

The Story of Rule, Texas

E. J. Cloud

THE HISTORY OF THE LISLE GIN

(Told by Mrs Lisle
in her own words.)

In about 1907 or 1908 there was a gin built on the present site of the Lisle Gin. The gin was built by Swift Gins. Some of the first men who ran the gin were Mr. Swift and his sons, a Mr. Williams, and John Ferguson, who later moved to Jones County.

In 1914 the gin had not been operated for a year or more and it was in poor condition. (Mr. Carl Lee said that Mr. W. A. Earnest had asked him to hire some men and repair the gin and to run it that year. Mr. Earnest had moved here from Munday in 1908 to be partners in the oil mill with Mr. J. L. Jones, who had several gins along with the mill business in adjoining towns.) That year was a good crop year and they ginned all winter.

The next year, 1915, Miss Pearl Earnest was the bookkeeper. In 1916 she married Mr. C. A. Murray, formerly superintendent of our high school.

The driest year has been reported as 1918.

Mr. Spurlock was manager of the gin in 1920. That same year the gin had burned down before they had finished the season.

In 1919 Ola Mae Pike and James A. Lisle were married on September 1, at Memphis, Texas. Jim Lisle had worked at Shamrock and Memphis for Chickasha Gin Company as a bookkeeper for several years before he had gone to the army in World War I. In the spring of 1919, after a period of about three years, he returned. He was given the job of managing the gin at Benjamin, where the Lisles lived for two years, operating the Benjamin and Truscott gins. Both the Benjamin and Truscott gins were Swift Gins.

After the gin burned the Lisles were asked to rebuild it on the same location. In 1921 Mr. Lisle went back and forth each week throughout the summer to work. He stayed with the B. G. Hunts, who ran a boarding house in the west part of town. In 1921 the Lisles chartered two railroad cars and moved to Rule. They bought the house one block west and

one block north of the railroad depot. It was on the southeast corner of the second block where Mrs. Lisles lives at the present time. The house had been built by the Bohanans in 1907 or 1908. Mr. Spurlock had lived there and managed the gin in 1920. It was a well built house made of lumber and painted white.

In the spring of 1926, the Lisles moved across the street and lived, while the old house was torn down and rebuilt. This time it was built of stucco.

Frank McCulley and the Cannon brothers were the contractors and Jess Smith was the cement man. (These men built many Rule homes in the 20's.)

The Gin that the Lisles built in 1921 was an up-to-date gin those days. Six, seventy-sawed Fratt gin stands, a frost steam engine and a large boiler fired with coals and burrs, and burr machine, all made up the new gin.

The gin crew was made up of Mr. Jim Gibbins, the fireman and engineer; Mr. D. P. Fuller the ginner; Dee Cannon, the pressman and a suction feeder, and the bookkeeper. (Many times the farmers suctioned their own cotton from the wagons.)

The gin was managed for 4 years for Chickasha Cotton Oil Company under the name of

Swift Gins. There were good crops and lots of cotton was ginned and in 1925 Mr. Lisles bought an interest in the gin business and the name was changed to Lisle Gin Company. At this time Mr. C. M. Francis was general manager over the oil mills at Rule, Jayton and Stamford and 28 gins. He lived in Stamford and several years later he was killed in a car accident.

It was always a very rushing time at the gin when there was cotton on the yard. (Mr. Fuller said that he can remember one day when he ginned 76 bales in 12 hours and 20 minutes and Dee Cannon tied them by himself.)

Mr. Frank McCulley began working as an engineer in 1924 and worked for 16 years. He later moved to San Antonio where he died in 1965.

The first seed cotton storage house was built for the fall's use in 1923. Cotton was still picked in those days and great quantities of cotton could be stored in a cotton house. This cotton house was divided into

stalls and, if a farmer was in a hurry, he could blow several bales of cotton into one of the stalls. Also he could store 20 or 30 bales of cotton in a stall and gin them out at one time, to catch planting seed this way his seed would stay truer to type. They would gin out of the house when they had caught up, or on rainy days. There was one difficulty with the cotton houses. There was never an easy way to feed the cotton out. When it was time to gin the cotton out of the house, extra hands were needed and it was very hard work. After farmers began to have more and better trailers the cotton house was used less and less, until it was torn down in 1950.

In 1925 extra equipment had been added on until the Frost engine had been overloaded. A Murray Corles steam engine was put in and it ran so easy and light that there was no load when more machinery was added years later.

At this time the gin building was built of lumber and painted yellow.

On Thanksgiving Day of 1926 the worst sandstorm that anyone in Rule has ever seen occurred. (Now 40 years later people are still talking about it.)

