Centennial Series.... 60's The Decade Of Queens and Cattle

by Jean Ann Behney

Editor's Note: This is the eighth decade of Hansford County history our Centennial Series will cover. We remind readers that our reporter is necessarily limiting her coverage of these modern decades to a few significant events and a few observations about daily life. Today's article deals with the advent of feedlots in Hansford County. Next week we would like to present some information about our county's participation in the Viet Nam War; however, preliminary contacts with individuals for interviews on this subject have not been encouraging. We invite all Viet Nam veterans and relatives of veterans to call the newspaper office at 659-3434 to tell their stories. Our reporter will be happy to interview anyone about Viet Nam next Tuesday and Wednesday, August 22 and 23, either by phone or in person.

If the gas and oil industries and irrigation brought prosperity to Hansford County in the 1950s, the 1960s and 1970s can be said to have brought not only more money, but also the "smell of

The single most significant economic news of this county's eighth and ninth decades was the growth of the cattle industry and the advent of feedlots. According to the Robertsons in their history book, Panhandle Pilgrimage, cattle feeding in this area of Texas had grown to an eight billion dollar business by 1982. Feedlot capacity grew by leaps and bounds, from 325,000 head of cattle in 1963 to almost two and a half million head in 1973, with production peaking in 1973.

Feedlots, of course, are huge enclosures where cattle are fed special high protein diets to be fattened for the market. The idea of feedlots, said a Gruver man who had business interests in them for many years, is "as old as the cattle industry." Historically, the feedlots were located in the north or the "corn belt" -- such as Illinois and Nebraska. A typical cattleman from Hansford County pulled his animals off the grass when they weighed 700 pounds and shipped them north by rail (and, later, trucks) to these feedlots. The cattleman paid the freight, naturally, and often never saw his cattle again.

As a former feedlot owner in this county explained it, "By the 50s, some ranchers started getting wise to the fact that we had the feed for this industry right here! We also had a better climate for feedlots. So, there was no point in spending all that money shipping the cattle off. It was a lot cheaper to develop our own feedlots." The Panhandle, we are reminded, was becoming one of the nation's leading producers of grain by this era, and the winters here were considerably milder, as a rule,

than those in the north or mid-

Les Parker of Stratford was one of the first ranchers to realize that cattle could graze on wheat instead of grass. Instead of putting in his wheat in the fall, he could plant in August and then let the cattle graze on it all winter. "I can even remember him planting wheat in July one year," recalls a Gruver man. "At that time, people thought this was really different, but now so many people plant wheat in the late summer

A non-farmer or rancher might well ask "Why pull cattle off the grass or wheat for enclosed feeding at all?" The answer is that grain-fed cattle make for better how to run them. beef and get fatter in much less time. "A thin steer is like shoe leather," says well-known rancher Erlis Pittman, his blue eyes twinkling. "When fed grain on a feedlot, a head of cattle gains weight twice as fast--three pounds a day as opposed to one and a half in the field--and the beef has better marbling.'

Typically, ranchers in the Panhandle buy yearlings, or year-old "stocker cattle" weighing between 350 and 400 pounds, and put them on grass or wheat until they weigh about 700 pounds. At a weight gain of a pound and a half per day on grass, this takes approximately 200 days. At 700 pounds, the animals are either sold to the feedlot or simply put on the feedlot, with the rancher paying a monthly fee per head. Here, the animals gain about three pounds a day for 120 days, ending up at the desired market weight of 1,150 pounds. At this time, the cattle are sold by the feedlot or their rancher owner to meat packers.

The meat packer buyers come right to our feedlots here," explains one feedlot owner. "They bid on the various pens and when the deal is completed, they ship the animals and pay frieghting costs!" Today, cattle are shipped by truck to the meat packing plants. Forty to 42 animals can be shipped in each vehicle.

The cattle raised in Hansford County have traditionally included the Angus, Hereford and Shorthorn breeds, or mixes of these three breeds. "The packers have always liked the black cattle (Angus) the best because they like the marbling of their fat better, but ranchers prefer Herefords,' comments one area cattleman.

