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“He Stole My Courthouse:” S.B. Hale and the Hansford County Seat Fight of the 1920s

by David J. Murrah, Ph.D.

[David J. Murrah, a native of Gruver, graduated from GHS in 1960. He retired from Texas Tech University in 1996 and lives in Rockport, Texas, near Corpus Christi. While in high school, he covered Gruver sports for both the Spearman Reporter and Hansford Plainsman. Dr. Murrah, at the suggestion of Selden B. Hale of Amarillo, grandson of Judge S.B. Hale, wrote this article for the 2011 Year Book of the West Texas Historical Association. It is reprinted here through the encouragement of Dorothy Hudson of Gruver, and courtesy of the author and the West Texas Historical Association.]

Not a lot of people know where Gruver, Texas, is, much less for whom it was named. But, most of us who grew up there in the 1950s knew the town's namesake—Uncle Joe Gruver. A thin, distinguished-looking man with a white mustache, J. H. Gruver was 93 in 1956 and, he lived quietly and somewhat modestly in a two-story brick home on Broadway Avenue, just across the street from the Methodist and Baptist churches. He also owned more than six thousand acres of land as well as the largest grain elevator in town, and he had been farming in Hansford County since 1906.

And, he had a long memory. One day, in early September 1956, another Gruver boy like myself, Selden Hale, only 18 at the time, was asked by his girlfriend, Marlene Gruver, to come to her rural home because her father Guy had suddenly passed away. Guy Gruver was foreman of the Gruver farms, and he was a great-nephew of Uncle Joe. When Selden arrived, he found the whole Gruver family there, including the genteel, soft-spoken, 93-year old Uncle Joe Gruver.

After Marlene introduced Selden to her great-great Uncle Joe Gruver,

Selden recalled that the old man cocked his head quizzically when he heard Selden's name. It was natural: the Hales also had deep roots in Hansford County. Selden's great grandparents Mel and

Atarah Wright were among the first Anglo settlers in the entire Texas Panhandle, having moved first to Hutchinson County in 1877, and Hansford County in 1887. Their daughter Grace married S. B. Hale, a pharmacist who in 1909 opened a drug store in the county seat of Hansford. From 1912 to 1916, Hale served as county judge, and in the late 1920s, he led Spearman's fight to get the county seat removed from Hansford to Spearman.

And, so, when Uncle Joe heard Selden's name, he turned to the young 18-year old and said, “Are you Judge Hale's boy?”

Proud that the old man had recognized the family name, Selden replied, “Well, no, but Judge Hale was my grandfather.”

Selden was not prepared for the response. He said that the old, genteel, soft-spoken 93-year old Uncle Joe Gruver rose half way out of his seat, pumped his fist, and shouted, “Well, he stole my courthouse!”

Most residents had forgotten the seven-year county seat fight that lasted from 1922 to 1929, but not Uncle Joe. The three published histories of Hansford County make little mention of it. Did Judge Hale steal the courthouse from Gruver? This paper attempts to answer that question, and to explain this riddle of how did Spearman end up with the county seat, and Gruver end up with the courthouse.

Hansford County, Texas, like most of the panhandle counties, was created in 1876 and sketched out on a map in the General Land Office as a 30-mile square. Historically speaking, the area was an almost perfect bison range, with large level pastures interspersed with two live creek systems, the Coldwater, and the Palo Duro. As a result, its first Anglo settlers were bison hunters, the two young English-born Cator brothers, who in either 1872 or 1873, established a camp on the Palo Duro in the heart of the Comanche and Kiowa hunting range. Over a three-year period, the Cators harvested sixteen thousand bison. In 1878, they began stocking their range with cattle, and in 1880 established

a trading post named Zulu which became an important point on the Tascosa-Dodge City Trail.²

Hansford County's first communities, Farwell and Hansford, were both established in 1887. Kansas speculators located Farwell exactly in the center of the county, but five miles away from the main trail along the Palo Duro.³ But water was scarce, and its residents had to hand-dig a 200-foot well. Most people settled along the creek and the trail; by the late 1880s, at least fourteen families were ranching in the Palo Duro valley, and one of these, J. Huff Wright (Selden's great uncle), established the townsite of Hansford in 1887, and thus set the stage for the first county seat fight between the two new communities.⁴

