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MOTLEY COUNTY TRIBUNE

VOICE OF THE FOOTHILL COUNTRY

Where History is Pride

Flomot Matador Northfield Roaring Springs

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SOUTHWEST COLLECTION
 Texas Tech University
 LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79409

Thursday, September 1, 2011

ESTABLISHED 1891

Volume 120 Issue No. 35

2011 Old Settlers' Winners



Best Junior Cowgirl in the Old Settlers Parade was Emily Jameson
 photo by Carol Campbell



Best Junior Cowboy in the Old Settlers Parade was Blue Washington son of Matt and Ashly Washington.

photo by Crystal Salazar



Winner of the Best Bicycle category in the Old Settlers Parade was Brazos Washington.

photo by Carol Campbell



Best Modern-day Cowboy in the Old Settlers Parade was Gilbert Guerrero.

photo by Carol Campbell



Best Old-time Cowboy in the Old Settlers Parade was Bennie Maben. Not pictured was the winner of the Best Old-time Cowgirl Deanna Washington.

photo by Carol Campbell



The Dickens County Courthouse took top honors in the float category. Accepting the award was Janna Smith.

photo by Carol Campbell

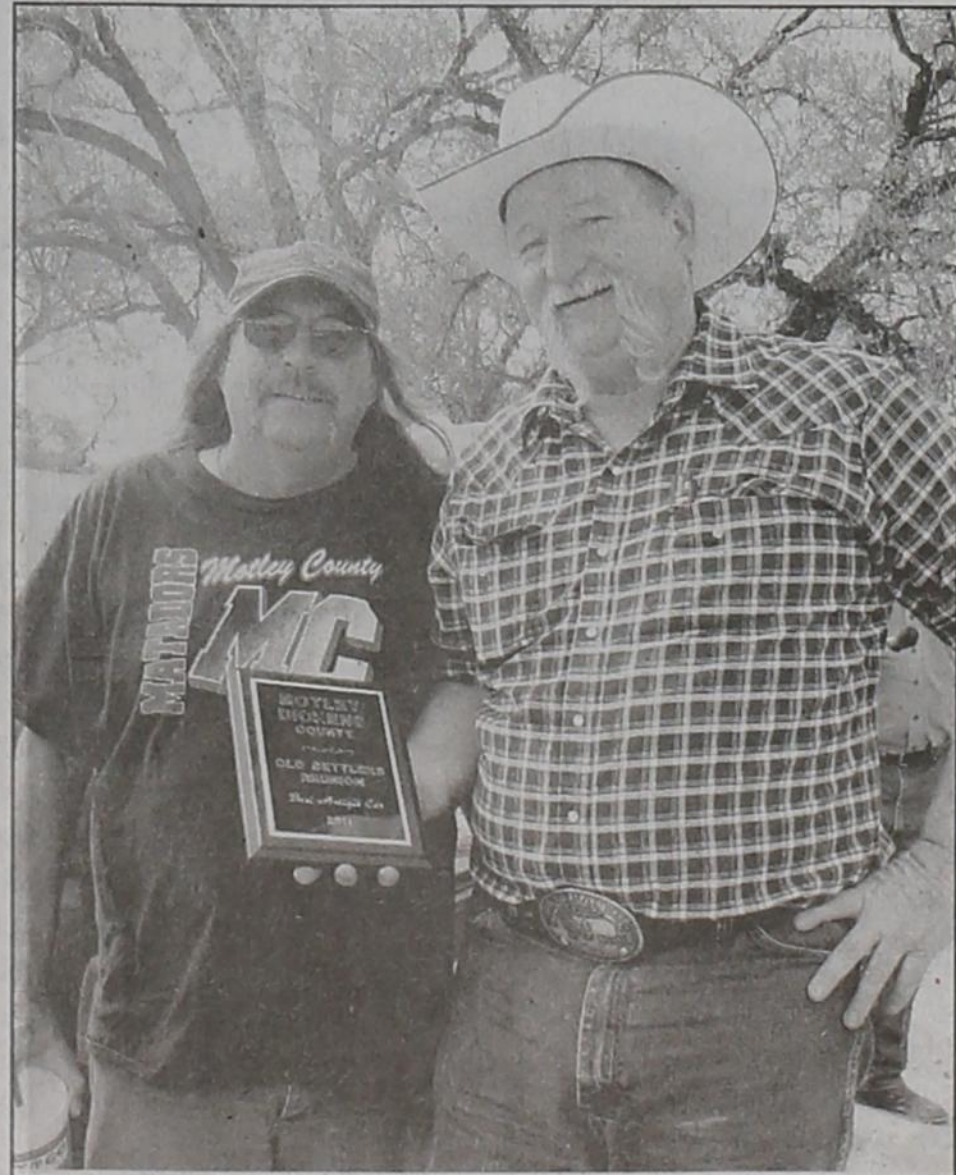


Winner of the Best Modern-day Cowgirl in the Old Settlers Parade was Keitha Hill with daughters Haven and Harbor Hill.

photo by Carol Campbell

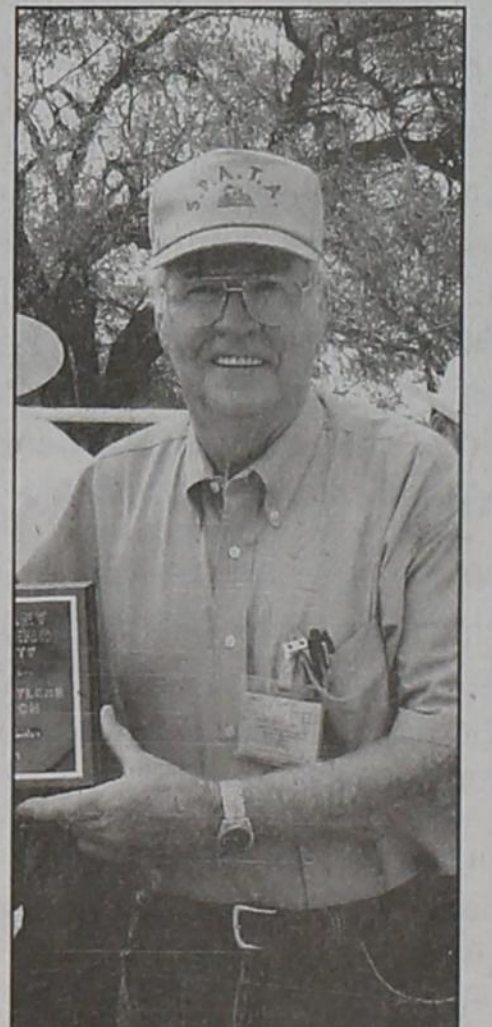


The Youth Flag Bearers in the Old Settlers Parade were Brody Rankin and Cassidy Turner, both of Matador, Texas.



Pictured is Jimmy Don Hurt, winner of the Best Antique Car category in the Old Settlers Parade.

photo by Carol Campbell

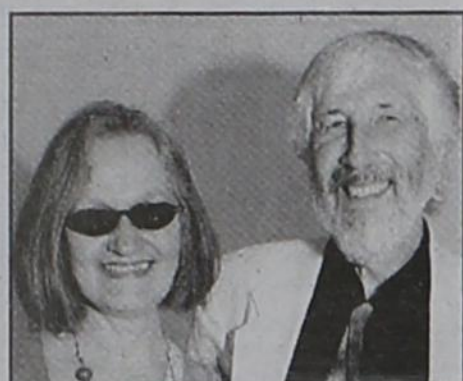


Winning the Best Tractor category was the South Plains Tractor Association. Accepting the award was Roy Howard from Kress, Texas.

photo by Carol Campbell

Foothill Country Connections

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



By Larry Vogt

Technology: you gotta love it, but; computer software programs are so unforgiving. Monday morning, as Laverne was laying out the paper on her computer screen, I put in a request to her to email some necessary items to one of our advertisers. As she did so, there was a crash and she lost the whole newspaper. Turns out she forgot to save as she went today and therefore when one program choked, it caused her newspaper software to close down and that was that. Hopefully you will not notice, except for my mention, because the technology that kills also helps you build back up. There is extra time and effort involved but there is frustration in the rote processes of the computer world.

When one works with software programs long enough, there are glitches that occur

and one can plan ahead. I have had problems with a spreadsheet program that does not like to have me use the delete button and the arrows to change cells. So, I had to start a different method to clear data out of the cells and avoid losing work. It is necessary to continually push save while working and have a small amount of confidence, in addition to coming up with workable shortcuts.

There is no going back now. Computer technology is everywhere and seems to be necessary for all kinds of transactions to take place. I have had fantasies of going without computers but always find myself somewhat dependent and also quite fascinated with the workings of the programs. Of course, I have not delved into the way computers actually work from the electronic side of the equation. I might be able to change a printer cartridge and add memory and a few simple tasks such as that, but that is as far as I can go. I will leave that up to those who have an easier time with electricity and electronics in general, and be glad to pay them to do it.

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TASB Media Honor Roll

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



Award Winner

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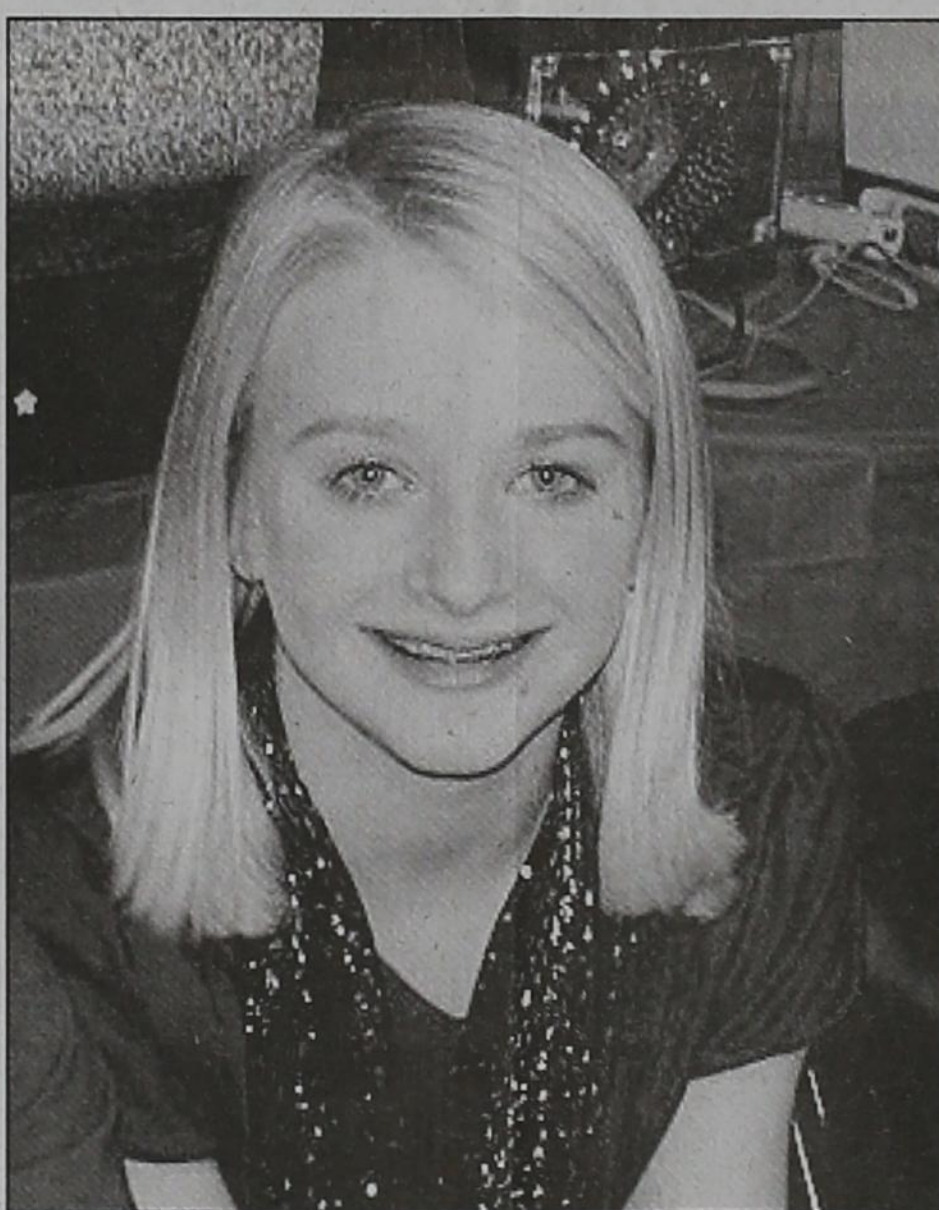
Old Settlers Memorial Program