The first Panhandle cattleman to institute a feedlot system for his own animals was Howard Diedrichson, who built a commercial feedlot about five miles north of Dumas in the mid-to-late 50's. Diedrichson Feed Yard is still in operation, though ownership has changed, and managed by

Diedrichson's son.

A few Hansford County ranchers were trying out the concept of feedlots on a small scale before the 1960s. One Hansfordite remembers that Arnold Thoreson used to take milo and cotton seed and mix the two as a cattle feed. Erlis Pittman built a little feedlot in Morse in 1952 with Henry Reed, but modestly asserts that their approach to enclosed feeding was not truly "scientific." Pittman says he has a great deal of respect for today's big-time feedlot operations and their use of high technology, and adds that many of the early attempts at feeding cattle failed because the local rancher had no training in

One of the first big Hansford See Beauty Pg. 3

Volume 19, No. 42

County feedlots was that of Dean Cluck's, who in 1962 enclosed cattle at his ranch 19 miles southwest of Gruver. Cluck fed with green chopped corn the first year his feedlot was in operation, but switched to milo for economic reasons the following year.

Milo was and is the mainstay of the cattle feed used in this county on feedlots, but corn was planted here in the industry's early days, because it was thought at that time that milo would not convert into fat -- a fact to be later successfully disputed. "The corn country people were impressed," recalls one feedlot operator. "We had two ears per stalk, for one thing, and for another, no one thought



Beauty and the Beast. . . A smiling Sue [Sloan] Wooley and friend pose in classic 1968 photo, published in the Borger News - Herald and reproduced here. Sloan [now Woolley] was the 1968 Farm Bureau Queen of Texas, having won a State-Wide contest at the organizations annual convention in Dallas that year. Her family's farm was the setting for this feature photo.



YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Sunday, August 20, 1989

Hansford County

Holds

MEN'S GOLF TOURNAMENT

Neither rain, wind, nor dark of night shall keep these men from their appointed rounds. That was and wind of Saturday and Sunday,

August 12th and 13th. The men played in teams of two in this format. Each player plays all his own shots on each hole, but only the lowest score of each team is recorded on the scorecard for each hole they play. The team with the lowest score after two rounds wins their flight.

The entrants in the tournament are divided into three flights according to handicaps. The players with the lowest handicaps, better players, were in the Championship Flight. There were three other flights labeled A, B,

Despite the less than perfect weather conditions the men managed to complete both rounds

of the tournament on Saturday and Sunday. There were strong winds on both days and intermit rain starting Saturday afternoon, and continuing through Sunday. the attitude of the players in the These kinds of weather conditions annual Hansford County Golf make it tough to judge how far a Club's Two Man Low Ball Tourna- club will hit the ball and which ment. The men played in the rain direction the ball will go once it is in the air.

> Despite these conditions the men managed to turn in some pretty good scores. Here is a list of the winners in each flight and their scores.

> Championship Flight 1st - Womble and Blackman,

Spearman - 138 2nd - Blankenship and Blankenship, Morse - 139

3rd - (play off) Tomlinson and Tomlinson, Guymon - 140 Ashmore and Ashmore, Spearman

A-Flight

1st - Kemp and Boring, Guymon - 148 2nd - Head and Smith, Spear-

1st - Mann and Bowles, Beaver

B-Flight

Tournaments

2nd - Jett and Jett, Borger - 151 3rd - Sutterfield, Spearman and J. William, Gruver - 152

Clements and Gressett, Spearman

Holten and Taylor, Spearman

3rd - (3 hold play off)

Pack and Pack, Spearman

C-Flight

Goodheart and Goodheart, Spearman - 158 2nd - Cudd and Schoenhals,

Spearman - 160 3rd - Kelly and Mosier, Gruver -

LADIES GOLF TOURNAMENT

Hansford Ladies Golf Association held a Ladies Partnership Scramble Tournament Tuesday, August 15 at Hansford Golf

Teams from Spearman, Gruver, Perryton, Pampa, Stratford, Fritch, Borger, Clarendon, Amarillo, Liberal and Guymon entered the tournament.

25°

Per Copy

The Association would like to thank the individuals and businesses from both Gruver and Spearman who helped sponsor this tournament.

