

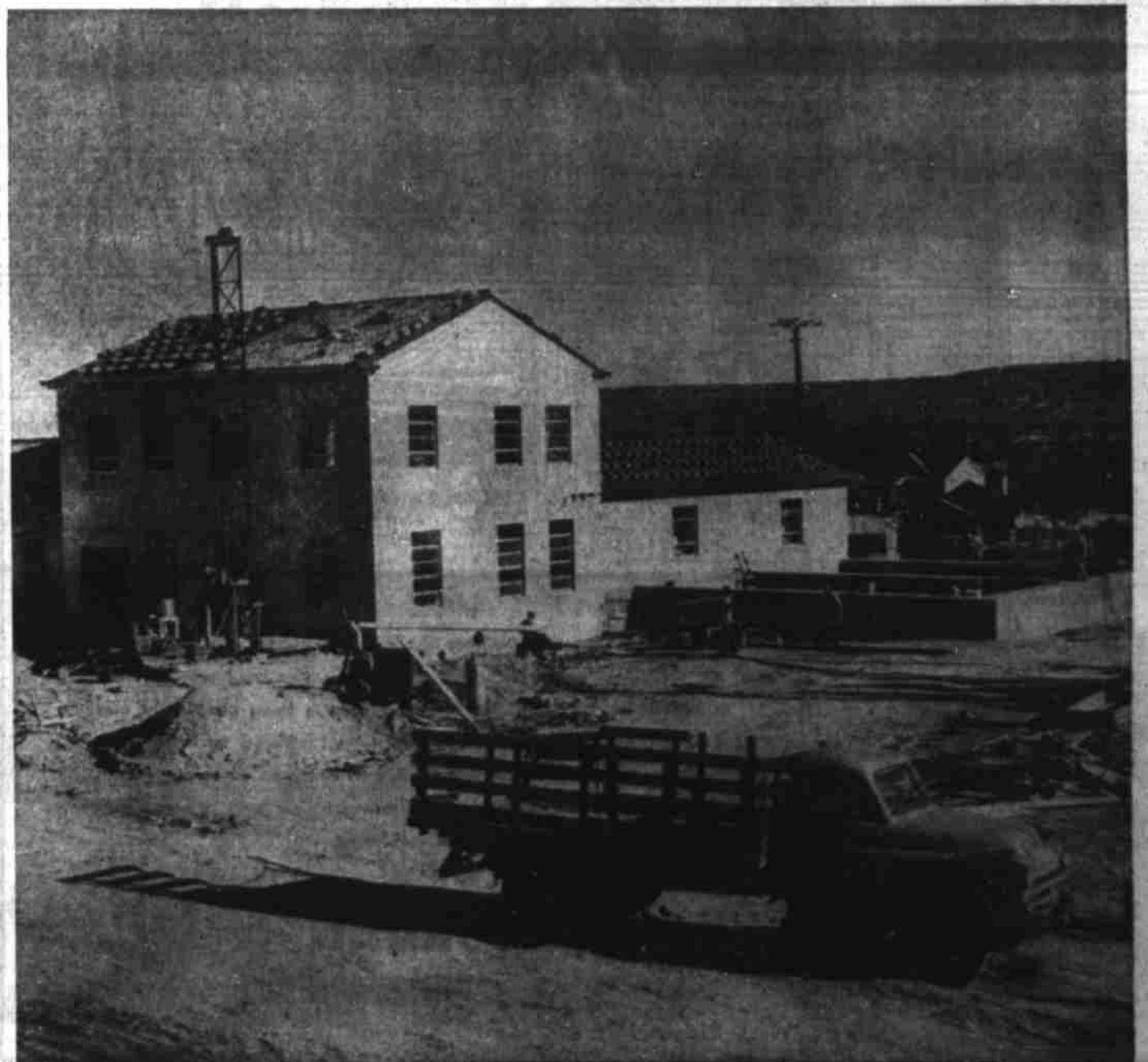
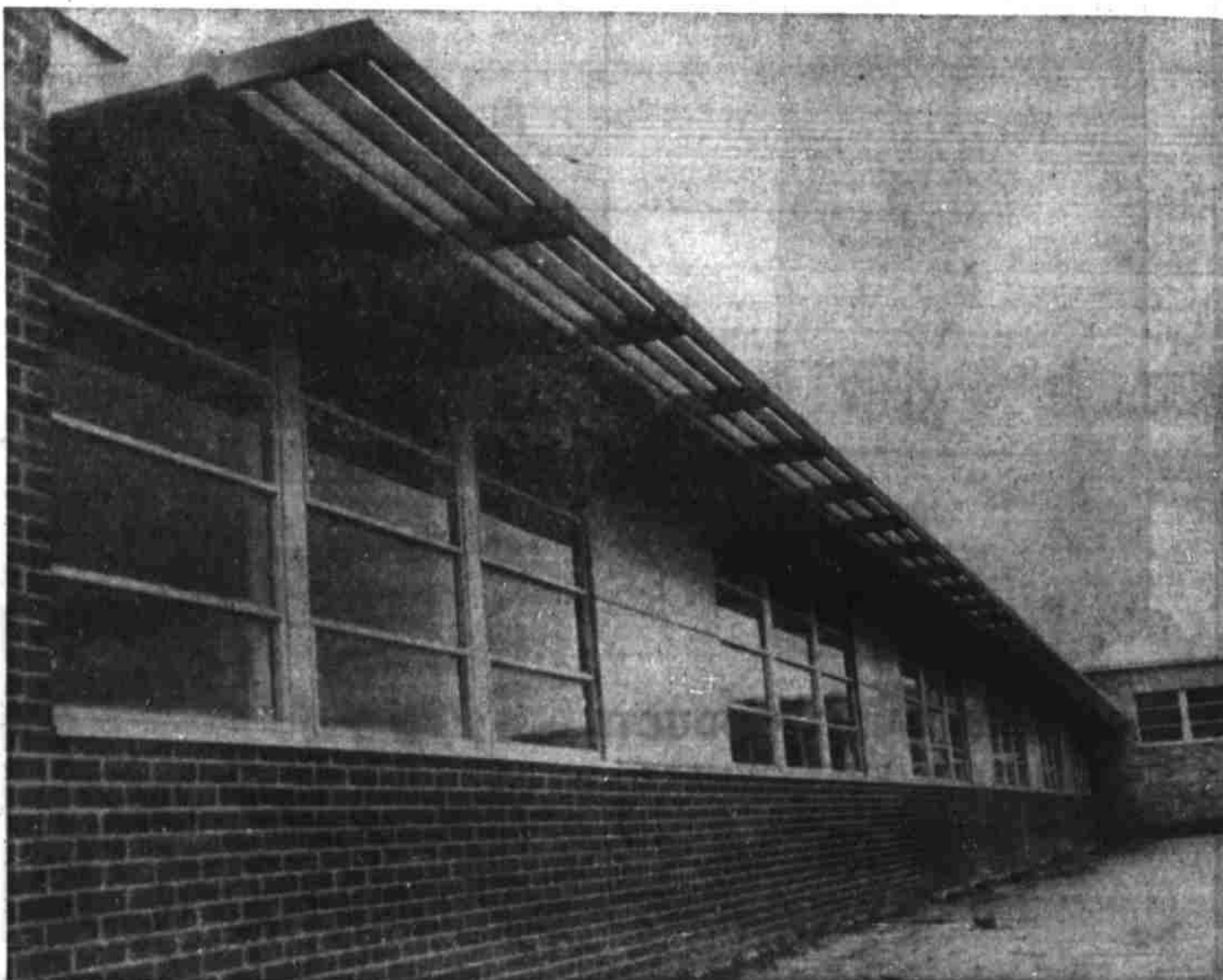
## Progress In '54

In retrospect, Big Spring and area could look back on 1954 as a year that made good on most of its promises and exceeded many others. Oil play was at the briskest tempo since the colorful boom of the 1920's. Industrial development was paced by a new HF alkylation unit (upper left) at Cosden refinery at a cost of around \$2¼ million. Webb AFB was busy in turning out 820 single engine pilots and rounding out base utility. Eighty per cent of the year's rainfall came in April, May and June but it was enough to revive agriculture and produce \$5½ million revenue from this source. The leader was cotton, which came in such volume it had to be stored in the open (upper right) and accounted for \$3½ million gross revenue. Howard County's handsome new courthouse, built with an eye to future needs was occupied in January and was putting on final landscaping touches at the end of the year (center). Construction lagged somewhat, but there were a few major jobs such as the Big Spring State Hospital new ward buildings (lower left), new schools for the Lakeview and Airport areas and classroom additions at two other points. Commercial building was light but residential construction revived at the end of the year, and utility connections were up substantially. Symbolizing an experience which will be unique to Big Spring—that of more than ample water supply—the City of Big Spring completed its big filtration plant (lower right) capable of processing 9½ million or more gallons per day from Lake J. B. Thomas.



## Big Spring Daily Herald

Progress Edition Big Spring, Tex., Sunday, Jan. 16, 1955 Section III





# T&P Officials Here Promoted

Several changes in top echelon personnel were the 1954 highlights for the T&P Railway Company.

The Western Division, with headquarters in Big Spring, as well as the entire system, was involved in the series of transfers and promotions.

On other fronts, steady improvement was made in facilities and employment remained constant with the payroll increasing slightly, due to raises.

The T&P wound up the year with plans in the hopper for a continuing program of improvement during 1955.

Heading up the list of promotions directly involving the Western Division was the transfer of J. G. (Jimmy) Tucker to the post of division superintendent for the Louisiana Division, Alexandria; La. Tucker had served as assistant superintendent here for the Western Division. His promotion was effective Sept. 18.

A. C. LaCroix, who had been assistant superintendent for the Toyah-EI Paso subdivision was moved up to Tucker's old post in charge of the Baird subdivision.

J. A. Wright was promoted from trainmaster to assistant in charge of the Toyah-EI Paso subdivision, and G. W. Stone, formerly road foreman of engines, was promoted to trainmaster.

Setting up the chain of promotions was the resignation of W. F. Kasal, mechanical superintendent for the entire T&P system. Kasal quit to become chief mechanical officer for the New York Central.

T. E. Albright, Louisiana Division superintendent, was made a mechanical superintendent, and Tucker was moved into his old post.

Other advancements during the year included the promotion of C. J. Mitchell of Big Spring to the post of trainmaster at Shreveport. This occurred in July. Mitchell had been transportation inspector here. He was succeeded in that position by K. E. Banks, who had been supervisor of icing in the Lancaster Yards at Fort Worth.

A top-level promotion was the election of D. B. Ohnum by the board of directors to become general auditor for the railway. He succeeded F. R. Latimer, who retired.

The Big Spring portion of the T&P payroll amounted to about \$2,000,000 during the year. Payroll for the Western Division amounted to some \$5,000,000.

The number of Big Spring employees remained at approximately 500 and division personnel numbered some 2,500.

Road improvements made in 1954 included the extension of all passing tracks between Big Spring and Baird. Lengthening of the passing tracks became necessary because of longer trains which reflected an increase in business as

well as increased operating efficiency.

All main-line track in the division was reworked during the year by the mechanized "extra gang" which the railway now employs. The 1954 improvements included the remodeling of the old roundhouse and other facilities in the Big Spring yards to more adequately accommodate the diesel engines with which the T&P is now fully equipped.

A portion of the old roundhouse was torn down, with the remainder being closed in and more fully equipped for the routine road service performed here. New maintenance offices also were completed, and a number of old buildings, including the old powerhouse, were demolished.

The 1955 program calls for the addition of a considerable quantity of heavier rail in the Western Division. Re-ballasting and other improvements are scheduled also.

## Diarrhea, Tonsillitis Head List Of Diseases Recorded

Records at the Big Spring-Howard County Health Unit show that local physicians reported 8,300 communicable disease cases here during 1954.

The disease ranking at the top of the list was diarrhea, doctors having reported 1,450 cases during the year. There were 851 cases of gastroenteritis.

Closely pushing the diarrhea total was the 1,342 figure reported for tonsillitis.

Influenza, with 827 cases, and pneumonia, with 724, also ranked high on the list. There were 606 cases of strep throat, and 656 instances of upper respiratory infection being reported.

Other diseases with a large number of cases included chicken pox, 529; virus, 227; bronchitis, 235; mumps, 113; and measles, 161.

Quite a few cases were also reported of other diseases. Among these were gonorrhea, 98; syphilis, 47; whooping cough, 48; tuberculosis, 24; trench mouth, 43; hepatitis, 23; impetigo, 15; encephalitis, 3; polio, 19; meningitis, 4; uremic poison, 2; ring worm, 3; typhoid fever, 2; and amoebiasis, 2.

One case each was reported of smallpox, rheumatic fever, undulant fever, diphtheria, malaria and pleurisy.

More than half the 851 gastroenteritis cases occurred in January and December, which had a combined total of 430 cases. Some 639 of the 1,450 diarrhea cases occurred between October and the end of the year.

Practically half of the 724 pneumonia cases occurred in January and February, and in December

Month	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
Jan.	868.23	4,551.57	515.12	1,478.50	1,335.12
Feb.	48.65	2,120.40	1,359.74	28,420.72	61.80
March	5,083.95	35.00	5,575.41	5,367.69	1,001.32
April	1,254.58	10,608.11	2,990.25	11,312.42	8,983.39
May	5,411.05	6,914.39	47.00	265.00	78,590.00
June	18,594.10	2,301.05	1,554.89	1,856.13	0.00
July	466.81	235.00	1,451.92	3,064.17	14,468.84
August	737.63	27.00	1,363.29	191.10	1,416.71
Sept.	5,069.50	403.00	383.90	478.29	196.69
Oct.	1,342.02	376.40	846.96	1,062.95	2,387.73
Nov.	988.10	985.00	505.75	66,291.13	5,930.52
Dec.	20,000.00*	2,748.50	1,477.91	7,750.26	995.68
TOTAL	61,236.61	31,393.63	21,151.12	129,788.35	115,069.80

\*The fire loss figure for December was estimated as all insurance claims have not been settled. The loss for the month includes that resulting from a fire at Howard County Junior College.

## \$61,000 Fire Loss Estimate For '54 May Increase Credits

Fire losses for 1954, unofficially pegged at \$61,236.62, were greater than the losses for the two previous years combined.

Yet fire Chief H. V. Crocker considers the loss to be fairly low and maintains that Big Spring had a good year. The two previous years were exceptional, he pointed out, with combined losses of only \$52,544.75.

The boost in fire losses during 1954 probably will not reduce the 10 per cent credit now enjoyed by Big Springers on fire insurance rates, the chief said. In fact there is a possibility that the credit will be increased.

The credit is determined by the fire losses over a five-year period, it was pointed out. And when 1949's losses were taken out of Big Spring's total to add the losses of 1954, the overall five-year loss decreased considerably.

During the past five years, 1950 through 1954, the losses have totaled \$338,639.54. At the end of 1953 the five-year total was \$402,037.00 — higher by more than \$40,000.

The year 1954 saw firemen answering 257 calls. As it turned out there were 230 actual fires. Seventeen of the calls were false alarms.

Actual fire losses through November of 1954 totaled \$41,236.62. Insurance claims have not been settled for the December fires, but due to the Howard County Junior College loss and other claims, the month's figure has been tentatively pegged at \$20,000.

With the year's losses unofficially set at \$61,236.62, the average loss per fire was \$266.25. This is considerably higher than last year when the 223 blazes cost an average of \$141 each.

Building loss during the year hit about \$42,201.01, and loss of contents totaled around \$19,035.61. Both these figures are only estimates as December's claims are pending.

Firemen made 102 calls to frame structures during 1954, and 23 fires were reported in brick buildings. There were 35 trash fires and 34 vehicle fires. Seven blazes were reported in stucco buildings, and four were in metal structures. Twelve trips were made by firemen to grass fires.

Other fires which were fought during the year included cotton hay, oil, accidents, transformer, street wires, etc.

Forty-two of the fires reported were started by wire "shorts," according to records in the office of Fire Marshal F. W. Bettle. Cigarettes caused 19 fires, and burning trash caused 37. Children playing with matches caused 13.

Thirty-five fires resulted from unknown causes.

Other causes listed on the reports include gas leaks, 10;

## CTC Remains Active In Safety Promotion

The Big Spring Citizens Traffic Commission emphasized work with young people during 1954 and succeeded in initiating a number of safety programs for teen-age drivers.

The organization also revised the city's traffic ordinance, initiated a "crackdown" on traffic violators, secured new traffic signs, and suggested the appointment of the new full-time acting judge.

Though less than two years old, the CTC has been highly active in promoting safety on the streets of Big Spring. The organization was cited as outstanding in a 1954 report from the National Safety Council.

It was also in 1954 that the NSC presented Big Spring plaques for going two years without an accident fatality. The 1954 non-fatality record stretches the record to three years, 1952 through the present.

Dr. Lee O. Rogers, local dentist, was re-elected chairman of the CTC during 1954. He has headed up the organization since it was formed. George Oldham is the executive secretary.

The CTC's "Youth for Traffic Safety Week" held here in April was the first such program for this area, and it was pegged a success from the start.

The week included school assemblies on good driving practices, driving demonstrations, a parent-child agreement, distribution of a safety manual to all students, and a "Mr. Safety" contest.

The area's first "Teen-Age Car Road-0" was held here under joint sponsorship of the CTC and the Junior Chamber of Commerce. A Webb airman, James J. Skipalis, won the local and regional events and competed in the state contest.

The road-0 focused attention on good driving, and the contest was open to any Howard County youngster who had not had a traffic violation for six months and who could pass the driving test.

Oldham stated that another such road-0 is planned for this year, and a safety week is also scheduled.

Toward the end of 1954 the Juvenile Drivers Licensing Board was formed to screen applicants under 16 years of age who apply for driving licenses. This CTC board gives youthful applicants a thorough check before passing on requests.

The CTC joined with the Chamber of Commerce in coordinating safety programs for the year, and one of the fruits of union was the urging that more through streets be constructed here.

The revised traffic ordinance re-

vised from a number of meetings, and the old law was brought up to date in every conceivable way, it was announced. The City Commission is now considering the revision.

The CTC engineering committee worked with county officials in planning courthouse parking, and a number of new signs and signal lights were proposed by the CTC and accepted by the City Commission.

The enforcement committee of the CTC met with local Bar Association concerning court procedure here, and a direct result of the conference was the appointment of a full-time acting judge to fill the bench in absence of the regular judge.

**Make Our County ... Our City ... The Best!**



**BIG SPRING, TEXAS**

We are proud of Big Spring's record during '54 and we feel that '55 will be even better. We wish to thank one and all for their patronage during the year and want to continue our friendship and relations in the future. Yes ... For a Better Big Spring ... a Better Howard County for all of us!

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**DIAL 4-7591 FOR HOME DELIVERY**



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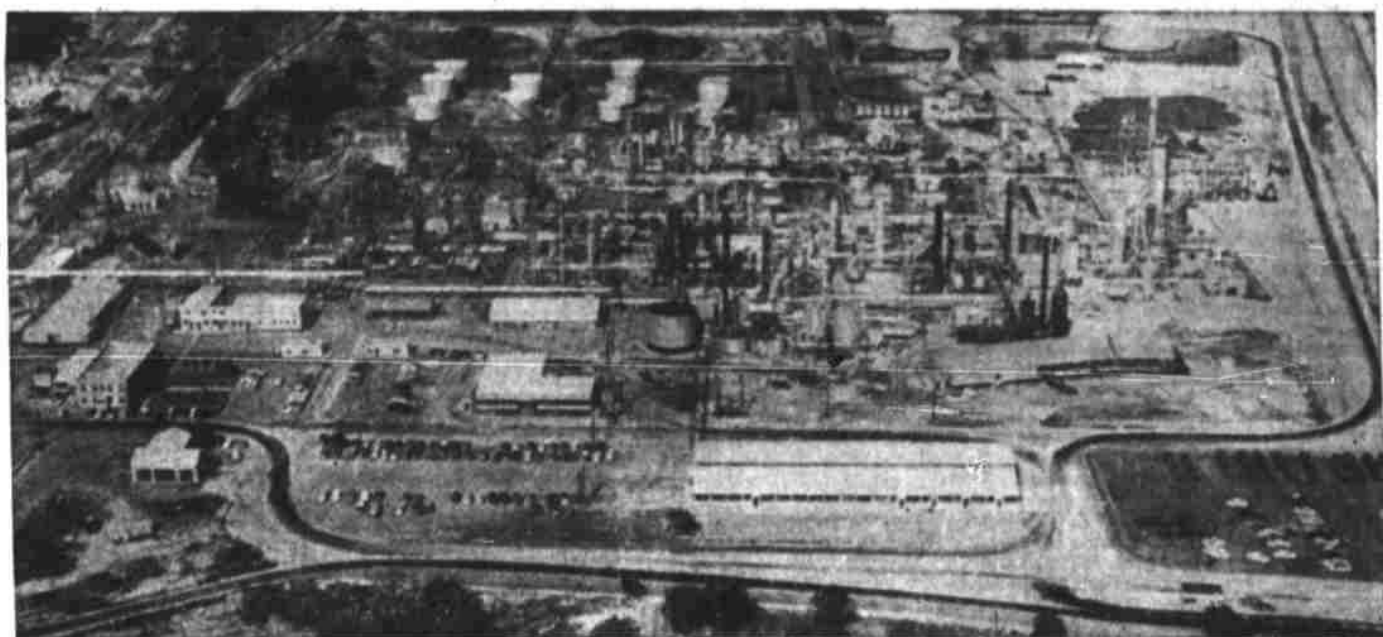
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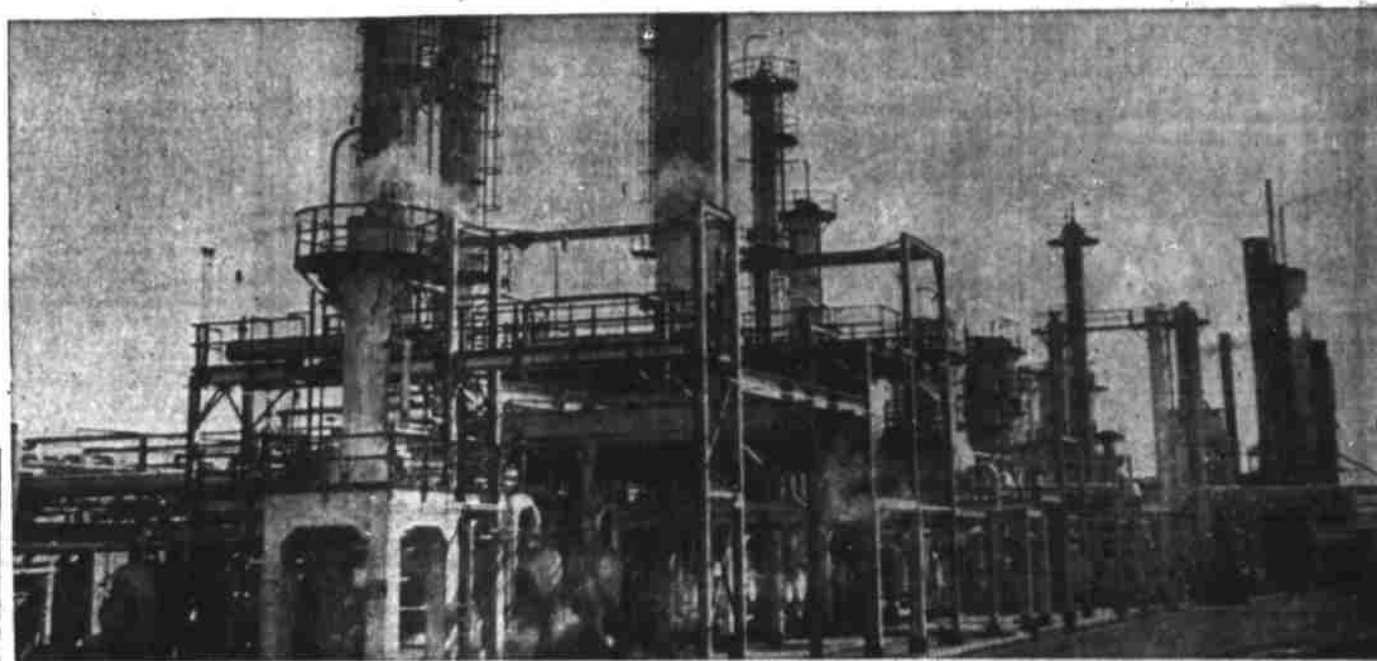
# PROGRESS

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We'll Keep Up The Drive In "55"



Cosden Today One Of America's Most Outstanding Petroleum Producing Plants



Cosden's Newest Addition, The New Full Scale Producing Alkylatlon Plant

Going Into 1955, we remember a good year In 1954 but look forward to a greater year for Big Spring and West Texas. We of Cosden, ever anxious to stay constantly progressive, are proud of the record our city is making.

