was one farmer who had a big team of horses and he was so proud of them. He brought a load in one day and left them tied up. The boiler popped off and spooked the team. They didn't stop running until they straddled a light pole, tearing up the wagon along the way."

"There was another man who would bring his wagon to the gin, then go off to town and drink while they ginned it off. He'd come back in too bad of a shape to drive the team, so we'd load him in the wagon and those horses would get him home. Well, they spooked one day and turned the wagon over."

She remembers a Thanksgiving dinner when the fire whistle blew just as they sat down at the table. They were all dressed up, the men in suits. "We'll just have to forget about this dinner boys," she told them, "we've got to go put out a fire." A

norther had just blown in and several trailers were on fire from burning burrs.

"The boys burned the cuffs off of their suit pants fighting the fire."

Farmers on the plains brought some of their crops down here for ginning one year when they made more cotton than their gins could handle. One man's load fell through the scales, then when they did manage to try and gin some of it, it was full of sand from a storm on the Plains. It stopped up all of the air lines and none of the gins could gin it. Someone had the idea of running it through a combine. "We wasted a lot of the cotton, but we did manage to get it ginned," said Mrs. Lisle. "That put an end to ginning anymore Plains cotton."

I was curious as to what a lady gin manager wore to work in 1927. Despite spending a good part of her

day out of the office seeing about things outside, Mrs. Lisle followed the custom of that time, wearing skirts instead of long pants.

"Back then women just didn't wear trousers," she

says. "I don't imagine I started wearing them until the late forties. I still have the first pair I bought." She did a man's job in a man's world, but she was a lady, and she dressed like it.

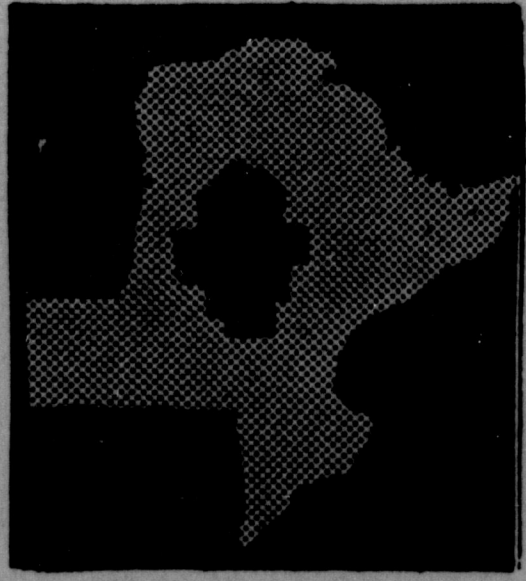
Mrs. Lisle has been greatly respected in this area for many years for her fairness with her customers and her employees. Sam Turner worked for her over 20 years in the office and hauling burrs. He had this to say about his experience: "...Mrs. Lisle was always generous with the hands who worked for her...I never once saw her upset or say a cross word about anyone. She is just a good woman."

She very much enjoyed her work, and it took up much of her time, but she never let it keep her from "being there" for her family. The fall and winter was her busiest times, but she attended the many school functions her children and grandchildren were involved in over the years. She has given much support to the city of Rule, its schools, and her church. She was named Woman of the Year in 1967. The Rule FFA gave her its Honorary Chapter Farmer award, and she received a plaque in appreciation of her continual support of Rule's athletic teams. She has also been a member of a number of civic clubs and has been very active in the First Baptist Church. She spends time these days compiling scrapbooks of the things close to her—her community, church and family.

Mrs. Lisle has seen the cotton industry evolve from its infancy in horse and one bale wagon days, and boll pulling to the most modern methods of harvesting and ginning cotton. She oversaw its growth and development as she did that of her family. She filled both roles admirably.

