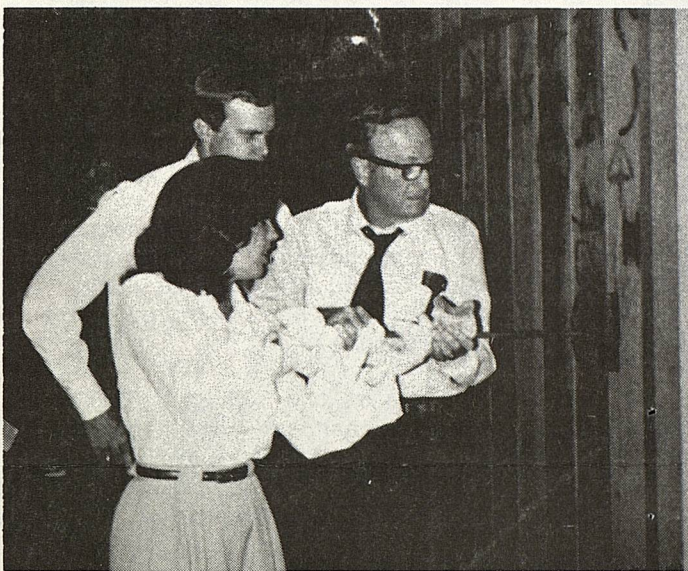


and the opening of free range land to settlement by "nesters" spelled the end of many ranching empires, among them the Jumbo. Nick Beal, as manager of the Jumbo, had saved money enough - on a salary of \$35.00 per month - to buy the ranch improvements and range rights when the Jumbo went out of business. He also supported a family! In 1898 Mr. Beal sold out to Bud Hood and went to Lubbock County where they ranched for 21 years before returning to Borden County and purchasing the F. E. Abney Ranch on the Colorado River south of Gail. There they ran the IX brand which is still used by Bob Beal on the same ranch.

Two brands which have been in use in Borden County since 1890 were placed on the oak board at A & M. One was the JY brand of the York family. Their ranch was founded on Gavitt Creek by Joseph Sanford York, who helped organize Borden County in 1891, and became one of the first County Commissioners. The York family has lived on the same property continuously longer than any other family in Borden County. The brand is still used on part of the original ranch by Joe York of Snyder, only living child of J. S. York. A grandson, Van L. York, lives on the ranch. Van went to College Station to burn the JY on the Borden County board.

The other 1890 brand, burned by Vivian and Pauline Clark, was brought to Borden County by Vivian's grandfather, W. K. Clark, who purchased cattle and recorded their brand, the Ladder H, in Refugio County on July 7, 1869. W. K. Clark lived in Bee County until 1880 when he moved to Uvalde County where the picket house he built still stands. In 1890 he came to Borden County. The Ladder H has been used by the Clark Family for 110 years. It is now owned by Vivian Clark.

Bess Orson Smith had planned to accompany the group to A & M to burn her family's O brand



THERESA CLAYTON AND HER BRANDING IRON

(formerly RO - simplified, as were many brands because of screw worm infestation) and incidentally to visit her grandchildren at Temple, but "something came up". Bess' grandfather Robert Orson, an English Lord, came to America in 1882 and settled in Borden County in the 1890's. They first lived on the infamous block 97 near Knapp and in 1903 moved to the ranch just under the Caprock on the Lamesa road. The O is still used by Bess and her sons, Jay and Lin.

A brand representing much Borden County history, the Half Circle 2 was placed in the stairwell. This brand was first recorded in 1894 by J. D. (Jim) and J. K. Mitchell. These brothers, after an adventure filled life which included ranching in California and in Hayes County, Texas, came to our area to work on the Square and Compass ranch in northern Borden and Garza Counties, Jim as manager of the ranch and J. K. as wagon boss. After the

Square and Compass was sold to John Slaughter in 1899 the Mitchells moved to land southwest of Gail which is still owned by the Mitchell family. The Half Circle 2 has been in continuous use by this family and was registered in 1974 to Roger Williams, great grandson of J. K. Mitchell.