J. Huff Wright also took the lead in organizing a county government. In order to organize a county, the law required the residency of at least 150 qualified voters.⁵ In February 1889, Wright presented to the Wheeler County Commissioners Court at Mobeetie a petition for organization, which bore the names of 164 qualified voters. But, who were some of these “qualified” voters? The 1890 census recorded only 133 residents in the entire county. Some obviously were recruited or invented as the practice of voter creation was

not uncommon. As in several other West Texas organizational petitions, a few drifters, horses, and dogs probably were enlisted to be “qualified voters.”

In March 1889, the Commissioners approved the organization and determined to establish the county seat by a follow-up petition. Both Farwell and Hansford submitted petitions, but Mel Wright (Selden's grandfather) rode the 70 miles overnight to Mobeetie on horseback to present Hansford's petition first.⁶ As a result, Hansford was named the county seat, and Farwell gradually disappeared from the map.

In 1890, the new county government awarded construction of its courthouse to a Kansas City firm that was to build a three-story structure quarried from local stone, at a very modest cost of \$13,000. However, the contractor could find little stone, forcing the county to spend an additional \$5,700 on brick freighted from Dodge City. To save money, the architect reduced it to a two-story structure, but as it neared completion, an April tornado ripped through Hansford and demolished much of the building. Workers then rebuilt the courthouse, this time as a story and a half, but as it neared completion, another storm ripped off the roof and upper walls.⁷

Continued on Page 4

Happy State Bank Scholar Athlete of the Year

By Terrence Hunley, Lance Lahnert, Lee Passmore, Dave Henry and Ricky Treon of the Amarillo Globe-News

Shelley Gibson, Gruver

Why honored: The Gruver senior is the class valedictorian with a 100.52 grade-point average and has several college credit hours. She is involved in Big Brothers Big Sisters as well. She's made state in cross country four consecutive years and three straight years in track. Gibson won a state championship in the 1600 event this past weekend. She was also the defensive MVP in the district in basketball two straight years.

Quotable: “She's graduating with an average over 100.” Gruver track coach Mica Been said. “She's an outstanding stu-

dent. She never gets in trouble. She takes care of her business. She just does a great job in the classroom. Whatever we offer, she does, and does well. She's just phenomenal.”

GHS Receives Award



U.S. News & World Report has awarded Gruver High School a Bronze Medal for Best High Schools 2012. U.S. News calculates test score values based on student performance on state exit exams and internationally available exams on college-level coursework. GHS scored in the 95% in Reading Proficiency and 97% in Math Proficiency.

Texas high school students are tested in English language arts, reading, math, science, and social studies. To graduate from a Texas high school, students must earn at least 22 credits, including one credit of fine arts and a half credit in speech, according to the Texas Education Agency. There are more than 400 Texas schools in the U.S. News Best High Schools 2012 rankings, including 46 with gold medals, 123 with silver medals, and 233 with bronze medals.

2 Hansford County Students Play in TABC All-Star Games

By Ricky Treon, Amarillo Globe-News
Spearman's Morgan Ashmore and Gruver's Madison McLain competed Friday in the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches annual all-star games at Trinity University in San Antonio.

McLain had five points and Ashmore had four assists to help the girls Class 1A-2A-3A Blue team beat the White, 90-88.

In addition to the games, two coaches and one player with ties to the Amarillo area will be inducted into the Texas High School Basketball Hall of Fame on Saturday during a TABC ceremony.

Jim Wilcoxson began his coaching career at age 40 at Booker. He moved to Tascosa for three years before taking over at Randall in 1989. In 15 years at Randall, his teams made the playoffs every year and won Class 4A state titles in 1992 and 1998.

Duane Hunt began his 26-year coaching career in 1963 at Guymon, OK, then moved on to coach at Borger for 23 years, where his teams were 507-206. He was TABC president in 1982-83.

