

It's been a cowboy's life for Roy Gilbert

By NILAH RODGERS

There isn't a western hat nor a pair of cowboy boots big enough to hold all that Roy Gilbert knows about being a cowboy.

Gilbert got his first taste of ranch life when he was 14 years old. Gilbert worked at first one ranch and then another and did everything from packing off the slop to running the outfit until he landed in Lamb County in 1919.

Since that time he has farmed, served eight years as tax assessor—and as assessor collector, and was a county commissioner for six years. He is 82 years old now, but he still lives on

his farm, rides his horse when necessary, and tends to his mother cows, calves and yearlings.

"I've seen too many people move to town with nothing to do," Gilbert said. Gilbert did his own farming until he was 72, and he plans to live on his farm and raise cattle until he draws his last breath.

Gilbert first came to Lamb County in 1919 when he took a job on the Sweringston Ranch about 25 miles west of Littlefield. The ranches he had worked for in Clairmont, Clarendon and Pampa were pretty small compared to the Sweringston spread located near Enochs.

When W. E. Halsell started selling off the Halsell Ranch in 1923, Gilbert bought 191 acres on the north side of Black Water Draw from R. C. Hoping.

He paid \$25 an acre for the land, the going price for the farms that were carved out of the last XIX Ranch that was sold to pay for Texas' state capitol building.

Gilbert's mother died just before he was eight years old. "I stayed with kin folks until I was tired of it," he said, "then when I was 14 years old I went to Clairmont and stayed with some people until I finished school—the ninth grade, that is. The ninth was as high as you could go then."

When old man Halsell (Ewing Halsell's dad) built the Amherst Hotel in 1923, Gilbert worked in the hotel for six months before he started farming the place he'd bought previously. The Amherst Hotel was pretty fancy for its day. "Halsell was really going to build

the town of Amherst up when he started out," Gilbert said.

While Gilbert was with Halsell at Amherst, he got to know the elder Halsell and met the Oklahoma comedian Will Rogers when he came down to visit Halsell at the ranch headquarters west of Earth.

Breaking horses was just a part of being a cowboy. School Boy was a little 900 pound horse that was supposed to be an outlaw. When Gilbert offered to ride School Boy he told the man he was working for that if he broke him, he was going to keep him. "School Boy made me the quickest and fastest cow horse I ever had," Gilbert said. "When the ranch went broke and sold out, I bought the little horse for \$40."

He still had School Boy when he started farming his Lamb County farm. "But I had to trade him for a horse big enough to work," he said. "I started farming with teams."

Gilbert said he guessed he let some

people out-talk him when he was persuaded to run for Lamb County tax assessor. He filled the assessor's post for four years, then served four more years as tax assessor-collector after the two jobs were combined.

Then in 1949 Gilbert was elected county commissioner, and he served as commissioner for six years.

He continued active in farming until 10 years ago, and he still runs a few cows.

The buckskin horse Gilbert rides "when he has to" is a result of his knowledge of horses. Bugs Rountree had traded for the horse, sight unseen. The dunn horse had had some cuts on

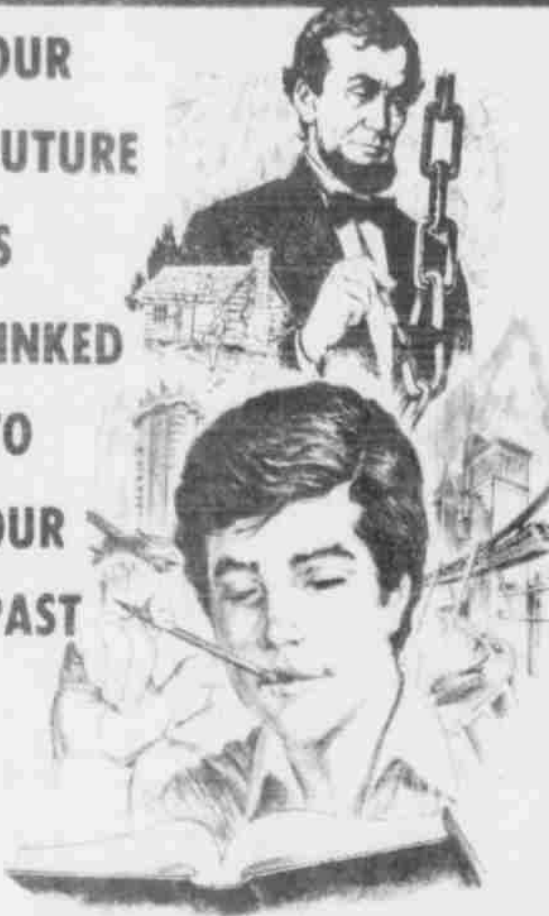
a leg. When the cut leg veterinarian told Rountree well shoot the horse.

Gilbert saw the horse agree. He told Rountree to get the horse well. Gilbert horse in his lot and started him. After three months a was the only sign of the barbed wire had made.

After all that patient care wouldn't take the horse back.

"He has a lot of white in Gilbert said of Buck. "I watch him. He's quick. He and he's as good a cow horse ever seen."

OUR
FUTURE
IS
LINKED
TO
OUR
PAST

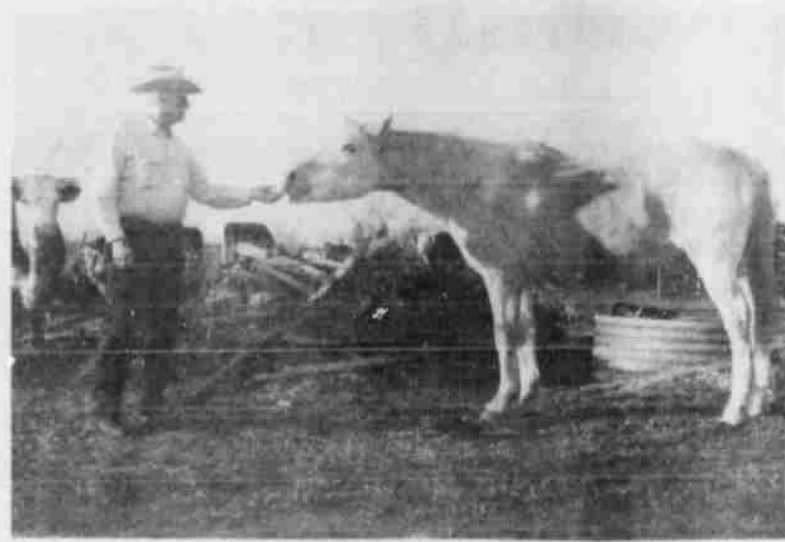


We Salute America
During Our 200th Celebration.

Peyton L. Reese Real Estate

401 Phelps

385-3505



"It's not what you wear that makes you a cowboy," says Roy Gilbert. "It's what you know and how you do your work."



Roy Gilbert

The Birth Of
A Nation...



...through the past 200 years
millions of people around the world
have found freedom in America
salute our nation on its 200th
birthday!

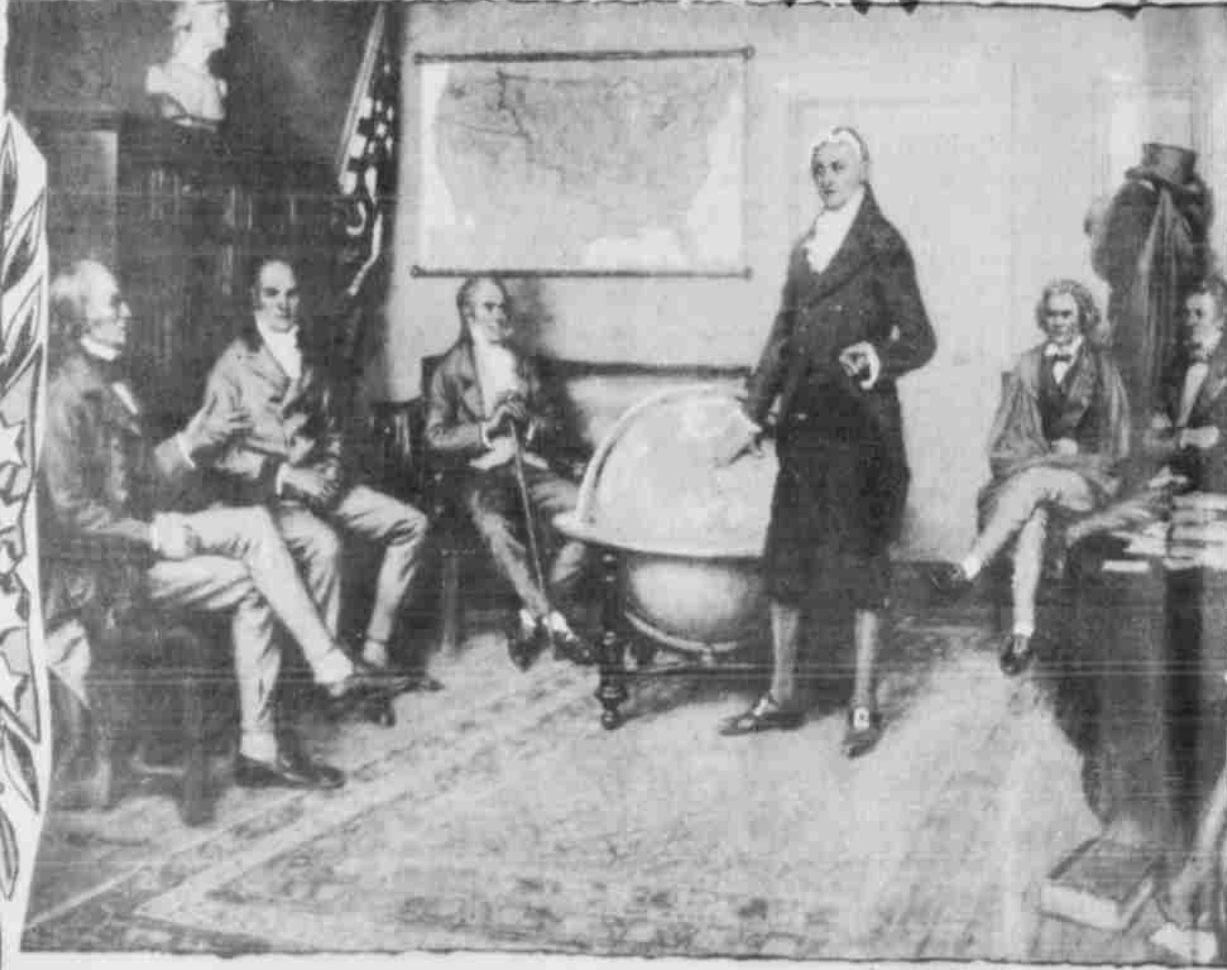
TEXACO INC.

Gene Ratliff-Consignee

521 Hall

385-3220

Great American Happenings



1823: We declare "Hands Off."

Some of the European leaders are calling themselves a "Holy Alliance." Spain wants to restore to herself the rebel colonies in South America. There are rumors that France will take Mexico. That Russia will come down from Alaska to seize California. England wants the South American trade. She asks us to join her in declaring to the European allies that they keep their hands off. But Secretary of State John Quincy Adams says we should go it alone, not trail after an English policy. December 2nd, President Monroe makes a famous statement in his message to Congress: that continents of the Western Hemisphere are "not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European powers..." It reminds us of Washington's Farewell Address. It becomes known as the Monroe Doctrine. It will live on.

CHISHOLM FLORAL

620 E. 5TH

385-4461

IN THE
SPIRIT OF '76

We Are Proud
Of The Years Of
Progress With You!!!

During the years, we have appreciated the cooperation of a wonderful community and its people... we are taken into your hearts, and you accepted us into community activities in a most friendly fashion...

These have been happy years, and you have been good to us... We have enjoyed living together, working together, and growing together. On this occasion of our nation's 200th anniversary, then, may we also celebrate because of so many happy years of living together-with a grand community.



**OLTON
STATE BANK**

285-2653



Blessing family made home on Halsell Ranch

Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Blessing

Mr. J. B. Blessing came to the plains in Aug. of 1923, and purchased land from the Halsell Ranch. It was the 11th labor of land sold from the Halsell Ranch. This labor joined the city limits of Amherst on the north. Blessing improved the land in the summer of '24 and moved to Amherst with his family in the fall of '24.

His brother, Thad Blessing, built the house, a seven room frame structure.

Mrs. Blessing died in Feb. of '26 and Mr. Blessing traded this land for another farm 12 miles north of Littlefield, in 1927. Mr. Blessing and children lived there for several years. He passed away at the age of 84 in Dec. of 1949 leaving 5 children and 6 grandchildren.

Survivors included Mrs. L. L. Uselton of Amherst, Mrs. Comer Hall of Littlefield, and Mr. Ray Blessing of

Amherst, Virgie and J. B. Blessing, Jr. of the home.

Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Uselton purchased land from Halsell the same year their father did but moved to the plains a year earlier, in 1923. The Useltons had one child, a daughter, Mrs. Doyle Tapley of Amherst.

Ray Blessing was married to Florice Garlington in Dec. of 1927. They had three children; Ray Lynn Britt, Pat, and John Edd Blessing.

Mrs. Comer Hall also came to the Plains when her parents moved in 1924. She and Comer Hall were married in Wichita Co. in 1923. To them were born two boys, Edwin Lynn of Lubbock, and J. C., Jr. of Littlefield. They were born in Lamb County in 1925 and 1930.

Ray Blessing and Comer Hall purchased land from the Spade Ranch in 1938. Comer traded his land later for a labor 8 miles north of Littlefield.



BRANDING TIME was something special to the cowboys on the LFD Ranch in 1913. It meant rounding up all the unbranded cattle they could find, tying them down and burning the brand into the struggling animal.

July 4
A Star-Spangled Day!
CLARA'S BEAUTY SHOP
385-4266

Charming scoundrel: Molly the Cook well-remembered

By NILAH RODGERS

He was a scamp and a scoundrel, and despite his pretty name "Molly," he was as homely as a mud fence daubed with lizards. But most scoundrels are charming. The two things go together. And his ugliness was the kind that made women look at him and wonder. People flocked to him to hear his outrageous lies.

Old Molly always wore a ten-gallon hat to add stature to his bantam build. He draped leather gloves through the belt loops of his pants, and smoked the longest cigars that could be bought.

Molly often showed up at nesters' homes about meal time to set a spell and share the vittles, then he paid for his supper talking and singing for hours. Molly had the gift of gab, dancing feet, and a song for everyone. He made up verses to fit each person and every happening, and sang them to the tempo of a joggling horse.

Molly never missed a ranch dance, and he regaled the fairer sex with his songs and banter for hours. And when Molly finally left Sudan, Texas, for once and for all, it was a woman's doings.

The stories concerning Molly's name are numerous as the tall tales Molly spun round Sudan during the early 1900s. One of the most repeated is the romantic tale that has been the plot for novels, movies and television shows where a baby is left in a basket with a note pinned to it saying, "Please take care of me."

Mrs. Simon D. Hay, one of Sudan's early settlers relates it like this: In the 1890's, cowboys found an abandoned wagon on the prairie. In it was a tiny baby, but no clues to the parents' whereabouts. It is said that the child was so beautiful one of the cow wadies exclaimed "What a pretty little girl," and with that they christened "her" Molly.

They soon discovered their mistake, but the name remained with the cowboys who raised the child as their chief cook and bottle washer and continued to call him Molly.

Although he was always called Molly, Old Molly, Molly the Cook, or Molly the Cow Wadie, he had another more impressive name. As the pretty baby grew into a scrawny, sandy-

haired youngster and the name Molly seemed less and less appropriate, each of the cowboys gave the boy his last name. Thus he became James Lee Preston Hamilton and grew up knowing the ways of cow pokes.

The year the Plains was laid out, James L. P. Hamilton drifted into West Texas and went to work as a cook for the Yellow House Ranch, headquartered at Nine Mile Camp, south of what is now Littlefield. Later he moved to Sudan and promptly bought the first call box with the arrival of the new postal fixtures. It was lettered "Hamilton," but in the many years he lived at Sudan, a letter addressed to James or L. P. Hamilton would likely go in the dead letter box, whereas a letter addressed to Molly the Cook would be delivered forthwith.

Regardless of how he got his name, some Sudan residents remember one of the ditties Molly sang to the clomp, clomp horses' hoofbeat rhythm:

They call me old Molly, but that's not my name.

I live in a shack, up on the Plains.

I round up the cattle whenever they brand

Out upon the prairie by the town of Sudan.

Molly's humorous, easy-going way of life furnished raw material to add to the poke's legend. Once he bought a typewriter and paid for it with a worthless check. When asked why, he replied, "Well, I knew I was going to get this letter about a bad check I wrote, so I bought this typewriter to answer it with."

Molly was a man's man and a woman's man, too, and he had a way with animals and people alike. Besides being a general good humor man and the kind of person who could bring out the mother instinct in the women folk, Molly broke broncs while providing free entertainment for Sudan residents.

He was an expert cow puncher, the Yellow House Ranch cook, a self-styled veterinarian, the old prairie doctor, and at one time he was named justice of the peace at Sudan. No wonder people who knew him said Molly knew a little about everything.

For years Molly was the nearest

thing to a doctor Lamb County, Texas had. During the 1918 flu epidemic, Molly went into the homes of those down with the flu and took over — cooking, doctoring, staying up day and night and saving many lives with his horse sense nursing. Under different circumstances, Molly would have made a very fine doctor.

Although Molly liked to talk, he kept his personal life to himself. Besides his birth and childhood years being vague and sketchy, a 20-year period, from the time he left Sudan until he came back 10 years later, remains a mystery.

While on a cattle drive in Kansas with the Yellow House crew, Molly left the cowboys suddenly. He liked his horse doctoring so well that some have reason to believe that he spent several years as a veterinarian around Dora, N.M., and later did odd jobs in Kansas and Arizona. Molly returned to Sudan 10 years later, but never told anyone his whereabouts during his long absence.

When Molly finally left Sudan never to return again, it was because of a woman. A young school teacher claimed Molly made advance. Humiliated, Molly headed west and never came back.

Molly never told his age, but Sudan residents believed Molly was on the golly-whopper lying side of 60 long before he left Lamb County.

Molly plied his veterinarian skills around Portales, working with sick cattle in New Mexico the last few years of his life.

Just as mystery surrounded Molly in life there was a strange occurrence after his death in a Portales rest home in 1963. Molly never mentioned a family, but shortly after death, two well dressed women driving a luxury car came to inquire about their "Dads" death. If they were Molly's daughters, that partially explains his strange disappearance from the cattle drive.

But if Molly had a family, it's a secret he carried to his grave. A modest marker is at the head of his grave at Portales, but the cemetery has no record of who put the marker there.

Let Freedom Ring!!!

IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776
The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

We proudly salute the vision of our fore fathers.

Nelson's True Value Hardware
385-4331

WE APPRECIATE YOUR PATRONAGE OVER THE YEARS!

Robinson Upholstery
308 W. 4th 385-4621

"Four Score And Seven Years Ago"

Abraham Lincoln—The President Who Reunited America. We Salute Our Great Nation On Its 200th Anniversary.

Birklebach Machine & Pump Inc.
1012 E. 9th 385-5123

A Day To Remember...
...April 19, 1775

"The Shot Heard 'Round The World" Was Fired To Signal The Beginning Of The American Revolutionary War. Minutemen And Redcoats Clashed At Lexington And Concord.

Let's Pause To Reflect On The Cost Of Our Precious Freedom.

Campbell Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning
1022 E. 9th 385-5020

TAKE PRIDE IN OUR HERITAGE

WE ARE PROUD OF BEING ONE OF LITTLEFIELD'S GROWING AND PROGRESSIVE BUSINESSES!!!

We Consider It A Privilege... to be a part of such a growing and progressive community. We opened a business in Littlefield because we thought it was a good community... we confirm this thought today.

Tri-County SAVINGS AND LOAN
Littlefield Office
7th & XIT
Phone 385-5149

W.D.T. Storey:

Devoted life to public service as postmaster

William D. T. Storey, an always-affable man who wore always a wide Texas smile and hat, served the longest period in its history as postmaster of the Littlefield post office.

Mr. Storey was postmaster from 1934 until his retirement in 1964. In this period he was widely known in postal circles and, in West Texas, as a dedicated and leading Democrat. He often was introduced as "the Number One Democrat of the 19th Congressional District."

Most of his busy career was spent in public service. He first came to Littlefield in 1920 to buy a farm north of town, returned in 1921 to teach and later became superintendent of schools. Mrs. Storey, a bride then, taught in the schools here.

Mr. Storey was a native of Red River County. He graduated first from North Texas State College, and went from Littlefield to Oklahoma A. and M. College where he qualified as a county agent. He served as county agent in Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas.

During World War I he served overseas in France, and for a time attended the University of Lyons, France.

Mr. Storey was appointed postmaster in 1934, from a field of 43 applicants, by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

As postmaster, he had a range of public activities, many of them in the Democratic party. He and Mrs. Storey

W. D. T. STOREY receives the keys to the new post office building in December of 1940 from James I. Barnes, contractor. Storey was postmaster of the Littlefield post office at the time of the dedication. Before the building was built, the post office was moved from various offices around town.

attended most national postmaster conventions, and all state conventions, except two, during his tenure as

postmaster. The two state conventions he missed were in 1945, when Storey's only son,

David, was killed in action in Germany, again in 1948, when David's body was brought home for re-burial here.

The Storeys attended conventions in Los Angeles, in New York several times, in Havana, Cuba; in St. Paul, Miami, and Chicago over a period of years.

Their son, David, 21 years old when he was killed as an infantryman in Europe, was a graduate of Littlefield High School and of Texas Tech College, receiving his degree after entering service.

He graduated from LHS at 16 years, at that time the youngest student ever to graduate from LHS. He was an outstanding student and, in athletics, a varsity competitor in tennis in both

high school and college.

When Mr. Storey became postmaster in 1934, the office was located in the back part of the First National Bank building. His efforts were credited in great part with obtaining the new federal building in Littlefield in 1940, one of the finest public buildings in the area at the time.

Mayor Homer Hall turned the first spadeful of dirt for the building on May 6, 1940, and the building was dedicated on December 5, 1940.

Mr. Storey proudly received the keys to the new building from a federal official, in a program that dominated the week in Littlefield.

He died in Dallas on March 31, 1962, at 70 years of age.



Potter's practice opens with buffalo herd sale

The sale of a herd of buffalo on the Yellowhouse ranch below Littlefield was here contracted in 1925, and opened the practice of a young Littlefield attorney, T. Wade Potter, who 13 years ago retired from practice.

The buffalo sale was made by the late J. P. White, then owner of the Yellowhouse Ranch near Littlefield. It agreed to deliver a herd of buffalo on the Yellowhouse and on a White ranch in New Mexico to J. B. Tanner of Gallup, N.M.

The selling price was \$110 a head except for newly dropped calves, that went at no charge.

The contract further provided for

sale of several carloads of cattle from the Yellowhouse ranch to the Gallup, N.M. rancher.

Buffalo were an unusual type of livestock in 1925, but the extensive acres of the Yellowhouse, the south part of the old XII ranch, gave them room to grow and reproduce.

The contract estimated from 25 and 35 head of the buffalo, not counting new calves. It provided also that the buyer was liable for purchase in Lamb County, should the railroad refuse to ship buffalo from here to Gallup. Apparently they were accepted, since the records showed no exceptions to the contract at a later date.

BICENTENNIAL
Pioneer
By PETE PETERMAN
The old wagon yard was the most hospitable abode. Travelers shunned them in sanitation conditions. But traveling without camping they were nearly a must.
Before the time of the horse and wagon or even night or rest period, the traveler, he was glad to wagon yard.
Every town that had a store, post office, band water trough, also had a These things were built shaped fortress with a wall, and one-sided roof built under it where the mules were tied, and separately.
As usual, a rather large could be closed at night.
In the center of this was bunk house and feed supplies for the teams bought. This center building office for the wagon yard Bunks one, two, and were built around the pot-bellied stove kept people establishments had card tables, and a place to eat and another necessity trough and windmill.
People who lived out miles had to come to town stay all night in the wagon go back home the next even went to church that thought little of it, as every same way of travel.
These quaint ways of went with the passing of the buggy days, and are only the past.
If you ever stayed in the you are a senior citizen, or Soon after Lubbock was they had two or three before they had a hotel.



Parade Of Presidents



George Washington

1st President
1789-1797
No Politican Party

George Washington

Otis Bennett Real Estate & Bennett's Firestone

John Adams

2nd President
1797-1801
Federalist

John Adams

Jim Francis Body Shop
315 W. Delano

Thomas Jefferson

3rd President
1801-1809
Democratic-Republican

Thomas Jefferson

Moore Fina Service Station
630 Lfd. Drive

James Madison

4th President
1809-1817
Democratic-Republican

James Madison

Humdinger Drive-In
502 W. Delano

James Monroe

5th President
1817-1825
Democratic-Republican

James Monroe

Jolly Roger 7-11
-Open 24 Hours A Day-

John Quincy Adams

6th President
1825-1829
Democratic-Republican

John Quincy Adams

Lamb Salvage Co.
905 W. Delano

Andrew Jackson

7th President
1829-1837
Democrat

Andrew Jackson

Littlefield Aviation
385-3143

Martin Van Buren

8th President
1837-1841
Democrat

Martin Van Buren

House Of Beauty
711 Hall

William H. Harrison

9th President
1841
Whig

William H. Harrison

Purdy Motor Machine Shop
812 E. 9th
385-4811

Studebaker firm opens in November, 1950

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story was taken from the Thursday, Nov. 9, 1950 issue of the County Wide News, and was brought to us by Mrs. Johnnie Miller, wife of the former co-owner of the first Studebaker business in Littlefield.

Miller, wife of the former co-owner of the first Studebaker business in Littlefield. Brown and Miller Motor Co., will

observe its formal opening in its new building Thursday and Friday with the first of the new 1951 models of Studebaker cars.

Agency for all lines of Studebaker cars and trucks in Lamb County, the firm is operated and owned by Guy Brown and Johnnie F. Miller, both well-known in Littlefield and the area.

The firm is located at the corner of the LFD Drive and Ninth Street, next to The Food Basket (which the Millers built too, and was operated by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Anzeline.)

Favors and souvenirs will be given visitors at the firm's grand opening Thursday and Friday.

The Agency is housed in an attractive \$35,000 brick and tile building, with 6,600 square feet of floor space. Approximately \$15,000 worth of equipment has been purchased to handle the servicing of cars and trucks. The garage doors of the building are 14 feet high to accommodate any size of truck being brought in for service and repairs.

Elmo Jones was general contractor on the building.

In addition to Studebaker sales, Brown and Miller will feature service on any make of car or truck brought in by the company's customers. Repair work and service will also be done on irrigation motors and industrial engines. Glyn McClendon is in charge of the service department, assisted by Jack Church.

The agency is also operating a service station in conjunction with the business. "Skipper" Smith being in charge of the department. He is assisted by Guy Gage.

Other personnel of the firm includes Mrs. Walter Sorensen, bookkeeper; Buddy Bingham, parts man; Guy Gage, grease man; and Don Sanchez, in charge of the wash rack.

For convenience of visitors and customers, a free coffee bar will be maintained as a special service feature of the firm. Johnnie Miller, co-owner of the firm and a prominent

farmer, has lived on Route 2, Littlefield, for the past 17 years.

Guy Brown, formerly manager of the South Plains Motor Co., moved to Littlefield from Amarillo about a year ago. Brown, married and father of one child, is a veteran of World War II.

NEW STUDEBAKERS

Featuring the new 1951 Studebaker models will be the introduction of a new Studebaker Commander series powered by a rugged, compact, V-type, 8-cylinder, valve-in-head engine.

"Studebaker has invested \$15,000,000 in developing the new V-8 power plant," said Guy Brown, co-owner of the Brown and Miller Motor Co., "and in expanding manufacturing facilities necessary for producing it in volume."

120 HP RATING

"The new engine for our Commanders has been designed not only to prepare for any foreseeable boosts in compression ratios, but to utilize the most modern machinery and manufacturing in producing it," said Brown. "Rated horsepower of the new engine is 120 at 4,000 r.p.m., which taxable horsepower is 36.4. Compression ratio as released is 7 to 1."

"Although the new engine has 17.5 percent more power than the six-cylinder engine formerly used, tests completed by company engineers definitely show that the 1951 Commander will maintain the outstanding reputation for fuel economy established by preceding Commander models."

Land agents battle one another to find buyers

The week-to-week sale of land to newcomers, many who bought for investment and did not move here, was news of major interest in the 1920's.

Littlefield had a number of land agents, who were highly competitive, and who had choice land offerings from the several ranch holdings being opened.

A part of the agent's business was to keep his prospects protected from competitors. A prospect usually arrived in response to advertising of an agent, or through inquiry made to him.

Once here, however, he liked to shop for the best land available.

"The agents would carefully herd their prospects around town, keeping them away from other agents and offers for other land," recalls Mrs. W.

G. Street, a resident since 1913.

Once they were sold, however, the land companies released lists of buyers, usually with the number of acres bought.

Lists in 1924, year of the big land sales, included Fred C. Malone, Travis County, 193 acres;

H. W. Wright, Wilbarger County, 177 acres;

J. J. Matthews, Oklahoma, 177 acres;

J. W. Watson, Dickens County, 177 acres;

M. W. Renfro, Runnels County, 177 acres;

H. F. Walden, Williamson County, 177 acres;

J. T. Evans, Fanning County, 833 acres;

L. D. Hudgins of Winters, 636 acres.



MRS. JOHNNIE MILLER, who has lived near Littlefield since 1922, owns this building which was built to house their new Brown and Miller Auto Co., located at LFD Drive and Ninth Street. It now houses the S&J Service Parts. The Brown and Miller Auto Co. opened with the formal showing of the new 1951 Studebakers Thursday and Friday Nov. 16 and 17, 1950. The brick and tile building featured 6,600 square feet of floor space. Down the street to the left is the courthouse, with the steeple of the old Methodist Church building shown above it. [Personal Photo]

"I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the duties of the President of the United States and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the constitution of the United States... so help me God."

John Tyler
10th President
1841-1845
Whig

Jack's Wrecking Service

1100 W. Delano

385-5684

James K. Polk
11th President
1845-1849
Democrat

Lamb County Leader News

Zachary Taylor
12th President
1849-1850
Whig

National Farmers Union In.

514 Phelps Ave.

385-5102

Millard Fillmore
13th President
1850-1853
Whig

J. J.'s Cafe

-Spade-

Franklin Pierce
14th President
1853-1857
Democrat

Reed's Service Station

-Sudan-

James Buchanan
15th President
1857-1861
Democrat

Lackey's Appliance Service

506 E. 8th

385-3120

Abraham Lincoln
16th President
1861-1865
Republican

Prescription Shop

401 W. 6th

385-4491

Andrew Johnson
17th President
1865-1869
National Union

Continental Oil Co.

200 Phelps

385-3440

Ulysses S. Grant
18th President
1869-1877
Republican

Godwin Service Station

102 W. Delano

385-8958

Newspaper publisher recalls 1930

(This article appeared in the Golden Anniversary issue of the Lamb Co. Leader in 1963.)

By Morley B. Drake. What you are about to read... if you decide to read... is prompted in its entirety by Dick Reavis, publisher of the Leader and News. But we don't hold Dick responsible for one word of the content.

We do figure that Dick had sort of a sneaky idea that if he gave us enough space in the Golden Anniversary Edition that we would blast our reputation. That's a laugh. How could a mere amateur like Dick contribute to blasting the reputation of an old pro... pro just any way you want to read the book. No foolin', friends and enemies, experts have tried to blast our reputation... and they couldn't keep up with us. We built some sort of reputation and, by golly, we've done fairly well sustaining it.

Don't take the above paragraph seriously; a former publisher and these moderns who carry the title get a big kick out of blasting at each other.

We were born on one of the highest hills around Brantford, Ontario, Canada... and we've never got down to earth since that eventful day in our life. Some folks called it Hogback Hill, but those who wanted to be a little ritzy called it Governor's Heights. We visited our birthplace in '61, and as we

looked up at the window of the upstairs room we thought how lucky the world had been.

The Governor's Road of today is just another ribbon of concrete, but away back in history it was a plank road made famous by the fact that it was used extensively by high dignitaries of the day, which were pulled by two teams of high stepping horses.

We've lived a long time for our years, and our experiences have been many and varied. Horses and dogs have been our hobby from our very, very tender years upward through the whirl of a busy life. As a boy we worked at all sorts of jobs before and after school and on Saturday. Those were the days when a nickel went as far as 25 cents or more today. Any time we could cook up a new idea to make a little money, that was our big day.

We got our big kicks in visits to the farm home of our maternal grandparents, Uncle Sam... rest his soul in peace... was the youngest son and as was the custom of the day he inherited the farm and apparently more assets and money than was good for him. But he was a great guy, loaded or sober... and we learned a lot from him. Uncle Sam liked horses and dogs... and game roosters, too. Even as a kid we helped him break horses... trotters

and pacers... that he raced at tracks for miles around. Our parents didn't approve of some of Uncle Sam's doings, but we worshiped the guy; he'd let us do anything, even to the point of about getting killed when some young horse exploded. But no money could buy those happy days that we spent with Uncle Sam "down on the farm."

As we moved up through the years the matter of a career for us was a subject of the family discussion.

Mother would have liked us to be a Methodist preacher, and Uncle Andrew, a lawyer, wanted us to follow in his footsteps. Another uncle, a banker, thought by some serious instruction that he could learn us to keep our fingers out of the funds. But we fooled them all, turning into a newspaperman of sorts. We knew our language wouldn't pass pulp standards; law was a tough old grind, and a job as a cub reporter just seemed to fit in.

