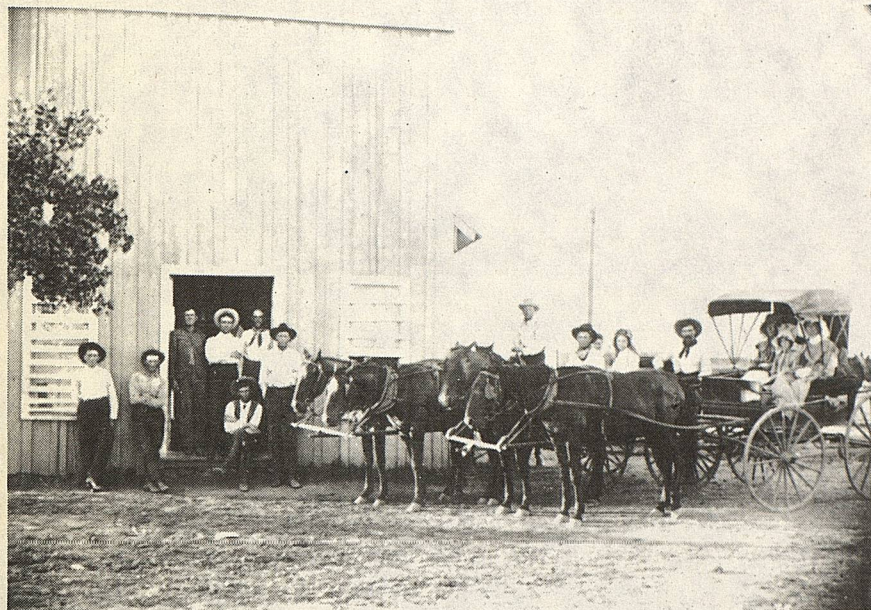


## Borden

## Citizen.

Published by the Borden County Historical Survey Committee- June 1970  
Vol. V No. 4

## DURHAM COMMUNITY



Left to right: Luther Crutchfield, Elery Jones, E.F. Wicker, W.S.L. Pierce, Al Enders, Olin Keen (seated), Juke Scoggins, Sim Yeargin (on horse), Katie Willis, Pat Warren (in buggy to right), Hettie Wiley, Bob Caraway (standing), and Mrs. W. C. Willis, Sadie McClure and Mrs. Tandy Wiley are in buggy on left.

This does not purport to be a complete history of the settlement of Durham, Borden County, Texas. Rather, here are recorded some of the known facts with the hope that this will be a nucleus for the assembling of much more information.