The winners were: Championship Flight

1st - Cummings and Sturdy, Liberal - 74

2nd - Cunningham, Spearman and Crafford, Amarillo - 75 3rd - Cluck and Logsdon,

Gruver - 77 First Flight 1st - Blackman, Clarendon and

Jackson, Amarillo - 77 2nd - Stafford and Scoope, Pampa - 78

3rd - Hardy and Prater, Fritch -Second Flight

1st - Epperson and Riddle, Pampa - 81 2nd - Wampler and Raney,

Borger - 85 3rd - Chapman, Gruver and Windom, Spearman - 88

Longest Drive Prizes were won by: Donna Cummings of Liberal, Nancy Cook of Perryton, and Tammy Kygar of Spearman.

Time!

We finally have an answer to one of our quiz questions, which seemed to stump readers for several weeks. (Or maybe they were all on vacation!) At any rate, I was thrilled to receive a phone call this week from Adrian Blackburn, who reports that an uncle told her one of the very first owners of a television set in Hansford County was Dub Davis. It is belived he had a television in his home sometime between 1946 and 1948. Adrian will be a high school freshman this year and we at the paper certainly admire her initiative in researching this ques tion! Rita Curtis, the county librarian and wife of Terry Curtis, adds that the family still has the original cabinet for this television, which was purchased in Amarillo.

For this week, we have only one question: What is the oldest standing building in Spearman, Gruver and Morse? (One building for each town.) Please call the newspaper at 659-3434 if you have the answers to this question! Answers will be published in next week's paper with contributors'



Sonny Windom holds the pin while his partner putts.



Frank Wilmeth, President of the Hansford Golf Club, putts as his partner, Dale Hendrix [holding

flag] and Russell McClure look on

Among the Neighbors

by Helen Fisher

the office, trying to make up for Darlene Archer, of Memphis. lost time - that is - not lost time. but wonderful time on their recent

They spent most of it on the scenic shores of Inks Lake at Austin, where various family members called on them.

The highlight of their vacation was the observance of their 40th wedding anniversary. Their daughter Debra and Jim Brown hosted a dinner and family gathering for the occasion in their home in Austin. All their family and Mary's sisters, and part of their families, were present.

Coincidentally, just the week before her parents, Ada and L.S. McLain observed their 60th anniversary. The entire four generations of the family gathered in the home in Spearman of Gwen and Don McLain for a lovely dinner and homage to the McLains. No public notice was made due to the ill health of Ada.

Some old friends gathered for the first time in many months at the home of Joe and Enzie Copeland last Tuesday evening.

For an evening of good food and fellowship were the Lee Keyes, the Joe Traylers, the Woodrow Fulkersons, Elmon Jacobs and Freda Sheets.

Ernest and Louise Archer returned Tuesday from a trip down

In Ft. Worth they visited their grandson, Doug Archer, and admired his new home. Over at Plano, the only great-grandchild of Ernest and Louise, Kristin received a lot of their attention. She is the daughter of Debbie and Paul Lee, daughter of the Earl Archers.

At Nacona, they visited Darlene's mother, and then back to Memphis.

Peggy and Gary Osborne are visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T.C. Harvey and other relatives

here for several days. At Gruver they visited his parents, the Slim Osbornes, before returning to their home in Fullerton, California.

T.D. Sansing reports that his daughter, Martha and Perry Coursey, have moved to Lubbock. Perry will be the tennis coach at Monterrey High School and Martha will teach in an elementary school.

Their son, Chris, will be entering Texas Tech and Corey is a senior at Odessa Junior College. Perry was a coach at Monahans

Susan Noel and son, Chris, flew in from Dallas on Friday to spend the weekend with her parents, Freda and Bruce Sheets. Friends

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Mary and J.L. Brock are back at state with their son, Earl and met them at the Amarillo airport and took them back.

Chris leaves soon to enter Dartmouth College.

For the first time a cousin's reunion was held for the families of sisters - Joe Copeland, Jewell Pearson, and June Osborne of Perryton, and their brother, H.C. Brown of Farnsworth.

They gathered at Lake Fryer for a day of renewing relationships and meeting new kins. All of the eight children of Jewell Pearson were present and most of the other cousins, for a total of 35 relatives and four friends.

It is hoped that they can make this an annual affair as it was most enjoyable.