We came to Littlefield in the spring

of 1930; it was a beautiful day in early May... and we've been here ever since.

We opened negotiations with the late Jess Mitchell for the purchase of the Lamb County Leader, and took possession July, 1930, just before the second primary. The plant was located in a tin building facing east on Twitchell Avenue and running along the alley which now separated the Hammons Funeral Home property and the Woods-Armistead building. We rented that building from Mr. Mitchell for a limited time, then moved to 412 Phelps Avenue. We rented that building from the late A. C. Chesher and eventually bought the property from him.

The building was 80 feet long, but we built an addition at the rear and modernized the front. The present structure is leased by Gunn Bros. Stamp store.

There is an old saying that "fools will venture where angels fear to tread". We dislike saying hard things about ourselves, but it's no secret that about that time the country was in a depression and at one time this area became involved in the famous dust bowl.

When we came to Littlefield there wasn't any pavement east or west of the city. We cannot forget how deep the mud and water got between Littlefield and Lubbock just any time there was a good rain. We have used chains on all four wheels between Littlefield and Lubbock. Everybody carried a chain or a cable to pull some unlucky guy out of the mud or have somebody hook on to your car and pull it out of trouble. Those were the days hereabouts when everybody helped the other fellow who was in trouble.

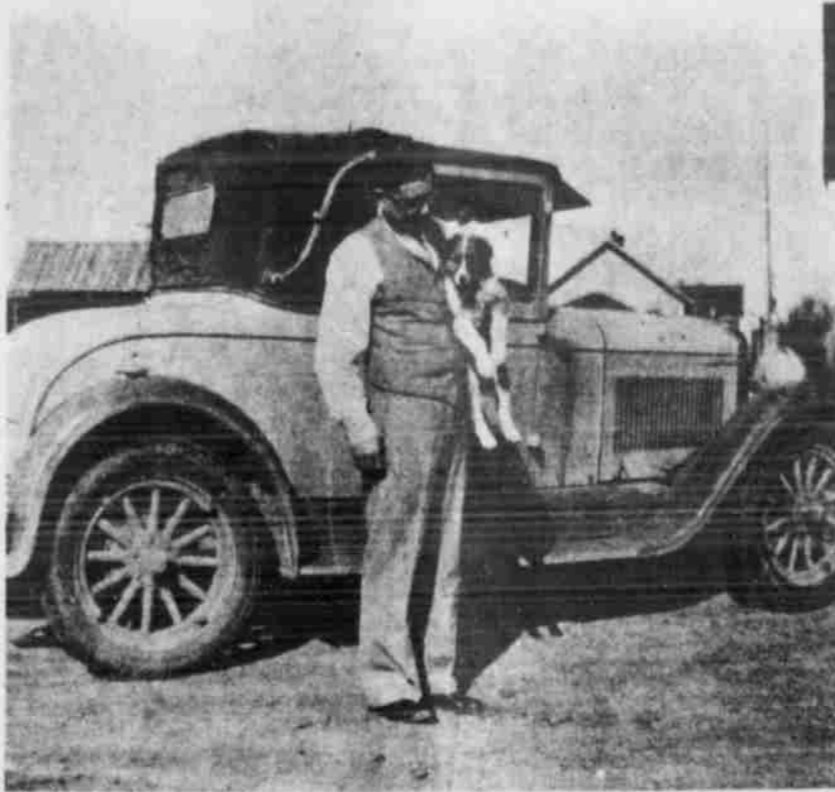
There is one experience we will never forget. We had been to Earth

and in coming home we... Highway 87 to Springlake south over the present Littlefield. Rain came down and the car was soon knee deep in mud. We finally tore up the mud to buck it out of a hole... night in the wide open... rain pouring down. We... asthma in those days... wirehaired terrier we had... our chests to help keep... the break of dawn... through mud for several... farm home, with the dog... going by pulling on his... we made it to a farm just... scrambled eggs for breakfast... breakfast the farmer hooked... mules to a wagon and... into Littlefield. A search... started and everybody... when we reported.

The late 20s and the... troublesome times, especially... mically. But Littlefield... those days with a solvent... were hard to pay, but... over humps with a few... new respect for sound... Littlefield has been a... long as we have known... who arrived here before... the same testimony. But... as active as a prairie fire... other periods the business... through perilous times... taken a poll in a long... knowledge of how the... is limited now.

We forget the years, but... time when beer was legal... in Littlefield. It wasn't... was good stuff. But all... have their day and pass... was supposed to be some...

Continued on Page



MORLEY B. DRAKE, longtime publisher of the Lamb County Leader, is shown standing in front of the 1927 Pontiac coupe in which he and his wife, Maye, and their dog came to Littlefield in 1930.

Rutherford B. Hays

19th President

1877-1881

Republican

R. B. Hays

Cox Tin Shop

106 E. 3rd

385-4020

★ Parade Of Presidents ★



James A. Garfield

20th President

1881

Republican

James A. Garfield

Lee Auto Service

310 W. Delano

385-4717

Chester A. Arthur

21st President

1881-1885

Republican

Chester A. Arthur

They say every dog has it's day. Have you looked at your's to see if he's clean and neatly groomed? If not come to...

Suje's Cannine Grooming

1100 W. 7th

385-5871

Grover Cleveland

22nd President

1885-1889

Democrat

Lamb County Leader News

Benjamin Harrison

23rd President

1889-1893

Republican

Benjamin Harrison

AAA Truck & Auto Parts

385 N.

385-4720

Grover Cleveland

24th President

1893-1897

Democrat

Grover Cleveland

Merlin's Food Store

821 Hall

In Business 28 Years

385-4755

William McKinley

25th President

1897-1901

Republican

William McKinley

Cantrell Blacksmith & Welding

Rt. 1

385-5871

Theodore Roosevelt

26th President

1901-1909

Republican

Theodore Roosevelt

A & B Office Supply

509 Phelps

385-4646

William H. Taft

27th President

1909-1913

Republican

William H. Taft

Fieldton Butane & Fertilizer

262-4303

Woodrow Wilson

28th President

1913-1921

Democrat

Woodrow Wilson

Jennings Exxon

901 Hall

385-5871

Publisher:

From Page 6

about a city voting wet, and somebody drove the plug in the bung hole. So those who loved their beer went back to buying it in illegal channels locally; having it hauled in by friends, or going after their own in any quantity from a case up.

But here's one that never will be forgotten: There were possibly two places in town that operated a liquor business in connection with another enterprise. A retired doctor in the golden years sat at a table in a little room. All that was necessary to purchase a pint was to walk in to the doctor and tell him you had a cold. However, those doctors were so accomplished that they just glanced up and knew that if you didn't get that pint a serious illness was sure to develop, if it hadn't already taken place. But all things have their day and pass away, and that was what happened to the prosperous downtown liquor business in Littlefield.

The doctor hurriedly tossed off a prescription for spirits fermenti and the patient dropped 25 cents on the table.

Talk about the economic pitfalls of the early 30s. We got in the rabbit business, or perhaps it was mamma and pap rabbit who really established us beyond hope of return.

The Methodist parsonage was located on East Eighth St. We lived in one side of a duplex next door. The preacher was assigned to another field of service and he gave us his rabbits. And the rabbits gave us more cute little bunnies. These little bunnies grew to maturity, married, and there were more cute little bunnies.

We went into the building business to accommodate the new colonies of pink and white long ears.

Finally our language became that of a mule skinner. The harder we cussed, the more the wife laughed. Our entire ambition was to get rid of those rabbits, let them drift for themselves.

The wife didn't approve of turning those rabbits out to drift for themselves; perhaps she thought they might get so numerous that they would take Littlefield without a shot being fired.

Finally a produce man felt plumb sorry for us; in fact, so sorry he bought us out of the rabbit business at about 5 cents on the dollar. After that experience in the livestock business we came to the conclusion that we had better stay with publishing a newspaper.

We wouldn't think of completing this article... or whatever you want to call it... you can't hurt our feelings... without telling you about the Gun Club. That group always gathered in some home. There was never a shot fired. But there was the click of the poker chips and the multiplicity of sounds that can come only from a crap game. The kickapoo joy juice flowed freely and a big time was had by all.

Early day Littlefield was not the Littlefield of today... to us it seems to have changed completely. But there is one thought on that subject that cannot be overlooked... age has a mellowing, quietening influence... perhaps there is a new bunch cutting a rug while we seek quiet and comfort.

For many years in Littlefield there were a great many saddle horses and countless numbers of good riders. The ranks are thinning fast. Most of the young folks don't know a martingale from a cinch. But they can sure give a hot rod fits.

The Sheriff's Posse broke up three or four years ago. That was a fine group of riders who brought honor to their city. Some of the members have passed from this vale of tears, others have sold their horses, but there are still a few former posse members who ride a little; they'll be showing up from many directions with the coming of the Golden Anniversary. Once a man or woman has been around livestock, a comradeship develops that years do

not dim.

The razing of the former Methodist Church brings back to us the memory of how hard the Rev. Jim Sharp worked to bring about the construction of that building. Jim even laid some of the brick. We can see him in our memory as he stood on the scaffolding with a brick in one hand and a towel in the other.

We have mentioned the Methodists two or three times in this story, but that just happened. Take a look around Littlefield and you will see all faiths with creditable houses of worship. Littlefield is truly a city of beautiful churches.

When a man or woman has lived in a city for 30 years and longer there isn't any limit to their storehouse of information.

But we haven't tried to write a history of Littlefield; that would take a thick book.

You know we will not have passed from this bumpy old world any time at all before some young boy will ask his father: "Who was Morley B. Drake?" That's why we do not take ourselves seriously.

Vrubel farmed in area Native Czech here in 1926

Frank Vrubel, an early Spade resident, was born in Czechoslovakia in 1881. He came to the United States as a young man of 24, with a group of friends and relatives from his country.

Vrubel and his brother, Rudolph, of Littlefield, were the only members of the Vrubel family to travel to America.

Vrubel married Rosa Lee Jherik in 1912 in Williamson County. The couple had three children who lived to adulthood. Millie Vrubel of Rosenberg was the oldest child and still owns land her father bought in 1922. Joe Vrubel was the middle child and a trucker in

Chapter began in '23

The Littlefield Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star was organized November, 3, 1923, with 25 charter members.

The first meeting place was in the upstairs part of the Yellow House Building. Mrs. Pat Boone was elected worthy matron and B. L. Cogdill was elected worth patron.

Since it's organization the chapter has been honored with several grand appointments. Flora Best Boone, deputy grand matron, district 2, section 3; Mrs. Annie Louise Wiseman, deputy grand matron, district 2, section 3; Flora Best Boone, grand representative from Maine to Grand Chapter of Texas; Mrs. Ann Barnett, deputy grand matron, district 2, section 3; Mrs. Flora Best Boone, grand correspondent.

Littlefield Chapter has helped to organize and institute Sudan, Olton and Morton chapters.

Littlefield chapter was organized with 25 members. They include Mrs. Flora Best Boone, Mr. B. L. Cogdill, Mrs. Bessie Baze Tuttle, Mrs. Vernie V. Wright, Mr. John Pope, Mrs. Faye Cogdill, Miss Katherine Anderson, Mrs. Mae Cundiff, Mrs. Neva Speight, Mrs. Jewel Staggers Prich-

ard, Mrs. Lelia Hopping and Mr. Pat H. Boone, and Mrs. Myrtle Shaw.

Officers for 1963-64 were Betty Smith and Hollis Smith, worthy matron and worthy patron; Betty Melton, associate matron; Norman Frey, associate patron; Pearl Brandon, secretary; Dave Tullis, treasurer; Lois Lee

Tomlinson, conductress; Buja Tullis, associate conductress; Grace Findley, chaplain; Norma Phillips, marshal; Francis Ricks, organist; Mary Jo Weige, Ada; Jean Hasteley, Ruth; Catherine Wright, Ester; Harriett Cummings, Martha; Mary S. Davis, Electa.



MR. AND MRS. FRANK VRUBEL stand in front of their home in Spade after the first crop on the land they acquired in 1926. The car is an Overland in which Vrubel came to Spade from Williamson County. Joe Vrubel can be seen in the background.

"I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the duties of the United States and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the constitution of the United States... so help me God."

Warren G. Harding
29th President
1921-1923
Republican

Warren G. Harding

Pierce Oil Co.

403 Hall

385-4941

Calvin Coolidge
30th President
1923-1929
Republican

Calvin Coolidge

The Fair Dept. Store

Herbert C. Hoover
31st President
1929-1933
Republican

Herbert Hoover

J.B. Equipment Co.

Hwy 84

385-5627

Franklin D. Roosevelt
32nd President
1933-1945
Democrat

Franklin Roosevelt

Pierce's Specialty Shop

331 Phelps

385-3153

Harry S. Truman
33rd President
1945-1953
Democrat

Harry S. Truman

Jerry's Sign Shop

621 N. Sunset

385-3497

Dwight D. Eisenhower
34th President
1953-1961
Republican

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Vogue Cleaners

102 E. 10th

385-3074

John F. Kennedy
35th President
1961-1963
Democrat

John F. Kennedy

Askew Bargain Center

401 E. 9th

385-5276

Lyndon B. Johnson
36th President
1963-1969
Democrat

Lyndon B. Johnson

Mode-O-Day

400 Phelps

385-3226

Richard M. Nixon
37th President
1969-1974
Republican

Richard Nixon

Lamb County Leader-News

Gerald R. Ford
38th President
1974-
Republican

Gerald R. Ford

Massengale Radiator Shop

Complete Automotive Air Conditioning Service

1913 fete still tops

LITTLEFIELD—The very first Fourth of July celebration in Littlefield is unequalled even after 60 years.

July 4, 1913 was the grand opening day of Littlefield. The day of days.

Under a bright sun 60 years ago, over 1,400 persons gathered in Littlefield on the cloudless morning to watch the official opening of the new town.

They came on foot, on horseback, in wagons, on special trains.

At noon the Littlefield Land Company served barbecued beef, beans, and other chuckwagon dishes in regular cowboy style to all the guests.

More than 1,000 shade trees had been planted on the depot lot, down Phelps Ave., around the school grounds and park, but they were too small to provide shade. Cotton bagging was strung on poles to fend off the beaming sun.

No celebration was complete without a speech. So visitors were treated to one from the state commissioner of agriculture, Edward R. Kene.

And to serenade the guests, A. P. Duggan hired a 15-piece band from Lubbock.

In addition, Duggan had worked since April to provide novel entertainment. Proudly he announced in the newspaper that "the West Texas ranch life will be given full sway, and the cowboys of Yellow House Ranch and adjoining ranches will have the pleasure of demonstrating to the visitors the "how" of the genuine round-up of some 2,000-head of full blooded range cattle, making use of the branding iron, together with a realistic bronc-busting exhibition."

That night there was a dance.

The celebration ended, the newly built Casa Amarillo Hotel was filled and all other buildings and homes had overnight guests. When all the beds were filled, many more were left to sleep under the wagons and out under the stars.

It was a festive day. The new Littlefield had made an impressive sight out there on the lone prairie.

The day was reckoned a success.



YOUNG CLINT GRIFFIN rode into the new town of Littlefield on January 29, 1913, from Crosbyton. He helped dig the first grave, stayed to become a successful real estate operator.

Clint Griffin:

Cowboy started first mail route

An 18-year-old cowboy rode into Littlefield on Jan. 30, 1913, coming here from Crosbyton to seek work after hearing of the new, booming town being built.

His first experience with Littlefield was not too impressive and, after five months, he returned to Crosbyton to work for the CB Livestock Co. However, he came back for good in 1923.

The man is Clint O. Griffin, and over the span of years he has had a big hand in the development of Littlefield. He went into the real estate business in 1924, developing the Griffin Addition, Peyton Industrial Addition, and the Cannon Terrace Addition.

Griffin can recall at least two "firsts" for him in Littlefield. He helped dig the first grave in Littlefield Cemetery, and he started the first mail route here. Griffin said the first grave was on Feb. 14, 1914 and that the deceased man's name was Wallburn.

"I don't suppose there were more than 50 residents when it first came in 1913," says Griffin. The town was composed of the wagon yard, land office, Yellow House Hotel, and a little grocery store.

"The wagon yard, located to the right of the present train depot, was the hub of the business section," recalls Griffin. "You could get ham and eggs and a cot to sleep on. The hotel was for the prosperous—mainly the people coming in from the north to look over the land."

Griffin broke sod until the dry weather left little demand for that type labor, then he started freighting from here to Lubbock.

"It took three days for a round trip, and I had to sleep on the ground two of the three nights," Griffin said. He unloaded the first load of lumber to be used in the construction of street hardware.

He got tired of sleeping on the ground, and the railroad had laid steel as far as Shallowater when Griffin decided to quit and return to Crosbyton.

He later moved to Lubbock then, in

1923, bought a farm where the Littlefield Country Club is now located. He made improvements and moved to the farm early in 1924.

In December of 1924, Griffin established the first mail route out of Littlefield. The Post Office Department had granted the route, and Griffin was the only man around with any experience—he had worked a route briefly in Lubbock.

He recalls that the postman, Pat Boone Sr. approached him starting the route. He was six months before a permanent appointment was made.

After locating here in Littlefield, he also got started in the business—a career which has been his main interest and in which he has played a major role in the development of the town.

Harral responsible for town's beginning

Maybe the little community is small, but the people who live there are convinced of the quality of the land, business, and friends they have found associated with the area.

The small community of Whitharral lies south of Littlefield on the Leveland Highway. It had its humble beginning in 1924 with Dr. John Whitfield Harral, a trustee of the Yellowhouse Land Company, being responsible for the town being laid out.

Harral owned most of the land in the area and being progressive minded, he was interested in providing the area with some community benefits.

Lee Crownover travelled over the land near the town in 1924, and decided to make his home in the still barren country. He was concerned with educational facilities for his children, and by Christmas of that first year another family had arrived to add to the manpower which would be needed in building a school house.

Joe Woodruff and family were the second settlers in the area, followed immediately by Mr. and Mrs. Edd Langford and daughter Laverne. This surge of arrivals brought the population to 16 persons, and Crownover now had the school backing.

Under the leadership of John Petty and Mr. B. Langford, the two-room school opened its doors January 1925. Mrs. Langford was the first teacher, instructing six students. She picked the location carefully, near all the families. It was east end of the present building, and as the town moved north of the B.M.A.

The largest indication of growth was the increase in enrollment. Records for the term show 38 students under the guidance of Mrs. Langford and Mrs. Jack Lawhern. Rapid rate of growth was needed, and in 1927 a new building was started on the real estate.

Ewell Sullins assumed the school's duties in 1933, and the system was affiliated with a vocational agriculture department added in 1936, with the High School consolidation with Whitharral.

Business prospered in Littlefield, now of Leveland, the first store. Edgar sold his store for \$1.15. Natural gas was installed in 1928.

1776 AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL 1976



"It is a fabulous country, the only fabulous country; it is the only place where miracles not only happen, but where they happen all the time."

THOMAS WOLFE

Earth Ag Supply Inc.

And 986-2311

Springlake Grain

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We Appreciate Your Business

Saluting Our Nation's Heritage

When we look back to the beginning of our country, it's evident that we've come a long way, not only in the area of technology but in the field of human concerns as well. But we still have a long way to go—and we've got to keep going if we want to prosper as a nation. To stand still means stagnation—to move ahead in solving the problems that face us means progress. That progress is up to us, the American people. We must be concerned with preserving what's right with America and correcting what's wrong with it—the future of the U.S.A. is in our hands.



SUDAN ELEVATOR

227-2046



This Land Is

OUR

Land...

Let's Cherish It!

Davis & Pyle
Pump & Drilling
Co.

-Springlake-

Since the days of the first settlers, up to today...our land has served as the backbone of our prosperity, and growth as a nation. Let's care for it...preserve it.

AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Washington's prayer after 1789 inauguration.

"Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that thou wilt keep the United States in thy holy protection...incline the hearts of the citizens to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large."

Earth Oil & Gas

986-3061

Springlake Motor Supply

986-2291



Mrs. Vernie Wright recalls founding years

Mrs. Vernie V. Wright, first assistant postmistress of the Littlefield post office in 1913 and a land company secretary attended the Golden Anniversary celebration.

In a letter to the Leader-News dated in 1963, Mrs. Wright recalled the early Littlefield days. She was here as Mrs. Vernie V. White, a widow with a son, Maurice H. White, on May 5, 1913.

She later was married to Mr. T. P.

Wright. Some years back, Mrs. Wright moved to Forth Worth.

Her letter, in part, recalls: "I arrived in Littlefield with my 10-year-old son, Maurice H. White, on March 5th, 1913, and stayed in the Littlefield Hotel, just barely finished, rooms all furnished but no meals served for some time. We got our meals in the house of the Smith family, Bob Smith's father.

"That first spring we had a little

subscription school, with one teacher. The following fall we had a regular school, two teachers. Littlefield grew steadily, as some of the original citizens who are still living there can tell you, and now has a wonderful school system.

"There was only one church building, the Presbyterian, which was used by other denominations, as we, the Presbyterians, had a minister only once a month. We had a Union Sunday

School which we all enjoyed.

"We really pioneered; no electric service, very crude telephone, one doctor, one store from which we got our daily groceries, no bakery, no meat market. Looking back on it all, I don't see how we could live, but we did. I would not like to try it again, but we were all in the same boat. Good and sound friendships were formed and so far as I am concerned those friendships have lasted down through

the years.

"My second marriage was formed there, my eldest son, Maurice H. White, found his mate there, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Courtney, also pioneers.

"My second son, T. P. Wright, Jr. was born there. Altogether I have many happy memories of Littlefield. May it keep on growing and may this 50th anniversary further seal the close feeling of friendship which I am sure is


still felt by all the real pioneers and extend to take the benefits of this foundation laid so many years ago.

I will be with you if I can, but if I am not there, please remember me in your hearts.

June 19, 1963

Littlefield's Golden Anniversary celebration was a new version of a real whirling that Littlefield threw back on July 4, 1913, when the town was named officially and when the first Santa Fe rolled into town.

Bicentennial ... Our Lesson In Progress!



We've learned from the "masters" ... those dedicated Americans who made their dreams for the future into OUR reality ... and our dreams possible!

WESTERN AUTO

306 Phelps 385-4214

Population boom: Village grows into thriving city

The history of Littlefield surged into a new and swifter period in 1924, when the solid little village of perhaps 300 persons grew sharply into a thriving city.

Newspaper accounts of late 1924 estimate that the city that year grew to more than 1,250 persons. Six months later a church census set the figure at 2,000.

The growth continued through the 1920's, but 1924 remained the year the stars fell on Littlefield.

The reason was land openings.

Late in 1923 and through 1924 more than 500,000 acres of rich, virgin ranch land surrounding Littlefield went on the market, with farm sales every day.

This land included the Sod House pasture of the Halsell ranch, 70,000 acres on which Amherst was built; the Spade ranch was opened with around 100,000 acres on the market in this area.

Then there were the Jaynes ranch, the Newsome lands, the Paul Lands, the Black Cattle pasture, belonging to the St. John brothers.

Several thousand acres more of the Yellowhouse ranch was opened for farms by a group that bought the ranch from the estate of Major George Littlefield and from his partners in the ranch, Phelps and Tom White. The ranch was sold in 1923.

This group, largely of Austin men, formed the Yellowhouse land company. The communities of Pep and Whitharral sprang up on lands opened from new farm acres of the Yellowhouse, from which Littlefield had been carved 10 years before.

The Yellowhouse land company handled the bulk of farm sales, of their land and others. They sold one 18,000 block, a ranch area known as "Sheep Camp to the Cotton Land Company of Dallas. It was cut into 100 farms.

Major Littlefield left a number of cash bequests in his will when he died in 1920, and sale of the Yellowhouse was one way of converting land holding to cash.

So great was the influx of prospective settlers that the Yellowhouse company leased a site called the "tourist park," the present location of

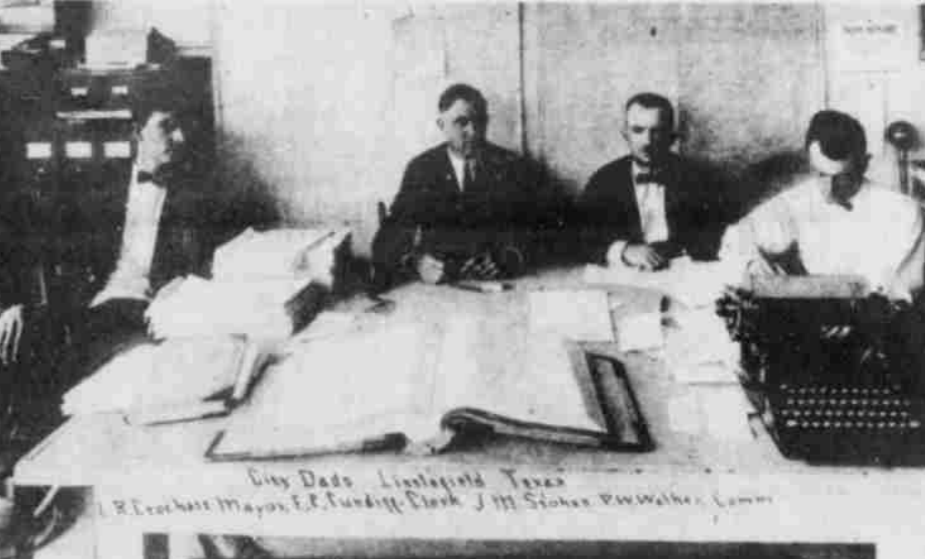
the courthouse and some adjacent lots, for a camping place and for auto parking space.

A 5-day limit was placed on free camping privileges. Many present residents of Littlefield spent their first night in the city in a tent at the head of Phelps Avenue.

Sale of town lots paralleled the farm sales. New additions were staked off and houses started. Lumber companies recorded a booming couple of years. There were half-a-dozen com-

mercial buildings going up in the downtown section, most of them along Phelps Avenue, at one time in 1924. The city's first theatre was built that year, abandoned in favor of a more luxurious one just a year later.

The city was also incorporated in 1924, got its first city manager, voted bonds for a new \$80,000 high school, formed a chamber of commerce from a former commercial club, and, generally, the town squared away for its new status as a coming South Plains city.



LITTLEFIELD'S MAIN STREET [top] has changed somewhat in the past 50 years, thanks mainly to the city dads pictured at the bottom. Seated around the city table left to right are J. M. Stokes, commissioner; Mayor L. R. Crockett; P. W. Walker, commissioner; and E. C. Cundiff, clerk.

Saluting America On Her 200th Anniversary

Here's to Lamb County... you're counted on us and we've counted on you. Not for 200 years but for 39 years anyhow. We plan to serve you for 50 more years to come.

MURDOCK HOTEL
MURDOCK REAL ESTATE & COTTON

204 Phelps 385-4419

Happy Birthday America.

Way to go, America!

200 years old and still going strong!

Slates settle down in 1919 at fledgling Sudan town

There was a patch of green oats and we decided we would make our home there," explained Mr. L. E. Slate of Sudan.

Slate moved to Sudan in 1919, and was impressed with that one green spot in this area.

"1917 and 1918, were terrible drought years, and there wasn't anything green around. I guess that is the reason that area in Sudan looked so good to us," he continued.

Slate was born in Iowa in 1888, and came to Texas in 1914 as a traveling salesman. He was married in Henderson, in 1915, and spent several years in Lubbock with the Waples Platter grocery firm before moving to Sudan.

"The only things in Sudan in 1919 were a hotel, the depots, and one store. My wife and I bought the store, which we called Sudan Mercantile Store," Slate said.

The Slates owned and operated the store until 1950 when they retired.

AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL

1776 1976

Byers Grain & Feed

200 W. Delano 385-3511

A Day To Remember...

... June 15, 1775

Congress appointed George Washington as "general and commander in chief of the forces raised and to be raised in the defense of American liberty." The Americans had their commander who would lead them to victor.

We salute our founding fathers.

Farmer's Fertilizer Chemical Co.

-SPADE- 233-2131

Arthur P. Duggan:

Late Texas Senator was 'Father of Littlefield'

(This article appeared in the Lamb Co. Leader in June, 1963.)

As nearly as a town can ever give any one person this title, the father of Littlefield was the late Senator Arthur P. Duggan, who devoted his life to the city's development, extending his able efforts to the whole South Plains as his city took a leading place in the area.

The name of Senator Duggan crops up on almost every page of the history of Littlefield, from the year 1912 when he "walked it out" with a surveyor, to his death in 1935, after he had gone to the Texas Senate to fight in a new arena for his beloved South Plains region.

The then-infant city of Littlefield came into life in the careful hands of Arthur P. Duggan, Sr., to whom it was always a living, growing person.

He literally walked the floor with it in the founding days, he located it, planned its geography, labored for its schools and its other developments. To his town he gave the full and fruitful energies of his life.

The marks of his planning and work are visible today, and will be always in Littlefield, the progressive South Plains city that is a high credit to its "father."

Arthur P. Duggan came into the establishment of the city through the well-known persuasion of Major George Littlefield, who was an uncle to Mrs. Duggan.

When the major planned the conversion of much of the 300,000-acre Yellowhouse Ranch, which he owned with two nephews, into farmland and cities he looked within his family for a man who could do the job. Littlefield had no children, but he had several nephews as business associates, and with them his enterprises prospered. The White brothers of Yellowhouse, Phelps and Tom, were notable examples in the ranching business.

Arthur Duggan seemed to be cut from a different cloth than the usual

Littlefield associates, most of them cowmen who rode the rough-and-ready cattle trails to Dodge City and Abilene, and stood up in the Lincoln county wars in New Mexico.

Duggan was a thinker, an introspective man whose tough determination was not a surface characteristic. Born in San Marcos, September 21, 1896, he had worked his way through Texas A&M College and Texas University law school, then joined an abstract and land company in Colorado.

A family business responsibility brought him back to Texas where, after its completion in 1904, he took charge of an abstract company in Denton. Meanwhile, in 1902, he had married Sarah Elizabeth Harral, a niece of Major Littlefield.

In 1911, he moved to Dallas into a managerial position with real estate developers Hahn and Kendall. He was comfortably settled there when the Littlefield challenge arose.

Tenacity needed

Probably his legal and land deeds knowledge recommended him to Major Littlefield. It is more likely, now even that the perceptive major, who made few mistakes on men or business, recognized more the methodical tenacity of the young man as vital to a long-range and challenging task.

In 1912, the major persuaded Duggan to come out to the ranch, to lay out land tracts for farms and a city to serve the new farming area.

It was a man-sized job. The Yellowhouse Ranch was the most southerly range of the giant XIT ranch, a rich 300,000 acres, in Lamb and Hockley Counties that Littlefield and the Whites bought in 1901.

The area to be opened for farming had been agreed on. Duggan and a surveyor, W. D. Twitchell, staked out the farming sections, in Spanish, labors, 177.1 acres each.

The extension of the Santa Fe

railroad on from Lubbock made possible a city and Duggan and Santa Fe officials worked out an agreement on its location. The railroad had one special requirement—that the main business thoroughfare of the city terminate at the railroad station.

Duggan met this requirement in laying out the city. This explains why

recalls today. "But we found it all pleasant and enjoyed every bit of it."

This is recalled by the daughter, Mrs. Alice Tillar Gracy of Austin.

"We boarded in Lubbock because there literally was not a thing in Littlefield. It was bare prairie—unfenced. Cows drifted north and drifted south as they chose. There was

This friendship formed a team. When a school was needed—and it was right away as settlers came in—Kling and Duggan worked to get one, that opened in the fall of 1913.

For 18 years, from 1914 to 1942, Arthur P. Duggan was president of the Littlefield school board, a foremost undertaking in his active schedule. He served a term as county commissioner, 1915-1916, and there worked for his Littlefield area in the Lamb County structure. The advancement of Littlefield directed most at his public actions, particularly the holding of public office.

The promotion of "Littlefield Lands," as a new area was called, was a dominating activity of the Duggan family.

The family home, built in late 1913, was the center of demonstration site. Around it were planted several kinds of fruit trees, grapes, and a wide variety of vegetables, as evidence of what the rich, virgin soil would produce.

The original four rooms have been increased by additions, but the family home stands on its original, on East Tenth Street, and is occupied today by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur P. Duggan, Jr., and family.

Frequent guest

A frequent visitor is Mrs. Arthur P. Duggan, Sr., who lives in Austin with Mrs. Gracy, and who views new development of the town with fresh enthusiasm on each visit.

"It was a 24-hour job," recalls the senior Mrs. Duggan. "Any hour might bring a new situation, a prairie fire, a family wanting to locate, someone with a city problem. They all came to Arthur, and he found some way to meet each one."

Reserved but always cordial, Duggan did not intrude on people's problems, but they frequently found a way to him and he heard them in a lawyer's way, and with a genuine concern.

"Father listened to your story carefully," Mrs. Gracy recalls, "and then gave you his opinion, if you asked for it."

People did ask on an increasing scale. He served as vice president then as president of the West Texas Chamber of Commerce and for years was on its executive board. His enthusiasm for the South Plains led him into an ever-widening sphere of activity.

At home, over the years, he helped organize the Masonic Lodge in Littlefield, the Rotary club, the chamber of commerce, which he served as president, and other civic groups. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Littlefield. He remained active in the Yellowhouse Land Company until its operations were completed in 1928.

The promotion of Littlefield was an ever-present concern of Arthur P. Duggan, but reflected just part of the

man.

He was a strong family affectionate father and a rabid advocate of education.

Gracy has notes of a talk made once on education.

Neatly typed on small paper, they make one statement:

"Education is the greatest success. No matter what work, he can do it better if informed. It will give him more increase his personality and his influence."

Remarkable

One of his attributes was an uncanny sense of geographic asset in the days when landmarks were sparse on prairie lands.

