

Borden

Citizen.

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EARLY CHRISTMAS GIFT

At the State Convention in November, in competition with 253 counties in the State-wide contest our NEWSLETTER was awarded second place and we received a beautiful certificate which you see duplicated here. We feel very grateful for this award. Many hours are spent by your committee in research and preparation for these publications and this award - along with the enthusiastic responses we receive from you in your letters - make it all seem very worthwhile.

Your support - by sending us your memoirs of Borden County and by your financial contributions - help make this possible. So with humble hearts and with great pride we share this honor with you - our early Christmas gift.

STATE CONVENTION REPORT

The 1968 Annual Meeting of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee and the Texas Historical Foundation was held at the Gunter Hotel in San Antonio on November 1-2. The program was planned to answer questions and give information which would assist in the work of the local committees. On Friday evening a barbecue dinner was served at the Institute of Texan Cultures on the Hemisfair grounds. Transportation to the Institute was by river boat on the historic San Antonio River and a special fair ground's train. The evening was highlighted by the presentation of an award to Mrs. Connally for her work in establishing the rose garden at the Governor's Mansion and by an address by Governor Connally.

Mr. R. Henderson Shuffler, Director of the Institute, told of plans for it's future, after which we were given a special tour of the Institute. This is not now open to the public, but will be re-opened in March of 1969. If you haven't seen it, please put it on your 'must' list.

At the Awards Luncheon on Saturday, our area was well represented. In places of honor for Distinguished Award winners, seven of the twenty nine counties represented were our neighbors: Crosby, Garza, Scurry, Mitchell, Coke, Midland and Tom Green. Mrs. Witt Hines, Mitchell County Chairman, was given the year's top trophy, the Millard C. Cope award for the "Best Program of Work" in the state. Borden County's award of second place in the 'Best Newsletter' competition was accepted for you by your chairman, Edna Miller. We wish you all might have been there. One Community with only twice the population of Borden County had 13 delegates at the convention! Saturday afternoon was given to a tour of historic San Jose Mission with it's beautiful Rose Window, and to the restored homes of the old King William District of San Antonio. A fitting climax in true San Antonio style was a "night in Old Mexico" at picturesque La Villita, featuring authentic Mexican food and entertainment. The performers, including the beautiful and renowned Rosita, were introduced by Texas Secretary of State, Roy Barrera, a member of the State Historical Survey Committee.

The 1969 Annual meeting will be held in Waco on October 26-27. We hope some of you will plan to attend.

Edna Miller, Chairman
Borden County Survey Committee



Texas State Historical Survey Committee

AND

Texas Historical Foundation

AWARD

Second Place

TO

Borden County

FOR

Best Newsletter - 1968

AFTER COMPETING WITH 253 OTHER COUNTIES IN THE STATE OF TEXAS. THIS AWARD IS GIVEN TO RECOGNIZE A WORTHY CONTRIBUTION TO THE

RECORDATION, APPRECIATION, MARKING, PRESERVATION
AND SURVEYING OF
TEXAS HISTORY

November 2, 1968
DATE

Charles L. Goodburn
President

IF YOU:

ever lived in Borden County;
remember when people who wore blue jeans,
worked;
remember when a baby sitter was called a
mother;
cannot pass a watermelon patch without
thinking of buckshot;
look in the mirror and are aware of bald-
ness, bridge-work, bifocals, bay windows
and bunions;
think the town square is a place, instead
of a person;
do not think middle age is ten years old-
er than you are now...then you may as well
as admit it, brother; you're getting old;
are paying more attention to the minnie
bucket than the mini-skirt, you're over
the hill, man...and we need your memoirs
to complete the history of Borden County.
Please jot them down and mail to: Borden Co.
Historical Society, Gail, Texas 79738.
Attention (either) Mrs. Frank Miller, Mrs.
Vivian Clark, or Doris Rudd.

According to the U.S. census records, the popula-
tion of Borden Co. on June 19, 1880, consisted of
14 people, as follows:

name	age	occupation	born	cannot read nor write
Jas. L. Barr	27	herdsman	Texas	" " "
Catherine	23	Keeping house	"	" " "
Henry	7			
John	5			
James	4			
William	2			
Burton	1			
Thomas Brown	22	herdsman	single Tex.	" " "
Wm. Lewis	31	servant	" Ala.	" " "
Harrison Sims	26	"	" Tex.	" " "
James Brown	18	"	"	" " "
F. Cooksy	20	"	"	" " "
Berry Hutch	22	"	"	" " "
J. W. Riggs		"	"	" " "

If you have any information concerning any of these
people would you please send it to us? We would
be most grateful.

