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MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE

VOICE OF THE FOOTHILL COUNTRY

Where History is Pride

Flomot Matador Northfield Roaring Springs

\$.75

Thursday, August 23, 2012

ESTABLISHED 1891

Volume 121 Issue No. 34

Old Settlers August 23-25

The 89th Annual Motley-Dickens Old Settlers Reunion and Rodeo will kick off Thursday, August 23, 2012, in Roaring Springs at 10:00 a.m. with the annual parade in downtown Roaring Springs. All businesses and individuals are encouraged to decorate a float and join the parade route.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. in the Tabernacle on the rodeo grounds. There will be free admission all day on Thursday to the rodeo grounds.

A business meeting will be-

gin immediately following the memorial. The Free Dance with Mike Porter and Friends is from 4:00-6:00 p.m. All Mike Porter dances are free to the public, continuing at 8:00-11:00 p.m. on Thursday; and 5:00-8:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

The Motley-Dickens Counties Arena Events will open books at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday. Events begin at 5:00 p.m., including Cutting, a Flag Race for 6-years and under; and 7- to 12-years; Open Age Barrel Race with an entry fee of

\$15.00 (Office Charge \$5.00); Junior Team Roping, 18 years and under with an entry fee of \$10.00 per team; and the Motley-Dickens Counties Team Roping, entry fee at \$60.00 with a stock charge of \$25.00.

On Friday and Saturday, General Admission to the rodeo events is \$10.00, free to ages 12 years and under. Events also include a Junior Flag Race on Friday and Saturday for ages 12 years and under.

See page three for full schedule.

Council approves funds for History-Mystery Weekend

The City Council met August 9, 2012, at City Hall. Attending were Mayor Pat Smith, Councilmen Alvin Alexander, Bobby Klodginski, Shane Jones, Betty Roberts and Rodney Williams. Also attending was City Secretary Debra Scott, Water Superintendent Steve Barton; and guests, Tax Assessor-Collector Elaine Hart, Judy Renfro, Marisue Potts, Penny Kline, and Ray Baxter.

Judy Renfro spoke in Open Forum on behalf of the Senior Citizen's Center, speaking about the benefits the Senior Citizens provide to the community; and how the rising costs and governmental cuts in funding were putting the Center in jeopardy of having to close. Renfro asked for the city's help in keeping the center open.

Water Superintendent Steve Barton reported that the depth-to-water is 41'8" compared to 28' in 1999. The city has laid 3,000 feet of new 8-inch line and it is now in service which should help keep the water loss down considerably, Barton said. Roy Moreno has started digging the No. 10 pit and the No. 5 back-up water well tested good, he added. Also, TxDOT will begin resurfacing Highway 70 and the city will receive millet from this project.

Marisue Potts spoke to the council requesting \$700.00 from the Hotel-Motel Occupancy Tax Fund for advertising for a History-Mystery Weekend October 26-27, 2012. This event

is planned to promote tourism to Matador and the surrounding area, Potts said, giving participants the experience of "hospitality, history, and mystery."

"History" will include a cemetery tour with re-enactors playing former Sheriffs and other characters in Motley County history; and a guided tour of the Motley County Museum. The "mystery" part of this event will allow participants an opportunity to investigate reports of paranormal activity in Matador, including the historic Motley County Jail. Tours to Caprock Canyons State Park, Mott Creek Ranch, and other attractions in and around Matador will be offered, as well as a barbecue, she said.

Rodney Williams made a motion to approve funding of \$800.00 for the project, seconded by Alvin Alexander. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Alvin Alexander made a motion to pass a Resolution of Support authorizing the City of Matador to become a Reservation System participant to access funds under the Home Program for the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

In addition, the motion also authorized Mayor Pat Smith to act as the city's Chief Executive Officer and authorized representative in all matters pertaining to participation in the program. The motion was seconded by Rodney Williams

and passed with six votes "for," and two votes "against." Casting the dissenting votes were Bobby Klodginski and Betty Roberts. In a telephone interview following the meeting, Councilman Bobby Klodginski said, "I don't think City Council should be in the real estate business."

Rodney Williams made a motion to set a proposed tax rate of \$.50028 per \$100.00 for the 2012 Tax Rate to be presented at a public hearing. The motion was seconded by Betty Roberts and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Bobby Klodginski made a motion to advertise the sell and accept bids on the 1973 Huber Motor Grader seconded by Betty Roberts and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Mayor Smith spoke with the school and they agreed to split the cost of painting the streets in front of the school building. Mayor Smith asked Steve Barton to meet with Brent Whitaker to discuss this project and the work needed to restore two additional water wells.

Shane Jones made the motion to approve the expenditures as presented, seconded by Bobby Klodginski and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Items for the September agenda include the 2012 Tax Rate, Bid openings for the Motor Grader, Consultants for the Reservation System home program and solutions for the dog problems.

Publisher introduces new businesses

Laverne Zabielski and Larry Vogt, publisher and editor of the MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE announce two new businesses, Matador Press and Truly Beautiful Skin.

West Texas Gleanings by Michael Crowley, Sr. is their first publication and is available at the MC Tribune office for \$15.

In July Laverne became a consultant for Rodan and Fields, Dermatology. It's part of her "living a layered life" philosophy. "Creating beautiful skin is as important as creating beautiful art and writing meaningful stories." She says. "It's all part of expressing yourself."

Rodan and Fields was founded by the same doctors that created Proactive for acne. They have now developed an anti-aging skin care regimen.

RS City Council Adopts 2012-2013 Budget

By Lisa Perryman
Motley County Tribune

Roaring Springs City Council met at City Hall on Monday, August 13, 2012. Present were Councilwoman PK Green, Councilmen Perry Gullede, Timmy Brooks, James McCleskey and Alex Crowder; Mayor Corky Marshall, Water Manager Robert Osborn, City Secretary Lisa Perryman and special guests Elaine Hart and Jesse Bethard.

Mayor Marshall called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m. Alex Crowder gave the invocation and PK Green led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Elaine Hart from the Motley County Tax Assessors Office presented to Council the proposed tax rate for the City of Roaring Springs at .65008 for 2012; Elaine stated the city dropped in revenue therefore our tax rate went up. If council decided not to go with the proposed tax rate and chose to go with the rollback of .70208 Elaine expressed we would have to hold a public hearing which was time sensitive. Council voted to table

until September 10, 2012, City Council meeting to discuss and adopt the proposed tax rate.

The City Secretary Lisa Perryman presented Ordinance No 08-132012 referencing the distance allowed to sell alcohol from a business to the nearest church. A motion was made by Timmy Brooks, and seconded by James McCleskey. The motion carried with three votes. Councilman Alex Crowder abstained from the vote.

Timmy Brooks made a motion to approve the minutes from July 9, 2012, as written, seconded by Alex Crowder. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Timmy Brooks also made a motion to approve the financial report and pay expenditures as presented, seconded by PK Green. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

City Secretary Lisa Perryman presented the 2012-2013 Budget for Council for review. After reviewing the budget, a motion was made by James McCleskey to adopt the 2012-2013 Budget as presented, seconded by Timmy Brooks.

The motion carried by unanimous vote.

The City Secretary also presented to council Resolution 2012-08-13-01 appointing Mayor Marshall as the City's Chief Executive Officer and Authorized Representative to act in all matters in connection with the City's participation in the HOME program. After review, Timmy Brooks made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Alex Crowder. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

The City only received one bid for the Community Center, Councilman Gullede was asked to step out as council opened and reviewed the bid. Perry placed a bid of \$3,900.00, covering expenses to drop the ceiling, materials and labor. A motion was made by James McCleskey, seconded by PK Green and carried unanimously to award the bid to Perry Gullede.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Timmy Brooks, seconded by Alex Crowder and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Bond Approved for Commissioner Appointment

By Carol Campbell
Motley County Tribune

The Commissioner's Court met in regular session on Monday, August 13, 2012, consisting of Commissioners Franklin Jameson, Roy Gene Stephens, Donnie Turner, and newly appointed Commissioner David Stafford, with County Judge Jim Meador presiding; and County Clerk Kate Hurt and County Attorney Tom Edwards. Also in attendance was the new TxDOT maintenance foreman for Motley County, Sean Elliott, and Jennifer Lawler, *Motley County Tribune*.

Mr. Elliott informed the court that resurfacing US Hwy. 70/62 will begin the first of September from the east city limits to the Motley-Floyd County line.

Mr. Stafford was appointed July 9, 2012, by Judge Jim Meador to fill the unexpired term of Commissioner Russell Alexander, Precinct 4. In the first order of business, the court voted unanimously to approve the bond for David Stafford. Mr. Stafford will be on the ballot for the November election, Judge Meador said.

Mr. Bill Atchley from New York Life Insurance Company made a presentation to the

court asking for permission to talk to each employee and elected official to participate in a payroll deduction for life insurance. A motion was passed by unanimous vote to allow New York Life Insurance Company representatives to talk to employees and elected officials.

In other business, Sheriff's Fees were approved for Fiscal Year 2013, raising the Service by Citation fee to \$80.00. This fee is imposed for serving papers in person.

Judge Meador announced that in a letter sent by the TxDOT regional office, that in the near future, TxDOT will begin inspecting off-road bridges, making sure they are in good shape.

A resolution of support by the Commissioner's Court authorizing Judge Jim Meador to act in behalf of the county as the authorized representative in applying for funds through the Reservation System of the HOME program was passed by unanimous vote. "The county will be applying for funds through the Reservation System under the Home program from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs," Meador said.

"We appreciate the help and support that Senator Duncan's office has provided

toward Motley County entering the Reservation System," Judge Meador added. According to Meador, the adoption of the Resolution is the first step in the application process to access HOME funds for the Homeowner Rehabilitation Assistance Program.

Election Judges for the November election were approved by the Commissioner's Court by unanimous vote. Election Judges approved were: Atlanta Shannon, Connie Franks, Jamie Martin, Olivia Barton, Kassie Beshirs, and Libby Cruse. Precinct Chairs approved by the court were: Wendy Shannon, Anna Ortiz, Kim Gleghorn, E. G. Reed, Barbara Reed, and Donika Jameson.

Judge Meador announced that the Motley County Library Board invited the Commissioner's to serve at the 12th Annual Beans and Cornbread fundraiser luncheon on Friday, August 24, at the Motley County Library Annex from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This popular event celebrates the Old-Settlers Motley-Dickens Reunion, now in its 89th year.

Following the Commissioner's Court meeting, a Budget Workshop was held in the Commissioner's Courtroom to discuss the budget for 2012-2013.

Sunday robberies in Motley County

On Sunday morning, August 19, 2012 two homes in Motley County were burglarized.

Ronnie Clay of Flomot lost 16 guns, two assault rifles, one gun safe, a one carat diamond ring and several pocket watches. His King Ranch, F-150 Ford pick up was also stolen. It was later found in Lockney, burned to the ground.

On Highway 70, north of Matador, almost to Whiteflat, Paul Young's home was also

burglarized. He lost a gun safe, 16 guns, two assault rifles, a case of ammunition for the assault rifles, a chain saw and a Gallagher fence charger.

In addition to the Motley County Sheriff's department, The Texas Rangers, the Texas Highway Patrol, and Texas Parks and Wildlife are all working on solving this crime. Anyone seeing any suspicious vehicles in the area should report it to one of the above agencies.

Foothill Country

Connections

Community, Diversity, Art
When you have history, you have pride.



By Larry Vogt

It has been almost 40 years since I left the comforts of modern living, that is to say, running water, electricity, and telephones. I wanted a taste of the "old settlers" or the "pioneer" life and had a romantic notion about the experience of my ancestors. So it was a reverse trip from the Western United States to a lush green Mid-Western state. The land was cheap, compared to what it was on the West Coast, and I really felt like I was making a bold statement. As it turned out, a log cabin was built with the help of neighbors and land was cleared and gardens were put in.

There was a big difference between what the West Texas old settlers and my ancestor pioneers did and my pioneer life experience. It was a matter of choice. In 1900 life was

hard out on the prairie and my mother told stories that should have discouraged me from trying to go off the grid and build a log cabin. My and your ancestors had no choice in the matter. Many of them fled religious persecution or ruined economies and moved to the wide open spaces of the United States and figured they could not do any worse than what they chose to leave behind.

After about six years of pioneer life you could find me in town, living in a place with the usual amenities and using the log cabin as a getaway. A couple of years later it was life in a bigger city and the land with the log cabin passed into other hands. Although my off the grid experience was short lived, I believe that experience gave me a greater appreciation of the deprivations of the pioneers and the skills that it took to survive and build a good life. Another valuable lesson was the acknowledgement of the way neighbors worked to help one another and how communities were built from the ground up. Tip of the hat to all the Old Settlers!

WRITING COMMUNITY

Always One Rain Away from the Next Drought

By Marisue Potts

"It rains during a drought—just never enough, and seldom at the right time," a wise old timer summed up his life's struggles with ranching and farming in Motley and Dickens counties. Throughout its history, Texas has experienced prolonged periods without rain, although short term droughts have been more common. On the average, seven out of ten years will usually measure below 22 inches of rainfall in our semi-arid region. The natural cycle seems to be influenced by sunspot activity, volcano eruptions, the greenhouse effect, and ocean temperatures. The timing of rain and snow, not just the amount of moisture, determines when the next drought begins or ends.

Growing up in the 50's, I was not too concerned with the effects of the drought, after all, I was only a kid and drought and blinding sandstorms were normal. But, I was more concerned with the monsoon rains in 1957 that "broke the drought." I remember waiting in the family station wagon on the side of US Highway 62 for the rain to subside so we could see to drive home from school. Cloudbursts flooded our watersheds and tore out water gaps, train trestles, highway embankments and sent massive cottonwood trees tumbling down the Pease Rivers. I wondered if the old Mott Camp Line would be washed into Mott Creek that was raging bank to bank.

Although I always understood the concept of drought from the stories of old timers who rode the bogs or cleaned out springs with a fresno pulled by a mule, I did not understand it emotionally until 2010-11. Our lands experienced little or no rain for eight months, temperatures of over 100 degrees for 80 days, and wildfires that scorched some 40,000 acres. One climatologist said it was the most intensive one year drought record-

ed since 1895. Then my heart understood. It meant cows dying from eating toxic grasses or weeds that normally they wouldn't touch. It meant roundups of cattle that would never return and seed herds that might not be replaced. It meant the slaughter of mother cows because their bags or feet had been burned in the fast moving wildfire. It meant giving up dreams of the future for the stark reality of the present.

If one thing has sustained me during these down times, it has been the study of other droughts and the people who survived the hardships. With that knowledge comes the certainty that rain will once again come and heal our land. But, we'll always be one rain away from the next drought, as evidenced by this study.

In the years between 1850 and 1860, sandstorms pelted the land and combined with scant moisture to create black rain and black snow, long before the Depression era made the two famous. Such harsh conditions heralded the coming of a severe and prolonged drought in 1873. However, by the 1880's abundant rainfall had returned, covering the prairie with lush grass that cattlemen rushed to stock with vast herds in the tens of thousands.

The drought beginning in 1885 signaled the end to the heyday of the open range. The "worst calamity to ever hit cattlemen" quickly and viciously killed open range stock by the thousands. That which the drought didn't take care of, "The Big Die-up" blizzard of 1886 finished off. Drift fences, built to protect the Canadian River range from encroachment by northern herds, forced the cattle to pile up and freeze in droves.

Up on the Cimarron River in Kansas, all but about 500 head of the Barton Brothers' herd of 12,000 were wiped out, forcing Al Barton to seek

work at Charles Goodnight's Lazy F Ranch on the Quitaque. The cattlemen learned a hard lesson. Never again would the gigantic herds be left to fend for themselves through the long northern winters. Hide men skinned the carcasses to salvage something from the wolves and buzzards. Jobless cowboys, ranch hands, and freighters drifted through deserted communities.

On the overstocked Spur Ranch range the weather proved to be a fickle mistress in 1888. By November the cattle were rolling fat, but the following January brought a raging blizzard with temperatures ten below zero and 30 mile gale winds. Over a thousand head piled up to die along the south fence line. Balmy weather prevailed until a freezing norther in March caused 5,000 of the weakened cattle to die. By 1889 the grass was better than it had been in years.

The years of 1892 and 1893 were extremely dry. The wind "blew and blew and blew, blowed and blowed and blowed." Pebbles and sand pelted the dugout doors while the wind swept the pastures and fields clean. The dirt had blown from around mesquite grubs, leaving the roots exposed and making it easy to gather a load in a hurry.

Many nesters felt that grass would never return to the bare earth. Where the land had been cultivated, the plowed part blew away, exposing a shiny metallic mark made by the plow point from one end of the field to the other. Only a few hardy settlers remained in the country. Two and one-half years without any substantial rain and the poor condition of the overstocked range starved out the subsistence homesteaders, forcing them to abandon their claims and dugouts to join fleeing caravans.