The Memorial Program at the Old Settlers Dickens-Motley County Reunion honored 139 deceased pioneers from Dickens County. The list was read by Judge Lesa Arnold; and Marisue Potts read the list of 50 deceased pioneers from Motley County. Honored at the Memorial Program were: (Back Row) Oldest Male Resident in Motley County, Elmer Parks; Traveling the Greatest Distance were Clarice Collins and Kerry Murphy from Tucumcari, N.M.; Snooks Williams of Dickens County took top honors as the Oldest Male Resident and Living (continuously) Longest in Dickens County; (Front Row) was Winifred Darsey with the honor of the Oldest Female Resident present and Living the Longest (continuously) in Motley County; Helen Arrington was honored as the Oldest Woman in Dickens County.

photo by Carol Campbell

2011 Old Settlers Rodeo Queen



Natalie Jameson

Natalie Jameson is the 2011 Old Settlers Rodeo Queen. She sold 3900 tickets. Natalie is the daughter of Danika and Jeromy Jameson of Matador and the granddaughter of Franklin and Susan Jameson of Northfield, Darrel and Linda Dudley from Oklahoma, and Cindy Carthel of Edmonson. Natalie is an 8th grader at MCISD where she is a cheerleader and participates in basketball, track, cross country, tennis and UIL. She is active in Motley County 4-H and enjoys riding horses, driving the tractor, and spending time with her show pigs.

Melanie Joan Wood Memorial Scholarship Fund

In 2006, Melanie Joan Wood was killed in an automobile accident. Melanie was the daughter of Keven and Lisa Wood, granddaughter of Nelda Hightower of Paducah and Hilton and Gerald-Deane Wood of Tahoka, Texas. A scholarship fund was established in her memory. Melanie would have graduated from Paducah High School in 2007, so the first scholarships were awarded in May of 2007 and have continued through 2011.

The scholarship fund is supported by the donations in memory or honor of a loved one, by sale of items such as t-shirts, caps and tote bags. In May of 2007, a total of \$3,000.00 was awarded to the following Paducah High School Seniors: \$1,500.00 - Tyler Whitaker, \$1,000.00 - Wendy Wederski and \$500.00 - Jada Moore.

In 2008, a total of \$2,000.00 was awarded to Bryce Jones, In 2009, a total of \$2,000.00 was awarded with \$1,000.00 to Cheyenne Slover and \$1,000.00 to Miquel Rodriguez and in 2010, a total of \$1,500.00 to April Madrid.

The sale of the items and donations has continued to increase from the Paducah area as well as the Guthrie, Crowell, and Matador areas. In 2011, we were able to include more schools in the scholarship area. The seniors from Paducah receiving the Melanie Joan Wood Memorial Scholarship were Shuniqua Walker - \$850.00, Kayla True-lock - \$650.00; Guthrie - Kamri Crisswell - \$350.00; Matador - Kyla Simpson - \$350.00 and Crowell - Charity Christopher - \$350.00.

The students are required to complete a scholarship ap-

plication. The students must not only be continuing their education after high school in a trade school, college, or university, but also be involved in their school activities and community events.

Items may be purchased at the following merchants located in Paducah, Jones and Renfrow Abstracters, C & C Yesteryears and Bling It On. Matador merchants are New to You, Matador Variety and Hotel Matador. Some items are available for purchase at www.melinelmscholarshipfund.org and donations may be made to First National Bank, Paducah, Texas.

The committee would like to thank everyone for their support in keeping Melanie's memory alive through the MELANIE JOAN WOOD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

Matador Ranch to be on RFD-TV

The Matador Ranch, a regional winner of the 2011 National Cattlemen's Beef Association Environmental Stewardship Award Program, will be featured on RFD-TV the first week of September during the network's *Cattlemen to Cattlemen* program.

The program will be aired during the following three time slots: Tuesday, September 6, 7:30 p.m.; Wednesday, September 7, 9:30 a.m.; Saturday, September 10, 8:00 a.m.

The program can also be viewed at the cattlementocattlemen.org web site. A link to the stories about the regional winners is at the environmentalstewardship.org web site.

Friend To Friend "Pink Event" Set

All Motley County ladies are invited to attend the Friend To Friend "Pink Event" set for Saturday, September 24, 2011 at the Floyd County Friends Unity Center. The purpose of the Friend To Friend: Staying Well Together program is to increase the number of women 40 years old and over to get regular breast and cervical screenings. The Friend To Friend "Pink Event" is sponsored by Texas AgriLife Extension in Floyd County.

At the "Pink Event", there will be booths open from 10:00 - 11:30 A.M. including Juice Plus, Scentsy, Jewelry, Dr. Kevin Stewart with Legman Vein, Hair Bows, Chamber of Commerce, Mary Kay Makeup, Massage Therapy, American Cancer Society, Hospice Hands of West Texas, BREAST RIDE EVER, a 13 Harley Bike Display.

The program will include a Hat Styleshow, Dr. Candy Arentz, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, TTUHSC and a FREE LUNCH from 11:30 - 1:00. There will be door prizes and the booths will open back up from 1:00 - 2:00. There will be a "Friend" pieced and hand quilted Friend To Friend Pink Quilt on display and quilt raffle tickets will be for sale. Proceeds will benefit the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

Think pink and mark your calendar for September 24 for the Friend To Friend "Pink Event".

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www.hotelmatador.com

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Movie makers film documentary in Motley County

By Carol Campbell
Motley County Tribune

Whistling Boulder Productions completed an 8-day, whirlwind, jam-packed filming schedule in Motley County to capture local events, oral histories, compelling firestorm stories and other personal interviews.

The husband and wife team of Marianne and Doug Leviton filmed Foothills Saturday Night on August 20, 2011, followed by four days of oral histories and "walk-about" with descendants of early-day pioneers, culminating on Wednesday morning before Old Settlers at Mott Creek Ranch where a re-enactment of the founding of Motley County was performed by local volunteers.

The Motley-Dickens Old Settlers Reunion parade and memorial program was filmed followed by rodeo events, including the Ranch Horse competition and Shetland Bronc Riding contest. The Matador Ranch Cowboy Reunion was filmed on Saturday, August 27, where about 18 Matador Ranch (ex and current) cowboys gathered to swap tales at the Roaring Springs Community Center.

The production phase of this

3-phase project was funded by grants from the City of Matador, 4-B Tax Board, a Humanities Texas grant; and donations from residents and former residents of Motley County. A Texas Historical Commission Partnership Tourism grant will fund a portion of the editing phase. Friends of the Historic Motley County Jail will submit a grant to Humanities Texas for the spring cycle to request additional funding for editing costs and to complete the production phase costs of the oral histories.

The first phase consisted of a pre-production trip in June to film the buffalo herd at Caprock Canyons and the Quanah Parker Celebration in Quanah, Texas. This included interviews with the direct descendants of Quanah Parker. This phase was funded by the Friends group and former residents of Motley County through a Challenge Grant.

The production trip included about 20-plus interviews, including a hair-raising night in the jail with a paranormal group from Fort Worth. The Texas Spirit Seekers have conducted about eight investigations since 2008 on the historic jail, finally concluding that the jail is "haunted."

"We are still in the process of investigating this site," Lead Investigator Lance Brooks said. "At this point we can say that there is enough evidence to conclude that this location is haunted."

The purpose of the video documentary is to provide a format for a self-guided tour at the historic Motley County Jail and to videograph oral history interviews for the purpose of preserving them in a media database for future production.

The documentary will be produced in five chapters, consisting of an overview of the historical sites in Motley County; a narration with video and photographs of the early-day history of Indian tribes and the story of Quanah Parker; the organization of the county; life in the jail; and a chapter on ghost stories by investigators and local residents with compelling stories. The stories will be viewed in a play-back system at the jail.

Phase III of the project will consist of the editing phase with a projected date of completion in March 2012. The Friends group will seek funds from Humanities Texas in the spring grant cycle to help defray editing costs for the documentary.

Matadors end Bearcats winning streak

By Charli Bigham
Motley County Tribune

The Motley County Matadors ended the Garden City Bearcats 29 game-winning streak by defeating them last Saturday 50-44 in overtime.

"This was a huge win for our program," said Coach Bigham. "The ballgame was full of excitement from start to finish. These young men played with a lot of heart and determination to stay focused through the extreme heat conditions that they played under."

"It may have been over 100 degrees and about five hours to get there but our fans came and cheered throughout the entire game. It's always great to see that kind of support on these away games," Coach Bigham said. "The coaching staff would like to thank all the fans that made the long trip to Hico to support our team."

Next week the game will be on Friday, September 2, at Mclean at 7:30 p.m.