"He knew the direction of a house or the location of a fence, regardless of where unmarked land, and he could stake with little difficulty," Gracy recalls today.

The months he and W. D. Littlefield spent surveying "Lands" apparently made an impression on the fact that

Where the circumstances of it, the attorney-developer fighting nature that matched name. The quiet, methodical was a sheath for a warrior well how to fight when the required it.

World War II was one occasion. Though a mature heavy business and communication, he was a captain in the National Guard during the war, perhaps, was the only time another cause above Littlefield the national need included city.

He went to the Texas Senate because he felt that the situation in the 1920's was unjust against the new West section, in favor of older part state.

Getting there involved a tumble political campaign. Littlefield candidate had the Duggan went at this typical eye-to-eye with people at each district. It took a hard-fought primary campaign to decide, but in the end the new West senator was Arthur P. Duggan.

His labors in Austin, characterally thorough and determined of high value to his South Texas were ended only by his sudden in 1935 of a heart attack.

Death came in Gonzalez, Texas University law school leaders in government, and friends by the thousands contribute to the man whose one of unselfish concern for with whom he shared the building new country.



Arthur P. Duggan

today Phelps Avenue, the city's main street, runs at an angle to other city streets and deadends at the depot.

There was another factor in the location. The city was placed as far north as practical on the Yellowhouse land, getting toward the center of Lamb County. This was to seek the county seat for Littlefield.

This was no exclusive idea. W. E. Halsell had county seat plans for the new city of Amherst he was promoting a few miles on northwest, on another 300,000 acres of the old XIT. This plan for Littlefield was 33 years before its realization.

Duggan and Twitchell laid out city streets and lots, along with farms, a tremendous undertaking of field surveys and paper work that progressed on through 1912. As the year closed, it was time to seek land buyers and get the new town and country moving.

For several months, Duggan lived in a tent on the bare townsite, while his family remained in Dallas. They included by then a daughter, Alice Tillar Duggan and Arthur P. Duggan, Jr. The family moved out to Lubbock early in 1913, on up to Littlefield later in a small building moved in for a residence.

"In Dallas they told me I'd be back from that prairie town after one night," the senior Mrs. Duggan

no railroad. My father moved a one-room shack and lean-to from what was called South Camp on the Yellowhouse Ranch to Littlefield for us to live in. Then they built a little room that was the land office. Those were the first two buildings there. And they were something like a mile apart. . . ."

Through 1912, the tent was the "city" headquarters. In it, Duggan received potential residents, to whom he conveyed his practical optimism for the new lands. Here began friendships that were to last through the years.

Duggan was a different kind of promoter. To prospects for land, or businesses, he gave a careful appraisal of the country and its prospects. For years he came to know each incoming family; he counseled them, encouraged them, worked for their well being.

It was his business to sell land and lots and he sold them, fairly and with full facts. To him, the new settlers were future neighbors and associates in a bright enterprise, and no one was surprised when it worked out the way this quiet, cheerful man told them.

John Kling, a hearty Swede, came to investigate and spent almost a night talking in Duggan's tent. When he decided to stay, he shared the tent for a while.



THE LITTLEFIELD LAND OFFICE, one of the earliest structures in the city, is shown here in 1913. In the picture are Arthur P. Duggan Sr., Alice Tillar Duggan, Rebecca Burge, John Kling, Albert Discher, and William Troadson.

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There was no Dr. in the house

Littlefield, today something of a medical center was more than 100 hospital beds in two hospitals, was several years coming to have regular medical care after the city started in 1912.

First doctor to come to Littlefield was Dr. Jeff Davis, who moved here in 1913 from Roby.

His practice developed slowly and Dr. Davis concluded that the climate was too healthy for an active doctor to thrive, and returned to Roby.

In 1915, Dr. O. B. Lynch moved to Littlefield, and remained more than a

year before moving on to Hope, N.M., leaving behind the opinion that the South Plains population was too healthy.

Between these periods, Littlefield residents were served by Lubbock doctors and, most frequently, went there for medical care.

Dr. W. H. Anderson moved here in 1917, and served a growing practice until his death in 1931.

Dr. Anderson was here in time to examine prospects for World War I and later to attend patients in the flu epidemics that followed the war. At

one time, an old newspaper account reports, the Littlefield area had as many as a hundred flu cases, and Dr. Anderson was a victim, being a bed patient himself for more than two weeks.

But he organized a cooperative nursing system that provided reasonable care. A recovered patient might, in a few days, become a nurse for a newly ill person. The area suffered relatively few fatalities from the epidemic.

In the 1920's with active growth of the area, Littlefield's number of medical doctors grew.

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-THOMAS PAINE

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Rough years:

Spade settler recalls hard times, good crops in early 1900's

This article appeared in the Lamb Leader in June, 1963.)
 A Littlefield observer its 63rd birthday, many citizens of the town county can recall early-day growth development of the area.
 One such man is W. E. Bird of Spade, who moved to Lamb County in January of 1925 from Hall County, remembers vividly that first year when he planted 40 acres of cotton and made \$16 for his efforts.

Bird bought Section 66 of the Spade school in December of 1924. He, his wife, Stella May, and their three children — Eva Lenora, Mary Jane and Edna May (Babe) — moved by covered wagon from Hall County. Mr. Bird's father, Sam, also came with them.

"We moved seven good horses, three wagons and a hack, my gray and dogs, five turkeys and some mernicker chickens," Bird said. "We were real busy that first year building a half dugout, drilling a water well and clearing the land for planting," he added.

Although he made only \$16 on his first cotton crop, Bird put in his 1926 crop without borrowing from the bank. He borrowed \$50 back in 1919 from the bank and decided that was the last he'd do that," he remarked.

"I had to put up my best team of horses and four bales of cotton, which I figured was worth about \$1200. Since then I've loaned the bank some money but have not borrowed any from them," claims Mr. Bird.

In 1926, Bird said the family all worked hard and had a real fine crop, but the wind blew it out on Thanksgiving Day. He gathered 16 bales of cotton that year and plowed under about 25 "that was not worth the time and expense of gathering."

After that year's experience, Bird made up his mind to find another way of harvesting the cotton. With the help of a neighbor, Johnny Herring, he started making a cotton sled for the 1927 crop.

"I got a lot of cotton with that sled, but left some on the ground but not much more than some of these machines do," says Bird. When the work was over, the Birds started plans for a house that was finished in the fall of 1928.

Bird recalls that his father liked to

work in a garden, and the family raised most of its own vegetables. They raised watermelons and cantaloupes, most of which were trucked out.

Most of the farmers raised their own, and town people were welcome to get what they wanted, said Bird. "Watermelons that weighed 35 pounds or more were sold for about 10 cents each; the smaller ones were fed to the hogs," Bird remembers. Cantaloupes went at 6 for 25 cents, if they sold at all.

Mrs. Bird canned all the extra

vegetables and she also canned beef since there were no locker plants or home freezers at that time. Wild plums were plentiful in the sand hills, but "you had to keep an eye out for rattlesnakes," said Bird.

Peaches and cherries were raised on the farm, and ample supplies canned in case a freeze got next year's crop. When Mrs. Bird passed away Oct. 15, 1960, she had more than 2,500 jars of canned goods in her cellar.

"Many of the old timers remember her, with her split bonnet and cook

apron, as she delivered them dressed chickens, milk, butter and other things raised on the farm," says Bird.

In 1929 Bird rented the north farm. What he made on this place that year was put with six calves and a cow and traded for a 1929 Ford car. Bird made only two bales of cotton in 1933, and it sold for 7 or 8 cents a pound.

"I did raise some good late feed that year and it caused me to miss out on selling my cows to the government. I knew one man that had only one calf, and it was the first one bought and

killed by the government at Spade. He was paid \$20 for it.

"We had a bunch of cows and, thinking the government was going to take them, I kept feeding them all year. Then I was told they could not take them because I did have feed. So that fall I sold 20 head to Arthur Bell for \$18 each," concluded Bird.

In 1934 Bird made 16 bales of cotton, but the price was low and he didn't get much for the crop. Bird sold his teams in 1946 and due to poor health, turned the farm over to a son-in-law.

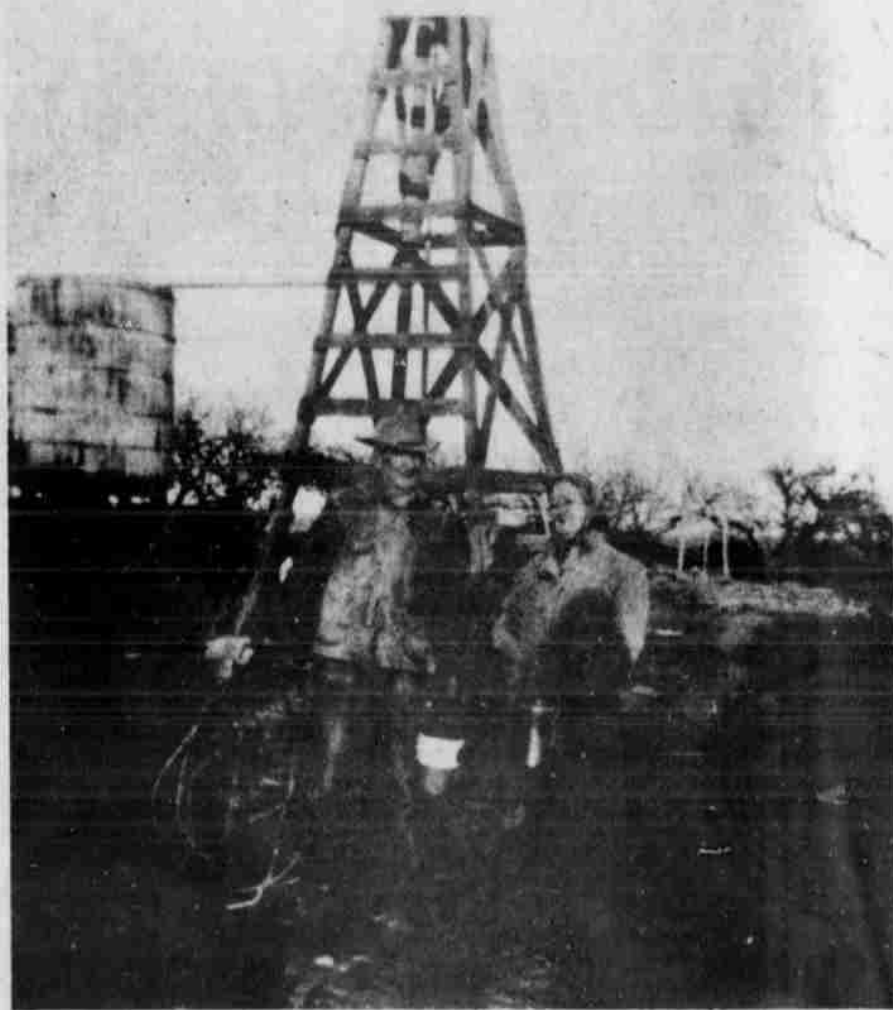
In 1947 he returned to the farming operation and two new tractors. "I missed my teams in lots of ways," Bird remarked, "and sometimes I wish I still had them."

Bird said when he ginned at Bainer, "Old Maud and Fanny knew the way home. After I got ginned off at night, I could turn them toward home and go to sleep. Sometimes I would ride with some friends going my way and call my team to follow. They'd come on home behind the other wagons."


After other farmers begin to put down irrigation wells, Bird put his first well down in 1961. "We got 5 1/2 inches of rain that year, so I didn't use the well much," remarks Bird.

Bird said that his best crop since 1925, as far as profit, was in 1961. A big hail hurt the bright prospects in 1960.

Which year was the easiest? Bird claims he hasn't found an "easy" year yet.



MR. AND MRS. W. E. BIRD are shown on their Spade farm in 1929. Grape vines and peach trees are in the background, and the same water well is still in use.



"The fate of unborn millions will now depend under God, on the courage and conduct of this army. . ."

GEORGE WASHINGTON

Let's pause now to rededicate ourselves to the principals of freedom..

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History of Santa Fe Railway here spawns over half-dozen decades

The Santa Fe Railway reached Littlefield for the first time on June 17, 1913, and the line from Lubbock to Texico was completed and opened for traffic March 1, 1914.

Historically, in January, 1907, a reconnaissance survey was made by Meredith Jones, an engineer for the Santa Fe, for the building of a railroad to provide a short route from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Coast, utilizing lines already in existence. His survey included the territory from Coleman to Sweetwater, on to Lubbock and thence to Texico, which included the area now occupied by Littlefield.

The intervention of the panic of 1907 and anti-railroad legislation in Texas deferred construction of the new line; however, in the spring of 1909, the Santa Fe was ready to resume the project. Grading was begun in May, 1909, between Plainview and Lubbock, to complete a link to be used for east-west traffic until the longer line

and Texico, and trains first entered Lubbock on this line in January, 1910.

With the completion of the cut-off to the south of Lubbock, trains from Galveston ran over a direct route to the west coast, except for the break between Lubbock and Texico. Through trains were routed on two sides of an equilateral triangle, north from Lubbock via Canyon and thence to Texico.

In July, 1912, under the supervision of Joseph Weidel, later the valuation engineer of the Santa Fe, grading operations were started on the line between Lubbock and Texico, and track laying was completed in November, 1913. Train service started November 14, 1913 on a tri-weekly basis between the two points, and in December of that year, by order of the Railroad Commission of Texas, regular train service as common carrier was established. The line was completed and opened to traffic March 1, 1914, could be constructed between Lubbock

and Texico. Completion of this segment, a portion of the Coleman-Texico cutoff, closed the gap between the lines running eastward to the Gulf and westward from Texico to the Pacific Coast. This placed in service the shortest route between Galveston and Los Angeles and/or San Francisco.

The townsite of Littlefield was laid out by Santa Fe engineers during the construction of the railroad.

Littlefield is an example of the rapid growth of the Panhandle towns that were grazing grounds in 1912. Following construction of the railroad, land booms increased the population rapidly, and as many cities on the Santa Fe have done, Littlefield had grown until today it has a population of more than 6,000 people. Because of irrigation and good transportation facilities, it has become a center for cotton and grain farming operations, with large cotton gins, oil mills, grain elevators and livestock feeding pens.

Great American Happenings



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The winter of '77: Party season for the British. A turning point for the Patriots.

We've faced a heartbreaking retreat from New York and across New Jersey. 3,000 men are British prisoners, and Washington is forsaken by many of his own. The British generals figure it's only a matter of time before we give up and beg the King's pardon. But the British are a trifle too smug. We recross the Delaware and, battle after battle, surprise the enemy and defeat him. It's on to Saratoga, where our victory becomes a turning point. It gives us courage through the longest winter at Valley Forge. While we suffer cold, starvation and sickness at Valley Forge, the British elite continue to party with their Loyalist friends in Philadelphia. But we learn something. Not to give up. The nation learns, too. And the rest is history.



"...that we have highly resolved that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation under God, shall have a new birth of freedom. . ."
 -ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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- WILLIAM FLOYD, soldier : BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, printer and publisher
- ELBRIDGE GERRY, merchant : BUTTON GWINNETT, merchant and farmer : LYMAN HALL, physician
- JOHN HANCOCK, merchant : BENJAMIN HARRISON, farmer : JOHN HART, farmer
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- OLIVER WOLCOTT, lawyer and soldier : GEORGE WYTHER, lawyer and teacher

The pioneers gave us a heritage to be proud of in a land that produces cotton, grain and other commodities of the soil in abundance. They brought education and culture to this area and provided us with a background of integrity, fair dealings, and friendliness.

The past will never be as it once was, but it's pleasant to remember those who endured the hardships to

tame the land and leave for us this prosperous region, those who set the example of honesty and cooperation that have made this a great place in which to live.

There is yet much to be discovered by pioneers of the present and the future. Tomorrow promises many things that will far surpass the riches dreamed of by our pioneers.

CITIZEN'S STATE BANK

-EARTH-

Major George Littlefield:

Soldier, cowman, financier, philanthropist, and mainly, Texan

A man for whom Littlefield was 83 years ago—Major George Littlefield—was quite a man by the standards of any period.

Lived in a free-wheeling era of United States history as a soldier, an expert cattleman, a state businessman, a devoted servant and a philanthropist gave millions of dollars to the cause of education, for which he held a reverence.

Also was a man who had trouble finding simple words but no trouble finding business facts and sizing up a situation in a day when business was fraught with special perils.

George Washington Littlefield was in Panola County, Mississippi, on Feb. 21, 1842. When eight years old he moved with his parents to Gonzales County, Texas, a proper setting for a career of note.

By 14 years before most of the boys of the village of Gonzales—32 of them—had ridden away to join the ragged forces at the Alamo, he was to die with them in glory.

It was Gonzales which had fought the first battle of the Texas Revolution in November, 1835, when the Mexican government demanded from the village a 4-pound cannon it held.

He went the message "Come and fight with us," and when the Mexicans were turned back, the first battle of the Texas Revolution was fought.

George Littlefield grew to manhood in an area of glory. He grew up faster than his father did in 1853, and Mrs. Littlefield from a distinguished plantation family ably took over management of their Gonzales plantation, with the help of her sons.

The spirited young man studied with an antislavery tutor, attended school at Gonzales and for awhile at Baylor University, then at Independence, Washington, County.

But responsibilities of the family which curtailed his school career. In 1859, Major Littlefield was to enter his lack of formal education. At thousands of Texas students benefited from Major Littlefield's generous and substantial gifts to education.

The Civil War came when George Littlefield was just 19. In August, 1861, he joined a company headed by Lt. Isham B. Jones and assigned to F. Terry's regiment. The unit had seen and became cavalry when it entered the Confederate army.

George Littlefield, second youngest son in the outfit, became second lieutenant.

Terry's Texas Rangers, as they came to be named, were assigned to the Army of the Tennessee under Gen. Albert Sidney Johnson.

They saw heated action in Georgia, South and North Carolina. When a company officer fell ill and resigned, Sergeant Littlefield was elected Second Lieutenant Littlefield.

The new shavetail found himself in command of the company as Johnston's army backed up agonizingly from Kentucky, screened time and again by the hard-riding Texans of the "Come and take it" tradition.

Lt. Littlefield commanded his company at Shiloh, when the Confederates almost ended the career of a rising Union general, Ulysses S. Grant.

Within weeks, through casualties in the company, including the battlefield death of Captain William A. Harris, Littlefield advanced to captain and company commander.

He protested this move to his commander, who however sided with Littlefield's company in naming him captain.

Captain Littlefield had not yet reached his 20th birthday. But he was a man, and a courageous one, dedicated to the cause of the South.

His letters home to his mother sometimes reflected grief at absences of troops and officers from the battle zone. He feared for the Confederacy, but he fought for it steadfastly and bravely.

Littlefield's troops wrote their part of the victory history of Confederate cavalry. He fought at Chickamauga, one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War. Where his troops distinguished themselves in bloodily defending a crossing of Chickamauga Creek.

Near the battle's close, Littlefield's company joined a contingent that completely encircled the enemy forces at Chattanooga, harassing them destroying many supplies and gaining important information. When the battle finally closed, his Rangers had been almost continually in the saddle for three weeks.

The carnage of Chickamauga, the sight of hundreds of wounded and dying troops in the area where he rode in action, were to remain a poignant memory with Major Littlefield all his life.

In this period, the young officer was home once to seek new recruits for the men of his company who had been lost. In January, 1862, he found a few days to marry his longtime sweetheart, Alice P. Tiller of Houston. In three weeks after the wedding, Little-



Major George Littlefield

field was back in battle. By 1863, Captain Littlefield was a veteran soldier, a cool and able commander who had led many charges, faced often what he called the "s-s-s" of enemy rifle balls. He fought in the battle of Lookout Mountain in the Eastern Tennessee campaign, almost daily skirmishing with the enemy.

Late that year his Texas luck ran out. While serving as regimental major on December 26, he was struck by an enemy shell fragment that smashed his belt cartridge box on his left side.

This set off shells that tore a deep gash into Captain Littlefield's hip. While he was prostrate on the ground and receiving aid, Gen. Tom Harrison rode up and said, "I promote him to the rank of Major for gallantry on the field of battle."

Major Littlefield was attended by his faithful man servant, conveyed to an ambulance and taken four miles to the rear to a hospital. The sight of his wound, nine by 11 inches, led a division surgeon to declare: "Just give him a little morphine, he will die before morning."

This was seven hours after the major had been wounded and die he might have but for the arrival soon of Gen. Harrison who sent for the surgeon and had Littlefield's wound dressed.

With the enemy driving closer, the new major was moved 12 miles the next day to a new location and then 15 more miles, in a wagon ambulance to the home of a family who cared for him for weeks. These were grueling trips and the wounded young man suffered mightily.

He was semi-conscious for weeks, being kept alive on brandy and morphine. Gen. Harrison kept a solicitous eye on his young officer and left help to care for him.

He probably owed his life to a family servant, Nathan, one of the Littlefield slaves who had cared for George as a boy and who asked to go with him into battle. With Nath, the general left a companion, Ed Rhodes, to help in the major's care.

Even then it was nip and tuck. Littlefield's troops who visited him left thinking that death could only claim their young commander.

But youth and the Gonzales spirit won through. For months, he was bedridden and on crutches, but Major Littlefield was able to report to his command by late summer, 1864, near Dalton, Georgia.

There, surgeons urged his retirement and Littlefield forwarded his resignation and he and Nathan, his ever-faithful servant, started the long trip back to Gonzales, the major's crutches slung over his saddle.

In November he took charge of the family plantation, which had been stripped to help the Southern army and under ill care through the war years. The year 1865 saw a bountiful crop and made possible the establishment of a small mercantile business by the major.

For George Littlefield and the Littlefield plantation, the years 1865 through 1868 were good. Crops were good and the demand, though limited by geography, was strong. It was as though nature was apologizing for the barren years of the war.

But money was still scarce in the South, struggling under restrictive Carpet Bagger rule. In the years of 1869-70 the San Marcos and Guadalupe rivers poured over in destructive floods that almost wiped out the verdant Gonzales valley. The money for debts incurred was not available.

For George Littlefield it was a setback, but not a defeat. Just three years before cattle-poor Texans had found a way to move their vast herds to northern markets, there to be converted to cash.

It was the Chisholm Trail, 1,000 long miles of cattle drive through central Texas and the Indian Territory to Abilene, Kansas. Cattle on verdant South Texas ranges were cheap; there was money to be made by men who could move them to market.

Major George Littlefield was one of those men. He gathered up cattle he and his brother owned, bought others on time, and started up the trail with a sizable herd, in the summer of 1871.

Here, as later, George Littlefield proved himself a master cattleman. Trail driving was a craft. Cattle had to be paced at about 15 miles a day, allowed to graze to keep in good flesh yet scheduled to reach watering places on a schedule to keep them healthy. In the Territory, Indians often exacted a tribute of a few head.

But a good trail boss could reach Abilene with at least as many head as he started with—sometimes more—and those well-meated for market.

The cattle trail also was a call to adventure for young men in Texas, as a sea calls those in a seaport. Men died along the trail and in wide-open Abilene, but the determined thrived.

George Littlefield thrived. From his first drive he was able to pay off his debts and had some \$3,600 left to open a mercantile business in Gonzales with a boyhood friend and comrad in arms, J. C. Dilworth.

In 1872, the partnership sent two herds up the trail, paying for many of the cattle bought in merchandise bills through the summer.

The major supervised the drives, although he actually made only the first one. He set herds in motion at the Texas end, had buyers waiting at the Kansas end. Sometimes he found a market in New York or Chicago, contracting herds that at times were separated only by one day's drive.

J. C. Dilworth died in 1877 and that partnership was liquidated, showing a handsome profit for both. But the drives continued.

When the cattle trail shifted westward to Dodge City, the Littlefield herds moved with them.

Checks were not in wide use for cattle exchanges. At one time he had five herds arriving on the trail and he came into Dodge with \$40,000 in hard gold coin for their payment. His nephew and later longtime partner, James Phelps White, came up from the Canadian to meet him and suggested that they camp a few miles out from Dodge, then a near lawless town.

The two men buckboarded out some 20 miles from town to camp and await the herds. About nightfall a lone rider came up from the south. "Here comes some rooster," observed the major.

The "rooster" turned out to be Billy the Kid, the notorious New Mexico gunman and acquaintance of White's.

The Kid spent the night with Littlefield and White, the three on a bunk under the wagon, with the \$40,000.

White was later to head up, and be a partner in, a large spread on the Pecos in the 1880s, an outfit that he ran with the help of long letters from his Uncle George, giving him sound facts on operating a cattle business.

The system apparently worked. Where rancher after rancher failed along the treacherous Pecos, the Littlefield layout prospered. The trail business was similar in result, and the answer undoubtedly was that the major understood finance and the cattle business, and picked expert cowmen as his associates.

George Littlefield had written a name also in a colorful era of Texas, the trail period, names that included the Schriners of Kerrville, Ab Blocker, George Sanders and others who rode and drove the great trails.

Littlefield continued in the cattle business, with a partner occasionally on some deals. In 1877 he stocked a range in Oldham County, grew his herd with skill and care, and sold it four years later to a Scottish syndicate for \$253,000. The Littlefield fortunes were building well, on the solid base of cowmanship.

In 1882, he established a ranch on the Pecos river in Chaves County, New Mexico, stocking it with 25,000 head of high grade cattle. He owned 75,000 acres in Mason County, well stocked. Cattle remained a business with Major Littlefield until his death, but his astute business mind found other interests.

He organized the American National Bank of Austin in 1890, with a capital of \$100,000, and was its president until his death in 1920.

He erected the Littlefield building in downtown Austin, in which the American National Bank was installed and is still in its location, with many other business firms.

In 1901, with his nephews J. P. and T. D. White he bought the famous Yellow House, with 300,000 acres, was the southern tip of the giant XIT Ranch of 3,000,000 acres. It served as a receiving range for XIT cattle from south Texas for years.

For the Yellow House the trio paid \$2 an acre. It was stocked with one of the finest herds of Herefords in the southwest and prospered as a ranch.

Even then, the keen business eye of Major Littlefield looked on past the blocky herds of cattle that populated his new, vast range.

holding all lands when there were strong suggestions for sale of some of it to meet needs of the growing university.

The years were to magnify this wisdom, as oil royalties from these acres paid millions on millions of dollars to the University. This wealth, unseen in the early 1900's helped greatly to build a great university and educate thousands of Texas students. George Littlefield perhaps qualified for the highest degree in business acumen the university he loved could award.

Inevitably, a man with his energies and diverse interests got into politics, especially in Austin. Littlefield was long a power in Austin city politics, and a growing figure in state elections.

When brash Jim Ferguson came out of Bell county to run for governor in 1914, Littlefield was among his earlier supporters, an important one financially.

The two men were good friends, until Ferguson attempted to take over control of Texas university, harassing one of its presidents from office and starting a battle that was to lead to the governor's impeachment.

It was a troubled time for the major, who for months attempted a conciliation of views, between his beloved university and the governor he had helped to elect.

But Ferguson kept a vindictive pressure on the regents—Littlefield had been one since 1911—to bend them and the university to his will. It became a battle and in battle the veteran of Shiloh and Chickamauga understood the terms.

Ferguson also made the mistake of pushing the major personally. He shifted a large sum of money from Littlefield's bank, the American National, to his own—Ferguson's—bank at Temple.

Littlefield wrote the governor a hot letter, saying: "I refuse to be intimidated. I am ready to pay off the deposit at any time."

The major thus moved to the head of a battle that had Texas seething. When the governor vetoed item after item of the university's budget in 1917, but overlooked scratching out the budget totals, the veto became a legal question.

The regents talked compromise in the confused situation. Not so the major. With the attorney generals support, he led the regents into opening of the university as though the budget were unimpaired.

The university opened on schedule



He envisioned people tilling the rich soil, that felt good to the touch and that grew grass so lushly. Drillings for water wells proved out with good supplies over much of the range, that covered parts of Lamb, Cochran, Bailey and Hockley counties.

Ten years later the planning started that was to found Littlefield and open a new, progressive section of Texas to farm production.

But, meanwhile, other uses were found for the cattleman-builder-banker who loomed so large in the developing Austin business community.

He was appointed to the Board of Regents for Texas State University in 1911. This must have been a signal honor for the Gonzales boy who held such high regard for education.

Major Littlefield served his new trust well. Appointed chairman of the land committee of the university, controlling some 2,000,000 acres of varied Texas lands he argued ably for

in 1917, and Ferguson faced impeachment charges before the year ended. Littlefield went out of the state as the impeachment trial materialized, perhaps to avoid testifying against the governor he had supported. At least that was the newspapers opinion. Ferguson was impeached.

The major's political activity continued up to the time of his death, much of it devoted to developing the University of Texas. The Ferguson battle was perhaps a disappointing interlude, but not limiting one.

His gifts to the university included a memorial arch, for which he gave \$300,000. He designated six figures to be placed on it, those of General Robert E. Lee, General Albert Sidney Johnston, Jefferson Davis, John H. Reagan, James Stephen Hogg and Woodrow Wilson. Designs for the arch were made by Pompeo Coppini, famed sculptor.

60-year history:

City has seen many changes since 1913 founding

For Littlefield and the Lamb County area surrounding it, 60 years is about all the history that is recorded. Littlefield was founded way back in 1913, and before then there was just unbroken miles of open prairie, topped with grass and yucca plants, with a handful of cowboys who tended widely spread herds.

A bustling new nation was coming of age. A Princeton professor had just entered the White House to write a new and different political chapter, or book. The horse was giving way to the automobile on the roads, such as they were; and in the fields behemoth machines too, were challenging the horse. It was the industrial age.

There was peace. War had touched the United States only lightly in 50 years, that only the short-lived Spanish-American war promoted by W. R. Hearst. The nation breathed a new promise and endless thousands of people from over the world came to share it.

Nowhere was the spirit of the day stronger than on the High Plains of Texas, where millions of raw, rich acres lay in grassland, untouched yet by plow. Antelope still skittered across the plains, and prairie chickens drummed their mating sound.

It was a true American frontier, almost the last. And when it was opened, people came. It was simpler than a few years before. Trains went most of the way, and rudimentary roads over which rudimentary cars rattled their way, and wagons and buggies jogged.

The spirit was the same. There are no guarantees on a frontier. People came to make their own, with work and courage and a mood of unflinching optimism.

With their hands they fashioned Littlefield in 1913. Merchants hoisted and nailed the boards that were to become their store buildings. Neighbors, the few that there were, joined hands to build one home, then another and another. These stood widely separated like buoys in a quiet bay.

It was the period of the land agent. By the train loads they brought prospective settlers from the north and east; from nearby Oklahoma and from older Texas sections. From wherever they came, the settlers sought the same thing; good land at a low price. They found it, on the wide, open South Plains.

There was a steady trickle of settlers from 1913 up to the early 1920's, virtually all of them locating on the Littlefield lands, chopped from the giant Yellowhouse ranch. The town of Littlefield grew steadily, but not rapidly.

New farmers scratched the richness of their lands, and it returned bountifully. Alfalfa, maize, melons, fruit, arbors of grapes, vegetables, wheat and barley. The land was ideally suited for the family farming of the day. A community took shape in Littlefield. A school was formed in 1913, and churches and Sunday schools. It became a center for the ranch hands and ranchers of the near Yellowhouse, Spade, Mashed O and other ranches. It was a true mixture of the old west and the new.

The community met World War I directly. Several of its finest sons went off to fight in Europe. One of them was Richard New, a talented and likeable cowboy who died in battle in France.

Even Arthur P. Duggan, Sr., who mapped and nurtured the new community, went off to serve as a captain. The war was a duty that Littlefield took in stride.

A longer day dawned with the

1920's. By bits the ranches were giving way to farms. Starting in 1923 the bits became chunks, big chunks, as the remainder of the 300,000-acre Yellowhouse opened for farmland, the Spade ranch on the east and the Mashed O on the west. The Jaynes lands, and the others.

The land agent found a new mecca. Littlefield boomed in 1924. Prospective settlers thronged the loosely-inhabited stretch of Phelps Avenue. They camped at one end, where the present city hall and courthouse stand. Land salesmen steered them busily over the county, showing quarter sections and labors of land, jealously guarding their prospects from other agents, with different land offerings.

Town quadruples

The ring of the hammer went early and late, on business buildings in the downtown section, on new homes by the dozens, on new churches, school buildings. In one year—1924—Littlefield about quadrupled in size.

Neighboring communities sprang up. Amherst, Spade, Pep, Whitharral, Anton, New schools were formed as homes sprouted further out, in the years 1923 through 1929.

Littlefield took on the markings of a city, with a bank, newspaper, theatre, various merchantile places, and in 1924 an electric plant. The city voted to incorporate in 1924 and elected Cogdill its first regular mayor.

Crops were good and so were prices. There was prosperity, and the interesting trimmings of the Roaring Twenties; the flapper, the sailor straw and sports roadster and bathtub gin, or worse. There were new and larger schools, subdivisions and high interest in a new college at Lubbock, Texas Tech, started in 1924, opened in 1925. All Littlefield turned out for the happening.

Mountains of maize piled high at elevators at harvest time, and cotton moved up to take its predominant place in South Plains agriculture.

There were rumblings, and then the storm. The 1929 crash was a year or more reaching the Littlefield area. But it came, and farm prices plummeted. Bank deposits shrunk, farmers and merchants alike took in their belts. It was rough going.

The new Deal eased the road some in 1933. Farmers learned a new system, of crop controls and price supports. Then came the dust bowl. The High Plains dust belt wrapped around Lamb county; coupled with low farm prices and high mortgages, it spelled finish for many farmers. There was a period of exodus, a pattern that was nationwide for troubled people.