We are proud of our growth too, made possible by our customers and friends . . . adding more features, equipment and other units enabling us to continually give more service. Being one of the finest refining plants of the state and nation, producing products equal to the best, we feel free to boast of our co-workers and associates.

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# Filing Fees, Court Costs, Fines Amounted To About \$50,000

Everything wasn't harmony, peace and quiet in Howard County during 1954.

And many of the conflicts wound up in the county's various courtrooms.

There were approximately 5,000 cases of all kinds filed in the various courts — district, county and justice.

Filing fees of various kinds, other court costs and fines amounted to nearly \$50,000 — to be exact, \$49,181.78.

There were 628 cases of all kinds filed in district court. Criminal, civil and probate cases filed in county court numbered 1,950. There was an estimated total of around 2,500 cases filed in the three justice courts in the county.

District court fees brought in \$5,828.90. Fines, fees and other costs in county court amounted to \$27,538.23. And the total of fines and charges in the justice courts was \$15,494.95.

Summary of district court activities shows that there were 267 divorce suits filed during 1954, while 240 were disposed of, leaving 98 divorce cases pending on Dec. 31. Of the divorce cases heard, 179 resulted in the granting of divorces.

There were 36 criminal cases filed in district court in 1954, and 217 were disposed of to leave 136 pending at the end of the year. There had been 128 pending at the beginning of the year.

There were 36 criminal cases pending in district court at the start of 1954. An additional 139 were filed during the year, and

a total of 119 were tried. Two new trials were granted and six cases were appealed.

There were 45 jury trials in district court during 1954 — an average of nearly one per week. Fifteen of these were civil suits and 30 were criminal cases.

The aggregate of cases of all kinds disposed of in the district court was 577.

In county court, fines and court costs assessed in criminal cases during the year totaled \$21,654.84. Fees and other charges in connection with civil suits luncy hearings and probate matters amount-

Month	Criminal Fines, Fees	Luncy Case Fees	Probate Case Fees	Civil Case Fees	Total Fines
Jan.	\$ 1,226.05	\$ 408.05	\$106.50	\$ 64.85	\$ 1,805.45
Feb.	1,791.55	161.25	51.77	48.25	994.40
Mar.	1,314.50	155.25	176.55	316.77	841.72
Apr.	996.05	228.95	223.20	0.00	521.72
May	1,748.00	224.95	229.22	58.45	997.72
June	1,538.90	338.50	53.25	9.95	784.09
July	2,254.35	185.10	119.23	17.85	1,206.50
Aug.	1,583.19	218.95	62.75	13.85	827.88
Sept.	3,091.05	495.75	197.40	101.77	2,347.99
Oct.	2,252.40	390.30	196.27	0.00	1,350.51
Nov.	1,381.45	334.50	260.66	0.00	780.80
Dec.	1,838.15	368.35	304.25	129.00	1,108.00
Totals	21,648.84	3,519.80	1,911.05	761.54	12,848.84

Month	Precinct 1 Fines, Costs	Place 1 Small Cl.	Precinct 2 Fines, Costs	Place 2 Small Cl.	Precinct 3 Fines, Costs
Jan.	\$ 448.00	\$ 176.00	\$ 796.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Feb.	121.00	0.00	732.50	0.00	0.00
Mar.	395.00	0.00	698.00	0.00	0.00
Apr.	462.50	0.00	649.00	0.00	0.00
May	334.00	190.00	707.00	0.00	0.00
June	283.50	0.00	808.00	0.00	0.00
July	372.00	0.00	853.00	0.00	34.00
Aug.	244.50	94.00	907.00	5.45	42.00
Sept.	95.50	0.00	971.00	0.00	0.00
Oct.	490.00	0.00	1,195.50	0.00	86.00
Nov.	567.00	168.00	1,170.00	4.00	0.00
Dec.	518.00	20.00	834.50	0.00	14.00
Totals	\$4,331.00	\$648.00	\$10,320.50	\$ 9.45	\$176.00

# \$7 Million In Real Estate, Oil Deals Recorded

Real estate and oil and gas deals in Howard County last year involved around \$7,000,000, on the basis of revenue stamps purchased at the local post office.

The federal revenue stamps must be attached to all warranty deeds, oil and gas leases and assignments and royalty and mineral deeds. The revenue must be paid at the rate of 55 cents per \$500 involved in any transaction.

Postmaster Elmer Boatler reported that some \$8,000 in the tax stamps were sold at the Big Spring post office. It can be assumed that all were used in connection with Howard County transactions, since those used elsewhere probably were offset by stamps purchased elsewhere for use here.

The \$8,000 represents enough tax stamps for 14,550 separate transactions of \$500 each. Total involved in the trades would have been more than \$7,000,000.

Many of the revenue stamps are purchased through the county clerk's office and are attached to the various documents during the recording process.

Pauline Petty, the clerk, estimated that considerably more than \$100 per week was spent on revenue stamps attached in her office during 1954.

Mrs. Petty said that 6,615 instruments of various kinds were filed for record during the year. Recording fees, assessed at the rate of 15 cents per 100 words, amounted to \$13,333.75.

That was the greatest volume of recording performed in the clerk's office during any one of the past seven years.

Recording fees in 1948 were \$9,000; in 1949, they were \$9,000; in 1950, \$13,158.70; in 1951, \$9,599.75; in 1952, \$11,475.25; in 1953, \$9,578.70; and in 1954, \$13,333.75.

# 211 County Men Enter Services

Over 211 Howard County men entered the armed services during 1954. This is a substantial increase over the total for 1953 when approximately 150 men were inducted or volunteered.

Louise Nuckolls, of the local Selective Service Board 71, said 80 men were inducted this year into the services. This represents the number of men inducted from the tri-county area of Howard, Martin and Mitchell. In 1953, 136 men were inducted from this area.

At the beginning of the year, the Board had 5,043 men registered on the rolls, she said, and there were 5,450 listed at the end of the year. This is a gain of 407 for the year.

Sgt. Gene O'Grady, Marine recruiter, said 13 Howard County men enlisted in the U. S. Marines in 1954. In 1953, 20 men had joined up.

The Army received 25 volunteers from Howard County according to M-Sgt. William T. Parks. This is up from 1953's total of 19, he said.

The Air Force almost doubled their 1953 enlistment total of 22, with 41 for 1954, according to T-Sgt. Cecil Deakins.

The Navy also got 41 volunteers from Howard County. The figures for 1953 were not available, but Chief LaFon said he believed 1954 had a large increase over previous years.

Louise Nuckolls said 131 men who were registered with her board volunteered for some branch of the service during the year.

# Pampa Surprise Relays Winner

Pampa emerged as a surprise winner in the tenth running of the American Business Club Relays, staged here the first weekend in April.

Showing strength in the relay races, the Harvesters scored a total of 94 points to beat out second place Amarillo by 13 points. The Sandies, defending champions in the track meet, sent part of its squad to the Texas Relays in Austin.

Troy Harber, who tied the meet's 100-yard dash record by covering the distance in 9.8 seconds, was voted the outstanding entry in the track carnival. Harber also won the 220-yard dash.

Lubbock finished third in the Relays with 69 points, Odessa fourth with 65, Midland fifth with 52, Snyder sixth with 38, Lamesa seventh with 33 1/2 and Big Spring eighth with 21.

A total of 15 teams were entered in the show, which was staged at Steer Stadium.

Three records were shattered. Darby, Walker Bird, Ed Dudley and Harold Lewis roared to new marks in the sprint medley race in 44.4 seconds and the 880-yard relay in 1:32.0 while Lubbock's Jerry Davis established a new standard in the pole vault with a leap of 12 feet 9 inches.

As usual, the local service club staged a stellar event. The meet was held in fair weather.

Members of the American Legion Auxiliary here centered their efforts on a rehabilitation program for veterans at the VA Hospital in 1954.

Among the work done by the women was the Christmas time gift shop, parties for the veterans on each second Tuesday of every other month, distribution of personal items to veterans every Monday afternoon and showing of films for the patients.

The annual poppy sale which brings in funds for aid to veterans was held by the women on Nov. 6. A portion of the proceeds was used to go into an emergency fund made available to the patients.

The local auxiliary played host to auxiliaries of this district at a convention here Nov. 13-14.

At the close of the year 55 women were members of the organization.

The slate of officers elected in 1954 were Mrs. Johnny Griffith, president; Mrs. Bill Griesse, second vice president; Mrs. Lloyd Nichols, secretary; Mrs. Foy Dunlap, historian and Mrs. Donald Anderson, reporter.

Art made a strong showing on the cultural horizon in Big Spring with the organization of Las Artistas art club made up of local professional and amateur women artists.

The initial meeting was held Sept. 23 and the purpose of the club was stated as being "to stimulate interest in art and local artists."

Members who were present at the first meeting were Mrs. Don Burk, Mrs. E. L. Cochran, Mrs. D. W. Coway, Mrs. D. L. Bohannon, Mrs. E. W. Donnie Jr., Mrs. B. E. Dollevier, Mrs. Richard O. Franz, Mrs. Ivan Foster, Mrs. J. B. Hedleston, Mrs. C. L. Hethcoat, Mrs. E. A. Jones, Mrs. R. H. Kalsched, Mrs. R. V. Lipscomb, Mrs. D. E. McClendon, Mrs. J. Emmette Miller, Mrs. P. D. O'Brien, Mrs. Richard Patterson, Mrs. W. E. Rowe, Mrs. I. C. Ralpy, Mrs. Ed Simpson and Mrs. R. E. Lee.

The high spot of the club's short year was the art exhibit held Nov. 13 and 14 at Howard County Junior College. Over 400 persons attended the showing at which approximately 150 pieces of work were exhibited.

Judged most popular in the show by public vote was Mrs. Dollevier's oil original, "The Packard Ranch-house."

Another project of the organization was the placing of members' work in downtown store windows during American Art Week.

Elected as the first officers of the club were Mrs. Conway, president; Mrs. Patterson, vice president; Mrs. Franz, secretary and Mrs. Jones, treasurer.

The club closed out the year with 26 members and three associates.

# Legion Auxiliary Had VA Project

# Women Artists Here Make Strong Showing During '54

# Books Checked Out In 1954 By Library Totaled 43,275

The Howard County library checked out 43,275 books in 1954 and collected \$689.21 in fines, according to librarian Opal McDaniel. Only \$277.96 in fines was collected in 1953.

At the end of the year, 11,239 books were on the shelves. The librarian said 3,192 books were added to the library in 1954 as compared with 831 received in 1953. Of the total, 110 books were donated in 1953 and in 1954, 182 books were donated.

Only 37 books were lost or otherwise unaccounted for during the year and 11 of them were paid for by the borrowers. About 13 others are expected to be paid for, Mrs. McDaniel said, and the remaining 13 are considered unrecoverable.

The library donated 216 books to the North Ward, Midway, and Lakoview schools. Mrs. McDaniel said they were either outdated or duplicates of books still in the library.

Although there were 4,100 borrowers listed with the library in January, many of them were out-of-date and the staff removed them from the files and started the year fresh. In 1954, 2,204 patrons applied for and received library cards.

The library facilities have been greatly improved this year, the librarian said, and she attributes a successful year to such things as the new building, new shelves, and the rearrangement of the library's fixtures.

A complete new card catalog of the books was begun by the staff as the year closed and it is expected to be completed in January. The librarian is assisted by Mrs. Alta Hawkins and Mrs. Marilyn Moore.

Library activities for each month of the year give a clear picture of the progress and development of the library, remarked Mrs. McDaniel. The following information is taken from the Texas State Library report:

Month	Number of Books Checked Out	Fines Collected
January	1,183	
February	2,979	\$44.10
March	2,614	48.59
April	3,221	51.26
May	3,344	57.21
June	4,976	65.78
July	4,489	75.43
August	5,250	66.15
September	3,322	59.00
October	4,225	78.73
November	4,336	81.47
December	2,426	91.49
Total	43,275	\$689.21

# Internal Revenue Changes Are Made

Many important changes were made in the Internal Revenue Code in 1954, according to the agent in charge, Ben Hawkins.

Tax Assistance Days were planned by the IRS and Hawkins announced that though more than 50 per cent of the taxpayers got refunds in 1953, more than that would receive them this year.

J. P. Gordon of the local IRS office was made a revenue agent during the year and a new collector, Jim Scrimshire, came into the office.

# PROGRESS.



PROGRESS.

Progress is measured in faith, ambition, imagination and drive... the fact that Big Spring is our home exemplifies the faith we have in this community now and in the future... our ambition is to grow with the town... we visualize a greater Big Spring in '55 because we believe there is enough "drive" in her citizens to make it so!

THANKS FOR HELPING US ATTAIN THIS GOAL!  
We Give S&H Green Stamps



221 Main "Home Owned" Big Spring




## Partners In Big Spring's Progress



We've been a "partner in progress" with Big Spring for 27 years, and it is our resolve to continue in that role throughout 1955 and the years to come.

We want to continue to make courteous, friendly service our watchword; to continue to see that our patrons have top value for every dollar spent with us; and to continue to help build Big Spring as a stable, friendly city, wholesome in all its aspects and source of merchandise and service for a great West Texas area.

These are the things that will make our city a progressive one in '55 and in other years ahead.

### PRAGER'S Men's Store

205 MAIN



BIG SPRING, TEXAS

Our progress in 1954 is unmatched in the history of our business, for which we are deeply grateful to you, our friends and customers. Without such loyalty this would have been impossible. Please accept our thanks!

Our faith in the future growth of Big Spring is even greater now than heretofore... We will endeavor to continually improve our services to you with the hope that your future confidence may be merited.

## R&H Hardware

"Your TV Headquarters In Big Spring"

F. D. ROGERS      JOHN HODGES

504 JOHNSON



# 12 Lives Claimed In 1954's Traffic Toll

About the best thing you could say for Howard County's 1954 accident record is that it might have been worse.

At least, some years have been worse.

But traffic accidents claimed 12 lives in the county during 1954—nearly double the 1953 toll of seven.

The 1954 wreck killed three persons north of Big Spring. Another took two lives northeast of here. Remainder of the deaths came one at a time in crumpling collisions and overturning vehicles.

Automobiles caused two more deaths in the county during the year, but they were not listed in the "official" tally because they occurred off the roads.

A-1C John D. Martin was crushed to death March 25 at Webb Air Force Base when caught between his car and a building. The vehicle had started rolling forward and Martin attempted to halt it before it struck the building.

Glynda Fay Hyden, 15-month-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Hyden of Luther, was killed at her home on Aug. 30 when the family car became dislodged from its parking place and rolled over her body. She was playing in a sand pile at the time.

The county's record in 1952 was 18 traffic fatalities and 24 persons lost their lives in automobile and truck mishaps in 1951. Two of the 1952 wrecks killed five persons each.

The 1954 record was started on Feb. 14 when 15-month-old Susan Lee Keaton was fatally injured in a collision involving her father's car at the entrance to the Jet Drive-In Theatre, just south of Big Spring on Highway 87.

A gasoline transport jack-knifed on Highway 87 some 12 miles north of Big Spring on April 6, killing three persons. The truck smashed head-on into a car carrying Mrs. Willard Anderson of Lamesa, her 15-month-old son, Willard Anderson III, and her sister-in-law, Mrs. Charles Anderson of Tyler.

A. B. Bruce, deputy sheriff from Monahans, was headed for the hospital on June 23 when his car and a truck crashed together near the west limits of Big Spring on Highway 80. He was to provide blood for a transfusion for a patient in the hospital.

He received 16 pints of blood himself, before he died of injuries resulting from the crash.

R. E. Alexander, oil field worker from Snyder, was returning from Big Lake for a weekend at home when the car in which he was riding failed to make the curve at the Garden City cutoff near Highway 87 just south of Big Spring. He was killed in the overturning vehicle on June 26.

Ira Gene McClaugherity was killed Aug. 2 when his pickup went out of control and overturned on the Vealmoor Road nine and a half miles north of Big Spring. That was the same day that young Barry Eastland died. Barry, 14, was injured June 11 in a collision 12 miles northeast of Big Spring on the Snyder Highway. He suf-

fered multiple skull fractures and subsequently a brain abscess.

Two men died on the Snyder Highway, some 10 miles from Big Spring on Aug. 25. They were Francis Lester Hawk, Midland, and Warren Dent Hartsook, Commerce. Their cars rammed together head-on.

William H. (Dub) Coats was killed Sept. 14 when his car was in a head-on collision with a truck on Highway 80 at the eastern edge of Big Spring.

The year's last traffic fatality in Howard County occurred Dec. 19, Reynaldo O. Anaya, Ackerly,

died in a hospital of injuries received when the pickup in which he was riding overturned on the Knott Road in the northeastern part of the county.

The survey of 1954 accidents fails to show which highway in the county is the most dangerous. There were two fatal accidents on U. S. 87, two on U. S. 89 and two on the Snyder Road (State 350). One fatal crash occurred on the Knott Road, one on the Vealmoor Road and one on the Garden City Road near its intersection with U. S. 87.

The Highway 87 wrecks took four lives, while three persons died on State 350 and two were killed on U. S. 89. One person died in each of the other crashes.

# '54 County Cotton Production About Average; Quality Above

Howard County's 1954 cotton production was "about average" while the quality of cotton and prices were little above the average.

This helped the county's farmers struggle off the mat where they had been knocked by four years of drought, County Agent Durward Lewter said in his annual report to the Texas Extension Service.

Some 29,000 bales were produced from 85,000 acres of cotton during the year, he said. The 1954 cotton income was about \$4.5 million, helping raisers back to their feet financially.

Twenty-six dairymen continued to produce grade A milk during the year.

"Through the cooperation of the

28 registered Hereford breeders in the county, 4-H Club members and businessmen, the county's quality of beef cattle has improved greatly the past several years," Lewter declared in his 1954 report.

During the year there were about 15,000 mother cows which is about half the county's "normal" carrying capacity, he said. The year's calf crop was only about 80 per cent, largely due to the drought.

Beef cattle continued to rank second as the source of farm and ranch income, bringing in around \$1.5 million in 1954.

Lewter also called attention to the county farmers' continuous quest for high-producing, drought-resistant grain and sweet sorghums. All milo grains are harvested by combine, due to the expense

of gathering the old "goose-neck" variety by hand, although the latter is more productive for this area. The drought popularized the trench silt as an economical means of storing sweet sorghums, the agent said.

Other effects of the extended drought also are reflected in Lewter's annual report.

For instance, it has become a common practice to "deep break" the sandy soil to prevent blowing, and it appears that the practice continues to become more popular, as a means of enabling the soil to take in more of the limited rainfall.

No spectacular developments were reported for 1954 in the range management field, as all stockmen were forced to reduce herds during the drought. Eradication and control of mesquite growth continued through the year.

Spring rains brightened the sheep outlook, the agent said, but the hot and dry months of July and August set the industry back again. Some 20,000 mother ewes remain on the range in the county, but many already have consumed their value in feed. The 1954 lamb crop was an improvement over 1953, with about a 75 per cent crop.

The drought years increased the quantity and size of poultry flocks in the county, Lewter reported. Poultry has been increased to bring in about 10 per cent of farmers' income.

Caged hens accounted for approximately 50 per cent of eggs produced in the county during the year, but numerous management problems have discouraged the cage egg producers, said the farm agent.

Mortality has been extremely heavy and it was difficult for producers to get enough for their eggs during the summer months of high production to pay the high feed bills, Lewter reported. Too many producers found that they had invested too much in housing and equipment. Formation of an egg pooling agency helped some producers to meet expenses, however.

Production of broiler chickens also resulted in no substantial financial gain, the agent said.

The agricultural agent also noted continuing improvement of farms and ranches, with terracing still holding first place. Tanking holds second place in the agricultural engineering field, and trench silos became more numerous.