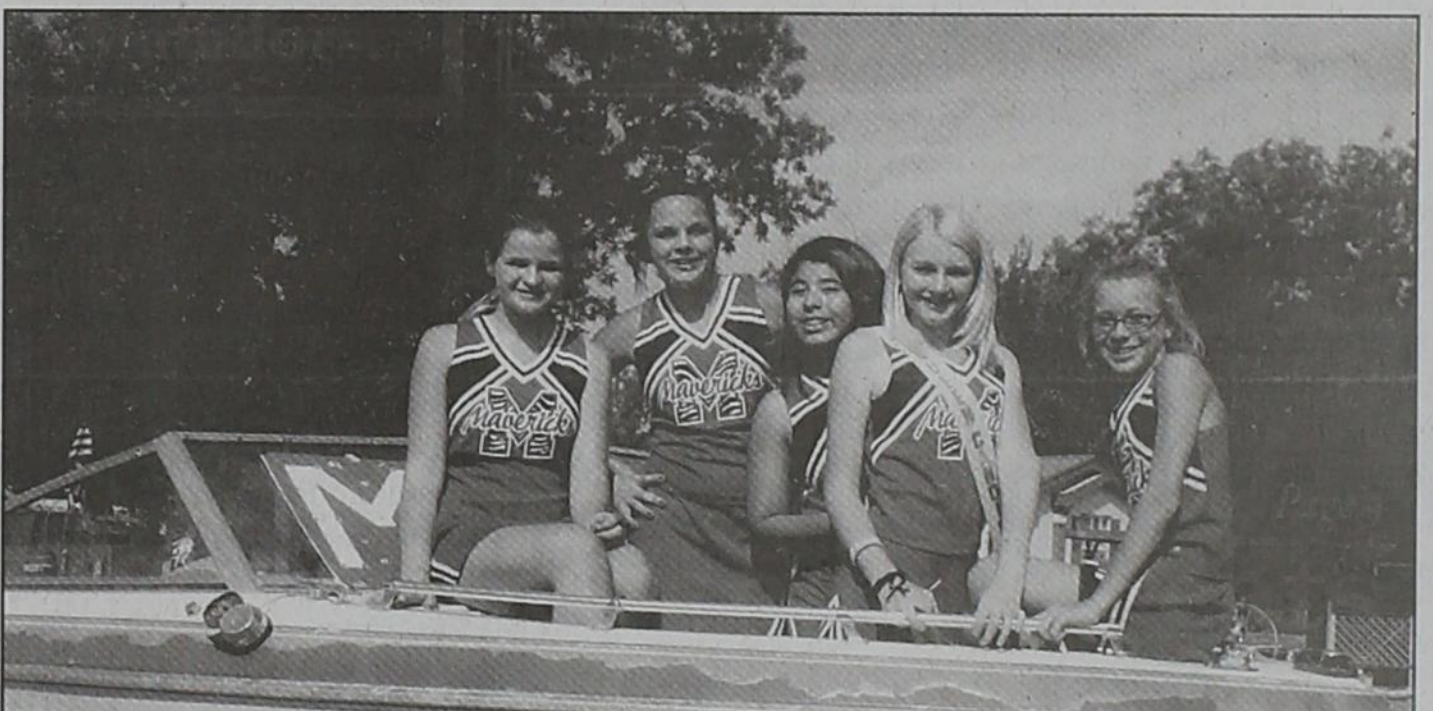
Reagan Elliott #1 and Weston Griswold #6 take a moment to celebrate. photo by Shonda Elliott



Pictured are the volunteers that played parts in the re-enactment of the Millinery Shop. (L to R) are: Joe and Virginia Taylor, Circle Dot Ranch, Deanie Edwards, and Roy Hobbs. photo by Carol Campbell



The Motley County Matadors ended the Garden City Bearcats 29 game-winning streak by defeating them last Saturday 50-44 in overtime. photo by Shonda Elliott



MCISD Cheerleaders participate in Old Settlers parade. Kaylee Woolsey, Mattie Brooks, Thalia Quilimaco, Natalie Jameson and Maci Marshall photo by Crystal Salazar

4th Annual Motley 4-H BBQ Barn Dance

September 9 & 10—Tri State BBQ Sanctioned Cook-off
September 10—Concert starting at 6:30 p.m.
Old Settlers Grounds
Roaring Springs, TX

**** Concert Featuring ****

Cody Johnson Band



AND



Trent Willmon

Tickets on sale—\$10 each
 See a Motley 4-H Club member or Contact Motley County Extension Office at (806) 347-2733

BBQ Cook-off

Brisket, Pork Spare Ribs and 1/2 Chicken
 Enter 1 or all Meats—\$80.00
 Bean Jackpot—\$10.00
 Prizes to 1st thru 3rd in each category
 Sept 9: Cook's mtg @ 7pm / Tray pick up after
 Sept 10: Cooks mtg 9am IF NEEDED

Cow Patty Bingo before concert—See 4-H member, Adult Leader or Extension Agent to purchase squares

**New hours
for
Billie Deans
Monday-
Saturday
6am-8pm
Sunday
7am-2pm**

**We will be
closed Friday
evenings to
go out and
support our
Matadors.**

"SOMETIMES IT IS DIFFICULT?"

The most basic teachings and responsibilities that are given to us by our Lord are "hard sayings" to modern ears. It seems that even the fundamentals are the difficult things to practice. Even though we understand what we should do, so many times we simply do not follow through.

Jesus gives His followers some of the basics in His Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew chapters 5-7. In these chapters there are over 40 commands of Jesus that are very basic. These three chapters are foundational to the life of a Christian. In them we find instructions as how to deal with anyone from our enemies to our neighbor. These chapters are essential to understand the role of Christians in the world.

And yet, we Christians find these teachings of Matthew 5-7 to be hard to put into practice. While we are comfortable with not committing the "major" sins the others mentioned are often overlooked. When it comes to being angry with our brother or sister, or allowing lust to develop...the situation is changed. The teachings against these things become "hard sayings." Sometimes teachings hard to accept need to be put into practice. Then we will find the wisdom in them. We can learn. We have the Master for our teacher.

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

Have you ever noticed that if you die on Monday you are in the business news in the *Lubbock Avalanche Journal*; on Tuesday you are in the sports section; Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday you are listed in the local news and on Sunday you are front section A news! Wouldn't it be nice to know you are important enough to be local news all week? Having to hunt for the obituaries every day is unseemly and sort of crass to me. Don't we all feel that we have counted for something in this life? Maybe I'm just a little touchy on this subject, I am sure I won't notice but my family and friends will.

The Old Settler's anthologies were really interesting and well written. Since there weren't any notes accompanying the letter written by Joe Hickman of McAdoo, I would like to tell you a little bit about him. I only met him one time in his later years. He was the grandfather of my friend, Phoebe Clark Cypert. Mr. Hickman settled just up on the cap rock a mile or so to the north of Highway 82. He and his wife, (Lelia) had two daughters and one son. They were Susan Hickman Clark, Rosemary Clark Patrick, and Louis Hickman. Louis lived in the McAdoo community until he died. Susan's family moved to Hale County when Phoebe was a junior in high school. Rosemary raised her two girls in New Mexico. All of the Hickman's children are deceased.

In the community

A former resident of Roaring Springs visited her hometown on Thursday. Jenna Lou Murphy of Abilene came to the Windmill Café for visit friends. Her son, Mike, who lives in Boston, MA was in Abilene visiting Jenna Lou and Mike brought her up for the day. Jenna Lou celebrated her 100th birthday last spring.

I missed seeing her as I was

in Lubbock. When Jenna Lou was a pink lady at Covenant (Methodist) Hospital in Lubbock, I became acquainted with her and learned that her nephew married one of my classmates.

Don and Billie Stuckey hosted a breakfast on Saturday morning. Attending were: Jo and Walter Trammell, Louis and Debbie Luna, Jeff Thacker, Ralph Roming, Roy and Joyce Rowe, Floyd Carter, J. N. Fletcher, Harold Parks and grandson, Brodie Rankin, Kelly Keltz, Pearl Patten, Zella Palmer and Corky Marshall. Don had his chuckwagon set up in their front yard and a canopy for shade.

There were fourteen that attended the Matador Cowboy Reunion at the Roaring Springs Community Center. Albert (Suckerrod) Ozborn of Lovington, NM and his brother, Curtis Ozborn of Spur were among the former cowboys for the Matador Ranch attending. The Ozborns and the Goodalls from Girard camped at the Roaring Springs Community Center during Old Settler's Reunion.

Some from out of town who came for Old Settlers and stayed at the Travelers Inn were: Kathy Brooks of Whitehouse, TX; Jeri and Jessie Poff of Dallas, Glen and Alexia Green, Rob and Sheri Hiner of Lake Ransom, Noriena (McGee) McCleskey and Mr. and Mrs. Hatfield of Murchinson Texas.

Cherrie and Eugene Daniell spent the weekend in Amarillo visiting friends.

The 'helicopter hog hunters' are in Roaring Springs and staying at the Travelers Inn. They began their hog hunt today to thin out the feral hog population. They are part of the Texas Parks and Wildlife organization that keeps tabs on the wildlife. This is the second year they have come to hunt the feral hogs.

Buzz Thacker is at home following knee replacement surgery last week. He is doing well.

It's Kid's Praise time again!

It's Kid's Praise time again! All children in the community, three years old through 5th grade, are invited to Kids' Praise on Wednesday, September 7, 5:30 - 6:30 pm, at First Baptist Church, Matador (FBCM). There will be songs, crafts, a Bible story, food, and fun for all. (Kids should enter by the north basement door and leave through the main

door on the east. Parents are responsible for their children after 6:30 pm.)

Everyone is invited to the family meal at 6:00 pm, followed by the praise and worship service at 7:00 pm. After the prayer & music portion of the service, age-level Bible study and activities are provided for the whole family until 8:00 pm.

Flomot News By Earlyne Jameson

Overheard

Rising prescription prices make me try to refrain from dropping expensive pills carelessly down the drain!

Community News

Anna Beth and Joe Ike Clay, her sisters, Mrs. Carolyn Ewing of Matador and Mrs. Joy Barham of Hart attend the funeral services of their cousin, Mrs. Betty Quallan, 78, of Hereford. The services were held at 10 a.m. Friday at the First Baptist Church in Hereford.

Cade Calvert of Watertown, Massachusetts, houseguest of his grandparents, Kathy and Clois Shorter, visited the weekend in Turkey with his paternal grandmother, Mrs. Wanda Calvert. They visited in Midland, Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. Brent Withers and family.

Ruth and Orville Lee enjoyed entertainment in Plainview, Sunday.

Donnie Rogers visited in Amarillo, Saturday with Mrs. Nada Starkey, a patient in Northwest Texas Hospital,

following additional surgery this week. He also visited Jack Starkey, who is having radiation treatment at Veterans' Hospital in Amarillo.

Butch and Janice Hughes visited in Floydada Friday with sons and families, Ricky, Tasha, Kendal and Kason Hughes, Roger, Tiffany, Reagan and Brody Hughes.

Visiting the weekend with Coy and Connie Franks were sons and families, Cory, Amy, Hudson and Madison Franks and Cary and Mary Franks of Idalou. Hudson and Madison remained to visit this week.