The year of 1926 was a big year for crops and they were not through ginning on February 12, 1927, when Mr. Lisle was killed by Mr. Favors who had not lived in Rule very long and was a day laborer at the oil mill.

The men who were working finished that season. Virgil Hunt was the bookkeeper. He had worked several years and he knew a great deal about the business.

Mrs. Lisle took over that fall of 1927. My only experience was some office work at Benjamin Gin the first two years I was married. I had some good men working and they all tried to help me.

My associates in the business were Mr. Sam Williams, a good friend of the family for many years, who lived in Eld City, Oklahoma; Mr. C. M. Francis; the general office force of Rule-Jayton Cotton Oil Company at Stamford (now changed to Stamford Oil Company); Mr. J. L. Pugh, machinery consultant and Mr. R. R. Killoey. A. J. Mills took the place of Mr. C. M. Francis. Mr. Mills and his family lived in Rule before moving to Stamford. All of these men have had encouraging words for my efforts.

The farmers who ginned with me were wonderful, overlooking my mistakes and encouraging me. And I needed it. Having

four small children, I had no other choice than to continue what my husband had started; although at times I felt insufficient. I loved the work from the start and welcomed the long hours and hard work and lots of times, baffling decisions. I went to cotton school in Abilene the summer of 1927, but I felt that I still did not know enough about classing a bale of cotton to buy one. So, I hired Virgil Cassle to buy the cotton that first year. I continued to go to cotton school every summer for several years. The following year I classed and bought all the cotton.

By this time, the gins were buying most all we ginned. For 10 or 12 years we bought on grade and staple. Gins then began buying "hog round," which means paying the same for all grades. This practice was not fair to the farmers or to the buyers. If a farmer takes good care of his cotton and it is a better bale, he is due more money. But cotton was pretty cheap and the cheaper cotton gets the less margin there is between grades. The "hog round" price was changed when the government started to class all samples free for staple and grade for the government loan. The gin cut the samples and mailed them to Abilene along with the grade card to be classed and returned to the farmer. The gin either bought the bale on the card as classed or prepared the loan contract for the farmer to draw his money from the Government Commodity Credit Corporation.

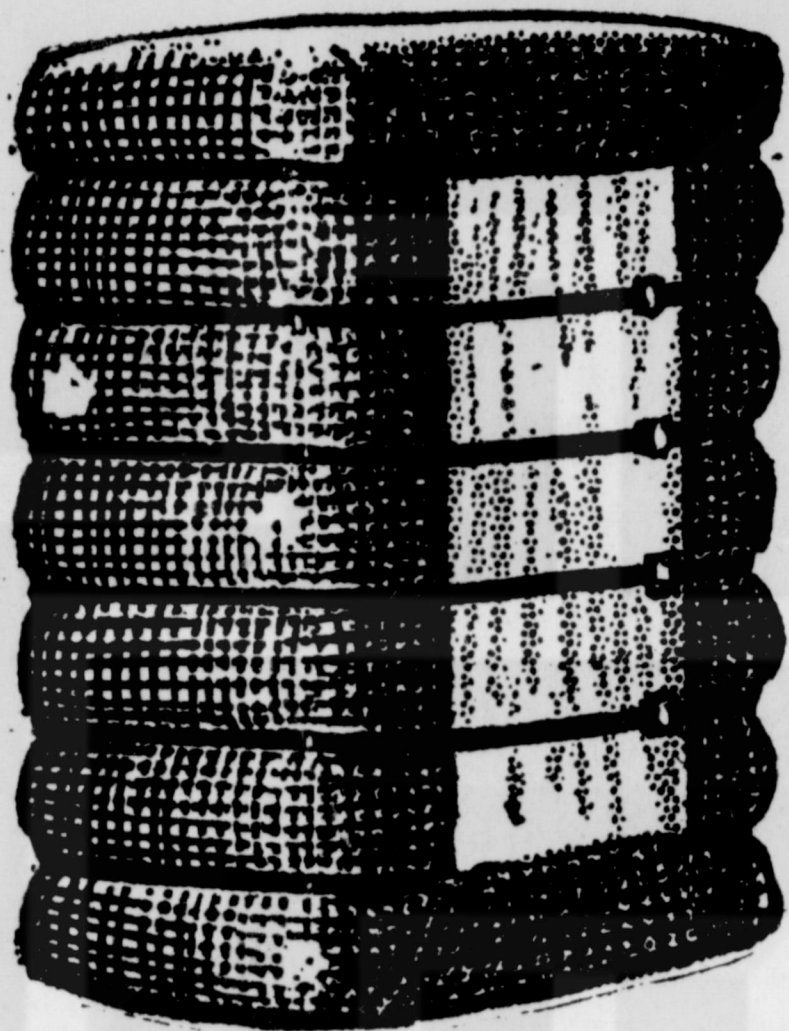
Mr. W. S. Franklin was manager at the oil mill when I first began to sell seed to the Rule mill. After his retirement, Mr. Tom Hornback moved to Rule and was there for several years.