ELIZABETH BEVOMAH  
2000 01





# Big Country

"Serving The Big Country Farmer And Rancher"

# FARM & RANCH NEWS

Vol. 1 No. 4

January-February 1987

Rotan, Texas 79546

16 Pages

## Ola Mae Lisle Ran Lises Gin Near Rule For 54 Years

By Susan Turner  
Rochester, Texas

Driving north out of Rule on Highway 277, you pass on your left an idle cotton gin and barren gin yard. Such a sight is not all that unusual in these days of a sagging farm economy, but this gin holds a rather unique place in the history of cotton farming. Like its counterparts, the Lises Gin processed thousands of bales of cotton in its 50 plus years. The difference was, the hands who handled those bales addressed their boss not as "sir", but as "ma'am."

Mrs. Ola Mae Lisle ran this gin for 54 years, retiring in 1981 at the age of 80. Despite her success, this was not an occupation she set out to hold. She found herself at this threshold in the spring of 1927 when her husband, James A. Li-

sle, Sr. was killed.

His death came at a time when things looked promising for this family with four young children aged 6 years to 6 months. They had moved to Rule from Benjamin in 1921. Mr. Lisle was to run the Swift gin, later named the Lisle Gin Co., when he bought an interest in the gin. His success was evidenced in the addition of updated ginning equipment and buildings. A brand new home for the family was built in the fall of 1926.

1926 was a good crop year for farmers, and the ginning season was not finished on Feb. 12, 1927 when Mr. Lisle was killed. Mrs. Lisle writes, "We had built a new house in 1926. We had the children we wanted...I guess I was happier than I had ever been. We had health and a good business...in a few hours Buck was gone."

Faced with the responsibility of supporting herself and four children, and not wanting to be dependent on anyone, Mrs. Lisle made the decision to take over the operation of her husband's business. To take over a grocery store or a clothing store at the loss of one's husband is one thing, but taking over a cotton gin was no small feat for a woman who left the farm at age 7. And this was 1927 when lines between a "man's world" and a "woman's world" were firmly drawn.

Her only experience was one year of part-time bookkeeping at the gin at Benjamin. She was determined to do the job and do it well. She attended school in Abilene to learn how to class cotton. She felt she could better serve the farmers who ginned with her if she could buy their

cotton herself. She made it her business to know the gin inside out. Today she talks as easily about lint cleaners as she does about her home and children.

The gin was her life. It was not what she had planned on doing with her life, but she came to love it, and considers herself fortunate to have had a good business to rely on all these years. In addition to feeding and educating her children, Mrs. Lisle's paid for the gin, her house, and bought land through her successful business practices.

I made a lot of mistakes," she says, "but when it comes out of your own pocket, you learn to do something about it in a hurry."

Mrs. Lisle credits the farmers who continued ginning with her after her husband's death with helping her get on her feet.

"The farmers were so helpful...they wanted me to run the gin. They were good to talk things over with me and they overlooked my mistakes. Farmers are wonderful people...I always tried to be fair and honest with them."

In the early days farmers made up part of her work force. When their crops were in, they worked for wages at the gin.

"They were good men who knew how to work and could get a lot done," she says.

Mrs. Lisle's role as a very capable gin operator is widely known. But she was also a mother and a very courageous woman. She was not yet 25 when she found herself widowed and having to support herself and four children. She did not have the luxury of choosing to be a "working mother". It was a matter of survival.



## *Pioneer names cotton seed production manager*

The Southwestern Division of Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., has appointed a new manager for the cotton planting seed production facility in Vernon.

Clois Cato, a 40-year veteran in the cotton industry, will supervise and direct all cotton planting seed production for the company. The Vernon operation includes production, ginning, delinting, and storing Lankart and Lockett cotton planting seed. Other areas of the cotton operation include Asa (near Waco) and Plainview.

Cato's appointment to the post was announced by Jim Lindsey, president of Pioneer's Southwestern Division.

The division, headquartered in Plainview, entered the cotton planting business last year through the acquisition of two Texas firms, Lankart Seed Farms, Ltd., and Lockett Seed Company.

From 1935 to 1952, Cato worked in every phase of the ginning process for Lockett Seed Company. In 1952, he was named to the manager's position of the West Texas Branch of Lockett Seed.