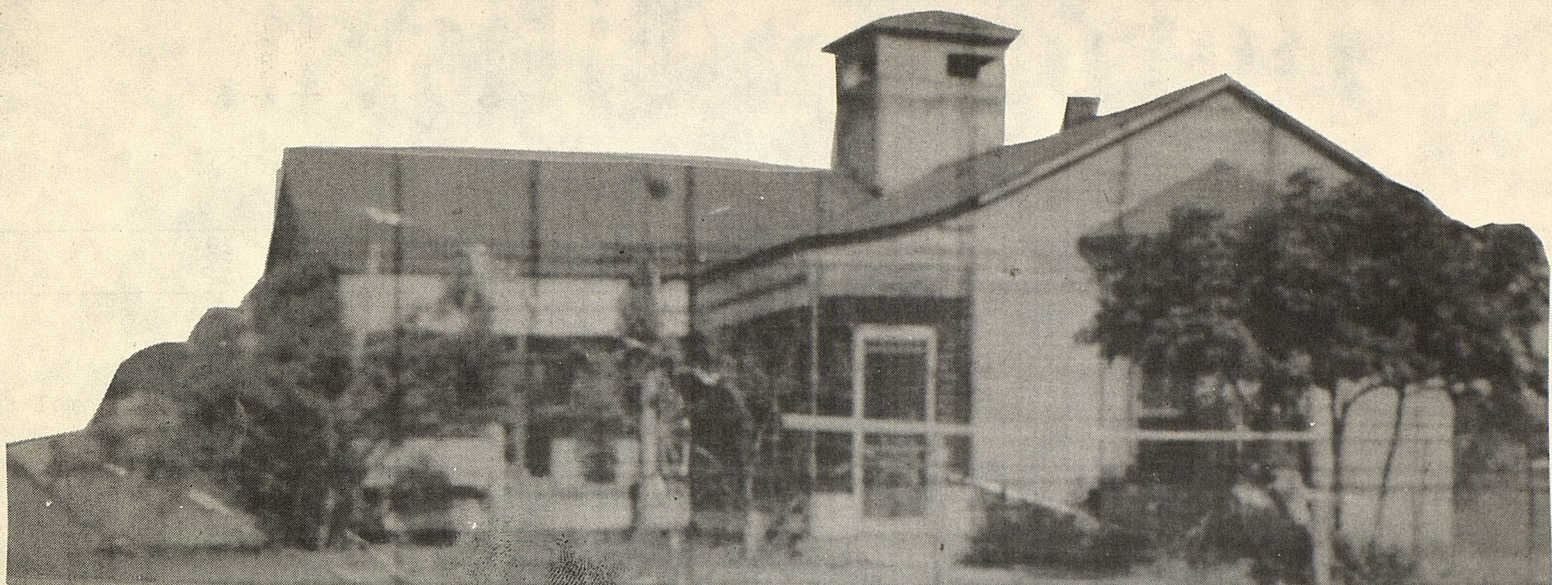
Documents pertaining to the founding of Durham record the names of two unusual women; unusual in that, in an era when women were usually kitchen drudges and bearers of children, these two held property in their own right and joined their husbands in the transaction of business. We wish we knew more of their interesting history. A Plat of the town of Durham is recorded in the Deed Records of Borden County, Book 2, Page 197, showing that this Plat was located on section 226, Block 97, Houston & Texas Central R. R. Survey. Major Willa V. Johnson was the original purchaser of section 226 under the law of 1883 and he and his wife, Lilly, sold the section in July 1885 to Frank J. Blum who in turn deeded it to Barbara Jackson Blum, Wife of Anthony Blum.

Major Johnson was an important figure in Borden County history. He founded the Kentucky Cattle Raising Co. in which General Ronald S. MacKenzie of frontier military fame held stock. The brand was Two Buckles and the range covered over 200 sections on Blanco Canyon. After a disagreement with General MacKenzie over the purchase of land, Major Johnson organized the Magnolia Cattle & Land Co., bought two thirds of all the railroad land in Borden County, and began enclosing the first pasture fenced north of the T&P railroad. But that is the story of the M.K.S. which we hope to tell you in a later issue. The first land purchased by the Johnsons was the separate property of the Major's wife, Mrs. Lilly Johnson and was deeded to her in 1883. Much of the Magnolia land had been used by Col. C. C. Slaughter who brought his cattle to Borden County from Palo Pinto in 1879. There was a law suit over the use of this land with Major Johnson winning the decision.

Waddell and Byler, who had come to Mitchell County as early as 1878, ran cattle along the Colorado in the Durham area as did Mr. Hulum who was an associate of Col. Slaughter and gave his name to Hulum Creek. We have a story that Mr. Hullum was killed by a horse on the banks of that creek but we do not know if this is true. Willis Holloway who 'had a camp at the springs on Bull Creek near the present site of Gail and his pardner, H. S. Adams of Colorado City, traded land and cattle to Major Johnson for a share in the Magnolia. Jumbo ranch cattle probably grazed near by and in later years Bush & Tiller and those wearing the 9R Brand ranged near Durham.

