

SOME PIONEER EUROPEANS

Most of the pioneers of this part of West Texas were plain Americans from the east part of Texas and the east and north of Texas. Among these came a sprinkling of sons of the wealthy nobility of Europe.

Lord Aylesford was a case in point. He came to this country with a large roll of money. A part of this was invested in a large ranch near Big Spring. The remainder of his money was invested in high grade stock.

While Lord Aylesford was a very noble chap, he never learned the fact that all men in West Texas are considered equal. Ignorance of this fact led him into many unpleasant situations.

One day in his carriage driving along the Colorado-San Angelo road and came to a gate on the Divide and as usual stopped and waited for somebody to come along to open it for him.

Lord Aylesford waited for some time for someone to perform this service for him when old man Couch drove up with a four-horse team hitched to a wagon loaded with salt. Couch met Aylesford before and had opened gates for him without even a word of thanks. Couch decided it was Aylesford's-time to open the gate, so he waited patiently.

After waiting for awhile, Lord Aylesford said: "My good man, aren't you going to open the gate?" "No," said Couch. "It's your time to open the gate."

"My good man, perhaps you do not know who I am," said Aylesford. "Well, who are you?" asked Couch.

"I am Lord Aylesford, answered the son of royalty.

Couch reached for his Winchester and said: "I don't care if you are Lord Jesus Christ, you are going to open that gate."

Lord Aylesford quickly complied with Couch's suggestion and each of them passed through without further delay.

As Lord Aylesford closed the gate he remarked: "My good man, I think you are rather rude sir, rather rude."

M. Z. Smissen who said he was a Russian Colonel and who insisted on being called Col. Max Zeuner Smissen, was another unique character in the early days of Sterling.

Evidently, Smissen had sought the solitude of West Texas because of some disagreement between himself and the Prussian army. He came to America and found Kate Shuster, daughter of A. N. Shuster, wealthy brewer of St. Louis, and married her. Kate was a highly educated and cultured woman with the heart and grace of a princess.

Old man Shuster soon realized that Smissen was a problem on his hands, so he assigned Kate and the problem to a position on the Shuster, Henry & Co. ranch on the North Pecos, where the ranch went on the rocks in a few years and is only a memory now among the old timers.

While Smissen was liked by most everybody after they learned his ways, but Smissen never forgot his rank in the Prussian army. In his pompous way, without meaning any harm by it, he would assume big airs to the disgust of the average citizen.

Smissen loved to ride the range with the cowboys. He usually

(Continued on 2nd page)

There's a Rubber Shortage at Home, Too!



South Yields to the Inevitable-- Fisher Next Congressman

Reports Show Use Tax Delinquents

Reports reaching the office of Collector of Internal Revenue indicate that most persons subject to the \$5.00 automobile tax due July 1, 1942, have already purchased the required Stamp but that in some sections many automobile owners have failed to purchase this Stamp. Beginning August 1, 1942, a concerted drive by Deputy Collectors in every section will be undertaken, and all persons subject to the tax, using their cars without the Stamp affixed, will be vigorously prosecuted. Such tax evaders will be subject to a \$25.00 and thirty days imprisonment in addition to payment of the tax. This automobile use tax is a war measure, and all patriotic people should respond without delay.

The most important thing to remember is that the \$5.00 automobile tax Stamp cannot be purchased from Post Offices after July 31, 1942 and purchases will have to be made from the Collector of Internal Revenue, and late purchasers will be required to establish the fact under oath that they have not used their cars prior to the purchase date of the Stamp, in order to avoid the penalty.

This is a final notice, and further leniency cannot be extended. This statement is made by direction of the Bureau of Internal Revenue in Washington.

Picture Show Opened

Horace Donaldson opened the Palace Theatre last Saturday night and played to an overflowing house. Standing room was at a premium.

Mr. Donaldson is an experienced picture show man, and is now operating a show at Sanitorium, where he and his family reside. He promises to give Sterling only the pictures that are approved as among the best.

Programs will be given twice weekly, on Saturday and Sunday, and Wednesday and Thursday.