# Health Unit Staff Busy During 1954

Employees of the Big Spring — Howard County Health Unit expended energy in practically every phase of community life during 1954 in order to protect the citizens of this area from disease.

Sanitarians were particularly active in the fields of food-milk protection, water-sewage sanitation, and insect extermination. The health nurse was engaged in adult-school health services, cancer and tuberculosis control and immunization.

The unit did an outstanding job in health education during the year. Sanitarian Lige Fox pointed out that 25 public lectures, talks and motion pictures were presented to the public, and that 315 people attended.

Some 351 completed the two food handler's schools sponsored by the health unit.

Records in the office of Health Nurse Jewell Barton show that 1,240 children received immunization shots during 1954. This included 483 shots for smallpox, 195 shots for diphtheria, and 563 shots for whooping cough.

The school health service included the inspection of 990 children by dentists, and it was found that 237 needed dental work or did not have such work completed during the school year.

There were 505 nursing conferences held in school between the health nurse and the teachers, parents and pupils.

Medical examinations of children in the secondary grades totaled 119, the health unit records show. Twenty children entering school were found to need medical care.

Some 43 children were admitted to nursing service during the year. Field nursing visits totaled 30, while office visits were 60. Visits to diagnostic crippled children's clinics totaled 32.

Twenty-eight adults were admitted to nursing service, and 30 field visits were made to see them. There were 19 office visits.

Health Nurse Barton worked closely with City Medical Officer J. E. Hogan in the school and adult health programs. Five individuals were admitted to medical service under the cancer control program, and 27 field nursing visits were made to individuals with or suspected of having cancer.

The health unit was hub of X-ray operations in the tuberculosis

control program, and Health Nurse Barton was closely associated with the infantile paralysis program here during the year.

Sanitarian Fox and his assistant, Tom Hardie, have periodically inspected 140 different restaurants during the past year to insure cleanliness. Actual inspections have totaled 612, and corrections have had to be made in 58 instances. Eighty-six other inspections were made of nursing homes, dairy farms, milk plants, slaughter houses, etc.

Fox and Hardie made 337 visits to food establishments for consultation with operators who needed information concerning regulations or desired practices.

Laboratory tests were made of seven water samples for traces of bacteria and of 134 water samples for chemical content, according to the 1954 records. Two food samples were examined under microscope.

It was necessary to degrade 26 food establishments during the year. Five cases were filed in court and three convictions resulted. Some 20 pounds of food were condemned, as were seven pounds of milk.

Inspections were made during the year of the public sewage system, 8; private sewage systems, 20; tourist courts, 48; swimming pools, 18; urban schools, 3; rural schools, 21; convalescent homes, 16; public rest rooms, 6; plumbing facilities, 55; and garbage disposal stations, 14.

Fox stated that 246 private premise garbage inspections were made during 1954, and that 548 promotional visits were made in the interest of general sanitation.

Nine places were poisoned for rats, eight areas were sprayed for fly and roach control and some 20 acres were fogged or sprayed. Eleven mosquito breeding places were abolished by spraying 257 acres.

Outstanding event in the health education field during the year was the district meeting of the Texas State Health Association here in Big Spring. Dr. Henry Holle, state health officer, was principal speaker.

Margie McDougale is clerk at the local health unit office.

# 9,000 Hospitalized Here By Private Hospitals In 1954

Private hospitals in Big Spring accommodated about 9,000 patients in 1955, and their medical staffs saw another 150,000 people in the course of their services.

Reflecting the position of Big Spring as a medical center, patients came here from many New Mexico points — Hobbs, Jal, Lovington, Eunice, Oil Center and others. They came from as far west as Pecos, as far south as Fort Stockton and Big Lake; north to Lubbock; east beyond Snyder and Colorado City.

Also reflecting the hospitals as a major industry for Big Spring, payroll figures approximated \$1 million for the year. In addition, the hospitals spent little less than half a million for operating and other expenses.

Combined figures of the hospitals — Big Spring, Cowper, Malone & Hogan, and Medical Arts — showed a total of 155 beds in operation. Besides these, there were 30 bassinets.

During 1954, there were 8,962 in-patients or admissions. These averaged 4.1 days in the hospital for an aggregate patient day total of 35,626.

The hospitals reported an aggregate of 1,056 live births for the year, and, in contrast to not so many years ago the average stay was down. On an average, mothers were in the hospital only about three and a fraction days.

No less than 235 persons were

reported on the hospital staff, and this did not include 21 M. D.'s, upon whose work the entire operation pivoted. Including conservative estimates in a couple of instances, the aggregate for both groups for the year was just past the million mark.

Other expense incidental to operation of good hospitals amounted to \$442,216. This total actually figures a little higher for in one case it did not include technical equipment costs.

# Biggest Football Group Over State

District I-AAA could lay claim as the biggest football conference in its class in the state at the end of the 1954 season.

Breckenridge, the state champion, was dropped after the regular campaign had ended, in order to make room for Lubbock's new high school, Monterrey.

That built the membership back to eight teams and a schedule was drawn for the circuit.

However, Palo Duro High School, a new school in Amarillo, later applied for admission and was accepted, building membership to nine schools.

Palo Duro's buildings will not be ready until January, 1956, but the city's two high schools will be separated by September and each will have a football team.

## ZALE'S

### Progressed In '54

Thanks to our many, many Satisfied Customers . . . .



**BIG SPRING, TEXAS**



By Continuing To Meet

the standards of fine quality, dependability and service desired by the citizens of the surrounding area. It is our business to please you, and it is our pleasure to have gained many, many satisfied customers. We invite you to come in and let us continue to serve you . . .



3rd at Main Dial 4-6371

221 West 3rd *Montgomery Ward* Dial 4-8261

1954 was one of the best years in history for Big Spring, and thanks to you it was a banner year for us here at Wards! Our progress makes us proud and thankful of our friends and customers who helped make it such a successful year.

We pledge a continued drive in '55 to bring you the outstanding values of the year, a policy which Wards has followed throughout 82 years of steady progress!



# Banner Year For Highway Construction Is Noted Here

The past year was banner one for highway construction, and 1955 is shaping up in the same pattern for this area.

The State Highway Department let contracts for \$1,212,266 in road construction in Howard County during 1954 and the bulk of this work has been completed.

And if all the projects that have been authorized for 1955 are started, highway construction this year will amount to \$1,545,000 in Howard County.

Majority of the construction in Howard County is the expansion of U. S. Highway 80 to freeway proportions. The same is true of the 1955 program.

Contracts were let last year for \$1,032,608 worth of freeway construction. In addition, there was a \$138,457 contract for the new pavement from Otschak north to an intersection with U. S. 80 about five miles east of Coahoma. Construction of pavement from the Snyder Highway at Vincent northward to the Borden County line was provided in another \$40,000 contract.

At least \$1,390,000 will be spent on freeway construction in Howard County this year, provided county commissioners secure right-of-way for U. S. 80 across the eastern half of the county. Another \$50,000 has been authorized for a farm road from Fairview west five miles; \$55,000 has been pledged for a farm road connecting

Lomax and Elbow; and \$50,000 is authorized for a third farm road extension, six miles southwestward off the Garden City Highway.

Highway projects on which construction is nearing completion include the U. S. 80 freeway from Big Spring to the Martin County line; the Fourth Street project, which will make that street a part of the freeway; and the pavement connecting Otschak with U. S. 80. Contract has been let for a railway overpass west of Big Spring but construction has not been started on this.

Commissioners have secured most of the freeway right-of-way from Big Spring to Coahoma, but none has been purchased between Coahoma and the Mitchell County line. The Highway Department has said that contract will be let for the Big Spring-to-Coahoma segment as soon as the right-of-way is acquired. The other segment will be let some time later, probably as soon as its right-of-way is secured.

The department has authorized \$304,000 for the construction from Big Spring to Coahoma, and \$786,000 for the portion of the road from Coahoma to the Mitchell County line. The latter authorization also would cover cost of a new railway overpass east of Coahoma.

The State Highway Commission also has designated a six-mile by-pass route for the freeway. The

loop eventually will take the freeway around Big Spring, probably along North Twelfth Street, but this construction is not expected for several years.

For the seven counties around Big Spring, highway construction either started or authorized is valued at more than \$8,500,000. Some \$5,000,000 of this is in connection with the freeway across Martin, Howard and Mitchell counties. Another \$1,000,000 in improvements for Highway 87 is included.

In miles, the projects include 66.4 for Howard County; 43.7 for Mitchell; 138.4 for Martin; 60 for Sterling; 18.3 for Borden; 96.1 for Dawson; 82.1 for Glasscock; and 7.5 for Scurry.

Total value of the contracts let or authorized for the various counties includes Howard, \$2,757,266; Mitchell, \$1,953,000; Martin, \$1,217,500; Sterling, \$1,137,393; Borden, \$32,685; Dawson, \$728,000; Glasscock, \$242,779; and Scurry, \$241,500.

The county-by-county breakdown shows:

**BORDEN**—Under contract, 15.535 miles from the Howard County line to FM 1957, cost \$204,685; authorized, FM 1610 to 2.8 miles from FM 1957 to end of FM 1610 at Scurry County line, cost \$28,000.

**DAWSON**—Authorized, seal coating of 60 miles on the Lamesa-Brownfield highway, U. S. 87 from Lamesa south to the Howard County line, U. S. 189 from Lamesa to

Lake Thomas dam, 3.0 miles, to 1.4 miles west of Colorado City, 7.7 miles, \$435,000; U. S. 80 from 1.5 miles east of Colorado City to Nolan County line, 9.6 miles, \$951,000.

**GLASSCOCK**—Completed in 1954, FM 379 from Sterling City to point 1.5 miles south, North Concho bridge and approaches, \$110,393; U. S. 87 from Sterling City to Glasscock County line, widen

to Lake Thomas dam, 3.0 miles, \$37,500; U. S. 84 from Snyder southeast to U. S. 180, distance 1.9 miles, \$129,000.

**STERLING**—Completed in 1954, FM 379 from Sterling City to point 1.5 miles south, North Concho bridge and approaches, \$110,393; U. S. 87 from Sterling City to Glasscock County line, widen

bridges, 4.0 miles, \$31,000; U. S. 87 from Glasscock County line to 10 miles northwest of Sterling City, widen base and additional surfacing, 10 miles, \$70,000. Under contract, U. S. 87 from Sterling City to Coke County line, new construction, 12.2 miles, \$514,000. Authorized, FM 379 from 1.5 miles south of Sterling City to Tom Green County line 13.8 miles, \$180,000; State 158 between Glasscock County line and U. S. 87 bridges and approaches 3.5 miles, \$213,000; U. S. 87 from Sterling City northwest, seal coat 10 miles, \$13,000.

## Big Spring Celebrated Many Fetes Throughout Last Year

Big Spring had its share of celebrations in 1954 and it would be hard to single out any one as the "biggest."

There was the massive Armed Forces Day program on May 15, the Independence Day and Soap Box Derby events of July 4, Coaden's 25th anniversary celebration the week of July 18, and the Big Spring High School homecoming on Nov. 24-25.

Others were the Old Settlers Reunion on July 23, the annual Rodeo and Cowboy Reunion on Aug. 4-7, the Junior Rodeo Sept. 2-4, and the gala Christmas Parade on Dec. 1.

The best-attended events of the year were the Armed Forces Day program at Webb Air Force Base, which attracted more than 10,000; the Joint Independence Day-Soap

Box Derby program, which thousands also attended, and the Christmas parade which drew an estimated 12,000 spectators.

Armed Forces Day was marked by a big review at the base, Admiral William Studdert, Congressman George Mahon, and Fred Korth, former assistant secretary of the Army, were speakers.

Exhibits were presented by all the branches of the armed service and Air Force and Navy "flyovers" were held throughout the day. Visitors were present from all the towns of the area, including Odessa, Lamesa, Midland, Colorado City and others.

Webb planes also were departing throughout the day on Armed Forces Day missions to other Texas and New Mexico points.

Big Spring's first annual Soap Box Derby, with some 40 contestants, was held in connection with the Independence Day program. Charles (Lefty) Morris won the Big Spring race and represented the city in All-American Soap Box Derby at Akron, O., on Aug. 15.

Kenda McGibbon was named "Miss Big Spring for 1954" and Peggy Knight of Forsan became "Miss Howard County" at the dress and talent revue held in the City Park amphitheatre.

Following the revue, thousands watched the annual Fourth of July fireworks display staged in the park by the Chamber of Commerce.

Shine Phillips, veteran Big Spring druggist and author, finally received his high school diploma during one of the year's celebrations. Phillips, a member of the Class of 1906, was presented with the sheepskin during the first annual BSHS homecoming on Thanksgiving Day. He had been forced to leave school back in '08 shortly before his class graduated.

Sue Barnes was named homecoming queen. Big Spring defeated Sweetwater, 21-7, in the Turkey Day football game as other highlights of the homecoming.

Several hundred ex-students, as well as numerous other BSHS supporters, attended the various events.

Approximately 1,000 "old timers" and guests were on hand in City Park July 23 for the annual reunion of old settlers of Howard and Glasscock counties. Nath Allen was re-elected president of the reunion association.

Several thousand persons attended the annual Rodeo and Cowboy Reunion in August. Hundreds also were present for the junior rodeo

early in September. Cotton Kinney of Sulphur, La., was named the best all-around cowboy of the show, while Warren Cooper was chosen as the champion Howard County contestant.

Coaden Petroleum Corporation observed its silver anniversary in mid-July with a board meeting and other activities. The Herald published a 100-page Silver Anniversary Edition to mark the event.

Latin-American citizens staged a Sept. two-day "Diez Selis" celebration Sept. 16-17 in observance of the anniversary of Mexico's independence.

Last major event of the year was the parade opening the 1954 Christmas season on Dec. 1. Santa, traveling in his sleigh, was the honor guest and center of attraction in the procession, of course. It was estimated that 12,000 persons crowded into the business district to see the parade. Santa was so impressed with the turnout that he decided to spend several days in the city.

## City P-TA Unit Screens Comics

Counting between 1,800 and 1,900 members, the City P-TA Council is continuing to stress the importance of screening comic books. This has been a project throughout a great part of this year.

They have also worked with the March of Dimes and helped with the taking of the TB X-rays. This organization sponsors the school programs heard over radio station KBST, and various units have held carnivals, sold lunches and have taken magazine subscriptions as money-making projects.

In May, local representatives went to Snyder to the convention which was held there. In June, Big Spring was represented at the Legislative Workshop held in Austin. On their return the women who attended this workshop, held a District Workshop for which the Council was host.

The state convention of P-TA members was attended by 10 women from this city when it met in Corpus Christi in December. A life membership was awarded to Mrs. Elvis McCrary and a scholarship in Howard County Junior college was arranged.

On the social side for the group is the Founders' Day Tea held in February. Each unit acts as hostess once a year for a party at the VA Hospital with the Council furnishing the hostesses for the Christmas party.

## State Hospital's Overload Down; Construction Begun

At one time in 1954 the State Hospital had 623 patients, which is twice the capacity, according to Dr. Roy Sloan, superintendent. There are about 500 patients in the hospital now, he said, but the hospital should not have more than the designed capacity, 313.

During the year, about 175 patients were transferred to other institutions due to the overcrowding, but the problem still exists, Sloan explained.

Construction was started on two new ward buildings and a central kitchen in January. The construction, when completed, will have cost about \$850,000, the superintendent said.

The new ward buildings will increase capacity by 265 beds and food for the entire hospital will be prepared in the central kitchen.

Employees at the hospital are on a 44-hour work week now, Dr. Sloan said, in place of the 48-hour week previously. And prospects at the end of the year appeared to be brighter for a larger full-time staff, as well as consulting staff.

The present treatment program is apparently more effective now, the superintendent explained, because more patients are being returned to their homes and society.

Quite a bit of outside interest developed during the year. Many persons contributed their time and money in order to help patients' morale, Sloan reported. Mrs. Leland Croft of Odessa organized the State Mental Hospital Development Association after a visit to the hospital. As a result, patients have been recipient of three television sets among other gifts.

J. D. Kirk, also of Odessa, became interested in the patients and arranged with the Texas Association of Accredited Beauty Culturists for permanent waves for about 250 women patients. The permanent waves were given by beauty operators throughout this area.

The Cimbris chapter of the Odessa Tri-Hi-Y Clubs, led by their chairman, Sherry Noel, gave a Christmas variety show for the patients. Dr. Sloan said the Odessa groups furnished the greater part of the outside entertainment for patients in 1954.

Marjorie Rainwater took her organ out to the hospital and performed. And the local Eiks and Does were responsible for several programs during the year.

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Big Spring (Texas) Herald, Sun., Jan. 16, 1955

## WHITE'S ADD NEW DEPTS.

"To Offer Complete Customer Service In Household Soft Lines"




Brice Wiginton, Store Mgr., and Bill Smith, Senior Salesman of White's in Big Spring Are Shown Completing Presentation Display Arrangements In The New Home Furnishings Area.



KEEP UP THE DRIVE IN '55

BIG SPRING, TEXAS

In keeping with the ever progressing trend of our city White's continues to grow, adding new and more complete departments to increase the already proven customer service offered friends and customers. Departments most recently added are: Home Furnishings, including bedding items (as above) and a complete Baby Department, furnishing baby needs of all kinds.



1930  
**WHITE'S**  
25<sup>th</sup>  
YEAR  
1955

Your Big Spring SHOPPING CENTER

**WHITE'S**

THE HOME OF GREATER VALUES

202-204 SCURRY DIAL 4-7571

## IN STEP WITH A PROGRESSIVE BIG SPRING



You'll pardon us if we point with pride to the most outstanding advance in new car styling in years . . . we want everyone in Big Spring to see the beautiful new Dodge for 1955 . . . the Flair Fashioned car that is the talk of the industry . . . and years ahead in styling. But come in, take command, get the thrill first hand and you'll get Dodge for 1955.

# JONES MOTOR CO.

101 GREGG YOUR DODGE AND PLYMOUTH DEALER IN BIG SPRING DIAL 4-6351



# 1954 — A Year Of Progress

# 1955

## A Year Of Promise

*...And We Stand Ready To Do Our Share:*

Wherever there is marked progress in industry, new businesses, residential building, you will find a sound, active banking institution. We pride ourselves on our role in the steady progress of our community. We have participated actively in nearly every facet of Big Spring growth through the years. And that is why we face 1955 with the confidence that working together, we can make the new year one of progress.



At the start of the new year, we look back on our achievements of the past, and forward to the ones of the future. To our many citizens of the community, we continue to pledge our cooperation in the building of better schools, better facilities for business and pleasure—and, continuing the job of keeping our home area a vital part of this great nation of ours!



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- ROBERT T. PINER  
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Vice-President
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Vice-President
- H. H. HURT  
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- HORACE GARRETT  
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- LARSON LLOYD  
Vice-President
- CLYDE ANGEL  
Cashier
- STELLA MAE HAYWORTH  
Asst. Cashier
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# FIRST NATIONAL BANK

IN BIG SPRING

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# Almost \$1,000,000 Is Handled Here By State Welfare Agency

**ESTIMATED AMOUNT AND NUMBER OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS BY COUNTIES**

	Old Age Assistance	Aid To Dependent Children	Aid To The Blind	Totals
HOWARD	Number 500 Amount \$240.00	163 \$40,800	11 \$6,000	674 \$286,800
GLASSCOCK	Number 15 Amount 7,200	6 1,020		21 8,400
BORDEN	Number 9 Amount 3,000			9 3,000
DAWSON	Number 345 Amount 168,000	143 34,500	9 4,800	497 207,300
MITCHELL	Number 427 Amount 204,000	98 21,600	11 6,000	534 231,600
MARTIN	Number 85 Amount 40,800	14 3,120	2 960	102 44,880
SCURRY	Number 349 Amount 162,000	62 15,600	8 3,000	419 180,600
TOTALS	Number 1,731 Amount \$825,000	484 \$116,640	41 \$20,660	2,256 \$962,300

Almost a million dollars went to persons in this area through the local office of the Texas Department of Public Welfare in 1954. E. L. Fisher, area supervisor of the office, said approximately 2,256 persons received aid totaling about \$962,300 in Howard, Glasscock, Borden, Dawson, Mitchell, Martin and Scurry counties.

Howard County led the other counties in each of the divisions, Fisher said. A total 674 persons received about \$286,800 in the county for the year.

Old Age Assistance payments made up the bulk of the funds which the agency expended. In the seven county area, 1,731 persons received about \$825,000.

Aid to about 484 dependent children amounted to \$116,640 and 41 blind persons received an estimated \$20,660.

The Department of Public Welfare office was located in Colorado City in 1953, but the office moved back to Big Spring when the new courthouse was built. 1954 was the first year the office has been back in Big Spring and Fisher said he believes Big Spring to be more centrally located and suited for the functions of his office.

The year was made more successful for the unit because of the new office afforded by Howard County, Fisher said.

Besides financial help, the Department of Public Welfare also gives other aid, the supervisor pointed out.

Under the Family Service program, the DPW assists persons in health problems, protective services, extraordinary financial needs, rehabilitation, housing, family relationships, family-community relationships, and special child services.

An effort is made by the office to aid persons to recover their abilities to work or to get along with other people. These efforts are not always financial in origin, Fisher explained.

For instance, one case involved a 31-year-old mother of two sons, aged 15 and 10. She had a divorced husband in the penitentiary, was sick, not working, and afraid to see a doctor for fear of surgery. A welfare worker encouraged her to see a doctor and the doctor found her fears unfounded and recommended she go to work.

The case worker encouraged her to accept the idea that she was not sick and helped her find a job. She is now engaged in training to be a vocational nurse and at the end of the school, she expects to become self-supporting.

That is representative of the cases which the department is

## '54 Sees Lakes Impound Water

The year 1954 did not break the drought, but spring storms did improve the situation for surface reservoirs.

Larger lakes in the immediate area impounded something like 25 billion gallons of water.

The big news in this direction was made by Lake J. B. Thomas, the reservoir for the Colorado River Municipal Water District. Starting the year with its elevation at 2,214 feet, the lake caught a series of rises, including a near flood in April, to impound an aggregate of 99,400 acre feet during the year. At one time it was 45 per cent of capacity and within about 19 feet of the normal maximum level. At the end of the year the elevation of the water was 2,235.6 for an effective supply of 76,000 acre feet (most at one time was 92,000 acre feet on June 30).