Natalie Rogers is on a vacation trip to Boston, Massachusetts. Hurricane Irene brought rain, but no destruction to Massachusetts.

Lindsay Martin of San Antonio visited Friday and Saturday with her grandfather, Wilburn Martin.

L.T. Starkey of Canyon accompanied his father, Jack Starkey, a patient at the Veterans Hospital in Amarillo, to his home and visited here until Sunday before he returned to Amarillo for further radiation treatments.

The Great Midland Flood of 2011

Editors Note: This article was sent to Earlene Jameson from Mrs. Gary (Rene) Laughlin of Midland with permission to publish it. She said, "I guess a sense of humor beats crying. Everyone statewide is praying for rain!"

Midland, TX August 12, 2011 - In a mere 37 minutes, from 5:24 p.m. to 6:01 p.m., Midland International Airport recorded more than twice the total amount of rain than had fallen during the previous 319 days, dating back to September 26, 2010.

Police officers reported that it was like a "Wall of Water" had descended upon the city. The water mixed with the nearly a year's worth of oil that had collected on roadways to make rush hour travel nearly impossible.

One driver reportedly saw a stop sign too late and tried to slam on his brakes, only to end up in Odessa.

Cattle, who for several months had taken refuge from the drought and heat in giant cracks in the ground, were swallowed up whole by the Earth as the soil suddenly absorbed all the moisture and closed in over their heads. Rescuers, trained in Alpine avalanches, were going from

ranch to ranch listening for distant mooing sounds.

Meanwhile, panicked young rattlesnakes took refuge in the branches of nearby mesquite trees.

In one especially hard-hit neighborhood, volunteers were going door-to-door in rubber boots looking for people needing assistance.

Two persons have been hospitalized so far. One, 23 year old woman, was standing on a street corner when the rain began. The driver of a nearby car attempted to activate his windshield wipers, and pieces of dried, brittle rubber flew off and stuck her in the left eye. The other injury was to a 47-year-old man who sprained his ankle while dancing.

John Nielsen-Gammon, the Texas State Climatologist, said that the 0.36" of rain Midland received in 37 minutes yesterday was still not sufficient to break the drought.

"It's a very good start," he said. "And the additional hundredth Midland received more flooding events like this one, and Midland will be back up to normal precipitation for the year."

Editor's note: the rainfall statistics in the story are accurate. Everything else is merely plausible.

Matador News

Mrs. Marihelen Wason has Charla had surgery Wednesday and Marihelen is with her during her recuperation.

SWCD Donates to Elementary Science Labs



The Upper Pease Soil and Water Conservation District donated science kits to the Motley County Elementary Science Lab program. A science kit for each grade, Pre-K through Fifth, will be incorporated into the elementary science lab program throughout the course of the school year.

Judy Cooper and Kathy Gillespie teach science labs to each of these grades. Mrs. Cooper and Mrs. Gillespie are very excited to receive these kits and are looking forward to using them this year. They are shown receiving the kits from Rachele Davis, secretary for the Upper Pease Soil and Water Conservation District.

Both teachers stated that the kits will be very beneficial to the elementary science program and will enable the students to actively view concepts being taught. They expressed gratitude to the SWCD for supporting their efforts to enrich the elementary students' science experiences.

Red Rovers travel to Floydada

By Winifred Darsey

The Red Rovers of the Matador Club of the Red Hat Ladies enjoyed a fun-filled short journey to Floydada for a delicious luncheon at the Covey Smokehouse and Eatery on Tuesday, August 23, 2011.

The Smokehouse was interesting with its rustic décor, using burlap materials for the window valances, multi-colored

lights around the upper walls and complimentary furnishings.

Eight members of the Rovers enjoyed the fun, food, and shopping.

Members present were: Dorothy Day, Norma Marrs, Suzanne Abbott, Mary Jones, Marihelen Wason, Grace Evelyn Smallwood, Queen Mother Joyce Campbell, and Winifred Darsey.

USDA Extends Deadline for Emergency Haying of CRP Acres in Texas

Motley County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Amy Hackler today announced that, in response to drought conditions, the National FSA Office has extended the deadline for emergency haying use of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres for all Texas counties that are currently approved for emergency haying.

Emergency haying of land enrolled in CRP has been extended through September 30, 2011.

"Eligible producers who are interested in emergency haying of CRP must request approval before haying eligible acreage," said Hackler. "Producers must also obtain a modified conservation plan from the Natural Resources Conservation Service that includes haying requirements," she said.

There will be a 25 percent CRP payment reduction for CRP acres used for haying under these emergency provisions.

Upon approval of emergency haying, producers must leave at least 50 percent of each field or contiguous field unharmed for wildlife. If a county is eligible for emergency haying and grazing, the same CRP acreage cannot be both hayed and/or grazed at the same time. For example, if 50 percent of a field or contiguous field is hayed, the remaining unharmed 50 percent cannot be grazed; it must remain unharmed and ungrazed for wildlife.

For more information on emergency haying of CRP acres contact the Motley County FSA office at 806-347-2263.

This Week's Local Forecast

Thursday Mostly Sunny 98/70	Friday Mostly Sunny 96/69	Saturday Partly Cloudy 94/67	Sunday Partly Cloudy 92/67	Monday Mostly Sunny 95/71	Tuesday Partly Cloudy 94/68	Wednesday Mostly Cloudy 91/69

Weather Trivia What does the Beaufort scale measure? 	Weather History Sept. 1, 1988 - Thunderstorms produced heavy rain in the Upper Mississippi Valley. Ely, Minn. was drenched with three inches of rain in two hours and pelted with hail. The heavy rain flooded streets and basements, and the pressure that resulted blew the covers off manholes.	Moon Phases First Full Last New 9/4 9/12 9/20 9/27 www.WhatsOurWeather.com
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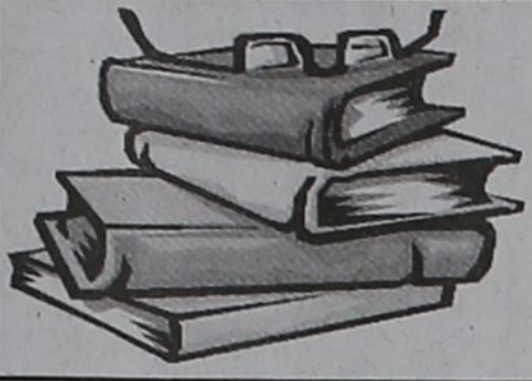
Tues-Fri 9-3

Sat 9-noon

unless there is a funeral

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Library Journal
by Carla Meador Librarian

Thanks to everyone who has stopped by to say hello! All are welcome at the Library anytime. If you haven't made a visit to the Library lately, be sure to put it on your list of things to do. In addition to a great selection of books, including all the latest releases, computer/internet availability, audio books and DVDs, the Library also offers a wide selection of paperbacks and magazines to loan out. And to top it all off, this is probably the coolest place in town. So, come by, get out of the heat, check out our great selection and sit a spell.

The Friends of the Library hosted their annual Rootin' Tootin' Beans and Cornbread lunch last Friday. This rip-roarin' event coincides with the Motley-Dickens Old Settlers Reunion each year. A crowd of about 100 hungry people enjoyed a good old-fashioned country meal and lots of visiting. Also on hand was Clifford R. Caldwell, author of *Texas Lawmen 1835-1899: The Good and The Bad*, for a book signing. We thank you for turning out for this very important Friends of the Library Fundraising event. We really appreciate your support of our Library.

We have a new DVD on the

shelf this week, Jane Eyre. Released this year, this movie is a remake of the original, which was released in February of 1944. The films are adaptations of Charlotte Brontë's classic 1847 novel. Jane Eyre is a plain but spirited woman who leaves behind the cruel confines of a charity home to work as a governess for the enigmatic Edward Rochester, the master of Thornfield Hall. As a series of increasingly strange occurrences begin to unfold in Thornfield Hall's North Tower, the young governess attempts to maintain her virtue while entering into a soulful relationship with her unrepentantly lecherous employer.

Also new on the shelves, in our Children's section, are several new easy readers, including *The Story of Doctor Dolittle*; *The Circus Crocodile*; *Days With Frog and Toad*; *Best Friends for Frances*; *Here Comes the Strikeout*; and several new *Amelia Bedelia* books.

In addition to our Children's section, we also have a 'Teen Space' section with a great selection of books for tweens and teens. Bring your kids, let them browse, while you surf the net and take a cool break. See you at the Library!

County Agent's News
by Ryan Martin, Agri LIFE EXTENSION Agent



Range management strategies to cope with the current drought

COLLEGE STATION – A gripping drought has many Texas pastures used for cattle production becoming less and less populated with forage. To deter permanent damage to the rangeland, it's better to take action now rather than later, according to a Texas AgriLife Extension Service forage specialist.

Dr. Larry Redmon, AgriLife Extension state forage specialist, said ranchers should consider the following strategies, which he shared at the Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course recently in College Station:

When all has failed in managing forage on rangeland, Dr. Larry Redmon, AgriLife Extension state forage specialist, advises to reduce stocking rates, cull cows and move cattle to leased grazing land.

Have a written plan. "You cannot manage what you do not measure," Redmon said. "Keep good records of your stocking rates and your operation overall. It doesn't do any good to have a plan if you don't have records. We look back and see if we've made progress. If we haven't made any progress, then what does that tell us about our plan? It may need to be tweaked or modified a little."

Stocking rates. Redmon said your grandfather's cows that weighed 800 pounds aren't today's cattle, which many weigh 1,200 pounds. Redmon said to adjust to your current cattle and breed characteristics.

Soil test. "Without a soil test, you over-apply expensive nutrients, under-apply needed nutrients, or never apply the correct level of nutrients."

Weed management. Redmon advises to apply herbicide at the right times of the year to provide better weed management. This can also save money compared to expensive pasture mowing.

Even a moderate infestation of 10 grasshoppers per square meter can consume up

to 60 percent of the available forage.

Store hay in a barn. Hay costs about \$120 a ton to produce. If you lose 4 inches on the outside, you've lost 21 percent of a 6-foot bale.

Don't guess when it comes to evaluating forages for protein content. He recommends having hay tested for nutritive value. "Overestimating your hay's nutritive value can severely effect animal performance. Underestimating your hay's nutritive value can lead to excess supplementation costs."

Nitrate test for all warm season annual grass hays.

Consider alternatives to feeding hay when possible.

Consider alternatives to inorganic fertilizer.

Include forage legumes where applicable.

Finally, Redmon advises to reduce stocking rates, cull cows and move cattle to leased grazing land when all other avenues have been exhausted.


"You may also need to remove livestock from a pasture and feed stored feed supplement, but this typically is not cost-effective," he said. "You might also consider having one pasture that is a sacrifice area. In this case, it would be best to choose one pasture or rotate. Feed them in one pasture one week and then feed in another pasture the other week. Also, make sure they always have clean water available."