By the spring of 1893, where there had been 25 or

30 children in school in Motley County, only two little boys, Grover Grimmet and Harry Campbell, remained for schoolmaster Clarence Nugent to instruct. Campbell recalled that prairie dogs were "blown out of the ground," the hard-packed clay around their dens all that remained of the cozy tunnel homes. When harassed by the little boys, the weakened prairie dogs fell on their backs, then with their remaining strength pitifully tried to defend themselves. In their starved condition the rodents began to eat each other. John Lisenby, along with many others, killed rabbits, prairie dogs, coyotes, catamounts, and other varmints for the bounties placed on them by the newly organized county.

Cowboys cut the fences so that the cattle could drift in search of grass and water. As the animals searched for water, if they found only sand they walked aimlessly on. They found mud holes, they frequently bogged down in the mire until death or a rider rescued them. Some cows and horses survived on shinnery browse alone. The Matador Ranch shipped stock to northern pastures, but of those that remained, many drifted as far south as the Clear Fork of the Brazos in Fisher County.

Turbulent thunderstorms and a heavy rain broke the dry spell in June of 1894. Soon there was plenty of grass and the cattle were fat. At Whiteflat, E.A. Day recalled he raised one of his best crops ever that year. With the return of the rains, came a new wave of settlers. Wagon trains and the advancing Quanah, Acme, & Pacific railroad with its immigrant cars brought many new settlers. The Roaring Springs Townsite Co. promoted the purchase of 60,000 acres of ranchland. Despite the Drought of 1913 that kept sales down, the newcomers

continued on page 9

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MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE

Laverne Zabielski & Larry Vogt, Publishers & Editors
Jennifer Lawler, Office Manager
Carol Campbell, Feature Writer

TASB Media Honor Roll

Houston Press Club Editorial
Award Winner
West Texas Press Association
Member
Texas Press Association
Member



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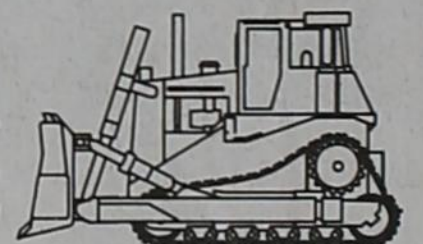
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Pinnacle Propane

89th Annual Old Settlers



Rustle-Up Some Fun at Old Settlers Days

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2012 Old Settlers Rodeo Queen Candidate



Joley Braly, 9 yrs old
4th grade, Motley County Elementary
Parents: Amy Braly of Roaring Springs
Casey Braly of Afton



Scout Braly, 6yrs old
1st grade, Motley County Elementary
Parents: Amy Braly of Roaring Springs
Casey Braly of Afton

Emily White
13 yrs old
8th grade
Spur, TX

Parents: Paul & Trudy White
Hobbies: Basketball, Cheerleading and running barrels

Lowes Pay & Save

Welcome
Old Settlers
Reunion



89th Annual Motley-Dickens Counties Old Settlers Reunion & Rodeo

Roaring Springs, Texas

AUGUST 23, 24, & 25, 2012

SATURDAY NIGHT DANCE - 9:00 TIL 1:00 - \$10.00 - TOMMY HOOKER & BLUE SMOKE

THURSDAY

FREE ADMISSION ALL DAY

PARADE - 10:00 A.M.
MEMORIAL SERVICE - 11:00 A.M.
BUSINESS MEETING - After Memorial Service
FREE DANCE - 4:00-6:00 / 8:00-11:00 P.M.

MOTLEY-DICKENS COUNTIES ARENA EVENTS

Books Open at 4:30 P.M.
Events Begin at 5:00 P.M.

CUTTING

Entry Fee \$70 (Stock Charge \$30)

FLAG RACE

6 Years & Under - Free
7 Years to 12 Years - Free (As of That Day)

OPEN AGE BARREL RACE

Entry Fee \$15 (Office Charge \$5)

JUNIOR TEAM ROPING

18 Years & Under
Entry Fee \$10 per Team

MOTLEY-DICKENS COUNTIES TEAM ROPING

Entry Fee \$60 (Stock Charge \$25)
Draw Pot - Draw 4 Partners
3 Hd - Progressive After 1
Top 12 Back for Short Go

MATT HUMPHREYS RANGER BUCKLE SET TO WINNERS

OLD FOLK'S DANCE

MIKE PORTER & FRIENDS
DANCES ARE FREE
Thursday - 4:00-6:00 P.M. / 8:00-11:00 P.M.
Friday & Saturday - 5:00 - 8:30 P.M.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

General Admission \$10
Free Admission 12 & Under

FRIDAY

FRIDAY NIGHT DANCE

9:00 TIL 1:00 - \$10.00
KEVIN RAINWATER AND THE MOONLIGHTERS

RHAA RANCH HORSE COMPETITION

Books Open at 8:00 A.M.
Competition Starts at 9:00 A.M.
\$110 Entry Fee \$40 Stock Charge

WRANGLER CLASS
COWBOY CLASS
RANCH HAND CLASS
JUNIOR CLASS
SENIOR CLASS

MATT HUMPHREYS RANGER BUCKLE SETS TO CLASS WINNERS

JR. FLAG RACE

FRIDAY & SATURDAY - DURING RODEO
12 Years Old & Under (As of That Day)
Entry Fee \$10 (Stock Charge \$10)

MATT HUMPHREYS RANGER BUCKLE SET TO WINNER

AQHA WILL SPONSOR TOP HORSE AWARD \$250 AND AQHA BRONZE TROPHY



INVITATIONAL

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
7:00 P.M.

BRONC RIDING
WILD COW MILKING
TEAM DOCTORING
CALF BRANDING
TEAM SORTING

Team of 4-6 members
20 Teams @ \$1,000 Each
3 Lazy S Rodeo Co.

**PRIZES TO EVENT WINNERS
FOUR MONIES PAID IN AVERAGE
BITS TO TOP HAND & TOP HORSE WINNERS**

SATURDAY

OPEN JACKPOT RANCH BRONC RIDING

\$1,000.00 ADDED
SATURDAY 12:00 P.M.
ENTRY FEE - \$250

ONE HEAD -- LIMITED TO 20 ENTRANTS
ENTRY DEADLINE AUGUST 10
FOR INFO & ENTRIES - TOM STOKES
806-689-2265

MATT HUMPHREYS RANGER BELT BUCKLE SET TO WINNER

SHETLAND BRONC RIDING

Featuring Butler's Bucking Shetlands
ENTRY FEE - \$25
12 & UNDER -- LIMITED TO 10
BUCKLE TO WINNER

FOR ENTRY & INFO - TRACI BUTLER
806-596-4632 AFTER 6:00 P.M.

WASHER PITCH CONTEST

1:00 P.M. - SATURDAY
BELT BUCKLES TO WINNERS

POKEY THE CLOWN'S WRCA JR. RANCH RODEO

STICK HORSE RELAYS FOR KIDS
Saturday Only -- 3:00-5:00 P.M.
PONY EXPRESS RACE -- STEER DOCTORING
WILD COW MILKING -- CALF BRANDING
3 AGE DIVISIONS:
3-7 yrs. 8-11 yrs. 12-16 yrs.
Entry Fee per Team: \$20
Pre-entry & Practice 9:30 A.M.

THE TEAM WITH THE MOST POINTS WINS AND QUALIFIES FOR WRCA WORLD Championship Finals at Amarillo

KID'S SNAPPING

TURTLE RACES

2:00 P.M. - SATURDAY
\$50 TO WINNERS OF EACH DIVISION
0-4 yrs. 5-9 yrs. 10-14 yrs.
Call Russell Alexander @ 806-269-7958

During Saturday Night's Ranch Rodeo:
CROWNING OF QUEEN

and
**DRAWING FOR SPURS
HANDMADE BY MATT HUMPHREYS**

CONCESSION ON GROUNDS

89th Annual Motley-Dickens Old Settlers Reunion



MATADOR VARIETY
DOWNTOWN MATADOR

Welcome 89th Old Settlers



The Insurance Store

Calico Treasures

OLD SETTLERS REUNION
WELCOME

"SOME SIMPLE INSTRUCTIONS"



It is for our well-being to create as much happiness in this life as we can. Every day we make contact and have relationships with those around us. "No person is an island." Being pleasant and cultivating good nature is to our benefit. Several years ago H. Jackson Brown wrote a book which was entitled "Life's Little Instruction Book." In his book he set forth some important rules for us to live by. Here are a few of them:

Watch a sunrise at least once a year.
Treat everyone like you want to be treated.
Pray not for things—but for wisdom and courage.
Be kinder than necessary.
Keep your promises.
Remember that overnight success usually takes about 15 years.

Leave everything better than you found it.
Don't rain on other people's parades.
Never waste an opportunity to tell someone that you love them.

There is no doubt these rules will surely help us to enjoy a happier life. Here is a greater rule. Jesus said, "... that you love one another, as I have loved you, that you also love one another..." (John 13:34-35). There you have it! Let's let everything we do be grounded upon our love for God and for our fellow man.

Roaring Springs Church of Christ

Michael G. Crowley, Sr.

BIBLE STUDY 10:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m.

NEWS AROUND MOTLEY COUNTY

Roaring Springs News

By Monta Marshall

On a personal note

You have heard all excuses of why your child's homework couldn't be turned on time. Some of them are really believable, like the dog ate it. Well, notes made for the news have really been eaten by our naughty dachshund pup. I had the Patterson family's names written down; if Dixie can find a scrap of paper, one of her favorite sports is to snatch it out of my hand and run to the living room to chew it up.

In the community

Roaring Springs is having growing pains! A new ready-built home was moved in on Friday evening. Owners of the new home are Terry and Michelle Turner. Their new home is at County Road 3203 and Forest Street. The Turners are moving from Peryton, Texas. Terry will be working at the Assemblies of God plant that manufactures pre-fabricated units for newly planted churches. Terry and Michelle have three children: Laci, Layne and Seth. They are looking forward to getting acquainted. Until their home is finished and the utilities installed they are living at the Assembly of God Youth Camp.

Another new family has moved into the house that was formerly Jeff Braselton's Smith Southern Banc office on Broadway. They are Lynn and Candy Patterson and their four children. Mrs. Patterson will be teaching at Pat-ton Springs ISD.

Jonathan Osborn will be moving into the dorm at South Plains College at Level-land to begin his first year in his college career this week. Christian Brooks has al-

ready moved into his dorm at West Texas A&M in Canyon. Christian plans to major in Ag Science.

Jacob Woolsey and Tanner Bearden played in a scrimmage game at Valley ISD on Friday evening.

Bobby Fletcher's memorial service was held at First Baptist Church on Saturday morning. Bobby's ashes were buried in the Roaring Springs Cemetery. Quite a number of friends and family from out of town were here for his service. Several of the Brooks family were here: Stanley and Cinda Brooks from the Austin area; Ross and Kenny Byrd; Carolyn Brook's sons were here. Bobby's children and brother, Wayne Fletcher were here and many cousins.

Angelica Meredith of San Angelo visited her grandparents, brother, aunts and uncles last week. While she was here she enjoyed a camp out at the Springs Ranch Club with her aunts, Carla Meador and Sherry Rose and cousins. Angelica is entering San Angelo State University this semester. She plans to study nursing.

Kenneth Ashley is doing well. He is still in California with his family following a long hospital stay and surgery on his leg. The muscle graft has been successful and he is looking forward to coming home to Roaring Springs.

Carson Roach is visiting with Lisa Perryman for a few days. He lives in Amarillo and will be in the second grade this year.

The Cowboy Camp Meeting held a service at the Roaring Springs Community Center on Sunday evening. Tony and Karen Conner of Midland were the speakers. An Italian pot luck dinner was served.

Flomot News

By Earlyne Jameson

Overheard

A simple word of encouragement and appreciation can turn a cloud covered day into one beaming with rays of sunshine.

Correction

The name of Mrs. Kathy Shorter of Flomot was omitted as a hostess at the Shondi and Roger Lee housewarming. We regret this error.

Community News

Derrick and Christina Cruse, Paisley and Cash of Snyder, Ms. Cheryl Burrow, son, Colton and Jerry Burrow of Rapid City, South Dakota were overnight visitors Friday, August 10 of Brenda and Darrell Cruse. Joining them Friday night for dinner were Mrs. Tommie Jo Cruse, Keane and Lacy Cruse, Reese, Brighton and baby son, Case of Turkey. All of the above and Leah Cruse, Brian Meyer, Gracie and Devon of Amarillo and Mrs. Marihelen Wason of Matador enjoyed a picnic Saturday, August 11 at the Roaring Springs Ranch.

Mary Ellen "Dude" Barton had a medical appointment in Floydada, Wednesday.

Connie and Coy Franks met son and family, Cory and Amy Franks, Madison, Hudson

and Heston of Idalou in Wolf-forth Thursday and enjoyed a Little League baseball game in which Hudson played.

Mrs. Mary Jo Calvert and Glen Calvert attended to business in Plainview, Friday.

Weekend visitors of Anna Beth and Joe Ike Clay were granddaughters, Kelsey Clay, student at WTU in Canyon and Sarah Clay of Panhandle. They are the children of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Clay of Panhandle.

Wilburn Martin had his annual checkup in Amarillo, Tuesday. He received a good report.

Visitors Sunday of Ruth and Orville Lee were son and wife, Joey and Brenda Lee of Clarendon and Tom Heck of Turkey.

Visiting the weekend with Mrs. Nada Starkey was daughter, Mrs. Jackie Lynn Davis, Michael and Virginia Davis of Fritch. Jackie Lynn accompanied her mother to Amarillo last Monday and she had a growth removed from the top of her head. She returned to Amarillo this Monday and had the stitches removed.

Mrs. Kathy Shorter closed her Beauty Shop in Flomot that she has operated for many years. She accommodated many patrons in the area and will be missed!

Matador News

By Marilyn Hicks

What a whirlwind of a week it has been; you can tell that the scurry of school activities is beginning. Some are shopping, and some are getting in last minute trips. I had my baby grandchildren for a couple of days and that always keeps me busy. Randy went to a knife show with his brother, and then they are fishing their way back from Denver. Gary brought some of his knives out on Thursday morning and sold a couple to guests. They are amazing works of art.

Colton broke his wrist on Saturday night as he was giving a try at bronc riding at the Wichita Falls Ranch Rodeo. Guess he will have to work with a cast for some time. As many horses that he has ridden in his lifetime and broken for himself and others, and this happens when he trying it for fun - irony.

One of the most exciting things at the Hotel this week was a gift from Frances Hobbs and her sister. Roy and Bobby Klodginski brought us a dining table and hutch that belonged to Frances's mother. They are beautiful pieces and complement the furniture we already have. Thank you so much for your generosity with a gift that will be enjoyed by all.

Several members of his family joined Ellis Terry on Friday for his 90th birthday. Justin and Angela Terry and their sons, as well as Josh and daughter Jordan, all from Las Vegas, Nevada, traveled to the party. Ronnie and Shelley Cox hosted a lunch and barbecue for the occasion. Justin is a detective and Josh works in security technology for

two casinos. You certainly can't tell these twin guys apart. Ellis joined them each morning for breakfast; what a wonderful remembrance by his family.

The Skeela group gathered this weekend for their annual reunion. Staying at the hotel were Janie Waybourn Brooks and Cherri Barton Karr. Other members of this group are Kay Bailey, Carolyn Pohl Limmer, and Carol Campbell. Their golden anniversary reunion concluded with a brunch on Sunday morning.

Several member of the family of Bobby Fletcher were in town to pay their respects at his services which were held in Roaring Springs on Saturday. The guests that I know about were Payton Fletcher and Pat Dorraj from Fort Worth, Troy and Nella Fletcher from Fritch, and Val and Wayne Fletcher from Alto, New Mexico.

Lera Wilson from Smyer met her daughter, La Shell Camper, from Lubbock and two granddaughters in Matador for a nice reunion.

Northfield

Northfield's 50th Homecoming will be on Saturday October 6th at the Turkey Gem Theater. Barbeque lunch will be furnished by Northfield Homecoming and Cemetery Association. Joe Settlemeir will be in charge of music program and a craft auction is planned for a fundraiser to help with the lunch expense. More information to follow.

Billy Paul Simpson has been a patient in Childress Hospital since August 5th.

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Lex Herrington



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89th Annual Motley-Dickens
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This Week's Local Forecast

Thursday Mostly Cloudy 89/70	Friday Partly Cloudy 90/71	Saturday Mostly Sunny 93/70	Sunday Mostly Sunny 91/68	Monday Partly Cloudy 88/69	Tuesday Mostly Sunny 92/71	Wednesday Mostly Sunny 94/72

Weather Trivia What is the largest hailstone ever found? Answer: 17.5 inches, found in Coffeyville, Kansas on Sept. 3, 1979.	Weather History Aug. 23, 1933 - The Chesapeake-Potomac hurricane moved over Norfolk, Va. and Washington D.C. A tide seven feet above normal flooded businesses in Norfolk. Damage in Maryland was estimated at 17 million dollars.	Moon Phases First 8/24 Full 8/31 Last 9/8 New 9/15
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Sale Ends August 25th Matador Variety 347-2820



Library Journal
by Carla Meador
Librarian

It's Rootin' Tootin' time! Don't forget to join us in the library annex Friday, August 24, from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. for our annual Beans and Cornbread lunch. This great fund-raising event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library and coincides with the Motley-Dickens Old Settlers celebration. A delicious old fashioned lunch of beans and all the fixins', sausage, cornbread, iced tea, and cookies will be served to all those attending and making a donation. This annual event is a great time to enjoy an old time get-together, some good grub and to catch up with old friends. Motley County elected officials will act as servers. The Library welcomes all visitors to the county for Old Settlers and we hope you will make time to stop by the Library. We will be open Thursday from 1-6 p.m.