Q. C. Fisher our next Congressman. South withdraws from runoff primary and leaves the field to Fisher. Fisher is a favorite with Sterling County, having received 84 per cent



O. C. FISHER

of the entire vote of the county. He lead Congressman South 2814 votes in the district, Harry Knox, of Brownwood, the third candidate who received 7,034 votes, being eliminated. Thus, it was easy to see that Fisher would in all probability receive the nomination in the August primary.

Mr. South gave as his reason for quitting the race, that he should devote his time to winning the war rather than to politics. It is said that Mr. South expects engage in the practice of law at Coleman at the expiration of his term of office.

This is a time for everybody to look out for fires and be ready to fight it when it develops. If you light a cigarette, be sure you don't set the grass afire with it. Don't give children matches and firecrackers. Be careful with every means of fire. During a thunder shower last Tuesday two grass fires started from lightning. Keep your eyes peeled for fires during these dry days.

Changes His Tune



JAMES V. ALLRED

Jimmy Allred will go into the runoff primary against Lee O'Daniel for United States Senator. Jimmy has wrecked Lee's theme song—"There Ain't Gonna Be No Run-off."

Butler Drug Company Sells Store

A deal was made this week in which the Butler Drug Company sold to J. W. Riley of Santa Anna its entire holdings in the Butler Drug Store.

It is expected that Mr. Riley will take charge of the store about the first of August.

We learn that the new owner expects to operate the Drug Store on the same lines that it has been operated for many years.

This old drug store has rendered a wonderful service to this town and we join everybody in wishing the service may continue.

Youthful Car Thieves Captured Here

Last Wednesday afternoon two boys, one 14 and the other 17, alleged to have stolen a car from Ora Lee Griggs, postmaster at Carlsbad. The sheriff's department here was notified of the theft and was down the road waiting for them. When they came up the road and met an officer they fled up the highway. A lively chase ensued until they were overhauled near the foot of Wildcat Hill. The car and the boys were brought to Sterling City and turned over to the Tom Green authorities for future disposal. The job of apprehending these young offenders consumed nearly an hour's time.

Employment in War Activities Needed

Workers who wish to do their part toward winning the war by finding jobs in war industries must first prepare themselves for such jobs, Mr. L. L. Ruttle, manager of the San Angelo office of the United States Employment Service, said today in urging that full advantage be taken of the facilities provided for specialized war industry job training.

Pointing out that most of the war industry jobs are entirely new in this part of the country and that therefore few experienced workers can be found, Mr. Ruttle said that free National Defense training schools have been established by the state and federal governments for the purpose of providing the necessary training. More than 80 per cent of the jobs already filled in war industry plants, he asserted, have been taken by people who prepared themselves by attending these schools.

"There is and will continue to be a heavy demand for women as well as men in many types of jobs. All local men and women who wish to serve their country and at the same time earn good wages, should enroll in these training schools and secure the knowledge necessary to perform on these jobs," Mr. Ruttle said.

Machine Shop, Aircraft Engine Mechanic, Aircraft Sheet Metal (including Riveting) are the courses offered. The courses are open to men between the ages of 18 and 65 years, and to women between the ages of 18 and 45. The demand for women workers is increasing.

Mr. Ruttle stressed the fact that the training is entirely free, the only cost to a trainee being that he must support himself during the six to 12-week training period. Even this is not true in all cases, since many younger trainees can be assigned to National Youth Administration war work centers where they will be boarded and paid a small wage while obtaining work experience.

Most of the schools are operated on a 24-hour basis so that all equipment can be used constantly, and to provide training around the clock for trainees who must work while going to school.

Mr. Ruttle urged that any one in or near Sterling City who is interested in entering a training class in the subjects listed, contact him at the United States Employment Service office located 7 North Chadbourne street, San Angelo, or write Post Office Box 610, San Angelo, Texas.

Coincident Births

With the birth of Worth Allen, Jr. and Fred Allen, Jr. last Sunday night within the few hours that separated July 26 and 27, there were some unique incidents and coincidences connected with the births of the two lads.

In the first place, these two young Allens boys, of the same sir-name, yet, they were not related by blood or marriage.

Worth Allen, Jr. was born on the first anniversary of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Worth Allen.

At a hospital in San Angelo, there were twelve babies born that day, ten of whom were girls and the Allen boys made the even dozen happy events.

Here's hoping that the two Allen Jrs. will grow up and be as fine men as their dads. Congratulations to Allens. May their tribe increase.