A case for displaying the pictures of all Borden County officials since the organization of the county has been installed in the Courthouse by the Commissioners Court. Most of the pictures are ready for framing and we hope to have them on display soon after the 1st of the year. We are grateful to the Court for making this possible.

Dick Simpson, 81, passed away on November 1st in the V.A. Hospital in Big Spring. He had been a resident of Borden County for many years.
William (Billy) Glen Gray, 43, passed away November 2 in Denver City, Texas. He was a native of Borden County. One of his brothers, Borden Gray, still lives here.

DOCTORS OF THE HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS

Beginning September 28, 1891, and continuing for a period of 77 years, only 10 Physicians, Surgeons, Dentists, and one nurse are registered in the Borden County records. In recent issues we saluted two of these outstanding Doctors: Dr. Prince and Dr. Hannabass. Among other early day doctors was Dr. A.S. Miller who attended Southern Medical College in Atlanta, Georgia, and registered in Borden County on September 28, 1891. It is not known when he came to Gail but was some time before July 31, 1891. Other than being a doctor, he had a talent for music and evidently had a good sense of humor, for we find printed in the first issue of the Borden County Spokesman (first paper published in the County, dated July 31, 1891, and now on exhibit in the Borden County Museum) the following articles:

"Rev. B.M. Asten of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church preached at the school house July 24, 1891. Dr. Miller led the singing and it was without saying that the music was good."

Elsewhere in the same issue is: "Dr. Miller of Gail had a very good time for the last two weeks to perform a Dutchman out of his Highness - But he never can reach it to be first class. - Hezka Holpa dei mi hubicku." (You have heard the expression "It's Greek to Me", the last sentence is "German to me", wish I could read it. Maybe Frieda Murphy will translate it for us.) We do not know if he ever accomplished the feat of "his highness" but we do know that he was appointed Justice of the Peace of Precinct 1 in 1891 and resigned February 9, 1892.

Soon after the passing of Dr. Prince, a new doctor came to Gail. He was registered September 29, 1902, in the Physicians and Surgeons Records as a male, physician, with a diploma dated March 29, 1889, at Memphis, Tennessee. It is said he had a very nice bedside manner and soon won the confidence of the patients - which did not last long - as he had to leave town in the middle of the night. Whether it was mal-practice, negligence, or what, there was an infection or blood poison carried by him from one to another which resulted in the death of three women - Mrs. Box Cathey, Mrs. J. W. Chandler and Lillie Clark. This all happened within a short period of time and caused quite a stir in Gail. One dark night he left town and hid at one of the ranches where he had friends until it was safe for him to 'skip the country'. And not a second too soon for at least one man 'carried a gun' for him and searched several years to find him, but as far as we know he was never heard of again in Borden County. It was rumored that he was not a proper doctor but had stolen his brother's license back in the "old states" and fled to West Texas.

This doctor was replaced by Dr. Homer McDaniels, who came to Gail in 1903 with his sister, Miss Stella, from Austin, Texas. His Certificate to Practice Medicine and Surgery is dated January 10, 1901, and signed by the Medical Board at Brownwood, Texas. 1903 was a lean year in Gail and to supplement his income he took a position as school teacher 'down on the river'. This was probably a bad situation for the kids but worked well for the mama's. When little Billy failed to study his lesson - and faked a sore throat and stomach ache in order not to face the teacher without his assignments - the conversation would go something like "But Ma, I got a stomach ache" and Ma would answer "Get your pants on Billy, slop the hogs and get on to school. When you get there, have the good Doc look at your throat and give you a pill".

Later Doctor McDaniel returned to Gail to resume his Medical Practice, where he met and fell in love with the beautiful red headed music teacher, Miss Sallie Fox from Snyder, Texas. They were married and lived at the Johnson Hotel - formerly the Kincaid and Hopkins Hotel. They had one son and two daughters. In the 1920's, in an era when little was thought about oil and minerals, he bought 80 acres of mineral rights under the J. H. Smoot section. They moved from Gail to O'Donnell where he worked as a Pharmacist at the John Fritz Drug Store. John Fritz was a Borden County pioneer and the grandfather of Vernon Creighton who still lives in the County. We know that later Dr. McDaniel practiced medicine in Ruidosa, New Mexico, and then in Arkansas.

Very little is known about Dr. Isaac E. Smith, who registered in Borden County as a Physician on August 29, 1904, listing a Diploma from Washington University, dated March 6, 1883.