Guests of Juanita and J.L. Pierce have been her sisters, Bertha Willison and Phyllis Mann and daughter, Lesta, of Gage, Oklahoma as well as Rosie and John Steele of Vernonia, Oregon over the weekend. Others enjoying the Pierce's hospitality were their mother, Julie McManus and Daniel Pierce.

Daniel accompanied his grandmother, Rosie, from Oregon. He is the son of the late Richard Pierce.

Wise is the family of Todd and Shyrie Dyess who planned a vacation from which they would not return worn-out and shorttempered. Their activities were planned for near-by areas.

They called on old friends in the Panhandle and spent last Sunday in Stratford where his parents have retired. Both sons and families accompanied their parents to the church which he pastored for so many years. The Dyess family occupied an entire pew at the services.

Todd and son Wesley participated in the father-son tennis tournament held in Perryton during the week, while Shyrie and daughter Laura enjoyed less strenuous recreation.

Dale Womble of Hansford Manor was pleased to have her

CLOSE OUT SALE

continues, and the Pharmacy will remain open through Saturday, August 26, 1 p.m.

SPEARMAN DRUG

sisters spend some time with her last weekend - Iola Hazlewood of Amarillo and Obera Gay Darnell. Obera lives at Signal Hill, California and was a long ago resident of Spearman and Morse.

Former Spearmanite, Ruby McCullough, visited old friends in Spearman on Thursday. For everal days she had been with her son, Larry McCullough, and daughter, Nancy Babbs and their families in Gruver.

Ruby now lives in Sunset, Texas and is enjoying retirement.

Karen Goodman, Sharon Bailey and Jim Tope attended the graduation exercises of the Woodward Area Vocational School of Nursing on Saturday night.

Their cousin, Nikki Jones Clark of Arnett, received her L.T.N. degree. She was reared in Spear-

Hansford Hospital patients are Avila Runyan, Charlotte Harbour, Morse; Elmo Rivergood, Larry Harper, Jessie Gainey, Diane See Neighbor Pg. 3



Jim Pugh and Tammy Donahue

Donahue And Pugh To Wed

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Donahue, of Spearman, would like to announce the engagement and upcoming wedding of their daughter Tammy to Jim Pugh, the son of Jim and Carol Pugh, of Beaver, Ok. The couple is planning a November 17th wedding at the First Baptist Church in Beaver.

The couple plan to make their home in Beaver, where Jim is employed by the OTASCO Store. Tammy will be pursing her degree as a registered nurse through Amarillo College

They will be joined in their home by Tammy's three children Dustin, Quinten, and Colbee.

Karen's Kozy Korner

Shopping by television can be seductive. It can also be hazardous to your economic health.

The trick to being a smart armchair shopper is to come to the television set prepared, listen carefully and think before you flash your credit card.

Home shopping television shows are proliferating. The living room is no longer a safe haven for impluse or complusive shoppers. It is now a dangerous place for those with a yearning for cubic zirconia jewelery, gadgets and interior decorating items, and clothing.

Cable networks and target marketing have worked together to develop the television shopping frenzy. Credit cards have further promoted television shopping.

Products offered on television shopping networks and programs generally are discretionary items for most households. They are probably not big bargains nor are they major ripoffs. A purchase should still be based on need and affordability. People may be persauded to purchase more items than if they were shopping in the local community.

Know your merchandise. With television shopping, you cannot feel or hold or examine a product before you buy. Know your prices. If you know the type of item you want and know when this type of item will be offered on the shopping show, you can shop more intelligently.

Listen for key words in the promotion of various products. A 14 K. gold-filled item is not the same as one of 14 Karat gold. "Faux Pearls" are just another way of saying "fake pearls." 'almost like'' is used to get you to think an item is the same as the product mentioned as a comparative item, probably a more expensive brand.

Most television shopping programs list a retail price for comparison purposes. It is highly unlikely that you would ever pay that price in a retail store. In one survey, Better Business Bureau staff from 17 bureaus compared savings claims. They found that of 1,818 examinations in retail stores, the home shopping service products were available in only 14 percent of the cases.