Waskoms, Fulliloves, Reynolds, Trammells, Longs, Yorks, Wickers, Connells, many names well known in cattle country knew the Durham settlement. The years 1883 to 1890 saw much change in Borden Co. Colorado City was a roistering, booming cowtown, the railroad having reached there in 1881. Gail and Lubbock were yet to be established. Freighters fanned out from Colorado City over an area extending from San Angelo to Amarillo and into New Mexico hauling supplies to ranches which had been established as the buffalo range was cleared of the "Shaggies". One of the main freight routes from Colorado City north came by the Blum ranch. We are told that the Blum family had a shoe factory in New York City. In the boom years from 1880-1885 much eastern capital was invested in the cattle business and it is probable that the Blums came to Texas for this purpose. They imported fine Durham cattle and gave the name Durham to the settlement. A most interesting ranch house was built with a "look out" on top, a cupola with windows on four sides and benches where Mr. Blum could sit and look out over his rangeland watching his cattle and men. The cupola served as an autograph gallery for people visiting the house. What interesting names must have been inscribed there. See Borden Citizen Vol. IV, No. 1, for story of furniture brought from New York City for this ranch home. When we were children we were told that the look out was built to watch for Indians but I am not sure whether Indians





still raided in this area that late. The Blum ranch was occupied for a time by the Hill family and was then purchased by W. R. Harris. In 1904 it was sold to Civil War Veteran, I. N. Gray, grandfather of Borden Gray. The house was destroyed by fire in 1940 and we lost one of the last of the early day ranch headquarters in Borden County. The only one still standing - much remodeled - is the Magnolia Cattle & Land Company headquarters - the MKS later OB. The Blum headquarters was built on section 230, Blk 97, and it is interesting to note that in a Deed of Trust made on Oct. 15, 1887, this section was designated as the one 'on which the site of the town of Durham has been located'. Perhaps the Blums did open a store there for a Post Office with Anthony Blum as post master was established on May 27, 1887. However, the Plat for the town of Durham was laid out on section 226 and on Sept. 12, 1890, Barbara J. Blum sold to James C. Patterson business lots 1 & 2, Block 5, and 22 residential lots scattered over as many blocks. Evidently Mr. Patterson had great faith in the future of Durham. He paid \$300.00 for the 24 town lots. On Sept. 23, 1890, William K. Clark, J. W. Dawson, Willis R. Clark and James W. Parker bought town lots in Durham. A handwritten deed signed by Barbara Blum is still in the possession of the W. K. Clark family. These deeds were notarized by J. M. Searcey of Howard County who later became County Judge of Borden County.

By 1887 the great cattle boom had begun to decline. Severe droughts, blizzards and over stocking had brought devastating die-ups and decline in the cattle market. Many who had made fortunes in the cattle boom lost everything, and some who had made fortunes elsewhere and had invested them in cattle also lost everything. Possibly the Blums belonged to the latter group for things did not seem to be going well with them financially. Gail was established in 1891 and became the County Seat so those who were interested in town lots transferred their interest to Gail. Big Spring was now a supply point for much of the country north and west and the main freight routes by-passed Durham with it's springs where the freighters had camped and the water crossing near the store on Crawfish where their teams sometime balked. It is said that one store keeper surreptitiously used a bit of "high life" now and then to encourage the balky animals. But even though the town did not live up to the expectations of its founders it was a thriving community for many years with a Church, school, Post Office and store. Vol. II, No. 2 of the "Borden Citizen" carried an article on the Durham School by Lillie Cantrell Harris. We hope to have a history of the Durham Church in a later issue.

The first official record of the Durham store is a bill of sale & inventory recorded in Book 2 of the Borden County Deed Records wherein Augustus Trudo and John Vucher "composing the firm known as the Durham Trading Co." sold to S. Lapowski and Bro. of Colorado City for the sum of \$1166.22 "one warehouse and all appurtenances thereof situated in Durham, Borden County, and merchandise as per invoice". The instrument, dated Sept. 11, 1890, was signed by Anthony Blum & Sig Simons as witnesses and by C. C. Rooks, agent for Augustus Trudo and John Vucher. In John B. Hendrix story of "Colorado City, Texas Cow Town" which was published in the "Cattleman" in April, 1941, we read that "The Lapowski's and Sig Simons operated dry goods stores, catering to the wealthy cattle trade." When Colorado City began to decline "Sig Simons moved his store lock, stock and barrel to Ardmore, then in it's ascendancy as an Indian Territory border town. Nathan Lapowski moved to Gainesville to enjoy a few years of cattle trade, and eventually became well known in Texas Military Circles". Evidently S. Lapowski gambled on Durham. We found no further records of the store ownership but we have a complete list of postmasters from the time the post office was established until it was discontinued. As the store keeper usually served as post master we feel that this is also a fairly accurate list of ownership of the Durham store. Here is a list of the postmasters and the dates:

Durham Post Office Established 27 May, 1887.