Before joining Pioneer, Cato was vice-president and manager of the West Texas Branch of Lockett. He was also a director and stockholder in Lockett Seed.

Cato and his wife, Mildred, have four children. They reside at 2825 Cumberland in Vernon.

In addition to cotton planting seed, the Southwestern Division of Pioneer Hi-Bred also markets seed for grain sorghum, corn, hybrid wheat, alfalfa, and sorghum-sudan grasses.



CLOIS CATO

11-1976

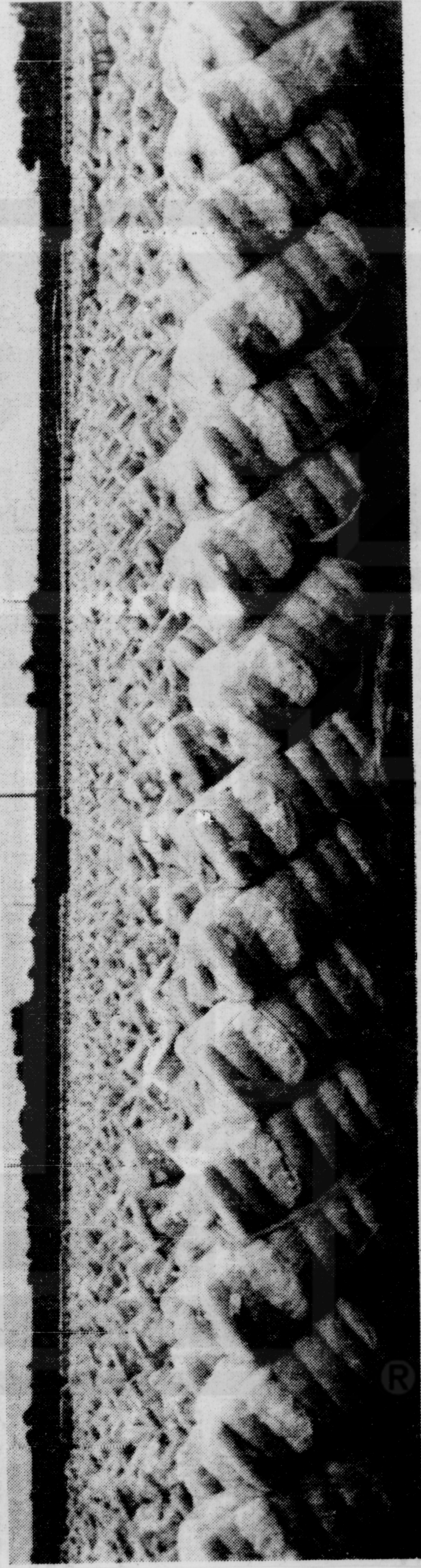


# Abilene Reporter - Star

"Without or with offense to friends or foes we sketch your world exactly as it goes" --Byron.

44 PAGES IN 4 SECTIONS

ABILENE, TEXAS, FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 11, 1982



## Waiting for a new home

More Big Country cotton was entered into the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation loan program last year

than as far back as anyone cares to remember. As a result, about 30,000 bales, including these at the warehouse in Haskell are awaiting

transfer to other warehouses in the country. Compounding the problem was limited storage

facilities. (Star Dunlap)



# TACK THIS UP FOR IT WILL ALWAYS PROVE INTERESTING.

Frequent references to it will be prompted by the desire to "Settle Arguments", and the passing down to the present the history in actual cotton production, prices received, etc. for the past 118 years!!!