Other brands placed on the board allotted to Borden County, were the Rafter Cross originated by Frank Miller about 1915 and still in use on land settled by R. N. Miller in 1900. The brand was placed by Frank Miller, Jr. of Uvalde. It is now registered to E. L. and Barbara (Miller) Farmer.

The L (formerly HL) of Herman Ledbetter was burned by Sam Field, Borden County Agent. This brand has been used by three generations of the Ledbetter family who have contributed much to West Texas history.

The branding crew from Borden County were joined in the beautiful atrium of the Kleberg building by their neighbors from Garza and Scurry Counties which were both well represented. A spirit of camaraderie typical of a ranch round-up prevailed as the groups visited and entered their names and brands in the magnificent record book provided by the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. And as they went about the very serious business of placing their brand on that very special spot, probably every one present felt the awesome sense of having a part in making and preserving a great heritage.



THE BORDEN COUNTY BRANDING CREW

At the top of their board, Garza County placed the unnamed Spanish brand of Leonardo de la Garza for whom Garza County was named. His descendants still own land near San Antonio granted to him by the King of Spain. Two of them, Robert and John Uturri, came to A & M from San Antonio and brought the original branding iron for use in the branding. The iron is now in the Garza County Museum.

John Lott from the Slaughter Ranch in Garza and Borden Counties burned on the Square and Compass which was purchased by his grandfather, John Slaughter, in 1899. This is said to be the oldest brand in the South, having been started in Missouri by Nave-McCord Cattle Company before 1840. John Slaughter's great-grandson burned on his U-lazy S which was registered in Borden County in 1896, and has been used by the Slaughter family since 1866. The Double U of the C. W. Post Estate was placed by UU manager Copeland of Levelland. And the O. S. brand, originated in 1889 by Frank and Andy Long, Borden County pioneers, was burned by Jim Prather, son-in-law of Giles McCreary. McCreary is the grandson of Giles Connell who once lived at the O. B. Ranch east of Gail. Walter Boren placed the Z brand which his grandfather first used in Bell County in 1879 and is still in use by the Borden family in Garza County.



FRANK MILLER, JR. AND EDNA MILLER

Among the Scurry County group were J. N. and Wanda (Koonsman) Eicke who placed the Horseshoe A brand of Wanda's grandfather, John Koonsman, and her father's "Paddle D", both of which have been used on the Koonsman Ranch in Borden County. Fred and Jean Taylor Bullard branded Hugh Taylor's Mashed O and Jean's grandfather Joda Monroe's V Bar. Bright eyed young Max Williams branded the Rafter S which his grandfather G. W. Williams brought to Garza and Borden County in 1879.

Other historic brands recorded on the stairwell which have been used in Borden County was the SXT of J. Wright Mooar, famed buffalo hunter, the NUN of the Nunn brothers of Snyder who are said to have built fence in this area in northern Borden County, and the HAT brand of "Sug" Robertson of Colorado

City which was placed on the Mitchell County board by his grandson, Cliff Robertson II, well known movie and TV star. "Sug" Robertson bought the 20 sections which was the MK horse pasture when the Magnolia Cattle and Land Company closed out their holdings. This is the land now occupied by the Bert Dennis and Roland Key ranches.

Yes, it was an impressive and historic occasion, in which we wish more Borden County people could have participated. We are especially regretful that more of our older historic brands were not used. We have a great heritage in our ranching history and are grateful that it is being thus preserved.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We are grateful to Edna Miller for writing this article and we thank The Borden Star where this article first appeared.

OLD-TIMER WHO LIVES IN LAMESA RECALLS HOW "80 JOHN" WALLACE GOT HIS NICKNAME

His memory prodded by recent stories on "80 John" Wallace, negro ranchman who is Mitchell County's oldest settler in point of years spent in the County, J. W. C. (Bud) Mullins of Lamesa has contributed some interesting sidelights on the origin of the "80" brand of cattle which the negro helped Clay Mann and his brother, Charles, run on Mitchell County ranges back in the late seventies.