Lynn Davis Pool led the Canyon Lady Eagles to a 32-2 season and a state title her senior year in 1974. She was an assistant coach under Jody Conradt at the University of Texas, head coach at Austin Bowie High School and athletic director at Austin ISD.

Happy State Bank Girls Athletes of the Year

By Terrence Hunley, Lance Lahnert, Lee Passmore, Dave Henry and Ricky Treon of the Amarillo Globe-News



Basketball

Morgan Ashmore, Spearman

Why honored: Spearman senior Morgan Ashmore overcame an injury to her non-shooting hand to be named a co-District 1-2A MVP with teammate Shelby Hanna after leading the Lynxettes to the Region I-2A tournament for the second consecutive year. Ashmore, the Amarillo Globe-News Super Team girls player of the year, also played varsity her freshman and sophomore years and helped Spearman to the Region I-2A quarterfinals both years.

Quotable: “She's had a great high school career,” said Junior Ashmore, Spearman girls basketball coach and Morgan's father. “The main thing I think you look at with kids is the team success. I think that means a lot when you're talking about player of the year in a team sport.”



Track

Shelley Gibson, Gruver

Why honored: The Gruver senior won the Class 1A girls 1600-meter state title Saturday at Mike A. Myers Stadium in Austin. It was her fifth career event in Austin, having run three times in the 3200 — including a fifth-place finish Friday — and twice in the 1600. She won bronze medals in the 1600 and 3200 last year.

Gibson, the Gruver valedictorian, also made four straight trips to the state cross country meet as part of a Lady Hounds team that won the last three years. Gibson finished 10th overall last fall.

Quotable: “There isn't a kid with more heart than her,” Gruver track coach Mica Been said. “There isn't a kid who has worked harder than her. And I don't just mean this year. I mean over her career. I don't mean in just track, but in cross country and basketball. She is a phenomenal student athlete. This couldn't happen to a more special or deserving kid.”

Get A Clue At Hansford County Library

Summer Reading Program

Hansford County Library has scheduled their 2012 Summer Reading Program. This year's theme is “Get A Clue.” The Summer Reading Program is open to children kindergarten through second grade, and will be held from 10:30-11:30 a.m. each Tuesday in June.

The schedule of events is as follows:

- June 5th - Get a Clue about Crime Investigation, program presented by Sheriff Gary Evans
- June 12th - Get a Clue about Area History, program presented by John Hutchison
- June 19th - Get a Clue about Laboratory Experiments, program presented by Chad Wilkerson
- June 26th - Get a Clue about Solving Mysteries, mystery movie presented by library staff

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Courthouse

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However, Winder lost at the district court and Court of Civil Appeals level and plans for the election continued.²⁵ Three days prior to the election, the Texas Supreme Court ruled that a writ of error had occurred, but it did not stop the election.²⁶ The county went ahead with its plan and held the election, but under a legal cloud.

Once again, nearly every voter in Hansford County turned out for the issue. On election eve, the Amarillo paper wryly noted that "... Gruver folks are said to feel that if they can keep the county seat from being moved to Spearman, they will some day have a chance to get it moved to Gruver. They are reported to be working for Hansford in today's election, and Hansford is accepting their aid; it might be considered one instance of not fearing the Greeks when they come bearing gifts."²⁷

Once again, Spearman got a big majority, 657 to 363, but failed by 23 to get a two-thirds vote.²⁸ Of course, Spearman promoters pointed out that the law had been changed to a majority vote, and thus the county seat could be moved. But, wisely, the county commissioners declined to take action and refused to order the move, pending the outcome of the Winder suit.

Meanwhile, Gruver supporters appealed to the region through letters to the Amarillo paper. One of these clearly reflected clearly Gruver's intent:

We must admit that the courthouse should be located near the center of the county. . . . With this road, we can ship our wheat, dairy and other products to the gateway city of the Panhandle (Amarillo). . . . We are Texas people and want Texas towns in which to market our products.²⁹

The last sentence was clearly a slap at Spearman, whose railroad carried their goods to and from Oklahoma and Kansas.