Two City of Big Spring lakes caught substantial volumes. Moss Creek Lake caught 2,180 acre feet, rising from 13 feet depth to go over the spillway on May 18 with 2,325 acre feet backed up. It had 33 feet and 4 inches of water at the end of the year for 2,050 acre feet. Powell Creek Lake increased from 16 feet to go over the spillway at 24 1/2 feet on May 11 and 18 with 1,000 acre feet backed up it peaked. At the end of the year, with evaporation and pumping pulling on it, the level was down to 20 feet for 1,082 acre feet.

Lake Colorado City, the Texas Electric Service reservoir had an elevation of 2,063.75 at the end of the year. It started out with 2,054 and rose to a maximum of 2,067, which was only three feet below spillway level and the highest level the lake has ever been. Figures in terms of acre feet were not immediately available.

## 47 FEWER DEATHS Area Traffic Toll Down During 1954

"There are 47 persons alive today that would not have been in 1953," according to Captain E. L. Posey, commanding officer of the Texas Highway Patrol in this area. Posey was referring to the reduction of traffic deaths in 1954 from 1953.

Fatalities in 1954 in this 21 county area was 92. In 1953, 139 deaths were the result of automobile accidents.

Patrolmen investigated 1,094 traffic accidents during the year, Posey said, which was 137 more than 1953's 957. "Although more accidents were investigated in 1954 than in 1953, there was a very definite reduction in fatal accidents which might indicate that drivers were traveling a little slower," the Captain added.

The accident records give the following information:

	1954	1953
Fatal Accidents	69	81
Deaths	92	139
Personal Injuries	387	508
Property Damages	638	626
Damage Loss	\$738,152	\$697,649

Twenty-five Highway patrolmen

in this area traveled 1,020,712 miles in 1954 while working 65,933 hours. Of the total hours, 24,951 were at night, Posey said.

About 24,522 drivers were contacted by patrolmen for violations of traffic laws. Some 7,554 cases were filed in which \$150,600 in fines were collected in 21 counties. Of the filed cases, 3,135 were for speeding, 274 for DWI, 256 for improper passing and 3,869 for other violations. In addition, 17,286 drivers were warned for hazardous violations.

Safety education was conducted for 21,000 persons in the area by officers in the Highway Patrol. The education was given through lectures, films, demonstrations and class room instructions.

In 1955, Captain Posey said that emphasis would be placed on speeding drivers through the use of radar. Speed is the major cause of most traffic fatalities and radar is probably the most important factor in reduction of these accidents, he pointed out.

Several more Radar Speed Meters will be placed in service this year, he said.

## New Water Consumption Records Set In Big Spring

Another record for water consumption was set in Big Spring last year.

During the 12-month period production figures from various sources showed an aggregate of 1,457,845,460 gallons of water. This was 282,831,460 more than for 1953, the previous peak year, or a percentage jump of 24. The previous year the rate of increase was 23 per cent, and although the rate of gain may not be so rapid this year, officials nevertheless anticipate still another boost in consumption during 1955.

With the exception of May and June, when heavy rains were falling here, substantial gains were registered in every month.

Of the total, 1,267,695,460 gallons went into regular municipal consumption. Another 90,150,000 gallons went to Cabot Carbon with the City handling it as part of its distribution.

The breakdown on supply for the year showed 1,158,624,000 gallons from the CRMWD, which in turn secured the water from its well fields in Martin County. In November, the City's filtration plant was completed, which permitted it to make use of the city lake supplies. Accordingly, 27,356,460 gallons were produced from that source. (In December, one third of the supply was from the lake.) The O'Barr Field furnished 115,226,100 gallons and the Edmondson Field furnished 7,254,900 gallons. Both are in northern

Glasscock County. The city's section 33 well field supplied 99,134,000 gallons. The water for Cabot was supplied by the CRMWD.

Operation of the new filtration plant, completed at a cost of \$398,625, will give the City an easy 91 million gallons per day. Thus, starting sometime in January, Big Spring will go on to water from Lake J. B. Thomas and likely will draw its entire supply from that source. The water is due to be much softer than that from wells supplies.

A new record consumption for one day was reached on July 26 when the draw was 7,649,000 gallons. The peak month was July with 189,266,900 gallons. Average daily consumption was 3,747,000.

The record by months showed: January 66,302,000; February, 75,333,000; March 97,618,000; April, 96,073,000; May 95,264,000; June 125,861,000; July 189,266,900; August 176,737,000; September 165,257,000; October, 114,543,000; November 89,073,360; December 76,346,100, total 1,267,695,460; plus 90,150,000 Cabot Carbon; grand total, 1,457,845,460.

Annual totals for a number of years follow:

Year	Gallons
1954	1,457,845,460
1953	1,175,014,000
1952	944,688,500
1951	1,110,000,000
1950	961,388,000
1949	836,486,000
1948	861,627,000
1947	870,786,000
1946	728,124,000
1945	717,833,000
1944	661,261,000

## 8,031 Traffic Tickets Issued Here During '54

Big Spring police during 1954 arrested 2,893 people and issued 8,031 tickets for traffic violations.

Records show that the arrests were made for practically every offense imaginable, and most of those arrested were either found guilty in court or are still scheduled for trial.

Only 129 of those arrested were implicated in major crimes, and of these there were 130 charged with the crimes while 29 were released because of lack of evidence or other reasons.

Police time during the year was mostly spent on the minor offenses, for which there were 2,734 individuals arrested. Of these, 2,400 were either charged in higher courts or made to pay fines in city court.

Only 334 of those arrested in connection with minor crimes were released from custody without paying fines. Some were found not guilty in city court.

Those released included individuals arrested for drunkenness, 103; disorderly conduct, 86; vagrancy, 79; gambling 11; acting suspicious, 46; carrying weapons, 2; prostitution, 3; violating narcotics act, 3; and liquor law violation, 1.

Some 2,199 of the individuals arrested were Caucasian, police records reveal. Another 870 were Negroes, and the rest were Oriental, Indian or others.

A total of 278 arrested were under 20 years of age, and another 282 were between the ages of 21 and 25. Other age divisions of those arrested show that 293 were between 25 and 29 years, 332 between 30 and 34 years, 376 between 35 and 39 years, 357 between 40 and 44 years, 251 between 45 and 49, and 412 over 50.

Police arrested 129 individuals who were charged with driving while intoxicated during 1954.

Drunkenness was a popular offense, with 1,647 persons having been arrested on the charge. Some 307 were charged with vagrancy,

and 204 were booked for disorderly conduct. Another 55 were charged with gambling.

Other offenses for which arrests were made included assaults, 6; forgery, 4; fraud, 1; possessing stolen property, 1; possessing weapons, 15; prostitution, 10; narcotic drug violation, 3; violation of liquor law, 15; and others, 9.

The traffic violations included 7,070 tickets for improper or over-time parking and 857 for violating driving law. Four tickets were issued for traffic and motor vehicle law violations.

## Pastor's Group Busy During '54

Members of the Big Spring Pastors' Association took turns in offering their vocation before Big Spring High School football games, held a union Thanksgiving service and continued to sponsor the high school Bible course during 1954.

The Rev. Jordan Grooms, pastor of the First Methodist Church, is president of the group. The Rev. John Kolar, former pastor of the Church of God, served as vice president until he resigned his pastorate here. The Rev. Otis Moore is secretary-treasurer.

Chaplain Charles J. Fix of Webb Air Force Base gave the sermon at the joint Thanksgiving service, which was held at the First Methodist Church.

The group pays the salary of the Rev. Ed Welch, who teaches the high school Bible course.

The association meets on the first Wednesday of each month. One meeting last year was held with Chaplain Fix at Webb and another was held with Chaplain C. O. Hitt at the Veterans Administration Hospital.

The group is interracial.



Our Progress And Big Spring's Growth Go Hand In Hand . . . And We Feel Sure 1955 Will Prove Another Progressive Year For Us. Our Pledge For '55 Is Our Motto: "HELPING TO BUILD BIG SPRING."

# Big Springs Building & Lumber Co.

1110 Gregg Dial 4-8361

now handling, Fisher said. More and more of this type are being handled each month.

The department has many other plans and programs for the indigent and needy, Fisher explained.

The Waco State Home for children had about 270 boys and girls last year. And aid to the needy aged was a large factor in 1954.

But there is a lot to be done in the coming year, Fisher pointed out. In 1954, Texas had the highest caseload per worker in the nation. The Texas caseload is about 371 persons per worker which is more than twice the average median of 172 in the nation.

**BIG SPRING FOREVER PROGRESSIVE**

"Keep Up The Drive In '55"

**Waits**

DIAMONDS WATCHES JEWELRY

115 EAST THIRD ST.

We are proud of this challenge . . . proud of the outstanding progress of Big Spring and that of our own. May we all continue to prosper and grow in 1955 as we have in the past year. To a Great West Texas Center!

## FOR BETTER SERVICE

... Clean Pure TEXAS NATURAL Gas

ONLY GAS . . . heats water 3 times faster—costs less too! Only an automatic gas water heater of proper size and quality makes it possible for automatic clothes washers and dishwashers to do their jobs most efficiently. Gallon for gallon, gas costs less for water heating—less first cost, less operating cost.

ONLY GAS . . . gives you three times the life of any refrigerator. The gas refrigerator carries a ten-year warranty—twice as much as other refrigerators. The freezing system of the gas refrigerator has no moving parts—nothing to wear out. Only Gas gives you clean, quiet and economical refrigeration.

ONLY GAS . . . gives you twice the life of any refrigerator. The gas refrigerator carries a ten-year warranty—twice as much as other refrigerators. The freezing system of the gas refrigerator has no moving parts—nothing to wear out. Only Gas gives you clean, quiet and economical refrigeration.

ONLY GAS . . . gives you matchless cooking performance. Outperforms any range in any kitchen anytime at any price. Only Gas gives you matchless smokeless broiling. Only Gas cooking costs so little. Cool, clean, completely automatic, no matches, speed, giant burners, simmer burners, fresh-air ovens, choice of top arrangements, built-in units, clock-control and modernity.

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# H. C. J. C. Offers the first Two years of regular College work in the fields of

**Agriculture . . . . . Pre-Law . . . . . Pre-Engineering . .  
Pre-Medical . . . . . Pre-Dental . . . . . Pre-Nursing . . . . .  
Pre-Veterinary . . . Education . . . . . Liberal Arts . . . . .  
Business Administration . . . . . Industrial Arts . . . . .**

Prospective students who are interested in the above professional fields can rest assured that they will receive the very best of instruction, in these fields . . . Howard County Junior College is a fully accredited school, and semester hours are transferrable to other accredited institutions.  
Vocational subjects offered at H. C. J. C. include Commercial

Photography, Welding, Machine Shop, Woodwork, and Industrial Mathematics . . . These courses are offered through the Industrial Education Department . . . All Shops are equipped with the very best and latest equipment . . . Other courses being offered are full time adult classes in H. C. J. C. Night School.

## Registration For Spring Semester Will Be January 31

**Last Day of Registration will be February 12**

Spring Semester Is  
18 Consecutive Weeks . . .  
January 31 Through May 27

# Howard County Junior College

Howard County Junior College is a member of  
THE ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS COLLEGES TEXAS JUNIOR COLLEGE ASSOCIATION  
THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF JUNIOR COLLEGES THE SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF JUNIOR COLLEGES  
TEXAS PUBLIC JUNIOR COLLEGE ASSOCIATION

Is fully accredited by  
THE TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY  
and is approved by  
THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION  
for training under the G. I. Bill of Rights



# City Takes In New Area

The City of Big Spring was enlarged by approximately 75 acres during 1954.

A 180-block paving program was completed, approximately four miles of seal coating was laid, and the courthouse parking area was constructed. City Engineer Clifton Bellamy estimates that 6,000 feet of sewer line and 20,000 feet of water line was installed.

It was also during 1954 that the city's \$398,000 filtration plant addition was completed, and the new Fourth Street highway project was started.

The 75-acre addition was on the east side of Big Spring between Fourth Street and Stamford Park, bounded on the east by Birdwell Lane. This area contains two new housing additions filed by Eugene Anderson and Ward Hall.

Some construction work started in each of these additions during 1954, and it is expected that they will be fully developed by the end of this year. Construction also was pronounced in Avion Village addition during 1954.

The 180-block paving program included streets all over the city, though some of the work was started in 1953. Most of the actual paving was in 1954, however, and the entire project was accepted by the City Commission last year. Much of the new paving contains what is known as inverted crowns

# Expansion Of Utilities Shows Growth Of Population, Business

Utilities were expanded on all fronts in Big Spring during 1954, indicating strong gains in population and commercial activities.

The number of water meters in service increased by 467 during the year. The gas company gained 335 new customers, the electric company reported 446 new meters in service, and the number of telephones in use increased by 569.

Other utility facilities were expanded proportionately. The city extended water mains in several areas. Extensions also were made to gas and electric lines. The telephone company put up new lines in Big Spring and extended its rural service to take in the Lees community.

Here is the story on the growth of the various systems, as measured by the number of meters in service at the end of 1954, as compared with the beginning of the year:

Water — 6,706 meters, up from 6,241.  
Gas — 7,199, up from 6,864.  
Electric — 7,864, up from 7,418.  
The number of telephones in service increased from 8,461 to 9,030.

In addition to the installation of new water lines in a number of additions, the city completed construction and put in service its new water treatment plant. Designed to treat about 8 million gallons of water daily, the plant can provide up to 12 million gallons per day in case of emergency.

Other developments on the water front included the construction of a pumping station at Lake J. B. Thomas to provide Big Spring with a supply of lake water. Booster pumping stations were being completed early this month by the Colorado River Municipal Water District, assuring the city of a 100 per cent supply of lake water for the remainder of 1955.

The Texas Electric Service Company's metered connections in Big Spring at the end of 1954 included 6,728 residential outlets and 1,136 commercial and industrial taps.

During the year the company constructed a new transmission line north from Coahoma 12 miles to the CRMWD booster station. The conductor was enlarged in numerous places throughout the area distribution system. Larger transformers also were installed at points in Big Spring and the entire distribution system was strengthened by installation of large poles and other construction.

In the high voltage field, Texas Electric completed the 132,000-volt line from Morgan Creek Station across the southeast corner of Howard County, through Glasscock and into Midland County, a distance of about 70 miles. Another new line, erected between Fort Worth and Graham in 1953, is being extended directly into Big Spring during 1955.

This line will serve as a "stiffener" to the present transmission system. Right-of-way for the con-

struction already has been secured as far west as Coahoma.

Empire Southern Gas Company extended its distribution mains in Big Spring to serve several new areas, including homes in Avion Village, Hillcrest Terrace, Stamford Park and College Park Estates. Some other gas lines and some were reinforced, but there were no major construction jobs in Big Spring during 1954, since ESGC had made provision for considerable growth during earlier expansion projects.

Champ Rainwater, gas company manager here, said that transmission facilities probably will have to be expanded in the next year or two to provide for additional growth, however.

Clifford Fisher, local manager, said that Southwestern Bell Telephone Company was forced to advance one expansion project here by about six months to keep pace with the growth of Big Spring. This was the addition of 200 terminals to the telephone switchboard.

The 200 terminals were scheduled for May, 1955, but were open-

ed in 1954. The company scheduled another 400 terminals for opening in May, 1955.

As a result of the expansion, all delays in the installation of telephones in Big Spring were eliminated. Straight lines were available to all applicants at the end of 1954.

The company wound up the year with 108 employees and an annual payroll of \$385,000 here, Fisher reported.

Electric Meters		
	1954	1953
Residential	6,728	6,318
Commercial	1,136	1,102
Totals	7,864	7,418

Gas Meters		
	1954	1953
Residential	6,385	6,084
Commercial	814	780
Totals	7,199	6,864

UTILITY GAINS		
	1954	1953
Water	6,706	6,241
Gas	7,199	6,864
Electric	7,864	7,418
Telephones	9,030	8,461

## ACTIVITIES OF THE BIG SPRING OFFICE TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

Month	Non-Agricultural Placements	Agricultural Placements	Applications For Work	New Unemployed Claims	
				Taken	Remaining
Jan.	93	4	208	371	
Feb.	119	8	213	552	
Mar.	98	2	169	551	
Apr.	129	9	147	505	
May	140	0	147	382	
June	190	64	250	282	
July	164	259	216	230	
Aug.	169	100	216	295	
Sept.	157	1,568	162	272	
Oct.	239	400	158	188	
Nov.	132	139	150	188	
Dec.	157	16	129	275	
TOTALS	1,787	2,569	2,185	4,089	

## ANALYSIS OF NON-AGRICULTURAL PLACEMENTS

	1953	1954	Per Cent Change
Mining	34	46	35.3 inc.
Contract Construction	413	384	7. dec.
Manufacturing	33	17	48.5 dec.
Interstate Railroad	5	1	80.0 dec.
Other Public Utilities	53	46	13.2 dec.
Wholesale and Retail Trade	397	535	34.7 inc.
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	24	23	4.1 dec.
Service—except Private Household	152	182	13.1 inc.
Private Households	412	805	22.6 inc.
Regular Govt. Establishments	39	48	25.1 inc.
TOTALS	1,562	1,787	14.4 inc.

# Local B&PW Club Passes Active Year

Local Business and Professional Club women began an active 1954 with an inter-city dinner meeting in February when they were hostesses to other B&PW clubs in the district. The district president Mrs. Christine Tipton, was guest speaker.

Looking ahead to 1955 the club solicited and obtained the district meeting of area B&PW clubs to be held in Big Spring in the fall.

Lorena Williams, a local member, was appointed district director for the 1955-56 period.

The group carried on a continuous program to promote the passing of the bill to bring about jury service for women. They arranged for speakers to appear before local clubs and at a special dinner meeting to which visitors were invited, the club presented Judge R. H. Weaver who gave his views in favor of women on juries.

During the year the group made contributions to the Minnie L. Maffett Scholarship fund, to the Liljestrom Scholarship fund and the Chinese nursing fund. The latter is an aid to nursing education on Formosa.

Locally, the club sponsored and financed one young girl in the School for the Deaf at Austin. It maintained and operated the museum in the city park.

Members assisted in the Easter Seal Drive, the Tuberculosis Association and the Citizens Traffic Commission.

The club continued to sponsor the Indoor Sports Club, an organization for the handicapped. Another project was participating in the sponsorship of a Negro Girl Scout troop.

A fifty-dollar scholarship to Howard County Junior College was awarded to a high school senior girl and a trophy was given to a junior high school girl for citizenship and scholarship.

The annual beauty pageant to select Miss Big Spring was sponsored by the group as a community and financial project.

Bessie L. Love was president of the club at the close of the year.

During the year the company constructed a new transmission line north from Coahoma 12 miles to the CRMWD booster station. The conductor was enlarged in numerous places throughout the area distribution system. Larger transformers also were installed at points in Big Spring and the entire distribution system was strengthened by installation of large poles and other construction.

In the high voltage field, Texas Electric completed the 132,000-volt line from Morgan Creek Station across the southeast corner of Howard County, through Glasscock and into Midland County, a distance of about 70 miles. Another new line, erected between Fort Worth and Graham in 1953, is being extended directly into Big Spring during 1955.

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# Local Office Of TEC Places 4,356 In '54

The Big Spring office of the Texas Employment Commission placed 4,356 persons in jobs in 1954, according to Leon Kinney, manager of the local office. This is more than double the amount of placements in 1953, he said.

Total number of non-agricultural placements was 1,787 which is a slight increase over last year's 1,562.

Placement Days in 1954. It is a day when farm owners meet at the TEC office with farm workers for mutual benefits.

Two new employees came to work at the TEC office during the year. Carlton Williams began in July as Farm Placement Interviewer and Bonnie Hale started in January as a clerk.

Agricultural placements during the year were almost six times the number placed in 1953 and about 500 more than the number placed in non-agricultural positions. The total for the year is 2,569 as compared with 1953's 434.

Agricultural placements got off to a slow start the first six months of the year, Kinney said, with less than 100 placements being made. But in September, about two-thirds of the year's total placements were made.

Applications for work continued to rise for the third straight year, Kinney pointed out. In 1954, the TEC office received 2,185 applications. There were 1,573 in 1953 and 1,489 in 1952.

Unemployment claims for the year totaled 4,089. This compares with 2,910 in 1953 and 1,003 in 1952. Unemployment insurance payments for the year totaled \$56,063 for the tri-county area, Howard, Martin, and Sterling counties.

Kinney said that \$9,939 of this amount was paid to veterans and the balance, \$46,124, to other persons. February, March, and April were the high months of the year for unemployment claims, and the last three months of the year appeared to be the lowest.

In the non-agricultural placements, mining was the field which showed the largest percentage of increase in 1954. Railroad work had the highest decline.

Several new programs were initiated during the year. Federal employees were put under the unemployment insurance program. Although the state will pay any unemployment claims made by federal employees, the federal government will reimburse the state the total amount they pay out.

Mondays were designated Farm

## Many County 4-H Girls Win Awards

Receiving awards for achievement during 1954 were a number of 4-H Club girls of Howard County. The awards were presented at the annual countywide 4-H Christmas party.

Awards went to: Planning—Joyce Robinson; clothing—Anne Limer, Jane Bilsard, Margaret and Beverly Shockley; Dairy Foods—Claudette Moore and Miss Box; Farm and Home Electric—Miss Shockley and Ann Rodgers; Food Preparation—Miss Bilsard; Frozen Foods—Miss Robinson; Leadership—Miss Shockley; Farm and Home Safety—Carolyn Elliott; Public Speaking—Miss Bilsard.

Miss Shockley was chosen Gold Star 4-H Girl of the county by a special committee. This award is made on the basis of all-around achievement.



1954 . . . Another Successful Year . . .

for Phillips "66". We've met a lot of new people and made a lot of new friends. We are grateful for these friends and customers and their evidence of good will.

1955 . . . With More Drive . . .

will be a bigger and better year for Phillips "66" for we resolve to continue to bring you the best quality gasolines and oils at the lowest possible prices . . . to do our utmost to give you better service and to prove ourselves a genuine contributor to the improvement of our community.

**K. H. (Chub) McGibbon**  
Phillips "66" Jobber

601 East 1st Big Spring, Texas Dial 4-5251



As we look back over nearly 70 years service to Big Spring, we are indeed proud of the part we have played in building our city into one of the most progressive in the state. We are sure that the coming years will see Big Spring continue the growth and progress that has made our town a better town. As always, Burton-Lingo stands ready to share the civic responsibilities necessary for this progress.