We had some short gin seasons through 1928 and 1929. Some of the men that worked for me in those early years were Noble Glover, A. B. Arnett, Ed Hackfield, C. V. Ashley, G. B. Bishop, Frank Forsythe, Jake Taylor, R. N. Wilson, and Joe Holcomb. In the office were W. E. Baugh, Elsie Kittley, Homer Turner, Faye Yarbrough and Floyd White.

In 1929 cotton prices started rising in the earlier part of the fall. It then went down and stayed down for several years. In 1931 cotton was 5 and 6 cents a pound. In 1932 there was a big crop but no one had any money because cotton was so cheap; In 1933 and 1934 the farmer planted all the cotton he wanted to; 1934 was a very dry year; 1935 was almost a miss; 260 bales were ginned that year.

9-21-1967

We Are Ready To Gin!



★ We Have The Latest Lint
Cleaning Equipment
Available

★ Trailers and Pickers To
Assist In Harvesting
Your Cotton

We invite all old patrons, as well as
new ones, to visit us, inspect our gin
plant and then decide for yourself that
this is the place to bring your cotton.

**Always Serving You with the
Best In Ginning Equipment**

We Appreciate the Farmer That Is In
Our Seed Program and Will Assist Anyone
Interested In a Better Seed for Next Year.

Lisle Gin

Phone 4421

Rule, Texas

it lint cleaner and lint condenser all in one.

In 1963 the cotton acreage was cut, and in 1962, 1963, and 1964 the boll weevil took over. So much money was spent on pesticide that when the year was over the crop was good but there was little profit from it. In the next two years the weevil and boll worm had become worse. They had left only half of a crop.

There was a good crop in 1965 and the farmers received a fair price. No one had spent very much to make it and there was pretty weather in which to gather the cotton. 1965 was the first year that farmers had heard of cotton micronaire reading for cotton samples. This is a test for strength and milling quality. This test had been requested by some mill buyers for several years before

they would buy cotton. Every year it becomes a stricter practice. 1965 was the first year this mike reading was put on the government classing card. Certain readings were discounted and other premiums were added on the price.

Cotton buyers of West Texas will tell you this district of the rolling plains from Vernon to San Angelo has the best record of desirable cotton for milling a more uniform mature fiber. Cotton is a hot weather plant and our long summer season is needed to mature the cotton. The only drawback is the long dry spell which occurs during August and September sometimes and causes the staple to be shorter. Cotton fiber will not mature in cold, wet weather. This is the reason why some years you have more seed and poor lint turn out. The farmers have become more concerned about good planting seed. For several years they have been having their seed culled and delinted before planting. Formerly people would catch their own seed year after year, but now it is the practice of most gins to sell planting seed. The Lisle Gin does have a seed block each year, planted from Breeders seed in blocks of 50 or more acres in one field and ginned in large groups.

These seed are checked carefully, taken good care of, stored and delinted in bulk, and put up in 50 pound bags which are made available to farmers during planting time at a cost price.

Men working for me the last several years have been R. D. Alexander who is now retired, my brother L. B. Pike who moved here from California in 1946 and bought land in the Jud community and built his home there and is the present ginner. Ennis Webb started working, in 1952 and in 1954. George and Emmitt Webb started work all three are cousins. Lonnie Martin who started working in 1933, but did not work for a few years while he was farming, J. H. Peirce, J. L. Reid Jr. A. H. Allen, Don Peirce, J. W. Rush. Roy Tribbey was the office help for a few years and Howard Tribbey worked in the office in 1964 and 1965.



TEXAS INDEPENDENT GINNERS ASSOCIATION



12-14-1972

Lisle's Gin Co.

Mrs. J.A. Lisle - Owner

The Lisle's Gin Co. on receive. N. Hwy. 283 in Rule, phone 4421, is one of those reliable firms whom we are able to speak of in the highest terms.

This company has been doing business with the people of this area for some time, and over that period, they have established themselves as one of the leading firms in their field. No amount of effort is spared to give you the most careful service, and the customers of the concern are delighted with the service which they

The management of the company has had experience at this business and are thoroughly competent in every respect. Their advice in matters pertaining to their trade is sought after and respected.