The planting of either the famous Mississippi Deltapine 14 (D. P. & L. 14) or Stoneville 2B Cottonseed will insure a turn out from 37% to 42%, staple length, one inch or better. These seed are grown in and shipped out of their birth state, Mississippi in new bags, blue tagged, grade "A", Delinted, Ceresan Treated. Prices quoted on request by —

FLOYD W. DUNKERLEY, ENNIS, TEXAS  
DISTRIBUTOR FOR TEXAS

## Production & Price Record of Lint Cotton For 118 Years

Compiled by F. W. Dunkerley, Representative

| Crop Season | Crop      | New York Spot Price           |     | Crop Season | Crop       | New York Spot Price |       |
|-------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-----|-------------|------------|---------------------|-------|
|             |           | High                          | Low |             |            | High                | Low   |
| 1828-29     | 680,000   | 13                            | 9   | 1887-88     | 6,885,000  | 11.38               | 9.44  |
| 1829-30     | 764,000   | 11                            | 8   | 1888-89     | 6,924,000  | 11.50               | 9.63  |
| 1830-31     | 732,000   | 13                            | 8   | 1889-90     | 7,473,000  | 12.75               | 10.25 |
| 1831-32     | 805,000   | 11                            | 7   | 1890-91     | 8,562,000  | 11.00               | 7.94  |
| 1832-33     | 816,000   | 12                            | 7   | 1891-92     | 8,941,000  | 8.81                | 6.69  |
| 1833-34     | 931,000   | 17                            | 9   | 1892-93     | 6,658,000  | 10.00               | 7.06  |
| 1834-35     | 962,000   | 16                            | 10  | 1893-94     | 7,433,000  | 8.56                | 6.88  |
| 1835-36     | 1,062,000 | 20                            | 15  | 1894-95     | 10,026,000 | 8.19                | 5.56  |
| 1836-37     | 1,129,000 | 20                            | 12  | 1895-96     | 7,147,000  | 9.38                | 7.06  |
| 1837-38     | 1,428,000 | 17                            | 7   | 1896-97     | 8,516,000  | 8.88                | 7.00  |
| 1838-39     | 1,093,000 | 12                            | 9   | 1897-98     | 10,985,000 | 7.81                | 5.75  |
| 1839-40     | 1,654,000 | 16                            | 11  | 1898-99     | 11,435,000 | 6.63                | 5.31  |
| 1840-41     | 1,348,000 | 10                            | 8   | 1899-1900   | 9,345,000  | 10.25               | 6.25  |
| 1841-42     | 1,398,000 | 11                            | 9   | 1900-01     | 10,123,000 | 12.00               | 8.00  |
| 1842-43     | 2,035,000 | 9                             | 7   | 1901-02     | 9,510,000  | 9.88                | 7.81  |
| 1843-44     | 1,750,000 | 8                             | 5   | 1902-03     | 10,631,000 | 13.50               | 8.30  |
| 1844-45     | 2,079,000 | 9                             | 5   | 1903-04     | 9,851,000  | 17.25               | 9.50  |
| 1845-46     | 1,806,000 | 8 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> | 5   | 1904-05     | 13,438,000 | 11.50               | 6.85  |
| 1846-47     | 1,604,000 | 10                            | 6   | 1905-06     | 10,575,000 | 12.60               | 9.80  |
| 1847-48     | 2,128,000 | 12                            | 7   | 1906-07     | 13,274,000 | 13.55               | 9.60  |
| 1848-49     | 2,615,000 | 8                             | 5   | 1907-08     | 11,107,000 | 13.55               | 9.50  |
| 1849-50     | 1,975,000 | 11                            | 6   | 1908-09     | 13,242,000 | 13.15               | 9.00  |
| 1850-51     | 2,136,000 | 14                            | 11  | 1909-10     | 10,005,000 | 19.75               | 12.40 |
| 1851-52     | 2,799,000 | 14                            | 8   | 1910-11     | 11,609,000 | 16.15               | 11.60 |
| 1852-53     | 3,130,000 | 10                            | 8   | 1911-12     | 15,693,000 | 13.40               | 9.20  |
| 1853-54     | 2,766,000 | 11                            | 10  | 1912-13     | 13,703,000 | 13.40               | 10.75 |
| 1854-55     | 2,708,000 | 10                            | 8   | 1913-14     | 14,156,000 | 14.50               | 11.00 |