The Friends of the Library is a wonderful organization and without them the Motley County Library would struggle. The donations received through fundraisers such as the Beans and Cornbread lunch, along with dues paid by members, are used to help the library continue to operate. If you're not a "Friend" we welcome you with open arms. Dues are only \$5.00 per person per year. You don't have to live in Motley County to become a member. We welcome anyone, whether you live in Matador, Texas or Kalamazoo, Michigan, to join our Friends organization. We truly appreciate each and every member!

Our featured book this week is another great western, *The Time It Never Rained* by Elmer Kelton. Mr. Kelton, himself, presented this book to the Library in 1988 and it remains a favorite among our readers. During the long Texas drought of the 1950s a joke was told again and again

about a man who bet several of his friends that it never would rain again, and collected from two of them. Indeed it seemed the rain was gone forever. For parts of West Texas the ordeal lasted a full seven years. Mr. Kelton began writing his first version of this book shortly after the drought was broken. It failed to find a publisher, as did a second version in the early 1960s. He set the novel aside for about ten years, before trying again. Through this book Kelton hoped to give urban people a better understanding of hazards the rancher and farmer face. The characters in *The Time It Never Rained* are not the traditional Western fictional heroes, standing up to a villain for one splendid moment of glory. They are quiet but determined men and women who stand their ground year after year in a fight they can never finally win, against an unforgiving enemy they know will return to challenge them again and again as long as they live. *The Time It Never Rained* has been hailed as one of the best novels written by an American in this century.

We have a new book on the shelves, in our fiction section, *You Don't Want to Know* by Lisa Jackson. In our juvenile section we have *The Princess Diaries, Volume IX* by Meg Cabot. New DVDs include *Jesse Stone: Benefit of the Doubt* and *The Lorax*.

The Library will be closed Friday, August 24, but the Annex door will be open to everyone for our Beans and Cornbread lunch. Make this a part of your Old Settlers activities tradition!

Our regular hours of operation are Monday, 2-5 p.m.; Tuesday - Thursday, 1-6 p.m.; and Friday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

See you at the Library!

County Agent's News



by Ryan Martin, AgriLIFE EXTENSION Agent

AgriLife economist: It's producer 'decision time' for cattle restocking

COLLEGE STATION - Texas ranchers considering restocking options should think profitability first and foremost before writing a check, according to a Texas AgriLife Extension Service economist.

Stan Bevers, AgriLife Extension economist at Vernon, told producers at the Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course the outlook for beef cattle prices is positive given current supply and demand.

"The U.S. calf crop is at 34 million compared to 46 million during the 1981 period," Bevers said. "The next couple of years the calf crop, including dairy calves, is projected to be at 32 million to 33 million. What's feedlot capacity in this country? That's a hard number to come up with, it's not recorded anyway.

Making some assumptions, you'll come up with 38-42 million head.

"Feedlots are going to have to chase calves that are fewer and fewer and now deal with higher prices for corn and roughages. Do what you can do to hold onto what you've got as best you can because you will be rewarded."

That, added with a positive outlook for cattle prices over the next couple of years due to supply and demand, should aid the decision-making process.

"If I choose to restock, I want some assurance of high probability of that female giving me a calf each of the next two years," Bevers said. "I think we will have pretty good prices for the next two to three years. I want to be in the game."

Looking at Food and Agricultural Research Policy Institute projections, beef cattle prices are forecast to continue a steady climb upward near \$170 per hundredweight by

2014. Bevers said cattle prices have seen some softness lately in price due to the uncertainty of the current crop. However, there will be a larger corn crop in the future and national cattle inventory levels are at their lowest since the 1950s, which signals high prices for the next couple of years.

When ranchers consider restocking, Bevers said it's important to consider the cost of the initial investment, annual income the investment will generate, and the salvage value at the end of the useful life of the investment.

"Collectively, is she a good investment?" Bevers said, is the question each producer should ask.

Some factors Bevers said to consider when looking at potential replacement cows are:

Annual cow costs. These are \$588.22, according to Standardized Performance Analysis.

Weaning percentage and weaning weights. The Texas Standardized Performance Analysis database averages are 82.1 percent and 525 pounds.

Future calf market prices.

Bevers said another factor to consider is what type of female do you want to purchase? This could include cow-calf pairs, bred cows, or those requiring a development phase, such as heifers. He said longevity of ownership also needs to be a consideration.

"The longer you keep a productive female, the cheaper she is to own," Bevers said. Producers should also consider if they borrow the money to purchase the cow and its genetic potential.

Bevers said he has several spreadsheets that producers can use to evaluate their options. Visit <http://agrisk.tamu.edu> for this and other information.

Writer: Blair Fannin, 979-845-2259, b-fannin@tamu.edu


COWPOKES

By Ace Reid



"We'd best stay hard on this ol' biddy now, or we'll lose her fer sure when we get to thick brush!"

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Sheriff's Desk
by Chris Spence

For the month of July, 2012, the Motley County Sheriff's Office received 32 calls from citizens and drove 5,528 patrol miles.


CASES: Cases, 7; cases solved, 6; Cases under investigation, 1; Amount Lost to Theft or Burglary, \$6,200.00; Amount Lost to Criminal Mischief, \$460.00; Recovered, \$6,320.00; Motor vehicle accidents investigated, 1; Assaults, 0; Thefts, 1; Burglary, 0; Burglary of Motor Vehicle, 0; Unauthorized use of Motor Vehicle, 0; Criminal Trespass, 1; Disorderly Conduct, 0; Family Disturbance, 0; Livestock Calls, 6; Assist Citizens, 1; Assist Outside Agency, 8; Motorist Assistance, 3; Civil Standby, 0; Suspicious Person, 4;

Home & Business Alarms, 2; Welfare Concern, 1; Traffic Hazard, 1; Drug Paraphernalia, 0; Prisoner Transport to TDCJ, 1; Cruelty to Animals, 0; Questionable Death, 1. **ARRESTS:** Misdemeanor, 0; Felony, 0.

PAPER SERVED: District Court, 0; County Court, 0; JP Court, 0; Out of County Court Papers, 1; Bailiff for Court, 3. **TRAFFIC:** Traffic Citations, 3; Traffic Warnings, 5; Funeral escorts, 0.

TO THE CITIZENS OF MOTLEY COUNTY: The Sheriff's Office is here to serve the citizens. If you see anything suspicious or someone driving reckless, please call the Sheriff Office at 806-347-2234 or Sheriff Spence at 806-269-3577.

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Welcome Old Settlers




Welcome Old Settlers to Roaring Springs



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Welcome Old Settlers Reunion

89th Annual Old Settlers



Welcome Old Settlers Reunion and Rodeo
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Lighthouse Electric Coop



Congratulations Old Settlers

In Memory

A celebration of the life of Frances Marie Traweck Morris was held July 27th at the Georgetown Church of Christ, officiated by Pastor Tim Curtis.

In addition to husband Ned Morris, in attendance were long time friends and childhood buddies of Ned's, his brother Vic and wife Alice Lou, and family from Houston. Adopted little sister Carolyn (Pohl) and Howard Limmer of Snyder, sister Dorothy Traweck Hanesworth of Matador, and nephews David of Austin and John, Duang, and young daughter Irene Hanesworth of San Antonio, brother Dr. Frank Traweck of San Francisco.

Memories of and experiences with Fran often involved "daring do's" and adventure. A number of drawings and paintings decorated the Georgetown Church reception area.

Fran, a talented artist, was a graduate of the University of Texas in Austin in Art Education. She taught art in the Houston public schools for over 30 years, often bringing to her classroom awareness and appreciation of art and customs from other lands where she had traveled over the years. Her students scored highly in National Art Competitions and at State Art Conventions. A number of her paintings reflect her love for the mountains of the Himalayas. She had taken courses in Switzerland and obtained the required permits to climb these areas several times. She often wrote and painted in the afternoon of such climbs



when it was to dangerous to go any further that day which were published in Indian Mountaineer, the *Himalaya Journal*, as well as the *Houston Chronicle*.

Fran was born March 8, 1935 in San Diego, California, the third child of Dr. Albert Traweck, a Naval physician, and Irene Lawler Traweck, a former Matador teacher. The family moved to Matador when Fran was a young child. She graduated from Matador High School, excelling in sports, particularly basketball, receiving state level honors.

Fran and Ned Morris, a Houston attorney, were married in Matador in December, 1959. They lived in Houston for many years and then moved to San Juan Island off the coast of Washington where they both participated in the island's numerous art activities.

She would be honored by donations in her memory to the Motley County Museum or East Mound Cemetery in Matador.

Flomot native helped build an empire

By Marisue Potts

Words that employees at Rip Griffin Travel Centers longed to hear were "Everything's O.K. Ronnie is on the way!" Ronnie Rogers was the troubleshooter for any problems that might arise in the construction and maintenance of twelve big truck stops with 150 employees. The Flomot native retired earlier this year after forty years with the multimillion dollar company that started from a modest three-pump gasoline station on Avenue A in Lubbock.

His boss, B. R. "Rip" Griffin, credits Rogers with being a key player in putting together a company that basically started without capital.

"We were ham-strung by lack of capital. We couldn't just go out and buy new things, so Ronnie fixed or repaired whatever we needed. He could repair anything and everything a person could repair. Fuel pumps, overflowing toilets, cash registers, he could do it all," said Griffin, in an interview at the Lubbock corporate headquarters. "We were a twenty-four hour operation and Ronnie might be needed anywhere at any time of the day or night. It didn't matter if it was eight a.m. or two a.m. He was a key man, but he never had a title."

Just as important as his tool kit was the map that Rogers carried of the truck stops to which Griffin sent him, whether in Texas, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, New Mexico, or Wyoming. No matter where he was, he was always at least 500 miles from the next one.

"We always had fun, but it was dead serious business," Griffin said. "Ronnie had energy, stamina, and the know-how to make things work." In

building new truck stops, an architect might bring in a designer and an engineer, but it was up to Rogers to implement the ideas in a practical way. His blueprint would be covered up with writing, notes scratched out or new ideas added.

Ronnie Rogers was thirty years old when he hooked up with Rip Griffin, together they proved for forty years that the hard work ethic is still alive. Perhaps that trait was instilled in them as they grew up in Motley County with examples from some very special men who were Old Settlers.

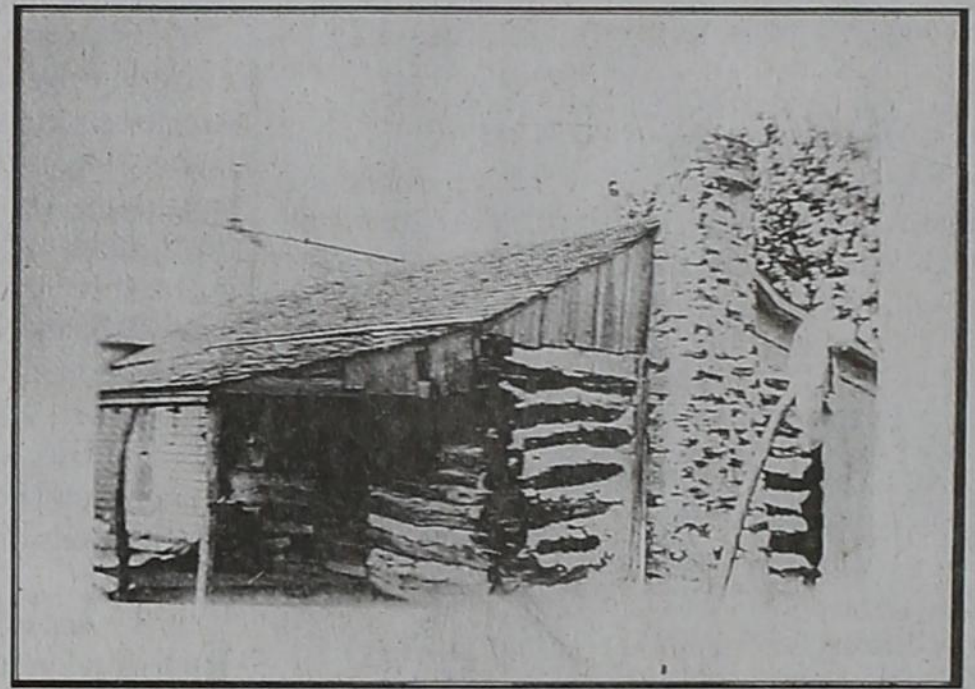
L. M. Griffin, Rip's father who came to the Mata-

dor Ranch as a young boy, was known affectionately as Snakes to other cowboys for having shed his worn skin of old clothes for a set of new ones. In the History of Dickens County, he wrote a letter about his association with Billy Partlow, a Matador cowboy known as the Pitchfork Kid, that said, "I feel that he and I had quite a bit in common for I was raised from a doggie. I hope other people feel as I do and that enough funds will be raised to erect a suitable monument to his memory." As a side note, enough people like L. M. contributed to the fund to place a modest red granite stone at the unmarked grave of the

Pitchfork Kid in Llano Cemetery in Amarillo.

Rogers, on the other hand, had in his background an uncle, Shannon Davidson, who made the incredible pony express ride of 2100 miles in 21 days on 2 horses from Nocona, Texas, to Oakland, California. Davidson sometimes rode 90 miles in a day, changing his horse every 25 miles. Instead of stopping to eat, he downed raw eggs and orange juice or grabbed a sandwich. With that kind of example of the ultimate perseverance, Ronnie Rogers likely had no trouble driving 500 miles to the next truck stop to answer a call for help. "Don't worry. Ronnie's on the way."

RHODERICK IRRIGATION Welcome Old Settlers



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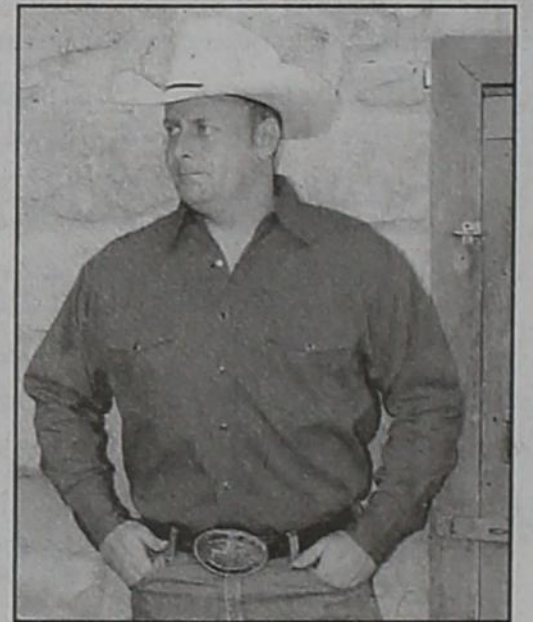
Matador Ranch Welcome Old Settlers

Matador Ranch
Cowboy Gathering

In celebration of the 60th anniversary of Fred C. Koch's purchase of the Matador Ranch (for former and current employees of the Matador Ranch and their immediate family)

Saturday, August 25
Matador Ranch Lodge
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

(Grub will be served beginning at 11 a.m.)
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Welcome
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89th
Annual Reunion



The Hep Cats



The Hep Cats were the rage in the 1950s, playing for special events, dances, school functions and contests. Pictured (L to R) are Mike Groves, (deceased), Pat Seigler, Gerald Pipkin, Pat Groves, and Frank Traweck (front). Gerald Pipkin will be playing for Homecoming 2012 on October 6, 2012. Mark your Calendar for Homecoming 2012!

Attention Exes



I was deeply honored to be elected Sheriff of Motley County, it was much appreciated.

In my 5 years in Motley County, I hope and trust that I that I have earned your confidence and support, and would appreciate your vote in the upcoming election, in order that I may continue to serve the citizens of Motley County.

Homecoming 2012 is set for Friday, October 5, and Saturday, October 6, 2012. With the celebration right around the corner, the Homecoming Committee is requesting favorite photographs of school days to publish as a souvenir insert in the October 4, 2012, issue of the Motley Country Tribune. Please email your photographs to mctribune@gmail.com or bring by the new news office to scan, located at 1207 Eubank Street, Monday-Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Childress Veterinary Hospital

Welcome
Old Settlers
Reunion



Rootin' Tootin' Beans & Cornbread



Friday, August 24
11:30 am - 1:30 pm
In the Library Annex
Beans & Cornbread & all the
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Come Enjoy a Great Meal and Visit
with some Old Friends!