The BBB survey also found that for 2,255 comparisons of shopping service prices with store prices. actual store selling prices were lower than the shopping service's "claimed retail prices" in 96 percent of the cases and lower than the shopping service's actual selling prices in 37 percent of the

Television shopping is a convenient way to purchase items. but it may be a more convenient way to overextend your budget.

EX-STUDENTS ASSOCIATION TO MEET

The Spearman Ex-Students Association President, Joe Vanderburg, has called a meeting for Tuesday, August 22, 1989, at 7:00 p.m., in the Spearman High School Auditorium. ALL representatives are urged to attend this very important planning meeting.

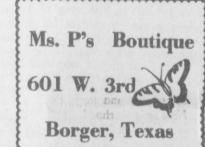
SARPALIUS IS COMING TO TOWN

Congressman Bill Sarpalius' mobile office will be in Spearman on August 23 from 4:00 to 5:00 at the Courthouse.

CLOSE OUT SALE

continues, and the Pharmacy will remain open through Saturday, August 26, 1 p.m.

SPE ARMAN DRUG



Bridal Shower Honoring Tammy Welch, bride - elect of Matt Harrington

Friday, August 25th at 8pm. Hospitality Room - First State Bank

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SALES PERSON WANTED

HANSFORD PLAINSMAN, AND GRUVER STATESMAN NEED A SALES PERSON. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE REPORTER AT 659-3434.

Miscellaneous

WANTED: Need pasture now for straight yearlings, with or without care. Also need wheat this winter. No water hauls. 7 A Cattle Co. 806-355-6314 from 8 - 5 and ask for Jeff or Billy.

Sutphen's Bar-B-Que

We would love to feed Spearman football teams, bands and fans coming through Borger. All you can eat "Help Yourself Buffet" (1 meat \$4.00 - 2 meats \$4.75) We'll stay open late and You're Welcome! S41S-12c

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF SHERIFFS SALE

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF HANSFORD

By virtue of an Order of Sale issued out of the Honorable 84TH Judicial District Court of Hansford County, on the 9th day of August, 1989 by the Clerk thereof, in the case of HANSFORD COUNTY VS. HOGUE, C.R. Cause # 270 and to me, as Sheriff, directed and delivered, I will proceed to sell, at 11:00 OCLOCK A.M. on the 5TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1989 which is the first Tuesday of said month, at the OFFICIAL door of the Courthouse of said Hansford County, in the City of SPEARMAN Texas, the following described property, to wit:

Lots One (1), Two (2) and Three (3), in Block Nine (9) of the Original Town of Morse, Hansford County, Texas

Levied on the 5th day of September as the property of THE ESTATE AND HEIRS OF C.R. HOGUE BY VIRTUE OF A SHERIFF'S DEED IN VOLUME 58, PAGE 513, OF THE HANSFORD COUNTY DEED RECORDS.

to satisfy a judgment amounting to \$76.98 with interest from the 29TH DAY OF JUNE, 1989 at 10 percent, per annum, and all costs of suit in favor of HANSFORD COUNTY, PRINGLE-MORSE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND THIS 9th day of August 1989

R.L. McFarlin, Jr. SHERIFF HANSFORD COUNTY, TEXAS by Gary Evans DEPUTY





A trip to the palo Duro Feedlot at Farm road 52D and Highway 136 was one of the highlights of this week's research for the Centennial Series. Here, two young greenhorns along for the ride get a closeup of Texas cattle. Assistant Manager Curtis Cerik gave a friendly welcome and some background information on the feedlot.

vests, widespread irrigation systems and climate, the feedlot industry sprang up overnight. By the early 70s, the meat packing industry had arrived in Liberal and Amarillo to take advantage of readily available, market-ready cattle. Four major meat packers opened plants in the Panhandle:

grow these crops!"

Beauty from Pg. 1

our dry climate could produce Irrigation was what enabled the Hansford County farmer to produce corn and the quantities of wheat and milo the feedlot industry required for local cattle, in fact, and irrigation has therefore been called "the backbone of the feedlot industry." A farmer commented, "It takes a lot of water to

Missouri Beef, Iowa Beef (IBP), Armour and Swift. Iowa Beef, or IBP, is still one of the largest beef butchering plants in the entire United States, in fact. Spearman's Helen Fisher managed the office of DGC Feed-

Given the county's grain har-

lot (named after Cluck boys' father, David George Cluck) for over 25 years, and notes how drastically the industry changed in that period. "In the early days, feedlots weren't the high finance corporations they are today, and it took a lot of people--simply hordes of people!--to do the day-to-day office work involved in calculating the feed amounts, weight gains, freighting, and all the other record-keeping." She comments that her office started out with one calculator for figuring some of these numbers for 10,000 to 20,000 head of cattle!