Duggan elected

The strong young country tightened up, but kept moving. New people came in, a spirit of camaraderie developed among those who rode out the economic storm of the 1930's. There were many good days. The town elected a state senator in 1932, Arthur P. Duggan, Sr., and in 1935 mourned his death, in Gonzales of a heart attack.

A new, swank federal building went up down at Phelps and Sixth, helped along by Postmaster William D. T. Storey, of the western hat, big grin and a word always for the Democratic party. This was in 1940, the dedication on December 5, almost exactly a year before the big jolt of pearl Harbor.

Grimly, Littlefield entered World War II. There were pictures of her young men standing in recruiting lines on December 8, 1941. They went away by the dozens, to places that had a strange ring to the South Plains ear.



THIS IS PHELPS AVENUE in Littlefield on a snowy morning in February. The picture was taken from the corner of what is now Phelps Ave. and looking north on main street.



THIS GROUP OF TWELVE MEN were the only men around in 1912 for Thanksgiving Day dinner. The building behind them was a four-foot wooden wall with a tent over the top of it. Inside tables were set up where the men could eat. Mr. Burge, left, was foreman of the experimental farm and his wife cooked for the men.

Many were not to return.

These years were grim, but busy. Gone were crop restrictions. The word was to produce more, and more, and more. The South Plains did this, no place more than Littlefield and Lamb County.

Some farms here and there got even more production, with a system of irrigation from vast pools of water that were tapped under the Plains. It was a forecast of development that was to push the South Plains to a new place in agriculture.

The war's end marked a change of the guard in Littlefield, not sharp but definite nevertheless. The 1913-25 generation transferred responsibility to the World War II generation. Younger faces cropped up regularly, in business, in city and county places, in all functions.

Farming improved

Littlefield took a deep second breath and was off into the long-striding 1950's. Cotton acreage grew, and yields zoomed with irrigation, and later with fertilizer. The new farm generation, many of them college-trained, applied and developed new techniques. The South Plains took a large, significant place in the national farm economy.

There were many changes during WW II. New business buildings sprang up over town; Phelps stretched out to fill most of the town with commercial structures. Some stores moved to the main section, to answer the demand for more parking. The era of two three-car families came in the 1950's. Plus one or more pickups.



The pattern changed but in the 1950's into the 60's and 70's. Houses in town, of course, a sudden surge in construction population due to many years of faltering. The field of 1976 is different from 1913, and each passing year unforeseen changes.

But the spirit that built a town of esteem over a period of 60 years breathes anew in citizens who tomorrow as just another town

AMHERST PAPER
Mrs. B. C. Linn began the Amherst paper in April of 1913. The paper was called the "Amherstocate", and was a four-page column weekly newspaper. The Lamb County Leader type and printed the paper.

ON
DEC. 7, 1787

DELAWARE
BECAME THE FIRST
STATE IN THE UNION.






Knight's Rest Home

520 Ash
385-3821

PENNSYLVANIA
BECAME THE SECOND STATE

IN THE UNION ON
DEC. 12, 1787






Keeling Buick Co.

800 E. 4th
385-4933

NEW JERSEY
BECAME THE THIRD STATE


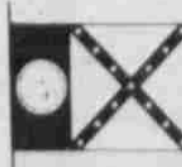
BY RATIFYING THE CONSTITUTION
ON DEC. 18, 1787

Hazel's Beauty Shop

404 Phelps
385-4212

THE FOURTH STATE IN THE UNION,
GEORGIA
RATIFIED THE CONSTITUTION ON
JUNE 2, 1788






Littlefield Cleaners

Closed July 4-10

303 W. 4th
385-4633



CONNECTICUT
RATIFIED THE CONSTITUTION
ON
JANUARY 9, 1788
TO BECOME THE FIFTH STATE.

**Mangum-Hilbun
In. Agency**

430 XIT Dr.
385-5131

ON FEBRUARY 6, 1788
MASSACHUSETTS
BECAME THE SIXTH STATE.

**Gymnastics
Of Littlefield**

385-5288

Walker got grain industry started

He rode through town one cold day in November. He kept riding until he reached the Yellow House Ranch headquarters. He was just a young man of 22 but he knew what he had to do. He had just graduated from Texas A&M, and he was sick. He thought he had malaria, and he wanted to spend the rest of his time out in the open air of the South Plains. He wanted to be healthy again.

The year was 1913, and the new country held many opportunities for a young man with ambition. And a young cow hand had the ambition to drive to succeed in whatever he attempted.

The man was P. W. Walker, a great nephew of Major George Littlefield, the town which he rode through to get the ranch named after his great uncle, and Walker was to play just as significant a part in the growth of the town as his uncle had.

He had come to the ranch with Mr. and Mrs. J. P. White, part owners of the Yellowhouse Ranch, and he began work immediately as a ranch hand.

"I was just around doing all the odd jobs that needed to be done. The ones no one else did. The ones no one else wanted to do," Walker recalled.

Illness vanishes

He worked on the ranch for several years, realizing after a few months, that he was no longer ill. He was not bothered with the illness that had plagued him all through his college days.

World War I broke out, and the now experienced cow hand joined the Army. He served two years in the Aviation Section of the Army Signal Corps. The end of the war brought Walker back to Littlefield, with little knowledge as to what he wanted to do.

"I lived at the Littlefield Hotel, and one day I made H. G. Tolbert an offer

on his grain company, and he said okay," Walker explained.

Tolbert had started the company in May of 1916, and Walker bought the business in December of 1919.

The college graduate who had served as a ranch hand and had had two years in the Army, had a great deal of work to do. His newly acquired elevator had a 10-car capacity, and he had the first horse and buggy dump in the area.

Hard times

Times were hard for the new businessman.

"I remember that first year very well. We only received between three and four carloads of grain and most of that was Sudan. The grainmen back in 1919 had a tough, hard row to hoe and several starved out in a year or two," Walker stated.

"Why there is more grain being fed

every day now, just on the South Plains, than I received in a whole year, some years," he continued.

To say there was not much grain produced in 1919 would be an understatement. To quote Walker, "When I started if a farmer produced 1,400 pounds of grain to the acre, it was outstanding."

In 1920 Walker was asked to manage the First National Bank.

"The owners asked me to run it, but after six months they sold the bank to another group," he explained.

Walker's elevator put the first bushel of South Plains grain into the government loan in 1944. Before grain got on the highly competitive basis that it is today, his elevator handled as much as 1,200 car-loads of grain a year.

An \$85,000 fire swept the entire grain operation on March 8, 1950

putting Walker out of business for a short time. Walker had cancelled his insurance on the elevator just 22 days before the fire, and the fire almost ruined him.

Frank James, well-known pioneer resident of Littlefield, worked in the elevator from the time Walker bought it until James's death in 1961.

Throughout 43 years in the fresh air of West Texas, Walker had no trouble with the illness that brought him here in 1913. In 1959, his illness reoccurred, and this time it was diagnosed as asthma.

Forced retirement

The man who came to Littlefield, fresh out of school ready to prove himself, did prove himself. He owned and operated a grain elevator every day for 43 years, and finally he had to give it up. In November of 1962, P. W. Walker sold his interest in the business to the Farmers Grain Com-

pany, Inc., composed of a group of local farmers and businessmen.

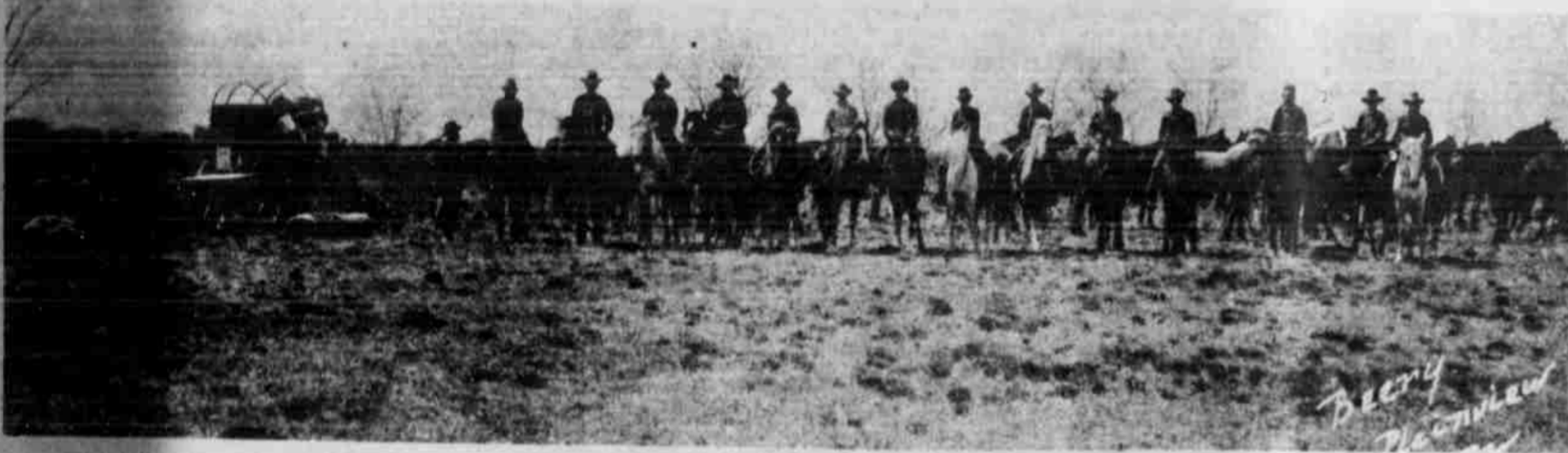
The sale closed out the interesting story of the Walker Grain Company, the oldest business on the South Plains under the same management and ownership.

Modern methods

"It has been very interesting for me to watch the many advances take place in the grain industry. From the horse and buggy, 1,400 pounds per acre yields and hand heading, down to today's modern transportation, 8,000 pound per acre yields and the self propelled combine," Walker said.

"I hated getting out of the business worse than anything I could think of, but my health would not permit me to be as active as I like," he concluded.

An active business life came to an end for P. W. Walker in 1962. But his plans for the future included the buying and selling of the number two agricultural crop on the plains — grain.



COWBOYS MOUNTED with their extra remuda mounts and chuck wagon posed

as they opened a roundup on the old "Mashed O" ranch, or Halsell ranch,

from which Amherst was carved. This picture was in the early 1900's.



Salute To The Original Thirteen Colonies

Your Heroic Stand For Freedom Will Live Forever In The Hearts Of Americans.

THE SEVENTH STATE,
MARYLAND

RATIFIED THE CONSTITUTION

ON
APRIL 28, 1788






Duncan Motor Service
1002 Hall Ave. 385-4850

ON MAY 23, 1788

SOUTH CAROLINA

BECAME THE EIGHTH STATE



Pioneer Super Market
200 W. 3rd 385-4848

NEW HAMPSHIRE

RATIFIED THE CONSTITUTION

ON
JUNE 21, 1788

TO BECOME THE NINTH STATE



Farmers Grain
623 W. Delano 385-5040

VIRGINIA

BECAME THE TENTH STATE

IN THE UNION

ON
JUNE 25, 1788






Sunset Grocery & Sunset Slope Mobile Home
385-3683

NEW YORK

BECAME THE ELEVENTH STATE

ON
JULY 26, 1788






Higginbotham-Bartlett Co.
232 Phelps 385-3322

ON NOV. 21, 1788

NORTH CAROLINA

BECAME THE TWELVETH STATE IN THE UNION



Monroe Food Market
411 Hall 385-3344

RHODE ISLAND


BECAME THE THIRTEENTH STATE

BY RATIFYING THE CONSTITUTION

ON MAY 29, 1790.

The Gallery
306 Phelps 385-6262



1776 to 1976

In Sept. 1777 the

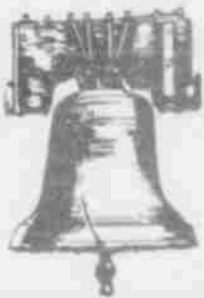
LIBERTY BELL

was taken from Independence Hall in Philadelphia and secreted beneath the floor of the Allentown Zion Reformed Church to prevent capture by the British. The bell was kept there until June 27, 1778 when it was returned to Independence Hall. On July 8, 1776 the Liberty Bell rung out to proclaim the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

This glimpse of history is presented by

David Bell

OLDS-CADILLAC-PONTIAC-GMC, INC.



801 Hall

385-5171

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



was a noted statesman, writer and scientist in colonial America. His greatest work was in helping the colonies become a new nation. Franklin helped to write the Declaration of Independence and then went to France in 1776 to enlist France's aid to the United States. He was the only man to sign the four documents most important in the founding of the United States: the Declaration of Independence [1776], the Treaty of Alliance with France [1778], the Treaty of Paris [1783], and the Constitution [1787].

This glimpse of history presented by

Littlefield Frozen Food

134 N. Eastside

385-3818



THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE was approved on July 4, 1776 and established the United States of America as a free nation. Only after extended debate and some alteration Congress adopted the instrument presented by John Adams, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin. John Hancock was the first to sign the document.

This glimpse of history presented by

Farm Equipment Co.

LUBBOCK HWY.

385-5030

Maude Street ran Gold Star Cafe in 1924-1925

"I got off the train at 6 a.m. one morning in 1924, and walked to the nearest cafe for breakfast. I sat there until 8 a.m. and still had not been served when I got up and left. I guess that incident gave me the idea to start my own cafe."

This was an incident told by Mrs. Maude Street, former owner of the Gold Star Cafe, which served most of the town during 1924 and 1925.

Mrs. Street had just come to Littlefield that February morning in 1924, to stay with some relatives who lived outside of Littlefield.

"No one in town knew these people, and it took me most of the day to get to their home. When I finally did get there, I had barely settled down when I decided to go right back to town and buy some land. I wanted to open a cafe," reported Mrs. Street.

She was a war widow of a couple of years, and Mrs. Street needed to make some money. She was receiving insurance from her husband's policy, but the money wasn't lasting very long, and she was eager to begin working.

Her first day in Littlefield she bought the land for the future cafe and boarding house, and the next day she drove to Olton to get the deed signed.

"I had to pay cash for the land, but I got the lumber for just a few hundred dollars down. I also got the carpenters right away, but they had to be paid when they were finished." So I wrote a bachelor uncle for some money, and in March I opened the cafe," she continued.

Mrs. Street (at that time she was called Ma Foster) had an old timers gathering for her open house.

"In those days when a business opened a big get-together was held. I invited all the first settlers to come as special guests, and I served pie and coffee. Littlefield was a booming town then and people were coming from all over the country to buy the land. That first night there were so many people at the cafe I was afraid I wouldn't have enough pie and coffee to go around," Mrs. Street pointed out.

But she made it through the first night, and through another year.

The upstairs of the building had 18 rooms in which she kept regular boarders.

"I catered to regular boarders because I didn't have to change the bedding every day with them. That sounds funny today, but in those days we didn't have running water. We had to carry the water in tubs from the old Garland building. We had a terrible time trying to cook for half the town, in addition to keeping the boarding house clean," she said.

Mrs. Street went into detail in describing the problems and advantages of the cafe.

"We cooked with coal, and smoke was everywhere in that kitchen. I wore out three stoves attempting to cook on them. We had to cook all the food we could get, because those men wanted food that would stick with them. And did they ever eat!"

"We served meals family style: all they could eat for 50 cents," she explained.

When it came to buying food, Mrs. Street bought most of her meat in town, but went to the farmers for her vegetables.

"We would go out early in the morning and get big pots of beans, potatoes, corn; just anything we could find to buy. On the way back to town, the girls would begin to shell the beans, so they would be ready to cook when we got back," she recalled humorously.

Mrs. Street used high school girls as waitresses in the cafe.

"I paid them \$1.00 a day plus board, and most of them stayed with me at night. We all slept in the same room and at night we would sit around and iron out all the problems we were having. Those little girls were just lovely, and they all worked so hard," she stated.

"There was no running water in the building, so the girls and I would go next door to White's Laundry and use their shower. The whites put in their laundry when they realized they would have steady business just doing the laundry for our business," Mrs. Street laughingly reported.

She gaily told of the trouble she had with the cooks.

"We would get a cook who generally would stay only a couple of days. They were usually transients, and you could never depend on them to stay. Once I told a man to sleep in the chicken coop for the night, because I all ready had a cook, but I knew he wouldn't be with use very long," she commented.

Mrs. Street explained the eating situation in the town. "There were several cafes in town, and they all had a lot of business. We didn't have any more customers than the others probably, but our 'family style' meals were a good selling points. We sold meal tickets to the construction men working on the buildings around town, in addition to the real estate men who traveled back and forth each week.

"Our dining room would hold between 60 and 60 persons, and it was about 25 x 40 feet in dimension. Sunday's were the worst days. The girls and I would get up early and prepare as much as possible. The girls would go to Sunday School, but couldn't stay for Church. By the time church was out, it seemed like the whole town was in our place. No one cooked on Sunday's, they all ate out."

In telling of some of her most memorial experiences, Mrs. Street recalled about a farm family who had come to town for a carnival. Seven members of the family came in and ordered the special chicken dinner. A sign outside had told them that the chicken dinner was 50 cents. After they had eaten, the older woman laid a 50 cent piece on the table and the group prepared to leave. Mrs. Street had to explain to them that the sign meant 50 cents for each chicken dinner served, not 50 cents for all of them.

"Those poor people owed me around \$5 or \$6, but I remember I got all the money they could scrape together at that time...which was \$2.85," Mrs. Street thoughtfully stated.

There were many hardships in those days, but in recalling the incidents, Mrs. Street says, "I don't know how I did it, but those days really were hilarious!"



There was never a greater need for rededication...

United we stand... divided we fall. We need US! And America needs us! Let's become hearty patriots again. This 4th let's salute our flag with renewed gusto and rededicate ourselves to the American way of life.

TASTY TACO

LILY AND CHARLIE LARA

5th & XIT DR.

385-6124



Happy 200th Birthday, America!

The first American flag was made



BETSY ROSS

The young Philadelphia widow chosen by the Congressional committee of George Washington, Major Ross and Robert Morris. The flag was Washington's own design and represented equality, purity and courage of original thirteen colonies.

This glimpse of history is presented

LITTLEFIELD ROOFING

ROUTE 1

385-5680

"The British are coming, the British are coming" cried

PAUL REVERE

on his midnight ride on April 18, 1775. Revere rode to warn the colonists of an impending attack by the British. His lanterns were to be displayed if the British went by sea and one lantern if they went on land. When the lanterns signaled the British moving by sea, Revere rowed his small boat to Charlestown and began his historic ride.

This glimpse of history is presented

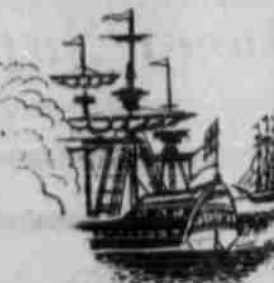


303 XIT

385-4

KEITHLY & CO.

JOHN PAUL JONES



was naval hero in the American Revolution. Near England on September 23, 1779 Jones and his flagship were one of the great battles in naval history. With both his ship and the British ship on fire, Jones answered the British commander's demand for surrender saying, "I have not yet begun to fight." As his ship sank, Jones and his crew took over the British ship to win the battle.

This glimpse of history is presented

B&C Pump

&

Machine Works

304 S. Lake

385-

LITTLEFIELD LANDS

THE BEST FARM LANDS

In the Famous Shallow Water Belt of the Upper Brazos Valley, Texas. Rich Land, Ideal Climate, Low Prices, Easy Terms



CROPS GROWN ON LITTLEFIELD LANDS
EVERY ACRE TWINS-LEVEL-ALL TELLABLE

RAWLINGS-KNAPP REALTY COMPANY

419 Commerce Building GENERAL AGENTS KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
ARTHUR P. DUGGAN, Sales Manager

THIS FRONTPIECE went on a comprehensive sales pamphlet for Littlefield Lands, prepared by the Rawlings-Knapp Realty Company of Kansas City, Mo. It was distributed throughout the Midwest, and gave yields of various crops, details of climate and names of settlers who had already purchased land.

Early land sales aimed at German immigrants

Many of the early settlers in Littlefield and Lamb County were Germans, first or second generation from their native countries, and seek land that could be owned with little capital.

Most of them came here from the West, in Kansas and Missouri, or from as far away as Canada. A number of German Mennonites were among the early residents and promoters of Littlefield land sales sought to establish "the largest Mennonite settlement in the world."

Optimistic sales literature on lands around Littlefield in 1914 and 1915 passed the German background of settlers, and a number of pictures of German visits were included in a special booklet that sang the praises of a new land.

The Mennonites came largely from Prussia. A list of 32 sales to Kansas included among this group included J. C.enzen, Abraham L. Loewen—there were six Loewen families represented—Peter Wirzke, A. L. Schallenberg, C. F. Gramberg, M. E. Meder, Gerhard B. Toews, P. J. Klaasman, August Weyand, and a number of others.

Several "success" letters from settlers were published in the sales pamphlets, where the Littlefield land was quoted at \$30 an acre.

Two typical letters read:
ONE YEARS CROP PAYS FOR LAND
"I came here five years ago and bought 320 acres of land. This land is fully paid for and is now worth \$30 per acre. This year's crop would more than pay for the land."
ALBERT CARLSON
"Will make enough feterita this

season to pay for the land upon which it grew. I believe crops will do this every year at the present price of land, if handled according to the methods advocated and demonstrated by the Santa Fe's Agricultural Department experts."

R. F. ORMSBY

The Santa Fe was an interested participant in the land sales. Twice a month, on alternating Tuesdays, a train for prospective land buyers was run out of Kansas City with stops at Kansas and Oklahoma towns enroute. A flat verate of \$30 per passenger "to bona fide home seekers" was made for the round trip.

"This includes sleeping car, meals at the famous Harvey eating houses, all hotel bills and automobile rides; in fact, everything needed to make the round trip in comfort."

Since some of these services were shared by the land agents, possibly the land salesmen underwrote the special rates since the offer specifically excluded "tourists or joyriders."

The Rawlings Land Company of Kansas City, Mo., were the general

agents.

Terms for the lands were one-third cash, balance in 10 equal payments at 6 percent interest.

Crops that would grow in the rich Lamb County area were cataloged and included fruits, maize, corn, peanuts—which were pushed as feed for hogs—watermelons, oats, alfalfa, wheat, sweet potatoes, grapes, and a wide range of garden vegetables.

Pictures supported the enthusiastic claims, all of which have since, been surpassed.

Cotton, which was to become the major crop of all the South Plains, was barely mentioned.

A weather chart showing that Littlefield had relatively cool summers was printed for northerners who feared the Texas summers might be too hot.

The bright facts aside, the Littlefield Lands pamphlets included cheering songs of verdant soil, fair climate and fine people, set to familiar music.

Most of the land sales were of spanish labors, a 177.1 acre tract which still is the standard measurement in Lamb County.

Like these prices?

These were in effect in Littlefield in 1923, when a 48-pound sack of flour was a usual family purchase.

This was a day when a can of pork and beans was a standard size, and required no definition other than a price. It was not a 2 1/2 can, or a 303, or family size—just a regular husky can of pork and beans. It cost 11 cents in this ad.

Dairy Lea Milk cost a nickel, presumably a quarter. Hooker lye was going item and the old Post Toasties, the kind that came in a big yellow box, were just 12 cents.

Fresh produce was an item for summer seasons. It was a simpler menu those days, and a can opener was a most necessary household item.

Days To Remember...

...October 6-19, 1781

The Battle Of Yorktown, The Revolutionary War's Last Major Battle, Saw The British Surrender. American Casualties Under General George Washington Were 262 While British Commander Cornwallis' Troop Suffered 8,700.

We Salute The American Idea.

Littlefield Service Center

SYLVANIA



"We pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor..."

The Declaration of Independence heralds the birth of our nation—and backs it up with something more than noble sentiment. The document ends with a mutual pledge, in which the 56 signers made a sweeping commitment—putting everything they had on the line . . . reputations, property, even life itself . . . in support of justice and freedom as God-given rights . . . the guiding principles of a new American way of life: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." It's 200 years now since those words were written, and men of each generation have given their lives to protect them. Others have lived their lives to affirm them . . . and to renew the pledge: that freedom is worth taking risks for, since nothing is safe without it.

Happy
Birthday
America!

First
National
Bank

337 Phelps Ave.

385-4441

Mashed O:

Halsells settle Amherst, Earth sites

(Mrs. Lester LaGrange, the Leader-News' regular Amherst correspondent, wrote this article in 1963 for the Littlefield Golden Anniversary Issue.)
By LENOR LaGRANGE

Sixty-two years ago Mr. W. E. Halsell of Indian Territory purchased 184,156 acres of Springlake and Yellow House lands at \$2 an acre. This was part of the Llano Estado of Staked Plains, a portion of the XII Ranch. Before it was the largest ranch under fence in the world.

At the time Mr. Halsell bought this large acreage buffalo, mustangs and antelope were numerous in the wild prairie country where gramma and mesquite grass made an unbroken turf.

On the land purchased was the Springlake division headquarters of the XII, located five miles west of the present town of Earth. There was also a camp on the Sod House draw, located six miles north of the present

town of Amherst, where the Estes Brothers, buffalo hunters, had established a bachelor camp in 1885.

In addition to the original purchase in 1901, Mr. Halsell in 1904 started buying school land located in the sand hills. At the same time he started selling farm land north of the sand hills bringing northern buyers from Hereford in horsedrawn hacks.

At this time his son, Ewing, became general manager for the Halsell interests.

In 1923 it was decided to sell Sod House Pasture as farm land and to establish the town of Amherst. Several years prior the Santa Fe Railroad had crossed the west end of the pasture and built a depot named Amherst by a railroad official—hence the town-to-be built was given this name.

The land at that time sold for \$25 an acre. All farming was dry land. Since then it has been proven that under the whole ranch there is ample water for irrigation, making it one of the best farming sections in Texas.

In 1925 they agreed to sell that portion of the ranch where Earth is located. The town was first called Fairlawn and later Tulse. The post office department notified authorities that this name also could not be used. When this word was received, a colorful character, Daddy Reeves, who operated the hotel built by Halsell, exclaimed "We've got more earth here than anything else—let's call it Earth". The sand was blowing that day and the name stuck. The land around Earth also sold for \$25 an acre. In 1963 a farm that originally sold at that price sold for \$525 an acre.

Today the Mashed O Ranch consists of approximately 80,000 acres, of which about 6,000 acres are farm lands.

Several places in the sand hills on the ranch are known to be spots where Indians lived. Arrowheads, spearheads, many pieces of pottery containing definite markings could be found. The late W. J. McMillan, Lubbock, naturalist and big game hunter spent many hours on the ranch hunting relics.

Mr. W. E. Halsell was a colorful character, very handsome, more than six feet tall, with sharp black eyes and a wealth of snow white hair. He was one-eighth Cherokee Indian, which was revealed in his gifts of brightly colored beads, necklaces and set rings. He was a wealthy man. When

asked on one occasion, "How does a man accumulate a fortune?" his reply was, "by being a good trader."

If you have visited the West Texas Museum at Texas Tech you have seen him as he depicts the cattleman in the mural in the rotunda, painted by the New Mexico artist, Peter Hurd. It is a very good likeness. The mural shows men and women prominent in West Texas' beginning. He died in 1934 at 84 years of age.

The late humorist Will Rogers, a friend of the Halsells in Oklahoma, visited the Mashed O Ranch several times. When there he helped with the roundup, branding, or any other activities going on at the time. In fact he visited the ranch just a few weeks before he made the flight to Alaska which ended in his death in August 1935. He was a contemporary of Ewing Halsell's, and attended the Willie Halsell College in Oklahoma.

How did the ranch get its name which is its brand, The Mashed O? W. E. Halsell was a partner in what is now Oklahoma. The brand was the three linked O's. When the partnership was dissolved he separated the branding iron O's, took one of the O's and hammered it slightly. The Mashed O' resulted.

Several years ago the company put in their own feed lot near the ranch headquarters. They installed modern feeding pens. All the feed is ground and mixed in an up-to-date plant at the lots. Most of the grain, ensilage and alfalfa used is grown on company lands. They now feed more than 2,000 head annually, most of which is trucked to Lubbock, Fort worth and Oklahoma City.

A few years ago 354 acres of ranch land in the sand hills, five miles south of Earth was sold to the Southwest Public Service Company for their huge Plant X. It furnished electric power for Western Texas and Eastern new Mexico. They had the water right to 40,000 acres.

The ranch has access to surface water, and for stock purposes. Although they have several wells on the water-right land, very seldom is more than one well pumping at a time. The water used at the plant is said to be used about six times.

The ranch maintains a remuda of more than 100 saddle horses, and the cowboys enjoy good food served in the ranch kitchen and the life in the bunk house.

Ranches on sale together

The Spade lands opening, was one of several ranch areas that went on the market on the South Plains about the same time. These included the Halsell lands in northwest Lamb County, a southwest area of the old Yellowhouse ranch that was offered in 1923 and 1924 by the Yellow House Land Company, the White Face lands in Hockley County, and other neighboring sections.

From Page 1

Littlefield:

The interest in the old South carried over into a \$125,000 gift he made in 1914, for the Littlefield Fund for Southern History. It resulted in perhaps the nation's finest collection of books and papers on the Confederacy.

One gift of note was the Wrenn Library, bought in 1918 for \$225,000, from John H. Wrenn in Chicago. This collection of 5,300 books is one of the finest in English literature and contains several original manuscripts of noted English writers of the Elizabethan period.

Bequests to the University in his will built the Alice Littlefield dormitory, dedicated in 1927, and paid \$650,000 towards the construction of the University main building.

There was no twilight for the major. These gifts marked his last days, and the nesting up of a lifetime of fruitful and noteworthy business enterprise.

His will provided lifetime care for Nath, the faithful servant who carried him wounded from the battlefield and who survived Major Littlefield by some 15 years. He was buried near the major in the Austin cemetery, as Littlefield directed.

Monuments to the major's life work remained in the people with whom he was associated, many who became wealthy through the association. These were largely nephews and nieces, who were the major's family.

When he died on November 10, 1920, it must have been with the satisfaction of a man who fought the good fight, from the creeks of Chickamauga, through the state halls of Texas, on the trails and ranges of a territory that challenged the best in a man.

Major George Littlefield, not a large man in physical stature, strode Texas in its seven-league tradition. And when he rested the trails he travelled remained, to make the way easier and brighter for many generations that follow him.



THE FIRST GROWING season in Littlefield for Preacher A. L. Morris yielded a bumper crop of watermelons. The Morris family came to the area in 1923 and received their first crop in the fall of 1924. Headed grain is piled on the ground by the family barn, and the watermelons were grown on the sod land near the house.



America: Past, Present And Future. Here's To Our Next 200!

Our Bicentennial. It means more to Americans than just a celebration. It serves as a stepping stone to the future. It's a door leading to bigger and better achievements.

It's an opportunity for all of us to look back at our great historical struggle for Democracy. To look at the present and see how much has been accomplished in only 200 years.

And, perhaps most important, it enables us to see that the future of America now lies in OUR hands. And all of us, as Americans, have the knowledge and foresight to make the next 200 years even better than the first. Happy birthday America!

July 4, '76

A GLORIOUS TIME FOR AMERICA

On this occasion, we join with the people of Littlefield and Lamb County in saluting America on its 200th Birthday and the progress of this area. It is indeed a real pleasure to be an integral part of such a fine section of this great country...and we pledge to continue to grow with it year by year.



Fieldton Co-op Gin

262-4374


★

FIRST FEDERAL

of Littlefield

"the best one for your money"

★



W.G. Street:

One of first area merchants, civic leaders

This article appeared in the June 63, Golden Anniversary Issue of the Leader. It is reprinted by the Bicentennial Issue.)

WILLARD STREET JR.

In the latter part of 1912, while in Antonio, my father, W. G. Street, invited Dr. Malone Duggan, Dr. Arthur P. Duggan and advised my father to move to Littlefield and stated that his father, Arthur P. Duggan, was establishing a new town on the Plains to be named Littlefield. Dad immediately

Mr. Arthur P. Duggan and read some literature on Littlefield, writing this he and his brother, T. Street, came to Littlefield in early 1913 to look over the prospects of opening a general merchandise store here.

Apparently they liked what they saw they immediately proceeded to lease the lot where Clint's Cafe is located. Then they ordered a trial for their store building. The load of this building March 1st, by Clint O. Griffin, who freighted on the railroad at Abernathy by Mr. Clint had been here about 7 days breaking sod for Mr. John G. the father of Mrs. Guy Willis.

April, 1913, Dad left Littlefield to see a leptom where he was married to Howard. They returned to Littlefield on April 28 and stayed in the Littlefield Hotel until a house could be built. Mother was the first bride in Littlefield. She is the sole surviving

charter member of the Baptist Church and the only active charter member of the Woman's Club.

Dad and Uncle John opened a general mercantile store under the name of Street Brothers selling groceries, dry goods, and hardware. They later moved across the street to a location occupied by a part of Anthony's and Ben Franklin Store and incorporated their business under the name of Lamb County Mercantile Company.

Dad once told me that when he was in business in Mexia he was accustomed to selling relatively small quantities of groceries for home consumption, and was certainly not prepared for ranch business.

One of his first customers was the late Tom Arnett, who was then foreman at the old Spade ranch. Mr. Arnett pulled in with his buckboard and said that he would like to get a few groceries. The first item he asked for was some bacon so Dad picked up the slab and his knife and asked Mr. Arnett how much he wanted. Mr. Arnett told him he guessed about three slabs.

He then asked for some beans and Dad picked up an ordinary sack and said, "How many?" Mr. Arnett said, "Aw, a hundred pounds." And when he next asked for potatoes, Dad decided that he wouldn't need a paper sack at all. He didn't, as Mr. Arnett bought about two hundred pounds.