Mullins, who was born in 1862 on the IC ranch on Jim Ned, 15 miles northwest of where Brownwood now is in Brown County, recalls that in 1870 the state gave Brown County the number 80. All ranchers in the County were requested to put that number on their stock so the ranchers in other Counties would know where to drift the cattle when they strayed from Brown County ranges.

That same year, (1870), with all their cattle branded with an "80", Mullins people moved their cattle to a ranch on the Concho river 14 miles east of Fort Concho. In 1876, Mullins' father, John Mullins, joined Kin Elkins and Clay Mann in moving "80" to the Double Mountains on the Brazos River. Four years later, in 1880, Mullins sold all his stock to them.

Bud Mullins remembers that Clay Mann kept up the "80" brand, using it on some race horses he raised as well as on his cattle. Both Mann and his friend, John Good, had a negro named John, Mann called his negro cowpuncher "80" John" to distinguish him from Good's negro. Thus did the Mitchell County pioneer negro get the "80 John" name which is still more familiar to Mitchell Countians than his real name, D. W. Wallace.

The letter in which Mullins recorded these memories closed thus: "I wonder if he (80 John) remembers our roping a buffalo cow and tying her in Uncle Kin Elkins' corral to keep her?"

TAKEN FROM HARRY LANDER'S SCRAPBOOK.

This article is from Volume 3 of Mary C. Jones' Old Papers Files and was made available to us by Lee Jones of Colorado City. We thank him very much.

JOHN WESLEY WILBOURN, 74, died in June, 1979 and was buried in the Gail Cemetery. He was the grandson of J. I. Wilbourn who helped settle Gail, and gave the land for the County Courthouse. He is survived by his wife, five sons and 6 daughters.

H. D. SNEED, Jr., 59, of Monahans passed away in June, 1979. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and three sons, three sisters, Eura Becham and Ollie Stewart of Snyder and Clara Drum of Faith, South Dakota and one brother, Norman Sneed of Gail.

JESSIE B. JACKSON, passed away July 6, 1979 in a Lubbock hospital. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arch Odom and had lived in Borden County all of her life. She is survived by her husband, O. D., two daughters, Carol Lewis and Katherine and one son, Don, of Abilene, a sister, Ruby Lee Gooby, Arkdale, California and a brother, Douglas Odom and three grandchildren.

MRS. GEORGE A. (Ludie) CLARK, died July 6, 1979. She was born in 1884, went to school in Gail and was married in Gail in 1902. She is survived by three children, Lorene Vandevender of Clovis, George W. Clark of Scottsdale, Arizona and Arlene Rudolph of Oklahoma City.

LELA SMITH, 92, a resident of Fluvanna for 81 years passed away in July, 1979. Among her survivors is a son, W. E. Smith of Fluvanna.

RUTH BENNETT ALLISON, 69, passed away in September, 1979. Ruth went to school in Gail, worked and taught school in Borden County. She is survived by her husband, three sons, two brothers and three sisters.

LUD TAYLOR, 79, died October 8, 1979. He was the son of Charlie and Doris (Dodson) Taylor, early Borden County pioneers. Lud was born in a half dug out in Gail. Survivors include a brother, Martin Taylor of Hico, a neice, Doris Rudd of Gail and a nephew, Orval Cathey of Gail.

CECIL HUDDLESTON, 71, of Knapp, Texas died in February, 1980. He and his wife were often seen in Borden County,

WILLIS BENNETT, 61, of Snyder was buried in the Gail Cemetery March 1, 1980. Willis grew up in Gail and is survived by his wife, Doris Melba (Pearce) Bennett and one son, Kenneth P. of Waco, two grandchildren, three sisters, Blanche Hamilton of Lamesa, Edith Clark of Big Spring and Marie Elliott of Hobbs, New Mexico and one brother, Milton Bennett of Fort Worth.