In November 1908, Dr. W. A. Southland, a nephew of J. Y. Everett, came to Borden County. His license to practice medicine was granted January 12, 1908, at the age of 43. He was born October 9, 1865, in Dallas County, Arkansas, and came to Gail from Coryell County, Texas. One day he said to Mr. Everett: "Jess, these Borden County people are disgustingly healthy. I'm going back to Killeen, where the people are at least puny." The records show that he left Gail on April 12, 1911.

Another doctor of the Horse and Buggy Days was Dr. A. W. Thompson. He was born June 15, 1871, in Collin Texas, and came to Borden County in May, 1908, at the age of 36, settling up on the Cap at Tredway, near where Mrs. Gazzie Nunnally now lives. He and his wife had six children, 3 girls and 3 boys. A daughter, Mrs. Willine Robinson still lives in O'Donnell. Dr. Thompson moved with his family to O'Donnell about 1916. According to Mr. Bert Fritz when the flu epidemic broke out in '17 and '18, he drove his horse and buggy day and night to Tredway as well as the surrounding communities to "Doctor the Flu" and never lost a case. He passed away in 1934 at O'Donnell.

Only three Dentists have registered in the County Records. On October 8, 1895, Dr. S. A. King registered giving his address as Gail. He attended Atlanta Dental College, Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. I. N. McGee also gave his address as Gail when he registered here on February 26, 1901. He was examined by the Dental Board of Examinators, 45th Judicial District of Texas, and issued a diploma November 9, 1892, having been in regular practice of dentistry next preceeding the 27 of March, 1899. Dr. E. A. Long practiced dentistry here in 1909 and it is believed he lived and had an office in Big Spring but came to gail once every month to fix teeth. This was also the practice of Dr. S. B. Cox, Optometrist, Sweetwater, Texas, in 1923 when he came to Gail on certain days to sell 'specks'. A number of doctors have practiced medicine in Borden County who never lived here. One was Dr. Browning of Fluvanna, Texas.

We find only one nurse registered in the County. Recorded in the Deed Records, Volume 74, page 135 and reads: "Registry of Nurse Certificate: Board of Nurse Examiners of State of Texas. On 1st day of December, 1955, Frances Imodene Hendon Burkett was declared duly qualified to practice professional nursing in State of Texas and is entitled to be styled and known as a Registered Nurse. Filed and Recorded January 16, 1956." Frances is the wife of Jim Mac Burkett who is a member of an early day family of this County. They also live on top of the Cap, very near where the pioneer Dr. Thompson first settled.

A few years ago a representative for firm selling products for babies and young children came to Gail to check the Birth Records, in order to complete his advertising list. When he discovered that we have no new births and very few deaths recorded here, he asked how we got our children and if the people lived forever. We explained that if either birth or death occurs within the boundary of Borden County, it is an "accident". He left in confusion, for what we failed to explain was the real reason few births and deaths are recorded here. There have been no doctors living in the County for many years and there has never been a hospital located here.

Doris Taylor Rudd and Pauline Clark.

Editors note: This article concludes the series relating to Doctors who have practiced in Borden County. We wish to acknowledge at this time the cooperation of the families of these good men in helping in the compilation of this material, and also the great amount of time and research spent in preparation of these articles by Doris Taylor Rudd, Pauline Clark, and Sibyl Gilmore. We hope you have enjoyed them.

FROM THE PENS OF OUR READERS:

Mrs. Cleve Jolly, Carefree, Ariz.: I have enjoyed your paper though sad to hear of so many Gail people passing away. Would be interesting to know where old friends have drifted to and what they are doing...I hope to visit Gail someday...am wondering if there is a shorter route or does one still have to go through Big Spring. Ed. note - Gail can be reached by good paved roads from Big Springs, 42 mi.; from Lamesa, 31 mi.; from Post, 31 mi.; Snyder, 32mi. Come see us!

Bennie Edwards, O'Donnell: I have purchased the Smoot place from John Stevens and restored the old ranch house. It was built in 1890 I understand...I also painted and repaired the old Smoot barn which is a land mark in Borden Co. for "Barn" dances in early days.

Josie Good Howell, Kenna, N. Mex.: I recall many names that were friends of my mother and father... I was born in Gail in 1901 and remember my mother saying Dr. Prince was her doctor...I spent the last three months of my grandmothers life with her and my Uncle Bill Bedell west of Gail about 12 miles in '13.