|         |           |                                |                                |         |            |       |       |
|---------|-----------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|------------|-------|-------|
| 1855-56 | 3,221,000 | 12                             | 8                              | 1914-15 | 16,135,000 | 11.00 | 7.25  |
| 1856-57 | 2,874,000 | 13                             | 9                              | 1915-16 | 11,192,000 | 13.45 | 9.20  |
| 1857-58 | 3,012,000 | 15 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> | 9                              | 1916-17 | 11,450,000 | 27.65 | 13.35 |
| 1858-59 | 3,758,000 | 13 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> | 8 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub>  | 1917-18 | 11,302,000 | 36.00 | 21.20 |
| 1859-60 | 4,310,000 | 12 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> | 10 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub> | 1918-19 | 12,041,000 | 38.20 | 25.00 |
| 1860-61 | 3,841,000 | 11 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub> | 10                             | 1919-20 | 11,421,000 | 43.75 | 28.85 |
| 1861-62 | 4,491,000 | 38                             | 11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> | 1920-21 | 13,440,000 | 40.00 | 10.85 |
| 1862-63 | 1,597,000 | 69 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> | 20                             | 1921-22 | 7,954,000  | 23.75 | 12.80 |
| 1863-64 | 449,000   | 93                             | 51                             | 1922-23 | 9,762,000  | 31.30 | 20.35 |
| 1864-65 | 299,000   | 190                            | 72                             | 1923-24 | 10,140,000 | 37.65 | 23.50 |
| 1865-66 | 2,094,000 | 120                            | 35                             | 1924-25 | 13,628,000 | 31.50 | 22.15 |
| 1866-67 | 1,948,000 | 52                             | 32                             | 1925-26 | 16,104,000 | 24.75 | 17.85 |
| 1867-68 | 2,346,000 | 36                             | 15 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> | 1926-27 | 17,977,000 | 19.20 | 12.15 |
| 1868-69 | 2,198,000 | 33                             | 16                             | 1927-28 | 12,956,000 | 23.90 | 17.00 |
| 1869-70 | 2,410,000 | 35                             | 25                             | 1928-29 | 14,478,000 | 21.65 | 17.65 |
| 1870-71 | 4,025,000 | 21.25                          | 14.75                          | 1929-30 | 14,825,000 | 19.55 | 12.45 |
| 1871-72 | 2,757,000 | 27.38                          | 18.38                          | 1930-31 | 13,932,000 | 13.15 | 8.25  |
| 1872-73 | 3,651,000 | 22.25                          | 18.63                          | 1931-32 | 17,097,000 | 8.15  | 5.00  |
| 1873-74 | 3,874,000 | 20.63                          | 13.63                          | 1932-33 | 13,003,000 | 11.75 | 5.70  |
| 1874-75 | 3,528,000 | 16.88                          | 14.13                          | 1933-34 | 13,049,000 | 13.35 | 8.65  |
| 1875-76 | 4,303,000 | 14.63                          | 11.69                          | 1934-35 | 9,636,000  | 13.95 | 10.65 |
| 1876-77 | 4,118,000 | 13.31                          | 10.81                          | 1935-36 | 10,638,000 | 13.65 | 10.65 |
| 1877-78 | 4,494,000 | 12.19                          | 10.50                          | 1936-37 | 12,399,000 | 15.25 | 11.18 |
| 1878-79 | 4,745,000 | 13.75                          | 8.81                           | 1937-38 | 18,946,000 | 11.35 | 7.71  |
| 1879-80 | 5,466,000 | 13.50                          | 10.63                          | 1938-39 | 11,943,000 | 10.02 | 7.88  |
| 1880-81 | 6,357,000 | 13.00                          | 10.44                          | 1939-40 | 11,817,000 | 11.66 | 8.82  |
| 1881-82 | 5,136,000 | 13.06                          | 11.50                          | 1940-41 | 12,566,000 | 17.91 | 9.68  |
| 1882-83 | 6,833,000 | 12.94                          | 10.00                          | 1941-42 | 10,744,000 | 21.39 | 16.35 |
| 1883-84 | 5,522,000 | 11.94                          | 10.13                          | 1942-43 | 12,817,000 | 22.24 | 19.12 |
| 1884-85 | 5,477,000 | 11.50                          | 9.75                           | 1943-44 | 11,427,000 | 22.81 | 19.80 |
| 1885-86 | 6,369,000 | 10.25                          | 8.81                           | 1944-45 | 12,230,000 | 23.59 | 21.76 |
| 1886-87 | 6,315,000 | 11.44                          | 9.13                           | 1945-46 | 9,015,000  | 36.47 | 22.80 |
|         |           |                                |                                | 1946-47 | 8,640,000  | 40.18 | 28.70 |