The composers of this 1972 Review are not often able to give the wholehearted recommendation to any firm which we give to the Lisle's Gin Co.

"Holiday greetings from your friends at the Lisle's Gin Co."

1928

NAME

DATE

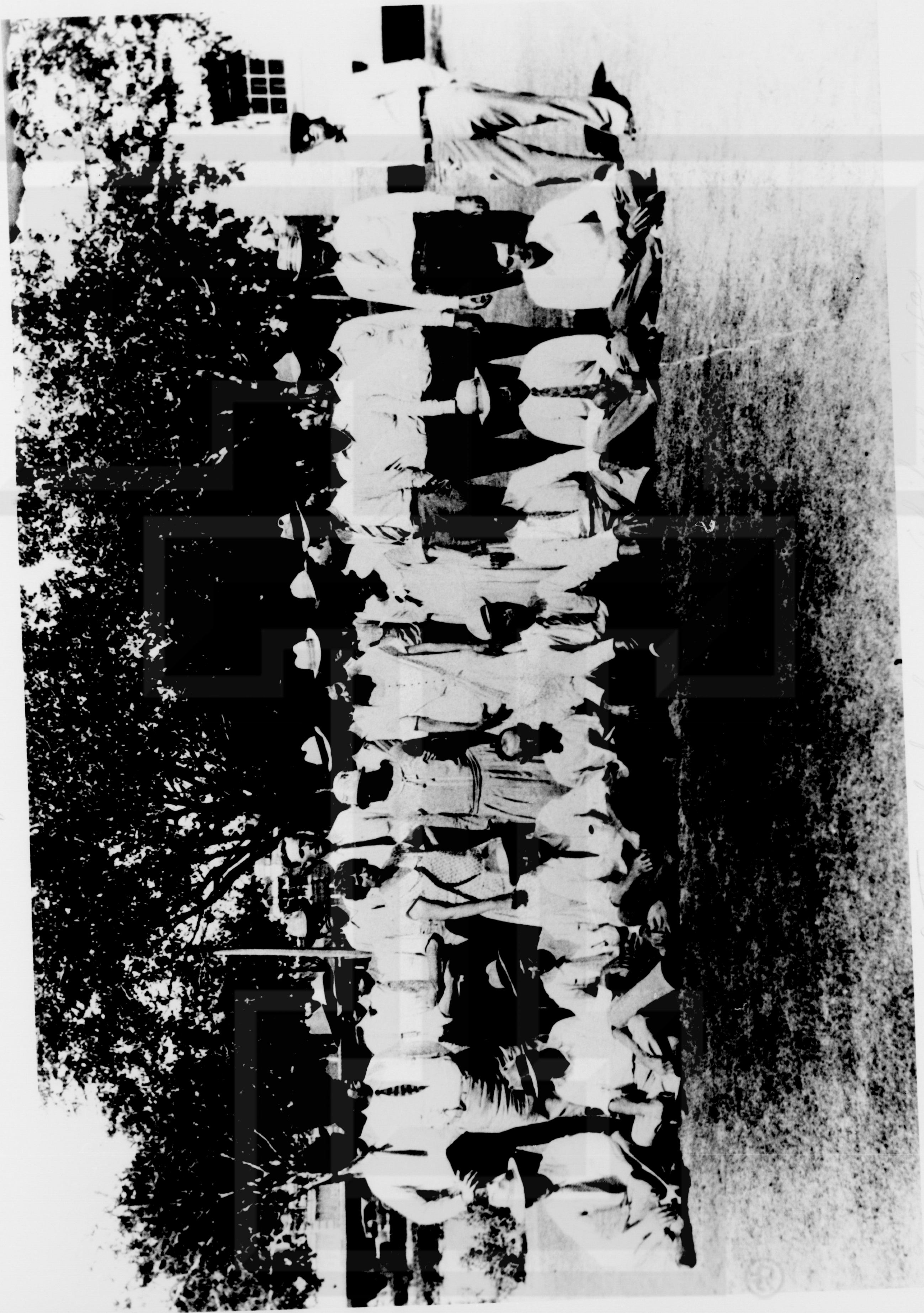
PREPARED

APPROVED

- 1
- 2 M. Jargrove
- 3 A.M. Reeves
- 4 W.H. Arrell
- 5 J.M. Alexander
- 6 Mrs W.A. Duncan
- 7 V.A. Castle
- 8
- 9 J.L. Hayes ?
- 10 Ola Mae Lisle
- 11 Joe Purcell ?
- 12 Mrs S.D. Moore
- 13 Tom Holland
- 14 Joe Butler
- 15 S. Ware Mead
- 16 M. E. Clintock ?
- 17 B.O. Davis
- 18

- 1 -
- 2 Clewey Craft
- 3 Joe Gaines
- 4 Joe Earnest
- 5 H. L. Yarborough
- 6 Bill Duncan
- 7 S.H. Sherman
- 8 Bob Buie
- 9 Leo Duncan

8-1928



Latton School in Volume 1928

MRS. J. A. LISLE
PRES.