These strategies will be discussed in more detail at the upcoming fall Ranch Management University program scheduled Oct. 10-14 at Texas A&M University in College Station. Attendance is limited to the first 50 people who enroll, and the slots are beginning to fill, Redmon said.

Cost is \$500. For additional information and registration, contact Redmon at 979-845-4826 or at l-redmon@tamu.edu.

To register online and for additional information, go to <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu> and type in "ranch management" as key words in the search window.

COWPOKES® By Ace Reid



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Arts & Crafts

By Winifred Darsey

Motley County Arts and Crafts Club will begin its new program year in September. The Club was organized in 1967 and has been a pleasure to those who enjoy painting, crafts, and most art forms.

The members have enjoyed many good lessons in the arts. Some have attained perfection in their efforts. These teach most of the classes. Occasionally a professional has been hired to teach.

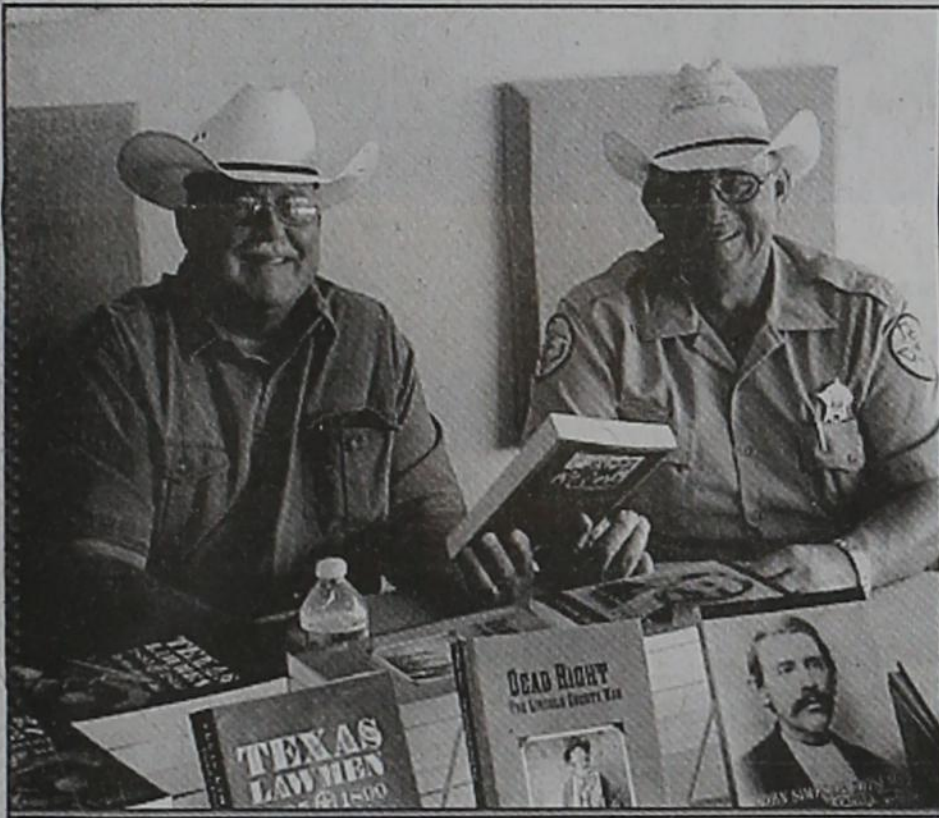
Joy Archer is a favored member who makes the year-

books. They are an art exhibit in context with extraordinary art.

The membership is open to those who enjoy art and would enjoy attending. The present officers are: Nova Dale Turner, President; Ray Baxter, Vice-President; Vee Gordon, Secretary; and Winifred Darsey, Reporter.

It has been a wonderful year. The next meeting will be Monday, September 5th.

See you there!



Author and Historian, Clifford R. Caldwell, was on hand at the Library last Friday, during the Beans and Cornbread lunch, to autograph copies of his books. Also pictured is Motley County Sheriff, Chris Spence.



Nova Dale Turner, Dude Barton and Marisue Powell were among the many loyal Library patrons enjoying the Beans and Cornbread lunch held last Friday. This event is an important fund raiser, sponsored by the Friends of the Library.



Dink and Carolyn Wilson donated \$675.00 for the first window replaced at the historic jail in memory of Dink's father, Jinks Wilson, a long-time sheriff in Motley County who was killed in the line of duty in 1976. To help with the repair and renovation of the windows and doors at the historic jail, please contact Carol Campbell, Chair, of the Friends of the Historic MC Jail, at 806-347-2221. The Friends group is a tax exempt non-profit organization.

photo by Carol Campbell

THANK YOU

I would like to thank the volunteers that gave so much of their time and effort to make the filming of the Motley County documentary a reality.

There are so many that helped with this project, that I am afraid if I name them individually, I would miss someone. You know who you are – from a donation for use of the Library Annex to the re-enactment volunteers to Old Settlers Cowboy Reunion and numerous individuals that donated time for oral histories and more. You never let me down for one minute. I am so proud of you.

Marisue Potts has served as chair of the Motley County Historical Commission for 27 years and has completed numerous projects for Motley County. She worked tirelessly for a week building a little village for filming at Mott Creek. Lodging was provided for the filmmakers from Kay and Ron Bailey; Hotel Matador fed the filmmakers breakfast each morning - "thank you" dear friends. None of this could have been accomplished without the support of the City of Matador and the 4-B Tax Board under the capable leadership of Judy Renfro.

And "thank you" to all the jail board members and the citizens of Motley County for your unwavering support of this video project – for making yourselves available at a moment's notice; for pulling through in a pinch – I can never thank you enough for all you do.

To the citizens of Matador, Flomot, and Roaring Springs - thank you from the bottom of my heart – to Edith and Glennard Daniell for a wonderful lunch during filming. I am very proud of our heritage, our unwavering endurance in the face of hardship, and I thank you for the kindness and love of community that I have experienced this past week. My faith is renewed. You are the best.

Carol Campbell, Chair
Friends of the Historic Motley County Jail

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tember.

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Also, bring your children to the Discovery Center where they can learn even more about the park from animals to plants to people and everything in between. The Children's Discovery Center is open most Saturdays from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00

p.m. and also on most Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Also on Saturday, September 10 at 8:30 p.m., learn about the unique historical and genetic significance of the Texas State Bison Herd during this slide show presentation. Meet at the Interpretive Amphitheater.



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EVENTS CALENDAR

August

31 EMT-Basic-Class orientation and sign up, 6:00 pm at the EMS station.

September

- 5 Arts & Crafts, Motley County Senior Citizen Center in Matador from 10 am until 3pm.
- 5 School Holiday
- 7 EMT-Basic Class Begins
- 8 Pep Rally (this will take the place of the bonfire)
- 8 Mavericks @ Chillicothe at 6 p.m.
- 9 Homecoming game against Chillicothe! Kick-off at 6 p.m.
- 10 4th Annual Trent Willmon concert at the Old Settlers Grounds sponsored by the Motley 4-H. Also Southern Crossing and Cody Johnson Band are playing. BBQ cook-off, Cow Patty Bingo!!! Tickets are just \$10.00. You can get them early from any 4-H member or get them at the gate! All the same price!!
- 15 Mavericks vs. Paducah at 5 p.m.
- 16 Matadors @ Paducah at 7:30 p.m.
- 23 Mavericks vs. Follett at 5:00 (JV at 6:30) Matadors vs. Follet at 7:30
- 29 Mavericks vs. Crowell at 5 p.m.
- 30 Matadors @ Crowell at 7:30

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ENDURANCE



2011 OLD SETTLERS' TRAIL DUST ANTHOLOGY

COWBOYS, COMEDIANS and PHILOSOPHERS

(or sometimes one and the same)

By Ed. D. Smith



Pictured is the face and pose of longtime Matador Ranch cowboy Ed D. Smith Sr. at Old Settlers Reunion in the 1950s. He is holding a tobacco pouch draw string in his mouth to free up his hands for the task of hand-rolling a cigarette. Ed D. lived with his wife Kathlene "Kat" and son, Ed D. Jr., at Dutchman Camp on Matador Ranch when this picture was made.

It is amazing that some of the funniest and most insightful things do not come from a TV screen or from Harvard graduates, but from just plain, ordinary working people. Such a person is the cowboy.

Being around cowboys most of my life I have heard so many funny stories and astute observations that it is just hard to believe such things could come from men with no more than a third grade education. The simplicity of some such stories can be funny, but yet convey a very strong message.

For example, two cowboys were prowling a pasture on the Old Matador Ranch, checking cattle, water and fences. One of them was red headed and it was even more obvious from his mood that day. He was very angry about something and had not spoken a word to his partner all day. The sun was blazing hot and the weather was dry. At about 5:00 p.m. the other cowboy finally broke the silence by saying, "I sure could use a drink of water." "You wouldn't be thirsty if you didn't talk so damn much," the angry one replied.

But the character I want to introduce you to is another cowboy by the name of William Earl (Ed D.) Smith. He was born February 4, 1895 in

Childress, Texas, to Ed D. and Callie Smith. He was called Earl by some, but Little Ed D. by most. His father was a man with no past that can be found and his mother's family came to the United States from Germany in about 1860. They first settled in Dyersville, Iowa, and a few years later moved to Clay County, Texas, and eventually to Childress County.

Little Ed D. received very little formal education and worked at only two professions his entire life. One was cowboy and the other was Deputy Sheriff. He loved them both. He came by horseback to the Matador Ranch as an 18-year-old kid in May, 1913. He later said that he "arrived with a good horse, a new saddle and \$25.00 cash." After a short stint at the Matadors, "my horse died, my saddle got torn up and I spent the \$25.00."

He was hired and sent to the chuckwagon, camped in a pasture on the massive Matador Ranch. At one time the Matador division owned approximately 660,000 acres in four counties. The "wagon" contained the bare necessities for living in the great outdoors. Food was cooked and eaten outside and the cowboys slept in bedrolls on the ground. Sometimes there might be a "fly" (a tarp stretched overhead for shade) and sometimes there

might be a tent which enclosed the rear of the wagon where the chuckbox was located. In cold and wet weather some of the more affluent might have a small teepee which usually could accommodate two people. When the wagon pulled in that fall Ed D. was sent to a winter camp in the Big Duck Creek pasture in Dickens County. He and Wrang Thornton wintered in a tent. This was a temporary line camp where they were responsible for a particular pasture or pastures. Their duties included checking the condition of the cattle, fences and water sources and maybe even feeding the cattle using a wagon and team of mules.

Over the years he worked for the Matadors a number of times. He quit several times and was even fired once. He kept coming back and in 1929 came back to stay. He finally left the ranch in 1958 after suffering a heart attack.