After buying almost the entire stock of groceries, Mr. Arnett had it loaded on his buckboard and said, "Charge it," with a wave of his hand. Dad said this was a new experience because where he came from people arranged for credit in advance.

Another new experience in store for Dad was the old Western custom of drinking with a man or insulting him. On one occasion, a man, who later became a good friend of Dad's, pulled out a bottle and passed it around. When it came to Dad, he declined without thinking anything about it as he just did not drink. The fellow took his bottle, stormed out of the store, and didn't get over it until he later learned that Dad did not drink on any occasion and meant no offense.

Dad was a charter member of the First Presbyterian Church, the local Masonic Lodge, and the Rotary Club. He was elected to the school board in April of 1915 because and as a result of, according to Fred Hoover, my birth the preceding February. Fred said that he and some of the boys decided that since Dad was a family man he ought to serve on the school board and so they elected him.

He later served on the school board on one or two other occasions and for many years served as secretary and treasurer, writing all the checks at no pay.

He was the first treasurer of the Littlefield Masonic Lodge and served

as Master in the year 1938-1939. For many years he served as secretary of the lodge and was later granted a lifetime membership in it.

During World War I he served as County Food Administrator, and human nature not having changed, had quite a few problems with people hoarding food. On two or three occasions he had to confiscate the excess food and bring it to town for proper distribution.

The minutes of the City of Littlefield reflect that on May 11th, 1925, W. G. Street was appointed City Commissioner by L. R. Crockett, Mayor, and J. M. Stokes, Commissioner, to fill the unexpired term of Commissioner P. W. Walker, who resigned.

The minutes also state that L. R. Crockett was elected Mayor, C. O. Stone and W. G. Street were elected City Commissioners in April of 1927. Again the minutes state that W. G. Street resigned as commissioner on February 27, 1928.

Continued on Page 8

W. G. STREET opened his first store in Littlefield in 1913. He served at different times as county commissioner and city secretary, the latter on a "temporary" basis for 28 years. Street died in 1956.



We recognize and appreciate the achievements of the past. We look forward to making this an even greater nation.

XIT Garage
219 XIT 385-3277



Littlefield Supermarket Proudly Joins In Saluting Our Nation On It's 200th Birthday

Shop Your 100% Home Owned - Home Operated Supermarket

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.



200 years ago, in 1776, the members of the Continental Congress took their bold stand before the world . . . and a new nation was born. Today, in the dedicated spirit of the founders, let us all mutually pledge to each other that the Freedom so fearlessly proclaimed, so dearly won, so bravely defended through 200 years, shall forever endure.

Lamb County Farm Bureau

Ed Jennings-Agency Manager

708 W. Delano

Littlefield

385-4489

Last round-up at Spade ranch

The last roundup on the famed Spade Ranch was held in October, 1924, when a nostalgic group gathered for the final ranch activity before the opening of the lands for sale as farm tracts.

The roundup brought in 6,200 head of 3-year-old steers that were sold to an Emporia, Kansas, feeder for a reported \$470,000. Four trains of 44 cars each were required to move the cattle to market.

About 200 persons took part in the last roundup, including W. L. Elwood, ranch owner in 1924 and son of I. L. Elwood, who established the Spade 36 years before.

With him was "Uncle Dick" Arnett, first foreman for the Spade when it began, then 75 years old and still a cowman.

His son, W. D. "Tom" Arnett, Spade ranch foreman in its last 15 years, directed the final roundup. Arnett retained a connection with the Spade and Elwood interests until his death.

On roundup day, he replied to questions about the future with "I guess I'll buy me a milk cow and a pair of long ears and raise cotton."

Also there for the melancholy occasion was ebullient Stanley Watson, whirlwind Kans. City relator who already was selling the farm sites, in 160-acre tracts. Watson had just sold the Sod House pasture, the present Amherst area, for the Halsells interest a year or so before.

There was festivity along with the last roundup. A photographer recorder the occasion, getting a panoramic view

of the last cattle herd. There was a big barbecue with everyone eating sitting on the ground, cowboy style. And then there was a final rodeo, from wild bronc riding to wild cow milking.

Elwood recalled briefly the early days of the Spade, one of two ranches his father bought from John W. and W. H. Snyder who lived near the town of that name.

The father was I. L. Elwood, one of the inventors of barbed wire who was in Texas promoting its sale when he bought the first ranch, Renderbrook, near Colorado City. This was 130,000 acres.

In 1891 he bought the Snyders' north pasture, 128,000 acres in Lamb, Hockley, and Bailey counties. This was named the Spade ranch and eventually enlarged to 262,000 acres,

in a long north-south span, ranging from eight to 12 miles in width.

The 1924 roundup did not wind up ranching entirely on the Spade, but it was finally closed out in the months ahead as succeeding pastures were sold for farm lands.

A big opening of the land area to be sold was held on October 6, 1924, by Watson. First offerings included 26,000 acres that ran from Danforth switch on the Santa Fe—12 miles east of Littlefield—to Hart's Camp pasture, an area that came within six miles of Littlefield.

R. C. "Coke" Hopping of Littlefield, then Lamb County judge, soon became sales agent for the Spade land in Lamb and Hockley counties. He handled details of the land almost up to the time of his death in 1954.



Early-day cotton sled

IN 1927, several men around Spade built a cotton sled to help in harvesting sometimes troublesome crop. W. E. Bird, second from left, and James right, built the sled. With them is Frank Nelson of Dimmitt, left, and Wasson of McFarling, Calif.

From Page 7

Street:

Upon the resignation of E. C. Cundiff as City Secretary in August of 1928, Dad agreed to serve as City Secretary on a temporary basis. It was quite temporary as he held that position for 28 years, retiring in 1956. That was the longest temporary job he held.

In talking to my good friend, Charles D. Jones, our County Clerk, I found out something that I didn't even know, or had forgotten. Charlie found in the Commissioner's Court Records that on September 9th, 1918 W. G. Street was appointed Commissioner for Precinct 4, which then included the Town of Littlefield, succeeding Arthur P. Duggan who resigned to enter the army.

Appointed Judge

Dad served as Commissioner for Precinct 4 for a little over a year or until September 18, 1919, when he was appointed County Judge. He served as County Judge until February 9, 1920, when he resigned and was succeeded by Judge R. C. Hopping, who was the grandfather of our present District Judge, Pat Boone Jr.

In January of 1935, Dad was instrumental in securing the local Corps of the Salvation Army here. Littlefield was then and is now one of, if not the, smallest town in the United States to have a Salvation Army Corp.

Dad served on the first advisory board of the local Corp. and, if memory serves me correctly, was chairman of the building committee that helped erect the present Salvation Army building.

Salvation Army begun

As City Secretary Dad came in contact and got acquainted with the indigent people of the City of Littlefield which convinced him of the need and value of the Salvation Army. He served on the local advisory board for several years, and helped it to become firmly established as one of our religious-welfare organizations.

When Dad and Mother first came to Littlefield, there was literally a "sea of grass" in every direction. Antelope could be killed in the present city limits and coyotes and skunks raided Mother's chicken pen located on the site of the present Education Building of the First Baptist Church. Cattle drives down Main Street were commonplace and fences had to be built around the planted trees to protect them from the livestock. They witnessed the change of Littlefield and Lamb County from "Brands of Old to Lands of Gold."

I am proud of the part the W. G. Streets had in the development of Lamb County and the City of Littlefield.

The Spirit of America

"Equal and exact justice to all men, of whatever state or persuasion, religious or political . . . peace, commerce, honest friendship with all nations . . . the support of the state governments in all their rights as the most competent administrations for our domestic concerns . . . and the surest bulwarks against anti-republican tendencies . . . the preservation of the general government in its whole constitutional vigor, as the sheet anchor of our peace at home and safety abroad . . . freedom of religion, freedom of the press, freedom of person under the protection of the habeas corpus; and trial by juries impartially selected. These principles form the bright constellation which has gone before us, and guided our steps through revolution and reformation."

* * *

That's how Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, described the American spirit . . . a certain sense of fairness and balance born of a fervent dedication to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. On this . . . our nation's 200th birthday . . . we honor the memory of that great man and renew our allegiance to the guidelines he set forth for the care and preservation of our basic American freedoms.

Lamb County Electric Co-op Inc.

2415 S. Phelps
385-5191

"The God who gave us life gave us liberty . . . at the same time."

Summary View of the Rights of British America

"We hold these truths to be self-evident—that all men are created equal . . ."

Declaration of Independence

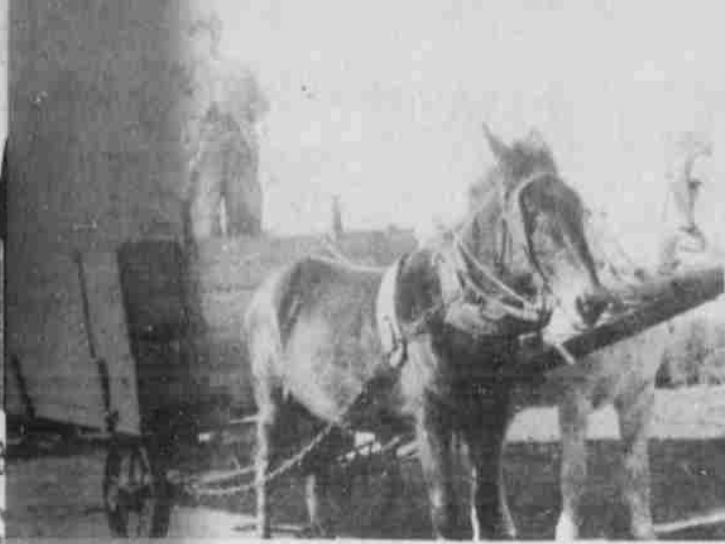
"Error of opinion may be tolerated where reason is left free to combat it."

First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1801

Liberty, Justice for ALL!

The signing of the Declaration of Independence was a truly great moment. Let's keep all that it stands for in mind as we complete the first 200 years.

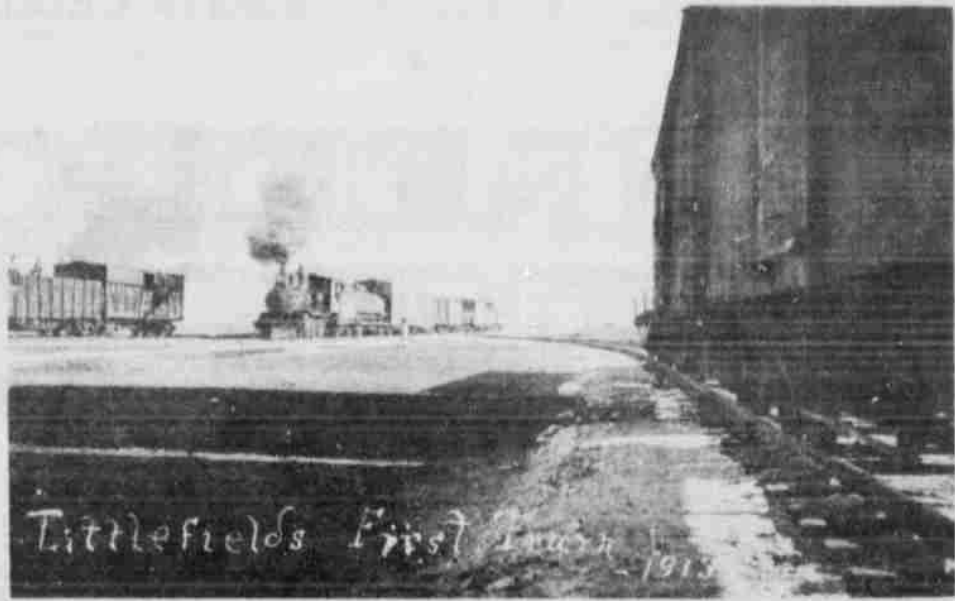
Remember When...



ing cotton on L. L. Massengill farm--1935

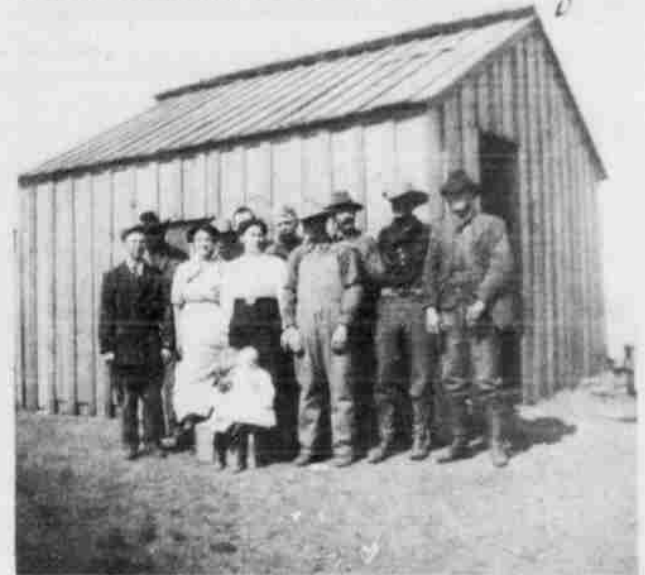


Frozen water tank



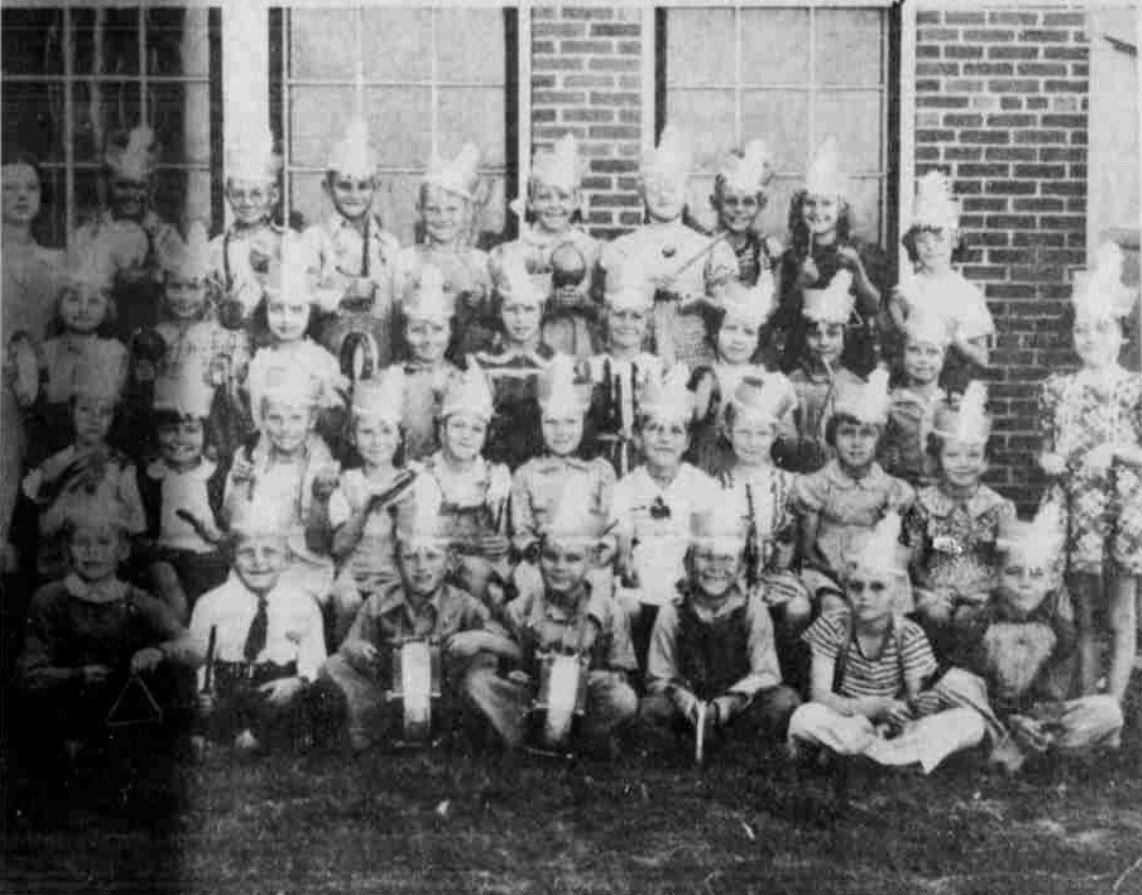
Littlefield's First Train 1913

irst residence in Littlefield



First residence in Littlefield--1913

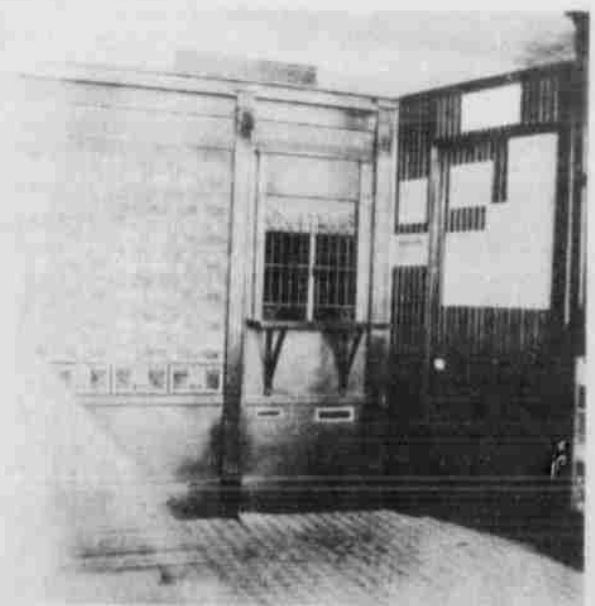
First train in Littlefield--1913



4th of July celebration--1913

GRADE 2, RHYTHM BAND, 1940— Teacher: Miss Margaret Teel, left Band Leader: Ellen Webb Massengill, Right Front row, L to R: Billy Green, Ernest Mills, Billy Rex Lakey, James Burl Johnson, Lloyd Cook, unknown, Kenneth Niskern. Second row: Kathryn Apperson, Donna Joy Cotharr, Betty Cowan, Tommie Lou Matthews, Oms Dee McCormick, Billy Pat Roberson, Juanita Penner, Emma Lou Bolton,

Sammie Joan Wallace, Leclie. Third Row: Georgia Shore, Betty Ann Smith, Billy June Chesher, Doretta Wilson, Jacklyn Evans, Dorothy Nell Turner, Joyce Ann Caraway, Patsy May Young, Edith Emmons. Back Row: Dan Jackson, Eugene Edwards, Marvin Pounds, Kenneth Evins, Olga Ancencec, Thetogene Ross, unknown, Donna Vaughn Richardson, Verns Ellen Lichte.



Littlefield's first post office --1914



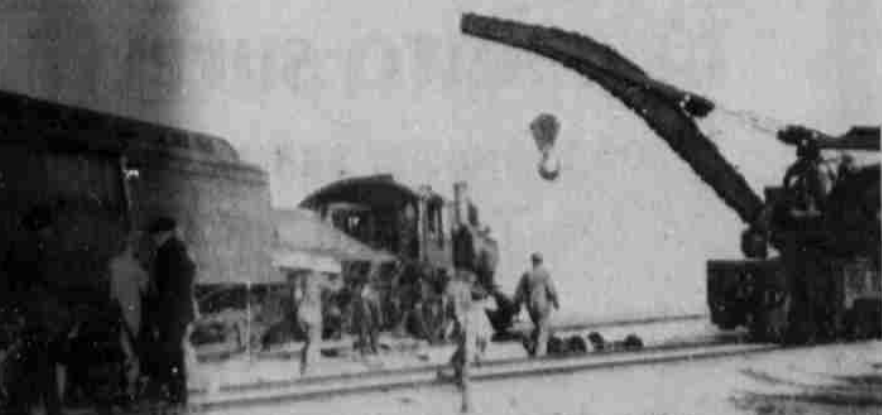
ittlefield's first Sunday School class --1913



Grading Phelps Ave. in Littlefield--1913



Land buyers in front Lfd.'s first hotel--1913



Snowy train wreck

1913 fete tops 'em all

Any Fourth of July celebration taking place in the area today will have to really be something to match the whingding thrown in 1913 when the city of Littlefield was officially named and the first Santa Fe train came steaming into town.

A big tent was pitched downtown, several beeves were barbecued, all residents pitched in to prepare the trimmings for a big feed and all business halted in the brand new city for the celebration.

At midmorning a train rolled in from Lubbock, its wild tooting blending with the cheers of residents, to mark a "first." It was a locomotive with three passenger cars loaded with persons coming for the celebration.

A number of people arrived in

early-day touring cars, ringing the celebration area. Many of these potential purchasers, brought out by land agents.

There were tubs of ice water and soft drinks. The day saw typical picnic events, races and contests and, of course, speeches on the bright future of a new frontier.

Actually, the train arrival was a special happening. The track had been finished from Coleman to Littlefield, but regular service had not been started and the train turned around and went back that afternoon, with an audience of interested spectators.

In all, it was a festive occasion that forecast in the words of speakers "a day when the Plains will bloom like a garden."



A LARGE CROWD gathered around temporary tables to enjoy a big holiday picnic in the new town of Littlefield. Food and refreshments are stacked up on two wagons in the center of the tables. The festivities of the day included a dance and the arrival of the first Santa Fe train.

July, 4, 1913 celebration

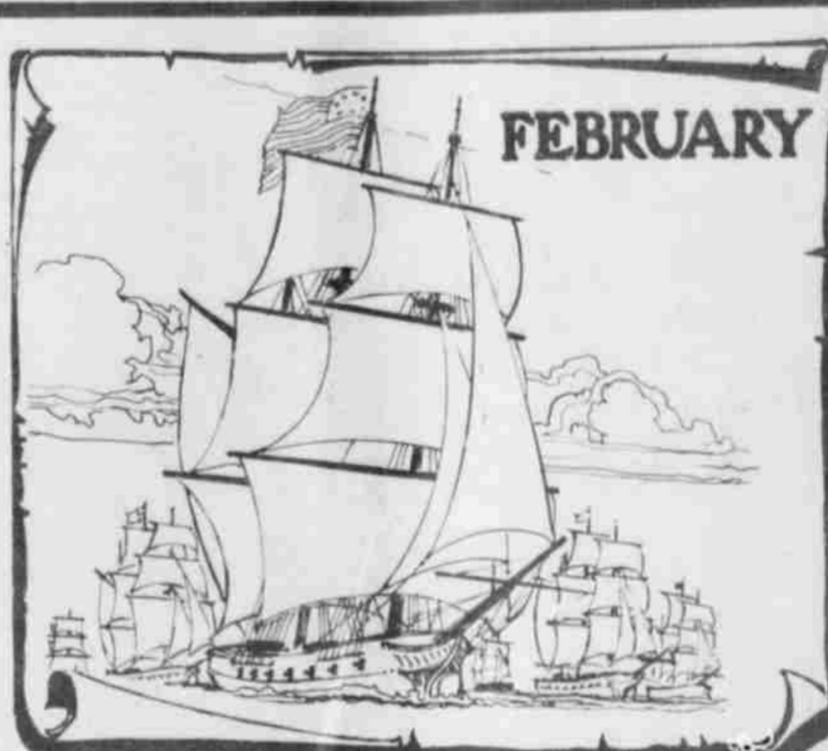
★ CHRONICLE OF FREEDOM ★



On January 10, 1776, a young patriot named Thomas Paine published a fiery pamphlet, "Common Sense," demanding independence from the British.

Shook Tire Co.

1028 E. 9th
385-5126



On February 17, 1776, the 1st Continental Navy was put to sea when Commodore Esek Hopkins sailed to Chesapeake Bay to break the British naval blockade.

CACTUS SQUARE RESTAURANTS

1000 W. 10th
385-5022

Sagebrush Inn and Chaparral Restaurant

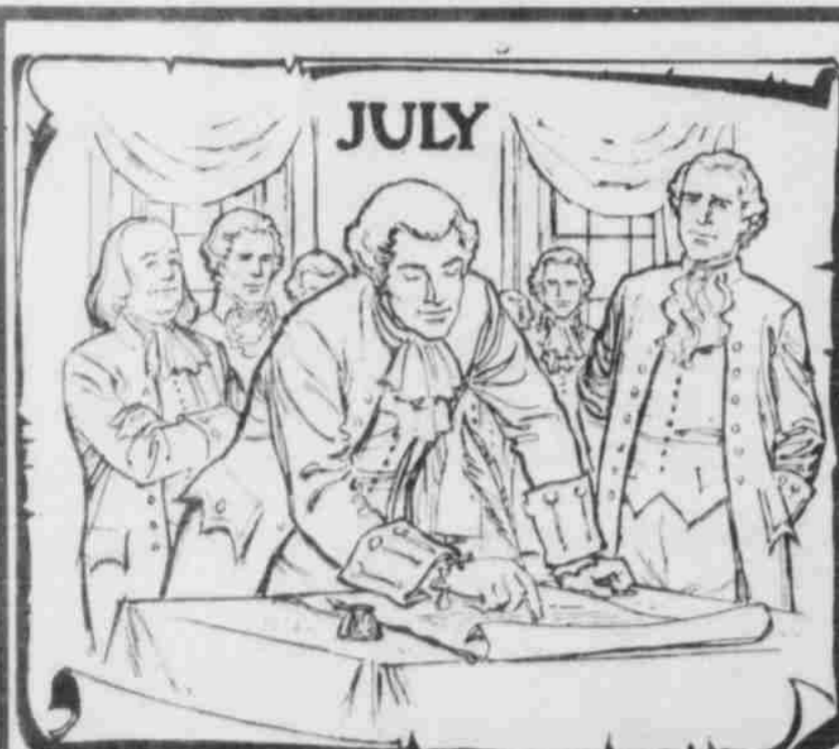


On March 5, 1770, British soldiers were provoked into firing upon a mob of jeering Boston patriots, an event commonly referred to as the Boston Massacre.

LITTLEFIELD GARDEN CENTER

385-6160

"We'll Grow On You"



On July 4, 1776, Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, a document proclaiming that the colonies be "free and independent states."

LITTLEFIELD FEEDERS INC.

385-5141



On August 10, 1831, it is believed that the name "Old Glory" was given to the flag when Charles Daggett said, "my ship, my country, my flag. Old Glory."

KOUNTRY BOY

Littlefield Plaza
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Double S&H Green Stamps
Tuesday & Saturday



On September 23, 1779, Commander John Paul Jones said the immortal words, "I have not yet begun to fight" and defeated the British in a famous battle at sea.

G&C AUTO SUPPLY

700 E. 4th 385-4431

Littlefield

Also in Sudan & Anton

Land boom bash:

Early townspeople open city with celebration

By NIAH RODGERS

The Littlefield Lands Company established a demonstration farm in its first move to attract buyers to this new land. A water well was put down which produced drinking water that was "delightfully soft and delicious to drink."

A two-room frame office building and a barn were built on the farm that was located where the fair grounds are now. Soon afterward a public windmill was drilled and erected on the square.

The land boom brought so many prospectors to see the new land that before long prospective buyers could not be accommodated at the ranch

headquarters. A hotel was needed because the 60-70 miles round-trip from Abernathy, Lubbock and other neighboring towns was more than could be made in one day and leave any time for the prospective buyer to inspect land.

Hotel started

Arthur P. Duggan secured bids for an 18 room hotel and let the contract in December, 1912. Promptly eight carpenters were busy erecting the two-story frame building, using materials from as far away as Roswell, N.M. Work was pushed through the snow, sands and cold of winter.

By the end of February, the hotel was far advanced, and was completed in March, 1913.

On the March 5-6 opening, 40 prospectors filled the bright yellow Casa Amarillo Hotel, two to a bed, and overflowed onto pallets in the company office, the wagon yard, and the lumber company office.

Meantime, W. G. and J. T. Street were in the process of building a hardware store. (While work was being done on the hotel, the men were living in the land office.)

A railroad was being built from Lubbock to the New Mexico line. Now it was time to seriously

consider an official opening for the new town of Littlefield. Arthur P. Duggan and Major Littlefield agreed the opening day should be in the summer when the high winds had ceased. Hopefully there would be several more farm houses scattered around town, much of the ground would be broken, if there was sufficient rain, and the railroad would have arrived. Why not choose the Fourth of July for the grand opening?

1400 attended

On the still, cloudless morning of July 4, 1913, over 1,400 people gathered to watch the official opening of Littlefield. Duggan had worked

since April to make this a memorable day.

A land auction, Littlefield's first passenger train, a big noon meal of barbecued beef, beans, and chuck-wagon dishes, a 15-piece band, a speech, rodeo, and a big dance was enough to bring everyone from miles around to town.

Cotton bagging was strung on poles to ward off the beaming sun. Edward R. Kone, the state commissioner of agriculture and a distant relative of Duggan's, came to make the speech. A 15-piece band from Lubbock was hired for the day. And the cowboys of the Yellow House Ranch and adjoining ranches had the "pleasure" of

demonstrating the "how" of a genuine round-up of 2,000 cattle, plus branding and a realistic bronco-busting exhibition.

A dance ended the festive day. The Casa Amarillo Hotel was filled that night. Every building and house had overnight guests, and many slept under wagons and out under the stars.

But as the Major predicted, the mood was too festive for transacting business. Only one sale had been made that day.

The celebration was considered a success, however, because the town had been an impressive sight and had received good publicity.

★ CHRONICLE OF FREEDOM ★



APRIL

On April 18, 1775, Paul Revere, warned by a light in a church steeple that the British were coming, set out on his famous ride alerting his countrymen.



MAY

On May 10, 1775, 83 Green Mt. Boys, led by Ethan Allen, took possession of valuable military stores when they peaceably captured Fort Ticonderoga.



JUNE

On June 17, 1775, patriots were ordered "don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes," and proved they could act as an army, at the battle of Bunker Hill.

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385-4850

ROY REID TIRE & SUPPLY

401 E. 9th
385-3747

SPADE CO-OP GIN

233-2331



OCTOBER

On October 17, 1781, British General Cornwallis bade his troops lay down their arms at Yorktown. This was to be the last major action of the Revolutionary War.



NOVEMBER

On November 30, 1782, America and Britain signed a preliminary agreement to end the war, signifying the first step toward a formal treaty.



DECEMBER

On December 25, 1776, General George Washington led 2,400 men across the Delaware towards Trenton, a much needed boost to the overall morale of his men.

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316 Phelps
385-3018

Anton opens with big sale

The thriving town of Anton had its beginning with a flair in December, 1924, when sale of 1,100 townsite lots started.

The Anton townsite was shown at a day-long program that featured the Littlefield band and with free dinners served by ladies of several Littlefield churches.

The site of Anton was owned by Will W. Elwood, who just a few weeks earlier had opened the Spade ranch

lands for sale and already had sold 200 farms.

He contracted with a firm, the Anton Townsite Company, to handle development of the town. A. O. Duggan was townsite manager. Financial backers for the company were listed as: a Dall as group of R. F. Duggan, J. C. Duke, Rosser J. Coke, H. L. Edwards and Charles L. Tarver; others were James J. Igoe of Brooklyn, N.M., and D. W. Maurer of Tampico, N.M.

On opening day, December 3, 1924

a chilling norther was whipping across the bare new area. But 1,000 persons still showed up and 200 lots were reported sold.

A. O. and R. F. Duggan were brothers to Arthur P. Duggan, Sr., and C. F. Duggan, who developed Littlefield.

Three lumber companies bought lots and had lumber on the ground for building yards by the day of the lots sale. The town plot had its central feature, a round plaza named Spade Circle that today is a decorative area of

the city. This was midway along Main Street, with a space for school buildings three blocks north of the street. Most of the business section was laid out along the Main Street originally.

The location of Anton had been designated for several years by a Santa Fe railroad switch, called Danforth Switch.

This was changed to Anton in honor of J. F. Anton, division superintendent of the Santa Fe railroad who lived at Slaton.



Swimming in Bull Lake

..... Bula history

Submitted by Mrs. John Blackman, assisted by a few old timers of the community.

Bula is a small town located in the south end of Baily County, 26 miles from Muleshoe and 18 miles from Littlefield. Both towns are the principle trade towns for this area.

Bula at one time was all in ranch land. In the early '20s the area was settled by eager farmers, looking for good fertile land. Some of the early settlers lived in small one room houses or half-dugouts.

Plans were to make this a "Methodist colony", so several strong members of the Methodist belief followed cow trails out this way from Littlefield.

The only house at that time was the ranch house, with stood near where the Ed Crume home is now. These plans did not materialize, so Mr. Newsome told a few prospectors if they would make a town here, he would give the land and lay it off in a townsight, drill a water well and all the neighbors could use water from this well until they were able to drill. Another disappointment, no water, a few holes produced about two barrels a day. He also promised to build them a building that could be used for a school house and church meeting place. This was a one room, wooden structure with dirt floors and was called the "Tabernacle".

Mr. A. J. Nordyke, a well driller, moved into the community soon, and with his teenage son, Zyra, kept busy drilling water wells for the newcomers.

This thriving little town had to have a name, so the men met to decide on a suitable name. "Newsome" was suggested, but this wouldn't do, since Texas already had a town by that name. So Mr. R. A. Oakes, a real estate agent for Newsome Land Co. and also a Methodist preacher, had a very pretty teenaged daughter by the name of Bula Maude Oakes, so that is where "Bula" got its name.

Bula's first grocery store was owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Warrick, and was located in the vicinity between where Middlebrook's service station and Richardson's grocery store presently are. Soon another store went in business in the booming town of Bula, owned and operated by Mr. Thorn and his wife Bula (some say Bula got her name from here). They stocked groceries and also dealt in selling implements.