O. B. TEAGUE
VICE-PRES.

SPENCER BROWN
EXEC. VICE-PRES.

CHARLES REESE
TREAS.

J. D. LITTON
SEC.

Farmers Compress Co.

GENERAL OFFICE — P. O. DRAWER 1339

WACO, TEXAS 76703

PLANT AT

RULE, TEXAS 79547

Waco, Texas 76703

February 6, 1968

RULE — Buddy Bishop puts in plenty of hours and accepts a big responsibility here.

Buddy, 50, has spent 32 of those years working at the cotton compress here, and today is manager. He started at the Western Compress and Storage which was owned and operated out of Abilene in 1945, and he has seen lots of the white stuff since.

The general office remained in Abilene until 1961 when it was sold to Importers and Traders of Waco and became the National Western Compress. In 1963, the folks of Rule put the compress in the control of the farmers themselves and it became The Farmers Compress. That's what it is called today. The stock had been sold to the gins in order to give the local producers control of their compress.

Bishop, a Rule native, explained that "all except for two years in the Navy, I have been right here."

The compress is his life and he's an expert.

By Feb. 12 the Farmers Compress has pressed 18,500 bales of cotton, and on that day Bishop said, "I'm expecting to compress 20,000 more."

And, that's not even an average season.

The normal season sees about 50,000 bales compressed. A good year might see 55,000 bales.

The cotton comes primarily from Haskell, Knox, Stonewall and Throckmorton counties.

Bishop said the Rule compress does not represent all of the area cotton compressed as "there are other compresses in the area — at Stamford, Seymour, and Hamlin."

When cotton arrives, bales are weighed and two samples are taken from each. In the old days, it was done by hand with a sharp, heavy knife by pulling the edge of the blade parallel and along the bands of the side of the bale.

The knives are actually still used, but they are locked into a



BUDDY BISHOP
...the boss

machine. The bale passes through on a conveyor belt and the knives rip along the side of the bale.

The samples in the Big Country may be either sent to the USDA Cotton Classing Office at Munday or the busy Abilene Cotton Classing Office of the USDA. For example, the Abilene office classed 26,000 samples in the week ending Feb. 5. By that date, 396,000 samples had been classed for the season compared to 175,000 by the same date in 1975. The office determines cotton quality and other characteristics.

Bishop said that $\frac{1}{4}$ pound is taken from each side of the bale. He sends one sample to the cotton classing office and retains one at the compress.

Jesse Vanderbilt, a longtime employee, recalled the old days when "we cut right at a thousand samples one day."

"And remember," Vanderbilt said, "that was by hand."

Vanderbilt is one of a team of 10 fulltime employees. He's known as the "head tucker."

Head tuckers actually ride the compress as it comes down

on a cotton bale and back up. They quickly tuck the bagging over the bale before it is compressed.

Orbrey Lynch of Hamlin works as the other head tucker opposite Vanderbilt. Bishop wouldn't consider giving the job to an amateur.

"That's our most dangerous job," he explained.

Area cotton comes in as modified gin flat bales. These are the fat bales folks are accustomed to seeing around cotton gins. Bales are 55 inches high, 25 inches thick, and 45 inches wide. Ideally, they are supposed to weigh 500 pounds.

Larry Tanner, one of two fork-life operators, loads up three bales at a time and moves them to the conveyor belt.

He may move 650 to 700 bales in one day.

Next, the bale moves to what is called the dinky press which is like the big press in design, but much, much smaller.

Six flat bands must be undone by John Griffin. The bale is now on its back opened up on the conveyor.

At the dinky press, Earl Davidson, Johnnie Sue Lockhart and Grady Bristo, a retired ginner, all move the bale through quickly.

Since by new law, two bands must be added, Willie Norwood is across the way doing his job called "dragging bands." Each weighs one pound.

Roy Lee Bailey and Jack Bagley take over there and shove bands.

At this point, a very important and essential man performs his duties.

"I'm what is called a lever puller," James Dean explained.

Dean works giant levers which bring the press down on the bale, after the head tuckers have performed their duties. Dean admits one can't be too careful and he feels much responsibility.

"You just have to watch everybody real close," Dean

said.