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## **ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND SET UP BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF RULE, TEXAS, MAKING POSSIBLE A PERPETUAL CARE PROGRAM FOR RULE CEMETERY OWNED AND OPERATED BY THE CITY OF RULE, RULE, TEXAS.**

The idea of the trust fund was stimulated by the experience of the Cemetery Board which found that a plot is seldom ever provided for after the first generation has passed on, and in many cases, the maintenance does not last that long. Many grave spaces of the better fixed families of the community are going unkept at the present time because they themselves, during their lifetime, had no opportunity to provide perpetual care for their plots. Due to these revealing facts, as well as outside suggestions, this plan has been completed.

Briefly this plan provides: that all plots located in Garden A — Lots 1 through 155, Garden B, Lots 1 through 108, Garden C, Lots 1 through 81 may be purchased only by paying the price of the land of the given size, (size of plot 5 ft. X 10 ft.) and providing the endowment, so called perpetual care, for the plot of ground. The prices for the above mentioned are:

|  |                    |                  |
|--|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 — Adult Space, 5' X 10' of land \$25.00,   | Endowment \$ 51.50 | Total — \$ 76.50 |
| 2 — Adult Space, 10' X 10' of land \$40.00,  | Endowment \$101.50 | Total — \$141.50 |
| 4 — Adult Space, 10' X 20' of land \$75.00,  | Endowment \$151.50 | Total — \$226.50 |
| 8 — Adult Space, 20' X 20' of land \$150.00, | Endowment \$201.50 | Total — \$351.50 |

The \$1.50 fee is for recording fees charges by the County Clerk which recording takes place before being mailed to the purchaser. The ordinance provides for this procedure. We are also asking that you pay your dues along with your endowment, for the year 1968, so the Association will have the money to work cemetery for 1968.

Property plots already owned in Rule Cemetery may be endowed by paying perpetual care price only as designated above, and a time contract feature has been provided for those not in position to pay the full amount at one time.

Plots in the older part of Rule Cemetery now owned by the Cemetery or plots that may later be returned to the Cemetery, are to be disposed of for the price of the land and endowment.

As is generally known, all funds paid the "TRUSTEES" (Trustees are the current Council men) for the purpose of perpetual care must be invested in Government bonds or municipal bonds, and only the income thereof may be used for maintenance purposes.

Rules: Briefly, perpetual care, in the older part of Rule Cemetery, or all plots in blocks numbered one through 92, means to care for it in the state that it was intended. In other words, no change in curbing, shrubbery, markers or the like.

RULES: Perpetual care in the new part of Rule Cemetery, called Gardens A. B. C. and above means — ground level burials for markers, no shrubbery or curbing, limit on temporary markers, etc. The entire rules are in line with average memorial type cemeteries and are in line with the State and other laws governing Cemeteries.

The first certificates of "Perpetual Care" for Gardens A. B. C. issued by The City of Rule and recorded in Rule Cemetery Record book provided by the County Clerk of Haskell, Haskell County and used exclusively for this purpose will be dated 1-1-68 or later. All Certificates will be recorded in this book.

In the four years we have been working on this, we have come a long way in the program which, without a doubt, will some day guarantee the Maintenance of Rule Cemetery.

If interested, please contact any member of the board: E. O. Morgan, Ed Verner, Mrs. Nona Norwood, Mrs. Lois Martin, Mrs. Helen Pinkard, L. W. Norman, C. O. Davis, Ed Cloud, Morris Neal.