A small room of this building housed the post office, Mr. B. R. Scott, being the Postmaster, this was during the years '27 and '28. Mr. Scott also assisted in selling groceries. In later years Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Corder owned and operated this grocery store. It was located where the present Church of Christ is now. This writer remembers Mr. and Mrs. Corder were very strong religiously and would not keep the store open on Sunday. Every one wanted ice tea on Sunday, so the Corders would haul out a big load of ice from Littlefield every Saturday, and put it in their ice house. (Just a few fortunate families owned an ice chest box.) So Mr. and Mrs. Corder would take ice money on Saturday and as people went home from Church on Sunday, they would go by and get their allowance of ice.

Other early grocery men who worked faithfully to service and supply the people of Bula area were Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham, and Mr. and Mrs. Squires. Mr. H. C. Nickles and wife, Faye bought the Squires grocery in 1929, and kept the store longer than any previous owner. While Mr. Nickles owned the store they made many modern improvements to give good service to their patrons. They sold to Ashel and Oleta Richardson in 1947, and they have continued to improve their stock, have added fresh, frozen goods and canned goods to please their customers. Its now a very modern grocery store. All of the early stores sold gas, coal and coal-oil.

Mr. Frank Thomas was also another early grocery owner in Bula; he also had the post office in the same building 1930 to 1933. Mr. Zyra Nordyke was postmaster from 1933 to 1936. Frank Thomas built the present building where the post office is now, and stocked it with a line of staple groceries. Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Simmons bought from Thomas in 1936, and Mr. Simmons became the postmaster. He continued in the business until 1942, when he sold to his brother Mr. and Mrs. Arbie Simmons, and Arbie was postmaster and ran the store. Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Simmos moved to California and both worked in defense work, but returned in 1946 and acquired the grocery store and post office again. Mrs. Simmons (Marjorie) became postmaster and continued in that capacity until her retirement June 20, 1975.

In the late '20s Zyra Nordyke erected a building and sold hardware, implements and some lumber. This was bought in 1933 by Gailbraith-Foxworth Lumber Co. Men who were instrumental in servicing and selling lumber to erect new homes in the area are Harold Clements and Cecil Jones. In 1942 Mr. Jones moved to Fort Worth and began doing defense work and the lumber yard was closed. The building was sold and moved to Enochs, and set up there for a gin office and also housed the office for the J. C. Enochs Land Company, with Mr. J. H. Lucas as the agent.

Where there is farm machinery, it always necessitates a blacksmith shop somewhere close. Men who have owned and operated blacksmith shops in Bula since the early days are, Mr. Hickson, J. F. Strickland, Mr. Walker, Mr. Gerkie, Garlon Green, C. A. Copaus and E. A. Eakes (deceased) and his son Dennis. The shop continues to be run by the Dennis Eakes.

The story is told that one time the post office was stolen at night and carried to the Bula school store (about five miles away). This little store was run by Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Waltrip and children. Located near where the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Claunch is. Working through the postal department, a group of angry citizens set out to move it back to Bula proper. So one bright sunny morning, Mr. L. H. Medlin furnished the wagon and teams. He along with a group of men, went after the post office and brought it back. It was stolen sometime in '28 and returned in '29.

With all the new tractors and cars bought, a gas station was erected by Andy Hallford and Fred Locker. They

also ran a truck, to service the gas barrels on the farms. A welding shop was housed in a small building at the rear of the station, run by James Beck. He did blacksmith work along with welding. This station was later bought by J. R. Leath, then F. L. Simmons and sold to Dale Middlebrooks in 1946. This building was across the street north of the present post office building. In 1963, Dale built his present building.

Bula has two gins, A. J. Nickles and his son Guy built the first gin in 1929. This was later sold as a co-op gin. In 1941, it was bought by Clarence Rowland of Lubbock, and he continued to run it until it burned down at the close of the season, 1958-59. In 1959 the land was bought by Jim Claunch and his sons, they erected the present gin that year and ginned that fall.

E. G. Gage and son W. B. erected a gin in 1933, which is now known as the Young Brothers Gin. In 1947 Gage sold to Ray and Parker.

In 1948, he sold to J. O. Kendricks, and he operated the gin until 1961, then Roy and Paul Young became the owners.

At one time Bula had a doctor, Dr. Sparks (deceased) set up his office in a Nordyke building (this building burned down) with his wife as his nurse. Dr. Sparks was kept busy taking care of the area ill and delivering babies. Having a doctor, necessitated a druggist, so Mr. Painter, with his wife Lillie and two small sons J. W. and Leon, moved to Bula and he became Bula's first and only druggist. He also sold over the counter drugs and operated a fountain service.

Men could get a hair cut at one time in Bula, without driving to town. Mack and Charles McGee ran the shop. It would close every Friday evening at sundown, and no hair was cut on Saturday, as that was their church day. Charlie would sometimes walk to Littlefield to attend worship services.

In 1941 Lamb County built the present road bed from Littlefield to the Lamb County line. The road was paved about two years later. It was 1956 before the Bailey County line joined and put the pavement west of Bula to connect with the Morton-Muleshoe road. Rural Electrification came in 1938-39, and in 1956, the Five Area Telephone Cooperative came to the Bula area.

The store building owned by Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Simmons, now houses the Post Office, with Faye Jones postmaster, Beauty Shop, owner and operator, Mrs. Jerry (Linda) Cox, is in the Farmers Union Insurance office, owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. John Hubbard.

Bula Lions were organized in 1974, with 21 members. After loosing the school, membership dropped to 16. James Sinclair was elected as its first president. This summer Lions are sponsoring community get-togethers on the last Saturday nights in June and July.

Plans are to bury a time capsule at Bula, on this 4th of July, and if you are "hanging" around 50 years from now, you might enjoy helping to dig up this capsule.

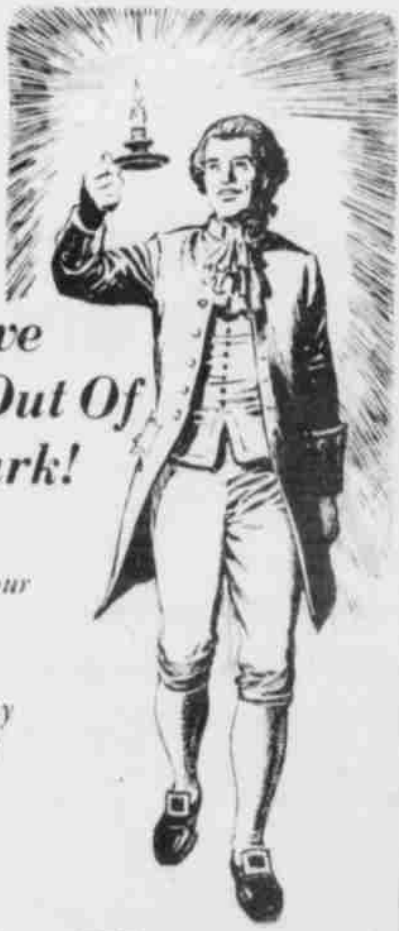


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TODAY

Co

Smiths claim many firsts

Mr. B.F. Smith and his family of nine children moved to Littlefield in 1912. And with his death in 1916, members of the family had been the first ones to marry, the first ones to have a baby in Littlefield and Mr. Smith was the third person to be buried in the Littlefield cemetery.

"We had a large family and one of our family was always doing something which had not been done before in town," Bob Smith, Littlefield resident and Mr. Smith's son, explained.

The Smith family built the first house in Littlefield, and the lumber used in the building was the first lumber brought into town.

"We moved here from Roundup, and when we got here in 1912 there were no houses. So we had to build," Smith continued.

Ben and Bob Smith hauled lumber from Abernathy in a heavy wagon, and when the wood got to Littlefield, the whole family took some responsibility in seeing that the house was completed. The girls helped the men lay out plans for the house, in addition to cooking all the meals and keeping the clothes mended.

"The house had two big rooms and two shed rooms. We used one of the larger rooms for a kitchen and dining area, and the other three were bedrooms and a living room," Smith recalled.

The house was located west of the First National Bank, "up on the hill." "In fact, the house, which is located there now is built around our old home," Smith added.

B.F. Smith was born in Alabama but migrated to Texas at an early age. He lived in San Jacinto before moving to Comanche County. He married in Comanche County, and he and his wife had nine children.

The family moved to the Plains area in 1900. They settled in Lubbock County until 1912 when they left for Littlefield. Smith was always active in establishing a stable society. While in the Shallowater area, he was among the men who helped build the first school there.

When they moved to Littlefield it was going to be only a temporary home.

"Dad was looking at land in New Mexico when he heard about the possibilities in Littlefield. So we moved here just temporarily," Bob Smith explained.

Smith bought two lots of land for \$100 each, and on one of them he built his home. As the town looked like it would grow, Smith began boarding the workers who were building the Littlefields Hotel.

"The more Dad heard about the hotel the more he thought we should put in a hotel also. So we did. We built the hotel about the same time the other one was being built, and he ran the business until his death in 1916," Smith stated.

And the kids worked too. As Mrs. Frank James, daughter of the late B.F. Smith, said, "We kept railroad workers carpenters, just a number of men who were around the town at that time. We cooked for about 50 men a day, and of course we had a stack of dishes to wash after every meal."

But the days weren't all work. Those pioneer children knew how to play, even if it meant making up their own games.

"I never will forget watching Bob (Smith) play the French harp and dance at the same time," Mrs. James laughingly recalled.

"Bob called for all the square dances too, but his favorite was playing that harp and doing the two-step at the same time," she said.

"We probably looked terrible in those days, but after all we were really pioneers," Mrs. James said.

But if these youngsters looked terrible, no one noticed. The other settlers were busy trying to make a life for themselves, as best they could. And most of the families succeeded.

The members of the B.F. Smith family did anyway. The old Smith Hotel still stands, and is run by Mrs. Larado McKnight. The other children include Mrs. Effie Wharton, mother of the first baby born in Littlefield; Ben Smith, who was in the trucking and freight business in Littlefield; Ina Belle Bush now of Lubbock; D.E. Smith of Idaho; Birdie Davis of Lubbock; Bob Smith, Littlefield rancher; Mrs. Frank James of Littlefield and Carl Smith of Lubbock.



B. F. SMITH AND HIS FAMILY lived in the first house built in Littlefield. Seated in the front row are Felix and J. T. Wallis and Carl Smith, who is in Lubbock now. Seated on the porch are Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wallis, brother-in-law of Mr. Smith's, Ina Belle Wharton, first baby born in Littlefield, Mr. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Wharton, with baby Mildred Wharton, and Mrs. Gladys (Smith) James. Back row, left to right, are Lorado (Smith) McKnight, Tommie (Wallis) Davis, Bob Smith, Ben Smith, Jessie Wallace and Birdie (Smith) Davis.

Lamb County News started in 1918

Littlefield was just six years old when its first newspaper was established, in a building on Littlefield Drive. It was named the Lamb County News, established in April, 1918.

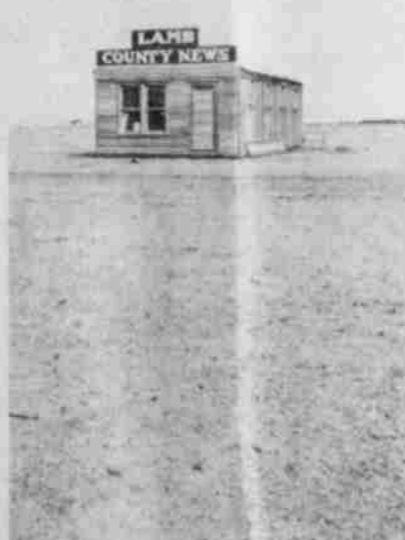
Publisher of the early newspaper, and also its chief printer, was Neal A. Douglass Sr., who came here from Roaring Springs.


Douglass started with a new plant, an establishment of some pride for the new city. He operated less than a year, then leased it to a young man named McCormick, who closed down the business after a few months. The plant was sold to an Eastland firm and moved there.

Almost five years later, Jess Mitchell, later of Muleshoe, began publication of a newspaper also called the Lamb County News. Later, it was renamed the Littlefield Leader, and later Lamb County Leader, which still operates.

Mitchell was publisher until 1930 when he sold the property to Morley B. Drake, who operated the business until 1953, when he sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Sam Williams.

They later purchased the County-Wide News, established in 1933 and published by Allen Hodges.





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-Samuel Francis Smith

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Words To Remember. . .

"Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much or suffer much, because they live in the gray twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat."

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

We salute our forefathers who

dared to form a great nation!

Farmers Co-op Gin

-SUDAN-

Words To Remember. . .

"These are the times that try men's souls. . . Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict the more glorious the triumph."

THOMAS PAINE

We salute courageous Americans who have not allowed the Flame of Freedom to be extinguished.

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Whitharral once part of giant Ranches

The Whitharral Community is located in the north central part of Hockley County and is composed of territory that was once part of the XIT and Spade Ranches.

The placing of these lands on the market brought about the development of the community. The Spade land went on the market in 1924 at about \$35 per acre.

As in other parts of the county, development was rapid. As the land was settled up, the demand soon came for the other things that go to make up a community.

In 1925 Lee Crowover established a general mercantile store. In 1926 a garage was built by Fred Young. Ed Langford put in another garage and

filling station in 1930. The farmers' gin was constructed in 1926. A second gin was erected by the Gage Brothers in 1932.

The Whitharral school district was originally a part of common school district, number three. Since other districts had been created from district number three, it was necessary for the county board of education to divide the remaining tract into two independent school districts. The western district was called Pettit, while the eastern division was called Whitharral.

Before this time two small buildings were in use in each part of the district. The first school at the present location of Whitharral was opened on January 12, 1925, in a small frame building. The school opened with six pupils in attendance and closed four months and one week later with thirty-eight pupils.

Prior to the division of the Haskell common school district, a \$60,000 bond issue was voted with the understanding that half of the money was to go to each division of the district for the erection of two brick buildings. In 1926 the buildings were constructed. By 1929 Whitharral was second in size in the county in scholastic enumeration, Levelland being the only school with more scholastics.

In 1939 the Hodges district grouped with Whitharral for high school purposes.



World's tallest windmill on Yellowhouse Ranch

Town of Bula named for preacher's daughter

The name of Bula comes from the daughter of a Methodist preacher.

It seems that Bula was formed on the -N- (Bar N Bar) ranch owned by Jim Whaley and the Newsomes. Whaley and W. B. and T. W. Newsome divided their interest in the ranch and had a town site surveyed in 1924.

Following the surveying the land was presented for settlement. At first the town was named Newsome. But when an application for a post office

was presented to the government, it was found that a town by the name of Newsome was already in existence in southern Texas.

It was then that the Methodist preacher, a Rev. Oachs, named the town after his daughter, Bula. The name remains to this day.

At the time the town site was presented for settlement, the land was selling for \$20-\$25 per acre.

The town gained its first gin in 1929, the J. A. Nichols & Son Gin. The second gin, owned by E. G. Gage & Son, arrived in 1933.

The school was established in 1926 and built on its present site. Previously the school met in a tabernacle in Enochs and then in a school house there. The school was moved to Bula to handle the students from Enochs and Bula. Bula consolidated with Three Way in 1975 on its 50th anniversary.

Texans really did help in Revolution

Texans, who aren't exactly shy when it comes to bragging about their state, think it's time the rest of the country learned that Texas helped America win its independence.

So what if Texas wasn't one of the original 13 colonies.

Forget the fact that, in 1776, this minor province of Spain was separated by more than 1,500 miles from Concord and Bunker Hill.

The future heroes of the Alamo (most of whom hadn't yet been born) didn't actually march with General Washington's rebels, but they supported his cause.

And Texas still claims that it had a role in the American Revolution. To prove it, the prestigious Institute of Texan Cultures here put its research staff to work on a special Bicentennial project.

The result is a book, appropriately entitled "Texas and the American Revolution," which has become a minor best seller only weeks after its publication. And the Institute's gallery exhibit, with the same title, has been attracting several hundred visitors daily.

Now some historians, who have routinely ignored any contribution Texans may have made to American independence, are taking a second look.

There were only 3,000 Texans in 1776 but nearly all of them disliked the British. Only a third of the citizenry was Spanish (the rest were Indians and people of mixed blood), but they shared a smoldering resentment of the Spanish throne for Britain.

One who had a personal grudge against England was the commander of the Spanish troops protecting the Texas frontier. He was Hugo O'Connor, a fiery tempered Irishman who grew up a revolutionary and was

driven from Ireland by the British.

He joined the Spanish army and shipped out to the Texas frontier.

He changed the Spanish name of Oconor, gave it a Spanish pronunciation and settled the British Army here by the colonists, Oconor was ready to meet the frontier.

That didn't happen. No resident of Texas was a shot in the American Revolution. Oconor and others were in the colonies closely following the same strategy later declared its independence.

Many of those who served in the American Revolution, and recognized Texas as a future. In 1821, the finally opened to U.S. many veterans of the Revolution headed this way. Men who fought and have been identified as Texan Cultures researchers coming to Texas. They many more.

These newcomers, with their experience with the government, literally in their hip pockets. Institute's book points to ancient Caddo Indian "Eye," claimed to have company under Ward. They have watched Cornwallis at Yorktown.

The story of "Beard" others are told in the 72-page book, "Texas and the American Revolution." It sales tax and postage, directly from the Institute of Texan Cultures, P. O. Box 1224, Littlefield, Texas 78294.

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Windmilling was interesting

Buck Howard kept water pumping till 1926

In Buck Howard's windmilling days, he did his share of branding, dipping and dehorning on the L Seven, U Bar, Mallet Land and Cattle Company and other ranches.

"I could hold a job as a cowboy," Buck said, "but I never learned to like it."

Buck windmilled and cowboied for some of the biggest spreads in Texas "commencing at \$1 a day." When he quit windmilling in 1926 he was making \$65 a month.

"That was a whole bunch," he added. "After WWI, top hand got \$35 a month, and board—providing he did his own cooking."

Buck windmilled on the Mallet Land and Cattle Company from 1919 to 1926. He kept 28 windmills going and watered 6,000 head of cattle on

150,000 acres of land in Hockley, Bailey, and Yoakum and Terry Counties.

For seven years he worked lines of windmills, starting at 5:30 a.m. every day. "When I quit, I said I wasn't going to get up until I woke up," he said. "And I haven't either."

Every windmill had a name. If the name wasn't any more than "Old Mill on the Hill" it designated the location of the watering point. Some of the more interesting mill names like Polecat, Hardluck, Shortfinger and Sanctified have stories behind them.

"It took a week to drill a water well, then," Buck said. "When they were drilling the well eight miles southwest of where Levelland is now, the drillers pitched a tent at the location. One night a polecat got in the tent. That's how Polecat got its name."

Hardluck Mill wasn't named until a fellow fell off the tower. "It killed him, and that mill was called Hardluck from then on."

A driller got his finger caught in some machinery and one windmill was called "Shortfinger" from that day on. "Bughill Mill" got its name for no better reason than a big bunch of bugs after a summer rain shower were seen nearby. "Sanctified" turned out to be "as sweet a well" as its name implied. Sanctified was located at about the point where Girlstown U.S.A. is now.

While digging, the drilling machine broke at Sanctified, Howard recalls. The driller quit working and took Sunday off. When he started back Monday morning the bit came loose and the digging was finished without any trouble.

It took Howard eight hours to reach Sanctified until the ranch bought a "pickup" in 1920. The Model T

roadster turtleback was replaced with a flatbed box to hold the windmills.

Windmilling not only took up all the daylight hours six days a week, but Buck only came to town every two months.

An unexpected trip to town to get windmill supplies or a dance at a camp or ranch headquarters often was the only reason for bathing and shaving, just like in the movies, he recalled.

Buck made his last cattle drive in 1926.

"We commenced at Muleshoe and took six weeks driving the cattle to the Mallet headquarters 25 miles southwest of Littlefield. Sixteen of us went six weeks without shaving. When the grass was good, we wouldn't move the cook wagon all day. The cattle fattened as we went along."

"All that hurrying and roping in the movies is just for the pictures. We wouldn't have any 'chousing' if a cowboy wanted to get fired, just let him 'chouse' the cattle or rove 'em."

Buck quit windmilling for the Mallet in 1926. "It was in November," he said. "By doggies, it was about the time of year. After that, that's when it gets interesting. I married."

The Howards moved to Lamb County in 1928. They farmed in the Rocky Ford community until 1940, then moved to their house on E. 60 Street in Littlefield in 1962.

"And I haven't got used to living in town yet," Howard concluded. "I still go out to my barn and garden and turnip patch. When I'm not messing around with my trees and junk, I like to talk to the old cowboys and reminisce about windmilling days."

We've come a long way in 200 years! Let's renew our pledge to our great country and always be a land of vision and ingenuity.

JCPenney

Words To Remember. . .

"For this truth must be clear before us; whatever America hopes to bring in the world must first come to pass in the heart of America."

Dwight D. Eisenhower

We're Proud Of Our Country.

Higginbotham-Bartlett

-AMHERST-

God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are always ready to guard and defend it.

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The God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time.

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The Lamb Co. War

Cities fight for courthouse

LAH RODGERS
 In 1915, when Louis Hair moved to Olton in 1915, a 5-year-old he jumped the rails on one side of the courthouse to cross to the far side of the windmill to get water for his father's store.
 Hair made their big move to Olton 55 years ago "all the way across county line" from Running Water, or what is Edmonson now.
 Hair's general store sold everything from groceries, dry goods, hardware, gasoline and kerosene and served as the post office for 15 years, too. The store building served as the courthouse previously, and Hair remembers various meetings were still tacked up on the walls in the back rooms when his dad ran the business.
 The likely subject for Hair are the events when Olton was the county seat and the battle waged in moving the county courthouse to Littlefield.

railroad. But the fact was overlooked that Hart was only 12 miles away. "Needless to say," Hair added, "Duggan wasn't very popular around Olton for a while."

Although the second Lamb County courthouse build in Olton was brick, the floors were wooden. The jail was located in the basement, and the jail was eventually condemned because it was unsafe for prisoners in the event of fire.

After three elections and 15 years, Littlefield won the county seat and the records were moved here in 1946.

Hair remembers the fights over the courthouse well, because he was deputy tax collector under three tax collector-assessors from 1934 through 1944, serving under Roy Gilbert, Doc Holt and Frank Cummings before he joined the Olton State Bank where he is executive vice president.

Besides being proprietor of the general store, Hair's dad was a real

estate agent, too, during the 20s. Hair often rode in the back seat of the Model T as his dad showed land, "tearing out across the country because there were no fences."

Hauling groceries from Plainview to Olton was a two-day affair when it rained. It took a day going and a day coming back. That was all right with Hair, through, because there was a picture show there.

Olton's first theatre opened in 1927 or '28, and Hair was a great fan of the silent movies of Tom Mix and Hoot Gibson. "The blacksmith's wife had more kids than were in my whole family and she declared herself the official reader," he said. "She had a loud voice and read every word on the screen. That loud reading really irked some of us because we wanted to do our own reading."

Hair said another vivid memory is of the prairie fires in the early 20's. "The Elwoods owned everything north of the sandhills and Halsells owned everything south of the sandhills. When a prairie fire started everyone would run by the store and grabbed all the brooms and toe sacks and go help fight the fire.

The competitive spirit between Littlefield and Olton was no less fierce in sports than in moving the courthouse. Hair played basketball and football in high school, he was a freshman when Olton beat Littlefield 11-10 for the county basketball championship.

Hair was a senior when the Depression squeezed so hard that there wasn't enough money to open school. In 1932, the first day of school started the last day of October and he graduated on the 30th of June.

There were only five games of football played that year, and the teachers were paid in script that was discounted six per cent. After he graduated from Olton in 1933, Hair attended Texas Tech for a year and played tailback on the football team before going to work in the tax office in the courthouse.

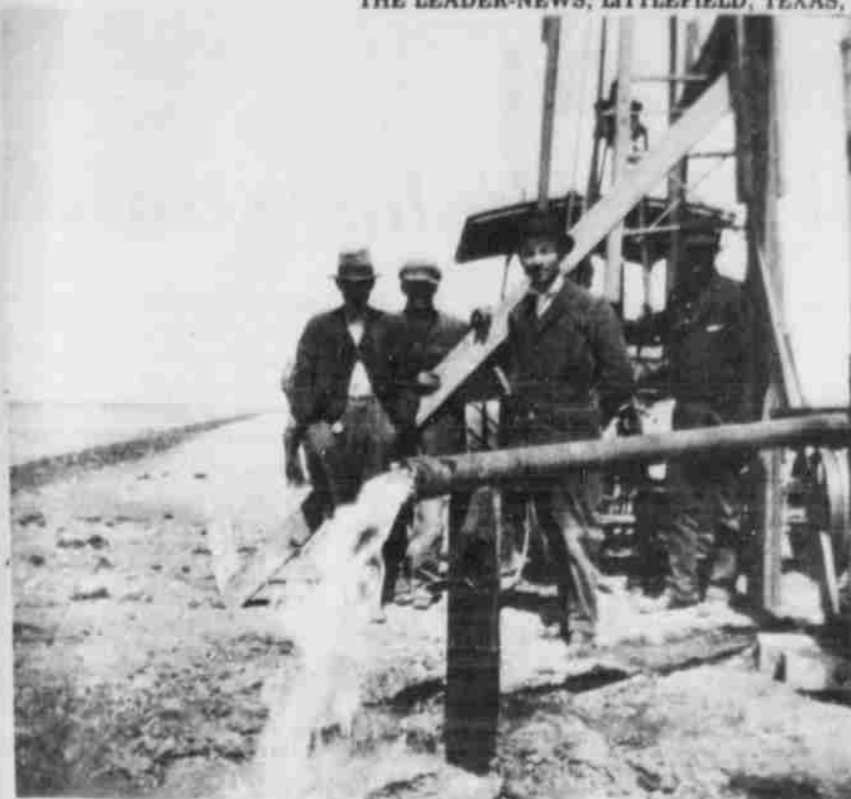
Then during the war he did double duty when he coached football two years in 1942 and '43 in addition to his work in the courthouse.

Olton was soon to lose the county seat to Littlefield. "But we beat Littlefield 25-0, then I ran the little boys in to play," he concluded.



Louis Hair

air said the night the original courthouse burned, some Olton residents were reasonably sure some of the Littlefield people had come to Olton and set the fire. A number of residents who lined the streets and the blazing courthouse carried guns.
 Then the blaze died down, nothing was left but a large fire-proof vault. County-wide feelings were divided where the new courthouse should be located. The commissioners were split two and two whether to rebuild in Olton or re-locate in Littlefield. County Judge R. C. Hopping cast the deciding vote for Olton. But even then it took years to get a bond passed to build a new courthouse.
 Amherst and Littlefield both wanted the county seat. Amherst needed only a simple majority vote to gain the courthouse, since it was located in the center of the county. But Littlefield needed a two-thirds majority.
 P. Duggan Sr., the founder of Littlefield who was then a state senator, came up with the theory that Littlefield could get the county seat with a simple majority because Olton is more than 14 miles from the



Littlefield's first irrigation well.

Beisels from Asia

One of the early-day Littlefield families was that of Mr. and Mrs. David F. Beisel, natives of Asia, who came here in 1915.

The couple were natives of Turkistan, Asia, and were married there in 1890, a year before immigrating to America. They lived in Canada for almost 20 years before coming to the United States. They moved to Littlefield on January 10, 1915.

The Beisels were converted to the Lutheran faith before leaving Turkistan.

Mr. Beisel had a farm west of town, and he remained in Littlefield until his death in 1951. Mrs. Beisel died in 1924.

The Beisels had seven children, Dave, Springdale, Arkansas; Dick, of Littlefield; Fred, Oklahoma; Ed Bledsoe; Mrs. Bill Yeager, El Paso; Martha, Corpus Christi, and Bill, Houston.

Words To Remember . . .

"American liberty is a religion. It is a thing of the spirit. It is an aspiration on the part of the people for not alone a free life, but a better one."

WENDELL L. WILKIE

We're proud of our Heritage.

Central Compress And Warehouse

-SUDAN-

Bula churches history told

Structures have interesting pasts

MRS. JOHN BLACKMAN
 The old tabernacle built in 1925, was meeting place for all people of the community who wished to meet and worship. A union Sunday school was held in the morning, followed most of the time by a preacher of some denomination. The Bula Baptist church was organized in 1926, as a missionary Baptist church and in 1932 known as the Southern Baptist church. Charter members of the Baptist church were Mr. and Mrs. R. Scifer, Mrs. Carl Tidwell, Mrs. W. Locker, and Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Order. These are all deceased. As their membership grew, they launched it to build a new house of worship in 1934. Brother Kirk was the first preacher. He drove each Sunday from Olton.

Charter members of this new church, who still live here and worship are Mrs. Ben Pierce, Mr. P. R. Pierce, and Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Battles. As the church grew additions were made.

Members of the Methodist church first worshipped in a small one room wooden building, built by Mr. Newsome, and located somewhere near their present church building. Later when the tabernacle was built, this became their place of worship. In 1934 their membership grew and they erected their present building, doing some addition in later years. Brother Frank Story was their first preacher in 1930.

The Church of Christ met on Sunday afternoon in the tabernacle building for Bible study, with preaching services every 4th Sunday. Among some

of the leaders were Mr. Corabell and Mr. Gohen. In 1935 a one room structure with concrete floor was erected. This soon became inadequate for a meeting place and the present Church of Christ was built in 1945. Among some of the preachers who have lived and labored with the congregation are brother Hogan, Norman Warren, Terry Blake, and many others.

Due to more modern ways of farming, and less need of man power, Bula has fewer farm families, and this has caused the membership of the churches to decrease in the past few years. At present time the Baptist church is the only one that has a preacher, Brother Eddie Riley and wife, Karen and two small children.



And
 The
 Bell
 Of
 Freedom
 Rings . . .

With the Liberty Bell as symbol, the sound of freedom rings anew throughout our land as we observe our 200th birthday. This year we commemorate the courage and determination of our forefathers and rededicate ourselves to their principles. "Let Freedom Ring."

This is our prayer and our pledge the heart and spirit of our American way of life.

A Day To Remember...

...June 17, 1775

"DON'T FIRE UNTIL YOU SEE THE WHITES OF THEIR EYES"
 ORDERED WILLIAM PRESCOTT TO HIS VALIANT BAND OF PATRIOTS AT THE BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL. ON THE THIRD FRONTAL ATTACK THE BRITISH FINALLY DROVE THE COLONISTS BACK. THE AMERICANS HAD LOST THE BATTLE, BUT HAD GAINED CONFIDENCE IN THEIR FIGHT FOR FREEDOM.

WE PROUDLY SALUTE OUR AMERICAN HERITAGE.

LARRABEE'S

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Cities linked: Gonzales, Littlefield share traits

There is a strong link between bustling Littlefield, on the busy South Plains of Texas and Gonzales almost the most historic of Texas cities, in the fertile valley of the Guadalupe and San Marcos rivers.

Major George Littlefield, who fostered the city bearing his name, grew up in Gonzales and there started the business career that was to lead to many areas. One of these was the South Plains where he bought 300,000 XIT Ranch acres and opened this land to farm homes and new cities.

But all Texas has a historic link with Gonzales. The annals of the Texas independence movement reflect in page after page the gallant part of Gonzales, and its brave and sacrificing people.

Where Littlefield is celebrating its 63rd anniversary, stately Gonzales is in its 151st year.

Here the progress of the 1970's merges gracefully with the proud history of 1825.

When Impresario Dewitt Green was establishing a colony for American settlers in 1825 he led in setting up a village at the junction of the beautiful Guadalupe and San Marcos rivers as headquarters.

Major James Kerr, another name of note in Texas history drew plans for the town which he named for Don Rafael Gonzales, provisional governor of Coahuila and Texas. It was the westernmost American settlement in Texas until after the close of the Texas Revolution in 1836.

In 1826 the colony was attacked by Indians, who killed one man, plundered the village and burned some of the cabins. Gonzales survived this early baptism of fire, and went forward to a larger place in history.

In 1831 the Mexican government gave the colony a small brass cannon to be used in protection against Indians. The cannon was to fill a much greater purpose.

With unrest stirring Texas settlers in 1835 over an over-bearing attitude of the Mexican government, Mexican officials decided to recall the gun. A corporal and five soldiers went from San Antonio out to get the cannon. By this small contingent, the people of Gonzales sent back a refusal.

The Mexican forces came back 150 mounted soldiers, arriving on September 29, 1835. A force of 18 Gonzales men met them. It was a thin line of defense, and for two days the 18 delayed and parleyed, while reinforcements gathered from the area.

On September 30 John D. Clements, one of the 18 men, met with the Mexican commander, Lieutenant Castaneda on the banks of the river nearby. Here Regidor read a message: "I cannot, nor do I desire to deliver up the cannon, and only through force will we yield."

There was a shorter way to say it, and the words soon echoed defiantly from the townsfolk and newly arrived independence fighters:

"Come and Take it!"

The Texas revolution was declared, informally but firmly. Behind Clements by this time were 150 colonists, gathered from miles around. The Mexicans indicated that force would be used.

Sarah Seely and Evaline Dewitt quickly fashioned Texas' first battle flag and the Texans unearthed the cannon, buried in the peach orchard of George W. Davis. Wheels were secured and the cannon made ready, as a tense day passed.

When Castaneda moved up on September 2, 1835, he met a force commanded by Col. J. H. Moore and Lt. Col. J. W. E. Wallace. And the cannon.

Over it waved a white flag, centered by a black replica of the stubby cannon. On it were emblazoned the words: "Come and Take it."

As the forces closed there was a volley from the Texas settlers, handy troops with the long rifle. One Mexican soldier fell dead. The rest broke ranks and fled.

The first shot for Texas independence had been fired, the first battle won. It was still the foggy early morning of October 2, but a new sun was rising over Texas.