The cotton has been compressed and Bill Williams and Clyde Patterson now tie cotton.

Immediately after tying, the bale slides down the ram looking a great deal different geometrically than seconds earlier.

The compressed universal density bale is what the law began to require this season. The trim and neat bale is three inches taller at 58 inches, and the thickness remains the same at 25 inches. The width however, was reduced by an even 2 feet from 45 down to 21 inches. It is tied as neatly with 8 bands instead of 6, and that adds two pounds.

Next comes Charles Jackson of Haskell doing his job with the rhythm of a musician. Charles explains his job is "turnin' cotton."

He turns the new bale, using a hook, and lines two bales parallel. One of Bishop's sons, Robert E., 23, comes in here with a tractor and fork-lift. Robert, who was raised around the compress, moves his tractor to a Santa Fe Railway boxcar nearby if the bales are destined for rail. Or if bales are to move by truck, he heads to the truck-loading zone.

"We try not to load more than 150 bales to a box car," the elder Bishop said.

Bishop said big points of delivery are Alabama, Georgia, Memphis, Tenn., North Carolina, Galveston, Houston and Corpus Christi. The largest part of the cotton moved either by rail or truck winds up in Galveston.

To cotton destined for overseas, a one-pound patch is added at Rule.

Testifying that Rule's economy is cotton and he's happy there, Bishop says he believes in the sign outside town which reads: "Rule, Gateway to the Cotton Fields — If You Stop, You'll Stay!"