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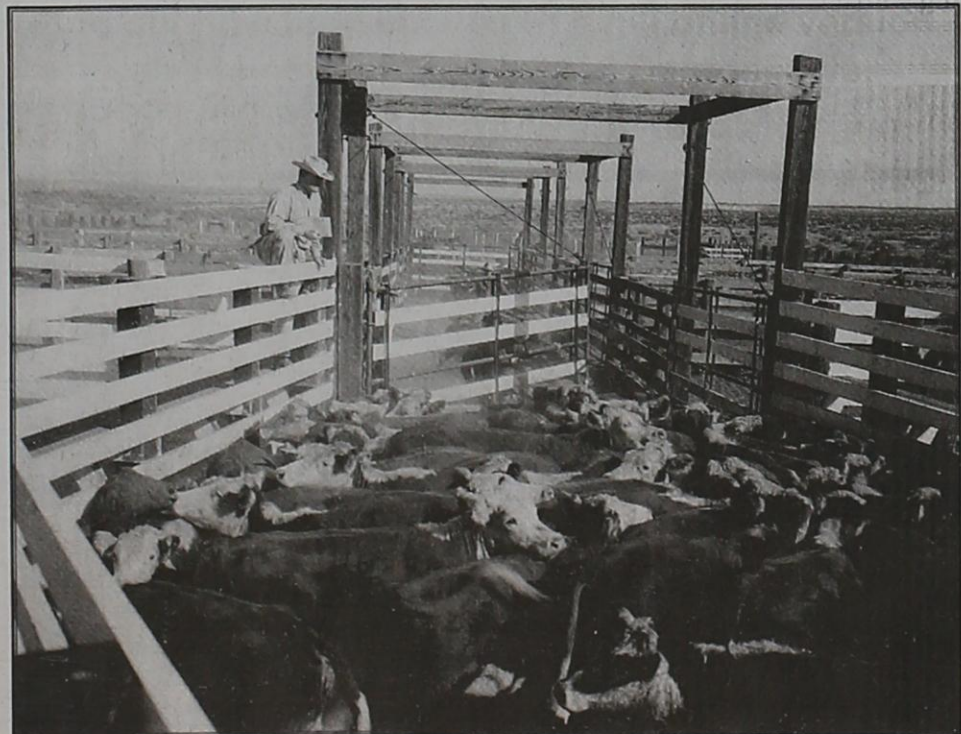


89th Annual Old Settlers

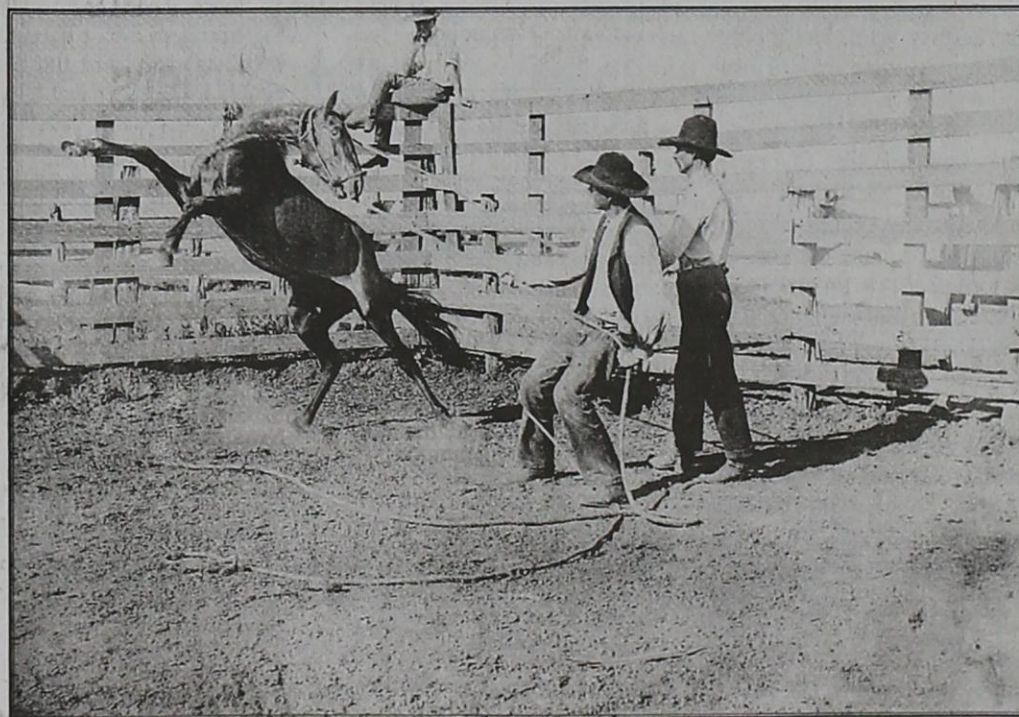


Main Street Cafe

Congratulations Motley-Dickens Counties 89th Annual Old Settlers' Reunion and Rodeo



Congratulations Motley-Dickens Counties 89th Annual Old Settlers' Reunion and Rodeo



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Letter Reveals Another Shoot-Out at Mott Camp



This cabin was the scene of the third shoot out at Mott Camp which involved a jealous Frank Drace killing Mose Harkey. The family in the photo is the Frank Leonard family who lived there after the Draces left for Washington state.

By Marisue Potts

The history of Mott Line Camp is being revised by researcher Tom Musser's find of a 1930 letter written by J. B. Beasley of Mercury, Texas. Musser found the pivotal letter in Spur Ranch files of Clifford Jones at the Southwest Collection of Texas Tech University, Lubbock. Although Beasley's account concerning the open-range holdings of the Hall Brothers in Dickens and Motley counties contributed to William Holden's book, *The Spur Ranch*, this letter reveals the details of a gunfight not commonly known.

In 1952 my grandfather, J. C. Burleson, and father, W. E. Burleson, purchased a portion of the Mott Pasture during the sell-off of the Scottish-owned Matador Land & Cattle Company, and since that time I have researched the history of Mott Line Camp and shared it with students, history buffs, and foreign visitors. Always of interest was the story of the two separate gunfights, ten years apart, each involving a Harkey brother. In one episode Jim Harkey and Jim Barbee draw down over the singing of Yankee Doodle. In another, Mose Harkey is ambushed by a jealous husband, Frank Drace. Armed with the bullets of new details, I now consider the earliest known gunfight of Mott Camp.

In the spring of 1877, J. R. Beasley writes that he was working for the T outfit run by the Hall Brothers, N. J., J. M., and William, at Madison, New Mexico. When J. M. decided to start a ranch in Texas, he took Beasley with him to Refugio County where Hall bought 1500 one and two year-old heifers. As foreman, Beasley was in charge of branding the young heifers, and then starting the herd toward Northwest Texas, grazing the open range as they went. Hall's only instructions were to go until they found a place to stop and then stop.

They crossed the Colorado River at Austin, the Brazos where Seymour is now located, and the Pease River where Vernon is now located. Then they went to the R2 Ranch and up Grosebeck Creek (Hardeman County) to its head, then west to the mouth of Wind River. From there they took the herd to TeePee City, where they stayed until late fall or early winter, as he recalled some sixty years later.

When the range got burned off at TeePee City, Beasley moved the herd up to the head of the Middle Pease, next to the Caprock. At the Cottonwood Mott, west of Matador, he found a buffalo hunter by the name of Jim Smith with a little bunch of cattle and a little cabin. He also noted the presence of "a man by the name of Burk who had a wife and some hogs," and two men named Jones, one called Frank.

As J. M. Hall's foreman, Beasley made a deal to buy out the open-range claim on the watershed of the Middle Pease. He prepared to move over to the camp where the seep springs provided water along the creek. However, when he and his men rode up the next day, they found Burk lying on the dirt floor dead. Burk's wife said the Jones boys killed her husband. If any action

was taken, he failed to mention it, but they did take possession of the camp.

"We put Jim Harkey there, and one or two years later Coggins and Wylie dropped (their herd) in on South Pease and Dutchman." At this point, Beasley's account of events dovetails with the account of Dee Harkey in his book, *Mean As Hell*. Dee, also known as Daniel, wrote that in February, 1878, his brother Jim Harkey was living together with Jim Barbee in a log cabin with a stick and dirt chimney.

"The house had a door sawed out and the ends of the logs had boards nailed on them for door facings. The cracks between the logs were large enough for a man to stick his arm through. These boys were cowhands, and they rode the drift line and ate together, although they worked for different companies."

One day after they both got back to camp early, they began to get on each other's nerves. Jim Harkey was chiding Barbee about the time he'd tried to stab his father with a butcher knife over a disagreement. When he tired of that, Harkey started to fix something to eat and was singing Yankee Doodle. Barbee, already irritated by the razing, told him that anybody who would sing that song was a damned fool. (Texans and Southerners, in particular, were still sensitive about Yankee control during Reconstruction.) Harkey protested, "You're a liar. That's a damn good song."

Barbee went outside revolved his pistol and came back to the door. He warned Harkey he was going to kill him and shot Harkey over the right hip, with three other shots going wild. Harkey returned the fire and hit his target four times. He dropped his gun on the dead man and walked out to face a freighter who had arrived only a short time before. The freighter went to Halls' headquarters and brought back the boss, Dick Hudson. Soon after Harkey explained what happened, he too died. Both men were rolled up in a wagon sheet and buried in a grave dug by an ax about 18 inches deep.

About two months later, Dee Harkey, who was 12 years' old at the time, was sent with a coffin lashed down in a buckboard to get his brother's body to bring it back to San Saba County. It took him and Hall, his young companion who was probably a nephew, 21 days to make the trip up, but on the way at Buffalo Gap they met Barbee's father. John G. Barbee had what he believed to be his son's remains. Twenty-four year-old James M. Barbee was buried in the Barbee Family Cemetery in Hamilton County. The death date on the tombstone is 2 January 1880.

On the return home the two boys stopped in Buffalo Gap to get a blacksmith to put bands around the pine coffin to contain the gases from their decomposing body. The remains of Jim Harkey were buried in the family plot at Richland Springs, along with his father and mother, Daniel Riley and Margaret Smith Harkey, who had died in 1869, fifteen days apart, leaving thirteen children. Joe, at age 17, had been left in charge of five girls and eight boys, which included John, Levi, Jim, Jeff, Daniel (Dee), Mose, and Eli.

When the Hall Brothers put

together another herd to take to their Pease River holdings, Dee was hired on because his brother Jeff Harkey (who later became sheriff in Dickens County) was assistant boss to Dick Hudson. Dee quit in 1879 about the time Henry H. Campbell bought out the Hall Brothers Spur Ranch claim. Several Harkey boys signed on to work for The Matador Ranch: Jeff (1883), Eli (1883), Mose (1884), and J. D. (1887).

Now, the eye-witness account of Frank Collinson who arrived after both men died differs slightly from the others. Collinson was in charge of Coggins and Wylie's herd of Jingle Bob cattle that had been trailed from John Chisum's in New Mexico. He claimed his men built their north camp of cottonwood logs on the head of the Middle Pease and there two boys stayed in the camp, Jim Harkie (sic) who worked for the Spur Cattle Co and Jim Barbee who worked for the Jingle Bob Cattle Company.

"When I got there the next morning they had graves dug on the east side of Mott Creek. The freighters had a new wagon sheet which they cut in half and rolled the bodies of Harkie and Barbee in, before burying them...The next spring...I saw them dig up the body and identify it. Harkie was very little decomposed." He said that Barbee's father sent his outfit to the prairie grave to get his son's body and move it back to Hico. After that Collinson split the camp and moved his man south to the head of Dutchman Creek.

Mose Harkey who was just two when his parents died followed his older brothers to Dickens and Motley counties to become a cowboy. In 1887 Mose, then 20, was rooming in the same little log house in which his brother Jim Harkey died. Nearby, the camp man, Frank Drace (who went to work for The Matador Ranch on Dec. 14, 1882), his wife and little children, lived in a box house. According to Dee Harkey's account, Mose was ambushed by Drace from the box house by a 30x30 Winchester. The ball broke Mose's back and he fell to the ground. Mose returned fire but hit the door facing, not Drace.

After Drace rode off, Mose persuaded Mrs. Drace to send for the Matador Ranch boss, John Jackson (John M. Jackson shows up on the Matador Cattle Co. roster in 1888). Mose told his boss that he didn't know Drace was mad until Mrs. Drace told him that morning that he was jealous. Mose lived until the next day and died. In his book, Dee claims that one of the brothers killed Drace. However, that was not true. According to a great-granddaughter, Lillie May Martin Johnson, Frank Drace died at age 51 at Cherokee in San Saba County, after moving his family to Washington state, Galveston, and Indian Territory where he ran a livery stable. Drace seemed to be running away from something, was it a guilty conscience or the Harkey boys?

From the archeological record we know that the Cottonwood Mott was an oasis of seep springs that attracted pre-historic Indians of the Woodland Period, historic Indians utilizing the horse and metal technology, pastores and their sheep herds, buffalo hunters, military parties of the Red River War period, cowboys and settlers. Can it be that there were only three shoot-outs there? History is always waiting to be revealed if we dig for it.

Skeela's celebrate 45th reunion at Hotel Matador



Pictured (top to bottom) Carolyn Limmer, Carol Campbell, Janie Brooks, Kay Bailey, and Cherri Karr

By Carol Campbell

Five of seven friends and graduates from Matador High School met at Hotel Matador to celebrate the 45th reunion of the "Skeelas," a group of high school friends that have been meeting since 1967. No one can remember exactly how the name for the gang was established, but they are all sure it was hilariously funny.

Hostess for the event was Janie (Waybourn) Brooks, of Austin, TX, who planned two days of visiting, reminiscing about old times, traveling to Europe by video album with Carolyn and Howard Limmer, and catching up on children,

grandchildren, and families.

Also attending were Matador residents Kay (Rattan) Bailey and Carol Campbell; Cherri (Barton) Karr of Whitney, TX, and Carolyn (Pohl) Limmer of Snyder, TX. Two friends unable to attend this year were Melanie (Brown) Camp (this is the first reunion she has missed in 45 years); and Donna (Williams) Nelson, of McMinville, OR. Due to the travel distance, Donna opted to celebrate homecoming October 6, 2012, the 51st anniversary of her graduation (Class of 1961).

Stopping by the hotel was well-wisher June Keltz who enjoyed the completed DVD

of *Old West Tales from Motley County* and the video-graph of her great niece's wedding, Courtney Karr, daughter of Cherri and James Karr, to Brandon Stephenson. Also visiting the group Friday evening was Winifred Darsey.

On Saturday evening, a hamburger cookout hosted by Kay Bailey and Carol Campbell at the hotel patio area was also enjoyed by "Skeela mom" Lucretia Campbell, and friends Roy and Francis Hobbs, and Ron "Beetle" Bailey. Ron provided his famous pecan pies for dessert. Hotel Matador hosted a brunch for the group Sunday morning to close out the reunion.

Congratulations Motley-Dickens Counties 89th Annual Old Settlers' Reunion and Rodeo



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Always One Rain Away from the Next Drought continued from page 2

settled down to dry land farming in earnest.

So severe was the drought on the Matador Land & Cattle Co. range that thousands of cattle were sent by rail to the Canada, Montana, Colorado, and Dakota leases. Of over five thousand head sent to Colorado, nearly 2,000 died from the results of being in 37 inches of snow and the contrasts of freezes and thawing Chinooks.

The winter of 1918-19 devastated the cattle industry by starving, smothering, or freezing the cattle along drift fences. "Chickens froze on the roosts, cattle froze on the range, and one man froze at a ranch camp when wood torn from the windmill burned out before the Blizzard of 1918 had spent its fury," recapped reporter Gerry Burton in a Lubbock Avalanche Journal article.

With 18 inches of snow on the ground for 58 days, surviving cattle in Bailey County had to be fed cottonseed cake where they stood or lay since any attempt to walk through the crusty snow painfully removed the hair and skin from their legs. Soon even horses refused to budge to take feed to cattle.

The weather and the low market price of \$5 a head sent several large ranches into bankruptcy and resulted in vast areas of rangeland being broken out for wheat farms. The one-way plow and an increased mechanization of trucks and tractors during the boom produced the Great Plow-up. Cultivating land that never should have been plowed and close grazing of range lands combined with lack of moisture to create dry and powdery conditions, perfect for severe dust storms and soil erosion.

In 1930 when drought and dust storms reduced feed supplies and ruined crops, Motley County and thirty-seven other counties became eligible for state drought relief measures. The blizzards during the winter of 1930-31 killed people and stock. The most tragic incident took place in Colorado where a bus driver and school children stranded in the storm were frozen as they waited for rescue. Although 1931 was a bumper crop year, low market prices, torrents, and plagues of insects and rodents took its toll on the nation's farmers. By 1932, many tracts of land were vacant except for the tumbleweeds drifting against the fences.

Cattlemen in 1933 faced the lowest cattle prices (as low as 3 cents per pound) since 1899. The cost of shipping the bovines to market in Ft. Worth often exceeded the price received. Relief measures included federal loans for feed, government beef purchases, and emergency

reduction of rates by the railroads.