He had been married and divorced in his early years and had one son by that marriage. In 1935 he was assigned to McDonald Camp where he batched until January 1, 1938. A farmer south of the camp named Dick Cavitt had a whole house full of girls and Ed D. somehow talked one of them into marrying him. Bethel Kathlene, known by all as "Kat", was next to the youngest of the Cavitt girls. The Cavitts were very poor and everyone had to work and work hard. Their only son died very young so Dick Cavitt made his daughters work the fields like men. Kat was a tough, hard working and determined person. Ed D. and Kat had one child, a

son born February 1, 1942.

Ed D. was a character from start to finish and had something to say about almost everything. He said the Matador Ranch owners were good to him for his 35-plus years of service. When the Scotsmen sold the ranch they rewarded him with "a new pair of Levis and a carton of Camels."

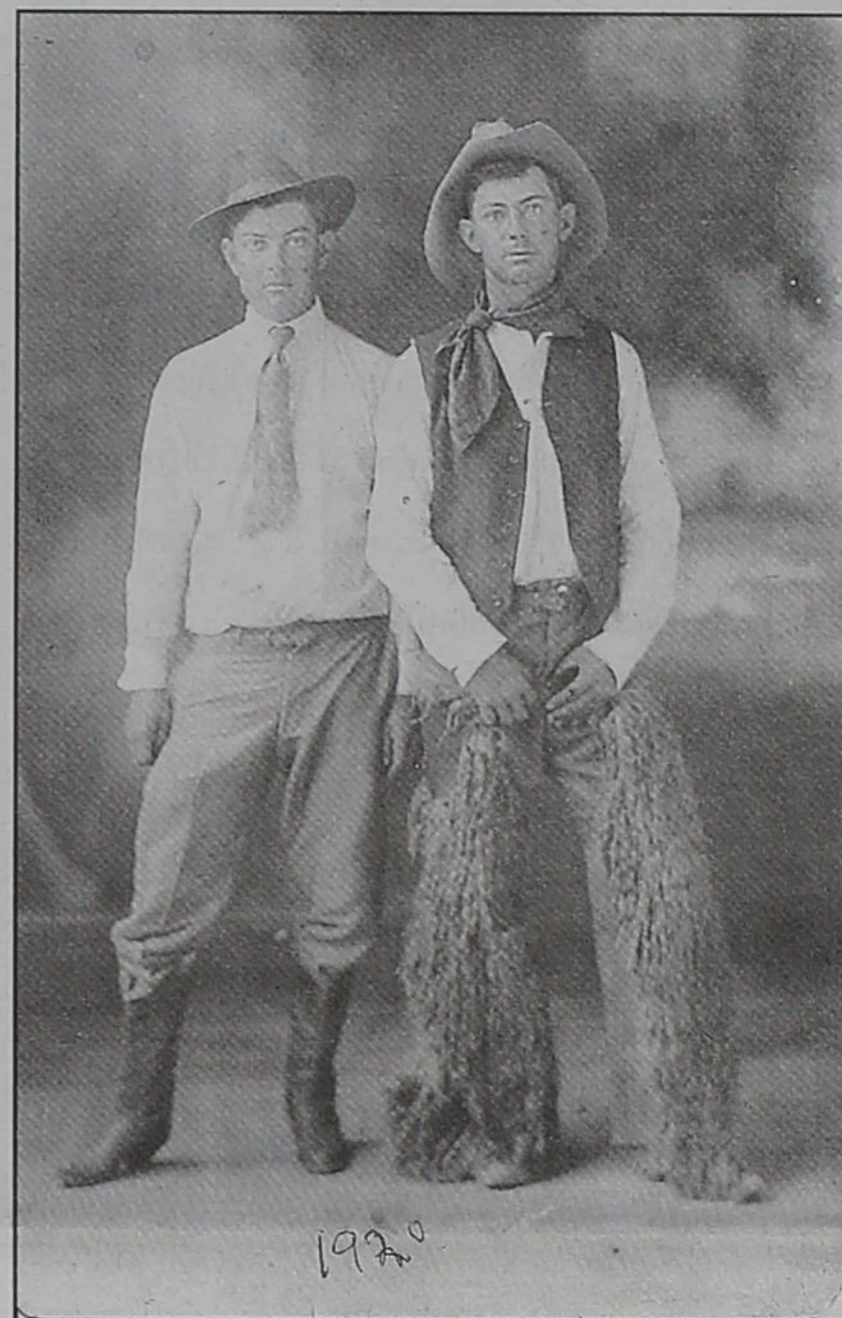
I now introduce you to William Earl (Ed D.) Smith, cowboy, comedian and philosopher.

The Flying Victrola

I suppose that one would have to say that Ed D. came by his sense of humor naturally. His father, Ed D. Sr., was reportedly something of a character himself. He had been dead for a number of years when I was born and there are not many people left that knew him, but there are stories that have been passed down.

Along about 1910 or thereabouts, Ed D. Sr., his wife Callie, children Walter and Thelma were living on the Buckle L Ranch. Walter and Thelma were about 10 and 5-years-old, respectively. Ed D. Jr. was working for the McAdams Ranch some distance away.

One day when all the family was at home except for Ed D. Jr., a threatening black cloud came up out of nowhere. The cloud soon developed into a full blown tornado which was headed straight for their house. They decided that they would stand a better chance of survival if they were outside. They exited the house and laid down on the ground next



Pictured (L) is Walter Smith, brother of Ed D. Smith, about 1920. Walter along with sister Thelma, Ed D. and his wife Callie, lived on the Buckle L Ranch; Ed D. Jr. was working for the McAdams Ranch some distance away when he learned a tornado had destroyed his family home.

to a fence. Each one circled a fence post with their arms and held on for dear life. In this position, they were able to observe the tornado hit their house and practically destroy everything that they owned. They later told of seeing various items flying through the air. A quilt box flew straight up in the air and turned over, dumping out clothes, bedding and dishes. One of the dumped items in the quilt box was a bible that Ed D. Sr. had given to Ed D. Jr. when he was a child. The bible is still in the



family today and bears the mud and the water stains from the rain that followed that tornado. While there were no injuries to any of the family, most of their worldly goods and the house were destroyed. In that day and time, transportation was no further advanced than communication and Ed D. Jr. was worried about his family. Even in a world without modern means of communication, when things of a serious nature occur, word travels fast. Soon Ed D. Jr. was informed of what had happened to his family. He started out at once and almost killed a good horse trying to get home as soon as possible.

When he arrived, he found that everyone had survived and his father began to relate the details of the event. One of the items that the Smith family owned was a windup Victrola record player. Ed D. Sr. said that as they lay clutching fence posts for dear life while watching all their possessions fly away, they also saw their Victrola fly through the air. Ed D. Sr. said "as it flew away it was playing "Nearer My God To Thee."

When You Catch the Boss in Town

In about 1923, a man came to Matador from the Matador Ranch in South Dakota. His name was Maurice "MJ" Reilly. He managed the ranch at Matador until he died in 1946. Although I was too young at the time of his passing to remember him, I have heard many good things about him through the years.

He was a good man and was well respected

by all that knew him. Such was the case with Ed D. and they enjoyed a friendship that lasted for many years. While Ed D. was a man that worked for the Matadors for many years, I don't think he was a man that was too concerned about a lot of rules. I don't know if he had a willful disregard for them or he just thought that they did not apply in his case.

During this time at the ranch, the rule was you were not to be in town during the day. I suppose they had some notion that you were supposed to be earning your wages. A violation of this rule could earn an employee a chewing out or even something a bit more severe.

On a certain day, Ed. D. was in town standing on Main Street, clearly in violation of that rule. To Ed D.'s way of thinking, when one went to town it was absolutely necessary to spend some time "augering" (That's Texan for "visiting"). While Ed D. was standing there giving some lucky soul a good visiting, he observed out of the corner of his eye that Mr. Reilly had driven up and was parking his car nearby. Ed D. continued with his tale and at the same time he watched out of the corner of his eye as his boss approached. Just as Mr. Reilly was within a few feet, Ed D. suddenly turned to him as if he had just noticed him and immediately said, "My God Maurice, do you stay in town all the time?" I will never know what was said after that, but I do know that Ed D. continued to work for the Matadors for many years.

The Bath

Years ago when the Matadors ran a chuckwagon, branding calves in the spring and gathering them in the fall, the crew might not get into town for a month or so at a time. Clean clothes and a bath were luxuries that were seldom enjoyed in the traditional manner. There were some exceptions and one bears mentioning.

Ed D. said that John Stotts would go into a dirt water tank fully clothed and take a bath plus wash his clothes at the same time without removing them. Ed D. gave John the nickname "Filthy," but eventually changed it to "Blacky" which of course, had a more pleasant sound.

When the cowboys did get to town, they would go to Warren Clement's hotel and barbershop where baths were for sale. Their dirty clothes were sent off to the laundry in Spur. The next time they came to town there would be a bundle of clean clothes waiting for them. The



Pictured is Ed D. Smith, about 1940. Ed and his wife Kat lived at McDonald Camp at Matador Ranch where he took care of the replacement bulls and heifers, located about three miles southeast of Matador. Ed D. Jr. was born at McDonald Camp in

barbershop charged a dime for the use of the bath and the towels.

On one occasion Ed D. had finished his bath and emerged into the barbershop and said: "It sure does make a person feel good to get a bath every month or so". Present at the time and sitting on a bench was a salesman from outside the area. After hearing Ed D.'s comment, he stated that he took a bath every day. Without any hesitation,

Ed D. said, "You sure must be a filthy Son of a Gun." (Not his exact words). The cowboys raised the roof with their whooping and laughing. The salesman did not say another word. He slowly got up and left the barbershop, never to be seen again.



Ed D. Smith, 37, lived in Croton Camp in September, 1932. He is pictured here with his horses ready to ride to the Matador Ranch headquarters for a new assignment. Croton is located in southeast Dickens County.



Pictured (L to R) at Old Settlers Reunion in 1948 are Charlie Hart, Pelow Vivian, Lillian Thacker, Joy (Martin) Archer, Waydetta (Martin) Clay, and Ed D. Smith Jr.. Ed D. Jr., mounted on Old Sister, was named Most Typical Young Cowboy.



Ed D. Sr. served as Deputy Sheriff of Motley County in the late '50s and early 1960s. He is pictured here with his son, Ed D. Jr. in front of the jail, c. 1960.

About the Writers By Laverne Zabielski

endurance 1. the power of enduring or bearing anything. 2. lasting quality

Early settlers and immigrants had the quality of endurance. On their journey to new lands they needed to be prepared for the unknown and develop strategies. Many of their experiences were fueled by anticipation. In 1937 Douglas Meador wrote, "Hardships have one thing in common with the more pleasant experiences of a lifetime they are neither so real as the anticipation nor the memory." Through stories passed down from generation to generation we learn that often it is the memories gained that promises the highest reward.