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SERVICE SINCE 1886

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Big Spring—Howard County

# PROGRESS

The full story of American progress cannot be told in statistics or depicted on charts . . . because basically it is the story of people . . . the story of what happens to a country when its people are free to aspire and achieve . . . free to invent and improve and experiment.

As long as our people hold steadfast to these freedoms, nothing can stop America's steady march forward to greater industrial strength, greater productivity . . . a richer, fuller life for all. Faith in the American economy is solidly based on time-tested faith in ourselves.

**STATE NATIONAL BANK**  
IN BIG SPRING



**TEXAS LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD**  
ACTIVITIES IN 1954

Month	Cases	Convictions and Jail Terms	Dismissals and Acquittals	Fines and Costs	Non-Criminal Cases
Jan.	20	10-1	0-0	\$ 1,728	15
Feb.	9	6-0	0-0	1,728	6
Mar.	6	7-2	4-0	1,036	3
April	18	25-3	1-1	4,989	2
May	5	4-0	0-0	640	5
June	9	6-2	0-0	2,128	12
July	12	10-0	0-0	1,967	4
Aug.	8	10-1	2-0	1,347	2
Sept.	11	9-0	2-0	1,251	2
Oct.	29	13-2	0-0	122	8
Nov.	17	3-0	0-0	370	8
Dec.	10	7-0	0-0	849	8
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>112-11</b>	<b>6-1</b>	<b>\$18,865</b>	<b>78</b>

## Liquor Control Board Has Busy Year Here During '54

Agents of the Big Spring Liquor Control Board have had a busy year, according to a report issued by C. B. Arnold, Arnold said 154 criminal cases had been handled by the office in 1954, and 78 non-criminal cases.

These cases were all handled by the District Nine office which has headquarters in Big Spring and works 20 counties in this area. The counties covered by the office are Howard, Gaines, Dawson, Borden, Scurry, Mitchell, Martin, Andrews,

# HCJC Experiences Year Of Growth; Outlook Good

Last year was one of growth for Howard County Junior College, and President W. A. Hunt sees nothing but progress in prospect for the future.

Enrollment climbed from 367 in the fall of 1953 to 434 for the 1954 fall semester.

Several departments received major expansion during the year, and virtually all phases of the curriculum benefited from new equipment, furniture and other facilities. There were numerous other physical improvements made to the plant.

The fall of '54 enrollment included 176 fulltime students and 258 part-time scholars, a gain in both fields.—The fulltime enrollment was 5 students greater than for the previous fall, and the part time students numbered 16 more than in the previous year.

Dr. Hunt predicted that enrollment at HCJC will reach 1,000 in the next five years if facilities are

provided for educating that number.

In connection with the prophecy, Dr. Hunt outlined to board members last fall an expansion program which he said is needed within the next few months.

The HCJC president said that four items are "musts" if the institution is to continue to grow. These included a new science building, enlargement of the library, an addition to the administration building to house the music department, and construction of a new structure for administration offices. In connection with the latter, the present administrative of-

fices should be converted to classroom use, he said.

Three other facilities — two dormitories and a cafeteria building — are needed, Dr. Hunt said. The present cafeteria building could be converted to classrooms also. In addition, there was some discussion during 1954 concerning enlargement of the HCJC gymnasium, to provide more spectator space as well as more dressing rooms and other facilities.

There were no estimates made as to cost of the various improvements, and no formal action was taken on any of the projects.

Physical improvements accomplished during 1954 included the removal of mesquite from a large portion of the campus, followed by the seeding of grass, setting out of shrubbery and installation of a portable sprinkler system around all buildings. An important phase of the landscaping program was the establishment of shrubbery and other plants in the triangle at the campus entrance.

Air conditioning was installed for the auditorium during the year. A bus was purchased to carry students to various out-of-town school functions.

A considerable equipment was purchased for the business administration department, science department and others. The music department, which probably experienced greater growth than any other during the year, also received new equipment.

Appointment of Orian Johnson and Jack Hendrix to the music department staff was one of the advances made in that field. Dr. Hunt said, Johnson is director of vocal music and Hendrix is instrumental music director.

Dr. C. W. Deats, Big Spring, and Tom Barber, Coahoma, became members of the HCJC board of trustees during the year. Dr. Deats, along with Edgar Phillips and Charles M. Adams who were re-elected, was named to the board in the trustee election April 3. Mr. Adams died of a heart attack on Sept. 30 and Mr. Barber was appointed as his successor.

The enrollment at HCJC during the past fall included 53 students from Webb Air Force Base. There had been 77 WEBB students in the college during the fall of 1953.

Veterans numbered 53 for the fall of 1954, as compared to 56 for the fall of 1953. The totals included 18 Korean veterans and 38 World War II veterans in 1953 and 38 Korean and 15 World War II vets in 1954. B. M. Keese, dean and registrar, said.

Keese said the enrollment of Korean veterans may reach 50 or 60 during 1955.

HCJC also suffered a loss during 1954. A fire badly damaged the shops building at the college on Nov. 29. The insured loss was estimated at \$15,000. The structure has been remodeled.

## Break From County Jail Gave Headache To Sheriff's Officers

The jail break last March, which set off a grand jury investigation into the structural condition and operation of the county jail, probably gave sheriff's officers their biggest headache of 1954.

There were numerous other crimes committed during the year, however, and when it was over Sheriff Jess Slaughter and his deputies reported they had booked a total of 1,440 persons into the jail in 1954.

Headlines, robberies, burglaries, assaults and a multitude of

other criminal activities resulted in arrests. There were four killings, five robberies and numerous other unlawful acts calling for investigation.

But none created the excitement set off by the escape of five felony prisoners early on the morning of March 16.

The five prisoners tore out of the new jail by breaking the rivets holding the sections of steel bars together. They claimed they snapped the rivets with the steel frames they removed from the lights, us-

ing spoon handles as screwdrivers.

All of the escapees — David Leach, in for forgery; Thomas Ray Taylor, charged with robbery; Johnny Edward Springer, convicted of theft; Jack Thompson, charged with robbery, and Randall Hendrix, who a few weeks earlier pleaded guilty to murder without malice in connection with the death of his 14-year-old wife — were rounded up within four days.

Jail repairs were started immediately, and some modifications of the jail's structure and operation resulted from a grand jury investigation.

Slain during the year were Mary Cooper, Sam Clemons, Jerry Cottingham, and James H. Knox.

Harry Stone was convicted of murder in connection with Mrs. Cooper's death and received a 30-year prison sentence. Knox was found guilty of murder in the death of Clemons and was assessed a three-year term. He had appealed the conviction and was at liberty under bond at the time he was killed at Webb Air Force Base. Vincent Price was charged with murder as a result of Knox's death.

Cottingham's son-in-law, Ray Horien, was adjudged insane at the time his father-in-law was fatally shot.

Other major crimes during 1954 included the armed robbery at Jack's Drive-In Grocery on the Leames Highway on Jan. 30; the beating and robbery of Marshall Simon of Yuma, Ariz., on April 5; the holdup of the Triple Gables Motel on Dec. 4 and the attempted holdup at Brown's Trading Post on Dec. 16. Taken from Jack's Drive-In was \$250 in cash. Hijackers took \$300 from Simon. Approximately \$20 was taken in the Triple Gables holdup and a gunman took \$7 from Mrs. Bonita Jackson at Vickey's Liquor Store on Oct. 25. Albert Brown frightened two young bandits away from the Brown's Trading Post.

Three youths have been charged in connection with the liquor store robbery and the attempted hijacking at Brown's.

Biggest burglaries of the year occurred at the Howard Newton residence (Fairview) May 7; the Bill Newton residence (also Fairview) on June 3; the Skyway Grill on July 12; Brown's Trading Post No. 2 on Oct. 26; and the J. T. Sherrod Store, northeast of Big Spring, on Dec. 29.

Burglars stole \$100 in cash, some jewelry and other articles from the Howard Newton residence. They got some firearms and other goods at the Bill Newton home.

Taken from the Skyway Grill was \$100 in cash, while a large quantity of beer, whisky and other liquor was taken from the Brown's Trading Post. About \$60 in cash and some cigarettes were stolen from the Sherrod Store. Charges have been filed in some of the cases.

There were numerous instances of theft and burglary during the year. Several break-ins occurred at schools and at various business establishments where vending machines and juke boxes were rifled.

Booked into the county jail during the year were 278 persons charged with drunkenness, 139 charged with drunken driving; 78 charged with assault, and 95 charged with various forms of theft.

Over charges, and the number of persons booked on each, were robbery 15, attempt to commit criminal assault 5, traffic 38, worthless checks 55, car theft 19, child desertion 11, forgery 49, unlawfully carrying arms 20, assault on murder 29, narcotics 15, morals charges 5, contributing to delinquency of a minor 1, vagrancy 28, liquor law violations 20, affray 14, disturbance 29, burglary 41, perjury 4, gaming 2, negligent homicide 1, murder 3, receiving and concealing stolen property 3, and immigration violations 351. There were 16 juveniles jailed for various reasons during the year and 78 persons were arrested on suspicion or for other authorities.

Most of the drunken drivers were transferred to the county from the city jail, virtually all the immigration arrests were made by Border Patrol officers, and the Highway Patrol officers made most of the arrests on the traffic violation charges.

## DURING 1954

# 511 Major Crimes Reported In City

There were 511 major crimes reported in Big Spring during 1954, according to a report filed with the Federal Bureau of Investigation by Police Chief E. W. York.

However, 277 of the crimes reported — more than half the total — were thefts of goods valued under \$50.

A breakdown of the other reports showed three murders, eight robberies, 31 cases of aggravated assault, 98 burglaries, 63 automobile thefts, and 31 instances of theft over \$50.

Chief York's year-end tabulation shows that 113 of the crimes were cleared up by arrests. There were other 363 crimes are still pending.

All three of the year's murder cases in the city are considered closed, Chief York said. Arrests were made following the deaths of Mary Cooper, Jerry Cottingham, and Samuel Clemons.

One other murder was reported here toward the close of the year at Webb Air Force Base. However, the death of James Knox does not come under police jurisdiction, York pointed out.

Many of the so-called major crimes which have not been cleared up are the thefts of goods under \$50. Only 44 of the 277 reports resulted in arrests. Some 224 reports are still pending on police books, and another nine were pegged as unfounded.

Petty theft is common all over the country and one of the harder crimes to clear up, York pointed out. Other cities as well as Big Spring are plagued with bad records in this field, he said.

Twenty-eight of the 31 aggravated assault cases reported were cleared up by arrests, according to the FBI report. Three are still pending.

Of the 98 burglaries reported, 78 are still unsolved. Officers made arrests following 20 of them. Six of the 29 thefts over \$50 were cleared by arrests. Twenty-three of these theft reports are still pending, and two reports were unfounded.

Twenty-two cars were reported stolen in 1954 which were not. This means that only 41 of the 63 reported as stolen were actually taken. Twelve of the theft reports were cleared by arrests, and 29 are still pending.

Recovery of automobiles was much better than recovery of the criminals who took them, it was pointed out.

Though only 113 of the major crimes have been marked off the books, the number of people charged with these "closed cases" totals 130.

Police actually arrested 159 for the offenses, but 29 were released because of lack of evidence or clear proof that the parties were not involved.

Throughout the year, members have made flower arrangements for churches, for Girl Scout affairs and for a meeting of the Classroom Teachers, for which members gave a program. Mrs. Wiley is on the district board as one of the governors. Through the book chairman of the club, members buy garden books and magazines and gloves for gardening.

At each club meeting, four arrangements are brought for discussion and criticism. This has greatly improved the technique of members. Programs are given by club members or other well-informed speakers on phases of horticulture and about growing plants and shrubs especially adapted to this section. Durwood Lewter and Bruce Frazier have been guest speakers for the clubs.

Roll calls are responded to at meetings by such varied subjects as "Mistakes I Have Made in My Garden," "Garden Resolutions for 1955" and "What the Garden Clubs Can Do for Big Spring."

In the spring, a pilgrimage was held over the city to various gardens where bulbs were blooming. In the fall, Flower Show School No. 1 was given.

At times, members cooperated by taking patients to the Crippled Children's Clinic in Midland. They also served in the March of Dimes Drive, the Servicemen's Center and in the sale of TB bangles and seals.

## Four Garden Clubs Organized Here In 1954

During the past year, four new Garden Clubs have been organized by the Big Spring Garden Club.

They are the Spaders, with Mrs. Cliff Wiley as sponsor; the Planters, with Mrs. John Knox; the Rosebud, sponsored by Mrs. Norman Read, and the Green Thumb, with Mrs. J. E. Hogan as sponsor.

A therapy project of planting a rose garden at the State Hospital has been suggested by the district board of garden clubs. This is to be worked on at a later date.

The club has cooperated in planning the beautification of the courthouse grounds and in a Horticultural Planning Guide for the district. They have helped the Cheerio Club for the Blind with seeds and plants, and they made plans to donate a shrub to Howard County Junior College and to help with the cemetery shrubs.

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## Stock Car Race Events Resumed

Stock car racing was resumed here toward the close of the year at the direction of N. L. (Pat) Patterson.

Patterson was instrumental in construction of a track located approximately half a mile northeast of town on the Snyder Highway.

The promoter went to considerable expense at installing cables around the racing strip for the safety of the customers and eventually installed a lighting system for night driving.

Weekly races were originally staged each Sunday but, once the lights were ready, the programs were changed to Friday night.

Local racing enthusiasts, about a half dozen in number, visited other tracks in neighboring cities when they were not active here.

Toward the end of the year, the racing strip was moved to a spot just off the old San Angelo Highway south of town and several events were staged there before Patterson elected to close his books for the year.

Though numerous races were staged here, no major accidents resulted.

## 170 FHA Loans Made To Area Farmers In 1954

The Big Spring office of the Farm Home Administration made about 170 loans in 1954 to Howard and Glasscock county farmers. Value of the loans is almost a half million dollars.

The bulk of the loans were made under the emergency operating loan program and the special livestock program. There were 146 of these loans totaling \$378,065. The emergency operating loans are made to persons who need money to make a crop and repayable in the crop year in which the funds are borrowed.

The livestock loans are available to farmers who want to replace a basic herd which was lost due to drought conditions.

About 20 production and subsistence loans totaling \$79,295 were also made during the year. These loans are repayable in from three to five years. They are available for buying equipment and livestock and for operating expenses.

Other new loans which will be available are soil and water conservation, building improvement, and farm ownership loans. The office has not made any of these loans yet.

The greatest need in Howard county is for the yearly operating loans, according to the local office.

Glasscock County was approved in 1954 as a drought disaster area and farmers in the county are eligible for the emergency feed program. The FHA office here has received 167 applications for the feed and they all have been certified as eligible.

Carlton J. Chapman, supervisor of the office for two years resigned his position as of Dec. 31. He left to enter business in Stanton. Sylvan Pederson of Colorado City is the new FHA supervisor.



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35 YEARS IN BIG SPRING!



# Chamber Of Commerce Busy In Many Activities

The pulse of the Chamber of Commerce could be felt in practically every important movement within the City of Big Spring during 1954.

Though the organization seldom took the spotlight, a number of events were either planned or instituted in the Chamber conference room or in the office of Manager J. H. Greene.

One of the outstanding drives which the Chamber publicly spearheaded was the movement to get Webb Air Force Base declared a permanent installation.

Chamber members floated petitions asking that the City give Webb land to the Air Force provided the base is declared permanent. These petitions were presented to the City Commission, and negotiations are now being made to see if the Civil Aeronautics Association will agree to the transfer.

Closely associated with the drive to obtain a permanent designation at Webb is the movement under way to get a new commercial airport here. The Chamber supports both.

That other individuals and cities recognize the progressive work of the Big Spring Chamber has been evidenced by the honors piled on Greene during the year. The dean of West Texas Chamber managers, Greene was honored in San An-

gelo and later named president of the Texas Chamber of Commerce Association.

Chamber activity here has hit practically every field of endeavor during the year—agriculture and livestock, highways, industry, business, safety, tourist development, inter-city relations, city clean-up, sports, public relations, oil development, education, military, special events, etc.

Much of the success of the Chamber work in these fields has been contributed to the 1954 president, Champ Rainwater, and vice president, Roy Reeder.

The local Chamber led the area in seeking drought relief, at one time sending a delegation to Austin.

Other agriculture and livestock activity include the donating of a trophy for the Hereford Breeder's Association, cooperating with the Texas Eat Beef campaign, sponsoring of the first bale of cotton program, furthering livestock shows and backing the County Agent's programs.

Highway development was preached by the Chamber, with efforts centered on trying to secure a new road to Lake J. B. Thomas and on improving Highways 80 and 87. The Chamber backed the \$325,000 bond issue to purchase right-of-way for the new super highway on 80.

An industrial meeting was held

here to outline methods of obtaining industries, and the Chamber sponsored an essay contest among high schoolers on industrial development. Plans have been started for an industrial exhibit in 1955.

A courtesy clinic was sponsored by the Chamber, and members of the merchant committee set up a solicitation control program and planned the Christmas parade and Treasure Hunt.

The safety committee pointed that more thorough streets are needed in this city. Programs of the Citizens Traffic Commission were backed as was Fire Prevention Week.

Special events were highlighted by the Chamber's sponsorship of the George O'Brien day and the Raymond Tollett appreciation dinner. The Chamber also cooperated with Webb in holding Armed Forces Day.

Maps and brochures were printed to further tourist activity, and cooperation was pronounced with the Henry Ford Foundation Commission, which took pictures of Highway 87 here.

The Chamber's clean-up campaign in 1954 was considered more successful than during any previous year.

In the sports field, the Chamber assisted in backing the opening night baseball game here and co-operated in production of the Big Spring Rodeo.

Assistance was offered in the Latin American Dios Y Sels celebration and contributed to the Boy Scout jamboree.

The Chamber gave prizes for essays and speeches made by high school students during Oil Progress Week and helped sponsor the week's activities here. Norman Spears of Coahoma won the district's \$500 scholarship for his essay, "The Oil Industry's Role in the American Way of Life."

The Chamber filed petitions with Washington supporting the merger of Continental Airlines and Pioneer Airlines. Later Chamber requests for a trial run between here and Houston were granted and the run is still operating.

Plans were started in 1954 for an industrial exhibit during the coming year. Plans for a service station operators' banquet were outlined in 1954 also, and the banquet is slated this year.

The Chamber also assisted with preliminary spadework in the designation of a new National Guard armory for Big Spring, and plaques were presented to AFROTC summer camp cadets.

In the field of education, the Chamber has investigated ways and means of a consolidated school system while backing the construction of new buildings in the city.

## CITIZENS BUSY WITH PHONES

Big Springers may do more talking than anything else.

Clifford Fisher, local telephone company manager, figures that residents spent some 1,125,000 hours on telephone conversations during 1954.

Fisher says there were an average of 46,200 local phone calls made daily in Big Spring during the year. With the calls averaging four minutes in length, that's 3,080 hours a day Big Springers spend talking on the telephone.

Not to mention the 1,622 long distance calls that were placed here daily (on an average) in 1954.

## Parking Meter Revenue Gains

More money was collected in Big Spring parking meters during 1954 than in any other year. It was announced by G. R. McClenny, city secretary.

Total parking meter revenue was \$44,604.50, which is more than \$4,000 higher than the \$40,193.50 collected during 1953, previous peak year.

The hike in parking meter funds indicates a hike in downtown traffic during the year, because Tommy Malone, meter repairman and collector, stated that less than 50 new meters were installed.

At the end of 1954 there were 667 meters up and in use, Malone said. At the end of 1953 there were approximately 625.

Meters which were added were placed around the courthouse square. Malone said that there were no other new meters installed, though old machines were switched out occasionally.

The meters on the south side of the courthouse were changed from a two-hour time limit to a one-hour limit, it was pointed out. Such a change is due along the entire north side of Fourth Street this year.

Revenue from the meters is used to pay maintenance costs and to retire warrants issued for new paving in 1948 and for construction of the sub-station of the Fire Department. What is left over is transferred to the city's general fund.

McClenny points out that revenue from the parking meters has steadily gained during recent years. In 1952 the figure was \$39,603.65.

Twelve professional basketball double headers and 15 single games are listed for Madison Square Garden this winter.

# CRMWD Applies Half Million To Obligations In First Year

The Colorado River Municipal Water District was able to apply half a million dollars to its obligations during the first year it served all its originally scheduled customers.

Receipts for the year, reported E. V. Spence, general manager, were \$739,964, of which \$722,869 came from sale of water. Expenses amounted to \$209,542, leaving a margin of \$536,511.

This enabled the district to transfer \$516,660 to its net revenue fund, Spence pointed out. Of this figure, \$306,158 went to the interest and sinking fund to satisfy all scheduled debt requirements, \$147,351 went to the reserve fund which under terms of the indenture must be built up to one and a half times annual requirements of the interest and sinking fund; \$10,500 went into the contingency fund, \$2,750 into improvement and extension, and the remaining \$49,900 into the retirement fund. Proceeds in this fund are being invested in prepayment of the district's own bonds.

Other highlights of the report showed sale of four and a third billion gallons of water. Odessa received 1,973,097,000 gallons, Big Spring 1,444,064,000 gallons, Snyder 489,179,000, Scurry Area Canyon Reef Operators Committee 434,342,000 gallons.

By sources 3,164,028,000 came from the well field in Martin County, 644,868,000 from city well fields, 6,927,000 from Big Spring lakes, and 558,161,000 from Lake J. B. Thomas.

Revenues from water included \$325,653 from Odessa, \$229,907 from Big Spring, \$97,474 from Snyder, \$60,225 from SACROC, and \$9,907 from rural users. Except for the SACROC, all figures were exceptionally close to budget estimates, and in this instance the repressuring unit did not go into operation until past mid-year.

Only other source of revenue was from the recreational division which showed \$9,632 from leases, \$1,384 from grass rental, \$5,289 from recreational permits, \$1,057 from boat launching fees and \$350 from concessions. Practically all

of it went back into roads, surveys, improvements, etc.

A total of \$44,959 went to pay for water royalties and rentals. Maintenance cost \$5,992. Operating expenses aggregated \$60,568, which included \$63,808 for power, \$20,436 for labor and \$5,373 for repairs. Administration, covering all other expenses, was \$30,123. Balance at the end of the year was \$19,851.