Abilene Reporter-News

living

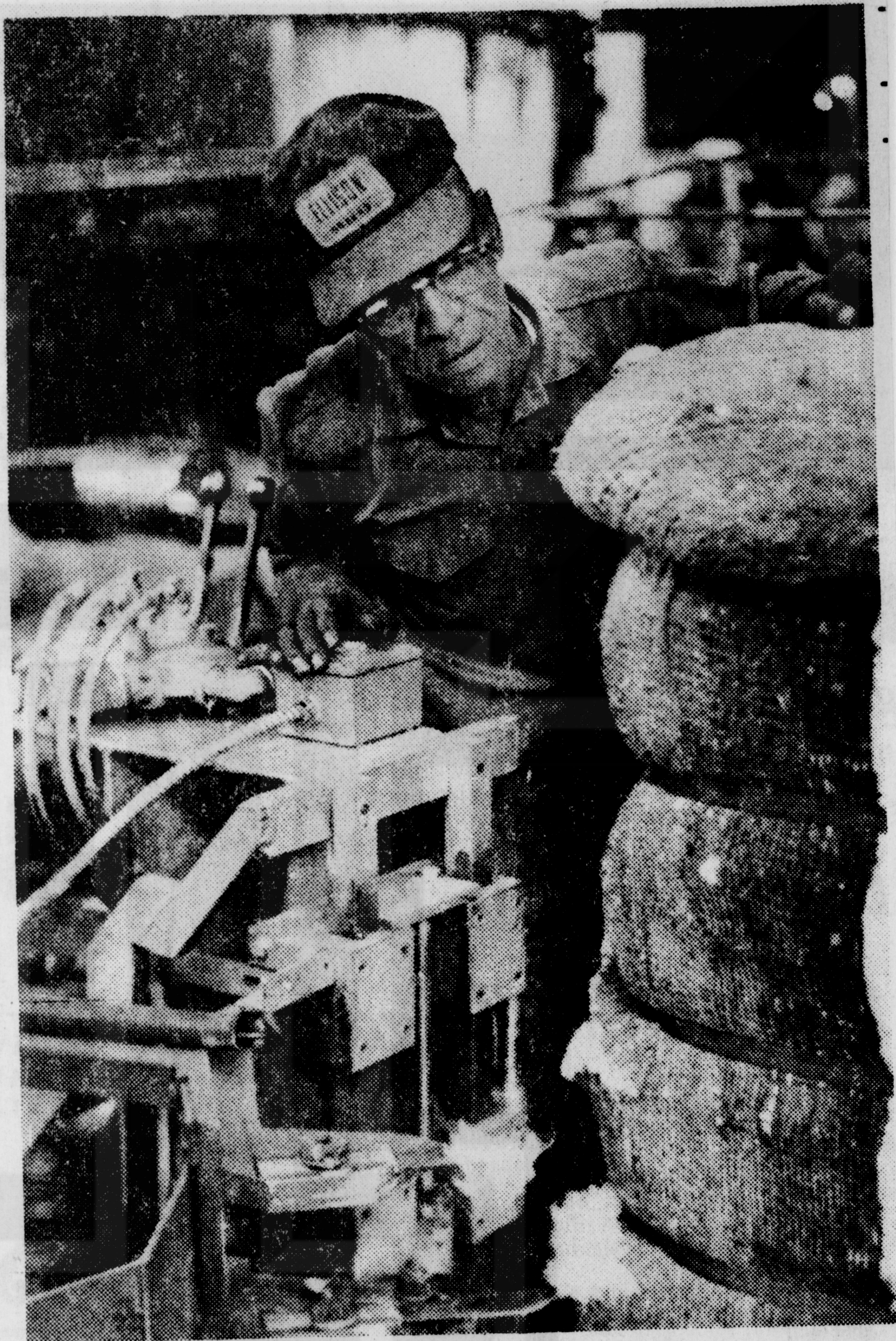
people

ABILENE, TEXAS, SATURDAY

Buddy Takes A Cotton To The Farmers Compress In Rule

Text and Photos

By J.T. Smith



JESSE VANDERBILT. . .head tucker

MRS. J. A. LISLE
PRES.

O. B. TEAGUE
VICE-PRES.

SPENCER BROWN
EXEC. VICE-PRES.

CHARLES REESE
TREAS.

J. D. LITTON
SEC.

Farmers Compress Co.

GENERAL OFFICE — P. O. DRAWER 1339

WACO, TEXAS 76703

PLANT AT

RULE, TEXAS 79547

Waco, Texas 76703

February 6, 1968

RULE — Buddy Bishop puts in plenty of hours and accepts a big responsibility here.

Buddy, 50, has spent 32 of those years working at the cotton compress here, and today is manager. He started at the Western Compress and Storage which was owned and operated out of Abilene in 1945, and he has seen lots of the white stuff since.

The general office remained in Abilene until 1961 when it was sold to Importers and Traders of Waco and became the National Western Compress. In 1963, the folks of Rule put the compress in the control of the farmers themselves and it became The Farmers Compress. That's what it is called today. The stock had been sold to the gins in order to give the local producers control of their compress.

Bishop, a Rule native, explained that "all except for two years in the Navy, I have been right here."

The compress is his life and he's an expert.

By Feb. 12 the Farmers Compress has pressed 18,500 bales of cotton, and on that day Bishop said, "I'm expecting to compress 20,000 more."

And, that's not even an average season.

The normal season sees about 50,000 bales compressed. A good year might see 55,000 bales.

The cotton comes primarily from Haskell, Knox, Stonewall and Throckmorton counties.

Bishop said the Rule compress does not represent all of the area cotton compressed as "there are other compresses in the area — at Stamford, Seymour, and Hamlin."

When cotton arrives, bales are weighed and two samples are taken from each. In the old days, it was done by hand with a sharp, heavy knife by pulling the edge of the blade parallel and along the bands of the side of the bale.

The knives are actually still used, but they are locked into a



BUDDY BISHOP
...the boss

machine. The bale passes through on a conveyor belt and the knives rip along the side of the bale.

The samples in the Big Country may be either sent to the USDA Cotton Classing Office at Munday or the busy Abilene Cotton Classing Office of the USDA. For example, the Abilene office classed 26,000 samples in the week ending Feb. 5. By that date, 396,000 samples had been classed for the season compared to 175,000 by the same date in 1975. The office determines cotton quality and other characteristics.

Bishop said that 1/4 pound is taken from each side of the bale. He sends one sample to the cotton classing office and retains one at the compress.

Jesse Vanderbilt, a longtime employee, recalled the old days when "we cut right at a thousand samples one day."

"And remember," Vanderbilt said, "that was by hand."

Vanderbilt is one of a team of 10 fulltime employees. He's known as the "head tucker."

Head tuckers actually ride the compress as it comes down

on a cotton bale and back up. They quickly tuck the bagging over the bale before it is compressed.

Orbrey Lynch of Hamlin works as the other head tucker opposite Vanderbilt. Bishop wouldn't consider giving the job to an amateur.

"That's our most dangerous job," he explained.

Area cotton comes in as modified gin flat bales. These are the fat bales folks are accustomed to seeing around cotton gins. Bales are 55 inches high, 25 inches thick, and 45 inches wide. Ideally, they are supposed to weigh 500 pounds.

Larry Tanner, one of two fork-life operators, loads up three bales at a time and moves them to the conveyor belt.

He may move 650 to 700 bales in one day.

Next, the bale moves to what is called the dinky press which is like the big press in design, but much, much smaller.

Six flat bands must be undone by John Griffin. The bale is now on its back opened up on the conveyor.

At the dinky press, Earl Davidson, Johnnie Sue Lockhart and Grady Bristo, a retired ginner, all move the bale through quickly.