Anthony Blum -27 May, 1887	Reestablished - 15 Mch., 1902
Charles C. Rooks -10 July, 1890	Lewis H. Hutto - 15 Mch., 1902
James H. Gunning -23 June, 1893	Walter S.L. Pearce - 28 Aug., 1903
Charles Brown -19 Oct., 1893	Eugene F. Wicker- 7 May, 1906
Discon't. -m. to Gail -31 Oct., 1898	Henry H. Ogletree- 25 Apr., 1911



Alex'r Murphy - 8 Jan., 1917  
 Andrew J. Cantrell - 7 Feb., 1921  
 Brutus C. Taylor - 17 July, 1923  
 Alex. O. Murphy - 31 March, 1924

Discontinued - mail to Knapp - (ef) 15 Oct., 1925.

After the Blums sold the ranch they left the country and we have no present knowledge of them. They were aristocratic people and did not mingle with their neighbors. There were two children, a boy and a girl. The next postmaster, E. C. Rooks was the agent for Trudo and Wucher who purchased the store. Of some of the later store keepers we have little or no information. Charles Brown is remembered as a most interesting person. He often visited in this area until his death in Abilene. The Gene Wicker and the Alex Murphy families (Mrs. Murphy was Bell York) are well known. "Heck" Ogletree was an "old Bachelor" who married Bessie Mangum in Durham while he was postmaster there. The Mangums and Ogletrees left Borden County and settled at Tokio. In our museum we have articles from the Ogletree family given by Mrs. Mardena Bundy of Lubbock. Mr. A. J. Cantrell, postmaster in 1921-22 was the father of Dick Cantrell and Mrs. Lillie Harris who live in Gail now. The Durham store did not remain in the same location through these years but was moved several times. After the post office was discontinued and the store was closed, the old building was torn down and one would have to look closely now to find any evidence that the town of Durham, founded with such high hopes, had ever existed.

Ed. note - We wish to recognize our indebtedness to Mr. Grover C. Ramsey of Austin for information on the post offices and postmasters of Borden County. Also, reproductions of the original Bill of Sale as it appears in the Borden County Records appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

\*\*\*

\*\*\*

\*\*\*

\*\*\*

The Borden County Historical Survey Committee has recently participated in some of the activities of our neighboring committees. We were invited on March 6 to attend the Open House and Dedication of Rall's very outstanding Museum. Those attending from Borden County were Pauline & Vivian Clark and Edna Miller. They were accompanied by Mrs. Witt Hines of the Mitchell County Committee. Governor Preston Smith dedicated the Museum then a banquet in honor of Mrs. Smith who is a native of Ralls followed.

Vivian & Pauline Clark and Peggy Dennis attended the Dedication for the "Duffy's Peak" Historical Marker on the Rall's Highway north of Post on April 5th.

The Scurry County Historical Committee held History Appreciation Week from April 6 - 12th. Several very interesting tours were conducted including one to the S. D. Hays ranch to view the rare white Buffalo robe of J. Wright Mooars. Ruth Weathers of our committee was on several of these tours.

On April 9th a Museum workshop was held at Texas Tech and was attended by Vivian & Pauline Clark, Mary Zella Monk, Iva Reeder, Jorda Walker and Sibyl Gilmore of our Museum Committee. The day long program included several interesting and informative programs and a tour of the new Museum complex where the Tech Museum will be housed in the near future.

On June 2nd, our committee was invited to attend a meeting of the Garza County committee and to view a film "Texas New Frontiers" presented by the Texas Highway Department. Edna Miller, Jorda Walker and Sibyl Gilmore attended and were given a tour of the old hospital building which they plan to make into a Museum and Club House, and were then guests at a lovely salad Buffet served in the home of Dr. and Mrs. A. D. Surman. A tour of the Courthouse and the historical markers in Post finished off the day.