At the end of the year the project was nearing the end of its construction stage. Construction in progress or completed amounted to \$19,329,418. This left \$900,000 for completing of existing work, two

surface reservoirs near Snyder and Big Spring, and eventually two pump stations between Big Spring and the Martin County station.

A recapitulation showed \$2,705,613 expended for the dam and reservoir (Lake J. B. Thomas), \$438,695 for Bull Creek diversion, \$230,011 for terminal water storage, \$705,408 for the supply line from Lake Thomas to Snyder, \$4,730,709 for the supply line from the lake to Big Spring and Odessa, \$678,465 for Martin County well field development, \$436,282 for engineering, financing and other costs \$404,321.

# Big Spring Has 26 Girl Scout, Brownie Troops

At a recent meeting of the Girl Scout Council, it was reported that Big Spring has a total of 26 troops, including 14 Brownie troops. There are 315 girls enrolled, with 61 adult workers taking part in the activities.

In February, the program committee sponsored an international style show in which about 75 girls participated. A Court of Awards and box supper was held in April, and in December, the girls took part in a carol program. Food for the needy was also assembled. Candy for patients at the State Hospital was made during November and December.

Summer activities included day camps at which 108 girls gathered. At the established camp near Sweetwater, Booth Oaks, a total of 24 girls spent a total of 37 weeks. Seven senior girls spent two nights in a troop camp during this time, also.

Big Spring was represented in Austin by workers and scouts at the convention when delegates from four states met to work together and discuss problems.

In August Rex Browning, executive secretary, resigned to start a shop and classes in arts and crafts. Betty Wickman took over the duties of that office in September.

At a cost of \$352.63, Lancaster Street in front of the Girl Scout hut was paved in March. This amount was paid out of the building fund. It was during this month that the cookie sale was held, with the proceeds going to the swimming pool at Booth Oaks.

Other goals of the house committee have been announced as furthering the landscaping of the grounds, building a rock wall on the west side of the lot and buying a floor furnace.

Five service pins were awarded at the end of the year. Three, for 10 years, were given to Dan Conley, Mrs. Bill Earley and Mrs. Wilburn Elliott. Two, for 15 years, were awarded to Mrs. Larson Lloyd and Mrs. Ruth Rutherford.

## HCJC Jayhawks Won Cage Games At Good Clip In '54

By HCJC standards, the 1953-54 Jayhawk basketball team wasn't as successful as some of those in previous seasons but the local collegians still turned in victories at an amazing clip.

Most of Coach Harold Davis' Jayhawks Region Y champions of the previous year had graduated but last year's club wound up winning 17 decisions in 28 starts. Few junior college cage quintets in Texas fared better.

Frank Phillips JC of Borger, with the amazing Keith Lane at the post, won West Zone championship laurels for the first time in history.

HCJC split conference series with Odessa, Amarillo and Clarendon while losing twice to Frank Phillips but the win over Clarendon had to be forfeited, because assigned officials of the contest did not show up and Coach Davis was forced to employ arbiters.

The Jayhawks succeeded in winning third place in their own tournament by subduing DeCATer after losing in the championship semifinals to Wharton.

Davis completed his seventh year as head coach of the team. During that time, his clubs had won 108 decisions while losing 66 times.

Jim Knotts, a freshman from Doyline, La., led the Hawks in scoring over the season with 467 points for a 17-points-per-game average.

Another standout on the club was Paschall Wikard, a freshman from Clovis, N. M. The hunting Wikard scored a total of 356 points over the year and was named to the all-conference squad, along with Knotts.

The Hawks competed in a tournament in Victoria in December (1953), winning the consolation round after losing to San Antonio JC by one point in the first round.

## City YMCA Draws Youths

The YMCA continued to attract an increasing number of participants during the past year and especially so among the youth of the community.

Figures summarizing the activities of 1954 showed 1,063 adult and youth members, according to Grover C. Good, general secretary.

Crux of the Y program was its eight organizations among the junior and senior high levels. These included one junior Hi-Y, two junior Tri-Hi-Y, two senior Hi-Y and two senior Tri-Hi-Y groups. These had a cumulative attendance of 8,448 during the year.

There was one gym class with cumulative participation of 360; 24 swimming classes during the summer with around 700 individual participants in two sessions. Twenty-two athletic teams, taking part in Y-sponsored and directed leagues, had 9,240 cumulative attendance.

Two special interest groups attracted 2,220 attendance and seven councils and junior boards had another 2,205. There were eight committees which had cumulative participation of 768 during the year and the Teen-Age Center had 800 participants.

Budget for the year was \$15,000, of which around \$3,500 was in membership support and the remainder from the United Fund. One of the year's highlights was the annual meeting addressed by Dr. E. N. Jones, president of Texas Tech; another was the election of Glenn Rogers as the West Texas Area youth president.

## Altrusa Club Has Busy Year

Living up to the club name, stemming from the word "altruism" the Altrusa Club has carried the work for others through the year.

An annual scholarship in Howard County Junior College was awarded to a student. Specially made shoes were bought for a small Latin-American boy, enabling him to walk and attend school. Travel expenses were provided for a Latin-American girl who was then taken to the State Fair.

At Thanksgiving, baskets were assembled, and for Christmas, \$75 worth of records and games were bought for the patients at the State Hospital. Members decorated the Christmas tree in the lobby at the VA Hospital.

An appeal to the club from the Mt. Bethel Church asking for tableware brought not only that, but, cooking utensils, vases, bowls and other supplies.

In civic work, the group has endeavored to stimulate interest in voting and in performing duties as citizens. This has been done by the use of talks, programs and radio broadcasts. U. N. Day was also observed with a radio broadcast.

Several members served at the Health Unit helping prepare the TB Seal sale letters. Though members do not act as hostesses at the Servicemen's Center, they provide refreshments for the group at various times.

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# National Guard Unit Had One Of Best Years In '54

Big Spring's National Guard unit, Battery B of the 132nd Field Artillery Battalion, had probably its best year in 1954.

The battery was rated the outstanding organization in the entire 36th Infantry Division during the summer encampment at North Ft. Hood last June. The rating was based on training, administration and maintenance.

Four commendations from the adjutant general's department also were received during the year. These were for the battery's record of efficiency in supply economy, maintenance and administration, supervision of training, and for the high number of members with 100 per cent drill attendance.

In addition, the battery received a "gold award for efficiency and training" at the 36th Division's summer encampment.

Superior ratings were given the unit following federal, ordnance, technical and other inspections during 1954.

But battery leaders are more proud of the unit's growth during the year. The number of enlisted men in the organization increased from 51 on Jan. 1, 1954, to 65 on Dec. 31. The number of officers—seven—remained the same.

though one additional officer was commissioned from the ranks. He was Lt. Robert J. Mask who now is in the Air Force and receiving flight training at Gary AFB, San Marcos.

The growth was accomplished despite the change number of Guardsmen who enlisted in the Army, Air Force or other branch for active duty. W-O Billie L. Eggleston, administrative assistant for the unit, said that some 20 members enlisted during the year. New Guard enlistees replaced these as well as accounted for the gain of 14 in membership. Several were transferred to other Guard units, during the year also and were replaced by new men.

Another highlight of 1954 for Guardsmen was the start of construction on the new National Guard armory, near the east entrance to Webb Air Force Base.

The armory, a \$70,000 project, is to be completed early this year. It covers an area 100-by-114 feet and includes administrative offices, supply room, strong room, kitchen, two restrooms, locker room, two classrooms and a big 61-by-91 auditorium.

The local payroll for the National Guard amounted to \$23,000 dur-

ing 1954, not including the \$6,000 Guardsmen received for attendance at the summer encampment. About \$2,400 was expended in Big Spring for rent and supplies. The unit has in its custody some \$165,000 worth of property.

Guardsmen were called out twice for emergency duty in 1954. Each instance was in connection with the flash floods which covered the lowland sections of Big Spring.

Members of the unit also participated in such community projects as the annual March of Dimes campaign, Armed Forces Day and other programs.

One member of the battery won a trophy at the division encampment last June. He was Cpl. Billy Boykin. The tournament was held in connection with the summer camp at Ft. Hood.

Capt. Charles K. Vaughn was commander of the battery during the year. He is being relieved this month by Capt. T. A. Harris, a former commander of the battery. Vaughn is being transferred to the Veterans Administration Hospital at Marlin where he will be assistant supply officer. He has worked in the supply section at the local VA Hospital.

## Irrigation Progress

Year	New Wells	New Acres	Total Acres	Average Ac. Tracts
1954	25*	1,615	14,235	40.6
1953	17	890	12,220	55.8
1952	20	1,980	12,270	91.2
1951	27	1,985	10,200	89.5
1950	15	1,330	5,285	90.2
1949	16	1,440	6,965	86.3
1948	20	5,000	5,285	—

Year	Total Wells	Average GPM	New Acre GPM	Total GPM
1954	190	615	340	116,833
1953	165	658	400	108,833
1952	148	718	678	101,533
1951	128	688	789	88,133
1950	101	769	833	77,533
1949	86	738	796	65,133
1948	70	705	—	52,733

## Irrigators Make Best Use Of Water Ever During 1954

Farmers in the irrigated belt, lying principally in south central Marlin County, made best use of irrigation water in 1954 of any since the program began on a large scale.

Martin Vavra, work unit conservationist at Stanton, said that application of water was better than ever before. The year 1955 may bring some new pioneering in an effort to make even better application, for approximately three miles of concrete pipe will be installed to decrease loss of water between the well head and the actual point of irrigation.

"During the past year 25 additional wells, averaging 340 gallons per minute, were put into production to service 1,615 new acres. All of these were applied to sprinkler systems because of the relatively small quantity of water available. There were another 13 wells drilled during 1954 but which were not used. These have a potential of around 800 acres when put to use."

Increased number of wells and

increased pumping showed its effects on the basin, for a majority of wells decreased in production during the peak pumping season of July and August, Vavra noted.

During 1954, the Soil Conservation Service assisted cooperators in the Martin-Howard Soil Conservation District in checking irrigation efficiency on 34 farms.

Vavra and aides made a survey of the irrigated wells in Martin and the northwest corner of Glasscock counties and came up with this record up to and through 1954:

Rate of Production No. Wells  
 500 GPM or less 122  
 500-750 GPM 37  
 750-1,000 GPM 49  
 1,000 GPM and more 12  
 Total wells 220

Practically all of the water in the belt goes for cotton production. Some small acreage is applied to alfalfa and miscellaneous crops.

Below are some charts extended from previous years. They may not now be entirely accurate, due to changing conditions, but they constitute the best existing records. They were compiled over the years with the assistance of the Soil Conservation Service.

# 51 Persons Injured In City Accidents But No Fatalities

Fifty-one people were injured in Big Spring automobile accidents during 1954, but there were no fatalities.

Police department records show that 12 of the 51 were injured seriously. Three of those hurt were pedestrians and the other 45 were either automobile drivers or passengers.

Accident reports filed by police with the Department of Public Safety show that there were 377 automobile mishaps in this city. However, Chief E. W. York said that there were actually 703 collisions in 1954.

The chief explained that fender-benders which resulted in damage less than \$25 and accidents in which vehicles were moved before investigation were not reported to Austin.

During 1953 there were 227 collisions reported to the Department of Public Safety, and in 1950 there were 282. This means the accident rate rose considerably this year.

There were 726 drivers involved in the 377 mishaps officially reported last year. Of these 153 were of the female sex, which means that 75 per cent of the drivers involved were male.

The annual police report, compiled by Clerk Rachel Shaffer, shows that 269 of the drivers were violating the law when their vehicles were in accident. Of the 377 mishaps, 226 involved the violators.

Twenty-eight of the drivers in accident were charged with driving while intoxicated. Most common violation was not granting right-of-way, for which 123 were ticketed.

A total of 573 of the drivers involved in the accidents actually live in Big Spring. The other 151 reside elsewhere.

Drivers from the military totaled 98, and housewives involved totaled 83. There were 76 commercial drivers and 75 students in accidents.

Figures also showed drivers to

be professional people and businessmen, 43; clerical employees, 25; traveling salesmen, 20; other workers, 280.

Only 24 of those involved were Negroes, the rest being Caucasian.

There were 170 drivers who were between the ages of 25 and 34, and 146 of those involved were between 20 and 24 years of age. Another large total, 132, were from 14 to 19 years old.

Other figures show that 89 were from 45 to 54 years, 42 from 55 to 64 years, 21 from 65 to 74 years, and five from 75 on up.

Most of those drivers involved in accidents were traveling between 21 and 30 miles per hour. A big percentage, 182, were going between 11 and 20 miles per, and some were going over 50.

Saturday proved to be the roughest day for accidents in 1954. That day showed 97 mishaps. Other days were as follows: Monday, 44; Tuesday, 46; Wednesday, 52; Thursday, 36; Friday, 61; and Sunday, 39.

Daylight hours saw 226 of the mishaps, and the others occurred either at night or during hours of dusk and dawn. Some 181 occurred in the business district, and 171 were in the residential sections. Others were in manufacturing districts, school areas, or open territory.

A total of 211 accidents occurred at intersections, and there were eight head-on collisions. There were three head-on sideswipes, and 21 rear-end sideswipes. Rear-end collisions totaled 46. There were 25 cars parked or stopped at time of mishap, and 87 were parking or pulling out of parking places.

Three vehicles hit pedestrians, and there were 363 mishaps where vehicle hit vehicle. One car hit another object, one overturned, and nine ran off the roadway.

Some 612 passenger cars were involved, as were 106 trucks. There were two truck-trailers and 14 truck tractors. Others involved were nine taxis, three buses, four motorcycles, and two other vehicles.

A breakdown on the time of accidents follows:

Time	No. Accidents	No. Injured	No. Fatalities
12:00-1:00 P.M.	1	1	0
1:00-2:00 P.M.	2	2	0
2:00-3:00 P.M.	3	3	0
3:00-4:00 P.M.	4	4	0
4:00-5:00 P.M.	5	5	0
5:00-6:00 P.M.	6	6	0
6:00-7:00 P.M.	7	7	0
7:00-8:00 P.M.	8	8	0
8:00-9:00 P.M.	9	9	0
9:00-10:00 P.M.	10	10	0
10:00-11:00 P.M.	11	11	0
11:00-12:00 P.M.	12	12	0
12:00-1:00 P.M.	13	13	0
1:00-2:00 P.M.	14	14	0
2:00-3:00 P.M.	15	15	0
3:00-4:00 P.M.	16	16	0
4:00-5:00 P.M.	17	17	0
5:00-6:00 P.M.	18	18	0
6:00-7:00 P.M.	19	19	0
7:00-8:00 P.M.	20	20	0
8:00-9:00 P.M.	21	21	0
9:00-10:00 P.M.	22	22	0
10:00-11:00 P.M.	23	23	0
11:00-12:00 P.M.	24	24	0
12:00-1:00 P.M.	25	25	0
1:00-2:00 P.M.	26	26	0
2:00-3:00 P.M.	27	27	0
3:00-4:00 P.M.	28	28	0
4:00-5:00 P.M.	29	29	0
5:00-6:00 P.M.	30	30	0
6:00-7:00 P.M.	31	31	0
7:00-8:00 P.M.	32	32	0
8:00-9:00 P.M.	33	33	0
9:00-10:00 P.M.	34	34	0
10:00-11:00 P.M.	35	35	0
11:00-12:00 P.M.	36	36	0
12:00-1:00 P.M.	37	37	0
1:00-2:00 P.M.	38	38	0
2:00-3:00 P.M.	39	39	0
3:00-4:00 P.M.	40	40	0
4:00-5:00 P.M.	41	41	0
5:00-6:00 P.M.	42	42	0
6:00-7:00 P.M.	43	43	0
7:00-8:00 P.M.	44	44	0
8:00-9:00 P.M.	45	45	0
9:00-10:00 P.M.	46	46	0
10:00-11:00 P.M.	47	47	0
11:00-12:00 P.M.	48	48	0
12:00-1:00 P.M.	49	49	0
1:00-2:00 P.M.	50	50	0
2:00-3:00 P.M.	51	51	0

## HD Clubs Have Demonstrations

Demonstrations on a variety of subjects from cosmetics to shrubbery were held for the county's 10 home demonstration clubs in 1954.

Each month two meetings were held by each club with the idea of giving a demonstration at one meeting and club leaders at the other.

Grooming and Homestead Improvement were the two major phases covered in the demonstrations.

On Aug. 1 Elizabeth Pace arrived to begin a two-weeks' period of training for the position of Howard County HD Agent. Mrs. Sue Newman, the agent, had announced that she would be transferred to Marlin as Falls County agent. Miss Pace officially became the new agent on Aug. 16.

Countywide activities in which the clubs participated were the tea during National Home Demonstration Week, a Hereford breeders food sale, a 4-H food sale, handwork exhibits during National HD Week, a bake sale for the March of Dimes, a tea for the agent and a Christmas party.

# 1954 Another Successful Year For 4-H'ers At Stock Shows

Although Howard County 4-H Clubbers didn't win all the major titles, they can classify 1954 as a successful year in the nation's livestock show rings.

They can count it a successful year in other fields, too, judging from combined income of members from 1954 projects. The group earned a total of \$128,006.03 during the year, according to the annual report of County Agent Durward Lewter, 4-H Club counselor and leader.

The income included \$96,284.37 from beef cattle; \$6,295.10 from swine; \$4,646.10 from poultry; \$5,356.88 from sheep; \$13,409.48 from cotton; and \$2,014.10 from grain sorghums.

More than 65 per cent of the beef cattle income was from show prizes and sale proceeds, Lewter said. Forty-four club members exhibited and sold 59 steers during the year, winning prize money amounting to \$7,023.50 and receiving \$60,360.87 through the show sales.

Club members joined with Lloyd Robinson, a former 4-H boy and still a leader in club activities, to win many of the major livestock prizes across the nation.

The awards included Sue White's grand championship at San Antonio; Jane Blissard's grand championship and Darrell Robinson's

reserve award at Phoenix, Ariz.; James Fryar's reserve championship at Kansas City; Lorin McDowell's grand championship at El Paso; Lloyd Robinson's first place summer yearling at Fort Worth; Robinson's reserve award at San Francisco; Joyce Robinson's reserve championship in the junior division at Ogden, Utah; Lloyd Robinson's first place junior yearling and reserve champion Hereford at Baltimore, and Robinson's champion junior steer at Chicago.

The group also won places at Fort Worth, San Angelo, Denver, Colo., Abilene, and Dallas.

The 44 beef-owning club members cared for a total of 486 animals during the year, including 59 show steers, 127 commercial animals, and 300 breeding stock.

The Howard County 4-H Club is divided into eight local clubs which meet once each month. In addition to work with livestock and row crops, work was carried on in soil and water conservation, tractor maintenance, etc. The club sponsored the annual junior rodeo. Judging teams were formed for competition in district and state contests.

The county livestock show was held in March and the annual pig show was conducted in September. The Howard County group's rec-

ord in the principal livestock shows:

**SAN ANTONIO LIVESTOCK SHOW:**  
 Ann White, Grand Champion steer; Delbert Davidson, sixth place steer in middleweight division.

**ARIZONA NATIONAL LIVESTOCK SHOW, PHOENIX:**  
 Jane Blissard, grand champion steer; Darrell Robinson, reserve champion steer; Lorin McDowell, third heavyweight; Leslie White, seventh lightweight; James Cagle, eighth lightweight; Wanda Boatler, ninth lightweight; Joyce Robinson, 11th lightweight; Delbert Davidson, 14th lightweight; Donald Denton, 15th lightweight; Sue White, 15th lightweight; Tim Williamson, 16th lightweight; James Shortess, 17th lightweight; and Sonny Choate, 18th lightweight.

**AMERICAN ROYAL LIVESTOCK SHOW, KANSAS CITY:**  
 James Fryar, reserve champion steer.

**EL PASO LIVESTOCK SHOW:**  
 Lorin McDowell, III, grand champion steer; Melvin Fryar, eighth lightweight; Donald Denton, 11th middleweight; Darrell Robinson, 13th lightweight; James Cagle, 15th heavyweight; Franklin Williamson, 15th lightweight; Royce Hull, eighth middleweight; Leslie White, eighth heavyweight; Ronnie J. Blissard, seventh middleweight; Joyce Robinson, 12th middleweight; Sue White, ninth lightweight. The club also exhibited the champion group of five steers and received its Kwanis Club award for the outstanding exhibit of steers.

**SOUTHWESTERN EXPOSITION AND FAIR STOCK SHOW, FORT WORTH:**  
 Lloyd Robinson, first place summer yearling; James Cagle, third lightweight and fourth heavyweight; and Lloyd Robinson, fourth heavyweight.

**SAN ANGELO FAT STOCK SHOW:**  
 Delbert Davidson, first lightweight; Joyce Robinson, second lightweight; James Cagle, 11th lightweight; Darrell Robinson, seventh lightweight; Delroy Buchanan, 10th lightweight; Robert Lomas, 12th lightweight; and Sonny Choate, 13th lightweight. Joyce Robinson won the showmanship

award and the club exhibited the champion group of five steers.

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN LIVESTOCK SHOW, DENVER:**  
 Lorin McDowell III, third heavyweight steer; Leslie White, fourth lightweight; James Cagle, second lightweight; Lloyd Robinson, second summer yearling; Sue White, sixth junior calf; Franklin Williamson, seventh junior calf; and James Cagle, second in showmanship.

**DELBERT DAVIDSON FIRST LIGHTWEIGHT STEER:**  
 James Cagle, second; Joyce Robinson third; Delroy Buchanan, 10th; and Sonny Choate, fourth (by lot), all lightweight steers. The club showed the champion group of three steers.

**STATE FAIR OF TEXAS, DALLAS:**  
 Sue White, first heavyweight; Joyce Robinson, fifth middleweight; Ann White, eighth heavyweight; Lyle Lewter, ninth heavyweight; Robert Lomas, 25th heavyweight; Mae Robinson, 16th middleweight; and Wanda Boatler, 17th middleweight.

**COW PALACE STOCK SHOW, SAN FRANCISCO:**  
 Lloyd Robinson, reserve grand champion steer and first junior yearling; Sue White, first summer yearling and reserve champion Hereford; Lloyd Robinson, second junior yearling; Joyce Robinson, third summer yearling; Robert Lomas, sixth; and James Cagle, eighth summer yearling.