Finally, in November, 1927, the Texas Supreme Court ruled in favor of Gruver, declaring that the word "within" meant "not less than."³⁰ Therefore, the August election was null and void and Spearman would have to wait two more years.

Three failed elections in a five-year period finally prompted Judge Hale to action. After the Supreme Court ruling, he began to collect funds for "the legal end of the fight" by asking for donations based on amount of property one held. He went to Chicago and met with Nelson W. Willard, a Chicago land speculator and Hansford County landowner with ties to the Santa Fe, and asked him to talk to railroad officials about support. Willard contributed \$1,000, more than twice than for what Judge Hale had asked.³¹ Hale also raised more than \$1,200 from Spearman residents.³²

Meanwhile, the drama only intensified as the Rock Island announced in March 1928 that it was ready to extend its line from Stinnett to Gruver, with plans to reach there by late summer or early fall of 1928.³³ Spearman correctly feared that, with the arrival of the railroad in Gruver, it would experience a Stinnett-like boom, and perhaps win the county seat in an August 1929 election.

But, the rail line construction proceeded slower than expected, and by late 1928 was stalled a few miles south of Gruver. Not willing to take a chance, Judge Hale made the 564-mile trek from Spearman to Austin in February 1929 to lobby the Texas Legislature, which had convened in January. With the recently-raised funds in hand, Hale campaigned to get the Legislature allow an immediate vote for the county seat rather than a five-year wait. In February, he appeared before the Senate State Affairs Committee, as did two Gruver supporters.³⁴

Judge Hale's lobbying, and generous war chest appar-

ently paid off. The legislature quickly passed a bill allowing for a vote after two years from the previous election, but it restored the two-thirds vote requirement to move a county seat farther than five miles from the county center. According to the press, "The bill was passed with an emergency clause so it may go into immediate effect. Statements were made that advocates of Spearman as a county seat were preparing to call a special election before the bill could be passed in order to take advantage of the old law [that provided a move to a railhead away from the center could be done with a majority vote]."³⁵

So, who carried the day in Austin? Gruver folk probably thought they did, because the law allowed that Gruver could win by a majority. Spearman folk thought that they did, because the action implied that, since it had been two years since the legitimate March 1927 election, then Spearman could call for a new election. And that they did. On March 14, 1929, less than a month after the legislature approved the county seat bill, the Hansford County Commissioners set April 25 as the date for the fourth county seat vote in seven years.³⁶

The railroad finally had arrived in Gruver in February 1929, but it was too late to salvage the town's dream to be the county seat. Once again, the election turned out nearly every eligible voter in the county (and perhaps a few more), as nearly 1,300 cast ballots. Even though Gruver carried six of the eight polling places, some of them unanimously, it could not match Spearman's 876 votes—25 more than necessary for the two-thirds requirement.³⁷

And, as before, some of Gruver's citizens challenged the vote in court, but this time, Spearman did not wait for the results. On the Monday after the election, the county commissioners authorized the move of the county seat and the contents of the courthouse in Hansford were immediately hauled to City Hall in Spearman, amidst fire whistles blowing in celebration. According to an observer, the records were moved "without a single objection being made by residents of [Hansford]."³⁸

There may have been some cursing in Gruver, especially after its appeal through the courts failed.³⁹ But with its late-arriving railroad, coupled with a looming drought and economic depression, Gruver would have never achieved a population sufficient enough to gain a majority vote. Uncle Joe Gruver was partially right; maybe Judge Hale stole his courthouse, but he did it the hard way.⁴⁰

Prologue

Judge Hale died in 1939 at age 59; his wife and sons Selden, Jr. (Butch), and Wright Hale continued to maintain family businesses in both Spearman and Gruver, owning the movie theaters in both towns, two in Spearman and one in Gruver.⁴¹ Selden Hale III, after 1956 his encounter with Uncle Joe, attended Texas Tech, served a hitch in the Marine Corps, then returned to West Texas to become first, a reporter for the Amarillo Globe-News, and then a prominent criminal attorney in Amarillo where he lives today. His family still owns the town site of Hansford.