Generous donations have been made to the Borden County Museum by L. S. Munger, Abilene; Adella Shaw Drew, Plainview; Mrs. C. A. (Claudia Mae Covey) Chambers, Jr., Dallas; J. L. Cantrell, Lubbock; Jack Phinizy, Gail; Mr. & Mrs. H. L. Taylor, Tulsa and others who did not want their names mentioned.

\*\*\*

\*\*\*

\*\*\*

\*\*\*

Roy Lee Wilson passed away in Hereford, Texas, on April 7, 1970. The Wilson family was early day residents of Borden County. He was married to the former Lizzie Petty, whose family was also early day residents of Borden County.

Mrs. John Hunnicutt, 94, passed away May 16, 1970. Mr. & Mrs. Hunnicutt came to the Fluvanna Community in 1910. Mr. Hunnicutt passed away in 1969 shortly after they had celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary. Survivors are 2 sons, Jack and Charley of Fluvanna and 2 daughters, Mrs. Millie Gleghorn of Fluvanna and Mrs. Lela Jacobs of Clovis, New Mexico.

Mrs. Florence Boozer, 59, passed away May 27, 1970. A native of Omaha, Texas, she moved to Bovina from Hale Center in 1960. She is survived by two daughters, one son, her mother Mrs. Mary Lou Wellborn of O'Donnell, six brothers, three sisters, one is Mrs. Oscar Telchik of Borden County and four grandchildren. The Wellborn family formerly lived in Borden County.

Mr. Sam Davis, 55, passed away in Odessa on June 7, 1970. Survivors are his wife and one daughter, Susan, and one grandchild. Mr. Davis was associated with the Borden County School from 1953-1966.

Ewel Gene Kirby, 42, passed away recently at his home in Long Beach, California. Mr. Kirby was a former resident of Borden County and a nephew of Jim Mac Burkett.

\*\*\*

\*\*\*

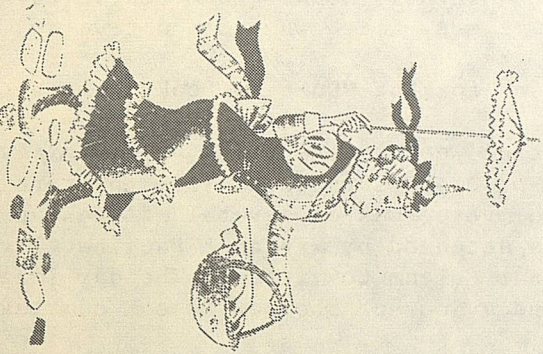
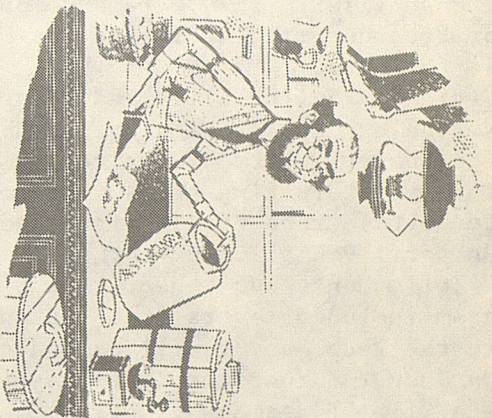
\*\*\*

\*\*\*



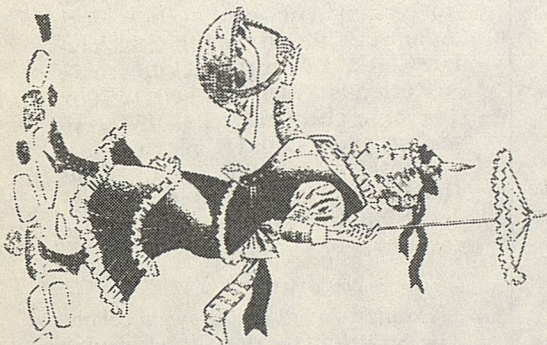
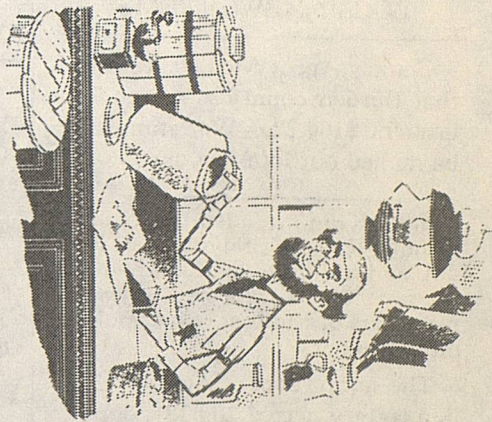
issued for the purposes and consideration therein  
expressed, and that he had signed the same and  
returned at the request of the producers.  
Given under my hand and seal of office at Bot-  
omato, Surao, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of September 1890.  
J. J. J. J. J.  
J. J. J. J. J.