Sterling City News-Record

W. F. Kellis,
Editor and Owner

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NEWS Established in 1890
RECORD Established in 1899
Consolidated in 1902

RUMBLINGS

Mr. Senator, you are good. In all frankness we admit the fact. But you are not quite good enough. Contrary to your oft repeated theme song, 'there will be no run off.' And remember this and mark it well, when the final votes are counted Texas will have a new Senator. One of the Twins has lived up to the caption on Gold Dust. They do the work. In three previous elections, Mr. Senator, you carried Texas as no other man has ever done. This time you failed. Do you know why? Innumerable reasons could be cited but two will suffice. You have never in your two terms as Governor and one as Senator, accomplished one solitary thing that would benefit your adopted state or the nation. It is true that in your first two campaigns for Governor your promises led us to believe that Utopia was at hand. But nothing materialized. Some of the strongest men in Texas gave you their whole hearted support. Gradually you have lost those friends. Why? Because the goods that was delivered did not come up to the advertising. Did it not occur to you, Mr. Senator, that the ordinary average citizen of Texas would wonder why the newspapers of our state were, as you so frequently called to our attention, against you? Certainly any one with the mentality to vote should know that the newspapers are divided among a great many ownerships. Certainly it is very, very seldom they are of one accord on an issue. There must be some good reason for what, in your speeches, you term their open hostility. The answer is, Texas has learned you can not work in double harness. Hitched to a runabout with red wheels, high seat and shafts, you trot superbly. A beautiful picture, but—in a six horse team when the going gets heavy, you back, lunge forward and sideways until the traces are hopelessly tangled. Twenty-five years ago, Mr. Senator, some three million Americans who were born in the '80's and '90's, learned an important lesson. It was not an easy lesson, but the hard school of experience is a good and thorough teacher. The lesson was, that a war has to be won by co-operation in all branches. The soldier is dependent on the people and the people on the soldier. Of course we realize you were not one of us at the time, but as the results made history, we thought possibly you had read of the matter. However, in your two terms as Governor tangling the traces did not actually make too much difference. At least we could always listen to the Hill-billy orchestra and that was diverting at any rate.

We are at war with the two most cruel nations that God Almighty ever permitted to exist. We are fighting for our very existence and that is not a figure of speech. We turn on the radio to listen to a man making the race for one of the most important offices in our Government and what do we hear, Mr. Senator? Quotations like this. "Let Roosevelt worry about the war." "It's not going to last long anyway." "The

professional politicians started the war." "The rich people have sugar and only you poor people are rationed." "The Labor Organizers, union sneaks and scalawags." Good God, Mr. Senator. Reclothe the Texas Ranger force with its original authority and the only 'Labor Racketeers' that tried to cause trouble would need half soles on his pants to slide across the state line. In your campaign you deliberately tried to turn mass against class. In time of war this is dangerous business. It is filth column carried to an entire state rather than one factory.

Mr. Senator, we bid you farewell.
Sic Transit Gloria Mundi

SOME PIONEER

(Continued from 1st page)

carried a drinking cup tied to his saddle and when they came to water the cowpunchers would lie down on their stomachs and drink like their horses did. Smissen would dip the water with his cup and drink. If he had no cup, he would do without until he got a cup.

One day he rode alone several miles down the river. That morning he forgot his cup. By noon he was suffering from thirst, but he had no cup out of which to drink.

Late in the afternoon, he gave it up and lay down to die by a stream of clear, cool water because he had no cup.

That afternoon Kate sent Bill Hiler, the foreman to search for her missing spouse.

Bill found Smissen lying beside the stream.

"What's the matter with you, Colonel?"

"O, Bill, I am dying of thirst."

"Whyinell don't you get down there and drink?"

"Bill, do you think I would drink like a beast?"

Kate Smissen was an angel of mercy to her neighbors when they were sick. She always had her medicine chest well stocked with drugs. When she heard of anyone being sick, she would drive many miles and doctor them. She knew much about medicine and how to use it. Those who knew Kate Smissen loved her for her goodness.

—Uncle Bill

Our Next District Attorney



RALPH LOGAN

Ralph Logan, of San Angelo and county attorney of Tom Green County, was nominated for District Attorney of our district.