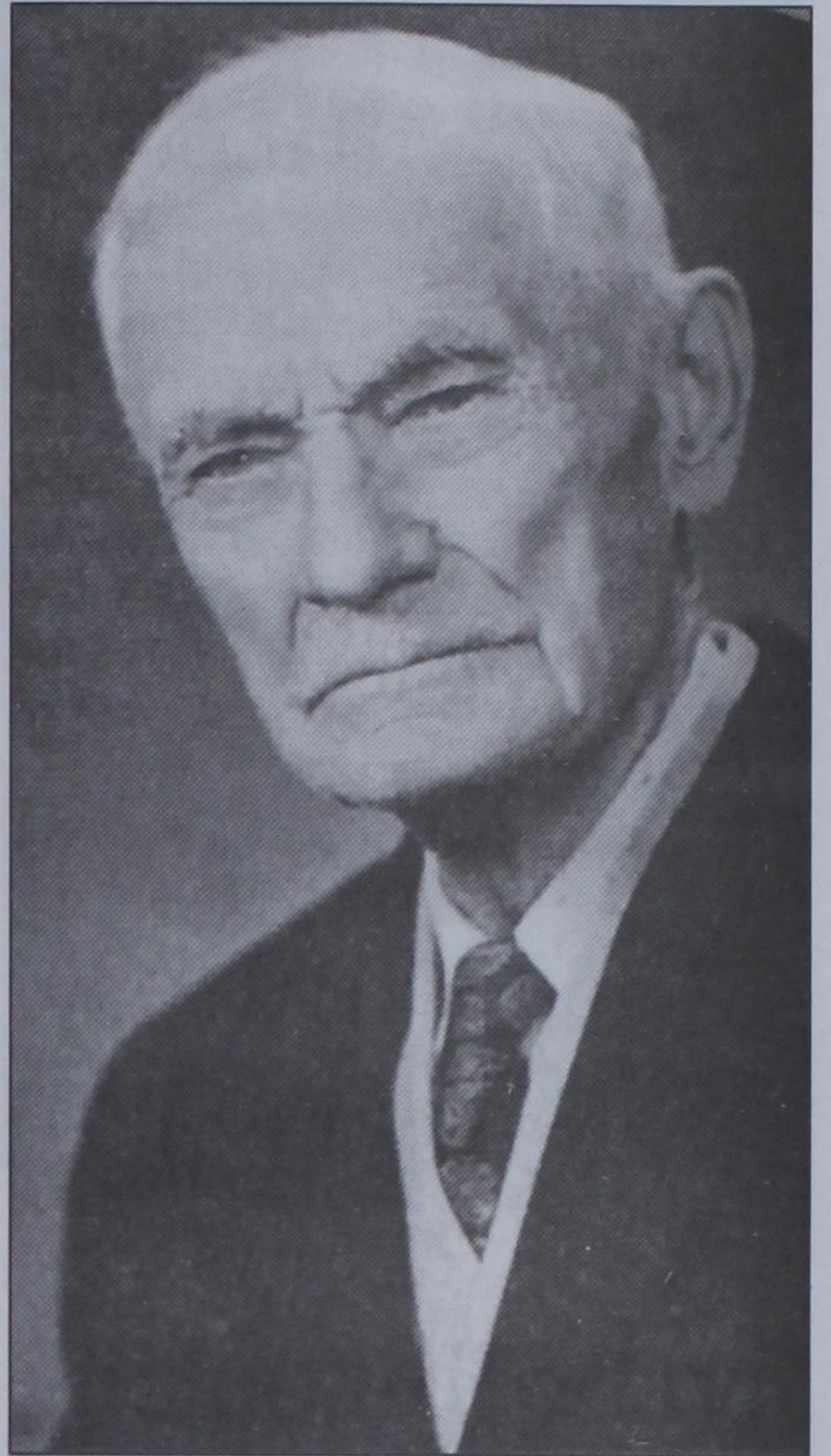
When Judge Hale died, a Spearman paper editorialized his accomplishments:

Mr. Hale was a man of decided convictions. . . . yet he was congenial and was willing at all times to sit down and discuss matters across the table with his opponents. During the bitter county seat fight . . . he took a very prominent part Yet when the fight was over, he was still on friendly terms with the most prominent leaders of the opposition, and some [my underline] of them continued to trade with him.⁴²

Note that only "some" continued to trade with him. One who probably did not was Uncle Joe Gruver.