"Now, computers are programmed to do it all," she says. The first computer to which we at DGC had access was located in Amarillo in the National Life building. It was an enormous machine, filling up an entire room, and we were tied into it by telephone." Helen compares this computer to the typewriter-sized and lap-held versions used today and comments, "I think the technology now available to the feedlot industry is wonderful!"

With agriculture and the industries of irrigation and feedlots flourishing, a common joke began to be heard over and over. Feedlots carry with them a distinctive, overpowering odor, both because of the hundreds of animals enclosed in relatively small pens and because of the "hot feed" they are given. These orders mingle to produce what Panhandlers laughingly call "the smell of money." According to Pittman, many of these jokers were laughing all the way to the bank! Cattle production had been important to Hansford County and the surrounding Panhandle for 75 years by this point, and the feedlot industry thrust the happy rancher and farmer into the 70s.

Reporter's note: Three of my main sources for this story on feedlots in Hansford County declined to be named. I always respect these wishes, so I have identified these individuals only by "Hansfordite" or "Gruver man," etc. My other interviews for this story were with Helen Fisher and Erlis Pittman. I also made use once again of the Robertson's Panhandie Pilgrimage and Spearman Reporter issues from 1965 and 1968.

Next week I would like to explore the Viet Nam War as it affected this county and some of its people. As of this writing, I have been unable to schedule any interviews, so be sure to contact

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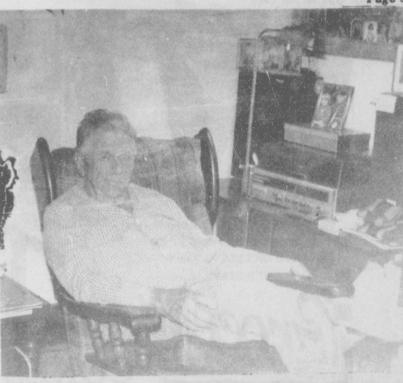
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S42-2tc



One of Hansford County's all-time favorite ranchers, Erlis Pittman, relaxes at home while a broken leg bone heals. As "Among the Neighbors' columnist Helen Fisher recently reported, Pittman, who is in his 80's, suffered the brake during a day of cattle branding when a steer kicked him. We at the newspaper find him in great spirits however, and he was an invaluable source of information on the cattle industry for our story.

me in care of the paper if you have anything to contribute. I can't write an article without your help, and I strongly believe that to omit coverage of this event is to ignore a significant event in this county's history.

Following next week's article, I will be taking a week off to get ready for the final article of this series, in which I hope to compare Hansford County of today with Hansford County of the past. I would welcome any photographs my readers might be willing to loan me for this "finale," particularly "before and after" [old and newer photos of the same house, town, family, etc.]

Correction Last week I incorrectly called Freda Sheets "Frances Sheets." I am acquainted with both Freda and Frances (Sheets) Cudd and can only point to "deadline fatigue" as the reason I confused these wonderful ladies' names! My apologies to both and to Patty

Sheppard.

American Heart Association Texas Affiliate

WERE FIGHTING FOR

YOUR LIFE

Neighbor from Pg. 3

Newman, Borger; Ben Harris, E.B. Boyd, Cy Dozier, Augustine Munoz, Gruver; Maria Anguino, Waka; Calvin Pearson, Ada McLain, Martha Boyd, Jacob Burch, Rose Roberts, Jose Briceno, Marvin Wilkerson, Lila West, Evelyn Brillhart, Minerva Villa, Dale Womble, Rosa Ortiz, Daniel Rea, Vicki Ginn, Ila Mae Buchanan, Robert Meek, Spear-



The bagpipe is an old instrument. It is spoken of in the Old Testament and it was used by the Egyptians, **Greeks and Romans**

CLOSE OUT SALE

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