Since by new law, two bands must be added, Willie Norwood is across the way doing his job called "dragging bands." Each weighs one pound.

Roy Lee Bailey and Jack Bagley take over there and shove bands.

At this point, a very important and essential man performs his duties.

"I'm what is called a lever puller," James Dean explained.

Dean works giant levers which bring the press down on the bale, after the head tuckers have performed their duties. Dean admits one can't be too careful and he feels much responsibility.

"You just have to watch everybody real close," Dean

said.

The cotton has been compressed and Bill Williams and Clyde Patterson now tie cotton.

Immediately after tying, the bale slides down the ram looking a great deal different geometrically than seconds earlier.

The compressed universal density bale is what the law began to require this season. The trim and neat bale is three inches taller at 58 inches, and the thickness remains the same at 25 inches. The width however, was reduced by an even 2 feet from 45 down to 21 inches. It is tied as neatly with 8 bands instead of 6, and that adds two pounds.

Next comes Charles Jackson of Haskell doing his job with the rhythm of a musician. Charles explains his job is "turnin' cotton."

He turns the new bale, using a hook, and lines two bales parallel. One of Bishop's sons, Robert E., 23, comes in here with a tractor and fork-lift. Robert, who was raised around the compress, moves his tractor to a Santa Fe Railways boxcar nearby if the bales are destined for rail. Or if bales are to move by truck, he heads to the truck-loading zone.

"We try not to load more than 150 bales to a box car," the elder Bishop said.

Bishop said big points of delivery are Alabama, Georgia, Memphis, Tenn., North Carolina, Galveston, Houston and Corpus Christi. The largest part of the cotton moved either by rail or truck winds up in Galveston.

To cotton destined for overseas, a one-pound patch is added at Rule.

Testifying that Rule's economy is cotton and he's happy there, Bishop says he believes in the sign outside town which reads: "Rule, Gateway to the Cotton Fields — If You Stop, You'll Stay!"

CONSERVATION COMMANDMENTS

1. **Study** the land so that each acre may be used wisely according to its capabilities and treated according to its needs.
2. **Guard** well the living soil, that it may continue to nurture man:
Clothe it lovingly with vegetation,
Hold on to it tenaciously,
Restore its fertility and organic content,
Improve it as a legacy for posterity.
3. **Revere** water, the lifeblood of civilization:
Retard it on the surface,
Trap it in the soil,
Guard its purity zealously.
4. **Cherish** forests that they may
Conserve water,
Shelter wildlife,
Provide for our needs,
Restore our tranquility.
5. **Respect** all living things as having a role, however humble, in the balance of nature.
6. **Provide** living museums, samples of primeval America, to be managed by nature alone, so that they may-- Serve as reservoirs of wild species that may be needed tomorrow; Provide control areas against which man's efforts at management may be measured.
7. **Learn** to live in harmony with nature in an ecological symphony, a mutually beneficial & dependency.

by M. GRAHAM NETTING, DIRECTOR, CARNEGIE MUSEUM, PITTSBURGH, PA. 15213,
POWDERMILL NATURE RESERVE and BIOSCIENCE CENTER in LISGONIER VALLEY

Permission to reproduce granted to Utah Nature Study Society by author.

Courtesy of
Haskell
Soil and Water
Conservation District

Consider Your Interdependence

Take joy in the families that love one another;
The children and parents who live for each other.
Count your blessings in those who are neighbors and friends —
Who are there to stand by you, and on whom you depend.

But pity the man who tries to go it alone.
His days are bleak and his thoughts unknown.
Survival is hard without human exchange,
So the loner is going. Our country's changed.

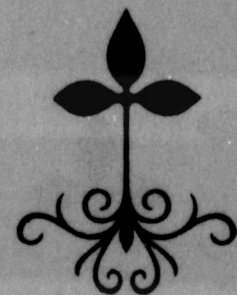
In this day and age, there's a pattern of sharing —
A reliance on others, a premium on caring.
Wherever you live, whatever you do,
You depend on someone to help see you through.

There are farmers and teachers, the phone company's crew —
The doctors, police, and firemen too.
You count on the butchers, the bakers, the sawers of wood —
And sometimes you bring in the whole neighborhood.

You depend for your food on the Lord's good earth,
And every steward will tell you its worth.
But it needs water and care and intelligent use;
It needs your strong voice in spreading the truth.

When you rely on so many — as they do on you —
That's interdependence, by a million or two.
Be glad that you're needed; be proud of your part.
It means that you're sharing in mind and in heart.

Consider your interdependence. Consider it well.



NACD League City, Texas 77573