JARRETT STANFORD, 7, passed away March 3, 1980 in Big Spring, Texas. Among his survivors are his mother, Linda Stanford, his grandparents, Max and Lura Perry, all of Borden County. He was the great grandson of John Gilmer Davis a pioneer of Borden County.

REVEREND J. ROY HAYNES, 71, of Ackerly died March 14, 1980 in a Lubbock hospital. He was a former pastor of the Gail Baptist Church. Bro. Haynes served as Justice of the Peace in Gail during a portion of the time he was pastor. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and one son.

ETHYL LYNN TUBB, 46, of Snyder died May 8, 1980 in California. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe York, formerly of Borden County, The Yorks being one of the earliest settlers in the County. She is survived by her husband, Dubb, three daughters and one son.

MRS. E. S. (Katie) LEWIS, 81, of Sand Springs passed away May 5, 1980. She is survived by one son and three daughters, one being Sibyl Gilmore of Gail and a member of our Historical Committee.

RAYMOND D. LLOYD, 73, Hermleigh died May 7, 1980 in Snyder. Mr. Lloyd and the former Leta Gray, a native of Borden County were married March 30, 1928 and lived south of Gail near Fairview School until 1936. They have been great supporters of the Borden County Museum and Newsletter.

RUBY SMITH, 67, of Coahoma passed away in June, 1980. She was a former resident of Gail and is survived by three sons, two daughters, and two brothers, one being M. M. Monk of Gail.

IVAN WEBSTER JONES, 56, passed away June 5, 1979 in Amarillo, Texas. He was a brother of Mrs. T. S. (Cora Mae) Hudson and had visited in Borden County many times.

MRS. WAYNE (ESTHER) BOREN, 79, of Snyder passed away February 4, 1980. She was prominent in Scurry County Historical Commission activities and was a charter member of the Commission. She has worked with Borden County on many projects.

PUTCH MOORE, of Coleman, Texas, a former long time resident of Borden County, passed away June 26, 1979 in Coleman. He is survived by his wife, Rosetta and son, Fred.

HETTIE KINCAID WHITAKER, died June 26, 1979 in Coleman. Hettie was a long time resident of Borden County and a frequent contributor of material to THE BORDEN CITIZEN.

Memorial Gifts to the Borden County Museum have been made in Memory of:

MRS. DUB TUBB
BY Darrell Taylor
Brighton, Co.

IVAN WEBSTER JONES
BY Vivian and Pauline Clark
Gail, Texas

WILLIS BENNETT
by Frank and Ruth Medley
Lubbock, Texas

Vivian and Pauline Clark
Gail, Texas

MUSEUM NEWS

The Borden County Historical Committee met in June in the Courthouse to plan a work day to clean the Museum. Plans were made to meet again July 7th. Several members were present on the 7th and spent the afternoon cleaning and dusting the Museum in preparation for opening the Museum on Saturdays and Sundays, from 1:00 P. M. until 5:00 P. M. for the next several months. Several local people volunteered to keep the Museum open. If you want to see the Museum on a weekday, the people who work in the Courthouse will take you through.

Another meeting was held July 22, 1980 at 7:00 P. M. in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Sneed. There were sixteen people present for this meeting. They were: Pauline and Vivian Clark; Jim M. and Frances Burkett; Van and Barbara York; Roy and Azlee Reeder; C. C. and Florence Nunnally; Buster and Jean Taylor; Sibyl Gilmore; Edna Miller and Norman and Bonnie Sneed. There will be another work day at the Museum on Thursday afternoon, July 31, 1980, at 1:30 P. M. There will be another meeting of the Historical Committee September 9th, 1980 at 7:30 P. M. in the Courthouse at Gail. Anyone interested in The Historical Committee, the Museum or local history is invited to attend.