On May 10, 1934, a dust storm rose up to a thousand feet and obscured the sun from the Dakotas to Texas. From the plains the dust and wind rushed toward Chicago at a hundred miles an hour and on to the eastern seaboard. Over 300 miles out in the Atlantic, ships reported dust settling on their decks. John Steinbeck wrote in The Grapes of Wrath, "The dawn came but there was no day."

The Drought Relief Service offered to buy cattle in drought stricken areas for \$3 to \$6 benefit payment or \$1 to \$14 for purchase payment, depending on the condition of the animals. The rains returned in 1936, but 1937 was another dry year. The worst sandstorm of 1938-1939 reduced traffic to a standstill as flying sand and gravel scoured automobiles. In contrast, two unusual weeks of no wind shut down the wind chargers and windmills. Gasoline-powered pump jacks provided the energy to pump much needed stock water.

Drizzling rain, high winds, and drifts of the Blizzard of 1940 stalled the Barton school bus in snow and paralyzed traffic as doctors rode horseback, delivery men harnessed up buggies, teams removed stalled autos, and farm tractors delivered children to school. The QA&P mail train stalled in a drift two miles east of Roaring Springs while a freight train stalled on snow-filled cut between there and Dougherty.

Severe weather continued into 1941. Tornado winds at Whiteflat damaged

post office and homes, lifting some from their foundations and turning others around or over. The blow turned over trailer house and pushed gas barrels and farm equipment 1/4 mile. Near Northfield, the B.F. Simpson ranch house suffered damaged while hen houses and out buildings were destroyed. A farm rent house turned over with two occupants inside.

Bill Meyers of Folley community reported damaging hail stones nearly as large as goose eggs. R.A. Seay, southeast of Matador, was trapped for a time when he was unable to open door of bedroom due to intense pressure on house. Large trees were uprooted and windows blown out of his farm home.

The rains came with a vengeance. The 1941 yearly total of 47.14 inches was the largest amount in twenty-five years. So much water covered the plains above the Caprock west of Matador that farmers considered digging a five mile long drainage ditch from Onie Martin Burleson's pasture to the edge of the escarpment.

1942 produced more extremes in the weather. Record setting, near-freezing temperatures and a bark-removing wind froze pipes and car radiators and caused much suffering for livestock. In the spring farmers declared war on grasshoppers and slowed their hungry march with poisoned bran, sawdust, and cottonseed hulls. June heated up to 110 degrees. Dark clouds of wind, rain, and hail assaulted the area and blew over windmills on several farms between Whiteflat and Flomot. January of 1943 once again posted near zero

or below temps. Spring rain bogged down the advance of drought, but only at the rate of 1 1/2 inches in first 6 months of the year.

A rainy drought occurred in 1944 when showers failed to break the cycle. A meteor startled witnesses with its red ball of fire and white smoke trail visible for an hour. Four inches of heavy rainfall in two hours left ruin and damage in its wake. Streets of Matador turned into rivers, bridge on North Main submerged up to foot and half above span, bringing water over Tribune's sidewalks and up to door jams. Stacks of tow sacks slowed the torrent at Skagg's Grocery and White's Auto. Whitestar had 8 to 10 inches of rain. A 30 ft. section of tank dam on the Joe Bloodworth farm near Whiteflat was swept away. Out of 429 farms, 300 reported damage.

A black sandy in January 1947 marooned drivers near Plainview when the sand was so dense that motorists could not see the radiator caps of their own vehicles. June brings up to 10 inches of rain.

Travelling 52 miles per hour, a black duster obscured the sun, peppered the air with sand and gravel, and rose as high as 10,000 feet in March 1948. Oil derricks were blown down over the South Plains. Another raging sandstorm reduced visibility to zero, threatened power service, and fanned cotton burr fires at the gins until controlled by the fire department.

Sleet, snow and rain with sub-freezing temps in January 1949 froze the ground to 12 inches damaging streets and pipes and threatened live-

stock. A flash flood of two inches backed up the drainage system and storm sewers.

In 1950 a sixty degree drop snatched away summer weather and replaced it by a frigid January Blue Norther. The dirty thirties were recalled as a black duster hit, casting gloom on crop chances. The drought of the 1950's was described as "the worst and the longest." In some parts of Texas it had hardly rained for ten years. In 1952, blow-torch winds shriveled fields and left pastures lifeless as the dead of winter, extending one of the most severe droughts in recent Texas history. The county was not particularly hard hit, with ranchers suffering less than farmers.

The earliest freeze in 30 years, coming in the first week of October, was followed by rainfall. Up to 15 inches of rain changed Afton creek into a flowing river, covering crops and roads. Fine blowing sand killed crops of maize and wheat, and laid grassland bare. Extremes ranged from a 90 degree day with dust, to rain storm and heavy blanket of frost. Winds were clocked from 50 to 70 mph, reducing visibility drastically. Though a drought every four years was considered "normal," 1953 was the most severe in 45 years of record keeping at Spur Experiment Station, and 1956 proved to be even worse. Experts advised farmers to conserve, terrace and contour, control mesquite, and save grass.

February 19, 1954 was most severe dust storm of decade, "ghost of the dust bowl days." Winds from 60-70 mph reduced visibility to

zero with dust and blowing sand. Schools were dismissed and motorists were warned to stay off the highways. School buses pulled to the side of the road to await better driving conditions. Planes were grounded and trains delayed by sand drifts on the tracks. Housewives shoveled dust from their living rooms. Rain and snow mixed with grit to make mud on the windows. Rainfall remained at a low 14.5 inches.

Spring rains brought hope, boosted car sales and improved business in town, while flooding Matador and some fields, and filling stock tanks to overflowing. The Tongue River threatened the bridge on State Highway 70 south of Roaring Springs.

Tornado winds "bombed" Valley View gym, damaged Cottle Co. and Paducah. In the fall, Motley Co. was declared drought disaster area, became eligible for emergency feed at reduced cost and freight. An eighteen-hour snow storm marooned motorists with four inches of snow.

Motley County was removed from drought disaster relief list in 1955. "Long drought" areas were soaked by rains, and the outlook brightened with cattle in excellent condition and the grass improving. The dreaded screw worms were becoming prevalent. Prospects seemed the best in last 10 years as the "wettest fall spell in history," flooded and soaked soggy cotton. Hackberry Creek ran bank to bank.

continued next week.

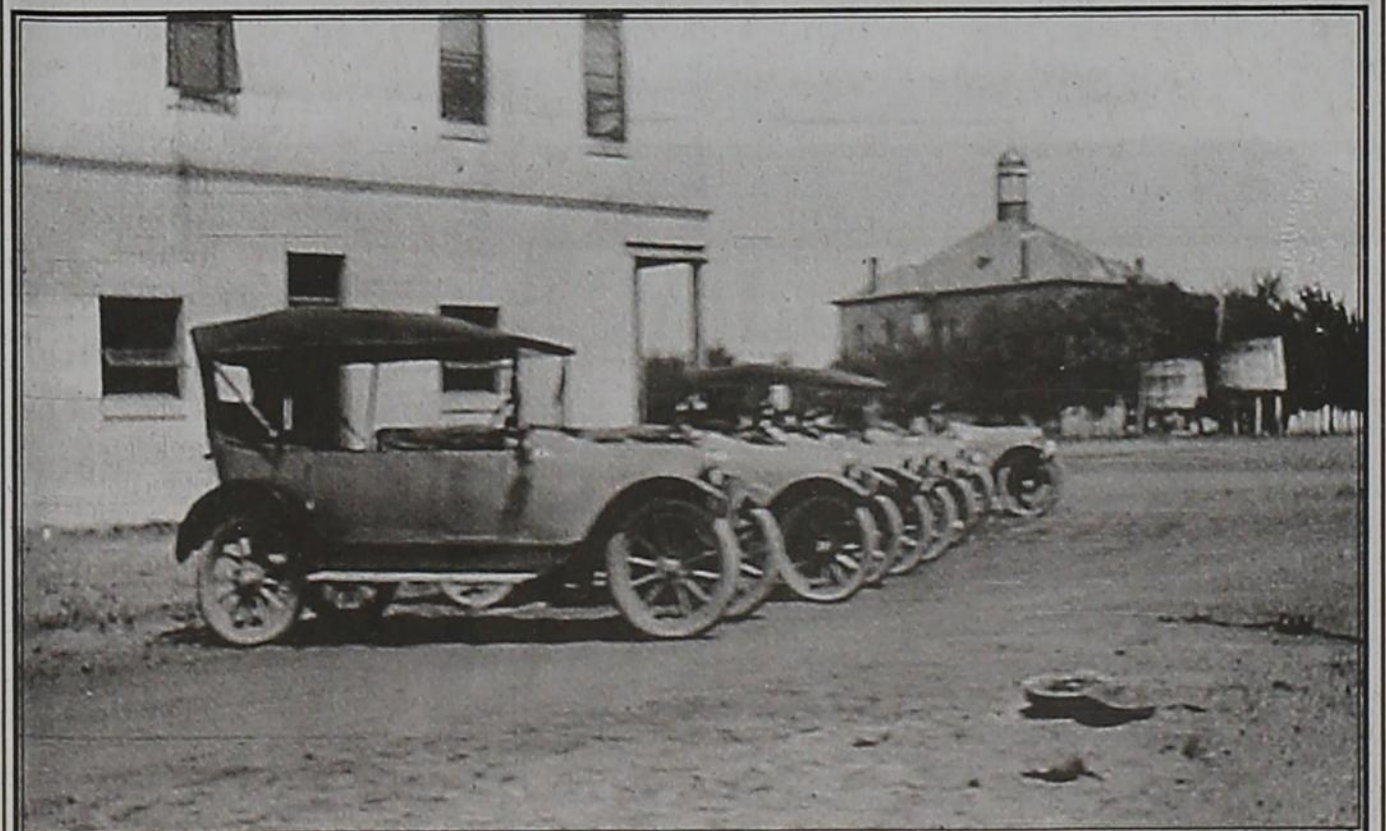
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EVENTS CALENDAR

August

- 23 MCISD Scrimmage, 6 p.m. in Patton Springs.
- 24 MCISD Matadors at Lorenzo, 10 am
- 24 AA Meeting, 7p.m. Prayer Chapel behind First Baptist Church, Matador
- 24 Beans & Cornbread fundraiser at the Library
- 23-25 Old Settlers
- 27 MCISD First Day of School
- 31 MCISD Matadors vs Highland at Jayton, 6pm
- 31 AA Meeting, 7p.m. Prayer Chapel behind First Baptist Church, Matador

September

- 3 Motley County Arts and Crafts Club, Mot

FOR SALE

Charming Updated house
Reduced Price! In Matador on almost 2 acres. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath and studio. Out buildings, new wood privacy fence on back yard. Contact 806-777-6619 or 806-632-2665 Mark nct39

2 bedroom, 1 bath 1711 Scotch St. near school, fenced backyard, metal roof. PRICE REDUCED 1-806-983-4301 ctf

Windmill Café for Sale
Downtown Roaring Springs. Call for more information; 806-269-1263 Cell or 806-348-7256 café. "YES Roaring Springs did go wet" ct36

Rock House for sale in Matador on over an acre in town. 3 BR 2 Bath, large kitchen, separate dining area. There is a great little room off the kitchen that could be a sunroom, an office, or even a 4th bedroom. Central Heating and A/C. There are fruit trees on the property and a large patio with a great shade tree. Lots of storage in attached out buildings. A small fenced area works great as a dog run. The house has been made energy efficient with many of the windows replaced and blown in insulation. It has also been recently rewired. The house needs some cosmetic work but it is definitely move in ready and you can work on it at your own pace. Call Beverly at 817-319-9329

10 Consecutive lots for sale in Matador. 60ft X 40ft Concrete Slab. Call for more information; 806-269-1263 ct36

Completely Remodeled 2 Bedroom 1 Bath. 404 4th in Roaring Springs. Offers 2 RV hookups/ Pecan Orchard. For more information call 806-269-1263 ct36

1900 sq ft, brick home, 3 bed 2 bath, completely updated 1107 Walton Rd (806)781-0954 ctf

House for Sale in Roaring Springs. 2BR, 2 BA- Garage is setup now as a 3rd bedroom but could be easily used again as a garage. Great front porch with pecan trees providing nice shade. Carport and fenced area in the back. Call 817-319-9329 Remodeled in 2010 with new floor coverings, paint, bathrooms and kitchen counter top and sink. Some of the floors are the original wood floors. Please call 817-319-9329.

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TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Equipment Operator
Motley County Maintenance Section

Position will close on Wednesday, September 5, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.
A completed State of Texas Application for Employment (Rev 09/2009) is required. Five year experience in road-way maintenance or heavy equipment operation required at time of application as well as Class A CDL with N endorsement. Interested applicants may call 940-937-7190 for complete application information. Mailed applications must be postmarked no later than September 5, 2012.
Online application process may be submitted at <http://www.dot.state.tx.us/careers>
An applicant needing an accommodation in order to apply, may call 1-800-893-6848 or TTY 512/416-2977.
Website: <http://www.dot.state.tx.us/>
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Small Taxing Unit Notice

The Gateway Groundwater Conservation District will hold a Public Meeting at 8:00 a.m. on September 4, 2012 at 109 West 11th Street In Quanah, Texas to consider adopting a proposed tax rate for tax year 2012. The proposed Tax rate is 0.010000 per \$100 of value.

The Gateway Groundwater Conservation District will hold a public Hearing on the 2013 Budget for the District On September 4, 2012 at the District Office at 109 west 11th Street, Quanah, Texas. The hearing will begin at 8:00 a.m. the hearing is open to the public and will conclude following adoption of the Budget. ct34

City of Matador, Matador, Texas is accepting sealed bids on the sale of a used 1973 Huber Motorgrader, 12' Mow-board, V6 Detroit Diesel, 3 speed Hydrostat Allison Transmission, Scarfire.

Sealed bids will be accepted at the City of Matador, City Hall, 706 Dundee or can be mailed to City of Matador, P O Box 367, Matador, Texas 79244 until Sept. 12, 2012.

Bids shall be sealed and will be opened at 6:45 p.m. on Sept. 13, 2012. The City of Matador reserves the right to reject any and all bids. ct34

SMALL TAXING UNIT NOTICE

THE MOTLEY COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT WILL HOLD A MEETING AT 6:30 P.M. ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2012 AT THE MOTLEY COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BUILDING AT 1212 MAIN ST. MATADOR, TEXAS TO CONSIDER ADOPTING A PROPOSED TAX RATE FOR TAX YEAR 2012. THE PROPOSED TAX RATE IS .11000 PER \$100 OF VALUE.

THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WOULD INCREASE TAXES IN MOTLEY COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT BY 5.485%.

SMALL TAXING UNIT NOTICE

THE GATEWAY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT WILL HOLD A MEETING AT 8:00 A.M. ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2012 AT 109 WEST 11TH STREET, QUANAH, TX. TO CONSIDER ADOPTING A PROPOSED TAX RATE FOR TAX YEAR 2012. THE PROPOSED TAX RATE IS 0.010000 PER \$100 OF VALUE.

THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WOULD INCREASE TOTAL TAXES IN GATEWAY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BY 9.10%.

NOTICE

THE GATEWAY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2013 BUDGET FOR THE DISTRICT ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2012 AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE AT 109 W. 11TH STREET, QUANAH, TEXAS. THE HEARING WILL BEGIN AT 8:00 A.M. THE HEARING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND WILL CONCLUDE FOLLOWING ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET.

Motley County ISD is seeking applicants

for Human Resource/Payroll Clerk. Applications can be picked up at the Superintendent's office located at 1600 Bundy. Deadline for applications is Monday, August 27.

Education:
High School Diploma or GED
Special Knowledge/Skills:
Knowledge of basic accounting procedures, ability to maintain accurate and auditable records, ability to use personal computer and software to create spreadsheets, and word processing; proficiency in keyboarding and file maintenance; ability to work with numbers in an accurate and rapid manner to meet established deadlines; communicate effectively and work well with others.

Motley County ISD shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant because of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin, handicap, or political affiliation.

ct34

NOTICE

Notice to banks, credit unions, and savings associations requesting the submission of applications for the performance of depository services.

The City of Matador is accepting bids on depository services. Bids should be submitted to Debra Scott, Municipal Investment Officer at the City of Matador, P O Box 367, Matador, Texas 79244 or at City Hall, 706 Dundee, Matador, Texas by 5:00 p.m. on the 7th day of Sept. 2012.

City Council will consider the selection of one or more depositories at the scheduled City Council meeting at City Hall, Matador, Texas on September 13, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. ct34



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2012 OLD SETTLERS' TRAIL DUST ANTHOLOGY

Marisue (Burleson) Potts,

author, rancher, conservationist, and anthropologist, graduated from Texas Tech University with a degree in English, history and anthropology. She has served as the Texas Historical Commission, Motley County Chair for 27 years, where she researched and placed seven historical markers in Motley County, receiving several Distinguished Service Awards and an Award of Merit in 1988 for the Library Mural project.