**OGDEN, UTAH, LIVESTOCK SHOW:**  
 Joyce Robinson, reserve champion junior steer; Lloyd Robinson, third heavyweight.

**EASTERN NATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION, CHICAGO:**  
 Lloyd Robinson, first junior yearling and reserve champion Hereford; Sue White, third summer yearling.

# '54 Was A Year Of Achievements For Big Spring And McEwen Motor Co.



We Are Proud Of Big Spring's Growth

... and proud to be identified with it. We have through the years, endeavored to keep pace with Big Spring and Howard County by continually trying to serve you better, and by being 100% behind projects for the development and betterment of our city.

As we remember the past, and look into the future, our wish for 1954 is that we all, individually and collectively work toward a better Big Spring in 1955.

KEEP UP THE DRIVE IN '55

McEwen Motor Co.

BUICK AND CADILLAC SALES AND SERVICE

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## For Over Thirty-Seven Years

Victor Mellinger's Store For Men and

Boys has advanced with rapid growing Big Spring

And We Will Continue To



Every year Big Spring has advanced in its basic industries... oil, farming and ranching. With each passing year Victor Mellinger has brought to the men and boys of this area the newest in clothing styles and the best in quality for your money.

As citizens of Big Spring continue to rely on Big Spring to progress and grow through the year so will Victor Mellinger continue to progress... by bringing to you the newest and best in men's and boys' wear for your money in the year of 1955.



Victor Mellinger's Store for Men & Boys  
 THE MAIN



# 8 Elections Held In City

1954 was a year of elections in Big Spring.

There were no fewer than eight elections in the city.

They started on Feb. 9 when a \$500,000 school bond issue was approved and ended on Nov. 2 with the general election.

In between were school trustee elections, a city commission election, a 325,000 county road bond vote, and two Democratic primaries.

The only contests that developed any extensive heat as they were put up to the voters were the Democratic primaries.

Probably the hottest was the race for governor. Ralph Yarborough, who challenged Allen Shivers for the state's top office, out-pulled the incumbent in both primaries in Howard County. His margin in the first primary was 635 over Shivers. The vote was 3,185 to 2,510. In the second primary, Yarborough got 3,418 and Shivers received 2,850, a difference of 568.

In the local races, that for the office of sheriff was probably the most heated. Incumbent Jess Slaughter was challenged by Jake Bruton, the man he defeated in 1952. Slaughter led by a comfortable margin in the July primary, but Bruton cut this to approximately 300 votes in the August primary. Slaughter won, 3,286 to 2,970.

The only incumbent defeated was Pete Thomas, commissioner for Precinct No. 2. G. E. Gilliam, a former commissioner, won the office with 994 votes to 894 for Thomas in the second primary.

Earl Hull, commissioner for Precinct No. 4, was elected for his sixth consecutive term. When he finishes the present term, which is for four years, he will have served as long as any other person in the office of county commissioner. J. A. Frost held the office for 14 years between 1891 and 1905.

In the general election Nov. 2, Howard County voters left no doubt about the way they felt concerning the proposal for four-year terms for elective officers.

County voters turned that Constitutional amendment down by a vote of 1,085 to 731. That was the only one of 11 amendments that failed to receive a majority here. Local voters favored jury service for women by a margin of 955 to 890.

In the school trustee election April 3, Big Spring voters named Omar Jones and R. W. Thompson to the school board. On the same date, county voters elected Dr. C. W. Davis, Edgar Phillips and Charles M. Adams to the board for Howard County Junior College. (Mr. Adams died Sept. 30 and

Tom Barber of Coshoma was appointed to the post).

On April 6, city voters chose Roy Bruce, Curtis Driver and Alfred Goodson for city commission posts. Jack Y. Smith, the only incumbent to ask re-election, was defeated.

A \$325,000 road bond issue, principally for the purchase of right-of-way for the U. S. 80 freeway, was approved by voters of the county on April 24. Margin in favor of the issue was 14-1.

The half-million-dollar school bond issue had passed with even a greater majority on Feb. 9. Voters favored the issue, 1,036 to 524, a margin of 27-1.

Another 1954 election which attracted considerable attention in the county was that for confirmation of the Howard County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1. Voters in a 12-square-mile area, including Coshoma, Sand Springs and Midway confirmed the district by a vote of 140-12. They also named Earl Reid, Carl Bates, Owen Johnston, T. O. Earnest and R. D. Cramer to the board of directors for the district.

## GAS PROCESSOR

### Reef Fields Plant Production High

Reef Fields Gasoline Company averaged processing more than 26 million cubic feet of gas daily in 1954.

At the same time, said Charles Sweeney, superintendent, the plant in Northern Howard County turned out a quarter of a million gallons of products each day.

Only major operational change during the year was completion and activation of the de-isobutanizing facilities. With Cosden Petroleum Corporation's new alkylation unit coming on, Reef Fields began splitting off the butane fraction in March to provide isobutane to Cosden.

Payroll for the year, which went to an average of 60 employees, was \$286,736.

Products, which were delivered to railroad at Sand Springs through three lines, were marketed to jobbers except for the natural gasoline in isobutane which went to Cosden's refinery. An ingenious electronic device enabled operators to run four products through three lines, Sweeney explained.

Average daily gas throughput was 26,050 mcf, which was less than the 33,375 mcf designed capacity because the anticipated 20 well production days per month had been cut as low as 15.

Average daily production was 175,000 gallons of liquefied petroleum gases and 50,000 gallons of natural gasoline. Average yield was 8.66 gallons of products per each 1,000 cubic feet of gas processed. Gas, after processing, went into the El Paso Natural Gas lines for domestic, commercial and industrial purposes.

Reef Fields was connected with 286 wells in nine fields during the year. These included the East Vealmoor, the Vealmoor, North Lufner and Oceanic in Howard County, the Good, Good Northeast, the Reinecke, Hobo, and south Von Roeder in Borden. There were four booster stations in addition to the East Vealmoor station in operation during the year.

Underground storage facilities, capable of handling 10 million gallons of products, functioned to complete satisfaction during the year.

## State Comptroller's Office Took On New District Chief

The district office of the State Comptroller of Public Accounts in Big Spring received a new district supervisor in 1954. The new supervisor, E. R. Trego, came to Big Spring in August.

The local Comptroller's office, District 2, covers 35 counties in this area and is bounded on the north by Snyder and Lambson, on the south by the Rio Grande River, the east by Sweetwater, and El Paso in the west.

William F. Taylor, also new with this office in 1954, works out of Big Spring and serves in Borden, Dawson, Fisher, Glasscock, Howard, Martin, Mitchell, Nolan and Scurry counties.

D. G. Prieto has a sub-office in El Paso and covers Hudspeth and El Paso counties.

F. E. Mays, in Odessa, covers Andrews, Crane, Ector, Gaines, Midland, and Winkler counties.

Heard Reynolds has a sub-office in Pecos and covers Brewster, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Loving, Pecos, Presidio, Reeves, Terrell and Ward counties.

Wiley Therwanger, in San Angelo, covers Coke, Crockett, Irion, Reagan, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, Tom Green and Upton counties.

The office collected about \$162,282 in 1954, Trego said, and this constituted 9,774 collections. Taxes on coin machines brought in the most revenue from this district, he explained, however, more retail store licenses were sold than any other of the permits.

January was the high month for the year, the supervisor pointed out. About 1,347 various licenses and taxes were paid, bringing in \$30,018. All the taxes and permits become due Jan. 1 each year, except for the cigarette licenses, he said, and that is why that month is usually the high month of the year.

Figures on the chart are not entirely correct, he said. They represent only the number and amounts actually handled in the local office. Many of the concerns in this district mail their payments to Austin. These figures represent about 54 per cent of the total for cigarettes and about 70 per cent of the total on all the others.

## MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF DISTRICT 2 COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTALS
Cigarette Licenses	Number 375	224	307	400	229	275	363	229	413	254	246	184	3,499
	Amount \$2,374	\$1,142	\$1,528	\$1,996	\$1,061	\$1,418	\$1,841	\$1,126	\$2,051	\$1,260	\$1,240	\$918	\$17,975
Coin Machine Tax	Number 71	47	33	39	12	15	34	8	4	8	15	36	322
	Amount \$13,000	\$6,867	\$2,940	\$3,021	\$281	\$489	\$2,812	\$306	\$47	\$177	\$201	\$1,701	\$32,522
Admission Taxes	Number 8	3	15	13	13	10	8	11	13	30	12	5	141
	Amount \$962	\$832	\$953	\$1,777	\$1,278	\$725	\$1,484	\$887	\$7,239	\$5,845	\$4,118	\$962	\$26,841
Award Taxes	Number 2			1				2	3	4	4	2	18
	Amount \$125			\$100				\$94	\$132	\$2,339	\$942	\$256	\$3,968
Occupation Taxes	Number 172	74	86	60	24	19	12	17	21	26	24	67	872
	Amount \$5,014	\$2,017	\$1,555	\$1,815	\$516	\$399	\$172	\$372	\$727	\$921	\$552	\$3,987	\$18,038
Cosmetics Taxes	Number 138	30	28	126	29	12	135	20	12	113	24	11	688
	Amount \$4,698	\$5,569	\$1,552	\$6,527	\$905	\$378	\$2,959	\$1,745	\$597	\$3,178	\$1,034	\$622	\$29,354
Retail Store Licenses	Number 881	175	479	404	220	228	683	183	147	109	445	783	4,435
	Amount \$3,763	\$1,054	\$2,978	\$2,537	\$1,336	\$1,117	\$5,950	\$1,130	\$613	\$670	\$2,653	\$7,160	\$31,161
Cigarettes Shipped in	Number			27		14	14	22	3	8	2	1	89
	Amount			\$1,179		\$464	\$1,511	\$1,103	\$52	\$134	\$17	\$13	\$4,473
TOTALS	Number 1,347	853	918	1,042	555	571	1,249	492	618	550	792	1,089	6,774
	Amount \$30,018	\$17,082	\$11,542	\$17,694	\$6,159	\$4,989	\$16,511	\$6,759	\$11,658	\$14,546	\$10,760	\$17,543	\$165,282

## Martin's Broncs Prove Success

When Bob (Pepper) Martin, a hometown boy, first introduced the idea of returning Big Spring to professional baseball in January, 1954, not even the most rabid fans gave him much chance to start the season — much less finish it.

Martin admittedly had no capital, no players and no club of a higher classification with which to work.

But Martin asked for and was granted a franchise by the Longhorn League, assembled his team, raised the money to launch the campaign and saw his Broncs meet the full 140-game season.

The team wound up drawing a total of 36,000 paid admissions over the full year. The total turnout was considered good, if not excellent, in view of the fact that the Broncs never rose above fifth place.

Martin's financial manipulations became the model by which other teams in the league planned to work.

He never paid more than \$200 for players but sold one (Julio Delatorre) late in the season for \$1,500 and another (Mike Rainey) for \$450 and a player.

Promotions like Cosden Night and Merchants' Night helped Martin meet his payroll every month. One of Pepper's best buys proved to be Jim Zapp, a big Negro outfielder purchased from Corpus Christi for \$200. Zapp broke the club's home run record by slapping No. 32 on the final day of the

season, only a short time after Delatorre had established it by hitting No. 31.

The club proved most attractive to local fans, because it consistently won at home and because the fans regarded the venture as a "poor-boy" operation.

Before the 1954 campaign had ended, Martin was making plans for a stronger operation in 1955. He planned a season's ticket drive, with adult duets to be offered for \$20 each, provided 2,500 could be sold. The campaign was to reach its climax in January.

Artesia proved the class of the league, winning both the regular season flag and the playoffs. The Numexers benefited vastly from a working agreement with Dallas of the Texas League.

The Big Spring club became the second second division team in history to win more than half its games, however. Its record was a respectable 70-65 for a .519 average. It finished 20½ games behind first place Artesia and eight games in arrears of fourth-place Midland. Artesia won the flag by five games.

Delatorre, who got in 105 games for Big Spring before being sold to Amarillo of the WT-NM League, wound up as the league's third leading hitter with an average of .390.

Joe Bauman of Roswell dominated hitting in the circuit. His .400 average topped the circuit and he set a new minor league home run record by clubbing 72.

## Disaster Plan Was Red Cross Highlight

A highlight of the local Red Cross chapter's activities during the year past was the division of responsibilities between the Red Cross and the Civil Defense organization. To avoid confusion and duplicated effort the Red Cross agreed to take the lead when natural disasters strike and the Civil Defense organization agreed to direct operations in the event of an enemy attack.

Both organizations would assist the other in either event. During a natural disaster the Red Cross would provide food, shelter, clothing and supplementary medical services to individuals affected, according to custom and its congressional charter. During an enemy attack it would be the governmental body, the Civil Defense organization, that would be responsible for the protection and care of families subjected to attack. The Red Cross would assist when needed.

In case of an emergency a central commission would handle all the funds contributed to a waste. Both organizations are to be represented.

The Howard-Glasscock chapter of the Red Cross continued its customary services during the year. A total of \$1200 was provided as a gift of National Red Cross relief of flash flood victims here this spring. The local Red Cross disaster service was on the job when the flood occurred. Jake Morgan is chairman of the disaster service committee.

The Red Cross home service program continued active with the presence of Webb Air Force Base and the Veterans Administration hospitals here adding to loads. The Red Cross sends emergency messages verifying situations at home that require the servicemen's presence. The Red Cross assists with claims and benefits, reports for the VA, and other counseling activities. It also provides direct financial assistance to servicemen, veterans and their dependents. Last year the Chapter spent \$4,498.05 on such assistance in this county while the Red Cross office at Webb, financed by the National Red Cross, provided \$6,191 for men at the base. Cases handled by the two offices average more than a 100 a month. In case of emergency the home service program is available 24 hours a day.

The local chapter spent \$170.38 on the Red Cross blood collecting program last year.

The chapter sent one student to the National Red Cross Aquatic School and provided classes in life saving and water safety at the municipal pool during the summer. Twenty students received Junior and Senior Life Saving Certificates.

The chapter trained 216 persons in first aid during the year and issued certificates to them. A number of shorter first aid sessions were held and several times first aid stations were set up to give service if needed at public gatherings. Leslie Snow is the chairman of this activity. Others who taught first aid courses were Anna Smith, Arsh Phillips, Dagmar Brodt, Mrs. H. L. Derrick, and Otto Peters. Mrs. Derrick also taught a class of 27 pupils a course in accident prevention.

Twenty-six Gray Ladies assisted patients at the VA Hospital during the year, donated 1,750 hours of labor. Mrs. Shine Phillips is chairman of this activity with Mrs. C. O. Nalley as vice chairman.

Classes in Red Cross home nursing were given at several schools and the chapter had classes in mother and baby care at Webb for wives of Webb personnel. Mrs. Clyde Thomas Jr. is chairman of this activity.

Junior Red Cross continued active in the schools under the chairmanship of Miss Dixie Boyd.

Mrs. Moore Sawtelle is executive secretary for the local chapter and has her office in the basement of the county courthouse. Hours are from 9 to 5 o'clock.

Adolph Swartz is the chapter chairman. He took office on July 1, succeeding Doug Orme.

The chapter joined with the United Fund to raise its budget.

## Auto Registrations Break Record Here

A record number of new cars were registered in County Tax Assessor and Collector Viola Robinson's office in 1954.

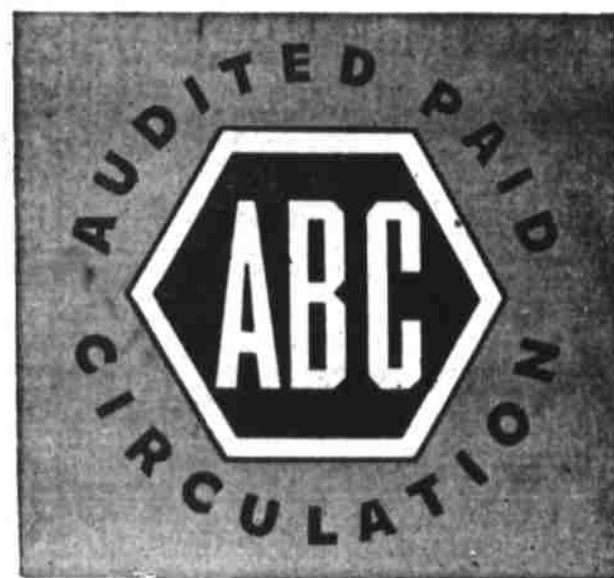
Cars were purchased in Big Spring throughout the year. December was the leading month with 269 cars being registered.

The figure for the year indicates that a new car for each 11 persons in the county was purchased in 1954.

## MONTHLY REGISTRATION

Jan.	146
Feb.	132
March	195
April	179
May	219
June	219
July	163
Aug.	163
Sept.	173
Oct.	147
Nov.	175
Dec.	269
Total	2,179

## MEMO TO ADVERTISERS



## The Hallmark of Circulation Value

In the same way that STERLING on silver signifies a standard of known value, so is the A.B.C. emblem a symbol of integrity for the circulation of newspapers and periodicals. It means that circulation so identified is measured according to the rules and standards of the AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS.

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Therefore, the work of the A.B.C., of which this newspaper is proud to

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At regular intervals one of the Bureau's large staff of experienced circulation auditors makes a thorough audit of our circulation records. The results of this exacting audit show: How much circulation we have; where our circulation goes; how it was obtained; and many other FACTS that you need in order to know just what you get for your advertising dollars. This audited information is published by the Bureau in easy-to-read A.B.C. reports which are available to our advertisers on request. Ask for a copy of our latest A.B.C. report.



## BIG SPRING DAILY HERALD

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Let's "KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK" In 1955



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Buy The Best... Buy At Home... Let's Build A Greater Big Spring!

Your Friendly Shopping Center



Wearables For All The Family





### Comparative Building, All Kinds

Month	Permits 1954	Valuation 1954	Permits 1953	Valuation 1953	Permits 1952	Valuation 1952	Permits 1951	Valuation 1951	Permits 1950	Valuation 1950
Jan.	52	72,365	45	\$104,750	57	\$ 376,507	110	\$590,208	78	\$ 274,230
Feb.	55	393,880	89	\$265,300	105	\$ 282,160	68	\$360,950	96	\$ 285,910
March	83	206,095	123	\$249,235	101	\$ 236,755	72	\$439,025	102	\$ 308,830
April	61	351,955	55	\$133,095	134	\$ 558,655	108	\$411,055	101	\$ 265,970
May	45	50,010	85	\$329,315	127	\$ 378,380	65	\$179,355	130	\$1,071,748
June	181	250,885	59	\$ 41,040	146	\$1,226,585	72	\$117,850	81	\$ 267,860
July	251	350,995	72	\$210,150	221	\$ 837,790	61	\$160,145	93	\$ 396,300
Aug.	169	229,815	45	\$ 86,475	186	\$ 555,825	90	\$214,495	87	\$ 288,270
Sept.	124	225,180	61	\$484,055	62	\$ 112,280	81	\$100,060	85	\$1,095,380
Oct.	87	214,995	83	\$215,905	107	\$ 281,435	110	\$390,515	86	\$ 192,370
Nov.	86	308,820	60	\$158,815	81	\$ 714,730	71	\$215,960	41	\$ 100,650
Dec.	91	506,285	25	\$ 22,385	51	\$ 106,690	69	\$177,880	58	\$ 330,615
TOTAL	1,257	3,160,240	832	\$2,300,320	1,418	\$5,773,690	877	\$3,366,295	1,058	\$4,685,150

## 1954 Construction Exceeded That Of '53 By Big Margin

Construction in Big Spring during 1954 exceeded that of 1953 by a considerable margin, but the building valuation was still among the lowest of the post-war boom years.

Permits filed at the city hall tagged construction at \$3,160,240. This figure could be combined with 1953's low of \$2,300,320 and still fall to reach the \$5,773,690 value listed by permits in 1953, peak residential building period of the past five years.

There were a large number of building permits filed in 1954 the total being 1,257. Quite a few of these were for reroofing jobs which called for little outlay of money. Value tagged for residential and

commercial structures was just about evenly split. The 265 permits filed for residential projects totaled \$1,356,310. The 182 filed for commercial buildings reached \$1,804,030.

Additions, repairs and alterations in 1954 accounted for 779 permits, the bulk of those filed. Valuation of these projects was pegged at only \$425,525. It is believed that between 400 and 500 were for reroofing.

Permits were filed to construct 258 houses during the year, though Building Inspector F. W. Bettle pointed out that not all of them have yet been constructed.

Forty-six permits were filed just before the year terminated for the

building of houses in the Ward Hall addition. Another 17 permits called for houses in the Anderson addition, and work has not yet begun on any of these.

Eighteen buildings were demolished or converted during 1954, making a loss of 22 housekeeping units. Three tourist cabins were constructed along with an addition to a hotel, adding several other units.

Several large permits were filed during 1954, and the largest single valuation placed on a building was \$260,000, listed for the new Safeway store.

One new school building permit called for outlay of \$131,000, and the new Lakewood School permit called for expenditure of \$188,000. Two lesser school structures were listed on permits at \$51,000 each.

Churches had a big year so far as permits were concerned. Wesley Memorial Methodist filed permit for a \$100,000 structure, and The First Methodist Church filed another \$100,000 permit to remodel the old church building into an educational center. A new Church of Christ building was listed for \$50,000 and a First Baptist Church mission called for outlay of \$40,000.

Fourteen permits for religious building construction totaled \$304,235. Value placed on 49 stores was

\$467,070; value on 34 garages built separately of houses was \$11,335; value on one laundry addition was \$1,500; value on three commercial garage additions was \$1,210; value of 16 office building additions was \$35,325; value on six educational building permits was \$425,525; and value on other commercial structures was \$49,545.

The \$398,000 addition to the city's filtration plant was completed during the year, but it was counted on 1953 figures because it was then that the permit was filed.

All-time high on construction was recorded in Big Spring in 1948 when the Veterans Administration Hospital upped the total to \$7,136,395.