"BIG TWO NEWS
P. O. Box 2222
Houston, Texas

Dear Mrs. Smith:

I just wanted to write you a note thanking you and the Judge for all the help you gave me while I was filming in Gail. The Museum you folks have there is truly something to be proud of.

Sincerely, Gary James "

The above letter was written after pictures were made by Mr. James for a brochure to go with films being broadcast over the Houston T V Station Channel 2.

"Honorable Jim M. Burkett, County Judge
Gail, Texas 79738

Dear Judge Burkett:

Help us brag on things to see and do in the Permian Basin! Our company is preparing a video "travel-log" about West Texas attractions which will be shown in our booth during the Permian Basin Fair and Exposition, September 10-14. We want to include the Borden County Museum and will be calling on you very soon to set-up a filming appointment. Since we are covering a large area in limited time, be thinking of your best, most unique or popular exhibits....

El Paso Products Company, Odessa, Texas

Mr. S... (Avalanche Journal Photographer) was in Gail on July 25, 1980. He took some notes and made a few pictures of the Museum. He is writing an article for the newspaper that will appear sometime about the first of September about the interesting things to see on THE SOUTH PLAINS TRAIL.

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS:

I enjoy your paper very much. I was born in Gail July, 1901. My parents were Frank and Katie Good. I spent my early childhood in Borden and Dawson Counties. I spent much time with my Grandmother Ada Bedell and Uncle Will Bedell. We were related to the Bob Dorwards and close friends to Dave and Miss Minnie Dorward. So many familiar names in your news sheet. The early days of transportation and the one room schools are still in my memories. We came to Kenna, New Mex. when I was 12 years old. My Dad's brother (Tom Good) and my Dad were very close and were noted for their jokes. Their sister, Mrs. Charles (Lizzie) Stovall of Irving, Texas who used to visit them in West Texas is still living and will be 99 December 3, 1979. The youngest brother, Grover, is in a rest home in El Paso....I have written all this partly to let you know why your paper means so much to me and I share it with the G. E. Petersons and Mayes Jenkins when I have a chance.

Josie Good Howell, Kenna, New Mexico

I enjoy your paper so much and keep every copy. They do come in handy at times. Thank you for sending them to me and I will check to see if I am behind with my dues. Eunice Yadon, Gail, Tex.

Hi There, Enclosed is my check for The Borden Historical CITIZEN. I look forward to it and do not want to miss an issue.

Thanks, Eddie Smith Jenkins, Tyler/?

This check is from Mother's Uncle. We sent him a BORDEN CITIZEN and he enjoyed it very much. He would like to subscribe. He especially enjoyed the article about Snellings. He was a pupil there but his name wasn't mentioned. Neither was his first teacher, W. P. Sims. Mr. Sims and his wife, Jessie, owned and operated the Sims Dry Good Store in Fluvanna for many years. Buck Robertson, Mother's Uncle, was reared by his sister, Burma and her husband, Arch Odom, who were my Mother's parents. He says he could write a book on the Snellings School of teachers kids! The full name and address are on the check. Thanks,

Catherine Jackson, Gail, Texas

I am sending a check for to pay for the BORDEN CITIZEN. Violene Stanton, Ozona, Texas

Enclosed is my check for THE BORDEN CITIZEN...I am always looking for Kincaid items.