She is a founding board member of the Motley County Historical Museum, serving as secretary, docent, researcher, and janitor. She has provided 14 years of volunteer work for the Texas Archeological Steward Network, attended TAS Field Schools, and hosted middle school students for 13 archeological digs at Mott Creek Ranch. She is a charter member of the Texas Plains Trails Region board; received the Resident Conservation Rancher Award, Region 2, in 2008; and Lone Star Conservation Award winner for Rolling Plains by Texas Parks and Wildlife, 2010. She is the incoming president of the West Texas Historical Association for 2012-2013.

Other projects have included project director for remodeling grants for the Motley County Library and the Motley County Museum; History Day at Mott Creek Ranch, a sesquicentennial on-site history project from 1984-1986; Sesquicentennial Texas Wagon Train, Motley County 100th Anniversary Celebration; and National Cowboy Symposium speaker for nine years.

She is an author of two books, consisting of *Motley County Roundup, a Gathering of Over 100 Years and Motley County Library Mural History*. She published two articles for the Daughters of the Republic of Texas entitled, "Death Watch on the Quintufue" and "The Road to San Jacinto," receiving an award for historical research.

Additionally, she was published in the National Ranching Heritage Center's anthology *Catch-Pen*, "Home on the Range Scottish Style;" various articles in the *Texas Techsan*; various research articles in *The New Handbook of Texas*; and published feature writer for the *Motley County Tribune*.

She served on the Hackberry Creek Care Center Board; the Motley County Library Board; and was a founding member of the Motley County Chamber of Commerce. She has been named as the incoming president of the West Texas Historical Association.

Marisue is the mother of five college graduates, and lives and works on the historic Mott Creek Ranch, located in Motley and Floyd counties.

Carol Campbell

earned a bachelor's degree from The University of Texas at Arlington; and a Master's of Science in Social Work Administration from the University of Texas at Austin.

Her post-graduate career (before moving back to her hometown after a 30-year absence) was in Administration and Planning for the Dallas Area Mental Health Authority; Program Director for a drug treatment court for Dallas County; and Special Projects Director for the Community Supervision and Corrections Department in Georgetown, Texas, responsible for gathering, compiling and analyzing information provided to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, monitoring all special programs, conducting outcome evaluations and other research necessary to support grant funded programs.

She served as administrative support for the county judge in Motley County for two years, including grant writing, court coordination, office and general administration. She secured Texas Historical Commission Phase I funding for the repair and renovation of the historic 1891 Motley County Jail. She organized the Friends of the Historic Motley County Jail, now 100 members strong, and still serves as the Chair of this group. She is a feature writer for the historic *Motley County Tribune*.

She serves as a Board Member and Secretary for the Texas Plains Trial Region; serves on the board of the Central Plains Center, a consortium of nine counties in the Plains region that meet monthly to administer programs for intellectually disabled individuals; and is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and Motley County

Historical Commission. She lives with her 93-year-old mother in Matador, Texas, with two cats. She has one son, Todd, who lives in Plainview, Texas.

Monta Marshall, historian, researcher, and author of the Roaring Springs community news and other historical articles published in the *Motley County Tribune*, lives with her husband, Mayor Corky Marshall in Roaring Springs, Texas.

She graduated from Roosevelt ISD in Lubbock County, and attended South West Texas Junior College in Uvalde at Del Rio Campus, Texas; and South Plains Junior College. She moved to Roaring Springs with her husband in 1999.

Monta took courses in Business Law and administered three estates in her family. She helped start a Ladies Auxiliary at New Mexico Christian Children's Home in Portales, NM. Through her church, she helped plan fundraisers for the children's home.

She is a member of the Motley County Historical Commission, volunteers for Motley County Museum and Roaring Springs Community Volunteers; and belongs to the Roaring Springs Lions Club, Dist T2T.

Monta raised two children, both college graduates. Son, Kevin McClaran of Lubbock, is a microbiologist for the Texas State Health Department; and Katie (McClaran) Miller of Lockney, teaches school first grade in Floydada.

Front Cover Photo

Pictured is Charlie David Bird leading the parade at the Motley-Dickens Old Settlers Reunion (c. 1940s). C.D. was the first president of the Motley-Dickens Old Settlers Association, organized 89 years ago. He served on the Board of Directors for the reunion for many years.

2012 Old Settlers' Trail Dust Anthology
Writing West, Heritage, Volume 3
Published by the
Motley County Tribune
Laverne Zabielski and Larry Vogt,
Publishers and Editors



Every Old Settler Was Once a New One

By Marisue Potts

While we are always proud to welcome “new” settlers to Dickens and Motley County, the annual Old Settlers Reunion provides a time to reflect on the men and women who overcame many hardships to pioneer this challenging land. Some found it too difficult and moved on, but many families adapted, dug in, and managed to hold on to the land that was often secured with sweat equity and many sacrifices. In Motley County several family farms or ranches that have been honored with Family Lands Heritage recognition for having farmed or ranched continuously for 100 years or more. They are Campbell Ranch (1891), Bird Ranch (1897), Lancaster Place (1897), Burleson Drag A Ranch (1899), Key West Waybourn Ranch (1902), and the Barton Place (1903).

In the coming months, many of these stories will be re-told in the pages of the Motley County Tribune to remind us of the sacrifices required to build a new land, to endure reoccurring droughts, to live through several depressions and numerous recessions, and to survive the wars that stole away sons, some never to return. C. D. Bird is an example of a man who straddled the Dickens-Motley County line and worked for many ranches while carving out his own little dynasty. In this edition his odyssey is re-told in depth from the eyes of a great grandson.

The story of the legendary Henry H. Campbell has been the subject of numerous books, articles, research projects, and now a documentary by Whistling Boulder Productions. His vision of a ranch in an ideal location that could run 100,000 head of cattle was realized with the 1879 establishment of the Matador Cattle Company in “the best breeding country in the United States.” He and his four stockholders, who had invested \$10,000

each, controlled more than a million acres of open range by buying the herds that grazed there. Three years later the company was absorbed by the Matador Land & Cattle Company, a Scottish-held syndicate of Forfarshire, Dundee, Scotland, for \$1,250,000. Campbell continued as manager until he resigned and spearheaded the drive to organize Motley County in 1891, at which time he also established the Campbell Ranch on the headwaters of Dutchman Creek. His grandsons, Harold, Bundy, and Vance, carried on the tradition, and now great-grandchildren are raising cattle on the Campbell Ranch.


Good, cheap land was the draw for Kentuckian Lum Lancaster when he came to Texas. In 1890 he brought his family in a covered wagon to mesquite-free Motley County where they lived in a dugout. Seven years later he acquired his first land but it was 1900 before lumber was hauled from Quanah to build two rooms over the dugout. One can only imagine the difficulties for his wife “Sook” in raising six children under these typical pioneer circumstances. Lum’s brother Lane also filed on land and they lived a mile apart on Hackberry Creek. Lane’s daughter Ellen recalled, “It was a time of many hardships, droughts, cold, illness, and death,” and although neighbor homes were far flung, “there was help and friendship in time of need.” Today Wayland Moore, a great-grandson, continues the family tradition of raising cattle and cotton, as well as responsible stewardship by employing conservation techniques. At Moore Makers Knives, Moore, his family and crew make tools other than knives that Lum Lancaster would have appreciated: dehorers, fencing pliers and tools,

Drag A was a brand of ownership for John Carr Burle-

son of the White Star community and lends its name to the Drag A Ranch of Stanley Carr Burleson, otherwise known as the Crazy C Ranch. However, it is through the lineage of J. C.’s wife, Onie Harriet Martin Burleson that the land passed to S. C., her grandson. Onie’s father, I. E. “Van” Martin, arrived in Motley County in 1891 with two wagons loaded with family and household goods. He filed on land and built a dugout and went off to work for the F Ranch. In his absence, his wife, Catherine, and children tended to the farm and stock operations. They experienced Comanches circling the dugout and fought prairie fires while he was away. Martin eventually moved his headquarters from the north to the south side of the North Pease River and established the Flying VO Ranch. His extensive holdings eventually included the Dutchman Ranch where his granddaughter Joy Martin Archer still lives. S. C. Burleson is a traditionalist, working cattle by dragging the calves to the fire, but has always employed the latest techniques available, such as marketing by video. Today he is running an excavator-track hoe in clearing the brush from the land that’s been in the family well over 100 years.

The Waybourn family was typical of many families who were on the move for years looking for just the right place to settle. From North Carolina they step-migrated to Virginia, then Mississippi, Texas and Indian Territory. In Montague County, Texas, they moved into Clay County but had to retreat because of the threat of Indian raids. C. P. Waybourn recalled that Comanches made off with most of the horses in the area. To add to their problems, Montague and Clay Counties, like many parts of Texas, suffered from lawlessness after the Civil War and





Reconstruction. C.P.'s father, John Wesley Waybourn, served as a Texas Ranger and sheriff to establish a better environment in which to raise a family. He moved to Indian Territory as a cattle inspector but white people weren't allowed to own land; so in 1897 the Waybourns filed on several sections of land in Motley County. In 1900 C. P. and Mattie Gerald Waybourn left by train and arrived at Childress and started on a long, bumpy ride in a mail hack to Motley County. They homesteaded on the Pease River, land that their children Gerald, Gilbert "Buck," and adopted son Wilson Gunn, and grandchildren Barbara Waybourn West and Geraldine Waybourn Key would hold onto for over 100 years. Both Mrs. West and Mrs. Key cherish the land that was so hard for their family to find and settle on.

Wilburn Barton was just a little boy when he and his brothers lost their mother near Cimarron, Kansas. Their father Al Barton and his brothers had thousands of head of cattle freeze to death in the "Great Die Up of 1887." Wilburn grew up on the F Ranch where Al worked for Charles Goodnight. When Wilburn and Ella Etta Orr married at her parents' home near Flomot, she climbed up behind him on his horse and they rode to their home on the North Pease River known as The Barton Place. Their first child, Opal Etta, was born there in 1903, with eight children to come. The children grew up to work on the farm during the week and the ranch on Sunday. The girls and boys each had their own team of mules to farm with and their little sister's imitation by tying a piece of tin to her horse's tail created a run-away never to be forgotten. The Bartons had their trying times but the Depression of the 1930's was remembered as a time of plenty to eat, with a garden, chickens in the hen house, milk cows, hogs, and beef cattle providing for the family. Opal's daughter, Waydette Martin Clay, is proud of the land that has been

in continuous agricultural production by members of the Wilburn and Ella Barton family since 1903, and she shares that love of the land with her own family.

Although the Family Land Heritage Program of Texas honors families who have kept the land in continuous agricultural production for over 100 years, there are many other stories to be told about families who came early, fought for the land, and have descendants who still hold that land. Two that are noteworthy are the Keiths and the Coopers.

D. C. Keith came to this country in 1882 and worked as a cowboy on the Spur Ranch. The young man's life was lonely and he began writing to a young woman he'd never met. They wrote back and forth to each other for five years until they finally met. D. C. and Ella Cribbs were married in Motley County in 1891, the first such ceremony in the county. They lived in a half dugout on the North Pease. Ella recalled that cheesecloth covered the dirt walls and stinging scorpions and centipedes often fell on the table and beds. She kept food somewhat cool by placing it in a hole in the ground which had been lined with gravel and partially filled with water. Later they moved to Ruster Camp where he worked for the Matador Ranch and several of their six children were born. D. C. shipped cattle for the Matador Ranch for forty years, driving herds as far north as Canada. In 1907 they moved to a home south of Matador, the remains of which are still visible today on Texas 70 highway. Their son Charlie lived there shaded by a walnut tree that he had planted, and today grandson Dave Keith carries on the tradition of living on land that has been in the family for over one hundred years.

Arthur B. and Anna Benson Cooper were among the first to settle at TeePee City in 1870 at the end of the buffalo hunting era. The small outpost had been a Comanche camp site and a buffalo hunters' terminus on the Rath Trail

for selling hides and buying supplies. The Coopers bought three Land Scrip certificates of "railroad land" and went to Clarendon to get a surveyor who put them on vacant land that they homesteaded. The Coopers ran a little store and the post office until 1891. He was elected as the first county commissioner in his precinct but backed the Sheriff Joe Beckham on an official bond. When Beckham was reelected he failed to post a new bond and his office was declared vacant and later was indicted for misapplication of public funds. The state brought suit on Beckham's bond and foreclosed on the Cooper's three sections and bought it for the state for 50 cents an acre. Cooper left for Alaska and Mrs. Cooper was left to salvage the land she'd left Sweden to own. Upon advice of her attorney she began to fence the three sections bought by the Matadors from the state. The Matadors then filed suit, but with her testimony that the land was bought with money she'd earned, the jury returned a verdict in her behalf and restored her land. The third that went to her attorney, A. J. Fires, was later purchased from him for the Cooper children, Jim and Nora, through an inheritance from a grandfather in Pennsylvania. The land then passed to J. B. and Geneva (later Griffin) and is now held by the grandchildren. The tenacity to hold onto the family land is strong even today and great-grandson Jim Cooper often shares the history of the struggles with those who appreciate that strong tie.

These are just a few of the many stories waiting to be told about why land is precious to people who live in Dickens and Motley counties. Tradition runs deep because of the hardships faced, the droughts endured, the triumphs earned, and the people who made our lives one of ease today. Just as they were adaptable and resourceful, so must we be to continue to hold onto what they struggled for, so "new settlers" can become the Old Settlers.



Early Farm Families in Dickens and Motley Counties

By Monta Marshall

In the early 1900's Agie (A.A.) Marshall, a widower with seven living children, and T.E. Alton and Julia Snow Marshall with their four children, moved from McLennan County near Grosbeck, TX to the plains.

First, they tried to farm in Martin County but the drought year and blowing dust caused them to move back toward the east. They settled on Duck Creek in Dickens County. Again, their crops withered and died. They heard of land for sale in Motley County on Tepee Creek, the settlement that became known as Tepee Flat.

A.A., T. E. and their sister Florry Bell Marshall each married into the Snow family which made for quite a few double cousins. A.A. (Agie) Marshall bought land in the Tepee Flat community in Motley County in 1916 from the Matador Land and Cattle Co. for \$20.00 per acre. He leased 6¼-acres to the Motley County Railway for right-of-way in 1916 for \$20.00 per acre.

The Matador Land and Cattle Co. had bought the land in 1903 from a family in Kentucky for \$8.00 per acre. Due to crop failure in 1919, A. A. Marshall surrendered the land back to Matador Land and Cattle Co. Then the Matador's sold the 160 acres to J. A. Goodwin for \$22.50 per acre on November 16, 1919.

On December 4, 1920, A.A.'s son,

William Lee Marshall and his wife Hattie bought the tract from the Goodwins for \$24.68 per acre. A.A. Marshall bought one-half interest in the tract. The Marshalls were able to finance their land payments through the Federal Land Bank.

The Marshall's were the first to live on the tracts of land they purchased.

A.A. Marshall's children were: Herman (Shorty), William Lee, Annie, Alfred, Lizzie, John, and Lawrence. His children lived in Motley County for many years.

In the second generation, two of A. A.'s children, Lee and Annie, married a sister and a brother of the Webb family who had also settled in the Tepee Flat community. T.E. Alton Marshall and Julia Snow Marshall's children were: Mack Darrell, Nettie, Lloyd and Ola. T.E.'s son Mack Darrell continued to live in Motley County.

Herman's (Shorty) Marshall's family especially was musically inclined. His children were: Opal Marshall Fletcher, William Hershall (Buck), Fern Marshall Green, Virgie Marshall Bannister, Tressie Marshall Warren and Raymond (Cotton). His grandchildren were: J.N. Fletcher, Anne Marshall, Kellie Ann and Duff Green, Dahl and Dwight Clower, Don Warren, Jerri Nell Warren Poff, Kathy Warren Brooks, David Gary, and Dennis Marshall.

William Lee's child is Corby Lee (Corky)



Ed Webb, father of Hattie Marshall and A. A. Marshall

Marshall. His grandchildren are Kenneth Marshall and Pennie Marshall Keltz.

Mack Marshall was a fencer, a trader as well as a farmer. Mack Marshall's children were: Alton (Susie), Frances Marshall Sandefer Mitchell, Albert Carl Marshall. His grandchildren (Alton's children) are: Teresa Marshall, Darrell, Cindy Marshall Lee Johannes and Eva Joyce Marshall Bannister. Frances' children are Betty Sandefer Farley, Sandy Sandefer Bennett, Glenda Sandefer Smith, June Sandefer Gholson and Bobby Mack Mitchell.



Albert's children are: Carla, Jane and Laura Jo Marshall. Albert raised his family in Wheeler, TX.

The Marshall's were hard working, honest people who loved to sing and have a good time. They loved pulling pranks on one another and they were the first to laugh at themselves. Once Mack traded cars three times in Matador and came home with the car he started with and \$20.00 to boot!

Before moving to Motley County, Mack got in a fight in Spur one winter. It was so cold. His cousins, Shorty and Lee talked him into hiding in a tank of water they were hauling to their farm. Mack thought he would freeze to death but he was safe from his assailants!