What happened to the old courthouse, with its brick hauled by wagon from Dodge City? In 1930, Uncle Joe

Gruver, J. P. Winder, and other prominent Gruver citizens bought it, had it demolished, and moved the brick to Gruver for construction of the Gruver Community Church, located next door to Uncle Joe Gruver's new home on Broadway. The edifice must have served as a reminder to Uncle Joe about the lost cause for a long time—he was 99 when he died in 1962, still convinced that Judge Hale stole his courthouse. ⁴³



J H Gruver



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Courthouse



Judge S.B. Hale



Gruver House

county town and help settle up the country. The county as yet has only about seventy-five settlers, and they will not attempt an organization this year." 4 Kirk, p. 4. In June 1887, the Panhandle Interstate recorded Huff Wright's visit in Lipscomb to secure a surveyor with this note: "J. H. Wright of Hansford County was in Lipscomb Monday to secure the services of Surveyor Spiller to plat him a town on the Paladora valley, near the center of Hansford County. The town will be finely located in the valley, where water can be had by digging a few feet. There is but one creek in the county, all the land being a high, rolling prairie, of rich alluvial soil. The town is not yet named, but will probably be called Zulu after the name of the post office 12 miles up the valley, at Cator's, or Cator after the Cater [sic] boys, who have been in the valley for years--first as buffalo hunters, and then as cow men." Panhandle Interstate, June 10, 1887, newspaper clipping in possession of Dorothy Hudson, Gruver, Texas. 5 L. L. Graves, ed., A History of Lubbock (Lubbock: West Texas Museum Association, 1962), p. 80. 6 "Highlights from the Past and Present," Gruver Independent, April 24, 1963, Vertical File, Gruver Library, Gruver, Texas. 7 Kirk, p. 5.8 The latter was by design: The Santa Fe, the logical line to build into the upper Panhandle because of its strong Kansas presence, had deliberately avoided the area, even though one of its surveyors, Phillip Smith, reported in 1886 that "Sherman, Hansford and Moore Counties to be among the best in the Panhandle..." But Smith also correctly prophesied that "it is probable, that owing to the land laws recently made in Texas...that settlement will be very sparse, and lands will fall into the hands of large cattle owners." As a result, the Santa Fe avoided the northern Panhandle until it knew when "the country will sustain the line with its local business, and not before." [Mike Burton], "Little Office on the Prairie: A Discourse Upon Portable Towns, Commuter Trains, and Mr. Batman," Santa Fe Historical & Modeling Society website, <http://www.atsfrr.com/resources/burton/LittleOffice.htm>, accessed March 22, 2011. 9 Hansford County Texas, Vol. 1, 1876-1979 (Dallas: Taylor Publishing Company, [1979]), p. 161.10 Ibid., p. 17; H. Allen Anderson, "Enid, Ochiltee