Mrs. Ted Schoch (Mary J ane Kincaid)
New Braunfels, Texas

My mother, Hettie Kincaid Whitaker, passed away June 26, 1979 in Cloeman. She is survived by a daughter, Mrs. T. C. Livingston (Ruth) of Coleman; a son, Bob, of Abilene; a sister, Mrs. Tom Stewardson, of Brownwood; a brother, Alvin Kincaid of Cisco; four grand-children and six great-grand-children. Mother moved to Borden Co. at a very early age-between one and two, I believe. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Kincaid, early day ranchers of Borden Co. Her grand-parents, Mr. and Mrs. David G. Kincaid, owned the first hotel in Gail. Her sister, Viola Gail Kincaid Hudson, was the first white child born in Gail. Hettie Kincaid and Bob Whitaker, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Whitaker, also of Borden Co. were married in Gail Sept. 16, 1908. He preceeded her in death in 1974. They continued to live in Borden County for several years after their marriage. Their first child, Ruth, was born there. Borden County - Gail - its people - were always dear to my Mother's heart. She cherished memories of those by-gone days and never missed an opportunity to return. The last time she was there was a few years ago for the Pioneer Celebration on July 4. My brother and I were with her and also her sister and brother. I, too, have fond memories of days spent in Borden Co., and would like to keep up with all the happenings that go on. I hope to come back for any special occassions. After all, I'm a native daughter. Enclosed find my check for a subscription to THE BORDEN CITIZEN. I enjoy reading it very much.

Ruth Livingston, Cloeman, Texas

I'm afraid we did not send you a check last year, as I can find no record of it. Am sending one now. We do enjoy the BORDEN CITIZEN very much. We think it is a grand paper.

Frank & Ruth Medley, Lubbock, Texas

Last winter I visited your Museum and found it very interesting. I took pictures of the old tractors but didn't get any information about them. Could you possibly tell me the make and probably year they were built? I sent a subscription in recently for your Newsletter and am looking forward to seeing the first issue.

Mrs. Chas. Worthington, Owensboro, Ky.

I have again waited too long to send in my check for THE BORDEN CITIZEN, but please don't ever drop my name from your roster of subscribers. It will eventually get to you. The months go by and all too rapidly and it seems each succeeding year passes more quickly. I wonder if I have missed one or more printings. I have not received one since Spring of 1979.(EDITOR'S NOTE: The last printing was Spring, 1979). I read every publication with great interest and one special interest is reading the notes sent in by subscribers, many of whom I remember, but have never seen or heard of since I left Borden County so many years ago, particularly those I knew as a small child when I lived at Durham from 1908 until 1918, when my family moved down to what we called the "Murphy Community", living near the Weathers and von Roeder families. I always went to the one-teacher school at Durham. We lived only one-quarter of a mile from the school. In the Spring of 1979 Edition, there was a letter written by Mrs. Maurine Elam of Wichita Falls. She was Maurine Scoggin, and I remember her. She visited us there at Durham also. We went to Church at Durham as did most people for miles around there. The last year I went to school at Durham, in 1918-1919, there were only 5 students. They were: Lary Beth Waskom, Little Jo Murphy, Robert Lee Gray and my sister, Grace Cantrell and myself. She and I were in the 8th grade. I often think about many of the childhood friends I had there at Durham. We had such good times growing up there, visiting each other, working together, roaming the hills together and at Church together, and at school. Would be good to hear from any who are still living. Thanks for the paper. As many of you know, my parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Cantrell, later moved to Gail in 1923.

Pauline Cantrell Brigham, Lagune Hills, Calif.

Send your letters to us. We enjoy getting letters like these and will be glad to include your letters in our future printings. Send letters, histories or memories to Edna Miller, Fluvanna, Texas 79517 or Pauline Clark, Gail, Texas 79738. You can send any Memorials to Dorothy Browne, Gail, Texas. Pauline has been doing this for us for these many years but she will be getting some help now. Thanks to Pauline for a job well done.

Write us now!

Borden Citizen.

Published 4 times a year, September, December, March and June. Subscription rate \$3.00 yearly payable to the BORDEN CITIZEN; and mailed to the Borden County Historical Survey Committee, Gail, Texas, 79738.

From: The Borden Historical Society
Gail, Texas 79738

To:

SOUTHWEST COLLECTION
Texas Tech University
LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409

Nonprofit Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit #2
Gail, Texas

Southwest Collection
Box 4090 Tech Station
Lubbock, Texas 79409