Gonzales became a rallying place for the war that was shaping. Volunteers came into the city, singly, in pairs, in groups. Stephen F. Austin arrived on October 11 to assume command of the growing army, and it marched on San Antonio, headquarters for Mexican forces in Texas.

By the end of 1835, Mexican forces had withdrawn below the Rio Grande. The move for independence gained strength.

Then an overwhelming force, a Mexican army of more than 4,000, marched back into Texas, commanded by the general-dictator, Santa Anna. Reaching San Antonio in February, they found an obstacle, a small band of Texans defending an old mission, The Alamo. Col. William B. Travis was in command.

Besieged by the large Mexican army, Travis sent out daily appeals for

reinforcements. They went to Washington-on-the-Brazos, where a Texas independence convention was in session.

They went to Goliad, where Col. Fannin had 400 troops in a fort. The appeals were heeded; but no help came.

Except from Gonzales. When Travis' dramatic appeal arrived by messenger on February 26 it prompted an urgent community meeting. Gonzales might stand in the dictator's path, but first, Travis needed help.

Thirty-two men responded to Travis' appeal, most of the men in the village. Some left families, several were young boys, 16 to 18 years old. From the community's resources they drew what weapons and ammunitions that were available.

Then they rode off to the Alamo and to glory, a long ride from which there would be no return. This certain, unspoken knowledge marked their leave-taking. For those who rode, and those who stayed, it was a gallant and immortal sacrifice.

The Gonzales band fought their way into the Alamo on March 1. Their guns joined those of 150 other defenders.

As Santa Anna threw assault wave after another against the Alamo, the guns of its defenders cut bloody swaths in the ranks. Santa Anna's army was bled white. Finally, the men of Gonzales died, with Col. Travis and Davy Crockett, Captain Almaron Dickinson, Jim Bowie, Jim Bonham, names every Texas school student knows.

Lengthen that familiar list by 32 names, brave names, names of glory. These are the men of Gonzales:

Albert Martin, Isaac Baker, John Cane, George W. Cottle, David P. Cummings, Squire Damon, Jacob C. Darst, John Davis, William Dearduff, Charles Despallier, William Fishbaugh, John Flanders, Dolphin Ward Floyd, Galba Fugua, John E. Garvin, John E. Gaston.

James George, Thomas Jackson, Johnny Kellog, Andrew Kent, George C. Kimball, John G. King, William P. King, Jonathan C. Lindley, Thomas R. Miller, Jessie McCoy, Isaac Millsap, George Neggan, William Summers, George W. Tumlison, Robert White, and Claiborne Wright.

The survivors of the Alamo came first to Gonzales. They were Mrs. Almaron Dickinson, her baby and two servants, the only persons spared from the Alamo.

By them Santa Anna sent a grim warning: surrender or die as did the men of the Alamo.

His threats went to the wrong place, at the wrong time. At Gonzales, Mrs. Dickinson told the tragic story to General Sam Houston, just arrived to rally troops for the Texas army.

As the account was related, in dramatic detail, the Texas answer spoke out from the grim eyes of Houston and the troops who had been drifting in to join his army. It was there in the sobs of families whose slain members at that hour were on a pagan funeral pyre in San Antonio.

But there must yet be more sacrifice for Gonzales. As the town grieved there came word of Santa Anna's approach. Houston made a soldier's decision: Retreat, and burn the town behind him.

Gonzales was burned, some of the blazes set by the people who had toiled to build there new homes, new lives.

Houston withdrew 10 miles west, to set up headquarters under an oak that still stands today. The Sam Houston oak is marked by one of many historic monuments around the city.

The famous Run-Away-Scrape was on. Soldiers and frontier families moved east, in an unorderly retreat from the invading army. There were mutterings from many as Houston backed away, to pick his ground days later for a victorious showdown.

Gonzales again paid her price in the cause of Texas freedom; not so dear as that of the Alamo, but still a costly one. The glow of her fires etched in the early morning skies an eternal debt for Texans.

In weeks the invader beaten, Gonzales was rebuilt on its ashes, in the peaceful glen by the rivers.

She rebuilt well. When the Civil War came, Gonzales again sent her men, one of them a spirited 19-year-old, George Littlefield, who came home a major.

In the hard post-war days, Gonzales found a way back to prosperity and growth, a long way that stretched from there to Abilene, Kansas, one of the first herds of cattle to go up the Chisholm Trail, to a desperately needed northern cattle market, was formed at Gonzales in 1872.

One of the first trail drivers if not the first, was Major George Littlefield. The Gonzales spirit has a way of writing history. Today, a comfortable town of perhaps 100,000 people, she daily welcomes visitors to her points of history, to the modern new municipal building, with a lovely reflection pool in front of a tile mosaic of a stubby cannon and the words "Come and Take It."

First public wedding draws entire town

(Editor's Note—Reprinted from the 25-year Historical Edition of the Leader in 1935.)

The first public wedding in Littlefield was solemnized in the presence of the entire population in the then combination Sunday and public school building which is now a residence on East Fifth.

The contracting parties were Miss Tommy Wallis and John Hall. The minister officiating was Rev. J. H. Rankins, who was pastor of the Crosbyton Baptist Church at the time, being first Baptist minister to hold regular by-monthly services in Littlefield and who organized the nucleus of the First Baptist church here.

Miss Wallis was a very attractive young lady being the granddaughter of Littlefield's first citizen, the late B.



F. Smith. She was living in the Smith home at the time and became acquainted with Mr. Hall, who was a tall handsome brunette being one of the steel tank gang constructing the tanks for the Santa Fe Railway Company.

I was deputy clerk at the time and learning of this romance, I told the happy couple that I would issue the marriage license gratis if they would have a public wedding. They finally consented to this, and those of us living here including Mrs. W. G. Street, Miss Alice Kling, and the B.F. Smith family decorated the building in a most attractive fashion for the occasion. We covered wagon bows with white crepe paper forming an altar with white dove suspended from the first bow under which the couple stood. Spanish Duggers were used in profusion to bank the altar. We rehearsed the ceremony several times so that everything would be letter-perfect. Miss Alice Kling sang a prenuptial song, and Miss Hattie Fitzlaff, then of Olton, played the wedding march.

John and Tommy Hall

Butter Was Farm's First Dairy Product

Butter was the main source of dairy income for many years, and it's said that excellent butter came out of Colonial springhouses. This was true even though little was known of the necessity for sterilizing utensils, and no refrigeration was available but cold spring water and ice. These methods of preserving were inadequate in the summer, when butter was salted down in wooden buckets and kept sweet in the springhouse until winter when the price was better.

Crescent Park Church Of Christ

Crescent Dr. & 17th Street

Littlefield

385



CRESCENT PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST

According to information given by members of the church who came to Littlefield in the early twenties, we give below a brief outline of some of the facts that make up the history of the congregation now known as The Crescent Park Church of Christ.

In 1925 a small building was erected on the corner of 8th and Littlefield Drive. In 1934 a larger building was erected across the street.

The building on Littlefield Drive had to be enlarged as the congregation continued to grow. Eventually it became necessary to erect the present building located at 17th Street and Crescent Drive. The first service was conducted in the new building on December 16, 1962.

The present Elders of this church are: Russell Blevins, Fred Cook, Earl Dow, Forrest Martin, Troy Moss, Hollis Townsend and J. O. Wimberley. The Deacons are: Dr. J. R. Fain, Ronnie Fisher, Weldon Gilley, Alvis Jones, R. B. Kirby, Herbert Pierce and Jerry Roberts.

Alvis Jones is the song leader, June Ford, secretary, W. P. Dennis and Phil Harguess are the present ministers.

May we ever remember that "Righteousness exhalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people" [Proverbs 14:34].

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Since we opened in 1948, we have offered a personalized insurance service that has proven attractive to residents of the Littlefield area. As Littlefield has grown, Kelly Insurance Agency has grown. For the loyalty and patronage of our customers we are deeply grateful. If you have never tried our service we invite you to come in and discuss it. We think you will like what we have to offer. Hundreds of others have.

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- ★ Commercial Union Co.'s
- ★ Western Security
- ★ St. Paul Ins. Co.'s.
- ★ Ranger's Ins. Co.'s.

Agents court buyers

Menonites attracted to Littlefield Lands

The hearty land agent led the songs at the front of a special railroad car, and they went like this:

"Here's to good old Texas, boys,
Down on the Littlefield Lands,
'Tis Nature's garden spot of earth,
For here we have the land,
And rain and soil and sunshine,
And everything so grand..."

The occasion was a trip by some German Mennonites from the midwest to Littlefield in 1914 when new, rich, Lamb County land was being sold and first put to plow.

It is recalled by Mrs. Helen Funk, who with her six-year-old son, Harold, was on one of a half-dozen trips for Mennonite groups, and who came later with her husband to settle their new home.

Mrs. Funk also has copies of an optimistic brochure on "Littlefield Land" that went to the prospective settlers and of a pamphlet of songs that chorused the praises of Littlefield.

It was all part of a promotion that would rival any of the best efforts of Madison Avenue today, and it was headed by a large and well remembered man named Rawlings, who was head of the Rawlings Land Co. of Kansas City, Mo.

He was the song leader on the trip Mrs. Funk made in 1914, the fifth such excursion. Its passengers were Mennonites who then lived from Kansas to Canada. They boarded the train in Hillsboro, and journeyed in a festive spirit, helped along with the special songs to Lubbock.

Strong community

From there they came by auto to Littlefield and a look at the new lands, which many bought and in which they formed a strong German Mennonite community, with ties that went far back into the old country.

For several years the colony was strong here, with two churches in Littlefield. One was the second church built in Littlefield, just after the

Presbyterians had finished a church home. It stood on the present site of the Martin Lutheran Church and was bought by the First Methodist Church.

The second, the Holloman Mennonite church built by members of the faith who always wore beards, later was bought by the First Baptist Church and moved, then later burned.

World War I brought some problems to the community, whose members did not believe in military conscription and had left Germany and Russia with their parents in years before to avoid it.

This belief led to strained relations in World War I and most Mennonites moved on, Mrs. Funk recalls. She and her family did not move onto the land that they bought until 1924, although for years they made a summer trip down here from Kansas to do little things towards their new home.

Wouldn't buy

Mrs. Funk then was Mrs. Henry S. Goertz, whose husband made one of the earlier trips and chose some land but would not buy until his wife approved. Mr. Goertz died in 1927, just three years after the family moved.

In 1963 Mrs. Funk married J. M. Funk, a lifelong acquaintance whose parents had come over from Russia on the same boat with Mrs. Funk's parents. Mr. Funk was a familiar figure in Littlefield years, carrying mail from the railroad to the post office. He died in 1953.

The Mennonite land promotion was one of several in 1914, 1915 and 1916.

A 1916 booklet glowed with pictures of tremendous crops on land near Littlefield, with pictures of water gushing from irrigation wells and of apples and peaches that had grown on trees just a few years old.

One part even explained how the summers would not be too hot for comfort—because of the altitude—and another part explained how mild the southern winters were.

Few assets of the land were overlooked in the Rawlings literature that made up a large booklet. There was picture evidence of bountiful maize crops, watermelons, sudan grass, alfalfa, wheat and cattle.

Cotton, the big crop of the South Plains today, was not mentioned.

This was to come later when the grand predictions that Mr. Rawlings made at every opportunity all came true.

It was a spirited period, for sober, religious people who wanted mostly a place to establish homes and live in peace, and who understood expertly the feel of rich soil between their fingers.

The songs that Mr. Rawlings led paralleled the pictures in his pamphlet, with glowing promises.

'Beulah Land'

One was set to the tune of "Beulah Land," and went this way:

"We have a load of corn and cane,
Alfalfa, fruit and every grain,
In fact, most everything we sow,
This valley here will fully grow.
'O Littlefield Lands, my Littlefield Land..."

One song was set to the tune of "Marching Through Georgia" and another to the "Battle Hymn of the Republic".

Another was set to the music of "Maryland", and plagiarized that patriotic song for verse on verse.

"You ask what Land I love the best,
Littlefield Land, my Littlefield Lands,
The fairest in the Great Southwest,
Littlefield Lands, My Littlefield Lands."

"Where melons and grapes and fruits do well,
Where grain and hogs and cattle tell
Me there to come and with them dwell,
Littlefield Land, My Littlefield Lands."



The spirit that has shaped America
flies on!

SONGS and SCENES of LITTLEFIELD LANDS

IN THE BRAZOS VALLEY OF TEXAS.
Tune, "Marching Through Georgia."

Here's to good old Texas, boys,
Down on the Littlefield Lands,
'Tis Nature's garden spot of earth,
For here we have the land,
And rain and soil and sunshine,
And everything so grand,
In the Brazos Valley of Texas.

Chorus.
Hurrah, hurrah, send up a mighty cheer,
Hurrah, hurrah, a bumper crop each year,
We've left hard winters back of us,
And there's nothing more to fear
In the Brazos Valley of Texas.

The melons and milo maize,
Alfalfa and the corn,
I never saw such beautiful fields
And crops since I was born;
The apple and the peach trees,
The verdant fields adorn
In the Brazos Valley of Texas.

The climate's mild and pleasant,
From the Gulf the breezes blow,
The rain in season's plentiful,
And makes the crops to grow,

We get the best of everything
We have a mind to sow,
In the Brazos Valley of Texas.

The railroads and the schools are here;
We make no sacrifice,
We're planting in the early spring,
Our produce brings the price,
We're happy and contented,
It's the farmers' paradise
In the Brazos Valley of Texas.

The richness and the depth of soil
Make all the farmers smile.
It makes their time and money
And their labor worth the while,
For it is as productive
As the delta of the Nile—
In the Brazos Valley of Texas.

When autumn comes we call the dogs,
Take down the old shotgun,
Jack rabbits, ducks and partridges
And deer make lots of fun,
We take a team of mules, for there
Is shooting by the ton—
In the Brazos Valley of Texas.

American Revolution BICENTENNIAL

Words To Remember...

"America is our country, right or wrong. When right, to be kept right; when wrong, to be put right."

CARL SCHURZ

Happy Birthday America!

WINGO REAL ESTATE



B. W. ARMISTEAD
Optometrist

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!

It is with pride that we join our many friends who are celebrating the Bicentennial.

For the past 45 years, since this optometric practice was established by Dr. Ira E. Woods, it has been our pleasure to serve the visual needs of the people of this area.

The past brings many pleasant memories to all of us. The future for the nation and this area looks even brighter. With this in mind, we are looking forward to serving you during the years ahead.



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FBI stories:

Arthur Duggan helped round-up enemy agents

By NILAH RODGERS

There wasn't a single case of enemy sabotage on the U.S. mainland during WWII, and one of the main reasons was that most of the enemy agents in the U.S. were picked up by FBI agents within 10 days after the first bomb was dropped on Pearl Harbor.

And Arthur P. Duggan of Littlefield was one of the special FBI agents who helped round up enemy spies involved in espionage.

Duggan got his law degree from the University of Texas in 1935 and started practicing law in Austin during the Depression. "Whew! Times were hard," Duggan said. When married in 1940, Duggan said it looked to him like there was going to be a war.

He had attended MNMI a couple of years and was entitled to enter the cavalry, army or navy as sergeant. "But the services weren't remotely interested," Duggan said. "It wasn't very attractive then to enter as a private." So he tried to get into the state department, but he said he didn't speak their language with his slow West Texas drawl.

A neighbor of Duggan's suggested

FBI work. "Heck, the FBI knows a war is coming," he told Duggan.

"I really wasn't interested in chasing stolen cars across state lines and running after white slave traffic," Duggan said. "But I was interested in the internal security of the United States. You don't apply for FBI work, you have to be asked. I filled in the information and waited to see what would happen."

He began his work with the FBI on June 30, 1941, six months before the war broke out. At times his work was so secretive that he couldn't even tell other FBI agents what he was doing. Agents didn't even contact their field division, but sent their own messages directly to FBI headquarters in Washington.

Duggan was in the Newark, N. J. office on the Sunday Pearl Harbor was bombed. The next day the FBI started picking up key German people who had been under observation for weeks and oftentimes months before the war started.

German Huns (former German soldiers in WWI) working in oil refineries and other big plants that could go up

in one big blast were picked up and taken to a center on Ellis Island for a hearing. If they were considered dangerous from an espionage point, they were kept in camps for the duration of the war.

A German who still retained his German citizenship and who had been in the Germany Army during the first war had been seen around the naval base at Charleston, S. C.

Duggan was told the man might be in Trenton, N. J. He and another agent went in to make the arrest. "We showed the suspect our cards and told him we had a warrant for his arrest. He went for his back pocket.

"When he went for his pocket we both pulled guns because we figured he was going for one. Fortunately I didn't pull the trigger. I sure would hate to shoot an unarmed man. Instead of pulling out a gun, he had reached for his handkerchief."

Another arrest Duggan took part in involved the German spy involved in espionage on whom the movie "House on 72nd Street" was based.

"You can appreciate the fact that there was no enemy directed sabotage

on the U.S. mainland more when you know the extremes the Germans went to to sabotage the states," Duggan said.

While Duggan was in his New York office, a German submarine unloaded a sub full on Long Island. One was picked up early and he had to be kept in the New York office and watched each minute of every day and night until the rest were picked up and the FBI was ready to announce the arrests to the newspapers.

"Two agents watched him every second," Duggan said. "We even had to go to the bathroom with him. I had to babysit with him for a week. They were all convicted. They didn't do one act of sabotage. They didn't have a chance."

For the next year and a half, Duggan was involved in purely espionage work looking for enemy agents as a diplomatic legal attache to the Dominican Republic.

"The only safe way to get to the Dominican Republic was by plane," he said. German subs were very active in the Caribbean. Boats went in convoys with plenty of military vessels

to protect them. While in the Dominican Republic, Duggan said he found a heck of a lot of communist activity, especially from the Spanish Communists.

"I learned one thing while there," Duggan said. "I don't want to live under any kind of dictatorship. That one was far right instead of left. Dictatorship isn't for me."

Duggan resigned from the FBI after the war was over. "I was really fired up on the internal security thing, and I'm happy I got to work on it," he said. Duggan resigned in October of 1945 but he had enough overtime to carry him through March of the next year. "Whew! The overtime was terrific."

Duggan received real experience in a hurry in his five years of practicing law in Austin. With the war behind him he said he was ready to come back to Littlefield. He opened his law office here in 1946.

Duggan first came to Littlefield in 1912 at the tender age of two. Since that time, the names of Littlefield and Duggan have been synonymous, for Arthur P. Duggan Sr. founded the city of Littlefield.



ARTICLE CERTIFICATE

Arthur Duggan

Jack rabbit hunts big event

Jack rabbit hunts were a community sport in the early days of Littlefield, and its neighbors. Usually the hunts were combined with a barbecue. At one reported at the Halfway community about 1920, 1,600 rabbits were killed by "175 shotguns," a shotgun apparently being a man with a gun. Rabbits grew in multitudes on unbroken ranch land and pastures, and became quite a problem for crops on adjoining farm lands. A rabbit drive ordinarily was made by fanning out riders for several miles, herding the rabbits toward a "V" shaped wire barricade. Some were dispatched along the way, some after they reached the pen.

We revere the past, but believe the best is still ahead! Happy birthday America.

PHOTOGRAPHY
By Oecia

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"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness..."

American freedom was born July 4, 1776 with the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. To the 56 Founding Fathers who signed that historic document, their pronouncement was truly an affirmation of values... to which they solemnly pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. Now... as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of our nation... let us renew that pledge: that the rights they proclaimed so fearlessly, won so dearly, defended so bravely, shall be forever cherished and given room to grow. The men who established this country knew that pious talk isn't enough... that the job takes vigilance, commitment and plain hard work. Let's get on with it. The promise is still unfolding...

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Service Is Our First Thought.

Mrs. Williams recalls city's growth

(The Leader-News is grateful to Mrs. Edith Alexander Williams for turning in this article on her family and the development of the Sudan school system. We also thank her for sending us the pictures to go along with the article.)

By EDITH ALEXANDER WILLIAMS

Fifty years ago on January 19, 1926, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Alexander, my father and mother, arrived in Sudan with their five little daughters to make their home about one and one half miles southwest of the Sudan cemetery.

Papa had arrived in Sudan with our immigrant car on January 17. Mama, in our 1925 T-Model Ford with we five children, arrived on the 19th. The Santa Fe depot was our first stop. With the help of us older children, my parents finished loading our belongings into the wagons, and we reached our new home, "on the Ballies", as Papa called it, about sundown. Everyone was hungry, cold, homesick and blue.

The home, as you can see, was a two-room boxcar shack.

Papa purchased the land from Furneaux-Wilson Land Company in 1925. He improved it with hand powered tools, and farmed the land by mule power.

Our family well recalls lots of raw country, unpaved roads and many man hours of hard labor.

Charley and Maude (Harper) Alexander were married December 6,

1908, residing at Newlin, Texas, near Memphis.

We five daughters are: Eva, (deceased) who married A. L. Spruill, area Sudan farmer.

Ethel, married Allen Beal, also a Sudan farmer.

Lois, married Corporal Othel Chambers of Lubbock, who served with the U.S. Army five and half years. He is now employed as conductor-brakeman for the Santa Fe at Slaton Texas.

Lillian, married Metal Smith 3rd class "Bill" Cook, with the U.S. Navy, during World War II. Their farm home is near Littlefield.

Edith, the second daughter, married Clifford Williams, a Sudan farmer and area ginner for 30 years.

The Alexander family has not been a family of celebrities, but we do feel exalted to have the privilege of being called plain pioneers of Lamb County.

The picture of the Sudan School was taken by my mother in 1925. All of us children attended school in this building.

I seem to be the one of the family that has lived my life very closely with our school. I was in the seventh grade when we began our school work in Sudan. The high school building was being erected when we moved here, so we were lucky to be present when the corner stone was laid.

In January of 1930 this building was destroyed by fire. We seniors had to graduate in the old building.

I have witnessed lots of changes on

our school campus. The High School building was re-built the summer of 1930. In 1957 I watched the walls of the old building crumble and fall, to be replaced with our modern Home Economics building. The addition of our Elementary School, and Agriculture Department was also erected at that time.

I have witnessed the improvement of our school sewer system, from cesspool, to tying on with the city sewer. The school also had its own water system with a storage tank. This was also united with the City Water Power. I have seen us change from coal heating to gas to our modern set up of today. I have witnessed the building of several football fields, two stadiums, two gyms, three bus barns, a number of tennis courts, field houses, inside improvements in the buildings, and now all our improvements for School Food Service Lunches, which were first brought in pails, paper sacks, or wrapped in newspapers. Our first lunchroom was set up in the upstairs of this old building in the 1940's. Now, we are fully equipped with electricity and gas, and a nice spacious dining area. A chain of 50 years remains unbroken that the Alexander family has been represented in the Sudan School.

Having spent almost five years of my schooling here, then taking 25 years to put our three children through the same school, and now just finishing 20 years of service with the school lunchroom, I just have to admit I do feel rather at home when there is conversation about the Sudan School.

To make me feel even closer to school life my daughter, Nancy Foust, is now employed as Supervisor over the Special Education Department of the Littlefield School.

Since cotton was the principal interest of the Alexander families

livelihood, we are happy to think that our past participation in this industry might have been a help for the designating place of our Lamb County Denim mill.

The picture of the cotton field, along with the old cotton sack, which was our pioneer form of harvesting, might be proof of what Lamb County children can boast of in years to come

when one asks why it was chosen to be placed in Lamb County soil not only for food also,



FIVE GENERATIONS on each side of the room gathered in Lamb County more than 20 years ago. The child in the middle is Miss Alane Weaver, and on either side of her are her parents, Dale and LaQuita [Williams] Weaver. To Dale's back are his parents, Bill and Roane Weaver; Roane's parents, Charlie and Pearl Harmon; and Charlie's

mother, Mrs. Joe T. Harmon, Sr. They were all residents. Behind LaQuita are her parents, Edith Williams; Edith's mother, Mrs. C. B. Alexander; and Maude's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harper. [Photo courtesy of Mrs. Edith Williams]



C. B. ALEXANDER, along with a Mr. Garrison, sit perched atop a windmill they build in 1925. The children below include the Garrison children and Lillian and Lois Alexander. [Personal Photo]



Eating watermelon in a cotton field--LaQuita and Gedonne Williams in fall of '43

Words To Remember...

"America lives in the heart of every man everywhere who wishes to find a region where he will be free to work out his destiny as he chooses."

—Woodrow Wilson

We salute our American Heritage.

LANCE INSURANCE

-SUDAN-

Words To Remember...

**"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,
Send these the homeless, tempest tossed, to me;
I lift my lamp beside the golden door."**

EMMA LAZARUS

Hats off to our Great Nation.

Ware's

Words to Remember...

"Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God. I know not what course others take but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

PATRICK HENRY

We proudly salute this patriot who has made these words the motto of American freedom.

Sudan Livestock Feeders Grain Co.

Hilbun survived woes

Financier outlasted dark years

Much of the banking history of Littlefield has revolved around veteran financier J. C. Hilbun, who operated the First National Bank here for 18 critical years, including the dark 1930's.

Hilbun came here in 1927 as head of the First National, which only a year or so after merged with a state bank here. He had just sold a bank in Roby earlier that year, and found in the new plains bank a challenge.

It was, in fact, "pretty much a mess," he recalls. Organized with only \$25,000 capital, the bank had expended all of its capital on its physical plant. A series of operators had accumulated notes beyond the county area—largely Bailey and Cochran counties—and the bank's cash position was critical.

Before he was due to take charge of the bank, on July 1, 1927, Mr. Hilbun received a call saying that the bank was out of money. When he moved up here, his work was cut out for him.

If it were not enough, after a couple of years came the crash of 1929, with business complications for everyone.

It was 1933 before the road smoothed. "I wouldn't go through those six years again for all the banks in West Texas," Mr. Hilbun declared with a reminiscent smile. "There wasn't much fun in banking just then."

But there were powerful assets in community spirit behind the bank, and the veteran banker credited this with keeping a bank in Littlefield in the early days of the depression.

The first couple years here, he spent attempting to clear up outlying notes and consolidate the bank's position. When the stock market crash came in 1929, the effect didn't really reach the South Plains until 1930.

But when it came, a storm blew in. The first National went into 1931 with \$900,000 in deposits, by September 1 was down to \$138,000, with depositors coming in for their money every day.

The scene developed almost a pattern, Mr. Hilbun recalls. A depositor would come in, often with a paper sack, and draw his deposit in cash. Frequently he would tell the banker a story about being on a deal "and they won't take anything but cash." They "carried that money out faster than we could get it in," the banker says.

On Saturday night about September 1, 1931, the bank staff added up and found the situation critical. He called an emergency meeting of directors to explain that the bank could be closed by another few days of the "run."

Next morning, a Sunday, churches in Littlefield dismissed for members to attend a mass meeting in the theatre. Here the critical situation was explained.

The two-hour meeting developed a plan. A group of citizens would call on remaining depositors with a plea to leave their money in the bank. Lists were distributed for this job.

The mayor declared Monday a holiday "to clean up the city," giving the bank reason not to open on Monday and a needed breathing spell. Sunday and Monday were spent contacting depositors, urging them to redeposit or leave their money in the bank.

In a public meeting Monday, leading citizens bespoke their faith and made deposits. The bank gained more than \$100,000 in deposits when it opened on Tuesday.

At one stage during the "run" days, Mr. Hilbun saw the bank's largest depositor pass by, and called him in.

He was the late D. G. Hobbs, a ginner at Bainer Switch, with \$9,000 on deposit. Mr. Hilbun explained the situation and told him:

"We can pay you today, but I can't promise for tomorrow. They're taking this money out pretty fast."

Mr. Hobbs was undisturbed. "I appreciate your telling me," he said, "but if your bank closes my money will still be there."

Many residents came by to voice their confidence and appreciation. "They evidently thought I was trying to run them a good bank; if it hadn't been for this cooperation we couldn't have made it."

Even then, the going was close. By early 1933, when President Roosevelt closed the banks for examination and certification under a federal guarantee of deposits, the Federal Reserve Bank

was almost keeping a man up here to demand their money on checks "in float" between the bank and clearing house.

The moratorium ended and the bank got no word to re-open, as others were doing. After three days, Mr. Hilbun took a train to Dallas to talk to Federal Reserve officials.

They sent an examiner back with him, and the bank quickly was approved for opening, with strong refinancing.

"Didn't charge off a note," he recalls of the examination.

These pre-moratorium days had special experiences. One morning Hilbun was met on opening by two men owing notes who had obtained money somewhere else, and paid off "because they knew we needed the money."

Once the bank went two or three days without putting deposits and checks on the books. Deposits were put in individual envelopes and held on the vault, for return if the bank failed to open next day.

Public confidence grew through the country after 1933, and the First National found more solid footing, as did all banks.

By the time World War II arrived, the South Plains was on a prosperous level.

When Mr. Hilbun sold his interest in the bank in 1945, it had a capital structure of \$300,000, and was healthy.



J. C. HILBUN, longtime Littlefield banker, nursed the city's one bank through the dark days of the 1920's depression. He came to Littlefield from Roby in 1927.

Mrs. Dow recalls 1923

"I thought we had come to the jumping off place," she recalls. Mrs. Jess L. Dow of her first impression of Littlefield in 1923.

Mrs. Dow and her husband, ... children, moved here from Kaufman County where she had lived since her birth in 1893.

"We came through Littlefield in a car, and had the rest of our things shipped out here by rail," Mrs. Dow

explained.

Mr. Dow traded with J. C. Whicker of the Yellowhouse Land Company for a plot of land 6 miles southeast of town.

"My husband told me he wasn't burning bridges behind him, but he wasn't ever going back to Kaufman County," she continued.

"There was no paving and it had been raining a lot that fall. Mud was

hub deep, and everything was just a mess," Mrs. Dow laughingly said.

Mr. Dow died in 1932, and 13 years later Mrs. Dow moved into town from her farm.



FIRST MAIL to come into Littlefield in 1913 was greeted by Postmaster C. J. Duggan and Mrs. Vernie V. White, assistant postmistress. This was in 1913.

Duggan first postmaster

(Editor's Note—Reprinted from the 25-year Historical Edition of the Leader of 1938.)

From my earliest childhood recollections I thought of the Postmaster as being the most hated and grouchy man in town at whom everyone wanted to throw ink bottles. So it was a most unusual surprise to me when I arrived in Littlefield, Texas on December 5th, 1912 and learned that I was slated for Littlefield's first postmaster, being possibly the youngest postmaster in the United States at the time.

Petitions were circulated for the establishment of a Post Office and for my appointment as its first postmaster. These petitions were signed by every cowboy in the entire area, every person that came through the vicinity, and all the babies hereabout. Roscoe, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Sid Clark, (Sid being the cowboy living at East Camp on Yellow House Ranch), was the youngest signer of these petitions. His mother held his hand on the pen when he "signed" his name.

Carl and Gladys Smith, (the later being the wife of Frank James of Littlefield) were the youngest children to sign. Although they were very small, they could sign their names. The petitions were accepted at Washington, and the Post Office established in March 1913.

The office consisted of a walled up partition of beaded ceiling about 4 feet square in the northwest corner of the front office of the Land Company's office next to my desk. An opening was left to get in and out with no door thereto, and a small hole was cut in the south wall through which mail was handed. A kerosene lamp furnished light for mail deliveries when the

carrier was late. Money orders and stamps were sold from my desk.

Mrs. Vernie V. White, later Mrs. Vernie V. Wright, was my assistant postmistress at a salary of \$5.00 per month. Mrs. Wright arrived in Littlefield March 8, 1913 with her young son, Maurice and accepted a position as stenographer for the Land Company.

The first mail arrived March 14, 1913, by horse and buggy team from Barton Site, the carrier being George Plummer and being paid by public subscription for his service. Barton Site was merely a post office in the residence of Mrs. Sally J. Smith, mother of Roy and Charles Smith who were later citizens of our town, she being postmistress. Mail came to Barton Site from Hale Center.

Barton Site was located some 25 miles east of Littlefield, directly east of the North Spade Ranch headquarters. The second mail carrier and the first official one appointed by the government was W. H. Willis. He owned an automobile which was the third car in Littlefield. The delivery office was changed from Barton Site to Abernathy where John Arnet was postmaster.

If Mr. Willis' car broke down, I would use the Land Company's Buick and go for the mail myself. One of these trips when I stopped to open a wire gate, the car failed to start again; and it developed that a rear axle was broken. A Mr. Vaughn, a rancher, pulled the car to Littlefield by mule team and it was several days before a new axle, that had to be ordered, could be installed on the car.

Many nights in bad weather, cold, rain, or snow, Mr. Willis would be late

with the mail; and although the postmaster was not required to put up the mail after 6:00 o'clock at night, I had the rule of handing out the mail regardless at the hour it arrived.

Well, do I remember one Christmas Eve night with snow on the ground 6 or 8 inches deep when I was dead tired from the work and exertion of staging a community Christmas tree. I told them that I would give them all a special Christmas gift by putting up the mail and letting them have theirs.

The post office remained in the little dark corner of the Land Company's office until the handsome 2-story yellow brick building was erected one block south and the land office moved therein. I then rented the rear room of that building from Major Littlefield for \$18.00 per month and had a door cut between my private office and the Land Company's office and to my room so that I could get in and out easily. I had to pay for my own fuel for heating and oil for lighting.

Mr. Floyd Sadler rented the front part of the room and served as my assistant when I was out of the office. I ordered steel fixtures and had to pay for them myself although the Government received part of the box rent fees.

I was known throughout the country as a first class postmaster of a fourth class office and I never allowed any one to introduce me as a fourth class postmaster. I felt that Littlefield needed the best equipment and service and always gave it to the public. When a brick building was built on Phelps Avenue for Mr. Sadler, he moved his drug store and he was succeeded as assistant postmaster by M. W. J. Wade, who received \$25.00 per month salary.