Ed D. Smith says, "The simplicity of some such stories can be funny, but yet convey a very strong message." In Marisue Potts' interview with Billy Meyer he reveals what it takes to maintain endurance. "We realized from the beginning that our outcome in the race

depended on the endurance of the horses and on horsemanship—and therefore on the good care of both the rider and horses." Such care is equally important today as our world gradually changes and the unknown is still before us.

While researching Henry Harrison Campbell, the co-founder of Matador Cattle Company (1879), and first Motley County Judge (1891), Carol Campbell came across a hand written historical document written by Harry H. Campbell. He also writes about endurance. "There were many hardships endured in the early history of the ranch." In one story he tells of Mrs. Campbell's strategy to deal with loneliness. . . .she traded all the flour on the ranch for a dog.

Each of these writers shares with us the endurance some of Motley County's old settlers have experienced.



Billy Meyer, "go-for" and jack of all errands on the

California trail with Shannon Davidson



Billy Meyer views the Motley County Museum display of Shannon Davidson's ride of 2100 miles in 23 days on a two horse relay to Treasure Island, California, and to tell of his experiences as an eleven-year-old.

Interview with Billy Meyer, July 25, 2011

By Marisue Potts

At eleven years-old, Billy Meyer was not a bit interested in school. He was eager to see what was on the other side of the mountain. So he watched with interest when his father Bill Meyer started looking for horses that might be capable of taking Shannon Davidson on a 2100 mile trek across the country. The Nocona Boot Company

of Nocona, Texas, was sponsoring "pony express" style relay race to Treasure Island, California, and with the help of Meyer, twenty-year old Davidson thought he had a chance.

Bill Meyer later explained the strategy this way, "We realized from the beginning that our outcome in the race depended on the endurance of the horses and on horsemanship—and therefore on the good care of both the rider and horses."

Roy George of Flomot appeared to have just the kind of horses they needed, sturdy farm horses with mixed breeding of quarter horse-thoroughbred and Tennessee Walker. One had been pulling a two-row lister on the farm, the other was a saddle horse that they conditioned by leading behind a tractor.

Billy petitioned to go along with his dad, and cook, Elwood Bird, as part of the support team for Davidson and signed on as a "go-for" and jack of all errands. A 1938 Chevrolet coupe was outfitted for camping. A home-made trailer used for hauling cotton carried 20 bales of alfalfa hay, the horses, and a barrel of oats on one side and a barrel of water on the other side.

Loaded up and ready to go, they arrived three days ahead of the starting gun to get briefed on the rules and regulations that stated that contestants must finish with the horses they started with and change horses every 25 miles. The promoters provided collector "Pony Express" Envelopes and souvenir Horseshoes to raise funds to help defray expenses.


On the morning of the race, March 1, 1939, seventeen horses and riders faced the starting line where Amon G. Carter of the Ft. Worth Star Telegram, fired the starting gun. The only girl in the race was the first to quit after about 25 miles, Billy revealed in an interview at the Motley County Museum.

Shannon sometimes rode from sunup 'til dark-thirty, averaging just under 100 miles a day. His diet consisted of two or three raw eggs, pineapple juice and an occasional ham or steak sandwich. Though some riders lost 30 or 40 pounds, Shannon actually gained two pounds on his unusual eating habits.

Because the race was highly publicized, side bets were being made on the winners, and the stakes were high. Since there was the fear that someone would try to dope the water or poison the feed, the boy took it on himself to help. He hid in the trailer, holding a ball-peen hammer to guard the horses during the night.

Shannon was trailing the leader, Tolly Sykes, when they hit the New Mexico line. A blistering sandstorm near Las Cruces forced most of the teams to quit and head for the tourist courts. Bill Meyer bought goggles for the horses and goggles for the rider, so the ever enduring Shannon kept on riding. So fierce was the storm that the painted Texas license plate on the car was sandblasted down to the shiny metal, but Shannon Davidson seized the lead.

Despite long days and short nights, the horses kept going. "Rocket always had a little buck in him and



still had it at the end. He was Shannon's favorite," Billy recalled. The horses remained mild mannered, he said, and only once did they run through the rope corral. That night near El Paso, a mountain lion screamed and spooked them. The crew spent most of the night searching for them, following their tracks. When they were finally located about daylight, Shannon mounted up and started his day's ride.

The horses still had their winter hair coat and as the race approached the Arizona desert, the team decided to borrow some clippers and make the mounts cooler — by taking off the long hair except for the outline of the blanket where the saddle sat. The good intentions nearly backfired when the horses suffered from sunburn once their insulating hair was trimmed. Another good intention that turned sour was Shannon's decision to ride bareback and spare the horses. His tailbone put too much pressure on the horses back and raised a bump on each horse.

It was Billy's job to help care for the horses. "We would change horses every 25 miles. We'd go on down the road 25 miles and let the horse rest, give him a swallow of water, rub his legs with Absorbine Jr. and wrap them. Rocky, the plow horse, had a long sliding gait of about 7 miles an hour, and he'd wear out shoes in two days. Shannon rode in bar-ditches most of the time but when he got to California he had to ride on the pavement. Someone told us about horse-shoes with steel backing with rubber inset and we tried that for awhile. Then my dad (Bill Meyer) tried a rubber shoe that was nailed on. Ranger, the saddle horse with a gait of about 6 1/2 mph, drug his feet and would stumble with the rubber shoes. So my dad would walk along and trim the shoes in the front until Ranger quit stumbling."

"When the water barrel got half full we'd start to look for good water to mix in. We would select the best oats,

no dirt, no mold, and the same with the alfalfa. We'd select the best quality we could find."

Increasing traffic in California added another element of danger to the ride. Riding in second place, Chris Usleton and his horse were hit by a car outside of Ventura, California. The injuries literally knocked them out of the race since the rules stipulated that only the two horses that started the race could finish.

Twenty-three long days of hard riding, good care-taking, and vigilant watching found the team in first place, waiting at the bridge crossing over to Treasure Island. Both horses and rider were forced to ride across the bridge in the trailer and car since horses were not allowed on the bridge. On hand to greet them were many fans from home, celebrities, and Miss Enid Justin with 750 silver dollars and a movie contract for Shannon.

For young Billy Meyer it was just the beginning of his quest to "see what's on the other side of the mountain." He has seen droughts come and go, good years and bad years, wrecks and healings and even traveled as far as Billings, Montana. But the two episodes that best illustrates his enduring qualities are the Shannon Davidson Ride and a recent encounter he had on March 15, 2011, on Motley County land that his granddad, Fritz Meyer, settled in 1904 when the family arrived by wagon train.

Billy laughed and said, "The cows belong to the boys, but they let me take care of them to have something to do. Well, I saw this cow laying down in the water lot, and she looked like she was sick. She was shaking. I looked at her a while, tried to call vet, but nobody was there." Billy noticed a dead skunk in the lot but went on to feed the other cows. When he looked back the cow was coming, staggering and falling. So he put out some cake for her but try as she might, she couldn't pick up the cubes. She went over to get a drink but couldn't, three or four times

she tried. Then the cow went over and lay down.

When Billy talked with the vet, he asked if she had woody tongue. Since she was down and hadn't shown any animosity, Billy proceeded to stick his hand in her mouth. The cow came up like a freight train and knocked him down. A few steps from the pickup his left hip hit the ground and his head hit the tire. She then started to work him over.

"Her head got down on my chest, she was bumping and grinding. Things were popping and breaking." Thinking he'd move under the tire at first chance, Billy moved too quickly and she came back again. The pain in his replacement hip was tremendous but this time he stayed still until she walked off. Then a bull walked up but fortunately didn't attack.

Luckily, Billy had his cell phone and from underneath the pickup called his son Dan and left a message. Then he called son Max and told him what had happened, and then despite the pain, he called 911 and told them the situation and location. Billy Farley heard the fire department call and was the first to arrive. Meyer was in so much pain he couldn't lie flat so Farley got something to put under his head.

"He walked around the pickup, off toward the cow, and I tried to warn him. In a little bit, here the cow went by with Billy (Farley) around her neck. Their legs were all tangled up together and they were headed for a five-wire fence." Farley got her slowed down by twisting her neck but she went down on top of him. When Max arrived on the scene, he drew a box cutter knife from his pocket and cut the cow's jugular vein. Later Wesley Farley cut off the cow's head to take to the vet to determine if she had rabies. The test came back positive so four people had to take the rabies shots.

Meantime, Billy Meyer was taken by ambulance to the hospital and had a replacement of his replacement



hip. Today, four months later, he is walking with some support from a walker, driving his truck, and finding humor in a very serious situation. Billy Meyer endures all aspects of life with a lively sense of humor and an optimism secure in "The Lord had his hand on me!" His sense of adventure, honed by his early experiences on the California trail with Shannon Davidson, has never left. He's still anxious to see what's over the hill.

Pictured right: These are the stops that Shannon Davidson and his crew made on the way to California on the 1939 Pony Express Ride sponsored by Nocona Boot Company.



Matador = punchers = ready = for the drive. Photo by Criswell, 1912.

History of Matador Ranch

By Harry H. Campbell

Introduction

By Carol Campbell

While researching Henry Harrison Campbell, the co-founder of Matador Cattle Company (1879), and first Motley County Judge (1891), I read several documents including two historical magazine articles; and poured over historical research by Betty Campbell, neatly bound with historical photos in a 3-ring binder.

Most notable was a historical document written by Harry H. Campbell, the only son of Henry Harrison Campbell – a “first source” document, as the historians would say. The document, loaned to me from Mr. Campbell’s grandson Guy Campbell, is undated, but titled, “The History of Matador Ranch.” The 10-page script was written in the meticulous hand of the author in pencil – his words now preserved on fragile, yellowed, very brittle notebook paper. He died February 17, 1969, at the age of 87.

Six generations of the descendants of Henry H. Campbell have lived on land purchased in Motley County. Henry (H. H.) founded the Matador Cattle Company in 1879, selling to a Scottish syndicate in 1883. Campbell was manager of Matador Land and Cattle Company during the early years. He lived in a dugout on Ballard Springs, later building a 2-room house for his new bride, Elizabeth “Lizzie” (Bundy) Campbell. The headquarters of the famous Matador Ranch is still located in the same place, about one-half mile south of Matador, Texas.