PROPHETS OF BAAL

Senator Lee O' first began his campaign for governor by telling the old folks that when he became governor he would give each 30 long greens a month without raising taxes. Sure enough, he didn't do either.

Last year as senator, he went round singing: "There Aint Gonna Be No War." And to make his prophecies come true, he joined Hitler's Fridays in voting to disband the army and navy so there couldn't be no war on our part. Sure enough there was war and several Japs have been hurt.

This summer Lee O' sang: "There Aint Gonna Be No Runoff." Sure enough, Lee O' is in the middle of a hot runoff.

And they took the 450 prophets of Baal out where they would not stink and cut their heads off. This goes to show that we are more tolerant these days of false prophets. We just let them talk their fool heads off.—Uncle Bill

Miss Ethel Foster, who returned a few days ago from a visit to relatives and friends in the famous tobacco growing area of Kentucky a few days ago, while there, she remembered her "Uncle Bill" and secured a generous sample of fine tobacco and delivered it at this sanctum last Wednesday. After she left, the old pipe was soon going and giving solace to the nerves of this old sinner. How did that girl know the kind of tobacco I liked best. She may have guessed, but she guessed right, bless her heart.—Uncle Bill

Farmers and Ranchers Save on Interest

Farmers and ranchmen of this territory served by the Sterling City National Farm Loan Association will save approximately \$15,115.00 during the next two years through continued low interest rates on Federal Land Bank and Land Bank Commissioner loans, Mr. D. C. Durham, Secretary-Treasurer of the association, reported Monday.

The saving, Mr. Durham explained, results from legislation recently passed by Congress, which continues through June 30, 1944, the 3 1/2 percent interest rate on long term Federal Land Bank and Land Bank Commissioner loans.

The Sterling City National Farm Association has approximately \$508,850.00 in loans outstanding.

We read that wooden tires will take the place of rubber tires. They tell us that the wooden tire will get us there at the rate of 15 miles an hour instead of 60 miles an hour. Well, I came to this country in a Studebaker with iron tires and two horses for a motor. On good roads we could make four miles m p h and we thought that was fine. For many years the people were contented when we could go only four m p h. But of late when we are threatened to cut our speed from 60 to 15 m p h, we are horrified at the prospects. If it comes to a show down, we can get along on 15 m p h all right so long as the wood lasts. Wooden tires will be all right even if the undertaker's business suffers for lack of rubber.—Uncle Bill

"I Learned about LIGHT in a BLACKOUT!"

That's what a man wrote in a very human letter.

- "We had our first practice blackout here recently," he added. "For twenty minutes, my family and I sat in total darkness. The seriousness of war hit us all harder than ever before."
- "Then, when the all-clear sounded and we turned the lights back on, warmth and reassurance came into the room. That made me realize that whatever I spend for electricity, it's still about the cheapest thing I buy."

- Here in West Texas, where blackouts have been few and far between and the war seems far away, a lot of folks take electricity for granted until something reminds them how dependable and cheap it really is. If yours is an average family, you're getting about twice or three times as much electricity for your money as ten to fifteen years ago.
- The reasons why this service is so cheap and so dependable go back to the way America works—a way we're all fighting for now. A way of life in which free men have an opportunity to create and produce and succeed in proportion to their individual contribution.
- Your Electric Servant grew up that way—steadily making more jobs, serving more homes and people and lowering rates—under efficient business management. Because it has done its part of the job well, West Texas has the electric power to attract military training camps, flying schools and war plants. West Texas today is helping produce the men and material that promises a permanent blackout for the Axis dictators!

West Texas Utilities Company

Local
White Pigs for Sale
My home in Sterling
Mrs. Lena Findt
Good Saddle for sale
Barnaby. 4t.
Mr. and Mrs. E. I.
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Mrs. David Glass
Mrs. Larry and Ly
Glass ranch 1
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Mrs. Lowe's parent
G. Ainsworth an
relatives.
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Uncle Bill

Local Items

White Pigs for Sale.—W. Y. Bengel has a home in Sterling City for sale. Mrs. Lena Findt of ...
Good Saddle for sale. See Harry ...
Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Bailey returned from a visit to relatives and friends in Paris, Texas, a few days ago.

Mrs. John B. Ayers of Pampa, has been visiting her sister, Mrs. Mary Bade, and other relatives here and back the past two weeks.