Words To Remember...

"America is a land of wonders, in which everything is in constant motion and every change an improvement. No natural boundary seems to be set to the efforts of man, and in his eyes what is not yet done is only that he has not yet attempted to do."

ALEXIS de TOCQUEVILLE

We're proud of America's past and we welcome the challenges of the future.

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&
BLACK & CAMPBELL COTTON

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A Day To Remember...

...Dec. 16, 1773

The Boston Tea Party occurred when colonists

disguised as Indians raided three British ships and threw their cargoes of tea into the harbor rather than pay a tax on them.

We salute the Brave Men who violently fought for freedom.

Original Tasty Taco

Ralph Mendez, Owner

621 Hall

385-3764



Plans change:

Rogers' 'short stay' has lasted 52 years

NILAH RODGERS arrived at the Amherst farm in July 4, 1924, in the middle of a celebration. He was wearing a Panama suit and white shoes when he stepped off the boat into a mid-summer blizzard and met by Halsell Cattle Company men wearing overcoats.

The swaggering young bachelor was "getting away" from Venita, for a while, and had no intention of staying out in West Texas. He'd really planned to stay in St. Louis when neighboring farmer W. E. (Bill) Halsell had Rogers if he'd like to come to work for the Halsell Cattle Company.

When I went to buy my train ticket, no one knew where Amherst was and they sent me to Clovis," he said. "Then back to Amherst to buy my train ticket."

Rogers was taken to the Amherst farm. "Oh, that was a swanky place," he said. "Two stories, steam heat, and even had a French chef."

Rogers' short stay became a long one. The second year he was at Amherst he met the pretty first grade teacher who is now Mrs. Rogers.

On Independence Day this year, Rogers' short stay in Lamb County was up to 52 years.

Rogers stayed with the Halsell Land Company until the Federal Land Bank took over the book work 13 years later. At this time 150,000 acres of the Amherst and Springlake Divisions of the FULTON RANCH were cut up into lots and sold.

The land was priced at \$25 per acre and sold very fast with the exception of 40 acres in the sandhills still owned by the company. Most of the land sold the first three years after it was put on the market.

Rogers saw many firsts for Lamb County while in Halsell's employ. Bill Halsell built the first cotton gins at Amherst and Earth. The first irrigation well in Lamb County was drilled at Halsell Ranch headquarters. "The water was setting on the water," Rogers said, "and there's still good water there."

Antelopes roamed near the Amherst site when Rogers first went there, but the land was settled and people dug half dugouts, the antelopes were driven back into the sandhills.

Hunting was still plentiful, though, with jack rabbits, coyotes, ducks and geese. "There was lots of water here, then," Rogers said. "Soda lake was 800 acres covered with water. In fact a man drowned in that lake the day I got here," he said.

"To give you an idea of how many ducks were here then, one day Lester LaGrange and I drove up to the lake and shot into them. After they flew up we drove around the lake and shot again, then came back and I climbed the windmill tower and shot again. We picked up 80 mallards from that."

"But hunting geese was the biggest thrill. I'd get out in the feed shocks early in the morning."

Rabbits were so plentiful that they were fed to hogs kept at the dairy farm that was part of the company's demonstration farm.

"Bill Rowland, Lee Payne and I would close up the office about five o'clock when we went rabbit hunting, and we wouldn't come back until we had 100," Rogers said. "We'd feed them to hogs that were kept where the Batson house is now. The rabbits were so thick they'd eat everyone's water-

melons."

Coyotes, predators of the rabbits, were thick, too.

"I killed many a coyote," Rogers recalled. "Seven was the most I ever got in one day."

Halsell's son, Ewing, took charge before the elder Halsell died, and Ernest Huffman was the strong-armed ranch foreman. In those days Will Rogers often visited the Halsell Ranch at branding time.

Frank Rogers had been reared just 18 miles from the comedian's Oklahoma home. "But I knew him only as a comedian, and didn't know him personally then," he said.

Frank Rogers met the famous Will Rogers for the first time after coming to Lamb County, but he never got to know him well because Will stayed away from the office and out with the cowhands when visiting the Halsells.

Frank became acquainted with just about every farmer in the county while working for the land company, and these people were his customers when he became a John Deere dealer in Littlefield in December in 1938.

The Rogers moved to Littlefield in

1942, and Rogers stayed in the farm implement business until 1964.

Rogers is 84-years-old, but looks much younger. He spends his mornings at the First Federal Savings and Loans where he is vice president, then keeps fit by golfing every afternoon.

And he has broken 80 on the golf course, too.



Lfd. Farm and Phone company building

Mrs. Bertie Sisson, young children arrive in 1924

By NILAH RODGERS

Mrs. Bertie Sisson and four of her seven children came to Littlefield in 1924 in a '24 Model T piled with provisions and an old stove tied to one side.

"I've driven a team of mules and a tractor. I've been 700 feet under water. I traveled, too, after the kids were grown. I reckon I've done just about everything except fly; I turned down a chance to fly in 1967 and I wish I hadn't. I'd be going yet if my health hadn't gone bad," Mrs. Sisson said.

The Sissons moved to Lamb County from Tipton, Okla., but Mrs. Sisson calls home Big Sandy in East Texas. The late Thomas Sisson and two of the older boys came to West Texas in a covered wagon to buy land. Mrs. Sisson and the younger children came later.

They camped in a tent until they could build a half-dugout. "There wasn't any lumber out here," Mrs. Sisson said. "What little there was was at Lubbock. Almost everybody lived in dugouts. We lived in the dugout, and used the tent some for the big boys, too, for three and a half years."

The Sisson farm was three miles south of Amherst. "They were feeding 1,700 head of cattle on the land we bought," Mrs. Sisson said. A lot of cattle would die. There was an old man named Robbins working on the ranch and he'd come by and skin the cattle and spread the hides out on the prairie to dry. I remember seeing him come by the house with three wagon loads of hides. They'd just leave the carcasses where the cattle died. There wasn't anything out here to eat them, and

they'd just pile up. My boys would have to pile up those old carcasses and burn them like brush."

Mrs. Sisson can still recall how the old cow skinner stunk, and how he rolled his cigarettes after skinning a cow without washing his hands. But she said she took a liking to him and he to her. She'd ask him what to plant in her garden and what would grow out here and all sorts of things. "And he was always right," she said.

When they were getting ready to put up a windmill, he told her to put up a 10-foot tower if she wanted plenty of water. "We got a good well at about 80', and you know that windmill ran all the time, even when there didn't seem to be any breeze. We used milk troughs then, and we always had the best milk and butter."

Robbins stopped by one day and told the Sissons the last big roundup was about to take place in the Yellow House Canyon. "They had that tall windmill out there and there were 40 buffaloes there. I just loved to go down there. We'd go and stay all day."

On the day of the big roundup 5,000 head of cattle were driven through the Yellow House Canyon.

"The canyon looked like a river," Mrs. Sisson said, "and the cattle were like waves. The cowboys would yell and split the cattle here and then split another group of cattle somewhere else to keep the cattle moving. I'd always heard of big round-ups, and I learned a lot that day. I'd always said I wanted to go west and see the cowboys, and I got my wish."

The Sissons moved to West Texas in time to see some of the worst

sandstorms ever recorded. One that came out of the west on a Sunday afternoon "was darker than any night you ever saw." She recalled three to six weeks one year when there was nothing but sand. A storm out of the north brought red dust from Kansas. "When we'd raise up off our pillows in the morning, the dust would just fall off us."

There were some vicious hail storms, too, when riders would get off their horses, put the saddles over their heads and turn the horse loose to out-run the storm while the rider weathered it the best he could under protection of the saddle.

Mr. and Mrs. Sisson did all these farming with mules. Tractors were just beginning to come out when they moved here. "But they were little and cost \$500," Mrs. Sisson said. "And they'd rare up sometimes and turn over with you. My husband was afraid one of the boys would get killed and he never bought one before he died in 1940."

The oldest Sisson boy was the first Sisson to buy a tractor, then the youngest boy bought one after WW II.

Mrs. Sisson has been a resident of Littlefield Hospitality House for nine years. "I'm not sick or anything," she said. "I just got shakey, sort of paralyzed, and can't do for myself the way I used to."

Four of Mrs. Sisson's children live in Littlefield— Mrs. Glen Young, Mrs. W. J. Foley, Mitchell and Wilson Sisson.

L. G. Lives in Hood River, Ore. John lives in Lubbock, and Tommy Sue (Mrs. Calvin Petty) lives in Dimmitt.



Frank Rogers

"Thank You, Lord, For 200 Years"

For 62 of those years

The First Baptist Church of Littlefield

Message from
the Pastor

In downtown Littlefield
has invited people

Schedule Of Services
Sunday

"To Trust in God"

- 9:45 A.M. Bible Study
- 11:00 A.M. Morning Worship
- 6:00 P.M. Church Training
- 7:00 P.M. Evening Worship

Wednesday

- 4:00 P.M. Youth Activities
- 7:30 P.M. Prayer Meeting



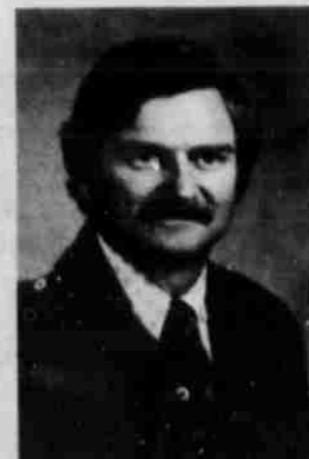
1st Baptist Church Of Littlefield



A.J. Kennemer, Jr.

ATTEND THE SPECIAL HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA SERVICE SUNDAY, JULY 4, 11 a.m.

- Presentation of Colors under the direction of Tom SoRelle
- Pledge of Allegiance led by Judge Pat Boone
- Special Music directed by Garry Bivens
- Sermon "Happy Birthday America" by Rev. A. J. Kennemer, Pastor



Garry Bivens,
Minister Of Youth

American Revolution BICENTENNIAL

Thus ends the Leader-News' July 4, 1976, Bicentennial edition. This final page represents the culmination of over six weeks of planning, gathering, writing, reminiscing and worrying. It's been a unique experience for us, one we value but one we have a great satisfaction with getting behind us. There are a great number of people we are grateful to for their invaluable assistance: Willard G. Street, Jr., Ellen Massengill, Mrs. Lucille Betts, Mrs. Nancy French, Mrs. Edith Williams, Mrs. John Blackman, Mrs. Johnnie Miller, and a special thanks to all the folks who worked on the Lamb Co. Leader back in June, 1963, on the Golden Anniversary issue.

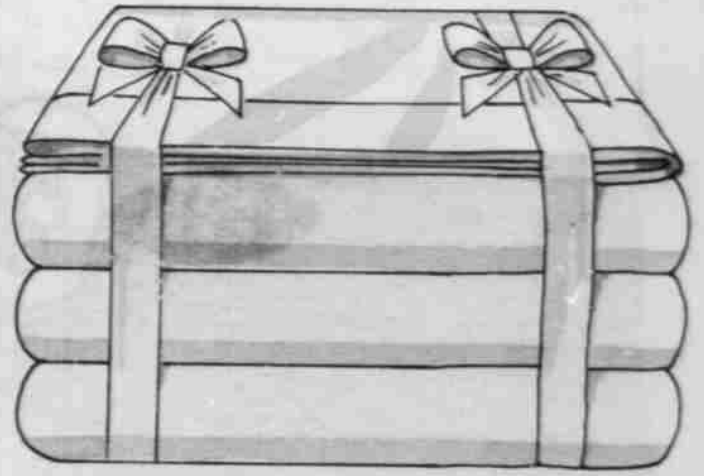
On this, our nation's birthday, we wish our land only one thing: 200 times 200 more years of greatness.

--The staff of the Leader-News



It's our Summer White Sale.

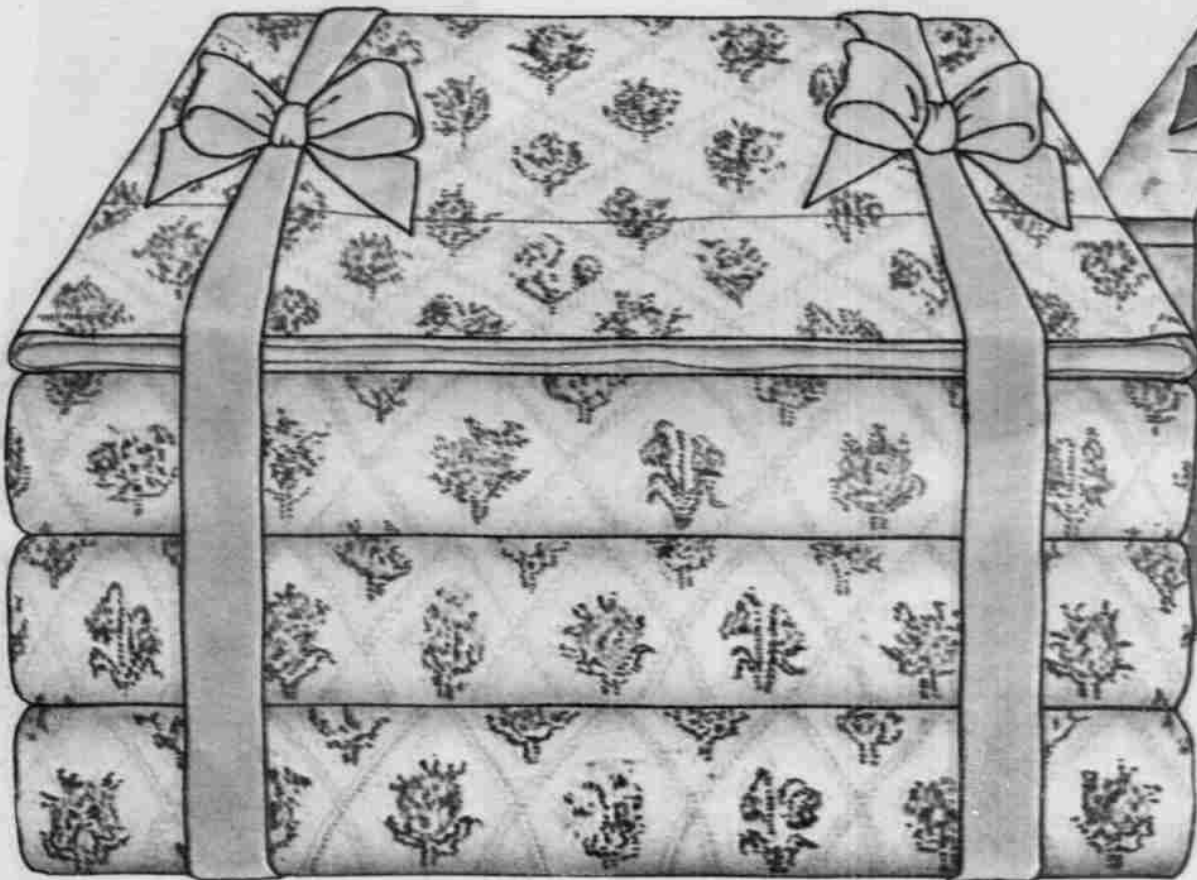
Save on every sheet in stock.



Sale 1.96 twin, reg. 2.79

Full, reg. 3.59 Sale 2.96
Pillowcases, reg. 2.09 pr. Sale 1.96
Sturdy, long wearing white muslin sheets
of no-iron polyester/cotton.

JCPenney advertising policy. If, for some unforeseen reason, an advertised item is not in our store, we will either make the merchandise available to you at a later date, or at our option offer you an equal or better item at the advertised price. Those advertised items designated with "limited quantities" are available only while our quantities last, on a first come, first served basis.



Sale 2.18 twin, reg. 2.99

Full, reg. 3.99 Sale 3.18
Pillowcases, reg. 2.99 pr. Sale 2.18
'Needlepoint' muslin sheets of polyester/cotton; multi pastels.



Sale 2.93 twin, reg. 3.99

Full size, reg. 4.99 Sale 3.93
Queensize, reg. 8.49 Sale 6.93
King size, reg 10.49 Sale 8.93
Pillowcases, reg. 3.79 pr. Sale 2.93
'Alice' decorative flower printed percale sheets
of no-iron polyester/cotton.

Sale prices effective for a limited time only.

JCPenney

LITTLEFIELD, TEXAS
408 Phelps Avenue
Open Saturday 9:00 am til 6:00 pm
Other Weekdays til 5:30 pm

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20% off our entire line of bras and girdles.

Fashion figures do their smartest shopping during this 20% off event. Here's just a sampling of the savings.



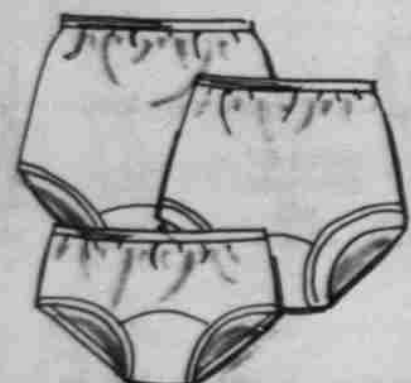
Special 2 for 88¢

Sheer stretch pantihose in nude heel and toe style. Basic colors, S-A-L.



Sale 3 pr. 2.60

reg. 3 pr. 3.25. Pima cotton elastic leg briefs, sizes 32-40, white only. Nylon briefs; reg. 1.25. Sale 1.00. Acetate; white; reg. 3 pr. 2.30. Sale 3 pr. 1.84.



Cotton/nylon 'Crossover' bra, reg. 2.75. **Sale 2.20**
 Natural cup 'Crossover' bra, reg. 3.75. **Sale 3.00**
 The JCPenney contour bra, reg. 4.50. **Sale 3.60**
 Lacy, Contemporary bra, reg. 3.50. **Sale 2.80**
 Tummy Controller brief, reg. 4.25. **Sale 3.40**
 Comfort Hours® brief, reg. 8.00. **Sale 6.40**
 V-band long leg panty, reg. 7.25. **Sale 5.80**
 Firm control long leg zip panty, reg. 12.50. **Sale 10.00**



JCPenney

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Special 2.99

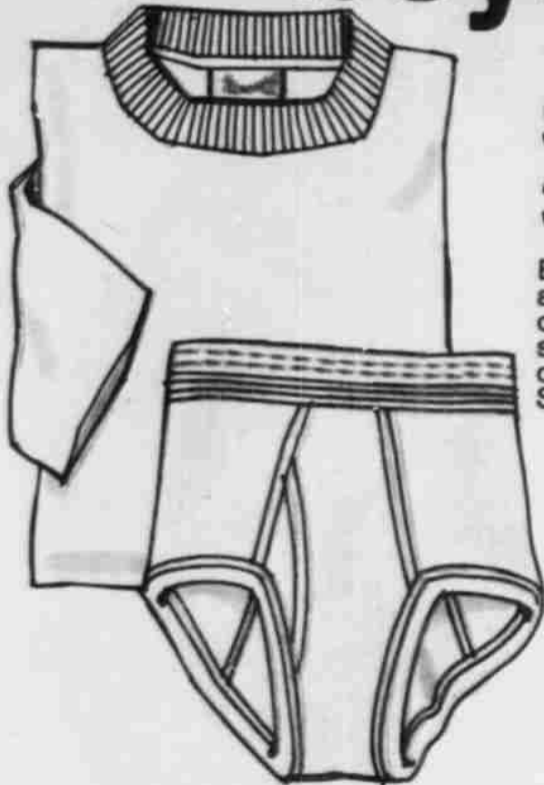
Rugged duty western jeans for boys going back to school. Tough blue denim of polyester/cotton at a true value price. Sizes 3 to 16 regular and slim.



**Buy in July!
We have great
ideas for boys.**

3 for 2.49

Boy's all white cotton knit underwear. Flat knit t-shirts, rib knit briefs. 4 to 16.



**Special
3 for 5.00**

Boys' tank tops in a large selection of solid colors and stripes. Polyester cotton knit in S-M-L (8-16).



It's our Summer White Sale. Save 20% on towels, fabrics.



Sale 2.80

Reg. 3.50. Polysport woven texturized polyester. 58/60" wide.

Sale 1.83

Reg. 2.29. Country Cousins calico prints in cotton broadcloth.

Sale 1.59

Reg. 1.99. Country Cousins coordinating patchwork prints of cotton duck.

Sale 3.19

Reg. 3.99. Town & Country coordinates: polyester knit prints, tweeds, jacquards; rayon/polyester suedecloth.



Lamp Special.

4.88

Accent lamp in white, yellow or brown with cane-look plastic shade.

Sale prices effective for a limited time only. Use your charge card or ask about our convenient lay-away plan.



Sale 2.07

bath towel, reg. 2.59

Hand towel, reg. 1.99 Sale 1.59.
Wash cloth, reg. 99¢ Sale 79¢.
'Paradise' towels of sheared cotton/polyester velour with jacquard border.

Sale 2.40

bath towel, reg. 3.00

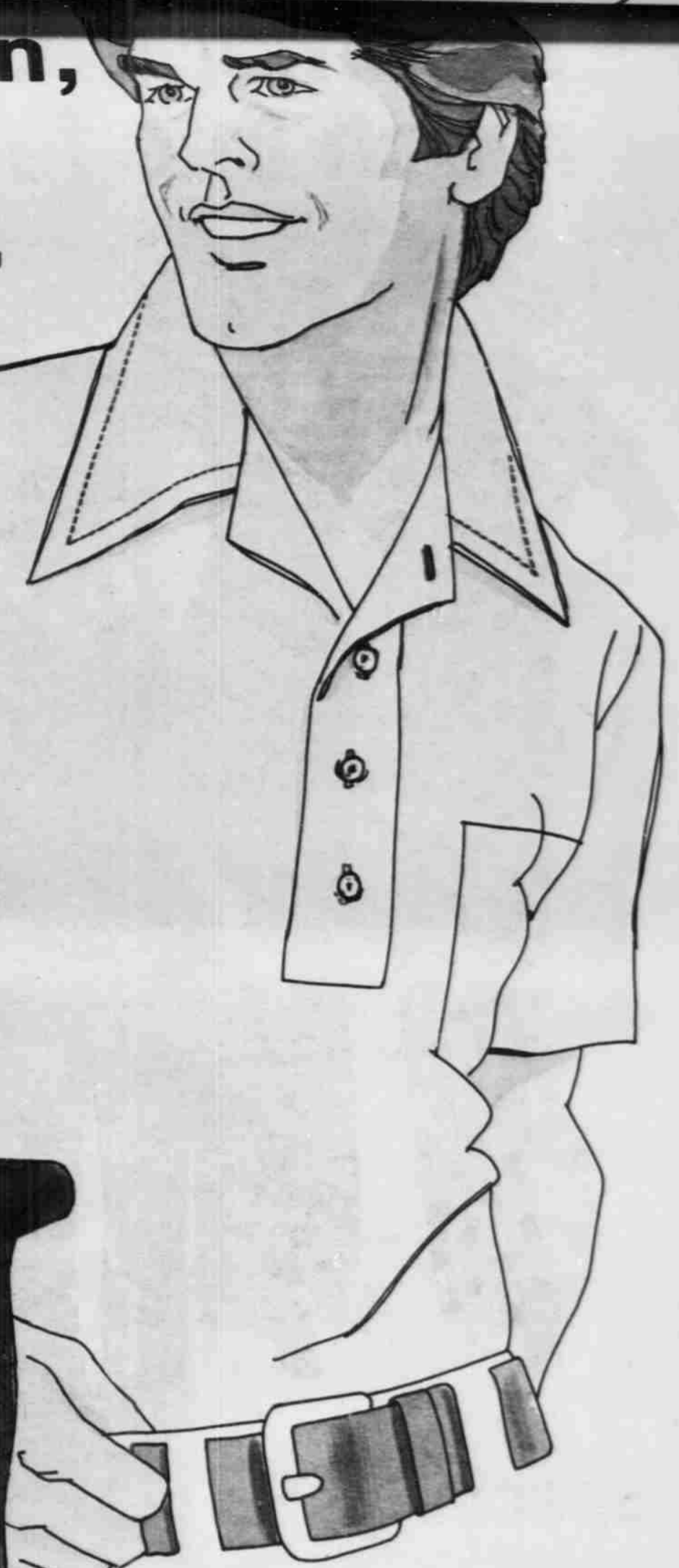
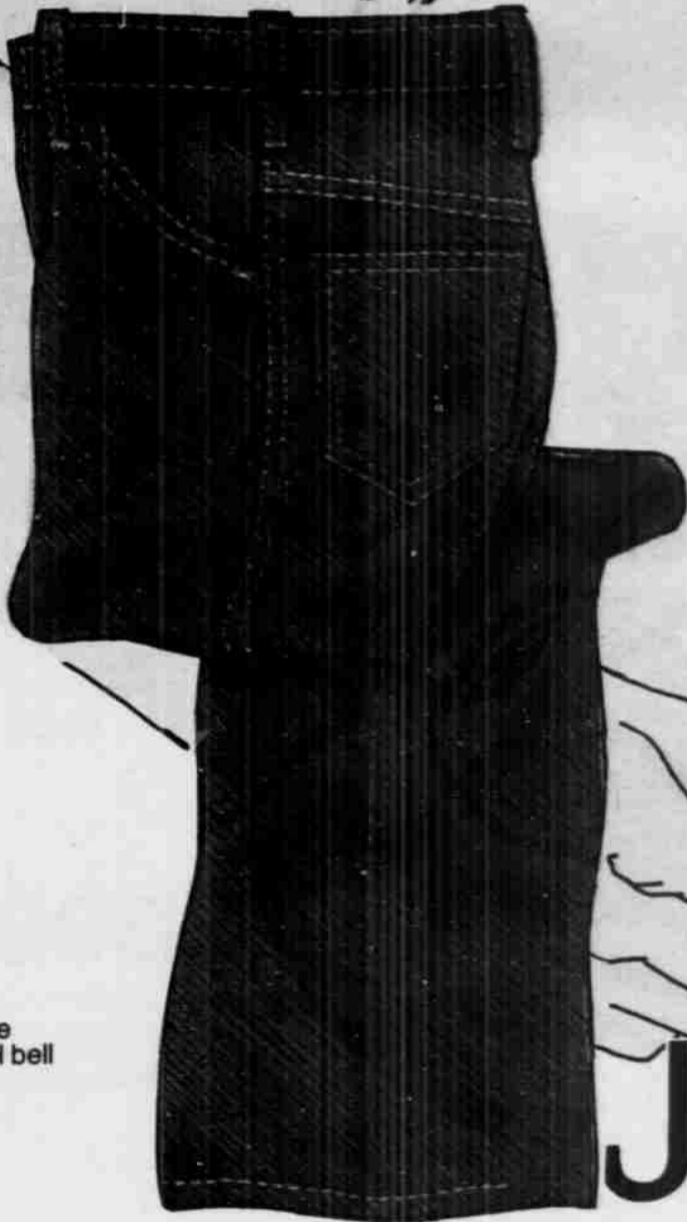
Hand towel, reg. 2.00 Sale 1.60.
Wash cloth, reg. 1.25 Sale 1.00.
'Terri-Suede' towels of sheared terry velour with dobby border. Cotton/polyester or 100% cotton.

JCPenney

Great buys for men, timed right for summer leisure.

Special 3 For 10.00

Golf shirts in short sleeve pullover style with 4-button placket. Assorted solid colors and stripes in cotton/polyester knit. S-M-L-XL.



Special 4 For 5.00

Tank tops of Kodol[®] polyester/cotton knit. Blue, maize, white or tan with contrast trim. S-M-L-XL.

Flare or bell bottom western jeans.

Special 6.99

Stock up at this very special price on western cut jeans. Flare or full bell bottom in navy cotton denim.

JCPenney

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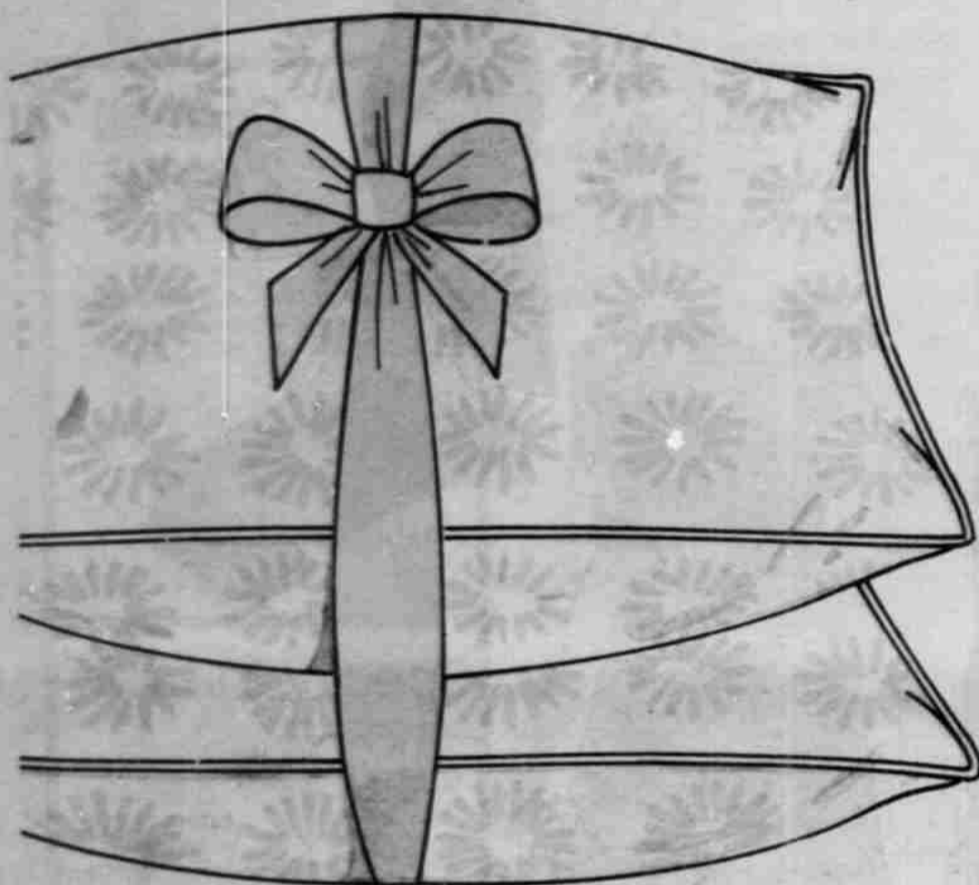
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It's our Summer White Sale.

Save on pillow pairs.



Sale 2 for 8.88 standard, reg. 5.50 ea.

Queen, reg. 7.50 ea. **Sale 2 for 10.88.**
King, reg. 9.50 ea **Sale 2 for 12.88.**

Our machine washable pillows are fluffy Dacron® Fiberfill II polyester with no-iron polyester/cotton ticking. Now is the time to buy by the pair; every size is on sale.

Sale prices effective for a limited time only.

Save 20% on bedspreads.

Sale 28.00

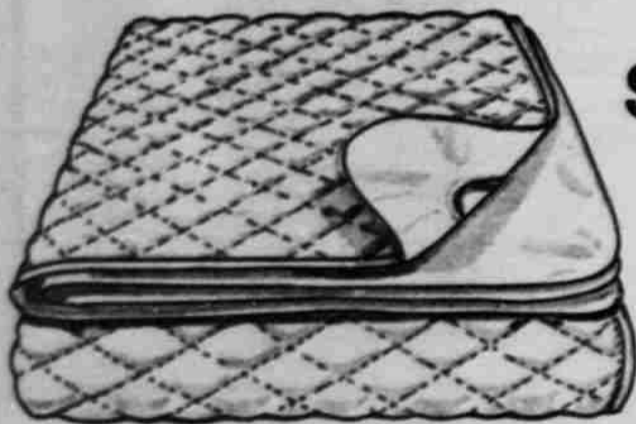
Full, reg. 35.00
'Ribbonette' quilted spread with eyelet border. Washable polyester/cotton, polyester fill.



Sale 11.20

twin, reg. 14.00
Full, reg. 17.00 **Sale 13.80**
'Rochele' quilted throw style spread of acetate taffeta with polyester back and fill.

Save on mattress pads.



Sale 5.48

twin, reg. 6.99
Full, reg. 9.99
Sale 7.88

Reversible fitted mattress pads of Sanforized® cotton with polyester fill, fully quilted.

Thermal blanket, 20% off.

Sale 8.80

Reg. 11.00. Full size acrylic thermal blanket. Ideal weight for air conditioned homes in summer, extra warmth in winter. Assorted colors.



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Summer greets that reach into fall.



Special 11.99

Misses' 2-pc. pantsuits in a large assortment of styles to wear now and into fall. Polyester knit in short sleeve or vested styles; transeasonal and fall colors. 10 to 20.

Special 9.99

Special buy of knit skirt sets in pretty dark tones for now and into fall. Long sleeve styles of polyester knit in stripe/solid combinations of navy, green, wine or black with beige. 8 to 18.



Special on girls' dresses.

sizes 4 to 6x **3.99**

sizes 7 to 12 **4.99**

Come gather up a grand new wardrobe for your girls' back-to-school pleasure. At these prices, don't miss this opportunity. All polyester fabrics mean easy care. Solids, prints, plaids... lots of styles in fall colors. Use our handy lay-away plan for easy buying.



Special 2 for 99¢

Girls' cable knit nylon knee socks in white and assorted colors. S-M-L.

Special 3 for 1.27



Girls' white briefs of cotton knit. 6 to 14.

Special 2.50



Girls' printed knit tops in crew neck or collar styles. Polyester/cotton. 4-14.

JCPenney