Courthouse

and Western Railroad," Handbook of Texas Online (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/eqe11>), accessed March 10, 2011, published by the Texas State Historical Association. See also, Burton, "Little Office on the Prairie."11 Texas County, Oklahoma, which lies just to the north of Hansford County, grew from 1,000 in 1900 to 14,000 in 1910. Dianna Everett, "Texas County," Oklahoma Encyclopedia of History and Culture, <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/T/TEO21.html>, accessed March 10, 2011. 12 H. Allen Anderson, "HANSFORD COUNTY," Handbook of Texas Online (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hch04>), accessed March 19, 2011.13 Hansford County Texas, Vol. 1, p. 19. Mike Burton's article, "Little Office on the Prairie," indicates that the line was completed in July 1920. 14 Doty Jones, A Search for Opportunity: A History of Hansford County (Gruver, TX: Jones Publishing Company, 1965), p. 193. The old Hansford Hotel, constructed in 1909 by S.B. Hale, J.H. Wright and Bert Cator, was moved to Spearman where it remained until being deliberately destroyed by fire June 2009 by Spearman Fire Department, even though it was a Recorded Texas Landmark. See High Plains Observer Online accessed June 23, 2009. 15 Hansford County Texas, Vol. 1, p. 57.16 In July, 1925, top Rock Island officials showed up in Amarillo to meet with Stinnett; their presence did not go unnoticed by the press. See Amarillo Daily News, July 14, 1925, p. 1. On August 5, 1925, the Rock Island asked permission of the Interstate Commerce Commission to build from Amarillo to Liberal, Kansas, via Stinnett's ranch north of the Canadian in Hutchinson County. In April 1926, the ICC issued its permit for the line. Amarillo Globe, April 8, 1926, p. 1. See also Burton, "Little Office on the Prairie." 17 H. Allen Anderson, "STINNETT, TX," Handbook of Texas Online (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hjs26>), accessed March 14, 2011; Jones, A Search for Opportunity, pp. 20-21.18 Hansford County, Vol. 1, p. 23. 19 Amarillo Globe, March 6, 1927.20 Ibid.21 Ibid.22 Amarillo Daily News, March 18, 1927, p. 1.23 General and Special Laws of the State of Texas of the Fortieth Legislature of the Regular Session, 1927 (Austin: State of Texas, 1927), p. 264.24 40th 1st Called Session, May 9, 1927 - June 7, 1927, Legislative Reference Library Online, (<http://www.lrl.state.tx.us/sessions/sessionSnapshot.cfm?legSession=40-1>), accessed March 1, 2011; Amarillo Globe, July 25, 1927, p. 1; Amarillo Daily News, July 26, 1927, and August 8, 1927, p. 10. Judge Hale made reference to these two bills in his 1928 pocketbook; the entries imply that he was taking notes about a past situation, and therefore may have not have been aware of the legislative action in 1927. See Vest Pocketbook, Papers, S. B. Hale, in possession of S.B. Hale III, Amarillo, Texas. Author has a copy.25 Amarillo Daily News, July 28, 1927, p. 1.26 Ibid., August 4, 1927, p. 1.27 Ibid., August 6, 1927.28 Ibid., August 9, 1927. 29 Ibid., August 8, 1927, p. 10. 30 Ibid., November 12, 1927. 31 S. B. Hale to Nelson W. Willard, November 27, 1927; Willard to Hale, Dec. 2, 1927, Papers, S. B. Hale. 32 According to notes in his vest pocket book, S.B. Hale collected at least \$1225 from 37 Hansford County individuals who gave \$25 to \$100 for the cause. Vest Pocketbook, Papers, S.B. Hale. 33 Amarillo Globe, March 12, 1928.34 Alvino Richardson, and former sheriff R. M. Thompson both spoke in opposition to the bill. Richardson later served as one of S.B. Hale's pall bearers at his funeral in 1939. Amarillo Daily News, February 2, 1929, p. 1; Newspaper clipping, Papers, S.B. Hale. 35 Newspaper clipping, February 22, 1929, Papers, S.B. Hale. The clipping clearly refers to the 1929 legislative session and is probably from the Dallas Morning News.36 Hansford County, Vol. 1, p. 58.37 The citizens of Gruver finally celebrated the arrival of the railroad on March 1, 1929, with a big celebration and the formal opening of four new businesses, including a bank, car dealership, and two agricultural equipment dealers. (Spearman Reporter, February 21, February 28, and April 25, 1929; Hansford County, Vol. 1, p. 24. One of the new businesses to open was the Gruver Hardware. The author's father, Roy Murrah, reported to work there at age 19 in January, 1930. 38 Amarillo Daily News, April 28, 1929. 39 Ibid., August 22, 1929. 40 After the election, the Spearman newspaper noted that "The election is a thing of the past. It should be forgotten as rapidly as possible." Spearman Reporter, April 25, 1929, p. 1. For the most part, it was. When Hansford County historians wrote their histories in the 1960s and '70s, none bothered to trace the history of the county seat fight. Perhaps the onset of the Depression served to erase memories, as Hansford County took a hard hit during the 1930s and depopulated by nearly 20 percent. 41 While in high school and college, the author worked at all three of the Hale theaters in Gruver and Spearman as a projectionist.42 Newspaper clipping, Spearman Press, undated, Papers, S.B. Hale. 43 Hansford County, Vol. 1, p. 161.