The youngest son of A.A. Marshall, Lawrence, was another Marshall that loved to trade better than farm. It is told that he traded his trousers for a pig in Matador and came home driving the pig without his trousers. Lawrence later moved to Plainview and became a used car dealer.

Shorty Marshall owed a blacksmith for work and was dallying around not paying the blacksmith. The blacksmith caught him in Roaring Springs and called him a snuff dipping &#\$* and wanted to fight him. Later the family asked what happened. Shorty replied, "Well I fit the description so what could I do? I paid him."

Mack had gone courting and came home on a moonlit night. Lee and their cousin, Paul Snow hid in a cotton row and jumped up and hollered and scared both Mack and the mule he was riding. The mule pitched Mack into the field much to Lee and Paul's delight.

One year, Lee had planted his cotton early and had a fine stand up. A northerner blew in and froze the cotton. A neighbor, Mr. Kidd, came by and asked Lee what happened to his fine stand of cotton. Lee told him that a flock of Scissortails flew in during the night and backed down the rows snipping the cotton leaves off.

In 1945, Shorty's family moved to the Flag Springs community which was about four miles away. Two of Shorty's sons served in the armed forces; they were Buck and Cotton. They both returned home safely.

J. N. Fletcher, son of Opal Marshall and Newton Fletcher, loved to whistle. Newton was a pessimistic sort of fellow. He didn't enjoy J. N.'s cheerful whistling. The ground was hard and dry and Newton was fussing about his cotton crop just knowing it was ruined and would never come up. J. N. told him that he couldn't fuss that cotton up. Newton told J. N. he couldn't whistle it up either!

During the Great Depression in 1934, Lee and Hattie Marshall and John and Letty Marshall traveled to Dallas in the wintertime to adopt children. They visited Hope Cottage and picked out two baby boys. Lee and Hattie adopted Corby Lee (Corky) and John and Letty adopted Darwood. The babies had been abandoned and picked up by the lady that ran the orphanage. During the Depression many children were being abandoned because their families couldn't care for them.

On the trip back home the Marshalls warmed the bottles of milk for the babies in the radiator of their Overland-Whippet car. Corky was

raised at Tepee Flat and Darwood's family moved to Cochran County when Darwood was four years old. Darwood later worked for the 6666 Ranch at Guthrie for a number of years before he died with West Nile virus.

Jenny Lou Murphy tells that Corky was a sickly baby that couldn't tolerate milk. He was given buttermilk and did fine. She tells that Hattie would tie Corky to the clothes line post while she washed so he wouldn't get out of sight. Corky was afraid of the washing machine!

Alton (Susie) Marshall was the sheriff of Motley County for a number of years. Susie was known as a trader too. He had quite a collection in the lot adjacent to his house. His daughter Teresa told me that as children she and her brother and sisters loved to play in the old cars and make tepees out of stray fenders and car hoods. She fondly remembers her granddad Mack giving his grandchildren quarters at the Old Settlers Reunions. He would always tell them if they needed more to come back and find him and he would give them more.

She also remembered the family playing cards. Mack was losing and he surely didn't like to lose so he threw his cards in the fire to end the game.

Mack dubbed his daughter-in-law Phyliss 'his corn fed daughter-in-law' because Alton (Susie) had met and married her in North Platte, Nebraska, while serving in the Army Air Force stationed at McCook Base. Alton and his buddy had spotted two girls in the window at the post office and



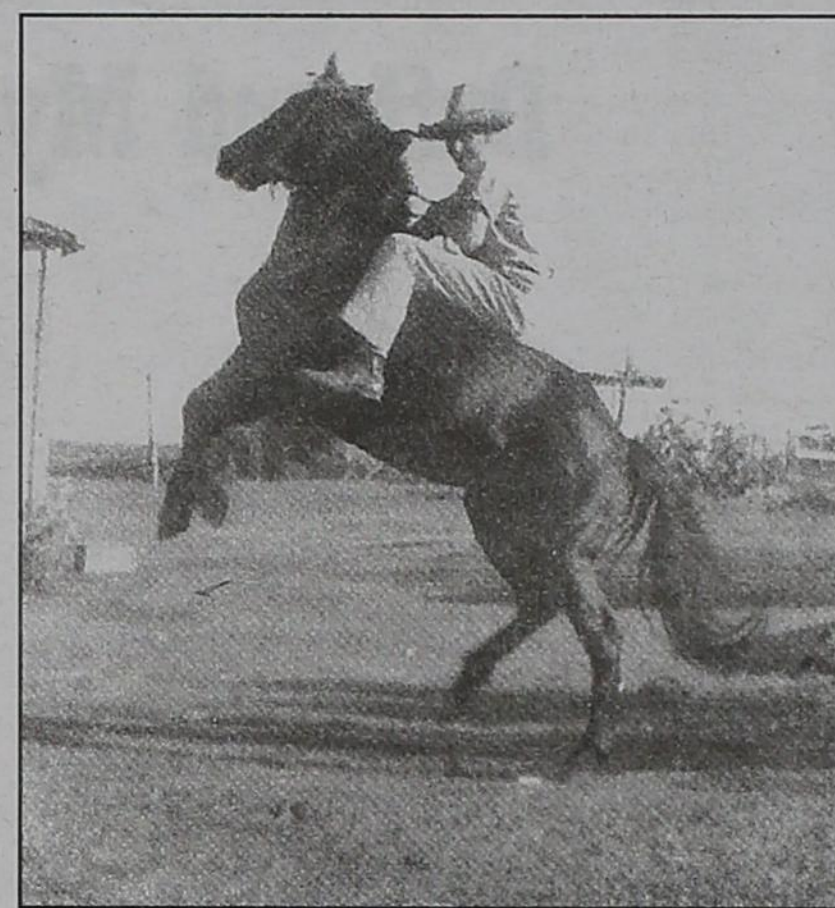
introduced themselves.

Corky and J. N. tell how when they were about 3- and 4-years-old, the Old Settlers Association bought the open-air livestock show barn at Spur and moved it to Roaring Springs. They installed a hardwood dance floor just in time for the annual Fourth of July celebration. While they were at home getting ready to go back for the celebration a group that did not believe in dancing came with axes and chopped up a portion of the floor. The city marshal, Pumper Green, told them there could not be a dance after all. After heated discussion, Homer Jackson, a board member, went to John Meason, owner of the lumber yard and asked him to open his store so they could buy wood to replace the damaged floor. He did and they got the floor patched and the dance was held after all.

Living in Motley County today there are two third generation Marshalls, five fourth generation Marshalls and 10 sixth generations of the Marshall family. This year the Marshall family held the 76th family reunion. Eighty-two family members attended.



Opal Marshall Fletcher and son, J. N. Fletcher



Hang on Pardner - Raynond (Cotton) Marshall



Darwood and Corky Marshall - babies adopted by John and Lettie Marshall and Lee and Hattie Webb Marshall during the depression (1934)



Duff and Myra Green, Early Pioneers in Motley and Dickens County

By Monta Marshall

Editors Note: Compiled by Monta Marshall, information for this article was taken from information provided by Duff and Myra Green's granddaughters, Orabeth White, Diane Graves and Jane Mason; and, Mr. Bob Forbis, *The History of Dickens County* and a speech given by Duff Green in 1938.

In 1889 the John Archibald Green family moved to Stonewall County and on to Dickens and Motley County.

Mr. John A. Green had served with General Robert E. Lee in the Black Horse Calvary. He was born in Culpeper County, VA; and had graduated from law school prior to coming to Texas. His wife, Virginia Lewis Green, came with him from Virginia. He moved his family to Texas because of the impoverished condition of Virginia after the Civil War.

In Austin he was in the lumber business and then moved to Lampasas County. Soon after he moved purchased a ranch in Bosque County; he practiced law in Waco, Hillsboro and Meridian. It was 20 some-odd miles to each of the towns from his property.

In 1889 he moved his family to Stonewall County. He practiced law there and also became a county surveyor. Their children were Thomas Magill



The home of John Duff and Myra Kelly Green Motley County
Oil painting by their daughter, Mary Green Webb

Green, Mary Green Johnson, John Duff Green (b. 1874), Fannie Green Forbis, Nellie Green Davis and Virgie Green Davis Campbell.

Myra Kelly was born in Young County in 1880. She lived at Fort Belnap until she was three years old. Her father, Levi Loyd Kelly, drowned during a rise on the Brazos River while herding cattle. Her mother Alabama Carolina Kelly and her three small children moved into Throckmorton

where Mrs. Kelly taught school and ran a boarding house. Her mother died in a flu epidemic and her Aunt Saba from Georgia came to take of the children and run the boarding house.

When Myra graduated from school in Throckmorton in May 1900, her uncle, R.C. (Rob) Forbis persuaded her to come to Dickens to teach the ranch children. The trip from Seymour took two days and one night. Miss Kelly arrived in Guthrie,



TX, in a mail hack driven by six oxen. The stop-over was at Guthrie where she boarded a hack pulled by Spanish mules. The mail wagons and hacks traveled however long it took to reach a stop-over, sometimes more than twelve hours a day. The wagon and hacks were rough to ride in especially in the country they had to travel. There were two leather straps to hold on to keep from falling out. By the time she reached her destination she had very sore blistered hands.

She had dressed in her best for her trip and wore a white blouse, black skirt, white hose, a new green sailor hat with a long green sash and carried an umbrella. They came through a hard rain storm and her hat and umbrella faded on her white blouse and her dark skirt was dusty and grimy. This was not the way she envisioned looking to make a first impression and to meet her cousin R.C. (Rob) who was a school trustee of the school where she would be teaching.

Mr. Forbis sent one of his ranch hands to meet the hack at Dickens and bring the new school "marm" to their house where she would board. John Duff Green was not too happy to get up and meet the mail hack at 2:00 a.m. in a rain storm, never imagining he was meeting his future wife!

Duff Green married the school "marm," Myra Kelly when he was 27 years old and Myra was 21. They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1953 at the Forbis Ranch where they were married. A special guest was the son of Brother Steve Cobb who married them in December of 1901.

Myra taught at Cottonwood school which was west of the present day Afton-Patton Springs

School. When the community got a post office, Myra named it Afton.

Duff became a farmer with livestock instead of a good cowhand herding cattle on several area ranches. They homesteaded a farm on the south edge of Motley County on the South Pease River. Green hauled lumber from Quanah to build their home. The home was destroyed in 1950 by a tornado. They raised seven children all of whom graduated from Roaring Springs High School. During the school year Mrs. Green moved into town on Circle Street to make it convenient for the children to attend school.

The Green children were: Mervin Green who married Lois Winkle; John Green married Fern Marshall; Mary Green married Grady Webb; Sue Green married Quanah Maxey; Ruth Green married J. M. Kirksey, Nell married Bayne Stevens in California, the youngest, Nina married Louis Sinclair. Only Nell and Nina are still living in August 2012.

The Duff Greens raised their own meat, eggs and milk and cream. Mrs. Green was an excellent cook; her granddaughters said that her hot rolls, chess pies and spice cakes were 'to kill for'.

The Green's grandchildren loved to visit their grandparents. They remember cold showers outside in the summer and in a galvanized tub in the kitchen in the winter.

The REA brought electricity to the farm about 1947 or '48. Mr. Green hauled drinking water; the girls remember that the water bucket and the dipper were not to be played with. Neither was the blocks of ice wrapped in newspapers and a quilt to keep from

thawing. The granddaughters loved to ride in the wagon to the river ice station with their grandfather. Playing on the sand banks at the farm was another fun game the Maxey girls played with their cousins, Jerry and Bert Green. They spent many hours in the shade playing and talking on the rocks at the base of the old fireplace.

Duff rescued a lamb from the river and brought it home to raise. It was quickly named Lambie Pie. The girls would give it ginger snap cookies. When it was sheared, the wool was sent to Eldorado where it was carded, spun and woven. Orabeth Maxey White received a lovely red woolen blanket on her 13th birthday. She said it is still beautiful today.

Duff and Myra never had a motor vehicle. When Myra visited her daughter, Sue Maxey in Post, TX, she traveled with the mail carrier to Spur and on to Post.

Duff was deaf from an early age; his family often wrote him notes to communicate with him. He had a very sharp mind; he taught himself to type using the hunt and peck system.

The Greens were Charter members of the Old Settler's Reunion Association. Their daughter, Sue Green Maxey, never missed a year attending the reunion, she attended 80 reunions. She got the worst sunburn she ever had at the charter meeting when she was a child.

Jerry Green's father, Mervin, bought a red jeep and he so was proud of it you would have thought it was a Cadillac. He often took Myra to Roaring Springs to wash and to the McInroe's grocery store.



The Greens generously opened their home to family members who would have been alone otherwise. They took care of the aunt that cared for the Kelly children after their parents died. A sister-in-law of Myra's and her baby also made their home with them after her husband was killed in a hunting accident. Myra's maiden sister, a school teacher, Fannie Kelly, lived with them until her death.

The Greens lived on the farm until the late '50s when they moved into Roaring Springs to the house of his son John and daughter-in-law Fern. John and Fern then moved to California where John worked at the Production Credit Association in Bakersfield, CA.

Two of his daughters moved to California, Mary and her husband Grady Webb and Nell. Mary and Grady moved back to Roaring Springs after retirement. Myra Green lived with them after her husband died in 1960. Myra died in 1973. The Duff Greens are buried in the Afton Cemetery.

Mr. Green recounted many of his life experiences in a speech given on September 1938. He later spent his spare time typing with one finger

many stories of his early years and other cowboy stories. They were compiled by a granddaughter, Joan Green Lawrence into a book, *Recollections*. There is a copy in the Motley County Library. Many of his stories have been printed in the *Motley County Tribune*.

Duff Green wrote that his family migrated West in about 1889 and about the same year there were many other newcomers to Dickens and Motley Counties. Most brought their families and small herds of cattle and other livestock. Many cattle driven many miles to new homesteads wandered away after being turned loose. Early settlers depended on the wild game of the area to feed their families.

In one of his speeches he told many stories of his life in Dickens and Motley Counties in the early days of settling here. While we would think of the problems they had as insurmountable, they just considered them day-to-day living in a new land.

Many descendants of the contemporaries of Duff and Myra Green still live in Motley and Dickens Counties.



Picture is John Duff and Myra (Kelly) Green family made in the mid-1940's. Back Row, l-r: Mary Webb, Sue Maxey, Nell Stevens, Ruth Kirksey, Nina Sinclair and cousin Ala Hill, daughter of Ora Kelly, who was raised with them. Front Row, l-r: John Green, Duff Green, Myra Kelly Green, and Mervin Green.



Editor's Note

By Laverne Zabielski

In her introduction to this collection of stories, Marisue Potts makes a good point when she says, "While we are always proud to welcome "new" settlers to Dickens and Motley County, the annual Old Settlers Reunion provides a time to reflect on the men and women who overcame many hardships to pioneer this challenging land. Some

found it too difficult and moved on, but many families adapted, dug in, and managed to hold on to the land that was often secured with sweat equity and many sacrifices." This year's Old Settlers' Writing West Anthology focuses on those that overcame hardships.

Take time as you read to reflect on your ancestors; where they came from, what they had to endure. If you don't know their story, you can imagine what they

must have gone through. Today, with so much media filled with tales of the past, we can find out story in there somewhere.

Why are these stories important? They can serve as models for our own future. There is still much to learn. There is still a frontier. And it still takes sweat equity and sacrifice to persevere. Understanding our heritage is important to developing those skills.

Charlie David Bird (1866-1961) Pioneer Family Legacy

By Carol Campbell

Charlie David (C.D.) Bird staked a claim in Motley County more than a century ago on land located 17 miles southeast of Matador.

C.D. has been referred to as cowboy, trail rover, line rider, rancher, father, county organizer, and banker. But, a not so well-known fact about Charlie David Bird - he was a construction engineer.

In his lifetime, he built three dugouts, seven houses and a school on his 19-section ranch. In 1884, he also helped build the first First Baptist Church in Plainview, Texas. In the 1950s he built his last home in Matador proper on Eubank Street. The family always prospered when C.D. expanded his horizons.

"When great granddad moved up, we all moved up," James Bearden said. James lives in the last home that C.D. and his wife Daisie built on the ranch. C.D. built two other family homes on the south side of the Tongue River (South Pease River); while the ranch headquarters and complex and a family home for his youngest son, Gus, landed on the north side of the river.

In its heyday, the ranch was scattered with homes of ranch hands and sharecropper families that worked on the historic ranch. The South Pease river basin that snakes through the Bird Ranch provided fertile land to grow cotton. "Great granddad gave a lot of people their start," Bearden said.