Mrs. Fred Taylor, Portales, N. Mex.: ... send me the letter about Gail and Borden County...My grandparents, Uncle Dick and Aunt Lacy Cathey are buried at Gail as are several uncles and aunts... My parents Charlie B. Morrison and Miss Lula Cathey were married there..I was born there-(years ago)

Mrs. Jo Coates McMurtry, Shamrock, Tex.: I am writing for my mother, Mrs. Joseph Ford Coates as she is not well..she is now 90 yrs. old...she married Ford Coates who was the son of Mr. & Mrs. W. P. Coates who lived near Gail in late 1880's...This check is a memorial for Joseph Ford Coates.

Frank P. Hill, Tahoka:...Among the many Borden Countians that I have known were W. D. (Bill) Nevels Jim Weatherford, the Hale Brothers, the Sam Sanfords, the Tredways & many, many others...In fact, as a kid I once watered the horses for old Col. C. C. Slaughter when he was riding in his "ambulance" driven by his "darkie" porter. (and Namon Everett)

Esther Boren, Snyder: Your newsletter is always so interesting & historically important...Doris Taylor Rudds' Gail and Borden County brochure is very clever...We may copy her in Scurry County.

Bertha L. Howe, Galveston: ...Have intended writing you sooner...have been in hospital 4 times since the death of my husband - O. S. Howe, Feb. 6, 1967...We made several trips thru Gail in the 1950's & enjoyed visits with Uncle Dave Dorward at his Drug Store & Aunt Minnie in their home... went to top of the hill & had a wonderful view of your grand country.

As you know, our new year began with the September issue of the newsletter. If you have not done so, please send your dues - \$3.00 yearly, payable to Borden Co. Historical Society - to Sybil Holmes, Box 137, Gail, Texas 79738. These dues make it possible for us to continue publishing this letter. We wish we had space to acknowledge all the letter we receive. Much information for our articles is gleaned from them. So keep them coming. Sybil Holmes, Editor Borden Citizen

Again this year, as we have for almost 70 years, the people of Gail will observe the custom of a community Christmas tree. This observance is always held at the Church on Christmas Eve with the Baptist and Methodist Churches taking "turn about" in hosting the tree. This year the tree will be at the Methodist Church and we hope that, if you cannot be with us in person, your memories of Christmases past will bring you to our tree in spirit. Many of the families for whom this custom held much significance have moved away and they no longer return to Gail to spend Christmas. But even tho the attendance is smaller each year, we are not yet ready to abandon this beautiful custom which meant so much to the early settlers of Borden County.

The 1968 Christmas in Gail will be quite different from the holiday celebrations at the turn of the century. Then cowboys from the 9R, MK, Square and Compass, and the Jumbo ranches came to Gail for their holiday celebrations at Christmas. They tied their horses at the hitching rails around the Courthouse square, used the only bathtub in town (at the Barber Shop) and sent compliments to the young lady of their choice requesting her company at the dance (that is if she were allowed to dance) which was sure to be held at a nearby ranch or upstairs in the Courthouse. And there was Mr. Chandler's Bluefront Store which usually afforded a beautiful gift to be placed anonymously on the Christmas tree or delivered in person to the favored girl. One lovely lady remembers a gorgeous wine colored wool "piano runner" with elaborated embroidered leaf design purchased at Mr. Chandler's store - (by Tom Mitchell - for her). Fragile china dishes, bowls and vases were favored gifts. Also part of the Christmas celebrations was the shooting of fireworks. Roman candles, firecrackers, skyrockets were common but "sparklers" were an innovation not known until 1910 or later. This is another custom which is disappearing and was never used in some parts of the country. However it was a big part of Christmas Eve activity in our County for many years. Many of us recall going home from the Christmas tree to shoot our fireworks and then hang our stockings for the Christmas nuts and candy and perhaps the only orange we saw all year long. The dances were occasions of fellowship, 'sparkin' and feasting as well as music and dancing, all welcome diversions for the cowboys from the isolated ranches. Following one such dance at the Mitchells the young people were not ready to "call it a nite" and went to the "mountain" to enjoy the snowfall. There Charlie Schropshire - photographer with handlebar mustache - made their picture. Among those in the picture are Cass Lyons; John, Guy and Lillie Clark; Bell and Lucy Kincaid; Dee, Oscar, Ludie and Tennie Locklear; Julia McCarty; Lucy Hale; Lizzie Smoot; Ura Allen; Bob Hunter; Jim Dorward; Jack Rogers and Jim Jolly. This picture is in the Borden Co. Museum. Jim Dorward was driving a brand new red wheeled buggy ordered from Montgomery Ward.

In the spirit of these past Christmases we hope your Holiday will be as gay and full of Joy and Fellowship as were those early Holidays in Borden County.

Edna Miller, Chairman
Borden Co. Historical Survey Comm.

From: Borden County Historical Society
Gail, Texas 79738

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