My heartfelt thanks goes to Guy and Di-Ann

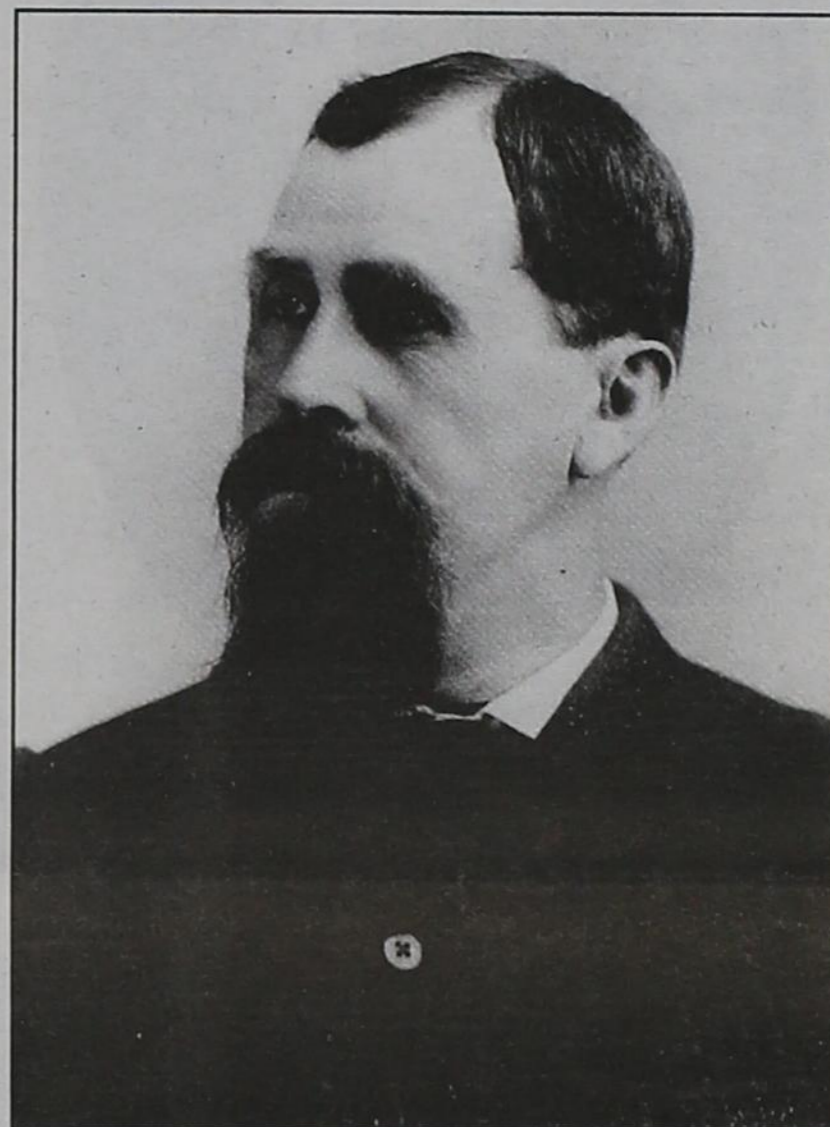
Campbell for the loan of historical photos and documents; and to Wes Campbell, and his mother Betty Campbell, for their generous time and loan of photographs and historical research of their famous relative.

History of Matador Ranch

By Harry H. Campbell

The Matador Ranch was organized in 1879 and was known as the Matador Cattle Company. The incorporators were A.M. Britton, S. W. Lomax, and John Nichols, all of the City National Bank of Fort Worth, Cata, of New York and H. H. Campbell of Ennis, Texas, the five subscribing ten thousand dollars each, making a total of fifty thousand dollars for capital stock.

The officers were A. M. Britton, President, S.W. Lomas, Secretary and Treasurer, and H. H. Campbell, Manager. This gigantic enterprise was fostered by H. H. Campbell who traveled all over the western half of the United States from his boyhood to manhood looking for an ideal location to establish a ranch that would run a hundred thousand head of cattle. He selected the head waters of the Pease rivers and some of the minor tributaries of the Brazos River as that ideal. Mr. Campbell claimed that from the Brazos waters to Red River and for forty miles under the Caprock was the best breeding country in the U.S. and his claim has been sustained by the success of the Matador Ranch. The climatic condition and rain fall of this scope of country are far above an average for ranching purposes.



Pictured is Henry Harrison Campbell (c. 1891) who co-founded the Matador Ranch in 1879, later serving as the first county judge of Motley County.

Seeing this, Mr. Campbell located his headquarters at Old Ballard Springs which he purchased from Joe Browning who was a brother of J. N. Browning, former Lieutenant Governor of Texas.

This purchase consisted of 320 acres of land and the famous Ballard Springs and two dug outs. The price paid was \$600.00 which was considered a big price at that time. Mr. Campbell wanted to move his wife to the ranch so (he) undertook the gigantic fete (sic) of building a two room house. The lumber being hauled from Ft. Griffin in Shackelford County,





Elizabeth "Lizzie" Bundy Campbell lived on the ranch in the early days, where the closest neighbor was Mrs. Charles Goodnight, 70 miles north. Mrs. Campbell acted as nurse and surgeon for any accidents that happened to the cowboys. She hosted a Christmas party, attended by cowboys in a 100-mile radius of the ranch. She was known for her hospitality and generous spirit. She later served as the first postmistress in the newly incorporated town of Matador.

the doors and windows from Ft. Worth, the nearest R.R. at that time. Mrs. Campbell accompanied this freight from Fort Worth, a distance of 300 miles. The house was completed the 25th of March 1880. That is as nearly so as could be – there being one plank lost from Ft. Griffin to the ranch, necessitating the spacing of the planks to fit the foundation, leaving the cracks rather large – but very convenient for the sand storms and showers.

The first cattle arrived on the ranch 24th of December 1879. They were the (Flying V) cattle purchased from J.M. Dawson of Fort Worth, the cattle coming from south Texas. In those days, the cowboys general-

ly went with the cattle, the purchaser considering this an inheritance. With this purchase, Mr. Campbell fell heir (inherited) Jim Harrison, John H. Smith, George Walker, John and Mike Kleigans. Jim Harrison, Geo. Walker became range bosses for Mr. Campbell. John Smith, his trail boss, who had a record of driving more cattle in better condition than any other trail driver in Texas.

The next purchase was the Berry cattle from Buffalo, Ga. in May 1880. The next cattle bought were the famous Jingle Bob cattle of the John Chism herd bought of (sic) Coggins & Wyler of Brownwood, Texas, May 16. 1881. The cattle at the time of purchase were ranging on the head waters of South Pease River – it being the custom for the range to go with the cattle, the Matador fell heir to that part of the country.

The next purchase was the T41 herd in the fall of 1881 from Houston & Lemond. These cattle were ranging on the lower waters of South Pease and Tepee creeks – the Matadors falling heir to this range. The men coming to the Matadors with this herd were Jim and Morgan Livingstone, Bill Brady and others.

The next purchase was the Tob Odom cattle in 1882. These cattle ranged down lower on the Pease Rivers in Cottle County – the Matadors falling heir to that range. Jud Bishop and Liverton Bro's (sic) came with those cattle.

The next cattle bought were the Black cattle, they ranged in the Croton Breaks in Dickens county, this being (the) tributary waters of the Brazos rivers. The Matadors fell heir to that range, giving them a range of over a million acres.

Mr. Campbell seeing the necessity of their (the incorporators) owning the land sent Mr. Britton to Scotland where money was cheaper. Mr. Britton while there organized a syndicate in 1883 which absorbed the Matador Cattle Company at a price of \$1,250,000

and became known as the Matador Land & Cattle Company. Mr. Campbell continued on in the new company as manager until 1891.

Mr. Summerville being (the) land man, the new company purchased all the land available, actually acquiring over one-half million acres in the above counties. The ranch reached its zenith in the years from 1885 to up in the 1890s, branding yearly from 18 to 25 thousand calves.

Sometime in the nineties, the Matadors purchased several hundred thousand acres of the capitol Syndicate land in the upper Panhandle, giving them a large ranch up there.

It was the custom of the ranch to drive the steer cattle north to Montana and Wyoming where they were sold. This was a custom under Campbell's reign.

In the eighties when there was more or less free grass, the steer cattle were held here on the ranch until they were two years old – it being risky to take younger cattle to that colder climate.

After the country began to settle up and range became more scarce, the company would take the yearlings to the Upper Panhandle Ranch and keep them there one winter or until they were two which acclimated them for the severe winters of the north. This custom is still kept up to some extent.

In the early history of the Matador Ranch there were no wire fences. The cattle were kept on the range by cowboys stationed in camps around the out-skirts of the range. These camps were dugouts and had from two to four men to the camp, known as line riders. They would each day ride the out-skirts of the range and throw all the cattle back that were trying to drift off the range. Later in the middle eighties, Mr. Campbell began to fence the range then these camps were used by only one or two men, or some man and his family whose duty it was to keep up the fences on his





Harry Campbell pictured with his sons, (L to R) Vance with basketball; Harold in dark jacket; Harry; and Lyman Bundy. Six generations of Campbell's have lived and ranched on land in Motley County.

part of the ranch. The name line rider was still applied to these fence riders and is kept up today. The Matadors had at least twenty-five of these camps scattered around the range. There were as many as 150 men employed on the ranch during the busy season of the year.

There were many hardships endured in the early history of the ranch. At the beginning Fort Worth was the nearest R.R. (railroad). Once during this period Mrs. Campbell who was left alone on the ranch quite a lot became so lonesome that she traded all the flour on the ranch to some immigrants who were passing through the country for a dog - not realizing how far it was to more flour. The result was the ranch was out of flour until a wagon could come from Fort Worth.

In the early eighties the T.P.R.R. was built and Colorado City became the shipping point for the ranch, a distance of 120 miles. Then in the latter eighties the T. & D. R.R. was built. Childress and Quanah became shipping points, a distance of seventy-five miles. Today, there are several shipping points on the range along the Q.A. & P. R.R.

In the early days on the ranch there was no sickness (sic) and no doctors in the county. Mrs. Campbell acted as nurse and surgeon for any accidents that happened

to the cowboys. She is praised today by a lot of the boys that she set collar bones caused by horses falling on them; fingers that were cut off by a rope and stuck back - some of them a little crooked but useful. She sewed up many severe cuts on the boys and even cut bullets out of two of them. Mrs. Campbell had never had any medical training. These things had to be done so she did them.

In the early days the cowboy had no recreation. So Mrs. Campbell each winter would give the boys a big dance on the ranch. This occasion was looked forward to by the whole country for a radius of

a hundred miles. These events would last for two or three days and nights. A wagon load of provisions was cooked up beforehand.

Mr. and Mrs. Campbell arranged with a Rev. Robertson of Clarendon to hold services on the ranch at least once a month. Rev. Robertson and his son filled this appointment for two years.

The headquarter ranch is still located at the same place it was in 1879 at Ballard Springs. It is a mile south of the town of Matador, the county seat of Motley County.

The Matador Cattle Co. fell heir to the Hall or Spur range from Mott Creek to Hall Creek and about 10 miles under the Caprock by Hall moving his herd south to Red Mud in Dickens County.



Pictured is Harry Campbell, sitting in his office with his pipe and house shoes (boots ready to go). Note the old 45 record player and radio in the window. The year was 1951, Harry was 70 years old.

COVER PHOTOS:

Front: Harry Campbell, cleaning gun;

Erwin Smith, seated.

Photo by Harry Campbell.

Back: A.T. Swenston's Collection

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