### Comparative Residential Construction

Month	1954 Units	1953 Units	1952 Units	1951 Units	1950 Units	1949 Units
Jan.	10	16	41	54	54	23
Feb.	11	48	51	21	67	28
March	38	49	5	18	85	27
April	15	11	81	47	81	18
May	5	44	87	23	100	28
June	23	3	104	9	60	21
July	20	35	169	8	63	21
Aug.	23	5	126	16	70	23
Sept.	14	10	12	27	74	23
Oct.	13	38	61	60	68	17
Nov.	33	22	45	29	39	6
Dec.	60	None	22	25	82	10
TOTAL	265	279	804	337	813	245

### Summary 1954 Construction

(The discrepancy between breakdown of aggregate of units and valuation is due to not showing permits issued for moving buildings, erecting signs, etc.)

Month	Res. Const.	Valuation	Com. Building	Valuation	Add. Ait. Repairs	Valuation	Total	Valuation
Jan.	10	\$ 28,125	6	266,950	28	\$ 42,655	82	\$ 72,265
Feb.	11	46,360	17	7,825	21	63,380	55	393,880
March	38	185,875	16	247,715	28	12,355	83	206,095
April	15	87,800	17	10,765	30	16,440	61	351,955
May	5	24,800	15	88,535	25	14,445	45	50,010
June	23	104,650	25	209,807	133	57,700	181	250,885
July	20	74,125	18	111,005	213	46,710	251	350,995
August	23	70,100	29	75,365	117	47,285	169	229,815
Sept.	14	102,430	21	130,680	89	18,065	124	214,995
Oct.	13	85,250	18	121,210	47	23,140	88	308,820
Nov.	33	162,470	11	88,710	20	14,250	91	506,285
Dec.	60	403,325	182	1,356,310	779	\$425,525	1,257	\$3,160,240

## \$1,095,000 Spent By Veterans Hospital; Daily Patient Cost \$18

The Big Spring Veterans Administration Hospital achieved another million dollar year during 1954. Total expenditures, according to Manager I. G. Sims, amounted to \$1,095,000.

This is the second straight year that the institution has spent over a million dollars, the 1953 total having been \$1,014,496.62.

The hospital had 2,155 patients admitted for treatment during 1954, and the daily cost per patient was around \$18, Sims said. The average daily patient load was 160, considerably higher than the 138 recorded during 1953.

Only 181 beds could be used at any one time during the past year, meaning that the institution was filled to around 90 per cent capacity at all times. The hospital actually has 250 beds, but one wing is still closed.

Sims explained that the 1954 average monthly turnover at the hospital was 112 per cent, and the average number of patients on the waiting list per day was 23.

Salaries for the hospital employees accounted for approximately 80 per cent of the total expenditures. Payroll was \$870,000.

"Broken down into 28 pay periods, this means that upwards of \$31,000 in new money was brought into Big Spring each two weeks," Sims said. "It would seem from these statistics that the VA Hospital is a fairly important factor in the economic life of our city."

The hospital averaged about 220 employees during the year, which is about the same as during 1953. The staff includes nine doctors and 34 nurses, and Dr. Jackson H. Friedlander is chief of professional services.

The employees participated 100 per cent in the United Fund drive with an increase of about 25 per cent over last year's subscriptions.

One of the outstanding events of the year was the visit to the local hospital made by Vice Admiral Joel T. Boone, chief medical director for the Veterans Administration in Washington, D. C. He was accompanied by Dr. Charles H. Beasley, area medical director from St. Louis.

Sims became manager of the local VA Hospital in November, 1954, replacing Willis O. Underwood, who was transferred to Sunmount, New York, as manager there. Sims was assistant manager of the VA Hospital in Alexandria, La., before coming here.

Other major personnel changes at the local institution during 1954 included the addition of five new doctors. They were Dr. John H. Coffee, Dr. Wilson T. Smith, Dr. Richard F. Boone, Dr. David E.

Barker and Dr. Frank P. Sainburg.

Lester F. Bain, former finance officer, was transferred to Fayetteville, Arkansas, and he was replaced by Gilbert F. Cook. Also transferring to other stations were Dr. Mack L. Gottlieb, Dr. Morris Dworin and Dr. Donald A. Jones.

Though Sims is of the opinion that about 80 per cent of the year's \$1,095,000 outlay was spent right here in Big Spring, he is quick to point out that the hospital serves a much wider area than this city.

Patients come from a huge West Texas area which is populated by well over 1 1/2 million people. This area extends 220 miles south, 185 miles east, 340 miles west and 125 miles north.

Also coming from far distances during the year were outstanding lecturers in the field of medicine. They participated in the special "Clinical Day" held here on Oct. 21, and conducted educational programs attended by both private and VA physicians.

Dr. Arthur Grollman, professor of experimental medicine at South-

western Medical School, and Dr. Bromley S. Freeman, plastic surgeon in Houston, conducted the clinical day programs. Other speakers through the year were Dr. Robert Shaw, Dr. A. I. Braude, Dr. Carlton B. Chapman, Dr. M. T. Jenkins, Dr. Henry E. Meleney and Dr. Philip A. Tumulty.

A dental seminar was held at the VA Hospital in March, and dentists attended from all over West Texas.

The VA Hospital hasn't changed much during the year. About the only physical improvement made was the construction of benches between the wings so that patients could sit outside in the sun during summer months.

Volunteer groups from various points over the area have put in a tremendous amount of work at the hospital during the past year to spark the recreation program, it was announced.

Upwards of 7,000 hours' effort was expended by those wishing to help the patients, it has been estimated. In addition to furnishing personal services, many groups presented entertainment.

### Trend In Conservation To Recovery In Area 13

The trend in conservation was toward recovery during the past year in Texas Area No. 13 served by W. S. Goodlett, area conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service.

Rainfall, though spotted, did come. Heaviest portions fell in the Gaines County sector which had 21 inches for the year. Lightest was in the Upper Colorado district near Snyder.

Due to return of cotton acreage controls, planting to grain sorghums increased sharply. This helped provide appreciable insurance against blowing this winter when many left stubble and litter and delayed listing.

A large acreage of cover crops was planted but the rate of stands was erratic. Farmers made a definite swing toward planting of inoculated legumes for cover, restoring some nitrogen to the soil.

Construction of tanks and terraces was low due to drought and strained financial condition of landowners. Closed terraces gained sharply in popularity.

Conservation irrigation requests

increased and level border or bench irrigation grew steadily in fine or medium texture soil. Number of sprinkler systems more than doubled in Dawson, Gaines, Terry, Yoakum and Cochran districts during 1954 for better utilization of water. New designs helped get a 75 per cent efficiency against 25 in sandy soils through ditches and borders.

Blue Panic grew in demand by leaps and bounds during the past year and no established planting was reported lost. Interest also mounted in planting of native grasses. Summer soil improving crops also attracted considerable play with guar, summer peas, and grain sorghums planted with peas claiming most acreage. A new summer legume, sesbania, was grown for the first time and will get more trial plantings in 1955.

Cattle population continued down due to drought and thus deferred grazing was practiced effectively. Recovery of grassland was remarkable, but Goodlett warned that several years of careful management will be required to restore vegetation to maximum production. Slow restocking was advised.

## Record Number Of Births Recorded Here During '54

The birth rate in Howard County continued to climb in 1954 and a new record number of births was established, according to records in the county clerk's office. Total births of the stork in 1954 were 1,280.

Blue appeared to be the favorite color of the stork because the boys outnumbered the girls. Blue-clad babies numbered 714 and the pink-clad totaled 666.

On eight trips to Howard County, the stork carried a double load and still the blues won out over the pinks. There were eight sets of twins, four wearing blue and three in pink.

The other pair was split up, one blue and one pink.

There were 28 illegitimate births in the county during the year.

The birth rate in Big Spring is apparently growing rapidly. At the present time it is considerably higher than the national figures. Birth rate for the nation is 25.2 babies per thousand population. In Howard County the rate is 46 babies per thousand population.

Howard County's death rate does not make quite so promising a picture, however. A total of 375 persons died in the county in 1954 making the death rate for the year 12.5 persons per thousand population. The national death rate is 9.2 per thousand, and has been dropping for the last five years.

The cause of death which took the most Howard County lives in 1954 was ailments of the heart, blood and arteries. These illnesses claimed 170 persons.

Other causes of death and number of dead for the year are:

stillbirths and premature babies, 46; respiratory (lungs, pneumonia), 44; cancers and tumors, 33; stomach and intestinal, 26; senility, 16; auto accidents, 14; military aircraft accidents, 8; homicide, 4; malnutrition, 3; suicide, 1; polio, 1.

In accidental deaths, four died from falls; one drowned; one was struck by lightning; one was killed by a falling horse; one died of burns in a gasoline fire; and one died from an accidental gunshot wound.

BIRTH RATE CHART			
	Boys	Girls	Total
1954	714	666	1,380
1953	677	617	1,294
1952	618	555	1,173
1951	509	458	1,067
1950	469	511	980

### 317 Water Taps Installed In City

A total of 317 new water taps were made in the City of Big Spring during 1954, according to records maintained by Lee Nuckles, water maintenance superintendent.

This is only slightly lower than the 328 which were installed during 1953. Nuckles said that the taps included those of all sizes and for all establishments — commercial and residential.

Only one major pipe break occurred during the year, and that was on Tenth Street between Goliad and State. The break was in a water main and was repaired in about 24 hours. Several other minor breaks were repaired during the year, he said.



Yes...  
We're  
Growing  
Up  
Too...

In the 12 years we have been in business in Big Spring, we've enjoyed constant growth and progress along with our fine city, we're truly thankful for our friends and all the little customers who made it so...

## The Kid's Shop

Across From The Settles Hotel Dial 4-8361



In our hands, the citizens of Big Spring is placed the destiny of our city... It is largely through our efforts, or the lack of them, whether we shall progress or regress. As one of the pioneer firms of this community, we pledge our heart and hand to continue to support those things which we know are good for us and to keep alert for those new things which will be beneficial to our city!

## BIG SPRING HARDWARE CO. THE HOME OF

- MAYTAG APPLIANCES
- KELVINATOR APPLIANCES
- SPEED QUEEN WASHERS & IRONERS
- BENDIX APPLIANCES
- HOOVER VACUUM CLEANERS
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- AMERICAN KITCHENS
- ZENITH RADIOS
- DELTA POWER TOOLS
- SUNBEAM
- HAMILTON BEACH
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- BAUER POTTERY
- FIESTA WARE
- WEAR-EVER ALUMINUM
- MIRROR ALUMINUM
- REVERE WARE
- KA-BAR CUTLERY
- SPORTING GOODS
- FISHING TACKLE

## BIG SPRING HARDWARE CO.

117-119 Main Street

Dial 4-5265



## B'Spring Post Office Sets 2 New Records

The Big Spring post office established two new records in 1954.

Postal receipts for the year reached a new all-time high of \$234,651.45, an increase over 1953 of \$5,431.26. The other record high was set on Dec. 30, when employees processed 66,972 pieces of mail in one day, an increase of 18,105 over the previous year's total.

December, by far the busiest month of the year, had receipts of \$34,110.18. The Christmas month led the next two highest months, October and June, by over \$12,000.

Post office delivery carriers walked an estimated 60,000 miles throughout the year according to postmaster E. C. Boatler. He said each of the 13 carriers in Big Spring average about 15 miles per day.

Four additional postal routes were set up in 1954. These new routes cover over 10 miles, Boatler said, and serve about 1,700 population.

In January, a route was established in the Howard County Junior College area and is about one-fourth mile long. It serves 43 residences, 43 families and 150 population.

In February, the largest route was set up in the northeast part of Big Spring. It is 5.8 miles in length and serves 278 residences, eight stores, six other businesses, 265 families, and 1,000 population.

In March, a 1.3 mile route was added in Avion Village Addition. It serves 85 residences, 85 families, and 295 population.

In August, a route on the north side of Avion Village Addition was set up covering 2.7 miles. It serves 76 residences, two stores, one church, seven apartment houses, 90 families, and 267 population.

Significant promotions were

made at the post office during the year also, Boatler said. On October 1st, A. A. Porter was promoted to Assistant Postmaster; Alvin Smith was promoted to Superintendent of Mails; and Alden Thomas was promoted to Clerk in Charge.

On July 1st, the post office parcel post trucks were sent to Dallas for their first complete overhaul in two years, Boatler said. The three trucks were returned completely reconditioned and at the same time, another truck was added to the fleet.

The "junk mail" made a debut in 1954, but it has not worked out, the postmaster said, and it will be stopped in 1955.

Invention also played a part in post office activities in 1954. Postmaster Boatler devised a sorting rack for the use of patrons during the Christmas rush. The rack enabled patrons to aid postal employees by sorting their mail according to destination, which greatly facilitated the movement of mail during rush periods.

About 25 temporary employees were employed at the post office at Christmas to help the 41 regular employees get out the mail on time.

It has been a busy and successful year for the post office commented Boatler.

ANNUAL

POSTAL REVENUE COMPARISON	
1944	\$144,787.91
1945	150,262.59
1946	144,798.61
1947	136,196.29
1948	150,483.55
1949	159,110.00
1950	175,519.84
1951	211,876.87
1952	229,220.19
1953	234,651.45
1954	234,651.45

MONTHLY

COMPARISON OF POSTAL REVENUE			
January	\$ 17,724.79	\$ 20,866.22	\$ 18,008.19
February	15,795.97	16,373.74	14,850.14
March	18,485.80	16,763.23	16,183.07
April	17,330.35	13,889.85	15,597.29
May	17,470.77	13,956.10	16,408.20
June	20,053.85	17,810.57	17,887.61
July	18,561.15	17,182.14	16,883.08
August	17,847.28	16,535.26	17,595.36
September	16,785.28	16,379.35	15,667.11
October	20,997.28	21,822.18	17,422.33
November	17,408.58	14,963.91	14,329.84
December	34,110.18	38,137.24	31,095.49
TOTALS	\$234,651.45	\$229,220.19	\$211,876.87
Gain over 1953	\$5,431.26		

## GIVING INCREASES

### Contributions Hit High Of \$124,000

Big Spring and Howard County's heart was just a little bigger in 1954 than the previous year. A roundup of contributions to major welfare, charitable, and character-building agencies showed nearly \$124,000 raised and pledged.

By far the big end of the deal was in the United Fund with an aggregate of \$86,543 sighted. Of this \$55,028.41 had been paid in at the end of the year and \$31,515 was outstanding in pledges. The goal had been \$82,151, thus there was a relatively comfortable margin for shrinkage. Participating in the United Fund were such agencies as the YMCA, Salvation Army, Red Cross, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cancer, Heart, Summer Recreation, Milk & Ice Fund.

The March of Dimes, carrying on its efforts to combat polio and aid its victims, raised an aggregate of \$11,690.13. Of this \$9,241.82 was in the regular January drive

and \$2,348.31 in the emergency summer campaign. Out of the total \$4,430 was applied to the local chapter, \$3,776 to the National Foundation and \$,026 for national research.

April's Easter Seal Sale for helping crippled children brought in \$1,550, around \$1,000 of it for local application.

The Firemen's Christmas Cheer Fund received \$1,107.79. Proceeds to the Quarterback Club, an organization devoted to the promotion of all phases of the public school athletic campaign, approximated \$2,600.

Band Boosters, similarly devoted to support of the school band program, raised \$1,379.

Various participating units raised \$2,900 for the citywide summer recreational program. Contributions were the City of Big Spring, the Big Spring Independent School District, and YMCA, \$750 each; the Lions and AB Club, \$250 each; the Kiwanians \$100; the VFW \$25 and the Altrusa Club \$25.

In addition to its budgeted activities through the United Fund, the Salvation Army realized a gross of \$3,554 for Christmas and special needs, and the YMCA had around \$3,500 support through memberships. Also \$2,000 was raised for capital improvements to the Servicemen's Center.

Activities of the 4-H and FFA feeders were supported to the tune of an estimated \$5,000, the figure which approximates the difference between the amount paid for steers, lambs, capons and pigs and the floor placed under them by commercial purchasers.

The American Legion grossed \$580 on its Armistice (Veterans) Day poppy sale and on Memorial Day the VFW Poppy Sale grossed \$328.

### Steers Tie For 5th In District I-AAA Cage Competition

Although Big Spring High School's 1953-54 basketball team won only four games over the course of the season, the Steers succeeded in tying Vernon and Breckenridge for fifth place in District I-AAA standings.

The Longhorns turned the trick by upsetting the Breckenridge Buckaroos in their final game.

Three of the Steers' wins came in conference play.

The Steers also boasted an all-conference player in Charles Clark, bespectacled guard, who wound up third in the conference scoring race with 167 points.

Harold Green of Sweetwater led the scorers in the conference with 203 points.

Plainview reigned as the top team in the conference and won third place in the state meet.

## Youth Projects VFW Highlight

Two youth projects highlighted the work of Christensen-Tucker Post 2013 of VFW in 1954.

A total of \$208.56 was spent by the men in sponsoring the Little League Baseball Club and helping with the YMCA youth program.

A total of \$500 was given to veterans in distress. Many of these were transients who were beset by bad luck in passing through Big Spring.

Patients at the local VA Hospital were given \$124.30 worth of cigarettes, razor blades and other notions.

The post contributed \$45 for flowers for veterans and families and gave \$43 to the son of a non-veteran who needed medical attention. The little boy was suffering from tuberculosis of the bone.

Six hospital beds were loaned out to those who needed them with veterans getting preference. A spokesman for the post said the beds were used continuously during the year.

In June the post played host to the spring convention of District 25 of VFW.

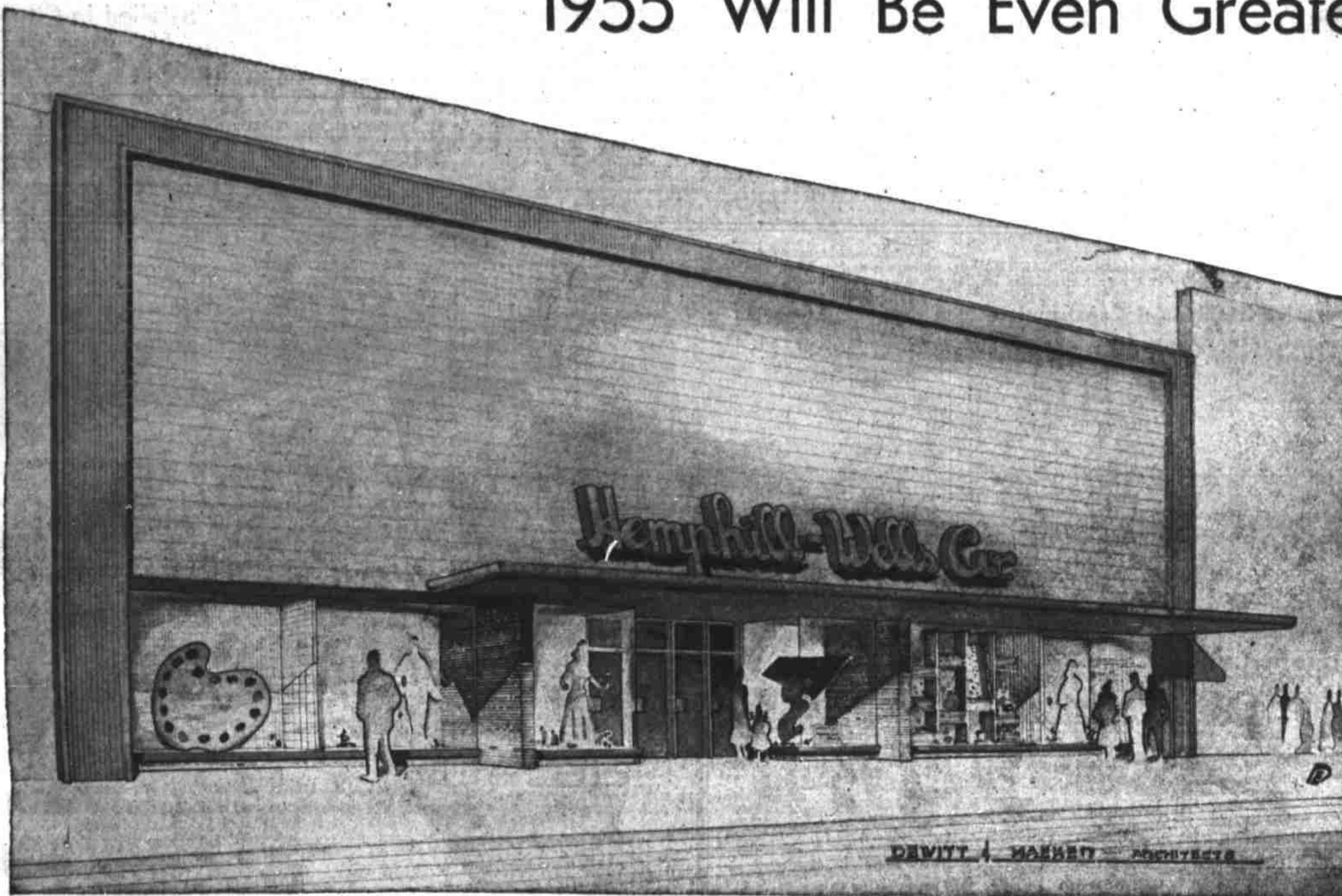
Elected to head the post for the 1954-55 period were C. W. (Buddy) Proffitt, commander; Nathan Wilson, senior vice; Carl Knappe, junior vice; Jim Tyler, quartermaster and adjutant; U. G. Powell, chaplain; J. B. McKinney, Charles Leskowsky and C. L. Foster, trustees; Dr. Houston Zinn, post surgeon; Hartman Hooser, post advocate; Milas Woods, pediatric instructor and McKinney, service officer.

# 1954 Was A Great Year

## For Big Spring

# 1955 Will Be Even Greater

End of a series regarding the progress and development of a larger and more convenient HEMPHILL'S



Our faith in Big Spring as the Market Place of West Texas is even stronger today than it was in 1946—when we first opened a store here—

Attested by the fact that our present expansion program will increase our selling space 50%, which when completed will total more than 26,000 square feet—designed to offer the folks of Big Spring and West Texas a more convenient and enjoyable department store—Devoted to our long established store policy of honest merchandise and willing service.

Our present target date for completion of the new store is March 15th. For the next eight or nine weeks we will be completely confused and disrupted by carpenters, painters, fixture men, floor finishers, air-condition engineers and store designers. Forgive us now for this inconvenience—but come down and join the fun. We want your criticism and need your advice.

We pledge to you our utmost effort to provide you with the same friendly (if not quite as efficient now) service as you have come to expect from—

*Hemphill-Wells*