Mrs. David Glass and her two sons, Larry and Lynn, were in from the Glass ranch last Wednesday visiting relatives and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Ruel Lowe of Antlers, spent last week end visiting Mrs. Lowe's parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. Ainsworth and other Sterling relatives.

Mr. and Mr. Joe Barton, and baby Joe Walker, spent the past week end in Santa Anna visiting Mrs. Barton's brother, and family, Mr. Abernathy.

Mrs. C. N. Crawford returned from her hospital Tuesday where she has been for the past two weeks. Mrs. Lane of Stiles, is visiting with Mrs. Crawford at present.

Ensign Raymond J. Welch, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Welch, left last Saturday for Houston to report for active duty with the Naval forces of the United States. His wife accompanied him, and will probably be with him until such time as he is called for sea duty.

Born: On the 27th, to Mr. and Mrs. Worth Allen a boy. Mrs. Allen and baby are reported to be doing nicely, but Ed Allen says Worth has been mighty uppity since he has someone to call him Dad. Ed thinks Worth will be all right soon.

Born: On the 26th, to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Allen a boy. Dr. Swann confided to this writer that the youngster and mother were getting along o. k. but Fred was acting nervous about his son. But Doc said that it wasn't serious at all and he would soon be all right.

Doc also confided that Grandpa Rufus Foster was stepping high and warning the dogs to keep out of Grandpa's way. Doc is of the opinion that Grandpa Rufus will be normal in a few days.

When I can get their addresses, I am sending the News-Record to every Sterling boy in Uncle Sam's army. This is quite an item of expense. If any one feels like helping me out, it will be gladly accepted. Otherwise, they will get the paper anyway, because they are out there trying to keep me from having to learn to speak Jap and German. Perhaps, about all I would learn of these languages would be their cuss words. English is not sufficient to express my sentiments toward those dirty sons of & c. - Uncle Bill

Wanted: A word in any language to express my contempt for Loyal and Quisling, the dirty skunks who betrayed their countries into Hitler's hands and got themselves appointed oppress and murder their countrymen at Hitler's will. The devil must be loafing on the job, or he would keep those dirty rats at home—Uncle Bill

Seeing is Believing

EYE DEFECTS ARE THE MAJOR CAUSE OF REJECTION IN THE AIR CORPS, SAYS THE BETTER VISION INSTITUTE.

“AH—TH WORM!”
EARLY BIRD
SOME BIRDS HAVE SIGHT WHICH IS A HUNDRED TIMES AS SHARP AS THE VISION OF HUMAN BEINGS. THEY CAN SEE A KERNEL OF GRAIN A HUNDRED YARDS AWAY.

AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN ALASKA HAVE BEEN EQUIPPED WITH A NEW EYE PROTECTIVE DEVICE WHICH SHUTS OUT SNOW-GLARE AND ABSORBS ULTRA-VIOLET RAYS.

HORSES CAN SEE BETTER THAN HUMANS, EVEN ON DARK NIGHTS, BECAUSE OF REFLECTING CURTAINS AT THE BACK OF THEIR EYES.

Election Returns

Most every voter in Sterling County went to the polls last Saturday and cast his vote for his favorite candidate. The bulletin board in front of the picture show building showed totals as follows:

For U. S. Senator	
Allred	197
Moody	94
O'Daniel	122
For Congress	
Fisher	347
Knox	25
South	38
For Governor	
Collins	61
Stevenson	299
Ferguson	1
For Lt. Governor	
Beck	48
Smith	39
House	45
For Comptroller	
Butler	43
Sheppard	341
For State Treasurer	
Hatcher	105
James	151
For Land Commissioner	
Day	90
Giles	310
For Atty. General	
Hair	43
Mann	345
For Supt. Instruction	
Tergenson	94
Woods	279
For Commr. Agriculture	
Cory	101
McDonald	221
Ragsdale	24
For Railroad Commr.	
Boon	77
Thompson	306
For R. R. Commr. (unexpired term)	
Brooks	205
Jester	54
McCormick	14
For Chief Justice Grim. Appeals	
Graves	317
Strength	35
For Chief Justice Ct. Civil Appeals	
McClendon	198
Smith	138
For District Attorney	
Logan	261
McDonald	72
For Sheriff	
Brown	119
Davis	308
For County Treasurer	
Wallace	193
Green	246

Candidates without opponents not listed.