3 bars 1845	30 m	225	3a tin plates	m	60
1/2 yds tending	u	448	1/2 dy " pavo	u	96
1/2 yds 1845 1845	u	432	4 " "	u	28
36 " blackish "	u	140	5 strainers	u	15
1 box 1845	u	288	12 pack up and	u	140
3 box 1845	u	120	2 # 1845 1845	u	50
11 "	u	309	2 # 1845 1845	u	50
1 box 1845	u	500	1 # 1845	u	25
1 box 1845	u	264	1 # 1845	u	25
1 box 1845	u	300	5 # 1845	u	30
1 box 1845	u	36	4 # 1845	u	28
1 box 1845	u	50	3 # 1845	u	45
1 box 1845	u	425	5 # 1845	u	25
1 box 1845	u	44	5 # 1845	u	25
1 box 1845	u	30	5 # 1845	u	15
1 box 1845	u	1100	1 # 1845	u	15
1 box 1845	u	400	1 # 1845	u	8
1 box 1845	u	480	1 # 1845	u	33
1 box 1845	u	48	1 # 1845	u	18
1 box 1845	u	96	2 " 1845	u	35
1 box 1845	u	162	6 box 1845	u	6
1 box 1845	u	360	4 box 1845	u	32
1 box 1845	u	420	3 box 1845	u	114
1 box 1845	u	235	1 # 1845	u	100
1 box 1845	u	380	1 # 1845	u	200
1 box 1845	u	90	1 # 1845	u	75
1 box 1845	u	133	1 # 1845	u	75
1 box 1845	u	60	1 # 1845	u	100
1 box 1845	u	60	1 # 1845	u	25
1 box 1845	u	150	3 # 1845	u	165
1 box 1845	u	75	5 # 1845	u	220
1 box 1845	u	50	1 # 1845	u	55



1 box 1845	15	10	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	40	12	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	20	10	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	80	20	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	100	7	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	60	8	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	50	1	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	25	4	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	36	1	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	60	1	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	120	6	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	24	9	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	25	1	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	40	2	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	50	7	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	36	6	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	360	11	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	35	8	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	100	11	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	20	3	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	88	6	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	65	6	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	45	1	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	112	5	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	15	5	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	04	5	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	126	2	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	150	13	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	220	4	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	125	2	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	30	1	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	267	1/2	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	100	1/2	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	77	8	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	100	4	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	535	5	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	450	1/2	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	525	2	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	150	10	1845 1845	20	20
1 box 1845	120	10	1845 1845	20	20



[illegible]