Bibliography
1 (Margaret Locke Kirk "Memorable Extracts from Mrs. M.B. Wright's Experiences in the North Panhandle," WPA Writer's Project, on file at Panhandle Plains Museum, p. 4, from copy in possession of Dorothy Hudson, Gruver, Texas).2 C. Robert Haywood, Trails South: The Wagon-Road Economy in the Dodge City-Panhandle Region Meade, Kansas: Prairie Books, 2006), pp. 97-98.3 Panhandle Interstate, Lipscomb, Lipscomb County, Texas Friday, August 19, 1887, copy in possession of Dorothy Hudson, Gruver, Texas. According to the article, "A. Weatherly,

manager for the Farwell Town Co., Hansford county, Texas, accompanied by James and John McKeever, passed west through Lipscomb for their town. He says the Farwell Town Co. is composed of three different companies, one from Harper, one from Sterling and one from Garden City, Kansas. They have consolidated and laid out their town exactly in the center of the county. The company plans to build all the houses that are needed for the present, and sink three wells. There is owned by individuals in the company seventeen sections of land in Hansford County, and it is their aim to build up a

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Winegarner Honored



Gus Birdwell Elementary Reading Recovery teacher Verlan Winegarner was honored on Monday, May 21, 2012 at a ceremony held in the cafeteria at the school. The ceremony was organized by the parents of the many hispanic students he has taught and helped during his 33 years of teaching. The students he taught over the years that were in attendance are pictured above.

HCHD Heritage Days Events



Kids Kamp Kicks Off June 4

- **June 4, Kids Kamp Kick Off**, 10am—12:30 pm, N/C - Fun, games, and food to kick off the Summer.
- **June 6, Water/Swim Safety**, 10am—Noon at Pool, N/C - Meet at the Pool to learn water safety and enjoy some fun in the sun!
- **June 7, Stepping Stones**, 10am—Noon, \$5 - Step out to the O'Loughlin Center and learn to make and decorate stepping stones.
- **June 11, Play Day & Picnic**, 10am—Noon, N/C - Bring your sack lunch for fun & games
- **June 13, Tea for Two**, 11am—1:00pm, \$5 - Mom's, Grandmothers, Friends join your little Princess for Tea! Molly McCloy will help make this a magical time!
- **June 14, Movie Matinee at Lyric**, 10:30am—Noon, \$6 - Meet at the Lyric for a Movie Matinee.
- **June 18, Jackie's Cookie Capers**, 10am—Noon, N/C - Put on your chef hat and join Jackie Pearson to design and decorate cookies.
- **June 20, Kids in the Kitchen**, 9:30am—Noon, \$15 - Join Peggy Winegarner in the Kitchen for some great recipes. Must be 8 or older — Limited Enrollment
- **June 21, Balloon Blast**, 10am—Noon, N/C - Build Balloon Animals, enjoy balloon games and have a popping good time!
- **June 25, Crazy Krafts**, 10am—Noon, \$5 - We will design, decorate and have fun creating our very own masterpiece.
- **June 26, Senior Supper**, 10am—Noon & 5pm-7pm, N/C - Join Jackie Pearson in the Kitchen as you prepare and serve a Senior Supper for the weekly GSC Senior Citizens get together. Must be 8 or older — Limited Enrollment
- **June 28, Sew Much Fun**, 9am—Noon, \$15 - Peggy Winegarner will take you from start to finish on a sewing project. Must be 8 or older — Limited Enrollment

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