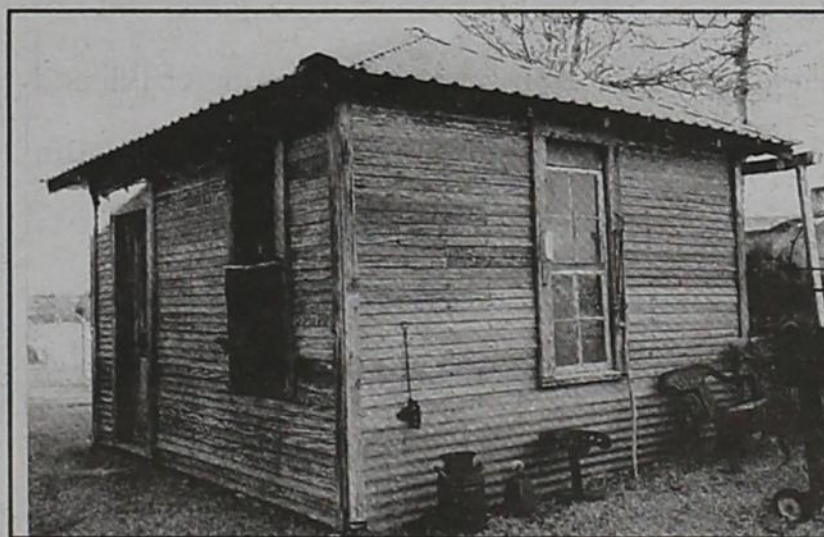
Nestled in the side of a hill, facing the South Pease River, the home place porch with a swing overlooks a large grassy meadow, often full of deer and wild turkeys. Guests enter through an iron gate attached to a

one-of-a-kind river rock fence that was built in the early 1900s. Daisie started the stone rock fence to keep cattle out of her yard. Later, Charlie helped finish this landmark fence - a trademark of the historic Bird Ranch.

Currently, other historic out-buildings in various stages of disrepair include a smoke house, a two-story bunk house, a barn and corrals, and a large wooden water tower on a hill behind the headquarters complex. The 100-year-old tower supplied the main water source for the ranch. Charlie was a builder.

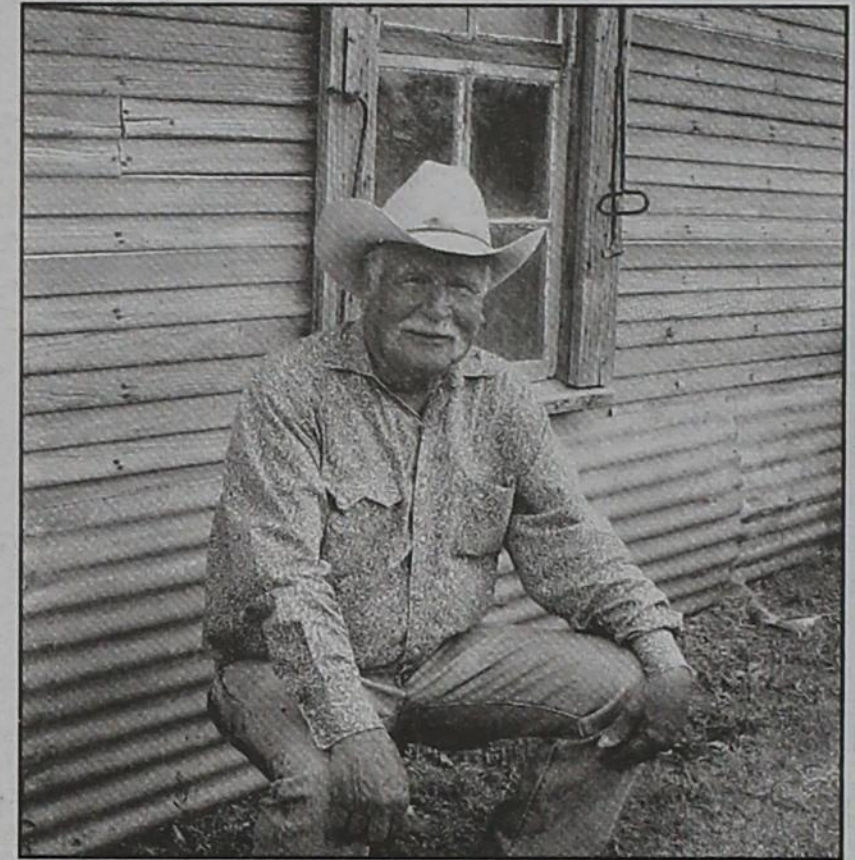
Bearden speculates that Charlie's first bachelor digs were in a dugout at Sanders Hollow in Dickens County. Then he married and moved his new bride to a dugout in the Red Lake area where he built his first above-ground home.

In an interview with Lena Frances White, June, 1958, (Amarillo Globe News), C.D. said he borrowed a team and wagon to haul lumber from Plainview and Quanah for a 14 x 14 one-room house, later adding



The old smokehouse on the headquarters property still stands today, now used for storage.

photo by Carol Campbell



Pictured is James Byrd Bearden, great grandson of Charlie David Bird, sitting in front of the old smoke house located at ranch headquarters. James remembers the last conversation he had with his great grandfather about 1960. photo by Carol Campbell

rooms as "necessity demanded and the money for lumber was available."

"Charlie Bird brought his 21-year-old bride first to a dugout at Red Lake in Dickens County, then to a dugout on the ranch in Motley County. They lived in this (one room) dugout on the Tongue River until 1900 when a frame house was built by Charlie and a farmer living on the ranch." - (Motley County Tribune, "Centennial Edition" (May 23, 1991).

In the early 1900s, C.D. started his headquarters building project on the north side of the South Pease River. Building and moving was the real 'necessity' since the expanding Bird family included five sons and





Charlie David Bird and Daisie Blair were married December 8, 1891. C.D. brought his new 21-year-old bride to a dugout at Red Lake area in Dickens County, then to a dugout on the ranch in Motley

a daughter. In 1923, when the family was grown and gone, the large attic that provided lodging for five boys was eliminated. With the attic closed, the striking staircase with nowhere to go remained. The floor to ceiling steps now serve as a depository of artifacts and a bookcase.

The lumber from the attic was used to help build a house for son number two, Carl Bird, and his new wife Lois (Brashear) Bird. The house was built on the location of the original dugout that was previously occupied by Carl's pioneer parents. The Carl Birds raised their daughter Ileta "Toots" Bird on this historic property.

Later, Toots and her husband Jack Bearden and their two children, James and Ros, moved into a small two bedroom home with no indoor plumbing. This high ridge home with a view, overlooking the vast range-

land of the Llano Estacado region, was about 1/2-mile as the crow flies from the dugout location; and about two miles from headquarters.

With the family expanding and farming and ranching operations increasing, an influx of employees with school-age children set the course for the next building project on the ranch.

C.D. was always interested in expanding the educational horizons of his grandchildren and the children of his employees. He said he went to school "three months a year for seven years, walking four miles twice a day." The rest of his education is "horse sense and experience." ("Big Matador Man Grew With Country," Lena Frances White, Amarillo News-Globe, June 8, 1958).

The Bird School District was formed in 1919, and Lois Bird began a teaching career in 1929 that lasted more than two decades. C.D. built a little one-room school house across the South Pease River. Enrollment in the school varied in numbers each year from five to 18 pupils. The last students under the tutelage of Lois Bird were taught in the top floor of the cowboy's bunkhouse at the main headquarters.

After Lois's retirement, J.D. Payne taught for 3-1/2 years (1950-1954); and Lois finished out the school term in 1954 before the school was consolidated with Roaring Springs District. In 1953, James and Ros were in a class of eight students, consisting of Bill and Joe Martin, Barbara Bird (Armstrong) and Mae Martin (Thomas) and two Carmen boys, James and Jack.

Lois came out of retirement to help transition the children to the new school district. The last class of school children that met in the bunkhouse schoolroom at headquarters was closed in 1956. After more than a quarter of a century of schooling on the ranch, the Bird Ranch children were transferred to Matador.

In the words of Lois Bird ("Educational Roots Grow Deep" – a project supported by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, compiled by Beverly Vinson, Flo-mot, 1986): "About 1920, Mr. Bird built a one-room school building, paying all building costs out of his own pocket. He was always interested in education; was very concerned that the renters and employee's children of Bird Ranch had an accessible school."

Meanwhile, Daisie Bird died in March, 1948, and Charlie remarried in the 1950s to a childhood friend, Miss Ada Black. Then, in the Bird tradition, he moved into town and built a home on Eubank Street – and "everyone moved up."

Jameses grandparents Carl and Lois Bird moved into the ranch headquarters complex; and the Jack Bearden's moved out of their fixer-upper on the high ridge into the Carl Bird home by the dugout. About 1-1/2 miles and a river now separated them from the Bird Ranch headquarters enclave.

James has fond memories of the two bedroom house on a hill. The property has the original half-dugout where C.D. brought his bride in the late 1890s. James and Ros had a little airplane and James said he



Pictured is the remains of the half dugout where C.D. Bird brought his bride in 1891. Later, James used the roof of the old dugout as his landing field, until one fateful day when he overshot the runway.

photo Carol Campbell



C.D. and Daisie Bird at the ranch in later years.

used the roof of the dugout for his landing field. This wild running start was abandoned when James overshot the target one day and crashed.

"It took me 30 minutes to get to the top of the hill with my plane," James said. "One time I came off too fast and fell off the roof of the dugout. This kinda' ended my flying career," James said, adding, "It didn't help the little airplane any either."

It was a pretty good hike to visit his grandparents on the north bank of the South Pease River, James said. But grandmother Lois kept ice cold red strawberry cola for the boys so the 3-mile round-trip was worth it, he said.

Charlie Bird had time to build; he lived to be 94 years old – long enough to create a true legacy. He was an imposing figure, they say, "... a big man, a tall-in-the-saddle kind of man." And this larger-than-life,

striking cowboy who settled this wild country in 1891 lived long enough to cement his legacy as a true pioneer and founding father of Motley County.

Like many settlers before him, he made the transition in the last century from itinerant cowboy to man of substance and prestige. He helped move the region from free-roaming Indian territory to fenced cattle country and settled farms. He signed petitions to help organize three counties in this area - Motley, Dickens, and Floyd counties, serving as a Motley County Commissioner for eight years (1902-1908 and 1922-1924). In fact, Charlie David Bird had a lot of "firsts" on his resume.

He was a charter member of the First Baptist Church; and a charter member and president of the first Motley-Dickens Old Settlers Reunion (now celebrating its 89th year); and a charter member (1898) of Masonic Lodge No. 824 in Matador.

He was a stockholder, director, president, chairman of the board, and charter member (1907) of the First State Bank of Matador, serving in various capacities for 54 years. After a fall in August, 1960, that broke his left hip, he attended his last business meeting as a Director of the First State Bank (January 3, 1961). This fearless "leather-tough" cowboy called an ambulance to deliver him to the meeting.

"C.D. Bird, who was 94, didn't let a little thing like a broken hip keep him away from a bank directors' meeting." It was reported that he "had the time of his life" at the meeting, "displaying an interest in all business." (Fred Arrington, *A History of Dickens County: Ranches and Rolling Plains*, 1971).

James remembers his last conversation with his great granddad. "He stayed up-to-date on everything," he said, "especially the economy." The first time James

came home from Tarleton State College an "intelligent, polished lad," James recalls with a smile, "Granddad asked me if I knew the price of grain? When I said, "no, sir, I do not," I got a dressing down you wouldn't believe along with a pretty good lecture." The next time James came home, he did his homework – he knew the price of grain, he said.

Charlie David Bird died February 22, 1961. This builder of houses and men lives on in the memories of his descendants – his blueprint set for all time.

Six generations of Birds have lived in Motley County – some still reside in the county – great grandson James Bearden, and granddaughter Barbara (Bird) Armstrong, the only child of the youngest C.D. Bird son, Gus, and his wife Catherine; and great-great grandson Brandt and son, Tanner, thrice removed. Sadly, great-grandson Ros Bearden, and longtime resident of Matador, died July 31, 2012. Granddaughter Sue (Bird)



Sitting tall in the saddle in his 80s, C.D. Bird still worked cattle at family branding time at the ranch.

Courtney, daughter of son number four, Glenn Bird, still has ranch holdings in the county.

C.D. Bird had six children, Free, Carl, Cliff, Glenn, Lila, and Gus; eight grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. A tribute to the Bird family in Eleanor Traweck's history of Motley County said it best:



“He left his descendants a commendable heritage: He was a man of integrity whose word was his bond. He was a man of keen intellect whose tireless perseverance and diligence increased his holdings from a staked claim to a 19-section ranch. In addition, he later had ranching interests near Midland, Texas.” (Of Such as These, Eleanor Traweek, Nortex Publications, 1973).

Charlie David Bird (1866-1961) Timeline

Charlie David Bird was born October 31, 1866, in Canton, GA. His father was Thomas M. Byrd, a confederate soldier. His mother was Mary Ann (Stephens) Byrd. He and a twin brother were the youngest of two sisters and a brother. Family records suggest Thomas changed the spelling of his name from Byrd to Bird due to a dispute with his twin brother.

According to Charlie, he left home “as a young sprout.” By the time he was 18 years old he was working for the Pitchfork Ranch in Dickens County. He worked for the Matador Ranch for 15 years. He founded a 19-section ranch in southeast Motley County. His cattle brand was: T Cross Bar.

1884-1890 Staked claims in Motley and Dickens County, and began to build his ranch, eventually acquiring approximately 19 sections.

1884 Worked for Pitchfork Ranch in Dickens County.

1884 Helped build the First Baptist church in Plainview, TX.

1884 Charter member of the First Baptist Church, Matador

1885 Hired as a line rider for Matador Ranch. Worked “off and on” for the Matadors for 15 years. Also worked for

the Flying V, Frying Pan, Double N Bar, and the F (Charles Goodnight) Ranch.

1887 When he was 21 years old, he drove 2,000, 3-year-old steers through Indian Territory to a rail head in Kiowa, KS.

(c. 1890s) Quanah Parker often passed his ranch house and camped on his land to and from Mexico; and to summer quarters north of Quanah and in the Tule Canyon region. C.D. gave them a beef each year to help feed the tribe.

1891 Married Daisie Blair on December 8, 1891, of Erath County, moved to a dugout on Tongue River.

1891 Helped organize Motley, Floyd, and Dickens counties.

1892-1897 Lived in the dugout, finally building a 14 x 14 box house that was moved by two wagons to the Red Lake area in Dickens County.

1898 Charter member of the Masonic Lodge, No. 824, Matador. Also a member of the Khiva Temple in Amarillo, TX.

1900 Built a two bedroom house at the headquarters location to accommodate his expanding family.

1902-1908 Served as a Motley County Commissioner, Precinct 1.

1907 Charter member and stockholder of the First State Bank, Matador, serving in various capacities as director, president, and chairman of the board for more than 50 years.

1919 Bird School District formed. C.D. built a school house on the banks of the South Pease River.

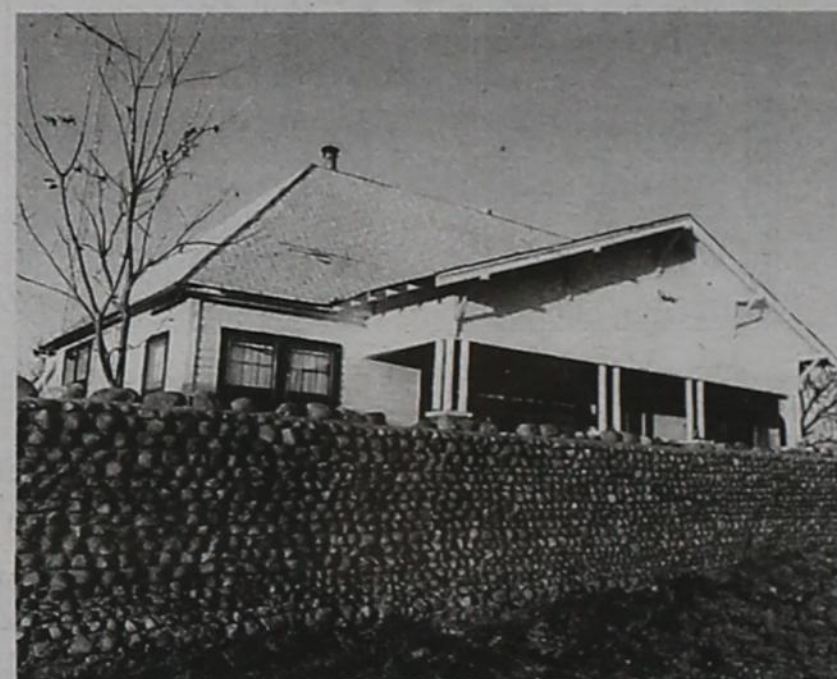
1922-1924 Served as Motley County Commissioner, Precinct 1.

1923 First president of the Motley-Dickens Old Settlers Reunion

1948 Daisie (Blair) Bird died, March, 1948.



Ileta “Toots” Bird (she was about 14 years old) with her grandmother Daisie in front of the rock fence.



Ranch headquarters (c. 1980) when James Bearden moved into the house. The house is now 112 years old. James put a new metal roof on the house.

photo by Carol Campbell





**Welcome 89th
Old Settlers
Reunion and Rodeo**

Motley County Tribune

Matador Press

Laverne Zabielski

Truly Wearable Art

Truly Beautiful Skin

Larry Vogt

Piano Technician, Musician





The home of John Duff and Myra Kelly Green Motley County
Oil painting by their daughter, Mary Green Webb

Writing West, Heritage 2012