1st Nov	Nov 1st	15	30	200 lb	320	11 25
2nd Nov	Nov 2nd	30	60	100 "	205	10 30
3rd Nov	Nov 3rd	14	126	2 bu	90	9 25
4th Nov	Nov 4th	17	170	1 bu	125	1 25
5th Nov	Nov 5th	7	63	1 bu	101	1 30
6th Nov	Nov 6th	14	140	2 bu	101	1 30
7th Nov	Nov 7th	14	140	2 bu	100	3 00
8th Nov	Nov 8th	14	140	2 bu	100	1 80
9th Nov	Nov 9th	14	140	2 bu	100	90
10th Nov	Nov 10th	14	140	2 bu	100	3 00
11th Nov	Nov 11th	14	140	2 bu	100	1 80
12th Nov	Nov 12th	14	140	2 bu	100	90
13th Nov	Nov 13th	14	140	2 bu	100	3 00
14th Nov	Nov 14th	14	140	2 bu	100	1 80
15th Nov	Nov 15th	14	140	2 bu	100	90
16th Nov	Nov 16th	14	140	2 bu	100	3 00
17th Nov	Nov 17th	14	140	2 bu	100	1 80
18th Nov	Nov 18th	14	140	2 bu	100	90
19th Nov	Nov 19th	14	140	2 bu	100	3 00
20th Nov	Nov 20th	14	140	2 bu	100	1 80
21st Nov	Nov 21st	14	140	2 bu	100	90
22nd Nov	Nov 22nd	14	140	2 bu	100	3 00
23rd Nov	Nov 23rd	14	140	2 bu	100	1 80
24th Nov	Nov 24th	14	140	2 bu	100	90
25th Nov	Nov 25th	14	140	2 bu	100	3 00
26th Nov	Nov 26th	14	140	2 bu	100	1 80
27th Nov	Nov 27th	14	140	2 bu	100	90
28th Nov	Nov 28th	14	140	2 bu	100	3 00
29th Nov	Nov 29th	14	140	2 bu	100	1 80
30th Nov	Nov 30th	14	140	2 bu	100	90



10 lbs Soda Crackers	w	80	Cases + Trucks-	42	50
5 " Currants	o	35	Hesters		50
20 " Grapes	w	160		102	52
4 " Powder	wx	120		46	49
50 " Prunes	o	350		115	72
10 " Peaches	o	100		74	59
5 " Candles	f m	75		339	32
20 " Roziny	d	80	1000 Shingles	5	00
15 " Coffee	i g	330		344	32
15 7/2 " Rope	f d	2198		325	90
63 " No Rope	i x	1260		670	22
35 ft Fuse	35	35	Steel House	496	
9/11/90				1166	22

## Excerpts from THE BORDEN COUNTY SUN published July 2, 1942

### LOCAL NEWS ITEMS

County Agent Medley tells us that Borden county's scrap iron brought \$164.22. War stamps to be mailed out in a few days.

S. C. Keen attended the Scurry County Rodeo at Snyder last Friday and Saturday, acting as one of the judges. He reports this year's rodeo one of the best ever pulled off in Snyder.

The scrap rubber drive in Borden county netted 20,028 pounds, County Agent Medley informed us yesterday. That's better than 10 tons, and it is still going.

#### Date Is Extended

The scrap rubber drive has been extended to July 10. The results up to Monday were disappointing. Unless the goal is attained, gasoline rationing is certain.

### County Quota Reached

Borden county's quota of Defense Bonds and Defense Stamps was reached last week. The county's quota was \$1300. Last month the quota was oversubscribed several times.

### Youths Register

In the Borden county registration of 18 and 19 year old youths Tuesday, a total of 25 or 30 lads reported for registration.

### State Accepts Highway

The State Highway Department last Friday accepted the remaining portion of State Highway 15 in the western part of Borden county. The thoroughfare is now in every respect a state highway.

Dispatches reveal that 15 other commodities are to be rationed soon. To forestall hoarding, no list of the items will be announced.

### Tire Certificates Issued

Tire and tube certificates issued as follows: Howard Nelson, 1 600x16 pickup tire and tube; Bert Adams, 2 700x16 pickup tire; Vivian Clark, 1 600x16 pickup tube.

Retreads: Allen Stephens, 2 700x16 pickup; Edgar Telchek, 1 700x16 pickup and 2 600x16 pickups; J. N. York, 1 600x16 pickup; Sid Reeder, 2 600x16 passenger car; Jess Slaughter 1 650x16 passenger car.

### No Jumbos Yet

County Agent Medley informs The Sun that to date no jumbo grasshoppers have made their appearance in Borden county. However the small flying hoppers have arrived and are being combatted. No damage to crops as yet.

To date 20 farmers have procured poison at the county agent's office in quantities of 50 to 300 pounds each. This poison has been scattered over 4,000 acres of row crops with success.

From: The Borden County Historical Society  
Gail, Texas 79738

To:

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

SOUTHWEST COLLECTION  
Texas Tech University  
LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409