They Are Grateful

I sincerely appreciate the support given me by the citizenship of Sterling County in last Saturday's election and I hope to be able to see you and thank you in person within a few days.—W. C. (Bill) McDonald

I am very grateful to the voters of Sterling County for re-nominating me for the office of County and District Clerk at the Election held Saturday. I shall try to further express my gratitude by the kind of service which I shall render in my office—which shall be my best! —Prebble Durham

To the voters of Sterling County: I take this means to thank you and express my deep felt gratitude for the loyal support you gave me during my campaign for County Treasurer in the late Primary. Although I lost, after six years of service as County Treasurer, I want you to know that I hold no bitterness against any of you. I feel a sense of obligation for the six good years you gave me in the capacity of County Treasurer. I thank you. —Sallie Wallace

To the voters of Sterling County: I invoke this means to express my gratitude for the splendid support given me for County Treasurer of Sterling County in the late Democratic primaries. With friendly regard for all and bitterness for none, I shall try to do my duty so that no enemy will be punished or friend rewarded. Keep the public money safely and honestly and without partiality to anyone. Thanks from the bottom of my heart.—Thad Green

FIRE, FIDELITY, AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE
FHA LOANS
 Let Us Protect Your Property
D. C. Durham Insurance Agency

Geo. T. Wilson
Worth B. Durham
LAWYERS
 205 Central Nat. Bank Bldg.
 San Angelo, Texas

Palace Theatre
 Now Showing

Saturday and Sunday August 1-2
Jack Oakie
Ann Sheridan
 in
“Navy Blues”
 Also Short Subjects

Wednesday and Thursday August 5-6
Lynn Bari
Lloyd Nolan
Arleene Whelan
 in
“Charter Pilot”
 And Short Subjects

Saturday and Sunday August 8-9
Edgar Bergen
Charlie McCarthy
 in
“Look Who's Here”
 Selected Short Subjects

DEAD ANIMALS
 The Government needs the glycerine and other products obtained from carcasses of sheep, goats, cattle and horses. We will pick up these carcasses free within 30 miles of Sterling City. Phone
W. Y. BENGE & SON

Protect That Horse
Vaccinate NOW for Sleeping Sickness
Lederle's Vaccines All Kinds
Butler Drug Co.

SHEARING TIME IS HERE
WE HAVE--
Wool Bags
Fleece Twine
Branding Fluids
Plenty of Smear 62
MARTIN C. REED WAREHOUSE

WELDING---CUTTING
 Electric and Acetylene welding, brazing and cutting. Broken parts of Iron or steel made as good as new. All work fully guaranteed.
GENERAL BLACKSMITH
 Windmill Work a Specialty
SAM SIMMONS At W. H. Sparkman Shop

Announcements

We are authorized to announce the following candidates for offices in Sterling County subject to the action of the Democratic party in its primary elections in August 1942

For Congressman 21st District
 O. C. Fisher

For State Senator
 Pensose B. Metcalfe

For Representative 91st District
 Dorsey B. Hardeman

For District Attorney
 Ralph Logan

For Sheriff, Tax Assessor-Collector
 V. E. Davis

For County Judge:
 G. C. Murrell

For County and District Clerk:
 Prebble Durham

For County Treasurer:
 Thad Green

For Commissioner, Precinct No. 1:
 R. T. Foster

For Commissioner, Precinct No. 2:
 Herbert Cope

For Commissioner, Precinct No. 3:
 L. R. Knight

For Commissioner, Precinct No. 4:
 W. N. Reed

Baptist Church
 Sunday

A.m.
 10:00 Sunday School lesson
 11:00 Worship Service

P.m.
 6:00 Training union
 7:00 Evening worship
 Wednesday

P.m.
 2:30 Missionary Society
 7:00 Weekly Teachers meeting
 7:30 Mid-week Devotional

We welcome you.
 Claude Stovall, pastor

Sterling Floral Shop
 Beth Lee, Owner
Cut Flowers, Plants, Bulbs, Shrubs
Buy From Your Home Folks
 Phone 172 Bengel Residence

THE TEXAS CO.
Petroleum & its Products
R. P. Brown, Agent

